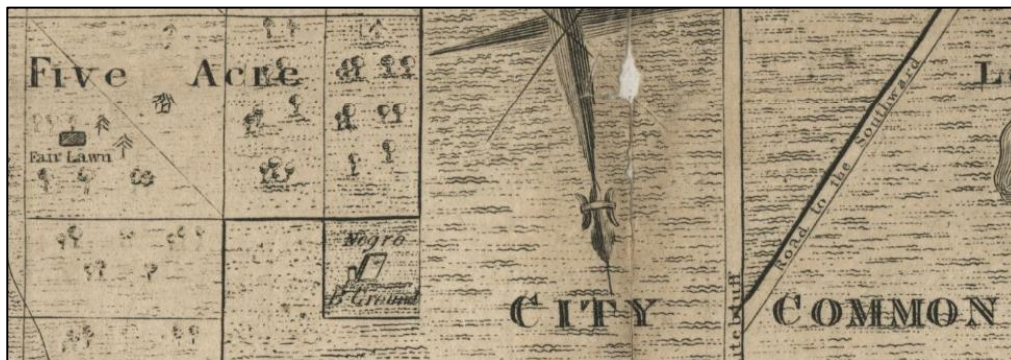


Savannah's "Negro Burial Grounds" and "Strangers Burial Ground"



March 2021



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RESEARCH SUMMARY

In an effort to better understand the history, evolution, and location of Savannah's burial grounds for slaves and free persons of color, the following research was compiled from the archival collections preserved in the City of Savannah Municipal Archives and those available online from various repositories (in-person research was limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic and organizational closures). It is our intention through this document to make these records more freely available to historians, researchers, students, and Savannah's citizens for their use and interpretation. A brief historical summary is provided, followed by a fully cited historical timeline, and all supporting documents. In addition, City staff have taken the historical maps located and overlaid them on a modern map to help provide visuals for where the burial ground in use from at least 1810 to 1844 was located near Whitefield Square. A review of ground penetrating radar (GPR) analysis conducted in Calhoun and Whitefield squares as part of a National Park Service archaeological study, is included as well.

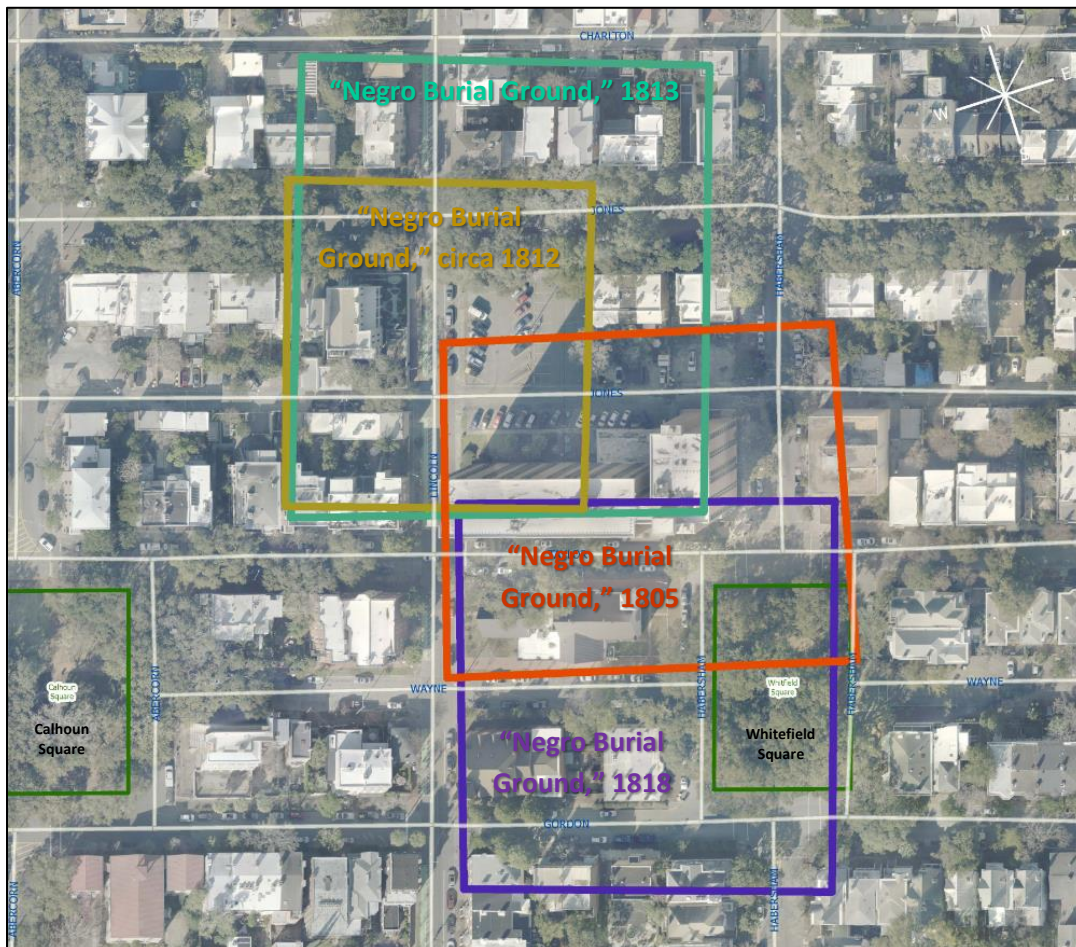
TERMINOLOGY

It is acknowledged that some people may find the name "Negro Burial Ground" offensive or inappropriate. The decision to use this term throughout this document was based on the historical records located (see *Supporting Documents* for digital reproductions). This is the overwhelmingly predominant name used to describe the burial grounds for slaves and free persons of color. Other descriptive names used in the records include: "burial ground for persons [or people] of color"; "burial ground for slaves and free persons"; "Negro cemetery"; and "African cemetery" (only one instance of the word African was found). It is important to note that these burial grounds were intended for all persons of color, whether enslaved or free, and they were never intended as solely slave cemeteries.

Savannah had different cemeteries for different groups of people. What we now call Colonial Park Cemetery was set aside for the majority of Savannah's white population. However, the Jewish population also had separate cemeteries (the original near the intersection of Bull Street and Oglethorpe Avenue). When Colonial Park Cemetery became full, a new cemetery was laid out called "Strangers Burial Ground" for those not from Savannah or without family already buried in Colonial Park. This cemetery was also referred to later as "Potter's Field" and was intended as a white cemetery to supplement Colonial Park. The "Negro Burial Ground" was Savannah's Black cemetery. The different cemeteries separated Savannah by race, class, and religion, even in death.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY

See the Historical Timeline and Supporting Documents sections for more detailed information, full citations, and original source documents.

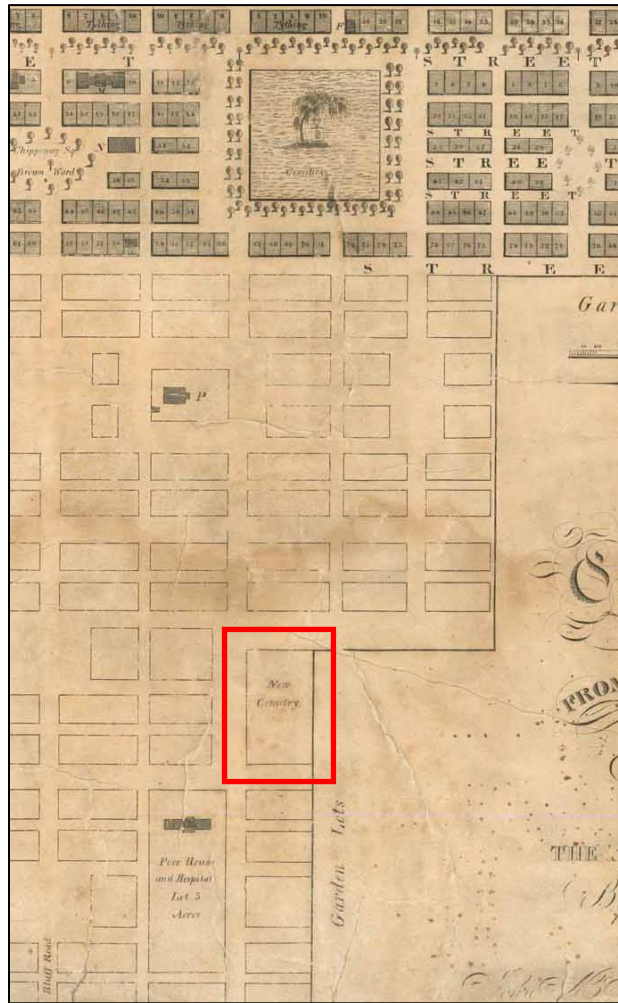


"Negro Burial Ground" identified in maps dating 1805, circa 1812, 1813, and 1818 (Whitefield Square 2021)

Detail from "Historic Cemeteries" overlay, see *Map Overlays* for full overlay image.

See *Historical Documents* for historical source maps.

In 1763, the British colonial Georgia General Assembly passed an act directing a burial ground for "negroes" measuring 200 feet square be laid out in the Town Common towards the five-acre garden lots. In 1789, the Savannah Board of Wardens adopted an ordinance authorizing the County Surveyor to measure and lay out the burial ground which the General Assembly had authorized in 1763, implying this had never been completed. Surveyor Claud Thompson completed the survey laying out the 200-foot square burial ground in the Town Common near the garden lots according to Savannah's 1770 Town Plan. Apparently Savannahians continued to bury their dead in other areas of the Town Common, outside of this 200 by 200 foot square, since in 1810 City Council passed another ordinance designating a space in the South Town Common measuring 330 feet by 364 feet as a "burial ground for people of colour" and repealed the 1789 ordinance. They allotted the new space of ground based on the area that included the greatest number of graves in one spot in the Town Common at that time. In 1813, City Council increased this burial ground to 300 feet by 650 feet and paid \$20.00 to enclose it. Maps from 1805, circa 1812, and 1813 all show the "Negro Burial Ground" in the vicinity of Whitefield Square near the Fair Lawn property and the five-acre garden lots (see *Supporting Documents* for historical maps). The existence of an 1805 map, which was based on an 1802 survey by John McKinnon, identifying the "Negro Burial Ground" in the same general vicinity of the area designated in 1810 as the "Negro Burial Ground" indicates this area had long been in use as a burial ground.



"Strangers Burial Ground," outlined in red, labeled as the "New Cemetery" from "This Plan of the City of Savannah from actual survey is respectfully inscribed to the Honorable the Mayor, the Aldermen and Citizens by their most Obt. Servants McKinnon & Wright," 1820. Record Series 3121-007, Engineering Department – General Maps, Item XA-29. City of Savannah Municipal Archives.

In 1819, City Council passed an ordinance appropriating 455 feet by 240 feet for the "Strangers Burial Ground" (also referred to as the "New Cemetery" and later often called "Potter's Field"). The "Strangers Burial Ground" was located 565 yards south of the old cemetery (Colonial Park Cemetery) and was designated for the interment of all strangers or persons who died in Savannah without relations buried in the old cemetery. "Strangers Burial Ground" was intended to alleviate overcrowding in the white cemetery and was not open to the interment of slaves or persons of color.

In 1844, City Council authorized the City Surveyor to lay out two new cemeteries south of the Hospital (which was located between Drayton and Abercorn streets, east of present day Forsyth Park) to replace the "Strangers Burial Ground" and the "Negro Burial Ground" which were both overcrowded. To date, a survey of these two cemeteries has not been located. In 1849, the Committee on Health and Cemetery was directed to take any measures deemed appropriate in regard to the "abandoned Potter's field and Negro Cemetery" (presumably the "Negro Burial Ground" located near Whitefield Square and the "Strangers Burial Ground" located adjacent to Calhoun Square were replaced by the new cemeteries south of the hospital). In 1850, the Committee was empowered to remove the vaults from the "old Negro Cemetery, or construct new ones for the deposite [sic] of the remains of those now in Vaults in the new cemetery," indicating remains were being shifted from the "Negro Burial Ground" near Whitefield Square to the one south of the hospital.

In November 1850, the Springfield Committee recommended to City Council setting aside seventy-five (75) acres of the Springfield Plantation for a new public cemetery, including a portion for Strangers and a section for a new "Negro Cemetery." In 1852, City Council authorized the Health and Cemetery Committee to select a site for a new "negro cemetery" and on June 3, 1852 City Council passed an ordinance dedicating fifteen (15) acres in the southwestern portion of the new public cemetery "for the interment of the remains of deceased persons of color." In February 1855, City Council authorized the City Marshal to have the vaults from the "old Negro Cemetery South of the hospital" removed at the expense of the City to the new cemetery, and between March and April 1855, the City Marshal oversaw the removal of remains from the "Negro Burial Ground" and the "Strangers Burial Ground" to Laurel Grove Cemetery. During the year, the City spent \$722.75 on the relocation of remains from the "Negro Burial Ground," however it is unclear how much was spent on the "Negro Burial Ground" near Whitefield Square and the "Negro Burial Ground" south of the hospital as part of this transition to Laurel Grove Cemetery.

Snapshot of the "Negro Burial Grounds" in Savannah



- **1789-1810** – 200-foot square burial ground in Town Common near five-acre lots
- **1810-1844** – 330 feet x 364 feet/300 feet x 650 feet in South Town Common (near Whitefield Square)
- **1844-1852** – In Town Common south of the Hospital
- **1852-1855** – Transition to Laurel Grove Cemetery (relocation of vaults and remains)

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1763 April 7: The British colonial Georgia General Assembly government passed an act directing "That there be laid out, and inclosed [sic] in a line with the said cemetery [Colonial Park Cemetery], adjoining the lines of the common, towards the five acre lots, a place of two hundred feet square for the convenience of a burial ground for negroes." [Source: Watkins, Robert and George Watkins, *A digest of the laws of the state of Georgia From its first establishment as a British province down to the year 1798, inclusive, and the principal acts of 1799* (Philadelphia: R. Aitken, 1800), page 85. Available online at: https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/ga_code/11; "An Ordinance for enlarging the Cemetery or Public Burial Ground" (29 July 1789). Record Series 5600PC-34, Park and Tree Commission Records – Ordinances, Item 1. City of Savannah Municipal Archives.]

1789 July 29: The Savannah Board of Wardens* adopted an ordinance authorizing the County Surveyor to measure and lay out 200-foot square for the burial ground authorized in the 1763 General Assembly act. Surveyor Claud Thompson completed this survey, laying out a 200-foot square in the Town Common based on the Town Plan as corrected in 1770. [Source: "An Ordinance for enlarging the Cemetery or Public Burial Ground" (29 July 1789). Record Series 5600PC-34, Park and Tree Commission Records – Ordinances, Item 1. City of Savannah Municipal Archives; *Rules and Regulations for the government of the Church Wardens & Vestrymen of the Episcopal Church, in Savannah, called Christ Church...* Published by Order of the Vestry (Savannah: George N. Nichols, Printer, 1857), page 13. Available online through Hathi Trust at: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100647691/Home>.]

**An act of the Georgia General Assembly in February 1787 chartered the Town of Savannah and created a new local government called the Board of Wardens, Savannah's first municipal government after the establishment of the State of Georgia and County of Chatham. The Board of Wardens was led by a Board President. The Board of Wardens led Savannah's local government until an act of the State Legislature passed on December 23, 1789 incorporated the City of Savannah and created the positions of Mayor and Aldermen.*

1810 September 3: Savannah City Council passed an ordinance appropriating a space in the south Town Common measuring 330 feet by 364 feet as a "burial ground for people of colour" and made it unlawful to bury the dead on any other part of the City Common under penalty of ten dollar for every body buried, with the informer entitled to one half of the amount of the penalty and the other half to be held for the purpose of enclosing the said burial ground and keeping it in repair. The 1810 ordinance also repealed the 1789 ordinance which had laid out an area 200 feet square to be used as "a burial ground for Negroes" since the practice of burying remains in other areas of the City Common had persisted. By the new 1810 ordinance, City Council allotted a certain space of ground that included the greater number of graves at present in the Common. [Source: "An Ordinance," *The Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger* (11 September 1810), page 2, column 1.]

1813 June 28: Savannah City Council passed an ordinance amending the ordinance of September 3, 1810 to increase the dimensions of the "burial ground for persons of color" to three hundred (300) feet in width and six hundred and fifty (650) feet in length. The ordinance also directed for the space to be posted and railed in. [Source: "An Ordinance," *The Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger* (3 July 1813), page 3, column 4.]

1813 July 12: Savannah City Council passed an ordinance related to the regulation of the "Burial Ground of persons of color" directing James Watts, the sexton, to inspect each grave prior to interments. [Source: "Notice," *The Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger* (21 August 1813), page 1, column 4.]

1813 August 31: The Savannah City Treasurer's Report was published in the local newspaper and documented that the City of Savannah paid \$20.00 for posts to enclose the "Negro Burying Ground." [Source: *The Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger* (31 August 1813), page 2, column 2.]

1818 August 24: Savannah City Council passed "An Ordinance, for the better regulation of the Sextons Bill of Mortality, and for other purposes therein mentioned," which included that it was the duty of the sexton to superintend and keep in charge the "negro burying ground of this city." [Source: "An Ordinance," *Savannah Republican* (22 September 1818), page 4, column 2.]

1819 August 23: Savannah City Council passed an ordinance appropriating ground for a new cemetery for the interment of strangers. The ordinance identified "that portion of ground containing four hundred and fifty five [455] feet in length and two hundred and forty [240] feet in breadth, lying and being five hundred and sixty five [565] yards south of the present burial ground [now known as Colonial Park Cemetery], and designated in the plan hereto annexed, is hereby set apart and expressly appropriated for the interment of all strangers or persons who should happen to die within the city aforesaid and who shall not have any relations buried in the present cemetery." The "Strangers Burial Ground" (also known later as "Potter's Field") was for designated for white people and was intended to alleviate the overcrowding of Colonial Park Cemetery. [Source: "An Ordinance," *Savannah Daily Republican* (August 31, 1819), page 3, column 3.]

1820: The official City map authorized and adopted by Savannah City Council in 1820 indicated the "New Cemetery" approved by the ordinance of 1819 on the eastern side of Abercorn Street. The map also indicated the future layout of the wards in the Town Common. [Source: "This Plan of the City of Savannah from actual survey is respectfully inscribed to the Honorable the Mayor, the Aldermen and Citizens by their most Obt. Servants McKinnon & Wright," 1820. Record Series 3121-007, Engineering Department – General Maps, Item XA-29. City of Savannah Municipal Archives.]

1823 March 19: A Select Committee of citizens appointed on March 10th presented their report to the City related to the relief of disabled and diseased poor of the city. The report referred to a published report made on November 28, 1822 which outlined estimates and provided an update on those estimates including a "Reduction on estimate negro Burial Ground 442.00." [Source: "City Meeting," *Savannah Georgian* (22 March 1823), page 1, column 2.]

1823 April 1: Savannah Clerk of Council M. Myers advertised for proposals to repair the fences around the new burial ground ("Strangers Burial Ground") and the "Negro Burial Ground." [Source: "Notice," *Savannah Daily Republican* (1 April 1823), page 2, column 5.]

1828 May 8: Savannah City Council passed an ordinance authorizing the Health Cemetery Committee to call out male "free persons of color" to work on the "Negro Cemetery." City Marshal F. M. Stone published notices in the *Savannah Republican* throughout the latter half of May 1828 notifying all male "persons of color" between the ages of 16 and 60 to appear at the "Negro Burial Ground" on the first and second day of June at 6 o'clock for the purpose of repairing the fence around the cemetery. [Source: *The Georgian* (9 May 1828), page 2, column 1; "Notice," *Savannah Republican* (17 May 1828), page 3, column 1; "Notice," *Savannah Republican* (23 May 1828), page 1, column 6.]

1832 August 22: Savannah City Council resolved to furnish the materials necessary to repair the fence around the "Negro Cemetery" and authorized the City Marshal to order the "free colored" males to execute the work. [Source: "In Council, 22d August 1832," *Daily Savannah Republican* (25 August 1832), page 2, column 3; *The Georgian* (25 August 1832), page 2, column 1.]

1838 October 25: Savannah City Council resolved to authorize the City Marshal, under the direction of the Cemetery Committee, to repair the fence around the "Negro Burial Ground." [Source: *The Daily Georgian* (27 October 1838), page 2, column 3.]

1840 December 17: Savannah City Council directed the Cemetery Committee to advertise for proposals to repair the "Negro Cemetery." In early January 1841, Wm. H. Cuyler and M. H. McAllister with the Cemetery Committee advertised in the *Daily Georgian* for proposals for erecting a fence around the "Negro Cemetery." [Source: *The Weekly Georgian* (2 January 1841), page 1, column 6; *The Daily Georgian* (6 January 1841), page 1, column 7; *The Daily Georgian* (8 January 1841), page 1, column 7.]

1840 July-1841 June: According to the Savannah City Treasurer's annual financial report for the period July 1, 1840 through June 30, 1841, the City paid for a new fence around the "African Cemetery." [Source: "City Treasurer's Office, Savannah, July 1st, 1841," *Savannah Daily Republican* (15 July 1841), page 3, column 3.]

1841 April 8: During a Savannah City Council meeting, a report of plats and surveys in the Clerk's office was provided and included mention of a "map of Negro Cemetery." [Source: *Savannah Daily Republican* (14 April 1841), page 2, column 3.]

1844 February 8: Savannah City Council adopted a resolution offered by the Committee on Health and Cemetery who recommended the closing of the "Strangers Burial Ground" and the "Negro Cemetery" for two reasons: "First, that the ground cannot be broken without disturbing the remains of the dead"; and "Secondly, that the new cemetery ["Strangers Burial Ground"] encroaches upon private property." City Council authorized the Chairman on Health and Cemetery to close the "Strangers Burial Ground" and the "Negro Cemetery" and enclose any ground belonging to the city "South of the Hospital for two other Cemeteries." The resolution also authorized the City Surveyor to lay out the two new cemeteries to replace them. [Source: *Savannah Daily Republican* (12 February 1844), page 2, column 4.]

1846 April 30: Savannah City Council appropriated a sum of \$40.00 for the erection of a bridge across the canal east of the Hospital to extend Abercorn Street and provide a "more direct communication with the negro burial place." [Source: "Proceedings of Council," *Savannah Daily Republican* (4 May 1846), page 2, column 5.]

