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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DUE DILIGENCE

# Tuthill Cemetery Study

Orient, Town of Southold, New York

PREPARED FOR

Oysterponds Historical Society  
PO Box 70  
Orient, NY 11957

PREPARED BY

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# Tuthill Cemetery Study

## Introduction

The Tuthill Cemetery, also known as the Slaves Burying Ground, is a parcel comprising 1.98 acres (0.8 hectare) on Narrow River Road in Orient (SCTM 1000-027.00-04.00-008.000). The cemetery is owned and stewarded by the Oysterponds Historical Society. According to local history, the cemetery dates to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and is the final resting place of Dr. Seth Tuthill, his wife Maria, and their 20 slaves or servants.

In the interest of developing the historical record of Orient for educational and interpretive purposes, and to better manage the preservation and protection of the cemetery, the Oysterponds Historical Society is interested in initiating a research project to explore the land use history, the historic context, and the spatial organization (including number of known burials and layout) of the cemetery. The research included in this report is not intended to evaluate or mitigate any potential impacts to the site. It is important to note that the property is preserved in perpetuity by a covenant within the deed "restricting against construction or the placing on the land of any private building" (Suffolk County Deed Liber 3224:84; Appendix 1).

The purpose of this report, therefore, is to review the remote sensing data (provided by the client) in consultation with available pertinent land use data to evaluate the cemetery existing conditions, verify (if possible) the use and presence of burials at the site, and provide recommendations for further research. All work completed by VHB at this time is non-invasive and involves no ground disturbance.

## Existing Conditions

The Tuthill Cemetery, also known as the Slaves Burying Ground, is located in Orient, Town of Southold, on the south shore of the North Fork of eastern Long Island, New York (Figures 1-3). The subject property is located on the outwash plain south of the Harbor Hill moraine, a geological feature formed roughly 20,000 years ago during the maximum extent of the Wisconsin ice sheet.<sup>1</sup> Located approximately 480 feet (146 meters) north of Gardiner's Bay, the property includes a small, fenced-off portion of the property measuring approximately 2,500 square feet (0.02 hectare) that is labelled as the Tuthill Cemetery; the remainder of the property is low-lying marsh that is prone to inundation from sea level rise. Topography is gently sloping with an average elevation mapped at 5 feet (1.5 meters) above mean sea level for the fenced-in cemetery and its entrance.

VHB's Senior Archaeologist, Dr. Allison McGovern, performed a site visit and surface reconnaissance on December 2, 2020, and all observations and photos of existing conditions included in this report were recorded on that day. At that time, limited probing with a soil probe measuring less than 0.5 inch (1.27 cm) in diameter was employed to detect buried obstructions (e.g., buried rocks).

The 2,500 square foot cemetery is surrounded by a boundary wall comprised of non-local sedimentary stones measuring approximately 24-25 inches (60-65 centimeters) high and approximately 12-14 inches (30-40 centimeters) wide. According to local memories, the stones arrived in Orient as shipping ballast in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and were repurposed as a boundary marker for the cemetery. Within the stone wall, vegetation consists of maintained grass lawn (Photos 1 and 2). Two headstones and two footstones mark the burial locations of Seth H. Tuthill and Maria Tuthill (Photos 3 and 4); approximately 17 unmarked fieldstones are spaced out to memorialize additional burials of undocumented individuals at the site. Outside the stone wall, vegetation consists of dense shrubbery and vines with a few deciduous trees on the elevated portion of the site (Photos 5 and 6). Beyond the elevated portion of the site, the low-lying areas consist of tall grasses and wetlands (Photos 7 and 8).

Soils in the project area are mapped as Haven loam (HaA), 0-2% slopes.<sup>2</sup> The Haven soil series consists of deep, well-drained outwash soils with low natural fertility. Typical soil profiles for the Plymouth soils are provided in Table 1.

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<sup>1</sup> *Eastern Long Island Geology with Field Trips*. 1995, Les Sirkin. The Book and Tackle Shop, Watch Hill, Rhode Island.

<sup>2</sup> USDA Web Soil Survey available here <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx> accessed on January 20, 2021; Suffolk County Soil Survey, 1975, page 71, available here [https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_MANUSCRIPTS/new\\_york/suffolkNY1975/suffolk.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/new_york/suffolkNY1975/suffolk.pdf)

**Table 1 Project area soils**

Soil Series	Horizon depth	Color	Texture	Slope %	Drainage
<b>Haven loam</b>					
A0	0-3 in (0-7.6 cm)	dark grayish brown	loam	0-2	well
B1	3-10 in (7.6-25 cm)	brown	loam	0-2	well
B2	10-19 in (25-48 cm)	strong brown	loam	0-2	well
B3	19-28 in (48-71 cm)	yellow brown	gravelly loam	0-2	well

**Figure 1 Project Area Location**



**Figure 2** USGS topographic map *Orient, New York (7.5 minute series)*

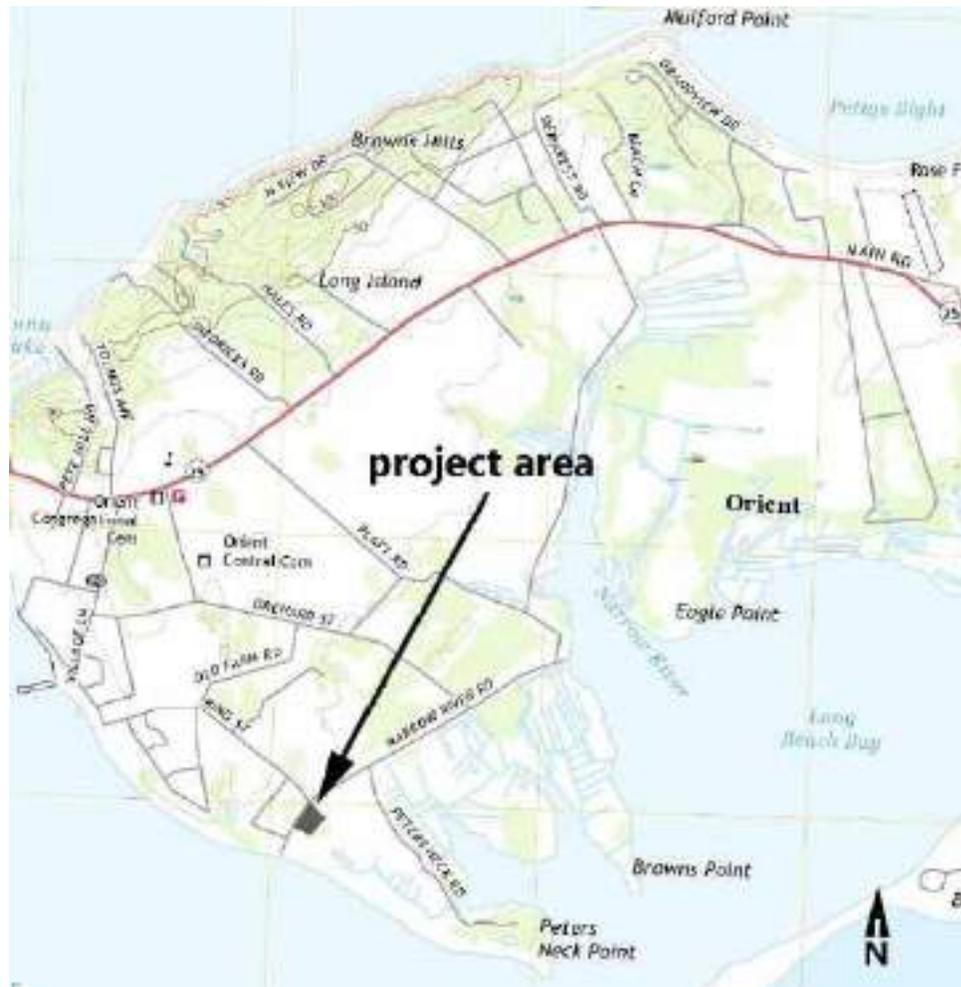


Figure 3 Survey Overlay with Aerial



Source: Oysterponds Historical Society

**Photo 1** Southeastern view of the cemetery. The headstones for Seth and Maria Tuthill are visible in the foreground.



**Photo 2** Northeastern view across the Tuthill Cemetery



Photo 3 Headstone for Seth H. Tuhill; view is northwest.

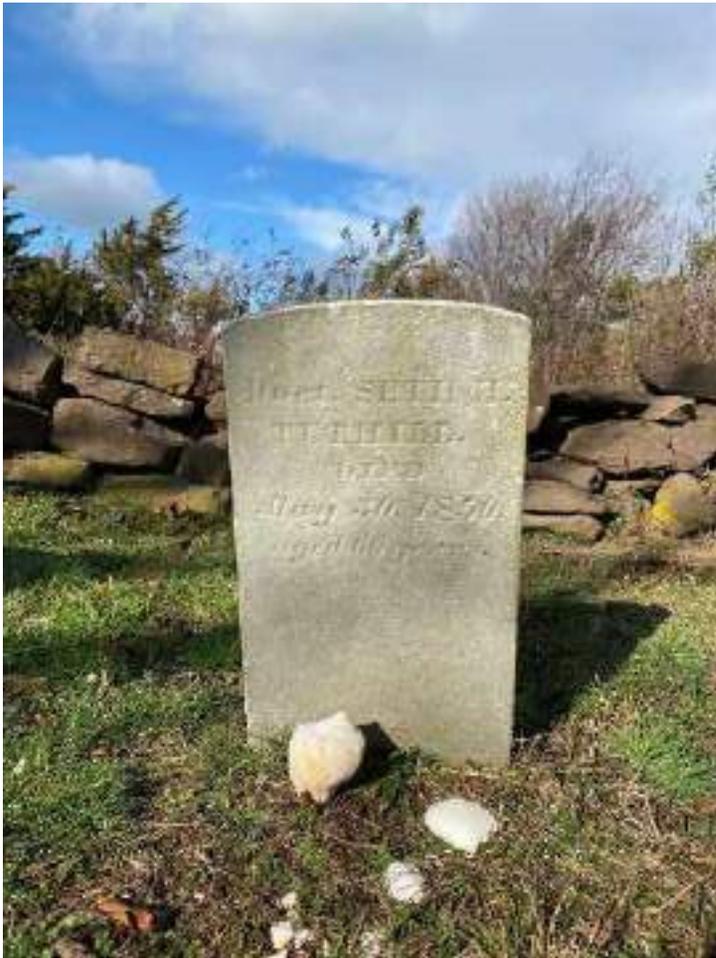


Photo 4 Headstone for Maria Tuthill; view is northwest.



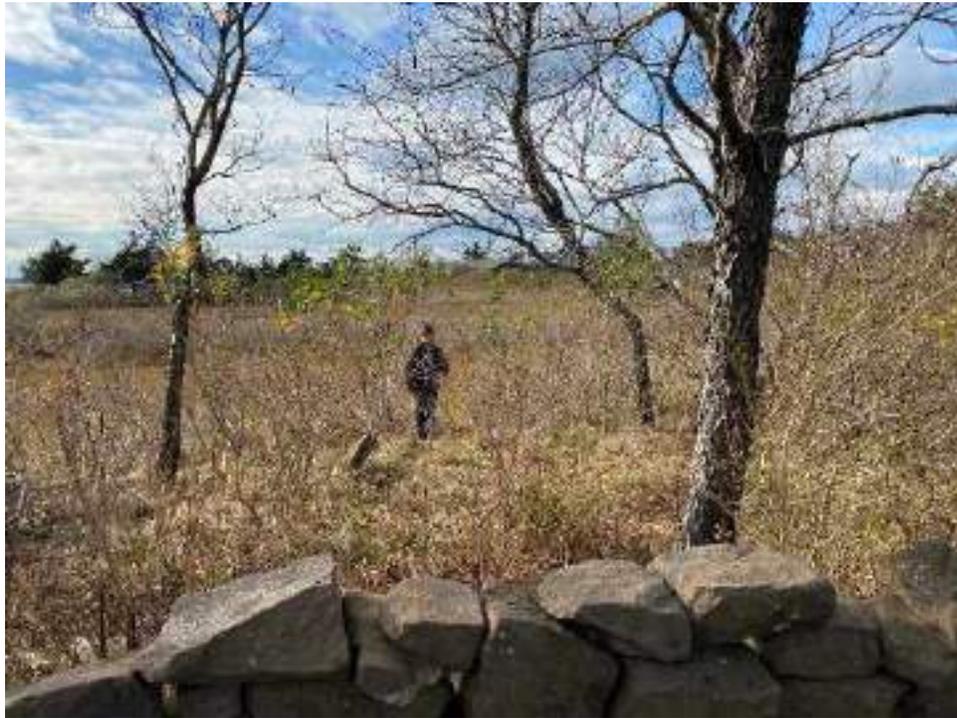
**Photo 5** Looking toward the southeast corner of the cemetery. Note the thick vegetation outside the stone wall.



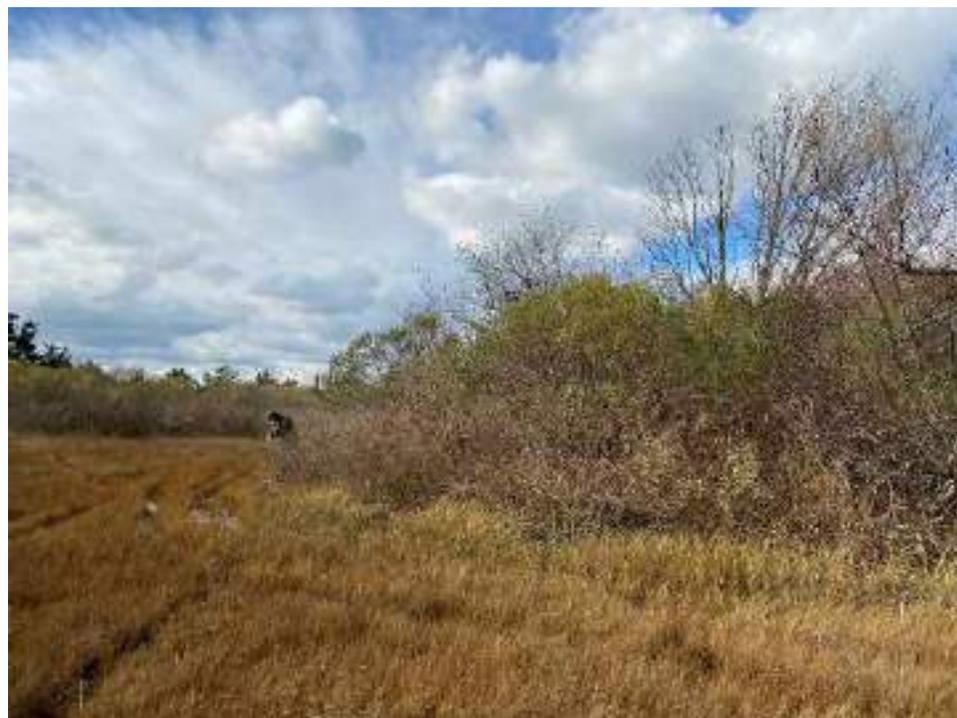
**Photo 6** Looking southeast from Narrow River Road toward the gate to the cemetery. Note the dense vegetation on either side of the right of way.



**Photo 7** Southern view showing the difference in elevation from the fenced-in cemetery to the low-lying surrounding marsh



**Photo 8** Western view of the marshy wetlands surrounding the elevated cemetery, which is obscured by dense vegetation



## Land Use History

The Tuthill Cemetery is remembered as the final resting place for Dr. Seth H. and Maria Tuthill, owners of the Hog Pond Farm and descendants of a line of Tuthills who trace their ancestry to the founding of Orient and the Towns of Southold and Shelter Island. Until 2020, the site has been memorialized by historical signage which stated:

### *Slaves Burying Ground*

Slavery persisted in Oysterponds until 1830. Here were buried some twenty slaves. Here lie also the remains of Dr. Seth Tuthill, proprietor of "Hog Pond Farm," and those of his wife, Maria. It was their wish that they be buried with their former servants.

In addition to the signage, the text of this memorial placard was recorded in the *Historical Review*, published by the Oysterponds Historical Society in 1959.<sup>3</sup> The recording of this specific narrative to this site is linked to the historical society formation and its subsequent acquisition of the subject property.

According to its website, the Oysterponds Historical Society was formed in 1944 to preserve the historical significance of Orient and East Marion.<sup>4</sup> The historical society acquired the property that comprises the Tuthill Cemetery in 1951 from James F. and Lillian Douglass, and the historical marker was installed shortly thereafter. According to a letter from Attorney Henry Tasker to George R. Latham (one of the founders of the Oysterponds Historical Society who had a special interest in local history and was an amateur archaeologist who investigated the local landscape), the historical society's acquisition of the property was subject to release of the premises from Mr. and Mrs. Nagy.

In the latter part of 2020, the Oysterponds Historical Society obtained written memories from two individuals about land use and site conditions in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (Appendix 1). One of these testimonials was from Carol Nagy, who now lives in California but whose parents Richard and Eleanor Nagy purchased the property in the 1940s. According to Ms. Nagy, her parents bought the property from Jim Douglass to build a simple summer home. When her father started to excavate for the foundation, he encountered bones and possibly some artifacts. The property was exchanged with Jim Douglas and the Nagy's acquired an alternative property on Narrow River Road.<sup>5</sup> The Tuthill Cemetery property was subsequently purchased by the Oysterponds Historical Society.

Yan Rieger also remembers discussions of when human remains were encountered in the parcel. In his letter to the Oysterponds Historical Society, Mr. Yieger wrote that Richard Nagy was preparing the lot for a new residence by depositing new soil to raise the ground surface. When he began to dig for the foundation, human remains were encountered. He also

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<sup>3</sup> *Historical Review* (1959) available here <http://oysterpondshistoricalsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Historical-Review-1959.pdf>, accessed on January 20, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Oysterponds Historical Society Mission & History, available here <https://oysterpondshistoricalsociety.org/about/history-and-mission/>, accessed on January 20, 2021.

