

## Amy Harvey

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**From:** Jeanette Coffin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:37 PM  
**To:** villagewestr@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Dwight Bassett; Colleen Willger; Phillip Fleischmann; Linda Smith; John Richardson; Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Michael Simms; Rae Buckley; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver  
**Subject:** FW: Petition to conduct the Recommended Actions from the 2011 Environmental Services Inc. Study of the West Chapel Hill Cemetery to determine the existence of grave sites outside of current Cemetery Boundaries  
**Attachments:** Petition-Supporting-Info-for-WestChapelHillCemetery-Recommendation.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin  
Office Assistant  
[Town of Chapel Hill Manager's Office](#)  
[405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.](#)  
[Chapel Hill, NC 27514](#)  
(o) 919-968-2743 | (f) 919-969-2063

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**From:** Rachel Gray [mailto:villagewestr@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:55 AM  
**To:** Sabrina Oliver <soliver@townofchapelhill.org>; Amy Harvey <aharvey@townofchapelhill.org>; Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>  
**Subject:** Petition to conduct the Recommended Actions from the 2011 Environmental Services Inc. Study of the West Chapel Hill Cemetery to determine the existence of grave sites outside of current Cemetery Boundaries

**External email:** Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. To check or report forward to [reportspam@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:reportspam@townofchapelhill.org)

SUBJECT: Petition to conduct the Recommended Actions from the 2011 Environmental Services Inc. Study of the West Chapel Hill Cemetery to determine the existence of grave sites outside of current Cemetery Boundaries

Dear Mayor and Town Council Members of the Town of Chapel Hill,

The Town of Chapel Hill's web page for the West Chapel Hill Cemetery includes a 2011 Investigation of the West Chapel Hill Cemetery by Environmental Services, Inc. The study was performed for the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill, and the report is published on the Town of Chapel Hill website at <https://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showpublisheddocument/27829/635670439995700000>

The study focused on the site within the current boundary of the West Chapel Hill Cemetery. However, it included maps showing the larger original Cemetery plans, and research findings related to the original Cemetery's Sections A and B, which extend east beyond the current Cemetery boundary. The study research indicated the eastern portion of the original Cemetery may have been used as a "potter's field", citing a 1970s interview with Town's Engineer at the time, "Mr. Rose"; and the findings suggest additional gravesites could exist beyond the current Cemetery boundary. The Study recommended investigating the possibility of unmarked or undocumented burials outside the current boundary with a geophysical survey of the portion of Jay Street that corresponds to Section A of the original Cemetery. In looking at the maps within the study, and at the Concept Plan proposal for the Jay Street Apartments, Planning Project #21-027, this area of potential unmarked or undocumented burials includes Jay Street itself and some of the land that would be the entryway for the proposed Jay Street Apartments. I am including a PDF file that highlights this information and includes the relevant maps from the 2011 Study and Concept Plan proposal.

In light of this information, I formally Petition the Town Council to conduct the Recommended Actions from the 2011 Environmental Services Inc. Study of the West Chapel Hill Cemetery to determine the existence of grave sites outside of current Cemetery Boundaries prior to development of Jay Street and further approval of Town of Chapel Hill Planning Project #21-027.

Thank you,

Rachel Gray  
65 Fernwood Lane  
Chapel Hill, NC

# Supporting Information for Petition to Conduct Recommended Actions to Investigate Grave Sites on Jay Street per 2011 Environmental Services Incorporated Study

June 15, 2021  
Rachel Gray

**Petition to Town of Chapel Hill Mayor and Council**  
*Submitted via email, June, 2021*

Conduct Recommended Actions from the 2011 Environmental Services Inc. Study of the West Chapel Hill Cemetery to determine the existence of grave sites outside of current Cemetery Boundary prior to development of Jay Street and further approval of Town of Chapel Hill Planning Project #21-027.

## 2011 Environmental Services, Inc. Study

*Study background and summary*

### 2011 Study of the West Chapel Hill Cemetery

- Performed by Environmental Services, Inc. for Preservation Society of Chapel Hill
- Purpose was to identify both marked and unmarked, undocumented burials within the cemetery.
- Included research of, information on, and recommendations for areas east of current cemetery boundary, based on findings.

Copy of report available on Town of Chapel Hill website, "Investigation of the West Chapel Hill Cemetery by ESI, Inc.

