

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 67-004-03c

## 1. Name of Property

Hamilton Family Cemetery

historic Hamilton Family Cemetery

other Cottage Hill Farm/Green Knoll Springs

## 2. Location

street and number 97 Hamilton Place \_\_ not for publication

city, town Greenbelt \_\_ vicinity

county Prince George's

## 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

street and number 97 Hamilton Place

telephone

city, town Greenbelt

state MD

zip code 20770

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's liber 7418 folio 344

city, town Upper Marlboro tax map 027A4 tax parcel 9 tax ID number 2292795

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: M-NCPPC Historic Preservation Section

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Noncontributing</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			<u>0</u>

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## 7. Description

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### Condition

excellent     deteriorated  
 good         ruins  
 fair          altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

A memorial case for the Hamilton Family Cemetery is located at the end of Hamilton Place after it turns into a dirt road. The actual burial ground is in a wooded and heavily overgrown area behind the case and near the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. community gardening area. Six broken limestone markers have been placed in a wooden display case and are encased in concrete inside of plexiglass.

There are six known burials in the cemetery:

- 1) Andrew Hamilton, died September 21, 1823 in his 70th year
- 2) Jane Hamilton, wife of Andrew Hamilton, died February 28, 1824 aged 72 years
- 3) Col. Samuel Hamilton, son of Andrew and Jane Hamilton, died January 24, 1857 aged 74 years
- 4) Elizabeth Hamilton, first wife of Col. Samuel Hamilton, died May 1, 1834 aged 47 years
- 5) Jane Hamilton, daughter of Col. Samuel and Elizabeth Hamilton, died March 18, 1819 aged 10
- 6) Elizabeth Hamilton, second wife of Col. Samuel Hamilton, died June 15, 1847 aged 52 years

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** 1819-1857

**Architect/Builder**

### Construction dates

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Statement of Significance

The Hamilton Family Cemetery is an excellent example of a small family cemetery. The use of family cemeteries was common in Prince George's County from the 17<sup>th</sup> century through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Family burial plots were created out of necessity. Families living on isolated farms or plantations created their own small cemeteries because transportation of remains to church or community cemeteries was often difficult and impractical. Family cemeteries were often placed on the edge of a field or on the highest point on the property. Because of the small size of the cemeteries, paucity of stone markers, and often rural or isolated location of these cemeteries, many of them have been forgotten, vandalized, or generally fallen into disrepair.

### Historic Context

The Hamilton Family Cemetery is situated on a land patent by the name of William and Mary, Hamilton's Purchase, or Hamilton's Purchase Enlarged. The William and Mary land grant of 100 acres was originally surveyed for William Holmes on March 14, 1718 and was patented to Holmes on May 23, 1723.<sup>1</sup> Holmes failed to pay the purchase price for the property and the land was resurveyed for John Hamilton on February 24, 1766. Several vacant parcels were added to the original tract to form a parcel of 248 ½ acres that was renamed Hamilton's Purchase and patented to John Hamilton on March 1, 1766.<sup>2</sup> John Hamilton had the tract resurveyed once more on October 11, 1773, added contiguous vacant land to his holdings and called his new patent Hamilton's Purchase Enlarged. The new survey contained 340 ¼ acres and was patented to John Hamilton on August 31, 1795.<sup>3</sup>

John Hamilton failed to pay the taxes on the Hamilton's Purchase survey and the land was sold at public auction on December 15, 1789. Andrew Hamilton was the highest bidder and Rinaldo Johnson, Elisha Berry, Thomas Harwood, III, and John Smith Brookes conveyed 287 acres in the Hamilton's Purchase survey to him on December 23, 1789.<sup>4</sup> Andrew Hamilton married Jane Burch on April 17, 1783. Andrew Hamilton is listed in the 1790 Census and his household included three males over the age of 16, one male under 16 and five enslaved laborers. Andrew Hamilton appears in the

<sup>1</sup> Prince George's County Patented Certificate No. 2347.

<sup>2</sup> Prince George's County Patented Certificate No. 1025.

<sup>3</sup> Prince George's County Patented Certificate No. 1022.

<sup>4</sup> Prince George's County Land Records (PGCLR) Liber JJ2 Folio 6.

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1798 Federal Direct Tax in which he was assessed for 184  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres, minus two acres for his dwelling house, leaving 182  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres valued at \$305. This tract of land included one framed tobacco barn measuring 28 by 20 feet. On the two acre dwelling parcel there was located one single story framed dwelling house measuring 25 by 16 feet with two windows, a log quarter measuring 12 by 12 feet, a log kitchen 12 by 8 feet, and a log meat house 8 by 8 feet, together valued at \$110. Andrew Hamilton was also assessed for nine slaves.

John Hamilton was assessed for 100 acres of Hamilton's Purchase in 1798. His tract contained one old log dwelling house measuring 16 by 16 feet valued at \$200. John Hamilton was living in Virginia at the time and Andrew Hamilton was to pay the taxes on the property that was then occupied by Darcey Walker. It is presumed that when John Hamilton died, his share of the Hamilton's Purchase land grant passed to his brother, Andrew Hamilton. It is unknown when John Hamilton died and his will has not been located.

