

Archaeological Investigations at the Boyd Property, Chatham County, Georgia



*LAMAR Institute Publication Series,
Report Number 190*

2014

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Savannah, Georgia

2014

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Introduction

This report details the archaeological survey of a portion of the Thomas Marion Boyd property in Port Wentworth, Chatham County, Georgia. The survey included surface reconnaissance and ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey of a sample portion of the property. The study property is located south of Georgia Highway 30 and north of St. Augustine Creek approximately 200 meters west of the North Salem Baptist Church, as shown in Figure 1.

In 2014 the property owner, Tom Boyd, approached the LAMAR Institute in hopes of locating and delineating possible human burials on a wooded tract that he recently purchased. Mr. Boyd, a resident of Chatham County, desires to sell the property, but as a responsible steward of Chatham County's cultural resources, he realized the need to study the potential for human burials on his land. On July 21, 2014, Daniel Elliott, President of the LAMAR Institute, met on-site with Mr. Boyd and other members of his family to make a cursory examination of the property and discuss potential directions for research. Mr. Boyd escorted the group to two marked headstones, that of Samuel Young and Farley Mack. Numerous other sub-rectangular depressions dotted the area and helped to define the areal extent of the potential cemetery for future study.

On August 11, 2014, Mr. Elliott led a LAMAR Institute research team, consisting of archaeologist Rita Folse Elliott and volunteer Heather McNamee, to the property for a day of fieldwork. This effort included a reconnaissance of a portion of the Boyd property and ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey on a small portion of the suspected cemetery surrounding the grave of Samuel Young. This field effort was followed by an additional two hours of field study by Mr. Elliott on September 27, 2014, when seven additional grave depressions were located and mapped. A total of 50 suspected graves and two marked graves (52 potential burial features total) was recorded in this study. The research methods, findings and interpretations of this archaeological investigation are contained in the following chapters.

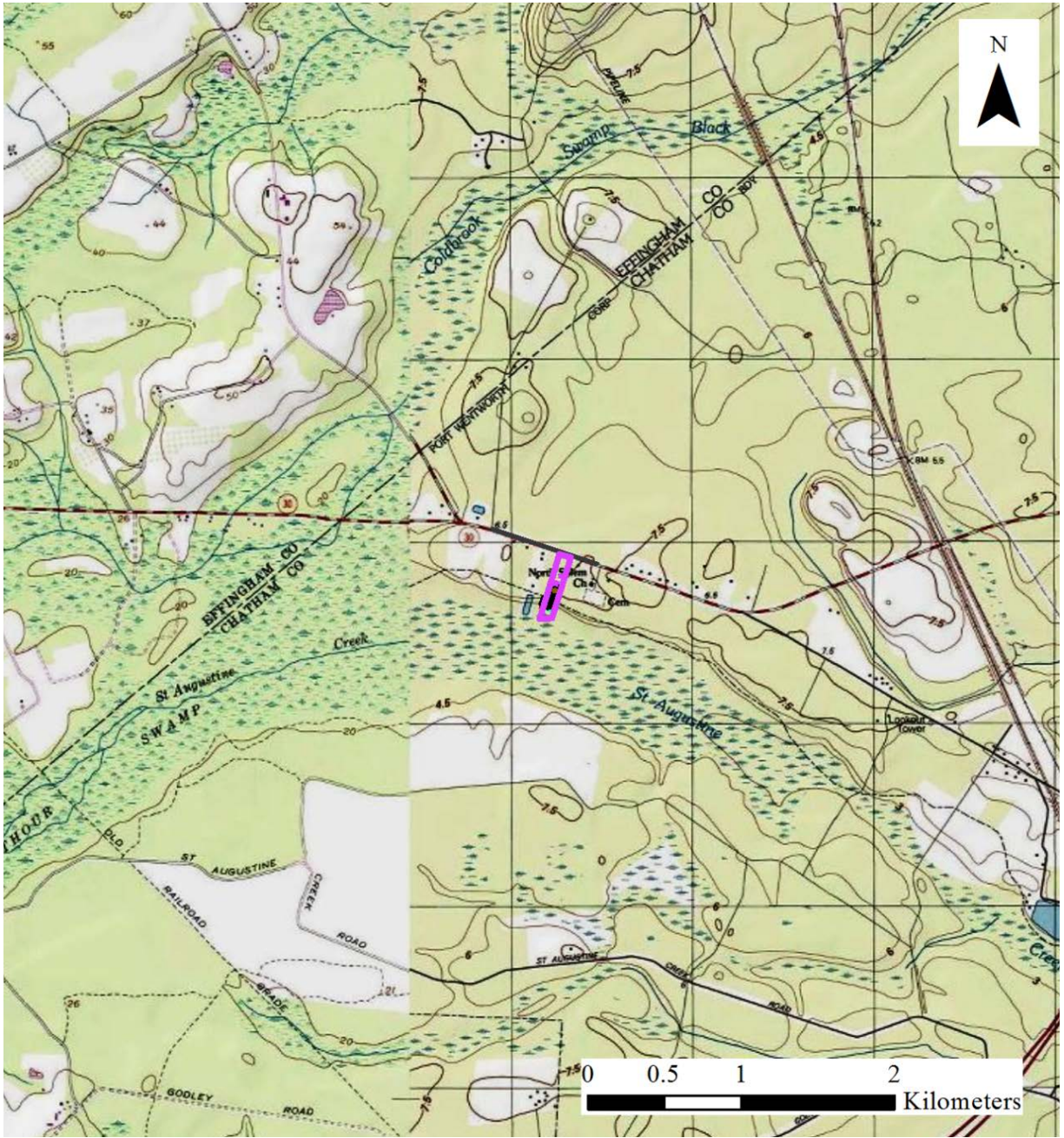


Figure 1. Boyd Property Location (Tract Outlined in Purple).

Methods

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) is an important remote-sensing tool used by archaeologists (Conyers and Goodman 1997). The technology is particularly effective in mapping historic cemeteries. The technology uses high frequency electromagnetic waves (microwaves) to acquire subsurface data. The device uses a transmitter antenna and closely spaced receiver antenna to detect changes in electromagnetic properties beneath them. The antennas are suspended just above the ground surface and are shielded to eliminate interference from sources other than directly beneath the device. The transmitting antenna emits a series of electromagnetic microwaves, which are distorted by differences in soil conductivity, dielectric permittivity, and magnetic permeability. The receiving antenna records the reflected waves for a specified length of time (in nanoseconds, or ns). The approximate depth of an object can be estimated with GPR, by adjusting for electromagnetic propagation conditions.

The equipment used for the GPR survey at the Boyd property consisted of a RAMAC/X3M Integrated Radar Control Unit, mounted on a wheeled-cart and linked to a RAMAC XV11 Monitor (Firmware, Version 3.2.36). Both 500 and 800 megahertz (MHz) shielded antenna were used for the data gathering. MALÅ GeoScience's Ground Vision software (Version 1.4.6) was used to acquire and record the radar data (MALÅ GeoScience USA 2006). The radar information was displayed as a series of radargrams. Output from the survey was first viewed using GroundVision. This provided immediate feedback about the suitability of GPR survey in the area and the effective operation of the equipment. GPR-Slice software (Version 7.0) was used in post-processing the data.

