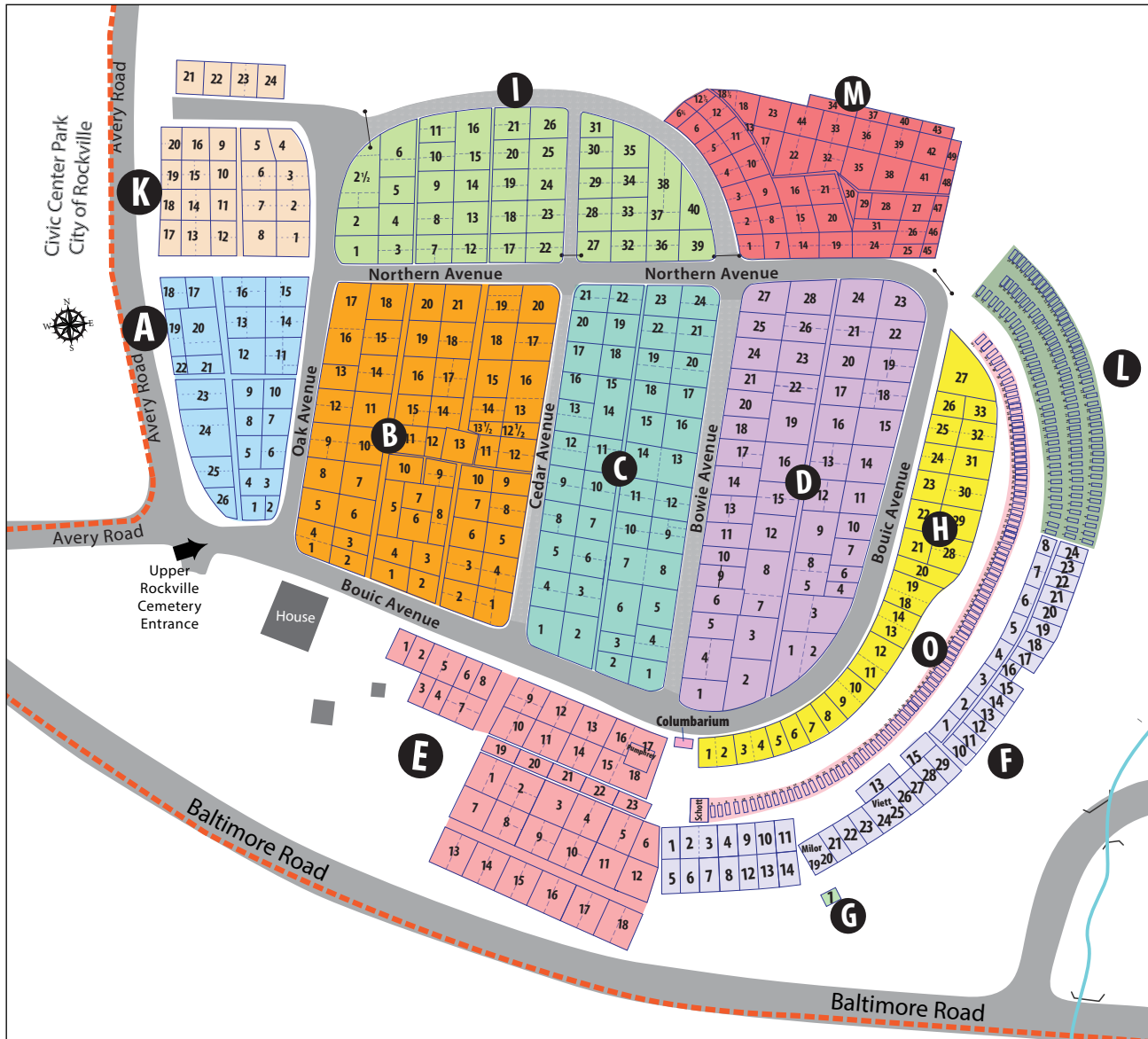
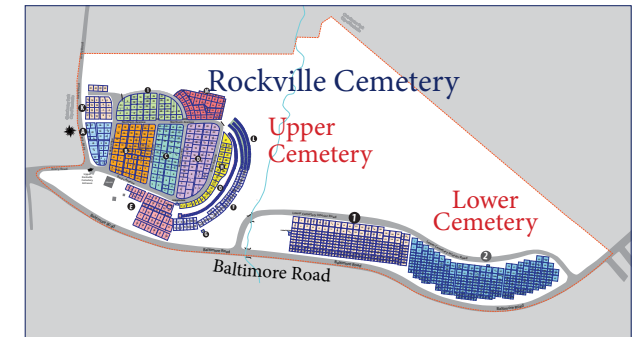


## The Upper Cemetery

The “upper cemetery” sections at Rockville Cemetery are located on a hill.