<sup>5</sup> Email from Carol Nagy to Ann ffolliott, n.d. Oysterponds Historical Society.

mentioned that the two headstones were encountered in the process, suggesting that they were not upright but rather buried at the time excavations began. Mr. Rieger's mention of new soil deposition of the site might explain the raised topography within the portion of the property that is maintained as the cemetery.<sup>6</sup>

Although there may be errors or forgetting associated with these memories, there are clues that can be useful for understanding the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century land use history of this property. Based on these two testimonials, there appears to have been no knowledge of burials at the site prior to the Nagy family purchase of it and their beginnings of excavations. Both Mr. Rieger and Ms. Nagy recall that shortly after human remains were recovered, the historical society took ownership of the property. The stone wall was subsequently constructed to establish a boundary for the cemetery. Mr. Rieger notes that it was George Latham who determined that the burials were of the Tuthill family, and that those remains were then reinterred in another cemetery. However, this story of Tuthill reburial has not been verified by other sources. If that were the case, it begs the question as to why the headstones are at this property if the remains were reburied elsewhere.

## Remote Sensing Data

The results of a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) study of the Tuthill Cemetery were shared by the Oysterponds Historical Society with VHB's Senior Archaeologist for. The GPR study was conducted by Dr. John A. Rayburn, Professor of Geology at SUNY New Paltz, in September 2020 review (Appendix 2). The methodology and equipment employed during the investigation will not be outlined here, as they are explained in Dr. Rayburn's report.<sup>7</sup> However, there are important data that are relevant to understanding the land use history of the Tuthill Cemetery property.

Based on the results of the GPR study, a thick soil layer approximately 3 feet (0.91 meter) in depth from the ground surface was detected throughout the fenced cemetery area. This stratum is not consistent with the anticipated glacial outwash. The depth of this stratum is apparently greatest within the boundaries of the fenced cemetery area. Beyond the rock wall, as the GPR readings were obtained between the fenced area and Narrow River Road, the overall depth of the strata decreased. These data suggest that the area within the fenced cemetery comprise fill that was deposited prior to the construction of the rock boundary wall; in short, the stone wall is constructed on top of the fill, and the topography slopes down outside the stone wall to the north, east, and south. The GPR investigation also indicated that no disturbance associated with burial shafts was identified in the fill stratum. Therefore, if this parcel was indeed used as a burial site, it was subsequently covered with fill which would have preserved the burials at a minimum depth of 4 feet (1.2 meters) below the recontoured ground surface.

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<sup>6</sup> Letter from Yan Rieger to Robert Hanlon, September 20, 2020. Oysterponds Historical Society.

<sup>7</sup> Report On The Ground Penetrating Radar Study of Slaves Burying Ground for The Oysterponds Historical Society, Dr. John Rayburn, 2020. Oysterponds Historical Society.

Dr. Rayburn concluded that the data recorded around the locations of Seth and Maria's headstones and footstones are inconclusive for the presence of human burials, although he found the data more convincing for Maria's potential burial plot than for Seth. However, even at these locations, the presence of depositional fill to a depth of 4 feet (1.2 meters) below the ground surface suggests that surface recontouring of the site post-dates the interments. Dr. Rayburn's analysis suggests the possible presence of other unmarked burials in the northwest corner of the cemetery area.

Another interesting point from the GPR investigation is the presence of stone clusters or gravel detected at approximately 1.6 feet (0.5 meter) below grade. These were detected in an east-west orientation in various locations within the cemetery area. On December 2, 2020, one probe in the northwest corner of the cemetery was obstructed by a possible rock at roughly 2 feet (0.6 meter) below the surface.

Overall, the results of the GPR investigation do not reveal or support the expectation of twenty-two burials (representing the Tuthills and their twenty servants) at the site. Although the ground surface is ornamented with evenly-spaced fieldstones that are intended to memorialize the undocumented burials of the Tuthills' servants, there is no supporting GPR evidence to indicate that burials are associated with those fieldstone markers.

In archaeology, ground-truthing of remote sensing data often involves subsurface investigations (e.g., excavation of shovel test pits [hand-dug holes] or trenches) to observe the stratigraphy and verify anomalies detected by GPR. Ground-truthing was not conducted at this site. Although ground-truthing provides a means for verifying the remote sensing data and site formation processes, it is considered an unethical approach to researching this site, as there are no development plans that might impact potential burial or other sensitive resources at the site. Furthermore, modern anthropology and archaeology discourage invasive exploratory approaches to burial investigations.

## Conclusions

In the absence of ground-truthing, the results of the GPR study must be evaluated against other resources pertaining to the site. These resources consist of oral testimonies from mid-20<sup>th</sup> century residents, comparable archaeological and burial data, and a preliminary assessment of the site's archaeological sensitivity.

The results of the GPR investigation suggest that the site was artificially raised by the introduction of fill. This seems to verify Mr. Rieger's notes of the site being prepared for construction of the Nagy family's summer home. As mentioned above, the Nagy family purchased this site in the 1940s to build a summer house. A review of historic maps from 1797 to 1902 and an aerial photograph from 1930 suggest that the site remained undeveloped (Figure 4-8).<sup>8</sup> An inundated, fluctuating coastline and marsh are mapped in the

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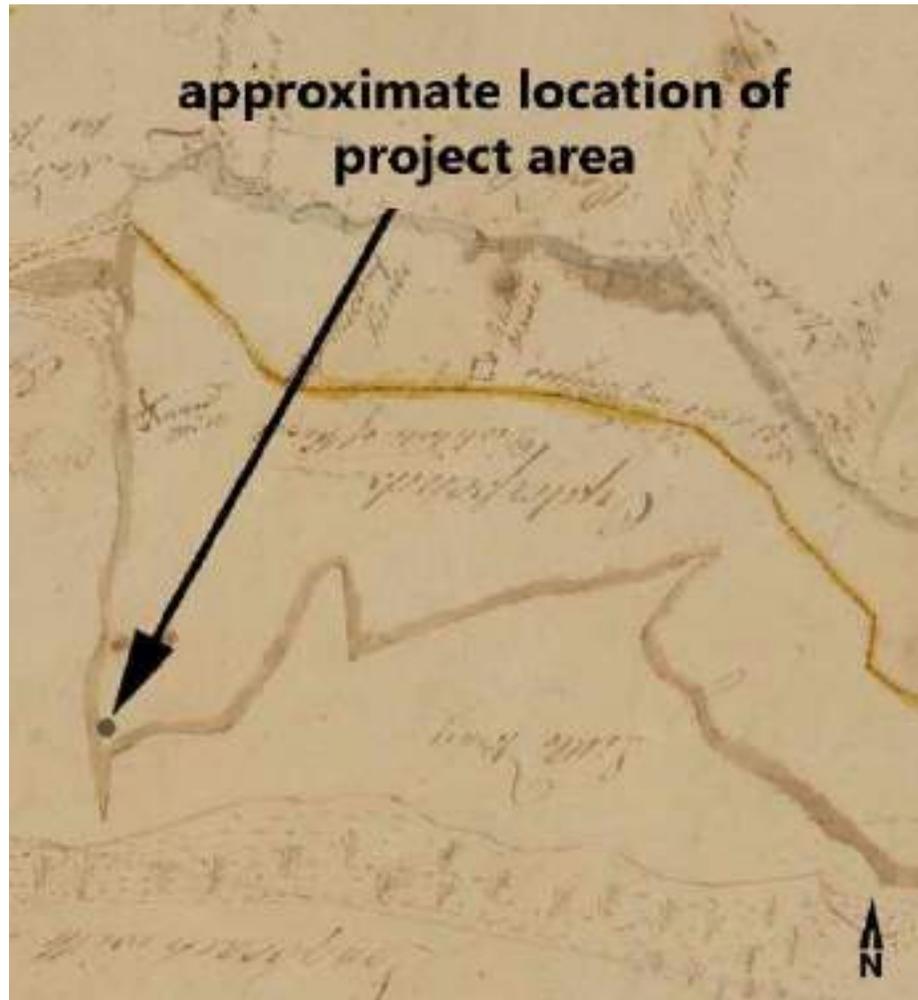
<sup>8</sup> 1797 Moore *Map of the Town of Southold*. Suffolk County. Map #394B (NYS\_A0273-78\_394B); 1838 US Coastal Survey *Part of Long Island's north shore from Cooper's Hill to Oyster Pond Point (eastern part)*, Stony Brook University Library Map Collection; 1858 Chace *Map of Suffolk County*; 1873 Beers *Atlas of Long Island*; 1930 Historic Aerials of Suffolk County, Stony Brook University Library Map Collection.

vicinity of the project site as early as 1838. The marshy conditions would have required surface recontouring to support household construction.

The GPR data pertaining to potential burials at the site is interesting, though not in a straightforward manner. For instance, the GPR data around the headstones and footstones for Seth and Maria Tuthill are inconclusive for the presence of human remains. Similarly, the overall patterning of fieldstones on the surface does not correspond to subsurface readings of other possible burials. This seems to suggest that mid-20<sup>th</sup> century activities at the site have impacted the integrity of the surface of the site through site maintenance and memorialization. Just as the surface fieldstones do not seem to correspond to burials, the Tuthills' headstones may not be demarcating their actual burial locations. It is possible that these headstones are not actually *in situ* but were placed at the site in the 1950s or 1960s. Furthermore, more research into the material composition of the headstones is warranted to determine (if possible) if the headstones are original to the time period, or later reproductions.

Although the GPR data do not correlate to the site surface conditions, I would argue that there is still a potential for human remains to be preserved at this site. Clearly, the recovery of human remains there in the 1940s ultimately halted residential construction and led to preservation of the site. In terms of site formation processes, it is possible that additional burials are preserved below the fill that was deposited on site in the 1940s. In addition, a preliminary review of the archaeological site files for the area immediately surrounding the subject property suggest that there was a substantial Native American presence in the area. Archaeological sites have been documented north, east, and west of the site, most of them with pre-Columbian indigenous burials. In some cases throughout the East End of Long Island, Native American burials in the pre- and post-Columbian eras were marked with stone cairns at the surface (in Montauk and Shelter Island, this seems to be the case into the 19<sup>th</sup> century as well). The GPR readings of stone clusters at the site and the detection of possible buried stones by soil probe on December 20, 2020 may be indicative of this burial pattern, which may be preserved beneath the layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century fill.

