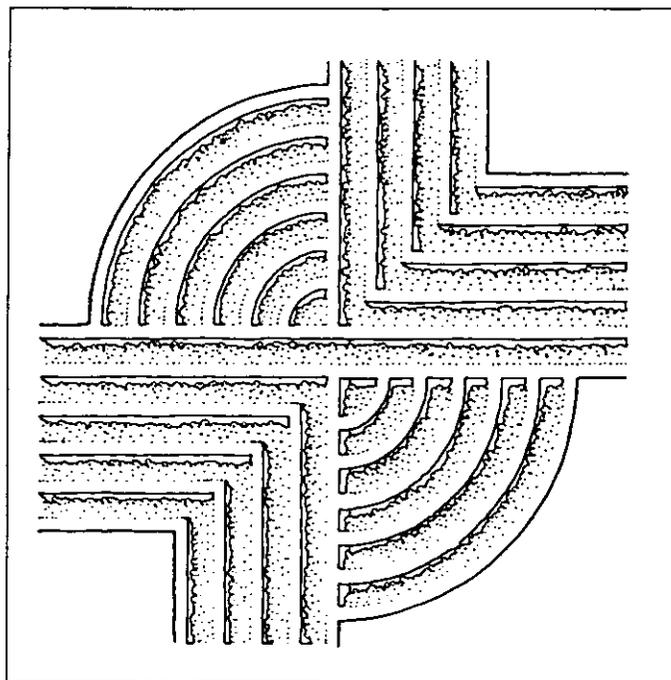


ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY A PORTION OF
THE SANDY RUN - LYLES TRANSMISSION LINE,
LEXINGTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 156

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LEXINGTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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ABSTRACT

This study presents the results of an intensive archaeological survey of approximately one mile of transmission line right of way situated south of the city of Cayce. The primary purpose of this investigation is to identify and assess the archaeological remains present in the proposed right of way.

As a result of this work one new site (38LX372) was recorded. This site consists of an early twentieth century cemetery known as Sharp Burial Ground. The cemetery appears to have been damaged primarily through logging activities resulting in the dislocation of stones. In addition, the vast majority of stones or markers have been removed from the site. Only one marker is still present in the cemetery. This granite marker belongs to Ridona Berry who was interred at Sharp Burial Ground in 1929.

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

This investigation was conducted by Ms. Natalie Adams of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Ken Smoaks of Sabine & Waters. The proposed one mile transmission line right-of-way is situated about four miles south of the city of Cayce. The corridor is located within Lexington County, just north of the Calhoun County line. The 130 foot right of way begins east of Saint Paul's cemetery and ends just east of U.S. Hwy 21/176, following a roughly north - south orientation (Figure 1).

The corridor is intersected by a Seaboard Coast Line railroad which has caused major land alteration in that portion of the corridor. Activities which have the potential to damage or destroy the archaeological remains in the project area include clearing, grubbing, and the placement of powerline poles along the right of way.

Chicora received a request for a budgetary proposal by Mr. Ken Smoak of Sabine & Waters. A proposal was submitted on October 5, 1994. This proposal was accepted on October 17, 1994.

This study is intended to provide a detailed explanation of the archaeological survey of the right of way and the findings. The statewide archaeological site files held by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology were examined for information pertinent to the project area. In addition, the South Carolina Department of Archives & History was consulted about National Register properties in the area. No National Register properties were found to be located in or around the project area (Dr. Tracy Powers, personal communication, February 2, 1994). The field investigations were conducted on October 25th, 1994 by Ms. Natalie Adams and Ms. Missy Trushel. This field work involved 6.0 person hours. Laboratory and report production were conducted at Chicora's laboratories in Columbia, South Carolina on October 26 and 27, 1994.

Project Area

As previously indicated, the project area begins east of Saint Paul's cemetery and ends just west U.S. Hwy 21/176, following a roughly north - south orientation.

