

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Locust Grove Cemetery

Other names/site number: North Queen Street Cemetery, Colored Cemetery

Name of related multiple property listing:

African American Churches and Cemeteries in Pennsylvania, c.1644-c.1970

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 111-119 North Queen Street

City or town: Shippensburg State: Pennsylvania County: Cumberland

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this x 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 x 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 X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D



Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy SHPO

Date: 11/12/2021

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission – State Historic Preservation Office

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

Locust Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA
County and State

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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐
- District ☐
- Site ☒
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

Locust Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

Locust Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Locust Grove Cemetery is an African-American independent cemetery (as defined in the MPDF, *African American Churches and Cemeteries in Pennsylvania, 1644-1970*) located off of North Queen Street in the Borough of Shippensburg, Cumberland County, on the border with Shippensburg Township, and two blocks from Shippensburg's main street (King Street/Route 11). The cemetery is located in a neighborhood that had formerly been the historic center of Shippensburg's African American community. Today the neighborhood is still a mixture of single-family homes, with the addition of apartment buildings and small businesses in recent decades. The cemetery is a 1.5 acre private cemetery, and is enclosed by c.2010 decorative aluminum and chain link fencing and fronted by limestone pillars and a decorative iron gate, which were installed in 1993. The oldest section of the cemetery, the North Queen Street section, is a roughly rectangular lot that is 250 feet long and is bounded by North Queen Street on its southwest border and Sherman Avenue on its northeast border. The Locust Grove section that was purchased by the Locust Grove Cemetery Committee in 1922 is a rectangular lot that is 121 feet wide and 317 feet long with an area of .88 acres, and is perpendicular to and adjacent to the North Queen Street section (the two lots together form an "L" shaped lot). The southeast border fronts the terminal end of East Burd Street, and the northwest border of the Locust Grove section continues the northwest border of the North Queen Street section for 121 feet. The lot site is a single contributing resource. The gravestones, flagpole, maintenance shed, and aluminum

Locust Grove Cemetery

Cumberland County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

fencing are uncouncted landscape features, while the limestone and metal entry gate is considered a noncontributing structure. There are also a significant number of unmarked graves in the cemetery. The Locust Grove section's boundaries have remained consistent since 1922, and the core of the North Queen Street section remained generally consistent since 1842. The cemetery is a significant, rare, and well-preserved African American independent cemetery that was used, designed, and maintained by local African American residents for over two centuries. Today, the Locust Grove Cemetery is in good condition and retains its location and setting along N. Queen St.; its design, materials, and workmanship as illustrated in the preservation of historic grave markers and original cemetery layout; all of which help to retain feeling and association.

Narrative Description

The Locust Grove Cemetery is located along North Queen Street in the Borough of Shippensburg, Cumberland County. The cemetery is comprised of two sections, the original North Queen Street burial ground that was established by the beginning of the nineteenth century, and the adjoining Locust Grove Cemetery lot that was purchased in 1922. The two lots are rectangular and adjacent to one another, and together form an "L" shaped lot with a total area of approximately 1.5 acres. The North Queen Street section has a southwest-northeast orientation and is located between North Queen Street and Sherman's Avenue. When the North Queen Street section reached capacity and could no longer accept new burials, a second, adjacent rectangular lot that with a northwest-southeast orientation was purchased by the Locust Grove Cemetery Association in 1922. Burial began in the Locust Grove section in 1922. The two lots were originally separated by an eight-foot wide public alley called North Sherman Avenue, but Shippensburg Borough closed the portion of the alley running through the cemetery to public traffic in 2003, and the segment of the alley is now integrated into the cemetery grounds.

North Queen Street Section

The oldest section of the cemetery is the North Queen Street that dates from the burial grounds founding in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. The section occupies a long, narrow nearly-rectangular lot that fronts North Queen Street. The main entrance to the cemetery is on North Queen Street. The lot is 86 feet wide along its North Queen Street frontage, 94 feet wide at the back of the lot where the lot meets North Sherman Avenue, and 250 feet long. The lot is narrower at the front than at the back because historical surveying errors had left a thirty-foot section of untitled land that encompassed the northwest corner of the cemetery lot, and that included the driveways and part of the lot holding the house at 121 North Queen Street. In 2009, the cemetery and the adjoining property owners reached an understanding, divided the untitled land, and drew up new deeds with the current boundary. The total lot measures approximately two-thirds of an acre in area.

The cemetery is located in a neighborhood historically known as Pumpkin Hollow or Pumpkin Center, the community's oldest African-American neighborhood. Prior to the Civil War, many African-American families settled in the neighborhood. The cemetery was the community's first communal institution, followed by the establishment of the first black church in the early nineteenth century adjacent to the cemetery along North Queen Street. With the influx of

Locust Grove Cemetery

Cumberland County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

African-Americans into the community in the 1860s and 1870s, other African-American neighborhoods developed along East Orange Street, South Penn Street, and the West Orange Street-Fayette Street area, as did new churches serving those neighborhoods. By 1920, the church on North Queen Street was defunct and abandoned, but the Locust Grove Cemetery on North Queen Street continued to service all African-American residents and all religious congregations in the Shippensburg area.

The neighborhood surrounding the cemetery has changed in the last fifty years. Only one long-time African-American family, the Rideouts, continue to live in the homes their ancestors constructed in the early twentieth century along Britton Road—about five hundred feet from the cemetery's North Queen Street entrance. Several generations of their family are at rest in the Locust Grove Cemetery.

Because the neighborhood is close to Shippensburg University that increased enrollments rapidly in the 1960s and 1970s, the area became a popular for student-rental properties. Many single-family homes have been turned into fraternity houses, flats, or apartments. In the last decade, properties on two sides of the cemetery have seen significant development with the construction of a high-density student apartments and a self-storage facility. The mixed-race residential neighborhood in Shippensburg Township that originally existed east of the cemetery along Brookside Avenue has been largely destroyed and replaced by an apartment complex.

Some elements of the neighborhoods original residents and institutions do persist.

To the northwest stands 121 North Queen Street, a small, nineteenth-century frame structure that had historically been inhabited by both African-American and white tenants. Southeast of the cemetery is 109 North Queen Street, the building that housed the segregated Robert Green American Legion Post no. 729. The original cinder-block structure retains its original exterior form, but the interior has been largely remodeled, first as a church, and then as an owner-occupied residence.

So while some important resources remain, the Locust Grove Cemetery is the site with the highest level of integrity and the strongest ongoing association with the neighborhood's African-American history.

The North Queen Street entrance to the cemetery is flanked by two masonry pillars composed of rough-hewn limestone blocks supporting a double picket estate-style iron gate with pressed spear tops. A sloped concrete pad provides a transition from North Queen Street into the cemetery, but then leads into a slightly sunken, grass-covered lane that runs the length of the North Queen

Street section. These are non-contributing resources. The limestone pillars were constructed by John "Bud" Rideout, Jr. in 1993. Rideout was an African-American stonemason and a World War Two veteran who lived one block from the cemetery (a member of the Rideout family noted above). Rideout was a descendant of two veterans laid to rest in the Locust Grove Cemetery: his grandfather Joseph Rideout who served with Company H, 22nd Regiment of United States Colored Troops, and his father Joseph Rideout who served with the 303rd Stevedore Regiment in

Locust Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA

County and State

World War One. Bud Rideout was later buried in Locust Grove Cemetery when he passed in 2012.

Upon entering the cemetery from North Queen Street, the first thirty feet of lot on the right hand side (the south corner of the lot) contains a flat, open grassy space that had been the site of Shippensburg's first African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church. Shippensburg was part of the first rural circuit of congregations established by the A.M.E. Church in 1817 spanning from Frederick, Maryland to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The exact date of the building's construction is not known, but a church had been erected on that site by 1834. An African-American congregation worshipped at that site for seven decades, but as indicated by Sanborn Maps the building stood vacant by 1904, and it had been demolished by 1921. On May 28, 2007, the Locust Grove Cemetery Committee and Shippensburg Historical Society unveiled a Pennsylvania Historical Marker on the ground formerly occupied by the A.M.E. church building.

The first hundred feet of the lot spanning northeast from North Queen Street is comprised of level ground, but then the hill rises approximately 10 feet over the middle third of the lot before the ground levels off again at the rear of the North Queen Street section. The landscape of the cemetery itself is rather uneven, with outcroppings of limestone bedrock visible in a number of areas.

The graves in the North Queen Street follow a northeast-southwest alignment, which is consistent with the common African-American burial custom of burying corpses face up with their feet to the east and their heads to the west. The Chicora Foundation's *Grave Matters: The Preservation of African American Cemeteries* (1996) provided two explanations for this common practice: "One freed slave explained that the dead should not have to turn around when Gabrielle blows his trumpet in the eastern sunrise. Others suggested they were buried facing Africa." Whether it was a matter of African heritage or Christian belief, in the North Queen Street section the alignment of graves is consistent along a northeast-southwest axis. It is fairly common for older cemeteries not to be aligned on a perfect east-west axis, but rather to generally face towards the rising sun or the general direction of the east.

The graves in the North Queen Street section have 76 original grave markers consisting of 52 headstones and 24 footstones. With the exception of two vernacular, hand-hewn limestone markers that lack inscriptions and one cinder block used as a marker (probably introduced in the second-half of the twentieth century), all of the original markers are marble. The markers were either one element or two element markers. The single-element markers consisted of tablet markers, slant-faced markers, or footstones erected directly into the ground. The two-element markers included headstones placed into a slotted base or headstone mounted atop a base and attached to the footing with iron pins.

The markers are notable for their modest size and scale—many of the markers are less than ten inches wide and less than twelve inches high, and the even the tallest markers in the North Queen Street section are less than three feet in height. The grave markers are also notable for their minimal ornamentation. Most provide only lettering with an individual's name, birth date, and death date information. Some provide information about the individual's familial relations, or a

Locust Grove Cemetery

Cumberland County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

short textual epitaph. Three display a floral design on the headstone, and one small headstone (believed to be a marker for a child) had a relief of a lamb carved into the stone. The oldest dated marker is William Wilson's marble headstone from 1868 (It reads: William Wilson, Died Feb. 23, 1868, Aged 35 yrs., 5 mo., and 9 days. He died in the triumph of faith.). The last extant headstone in the North Queen Street section belonged to Civil War veteran and cemetery sextant, Samuel Wright who passed away in 1920.

