

Landmarks Preservation Commission
March 18, 1997; Designation List 278
LP-1956

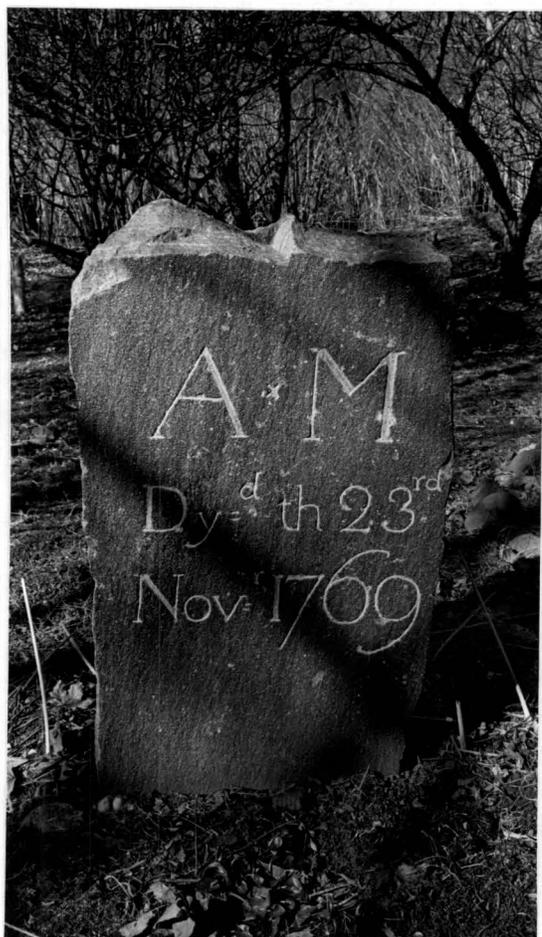
MOORE-JACKSON CEMETERY, 31-30 to 31-36 54th Street
(aka 31-31 to 31-37 51st Street), Queens. Established by 1733.

Landmark Site: Borough of Queens Tax Map Block 1131, Lot 12.

On January 14, 1997, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Moore-Jackson Cemetery, and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 4). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. A total of nineteen witnesses spoke in favor of designation, including Deputy Borough President Peter Magnani and representatives of Congressman Thomas Manton, Assemblyman Joseph Crowley, Council Member Walter L. McCaffrey, Queens Community Board 1, the Queens Historical Society, the Queensborough Preservation League, the Northern Woodside Coalition, the Greater Astoria Historical Society, the Sunnyside Foundation for Community Planning and Preservation, the Jackson Heights Beautification Group, the Municipal Art Society, the New York Landmarks Conservancy, and the Historic Districts Council; there were no speakers in opposition. The Commission has received several letters and other expressions of support in favor of this designation.*

Summary

The Moore-Jackson Cemetery is a rare surviving Colonial-era family burial ground. The Moore family burial ground was established by 1733 on the farm of Samuel Moore and Charity Hallett Moore, not far from their house on Bowery Bay Road (present-day 51st Street) at the outskirts of the colonial village of Newtown. The Moores were wealthy landowners who played a prominent role in the development of Queens and intermarried with such leading families as the Rikers, Berriens, Blackwells, Rapelyes, and Jacksons. The cemetery remained in active use until at least 1868 and contained at least fifty-one graves which were marked with fieldstone, brownstone, and marble gravestones. Many of the headstones were lost or broken when the site suffered a period of neglect in the early twentieth century. In 1936 the site was rehabilitated and the surviving stones were re-erected at the east end of the property. Today fifteen gravestones survive including the exceptionally well preserved fieldstone gravestone of Augustine Moore, dated 1769. One of a handful of such Colonial-era family graveyards with surviving headstones remaining in Queens, the Moore-Jackson Cemetery is maintained by members of the local community and is a tangible reminder of the borough's early history.



*The Moore-Jackson Cemetery was placed in trust as a burial grounds for the family under the will of Nathaniel Moore, Jr., in 1827. On the death of the sole surviving trustee of the express trust, legal title to the trust corpus vested in the Surrogate's Court of Queens County. The Surrogate was duly notified of this hearing.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The Moore Family and the Early History of Newtown¹

In 1642, a group of colonists from New England secured a patent for 13,332 acres in northwestern Queens from the Dutch government in New Amsterdam and established the first European town on Long Island at the headwaters of Newtown Creek at Maspeth. The colonists abandoned this site in 1643 after Native Americans attacked it, but in 1652 another group of English settlers established a new settlement on the Maspeth patent at the present-day intersection of Broadway and Queens Boulevard (Elmhurst). Originally called Middleburg, after a town in the Netherlands where many English non-conformists had found refuge, the town soon came to be known as Newtown to distinguish it from the earlier settlement. In 1656, faced with an uncertain future, due to the refusal of Governor Stuyvesant to transfer the Maspeth patent to them, the settlers negotiated with the surrounding Native Americans to purchase an equivalent amount of land.

Among the landholders who took part in the purchase was the town's minister, Rev. John Moore, an Independent minister who had preached in New England and Hempstead, Long Island, before settling in Newtown, perhaps as early as 1652. Reverend Moore preached and held services in the Town House at Newtown until his death in 1657. He was survived by a widow and several children who remained in Newtown and became prominent members of the community.

