Maryland Inventory of Cemeteries and Burial Sites Workgroup Report

Submitted to the Governor and General Assembly as required by SB354/HB509 and Chapters 411 and 412 of the 2025 Laws of Maryland by the Maryland Historical Trust

December 1, 2025

Executive Summary

Cemeteries are historical landscapes that contain invaluable social, cultural, artistic, and architectural information about past communities. In every Maryland community, cemeteries tell the story of American and local history and provide a place to contemplate, remember, reflect, and study our ancestors. The location and documentation of both historic and unmarked burial sites provide critical information for future generations and helps to prevent the loss of cultural resources due to development, neglect, and vandalism. Yet, efforts to identify and document the location of historic cemeteries across Maryland are uneven as many local governments do not have the capacity to conduct this research or maintain this data in a publicly accessible format. Creation of a comprehensive, standardized statewide cemetery inventory is needed to protect and preserve these cultural sites, create a consistent and accessible record for research, and ensure proper land use planning so that burial sites are not accidentally disturbed due to development activities.

In recognition of this need, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation titled *Maryland Inventory of Cemeteries and Burial Sites Workgroup – Establishment* (SB354/HB509) in 2025. This legislation created a Workgroup to study issues related to the development and maintenance of a State cemetery inventory system. The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) provided overall staff support for the Workgroup which met on an approximate bi-weekly basis from June through November 2025 to develop recommendations in response to the bill's directives.

A preliminary draft of the report summarizing the Workgroup recommendations was distributed for public comment in advance of the report's completion. Public feedback guided development of the Workgroup's final recommendations which are summarized herein. When reviewing these recommendations, it should be noted that the Workgroup was assigned one specific and narrow task - to develop recommendations pertaining to the creation of a unified cemetery inventory and database. While issues about cemetery care and treatment, the role of descendant communities, and improved protection strategies are very important, these matters were outside of the charge that guided the Workgroup.

Statutory Definitions

SB354/HB509 charged the Workgroup with identifying and reviewing the various definitions of the terms "cemetery" "burial group" "burial site" and any related terms in the Maryland Annotated Code and recommend a single definition for each term.

Recommendation 1: Update definitions of the terms interment, cemetery and burial site as noted below.

- ➢ Interment: The act of the final disposition of a single human or animal remains.
- ➢ Cemetery: A place reserved for the final disposition of one or multiple burial sites.

➢ Burial Site: The individual place reserved for the final disposition of a single human or animal remains.

Maryland Statewide Cemetery Inventory Recommendations

SB354/HB509 required the Workgroup to identify categories for data collection and public search functions for a statewide cemetery inventory system, identify an entity responsible for collecting data and maintaining the system, and determine associated costs with development and maintenance of the system beginning in fiscal year 2027.

Recommendation 2.1: Develop a statewide cemetery inventory, led by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), as a map-based system using ArcGIS[1]. See Appendix 3 for the list of recommended data collection categories and public search functions.

Recommendation 2.2: Establish a dedicated Cemetery Program Manager position at MHT at a cost of approximately $100,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2027 to support ongoing development and maintenance of the cemetery inventory.

Cemetery Inventory Grant Program Recommendation

The Workgroup was charged with evaluating the feasibility and cost of establishing a grant program to provide financial assistance to governmental entities and nonprofit genealogical and historical organizations to expedite identification of cemeteries. The Workgroup was also directed to recommend a funding amount and source for a grant program beginning in fiscal year 2027.

Recommendation 3.1: Establish a grant program supporting a broad range of historic cemetery identification, research and documentation needs with a 25% matching fund (cash or in kind) requirement.

Recommendation 3.2: Beginning in fiscal year 2027, appropriate $250,000 to support the cemetery inventory grant program in the first year with increases anticipated over time.

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[1] ArcGIS is a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) software developed by Esri that allows users to create, manage, analyze, and visualize geographic data.

Contents

Background

Enabling Legislation

In 2024, Maryland Cemetery Legislative Advocates (MCLA) was formed to share information about problems and challenges related to the treatment of cemeteries in Maryland, review existing law, and advocate for legislative change. MCLA includes individuals active in cemetery preservation, care and maintenance, as well as descendants, genealogists, and non-profit organizations. Among MCLA's top priorities in 2025 was the creation of a statewide cemetery inventory necessary to support targeted and effective cemetery protection efforts.

During the 2025 legislative session, two bills entitled *Maryland Inventory of Cemeteries and Burial Sites Workgroup – Establishment* (SB354/HB509) were enacted which created a workgroup to study issues related to the development and maintenance of a State cemetery inventory system. SB354/HB509 directed the workgroup to:

- ➢ Identify and review the various definitions of the terms "cemetery" "burial group" "burial site" and any related terms in the Maryland Annotated Code and recommend a single definition for each term;
- ➢ Identify and evaluate current cemetery documentation practices used by county governments and municipal cultural resource management and historic preservation programs, nonprofit preservation organizations, and private entities;
- ➢ Identify and evaluate cemetery inventory systems implemented in other states to determine best practices for and challenges to designing, implementing, and maintain a cemetery inventory system in the state;
- ➢ Evaluate existing cemetery inventories maintained by county governments, historic preservation programs, and genealogical organizations to determine the best methods for integrating existing information into a State cemetery inventory system;
- ➢ Identify and recommend a set of categories for data collection and maintenance and system functions, including a public search function, for a State cemetery inventory system;
- ➢ Recommend the appropriate entity to collect data for and maintain a State cemetery inventory system;
- ➢ Determine the cost of designing, implementing, and maintaining a State cemetery inventory system and recommend a source of funding to implement a State cemetery inventory system beginning in fiscal year 2027; and
- ➢ Evaluate the feasibility and cost of establishing a grant program to provide financial assistance to governmental entities and nonprofit genealogical and historical organizations to expedite identification of cemeteries and recommend the funding amount and source for a grant program beginning in fiscal year 2027.

SB354/HB509 required submittal of the Workgroup report to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2025.

Workgroup Composition and Staffing

SB354/HB509 established a 14-member Workgroup which included 7 representatives of statewide organizations named in the legislation and 7 representatives of private entities with an interest in cemetery preservation. The private entity representatives were to be appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Labor since the Department houses the Office of Cemetery Oversight (OCO).

