

Figure 4: 1863 General Land Office cadastral survey plat of Township 7 North Range 36 East. Map on file with the Bureau of Land Management.

Bureau of Land Management General Land Office records indicate that the project area lies within Government Lot 1 in Section 31. Two people are listed as having been the first to own this land. John O'Donnell bought Government Lots 1 and 2 on April 1, 1865. Robert McCool claimed Government Lot 1 (in addition to the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter, the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter, and the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 31) on November 13, 1872 under the Homestead Act of 1862 (12 Stat. 392-394). Records also indicate that McCool claimed the three quarter quarter sections listed above and Government Lot 3 on July 30, 1874. The Homestead Act provided settlers over 21 years of age with 160 acres of surveyed public land subsequent to residing on the parcel for five continuous years, improving the land and paying a filing fee. Quarter sections of land were distributed free, provided the property was lived on and worked for five years. However, there was also an option to purchase the land after six months of residency for \$1.25 per acre.

Records on file in the Walla Walla County Clerk's Office show that John O'Donnell granted Robert McCool the project area and additional property in a War Deed on July 12, 1864. Robert and Margaret McCool sold a portion of their land (what was to become the cemetery) to the Corporation of Catholic Bishops of Nisqually on October 5, 1869. On October 1, 1915, the Catholic Bishops of Spokane obtained the cemetery from the Catholic Bishops of Nisqually. The land which contained the cemetery was sold by the Catholic Bishops of Spokane to Howard Roberts in 1969.

Robert McCool was born in Ireland in 1818 (Lyman 1901:414). He came to New York in 1858 and immediately set sail for the west via Panama (Lyman 1901:414). He arrived in Walla Walla on April 29,

1859 and settled near Fort Walla Walla (Lyman 1901:414). McCool owned 400 acres and worked as a farmer and stock raiser with his sons (Lyman 1901:414). One son was Hugh McCool, who was three years old when he arrived in Walla Walla (*Walla Walla Union Bulletin* 1938). Hugh McCool sold horses to the army from the home place, which was also used as a truck farm. The McCool house burned in 1938.

The 1909 Ogle Atlas of Walla Walla County shows that Robert McCool still owned the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 31 as well as additional land (see Figure 5). It also shows the Old Walla Walla Cemetery. The 1919 U.S. Geological Survey Walla Walla quadrangle (15 minute) shows the cemetery (see Figure 6). Metsker (1931) continues to show the cemetery but indicates the land is owned by Granite Investment Company (see Figure 7). Metsker (1961) also shows the cemetery but does not indicate who owned the surrounding land (see Figure 8).

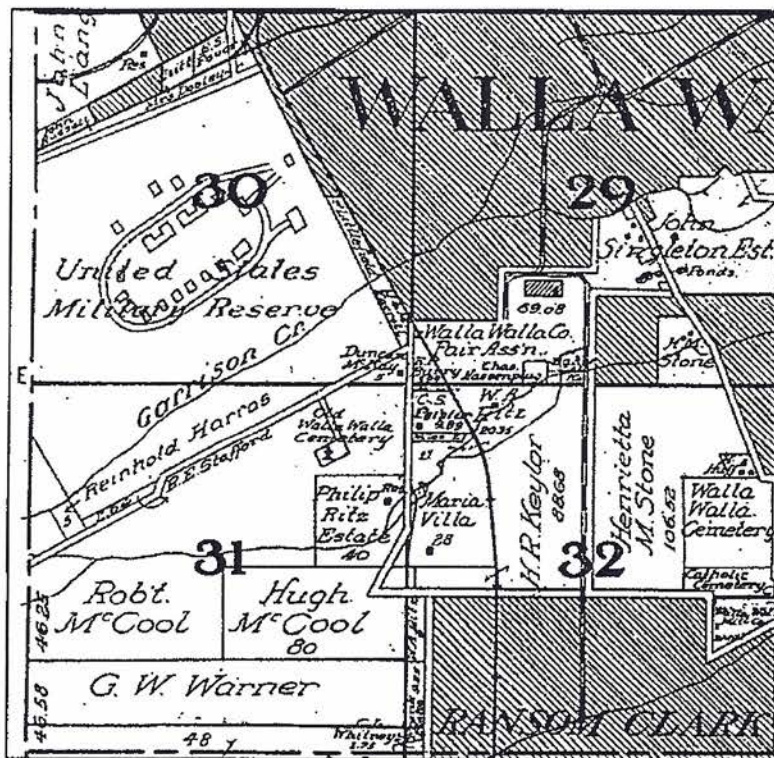


Figure 5: Ogle (1909) map of project area.