Reverend Moore's second son, Captain Samuel Moore (d. 1717), was a farmer and land-owner, who served in the local militia and held various public offices, among them magistrate. In 1684, Captain Moore purchased a farm near the Poor Bowery and moved there with his wife Mary Reed Moore and their eight children. In 1701, Captain Moore conveyed the property to his two eldest sons, Samuel and Joseph Moore.² Joseph Moore (1679-1756) took the northern portion of the farm which lay near Bowery Bay in the present-day neighborhood of Steinway. According to William O'Gorman, a nineteenth-century antiquarian who wrote about old Newtown, Joseph inherited his father's farmhouse, which passed down through the Moore family and appears as the property of Samuel Hallett Moore on Riker's map of 1852 (fig. 1).

Samuel Moore (d.1758) took the southern part of the farm lying near the Bowery Bay Road (present-day 51st Street) and Train's Meadow in

present-day Woodside. He is thought to have built the now demolished farmhouse (fig. 2), east of Bowery Bay Road which later passed to S. B. Townsend (see Riker's map). In 1705 Samuel Moore married Charity Hallett, of the wealthy land-owning family for whom Hallett's Cove is named. They had ten children,³ some of whom settled in the village of Newtown and some of whom moved to New Jersey or Pennsylvania. Two sons, John Moore (1721-1806) and Nathaniel Moore (1723-1802), became farmers. John Moore married his cousin Patience, daughter of Joseph Moore, and in the mid-1740s purchased a portion of his father's farm and other parcels of land at Train's Meadow. In 1756, following the death of his father-in-law, John purchased Joseph Moore's house and 18 acres of land near Bowery Bay in Steinway.⁴ Nathaniel Moore remained on his father's farm and married a widow, Rebecca Blackwell Barnwell, the granddaughter of Jacob Blackwell, for whom Blackwell's Island is named. In 1756 Nathaniel Moore purchased the Bowery Road farmhouse and 100 acres from his father.⁵ It appears that Samuel, by then a widower, continued to live at the farm with Nathaniel and Rebecca and their four children until his death in 1758.

Nathaniel Moore sided with the loyalists during the American Revolution. In January 1775, he was one of a group of Newtown citizens who advertised their disapproval of the proceedings of the Continental Congress in *Rivington's Gazette*. In January 1776, he was one of four Newtowners arrested and taken before the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia for aiding in the smuggling and stockpiling of arms to be used against the supporters of the United Colonies. In September 1776, when a major portion of the British army was encamped in Newtown following the British victory at the Battle of Long Island, Lt. Gen. Sir Henry Clinton set up his headquarters at Nathaniel Moore's house while he planned the capture of Manhattan. During the next seven years, while the British held New York and large numbers of English and Hessian troops were quartered at Newtown, Moore's house remained a gathering place for loyalists.

When Nathaniel Moore died in 1802, his house and farm passed to his only son, Nathaniel Moore, Jr. (1763-1827), who in turn held the property until his death. In his will Nathaniel Moore, Jr., stipulated that after his death his personal property and real estate were to be sold and the proceeds divided between his widow Martha [Gedney] Moore

and their five children. Moore excepted from the sale of the farm "one quarter of an acre of Ground to include the land now used as a burial ground together with enough more to make up said quarter of an acre to be taken from the ground adjoining on the north and west side for the purpose of a burial ground for the Family."⁶ He conveyed this property in trust to his executors.

Robert Blackwell, the husband of Nathaniel and Martha Moore's daughter Eliza Jane, purchased the farmhouse and land east of Bowery Bay Road.⁷ After Blackwell died the following year, the property - excluding the ¼ acre Moore family burial grounds - changed hands several times.⁸

The Moore Family Cemetery

The Moore family cemetery (fig. 3) is located a short distance east of 51st Street (Bowery Bay Road) and north of the site of the Moore farmhouse. According to Gaynell Stone, an archaeologist who has studied Long Island gravestones as source of information about Colonial society, such family burying grounds were common among the Dutch farmers of Kings County and Queens County, and were established by a number of the early English families in Queens such as the Lawrences, Cornells, and Sandses.⁹ Factors which seem to have contributed to a family's decision to establish a private burial grounds included the distance of their farm from the town center and the family's lack of affiliation with the Establishment church. Like the Moores, many of these families had Puritan or non-conformist roots.

As Long Island is a glacial outwash with no quarryable stone, there were no professional stone carvers in Queens until after 1800. Historic records indicate that even the wealthiest early settlers employed wooden boards or posts as gravemarkers. Fieldstones were also widely employed as gravestones in Queens between 1750 and 1775 and continued in use through the early 1800s; most were originally carved with initials and death date by a member of the family, and many evince degrees of shaping. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the majority of stones used in Brooklyn and Queens were marble or brownstone, carved in workshops in New York and New Jersey.

The first recorded burial on the Moore plot was a fieldstone slab inscribed *SxR, dyed May ye 29, 1733*¹⁰ (figs. 4-5). No longer identifiable, this marker probably commemorated a remote kinsman, friend, or worker on the farm since no immediate family member appears to have had a corresponding death date and initials. The earliest