<https://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showpublisheddocument/27829/635670439995700000>

## 2011 Environmental Services, Inc. Study

### *Key findings supporting this petition*

#### Size and location of original cemetery

- Maps show original Cemetery sections A and B extend east beyond current Cemetery boundary.
- Study research indicated eastern portion of the Original Cemetery may have been used as a “potter's field”, citing 1970s interview with Town's Engineer at the time, “Mr. Rose”.

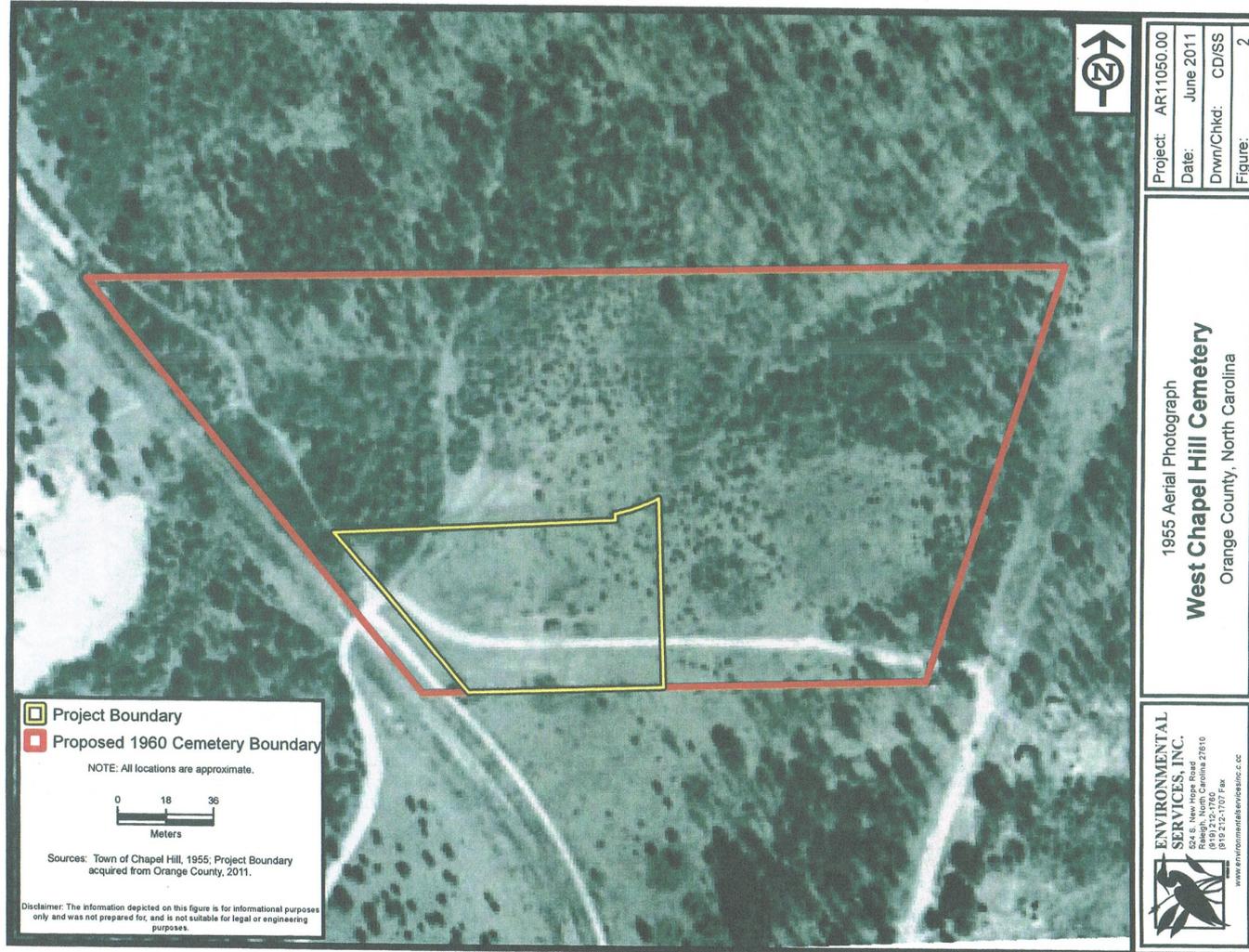
## 2011 Environmental Services, Inc. Study