Andrew Hamilton is listed in the 1800 census and included in his household are one male over 45 years old, one male 16 to 25, one female over 45 and nine slaves. The 16 to 25 year old male is probably Samuel Hamilton and the female over 45 is probably Jane Hamilton, the wife of Andrew Hamilton. Andrew Hamilton is again listed in the 1810 census and his household included one male over 45, one male 26 to 44 years old, one female over 45, one female 16 to 25, one female under age 10, and 32 slaves. The male 26 to 45 is likely Samuel Hamilton and the female 16 to 25 is his wife, Elizabeth. The female under age 10 is the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Hamilton, Jane Hamilton. Jane Hamilton died on March 10, 1819 at the age of 10 and is the first known burial in the Hamilton Family Cemetery. She appears to have been the only child of Samuel and Elizabeth Hamilton.

Andrew Hamilton is found in the 1820 Census and his household consisted of one male over age 45, one male 26 to 44, one female over 45, one female 26 to 44, one female under age 10, and 19 slaves. Fourteen of the persons listed in the Andrew Hamilton household were engaged in agriculture.

Andrew Hamilton died in 1823 and is the second known burial in the Hamilton Family Cemetery. He did not leave a will, so it is presumed that his land passed to his wife, Jane Hamilton and his son, Samuel Hamilton. The names of Andrew Hamilton's other children, if any, are unknown. Jane Hamilton, wife of Andrew Hamilton, died in 1824 and is the third known burial in the Hamilton Family Cemetery.

Elizabeth Hamilton, wife of Samuel Hamilton, died in 1834 and is the fourth known burial in the Hamilton Family Cemetery. Samuel Hamilton remarried to another Elizabeth. Samuel Hamilton is listed in the 1840 Census and his household included one male age 50 to 59, one female 40 to 49, and 18 slaves. Samuel Hamilton's second wife, Elizabeth Hamilton, died in 1847 and is the fifth known interment in the Hamilton Family Cemetery.

Samuel Hamilton remarried a third time to Anna M. Caldwell on October 25, 1847. Samuel Hamilton (66) is found in the 1850 Census, along with his wife, Anna M. Hamilton (45). His profession is listed as planter and his real estate was valued at \$15,000. Samuel Hamilton died in 1857 and is the last known burial in the Hamilton Family Cemetery. Samuel Hamilton left a detailed will, but does not list any children. His will reserved  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of land to "include the grave yards on my estate, of my colored as well as white family." In anticipation of providing for his wife's support, Samuel Hamilton directed that his real and personal property should be sold to pay for his debts and to fulfill the wishes of his will.

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Hamilton was a surveyor and left his surveying instruments and field notes to his adopted son, Samuel Hamilton Wright. William H. Tuck and Benjamin K. Morsell were named as executors of Hamilton's will. Hamilton directed that his estate should be settled as soon as possible.<sup>5</sup> On August 24, 1858 the Orphan's Court issued an order to sell the real estate of Samuel Hamilton. Benjamin K. Morsell and William H. Tuck sold 276  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres to Theophilus M. Brooke and another tract of 162 acres to Albert B. Berry. Brooke and Berry assigned their purchases to John F. Carter. Carter was to hold one-half interest and Josephine R. Smith was to hold the other one-half interest for her sole and separate use. Carter subsequently sold his interest to Josephine R. Smith and agreed to serve as trustee for her benefit. Thomas Berry was appointed trustee for Josephine R. Smith after the death of John F. Carter. Benjamin K. Morsell and William H. Tuck conveyed 438  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres to Thomas Berry as trustee of Josephine R. Smith on December 10, 1863.<sup>6</sup>

James Smith (58) is listed in the 1870 Census as a farmer, who held real estate worth \$14,000 and personal property worth \$4,300. Smith's household also included his wife, Josephine (39), five children, Harriett (22), Sarah (18), Prince George (7), Borden (4), and Thomas Berry (1), along with an African American servant, Ann Pleasant (18), and two farm laborers, Aaron Hebron (19) and Washington Roby (21). James Smith died prior to 1880, as Josephine Smith (48) is listed as widowed. Living with Josephine Smith in 1880 were four of her children, George (16), Borden J. (14), Thomas B. (11), and Harry W. (7), along with her son-in-law, Fendall Alexander (29), an attorney, his wife, Louisa (27), and their children, Mary L. (3) and James E. Alexander (1). Also listed in the household was an African American farm laborer, Henry Williams (23) and two servants, Harriett Brook (35) and Jane Norton (16).

