



DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) #134-5670

Purpose of Evaluation

Please use the following space to explain briefly why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

In 2018, the City of Virginia Beach undertook an update to its architectural survey data. That effort included the documentation and evaluation of a number of mid-century neighborhoods and historically African-American neighborhoods. Newsome Farm was among the latter group. Through that effort, surveyors documented the existing conditions of the neighborhood and recorded three dwellings (#134-5609/5611) and the Newsome Farm Cemetery (#134-5670). The neighborhood was recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a historic district due to the impact of modern infill construction and modifications to historic resources that diminished the neighborhood's integrity. The cemetery, however, was identified as a resource that warranted additional evaluation under NRHP Criterion D. The City of Virginia Beach has chosen to pursue that evaluation through this PIF.

The City is interested in raising awareness about the cemetery to develop greater community interest in maintaining and preserving the site. The evaluation of the Newsome Farm Cemetery is consistent with Virginia Beach's objectives to develop a better understanding of and to seek better recognition for historic sites associated with underrepresented communities. These efforts align with DHR's Community Outreach Coordination initiative.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes _____ No X
Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR's easement program? Yes _____ No _____

1. General Property Information

Property name: Newsome Farm Cemetery

Property address: E corner of intersection of Daniel Smith Road and Coffee Court
(GPIN 14684192840000)

City or Town: Virginia Beach

Zip code: 23462

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: City of Virginia Beach

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building _____ Site X Structure _____ Object _____

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: .5

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban _____ Suburban X Town _____ Village _____ Hamlet _____ Rural _____

Briefly describe the property's overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

The Newsome Farm neighborhood, a historically African-American community, stands in the northwestern section of the City of Virginia Beach. The Newsome Farm Cemetery is at the eastern corner of the intersection of Daniel Smith Road and Coffee Court near the center of the residential community. Coffee Court extends along the northwest side of the cemetery and ends in a cul-de-sac on the northeast side of the site. The cemetery parcel is edged by concrete street curbs on the south, west, and north sides. On the east-southeast side, the site blends with the adjacent residential parcel. There are no fences, walls, or other enclosures around the cemetery and there are no signs identifying the site. The graves are irregularly spaced in approximately seven rows and burials are oriented roughly west-to-east. Field investigation of the cemetery for this PIF identified 40 gravestones, five presumed burial sites, six areas of possible unmarked burial sites, and five scatters of material (stone, glass, etc.). Many mature trees are located throughout the site and a few gravesites are embellished with perennial flowers and other plants.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): N/A

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: N/A

If the builder is known, please list here: N/A

Date of construction (can be approximate): ca.1880

Narrative Description:

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire property, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the architectural style, materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions, remodelings, or other alterations.

General Description and Setting

The Newsome Farm neighborhood is a residential community of approximately 80 acres in the Kempsville district of the City of Virginia Beach. The neighborhood is generally bounded by Newtown Road on the west, Baker Road on the south, and the Lynbrook Landing subdivision on the north and east. Primary streets in the neighborhood include Paca Lane, Connie Lane, and Daniel Smith Road. Cul-de-sacs extend off the main streets. Through the late-nineteenth century, this area, then a part of Princess Anne County, was agricultural and transitioned in the early and mid-twentieth century into a settlement of single-family homes on suburban-sized lots. Today, the neighborhood includes two parks/open spaces (Newsome Farms Park, Amhurst Park) and one church, the New St. John's AME Church (est. 1882, formerly located at Newtown Road and Virginia Beach Boulevard). In the mid- to late-twentieth century, the neighborhood experienced development pressures that resulted in commercial development and construction of multi-family units along its edges (Newtown Road and Baker Road).

The cemetery site is a grass-covered space shaded by numerous mature hardwood trees. A group of shrubs is located on the northeast side of the cemetery. The parcel is trapezoidal in shape. The site is not enclosed by a wall or fence and there is no signage identifying it. The only boundaries are the concrete street curbs that extend along Daniel Smith Road (southwest) and Coffee Court (northwest and northeast). The grassy parcel adjoins a neighboring residential lot on the east-southeast side. On-street parking is available around the cemetery.

Recent investigation of the cemetery (July 2021) identified 40 above-ground grave markers. The markers are irregularly spaced in approximately seven rows with burials oriented roughly west (head) to east (foot). Several family groupings of graves are present and include between two and five family members. Markers are of stone

(granite and limestone), marble, and concrete. No metal (bronze) markers or metal funeral home markers were noted.

The grave markers are in good condition overall. Survey efforts for this PIF noted only two markers that were broken into pieces and small chips were noted on only a couple markers. Biological growth (lichen, mold, mildew) was noted on the surface of many markers, especially on the top surface of ledger markers. This growth and the general weathering of the markers' surfaces make some inscriptions difficult to read or illegible. Some markers that are laid flat are beginning to sink into the ground surface. No evidence of vandalism (graffiti, malicious breakage) was noted in the cemetery.

