

**A PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT  
OF THE MEADOWMONT PROPERTY, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH  
CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL**

by

**I. Randolph Daniel, Jr.**

**Technical Report No. 23**

**Research Laboratories of Anthropology  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill**

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## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

During January and February of 1996, the Research Laboratories of Anthropology conducted a preliminary archaeological evaluation of a 27 ac tract east of Chapel Hill known as Meadowmont. Included on the property is a 34-room mansion built in 1933 by David St. Pierre DuBose. The mansion and grounds are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. DuBose bequeathed the property to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1988. This property was also once part of the nineteenth century Barbee family plantation and has considerable historical significance for the university. At least two historic features associated with the plantation (designated 31Dh628\*\*) were identified during this project, including the stone foundation of the main residence and the family cemetery. A total of 120 graves were mapped in the cemetery. Two of the graves belong to William Barbee (1777-1857) and his wife Gaskey (1780-1856). William served both as a steward and superintendent of university buildings and grounds for the University of North Carolina. William was also the son of Christopher Barbee, the university's largest land donor. While other Barbee family members including Christopher and his wife probably were buried in the cemetery, the majority of graves presumably belong to family slaves. The stone foundation probably represents the remains of Christopher Barbee's house.

A substantial portion of the property is slated for development by the university. The potential impact of this construction on the archaeological and historical remains on the property was also evaluated. It is recommended that the cemetery should be preserved, cleaned, maintained, and its boundaries clearly marked. Any construction or maintenance activities that could adversely impact the cemetery should be avoided. The stone foundations also should be preserved and any future construction or maintenance activities should avoid disturbing these remains.

Finally, at least three areas near the cemetery and stone foundations were identified as having high potential for containing buried archaeological deposits. Additional archaeological work is recommended in those areas in the form of close interval shovel-testing. One additional location near the DuBose burial plot was also identified that might contain structural remains. Since no land disturbing activities are planned for this location, no additional archaeological work is necessary at this time.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Several people aided in the undertaking of this project. Michael Berry and Gordon Rutherford of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill helped obtain funds to conduct this project. Dolores Hall facilitated our work through the Office of State Archaeology. John Clauser, also of the Office of State Archaeology, visited Meadowmont and provided his insights concerning southern folk cemeteries. Milton Forsyth, Jr., generously provided a summary of his deed research on the Meadowmont tract.

Fieldwork and report preparation were completed with the logistical support of the UNC Research Laboratories of Anthropology. Trawick Ward guided the implementation of the fieldwork. Trawick also read and commented on a draft of this report. Vin Steponaitis, Laurie Steponaitis, and Steve Davis visited Meadowmont during the fieldwork. Brian Overton and Chuck Horrell assisted with the fieldwork. Finally, Estella Stansbury provided secretarial support.



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The purpose of this report is to present the results of a preliminary archaeological investigation of the Meadowmont property owned by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The property covers approximately 27 acres and lies about 3 miles east of the university along NC 54 just inside the Durham County line. Included on the property is the 34-room mansion built in 1933 by the late David St. Pierre DuBose. DuBose bequeathed the property to his alma mater in 1988. The mansion and grounds are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Of interest here are at least two historic features that predate the DuBose occupation: a nineteenth century cemetery and a nearby stone foundation (31Dh 628\*\*, RLA Dh369). Given that a substantial portion of the property is slated for development—including the construction of a hotel, conference center, and associated facilities such as roads and parking lots—the objectives of this project were to define the limits of the cemetery, to locate and map its grave sites, and to conduct some initial documentary research that would place the cemetery and stone foundations in historical context. In addition, a reconnaissance survey was conducted to record any other above ground historical features that might be present on the property. Our work located at least 120 individuals buried in the cemetery along the east edge of the hilltop. Only two of these graves exhibited marked tombstones: William Barbee (1777-1857) and his wife Gaskey (1780-1856). William was the son of Christopher Barbee, one of the original land donors of the university, and the grandson of William Barbee, one of the original white settlers of the county. Historical research suggests that the foundation probably represent the remains of Christopher Barbee's home.

## **A SHORT HISTORY OF THE MEADOWMONT PROPERTY**

Prior to its acquisition by David St. Pierre DuBose in the early twentieth century, the Meadowmont property was originally acquired as part of a land grant by William Barbee. William was born in Middlesex County, Virginia in the late seventeenth century. Exactly when he came to North Carolina is unknown, but he received two land grants from the Earl of Granville in the 1750s. The first grant was issued in 1753 and covered 585 ac, including the Meadowmont tract, on the north and south sides of “Lick Branch” (Shields 1971). Lick Branch is a tributary of Bolin Creek and lies just inside the Durham County line. The second grant, in 1757, included 400 ac also along present day Bolin Creek approximately .5 mi southeast of his first grant (Shields 1971:160).

William had four brothers and four sisters. At least three of his brothers also came to the area prior to the 1770s and acquired land. One of William’s brothers, Joseph, probably accompanied William to North Carolina as Joseph received a land grant the same day as William. Joseph's grant was for 640 ac on New Hope Creek , east of William’s first tract (Shields 1971).

Little else is known about William. He died in 1758, shortly after his arrival in North Carolina. Nevertheless, he played an active role in the county. He was appointed

the overseer of the roads in his neighborhood in 1753 and commissioner of roads in 1757. He was a local juror in 1754 and a member of the grand jury in 1757 (Shields 1971:13).

William was apparently married twice, but little is known about either wife. He did have at least eight children, including five sons and three daughters. Guardians were appointed for at least five of the children upon William's death. John, the oldest son, became the guardian of two of his brothers, Francis and Christopher, in 1758. Five years later John became the guardian for another brother and two sisters (Shield 1971:13). Of all William's children, Christopher is of the most interest here because in 1792 he offered the trustees of the University of North Carolina 221 ac on the which the university was built. His gift made him the university's largest land donor (Battle 1974 :23).

Relatively more is known about Christopher or "Old Kit," as he was referred to, than his father. Christopher was actually born in Virginia sometime between 1738 and 1740 and thus was in his young teens when his father moved to North Carolina (Shields 1971:47). As an adult, Christopher went back to Virginia sometime between 1766 and 1776 with his brother John to settle the estate of their grandmother (Stone 1976:S-48-1). He may have returned for other reasons as well, since he got married while in Virginia (Shields 1971:47).

