

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

West End Cemeteries Historic District

Durham, Durham County, DH1287, Listed 08/06/2024

Nomination by Annie Laurie McDonald, Ellen Turco, Jason L. Harpe and Pofue Yang,
Richard Grubb & Associates

Photographs by Richard Grubb & Associates (RGA), July 2023



View southwest of the east (left) and north (right) elevations of the 1912 R. H. Wright Mausoleum in Maplewood Cemetery, showing the Duke Mausoleum in the background.



View northwest of the 1886 grave marker for Richard S. Fitzgerald on Lot 29 in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name West End Cemeteries Historic District

other names/site number Fitzgerald Family Cemetery, Hebrew Cemetery, Henderson Family Cemetery, Maplewood Cemetery

2. Location

street & number 1000-1800 Morehead Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Durham N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Durham code N/A zip code 27701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local


Signature of certifying official

6/27/24
Date

North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
 (Check only **one** box)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	Buildings
4	0	sites
5	0	structures
29	0	objects
38	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Gothic Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Granite, Brick, Concrete

 walls: Marble, Granite, Brick, Concrete

 roof: Marble, Granite, Brick, Concrete

 other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The West End Cemeteries Historic District is a collection of four contiguous cemeteries across 26 gently undulating acres along the arterial automobile corridor of Morehead Avenue in the historically residential and primarily African American West End neighborhood of Durham, Durham County, North Carolina. Consisting of the 23.71-acre Maplewood Cemetery, 0.9-acre Hebrew Cemetery, 1.14-acre Henderson Family Cemetery, and 0.25-acre Fitzgerald Family Cemetery, the historic district contains a wide range of burial and marker types illustrative of the socio-economic backgrounds of the groups it represents. Established in 1874 for Durham's white residents, Maplewood Cemetery is the largest of the four sites and contains not only the widest range of burial and marker types but also the most artistically sophisticated funerary art within the district. In addition to ubiquitous tab-in-socket¹ and die-on-base² headstones of marble and granite, Maplewood has three large, classically inspired mausoleums, and an unusually large collection of obelisks, chest markers, and figural sculpture. Characteristic of its first 30 years are the outstanding examples of Gothic Revival-style markers and monuments, most of which are die-on-base headstones. Founded in the mid-1880s, the Hebrew Cemetery is situated along Maplewood Avenue at the southeast corner of the historic district and is distinguished by the wrought iron fence that physically and visually separates it from its surroundings and by its tightly compact arrangement of burials. Tab-in-socket and die-on-base headstones of marble and granite mark most of the graves in the Hebrew Cemetery. The segregated, historically Black family cemeteries established by the Henderson and Fitzgerald families abut the northern edge of Maplewood Cemetery but are distinguished from it by a change in topography, lack of grave markers, and an overall feeling of isolation. The Fitzgerald and Henderson family cemeteries were physically separated from Maplewood by a chain-link fence from the 1920s into the 1990s and 2010s, respectively. Largely as a result of their separation, these two cemeteries deteriorated through the mid- to late 1900s, resulting in a markedly different feeling in comparison to Maplewood and Hebrew cemeteries. The land comprising both family cemeteries is slightly downslope from Maplewood. Because they are situated along the northern edge of the historic district, where the boundary between the cemeteries and the adjacent residential area to the north is thickly wooded, the Henderson and Fitzgerald family cemeteries lie below a heavier tree canopy that contributes to the distinctive sense of place conveyed by each. The Henderson Family Cemetery retains only two original markers for its 94 known burials, while the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery has 10 markers extant among its 111 known burials. Altogether, the West End Cemeteries Historic District contains 4 contributing sites, 5 contributing structures, and 29 contributing objects.

Methodology

The narrative description below begins with an overall discussion of the setting and composition of the West End Cemeteries Historic District.³ A detailed description of each of the four cemeteries follows, beginning with a discussion of the site and then progressing to the character-defining features within each site. Each cemetery includes an inventory of the contributing structures and objects, which are enumerated in Section 5 and keyed to the attached Site Plan and photographs. Per the section on contributing features on page 24 of *National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places*, the inventory includes each component site as well as the notable structures and objects that embody each site's historic significance. Per *National Register Bulletin 41*, the inventory entry for Maplewood Cemetery includes individually

¹ Tab-in-socket: An upright headstone consisting of a thin vertical slab of stone whose face is perpendicular to the ground and which sits within a pocket, or socket, in a stone base. The base may sit at grade or raise the slab off the ground. Tab-in-socket headstones are typically, but not always, made of marble.

² Die-on-base: An upright headstone consisting of a vertical slab of stone whose face is perpendicular to the ground and which rests on a base that lifts it off the ground. Die-on-base headstones are typically, but not always, made of granite.

³ The West End Cemeteries Historic District is a present-day moniker applied to this collection of burial grounds because no individual name fully captures the district's historic significance or character. These four cemeteries have historically been known by their respective names, as indicated under "Other Names" in Section 1 of this form. The name West End Cemeteries Historic District was derived from the historic name of the neighborhood in which they are located (West End). This place-based moniker corrects, to a limited extent, the historic imbalance caused by the visual and physical prominence of Maplewood Cemetery over the Henderson and Fitzgerald family cemeteries and the Hebrew Cemetery.

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counted contributing features of particularly important design and groups of markers listed as a single contributing feature.⁴ Due to the highly distinctive history and nature of each cemetery, the assessment of the contributing status of each cemetery's component parts necessarily varies. Thus, features that are inventoried as contributing to the Henderson and Fitzgerald Family cemeteries might not be considered as contributing to Maplewood or the Hebrew Cemetery. Thumbnail images accompany each cemetery to orient the reader. Due to its physical size and visual prominence, the list of cemeteries begins with Maplewood and progresses to the Hebrew Cemetery at the southeast corner, the Henderson Family Cemetery at the northeast edge, and, finally, the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery at the center north.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY

The following detailed description is keyed to the nomination photos and the attached site plan, with alphabetical labels for each site and numerical labels for the individual contributing structures and objects. The groups of contributing obelisks and Gothic Revival-style markers in Maplewood Cemetery are not labeled because they exist throughout Sections A through X.

SETTING AND OVERVIEW

The West End Cemeteries Historic District occupies 26 acres on the north side of Morehead Avenue west of downtown Durham. Extending north from Morehead Avenue are two roads that divide the district. To the east is Kent Street, where the historic district shares a property line with the home of Robert G. Fitzgerald, grandfather of Civil Rights activist Reverend Dr. Pauli Murray.⁵ Chapel Hill Road roughly defines the west side of the historic district.⁶ To the east, north, and south is a historically Black residential neighborhood composed of small lots occupied primarily by one- and two-story frame dwellings that date from the late nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth. To the west of the historic district boundary is an expansion of Maplewood Cemetery that dates from the first quarter of the twentieth century, but which was not intensively used for burials until the mid-twentieth century. This modern section lacks the wide range and outstanding examples of funerary art present within the historic district. Morehead Avenue is a narrow, two-lane street with parallel parking on the south side between Carroll Street and Kent Street. In this area, the historic district extends all the way to the edge of Morehead Avenue, except for a short section of sidewalk that reaches from Kent Street to an early-2000s, glass-enclosed bus shelter on the north side of Morehead Avenue. On the northwest corner of Morehead Avenue and Carroll Street, outside the boundaries of the historic district, lies the Morehead Avenue Baptist Church, a Colonial Revival-style brick edifice constructed in 1951. West of Kent Street, Morehead Avenue is a three-lane street with one west-bound lane and two east-bound lanes. West of Kent Street, the cemetery extends to the concrete curbing. The First Calvary Baptist Church, a large brick building constructed in 2009, occupies the southeast corner of Morehead Avenue and Kent Street, opposite the historic district. Poured concrete sidewalks line both sides of Kent Street. A single poured concrete sidewalk borders the east side of Chapel Hill Road.

The West End Cemeteries Historic District consists of four separate but contiguous sites used for burials beginning circa 1875. At 23.71 acres, Maplewood Cemetery is the largest of the four burial grounds. The Hebrew Cemetery, situated at the southeast corner of the district, covers an area of 0.9 acres. The Henderson Family Cemetery, at the northeast edge, is 1.14 acres. The current extent of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery, which lies west of Kent Street along the northern edge of the district, is 0.25 acres.

⁴ Elisabeth Walton Potter and Beth M. Boland, *National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1992), 24. The criteria for inventorying features states “[T]he important markers should be enumerated by an inventory and each one counted as a separately contributing feature. Others may be counted collectively as a contributing object.”

⁵ The Robert G. Fitzgerald House was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2016.

⁶ Street names in the West End neighborhood changed in the early to mid-twentieth century. Present-day Carroll Street, lying east of the West End Cemeteries Historic District, was originally named Cameron Street for Luke Cameron, an emancipated Black man who settled in the West End after the Civil War. It was renamed Shaw Street between 1925 and 1930. Its name was changed again from Shaw to Carroll Street between 1930 and 1937. Present-day Kent Street was previously named Chapel Hill Road. It was renamed between 1925 and 1937. Present-day Chapel Hill Road was called Maplewood Avenue, a moniker it retains north of Duke University Boulevard. Maplewood Avenue did not extend all the way south to Morehead Avenue. It was made a through-street between Duke University Boulevard and Morehead Avenue between 1937 and 1951. It was renamed Chapel Hill Road after 1951.

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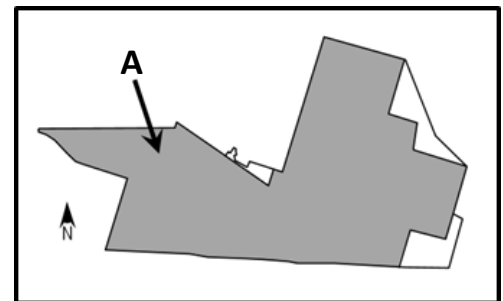
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The historic district is spread across gently undulating topography. While it is mostly level along Morehead Avenue, the land slopes gradually upward to the north and east. East of Kent Street, the land gradually slopes upward to a low rise before descending again toward Carroll Street, while Morehead Avenue remains generally flat east of Kent Street. The south edge of the Hebrew Cemetery is retained by a tall, poured concrete retaining wall in which a set of steps rise from Morehead Avenue into the cemetery. The east side of the historic district descends toward Carroll Street, with only concrete curbing along the east boundary. An unnamed creek passes by the northeast edge of the district, near the Henderson Family Cemetery. The topography in this area is more rugged, and the ground descends harshly from the Maplewood Cemetery into the Henderson Family Cemetery at the south end of the latter. The transition between the two cemeteries is more gradual at the northern end of the Henderson Family Cemetery. West of Kent Street, the transition between Maplewood Cemetery and the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery is abrupt. In this area, Maplewood Cemetery is generally level, with a sharp descent of several feet to the west portion of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery. This transition is less severe at the east end of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery, near Kent Street.

INVENTORY

A. Maplewood Cemetery, 1874–circa 1930, 1 contributing site

The area of Maplewood Cemetery within the historic district (**inset right**) covers 23.71 acres. Durham’s leaders acquired the first parcel on December 20, 1874 from Dempsey and Emma Henderson.⁷ The town acquired an additional 10.25 acres from the Hendersons on 8 April 1885.⁸ This property was historically known as Annex A. To temporarily alleviate overcrowding in the cemetery, the town acquired a small amount of acreage in 1919.⁹ The city more than doubled the size of the cemetery in 1922 when it acquired roughly 70 acres on the west



⁷ A complete understanding of the cemetery’s original parcel is clouded by legal and administrative issues during the Reconstruction Era. To begin, state law did not require the recording of deeds for all real estate transactions. Furthermore, Durham County was not created until 1881. Thus, any deeds that were recorded for property transfers in Durham fell within the jurisdiction of the Orange County Register of Deeds. The Durham Board of Commissioners’ meeting minutes for October 8, 1872, refer to a potential \$150 real estate transaction between the town and “Mr. Williard” for a cemetery. The minutes of the November 4, 1872, Board of Commissioners meeting indicate that the commission advised the cemetery committee to “act under the same instruction as before.” The minutes for the Board of Commissioners meetings on December 2 and December 5, 1872, include no reference to the cemetery or cemetery committee. The minutes of the January 6, 1873, meeting state, “The committee appointed to select a situation for grave yard was instructed to continue to act under the same instructions.” The meeting minutes from January through June 1873 include no mention of the cemetery or cemetery committee. Microfilm reels containing the Durham Board of Commissioners meeting minutes jump from June 9, 1873, to 1881, with no minutes available during the intervening period. The Orange County Register of Deeds has no instrument recording a real estate transaction between the Town of Durham and Mr. Williard. Although deeds were not required to be filed at the time, one cannot assume that the town acted on the instructions to the cemetery committee on October 8, 1872, and January 6, 1873. This is partly because the town did record a deed in December 1874. Thus, despite the fact that real estate instruments were not required until the following decade, the town did maintain the practice of recording deeds at the time. It is thus reasonable to conclude that the town would have recorded a deed for a real estate transaction with Mr. Willard had one occurred. An analysis of these facts leads to the opinion among these preparers that the town did not acquire acreage from Mr. Williard. Per a deed recorded in Orange County Deed Book 43, pages 84–85, between Dempsey Henderson and the Town of Durham, dated December 20, 1874, the first cemetery parcel contained 5 acres “on the Chapel Hill Road.” The original alignment of Chapel Hill Road followed the current alignment of Kent Street. The original Chapel Hill Road was renamed Kent Street, with the moniker Chapel Hill Road applied to its current alignment, at some point during the first quarter of the twentieth century. A deed dated March 6, 1878, and recorded in Orange County Deed Book 45, page 340, between J. T. Driver and F. C. Geer for property lying on the west side of the Chapel Hill Road (presently Kent Street) includes an exception for 6.5 acres previously sold by Dempsey Henderson. There is no prior deed between Dempsey Henderson and the Town of Durham for a transaction involving 6.5 acres. It is thus the opinion of these preparers that the deed references for 5 acres and 6.5 acres are the same, with a strong likelihood that the acreage measurement in one of the deeds is in error. This conclusion places the 5 acres recorded on December 20, 1874, in Deed Book 43, pages 84–85 on the west side of the Chapel Hill Road (present-day Kent Street).

⁸ Per a deed recorded in Durham County Deed Book 6, pages 120–122, between Dempsey Henderson and the Town of Durham, dated April 8, 1885, the town acquired an additional 10.25 acres for the cemetery. This property is understood to lie east of present-day Kent Street.

⁹ “Shortage Of Cemetery Plots Is Said To Be Imminent; Committee Preparing To Urge New Cemetery,” *The Herald-Sun*, July 24, 1921, 13.

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side of Chapel Hill Road. By virtue of its incremental expansion within an historically residential neighborhood, the Maplewood Cemetery is irregularly shaped and bisected by Kent Street. It is bordered on the south by Morehead Avenue, on the east by the Hebrew Cemetery at the corner of Morehead Avenue and Cameron Streets, residential properties that front on Cameron Street, and the Henderson Family Cemetery at the northeast edge. Residential properties abut the northern side of the cemetery except for a small section west of Kent Street where the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery is located. The west side of the cemetery—and the historic district, generally—is a twentieth-century expansion of Maplewood Cemetery that lies outside the district's boundaries (**Photos 1–3**).

Maplewood Cemetery features mature trees and low plantings throughout.¹⁰ Narrow, asphalt-paved drives that are partially gravel-covered form a grid-like pattern across the cemetery between Chapel Hill Road and the east boundary. The sections of this grid are labeled A through X (**see Site Plan**). East of Kent Street, the north portion of the cemetery has a drive aisle that extends south from Jackson Street, loops 270 degrees counterclockwise and continues westward where it exits the cemetery at Kent Street. Beginning in the northwest corner of this part of the cemetery, the five sections created by the driveway are labeled Blocks A through E. East of Kent Street, the south portion of the cemetery features four evenly spaced drive aisles with a roughly north–south orientation that divide the grounds into thirds from east to west. The easternmost drive roughly parallels the east boundary, while the westernmost drive parallels and is proximal to Kent Street. The southern half of the cemetery east of Kent Street further features four evenly spaced drive aisles with a roughly east–west orientation that divide the area into fourths. The sections created by this grid are labeled Blocks F through Q. Between Kent Street and Chapel Hill Street, there are three evenly spaced drive aisles with a roughly north–south orientation. The easternmost drive lies parallel and proximal to Kent Street, while the remaining two divide the grounds into thirds from east to west. Two drive aisles extend in an east–west direction, dividing this section of the cemetery unevenly into thirds from north to south. Beginning at the northwest corner, the six sections between Kent Street and Chapel Hill Road are labeled R through W. The small section of the historic district that extends west from Chapel Hill Road is defined on the north by the property line and on the south by Belfort Street, which is an asphalt-paved road traversing the western section of the cemetery that lies outside the district boundaries. This section is Block X.

Maplewood Cemetery features a wide array of burial types, marker forms, and artistic styles popular from the period 1874 through the 1920s. The most common marker types are tab-in-socket and die-on-base headstones, which predominate in cemeteries across the state and nation from the late eighteenth through the late twentieth century (**Photo 4**). In Maplewood Cemetery, these markers are primarily of marble and granite, with some cast concrete headstones. These markers typically range from 1 to 3 feet in height, primarily with a vertical orientation, and detail the life attributes of a single individual. Personal circumstances and the regional availability of natural resources had a combined influence on the type, material, and design of markers in most cemeteries. Through the last quarter of the nineteenth century, Durham's rapid industrialization fomented abundant wealth among the city's white citizens. Tobacco and textile production fostered explosive population growth and led to the development of a robust middle and upper-middle class with the means to commission larger, more ornate markers and monuments than the typical headstones.

Mausoleums

A mausoleum is “a monumental building or structure for burial of the dead above ground.”¹¹ Maplewood Cemetery features three stone mausoleums that are exceptional examples of this form, displaying sophisticated design and ornamental details. Each one is inventoried individually as a contributing structure.

1. Washington Duke Mausoleum (1893–1894), 1 contributing structure

The Washington Duke Mausoleum (**Photo 5**) is the largest and most elaborately designed of the three mausoleums in Maplewood Cemetery. It faces north a short distance north of Morehead Avenue and west of Kent Street in Section W. The tetrastyle, front-gabled building pairs polished with unpolished granite to create subtle textural variations. The

¹⁰ No landscape plan for Maplewood Cemetery is known to exist. As a cemetery, with an orderly arrangement of plots and rows, it is a type of designed landscape. The presence of trees and low shrubs throughout the cemetery does not appear to follow a plan, but research indicates that at least one phase of tree planting occurred in the cemetery in the late nineteenth century. Whether those trees are among the extant mature trees is unknown. Also unknown is the extent to which individual families or groups may have planted or sponsored the planting of additional trees and shrubs in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries.

¹¹ Potter and Boland, *National Register Bulletin* 41, 28.

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polished granite appears slightly darker than the unpolished granite, resulting in a muted polychrome effect. The mausoleum is slightly raised above the ground on a smooth granite foundation. A set of three smooth granite steps flanked by low side walls rises to the center of the façade, which features polished granite columns with smooth granite bases and ionic capitals that are not polished. The double-leaf bronze doors are set within a thin bronze frame. The lower half of each door is divided into four raised panels around a central square panel that is angled at 45 degrees with a cross motif. The upper half of each door features a bronze grid set on plate glass windows that provide a view into the mausoleum. Flanking the central entrance are polished granite pilasters with smooth granite bases and a dentiled capital supporting an elaborate smooth granite entablature with dentiled detail below the cornice. Polished granite pilasters define all four corners and mark the center of the side elevations. The front gable has an unusual pediment above the projecting entablature. The name "WASHINGTON DUKE" is carved in high relief in the frieze band between the central two ionic columns. Above the entablature, the granite pediment features a central shield with a calligraphic "D" flanked by ornately carved oak leaves to the right and laurel to the left. The stacked granite blocks that serve as the raking cornice are stepped on the interior of the pediment. A granite finial caps the front of the gabled roof. The rear elevation features a central window opening within a carved granite frame. The glazing of stained and leaded glass depicts an angel holding a cavalry sword draped in palm leaves, signifying peace. Classically derived foliate motifs carved in stone detail the lower corners of the window, while a central bas relief anthemion caps the top of the window below the entablature. On the rear elevation, the pediment displays a round vent surrounded by an ornately carved wreath with a bow. The sides of the window retain the bronze hardware for non-extant shutters or a screen.

The interior of the mausoleum features a central aisle leading from the entrance to the stained-glass window on the rear wall (**Photo 6**). The floor is granite. Below the stained-glass window is a granite bench whose facing edge is carved with a repeating wave motif in the Greek mode. The vaults are stacked five high from the floor to the ceiling and two deep from the front of the building to the back. At the center of the hall, between the vaults at the front and back of the building, the walls feature niches with polished granite urns. Each vault is sufficiently commodious to contain the remains of two individuals, with the names of the interred carved on the face of each vault. The interior was not accessible.

The mausoleum plot is surrounded by a low curb wall of smooth granite with regularly placed square granite piers. The top of the curb has a round-arched profile, while the piers have pyramidal caps. The piers flanking the entrance have rounded tops with small pyramidal caps. A wide walkway consisting of three large granite slabs leads from the perimeter wall to the steps.

Constructed in 1893 and 1894, the Duke Mausoleum was designed to hold the remains of 40 members of the Duke family. It was projected to cost \$29,750.¹² Built of granite with a marble lining, tiles floors, and bronze gates, the work was completed, in part, by the Philadelphia-based firm VanGunden Granite and Marble Works. The firm's proprietor, Christian VanGunden, sustained fatal injuries from a fall while inspecting progress on the mausoleum during the summer of 1894.¹³ Located in what is known as the "old cemetery," the foundation was begun in October 1893, and the main body of the building was erected the following spring. The *Raleigh News and Observer* described the structure as being 26 feet long by 22 feet 2 inches wide, by 24 feet tall. The interior was to feature a cruciform plan with ten vaults in each of the four sections. It was built of solid fox-eyed granite.¹⁴

2. Mangum Mausoleum (1905), 1 contributing structure

Located in Block F, the Mangum Mausoleum (**Photo 7**) was erected by the Durham Marble Works at a cost of approximately \$10,000. The façade faces west toward Kent Street. A low stone curb surrounds the plot on which the mausoleum is situated. It features short piers at regular intervals and openings in the north, south, and west sides of the plot in which the curbing forms a low threshold to the grounds. Constructed of marble, the one-story-tall structure faces west with a front-gabled roof atop with a marble acroterion of a life-sized woman standing above the entrance. Below the gabled roof, the façade features a slightly projecting round arch supported by four Corinthian

¹² "News In Our Own State," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, October 25, 1893, 1.

¹³ "The Accident Was Fatal," *The Durham Sun*, June 4, 1894, 1.

¹⁴ "Building a Mausoleum," *The News and Observer* (Raleigh, NC), October 26, 1893, 2.

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columns flanking the recessed entrance. Paneled bronze doors are centrally located on the façade. Square pilasters mark the corners of the building as well as the center of the north and south elevations. The structure holds the remains of eight members of the Mangum family.¹⁵ The Durham Marble Works cut, polished, and set all of the marble used to build the mausoleum.¹⁶ The mausoleum contains the remains of eight members of the Mangum family. The interior was not visible.