The same RAMAC X3M GPR system as that used in the present study has been used successfully by the author on numerous archaeological sites in the southeastern United States. The methods employed for the GPR survey were consistent with similar projects conducted by the LAMAR Institute. Figure 2 shows the GPR unit in operation on the Boyd property.

The GPR samples in this study area were composed of a series of parallel transects, or traverses, which yielded a two-dimensional cross-section or profile of the radar data. These samples are termed radargrams. This two-dimensional image is constructed from a sequence of thousands of individual radar traces. A succession of radar traces bouncing off a large buried object will produce a hyperbola, when viewed graphically in profile. Multiple large objects that are in close proximity may produce multiple, overlapping hyperbolas, which are more difficult to interpret.

The GPR signals that are captured by the receiving antenna are recorded as an array of numerals, which can be converted to gray scale (or color) pixel values. The radargrams are essentially a vertical map of the radar reflection off objects and other soil anomalies. It is not an actual map of the objects. The radargram is produced in real time and is viewable on a computer monitor, mounted on the GPR cart.



Figure 2. GPR Survey in Progress on Boyd Property.

GPR has been successfully used for archaeological and forensic anthropological applications to locate relatively shallow features, although the technique also can probe deeply into the ground. The machine is adjusted to probe to the depth of interest by the use of different frequency range antennas. Higher frequency antennas are more useful at shallow depths, which is most often the case in archaeology. Also, the longer the receiving antenna is set to receive GPR signals (measured in nanoseconds or “ns”), the deeper the search. The effectiveness of GPR in various environments on the North American continent is widely variable and depends on solid conductivity, metallic content, and other pedo-chemical factors.

GPR signals cannot penetrate large metal objects and the signals are also significantly affected by the presence of salt water. Although radar does not penetrate metal objects, it does generate a distinctive signal that is usually recognizable, particularly for larger metal objects, such as a cast iron cannon or man-hole cover. The signal beneath these objects is often canceled out, which results in a pattern of horizontal lines on the radargram. For smaller objects, such as a scatter of nails, the signal may ricochet from the objects and produce a confusing signal. Rebar-reinforced concrete, as another example, generates an unmistakable radar pattern of rippled lines on the radargram.

The time window that was selected allowed data gathering to focus in the soil zone most likely to yield archaeological deposits. Additional filters were used to refine the radar information during post-processing. These included adjustments to the gain. These alterations are reversible, however, and do not affect the original data that was collected.

Upon arrival at the site the RAMAC X3M Radar Unit was set up for the operation and calibrated. Several trial runs were made on parts of the site to test the machine's effectiveness in the site's soils. Equipment settings and other pertinent logistical attributes included the following:

- Time Window: 62.2 ns
- Number of Stacks: 4
- Number of Samples: 512
- Sampling Frequency: 7751.20 MHz
- Antenna: 500 MHz shielded
- Antenna Separation: 0.18 m
- Trigger: 0.04 m
- Radargram Orientation: Block A-South to North
- Southwest Corner UTM Zone 15 E477255.74 N3561749.22
- Northwest Corner E477254.67 N3561768.95
- Radargram Progress: Block A-West to East
- Radargram Spacing: 50 cm
- Total Radargrams: 39
- Block Dimensions: 20 m N-S by 10 m E-W (bearing was approx. Magnetic North)

Weather conditions at the time of the survey were wet. Heavy precipitation had fallen in the area for the past few days prior to the survey and shallow groundwater was present. The significant moisture may have had a negative influence in the effectiveness of the GPR sample. Soils in the GPR block are comprised of sandy loam and sand grading to sandy clay.

GPR Block A was placed surrounding the grave marker of Samuel Young. This GPR block examined an area 10 m East-West by 20 m North-South. Thirty-nine radargrams were collected from south to north and progressed from west to east, as diagramed in Figure 3. The breaks in the lines indicate where the survey grid was obstructed by large trees or other natural obstacles. Figure 3 shows the GPR survey in progress.