Eventually, Christopher and his wife, Mary, returned to North Carolina. Records indicated that both husband and wife deeded land in Wake County to other family members in June 1777 (Shields 1971:48). A year later Christopher received the first of three state land grants (Shields 1971:162-164). The earliest of these grants was 800 ac "on a fork of Bolin and New Hope Creeks" (probably present day Little Creek) near the current university property (Shields 1971: 163 ). Christopher eventually acquired the Meadowmont tract by purchasing all of his father's 1753 grant from his brothers John and Francis. John, being the eldest son, inherited the land grant when their father died in 1758. John, in turn, sold the eastern half of the original grant to Christopher in 1761 and the western half to Francis in 1764. Subsequently, in 1779, Christopher purchased the latter parcel (i.e., the portion west of Little Creek) from Francis. This parcel includes the present day Meadowmont property (Shields 1971:48). Two years later, Old Kit also purchased 300 ac immediately north of the 585 ac he had acquired.

This almost 900 ac parcel is said to have been the site where Old Kit established his plantation (Vickers 1985:18). In fact, the plantation was referred to as "The Mountain" (Battle 1974:29-30) and is probably located on the hilltop containing the cemetery. A 1792 map by John Daniel depicts this area with two structures just north of the "Road to Raleigh" where it crosses present day Little Creek. This location is labeled "Christopher Barbee's." Subsequently, Old Kit purchased additional acreage in the vicinity of Morgan and Bolin creeks. By 1787 he was one of the largest land holders in the area with 2,145 ac (Vickers 1985:18).

In addition to his plantation, Old Kit operated a blacksmith shop on Columbia Street in downtown Chapel Hill. He is said to have ridden a mule to his shop every morning (Battle 1974:30). Unfortunately, his mental health began to suffer in his later

years, and he spent at least some of this time living downtown near his son William who had a residence in Chapel Hill. Old Kit died in 1832 around the age of 90.

Old Kit and Mary had five children; two sons and three daughters. Most of the children moved west. William, however, stayed in Orange County and made his mark on Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina. A member of the first graduating class at UNC, William became one of the richest men in the village. After his marriage to Gaskey in 1800 he bought a lot on the west side of Columbia Street between Franklin and Cameron and built a two-story frame house. He became a partner in a downtown store that opened in 1813 and furnished much of the lumber used in building the village (Vickers 1985:23,34). In addition to running the store and dealing in real estate, William was also the university steward as well as the superintendent of buildings and grounds for several years. He was also Chapel Hill postmaster from 1816 to 1820, and a member of the House of Commons in 1819 (Battle 1974 :190-194; Vickers 1985:34).

In 1831, Christopher sold the blacksmith property to William, as well as “all that tract where the said Christopher Barbee now lives and all lands adjacent to which Christopher has a good title” (Shields 1977:49). Presumably the referenced tract where Christopher lived now includes the Meadowmont hilltop owned by the university. When Christopher died a year later, his will also named William the recipient of other property including “all my land on Morgan Creek together with the tract of land on Bolins Creek.”

Although William was involved in a number of commercial ventures mentioned above, he apparently continued to farm. He is listed in the 1840 census as owning 71 slaves. William died in 1857, one year after his wife’s death. In his will, William Barbee left his only son, Willis, “my Morgan Creek plantation...lying on the waters of Morgan Creek” (North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC, September 16, 1856, Box 73.801.1). The remaining land and slaves were divided equally among his four daughters.

It may be the case that no other Barbee lived on “The Mountain” after Christopher’s death. As discussed below, William sold all the house and farm furnishings on the property shortly after his father's death. (In fact, given the reference to his Morgan Creek plantation above and the frame house he built in the village after he got married, William may not have spent much of his adult life on his father’s property either.) In any case, William’s property was divided among his five children upon his death (M. D. Forsyth, Jr., to R. Daniel, letter, 16 March, 1996, Research Laboratories of Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). One of William's daughters, Margaret (Barbee) Hargrave, acquired the mountain tract and willed it to her son Robert W. Hargrave. He is the last Barbee descendent to own the Meadowmont tract and sold it in 1873. Subsequently, the parcel went through several transactions and was eventually sold to Durham Realty and Insurance Company in the early twentieth century. Moreover, there was no evidence uncovered in the deed search to indicate that anyone lived on the property after it left the Barbee family. DuBose acquired the Meadowmont property as part of several real estate purchases in 1931 and built his house on the mountain in 1933 (M. D. Forsyth, Jr., to R. Daniel, letter, 16 March, 1996, Research Laboratories of Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

## **BARBEE CEMETERY SURVEY**

Aside from the stone foundations, the most obvious feature of archaeological and historical interest that predates the DuBose ownership is the Barbee cemetery. Although only William and his wife are documented to be buried in the cemetery, other Barbee family members were probably interred there as well, including William's father, Christopher Barbee.

### **The Southern Folk Cemetery**

In many ways, the Barbee cemetery is typical of most nineteenth century southern family cemeteries. Referred to as the Southern Folk Cemetery, these graveyards have their origins in the rural landscape of late eighteenth or early nineteenth century America. The brief discussion here outlines some of the more common characteristics of these graveyards and provides some background germane to understanding the Barbee cemetery.

Several attributes define these southern graveyards (Clauser 1994; Jordon 1982). Perhaps their most common characteristic is that they are rarely associated with churches. Instead, they are usually located in close proximity to homeplaces. This burial practice grew out of transportation difficulties associated with carrying the dead over poor roads to sometimes distant churches, particularly during hot southern summers. Because internment took place at home, it naturally followed that cemetery composition was family based--usually limited to members of one or two extended families. Typically, graves are situated on high ground such as a knoll, ridge, or any elevated portion of the landscape. Aside from the practical aspect of minimizing the chances of intruding upon the water table when digging a burial pit, cemetery placement on high ground also reflects a notion of respect for the dead.

The internal arrangement of graves is also a defining characteristic of folk cemeteries. While somewhat disorderly with noticeable gaps, an underlying linear pattern of staggered rows or separate clusters is the common spatial arrangement. Within this pattern, virtually all graves are oriented east-west with the head to the west. The east-west alignment reflects the traditional religious belief of resurrection; when the dead arise to meet Jesus, they will be facing him as he comes from the east.