3. R. H. Wright Mausoleum (1912), 1 contributing structure

Situated near and north of the Washington Duke Mausoleum in Block T of Maplewood Cemetery, the R. H. Wright Mausoleum (**Photo 8**) faces east toward Kent Street. It has a smooth granite foundation that is slightly raised above the ground with a set of two smooth granite steps as wide as the façade. Side walls of solid granite blocks flank the steps. The tetrastyle front-gabled building has polished granite columns with smooth granite Doric capitals. The walls are rock-faced rusticated granite. The central entrance consists of a smooth granite surround with a set of double-leaf bronze doors. The lower half of the doors feature simple panels, while the upper half features vertically oriented plate glass windows behind a bronze screen. Horizontally oriented turned bronze handles are situated between each window and panel below. “R. H. WRIGHT” is carved in raised letters at the center of the frieze, with raised round panels positioned above each column. The pediment has the date 1912 in raised granite letters within a broken laurel wreath.

The interior is oriented around a central aisle that extends from the entrance to the rear wall (**Photo 9**). The floor is polished granite. The interior is four vaults high by two vaults deep from the front to the back. Each vault is sized to contain the remains of one individual, for a total of 16 interments. The face of the vaults is polished granite with the names of the interred inscribed on each. At the center of the back wall is a stained and leaded glass window with a central cross and crown within a geometric design.

Figural Sculpture and Related Furniture

Maplewood Cemetery contains several outstanding examples of statuary and sculptural relief art influenced by classical antecedents. They typically feature female figures or angels clothed in a *peplos*, *chiton*, or similar draped garments with hair loosely affixed at the back of the head. Their serene, contemplative expressions are typically downward-cast. Most of the figures are fully three-dimensional or stand proud from any background material. In many cases, each figure is the main object of the sculpture. In other instances, the statue is incorporated into a larger bas-relief display. Unless accompanied by one or more children, each figure is alone within its immediate sculptural context. The solitary nature of each figure further emphasizes its sense of mourning. Individual sculptural objects are inventoried below.

4. Julian S. Carr Family Plot (circa 1915–1924), 4 Contributing Objects

Located in Block R, the Julian S. Carr family plot contains four highly notable pieces of memorial statuary and furniture. The large plot is rectangular and oriented north–south. Surrounding the plot is a low granite curb with two granite piers flanking the entrance on the east side. Between the piers, the granite curb is lower and inscribed “CARR,” above which is carved “DUST TO DUST” and “ASHES TO ASHES” below it. Extending into the plot from the entrance piers are curved knee walls of granite. The terminal ends of the walls are curved and retain the round, bronze or copper bases of bronze or non-extant fixtures that may have been lampposts. The plot contains four bedsteads consisting of low stone curbing surrounding each burial with a low headstone featuring foliate motifs carved in high relief. Those interred are Nannie Graham Carr (12/26/1853–08/18/1915), her husband, Julian Shakespeare Carr (10/12/1845–04/29/1924), Austin Heaton Carr (03/04/1894–02/04/1942), and his wife, Laura Noell Carr Chapman (07/23/1894–05/08/1986). The sculptors and creators of the features within the Carr Family Plot are presently unknown. Based on the sculptural content and the fact that Nannie Graham Carr predeceased her husband by nine years, it is reasonable to conclude that they were installed between 1915 and 1924.

At the south end of the plot is a sculptural monument consisting of a life-sized seated mother flanked by two standing children whose clothing evokes classical antecedents (**Photo 10**). The marble grouping is set against a tall screen or wall of grey granite. A bouquet of flowers rests in the lap of the central figure, whose arms enwrap the children. The

¹⁵ “Gets Contract for Mausoleum,” *The Durham Sun*, July 9, 1904, 1.

¹⁶ “The Durham Marble Works,” *The Durham Recorder*, July 29, 1908, 3.

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wall against which they are placed features an outer pair of shallow pilasters capped by Composite capitals that support an entablature with a pair of cherub heads encircled by wings above the pilasters. The round, red granite panel behind the mother's head, which conveys the appearance of a halo, is inscribed with the two lines "MANY DAUGHTERS HAVE DONE VIRTUOUSLY/BUT THOU EXCELLEST THEM ALL." The entablature holds the two-line inscription "HER CHILDREN ARISE UP AND CALL HER BLESSED/HER HUSBAND ALSO AND HE PRAISETH HER." The statue sits upon a low, three-stage grey granite base.

South of and near the entrance to the Carr family plot is a kneeling angel, with bowed head and hands clasped in prayer; she holds an open book on the back of her wings (**Photo 11**). This marble statue is approximately 4 feet tall and rests on a two-stage base. Thin bronze plaques are mounted to the open pages of the book. Each page features a memorial poem. A carved stone bench behind and to the east of the angel encourages resting and reading the poems.

At the north end of the plot is a large, tripartite sculptural installation (**Photos 12–13**). Serving as a surrogate mourner, the central component consists of a life-sized female figure draped in a classically inspired garment and kneeling on a plinth, facing away from the viewer while embracing a cross carved in relief against a granite wall. The cross is set within a shallow, segmental-arched recess adorned in high relief with flowers flanking the figure. Below the figure, the plinth features the inscription "SIMPLY TO THY CROSS I CLING." In the frieze band above the cross is inscribed the hymn "IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY/TOWERING O'ER THE WRECKS OF TIME/ALL THE LIGHTS OF SACRED STORY/GATHER ROUND ITS HEAD SUBLIME." Projecting forward at acute angles from this central component are two stone benches or exedrae¹⁷ whose backs are ornamented with carved garlands. Life-sized marble angels kneeling on plinths anchor the outer ends of the benches. Their heads are turned toward the central figure, and their hands are crossed over their chests.

Opposite the entrance, behind the graves of Julian S. Carr and Laura Noell Carr Chapman, is a wide stone exedra with a low, gently arching back and a curved footprint (**Photo 14**). The front of the bench back is carved with an Art Deco-inspired sun with rays that radiate widely below the inscribed saying "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE." The bench sits atop a low stone base that also supports a round, two-stage plinth that may have supported an urn or other funerary sculpture.

5. Cheek Monument (1891), 1 contributing object

In late May 1891, Mamie Garrison Cheek, wife of T. Edgar Cheek, died just before noon, preceding in death her infant son, Fred Geer Cheek, by only a few hours. They were buried in the same casket in a grave marked with an outstanding, life-sized marble sculpture of a mother, draped in a flowing robe, embracing an infant child on her left hip (**Photo 15**). The statue stands atop a granite plinth inscribed with the attributes of the mother and her son. The sculptor is presently unknown.

6. Kline Monument (1905), 1 contributing object

Erected in 1905, the grave marker for Sarah Kline features a marble sculpture of a diminutive female figure clothed in a classical dress. She is partially seated and holds a garland or wreath in her right hand, while her chin rests on her left hand (**Photo 16**). The figure sits atop a marble base with attribute panels ringed with a rock-faced border. The sculptor is presently unknown.

7. King Monument (1920) , 1 contributing object

Lillian Carpenter, wife of Henry C. King, died in 1920 at the age of 25. The marble monument marking her grave features a diminutive angel with outspread wings atop a low, two-stage base. The carved figure wears a draped garment and holds a small bouquet of flowers in its left hand. The head has been detached by vandals within the past year (**Photo 17**). The sculptor is presently unknown.

¹⁷ Per Potter and Boland, *National Register Bulletin 41*, page 28, an exedra is "a permanent open air masonry bench with high back, usually semicircular in plan, patterned after the porches or alcoves of classical antiquity where philosophical discussions were held; in cemeteries, used as an element of landscape design and as a type of tomb monument."

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Obelisks (1800s–1920s), 1 contributing object

An obelisk is a “four-sided, tapering shaft having a pyramidal point; a grave marker type popularized by romantic taste for classical imagery.”¹⁸ There are at least 22 tall obelisks dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries throughout Maplewood Cemetery. This group of markers is inventoried as a single object per *National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places*.¹⁹ All of these markers feature a base, plinth, and monumental four-sided shaft that tapers to a pyramidal top. They are typically smooth granite, with little ornamentation (**Photo 18**). Notable examples that display a higher level of decoration or detail are those erected for William Linthicum, the Fullerton family, and the Bowling family. These obelisks are inventoried individually below.

8. Linthicum Obelisk (1886), 1 contributing object

The obelisk marking the grave of William Linthicum was installed in 1886 and is among the earliest of such grave markers in the cemetery. Its sculpted marble includes a deeply folded fabric drapery with tassels covering the top of the obelisk. Just above the plinth, the shaft is further decorated with round-arched panels that contain an anchor and Masonic symbol (**Photo 19**).

9. Bowling Obelisk (1905), 1 contributing object

The Bowling family obelisk stands apart from its peers in that its tall shaft is carved to convey the appearance of rock-faced ashlar stone. Erected in 1905, it sits atop a rock-faced granite plinth and features a smooth rectangular panel on one side of the shaft just above the plinth. The panel holds the attributes of the decedents. The date 1905 is carved in high relief near the top of the shaft on the same side as the smooth panel (**Photo 20**).

10. Fullerton Obelisk (1907), 1 contributing object

The obelisk memorializing members of the Fullerton family was installed in 1907, two years after the Bowling obelisk. Its similarity to the earlier monument suggests a common designer and/or mason responsible for its completion. Like the Bowling obelisk, it sits on a rock-faced granite plinth, and its tall shaft was carved to look like rock-faced ashlar stone. It, too, has a smooth panel on one side of the shaft just above the plinth. The panel has a round-arched top in which is carved a Masonic symbol. The panel holds the attributes of members of the Fullerton family. The date 1907 is carved in high relief near the top of the obelisk (**Photo 21**). The mason is presently unknown.

Gothic Revival-Style Markers (1880s–1920s), 1 contributing object

The Gothic Revival style was popularized in the mid-nineteenth century with the works of such noted architects as Alexander Jackson Davis were promoted to the masses through the published work of landscape designer and author Andrew Jackson Downing, whose 1842 book *Cottage Residences* advocated for the use of the romantic, picturesque forms of Gothic architecture for domestic buildings in pastoral, country settings. Beginning in the early to mid-nineteenth century, the Gothic Revival style was a preferred style for the construction of churches and funerary architecture and furniture. Its association with ecclesiastical buildings and environments naturally led to its use in funerary art. There are at least 12 grave markers dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that feature forms and ornamental features characteristic of the Gothic Revival style. They display such features as pointed arches, ogee motifs, quatrefoils and trefoils, and, in some cases, round columns in bas relief or three dimensions (**Photo 22–23**). Altogether, they are a distinctive collection of outstanding funerary art within Maplewood Cemetery and inventoried as a single contributing object. Three of the Gothic Revival markers are outstanding, highly ornate examples of the style and individually inventoried below.

11. Markham Monument (1897), 1 contributing object

The marble die-on-base headstone identifying the grave of Cora E. Markham has a complex, corbeled, pointed top with an ogee-profile cap detailed with a finial. The face is deeply carved with ferns, flowers, and other foliage above a lifelike scroll that holds Markham’s life attributes (**Photo 24**). The maker is presently unknown.

12. Whittington Monument (1909), 1 contributing object

¹⁸ Potter and Boland, *National Register Bulletin 41*, 29.

¹⁹ Potter and Boland, *National Register Bulletin 41*, 24.

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Installed upon her death in 1909, the marble headstone for Susan Whittington is similar to that of Cora E. Markham in that it features a pointed arch top with a finial. It differs in that the carvings of the Whittington marker are more architectural in their design while still incorporating foliate motifs. The arch is supported by low-relief round columns on plinths. It suggests a view down the nave of a Gothic church or cathedral. Within the field below the arch is foliate carving that surrounds Susan Whittington's life attributes (**Photo 25**). The maker is presently unknown.

13. Clark Family Monument (early 1900s), 1 contributing object

Installed in the early 1900s, the Clark family memorial is a large, granite monument with a square footprint. It stands apart from the typical Gothic Revival-style headstone in that its design is more architectural than sculptural. The two-part plinth displays the name CLARK in high relief at the base. The main plinth block is roughly cuboid. Atop it rest four round columns that support intersecting pointed arches whose undersides feature elongated trefoil profiles. Through this design, the monument conveys the crossing of a Gothic church or cathedral. It is capped by a finial in the form of an urn (**Photo 26**). The maker is presently unknown.

Unique Monuments

In addition to the above-listed categories of mausoleums, figural sculpture and furniture, obelisks, and Gothic Revival-style markers, Maplewood Cemetery houses a few unique memorials or markers that date to the early 1900s and are of particularly notable design and workmanship worthy of mention. Notable monuments of unique design and placement are those for the Stagg family (circa 1915), Parrish family (circa 1910), and the Watts Family (circa 1910).

14. Stagg Family Monument (circa 1915), 1 contributing object

Adjacent to and south of the R. H. Wright Mausoleum stands the large granite monument memorializing the Stagg family. Its restrained classicism is represented by flat Doric pilasters supporting a dentiled entablature. The otherwise plain monument incorporates a tripartite ceramic inlay that is roughly 12 inches tall and executed in low relief. The central panel is approximately 20 inches wide and features a central cross of yellow ochre set within a broken, upturned wreath of dark green. The bright white background of the cross and wreath radiates to the outer edges of the center panel, which fade from white to gold to pale blue. The outer two panels are solid blue with raised lines illustrative of the radiating light, which extend from the central panel. Below this colorful panel is the saying "ASLEEP + TRUSTING IN THE LIVING GOD." The memorial includes the names of James Edward Stagg, his wife, Mary Washington Lyon Stagg, and other members of the family (**Photo 27**). Extending from the sides of the monument is a low granite balustrade. This marker is unique in its use of colored tile, which is not found elsewhere in the historic district. The maker is unknown.

15. Parrish Family Monument (circa 1910), 1 contributing structure

The Parrish family plot has a monumental colonnade incorporating six tall Tuscan columns arranged in a wide arc that support a tall frieze band. At the center is a name plate into which is carved "PARRISH." The outer ends of the frieze continue beyond the terminal columns to include scrolled brackets. Centered in front of the colonnade is a large granite planter on a pedestal that sits on a roughly cuboid plinth (**Photo 28**). The maker is unknown.

16. Watts Family Monument (circa 1910), 1 contributing structure, 1 contributing object

Although the Watts family memorial incorporates a nearly life-sized marble angel, it is listed as a unique monument due to its size and complexity. The central component of the complex is a temple-front structure with Ionic columns supporting a wide entablature below a large pediment. Fabric swags adorn the frieze above the columns, while the "WATTS" is carved in high relief at the center. Sheltered below the roof is the marble angel, which holds a book at its hip and stands on a low plinth. Stone exedrae flank the temple front (**Photo 29**). The maker is unknown.

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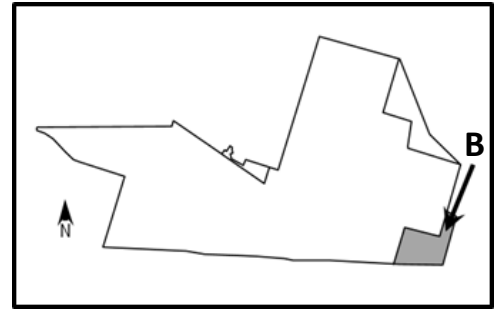
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B. Hebrew Cemetery, circa 1885–present, 1 contributing site

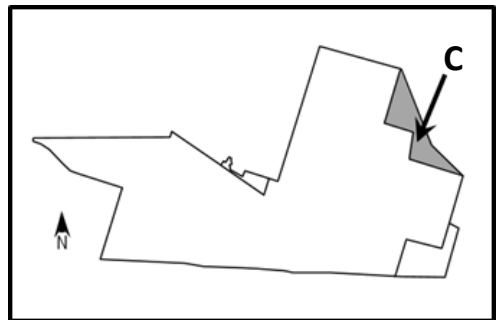
The Hebrew Cemetery is a 0.9-acre L-shaped burial ground at the southeast corner of the historic district (**inset right**). Due to the sloping grade along Morehead Avenue, the south side of the Hebrew Cemetery is enclosed by a tall, poured concrete retaining wall that creates a level burial ground within. A wrought iron fence surrounds the entire cemetery. It is mounted atop the retaining wall along Morehead Avenue and continues around the other sides of the property where it is mounted directly into the ground. Along Morehead Avenue, there is a break in the fence and retaining wall where a poured concrete driveway extends in a roughly northerly direction. A metal gate ornamented with a wrought iron menorah covers the driveway entrance. Above the gate, the metal archway displays the words “DURHAM HEBREW CEMETERY” in raised letters. The driveway gradually ascends the property, with retaining walls to the east and west (**Photos 30–31**).



The compact arrangement of burials is highly characteristic of Hebrew Cemeteries. The plots are narrow, and the grave markers are very close to one another. Most of the graves are identified with headstones of granite and marble and feature inscriptions in both English and Hebrew. A Star of David is incised at the top of nearly every headstone (**Photos 32–33**). Many of the plots are covered with a solid granite slab laid flat on the ground. Others are surrounded by a low granite curb that encloses a bed of stones. These stones of remembrance are often placed on the top of the headstone by mourners (**Photo 34**).

C. Henderson Family Cemetery, 1898–1933, 1 contributing site

The Henderson Family Cemetery (**Photo 35**) occupies an irregularly shaped 1.14-acre area at the northeast edge of the Maplewood Cemetery (**inset right**). Its northeast boundary, which is a portion of the northeast boundary of the historic district, descends to a creek and is heavily wooded with thick underbrush. At its northwest end, the Henderson Family Cemetery is roughly level with Maplewood Cemetery. At the middle and southeast ends, it sits downslope from Maplewood Cemetery, so that stormwater runoff from Maplewood into the creek has caused erosion in the Henderson Family Cemetery. This erosion is a likely cause of the loss of headstones in the cemetery during the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. The cemetery features a few grave depressions, and it is not known how many markers originally occupied the cemetery. Any original order to the arrangement of the burials cannot presently be discerned.



Although the 1.14-acre plot may have been set aside as early as circa 1870, documented interments in the cemetery begin with the 1898 burial of Dempsey Henderson. The greatest number of interments occurred between 1912 and 1920. Beginning in 2011, Aseelah Ameen-Henderson, a direct descendant of Dempsey and Emma Henderson, voluntarily began clearing the Henderson Family Cemetery of overgrowth that had covered the site since its acquisition by the city. The site had lost most of its grave markers, so Ameen-Henderson installed a small, beveled marker inscribed “HISTORIC HENDERSON FAMILY CEMETERY,” to communicate the site’s historic association.²⁰ The Henderson Family Cemetery contains two contributing objects.

17. Reverend Wesley Henderson Marker (1928) 1 contributing object

This marble marker is a die-on-base headstone with a two-stage base, the top portion of which is inscribed “HENDERSON” in low relief. The wide marker has a book-matched ogee-profile top and a raised section at the center of the face, which divides the marker into two sections. Only the right side is inscribed. Foliate carving in low relief decorates the area above the inscription field of each side, while the raised vertical band at the center of the headstone is ornamented with an urn from which rises a symmetrical vine reaching to the top of the marker (**Photo**

²⁰ Aseelah Ameen-Henderson, personal interview with Annie McDonald, July 20, 2023.

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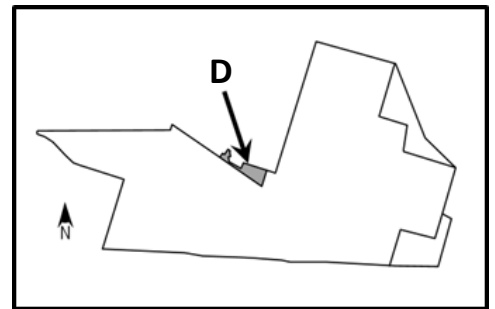
36). A low granite curb surrounds the burial site. The Reverend Wesley Henderson (02/1853–03/02/1928) was the son of Dempsey and Emma Henderson. The marker indicates that he died at the age of 74.

18. Frank Melvin Jones & Mrs. Jane Henderson Jones Marker (circa 1911), 1 contributing object

This marble marker is a die-on-base headstone. It is similar to the neighboring Henderson marker, only narrower and with less detail. It has a book-matched ogee-profile top, and the face is divided into two sections. There is evidence of light foliate carving in low relief at the top of the inscriptions. Frank Melvin Jones (11/12/1859–02/25/1911) was born in North Carolina and died in Manhattan, New York. Jane Henderson Jones (03/29/1869–07/26/1910) was the oldest daughter of Dempsey and Emma Henderson and the wife of Frank Melvin Jones. Below the life attributes of Frank Melvin and Jane Henderson Jones, the marker is inscribed “THE LORD GAVE AND THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY, BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD” (Photo 37).

D. Fitzgerald Family Cemetery, 1886–1941, 1 contributing site

The Fitzgerald Family Cemetery is a 0.25-acre burial ground situated north of Maplewood Cemetery west of Kent Street (inset right). Its full extent is undetermined due to subdivision of the land and residential development by Habitat for Humanity in the 1990s. The cemetery historically occupied two adjacent parcels, one of which was reconfigured and developed with single family housing. The eastern portion of the cemetery, which abuts the sidewalk on the west side of Kent Street, retains its original boundaries (Photo 38). The western portion of the cemetery was developed as part of a residential subdivision in the 1990s, with only a small portion of the parcel remaining accessible (Photo 39).



Both sections of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery sit at a lower grade elevation than Maplewood Cemetery. Due to the gently sloping terrain of Maplewood Cemetery, the difference in grade between it and the east portion of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery is less dramatic than the west portion. The eastern section of the cemetery is generally level and grassy, with a few tall trees creating a shaded environment. The north edge of this section is bordered by a tall wood fence that separates the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery from the adjacent residential property to the north. Thick woods and brush on the adjacent residential property on the south end of Gerard Street define the west edge of this section of the cemetery. The west portion of the cemetery is separated from Maplewood by a steep, overgrown embankment. Here, the cemetery is enclosed by a chain-link fence that separates it from the residential properties on the south end of Gerard Street. The western portion of the cemetery is heavily wooded, and the flat ground is covered with underbrush.

In May 2023, the cultural resources management consulting firm New South Associates conducted a survey of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery using ground-penetrating radar (GPR). The survey identified 63 probable and possible graves, only 10 of which have intact grave markers. Six of these markers are located in the eastern portion of the cemetery, while the remaining four are in the more secluded western section. Both sections of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery feature grave depressions among the extant marked graves. It is not known how many markers originally occupied the cemetery. The GPR survey revealed that the graves are roughly arranged in rows that run parallel to Kent Street, with the burials parallel to the south property line. The survey also indicated that the unmarked burials extend south, across the original property line, into Maplewood Cemetery. GPR revealed burials under the gravel driveway that runs parallel to and immediately south of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery. The cemetery contains 10 contributing objects.

19. Richard S. Fitzgerald Marker (1886) 1 contributing object

This marble marker is a tab-in-socket headstone with a low-relief carving of a lamb at the top (Photo 40). Richard S. Fitzgerald (01/10/1882–09/30/1886) was the son of Richard B. and Sally A. W. Fitzgerald. The marker indicates that he died at the age of 4 years, 9 months, and 20 days.

20. Daniel J Fitzgerald Marker (1872), 1 contributing object

This marble marker is a tab-in-socket headstone with a low-relief carving of a lamb at the top (Photo 41). Daniel J. Fitzgerald (09/25/1872–10/12/1872) was the infant son of Richard B. and Sally A. W. Fitzgerald. The marker indicates that he died at the age of 17 days. The grave site includes a footstone inscribed D. J. P. that is set directly in the ground.

