

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Wright-Hunter Cemetery

Other names/site number: Hunter Cemetery, Chilson Colored Cemetery, Sylvia Cemetery

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: The intersection of Antonio Avenue and Lemp Lane

City or town: Beckley State: West Virginia County: Raleigh

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this X 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 X 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 X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

<u>Susan M Pierce</u> <u>D.S.H.P.O.</u> <u>2-26-24</u>	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Arts, Culture and History</u>	
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

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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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: OTHER: Stone/Concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Wright-Hunter Cemetery is located in the Town District of the City of Beckley in Raleigh County, West Virginia at the intersection of Antonio Avenue and Lemp Lane. The Wright-Hunter Cemetery is approximately two acres in size and is situated on a level, grassed parcel in a residential neighborhood that was historically populated by Black residents. Burial markers are informally and irregularly placed and include upright memorials constructed of concrete, marble and granite while several consist of concrete plaques which lay flush with the ground. Some markers only consist of a natural stone. The cemetery has experienced both natural erosion and some decay of its stones from well-intentioned rehabilitation efforts, however, it retains its integrity of location, setting, feeling, association and materials. The workmanship and design of grave markers are also apparent. This cemetery is the earliest known burial ground in Raleigh County established by a Black resident for use during segregation.

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Narrative Description

The Wright-Hunter Cemetery is situated on a flat parcel of ground in East Beckley approximately 1.5 miles from the city center. Surrounded by Lemp Lane, Barber Avenue, and Antonio Avenue, the modest cemetery is bordered by a chain link fence with a three-foot gate allowing entry near Antonio Avenue. Thick foliage exists along the southern and eastern perimeter. The cemetery today is approximately 2.2 acres in size. A stately entry was constructed circa 1991 with two, four-foot concrete columns serving as the base of an aluminum arch that identifies the cemetery. It reads: "Gone but not forgotten in the Hunter Cemetery/ Land given by Rev. D.C. Hunter in 1901, A.D./ Restored by Rev. W.H. Law and many supporters in 1993 A.D."¹ This decorative arch also has a three-sided vinyl fence and two flagpoles.

The cemetery is irregular in its size and shape with irregularly placed burials. Some graves have permanent markers hand-cut from marble or formed from concrete while others were machine-cut polished granite. There also appears to be many additional burials marked only by the depressions left in the grass-covered ground. The grave markers give a brief understanding of the socio-economic status of the decedents. The markers' iconography also provides a glimpse into the beliefs, fraternal organizations and the grief of loved ones left behind. Small children, like six-year-old Ruby Foster, were remembered with marble lambs while those who were spiritual may have had an image of praying hands or the gates of heaven etched into their stone. Some markers had symbols of the Masons, Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias including chain links, and the letters F, C and B in a triangle which stood for Friendship, Benevolence and Charity. Several military veterans are also interred in the cemetery with their standardized marble headstones. Approximately 109 graves were located through their markers, and 157 additional burials were identified (but not located) through obituary and newspaper research.

One large maple tree is situated to the southeast of the entry which appears to be at least 100 years old while a new growth beech tree is situated in the center of the cemetery.² A yucca plant is also growing around a headstone toward the west side of the cemetery while an unidentified plant with thorns is growing around a burial on the east side of the cemetery. Yucca and other thorny plants were historically linked to African American funerary culture as there was a belief that these plants prevented the movement of spirits.³ The cemetery is covered with grass which is kept short.

When the initial Beckley Court Addition was laid out in 1919, the plat retained a large right-of-way which was later utilized to install overhead utilities including electric power poles. One power pole is located inside the cemetery boundary.

Originally, only a half-acre parcel was reserved by Reverend Hunter as a burial ground when he sold a portion of the property in 1925, however, in 1936, 1944 and 1952, additional adjacent lots

¹ D.C. Hunter did not purchase the parcel of land until 1906 according to Raleigh County Deed Book 36, Page 151.

² The species of this tree is based on an educated guess and is not confirmed by a botanist.

³ Susan McGahee and Mary W. Edmonds, *South Carolina's Historic Cemeteries, a Preservation Handbook*, Columbia, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1997, 11.

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were purchased by Black-owned funeral homes and residents to provide additional gravesites for their patrons.

The cemetery fell into disarray in the mid 20th century although several efforts were made over the years to clean and organize the cemetery. The chain link fence was also added around the perimeter of the cemetery in 1991.

Rumors persist that a mass burial took place to inter the deceased from the West Virginia Colored Tuberculosis Sanitarium (also known as Denmar Sanitarium), however, only 18 names have been identified thus far as former patient burials. Additional potential unmarked burials, however, appear visible both on the ground and from aerial surveillance. Additional research and archaeological survey are necessary to determine the existence and location of additional burials.

The entry arch, vinyl fence, concrete pillars, power pole and chain link fence are all considered non-contributing features.

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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

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

- 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

SOCIAL HISTORY

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Period of Significance

1906-1960

Significant Dates

1906

1936

1944

1952

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Wright-Hunter Cemetery is locally significant as a cemetery that was established by an African American for other African Americans to be buried during segregation. For nearly 60 years, the rural cemetery continued to grow and serve as a non-denominational resting place for Black residents. This site is eligible under Criterion A: Social History and Ethnic Heritage (Black) for its association with African American burial practices during segregation. The markers that remain in the cemetery also provide evidence of the community's cultural/spiritual and political beliefs. This cemetery meets National Register Criteria Consideration D as the cemetery derives its primary significance through its association with a historic event. The

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period of significance for this cemetery begins in 1906 when Reverend D.C. Hunter purchased the property through 1960 which is when the last recorded burial took place.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Wright-Hunter Cemetery is reflective of the cultural norms and beliefs of the early 20th century in southern West Virginia. The cemetery itself was the byproduct of systematic racism and Jim Crow laws which encouraged a segregated society while also demonstrating the self-reliance and funerary culture of Black West Virginians in the early 20th century.

Beckley is the county seat of Raleigh County which was formed from Fayette County in 1850.⁴ The county possessed a varied landscape with fertile soil, large tracts of timber, and coal.⁵ Named after General Alfred Beckley, a pioneer and early settler of the region, the town is situated on a plateau and the extension of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad to the region in 1901 helped accelerate its development, becoming an incorporated city in 1908.⁶ The region's newly found coal deposits also attracted laborers to fuel the area's population growth. Beckley was known as the "Smokeless Coal Capital of the World," and the demand for coal during WWI spurred the region's development with numerous coal mines and related operations.⁷

Coal companies placed ads in southern newspapers to attract Black workers or sometimes engaged laborers by sending men out to extoll the promise and potential of the West Virginia coal fields.⁸ Eventually, some Black workers recruited their family and friends to work in the mines, extending kinship networks throughout southern West Virginia and increasing the African American population of southern West Virginia.⁹

As the region grew, schools, theaters and opera houses brought culture into the community and Beckley sought to improve its municipal standing through beautification programs and street paving.¹⁰ As the town grew more prosperous, it also became more segregated.

Segregation was a form of repression that resulted from the Civil War as a way to continue to subjugate the Black populace. Segregation was found in public education, housing developments, entertainment, eating establishments and recreational activities. West Virginia's

⁴Charles Krebs, Teets, D. Dee., Latimer, William J., Price, William Armstrong. *Raleigh County and the Western Portions of Mercer and Summers Counties*. United States: Wheeling News Litho. Company, 1916, 1.

⁵ Krebs, 3.

⁶ Krebs, 3 and Federal Writers' Project, *The WPA Guide to West Virginia: The Mountain State*, United States: Trinity University Press, 2013, 459.

⁷ Federal Writers Project, 459.

⁸ Joe William Trotter, *Coal, Class and Color: Blacks in Southern West Virginia, 1915-1932*, University of Illinois Press: Urbana/Chicago, 1990: 21.

⁹ Joe William Trotter, *Coal, Class and Color: Blacks in Southern West Virginia, 1915-1932*, University of Illinois Press: Urbana/Chicago, 1990, 81.

¹⁰ Federal Writers' Project, *The WPA Guide to West Virginia: The Mountain State*, United States: Trinity University Press, 2013, 459.

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first state constitution made sure to include segregated schools to enforce strict separation of the races.¹¹ Regardless of the obstacles in their way, many Black residents created opportunities for themselves in the mines of southern West Virginia.¹²

The unincorporated community of Sylvia, later called East Beckley, soon became home to many African American residents. Sylvia was situated along South Kanawha Street and extended southward which appeared as a flourishing community with a church and a school.¹³ According to the 1910 United States Census, Sylvia was enumerated as an individual district with 452 residents. Interestingly, while Sylvia was populated with miners and was located adjacent to a mine, it was not considered a company town and had a variety of Black, white and foreign-born residents.

The town of Sylvia, in 1910, had a mix of residents representing an assortment of occupations including miners, breakmen, doctors, gardeners, photographers and an architect.¹⁴ The town appeared to be slightly divided by race by street, although, white and Black families were still living amongst each other. Out of the 178 total workers, 91 were miners (with 56 residents of Black or mixed race and 35 were white). Sylvia, at this time, also had a high degree of home ownership among African Americans with 32 Black or mixed-race homeowners compared to 18 white homeowners.¹⁵

One of the most influential residents of the Sylvia area was Dr. D.C. Hunter. David C. Hunter was born a slave in 1864 in Forest Depot, Bedford County, Virginia. After emancipation, Hunter attended public schools and worked in the railroad industry, like his father.¹⁶ At 23 years of age, he had a religious awakening and began attending Forest Baptist Church.¹⁷ Hunter then attended the Richmond Theological Seminary and moved to West Virginia where he ministered while working in the coal mines. Hunter established eight new Baptist churches throughout the New River Region including, in 1908, the Ebenezer Baptist Church which was Beckley's first established church for Black residents.¹⁸

Hunter purchased approximately five and a half acres from Thomas Wickham in 1906 to establish a burial ground for Black Raleigh County residents.¹⁹ Although there appeared to be no

¹¹ Trotter, *Coal, Class and Color*, 29 and the Constitution of the State of West Virginia 1872, Article XII, item 8 which expressly forbids white and non-white students from attending the same school as found in <https://archive.wvculture.org/history/government/1872constitution.html>, accessed August 8, 2023.

¹² Trotter, *Coal, Class and Color*, 29.

¹³ "Beckley," USGS Topographic Map, 1911 as found in USGS Historic Topographic Map Explorer, <https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/topoexplorer/index.html>, accessed July 28, 2023.

¹⁴ Ancestry.com. *1910 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

¹⁵ Ancestry.com. *1910 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

¹⁶ A.B. Caldwell, *History of the American Negro and His Institutions: West Virginia*, United States: A. B. Caldwell Publishing Company, 1923, 122.

¹⁷ Caldwell, 122.

