

MEMORIAL CEMETERY

This memorial recognizes the thirty-eight individuals who were buried on the present site of Rockingham Park at the Crossroads during the 18th and 19th centuries. Only three legible grave stones were found: Azzie S., Daughter of John & Mary Sheets, 1854-1873; Elizabeth, Daughter of John Albright, 1787-1873; and John Albright, 1797-1881. A local historian believes the original site of the cemetery is the Sheets Family Cemetery where some descendants of John Sheets (1755-1836) were buried.

John "Junior" Sheets (1784-1871) an established landowner of German descent, was a soldier in the War of 1812. His first wife, Mary "Polly" Sheets (1793-1844), and a number of his children are believed to be buried here, including his daughter Nancy "Bettie" Sheets Wise (1818-1874), wife of Adam Wise (1820-1862). Adam Wise was killed in the Civil War Battle of Kernstown. Also, likely buried here is John "Junior" Sheets' son, John Sheets, Jr. (1816-1863), who was killed in the Battle of Manassas. Asberine "Azzie" Suraphine Sheets, whose stone is noted above, "died

of smallpox and was 'buried between sundown and dark' the day she died." The Albright headstones are believed to be from relatives of Samuel Sheets' wife.

The burial remains discovered during construction of the park were moved to this location under the supervision of the County Circuit Court and an archeologist, and the consent of the Department

of Historic Resources. The markers are laid out in a similar pattern to the original cemetery, with the smaller stones representing what were likely children's graves. On display are the three legible headstones and other markers from the original cemetery.

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