#### The Old Catholic Cemetery

The *Walla Walla Statesman* (1867a) noted, "The blessing of the Catholic Burying Ground, on Mr. McCool's claim, will take place on Palm Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 4 o'clock, P.M. The sermon of the occasion will be delivered by Rev. Father Mans." However, that paper later revealed, "Catholic Burying Ground—The heavy winds for the week past having prevented the completion of the necessary



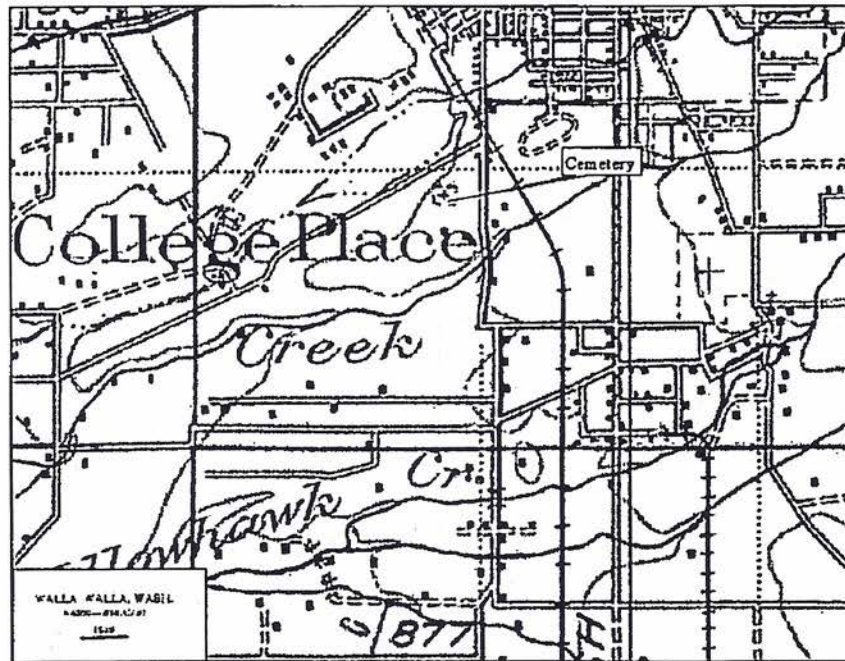


Figure 6: 1919 Walla Walla fifteen minute quadrangle showing the project area. Map on file at Washington State University.

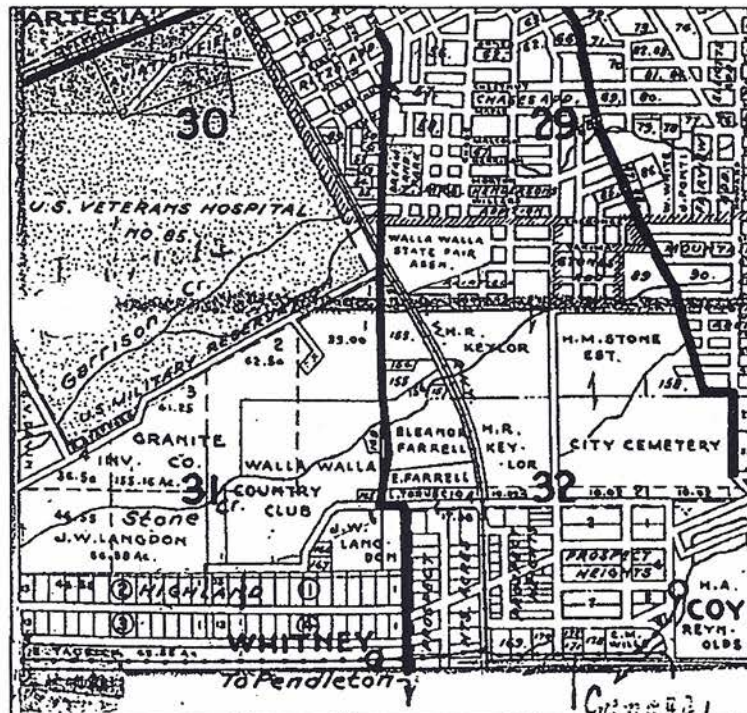


Figure 7: Metsker (1931) map of project area.

preparations on the Catholic Grave Yard, the blessing of the same is postponed until Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 4 o'clock, P.M." (*Walla Walla Statesman* 1867b). The McCools continued to live near the cemetery; the cemetery was sometimes referred to as the McCool Cemetery. The *Walla Walla Union Bulletin* (1938) mentions "the former McCool cemetery, well known burial ground of an earlier day and operated by [Hugh McCool's] parents. It has not been used since 1918."