Areas presumed to be grave sites also were noted during the present investigation. Some of the presumed burials (n=5) are at the site of a tree stump and are often marked by an American flag, artificial flowers, or other relics. Some marked graves are located very close to the base of trees, which may support the assumption of presumed burials near/at the tree stumps. Several areas within the cemetery may hold unmarked graves (n=6). These areas are characterized by depressions in the land; pieces of stone (marble, granite, concrete) other materials (glass, brick) on the surface that may indicate a former marker; or general land disturbance (mounding, gravel, etc.). Pieces of stone, brick, or glass that were not part of a larger grouping or were otherwise unassociated with another feature have been identified as "scatters" (n=5).

Description of Grave Markers

A variety of headstones and grave markers is present in the Newsome Farm Cemetery. A number of graves are covered by concrete vault covers or ledgers, which are concrete slabs covering the entire length of the burial and the majority of its width. Some of these ledgers appear to have been previously painted (silver or white) and generally hold two inset concrete panels. One panel at the head of the ledger is inscribed with the name and date of the interred; the other panel, set at the foot of the ledger, holds the name of the funeral home that handled the burial. The names of Riddick Service, Community Service, and Community Funeral Home were recorded. These were African-American funeral homes based in Norfolk and are still in operation. At Newsome Farm Cemetery, three ledger forms were noted: rectangular with straight edges, concave/domed, and rectangular with molded edges. Nearly all have four metal handles embedded into the top or sides of the ledger for lowering the slab in place. The ledgers are 5"-7" above grade, rather than flush with the ground, although some have sunk below the ground surface.

Other grave markers at Newsome Farm Cemetery are headstones typically seen in cemeteries with engraved names, dates, and ornamented with floral or religious motifs. Generally, these markers are granite with a combination of polished and rough surfaces, concrete, or marble markers. Many are tablets either set into a slotted base or set atop a base and secured by an internal pin. One headstone retains a copper plate identifying the maker as "Norfolk Monument Co. Taussig Blvd (Ward's Corner)." Some headstones are upright tablets set directly into the ground. A few footstones are present and, if engraved at all, carry the initials of the interred. The markers reflect a variety of engraving methods. Most feature impressed lettering or engraved/chiseled lettering. Raised lettering was noted, and a couple markers were hand-lettered.

Decoration of the graves include typical funerary offerings of artificial flowers, religious effigies, and glass or ceramic vases. Memorial plantings of perennial flowers (irises) and succulents were noted at a few gravesites. The trees in the cemetery appear to be natural tree cover, rather than decorative plantings. Mature oak, dogwood, poplar, and other native hardwood trees are present. The cemetery's distinctive and dense tree cover appears on aerial photographs dating back to 1937 and assists in locating the cemetery on those images.

Notable Grave Markers

Among the notable grave markers are government-issued military markers for two Civil War veterans who served in the U.S. Colored Troops. Edward Phelps served in Co C of the 36th U.S.C.T. and William Todd served in Co H of the 37th U.S.C.T. Although both markers identify the veterans' service units, there are no birth or

death dates listed. A pension record submitted by Phelps' widow, Marthy, indicates that he died in 1885. Local records and census data suggest that Todd died about 1881. Records of the *U.S., Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, 1861-1904* indicate that both markers were erected in 1891. The USCT markers feature raised lettering within a recessed shield with a hammered surface. Other military markers present include those for veterans of World War I (John H. Cason), World War II (Daniel Fletcher, Andrew T. Lassiter), and Korea (Roland E. Rogers). Each identifies the veteran's service unit and features a cross at the top of the marker.

The most poignant markers are those for the young Smiley family daughters and a cousin who died in a house fire in 1967. The children are buried near each other and their graves are marked with similar square concrete stones with impressed lettering.

An example of a hand-inscribed marker is that of Ammy Hatton who died in 1940. The marker has fallen and may have been moved from the exact burial site. Most of the vault/ledger markers have been engraved with pressed lettering [see Preston L. Johnson, John Wright Fletcher] and some use raised lettering to identify the funeral home responsible for the burial [see Lou Lynch, Annie Johnson Whitaker]. One grave is marked with two types of markers. Alice Ann Johnson's grave appears to have been first marked by a concrete tablet with an inset panel on the front featuring impressed lettering, which is similar in form and materials to others in the cemetery. Later, a polished, engraved granite marker on a pedestal was installed. A tag identifies the Norfolk Monument Co. as the manufacturer of the latter stone. This is the only marker noted in the cemetery with a makers tag.

The oldest marker engraved with a date is that of Chancy Alan Cornick, who died in 1888; however, as noted, Edward Phelps died in 1885 but his tombstone does not include dates. The most recent burial is that of Alberta Wiggins who died in 1993. Her grave is marked by a molded, concrete vault cover.

Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

There are no secondary resources associated with the cemetery.

4. Property's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the property, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property. Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

The Newsome Farm Cemetery derives its significance from its direct link to the establishment of the Newsome Farm neighborhood in 1869, and its status as a community cemetery for families of recently freed African Americans and their descendants.

In 1869, five formerly enslaved African Americans purchased from Lewis W. Webb and his wife approximately 221 acres of the farm known as "Newsum or Foremans." The original purchasers were Lemuel Stone, Jeremiah Hines, Eli Cornelius, Berry Cornick, and Abraham Woodhouse. According to Hines, the group formed an "association" or "co-partnership" to oversee the land management, which they held as tenants in common. In the following years, some of the original owners sold their interests to the other purchasers or, upon their death, bequeathed their interests to other family members. In 1878, Jeremiah Hines, one of the original trustees, brought a chancery suit against trustees Lemuel Stone and Berry Cornick seeking an accounting and settling for his portion of the land and improvements either through partition or sale. According to Hines, Stone served as

head of the association and Cornick served as manager of the property. Hines noted that there were “some dozen settlements on the property” at the time.

