

SG-2037

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEC 14 2017

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Mack's Chapel Cemetery  
Other names/site number Burford/Buford/Buford Cemetery, Seventy-Six Colored Cemetery.  
Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number 1 1/4 miles east of the intersection of Highway D and CR 439. N/A not for publication  
City or town Altenburg X vicinity  
State Missouri Code MO County Perry Code 157 Zip code 63748

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

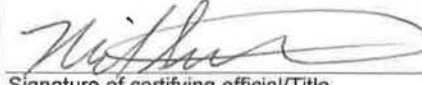
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

 Deputy SHPO  
Signature of certifying official/Title

DEC 07 2017  
Date JP 12/06/17

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

 Dan Edson N.P. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

1.29.18  
Date of Action

Mack's Chapel Cemetery  
Name of Property

Perry County, Missouri  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FUNERARY: Cemetery (not utilized since 1950)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation: N/A  
walls: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: N/A  
other: N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

Mack's Chapel Cemetery  
Name of Property

Perry County, Missouri  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

**Areas of Significance**

Ethnic Heritage: Black  
Archaeology/History  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1892 - 1950  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

AFRICAN-AMERICAN: Former slaves  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Richard A. Young: Unpublished research

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Mack's Chapel Cemetery  
Name of Property

Perry County, Missouri  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one acre

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude:

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude:

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude:

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude: Longitude:

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

X NAD 1927 or \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

1 16 S 0270862 4175796  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Richard A. Young

organization N/A: Volunteer undertaking date March 17, 2017

street & number 5687 County Road 532 telephone 573-833-6983

city or town Jackson State Missouri zip code 63755

e-mail [rayoung1@att.net](mailto:rayoung1@att.net)

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
  - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Mack's Chapel Cemetery  
Name of Property

Perry County, Missouri  
County and State

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log:

Name of Property: Mack's Chapel Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Altenburg vicinity

County: Perry State: Missouri

Photographer: Richard A. Young

Date  
Photographed: January 17, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

## PHOTO LOG MACK'S CHAPEL CEMETERY

PHOTO NO. 1: Looking west toward the cemetery site.

PHOTO NO. 2: Looking west from western edge of the cemetery site.

PHOTO NO. 3: Looking east from near the cemetery's eastern boundary.

PHOTO NO. 4: Looking north toward the Mack's Chapel church site.

PHOTO NO.5: Looking south from within the cemetery.

PHOTO NO. 6: Looking north toward the debris field resulting from Mack's Chapel's demolition.

PHOTO NO. 7: Looking north toward the dry-laid stone wall at the southeast corner of the church site.

PHOTO NO. 8: Looking west at Arthur Mattingly's monument.

PHOTO NO. 9: Looking down upon the C. Ann Lee monument.

PHOTO NO. 10: Looking west at Amelia Smith's monument.

Mack's Chapel Cemetery

Name of Property

Perry County, Missouri

County and State

PHOTO NO. 11: Looking west at Eliza J. Burford's monument.

PHOTO NO. 12: Looking west at Rosie Bufford's monument.

PHOTO NO. 13: Looking east at typical native-stone headstone.

PHOTO NO. 14: Looking east at two native-stone headstones.

PHOTO NO. 15: Looking south at child's native-stone headstone and gray granite footstone.

PHOTO NO. 16: Looking down upon a native-stone footstone with a "B" cut into its surface.

PHOTO NO. 17: Looking southeast toward scalloped wire fencing on southern boundary of site.

PHOTO NO. 18: Looking east from site toward the Mississippi River valley and the distant hills of Illinois.

PHOTO NO. 19: Looking southeast from the cemetery site toward the Herbert Steffens house. The Steffens house is roughly contemporary to the cemetery.

### **Figure Log:**

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

1. USGS 2012 topographic 7.5-minute map of Altenburg, MO-IL.
2. Detail of the 1949 16-minute topographic map of Altenburg, MO-IL depicting location of Mack's Chapel Cemetery.
3. Aerial photograph of the Mack's Chapel Cemetery site.
4. Scaled plan map of the ground survey of the Mack's Chapel Cemetery site.
5. Scaled plan map of burials.
6. Scaled Mack's Chapel Cemetery photo map.
7. Undated photograph of Mack's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. Looking toward the southeast.
8. Detail from the 1915 Standard Atlas of Perry County featuring the Mack's Chapel vicinity.
9. Looking north up the sunken road that forms the Mack's Chapel Cemetery's western boundary.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

**GENERAL SUMMARY:**

The rural Mack's Chapel Cemetery site lies within southeastern Perry County, Missouri, approximately five miles north of Altenburg, Missouri. More specifically, it is situated one and one quarter miles east of the intersection of Highway D and Perry County Road 439. The vernacular cemetery site is presently contained within the Herbert and Thelma Steffens farm. Its UTM location (NAD27) is 16 S 0270862 E, 4175796 N. Please refer to Figures 1 and 2 for topographic representations of the site's geographic setting.

The site's primary physical features are contained within the .62-acre parcel illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. The south-central portion of this area contains eight rows of east-facing burials. These interments are recognized by a combination of commercial headstones, field stones, and unmarked surface depressions. The cemetery's southern boundary is defined by the intermittent remains of a scalloped metal wire fence (photograph number 17). An abandoned sunken road bed defines the western boundary of the cemetery (see Figure 9), while open agricultural fields denote the eastern edge. On the up-slope northern edge of the site lies a debris pile of fragmentary concrete, a partially intact segment of wet-laid stone foundation, corrugated metal roofing sheets, broken window glass and a section of dry-laid stone wall representing the remains of the circa 1921 Free Will Baptist Church known as Mack's Chapel. Despite its poor quality, Figure 7 provides some idea of Mack's Chapel's design and appearance long after it was abandoned. Photographs number 4, 6, and 7 illustrate what presently remains of the former church building. The defining features of the site are recorded within Figure 4 which represents a scaled plan map of the area under discussion.

The criteria under which the Mack's Chapel Cemetery is being nominated include Criteria A and D. Within these criteria, the cemetery's areas of significance encompass the ethnic heritage of former African-American slaves and at least two subsequent generations of their descendants who constituted a small yet vital African-American enclave surrounded by a white population within this portion of Perry County, Missouri. This demographic factor is illustrated by the examination of Figure 8 which represents a circa 1915 plat map of the area surrounding Mack's Chapel Cemetery.<sup>1</sup> This map clearly show that, in 1915, three African-American land-holding families including those of Anderson Bufford, Levi Beal, and Anna Lee lived in a locality surrounded by their white neighbors. Although the site's significance is primarily local and it lacks any association to the life of an important individual, its trajectory nevertheless mirrors the struggles and achievements of former rural slaves during the decades following the end of the

<sup>1</sup> *Standard Atlas of Perry County, Missouri*. (Chicago 1915), 14.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

American Civil War. The fact that this community is so poorly documented in the historical record renders its potential to reveal significant archaeological information about the lifeways and economic status of this ethnic population worthy of inclusion under Criteria D. As such, the site embodies the powerful sense of agency exercised by African Americans during an era of profound social and economic change within the United States. While it is likely undocumented Bufford family interments took place in this cemetery during the 1870s or 1880s, the burial ground's earliest verified burial occurred in 1892 when twenty-nine-year-old William Bufford was laid to rest.<sup>2</sup> Since details surrounding the cemetery's earliest history are presently unrecoverable, its period of significance is fixed within the decades between 1892 and 1950.

The cemetery has its origins in 1868 when a freed slave was granted forty acres of land by his former owner. During the years that followed, this act served as the seed for a sort of chain migration that attracted other former slaves and their families to the area. For a time, property owning former slaves practiced subsistence farming while others worked in white-owned local orchards, farms, and stone quarries. Eventually this compact farming community supported a Free Will Baptist Church, a school, as well as the cemetery itself.

Beginning as a family plot, it appears the Mack's Chapel Cemetery became the communal resting place for the locale's African-American residents. The cemetery exhibits only five commercial stones (refer to photographs number 8-12). Most of the interments were commemorated by simple field stones or perhaps wooden monuments that have since vanished. Numerous burials are now marked only by rectangular depressions in the earth. Today the cemetery's wooded plot contains at least forty-five burials. The site is untended and seldom visited.

As the generations came and went, once respectable African-American family land holdings were sold to satisfy debt or subdivided to provide acreage for adult children. Eventually the remaining parcels became too small to be productively farmed. Economic cycles also took their toll. Factory work in the cities gradually drew sons and daughters away, and by 1950, the community was essentially extinct. The abandoned Free Will Baptist Church (Mack's Chapel) was eventually demolished by the farm's owner, Herbert Steffens, and only the cemetery remained to mark the fact that the community ever existed.

Notwithstanding the surface disturbances associated with the destruction of the church (refer to photograph number 6), the site no doubt preserves archaeological information about the activities carried on by the Mack's Chapel congregation during its occupation of the area. While absolutely no disturbance of interments is anticipated, discrete archaeological investigation of the grounds would be expected to reveal useful information about social activities associated with the church, its employment as a school, and the economic status of the African-American community during the period when the site was in use.

---

<sup>2</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 1010.



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The retrieval of such information would be valuable because the historic record of the region contains very little information about the day-to-day lives of former slaves and their families.

**SETTING:**

The isolated and rather remote Mack's Chapel Cemetery site, as depicted in photograph number 1, lies on the wooded south-facing slope of a ridge on the Herbert and Thelma Steffens' farm. With the exception of the vegetation that has overtaken the site, the cemetery's current setting likely looks very much as it did when the Free Will Baptist Church was holding services and its African-American congregation was still viable. This observation is supported by a perusal of Figure 2 featuring a detail from the 1949 fifteen-minute topographic map of Altenburg, Missouri.<sup>3</sup> This vintage map shows only a dispersed scattering of homes and outbuildings in the vicinity of the cemetery. Today, the surrounding agricultural landscape is that of a productive and well-managed farming operation comprising many acres of cropland, cattle pastures, and wood lots (Figure 3). Cultivated fields stretch to the north, east, and west of the site and a woodlot lies to the south. The original nineteenth-century Steffens' home and its surrounding outbuildings are situated on a ridge top perhaps one quarter of a mile to the southeast. A view of this farmstead is depicted by photograph number 19. The Steffens' farm is reached from blacktop county roads via narrow gravel lanes. A dirt field-road leads from the Steffens' home to within sight of the cemetery. The site's previously summarized characteristics and attributes impart a high degree of integrity which will be discussed in detail later in this section.

**DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND HISTORICAL REVIEW:**

Mack's Chapel Cemetery represents a vernacular funerary landscape rooted in traditional Christian templates and executed by a community of freed African-American slaves and their families during the years immediately after the American Civil War. Since this site was created and utilized by the members of a socially isolated and marginalized ethnic group, it is perhaps more accurately considered a burial ground than a classic cemetery.<sup>4</sup> The site is situated in the rolling riverine hills of southeastern Perry County, Missouri, approximately five miles north of Altenburg, Missouri. As depicted in photograph number 18, the Mississippi River winds its course less than a mile north of the site, and the now-extinct riverboat community of Seventy-Six lies only a little over one mile to the northwest. Embedded in a south-facing wooded slope (photograph number 1 and Figure 3), the cemetery's southern and western boundaries are timbered while to the north and east it is defined by the open agricultural fields of the Herbert and Thelma Steffens farm. The encircling landscape looks much as it did when the site was part

<sup>3</sup> United States Geological Survey. Topographic map, Altenburg, MO.- Ill. 15-minute quadrangle, 1949.

<sup>4</sup> Julie Rugg, "Defining the place of burial: what makes a cemetery a cemetery?", 266-68, [www.d.umn.edu/cia/faculty/jhamin/4960/Defing%20place.pdf](http://www.d.umn.edu/cia/faculty/jhamin/4960/Defing%20place.pdf).

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Mack's Chapel Cemetery

Name of Property

Perry County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

of a thriving African-American community, and it continues to convey a strong sense of integrity despite the passage of time and years of neglect.