Grave markers exhibit some variability, with cost, economic status, fashion, and raw material availability being important factors. Although wooden markers have been used in folk cemeteries, they are obviously less durable than fieldstone. Such stones were readily available in the Piedmont which contributed to their widespread use as markers. These stones were used unworked and without inscription, although a tendency to choose naturally pointed stones can be detected. Until the early twentieth century, fieldstone markers also were placed at both the head and foot of the grave.

Finally, ornamental plantings are also a traditional part of the folk cemetery and have symbolic meaning. Evergreens were chosen to represent eternal life, while perennial spring flowers portray the resurrection of the body. Red cedars, magnolias, and crape myrtle are common cemetery trees, whereas periwinkle is a common ground cover. The latter has the dual virtues of being green and nearly maintenance free.

A common set of burial practices were followed in the rural south during the nineteenth century relating to cemetery location and composition, as well as marking, arranging, and aligning graves. Even the planting of evergreen plants and trees, as well as ornamental flowers was an important custom of the Southern Folk cemetery tradition. Virtually all of these traits are present in the Barbee cemetery.

### Field Methods

Field work was carried out intermittently during January and February, 1996. Initially, a surface walkover was done to assess the approximate extent of the cemetery. At that time, several of the more obvious graves were noted on the hilltop. These graves were characterized by linear depressions, several feet long and three-to-four feet wide. Two graves were marked by engraved tombstones, while the remainder appeared to be marked by simple fieldstones of various sizes. The graves were arranged in several broken rows that extended downslope for some distance.

Mapping the cemetery was facilitated by the placement of a grid aligned with magnetic north across the site. A transit and survey tape were used to place pins at twenty foot intervals across the cemetery. A metal pipe located approximately 120 ft east of the cemetery, along the eastern boundary of the property, served as datum. Prior to establishing the grid, the cemetery was systematically raked to remove leaf litter and other debris that obscured surface visibility. In addition, some fallen tree limbs and other forest debris that covered the ground in spots also was removed. The clearing revealed several other graves evidenced by only slight depressions or marked by very small fieldstones.

Initially, limited subsurface testing with a one inch soil auger also was planned, but this methodology was soon abandoned when it did not prove useful. These tests were intended to be used in situations where grave locations were not readily apparent from surface inspection. While auguring has been useful in previous studies to identify disturbed soil characteristic of graves, it was not useful in the Barbee cemetery. No readily apparent differences could be seen among soil cores from anywhere in the cemetery. The grave fill appeared identical to the surrounding subsoil matrix.

Nevertheless, it is believed that virtually all of the graves in the cemetery were located. The possible exceptions could be a few graves located under wood piles or disturbed by the road bed in the southwest corner of the cemetery. These disturbances, however, would only mask a few graves and are discussed further below.

Graves were mapped by triangulating their location with two tapes from grid points. Other prominent features of the landscape that were associated with the cemetery were also mapped, including a portion of a dirt road, hedgerows, rock outcrops, rock piles, large trash piles, and a few trees.

Finally, each grave was assigned a number as it was mapped and information regarding the presence/absence of depressions; the presence/absence of headstones, footstones and their locations; and headstone and footstone material types and shapes were recorded (Appendix 1). Inscriptions were present on only two markers which were also recorded.

## Results

The Barbee cemetery is located on the eastern edge of the hilltop approximately 240 ft east of the DuBose mansion (Figure 1). It contains approximately 120 graves, spread over the eastern slope of the mountain covering an area about 200 ft by 100 ft in size (Figure 2). As many as two dozen additional graves may be present in the southwest portion of the cemetery, but surface indications of their presence has been obscured by a dirt road and wood piles. Based upon grave length, the majority of burials contain adults or subadults. The relatively short length of 16 graves suggest they contain the remains of children.

A hedge borders the western edge of the cemetery and shields it from sight of the lawn. The hedge also forms the cemetery's northern boundary, shielding it from a brick walkway. Some large rock outcrops appear to have formed natural boundaries for the eastern edge of the cemetery. The southern extent of the cemetery appears to lack any natural or artificial border. Mature hardwoods, including oak, walnut, poplar, cedar, and hickory trees are interspersed throughout the cemetery. Periwinkle and a few inches of leaf litter cover the ground (Figure 3).

Only two graves (No.'s 5-6) were marked with an engraved headstone. Grave no. 6 belongs to William Barbee, whose headstone is shouldered and made of a fine grained igneous rock--perhaps granite (Figure 4). It is broken into several pieces which lie around the grave. Despite missing the decade portion of his date of death, the inscription is fairly clear. It reads "In Memory Of" followed by William's name, date of birth (November 17th, 1780) and his death (July 16th, 18-7). The year of death would be 1857 as indicated by the date his will was probated in court. The headstone is located at the west end of the grave with the inscription facing east; a small flat-topped footstone marks the east edge of his grave.