The project area is situated in Lexington County. Lexington County, situated in central South Carolina, lies in two physiographic provinces: the Piedmont Plateau to the northwest of the "fall line" and the Sandhills to the southeast. In the vicinity of the Fall Line, dividing the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, major physiographic and geologic subdivisions occur which likely

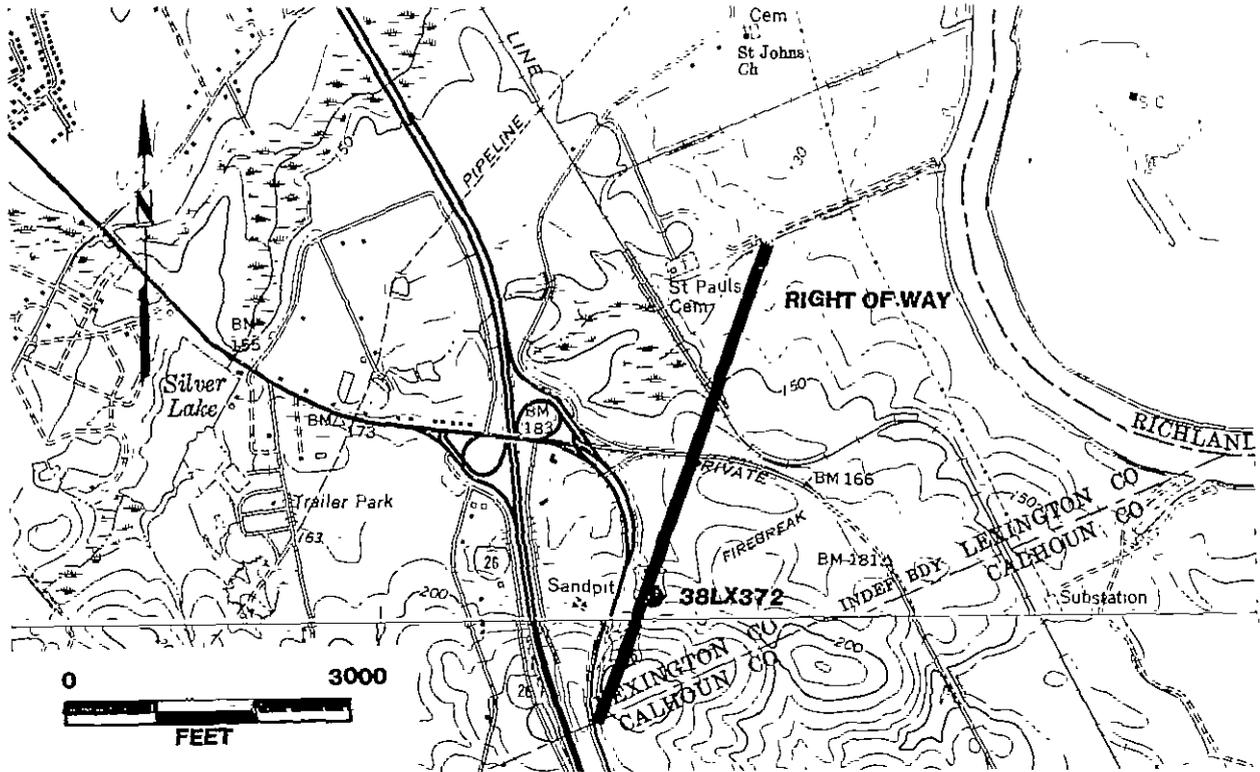


Figure 1. Location of the Sandy Run - Lyles transmission line.

influenced human occupation. On major drainages, such as the Congaree, the occurrence of rapids could interfere with water travel and the location of early historic occupation on the Fall Line reflects this concern (Jones 1971; Mills 1972 [1826]:157). The Fall Line also strongly influenced prehistoric occupation since its location between two major ecotones could allow exploitation of a greater diversity of resources. Elevations in the project area range from 130 feet MSL near Saint Paul's cemetery to 230 feet MSL near the substation.

Lexington County is bounded to the north by Newberry County, to the east by Richland and Calhoun counties, to the south by Orangeburg County, and to the west by Aiken and Saluda counties. The project area falls within the Sandhills region. The geology of the Sandhills is characterized by marine-deposited sediments and the project area is characterized by Blaney, Brogdon, Johnston, and Lakeland soils (Lawrence 1976). Blaney sands are well drained and are normally found on toe slopes in the Sandhills region. Brogdon loamy sands are well drained and form in loamy sediment on stream terraces. Johnston mucky loams are very poorly drained soils that formed in stratified marine and fluvial deposits. Lakeland sands are excessively drained soils which formed in deep beds of marine sands (Lawrence 1976).