Statewide organizations named in the legislation:

Seat	Title	Representative
1.	Maryland Historical Trust	Elizabeth Hughes, Director
2.	Maryland Office of Cemetery Oversight	Deborah Rappazzo, Director
3.	Maryland Commission of African American History and Culture	Maya Davis, Chair
4.	Coalition to Protect MD Burial Sites	Hope Metzler, President
5.	MDOT Office of Cultural Resources	Dr. Julie Schablitsky, Chief
6.	Preservation Maryland	Christiana Limniatis, Director of Revitalization Initiatives
7.	Maryland State Archives	Corey Lewis, Assistant State Archivist

Appointed by the Secretary of Labor:

Seat	Title	Representative
8.	Representative of local government with an existing cemetery program	Beth Burgess, Chief, Resource Conservation Division, Howard County Dept. of Planning and Zoning
9.	Representative of local genealogical and historical organizations that carry out cemetery research and documentation (1 of 3)	Mark Edwards, Montgomery Preservation
10.	Representative of local genealogical and historical organizations that carry out cemetery research and documentation (2 of 3)	Daniel Phelan, Baltimore County Genealogical Society
11.	Representative of local genealogical and historical organizations that carry out cemetery research and documentation (3 of 3)	Tina Simmons, Anne Arundel County Genealogical Society
12.	Representative of local descendent community	Donna Nelson, Point of Rocks Colored Cemetery
13.	Representative of local cemetery	Glenn Easton, Executive Director, Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park
14.	Representative of religious cemetery	Reginald Bishop, St. James United Cemetery

MHT provided overall staff support for the Workgroup which met on an approximate bi-weekly basis from June through November 2025. MHT staff members Gregory Brown, Cultural Resource Information Manager, Dr. Matthew McKnight, Chief of the Office of Archaeology, and Dr. Zachary Singer, State Terrestrial Archaeologist, provided support for the Workgroup.

Development of the Workgroup report was also supported by Adam Snyder, principal counsel for the Maryland Department of Planning. Lucy Laudeman, a student at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, assisted with research for the report during her 2025 summer internship with the Office of the Maryland Attorney General (OAG). Ms. Laudeman's research focused on the definition of cemetery-related terms in statute and a comparative review of state cemetery inventory programs on a national level.

Statutory Definitions and Recommendations

Maryland law creates various types of protections for burial sites—criminal, civil, land-use-based, and procedural. These laws assign landowners and government agencies with certain responsibilities to protect and maintain burial sites as well as consider these sites when making land use planning decisions. Enforcement is often inconsistent, however, with violations sometimes leading to no citations and only informal requests for correction. The absence of a statewide cemetery inventory makes it difficult to track cemetery locations, protect them from development, or know when they have been disturbed. This is particularly challenging for descendants and other interested parties as the law allows for "abandoned" cemeteries and graves to be relocated without their knowledge or involvement.

Consistency in statutory definitions is important to ensure clarity, predictability, and fairness in the application of Maryland burial laws. With that in mind, SB354/HB509 charged the Workgroup with identifying and reviewing the various definitions of the terms "cemetery" "burial group" "burial site" and any related terms in the Maryland Annotated Code and recommend a single definition for each term. Research findings associated with this task are contained in Appendix 1. The Workgroup determined that a single definition was needed for the terms "cemetery", "burial site" and "interment" only.

STATUTORY TERM: INTERMENT

Recommended Definition: The act of the final disposition of a single human or animal remains.

Synonyms include but are not limited to: Burial, Entombment, Inurnment, Inhumation, and Re-Interment.

STATUTORY TERM: CEMETERY

Recommended Definition: A place reserved for the final disposition of one or multiple burial sites.

Synonyms include but are not limited to: Burial Ground(s), Graveyard, Burial Park, Burial Site, Memorial Park, Scattering Garden, Mausoleum, Columbarium, and Potter's Field, and Ossuary.

STATUTORY TERM: BURIAL SITE

Recommended Definition: The individual place reserved for the final disposition of a single human or animal remains.

Synonyms include but are not limited to: Grave, Burial Space, Plot, Space, Grave Space, Crypt, Niche, Tomb, and Vault.

Evaluation of Cemetery Documentation Practices

SB354/HB509 charged the Workgroup with the identification and evaluation of current cemetery documentation practices used by county governments and municipal cultural resource management and historic preservation programs, nonprofit preservation organizations, and private entities in Maryland as well as cemetery inventory systems employed by other states.

Local Governments in Maryland

During the study period, Workgroup staff contacted all county land use planning departments regarding their approach to cemetery identification and documentation practices. Detailed information about county programs is provided in Appendix 2.

In Maryland, fourteen county governments maintain documentation on cemeteries and burial sites. In most cases, this information is held as a data layer in the county geographic information system (GIS). Presently, only ten counties make this information publicly accessible. Counties with the most robust cemetery documentation programs include Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

Anne Arundel County has an active Cemetery Preservation Stewardship Program and collaborates closely with local groups, volunteers, and citizens to encourage data-sharing on cemetery locations. The Cultural Resource Section of the county's Planning Department has created a digital survey tool for the public that is available both as a downloadable form and as an online web form. In this way, citizens can provide information about historic cemeteries directly to the county for inclusion in its database.

Howard County has a Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board (CPAB) which assists in maintaining and updating a cemetery inventory, provides advice on development and subdivisions involving cemeteries, and helps make determinations regarding the discovery of previously unknown burials. Restoration work at cemeteries included in the inventory are eligible for the county's historic property tax credit program. In addition, the Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning and Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board (CPAB) partner with the Howard County Genealogical Society to sponsor a grant program for projects that support the repair, protection, landscaping, or educational signage of the county's historic cemeteries.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Montgomery County Planning Department is subject to two ordinances which govern its cemetery inventory work. Dating to 2017, Ordinance 33A-17 requires the Planning Board to maintain an inventory of human burial sites in the county while Ordinance 18-31 requires these sites to be preserved and protected during the preliminary plan of subdivision review and approval process. The county maintains a searchable Burial Sites Inventory map on its website as well as a *Guidelines for Burial Sites* publication which includes information about maintaining the inventory, informing the public,

and providing guidelines for complying with the County ordinance regarding burial sites in the Preliminary Plan of Parcel Subdivision Review Process. The M-NCPPC Montgomery County Planning Department's archaeologist is assigned to research and provide detailed information on burial site inventory entries, update information, conduct context surveys, collaborate with local groups – including volunteers and descendants – and report annually to the Planning Board.

The M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department is actively undertaking a comprehensive survey of cemeteries and burials throughout the county. The Commission provides an online form that the public can use to submit information on historic cemeteries. The Commission also published the *Prince George's County Cemetery Preservation Manual* in 2010 which remains available online.

Also of note is the Washington County ArcGIS story map which provides an easy to navigate map-based database of the county's 100+ cemeteries as well as links to various technical assistance resources. Developed by the Washington County Historic District Commission, the map includes an email contact form that the public can use to report new cemeteries for addition to the database and map.

Both Dorchester County and Caroline County maintain volunteer Burial Site Preservation Boards. These bodies can serve an important role as a conduit for cemetery information in those counties that do not have dedicated staff to support this work.

The Workgroup's review of municipal cemetery identification and documentation efforts was not exhaustive. Two municipalities were identified as having active cemetery identification programs. The City of Hagerstown maintains an inventory that includes existing cemeteries, previously removed cemeteries and alleged locations of cemeteries based on anecdotal information and evidence. Recommended additions to the inventory are reviewed by the City's Historic District Commission. If the Commission concurs that sufficient evidence has been provided, the cemetery or burial site is then added to the map-based inventory. In addition to Hagerstown, the City of Greenbelt maintains an inventory of city-owned cemeteries and is currently developing a Cemetery Preservation Master Plan.