**Figure 4** 1797 Moore Map of the Town of Southold



**Figure 5** 1838 Coastal and Geodetic Survey

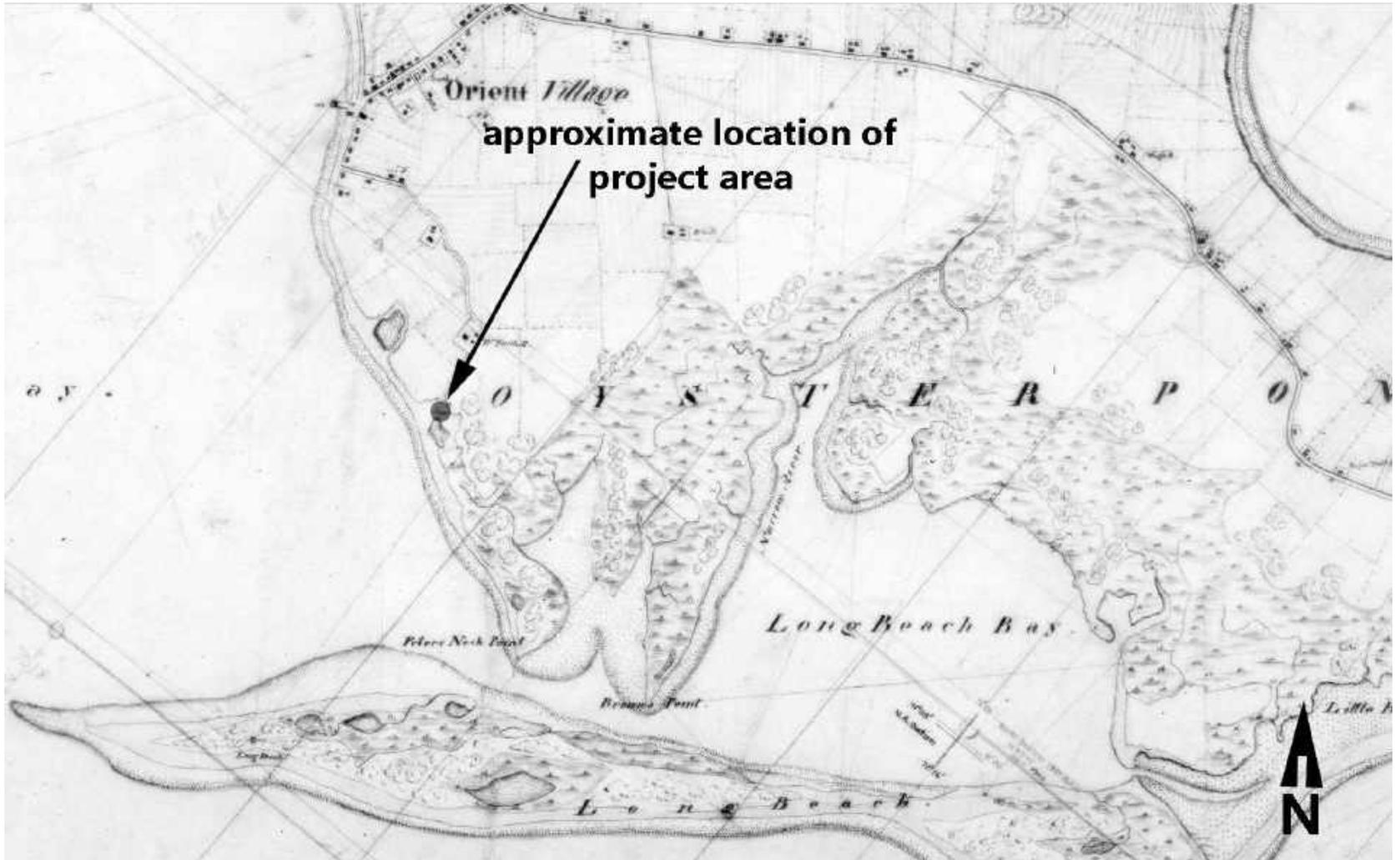


Figure 6 1858 Chace Map of Suffolk County

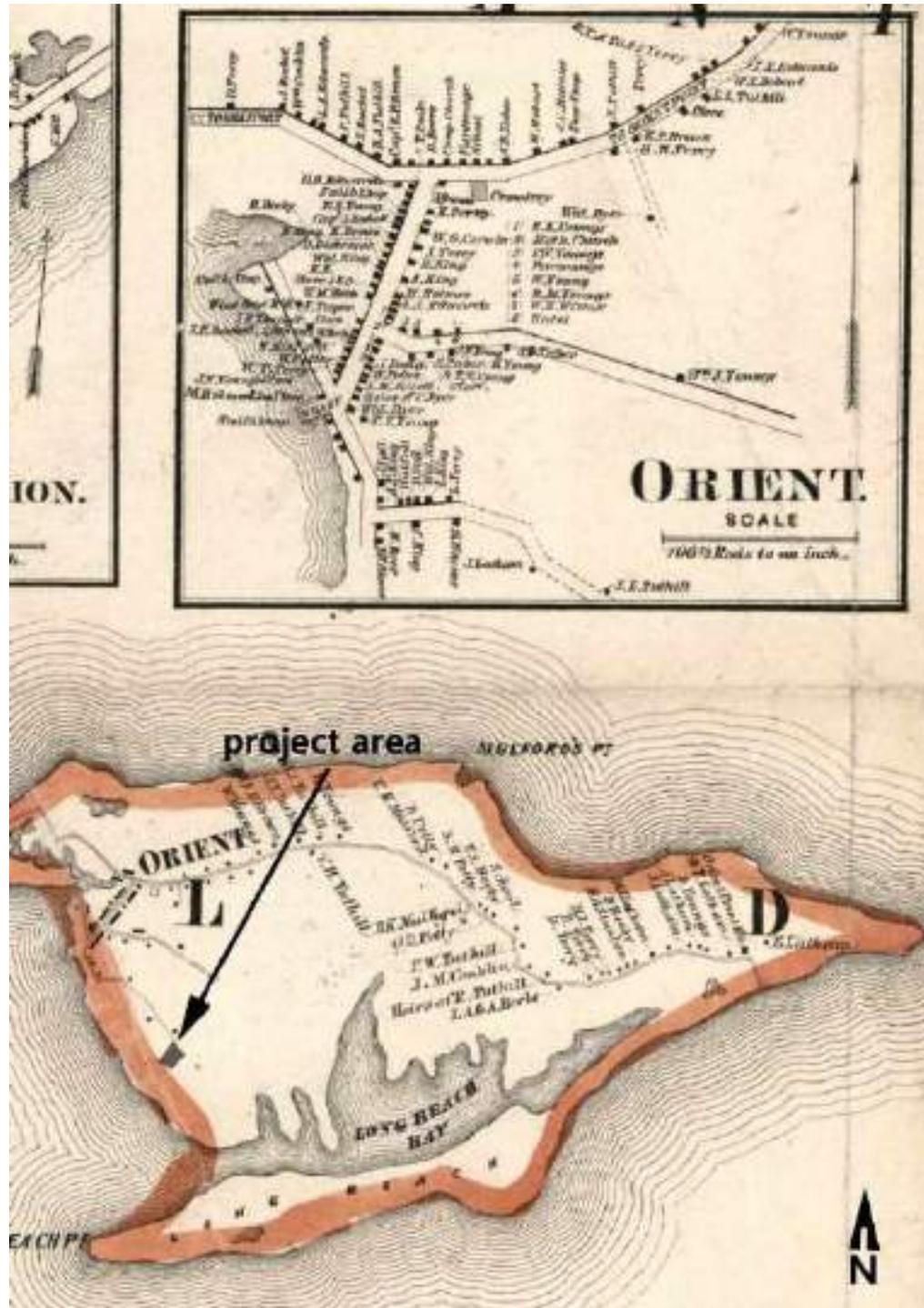
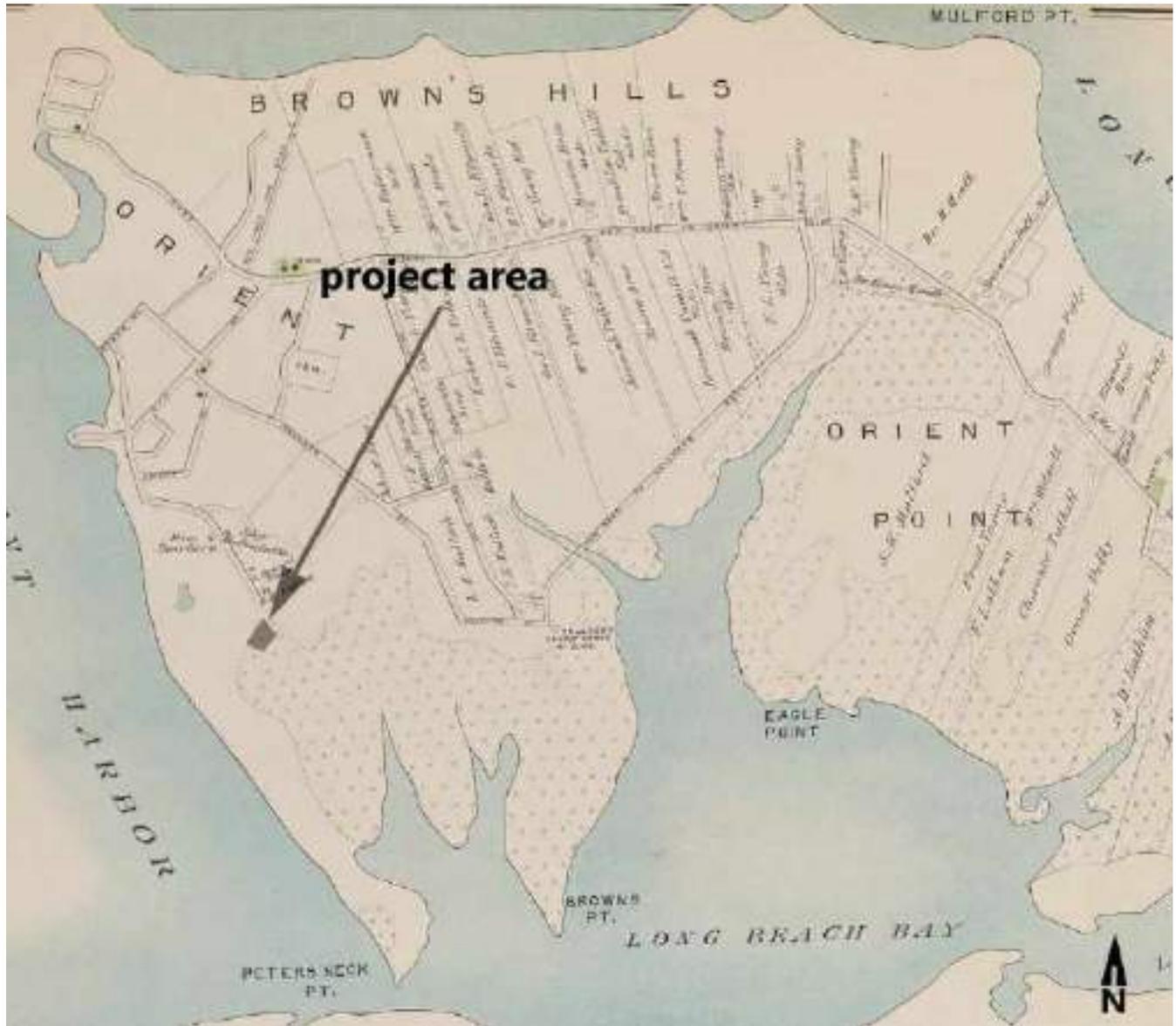


Figure 7 1902 Hyde Atlas of Suffolk County: North Side- Sound Shore



**Figure 8** 1930 Aerial Photograph



## Recommendations

The GPR study provides interesting data for understanding site formation processes at the Tuthill Cemetery site. While the data does not provide conclusive evidence for the presence or suspected number of burials associated with the Tuthill family, it does suggest that there may be unknown/undocumented burials at the site that are oriented in a way other than is represented by the surface memorialization. While the presence of Seth and Maria Tuthill's grave markers are present at the site, the GPR data suggests that the stones may not demarcate their actual burial plots, and further research is necessary to determine if these are replacement headstones. That being said, we may never know the names or identities for the people whose burials were encountered in the 1940s, or whose burials may still be present at the site.

Based on the results of the GPR data, additional research is recommended to develop a contextual understanding of the Tuthill Cemetery property. This includes a review of the archaeological site file data and reports for known archaeological sites within a minimum of a half-mile radius of the subject property. This research should not be shared with the public, as it could put archaeological resources at risk of exploitation and could violate the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). The purpose of this research is to develop an understanding of the pre-Columbian settlement and use of the area, and to identify comparable burial data sets that would be useful for interpreting the Tuthill Cemetery site.

Additional research is also recommended to develop a context for understanding slavery and freedom in Orient. This is important for understanding the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century memorial narrative for the subject property. It is my understanding that recent research by the Oysterponds Historical Society into Tuthill family ownership of captive people of color, as well as general research into the presence of free and enslaved people of color in Orient, has proved thus far inconclusive. While a study of slavery and freedom in the colonial and federal periods may be reliant on documentary sources, it cannot be reliant on the traditional, dominant, white, hetero-patriarchal perspective in interpreting those records. When researching the lives and experiences of historically marginalized peoples, government documents and family papers of prominent, white families may provide very limited information. Understanding the voids within those records is as important as the search for people's names within them. In addition to documentary research, research into the lives of people of color in Orient must be initiated in consultation with members of the descendant community. The descendant community includes lineal descendants, but also contemporary members of communities of color that may not have direct ties to the ancestors and/or that may reside outside of Orient specifically and the Town of Southold generally (including but certainly not limited to people and communities in the Towns of Shelter Island, Southampton, East Hampton). This is necessary for equity in the research and to shift the paradigm from the historically dominant to the historically marginalized. It is also important for making both kin and spatial connections across sites and regions.

Finally, research into the context of historic site memorialization in and around Orient in the 1950s and 1960s is recommended. This may be accomplished by developing (or continuing if it has already been initiated) an oral history project to document the memories and

experiences of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century residents. This continued research may shed more light on activities at the Tuthill Cemetery site in the 1940s-1960s, as well as other sites that were memorialized following the founding of the Oysterponds Historical Society. It may also reveal why particular attention to the relationship of the Tuthills and their captive and freed laborers was highlighted at this particular site.

# Appendix

## Appendix 1: Supporting Resources Provided by the Oysterponds Historical Society

HENRY TASKER  
COUNSELLOR AT LAW  
GREENPORT, SUFFOLK COUNTY  
NEW YORK

June 9, 1951

Mr. George K. Latham  
c/o Latham Bros. Lumber Co.  
Mineola, New York.

Dear Mr. Latham:

I am enclosing herewith contract for the James P. Douglass property to Oysterponds Historical Society, Inc., together with the deed, James P. Douglass and Lillian J. Douglass, his wife, to Oysterponds Historical Society, Inc. which has been recorded in Suffolk County Clerk's Office in Liber 3224 of Leads at Page 84.

Please note that the contract provides that the sale was subject to the obtaining of a release to the premises from Mr. and Mrs. Vagy. In that connection, there is enclosed herewith copy of such a release which should be kept with the contract and other papers.

From the Suffolk Abstract search beginning December 19, 1917, as requested, there appears nothing of record affecting the title to these premises.

A statement of the disbursements incurred in connection with this matter is enclosed herewith.

So that I may have a record for my files, will you please acknowledge receipt of the enclosures by signing and returning to me the enclosed copy of this letter which I am enclosing for that purpose?

Yours very truly

*Henry Tasker*  
1791

Henry Tasker

HT/fg  
Enclosures.

ACCEPTED FOR DEPOSIT BY  
EDWIN H. KING,  
ORIENT, BURTON CO., NEW YORK.  
PASS BOOK



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK  
Special---Slave Burying Ground Fund.

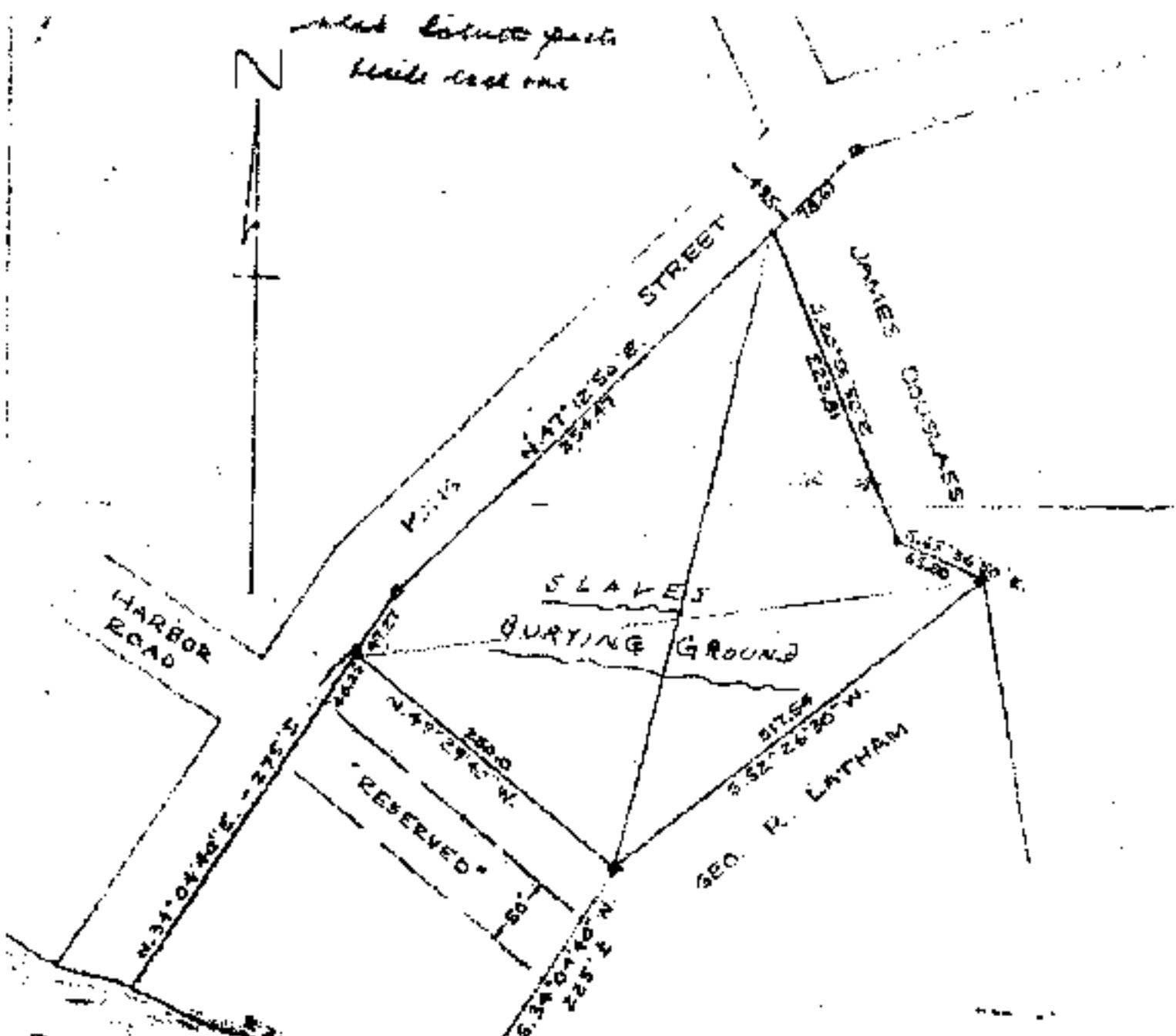
April 11, 1951 Final check \$1,600.00  
issued to cancel book.---Payment  
in full of above property. *Sutton C. [unclear]*  
Graves, Inc. 42  
New York

*299 Adolphus St  
Brooklyn - NY*





what lot was part  
of last one



MAP OF PROPERTIES  
SURVEYED FOR  
OYSTER PONDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

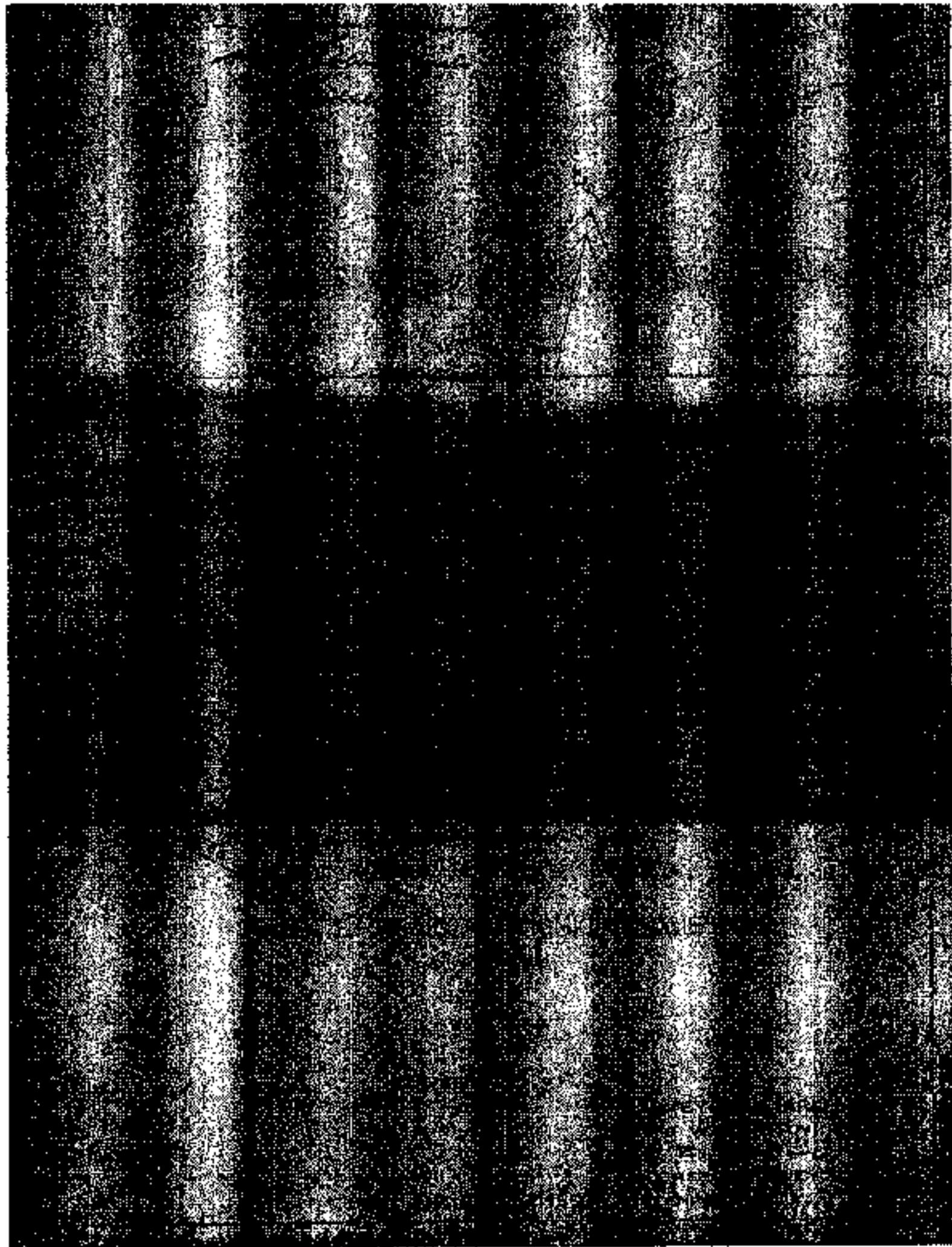
SITUATE AT  
ORIENT  
NEW YORK

SCALE: 100' = 1"

- = STAKE
- ⊙ = MONUMENT

SURVEYED MARCH 9, 1951  
OTTO W. VAN TUYL & SON  
BY E. Van Tassel  
LICENSED SURVEYORS  
GREENPORT, N. Y.

ADDITIONS: APR. 24, 1955



# Contract

FOR FEEBETTY

*Slaves Sleeping Ground*  
*Adjacent Property.*  
JAMES F. DOWGLASS

TO

OYSTER PONDS HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.

Dated. March 14th, 1951

Executed to Order Apr. 24th 1951

STATE OF NEW YORK

County of \_\_\_\_\_ ss.

RECORDED ON THE

\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. 19\_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ A.

in LIBER \_\_\_\_\_ of DEEDS

in PAGE \_\_\_\_\_ and examined

CLERK

FRANK J. McMANN

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW  
GREENPORT, N. Y.

# This Agreement,

Made the 14th day of March in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-one

~~Between~~ JAMES V. DOUGLASS residing at Orient in the Town of Southold, County of Suffolk and State of New York,

part of the first part, and OYSTERSPONDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. of Orient, Suffolk County, New York,

part of the second part in manner following: The said part of the first part, in consideration of the sum of Twenty-one hundred -----  
----- Dollars,

to be fully paid as hereinafter mentioned, hereby agree to sell unto the said part of the second part, all that certain piece or parcel of land, situate in the hamlet of Orient, Town of Southold, Suffolk County, New York, bounded and described as follows:-

BEGINNING at a stake set on the southeasterly line of King Street 78.67 feet southwesterly along said line from a granite monument set at a point of deflection in said line, said point of beginning being the northerly corner of the premises herein described; and running along land of the party of the first part two courses, as follows:-  
(1) S. 20° 55' 50" E. 225.31 feet to a stake; thence  
(2) S. 65° 36' 50" E. 65.00 feet to a concrete monument and land of George R. Latham; thence along said land of George R. Latham two courses, as follows:-  
(1) S. 82° 23' 30" W. 317.54 feet to a concrete monument; thence  
(2) N. 49° 39' 40" W. 230 feet to a concrete monument set on said southeasterly line of King Street; thence along said southeasterly line of King Street two courses, as follows:  
(1) N. 34° 04' 40" E. 47.27 feet to a granite monument;  
thence (2) N. 47° 12' 50" E. 354.47 feet to the point of beginning.

