

CH-658

## Cooksey/Dent Cemetery

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 11-21-2003***

**Cooksey/Dent Cemetery**

1877-1921

**CH-658**

**Dentsville vic.**

**Private**

The Cooksey/Dent Cemetery in the vicinity of Dentsville, although the victim of vandalism, is typical of the family burial plots of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century scattered throughout Charles County. It features a wide variety of grave markers including marble tablets, tablets on a base, footstones, and simple fieldstone markers. Located on an easement property in a secluded, wooded area of the Fords Manor subdivision, the cemetery sits on high ground overlooking a tributary of Gilbert Swamp Run, known as Hells Bottom Run. The Dents and Cookseys were well-established families living in the Dentsville area since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-658

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Cooksey/Dent Cemetery  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street and number Ford's Manor Subdivision Easment \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication  
 city, town Dentsville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity  
 county Charles

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ford's Manor Subdivision Section 3  
 street and number None telephone None  
 city, town Dentsville state MD zip code None

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 56 p. 166  
 city, town LaPlata, MD liber 37 folio 136

### 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
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

| Category                                 | Ownership                                  | Current Function                            | Resource Count   |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture        | Contributing Noncontributing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s)     | <input type="checkbox"/> private           | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade     | _____ buildings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure       | <input type="checkbox"/> both              | <input type="checkbox"/> defense            | <u>1</u> _____ sites   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site |  | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic           | _____ structures   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object          |  | <input type="checkbox"/> education          | _____ objects  |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary           | <u>1</u> _____ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:  |  |
|  |  | <u>cemetery</u>                             | <b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b> |
|  |  |   | <u>0</u>   |

---

## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-658

---

### Condition

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> altered                 |
- 

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

The Cooksey/Dent Cemetery is located in a secluded wooded area near the village of Dentsville. When the Ford's Manor Subdivision was established, an easement was placed around the cemetery. The site is on high ground overlooking a creek bed known as Hells Bottom Run. An estimated 25 graves are found at the site and range from large inscribed tablets, tablets on a base, and foot markers to uninscribed fieldstone headers. Several cedar trees are scattered throughout, many of which are diseased. The remains of a wire fence and iron gate are visible around the cemetery. The cemetery stands in an area with little vegetative undergrowth and appears to be minimally maintained. In addition, extensive damage has occurred from vandalism. Most stones have been turned over.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-658

| Period  | Areas of Significance                       | Check and justify below                               |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art                | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/<br>recreation | <input checked="" 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/<br>settlement   | <input type="checkbox"/> literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> social history      |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning |   | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry                 | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation      |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation       |   | <input type="checkbox"/> military                          | <input type="checkbox"/> other:              |

**Specific dates** 1877-1921

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1877-1921

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Cooksey/Dent Cemetery is representative of family burial plots in Charles County. Consisting of a site carefully situated on high ground, extensively planted with cedars, surrounded by a fence and scattered with carefully placed tombstones, the cemetery includes the most typical features associated with such sites within the region.

Little is known about the individuals buried here, or the farm once associated with the site. However, the Cooksey and Dent families had been active in the Dentsville area since the 19th century. The latter is a long established family in Charles County occupying a large portion of the surrounding land from at least as early as the beginning of the 19th century.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

Inventory No. CH-658

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of surveyed property .25

Acreage of historical setting .25

Quadrangle name LaPlata

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

This cemetery is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 59, Gris 11, Parcel 166.

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning Department

date 4/5/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 20646

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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-658

Section 8 Page 1

Cooksey/Dent Cemetery

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

---

#113

COOKSEY, DENT, SANDERS GRAVES

Route 6, Dentsville

L.K. Farrall property,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of Cooksey General Store in a woods about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile off the road.

7 tombstones

Transcribed September 15, 1983 by Danny Fluhart

DENT

To my Husband presents in the sight of the lord is the death of his saints John B. Dent departed this life January 19, 1877 age 47 years 10 months & 1 day Farewell dear wife, I am at rest, and shall forever be; I could not stay with you on earth, but you can come to me

Mary E. Dent Born Nov. 25, 1835 Died Nov. 30, 1919

COOKSEY

Father, Matthias A. Cooksey Feb. 25, 1849 - Jan. 23, 1922

Loved in life in death remembered

Mother, Sarah E. Cooksey Feb. 12, 1852-Oct. 12, 1923, at rest

Thos. Melvin Cooksey beloved son of Clarence & Delphenia  
Sept. 30, 1899-July 16, 1901 gone but not forgotten

Mary E. Cooksey July 1, 1888-May 6, 1917

Emily C. Cooksey Jan. 26, 1871-Mar. 4, 1897

SANDERS

Martha A. Sanders Born Jan. 5, 1833 Died Sept. 4, 1921

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-658

Section 9 Page 1

Cooksey/Dent Celetery

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

---

**Major Bibliographic References:**

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Circuit Court Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

*Charles County, Maryland Tombstone and Bible Records and Name Index*. Unpublished Manuscript at the Southern Maryland Studies Center, Charles County Community College.