¹⁸ "Rev. Hunter Won Fame as Pastor At Many Places," *Beckley Post-Herald*, August 26, 1950.

¹⁹ Raleigh County Deed Book 36, Page 151.

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pomp or circumstance relating to this purchase, when he later sold part of the property in 1926, he excepted “one-half acre, more or less, enclosed by a fence and that is now being used by Negroes for cemetery purposes...”²⁰ It is interesting to note that while Rev. Hunter was actively involved with the Baptist Church, the cemetery he established was not formally connected to any churches in the area.

Rose Braxton was the earliest known burial in the new cemetery. Mrs. Braxton died December 1, 1906 and has an ornate and descriptive headstone. Death notices and burials for Black Americans were rarely reported in the newspaper in the early years unless it was someone held in high esteem [generally by the white community] or had a salacious quality to it. The first death notice for a burial in the new cemetery was printed in 1908 for the death of Charles Wright, “one of the oldest and best-known colored men in the section.” Mr. Wright was “buried on Sunday afternoon in the colored cemetery at Sylvia, the funeral being in charge of the Odd Fellows.”²¹

The need for skilled and unskilled laborers in the mines brought European immigrants and Black migrants to the region. Workers began to be separated into segregated neighborhoods, based on race, ethnicity or economic standing. The Lilly Land Company sought to capitalize on the new market of Black homeowners and began running ads in the local newspaper advertising 50 lots in East Beckley “to sell to the colored people.”²² The advertisement listed the names of men and women and their previous addresses who had already purchased property. It is interesting to note that most buyers were from southern West Virginia mining communities including Logan, Gary, and Matewan.²³

The Lilly Land Company developed the Beckley Court Addition in 1919 to attract additional residents to the area. Formerly part of Tract 10 of the Beaver Coal Company lands, the approximately 117-acre parcel was subdivided into numerous lots approximately 40 feet wide and 120 feet long²⁴. A map of the proposed development shows the first illustration of a “colored cemetery” in the region of the Wright-Hunter Cemetery. There appears to be a discrepancy in the layout of the “colored cemetery” as drawn in 1919 as it more likely extended east-west from Barber Avenue to Antonio Avenue, rather than north to south as depicted, however, it possibly could have been a collaboration between the Lilly Land Company or the Beaver Coal and Coke/Raleigh Coal and Coke Company (previous owners of the land) and the Black community at Sylvia.

By 1929, South Fayette Street extended eastward from Beckley and by 1932, topographic maps show Sylvia and the surrounding region were incorporated into the Beckley City limits and renamed East Beckley. The area between South Fayette Street and Kanawha Boulevard became home to many African Americans with schools, churches and stores catering to Black patrons. Where separation between the races was once an unspoken rule, segregation became codified with Jim Crow laws.

²⁰ Raleigh County Deed Book 92, Page 278.

²¹ “Death of Charles Wright,” *The Raleigh Herald*, December 10, 1908, Page 1.

²² *The Raleigh Herald*, Beckley, West Virginia, Friday, September 28, 1917, Page 5.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ Raleigh County Deed Book 66, Page 288.

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As the Black population in Beckley grew, so too did the need for additional burial space. James Grey purchased additional lots from the Lilly Land Company in 1936 for ‘the express use as a cemetery or for burial purposes’.²⁵ Mr. Grey, according to the 1930 US Federal Census, was a Black barber living on South Fayette Street who owned his own shop.²⁶ Gray purchased four lots abutting the southwest boundary of the cemetery although no evidence has been found that he actually ran any type of funerary establishment.²⁷ Gray sold his lots to C.D. Trent in 1942 who also ran a funeral home in Beckley.²⁸

B.L. Wright also purchased several lots from the Lilly Land Company in 1944 which was utilized for additional burial space.²⁹ B.L. is short for Mrs. Bessie L. Wright who was listed in the 1934 City Directory as an undertaker in her own right.³⁰ In the 1940 US Federal Census, Bessie Wright is listed as the owner of a funeral home while her husband was employed as a miner.³¹

Several years later, after Bessie’s passing, R.L. Wright [Bessie Wright’s son, Russell L. Wright, who was listed as an embalmer in the 1950 US Federal Census] purchased additional land on the north side of the property, although it has the fewest extant above ground burial markers.³²

Decedents from the Denmark Sanitarium (also known as the West Virginia Colored Tuberculosis Asylum) are also buried within the Wright-Hunter Cemetery, although only 18 individuals have been identified thus far. These burials are interspersed among the other decedents; their only identifying feature as former tuberculosis patients is the cause of death written on the death certificate.

The Wright-Hunter Cemetery also is the final resting place for several veterans whose government-issued marble headstones list their name, rank and birthplace. Amous Brown, of East Beckley, was a World War I Veteran who passed in 1953, whose burial is not marked with any headstone.³³

²⁵ Raleigh County Deed Book 134, Page 221, June 6, 1936.

²⁶ Ancestry.com, 1930 U.S. Federal Census, “James Gray,” *Beckley, Raleigh, West Virginia*; Page: 13B; Enumeration District: 0016.

²⁷ As evidenced by Beckley City Directory research and newspaper research.

²⁸ Raleigh County Deed Book 186, Page 369. The CD Trent Funeral Home later became the Durgan Funeral Home which continues to provide burial services in Raleigh County (as of 2023).

²⁹ Raleigh County Deed Book 196, Page 30.

³⁰ Beckley City Directory, 1934, 173.

³¹ Ancestry.com, “Bessie Wright,” 1940 U.S. Federal Census, *Town, Raleigh, West Virginia*; Page: 35A; Enumeration District: 41-41.

³² Raleigh County Deed Book 337, Page 0071. Russell L. Wright died on January 11, 1958 and the Wright Funeral Home later conducted business as the Wright and Anderson Funeral Home, which appeared to conduct business until 1971, when it was identified in the local newspaper as being delinquent for payment of back taxes (*Beckley Post Herald*, July 27, 1971).

³³ *Beckley Post-Herald*, “Veteran’s Rites Tuesday,” December 1, 1953. An application for a military headstone exists, however, no marker is visible within the cemetery. National Archives at Washington DC; Washington DC, USA; Applications for Headstones For U.S. Military Veterans, 1925-1941; NAID: 596118; Record Group Number: 92; Record Group Title: Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General as found in ancestry.com.

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The most well-known burial in the cemetery was that of Rev. D.C. Hunter, who died in 1944. Buried alongside his wife Eliza (d. 1937) and two sons who pre-deceased him (d. 1910 and d. 1915), Rev. Hunter's simple granite headstone says, "he fought a good fight and kept the faith."

Celia Williams was the oldest person reportedly buried in the cemetery. Ms. Williams' obituary stated she was 115-year-old at the time of her death.³⁴

The last burial recorded in the Wright-Hunter Cemetery was William Dangerfield who was buried in 1960. The City took care of part of the cemetery intermittently in the late 20th century, although the cemetery became overgrown and forgotten until several passionate groups, encouraged by Reverend Hall, sought to reclaim the history of the cemetery in the 1990s.³⁵ Today, while the cemetery is under the care of the Durgan Funeral Home, no recent burials have occurred at the site and the cemetery is maintained by the local branch of the NAACP.

Funerary Practices

Funerary practices in the United States during the early 20th century transformed from a very intimate experience to professionalized, impersonal system. No longer were loved ones cleaning and preparing the body for burial but instead specialized practitioners were called in to handle arrangements.³⁶

The deceased bodies were first washed, then placed in burial clothes before being laid out in a formal setting for a wake, which was often called, in the Black community, "setting up."³⁷ The wake was generally held in family homes before formal settings were established and would allow the community an opportunity to celebrate the deceased with food and drink before they were buried.³⁸ Historic African traditions permeated their way into Black American funeral practices as a way to ensure the deceased experienced a successful afterlife.³⁹

The first city directory for Beckley was published in 1921 which listed three embalmers (C.C. Rose, H.T. Caffee and Son, and H.F. Wilfong).⁴⁰ Calfee and Son and C.C. Rose were also listed as undertakers.⁴¹ While in some areas, white funeral homes did embalm minorities, it was not a common practice; as a result, black funeral homes were established to cater to the needs of the

³⁴ *The Raleigh Register*, "Williams Funeral Set," July 20, 1951.

³⁵ *The Raleigh Register*, "City Street Department Readies for Snow," November 20, 1961.

³⁶ Lynn Rainville, *Hidden History: African American Cemeteries in Central Virginia*, University of Virginia Press: 2014, 66.

³⁷ Rainville, 67.

³⁸ Rainville, 68.

³⁹ Rainville, 69.

⁴⁰ *Directory of Beckley*, 1921, 53.

⁴¹ *Directory of Beckley*, 1921, 59.

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African American community. Because of this important role in society, Black funeral directors were often considered socially elite.⁴²

Very few obituaries of Black residents before 1920 mentioned the funeral home/undertaker handing the burial, however, two were noted; Lena Harris, an 11-year-old girl, was handled by Caffee and Son while Rufus Lewis was buried by Rose and Turner.⁴³ Harris and Lewis were both buried in the “colored” cemetery near Sylvia.

In 1927, four undertakers were listed in the City Directory of Beckley, two of which were listed as “colored:” *Armstead and Co.* located on Neville Street with L.E. Armstead, manager and *The Funeral Home* located in East Beckley.⁴⁴ L.E. Armstead was later featured in an article claiming to be the “First Negro Mortician” in Beckley, establishing his business in 1923.⁴⁵

In 1929, the Rose Funeral Home was the only listed embalmer and funeral director in Beckley while four businesses were listed as undertakers, Armstead and Co., Calfee and Son and Early and Jackson (in addition to Rose Funeral Home).⁴⁶ The Rose Funeral Home served as the only listed embalmer and funeral director in 1932.⁴⁷ Additional undertakers were listed in the 1932 Directory including Armstead and Co, Calfee and Co, Foster Undertaking, Jackson and Johnson, Jackson and Son, Lee W. Henry and the Rose Funeral Home.⁴⁸ None of these establishments were identified by race, however, in the 1934 City Directory, Jackson and Son, Inc. Funeral Directors and Embalmers were listed as “colored.”⁴⁹ Jackson and Son saw competition from Willfong-NE Smith Inc. who were also listed as embalmers and funeral directors.⁵⁰ The competition of undertakers increased in 1934 with the addition of C.D. Trent Undertaking Co., and Mrs. Bessie L. Wright. Although race was not identified in the directory that year, the location of several establishments on South Kanawha hinted that these businesses were located in the predominantly Black section of Beckley.

