

Calloway Methodist Church Cemetery Arlington, Virginia



By Patrick O'Neill

Project Area



The Methodist Church has been on this property since 1904.



The cemetery was probably established at the same time, or just before.



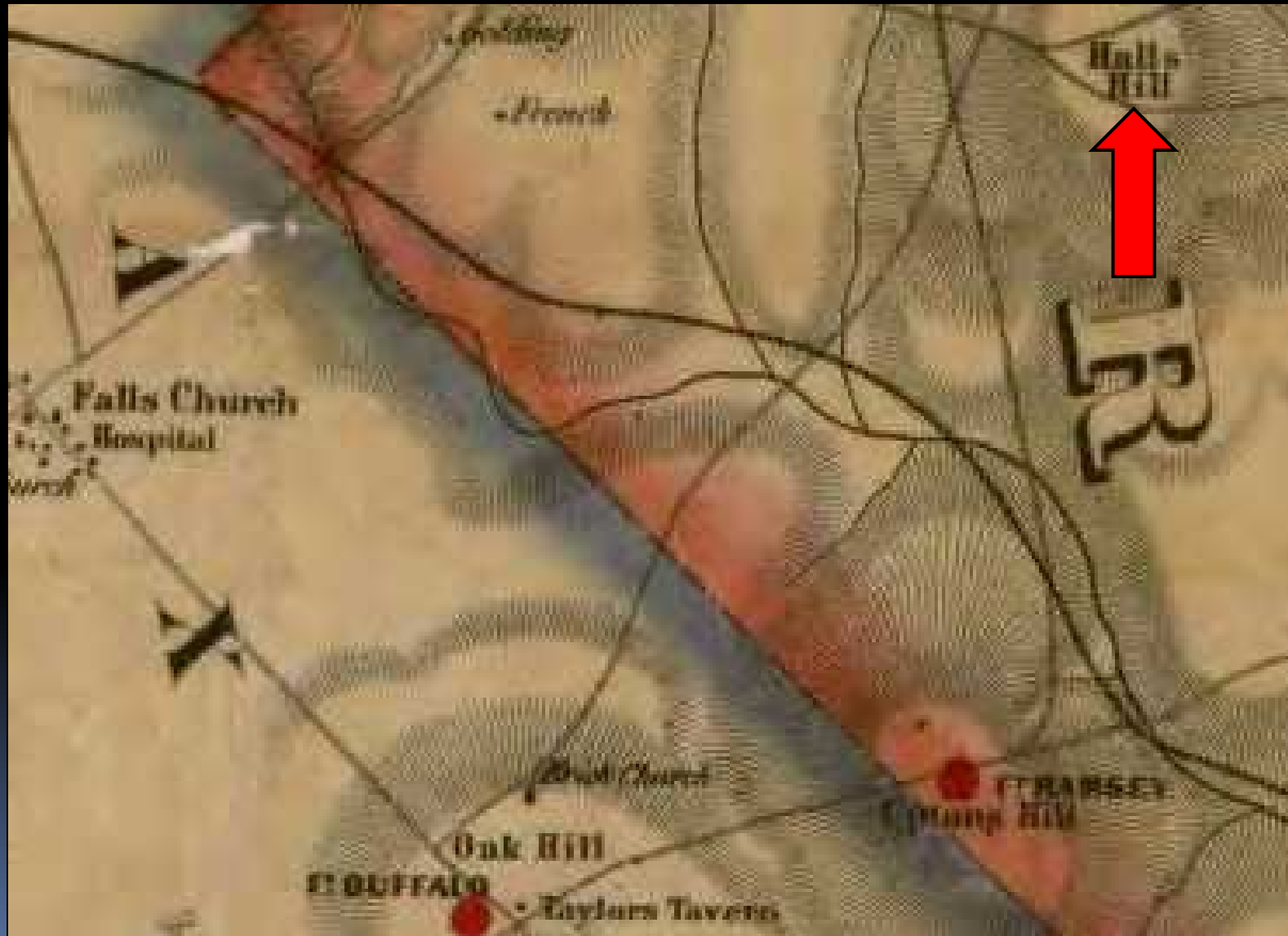
The trustees of the Calloway United Methodist Church initiated a request through Arlington County's Historic Preservation Program office to study the cemetery site for consideration as a local historic district.

That request prompted Cynthia Liccese-Torres, as a facilitator, to contact Patrick O'Neill, a former colleague, to see if he would be willing to provide pro bono archaeology.

The history of the property had to be understood, first, before any field work could begin.

Local legend has it that Basil Hall, the plantation owner, sold land to his slaves cheaply, and it was possible the cemetery was a Freedman's cemetery.

Basil Hall lived on Halls Hill, within the Virginia section of the Federal District



Military camps located on the hill during the Civil War



Basil Hall owned several slaves.

15	Basil Hall	1	44	M	B.
16		1	22	F.	B.
17		1	8	M	B.
18		1	6	M	B.
19		1	5	M	B.
20		1	3	M	B.
21		1	1/2	F.	M

In 1870, the Thornton Hyson family lived next to Basil Hall. Were they his former slaves?

15		Margaret	78	F	13	At home		
16	31	31	Wm. Basil	61	M	Dr	Fargues	64000 30000
17			Frances	52	F	Dr	Keeping house	
18			John	11	F	Dr	At home	
19			Walter	8	M	Dr	" "	
20			Frances	8	F	Dr	" "	
21			Basil	1	M	Dr		
22			Stephon	44	M	Dr	Sabauer	
23	32	32	Wm. Basil	16	M	13	"	
24			Margaret	44	F	M	Keeping house	
25			George	19	M	M	Farm hand	
26			Charlotte	17	F	M	Domestic Servant	
27			Ellen	12	F	M	"	
28			Thornton	9	M	M	At home	
29			Cornelia	6	F	M	" "	
30			Alice	4	F	M	" "	
31			Robert	21	F	M	"	

It has not been proven if Hall sold his land to his former slaves. Names of his slaves do not exist. However, many former slaves bought much of his land in the 1870s and 1880s.



The first Methodist Church was built to east on the north side of Hwy 29 in 1880s



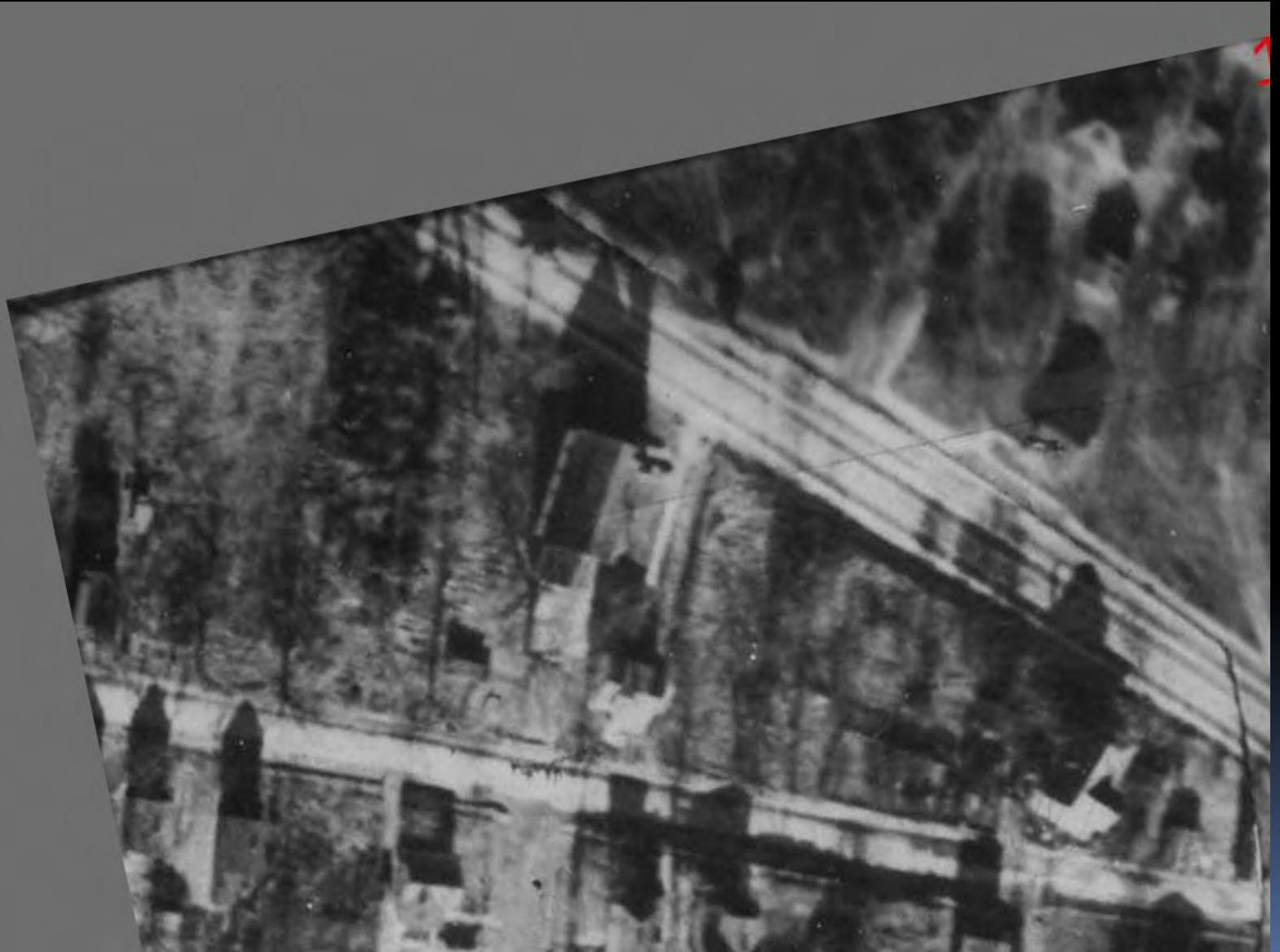
The second church site was purchased in 1904.