Twenty-one of the graves marked with tombstones are those of Civil War veterans who were entitled to receive free markers due to Act 20 enacted by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1885 guaranteeing "any honorably discharged soldier, sailor, or marine who served in the army or navy of the United States during the late rebellion, or any proceeding war, and died in their county, leaving insufficient means to defray necessary burial expenses." The monuments provided by the county had similar widths (14 inches) and depths (4 inches), but varied over time in their height from 24 inches to 32 inches in height. Some of the monuments include an inscribed flag on the top of the headstone which appears either above or beneath the soldier's name. Several of the Civil War veterans in the cemetery died before the 1885 Act (such as J.E. Holliday, Daniel Wright, and William Carmichael) and thus have graves marked by smaller, privately-purchased headstones that do not conform to the design of the stones available from the county.

Burials at the cemetery are generally in rows although the placement of graves is irregular due to the varying soil depth. Light gray limestone protrusions are visible throughout the cemetery where the bedrock rises to the surface, but at other points throughout the cemetery there are several feet of soil present. Burials tended to avoid areas in the cemetery where the bedrock made it impossible to dig graves of sufficient depth.

Many of the burials at the North Queen Street cemetery are in graves that are unmarked. A visual survey of the cemetery grounds provides ready evidence of dozens of depressions throughout the section created by the voids resulting from the decomposition of remains and caskets in unvaulted graves. Additionally, a survey of newspaper obituaries from 1890 to 1922 found thirty-six confirmed burials in the cemetery that are not marked with headstones. It is unknown how many may predate 1890. There are few markers or obituaries accounting for the deaths of infants or children, making it likely that there are also significant numbers of additional unmarked burials of deceased or stillborn African-American youth in the North Queen Street section.

The North Queen Street section includes two grave markers that were erected in the twenty-first century. In the summer of 2005, the grave marker of Civil War veteran Joseph Lane was smashed in an act of vandalism at the cemetery. Matthew Whitsel of Huntington County, Pennsylvania heard about the incident and contacted the Veterans Administration to order a new tombstone for Lane.

The stone was replaced on August 4, 2005, with a new granite government-issued veteran's and erected by community volunteers, Shippensburg Borough staff, and members of the Locust Grove Cemetery Association. In 2010, students at Shippensburg University researched a United

Locust Grove Cemetery

Cumberland County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

States Colored Troops veteran, Michael Wilson, who had served at a Private in Company B of the 45th United States Colored Troops and who was laid to rest in an unmarked grave in the North Queen Street section. A marble, Civil-War era type headstone was obtained from the Veterans Administration and erected to mark Wilson's grave. It was dedicated on Memorial Day 2010.

A flagpole was erected at the back (east) corner of the section in 2007 and dedicated on Memorial Day (May 28, 2007) in honor of Vietnam-era veteran Paul Alexander Tondee as part of a rededication ceremony at the cemetery. It is also a non-contributing resource.

To reduce trespassing and vandalism at the cemetery, a decorative aluminum fence was installed around the North Queen Street section in 2006 and completed in 2009 when the boundary dispute was resolved. Funds for the fence were raised as part of a community campaign operated in conjunction by the Locust Grove Cemetery Committee, the Shippensburg Historical Society, and the Shippensburg University Department of History and Philosophy. Historically, documentary evidence indicates that the cemetery was fenced even before it was deeded to the African-American community in 1842, and that cemetery has been fenced at numerous points in its history. Members of the Locust Grove Cemetery Committee recall seeing a white picket fence when they were children in the 1930s. Local historian William Burkhart also erected a partial, wire fence along the northeast border sometime between 1949 and 1964.

Locust Grove Section

Across Sherman's Avenue, the Locust Grove section is a rectangular lot that is 121 feet wide and 317 feet long with an area of .88 acres. The northwest border extends the northwest border of the North Queen Street section for 121 feet. The southwest border of the lots shares the northeast border of the North Queen Street section for 94 feet and then continues straight for another 223 feet. The southeast border fronts the terminal end of East Burd Street. To the southeast is a business renting storage units, to the northeast and downhill from the cemetery is an apartment complex. The northwest end of the Locust Grove lot is heavily wooded and overgrown providing a buffer between the cemetery and the neighboring building consisting of rental units.

The Locust Grove section is relatively level for approximately 100 feet at the northwest end of the lot, but then the land drops approximately 20 feet over the middle third of the cemetery grounds. The seventy-five feet of the cemetery at the southwest end of the lot is relatively level,

low-lying ground. The flat, southwest end of the Locust Grove section at the bottom of the hill was where the first burials in the section took place starting in the summer of 1922, but over time burials would take place on the sloped middle of the section of the lot and also on the level ground at the top of the hill. The cemetery lane that ran through the North Queen Street section continued into the Locust Grove section until it reaches the middle of the lot. It then turned and ran down the middle of the cemetery for the full length of the Locust Grove section. Seventy-five feet from the southwest end of the lot, a second lane crossed at a perpendicular angle across the length of the lot. The two perpendicular lanes form a cross—a design that placed the center of the Locust Grove section amid the flat land at the bottom of the hill and which may have been

Locust Grove Cemetery

Cumberland County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

primarily utilitarian in order to facilitate access to the cemetery grounds. It is also possible that the layout may have been an intentional design intended to consecrate the newly burial ground by overlaying it with the sign of the cross.

There are 88 headstones and 11 footstones in the Locust Grove Section, and the markers are composed of a much wider variety of materials. Marble continued to be the dominant material through the middle of the twentieth century, and it remained in use through the 1960s though granite became increasingly popular. Grave markers also included bronze plates attached to granite bases, as well as some graves marked only by the temporary grave markers left by funeral homes. One grave was marked by a cinder block. The markers continued to be small in size with text and limited modest decorations. The tombstone styles included die-on-base headstones (both marble and granite), lawn-style monuments (both single element and Veterans Administration issued bronze plates on granite bases), slanted face and pillow-style stones, and one monument carved to resemble a log. Fifteen of the markers were government-issued markers for veterans, including a modern Civil War-style marble headstone issued by the Department of Veteran Affairs. That headstone was ordered after a Shippensburg University History major conducted research on John Y. Smith and then initiated ordering a marker for his grave. The new Civil War style monument was installed and dedicated on Memorial Day 2010.

The main burial area in the Locust Grove section was originally in the lower, southeast third of the section where the ground was relatively flat and the soil was deep enough for adequate graves. Burial lots were first placed along either side of the central lane with the inscriptions on the tombstones facing towards the lane at the center of the cemetery. Like the graves in the North Queen Street section, bodies were laid to rest in the Locust Grove section following the same northeast-southwest alignment. This meant that bodies would be buried face up, heads to the southwest, and feet to the northeast. For individuals buried on the southwest side of the lane, they were buried in front of their headstone with their footstones placed in front (northeast) of the inscribed side of the tombstone. On the northeast side of the lane, the inscribed side of the headstone would face the lane, and the grave and footstone would be behind the tombstone (northeast).

The oldest, marble markers tend to be near the lane in the southeast third of the Locust Grove section. Over time, gravesites then radiated outward to the northeast and southwest. Apparently as the number of available lots dwindled, markers were installed on the slope and then on the top of the hill, and then eventually even in sections of the lane.

In addition to the grave markers there are a small number of lots with additional elements. The Barnett and Westcot family plots are marked off with square, granite corner markers inscribed with the letter "B" and "W". Concrete was used to create a rectangular perimeter around the graves of Leonard Boles and the Reverend Edward Holman. Both men were laid to rest along the lane in the center of the hill at the middle of the lot, and so it seems likely that the coping was employed to prevent vehicles from driving onto the gravesites. Coping also surrounds the rear of the grave of Samuel Pickens, including a decorative, concrete flower planter.

Locust Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA

County and State

At the north corner of the Locust Grove section, two utility sheds house lawn mowers, tools for maintaining the grounds, and equipment for use during funerals. The modern structures are non-contributing elements of the site.

Overall, the Locust Grove cemetery is a rare and well-preserved cultural resource that reflects the attributes of an African American independent cemetery that retains the seven characteristics of integrity.

The cemetery has not been moved, and thus retains integrity of location.

Aside from the surrounding fence, gate, sheds, and flagpole, the cemetery setting has not been altered or disturbed in any way, and there have been no new burials in the North Queen Street section since the 1920s, providing excellent integrity of design.

Though there have been significant changes to the surrounding neighborhood, the immediate setting and adjoining properties allow the Locust Grove Cemetery to retain the feel and integrity of a historic rural cemetery in a residential neighborhood. The historic buildings to both the north and south of the cemetery along Queen Street date to the period of significance, and the copse of trees behind the cemetery provide a barrier obscuring the buildings to the east. The cemetery grounds retain the feel of a rural cemetery in a residential neighborhood.

With the exception of the three recent monuments provided by Veterans Administration to mark the unmarked graves of Civil War Veterans, all the monuments are original and thus reflect a high level of integrity of workmanship and materials.

The cemetery retains excellent integrity of feeling and association through its simple monuments; sloping, uneven landscape; rows of unmarked graves; and unadorned grounds. Stepping into the cemetery, one immediately senses that one has entered a historic community burial ground that looks distinctive from most mainstream public cemeteries, but that retains the feeling and association of a rural African-American independent cemetery.

Locust Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA
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.)

