**ground penetrating radar to detect graves and assess conditions in the african-american section of oakland cemetery, georgia**

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The Oakland Cemetery located in downtown Atlanta, Georgia is one of the largest, most diverse, and well-known burial sites in the state. The cemetery is home to famous historic figures such as author Margret Mitchell and country singer Kenny Rogers as well as important groups in Georgia's history such as civil war soldiers, African-American slaves, members of Atlanta’s early Jewish community, among others. Different sections of the cemetery are dedicated to these various groups from Georgia’s history and the Historic Oakland Foundation is tasked with preservation and upkeep of this important place. As part of these efforts, the Historic Oakland Foundation put a plan together to refurbish architecture located in the African-American section of the cemetery including brick walkways, retainer walls, curbs outlining family plots, etc. This current study was commissioned to identify the locations of unmarked burials in one part of the African-American section to avoid disturbance and evaluate the underlying condition of historic architecture. A ground penetrating radar investigation was conducted across an area approximately 15 meters x 65 meters using a 400 MHz antenna. The results were useful across the outlined test applications. Roughly 50 GPR reflections indicative of unmarked graves were identified. Areas indicating slumping on historic brick paths were also noted along with what appears to be a buried family plot. The presentation shows how GPR can be used not only for burial identification, but also to answer questions regarding cemetery condition and helps various stakeholders reach important outcomes when employing geophysical methods to non-destructive investigations. The results helped the Historic Oakland Foundation avoid locations during refurbishment that might contain clandestine graves, but also helped prioritize areas for possible redevelopment for problem areas identified with the GPR.