In 1920, Anderson Buford [sic], conveyed a one-half-acre parcel of his land to the trustees of the Free Will Baptist Church to be used for a church and cemetery site.<sup>5</sup> Buford was the son of a slave, William Burford, to whom forty acres of farmland had been deeded by his former master in 1868.<sup>6</sup> Apart from the text of the original deed, one can only speculate about what motivated Burford's former master to undertake this transfer. Apparently this particular one-half-acre of land was selected as a church site because it already contained the Burford family burial ground as well as the graves of other African-American members of the community who were deceased prior to 1920.<sup>7</sup> Anderson Buford's two story frame home no longer stands, but it was originally situated on a knoll approximately one thousand feet to the east of the cemetery site.<sup>8</sup> During the decades since 1920, the actual boundaries of this original plot have been lost as the congregation drifted away and ground was slowly subsumed by the Steffen's farm. The last burial in the cemetery occurred in 1949 or 1950.<sup>9</sup>

Due to decades of neglect and the relentlessly infringing vegetation, the design of the burial ground is not readily apparent until one begins to observe the physical space closely. Initially five modest commercially manufactured monuments are readily apparent (photographs number 8-12). Each is crafted of white or gray marble and their styles seem to suggest they were emplaced at or near the time of interment. Although toppled, the most substantial of these monuments is the rectangular-beveled-topped stone of C. Ann Lee whose last will and testament stipulated that funds from her estate be used to purchase this tombstone.<sup>10</sup> Three of the five manufactured stones remain standing while that of Rosie Bufford is displaced from its marble base and leaning against a nearby tree trunk. Mrs. Bufford's white marble stone features a five-pointed star with the Masonic square and compass superimposed upon it. The three undisturbed monuments include the heart-shaped palm-frond-framed marble stone of Amelia Smith, the tablet-shaped marble monument of Eliza J. Burford with its hand holding an open book, and the white marble tombstone of twenty-nine-year-old Arthur Mattingly surmounted by a reclining lamb. Each of these monuments is in sound condition and readily readable.

<sup>5</sup> Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, *Book 89, Blank Deeds Record*, 604-605.

<sup>6</sup> Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, *Book 16, Land Records*, 430-431.

<sup>7</sup> Due to dialect and marginal literacy, the extant documents utilize various spellings of the original Burford surname. As a consequence, the historical spellings include Burford, Buford and Bufford.

<sup>8</sup> Leo Steffens, Jr., Randy Steffens, personal communication, August 5, 2017.

<sup>9</sup> Herbert Steffens, Leo Steffens, Thelma Steffens, personal communication, April 7, 2011.

<sup>10</sup> Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, *Book 87, Blank Deeds Record*, 527-528.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The interments marked by rude fieldstones of varying sizes and shapes are less perceptible. With the exception of a few granite footstones, these fieldstones appear to be from a common outcrop source comprised of a dense, coarse brown sandstone. Upon closer examination, it is apparent that most of the fieldstones are accompanied by corresponding footstones of native stone or light gray granite (refer to photographs number 13-16). Rectangular subsidence depressions are associated with six of the burials, and these features help to clearly define the cemetery's design as well as the approximate number of interments present. A precise count of interments is rendered difficult by the fact that it is sometimes impossible to distinguish footstones from headstones due to the variation in the size of stones utilized and the fact that some graves might have been initially marked by wooded monuments that have since disappeared. Notwithstanding the initially ephemeral impression of the site, the compass and line survey illustrated in the Figure 5 plan map of the cemetery revealed the presence of nine rows of burials totaling perhaps fifty-three interments. Figure 5 also identifies the locations of the five commercial monuments as well as the interments featuring fieldstone markers, footstones, and subsidence depressions. With these rows emplaced on bearings of 352° to 355° north, each burial faces east. If the raw-stone markers originally possessed incised or painted inscriptions, such legends have long since weathered from the surface of the stones. Of the interments contained within the site, only the existence of commercially manufactured monuments allows the specific resting place of five individuals to be verified. Only three of these monuments remain standing while two others have toppled or been displaced. The three standing stones mark the graves of Amelia Smith, Arthur Mattingly, and Eliza J. Buford. The two fallen monuments identify Rosie Bufford, C. Ann Lee. None of the five monuments exhibit maker's marks to identify their origins. All five of these monuments are recorded in photographs number 8-12.

The striking dearth of commercial headstones within the site seems to accentuate the relative poverty of the African-American families that interred their dead here. Although several members of the community owned homes and agricultural land during the period when the cemetery was in use, subsistence farming was the norm and there were few opportunities for employment producing sufficient income to purchase expensive manufactured monuments.<sup>11</sup> Nevertheless, the African-American mourners who buried their dead here, took care in laying out the burials and decorated the graves of loved ones with daffodils. Since the cemetery has been untended for so many years, the original plantings have spread over much of the ground surface leaving little evidence of original patterns.

The site once included the one-room African-American Free Will Baptist Church. Located on the crest of the ridge immediately north of the cemetery, the building was constructed in 1921.<sup>12</sup> The church

<sup>11</sup> The 1915 Standard Atlas of Perry County records the respective plots of land owned by Anderson Burford, Levi Beal, and C. Ann Lee.

<sup>12</sup> Dorothy Weinholt, personal communication, April 11, 2011,

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

was demolished several decades prior to 2017, and only one undated photograph of it has been located and this print is of extremely poor quality. Reproduced here in black and white, it appears as Figure 7. Taken from a point northwest of the building this image reveals a three-quarter view of a dilapidated rectangular foot-printed balloon-framed structure with a west-facing gable roof. A small hip-roofed bell tower surmounts the gable's western end. The roof is covered with corrugated metal sheets, and the visible northern and western elevations are sided with clapboard. A single doorway graces the western gable-end of the church, but masses of vegetation conceal the north elevation and render it impossible to determine the nature of fenestration. A brick chimney protrudes from the northeastern corner of the gable roof, but the enclosing trees and brush totally obscure the foundation elements.

No one has been able to explain why this African-American Free Will Baptist Church came to be known as Mack's Chapel, but the church was already known as such by 1921 when the cornerstone of the new church building was emplaced. Prior to this time, the cemetery was known as the Burford/Buford/Buford Cemetery, but most frequently identified as the Seventy-Six Colored Cemetery. The reference to Seventy-Six no doubt relates to the predominately white town of Seventy-Six which was a river boat landing located approximately one mile northeast of the cemetery. The fact that the cemetery was once known as the Seventy-Six Colored Cemetery seems merely a reference to its location relative to the closest settlement. The Lutheran Heritage Museum of Altenburg presently curates the original cornerstone of Mack's Chapel. Approximately two feet wide by two-and-a-half feet long, the four-inch-thick concrete slab contains the following legend scratched into the wet paste:

MACK'S  
CHAPEL CHURCH  
1921

DEACONS  
A. BUFFORD  
W. SIMMS  
L. PRINGLE  
W. ABBOTT  
A. MATTINGLY

LEVI BEAL  
CHAS. DAVIS  
C. GILLWATER  
  
LEVI BEALS  
CLERK

W. JONES  
PASTOR

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Four of the deacons identified on this cornerstone, all African-Americans, were eventually buried in the Mack's Chapel Cemetery. They include Anderson Bufford, Levy Beal, Charles Davis, and Arthur Mattingly.<sup>13</sup> Born a slave in 1840, Charles Davis moved from South Carolina to Perry County after the Civil War. He was a locally well-known musician, orchard worker, and farm laborer prior to his death in 1943.<sup>14</sup>

Although the cornerstone verifies the church was originally built in 1921, elderly first-person informants who grew up within sight of the cemetery verify that the 1921 structure was preceded by a one-room, gable-roofed log building that served as the African-American community's original house of worship. The exact location of this log building has been lost, but it is said to lie somewhere in the wooded area to the west of the nomination site. These informants relate that the original log building was located west of the cemetery and eventually used as the site of the "colored school" until classes began to be conducted in the circa 1921 church building.<sup>15</sup> No physical evidence of this log structure is visible, but a gently sloping wooded area west of the cemetery represents a likely locale.

**INTEGRITY:**

Due to its rather remote and secluded location, Mack's Chapel Cemetery has been little impacted by the onrush of the twenty-first century. As a consequence, although neglected, it retains a high degree of historical and physical integrity. The site's relationship to the seven aspects of integrity can be summarized as follows:

Located on a south-facing wooded slope that was once part of the freed slave, William Burford's, farm, the Mack's Chapel Cemetery originally served as the burial ground for the Burford family. The cemetery remains in its original location and its present configuration reflects its utilization as it grew from a family plot to a small community cemetery. Figure 8 provides a circa 1915 perspective on the locale surrounding the site. This plat map shows the cemetery's location in section 28 as well as its relationship to plots of land owned by African-American farmers including Anderson Bufford, Levi Beal, and Anna Lee. Figure 5 also illustrates the site's proximity to the Mississippi River and the contemporary community of Seventy-Six, Missouri.<sup>16</sup> Photographs 4 and 5 depict the site as it presently appears with its immature infilling of trees and brush.

The vernacular design of this cemetery has its origins in the Burford's family burial plot. While it is unknown when the first burial took place, the cemetery was functioning as an African-American community burial ground by the early 1890s. Following Christian tradition, nine rows of graves were laid

<sup>13</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, *Certificate of Death Records*.

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Federal Census of 1930, Perry County, Missouri, Brazeau Township. Perry County Republican*, November 25, 1943.

<sup>15</sup> Herbert Steffens and Leo Steffens, personal communication.

<sup>16</sup> *Standard Atlas of Perry County, Missouri*, 1915.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

out with interments facing east. Perhaps to conserve valuable agricultural fields, the cemetery was sited to occupy a wooded south-facing slope.

Mack's Chapel Cemetery's setting retains the character that no doubt made it appeal to its original caretakers. As previously noted, Figure 5 provides some indication of the site's rural nature in 1915 as well as the location of acreage owned by at least three African-American farmers who constituted part of the Mack's Chapel community.<sup>17</sup> When compared to the contemporary topographic map of the locality featured in Figure 1, it is evident how little the setting has changed during the intervening decades. The site is peaceful and beautiful even today. The old Steffens' home, apparently contemporary with the cemetery's period of significance, sits upon the ridge to the southeast, and the pond employed by the Mack's Chapel congregation for baptisms still occupies a basin below and to the cemetery's southern boundary. The carefully planted daffodils about the graves still bloom in the early spring, and other than the sound of occasional traffic on the gravel-bedded Orchard Lane, almost nothing of the outside world intrudes.

The materials employed to mark burials seem to imply the subsistence nature of the African-American farm economy that supported the Mack's Chapel community. Only five of the fifty-three burials in the cemetery are graced by commercial monuments, and these are simple, conservative pieces crafted from white or gray marble. Most of the remaining headstones and footstones are comprised of rude sandstone fieldstones gathered from the near-by outcrops. While it is possible these slabs of bedrock once included painted inscriptions, these have long since been weathered away with the passage of time. Unfortunately, many other burials lack even fieldstone markers, and to the careful observer, these announce their presence by rectangular depressions in the cemetery's leafy floor.

Except for the traditional layout of the graves and the selection of native stone headstones, little can now be said about the workmanship employed to create this cemetery. The ubiquity of death created the imperative, and the burial ground grew from there.

Even in its isolated and untended state, Mack's Chapel Cemetery continues to evoke a sense of feeling that mirrors the once-vibrant African-American community that, for a few decades, thrived in this vicinity. It is still possible to sit in the site and imagine the sounds of children playing on the school ground or the voice of the Baptist preacher as he gave his Sunday-morning sermon. One can visualize strong men bearing the coffins across the fields to the burial ground as the mourners followed in their footsteps. The blooming daffodils also conger the visits of loved ones bringing flowers to decorate graves.