The suit resulted in survey and plat of the property in 1887, which was found to contain only 181.25 acres rather than 221 acres. The plat divided the property into 33 lots varying in size from 13 acres to .75 acre. The chancery suit papers list 36 people who were “interested in said tract of land” and showed the amount of money they had paid into the “association.” Some had paid as little as \$10 and some had paid over \$200. The plat recorded with the division shows owners’ names for each lot, suggesting that the lots were already occupied or sold. Research conducted to date shows that deeds were later executed for these parcels, most of which were through Berry Cornick who, by 1879, was the sole surviving trustee of the property. Names appearing on the plat are well-known surnames associated with the Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach African-American community including Riddick, Cornick, Felton, and Cason. Daniel Stone, who was a property owner in the neighborhood, had received a portion of the farm through the will of his father-in-law, original trustee Abraham Woodhouse. Some of these names, including Daniel Smith, Cason, and Goodman, are retained in street names in the neighborhood. The 1887 plat depicts the “Bayside Road” (present-day Newtown Road) as running along the west, northwest, and part of the northeast sides of the property; internal routes included “Classy Goodman Road” (present-day Rock Creek Lane) and two routes labeled only as “Road” (vicinity of present-day Connie Lane and Lawrence Drive).

Newsome Farm Neighborhood

A 1937 aerial photograph of the area clearly shows Newsome Farm with a scattered number of homesteads, large agricultural fields, and few roads through the neighborhood. By 1948, there were 20 residences in the neighborhood along two streets that roughly created a square. Around 1955, Daniel Smith Road was created and divided the neighborhood’s original square configuration roughly in half as residences more than doubled in less than ten years.

In 1963, the Newsome Farm Civic League was organized—the same year that the City of Virginia Beach and Princess Anne County merged. At that time, the neighborhood, like other African-American communities in the county and city, lacked basic amenities such as paved roads, sidewalks, and proper sewer and storm drainage infrastructure. Newspaper accounts of the period stated that water would stand “knee deep” in Newsome Farm’s streets when the area experienced a hard rain. In 1975, the City of Virginia Beach included Newsome Farm in the Target Neighborhood Program to address some of these problems. Improvements continued into the early 2000s. Some of the improvements were aimed at eradicating sub-standard housing and renovating other housing stock. These efforts, while improving the quality of neighborhood housing, removed many of the early dwellings and extensively altered others. Infill construction of Ranch, Split Level, and modern vernacular dwellings has occurred throughout the area, including the parcels directly around the cemetery site. In 1991, a city report noted that 47% of the area in the Newsome Farm neighborhood was undeveloped. The improvements made to the area during the late twentieth century may have spurred development in the area, and may account, in part, for the large number of non-historic resources.

The Cemetery

In 1888, Agnes Todd, widow of U.S.C.T. veteran William Todd who is buried in the Newsome Farm Cemetery, executed a deed with Berry Cornick for Lot No. 14 of the 1887 division. Lot No. 14 was near the center of the property, but no road led to the area; it is assumed that owners allowed right-of-way easements through their lots. Mrs. Todd purchased the 4.5-acre lot from Berry Cornick, as the sole surviving trustee of the property; the transaction specifically excepted the “grave yard,” which is depicted on the 1887 plat as a .25-acre tract in the southwest corner of the lot. Since that time, subsequent subdivision plats in and around the parcel have identified the “cemetery tract” as a reserved area. No trustees or owners are named in association with cemetery. At present, there is no known legal owner of the cemetery. Research is ongoing to determine whether local records contain any record of trusteeship or ownership for the site. The fact that the grave yard was excepted in the 1888 deed with Todd suggests that it was not a family burying ground, but rather a community grave yard.

By 1888, there were at least three known burials in the cemetery: William Todd (ca. 1881), Edward Phelps (1885), and Chancy Cornick (1888).

Current research into the identities of individuals interred in the cemetery indicate that many were residents of the Newsome Farm neighborhood, as well as the greater Bayside and Kempsville areas. Research conducted to date shows that Berry Cornick had been enslaved by Thomas S. Land, but by 1865, Freedmen's Bureau records show that he owned property valued at \$50 and was "working for himself" as a laborer. All five of the original trustees are listed in the 1867 voters list for the Fourth District of Princess Anne County. Edward Phelps is listed in an 1882 deed as an original trustee of the St. John's A.M.E. Church. Obituaries have been located for some of the late-twentieth-century interments, which assists with connecting family members and identifying residences, church affiliations, and other important social, civic, and professional/employment affiliations; however, additional research remains to be undertaken in census data, land deeds, wills, Freedmen Bureau records, military service records and other documentary records.

Historically an all-Black neighborhood, Newsome Farm's population has become racially diverse in recent decades. As new residents move to the area, it is important to protect the cemetery site and also to promote the understanding of its history and significance to the neighborhood.

