
7. Description

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery is located at 8900 Dyson Road in Brandywine, Maryland. The cemetery is west of the access road to a Maryland police firing range, approximately four-tenths of a mile north off Dyson Road. The cemetery is approximately one-quarter acre of high ground and is distinguished by its mature trees, underbrush, and fallen trees, which stand in stark contrast to its surroundings. The cemetery does not have a fence.

CEMETERY

The Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery includes one above-ground headstone and footstone, as well as multiple metal poles placed in the ground to distinguish unmarked interments.¹ The placement of the known burials and markers suggests there could be as many as six rows of burials with approximately thirty interments in total. The rows are aligned parallel to the access road, which was originally a property survey line and farm road.

Only three of the people buried in the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery have been identified. The first is John Townshend. His headstone and footstone remain, although they are propped against mature trees in the cemetery. Townshend is interred between the markers, in a conspicuously barren spot in an otherwise overgrown area. The other two known individuals buried in the cemetery are William Thomas and Emmy Kidwell.² However, the exact locations of their burials are unknown.

The John Townshend headstone is an upright marble tablet featuring a segmental arch. The stone has a bas-relief carving of a weeping willow and plinth with broken shaft. Starting in the early 1800s, the depiction of a weeping willow tree became a common decorative motif, often displayed alone or with an urn. The urn and the willow tree were two of the first funerary motifs to replace death's heads and soul effigies when funerary symbolism started to take on a softer air after the Revolutionary War (1775-1783).³ The plinth with shaft, like an obelisk, reflects the burgeoning interest in Egyptian decoration and symbolism in America during the nineteenth century. The obelisk is a common Egyptian form used in American funerary and commemorative art.⁴ The epitaph on Townshend's marker reads:

Sacred to the memory of JOHN TOWNSHEND who was born November 1, 1765 and died May 14, 1846 in the 81st year of his age. *A man universally esteemed as a good citizen. Shrewd in his business transactions, in which as in everything else, he professed to be governed by his talking mind and personal interviews with the Almighty. He saw Him at times with his natural eye, conversed with him face to face as a man to a friend, was impelled [sic] by stern command to do, and deterred by His threats from doing. Belonging to no church, but professed to be one of God's elect. May he rest in peace!*⁵

Townshend's round-headed footstone rests against a tree, opposite the headstone, and is inscribed: J. T.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

INTEGRITY

The Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery presents a moderate degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The John Townshend headstone and footstone are intact and clearly denote for whom the marker was carved, although the epitaph is not clearly legible. Yet, the headstone and footstone are no longer in the ground, but have been propped against a nearby tree. The remaining markers, if any existed, are no longer intact to denote the alignment and number of interments in the cemetery. Based on the alignment of trees, depressions in the ground, and the size of the knoll on which the cemetery is located, it is probable that there are up to thirty other burials in the cemetery, and that many were either marked by trees or were not marked at all. Many people did not have the financial means to afford a stone burial marker. The cemetery still maintains sufficient integrity of feeling, location, and association. The integrity of setting was affected but not compromised when the road adjacent to the cemetery was paved and required the removal of a probable row of burials. The Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery is located on high ground and remains a prominent physical feature of the property.

Overall, the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery presents a moderate level of integrity.

Archeological investigation is suggested for the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery. The number of interments and their locations could be ascertained through the use of ground-penetrating radar.

¹Franklin Robinson, Jr., interview held at the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, Brandywine, August 24, 2009.

²Franklin Robinson, Jr., interview held at the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, Brandywine, August 24, 2009.

³Douglas Keister, *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography* (Layton, Utah: Gibbs Smith, 2004), 138.

⁴Peggy McDowell and Richard E. Meyer, *The Revival Styles in American Memorial Art* (Bowling Green University Press, 1994), 133.

⁵User Home Pages, "Descendants of Samuel Townshend," FamilyTreeMaker.com,

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/t/o/w/Singleton-L-Townshend/GENE1-0001.html> (accessed April 23, 2009).

8. Significance

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Local History</u>

Specific dates	1846	Architect/Builder	unknown
Construction dates	pre 1846, 1846, post 1846		