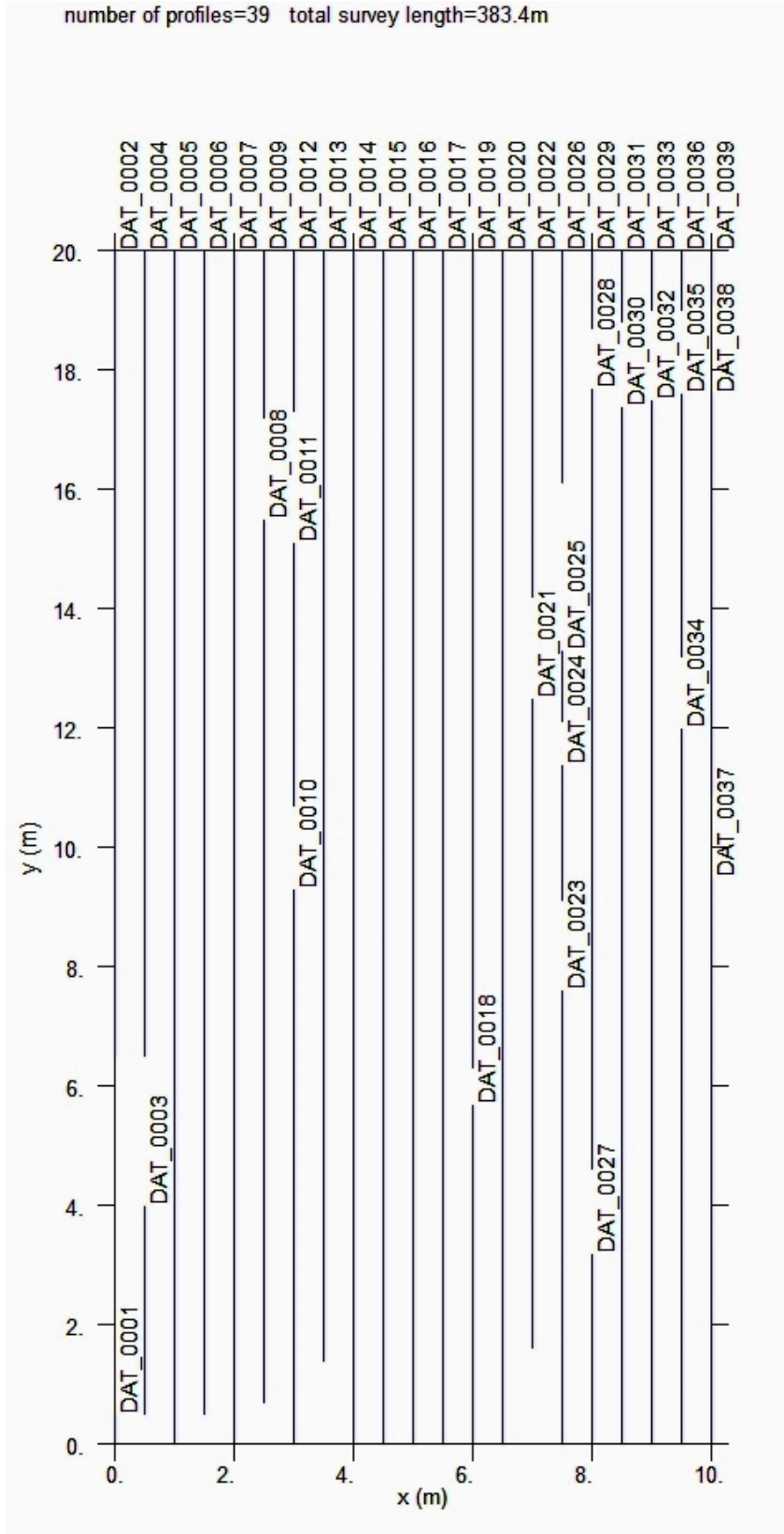


Figure 3. Radargram Plan of Block A, Boyd Property (Grid North at top of figure).

Cemetery Reconnaissance

The LAMAR Institute researchers began their work with a surface reconnaissance of portions of the Boyd property. They cleared vegetation in a 10 meter by 20 meter rectangle encompassing the Samuel Young tombstone, for the GPR grid. They located, marked and mapped 52 depressions that were thought to represent graves or potential human burials. Figure 4 depicts the location of the property, the portions surveyed and the extent of potential grave depressions. These depressions were numbered D-1 through D-52. Each depression was tagged with an indelible marker on a Teflon pin flag, which was placed at the estimated center of the depression. GPS coordinates were recorded for the center of each depression. Table 1 provides a list of the depressions, UTM locations, orientation, dimensions and other surface evidence. Two identified grave markers were observed on the Boyd property. Both appear to be in their original upright positions and both are accompanied by unmarked footstones.

The headstone for the grave of Samuel Young is shown in Figure 5. His is a generic U.S. veteran's Christian marker. The epitaph reads, "SAMUEL YOUNG GEORGIA CORP 315 SERV BN QMC APRIL 23, 1934". The 315th Service Battalion Quartermaster Corps was constituted on October 15, 1921, inactive after 1925, and demobilized on July 1, 1936. The 315th Service Battalion was composed of African Americans and was a Reserve unit based in Huntsville, Alabama (Clay 2010:1997). Samuel Young served as a corporal in Company B of the unit.

Samuel Young and his wife Irene W. Young resided in Georgia Militia District (GMD) 8, Chatham County in 1930. The death date for Samuel Young is April 23, 1934 on the application for his military veteran headstone and his remains were listed as buried in Meinhard, Georgia. The 1930 Federal Census lists his birth year as about 1898. Samuel was survived by his wife, who applied for his tombstone (U.S. War Department 1934).

Less than two meters south of Samuel Young's grave rests a horizontal cluster of marble slab fragments (Figure 6). None of the fragments bear any markings. Judging from the shaped outline and beveled edges this marble was not likely originally manufactured as a grave marker. The marble slab may have been made for the top of a piece of furniture. These stones have been displaced and their original location is uncertain.



Figure 4. Tentative Cemetery Boundary, Boyd Property Only.

Depression	Comments	Easting	Northing	Axis	Length (m)	Width	Comments
1	Grave	477259	3561759	ESE	2.3	1.5	Samuel Young HS & FS, within GPR grid
2	Depression, probable grave	477259	3561757	ESE	1.75	1.4	Within GPR grid
3	Depression, probable grave	477258	3561755	E	2.8	1.7	Within GPR grid
4	Depression, probable grave	477259	3561762	ESE	2.3	1.4	Within GPR grid
5	Depression, probable grave	477256	3561744	E	2.3	0.8	
6	Depression, probable grave	477257	3561747	E	2.1	1.1	
7	Depression, probable grave	477256	3561741	E	2.1	1	
8	Depression, probable grave	477254	3561735	E	2.5	1.8	
9	Depression, probable grave	477257	3561742	E	2.1	1	
10	Depression, probable grave	477231	3561736	ESE	2.15	1.07	Metal pole marker
11	Depression, probable grave	477230	3561736	ESE	2.2	1.14	Metal pole marker
12	Depression, probable grave	477231	3561727	SE	2	1	
13	Depression, probable grave	477232	3561727	SE	1.45	1.2	
14	Depression, probable grave	477228	3561726	E	2.14	1.1	
15	Depression, probable grave	477227	3561724	ESE	2	0.9	
16	Depression, probable grave	477230	3561725	SE	1.45	1	
17	Depression, possible grave	477222	3561714	Round	1.35	1.1	
18	Depression, possible grave	477226	3561715	Round	1.55	1.55	
19	Depression, possible grave	477232	3561710	Round	1.22	1.16	
20	Depression, probable grave	477227	3561707	SE	2.35	1.2	
21	Depression, probable grave	477226	3561707	SE	1.9	0.9	
22	Depression, probable grave	477225	3561704	SE	1.7	1	
23	Depression, probable grave	477222	3561701	SE	1.8	0.75	
24	Depression, possible grave	477231	3561720	Round	1.2	1.15	
25	Depression, probable grave	477220	3561720	E	1.95	1.4	
26	Depression, possible grave	477227	3561703	Round	0.9	0.8	
27	Depression, probable grave	477229	3561703	E	1.2	1.1	
28	Depression, probable grave	477223	3561703	SE	1.7	1	
29	Depression, probable grave	477218	3561688	SE	1.85	0.66	
30	Depression, probable grave	477215	3561678	ESE	1.4	0.8	
31	Depression, probable grave	477213	3561689	ESE	2.3	1.05	
32	Depression, probable grave	477205	3561697	ESE	2	0.8	
33	Depression, probable grave	477207	3561691	ESE	1.6	0.75	
34	Depression, probable grave	477204	3561690	E	1.7	0.9	
35	Depression, probable grave	477201	3561682	ESE	2.3	0.92	
36	Grave	477204	3561679	ESE	2.1	0.9	Farley Mack HS & FS, Gardenia
37	Depression, possible grave	477212	3561672	Round	1.1	1.12	
38	Depression, probable grave	477209	3561677	ESE	0.9	0.77	
39	Depression, probable grave	477212	3561678	ESE	1.16	0.97	
40	Depression, probable grave	477202	3561685	ESE	1.5	0.85	
41	Depression, probable grave	477204	3561699	ESE	2	1	
42	Depression, probable grave	477204	3561700	ESE	1.34	0.7	
43	Depression, probable grave	477196	3561680	ESE	2.2	0.75	Metal pole
44	Depression, probable grave	477262	3561771	ESE	2.1	1	Gardenia; within GPR grid
45	Depression, probable grave	477260	3561761	E	2.4	1	Within GPR grid
46	Depression, probable grave	477222	3561772	E	1.9	0.9	
47	Depression, probable grave	477225	3561776	E	1.8	0.6	
48	Depression, probable grave	477228	3561766	E	2	1	
49	Depression, probable grave	477237	3561763	E	1.8	0.6	
50	Depression, probable grave	477240	3561763	E	0.9	0.4	
51	Depression, probable grave	477263	3561774	E	2.2	1.2	
52	Depression, probable grave	477220	3561775	E	1.7	0.8	

Table 1. Identified Graves and Potential Graves, Boyd Property.