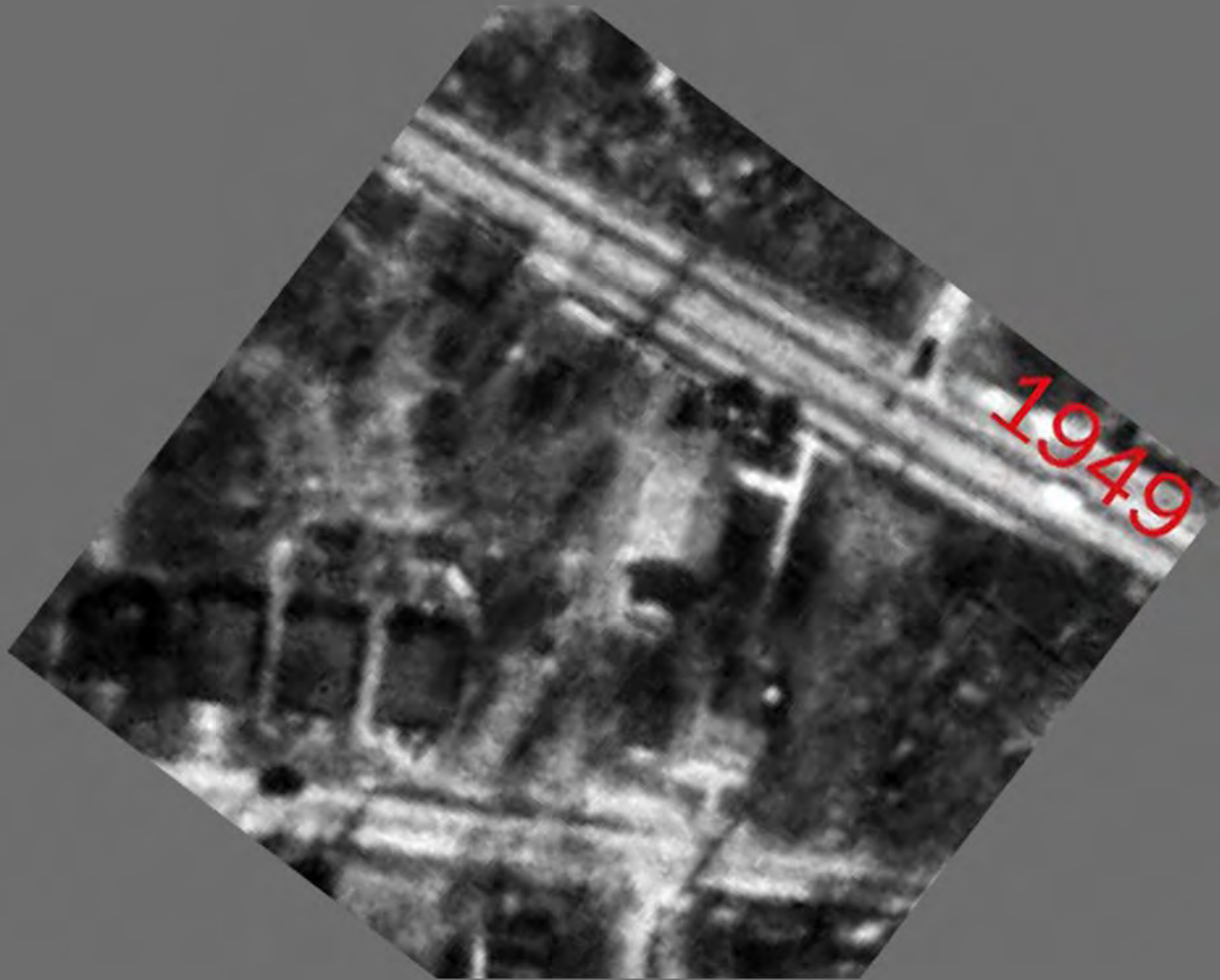
Church location in 1927. First two of the four houses located to the west of church.



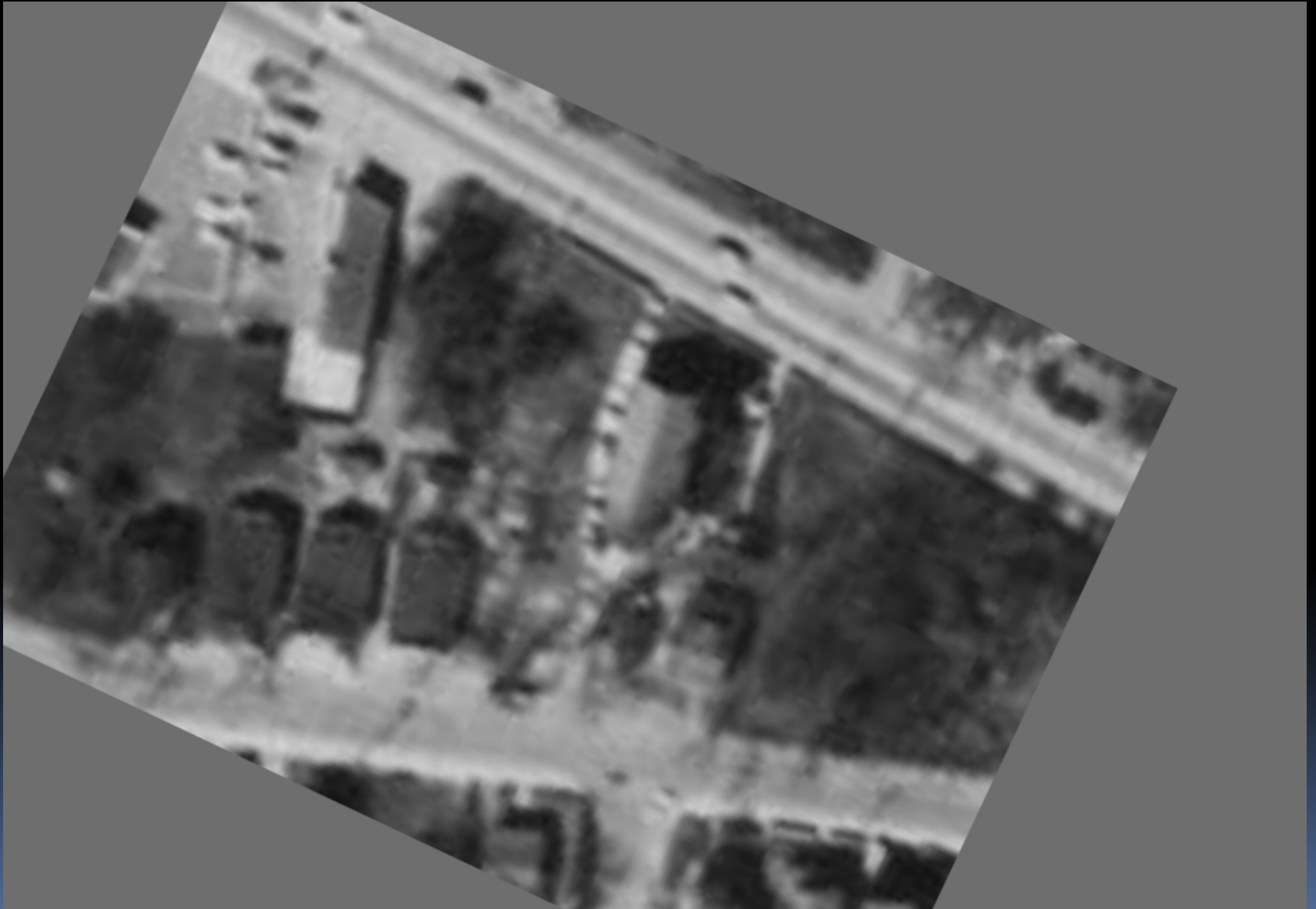
Church location in 1934. Route 29 has been widened some.



Church location in 1949. All four houses located to west of church.



By 1957, business west of church. Note large trees between business and cemetery.