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, located at 8900 Dyson Road, Brandywine, Maryland, serves as the final resting place of the planter best known for his posthumous attempt to free his slaves and bequeath them his large plantation in his will. The ensuing class action lawsuit, enacted by the heirs of John Townshend (1765-1846), was the first reported class action lawsuit in Maryland. Circa 1855, the slaves lost a lawsuit brought by Townshend's nephew, Jeremiah Townshend, who then took ownership of the property. Splitting the estate into parcels, Jeremiah Townshend sold Lot 3 (consisting of 195 acres and the family cemetery) to Thomas Wells Robinson in 1856. The property remained in the Robinson family until 1975, a span of 119 years. The Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery maintains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a rural cemetery, and is a reminder of the once common trend of small, family-owned cemeteries typically located on high ground towards the outskirts of the large estates like the one owned by John Townshend in the first half of the nineteenth century. The cemetery is also significant for its association with John Townshend, a prominent and wealthy Prince George's County planter and abolitionist and also with the Robinson family, both of which made an indelible mark on development of the physical and social landscape of Prince George's County.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery (which has a Brandywine postal address) is located one mile east of the community of T.B. Although the site had no significant association with T.B., it is interesting to note the relationship of the residents and evolution of the small community serving the larger agricultural region of southern Prince George's County in which the family cemetery is set. T.B. is named for two of the largest nineteenth-century landowners in the area: William Townshend and Thomas Brooke. Tradition maintains the name was derived from a boundary stone carved with T and B, marking Townshend's property to the west and Brooke's property to the east.⁶ The small village was first called Tee Bee Junction.⁷ T.B. was the crossroads for several old roads including Accokeek Road, Old Branch Avenue/Brandywine Road (Route 381) and several other east-west roads that ran between the important ports of Piscataway on the Potomac River and Nottingham on the Patuxent River. Today, T.B. is still located at the junction of several important roads including Maryland

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Route 5 (Branch Avenue), Dyson Road, Brandywine Road, and Old Brandywine Road. U.S. Route 301 runs north to south and is located east of T.B.

T.B. developed as a small crossroads community in the early nineteenth century. The first documented building was not constructed until c. 1830 and served as a dwelling for a member of the Townshend family. The Hopkins map demonstrates growth in the community by 1878 with several new families living in the area. New buildings included a blacksmith shop, a store and post office, and a school house.⁸ In the late 1880s, the population of T.B. peaked at 150 residents. T.B. later lost residents to Brandywine, the site of two railroad lines and a larger commercial area.

The site of the family cemetery was owned in the late eighteenth century by Samuel Townshend, a slave owner, farmer, and importer of fine fabrics, who began as a tailor. Following his death in 1804, he appointed his son John Townshend executor of his will and bequeathed to him a majority of his estate, totaling approximately 600 acres.⁹ John Townshend was born on November 1, 1765 in Piscataway, Maryland, and followed in his father's footsteps as a prominent farmer in Prince George's County.¹⁰ Families like the Townshends who accumulated wealth (in the form of land and slaves) in the early years of Prince George's County passed it on from one generation to the next, giving rise to a hereditary gentry with wealth, power, and social position.¹¹ As with all businessmen of his generation, John Townshend sought to maximize profits by minimizing expenses; the cheapest source of farm workers in America at that time was slave labor. Accordingly, Townshend maintained about seventy slaves on his property, although his conscience was troubled by his slave ownership.¹² Reportedly, Townshend's conversations with God clarified his conscience through a plan to free his slaves, although as a farmer, Townshend could not afford to free his slaves immediately. On Christmas Eve, 1831, Townshend executed a deed of manumission that would free his slaves upon his death. John Townshend died on May 14, 1846, not long after executing a second deed of manumission.

It is not known why or if Townshend chose to be buried where he was. Perhaps this was a family or rural cemetery established before he inherited the property, as it was common for large rural properties to have their own cemetery, which also may have interred residents of neighboring properties. Thus, the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery may contain members of the Eversfield and other families who lived in the area. Family plots came about in the American colonies out of need. For families living on isolated farms or plantations, it was impractical to bury the deceased in the nearest town, which in many instances required miles of travel through wilderness. Wherever possible, family burial plots in the South were placed on the edge of fields at the highest point on the property.¹³ This is likely the case with the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery.

The placement of burials in rows and the location of the cemetery along a road suggests that the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery was originally a cemetery for whites. Not only did land owners not want to lose valuable land to the housing of slaves, but controlling even where their dead might be buried was yet another example of the power plantation owners had over their slaves.¹⁴ However, it is possible that slaves were buried

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

in or near the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, as John Townshend was not a typical slave owner. The presence of only one stone marker, the assortment of trees (including American Sweetgum, cedar, and oak), and the property's long association with slavery support this possibility.¹⁵ Further, there are no other known cemeteries on this property. The use of plants to mark graves is related to African antecedents.¹⁶ As for the one above-ground headstone, its carver is unknown but the detail displayed would have required the work of a skilled stonemason.