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21. Thomas Clay Williams Marker (1903), 1 contributing object

This granite bevel marker is set directly into the ground and unusual in that its orientation is turned 90 degrees from the other markers in the cemetery. The sides of the marker feature a lightly incised line roughly 1 inch from the top. At the back of the marker, the top corner is rolled and carved to convey the appearance of a scroll (**Photo 42**). Thomas Clay Williams (08/15/1903–08/20/1903) died at only five days old.

22. Jerry Markham Marker (1940), 1 contributing object

This smooth, white marble marker sits on a two-stage base with “MARKHAM” carved in raised letters on the upper portion of the base. It features a low-relief carving of a cloth with tassels draped over the top and sides and holds the inscription “AT REST.” The top of the marker is carved with ivy, oak leaves, and acorns. A scroll-like relief frames the inscription (**Photo 43**). Jerry Markham (circa 1840–11/11/1940), the son of Henry and Adeline Markham, was born into slavery. The marker holds the additional inscription “AN OLD SLAVE AND A FRIEND TO ALL.” Markham’s was one of the last interments here, and his is the most ornately carved of the markers in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

23. Leon B. Jeffers Marker (1904), 1 contributing object

This marble tablet features a marble base and shaped top. It is inscribed “GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN” (**Photo 44**). Leon B. Jeffers (06/1870–08/10/1904) was the husband of Maria Fitzgerald Jeffers. The top of the tablet appears to be lightly carved with gates of heaven.

24. Reuben McCaskill Marker (1927), 1 contributing object

This cast concrete tab-in-socket marker features a vine of ivy in low relief with an anchor at the top. The marker is inscribed “MAY THE RESURRECTION FIND THEE ON THE BOSOM OF THY GOD” (**Photo 45**). Rueben McCaskill (circa 1819–09/09/1927) was born into slavery in Rockingham County, North Carolina. The marker indicates that he died at the age of 108.

25. Ella Hinton Marker (1927), 1 contributing object

This cast concrete tab-in-socket marker features a vine in low relief at the top and the inscription “GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN” (**Photo 46**). Ella Hinton (01/04/1920–12/21/1927) was the daughter of David B. and Ada Johnson Hinton.

26. Charles A. Alston Marker (circa 1933), 1 contributing object

This cast concrete tab-in-socket marker features a vine in low relief at the top and the inscription “GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN” at the bottom. In the middle, the marker is inscribed “IN MEMORY OF THE FAMILY OF C. A. ALSTON” (**Photo 47**). Charles A Alston, whose birthdate and year are presently unknown, died before 1933. Also buried in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery are Mabel Henderson Alston, the wife of Charles, and Frank Alston, whose relationship to Charles is not presently known. Two infants of Mabel and Charles Alston are also buried nearby. Their stillborn son was interred with a grave marker for Infant Alston (see no. 27), while their daughter, Mabel, died at three weeks old in March 1924. It is not known if this headstone, which refers to the family of C. A. Alston, was intended to serve as a grave marker for more than one individual in the family.

27. Infant Alston Marker (1926), 1 contributing object

This small cast concrete marker is set directly in the ground and features a vine in low relief at the top. “ASLEEP IN JESUS” is inscribed at the bottom (**Photo 48**). This headstone marks the grave of the stillborn son of Charles Alston and Mabel Henderson. The marker indicates that he was born and died on August 13, 1926. The plot in which he is buried is surrounded by the artifact remains of a low iron railing.

28. Catherine Henderson Marker (1925), 1 contributing object

This small cast concrete headstone is set directly in the ground. It features a vine in low relief at the top. “WE WILL MEET AGAIN” is inscribed at the bottom of the marker (**Photo 49**). Catherine Henderson (circa 1865–05/05/1925) was the wife of John Henderson. The marker indicates that she died at the age of 65.

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INTEGRITY ASSESSMENT

With 4 contributing sites, 5 contributing structures, and 29 contributing objects, the West End Cemeteries Historic District retains sufficient integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling to its Period of Significance of 1874 to 1941 to merit listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the areas of social history, Black ethnic heritage, and Jewish ethnic heritage, and under Criterion C in the area of art.

Location and Setting

The Hebrew, Henderson, Fitzgerald, and Maplewood cemeteries all remain in their original locations. Although the boundaries of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery have been reduced through the sale of land and subsequent residential development by Habitat for Humanity, the location of the cemetery has not changed. The setting of the four cemeteries also remains largely intact, with residential development to the east and north, and an extension of Maplewood Cemetery to the west. Some late twentieth- and early twenty-first-century development has occurred to the south, but this has had limited impact on the overall setting of the historic district. Thus, the West End Cemeteries Historic District retains strong integrity of location and setting.

Design, Materials, and Workmanship

The distinctive characteristics of each cemetery's design remain highly intact. With regard to landscape design and the design of such features as mausoleums, family plots, and notable grave markers, Maplewood Cemetery retains exceptional integrity of design. Through its distinctive consistency of marker types and compact arrangement of graves, the Hebrew Cemetery also retains very strong integrity of design. Since they retain a majority of their historic stone grave markers and features, the Maplewood and Hebrew cemeteries retain integrity of materials and workmanship.

The design characteristics of the Henderson and Fitzgerald family cemeteries are markedly different from those of the Maplewood and Hebrew cemeteries. Due to the encroachment of development on the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery, and the presumed loss of markers in both the Fitzgerald and Henderson cemeteries, their original design, particularly their layout and arrangement of family plots and markers, cannot be visually discerned. The GPR survey of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery revealed that the original arrangement of graves, in rows parallel to Kent Street, remains intact in the areas of the cemetery that were not developed. It is also worth noting that many of the burials in both cemeteries may have never been marked or were marked only with ephemeral wood markers or uncut fieldstone. Furthermore, the diminished integrity of design, materials, and workmanship in Black cemeteries that date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is common and due in large part to systemic social, political, and economic inequities that African Americans faced during the "Jim Crow" era. That Black family cemeteries often retain few markers, with the presence of burials visible only by grave depressions, is, in fact, an important part of their story. Overall, these two cemeteries embody the characteristics of historically Black family burial grounds as they evolved over time.

Despite the diminished design integrity of the Henderson and Fitzgerald cemeteries, the West End Cemeteries Historic District retains strong integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, overall.

Association and Feeling

The historic district retains integrity of association through its continued association with the individuals and groups to whom each site is significant. Although the Henderson and Fitzgerald Cemeteries are now owned and maintained by the City of Durham, the descendant families to whom they are significant retain strong ties to and advocate for the preservation of their ancestral properties. The Hebrew Cemetery is owned and maintained by the Beth El Synagogue and its *Chevra Kadisha*, or burial society. Maplewood Cemetery retains its association with the City of Durham and the descendants of those interred in the community burial grounds. The West End Cemeteries Historic District retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and association, and so it retains strong integrity of feeling. The four individual cemeteries and the West End Cemeteries Historic District, overall, retain outstanding integrity of association and feeling.

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STATEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The West End Cemeteries Historic District, containing the Maplewood Cemetery, the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery, the Henderson Family Cemetery, and the Hebrew Cemetery, is closely related to the surrounding environment and landscape. Archaeological features produced by former fence lines, paths, and plantings, as well as materials that have accumulated through use of the cemeteries, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the district. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the cemeteries and landscape, and these potential remains should be considered in any future improvements to the district.

Ground penetrating radar was done in 2023 by New South Associates at the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery. Sixty-three probable and possible graves were identified, with only 10 intact grave markers. Important information may be gained through archaeological analysis of cemetery features. The grave markers and potential grave markers can provide information about the socioeconomic evolution of the Durham Black, Jewish, and white communities. A material culture analysis of the surviving markers, along with archaeological investigations to identify graveside offerings and subsurface features associated with wood- and plant-marked plots and graves, can contribute to the broader understanding of funerary traditions over time, consumer behavior, and community networks. These objects and features may possess characteristics that illustrate Black, Jewish, and white cultural practices and traditions. Other aspects of cemeteries documented as having information potential include the location and grouping of graves, details of vernacular grave marker production, and specific characteristics of graves including burial container hardware, grave goods, clothing, and the human remains themselves.

In addition to having the potential to yield important information about the past, cemeteries and unmarked graves are protected by North Carolina General Statutes 65 and 70, and this should be considered in any future archaeological research, landscaping, or restoration activities in the district.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black
ETHNIC HERITAGE: Other (Jewish)
SOCIAL HISTORY
ART

Period of Significance

1874–1941

Significant Dates

1874, 1885, 1886, 1898, 1904, 1919

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Durham Marble Works (Durham, North Carolina)
Coopers Marble Works (Raleigh, North Carolina)
Whitaker & Hulan (Durham, North Carolina)
Thomas Donahoe (Massachusetts)
VanGunden Granite & Marble Works (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

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SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The West End Cemeteries Historic District, in Durham, Durham County, North Carolina, is a unique, significant, and distinguishable collection of four adjacent but distinct burial grounds established in the late nineteenth century for the city's deceased Black, Jewish, and white residents. Covering 26 acres west of downtown Durham, the historic district consists of the Maplewood Cemetery, the city's community cemetery founded in 1874; the Hebrew Cemetery, established in the 1880s for the area's growing Jewish population and the precursor to the Beth El Synagogue; and the two small African American cemeteries established in the late nineteenth century by the families of Dempsey Henderson and Richard Burton Fitzgerald. The historic district is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of Black Ethnic Heritage, Jewish Ethnic Heritage, and Social History, and Criterion C in the area of Art. The historic district meets Criteria Consideration A for properties owned by religious institutions and Criteria Consideration D for cemeteries. The Period of Significance begins in 1874, the date of establishment of Maplewood Cemetery, the earliest documented of the four cemeteries. The Period of Significance ends in 1941, the date of the last interment in the segregated Fitzgerald Family Cemetery. Altogether, the West End Cemeteries Historic District contains 4 contributing sites, 5 contributing structures, and 29 contributing objects. It retains sufficient integrity to communicate its historic associations during the Period of Significance. It has strong integrity of location, design, setting, association, and feeling, with high integrity of design, materials, and workmanship in the Maplewood and Hebrew Cemeteries.

Criterion A: That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

The West End Cemeteries Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Black Ethnic Heritage and Social History for the Henderson and Fitzgerald family cemeteries' historic associations with Durham's African American community as segregated burial grounds for Black Durhamites during the Jim Crow era. These two small burial grounds served as de facto community cemeteries for more than 120 Black families. Although Geer Cemetery and, later, New Bethel and Violet Park cemeteries, served Durham's African Americans, these community burial grounds were overcrowded. Thus, the Henderson and Fitzgerald families established small family plots that eventually served the larger African American community. Together, these two cemeteries are the final resting place for more than 200 Black Durhamites who were denied access to the adjacent Maplewood Cemetery because of strict laws and social customs enforcing racial segregation. The juxtaposition of these two family cemeteries and the adjacent community cemetery illustrates the stark racial inequities faced by Durham's African American citizens through the mid-twentieth century. Although Dempsey Henderson was living on the property as early as 1869 and legally acquired title to it in 1872, it does not appear as though the 1.14-acre Henderson Family Cemetery was established until his death in 1898. The bulk of the burials occurred between 1910 and 1921. The last interment was in 1933. The now 0.25-acre Fitzgerald Family Cemetery appears to have been established by 1886.²¹ It was only sporadically used for burials during the early twentieth century until about 1916, when interments increased markedly. The bulk of the burials in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery occurred between 1916 and 1930 before dropping off significantly in 1931, with the last interment taking place 10 years later.

The West End Cemeteries Historic District is eligible at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Jewish Ethnic Heritage and Social History for the 0.9-acre Hebrew Cemetery's historic association with Durham's Jewish community during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Having religious traditions that called for distinctive burial practices, Durham's Jewish citizens lacked a cemetery to bury their deceased. In 1884, the congregation established a cemetery committee, acquiring the first 500-square-foot cemetery parcel from the Town of Durham shortly thereafter. Idalia Levy, who died in 1888 at the age of seven, was the first to be buried in the Hebrew Cemetery. Growth of the Hebrew Cemetery occurred parallel to the increasing population of Jewish citizens in Durham, with additional land acquired to expand the cemetery in 1892 and 1899. Unlike the Henderson and Fitzgerald cemeteries, the Hebrew Cemetery was self-segregated based on religious customs, yet it was clearly situated at the southeast corner of Maplewood Cemetery, visible from Morehead Avenue, and easily accessible. Surrounded by a tall wrought-iron fence that creates a visual barrier that separates it from Maplewood Cemetery,

²¹ The earliest known interment in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery is the infant Daniel J., son of Richard Burton and Sally Ann Fitzgerald. The Fitzgeralds did not own the property at that time, and it is not presently known if the grave dates to 1872 or was reinterred on the property once they acquired ownership.

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the Hebrew Cemetery holds nearly 400 burials compactly arranged in a manner distinct from the other cemeteries in the historic district. It is managed by the burial society of the Beth El Synagogue and remains in use for burials.

Criterion C: That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The West End Cemeteries Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Art because the 23.71-acre Maplewood Cemetery possesses high artistic values in its outstanding and significant collection of funerary art in the form of mausoleums, monuments, grave markers, funerary sculpture, and related furniture that display a wide range of popular artistic forms and styles. The three largest and most artistically articulate mausoleums, constructed for the Duke (1893–1894), Mangum (1905), and Wright (1912) families, exhibit classical forms and ornamental features. The Duke and Wright mausoleums were built of granite. The former, erected by the VanGunden Granite & Marble Works of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, combines highly polished and rough granite finishes to effect textural complexity. Constructed of marble, the Mangum mausoleum is less strictly classical but has an ornately carved, full-sized figure as an acroterion above the entrance. Included among Maplewood Cemetery’s impressive and unparalleled works of funerary art are the four pieces of sculptural furniture within the Julian S. Carr Family Plot (early 1900s). The plot houses several life-sized or nearly life-sized figures, including a kneeling angel, mother and children, and a large installation of a figure clinging to a cross under the gaze of two additional angels. Three additional marble figures of outstanding artistic elan adorn the graves of members of the Cheek (1891), Kline (1905), and King (1920) families. Although these works are presently unattributed, their sophisticated designs and expert execution indicate the work of one or more highly skilled sculptors. Other highly ornamental grave markers include a collection of carved Gothic Revival-style tombstones, chief among which are the grave markers for Cora Markham (1897), the Walker family (1904), Susan Whittington (1909), and the Clark family (early 1900s). Also artistically significant is the large collection of tall obelisks, which are best represented by markers for William Linthicum (1886), the Bowling family (1905), and the Fullerton family (1907). Notable monuments of unique design and placement include those for the Stagg family (circa 1915), Parrish family (circa 1910), and George W. Watts (circa 1910). Maplewood Cemetery contains the work of the Durham Marble Works and Whitaker & Hulan, both of Durham; Cooper’s Marble Works of Raleigh; and the Massachusetts-based firm of Thomas Donahoe.

Criteria Considerations

The Hebrew Cemetery is significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History and Jewish Ethnic Heritage; therefore, the West End Cemeteries Historic District meets Criteria Consideration A as a property owned by a religious institution.

The Henderson and Fitzgerald family cemeteries are significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Black Ethnic Heritage, the Hebrew Cemetery is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Jewish Ethnic Heritage, and the Maplewood cemetery is significant under Criterion C in the area of Art for its distinctive collection of mausoleums, monuments, and grave markers that express high artistic values; therefore, the West End Cemeteries Historic District meets Criteria Consideration D as a cemetery whose significance is derived from its historical associations and high artistic merit.

Research Methodology

Documentation of the Maplewood Cemetery during the last decades of the twentieth century focused on predominantly white narratives that emphasized Durham’s founders and the wealthy industrialists whose names adorn the cemetery’s largest, most ornate monuments and mausoleums.²² Although this history cannot be overlooked, its emphasis diminished the important

²² One twentieth-century myth about Maplewood Cemetery is that the first interment was of a white man with the last name Austin or Austen. This myth may have origins in a January 4, 1938, article titled “Local Cemetery Head Has Served 16 Years At Job,” on page 2 of *The Durham Sun*. The article states that Austin “counseled against the expenditure of public funds for the purchase of a cemetery site.” Instead, he advocated use of the property for a baseball diamond. The article went on to say that his grave was the first in the original

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contributions of Durham’s free and enslaved Black citizens, and, particularly, the Henderson and Fitzgerald families. In January 2022, Stephanie Yarborough Davis, a descendant of Robert Fitzgerald, and historian Kim Smith prepared “An Open Letter: The Fitzgerald Family Cemetery and Henderson Cemetery,” which outlines the early history of the area that now includes Maplewood Cemetery, documents the Reconstruction-Era contributions of the Henderson and Fitzgerald families and provides a foundation for additional research. It also details the marginalization and neglect of the Henderson and Fitzgerald family cemeteries during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries and how the Fitzgerald family cemetery was desecrated for new residential construction.²³

Davis and Smith’s “Open Letter” is an important guidepost. The narrative below expands on it with original research to create a clearer picture of Maplewood Cemetery’s origins in the contributions of Dempsey Henderson, who was born into slavery and, upon emancipation, acquired 93 acres of land that included the future Maplewood Cemetery. It also documents the history and significance of the families of Richard and Robert Fitzgerald, eloquently presented in the autobiographical book *Proud Shoes: An American Story*, by Civil Rights activist Reverend Dr. Pauli Murray, whose National Historic Landmark-designated family home lies adjacent to Maplewood Cemetery and close to the Henderson Family Cemetery and Hebrew Cemetery. Both the Henderson and Fitzgerald families established cemeteries on their properties at a time when segregation required that people of color bury their departed outside white burial grounds like Maplewood Cemetery. The National Register nomination preparers met with and interviewed Stephanie Yarborough Davis and Aseelah Ameen-Henderson, the latter a descendant of Dempsey Henderson, to better understand the history of the Fitzgerald and Henderson family cemeteries. These interviews included information on descendants’ efforts in the early twenty-first century to correct the historical narrative and improve the physical condition of and identify unmarked graves within the two family burial grounds. The preparers also met with Dr. Philip Rubio, professor of history at North Carolina A & T University, whose research interests and advocacy efforts include the Fitzgerald and Henderson family cemeteries.

This Section 8 narrative interweaves the history of the Hebrew Cemetery, established adjacent to Maplewood Cemetery and the Fitzgerald family home in the 1880s, at a time when Durham’s Jewish community was growing in concert with the city’s industrial development. The Beth El Congregation’s *Chevra Kadisha*, or burial society, now oversees the Hebrew Cemetery. The preparers met with and interviewed representatives of the Beth El Congregation and the *Chevra Kadisha* to better understand the histories of the congregation and the cemetery. The congregation has extensively documented the personal histories of the departed buried in the Hebrew Cemetery on its website.

Primary source materials employed in the preparation of the Section 8 narrative include abundant newspaper articles accessed through the Newspapers.com and DigitalNC portals as well as newspaper clippings in the subject file collection of the Durham County Public Library’s North Carolina Collection. Deeds and other government records available from the Register of Deeds offices in Orange and Durham County were especially useful. Notable among the deeds are numerous transactions between Dempsey Henderson and the Black and white Durhamites to whom he sold portions of his 93-acre tract. An original plat of the Henderson land, created by S. M. Sink in July 1872, could not be located. The Orange County Register of Deeds office reported that early plats were not systematically recorded and that many have been lost.

section of the cemetery. It explained that the headstone was no longer standing—presumably it was lying flat on the ground—and that it had been weathered to the point that it was no longer legible. The nomination preparers have found no documentation supporting this story. Given its vagueness—lacking a first name and other important details—it appears to be a tale concocted to serve as an introduction to the article. Stephanie Yarborough Davis and Kim Smith in their January 27, 2022, work, “An Open Letter: The Fitzgerald Family Cemetery and Henderson Cemetery,” (electronic document https://drive.google.com/file/d/149knrjL_IRDxyNsBv3KKdiuOulqeNTqQ/view, accessed 21 August 2023) analyze and substantively debunk this story. It remains that there are several burials in Maplewood Cemetery that pre-date 1874. It is not presently known if the land was already in use as a cemetery prior to Dempsey Henderson’s acquisition of the property, or if these pre-1874 graves are reinterments from elsewhere in Durham or Durham County.

²³ Davis and Smith, “An Open Letter,” n.p.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Antebellum Establishment of Durham and Settlement of Emancipated Blacks following the Civil War

In 1849, Bartlett S. Durham donated a parcel of land along the North Carolina Railroad for the construction of a railroad depot, from which the small community of Durham Station grew over the next twenty years. Then part of Orange County, the Town of Durham was incorporated in 1869. The corporate limits were 1 mile square, with the depot at the center of the town.²⁴ By that time, the town boasted a lumber company, two tobacco factories, and a hotel.²⁵ Within one year, the community added three cotton gins, a wood carding factory, hat maker, a smut machine and screening works, and wagon works. The community grew rapidly, and within twenty years of its founding as a railroad stop, had six general stores and numerous mills supplying flour, meal, and sawed lumber.²⁶ By 1870, Durham was a small hamlet of 256 people among 30 families. Surrounded by cotton and tobacco farms, the town's four factories provided jobs, and Methodist and Baptist churches responded to the community's spiritual needs.²⁷

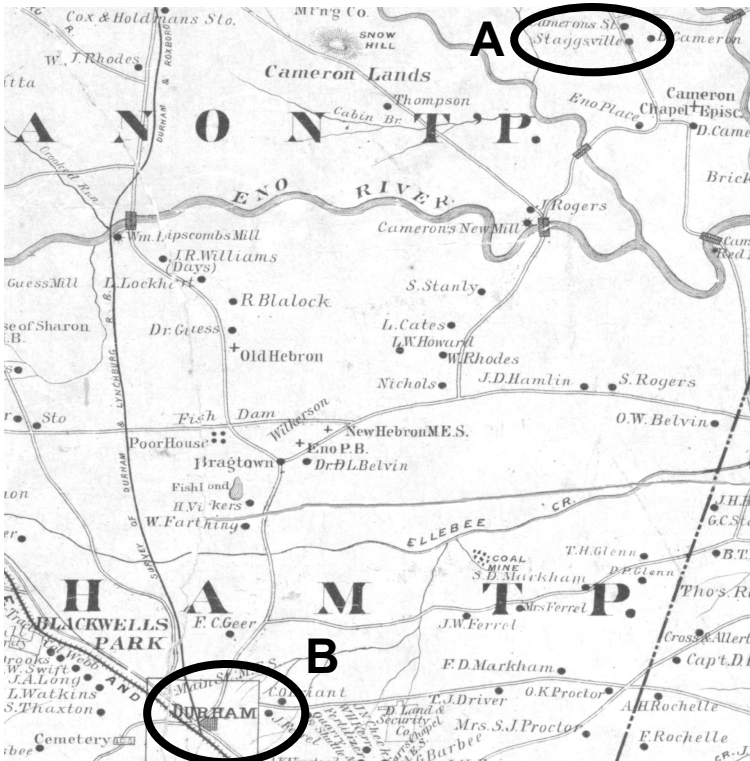


Figure 1: Detail of the 1887 Map of Durham County, by Lemuel Johnson, showing the location of the Stagville plantation (A), which was roughly 8 miles northeast of Durham (B).