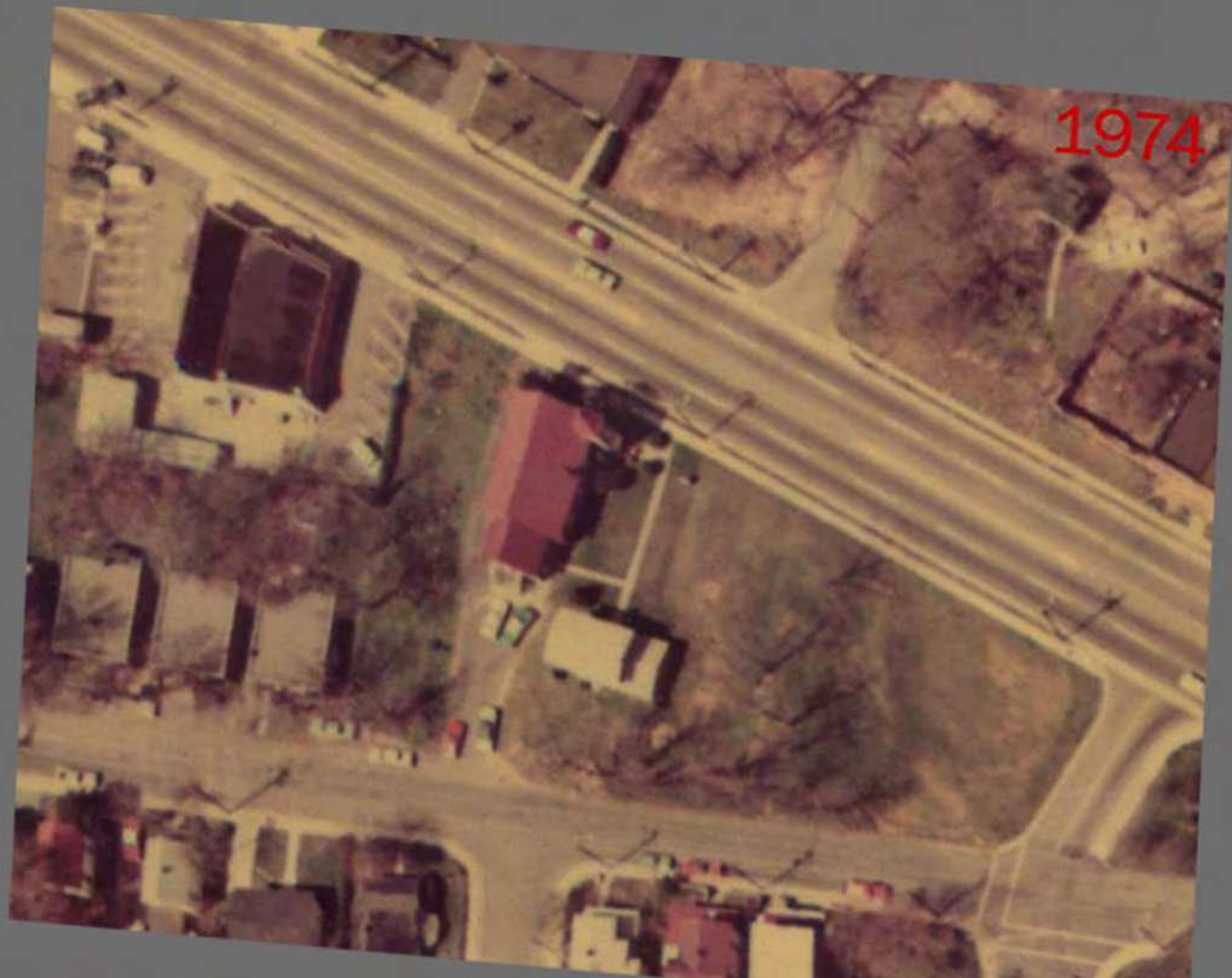
In 1962, sidewalk and street widened where 6-10 graves were removed in 1959.



By 1967, business enlarged and parking lot cut into hill the nw side of cemetery. Impact?



In 1974, first color aerial image.



By 1989, the rear church wing was added.
Site looks like today.

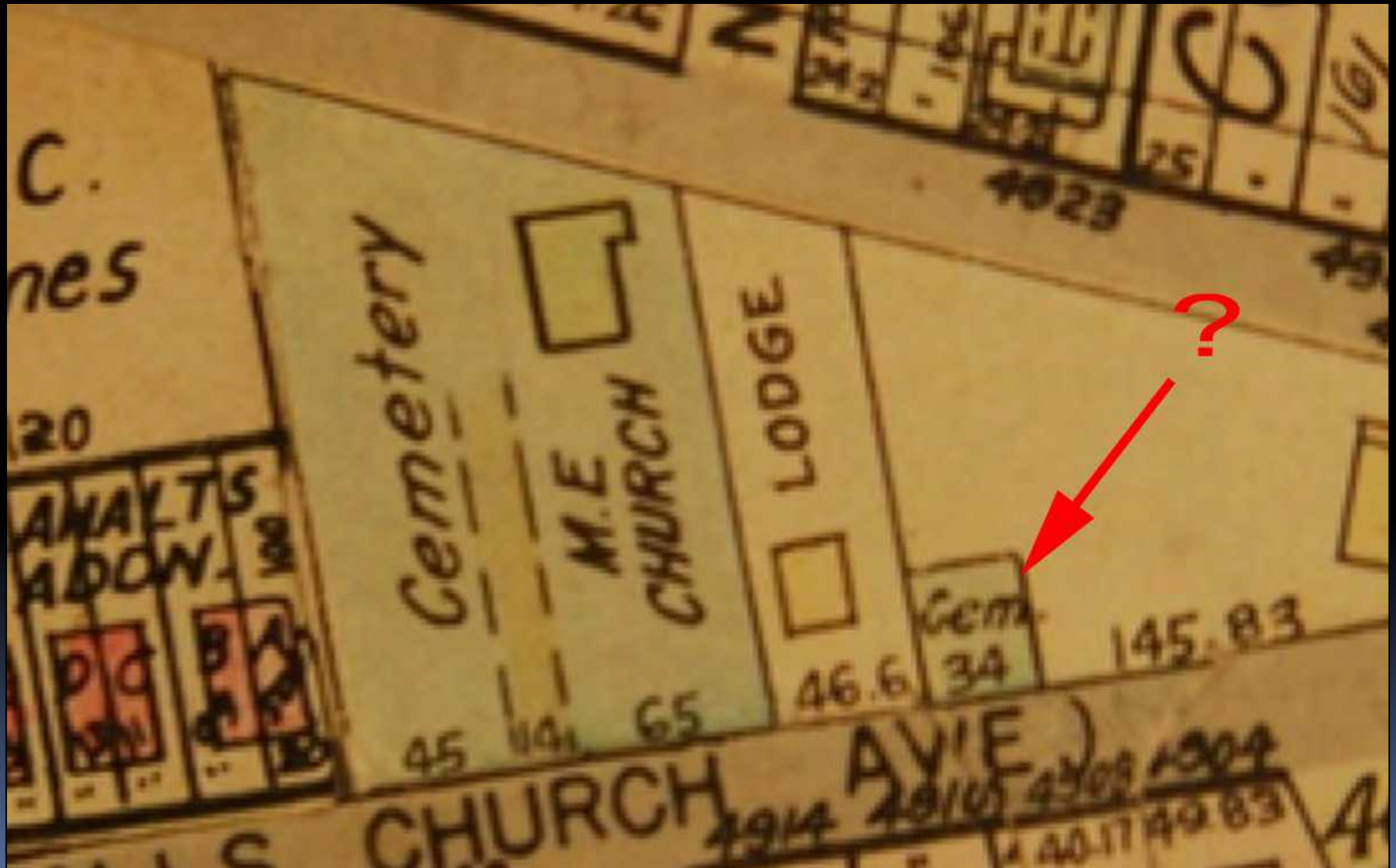


Calloway Church objective was to place cemetery on county historical register

Archaeology objectives:

- 1 identify graves and markers
- 2 link graves to families
- 3 find patterns in cemetery
- 4 determine age of cemetery

1920s – an unknown family cemetery drawn nearby, remembered by a parishioner



Newspapers list community activities, including burials

Arlington County Deaths.

The following deaths have been reported for Arlington county:

Herbert S. Lawrence, Rosslyn; Eliza Story Greene, Clarendon; Frances Chapman Fank, Ballston; Floyd Thomas Steele, Rosslyn; Jenny Miller, Hume Springs; Mary A. Campbell, Potomac, and Walter Evans, colored; Hall's Hill.