Figure 5. Samuel Young Headstone.



Figure 6. Marble Slab Fragments, Boyd Property.

The headstone for the grave of Farley Mack is shown in Figure 7. This marker is constructed from poured cement with incised lettering. Mack's footstone also is made from cement. His inscription reads, "FARLEY MACK BORN JAN 3, 1873 DIED JULY 23 1944". The Georgia death certificate for Farley Mack, dated July 23, 1944, states that Farley was a "Colored" male, aged 53, who died in Chatham County, Georgia (Georgia Health Department 1998: Certificate 14361).

Farley Mack was the son of Frank and Mary Mack. In 1880, 35 year old Frank and 28 year old Mary lived in GMD 8, Chatham County, Georgia and the family included Farley, brothers Holland and George, and Charles Mack (Farley's grandfather) ages 6, 4, 2 and 75, respectively. In this census the Macks, except for Charles Mack, were listed as mulattos. Farley married a woman named Marietta, who was an African American born in December 1879. In 1900 the couple resided in GMD 8. Farley was identified as a farm laborer and the census listed no children in their household. By 1910, Farley and Marietta Mack were living at the residence of Farley's brother-in-law, James Taylor, in Savannah Ward 1, Chatham County, Georgia. Farley's occupation in 1910 was listed as a laborer in a foundry (Ancestry.com 2014).



Figure 7. Farley Mack Headstone, Boyd Property.

Two other depressions have been marked on the Boyd property by parties unknown. Each marker is a simple metal pole, painted white. Each is in an upright position. One of these markers, which straddles two grave depressions, is shown in Figure 8. Quite possibly other grave markers and grave stones exist within this cemetery but are obscured by vegetation or soil accumulation.



Figure 8. Grouping of Two Sub-rectangular Depressions Marked in the Center with a Metal Pole.

The LAMAR Institute team identified a large Gardenia bush, north of Depression 44, and young gardenia sprouts at Farley Mack's grave and adjacent areas on the Boyd property. This bush is shown in Figure 9. These exotic ornamentals often are associated with historic cemeteries and historic house sites. About 141 species of the genus *Gardenia* are native to the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, southern Asia, Australasia and Oceania. The most common variety in Georgia, *Gardenia jasminoides*, was first planted in North America in Charleston by Alexander Garden, whose name was given to the plant (Bender 2011). Gardenias have specific requirements in order to thrive and it is quite uncommon to find this plant in a heavily wooded environment in coastal Georgia. The correlation between the Gardenia plants and Farley Mack's grave and other suspected grave depressions on the Boyd property lend further support for the interpretation of the abandoned cemetery.

Most of the suspected graves were identified solely on the basis of a slight elongated depression in the forest floor. Christian burials are frequently, but not always, oriented on an East-West axis, reflecting biblical concepts. The orientations of the long axes of these depressions were recorded and this reveals several interesting trends. The most common depression orientation was East-Southeast, which was observed on 19 of 45 depressions (42%). Second most common were depressions oriented East-West, 11 instances (24%), followed by Southeast-Northwest, 9 instances (20%). Figure 10 shows a row of five suspected graves oriented Southeast-Northwest. Six depressions were generally round and had no apparent orientation. Other depressions in the area may represent tree stumps or logging ruts.



Figure 9. Gardenia Bush Located North of GPR Block A near Depression 44.

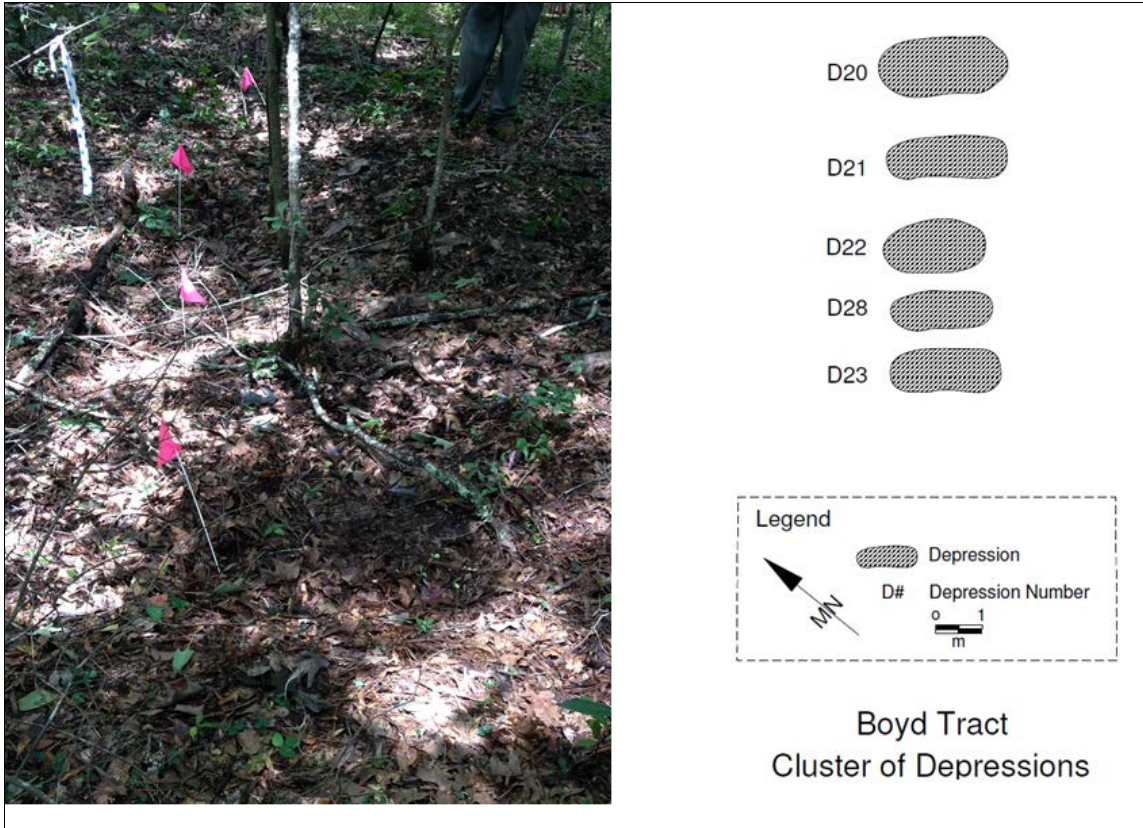


Figure 10. Cluster of Depressions Positioned between Samuel Young and Farley Mack's Graves.