At the close of the Civil War, more than 330,000 enslaved people of color were emancipated across North Carolina. Among them were nearly 1,000 people of color who had been enslaved by the Cameron family across its extensive landholdings that included Stagville plantation. The Camerons were among the state's wealthiest families and owned more than 30,000 acres in Orange, Person, Granville, and Wake counties. The Stagville plantation was situated between the Flat and Little rivers roughly 8 miles northeast of Durham (**Figure 1**).²⁸

Born into slavery in 1825, Dempsey Henderson (ca. 1825–1898) was among the hundreds of people enslaved by Paul Cameron at Stagville and emancipated at the end of the Civil War. Census data from the Reconstruction Era indicates that Dempsey Henderson likely married Emma Turner (ca. 1827–1912) while they were enslaved at Stagville. The land on the west side of Durham on which the Hendersons settled after the Civil War was hilly, uneven terrain, with a stream running from the northwest to the southeast in a low-lying valley referred to as “the bottoms.”²⁹ Other people of color emancipated from enslavement at Stagville eventually acquired property and settled in this area, including Abner Banks and his brother-in-law Luke Cameron, the latter of whom acquired 0.5 acre of land near Morehead Avenue for \$25 in 1874.³⁰ Lying

²⁴ Levi Branson, *Directory of the Business and Citizens of Durham City for 1887* (Raleigh, N.C.: Levi Branson, Publishers, 1887), 12.

²⁵ Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, for 1867–8* (Raleigh: Branson & Jones, Publishers, 1868), 87.

²⁶ Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolinian Business Directory, for 1869* (Raleigh: R.A. Jones, Publishers, 1869), 124.

²⁷ “Durham,” *Raleigh Christian Advocate*, October 5, 1870, 2; see also “Opportunity Knocked,” *The Herald-Sun*, April 11, 2000, 43.

²⁸ “True Inclusion—Historic Stagville,” North Carolina Historic Sites, electronic document, <https://historicsites.nc.gov/trueinclusion-historic-stagville>, accessed November 16, 2023.

²⁹ Pauli Murray, *Proud Shoes: The Story of an American Family* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1999), 4.

³⁰ Carroll Street was previously named Cameron Street for Luke Cameron. (see historic Stagville's True Inclusion site for citation).

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outside the city limits to the west of Durham, the area was close to the city's industrial corridor along the North Carolina Railroad.

Henderson family tradition holds that remuneration accompanied Dempsey and Emma Henderson's emancipation from the Camerons.³¹ The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company records for the period 1865–1874 document that Dempsey Henderson's deposit account totaled \$2,770.³² In 1870, 45-year-old Dempsey Henderson, a cook, and his wife, 39-year-old Emma Turner Henderson, lived just west of Durham outside the town limits in an area known as the West End.³³ Their household consisted of sons Turner, Wesley, and Walker. Nineteen-year-old Turner Henderson worked in a factory, while Weston and Walker—16 and 13 years old, respectively—worked on the family's farm.³⁴ Emma kept house and cared for their infant daughter, Jane. Also living with the Hendersons were nine-year-old Nora Mitchell and 60-year-old Phebe Turner, who was likely Emma's mother. The births of their daughters Ann (1871–?) and Mollie (1874–1919) and son Murphy (1878–1937) followed over the next decade.

The 1870 federal census recorded the value of Dempsey Henderson's real estate as \$600.³⁵ At some point between 1865 and 1870, Dempsey Henderson acquired by \$600 bond 93 acres from local industrialist Robert F. Morris. In 1858, Morris moved from Hillsborough to Durham, where he operated a hotel. In 1866, he partnered with his son, Edward, and William H. Willard to establish Durham's first tobacco manufactory. The agreement between the three men stated that the new firm, Morris & Son, was formed "for the purpose of manufacturing tobacco of all varieties but especially smoking tobacco & keeping a general store."³⁶ The firm pioneered "Durham Smoking Tobacco."³⁷ Morris was among Durham's largest landowners and speculators and served on the town's Board of Commissioners. He declared bankruptcy in 1868, and his tobacco factory was sold to John R. Green.³⁸ It is likely around this time that Morris entered into the bond agreement to sell the 93 acres to Dempsey Henderson.³⁹ The property was bordered on the south by present-day Morehead Avenue, on the east by present-day Arnette Avenue, on the north by present-day West Chapel Hill Street, and on the west roughly by present-day Chapel Hill Road. At the time, the property was roughly 0.1 mile west of Durham's corporate limits.⁴⁰ Robert Morris succumbed to a stroke on September 3, 1872.⁴¹

A few months earlier, in May 1872, the Durham Board of Commissioners appointed a two-person Board of Health, consisting of Dr. W. J. Durham and J. F. Freeland, to review and report on conditions affecting the community. This focus on public health in the town's early years was consistent with a growing late nineteenth-century trend among municipalities nationwide to improve the health and welfare of their residents. In the southern United States, where periodic rises in enteric diseases, such as cholera, and insect-borne diseases like malaria devastated urban communities throughout the 1800s, public health concerns were particularly important. Deaths from poor nutrition and disease among Union and Confederate troops during the Civil War further increased concern among public officials to enact legislative remedies to correct unsanitary conditions in the postbellum era.⁴² In a town like Durham, whose rapid industrial growth led to a population boom and a corresponding rise in construction, business development, and the need for sanitary conditions, the establishment of a Board of Health was part

³¹ Aseelah Ameen-Henderson, personal interview with Annie McDonald, July 20, 2023.

³² United States Freedman's Bank Records, Index to Deposit Ledgers, 1865–1874, Freedman's Savins and Trust Company, Raleigh, North Carolina, Index to Deposit Ledger B, n.p.

³³ "West End," Open Durham, www.opendurham.org/category/neighborhood/west-end, accessed August 21, 2023.

³⁴ Weston Henderson appears later in the historical record as Wesley Henderson.

³⁵ 1870 Federal Census.

³⁶ Orange County Register of Deeds, September 16, 1866, Deed Book 37, 360.

³⁷ "Sudden Death of a Well Known Citizen of Durham's," *Raleigh Daily News*, September 4, 1872, 1.

³⁸ "Notice by Assignee of His Appointment," *Raleigh Daily Standard*, June 25, 1868, 3; see also untitled notice of bankruptcy, *Raleigh Daily Standard*, October 24, 1868, 3.

³⁹ Despite exhaustive research, no deeds or other legal instruments between Robert F. Morris and Dempsey Henderson have been identified. No documentation has yet been uncovered explaining the background of Morris's bankruptcy declaration. It could be related to the Recession of 1865–1867, but research on this topic is beyond the scope of this nomination.

⁴⁰ O. W. Gray, *Gray's New Map of Durham* (Philadelphia: O. W. Gray and Son, 1881), https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~orangecountync/computers/durhammaps_maps/gray1881.jpg.

⁴¹ Morris is buried in the city cemetery, and it is not presently clear if burials were already occurring there when the town acquired the property or if Morris was reinterred there from another location.

⁴² John Duffy, *The Sanitarians: A History of American Public Health* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1992), 111–24.

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and parcel of public administration. In July 1872, Durham and Freeland reported on the condition of privies in the town and recommended that businesses maintain trash in an orderly manner. They also made recommendations regarding standing water, presumably to reduce the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.⁴³

Another important concern of the public health board was the disposition of the community's deceased. Until the mid-nineteenth century, most burials in North Carolina occurred in small plots on private property or in church graveyards. Among the former were family burials on rural estates or the graves of enslaved Africans and African Americans on plantations across the South. Church graveyards were common in municipalities and rural areas alike. As urban populations increased after the Civil War, due in large part to the post-bellum growth of industry, the matter of burials became an increasing critical component of public health. Church graveyards in urban areas were often limited to a small parcel of land bounded by other buildings in densely developed communities. Such was the case in Durham.⁴⁴ On October 8, 1872, the Board of Commissioners agreed to close a \$150 deal with "Mr. Willard" to acquire property for a graveyard. At the Board of Commissioners meeting on November 7, 1872, the board moved that "the committee on grave-yard continue to act under the same instructions as before."⁴⁵ The same instructions were given at the Board of Commissioners meeting on January 6, 1873.⁴⁶ No formal action was taken on the cemetery until December 1874.

On June 18, 1873, Caroline Morris, widow of Robert F. Morris, and his other heirs concluded the sale of 93 acres to Dempsey Henderson. The deed between the parties stated:

[W]hereas the said Robert Morris did in his lifetime to wit on the 31st day of December give bond to make title to said Dempsey Henderson to a certain tract of land hereinafter described upon payment of the sum of six hundred dollars has since been paid to said R.F. Morris by the said party of the second part, and whereas no deed was made by the said R.F. Morris to the said party of the second part according to the terms of the bond.⁴⁷

Henderson's acquisition of 93 acres was highly significant in a county where only 2 percent of Black residents owned property in 1875.⁴⁸ Other Black families in the surrounding area rented their homes, and Henderson owned far more acreage than any white families in the immediate area. Durham's rapid growth led to extensive land speculation by wealthy white industrialists and others who sought to capitalize on its economic success. Such families as the Dukes, Carrs, Blackwells, and Mangums acquired substantial landholdings within and outside the town limits with the expectation of profiting from future development. For Dempsey Henderson to acquire nearly 100 acres just outside the town's western boundary was highly unusual and a significant success for a Black family in Durham.

Only nine days after they acquired title to the property, Dempsey and Emma Henderson sold a 2-acre parcel of their property to 68-year-old Ovid Jordan for \$1. An enslaved blacksmith and foreman at the Stagville Plantation, Jordan and his family had

⁴³ Minutes of the Durham Board of Commissioners, 2 July 1872.

⁴⁴ Potter and Boland, *National Register Bulletin* 41, 4–5.

⁴⁵ There is no discussion of a graveyard, cemetery, or burial ground in the Board of Commissioners prior to October 8, 1872. Neither is there any prior discussion of Mr. Willard, which likely refers to William H. Willard. Jean Bradley Anderson states in note 21 on page 485 of *Durham County: A History of Durham County, North Carolina* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2011), "In 1872, the aldermen had purchased an unspecified amount of land for a graveyard. It cost \$150." Anderson's source for this statement is an October 8, 1872, entry in the Street Book in the City Clerk's Office. Exhaustive research has produced no deed or other legal instrument documenting such a transaction. Given that the November 7, 1872, and January 6, 1873, minutes of the Board of Commissioners indicate that the cemetery committee was to continue acting under prior instructions, it appears as though the \$150 deal with Willard did not transpire, leading the board to pursue other alternatives. The inclusion of this reference in the minutes, translated into a purported action in the late-twentieth-century historical narrative, is the likely source of the local tradition that Maplewood Cemetery was officially opened in 1872, contrary to the legal record in real estate transactions.

⁴⁶ The Board of Commissioner meeting minutes record no subsequent mention of the cemetery committee through June 9, 1873. There is a significant gap in the records from June 9, 1873, until May 5, 1881. There are no minutes for this period in the original ledgers or on microfilm, suggesting that the minutes may have been lost before they were microfilmed.

⁴⁷ Orange County Register of Deeds, June 18, 1873, Deed Book 42, 494–95.

⁴⁸ "Landless People: Sharecroppers and Tenants," *Bull City 150*, https://www.bullcity150.org/landless_people/, accessed August 24, 2023.

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remained with Paul Cameron in the years immediately following emancipation before Jordan and his wife, Ellen, returned with their family to Mangum Township, northeast of Durham, circa 1870. After they acquired property from the Hendersons, the Jordans moved their household to their West End property.⁴⁹

In late 1873 or early 1874, Henderson had the remaining 91 acres surveyed and at least partially laid out into lots. Henderson sold five additional parcels from his acreage in early 1874. On April 1, he sold Lot 3, containing 2 acres, to Wiley Mitchell for \$50.⁵⁰ That same day, he sold Lot 1, containing 0.75 acre, to his eldest son, 23-year-old Turner Henderson, for \$37.50.⁵¹ On May 6, Henderson appears to have gifted his second son, 20-year-old Welsey Henderson, a 0.5-acre parcel of land.⁵² On July 29 and December 23, Henderson sold two parcels, totaling 4 acres, to local industrialist William T. Blackwell for \$120.⁵³

On December 20, 1874, Dempsey and Emma Henderson sold a 5-acre parcel of land to the Town of Durham for “the purpose of cemetery or burying ground,” in what was certainly intended by the buyers as being reserved for white burials. The Hendersons received \$125 for the property.⁵⁴ This was the first documented acquisition of property for a white municipal cemetery in Durham.

Establishment and Early History of the City Cemetery

The original layout of the newly established municipal cemetery for whites likely conformed closely to its current appearance, with the roughly rectangular parcel bisected by an unpaved lane running east–west nearly parallel with Morehead Avenue. Two evenly spaced north–south lanes terminating in another east–west lane near the north side of the property further divided the parcel into six blocks. An irregularly shaped seventh block occupied the area beyond the northern east–west lane. The land was relatively level, providing suitable space for burials. In the autumn of 1875, the cemetery committee enclosed the property (presumably with a fence).⁵⁵ In January 1876, the cemetery committee erected a gate at the entrance to the cemetery.⁵⁶

Establishment of the cemetery and the town’s industrial and commercial progress led to growth in related businesses. W. E. Wilson established the Durham Marble Works in 1878. The company sold monuments of American and Italian marble and advertised tombs, head and foot stones, and statuary, among other goods. In 1882, Robert I. Rogers succeeded Wilson as proprietor.⁵⁷

The town’s consistent industrial growth through the 1870s and early 1880s spurred a corresponding growth in the population. In 1870, the county’s population totaled 17,507, with 11,087 white residents and 6,420 People of Color.⁵⁸ By 1881, the Town

⁴⁹ Orange County Register of Deeds, June 27, 1873, Deed Book 41, 512; see also “Are there any other documents confirming what Abner Jordan says?” *Durham Beginnings*, <https://durhambeginnings.wordpress.com/2015/03/24/are-there-any-other-documents-confirming-what-abner-jordan-says/>, accessed November 11, 2023. Ovid Jordan’s given name is alternately spelled Ovit and Obed. The 1870 Population Census records 65-year-old Ovit and 50-year-old Ellen Jordan as living in Mangum Township, northeast of Durham. The 1880 Population Census records Obed and Ellen Jordan as living only two families away from Dempsey and Emma Henderson. Among their household was their 22-year-old son, Abner Jordan. The Cameron family enslaved Obed, a blacksmith, and Ellen Jordan, and their children were born into slavery at Stagville. Upon emancipation, the Jordans remained at Stagville until 1870, when they moved with the Cameron family to Hillsborough. Interestingly, the Jordans were the first emancipated people of color to whom Dempsey and Emma Henderson sold property. The fact that Dempsey Henderson almost immediately sold property to Obed Jordan, who was also enslaved by the Camerons at Stagville, appears significant. It also seems significant that this was the first action he made upon finalizing the sale with the Morris heirs, and that the sale was for \$1 with no other compensation mentioned in the deed.

⁵⁰ Orange County Register of Deeds, April 1, 1874, Deed Book 42, 329.

⁵¹ Orange County Register of Deeds, April 1, 1874, Deed Book 42, 330.

⁵² Orange County Register of Deeds, May 6, 1874, Deed Book 42, 331.

⁵³ Orange County Register of Deeds, July 29, 1874, Deed Book 42, 446–47; see also Orange County Register of Deeds, December 23, 1874, Deed Book 43, 78.

⁵⁴ Orange County Register of Deeds, December 20, 1874, Deed Book 43, 84–85.

⁵⁵ “Local Items,” *The Tobacco Plant* (Durham, NC), September 8, 1875, 3.

⁵⁶ “Local Items,” *The Tobacco Plant*, January 19, 1876, 3.

⁵⁷ Branson, *Directory for 1887*, 4.

⁵⁸ Levi Branson, *Branson’s Business Directory for 1872* (Raleigh: J. A. Jones, Publisher, 1874), 178.

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of Durham's population was 2,100. Only six years later, it more than tripled to 7,128.⁵⁹ On April 8, 1885, Dempsey and Emma Henderson sold an additional 10.25 acres to the Town of Durham for \$2,000. The land extended east from present-day Kent Street.⁶⁰ This expansion of the cemetery enabled the city to add a potter's field, where they interred white paupers and others who were unable to acquire private burial plots.⁶¹ In August 1885, the city's Health Officer, Dr. Albert G. Carr, advised that public health considerations warranted a more systematic and formal process for permitting burials in the city cemetery.⁶²

In at least the first decade of its existence, the cemetery did not issue deeds to those who purchased plots.⁶³ It was managed by the city, who hired a sexton to oversee the sale of plots and burials. For the first 30 years, it was called the City Cemetery in meeting minutes and newspaper articles.⁶⁴ Although death certificates were not required by the state until 1913, the Cemetery Committee of the Board of Aldermen reported the number of deaths among the white and non-white populations once a month, which were recorded in the board's meeting minutes. In 1886, there were 55 interments in the City Cemetery,⁶⁵ and from May 1887 through April 1888, there were 71 interments.⁶⁶

Through the 1880s and 1890s, Durham's leaders demonstrated care for the cemetery as a public amenity. In the late 1880s, the Cemetery Committee was authorized to purchase and plant trees throughout the burial ground to improve its appearance.⁶⁷ In November 1898, the Board of Aldermen ordered shrubs for the cemetery.⁶⁸ In 1899, Durham's leaders updated its code of ordinances to better address public health matters, including the condition of streets and sidewalks, the piping of water and sewerage, and to more comprehensively formalize oversight of the cemetery. The Board of Aldermen created the position of sexton to manage the cemetery. Among the sexton's duties was maintaining a log of all burials that included the name, age, cause of death, and burial date of each decedent. The sexton was also responsible for laying out the burial lots and collecting fees from the sale of lots as well as to approve and be present for the digging of all graves.⁶⁹

Through the late nineteenth century, Dempsey and Emma Henderson continued to reside on their property in the West End, while their children carved their own futures in the community. By 1887, Wesley Henderson was a butler for Thomas D. Jones and continued to live in his house on Chapel Hill Street on property that he had purchased from his father. Wesley Henderson went on to become the pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church in the Hayti neighborhood.⁷⁰ Hayti, located southeast of the West End neighborhood, was a self-sufficient Black community established after the Civil War. The community grew to become the social and cultural center of Durham, and the economic impact of its Black-owned businesses, such as the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and Mechanics & Farmers Bank, was felt statewide. By 1897, Wesley and his wife Henrietta had moved to Pettigrew Street in Hayti. Dempsey and Emma Henderson's sons Turner and Walker, and daughter Laura continued to live in the West End neighborhood near Dempsey and Emma Henderson.⁷¹

Durham's Jewish Citizens and the Establishment of Hebrew Cemetery

The first Jewish people to settle in Durham were a few immigrants from Germany and eastern Europe who were merchants in the small community.⁷² As the town's tobacco industry expanded, Durham's Jewish community also grew through the 1880s. At the time, cigarette manufacturing in the United States was still young, and the few large-scale cigarette manufacturers in the

⁵⁹ Branson, *Directory for 1887*, 12.

⁶⁰ Durham County Register of Deeds, April 8, 1885, Deed Book 6, 120-122.

⁶¹ "More About Typhoid Fever," *The Tobacco Plant*, July 27, 1887, 3. The exact location of the potter's field is unknown, but it may have been located east of Kent Street at the northern end of the cemetery, away from Morehead Avenue.

⁶² "Health Officer's Report," *The Tobacco Plant*, August 5, 1885, 3.

⁶³ "Local Items," *The Tobacco Plant*, March 8, 1876, 3.

⁶⁴ "Death of Hon. B. Fuller," *The Durham Recorder*, November 29, 1882, 2.

⁶⁵ Untitled article, *The Tobacco Plant*, January 12, 1887, 5.

⁶⁶ "Interments at the Cemetery [sic]," *The Tobacco Plant*, May 2, 1888, 3.

⁶⁷ Untitled article, *The Tobacco Plant*, December 6, 1888, 1.

⁶⁸ "Town Matters," *The Durham Sun*, November 11, 1898, 4.

⁶⁹ "New City Ordinances," *The Durham Sun*, September 19, 1899, 2.

⁷⁰ D. C. Magnum, *Mangum's Directory of Durham and Suburbs, 1897* (Durham, NC: The Educator Company, 1897), 30.

⁷¹ Magnum, *Directory 1897*, 117.

⁷² "History," Beth El Synagogue, electronic document, <https://betheldurham.org/history/>, accessed 30 August 2023; see also Ven Carver, "100 Years of Jewish Tradition: Founding of Durham Synagogue Celebrated," *Durham Morning Herald*, September 27, 1987, D1.

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country were based in New York and Virginia. Lacking a local workforce knowledgeable about the mass production of hand-rolled cigarettes, Durham's tobacco manufacturers looked farther afield for this expertise. To expand into the growing cigarette market, the manufacturers traveled to New York to seek out Jewish immigrants with the knowledge and skills to produce their new products. Brothers Joseph M. and David Siegel, Jewish workers originally from Russia who had been trained in Kovno and St. Petersburg and who had worked in London before moving to New York, were engaged to supervise the new production. In 1881, the Duke factory hired J. M. Siegel, while David Siegel worked for William T. Blackwell's American Tobacco Company. Two years later, the Siegel brothers founded their own eponymous cigarette factory in Durham, where they produced "Cablegram Cigarettes."⁷³ Some sources suggest that more than 100 members of the Jewish faith came to Durham at this time to work in the tobacco industry.⁷⁴

According to historian Leonard Rogoff, these newcomers to Durham were primarily young eastern European and Russian Jewish émigrés. Many had families, and most of them settled in the area around Pine Street, south of downtown Durham. Known as "Yiddisha Streetal, the neighborhood was close to Washington Duke's two-story, wood-frame cigarette factory.⁷⁵ Despite their high productivity, the cigarette rollers could not keep up with the public's demand and had to train local workers in the trade. In 1884, Duke began to phase out hand-rolled cigarettes in favor of those produced by machine-rolling. The Jewish workers, whose experience with European labor advocacy and the unions of the northern United States, responded by organizing a local chapter of the Cigarmakers' Progressive Union. Within a few months, the local chapter's membership totaled 70 people, most of whom had come to Durham via New York. Duke fought the union's efforts and ultimately phased out union labor in favor of local employees who were less likely to organize.⁷⁶

The first civic-oriented organization of Durham's Jewish citizens dates to the 1884 with the formation of a burial committee.⁷⁷ The Hebrew congregation was officially organized in 1887. Jacob Levy, Meyer Summerfield, Samuel Lehman, A. Mohsberg, D. L. Kaufman, and Isaad Gradwahl were among the congregation's founding members, and the first services were held in borrowed spaces in commercial buildings in downtown Durham.⁷⁸ In the mid-1880s, Levy, Summerfield, Lehman, and Mohsberg acquired a 50 foot by 100 foot parcel of land along Morehead Avenue east of the municipal cemetery to use as a burial ground for the Hebrew congregation.⁷⁹ Jacob Levy's seven-year-old daughter, Idalia "Ida" Levy was the first to be buried in the cemetery on February 5, 1888.⁸⁰

In the summer of 1892, the Hebrew congregation approached the Board of Aldermen with a request to set aside a portion of land on Morehead Avenue, adjacent to the existing Hebrew Cemetery, for additional interments. The Aldermen referred the matter to the board's cemetery committee.⁸¹ Seven years later, on April 13, 1899, the Durham Hebrew Congregation acquired

⁷³ "The Story of Tobacco," unpublished manuscript in the collection of the Durham County Public Library's North Carolina Collection subject files, n.p; see also Leonard Rogoff, "Jewish Proletarians in the New South: The Durham Cigarette Rollers," *American Jewish History* 82, no. 1/4 (1994): 142–144, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23885660>; see also Branson, *Directory of the Business and Citizens of Durham City for 1887*, 177; see also Hiram V. Paul, *History of the Town of Durham, N. C., Embracing Biographical Sketches and Engravings of Leading Business Men* (Raleigh, North Carolina: Edwards, Broughton & Company, 1884), 118.

