

The Cemeteries of Nicosia and Environs

By Matt A. Ellsworth
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In A Disused Graveyard

by Robert Frost

*The living come with grassy tread
To read the gravestones on the hill;
The graveyard draws the living still,
But never anymore the dead.*

The verses in it say and say:

"The ones who living come today

To read the stones and go away

Tomorrow dead will come to stay."

So sure of death the marbles rhyme,

Yet can't help marking all the time

How no one dead will seem to come.

What is it men are shrinking from?

It would be easy to be clever

And tell the stones: Men hate to die

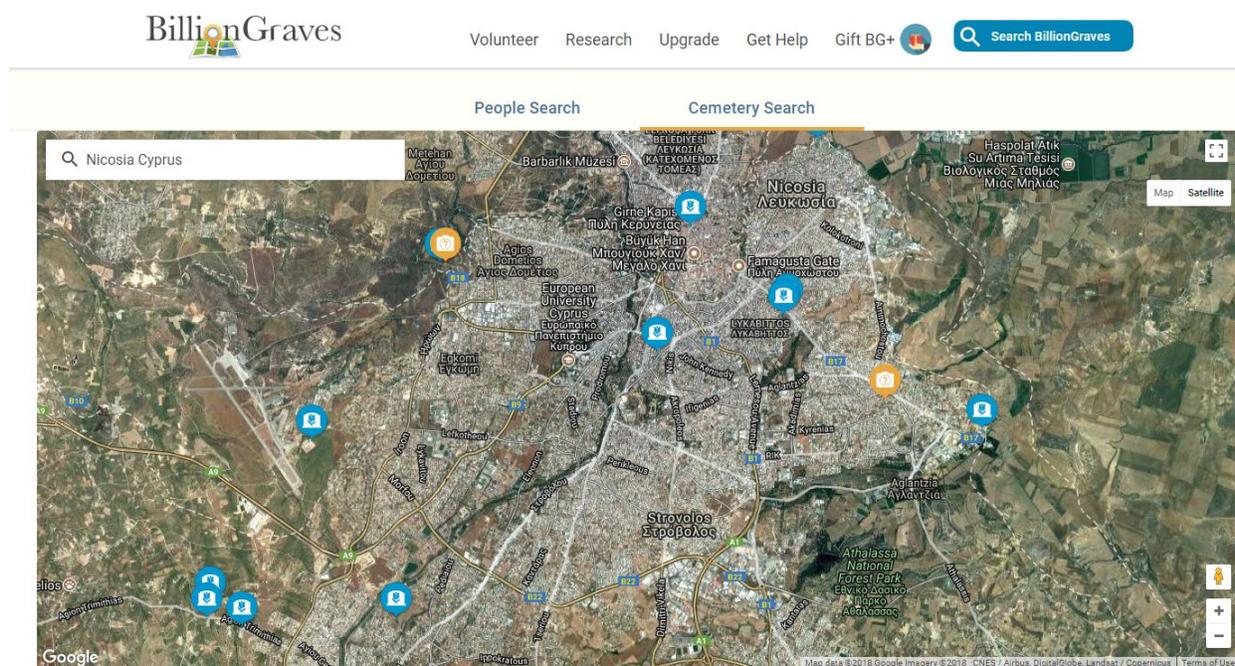
And have stopped dying now forever.

I think they would believe the lie.

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is about the cemeteries of the Nicosia metropolitan area. Of particular interest are those that have become abandoned, disused, paved over, or otherwise forgotten. It is being published in hopes that it will revive memories of ancestors and serve as a catalyst to further preservation of their memories and their burial places.

At this date the website www.BillionGraves.com, a repository for geo-tagged images of headstones and their transcriptions, is not aware of all of the cemeteries described in this booklet. It has no images (zero) or transcriptions from the Nicosia area, though there are several images requests pending. It is the author's hope that volunteers in Cyprus will begin the valuable work and this booklet will be of value in that effort.



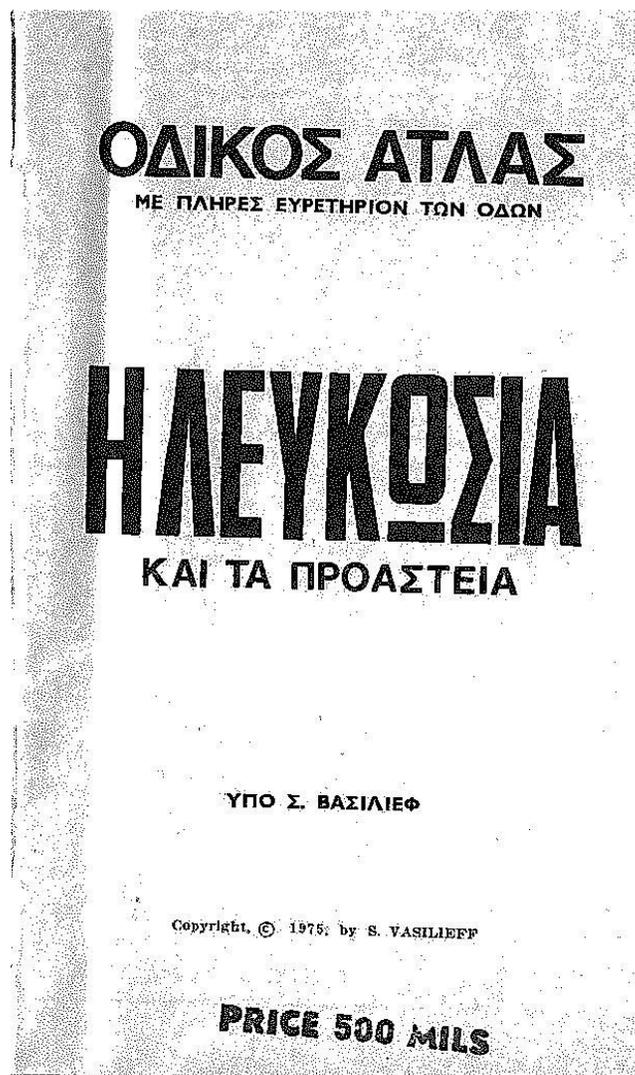
An image of the www.BillionGraves.com website showing the cemeteries they are aware of.

WWW.FindaGrave.com has a single listing in the Deftera Village Cemetery in Strovolos. See www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2344987/deftera-village-cemetery, but this is well outside the Nicosia area.

The Catalyst for This Booklet

Recently I acquired a 1975 street atlas of Nicosia. (An image of the title page is shown below.) I bought it because it was necessarily prepared *before* the 1974 partition of the city, and therefore before much of the growth, and before some streets were renamed with Turkish names in North Nicosia and with the names of martyrs in South Nicosia. Being familiar with the main cemeteries of Nicosia because of my interest in Cypriot genealogy, I was surprised to see the little crosses that indicated the presence of several that I had never known of before, some on streets that I use frequently!

This booklet doesn't claim to be comprehensive. There are surely small burial plots and memorials that aren't mentioned in this booklet, and probably some much older cemeteries that weren't known in 1975 and are truly lost to memory. Many churches and mosques have a small number of tombs in them or adjacent to them, and those places weren't identified as cemeteries in the 1975 atlas.

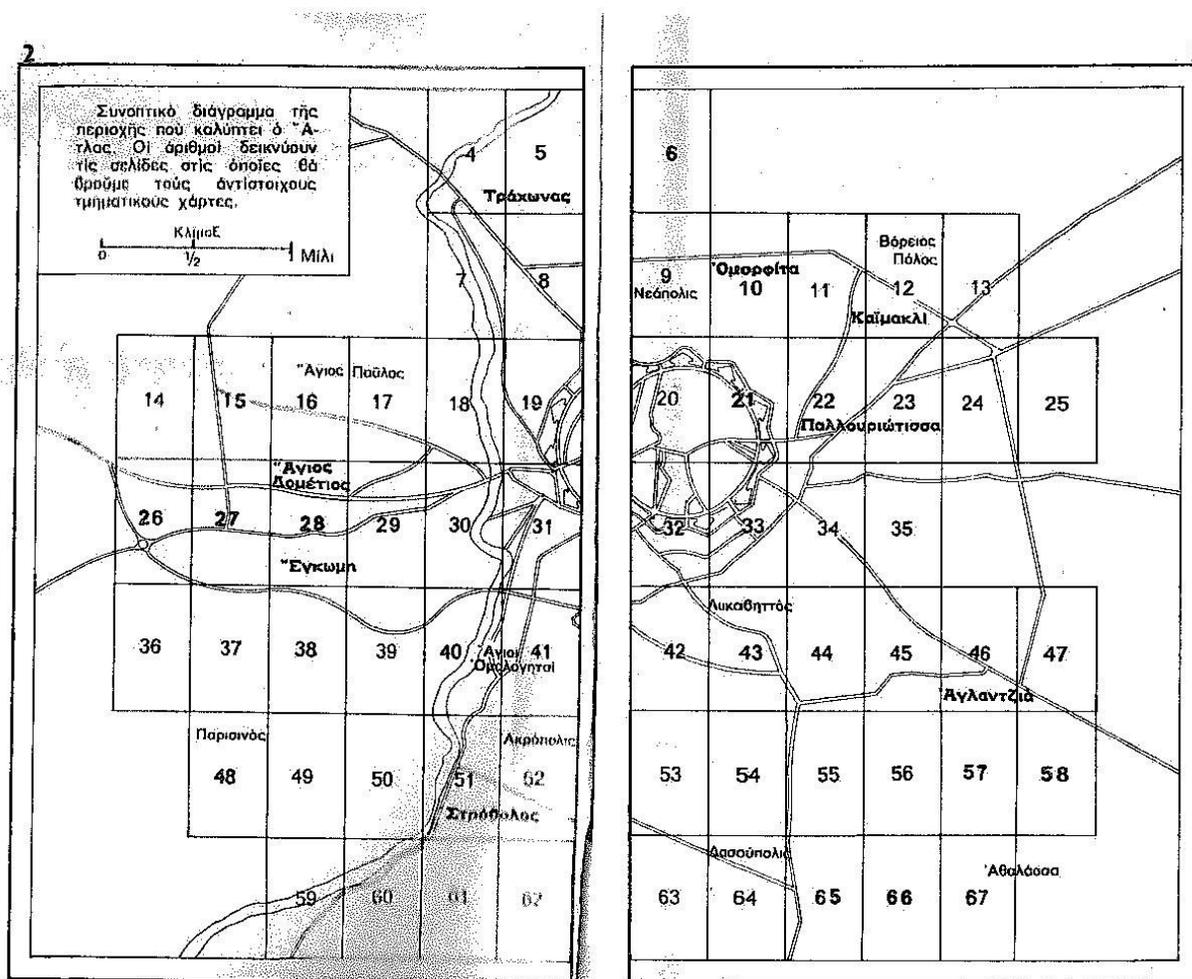


LOCATING THE CEMETERIES

By each cemetery below is the page number and the block/grid letters and numbers from the 1975 street atlas, if the cemetery was included in that book. The master grid map is shown below on this page. The geographical coordinates of each cemetery are also given, as closely as can be determined.

If the cemetery is located outside the scope of the 1975 atlas, only the geographical coordinates are given.

In each case an effort has been made to describe to location by reference to local landmarks, the names of the surrounding neighborhoods, names applied historically, and by "grabbing" street names and other identifiers in the satellite images.



Old Men

by Ogden Nash

*People expect old men to die,
They do not really mourn old men.
Old men are different. People look
At them with eyes that wonder when...
People watch with unshocked eyes;
But the old men know when an old man dies.*

NORTH NICOSIA

A Word from the Author about the Desecration of Graves

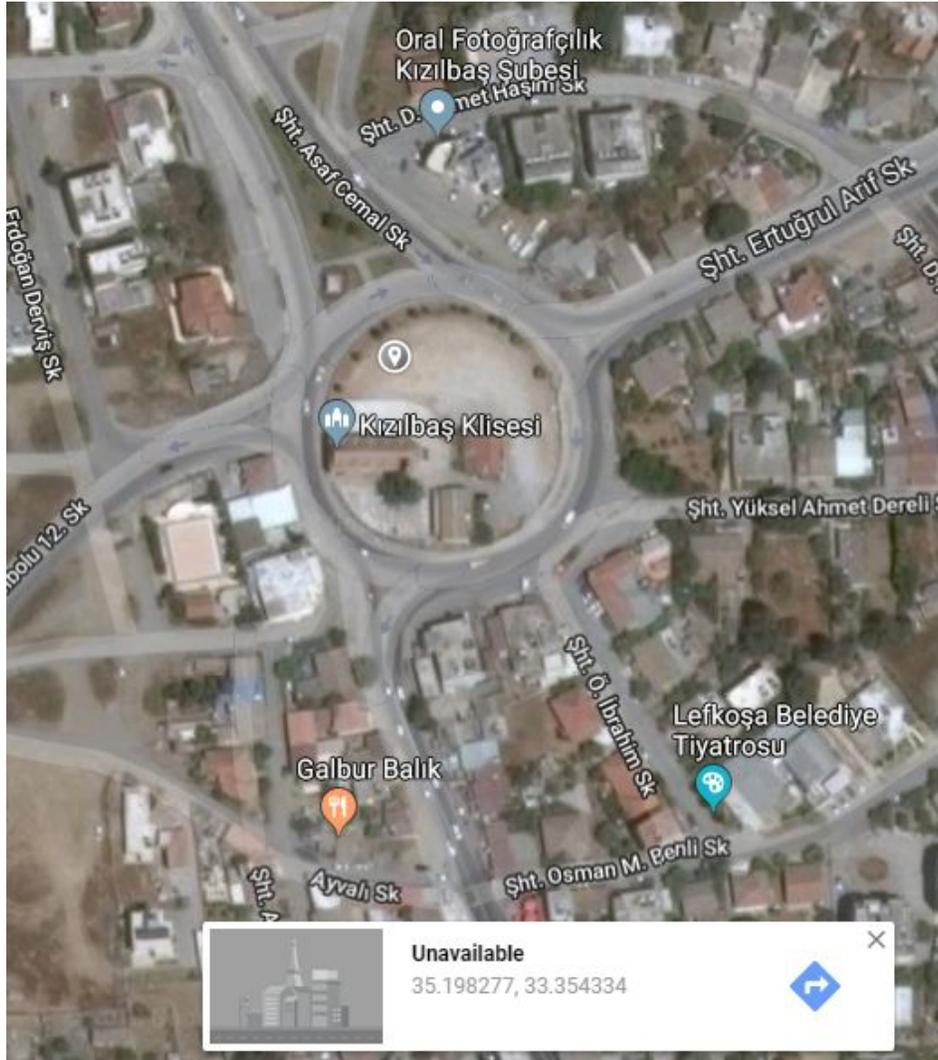
I have no desire to stir emotions nor to speak of political matters, but I must protest when I see cemeteries utterly disrespected in civil planning, as several have been in North Nicosia by the Turkish Cypriot authorities. “Ignored” means that they weren’t seen as places to be hallowed and protected. Instead, they have been eliminated as if they were mere vacant pieces of land. While true that they may not have held the final remains of Turkish Cypriots (though some of the burials thus treated were certainly related to Turkish Cypriots), or that the Turkish Cypriot culture may not place the same importance on the “final resting place” of mortal remains, it is my belief that any burial place should be recognized as hallowed and treated with due respect. If civil plans require the use of a burial place, proper relocation of the graves should be part of the planning. If that is impossible due to something as politically sticky as The Cyprus Problem, the cemetery in question should be preserved and the plans revised.

I may yet learn that proper respect was indeed given, and I apologize in advance if such was the case. With that said, we first see a cemetery that has been bulldozed. Whether any provision was made for relocation of the graves is unknown at this time.