The party of the second part represents that the land described herein will be held in perpetuity as an historical site and agrees to a covenant in the Deed restricting against construction or the placing on the land of any private building.

And the said party of the second part hereby agrees to purchase said premises at the said consideration of Twenty-one hundred----- Dollars, and to pay the same as follows: Five Hundred----- Dollars on the execution of this agreement, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and the balance of Sixteen Hundred (\$1600) Dollars on closing of title.

It is understood and agreed that the seller has heretofore contracted to convey to O. Richard Nagy and Eleanor F. Nagy, his wife, part of the premises hereinbefore described and this Contract is contingent upon the seller obtaining a Release from Mr. and Mrs. Nagy from that contract, and if such release is not obtained this Contract shall terminate, the deposit made hereunder shall be returned to the buyer and there shall be no further obligation of any kind on either party hereto.

And the said party of the first part, on receiving such payment at the time and in the manner above mentioned, shall at his own proper costs, and expenses, execute, acknowledge and deliver, or cause to be executed, acknowledged and delivered, to the said party of the second part, or to its assigns, a good and sufficient deed, containing a general warranty and the usual covenants for the conveying and assuring to them, (the fee simple of) the said premises free from all encumbrance

To

C O P Y

In consideration of Three Hundred Fifty (\$350) Dollars paid by James F. Douglas to O. Richard Nagy and Eleanor F. Nagy, his wife, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, it is mutually agreed that the within Contract is cancelled and that there is no further liability of any kind whatsoever on any of the parties hereto.

Dated: February 20th, 1951.

Signed      O. Richard Nagy  
                 Eleanor F. Nagy  
                 James F. Douglass.

it being understood and agreed that the instruments referred to in within contract, to be executed and delivered, shall conform to the requirements of the Real Property Law of the State of New York, relating to Deeds, Bonds and Mortgages, so far as the same is applicable thereto, and which deed shall be delivered on the 24th day of April 19 51, 10 o'clock A. M. at office of Frank J. McHanna, Esq., First National Bank Building, Greenport, N.Y.

Rents and Interest on mortgages, and insurance premiums, and real estate taxes assessed against the hereinafore described property, if any, shall be adjusted, apportioned and allowed up to the day of taking title.

The gas fixtures and chandeliers, ranges, heating and hot water apparatus, water closets, bath tubs and other plumbing now on said premises are included in this sale, and in the warranty above set forth.

The risk of loss or damage to said premises by fire prior to the delivery of said deed is hereby assumed by the party of the first part. Ernest G. Radford

The party of the first part agrees that is the broker who has brought about this sale, and agrees to pay said broker his commissions therefor

And it is understood that the stipulations aforesaid are to apply to and bind the heirs, executors, administrators and assigns of the respective parties.

In witness whereof, the parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

In Presence of  
*Ernest G. Radford*

OYSERPONDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
BY:  
*George R. Lathrop*  
*James F. Douglas*

State of New York  
County of  
of

} ss.  
On this day of Nineteen Hundred and before me, the subscriber, personally appeared

to me personally known and known to me to be the same person described in and who executed the within Instrument, and he acknowledged to me that he executed the same

# Contract

BY FIRSTLY

*Slaves & Burialling Ground*  
*Adjacent Property*  
JAMES F. DOUGLASS

TO

OYSTER-PONDS HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.

Dated. March 14th; 1951

Filed to (1951) Apr. 24th 1951

STATE OF NEW YORK

Inamty of \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.

RECORDED ON THE

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 19\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

in LIBER \_\_\_\_\_ of DEEDS

of PAGE \_\_\_\_\_ and examined

\_\_\_\_\_

FRANK J. MCMANN  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW  
GREENPORT, N. Y.

## THE SELLER

## AT THE CLOSING OF THIS TITLE

Should produce all insurance policies, and duplicates, if the same are in his possession, or a memorandum thereof, if held by others; also produce the tax and water receipts of the current year and any leases, deeds, or agreements.

If water meter is on premises, it should be read and bill therefor produced.

If there is a mortgage on the premises to be conveyed, the receipts should be produced showing to what date the interest has been paid, and if the principal has been reduced, showing that fact.

## THE PURCHASER

Should be prepared with money or a certified check drawn to his own order. The check may be certified for an approximate amount and money may be provided for the balance of the settlement.

3224 PAGE 84

215

# This Indenture, made the eighth

day of May, nineteen hundred and fifty-one

Between JAMES F. DOUGLASS and LILLIAN J. DOUGLASS, his wife,  
residing at Orient in the Town of Southold, Suffolk County, New York,

, part 108 of the first part,

and OYSTERPONDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC., a domestic corporation, having  
its office at Orient in the Town of Southold, Suffolk County, New York,

, part 7 of the second part,

**Witnesseth,** that the part 108 of the first part, in consideration of Ten and  
00/100ths----- Dollars,

lawful money of the United States, and other good and valuable considerations  
paid by the party of the second part,  
do hereby grant and release unto the part 7 of the second part, its successors  
and assigns forever.

All that certain piece or parcel of land, situate in the hamlet of  
Orient, Town of Southold, Suffolk County, New York, bounded and described  
as follows:-

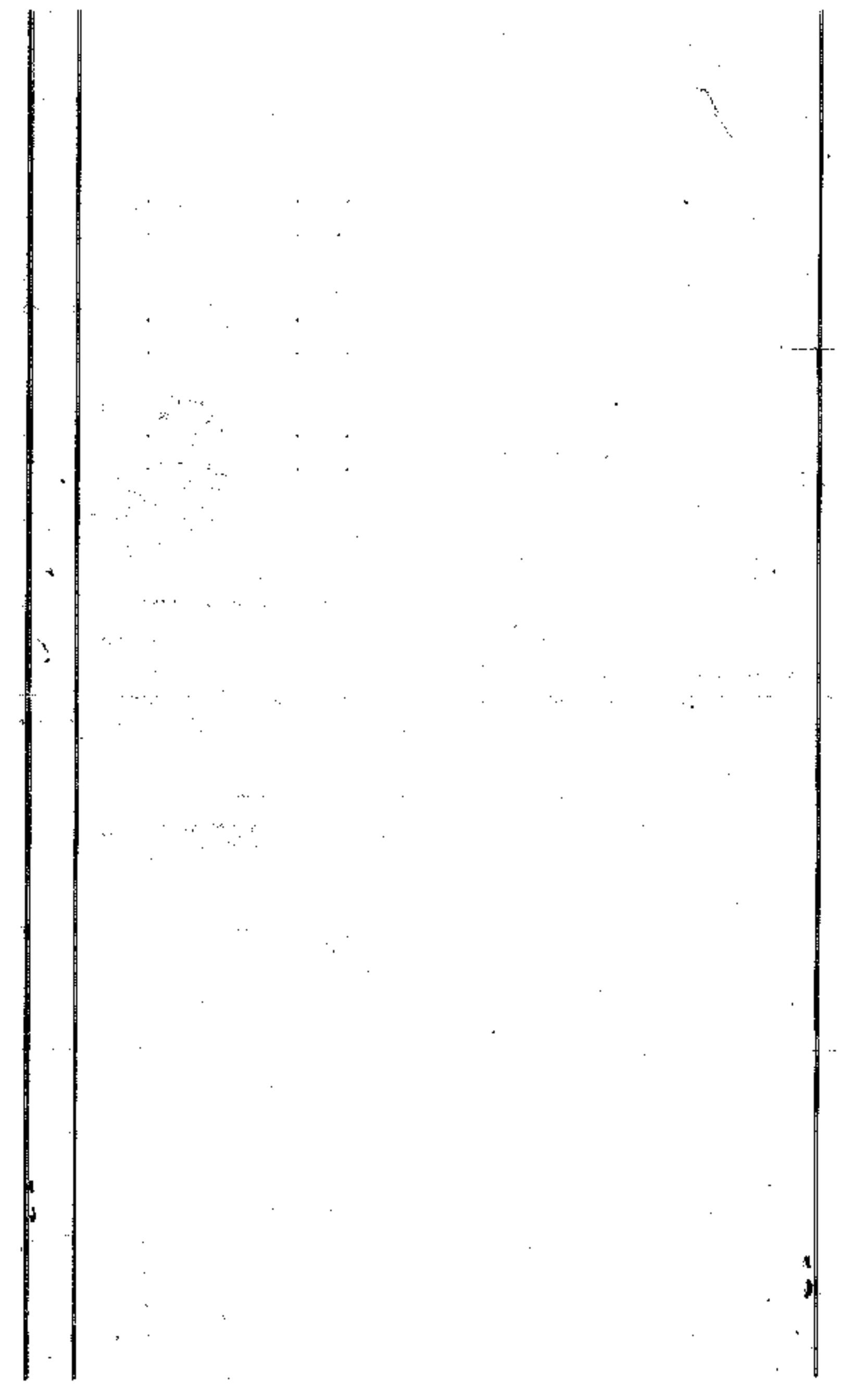
BEGINNING at a stake set on the southeasterly line of King Street 78.67  
feet southwesterly along said line from a granite monument set at the  
point of deflection in said line, said point of beginning being the  
northerly corner of the premises herein described; and running along  
other land of the parties of the first part two courses, as follows:-

- (1) S. 20° 58' 50" E. 223.81 feet to a stake; thence
- (2) S. 85° 36' 50" E. 65.80 feet to a concrete monument and land of  
George R. Latham; thence along said land of George R. Latham two courses  
as follows:-

- (1) S. 82° 26' 30" W. 317.54 feet to a concrete monument; thence
- (2) N. 49° 29' 40" W. 230 feet to a concrete monument set on said  
southeasterly line of King Street; thence along said southeasterly line  
of King Street two courses, as follows:-

- (1) N. 34° 04' 40" E. 47.27 feet to a granite monument; thence
- (2) N. 47° 12' 50" E. 354.47 feet to the point of beginning.

The party of the second part covenants that the said premises shall be  
held by it or its successors in perpetuity as an historical site and that  
no building for private use shall be placed or erected thereon.



Together with the appurtenances and all the estate and rights of the part 188 of the first part in and to said premises.

To Have and to Hold the premises herein granted unto the part 7 of the second part, its successors and assigns forever

And said parties of the first part

covenant as follows:

- First. That said parties of the first part are seized of the said premises in fee simple, and ha 78 good right to convey the same;
- Second. That the part 7 of the second part shall quietly enjoy the said premises;
- Third. That the said premises are free from incumbrances;
- Fourth. That the part 188 of the first part will execute or procure any further necessary assurances of the title to said premises;
- Fifth. That said parties of the first part will forever warrant the title to the said premises.

In Witness Whereof, the part 188 of the first part ha 78 hereunto

set their hands and seal 8 the day and year first above written.

In presence of



James F. Douglass L.S.  
Lillian J. Douglass L.S.  
 OYSTERPONDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
George L. Sutherland  
 President  
Margaret A. Young  
 Secretary

State of NEW YORK  
County of SUFFOLK

} ss.:

On the 8th day of May, nineteen hundred and fifty-one  
 before me came JAMES F. DOUGLASS and LILLIAN J. DOUGLASS, his wife,  
 to me known to be the individual 8 described in, and who executed, the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that they executed the same.

Frank J. McManis  
 Notary Public, Suffolk County  
 Frank J. McManis, Notary Public  
 Suffolk County, N. Y. No. 1388  
 Commission Expires March 30, 1952

State of

County of

SS.:

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, nineteen hundred and \_\_\_\_\_

before me came

the subscribing witness to the foregoing instrument, with whom I am personally acquainted, who, doing by me duly sworn, did depose and say that he resides in

that he knows

to be the individual described in and

present and saw

at the same time

came duly sworn, *M.A.* INC., the instrument; that he said to said by order of. signed his name

thereto by like order.

*Alvin Wood*

ALVIN E. WOOD  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXPIRES 12 MONTHS FROM 06/01/50 TO 06/01/51

*300*  
*Given to*  
*Strom Building Bureau*  
*and adjacent property*  
*at Bay Street, District*

James F. Douglass  
and  
Lillian J. Douglass

TO

Oysterponds Historical  
Society, Inc.

*Sentinel*

# Deed.

Dated May 8, 1951

The land affected by the within instrument lies in

Section \_\_\_\_\_ in Block \_\_\_\_\_ of the

Land Map of the County of \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded at request of

*Harley Landers*  
*Three-part N.Y.*

RESERVE THIS SPACE FOR USE OF RECORDING OFFICE

90

RECORDED

JUN 6 3 14 PM '51

R. FORD HUGHES  
CLERK OF  
SUFFOLK COUNTY

## RECORDED

JUN 6 1951  
3:14 P.M.  
R. FORD HUGHES  
CLERK OF SUFFOLK COUNTY

County of

ss.:

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, nineteen hundred and \_\_\_\_\_

before me came

the subscribing witness to the foregoing instrument, with whom I am personally acquainted, who, being by me duly sworn, did depose and say that he resides in \_\_\_\_\_

that he knows \_\_\_\_\_

to be the individual described in and \_\_\_\_\_

who executed the foregoing instrument; that he, said subscribing witness, was present and saw \_\_\_\_\_ execute the same; and that he, said witness, at the same time subscribed his name as witness thereto.

STATE OF NEW YORK:

COUNTY OF Nassau ss.:

On this 15 day of May 1951 before me personally came GEORGE H. LATHAM to me personally known, who, being by me duly sworn, did depose and say that he resides in Old Westbury, N.Y. that he is the President of OYSTERPONDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC., the corporation described in, and which executed the above instrument; that he knows the seal of said corporation; that the seal affixed to said instrument is such corporate seal; that it was so affixed by order of the Board of Directors of said corporation; and that he signed his name thereto by like order.

*Alvin H. Wood*

ALVIN H. WOOD  
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF NEW YORK  
No. 123456789  
Commission Expires March 28, 1953

*Deed to  
Eleanor Berging Conroy  
and adjacent property  
at "Hay Land", Oyster  
Ponds*

James F. Douglass  
and  
Lillian J. Douglass  
TO  
Oysterponds Historical  
Society, Inc.

*Subscribed*

**Deed.**

Dated May 8, 1951  
The land affected by the within instrument lies in  
Section \_\_\_\_\_ in Block \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
Land Map of the County of \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded at request of

*Henry Loebner  
Greenport N.Y.*

RESERVE THIS SPACE FOR USE OF RECORDING OFFICE

90

RECORDED

JUN 6 3 14 PM '51  
R. FORD HUGHES  
CLERK OF  
SUFFOLK COUNTY

RECORDED

JUN 6 1951  
3:14 P.M.  
R. FORD HUGHES  
CLERK OF SUFFOLK COUNTY

Mr Robert Hanlon , President of OHS Trustees  
Pobox 70 Orient NY 11957

SEPT 15 2020

Dear Mister Hanlon,  
Enclosed please find some footnotes about the Slave burial ground in Orient.

This parcel of land was purchased by Mister Nagy in the 1940ies with the intent to place a wooden house he had transported from Greenport to Orient by boat. As he was preparing the lot, raising the land with new soil and starting building foundations for this structure, some bones ,two tombstones belonging to Seth and Mary Tutill \* two very small ones (maybe children) and 8 of various size averaging 12" rocks attributed to there servants,where uncovered.

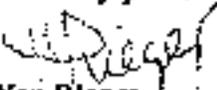
Attorney George Latham who was a local amateur archaeologist concluded that they were from the Tutill Family, during that time these bones were removed by their descendants for proper burial in a different cemetery .

Mister Nagy abandoned this lot and placed their house some 300feet west on Harbor road. Subsequently early 1950 the OHS acquired the property from the Douglass family owners of the Hog-Pond Farm grounds and established the cemetery enclosing it with a small brownstone wall. The OHS maintained the area of the cemetery mowing the lawns every year until the neighbor across the street objected and since then the surroundings are overgrown.

Mister G.Latham also discovered the Poquatuck Indian settlements and summer camp grounds along Narrow River Road in Orient. Many arrow heads and sienna paint-pods used for there body decorations can still be found in that area. A bronze plaque similar to the cemetery one was erected near that site, later stolen or removed, the post is still standing.

In the farmhouse diagonally across from the cemetery on the corner of King Street and Narrow River Road are secret hidden rooms used for the underground railroad by the Tutill family.

Sincerely yours

  
Yan Rieger

Hi Ann,

I received your letter yesterday, have to say I did a double take when I saw the return address of Oysterpond Historical Society. Yes, Richard and Eleanor were my parents. I live on the Central Coast of California now, so you can delete my old Seattle address.

The details Yan shared are not entirely accurate- here goes-

Dad and Mom bought the property where the slave burial grounds are from Jim Douglas in 1946/7/8. At the time it was called Hog Pond Road.....the name was changed to Narrow River Road sometime in the 1960's.

The intent was to build a simple summer home- The house Yan is referring to being moved from Greenport to Orient was the house at 100 Harbor Road- my parents bought that property in 1968 from Ed and Audrey Dadson. It was Ed Dadson's father who had that house moved from Greenport in or about 1950.

When Dad starting digging for the foundation of the house on Hog Pond Road he found bones and maybe other artifacts...I don't exactly recall. He immediately went back to Jim Douglass and the Historical Society. They worked it out and Jim ended up deeding him the property at what's now 615 Narrow River Road. That's where they built the summer house in 1948ish. The Historical Society put up a sign in front of the burial ground sometime in the 1950's. When I was young (I was born in 1955) it was pretty much an overgrown field and a pile of rocks.....sometime in the 1960's someone (I'll assume the Historical Society) cleaned it up, fenced it and started to mow it. Mom and Dad sold the Narrow River Road house to the Oliva's in 1968 and bought the house on Harbor Road. I don't know anything about the complaint Yan is referring to.