John Townshend's will stated that his slaves were to be freed and given land upon which to build houses.¹⁷ Townshend had no acknowledged direct heirs, although many suspected he had fathered children through his slaves, but there exists no primary or secondary evidence to support the alleged relationships.¹⁸ Townshend's nephew, Jeremiah Townshend, along with the other heirs, filed a petition claiming that John Townshend had been insane since 1794. Jeremiah Townshend sought to control his uncles' landholdings as well as nullify the deeds of manumission. The prospect of not inheriting John Townshend's estate pushed Jeremiah Townshend to prove his uncle's insanity.¹⁹

Jeremiah Townshend was born about 1818, and at the time of the 1850 U.S. Federal Census was documented as a farmer with real estate valued at \$1,260, which was considerable at the time. He was married to E. R. Townshend and the couple had five children.²⁰ The 1850 U.S. Federal Slave Schedule documents that Townshend had 100 slaves. His slaves ranged in age from 2 to 77 and included men, women, boys, and girls, but no women over the age of 40.²¹

The effort to break the will of John Townshend and deeds of manumission spanned nine years, greatly depleting Jeremiah Townshend's fortune, and the final court hearing found John Townshend to be insane and not mentally capable. The slaves had no more options open to them and would remain enslaved for another eight years when, in the wake of the Civil War (1861-1865), the Maryland Constitution was amended and slavery was abolished.²² Accordingly, the court granted title of the property to Jeremiah Townshend.²³ Townshend is buried with his wife and children in the McKendree Methodist Church Cemetery, located west of Brandywine, Maryland along Accokeek Road. Ironically, an unidentified family slave also has an unmarked grave in the family plot.²⁴

In 1856, after winning title to John Townshend's property, Jeremiah Townshend sold Lot 3, a 195-acre parcel that included the family cemetery, to Thomas Wells Robinson.²⁵ Thomas W. Robinson (born in 1803) had returned to Prince George's County following his family's move to West Virginia in 1818. According to the Robinson Family Bible, Robinson married Elizabeth J. Richards on December 15, 1829.²⁶ The couple had nine children, seven of whom reached adulthood. Robinson's purchase of Lot 3 of the subdivided Townshend property supplemented his 1843 purchase of an adjacent tract of land known as "Potomac Landing." Robinson married his second wife, Martha Ann Walls, the daughter of George and Martha Naylor Walls, in 1846.²⁷ One son from this marriage, Robert Henry, survived to maturity.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

Robinson utilized slave labor, with the number of slaves varying from at least six in 1849, eleven in 1850, and finally six in 1860.²⁸ At the time of the 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Robinson was enumerated as a planter with \$12,000 in real estate assets and a personal estate of \$10,000.²⁹ In October 1862, Thomas Robinson's two eldest sons, James and Franklin, joined the Confederate Army. Following the Civil War, Franklin Robinson managed the family farm. Deeply in debt, Thomas W. Robinson entered into a sharecropping agreement with Edward Hanson, an African-American, to farm part of "Potomac Landing." Thomas Wells Robinson died in 1869, leaving his three sons, Franklin, James, and Robert equal interests in his estate.³⁰ Deep in debt at the time of his death, Robinson's estate was sued by the county commissioners and the land was divided into three parcels.

On September 1, 1876, the local county newspaper, *The Prince Georgian*, ran a notice of sale describing the property:

*"Containing 514.66 acres More or less. The Improvements consist of a SMALL DWELLING, Three Barns, Stabling, and other necessary outbuildings. It is well wooded and watered, and the soil of fair quality. It has recently been divided into three lots and will be offered in lots, a description of which will be given at the time of sale."*³¹

The sale was held on September 27, 1876, with Thomas Robinson's three sons each purchasing a lot. Lot 1, which included the family's dwelling (not extant) and farm buildings (not extant), and cemetery, was purchased by Robert Robinson for \$6 per acre. Lot 2 was purchased by Franklin Robinson for \$5 per acre and Lot 3 was purchased by James Robinson for \$4 per acre. In 1882, after living with his brother and sister-in-law in the family dwelling, Franklin Robinson constructed the Robinson-Billingsley House (PG: 85A-004), located at 8700 Dyson Road. Robert and Franklin Robinson eventually paid off their mortgages, but James Robinson defaulted and later moved to St. Mary's County, Maryland.³²

Robert Henry Robinson, born c. 1852, married Amanda Malvina Baden, the daughter of Robert W. G. Baden and Margaret Caroline Early, both from prominent Prince George's County families. Lot 1, which consisted of 177.33 acres including the cemetery, was farmed extensively by the Robinson family during their tenure as owners. The first reference to the farm being named "Ferndale" is found in the Communion Record of Robert Robinson's daughter, Martha Perry Robinson, dated 1896.³³ Robert and Amanda Robinson were enumerated as living with his mother, Martha Ann, in the 1880 U.S. Federal Census.³⁴ Robert H. Robinson was more than just an active planter and he served as deputy inspector at the State Tobacco Warehouse in Baltimore for eight years, as well as being on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Brandywine.³⁵ In 1905, Robinson's brother, Franklin A. Robinson, died intestate and was buried, interestingly enough not in the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, but at the Church of the Atonement in Cheltenham, Maryland. In 1908, his property, directly west of Robert Robinson's, was sold to William E. Boswell. None of the proceeds went to Robert Robinson as the court declared him ineligible due to his being "...a brother of the half-blood."³⁶ The Boswells later sold the property to the Billingsley family.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