Josephine Smith died around 1890 and an equity case was brought in the Prince George's County Court between James B. Smith as complainant and Louisa Alexander as defendant. Richard E. Brandt and Caleb C. Magruder were appointed trustees to sell the land in the equity case. On July 12, 1897, Brandt and Magruder sold 219  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres, known as Cottage Hills, to Anna M. Smith, wife of James B. Smith (the son of James B. and Josephine Smith), for \$1,820. James B. Smith (34) is found in the 1900 Census and is listed as a farmer. Also included in his household is his wife, Anna M. Smith, their four children, Josephine (8), Louis (6), Grace (4), and Arthur (1), along with James' brother, Prince George Smith (32).<sup>7</sup>

Anna M. and James B. Smith sold the 219  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre Cottage Hill farm to Zebulun M. Honey on December 31, 1901 for \$2,600.<sup>8</sup> James B. Crabbe acquired the 219  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre Cottage Hill farm from Zebulun M. Honey on January 6, 1908 for \$4,500.<sup>9</sup> James B. and Annie Crabbe resided in Washington, DC in 1910 and likely were renting the Cottage Hill farm to tenants at that time. By 1920, James (43) and Annie P. Crabbe (43) had moved to the Cottage Hill farm and are listed in the 1920 Census in the Berwyn area, along with their three children, Lillian P. (15), Cecil M. (12), and Jennette H. Crabbe (5).

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<sup>5</sup> Prince George's County Will Records Liber WAJ1 folio 58.

<sup>6</sup> PGCDR Liber FS2:308.

<sup>7</sup> PGCDR Liber JWB41:389.

<sup>8</sup> PGCDR Liber 28:205.

<sup>9</sup> PGCDR Liber 41:540.

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James B. and Annie P. Crabbe sold the 219 ¼ acre Cottage Hill Farm to Ernest J. Brawell on May 31, 1923 for \$5,000.<sup>10</sup> Ernest Braswell executed a deed of trust the same day to secure the purchase money for the Cottage Hill Farm.<sup>11</sup> Braswell defaulted on the loan and the land was ordered to be sold by Norman E. Ryon and William S. Ryon, who were appointed trustees. James B. Crabbe was the highest bidder for the 219 ¼ acre Cottage Hill Farm and was deeded the property for \$4,300 on October 19, 1926.<sup>12</sup>

The United States Government acquired the 219 ¼ acre Cottage Hill Farm, also known as Green Knoll Springs, from James B. and Annie P. Crabbe on June 3, 1939. The land became part of the Greenbelt development. The United States government conveyed a 279.8 acre tract that included the Hamilton Family Cemetery to the Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation on December 30, 1952.<sup>13</sup> The Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation, a cooperative, changed its name to Greenbelt Homes, Incorporated in 1957.

It appears that after the Hamilton family farm was sold after the death of Samuel Hamilton in 1857 the farm was occupied by James B. and Josephine Smith and members of their family until about 1901. The Smiths possibly built a new house on the land and named the property Cottage Hill Farm. Zebulon Honey probably resided on the Cottage Hill Farm from 1901 to 1908. James B. and Annie P. Crabbe acquired Cottage Hill Farm in 1908, but were residing in Washington, DC at the time of the 1910 Census. The Crabbes eventually moved to Cottage Hill Farm and were residing there at the time of the 1920 Census. Ernest Braswell possibly resided on the Cottage Hill Farm from 1923 to 1926. The Crabbes regained title to the Cottage Hill Farm when Braswell defaulted on his loan. The Crabbes owned the farm until it was sold to the United States Government in 1939 for the expansion of Greenbelt. It is unlikely that there were any burials in the cemetery after that of Samuel Hamilton in 1857. It is possible that Thomas and Ann Hamilton, who were the parents of Alexander Hamilton, could be buried in the Hamilton Family Cemetery as well. If so, however, their graves are unmarked. Samuel Hamilton's will mentions a colored cemetery along with his family cemetery. It is uncertain if the two cemeteries were right next to each other or were separated.

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<sup>10</sup> PGCDR Liber 195:141.

<sup>11</sup> PGCDR Liber 197:196.

<sup>12</sup> PGCDR Liber 277:470.

<sup>13</sup> PGCDR Liber 1568 folio 199.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Prince George's County Deed Records (PGCDR).

Prince George's County Genealogical Society, Inc., 1996, *Gleanings from the Records of The Francis Gasch's Funeral Home, Prince George's County, Maryland, 1860-1940.*

Prince George's County Will Records.

Sargent, Jean A., Editor, 1984 *Stones and Bones: Cemetery Records of Prince George's County, Maryland.* Prince George's County Genealogical Society, Inc., Bowie.

United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *U.S. Federal Census.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880.