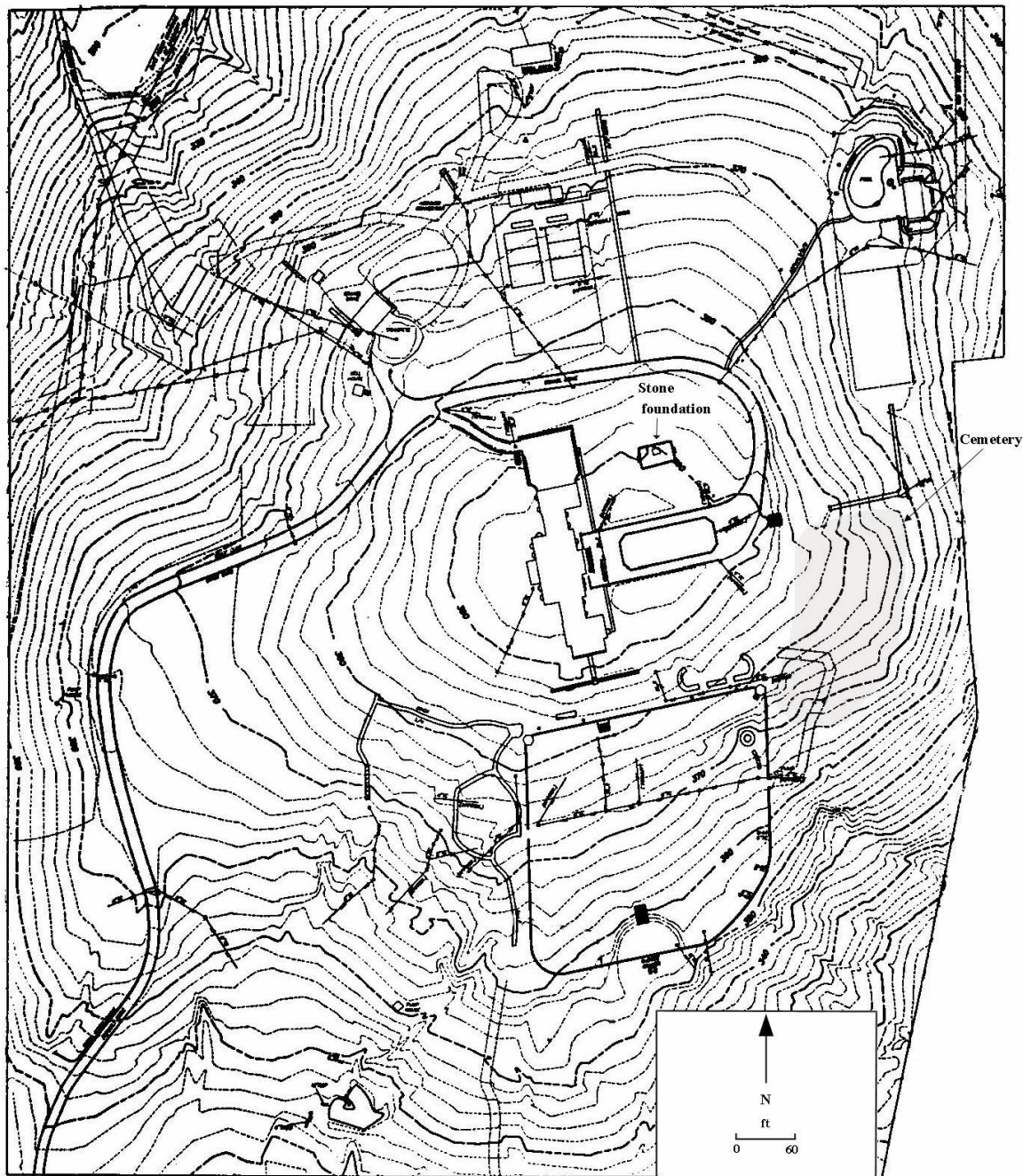


Figure 1. Cemetery and stone foundation locations on Meadowmont property.



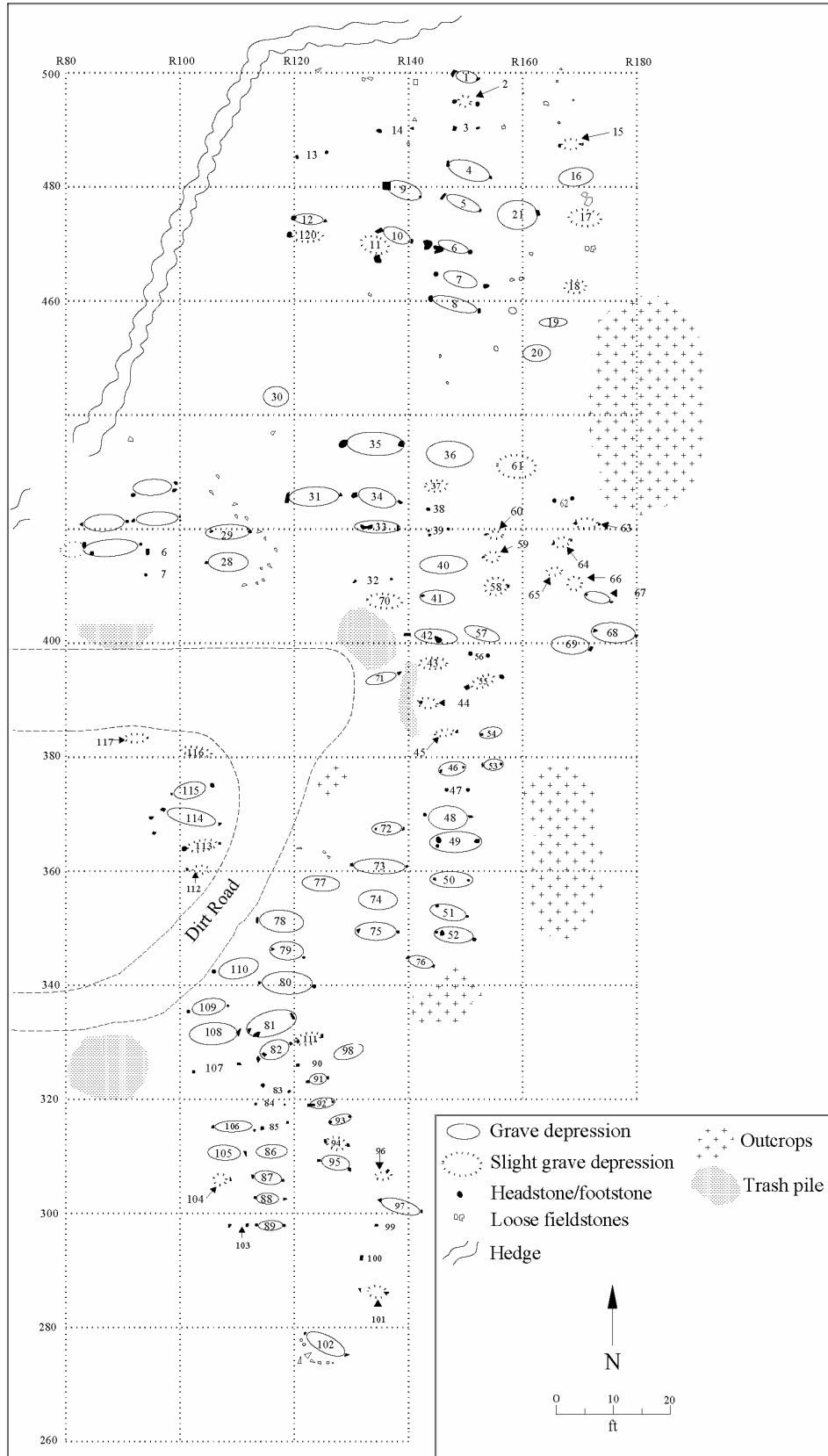


Figure 2. Barbee cemetery.