Matt A. Ellsworth

Cemetery 1 – Ekklesia Panayias / Kızılbaş Klisesi

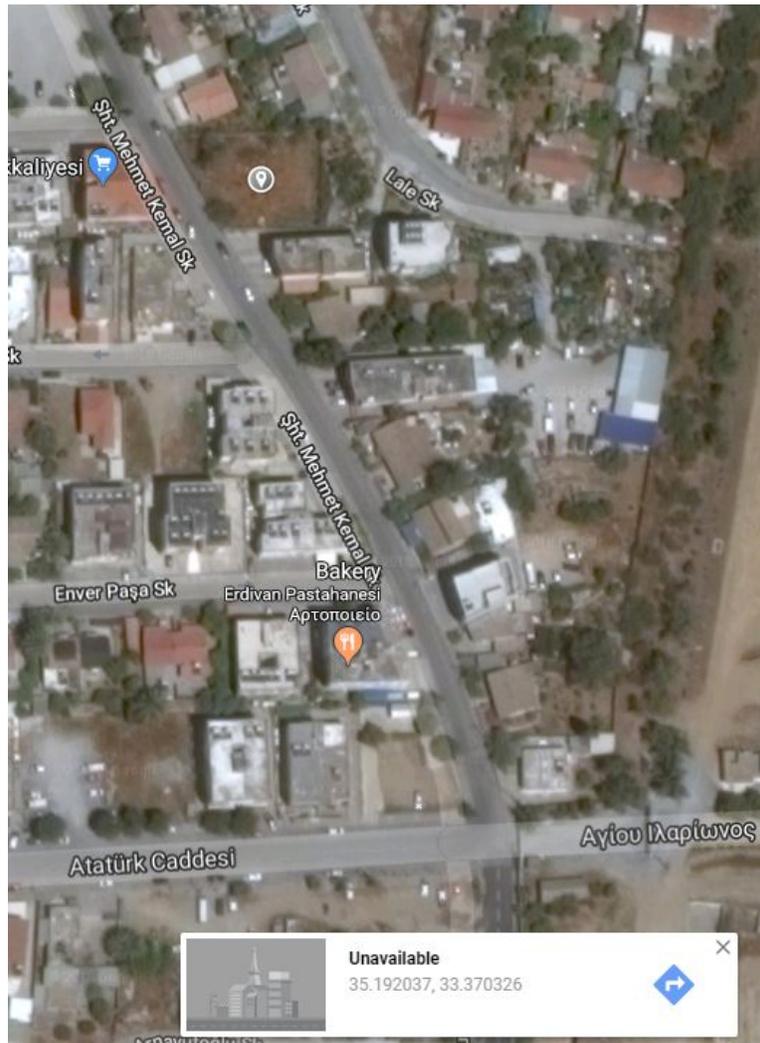
PAGE 5, BLOCK EPSILON/3 of the 1975 Atlas
35.198277N 33.354334E



The church described in this image as “Kızılbaş Klisesi” was known as the *Ekklesia Panayias*. You can see it in the 9 o’clock position in the traffic roundabout. The church itself wasn’t demolished when the roundabout was formed. The cemetery was just to the north of the church where now there is a parking lot, the paved northern part of the roundabout, and the triangular garden space. Efforts will be made to learn if the records of burials exist and if the history of the demolition of the cemetery was preserved.

Cemetery 2 – Ayios Demetrianou?

PAGE 10, BLOCK BETA/1 of the 1975 Atlas
35.192037N 33.370326E

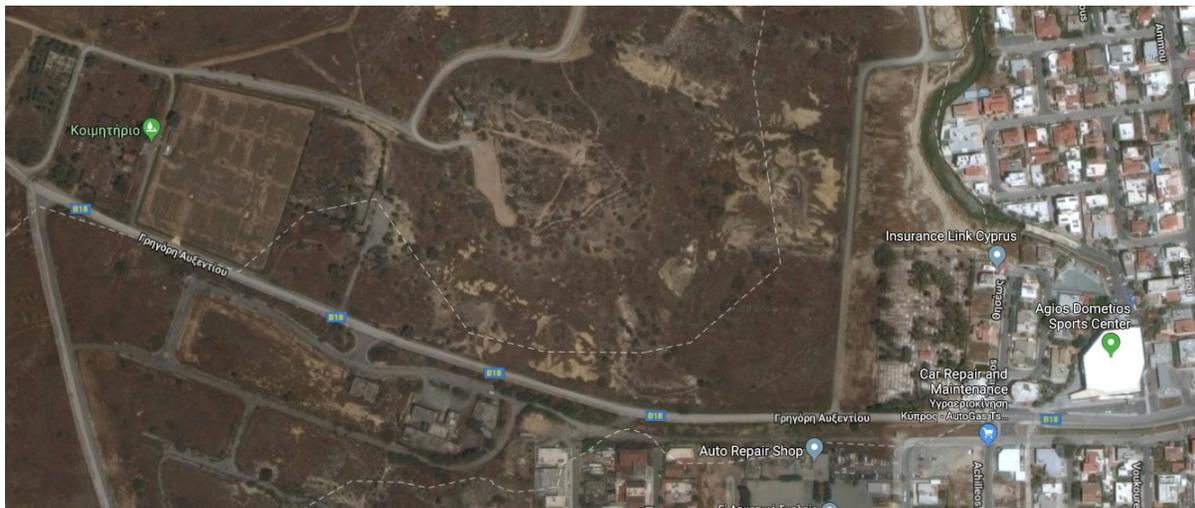


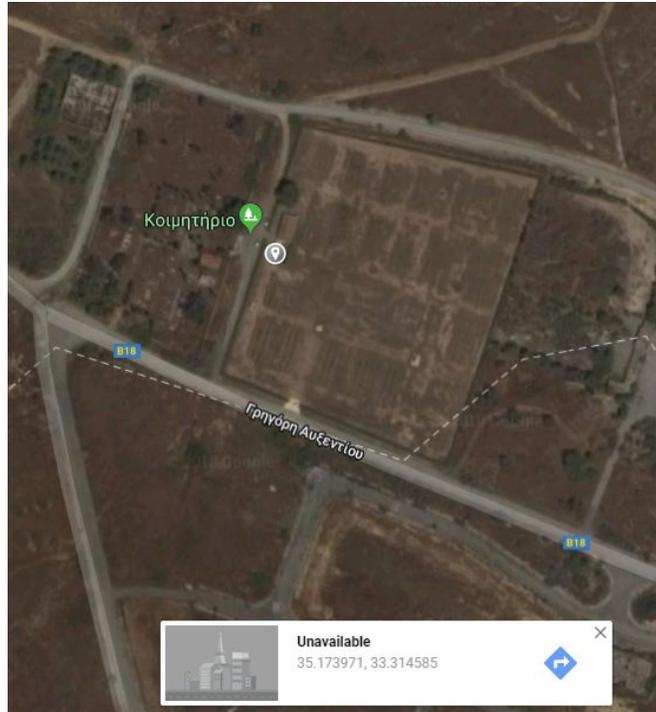
The cemetery is the apparently vacant lot identified by the marker near the top center of the satellite image. The street now called *Shahit Mehmet Kemal Sokak* was named *Theodorou Kolokotroni* before 1974. The nearest church, and most likely patron of the cemetery was the Ayios Dimitrianou church located a few blocks south of the area shown in the image, at Page 10, Block G/3 of the 1975 Atlas.

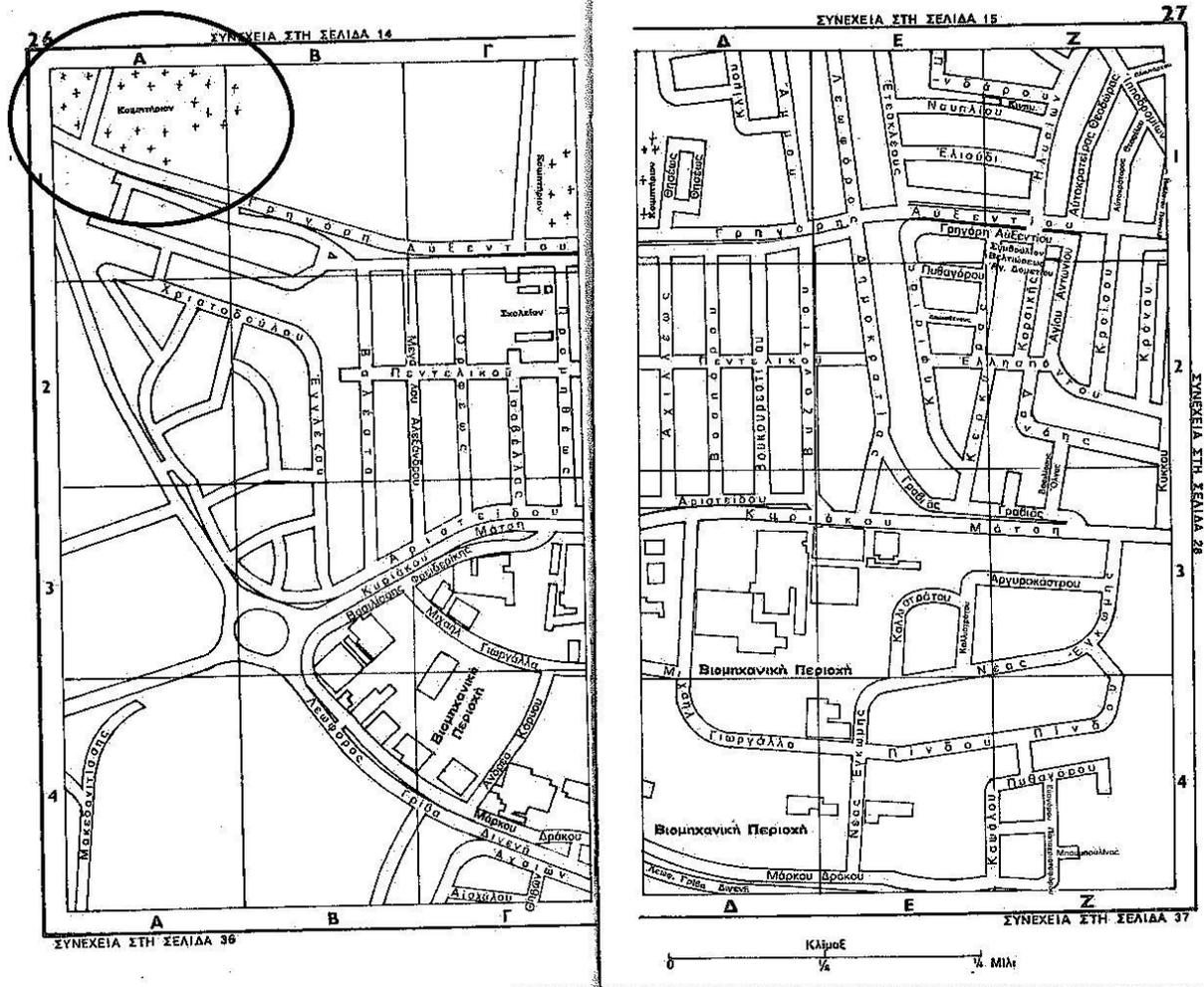
THE BUFFER ZONE

Cemetery 3 – Wayne’s Keep (British Military Cemetery)

PAGE 26, BLOCKS ALPHA/1 and BETA/1 of the 1975 Atlas
35.173971N 33.314585E







This cemetery is described at www.BillionGraves.com as the “Nicosia War Cemetery” and the “Wayne’s Keep Military Cemetery”. The website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) for the cemetery,

[https://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/4007248/nicosia-\(waynes-keep\)-military-cemetery/](https://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/4007248/nicosia-(waynes-keep)-military-cemetery/),

says:

Location Information

Nicosia (Waynes Keep) Military Cemetery is situated within the UN Buffer Zone some 4 kms west of the city of Nicosia.

Visiting Information

As Nicosia Military Cemetery (Wayne’s Keep) is within the UN Buffer Zone, visitors wishing to visit the cemetery should be aware that prior authorisation is required from the UN. All visitors should contact the UN Wayne’s Keep Custodian by email unbritsigns@hotmail.co.uk at least 5 working days prior to the proposed visit date. Please state in the email, the full name as on passport, nationality and passport number for each person wishing to visit the cemetery and also the proposed date of the visit. Normal visiting times are Monday to Friday, 08:00-16:00.

Visits outside these times may be possible, but only in exceptional circumstances. Please note that photographs are limited to discreet ones of headstones only owing to the sensitivities of the area. For further information and enquiries please contact enquiries@cwgc.org

History Information

Nicosia (Waynes Keep) Military Cemetery contains post 1947 service graves. There are now nearly 600, non-World War casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, a small number are unidentified.

Of the 600 burials mentioned, the website lists only two: Lothar Roehrich and Rudolf Miller. The author was informed in January 2018 by the UN Command in Nicosia that all the names are known and recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

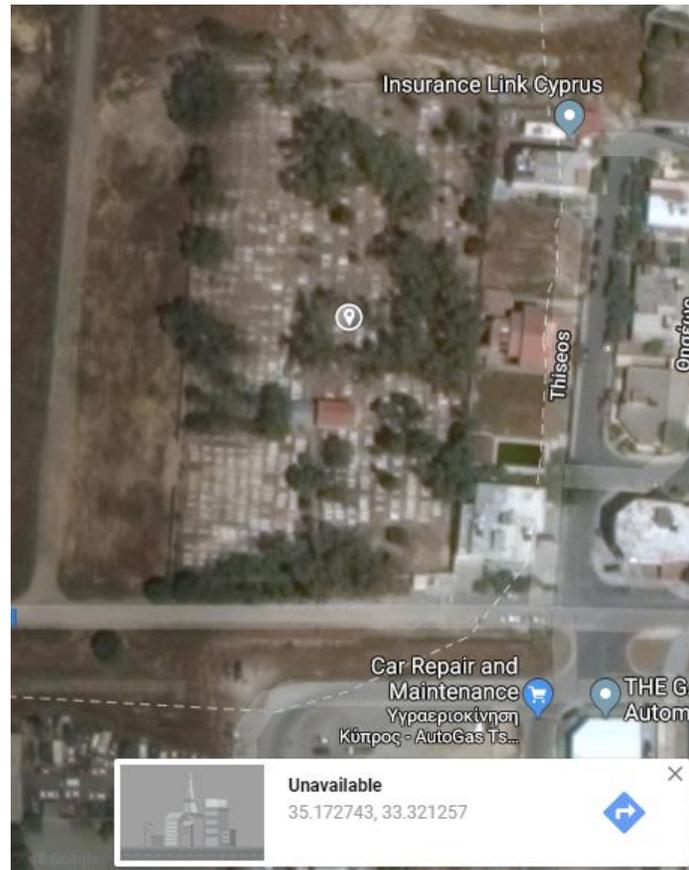
The cemetery is identified in the images by the green marker. As the close-up image shows, the marker is in fact located on a street that bisects the two parts of the cemetery. Each part has a caretaker's shed. The part on the left (west) appears to be watered—as evidenced by the trees—and the graves appear to be intact. The part on the right (east) appears eerily desolate, even more brown and drear than the surrounding untended properties. The satellite image shows that the entire piece on the right was carefully marked with rows and plots, suggesting that there are burials across the whole of the property, but nothing remains except for the caretaker's shed and a couple of supposed monuments, showing as white specks. As described on the CWGC site, access to the site must be arranged with the UN. The Google depiction is misleading. The cemetery is indeed inside the Buffer Zone.

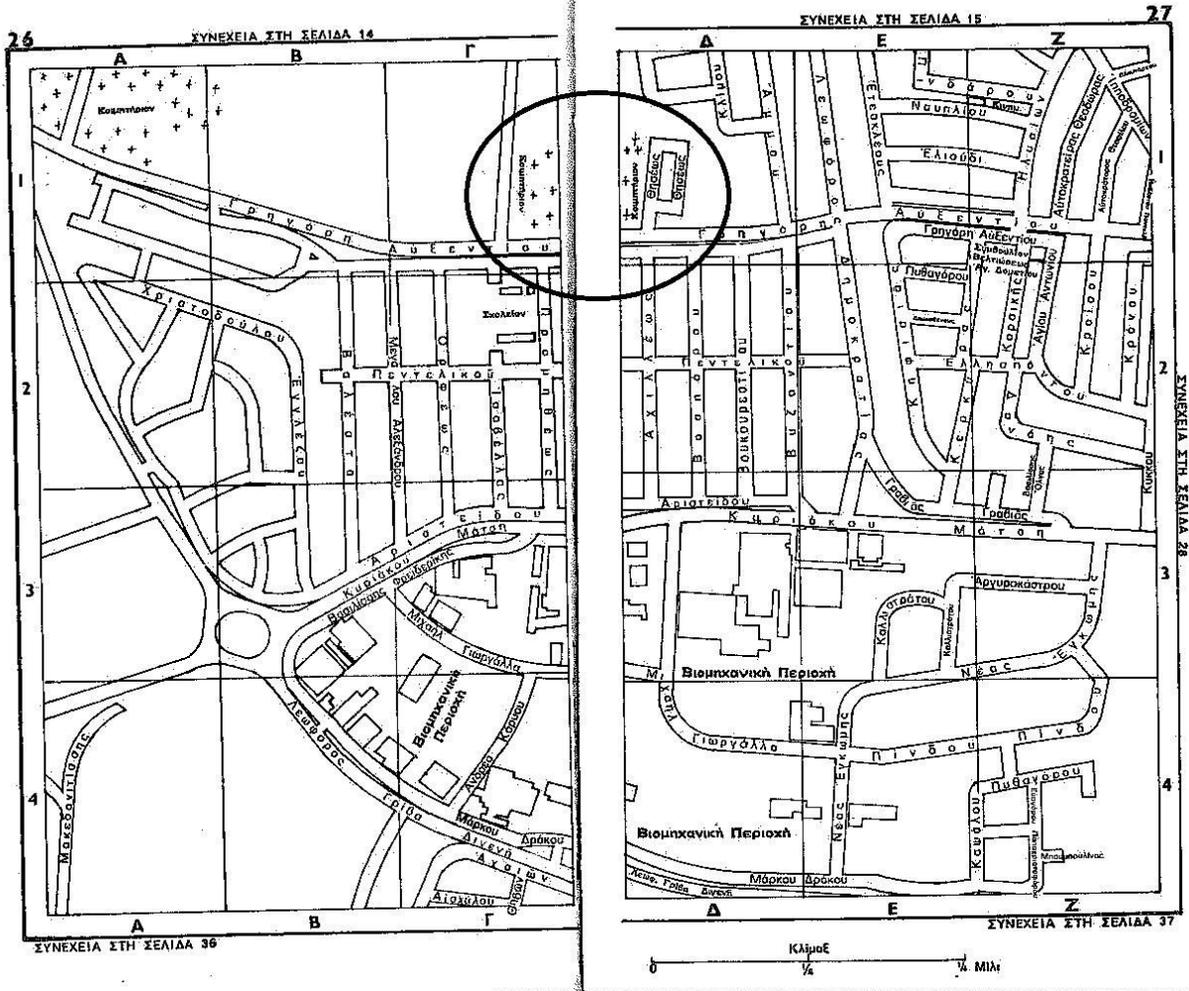
The elongated upper image was included to show the proximity of the site to the neighborhood of Ayios Dometios. Before 1974 and the creation of the UN-patrolled Buffer Zone, this large cemetery was a short drive from the city, and churches—of Ayios Dometios. Now it is difficult to visit.