Clara Snowden

The Washington Post and Times Herald (1954-1959); Jan 17, 1956; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post (1877 - 1994) pg. 24

Clara Snowden

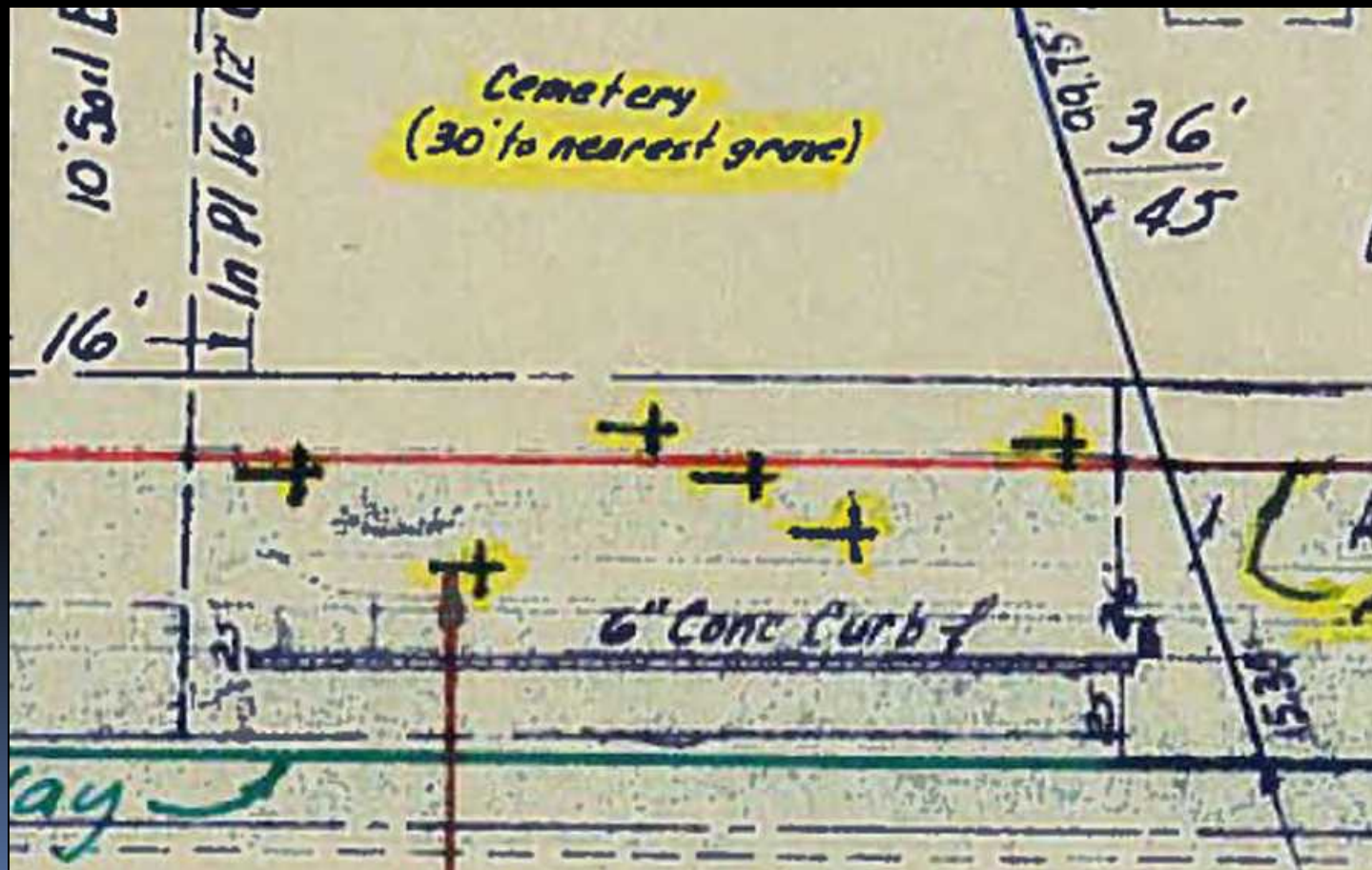
Clara Williams Snowden, 87, 2014 N. Dinwiddie st., Arlington, died Saturday in Freedmen's Hospital leaving 53 descendants. Funeral services were held yesterday at Callo-way Methodist Church in Arlington.

Mrs. Snowden, born in Washington, lived most of her life in Arlington.

Her survivors include four children, Cora S. Hill of the Dinwiddie st. address, Col. Frank M. Snowden of Boston, Hattie O. Snowden, of 923 French st. nw. and Ernest O. Snowden, 5132 22nd st. Arlington.

Samuel A. Moten, of this city, and Laura Lewis, of Hall's Hill, Va.

VDOT moved six graves from the north side of the cemetery by Hwy 29 to make way for street widening and sidewalk. They were moved to the Coleman Cemetery near Mount Vernon.



Approximate location of the six graves removed by VDOT



The Coleman Cemetery near Mount Vernon has no graves directly associated with the Calloway Cemetery. However, some there were born in Hall's Hill.



Parking lot next to business cut into west edge of cemetery in late 1960s. In 1974, northern cemetery shows some possible ground disturbance. Were graves moved from parking lot edge?

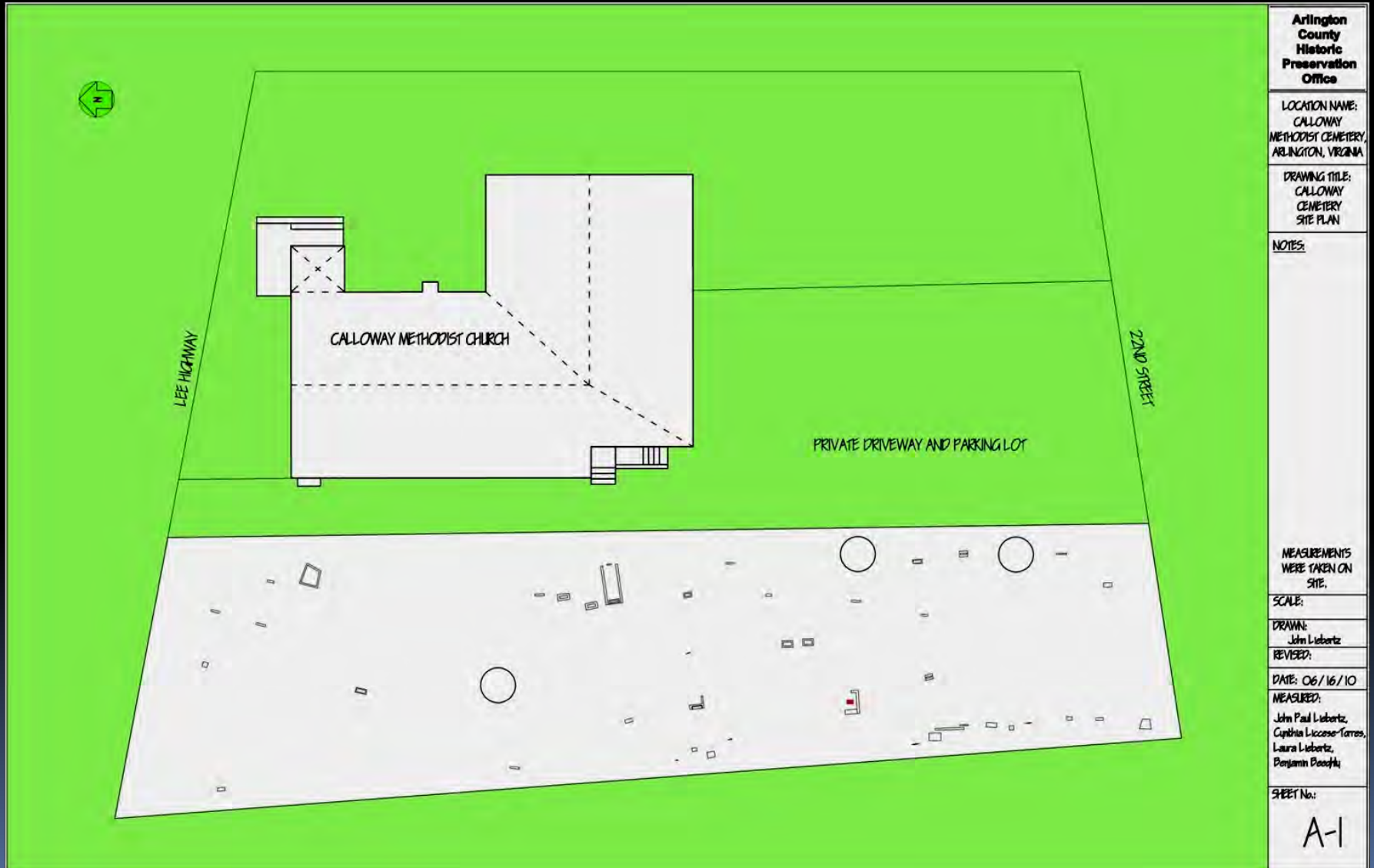


The time had come to
see what was there!