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of surveyed property 0.25

Acreeage of historical setting 0.25

Quadrangle name Laurel, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

There are no formal boundaries for the Hamilton Family Cemetery. A ¼-acre tract was set aside by Samuel Hamilton in his will for the grave yards on his proeprty including his "colored as well as white family." Both cemeteries could have been next to each other and located on the same tract, or separated by some distance. The grave stones have been removed from their original locations and are now enclosed in a plexiglass case on the eastern edge of the cemetery. The east and north side of the cemetery is bounded by the Greenbelt community gardens, while the south and west sides are wooded.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Jennifer Stabler, Archeology Planner Coordinator		
organization	M-NCPPC Historic Preservation Section	date	11/12/2010
street & number	14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive	telephone	301-952-5595
city or town	Upper Marlboro	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

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### Chain of Title

- Deed 1568:199** December 30, 1952: United States of America to Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation; conveys 279.8 acres of land bounded by the Edmonston-Beltsville Road on the west, Crescent Road on the north and Crescent Road to its intersection with Southway, and Southway on the east, and the Branchville-Glendale Road on the south to its intersection with the Edmonston-Beltsville Road.
- Deed 537:213** June 3, 1939: James B. and Annie P. Crabbe to United States of America; for \$8500, conveys part of the Z.M. Honey farm known as Cottage Hill and later as Green Knowl Springs, containing 219.25 acres.
- Deed 443:35** March 21, 1935: J.B. and Annie P. Crabbe to United States of America. Offer to sell lands to the United States, Project Name: Beltsville Land Acquisition Project. To assist in the program of the United States to conserve natural resources and to rehabilitate people living on submarginal lands, the undersigned owners of the following described lands: Part of Z.M. Honey Farm, containing 219 acres located in the Vansville District on Glendale Road, known as Cottage Hill, later as Green Knowl Springs (Liber 28:205), hereby offer to sell and convey to the United States of America the said lands in fee simple with all buildings and improvements thereon. This offer is for acceptance by the United States through the Federal Emergency Relief Administrator or by any other representative of the United States. In consideration of the examination and appraisal by the United States Government of the lands herein described and for other good and valuable considerations, the undersigned grant to the United States of America the option and right to purchase said lands for the sum of \$8500 for the tract as a whole, including all improvements and appurtenant rights.
- Deed 277:470** October 19, 1926: Norman E. and William S. Ryon to James B. Crabbe. Whereas at a public sale made on September 14, 1926 by Norman E. Ryon and William S. Ryon, Trustees, in pursuance of a special power and authority vested in them by a certain deed of trust from Ernest J. Braswell, dated May 31, 1923, and recorded in Liber 197:196, which sale was made after default had occurred under the terms of said deed of trust. The said tract of land was sold to James B. Crabbe, who was the highest bidder for \$4300. Conveys a tract containing 219 ¼ acres, known as "Cottage Hill Farm."
- Deed of Trust 197:196** May 31, 1923: Ernest J. Braswell to Norman E. Ryon and William S. Ryon; to secure a debt of \$5000, for which Braswell has given his three promissory notes, mortgages The Cottage Hill Farm, containing 219 ¼ acres, together with the following personal property now located on said land and premises: tractor and plows that with it, saw-mill and drill, wagon, farming implements, etc.



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- Deed 195:141** May 31, 1923: James B. and Annie P. Crabbe to Ernest J. Braswell; conveys all that tract of land in Vansville District described as Cottage Hill Farm, containing 219 ¼ acres, together with the following personal property now located on said land and premises: tractor and plows that go with it, saw-mill and drill, wagon, farming implements, etc.
- Deed 41:540** January 6, 1908: Zebulun M. Honey (widower) to James B. Crabb; for \$4500, conveys a tract of land called "Cottage Hill", containing 219 ¼ acres, according to a plat of James R.H. Deakins, surveyor, in Equity No. 1841, containing 219 ¼ acres.
- Deed 28:205** December 31, 1901: Anna M. and James B. Smith to Zebulun M. Honey; for \$2600 conveys a tract of land called "Cottage Hill," being the residue of the real estate of the late Josephine R. Smith, the mother of the grantor, James B. Smith, consisting of 219 ¼ acres.
- Mortgage JWB41:389** July 12, 1897: Richard E. Brandt and Caleb C. Magruder to Anna M. Smith, wife of James B. Smith. Whereas by a decree of the Circuit Court sitting as a Court of Equity, dated November 25, 1890 and passed in a cause between James B. Smith, complainant and Louisa Alexander and others, defendants, No. 1841 Equity, the above named Richard E. Brandt and Caleb C. Magruder were appointed trustees with authority to sell the real estate in the proceedings in said cause. Said trustees did on May 7, 1897 sell unto the said Anna M. Smith, wife of James B. Smith, for \$1820, the following described real estate: all that real estate (except those two pieces sold off) which by deed dated December 10, 1863 was conveyed by Benjamin K. Morsell and William H. Tuck, as executors of Samuel Hamilton, deceased, to Thomas Berry, trustee for Josephine R. Smith, now deceased, wife of James B. Smith, deceased, recorded in Liber FS2:308 containing 438 ¾ acres. Except for two parcels previously sold off, being a part of said land containing 140 acres, and being the west 140 acres thereof, which by deed dated September 29, 1873 was conveyed by the said Thomas Berry, trustee of Josephine R. Smith and Josephine R. Smith to Alexander R. Shepard recorded in Liber HB8:273. The second tract sold off and excepted from the operation of this deed being all those two lots designated as Lots No. 4 and 5 in the subdivision of a part of said tract of land known as "Cottage Hills," made for Josephine R. Smith in her lifetime, containing 99 acres and 28 perches described in a deed dated January 12, 1875 by the said Thomas Berry, trustee for Josephine R. Smith and by Josephine R. Smith to a certain Isaac O. Gordon recorded in Liber HB10:320. The land herein conveyed containing 219 ¼ acres.
- Deed FS2:308** December 10, 1863: Benjamin K. Morsell and William H. Tuck, Executors of Samuel Hamilton, deceased to Thomas Berry, in trust for Josephine Smith. Whereas by an order of the Orphan's Court of Prince George's County, and in pursuance of directions contained in the last will and testament of Samuel Hamilton, his executors were empowered and directed to make sale of his real estate. And the said Executors in execution of the said order did sell a portion thereof, containing 276 ¾ acres to Theophilus M. Brooke and another portion thereof containing 162 acres to Albert B. Berry, which said sales were afterwards reported to and ratified by the said Orphan's Court. And whereas afterwards on the application of the said