### *Key findings supporting this petition*

#### Study's Conclusion and Recommendations

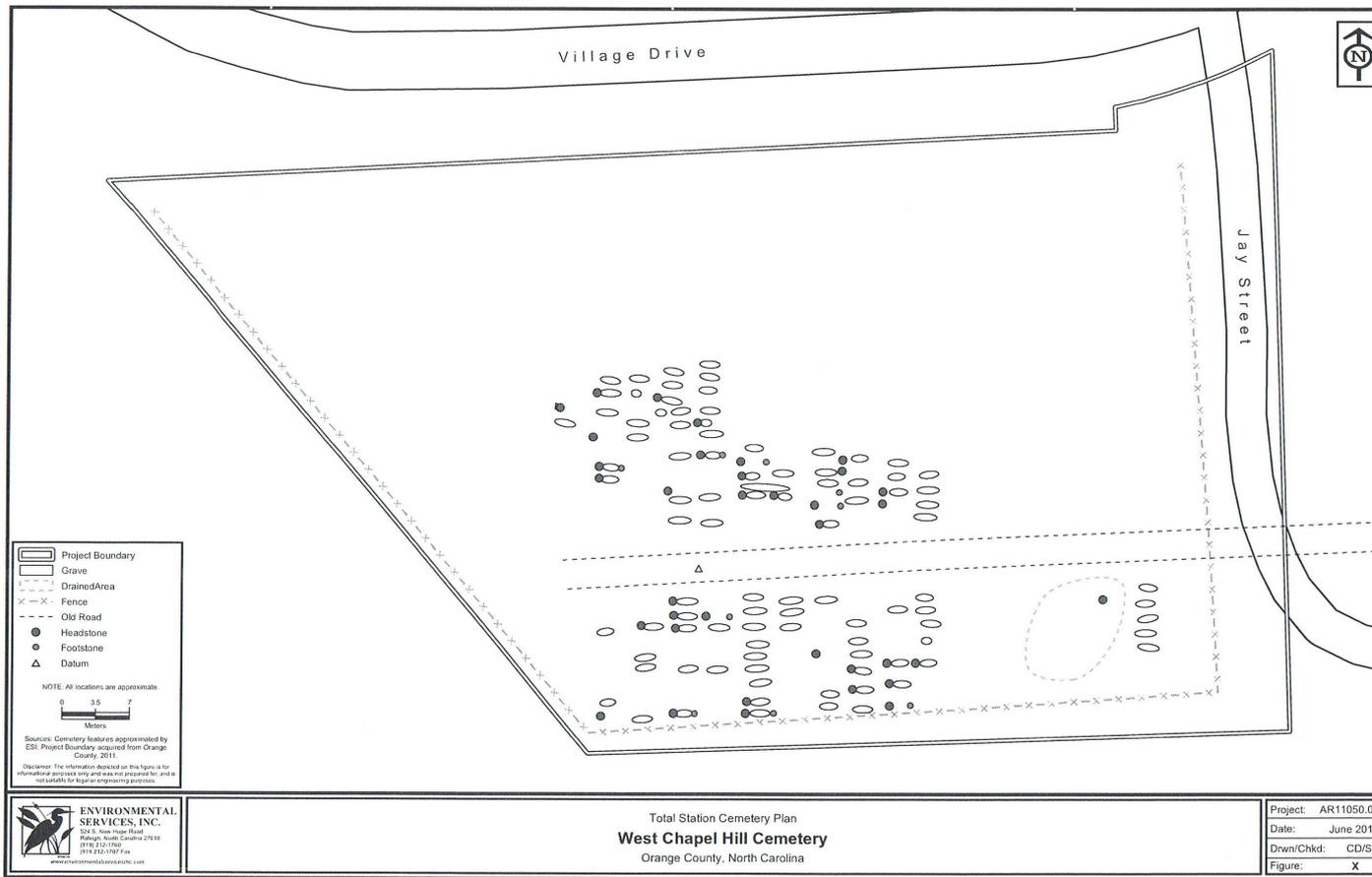
- Study identified 162 potential unmarked graves within Cemetery boundary. Previous study in 1975 had only identified 7.
- Recommended investigating the possibility of unmarked or undocumented burials outside the current boundary with a geophysical survey of the portion of Jay Street that corresponds to Section A of the original Cemetery – this includes Jay Street itself and the land that would be the entryway for the proposed Jay Street Apartments.

