

APPENDIX

R.S. Webb & Associates

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January 23, 2019

Ms. Sarah E. Blackburn, PE
Gresham Smith
2325 Lakeview Parkway, Suite 300
Alpharetta, Georgia 30009-7940

**Subject: Findings - Partial Boundary Delineation of an Abandoned Cemetery
Trail Project (1451 McCollum Parkway to Olympic Lane)
Cobb County, Georgia
R.S. Webb & Associates No. 18-082-003**

Dear Ms. Blackburn:

Background

On December 19, 2018, Mr. Steve Webb, Senior Principal Archeologist and Physical Anthropologist with R.S. Webb & Associates, partially delineated an abandoned cemetery (hereafter referred to as the Cemetery) located partially within a proposed Cobb County Department of Transportation trail corridor. The proposed trail extends from 1451 McCollum Parkway to Olympic Lane and is approximately 550 feet long and 10 feet wide (Figures 1 and 2). The partial delineation was conducted in accordance with state law governing the treatment of historic cemeteries prior to a change of use of the property containing the cemetery (Georgia Code Title 36, Chapter 72).

Methods

Relevant cemetery boundaries were delineated through a combination of systematic subsurface probing and surface inspection for evidence of human graves. Probing involves inserting a 4.0-foot metal rod into the ground at intervals of 1.0 to 3.0 feet searching for loose soil deposits typical of human graves. Surface inspection includes a careful scan of the ground, looking for overturned or partially buried head/foot stones, oblong depressions, ornamental vegetation, and border stones. When graves were detected within, partially within, or immediately adjacent to the proposed trail corridor, they were marked with red (head) and yellow (foot) pin flags. These techniques were employed as needed within/along the trail corridor to establish the northwestern and southeastern cemetery limits within the trail corridor. Once these limits were determined, they were marked with white pin flags bearing "Cemetery Boundary." A professional surveyor then field-located the partially delineated cemetery boundaries and supplied RSWA with a copy of the survey, which is attached to this report.

RESULTS

A portion of the Cemetery is located within the southwestern section of the proposed trail corridor along a broad northwest-southeast-trending ridge crest (Figure 1). Cemetery vegetation consists of a pine-dominated canopy with occasional hardwoods and light to moderate undergrowth (Figure 3). Given the undergrowth and degree of neglect, the Cemetery is in a state of abandonment. There is a steep road cut (McCollum Parkway) to the immediate east-northeast.

Fifteen graves were recorded during the course of the partial delineation (Figure 4). Of these, 12 are entirely within the proposed trail corridor, two are partially within/along the southwest boundary of the corridor and one is immediately southwest of the corridor. One displaced, cut gravestone fragment was observed within the corridor, but the remaining graves are represented by either oblong depressions or are marked with unmodified or roughly shaped fieldstones. None of the observed markers bear the names of decedents. Graves are roughly clustered or paired, but no well defined rows were noted. This arrangement may indicate married couples or some other type of family clustering. The graves are generally oriented east-west, which is the traditional orientation of historic Christian burials with the decedent's head at the west end of the grave. Based on the extent of the graves detected and the presence of associated historic oaks (at least 75 years old), the portion of the Cemetery located within the project corridor measures a maximum of approximately 120 feet northwest-southeast by 20 to 28 feet northeast-southwest (Figure 4).

The Cemetery appears to extend for an unknown distance beyond the project corridor to the west-southwest. It does not appear that the graves recorded on the ridge crest within the trail corridor have been disturbed by the road cut to the northeast. It is not known if graves were ever present within the road cut northeast of the trail corridor; however, no evidence of such graves were detected during the current study.

CONCLUSIONS

At least 14 human graves are located within or partially within a 120-foot section of the proposed trail corridor. The Cemetery extends for an unknown distance to the west-southwest. Based on the current study, there is no evidence that the road cut northeast of the trail corridor disturbed the graves within the proposed trail corridor.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Ms. Blackburn, we appreciate the opportunity to work with Gresham Smith on this project. If you have questions or comments regarding our findings, please contact me at 770-345-0706.