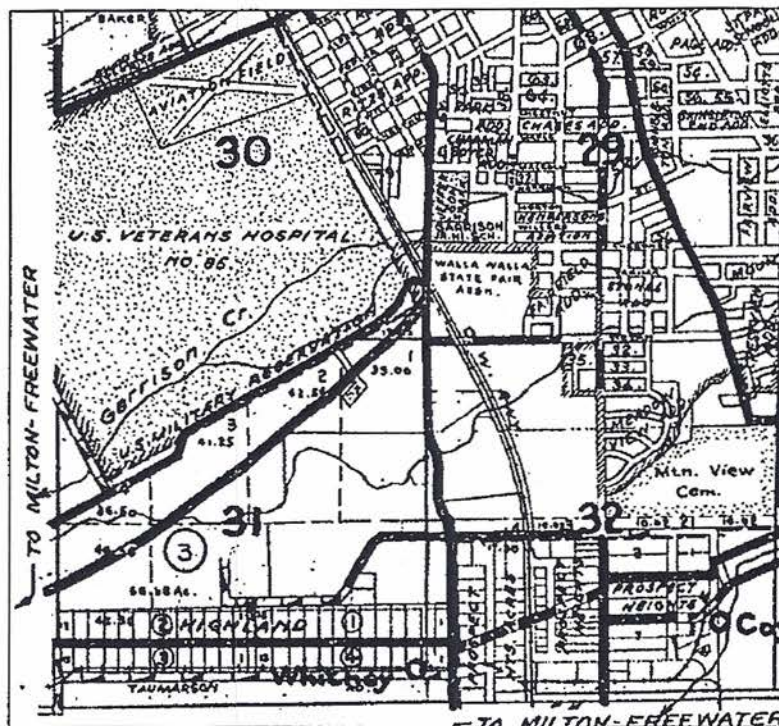


Figure 8: Metsker (1961) map of project area.

Munnick and Munnick (1989) discuss the Old Catholic Cemetery, indicating it was near the church.

A pioneer woman of Walla Walla, who had lived at the rear of the church when a child, recalled that as far back as 1903 she could peep through a high board fence and see stones with inscriptions still standing there, but remembered none of the names. Many of the graves, but not all, had been removed to the Catholic section of Mountain View cemetery that opened in 1891. No trace of the others remains.

Schoenberg (1962) indicates that in 1891 "a new Catholic cemetery was purchased in Walla Walla, adjoining the city cemetery. This was purchased for \$2000 from Mr. H. Kinzie, who was the first to be buried in it. Bishop Junger consecrated the cemetery on November 1, 1891." The *Morning Union Journal* (1891) confirmed the purchase of the new land, and went on to state,

The need for a new cemetery for the Catholic church has long been felt, and the congregation on a number of occasions have endeavored to secure grounds in the vicinity of the old cemetery, but have always been unable to do so.



The old burial ground, on the McCool farm, below the city, has been in use for nearly a quarter of a century and for the past ten years has been overcrowded. The grounds there only comprise an acre and one-eighth, and is of rocky soil and removed from water. It has always been impossible to beautify the old cemetery and this has caused great dissatisfaction.

With the new cemetery this cause of complaint will disappear, the soil being of fertile character and water for irrigation being easy to obtain. The intention of the trustees is to begin the beautifying of the new cemetery with trees and grass immediately and as soon as possible will endeavor to have the water mains extended from the city cemetery. It is expected that many of those having relations buried in the old Catholic cemetery will have the remains removed to the new.

The *Daily Statesman* (1891) revealed that the new cemetery was consecrated on November 1, 1891, with 500 people present. The Right Reverend Bishop Junger consecrated the ground and Reverend Father Lambert "delivered a short, but very eloquent address."

## File and Literature Search

Two cultural resource projects have occurred within or immediately adjacent to the project area. In February of 2002, Landreau (2002) reported on a project that investigated the Blacklaw property which is southwest of the project area. Landreau monitored the excavation of five backhoe trenches and encountered a Native American burial in one of the trenches. The burial was recorded as site number 45WW134. Possibly historic artifacts were noted but not recorded.

In March of 2002 RPM contacted the CRPP regarding a cultural resources investigation of the current project area. Under Archaeological Excavation Permit Number 02-06, the CRPP excavated ten backhoe trenches, each two feet (61 cm) wide and of lengths varying from 19 to 57 feet (5.79 to 17.38 meters) long (Dickson 2002). Most were approximately 6 feet (1.83 meters) deep. In the ten trenches, ten individual grave sites were identified and four of them contained human remains. The remaining six grave sites contained only coffin parts.

Human remains had previously been found in the vicinity of the project area. The *Walla Walla Union Bulletin* reported in 1972 that bones had been found "in a field behind the Plaza Shopping Center on S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street....In checking the history of the field, site of a proposed new housing development, deputies reported, it was discovered the area was within the boundaries of the Old Catholic Cemetery. Most of the graves were moved some time ago but several unmarked ones may have been missed, deputies were told." The *Walla Walla Union Bulletin* reported in 1973 that the proposed Pinecrest Village was near "an early Catholic burial ground, long unused." The article noted that many of the graves had been moved to Mt. View Cemetery and that the condominiums would be built adjacent to the Old Catholic Cemetery, but there would "be no encroachment on the cemetery." At the time, only one marker remained at the cemetery.

## Field Methods and Results

The Native American burial found by Landreau and the four graves with human remains found by the CRPP make a total of five individuals in the area of the Old Catholic Cemetery. The CRPP therefore identified the area as a cemetery under the Revised Code of Washington 68.04.04(2), which states, “‘cemetery’ means any burial site, burial grounds, or place where five or more human remains are buried. Unless a cemetery within the records of the county assessor, a cemetery’s boundaries shall be a minimum of ten feet [3.05 meters] in any direction from any burials.” Because RPM proposed to disturb the area up to that ten foot (three meter) buffer, the CRPP and the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation recommended additional subsurface testing to determine if individuals had been buried outside of the recorded cemetery boundaries. (Burials outside cemetery boundaries are not uncommon; Wortham (2000) states, “Many times, people not of the Christian religion or those who had committed an unforgivable sin would be buried outside the cemetery boundaries.” See also Hollimon and Murley [c.1999] and Klingelhofer and Henry [1985]).

