

Mona Pierce Notes, 4/4/24

Wendy Kauffman and Ron Grim met Yamona Pierce, President and Founder of the Hamilton Hood Foundation (www.hamiltonhood.org), which is working on the preservation of the Pierce Chapel African Cemetery, in Harris County, Georgia. We met at the BMH site and toured the cemetery.

Notes from our meeting:

Physical evidence for enslaved/African American cemeteries/burials

- Unmarked depressions

- Periwinkle

- Yucca

- Daffodils

- Field stones

- White quartz (white is an African burial color)

- Pottery shards

Enslaved burials often found in areas of cemetery separate from European burials or near cemetery periphery.

Ground radar does not locate all burials, especially when topography is very uneven

Therefore, we may need to also consult

- Archeologists (Mona has provided the name of an archaeologist at Howard University)

- Cadaver dogs wearing GPS collars, along with drone.

When mowing, don't use a ride on. Be careful of "natural" vegetation so not to disturb or damage possible evidence.

Don't remove glass or pottery pieces, because they may have been placed near a grave on purpose.

REG, 4/8/2024

Photos from BMH cemetery:
Unmarked depression



Marked depression with periwinkle



Grave marked with field stone



Yucca