Robert H. Robinson died intestate in 1937. His son, Frank A. Robinson, bought out his brother and sister's shares after gaining clear title to the property through a 1938 equity case.³⁷

Frank A. Robinson, third son of Robert and Amanda Robinson, was born on August 17, 1883. Robinson continued farming the property and eventually took up the building trade. He was responsible for the construction of the first Bank of Brandywine (PG: 85A-30) and many houses in and around the town of Brandywine, including the home of his cousin Robert E. Baden, DDS. Robinson also served as secretary of the Building Committee for the construction of the Chapel of the Incarnation (PG: 85A-27), located at 14070 Brandywine Road. Frank Robinson's building acumen allowed him to invest heavily in real estate. Never once though did he mortgage "Ferndale," ensuring that no matter what financial stormy seas might blow, his property (including the cemetery) was always secure.³⁸

Frank Robinson married Elizabeth Freeland Bourne, daughter of Joseph Blake Bourne and Maria Gantt of Calvert County, Maryland. The couple had three children: Mary Elizabeth, Franklin Alexander, and Robert Lee.³⁹ In 1958, Frank and Elizabeth Robinson conveyed to their son Franklin 1.57 acres of land north of the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery. On this property Franklin and his fiancée, Adina M. Via, built a one-story ranch house. By the 1950s-1960s the Robinson family was farming over 1,000 acres in Prince George's and Charles Counties, Maryland, through a combination of lease and direct ownership.⁴⁰ The Robinsons farmed tobacco, hay, and small grains and engaged in sharecropping with tenants. Frank Robinson served his community as Board of the Maryland Tobacco Growers Association, the Vestry of St. Thomas Parish, and as sheriff of Brandywine.⁴¹

In 1962, the Frank and Elizabeth Robinson, along with their son Franklin, entered into a three-year lease with William C. Nolte. This lease allowed Nolte to mine the sand and gravel located belowground on Ferndale Farm. The booming economy and suburbanization of Prince George's County in the early 1960s led the high-quality gravel lying beneath the farm to become a valuable commodity.⁴²

On February 5, 1970, Frank Robinson died after a short illness. He was buried in the cemetery at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Baden, Maryland, next to his mother. In his will, probated March 4, 1970, Frank Robinson left "Ferndale," consisting of approximately 172 acres and the cemetery, to his son Franklin A. Robinson.

In 1975, Franklin A. Robinson and his mother, Elizabeth B. Robinson, conveyed the property to Brandywine Sand & Gravel Company, Inc.⁴³ A result of the mining activities was the formation of multiple bodies of water on the property. It is possible that the mining activities disrupted interments, although this is only speculative as the precise boundaries of the cemetery are unknown. In 1980, the Brandywine Sand & Gravel Company, Inc. conveyed the property to the current owner, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.⁴⁴

A police firing range is located north of the cemetery and is not accessible to the public. The access road to the property was widened and improved in the late twentieth century. As a result, at least one row of burials was

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 6

paved over.⁴⁵ The extent of damage to the graves by the road improvements is not known, although the change in grade is noticeable.

The other two known individuals buried in the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery are William Thomas and Emmy Kidwell. It is believed that Thomas was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War (1861-1865).⁴⁶ Any additional information related to these two individuals could not be located.

⁶ Susan G. Pearl, "T.B.," Maryland Historical Trust, Historic Sites Inventory Form (1986-1987).

⁷ Prince George's County Community Renewal Program, *Neighborhoods of Prince George's County* (1974), 435-435.

⁸ G.M. Hopkins, "Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Prince George Maryland" (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins, C.E., 1878).

⁹ User Home Pages, "Descendants of Samuel Townshend," FamilyTreeMaker.com,

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/t/o/w/Singleton-L-Townshend/GENE1-0001.html> (accessed April 23, 2009).

¹⁰ The location of John Townshend's dwelling is unknown.

¹¹ Prince George's County, "The Tobacco County," Prince George's County Tricentennial,

<http://www.pghistory.org/PG/PG300/tobacounty.html> (accessed June 29, 2009).

¹² Ian Gallacher, "Learning More Than Law from Maryland Decisions", University of Baltimore Law Forum, Issue 32.1, 2002.