1849 November 8: Savannah City Council passed a resolution instructing the Committee on Health and Cemetery to take measures they deemed appropriate and necessary regarding the "abandoned Potter's field and Negro Cemetery." [Source: "Proceedings of Council," *Savannah Daily Republican* (10 November 1849), page 2, column 3.]

1850 January 17: Savannah City Council adopted a resolution that the Committee on Health and Cemetery be empowered to appropriate additional ground adjoining the "cemetery for colored persons" if it could be acquired, and that they also be empowered to remove the vaults in the "old Negro Cemetery, or construct new ones for the deposit [sic] of the remains of those now in Vaults in the new cemetery." [Source: "Proceedings of Council," *A Friend of the Family* (19 January 19), page 2, column 4.]

1850 November 26: The Springfield Committee, a committee of Aldermen and Citizens charged with enquiring into the proper mode of disposing of the Springfield Purchase, submitted their report to the Savannah City Council on their deliberations, including the question of a new cemetery which they considered with the assistance of the Health and Cemetery Committee. The Springfield Committee recommended that a new cemetery be established and set apart, containing about 75 acres. The Committee also recommended that families having dead buried in the old Cemetery (Colonial Park Cemetery) be allowed lots in the new Cemetery free of charge on the condition that they remove their dead, that a portion of the new Cemetery be reserved for Strangers and those not holding lots, and they were unanimous in their recommendation that the "old Cemetery should never be appropriated to any other purposes." Regarding accommodations for a "Negro Burial Ground," the report included the statement "The Committee add, by way of information, that a suitable site can also be reserved for a Negro Cemetery." [Source: "Proceedings of Council," *A Friend of the Family* (30 November 1850), page 2, column 7.]

1851 March 13: Savannah City Council passed an ordinance laying out Calhoun Ward (with Calhoun Square), Troup Ward (with Troup Square), and Wesley Ward (with Whitfield Square*). [Source: Wilson, Edward G., *A Digest of All the Ordinances of the City of Savannah... which were of force on the 1st January, 1858...* (Savannah: John M. Cooper & Co., 1858), page 71.]

*The ordinance as published in the 1858 City Code Book spells Whitefield as "Whitfield."

1852 February 12: Savannah City Council authorized the Health and Cemetery Committee to select a site for a new "negro cemetery" and "have the same enclosed and placed in order for burial purposes." [Source: *Savannah Daily Republican* (14 February 1852), page 2, column 5.]

1852 April-May: The Committee of Council on Health and Cemetery advertised in the local newspaper for proposals for enclosing the five acres on Springfield Plantation "intended for the new Negro Cemetery, in a similar manner to the old grave yard south of the Hospital." [Source: "Proposals," *Savannah Daily Republican* (28 April 1852), page 2, column 7.]

1852 June 3: Savannah City Council passed an ordinance dedicating a portion of Springfield Plantation as a Public Cemetery and provided for the sale of lots, as well as the protection, preservation, adornment and regulation of the Cemetery. Section 9 of the ordinance addressed "the duty of Council, also to provide a suitable place for the interment of deceased free persons of color and slaves," and stated "That there shall be laid out in the South-western portion of the lands before set apart for the Cemetery fifteen acres of ground, which shall be used alone for the interment of the remains of deceased persons of color, under such regulation as Council may from time to time prescribe." [Source: Henry, Charles S., *A Digest of all the Ordinances of the City of Savannah which were of force on the 1st July 1854...* (Savannah: Purse's Print, 1854), page 45.]

1853 January 27: Savannah City Council passed a resolution requiring the Mayor to issue a proclamation "closing the old cemetery for the purpose of interment after the first of July next." On May 9, 1853, Mayor R. Wayne issued the proclamation stating "after the first day of July next, the old or Brick Cemetery will be closed for the purpose of interment." [Source: Henry, Charles S., *A Digest of all the Ordinances of the City of Savannah which were of force on the 1st July 1854...* (Savannah: Purse's Print, 1854), page 50.]

1853 April 7: Savannah City Council authorized the Committee on Health and Cemetery to repair the fence around the "old Negro Cemetery." [Source: "Proceedings of Council," *Daily Morning News* (9 April 1853), page 1, column 2.]

1853 May 5: Savannah City Council directed the City Treasurer to pay the City Marshal \$15.00, the balance due for work done at the "negro cemetery." [Source: *Daily Morning News* (7 May 1853), page 1, column 2.]

1853 June 6: Savannah City Council directed the City Treasurer to pay \$15.00 for repairing the fence at the "new negro cemetery." [Source: *The Savannah Daily Georgian* (9 June 1853), page 2, column 5.]

1854 March 9: Savannah City Council passed an ordinance adding the City domain lying north of Gaston Street, south of Gordon Street, and east of Drayton Street to Calhoun Ward, this being the southern section of Calhoun Ward. [Source: Wilson, Edward G., *A Digest of All the Ordinances of the City of Savannah... which were of force on the 1st January, 1858...* (Savannah: John M. Cooper & Co., 1858), page 72; *Historic Savannah: A Survey of Significant Buildings in the Historic Districts of Savannah, Georgia*, 3rd Ed. (Savannah: Historic Savannah Foundation, 2005), page 212.]

1855 February 22: Savannah City Council authorized the City Marshal to have the vaults in the "old negro Cemetery South of the hospital, together with their contents, removed at the expense of the city, to the new negro Cemetery; provided that the relatives or friends of the deceased persons in the vaults, select ground for that purpose." [Source: *Daily Morning News* (23 February 1855), page 2, column 2.]

1855 March 15: The Savannah City Treasurer documented in the City cash book that the City paid the City Marshal \$83.50 for the "Hire of Laborers in removing Remains of Negroes to New Cemetery." [Source: Record Series 5600CT-410 City Treasurer – Cash Books, Volume 11, 1853-1856, page 243, March 15, 1855, Incidental Expenses. City of Savannah Municipal Archives.]

1855 April 3: "We learn from the Chairman of the Board of Health that the Marshal has nearly completed the removal of bodies from the Negro Cemetery and Potters Field. Much credit is due to those who have acted in this matter. The grounds are now quite clear and no longer present a picture of broken fences and stones, monuments more to the disgrace of the city, than to those whose virtues they were erected to record." [Source: *The Savannah Daily Georgian* (3 April 1855), page 2, column 2.]

1855 April 12: The Savannah City Treasurer recorded in the City cash book that the City paid the City Marshal \$152.00 "for removing remains of Negroes from Old to New Cemetery," as well as a second payment of \$121.50 "for removing remains of Negroes from Old to New Cemetery." [Source: Record Series 5600CT-410 City Treasurer – Cash Books, Volume 11, 1853-1856, page 257, April 12, 1855. City of Savannah Municipal Archives.]

1855 October 31: In his annual report for the year ending October 31, 1855, Savannah Mayor Edward C. Anderson reported on the relocation of the "Negro Cemetery" to Laurel Grove Cemetery:

"The rapid extension of the city southward, the dilapidated condition of the old negro cemetery, and the rude assaults of sacrilegious hands upon the repose of the dead, rendered it necessary to remove the remains of colored persons to the place appointed for their sepulture near the Laurel Grove Cemetery. This necessary work was attended with the small outlay of \$722.75, which has also been charged under the incidental head."

[Source: *Report of Edward C. Anderson, Mayor of the City of Savannah, for the year ending October 31st, 1855...* (Savannah, Ga.: Power Press of Geo. N. Nichols, 1855), page 7.]

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

An Act for amending an act for constituting and dividing the several districts and divisions of this province into parishes, and for establishing of religious worship therein, according to the rites and ceremonies of the church of England; and also for empowering the church-wardens and vestry-men of the respective parishes to assess rates for the repair of churches, the relief of the poor, and other parochial services, and for enlarging the public burial-ground at Savannah, and inclosing the same.

No. 94.

I. **E**MPOWERING church-wardens, &c. to levy parish tax.—Repugnant. See note, page 52.

II. * *And whereas* the cemetery in the parish of Christ church belonging to the said parish is become too small for the occasion, *Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the said cemetery be enlarged and extended to the line of Abercorn-street, to the westward, and one hundred feet to the southward, the whole to contain two hundred and ten feet square, and the church-wardens and vestry-men of the said parish are hereby empowered, at their discretion, to agree with and hire workmen to compleat, inclose, and finish the same.

Cemetery of Christ church enlarged.

III. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That there be laid out, and inclosed in a line with the said cemetery, adjoining the lines of the common, towards the five acre lots, a place of two hundred feet square for the conveniency of a burial-ground for negroes.

Burial ground allotted for negroes.

LEWIS JOHNSON, *Speaker.*
JAMES HABERSHAM, *President.*

JAMES WRIGHT.

April 7, 1763.

* See act of 1768, No. 178, enlarging the cemetery.

Watkins, Robert and George Watkins, *A digest of the laws of the state of Georgia From its first establishment as a British province down to the year 1798, inclusive, and the principal acts of 1799* (Philadelphia: R. Aitken, 1800), page 85. Available online at: https://digitalcommons.law.uga.edu/ga_code/11.

An Ordinance

For enlarging the Cemetery or Public Burial Grounds.

Whereas the Cemetery or public Burial of the Parish of Christ Church in the Town of Savannah, notwithstanding the several additions, which have by acts of General Assemblies under the Provincial Government been made thereto containing in the whole two hundred & ten feet in width and ~~Three hundred & eighty feet in length~~ is found too small to answer the purposes intended - and whereas it hath been represented to the Board of Wardens that it is necessary a further addition should be made thereto -

Be it Ordained - That the County Surveyor be authorized and required, and he is hereby authorized and required to admeasure & lay off, from the Lands being the common of the Town of Savannah, one hundred & twenty feet to the Eastward and Two hundred & ninety feet to the Southward to be added to the present Cemetery or Burial Ground so that the whole be five hundred feet square

And Be it Ordained, that the addition of ~~one hundred & twenty~~ and Two hundred & ninety feet Southward, so laid out added & extended, shall from henceforth and forever be and remain a public Burial Ground, for the Interment of all Christian People of whatever denomination, and not to be considered as belonging or appertaining solely to the Episcopal Church of Savannah commonly called Christ Church.

And Be it further Ordained - that with the consent of the Vestry of Christ Church a proper person shall be appointed to superintend the digging of Graves in the said Burial Ground to prevent the deposit of the Dead being disturbed, and that the person so to be appointed shall be entitled to demand and receive the following Fees. For digging the Grave and closing the same - Four Shillings.

And Whereas by an act of the General Assembly passed the seventh day of April 1763 Two hundred feet square on the common towards the five acre lots for the convenience of a Burial Ground for Negroes was directed to be laid out -

Be it further Ordained - That the County Surveyor be authorized and required

"An Ordinance for enlarging the Cemetery or Public Burial Ground" (29 July 1789), page 1. Record Series 5600PC-34, Park and Tree Commission Records - Ordinances, Item 1. City of Savannah Municipal Archives.

required, and he is hereby authorized and required to admeasure & lay out the said
Two hundred feet square for a Burial Ground for the said Negroes, and that the
same so admeasured and laid off shall be forever considered as a place of Burial
for the Negroes

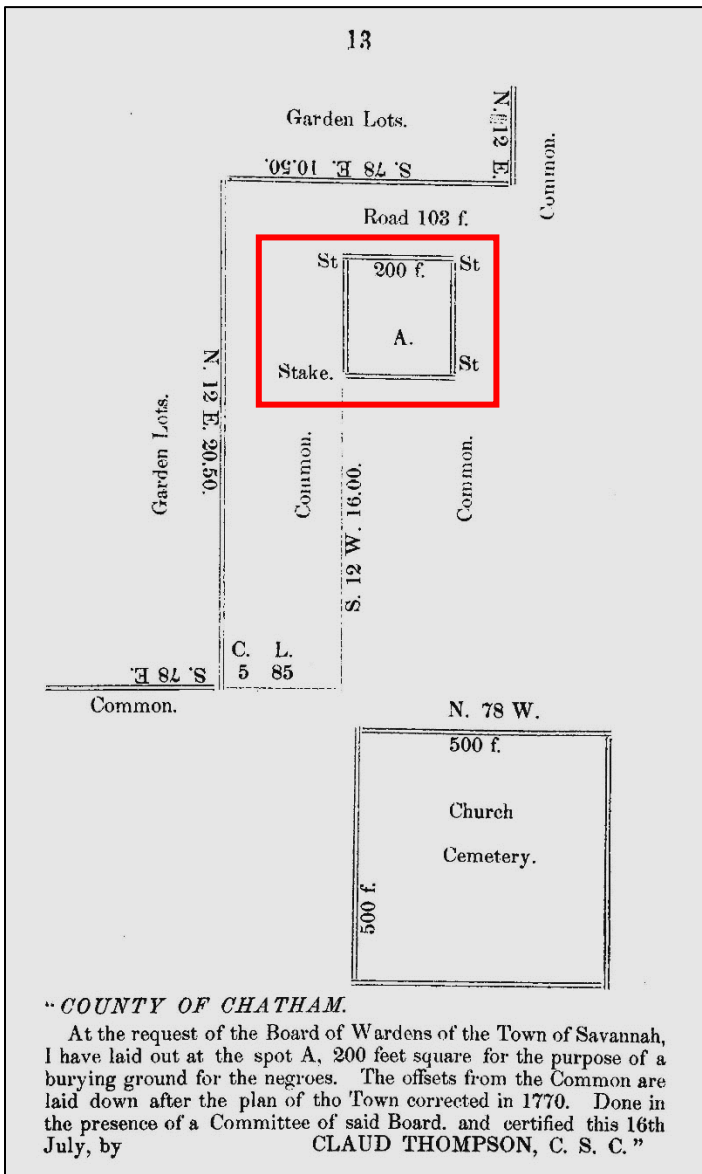
And be it further Ordained, - that the Plats of the said County
Surveyor be annexed to, and shall be considered as part of this Ordinance.

Attest
Thomas Pitt Town Clerk.

Signed by order of the Board Wardens convened
the 29th day of July 1789.
Samuel Smith: President.

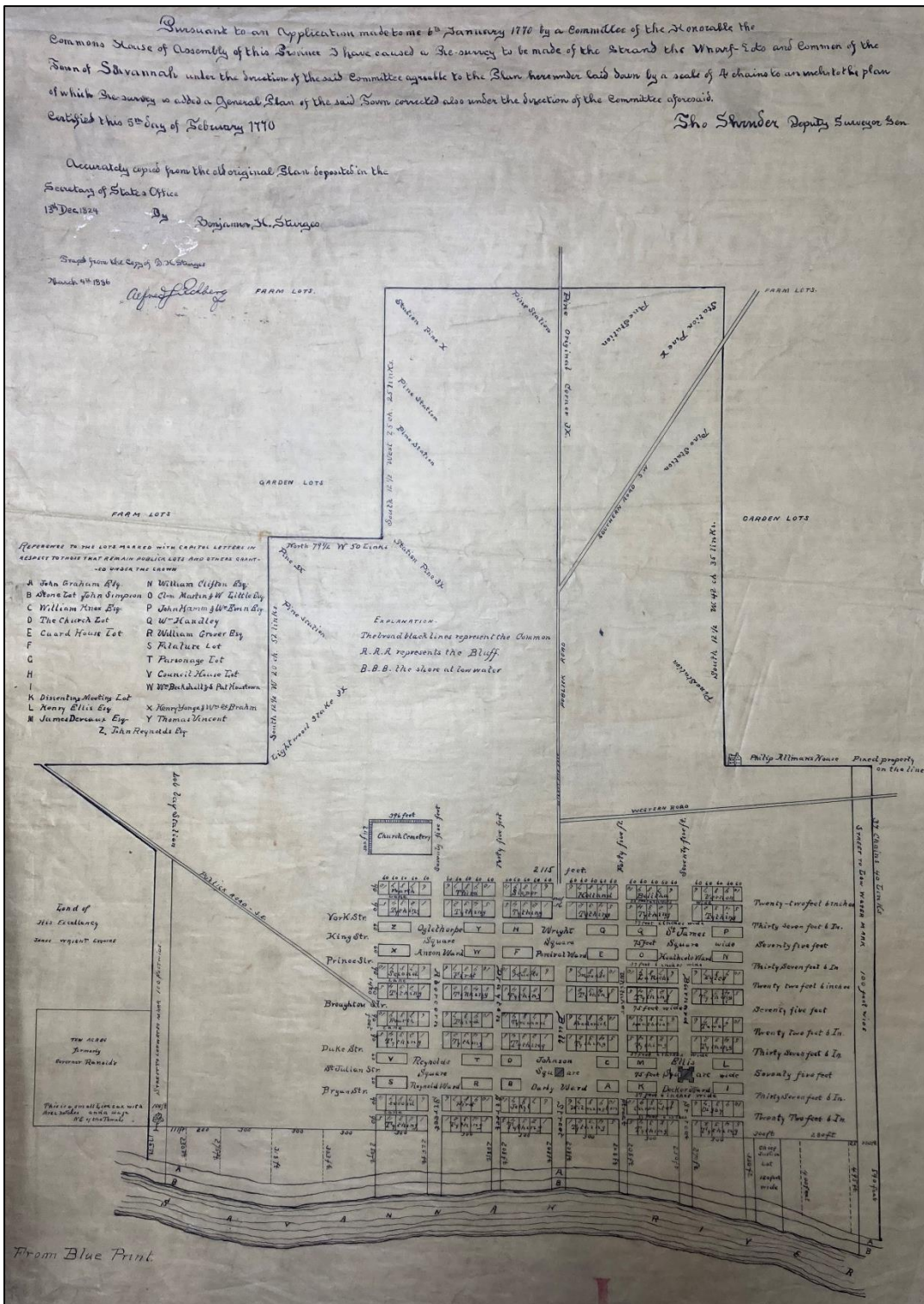
An Ordinance for
enlarging the Cemetery
or Public Burial Ground
and
for laying off 200 feet of
land for a Negro Burial
Ground.

"An Ordinance for enlarging the Cemetery or Public Burial Ground" (29 July 1789), page 2. Record Series 5600PC-34, Park and Tree Commission Records – Ordinances, Item 1. City of Savannah Municipal Archives.



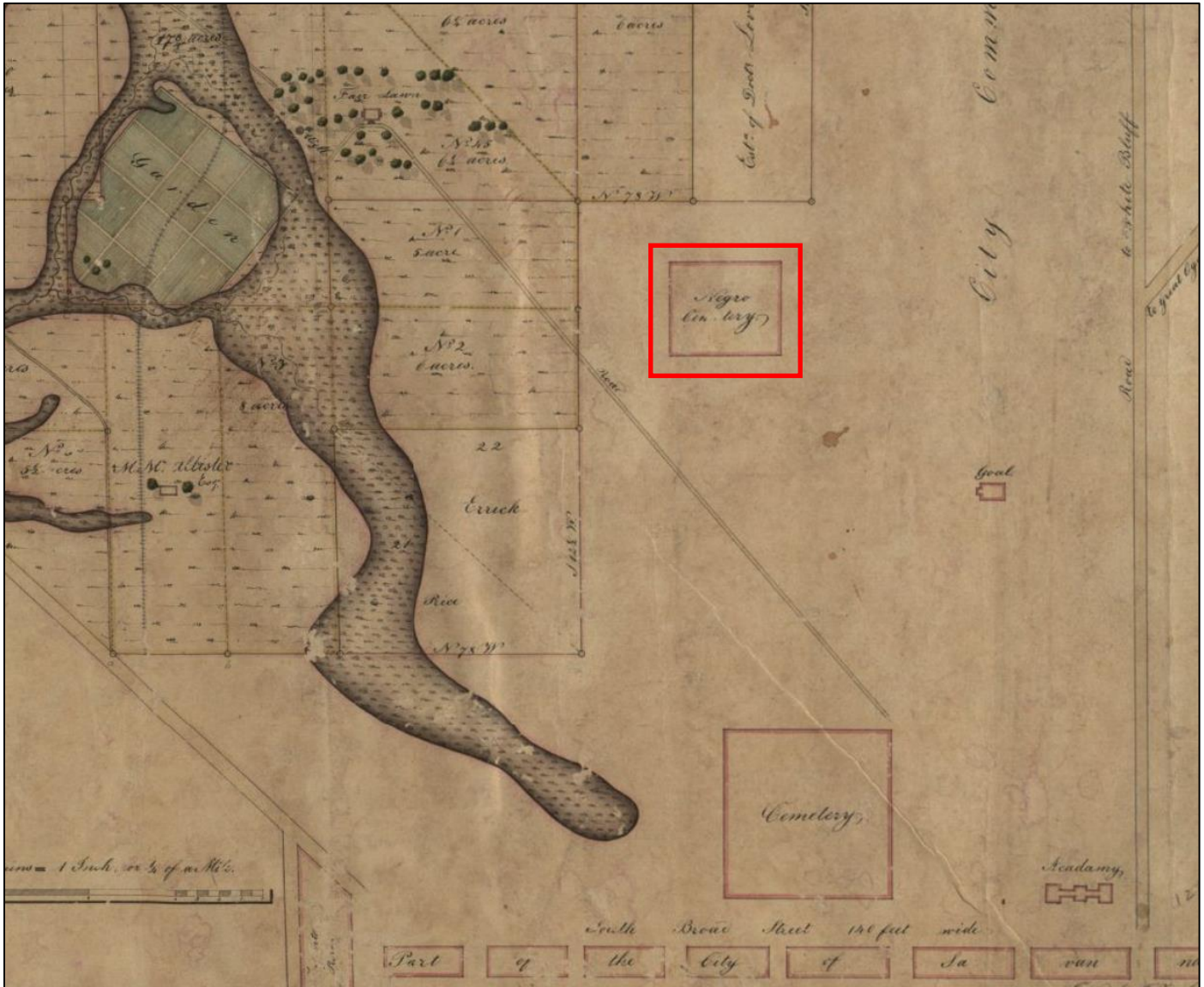
“Burying ground for the negroes” outlined in red from survey published in *Rules and Regulations for the government of the Church Wardens & Vestrymen of the Episcopal Church, in Savannah, called Christ Church....* Published by Order of the Vestry (Savannah: George N. Nichols, Printer, 1857), page 13. Available online through Hathi Trust at: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100647691/Home>.