⁷⁴ Liora Moriel, "Two-Tiered Temple: Innovative Synagogue Celebrates Centennial," *Spectator Magazine*, September 24, 1987, 35.

⁷⁵ Rogoff, "Jewish Proletarians in the New South," 145. Rogoff refers to this area as the "Bottoms," but it is not clear if this is considered the same "Bottoms" as the area described by Pauli Murray in *Proud Shoes* or if there was more than one area to which the moniker applied during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The area around Pine Street was largely demolished for the East-West Expressway in the late twentieth century. It appears to be in the general area around the Forest Hill Heights public housing complex, which was constructed in 1981.

⁷⁶ Rogoff, "Jewish Proletarians in the New South," 146–148. Contextualizing the late-nineteenth-century labor organizing efforts of tobacco workers is outside the scope of this nomination.

⁷⁷ *Report of the Building Committee of the Beth-El Congregation Upon Completion of the Beth-El Synagogue* (Durham, NC: Beth El Synagogue, 1921), 4.

⁷⁸ "Synagogue History," unpublished manuscript in the collection of the Durham County Public Library's North Carolina Collection subject files, 1.

⁷⁹ "Synagogue History," 5. Although preparers have not located this deed, a subsequent deed, dated 1899, refers to the pre-existing cemetery.

⁸⁰ "Local Laconics," *The Durham Recorder*, February 6, 1888, 4; see also "Idalja Alberta Levy," <http://durhamhebrewcemetery.org/details.php?id=116>.

⁸¹ "Of The Town Dads!" *The Durham Daily Globe*, August 3, 1892, 1.

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from the city 12,500 square feet of land to the north and west of the existing cemetery for additional burials.⁸² Expansion of the cemetery was necessary due to the growth of the Jewish community in Durham. Even members of the Jewish faith from outside Durham County were occasionally buried in Durham's Hebrew cemetery. In July 1899, the body of 65-year-old Henderson resident Lewis Bieder was transported 45 miles to Durham for burial, indicating the importance of the Durham's Hebrew Cemetery to the wider region.⁸³

The congregation established its first synagogue in 1904, when it acquired a former Christian church for services. In 1905, the congregation created the Society for the Relief of Strangers. The Talmud Torah, an organization dedicated to instructing children in the Hebrew language, was formed in 1910. Three years later, the congregation created the Ladies' Relief Society. In 1914, several men in the Durham Hebrew Congregation Company established Durham Lodge #340, Independent Order of B'rith Sholom, a social and benevolent organization that provided insurance and burial benefits for its members.⁸⁴

Internal feuding led to a split within the congregation early in 1916, when several members of the Durham Hebrew Congregation Company split off to form Bas Yakov. The new organization lasted less than a year, with its members rejoining the original congregation in late 1916.⁸⁵ On May 1, 1916, the Durham Lodge #340 acquired an additional 0.3 acres to the west of the existing cemetery from the City of Durham.⁸⁶ The congregation elected to sell the synagogue in 1918 to embark on the construction of a new building. Designed by the Charlotte-based architect C. C. Hook, the new building was completed in 1921. In April of that year, the Board of Directors of the Durham Hebrew Congregation Company changed the organization's name to Beth El Synagogue, Inc.⁸⁷ In 1927, Durham Lodge #340 transferred title to the western portion of the cemetery to Beth El Synagogue.⁸⁸ Although its date of construction is not known, the congregation erected a wood frame chapel in the cemetery prior to 1937. The non-extant building was one story tall and situated slightly south of the center of the cemetery (Figure 2).⁸⁹

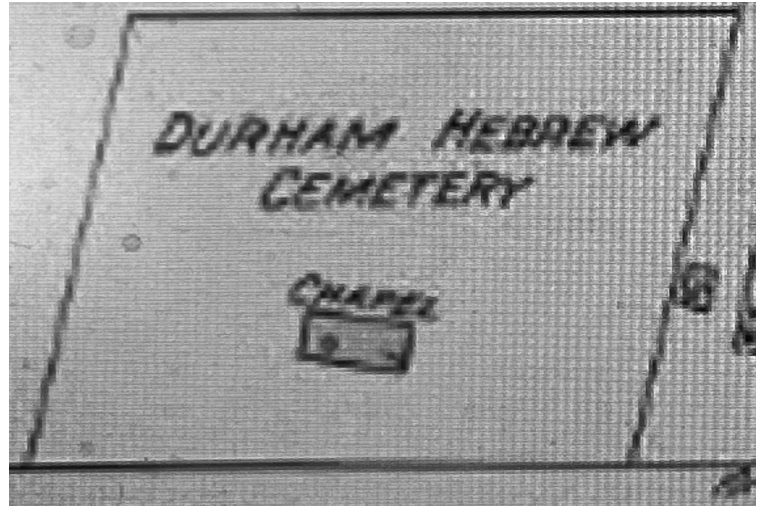


Figure 2: Detail of page 226 of the 1937 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Durham, Durham County, North Carolina*, depicting the non-extant chapel in the Hebrew Cemetery.

Durham's Racially Segregated Burial Grounds

Dempsey Henderson died on September 22, 1898. G. C. Farthing served as administrator of his estate, which was in receivership, with Jones Fuller as receiver. Fuller's responsibilities included the sale of Henderson's land to pay off debts. In late June 1899, Robert G. Fitzgerald purchased a parcel of land "near the Hebrew Cemetery" from the estate of Dempsey Henderson for \$275. It had been planned for sale on June 19th but was postponed by court order. The parcel contained "3 35-100 acres."⁹⁰

⁸² Durham County Register of Deeds, April 13, 1899, Deed Book 20, 33–35. Although the exact dimensions of the original cemetery have not been located in a deed, its size may be extrapolated from the legal description of the parcel acquired in April 1899.

⁸³ "Buried In Hebrew Cemetery," *Durham Daily Sun*, July 15, 1899, 1.

⁸⁴ *Report of the Building Committee of the Beth-El Congregation*, 5. The Independent Order of B'rith Sholom was founded in 1905 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

⁸⁵ "Synagogue History," 4.

⁸⁶ Durham County Register of Deeds, May 1, 1916, Deed Book 50, 461.

⁸⁷ "Synagogue History," 2; see also *Report of the Building Committee of the Beth-El Congregation*, 6.

⁸⁸ "Synagogue History," 6.

⁸⁹ Sanborn Map Company, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Durham, Durham County, North Carolina* (Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1937), 226.

⁹⁰ "Land Sold Today," *Durham Daily Sun*, June 29, 1899, 4.

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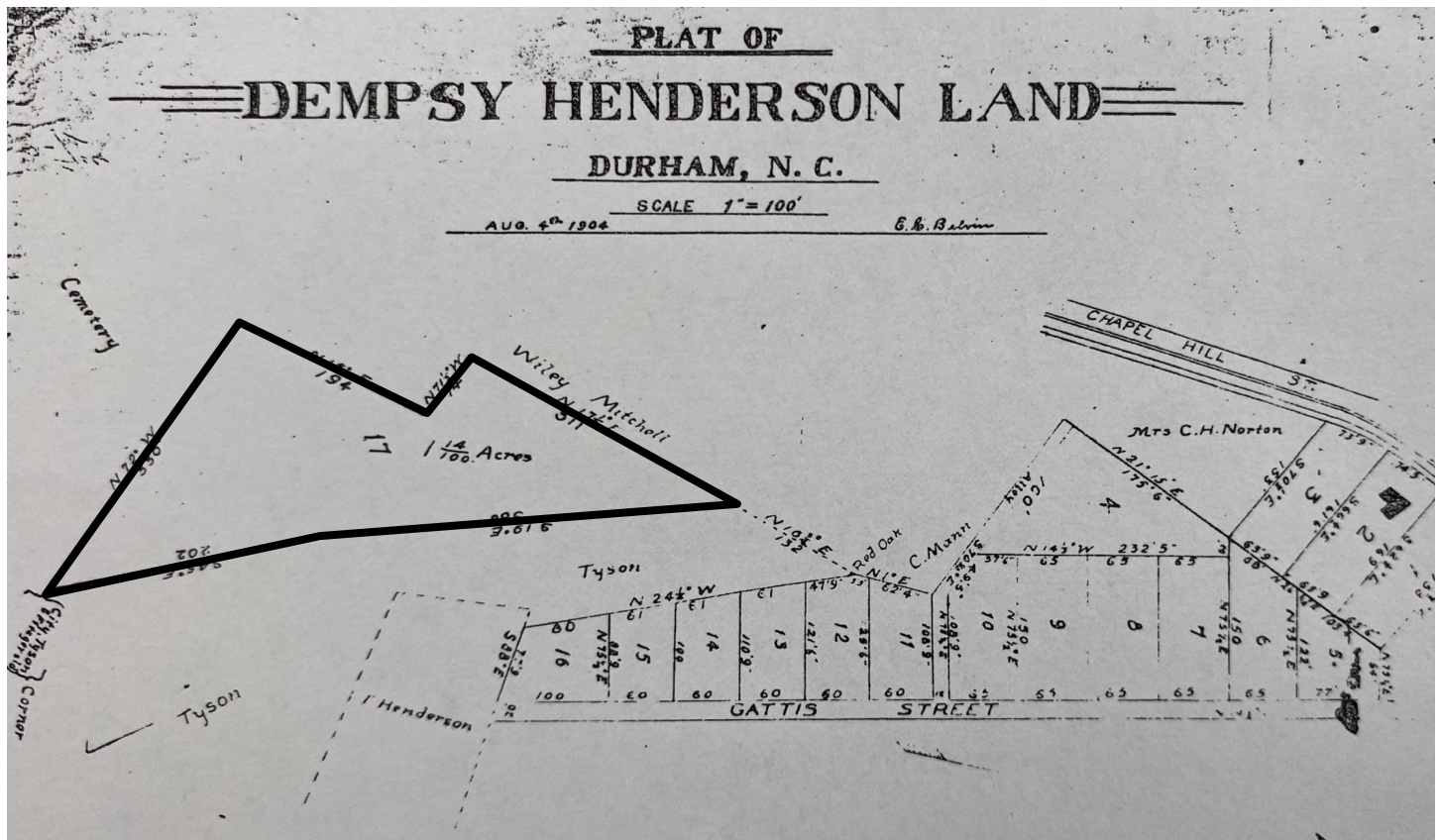


Figure 3: 1904 Plat of Dempsey Henderson's Land at Gattis and Chapel Hill streets, showing the 1.14-acre lot, outlined in black, adjacent to the Maplewood Cemetery that served as a family and community cemetery.

A plat dated 1904 illustrated the subdivision of lots (Figure 3) on Dempsey Henderson's residual acreage.⁹¹ While the exact location of his house is unknown, a 1.14-acre parcel of land at the center of the plat likely denoted the location of the Henderson Family Cemetery. While it is possible that the Henderson Family Cemetery pre-dates 1898, the first known burial is that of Dempsey Henderson.⁹²

Although this small burial ground was named for the Henderson family, it functioned as a community cemetery for many of Durham's Black and mixed-race citizens during the long period of *de jure* and *de facto* racial segregation from the nineteenth century through the third quarter of the twentieth century. Durham had several racially segregated cemeteries for its Black and mixed-race citizens following the Civil War. Established in 1877 off present-day Avondale Drive, Geer Cemetery (extant) began as a small burial ground that was enlarged in 1887. Geer was the largest cemetery for Durham's people of color. Located northeast of downtown Durham and Hayti, Geer cemetery was privately owned and managed by a cemetery association. The whites-only City Cemetery on Morehead Avenue was owned and managed by the municipal government, which, despite the city's emphasis on public health, provided no such public accommodations for Durham's non-white population.

Other privately managed cemeteries for Black and mixed-race people in and around Durham included those in Violet Park and Hickstown, both of which are non-extant. The roughly 0.5-acre Violet Park cemetery, which held over 1900 graves, was located at the intersection of Concord and Moline Streets to the south of downtown. The burials were reinterred in the Beechwood Cemetery in the early 1970s. The New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in the Hickstown community occupied roughly 3 acres and contained over 1000 graves on the north side of Crest Street in northwest Durham. After a protracted

⁹¹ Durham County Register of Deeds, August 4, 1904, Plat Book 2, 92.

⁹² "Henderson Family," Cemetery Census, electronic document, <https://www.cemeterycensus.org/nc/durham/cem288.htm>, accessed August 31, 2023. Per the information included on the website, research on the graves was completed by Estelle Clark.

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legal battle with local and state officials, in which supporters of the cemetery and the surrounding neighborhood fought the Urban Renewal program that resulted in the East–West Expressway, the New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery was relocated less than a mile away to New Bethel Gardens in 1983. Both cemeteries were situated at the outer edges of the city.

On February 1, 1904, attorney Jones Fuller appeared before the Durham Board of Commissioners representing a petition signed by the city’s people of color asking for city leaders to provide them with a public cemetery, as the city had done for its white residents 30 years earlier. The petition stated:

The present Cemetery is now filled and we have no place in which to bury our dead. We are obliged to buy a few feet of ground in some isolated part of the suburbs of the City for each individual. The city is asked to buy a lot and let it remain in charge of the City with regulations similar to those that obtain [sic] in the case of the Cemetery for white people We want a place where all our dead may be buried together and not be scattered as they now must be.⁹³

It is not currently known if “present Cemetery” referred to one of the city’s Black cemeteries or, perhaps, meant all of them collectively. Historical records suggest that all the segregated cemeteries that functioned as community burial grounds were full by the turn of the twentieth century. Interestingly, by 1904, the white-only City Cemetery contained more than 15 acres in one location, while the Black cemeteries totaled less than 10 acres scattered throughout the city for a county-wide population that, in 1906, was slightly more than half of the white population.⁹⁴ Exacerbating the problem of inadequate burial grounds was the overall mortality rate among Durham’s Black and mixed-race people in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Minutes of the Board of Aldermen’s meeting during the early twentieth century indicate that the city’s Black and mixed-race residents were more severely affected by diseases such as cholera, small pox, dysentery, malaria, pellagra, pneumonia, and tuberculosis. That nearly half of the 95 interments in the Henderson Family Cemetery were for children under the age of two, with many being for stillborn infants and babies of a few months old, suggests that infant mortality was also higher among the city’s non-white population.

In the 1904 plea for a municipal cemetery for Black citizens, attorney Fuller indicated that this same issue had previously been presented to the board and that the matter was tabled until suitable land could be identified. It appears as though no action was taken following the prior request. Upon the current request, the board referred the matter to Aldermen Christian and Proctor. The city ultimately did not fulfill the request. Within the next year, the organization that managed Geer Cemetery acquired one additional acre of land for its expansion. Whether Christian and Proctor had any role in negotiating the transaction expanding Geer Cemetery is unknown.

Geer Cemetery’s enlargement in 1905 was insufficient to meet the Black community’s burial needs in the first quarter of the twentieth century. Private family cemeteries continued to serve Black and mixed-race citizens across the city. Prior research on the Henderson Family Cemetery indicates that it is the burial place of at least 95 people. Those interred represent at least 63 surnames. Among the interments are nine members of the Henderson family related by blood or marriage and five members of the Rogers family. Fourteen families have two or three members buried in the Henderson Family Cemetery.⁹⁵ In the Henderson Family Cemetery, all but 3 of the 95 burials date from the period 1909 to 1923, and most occurred between 1914 and 1920. Ten or more burials occurred in the Henderson Family Cemetery in 1914, 1917, and 1918. Of the 95 interred, 45 are infants and children under two years old, most of whom appear to have no other known family members interred in the cemetery.⁹⁶

⁹³ Minutes of the Board of Aldermen, February 1, 1904. On microfilm at the Durham County Public Library, North Carolina Collection.

⁹⁴ *The North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory, 1906* (Raleigh, NC: News & Observer, 1906), 230.

⁹⁵ *North Carolina Year Book*, 230.

⁹⁶ *North Carolina Year Book*, 230.

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The Fitzgerald Family Cemetery was another private cemetery contiguous to the City Cemetery that served as a segregated community burial ground. In 1879, Richard Burton Fitzgerald purchased 37.4 acres of land from F. C. Geer for \$467.⁹⁷ Delaware natives Richard Burton Fitzgerald and his brother, Robert George Fitzgerald (1840–1919) moved to North Carolina from Pennsylvania. The Fitzgerald brothers were the sons of Thomas Charles Fitzgerald, a Black man who had been manumitted from enslavement in 1832, and Sarah Ann Burton, who was white. Robert was a veteran of both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy in the Civil War, while Richard served as a contract laborer for the U.S. Army during the war.

In March 1917, Richard Burton Fitzgerald subdivided a portion of his 37.4 acres into 76 lots (**Figure 4**).⁹⁸ The plat identified the segregated white cemetery to the south of the Fitzgerald property. It also labeled Lot 29 of the Fitzgerald subdivision, which fronted Kent Street, as a cemetery. Lot 32, which sat west of and abutted Lot 29, was not labeled as a cemetery on the plat, even though it also held numerous burials. By 1917, when Fitzgerald had the plat drawn up, the two lots held nine graves.⁹⁹

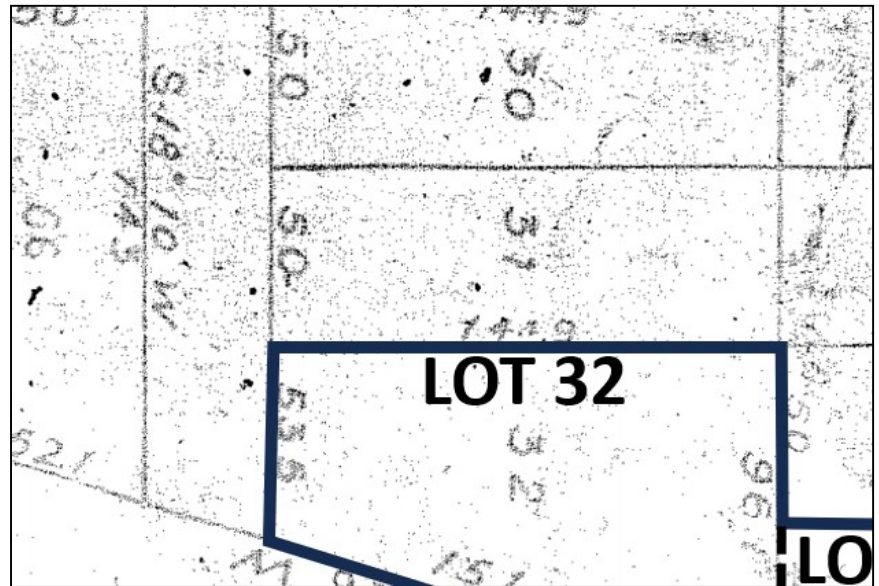


Figure 4: Detail of the March 1917 plat of Richard Burton Fitzgerald's property, titled *Map of Division of Fitzgerald Tract*, showing lots 29 and 32, which were already in use as a cemetery.

Like the Henderson Family Cemetery, the cemetery on the Fitzgerald property accommodated many people of color in Durham. Documentation indicates that at least 65 family names are represented by those interred, with at least 37 being children and infants of two years old or younger.¹⁰⁰ The earliest documented burial dates to 1872, when Daniel J. Fitzgerald, son of Richard Burton and Sally A. Fitzgerald, died at only two weeks old. Interestingly, interments in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery were rare in the 1910s. Only three people were buried in the cemetery in 1916 and 1917, with another four interred in 1918, during a period of substantial community use of the Henderson Family Cemetery. In 1922, seven people were buried in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery. In that same year, there were only two burials in the Henderson Family Cemetery. Interments in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery increased through the 1920s as they simultaneously dropped off in the Henderson Family Cemetery. In 1924 alone, there were 15 burials in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery, with another 13 in 1926 and 1927. The historical record has not presented any explanation for this apparent shift in the community's use of the Henderson Family Cemetery to the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery. Given the size of each and the number of burials they hold, it is entirely possible and quite likely that the Henderson Family Cemetery, like Geer Cemetery, had become so overcrowded that Black Durhamites, lacking other options, more frequently approached members of the Fitzgerald family for use of their private cemetery.

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⁹⁷ Orange County Register of Deeds, September 29, 1879, Deed Book 46, 226. The legal description of the parcel includes the portion of the City Cemetery lying between present-day Chapel Hill Road and Kent Street, suggesting that Richard Burton Fitzgerald also acquired the land containing the white cemetery. Researching the title back one step to Geer's acquisition of the property from J. T. Driver on March 6, 1878, and recorded in Durham County Register of Deeds Deed Book 45, 340, reveals that the land that Fitzgerald acquired excluded the cemetery. After the description of the boundary, the March 6, 1878, deed states "containing forty three and nine tenths acres, but of this amount the said Dempsey Henderson had sold six and half acres the same being and lying on the Chapel Hill Road." The discrepancy between the 5 acres acquired by the city in 1874 and the mention in 1878 of 6.5 acres has not been reconciled. It is worth noting that 43.9 acres less 6.5 acres results in the 37.4 acres mentioned in the September 29, 1879, deed from Geer to Fitzgerald.

⁹⁸ Durham County Register of Deeds, March 1917, Plat Book 3A, 61; see also "Fitzgerald, Pauli Murray Family," Cemetery Census, electronic document <https://cemeterycensus.com/nc/durh/cem048.htm>, accessed 1 September 2023.

⁹⁹ It is not presently known if burials occurred on other subdivided lots within the Fitzgerald tract. Research to date has not uncovered any references to burials elsewhere on the larger Fitzgerald property.

¹⁰⁰ "Fitzgerald, Pauli Murray Family."

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Durham's family and community cemeteries remained strictly segregated through the mid-twentieth century. In 1921, complaints of African Americans who lived in the area around Maplewood Cemetery "trespassing" on the cemetery grounds reached the City Council, who ordered that barbed wire be "stretched across the fence on Morehead Avenue to prevent the negroes from passing through the cemetery." They further instructed all trespassers in the cemetery to be arrested.¹⁰¹ In 1922, the city erected a fence around Maplewood Cemetery to prevent trespassers. According to the local newspaper:

The new fence will be erected around the old cemetery where there is no fence now and will also be used in a portion of the newly acquired cemetery. By putting up the fence, the using of the cemetery by negroes and other persons who have been in the daily habit of walking through on their way to and from work will be stopped. This has been the source of much complaint on the part of owners of lots in the cemetery, especially because of the manner in which the negroes were using it for their convenience. All of the paths leading to and from the property, except in the regular gateways, will be blocked by the erection of the fence.¹⁰²

Erected around the perimeter of Maplewood Cemetery, the fence isolated the Henderson and Fitzgerald cemeteries, making them inaccessible. The north and east sides of the Henderson Family Cemetery were heavily overgrown with trees and thick underbrush, precluding access from these directions. Descendants' access to the Henderson Family Cemetery was further complicated by the city's acquisition of the property in the 1930s. As a result of the change in ownership, the resulting lack of maintenance, and installation of physical barriers, conditions in the Henderson Family Cemetery declined. The underbrush grew uncontrolled, obscuring visibility and leading to the deterioration and loss of grave markers. Although the Fitzgerald Cemetery remained in the family's ownership through the third quarter of the twentieth century, access remained difficult, particularly during the height of its use as a community cemetery in the mid-1920s, because the fencing made accessing the rear portion of the cemetery particularly challenging.