Private Entities

Within Maryland, there are many historical societies, libraries, veterans' organizations and churches that collect and maintain cemetery information of interest to their respective constituencies. These materials are maintained in a variety of formats and often contain detailed burial site specific information such as tombstone transcriptions, photographs, etc. While this report does not contain a comprehensive list of those resources, the Workgroup recognizes that data maintained by these private entities can be accessed to inform development of a statewide cemetery inventory.

Among these efforts, the Baltimore County Genealogical Society (BCGS) is particularly notable. The BCGS is in the process of creating a comprehensive, publicly accessible, map-based inventory of

burial locations in Baltimore County as a resource tool for genealogists. The inventory currently includes 465 sites. Of those, 365 sites have been geocoded.

Outside of Maryland, the University of South Florida hosts the Black Cemetery Network (BCN). BCN intends to develop a comprehensive directory of African American cemeteries throughout the nation, including those which had been neglected, displaced, or are currently at risk of erasure. This virtual archive includes an interactive site map and accepts cemetery or sacred space registration nominations from organizations and individuals who are actively involved with these sites. Currently, the archive includes seven entries for Maryland cemeteries.

Internationally, the JewishGen Cemetery Discovery Project documents Jewish burial sites around the world. Recorded sites encompass Jewish cemeteries and non-Jewish cemeteries that include Jewish burials regardless of whether the cemetery is still active. There are 18 Maryland cemeteries included in this database of 4.4 million records.

Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com) includes data on over 250 million memorials worldwide. This publicly accessible website, managed by Ancestry.com, organizes American cemetery data by state and county. Find a Grave provides users with a free mobile app that volunteers may use to upload cemetery data including locational information, photographs, and detailed information about grave records. Similarly, Interment.net maintains a publicly accessible database of cemetery transcriptions that is organized by state and county. Billiongraves.com also includes records and images of cemeteries all over the world and includes cemetery GPS coordinates. Despite their popularity, caution should be used when employing these databases as research tools as they are crowd-sourced and can include inconsistent and unreliable data. The lack of verification inherent to these databases can lead to the spread of inaccurate information which is difficult to correct. As a result, simply uploading data from such sites for the purpose of creating a statewide cemetery inventory is not advisable.

Maryland State Government

The Office of Cemetery Oversight (OCO), established in 1997, is placed under the regulatory authority of the Department of Labor. The OCO regulates cemeteries, monument dealers, crematories, and sellers of burial goods to protect consumers by ensuring ethical business practices and professional standards. This is achieved through licensing, overseeing pre-need arrangements, investigating and mediating consumer complaints, and enforcing regulations to promote consumer confidence in the death care industry.

In 2007, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation titled *Office of Cemetery Oversight – Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation* (SB741) which assigned the responsibility for preparation of a statewide burial site inventory to the OCO. Specifically, the Maryland Cemetery Act requires the Director of the OCO to prepare the following report for those cemeteries that must seek permitting or licensure from the OCO as follows:

> "Inventory and assessment. -

(1) Beginning with a report due on December 1, 2008, the Director shall conduct an inventory of all known burial sites in the State and shall update the inventory and report every 5 years to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the number of for-profit cemeteries, nonreligious-nonprofit cemeteries, bona fide religious-nonprofit cemeteries, veterans' cemeteries, and local government-owned cemeteries."

The OCO inventory consists of an excel spreadsheet that includes over 5,000 entries for cemeteries and burial grounds ranging from large commercial cemeteries to small, family-owned plots. The spreadsheet includes data on cemetery name, location and a comments field that sometimes includes ownership information. While this inventory is not available to the public, OCO maintains a publicly accessible and searchable list of licensed cemeteries on its website.

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) State Highway Administration (SHA) began to develop a statewide cemetery mapping layer in their GIS database in 2019. The purpose of this project was to record data that could be shared with state and local government planners to ensure consideration of these burying grounds prior to initiating development projects. Working in partnership with Preservation Maryland, SHA developed a mobile app, which could be used by the public to record cemetery locational data. So far, over 100 cemeteries and burial grounds have been documented and included in SHA's database. At this time, the SHA app to collect cemetery data is on hold until a comprehensive statewide initiative is in place to ensure consistent data collection and collaboration among various entities. More information about this project can be found online here: mdot-sha-cemetery-inventory-maryland.hub.arcgis.com.

MHT maintains a free online database of architectural and archaeological sites and standing structures known as "Medusa." Access to archaeological data within Medusa, which includes detailed site location information, is restricted to professional archaeologists in order to protect these sensitive resources from looting. However, the public may access information about Maryland archaeological sites through MHT's Archaeological Synthesis Database. The database includes a general public access option with geographic location and site setting information that is intentionally vague to ensure site protection.

Medusa includes records for properties included in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places, for properties which have been subject to determinations of eligibility, and records for properties on which MHT holds historic preservation easements. Medusa does not currently include a dedicated historic cemetery layer. While the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties includes individual listings for approximately 523 cemeteries and burial sites[2], cemeteries and burial sites can also be found within the boundaries of other historic properties, such as churches, farms, and historic districts. These cemeteries are harder for researchers to identify without examining the full site records, and currently no flag or

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[2] In addition, approximately 377 cemeteries are recorded in the MHT archaeology site files. Archaeology data is not made available to the general public.

search method exists to extract only those sites that include cemeteries. More information about Medusa can be found online here: https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/medusa/.

The Maryland State Archives (MSA) maintains tombstone and cemetery records from selected cemeteries across the state but does not maintain a statewide cemetery inventory. Although the MSA's Tombstone & Cemetery Records page is currently outdated, with resources largely unchanged since the early 2000s, it continues to provide links to valuable historical data. This online resource includes the Special Collections research guide, an important resource for historical church records, and the Death Records research guide. In addition, the page offers staff contact information for users seeking further research assistance.

Plans are underway to update and enhance the Tombstone & Cemetery Records page by incorporating information on active cemetery documentation projects, volunteer transcription initiatives, and partnerships with local historical organizations. MSA staff have also developed improved research aids, updated guides, and instructional materials to provide more comprehensive support for researchers and the broader community.

In addition to these Maryland state agencies that maintain cemetery information, there are others that maintain records for cemeteries located on properties under their care. Examples include but are not limited to the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Veterans and Military Families, and the Department of Health.

State Models Beyond Maryland

Almost all states maintain cultural resource databases that include historic cemeteries while approximately 26 states appear to maintain databases dedicated to historic cemeteries exclusively. In most cases, the dedicated cemetery inventories are available to the public online as searchable electronic databases that include baseline documentation. Some states withhold locational data while others identify cemetery locations as points on a mapped data layer within GIS. State agencies charged with the responsibility for maintaining these inventories are variable and include State Historic Preservation Offices, State Archives, State Archaeology Offices, State Cemetery Divisions, Departments of Public Health and others.