## Information for Visitors, Lot Owners, and Prospective Purchasers



Open brochure to see larger maps.

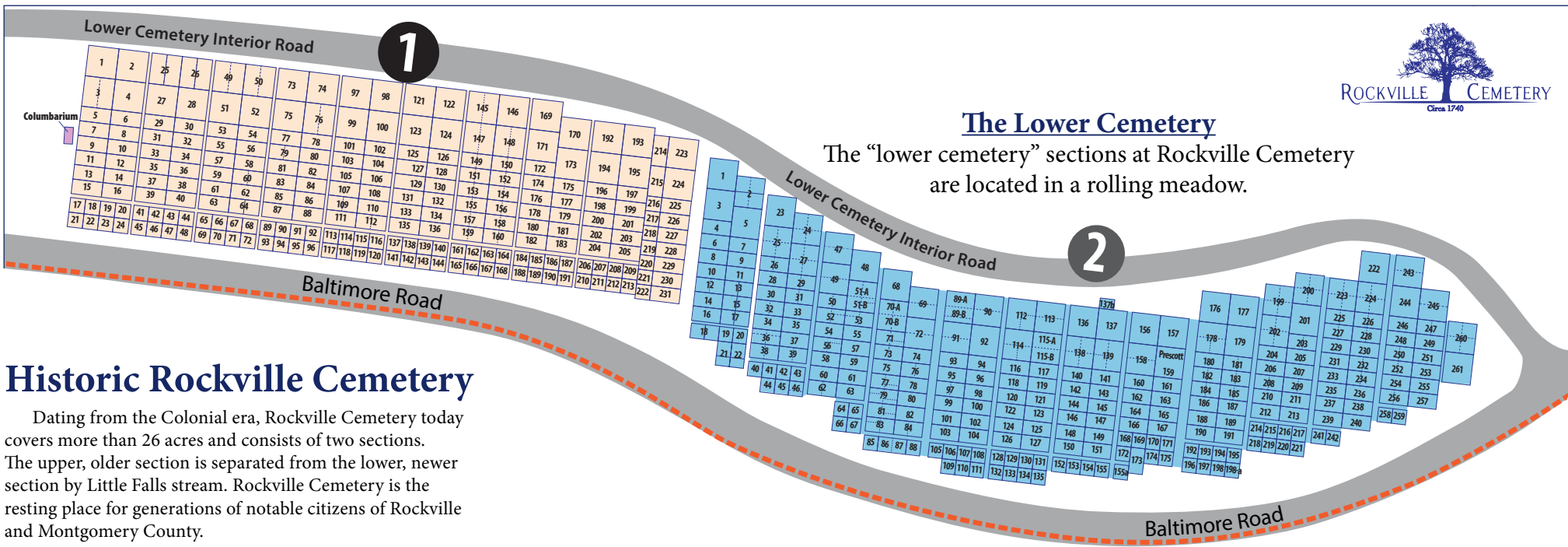
1350 Baltimore Road, Rockville, Maryland 20851

Gravesites and columbarium niches are available in both the upper and lower sections of Rockville Cemetery. Call or email your inquiries to the contact information below.

Email: [RCA@RockvilleCemeteryMD.org](mailto:RCA@RockvilleCemeteryMD.org)  
 Web: [www.RockvilleCemeteryMD.org](http://www.RockvilleCemeteryMD.org)  
 Phone: 301-309-0191 (Recorded Message)

©2016 Rockville Cemetery site plan prepared by Rockville Cemetery Association, Inc. is not to scale, nor for sale or reproduction. Burial information for each person can be found on [www.FindAGrave.com](http://www.FindAGrave.com). Select “Search for a Cemetery” and type in “Rockville Cemetery” in Maryland.