Also visible in the upper image, at right near the Ayios Dometios athletic center indicated by the other green pin, is another cemetery. It is now in the Green Zone and is described below. Whether it was newer or older than the others in the image, or of another faith (Episcopal, Catholic, Armenia, etc.) will be determined through inquiry. Access is restricted by the UN.

Cemetery 4 – Ayios Dometios

PAGE 26, BLOCK GAMMA/1 and PAGE 27, BLOCK DELTA/1 of the 1975 Atlas
35.172743N 33.321257E

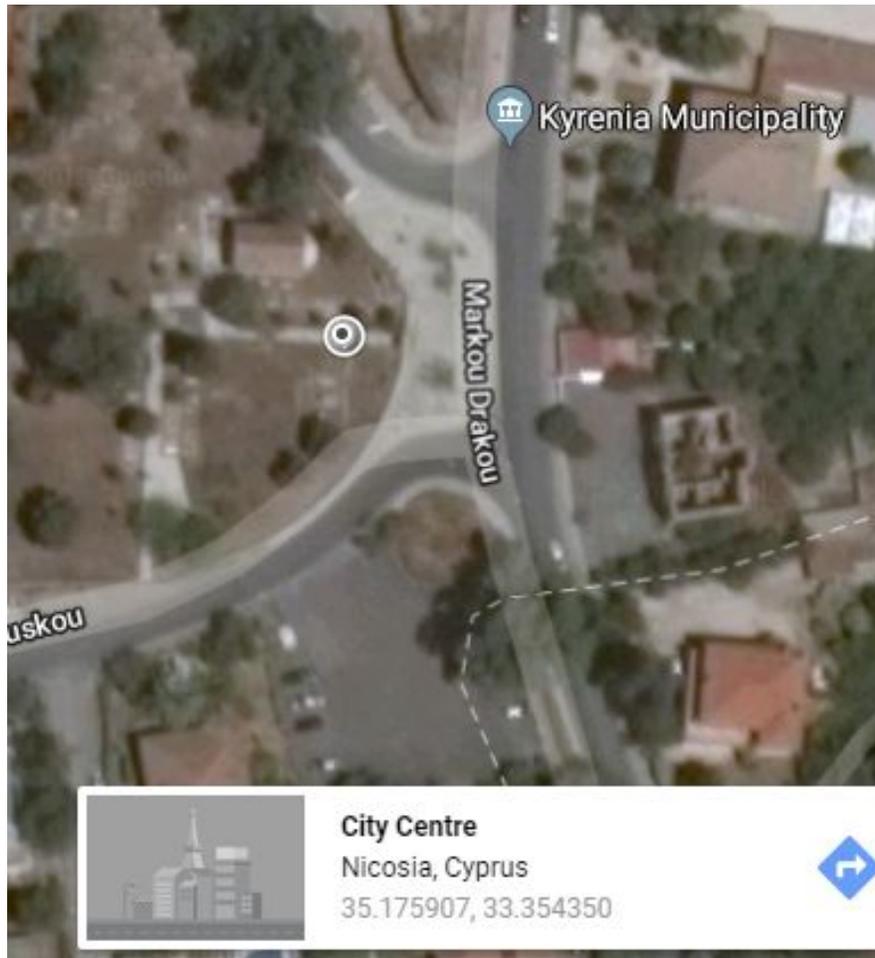


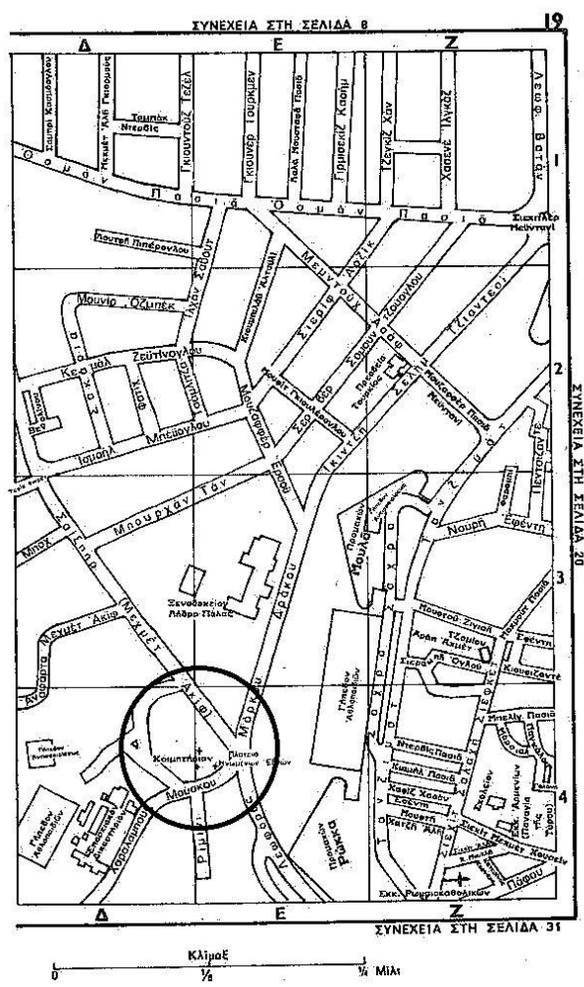
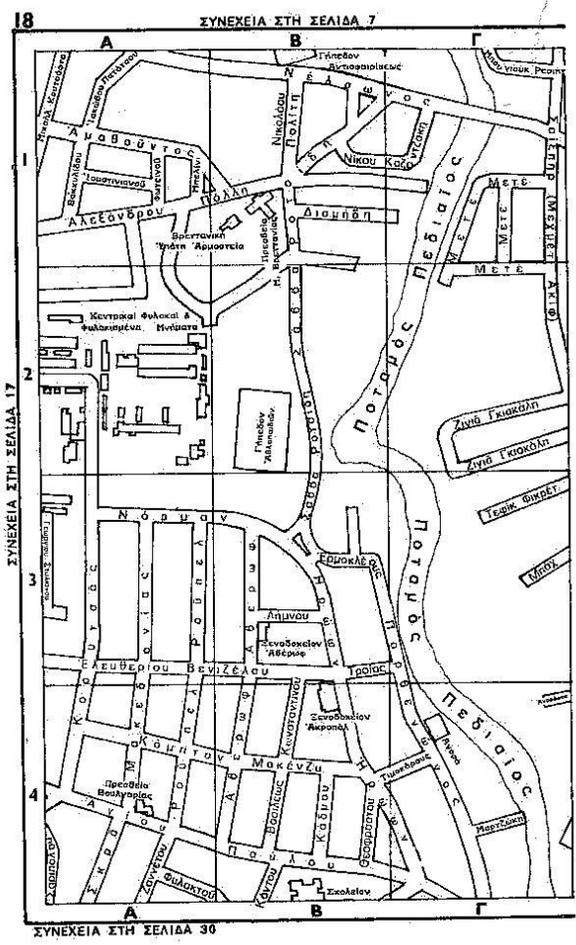


The cemetery is just inside the Buffer Zone and apparently inaccessible from the east. Still it appears that the trees are well watered and the graves are tended. The patron churches may have been Ayios Georgiou (Page 28, Block BETA/2) and Ayios Dometios (Page 29, Block Delta/3). A U.N. source said it was an Armenian cemetery.

Cemetery 5 – The Armenian Cemetery, by the Ledra Palace Hotel

PAGE 19, BLOCKS DELTA and EPSILON/4 of the 1975 Atlas
35.175907N 33.354350E





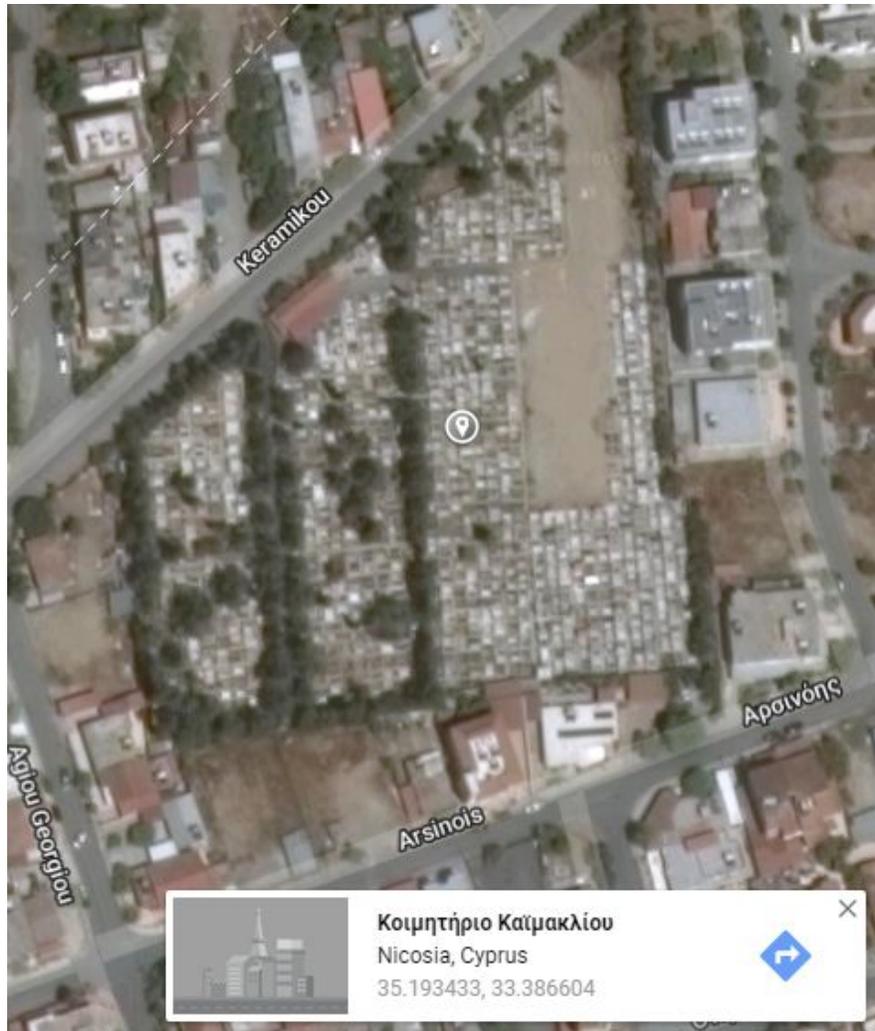
This little cemetery is not far from the recently-refurbished Armenian monastery. Access is obtained from the UN Command, who report that a caretaker visits frequently.

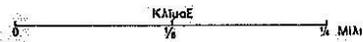
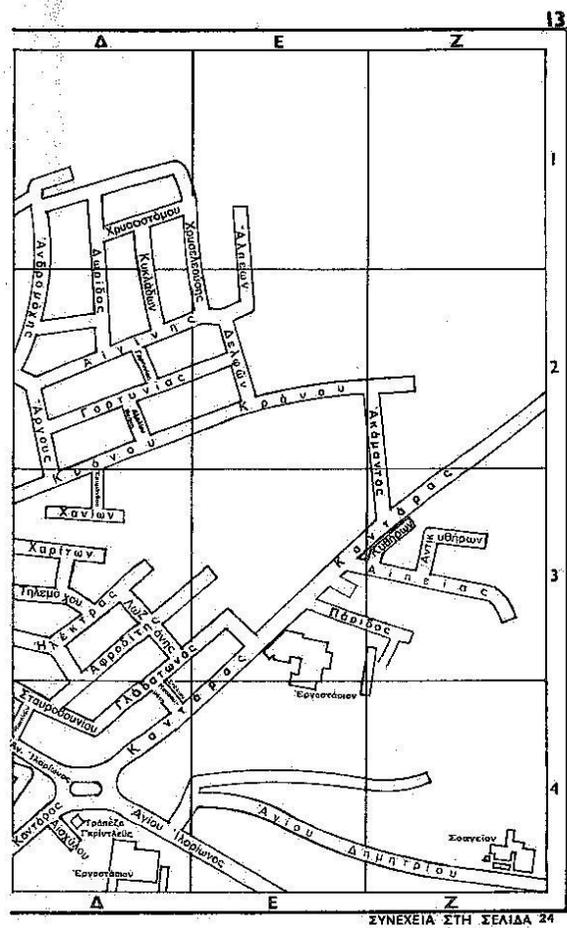
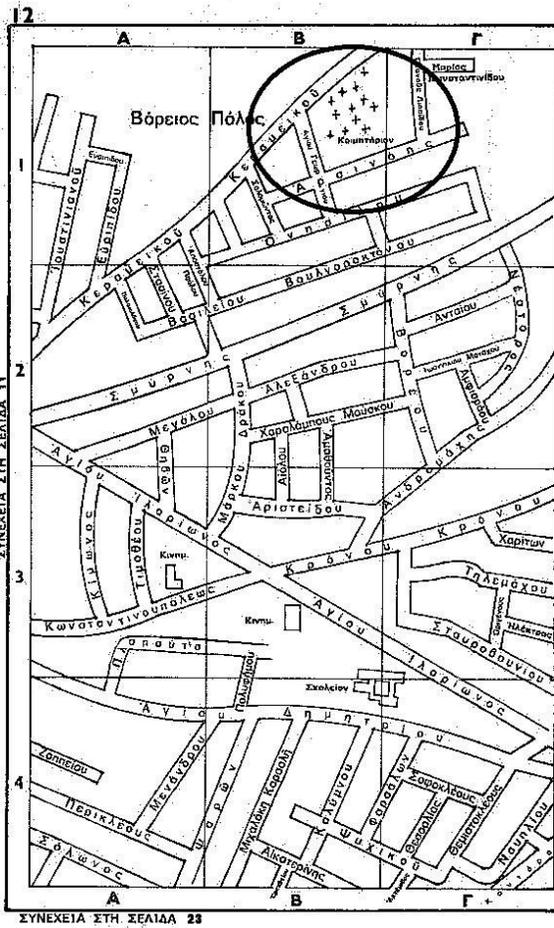
SOUTH NICOSIA