Klaphor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

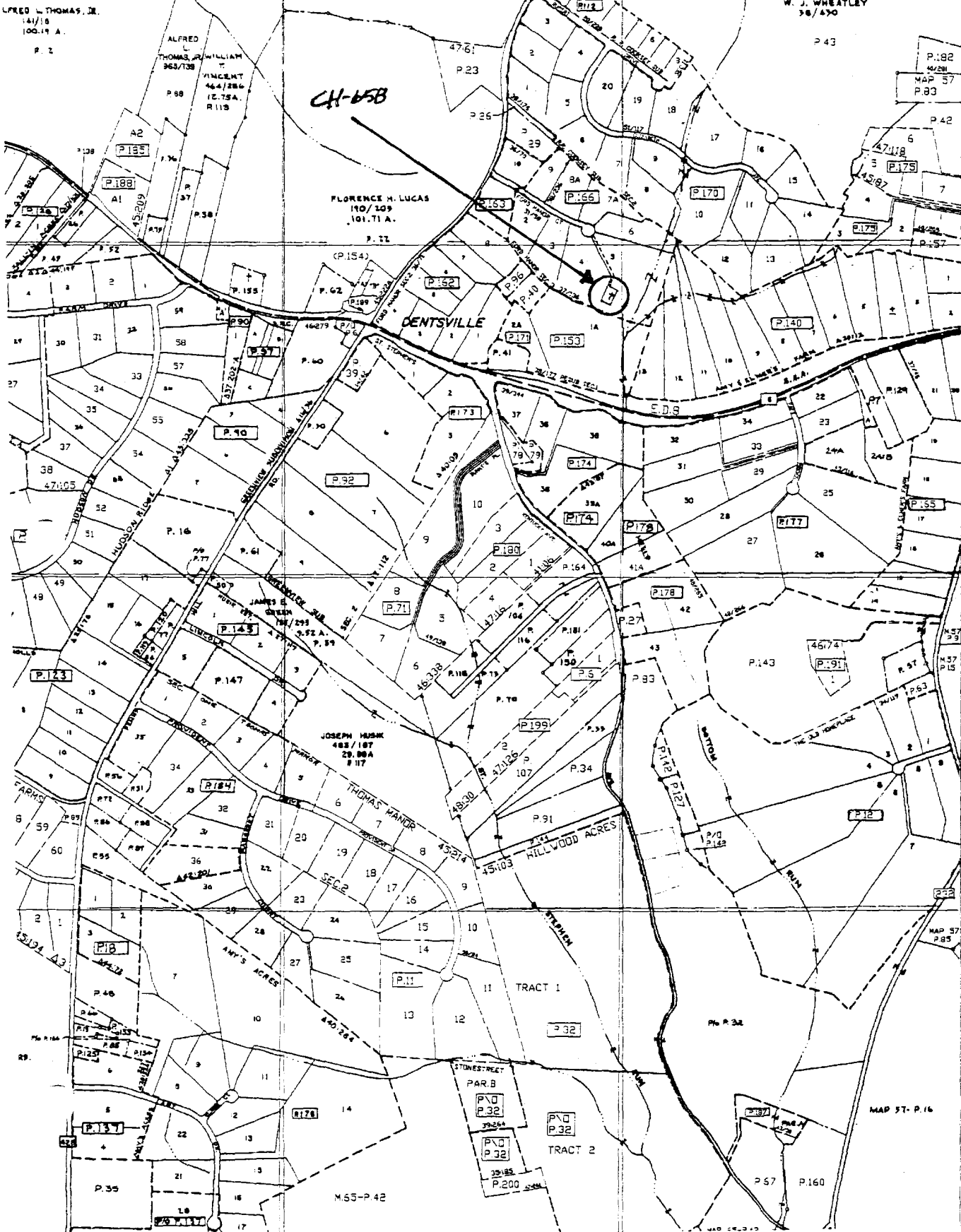
# CHARLES COUNTY PROPERTY TAX MAP # 56 2000.