- ☐ 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

Locust Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Social History

Period of Significance

c. 1781 to c. 1970

Significant Dates

c.1781

1842

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Locust Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Locust Grove Cemetery in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, is significant under Criteria A for Ethnic Heritage for its association with the African-American community, and in the area of Social History for the Locust Grove Cemetery's role as a site of memory and commemoration for Shippensburg's African-American community. The cemetery meets the registration requirements as described in "African American Churches and Cemeteries in Pennsylvania, c. 1644 to c.1970" Multiple Property Documentation Form and is an example of the Independent Cemetery property subtype discussed in the MPDF. As Shippensburg's African-American community is the second oldest community in Pennsylvania, west of the Susquehanna River, the Locust Grove Cemetery, established in the late eighteenth century, has served as the primary burial ground for African Americans in the community and surrounding region for over two hundred years. It was physically located at the center of Shippensburg's original African-American neighborhood, and the cemetery lot was also the site of Shippensburg's first African-American church. Even as the African-American community grew and established new churches and community organizations around the town, the Locust Grove Cemetery persisted as the single, communal burial ground for African Americans, and the site where the community would gather each year to honor its African-American veterans in a separate ceremony on Memorial Day. As noted in the MPDF, the Locust Grove Cemetery provides a tangible connection to "place" for the Shippensburg African American community—a place where the "rise, growth, and achievements" of the area's African-American community can be viewed and commemorated. The Period of Significance for the cemetery begins c.1781, with the earliest notation of a "Negro Graveyard" on Shippen family plot maps, to c.1970, as the cemetery continues to be utilized for burials of African American community members and as a social gathering place to celebrate the long established history, heritage, and military service of those buried there and the larger community.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The community of Shippensburg is located in the Cumberland Valley roughly midway between the Susquehanna River and Potomac River. Europeans began arriving in the area circa 1730 into lands west of the Susquehanna River that had been reserved for Native Americans. In 1736, the Penn Family purchased the land from the Iroquois, and subsequently sold it to Philadelphia merchant Edward Shippen. Shippen dispatched his son-in-law James Burd in 1752 to survey his holdings and to begin selling plots to settlers. The community grew, particularly after the end of the French and Indian War. Shippensburg became a commercial center with an economy based on a mix of agriculture, taverns, distilling, and leather and iron production.

Shippensburg's first African-American residents arrived as slaves brought to work in agriculture and manufacturing. The Cumberland County tax rolls of 1765 noted that four residents of Hopewell Township (which encompassed Shippensburg) owned a total of eight enslaved

Locust Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA

County and State

persons. Two slave holders possessed only a single person while the largest holders in the Shippensburg area, Benjamin Blyth and Francis Campbell, each possessed three enslaved persons. By 1775, the number of slaveholders in the locale had risen to five, but the total number of enslaved people had decreased to seven.

During the American Revolution, as slaveholders in the eastern parts of Pennsylvania began to rid themselves of their slaves, slaveholders in central Pennsylvania used that opportunity to increase their slave holdings. By 1780, the number of slaves in the Shippensburg area had risen to 47. Between 1790 and 1810, the number of enslaved individuals in Cumberland County (where Shippensburg was located) rose from 223 to 307 even as the total number of slave in Pennsylvania dropped from 3,707 to 795. By 1810, Cumberland County held more enslaved people than any other county in Pennsylvania.

The growing population of enslaved individuals coincided with Shippensburg's creation of a designated burial ground for African Americans in the late eighteenth century. The cemetery is clearly noted on a hand-drawn map used by the Shippen-Burd family to record their land holdings and sales (now in the collections of the Shippensburg Historical Society). On the map, approximately 125 feet northeast of North Queen Street, in what is now the Locust Grove Cemetery, is a large, irregular lot, clearly labeled "Negro Graveyard."

As the MPDF "African American Churches and Cemeteries in Pennsylvania, c. 1644 to c.1970" noted, "the location of a cemetery is often reflective of the historic state of race relations in a community. African American cemeteries were often relegated to less desirable areas on the edge of a settled area which could serve no other purpose like agriculture or housing. In segregated cemeteries, the African American plots were typically at the outer edges of the cemeteries where land was difficult to dig for burials, unpleasant for loved ones to visit, or largely inaccessible." This was certainly the case with Shippensburg's "Negro Graveyard." Even by the end of the 19th century, despite Shippensburg's growth, the Locust Grove Cemetery was still located at the very outskirts of town, as illustrated in the 1894 Fowler Bird's-eye map.

As Shippensburg's local historian William Burkhart observed, Edward Shippen's son-in-law James Burd surveyed and numbered the community's 404 lots based on his estimation of their relative value and desirability. The lowest numbered and most valuable lots could be found along King Street, the town's main thoroughfare, or along South Queen Street, the road to Baltimore. The lots closest to the "Negro Graveyard" were numbered 358, 359, and 360—among some of the least desirable plots. The rocky, sloped lot where the burial ground stood had not been numbered, and thus was not even considered for sale. Notably, the same map that recorded the existence of the "Negro Graveyard" also indicated that the Shippen family had failed to find buyers for any of the lots adjoining the burial ground on North Queen Street. The "Negro Graveyard" occupied an isolated and undesirable piece of sloping, rocky land on the outskirts of the community.

Though little is known about the operations or activities that occurred at the cemetery in its early days, it is important to note that the burial ground nonetheless reflected the earliest and longest-enduring African-American institution associated with African American life in Shippensburg.

Locust Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA

County and State

By the early nineteenth century, the Shippensburg African-American community increasingly became composed of free people. The United States Census documents this shift in the combined population of Shippensburg Borough and Township:

1800: 37 free Blacks, 17 enslaved

1820: 82 free Blacks, 3 enslaved

1830: 102 free Blacks, 1 enslaved

This growing free Black population continued to use the burial ground but lacked legal title to the property that continued to be owned by the heirs of Edward Shippen. Joseph Burd purchased the families land holding in 1810, and subsequently sometime between 1813 and 1826 sold three-quarters of the land originally designated as the “Negro Graveyard” to Shippensburg’s Dr. John Simpson—shrinking it from two-thirds of an acre to one-fifth of an acre. It is unknown whether there were graves on the land sold, or how the African-American community may have reacted to the sale other than they continued to use the remaining land for burials. A deed documenting a sale of land adjoining the cemetery dated June 13, 1829, noted that the lot was bordered by a lot “occupied as a burying ground for people of colour.”

Perhaps to compensate for the lost land, sometime before 1834 Joseph Burd began renting Shippensburg’s African-American residents the empty, square lot that lay between the original “Negro Graveyard” and North Queen Street. The two lots together formed a rectangular parcel 250 feet in length and 64 feet wide—roughly two-thirds the size of today’s North Queen Street section and oriented in the same way between the North Queen Street frontage to the southwest and the Sherman Avenue to the northeast. The land provided the town’s African-American residents with much-needed burial space. Additionally, the transaction served the interests of Joseph Burd. Shippensburg’s African-American community provided a tenant for an otherwise vacant lot, and they paid Burd an annual rent of \$20.00 per year for use of the parcel until his death in 1834.

The significance of the cemetery site along North Queen Street as a site of importance to the town’s African-American community is underscored by the decision to construct the community’s first African Methodist Episcopal Church log building alongside the “Negro Graveyard.” Sometime before 1834, the African-American community built its first church building on the site, a fact confirmed when Joseph Burd died in 1834 and the Cumberland County tax rolls for December 1834 referred to the \$20.00 rent that his heirs would receive from the two lots “at the Negro Church.” Burd’s will instructed his executor to liquidate all of his real estate holdings, leaving the fate of both the church and cemetery uncertain.

In 1842, the Shippensburg African-American community at last gained title to its cemetery and church property. Joseph Burd’s nephew, Edward Shippen Burd of Philadelphia, acquired title to the property from his uncle’s estate, and in June 1842 he gave it to the community’s African-American residents.

By a deed dated June 17, 1842, Edward Shippen Burd granted use of the land forever to “the black people of Shippensburg.” The document states:

Locust Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA

County and State

“Now be it known to all people whom it May Concern that I said Edward Burd hereby agrees and binds himself his Heirs and Assigns forever to Leave undisturbed said piece of ground for the Consideration of twenty cents a year and yearly forever which is to be and for the purpose of erecting a place of worship and Burying the Dead of the black people of Shippensburg and for no other purpose whatever.”

Notably, Burd did not grant the land to any individual or organization, but to the collective “black people of Shippensburg.” The land’s sole purpose was to serve the religious and funerary needs of the local people of color in perpetuity.

As the MPDF “African American Churches and Cemeteries in Pennsylvania, c. 1644 to c.1970” notes, “In many respects, African American cemeteries are the only places to tell the stories of individuals and families. Individual graves, or collections of graves, in the cemetery often reflect broad themes in local, state, and national history. For example, a cemetery can hold graves of enslaved Africans and African Americans that tell the story of Pennsylvania before abolition and the Civil War or contain plots for families or entire communities that moved from the South to Pennsylvania during the Great Migration looking for work and opportunity.”

This is certainly the case for the Locust Grove Cemetery. The stone markers in the cemetery, the earliest of which dates to 1868, provide a focal point for telling the stories of men and women transitioning from slavery to freedom, and also the story of the migration of former slaves from the Maryland and Virginia seeking new lives of freedom in Shippensburg.

For example, two simple marble markers at the front of the cemetery read “Our Father, Richard Baker,” and “Our Mother, Hannah Baker.” The Reverend Richard Baker and his wife Hannah Baker were important leaders in Shippensburg’s nineteenth century African-American community where the presided over the community’s first A.M.E. Church on North Queen Street.

Richard Baker was born into slavery in Shippensburg on March 27, 1797, the son of Nell, an enslaved woman held by Shippensburg’s richest resident David Mahan. According to his obituary in the *Shippensburg News*, Baker was “of Spanish or Creole descent” and he was described as a “respected colored citizen” who was “upright in his dealings, a consistent Christian, and respected by all.” Upon reaching his twenty-eighth birthday in 1835, Baker gained his freedom under the terms of Pennsylvania’s Act for Gradual Emancipation. He chose to remain in Shippensburg, married Hannah Baker, and the couple together had thirteen children. Richard Baker was a barber and served as the North Queen Street A.M.E. Congregation’s minister. He lost the right to vote in 1838 when a new state constitution stripped African Americans of the franchise. He lived to see that right restored when the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution granted African-American men the right to vote in 1870.

