

This is McCauley Blog Five which contains a series of recommendations for the group which was convened on July 6th at the Cemetery and the cottage to consider the next steps in rehabilitating the site. In the meantime, when the plat of the lease was reviewed, there was the unexpected finding that the acreage leased to OWASA years ago included the hillside, the cottage, and the barn, but ironically did not include the Cemetery and the historic dump. For whatever reason, when the lease was executed the Cemetery was intentionally excluded from the property to be administered by OWASA, thus leaving its care and maintenance to UNC—at which point it was forgotten. OWASA’s senior administrators were unaware of the Cemetery’s presence as were UNC persons, including the arborist. The stage now seems set for a re-thinking of the entire site and its future purposes and needs. Historically, UNC and then OWASA sought to have personnel on site at the lake 24 hours a day to protect the integrity of the drinking water, to guard against unauthorized swimmers and boaters, to rescue intruders who became endangered on the lake after hours, and to monitor the flow into the lake from Morgan Creek and its tributaries. As generations of UNC undergraduates could tell us, it is commonplace for these young people, when fueled by a few beers, to find places to swim, especially on summer nights. Local quarries, public and private lakes, ponds, and water holes are found and host partying with and mostly without permission. I know because I did it myself—while my adolescent and late-adolescent patients keep me informed of today’s practices which are no different. The same model of 24 hour surveillance was carried forward when OWASA constructed the Cane Creek Reservoir decades later. One wonders whether technology has advanced to the point that the lakes can be monitored more effectively electronically with cameras and feeds to monitors at OWASA headquarters to be manned around the clock. Visiting a modern prison is instructive as to the purposes to which electronic surveillance can be put, so long as a power supply can be maintained.

The UNC properties administrator, Alex Alston, brought together administrators, archeologists, historians, and environmental protection persons for an effective hour-long meeting to plan for the short-term future of the site. In McCauley Blog Six which is planned for distribution in late August, I’ll summarize the July meeting and describe any actions taken to date. Blog Six will include an overt plea for donations to repair and preserve Martha’s and Matthew’s grave stones and for signage identifying and directing visitors to the site. When the [following recommendations](#) were drafted, it was assumed that the lease would be redrawn, and I leaned toward recommending that OWASA administer the site and the Cemetery given the efficiency of having a single entity, the proximity of equipment and personnel, the ability to monitor visitation to the Cemetery, and perhaps more flexibility in being able to direct funding for the maintenance of the Cemetery.

Thanks for reviewing this.

**Bill Burlingame**