**Figure 3. North section of Barbee cemetery looking southeast.**



**Figure 4. William Barbee's grave.**

The second grave (no. 5) with an inscribed headstone belongs to Gaskey Barbee (Figures 5-6). She is buried a few feet north of her husband. Her headstone also reads "In Memory Of," followed by her name, date of birth (November 17, 1780) and date of death (June 4?, 1856). Her headstone is rounded and made of a similar stone as her husband's tombstone. Likewise her headstone is placed at the west end of the grave with the inscription facing east. A small round-topped footstone marks the opposite end of the grave. A cluster of daffodils, also located at the foot of the grave, began to bloom during the fieldwork.

As with the two Barbee graves, the remaining interments are aligned in an east-west direction. Virtually all of these graves are marked by simple fieldstones at both the head and foot of the grave. Presumably, these individuals also were laid to rest with their heads to the west. Our observations suggests that of the two fieldstones marking a grave, the stone at the western end was usually the larger. Although they exhibited no obvious signs at having been shaped, many stones appear to have been chosen because some portion of their surface was sharply pointed.

A few graves lacked any markers and were recorded based upon their linear depressions. It seems likely that these graves had markers at one point, however, and they were simply displaced or rotted if made from wood. Several fieldstones of the size and shape used as markers were noticed scattered about the cemetery surface.

Five graves did not have natural fieldstones for markers. Four of these graves (10, 11, 33, 35) exhibited rough hewn granite-like stone markers. They were tablet-shaped and had either flat or rounded tops. No inscriptions were observed on any of these markers. Two graves (10 and 33) have these stones at both the head and foot of the graves, although the presumed headstone is larger than the footstone. Two other graves (11 and 35) had tablet-like markers placed at the head (i.e., west end) of the grave. Small fieldstones marked the foot of the grave. Finally, a glazed brick was used to mark the head (i.e., western end) of one grave (112) with a fieldstone at the other end.

While the overall plan of the cemetery is rectilinear and does not appear to have had a formal design. While a pattern of rows and columns is discernible, there are noticeable gaps in the cemetery layout. The clearest example of a gap is present at the northern end. An approximate 20 ft break in grave placement is seen between the 440 and 460 grid lines. The twenty-two most northern graves are separated from the remaining graves in the cemetery. Moreover, there is some suggestive spatial patterning within this grave cluster which is made up of four loosely defined rows. In several cases, these rows appear to contain paired adult graves--presumably husband and wife. The center of this cluster contains an obvious row of eight graves (1-8), two of which are William (6) and Gaskey (5). Two other graves lie immediately to the north of William's and Gaskey's graves. Another pair of graves can be seen immediately to the south of William's grave. A final pair of graves (12, 120) is isolated to the east of William's. A few isolated graves are also present, as well as a slightly curved row of graves that form the eastern edge of the cluster.



Figure 5. Gaskey Barbee's grave.



Figure 6. Gaskey Barbee's tombstone.

Since this cluster is located in the most elevated portion of the cemetery and contains the remains of William and Gaskey as well as William's parents, these graves were probably among the earliest burials in the cemetery. The other graves in the cluster are probably also directly related to William and Gaskey. William's parents, Christopher and Mary, may have been buried in graves 10 and 9, respectively. This inference is based upon their paired nature and proximity to William and Gaskey. That is, graves 10 and 9 lie near the center of the cluster suggesting some prominence within the group.

Given that the remaining graves in this cluster are unmarked, there is no way to determine who is buried there, except to suggest that it includes Christopher's or William's children. Christopher and Mary had five children, but several migrated west and presumably died and were buried there (Vickers 1985:34-35). William listed five children in his will; four daughters and one son. Since his only son never married, one of the isolated graves (4 or 21) near William and Gaskey may contain his remains. Similarly, since all four daughters married, some of the paired graves could belong to his daughters and their husbands.

In addition, at least three children were buried in this group. These three graves (1-3) lie together in the same row as William's and Gaskey's which suggests they were the parents. No document examined in this study, however, mentioned that the couple ever lost a young child. The records indicate that only five children were born to the couple. These are the adult children of William listed in his will. Nevertheless, there is some evidence that suggests some Barbee children could have died without issue at a young age. An examination of the Orange County census in the few decades following William's marriage indicates as many as ten children in the household. The 1820 census, for instance, lists five boys and one girl in the Barbee household between the ages of 10 and 16. Four girls also are listed under the age of 11. Thus, this census data supports the possibility that there were more than five children born to the Barbee's and the presence of three small graves near William and Gaskey represent the burial places of these offspring.

Following the distinct gap in grave placement mentioned above, the remaining approximate 100 graves form a loose cluster that extends down the hilltop. This southern cluster also forms a series of rows some of which appear aligned with the rows in the first cluster. Somewhat lesser gaps also appear within this second cluster of graves, suggesting the presence of subgroups (families?) within the cluster. These gaps may be more apparent than real, however, due to the disturbances present along the hill slope. Nevertheless, the most noticeable subgroup consists of eight graves (22-29) located along the west-central edge of the cemetery (near grid coordinate 420R100). The eight graves were placed in three rows consisting of a middle row of four graves flanked by two rows of two graves. Two other gaps marking spaces between possible family plots are present between graves 71 and 72 (near 380R140) and southwest of graves 75 and 77 (350R120).

Little can be said concerning exactly who is buried in the southern cluster. Given the relatively large number of graves, some, if not most, probably represent Barbee

slaves. William Barbee was one of the largest slave owners in the region (Kinzer 1987:42). In 1850, shortly before his death, he owned at least 40 slaves. As many as 69 slaves, however, are recorded in the 1830 census. Thus, the main gap in the grave's distribution may separate those members of the Barbee family, buried in the highest and flattest portion of the cemetery, from the Barbee slaves buried down the hill slope. The perceived lesser gaps among the graves on the slope could separate individual slave family plots.