Hannah Baker, known by many as “Aunt Hannah,” gained a reputation as a skilled cook and baker, and in 1855 opened an “ice cream saloon” on Main Street featuring ice cream and “cakes

Locust Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA

County and State

of every description.”¹ Her obituary noted that she was “a woman of remarkable culinary ability, and in the earlier years of her life...her services were in demand where there was a wedding or large party, to prepare the cakes and other refreshments.” Additionally, Hannah Baker served as a leader of the North Queen Street A.M.E. Church. Even in her advanced age, when her adult sons took over as the church’s ministry, a newspaper story from 1886 noted that she “looks after the spiritual affairs of the congregation with interest and concern.”

When Richard Baker died on September 26, 1879, and when Hannah Baker died in 1896, both chose to have their bodies buried side by side in the cemetery grounds that bordered the A.M.E. Church’s eastern wall. Their graves provide powerful witness to those members of the Shippensburg community who transcended from slavery to freedom, who built professions and supported their sizable family utilizing their specialized skills, and who helped to nurture and sustain the institutions of Shippensburg’s early free Black community.

Shippensburg’s African-American community doubled from 119 people in 1850 to 241 people in 1870, and grew from 6.8 percent of the area’s total population to 9.9%. A considerable part of this growth was driven by the migration of African-American migrants who arrived from Maryland or Virginia. By the 1870s, one-sixth of the town’s African-American population had been born enslaved in those states of the Upper South.²

One couple laid to rest in the North Queen Street Cemetery that illustrates this pattern is William Carter and Sarah Jane Rhoads Carter. Both had been born enslaved to Edward C. Marshall of Markham in Fauquier County, Virginia, the Virginia politician and businessman who was the son of Supreme Court Justice John Marshall. William Carter gained his freedom in 1861 (whether he ran away or was freed is unknown) and arrived in Shippensburg in 1862. The following year, he enlisted in the 25th United States Colored Troops. After his service, he returned to Shippensburg and in 1866 married Sarah Jane Rhoads who had also relocated to Shippensburg from Virginia. The couple lived and worked in the community with their adopted son, David, for the next five decades. Sarah Carter died in 1911 and William followed her seven years later in 1918.³ They were both laid to rest in the Locust Grove Cemetery, and their side-by-side grave markers provide an exceptional entry-point for telling the story of enslaved people fleeing the South and building new lives and families in Central Pennsylvania that is not told anywhere else in the community.

The Locust Grove Cemetery also represents the best historical site to explore the community’s history of racism and segregation. Shippensburg’s cemeteries became formally segregated in 1861 when a group of local businessmen incorporated the Spring Hill Cemetery as a new public burial ground. As part of its by-laws, the cemetery corporation would only allow the burial of “such white persons as they may choose to admit.” Barred from the public cemetery, for most

¹ “Ice Cream,” *Shippensburg News*, September 1, 1855.

² This is based on the manuscript census. Due to the possibility that census takers missed African-American residents, the number could be higher. U.S. Census 1870 accessed via *HeritageQuest Online*, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com> (Accessed February 16, 2005).

³ See Deposition A, November 4, 1913, William Carter Civil War Pension File, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland. Death dates are taken from their tombstones.

Locust Grove Cemetery

Cumberland County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

African-Americans in the region the Locust Grove Cemetery became the only available burial ground for African Americans for 135 years.

Historically, racial segregation occurred throughout the town, but the Locust Grove Cemetery remains the only intact site in the community reflecting that history. The Shippensburg public schools were segregated until 1936, and though the last segregated school building still stands at 116 East Burd Street, it is now a church annex which has undergone significant interior and exterior modifications. There are no intact sites that document the community's segregated baseball league, Girl Scout troops, Masonic lodges, or American Legion posts, although the Robert Green Legion Post no. 729 building still stands as a residence alongside the Locust Grove Cemetery. St. Peter's A.M.E. Church founded in 1892 is the community's last Black church, but it relocated from its original Penn Street building in 1999. Even the downtown movie theaters that limited African-American patrons to their balconies, and the hotels and restaurants that barred African-American guests are now gone. The Locust Grove Cemetery is the last intact historic site in Shippensburg for conveying the town's long history of racial discrimination and *de facto* segregation.

As the MPDF "African American Churches and Cemeteries in Pennsylvania, c. 1644 to c.1970" notes "Some cemeteries in Pennsylvania can also contain graves of one, or many, African Americans who served in the United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T) or as Buffalo Soldiers; in these instances, these servicemen are remembered for their contributions only by their gravestones." The Locust Grove Cemetery contains the graves of 26 African-American Civil War veterans. The grave markers are the only monuments in the community that explicitly recognize the service of Shippensburg's African American Civil War veterans.

In the oldest section of the cemetery, the North Queen Street section, fully forty-one percent of the marked graves in the North Queen Street section of the cemetery belonged to Civil War veterans (21 out of 52). Two of those graves belonged to the brothers James and John Shirk, who along with their brother Casper, left their homes in Mainsville, Franklin County, and traveled in the spring of 1863 to enlist with the newly forming Massachusetts regiments. John joined the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, James joined the 55th Massachusetts Regiment, and Casper joined the 5th Massachusetts Colored Cavalry. They reflect the enormous outpouring of support among African Americans in Central Pennsylvania to serve with the Union Army. As historian Ed Ayers has noted in *In the Presence of Mine Enemies*, the large number of African-American volunteers who enlisted in the Massachusetts regiments "made Franklin County perhaps the greatest contributor to these early African American regiments, on a per capita basis, of any place in the United States."

When the federal government began the formation of United States Colored Troops regiments in May 1863, Shippensburg men would be among those joining their ranks. Seven Shippensburg men enlisted together into the 127th United States Colored Troops formed at Fort William Penn in Philadelphia. The group included four Pennsylvania-born men and three former slaves who had made Shippensburg their home. Other veterans would settle in Shippensburg after the war, and would be buried at the cemetery when they passed away. The Locust Grove Cemetery would be the final resting place of African-American men who served with the 54th and 55th

Locust Grove Cemetery

Cumberland County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

Massachusetts regiments, the 3rd USCT, 22nd USCT, 24th USCT, 25th USCT, 43rd USCT, 127th USCT, and the Merchant Marine.

Newspaper accounts from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century note Decoration Day and Memorial Day events occurring to honor the veterans buried in Shippensburg's white cemeteries, but no similar commemoration occurred at the Locust Grove Cemetery. That changed in 1920 when the generation of local African-American men who had served as soldiers in the First World War began organizing their own Memorial Day commemorations at Locust Grove. The official community ceremony occurred on Memorial Day afternoon, but as the *Shippensburg News* of June 3, 1920 noted, "In the morning, the colored folks of town held their Memorial Day service. The music was furnished by a colored band from Harrisburg which received much favorable comment."

Sometime in the 1920s, the service at the Locust Grove Cemetery expanded to include a separate Memorial Day parade, an event years later referred to by African-American residents of Shippensburg simply as the "Black Parade." World War One veterans took the lead as the parade marshals. Other participants included the community's last surviving United States Colored Troops veteran, John Hinton, who rode in the parade until his death in 1932. The parade also included both white and African-American participants marching on foot and riding in cars, including the Shippensburg Band, the American Legion firing squad, The Jolly Dramatic Club, the sons of African-American Civil War veterans, and children carrying bouquets of flowers to place on veterans' graves. African-American women who took time off from their jobs as domestic servants joined the parade adorned in their finest outfits and carrying hand-painted signs. Filled with joy and pride, and accompanied by music from the band, the entire party staged a "triumphant march to the little cemetery" where a minister delivered the Memorial Day address at the Locust Grove Cemetery.

The Black Parade's route (Figure 1) reflected the geography of Shippensburg's African-American community. The parade assembled at the intersection of Locust and West Orange Streets, near the Reverend Joseph Robinson's Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Proceeding east along Orange Street, the procession passed through or close to Shippensburg's three principle African-American neighborhoods (Locust Street and West Orange Street, South Penn Street's Wrightsville neighborhood, and North Queen Street), and by two of the three black churches (the Mt. Zion Baptist Church and the Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church on East Orange Street) before turning onto Queen Street.

The procession entered the North Queen Street entrance of the Locust Grove Cemetery where the community then held a program including oratory and the laying of flowers on the veterans' graves. At the ceremony's conclusion, the parade departed west along Burd Street past the segregated "colored" school at the corner of Burd Street and Gettle Avenue, and then turned south onto Penn Street, and ended at St. Peter's A.M.E. Bethel church where the assembly dispersed. The parade was a display of pride and patriotism that unified the African-American community and honored the town's African-American veterans for their service.

Locust Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA

County and State

The Memorial Day commemoration at Locust Grove continues to be observed at the Locust Grove Cemetery (despite being cancelled in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic), but the Black Parade ended in the 1940s, perhaps as a result of World War II.

The parade's end may also have been influenced by the decline of Shippensburg's African-American population in the middle of the twentieth century. Its numbers dropped from 194 African American residents in 1920, to 101 in 1930, and down to eighty-four in 1940. The African-American community also declined as a total proportion of the town, from 4.7 percent of the total population in 1920 to 1.6 percent in 1940.

The decline and out-migration of African American from rural Pennsylvania communities occurred in many communities across the state. The search for jobs and opportunity during the Great Depression and World War Two drew many to urban centers such as Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and New York City. Others may have sought more tolerant communities, particularly with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan that was highly visible in Shippensburg in the 1920s.

Notably, the Memorial Day observance at the Locust Grove Cemetery was often followed by a reunion and community picnic that brought together African-American individuals and families with Shippensburg, including those who no longer lived in Shippensburg. The cemetery and the annual observance thus became a key moment for uniting and reconnecting Shippensburg's extended and dispersed African-American community.