recorded family burials appear to have been those of Charity Moore [*CxM, 1753*] and Samuel Moore [*Samuel Moore, died Jan. 2, 1768*], both of whom were commemorated by rough slab upright fieldstones which are no longer identifiable. The majority of the gravestones are related to Charity's and Samuel's sons, John and Nathaniel, their daughter Mary Moore Williams, and their families and descendants. The earliest stone which remains legible is a fieldstone slab in excellent condition, marked *AxM, Dyd th 23, Nov. 1769* (fig. 6), which commemorates John and Patience Moore's son Augustine, who died at the age of 17. (This headstone has been attributed to the Thomas Brown, a New York stone carver active from the 1750s through the 1770s.)¹¹ Patience Moore was memorialized by a fieldstone slab dated 1781, her husband John by a carved brownstone gravestone dating from 1806, their son David by a brownstone gravestone, dated 1823, and his son Samuel Hallett Moore by a brownstone stone with a still discernable inscription dated 1813 (fig. 7). Nathaniel Moore (died 1802) and Rebecca [Blackwell] Moore (died 1790) had inscribed brownstone gravestones. Their graves are located near that of their daughter Mary Berrian who died in 1788, at the age of thirty-three. Nathaniel Moore, Jr. and Martha Gedney Moore were also buried in the family graveyard, but their remains were removed by a later descendant, to the Riker-Jackson plot in the graveyard of St. James Episcopal Church, Newtown.¹² Other gravestones commemorated Martha Gedney Moore's sister, Deborah Gedney Rapelye, and brother-in-law, Bernard Rapelye, and their children, among them the brownstone memorial to their daughter Margaret, who died at the age of nineteen months in 1790 (fig. 8).

The burial ground remained in active use until at least 1868, with the interment of a member of the Dustan family whose gravestone was recorded in the 1880s but is no longer extant.¹³ John Mecke, who had bought the former Moore farmhouse and land in 1863, made arrangements to bury his infant daughters, Augusta Eliza (died 1864) and Johanna Antoine (died 1865), in the graveyard. In 1867 Mecke himself was buried near his daughters, becoming one of the last persons interred in the Moore Cemetery.

Later History of the Moore-Jackson Cemetery

By the time John Mecke died in 1867, his plans to subdivide and develop the farm property had foundered and he was in bankruptcy. Title to the farm had passed to an assignee, George Mosle. In

September 1867, Mosle and Mecke's widow sold the former Moore farm to two carpenters, Henry G. Schmidt and Emil Cuntz. They had the Moore farm north of the Newtown Turnpike (Jackson Avenue) laid out into building lots in 1868, naming their projected development Charlottesville. Most of the lots were sold off by 1871, but at the turn of the century the blocks north of 32nd Avenue remained completely undeveloped. Bowery Bay Road was still a primitive country lane, and the Moore farmhouse had been derelict for some decades prior to its demolition in 1901.

In June 1867, concern about continued access to the burial grounds prompted John C. Jackson (the husband of Martha Riker Jackson, a granddaughter of Nathaniel Moore, Jr., and Martha Gedney Moore) to purchase from Mosle a plot of land adjacent to the cemetery to expand it west to the Bowery Bay Road, making a total extent of slightly more than half an acre. Title to the Moore Cemetery was vested in the heirs of John C. Jackson and Nathaniel Moore, Jr. Martha and John C. Jackson had only one child, a daughter, Mary Ann Jackson (d. 1909), who married her mother's cousin John L. Riker, a successful New York merchant. Although she lived elsewhere, Mary Ann Riker spent some time each year at the Jackson family mansion, "Oak Hill," located on Newtown Road not far from the Moore cemetery. In 1910 Mary Ann Riker's daughter, Margaret Haskell, had the Oak Hill mansion disassembled and re-erected in Red Bank, New Jersey. At that point the Jackson-Riker heirs probably stopped visiting the Woodside-Elmhurst area and the Moore-Jackson cemetery began to fall into neglect.

This situation was far from unusual. By the 1910s as the Topographical Bureau of the Queens Borough President's Office completed its "final mapping" of the borough, urbanization had obliterated a number of the borough's historic cemeteries. Concerned with the loss of so valuable a historic resource, the Engineer-in-Charge, Charles U. Powell, had a record compiled of the twenty-two surviving private and family cemeteries in Queens with descriptions of the gravestones and their inscriptions.¹⁴ The Moore-Jackson Cemetery was one of the first graveyards to be surveyed in July 1919, at which time it had forty-two gravestones in varying states of preservation. Eugene Armbruster took several photographs of the Moore-Jackson Cemetery in 1925 (fig. 9), and the Topographical Bureau photographed it in 1927 (fig. 10).¹⁵ These photographs show that the headstones were originally arranged in compact groupings. Although some gravestones had broken or toppled

over, a number of stones are recognizable including the still surviving gravestones of *AxM* [Augustine Moore] and *Samuel Hallett Moore*.

The cemetery then underwent a period of neglect during which it became so overgrown that its presence was practically forgotten.¹⁶ In September 1935, a group of WPA workers, who had been assigned to clear the lot of weeds and shrubs, discovered eighteenth-century gravestones and notified the newspapers. The attendant publicity led Mrs. Charles B. Williams, Deputy Public Works Commissioner, to renew her efforts to secure funds to restore this and about a dozen other private cemeteries that had fallen into neglect. By April 1936, fill had been added at the Moore-Jackson Cemetery to bring the level up to that of the adjacent streets. Newspaper accounts indicate that the remains were not disturbed, but that the surviving headstones were rearranged at the east end of the site (fig. 11). A fence with concrete posts and chain links was subsequently installed around the area set aside for the gravestones.¹⁷

Subsequently, the cemetery underwent further episodes of neglect and rediscovery. In 1954, a developer attempted to gain control of the property by having the city foreclose for non-payment of taxes, but he abandoned this effort when he discovered that the property was a tax-exempt cemetery.¹⁸ In 1956, a patriotic organization installed a chain-link fence around the lot to protect it from vandals. Neighbors and community groups, including school classes and Boy Scout troops, have voluntarily cleared and cleaned the grounds over the years.