---

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**SUMMARY:**

Located within a .62-acre plot of land at 16 S 0270862E 4175796N (NAD 27), Mack's Chapel Cemetery site is surrounded by the Herbert and Thelma Steffens farm (refer to Figures 2 and 3). The Steffen's farm lies in southeastern Perry County approximately 1/4 miles east of the intersection of Highway D and County Road 439. In a circumscribed agricultural area that became a refuge for former slaves and their families, it ultimately functioned as a burial ground for at least fifty-three African-American residents of the locality who were interred there between the last quarter of the 1800s and 1950. In addition to meeting Criteria A standards for significance, the cemetery qualifies under Criteria D because the site is closely related to the growth of a small and poorly documented African-American community that left little evidence on the region's landscape. As a consequence of this dearth of information, recognition of Mack's Chapel Cemetery's significance will preserve an important aspect of Perry County's history and perhaps serve as a catalyst for further research. The cemetery is being nominated under Criterion A because of its direct association with a now-extinct African-American community of former slaves and their families that flourished in this area between the last quarter of the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century. Eligibility under Criterion Consideration D is indicated by the fact that only the cemetery itself survives to represent this poorly documented rural ethnic community. Given the fact that mortuary practices, religious services, educational activities, and social events were carried out upon the site, the area is expected to contain valuable information about the customs, beliefs, social status and economic standing of the African-American families who occupied the area.

Originally known as the Burford/Buford/Buford Cemetery and the Seventy-Six Colored Cemetery, the site became generally called Mack's Chapel Cemetery at least as early as 1921.<sup>18</sup> The site lies about one mile southeast of the now-extinct river boat landing town called Seventy-Six, and for a time the cemetery took its name from that association. In 1921, a one-story frame African-American church was erected by congregants on the ridge top at the northern edge of the site. This structure served as both the church and, for a time, as the community's "colored school". Eventually abandoned as the African-American population dispersed during the late 1940s, the building stood in disrepair until perhaps the early 2000s when it was demolished by the property owner, Herbert Steffens. The extant 1921 cornerstone of the church identifies it as Mack's Chapel and records that W. Jones was pastor when the building was built. This corner stone also identifies eight deacons and reveals that Levi Beals was the church's clerk.<sup>19</sup> Although of marginal quality, Figure 7 is a photograph of Mack's Chapel as it appeared several decades after it was abandoned.

**CRITERIA A: ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK**

<sup>18</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics Death Records.

<sup>19</sup> This cornerstone is presently curated by the Lutheran Heritage Center and Museum in Altenburg, Missouri.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Mack's Chapel Cemetery is significant at the local level under Criteria A and D. The basis for nomination under Criteria A is the fact that the cemetery site represents the only known surviving vestige of a once vibrant African-American community that flourished in southeastern Perry County, Missouri, from shortly after the Civil War until the end of World War II. While the ubiquity of slaveholding in Perry County prior to the end of the Civil War suggests other similar Africa-American sites may indeed exist elsewhere in the county, none have been identified or carefully investigated. In light of this, the Mack's Chapel site illustrates the manner in which this particular group of African Americans managed to create new lifeways and secure a degree of independence and security in the years following the end of slavery. During the period from 1892 through 1950, the site served the community variously as a burial ground, the locus of a Baptist church, a "colored" school, and an array of social activities associated with these functions. This vernacular African-American cemetery is essentially intact and little changed since it experienced its last burial in 1950 (refer to photographs 2 and 5). The site retains a high degree of integrity and stands as a testament to an isolated community of African Americans whose memory and history has been all but entirely forgotten by today's almost exclusively white residents of the region.

CRITERIA D: ARCHAEOLOGY/HISTORIC

Inclusion under Criteria D is supported by the fact that most of the site remains archaeologically intact and capable of disclosing important information about the families who lived in the vicinity. Even though the church building itself has been demolished, its demolition debris remains in situ and likely to reveal details about the building's construction and use. Since the people of color who made up the congregation of Mack's Chapel left relatively little in the historical record, the site possesses the potential to reveal much about their lifeways.

The site has not been cultivated since the cemetery was created, and, apart from the pedestrian survey undertaken as part of this nomination, no archaeological investigations have been conducted within the site. While there is absolutely no justification for the disturbance of any actual burials within the cemetery, several potential research questions could warrant other investigations elsewhere in the site. For example, how did the social customs of Mack's Chapel's African-American residents compare with those of the neighboring white culture? Since many of the African-American community's activities associated with religion, marriage, schooling, and burial customs must have been carried out here, future archaeological investigation is capable of revealing useful information about this poorly documented minority community. Yet another research question could investigate the degree to which the African-American population of the locality participated in, or diverged from, the regional economy. Archaeological investigation recovering kitchen, personal, and faunal group artifacts including ceramic, glass, personal adornment items, and animal bone have the potential to suggest the nature of social activities conducted on the site as well as implying something about the economic standing of the



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

community. A third research question worthy of investigation pertains to the now-demolished circa 1921 church building. What was the building's plan and configuration and what materials were employed during its construction? Is there evidence that the structure was modified during its use life? The presence of artifacts from the architecture and fuel groups, as well as associated features have the potential to provide a more accurate picture of the building or buildings that may have once occupied the site.

ORIGINS:

The Mack's Chapel Cemetery traces its roots to William Burford, a freed slave who was, in 1868, deeded forty acres of land by his former slave master. Originally used as the Burford family burial ground, this small cemetery eventually grew to serve a loose aggregation of property-owning former slaves who tilled the land and created a rural enclave within the midst of their white neighbors. Rearing families and apparently attracting other African Americans to the locality, the Mack's Chapel community eventually supported an African-American burial ground, the associated Free Will Baptist Church, a school, and a home for at least two-hundred and seventy-two people of color who resided in the area between 1850 and 1950.

These people came to the Mack's Chapel area from widely varied parts of the nation. For example, Anderson Bufford, the man who donated a half acre of his land for the cemetery and church, was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1855.<sup>20</sup> Bufford's wife, Eliza J. Bufford, was born in Virginia in 1848. The Buffords' eventually owned 150 acres of land including the site of Mack's Chapel Cemetery.<sup>21</sup> Levi Caleb Beal, was born in Perryville, Missouri, in 1855.<sup>22</sup> His spouse, Clara Beal, was born in Perryville, Missouri, in 1855.<sup>23</sup> The Beals eventually owned and farmed 176 acres to the west of the cemetery.<sup>24</sup> Amelia Smith was born in Tennessee in 1847, and she was the daughter of William Burford who was the freed slave to whom forty acres was given by his former master in 1868.<sup>25</sup> Given her parentage, it is assumed that Mrs. Smith was born a slave. Catherine Ann Lee was born in either Maryland or Virginia in 1849. Her husband, James Lee was born in Pennsylvania in 1831 and together the couple raised a family

<sup>20</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records No. 27750.

<sup>21</sup> Perry County recorder of Deeds Office, Book 3, Marriage Record, 17-18; Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, *Standard Atlas of Perry County, Missouri*, 1915, p.14, Federal Census of 1870, Perry County, Missouri.

<sup>22</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records No. 37782.

<sup>23</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records No. 4602.

<sup>24</sup> *Standard Atlas of Perry County, Missouri*, 1915, 14.

<sup>25</sup> Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Book 16, 430-431.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

on their forty-acre farm just south of Mack's Chapel.<sup>26</sup> Charles Davis was born a slave in South Carolina in 1840, and worked in the orchards in the vicinity of Mack's Chapel cemetery.<sup>27</sup>

The families and individuals who populated this freed-slave community are long gone along with their homes, their church and their school. Extant records of the population are few and even recognition of the fact they ever existed is rapidly receding as the region's old people die and the vegetation encroaches. Only Mack's Chapel Cemetery site serves as a witness to the African Americans who once carved out their lives within the southeastern corner of Perry County, Missouri. The site retains lessons to teach us. Its importance ought to be recognized and its remaining resource preserved.

**NARRATIVE:**

According to local lore, Mack's Chapel Cemetery originated as a family plot for the William Burford family sometime after the freed slave acquired his property in 1868<sup>28</sup> The original Burford family burial ground eventually evolved into a vernacular cemetery that became associated with the congregation of the Free Will Baptist Church. Although the oldest verified burial occurred during 1892 with the interment of William Bufford [sic], it is likely other committals had taken place prior to this time.<sup>29</sup> The transition from family plot to community cemetery occurred as the locale's African-American population's nucleation necessitated a formal cemetery and the construction of a more substantial church in 1921. The cemetery's most intensive period of utilization appears to have occurred during the decade between 1920 and 1929 when seventeen documented interments took place.<sup>30</sup>

Only five commercially produced tombstones are present within the cemetery and each of these can be viewed in photographs number 8 through 12. The first of these marks the grave of Eliza J. Burford who died in 1894 (refer to photograph number 11), and the final one commemorates the death of Amelia Smith in 1926 (photograph number 10). While it cannot be determined exactly when the commercial stones were emplaced, the design and materials of each suggest they are roughly contemporary with the interments. Perhaps the most verifiable year of marker emplacement is 1924 when Catherine Ann Lee

<sup>26</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics Certificate of Death Records, No. 29379; *Standard Atlas of Perry County, Missouri*, 1915, p.14.

<sup>27</sup> Federal Census of Perry County, Missouri, 192, Brazeau Township; *Perry County Republican*, November 25, 1943.

<sup>28</sup> Herbert Steffens, Leo Steffens, and Dorothy Weinholt, personal communication April 7, 2011, and March 19, 2011.

<sup>29</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, *Certificate of Death*, file number 2243.

<sup>30</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, *Certificate of Death Records; Perry County Birth and Death Records 1883-1893*.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

was buried. Mrs. Lee's last will and testament specified purchase of a tombstone and her estate included funds to finance her burial and erection of a monument.<sup>31</sup> Apart from the demolition debris associated with the church, remnants of scalloped metal fencing and the nine parallel rows of east-facing burials, little else of the site's construction plan can be ascertained without formal archaeological investigation or the discovery of historic photographs.

SLAVERY IN PERRY COUNTY:

To fully appreciate the milieu in which the Mack's Chapel community arose, it is necessary to examine the role in slavery in this portion of southeastern Missouri. Perry County's anti-bellum history is deeply rooted in the institution of slavery. In 1860, the year before the outbreak of the Civil War, the county's population of 9,024 included 739 slaves. During that same year, within Brazeau Township, the political venue within which the Mack's Chapel community would arise, the slave census enumerated 223 individuals held in bondage.<sup>32</sup> Slaves worked as household servants and as laborers in the county's agricultural fields and grist mills. Even Perryville's Catholic seminary utilized slave labor to manage its sundry endeavors.<sup>33</sup>

By 1861, the rising tide of abolitionism sweeping the nation coupled with eastern Perry County's proximity to Illinois, a free state, gave rise to increasing social and economic tensions. The ever-burgeoning number of runaway slaves seeking refuge across the Mississippi River in Illinois eventually prompted the Perry County Court to authorize a slave patrol in Brazeau Township. Operating at night, this patrol was comprised of twenty-two armed and mounted white men empowered to apprehend runaway slaves and restore them to their owners.<sup>34</sup> As the Civil War drew to its bloody conclusion the economic disruptions and interpersonal tensions that resulted as slavery was dismantled induced tremendous demographic pressure on the former slave population of Perry County and Brazeau Township. With friction between whites and newly emancipated blacks high, the former slave population of Perry County largely dispersed. Indeed, between 1860 and 1870, the number of African-Americans residing in Brazeau Township plummeted from 223 to only sixty-one.<sup>35</sup>

BIRTH OF A COMMUNITY:

<sup>31</sup> Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Box 87, Blank Deed Record, 527-528.

<sup>32</sup> Joseph Price Barber, "The Settlement Patterns of Perry County, Missouri 1850-1900." (M.A. thesis, Southeast Missouri State University, 2000), 235, 245.

<sup>33</sup> Stafford Poole and Douglas J. Slawson, *Church and Slave in Perry County, Missouri: 1818-1865*. (Lewiston: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1986).

<sup>34</sup> Billie Rodger Mills, "Slavery in Perry County: A Thesis" (M.A. thesis, Southeast Missouri State University, 1974), 63-64, 66.