The term “embalmers” began to phase out of funerary terminology and was replaced with “undertakers” and “funeral directors.” By 1937, the City Directory listed Wrights Funeral Home at “227 (341) South Kanawha.”⁵¹ In 1942, Beckley had nine funeral directors listed including Jackson and Sons, C.D. Trent Funeral Home, and Wrights Funeral Home which was listed at “F St, New Raleigh, East Beckley, W Va.”⁵² C.D. Trent and the Wright Funeral Home continued to be listed in 1952 but saw increased competition from new businesses.⁵³

⁴² Rainville, 70.

⁴³ *The Raleigh Herald*, “Colored Girl Dies,” March 19, 1915 and *The Raleigh Herald*, “Well Known Colored Man Died,” September 4, 1914.

⁴⁴ Directory of Beckley, 1927, Page 95.

⁴⁵ *Beckley Post Herald*, August 26, 1950, Page 86.

⁴⁶ City Directory of Beckley, 1929: 222, 224 and 247.

⁴⁷ Beckley City Directory, 1932: 198, 200.

⁴⁸ Beckley City Directory, 1932: 218.

⁴⁹ Beckley City Directory, 1934: 23.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, 217, 219.

⁵¹ Beckley City Directory, 1939: 261.

⁵² Beckley City Directory, 1942.

⁵³ Beckley City Directory, 1952: 76.

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Beginning in the 1930s, the names of funeral homes became more pronounced in obituary listings than they were in the early 20th century. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, the Wright Funeral Home and the C.D. Trent Funeral Home appeared to provide the most popular burial services to the Wright-Hunter Cemetery.

Another aspect of death among Black Americans was the mutual aid societies and insurance agencies which helped usher the deceased into the next realm. Historian Carter G. Woodson argued that “the African penchant for burial pomp and secret societies have been developed mainly around the idea of taking care of the sick and dead; and from this as a nucleus these orders have become mainly insurance companies.”⁵⁴ The Black-based insurance companies also led to social organizations which filled a void in Black life. W.E.B. Du Bois stated that:

No complete account of Negro beneficial societies is possible, so large is their number and so wide is their ramification. Nor can any hard and fast line between them and industrial insurance societies can be drawn some in membership and extent of business. These societies are also difficult to separate from the secret societies; many have more or less ritual work, and the regular secret societies do much fraternal insurance business.⁵⁵

Within the Wright-Hunter Cemetery, the Knights of Pythias were represented through the burial statuary. The Knights of Pythias was a fraternal organization originally developed by white government workers in Washington DC in 1864 to promote philanthropy.⁵⁶ Because the organization would not accept Black members, a separate organization was formed in 1880 called the *Knights of Pythias of North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Africa* which was colloquially called the Colored Knights of Pythias.⁵⁷ The Colored Knights had an active membership in Southern West Virginia in which they assisted members with social services such as mutual aid and insurance plans. The Knights influence can be seen in the iconography on some of the headstones, bearing the K of P insignia.

The Odd Fellows, another fraternal organization, were also important in Beckley during the early 20th century, assisting in the burials at the Wright-Hunter Cemetery, especially prior to the establishment of professional funeral homes. The Grand United Order of Odd Fellows (GUOOF) in America were distinct from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) as their origin is traced to England, as the American IOOF would not recognize or consider Black membership. This benevolent organization also provided sick and death benefits as well as ensured members visited the unwell to promote fraternity. GUOOF members took an oath to remain “sober, honest, industrious and benevolent, a good husband, a kind father and a loyal and

⁵⁴ Carter G. Woodson, as found in Joseph E. Holloway, “The Sacred World of the Gullahs,” *Africanisms in American Culture*, Second Edition. United States: Indiana University Press, 2005, 194.

⁵⁵ W.E.B. Du Bois as found in Joseph E. Holloway, “The Sacred World of the Gullahs,” *Africanisms in American Culture*, Second Edition. United States: Indiana University Press, 2005, 194.

⁵⁶ “Artifact Spotlight: Colored Knights of Pythias Helmet,” Virginia Museum of History and Culture as found in <https://virginiahistory.org/learn/colored-knights-pythias-helmet-c-1890>, accessed August 10, 2023.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

Wright-Hunter Cemetery

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virtuous citizen.”⁵⁸ Members’ headstones also contained the interlocking chains iconography of their membership which signify Friendship, Love and Truth.

The Knights and other fraternal organizations gave peace of mind to Black residents working dangerous jobs to protect their families and their hard-earned assets in the event of their demise.⁵⁹

Early 20th Century Beckley Cemeteries

The Wright-Hunter Cemetery differs from other cemeteries in Beckley as it was developed as a community-based burial place for people of color in the early 20th century. According to the 1932 City Directories, only three cemeteries were listed as established in Beckley: the St. Francis De Sales Roman Catholic Cemetery, the Sunset Memorial Park and the Wildwood Cemetery.⁶⁰ The two primarily black cemeteries, the Wright-Hunter Cemetery and the Greenwood Memorial Park Cemetery, were not listed.

The development of cemeteries in the Beckley area followed national trends which began with a small, family plot located on private land. Sometimes these burials were fenced in or marked with stones or wooden tablets marking the names of the deceased. As the population grew, so too did the need for an established burial location. Church grounds were the initial choice for burials, but, especially in populous areas, they quickly became overcrowded and, when epidemics occurred, were seen as disease centers.⁶¹ Cemeteries were moved out of the cities into the rural areas and were transformed by landscape architects such as Andrew Jackson Downing and Frederick Law Olmstead. These cemeteries were designed with curvilinear drives and bucolic landscapes. Cemetery markers were often made up of statuary or markers to symbolize death.

Wildwood Cemetery, located on South Kanawha Street may be the first burial place in Beckley established as a rural cemetery. The cemetery was the original burial place for Amelia Beckley, but soon became home to others in the area. The cemetery has numerous monuments, mature trees and a rolling landscape.

St. Sebastian Cemetery was established in 1909 as a burial location for the region’s Catholic patrons. Although not much research has been centered on it, St. Sebastian Cemetery appeared to be a rural cemetery as well. The entry is marked by a stone end-gate which appeared to

⁵⁸ Barga, Michael, “Grand United Order of Odd Fellows in America,” as found in <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/eras/grand-united-order-of-odd-fellows-in-america/>, accessed 10/20/2023.

⁵⁹ Trotter, 47.

⁶⁰ Beckley City Directory, 1932, 192

⁶¹ Rebecca Greenfield, “Our First Public Parks: The Forgotten History of Cemeteries,” *The Atlantic*, March 16, 2011 as found in <https://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2011/03/our-first-public-parks-the-forgotten-history-of-cemeteries/71818/#:~:text=Before%201831%2C%20America%20had%20no,build%20cemeteries%20in%20America%20began>, accessed August 9, 2023.

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originally be connected to a wrought iron fence but has since been replaced by chain link fencing. A large wooden cross is centrally located upon entry into the cemetery.

Rural cemeteries fell out of fashion as “lawn-park” cemeteries became more popular with their standardized plot sizes, and orderly rows with a perpetual care fund to ensure the cemetery was maintained.⁶²

Sunset Memorial Park was established in December 1925 and consisted of several sections of ground with approximately 900 burials per section. The Roselawn section of the Sunset Memorial Park is laid out with a perimeter roadway and plots measuring 10.5 feet in length and 5 feet in width.⁶³ The Locust Vale Section of Sunset Memorial Park was added in July 1928 and consists of regularly spaced lots 5 x11 feet. The section has a two-foot walkway between sections with a four-foot walk down the center.⁶⁴ The following year, the Hillcrest Section was added with a mausoleum and alternating two foot and four-foot walkways (Figure 11). Accessed via Harper Road, this memorial park is set outside of the city center and is devoid of ornamentation. The cemetery expanded over the 20th century and continued to organize its burials in an orderly fashion.

Greenwood Memorial Park was also established to provide Beckley’s Black population with a more fashionable, yet still segregated, eternal address. Purchased by Greenwood Memorial Park from the Beaver Coal Company and the Raleigh Coal and Coke Company on July 27, 1928, the surface acreage would be utilized “only as a cemetery for the purpose of burying the dead of the colored race.”⁶⁵ The 11.65 acres of land was purchased for \$2,330.

Unlike the Wright-Hunter Cemetery, the Greenwood Memorial Park Cemetery was established as a perpetual care cemetery with a defined set of rules and regulations.⁶⁶ In its original deed, the Greenwood Memorial Cemetery Association agreed to set 10% of the purchase price for each lot into a perpetual maintenance fund to which the Bank of Raleigh would provide 4% interest annually.⁶⁷ The Greenwood Cemetery was laid out with regular plots, lots, and sections with a similar appearance to the Sunset Memorial Park (Figure 12).⁶⁸

⁶² McGahee, 12

⁶³ “Roselawn Section of Sunset Memorial Park,” Raleigh County Map Book 6, Page 45 (also digital book 5072, page 4319).

⁶⁴ “Map of a Part of Locust Vale Section of Sunset Memorial Park,” Raleigh County Map Book 6, Page 45 (also digital book 5074, page 3934). Sunset Memorial Park has additional sections named Hillcrest, Calvary, Buena Vista, Hill View, Maplelawn, Greenlawn, Ridgelawn, Restvale, Highlawn, West View, Crestlawn and Beth-El.

⁶⁵ Raleigh County Deed Book 100, Page 150.

⁶⁶ While Greenwood Cemetery was established as a perpetual care cemetery, it no longer is and is soliciting funds for its maintenance. https://www.register-herald.com/archives/greenwood-memorial-park-still-needs-help/article_135d9e1d-6640-5638-8c02-1a900c7b58e3.html. In addition, the West Virginia Secretary of State’s Office shows that the Greenwood Memorial Park Corporation was dissolved by order of the court on May 6, 1969.

⁶⁷ Raleigh County Deed Book 100, Page 256.

⁶⁸ “Greenwood Memorial Park,” Raleigh County Map Book 6 Page 21, Map File 9-22 (digital book 5074, page 3823).

Wright-Hunter Cemetery
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Within the deed providing ownership over each lot, the “Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Cemetery of Greenwood Memorial Park” were included. The 10 pages of regulations provide guidance on how to visit the cemetery including restrictions on dogs and firearms.⁶⁹ Visitors were also not allowed to pluck flowers or shrubbery. The Greenwood Cemetery also had strict rules governing the erection of monuments, requiring each to have a suitable foundation and be of “marble, granite or other cut stone.”⁷⁰

The Wright-Hunter Cemetery was not laid out in previously determined plots available for purchase like the Greenwood Memorial Park Cemetery, nor did it have established regulations overseeing the construction of monuments or a perpetual care fund established for its maintenance. The Wright-Hunter Cemetery historically appeared to have been maintained through the efforts of the community. In 1936, an effort to solicit volunteers to clean the cemetery resulted in a notice in the newspaper requested “men and boys...come for work. The ladies are requested to bring dinner for the workers.”⁷¹

Nearly forty years later, members of the Young Black Veterans Association assisted members of the Pinnette Homemakers Club in cleaning the cemetery in 1974.⁷² This group cut underbrush, filled sunken graves and reset headstones.⁷³

Reverend H. Law spearheaded another movement in 1993 to clean the cemetery and as a result of his efforts, a new chain link fence was installed around the perimeter of the cemetery as well as the creation of the concrete and metal arch entry. In 2003, a group again gathered to join efforts to maintain the cemetery as part of the Join Hands Day sponsored America’s Fraternal Benefits Societies in sponsorship with the GFWC Beckley Woman’s Club where volunteers mowed the grass and cut weeds.⁷⁴

The Hunter Cemetery is currently maintained through the volunteer efforts of the local branch of the NAACP and no longer accepts new burials while the Greenwood Cemetery is still available for burials coordinated through the Ritchie and Johnson Funeral Home.⁷⁵

⁶⁹ Raleigh County Deed Book 100, Page 257.