In some states – such as Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Ohio - cemetery inventories are maintained by statewide nonprofit historical societies or genealogical organizations instead of state government agencies. Kentucky operates its cemetery inventory program as a partnership between the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office, which provides a cemetery inventory form for use in documenting cemeteries, and the nonprofit Kentucky Historical Society, which coordinates the ongoing volunteer-led Kentucky cemetery census.

Approximately 17 states have developed historic cemetery documentation forms that are designed to collect data from the public in a uniform manner. Forms include categories such as cemetery name, address or GPS coordinates, number of grave markers, ethnic and/or religious affiliation, documentation of architectural features and landscape design, etc. These forms are designed to be

completed by community volunteers who typically submit the forms to the state agency responsible for maintaining and providing public access to the resulting cemetery inventory.

Map-based statewide cemetery inventories identified as providing the best models for Maryland's consideration included those developed by the Alabama Historical Commission, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museums Commission, the Utah Division of State History, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the Texas Historical Commission. The Workgroup found the Alabama Historical Commission's cemetery inventory to be especially instructive due to its user-friendly interface which includes a filter panel that allows the user to search cemeteries based on a variety of data categories.

Maryland Statewide Cemetery Inventory Recommendations

SB354/HB509 required the Workgroup to identify categories for data collection and public search functions for a statewide cemetery inventory system, identify an entity responsible for collecting data and maintaining the system, and determine associated costs with development and maintenance of the system beginning in fiscal year 2027.

Cemetery Inventory Data Categories and System Design

The Workgroup recommends development of a statewide cemetery inventory that is user-friendly, free to the public and accessible online. The Workgroup recommends that information about all cemeteries and burial sites be included in the inventory with the exception of pre-contact Native American burial sites. The Workgroup consulted with the Director of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs regarding the inclusion of such sites in this publicly accessible inventory. Preliminary guidance advised against inclusion of information about these sensitive and culturally significant sites due to concerns about looting. More formal consultation with the Commission and Maryland tribes on this matter will be needed once development of the inventory system gets underway.

Following a review of cemetery inventory systems employed by other states, the Workgroup developed a set of categories for data collection recommended for a State cemetery inventory system which are included in Appendix 3.

The Workgroup recommends crafting the inventory as a web-accessible map-based system using ArcGIS, modeled after MHT's cultural resource information system known as "Medusa." Like Medusa, the cemetery inventory would provide an easy to navigate map- and text-search based interface so that users can zoom in to their area of interest (if using a map search) or open the text search tab if they prefer to conduct a text-based search.

Cemetery sites would appear as points rather than polygons since polygon boundary data can be challenging to collect accurately. ArcGIS would allow the viewer to use different types of map base layers when reviewing the cemetery location and is a product that is already available for use by state agencies at no additional cost.

The cemetery inventory host entity would then seek to import data from cemetery databases developed by local governments and nonprofit organizations in Excel or Access into the master statewide inventory. Once existing cemetery inventories have been exhausted, updates to the statewide inventory can be submitted by individuals using an online fillable form that will be created for this purpose. These individual submissions would be reviewed and vetted by the inventory host entity staff before being uploaded to the statewide inventory.

The inventory search function would permit searches using the cemetery name (common and alternate) or identification number only. Since this is a map-based database, users could also use the map function to search for cemeteries of interest.

Search filters, which would allow the user to aggregate data about particular types of cemeteries when conducting a search, are recommended to include the bulleted list below. This list is a subset of the universe of data categories collected for individual cemeteries. Multiple search terms could be selected by the public user at the same time.

- Cemetery Number
- Cemetery Name
- Other Name(s)
- County
- Cemetery Type (see associated drop down menu in Appendix 3)
- Ownership Type (see associated drop down menu in Appendix 3)
- Year Established
- Number of Burials (range)
- Perpetual Care? (yes or no)
- Restricted Access (Public Access, By Permission Only)
- Listed in SDAT? (include link if available)
- Local Historic Designation? (yes or no)

While the public facing cemetery inventory search function would be limited to these data fields, customized searches which include additional data field categories included in the database could still be created in coordination with the cemetery inventory database manager.

Inventory Management and Associated Costs

The Workgroup recommends that MHT create the map-based cemetery inventory system using ArcGIS as this product is already available for use by state agencies at no additional cost. MHT would then import data from cemetery databases developed by OCO and other entities (e.g. local governments) into the master statewide inventory which would be available to the public through Medusa and the MD iMAP portal.

MD iMAP is Maryland's Enterprise Geographic Information System. It is the state's centralized database of geospatial data from all agencies. Medusa data is regularly linked to MD iMAP and is available in both portals. County cemetery data that is imported into the cemetery database would be held in both Medusa and MD iMAP. This information could then be used by Maryland Department

of Planning staff to update State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) tax maps with cemetery locational data.

The statewide cemetery inventory would not replace local government cemetery inventories. A process for sharing and updating data between the statewide cemetery database manager and local governments on a regular basis would need to be developed.

While MHT has in-house staff capable of designing and launching the statewide cemetery data layer, the agency does not have sufficient staff to maintain the inventory. In order for MHT to maintain and make regular updates to the inventory, a new Cemetery Program Manager staff position would be needed. Costs associated with creating a Cemetery Program Manager at MHT total approximately $100,000 annually beginning in fiscal year 2027. This position would maintain the database, actively identify and document cemeteries for inclusion in the database, assist the public with research regarding cemeteries and burials throughout the state, administer grants in support of cemetery preservation, consult with cemetery owners as required by § 14-121 of the Real Property Article, and conduct training on cemetery preservation best practices. In this way, the cemetery database would become the centerpiece of a new cemetery preservation program at MHT.

If funding is not available for a Cemetery Program Manager at MHT, an alternative cemetery database maintenance approach would involve delegation of this role to MSA. MSA has the capacity to assign maintenance of the cemetery data layer to its in-house information technology staff, provided that updates to the inventory are made no more than four times per year. MSA's estimated costs for maintaining the inventory are limited to expenses associated with server support for the database which are estimated at $6600 per year beginning in fiscal year 2027.

Cemetery Inventory Grant Program Recommendation

The Workgroup was charged with evaluating the feasibility and cost of establishing a grant program to provide financial assistance to governmental entities and nonprofit genealogical and historical organizations to expedite identification of cemeteries. The Workgroup was also directed to recommend a funding amount and source for a grant program beginning in fiscal year 2027. These recommendations provide the basis for legislation necessary to establish a Cemetery Inventory Grant Program.

Key considerations in the development of any grant program include:
  ➢ who is eligible to receive grant funds,
  ➢ what the funds may be used for,
  ➢ how successful grant applications are selected, and
  ➢ who makes the funding determinations.

Answers to these fundamental questions may be addressed broadly in statute, while program regulations address program details that evolve over time as applicants' needs change or new

cemetery preservation technologies emerge. The recommendations outlined below are intended to be included in statute.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants should include nonprofit organizations and local government entities.