The Saluda and Congaree rivers drain the eastern portion of the county, and the north fork

of the Edisto River drains the western portion. Numerous smaller streams (such as nearby Toms Branch) are found throughout the county.

Vegetation in the Sandhills region is characterized by two major forest types: the longleaf and loblolly pine communities (Frothingham and Nelson 1944:19-21). These communities consist primarily of pine with several species of hardwoods including gum and oak (Braun 1950: 285-286). Currently, the vegetation in the surrounding area consists of mixed pine/hardwood with a light to moderate understory of vegetation (Figure 2). In 1826 Robert Mills stated that the quality of lumber in the district was excellent:

It is no uncommon thing to find trees of this description girthing six or seven feet. Besides the poplar, walnut, maple, and various species of the oak, there re the mock-orange, evergreen, elm, hickory, ash, gum, &c. Of the fruit trees there are, the peach, plum, cherry, pear, quince, and apple; besides the native grapes, and various nuts and melons (Mills 1972 [1826]:617).

The climate is temperate and is usually characterized by mild winters and warm summers. Rainfall measures from 46 to 48 inches a year. The annual distribution indicates that July is the wettest month with October and November are the driest. Summers are warm and long with temperatures reaching 90 degrees or higher on an average of 49 days, and they reach 100 degrees or more two or three days a year. Winters are mild and temperatures are as low as 32 degrees on 60% of the days. In 1826 Mills describes the climate as,



Figure 2. Vegetation in the project area.

mild and salubrious, except immediately bordering on the water-courses; what few diseases prevail are mostly confined to the bilious remittent fevers (Mills 1972 [1826]:621).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Previous Archaeological Investigations

Previous archaeological investigations in Lexington County include studies by Anderson (1974a; 1974b; 1979), Anderson et al. (1974), Drucker (1977), Goodyear (1975), Michie (1970; 1971; 1989), Trinkley (1974;1980) and Wogoman et al. (1976). The vast majority of these studies are associated with surveys of the Twelfth Street extension project or the southwestern beltway. Others have focussed on testing or excavation at sites such as the Manning site and the Thom's Creek site. In addition, a number of smaller highway department surveys and transmission line right of way surveys have been performed in the area. Adams (1994) surveyed an additional portion of this proposed transmission line and found few archaeological remains in the right of way.

During an archaeological survey of the southwestern beltway, Anderson et al. (1974) found that prehistoric sites occurring near the confluence of Congaree Creek (just north of the project area) and the Congaree River occurred on slightly elevated dry knolls or ridges within broad, flat, low-lying fields which overlook swamps (Anderson et al. 1974:4-5).

Very little historical archaeology has been performed in the Sandhills region of the state. However, work by Brooks and Crass (1991) at the Savannah River site provide some guide as to potential locations for historic sites in the region. During the colonial period, settlement was concentrated along major water courses on well drained elevated soils. However, during the late eighteenth century settlement had progressed up larger creeks. This pattern continued up through the mid-nineteenth century. During the postbellum and modern periods, settlement had shifted away from water-courses and became more road oriented.

Since the right of way is located in uplands far away from major streams, the potential for prehistoric remains was believed to be low. An exception is a knoll located near the south end of the right of way where there was a potential for a small prehistoric scatter of artifacts or for a historic house site. Previous work by Adams (1994) in this area did not locate any remains in this vicinity, primarily because the area had once been used as a borrow pit. However, the relocation of the right of way more towards the center of the knoll may increase the potential for locating remains.

An examination of the site files housed by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology revealed that there were no known sites in the project area.

Brief Historic Synopsis

General accounts of Lexington County history are presented by Anderson (1975), Gay (1974), Goodyear (1976), Meriwether (1940), Michie (1989), and Trinkley (1974).