GPR Survey Results

GPR Block A sampled a 10 meter by 20 meter portion of the cemetery on the Boyd property. Figure 11 shows six plan views of GPR reflections in Block A at regularly increasing depth. This map shows numerous distinct radar anomalies. At least three of these anomalies correspond to suspected graves based on surface evidence (tombstones and sub-rectangular depressions). Some of the other anomalies may be cultural, while some may represent tree features.

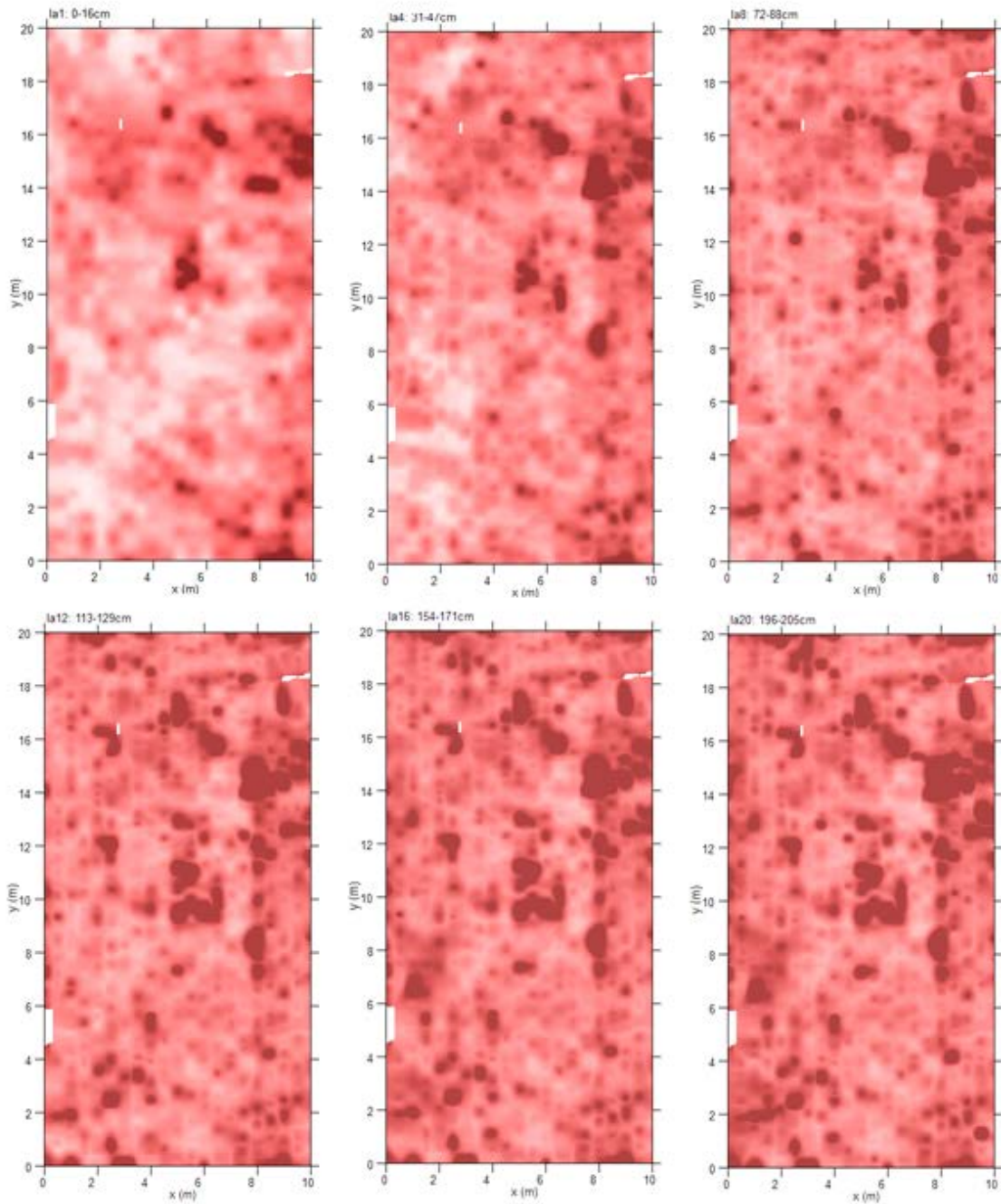


Figure 11. Six Plan Views of GPR Block A with Increasing Depth, Boyd property (Grid North is to the top of page).

Figure 13 shows an overlay view of GPR reflections in Block A. This view combines data from a range of depths.