Finally, one other observation concerning spatial patterning can be made: children's graves tend to be clustered together. At least four concentrations are present. One concentration includes the three Barbee children noted above. Another concentration located along the east central edge of the cemetery includes graves 62-64 and possibly 59 and 60. Just to the south is another concentration including graves 47, 53, 54, and possibly 56. Lastly, graves 93 and 94 are located at the southern edge of the cemetery.

The cemetery was probably used for only a few decades during the nineteenth century. Assuming Christopher Barbee is buried there, he and his wife were probably among the first of the family to be interred in the cemetery. Mary died in 1823 and Christopher died in 1834. Since Christopher had between 20 and 30 slaves, the burial of Barbee slaves in the cemetery may have begun in the early 1800s as well. Subsequently, most of the slave interments were probably made prior to William and Gaskey's deaths in the 1850s. Because William's slaves were divided equally among his children after his death, few slaves may have been buried on the hilltop after 1856. It is also likely that, with the exception of some of William's children, no other Barbee descendants were ever buried on the hilltop. Probably no Barbees were buried in the cemetery after 1873 when the property left the Barbee family. The graves of these descendants appear to be located in some fourteen church and family cemeteries in Orange and Durham Counties recorded by the Durham-Orange Genealogical Society. Dated Barbee tombstones indicate that no burials of marked graves predate 1880. In fact, the overwhelming majority of these graves date to the early twentieth century.

## **RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY OF MEADOWMONT**

In addition to mapping the cemetery, a reconnaissance survey was conducted on the remaining Meadowmont property. Excluding the property slopes, the grounds were walked and inspected for any evidence of other archaeological remains predating the DuBose ownership.

Aside from the cemetery, the most obvious archaeological feature on the property is the stone foundation located east of the DuBose house (Figure 1). A play house, that is nearly contemporaneous with the mansion, has been erected inside the stone foundations (Hood 1985). The foundation is substantial measuring approximately 37 by 13 ft (Figures 7-8). Given that it contains two chimney footings, it most likely represents a house foundation. This house was still standing when DuBose built his mansion, as the

library is apparently paneled with pine from the structure (Hood 1985). The foundation probably represents the remains of one of the two structures depicted in John Daniel's 1792 map. Although speculative, it probably represents Christopher's home itself. On the other hand, it could represent a later structure, perhaps one built by William. However, the former interpretation seems more likely since, as noted above, William had his own plantation on Morgan Creek, as well as a house in town. It seems unlikely that he would need to maintain another residence on Barbee Mountain. Indeed, it may be the case that no other family member lived on the mountain after Christopher's death since William, acting as the executor of his father's will, sold all of the household and farm furnishings shortly after his father's death.

Particular attention was paid to the lawn east and north of the mansion. Given the flatness of this area and its proximity to the stone foundations and cemetery, we judged this location to have the highest potential for archaeological remains. Portions of this area are also slated for driveway expansion and hotel construction. Further subsurface testing is recommended here as outlined in the conclusions and recommendations.

Despite being heavily landscaped, surface visibility across the lawn was relatively good ranging from 50%-70%. Aside from the foundations near the house, there was little in the way of obvious archaeological remains on the surface. Only one historic artifact was recovered, a heavily stained (burned?) shell-edged pearlware sherd. Given its stained condition, it can only be roughly placed temporally to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. The sherd was recovered along a dirt path located midway between the pool and brick planters. While no other obvious archaeological remains were noted, several piles of large fieldstones were observed stacked around some large trees in this area. While these piles could result from land clearing, the size and shapes of the stones also resemble those stones forming the foundation near the house. Thus, these stone piles could have resulted from the razing of other structures on the property. Similar piles were not observed elsewhere on the property.

Documentary evidence suggests that several structures would have been present on the Barbee property. As mentioned above, William apparently sold most of the farm and household furnishings after his father's death. On January 22, 1834, a public notice announced the sale of "A number of Horses, Cattle, crop of Corn, Fodder, Farming Utensils, Household & Kitchen Furniture, & c." to take place "at the late residence" of Christopher Barbee (Vickers 1985:6). The materials listed for sale indicates that buildings in addition to the main residence would have been present on the property, including a detached kitchen a barn or stable, as well as other outbuildings such as a smokehouse, privy, and buggy shed. There also would have been several slave quarters. Whether these structures were located on the mountain top itself is uncertain, but they were certainly located on the Barbee property. Unfortunately, no documents are known to exist that indicate the number or location of buildings present on the property.





**Figure 7. Stone foundation looking north.**



**Figure 8. Stone foundation looking southeast.**



Finally, one additional location was noted during the reconnaissance that might contain some structural remains. An area near the southwest corner of the wall surrounding the DuBose burial plot contained a stone and brick pile, as well as a line of stone that could represent a chimney fall and partial building foundation. Vegetation growth prevented an accurate identification and assessment of these remains.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Meadowmont property has considerable historical significance for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Aside from the listing of the DuBose house and grounds on the National Register of Historic Places, the hilltop—once known as Barbee Mountain—was home to Christopher Barbee, an original university benefactor. The most obvious remains of the Barbee plantation include a family cemetery and house site foundations.

The existence of the cemetery was apparently not widely known in recent times, although DuBose was undoubtedly aware of it. This conclusion is supported by the fact that no mention of the cemetery was made in the Barbee genealogy assembled by Shields (1971). Nor was the existence of the cemetery known to the Durham-Orange Genealogical Society prior to this survey (M. D. Forsyth, Jr., to R. Daniel, letter, 16 March, 1996, Research Laboratories of Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). Nevertheless, several members of the Barbee family are interred in the cemetery including William and his wife Gaskey; a substantial number of family slaves are probably buried in the cemetery as well. Although current evidence is not conclusive, it is highly likely that Christopher Barbee and his wife are also buried in the cemetery.

A stone foundation located west of the cemetery is the other prominent feature on the tract associated with the Barbee plantation. It has tentatively been identified as Christopher's home and would have been one of several plantation structures on the hilltop. Although no apparent remains of these additional structures were identified during this survey, some potential locations were identified where they might have been located on the property.