Notes: north is oriented at the bottom of the image; see following page for the 1770 Town Plan referenced by Claud Thompson.



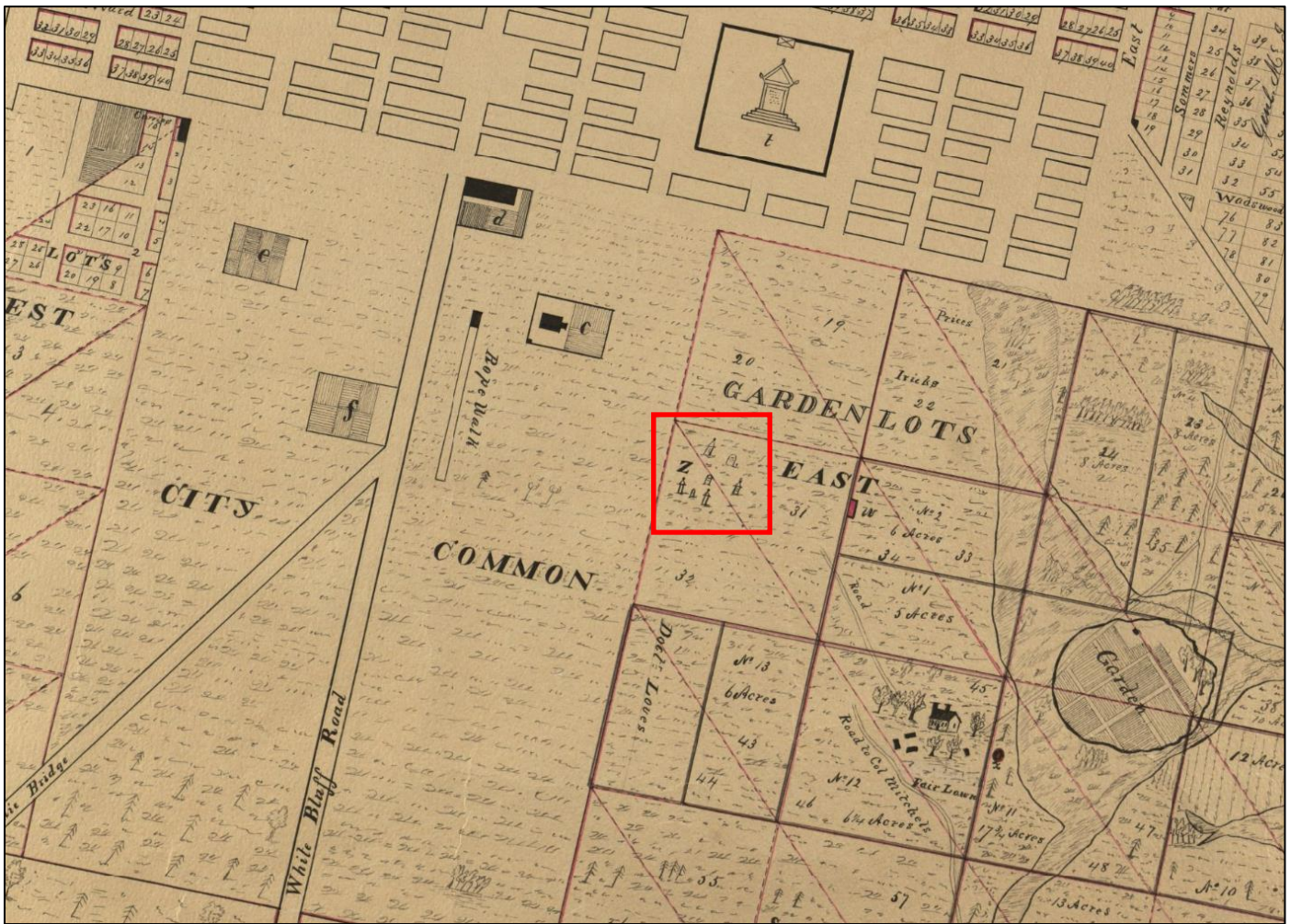
"The Wharf Lots and Commons of Town of Savannah. Pursuant to an application made to me 6th February 1770, by a Committee of the House of Commons of this Province, I have caused a re-survey to be made of the 'Strand' the Wharf Lots and Common of the Town of Savannah under the direction of the said committee agreeable to the plan hereunder laid down by a scale of four chains to an inch to the plan of which re-survey and added a General Plan of the said town corrected...," 1770 Tho. Shruder, Deputy Surveyor General (copy 1824; 1886 Benjamin Sturges). Record Series 3121-007, Engineering Department – General Maps, Item JJ-4. City of Savannah Municipal Archives.

Note: north is oriented at the bottom of the image.



"Negro Cemetery" outlined in red from "The annexed plan is a true representation of a resurvey made by me in May 1802 of a tract of land near the City of Savannah, known by the name of Fair Lawn, late the property of Col. Richard Wylly...," 1805, drawn by John McKinnon. Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Rare Map Collection. Available online at: https://dlg.usg.edu/record/guan_hmap_hmap1805m2#metadata.

Note: north is oriented at the bottom of the image.



"z" indicates "Negro Burying Ground" and is outlined in red from "Map of the City of Savannah," circa 1812, copy of map drawn by Col. Mossman Houstoun. Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Rare Map Collection, Spec C MAP 1812? H6. Available online at: https://dlg.usg.edu/record/guan_hmap_hmap1812h6.

Note: north is oriented at the top of the image.



"Negro B. Ground" outlined in red from "Plan of the City of Savannah in Chatham County, State of Georgia," 1813. Original source unknown.

Note: north is oriented at the bottom of the image.

An Ordinance,

Appropriating a space of ground to be used as the burial place for people of colour; for preventing the bodies of people of colour from being buried on any part of the city common or parts adjoining, except within the limits of the said space of ground, and for other purposes, within mentioned.

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Wardens, did, by an Ordinance, passed the 29th of July, in the year of our Lord 1789, appropriate and set apart, a certain space of ground, of two hundred feet square, situated on the city commons, (a plat of which lot is thereunto annexed) to be used as "a burial ground for Negroes." And whereas certain persons not observing the limits, assigned to the said burial ground, have buried dead bodies on certain parts, of the city lots adjoining, by which means the value of the said lots, are daily becoming less. In order therefore to prevent such practices in future, council have allotted a certain space of ground, which includes the greater number of graves at present to be seen on the common, to be used at this time, henceforward and forever, as the burial place for people of colour, and for no other purpose whatever.

Be it therefore ordained, by the Mayor and Aldermen, of the City of Savannah, in Council assembled, and it is hereby ordained, by the authority of the same, That so much of the ordinance passed on the 29th July, 1789, as relates to the Negro's burying ground, be and the same is hereby repealed.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That a space of ground on the south common, consisting of (330) three hundred and thirty feet by (264) two hundred and sixty-four feet, which has been laid off by the city surveyor, a plat whereof is hereunto annexed, be appropriated as the burial ground for people of colour, and that it shall not be lawful to bury any dead body on any other part of the city common, or parts adjoining, under the penalty of Ten Dollars, for every body so buried.

And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the said penalty of ten dollars shall be collected in the usual summary manner, and that the informer against persons so offending, shall be entitled to one half the amount of said penalty, and the other half be held for the purpose of forming a fund for inclosing the said burying ground and for keeping the same in repair.

In Council, Savannah, September 3, 1810.

PASSED,
L. S. } W. B. BULLOCH, mayor.
X ATTEST, D. D. WILLIAMS, C. C

In Council, 13th September, 1810.

"An Ordinance," *The Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger* (11 September 1810), page 2, column 1.

An Ordinance

To amend an ordinance for appropriating a space of ground as a **Burial** place for Persons of Color.

*Be it ordained by the mayor and aldermen of the city of Savannah in council assembled, and it is hereby ordained by authority of the same, That from and after the passage of this ordinance, the **Burial Ground** for persons of color shall be of the following dimensions, to wit, three hundred feet in width and six hundred and fifty feet in length, as represented by the plan hereto annexed.*

Be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the said space of ground shall, as soon as convenient, be posted and railed in, so as to prevent, in future, burying persons without the said limits

Be it further ordained, That a person be appointed so to point out and inspect graves dug in said burying ground, for which he shall receive fifty cents for each, payable by the owners or friends of the persons so buried; and that the person so appointed shall see that all graves dug shall be, at least, six feet deep, and properly covered by the persons attending the funeral, under the penalty of five dollars, to be recovered as penalties are recoverable before council.

And be it further ordained, That for all persons of color buried beyond the limits aforesaid, the person or persons from whose house the funeral shall proceed, shall be liable to the like penalty of five dollars, to be recovered as other penalties are recovered before council.

And be it further ordained, That so much of an ordinance, passed on the third day of September, 1810, describing the boundaries of the burial ground for persons of color, be and the same is hereby repealed.

In Council, Savannah

[L. S.] Passed *June 28, 1813.*
 Attest **GEORGE JONES, mayor.**
[78] **D. D. WILLIAMS, c. c.**

"An Ordinance," *The Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger* (3 July 1813), page 3, column 4.

Notice.

In pursuance of an ordinance of council, passed the 12th of July last for the better regulating the **Burial Ground** of persons of color, it is requested, that on the death of any such persons, information thereof shall be given to Mr. James Watts, sexton, on South Common, who is duly appointed to inspect each grave that may hereafter be made there, previous to interments.

D. D. WILLIAMS, c. c.

aug. 19 — 98.

"Notice," *The Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger* (21 August 1813), page 1, column 4.

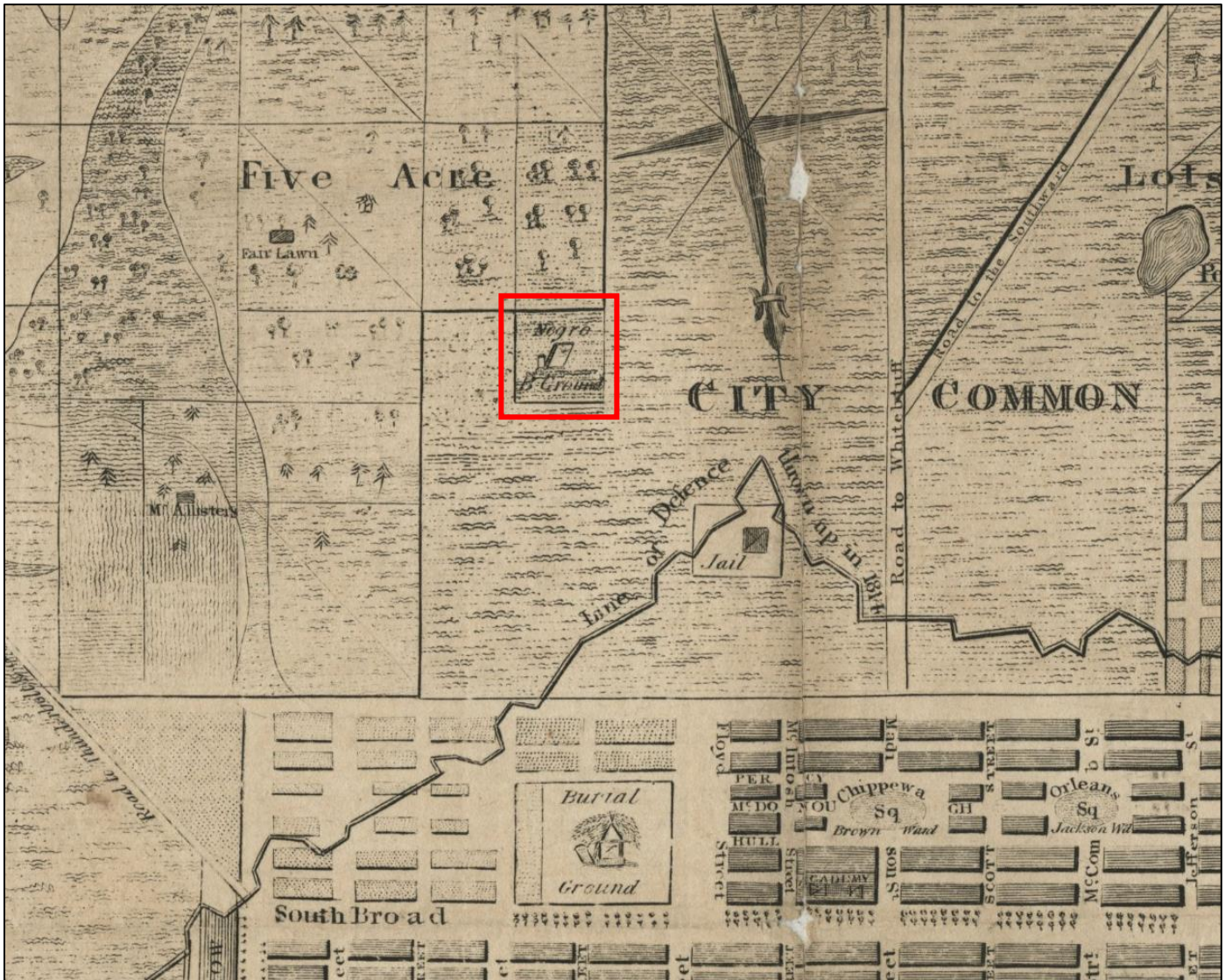
Received of Federal Marshal one year's rent.	300	
		1214 09
		<hr/>
By INCIDENTAL CHARGES.		1167 99 ¹ / ₄
Paid for celebration of naval victories.		917 54
		552 53
By CEMETRY--Paid Sexton's salary for keeping clean and keeping register of mortality	200	
Paid for an Index to Register of mortality,	20	
Paid making body to Hearse	50	
Do. repairing Gates,	181 37 ¹ / ₂	
		<hr/>
		461 37 ¹ / ₂
By NEGRO BURYING GROUND --		
Paid for posts to enclose same.	20	
By BALANCE ON HAND --		886 78 ¹ / ₂
		<hr/>
		Dollars, 20,729 05 3/4

15 3-4

JOHN PETTIBONE, City-Treasurer.

City Treasury Books, we find that his charges are correct and 284. That the balance above stated to be in the treasury at

City Treasurer's Report, *The Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger* (31 August 1813), page 2, column 2



"Negro B. Ground" outlined in red from "Plan of the City & Harbour of Savannah in Chatham County, State of Georgia, Taken in 1818," drawn and published by I. Stouf, engraved by Hughes, Curzon & Co. Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Rare Map Collection. Available online at: https://dlg.usg.edu/record/guan_hmap_hmap1818s7.

Note: north is oriented at the bottom of the image.

An Ordinance,

For the better regulation of the Sextons Bill of Mortality, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Whereas, reports of the unhealthiness of this city, in themselves erroneous and prejudicial to the best interests of this community, have been received and propagated abroad; and, whereas, these reports have in no small degree arisen out of the loose and irregular manner in which (owing to the imperfect condition of the ordinances on this subject) the records of mortality have been kept. To correct these reports, and to adopt such regulations as will enforce a fair account of all deaths that shall hereafter occur, and the conditions of persons dying within the limits of this city—

Be it ordained, by the mayor and aldermen of the city of Savannah, in council assembled, and it is ordained by authority of the same, That the clerk

Be it ordained, by the mayor and aldermen of the city of Savannah, in council assembled, and it is ordained by authority of the same, That the clerk of council shall, at the expense of this corporation, provide and furnish, to the sexton, a book, ruled and lined in such a manner as to designate the names, ages, sexes, whether they be whites or blacks, conditions, trades or professions, countries of birth, whether accustomed or unaccustomed to the climate, strangers, whether arriving before or during the sickly season, disease or casualty, and day of death, of those who die, together with a space for such remarks as the sexton may deem worthy of note, and that by the term accustomed to the climate shall be understood, such persons as have resided in the city at least three successive summers and autumns, or such as have resided five summers and autumns at intervals in this city, and by the term unaccustomed to the climate shall be understood, such persons as have remained one and less than three successive summers and autumns, or less than five summers and autumns, at intervals, in this city.

And, be it further ordained, by the authority of

Continued next page

And, be it further ordained, by the authority of the same, That it shall be the duty of the sexton to enter all deaths occurring in the city, setting down, in a fair and legible hand, the names, ages, sexes, whether they be whites or blacks, their conditions, trades or professions, whether they are accustomed or unaccustomed to the climate, if strangers, whether arriving before or during the sickly season, the disease or casualty causing death, and the day of death, together with whatever remarks he may deem pertinent, in the book, to be provided by the clerk of council.

And, be it further ordained, by authority of the same, That it shall be the duty of the sexton to make every enquiry relative to such as die, to enable him to make the proper entries, of such person or persons as he may deem best qualified to give the information required; and that, when the sexton is at all doubtful of the correctness of the statements given, he shall be authorized and directed to administer an oath to the informant or informants, to give to the best of his, her or their belief true and correct answers to such questions as may, by the sexton, be propounded to him, her or them; provided that the questions proposed by the sexton have a necessary and direct relation to the information which, by this ordinance, the sexton is required to obtain.

And, be it further ordained, That, if any person or persons shall refuse to give whatever in-

And, be it further ordained, That, if any person or persons shall refuse to give whatever information he, she or they may possess ——— of the nature required by this ordinance, or refuses to swear or affirm to the correctness of his, her or their statements, when required by the sexton, such person or persons, upon information brought before this board, by the sexton, (whose duty it shall be) shall be fined in a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, to be collected in the usual way.

And, be it further ordained, by authority of the same, That it shall be the duty of the sexton, and he is hereby required to apply to, and obtain in writing from, the attending physician of every deceased person, whom he shall inter or cause to be interred, the disease or casualty which occasioned death, the duration of disease, &c. signed by the physician, which statements the sexton shall preserve and file, subject to the inspection of council.

And, be it further ordained, That, whenever a person shall die without having received medical attendance, it shall be the duty of the sexton to enter in the record of mortality that the disease producing death was unknown, unless death was evidently the result of some obvious casualty; and that then he shall record what that casualty was

And, be it further ordained, by authority of the

Continued next page

that then he shall record what that casualty was
And, be it further ordained, by authority of the same, That it shall be the duty of the sexton to superintend and keep in charge the **negro burying** ground of this city; and that he shall inspect each and every grave before interment, and take due care that they be not less than six feet deep; and that, for each grave thus inspected in said **negro burying** ground, he shall be entitled to receive the sum of fifty cents.

And, be it further ordained, That, if any person shall **bury** or inter, in said **negro burying** ground, any deceased person or persons without the knowledge and permission of the sexton first had and obtained, the same shall, for each and every such offence, if a free white person, be fined in a sum not exceeding ten dollars; and, if a person of color, the sum of ten dollars, or shall receive not exceeding thirty-nine stripes.

And, be it further ordained, That, if any slave or slaves shall be **buried** in said **negro burying** ground without the knowledge and consent of the sexton, the person or persons, owning said slave or slaves at the time of death, shall be deemed the author or authors of such illegal interment or interments, and be fined accordingly.

And, be it further ordained, That it shall be the duty of the clerk of council annually, at the close of each year, to have printed, at the expense of council, one hundred copies of a summary of the deaths occurring in this city for that year, after the

And, be it further ordained, That it shall be the duty of the clerk of council annually, at the close of each year, to have printed, at the expense of council, one hundred copies of a summary of the deaths occurring in this city for that year, after the manner and form of the record of mortality; and to have one copy addressed to the mayor and aldermen of each of the chief cities of the United States, and to such European cities as the mayor may deem fit.

And, be it further ordained, That this ordinance shall go into operation on the first day of September next.

And, be it further ordained, That all ordinances or such parts of ordinances as are in effect, contrary to the spirit and intent of this ordinance be repealed and the same are hereby repealed.

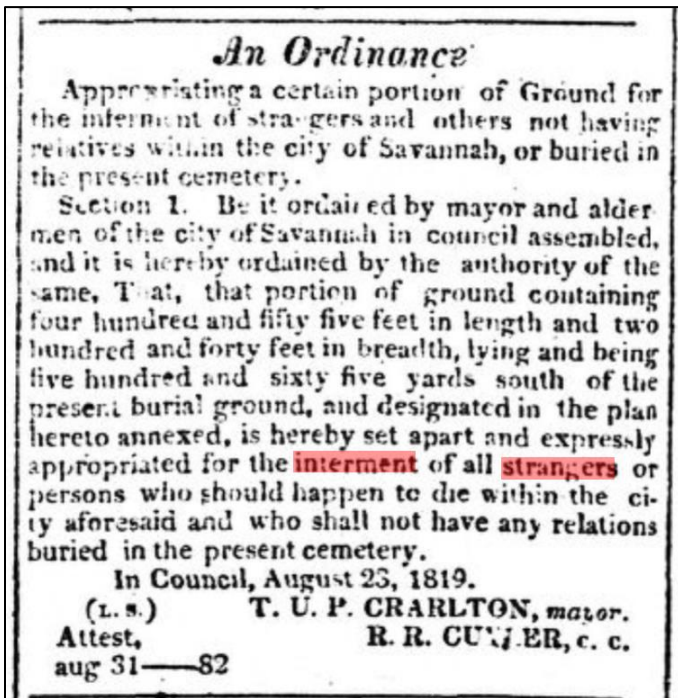
In Council, August 24, 1818

Passed, JAMES M. WAYNE, mayor.

[LS] Attest, R. R. CUYLER, c. c.

One Hundred and Thirty Dollars'

"An Ordinance," *Savannah Republican* (22 September 1818), page 4, column 2



"An Ordinance," *Savannah Daily Republican* (31 August 1819), page 3, column 3



"New Cemetery" outlined in red from "This Plan of the City of Savannah from actual survey is respectfully inscribed to the Honorable the Mayor, the Aldermen and Citizens by their most Obt. Servants McKinnon & Wright," 1820. Record Series 3121-007, Engineering Department – General Maps, Item XA-29. City of Savannah Municipal Archives.

Note: north is oriented at the top of the image.