⁷⁰ Raleigh County Deed Book 100, Page 259.

⁷¹ *Beckley Post-Herald*, “Clearing Cemetery,” Beckley, West Virginia, May 8, 1936.

⁷² *The Raleigh Register*, “Pinnette Homemakers Club Clearing Hunter’s Cemetery,” Beckley, West Virginia, May 1974.

⁷³ *Ibid.*

⁷⁴ The Post-Report, “Citizens Join Hands to Improve Community,” July 17, 2003.

⁷⁵ Conversation with Victor Durgan of the Durgan Funeral Home, November 1, 2023. Also conversation with the Ritchie and Johnson Funeral Home, November 1, 2023.

Wright-Hunter Cemetery
Name of Property

Raleigh, West Virginia
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Wright-Hunter Cemetery

Name of Property

Beckley Post-Herald. August 26, 1950.

Raleigh, West Virginia

County and State

“Rev. Hunter Won Fame as Pastor At Many Places.” August 26, 1950.

July 27, 1971.

“Veteran’s Rites Tuesday.” December 1, 1953.

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Raleigh County Map Book 6, Page 21, Map File 9-22 (digital book 5074, page 3823).

Raleigh County Map Book 6, Page 45 (also digital book 5074, page 3934).

Raleigh County Deed Book 66, Page 288.

Raleigh County Deed Book 100, Page 150.

Raleigh County Deed Book 100, Page 256.

Wright-Hunter Cemetery

Name of Property

Raleigh, West Virginia

County and State

Raleigh County Deed Book 100, Page 257.

Raleigh County Deed Book 100, Page 259.

Raleigh County Deed Book 134, Page 221.

Raleigh County Deed Book 196, Page 30.

Raleigh County Deed Book 36, Page 151.

Raleigh County Deed Book 91, Page 278.

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<https://virginiahistory.org/learn/colored-knights-pythias-helmet-c-1890>,
accessed August 10, 2023.

Wright-Hunter Cemetery
Name of Property

Raleigh, West Virginia
County and State

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.2 acres +/-

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Wright-Hunter Cemetery
Name of Property

Raleigh, West Virginia
County and State

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484928.06 | Northing: 4179819.82 |
| 2. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484965.27 | Northing: 4179797.39 |
| 3. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484941.29 | Northing: 4179758.73 |
| 4. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484932.85 | Northing: 4179762.41 |
| 5. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484928.64 | Northing: 4179755.86 |
| 6. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484936.43 | Northing: 4179751.00 |
| 7. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484918.57 | Northing: 4179719.19 |
| 8. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484899.93 | Northing: 4179686.89 |
| 9. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484834.85 | Northing: 4179727.06 |
| 10. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484859.79 | Northing: 4179768.77 |
| 11. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484835.04 | Northing: 4179783.79 |
| 12. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484869.57 | Northing: 4179800.99 |
| 13. Zone: 17N | Easting: 484928.06 | Northing: 4179819.82 |

Wright-Hunter Cemetery
Name of Property

Raleigh, West Virginia
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Wright-Hunter Cemetery begins at a point on Antonio Avenue, thence diagonally follows the western edge of the "Colored Cemetery" Tax Parcel 564 to a point on Lemp Lane, then continues east to the western corner of tax parcel 542, then north along Lemp Lane to the northwestern corner of tax parcel 543, then following the northern boundary east, then travels south along the property line and Barber Avenue to a point where it travels westerly for approximately 50 feet, then south approximately 50 feet and east approximately 50 feet to the border with Barber Avenue. This notch specifically excludes parcel 39-541 which was not historically associated with the cemetery. From Barber Avenue, the boundary extends south to the southeastern point on parcel 367, thence westward to the southwestern-most point on tax parcel 362 on Antonio Avenue, then north to a point at the corner of Antonio Avenue and thence west to the beginning. The boundary includes all the land inclusive of Raleigh County Tax Parcel 543, 542, 564, 363, 364, 362, 367 and existing utility Right of Way within the proposed boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries represent the initial cemetery as established by Dr. Hunter as well as the parcels that were purchased by other Raleigh County African Americans to expand the cemetery during the period of significance. These parcels were historically associated with the Wright-Hunter Cemetery.

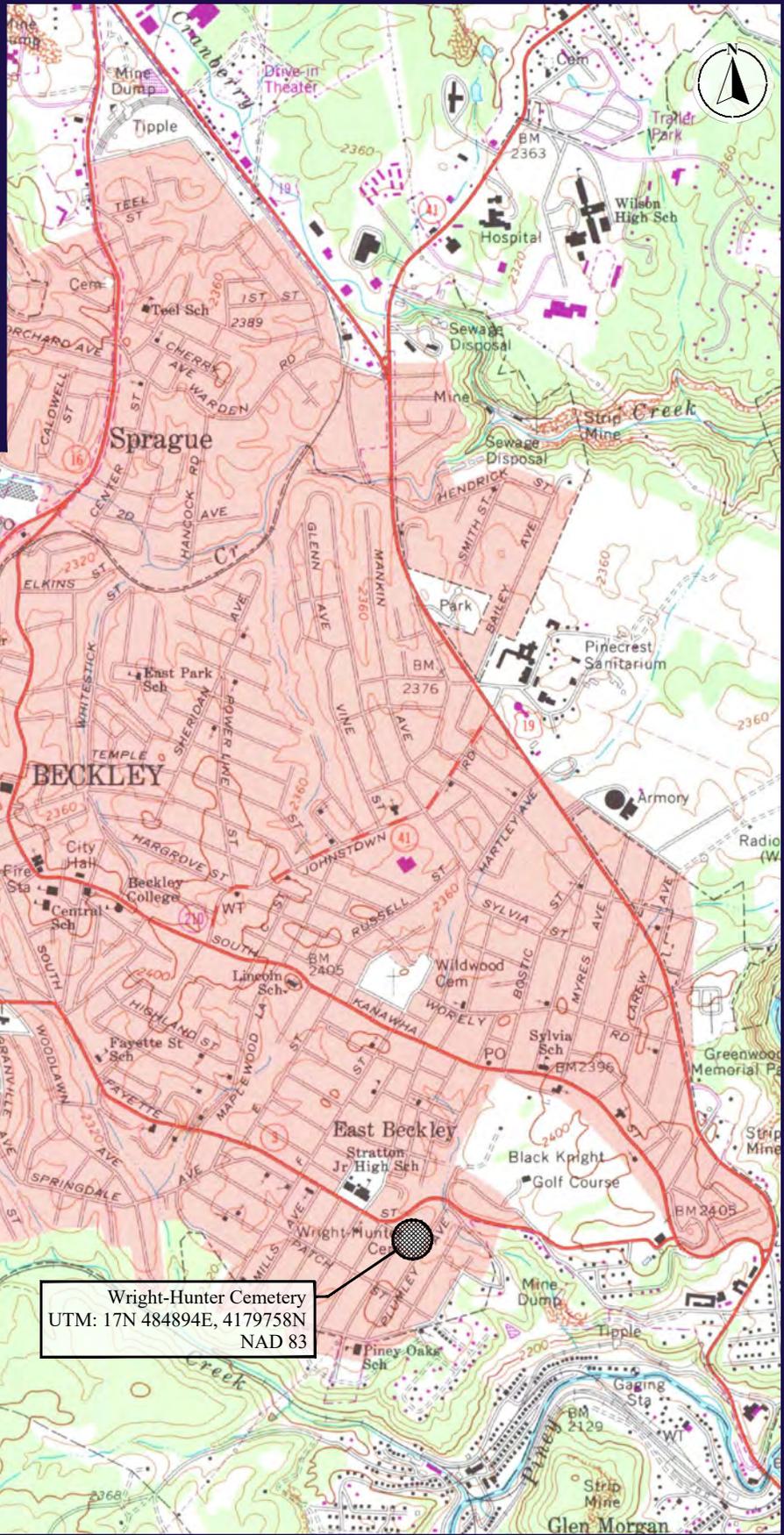
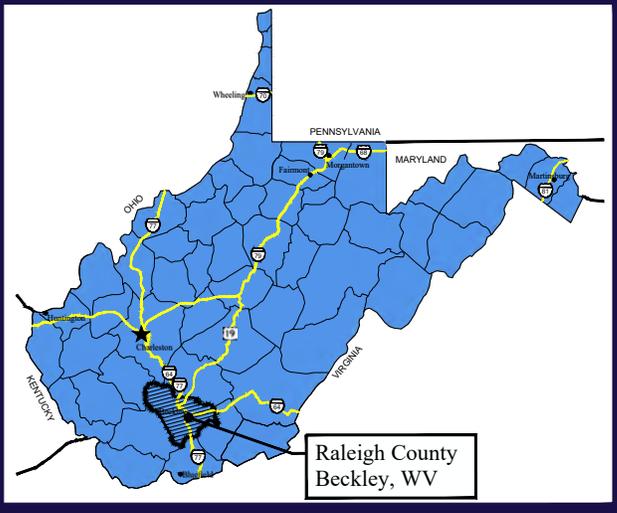
11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sandra Scaffidi and John Pitman
organization: Practical Preservation
street & number: 1 Avalon Road
city or town: Fairmont state: West Virginia zip code: 26554
e-mail: sandra@practical-preservation.com
telephone: 304-314-3773
date: August 8, 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)



Beckley, WV - 15' Quadrangle 1969 (revised 1989)



Figure 1
 Resource Location Map
 Wright-Hunter Cemetery
 Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia

Scale: 1 in = 2,000 ft

07/24/23



Notes
 1. Background aerial image is from WVGISTC best leaf off mixed resolution imagery.
 2. Overlaid aerial photo was captured by mini drone in 2023.
 3. Property lines shown in white are from Raleigh County digital tax maps.



PRACTICAL
PRESERVATION

Figure 2
 Index Map
 Wright-Hunter Cemetery
 Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia

Scale: 1 in = 60 ft

08/09/23



Notes
 1. Aerial photo was captured by mini drone in 2023.