The care of the cemetery grounds, honoring the community's Civil War veterans, and sharing the site's history became an ongoing project for generations of Shippensburg African American residents. In 1936, the Shippensburg Young Men's Progressive Club, an organization of local African-American men, set out to raise funds to install a protective fence around the cemetery grounds. The group's leaders, President Theodore Coleman, Vice President Samuel Pickens, and Treasurer David Coleman, noted the site's importance both because of the Civil War veteran graves and the connection to the community's first African-American church.⁴

From 1949 into the 1960s, African-American World War Two veterans, including Homer Jackson and Belvin Banks, worked with local newspaper editor and local historian William Burkhart to remove waste from the cemetery grounds, repair the fallen tombstones, erect a fence along the cemetery's border, and map the location of the veterans' graves. The establishment of the Robert Green American Legion Post no.729 beside the Locust Grove Cemetery facilitated that work. Additionally, William Burkhart undertook research on the community's African-American Civil War veterans that he including in his book *Shippensburg in the Civil War* (1964).

In the late 1960s, a group of young African-American men calling themselves the "real regulars" took it upon themselves to take responsibility for caring for the cemetery grounds. As Gerald "Jake" Burke recalled in newspaper story on the Locust Grove Cemetery published in the

⁴ "Colored Club Launches Drive for Fence Around Locust Grove Cemetery," Shippensburg News-Chronicle, May 29, 1936.

Locust Grove Cemetery

Cumberland County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

Shippensburg News-Chronicle on June 10, 1993, "A bunch of us black youth from Shippensburg—we were youth back then—got together. Our parents were getting older and couldn't take care of the place. We decided these are our people up here. It's not the responsibility of anyone else. Fellow "real regular" Mike Nocho agreed, "It was something that had to be done... We figured we're the ones to do it." The original "real regulars" that included Gerald "Jake" Burke, Michael "Mike" Nocho, Paul Nocho, William "Bill" Burke, Belvin Banks Jr, and Gary Robinson would see that the cemetery grass was cut and grounds maintained for over fifty years until the combination of age and health issues prevented them for continuing that work.

Through the 1990s and 2000s, as the neighborhood surrounding the Locust Grove Cemetery changed, the African-American leaders of the Locust Grove Cemetery Committee continued to work to maintain the cemetery and honor the ancestors and veterans buried there. Through the 1990s, Locust Grove Cemetery Committee members Nancy Hodges and Mai Baltimore attended Shippensburg Borough Council and Planning Board meetings to raise their concerns about activities and development in the neighborhood. Borough officials were sympathetic, but little changed.

In 2003, a car driving down the hill on North Sherman Avenue that ran through the cemetery between the North Queen Street and Locust Grove sections hit a patch of ice and lost control. The vehicle slid into the Locust Grove section of the cemetery, struck a tombstone, became stuck amid the graves. The incident drew the attention of the Borough Council and raised the awareness within the community about the need to protect the cemetery.

The Locust Grove Cemetery Committee led by President Carl Bell Jr., Treasurer Mai Baltimore, Assistant Treasurer Nancy Hodge, and Secretary Carol Smith launched the Locust Grove Cemetery Restoration Campaign together with the Shippensburg Historical Society and faculty from the Shippensburg University Department of History and Philosophy. Together, the groups sought to conduct research on the cemetery's history, raise public awareness of the cemetery's long, rich history, and raise funds to fence the grounds and undertake restoration work on its monuments.

Over the next six years, more than one hundred local businesses, organizations, local foundations, and individuals supported the work of the Locust Grove Cemetery Restoration Campaign. History students at Shippensburg University authored an application for a Pennsylvania State Historical Marker in 2006, and following the cemetery's annual Memorial Day Commemoration on May 28, 2007, a blue and gold state historical marker was unveiled by the PHMC on the former grounds of the Richard Baker A.M.E. Church. More than two hundred people attended the dedication ceremony led by Civil War veteran Samuel Wright's great-grandson and "real regular" Jake Burke. The ceremony included music by the St. Peter's A.M.E. Zion Men's Choir, a benediction by the Reverend Charles Jenkins of the Brownsville Church of God, and comments by Charles "Ben" Hawley, Representative Rob Kauffman, Locust Grove Cemetery President Carl Bell Jr., Shippensburg Mayor Bruce Hockersmith, Shippensburg Historical Society Past President and retired Shippensburg University professor Dr. Paul Gill,

Locust Grove Cemetery

Cumberland County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

Shippensburg University History Professor Dr. Steven Burg, and Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission representative Karen Galle.

Today the Locust Grove Cemetery Committee continues to maintain the Locust Grove Cemetery, preserving and commemorating more than two hundred years of local African-American history and culture reflected on the grounds of the Locust Grove Cemetery.

Discussion of Significance

The Locust Grove Cemetery is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage and Social History within the context of the MDPF as an example of the African-American Cemetery property type and Independent Cemetery subtype.

According to the MDPF, an independent cemetery is “one created and used solely by and for the burial of free Africans and African Americans in Pennsylvania sometime between c.1644 and c.1970 and survives as an enduring example of African American agency. Independent cemeteries exist as evidence of racial segregation and African American agency in Pennsylvania.”

The Locust Grove Cemetery reflects the first and most enduring communal institution established by and for the Shippensburg African-American community, and a site that facilitates the telling of the community’s history—both the story of enslavement and discrimination, but also the stories of the men and women who built a thriving Black community and important organizations and institutions to support its members. The cemetery’s enduring significance to the local African-American community as a location to honor the community’s ancestors and African-American military veterans. For over one hundred years, members of the African-American community have organized an annual Memorial Day event to honor the community’s African-American veterans, and generations of local African Americans have driven efforts to preserve, protect, and share the history of the cemetery and those laid to rest there.

The MDPF states that in order to be eligible for the National Register, under Criterion A, churches and cemeteries should have “substantial historical connection to the African American community it served.” This connection should not be solely related to the practice of a particular religion. The property must “be directly associated with significant historical events, patterns of events, or themes that affected the African American community it served, and the property must retain sufficient physical character to be able to convey the importance it held within that specific period.”

The Locust Grove Cemetery meets this standard and the NPS criteria considerations for cemeteries by serving as a major communal institution for the Shippensburg area’s African-American community for over two hundred years, one used by all African-Americans as a burial ground and site of memory and commemoration regardless of church affiliation.

Although a few extant structures retain connections to Shippensburg’s African-American history, such as the segregated Burd Street school building, and the Robert Green American Legion Post

Locust Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA
County and State

no. 729 building, none retain comparable integrity or capacity to provide a tangible link to the major events and patterns of the Shippensburg community's African-American history as the Locust Grove Cemetery.

The Locust Grove Cemetery is a remarkable site as a tangible link to events and patterns of central importance in the local African-American community's historical development, its evolving sense of community, and its ongoing commitment to honoring its ancestors and heritage.

Locust Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Burg, Steven B., "Shippensburg's Locust Grove Cemetery: A Window on Two Centuries of Cumberland County's African-American History." *Cumberland County History*, vol. 26 (2009), 33-47.

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Burkhart, William. *Shippensburg in the Civil War*. Shippensburg, PA: News-Chronicle Co., 1964

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Civil War Pension Files for the Locust Grove Cemetery veterans, available at the Cumberland County Historical Society, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Payne, Daniel Alexander. *History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*. Nashville, Tenn.: Publishing House of the A. M. E. Sunday School Union, 1891

Locust Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA
County and State

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 156368

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: **40.056435**

Longitude: **-77.515017**

Locust Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the Locust Grove Cemetery historic resources are those that correspond to Cumberland County Tax Parcel 32-33-1896-021 EX, as well as the section of Sherman Avenue closed to public access by the Borough of Shippensburg in 2003 (Corresponding to the northwest and southeast boundaries of the section of the cemetery added in 1922--starting 110 feet southeast of Britton Road and continuing to the point where Sherman Avenue intersects with East Burd Street). The parcel is owned by the Locust Grove Cemetery Committee and reflects the land currently occupied by the Locust Grove Cemetery and as specified in Edward Shippen Burd's deed of June 17, 1842, John Hosfeld et ux. deed of February 22, 1922, and the Agreement and Quitclaim deed with Charles and Esther Parson of March 31, 2009.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary reflects the land historically and currently occupied and utilized as a burial ground since the property was officially given to the "the black people of Shippensburg" by Edward Shippen Burd on June 17, 1842.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Steven Burg, Ph.D. with Christopher Gwinn, Jennifer Ott, Jonathan Weller, Taylor Little, Rebecca Justinus, Taylor Mason, and Students of the Shippensburg University Applied History Program.

organization: -Shippensburg University History & Philosophy Dept./ Locust Grove Cemetery Committee

street & number: 1871 Old Main Drive

city or town: Shippensburg state: PA zip code: 17257

e-mail: sbburg@ship.edu

telephone: 717-477-1189

date: January 5, 2020

Locust Grove Cemetery
Name of Property

Cumberland County, PA
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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: Locust Grove Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Shippensburg Borough
County: Cumberland State: Pennsylvania
Photographer: Steven Burg and Taylor Mason
Date Photographed: 2019

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

1. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0001, View of cemetery looking northeast from across North Queen Street.
2. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0002, View of Locust Grove Cemetery North Queen Street gate from North Queen Street facing northeast.
3. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0003, Detail of Locust Grove Cemetery North Queen Street gate limestone pillar, from North Queen Street facing northeast.
4. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0004, View from cemetery gate facing west.
5. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0005, Outside fence on southeast side of front corner facing northwest.
6. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0006, Front of cemetery and North Queen Street facing northwest.