Nonprofit organizations should not be defined in statute as 501(c)(3) organizations since certain applicants for these grants (e.g. cemetery preservation organizations) may not meet that requirement. Churches are considered by the IRS to be nonprofit organizations but are not required to file for recognition as a 501(c)(3). While most cemetery preservation organizations are established under IRS rules as 501(c)(3) organizations, this is not always the case.

Entities that do not qualify as a nonprofit organization or local government body can seek to partner with a fiscal sponsor capable of applying on their behalf.

Eligible Activities

The grant program should allow non-capital activities to support the broad range of historic cemetery identification, research and documentation needs of all types of cemeteries. These needs include, but are not limited to:

- Updates and revisions to existing county, historical or genealogical organization cemetery records
- Historical research and digitization of records
- Identification and documentation of cemeteries that have not been inventoried previously
- Legal aid to clear title and establish cemetery ownership
- Cemetery mapping and documentation, including photo documentation of cemeteries and funerary objects and the adoption of cemetery GIS applications
- Inventorying known and identifying unmarked burials within a cemetery or burial ground using ground penetrating radar and other methods

Eligible activities for this program, which is focused on supporting the identification of historic cemeteries, would not include cemetery rehabilitation or maintenance projects.

Matching Funds

The Workgroup recommends that applicants provide up to a 25% match. Matching funds can be cash, in the form of a direct financial expenditure on the project, or in kind, representing the monetary value of non-cash contributions like donated supplies or services, volunteer hours, etc. State and federal funds are eligible as matching funds for these grants

Grant Selection Criteria and Administration

Grant rating and ranking criteria could include:

- historic and cultural significance of the cemetery;
- the public necessity and urgency of a project;
- the need for additional sources of funding for a project;

- ➢ the estimated cost and timeliness of executing a project;
- ➢ geographic diversity;
- ➢ descendant community affiliation with project or grantee; and
- ➢ any other criteria determined to be relevant.

This final criterion provides the entity rating and ranking grant applications with the flexibility to identify funding priorities that may change from year to year as needs arise.

It is recommended that a review panel consisting of individuals with a broad range of interests in cemetery preservation be assembled to conduct the rating and ranking of grant applications on behalf of the agency responsible for administering the program. Agencies capable of administering the grant program include OCO, MHT, or MSA.

Cemetery Access and Owner Consent

While the Workgroup recommends requiring cemetery owners to cooperate with entities that receive grant funds to inventory and document cemeteries, such a provision would conflict with existing state law. Current law states that owners of a burial site or of the land encompassing a burial site may, but are not required to, grant "reasonable access to the burial site for the purpose of restoring, maintaining, or viewing the burial site." See Md. Code Ann., Real Property § 14-121. Consequently, grant applications for projects that require physical access to a cemetery (e.g. ground penetrating radar) will require evidence that grantees have requested and received owner consent for cemetery access.

Grant Program Funding Level

The recommended grant program funding level is an appropriation of $250,000 in the first year with increases anticipated over time.

Funding Source

Recommended funding sources are general and/or special fund sources to be identified by the MCLA and other cemetery advocates.

Appendix 1: Definitions

Statutory Term: Burial Ground

Summary: There is no statutory definition, but the term is consistently used to mean ground that "has been dedicated and used for burial."

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Bus. Reg. § 5-505	Uses the term to mean ground that has been "dedicated and used for burial" and for which burial lots are sold	Regulating the sale of burial grounds	
Bus. Reg. § 5-506	Same	Same, specific to Baltimore City	
Rule 14-401	Uses the term to mean ground that has been "dedicated and used for burial purposes" and mentions "lot owners"	Judicial process for selling cemetery property to convert it to another use. Rules 2-111, 2-323, and 14-302 just refer to Rule 14-401	Slightly different from Bus. Reg. § 5-505, which does not use the term "purposes"

Provisions that only mention the term "burial ground" without suggesting a definition

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Local Gov't § 12-519	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Regulating the location of roads	
Real Prop. § 14-119	Used within definition of "cemetery," but without suggesting a definition	Requiring owner of land to document location of cemetery and notify buyers of land; Carroll County specific	
St. Fin. Proc. § 5A- 343	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Regulating the use of archaeological, prehistoric, and historic features found in a cave	
Tax Prop. § 9-261	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Authorizes local governments to grant cemeteries a tax credit against local property taxes	

Statutory Term: Burial Group

Summary: The term "burial group" does not appear in any Maryland statute. The General Assembly may have meant "burial ground," instead of "burial group." See above.

Statutory Term: Burial Site

Summary: There are three statutory definitions of "burial site" that are mostly consistent, but that vary in a few non-substantive ways and one potentially substantive way. *This is the only definition that seems a candidate for revision to ensure its consistency. See suggested revisions at end of chart.

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Crim. Law § 10-401	Defined: "Burial site means a natural or prepared physical location, whether originally located below, on, or above the surface of the earth, into which human remains or associated funerary objects are deposited as a part of a death ceremony of a culture, religion, or group." "'Burial site' includes the human remains and associated funerary objects that result from a shipwreck or accident and are left intentionally to remain at the site."	Definition section for Title 10, Subtitle 4 of the Criminal Law Article; governs the use of the term throughout that Title. Criminal Procedure § 11-602 is also based on this definition, as it cross-references Crim. Law § 10-404 (governing conviction for disturbing burial sites), which is controlled by the definition in Crim. Law § 10-401	
Real Prop. § 14-121	Defined: "Burial site means any natural or prepared physical location, whether originally located below, on, or above the surface of the earth into which human remains or associated funerary objects are deposited as a part of a death rite or ceremony of any culture, religion, or group; includes the human remains and associated funerary objects that result from a shipwreck or accident and are intentionally left to remain at the site." "'Burial site' includes the human remains and associated funerary objects that result from a shipwreck or accident and are intentionally left to remain at the site."	Process by which descendants may seek access to burial sites on private land Sections that cross-reference this provision: ▪ Real Prop. § 14-121.1 (requiring consultation with MHT when burials disturbed) ▪ Land Use § 5-102 (providing for easements allowing relatives to access burial sites within subdivision) Other provisions that cross-reference Land Use § 5-102: Land Use § 1-401 (listing those provisions that apply in charter counties) and § 10-103 (listing those provisions for Baltimore City)	Differences from Crim. Law § 10-401: "any" vs. "a"; slight differences in punctuation and word order; adds death "rite" to death "ceremony"
Real Prop. § 14-122	Defined: "Burial site means any natural or prepared physical location, whether originally below, on, or above the surface of the earth into which human remains are deposited as a part of a death rite or ceremony of any culture, religion, or group."	Authorizing local governments to enter into agreements to maintain burial sites	Different from § 14-121 in some non-substantive ways (e.g., omits the word located") and in substantive ways—doesn't mention "associated funerary objects" or shipwrecks

Provisions that only mention the term "burial ground" without defining it, suggesting a definition, or referring to another provision that provides a definition

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Real Prop. § 12-112	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Eminent Domain; monetary recovery for removal of personal items or bodies from property	

Statutory Term: Cemetery

Summary: There are two statutory definitions of "cemetery" that vary in a few ways, and a small number of statutes that define different types of cemeteries, but without defining the underlying term "cemetery." Several other statutes also refer to different types of cemeteries, but without defining them at all.