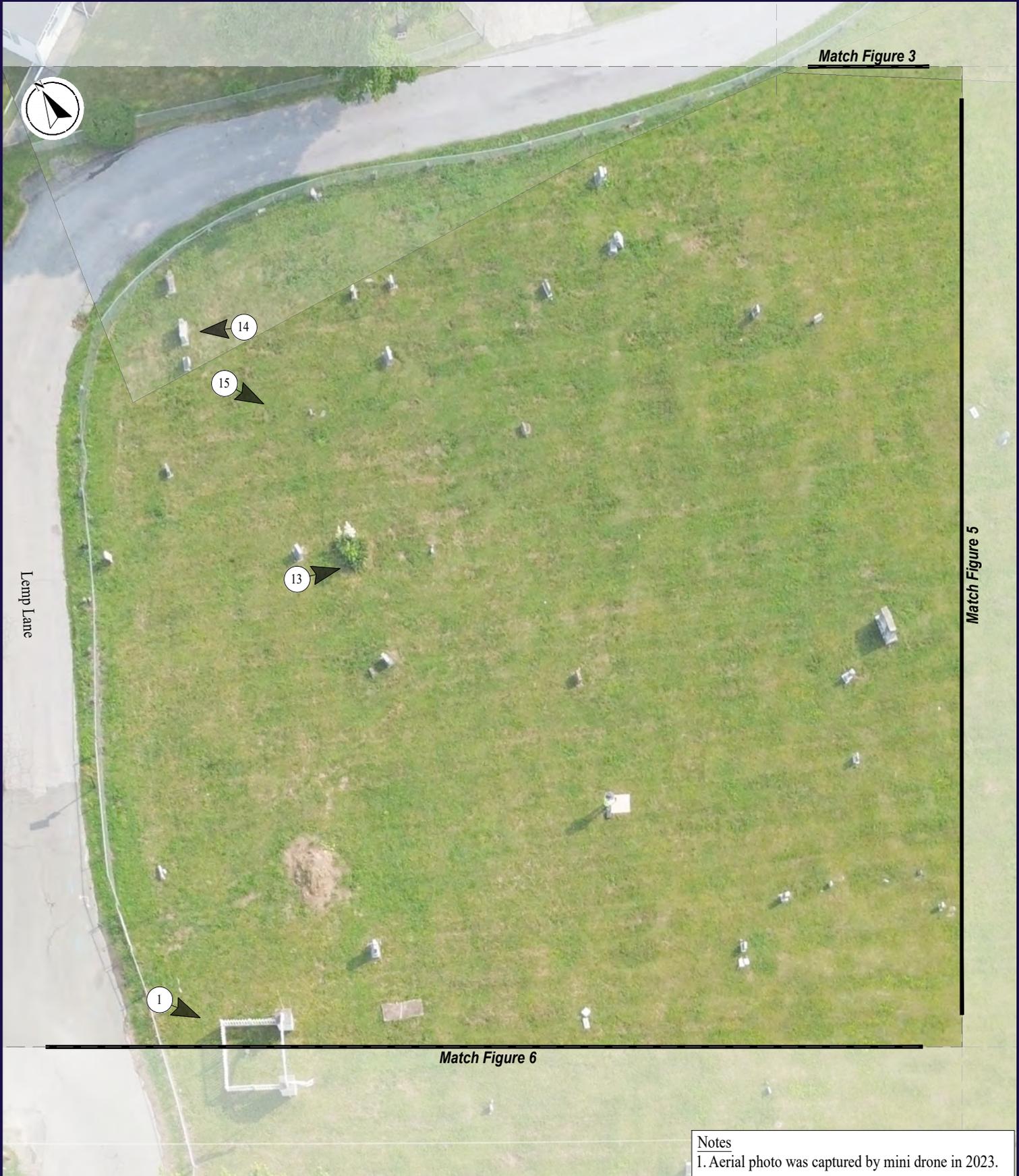


PRACTICAL
 PRESERVATION

Figure 3
 Photo Location Map 1
 Wright-Hunter Cemetery
 Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia

Scale: 1 in = 20 ft

08/09/23



Match Figure 3

Match Figure 5

Match Figure 6

Lemp Lane



Notes
1. Aerial photo was captured by mini drone in 2023.



PRACTICAL
PRESERVATION

Figure 4
Photo Location Map 2
Wright-Hunter Cemetery
Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia

Scale: 1 in = 20 ft

08/09/23

Match Figure 3



12

Match Figure 4

3

Barber Ave.

11

Match Figure 7

Notes

1. Aerial photo was captured by mini drone in 2023.



PRACTICAL
PRESERVATION

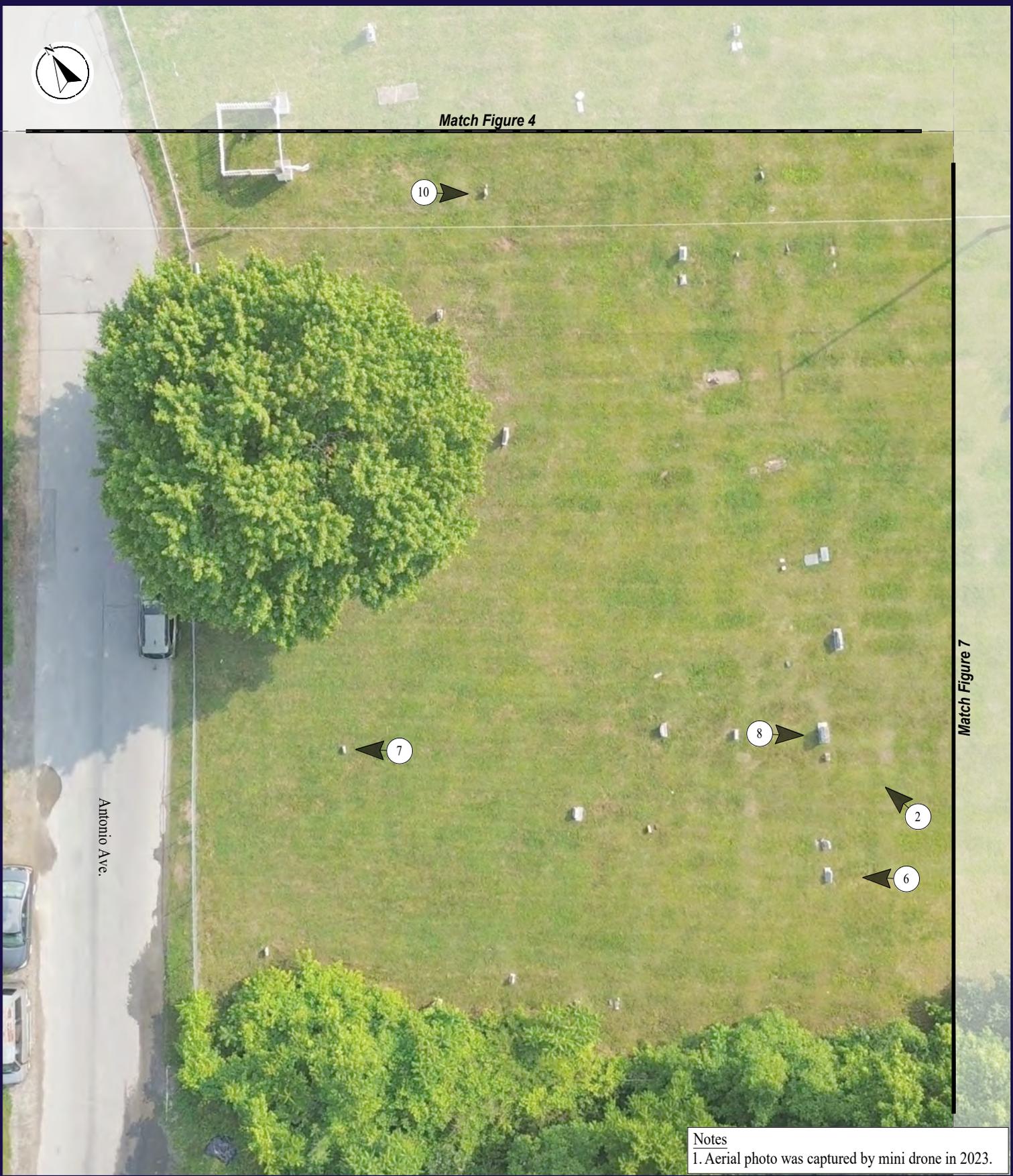
Scale: 1 in = 20 ft

Figure 5
Photo Location Map 3
Wright-Hunter Cemetery
Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia

08/09/23



Match Figure 4



Match Figure 7

Antonio Ave.

Notes

1. Aerial photo was captured by mini drone in 2023.



PRACTICAL
PRESERVATION

Figure 6

Photo Location Map 4

Wright-Hunter Cemetery

Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia

Scale: 1 in = 20 ft

08/09/23



Match Figure 5

Match Figure 6

Barber Ave.



Notes

1. Aerial photo was captured by mini drone in 2023.



PRACTICAL
PRESERVATION

Figure 7
Photo Location Map 5
Wright-Hunter Cemetery
Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia

Scale: 1 in = 20 ft

08/09/23



Notes

1. Background aerial image is from WVGISTC best leaf off mixed resolution imagery.
2. Overlaid aerial photo was captured by mini drone in 2023.
3. Property lines shown in white are from Raleigh County digital tax maps.



PRACTICAL
PRESERVATION

Figure 8
NRHP Boundary Map
Wright-Hunter Cemetery
Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia

Scale: 1 in = 60 ft

08/09/23



Assumed 5 ac. property
purchased by Rev. D. C. Hunter

T.H. Wickham
DB 31 PG 372
±5 1/16 ac.

N 58° E, 60 Poles

S 28° 1/4 W, 58 Poles

Antonio Ave. N 58° W, 31 Poles



Notes

- 1. Background aerial image is from WVGISTC best leaf off mixed resolution imagery.
- 2. Property lines shown in white are from Raleigh County digital tax maps.
- 3. Lot lines shown in black are from Deedbook 66, page 288, Map of Beckley Court Addition.



PRACTICAL
PRESERVATION

Scale: 1 in = 150 ft

Figure 9

Historic Overlay Map
Beckley Court Addition
Wright-Hunter Cemetery
Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia

08/09/23



Fayette St.

LEGEND

	Property lines
'43	Death Year (20th-Century)
	Cemetery Development Order



Notes

1. Background aerial image is from WVGISDC best leaf off mixed resolution imagery.
2. Overlaid aerial photo was captured by mini drone in 2023.
3. Property lines shown in white are from Raleigh County digital tax maps.