As noted above, the project area ranges in elevation from 895 to 910 feet (273 to 277 meters; see Figure 9). RPM wants to lower the entire property (with the exception of the cemetery and appropriate buffer) to approximately 895 feet (273 meters). In order to determine the actual boundaries of the cemetery and begin the process of removing sediments outside of the cemetery to 895 feet (273 meters), the CRPP recommended scraping approximately six inches (15 cm) of topsoil from the project area outside the cemetery boundary as delimited on historic maps.

It was hoped that with the removal of the topsoil, the locations of graves would be revealed through changes in soil color. However, if no graves were revealed, the CRPP proposed to excavate backhoe trenches parallel to the known cemetery boundary. Trenches would begin 15 feet (4.6 meters) from the northwest side of the cemetery, 120 feet (36.6 meters) from the northeast side of the cemetery, and 60 feet (18.3 meters) from the southeast side of the cemetery. The southwest side of the cemetery is outside of the project area. The distances were determined based on the landform with the assumption that burials were placed on top of the hill/ridge. The trenches were to be excavated by a flat nose backhoe approximately six feet (1.8 meters) deep and monitored by Julie Longenecker, (CRPP faunal osteologist). Upon completion of each trench, the backhoe would move in toward the cemetery and excavate another trench, widening the first. This would continue until the ten foot (three meter) buffer around the cemetery was reached. If human remains were encountered, they were to be left in place, reburied, and the boundary of the cemetery moved to that point. On May 22, 2003, the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation granted the CRPP Archaeological Excavation Permit Number 03-07. Figure 10 shows the project area prior to excavation.



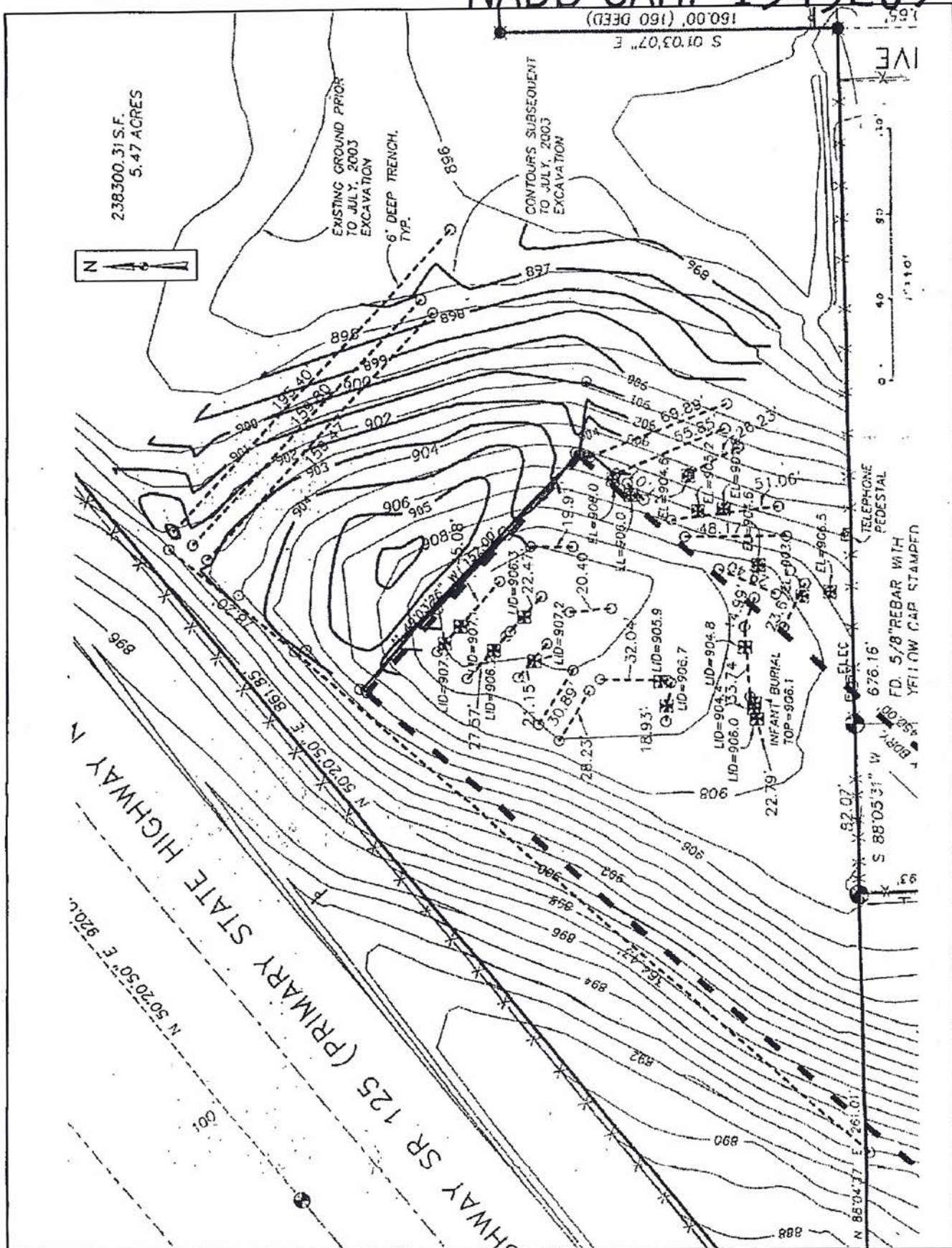
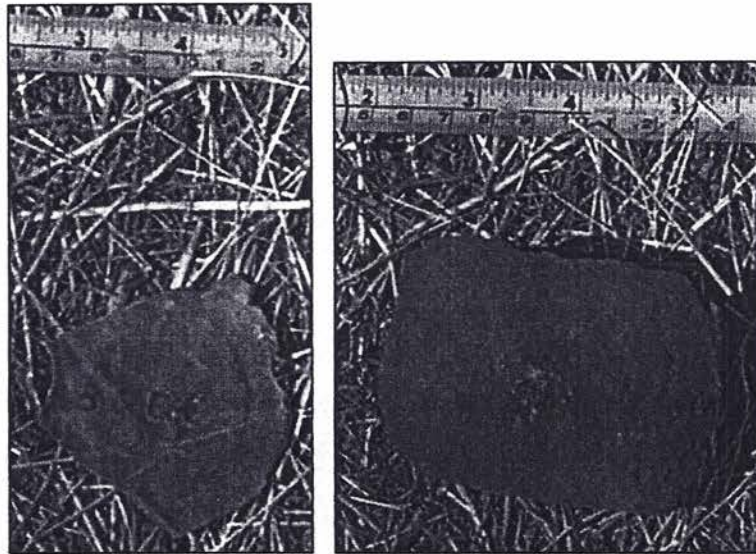