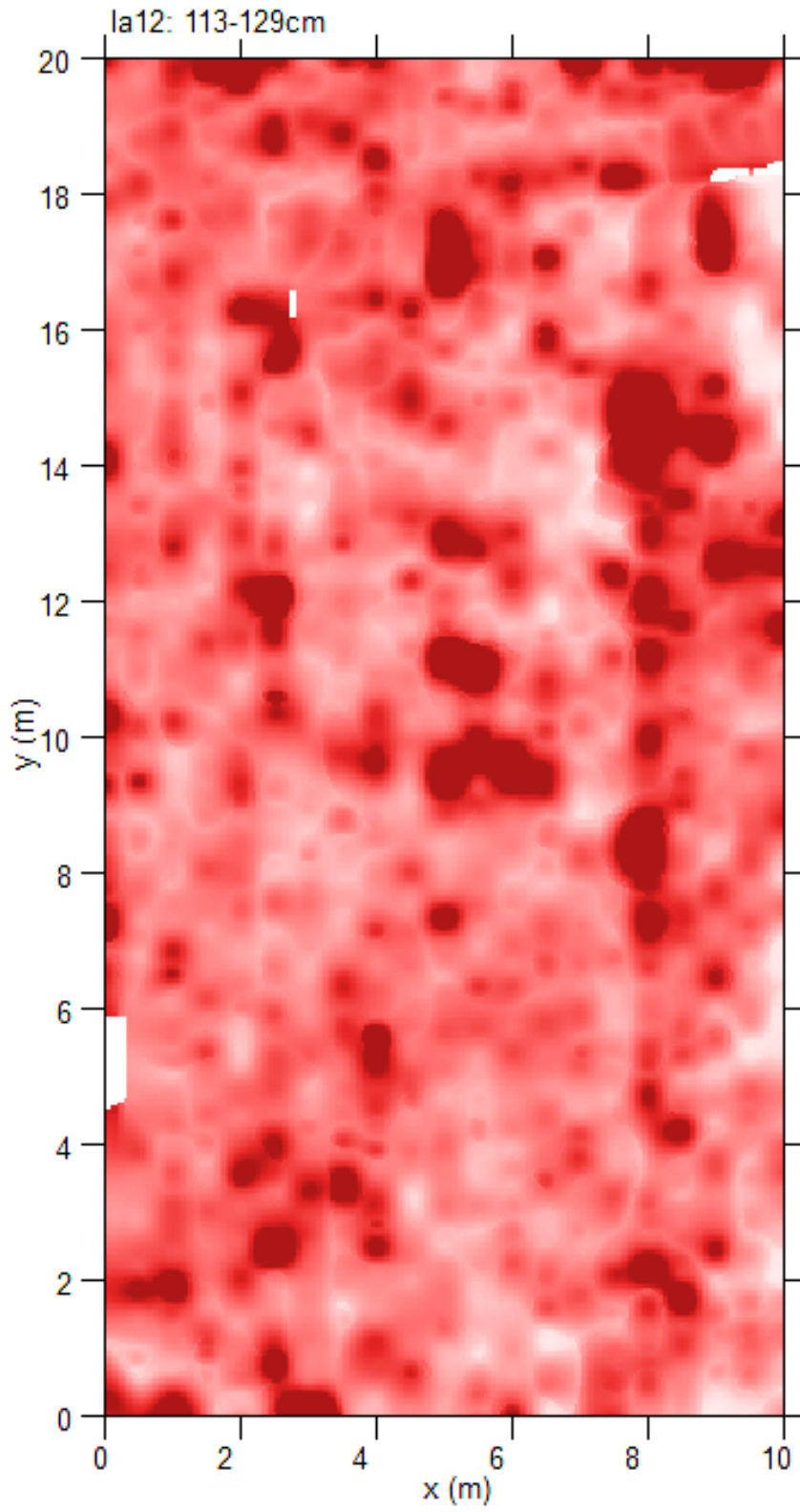


Figure 12. Overlay Plan View of GPR Block A (0,0 Point is at UTM Z17 477255.74E 3561749.22N).

Summary Interpretations

In August 2014, LAMAR Institute researchers conducted historical archaeology on a portion of the Thomas M. Boyd property in northern Chatham County, Georgia. This effort resulted in the discovery and delineation of portions of a large cemetery that had not been previously documented. Its tentative boundaries within the Boyd property, only, are shown in Figure 13. An enlarged view showing the relative position of 52 numbered possible grave depressions is shown in Figure 14. Researchers used surface reconnaissance and GPR survey resulting in the location of two marked graves (Farley Mack and Samuel Young) and 50 potential grave depressions. Approximately 26 person hours was spent attempting to locate and identify the graveyard.

The cemetery on the Boyd property may be related to the North Salem Baptist Church and cemetery, which is located approximately 200 meters east. The church cemetery is located immediately south of the church sanctuary. The North Salem Baptist Church has a long history. The church was constituted on April 13, 1823 and one acre of land was donated by John A. Keller. A New sanctuary was built in 1887 and another was added in 1997 (Northsalemchurch.com 2014; Findagrave.com 2014). Our review of surnames of pre-1950s interments within the North Salem Baptist Church cemetery include:

- Ashmore ([death year] 1910)
- Bridger (1875)
- Brown (1920, 1924)
- Butler (1899)
- Canady (1929)
- Carter (1918)
- Cole (1892, 1898)
- Coleman (1889)
- Cook (1907)
- Cooler (1942, 1946)
- Dotson (1912, 1917, 1919, 1927, 1933, 1944, 1945, 1949)
- Findley (1879)
- Fountain (1898, 1902, 1907, 1908, 1913, 1916, 1923, 1935)
- Futch (1914, 1934, 1945, 1952)
- Harrison (1837, 1871, 1904, 1911, 1929)
- Heidt (1926, 1942)
- Helme (1887, 1894, 1895, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1907, 1911, 1917, 1929, 1932, 1933, 1938)
- Hester (1933, 1942)
- Hinely (1883, 1891, 1897, 1899, 1900, 1907, 1916, 1919, 1935)
- Hodges (1949)
- Jones (1948)

- Keller (1830, 1846, 1852, 1853, 1857, 1859, 1863, 1866, 1867, 1871, 1876, 1884, 1886, 1889, 1900, 1904, 1905, 1910, 1918, 1919, 1924, 1926, 1932, 1941, 1944, 1948)
- Kesler (1886)
- Kessler (1881, 1888, 1891, 1907, 1908, 1910, 1913, 1915, 1921, 1925, 1930, 1933, 1937)
- Kieffer (1906, 1931)
- Langley (1834)
- Lowe (1922, 1923, 1937)
- Lynch (1927, 1928, 1938)
- Marston (1890)
- Millmore (1889)
- Mottweiler (1889, 1943)
- Nungezer (1900)
- Oliver (1913, 1914, 1946)
- Pevey (1930)
- Rebb (1930)
- Rivers (1921)
- Rushing (1899)
- Saturday (1935, 1938, 1943, 1947)
- Shivers (1918)
- Smith (1900, 1920, 1928, 1943)
- Sweat (1830)
- Trout (1888, 1903)
- Ulmer (1898, 1904, 1905, 1909, 1935, 1938)
- Warren (1914)
- White (1855, 1856, 1870, 1879, 1924)
- Zettler (1934)
- Zipperer (1863, 1876, 1888, 1890, 1906, 1907, 1916, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1936, 1939, 1941)

These epitaph data reveal that the North Salem Baptist Church cemetery has been in use since at least 1830 and was extensively used prior to 1950. It contains the marked graves of 369 persons. The list includes many German surnames that are associated with the Ebenezer settlement in Effingham County, including Heidt, Helmey, Hinely, Kessler, Kieffer, Mottweiler, Nungezer, Ulmer, Zettler and Zipperer. The list also includes surnames linked to prominent antebellum planters in this part of Chatham County, including Harrison, Keller and Ulmer. The surnames Mack and Young, however, do not appear in the cemetery inventory. Most of those who are identified are not African-Americans.