<sup>35</sup> Barber, "The Settlement Patterns of Perry County, Missouri 1850-1900," 274, 288, 421.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Notwithstanding the post-war instability afflicting emancipated people of color, Mack's Chapel Cemetery and the community from which it grew were rooted in the fortunes of a freed slave, William Burford (subsequently Bufford or Buford). On March 7, 1868, Burford's former master, Solomon R. Burford, deeded him forty acres of land southeast of Seventy-Six, Missouri. The deed recording this transfer notes that the property was being conveyed to William Burford in "consideration of valuable services rendered when a slave."<sup>36</sup> Since only the text of Solomon R. Burford's property transfer addresses the motivation behind his action to convey the acreage, nothing else can be accurately concluded about why the transfer occurred. The property transfer did, however, serve as the seed of a growing farm for the Burford family as well as a magnet drawing additional freed slaves to settle and purchase land in the vicinity. As previously noted in this section, former slaves and presumed former slaves attracted to the Mack's Chapel Cemetery neighborhood included Eliza J. Bufford (Burford, Buford), who was born in Virginia in 1848, Levi Caleb Beal and his wife Clara, both of whom were born in Perryville, Missouri, in 1855, and Amelia Smith, who was born in Tennessee during 1847. James Lee took up residence in the area after being born in Pennsylvania in 1831, and he and his spouse, Catherine Ann Lee, owned a small farm. A former slave, Charles Davis, was born in South Carolina in 1840, and spent the last years of his life living and working in the Mack's Chapel area. At least fifteen African-Americans including members of the Gillenwaters, Lee, Sims, Beals, and Burford families eventually acquired property in the immediate area giving birth to a dispersed farming community in which at least 272 people of color lived at one time or another between the years 1868 and 1950.<sup>37</sup>

This aggregation of families soon gave rise to the formation of a Baptist church congregation whose burial ground incorporated the original Burford family plot.<sup>38</sup> With the community growing, William Burford's presumed son, Anderson Bufford, conveyed one half acre of his land to the trustees of the Free Will Baptist Church to be used for a cemetery and church site in 1920.<sup>39</sup> The cemetery eventually became the resting place of no fewer than fifty-three African-American members of the community.<sup>40</sup> These

<sup>36</sup> Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Book 16, Land Records, 430-431.

<sup>37</sup> Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Book 89, Blank Deed Record, 604-605; Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Book 58, Warranty Deed Record, 514; Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Deed Trust, Book 67, 521; Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Map of Fract. Township 33 N., Range 14E., Fract. Township 34 N., Range 14E., Fract. Township 33 and 34 N., Range 13 E. Plat Book, 14-15; Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Book 87, 527; Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Blank Deeds Record, Book 89, 604-605.

<sup>38</sup> Herbert Steffens, Leo Steffens, Thelma Steffens, personal communication.

<sup>39</sup> Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Book 89, 604-605.

<sup>40</sup> Richard A. Young, "Mack's Chapel and the African-American Community of Seventy-Six, Missouri," (unpublished research manuscript), 2013, 26; Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, *Certificate of Death Records; Perry County Birth and Death Records 1883-1893*.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

interments include at least seven former slaves. While previous burials are no doubt present, the earliest documented interment at Mack's Chapel Cemetery occurred during 1892 with the last taking place in 1949 or 1950. Two interments occurred during the 1890s, six took place between 1910 and 1919, seventeen between 1920 and 1929, four during 1930 and 1939, and one during the late 1940s.<sup>41</sup>

Although thirty-one of the individuals buried at the site are identified by extant monuments or through Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics death records, the remaining twenty-two burials must be inferred from the location of rude fieldstone markers or the presence of subsidence depressions denoting grave sites. Figure 5 contained within this nomination illustrates the burial plan utilized.

DOCUMENTED INTERMENTS AT MACK'S CHAPEL CEMETERY:

Missouri death records coupled with the presence of five identifiable monuments reveal the identities of thirty-one of the people buried at Mack's Chapel. A physical survey of the site, however, revealed the presence of at least fifty-two interments. The method used to arrive at this figure began with a thorough pedestrian survey conducted during winter "leaf-off" season. This activity allowed the researcher to discover leaf-filled depressions and search for additional manufactured tombstones that might have toppled and become shallowly buried. A mapping survey followed which started with the flagging each headstone, fieldstone marker, and depression. With orange flagging in place, the burial pattern could be generally perceived despite the heavy leaf litter and obscuring vegetation. Employing the standing monument of Catherine Ann Lee as the datum point, a taped distance and compass bearing was secured for the location of each burial. A Sunnto optical reading compass was used to take all of the azimuth reading, and a scaled plan map of the interments was completed from the field notes (refer to Figure 5).

The following enumeration identifies the thirty-one people who are verified to have been buried in the cemetery:

Grace Allen Barber: Born May 4, 1904. Died August 7, 1922. Ms. Barber was born in Frohna, Missouri, and was employed as a "house girl."<sup>42</sup>

Clara Beal: Born October 12, 1859. Died February 19, 1921. Born in Perry County, Missouri, Mrs. Beal is presumed to have been a former slave. She was the spouse of Levy Beal,<sup>43</sup> and the second of eight

<sup>41</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Certificate of Death Records; Herbert Steffens, Leo Steffens, Thelma Steffens, personal communication.

<sup>42</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 24390.

<sup>43</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 4602.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

children born to Charles and Charlotte Mattingly. Mrs. Beal's parents lived in the Seventy-Six area at least as early as 1876.<sup>44</sup>

Levy Caleb Beal: Born December 28, 1855. Died November 16, 1928. Presumed to have been a former slave, Mr. Beal was born in Perry County, Missouri. He owned and farmed 158 acres of land and served as a deacon for the Free Will Baptist Church.<sup>45</sup> Mr. Beal married Clara Mattingly in Perry County, Missouri, on September 11, 1881.<sup>46</sup> Mrs. Clara Beal was born in Perry County on October 12, 1859, so it is likely she too was a slave.<sup>47</sup> Levi Beal first appears in Brazeau Township during the federal census of 1880.

Lillian Virginia Beal: Born April 5, 1925. Died April 12, 1925. This infant was born at Seventy-Six, Missouri, and died of a head injury.<sup>48</sup>

Anderson Bufford: Born March 25, 1855. Died October 24, 1925. Mr. Bufford was in all likelihood a former slave. He was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and eventually owned 150 acres of farmland. He is the individual who, in 1920, deeded a one-half-acre plot for the Mack's Chapel Church and cemetery.<sup>49</sup> Bufford's two-story frame home was once located on a knoll perhaps one thousand feet to the east of the cemetery.<sup>50</sup>

Ethel Bufford: Born May 12, 1926. Died May 19, 1926. This infant was born at Seventy-Six, Missouri.<sup>51</sup>

Evelin Bufford: Born June 12, 1884. Died March 22, 1918. Mrs. Bufford was born in Perry County and may have been a victim of the Influenza outbreak of 1918-19.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>44</sup> Perry County Census of 1876, Brazeau Township.

<sup>45</sup> Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Book 58, Warranty Deeds Record, 514; Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 37782.

<sup>46</sup> *Perry County Marriage Records, Book 4, 1881-1888*, A Publication of the Book Committee, Perry County Historical Society, undated, 310.

<sup>47</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 4602.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., File No. 12561.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., File No. 27750; Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records; Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Plat Book, Map of Fract. Township 33 N., Range 14 E., Fract. Township 34 N., Range 14 E., Fract. Township 33 and 34 N., 14-15.

<sup>50</sup> Leo Steffens, Jr., Randy Steffens, personal communication, August 5, 2017.

<sup>51</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 17095.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., File No. 10048.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Phillip Bufford: Born September 14, 1877. Died June 3, 1929. Born in Old Appleton, Missouri, Mr. Bufford was a farmer who died of diabetes.<sup>53</sup>

Rosie Bufford: Born November 16, 1886. Died April 18, 1917. Ms. Bufford's modest marble monument appears in photograph number 12. It depicts a five-pointed star within a circle. Superimposed upon the star is the Masonic square and compass. This would suggest Ms. Bufford was the spouse of a Prince Hall Masonic Lodge member. Black Masonic lodges arose during the late eighteenth century and eventually became important fraternal and self-help organizations within African-American communities.<sup>54</sup> Records pertaining to the Mack's Chapel community contain no other information regarding this individual.

Rudolf Stecher Bufford: Born April 29, 1912. Died July 1, 1929. Mr. Bufford was born in Perry County and made his living as a laborer.<sup>55</sup>

William Bufford: Born 1863. Died November 4, 1892. Mr. Bufford was born in Illinois, and worked as a laborer. He died of typhoid fever.<sup>56</sup>

Eliza J. Buford [sic]: Mrs. Buford was born Lacey Jane Jackson in the state of Virginia during 1848. She is presumed to have been a slave. She married Anderson Bufford [sic] at Altenburg, MO in 1867. Mrs. Buford and her husband eventually owned 150 acres of land in the vicinity of Mack's Chapel Cemetery. She died on April 26, 1894. Her marble monument depicts a hand clasping an open book and included the legend that she was the wife of Anderson Burford.<sup>57</sup> Her tombstone can be seen in photograph number 11.

Charles Davis: Born March 17, 1840. Died November 22, 1943. A former slave who was born in South Carolina, Mr. Davis was married to Mary E. Davis. Locally known as "Happy Charlie," he was an accomplished musician, farm laborer, and orchard worker during his lifetime. He was so well known in the

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., File No. 2825.

<sup>54</sup> BlackPast.Org, "Prince Hall Masons (1784 - )," blackpast.org.

<sup>55</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 25421.

<sup>56</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 1010.

<sup>57</sup> Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, *Book 3, Marriage Record*, 17-18; Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, *Plat Book, Map of Fract. Township 33 N., Range 14 E., Fract. Township 34 N., Range 14 E., Fract. Township 33 and 34 N.; U.S. Census Bureau, Federal Census of 1870, Perry County, Brazeau Township.*

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

locality that the *Perry County Republican* newspaper printed a rather lengthy obituary following his death.<sup>58</sup>

Lizzie Davis: Born March 6, 1875. Died October 24, 1925. Ms. David was born in Jackson, Missouri.<sup>59</sup>

Harrison Gillenwater: Born December 12, 1907. Died May 28, 1928. Mr. Gillenwater was born in Perry County, Missouri, and died of tuberculosis.<sup>60</sup>

Charles Gillenwaters: Born May 1, 1914. Died July 19, 1929. Mr. Gillenwaters was born in Perry County, Missouri.<sup>61</sup>

Christopher Gillenwaters, Jr.: Born December 11, 1919. Died August 14, 1932. Mr. Gillenwaters was born in Perry County, Missouri.<sup>62</sup>

Fasters Gillenwaters: Born November 6, 1918. Died November 7, 1918. This infant was born at Seventy-Six, Missouri, and died before help could arrive.<sup>63</sup>

Herbert Gillenwaters: Born May 5, 1909. Died July 8, 1929. Mr. Gillenwaters was born in Perry County and died of tuberculosis.<sup>64</sup>

Lawrence Gilwaters [sic]: Born September 19, 1916. Died September 21, 1930. Mr. Gilwaters was born in Perry County.<sup>65</sup>

C. Ann Lee: Catherine Ann Lee's commercial tombstone lies toppled in the cemetery. Although recently toppled, Mrs. Lee's monument is the most substantial in the burial ground. As can be noted in photograph number 9, its design includes a symbolic depiction of the gates of heaven surrounded by olive leaves below which occurs the inscription "IN MEMORY OF." The lower section of the monument proclaims that

<sup>58</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *1920 Federal Census of Perry County, Brazeau Township; Perry County Republican*, November 25, 1943.

<sup>59</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 30742.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid., File No. 18006.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid., File No. 25424.

<sup>62</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 26956.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., File No. 41313.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid., File No. 25422.

<sup>65</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 30703.