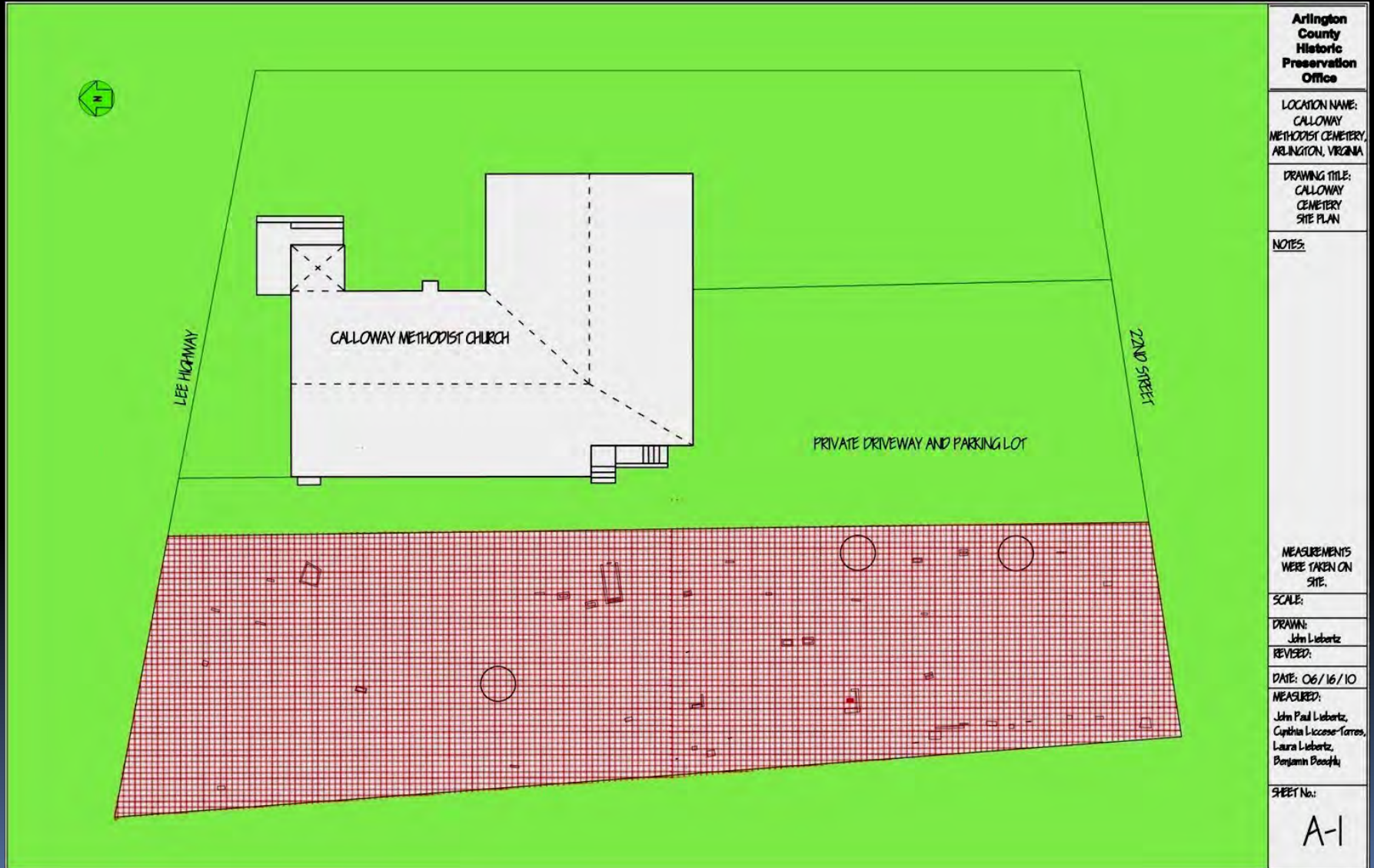
Three people from Arlington County were 99.9%
of the crew (aside from Patrick O'Neill).
John, Marlene, and Cynthia.



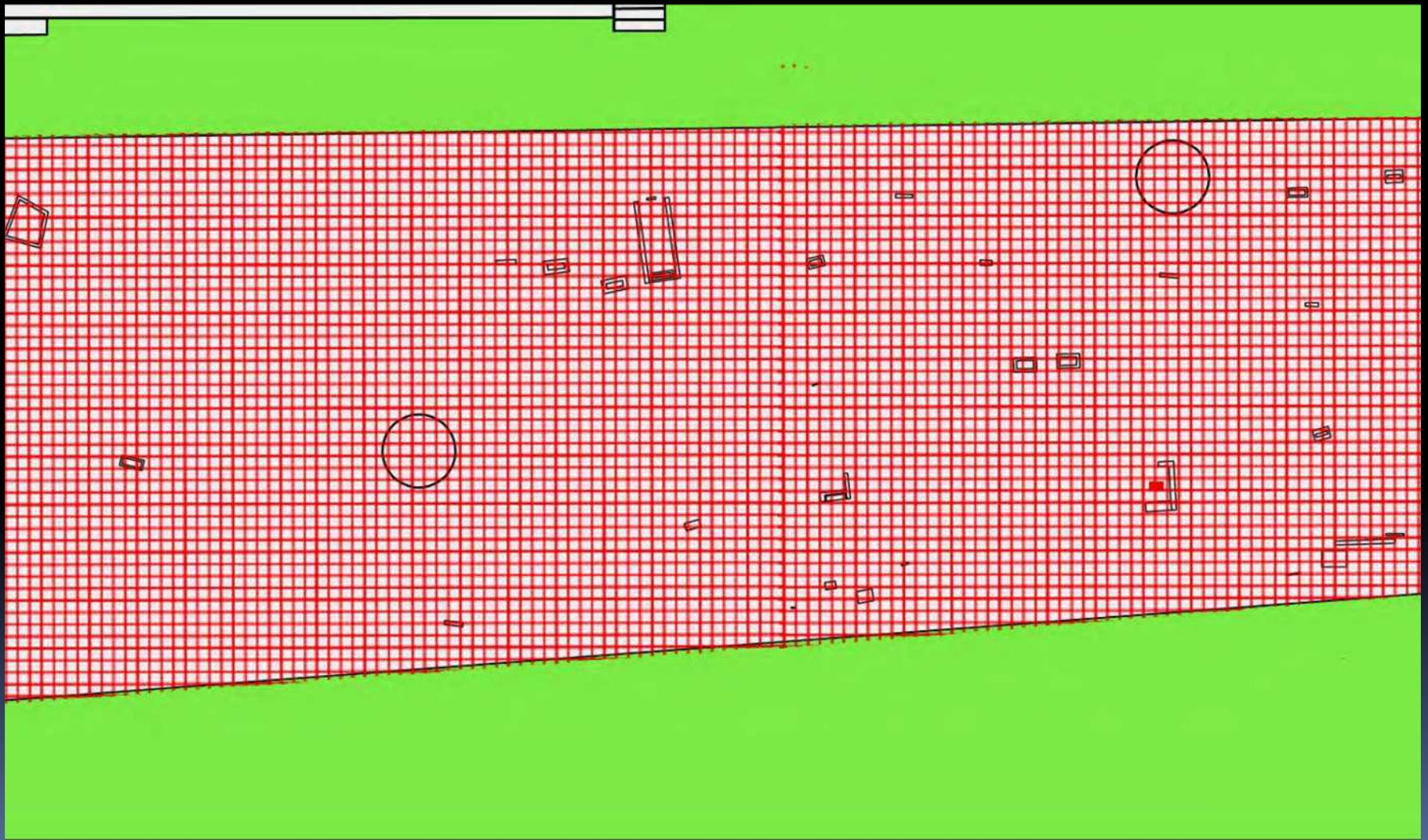
There were just over 40 markers at the start.