Locust Grove Cemetery

Cumberland County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

7. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0007, Southeast corner of North Queen Street section facing north.
8. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0008, Detail of Richard Baker grave marker, facing northeast.
9. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0009, Detail of Hannah Baker grave marker, facing northeast.
10. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0010, View of North Queen Street section from point where lane enters front gate, facing northeast from center lane.
11. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0011, View of North Queen Street section from point where lane enters front gate, facing northwest from center lane.
12. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0012, View of North Queen Street section with Pennsylvania State Historic Marker and site of black church, from point where lane enters front gate, facing west from center lane.
13. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0013, View of North Queen Street section with from point where lane enters front gate, facing north from center lane.
14. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0014, View of North Queen Street section from center lane enters front gate, facing northeast.
15. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0015, View of North Queen Street section, pedestrian gate, Pennsylvania State Historic Marker, and church site, facing south.
16. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0016, View of North Queen Street section, southwest corner, from center lane facing southwest. Vague boundary resolved by 2009 agreement with neighbors.
17. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0017, View of North Queen Street section, from center lane facing north.
18. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0018, Detail of limestone grave marker, North Queen Street section, facing northeast.
19. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0019, North Queen Street section, center lane facing north.
20. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0020, North Queen Street section, center lane facing northeast.
21. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0021, North Queen Street section, center lane facing south-southwest.
22. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0022, North Queen Street section, center lane facing southwest.
23. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0023, North Queen Street section, center lane facing north. Section of the cemetery with oldest tombstones.
24. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0024, North Queen Street section, center lane facing northeast. Side by side graves of James and John Shirk.
25. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0025, North Queen Street section, William Wilson 1868 tombstone, oldest grave marker in the cemetery, facing northeast.
26. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0026, North Queen Street section, Eliza Jones Deadford 1869 grave marker, second oldest in the cemetery, facing northeast.
27. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0027, North Queen Street section, James and John Shirk grave markers, facing northeast.

Locust Grove Cemetery

Cumberland County, PA

Name of Property

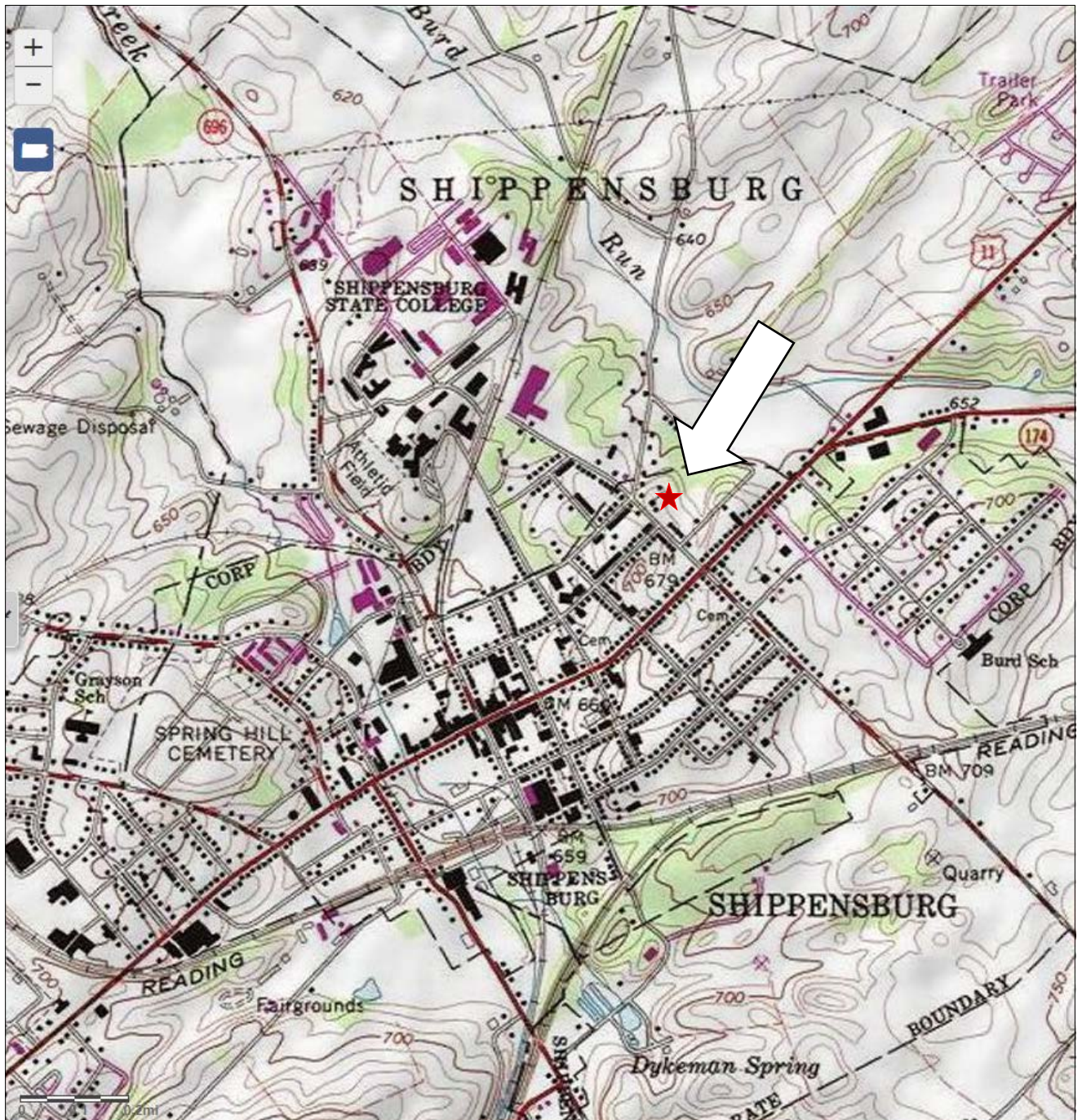
County and State

28. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0028, North Queen Street section, Detail of John Shirk grave marker, facing northeast.
29. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0029, North Queen Street section, Detail of James Shirk grave marker, facing northeast.
30. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0030, North Queen Street section from top of hill, across Sherman Avenue in Locust Grove section, facing southwest.
31. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0031, North Queen Street section from top of hill, across Sherman Avenue in Locust Grove section, facing west.
32. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0032, North Queen Street section from top of hill, across Sherman Avenue in Locust Grove section, facing northeast
33. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0033, North Queen Street section from top of hill, across Sherman Avenue in Locust Grove section, facing southeast.
34. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0034, Locust Grove section, top of hill looking downhill along center lane, facing southeast.
35. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0035, Locust Grove section, on lane looking towards corner and rear gate, facing south-southeast.
36. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0036, Locust Grove section, detail of south corner and intersection of cemetery lanes, facing south.
37. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0037, Locust Grove section, southeast corner. Facing southeast.
38. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0038, Locust Grove section, detail of Joseph Rideout grave marker, facing northeast.
39. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0039, Locust Grove section, detail of John Y. Smith grave marker installed 2010, facing northeast.
40. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0040, Locust Grove section, southeast end of Locust Grove section, facing southwest.
41. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0041, Locust Grove section, southeast end of Locust Grove section, looking up hill towards North Queen Street section, facing northwest.
42. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0042, Locust Grove section, on Sherman Avenue facing east.
43. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0043, Locust Grove section, on Sherman Avenue facing north.
44. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0044, Locust Grove section, looking up Sherman Avenue facing northwest.
45. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0045, Locust Grove section, on edge of Sherman Avenue looking south-southeast.
46. PA_Cumberland_Locust Grove Cemetery_0046, Locust Grove section, on Sherman Avenue, facing northeast.

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 100 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.

National Register of Historic Places
Locust Grove Cemetery
Cumberland County, Pennsylvania