A July 29, 1925, newspaper article featured the city manager's opinion that Black Durhamites were "entitled to consideration by the city, as much so as the white," in the burial of their departed loved ones. On July 3, 1926, Durham attorney J. Lathrop Morehead appeared before the Durham City Council with a petition that the city take over administration of Geer Cemetery and operate it as a publicly managed African American cemetery or acquire more land to expand the burial ground or create a new cemetery for the city's Black residents.¹⁰³ The petitioners' preference was to locate a new cemetery near the Hayti community, "where it will be convenient to the colored people for funerals and where they can conveniently look after it."¹⁰⁴ Attorney Morehead addressed the Board of Aldermen again on September 20, 1926, to advocate for the city's acquisition and management of Geer Cemetery.¹⁰⁵ Representatives appointed by the Durham Branch of the National Negro Business League were also present at the meeting to appeal to elected officials for the acquisition and maintenance of a new cemetery for the city's African Americans.¹⁰⁶ White residents living near Geer Cemetery submitted their own petition requesting that no additional land be purchased for its expansion.¹⁰⁷ On December 8, 1926, the City of Durham purchased 24.79 acres on Fayetteville Road from R. L. and Mattie Louis McDougald and E. D. and Dora Green, two prominent African American couples in Durham, for approximately \$9,600.¹⁰⁸ The new African American cemetery was named Beechwood.

¹⁰¹ "Lively Session Featured The Regular Meeting Of The City Council Last Night," *The Herald-Sun*, December 6, 1921, 14.

¹⁰² "Fence Company To Send Man To City," *The Herald-Sun*, August 16, 1922: 5. The fence, or a later replacement of it, was finally removed between 2016 and 2019.

¹⁰³ Durham City Council Minutes, July 3, 1926. Record Book Q, Page 27. Durham City Hall, Durham, North Carolina.

¹⁰⁴ "Meeting Called by Negro League: New Negro Cemetery To Be Considered at Meeting Next Tuesday Night," *The Herald-Sun*, 5 September 1926.

¹⁰⁵ Durham City Council Minutes, September 20, 1926, Record Book Q, Page 42-43.

¹⁰⁶ Durham City Council Minutes, September 20, 1926, Record Book Q, Page 42-43.

¹⁰⁷ Durham City Council Minutes, September 20, 1926, Record Book Q, Page 42-43.

¹⁰⁸ Durham County Deed Book 85, Page 53; "Negro Cemetery Site Will Be Bought Soon," *The Herald-Sun*, 3 December 1926; "Numerous Deeds Filed for Record Wednesday; Several Tracts of Land Were Transferred to City of Durham," *The Herald-Sun*, 3 February 1927.

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Even with the necessary property secured for the new African American cemetery, the city's extensive survey and preparation work progressed slowly over the next two years, and Beechwood Cemetery was not available for burials until late 1928. Local officials never formally announced the cemetery's opening, but local newspapers provided updates to the public throughout 1928. Although an early January 1928, newspaper article indicated that Beechwood Cemetery would likely be open within a month, it wasn't until later that year that it was open for burials.¹⁰⁹

Although its motivation is presently unknown, the City of Durham acquired a portion of the Henderson Family Cemetery from descendants of Dempsey Henderson's son, Turner. In October 1935, Turner J. Henderson Jr. and his wife, Matilda, and Murphy Henderson sold a portion of the cemetery lot to the city.¹¹⁰ By 1935, Murphy Henderson had relocated to Seattle, Washington, leaving only Turner Jr. and Mathilda in Durham. Murphy Henderson died in 1937, leaving Turner Jr. the sole remaining heir of their father. In 1937, Turner and Mathilda Henderson deeded the remainder of Lot 17 to the City.¹¹¹ After the city's acquisition of the property, which had already been physically separated from Maplewood Cemetery by the chain-link fence, conditions deteriorated due to lack of maintenance. Through the mid-twentieth century, the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery remained under private ownership.

Maplewood Cemetery Through the Twentieth Century

Despite the city's care for Maplewood Cemetery through the 1890s, its condition had rapidly deteriorated by 1900, leading at least one citizen to complain of the overgrown weeds and inability to identify grave sites.¹¹² In 1901, the City of Durham annexed most of the municipal cemetery east of Kent Street during a phase of physical growth that expanded its corporate limits from 1 square mile to 3.89 square miles.¹¹³ The municipal cemetery was known as "city cemetery" and "Durham



Figure 5: Circa 1915 postcard of Maplewood Cemetery, showing view west at the entrance along present-day Kent Street into the original section of the cemetery. The location of the 1893–1894 Duke Mausoleum is indicated by the arrow.

¹⁰⁹ "Cemetery for Colored People be Opened Soon," *Durham Morning-Herald*, January 8, 1928, ; see also "New Negro Cemetery Ready for use Soon: Fayetteville Street Burying Ground to be Opened," *Durham Morning Herald*, March 7, 1928, .

¹¹⁰ Durham County Register of Deeds, October 10, 1935, Deed Book 117, 219.

¹¹¹ Durham County Register of Deeds, August 21, 1937, Deed Book 124, 254.

¹¹² "Condition of Cemetery," *The Durham Sun*, May 10, 1900, 4.

¹¹³ "Durham, North Carolina: Annexation Map," *Digital Durham*, electronic document <https://digitaldurham.duke.edu/hueism.php?x=map&id=550>, accessed November 16, 2023.

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Cemetery” from its founding through the turn of the twentieth century. Efforts to formally name the cemetery dated at least to 1897, with no action by city leaders.¹¹⁴ In January 1904, the Board of Aldermen accepted the recommendation of an ad hoc committee and renamed the city cemetery Maplewood Cemetery.¹¹⁵ During this period, the city’s oversight of Maplewood Cemetery continued in the usual fashion, with oversight by the cemetery committee of the Board of Aldermen and work completed by a member of city staff. Meeting notes dated April 1905 show the cemetery committee discussed the need for a new fence on the north side of the “old” cemetery.¹¹⁶ It was around this time that the cemetery was depicted in a postcard, which shows the main entrance to the original parcel on the west side of present-day Kent Street (**Figure 5**).¹¹⁷

In an effort to improve drainage from the property, the cemetery committee approved the use of brick to line gutters along the driveways within the cemetery in 1908.¹¹⁸ Although the gutters helped improve conditions in the cemetery, the runoff had a deleterious effect on surrounding residential properties along Carroll Street. Within a few years, Maplewood Cemetery’s condition had severely declined due to lack of maintenance.¹¹⁹ By 1913, dirt was washing down from the cemetery hill into the garden of Robert Fitzgerald, who engaged local attorney W. L. Foushee to file a complaint with the city.¹²⁰ According to Fitzgerald’s granddaughter, the Reverend Dr. Pauli Murray, underground springs on the cemetery property drained down the hill into the Fitzgeralds’ yard. Combined with rotting plants and decomposing bodies, the noxious effluence polluted the family’s property and well, leading to the well’s condemnation.¹²¹ At the same meeting where Foushee addressed the Aldermen, the cemetery committee reported that there was discussion of the need for a fence around the cemetery to keep dogs off the premises, but no action was taken on the matter.¹²²

Around 1919, the city purchased two acres of land to expand the cemetery. The measure was temporary to alleviate the immediate problem of overcrowding. The city expected the new section to be filled within two years. Nevertheless, it bought city leaders a little time to consider a long-term solution to the matter.¹²³ The properties acquired by the city contained small houses that were demolished for the cemetery’s expansion.¹²⁴ By 1921, Maplewood Cemetery was again nearly full. A Cemetery Committee report in July of that year indicated that a shortage of plots was “imminent,” with only 20 unsold lots remaining.¹²⁵ The committee explored alternate options for expanding the existing burial ground or establishing a new one, ultimately identifying the property of R. H. Rigsbee, immediately west of and adjacent to the existing cemetery, as suitable for a long-term solution. The property was projected to cost \$35,000.¹²⁶ The city eventually acquired around 80 acres from Rigsbee Road east to the old section of Maplewood Cemetery.¹²⁷

In 1922, the City of Durham hired Erwin Mills employee George Montgomery to serve as the Cemetery Superintendent.¹²⁸ In that year, the city again amended its code of ordinances to include Maplewood Cemetery Annex B. Management of the new section would be different from the older sections of the cemetery in that “the old fashioned idea of a medley of tombstones” would be abandoned in favor of regimented uniformity. Perpetual care and upkeep was not guaranteed in the original section and Annex A. Perpetual care and upkeep was guaranteed with the purchase of plots in Annex B, but this provision required

¹¹⁴ “Name the Cemetery,” *The Durham Sun*, July 10, 1897, 2.

¹¹⁵ “Tax Of \$50.00 On Booze,” *Durham Morning Herald*, January 5, 1904, 1.

¹¹⁶ “Meeting of Aldermen,” *Durham Morning Herald*, April 18, 1905, 1.

¹¹⁷ Open Durham, “Maplewood Cemetery,” electronic document <https://www.opendurham.org/buildings/maplewood-cemetery> accessed November 29, 2023.

¹¹⁸ The city’s General Services Department, which maintains Maplewood Cemetery, believes the bricks used to build the gutters were from Richard Fitzgerald’s brickyard.

¹¹⁹ “Proposed Work At Cemetery,” *The Herald-Sun*, August 17, 1917, 6.

¹²⁰ “Aldermen in Long Session,” *Durham Morning Herald*, May 20, 1913, 1.

¹²¹ Murray, *Proud Shoes*, 27–28.

¹²² “Aldermen in Long Session.”

¹²³ “Shortage Of Cemetery Plots Is Said To Be Imminent; Committee Preparing To Urge New Cemetery,” *The Herald-Sun*, July 24, 1921, 13.

¹²⁴ “Citizens Want New Cemetery,” *Durham Morning Herald*, February 22, 1919, 3.

¹²⁵ “Shortage Of Cemetery Plots Is Said To Be Imminent; Committee Preparing To Urge New Cemetery.”

¹²⁶ “Council Had Busy Meeting Last Night; Report On New Cemetery Was Also Made,” *The Herald-Sun*, October 18, 1921, 3.

¹²⁷ “Report of Cemetery Committee Adopted; A Municipal Building And Armory Was Also Taken Up,” *The Herald-Sun*, November 1, 1921, 8.

¹²⁸ “Local Cemetery Head Has Served 16 Years At Job,” *The Durham Sun*, January 4, 1938, 2.

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changes to the policy allowing a variety of tombstones. Grave markers in the new section were required to be granite and placed flat upon the grave at the head of the grave to allow for mowing. Fences, copings, hedges, and ditches were also prohibited.¹²⁹ The proposal met with stiff opposition not only from many residents, but also from marble and granite companies, the latter of whom engaged an attorney to persuade the Aldermen into dramatically retracting the proposed regulations. Town leaders ultimately relented, proposing instead to set aside a portion of the new acreage for “perpetual maintenance” with stronger regulations for headstones while permitting a wider array of headstone types and allowing for the construction of mausoleums in a part of the new cemetery.¹³⁰ Durham’s increasing population and corresponding expansion of the cemetery necessitated expanding the municipal budget to account for cemetery administration and maintenance. In 1925, the City Council set aside \$25,000 from its budget surplus to create a Cemetery Improvement Fund.¹³¹ By 1938, the Maplewood Cemetery contained more than 10,000 graves.¹³²

As the twentieth century progressed, new burials of white Durhamites occurred exclusively in the new annex to Maplewood Cemetery, west of present-day Chapel Hill Road. In 1932, the city’s Armistice Day celebration included the dedication of a memorial to veterans of World War I on a plot in the new section that was deeded to the American Legion. It was followed by an exclusive dinner attended by veterans of the Civil War, Spanish-American War, and World War I, as well as Gold Star mothers. Maplewood Cemetery remained segregated through the mid-twentieth century, thus the event excluded Black veterans, who held their own Armistice Day program at the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Building.¹³³

The West End Cemeteries Historic District in the Late Twentieth Century

Burials in Maplewood Cemetery and the Hebrew Cemetery continued through the late 1900s and up to the present day. In 1978, the Reverend Dr. Pauli Murray and other Fitzgerald family members advocated unsuccessfully to city leaders that their ancestral cemetery should be annexed to Maplewood Cemetery and the segregation fence removed. The Reverend Dr. Murray died in 1985. In 1993, Habitat for Humanity of Durham acquired several parcels along Gerard Street, north of Maplewood Cemetery, from several different owners. Included in the acquisition were the two parcels containing the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery, which were combined with the other tracts for the development of 13 houses. In consultation with the Office of State Archaeology (OSA), Habitat for Humanity determined that the west parcel was not entirely filled with burials and could be developed. This position was based on information provided by OSA archaeologist John Clauser, whose basis for guidance was a visual inspection of the property that did not include historical research or information compiled by the Reverend Dr. Murray that indicated the number of burials far outnumbered the extant headstones.¹³⁴ Habitat for Humanity subsequently developed the western parcel in 1995, leaving relatively untouched a portion to the southwest where grave markers remained intact. In 1996, Habitat for Humanity transferred title to the eastern parcel and remaining portion of the western parcel, as well as a 12-foot easement abutting Maplewood Cemetery that connected the two remaining sections of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery, to the City of Durham.¹³⁵

By the early twenty-first century, the Henderson Family Cemetery had become heavily overgrown with small trees, underbrush, and vines, which obscured the graves inside the chain-link fence that separated the small family cemetery from Maplewood Cemetery. In 2012, Aseelah Ameen–Henderson, the great-great granddaughter of Dempsey Henderson, began cleaning up the Henderson Family Cemetery. She cleared out the underbrush, cleaning up the landscape to the edge of the woods at the northeast parcel line. Seeing that most of the grave makers were gone due to vandalism, lack of maintenance, and deterioration over time, she identified the graves of several family members and installed five small, square markers of grey granite near the south end of the Henderson Family Cemetery. Near the center of the plot, she added a decorative cast

¹²⁹ “Immoral Jitney Drivers Are Subject of Bitter Attack At Meeting Of The City Council,” *The Herald-Sun*, July 25, 1922, 10; see also “Cemetery Regulations May Call For Controversy—Officials Are Not Worrying Over The Protests,” *The Herald-Sun*, August 9, 1922, 13.

¹³⁰ “City Aldermen To Continue Upkeep of Cemetery; Deny Requests Made By Attorney For Local Marble Men,” *The Herald-Sun*, February 3, 1925, 9.

¹³¹ To Build Fence Cemetery Here,” *The Durham Sun*, May 6, 1925, 5.

¹³² “Local Cemetery Head Has Served 16 Years At Job.”

¹³³ “Veterans Dedicate War Memorial At Cemetery,” *The Durham Sun*, November 10, 1932, 9.

¹³⁴ Davis and Smith, “An Open Letter,” n.p.

¹³⁵ Durham County Register of Deeds, November 15, 1996, Deed Book 2255, 648–650; see also Davis and Smith, “An Open Letter,” n.p.

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concrete bench. They were placed a short distance east of the chain-link gate that opened from the Maplewood Cemetery into the Henderson Family Cemetery. To the south of the bench, she placed a memorial marker inscribed "HISTORIC HENDERSON FAMILY CEMETERY, EST. 1872," which faces west.

Between 2016 and 2019, the City of Durham removed the chain link fence surrounding Maplewood Cemetery. In May 2023, the cultural resources management consulting firm New South Associates conducted a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the portions of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery that are now owned by the city as well as the 12-foot easement area that is privately owned. The survey covered a total of .26 acres and found 63 grave anomalies. Given that at least 111 known interments occurred in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery, it is possible that additional graves exist or existed outside the boundaries of the reduced tract.¹³⁶

CONTEXTS AND COMPARABLE PROPERTIES

The West End Cemeteries Historic District is unique across Durham County. There is no other comparable collection of cemeteries within the city or county. No other individual cemetery in the area so clearly juxtaposes and illustrates the racial and social inequities of the late 1800s through the twentieth century. As the municipal cemetery from its founding in 1874, Maplewood Cemetery stands alone for its outstanding collection of funerary art. As family cemeteries that served as *de facto* community cemeteries for Black Durhamites, the Henderson and Fitzgerald cemeteries embody and represent the racial inequities forced upon African Americans during the Jim Crow era. The Hebrew Cemetery embodies the challenges faced by an immigrant community essentially transplanted to Durham from the metropolis of New York City, where Jewish cultural traditions were well established by the late nineteenth century.

Maplewood Cemetery and Funerary Art Traditions in Durham and Durham County

In its size and collection of outstanding mausoleums, grave marker types, and examples of funerary art, Maplewood Cemetery is unparalleled across Durham County. Small family cemeteries, like the Markham Cemetery on the "new Raleigh Road," and church cemeteries were typical in the antebellum period and in the early years of Reconstruction.¹³⁷ There are no cemeteries individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in Durham County to which the Maplewood Cemetery's grave markers may be compared. None of the individual National Register listings of churches in Durham County include their cemeteries. Because the significant development of wealth among Durham's industrialists and merchant elite coincided with the city's growth through the late nineteenth century, it goes without saying that Maplewood Cemetery would hold the greatest concentration of funerary art across the county. Tobacco's increasing popularity at this time meant increased profits, enabling families like the Dukes, Carrs, Parrishes, and Mangums to engage skilled craftspeople to erect monumental memorials.

The Hebrew Cemetery and Jewish Cultural Traditions in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

The Cemetery Committee established by members of Durham's Hebrew Congregation was the first civic organization created by the city's new Jewish community. The congregation's first synagogue was demolished and replaced with a new building in the mid-twentieth century, and the neighborhood in the "Bottoms," where most of Durham's Jewish residents lived in the late nineteenth century, was demolished for the construction of the East-West Expressway. The Hebrew Cemetery is the only resource that adequately embodies the community's early roots in Durham. Other Hebrew cemeteries exist across the region, including the Kehillah Cemetery in Chapel Hill and the Judea Reform Congregation Cemetery in Carrboro. Neither of these cemeteries holds the same historic associations with Durham's Jewish community.

¹³⁶ Given the number of known burials in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery, there is a high likelihood that burials exist on portions of the cemetery that were not covered by the GPR survey.

¹³⁷ "File Papers At Clerk's Office For Cemeteries," *The Herald-Sun*, January 10, 1929, 13.

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The Henderson and Fitzgerald Family Cemeteries and Black Burial Grounds across Durham

Established in the 1870s on land acquired from a white farmer to the north of downtown Durham, Geer Cemetery was the largest community burying ground for Durham's African American population through the early twentieth century (**Figure 6**). It was also the most formally organized and managed, with a Board of Trustees governing its use. Other large community cemeteries included the New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery in the Hickstown/Crest Street Community, which was established in the late nineteenth century, and Violet Park Cemetery, which dated to 1910. These independently managed community cemeteries served Durham's Black citizens until—and even after—the establishment of Beechwood Cemetery in the late 1920s.

The area around Crest Street, northwest of the West End neighborhood and downtown Durham, was largely owned by Hawkins Hicks, a white woman who gained title to the land in the mid-1860s (see Figure 6). As emancipation freed Blacks from enslavement, many settled in this area, which came to be known, and eventually incorporated, as Hickstown. Organized in 1879, New Bethel Baptist Church was the spiritual and organizational heart of Hickstown. The community burial ground was alternately known as the New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery and the Hickstown Cemetery.¹³⁸ Local tradition holds that the cemetery was established in the late nineteenth century as a burial place for poor Black workers at the Erwin Mill, a textile manufacturer a few blocks to the east. As Durham's population exploded through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery grew to serve the Crest Street community. The New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery ultimately held more than 1,000 graves. In the late 1950s, on the heels of the Interstate Highways Act of 1956, the North Carolina Department of Transportation began work with Durham's white city leaders to design an east–west expressway across the city. In 1959, planners identified the Crest Street community as one of the areas in the path of the new highway. They met with strong, well-organized opposition from the Crest Street community that delayed construction for more than 20 years as community leaders pressed for fair and equitable treatment. In 1972, opponents filed a restraining order in federal court to block the project from continuing. The new expressway not only displaced hundreds of Black Durhamites, but also necessitated the relocation of the New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery from the south side of the expressway to New Bethel Memorial Gardens, which is situated to the north of the expressway off West Pettigrew. More than 1,000 burials were reinterred in New Bethel Memorial Gardens beginning in early May 1983, with 50 graves relocated per week. The site of the New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery has been subsumed by the Duke Manor Apartments, a large multi-family housing development erected in the mid-1980s.¹³⁹

Established in 1910 on Concord Street between Moline and Dupree Streets, south of downtown Durham and southeast of the West End neighborhood and Hickstown, the Violet Park Cemetery was named for the mother of John Merrick, founder of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company (see Figure 6). For roughly 30 years, the Violet Park Cemetery received the burials of nearly 2,000 of Durham's Black citizens. Around 1940, property maintenance dwindled as the cemetery was apparently abandoned, becoming overgrown. In 1965, the City of Durham gained title to the property following foreclosure proceedings that resulted from non-payment of assessments for street improvements. By 1970, only about 75 graves had identifiable markers. In that year, the city deeded the three parcels comprising Violet Park Cemetery to the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina for the purpose of constructing a new edifice for the predominantly Black congregation of St. Titus' Episcopal Church after its original building was destroyed by fire in 1967. The matter was the subject of a lawsuit filed by St. Titus' Episcopal Church against the known descendants of those interred as the defendants. By 1970, only 69 individuals were known to be buried in the Violet Park Cemetery, but many more were thought to be interred there. In 1970, the Superior Court ruled that the church could proceed with its plans for the property.¹⁴⁰ The church removed the graves on the south end

¹³⁸ Although newspapers refer to the cemetery using both names, there is a marked dominance of the name New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery.

¹³⁹ "Expressway Land Purchase Has Started, Officials Say," *The Durham Sun*, January 11, 1983, 2; see also "Crest Street graves to be moved for road," *The Durham Sun*, April 27, 1983, 1; see also "New Bethel Memorial Gardens," Open Durham, <https://www.opendurham.org/buildings/new-bethel-memorial-gardens>, accessed 24 October 2023; see also "Hickstown/Crest Street," Open Durham, <https://www.opendurham.org/buildings/hickstown-crest-street>, accessed 24 October 2023; see also "Durham's Anti-Expressway Organizing," Southern Oral History Program, <https://sohp.org/exhibit/crest-street-community-history-project/>, accessed 24 October 2023.

¹⁴⁰ "To Restudy Cemetery Action: City County Sets Meeting," *The Durham Sun*, February 4, 1970, B1"; see also "Court Clears Way for Church Here," *The Durham Sun*, March 7, 1970, 9.