<p>SAVANNAH :</p> <hr/> <p>FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 21, 1823.</p> <hr/> <p>CITY MEETING.</p> <p>At a meeting of the citizens of Savannah, held, in pursuance of previous adjournment, at the Exchange on Wednesday the 19th March, inst. GEORGE JONES, Esq. was called to the chair, and JOHN C. NICOLL, appointed Secretary.</p> <p>Dr. WM. C. DANIELL, from the committee of citizens appointed on the 10th inst. made the following</p> <p style="text-align: center;">REPORT.</p> <p>It has been a source of grateful satisfaction to your Committee, to observe in the resolution under which they have been appointed, a recognition on the part of their fellow-citizens of the propriety of a public appropriation for the support of a receptacle for the relief of the disabled and diseased poor of your city. Nor would your committee permit themselves to believe, that even in the present embarrassments of the times,</p>	<p>reductions in the value of real estate and the amount of commissions, both of which pay an ad valorem tax. The estimates in the reductions of expenditures made by your committee, are founded upon ample data and which they are persuaded cannot to any extent be fallacious—all of which is respectfully submitted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">W. C. DANIELL, JOS. CUMMING, GEO. ANDERSON, THOS. YOUNG, STEELE WHITE.</p> <p>Savannah, March 19, 1823.</p> <p><i>Estimates of the Receipts and Expenditures of the City of Savannah for the year 1823.</i></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Receipts from the general tax on real estate and commissions calculating them at one third less than the last year</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$12,138 00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>From all other sources, as per report of select committee of council,</td> <td style="text-align: right;">32,950 15</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">\$45,088 15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditures as per estimate of said committee,</td> <td style="text-align: right;">45,399 20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excess of expenditure over receipts,</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$311,05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reductions of expenditures actually made or contemplated in the current expense of this year,</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Receipts from the general tax on real estate and commissions calculating them at one third less than the last year	\$12,138 00	From all other sources, as per report of select committee of council,	32,950 15		\$45,088 15	Expenditures as per estimate of said committee,	45,399 20	Excess of expenditure over receipts,	\$311,05	Reductions of expenditures actually made or contemplated in the current expense of this year,	
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Expenditures as per estimate of said committee,	45,399 20												
Excess of expenditure over receipts,	\$311,05												
Reductions of expenditures actually made or contemplated in the current expense of this year,													

Continued next page

<p>present embarrassments of the times, were no other means available, you would hesitate to authorize additional taxes for the relief of those whom adversity and misfortune have cast upon your bounty. For many years has an asylum for their relief been supported amongst you, without any other than small casual appropriations by the city—and by whom has it been supported? Chiefly by the private contributions of those who compose this meeting. It cannot then be imagined, that you, who when the suffering of the poor were comparatively small, gave liberally from your private purses for their relief, would now, when the objects of charity have greatly multiplied amongst you, withhold the pittance which would administer to their wants and suffering. That such an institution has not been sooner endowed, by the corporation is solely attributable to the extensive charities of the citizens of Savannah, which rendered it unnecessary—your liberality to the objects of charity at home and abroad, is too well known to permit the fear that when your own poor multiplying upon you with the embarrassments</p>	<p>in the current expense of this year,</p>
	<p>City Watch 4,013 00</p>
	<p>Salaries of officers estimated, \$8,250 00</p>
	<p>Do. now paid \$4,900 00</p>
	<p>Add fees estimated in receipts, 1,750 00</p>
	<p>-----\$6,650 00</p>
	<p>1,600 00</p>
	<p>Reduction on Gao's 1,000 00</p>
	<p>Receipts from Exchange over estimate 447 00</p>
	<p>Reduction on estimate for lamps 500 00</p>
	<p>Reduction on Fire Engines 800 00</p>
	<p>Reduction on Pumps and Cisterns 800 00</p>
	<p>Incidental charges estimated \$2,400, 00</p>
	<p>Reduction on estimate negro Burial Ground 442 00 442 00</p>
	<p>Reduction from streets and lanes "draining pond" 500 00</p>
<p>----- \$10,102 00</p>	
<p>Appropriation for the Hospital recommended by committee 2,500 00</p>	
<p>----- \$7,602 00</p>	
<p>After some debate upon the report, it was resolved that the meeting do adjourn to Monday next at 10 o'clock A. M. and that the estimate furnished by the committee be published.</p>	

Continued next page

that when your own poor multiplying upon you with the embarrassments of the times, and claiming a permanent gratuity for their relief, will be denied the pittance which they crave. The same causes which tend to augment the number of those requiring your charities, operate in lessening positively the power to relieve; so whilst the poor are increasing, the means of assistance proportionably decrease, and the period has at length arrived when public appropriations are required to supply the deficiency of private contributions.

For three years the appropriations by the Corporation to the sick poor in their own houses, have fluctuated from \$800 to \$4,500. The same sums expended through the Poor House and Hospital, would have given a more efficient charity to at least four times the number--and when a permanent appropriation shall be made for that institution, it will be alike unjust and impolitic to make any appropriation for the relief of the sick in their own dwellings. By such a grant to the Poor House and Hospital, the quantum of relief afforded will be greatly increased and the funds of the city economised.

the estimate furnished by the committee be published.

GEO. JONES, Chairman.
J. C. NROOST, Sec'ry.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

The 17th inst. being the anniversary of the tutelary saint of Ireland--The Hibernian Society of this city, assembled at the City Hotel, at 11 o'clock, and proceeded to the regular business of the day; when the following members were elected officers for the ensuing year:--

JAMES HUNTER, President.

GEORGE B. CUMMING, Vice President.

SAMUEL WRIGHT, Treasurer.

ALEXANDER HUNTER, Sec'ry.

And the standing Committee appointed, were:

Dr. WM. C. DANIELL

MOSES CLELAND.

PATRICK M'DERMOTT.

JOHN HUNTER.

JOHN GILMARTIN.

At 4 o'clock the Society with their much respected guests, the Ministers of the several Churches of this city, the Officers of the Army and Navy, (after a blessing was asked by the Rev. Mr. Carter.) sat down

Continued next page

increased and the funds of the city economised.

Your committee are happy in being enabled after a full investigation of the financial resources of the city, to state confidently that the revenue of the city will far exceed the expenditures of the same, and leave a handsome surplus, from which they would recommend an appropriation, permanently, of \$2,500 per annum, for the Poor House and Hospital, which sum your committee are of opinion, can be safely spared from the revenues of the city, without materially retarding the extinguishment of the public debt, and which will be sufficiently aided by the receipts from the county funds, the general government and the contributions of private individuals—to fulfil the benevolent and humane intentions of the founders of that institution.

Should however a desire be felt by their fellow citizens, to add yet further to the surplus revenue of the city, your committee are of opinion that the lighting of the city, as at present executed, could be well spared and especially so, if such a measure afforded the only means by which an appropriation could be made for the

Continued next page

intentions of the founders of that institution.

Should however a desire be felt by their fellow citizens, to add yet further to the surplus revenue of the city, your committee are of opinion that the lighting of the city, as at present executed, could be well spared and especially so, if such a measure afforded the only means by which an appropriation could be made for the Poor House and Hospital.

Subjoined is a table shewing the estimated receipts and expenditures, and the recent and proposed reduction in the expenditures. The calculations are taken as far as they go, from the published report of the select committee of Council made 28th Nov. 1822, with this exception that a reduction of 38 1-8 per cent. has been made by your committee, upon the tax upon real estate and commissions, estimated by the receipts of the last year—and this reduction it is believed will be deemed ample for any deficit that may accrue from the

"City Meeting," *Savannah Georgian* (22 March 1823), page 1, column 2.

Notice.

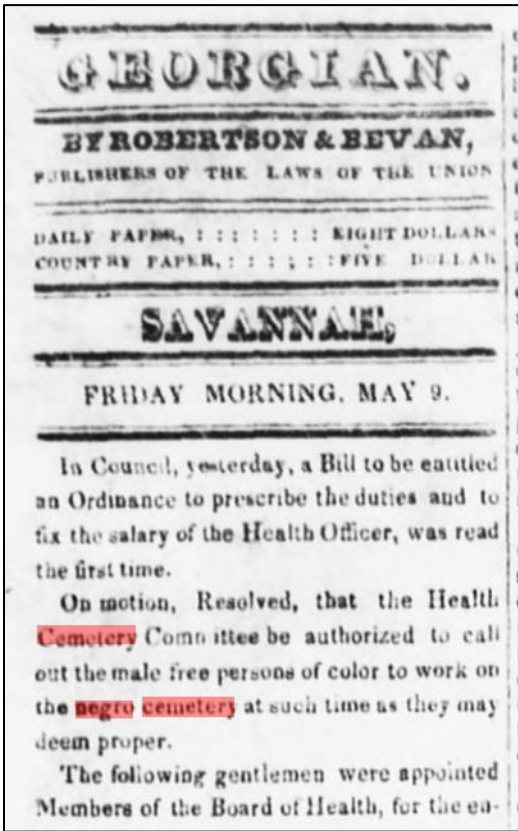
SEALED proposals will be received on Thursday 10 o'clock A. M. for repairing the fences around the new **burial** ground, and the **negro burial** ground. Persons offering to do work around the above places will leave their proposals at the Clerks office.

M. MYERS, c. c.

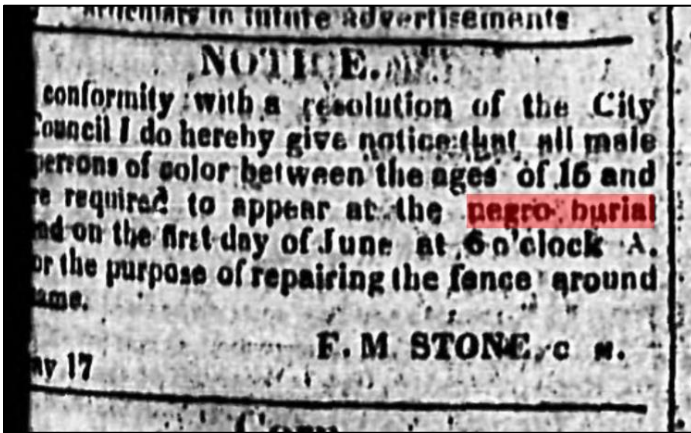
April 1 78

Chesterville Academy S C

"Notice," *Savannah Daily Republican* (1 April 1823), page 2, column 5.



The Georgian (9 May 1828), page 2, column 1



"Notice," Savannah Republican (17 May 1828), page 3, column 1.

may 10

NOTICE.

IN conformity with a resolution of the City Council I do hereby give notice that all male free persons of color between the ages of 15 and 60 are required to appear at the **negro burial ground** on the 2d day of June at 6 o'clock A. M. for the purpose of repairing the fence around the same.

F. M. STONE, c. w.

may 20

Prime Green Coffee

"Notice," *Savannah Republican* (23 May 1828), page 1, column 6.

ble, and reconmend its payment forthwith. the
 (signed) ALEX J. C. SILLAW, } Ju
 FREDK. DENSLER, }
 AMOS SCUDDER, } *Committee.*

The Inspector of Dry Culture made his monthly report, which was ordered to be published. k
 On motion of Ald. Arnold, th
 Resolved, That the City furnish the materials necessary for repairing the fence around the **Negro Cemetery**, and that the Marshal be, and is authorized to order out the free colored males to execute the work. U
 John S. Montmollin was elected Inspector and Treasurer of Wood. to
 The following is the amount of accounts passed—\$1603 43 cents. th
 Council adjourned. vo
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 or

St. Lucia.—The government of St. Lucia, by Proclamation dated May 15th authorizes an

"In Council, 22d August 1832," *Daily Savannah Republican* (25 August 1832), page 2, column 3.

On motion of Alderman Arnold, it was
 Resolved, That the city furnish the materials necessary for repairing the fence of the **Negro Cemetery**, and that the Marshal be authorized to order out the free male colored persons to put it in order.
 J. Montmollin was elected, without opposition, to fill a vacancy of Wood Inspector.
 Council went into accounts and then adjourned.

The Georgian (25 August 1832), page 2, column 1.

rection of the committee on public sales.
 On motion of Alderman Waring,
 Resolved, That the city marshal, under the direction of the cemetery committee, be authorized to have the fence around the **negro burial ground** placed in a state of repair.
 On motion of Alderman Cumming,

The Daily Georgian (27 October 1838), page 2, column 3.

On motion of Ald. Cuyler,
 The **Cemetery** Committee were required to advertise for proposals to repair the **Negro Cemetery**.
 On motion of Ald. Goodwin,
 The Pump Committee (if it be deemed necessary) were required to have Pumps erected in William and Margaret streets, and other places.
 On motion of Ald. Butler,

The Weekly Georgian (2 January 1841), page 1, column 6.

Notice.
 THE undersigned will receive proposals for erecting a fence around the **Negro Cemetery**. The proposals will state the expense of furnishing all materials, excepting the work, which must be furnished in a specified time by the contractor.
 WM H CUYLER,
 M H McALLISTER,
 Cemetery Committee.
 dec 22
For Sale.

The Daily Georgian (6 January 1841), page 1, column 7

Notice.
 THE undersigned will receive proposals for erecting a fence around the **Negro Cemetery**. The proposals will state the expense of furnishing all materials, excepting the work, which must be furnished in a specified time by the contractor.
 WM H CUYLER,
 M H McALLISTER,
 Cemetery Committee.
 dec 22
For Sale.

The Daily Georgian (8 January 1841), page 1, column 7

posed meeting of citizens, and subject the subject to preserve order.

Resolved, That a Copy of these Resolutions be furnished by the Clerk of this Board, to the Chairman of the meeting.

Report of Plats and Surveys in the Clerk's office.—Mounted Maps.—Map of the U. States; map State of Georgia; map of Dry Culture contract; map City of Savannah; map of Wharves; map of wharves, by Gill; map of Savannah in 1770, by Schroeder; one bound book of maps, surveys and survey documents; plan of public lot at Spring Hill; map of lane north of South Broad-street; map of South Common; map of eastern end of the Bay; map of Rail Road Depot; map of Oglethorpe and map of part of Reynolds Ward; map of a part of Savannah; map of Lot on South East Common; map of Canal-street; map of the township of Savannah; map River Savannah to five fathoms; map of Lazaretto; map of New Franklin Ward; map Garden lot No. 9, west; map depot Central Rail Road; map Fair Lawn lots; map Widow Society lots; map River Savannah to Tybee; map of Savannah in 1770; map South East Common; map of Yamacraw, according to Zuley; map of Gilmerville; map of South East Common; map of **Negro Cemetery**; map of part New Franklin Ward.

Report of Cisterns, made to the Savannah Fire

Savannah Daily Republican (14 April 1841), page 2, column 3.

CITY TREASURER'S OFFICE, } SAVANNAH, JULY 1st, 1841.		
and paid through the Treasury of the City, from July 1st, 1840, to 30th June, 1841.		
	\$15,892 14	CR.
	11,054 73	By Badges—Paid Girodon making badges,
for	2,808	" Board of Health—Paid lime and draying,
d,	53 25	" Chairman's order,
rm-		" for Medicines,
for		" Secretary for services,
	1,212 00	" Cemetery—Paid Sexton's Salary,
din-	806 67	" coffins and interring Paupers,
	480 00	" new fence round the African
ions	6,650 78	Cemetery and repairing do.
		round the other,
arket	4,609 10	" City Clock—Paid Keeper's salary,
	400	" Court of Common Pleas & Oyer & Terminer—
axes	3,058 37	Paid Judge's salary,
	817 49	" Jury fines remitted,
king	92,500	" Stationery and Book case,
de,	4,739	" City Constables attending Court,
		" Dry Culture—Paid Inspector's salary,
		" for draining low grounds East
		of the city,
		" Public Docks—Paid sundry repairs,
		" City Exchange—Paid for repairs,
		" Fire Department—Paid Fire Company's Bill,

"City Treasurer's Office, Savannah, July 1st, 1841," Savannah Daily Republican (15 July 1841), page 3, column 3.

F. S. BARTOW,
The Resolution was adopted.
The Committee on Health and Cemetery, to whom was referred the resolution to enquire into the expediency of closing the strangers, burial ground and negro cemetery, recommend the closing of the same, for two reasons—First, that the ground cannot be broken without disturbing the remains of the dead. Secondly, that the new cemetery encroaches upon private property, and offered the following resolutions, twhich were adopted:

Resolved, That the Chairman on Health and Cemetery be authorized to close the Strangers' Burial Ground and Negro Cemetery, and that he be authorized to have enclosed any ground belonging to the city South of the Hospital for two other Cemeteries.

Resolved, That the City Surveyor be and he is hereby authorized to lay out the same.

R. WAYNE,
W. B. FLEMING, } Com.
JNO. M. CLARK, }

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the resolution to inquire into the expe

Savannah Daily Republican (12 February 1844), page 2, column 4.

all defaulters.
By Alderman Barnard—
Resolved, That the sum of forty dollars be appropriated to the erection of a bridge across the canal East of the Hospital. Thus extending Abercorn-street, and affording a more direct communication with the negro burial place.
By Alderman Clark—
Whereas, reports injurious to the prosperity of

"Proceedings of Council," *Savannah Daily Republican* (4 May 1846), page 2, column 5.

tions previously paid.
By Alderman Fay, seconded by Alderman Turner—
Resolved, That the Committee on Health and Cemetery be and are hereby instructed to take such measures with regard to the abandoned Potter's field and Negro Cemetery, as may in their judgment seem appropriate and necessary.

"Proceedings of Council," *Savannah Daily Republican* (10 November 1849), page 2, column 3.

Seven, His Honor the Mayor was added to said committee.
By Alderman Saussy, seconded by Alderman Walker.—
Resolved, That the committee on Health and Cemetery be empowered to appropriate for the cemetery for colored persons additional gaound, if the same can be had from ground adjoining, belonging to the city.
Resolved That the committee on Health and Cemetery be empowered to remove the Vaults in the old Negro Cemetery, or construct new ones for the deposite of the remains of those now in Vaults in the new cemetery.
By Aldermen Saussy, seconded by Alderman O'Byrne.—
Resolved, That the Street and Lane Committee be instructed

"Proceedings of Council," *A Friend of the Family* (19 January 1850), page 2, column 4.

assembled :

The Committee of Aldermen and citizens, charged with enquiring into the proper mode of disposing of the Springfield Purchase, submit their report :—

The Committee in the performance of their duty, engaged the services of a competent and experienced Surveyor, by whom all the lines of the purchase have been ascertained. Under the direction of the Committee, the Surveyor has divided the land into lots or parcels of different dimensions, according to location and other circumstances. After the completion of his work in the field and while engaged in the preparation of his plat, the Surveyor became so ill that it was necessary for him to suspend his labors. Down to the present time he has not been able to report the finished plat to the Committee, though the first draft was some time since exhibited to them and met their approval. Without the plat which was to be appended to this report it is impossible for the Committee to explain the division of the land, and they must therefore refer the Board to the plat when it shall come in. In the mean time they beg leave to recommend, that when the plat appears, an appraisement be made of the lots as laid out, under the rules now governing the appraisement of the municipal domain. They recommend further, that the lots be sold, whenever, under the advice of the Committee on public sales and city lots, the City Council for the time being shall deem it expedient.

The Committee have given to the question of a new Cemetery, their most deliberate and careful attention, and in this labor they have been assisted by Health and Cemetery Committee of Council who were associated with the Springfield Committee, for that purpose. The elaborate and valuable report of the Health, and Cemetery Committee, presented to this Board on a former occasion, as unanswerable as to the propriety of extramural interments. This Committee therefore occupied themselves chiefly so far as this branch of their duty was concerned, in endeavoring to discover, in the Springfield purchase, a location suited to cemetery purposes, and in considering the measures necessary to accomplish the object in view. They trust they have succeeded in this labor, and they submit to Council the following

Continued next page

measures necessary to accomplish the object in view. They trust they have succeeded in this labor, and they submit to Council the following recommendations.

They recommend that a new Cemetery be established, and that the piece of ground selected by the Committee, and designated on the surveyor's plat of the Springfield purchase be set apart for that purpose. This piece of land contains about seventy-five acres, is easy of access, and at a distance of only one mile and a half, or thereabouts from the Exchange. At the same time it is sufficiently retired to be entirely appropriate to Cemetery purposes. The Committee recommend the reservation of the whole tract of 75 acres, but that only so much be at present taken in, as may appear to the Board, to be necessary. What that portion should be either in location or extent, the Board can hereafter determine upon the report of some competent person, having skill in such business. For this purpose, and for laying out and improving the grounds of the new Cemetery, the Committee recommend the employment of an experienced landscape gardener, under whose supervision, the work connected with the opening of the Cemetery, should be done. The Committee also recommend, that all the heavy timber on that portion of the seventy-five acres to be selected for immediate use be sold, and that the proceeds be applied towards the erection of a substantial wall, Sexton's House, and Chapel, and such improvement of the grounds as may be appropriate. The Committee further recommend the clearing up of the outer line of the seventy-five acres so as to prevent injury to the remaining timber.

The Committee further recommend that so soon as the new Cemetery be laid out, all families having dead buried in the old Cemetery be allowed lots in the new Cemetery free of charge, on condition that they remove their dead, but the Committee respectfully and expressly recommend to Council that there be no restriction as to the time of removal.

The Committee also recommend that lots be granted to those who have no dead in the old Cemetery either entirely without charge, or on terms so low as to be nominal. The details of these arrangements must of course be reserved for future consideration.

Continued next page

The Committee also recommend that lots be granted to those who have no dead in the old Cemetery either entirely without charge, or on terms so low as to be nominal. The details of these arrangements must of course be reserved for future consideration.

The Committee further recommend that a sufficient portion of the new Cemetery be reserved for the interment of strangers, and residents not holding lots in the new Cemetery.

In closing this branch of the subject the Committee are unanimous in the expression of the opinion that the old Cemetery should never be appropriated to any other purposes.

The Committee further recommend that application be made to the General Assembly at its next session, for the extension of the jurisdiction of the city over the whole Springfield purchase.

The Committee add, by way of information, that a suitable site can also be reserved for a Negro Cemetery.

All of which are respectfully submitted.

ROBERT H. GRIFFIN,	} Aldermen.
JAMES P. SCREVEN,	
THOS. M. TURNER,	
THOS. PURSE,	} Citizens.
R. R. CUYLER,	
WM. DUNCAN,	
F. M. STONE,	
E. HAIBERSHAM,	} Health and Cem'ry Com.
J. R. SAUSSY,	
ROBT. D. WALKER,	
JOHN MALLERY,	

The Committee on City Lots have honor to re-

"Proceedings of Council," A Friend of the Family (30 November 1850), page 2, column 7.

CITY DOMAIN.

Chatham, Troup and Wesley Wards Laid Off.

Ordinance 13th March, 1851—R. Wayne, Mayor.

