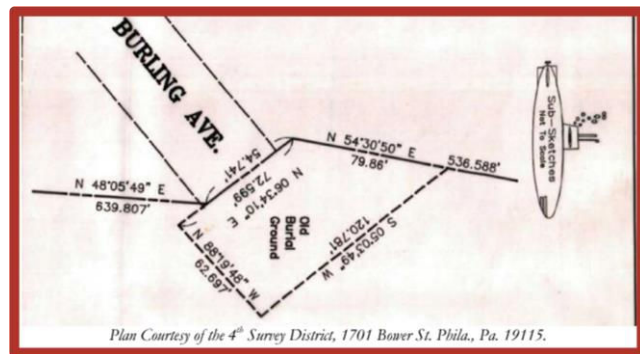
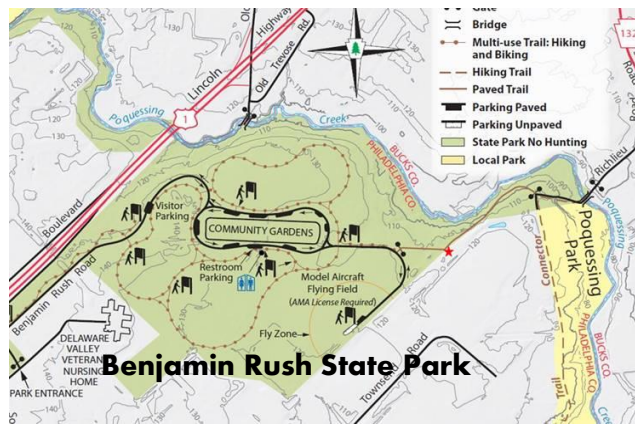




Byberry Township African American Burial Ground

The Adinkra symbol is Nkyinkyim (pronounced N-chin – chim). It means Twisting. The symbol represents the tortuous nature of life's journey and also the toughness, versatility, and dynamism required to thrive in it.



Byberry Township African American Burial Ground Established January 17, 1780 Byberry Township, now in Northeast part of Philadelphia, PA

Grant – Develop a Preservation Plan – Full project
Consultant – Richard Grubb & Associates

Grantees:

Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, Pres – Paul Steinke
Society to Preserve Philadelphia African American Assets,
Pres – Deborah Gary

After 200 years of owning the burial ground, Byberry Friends sold the site to The City of Philadelphia in 1980. However, it was discovered in 2023, that the deed was never recorded by the city, thus leading to a break in stewardship for 43 years.

Status:

1. Implementation Plan completed December 2023 (NHAHF Henry A. Jordan Preservation Excellence Fund Grant). Several actions were already in progress

2. Preservation Plan completed March 31, 2024 provided

- Identified varying borders of burial site that must be addressed
- Provided recommendations for recordation and managerial control
 - Action: Provide or update the archeological site form at PHMC
- Provided detailed site maintenance guidance & recommended several resources for future steward and interpretation guidance

3. Status:

- City survey had been started, however the report not yet received
- Initial GPR done on April 5th. by Professor Hermann, UPenn and his student. LiDar will be scheduled at a later date. Funds may be required for more in-depth studies
- Attorney already working with Byberry Friends on paperwork to transfer title to DCNR. A survey was required.
- Spring cleanup scheduled Saturday April 20, 2024

Conflicting Boundaries of the Byberry Township African American Burial Ground Until sorted out, this impacts plans for everything