When I was a kid running around in the potato fields off Narrow River Road we found arrow heads all the time....cut myself on quite a few of them running in bare feet in the summer....as time went on and the fields got plowed in more and more there weren't so many, or they were broken up.

The house on the corner of King Street and Narrow River Road- I think you are referring to the Holtzman's House. My best friend Drew Hanfield lived there with her mother Ann Frost until the early 1960's when Sydney and Felia Holtzman bought it. Drew and I use to play in the "attic" room above the Kitchen which I believe was the original house. There were trunks full of all kinds of stuff...but honestly I don't have detailed memories of any of it. Elizabeth (Sydney and Felia's daughter who now owns the house) and I have wondered if the house was somehow part of the underground railroad...for sure a logical question.

I'm not sure if she ever took the time to research it, and I have spoken with her in several years. The last email address I have for her is- [eholtzman@herrick.com](mailto:eholtzman@herrick.com)

-Best of Luck,

Carol

Carol Nagy

[carolnagy@gmail.com](mailto:carolnagy@gmail.com)

## Appendix 2: Report On The Ground Penetrating Radar Study of Slaves Burying Ground for The Oysterponds Historical Society

# Report On The Ground Penetrating Radar Study of Slaves Burying Ground for The Oysterponds Historical Society

## Introduction

On Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Christine Saturno and I arrived at Orient, NY to conduct a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the Slaves Burying Ground. We timed the survey to coincide with a dry day following a primarily dry week, and began the survey at 11:30 AM, just before low tide in an effort to ensure that the groundwater table was as low as possible so as to maximize the depth of the radar penetration. The Surficial Geologic Map of New York for the Lower Hudson Region (Cadwell et al., 1986) shows the study location contains “glacial outwash” in front of the Harbor Hill moraine. This environment would have been rivers of water melting out of the front of the glacier bringing with them and depositing large quantities of sediment. This is consistent with all other geological reports on the area and indicates that we should expect sorted and layered sand and gravel below the surface. This material would be ideal for GPR surveying provided that it is not saturated with water. The study location is up on a small promontory surrounded by coastal wetland on three sides which would suggest that it is a residual natural landform like the other promontories along the shoreline of Long Beach Bay cut by stream processes when sea level was lower and eroded by subsequent sea level rise.

The orientation of the cemetery is NW-SE (Figure 1), so for simplicity throughout this report we will refer to our *grid* orientation as if the gate to the cemetery is in the *western* wall, and that the two prominent monuments (Maria Tuthill – 1840 & Seth Tuthill – 1850) face east. Our initial measurements of the enclosure show that the west, north, and east walls are 14.8 m long and the south wall is 15.2 m long along the inside. The low rock wall itself is composed of quarried arkose blocks (a type of sandstone) that appear to be the same variety from the Newark basin that were used to build “brownstone” buildings in New York City.

We set up our survey grid as a 12 X 12 m grid with the origin 1.8 m from the west wall and 1.8 m from the south wall, so that we had enough room between the edge of the grid and the walls to maneuver the GPR. In our grid the “Y” axis goes from west to east and the “X” axis goes from south to north (Figure 2). The individual lines for this grid are numbered in sequence, so for example the first line we surveyed in the grid was “y0” which ran south to north on the east side of the Tuthill’s monuments, and the second line was “y1” which was parallel to y0, but 0.5 m east and ran just to the west of the Tuthill’s footstones. Our third line “y2” was again parallel to the others, but 0.5 m from y1 and ran just to the east of the Tuthill’s footstones. The eastern most line in the grid is therefore y24 (12 m east of the first line). These numbers are shown on all GPR *grid* cross-sections so that they can be correctly oriented.

The GPR we used is a Sensors & Software Noggin with external Global Position System (GPS) and propelled on a cart. Our first survey action was to cover the grid at 0.5 m line spacing using our 250 MHz antenna set to read to a depth of 3.0 m (9.84 feet). This allowed us to generate a 3D depth model through which we could take 10 cm depth slices in map view. During this survey we also recorded a digital flag on our line whenever the transect passed just to the east of a monument or marker stone in the field, so that we could later determine if there were any specific anomalies associated with the monuments or marker stones. Once we had completed the grid we also ran the GPR across single lines between the outside of the grid and the inside of the wall for all four sides. GPR cross-sections done

outside the grid are simply labeled “Line 1” – “Line 4” (Figure 1). On the west side this line (Line 1) passed behind the monuments for the Tuthills, and the location of the monuments were again digitally flagged. Once this was completed we ran one long line from the inside of the east wall (Line 5, which begins grid line x3 in reverse), through the gate and down the path to the edge of Narrow River Road (Figures 1 & 3). Finally we switched our antenna to the 500 MHz unit which would give us higher resolution results, but cannot penetrate as deep into the ground. We set it to record down to 2 m depth (6.56 ft) and re-surveyed several of the south-north (y) grid lines to give us more contrast at burial depths. Lines from the 500 MHz survey are labelled as Lines 6-16, but will be referenced to using their corresponding survey grid line designations in “y-axis” coordinates (Figure 4).

## Results

### Overview

The first critical result is that ground between the surface and 3 m depth contains two distinctive units (Figure 3). The upper unit from the surface to about 1 m depth (~3 feet) does not appear to be the glacial outwash we were expecting, but rather what I would call a more “massive” (meaning not layered) sediment – probably sand. Within this top layer the GPR picked up many “reflectors” which are buried objects somewhat larger than the background sediment grain size. These can be seen in the radar readouts as downward opening parabola with the depth of the object being measured at the very top of the parabola (Figure 5). The widths of the parabola **do not** indicate the size of the object, but rather the velocity that the radio wave is traveling through the ground. (You will notice that the geometry of the parabola are all the same meaning that the density of the soil is consistent throughout this top layer.) Most of these reflectors are consistent with stones and are generally between the surface to about 0.5 m (~1.5 feet) deep. There is one reflector however, that is more consistent with being metal objects on line x23 (x=11.5 m) at y=7.9 m and is probably just below the surface (Figure 6). I saw this in the GPR survey on the day of the survey but did not see anything immediately obvious at that location.

A second critical result is that the thickness of this upper sedimentary unit changes just outside the burial ground enclosure. An examination of Line 5 (Figures 1&3) shows that it is a little more than a meter (~3+ feet) within the enclosure but west of the gate the land surface drops down and just a few meters past the gate towards the road the lower unit is only about 0.5 meters below the surface. It gets a little thicker again near the road and at about 3 meters from the road (~10 feet) everything becomes obscured likely by road engineering. The fact that the Burying Ground enclosure is the high point and that the upper unit is thickest there strengthens that hypothesis that it is built up artificially, not just covered in wind-blown sand.

A third observation, and this one comes from the 3D grid, is that the groundwater table is apparent at a depth of about 2.2 m (7.2 ft) at the very northeastern corner and slopes downward to the southwest to below the 3m detection level where the grid is red in Figure 7. You can see the effect of the ground water on the returning deep radar signal when comparing the bottoms of lines x0 (mostly above the groundwater on the right side) with x24 (groundwater higher on the right side washing out the signal). This adds strength to the hypothesis that the field was perhaps built up to make it drier. The

oldest map I could locate quickly was surveyed in 1903 (Figure 8) and does show this promontory sticking out into the wetland.

Fourth, (from the 3D grid) there are several shallow (less ~0.5 meters or less) clusters of buried gravel or stone, mostly running east-west in ~2 m long linear trends about 0.25 - 0.5 m wide. (Figure 2). They show up in the radar cross-sections as strong clusters of reflectors and partly obscure the sediments below them. I don't believe they cover burial sites, however I'm not entirely sure why they should be so strongly oriented with walls of the cemetery if they are indeed natural clusters.

### **Potential for Burials**

There is no direct evidence of any sort of casket or remains in the radar results, however that is expected in burials of this age. Any non-metallic material that was buried has since mostly decomposed and would appear to the radar to be no different than the surrounding sediments. What we would expect to see is a disturbance in the natural stratigraphy (sediment layers) where a hole has been dug and backfilled. The massive upper unit now presents a problem in that it does not have any observable layering in it, so it is nearly impossible to tell if a hole has been dug, therefore we must carefully examine the lower unit in the hopes that any burial would be deep enough to cut into it. In most places at this site that requires a depth of greater than 1.2– 1.4 m (4.0– 4.6 ft). Modern burials are 1.5– 1.8 m (5.0– 6.0 ft). Another indication of burial would be a layered mounding of back-fill within the grave that may be visible within the massive upper unit or a monument (stone) buried above the body (which is not common but has been observed in some historical burials).

Let's first examine the area between the monuments for the Tuthills and their footstones, as these all appear to be period correct marble and so we would expect an undisturbed traditional period burial. This would include transects y0, and y1. Figure 9 is line y0 and y1 from 250 MHz antenna. The digital flags in y0 mark where the monuments for the Tuthills are just to the west of the GPR transect (1= Maria & 2=Seth). Line y0 does not really show an indication of ground disturbance associated with Maria as I can see what appears to be an undisturbed layer at 1.2 m depth, however I can see what appears to be disturbance down to 2 m associated with Seth. In line y1 the opposite is true as there appears to be a disturbance for Maria down to about 1.7 m and no disturbance for Seth down to 1.2 m. Figure 10 is a repeat of line y1 but with the 250 MHz result on top and the 500 MHz result on the bottom. This image shows that result more clearly but also indicates the possibility of an unmarked burial on the other side of Seth at the 7.5 m mark along line y1. There are other disturbances in the lower unit along line y1 at 3.5 m, 9.0 m, and 11.5 m. The 7.5 and 11.5 m disturbances are fairly prominent, but the 9.0 m disturbance isn't very large. The 3.5 m disturbance barely cuts into the lower unit at 1.2 m depth and is likely too shallow to be a burial.

The result from line y1 is repeated in line y2 (Figure 11) but again shows up better in the 500 MHz signal. Using a color filter on the 500 MHz readings from lines y1 and y2 (Figure 12) show these disturbances a little better even though y2 is beyond the footstones. Given that we really only need to focus between the depths between 1 and 2 m, let's investigate the rest of the detailed analysis using the 500 MHz results, for which we took two adjacent 0.5 meter transects between every row of stones (Figure 4). Lines y5 and y6 (Figure 13) show potential disturbances at about the 5 and 7 m marks. The cluster of shallow reflectors from 7.5-9.5 m are part of the largest reflector cluster at the site (Figure 2). Lines y10 and y11 (Figure 14) show a very weak potential for a shallow burial site at 5-5.5 m (I don't believe it is) and again a shielded signal under the reflector cluster at 8-8.5 m. Lines y14 and y15 are on

Figure 15. Line y15 shows a weak signal return at about 1.5-2.0 m and 11.5-12 m. At this point along the northern wall (at the 12 m mark there is a bush sticking out into our path that made surveying here a bit more difficult, plus we are starting to get into the area where groundwater is shallower at depth weakening our signal. I don't believe I see anything in these lines or line y19, y20, and y24 (Figures 16 & 17) that I would consider potential burial sites.

## Conclusions

I think it's possible that the top 1-1.2 m of soil at this location is not natural and has been used to raise the site higher above the local groundwater table to provide a drier surface. If this is true, I can't speculate whether or not this was done specifically to provide a dry burial site or for some other origin like a building foundation or garden, however the 1904 map shows no structure directly associated with this property. I suspect the top layer is quite sandy and the lower layer below 1.2 m is the glacial outwash that is mapped as covering most of the area of Orient south of the Harbor Hill moraine that runs along the north shore. It is possible that the upper unit is natural and if it is sandy with a lack of structure then I suspect a shallow water depositional environment like a lake formed here sometime after the glacier but before sea-level rose.

I do believe that the graves of Maria and Seth Tuthill contain remains although I am more certain of Maria's grave than I am about Seth's. I don't see any pattern in the shallow reflectors that might indicate shallowly buried grave markers (Figure 18), however I think it's possible that there are other unmarked burials in the western area of the grid and specifically in the northwestern corner (Figure 19). I don't believe that there are any other potential burials at this site, but an investigation near the location of the metallic reflector might be worth doing even though I doubt that it marks a burial location (Figures 6 & 19). The unique soil stratigraphy makes it very difficult to spot soil disturbances, given the "massive" nature of the upper unit and the clusters of what I believe are stones in it.

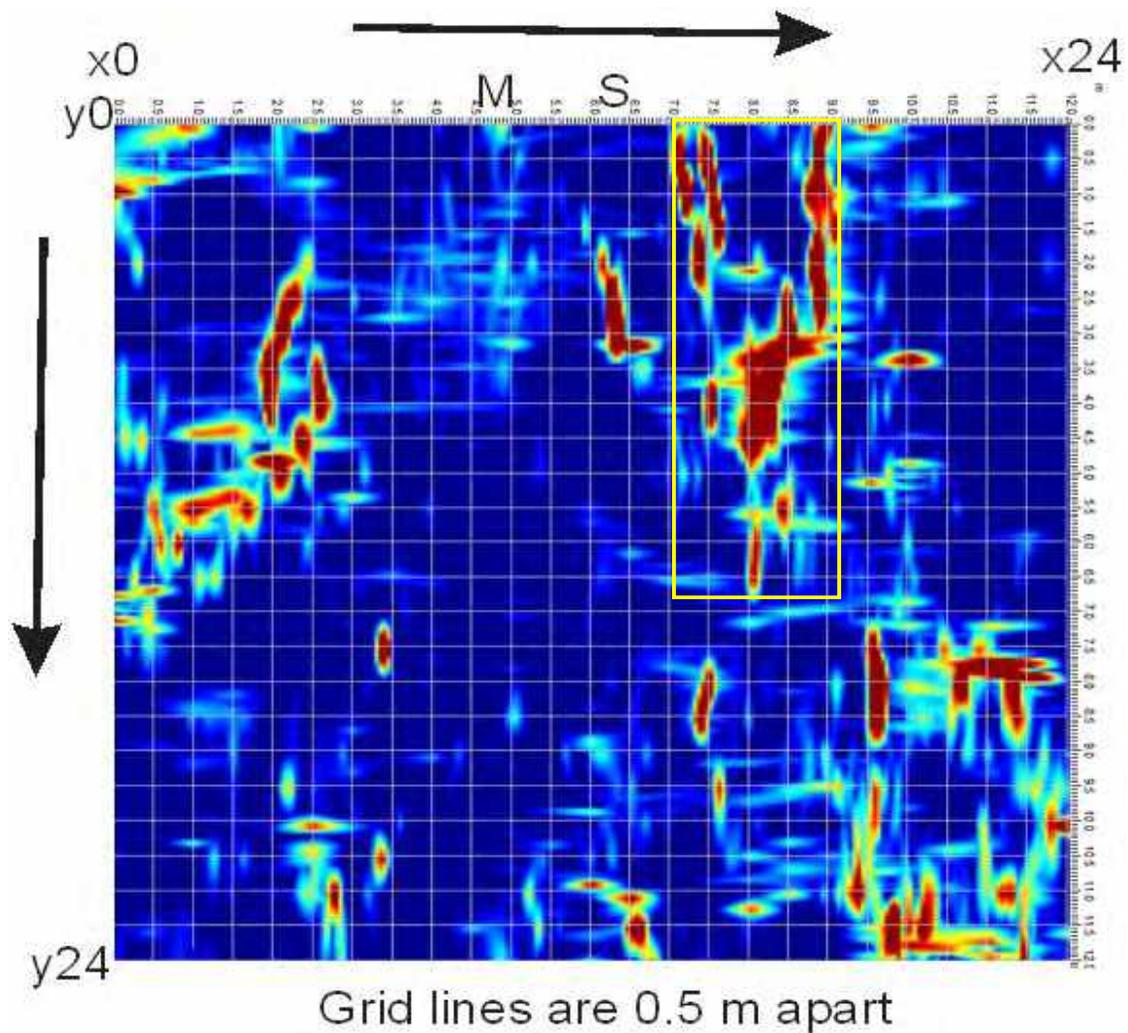
I do not believe that the rocks currently used to signify unmarked graves across the property signify any known burials and were placed there as symbolic.

Dr. John A. Rayburn  
Professor of Geology  
SUNY New Paltz

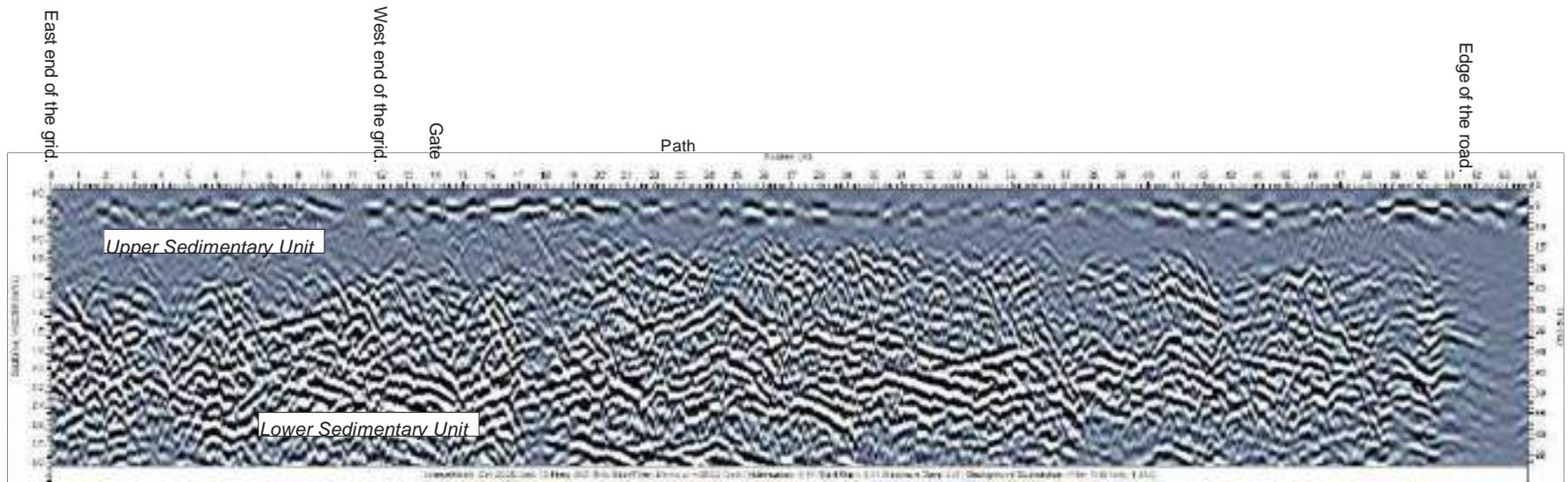
September 21, 2020



**Figure 1.** Orientation of the study site with 12 x 12 m grid and all other survey lines. For simplification I refer to *grid north* as towards the right of this photo and west towards the top. The 0,0 point of the grid would therefore be in the study defined “southwest” corner near the gate. Lines 1-4 were surveyed between the grid and the wall and line 5 was surveyed through the grid and along the path to the road.