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

The Newsome Farm Cemetery is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and D and Criteria Consideration D, which governs the eligibility of cemeteries. Under Criterion A, the cemetery possesses significance in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Ethnic Heritage: Black, and Social History. The cemetery derives its significance from its direct association with the founding and settlement of Newsome Farm as a community founded by formerly enslaved African American citizens immediately following the end of the Civil War. The cemetery is representative of this group's efforts at self-determination and in providing a proper and dignified burial site for its community's members.

Only a few historic resources remain in the Newsome Farm neighborhood; the cemetery, therefore, is the best representative resource of the founding of the community with direct and visible links to its founding period. Newsome Farm has served as a "home place" for several generations of African-Americans from Reconstruction onward and was an early enterprise in landownership by the postwar citizens. Current research suggests that all of the first trustees were formerly enslaved men. Purchase of the property in 1869, therefore, is a symbol of the post-slavery economic advances of African American families immediately after the Civil War that continued into the twentieth century. The fact that Newsome Farm stood in the shadow of some of the plantations that enslaved these citizens is a powerful statement of freedom and citizenship. Since its establishment in the late 1800s, the Newsome Farm Cemetery has served as an important element of the neighborhood's physical and cultural landscape and can be viewed as an expression of collective religious and/or ethnic identity. The variety of grave markers, materials, inscriptions, and styles of markers reflect the social transformation of the community within the context of African American burial customs and traditions. Simple name and date inscriptions, military markers, and bereavement statements provide important biographical information and, on a few markers, familial relationships are identified. Many of the names found on the cemetery tombstones are the same as the property owner names found on the 1887 Newsome Farm plat.

The 1887 plat of the area is still reflected in the general layout of the neighborhood and its streets; the plat also establishes the location of the cemetery and provides an estimate of the founding of the cemetery. The oldest standing marker dates to ca. 1888, but the plat shows .25 acre already set aside for a "grave yard." The cemetery is notable for its location at the physical center of the Newsome Farm community. Many Black cemeteries are associated with churches or stand in marginalized areas of a locality. Some of Virginia Beach's urban and suburban Black cemeteries have fallen victim to urban renewal, transportation improvements, or have disappeared due to neglect or loss of affiliated family members to care for the site. The Newsome Farm Cemetery was established by residents of Newsome Farm and contains graves of those early landowners and

their descendants. Many of those families continue to live in the neighborhood or in the City of Virginia Beach. Although not officially associated with the New St. John's AME Church, many of those interred in the cemetery were members of that church and the church has officiated at many of the funerals. The site of the cemetery also is notable as a wooded site. Historic Black cemeteries often reflect an open character, lacking grass, trees, or typical plantings. The cemetery's trees appear to be natural tree cover and perhaps were seen as a way to screen the site's presence within the residential community.

The cemetery is recommended eligible under Criterion D for its potential to provide information on a particular cultural group. Study of the cemetery and those interred there has the potential to provide information on the postbellum establishment of Princess Anne County's African-American communities and how those residents embarked on a life of freedom in the years following the Civil War and into the twentieth century. Such research could also provide information on demographics, mortuary practices, causes of death, and other subjects.

Because the cemetery appears to meet NRHP Criteria A and D, it also meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration D as a cemetery that derives its primary significance from its association with historic events and information potential.

A review of African-American cemeteries recorded in DHR's VCRIS database indicates that many are associated with a church or a specific family. Some of the rural cemeteries are small family burial plots associated with a specific property/dwelling. A few municipal cemeteries were established for Black citizens or, during the period of segregation, provided a separate section for white and Black burials; however, most of the recorded Black cemeteries are privately held. An exception is the Cuffeytown Cemetery (131-5387) in the City of Chesapeake, which is a large cemetery located in the rural community of Cuffeytown, a historically African-American settlement. The Cuffeytown Cemetery contains 105 marked and unmarked graves and an additional 42 depressions. The cemetery is notable for the 13 members of the USCT who are buried there. Burials range in date from the last quarter of the nineteenth century up to 1980, and markers are executed in a variety of materials and styles from traditional to vernacular.

The Newsome Farm Cemetery differs from the family cemetery examples because it is a community cemetery located at the heart of that community—an association that continues to the present day. Its continued use since at least the 1880s makes it a significant example of a Black cemetery established in a formerly rural enclave in Princess Anne County that is now a densely developed neighborhood in the City of Virginia Beach. In this way, the Newsome Farm Cemetery is similar to the Cuffeytown Cemetery and reflects some of the same elements: a variety of marker styles and materials, burials of USCT members, and the irregular layout and organization typical of African American cemeteries. The Newsome Farm Cemetery also is similar to Cuffeytown since it reflects the broad patterns of African American history in Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach and is associated with patterns of post-Civil War landownership of the African-American community. Newsome Farm Cemetery's layout, groupings and markers also reflect African-American funerary traditions. [N.B. The sketch map submitted with this PIF reflects "rows" as imposed by the surveyor to aid in marker identification during the field survey.]

The Newsome Farm Cemetery is a significant place for Virginia Beach's present African-American community as evidenced by its inclusion in a brochure recently published by the Virginia African American Cultural Center, Inc. [Virginia Beach]. The cemetery is listed in the online database "Find a Grave" as the "Daniel Smith Road Cemetery" with 38 markers identified (added to database 14 Mar 2021).