USGS Quad: Shippensburg

Coordinates

Lat: 40.056929

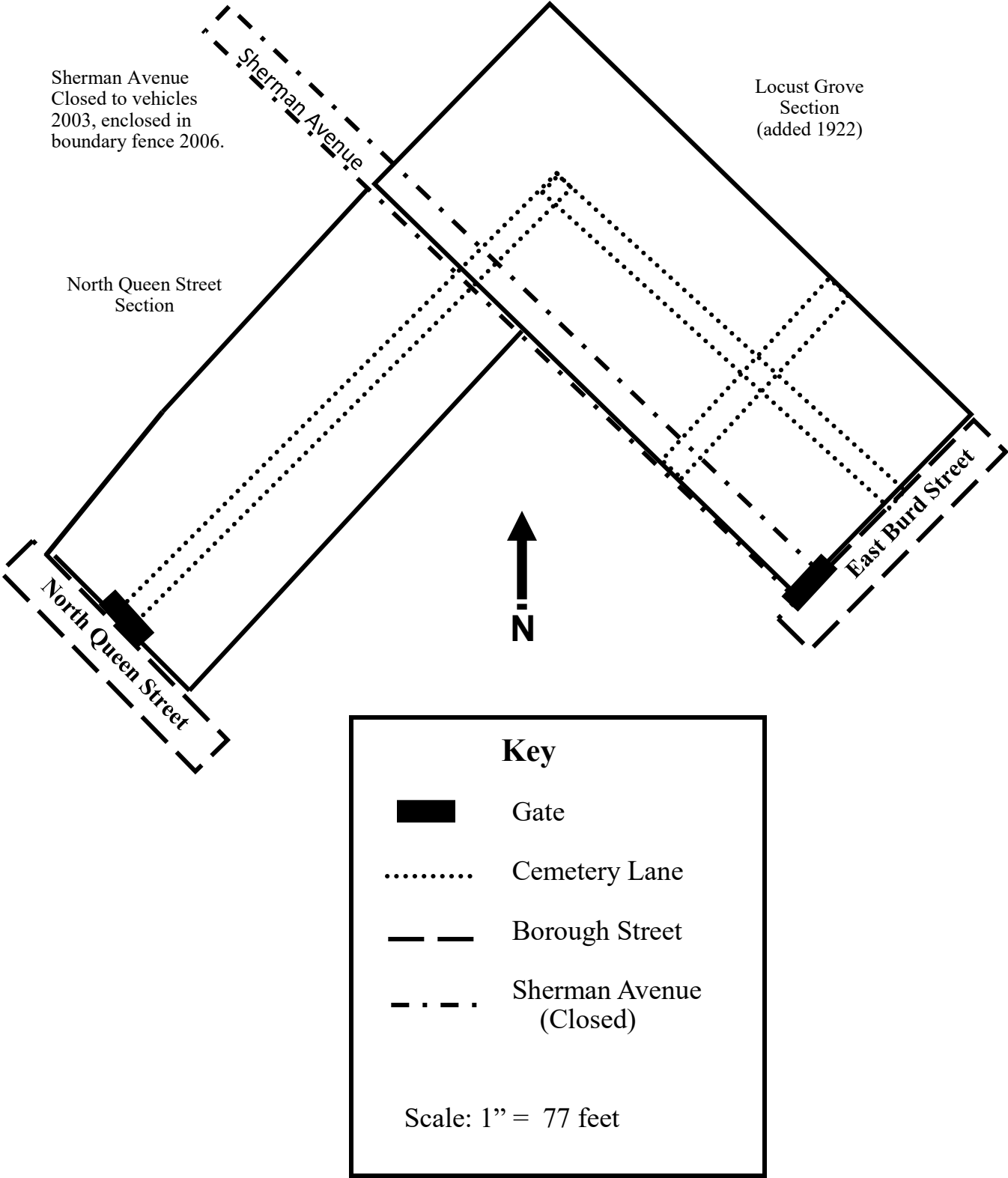
Long: -77.514337



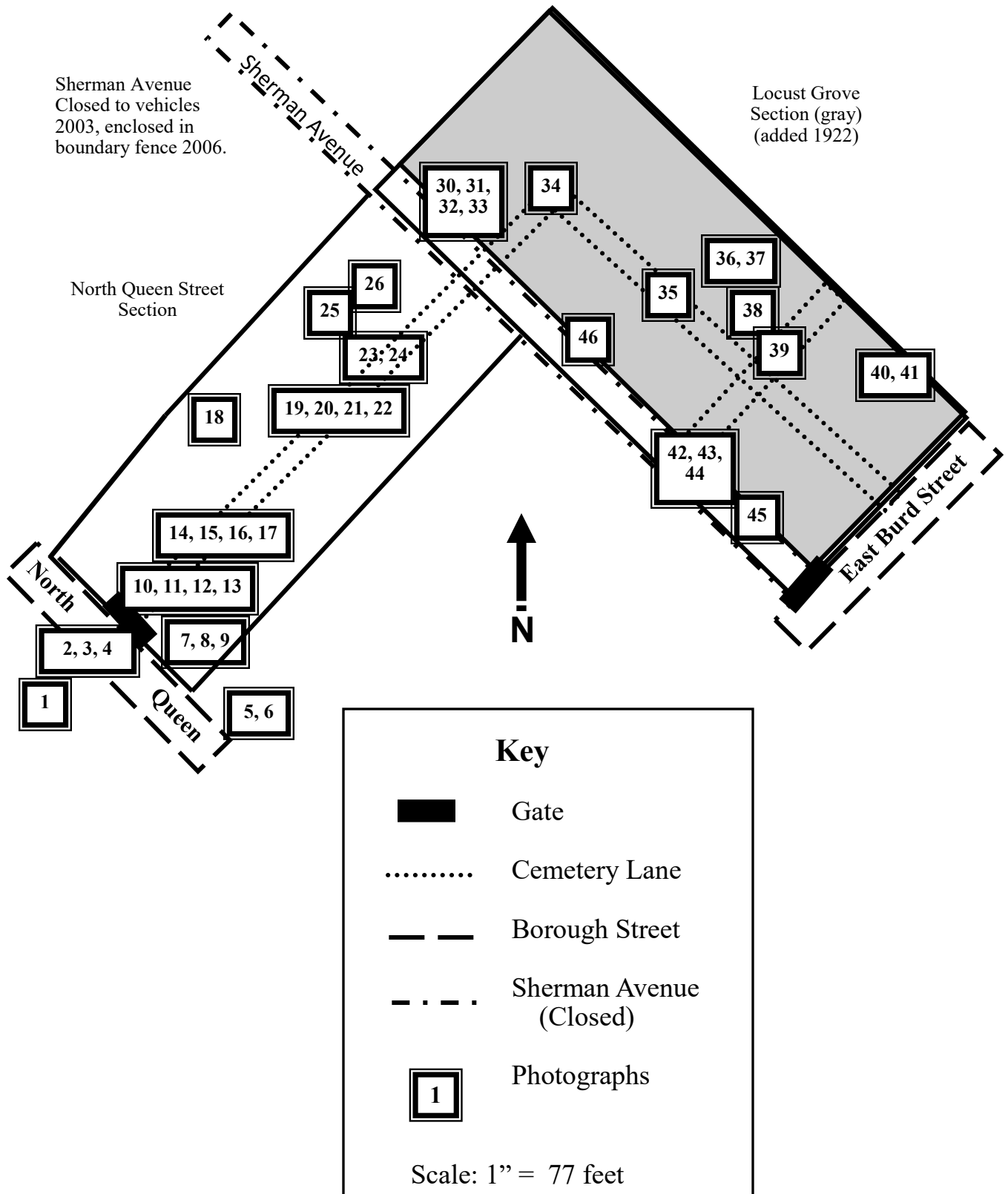
National Register of Historic Places
Locust Grove Cemetery
Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

NR Boundary ---

Locust Grove Cemetery
Shippensburg, Pennsylvania
Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

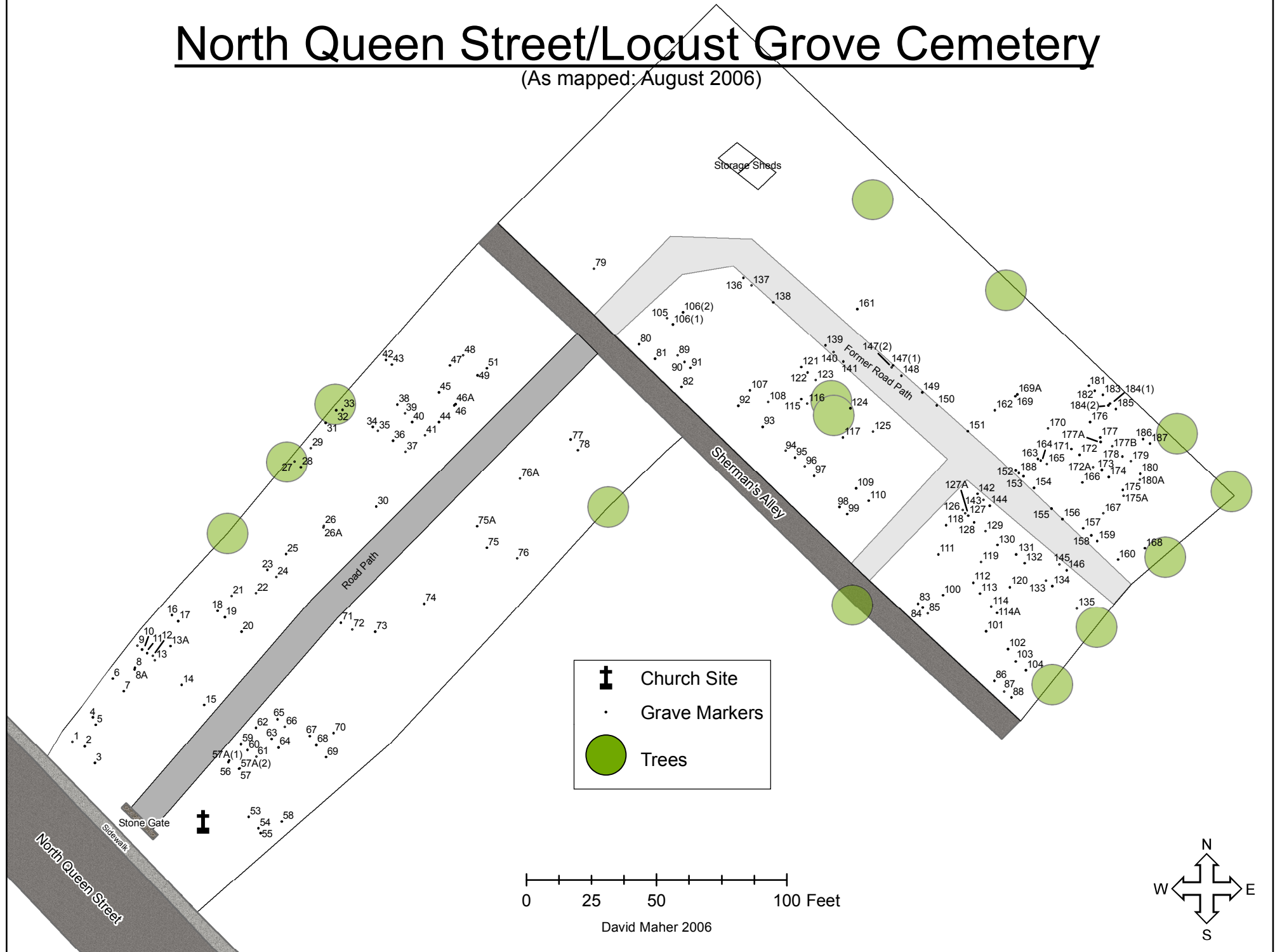


Locust Grove Cemetery Shippensburg, Pennsylvania Cumberland County, Pennsylvania



North Queen Street/Locust Grove Cemetery

(As mapped: August 2006)