¹³ Meg Green, *Rest in Peace: A History of American Cemeteries* (Minneapolis: Twenty-First Century Books, 2008), 14-15.

¹⁴ "The Differences Between African-American and Euro-American Cemeteries," South Carolina Information Highway,

<http://www.sciway.net/hist/chicora/gravematters-3.html>, (accessed August 25, 2009).

¹⁵ Franklin Robinson, Jr., interview held at the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, Brandywine, August 24, 2009.

¹⁶ "The Differences Between African-American and Euro-American Cemeteries," South Carolina Information Highway,

<http://www.sciway.net/hist/chicora/gravematters-3.html>, (accessed August 25, 2009).

¹⁷ Ian Gallacher, "Learning More Than Law from Maryland Decisions", University of Baltimore Law Forum, Issue 32.1, 2002.

¹⁸ Franklin Robinson, Jr., interview held at the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, Brandywine, August 24, 2009.

¹⁹ Ian Gallacher, "Learning More Than Law from Maryland Decisions", University of Baltimore Law Forum, Issue 32.1, 2002.

²⁰ 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Piscataway, Prince George's, Maryland, Series M432, Roll 295, Page 116, Image 495, Jeremiah Townshend.

²¹ Ancestry.com. 1850 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedules [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1850. M432, 1,009 rolls.

²² User Home Pages, "Descendants of Samuel Townshend," FamilyTreeMaker.com,

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/t/o/w/Singleton-L-Townshend/GENE1-0001.html> (accessed April 23, 2009).

²³ Franklin Robinson, Jr., interview held at the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, Brandywine, August 24, 2009.

²⁴ Ian Gallacher, "Learning More Than Law from Maryland Decisions", University of Baltimore Law Forum, Issue 32.1, 2002.

²⁵ Deed could not be located in land records.

²⁶ *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

²⁷ It is presumed that Elizabeth Robinson died prior to Thomas's marriage to Martha Ann as the 1860 U.S. Federal Census documents Thomas and Martha residing with children from Thomas's first marriage.

²⁸ Prince George's County Land Records, JBB 6:186.

²⁹ 1860 U.S. Federal Census, District 5, Prince Georges, Maryland, Series M653, Roll 478, Page 35, Image 527, Thomas W. Robinson.

³⁰ *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

³¹ *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 7

³² *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

³³ *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

³⁴ 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Brandywine, Prince Georges, Maryland, Series T9, Roll 514, Family History Film 1254514, Page 222.3000, Enumeration District 131, Image 0065, Robert H. Robinson.

³⁵ *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

³⁶ *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian. Robert Henry Robinson was the son of Thomas Wells Robinson and his second wife, Martha Ann Walls Robinson.

³⁷ *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

³⁸ *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

³⁹ *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

⁴⁰ *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

⁴¹ *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

⁴² *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

⁴³ Franklin A. Robinson and Elizabeth B. Robinson to Brandywine Sand & Gravel Company, Inc., Prince George's County Land Records, CEC 4507:778.

⁴⁴ Brandywine Sand & Gravel Company to The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Land Records, 5354:318.

⁴⁵ Franklin Robinson, Jr., interview held at the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, Brandywine, August 24, 2009.

⁴⁶ Franklin Robinson, Jr., interview held at the Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, Brandywine, August 24, 2009.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Gallacher, Ian. "Learning More Than Law from Maryland Decisions", University of Baltimore Law Forum, Issue 32.1, 2002.
National Museum of American History, Smithsonian, *Robinson-Via Family Papers*, Archives Center.
Prince George's County Land Records.
Robinson-Via Family Papers, [AC0475-0000077], Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of surveyed property	<u>182.09</u>	
Acreeage of historical setting	<u>more than 500 acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Brandywine</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery is located in Brandywine on a 182.09-acre parcel, which was historically a 1,500-acre farm. The cemetery is located on property now owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The eastern boundary of the property extends along the access road and eventually extends to the north-northeast to a point south of a power line right-of-way. The northern boundary approximately follows the power line right-of-way. The western boundary extends to the west of the multiple water features. The southern boundary extends through a dense stand of trees. The Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery is associated with Parcel 98 as noted on Tax Map 135. The cemetery is located along the southeast boundary of the property, adjacent to the access road.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul Weishar and Maria Dayton / Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Inc. for M-NCPPC	date	October 2009
street & number	1121 Fifth Street, NW	telephone	(202) 393-1199
city or town	Washington	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

CHAIN OF TITLE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY LAND RECORDS