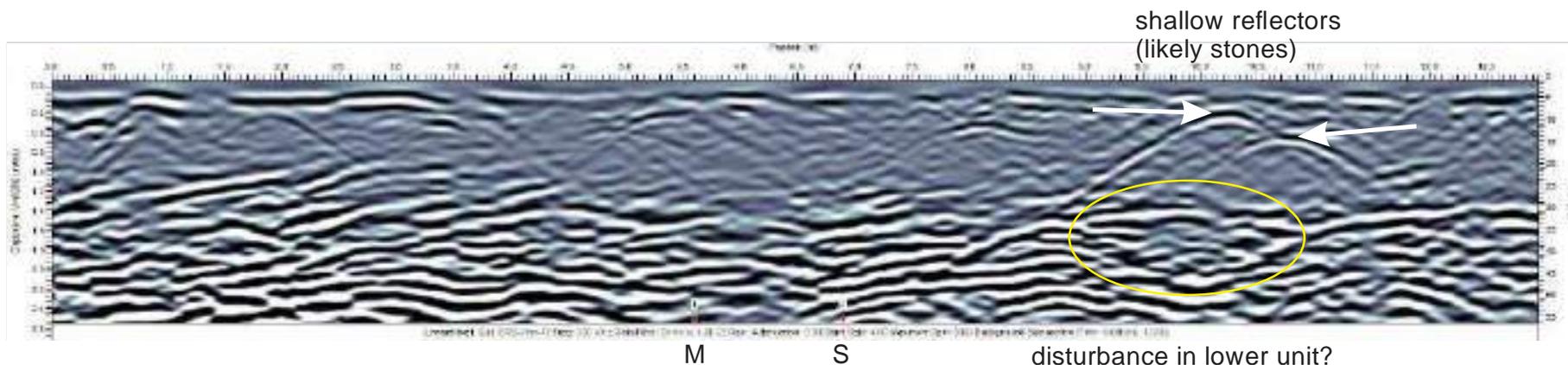
**Figure 2.** Layout of the 12x12 m grid with x increasing to the north and y increasing to the east. The origin 1.8 m from the west wall and 1.8 m from the south wall, so that we had enough room between the edge of the grid and the walls to maneuver the GPR. The location of Maria (M) and Seth (S) Tuthill’s headstones are just off the grid on the west side. This is a 3D GPR depth slice showing the strength of “reflectors” (likely clusters of rocks) at 0.5 to 0.6 m (1.6 – 2.0 ft.) depth. The yellow box represents a cluster line discussed in Figure 13.



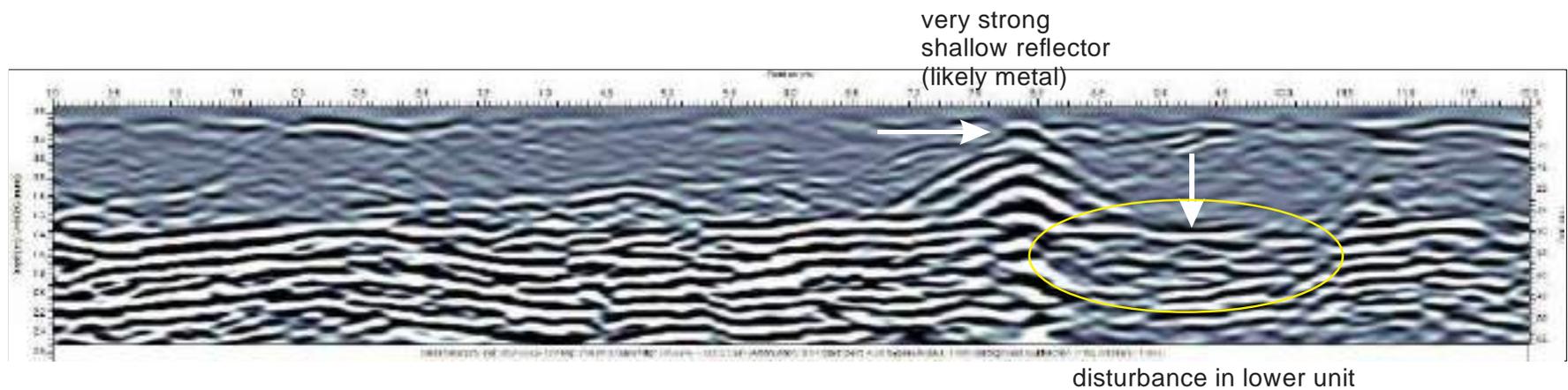
**Figure 3.** GPR line 5 surveyed with 250 MHz antenna from the eastern end of the grid, through the gate, down the path and to the edge of the road. You can clearly see two distinctive sedimentary units. An upper “massive” (no sedimentary structures) unit that is more than a meter thick through the property, and where the path drops down in elevation thins to less than half a meter. The lower unit is likely “glacial outwash” with is mostly sand and gravel melted out of the front of the glacier and deposited by streams or rivers.



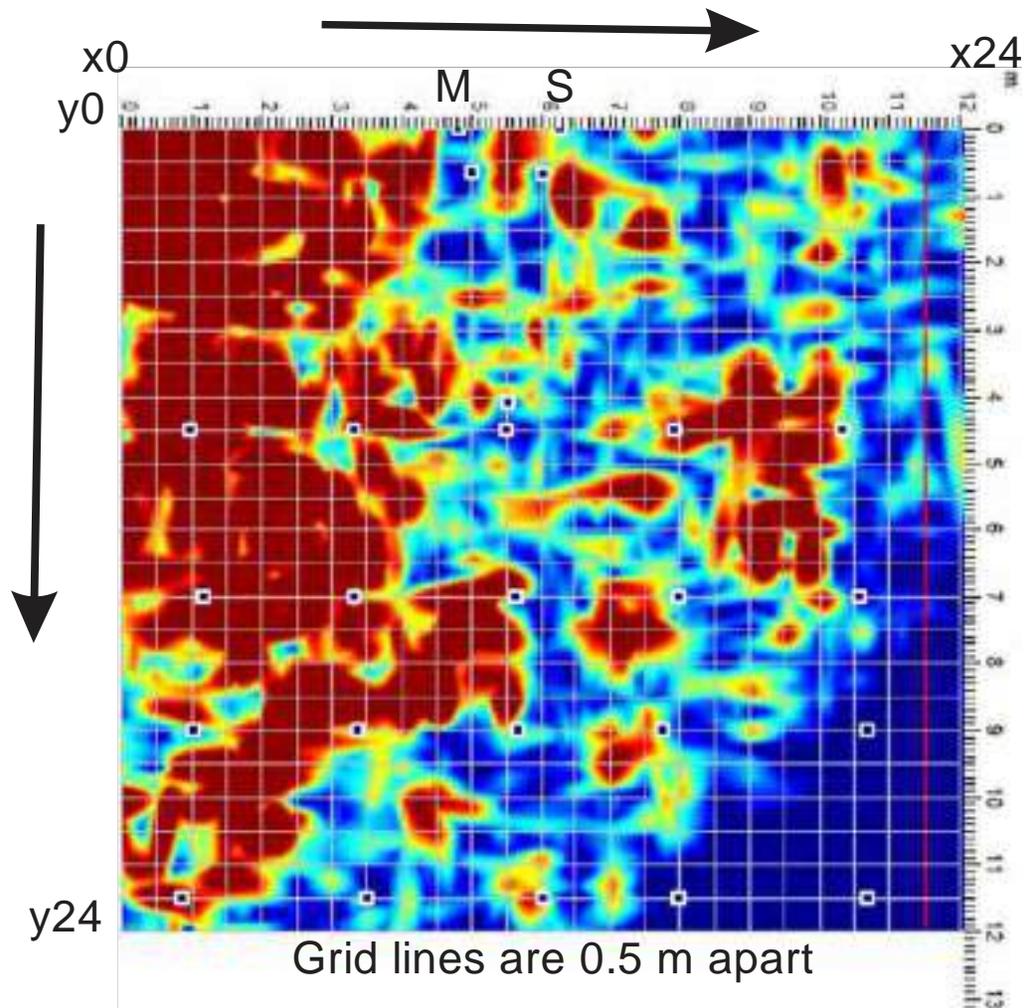
**Figure 4.** Location of GPR transect lines using 500 MHz antenna, and where they overlay the 12 x 12 m grid.



**Figure 5.** Line 1 taken with the 250 MHz antenna between the west end of the grid and the western wall (see Figure 1.). This is behind the Tuthill's monuments (M&S). You can see the two distinctive sedimentary units as well as some shallow reflectors in the upper unit which are likely small stones. The depth of the stones is measured at the top of the parabola. Below the two prominent reflectors marked above there appears to be the sort of variation in the lower unit that reaches a depth of 2 m (~6 ft) that might indicate a back-filled hole at about 10 m along Line 1, however given that the top of the disturbance is in line with the contact between the two units at about 1.5 m depth, I think this is more likely to be a natural scour and fill created in the ancient stream that deposited these sediments.



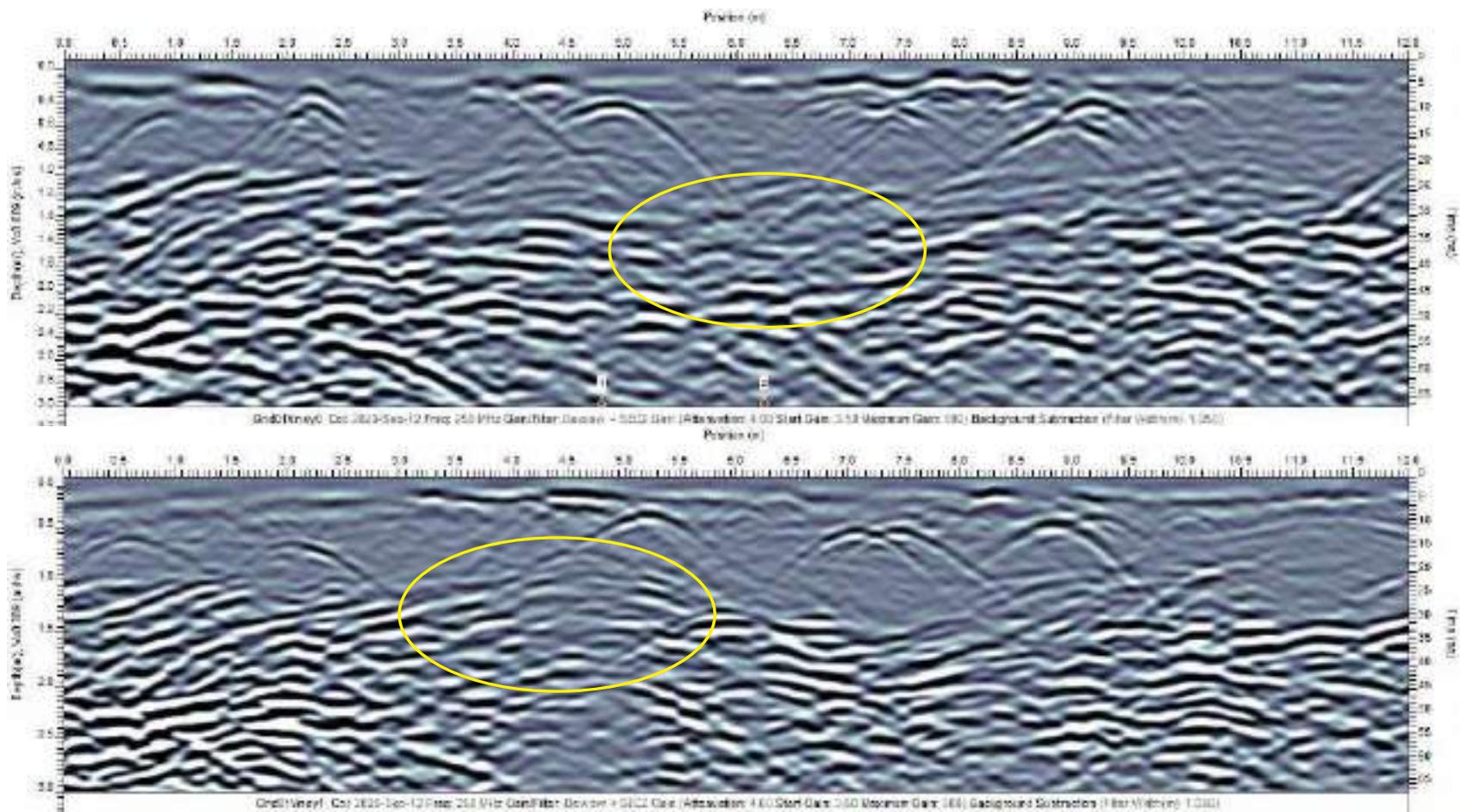
**Figure 6.** Line x23 (west to east). The two units are clearly differentiated and there is one very strong reflector that likely represents a piece of metal just below the surface at  $y=7.9$  m. I saw this reflector on the GPR on the day of the survey but did not see anything obvious in the ground at that location. Just to the east of it ( $y = 9$  m) the signal for the lower unit again shows a disturbance down to a depth of about 2 m. This again may be either a back filled hole or a nature scour fill. The “washed out” appearance of the lower unit signal east of the metal object is perhaps due to shallower groundwater at the northeast corner of the site. The effect is even stronger in lines x24 & 3 closer to the wall (see Figure 7).



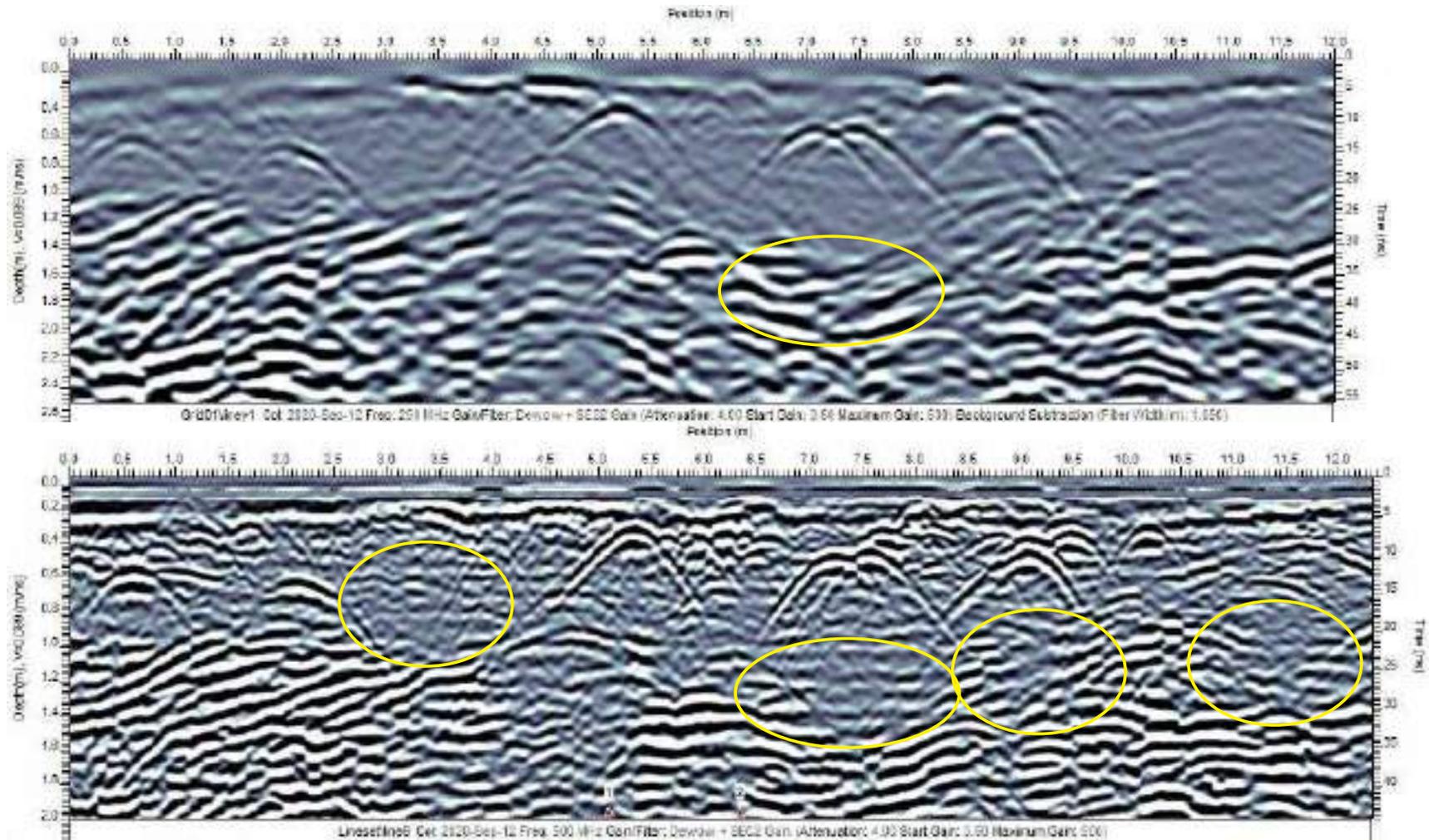
**Figure 7.** 3D GPR depth slice set for 3.0 m (9.8 ft) showing in dark blue the areas that are saturated with groundwater at that depth. The groundwater table is dipping from the northeast to the southwest across the study area. The locations where the GPR passed by monuments and marker rocks are flagged with dots.