Figure 9: Elevation of the project area before (light lines) and after (dark lines) ground disturbance. Base map provided by Paul W.P. Tomkins.



the maker's mark of the Streator Bottle and Glass Company (SB&G Co) of Streator, Illinois, which used the mark between 1881 and 1905 (Toulouse 1972). The bottle fragment was found approximately halfway between the northwest and northeast corners of the existing cemetery boundary, 15 meters northeast of the cemetery boundary, and 18 inches (0.5 meters) below the surface. In approximately the same location, a river rounded granite cobble that had been pecked and ground was found (see Figure 14). These artifacts were incorporated in the site update form for 45WW134 and plotted in Figure 11.



Figures 13 and 14: View of bottle base and ground stone fragment. 7-16-03 (03-063:41 and 42)

Based on the overall lack of cultural materials, Longenecker advised the machinery operator to remove soil in six inch (15 cm) levels rather than three inch (8 cm) levels. At five feet (1.5 meters) deep, Longenecker closely examined the exposed cut along the northeastern edge of the existing cemetery (see Figure 15). An area approximately 200 feet (61.0 meters) long by 20 to 30 feet (6.1 to 9.1 meters) wide had been scraped down to approximately five feet (1.5 meters). Longenecker determined that this entire area was disturbed. On July 2, 2003, a local resident had informed Longenecker that many years ago the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds needed some fill dirt for their race track. The person who owned the project area at that time also wanted to level out the property and volunteered dirt from this area. Approximately 800 cubic yards were removed before bones were exposed and the decision was made to stop using this area. An area up to 12 feet (3.7 meters) deep was removed and then the hill was reshaped by pushing soil from adjacent areas south and east of the disturbed area. Therefore, Longenecker concluded that perhaps when the soil was removed to be used as fill at the Fairgrounds, it came from this area and that after the decision was made to stop excavating, the hill was re-shaped. Because of the disturbed nature of this area, Longenecker decided that further excavation in this area was unnecessary. This was the afternoon of July 17, 2003.



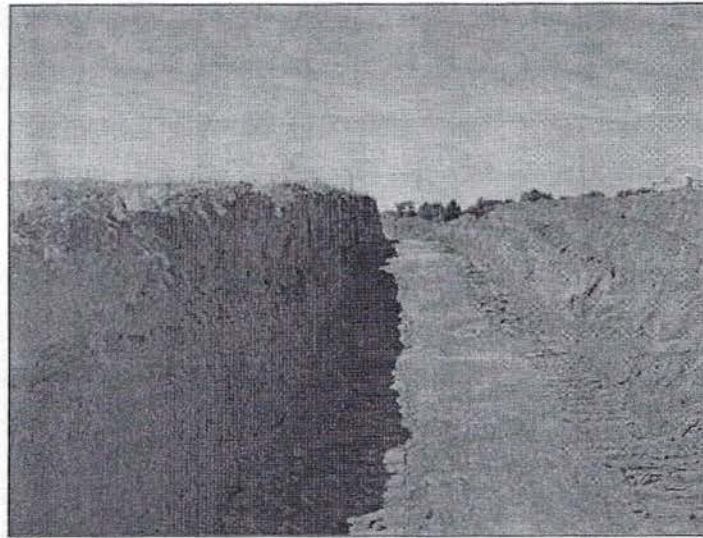


Figure 15: View of wall in northeastern portion of the project area revealing disturbed soils, facing northwest. 7/16/03 (03-063:39)

Work then turned to the southeastern portion of the project area. This area had not had the topsoil removed yet, so three inches (7.6 cm) was taken off with the front end loader. Because of the slope, it was determined that it would be easier to excavate north/south trenches rather than northeast/southwest trenches. South of the northeast corner of the existing cemetery boundary, a possible headstone fragment was observed when the topsoil was removed. This artifact is described below, as it was examined in detail on July 22, 2003. At the end of July 17, 2003 work stopped until underground utilities were marked.