PARCEL A

Equity #873 1938	Robert H. Robinson dies in 1937 intestate, his son Frank A. Robinson buys out his brother and sister's shares after gaining clear title to the property.
Deed 499:333 February 14, 1938	Frank M. Hall, Trustee appointed for Robert H. Robinson, to the heirs of Robert H. Robinson: Amanda B. Robinson, Grace R. Sorrell, Martha R. Townshend, Carrie R. Weeks, Lucie R. Arth, Maggie R. Early, Frank A. Robinson, and R. Henry Robinson
Deed 499:334 February 14, 1938	Amanda B. Robinson, widow, Grace R. Sorrell and Henry Sorrell, Martha R Townshend and Harry Townshend, Maggie R. Early and Leonard Early, Carrie R. Weeks, widow, Lucy R. Arth and Charles Arth, and R. Henry Robinson, to Frank Alexander Robinson. (177.33 acres)
Will GSMcG 7:823	Frank Alexander Robinson died on February 5, 1970, leaving a Last Will and Testament dated January 27, 1955. Frank Alexander Robinson left as his sole heirs at law and next of kin his widow, Elizabeth B. Robinson and three children, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Mary Elizabeth Robinson Conner, and Robert Lee Robinson.
Deed 4184:926 February 6, 1973	Mary Elizabeth Robinson Conner and Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., personal representatives of the Estate of Frank Alexander Robinson (deceased), parties of the first part; Elizabeth B. Robinson, Franklin A. Robinson, Mary Elizabeth Robinson Conner, and Robert Lee Robinson, only heirs at law and next of kin and only beneficiaries under the Last Will and Testament of Frank Alexander Robinson, parties of the second part; and Franklin A. Robinson and Elizabeth B. Robinson, individually, as tenants in common, parties of the third part. (20.47 acres)

PARCEL B - TOWNSHEND-ROBINSON FAMILY CEMETERY

Equity #873 January 31, 1938	Joseph K. Roberts, trustee, to Robert Henry Robinson. (177.33 acres known as Lot #1 of the Thomas W. Robinson Estate)
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Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 2

Deed
499:334
February 14, 1938
Amanda B. Robinson, widow, Grace R. Sorrell and Henry Sorrell, Martha R. Townshend and Harry Townshend, Maggie R. Early and Leonard Early, Carrie R. Weeks, widow, Lucy R. Arth and Charles Arth, and R. Henry Robinson, to Frank A. Robinson. (177.33 acres)

Deed
WWW 3010:358
July 27, 1964
Frank A. Robinson and Elizabeth B. Robinson to Franklin A. Robinson. (67.963 acres)

PARCEL C

Equity
November 15, 1905
Richard F. Robinson vs. Elizabeth A. Gibbons and other defendants.

Deed
43:480
July 29, 1908
Caleb C. Magruder, T. Van Clagett, and Francis J. Mooney, trustees appointed in the case of Richard F. Robinson vs. Elizabeth A. Gibbons, sold to William E. Boswell. (four tracts of land:
1) "School House Lot" containing 1 acre
2) tract containing 17.33 acres
3) "Home Place" of the late Franklin A. Robinson containing 160 acres.
4) tract containing 32 acres)

Deed
69:58
December 31, 1910
William E. Boswell and Grace E. Boswell to G. Katarah Lusby Billingsley and Fitzhugh Hooe Billingsley. (160 acres)

Deed
116:135
March 13, 1916
G. Katarah Lusby Billingsley and Fitzhugh Hooe Billingsley to Frank A. Robinson. (38.09 acres)

Deed
WWW 2754:99
November 8, 1962
Frank A. Robinson and Elizabeth B. Robinson to Franklin A. Robinson. (38.09 acres)

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 3

PARCEL D

Equity
#873
1937

Robert H. Robinson dies in 1937 intestate, his son Frank A. Robinson buys out his brother and sister's shares after gaining clear title to the property.

Deed
499:334
February 14, 1938

Amanda B. Robinson, widow, Grace R. Sorrell and Henry Sorrell, Martha R. Townshend and Harry Townshend, Maggie R. Early and Leonard Early, Carrie R. Weeks, widow, Lucy R. Arth and Charles Arth, and R. Henry Robinson, to Frank A. Robinson. (177.33 acres)

Deed
2182:580
February 4, 1958

Frank A. Robinson and Elizabeth B. Robinson to Franklin A. Robinson. (1.57 acres)

PARCELS A, B, C, D (INCLUDING CEMETERY)

Lease
October 3, 1962
2747:11

Frank A. Robinson and Elizabeth B. Robinson, and Franklin A. Robinson to William C. Nolte. (Three-year lease for the mining of sand and gravel on the Ferndale Farm at 0.174 per yard)

Will
March 4, 1970

Will of Frank A. Robinson. "Ferndale" left to Franklin A. Robinson.

Deed
CEC 4507:778
July 17, 1975

Franklin A. Robinson and Elizabeth B. Robinson to Brandywine Sand & Gravel Company, Inc.