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Bus. Reg. § 5-101	Defined: "Cemetery means land used or to be used for interment; includes a structure used or to be used for interment." This definition applies to all statutes within Title 5. Cemeteries	Definition section for Title 5 of the Business Regulation Article, which governs the regulation of cemeteries by the Office of Cemetery Oversight within the Department of Labor	
Bus. Reg. § 5-101, continued	Several provisions within Title 5 of the Business Regulation Article refer to specific types of cemeteries without defining them: • § 5-102 ("religious-nonprofit cemetery," "veterans' cemetery," "private family cemetery") • § 5-204 ("for-profit cemeteries," "nonreligious-nonprofit cemeteries," "local government-owned cemeteries") • § 5-304 (cemeteries that are businesses and sell burial goods and cemeteries that are not businesses) • § 5-603 ("nonprofit cemetery," "for-profit cemetery") • § 5-803 ("state veterans' cemetery," "veterans' cemetery") • § 5-804 ("cemetery for pet remains")		
Real Prop. § 14-119	Defined: "Cemetery means the land or structures in Carroll County identified by the Carroll County Genealogical Society that are used for the interment of human remains; and Cemetery includes a grave, burial ground, monument, or gravestone."	Defining and regulating cemeteries in Carroll County Rule 14-401, relating to the judicial process for selling cemetery property, cross-references § 14-119	Different definition than Bus. Reg. § 5-101; applies only in Carroll County
Health-Gen. § 4-215	Not defined, but states: "Cemetery includes a crematory or other place for final disposition."	Requirements applicable to cemeteries before they may accept fetal human remains for burial	Different definition than that used in Bus. Reg. Title 5

Statutes that define different types of cemeteries, but without defining the term "cemetery"

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Crim. Law § 10-401	Defines the term "permanent cemetery" as "a cemetery that is owned by: (1) A cemetery company regulated under Title 5 of the Business Regulation Article; (2) a nonprofit organization; or (3) the State."	Definition section for Title 10, Subtitle 4 of the Criminal Law Article; governs the use of the term throughout that Title	Includes a cross-reference to a cemetery company" under Bus. Reg. Title 5
State Gov. § 9-906	Defines the term "state veterans' cemetery" as "a cemetery that the Department establishes under this section."	Defines and regulates state veterans' cemeteries	None of the other statutes that also refer to "state veterans' cemetery" (e.g., Bus. Reg. § 5-803) defines the term or refers to this statute

Provisions that only mention the term "cemetery" without defining it, suggesting a definition, or referring to another provision that provides a definition.

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Crim. Law § 10-403	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Criminal enforcement against selling or buying unlawfully removed human remains or funerary objects	Statute includes both "cemetery" and "burial siting"
Crim. Law § 10-404	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Criminal enforcement against indecent conduct in a cemetery, including tampering with funerary objects.	Statute uses "cemetery" on its own and uses the phrase "cemetery or burial site"
Environment § 9-668	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Condemning land; purchase or purchase rights condemnation, condemnation of cemeteries	
Pub. Util. § 21-102	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Regulating when land used for cemetery purposes may be condemned	
Real Prop. § 14-121	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Regulating who has access to burial sites	Statute mentions public and private cemeteries; defines "burial site" but not "cemetery"
Rule 12-204	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Rule regulating the acquisition of a cemetery, specifically giving notice	
State Fin. & Proc. § 10-309	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Regulating cemeteries owned by the state; regulating sale, easements or right of entry to a cemetery, and perpetual care	
Tax-Prop. § 7-201	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Provides exemptions to property not subject to property tax	Term used is "cemetery company"

The statute charged the workgroup with evaluating the statutory definitions of the terms identified above but also "any related terms" used in Maryland statutes. The following terms may be considered "related" to those identified in the bill.

Statutory Term: Gravesite

Summary: The term "gravesite" is never explicitly defined in statute, but it is used in a couple different places.

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Environment § 9-668	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Limiting power of sanitary district to condemn property within cemetery	
Pub. Util. § 21-102	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Governing WSSC's power to condemn land within cemetery	

Statutory Term: Associated Funerary Object

Summary: The term "associated funerary object" arises in several different statutory provisions, but is defined in only two places, which define the term differently and in substantive ways.

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Crim. Law § 10-401	Defined: "Associated funerary object means an item of human manufacture or use that is intentionally placed: (1) with human remains at the time of interment in a burial site; or (ii) after interment, as a part of a death ceremony of a culture, religion, or group."	Definition section for Title 10, Subtitle 4 of the Criminal Law Article; governs the use of the term throughout that Title. See, e.g., Crim. Law § 10-403 (removal of human remains or funerary objects); § 10-404 (destruction of cemetery and funerary objects)	Different from St. Fin. & Proc. § 5A-333 in several ways.
State Fin. Proc. § 5A-333	Defined: "Associated funerary objects means objects that are reasonably believed to have been placed with individual human remains as a part of the death rite or ceremony of a culture."	Definition section for Title 5A, Subtitle 3 of the State Finance & Procurement Article; governs the use of the term throughout MHT provisions. See, e.g., § 5A-339 (objects found at archaeological sites)	Different from Crim. Law § 10-401 in several ways

Provisions that only mention the term "associated funerary object" without suggesting a definition or referring to another provision providing a definition

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Real Prop. § 14-121	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Regulating who has access to burial sites	As introduced in 1994, the bill included a definition, identical to Crim. Law § 10-401. It was deleted during the legislative process.

Statutory Term: Burial Space

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Bus. Reg. § 5-701	Defined: "land or space in a structure used or to be used for burial. Includes a burial right in the land or space."	Definition section for Title 5 Subtitle 7 of the Business Regulation Article, which governs Preneed Burial Contracts	

Statutory Term: Abandoned Cemetery

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Crim. Law § 10-404	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Criminal enforcement against indecent conduct in a cemetery, including tampering with funerary objects	
Bus. Reg. § 5-805	Defined: "a cemetery for which: (I)(1) The organization established to engage in the operation of the cemetery has been terminated, has been subject to administrative dissolution by the state, or has otherwise ceased to exist; and (2) Title has not been conveyed; (II)	Establishes the Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries Fund	

Statutory Term: Internment

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Bus. Reg. § 5-101	Defined: "all final disposition of human remains or pet remains, including: (1) earth burial; (2) mausoleum entombment; and (3) niche or columbarium Internment"	Definition section for Title 5 of the Business Regulation Article, which governs the regulation of cemeteries by the Office of Cemetery Oversight within the Department of Labor. See, e.g., § 5-603 (requiring trust fund for perpetual care of cemeteries)	
Real Prop. § 14-121	Uses the term likely as a synonym for buried	Process by which descendants may seek access to burial sites on private land	Uses "interred"
Real Prop. § 14-121.1	Uses the term likely as a synonym for buried	Requiring consultation with MHT when burials disturbed	Uses "interred"
Crim. Law § 10-401	Uses the term likely as a synonym for burial	Definition section for Title 10, Subtitle 4 of the Criminal Law Article	

