



VIRGINIA
HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

File no. 76-176
Negative no(s). 4370

SURVEY FORM

Historic name Lewis Family Cemetery Common name Cemetery at Manassas Presbyterian Church
County/Town/City Prince William County
Street address or route number 8201 Ashton Avenue, Manassas, VA 22110

USGS Quad Manassas Date or period Earliest grave, c1800.

Original owner Lewis Family Architect/builder/craftsmen

Original use Cemetery

Present owner Lewis Family Source of name

Present owner address c/o Mrs. Francis M. Lewis Source of date

Manassas, VA 22110 Stories

Present use Cemetery Foundation and wall const'n

Acreage -1 acre

Roof type

State condition of structure and environs Cemetery is in good condition.

State potential threats to structure

Note any archaeological interest

Should be investigated for possible register potential? yes ___ no ___

Architectural description (Note significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

The cemetery, which is located at the end of Ashton Avenue and east of the new Presbyterian Church, contains about 20 graves, 7 of which have markers. It is enclosed by a low brick wall measuring 41 feet by 44 feet. Between the cemetery and the Church parking lot is an apparently old sickle pear tree. The cemetery is located on a bluff looking out onto S.R. 234, or Sudley Road. This highway has been the focus of a great deal of recent commercial development, the Manaport Shopping Center being one of the larger shopping attractions. On Ashton Avenue, leading to the new, modern-style Presbyterian Church beside which this cemetery is located are the Crestwood Garden Apartments and apartments for senior citizens, the Morly Apartments. Prince William County's tallest office building, located on Sudley Road can be seen in the distance in the photograph of the cemetery.

Interior inspected?

Historical significance (Chain of title; individuals, families, events, etc., associated with the property.)

Francis M. Lewis (1820-1897) was one of Prince William County's first supervisors, under the post-Civil War reorganization of the state government. Under the Constitutional Convention of 1867-68, boards of supervisors were established as the chief administrative agency for counties, taking over the functions of the old county court.

Francis M. Lewis was a grandson of William and Catherine Montgomery, who immigrated from England in 1757. William Montgomery, who met and married Catherine Mars, or Marrs, on the sea voyage to America, bought 265 acres in Western Prince William County from Richard Graham and Martin Pickett in 1787 and established there a farm which was named Rosemont. The Rosemont manor house was located about where the newly-built Manassas Presbyterian Church is. The original log house, later enlarged, was used as a hospital during the Civil War. A fire destroyed the home shortly after the Civil War and on its foundations, presumably, a new house was built. This house was demolished for the construction of the church, which is just a few hundred feet from the Lewis Family cemetery. A summer kitchen, a stone spring house, and a barn were also demolished during the church construction in 1976-77. Photographs of the second house and the outside kitchen which appear in R.J. Ratcliffe's book This Was Manassas show the house to have been a two-story I-type weatherboarded frame house with an interior end chimney. A one-story porch spanned the front of the house. The kitchen was a small, 1 1/2-story, frame-built, gable-roofed building with a large stone exterior end chimney.

The cemetery, which is enclosed by a recently-built, low brick wall, contains about 20

(Continued)

HISTORY (Cont.)

LEWIS FAMILY CEMETERY
(Cont.)

graves, seven of them marked. A large shaft bears the names Francis M. Lewis; his wife, Julia Higgs; Anne M. Lewis; Mollie L. Demaine; and Sallie L. Lewis. An old-fashioned marble slab was erected for Miss Hettie B.V. Trott, allegedly a British governess for the Lewis children. In addition, there are five small recently-erected markers to denote the graves of William Montgomery, his wife Katherina [sic.], their son Francis Montgomery, and Francis M. Lewis, Sr. and his wife Marston Bennett.

Sources and bibliography

Published sources (Books, articles, etc., with bibliographic data.)

Ratcliffe, R.J., This Was Prince William (c1978), p. 115

W.P.A., Writer's Project, Prince William, the Story of its People and its Places (c1941), pp. 54,