Deed
5354:318
December 19, 1980

Brandywine Sand & Gravel Company, Inc. to The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 4



Photo: Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, Brandywine, looking northwest. (April 2009)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 5



Photo: Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, Brandywine, John Townshend headstone, looking southwest.
(April 2009)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 6



Photo: Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, Brandywine, John Townshend footstone, looking north. (April 2009)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 7



Photo: Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, Brandywine, line of metal poles marking burials, looking south.
(August 2009)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 8



Photo: Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, Brandywine, grade change, looking north. (August 2009)

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 9



Photo: Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery, View of the cemetery from the south, early twentieth century.
Credit: [AC0475-0000077], Robinson-Via Family Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

**Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 10



Photo: Thomas W. Robinson, c. 1850. Credit: [AC0475-0000077], Robinson-Via Family Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 11

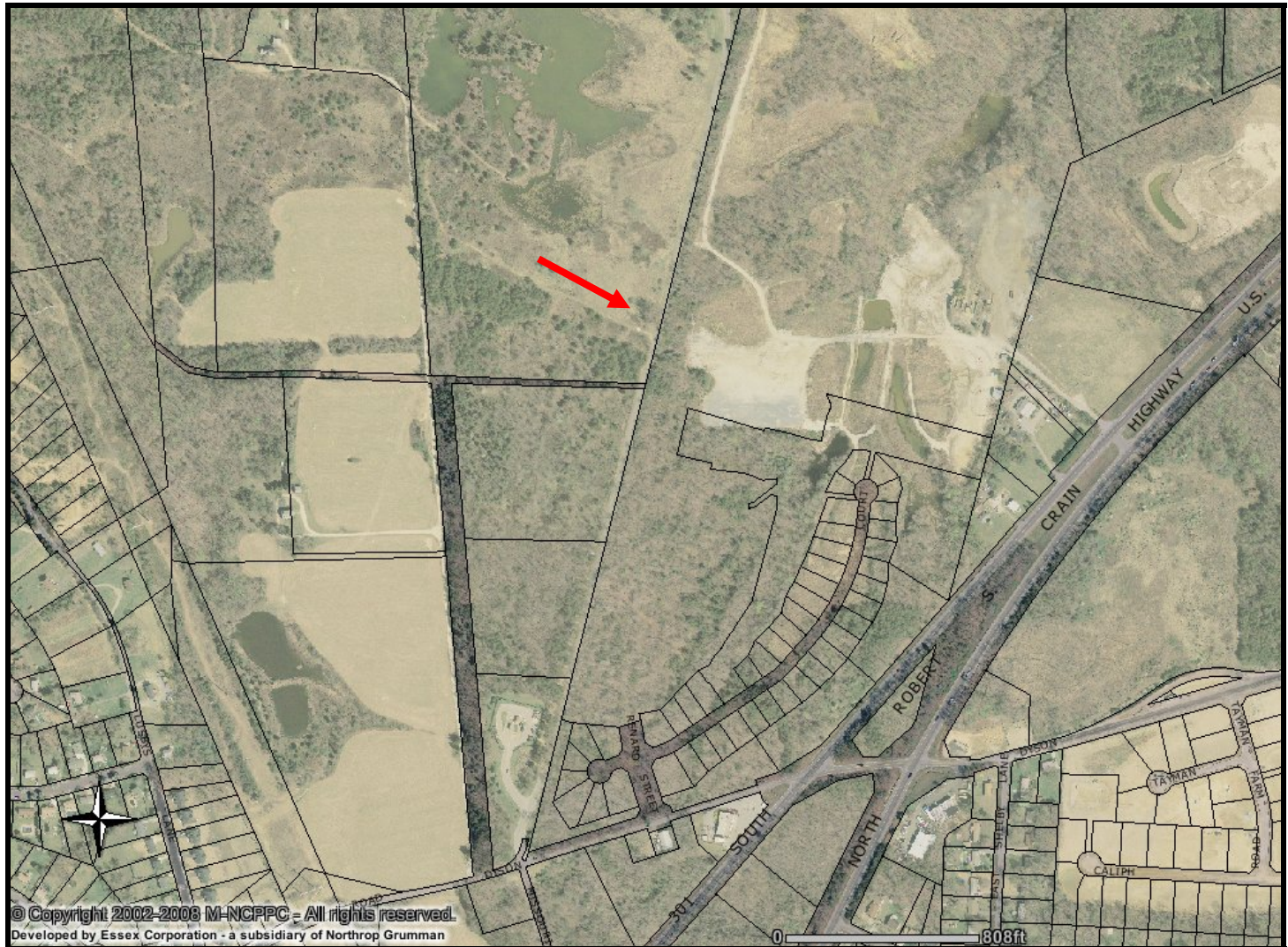


Image: 2007 Aerial, PG Atlas, Prince George's County GIS.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 12



