CAPTURING

CEMETERY LANDSCAPES

Laurel Grove Cemetery, Chatham County.

(Above) Cedar Creek Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, Tattnall County.

INTRODUCTION

Georgia's rich collection of cemeteries spans from the Precontact period to the present and encompasses everything from small family plots on farms or hilltops to elaborate monumental burial landscapes. At some point, these cemeteries have been managed by families, municipalities, churches, community elders, institutions, or corporations, and are constructed in ways that speak to the practical, cultural, and spiritual needs of those that built them. All cemeteries are special places. Nonetheless, some have the ability to not only honor our dead, but to tell larger stories of our past. In order to understand what could make a cemetery significant historically, it first has to be identified, surveyed, and described within a common framework. As Section One of this context was the narrative of Georgia's cemeteries, this section provides a shared vocabulary and methodology to describe cemeteries. Many of the elements described in the next five chapters will help identify and label the character-defining features of a cemetery, and the two case studies demonstrate how to use these character-defining features in a National Register of Historic Places evaluation. Precontact-period cemeteries, which have additional and/or different layers of meaning, significance, and needs, are not covered, as they merit a separate context and discussion of their own.

For the purpose of capturing an accurate description of a cemetery, it is useful to view them as landscapes. The National Park Service defines Cultural Landscapes as "settings that human beings have created in the natural world. They reveal fundamental ties between people and the land," including ties based on our need to "find suitable places to bury our dead." With this in mind, the beginning of Section Two, Chapter 1, presents the elements of a cemetery landscape, grouped into six categories of features that provide a common vocabulary for formal cemetery descriptions and evaluations of significance.

Landscape and Setting describes topographical and locational elements, as well as natural systems, plantings, views and vistas, and constructed water features. Organization and Layout examines cemetery plans, boundaries, circulation patterns, and organization of space within a cemetery. Burials relate to where the deceased are interred, such as graves, mausoleums, and columbaria. Architecture and Built Environment includes markers, buildings, structures, enclosures, memorials, and cenotaphs. Cultural Traditions, for the purposes of this section, discusses items that people leave on or in graves. Archaeological Features describes surface indicators of burials lacking markers.

The next part of Section Two – Chapters 2, 3, and 4 – define the Types and Styles of cemeteries. Types describe the formational processes of cemeteries, while cemetery design styles help to define how they look and the cultural forces that created that look. These concepts will aid the researcher in completing the NRHP evaluation as discussed in Section Three of this context.

The final part of Section Two, Chapter 5, deals with how to identify and survey a cemetery. It begins with effective avenues for researching a cemetery. The next part details recording a cemetery, and the final part discusses cemetery reporting. As a useful companion to Section Two, see Appendix A, Cemetery Markers and Materials, which provides a detailed catalog of the many ways burials are marked and commemorated; and Appendix B, which focuses on Military Markers. Unless specifically cited, the date ranges and suggested time frames presented in Section Two and Appendices A and B are based on the authors' field experiences and represent a starting point for discussion and further research.

CHAPTER ONE
CEMETERY LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

LANDSCAPE AND SETTING
Natural Systems; Location; Plantings; Views and Vistas; Constructed Features and Utilities

ORGANIZATION AND LAYOUT
Plan; Boundary; Circulation Pattern, Arrangement of Graves, Plots, and Sections

BURIALS   Graves; Mausoleums; Columbaria

ARCHITECTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT
Markers; Buildings and Structures; Enclosures; Memorials and Statuary

CULTURAL TRADITIONS   Offerings and Visitor Tokens

ARCHAEOLOGICAL   Surface Indicators

Marietta National Cemetery, Cobb County.

Cemeteries are landscapes composed of one or more burials and a number of different elements that help define the plan, type, and style of a cemetery. The following symbols are used to represent the key landscape elements of cemeteries:

Natural Environment: The existing, non-cultivated vegetation at a cemetery site.

Location: Placement of cemetery on the landscape. Includes topography.

Plantings: Deliberate placement of ornamental vegetation.

Views and Vistas: Scenic views deliberately created during cemetery design and placement.

Constructed Features and Utilities: Includes stairways, drainage, and retaining walls.

Plan: Overall layout or organization, including sections, plots, graves, and circulation.

Boundary: Defines the perimeter of a cemetery.

Informal Entrance: Informal or secondary entrance to cemetery.