# 2011 Environmental Services, Inc. Study 1955 Aerial Photograph of site



# 2011 Environmental Services, Inc. Study

## Location of grave sites identified in the Study



**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.**  
 224 S. New Hope Road  
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27610  
 (919) 232-7760  
 (919) 232-7987 Fax  
 www.environmentalservicesinc.com

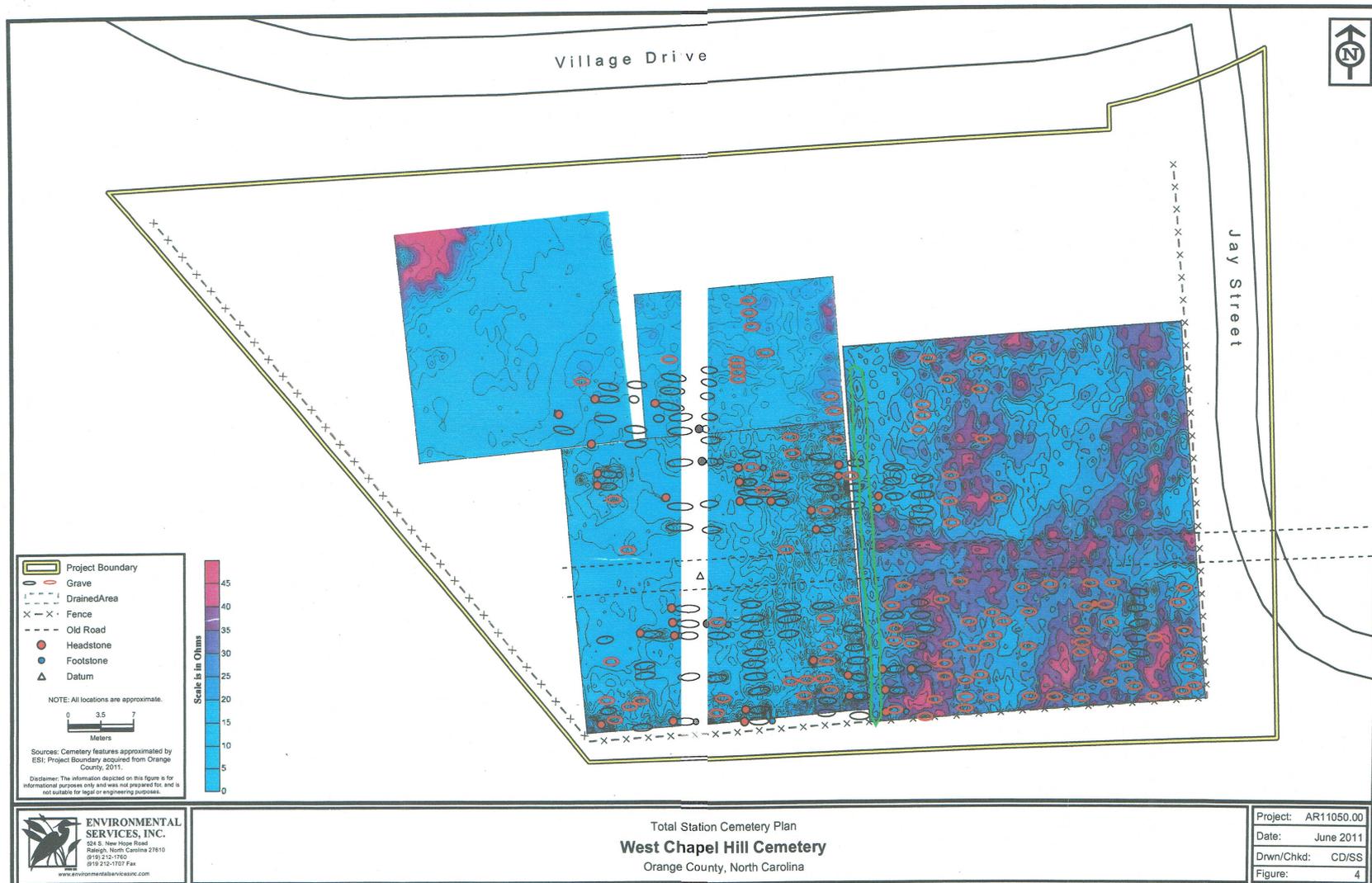
Total Station Cemetery Plan  
**West Chapel Hill Cemetery**  
 Orange County, North Carolina