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Brooke and Berry, one John F. Carter, to whom they had assigned and transferred their said purchases, was accepted and substituted as the purchaser thereof, to hold one undivided half of the said parcels of land in fee simple as of his own proper estate, and the other undivided half in trust for the sole and separate use of Josephine R. Smith, the wife of James B. Smith, subject to the use of her said husband for and during his life. And whereas afterwards the said John F. Carter sold his interest in the said lands to the said Josephine Smith for and by and instrument of writing agreed to hold the whole thereof in trust for the use. And the said John F. Carter having departed this life, the said Josephine Smith by her petition applied to the Circuit Court, sitting in Equity, for the appointment of another trustee for her benefit. And the said court on November 18, 1863 passed an order appointing the said Thomas Berry trustee for the purpose of receiving and holding the title in the said lands for the sole and separate use of the said Josephine Smith, free, clear and discharged of and from all the debts and liabilities of her said husband, James B. Smith, according to terms of the trust declared and acknowledged by John F. Carter by the making dated August 21, 1862, which said paper is filed in the said cause. Whereas the purchase money for the said parcels of land, amounting to the sum of \$7160.23 has been fully paid, part by the said Brooke and Berry, and the residue by their assignees, and the said purchaser is entitled to a deed. The trustees convey to Thomas Berry as trustee all those parts and parcels of real estate whereof the said Samuel Hamilton died seized, which was purchased by the said Theophilus M. Brooke and Albert B. Berry, according to a survey of the said real estate made by Walter Bowie, surveyor of Prince George's County, containing 438  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

**Will Record WAJ1:58** - Will of Samuel Hamilton: 1) That my body be buried at the discretion of my executors. 2) It is my anxious desire to make the most suitable provision for my dear wife Anna Maria Hamilton. After mature deliberation I have concluded that this can best be done out of the proceeds of the sale of my real and personal estate, which I hereby direct to be made by my executors, whenever and on such terms as the Orphan's Court may direct, with the exception of such part thereof as I may reserve or specifically bequeath and I devise and bequeath my estate to my executors and the survivor of them for the purpose of such sale. 3) Out of the proceeds of sales I direct \$10,000 to be invested in stock or funds to be selected by the direction of the Orphan's Court, in the name of my wife, which with all my household and kitchen furniture, my woman Harriet and her son, Columbus, I give and bequeath to my dear wife, her executors, administrators, and assigns, provided, however, if she should marry again, the said \$10,000 and negroes and their increase shall at her death be distributed rateably among my legatees hereinafter named, according to the amounts of their several legacies; but if she does not marry again they are to pass at her death, as of her own proper estate, to her distributes or legatees as she may or may not die intestate. And I also direct that if my estate should not be adequate to the payment of all the bequests herein contained, there shall be no abatement from my wife's legacies, or contribution on her part, for the benefit of my other legatees. The deduction, if any, is to be borne rateably by those hereinafter mentioned. 4) I bequeath to Samuel Hanson and John M.L. Hanson, sons of Dr. Grafton Hanson, \$500 each, and to his daughter and my worthy friend, Rev. Henry Kepler, her husband, \$500, making \$1500 to the children of my relative Mr.