Cemetery 6 – Ayia Varvara, Kaimakli

PAGE 12, BLOCK BETA/1 of the 1975 Atlas

35.193433N 33.386604E



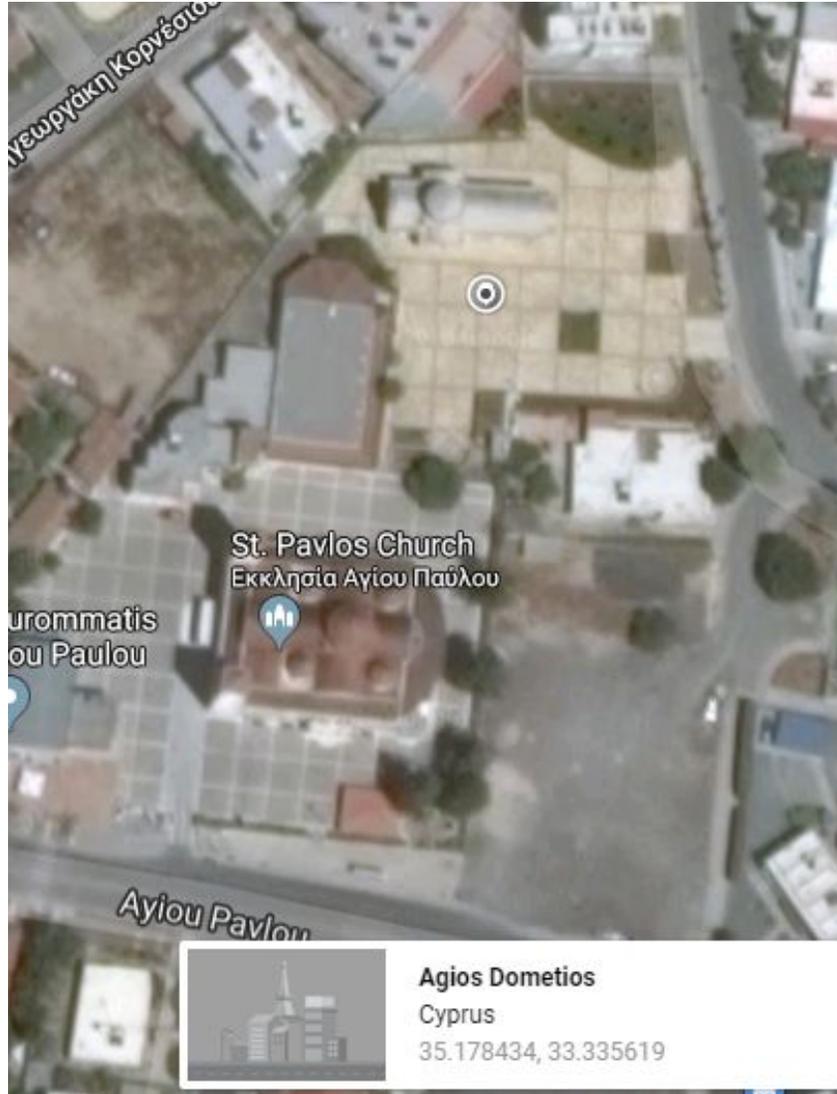


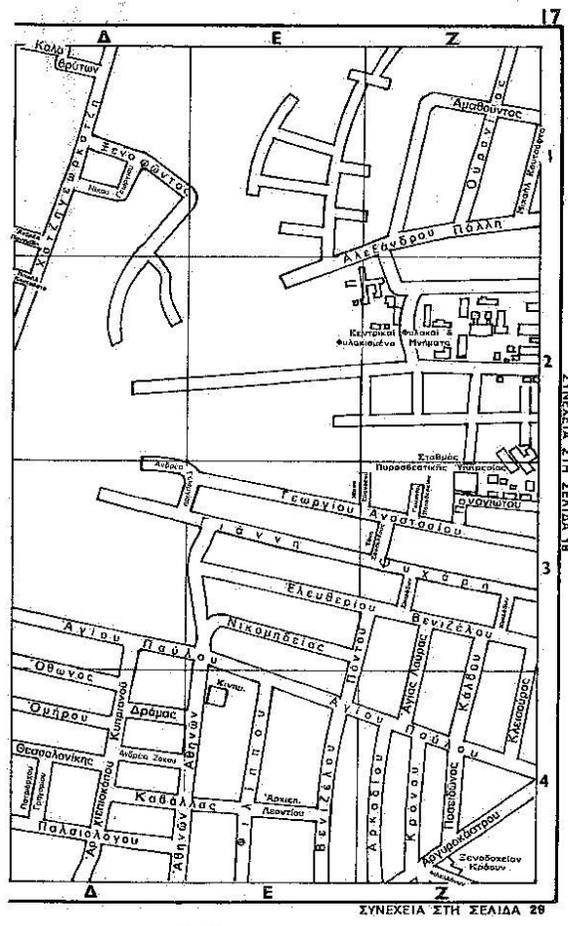
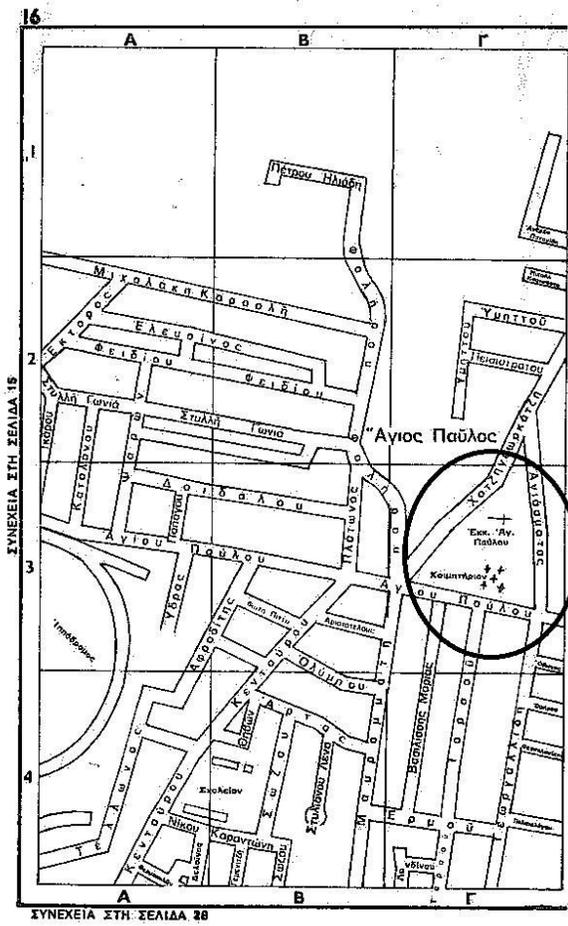
This large cemetery is active and well-tended. The associated churches are Ayia Varvara and ???

Cemetery 7 – Ayios Pavlos, in Ayios Dometios Neighborhood

PAGE 16, BLOCK GAMMA/3 of the 1975 Atlas

35.178434N 33.335619E

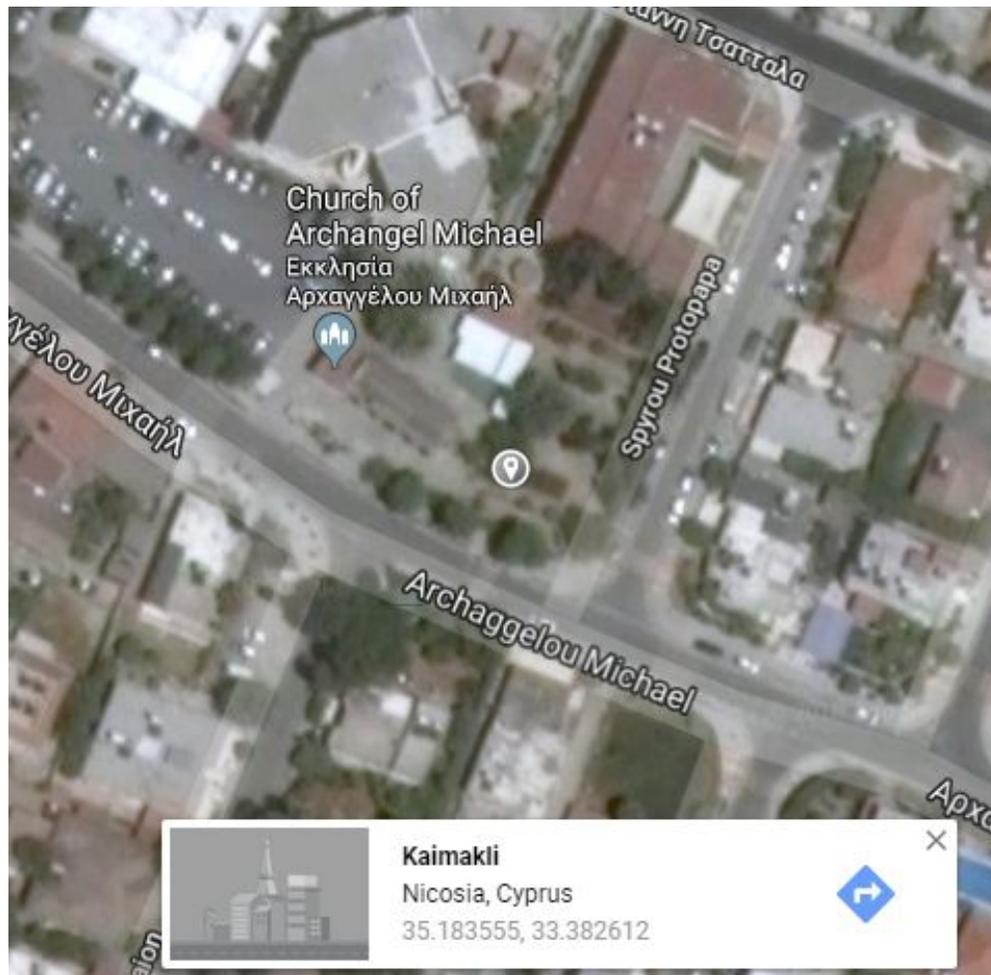


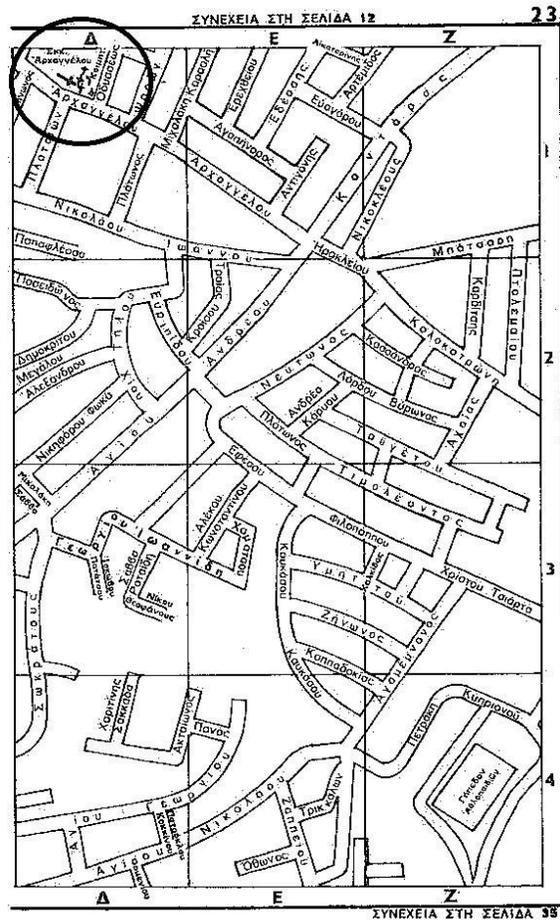
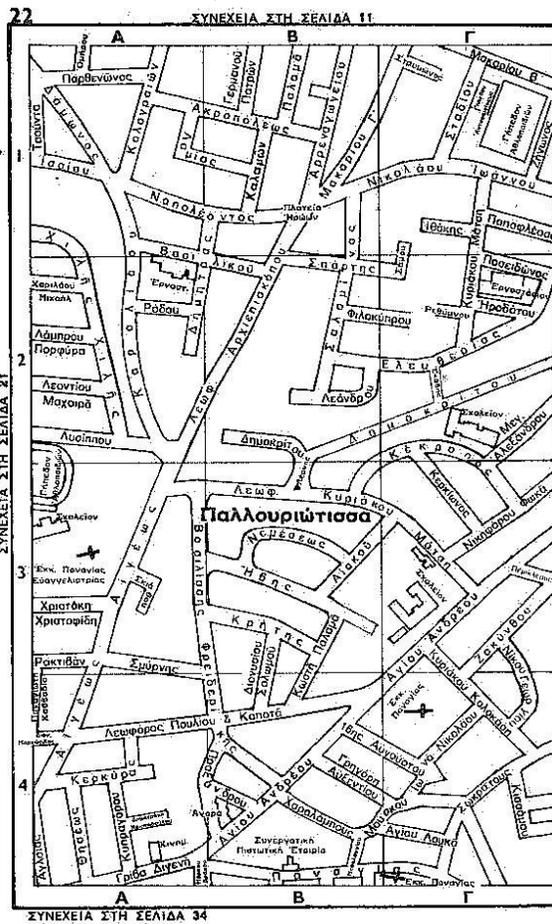


The street atlas of 1975 shows the old church, visible at the top of the satellite image, with burials placed to the south (bottom of the image) along Ayiou Pavlou Street. The graves appear now to be gone.

Cemetery 8 – Archangel Michael Church Cemetery, Pallouriotissa

PAGE 23, BLOCK DELTA/1 of the 1975 Atlas
35.183555N 33.382612E



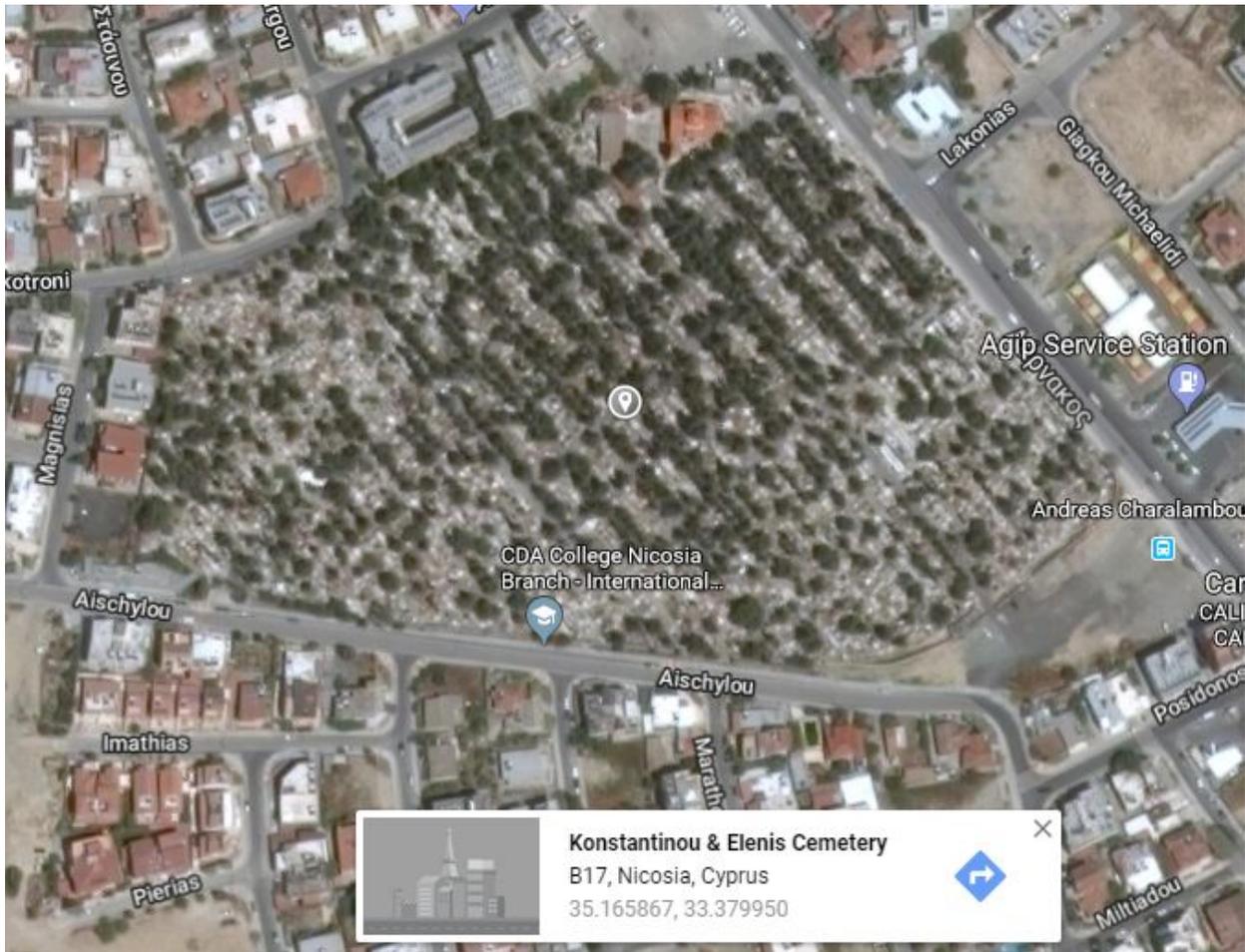


Κλίμακx 1/6 1/4 Μιλx

This small burial plot is in the church yard, to the east (right) of the church building.