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

"SHE PASSED THROUGH GLORY'S MORNING GATE." The stone records Mrs. Lee was born on March 1, 1849 and died on January 4, 1924. Born in Maryland or Virginia, Mrs. Lee was likely born into slavery.<sup>66</sup> She married James Lee and raised a family in the vicinity of Mack's Chapel. The Lees once owned forty acres of land, and Mrs. Lee still owned her home at the time of her death. In her last will and testament she allocated \$175.00 to pay for her funeral and tombstone.<sup>67</sup> Since Mrs. Lee's husband, James, was born in Pennsylvania during 1831, his original slave status is pure conjecture. It is more likely he was a free person of color.<sup>68</sup>

Arthur Mattingly: Born December 25, 1882. Died July 13, 1911. Depicted in photograph number 8, Mr. Mattingly's tombstone is a marble monument surmounted by the figure of a reclining lamb. Although the stone's legend proclaims that the deceased is "Gone but not forgotten," no other record of Mr. Mattingly could be located. The Mattingly surname appears in the area's African-American population in 1876, but Arthur Mattingly seems to have left no record other than his monument.<sup>69</sup>

Charles Fines Mattingly: Born December 16, 1912. Died January 22, 1913. This infant was born in Perry County and died of pneumonia.<sup>70</sup>

Frances Elizabeth Miner: Born September 2, 1923. Died October 12, 1923. Born in Perry County, this child represents yet another example of the tragically high Infant mortality rate that plagued this community. Her cause of death is listed as pertussis.<sup>71</sup>

Maggie Pringle: Born October 22, 1893. Died March 23, 1923. Born in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Mrs. Pringle was the wife of Roy L. Pringle. According to the 1920 federal census, the couple had four children. She died of tuberculosis.<sup>72</sup>

<sup>66</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Federal Census of 1880 and 1920, Perry County, Missouri, Brazeau Township*; Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, *1915 Perry County Plat Book*, 14; Bureau of Vital Statistics, *Death Records*, File No. 1996.

<sup>67</sup> Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, *Book 87, Blank Deeds Record*, 527-528.

<sup>68</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Federal Census of 1900, Perry County, Missouri, Salem Township*.

<sup>69</sup> Perry County Census of 1876, Brazeau Township.

<sup>70</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, *Death Records*, File No. 2243.

<sup>71</sup> Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, *Death Records*, File No. 30846.

<sup>72</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Federal Census of 1920, Perry County, Brazeau Township*; Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, *Death Records*, File No. 10017a.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Paris William Pringle: Born September 5, 1914. Died March 30, 1934. Mr. Pringle was a farmer who was born in Altenburg, Missouri.<sup>73</sup>

Vanida Pringle: Born January 15, 1921. Died December 31, 1922. This child was born at Seventy-Six, Missouri, and died of acute bronchitis.<sup>74</sup>

Amelia Smith: Born in Tennessee on June 15, 1847, Mrs. Smith died September 1, 1926. She was the widow of George Smith and her father is identified as William Burford [sic], the freed slave who acquired land from his former master in 1868.<sup>75</sup> Based upon her date and location of birth, it is likely she was born to slavery. She was struck and killed by a train while walking on the tracks. Mrs. Smith's heart-shaped tombstone features palm fronds and the inscription "IN MEMORY OF."<sup>76</sup> Mrs. Smith's monument recorded in photograph number 10.

Carrie Wilson: Born February 1, 1877. Died March 5, 1933. Mrs. Wilson was born in Missouri and performed housework during her working life. She was married to Richard Wilson. The 1930 federal census records reflect that the couple had four children. Mrs. Wilson was a resident of Wittenberg at the time of her death.<sup>77</sup>

Ralph Wilson: Born July 18, 1912. Died March 14, 1913. This child was born in Perry County, Missouri, and died of acute bronchitis.<sup>78</sup>

Walter Wilson: Born April 14, 1914. Died April 10, 1915. Born in Perry County, this child died of pneumonia.<sup>79</sup>

Education:

Notwithstanding the dispersed nature of the African-American community in the vicinity of Seventy-Six, Missouri, the value people of color placed upon education of the settlement's children is illustrated by the fact that of the fifty-eight schools in Perry County during the 1904-05 school year, the only designated

<sup>73</sup>Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 9931.

<sup>74</sup>Ibid., File No. 33190.

<sup>75</sup>Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Book 16, 430-431.

<sup>76</sup>Ibid., File No. 29379.

<sup>77</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, *Federal Census of 1930, Perry County, Brazeau Township*; Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 10564.

<sup>78</sup>Bureau of Vital Statistics, Death Records, File No. 10207.

<sup>79</sup>Ibid., File No. 13601.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

facility for "colored" children was apparently the school at Mack's Chapel.<sup>80</sup> According to informants with direct knowledge of the subject, the original "colored" school was a one-room gable-roofed log building situated to the west of the cemetery.<sup>81</sup> These same informants recall that, after the circa 1921 Baptist church was erected, it was utilized as a classroom for African-American children during weekdays.<sup>82</sup>

By at least 1929, Perry County's Public School District No. 27 administered a new school building for "colored" students in the vicinity of Mack's Chapel. The new building was located less than a mile from the cemetery on today's Perry County Road 439. This facility was named The Lincoln School.<sup>83</sup>

Peak enrollment of African-American students from the community occurred during the 1927-28 school year when twenty children attended.<sup>84</sup> As the years passed, however, enrollments gradually declined until the 1945-46 session when only two students of color attended. Twelve-year-old Rose Hull and fifteen-year-old Loyd Barber were the last African-American students to attend classes at Lincoln School.<sup>85</sup>

**CONCLUSION:**

Based upon its history, association and integrity, Mack's Chapel Cemetery is eligible under Criteria A and D of the National Register standards for nomination. Criterion A is appropriate because the site preserves elements of the ethnic heritage of freed slaves who settled and farmed this small enclave in southeastern Perry County, Missouri. The site includes a basically intact African-American cemetery that was first used as a family plot and later as a corporate burial ground for the community's Free Will Baptist Church. Created and used during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and utilized until about 1950, the cemetery served the needs of former slaves and their families. Driven by the trajectory of the African-American population nucleated in the area, the site eventually harbored a Baptist church, and a "colored school" as well as the cemetery. The cemetery maintains its importance because it represents perhaps the last surviving remnant of a small community of color in which at least three generations lived out their lives in a rural landscape totally surrounded by their white neighbors.

<sup>80</sup> *Public Schools of Perry County, Missouri* (Perry County Historical Society, 2007), 74.

<sup>81</sup> Although presumably located somewhere to the west of the nomination site's boundaries, the eventual identification and investigation of the school's location would be expected to increase understanding of the community's educational practices.

<sup>82</sup> Herbert and Leo Steffens, personal communication.

<sup>83</sup> "Rural School Attendance Continues Good." *Perry County Republican*, January 17, 1929.

<sup>84</sup> *Perry County School Enumerations. District 27, School Year 1927-28* (Perry County Public Library).

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*, School Year 1945-46.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 22

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The Mack's Chapel community encapsulates a wide range of post-Civil War trends as they were acted out within this circumscribed area of southeast Missouri. Perry County, Missouri, the locale within which this community arose, had deep roots in slavery. The free slaves' transition from bondage to land holding farmers was no doubt difficult for many whites of the era to accept. Employment options for people of color in this post-Civil War rural environment were few and poorly paid. Perhaps because of this set of circumstances, the African-American population of Perry County's Brazeau Township plummeted from 223 slaves in 1860 to only fifty-one people of color in 1870.<sup>86</sup> The fact that a handful of African-American farmers owned and farmed their own land illustrates the agency exercised by freed slaves as they struggled to make a place for themselves and their families within a dominant society that was also coming to terms with the end of slavery and the development of new social relationships. The site likewise informs regarding the manner in which rural former slaves and people of color nucleated for mutual support and protection during the years following the end of the Civil War. The Perry County of the late nineteenth century did not often welcome people of color, and "sundown" communities in which no African Americans could remain after sunset were not unknown in the region. It also speaks to the importance placed upon religion and a commitment to long-denied education for the hamlet's youth.

The eventual creation of a "colored" school and the use of the church building to support it speaks to the value former slaves and their offspring invested in education. The role of the Baptist church in facilitating long-denied educational opportunities as well as providing a spiritual focus appears to have bonded this community as it did for so many rural blacks during the years following emancipation. Indeed, according to Perry County's public school records for the school year 1904-05, the county's only facility for "colored" children was at Mack's Chapel.<sup>87</sup> This school's enrollment peaked with twenty students during the 1927-28 academic year and then gradually declined.<sup>88</sup> By 1945-46, only two African-American students remained enrolled.<sup>89</sup> School enrollment is also mirrored by federal census records for Brazeau Township during the thirty-year period between 1900 and 1930. The 1900 census counted only thirty-one African Americans in Brazeau Township with the population increasing to seventy in 1920 and then declining to sixty in 1930. Just as the First Great Migration of 1916 resulted in the movement of many rural southern Blacks to northern cities offering opportunities that were lacking in home regions, the Great Depression and the coming of World War II motivated another Great Migration that ultimately drew Mack's Chapel's African-American population away from its farming roots to seek a future in the cities and

<sup>86</sup> Barber, "The Settlement Patterns of Perry County," 235-245, Federal Census of 1870, Perry County, Missouri, Brazeau Township.

<sup>87</sup> *Public Schools of Perry County*, 74.

<sup>88</sup> Perry County School Enumerations, District 27, School Year 1927-28.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*, School Year 1945-46.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 23

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

factories of the north and west.<sup>90</sup> Given the rampant racism of the era and the social and economic displacement that occurred during the years following the Civil War, the struggles of Mack's Chapel's families must represent a microcosm for the hopes, dreams, and disappointments of freed slaves throughout much of post-war America during the late nineteenth century. Such people contributed to the forging of post-Civil War America, and their contributions and history are too often overlooked or entirely lost to our collective consciousness.

Given its isolation and rural setting, the Mack's Chapel Cemetery site retains a high degree of integrity. Nestled within the rolling hills above the Mississippi River and surrounded by agricultural fields and wood lots, the view from the burial ground must look much as it did when the Baptist congregation gathered to bury its dead. This observation is further reinforced by the 1915 plat map presented in Figure 8 and the circa 1949 topographic map of the area presented in Figure 2. As depicted in photograph number 19, the old Steffens home, contemporary to the cemetery and church, still sits upon the ridge to the south, and a pond once used to baptize congregation members continues to occupy a basin below the cemetery.<sup>91</sup> Although austere and neglected, the fundamental design and mortuary furniture of the cemetery remains intact reflecting the values of a poor yet proud community. In the spring, the daffodils still erupt around the graves, and the soft winds carry the scent of honeysuckle. From the ridge crest where the old church stood, one can still gaze across the Mississippi floodplane to the distant hills of Illinois (refer to photograph number 18). It remains the peaceful and beautiful place it was originally intended to be.

Since so little is known about the daily lives of the African-Americans who once represented the faith community at Mack's Chapel, the site is also eligible under Criteria D for Archaeology/History because the physical site itself retains the capacity to reveal much potentially useful information. The fact that the cemetery has essentially lain undisturbed since the last know burial occurred in 1949 or 1950, it is reasonable to assume artifact scatters will lie some distance below the present forest floor. No archaeological investigations were conducted within the site until February of 2017 when Richard Young performed a pedestrian survey of the entire area. Although early slave and freedmen cemeteries traditionally feature a complex array of grave goods, the surface survey produced no cultural material other than the demolition debris field associated with the destruction of the circa 1921 church building. Considering the deep-rooted African-American tradition of leaving grave goods on the graves of loved ones, it is likely the site contains direct evidence of this mortuary practice.<sup>92</sup> Future archaeological

<sup>90</sup> Andrew Wiese, *Places of Their Own: African American Suburbanization in the Twentieth Century* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), 37.

<sup>91</sup> Herbert Steffens and Leo Steffens, personal communication.

<sup>92</sup> John M. Vlach, *The Afro-American Tradition in Decorative Arts* (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1990), 139-142, 147

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 24

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

investigations could focus upon revealing details about the various ways in which the physical site was utilized over time as well as disclosing information regarding the social and economic status of community members. In its present state, however, the site is covered by a dense forest litter during winter months and heavy vegetation in the summer. Consequently, very little of the actual land surface is exposed, and it is therefore unlikely cultural material associated with the interments would be visible.