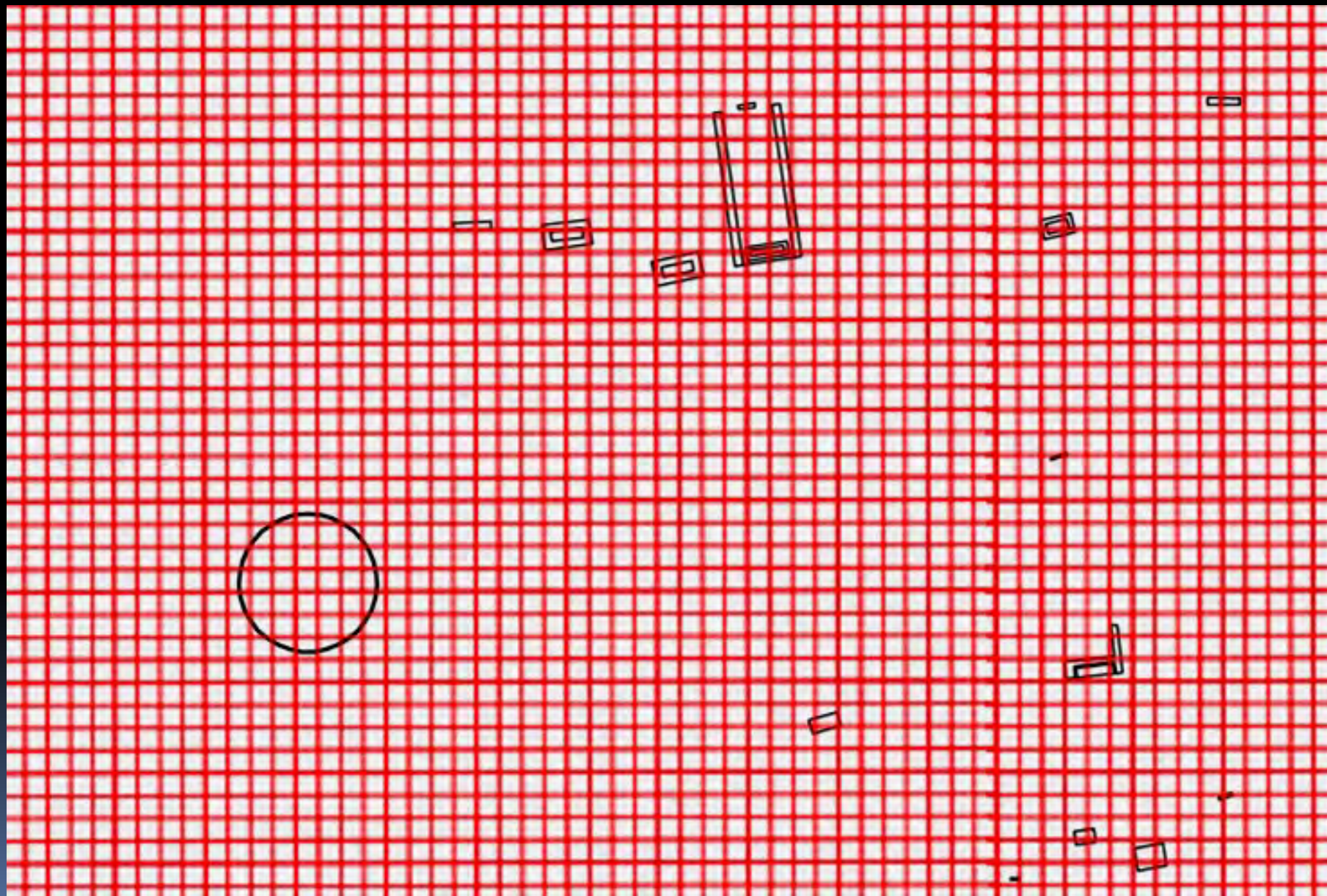
An intense probing program was initiated. Using a 3/8 solid rod, probes were placed every six inches!!!!



That is correct, every six inches!



Mike Johnson, beware!!! 38,000+ probes!!!!!!





We probed, and probed, and probed!!!!!!!





Every stone turned, every slab reviewed



An object was recorded as a grave marker based on size and location, as well as material type.

If a “hit” was determined too small by probing around it, it was not investigated further.





Items were mapped by size & material type



Pieces of what appear to be a broken marble counter top were found in six places, used as unlabeled markers.





Items in primary and secondary locations





Concrete grave curbs may not be original





Plates marked attempts to locate graves



A metal road sign was cut into rectangular shapes and used to mark graves.
Unfortunately, no names were etched in the pieces.



More than half of markers were concrete



Several were marble





If there were names
and dates on some,
they have eroded into
obscurity.