No. 80. (1.) All that part of the City domain lying north of Gordon street and east of Drayton street, be laid off into lots by the City Surveyor, under the superintendence of the Committee on Public Sales and City Lots, that as many of said lots as may be necessary to complete the plan of LaFayette Ward be added to that Ward, and that the remainder be classed into three new Wards.

(2.) The new Ward between Liberty street on the north and Jones street on the south, and the square appurtenant to said Ward, be named and called Troup Ward and Troup Square; and the new Ward immediately to the south of Troup Ward, with its appurtenant square, be named and called Wesley Ward, Whitfield Square; and the new Ward immediately to the west of Wesley Ward, with its appurtenant square, be named and called Calhoun Ward, and Calhoun Square; and that the street

Part of LaFayette Ward.
Calhoun, Troup and Wesley Wards named.
Calhoun, Troup and Whitfield Squares named.

Wilson, Edward G., *A Digest of All the Ordinances of the City of Savannah... which were of force on the 1st January, 1858...* (Savannah: John M. Cooper & Co., 1858), page 71.

72		CITY DOMAIN.
Wayne street.		between Taylor and Gordon streets be named and called Wayne street, and that all the new streets connecting with and continuing old streets already named, be considered as part of said streets respectively, and distinguished by the respective names already in use.
How valued and sold.		(3.) The said lots, the laying off whereof is above provided for, be valued and sold in the usual manner, under the direction of the Committee on Public Sales and City Lots, at such time or times as to said committee shall appear expedient and proper; the terms of sale to be twenty (20) per cent. cash, on the aggregate of valuation and increase money, and interest on the balance of the purchase money, to be payable quarterly at the City Treasury, at the rate of six (6) per cent. per annum, with the privilege to the purchaser, his or her heirs, executors, or administrators, or assigns, of paying into the Treasury the balance remaining unpaid of the purchase money and all interest due thereon, up to the time of said payment, receiving, after such payment, a fee simple title.
20 per cent. in cash.		
Balance on annual ground rent at 6 per cent., payable quarterly.		
Title.		(4.) (Same as 3d Sec., Ordinance 20th April, 1801.) Ordinance 9th March, 1854—John E. Ward, Mayor.
Part of Calhoun Ward.		(1.) All that part of the City domain lying north of Gaston street, south of Gordon street, and east of Drayton street, be laid off into lots by the City Surveyor, under the supervision of the committee on Public Sales and City Lots, and that the same be added to Calhoun Ward.
How valued and sold.		(2.) The said lots, the laying whereof is provided for, be valued in the usual manner and sold in the usual manner, under the direction of the Committee on Public Sales and City Lots, at such time or times as to said committee shall appear expedient and proper. The terms of sale to be twenty (20) per cent. cash on the aggregate of valuation and increase money, and interest on the balance of the purchase money to be payable quarterly at the City Treasury at the rate of six (6) per cent. per annum, with the privilege to the purchaser, his or her heirs, executors, or administrators, or assigns, of paying into the Treasury the balance remaining unpaid of the purchase money, and all interest due thereon up to the time of said payment, receiving after such payment a fee simple title.
20 per cent. in cash.		
Balance on annual ground rent at 6 per cent., payable quarterly.		
Title		(3.) (Same as 3d Sec., Ordinance 20th April, 1801.)

Wilson, Edward G., *A Digest of All the Ordinances of the City of Savannah... which were of force on the 1st January, 1858...* (Savannah: John M. Cooper & Co., 1858), page 72.

act.
Resolved, That a certificate or copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Hon. Joseph W. Jackson, the Representative of the first Congressional District of this State.
 By Alderman Turner, seconded by Alderman Allen:
Resolved, That the Health and **Cemetery** Committee be authorized to select a site for a new **negro cemetery**, and to have the same enclosed and placed in order for burial purposes.
 By Alderman Screven, seconded by Alderman Walker,
Resolved, That the City Treasurer pay to Thomas Barrett, contractor for excavating the culvert east of the Canal, one hundred dollars on account of said work.
Miscellaneous.
 The report of the City Marshal relative to the unpaved Lots in the City, was referred to the Committee on streets and lanes.
 The report of the Marshal relative to the quantity of tools and implements belonging to the City, was read and referred to the Committee on Streets and Lanes.
 The communication from the Washington National Monument office was referred to the Committee on Finance.
 The invitation of the Oglethorpe Fire Company to the Mayor and Aldermen, was read and accepted.
Accounts.
 Amount of accounts passed, \$2,130 24.

Savannah Daily Republican (14 February 1852), page 2, column 5.

PROPOSALS.
WILL be received until the Fifteenth of May next, by the Committee of Council on Health and **Cemetery**, for enclosing the five acres on the Springfield Plantation, intended for the new **Negro Cemetery**, in a similar manner to the old grave yard south of the Hospital.
 W. GASTON BULLOCH, Chairman.
LAST NOTICE

"Proposals," *Savannah Daily Republican* (28 April 1852), page 2, column 7.

And Whereas it is the duty of Council, also to provide a suitable place for the interment of deceased free persons of color and slaves:

SEC. 9. *Be it further ordained,* That there shall be laid out in the South-western portion of the lands before set apart for the Cemetery *fifteen acres* of ground, which shall be used alone for the interment of the remains of deceased persons of color, under such regulation as Council may from time to time prescribe.

SEC. 10. *Be it further ordained,* That from and after the day of publication of preparation of said Laurel Grove Cemetery, shall be made by the Mayor as above provided for, it shall not be lawful to inter any dead body in any other place, within the corporate limits of the City of Savannah, than in the said Laurel Grove Cemetery, and in the present Hebrew Cemetery and any person who shall so inter or cause to be interred, or be in any manner concerned in interring any dead body within the corporate limits, save in Laurel Grove Cemetery and said Hebrew Cemetery, shall be subject

* The balance of this Section repealed—see Sec. 2, next ordinance.

Henry, Charles S., *A Digest of all the Ordinances of the City of Savannah which were of force on the 1st July 1854...* (Savannah: Purse's Print, 1854), page 45.

PROCLAMATION.

Mayor's Office,
SAVANNAH, MAY 9th, 1853. }

WHEREAS, Council at a regular meeting, held on the 27th January, 1853, passed a resolution requiring me to issue my proclamation "closing the old cemetery for the purpose of interment after the first of July next":

Therefore, I do hereby proclaim, that after the first day of July next, the old or Brick Cemetery will be closed for the purpose of interment.

R. WAYNE, Mayor.

Attest: EDWARD G. WILSON, Clerk Council.

Henry, Charles S., *A Digest of all the Ordinances of the City of Savannah which were of force on the 1st July 1854...* (Savannah: Purse's Print, 1854), page 50.

By Alderman Mallery, seconded by Alderman Brunner :
Resolved, That the Committee on Health and Cemetery be authorized to have the fence around the old **Negro Cemetery** repaired.
By Alderman Lamar, seconded by Alderman Scre-

"Proceedings of Council," *Daily Morning News* (9 April 1853), page 1, column 2.

By Alderman Mallery, seconded by Alderman Lewis :
Resolved, That the City Treasurer be directed to pay to the City Marshal fifteen dollars, balance due hands for work done at the **negro cemetery**.
By Alderman Lamar, seconded by Alderman Lewis :

Daily Morning News (7 May 1853), page 1, column 2.

On motion of Alderman Brunner, seconded by Alderman Mallery, it was
Resolved, That the Treasurer be directed to pay to the Marshal fifteen dollars for repairing the fence at the new **negro cemetery**.
On motion of Alderman Lamar, seconded by Alderman

The Savannah Daily Georgian (9 June 1853), page 2, column 5.

A resolution was passed authorizing the City Marshal to have the Vaults in the old negro Cemetery South of the hospital, together with their contents, removed at the expense of the city, to the new **negro Cemetery** ; provided that the relatives or friends of the deceased persons in the vaults, select ground for that purpose.

Daily Morning News (23 February 1855), page 2, column 2.

	" 10	Expenses	717.50	" 227.50	
31	" 12	do	717.50	" 210.00	146364
1	"	Incidental Expenses		146364	
		Paid D L Cohen on of Receipts to Exchange	704.500	" "	
2	"	Phillips & Bell for 2 Tons Coal	"	16	" "
3	"	J M Stone by Transfer of 5 Shares Stock in Central R Road & Bldg Co per Resolution of Council in 1854	"	500	" "
5	"	J Newbrook & Co for Pitcher & Basin	"	2	" "
	"	Claghorn & Cunningham for 3 Tons Coal	"	30	" "
6	"	Telegraphic Office for dispatch from Washington City	"	106	
	"	Packford Day & Co " Heavy Bonds Engraved for Subscription to Oglethorpe R R	"	9810	
	"	Slip Eli Mearns for 150 Tons Ballast	"	5625	
10	"	R D Peepot for Hire of Laborer at Ely	"	750	
	"	Michael Cook for 1 bush on Stone Wall Foot of Abercorn Street	"	195	" "
14	"	Hydraulic Cotton Press 100 Tons Ballast	"	750	
15	"	City Marshall for Hire of Laborer in removing Remains of Negroes to New Cemetery	"	8350	
		Amount carried forward	549191		510398

Outlined in red for March 15, 1855 "Paid City Marshall for Hire of Laborers in removing Remains of Negroes to New Cemetery" 83.50." Record Series 5600CT-410 City Treasurer – Cash Books, Volume 11, 1853-1856, page 243, March 15, 1855, Incidental Expenses. City of Savannah Municipal Archives.

We learn from the Chairman of the Board of Health that the Marshal has nearly completed the removal of bodies from the **Negro Cemetery** and Pottera Field. Much credit is due to those who have acted in this matter. The grounds are now quite clear, and no longer present a picture of broken fences and stones, monuments more to the disgrace of the city, than to those whose virtues they were erected to record.

The Savannah Daily Georgian (3 April 1855), page 2, column 2.

	Paid	Edw C Anderson Mayor expenses to and from Washington City on Business of this City	70	400	" "
	"	H C Cook for Repair to Roof of Exchange	"	99	25
7	"	L Colligan " Gas Burner & Work "	"	8	75
	"	J H Colton H. for Statutes of the 11 States of America by order of Mayor	"	3	" "
10	"	Michael Cook for Work on Stone to Abner St	"	159	06
	"	Hammers Expenses brought on package for City	"	7	5
	"	Ship Taverner for 125 Tons Stone Ballast for Wall feet of Abner St	"	62	25
12	"	City Marshall for removing remains of Negroes from Old to New Cemetery	"	152	" "
	"	" " " " " " " " " " " "	"	121	50
	"	Stubb & Davis for Lightning Rod to City	"	155	" "
	"	J L Cohen on exp of his Bill	"	903	12

Outlined in red for April 12, 1855, "Paid City Marshall for removing remains of Negroes from Old to New Cemetery " 152.""; [ditto] 121.50." Record Series 5600CT-410 City Treasurer - Cash Books, Volume 11, 1853-1856, page 257, April 12, 1855. City of Savannah Municipal Archives.

MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

7

aware that the health of the City should be protected by every means, and especially by the strict observance of the dry culture system, the Council authorized the City Marshal to proceed and have these lands put in order, in terms of the existing contract. This was done at an expense of \$3,028 50. This amount, under the dry culture contract, is claimed by the city of the proprietors of these lands, and measures will be adopted for the recovery of the same.

The rapid extension of the city southward, the dilapidated condition of the old negro cemetery, and the rude assaults of sacriligious hands upon the repose of the dead, rendered it necessary to remove the remains of colored persons to the place appointed for their sepulture near the Laurel Grove Cemetery. This necessary work was attended with the small outlay of \$722 75, which has also been charged under the incidental head. These extraordinary expenses, amounting in all to \$11,750 03, tending to the adornment and health of the city, have been put to incidental expenses, and hence that account appears to be, with the ordinary charges incident to the city government, \$19,364 71.

Report of Edward C. Anderson, Mayor of the City of Savannah, for the year ending October 31st, 1855.... (Savannah, Ga.: Power Press of Geo. N. Nichols, 1855), page 7.

recovery of the same.

The rapid extension of the City southward, the dilapidated condition of the old Negro Cemetery and the rude assaults of sacriligious hands upon the repose of the dead, rendered it necessary to remove the remains of colored persons to the place appointed for their sepulture near the Laurel Grove Cemetery. This necessary work was attended with the small outlay of \$722.75, which has also been charged under the Incidental head. These extraordinary expenses, amounting in all to \$11,750.3, tending to the adornment and health of the City, have been put to Incidental expenses, and hence that account appears to be, with the ordinary charges incident to the City Government, \$19,364.71.

SAVANNAH RIVER APPROPRIATIONS, ETC.

"Mayors Annual Report, November 20, 1855," *Savannah Daily Republican* (22 November 1855), page 2, Column 4.

RESOLUTIONS.

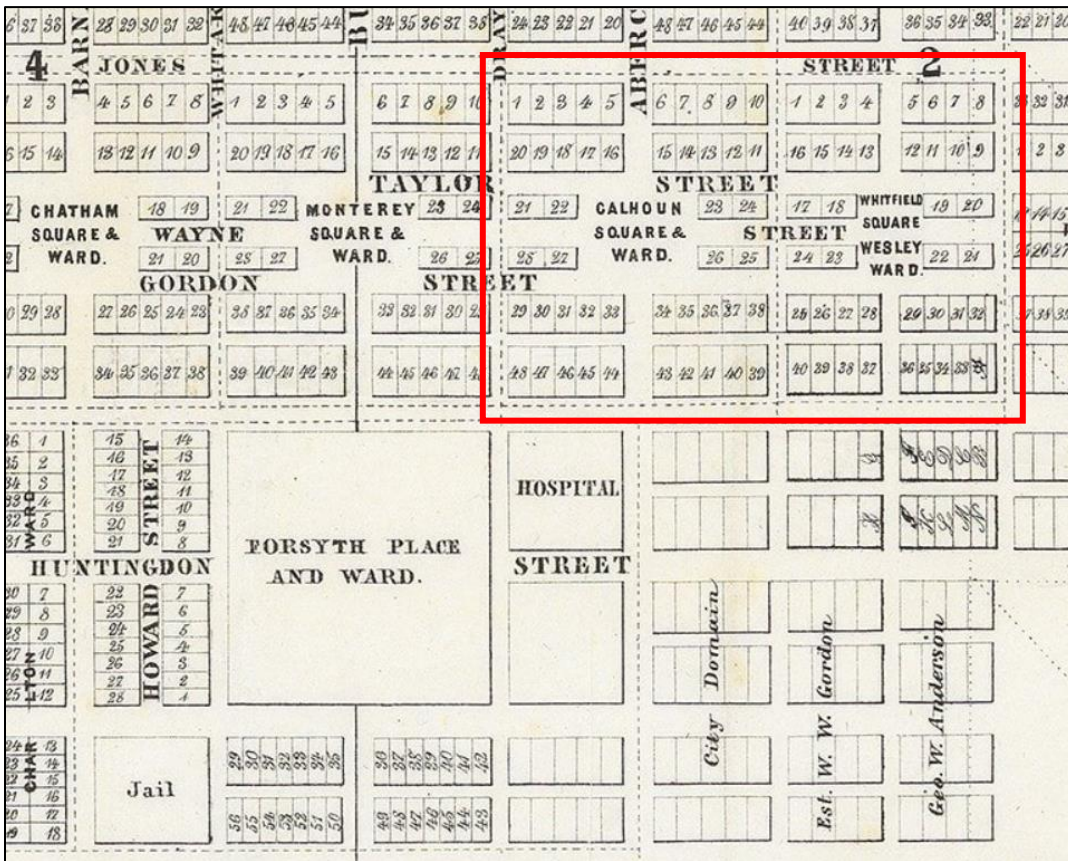
By Alderman Cohen: That the Mayor offer a reward for persons disinterring bodies in colored cemetery,—
adopted.

The Savannah Daily Republican (21 March 1856), page 2, column 4.

Resolutions Read and Adopted.

By Ald. Cohen—That the Mayor issue his proclamation offering such reward as he shall deem proper for the conviction of the persons who robbed a grave in the colored cemetery, and also that he be authorized to place a watch in that vicinity if deemed necessary.

"Proceedings of Council," *Daily Morning News* (21 March 1856), page 2, column 3.



Calhoun and Wesley wards outlined in red from "Map of the City of Savannah," published by John M. Cooper & Co., 1856 (available online at: <https://bostonremaps.com/inventory/antebellum-savannah-published-locally/>).

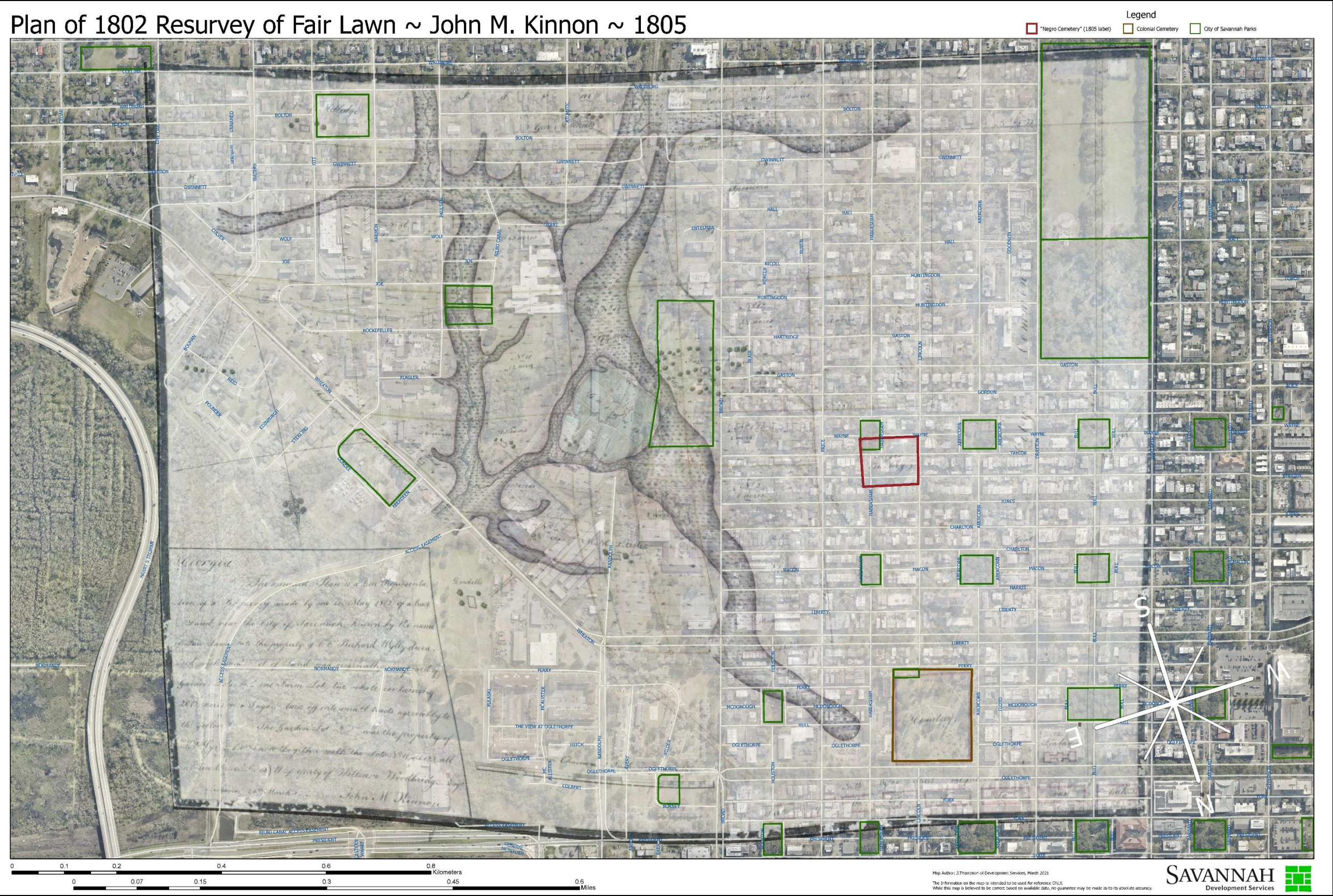
Note: north is oriented at the top of the image.