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Hanson. 5) I bequeath to Andrew J. Pumphrey and his sister, Ellen Harbaugh, wife of Valentine Harbaugh, \$500 each. 6) I bequeath to Jane Robinett, wife of M\_\_ C. Robinett and to Emiline Robinett, wife of George Robinett, \$500 each, and to William Hamilton Robinett (microfilm damaged, could not read). 7) I bequeath to my relatives, Catherine and Sarah Walker, daughters of Isaac and Charlotte Walker, \$1000 each. 8) I bequeath to my favorite Bettie, daughter of B.K. Morsell, \$1000 and to her brother, Richard A. Morsell, \$1000. 9) I bequeath to Clara Smith, daughter of B.K. Morsell, for her son, William and to Jane Shaw, for her daughter, Emma, \$1000 each. 10) I bequeath to Caroline Morsell, daughter of Samuel Morsell, \$5000. 11) I bequeath to Somerville Pinkney, son of my friend William H. Tuck, \$1000. 12) I bequeath to my adopted son, Samuel Hamilton Wright, son of Robert Wright, \$5000, which I leave in trust for his use to William H. Tuck to be expended as he may think most beneficial for him and accounted for at his arrival at the age of 21; and I request that application may be made to have his name changed by law to Samuel Hamilton, if not done in my lifetime. And in the event I intend the above bequest in his behalf to have the same effect as if his name had not been changed. 13) I bequeath to my friend Robert Wright \$100; and to John Turner and Samuel T. Belt, each \$100. 14) I bequeath \$400 as follows: 1/3 thereof to Elizabeth W. Beck, daughter of Capt. James Beck, 1/3 to the children of his sister, Lucy Ann Barnes, and the other 1/3 to Henry Jones, Jr. for the use of the children of his late wife, Mary Beck. 15) I bequeath to Henry Seitzer, if alive, or to his estate if dead, \$100. 16) I will and direct that my old man Harry shall be supported out of my estate during his life, when he is incapable of supporting himself. 17) I hereby reserve 1/4 of an acre to include the grave yards on my estate, of my colored as well as white family. 18) I desire that the directions of my will may be carried out as soon after my death as may be practicable, regard being had to the interest of my devisees and legatees, in order that my just debts may be paid and my estate finally closed without increasing delay. 19) I bequeath the residue of my estate to Samuel Hamilton Wright above mentioned, his executors, administrators, and assigns, and I hereby constitute and appoint my friends, William H. Tuck and Benjamin K. Morsell executors of this my last will and testament. Dated May 4, 1855. Witnesses: Dionysius Sheriff, Jno. W. Scott, Z. \_\_  
Proved: February 18, 1857.

First Codicil – Whereas by my said will I have made sundry bequests to my dear wife, I do now declare, as I inadvertently omitted in my will that said bequests were and are designed by me, as a provision for my wife in lieu and full satisfaction of her dower in my real estate and thirds of my personalty. It is also my will and desire that provided my negroes conduct and behave themselves properly and orderly, as good servants, that after my deceased they may have the privilege of choosing their masters, without making a greater sacrifice than would be reasonable and right in the judgment of my executors as to bringing their proper value. Dated August 16, 1855.

Witnesses: Dionysius Sheriff, Jno. W. Scott, D.W. Ferrall; Proved: February 18, 1857.

Second Codicil – (microfilm damaged) 1) ... and as to the other half I direct that the same shall, at her death, be divided as follows: 1/4 thereof between Samuel Hanson, John M.L. Hanson, and Mrs. Kepler mentioned in my will, in addition to the bequests to them; 1/4 between A.J. Pumphrey and Mrs. Harbaugh, also mentioned in my will, in addition to the bequests to them;

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¼ between Jane and Emiline Robinett, also mentioned, in addition to the bequests to them; and the other ¼ between Catherine and Sarah Walker, also mentioned, in addition to the bequests to them. 2) I direct that where legacies are left to married women for themselves or their children, payment to themselves or their husbands shall release my executors; and payment to George Robinett, Henry Jones, Jr., and William H. Tuck of the legacies left to their children shall be a sufficient discharge. 3) I bequeath my pistols and holsters to Richard Alfred Morsell. 4) I direct that my residuary bequest to Samuel Hamilton Wright shall pass to and be held by William H. Tuck on the trusts declared in reference to the other bequest to him and I also bequeath to my adopted son, my surveyor's instruments and field notes. Dated January 12, 1857.  
Witnesses: R.D. Hall, H. Clay Duvall, James T. Perkins. Proved February 18, 1857.  
Page 62 – I, Anna Maria Hamilton, widow of Samuel Hamilton, deceased, do hereby renounce and quit all claim to any bequest or devise made to me by the last will and testament of my husband, exhibited and proven according to law, and I elect to take in lieu thereof my dower or legal share of the estate of my said husband. Dated March 23, 1857.

### JRM 12:172

January 29, 1807: Whereas by an Act of Assembly passed January 26, 1806 entitled an act for the benefit of Andrew Hamilton, the Chief Justice of the First Judicial District is empowered to enquire into the circumstances attending a sale made by Thomas Macgill, deceased, formerly sheriff of Prince George's County of a tract of land called Hamilton's Purchase under a *venditione exponas* issued at the suit of Joshua Howard, administrator *de bones non* of Ephraim Howard. And if the Chief Justice shall be of the opinion that the said sale was fairly and properly made and the terms thereof complied with on the part of the said Hamilton that then the said Chief Justice shall convey the said land to the said Andrew Hamilton. Said Chief Justice has found that the same was fairly and properly made and that the said land was sold for the principal, interest, and costs of the suit aforesaid by Joshua Howard, administrator, against John Hamilton, that is to say the sum of 200 pounds with interest from May 3, 1785 till the time of sale and the quantity of 1550 pounds of tobacco the total amount of costs including the costs of issuing the executions on the said judgment. Also that the said writ of *venditione exponas* was dated September 10, 1803, and the sale made under virtue thereof and according to the tenor thereof but the said writ was never returned. Andrew Hamilton has complied with the terms of the said sale by fully satisfying and paying the amount of the debt, interest, and costs unto Trueman Tyler, Esq., attorney at law for Joshua Howard. John Mackall Gantt, Chief Judge, conveys a tract of land called Hamilton's Purchase and all the right of John Hamilton in said tract to Andrew Hamilton.