Today the Moore-Jackson cemetery is one of a handful of early family cemeteries in Queens that still have visible headstones. Its wooded garden setting and few surviving headstones are tangible reminders of the borough's Colonial past and one of its most prominent early families. Additionally, the recent discovery of well-preserved fragments of a gravestone by a volunteer laying out an herb garden near the center of the lot¹⁹ suggests that the grounds have the potential to yield additional historic resources.

Description

Located at mid-block, between 31st Street and 32nd Street, the Moore-Jackson Cemetery site extends from 51st to 54th Street. This lot was originally laid out as a rectangle, but the northeast corner was cut off when 54th Street was cut through in the late-nineteenth century. The lot has a frontage of 104 feet on 51st Street and seventy-eight feet on 54th Street. Surrounded by a chain

link fence installed in 1956, the site is covered with tall grasses, bushes, and trees. The original burying ground is located on the eastern half of the lot. In 1936 the site was covered with fill to bring it up to street level -- newspaper accounts do not indicate that there was any disturbance of the graves. The surviving visible headstones were re-erected on a small forty-by-fifty-foot plot at the 54th Street end of the lot which is set off by the cement posts of a post-and-chain fence. There is a slight rise in the wooded area behind the gravestone area, which appears to consist mostly of cinders dumped on the site.

Within the gravestone area the fifteen surviving gravestones are oriented so that most of them face towards 54th Street. Three of the best preserved stones are set relatively close to the street. Reading from south to north, these are the brownstone gravestone of Samuel Hallett Moore (top broken off, inscription partially lost, which originally read -- *In Memory of Samuel Hallett Moore, son of David & Jemima H. Moore, who departed this life June 26th 1813, aged 25 years 5 months & 15*

years), the brownstone gravestone of Margaret Rapelye (shaped tympanum top, inscription partly lost, originally read -- *In Memory of Margaret, daughter of Bernard & Deborah Rapelye, who departed this life the 7th of October, 1790; aged one year & 11 months*) and a brownstone stone which has lost its inscription. Set slightly behind these stones is preserved fieldstone gravestone of Augustine Moore, inscribed *AxM, Dyd th 23, Nov. 1769*. The other gravestones are arranged into three rows. Several of the marble stones are broken and all but one broken fieldstone in the back row that still bears the date 1770 have lost their inscriptions. The paving stones, paths, and birdbaths within the gravestone area and herb garden at the center of the lot are of recent origin and do not appear to be permanently affixed.

*Report prepared by
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Research Department*

NOTES

1. This section on the early history of Newtown and the Moore family is based on James Riker, Jr., *The Annals of Newtown* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852); Jessica Kroos, *The Evolution of an American Town, Newtown, New York, 1642-1775* (Phila: Temple University Press, 1983); James W. Moore, *Rev. John Moore of Newtown, Long Island, and Some of His Descendants* (Easton, Pa.: Chemical Publishing Co., 1903); Catherine Gregory, *Woodside, Queens County, New York: A Historical Perspective, 1652-1994* (Woodside, NY: Woodside on the Move, Inc., 1994), 2-5, 14-19.
2. Captain Samuel's third son, Benjamin (?-1750), inherited Rev. John Moore's property in the village of Newtown; Captain Samuel's youngest son, Nathaniel (1687-1759), moved to Hopewell, N.J. Benjamin Moore was the grandfather of Bishop Benjamin Moore and great-grandfather of his son Clement Clarke Moore, author of *A Visit from St. Nicholas*.
3. Samuel Moore and his brother Joseph, who had fourteen children, joined with Samuel Hallett, Thomas Skillman, and Isaac Bragaw in erecting the first schoolhouse in the township of Newtown on the road between Hallett's Cove and Newtown.
4. Presumably John then sold his land at Train's Meadow, which may have been the farm subsequently acquired by Cornelius Rapelye, and later Cornelius Purdy.
5. For these transactions see *Records Edited for the Newtown Register by William O'Gorman* (Queens: WPA and Queens Borough Public Library, 1934), 216, 218, 226.
6. Nathaniel Moore, Jr., Will, in Queens County, Surrogates Office, Liber B, 509-510.
7. This section on the later history of the Moore farm is based on Gregory, 15.
8. After Blackwell's death the farm was resold to Jacob Bindernagel. Bindernagel held the property until 1832, when Samuel B. Townsend purchased it. Townsend and his wife occupied the farm for over twenty years before selling the property to Charles Kneeland, a resident of Flushing. In 1859 Kneeland sold a portion of the farm to Hunters Point Newtown & Flushing Turnpike Company for its new road (today's Northern Boulevard), which effectively split the farm into two sections. Four years later, John A. Mecke, a German emigrant, purchased the farm with the intention of subdividing the property.