Cemetery 9 – Ayios Constantinos & Ayia Eleni, Lykavitos

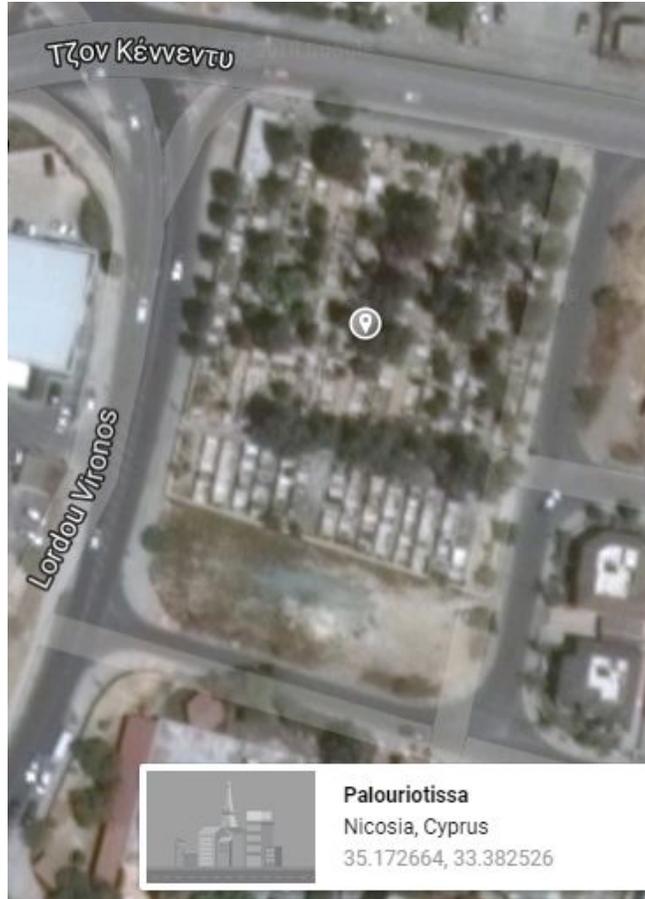
PAGE 34, BLOCK GAMMA/4 of the 1975 Atlas
35.165867N 33.379950E

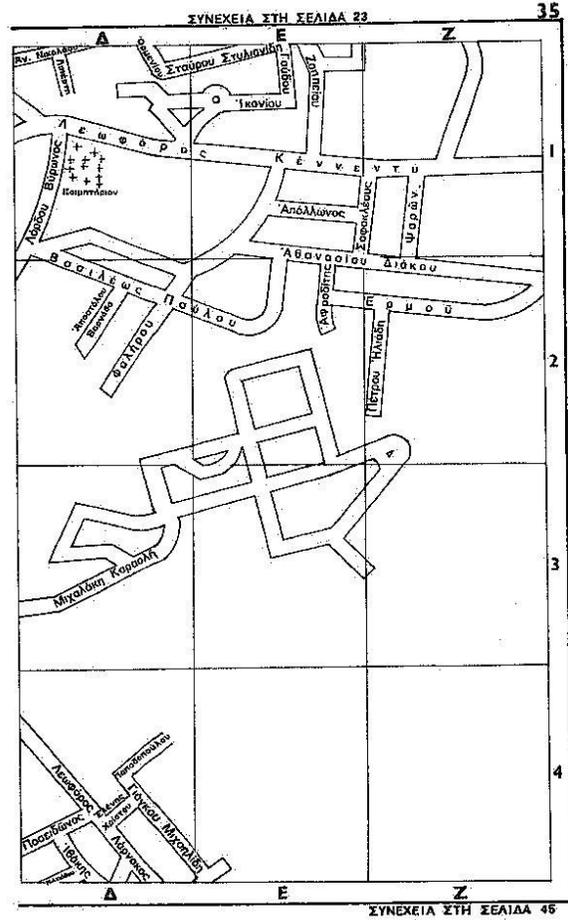
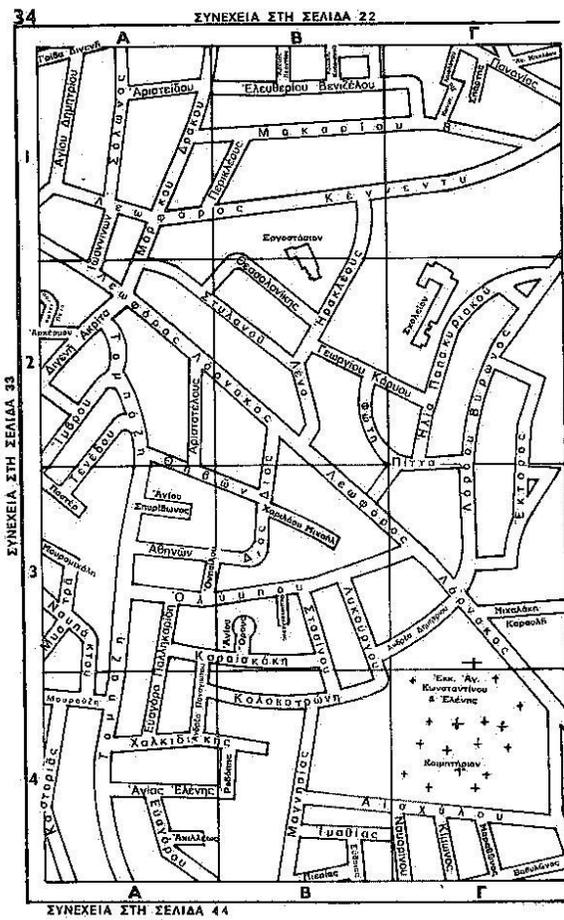


Cemetery 10 – Unidentified, Pallouriotissa

PAGE 35, BLOCK DELTA/1 of the 1975 Atlas

35.172664N 33.382526E





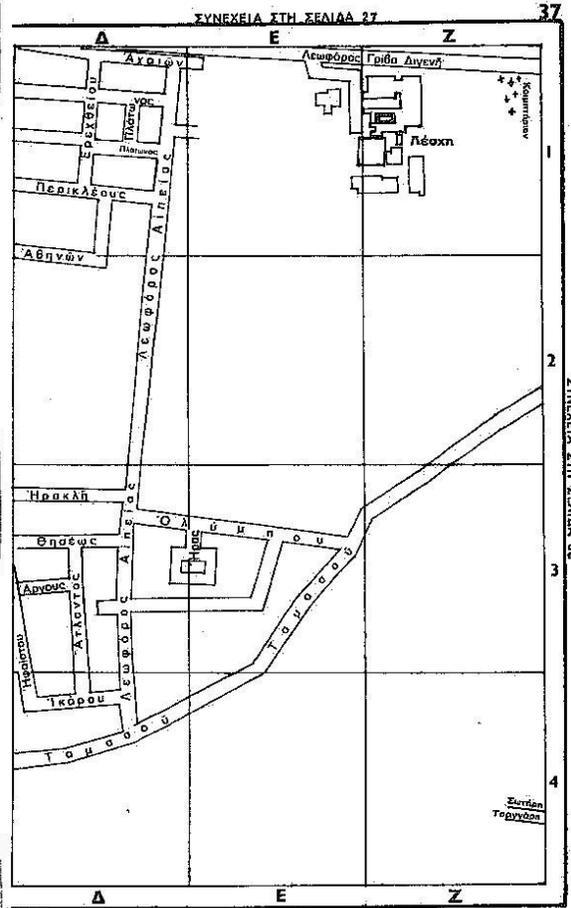
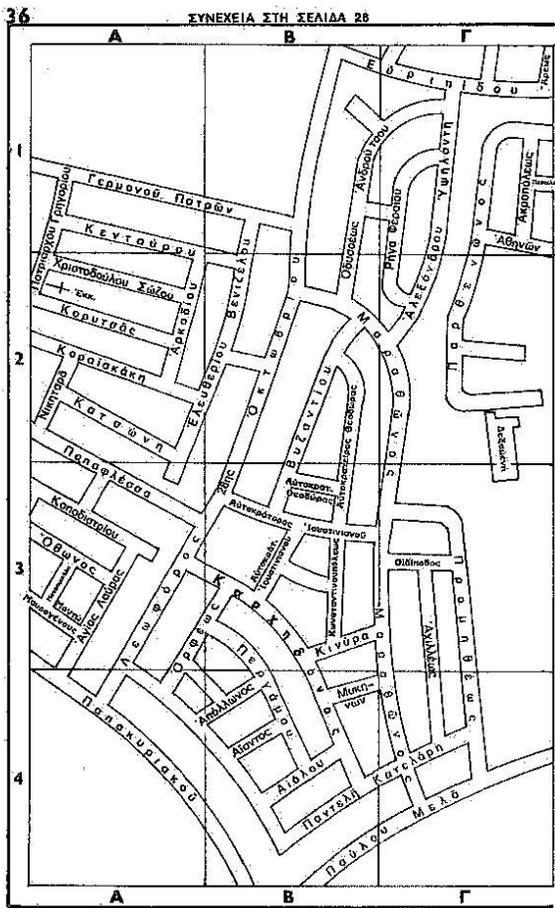
This small cemetery, shown close up in the upper image, is well-tended. The lower satellite image is included for aid in locating the site because of the well-known Athienitis and Lidl supermarkets to either side.

Cemetery 11 – Old Engomi Cemetery

PAGE 37, BLOCK ZETA/1 of the 1975 Atlas
35.163642N 33.328444E



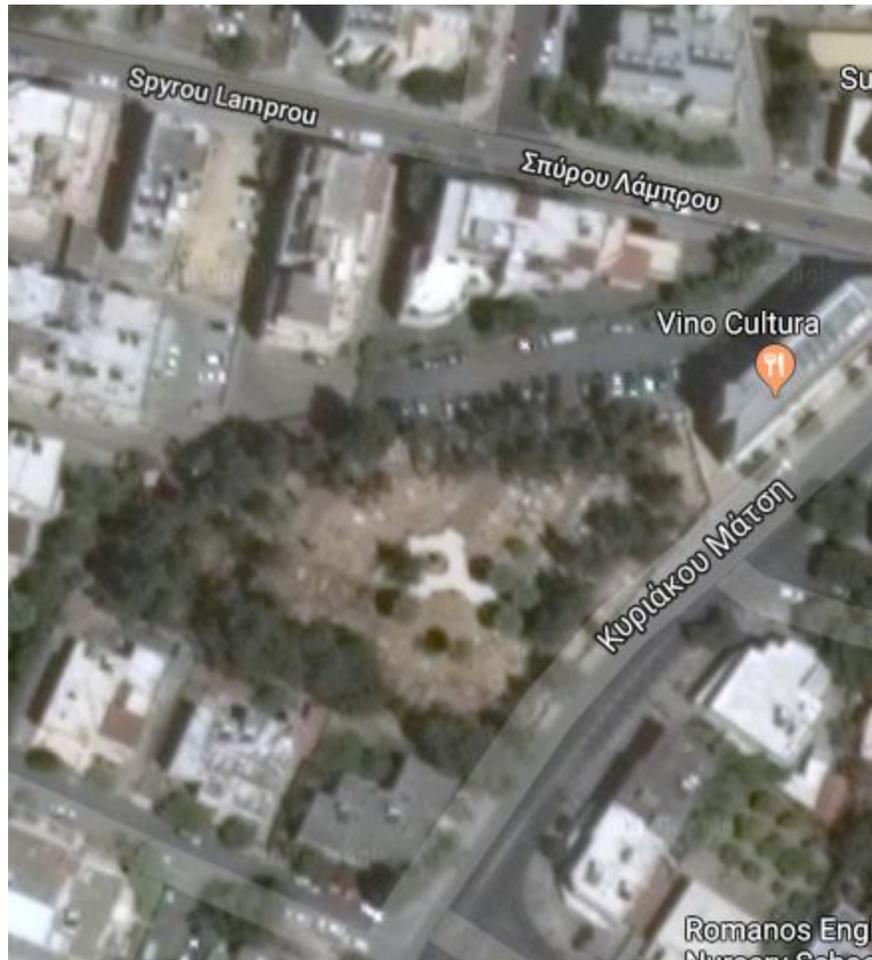
Georgiou Griva Digenio
Nicosia, Cyprus
35.163642, 33.328444



This little sliver of a cemetery, nearly hidden at the side of a major road and beside the Hilton Park Hotel property, nonetheless contains hundreds of graves. It is active and well-tended.

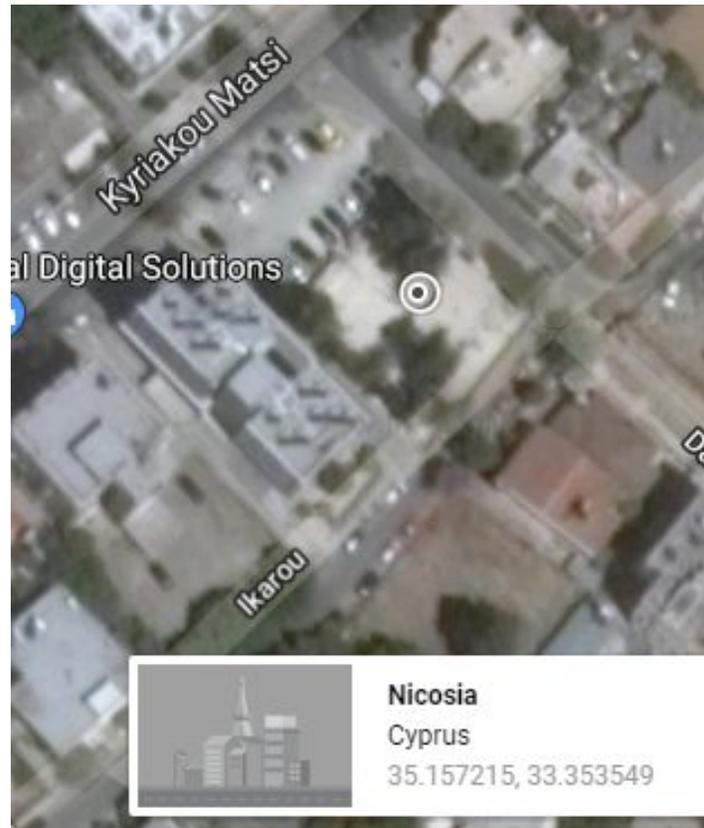
Cemetery 12 – The British Cemetery

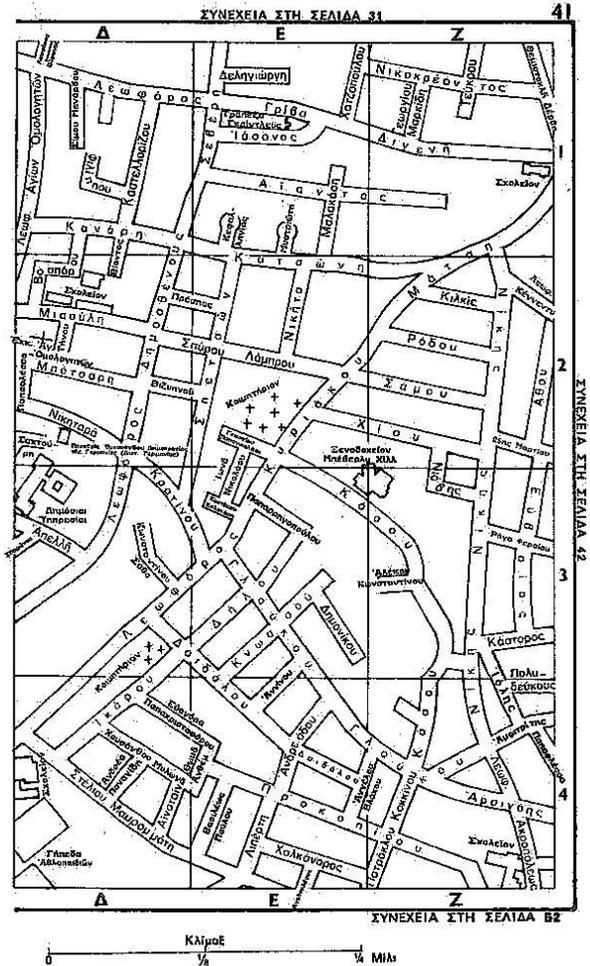
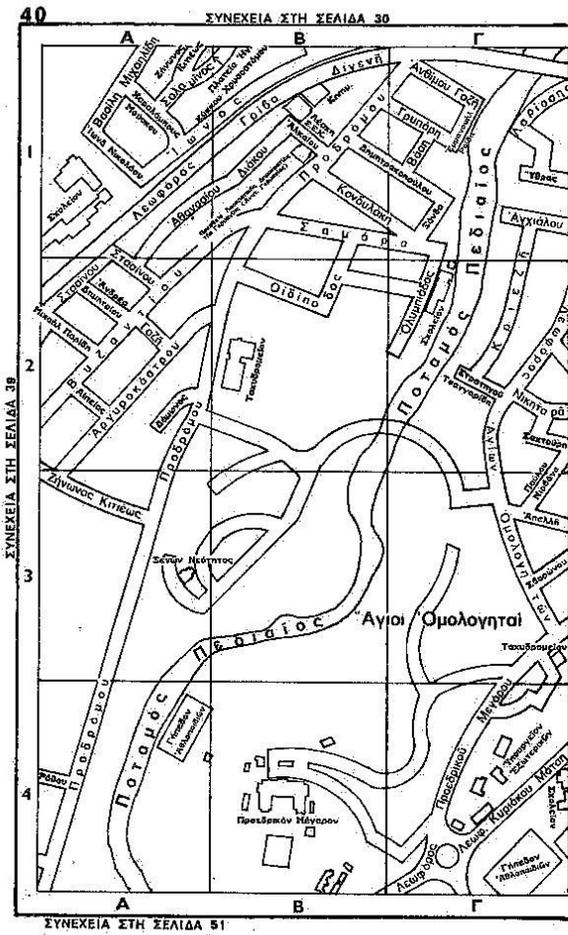
PAGE 41, BLOCK EPSILON/2 of the 1975 Atlas
35°16'01"N 33°35'54"E



