Slave Cemetery - Now known as Wheat Community African Burial Ground

Cemetery. Also formally known as Atomic Energy Commission Cemetery #2, and sometimes referred to as the Gallaher – Stone Cemetery.

(AEC #2)

GPS Coordinates: N35º55.097, W84 23.713

Size: 50 to 100 graves

Direction camera faces: 136ºSE

Location: Located about 0.3 mile west of K-25, about 300 feet south of the Oak Ridge Turnpike, in the woods on top of a hill. There is a footpath up the rather steep embankment, and the white wooden sign with the numeral "2" is visible at the edge of the woods. On Tract H-738, obtained from Rhea and Catherine Gallaher.

This rather large cemetery is designated "Slave Cemetery" on the AEC Oak Ridge Area map. About half of the more than 90 grave are marked with field stones with no inscriptions. There are two, possibly three small depressions outside the fence, which may be children's graves.

It is presumed that slaves who once belonged to the Welckers and Gallahers and some of their descendants are buried here. It is also possible that slaves and their descendants, who lived on other farms in the area, are buried here. Some of the other families that owned slaved and lived in the vicinity were the Burums, Carmichaels, Staples, Henleys, Ellis and Rathers. No one will ever know the names of those buried here.

*2008 Update - Go out Oak Ridge Turnpike toward Kingston (past Kingston/Lenoir City split), to 1.4 miles past Blair Road stoplight, turn left on to gravel road just past ETTP Visitor Overlook.