**The Lower Cemetery**  
The “lower cemetery” sections at Rockville Cemetery are located in a rolling meadow.

## Historic Rockville Cemetery

Dating from the Colonial era, Rockville Cemetery today covers more than 26 acres and consists of two sections. The upper, older section is separated from the lower, newer section by Little Falls stream. Rockville Cemetery is the resting place for generations of notable citizens of Rockville and Montgomery County.

### Colonial Burying Yard

In 1728, the Anglican chapel in Georgetown became too inconvenient for frontier settlers, and the vestry resolved “that as Mr. Thomas Williams was so kind as to offer two acres of land being part of land called Mill Land for the building of a Chappell on that the vestry accepts the same.” In 1734, an assessment was made toward building a new church. Thomas Nicholls contracted in 1751 to build a fence around the burying yard, “to measure 100 by 96 feet...” Charles Haymond was hired to “grub the year and to clear the trees all out of same and to fell the trees for 15 feet distant all around the laid rails.” The oldest gravestones in the cemetery were located within this yard. In 1752, long-time vestryman and planter John Harding was buried here; his is the earliest extant marker.

Colonial church yards were crowded, unsecured and regarded as weed-choked bone yards. Tombstones were typically upright tablets with scrolled pediments. John Harding’s stone features an hourglass and skull and crossbones, images associated with finality and death. The ‘Chappell’ foundations are located near the Beall obelisk. Unmarked early burials may be located here; burials in vaults under a church were common at this time.

After the American Revolution, Anglicans became Episcopalians, and Christ Episcopal Church relocated to Washington Street in 1822. The vestry resolved that no more burials could take place without its consent. An 1873 *Montgomery County Sentinel* editorial described the cemetery as “not an inviting spot.”

### Rural Cemetery Movement

In 1880, the Rockville Cemetery Association of Montgomery County, Inc., composed of two members from most local Protestant congregations, organized to take responsibility for the cemetery. Judge Richard Johns Bowie donated five acres of land from his adjacent farm. No longer associated only with the Episcopal Church, the cemetery became a community cemetery for the small town of Rockville.

In 1889, the Cemetery Association erected a caretaker’s cottage, built by Rockville carpenter and undertaker Reuben Pumphrey. To meet the increased demand for space, Catherine Bowie, Judge Bowie’s widow, donated two additional acres. The 1897 construction of Van Buren Street required 16 burials from the Baptist Cemetery to be reinterred at this out-of-town cemetery.

The rural cemetery movement influenced the expansion of Rockville Cemetery. Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, inspired cemetery planners to design landscapes that incorporated topographic complexity, curvilinear roads, and picturesque vistas.

Family plots dominate the upper cemetery, with large markers, individual stones, and small boundary markers. The cemetery’s terraces and curved roads are consistent with the rural cemetery movement. Architectural influences — Gothic Revival, Classical Revival, and Victorian — add to the picturesque quality. With planned paths and carriage drives, 19th century cemeteries were places to visit and reflect.

Societal perception of death changed. Previously regarded with horror and fear, Victorians saw death as a reunion with loved ones and God. Remembering the departed was combined with contemplating nature; the indulgence of grief was a transcendental experience. Markers had images symbolizing a welcome to the afterlife, or pointing upward, towards heaven.

### Lawn Plan Cemetery

The lower cemetery is on flat terrain and accessed by a paved road north of the burial sites. The largest lots are adjacent to the drive, medium-sized lots in the center, and close to Baltimore Road. Robert Cridland of Philadelphia designed the lower cemetery in 1936. The gridded plots are orderly, stones stand in straight lines, and trees are grouped.

The lack of topographical features emphasizes the unbroken lawn scenery while balancing the formal cemetery with the natural environment.

Cridland believed that “drives and walks must be as direct as possible without being forced or twisted; they should approach by means of straight lines or easy graceful curves.” This open lawn style has dominated cemetery design from the mid 20th century. The aesthetics of efficiency add order in the landscape in contrast to the variety of shapes and landforms in the upper, older section. Rockville Cemetery is the product of three centuries of planning and above all embraces peace and care for the remembrance of loved ones.