Project: AR11050.00  
 Date: June 2011  
 Drwn/Chkd: CD/SS  
 Figure: X

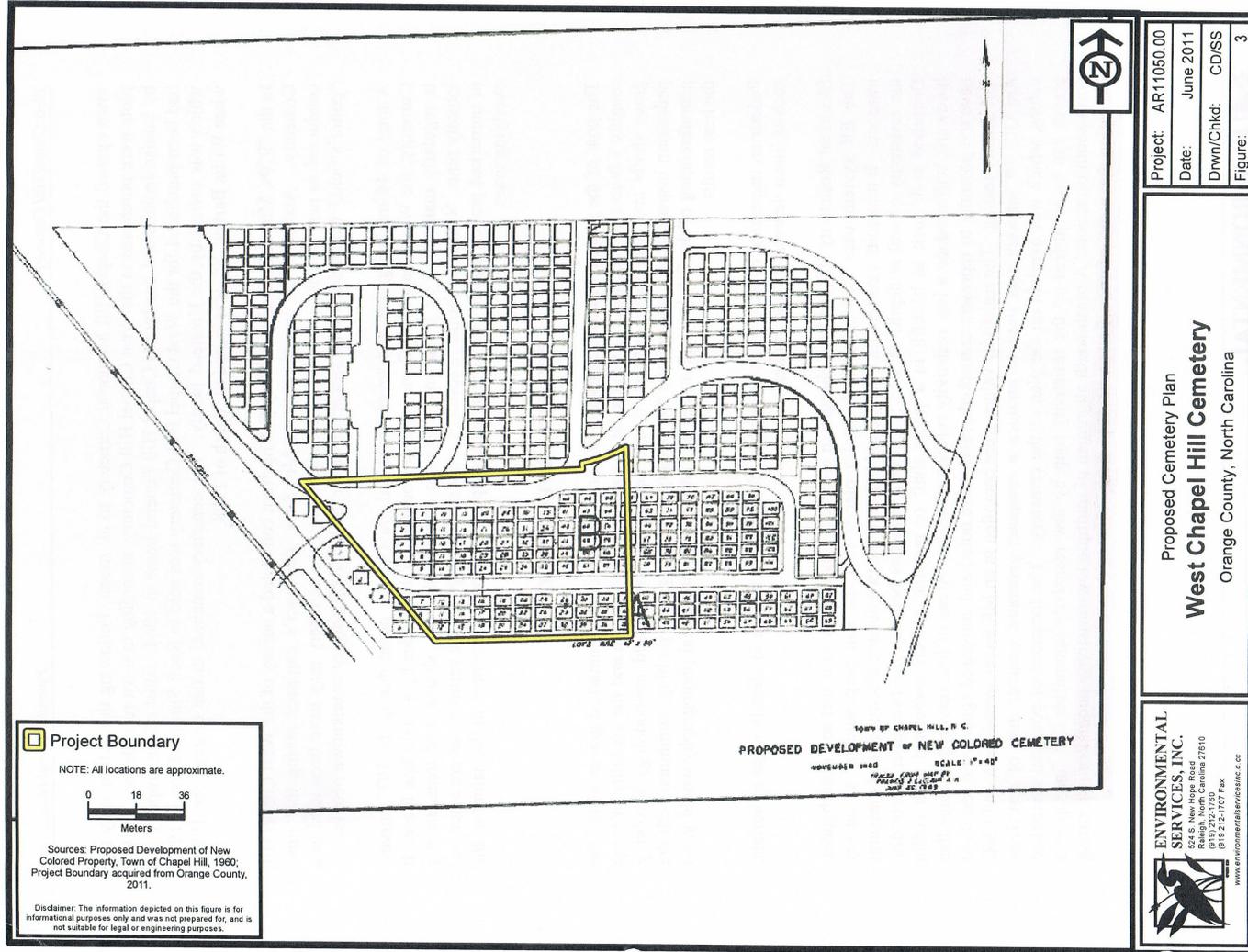
Path: P:\GIS\CD\Projects\2011\ESD\GIS\Study\Fig\_1151\ChapelHill.mxd Date: 02/20/11 1:31:59 PM

# 2011 Environmental Services, Inc. Study

## Location of potential grave sites identified via imaging



# 2011 Environmental Services, Inc. Study Original Cemetery Map and 2011 Study Boundary



# Jay Street Apartments, Planning Project #21-027

## *Proximity of 2011 Study Boundary to Proposed Development*