9. Gaynell Stone, "Gravestones as Queens History, 1680-1820" (Unpublished ms., 1989), 2-3 (Copy available in the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Moore-Jackson Cemetery Research File); Gaynell Stone, *Spatial and Material Aspects of Culture: Ethnicity and Ideology in Long Island Gravestones, 1670-1820*, Ph.D. diss., State University at Stony Brook, 1987 (Ann Arbor: UMI, 1987).
10. The burials in the Moore-Jackson Cemetery are documented in Alice Meigs, *Description of Private and Family Cemeteries in the Borough of Queens* (Jamaica, NY: Queens Borough Public Library, 1932); Gregory, 6-19, and William O'Gorman, "Selections from the Town Scrapbook Originally Written by the Town Clerk From the Pages of the Newtown Register," 1934, Queens Borough Public Library, Long Island Collection, 283-286. O'Gorman's list of burials, compiled in the 1880s, contains a number of names omitted from Meigs list which was drawn up when the burial ground was surveyed in 1919, presumably because some stones had been broken or their inscriptions obliterated. The author wishes to thank James Driscoll of the Long Island Division of the Queens Borough Public Library for calling her attention to this source and for his other invaluable research tips.
11. Gaynell Stone to Claire Kendall, fax, Mar. 6, 1997 (copy available in Moore-Jackson Research file); Stone, *Spatial and Material Aspects*, 265-266.
12. Moore, 69; O'Gorman, *Old Newtown*, 305. According to Catherine Gregory (p. 15) the family transferred all the remains in the Riker-Jackson plot at St. James to the new John L. Riker plot in Woodlawn Cemetery in 1909.
13. O'Gorman, *Old Newtown*, 286. The Dustans were relatives of Cornelius [Dustan] Purdy (1788-1851) and his wife Rebecca Moore Purdy (1786-1834), daughter of Nathaniel Jr. and Martha Gedney Moore.
14. These surveys were edited and published by Meigs in 1932.
15. The Armbruster photographs are reproduced in New York Public Library, *Photographic Views of New York City, 1870s-1970s* (Ann Arbor: UMI, 1981) 1070, B9-B14.
16. For the cemetery in the 1930s see "Old Cemetery Comes to Light," *New York Sun*, July 28, 1931; "See Queens History in Ruined Cemetery," *New York Times*, July 28, 1931; Andrew J. Viglietta, "WPA Workers Discover Graveyard of Early Dutch Settlers in Woodside; Star's Files Supply History of Plot," [Long Island] *Daily Star*, Sept. 27, 1935; "Funds Sought for Old Graves," unidentified clipping, Oct. 11, 1935; Sarah Wilford, "British Camped Near Woodside Cemetery," *Long Island Daily Press*, Apr. 10, 1936. (Copies of these articles are available in the Moore Family Cemetery file, in the Long Island Division of the Queens Borough Public Library.)
17. Gregory, 18.
18. For the later history of the cemetery see Catherine Gregory, testimony presented at a meeting of the Designation Sub-committee of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Sept. 17, 1996 (Copy on file in the Moore-Jackson Cemetery Research File); Gregory, *Woodside*, 18-19; Elinor Greene, "Red-Faced City Aids Admit Tax Seizure of Tax-Free Cemetery," *Daily News*, July 12, 1956; Elinor Greene, "City-Owned Graveyards Get Brushoff, Not Brush," Sept. 2, 1956; "Rundown Graves to Get New Life," *Long Island Star-Journal*, June 6, 1963; "An Elegy in 3 Graveyards, Leaves World to Darkness & to Vandals," *Daily News*, Feb. 19, 1967; Peter McLaughlin, "Say Cemetery is Used Garbage Dump," *Daily News*, Sept. 30, 1971; Seymour Marks, "Cemetery's Historian," *Long Island Press*, July 1, 1973; Michael Goodwin, "Technicality Stalls Landmark Plan," *New York Times*, June 30, 1974; Stan Trybulski, "The Orphan Cemetery," *Long Island Press*, May 23, 1976; Elinor Greene, "Of Historic Graveyard," *Daily News*, July, 15, 1978; John Toscano, "Weeds Yield to History as Group Seeks to Save an Old Cemetery," *Western Queens Gazette*, June, 19, 1996; "Colonial-Era Cemetery Eyed as a Landmark," *Newsday*, Jan. 16, 1997, A33. (Copies of these articles are available in the Moore-Jackson Cemetery Research File.)
19. One of the fragments is inscribed with the name "George" suggesting that it is part of the brownstone gravestone of George Middlemast or George Rapelye. The author owes this information to Ceil Pontecorvo, a neighbor who has been a devoted caretaker of the gravestone area of the Moore-Jackson Cemetery since 1974.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of this site, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Moore-Jackson Cemetery has a special character and special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, the Moore-Jackson Cemetery is a rare surviving Colonial-era family burial ground; that it was established by 1733 on the farm of Samuel and Charity Hallett Moore located on the Bowery Bay Road at the outskirts of the colonial village of Newtown; that the cemetery remained in active use until at least 1868 and was used by several generations of the Moore family, who played a prominent role in the development of Queens and intermarried with such prominent families as the Rikers, Berriens, Blackwells, Rapelyes, and Jacksons; that it contained at least fifty-one graves which were marked with fieldstone, brownstone, and marble gravestones; that today fifteen gravestones survive including the exceptionally the well preserved fieldstone gravestone of Augustine Moore, dated 1769, which has been tentatively attributed to the carver Thomas Brown; that although the surviving headstones were rearranged in 1936 when the cemetery was rehabilitated by the WPA, the burials on the site have remained undisturbed; that the Moore-Jackson Cemetery is maintained by members of the local community and is a tangible reminder of the borough's early history.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 74, Section 3020 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the Moore-Jackson Cemetery, 31-30 to 31-36 54th Street (aka 31-31 to 31-37 51st Street), Borough of Queens, and designates Borough of Queens Tax Map Block 1131, Lot 12, as its Landmark Site.