MAP OVERLAYS

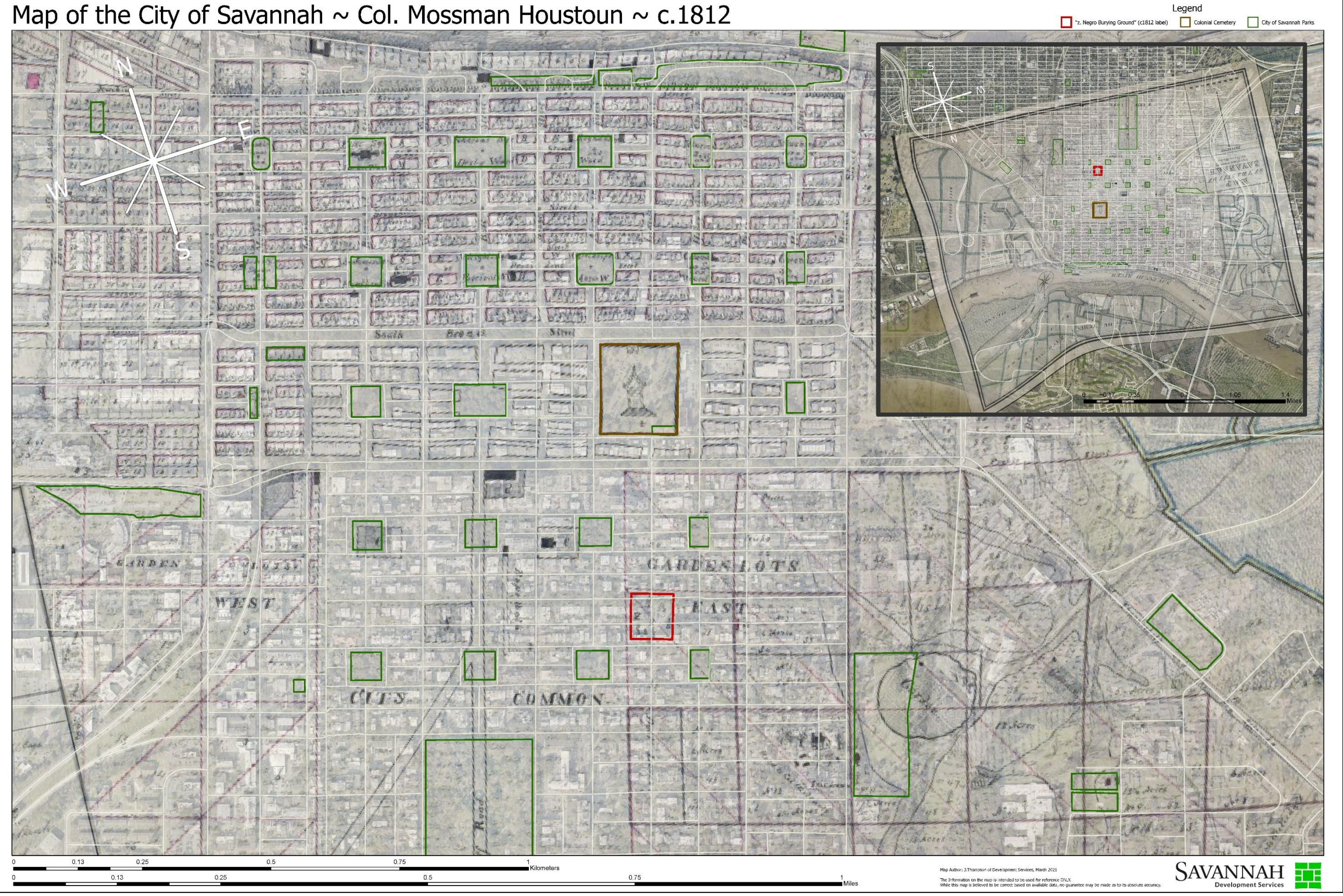
See attached maps



Plan of 1802 Resurvey of Fair Lawn ~ John M. Kinnon ~ 1805



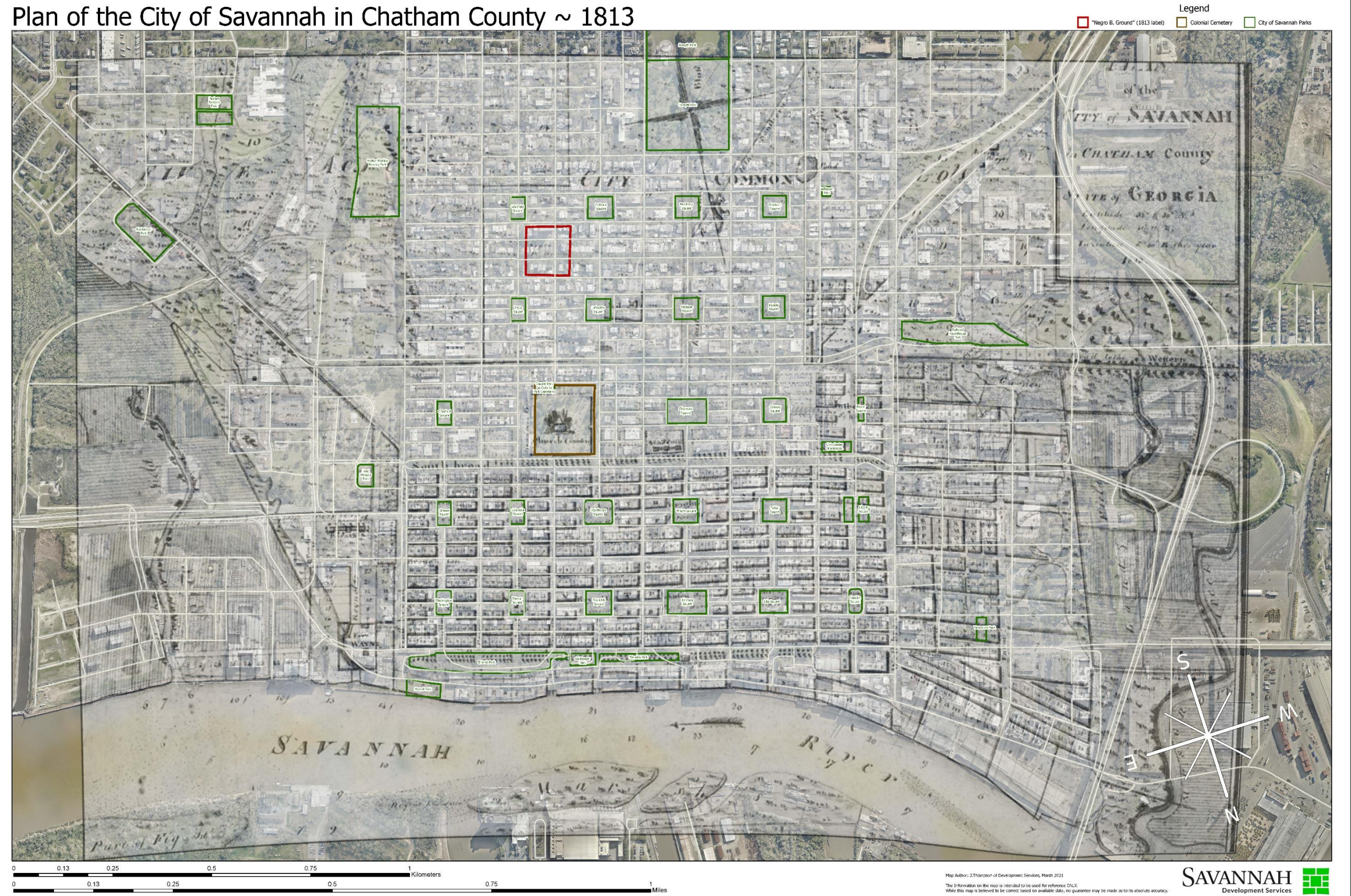
Map of the City of Savannah ~ Col. Mossman Houstoun ~ c.1812



Map Author: J. Thompson of Development Services, March 2021
 The information on this map is intended to be used for reference ONLY.
 While this map is believed to be correct based on available data, no guarantee may be made as to its absolute accuracy.



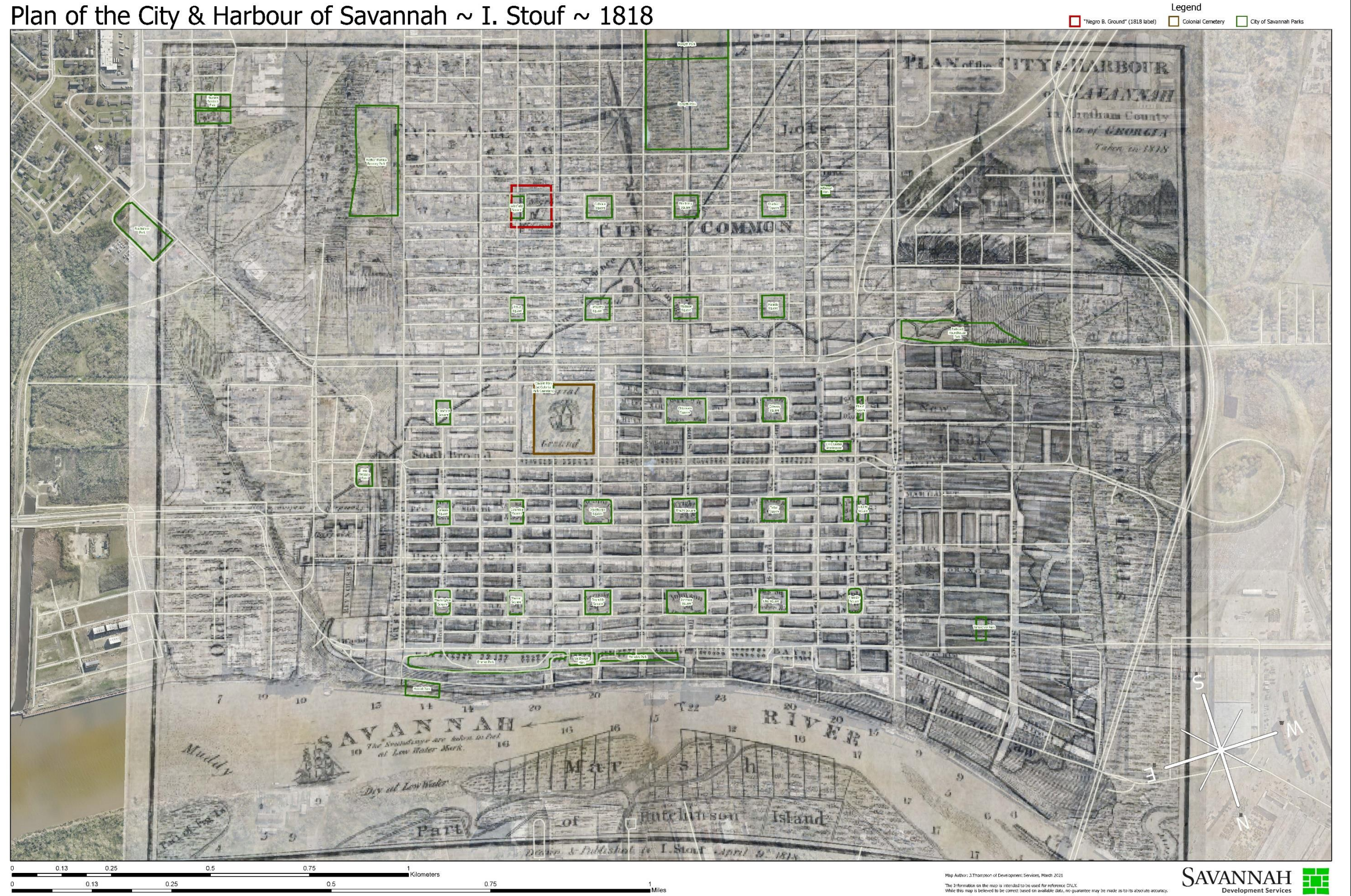
Plan of the City of Savannah in Chatham County ~ 1813



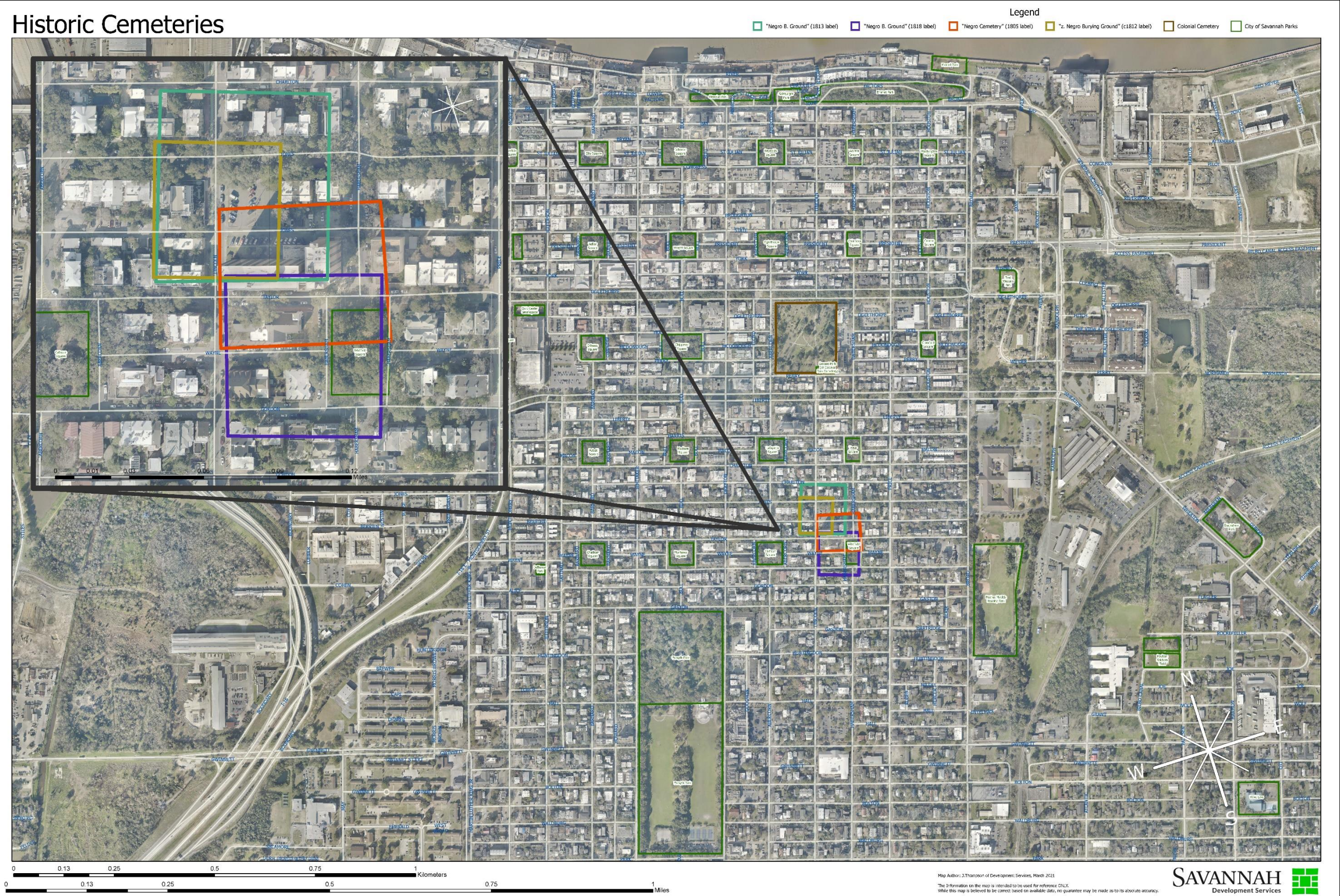
Map Author: J. Thompson of Development Services, March 2021
The information on the map is intended to be used for reference ONLY.
While this map is believed to be correct based on available data, no guarantee may be made as to its absolute accuracy.



Plan of the City & Harbour of Savannah ~ I. Stouf ~ 1818



Historic Cemeteries





CALHOUN & WHITEFIELD SQUARES GPR DATA

In October 2020, the Municipal Archives asked Dan Elliott with The LAMAR Institute to review the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey that was conducted in Calhoun and Whitefield squares as part of the "Savannah Under Fire, 1779: Expanding the Boundaries" archaeological investigation for the National Park Service under the American Battlefield Protection Program for evidence of graves in the squares. The following is Mr. Elliott's response to this request, followed by the attachments provided with that response.

From: Dan Elliott <dantelliott@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2020 12:26 PM
To: Luciana Spracher <LSpracher@Savannahga.Gov>
Cc: Rita Elliott <ritafelliott@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: GPR in Calhoun and Whitefield Squares

Luciana,

I reviewed the three GPR survey blocks, Block V in Calhoun Square and Blocks W and X in Whitefield Square, with a specific eye for probable historic graves/cemetery. We were not searching there for historic graves in our ABPP battlefield survey project, plus I may have improved as a GPR data interpreter over the past decade of experience. As I noted in my discussion in LAMAR Institute Publication Series, Report Number 174, each of these blocks contain numerous utility lines. All three also contain numerous other strong radar reflections, and it is possible that some few of these may be historic graves. They do not jump out at me, however, and there are no obvious rows, or elongated "grave-sized" anomalies that are oriented to the cardinal directions (magnetic north or true north, rather than the town grid, which is offset for true north). I can say that these two squares (where I sampled with GPR) are not loaded with graves. At best there may be a few scattered graves, but the GPR evidence is muddy. The many utility lines obscure lots of subsurface radar reflections and some few graves may be "hiding" beneath these very strong radar reflections. So, to conclude, the GPR evidence does not totally discount the presence of any historic graves, but there are no organized rows, or likely family groupings, of graves in the areas that were examined. I have not done any GIS rubber-sheeting of the early town maps that show the black graveyard(s), but it sounds like you have compared their general locations to the modern maps already. As I recall the areas of the two squares that were not covered by GPR survey were obscured by shrubs or other obstacles to the passage of the GPR equipment. Otherwise we would have probably surveyed the entire square. I am attaching several images from GPR Blocks V, W and X, that are not in the Report 174, as well as few relevant pages extracted from the 2011 archaeology report. I made them into groups in pdf format for easy organizational purposes. If you need better maps, or more information, let me know. Oh, and I also did not see anything in my GPR data that resembled a mass grave, or areas where graves had been disinterred for relocation to Laurel Grove. Of course, I may be missing something really important (my caveat so that nobody sues me). Should the City need a more thorough coverage of these two areas, including the streets, with GPR, I can be available. If I switch to a higher frequency antenna (800 MHz versus 500 MHz) and collect the data at closer/tighter intervals, such as 20 cm spaced transects versus 50 cm spaced ones, the images may be more revealing. Other remote sensing techniques also might be useful, although given the intense urban environment with all of the buried metal pipes and wires, etc., GPR is likely the best technique available.

Be Best,
Dan Elliott,
The LAMAR Institute

Savannah Under Fire, 1779:

Expanding the Boundaries

Prepared for the National Park Service
Kristen L. McMasters
Archeologist Planner and Grants Manager
American Battlefield Protection Program
1201 Eye Street NW (2255)
Washington, DC 20005
202-354-2037
Grant Agreement No. 2255-09-004

By Rita Folse Elliott, Field Director and Co-Author
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Chapter 4. Project Results and Interpretations



Figure 76. Transit work in Calhoun Square.

a rich black loam. This overlay a 25-45 cm thick layer of yellowish brown sand over a lighter yellowish brown soil (Figure 79). Shovel tests terminated at 98 and 116 cm below ground surface. Archeologists recovered artifacts from both shovel tests, as detailed in the table. There were no diagnostic artifacts with a TPQ older than the nineteenth century and no military artifacts in these two shovel tests.

*GPR Survey**GPR Block V*

Archeologists undertook GPR survey to look for anomalies indicative of the saps. Figure 80 shows the location of the GPR survey in Calhoun Square. GPR Block V was a rectangular sample in Calhoun Square. This sample consisted of 3,158.5 m of radar data from 120 radargrams collected within an area measuring 51.5 m east-west by 24.3 m north-south. The block includes mostly grass with some sections of brick pavement and a few scattered trees. GPR plan maps of Block V reveal extensive radar anomalies (Figure 81). An overlay map of Block V is shown in Figure 82. The purpose of this sample was to search for evidence of the French saps that are shown on several

contemporary battlefield maps. The French saps were not identified within the Block V sample. Public utilities were the dominant linear subsurface anomaly in the GPR coverage of Block V. This conclusion is based on the alignment and orientation of the anomalies with the town grid. No ditch work with any different (non-town grid) orientation was observed in any of these three sample blocks. These data serve as tentative negative evidence for the location of the French ditch work at this spot

Whitefield Square Archeological Results and Interpretation

The location of the GPR survey and shovel tests in Whitefield Square have been depicted in Figure 83. This includes GPR Blocks W and X. These are detailed below.

*GPR Survey**GPR Blocks W and X*

These blocks examined major portions of Whitefield Square on Savannah's southeastern side. GPR Block W was a rectangular sample in the southern part of Whitefield Square. This sample consisted of 879.75 m of radar data from 63 radargrams collected within an area measuring 31 m east-west by 14 m north-south. The block includes



Figure 77. Shooting points for GIS overlays.

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Unit	Level/Depth/Stratigraphy/Lot #	Count	Code	Description	Start	Mean	End	
Calhoun Square								
ST 14	Level 1 0-23 cmbs 2.5Y2.5/1 Black sandy silt Lot #31	1	AG0301	Window glass, sized	1804			
		1	KF0104	Shell, oyster				
		3	MF0101	Coal				
		1	MF0103	Cinder/clinker				
		1	MM9901	Iron fragment, unidentified				
	Level 2 23-30 cmbs 10YR4/2 Dark Grayish Brown silty sand with 10YR5/3 Brown silty sand Lot #32	1	KG0301	Bottle, colorless bottle glass	1870			
		3	MF0101	Coal				
	Level 3 30-78 cmbs 10YR5/4 Yellowish Brown silty sand with charcoal flecks	0	N/A	Coal and charcoal; not recovered				
	Level 4 78-116 cmbs 10YR5/6 Yellowish Brown sand	0	N/A	Sterile				
	ST 15	Level 1 0-25 cmbs 10YR2/1 Black sandy silt Lot #33	2	AC0199	Brick, unspecified			
1			KC0501	Ironstone, plain blue tinted stone china	1842	1886	1930	
1			KF0104	Shell, oyster				
1			KG0301	Bottle, colorless bottle glass	1870			
4			MF0101	Coal				
1			MF0103	Cinder/clinker				
Level 2 25-37 cmbs 10YR3/2 Very Dark Grayish Brown loamy sand w/charcoal flecks Lot #34		Levels 2-5 (25-80 cmbs) Artifacts. Lot #34						
		Level 3 37-46 cmbs 10YR4/2 Dark Grayish Brown sand w/ 10YR6/6 Brownish Yellow sand Lot #34	1	AC0120	Brick, handmade			
4			AM1507	Nail fragment, unidentified				
Level 4 46-50 cmbs 10YR3/2 Very Dark Grayish Brown silty sand Lot #34		2	KC0105	Porcelain, plain				
	3	KC0501	Ironstone, plain blue tinted stone china	1842	1886	1930		
		1	MF0103	Cinder/clinker				

Table 13. Calhoun Square shovel tests (continued on next page).

Unit	Level/Depth/Stratigraphy/Lot #	Count	Code	Description	Start	Mean	End
	Level 5 50-98 cmbs 10YR5/4 and 5/6 Yellowish Brown sand with charcoal flecks Lot #34						

Table 13. Calhoun Square shovel tests (continued from previous page).



Figure 78. Shovel testing in Calhoun Square as a tourist trolley drives by.



Figure 79. Typical shovel test strata.