CH-658

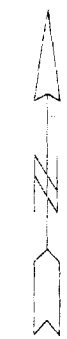
91668.8mN  
410999.4mE

240

MAP 45 - P.14

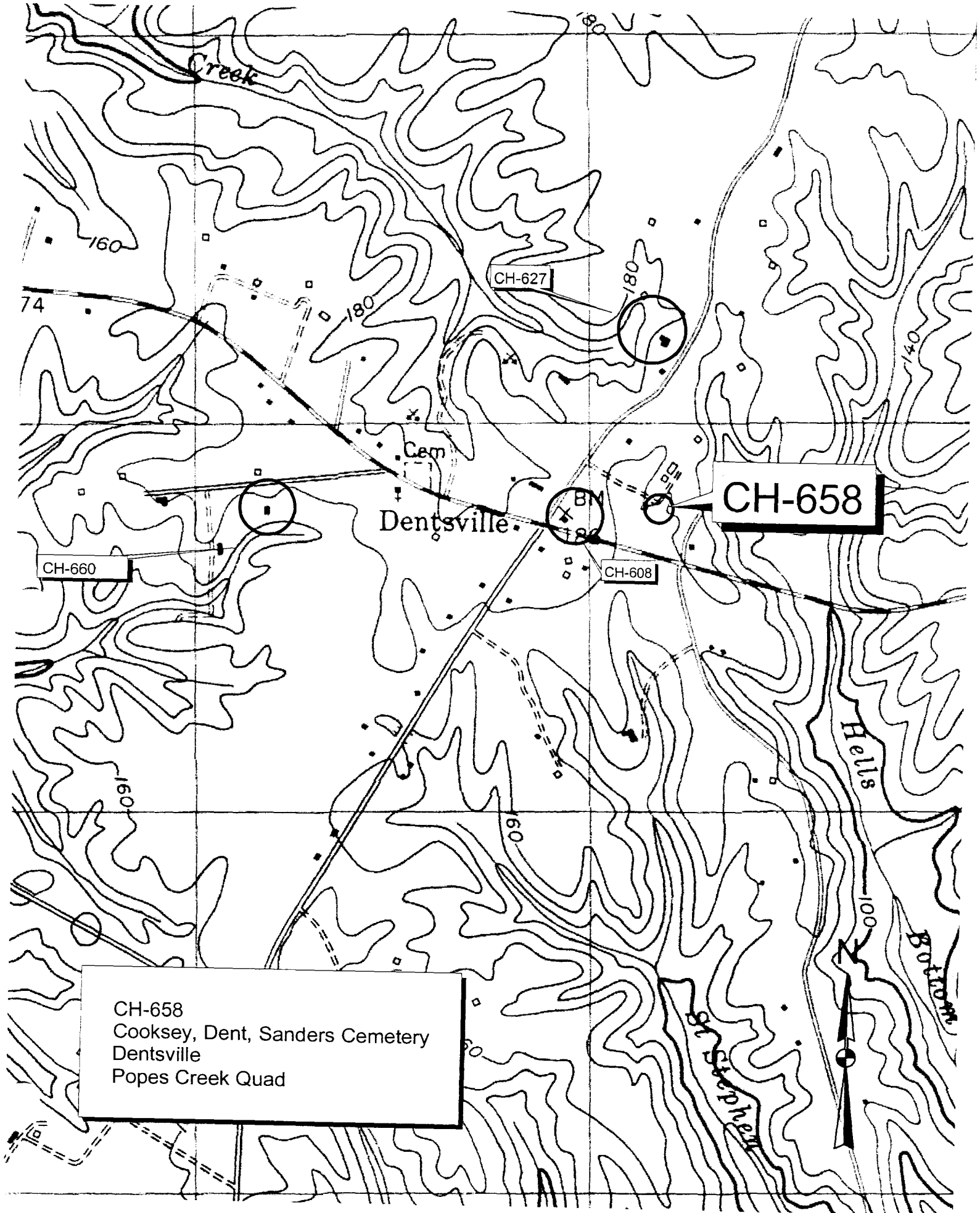


237



57 234

231



Creek

CH-627

CH-658

CH-660

CH-608

Dentonville

Cem

Hells

Bottom

CH-658  
Cooksey, Dent, Sanders Cemetery  
Dentonville  
Popes Creek Quad





CH-658

COOKSEY, DENT

SANDERS GRAVES

DENTSVILLE

1/2001

C. CURREY

MD SHPD

LOOKING NW

1 OF 1