Integrity

The Newsome Farm Cemetery retains good overall integrity. The cemetery retains excellent integrity with regard to location, setting, feeling, and association. The cemetery retains its original site in the Newsome Farm neighborhood and reflects its original, if expanded, location. The parcels around the cemetery have been developed for residences, but that development, while modern, has reinforced the feeling of the cemetery being

at the physical center of the neighborhood. The cemetery retains good integrity with regard to design, materials, and workmanship. Standing markers are in good condition and only a few reflect damage; however, there are areas in the cemetery that may contain unmarked graves. Archaeological investigations to determine whether graves are present in these areas could recreate more of the original design and layout of the cemetery.

At present, the cemetery is well maintained and in good condition. In recent years, the City's Code Enforcement Division has performed some basic grounds maintenance due to complaints of overgrown conditions. The Newsome Farm Civic League has also performed maintenance and upkeep duties. The cemetery is regularly maintained and visited often by associated family members.

Additional research into local deed records could assist in connecting interred individuals with parcels in the Newsome Farm neighborhood. Census records, Freedmen's records, and other vital statistics may provide information on pre-Civil War and post-Civil War places of residence, familial relationships, and socio-economic status of these individuals. Such research has the potential to provide information on the lives of the five original trustees before and following the Civil War. Archaeological and/or ground penetrating radar investigations in the areas identified as areas of potential, undermarked burials could provide more information on the number of individuals interred in the cemetery. Because most, if not all, of the interments are presumed to be African-Americans, research into available area funeral home records that have historically served the Black community may reveal additional names of individuals buried at Newsome Farm Cemetery. A few obituaries for interred individuals have been located in local newspapers, but additional research in those publications and others may confirm additional burials.

Sources

Cultural Resources Analysts, Inc. and Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian. *Historic Architectural Resource Survey Update, City of Virginia Beach, Virginia—Northern Half* (2018).

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---. Virginia Beach Historically Black Neighborhoods: Newsome Farm. Accessed online at:

<https://www.vaaccvb.org/newsome-farm.html>.

Personal Communication

Linda Carrington, Newsome Farm Resident and Civic League member, July 27, 2021.

Edna Hawkins Hendrix, former Newsome Farm Resident, July 27, 2021; telephone conversations October 27, November 30, December 2, 2021.

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: X Public\Local _____ Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: Mark A. Reed/Historic Preservation Planner

organization: Planning and Community Development, City of Virginia Beach

street & number: 2875 Sabre Street, Suite 500

city or town: Virginia Beach state: VA zip code: 23452-7385

e-mail: mreed@vbgov.com telephone: 757/385-8573

Legal Owner's Signature:  Date: _____

•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title: Debra A. McClane/Architectural Historian

organization: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian

street & number: 4711 Devonshire Road

city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23225

e-mail: dmcclane1@verizon.net telephone: 804/233-3890

6. Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator, City Manager, and/or Town Manager.