### Deed JJ2:6

December 23, 1789: Rinaldo Johnson, Elisha Berry, Thomas Harwood III, and John Smith Brookes to Andrew Hamilton; taxes were unpaid on a tract called Hamilton's Purchase by John Hamilton. Said land was offered at public auction on December 15, 1789 and Andrew Hamilton and John Hamilton were the purchasers for 30 pounds, 14 shillings, and 6 pence; conveys to Andrew Hamilton a tract called Hamilton's Purchase, except 53 acres sold by John Hamilton to Thomas Benson, containing 287 acres.

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**Will of Thomas Hamilton** – Prince George’s County Will Records T1:184 - Dated January 17, 1782: I bequeath to my wife Ann Hamilton all my estate both real and personal during her widowhood and after her death then to be sold and the money equally divided between my children lawfully begotten of her body, which is to say John Hamilton, Elizabeth Tawnehill, Sarah Beck, Andrew Hamilton, Mary Hamilton, Nancy Hamilton, and Charlotte Hamilton. I bequeath to my son, William Hamilton, 1 shilling sterling. I bequeath to my daughter, Ruth Beal, 1 shilling sterling. I leave my son Andrew Hamilton my Executor of this my last will and testament. Witnesses: Isaac Walker, Charles Duvall. Proved March 6, 1784.

**Patented Certificate No. 1022** - Hamilton’s Purchase Enlarged, 340 ¼ acres, surveyed for John Hamilton October 11, 1773; patented to John Hamilton August 31, 1795. By virtue of a special warrant of resurvey granted out of His Lordship’s Land Office, to John Hamilton on October 22, 1771 and the last renewal dated April 23, 1773 to resurvey a tract of land called Hamilton’s Purchase originally on March 15, 1766 granted to John Hamilton for 248 ½ acres to add the vacant land thereto contiguous.

**Patented Certificate No. 1025** - Hamilton’s Purchase, 248 ½ acres, surveyed for John Hamilton February 24, 1766, patented March 1, 1766. By virtue of a special warrant issued to Richard Wootton of Annapolis on August 31, 1765 setting forth that a certain John Berry had on September 12, 1757 granted him a special warrant for securing a tract of land called the William and Mary surveyed for William Holmes for 100 acres, who omitted to pay for the same. A resurvey was made and the certificate returned to the Land Office which appears the same contains, with 2 vacancies added thereto, contains 160 acres for which John Berry has likewise omitted paying for. Petitioner Richard Wootton took up the land and on December 9, 1765, assigned his right and title to John Hamilton. One vacancy was added to the William and Mary for 28 acres, 8 ½ acres lays in an elder survey called Green Spring. Total of 59 ½ acres of vacant land added and a quantity of 189 acres of contiguous vacant land added.

**Deed Y:603** September 1, 1742: William Scott (Planter) to Thomas Hamilton; for and in consideration for the love and affection which I have and do bear towards my son-in-law, Thomas Hamilton, conveys part of a tract of land called William and Mary Increased, containing 92 acres, where Thomas Hamilton now lives. Said land conveyed to Thomas Hamilton during his lifetime upon consideration that he secures to his son, William Hamilton, 100 acres of good land convenient, otherwise to be possessed by the said William Hamilton at the age of 21 years. But if the said Thomas Hamilton dies before his son William comes to age, then the said land so given to remain to the use of the said William Hamilton as I and mine shall think fit until the said William comes to age and then to remain to him and his heirs lawfully begotten of his body and on default of such heirs then to my granddaughter, Ruth Hamilton and her heirs of her body lawfully begotten and on default of such heirs then to my daughter, Rachel Scott and the heirs forever absolutely without and manner of confederation as the said William Scott have fully, facely, and absolutely and of my own accord set and put.

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**Patented Certificate No. 2348** – William and Mary Increased, 573 acres surveyed for William Scott on April 10, 1728; Patented to William Scott June 13, 1734. By virtue of a special warrant of resurvey granted out of His Lordship's Land Office March 12, 1728 unto William Scott to resurvey for and in the name of the said William Scott two tracts of land contiguous to each other, the one called William and Mary Diminished containing 220 acres originally on December 10, 1714 granted the said Scott and the other called Thomas's originally containing 200 acres originally on April 12, 1716 likewise granted to said William Scott, both under new rent with liberty to add what vacant land could be found contiguous to the said two tracts. These are therefore to certify that I have carefully resurveyed for the said William Scott the aforesaid two tracts of land and have added thereto 143 acres of contiguous mostly uncultivated land and have laid the said two tracts and the vacancy added into one entire tract now called William and Mary Increased, containing 573 acres (on part of which that is added there is 20 panels of fencing) to be held of Calverton Manor. Surveyed by George Noble, Deputy Surveyor of Prince George's County on April 10, 1728.