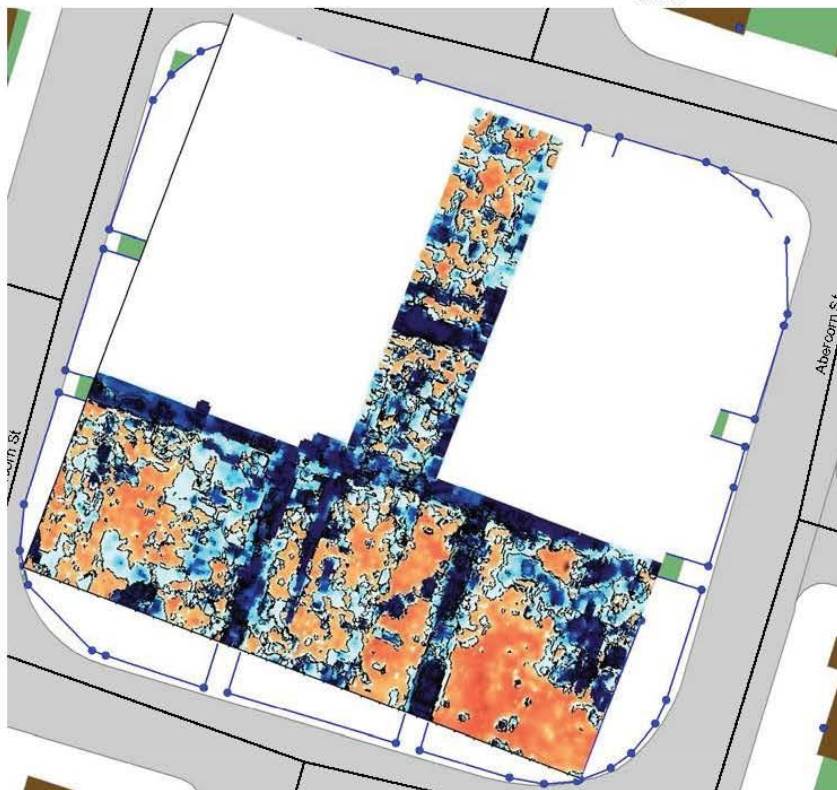


Figure 80. Plan view overlay of GPR survey in Calhoun Square.

Chapter 4. Project Results and Interpretations

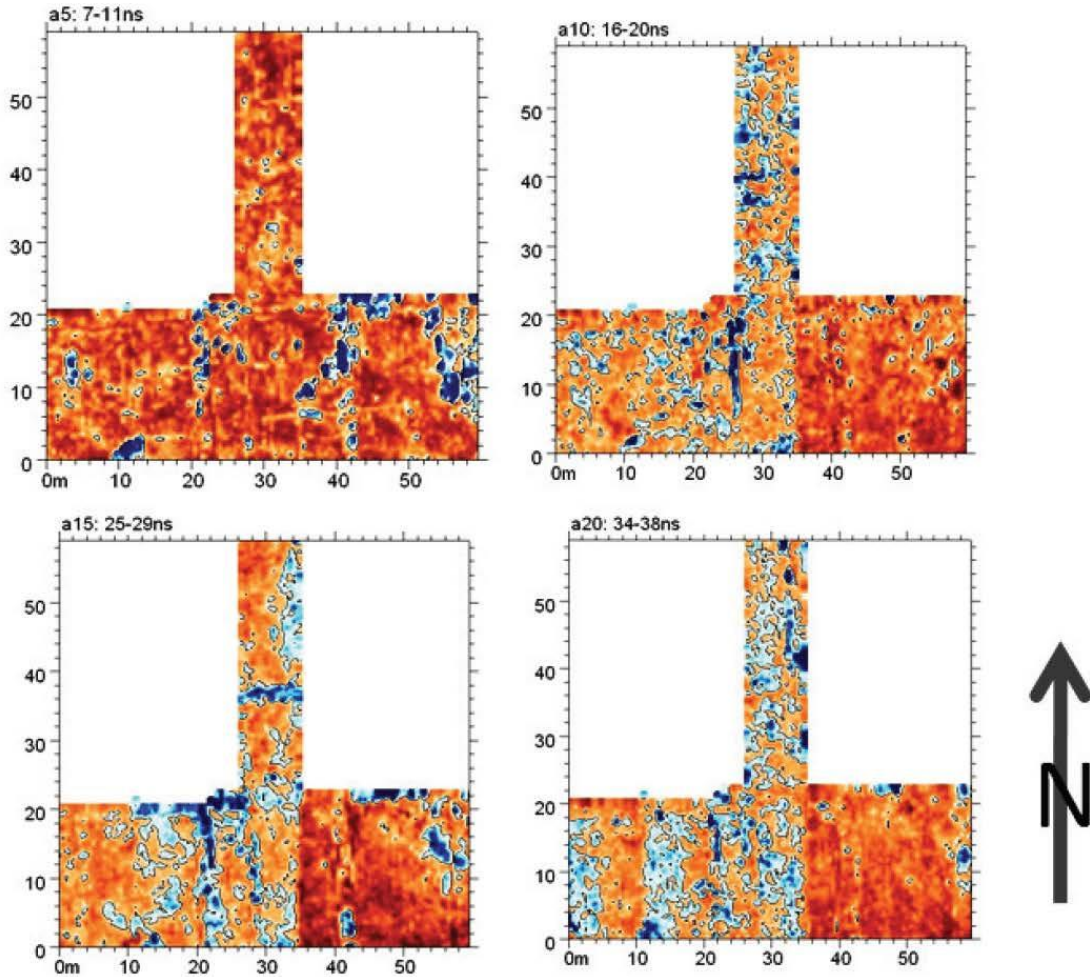


Figure 81. GPR Block V plan view (above) at increasing depths, Calhoun Square.

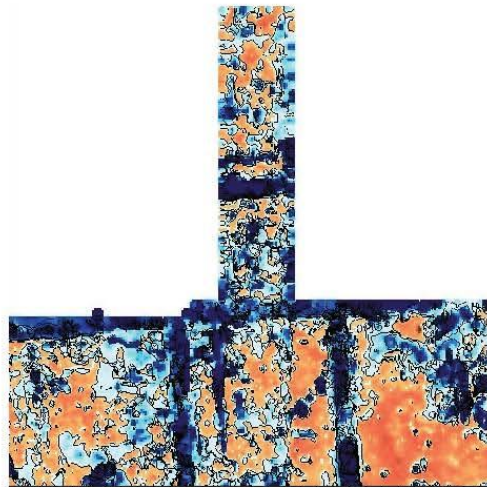


Figure 82. GPR Block V overlay of multiple plan views in Calhoun Square (right).

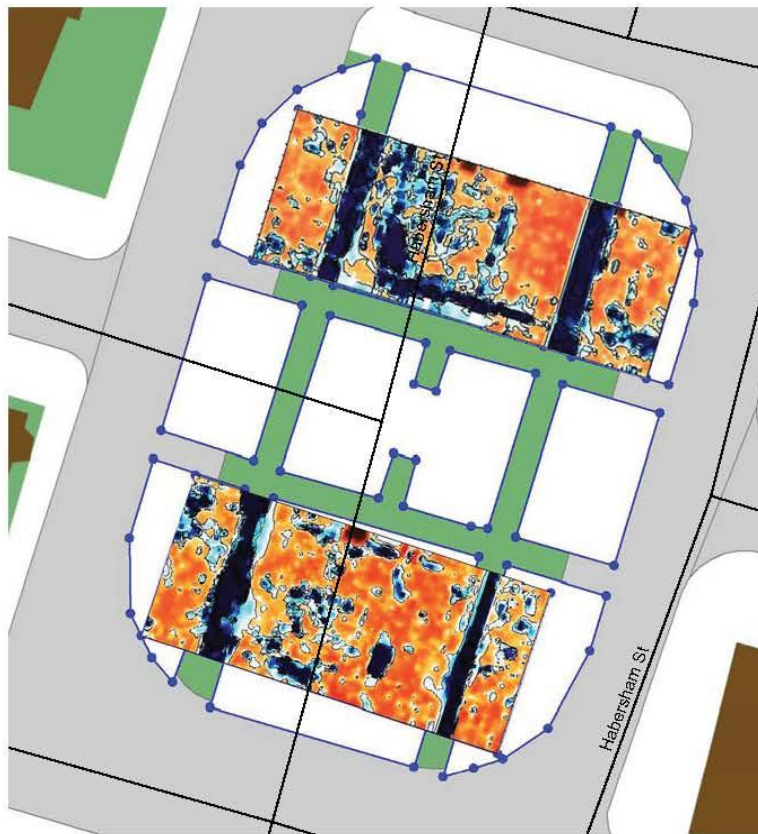


Figure 83. Location of GPR data in Whitefield Square.

mostly grass with some sections of brick pavement and a few scattered trees. GPR plan maps of Block W reveal extensive radar anomalies (Figure 84). Overlay maps of Blocks W and X are shown in Figure 85. The purpose of this sample was to search for evidence of the French saps. The French saps were not identified within the Block W sample. Public utilities were the dominant linear anomaly in the GPR plan maps from Block W.

GPR Block X was a rectangular sample in the northern part of Whitefield Square. It consisted of 887.5 m of radar data from 70 radargrams that were collected within an area measuring 34.5 m east-west by 13 m north-south. The block includes mostly grass with some sections of brick pavement and a few scattered trees. GPR plan maps of Block X reveal extensive radar anomalies (Figure 86). The purpose of this sample was to search for evidence of the French saps. The French saps were not identified within the Block X sample. Public utilities were the dominant linear anomaly in the GPR coverage of Block X.

Shovel Testing

Archeologists excavated Shovel Tests 16 and 17 here, as detailed in Table 14 (Figure 87). Soils were fairly consistent in both tests, ranging from dark brown to yellowish brown sands. Excavation terminated at 85 and 95 cm below ground surface. Both shovel tests contained artifacts, as detailed in the table. The artifacts generally date from the 19th-early 20th century. ST 17 had somewhat older artifacts, including pearlwares and a kaolin pipestem. Archeologists encountered an iron pipe in ST 17 at 43 cmbs. The pipe disturbance would account for the mix of older and modern materials in Level 1, including plastic and a carbon gas lamp core. The presence of the pearlware indicates that there is an older site here. It is not old enough, however, to be associated with the French soldiers digging and using the saps before and during the Battle of Savannah.

The French Saps that were excavated during the Siege of Savannah were an important part of the battlefield landscape on October 9th and were employed by the allied Patriot forces during one of the feints at the beginning of

the battle. Although the saps are depicted on several contemporary battle plan maps, their archeological footprint remains elusive. If these features were located on either Calhoun or Whitefield squares, they were not identified by the present level of effort.

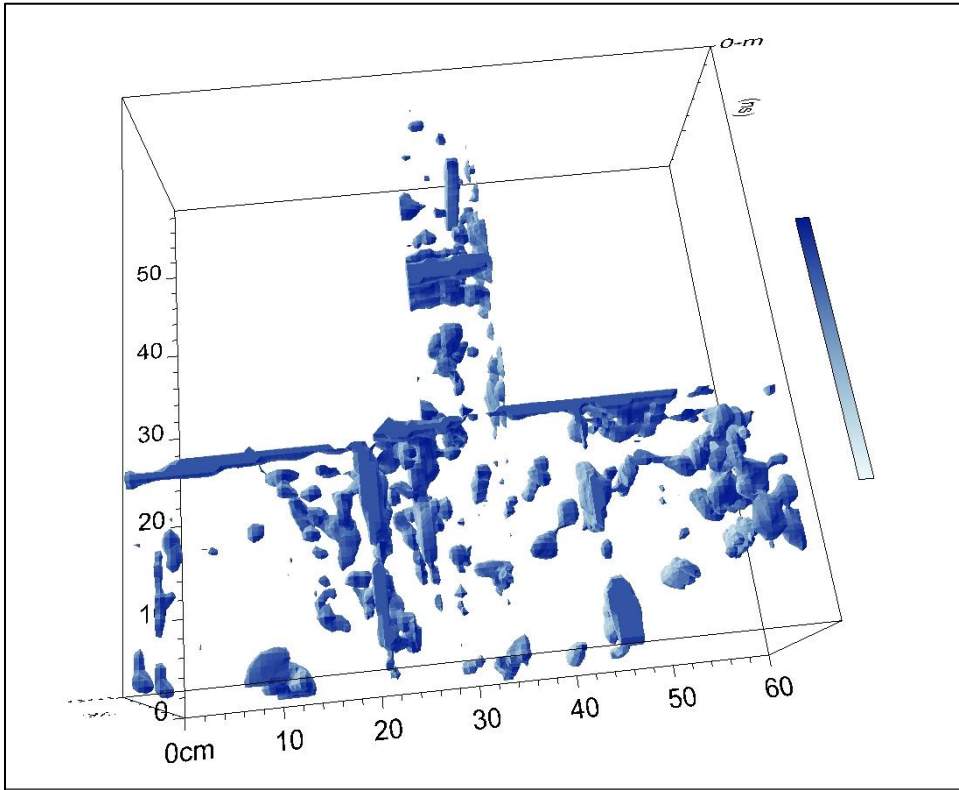
Davant Park

Target: Fortification trench leading to Redoubt Number 6

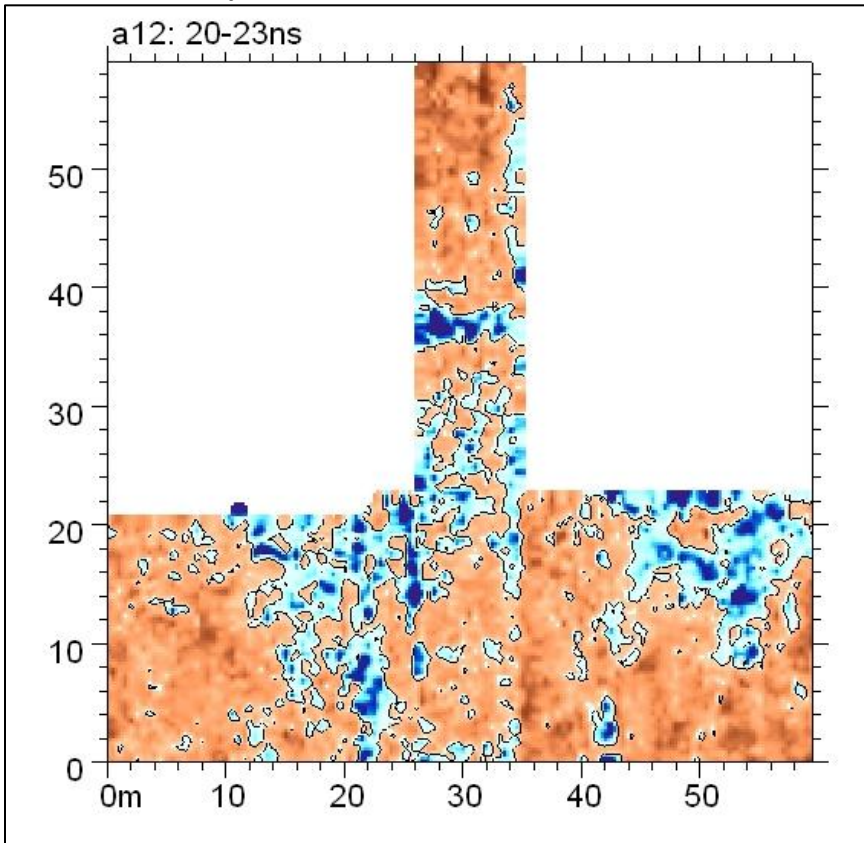
KOCCOA Analysis

This British fortification trench extended off the southwestern corner of Redoubt Number 6. Figure 88 is an enlarged view of the Faden (1784) map showing Redoubt Number 6 and the trench under discussion, which is located to the top, right corner of the redoubt. (North is down on this map.) The trench ran generally to the northeast, which was diagonally to the city plan. This "L" shaped