name/title: Patrick A. Duhaney/City Manager

locality: City of Virginia Beach

street & number: 2401 Courthouse Drive, Room 234









city or town: Virginia Beach state: VA zip code: 23456

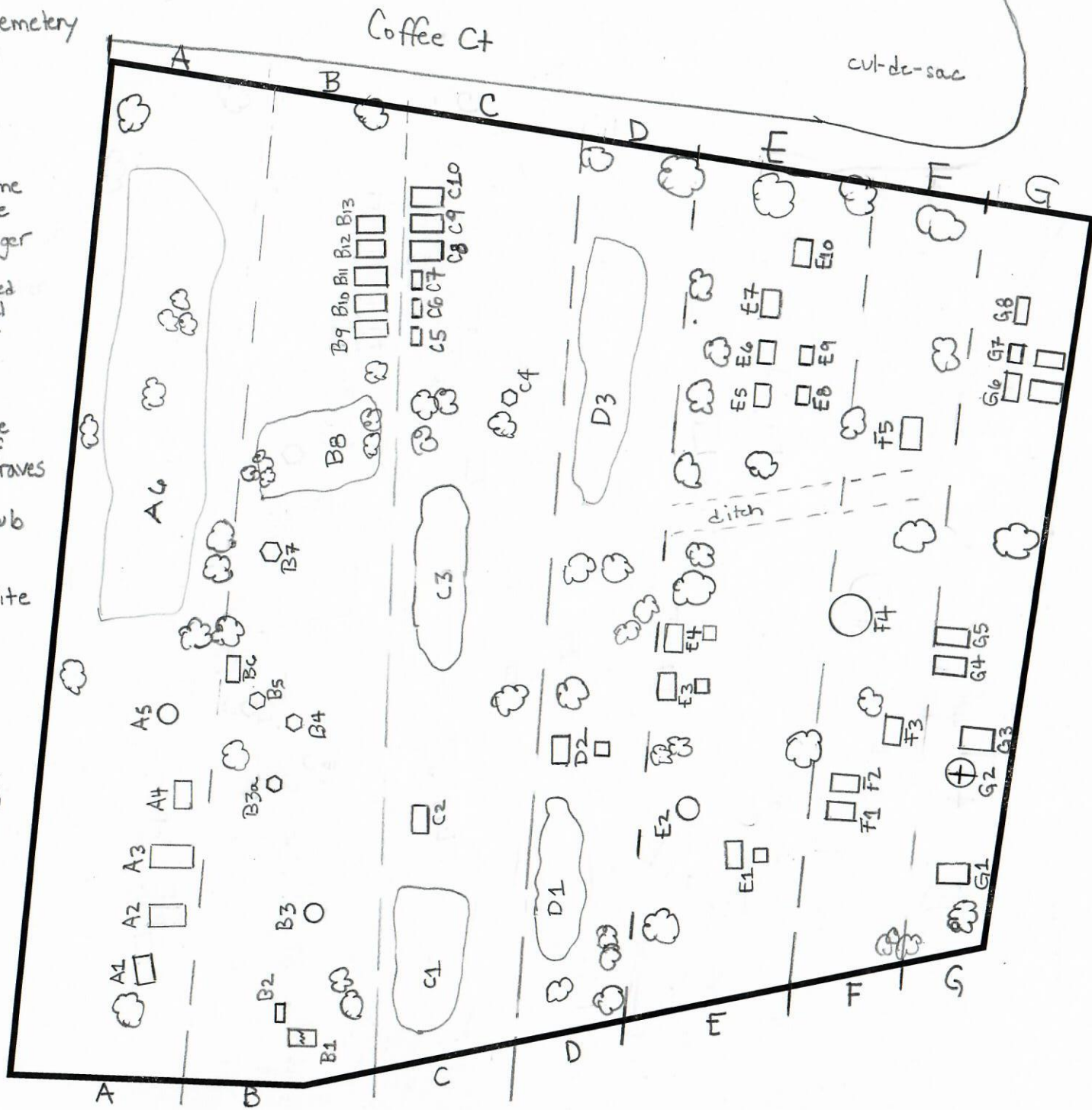
telephone: 757/385-4242

Newsome Farm Cemetery
 Virginia Beach
 134-5670

Legend



NTS

-  headstone
-  footstone
-  vault/ledger
-  presumed burial
-  scatter
-  cross
-  possible area of unmarked graves
-  tree/shrub
- A Row
- A1 Grave/Site



Recorded 07/27/21

Legend

-  Cemetery Boundaries
-  Approximate row boundaries
- A, B, C Row label



Feet

0 20 40 60 80
1:1,128 / 1"=94 Feet



Title: Newsome Farm Cemetery (134-5670)

Date: 11/10/2021

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

Legend

-  Cemetery Boundaries
-  Approximate row boundaries

A, B, C Row label



Feet

0 20 40 60 80

1:1,128 / 1"=94 Feet

Title: Newsome Farm Cemetery (134-5670)

Date: 11/10/2021

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Newsome Farm Cemetery
Coffee Court, Virginia Beach, VA
GPIN 14684192840000

ROW A

A1. John H. **Cason**; Virginia; PVT 3 CO 1 DIV BN; World War I; 1899-1955

Flat military marker with engraved cross motif; granite engraved, smooth top, rough edges, good condition; tree growing very near marker; 12"x24"x4"

3'2" NE to next marker

A2. Flat marker, no visible inscription

Concrete vault/ledger/ledger slab; biological growth; sinking into ground; tree root near top; 6'x2'

7' NE to next mark

A3. James E **Cason, Jr.** March 5, 1934-May 22, 1976

Concrete, molded vault/ledger/ledger cover, appears to have been painted gold; light biological growth on marker; raised lettering at foot "Community Service" set in recessed panel; name is engraved in recessed panel at top of marker; metal handles on sides at four corners of the vault/ledger

3'6" NE to next marker

A4. Andrew T. **Lassiter**; Virginia; PVT 155 Depot Brig; May 15, 1941

Engraved marble, lichen growth; bas relief cross; round top marker; marker is tilting; 21"x13"x4"

approx. 5' NE to next marker

A5. presumed burial; no stone marking burial; site marked with American flag, mounded up area; tree stump; no visible marker

A6. No additional above ground markers to NE end of row, possible areas of unmarked burials)

END OF ROW A

ROW B

B1. [Broken marker] **Johnson**; 1897; [NO]V 7, 1956

Concrete marker is broken into several pieces and sunken into ground; broken ceramic vase at head of marker; 3'x6.5'

B2. Ammy Hatton; Died March 17 1940

Concrete marker, chipped looks like it was a tablet with foot, knocked over; also broken; barely legible; pieces stand at head of Johnson marker, but marks a separate burial

14' NE to stump

B3. presumed burial; tree stump; no visible marker; site marked with American flag; small succulent plant; broken glass vase bottom in ground, 3.5"x2"

7'8" NW

B3a. 2" brick/sandstone(?) piece; succulent; NW of marker #4

7' from center of tree

B4. rectangular granite block; 10"x7"x2.5"

5'6" NW from USCT marker #6

B5. granite piece with mica flakes, 1.5"x2"

next marker is located on NW edge of this row approx. 25' from #4 marker

B6. Edw **Phelps**, Co C; 36th USCT (no dates)

Marker has USCT shield; good condition; near double tree to E; some lichen/biological growth on marker; 4x10x18"

approx. 10' NE

B7. piece of broken glass vase

5' to NE

B8. assumed burials; no visible markers; earthen mound: stump with scatter of granite and concrete pieces; tree to S, large sandstone, concrete pieces/asphalt (?)
Mound contains areas of stone debris, pebbles, and gravel; may be disturbed area or just collection site.
Several trees growing out of mound.