The inclusion of Criteria D under Archaeology/Historic in this nomination in no way suggests that any burials be disturbed by archaeological excavation. Perhaps a beginning point for any future exploration should employ current remote sensing technologies. Utilization of magnetometer, resistivity, and ground penetrating radar represent non-invasive tools for locating additional burials within the cemetery. Employment of such non-invasive methods offer the potential to accurately define the exact area in which interments occurred, thereby enabling future archeological investigations to explore the site without disturbing interments. Once the actual boundaries of the burial ground are verified, shovel testing of the areas outside the burial zone could identify artifact clusters and perhaps activity sites. Such areas could include the location of the original log church/school should this building's location lie within the defined site. This information, coupled with remote sensing results, would suggest the most productive areas to explore with conventional excavation methods. A combination of archaeological tools could reveal a wealth of information about the range of activities carried on around the cemetery, church and school during the community's heyday. Potential archaeological examination would also be expected to disclose details about the community's economic status as well as domestic habits and lifeways.

In summation, the Mack's Chapel Cemetery represents the final vestige of an African-American community that once carried the hopes and aspirations of rural freed slaves and their families in the years immediately after the Civil War. Mirroring social trends throughout the American south, their life cycles played out within the hills overlooking the Mississippi River for over seventy-five years. As their era drew to a close, a world war and new economic opportunities compelled their descendants to slowly drift away following fresh dreams in other locals. They left behind few markers on the landscape of southeastern Perry County, and relatively little evidence in the historical record. The vivid memories of their presence chiefly reside in the recollections the region's oldest lifetime residents, and these folks too, will soon be gone. If the memory of the Mack's Chapel community is to be preserved from extinction, it is incumbent up this generation to recognize Mack's Chapel Cemetery as worthy of inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 25

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:**

BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Barber, Joseph Price. "The Settlement Patterns of Perry County, Missouri 1850-1900."

M.A. thesis, Southeast Missouri State University, 2000.

Finger, Richard E. *Seventy-Six, Perry County, Missouri*. A Publication of the Perry County Historical Society, undated.

Mills, Billie Roger. "Slavery in Perry County: A Thesis." M.A. thesis, Southeast Missouri State University, 1974.

*Perry County Marriage Records, Book 4, 1881-1888*. A Publication of the Book Committee, Perry County Historical Society, undated.

*Perry County Missouri Death Records 1883-1893, Vol. 1*, A Publication of the Book Committee, Perry County Historical Society, undated.

Poole, Stafford, and Douglas J. Slawson. *Church and Slave in Perry County, Missouri: 1818-1865*. Lewiston: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1986.

*Public Schools of Perry County, Missouri*. A Publication of the Book Committee, Perry County Historical Society, 2007.

*Standard Atlas of Perry County, Missouri*. Chicago: Ogle and Company, 1915.

Vlach, John M. *The Afro-American Tradition in Decorative Arts*. Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1990.

Wiese, Andrew. *Places of Their Own: African American Suburbanization in the Twentieth Century*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

Young, Richard A. *Mack's Chapel and the African-American Community of Seventy-Six, Missouri*. (unpublished manuscript), 2013.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 26

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

NEWSPAPERS

"Rural School Attendance Continues Good." *Perry County Republican*, January 17, 1929.

"Obituaries." *Perry County Republican*, November 25, 1943.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS

U.S. Census Bureau. Federal Census of 1870, Perry County, Missouri, Brazeau Township.

U.S. Census Bureau. Federal Census of 1880, Perry County, Missouri, Brazeau Township.

U.S. Census Bureau. Federal Census of 1920, Perry County, Missouri, Brazeau Township.

U.S. Census Bureau. Federal Census of 1930, Perry County, Missouri, Brazeau Township.

United States Geological Survey. Topographic map, Altenburg, MO. – III.15 minute quadrangle, 1949.

United States Geological Survey. Topographic map, Altenburg, MO. – III. 7.5 minute quadrangle, 2012.

STATE AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECORDS

*2010 Perry County, Missouri, Plat Book*. Marceline Mapping, Division of Mapping Solutions, 31.

Bureau of Vital Statistics, Missouri State Board of Health. *Certificate of Death, Perry County, 1913-1934*.



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 27

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

*Perry County Birth and Death Records 1883-1893.*

*Perry County Missouri Census of 1876, Brazeau Township.*

*Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office. Blank Deeds Record, Book 89.*

*Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office. Deed of Trust Record, Book 67.*

*Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office. Deed of Trust Record, Book 87.*

*Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office. Land Record, Book 16.*

*Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office. Marriage Record, Book 3.*

*Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office. Warranty Deed Record, Book 58.*

*Perry County Clerk's School Enumeration List. District 27, School Year 1924-25. Box 1.*  
Microfilm, Perry County Public Library.

*Perry County Clerk's School Enumerations. District 27, School Year 1927-28.* Perry County Public  
Library.

*Perry County Clerk's School Enumerations. District 27, School Year 1945-46.* Perry County Public  
Library.

WEBSITES

BLACKPAST.Org. "Prince Hall Masons (1784 - )." blackpast.org. April 15, 2017.

[Blackpast.org>aah>prince-hall-masons](http://blackpast.org/aah/prince-hall-masons)

GoogleEarth. Image Landsat/Copernicus, 2016. April 15, 2017.

[Google>earth>connect](http://google>earth>connect)

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 28

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Rugg, Julie. "Defining the place of burial: what makes a cemetery a cemetery?" April 15, 2017.

[www.d.umn.edu/cia/faculty/jhamin/4960/Defing%20place.pdf](http://www.d.umn.edu/cia/faculty/jhamin/4960/Defing%20place.pdf).

FIRST PERSON INFORMANTS

Steffens, Herbert. Interviewed by Richard A. Young, researcher, April 7, 2011. Notes in possession of Richard A. Young.

Steffens, Leo. Interviewed by Richard A. Young, researcher, April 7, 2011. Notes in possession of Richard A. Young.

Steffens, Leo, Jr. Interviewed by Richard A. Young, researcher, August 5, 2017. Notes in possession of Richard A. Young.

Steffens, Randy. Interviewed by Richard A. Young, researcher, August 5, 2017. Notes in possession of Richard A. Young.

Steffens, Thelma. Interviewed by Richard A. Young, researcher, April 7, 2011. Notes in possession of Richard A. Young.

Weinhold, Dorothy. Interviewed by Richard A. Young, researcher, March 19, 2011, April 7, 2011. Notes in possession of Richard A. Young.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 29

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
----- Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
----- County and State
N/A
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

For the purpose of this nomination, a heavily vegetated .62-acre trapezoid is being defined as the historic site. The north end of this trapezoid contains the location of the circa 1921 Mack's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, while its two-hundred-foot-long southern end retains an obvious line of trees that appear to represent the cemetery's southern boundary. This southern boundary follows a compass bearing of 92° east. Along this line of trees, vestiges of scalloped-topped woven wire fencing suggest a clear demarcation line. From the western terminus of the woven fencing, it appears that a long-abandoned sunken road bed runs on a bearing of 2° north for 198' to the ridge crest and an open field (refer to Figure 9). From this point, a seventy-six-foot line bearing due east captures the original church site after which the eastern boundary descends for 240' to the southeast on a bearing of 150° to meet the southeastern corner of the site. This southeastern line follows the edge of the cleared farm field and seems to conform to several mature trees that may represent the cemetery's traditional eastern side. Within this parcel lie at least forty-five burials, a mound of demolition debris associated with the destruction of the church, and the abandoned section of sunken road bed. The datum point for this survey is a native sandstone block located at the southwestern end of the scalloped wire fencing where it meets the southwestern edge of the sunken road bed. Please reference Figure 4 for a plan map of the site survey.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

An investigation of Perry County deed records reveals no formal description of the one-half-acre of land upon which Mack's Chapel Cemetery rests, and the current Perry County Plat Book does not recognize the Free Will Baptist Church's ownership of the land.<sup>93</sup> Indeed, the only reference to an actual transfer of property comes from a deed describing a subsequent Buford family property transfer (Note that the spelling of the Buford surname varies over the years being variously rendered as Burford, Buford, and Bufford.). This reference relates that in 1920, Anderson Buford [sic], an African American farmer, conveyed a one-half-acre parcel of his land to the trustees of the Free Will Baptist Church to be used for a church and cemetery site.<sup>94</sup> It will be recalled that Buford was the son of the former slave, William Burford [sic], to whom forty acres of farmland had been deeded by his former slave master in 1868.<sup>95</sup> It seems this particular one-half-acre of land was selected because it already contained the original Buford family plot as well as burials of other community members.<sup>96</sup> During the decades since 1920, the original

<sup>93</sup> *2010 Plat Book, Perry County, Missouri, 2010, 31.*

<sup>94</sup> *Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Book 89, Blank Deeds Record, 604-605.*

<sup>95</sup> *Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Book 16, Land Records, 430-431.*

<sup>96</sup> Herbert Steffens and Leo Steffens, personal communication, April 7, 2011.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 30

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
----- Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
----- County and State
N/A
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

boundaries of the plot have been lost as the Free Will Baptist Church congregation drifted away and the ground was slowly subsumed by the Steffen's farm.

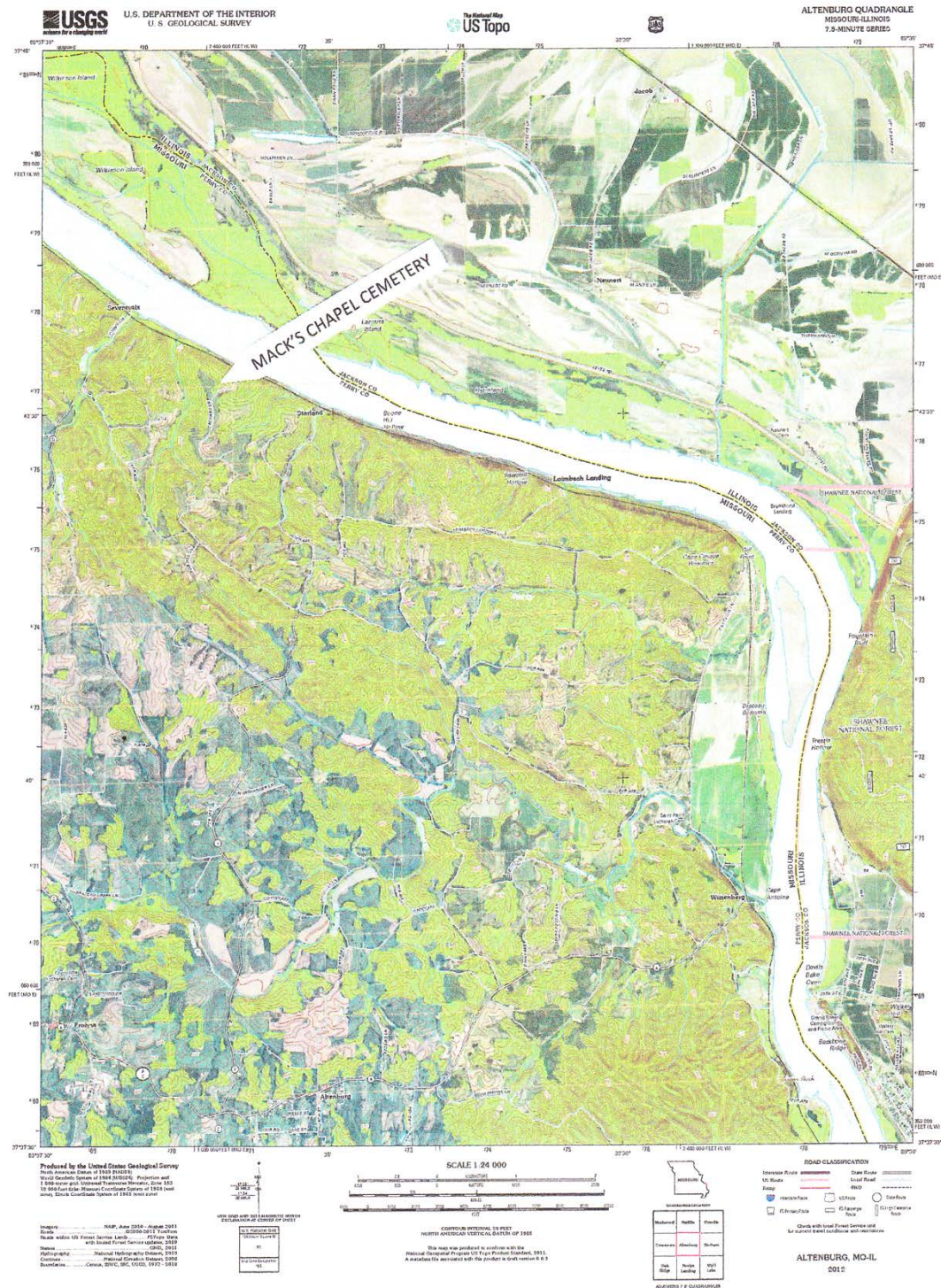
Based upon these factors, the site's boundaries were selected to contain the primary features represented by the church site, cemetery, and at least one-half-acre of surrounding land. As stated in the preceding boundary description, the basic site boundaries were suggested by the sunken roadbed on the west, the church's original location on the north, an agricultural field to the east, and the remnants of a scalloped wire fence on the south. At .62 acres in area, this configuration comes very close to the originally half-acre plot allotted by Anderson Buford in 1920.