Sincerely,
R.S. WEBB & ASSOCIATES



Robert S. Webb
President and Senior Principal Archeologist

Attachments: Figures 1-4



Map Reference: 7.5-Minute USGS Quadrangle
Kennesaw, Georgia (1992)

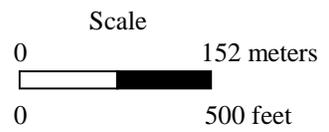


Figure 1 Project Corridor Location Map



Map Reference: Google Earth (2018)

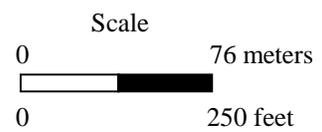


Figure 2 Google Earth Aerial Photography Showing Project Corridor and Partially Delineated Cemetery

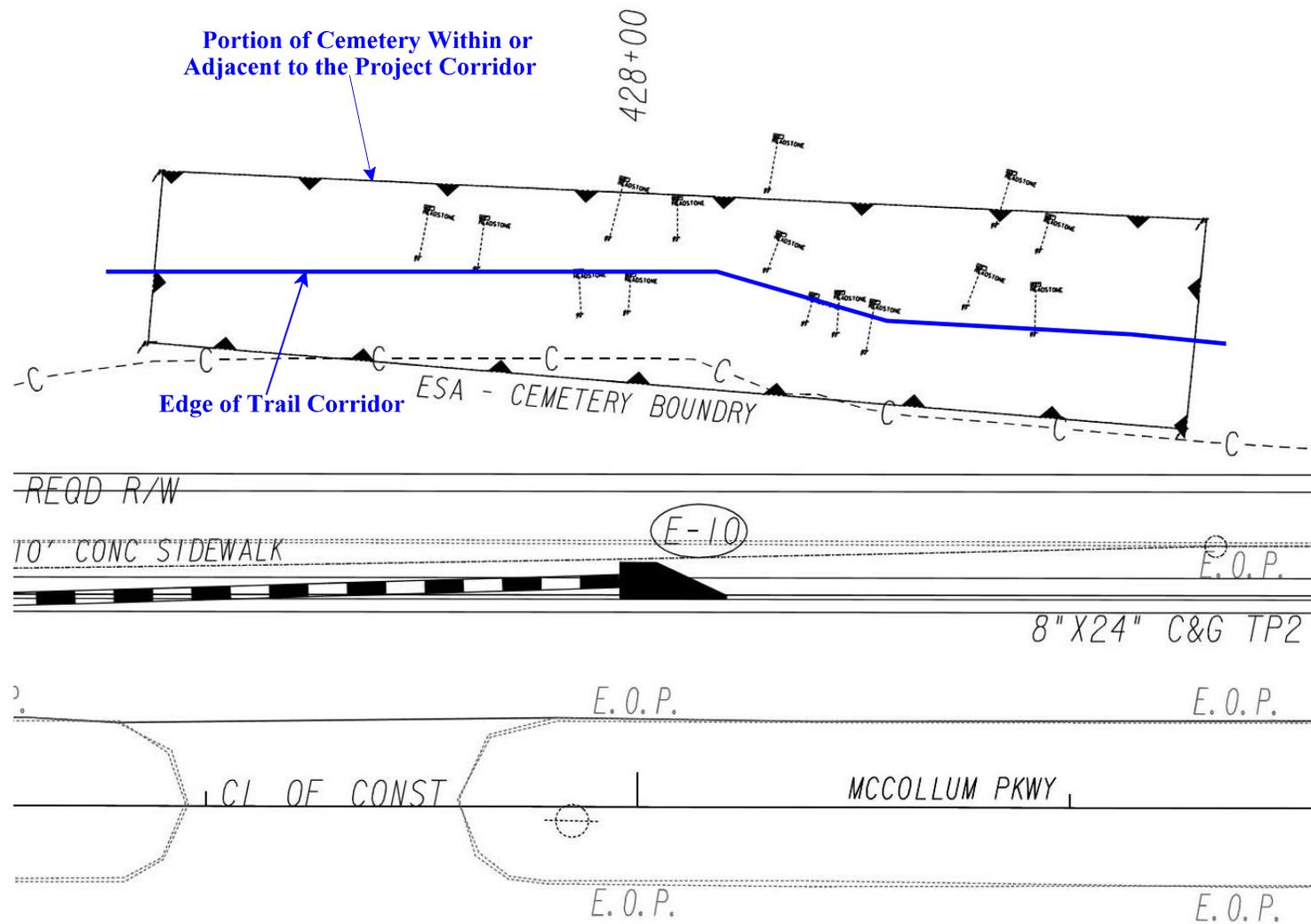


Northwest Portion of Cemetery, Facing Northwest



Southeast Portion of Cemetery, Facing Southeast

Figure 3 Selected Views of Portions of Cemetery Within the Project Corridor



Map Reference: Gresham Smith (2019)

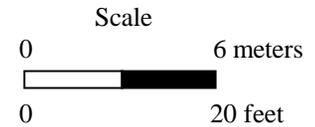


Figure 4 Professional Survey of Delineated Portion of the Cemetery