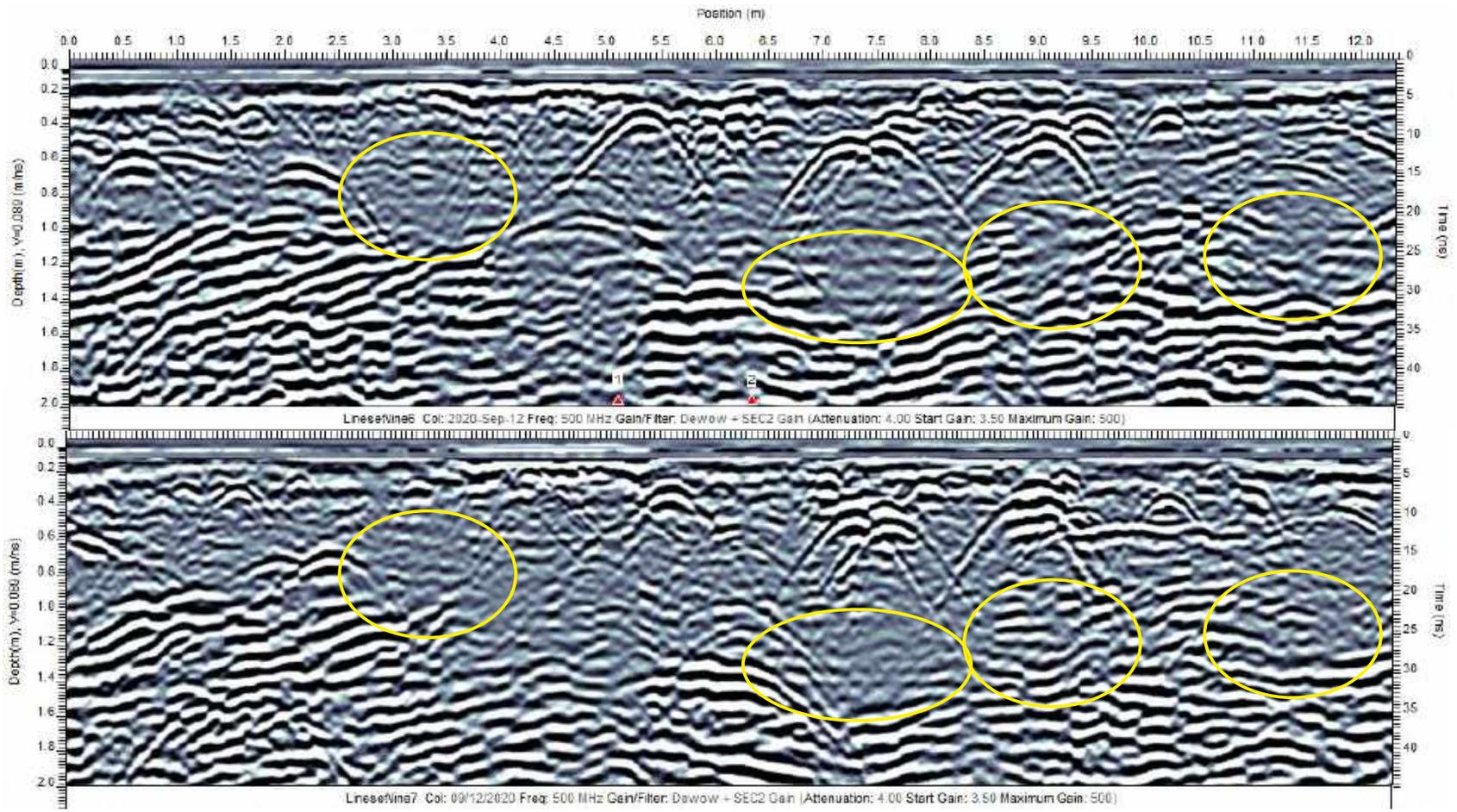
**Figure 8.** 1904 (Surveyed in 1903) USGS topographic map of the study area showing the site as a promontory into the coastal wetland. The Harbor Hill moraine (southern end of the glacier) is prominent on the north shore as “Browns Hills” and “Terry Point”. The nearest properties to the study site at the time were two houses at the end of a dead-end road that is now King Street.



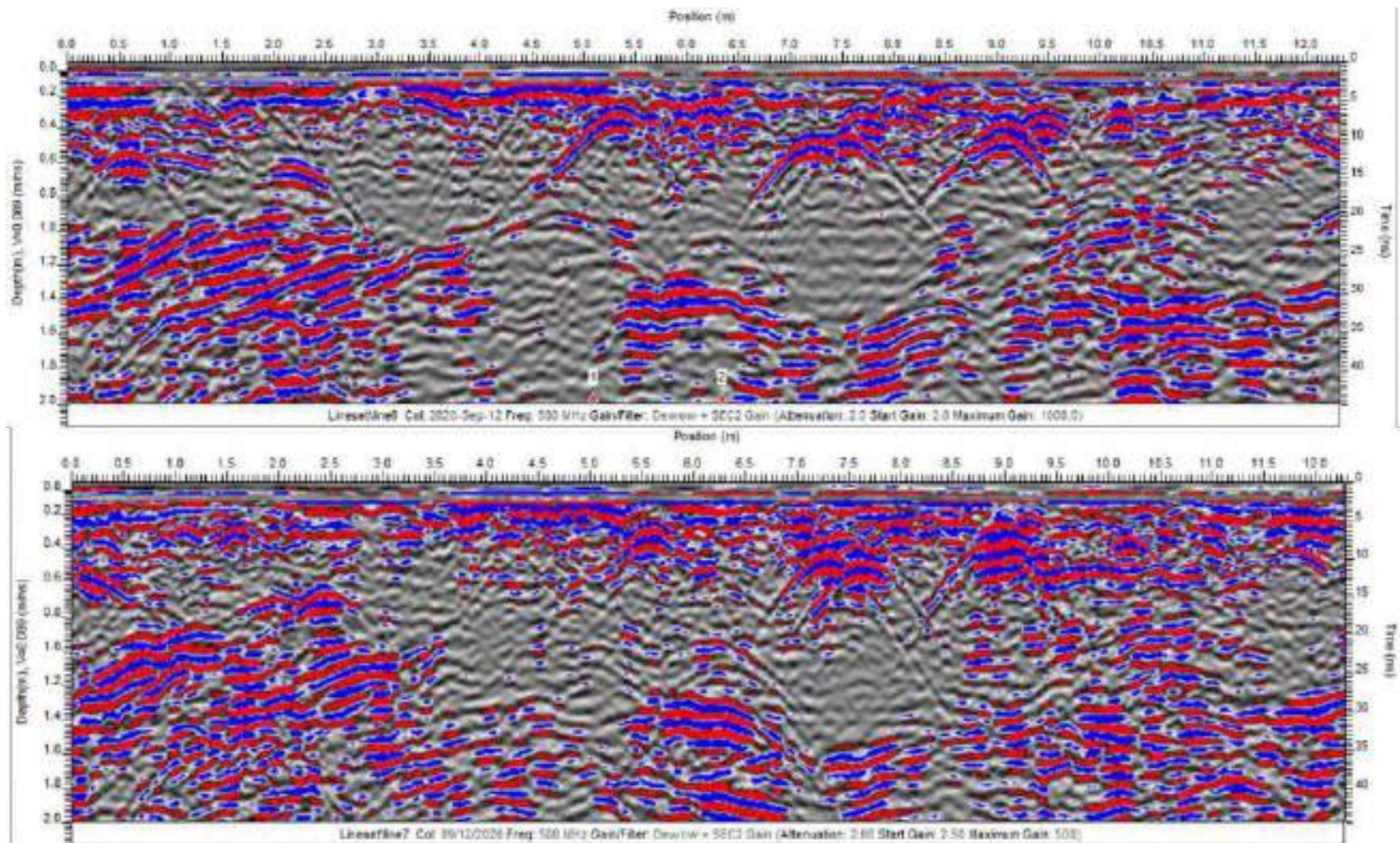
**Figure 9.** Lines y0 (top) & y1 (bottom) from the 250 MHz antenna. The digital flags on the bottom of y0 indicate the center of the monuments from Maria (1) and Seth (2) where the radar passed right in front of them. I see a good indication of disturbance in the lower unit down to 2 m for Seth in line y0, but Maria’s burial is better indicated in line y1. The zone for Maria’s burial appears “washed out” possible because there is something in the soil interfering with the radar signal.



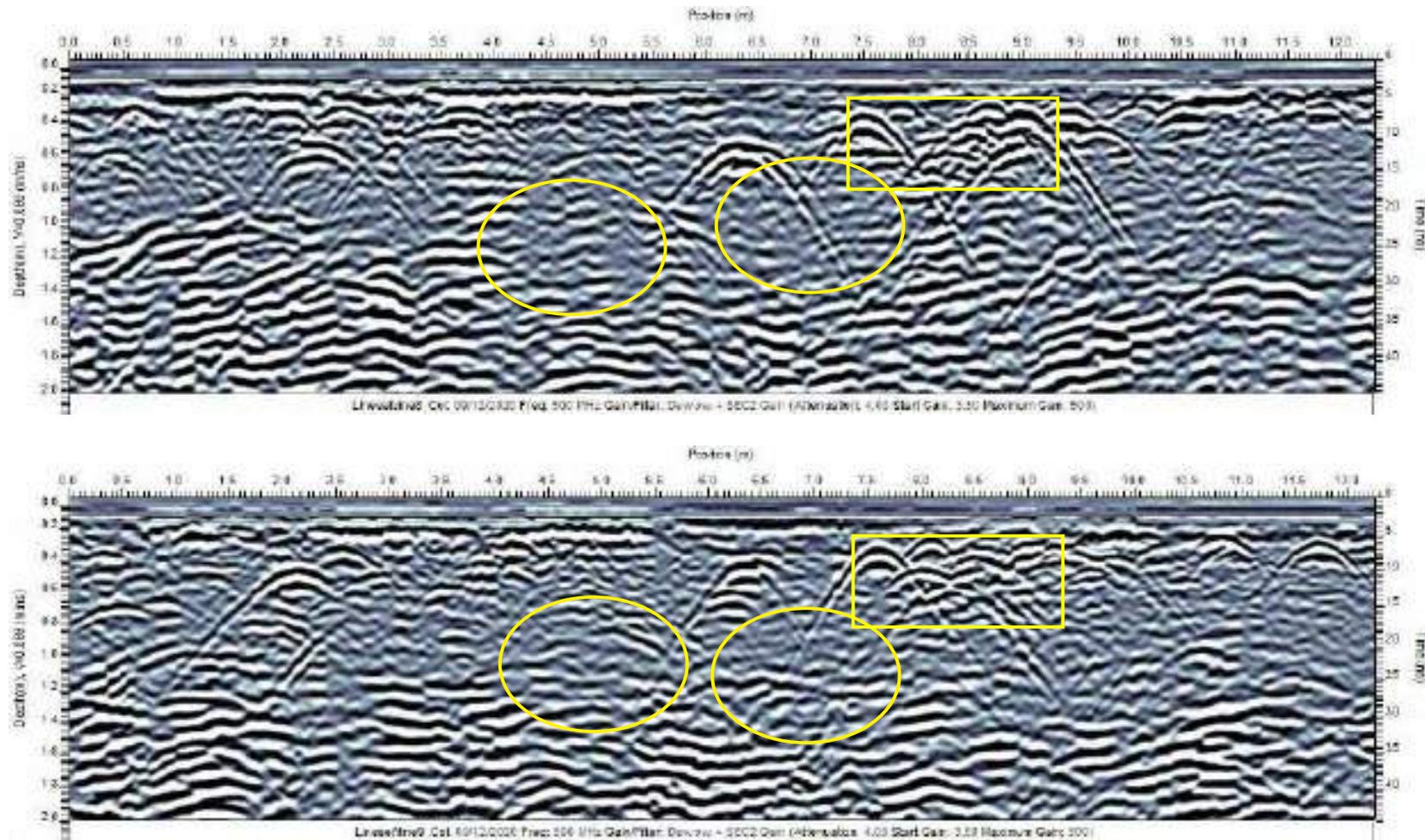
**Figure 10.** The top line is the same as y1 from Figure 9, but the bottom line is the same transect imaged with the 500 MHz antenna. The disturbance associated with Maria’s grave is even more apparent, however there is now a clearer indication of a potential burial at 7.5 m, although it is a shallower anomaly going down to a depth of only about 1.6 m (5.25 ft.). If this a burial, then either Seth is actually buried a little to the north of his monument or this is a separate burial. There are also the indication of a shallower and smaller anomaly at 3.5 m, 9.0 m, and 11.5 m along the line.



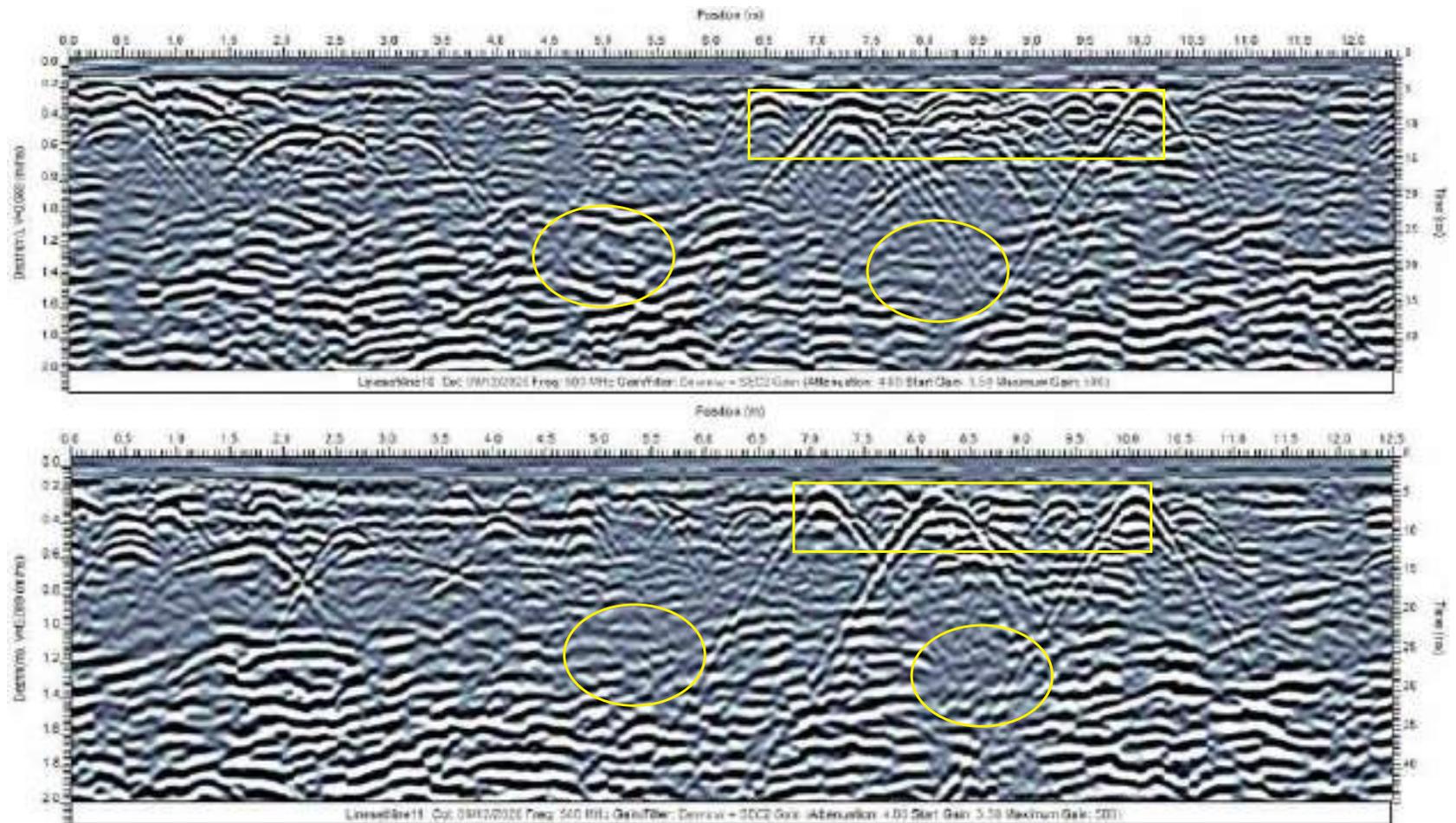
**Figure 11.** The top line is the same as y1 from Figure 10, but the bottom line y2 which is parallel and half a meter to the east (just beyond the footstones for Maria and Seth). All of the anomalies appear to be continuous as is the one at Maria’s location, although with the exception of the 7.5 m anomaly, a little less evident. There is still no clear evidence of a burial corresponding to Seth’s monument.