George Jones
and his
grandfather Orze
Jones' grave



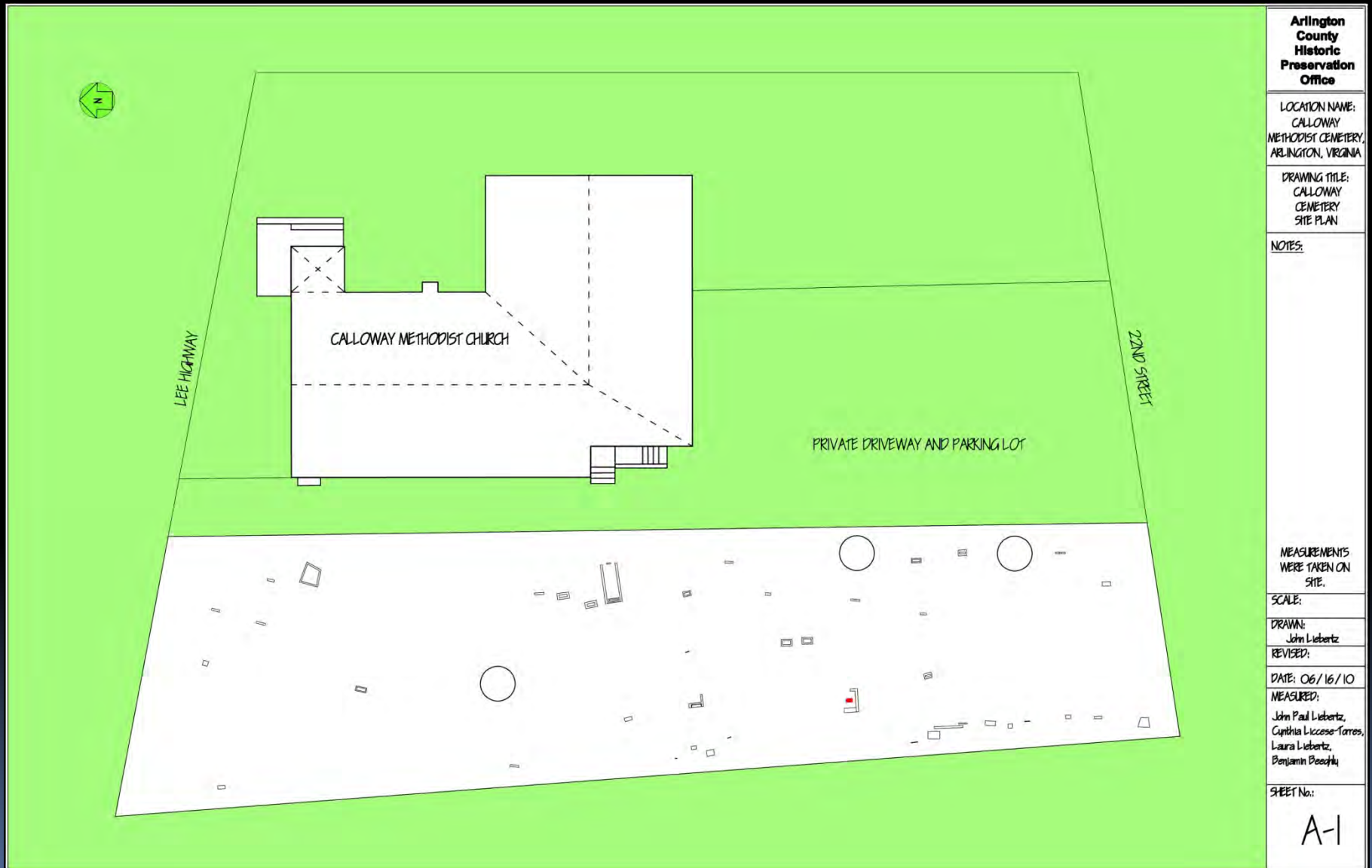
Obvious and unobvious lines were seen



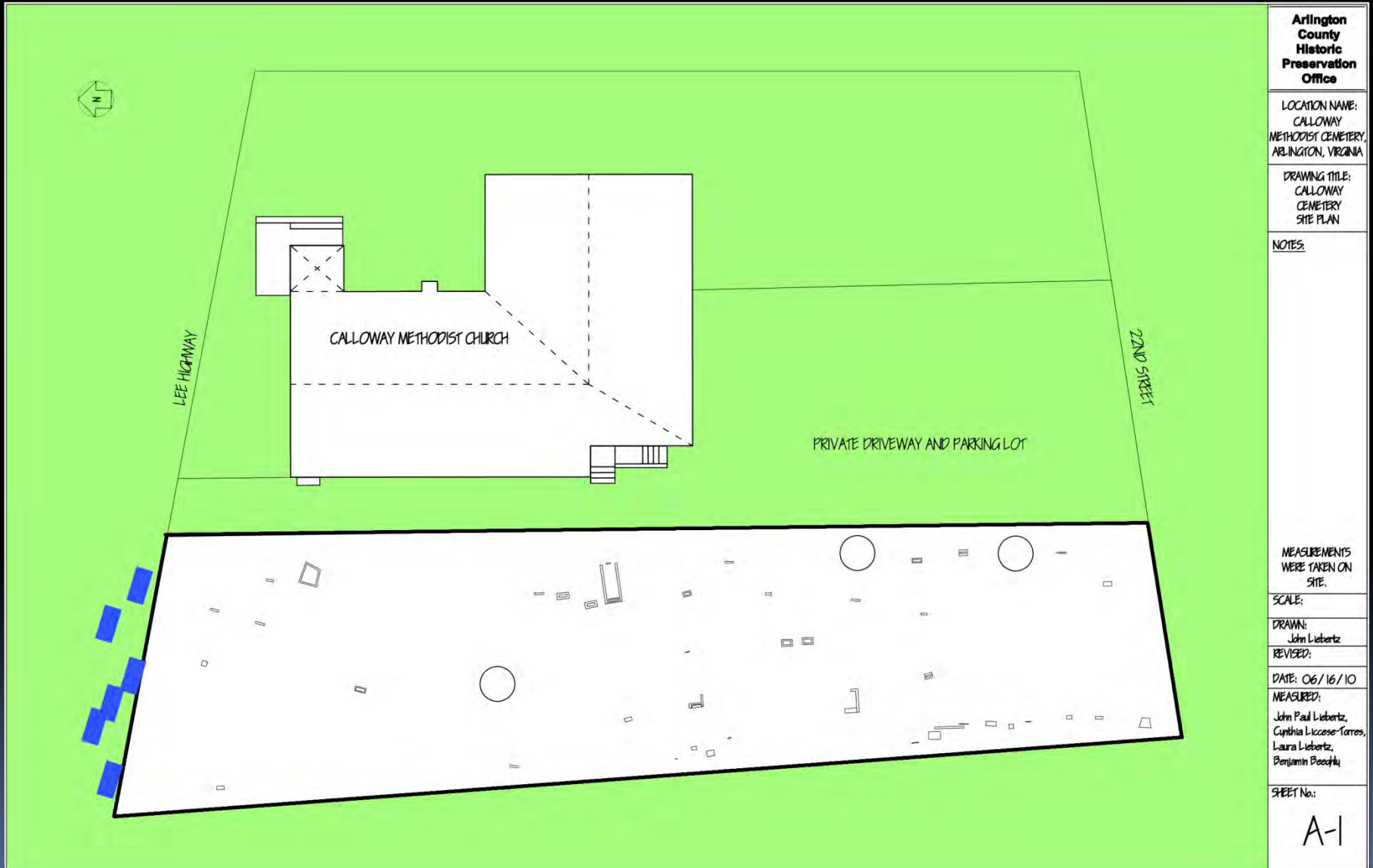
The site was also a learning experience. Mary Lipsey of Fairfax County Cemetery group came by to see how we probed!



What we started with in the beginning



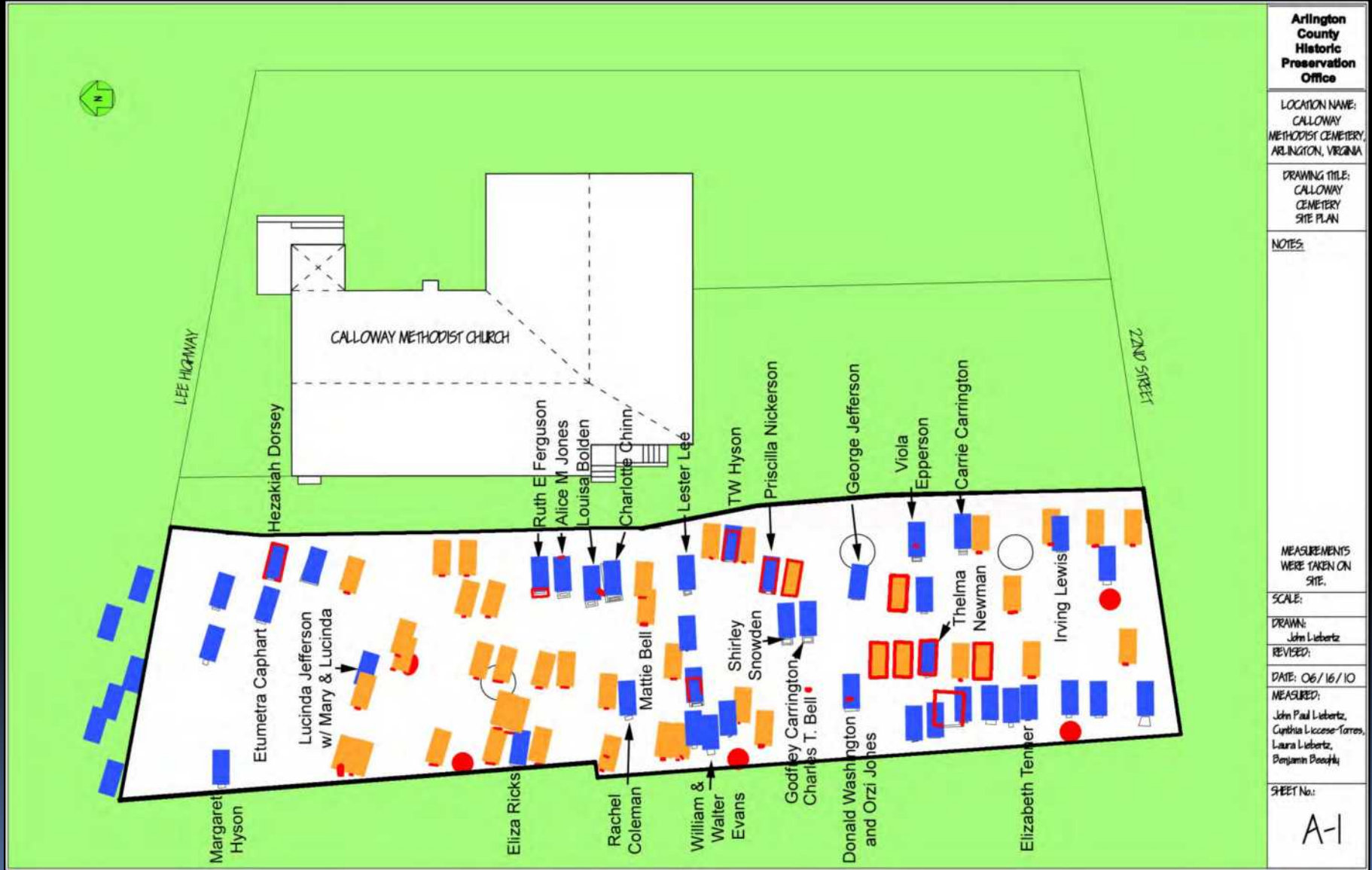
The known locations of the 1959 VDOT graves



What we found in the end. Blue are known at beginning. Orange were found by probing.