Fig. 2, Moore farmhouse, east of Bowery Bay Road (51st Street), before 1901
Photo: Gregory, *Woodside*



Fig. 3, Moore-Jackson Cemetery, 31-30 to 31-36 54th Street (aka 31-31 to 31-37 51st Street), Queens
Photo: Carl Forster

No. 3
MOORE CEMETERY
WOODSIDE

0 5 10 15 20
SCALE.
SURVEYED - JULY 3-8 1919

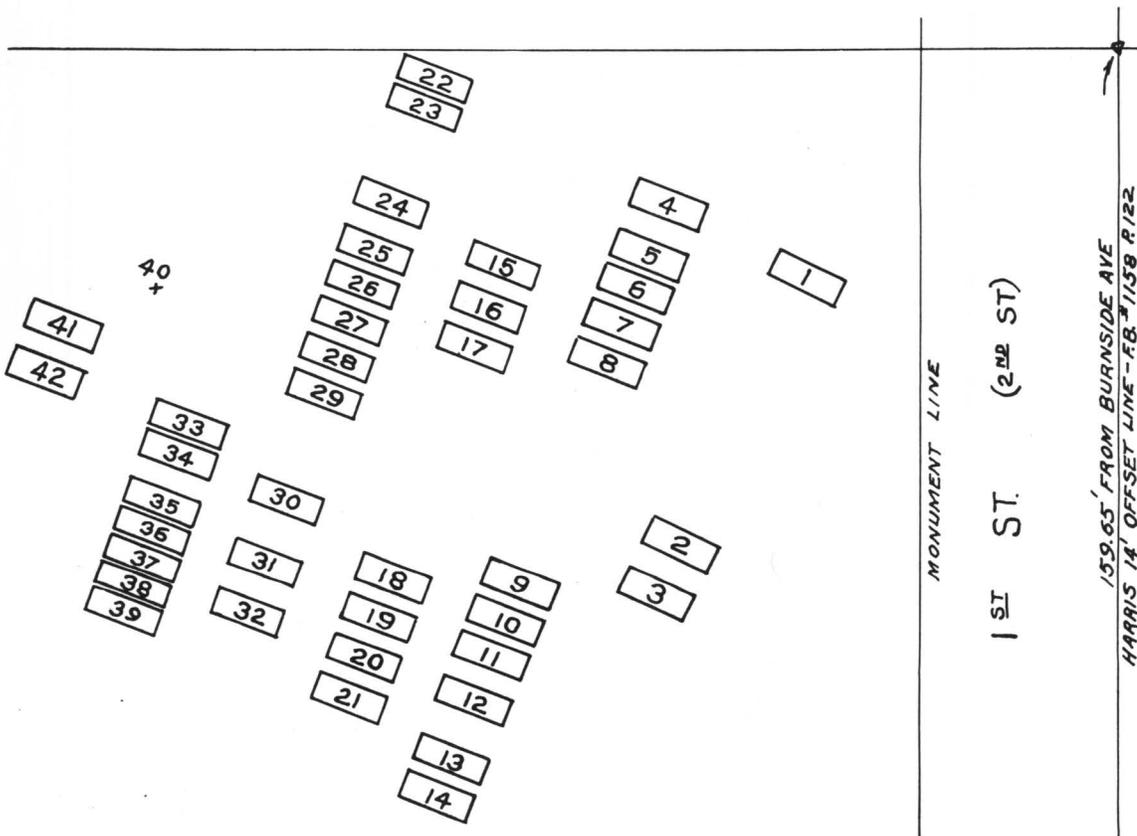
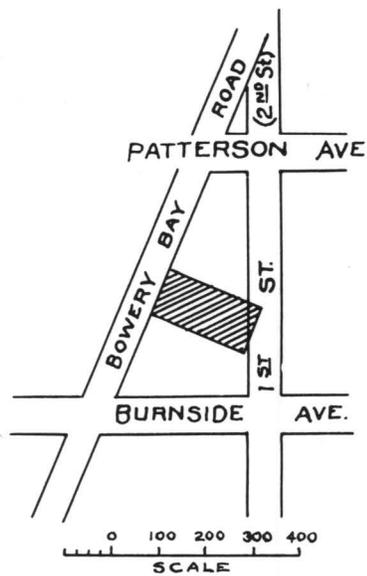


Fig. 4, Moore-Jackson Cemetery survey map, July 3-8, 1919
The former and current street names are: Patterson Avenue/31st Avenue, Burnside Avenue/32nd Avenue, Bowery Bay Road/51st Street, 1st Street/54th Street
Source: Meigs, *Private Cemeteries*