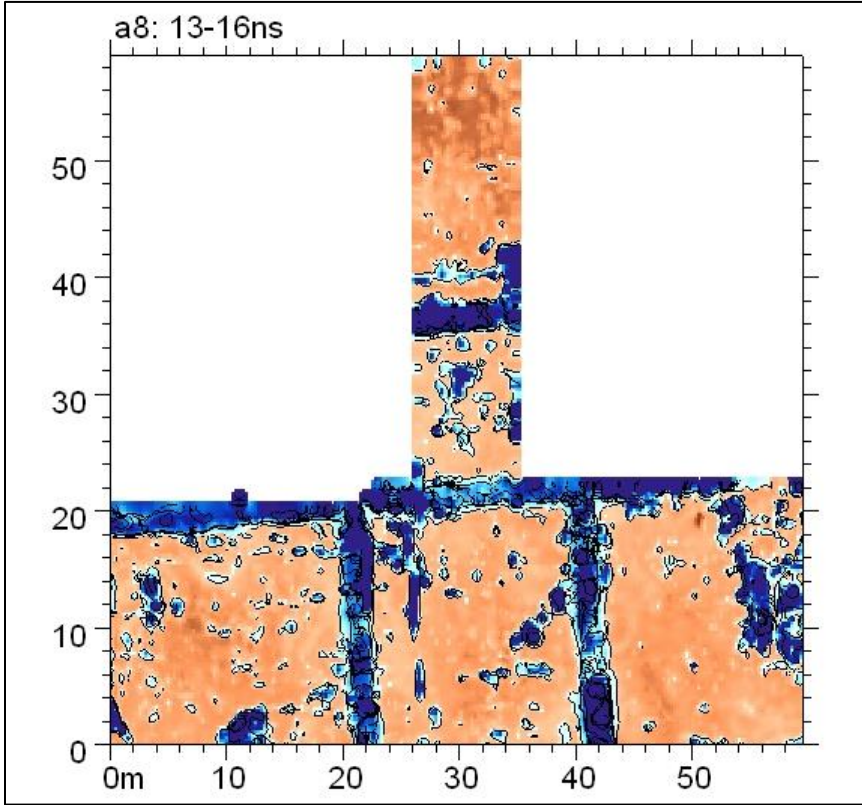
Block V Calhoun Square – 1



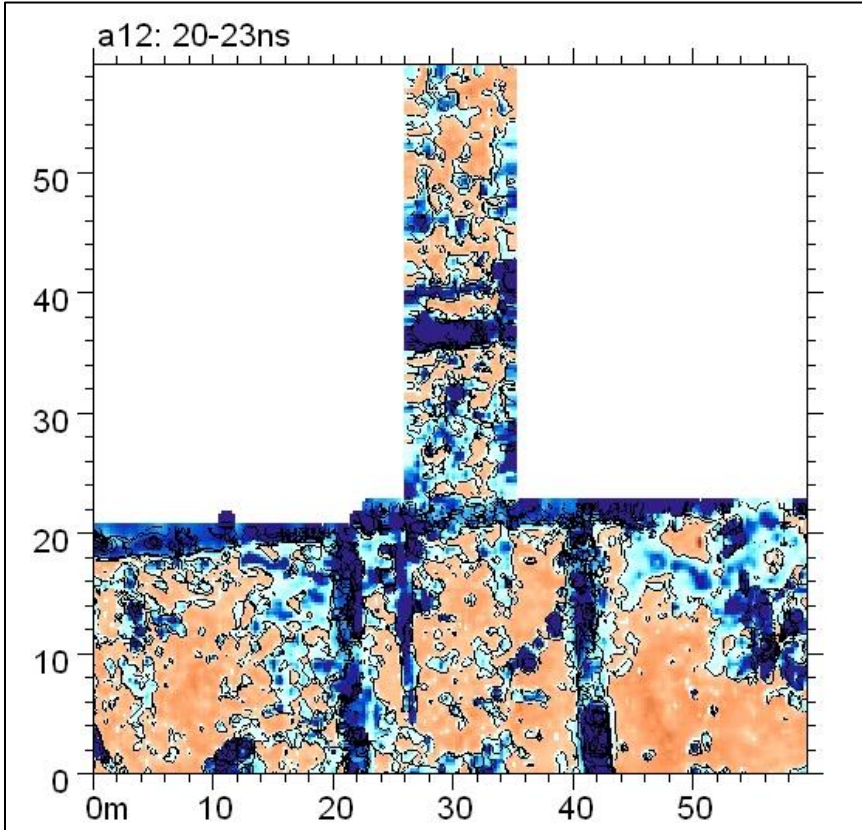
Block V Calhoun Square – 2



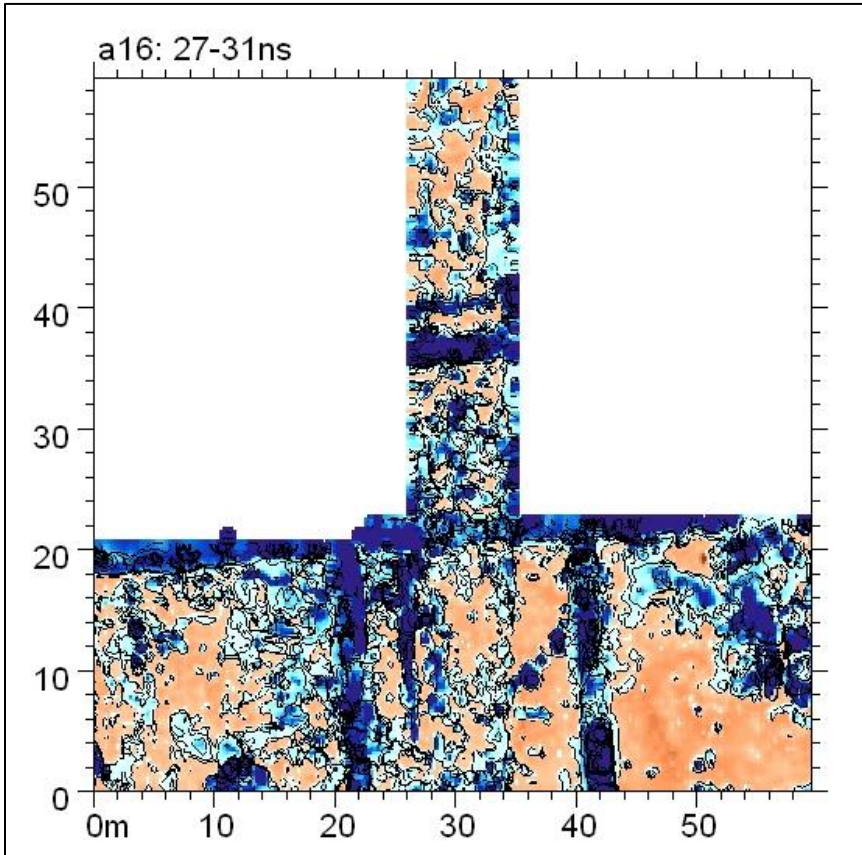
Block V Calhoun Square – 3



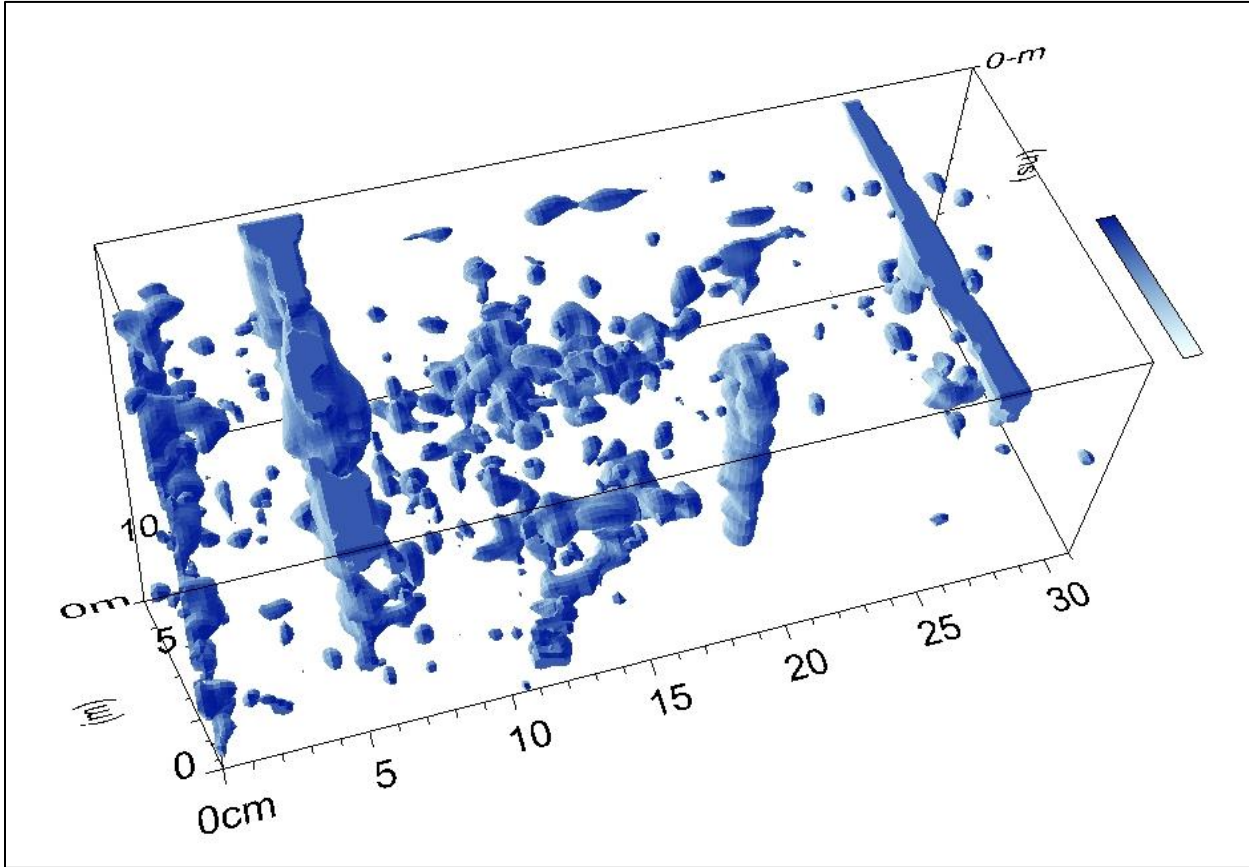
Block V Calhoun Square – 4



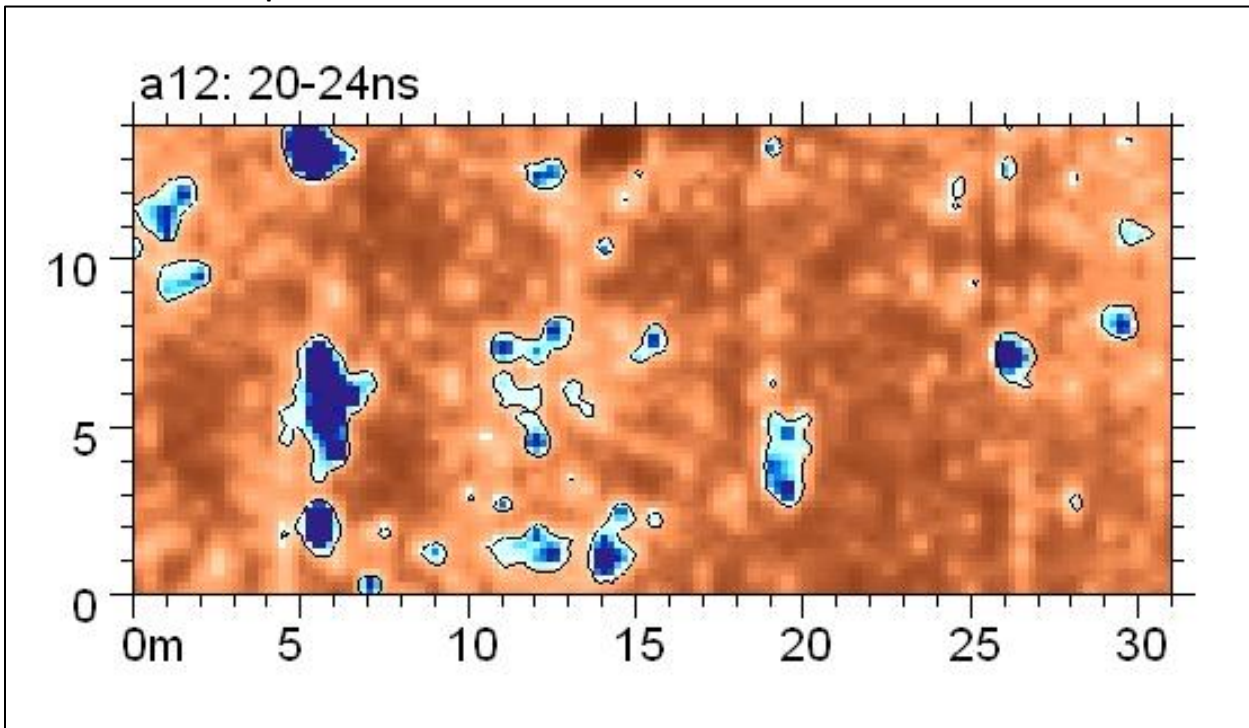
Block V Calhoun Square – 5



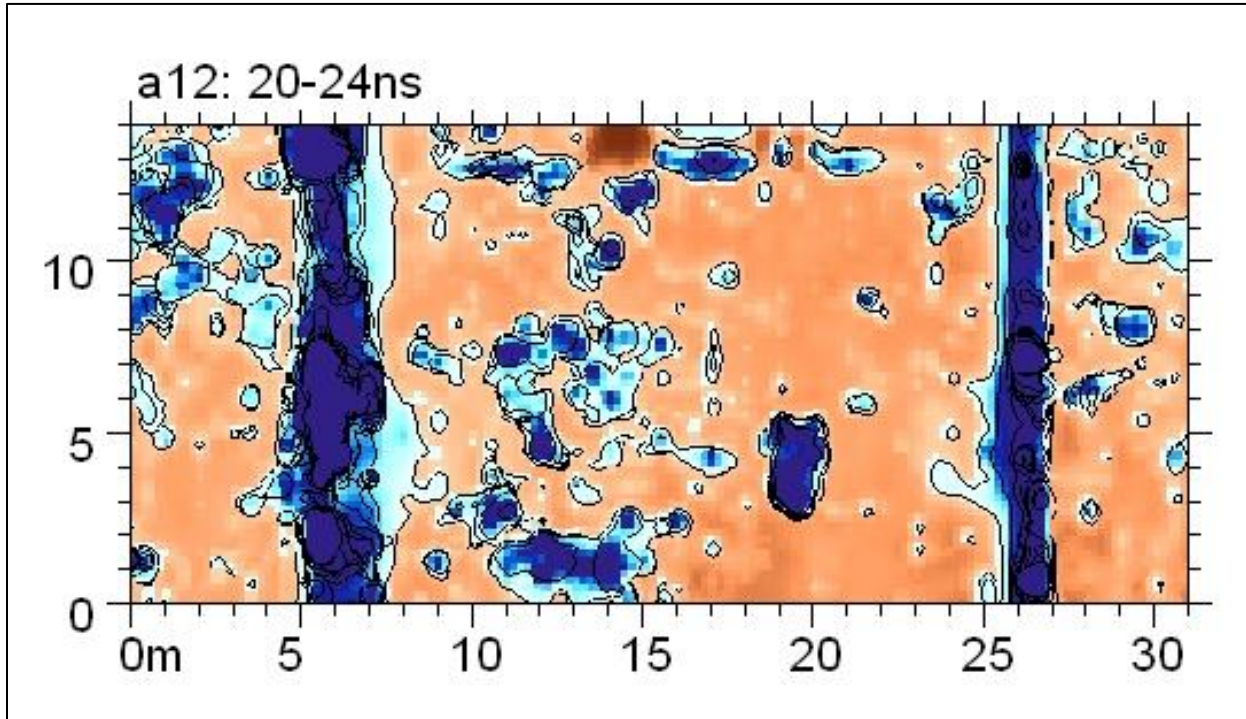
Block W Whitefield Square – 1



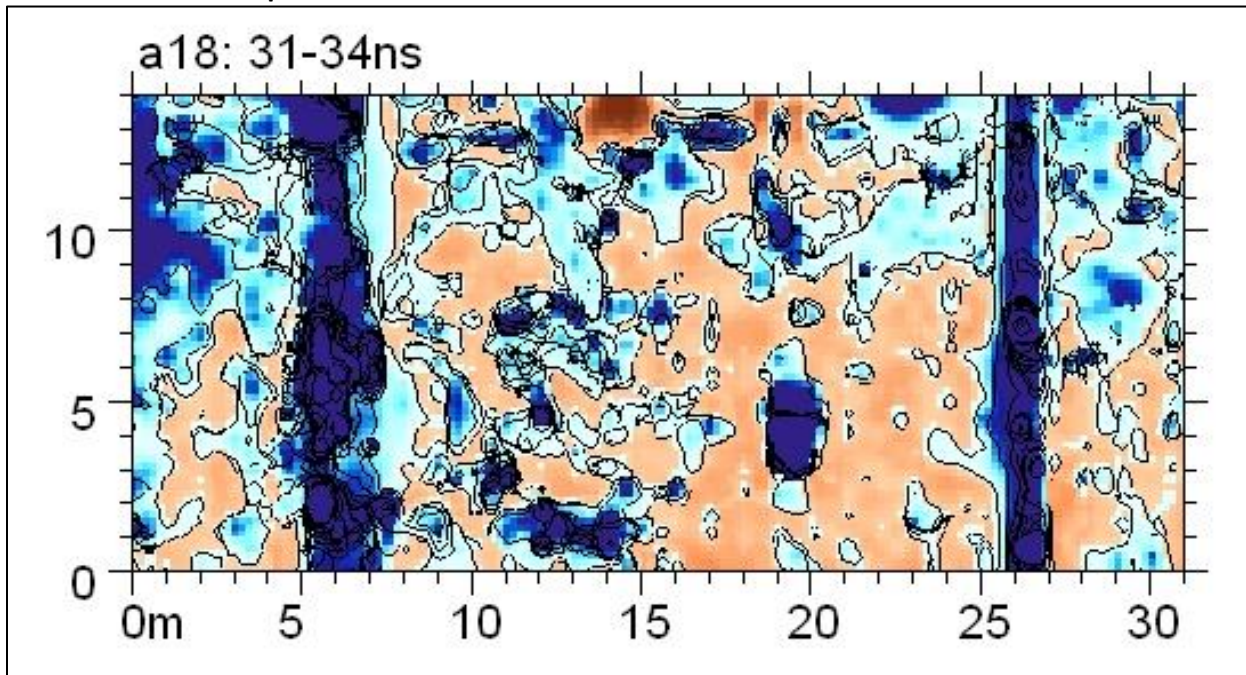
Block W Whitefield Square – 2



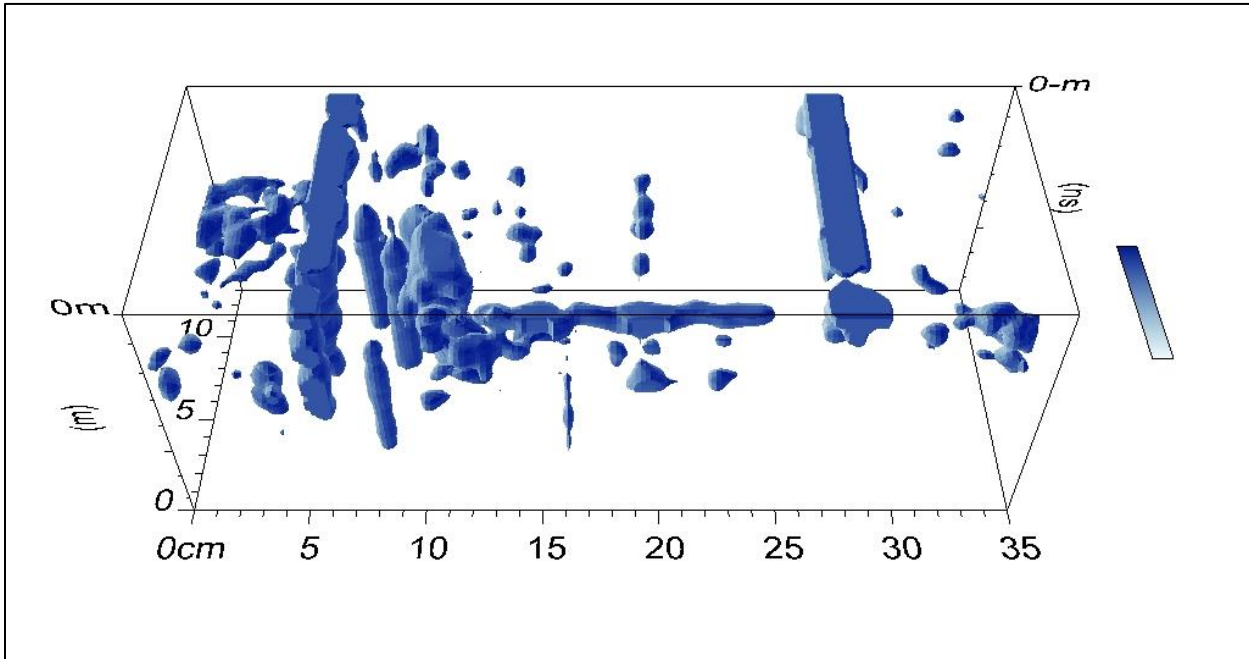
Block W Whitefield Square – 3



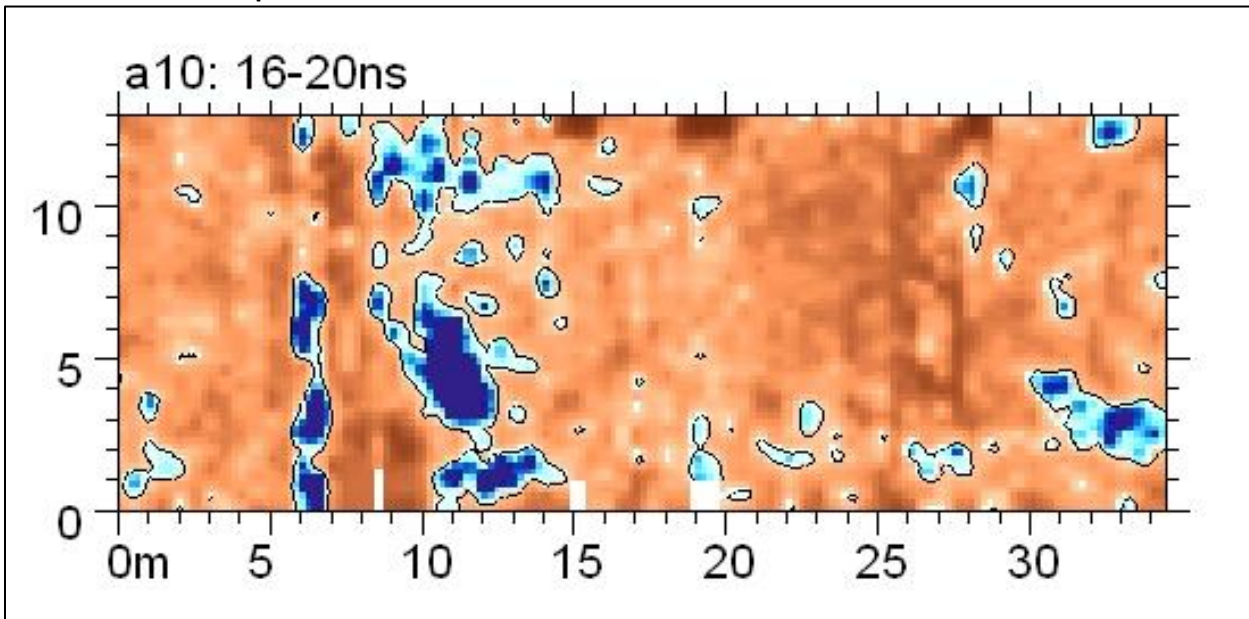
Block W Whitefield Square – 4



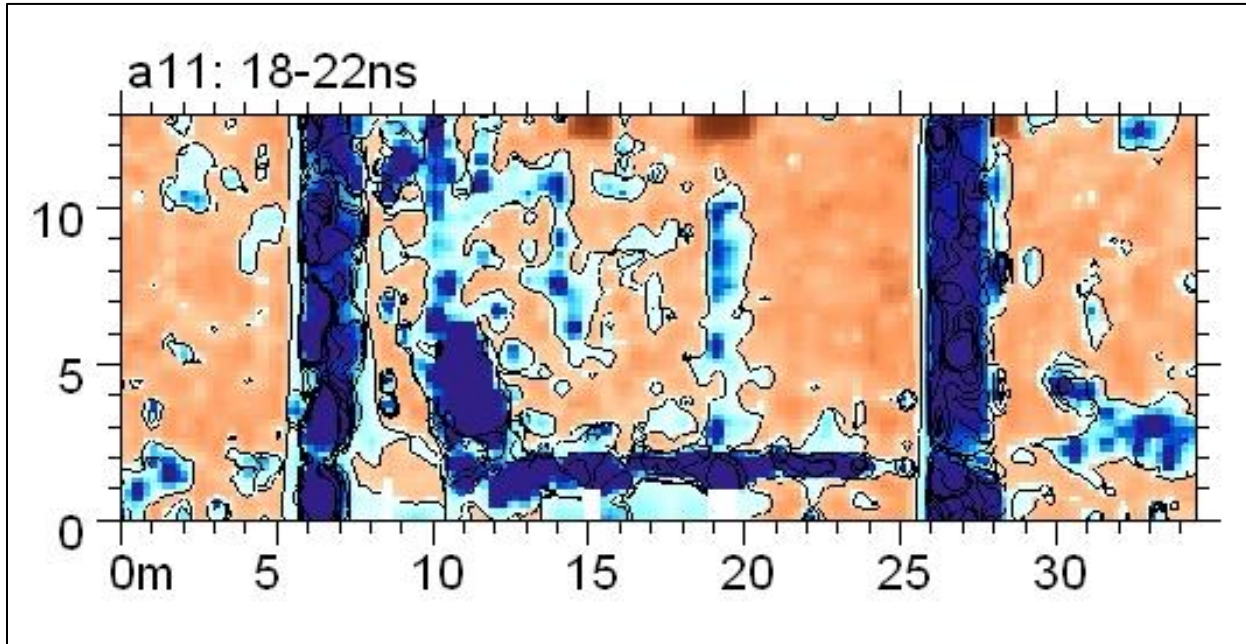
Block X Whitefield Square – 1



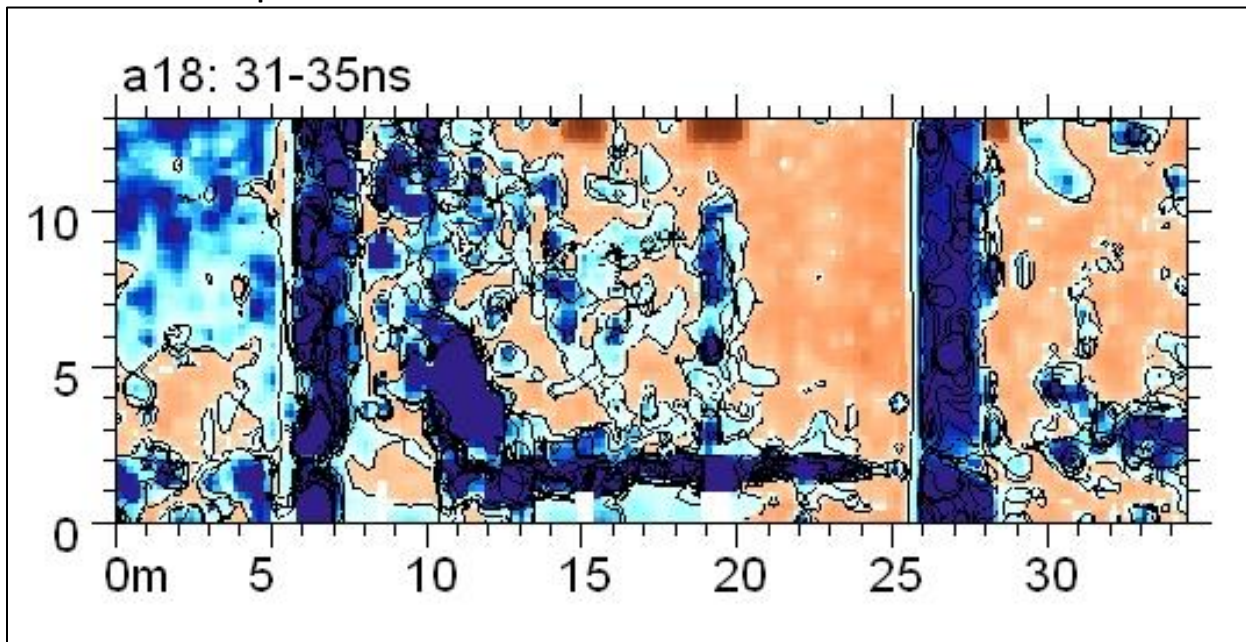
Block X Whitefield Square – 2



Block X Whitefield Square – 3



Block X Whitefield Square – 4



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