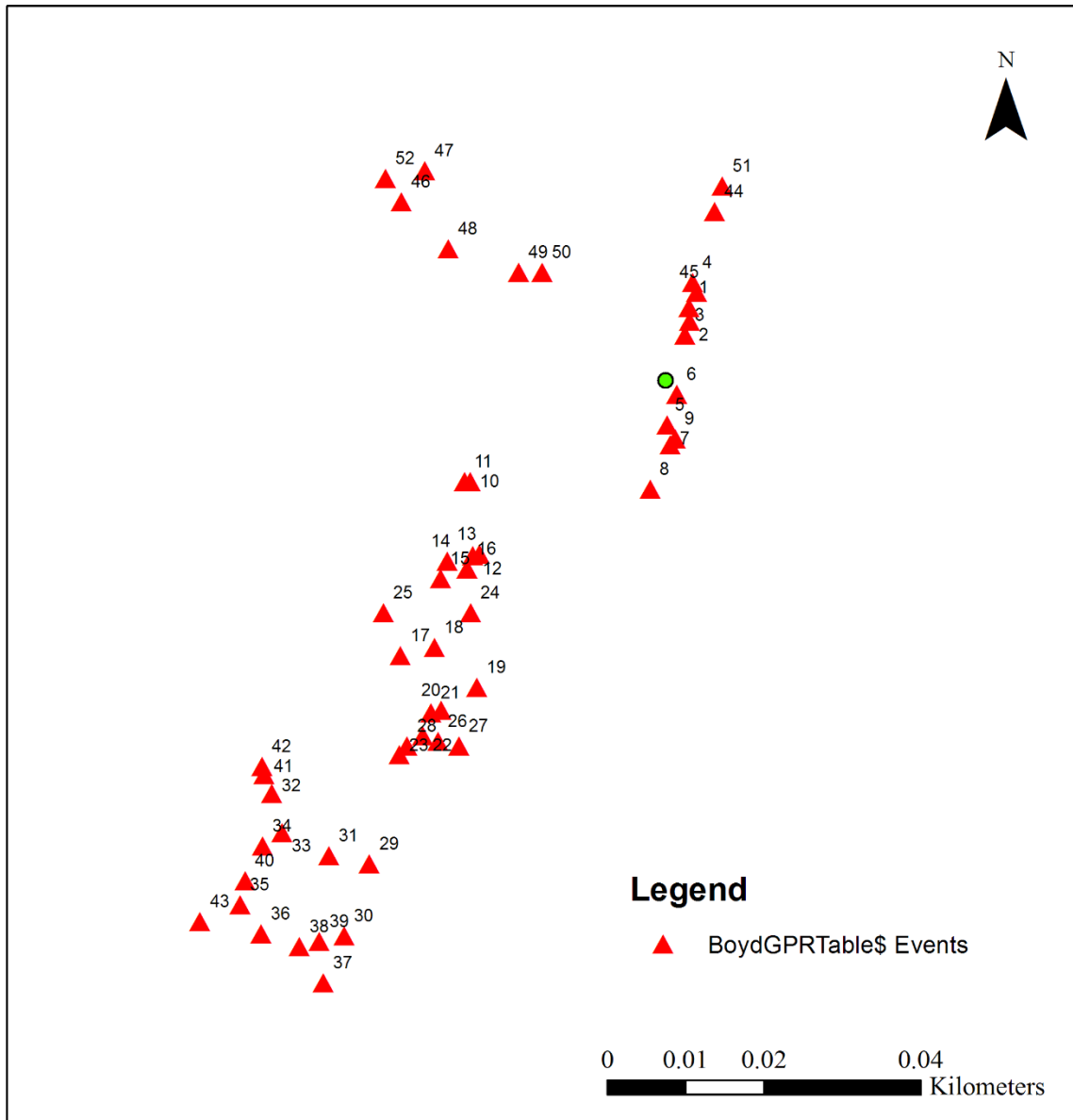


Figure 13. Numbered Depressions, Boyd Property.

So, who is buried on this land? Only two interments on the property are marked with epitaphs--Samuel Young and Farley Mack. Historical research on these two persons, both of whom were African-Americans and their families suggests the possible identity of other likely unmarked burials adjacent to their graves.

The Mack family was living near the study area by 1880 and possibly earlier. While Farley Mack's grave is the only marked one, several of the adjacent depression may contain the remains of his relatives who had lived in this vicinity for decades prior to Farley's death in 1944. The Frank Mack household appears in the 1880 Federal census for GMD 8 and it included three generations of Macks: Frank and Mary, Farley, Holland and George and Charles Mack. Charles Mack, who was listed as 75 years old in 1880,

was likely a former enslaved person and his Mack surname possibly provides clues as to the families who enslaved him. Mack and Mock are common surnames in coastal Georgia and South Carolina.

Samuel Young served as a corporal in Company B of the 315th Service Battalion, Quartermaster Corps, U.S. Army. As a U.S. Army veteran he was entitled to a marker, which his widow secured. His epitaph reads, “SAMUEL YOUNG GEORGIA CORP 315 SERV BN QMC APRIL 23, 1934”. As noted earlier, the 315th Service Battalion Quartermaster Corps was a service battalion composed of African Americans and it existed from 1921 to 1936 (Clay 2010:1997). Samuel Young and Irene W. Young both worked as farm laborers. Samuel Young’s birth year as about 1898. Samuel was survived by his wife, who applied for his tombstone (U.S. War Department 1934). Irene was born about 1901. Two step-daughters, Beatrice L. Loud and Jannie Loud (ages 17 and 16, respectively), also resided in Samuel Young’s household in 1930. This suggests that Irene was previously married to a man with the surname “Loud”.

The number of potential grave depressions identified by this survey exceeds the number of members of the Mack and Young households combined. The “unknowns” may remain anonymous, although preliminary historical research by the LAMAR Institute identified some potential families who may have interred their dead on this property.

African American neighbors of the Macks in the 1880 census included the Acorns, Bluman, Bryan, Eldridge, Forgarty, Fudge, Green, Hamilton, Miller, Page, Right, Roberson, Screven, Seabrooks, Steel, Quarterman and Washington families and numerous other households in GMD 8. Seventeen other African Americans in District 8 of Chatham County who likely were living near the Mack Family in 1900 may be buried in this cemetery without formal markers. These include four families of Lexleys, the Le Maiar family and William Conner. Interestingly, none of the aforementioned surnames appear in the list of interments for the North Salem Baptist Church. GMD 8 also contained several white families, including the David McGee and William H. Overstreet households and Joseph Rushing (a boarder).

GPR survey of a portion of the Boyd property provides another glimpse of the subsurface characteristics of this important historic site. A small portion of the site was examined by the GPR survey of Block A, which recorded many radar anomalies. Figure 14 shows two radargrams from the GPR sample. Both of these radargrams display radar reflections that are characteristic of human graves. Figure 15 shows an overlay plan view of GPR Block A with oval, green polygons representing probable graves and strong radar reflections that are quite likely to be graves shown super-imposed on the radar map. Three of the anomalies correlate to suspected graves based on their surface expressions. Seven others are strong radar anomalies that do not have corresponding surface depressions. Many other radar reflections in this view may or may not represent burials. Further study would be required to ascertain the function and cultural potential of these anomalies. The limited sample examined by GPR Block A demonstrates the useful potential of GPR technology in mapping this cemetery.