- No. 1. MARBLE (Good)
In Memory of PETER, son of Peter & Sarah DUSTAN, who departed this life the 31st of May, 1803; aged 3 years & 6 months.
- No. 2. MARBLE (Fair)
The grave of ROBERT BLACKWELL, who died Sept. 23, 1828; aged 37 years. This stone is erected as a tribute to departed worth by his friend Charles Rapelye.
- No. 3. MARBLE (Good)
Sacred to the Memory of NATHANIEL MOORE, son of Robert & Eliza Jane BLACKWELL, who departed this life 18th January, 1822; aged 4 years.
- No. 4. MARBLE (Poor, broken)
In Memory of MARTHA, daughter of David & Jemima H. MOORE; departed this life August 21st, 1824; aged 24 years, 3 months, 26 days.
- No. 5. BROWN STONE (Broken off)
- No. 6. MARBLE (Poor, broken)
Sacred to the Memory of DAVID MOORE; born Aug. 22nd, 1791; died Jan. 29th, 1862.
- No. 7. MARBLE (Broken off)
- No. 8. MARBLE (Fair, broken)
Sacred to the Memory of MARY JANE MOORE; born Nov. 16, 1830; died Dec. 4, 1846.
- No. 9. FIELDSTONE (Excellent)
A x M; dyd th 23rd Novr., 1769. (Augustine Moore.)
- No. 10. BROWN STONE (Good)
In Memory of SAMUEL HALLET MOORE, son of David & Jemima H. Moore, who departed this life June 26th, 1813; aged 25 years, 5 months & 15 days.
- No. 11. FLAT OBLONG FIELDSTONE (Excellent). P x M; dyd Oct. 13th, 1781; ag. 59 yrs. (Patience Moore wife of John.)
- No. 12. BROWN STONE (Good)
In Memory of JOHN MOORE, who departed this life March 7th, 1806; aged 84 years, 2 months & 15 days.
- No. 13. BROWN STONE (Good)
In Memory of DAVID MOORE, who departed this life Jan. 12th, 1823; aged 66 years, 4 months & 2 days.
- No. 14. BROWN STONE (Poor)
Inscription rotted off.
- No. 15. BROWN STONE (Poor, rotted)
—YTON, — this life — 1803; — 4 months, 20 days.
Behold and see as you pass by
As you are now so once was I
As I am now so you must be
Prepare for death and follow me.
- No. 16. ROUGH UPRIGHT SLAB FIELDSTONE
E x W; dyd th 1st Jan., 1770.
- No. 17. BROWN STONE (Good)
In Memory of GEORGE MIDDLEMAST, who departed this life September 30th, 1802; aged 1 year, 3 months and 25 days.
- No. 18. BROWN STONE (Poor and rotted)
No inscription discernable.
- No. 19. ROUGH SLAB UPRIGHT FIELDSTONE
C x M, 1753.
- No. 20. BROWN STONE (Fair)
In Memory of JEMIMA MOORE FISH, daughter of John & Patience FISH, who departed this life Augt 2d, —; aged 55 years, — months, 19 days.
- No. 21. ROUGH FLAT UPRIGHT SLAB FIELDSTONE.
SAMUEL MOORE; died Jan. 2, 1768.
- No. 22. GRAYSTONE (Poor)
No inscription discernable.
- No. 23. BROWN STONE (Poor)
No inscription discernable.
- No. 24. BROWN STONE (Fair)
In Memory of WILLIAM BERRIAN, son of — & Peletiah Berrian, who died July 4th, 1804; Æ 9 years & 7 months.
- No. 25. ROUGH SLAB UPRIGHT FIELDSTONE
M x W; dyd th 3rd Feby, 1770.
- No. 26. BROWN STONE (Good)
In Memory of NATHANIEL MOORE, who departed this life April the 3rd, 1802; aged 78 years and 11 months.
- No. 27. BROWN STONE (Good)
In Memory of MARY, wife of Abraham BERRIAN, who departed this life the 13th of February, 1788; aged 33 years.
- No. 28. MARBLE (Good)
In Memory of MARY BERRIAN, who died Octr. 22, 1854; aged 77 years & 5 months. Whereas I was blind and deaf, now do I see and hear.
- No. 29. BROWN STONE (Good)
In Memory of REBECCA, wife of Nathaniel MOORE, who departed this life the 6th June, 1790; aged 67 years.
- No. 30. ROUGH UPRIGHT SLAB FIELDSTONE
S x R; dyed May ye 29th, 1733.
- No. 31. ROUGH UPRIGHT SLAB FIELDSTONE
T x I; 1750.
- No. 32. BROWN STONE (Good)
Sacred to the Memory of AMOS HARE, Senr. who departed this life the 14th of January, 1804; aged 61 years.
- No. 33. MARBLE MONUMENT (Good)
The grave of GEORGE B. RAPELYE; died in New York City March 27th, 1863; aged 78 years, 3 months & 11 days. (J. Kellum, Calvary Cem'y.)
- No. 34. MARBLE (Good)
In Memory of BERNARD RAPELYE, who departed this life the 20th day of July, 1837; aged 78 years.
- No. 35. MARBLE (Good)
In Memory of DEBORAH, wife of Bernard RAPELYE, who died 18th Augt. 1805; aged 44 years.
- No. 36. MARBLE (Fair)
In Memory of HARRIET, daughter of Bernard & Deborah RAPELYE, who died 30th July, 1803, in the 12th year of her age.
- No. 37. BROWN STONE (Good)
Sacred to the Memory of REBECCA HALLETT, relict of Amos HARE, who departed this life March 23rd, 1830, in the 88 year of her age.
- No. 38. MARBLE (Good)
In Memory of HENRY GIDNEY son of Bernard & Deborah RAPELYE, who died March 7th, 1798; aged 7 months & 24 days.
- No. 39. BROWN STONE (Fair)
In Memory of MARGARET, daughter of Bernard & Deborah RAPELYE, who departed this life the 7th of October, 1790; aged one year & 11 months.
- No. 40. MARBLE MONUMENT
Upright slab broken off and stolen.
- No. 41. MARBLE MONUMENT (Good)
JOHN A. MECKE; born at Bremen Jan. 3, 1820; died at Woodside, L. I., May 23rd, 1867.
- No. 42. MARBLE MONUMENT (Good)
JOHANNE ANTONIE MECKE; born at Woodside, L. I., Oct. 1, 1864; died July 21, 1865.

NOTES

(From Mrs. J. C. Frost, Long Island Cemetery inscriptions, v. 1, p. 37-39.)

BERRIAN—Abraham; died Oct. 1, 1830; aged 79 years.

MECKE—Auguste Elizabeth; born at Woodside, Sept. 15, 1862; died Oct. 25, 1863.

MOORE—Ann Eliza; daughter of David and Mary B. Moore; died Feb. 3, 1832; aged 10 years.