NE of mound

[Next 5 vault/ledger burials are in a row in proximity to each other]

B9. Lou E **Lynch**, Born July 4, 1896; Died Aug 15, 1972

Rectangular concrete vault/ledger marker; Name and date pressed on raised panel; 4 metal lifts on top of vault/ledger cover; "Community Funeral Home" pressed on lower section of marker; covered with silver paint; 3'x7'7"

1'10" NE to next marker

B10. Bessie **Fletcher**; Jan 20 1908; May 22 1936

Concrete vault/ledger marker, concave shape; pressed lettering; 4 metal lifts present; covered with silver or white paint; artificial flowers; 2'8"x7'7"

10" NE to next marker

B11. Dallas J **Whittaker**; April 18 1907; Sept 28 1966
Concave concrete vault/ledger marker; pressed lettering; metal lifts on top; fragments of silver (?) paint

1' NE to next marker

B12. Preston L **Johnson**; Mar 19 1922; Apr 4 1975
Concrete vault/ledger marker with silver paint and molded edges; metal lifts positioned on top; name and dates in pressed lettering within recessed panel at top of marker; "Community Service" in raised letters and set within recessed panel at foot of marker ("S" is missing); 2'7" 6'11"

2' NE to next marker

B13. Annie Johnson **Whittaker**; Apr 11 1908[3?]; Nov 11 1983
Concrete vault/ledger cover with molded edges; name and dates in pressed lettering within recessed panel at top of marker; "Community Service" in raised letters and set within recessed panel at foot of marker; 1'10"x6'5"

END OF ROW B

ROW C

C1. Area from southwest end of row to Todd marker is open, possibly area of unmarked graves

C2. Wm **Todd**, Co H, 37th USCT (no dates)
Marble military marker with USCT shield; biological growth; tilting slightly

approx. 20' to NE

C3. There is a long, open area between markers; possibly area of unmarked graves.

approx. 15' to NE

C4. broken marble fragment beneath dogwood tree; 10"x8"

approx. 10' to N

[graves begin about 4' ESE of Row B]

Area is slightly mounded around first 3-4 markers; brick scatter noted on NW end of area; possible paving or wall/enclosure?

[Next 6 markers are in a row in proximity to each other]

C5. Alice Ann; Wife of John H **Johnson**; Mar 22 1877; Aug 18 1925; "Sleep On and Take Thy Rest"
Rectangular concrete headstone with inset panel; pressed lettering; front is smooth, sides and back are rough; marker has been broken and repaired. 16"x8"x21"

2'8" NE to next marker

C6. Mother; Alice Ann **Johnson**; March 22 1877; Aug 18 1925

Granite tablet on base; polished front and back, rough edge; pedestal has polished top and rough edges; engraved name and dates with floral motif; good condition; some biological growth on front. Copper plate

on SW end of tablet "Norfolk Monument Company; Taussig Blvd. (Ward's Corner)." 1'7"x7"x1'7" base: 13"x7"x2'2"

1'9" NE to next marker

C7. Father; John Holp **Johnson**; Aug 12 1876; Dec 5 1953

Granite tablet on base; polished front and back, rough edge; pedestal has polished top and rough edges; engraved name and dates with floral motif; good condition; some biological growth on front. 19"x18"x6.5" base: 2'3"

3'7" NE to next marker

C8. James M **Johnson**; July 1931

Concave concrete marker; very difficult to read; whitewashed (?); words are pressed directly into concrete vault/ledger; incised at foot "At Rest"; a wooden stick was vertically inserted at the head of this marker; moss/lichen growing on top of marker

1'6" NE to next marker

C9. Eli **Johnson**; Born Jul 7 1907; Died Aug 30 1963

Concave concrete vault/ledger marker; metal lifts on top; silver paint; 2'11"x7'4"x5"

1'3" NE to next marker

C10. Bertha **Jones**; Born Mar 23 1905; Died Feb 17 1973

Rectangular concrete vault/ledger with silver paint; metal lifts on top; name and dates in pressed letters on concrete inset panel at head of marker; 3'4"x7'11"x7"

END OF ROW C

ROW D

This row contains only one marker near the center of the area. There are several mature trees in this row.

D1. The top (northwest) side of the southwest end of the row is a gravelly area that appears to be disturbed ground. Small glass pieces were noted in the area. Possibly area of unmarked graves.

D2. Chancy [Alan] **Cornick**; died Nov 1 188[8?]; Age 22 yrs

This marker, located near the center of the cemetery row, is the sole marker in Row D. The headstone is marble with a rounded top and italic engraving; there is also a marble footstone engraved with "CAC." 11.5"x9.5"

D3. From Cornick marker to northeast end of row there are no above ground markers; possibly area of unmarked graves.