Lexington County was first occupied by Europeans who built a fortified military garrison (Fort Congaree) in 1718 on the site of an a former Congaree Indian village. A second fortification was established 2 1/2 miles north after attacks by Iroquois from the Ohio Valley upon settlers in the late 1740s. These two forts were significant in the defence of the Carolina backcountry (Central Midlands Regional Planning Council 1974:132).

The first large trading post in central South Carolina was built near the old Congaree fort site in 1733. This post was an exchange center between Charles Town and the western settlements. During this year the area received political identity as Congaree District. Two years later it was renamed Saxe Gotha in an attempt to bring immigrants from Germany and Switzerland to the piedmont. Most of these early settlers were small farmers while the more prosperous ones operated stores, trading posts, saw and grist mills.

When the wagon road between the town and Augusta was opened in 1754, river traffic increased. A ferry operation began over the Congaree, and the village moved towards the ferry site where Granby Village was established sometime before 1774. As the head of navigation on the Congaree River, Granby became an important commercial center. Indigo, cotton, manufactured ropes, Indian corn, beeswax, and other goods from Saxe Gotha and the up country were transported to Charles Town where they were exchanged for salt, fabrics and other merchandise needed in the interior (Central Midlands Regional Planning Council 1974:134).

During the American Revolution Fort Granby, below the present town of Cayce, was the major outpost for British regulars in the area. In 1785, Lexington County was established in the Orangeburg District. With the development of Columbia, across the river, Granby Village declined in importance. The county seat was then moved from Granby Village to the town of Lexington (Central Midlands Regional Planning Council 1974:135-136).

Mills' Atlas (1972 [1826]) shows the project area as containing no subscribers within the right of way. The majority of settlement in the area is shown as occurring on State Road (Figure 3).

By 1860 the county contained 73 saw mills, one cotton and wool mill, eight carriage and wagon makers, one sash and blind factory, two boot and shoe makers, one tannery, one blacksmith, one turpentine distillery, one printing establishment, and one wooden bucket factory. Also, Guignard Brickworks, established in 1804, was a prospering business. The largest single pre-war industry by far was the Saluda Factory on the Congaree (see Trinkley 1989).

During the Civil War Union forces invaded Lexington County and shelled the city of Columbia from the west bank of the Congaree. After the war most families were left destitute.