To conclude, we have the following recommendations concerning the disposition of the archaeological and historical remains at Meadowmont:

- The cemetery, of course, should be preserved. Towards this end, cemetery boundaries should be clearly marked. Since the cemetery is located on a National Register site, the details of marking the cemetery should be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer. Moreover, some consideration should be given to maintaining the cemetery's appearance. The trash piles that have accumulated within the cemetery should be removed. Similarly, some thought should be given to repairing William Barbee's tombstone and restoring it to an upright position. Finally, any construction or maintenance activities that

could adversely impact the cemetery should be avoided. With respect to this recommendation, all use of the dirt road that runs into the southwestern portion of the cemetery should cease immediately.

- The stone foundations adjacent to the mansion should be preserved and any future construction or maintenance activities near the foundations should avoid disturbing those remains.
- At least three areas within the proposed construction zones have the highest potential for containing buried archaeological deposits. These areas should be subjected to close interval small shovel tests and auguring. Two areas with archaeological potential lie in the lawn just east of the mansion where some proposed driveway expansion is planned. The first area includes a block approximately 120 by 180 ft located immediately north of the existing turn-around drive. This area is in the vicinity of the stone foundation. The second area, lies south of the existing drive and is about 180 by 90 ft in size. The final area consists of a block measuring 360 by 180 ft in the northwest section of the property, where the hotel will be located (Figure 9).
- Since no apparent land disturbing activities are planned in the vicinity of the DuBose burial plot, no further work is needed at this time to further assess those stone and brick remains identified near these graves. Additional archaeological assessment would be necessary, however, if land disturbing activities are planned for the future.

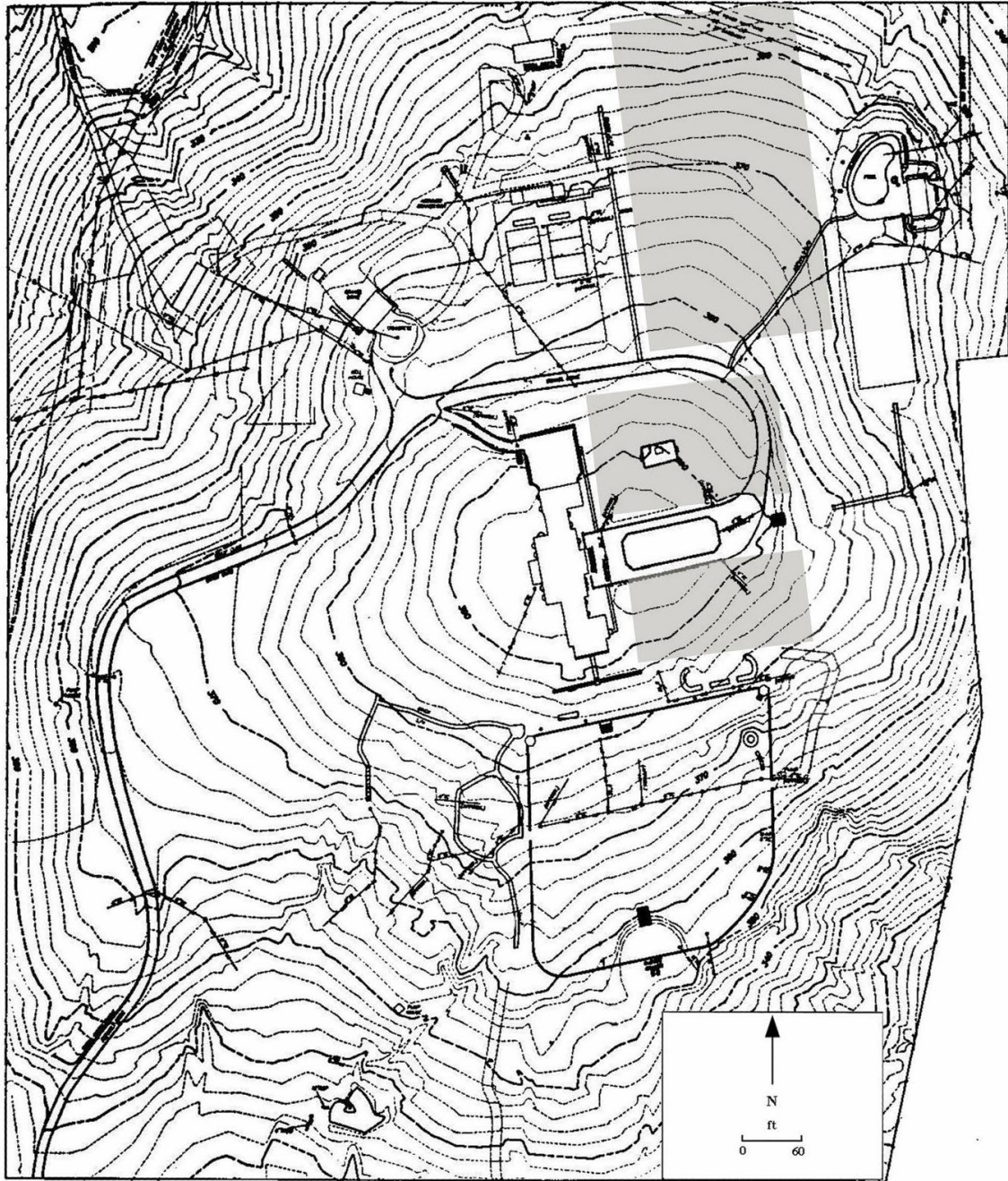


Figure 9. Proposed locations (shaded areas) for shovel testing.

Appendix 1. Barbee Cemetery grave characteristics.

Grave	Surface Features			Headstone			Footstone			Comments
	Depression	Headstone	Footstone	Location	Material	Shape	Location	Material	Shape	
1	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Rounded	Footstone is roughly modified; headstone lies in depression.
2	Slight	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	Child..	Fieldstone	Pointed	Child..
3	Absent	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	Child..
4	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	-
5	Present	Present	Present	West	Granite?	Rounded	East	Granite?	Oval	Marked tombstone; dañadils planted around footstone.
6	Present	Present	Present	West	Granite?	Shouldered	East	Granite?	Flat	Marked tombstone; fallen and broken.
7	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	Headstone and footstone are roughly shaped?
8	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
9	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Large flat fieldstone fallen in depression.
10	Present	Present	Present	West	Granite?	Tall and flat	East	Fieldstone?	Square	Roughly shaped markers?
11	Present	Displaced?	Absent	Displaced?	Granite?	Flat	-	-	-	Marker fallen and displaced; near east edge of grave. One face roughly shaped and smoothed.
12	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	Eastern marker is larger than western marker.
13	Absent	Present	Present	-	Fieldstone	Natural	-	Fieldstone	Natural	Possible grave.
14	Absent	Present	Present	-	Fieldstone	Natural	-	Fieldstone	Natural	Possible grave?
15	Present	Present	Present	-	Fieldstone	Natural	-	Fieldstone	Natural	Child?
16	Present	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fieldstone marker displaced to north .