MOORE—Mary B.; wife of David Moore and daughter of George Brinkerhoff; born Mar. 18, 1795; died Sep. 9, 1859.

MOORE—Patience; daughter of David and Jemima Moore; born Aug. 15, 1781; died Jan. 1, 1782. (From "Rev. John Moore of Newtown, L. I. and his descendants." page 60.)

MOORE—Samuel; born Apr. 22, 1709; died Jun. 2, 1750.

Fig. 5, List of Inscriptions in the Moore-Jackson Cemetery recorded in the 1919 survey
Source: Meigs, *Private Cemeteries*

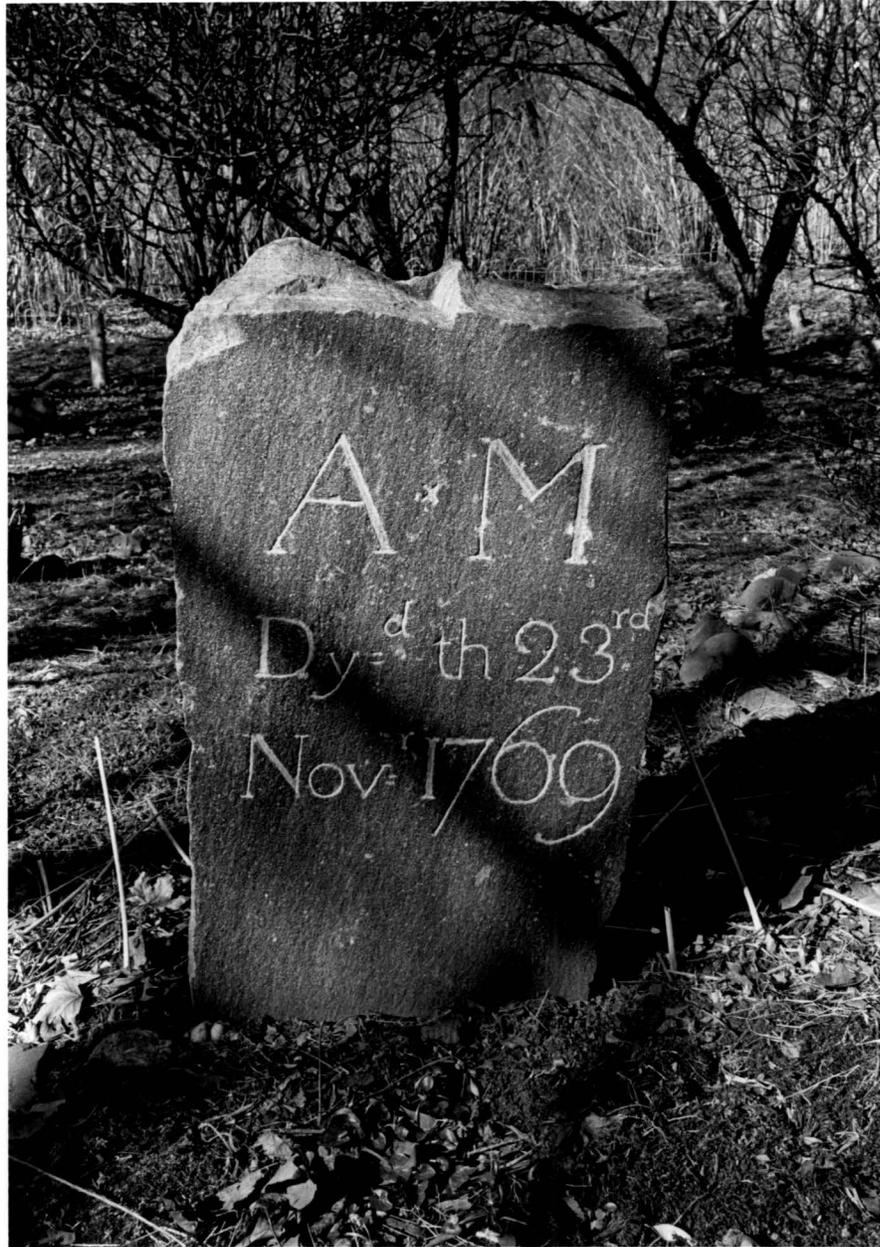


Fig. 6, Gravestone of AxM [Augustine Moore], 1769
Photo: Carl Forster



Fig. 7, Gravestone of Samuel Hallett Moore, 1813

Fig. 8, Gravestone of Margaret Rapelye, 1790

Photos: Carl Forster



Fig. 9, The Moore-Jackson Cemetery as it appeared in May, 1925, looking southeast to gravestones of AxM [Augustine Moore] 1769, Samuel Hallett Moore 1813, and PxM [Patience Moore] 1781. Built c. 1910, the house in the background was located on the southwest corner of 32nd Avenue and 54th Street. In the late 1920s it was occupied by a florist who added a greenhouse to the building.

Photo: Eugene Arnbruster, NYPL



Fig. 10, The Moore-Jackson Cemetery, as it appeared in May, 1927
Looking east to gravestones of MxW [Mary Williams] 1770, Nathaiel Moore 1802, Mary Berrien, 1788, Mary Berrien, 1854, and AxM
[Augustine Moore], 1769

Photo: NYC Archives, Queens Topographic Collection



Fig. 11, Moore-Jackson Cemetery following rehabilitation by the WPA under the direction of the Topographical Bureau of the Queens Borough President's office, April, 1936. View from 54th Street looking southwest

Photo: NYC Archives, Queens Topographic Collection