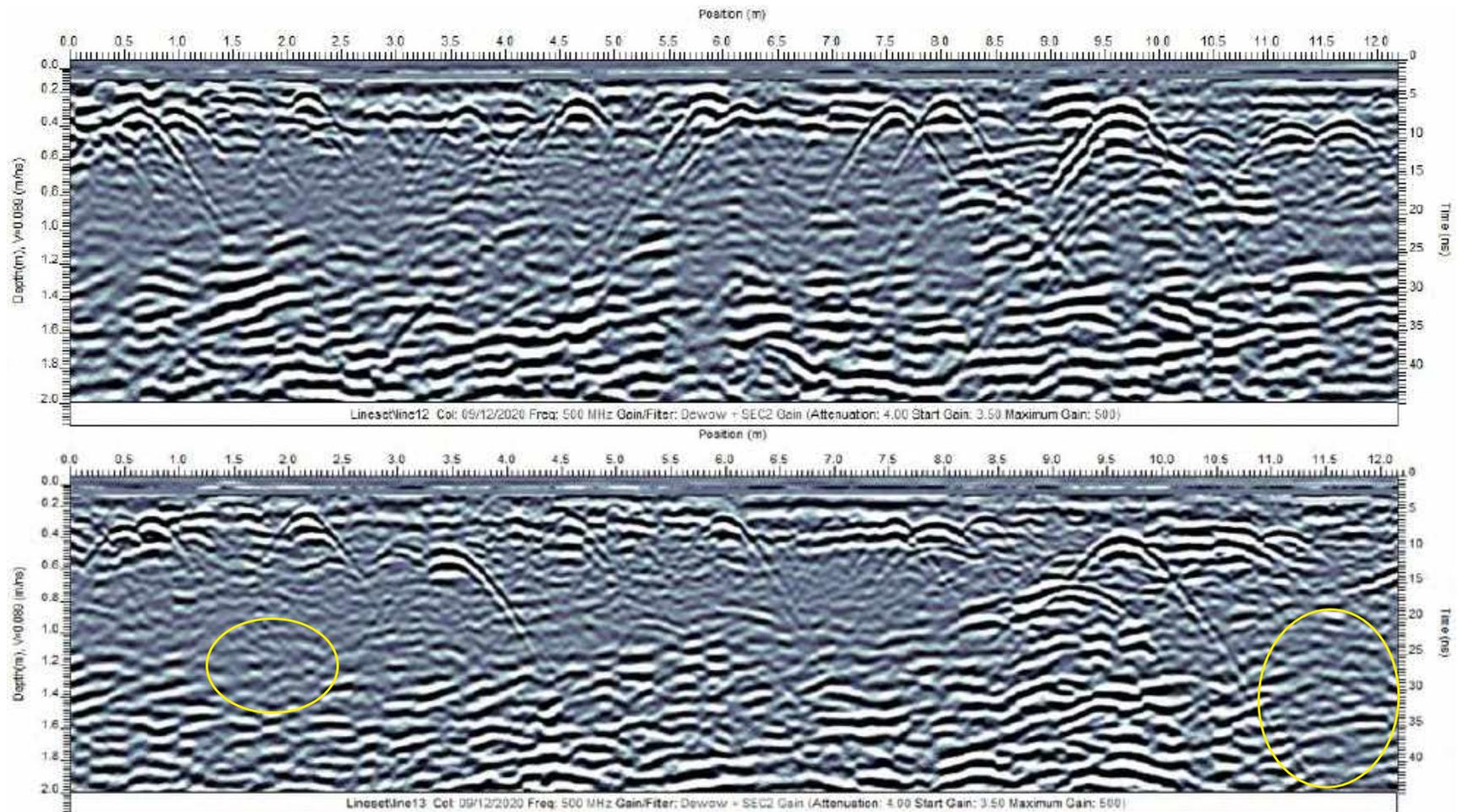
**Figure 12.** The same radar plots as Figure 11, but with a color filter applied to highlight the disturbances in the lower unit.



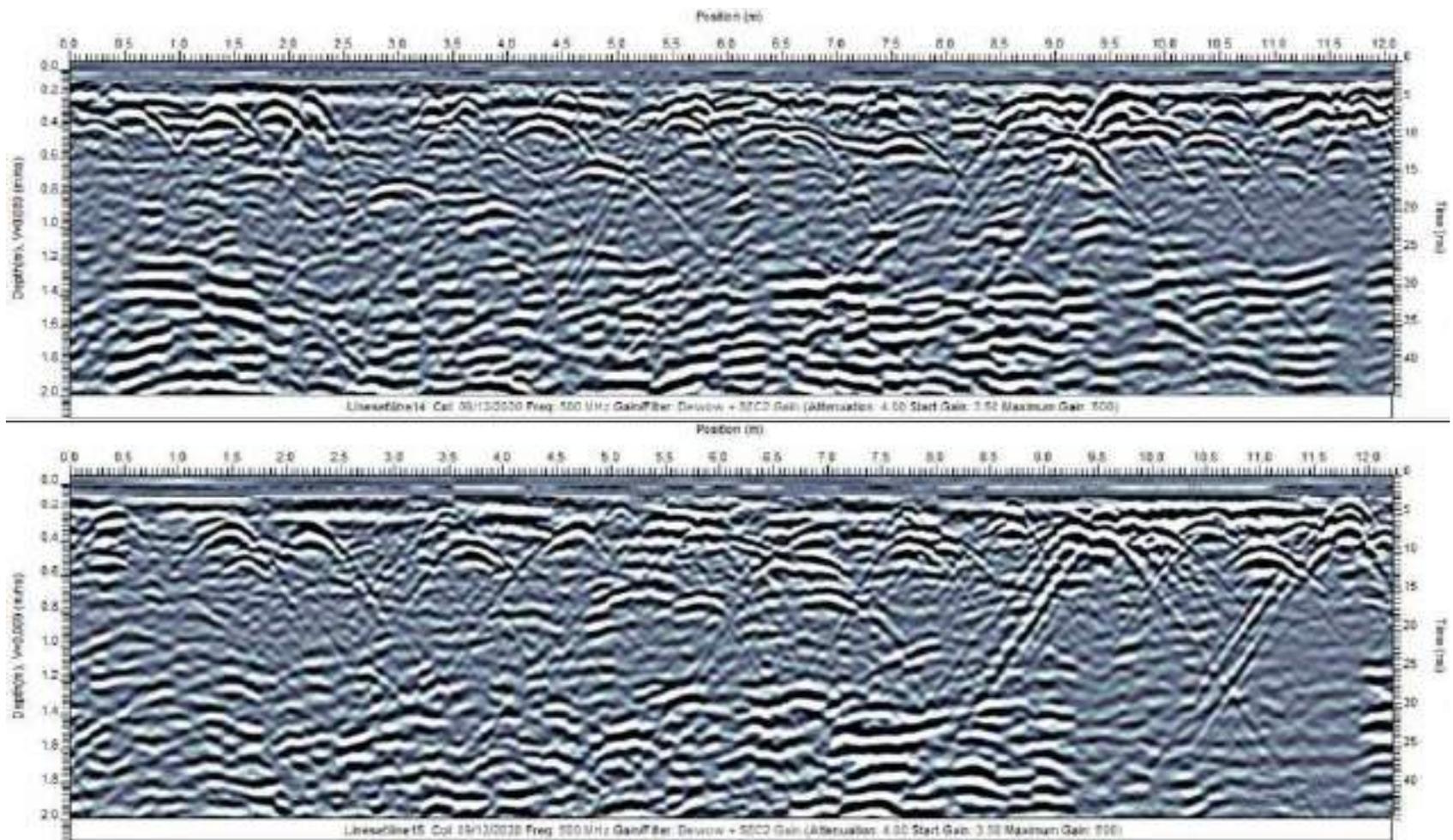
**Figure 13.** Lines y5 & y6 with the 500 MHz antenna. Shallow anomalies in the bottom unit at 5 m and 7 m, but not strong indications of potential burials. A cluster of shallow reflectors (box) from 7.5 m to 9.5 m are part of a long liner E-W line that start at the west end of grid (y=0 m) and runs almost 7 meters (See figure 2.) The 7.5 and 9.0 m anomalies from lines y1 & y2 lie under this line, and it's possible that the anomaly at 10 m in Line 1 (Figure 5) also does, although it's outside the grid so can't be directly connected.



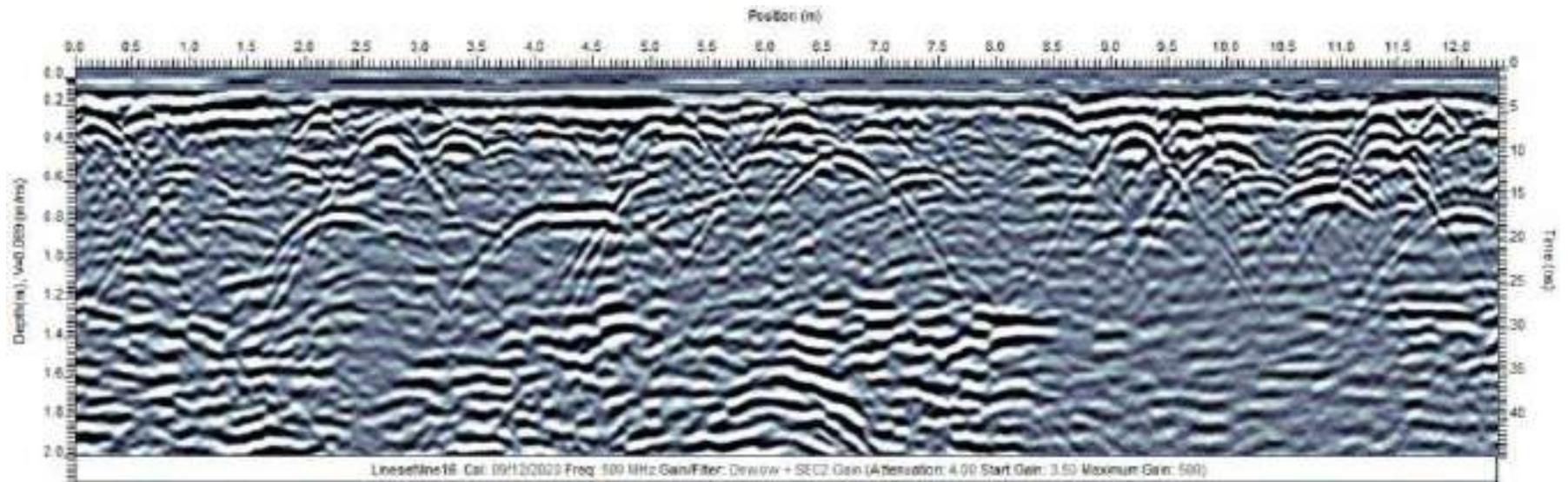
**Figure 14.** Lines y10 & y11 with the 500 MHz antenna. A shallow anomaly in the lower unit at 5 – 5.5 m and a deeper one at 8 – 8.5 m. The deeper anomaly is directly under the shallow linear rock cluster (Figures 2 & 13). The “washed out” appearance may be due to radar shielding by the rocks.



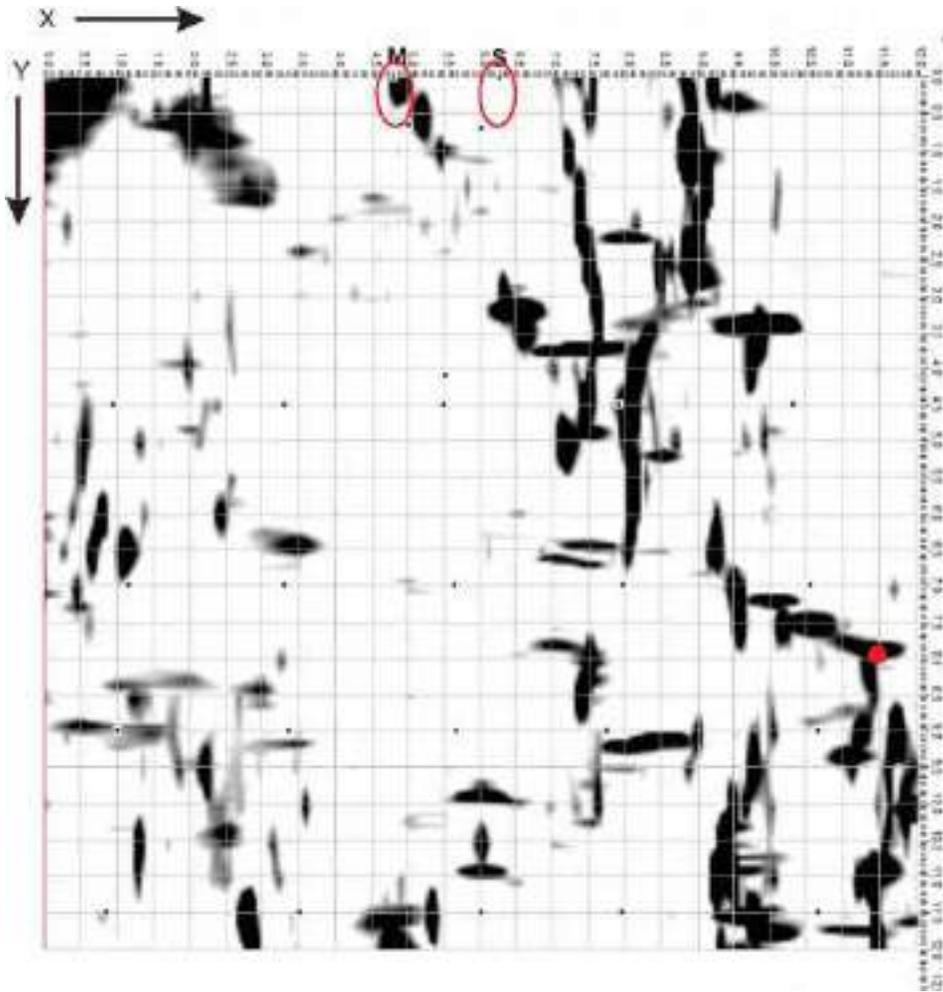
**Figure 15.** Lines y14 & y15 with the 500 MHz antenna. Line y14 does not indicate anything that could be interpreted as a potential burial. The linear rock cluster sill appears between 7.5 – 10 m, but is a little deeper in the ground. There is a weak disturbance in the lower unit in y15 at 1.5 – 2.0 meters, but again it's shallow. At the north end of y15 the radar signal is very washed out. This may be due to the shallower groundwater table or the roots of the bush that sticks out across the wall at this end of the grounds. From here to the eastern end of the grid the lower unit is more difficult to see near the northern wall.



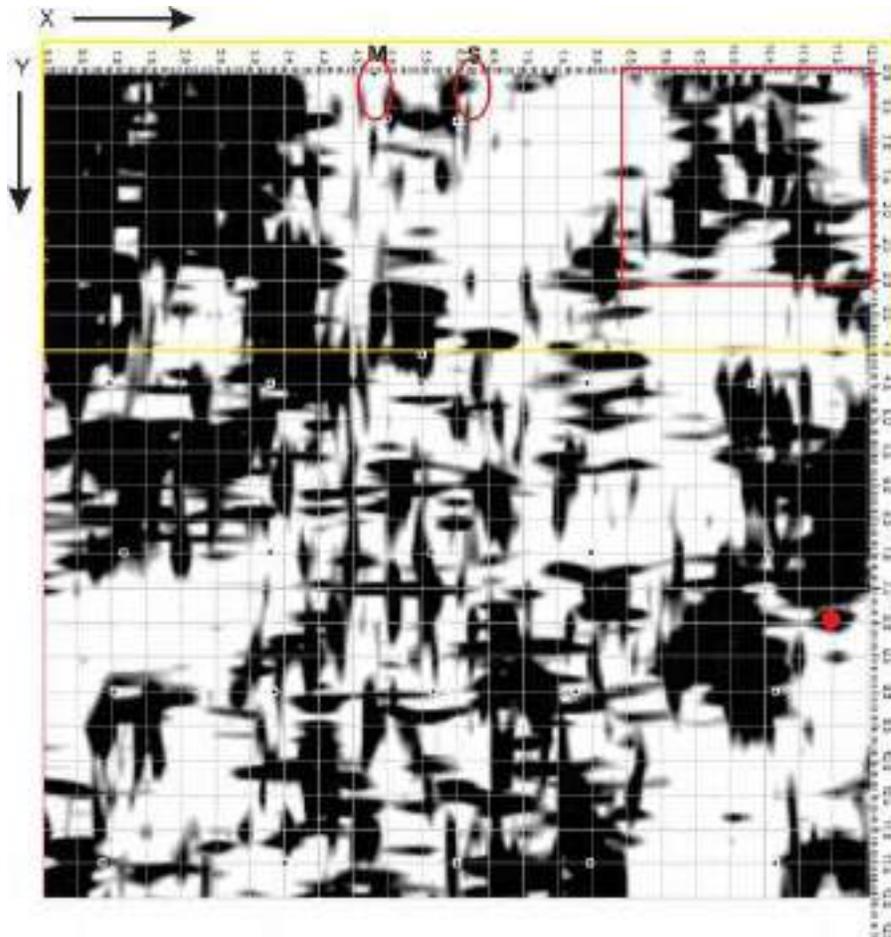
**Figure 16.** Lines y19 & y20 with the 500 MHz antenna. No obvious anomalies, and more lower unit “washout” near the northern wall likely due to groundwater. Also there appears to be far more shallow reflectors at this end of the field, indicating that the upper unit is stonier.



**Figure 17.** Line y24 along the eastern edge of the grid with the 500 MHz antenna. Very similar to line y20 with no indication of burials at depth.



**Figure 18.** 3D Grid focused at 0.5 m (1.6 ft) depth. West at the top and the locations of the monuments and marker stones are flagged. Maria Tuthill's headstone location is marked with "M" and Seth's is marked with "S" and the red ovals approximate the area of their burial plots. The red dot is the location of the metallic reflector. This shows the locations where shallow reflectors (likely stones) are clustered at 0.5 m depth. If buried stones were used to mark graves in this field I would expect to see evenly spaced rows in a preferred orientation. I did not see that at any depth.



**Figure 19.** 3D Grid focused at 1.2 m (4 ft) depth. West at the top and the locations of the monuments and marker stones are flagged. Maria Tuthill's headstone location is marked with "M" and Seth's is marked with "S". The red dot marks the location of the metallic reflector. At this depth I was looking for disturbances in the top of the lower sedimentary unit as the possible indication of a burial site. On this figure those disturbances would more likely be **white colored** areas like at Maria's plot. Again, I would also be looking for evenly spaced indicators in oriented rows which I mostly do not see with the possible exception of the northwestern corner of the grid (red square). My recommendation is that any further exploration focuses on the western end of the field (yellow box) as beyond this area the GPR evidence for burials at reasonable depths is much less convincing.