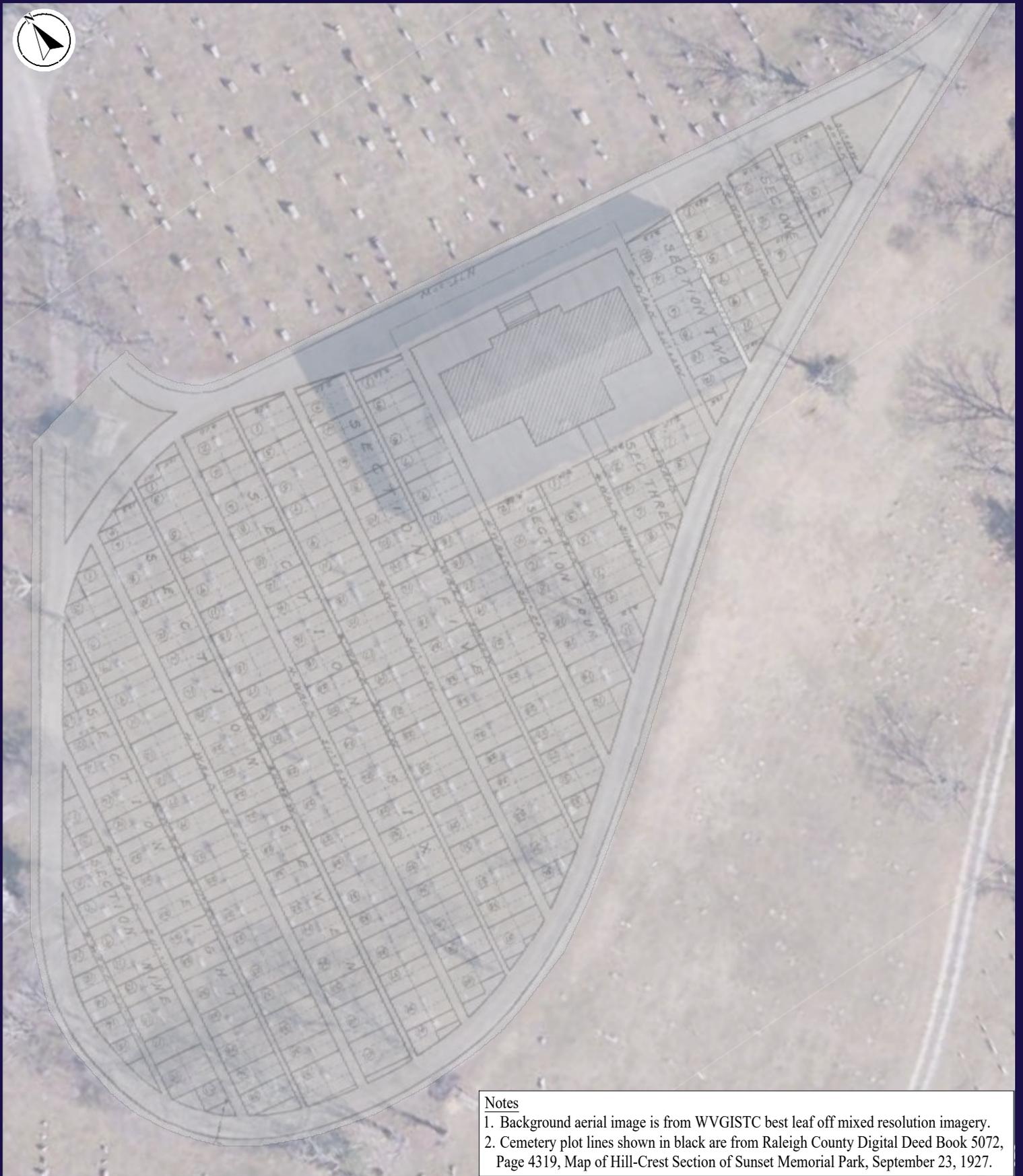


PRACTICAL PRESERVATION

Figure 10
 Chronological Timeline Map
 Wright-Hunter Cemetery
 Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia

Scale: 1 in = 60 ft

08/09/23



Notes

1. Background aerial image is from WVGISTC best leaf off mixed resolution imagery.
2. Cemetery plot lines shown in black are from Raleigh County Digital Deed Book 5072, Page 4319, Map of Hill-Crest Section of Sunset Memorial Park, September 23, 1927.

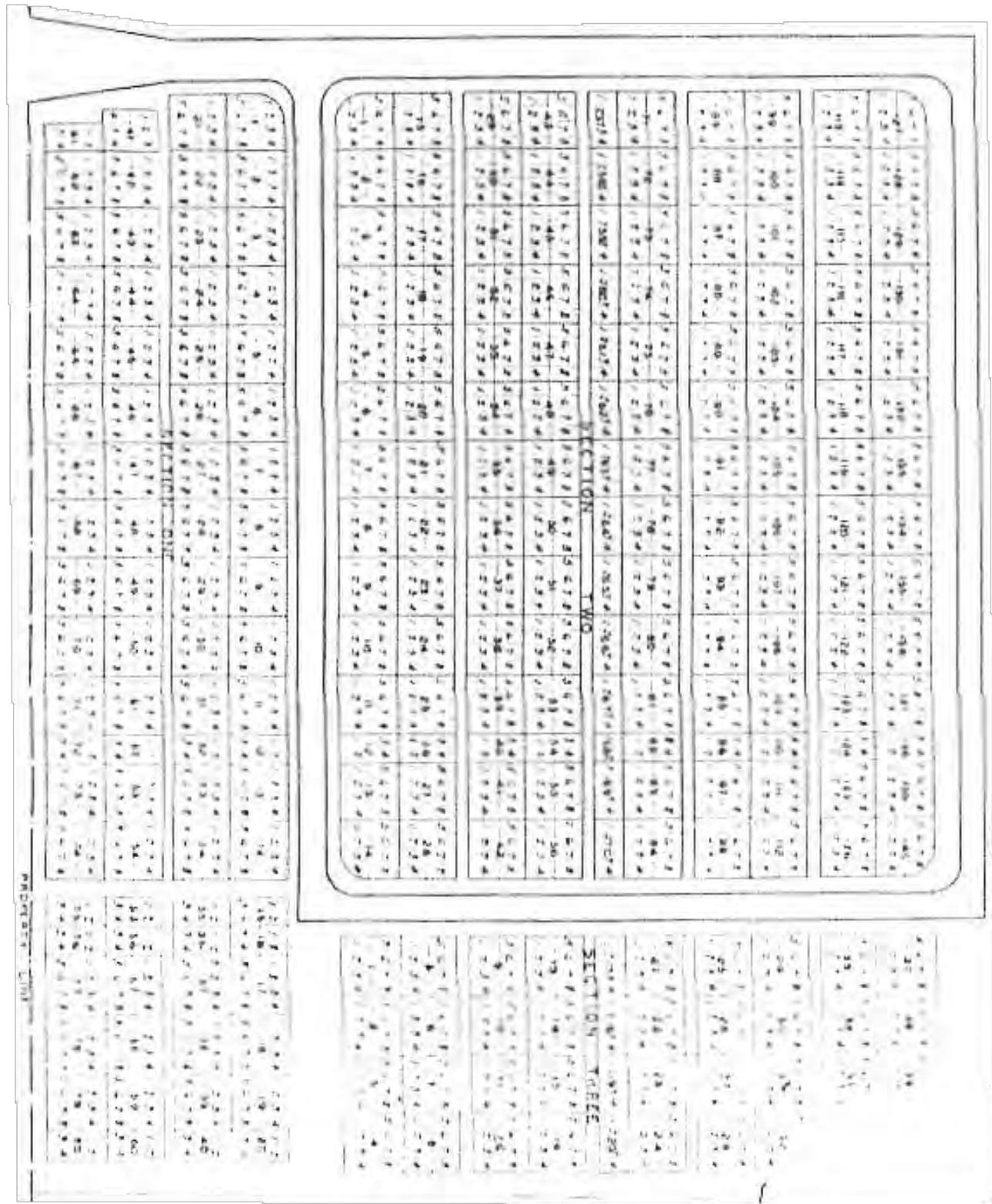


PRACTICAL
PRESERVATION

Scale: 1 in = 50 ft

Figure 11
 Example Cemetery Plot Layout
 Hill-Crest Section of Sunset Memorial Park
 Wright-Hunter Cemetery National Register Nomination
 Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia

11/09/23



Notes
 1. Cemetery plot lines shown are from Raleigh County Digital Deed Book 5074, Page 3823, Map of Greenwood Memorial Park, No date.

Figure 12

Example Cemetery Plot Layout
 Greenwood Memorial Park
 Wright-Hunter Cemetery National Register Nomination
 Beckley, Raleigh County, West Virginia



PRACTICAL
 PRESERVATION

Scale: NTS

11/09/23



LEGEND

--- Property lines

Burial Marker ID Number



PRACTICAL
PRESERVATION

Wright-Hunter Cemetery
Beckley, Raleigh County, WV
Burial Marker Identification Exhibit

City of Beckley

DATE: 01/30/24
ISSUED FOR: exhibit
PROJECT NO.
DRAWN BY: JCP
CHECKED BY:
APPROVED BY:
REVISION # DATE:

Scale: 1 in = 40 ft

Sheet:

Figure 13

Notes

1. Background aerial image is from WVGISTC best leaf off mixed resolution imagery.
2. Overlaid aerial photo was captured by mini drone in 2023.
3. Property lines shown in white are from Raleigh County digital tax maps.