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of the parcel and constructed a new church building. Situated on the northeast corner of Concord and Moline Streets, the building was completed by the summer of 1972. The remaining graves on the north end of the parcel remained in place through the 1970s and were removed to Beechwood Cemetery in the mid-1990s so that the church could create a paved parking lot.¹⁴¹

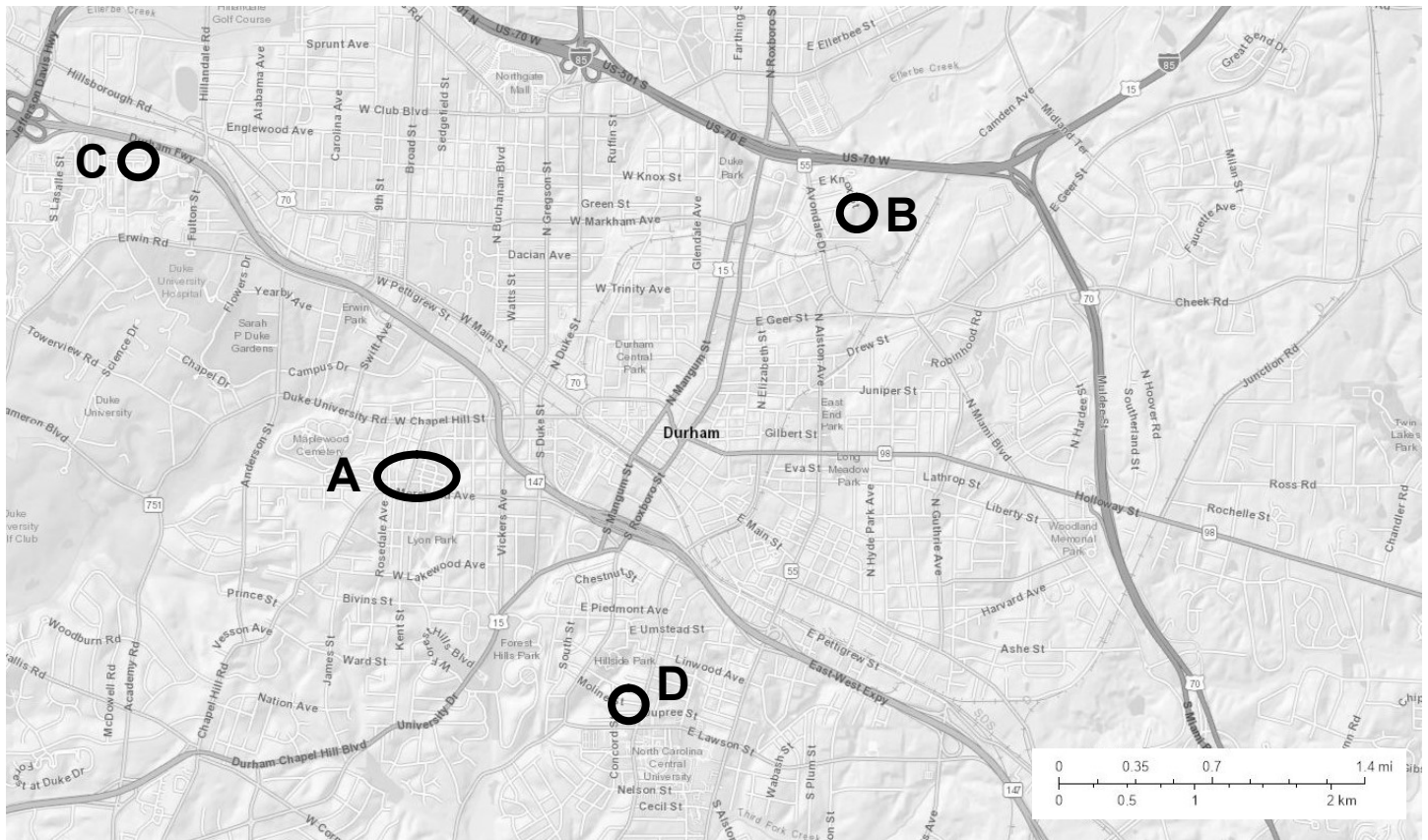


Figure 6: Street map illustrating the location of the West End Cemeteries Historic District (A) relative to Geer Cemetery (B), the non-extant New Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery (C), and the non-extant Violet Park Cemetery (D), around downtown Durham.

Historically Black family cemeteries like those of the Hendersons and Fitzgeralds were typically smaller and less easily accessible. Established on marginal land that was usually part of but set apart from the domestic sphere, such burial grounds were often cut off from their immediate surroundings and related buildings through property subdivision and intervening development. Such appears to be the case with both the Fitzgerald and Henderson family cemeteries. As the West End neighborhood grew denser, with increasing residential development through the first half of the twentieth century, these two small cemeteries were increasingly isolated from the surrounding environment while they were simultaneously segregated from Maplewood Cemetery by the erection of a chain-link fence in the 1920s and legal enforcement of no-trespassing regulations that prevented Black Durhamites from entering Maplewood Cemetery during the Jim Crow era.

Geer Cemetery remains extant; however, it alone does not fully convey the historical challenges faced by Black Durhamites in the care of their departed loved ones during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The sheer size of Durham’s African American population, combined with their higher mortality rate, led to the rapid overcrowding of burial grounds that were already undersized compared to Maplewood Cemetery. In 1930, Maplewood Cemetery consisted of more than 100 acres,

¹⁴¹ “Porter Assuming Howard U. Post,” *The Herald-Sun*, July 15, 1972, 5; see also “Violet Park Cemetery burial records and other materials,” Durham County Library, electronic document <https://archive.durhamcountylibrary.org/repositories/2/resources/54>, accessed November 16, 2023.

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while the total acreage of burial grounds for Durham's people of color was less than 50 acres, spread across Geer, Fitzgerald, Henderson, Violet Park, New Bethel Baptist Church, and Beechwood cemeteries. The number and dates of interments, combined with the surnames of those interred, in the Henderson and Fitzgerald family cemeteries clearly demonstrate that these two family burial grounds served as de facto community cemeteries, particularly during the early twentieth century, when Geer Cemetery was overcrowded and overgrown. The evolving and progressive use of the Henderson and Fitzgerald cemeteries illustrates the desperation of Black families who had few good options for burying their deceased prior to the city's development of the Beechwood Cemetery in the late 1920s.

SUMMARY

The West End Cemeteries Historic District, which consists of the historically white Maplewood Cemetery, the historically Black Henderson and Fitzgerald family cemeteries, and the Hebrew Cemetery, is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of social history, Black ethnic heritage, and Jewish ethnic heritage, and under Criterion C in the area of art for the outstanding collection of sophisticated funerary art contained within Maplewood Cemetery. It meets Criteria Considerations A, for religious properties, and D, for cemeteries, and has a Period of Significance that begins in 1874, the date that Maplewood Cemetery was formally established, and ends in 1941, the date of the last interment in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

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West End Cemeteries Historic District

Durham County, North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: **Office of Archives & History**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DH1287

West End Cemeteries Historic District
 Name of Property

Durham County, North Carolina
 County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 26 acres
 (Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum, if other than WGS

A	<u>35.994770</u>	<u>-78.918639</u>	B	<u>35.994478</u>	<u>-78.917365</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
C	<u>35.993112</u>	<u>-78.916393</u>	D	<u>35.992453</u>	<u>-78.916457</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
E	<u>35.991816</u>	<u>-78.916686</u>	F	<u>35.991931</u>	<u>-78.919563</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
G	<u>35.992111</u>	<u>-78.922060</u>	H	<u>35.993591</u>	<u>-78.923337</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
I	<u>35.993679</u>	<u>-78.920975</u>	J	<u>35.993357</u>	<u>-78.920074</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The National Register boundary of the West End Cemeteries Historic District is illustrated by the heavy black line on the accompanying “**Boundary & Coordinates Map**,” created by Annie McDonald April 1, 2024, using the HPOWEB mapping program of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. The boundary encompasses 26 acres and includes all of tax parcels #0821462440 (REID 114699), #0821364225 (REID 108674), #821367377 (REID 108675), and #0821366435 (REID 108660), which are owned by the City of Durham. These parcels include Maplewood Cemetery, the Henderson Family Cemetery, and most of the remaining acreage of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery. The boundaries also include all of tax parcels #0821465062 (REID 114700) and #0821466185 (REID 217313), which are owned by the Beth-El Congregation, Inc. and operated as the Hebrew Cemetery. The boundaries include a small area of tax parcel #0821164951 (REID 108679), on the west side of Chapel Hill Road, which is owned by the City of Durham and known as Block X in Maplewood Cemetery. The boundaries also include an area of roughly 0.02 acres on the southern end of tax parcel #08213366487 (REID 108670), which is privately owned, and which was historically part of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery prior to its sale to Habitat for Humanity and subsequent residential development. The City of Durham holds a 12-foot easement on this property abutting the boundary of Maplewood Cemetery. From the southeast corner of the historic district to Kent Street, the district boundaries extend to the edge-of-pavement along Morehead Avenue until the bus stop at the intersection of Kent Street and Morehead Avenue. The bus shelter and adjacent utility infrastructure are excluded from the boundary, which jogs slightly north before continuing westward across Kent Street to Chapel Hill Road.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries encompass 26 acres and include all the intact land, burials, structures, and objects historically associated with the Maplewood, Hebrew, Henderson, and Fitzgerald cemeteries during the Period of Significance of 1874 through 1941. Altogether, the boundaries encompass 4 contributing sites, 5 contributing structures, and 29 contributing objects. The remaining acreage of Maplewood Cemetery, acquired in the 1920s and used for burials through the present day, lies west of the historic district boundaries. The acreage set aside for perpetual maintenance, which features flat markers set flush with the grounds, creates a visual and physical boundary that separates the traditionally marked interments in the earliest sections of Maplewood from the rest of the cemetery to the west. Historically residential properties lie to the east and north, and the historically unrelated Morehead Avenue Baptist Church lies outside the district at its southeast corner, adjacent to the Hebrew Cemetery. At the south edge of the district, the boundary excludes the non-historic bus shelter and utility infrastructure within the paved sidewalk at the intersection of Kent Street and Morehead Avenue.

West End Cemeteries Historic District
Name of Property

Durham County, North Carolina
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Annie Laurie McDonald, Ellen Turco, Jason L. Harpe, and Pofue Yang
organization Richard Grubb & Associates date 1 April 2024
street & number 525 Wait Avenue telephone _____
city or town Wake Forest state NC zip code 27587
e-mail amcdonald@rgaincorporated.com

West End Cemeteries Historic District

Name of Property

Durham County, North Carolina

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: West End Cemeteries Historic District

City or Vicinity: Durham

County: Durham County

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Richard Grubb & Associates (RGA)

Date Photographed: July 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo 1 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0001)

View southeast of Maplewood Cemetery from Kent Street.

Photo 2 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0002)

View northeast of Maplewood Cemetery from Morehead Avenue.

Photo 3 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0003)

View north of the 1922 section of Maplewood Cemetery west of and outside the boundaries of the West End Cemeteries Historic District.

Photo 4 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0004)

View southwest of tab-in-socket and die-on-base headstones in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 5 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0005)

View south of the north elevation of the 1893–1894 Duke Mausoleum in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 6 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0006)

View south of the stained- and leaded-glass window in the 1893–1894 Duke Mausoleum in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 7 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0007)

View northeast of the west (left) and south (right) elevations of the 1905 Mangum Mausoleum in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 8 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0008)

View southwest of the east (left) and north (right) elevations of the 1912 R. H. Wright Mausoleum in Maplewood Cemetery, showing the Duke Mausoleum in the background.

Photo 9 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0009)

View west of the interior of the 1912 R. H. Wright Mausoleum in Maplewood Cemetery.

West End Cemeteries Historic District

Name of Property

Durham County, North Carolina

County and State

Photo 10 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0010)

View south of the sculpture of a mother and children on the south end of the Julian S. Carr Family plot in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 11 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0011)

View southeast of the sculpture of a praying angel in the Julian S. Carr Family plot in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 12 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0012)

View northeast of the sculpture on the north side of the Julian S. Carr Family plot in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 13 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0013)

View northwest of the sculpture on the north side of the Julian S. Carr Family plot in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 14 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0014)

View west of the exedra on the west side of the Julian S. Carr Family plot in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 15 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0015)

View southeast of the 1891 Cheek monument in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 16 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0016)

View south of the 1905 Kline monument in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 17 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0017)

View west of the 1920 King monument in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 18 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0018)

View northeast at the intersection of Morehead Avenue and Kent Street, showing obelisk monuments on the east (right) and west (left) sides of Kent Street in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 19 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0019)

View southeast of the 1886 Linthicum obelisk in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 20 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0020)

View northeast of the 1905 Bowling obelisk in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 21 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0021)

View east of the 1907 Fullerton obelisk in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 22 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0022)

View east of a representative Gothic Revival-style grave marker in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 23 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0023)

View northwest of representative Gothic Revival-style grave markers in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 24 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0024)

View northeast of the 1897 Gothic Revival-style Markham monument in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 25 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0025)

View east of the 1909 Gothic Revival-style Whittington monument in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 26 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0026)

View northeast of the early 1900s Gothic Revival-style Clark Family monument in Maplewood Cemetery.

West End Cemeteries Historic District

Name of Property

Durham County, North Carolina

County and State

Photo 27 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0027)

View west of the circa 1915 Stagg Family monument in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 28 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0028)

View north of the circa 1910 Parrish Family monument in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 29 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0029)

View northwest of the circa 1910 Watts Family monument in Maplewood Cemetery.

Photo 30 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0030)

View northeast of Hebrew Cemetery from Morehead Avenue, showing the retaining wall.

Photo 31 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0031)

View south toward Morehead Avenue of the paved drive in the Hebrew Cemetery.

Photo 32 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0032)

View northwest from the paved drive of poured concrete steps and graves within the Hebrew Cemetery.

Photo 33 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0033)

View southeast of graves within the Hebrew Cemetery.

Photo 34 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0034)

View northwest of graves within the Hebrew Cemetery.

Photo 35 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0035)

View southeast from Maplewood Cemetery of the Henderson Family Cemetery.

Photo 36 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0036)

View west of the 1928 grave marker for the Reverend Wesley Henderson in the Henderson Family Cemetery.

Photo 37 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0037)

View southwest of the circa 1911 grave marker for Frank Melvin Jones and Jane Henderson Jones in the Henderson Family Cemetery.

Photo 38 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0038)

View west from Kent Street of Lot 29 on the east side of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

Photo 39 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0039)

View northwest from Maplewood Cemetery of the remaining portion of Lot 32 on the west side of the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

Photo 40 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0040)

View northwest of the 1886 grave marker for Richard S. Fitzgerald on Lot 29 in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

Photo 41 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0041)

View northwest of the 1872 grave marker for Daniel J. Fitzgerald on Lot 29 in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

Photo 42 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0042)

View north of the 1903 grave marker for Thomas Clay Williams on Lot 29 in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

West End Cemeteries Historic District

Name of Property

Durham County, North Carolina

County and State

Photo 43 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0043)

View northwest of the 1940 grave marker for Jerry Markham on Lot 29 in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

Photo 44 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0044)

View northwest of the 1904 grave marker for Leon B. Jeffers on Lot 29 in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

Photo 45 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0045)

View northwest of the 1927 grave marker for Reuben McCaskill on the remaining portion of Lot 32 in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

Photo 46 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0046)

View northwest of the 1927 grave marker for Ella Hinton on the remaining portion of Lot 32 in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

Photo 47 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0047)

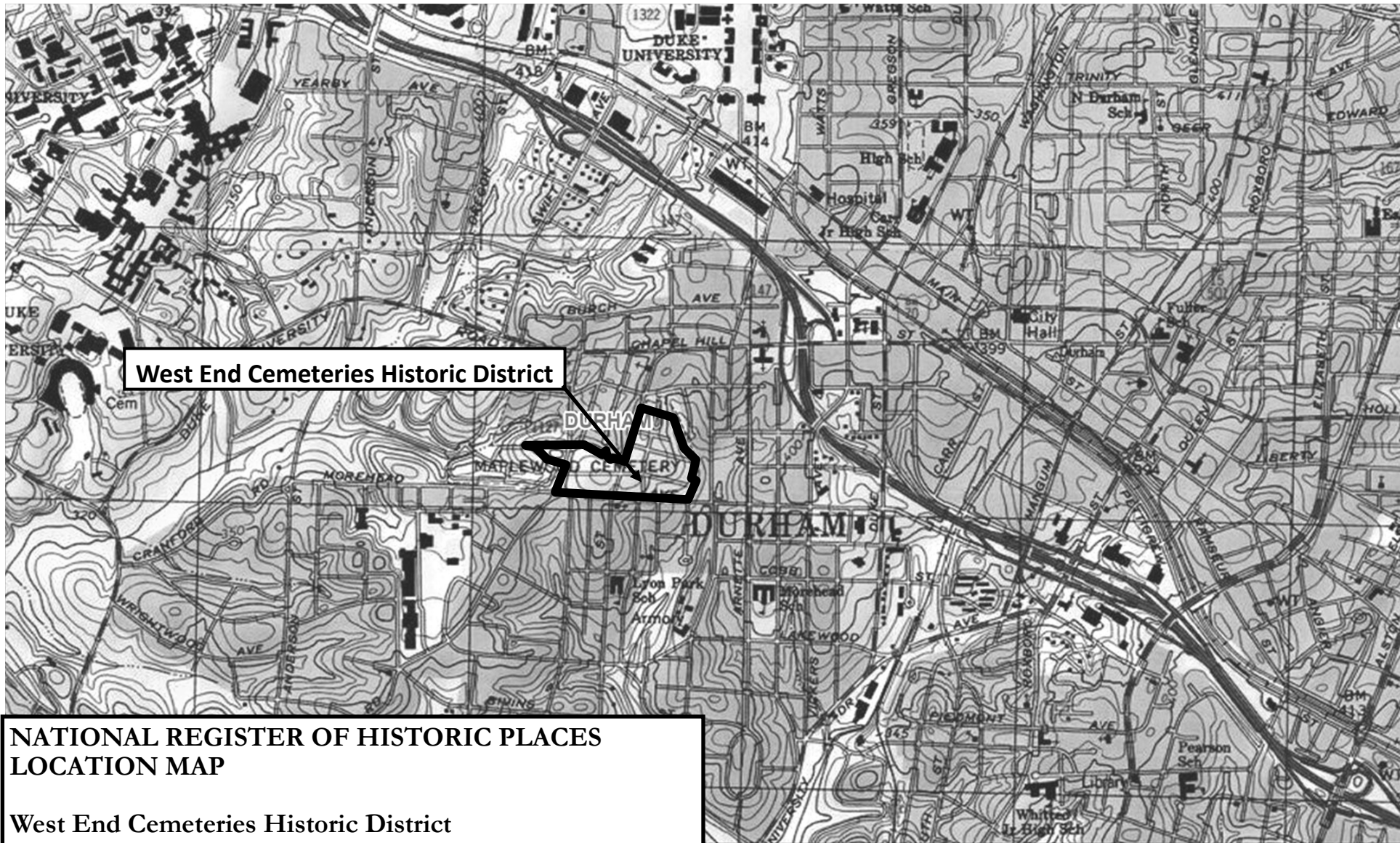
View northwest of the circa 1933 grave marker for Charles A. Alston on the remaining portion of Lot 32 in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

Photo 48 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0048)

View northwest of the 1926 grave marker for Infant Alston on the remaining portion of Lot 32 in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

Photo 49 of 49 (NC_Durham_WestEndCemeteriesHistoricDistrict_0049)

View northwest of the 1925 grave marker for Catherine Henderson on the remaining portion of Lot 32 in the Fitzgerald Family Cemetery.

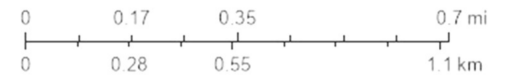


West End Cemeteries Historic District

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
LOCATION MAP**

West End Cemeteries Historic District
 1000—1800 Morehead Avenue
 Durham, Durham County, North Carolina

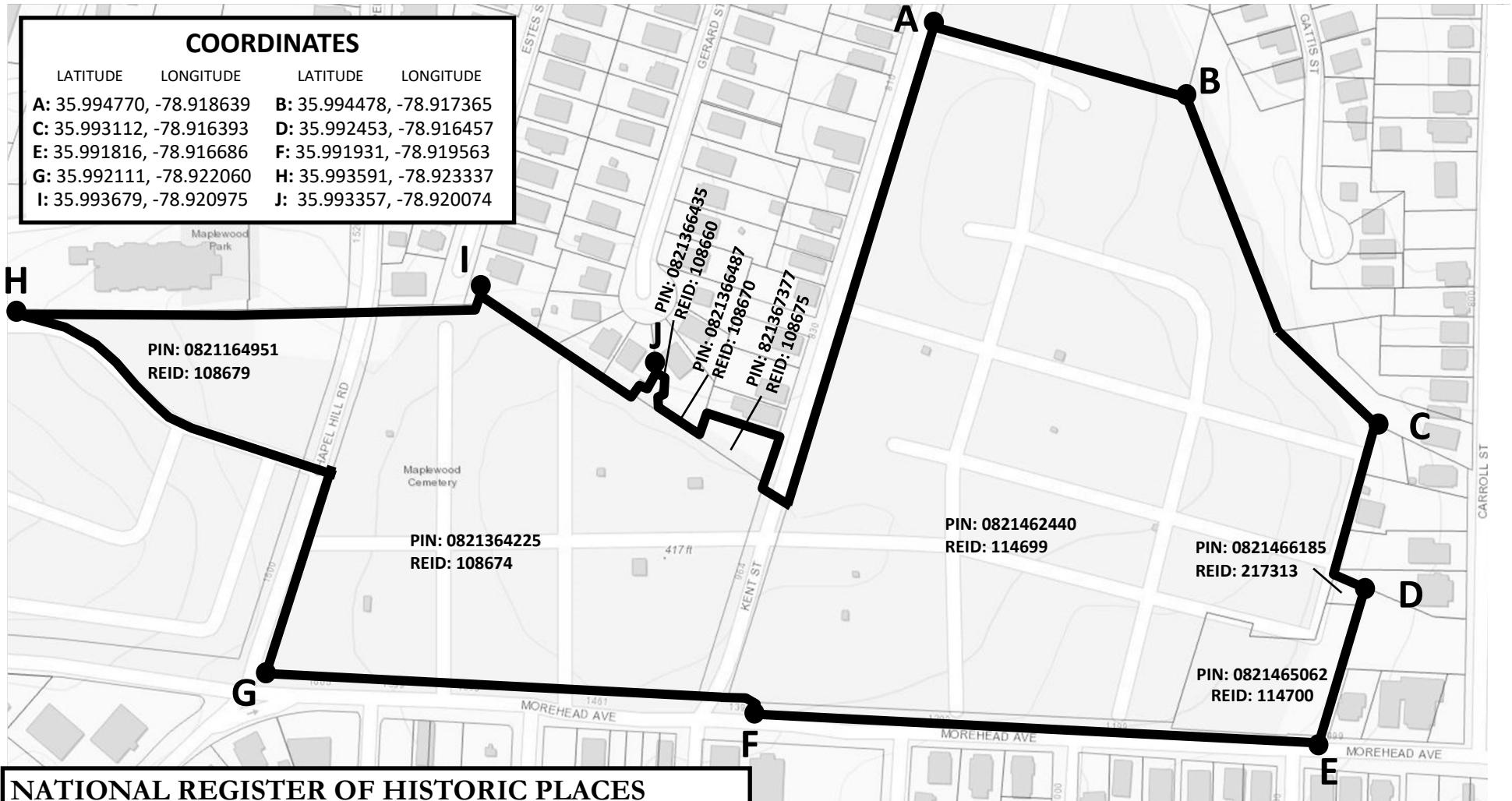
USGS Topographic Map: Southwest Durham, NC



Map created November 30, 2023, by Annie McDonald, Richard Grubb & Associates, using HPOWEB, with the USGS Topographic basemap.