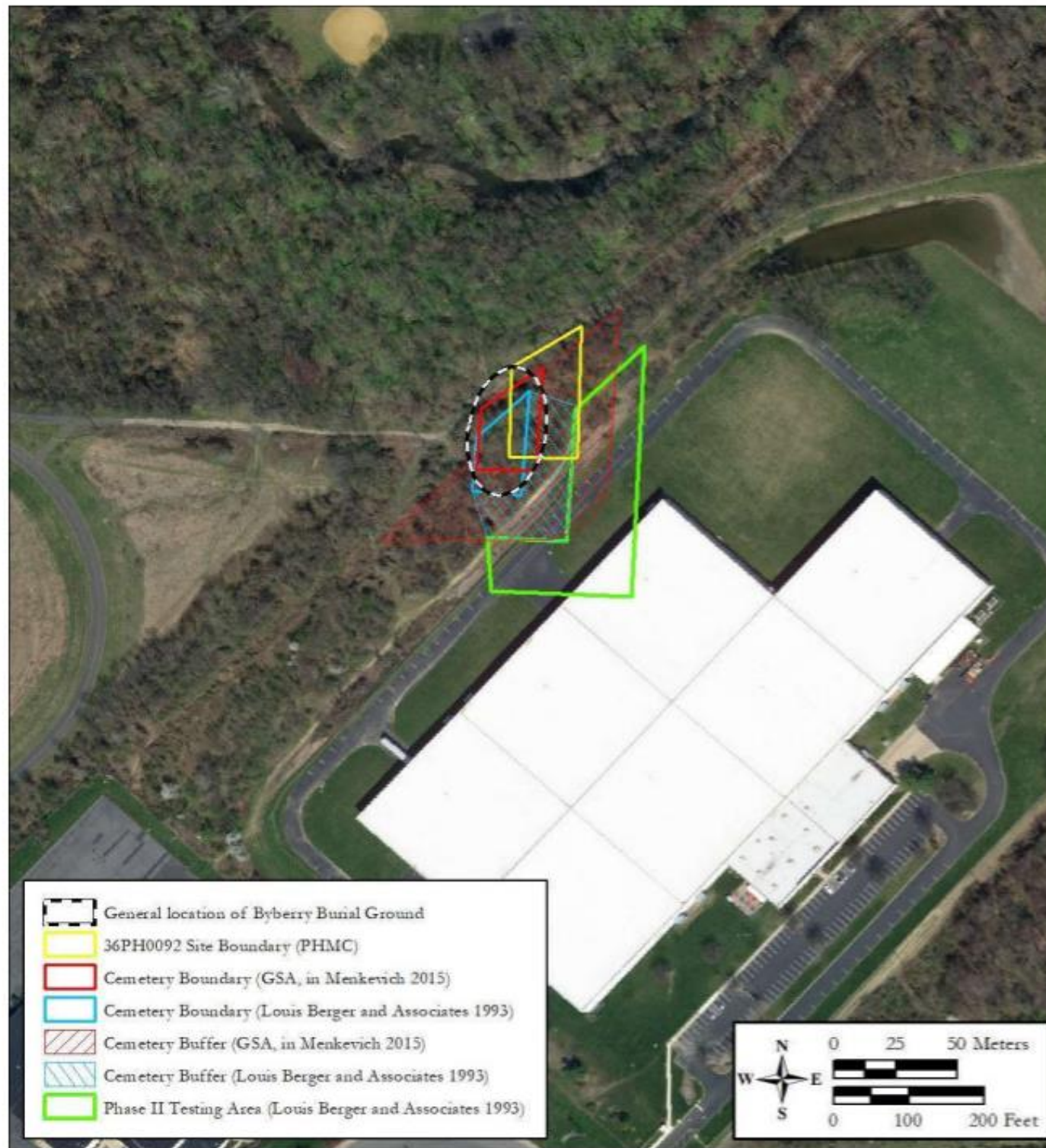


Figure 33. Approximate locations of property boundaries as understood at the time of construction of the NARA facility (City of Philadelphia 2018, Menkevich 2015, Louis Berger & Associates 1993)



Byberry Township African American Burial Ground Timeline



Found it in 2022



April 2023



November 2023

*Dr. Ifetayo Flannery, Temple University
Professor of Africology – Land Blessing*



April 2024

Paul Steinke, PAGP,
Jacqueline Wiggins & Fred
Morrison - SPPAAA

Jason T. Herrmann, PhD
Kowalski Family Teaching
Specialist for Digital
Archaeology
Center for the Analysis of
Archaeological Materials
Penn Museum

SPPAAA Future Tasks:

- 1. Find Jim Walton and other burials, if any**
- 2. Who is Jim Walton? (Only known recorded burial)**
- 3. Ensure Burial ground gets signage, borders and entrance**
- 4. Ensure Permanent memorial**
- 5. Extend research into Northeast Black population and burial grounds**
- 6. Education and awareness**

The Society to Preserve Philadelphia African American Assets found this site in the above condition after a CBS news report in February 2022. After collaborating with the Preservation Alliance of Great Philadelphia, we were able to get two grants to develop an Interpretation Plan and Preservation Plan. In conjunction with the Byberry Friends who have now resumed ownership oversight, several cleanups were done and other efforts are in the works. An initial yard sign was placed in April 2023 to give identification to the sacred place and a dedication ceremony/land blessing was done on November 12, 2023.

Sources for the background information are:

Joe Menkevich, Nomination for Historic Designation, Fred Moore, Northeast History Network, Hannah Wallace – Consultant to SPPAAA and PAGP – Interpretation Plan and the book *History of Byberry and Moreland Townships*.