END OF ROW D

ROW E

E1. Leola **Poole**; 1900-1929

Rectangular marble marker with engraving; 8"x1.5"x3"; footstone (6"x6")

NE of Poole marker

E2. presumed burial; no marker, but site is marked by an American flag; plastic Jesus statue/artificial flowers; gravel and concrete fragments noticed W of site

14' NE of double tree

E3. [Illegible] **Poole**; Sept 24 [illegible]; May 30 19[?]; "At Rest"
Sandstone plaque set into concrete marker in slotted foot (socket). Chipped on back, biological growth; 16"x6"x18", base is 12"x21"; fragment of a concrete footstone (6"x7").

approx.. 4' NE to next marker

E4. illegible engraving on short, rectangular, concrete marker; marble fragment 7"x12" also at this site S of rectangular marker. Near tree.

shallow ditch located to NE—next marker is on NE side of ditch

[Next 5 markers are in two rows in proximity to each other]

[The 3 Smiley sisters were killed in a house fire at their home on Indian River Road. Area around the Smiley graves is mounded up.]

E5. Priscilla A **Smiley**; Oct 20, 1965; Dec 5 1967

20"x20" square concrete marker laid flat; upper left corner is broken; artificial flowers

**20" NE to next marker"*

E6. Gail V **Smiley**; Sept 30 1963; Dec 5 1967

Square concrete marker; laid flat; artificial flowers

3' NE to next marker

E7. Roland E **Rogers**; Virginia; PFC US Army; Korea; August 23, 1932; January 9, 1960

Marble military marker with incised cross motif; chipped on upper right side; artificial flowers

[Bessie Rogers was Mr. Benjamin Smiley's sister]

SE of #5 marker

E8. Rosa M **Hill**; Dec 12 1962; Dec 5 1967 [cousin to the Smiley sisters]

Square concrete marker with incised lettering; laid flat; artificial flowers. This marker shares the same date as the Smiley fire, but Rosa is not mentioned in the newspaper as one of the victims.

16" NE to next marker

E9. Sandra E **Smiley**; Dec 20 1961; Dec 5 1967

Square concrete marker; laid flat; artificial flowers

E10. What appears to be a concrete marker is located on the northeast end of this row. This may be a marker that has sunken into the ground.

END OF ROW E

ROW F

F1. John Wright **Fletcher**; May 30 1907; Apr 25 1988

Molded concrete vault/ledger with inset engraved concrete panel with name and dates set into head of vault/ledger; "Community" in raised letters at the foot. Irises planted at head; artificial flowers. 27"x6'10"

approx. 3' NE to next marker

F2. Martha **Fletcher**; Feb 14 1904; Oct 18 [13?] 1976

Molded concrete vault/ledger with inset engraved panel with name and date set into head of vault/ledger; "Riddick Service" on inset panel at foot. 27"x7'2"; artificial flowers

approx.. 8' NE to next marker

F3. Daniel **Fletcher**; Virginia; TEC4; 2039 OM Truck Co; World War II; April 8 1910; April 13 1955
Marble military marker with incised cross; artificial flowers; marker is tilting

approx.. 8' to NE

F4. Presumed burial; no marker, but group of artificial flowers at site; broken glass

approx.. 20' to NE on NE side of shallow ditch

F5. Mary **Fields**; May 24 1878; Jan 29 1958

Rectangular granite marker—top piece has fallen off pins/pedestal and is lying flat on ground; face of marker and base are polished with engraved lettering.

END OF ROW F

ROW G

G1. Mrs. Ida C **Fletcher**; Sept 27 1881; Jan 1 1959

Molded concrete vault/ledger cover with inset engraved panels; name and date inset on panel at head; "Riddick Service" on panel at foot; metal lifts along sides; artificial flowers

approx. 10' NE to next marker

G2. presumed burial; wooden cross with artificial flowers; no stone marker

approx.. 2' NE to next marker

G3. Isaac [M] **Fletcher**; Dec 2 1915; Jan 13 1969

Molded concrete vault/ledger cover with inset concrete panels; metal lifts on sides; "Riddick Service" at foot of marker; irises and succulents planted at head of grave; artificial flowers

2' NE to next marker

G4. Edna Sarah **Wiggins**; Dec 25 1910; May 30 1982
Molded concrete vault/ledger cover with inset engraved panels; metal lifts on sides; “Community Service” at foot; lots of irises planted at head of grave; artificial flowers

1’ NE to next marker

G5. Alberta **Wiggins**; March 1 1916; May 24 1993
Molded concrete vault/ledger cover with inset engraved panels; metal lifts on sides; “Community Service” at foot; irises planted at head of grave
chancy

approx. 20’ NE to next marker, set slightly S of upper row of graves

[The next 3 markers are set in a row in proximity to each other]

G6. Frank **Hatton**; Aug 3 1880; Aug 19 1965 [son of Amy Hatton, brother of Elnora Hunter]
Granite tablet on base with engraved front, floral motif; smooth front and back (not polished) arched top is rough; set on granite base with polished top, rough sides; also covered by concrete vault/ledger, which is separate from the granite marker

approx. 18” NE to next marker

G7. Elnora **Hunter**; December 1889; March 29 1972; “At Rest” [daughter of Amy Hatton, sister of Frank Hatton]

Marble tablet on base; base is not polished; laurel wreath motif at top of marker; chip on right rear of base; also has molded concrete vault/ledger cover over burial.

approx. 22” NE to next marker

G8. George Allen **Hunter**; Nov 2 1957; age 62 years
Granite tablet on base, front and sides are smooth with rough sides and top; base is polished on top; chip noted on front left side of base. Cross and floral motif above engraved name.

END OF ROW G