28 names were identified for families



LEE HIGHWAY

22ND STREET

CALLOWAY METHODIST CHURCH

Hezekiah Dorsey

Ruth E Ferguson

Alice M Jones

Louisa Bolden

Charlotte Chinn

Lester Lee

TW Hyson

Priscilla Nickerson

George Jefferson

Viola Epperson

Carrie Carrington

Etumetra Caphart

Lucinda Jefferson w/ Mary & Lucinda

Eliza Ricks

Rachel Coleman

William & Walter Evans

Mattie Bell

Shirley Snowden

Godfrey Carrington

Charles T. Bell

Donald Washington and Orzi Jones

Thelma Newman

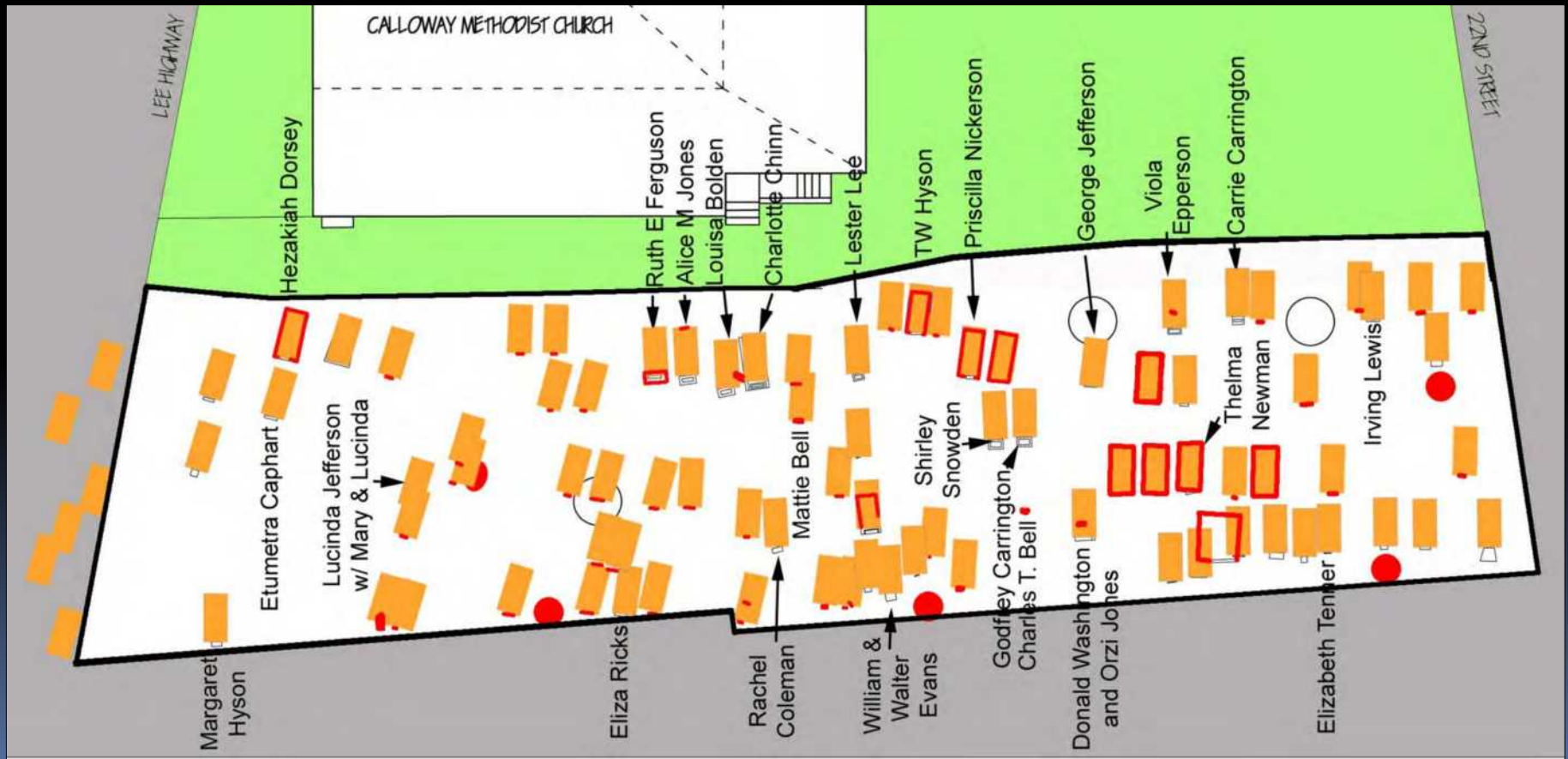
Irving Lewis

Elizabeth Tenner

Margaret Hyson

A-1

No familial patterns exist. Graves were first dug on the north end (left), and each new grave was generally located south (right) of the previous one. Married couples, siblings, families are not adjacent. In the late 1950s, the cemetery was full.



Family members started using the Pleasant Valley Memorial Park across from the NOVA Campus in Annandale.

So many, in fact, they talked about Halls Hill South!



Using newspapers, grave markers, and other records, a detailed list of interred and relationships emerged.

APPENDIX 1

List of Interred at Calloway Cemetery

(As recorded by the Arlington Genealogy Club, 1985
with additional data added in 2010 as available)

Name of Interred	Dates Appearing on Grave Markers	Date of Birth/Death	Census Year(s)	Occupation	Other Known Personal Information
Charles Thomas Bell	No dates	Circa 1890	1920 1930	Caulker at a shipyard	1920: Husband of Mattie E. Bell; Age 30; Doris V Bell (1919), Clementine D Bell, Celestine V Bell (1920) 1930: Listed as Thomas
Mattie E. Bell	B. Sept. 16, 1889 D. Feb. 26, 1952 Rest In Peace	Circa 1890	1900, 1910, 1920 1930	None	Probably Mattie E. Snowden, daughter of Shirley and Clara Snowden in 1900 and 1910 censuses; Wife of Charles T. Bell; Age 30; Doris V Bell, Clementine D Bell, Celestine V Bell
Louise (Louisa) S. Bolden (Balden/Belden)	June 1, 1921 (age 60)		1880, 1920	None	Born ca. 1857-1860; 1880 census – with husband Joseph Bolden/Belden/Balden and no children; Joseph was trustee of church in 1882 when land was bought from Basil Hall (see Wise article); husband born 1920 census – born 1870 VA, daughter Nellie (1899 DC) and her husband Joseph Barnes (1899 DC), and grand-daughter Alice (1920 VA) lived with Louisa
Etumetra (Lemetie?) Caphart (Capehart?)	March 3, 1906 – October 10, 1915		1910		Born in 1906; Son of John (1863; watchman) and Laura (1868) Capehart, sister Viola (1893; servant private family)

Arlington County is working with the church community to conduct oral histories and create a lasting legacy for the Calloway Methodist Church Cemetery!





Sandra Green
grew up nearby
and can point out
her relatives.
She is the church
historian.



Gene Bell knew his grandparents had brass markers and was truly elated when they were rediscovered by the probing team.



Rev. Sonja Oliver is leading the congregation in re-finding their history.





Rev. Oliver even took some probing lessons!

Rev. Oliver even took some probing lessons!



Rev. Oliver even took some probing lessons!



Cynthia Liccese-Torres was the driving force behind the project. A former colleague of Liz Crowell and Patrick O'Neill, she has many years with Arlington County.



They also wanted to interview the guy with the “probey thingy”, a.k.a. “probey dealy”!



Halls Hill is also known as High View, and a local park illustrates the rich history of the area.



A sculpture of an African American family overlooks the hill with the church in the background.



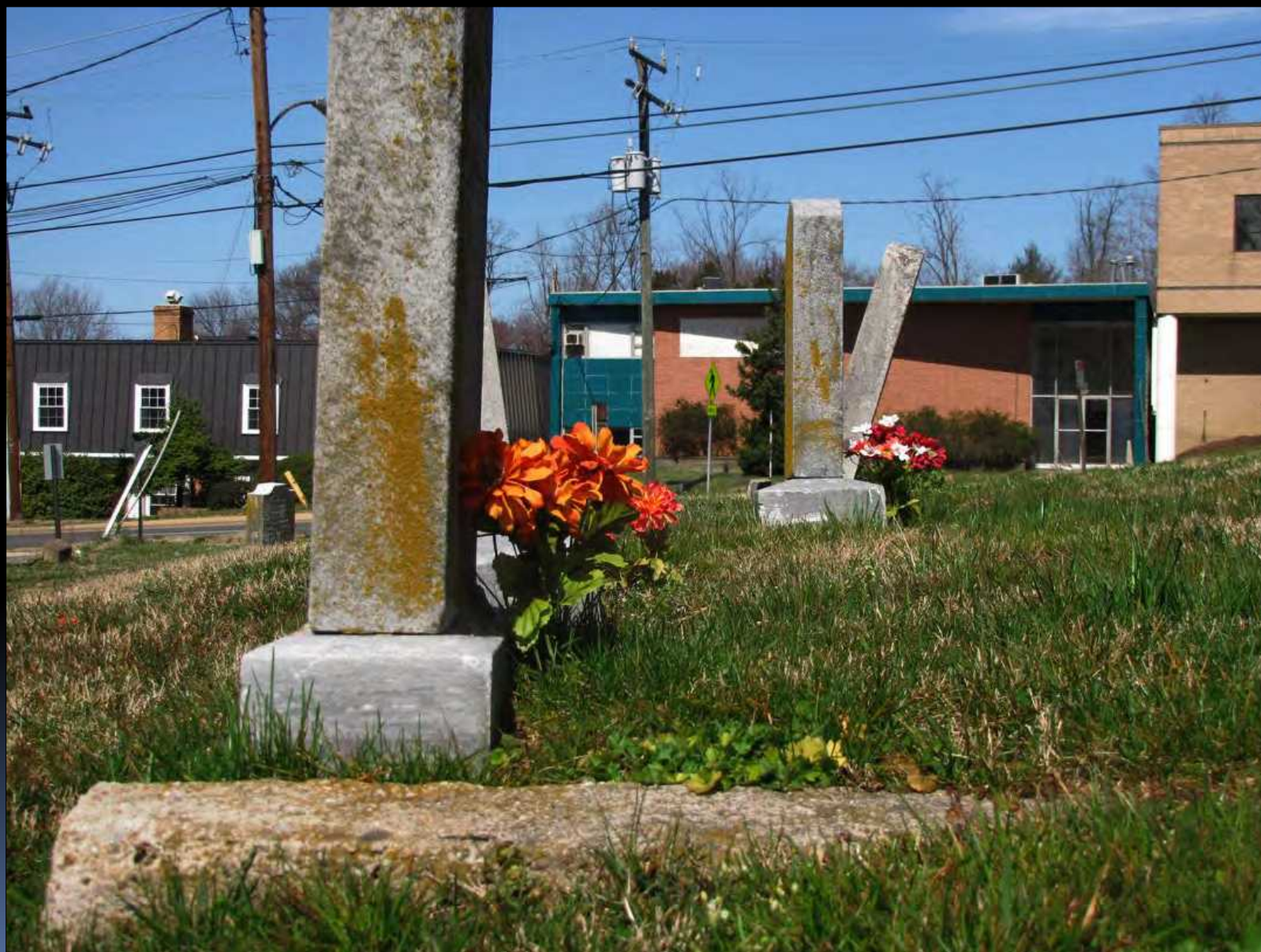
The *Calloway Cemetery Historic District* has received the endorsement of the Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board and the Planning Commission.

The Arlington County Board made it official with formal action on March 10, 2012.

The Calloway Cemetery will now be remembered for many decades to come, especially for the younger generations.



New hope. New beginnings.



IRVING C. LEWIS
BORN 1888 DIED 1959