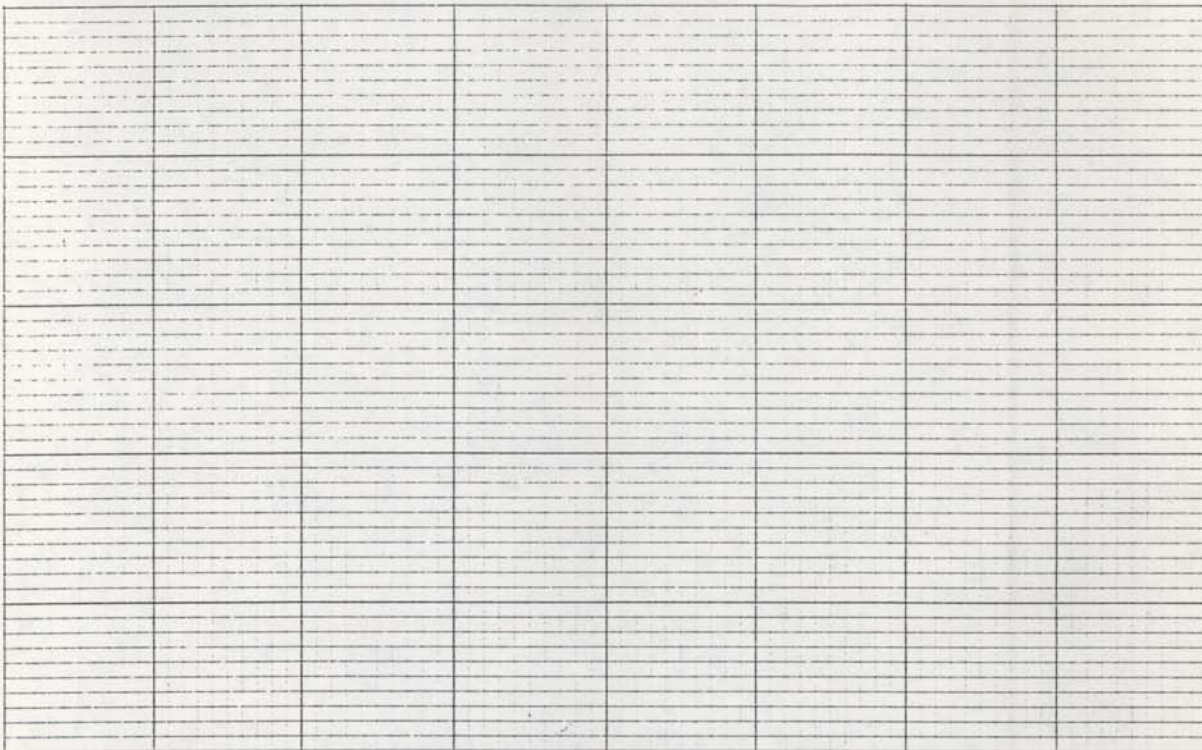
Primary sources (Manuscript documentary or graphic materials; give location.)

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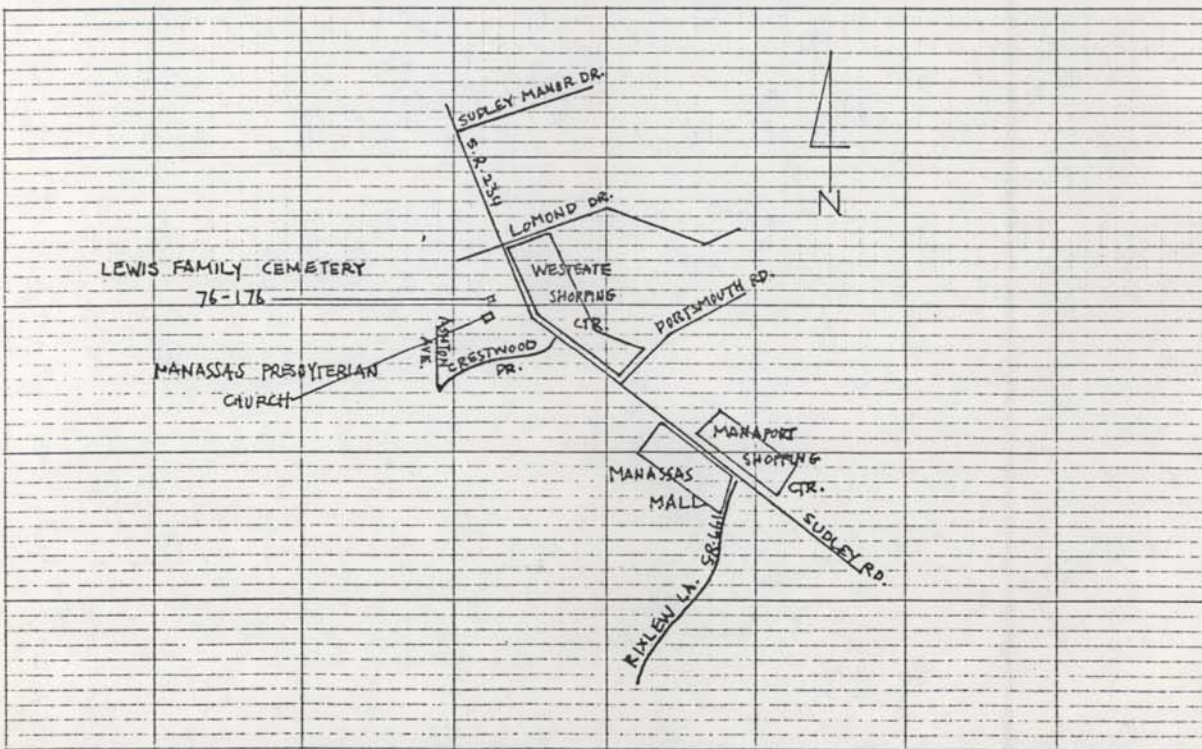
Names and addresses of persons interviewed E.R. Conner, III, Manassas Museum

(Conner has several tape-recorded interviews of members of the Lewis family.)

Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



Name, address and title of recorder Frances Jones, Architectural Historian - Surveyor, NYPDC

Date JUN 1980



GAINESVILLE
QUAD

LEWIS FAMILY CEMETERY 76-176

16 MI. TO INTERSTATE 95
15 MI. TO U.S. STATE 495
47°30"
4956
MANASSAS 2.3 MI.
19 MI. TO INTERSTATE 95
Rice

Wilmington
BM 298
Yonkers
Chinn
Chinn
Holkums
SOUTHERN
PIPELINE
RIVER
BRANCH
QUARRY
WELLINGTON
SCHOOLER SCH
JACKSON HIGH SCH
LOUISIANA
RICE