MAP OF MARKERS IN THE NORTH QUEEN ST./LOCUST GROVE CEMETERY

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Inscription</u>	<u>Map #</u>	<u>Inscription</u>
1	Mary Fletcher	44	-
2	Robert Green	45	H.J.
3	Richard Green	46	Cyrus Bushrod
4	Barney Augustus Burke	46A	B.
5	Henry Montrose Burke	47	George Landey
6	Lewis Holms	48	G.
7	Ellen R. Davis	49	Eliza Jones Deadford
8	L. H.	51	(lamb)
8A	(fieldstone)	53	Hannah Baker
9	? . C.	54	Richard Baker
10	G. A.	55	Benjamin T. Rinker
11	Geary Addison	56	Benjamin Washington
12	Rebecca E. Gross	57	H.B.
13	Samuel Cotton	57A(1)	E.M.S. (1)
13A	S. C.	57A(2)	E.M.S. (2)
14	John Boles	58	Joseph Lane
15	Mary E. Smith	59	J.L.
16	Sarah Jones Rhodes Carter	60	S.W.
17	William Carter	61	Bettie Washington
18	Edward N. Baker	62	"INFANT" Gross
19	James H. Baker	63	M.D.
20	Marshal Dixon	64	Wilson Carmichael
21	E.N.B.	65	B.W.
22	(fieldstone)	66	D.W.
23	Henry J. Galloway	67	Samuel Wright
24	Kezia H. Spencer	68	Louisa Watson Wright
25	Levi Richardson	69	Daniel Wright
26	Dawson Draper	70	-
26A	Lena Luca Wilson	71	Joseph L. Robinson
27	Robert Curtis	72	Mary Addison
28	J. E. Holliday	73	? .L.I.
29	J.E.H.	74	Joseph Stephenson
30	Jane Williams	75	Joseph Rideout
31	Mary C. Wilson	75A	(fieldstone)
32	-. W.	76	- (Paris Wilson)
33	Washington Robinson	76A	(submerged stone?)
34	C.	77	John Shirk
35	W.R.	78	James H. Shirk
36	J.W.	79	Eugene W. Harper
37	P.S.	80	James A. Coleman
38	Henry Johnston	81	Paul Alexander Tondee
39	Preston Smith	82	- (Barney Hill)
40	Jesse Wilson	83	Eleanor K. London
41	William Wilson	84	John A. Rideout
42	L.W.	85	Margaret S. Kaiser
43	Letitia Webb	86	Helen M. Nocho

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Inscription</u>	<u>Map #</u>	<u>Inscription</u>
87	Garfield J. and Sarah A. Lane	125	Rev. Edward Holman
88	Clarence O. Burls	126	Charles E. Shepherd
89	Avis Lane	127	George B. Shepherd
90	Earnest F. Beasley	127A	S
91	Palmer Lane	128	Fannie H. Shepherd
92	Clement B. and Ella Mae Nocho	129	William H. Bollard
93	Frank Robinson	130	Ruth A. Green
94	John Boles	131	-
95	Howard A. Wright	132	David H. and Anna B. Baker
96	Emma M. Wright	133	Mary Ellen Baker
97	Samuel A. Wright	134	Nannie A. Baker
98	Margaret Sheaffer	135	Rev. John T. Daniels
99	Margaret I. Sheaffer	136	Danelle R. Thomas
100	George W. and Sarah S. Fry	137	June A. Dorsey
101	Laura B. Hinton	138	Richard C. White
102	H.	139	Margaret E. Burl
103	John W. Hinton	140	Lucy D. and George J. Washington
104	Richard L. Hinton	141	Charles H. Whiting
105	Stephen D. Corbin	142	C.S.
	Homer I. Jackson		
106(1)	(1)	143	- (footstone)
	Homer I. Jackson		
106(2)	(2)	144	- (footstone)
107	Paul C. and Elizabeth Nocho	145	M.E.B.
108	Paul Clement Jr.	146	N.A.B.
			Sarah K. "Teen" Nocho Burke
109	Harriet S. Coleman,	147(1)	Murphy
	Sarah Coleman Wright	147(2)	Sarah K. "Teen" Nocho Burke
	Alice Coleman		Murphy
	Smith	148	Elenor B. and Carl J. Nocho
110	Harriet Shirk Coleman	149	Margaret A. Rideout Moore
111	George S. and Eliza Russ Wilson	150	Thomas E. Moore
112	W	151	Jennie M. Sheaffer
113	Bessie Lane	152	Maria Russ
114	Daniel Collins	153	Lila Jane Russ
114A	W	154	Rev. Joseph Robinson
115	Mary Wright Collins	155	Robert S. and Dorothy M. Peyton
116	George Charles Collins	156	Samuel S. and Clara M. Pickens
117	David F. and Alonzo J. Coleman	157	Samuel Nelson Arter
118	Sarah J. Shirk	158	Nannie M. Arter
119	Ethel M. Jackson	159	Sadie Arter
			Rev. James R. and Florence R.
120	Alexander Coleman	160	White
	Sarah Burk		
121	Moseley	161	J.C. Jones, Sr.
122	Naomi M. Robinson	162	Joseph Rideout
123	Robert Joseph Robinson, III	163	L.J.R.
124	Leonard C. Boles	164	L.B.H.

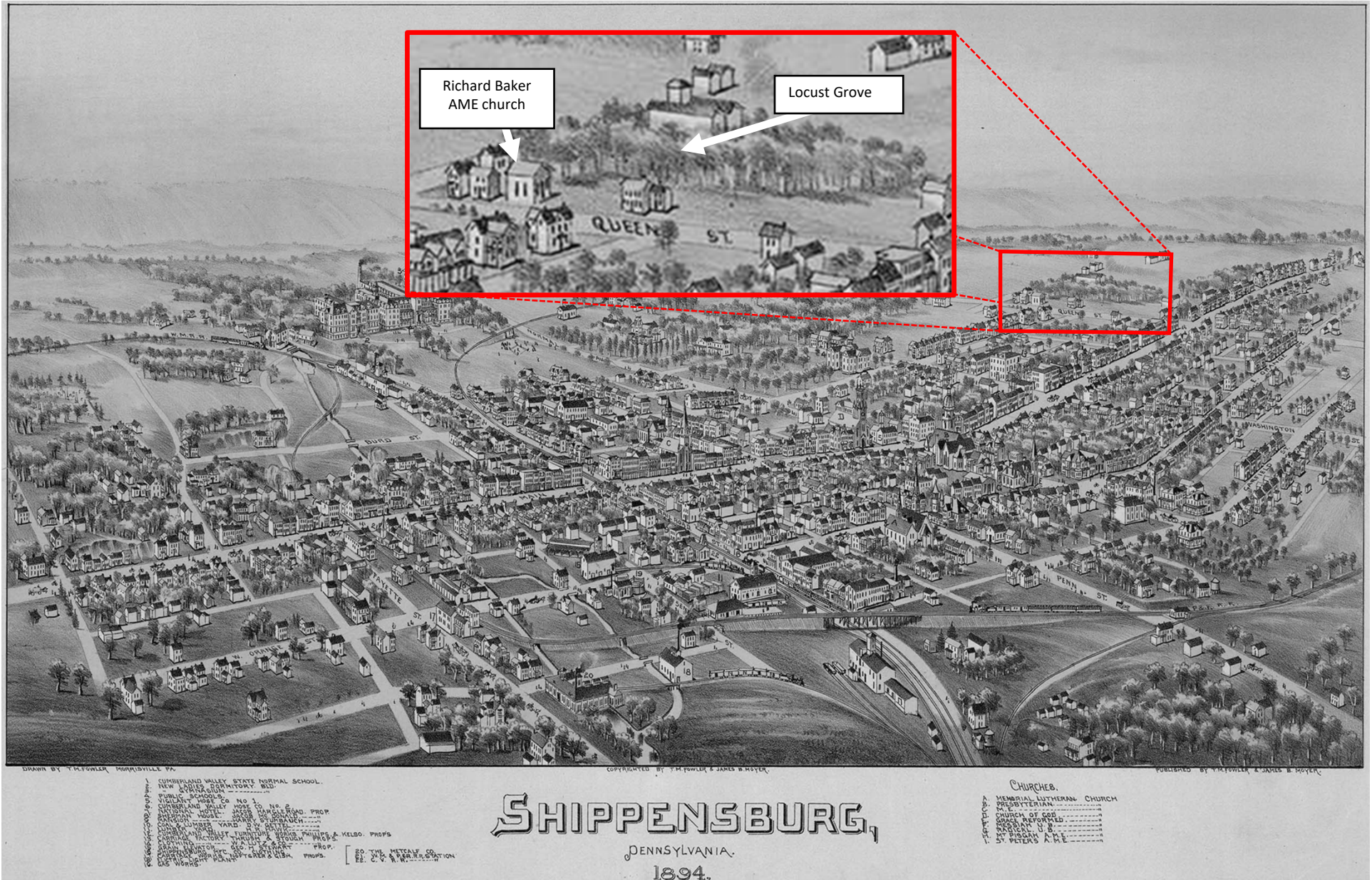
<u>Map #</u>	<u>Inscription</u>
165	M.B.W.
166	Romaine D. Chase Esther K. and Rev. James L.
167	White
168	William Mosley, Sr.
169	Sarah C. Carter
169A	Da.. C..r..
170	Alexander B. Westcot
171	Luke and Sarah J. Westcot
172	Mother
172A	plot marker "B"
173	Lucy Massey
174	David Barnett
175	John A. Barnet
175A	plot marker "B"
176	William C. Meily
177	Gladys E. Meily
177A	plot marker "W"
177B	plot marker "B"
178	Margaret Barnett
179	John H. Barnett
180	Lizzie L. Clark
180A	plot marker "B"
181	Albert Draper
182	Frank Branson
183	William Draper
184(1)	Walter Massey (1)
184(2)	Walter Massey (2)
185	Jennie Snavely
186	Myrtle Smith
187	William Smith
188	M.R.

National Register of Historic Places

1894 Fowler Panoramic (Birds-eye) Map

Locust Grove Cemetery

Cumberland County, PA



source: Pennsylvania State Archives

http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/mg/di/m011_0567/Fowler.htm#S

National Register of Historic Places
Locust Grove Cemetery
Cumberland County, PA

Figure 1:
Route of Shippensburg’s Memorial Day “Black Parade”

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map – Shippensburg 1921
Map by David Maher – PA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)



- 1. Mt. Zion Baptist Church (Parade Start)
- 2. Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church
- 3. Locust Grove Cemetery (Memorial Day Ceremony)
- 4. Burd St. "colored school"
- 5. St. Peter's A.M.E. Bethel Church (Parade End)