Formal Entrance: Entry point to cemetery with formal gateway.

Circulation: Pattern of roads or paths within a cemetery.

Plots: Deliberate groupings of graves with clear demarcations.

Sections: Larger groupings of graves based on shared ethnic, social, or cultural association.

Graves: How individual burials are arranged in relation to one another.

Mausoleums: Aboveground structure for burial of an individual or family.

Columbaria: Structure providing aboveground space for cremains of unrelated or related persons.

Markers: Items that indicate the presence of a grave.

Cenotaph: Marker that serves to commemorate person/s whose remains are elsewhere.

Buildings: Support the operations of a cemetery, i.e. cemetery office or chapel.

Structures: Support the operations of a cemetery, i.e. a gazebo or bridge.

Enclosures: Define the edges of a grave, section, or plot. Can include fences, copings, or walls.

Memorials/Statuary: Monument to a group of people who have died.

Signage: Signs to indicate sections of a cemetery, road names, or features.

Archaeological Features: Can denote the presence of a marked or unmarked grave.

Offerings and Visitor Tokens: Objects laid or embedded on a grave to show respect.

LANDSCAPE AND SETTING

Cemetery landscapes are created in part by the interaction of natural systems, such as forests, fields, rivers, or streams, within the built cemetery environment. The nature of cemetery construction often meant that these spaces were placed adjacent to waterways or forests. In some instances, cemeteries have not been fully built out, and naturalized areas remain, set aside for future use or serving as a buffer between the cemetery and other spaces.

FORESTED AREAS:

Many cemeteries are located adjacent to existing forested land or contain naturalized areas within their boundaries. The presence of pine trees would indicate a new growth forest, whereas the presence of large hardwoods would represent the potential for an old growth forest. Many cemeteries in rural areas were originally located on cleared land but are now overgrown by vegetation and relatively young trees. An example would be a family cemetery located on the Georgia coast within former agricultural land that is now a timber farm.

NATURAL WATER FEATURES (LAKES, SWAMPS, RIVERS, AND CREEKS):

Water systems frequently exist within or around cemeteries and can include smaller waterways, such as Fishing Creek near Memory Hill Cemetery in Milledgeville, or larger rivers, such as the Ocmulgee River, which flows at the base of Rose Hill Cemetery in Macon. The presence of swamp land near cemeteries along the Georgia coast is also common because cemeteries were often constructed in low-lying, unbuildable areas. Cemeteries often have ponds incorporated into their landscape.

Cemetery in Clearing near Natural Forest, Old Bethel Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, Butts County.

Rose Hill Cemetery on an Embankment Above the Ocmulgee River, Bibb County.

The arrangement and location of cemeteries were, and continue to be, influenced both by topography and by their general location within a community. Often, cemeteries were constructed on what was considered undesirable land or areas that could not support cultivation of a particular product (in a rural setting). Urban examples were typically placed at the perimeter of a town or city. These undesirable lands were often locations that were considered unbuildable. Examples include cemeteries located in floodplains and adjacent to waterways. Cemeteries have also been moved to new locations due to the growth of a community and its changing needs. A cemetery that was once placed on the outskirts of town may eventually be adjacent to residential or commercial areas as the city expands outward from its center over time.