Work at the site resumed on July 22, 2003 with the removal of the rest of the topsoil from the southeastern portion of the project area. During topsoil removal, a coffin or the outer box for a coffin was located approximately six inches (15 cm) below the surface approximately 40 feet (12.2 meters) south of the northeast corner of the project area. Cedar fragments, machine cut nails, blue/green painted wood, metal handles, and the east-west outline of the coffin were clear (see Figure 16).

The possible headstone fragment identified on July 17<sup>th</sup> was relocated with additional artifacts approximately 25 feet (7.6 meters) southwest of the northeast corner of the existing cemetery. A total of two head or foot stones, one headstone capstone, two flat glass pieces, coffin hardware pieces, and cast iron fragments (see Figure 17) was observed after the topsoil was removed. All of these artifacts appeared to have been moved to this location as they were at odd angles, perhaps having tumbled down the hill or been previously dumped from a machinery bucket (see Figure 18). The head or foot stone consists of one piece of grey sandstone, 26 inches (66 cm) long, 18 inches (46 cm) wide, and 12 inches (30 cm) thick that has been shaped through chiseling. The other stone is an ornately decorated grey marble capstone for a headstone with a fleur-de-lis/garland-type design (see Figure 19). This stone is 20

inches (51 cm) long across the top, 12 inches (30 cm) wide, and 6 inches (15 cm) tall at its tallest. It is decorated on three sides.

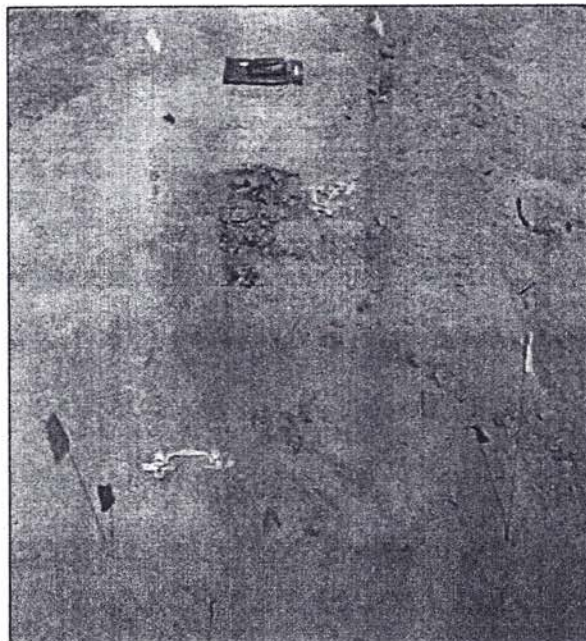


Figure 16: View of surface indication of grave found when topsoil was removed, facing west. The grave is between the four pin flags. Note the coffin handles. 7-22-03 (03-064:58)



Figure 17: View of decorative coffin hardware and capstone. 7/22/03 (03-064:54)



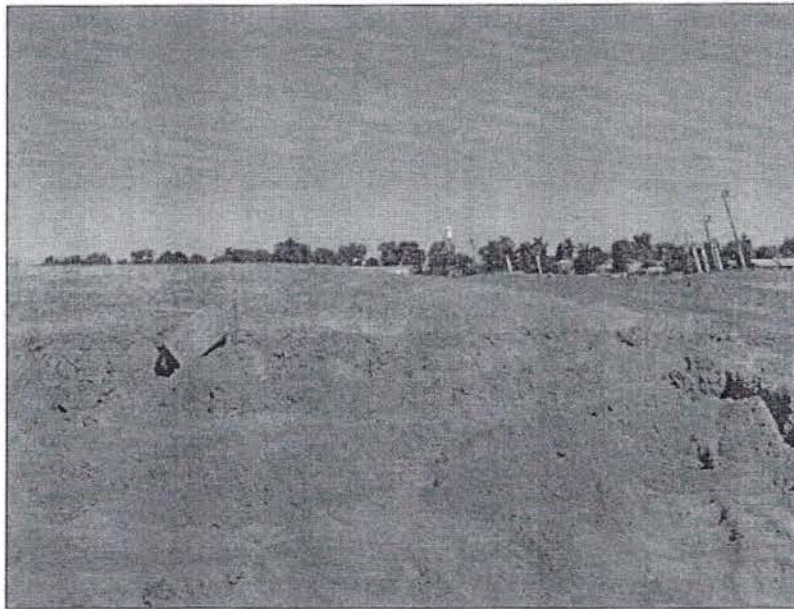


Figure 18: Location of tumbled funerary objects found in the southeastern wall of the original cemetery, facing north. 7/22/03 (03-064:48)



Figure 19: Detail of capstone for a headstone. 7/22/03 (03-064:51)

Another six inches (15 cm) of topsoil were removed along the original cemetery boundary in the southeast portion of the project area. Two graves were discovered in the sidewall in the vicinity of the previously observed headstones and coffin hardware. The first grave was identified approximately eight inches (20 cm) below the scraped surface when flat glass which appeared to run the length of the body was encountered. This glass was approximately 1/8-inch (3 mm) thick, but 1/4-inch (6 mm) thick fragments were found nearby. Approximately four inches (10 cm) below the glass (12 inches [30 cm] below the scraped surface), a cranium was visible. Disturbed coffin debris not associated with the intact burial was considered to be a second grave. The flat glass may reflect coffin face plates. Lang (1984:50) notes, "Face plates were used in coffins since the receptacle's introduction into the United States but none were patented until 1876." They became less popular in the 1910s.