National Register of Historic Places  
 Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 31

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

FIGURE 1



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 32

Mack's Chapel Cemetery

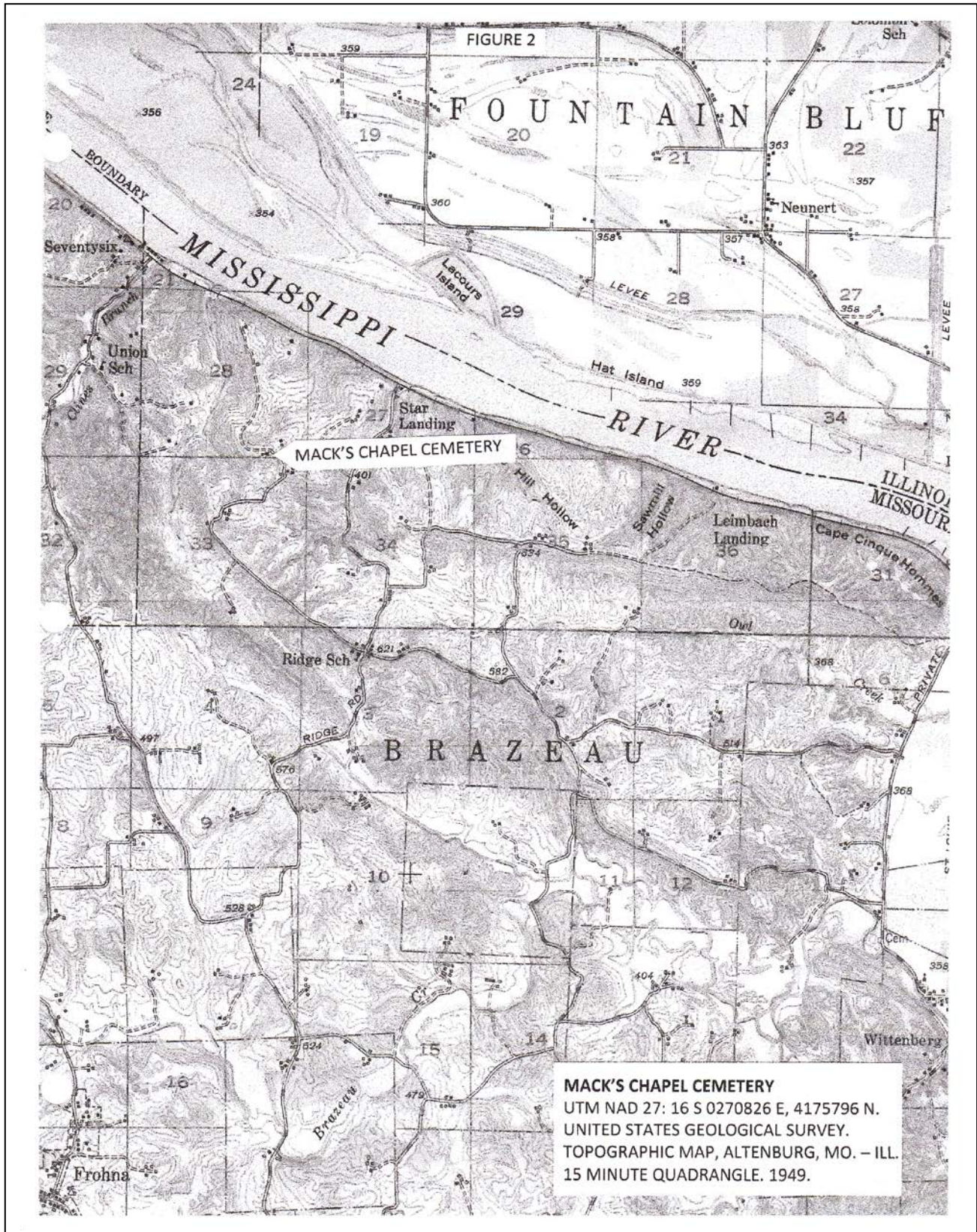
Name of Property

Perry County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 33

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
-----
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
-----
County and State
N/A
-----
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 34

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

FIGURE 4

**MACK'S CHAPEL CEMETERY SITE MAP**  
**PERRY COUNTY, MISSOURI**

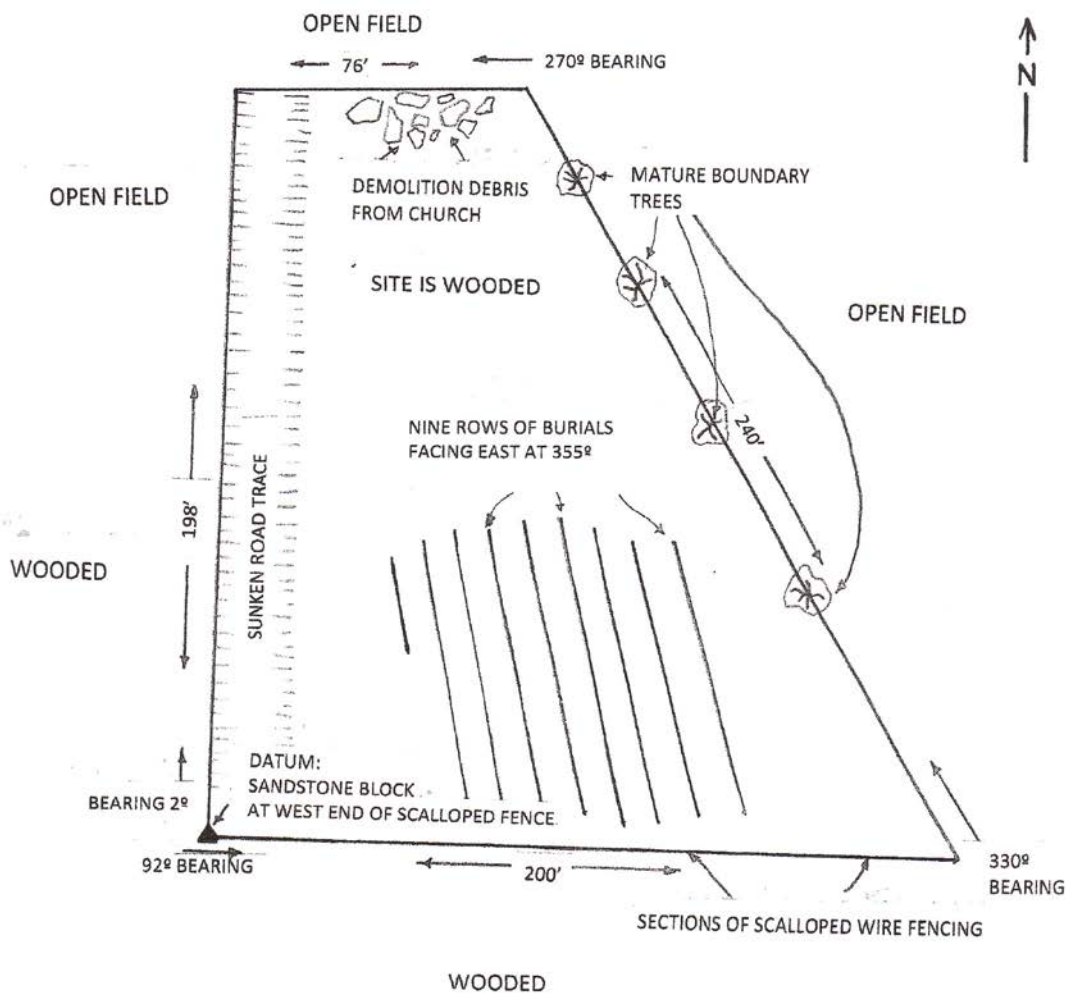
SURVEY BY RICHARD A. YOUNG AND DR. MARY R. VERMILION  
JANUARY 27, 2017

AREA: .62 ACRE

SCALE



1/2" = 20'

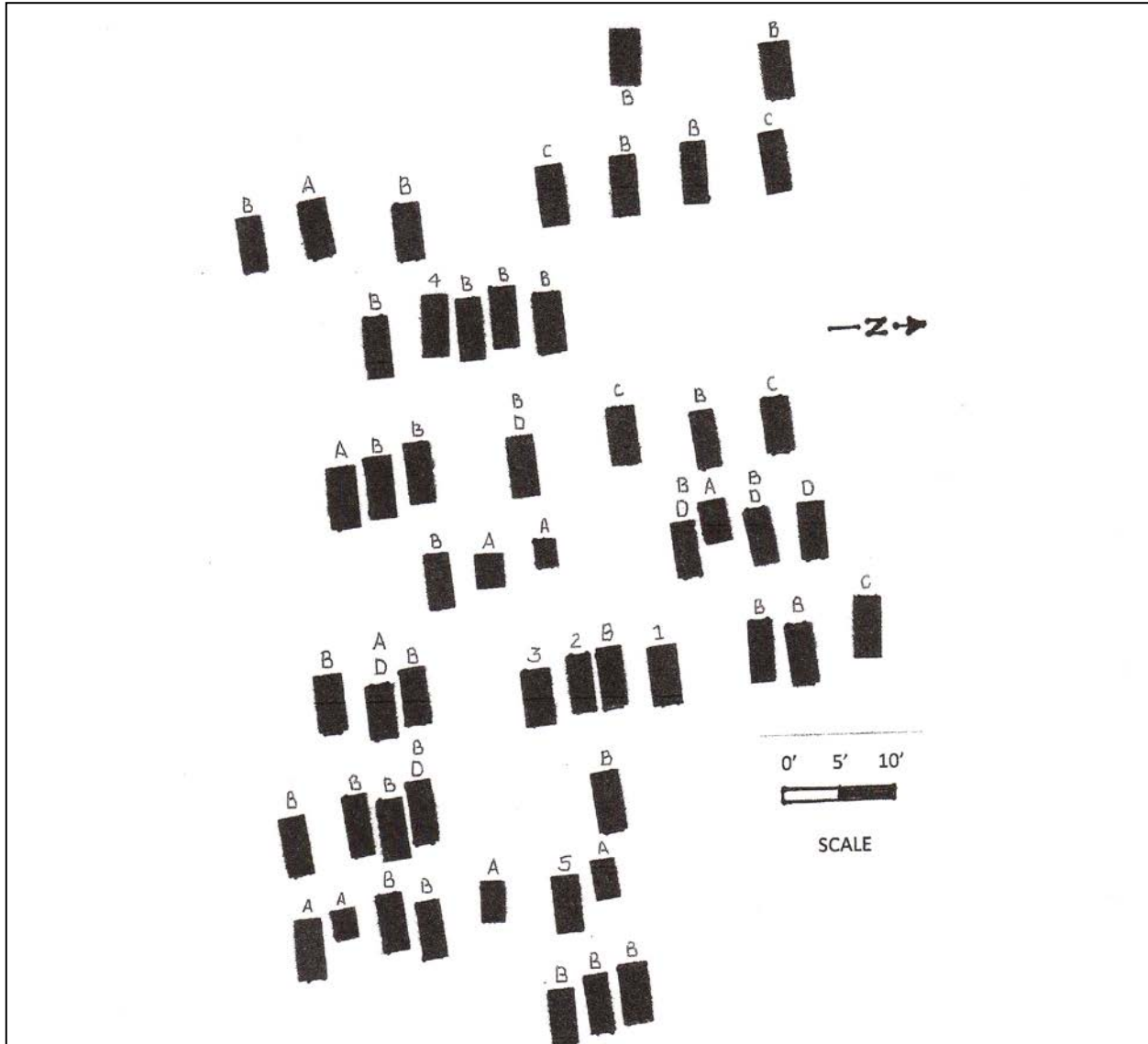




National Register of Historic Places  
 Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 35

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



**FIGURE 5**  
**PLAN MAP OF MACK'S CHAPEL CEMETERY**  
**PERRY COUNTY, MISSOURI**

- COMMERCIAL MONUMENTS EXTANT:
- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 C. ANN LEE (DATUM) | 4 AUTHUR MATTINGLY |
| 2 ROSE BURFORD       | 5 AMELIA SMITH     |
| 3 ELIZA J. BURFORD   |                    |

SYMBOLS:  
 A = FIELDSTONE HEADSTONE AND FOOTSTONE      B = FIELDSTONE HEADSTONE ONLY  
 C = FIELDSTONE FOOTSTONE ONLY      D = DEPRESSION

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 36

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

FIGURE 6

**MACKS'S CHAPEL CEMETERY SITE**

**PHOTO MAP**

FIGURE 6.

