# Cemetery Delineation and Study Hastings Family Cemetery Delmar, Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware

Prepared for:

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#### Abstract

Edward Otter Inc. was contacted by Perdue Agribusiness regarding a cemetery within a parcel it plans to develop. The cemetery is located on Parcel 532 - 20.00 - 112.00 between Route 13 and Old Stage Road, Delmar, Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. Delaware Title 7 Chapter 54 provides protection for unmarked human burials and human skeletal remains within the state. Therefore prudent planning before development includes cemetery delineation and archival research when cemeteries are known or suspected to exist within a project area. Edward Otter Inc. conducted an investigation consisting of archival research and field study. Archival research identified land owner history from the present to its Colonial Maryland grant known as Kings Lott. During the course of archival study, no mention of the cemetery was found. No exception to its sale was found in any of the land deeds. The total number of individuals buried within the cemetery is at least nineteen. The boundaries of the cemetery were determined and marked. The developer plans to avoid the cemetery and preserve it in place. No additional archaeological work concerning the Hastings Family Cemetery is recommended.

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#### Introduction

In October 2016 Edward Otter Inc. was contacted by Perdue Agribusiness, LLC to consult on the Hastings Cemetery located within a parcel (532 - 20.00 - 112.00) slated for development. Delaware Title 7 Chapter 54 provides protection for unmarked human burials and human skeletal remains within the state. Prudent planning before development includes cemetery delineation and archival research when cemeteries are known or suspected to exist within a project area. A cemetery study with delineation was recommended with the goal of preserving the cemetery in place as an alternative to exhumation which is expensive, elaborate and time consuming.

#### Research Design

The project objective is to gain information about the cemetery and delineate the boundaries so that graves may be avoided during future development and construction. A survey of visible features such as tombstones, fences, and brick vaults was conducted as part of the field work. Features were photographed and mapped. Conditions of features and the landscape were noted. Tombstone inscriptions were transcribed. The field work design called for stripping soils in the project area to a depth where subsurface stains such as grave shafts could be identified, photographed and mapped. No graves were excavated. A mini-excavator with a clean-out bucket was utilized to carefully scrape the top soils. The excavated areas were then more finely cleaned with flat shovels and trowels. Excavation began at the outside edges of the marked graves and proceeded outward until graves were not found. If graves were found, work continued to uncover the entire cemetery in order to establish its limits. A metal probe was used to locate brick grave vaults in areas that could not be excavated due to tree cover. Positive probe tests were flagged and mapped.

Archival research was also a component of this study. Archival research has the potential to identify unmarked graves and cemetery occupants. Records for the property are researched for indications of past land use. The records include land deeds, wills, and orphans court documents, burial records and other documents in search of any reference to the cemetery. Historic maps, aerial photographs and the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs CHRIS were consulted during this investigation.

#### Project Setting

The Hastings Cemetery is located .9 miles north of Maryland Delaware Line Road between Route 13 and Old Stage Road (Figure 1). The Latitude is 38.468711 and Longitude is -75.555674. This location is in Delmar, Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. The cemetery is within an overgrown wooded area surrounded by agricultural fields (Figure 2). This is in the Atlantic Coastal Plain with elevations of 50 feet above mean sea level. Soils in the project location are identified as Rockawalkin loamy sand (RkA) with 0 to 2 percent slopes (websoilsurvey). RkA is moderately drained soil parented on sandy eolian deposits over fluviomarine sediments. The project is within the Broad Creek watershed of the Chesapeake Bay Basin. The closest surface water is Meadow Branch 210 feet to the southwest. A 1936 aerial photograph shows the natural meander of the stream before it was ditched (Figure 3). Meadow Branch was ditched sometime after 1954 and before 1961 (DEMAC). Ditches are common features found in agricultural fields and are typically constructed to aid in draining excessive rain water from farmlands.



Figure 1. USGS Topographic Map 2014 Delmar Quadrangle



Figure 2. Bing Maps 2015



Figure 3. Aerial Photography Circa 1936

#### Archival Research

An attempt was made to examine all records involving the land to the initial land patents in the middle 18th century. This is accomplished by working backwards in the land records. In the process, wills, orphan's court records, genealogical records and other documents are studied for information about the land's use and habitation. Records are transcribed using the actual spelling and terms of those documents. This work helps in determining the extent and type of land use that has occurred on the property through the years. It is not uncommon to find references to houses and other structures that no longer stand. Sometimes family cemeteries and cemetery exceptions are mentioned.

Parcel 532 - 20.00 - 112.00

This parcel containing 18.521 acres was conveyed to Perdue Agribusiness LLC from Elizabeth Caladonato, Doris Lowe and Pauline Colodonato on October 30th 2015. The land is described in Deed Book 4465 Page 168 as being Tract No. 1 of the same lands conveyed to Elizabeth Caladonato, Doris Lowe and Pauline Colodonato from Mary Nichols Corsi in February of 1990 (Deed 1700/314).

Mary Nichols Corsi acquired the land by Deed from John Annonio, Executor of the Estate of Antonio Annonio (Deed 743/702). Antonio was Mary's father and by his will he devised to her Lot No. 1. This was one of seven lots he left to his sons and daughters. Antonio Annonio purchased the land at public auction in November 1936 (Deed 309/249). Joseph W. Hastings and Ernest G. Hastings, sons and executors to Joseph W. Hastings Sr. Estate, sold a total of 150 acres to Antonio after their Father, Joseph W. Hastings Sr., died leaving unsettled debts. The deed mentions a two story dwelling, outbuildings, and pine and oak timber.

Land fitting the description of the project area was devised to Joseph W. Hastings in his Father Archelaus Hastings' last will and testament recorded in 1861 (M12/75). The parcel fronted Old Stage Road and followed a ditch. Archelaus left adjoining land to his other sons, William N., Peter E., and John H. Additionally, Joseph purchased 100 acres from his brother John H. Hastings in 1879 (Deed 91/246). The deed states this is land devised to John H. Hastings by the last will and testament of Archelaus Hastings. The Beers Map of 1868 clearly shows the land where the cemetery is located as being land of J. W. Hastings (Figure 3). The cemetery is located within the land Joseph W. inherited from his father, Archelaus. It is interesting to note the daughters of Archelaus Hastings - Sallie, Priscilla, and Jestina - were gifted a share in only their father's personal property and \$100 each. Archelaus' Widow Eliza C. would be allowed to live in the house she and Archelaus had shared until either her widowhood or her natural life ended. After Eliza C. Hastings died in 1888, her dower was given over to Joseph W. Hastings per the directives of Archelaus' will.

Archelus Hastings inherited the land from his grandfather, Elijah S. Hastings, Sr. in 1843. Elijah lived to the old age of 93 surviving all but one of his seven children (Elijah S. Hasting Jr. who removed to Ohio). In Item One of his will (J9/397), Elijah leaves to his daughter-in-law Polly Hastings (widow of Fredrick Hastings), all the lands where she now lives during her widowhood and to Archelus Hastings after her death. Item Three: "I give and bequeath to my grandson Archelus Hastings, son of Frederick Hastings, all the lands where I now live to him and his heirs forever.



Figure 4. Beers Map of Little Creek Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware

Elijah Hastings purchased the land from John Parker in 1785 (Volume N13/458). The tract of land was known by the name of Kings Lott and was originally granted to Mitchel King on October 18th, 1754 under the Great Seal of the Colony of Maryland. This land had once been within Somerset County Maryland. By the time Elijah acquired the land, state boundaries had been redrawn and this location was then included in the State of Delaware, County of Sussex, and within the Hundred of Little Creek. The Parker to Hastings deed places the land on the west side of the Main Road that leads to Broad Creek (Old Stage Road) and at the west end of a Plantation of the Widow King.

It is uncertain how John Parker acquired this land from Mitchel King. Little information could be found about Mitchel King, a planter of Somerset Maryland. Available records indicate he was sued in court on numerous occasions for owing debts to various persons. He was listed as being in debtors' prison in Maryland as well. His death came in 1762. It would make sense that his plantation, Kings Lott, was divided and sold off to pay his debts, though no court records or division maps were found. If his widow resided to the west of the land Elijah Hastings purchased from John Parker, it would be reasonable to assume he retained at least his home and probably a small piece of land.

It is interesting to study an inventory of goods and chattels recorded in the probate of Fredrick Hastings (son of Elijah and father of Archelaus) Last Will (G7/365) of November 13th, 1824. One might gain a bit of insight into lifeways of the time and place. No real estate was mentioned since Fredrick resided upon his father Elijah's land. Fredrick maintained a modest household (Figure 5). There was very little furniture and no china or luxury items were listed. He did own a wooden clock which probably would not have been considered extravagant. He owned three cows, a yearling, seven fat hogs, two sows, nine shotes (young un-weaned pigs) and twenty-five geese. This number of animals seems to represent a family's sustenance and probably is not indicative of any industry. The inventory lists farming implements such as five ploughs and a yoke of oxen, two barrows, three grubbing hoes and four weeding hoes. Nineteen pounds of cotton in the seed, some picked cotton and thread, five pounds of thread, and two spinning wheels might indicate textile industry within this household. The amount of materials seems more than would be needed for only a family's use. It is likely members of this household were producing and probably enjoying a bit of fermented drink since one hundred ninety bushels of corn, a still and tub and two funnels are listed in Fredrick's inventory.

Listed amongst the goods and chattels of Fredrick Hastings is one "Negrow Girl". Her monetary value was considered at that time less than the 190 bushels of corn listed on the inventory. No name identifies the girl and no additional information is known about her. She would have most likely remained with Fredrick's widow, Polly. Fredrick's father, Elijah Hastings, also owned slaves. The census records of 1830 and 1840 list six slaves - one male and five female - in the household of Elijah Hastings. In his will, probated 1843, he left one Negro boy named William to his grandson Windor Hastings. Also stated in his will, it was his "wish that Archelus Hastings should maintain Old Rose during her natural life". It is not known what happened to the other four enslaved individuals listed on the census but not mentioned in his will.

An Inventary of all and singular of the goods and Chattles that were of Tradrack Hasting late of segure Gunty Breest aprosed by us the Subscribers This twenty second Day of Secon ber 1824 X 1 yeke meen 30 ... 2 sows & /ags 5 50 9 Shotes -201. 1 . . 9 5 pleughs 3 Cows & one yerting 50 30 3 & harrows 7 lat hogs . . . 46 . . 1 . . 3 Grubing hors the Bashels of Com 2 2. Cents portaber 3 \$ 15 4 weeding hoes i degion Gil -30 25 1 Lot of Carpeders tooks 20 5 anch & M Chain 50 1 Still and Tab and spends 1 Suoy & I thidle & Sifter a 25 1 Bead & funiture of3 , 1 elleal Tab & flour Tul 16 1 50 1 Tito - & furnitude CB & a pots & 10 Barnets a 4 90 190 & farmiture al3 3 5 hog sets & 6 ficach Stands 7 55 1 90 & farmetine ch34 16 Hofun headed Barrels 1 33 190 & furniture AS5. 15 150 Staves & Tubs & I gum a ... ride of upper Seather .. 20 Bushels of evalings 2 2 1 Stear .. 5 pound of thread & theasty 12 ... 2 carts . 3 11 194 of Color in The seed. 13 2.50 not of ports & fore Dolla po 50 sompriked Collon & Thoread. 2 Chests & Isashet . 43 1 30 Alalnut table & righting Beak a 3 tables -3 50 3 . , 1 Wooton Clock 1 Corner Cubberd 5 . . 5 . . 2 flat from & goot . . 1 Gun & spitel 75 hand frong & shovel & tongs 175 2 Spinning wheels 50 . Some toushers & Tite . wave 8 50 6 . A Chear Q wath & Tim Townh 1 90 4 9.5 2 fron hedy as & from & mostes 2 Sooms & Stars & gears 33 spart of Stiller 95 & coling stone a 8 50 4 frompots & part of hooks 33 1 The hittle & fring par & Spiller 18 wit of hogs Sand Scentife 1 25 44 3 Stone pots & linives & forks ist of Crockbey ward & Offeepot some puter o pot tramely 1 50 37 2 Same Cabberty washing Bass & Most I Kow hite 0 89 i toble cloth & storils & 62 .. 0 50 25 gees at 20 Cents 1 Meal 1300 5 . -0 75 Waring afrest Samuel Ethott a . 6 Elista Parker \$7 26 S ES

Figure 5. Inventory of Fredrick Hastings Goods and Chattels 1824

#### Delaware Cemetery Records

During the 1920's Walter G. Tatnall transcribed tombstones throughout Sussex County, Delaware. The Works Progress Administration contributed further in the 1930's. These records are useful since grave stones often go missing or simply weather over time. Commonly, inscriptions erode - eventually becoming illegible. The Hastings Cemetery is recorded in Tatnall's Collection as #206 and #206a. The cemetery was located on Joseph W. Hastings' Farm, located two miles northeast of Delmar.

Twelve gravestones were recorded in the Tatnall Collection: These consist of headstones and footstones. Tatnall Records Collection identifies twelve tombstones and names of the individuals they are associated with.

- 1. Frances E. Hastings 1st wife of J. W. Hastings born Dec 1st 1848 died Jun 12th 1874
- 2. Archelaus Hastings died Jun 25th 1861 Age 52 6 1
- 3. Eliza C. wife of Archelaus died Sep 1st 1888 Age 82 5 11
- 4. Adelia Hastings daughter of Archelaus died Mch 28th 1861 Age 10 3 5
- 5. Marietta Hastings wife of J. W. Hastings & daughter of B. B. & Sarah Gordy born Jan 6th 1854 died May 12th 1887
- 6. Archlaus B. son of W. N. & Margaret E. died Jan 4th 1874 Age 12 9 27
- 7. J. W. Hastings
- 8. W. N. Hastings
- 9. Margaret E. Hastings
- 10. Infant daughter of Wm. & Mar E. Hastings died Jul 26, 1865 Age 6 da
- 11. B. B. Gordy
- 12. Sarah J. Gordy wife of B. B. Gordy

The Hastings Cemetery is located on land that was acquired by Elijah Hastings in 1785 and remained in the family until 1936 when Joseph W. Hastings died and the land was sold out of the family at public auction. Family members were buried here over approximately 150 years of Hastings Family ownership. It is possible that enslaved individuals were also interred within the burial ground. During the archival research, the only indication of the cemetery was found in Tatnall Record Collection. There is no mention in any will or land deeds. No exclusion from sale of the small area known as the Hastings Cemetery exists.

#### Field Study

An initial visit to the cemetery occurred in the early fall of 2016. An area measuring approximately 40 feet x 60 feet has remained unplowed for some time and is covered in briars, vines, pokeweed and trees. The southern part of the overgrown area, where no grave markers or fence posts are present, was covered in lily greens (Figure 6). Obelisk shaped marble fence posts were present in the northern section, mostly fractured and toppled onto the ground. The marble fence posts formed an enclosure that measures 30 feet by 40 feet.



Figure 6. Lily Greens and Fence Posts

Within the area that would have once been enclosed, five marble headstones and six marble footstones are present. The condition of the gravestones is mostly poor. Many of the stones have been fractured and are toppled, laying on the surface. Daffodil greens were noted near some gravestones. Two brick vaults were observed at the surface within the fenced portion of the cemetery (Figure 7). Rodent activity is apparent throughout the cemetery.



Figure 7. Brick Vault at Surface

Delineation of the cemetery was underway December 2016. Working from the known graves, excavation extended out in all directions (Figure 8). Utilizing a mini-excavator, the top soils were scraped carefully to a depth where graves would be visible if they were present. The back dirt was piled out of the way.



Figure 8. Delineation of Hastings Family Cemetery

Areas where soils appeared mottled or disturbed were more finely cleaned using a flat shovel and trowel. When grave stains and brick vaults were identified, they were photographed and mapped (Figure 9; Figure 10). This work continued outward around the cemetery until burials were no longer present.

During the course of this fieldwork, thirteen burials without above surface markers were discovered (Figure 11). All of the graves are oriented west east. Four of the burials are without brick vaults and are located on the southeastern end of the cemetery. One of these four was marked near the head with a fieldstone. The graves were identifiable at a depth of 2.1' feet and 2.8 feet below surface.

Six brick-vaulted burials were identified by probing within the southwestern portion of the cemetery. All were unmarked but one. Near the head of the one, a marble tombstone positioned horizontally was observed at .5' below surface. The tombstone was not inscribed. One unmarked brick-vaulted grave was located by probing within the marble fence enclosure to the south of the marked graves.



Figure 9. Grave Stains were Photographed and Mapped



Figure 10. Brick-Vaulted Burial



Figure 11. Cemetery as Mapped December 2016

Map Key Archelaus Hastings Cemetery

Delineation December 2017

Blue Square = marble fence post in vertical position

- Blue Rectangle = marble fence post fractured and laying horizontal
- Red Circle = probe test positive for brick vault

T = tree or tree cluster

BV = brick vault

- fs = fieldstone
- a. marble footstone 1' wide. inscribed E H
- b. marble footstone .5' wide. Adelia Hastings
- c. marble footstone .8' wide. inscribed A H
- d. bricks arranged upon surface measuring 2' wide
- e. marble headstone 1' wide. weeping willow motif. inscription weathered and illegible
- f. marble footstone .5' wide. inscribed A B H
- g. brick vault at surface measuring 2.5' x 6.3'

h. marble headstone laying horizontal measures 1.7' x 3.8'. weeping willow motif inscribed In Memory of Archelaus Hastings

- i. marble headstone broken and displaced; leaning against tree stump. measures 1.7'. embossed Eliza
- C. Wife of Archelaus Hastings
- j. marble footstone base in situ. stone toppled over. inscribed F E H
- k. marble footstone with beveled marble base inscribed M H
- l. marble base upon a base measuring 1' x 2.5'

1.2 marble headstone toppled and laying horizontal measures 1.8' x 2.2' and .4' thick. lily of the valley motif. embossed Frances E. Wife of J W Hasting Born Dec 1 1848 Died June 12 1874 Aged 25 Years 6 MOS & 10 Days. inscribed at lower right hand corner EE Sharp, Laurel Del

m. marble base measures 2.5' x .8'

m.2 marble headstone with secondary base toppled and laying horizontal. measures .9' x 3.8'. embossed Farewell Marietta with two hands clasped motif. inscribed Daughter of BB & Sarah Gordy and beloved wife of J.W. Hastings born Jan 6 1854 Died May 12 1887

- n. marble headstone frqagmented laying horizontal. identified at .5' below surface. no inscription
- o. brick vault arched. identified at 2' below surface
- p. brick vault at surface measuring 2' wide
- q. grave identified at 2.8' below surface. no brick vault. rectangular shape. fieldstone locate at head
- r. grave identified at 2.8' below surface. no brick vault. hexagonal shape
- s. grave identified at 2.8' below surface. no brick vault. hexagonal shape
- t. grave identified at 2.1' below surface. no brick vault. rectangular shape

Two additional graves were identified near the northeast corner outside of the marble fenced area of the cemetery. One is an unmarked brick-vaulted burial and appears disturbed by ground hog activity. The other is a burial without a brick vault and marked with a fieldstone.

The Hastings Cemetery contains marked and unmarked burials within an area measuring approximately 50 feet by 70 feet. Field study resulted in the identification of thirteen unmarked and six marked burials. Six marked graves and one unmarked brick-vault burial are located within a marble and steel enclosure. Twelve unmarked burials are located outside of the marble post enclosure. The limits of the cemetery were determined and its boundaries were marked with wooden stakes.

#### Conclusions and Recommendations

Archival research traced ownership of Parcel 532 - 20.00 - 112.00 from the present to its Colonial Maryland grant known as Kings Lott. During the course of archival study, the only indication of the cemetery was found in the Tatnall Records Collection. No mention of the cemetery or exception to sale was found in a will or any of the land deeds. The Hastings Family owned this land from 1785 to 1936. Family members were buried in the family cemetery over approximately 150 years of Hastings Family ownership. It is possible that enslaved individuals were also interred within the burial ground

Field work identified thirteen unmarked graves in addition to six marked burials within an area measuring 50 feet by 70 feet. The six marked graves plus one unmarked brick vault burial are located within the marble and steel fenced enclosure. The remaining twelve burials are located outside of the enclosure. Tatnall Records Collection identifies twelve of the burials located here. A best guess could be made as to who some of the unidentified burials contain. It is likely that Fredrick Hastings was interred here in 1824 and that Polly was customarily placed beside her husband when she died in 1845. Elijah Hastings Sr. would have probably been buried here in 1843 and his wife Elizabeth who predeceased him in 1828 would have been interred here as well. An enslaved woman identified as Old Rose survived Elijah Hastings Sr. and he thought enough of her to entrust her care to his grandson and executor, Archelaus Hastings. It does not seem unreasonable to think Old Rose may have been laid to rest in this family cemetery.

After the limits of the cemetery were determined, stakes were placed about ten feet outside of the cemetery boundaries to ensure no disturbance will occur when development of this tract is underway. The developer plans to avoid the cemetery and preserve it in place. The area could be fenced to protect it from unnecessary pedestrian traffic. Mechanical clearing is not recommended as pulling up roots and vegetation can lead to the accidental disinterment of burials. Herbicides can be used to deter overgrowth if desired. No additional archaeological work concerning the Hastings Family Cemetery is recommended.

### APPENDIX I: PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY



Archelaus Hastings Headstone



Archelaus Hastings Footstone



Eliza C. Hastings Headstone



Eliza C. Hastings Footstone



Archelaus B. Hastings, Son of William N. and Margret Hastings (Grandson of Archelaus Hastings)



Adelia Hastings, Daughter of Archelaus



Marietta Gordy Hastings, Wife of J. W. Hastings



Marietta Hastings Footstone



Frances E. Hastings, First Wife of J. W. Hastings



Frances E. Hastings Footstone



Marble Post and Steel Rail Fencing



Scale Drawing of Marble and Steel Rail Fence



Fieldstone Grave Marker



Brick Vault with Rodent Disturbance



Brick Vaults Marked with Flags



Mottled Soils Indicating Burials



Excavation Outside Limits of Cemetery with No Burials Present

#### APPENDIX II: QUALIFICATIONS OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

#### Edward Otter, Ph.D. President and Principal of Edward Otter, Inc.

#### Education

2002	Ph.D., Anthropology/Archaeology Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.
1989	Master of Arts in Anthropology/Archaeology Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.
1980	Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

#### Capabilities

Over 30 years experience in archaeology in the Middle Atlantic United States. Work during this period has involved prehistoric and historic sites at all levels of expertise from Field Crewmember to Principal Investigator. Responsibilities have included project design and implementation, field and laboratory supervision, artifact analysis, archival research, report writing, site interpretation to the public, field and classroom instruction, and faunal analysis.

#### Select Recent Projects

2016	Phase I Archaeological Survey. Plain Dealing, Denton, Caroline County, Maryland.
2016	Phase I Archaeological Survey. Estuary, Sussex County, Delaware.
2015	Phase II Study. Prehistoric Site MBS-9, Millville, Sussex County, Delaware.
2014/2015	Historic Cemetery Removal. Lewes, Sussex County, Delaware.
2014	Phase I Survey. Dover International Speedway, Dover, Kent County, Delaware.
2014	Phase I Survey. Milford Delaware Water Facility, Milford, Sussex County, Delaware.
2013	Phase II Study. ECI Biogass project, Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland.
2013	Phase I Survey. Fusco Property, New Castle County, Delaware.
2003-2014	Phase IA, Phase I, Phase II and Monitoring. Over 400 cell tower locations in New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.
2011 - 2012	Phase I Archaeological Survey and Phase II Investigation. Proposed Hospital Location Shore Health, Easton, Talbot County, Maryland.
2010 - 2014	Restoration Studies. Handsell House, Vienna, Dorchester County, Maryland.
2003 - 2017	Cemetery Delineations/Excavations. 32 locations in Delaware and Maryland.