Longenecker decided to return to the backhoe and have a trench excavated beginning in the northeast portion of this southeast area proceeding northwest, upslope to the northeast corner of the existing

cemetery (Trench 1 in Figure 11). This trench was 70 feet (21.3 meters) long and 5 to 6 feet (1.5 to 1.8 meters) deep. Trench 2 was excavated parallel to and eight feet (2.4 meters) southwest of Trench 1. It was 56 feet (17.1 meters) long. One manganese glass fragment was observed in the backdirt from the second trench.

Trench 3 began at the grave exposed when the soil was removed near the original cemetery boundary and proceeded 26 feet (7.9 meters) to the south, paralleling to the first two trenches. No cultural materials were observed. Trench 4 was placed 35 feet (10.7 meters) from Trench 3 and roughly parallel to the first three trenches. A coffin and skull fragment were observed 28 inches (71 cm) below the scraped surface (approximately 34 inches [86 cm] below the original surface) and ten feet (3.0 meters) from the north end of the trench. The coffin was painted a bright blue and red and appeared to be oriented east/west. Excavation in this area ceased. The backhoe moved down slope (south) 5 feet (1.5 meters) to avoid further disturbance to this grave and continued to excavate Trench 4. Approximately 10 feet (3.0 meters) south of the first burial in this trench additional coffin fragments were observed. It was 52 inches (1.3 meters) below the scraped surface. The backhoe operator left another space and continued the trench for a total length of 51 feet (15.5 meters). Trench 5 was roughly parallel to Trench 4 and was 48 feet (14.6 meters) long. No cultural materials were observed. Trench 6 also ran roughly parallel to the previous trenches and was 34 feet (10.4 meters) long. Approximately 14 feet (4.3 meters) from the north end of the trench at 32 inches (81 cm) below the scraped surface an intact dark green coffin was encountered in the east wall of the trench. Trench 7 was west of Trench 6. It was approximately 30 feet (9.1 meters) long, oriented in a generally northeast/southwest direction, and contained no cultural material. Trench 8 ran northwest to southeast (perpendicular to Trench 7), was 24 feet (7.3 meters) long, and contained cranial fragments and wood coffin fragments approximately four feet (1.2 meters) below the scraped surface and 14 feet (4.3 meters) southeast of the original cemetery boundary.

Having completed the excavations, all trenches were backfilled (see Figure 20). Paul Tomkins of Tomkins Land Surveying prepared a map showing the location of all of the trenches and encountered graves from this project and the previous two projects in the cemetery (Dickson 2002, Landreau 2002) and the revised cemetery boundary (see Figure 21). A site update form was prepared for 45WW134 to reflect the new cemetery boundaries, additional graves, and the prehistoric and historic artifacts (see Appendix A).

On March 10, 2004 Longenecker monitored the relocation of the fence along Highway 125 northwest of the project area. This involved leveling the property within the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) right-of-way using a John Deere 450 front end loader. Dirt was pushed northwest onto the WSDOT right-of-way and then this area was re-sloped. The area impacted was 30



feet (9.1 meters) wide by 1200 feet (366 meters) long. The ground disturbance began at the southwest corner of the project area and worked northeast. The depth of disturbance ranged from approximately 0.1 to 1.5 meters. Modern refuse was observed.

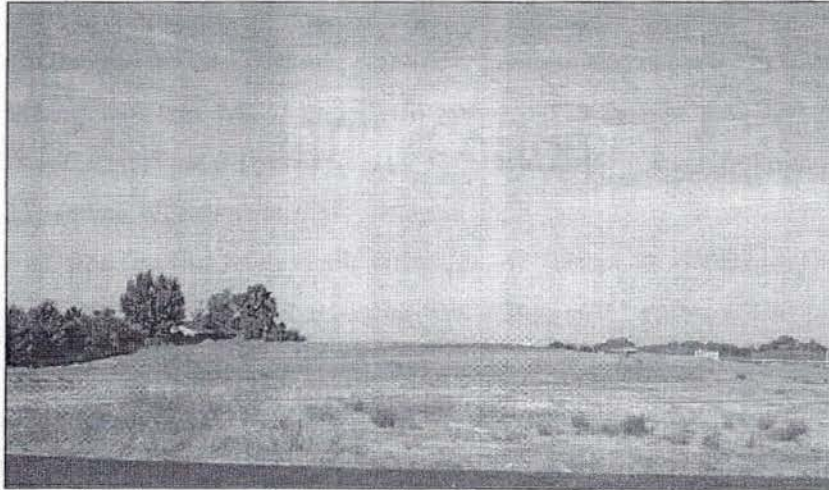


Figure 20: Overview of project area at the completion of the excavations, facing west. 7-23-03 (03-064:59)