SURVEY BY RICHARD A. YOUNG AND DR. MARY R. VERMILION

JANUARY 27, 2017

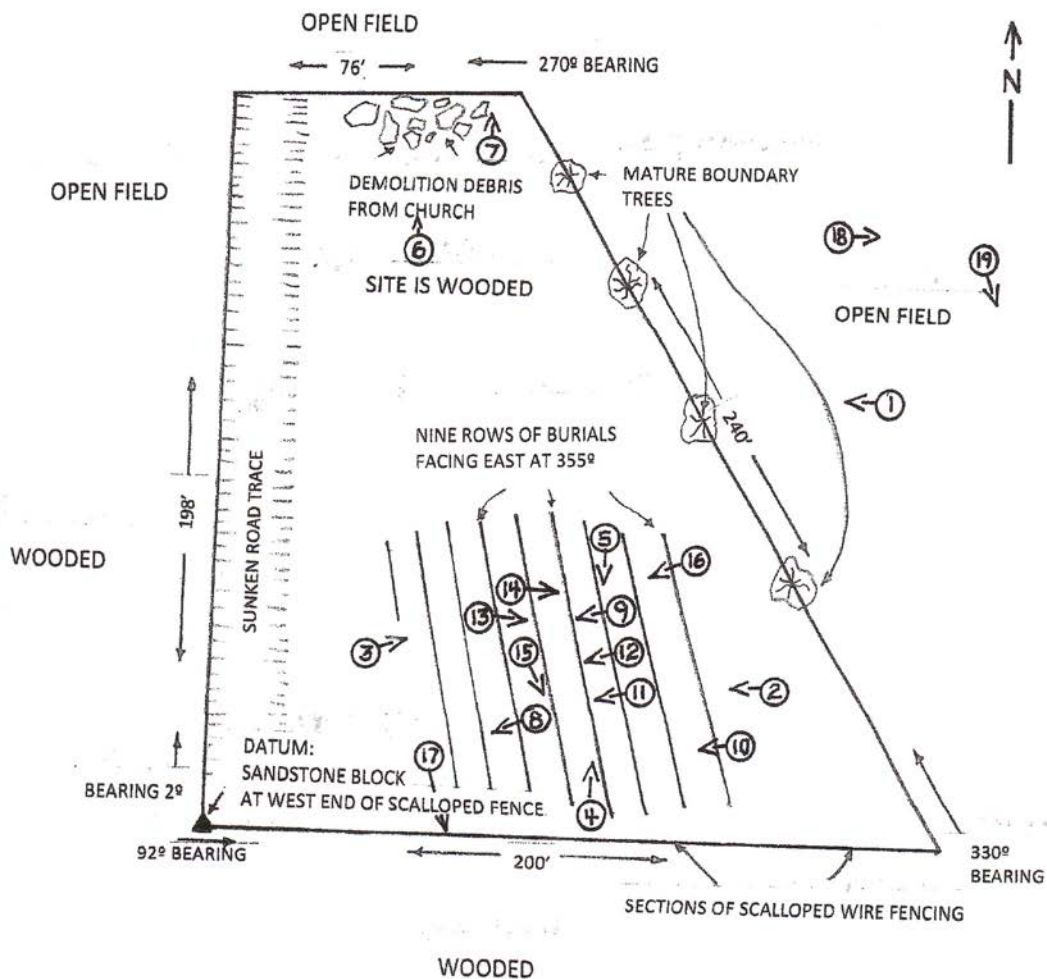
AREA: .62 ACRE

SCALE



1/2" = 20'

PHOTOGRAPH SYMBOL



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 37

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



This image is curated by the Lutheran Heritage Museum in Altenburg, Missouri.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 38

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

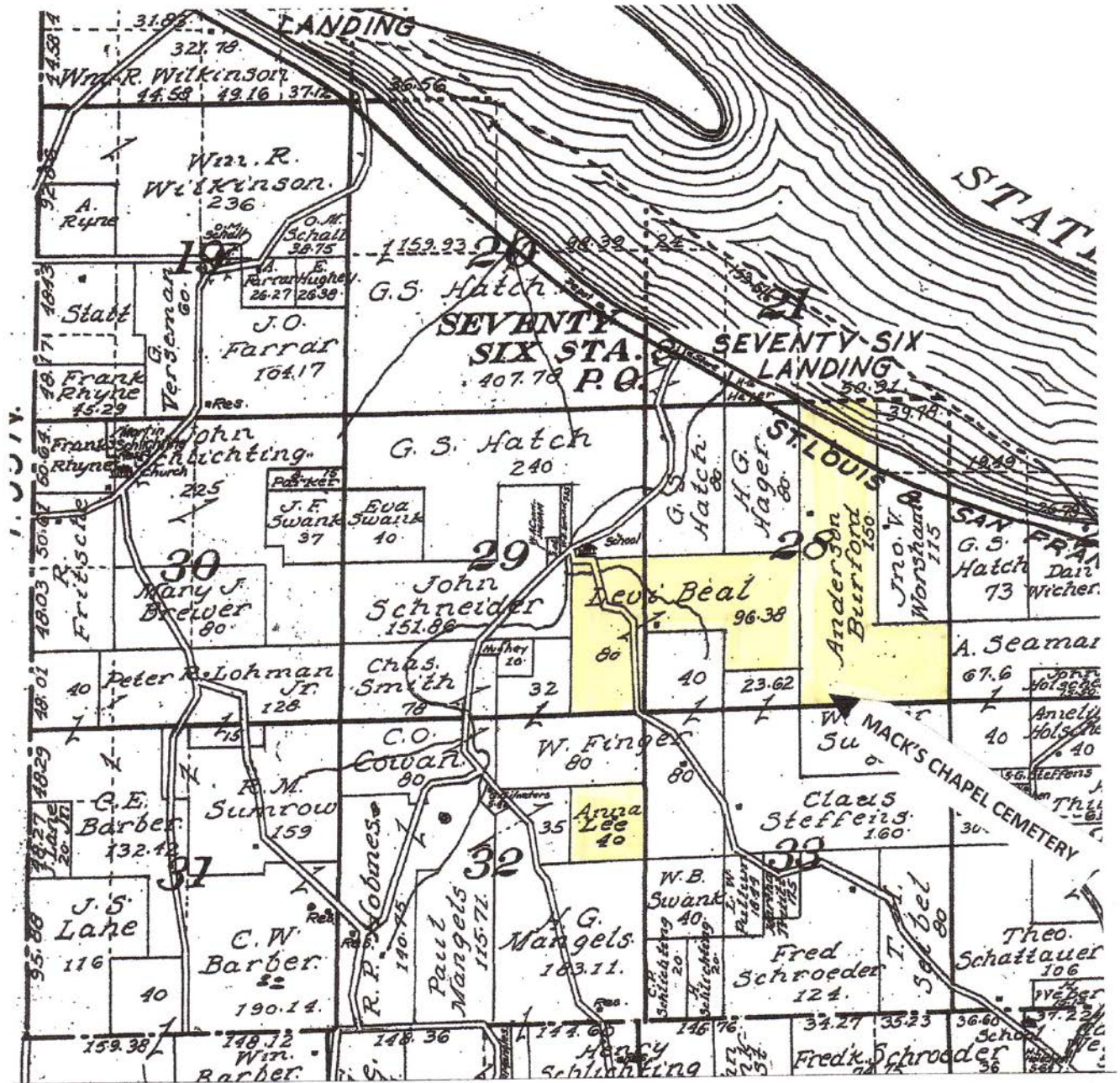


FIGURE 8  
MACK'S CHAPEL CEMETERY  
DETAIL FROM THE 1915 PLAT BOOK FOR PERRY COUNTY, MISSOURI.  
THE PROPERTIES RENDERED IN YELLOW IN SECTIONS 28, 29, AND 32 WERE OWNED BY  
AFRICAN-AMERICANS WHO WERE INTERRED AT MACK'S CHAPEL CEMETERY. THESE  
INDIVIDUALS ARE ANDERSON BUFFORD, LEVI BEAL, AND ANNA LEE.  
NOTE THE LOCATION OF SEVENTY-SIX LANDING IN RELATIONSHIP TO MACK'S CHAPEL  
CEMETERY.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 39

Mack's Chapel Cemetery
-----
Name of Property
Perry County, Missouri
-----
County and State
N/A
-----
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 9

Looking north up the abandoned sunken road basin which forms the western edge of the Mack's Chapel Cemetery boundary. (Photograph by Richard A. Young).



















ARTHUR MATTINGLY

Born Dec. 25, 1882.

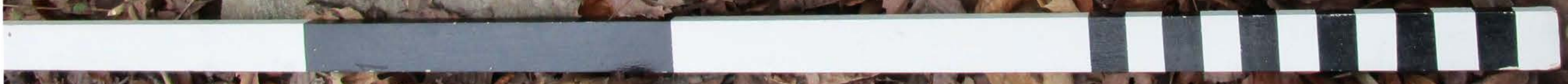
Died July 13, 1911.

Aged 28 Y. 6 M. 18 D.

Gone but not forgotten.



A MEMORIAL OF  
 JANNIE LEE  
 BORN  
 MAR 11 1829  
 DIED  
 JAN 24 1927



IN MEMORY OF  
AMELIA SMITH  
JUNE 15 1847  
SEPT. 1 1926



EMILY  
WIFE OF  
ANDERSON BURFORD  
Died Apr. 26, 1894  
Aged 46 Years  
God will not forget them



ROBERTA  
BORN  
NOV. 18, 1886  
DIED  
APR. 18, 1917

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/14/2017      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 1/29/2018      Date of Weekly List: 2/2/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      1/29/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Control Unit      Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Missouri Department of dnr.mo.gov

# NATURAL RESOURCES

Eric R. Greitens, Governor

Carol S. Comer, Director

## Memorandum

**Date:** December 4, 2017

**To:** J. Paul Loether, National Register of Historic Places

**From:** Mike Sutherland, Deputy SHPO

**Subject:** Mack's Chapel Cemetery, Altenburg vic., Perry County, MO, National Register Nomination



Our state review board, the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, approved the above nomination on **November 3, 2017**. All owners and appropriate elected public officials were notified and provided at least thirty (30) days to comment on the above proposed nomination in accordance with Section 36CFR60.6, interim regulations, using the exact notification format recommended by the National Register. **The enclosed disc contains the true and correct copy of the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.**

Please find enclosed the following documentation:

- 1   CD with original National Register of Historic Places registration form
- Multiple Property Documentation Form
- Photographs
- 2   CD with electronic images
- Original USGS map(s)
- 2   Piece(s) of correspondence (cover letter and signature page)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

- Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do        do not        constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_