Cemetery 13 – Ayioi Omologitades

PAGE 41, BLOCK DELTA/3 of the 1975 Atlas
35°15'74"N 33°35'35"E

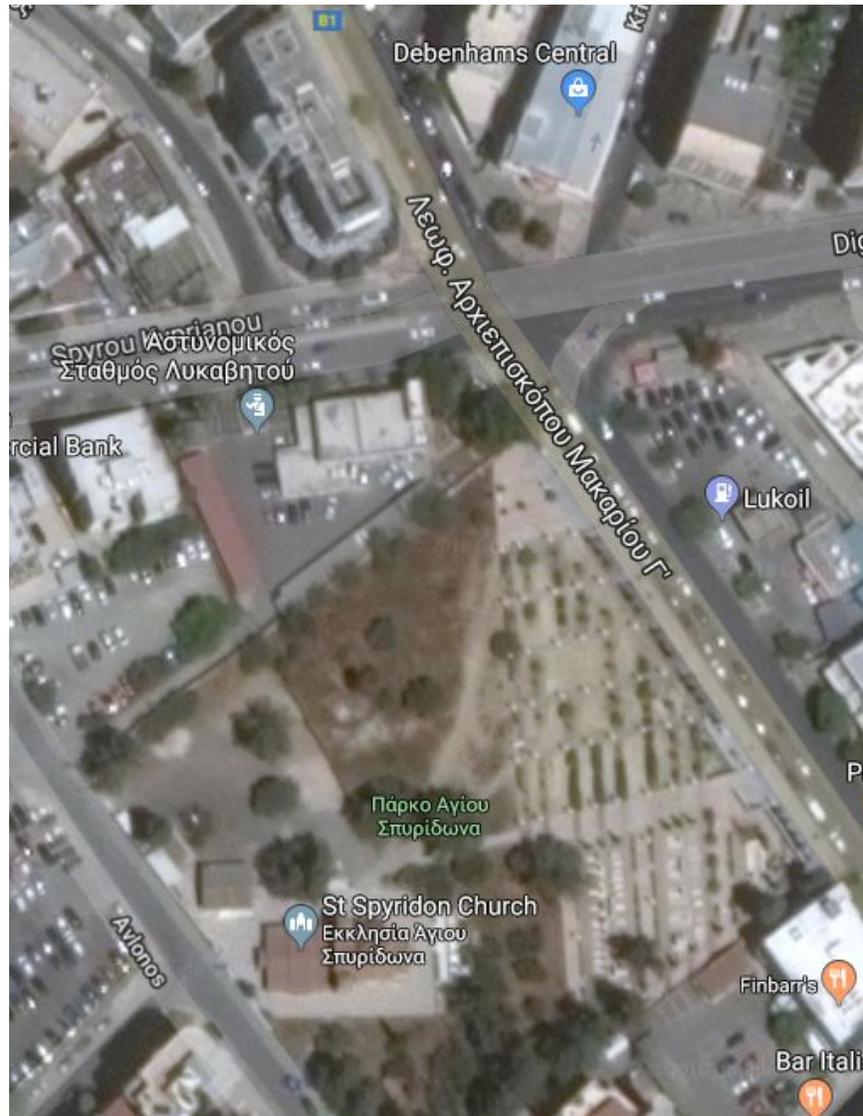


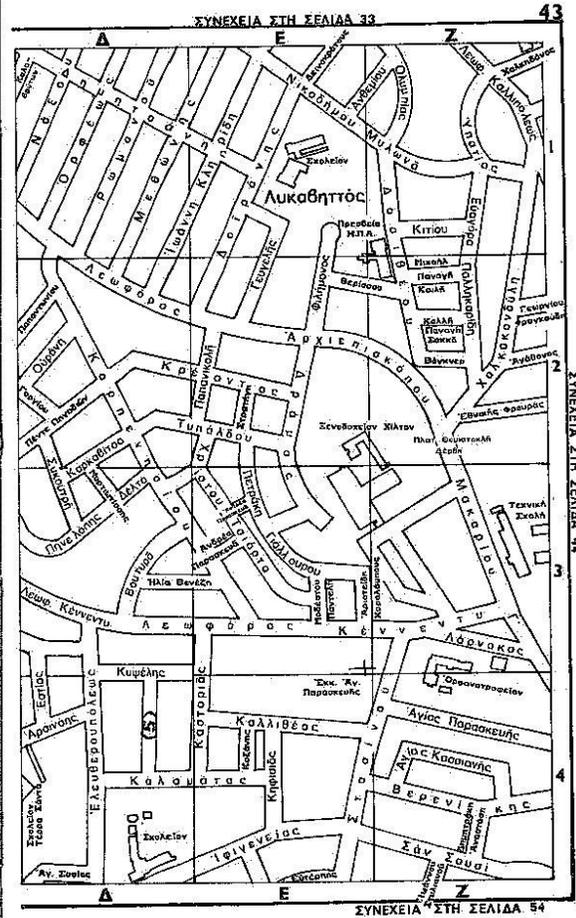
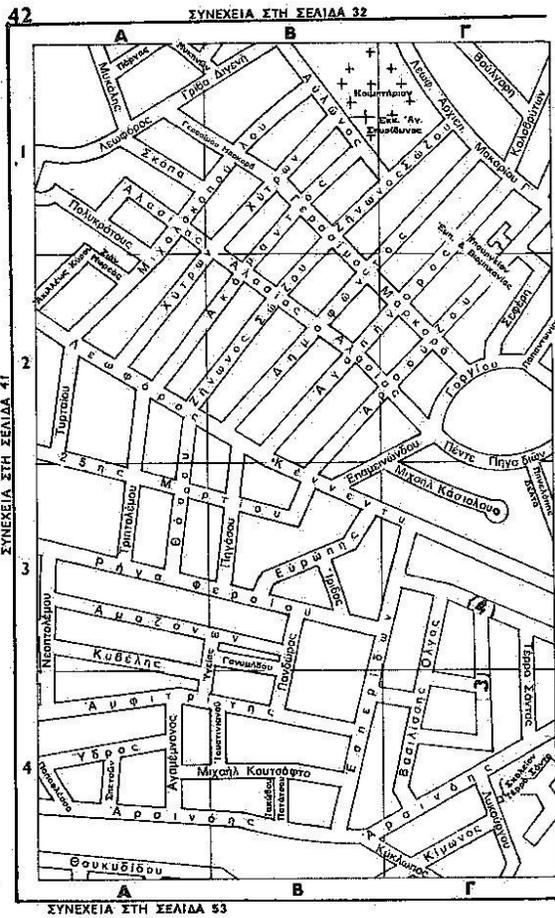


This untended little gem is tucked away off Kyriakou Matsi Street in Ayioi Omologitades area and probably administered by that parish until abandoned. It is at the center of the satellite image, the vacant space by the parking lot, with the many trees. It contains several tilted crosses with the names and dates of the dead, and several unmarked graves. The caretaker's room is locked with a rusted padlock, and the rusted gates hang open at odd angles.

Cemetery 14 - Ayios Spyridon

PAGE 42, BLOCKS BETA/1 and GAMMA/1 of the 1975 Atlas
35°9'49"N 33°21'50"E

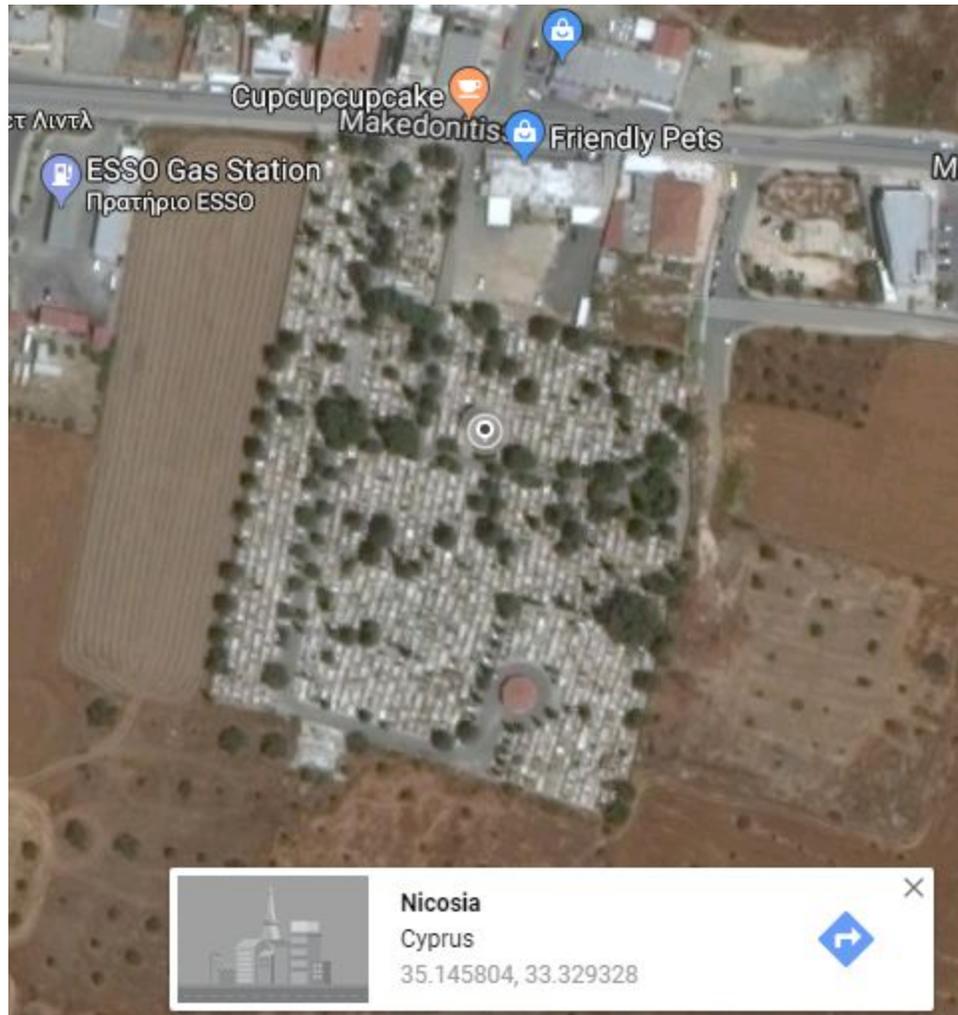


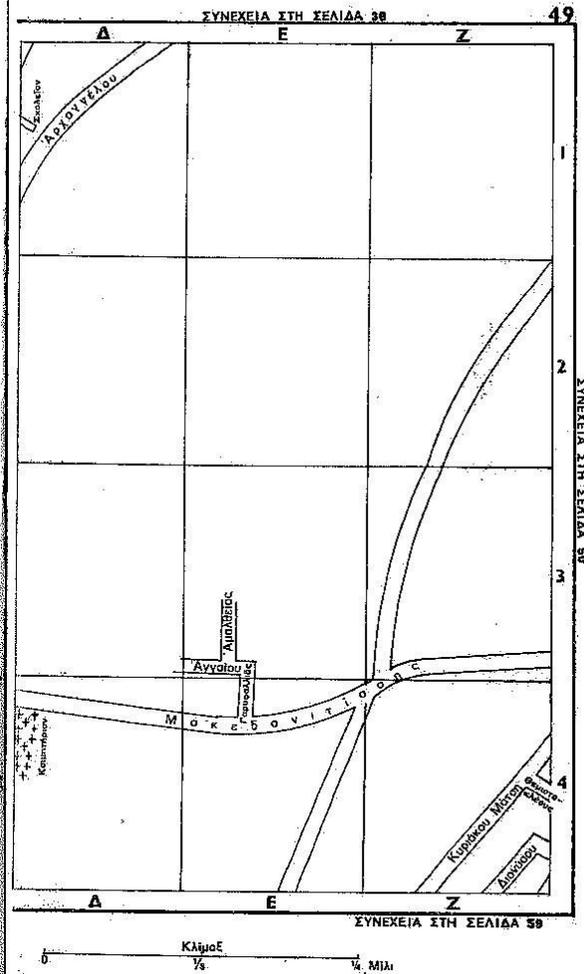
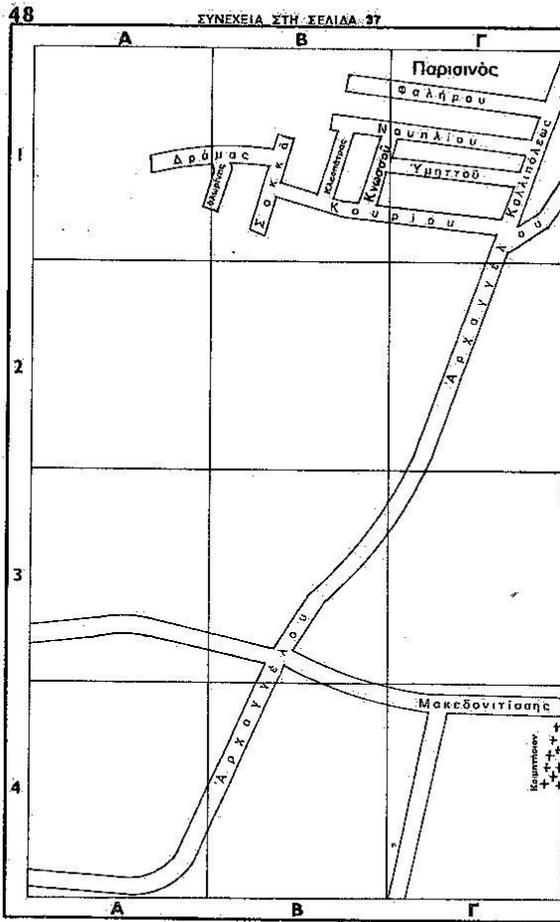


This neat, very visible cemetery is well-cared for and active. It is co-located with its patron parish, the St. Spyridon Church and is easily found opposite Debenham's and behind the Lykavitos police station.

Cemetery 15 – Chryseleousa Cemetery, or Old Strovolos Municipal Cemetery

PAGE 48, BLOCK GAMMA/4 and PAGE 49, BLOCK DELTA/4 of the 1975 Atlas
35.145804N 33.329328E

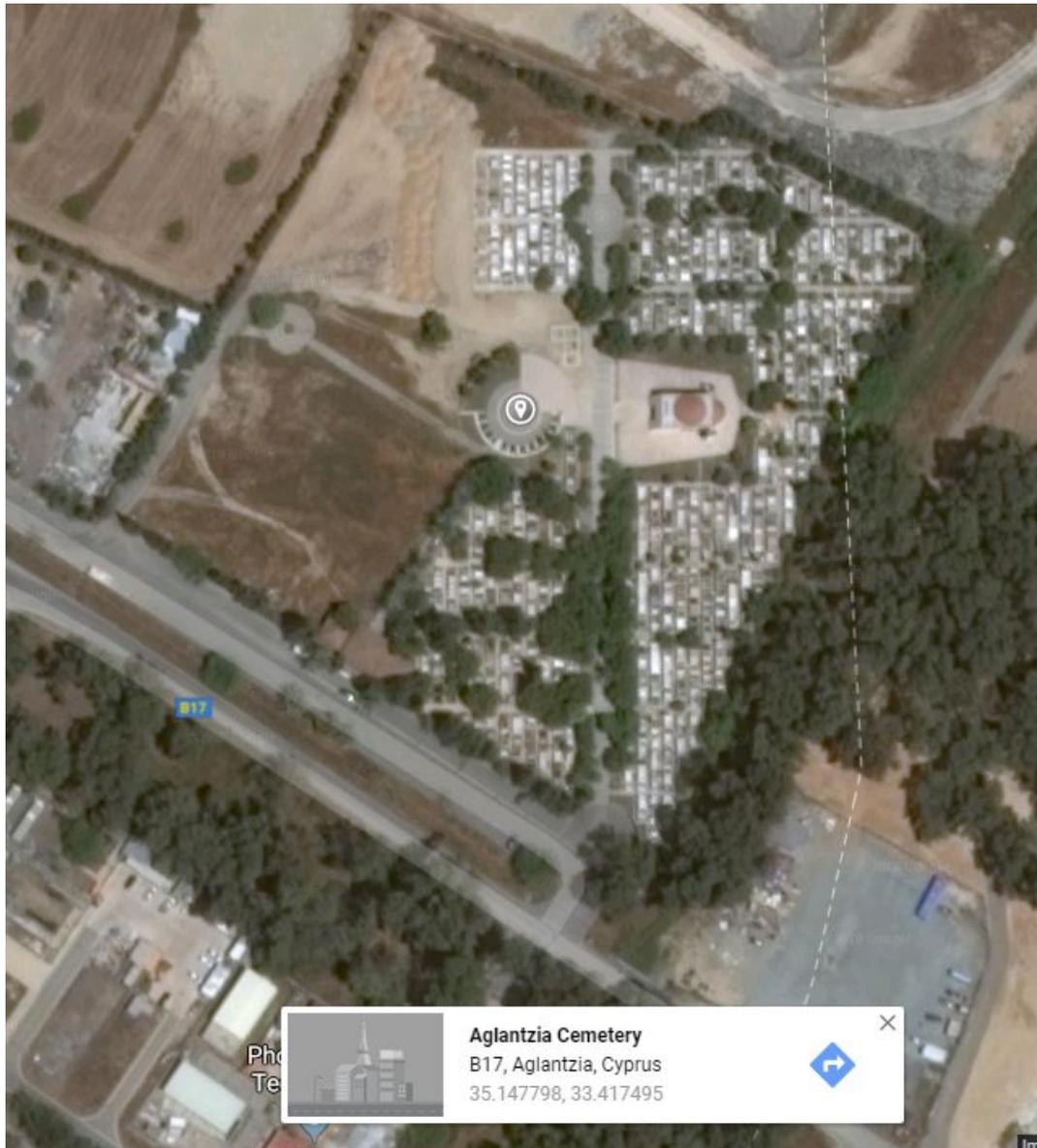




Known as the Chryseleousa Cemetery, this large site is heavily frequented and well-tended. Its patron parishes are in Strovolos. It also functions as the “old” municipal cemetery for Strovolos, though managed by the Church. See <http://www.strovolos.org.cy/en/home-page/citizens-service/general-information/municipal-cemetery/>. It has become full. The new cemetery is in the Tsri-Nissou area and is listed herein as Cemetery 24.