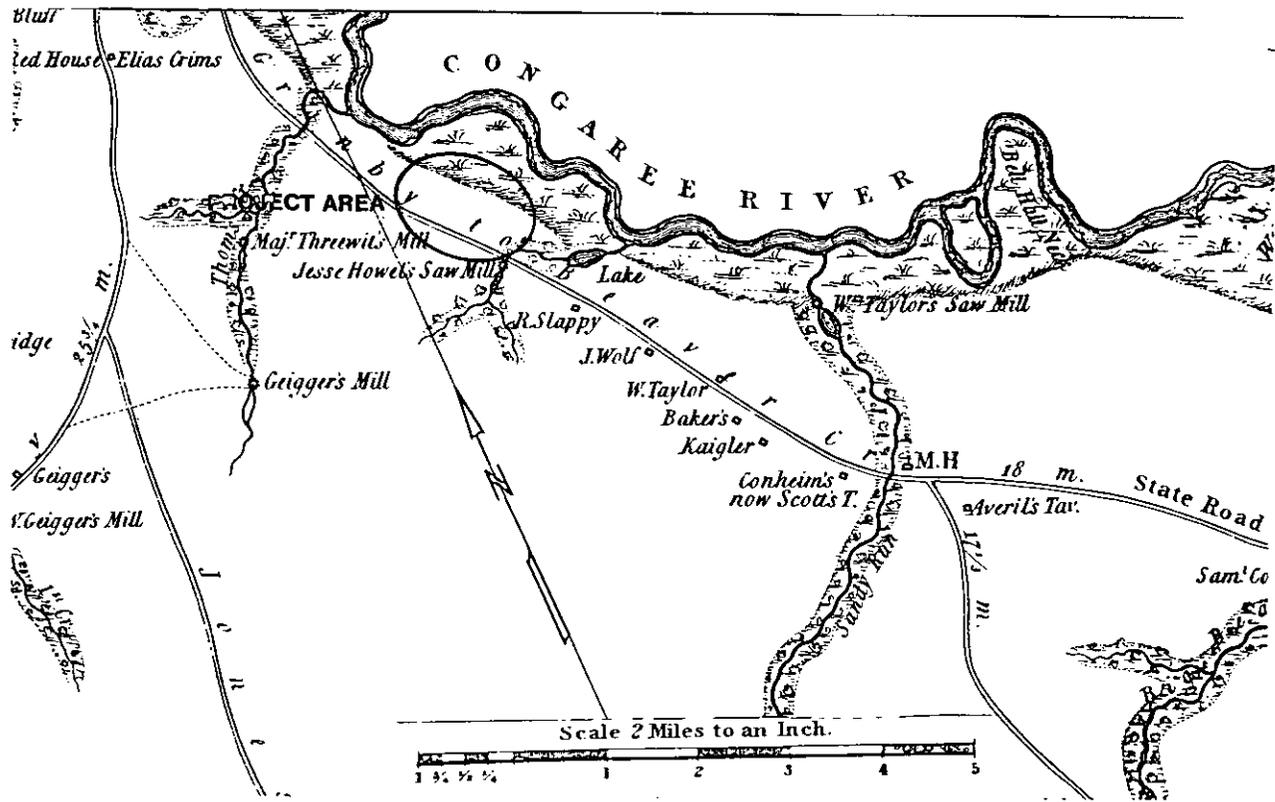


Figure 3. Mills' Atlas (1826) showing the project area in Lexington District.

Economic recovery was slow, aggravated by lack of capital and heavy reliance on an unproductive agricultural economy (Central Midlands Regional Planning Council 1974:136-137).

FIELD METHODS

Methods

The initially proposed field techniques for this intensive level survey involved the placement of a single transect through the corridor centerline at 100 feet or 200 feet intervals based on variables such as topography and drainage. The minimal definition of a site in this study was two or more artifacts within a 25 foot area.

Should sites be identified by surface collection and/or shovel testing, further tests would be used to help obtain additional data on site boundaries, artifact quantity and diversity, site integrity, and temporal affiliation. This information is required to determine site eligibility and is necessary for completion of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site forms. Photographs would be taken, if warranted in the opinion of the field investigator.

All soils from the shovel tests would be screened through ¼-inch mesh, with each test numbered sequentially. Each test would measure about 1 foot square and would normally be taken to a depth of at least one foot. All cultural remains would be collected, except for shell, mortar, and brick, which would be quantitatively noted in the field and discarded. Notes would be maintained for profiles at any sites encountered. Actual field techniques did not deviate significantly from those originally proposed.

As a result of the archaeological survey of the Lyles - Silverlake transmission line right of way, 40 shovel tests were excavated with an average of one shovel test per 147.5 feet.

Curation

It is anticipated that field notes and artifacts will be accessioned for curation at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. Field notes have been prepared for curation using archival standards and will be transferred to the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology as soon as the project is complete.

RESULTS

As a result of the archaeological survey of the Sandy Run - Lyles transmission line right of way, one new site (38LX372) was identified. This site is known as Sharp Burial Ground.

Site 38LX372 is located immediately east of the center line between stations 4428+06 and 4429+00 on the sideslope of a large knoll and adjacent to wetland. The central UTM coordinates are E497000 N3748220 and the soils in the area are well drained Blaney sand.

The site was initially identified as a small scatter of glass containers adjacent to a barbed wire fence. Five shovel tests were excavated in cardinal directions from a posited center point. None yielded artifacts. It was only after shovel testing revealed no subsurface remains that the surrounding area was subjected to pedestrian survey. This resulted in the location of seven cemetery markers and marker bases. All of the markers have been displaced (Figure 3), probably by logging activities since the immediate and surrounding area contained cut, downed trees. Only one marked headstone remained (Figure 4). The other markers consisted of one footstone and five headstone bases. The barbed wire fence encompasses these remains in a 100 by 100 foot area, and it is believed that this fence marks the boundaries of the cemetery. Collected from the site were three mason jar fragments, two carnival glass vase fragments, one green glass planter fragment, and one milk glass vase fragment.