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Seven new graves were found outside of the existing cemetery boundary; each was in the southeastern portion of the project area. Therefore, the boundaries of the cemetery must be extended to the southeast. The new proposed cemetery boundary, including the state-mandated 10 foot (3.0 meter) buffer, is indicated in Figure 21. One prehistoric and two historic artifacts were found within the updated boundaries of 45WW134. The CRPP recommends that the cemetery be left as open space and used in a manner respectful of those who are buried there. If during development activities additional human remains or funerary items including coffin parts or headstones are inadvertently discovered, work in that area will cease, the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the CTUIR, and (as necessary) local law enforcement officials need to be notified immediately. If other cultural resources are observed during construction, work will cease in that area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the find.

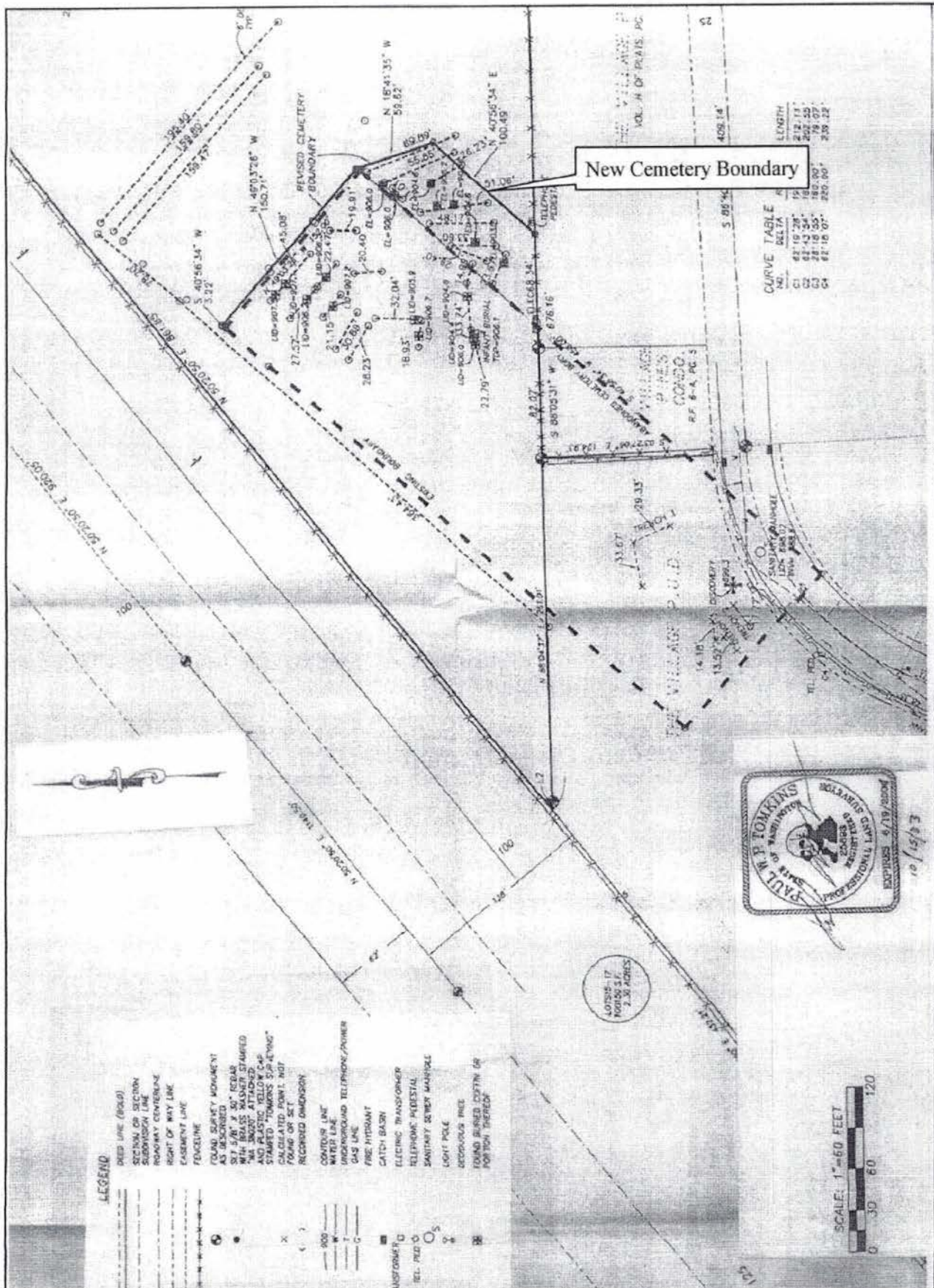


Figure 21: Location of original cemetery boundary (dashed) and revised cemetery boundary (solid). The revised boundary includes a 10 foot buffer from any located graves or funerary objects. Base map provided by Paul W.P Tomkins.