Cemetery 16 – Aglantzia Cemetery

Not included in the 1975 Atlas
35.147798N 33.417495E

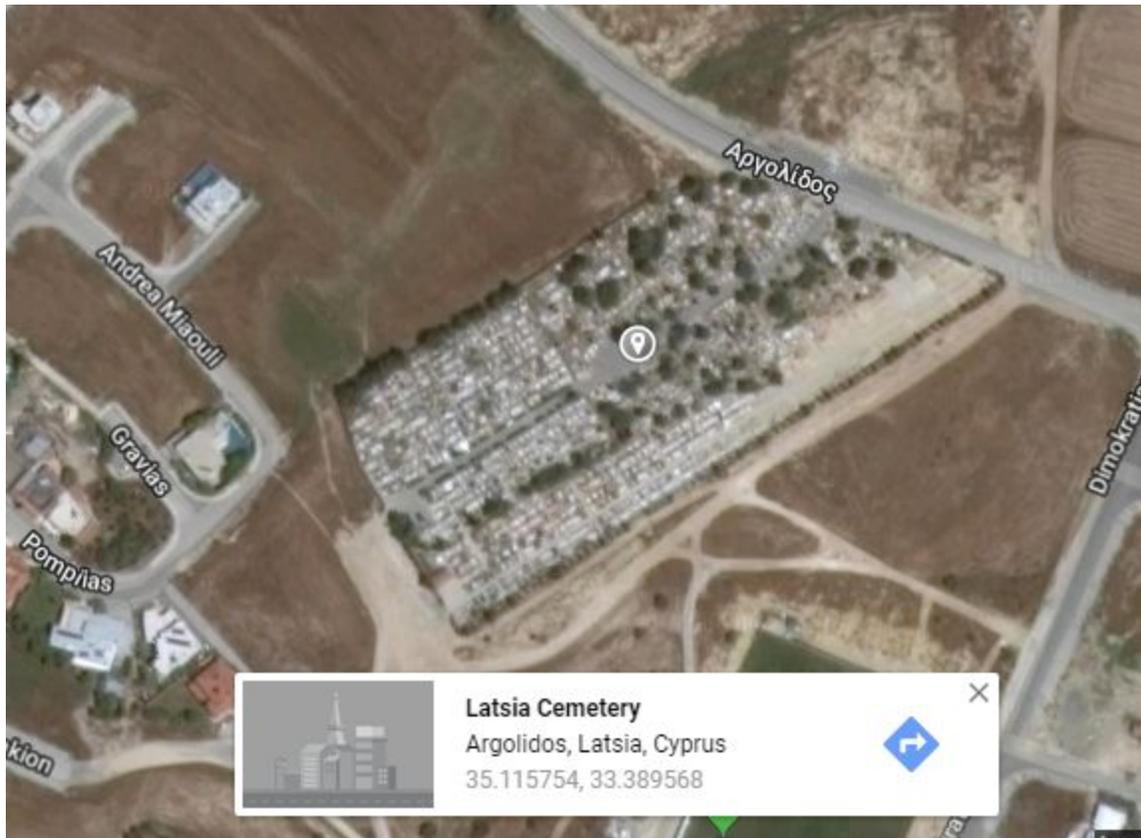


This active and well-kept cemetery is on the Larnaca Road as it reaches the Green Line at the extreme eastern edge of Greater Nicosia. The Google image shows the dotted line of the UN Buffer Zone crossing the east portion of the cemetery, but that is not the case.

Cemetery 16 – Latsia Cemetery

Not included in the 1975 Atlas

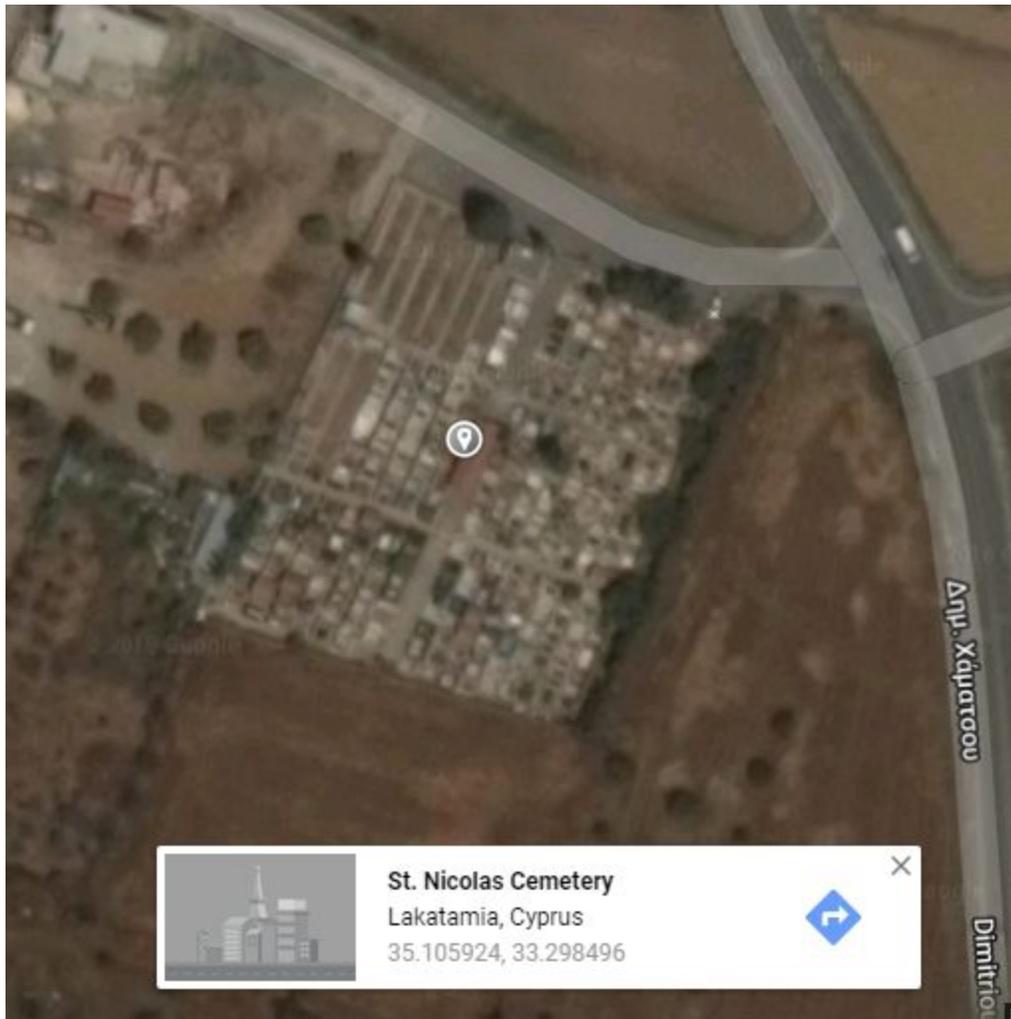
35.115743N 33.389568E



This large cemetery is active and in good condition.

Cemetery 17 – Ayios Nikolaos Cemetery, Lakatamia

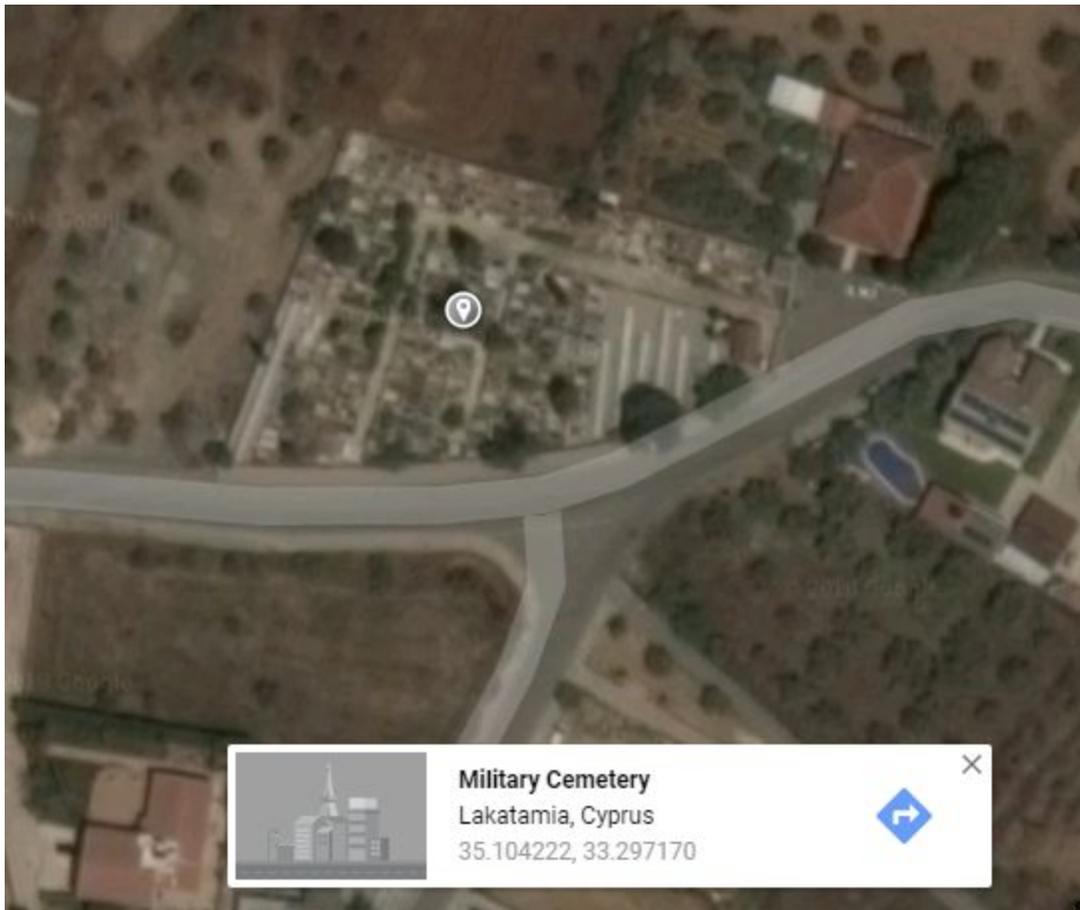
Not included in the 1975 Atlas
35.105924N 33.298496E



This active cemetery is well-tended. It is about half a kilometer west of its patron parish church.

Cemetery 18 – Ayios Nikolaos Cemetery, Lakatamia

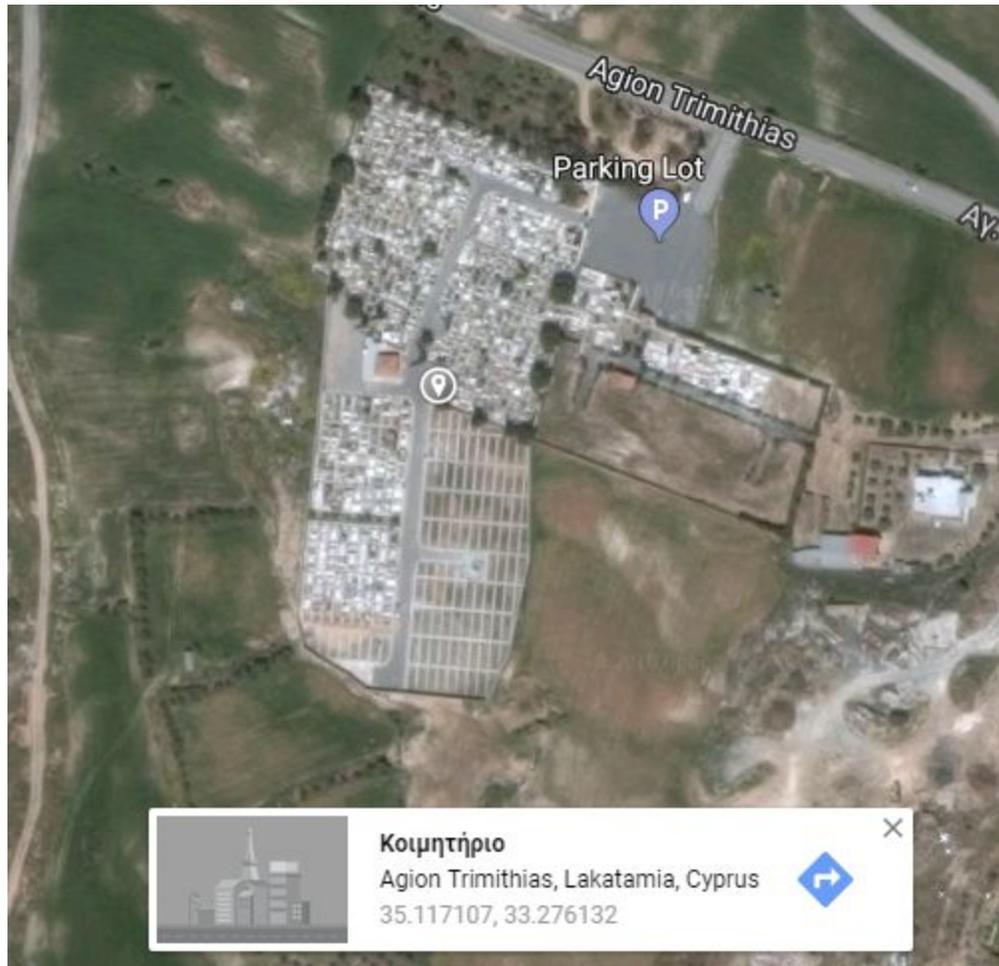
Not included in the 1975 Atlas
35.104222N 33.297170E



Identified on Google as a military cemetery, this site is very close to the Ayios Nikolaos Cemetery listed as #15 above. It is about one half kilometer south of that site. It appears to be well-tended.

Cemetery 19 – Ayios Nikolaos Cemetery, Lakatamia

Not included in the 1975 Atlas
35.117107N 33.276132E



This cemetery is relatively new, active, and has room to grow. It is located on the road to Ayioi Trimithias, opposite the access road to the Super Discount Supermarket. On Google it is identified as the Ayios Dometios New Cemetery.

Cemetery 20 – On road to Ayioi Trimithias

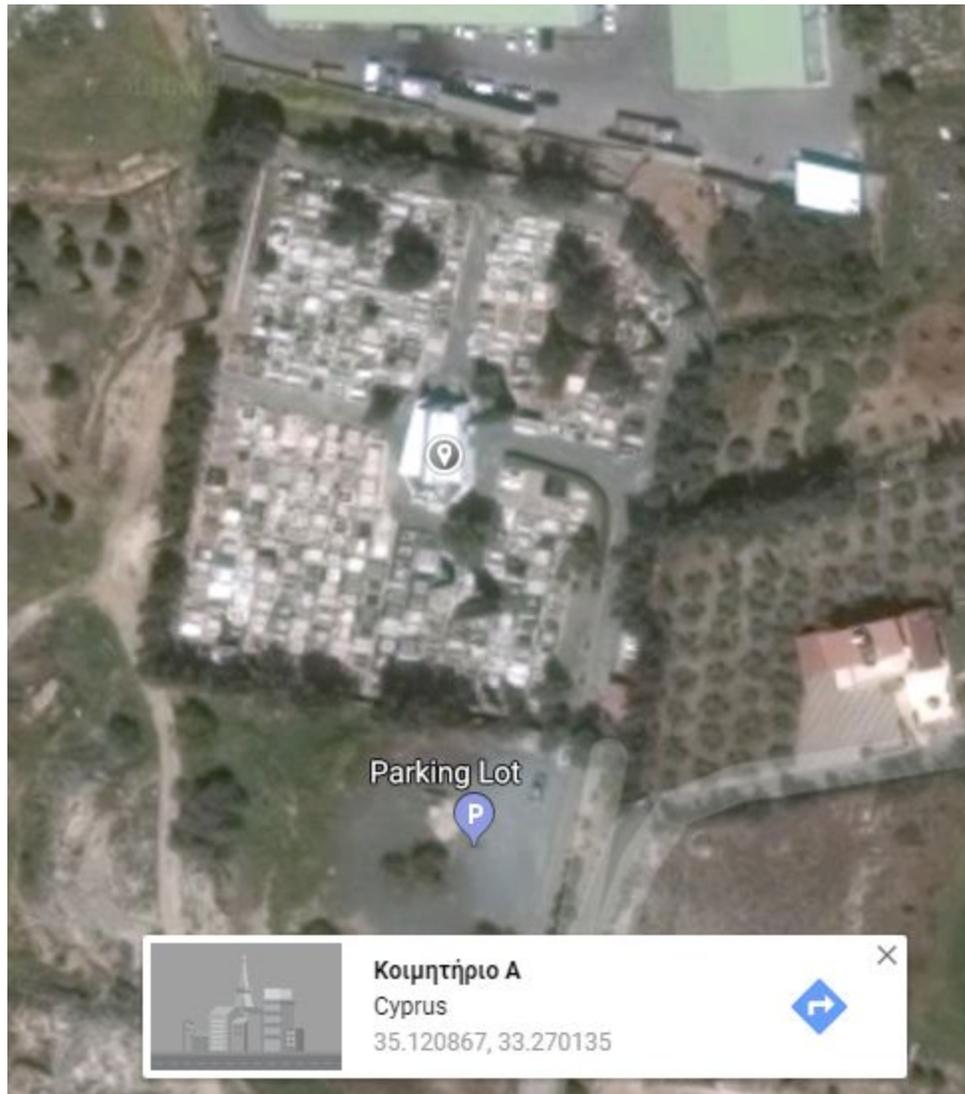
Not included in the 1975 Atlas
35.118562N 33.269667E



This large, active cemetery is well-tended. It is located not far to the west of Cemetery #18 above.