**Patented Certificate No. 2347** – William and Mary, 100 acres surveyed for William Holmes March 14, 1718; Patented to William Holmes May 20, 1723. By virtue of a warrant granted out of His Lordship's Land Office October 18, 1717 unto William Holmes for 100 acres of land. I have surveyed for the said William Holmes all that tract of land called William and Mary 100 acres of land to be held of Calverton Manor. Surveyed by James Stoddert, Deputy Surveyor of Prince George's County.

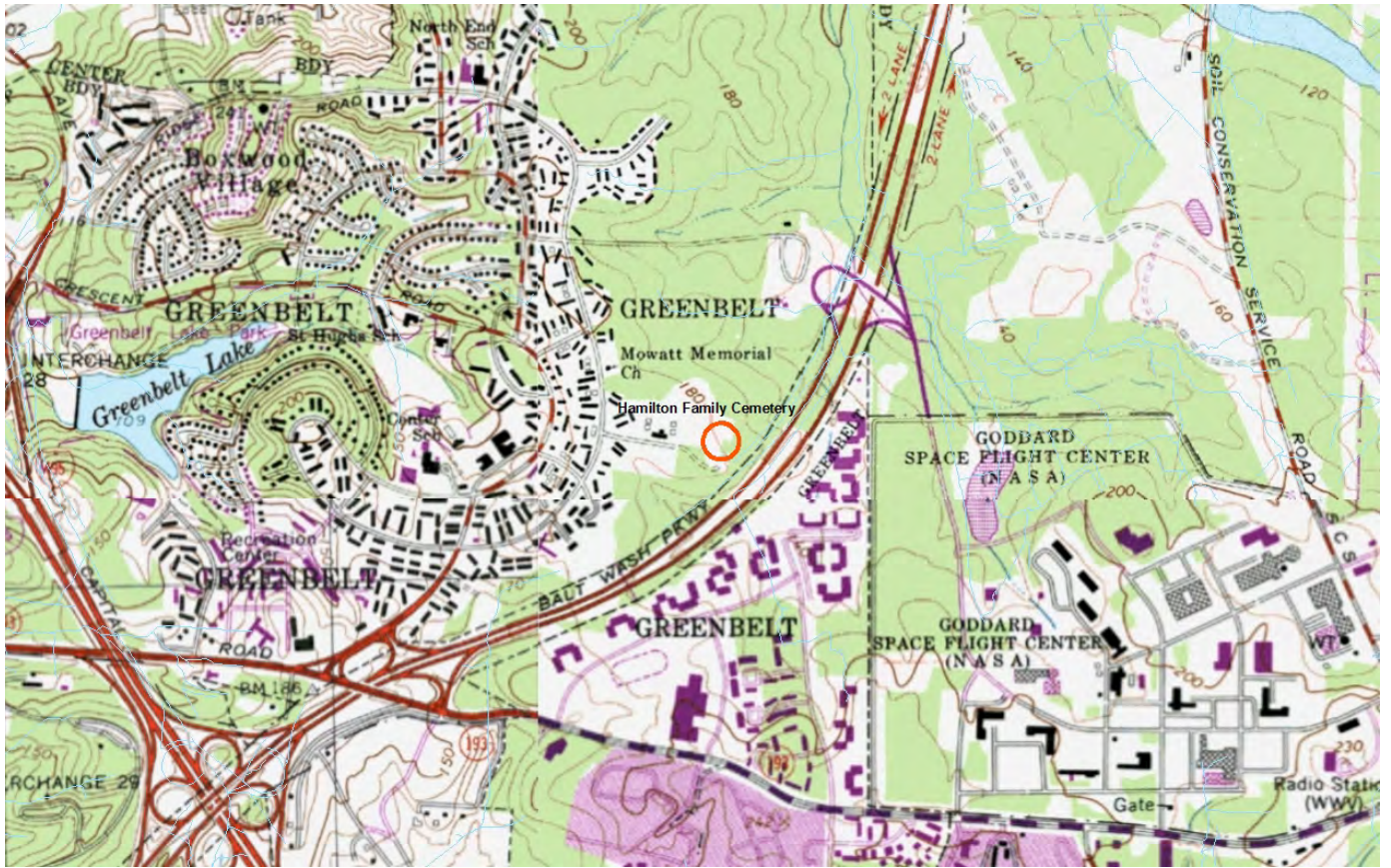


Figure 1: Location of the Hamilton Family Cemetery on the Laurel USGS topographic map.



Figure 2: General location of Hamilton Family Cemetery, facing west.

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Figure 3: Detail of six grave markers from the Hamilton Family Cemetery.



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**Figure 4: Location of Hamilton Family Cemetery, 1938 aerial photograph, near the new town of Greenbelt.**