COORDINATES


LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
A: 35.994770, -78.918639	B: 35.994478, -78.917365		
C: 35.993112, -78.916393	D: 35.992453, -78.916457		
E: 35.991816, -78.916686	F: 35.991931, -78.919563		
G: 35.992111, -78.922060	H: 35.993591, -78.923337		
I: 35.993679, -78.920975	J: 35.993357, -78.920074		

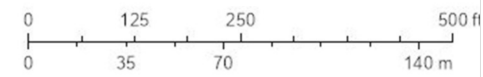


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
BOUNDARY & COORDINATES MAP**

West End Cemeteries Historic District
 1000—1800 Morehead Avenue
 Durham, Durham County, North Carolina

 National Register Historic District Boundary
 Tax Parcel Lines



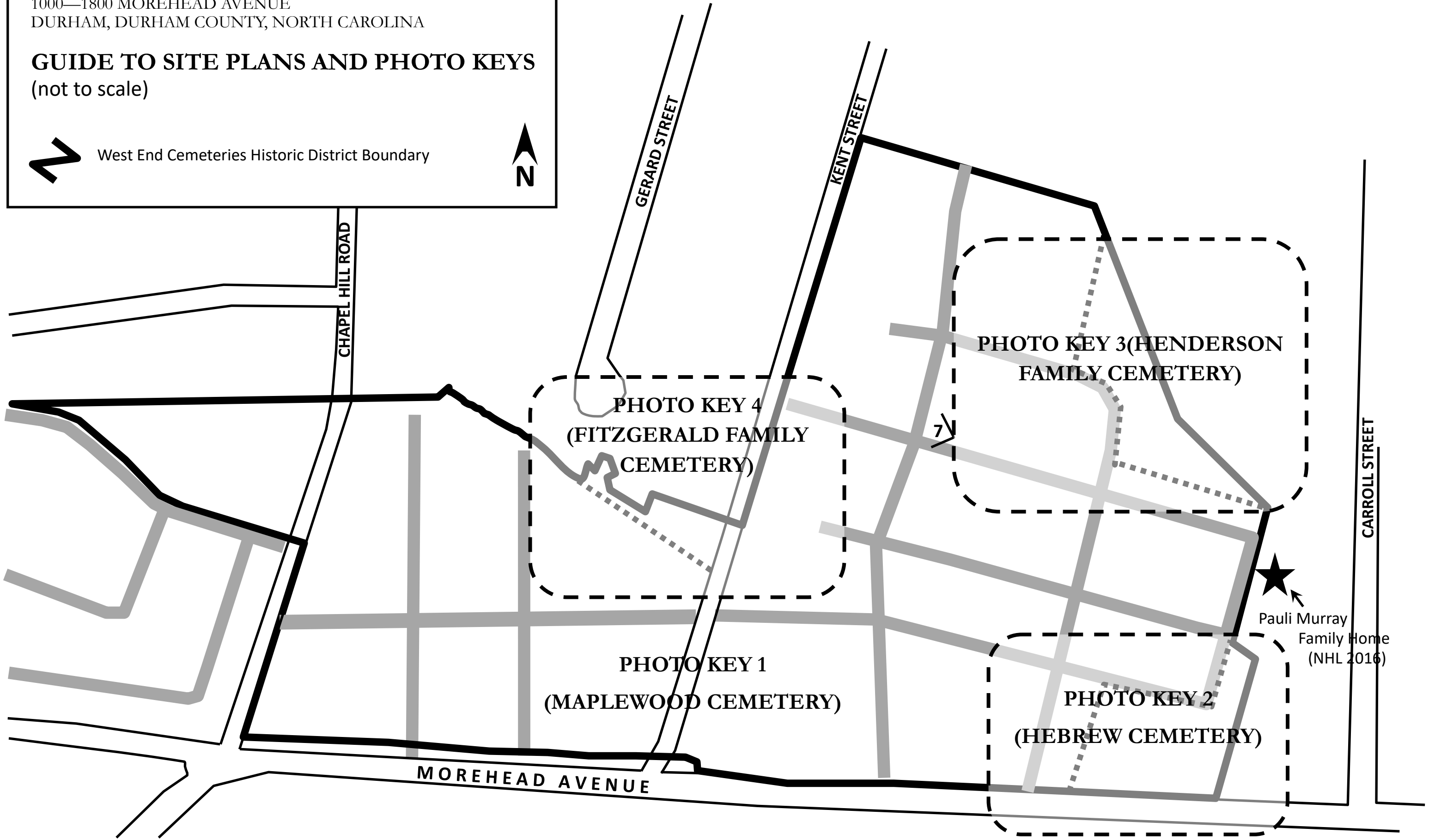


Map created April 1, 2024, by Annie McDonald, Richard Grubb & Associates, using HPOWEB, with the Topographic basemap and showing the tax parcel layer.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
WEST END CEMETERIES HISTORIC DISTRICT
1000—1800 MOREHEAD AVENUE
DURHAM, DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

GUIDE TO SITE PLANS AND PHOTO KEYS





(not to scale)




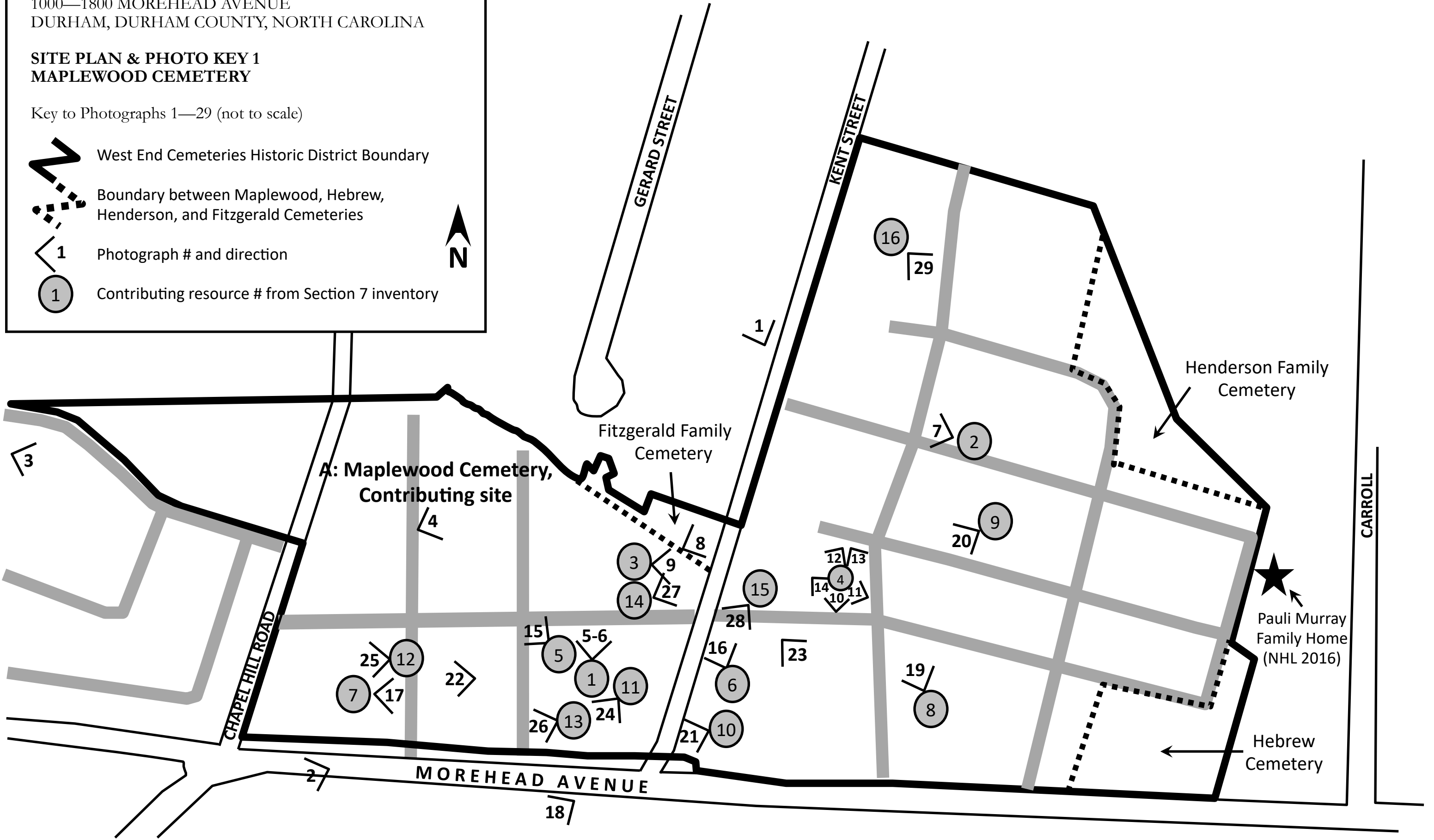
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
WEST END CEMETERIES HISTORIC DISTRICT
 1000—1800 MOREHEAD AVENUE
 DURHAM, DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

SITE PLAN & PHOTO KEY 1
MAPLEWOOD CEMETERY

Key to Photographs 1—29 (not to scale)

-  West End Cemeteries Historic District Boundary
-  Boundary between Maplewood, Hebrew, Henderson, and Fitzgerald Cemeteries
-  1 Photograph # and direction
-  1 Contributing resource # from Section 7 inventory





N



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
WEST END CEMETERIES HISTORIC DISTRICT
1000—1800 MOREHEAD AVENUE
DURHAM, DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

SITE PLAN & PHOTO KEY 2
HEBREW CEMETERY

Key to Photographs 30—34 (not to scale)

-  West End Cemeteries Historic District Boundary
-  Boundary and fence between Maplewood Cemetery and Hebrew Cemetery
-  30 Photograph # and direction

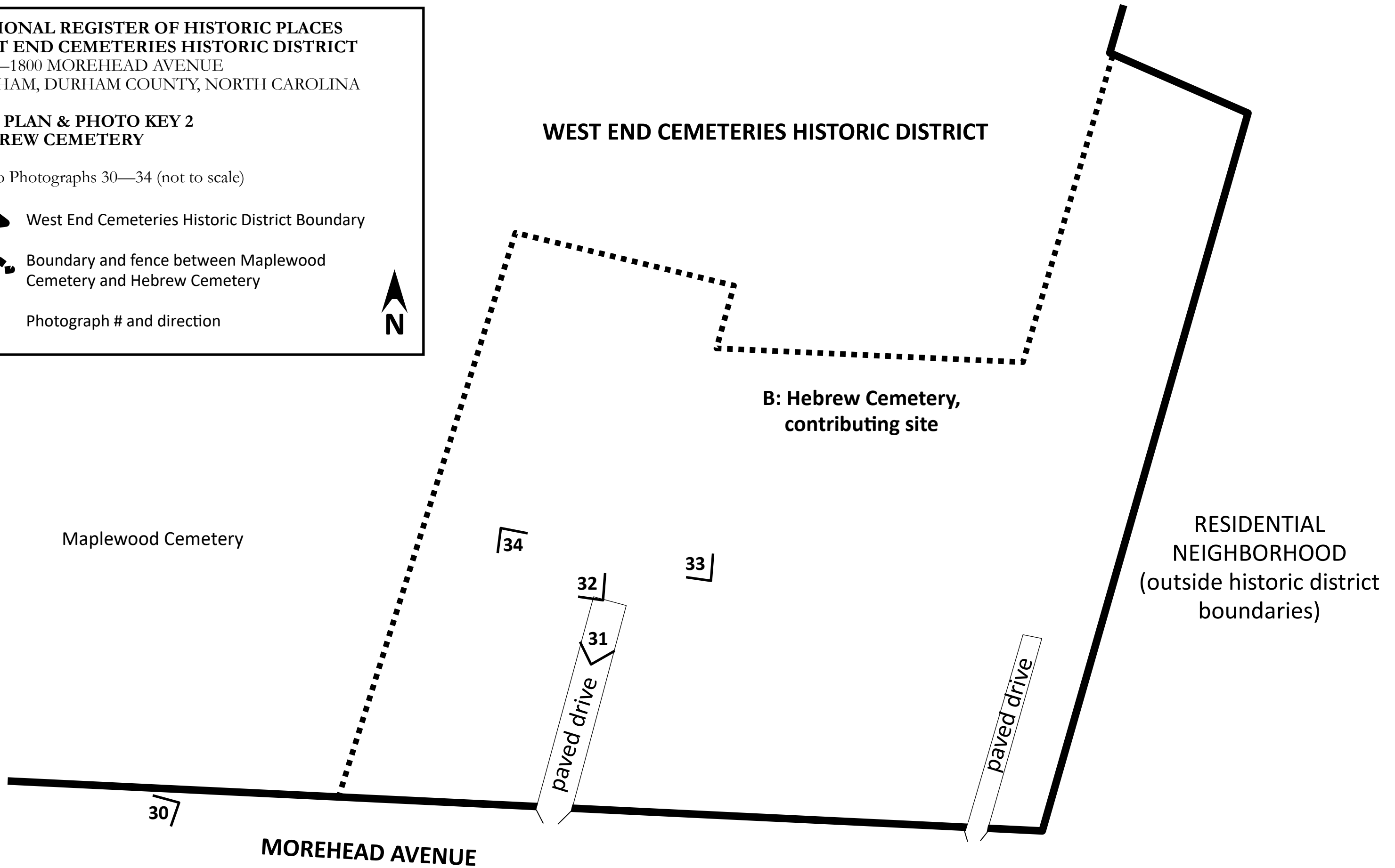


WEST END CEMETERIES HISTORIC DISTRICT

**B: Hebrew Cemetery,
contributing site**

Maplewood Cemetery





RESIDENTIAL
NEIGHBORHOOD
(outside historic district
boundaries)

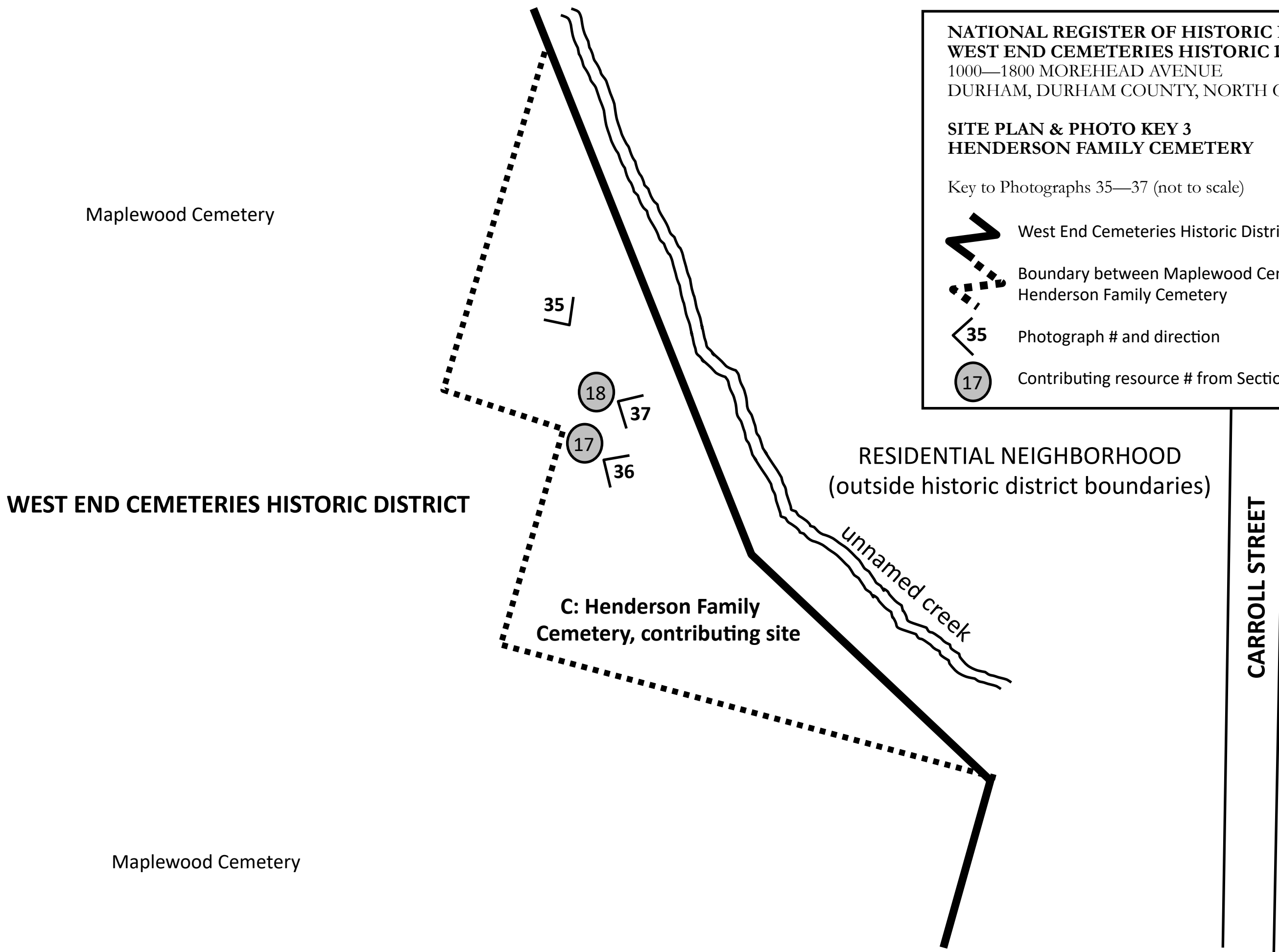


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
WEST END CEMETERIES HISTORIC DISTRICT
1000—1800 MOREHEAD AVENUE
DURHAM, DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**SITE PLAN & PHOTO KEY 3
HENDERSON FAMILY CEMETERY**

Key to Photographs 35—37 (not to scale)

-  West End Cemeteries Historic District Boundary
-  Boundary between Maplewood Cemetery and Henderson Family Cemetery
-  Photograph # and direction
-  Contributing resource # from Section 7 inventory



Maplewood Cemetery

WEST END CEMETERIES HISTORIC DISTRICT

Maplewood Cemetery

C: Henderson Family Cemetery, contributing site

RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD
(outside historic district boundaries)

unnamed creek

CARROLL STREET

35

18

37





17


36

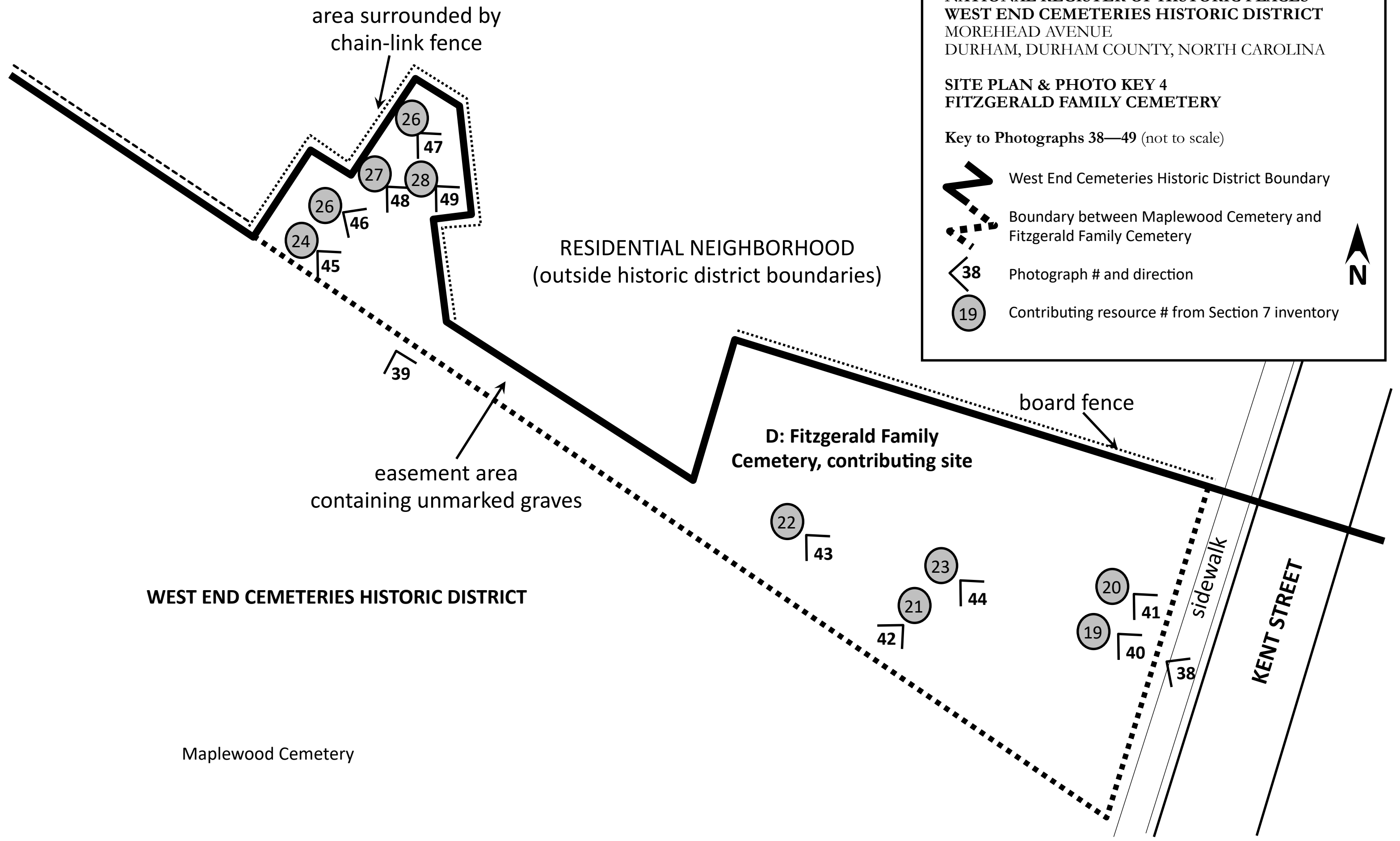
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
WEST END CEMETERIES HISTORIC DISTRICT
MOREHEAD AVENUE
DURHAM, DURHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**SITE PLAN & PHOTO KEY 4
FITZGERALD FAMILY CEMETERY**

Key to Photographs 38—49 (not to scale)

-  West End Cemeteries Historic District Boundary
-  Boundary between Maplewood Cemetery and Fitzgerald Family Cemetery
-  Photograph # and direction
-  Contributing resource # from Section 7 inventory


N



WEST END CEMETERIES HISTORIC DISTRICT

Maplewood Cemetery

RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD
(outside historic district boundaries)

**D: Fitzgerald Family
Cemetery, contributing site**

board fence

easement area
containing unmarked graves

sidewalk

KENT STREET