The one headstone is manufactured from granite and is marked:

BERRY
Ridona Berry
Apr. 8, 1861
June 4, 1929
In God's Care

According to Ridona Berry's death certificate housed at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (file no. 10676), she was a widowed white female born on April 8, 1860. She died on June 4, 1929 in Dixiana and was listed as having lived there for 18 years. Her cause of death was listed as malarial fever from which she had suffered for 21 days. She was buried on June 5th by J.R. Thompson (the founder of Thompson's Funeral Home in West Columbia) of New Brookland township. There is a discrepancy between her year of birth on the headstone (1861) and death certificate (1860). It is unknown which source is correct. The place of burial is listed as Sharp Burial Ground.

According to Townsend et al. (1993:16-17) cemeteries are not generally eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Cemeteries may be eligible if they derive



Figure 4. View of damage to the cemetery markers at Sharp Burial Ground.



Figure 5. Headstone belonging to Ridona Berry.

their primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from associated historic events. This cemetery does not include any of these characteristics. Cemeteries, however, may also be determined eligible for their potential contributions to forensic or physical anthropological research.

South Carolina Code of Laws Section 16-17-600 et seq. makes it unlawful to destroy or desecrate human remains as well as defacing, vandalizing, injuring or removing gravestones or other markers commemorating a deceased person whether located within or outside of a recognized cemetery. It is recommended that all prudent and feasible efforts be made to avoid the cemetery if possible. If avoidance is not possible, the client should consult an attorney for legal advice concerning removal of the cemetery. Since there is the potential to learn a great deal from the examination of skeletal material, if the remains are to be removed the excavations should be undertaken using archaeological techniques and the materials should be examined by a forensic anthropologist.

Since the site likely contains osteological remains which can make contributions to anthropological research, it is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The cemetery appears to contain an early twentieth century white population which are quite possibly related given that the cemetery is known as Sharp Burial Ground as opposed to being a church cemetery.

A number of cemeteries have been excavated which can provide comparative data. These studies include work by Garrow and Associates at a white cemetery in Chamblee, Georgia (Garrow et al. 1985). In addition, several black cemeteries have been investigated including the Blackburn Cemetery in Maury County, Tennessee (Atkinson and Turner 1987), the Cedar Grove cemetery in Lafayette County, Arkansas (Rose 1985), and 38CH778 in Charleston County, South Carolina (Rathbun 1987).

Hacker-Norton and Trinkley (1984) have published a study of coffin hardware from 38CH778 in Charleston County, South Carolina which provides temporal information on the fashion of handle styles. In addition, the study provides pricing information which can be translated into terms of the status of the individuals buried.

The data sets (osteological and coffin remains) can provide information on the economic position of early twentieth century Lexington County citizens as compared to rural white and black citizens elsewhere in the South. Excavation will also provide information on the health and diet of the individuals buried there. As a result, the site qualifies for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D, that the site "may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory" (Townsend et al. 1993:16).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the survey of the Sandy Run to Lyles transmission line right of way one site (38LX372) was discovered. Although damaged, the cemetery is within the power line right of way and will be further damaged by clearing and grubbing activities. This site is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. However, it is recommended that the cemetery be avoided. If this is not possible, the remains should be removed and relocated by an archaeologist.

If the cemetery is to be avoided a number of measures should be taken to protect it from damage during construction and subsequent maintenance. These measures include:

- making sure no powerline poles are placed within the area and no clearing and grubbing takes place at the site. The area should be clearly defined during all phases of construction. No equipment should be allowed in the site area, or be allowed to use the area as a turn-round. The area should not be used to stockpile supplies, or be otherwise disturbed;
- creating a 25 foot buffer around the site to incorporate any possible outlying graves. During the survey a number of the artifacts were collected immediately outside of the fence, suggesting the possibility of additional burials outside of the enclosed area;
- replacing the barbed wire fence with a chain link fence to provide protection from further damage; and
- making sure that continuing maintenance activities do not damage the cemetery.

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