Statutory Term: Neglected Cemetery

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Bus. Reg. § 5-805	Defined: "a cemetery for which: (I) two or more citations have been issued by a county or municipal corporation against the property for failure to maintain the property; (II) the property has fallen into disrepair due to neglect and insufficient maintenance; (III) the property has been the object of vandalism, loitering, or other criminal conduct; or (IV) there has been physical destruction or deterioration of the property."	**Establishes the Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries Fund**	

Statutory Term: Entombment

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Bus. Reg. § 5-801	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Governs contracts for sales of burial goods	Used in the context of "mausoleum entombment"
Bus. Reg. § 5-710	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Governs preened burial contract records	Used in the context of "mausoleum entombment"
Bus. Reg. § 5-101	Uses the term, but without suggesting a definition	Definition section for Title 5 of the Business Regulation Article, which governs the regulation of cemeteries by the Office of Cemetery Oversight within the Department of Labor	Used in the context of "mausoleum entombment" as the definition for "interment"

Statutory Term: Burial Goods

Statute	Definition	Context of the Statute	Notes
Bus. Reg. § 5-101	Defined: "goods that are used in connection with burial. Includes: (I) a casket; (II) a grave liner; (III) a memorial; (IV) a monument; (V) a scroll; (VI) an urn; (VII) a vase; and (VIII) a vault."	Definition section for Title 5 of the Business Regulation Article, which governs the regulation of cemeteries by the Office of Cemetery Oversight within the Department of Labor	Also defines "Burial goods business" as a business that provides "burial goods"

There are no known statues for the terms "unassociated funerary objects," "graveyard," "burial transit certificate," 'burial transmittal," or "Potter's Field."

Appendix 2: Inventory of Local Government Cemetery Inventory Programs

County	Lead Entity	Documentation Practices	Inventory Systems	Documented Cemeteries
Allegany	Allegany County Office of Planning and Zoning	Cemetery data from Allegany County Rural Cemeteries, a 1990 publication by the Genealogical Society of Allegany County, has been used to populate the county's cemetery inventory. New additions to the inventory are encouraged and accepted from the public; they are added to the inventory as they are received.	Cemetery inventory exists as a GIS layer that is available to the public. Note that the inventory generally includes cemeteries where multiple grave sites are located and does not necessarily document single burial sites.	183
Anne Arundel	Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning	The county has an active Preservation Stewardship Program and collaborates closely with local groups, volunteers, and citizens to encourage data-sharing on cemetery locations and to keep the cemetery database up-to-date, which is continuously under review.	Cemetery inventory is included in a GIS layer that is available to the public.	500+
Baltimore City	Baltimore City Dept. of Planning	City identifies cemeteries as open space on zoning map.	No inventory maintained by the city government.	N.A.
Baltimore	Baltimore County Dept. of Planning	County maintains information about locally designated historic sites that include cemeteries,	No inventory maintained by the county government.	N.A.
Calvert	Calvert County Office of Planning and Zoning	The county has created a cemetery inventory using and expanding upon data provided by the Calvert County Historical Society.	The inventory is maintained as a GIS data layer and is not publicly accessible.	77
Caroline	Caroline County Planning and Codes	The county does not maintain a standard intake form, but if a burial site is reported, staff conduct deed and plat research before adding the cemetery to the inventory.	The county includes known cemeteries in a GIS data layer that is not available to the public	130
Carroll	Carroll County Dept. of Planning and Land Management	The county adds cemetery data and edits errors to the inventory as information is made available by citizens, field staff, or as a result of submitted development plans.	Cemetery inventory is included in a GIS layer that is available to the public.	201
Cecil	Cecil County Department of Land Use and Development Services	The county maintains an inventory of cemetery data that was last updated in 2020.	Cemetery inventory is included in a GIS layer that is available to the public.	73
Charles	Charles County Planning and Zoning Office	The county maintains a cemetery inventory which is updated as new cemeteries and burial grounds are recorded in the county land records.	Cemetery inventory is maintained in a GIS data layer that is available to the public.	98
Dorchester	Dorchester County Burial Sites Preservation Board	Established in 2015, the Board collects cemetery data using an online fillable Cemetery Survey and Documentation Form.	Data collected using the online form is held by the Board.	3

County	Lead Entity	Documentation Practices	Inventory Systems	Documented Cemeteries
Frederick	Livable Frederick Planning and Design Office	County cemetery database includes data from the 1966 book, Names in Stone, as well as locational information for additional cemeteries identified since that time.	Cemetery inventory is maintained in a GIS data layer that is not available to the public.	
Garrett	N.A.	N.A.	No inventory maintained by the county government.	N.A.
Harford	Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning	Historic cemeteries are documented as architectural sites through the MIHP either individually or as contributing elements to larger historic sites or districts.	The county government does not maintain a discrete cemetery inventory.	N.A.
Howard	Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning	The Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) and the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board (CPAB), through the efforts of many volunteers such as the Howard County Genealogical Society, began a County-wide cemetery survey in 2014.	Legislation that authorized the Cemetery Preservation article in the county code established an inventory of all known cemeteries to be administered by the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning, in cooperation with the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board. Department of Planning and Zoning has created a GIS layer in its land use system that shows locations of known cemeteries.	200+
Kent	N.A.	N.A.	No inventory maintained by the county government.	N.A.
Montgomery	M-NCPPC Montgomery County Planning Department	Section 33A-17 of the County Code requires the Montgomery County Planning Board to maintain an inventory of burial sites in the county. County law requires that the inventory be made public, with precise locational information redacted in some cases as provided in our guidelines. Commission staff are continuing to conduct research to identify and document burial sites and are in the process of preparing a county-wide historic context for cemeteries.	Maintains the burial site inventory as part of a GIS data layer and makes it available to the public through the MCAtlas web portal.	324
Prince George's	M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Division	Staff document cemeteries on architectural MIHP forms if there are above ground features and on archaeology site forms if there are no above ground features. In addition, there is a cemetery documentation form online that can be filled out by members of the public and sent to the Historic Preservation Section.	Maintains a point layer in GIS that documents the locations of cemeteries. This is available to the public in PGAtlas online (PGAtlas.com).	236

County	Lead Entity	Documentation Practices	Inventory Systems	Documented Cemeteries
Queen Anne's	N.A.	N.A.	No inventory maintained by the county government.	N.A.
Somerset	N.A.	N.A.	No inventory maintained by the county government.	N.A.
St. Mary's	N.A.	N.A.	No inventory maintained by the county government.	N.A.
Talbot	N.A.	N.A.	No inventory maintained by the county government.	N.A.
Washington	Washington County Planning and Zoning Department	The county has created a cemetery inventory using data collected from MIHP forms, property research conducted by staff and information submitted by the public. The county maintains a cemetery story map and shares this documentation on a resource map compiled by the Historic District Commission.	The county maintains a cemetery dataset in a GIS data layer that is accessible to the public.	146
Wicomico	Wicomico County Planning, Zoning and Community Development	Most cemetery information is derived from research conducted by local historian, James Trader, and from Find a Grave.	The county maintains a cemetery dataset in a GIS data layer that is accessible to the public.	513
Worcester	Worcester County Government	The county created a cemetery inventory using data based on the research of local historian James Trader which is updated as new burial sites are identified as part of the development review process.	The county maintains the cemetery inventory as both a paper record and as a GIS data layer. Both are available to the public upon request.	248

Appendix 3: Cemetery Inventory Database Fields

Individual Data Fields[3]

A unique identifier would be assigned by the database manager, called a State Cemetery Record #, and will likely include an abbreviation for the county in which the cemetery is located, e.g., CM-AA-1.