Appendix 1 (continued). Barbee Cemetery grave characteristics.

Grave	Surface Features			Headstone			Footstone			Comments
	Depression	Headstone	Footstone	Location	Material	Shape	Location	Material	Shape	
17	Slight	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Slight	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Present	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Present	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Present	Absent?	Present	-	-	-	East	Fieldstone	Flat	-
22	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Dome	-
23	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
24	Present	Present?	Present?	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone (??)	Natural	-
25	Present	Present?	Present?	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone (??)	Natural	-
26	Absent	Present	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Rounded	-	-	-	-
27	Absent	Present	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Natural	-	-	-	Possible grave
28	Present	Present	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Natural	-	-	-	-
29	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	-
30	Present	Absent	Present?	-	-	-	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Circular depression; treefall?
31	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Granite?	Pointed	Headstone is large and flat.
32	Absent	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
33	Present	Present	Present	West	Granite?	Rounded	East	Granite	Rounded	Headstone fallen in grave.
34	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
35	Present	Present	Present	West	Granite?	Rounded	East	Fieldstone	Rounded	Both markers are large, flat, and fallen.
36	Present	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
37	Slight	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	Possible grave.
38	Absent	Present?	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Natural	-	-	-	-
39	Absent	Present	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Child..?
40	Present	Absent	Absent?	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fieldstone in depression.
41	Present	Present	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	-	-	-	-
42	Present	Present?	Present?	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Both markers somewhat displaced.

Appendix 1 (continued). Barbee Cemetery grave characteristics.

Grave	Surface Features			Headstone			Footstone			Comments
	Depression	Headstone	Footstone	Location	Material	Shape	Location	Material	Shape	
43	Slight	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
44	Slight	Present?	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Natural	-	-	-	-
45	Present	Absent	Present	-	-	-	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
46	Slight	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
47	Absent	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Child..
48	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
49	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Both markers large and flat; fallen into grave?
50	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Dome	-
51	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	-
52	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Large stone in grave
53	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Child..
54	Present	Present?	-	West	Fieldstone	Natural	-	-	-	Child..., footstone displaced to the south?
55	Slight	Present?	Present	West	Fieldstone	Flat	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Headstone large and flat; displaced?
56	Slight	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	Child..
57	Present	Absent	Present?	-	-	-	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	Footstone displaced to east.
58	Present	Absent	Present?	-	-	-	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
59	Slight	Present	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Natural	-	-	-	Child..?
60	Slight	Present	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Natural	-	-	-	Child..?
61	Present	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
62	Absent	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Flat	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	Child..
63	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Child..
64	Slight	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Child..
65	Present	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	Possible grave.
66	Present	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Circular depression. Treefall?
67	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
68	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	-

Appendix 1 (continued). Barbee Cemetery grave characteristics.

Grave	Surface Features			Headstone			Footstone			Comments
	Depression	Headstone	Footstone	Location	Material	Shape	Location	Material	Shape	
69	Present	Absent	Present?	-	-	-	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
70	Slight	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	Possible grave, near outcrops. Disturbed by road and woodpile.
71	Present	Absent	Present?	-	-	-	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Double footstone.
72	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
73	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
74	Present	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Rounded	East	Fieldstone	Rounded	Headstone flat and fallen into grave. Child..
76	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
77	Present	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
78	Present	Present?	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Natural	-	-	-	-
79	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
80	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	-
81	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
82	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
83	Slight	Present?	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Market displaced into grave?
84	Slight	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
85	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Flat	-
86	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Flat	-
87	Present	Present	Present	West	Granite?	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	-
88	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
89	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Rounded	-
90	Absent	Present	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Natural	-	-	-	Footstone depression present? Tree growing near headstone.
91	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Child..?
92	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	Headstone fallen into grave. Child..?
93	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-

Appendix 1 (continued). Barbee Cemetery grave characteristics.

Grave	Surface Features			Headstone			Footstone			Comments
	Depression	Headstone	Footstone	Location	Material	Shape	Location	Material	Shape	
94	Slight	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Child.?
95	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Footstone fallen.
96	Slight	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	Marker along north side of grave.
97	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Square	East	Fieldstone	Rounded	-
98	Present	Absent	Absent	-	-	-	-	-	-	Marker displaced to East
99	Absent	Present?	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Natural	-	-	-	Grave disturbed by tree?
100	Absent	Present?	Absent?	West	Fieldstone	Square	-	-	-	Grave disturbed by tree and rockpile?
101	Absent	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Rounded	East	-	-	-
102	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	Several stones line south edge of grave.
103	Absent	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Square	East	Fieldstone	Rounded	Child.
104	Slight	Absent?	Present?	-	-	-	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	-
105	Present	Absent?	Present?	-	-	-	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
106	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	-
107	Absent	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	-
108	Present	Absent?	Present?	-	-	-	East	Fieldstone	Pointed	-
109	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
110	Present	Present?	Absent?	West	Fieldstone	Natural	-	-	-	-
111	Slight	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Child.
112	Slight	Present?	Absent?	West	Brick	-	-	-	-	Glazed brick.
113	Slight	Present?	Present?	West	Fieldstone	Pointed	-	-	-	-
114	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
115	Present	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
116	Slight	Present	Present	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	-
117	Slight	Present	Absent	West	Fieldstone	Natural	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Possible grave.
118	Absent	Absent	Present?	-	-	-	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Possible grave.
119	Absent	Absent	Present?	-	-	-	East	Fieldstone	Natural	Possible grave.
120	Slight	Present?	Absent?	West	Fieldstone	Natural?	-	-	-	Headstone fallen.



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