PRACTICAL
PRESERVATION

Burial Marker Identification Tables

ID Number	Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death
1	Estell Pemberton	December 3, 1888	June 4, 1943
2	Sim Holley		June 11, 1913
3	Helen Smith	April 15, 1919	April 11, 1943
4	Carrie T. Hill	June 22, 1872	October 15, 1944
5	No Name visible		
6	Ruth V. Stewart	December 25, 1924	March 8, 1949
7	Annie M. Payne	1901	1949
8	Robert McDaniel	May 23, 1892	November 17, 1948
9	Ervin Burton	1900	1947
10	Chas Robinson	1889	1947
11	Charley Wyatt	August 11, 1872	October 13, 1946
12	EC		
13	William H. Hubbard	1887	1946
14	Olive O. Sandidge	December 10, 1883	July 20, 1957
15	Phil M. Sandidge	1882	1946
16	Geneva Clarice Bowles	November 19, 1945	February 18, 1946
17	Edward Hill	June 1, 1895	March 11, 1941
18	Ruby M. Foster	March 19, 1937	August 25, 1943
19	Edith Mae Thompson	March 28, 1908	May 8, 1944
20	Dorothy Grott	1901	1928
21	Clark		
22	Clark	Unclear	Unclear
23	Albert Smith	March 19, 1884	July 12, 1934
24	LH		
25	Ollie Belle Hill and Emma L.C. Hill	February 10, 1906, August 14, 1914	March 30, 1931, May 22, 1930
26	No Name Visible		
27	No Name Visible		
28	No Name Visible		
29	Foster	1875, 1808	1925, 1928
30	Susan Vaden	1821	1927
31	No Name Visible		
32	Lunice J. Olver	1882	1934
33	No Name Visible		
34	No Name Visible		
35	No Name Visible		
36	Rev. Samuel M. Goodwin, Cora Hill Goodwin Speedy, Lonnie Goodwin, Ralphine L. Goodwin Garner Heath, David Goodwin, Ida May Astell Garner	1873, 1894, 1897, 1914, 1918, 1929	1941, 1936, 1921, 1942, 1935, 1931

ID Number	Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death
37	Larnie Goodwin	1897	1921
38	Luanna Page	September 5, 1905	May 13, 1924
39	Luanna Page	September 5, 2005	May 13, 2024
40	No Name Visible		
41	Annie Webb	1892	1943
42	William Caldwell	1865	1943
43	Miss Carrie Elizabeth Brock	August 1, 1909	November 15, 1943
44	No Name Visible		
45	Selina Callaway	August 23, 1866	January 5, 1923
46	No Name Visible		
47	Estella Davis		January 29, 1923
48	Henry L Richardson	December 25, 1876	March 16, 1922
49	Dr. William Capel	March 16, 1887	June 8, 1925
50	Ralph E. Biggers	October 10, 1941	
51	Chas. W. Smith	January 30, 1896	August 25, 1942
52	Moody Farmer		July 1, 1938
53	Alvin Tyson		April 11, 1935
54	Lugile Scott	October 30, 1913	March 30, 1914
55	Rose Braxton		December 1, 1906
56	Alice B. Chapman	February 24, 1918	October 11, 1918
57	BJ Chapman	March 24, 1919	July 2, 1919
58	Claudia Mae Page Thompson	March 9, 1903	May 19, 1942
59	Maude Hargrove	April 4, 1889	November 9, 1918
61	William M Pointer	February 21, 1870	March 3, 1943
62	JW Crider	May 5, 1852	May 3, 1939
63	No Name Visible		
64	A.M. Dandridge	1888	1928
65	James Allen	April 8, 1880	January 6, 1922
66	Loula V. Wright	February 15, 1879	January 1, 1918
67	No Name Visible	April 24, 1829	July 30, 1908
68	Sarah Hardy	1865	1928
69	Julian Morris	1890	1934
70	Marie Jones	May 2, 1912	November 11, 1927
71	Jerry Johnson		October 22, 1926
72	George L. Blunt		

ID Number	Name	Date of Birth	Date of Death
73	John Jackson	Sept 12 1880	April 5, 1926
74	No Name Visible		
75	No Name Visible		
76	No Name Visible		
77	Bennie N. Sutton	1903	1929
78	W.M. Brown	June 12, 1855	June 7, 1940
79	Connie Wall Montgomery		December 18, 1937
80	Susan D. Harris	1868	1918
81	Mrs. E.J. Hunter		June 16, 1939
82	Rev. David C. Hunter	1859	1944
83	John H and Samuel S. Hunter	July 12, 1894 and November 18, 1897	March 28, 1915 and May 25, 1910
84	Henry O. Jamison	1860	1930
85	Sally Jamison	1874	1930
86	White	January, 4 1863	December 8, 1913
87	Raymond Calloway		October 31, 1938
88	No Name Visible		August 25, 1918
89	John Dalton	1889	1940
90	Lonnie Patterson	April 10, 1901	May 12, 1915
91	AP Blakey	July 4, 1875	December 21, 1909
92	Leaner Paterson	April 10, 1904	March 12, 1915
93	Willie Harper		May 15, 1926
94	No Name Visible		
95	William Harris	December 6, 1920	November 9, 1952
96	Charles Dangerfield	June 22, 1897	June 6, 1957
97	William	January 2, 18??	July 23, 1919
98	Dana Poindexter	1885	1957
99	No Name Visible		
100	William Pointer	October 25, 1900	April 21, 1951
101	No Name Visible		
102	Johnny Drafton		October 7, 1950
103	Martha Thorne Jimmer		December 18, 1948
104	No Name Visible		
105	No Name Visible		
106	No Name Visible		
107	Curtis G. Neal, Jr.		November 1, 1949
108	No Name Visible		

Wright-Hunter Cemetery

Beckley, Raleigh County, WV

Burial Marker Identification Tables

City of Beckley

DATE: 01/30/24
 ISSUED FOR:
 PROJECT NO.
 DRAWN BY: JCP
 CHECKED BY:
 APPROVED BY:
 REVISION # DATE:

Sheet:

Figure 14

Notes
 1. The above listed names and dates were acquired through obituary and death record research. This list is not intended to be exhaustive and may grow with additional research.



PRACTICAL
PRESERVATION

Unmarked Burial Identification Tables

Name	Date of Death
Alberta Brown (infant)	1951
Tazwell Claiborn	1951
Anna Wade	1912
Anna Mae Green	1933
Archie Anderson	1916
Bessie Hughes	1947
Bettie Poison	1936
Charles Wagner	1942
Charles Wright	1908
Clarence LeRoy Nails	1953
Charles White (infant)	1953
Clarise Smith	1946
Mrs. Stanley Claytor	1942
Son of James Law (infant)	1915
David Kates	1935
Baby Robinson (infant)	1935
Deloris Jones	1937
Dock Clemon	1937
Dock Oliver	1948
Edward C. Wallington (infant)	1958
Ella Huff	1942
Estell Wright	1935
Nettie Morgan (infant)	1935
Eugene Sniffers Pankey (21 mo)	1960
Mrs. Stanley Claytor	1950
Patricia Lee Monroe (infant)	1953
Baby Cooper (infant)	1942
Baby Wilson (infant)	1937
Baby Brown (infant)	1937
Irvin Burton	1947
Jane Law	1916
Joe Conus	1947
Joe Jimmison	1932
John Howard	1948
Lee Mack	1948
Lena Harris	1915
Leslie Beal	1954
Lewis Dawson	1913
Lizzie Toney	1912

Name	Date of Death
Ludie Duff	1936
Margaret Garlun	1937
Maggie Bailey	1936
Nora Bailey	1932
Philip Toney	1936
Richard D. Mackey	1913
Mrs. George Kenly	1913
Narrie Sykes	1935
Ralphine Heath Garner	1942
Robert Cobb	1913
Robert Dotson	1936
Rufus Lewis	1914
Sidney Mitchell	1945
Tim Howard	1942
W. Goins	1956
Willaim Clark	1958
William Dangerfield	1960
William Smith	1957
William Stovall	1936
Charles Rodger Rayford	1942
Infant Morris	1942
Infant Manns	1952
Mack Wickerson	1945
William Jones	1950
Bruce Dangerfield	1949
Mary Hunter Infant	1955
Annie Payne	1949
Charlotte Ann Coleman TB	1951
Edward James Taylor infant	1948
Infant Hargrove	1949
Ruth Stewart	1949
Robery Putteek	1948
William Mitchell	1945
Celia Williams 115 years old	1951
Sylvania Shelton infant	1953
Mathew Boston	1952
Cornelia Green	1947
Joe Wooden	1956
Clarissa Smith	1946
Willie H. Williams	1947

Name	Date of Death
Infant Monroe	1949
Lewis Jones Infant	1951
Amous Brown, WWI Vet	1953
Eilliam Edward Flynn	1957
Theodore Lillard Jr.	1947
Helen Pemberton	1950
Alice Clark Hill	1956
Henrietta Terry	1959
Thomas Carlyle Moton Infant	1953
Powell Taylor	1950
John Jackson	1951
Ernest Powell Jr. Infant	1946
Robert Wilson	1954
Infant Hairston	1949
Emma Robinson	1946
Robert McDaniel	1948
William Pounds	1955
Howard Lee	1954
Minor Brockman	1953
Daddy Bell	1951
Infant Martin	1951
Mildred King	1960
Portia Ann Smith Infant	1953
Russell Ross, TB	1949
William Hubbard	1946
Langhorne Samuel Poindexter	1952
Ben Wilson	1948
Will Brandford	1946
Elizabeth Heath	1946
Emma Johnson	1950
Claretta Hickman	1950
Infant Conley	1960
Sharon Kay Manns Infant	1947
Julia Poindexter	1959
Della May Chambers	1947
Miss Willie Lee Hunter	1942
Infant McAlin	1957
Tom Shelton	1947
Tyrone Nelson Wright infant	1952

Name	Date of Death
Reid Hunt infant	1942
Maggie Wooden	1957
Susie Rollins	1943
Frances West	1954
Garfield Hill	1948
William Brown	1950
Willie Collins	1958
Bud Burdine	1954
Arthur Scott	1960
Cornelia Dozier	1950
Florence Wagner	1953
Julia Gore	1949
Eva Anna Clark	1949
Virginia Byrd	1956
Infant Edmonds	1949
Rosa Mahue	1953
James H. Pendleton	1948
Frank Flynn	1959
Beaula Reed	1956
Jeff Williams	1949
Christine Gore Barnes	1959
James Ford	1952
John Anderson	1951
Jessie Jones	1947
Helen Ruby Carpenter TB	1947
Mary Helen Turner	1960
William Henry Scruggs	1953
Carlyle Smith	1946
Dorothy Aniea Daniel	1948
Dan White	1948
Tom Chandless	1948
Charles Popcorn Robinson	1947
Arnetta Drake	1943
Jean Valerie Calhoun	1943
Infant Mead	1950
Dennis Williams	1950
Roscoe Michaux	1950
Niola Lewis	1950
Infant Sherman	1946
Alberta Washington	1946

Wright-Hunter Cemetery

Beckley, Raleigh County, WV

Unmarked Burial Identification Tables

City of Beckley

DATE: 01/30/24
ISSUED FOR:
PROJECT NO.
DRAWN BY: JCP
CHECKED BY:
APPROVED BY:
REVISION # DATE:

Sheet:

Figure 15

Notes

1. The above listed names and dates were acquired through obituary and death record research. This list is not intended to be exhaustive and may grow with additional research.

Wright-Hunter Cemetery
Name of Property

Raleigh, West Virginia
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Wright-Hunter Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Beckley

County: Raleigh

State: West Virginia

Photographer: Sandra Scaffidi/John Pitman

Date Photographed: June 28, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 15. Decorative gated arch entry, facing southeast.

Photo 2 of 15. View, facing north

Photo 3 of 15. Facing northeast

Photo 4. of 15. Facing west

Photo 5 of 15. Initial stone, facing west.

Photo 6 of 15. Olive Sandidge burial marker, facing west

Photo 7 of 15. Ruby Foster burial marker, facing west.