Image: 1965 Aerial, PG Atlas, Prince George's County GIS.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 13

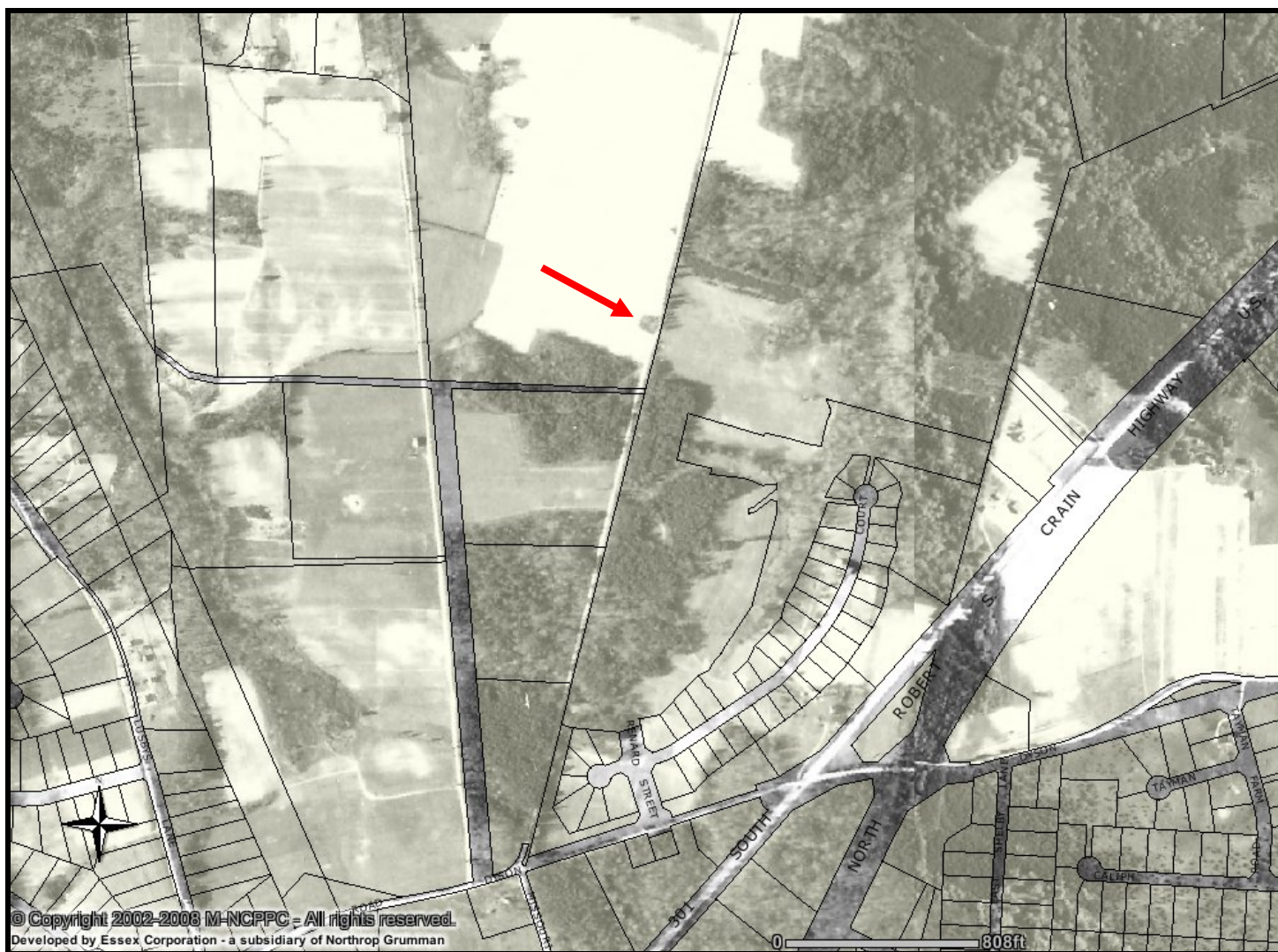


Image: 1938 Aerial, PG Atlas, Prince George's County GIS.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 14



Image: Badenhop House, built by Frank A. Robinson in Brandywine (status unknown). Credit: [AC0475-0000077], Robinson-Via Family Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG: 85A-005

Townshend-Robinson Family Cemetery
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 15



Image: Dr. Baden's House, built by Frank A. Robinson for his cousin, Dr. Baden in Brandywine(status unknown). Credit: [AC0475-0000077], Robinson-Via Family Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian.