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REPORT OF SURVEY

CARTER FAMILY CEMETERY

CLOVERLAND PLANTATION

**Prepared for: Mr. Randolph S.E. Carter
191 Culpeper Street
Warrenton, VA 22186**

June 1995

Survey Report Carter Family Cemetery

Case Number: SI 95-H1

Survey Dates: June 3, 4, and 9, 1995

Survey Crew Members: Douglas W. Owsley Ph.D., Leader
Malcolm L. Richardson
Jackie Vollmer
Dale K. Brown
Assisted by Scott Carter

Location: Cloverland Plantation
Thoroughfare, VA

Principal Contact: Randolph S.E. (Scott) Carter
191 Culpeper Street
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Preliminary Events:

Mr. Scott Carter, upon referral from the Virginia Room, Fairfax City Regional Library, contacted Malcolm Richardson concerning assistance in locating the burial of Edward Carter, initial owner of the Cloverland Plantation and builder of its manor house. With Scott Carter acting as sponsor of the project, Owsley agreed to assemble a crew for the purpose of testing the cemetery to determine the number and locations of graves in the historic cemetery.

Description of Area:

The target area is a cemetery in a large field, currently planted in corn, generally situated west-southwest of the remnants of the old Cloverland manor house

(Figure 1). The dimensions are 40 x 40 feet and the corners are marked with recently installed granite posts with pointed tops. Several small pieces of white marble grave markers and native sandstone were scattered on the surface of the cemetery. The cemetery had been plowed and planted, after abandonment and prior to being relocated and maintained by Scott Carter. Mr. Carter related that some of the monuments had been removed a number of years ago to a church cemetery several miles away. No burials were relocated at that time.

Soil Characteristics.

The soil of this area is known to local residents as "blackjack," a dark-red, heavy clay soil of uniform color and consistency to a minimum depth of approximately 3.5 feet. Below this level, patches of small red or gray hardpan fragments are encountered. The absence of soil stratigraphy in the target area makes a discerning eye necessary to determine the bottom of the plow zone even within a burial shaft.

Survey Preparations:

A grid system of eleven search lanes was established so as to encompass the area indicated by the boundary stones. The lanes were four feet wide, as delineated by heavy, white cord anchored with large nails. As the cemetery is not aligned on a true north-south axis, the lanes are skewed slightly toward the east.

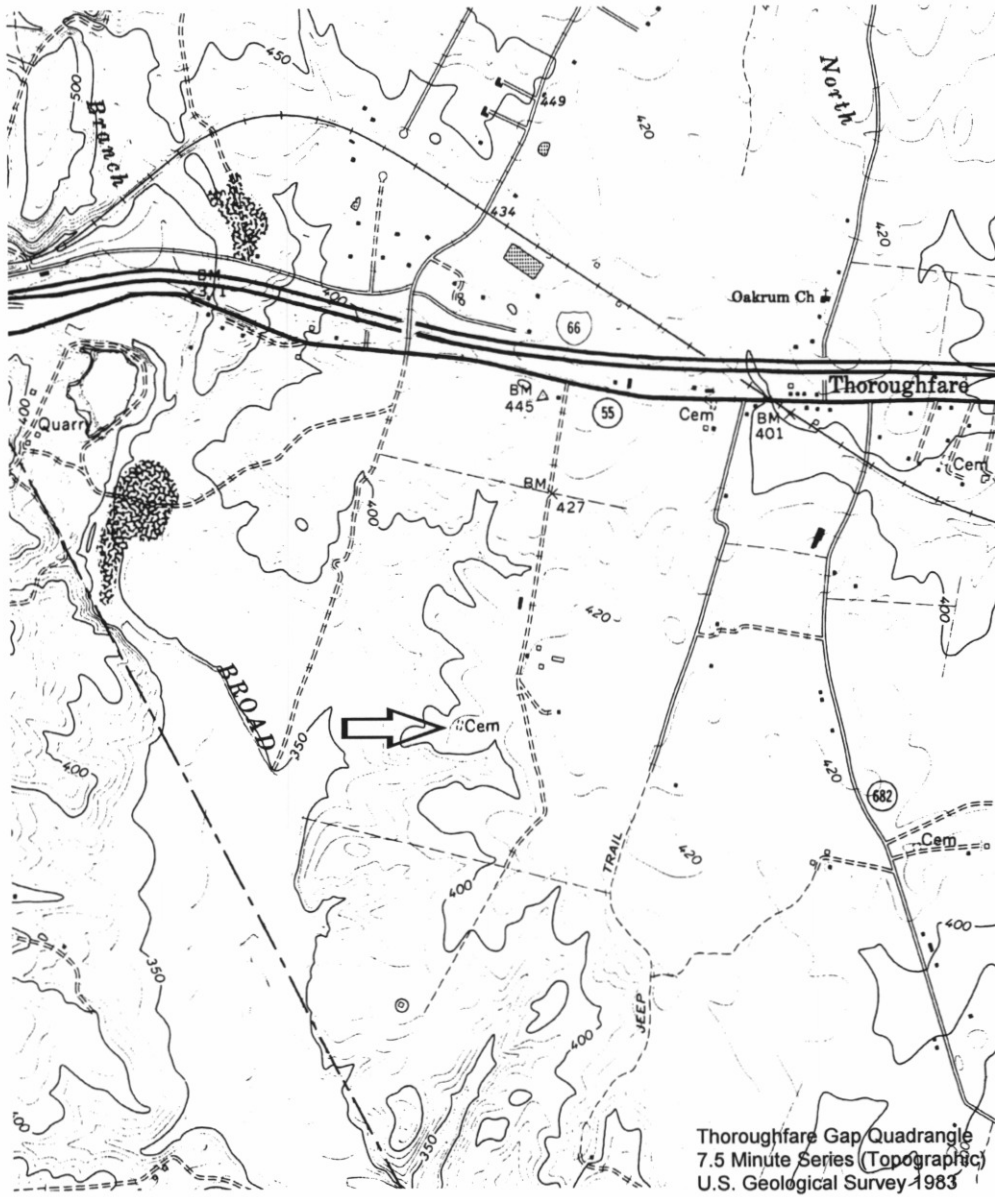
Survey Methodology:

The search lanes were tested with stainless steel probes with .5 inch shafts and rounded tips. After establishing the depth of the plow zone and measuring the resistance of undisturbed subsoil by probing outside the cemetery boundaries, probing began within the search lanes. Probe operators were assigned individual lanes. The probe was inserted into the soil beginning at the left of the lane and continued laterally at .5 foot intervals until the right-hand limits of the lane was reached. The probe was then advanced .5 foot and a new lateral sweep was begun.

When an anomaly was detected, the location was indicated by inserting a red, "lollipop-shaped" marker into the soil. No attempt was made to determine the size and orientation of anomalies at this time; however, when subsurface stones were detected, their limits were determined and outlined with orange surveyor's tape anchored with nails. The probing process was continued until the entire target area was tested.

When the probing operations were completed, previous soil intrusions were obvious by the clustering of markers. Each cluster was then retested with a probe

Figure 1



**Carter Family Cemetery
Cloverland Plantation**

to determine the size and orientation of the burial. Shaft corners were marked with surveyor's flags and the shaft boundaries were validated by shallow coring with a one-inch diameter soil sampling tube. Each grave was delineated with surveyor's tape anchored with nails.

When all anomalies were marked, the subsurface stone findings were excavated with a trowel and the target area was mapped (Figure 2). the burial shafts were then deep-cored to establish their depth and the possible presence of unusual burial containers.

Survey Results:

Seven burials and six significant, subsurface stone objects were located.

Burial B1. The shaft depth was 4.3 feet and coffin wood was detected at the floor. The shaft is small and is probably that of a child.

Burial B2. The shaft depth was 3.95 feet and featured a dark stain at the bottom but no evidence of coffin material. Its small size indicates a child's burial.

Burial B3. A depth of 3.2 feet was attained when this small shaft was tested. There was no evidence of coffin wood.

Burial B4. Like Burial B3, this shaft was small and also shallow with a depth of 3.4 feet. No preserved burial materials were located at the floor.

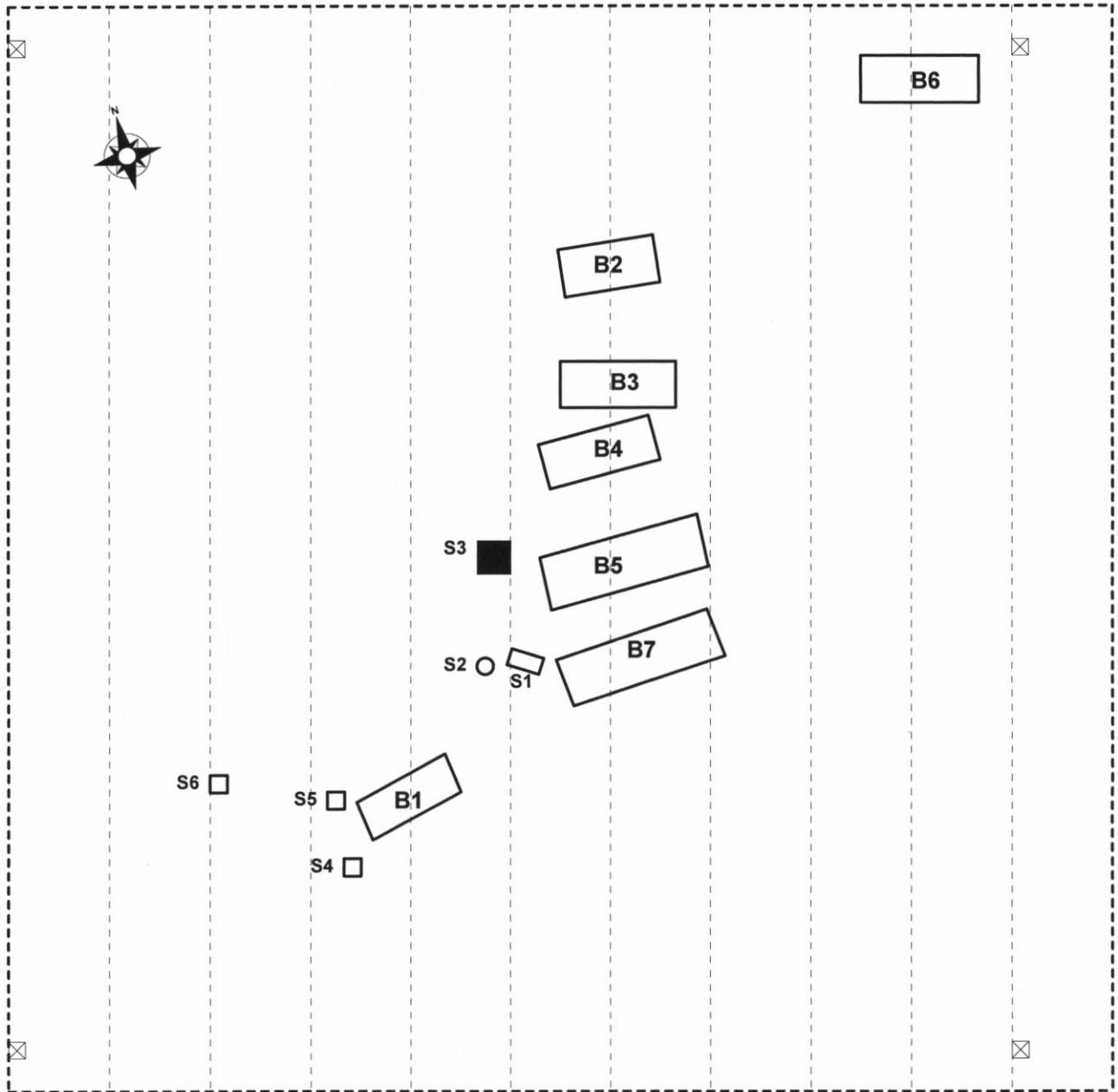
Burial B5. This burial shaft is large with a depth of 5.0 feet. No burial materials were found at the bottom.

Burial B6. This burial is somewhat isolated by having been placed away from the others in the northeast corner of the cemetery. The grave shaft is small and has a depth of 3.4 feet. No wood was detected at the bottom of the shaft.

Burial B7. Like Burial B5, this shaft was also large, but more shallow than its northern neighbor. Its depth was 3.45 feet with no burial materials at the bottom of the shaft.

Object S1. This object is a portion of a small white, marble footstone bearing the initials **J H C**. Measurements of the object are .9 x .8 x .2 feet. This is probably the footstone of John Hill Carter, as he is reported to have been buried in this cemetery. Several plow scars are evident on this stone.

Figure 2



**Carter Family Cemetery
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Scale: 1" = 80"

MLR 6/11/95

Object S2. This round, stone object is constructed of white marble and was a finial for the top of a burial monument. Its rounded body section has a diameter of .8 foot and is decorated with carved leaves that probably depict those of the tobacco plant. A hole, approx. .075 foot in diameter, is present in the bottom for a mounting rod. The top is flat with a rounded shaft at its center. The shaft is broken and the object that it was holding is missing.

Object S3. This large object consists of many flat natural sandstone fragments arranged in a square about .6 foot below current grade. It appears to have been the base support for a large family or individual burial monument. As it may be re-used in the future, it was not excavated to determine if more than one course of stones was present.

Object S4. Excavation of this anomaly disclosed a large (approx. .5 foot diameter) rounded, natural stone positioned upon a rectangular stone of the same type of sandstone. These stones appear to have been a burial marker; however, no soil disturbances were found on the east or west side of these stones.

Object S5. This object was a large rectangular piece of sandstone measuring approximately .75 x 1.25 x .35 feet that was in association with a ferrous metal object. The iron piece was L-shaped with one end flattened into a wedge configuration and the other rounded and threaded. It was probably from a piece of farm machinery.

Object S6. This stone object was a segment of the corner of a decorated, white marble, monument base. The unbroken edges have a beveled surface and was carved to represent molding. The size was approximately .45 x 1.10 x .4 feet.

Probing indicated that an old animal burrow was located in the area of the western ends of Burials B5 and B7. Stone objects S1 and S2 were found below the plow zone in this disturbed area and they were not marked by plow scars.

Only burials B5 and B7 were of sufficient size to be considered adult interments. The remaining grave shafts were small and were probably those of children. No evidence was discovered during the survey concerning the burial place of Edward Carter.

Photography.

The target area and exposed stone objects were photographed using 35mm color slide film.

Artifacts.

No artifacts of any type were collected.

Site Restoration.

Upon conclusion of the fieldwork, the cemetery was restored to a pre-survey condition. The stone objects that had been excavated for identification and any stones that were temporarily removed were replaced in their original position and the pits were backfilled. All flags, tapes, survey markers and nail anchors were collected and removed from the site as well as all other types of refuse.