

# Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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## REPORT INFORMATION:

2010 Gibb, J.G.  
Grave Recovery at the Cole Family Cemetery (18HA315), Aberdeen, Maryland.  
Submitted to the Cole Family Descendants and Merritt Properties, LLC  
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## Research Firm/Institution:

Gibb Archaeological Consulting  
2554 Carrollton Road  
Annapolis, MD 21403

## Sites examined:

18HA315

## Project Details:

Phase I

### Project Justification:

Phase II

This report describes the 2010 recovery of historic graves at the Merritt Properties development in Aberdeen. Merritt Properties, LLC, was (then) proposing development of an abandoned sand and gravel pit on the northern edge of Aberdeen. Based on the techniques used and the 40-60 years of forest growth, the parcel was quarried sometime after World War II, probably in connection with highway construction or suburban tract development. The miners excavated around a family cemetery lot (18HA315) leaving a "mound" roughly 3.66 m (12 ft) high where members of the Cole family were interred. Their descendants have requested respectful disinterment prior to site demolition, analysis to determine identity, and re-interment in a maintained cemetery.

Phase III



### Project Objectives:

-Recover the remains from all of the surviving graves at the Cole Family cemetery.

## Research Potential:

The 2010 excavations at 18HA315 cleared the way for development of the parcel. Consequently, the site is not a significant site. Any remaining research potential lies with the forensic work being carried out by the Smithsonian Institution. A final report by the Smithsonian is presumably forthcoming, in keeping with the wishes of the Cole family.