Photo 8 of 15. Concrete marker for Clark, facing east.

Photo 9 of 15. Larnie Goodwin marker, facing west.

Photo 10 of 15. Ralph E. Biggers marker, facing east.

Photo 11 of 15. Moody Farmer marker, facing west.

Photo 12 of 15. John Jackson marker, facing east.

Photo 13 of 15. Bennie N. Sutton, facing east.

Photo 14 of 15. Reverend David C. Hunter marker, facing west.

Photo 15 of 15. View of cemetery, facing southeast.

Hunter Cemetery Photos



Photo 1. Decorative gated arch entry, facing southeast.



Photo 2. View, facing north.

Hunter Cemetery Photos



Photo 3. Facing northeast.



Photo 4. Facing west.



Photo 5. Initial stone, facing west.



Photo 6. Olive Sandidge Stone, facing west.

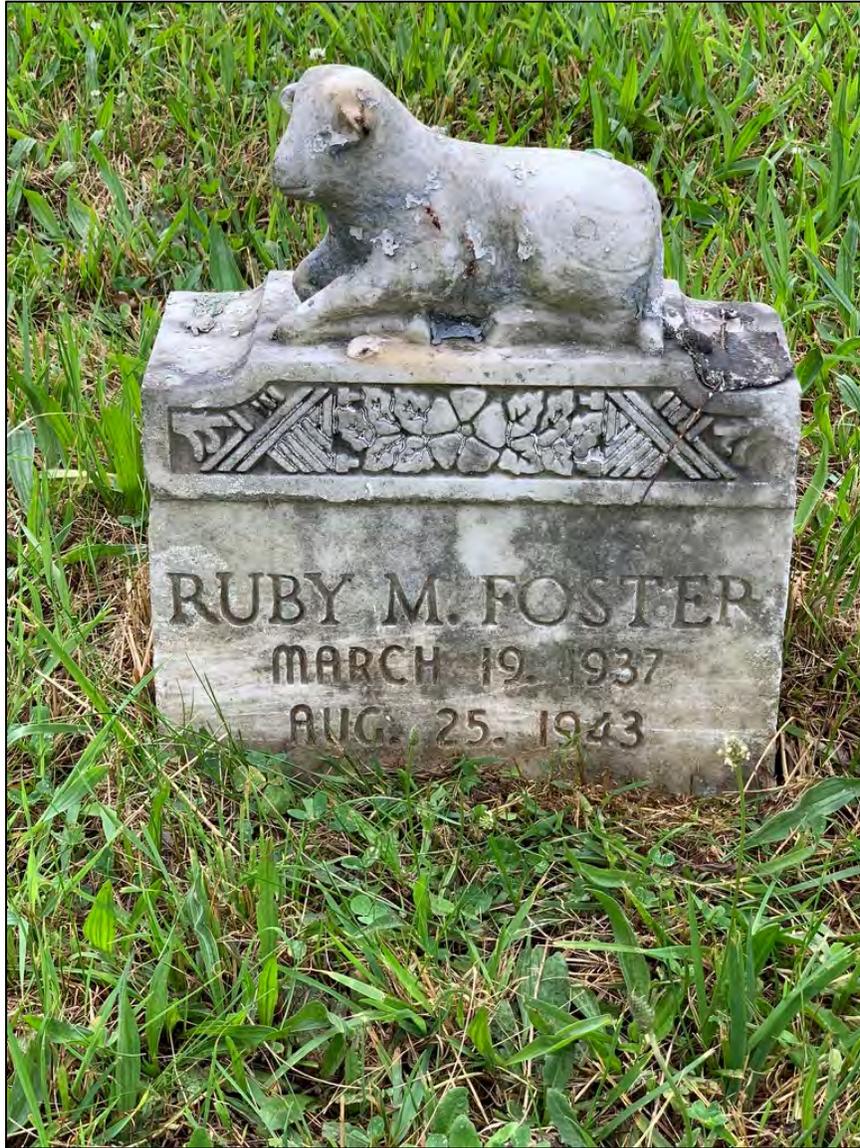


Photo 7. Ruby Foster Burial Marker, facing west.



Photo 8. Concrete marker for Clark, facing east.



Photo 9. Larnie Goodwin marker, facing west.



Photo 10. Ralph E. Biggers marker, facing east.

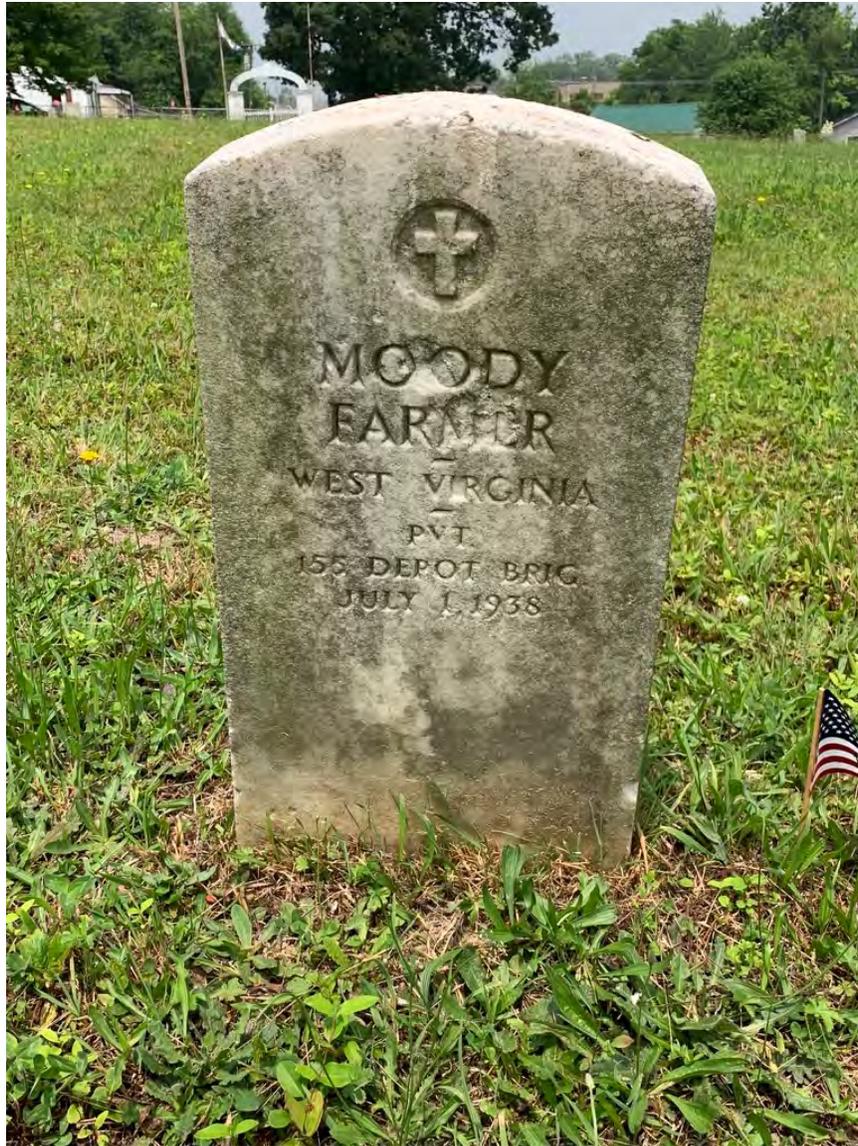


Photo 11. Moody Farmer marker, facing west.



Photo 12. John Jackson marker, facing east.



Photo 13. Bennie N. Sutton marker, facing east.

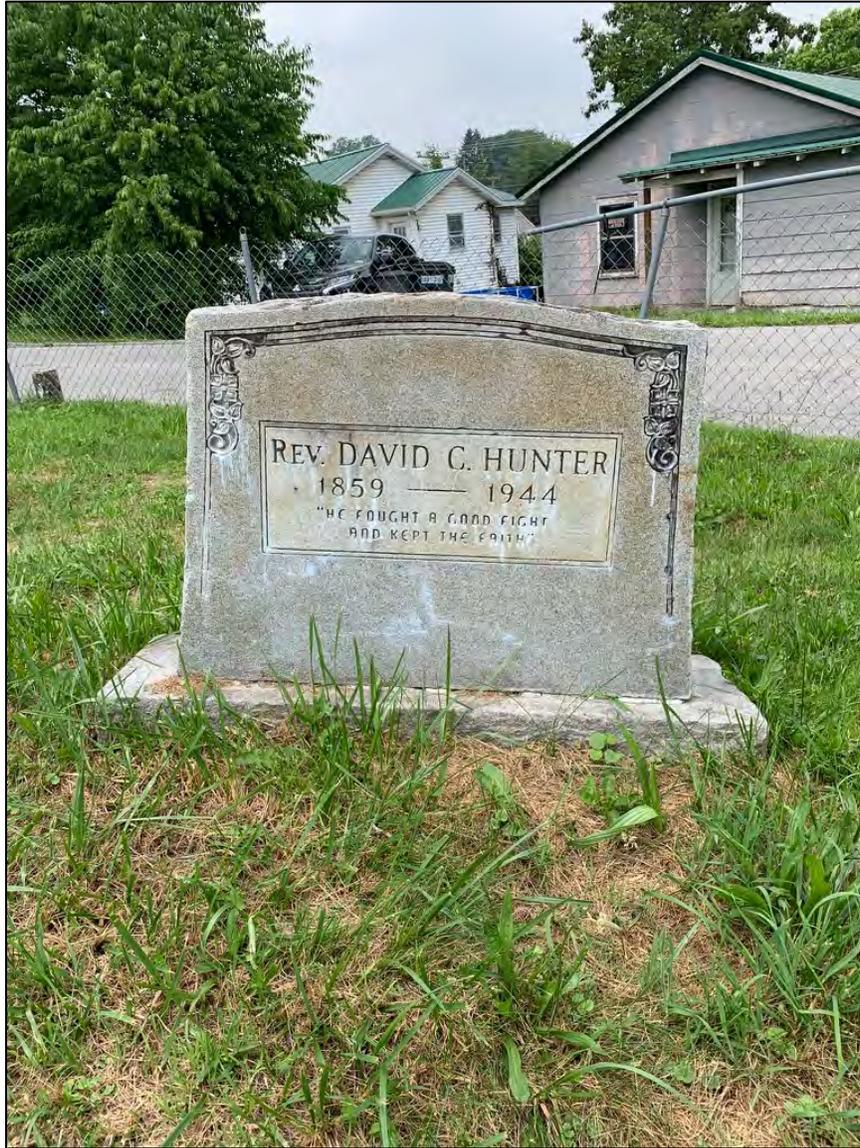


Photo 14. Rev. David C. Hunter marker, facing west.



Photo 15. View of cemetery, facing southeast.