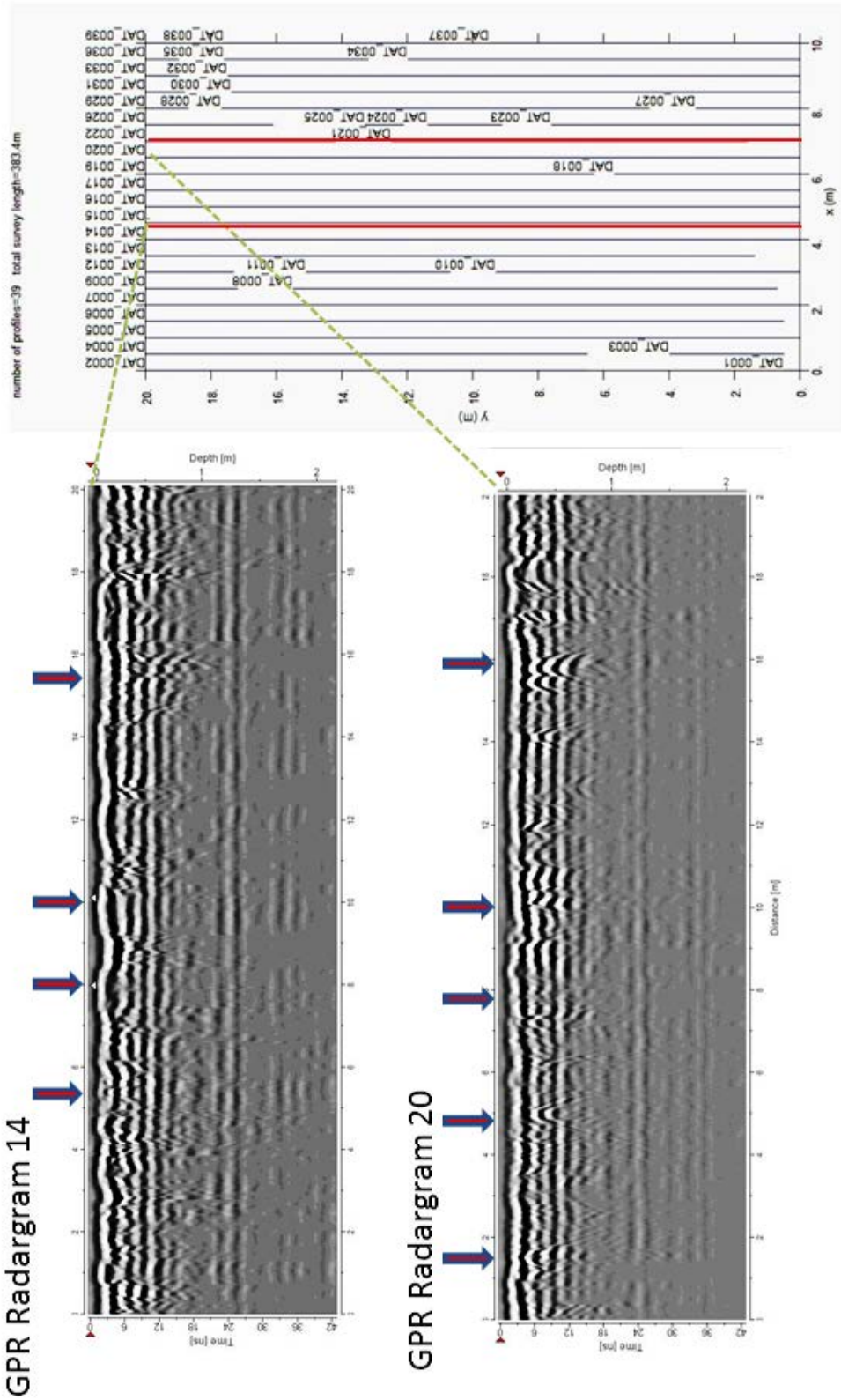


Figure 14. Examples of Two Radargrams from GPR Block A (Graves and potential graves indicated by red arrows).

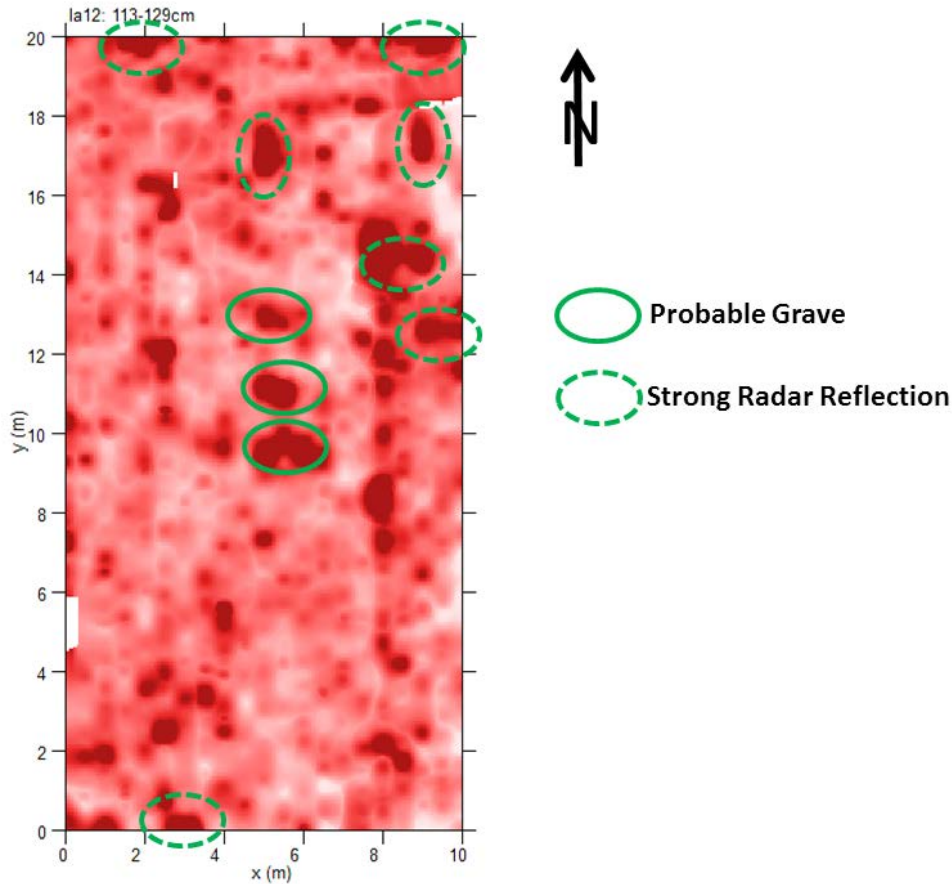


Figure 15. Plan of GPR Block A Showing Probable Graves and Other Strong Radar Reflections.

The surface reconnaissance and GPR survey located two marked graves and 50 depressions of likely graves on the Boyd property alone. This number suggests a large and well-frequented burial ground during its period of use. The marked graves indicate a minimum use period of 1934-1944, although it is almost certain that the cemetery was in use prior to and/or after those dates. Cemetery affiliation to a specific religion or church is undetermined at present. It is likely that the cemetery represents a community burial ground. The community was known as Meinhard in the twentieth century. It may have originated as a burial ground in the nineteenth century for deceased enslaved African Americans working on nearby plantations (such as the Harrison's Monteith plantation or the Keller plantation). One twentieth century condiment bottle and an iron wheel rim were observed as possible grave offerings. The former may have functioned as a vase. The latter may be unrelated to the cemetery. In addition, the presence of only two headstones (one government supplied and one hand crafted) and one marble slab reclaimed from furniture and recycled as a grave marker indicates that the deceased and their families were not cash rich or in the economic middle class. Most were unable to mark the final resting place of their loved ones with durable permanent and recognizable tombstones or memorials. Additional historical archaeology in this vicinity would likely provide an improved understanding of this lost burial place.

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