Cemetery 21 – Cemetery A, North of Road to Ayioi Trimithias

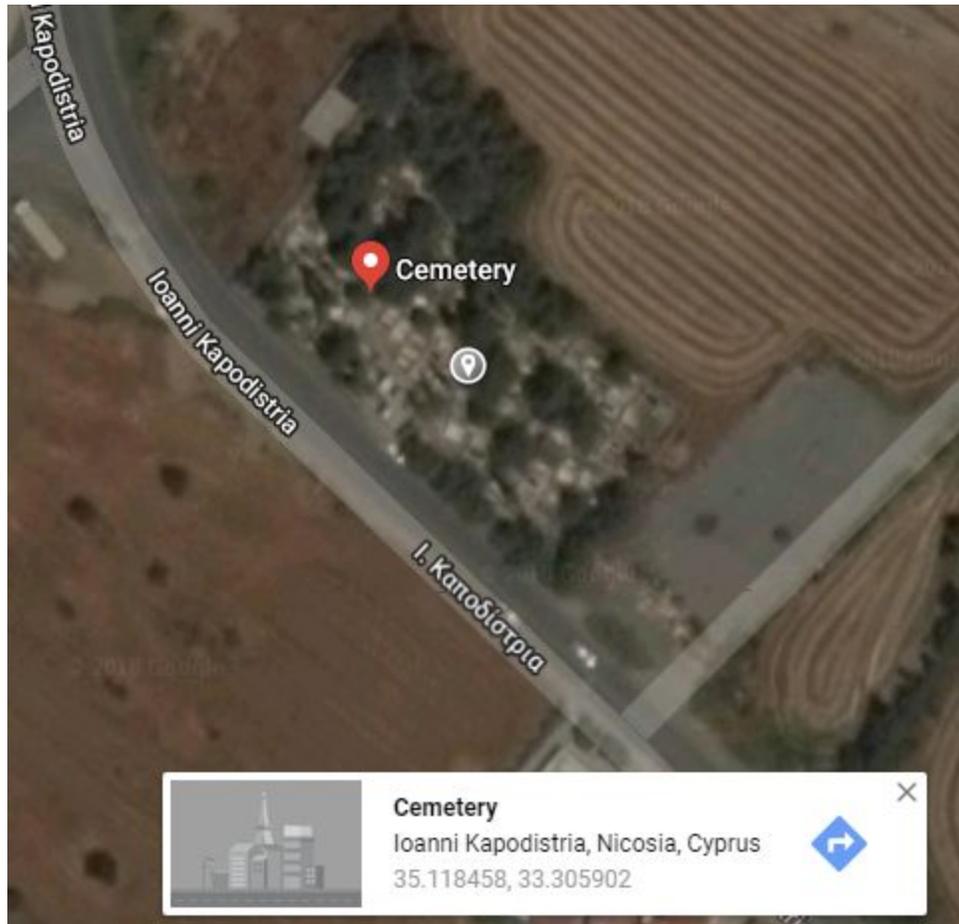
Not included in the 1975 Atlas
35.120876N 33.270135E



Identified only as “Cemetery A,” this site appears to be full and well-kept.

Cemetery 22 – Lakatamia

Not included in the 1975 Atlas
35.118458N 33.305902E



Author's Note: During a visit on February 2018 I found this small cemetery to be fairly well tended. It contains about 300 burial plots, most of them family plots for multiple burials. It appeared to be full but with some burials still occurring in the family plots. I saw as recent as May 2017. The oldest were from the 1970's and 1980's. One woman died at age 103!

The cemetery has a well with a water tank and hoses, so plants at graves can be kept green. There are trees throughout the cemetery, but not intrude on graves. Some plants are untrimmed and obscure headstones. I saw only one broken headstone, and a few others were leaning.

The satellite image shows a large paved parking lot at the south side. It is in fact blocked by a berm of earth and debris, and only a few parking spaces remain available.

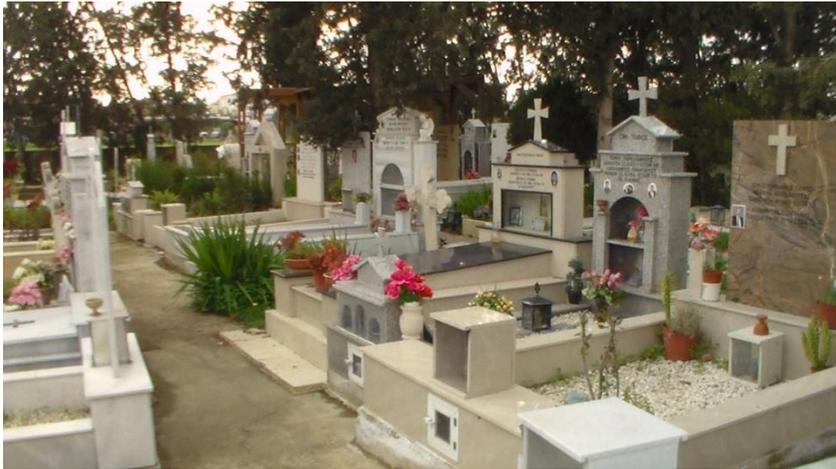
Main Entrance

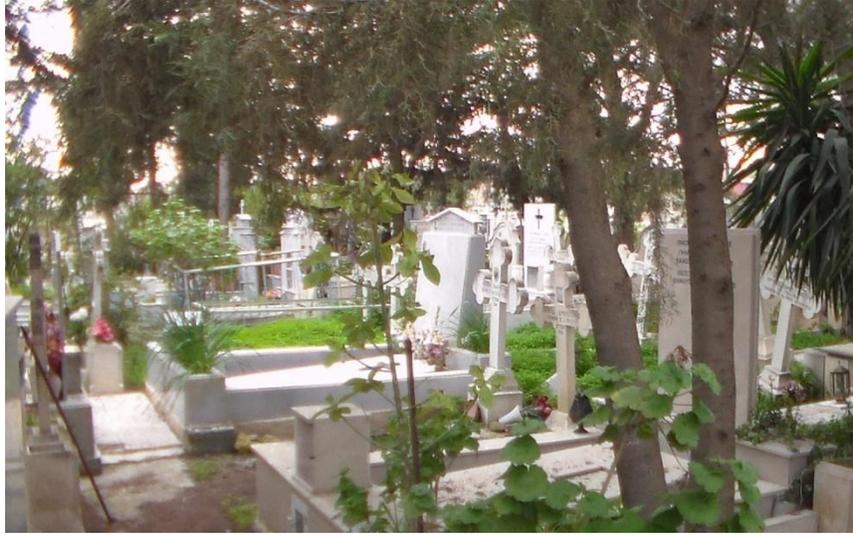


View from the South



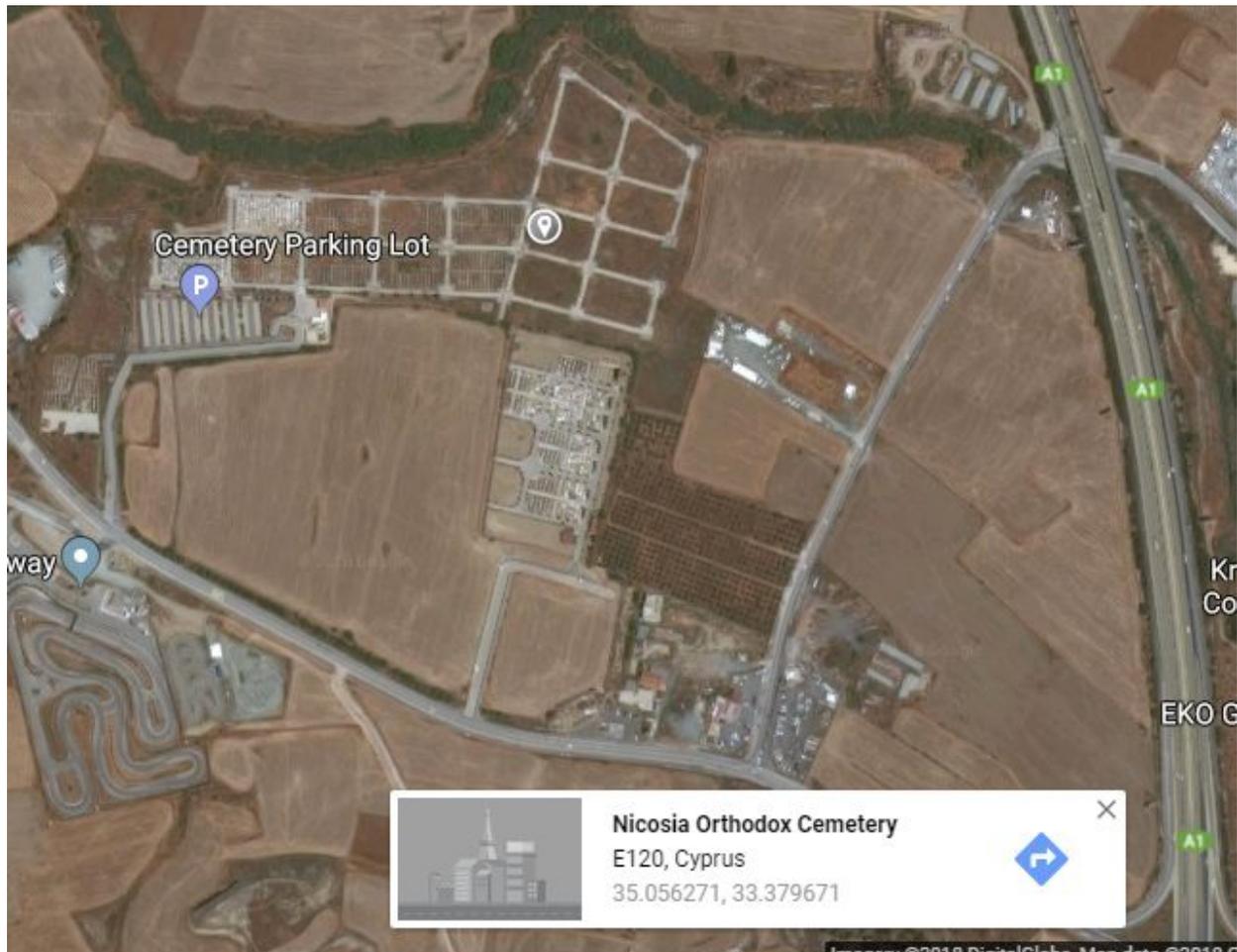
Interior Views





Cemeteries 23 and 24 – The New Municipal Cemeteries for Nicosia and Strovolos

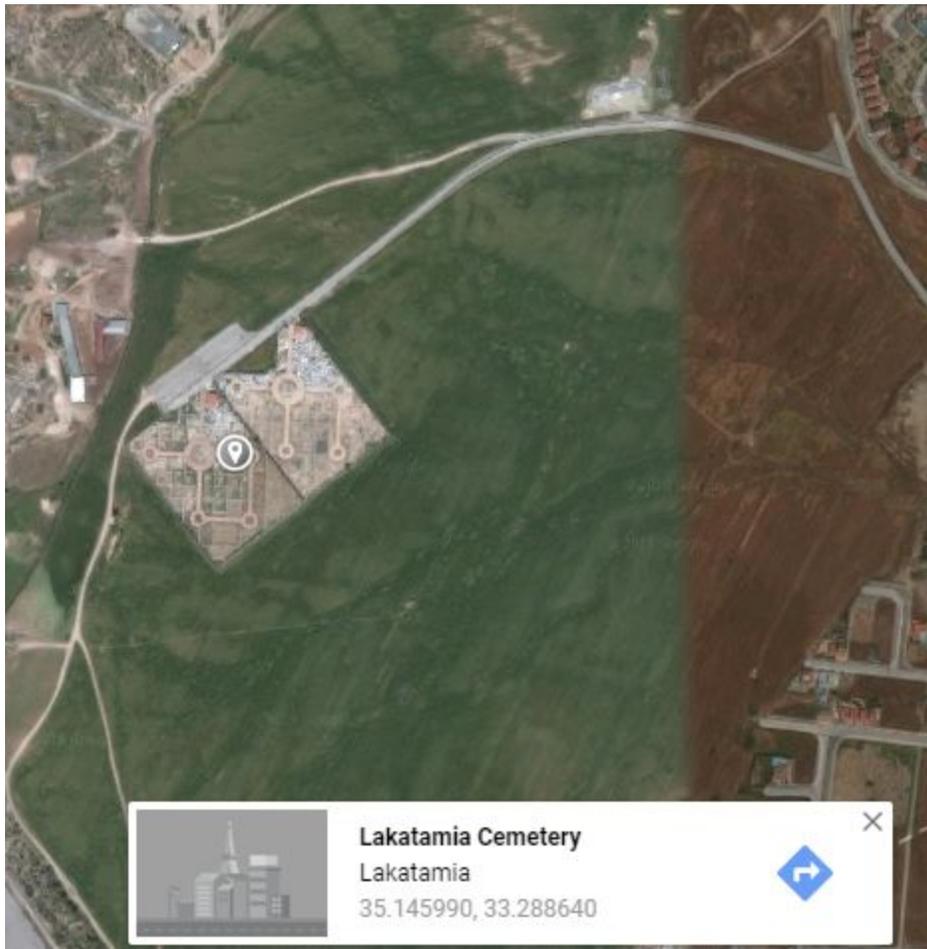
Not included in the 1975 Atlas
35.056271N 33.379671E



The new municipal cemeteries for Nicosia and Strovolos are not close to either municipality. They are south of the metropolitan area near the Nicosia-Larnaca highway, past Tseri but not yet to Nissou. There have been few burials there. See <http://www.nicosia.org.cy/en-GB/municipality/services/cemetery/> and <http://www.strovolos.org.cy/en/home-page/citizens-service/general-information/municipal-cemetery/>.

Cemeteries 25 and 26 – The New Municipal Cemeteries for Engomi and Lakatamia

Not included in the 1975 Atlas
35.145990N, 33.288640E



The bit of pavement that can be seen in the bottom left corner is the runway of the abandoned Nicosia International Airport, and the building due north of the cemeteries is a UN building in the Buffer Zone. The cemeteries are surrounded by fields and farms. There is plenty of room in each for many more burials.



Engomi Municipal Cemetery – Main Gate



Engomi Cemetery – Chapel



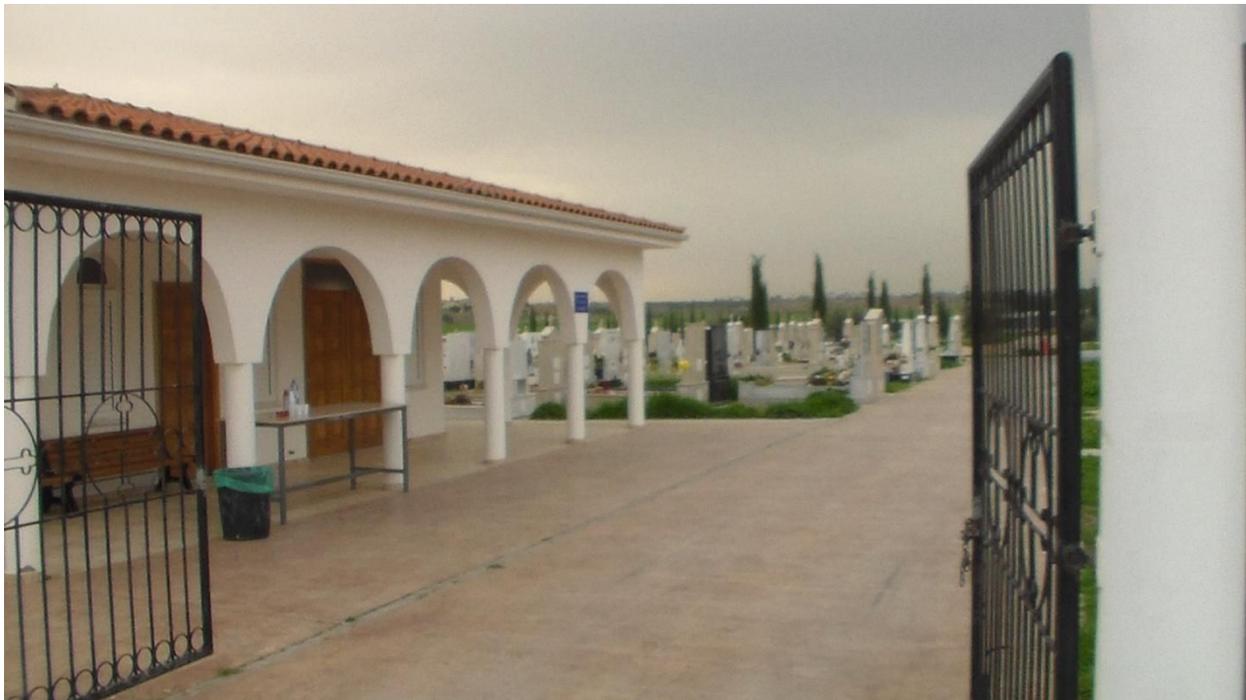
Engomi Cemetery – New Burials



Engomi Cemetery – Room for the Future



Lakatamia Municipal Cemetery – Main Gate



Lakatamia Cemetery – Chapel

The gates, the chapels, and the interior designs of the two cemeteries are identical.



Lakatamia Cemetery – Room for the Future

[Note: get info from Cyprus Master Database about defunct cemeteries in the Nicosia area.]