Detailed instructions will accompany the cemetery intake form to guide the preparer and ensure clarity and ease of use when completing the submittal.

1) *Cemetery Name (2 fields)*

> ➤ Cemetery common name* – fill in the blank
> ➤ Cemetery AKA – This data field can have multiple names included – each one separated by a semi colon.

2) *Locational Information (10 fields)*

> ➤ Street Address* – This category can be a specific street address or a narrative description.
> ➤ City* – Fill in the blank
> ➤ County Code* – Drop down menu
> ➤ Zip code* – Fill in the blank
> ➤ State* – Drop down menu
> ➤ Latitude – Fill in the blank
> ➤ Longitude – Fill in the blank
> ➤ Lat/Long estimated? – Yes or no question
> ➤ USGS Quadrangle name – These are the 1:24,000-scale topographic maps, also known as 7.5-minute quadrangles.
> ➤ Tax parcel ID 3 – Fill in the blank; Note - not all cemeteries will have this.
> ➤ ADC (American District Company) Map Location – Fill in the blank

3) *Descriptive Information (21 fields)*

> ➤ Cemetery type* – Drop down menu (see Question 1 in the Data Fields with Drop Down Menu)
> ➤ Restricted access?* – Provide two options: 1. Public Access; 2. By Permission Only
> ➤ Year cemetery established, if known – Fill in the blank
> ➤ Date of oldest burial as indicated on grave marker – Fill in the blank
> ➤ Does the cemetery include reinterments of individuals whose death dates pre-date the establishment of this cemetery? – Fill in the blank
> ➤ # of marked graves – Use drop down menu with number range. (see Question 2 in the Data Fields with Drop Down Menu)

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[3] Each required field will be marked with an asterisk (*)

- ➢ # of unmarked graves – Use drop down menu with number range. (see Question 3 in the Data Fields with Drop Down Menu)
- ➢ Are burials ongoing? – Yes or no question with fill in the blank to describe activity level.
- ➢ Cemetery size (in acres) – Fill in the blank
- ➢ Is acreage based on survey data or is it estimated? – Provide two options - surveyed or estimated – with fill in the blank for the year in which the survey was conducted if applicable.
- ➢ Is the cemetery boundary marked? – Yes or no question (must clearly describe in instructions what is meant by this question – fencing, etc., vs. surveyed)
- ➢ Is the cemetery abandoned? – Yes or no question (if yes, select category as per Question 4 in the Data Fields with Drop Down Menu)
- ➢ Cemetery disposition? – Drop down menu (see Question 5 in the Data Fields with Drop Down Menu section below)
- ➢ Cemetery condition record date? – Fill in the blank
- ➢ Does the cemetery have a historic designation? – Yes or no question
- ➢ Perpetual Care cemetery? – Yes or no question
- ➢ Type of ownership – Drop down menu (see Question 6 in the Data Fields with Drop Down Menu)
- ➢ Owner name and contact information – Fill in the blank
- ➢ Ownership SDAT record – Fill in the blank for link to SDAT record

4) Documentation Submittal (3 fields)

- ➢ Name of preparer – Fill in the blank
- ➢ Contact information – Fill in the blank
- ➢ Date of submission* – Fill in the blank

5) Links to Additional Resources (9 fields) – select all that apply

- ➢ Office of Cemetery Oversight (OCO) registration number
- ➢ Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) number
- ➢ Local historic landmark identification number
- ➢ County cemetery inventory number
- ➢ Genealogical society identification number
- ➢ Cemetery website link – Fill in the blank
- ➢ Find a Grave link – Fill in the blank
- ➢ Billion Grave link – Fill in the blank
- ➢ Notes – Fill in the blank (this section can include any type of additional information ranging from observed threats to the existence of a cemetery Friends organization)

Data Fields with Drop Down Menu

1) Type – select more than one

- ➢ African American
- ➢ Animal Cemetery

- ➢ Animal and Human Cemetery
- ➢ Indigenous/Native American Burial Grounds/Site
- ➢ Colonial/Early American
- ➢ Burials of the formerly enslaved
- ➢ Family Plot/Cemetery
- ➢ Fraternal
- ➢ Community
- ➢ Government (Municipal, State, Town)
- ➢ Green Burials
- ➢ Institutional (prisons, sanitoriums, alms houses, mental institutions)
- ➢ Mass Burials (epidemics)
- ➢ Memorial Park
- ➢ Military
- ➢ Potters Field
- ➢ Religious organization (with fill in the blank)
- ➢ Benevolent society (with fill in the blank)
- ➢ Transitional (change religions)
- ➢ Veteran Cemetery
- ➢ Unknown
- ➢ Other (fill in the blank)

2) *# of Marked Graves*

- ➢ 1-10
- ➢ 11-20
- ➢ 21-100
- ➢ 100 or more
- ➢ Fill in the blank to describe how marked

3) *# of Unmarked Graves*

- ➢ Unknown
- ➢ 1-10
- ➢ 11-20
- ➢ 21-100
- ➢ 100 or more
- ➢ Fill in the blank to describe how identified

4) *Abandoned Cemetery*

- ➢ *the organization established to engage in the operation of the cemetery has been terminated, has been subject to administrative dissolution by the State, or has otherwise ceased to exist and title has not been conveyed*

> *there is no property owner listed in the records of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation*

> *the property has been condemned*

> *no person who is legally responsible for the property can be found and legal ownership of the property cannot be determined*

5) *Disposition*
  - Actively Maintained
  - Not Maintained
  - Destroyed
  - Relocated
  - Removed
  - Developed
  - Undetermined

6) *Type of Ownership**
  - Unknown
  - For profit
  - Not for profit
  - Private-individual/family
  - Municipal
  - County
  - State
  - Federal Lands
  - Federal Military
  - Native American
  - Foreign
  - Other

Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032
mht.maryland.gov
(410) 697-9591

Report activities undertaken under:
Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Rebecca L. Flora, AICP, Secretary of Planning
Elizabeth Hughes, Director of MHT and
State Historic Preservation Officer