Topography typically influenced cemetery development in one of two ways. If the area was generally flat and accessible, it would provide a good location to build a cemetery. This was most often seen in smaller community and family cemeteries. Where grade change varied greatly and steep slopes were a factor, cemeteries were either designed within the existing contours or were graded to create terraces. The latter helped maximize available land and offered views of the surrounding environment. Some cemeteries were constructed in response to a need from a congregation or community. In these scenarios, minimal change to the natural topography occurred, and burials were located where the land allowed. If a religious organization was given property for a new worship building, the cemetery would be placed nearby regardless of whether the topography was ideal for a cemetery. In almost all cases, the placement of a cemetery was a conscious choice and speaks to the historical context of which the cemetery is a part.
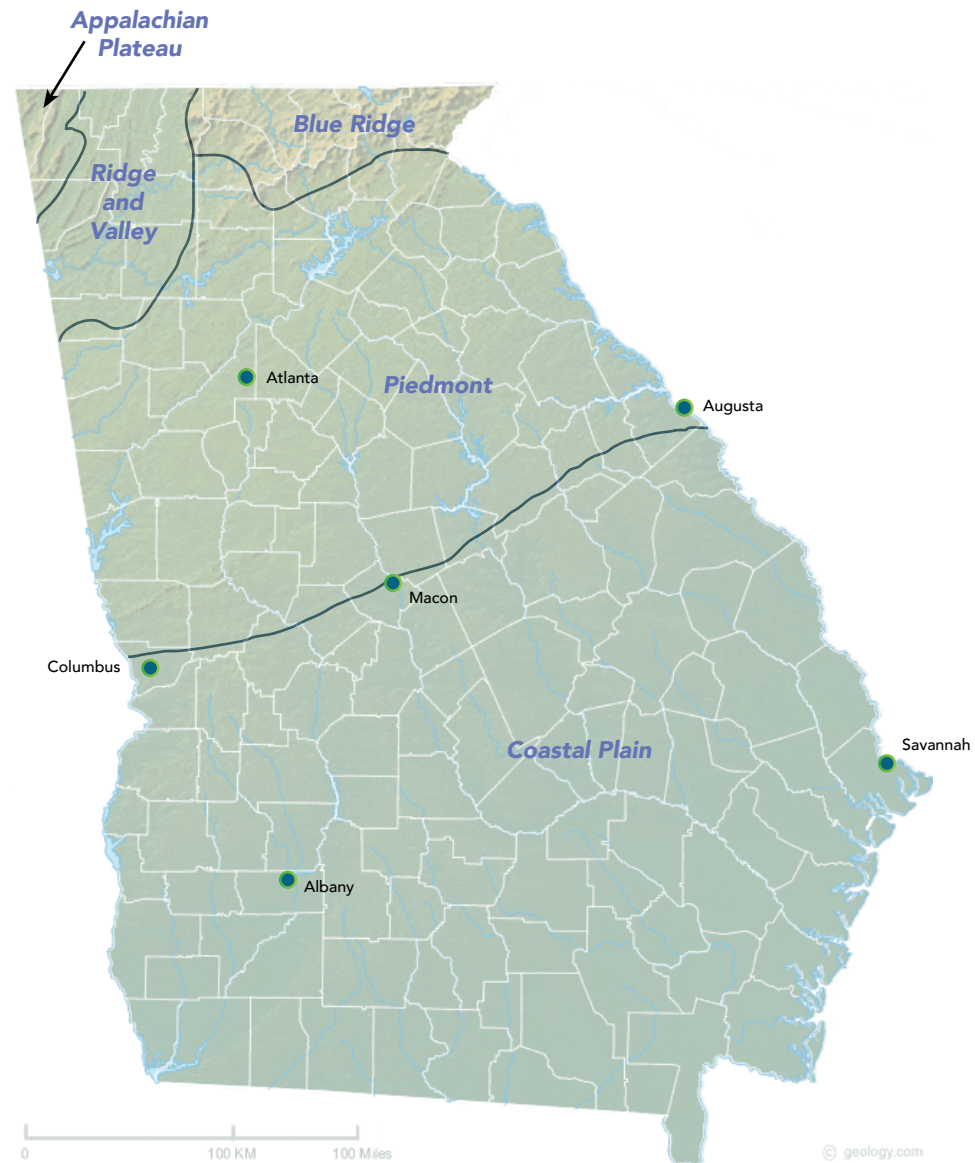
Physiographic Provinces of Georgia.

🌳 Plantings

Plantings are often prominent features of a cemetery landscape. Depending on the type and size of the cemetery, plantings will either complement the existing space or be a more dominant feature. Modern cemeteries often have very little vegetation and contain only turf and some trees. Historically, 60 percent of the plants used in cemeteries in the American South and Georgia are non-native and were imported in the 19th century from Asia and Europe. Some have thrived, and others have become invasive. The list of potential plants in cemeteries is not exhaustive, and documentation is best supported by historic photography or first-person accounts when possible. Care should be taken to identify any patterns noted in the landscape for future reference.

CULTURAL VEGETATION:

Vegetation can provide an important clue to cultural preferences. Jewish sections of cemeteries have very few, if any, plantings. African American grave sites prominently display a number of traditional plantings, including yucca, hibiscus, mahonia, azaleas, periwinkle, and cedars. Some of these plants were green year-round, which symbolizes eternal life in many cultures. In African American communities, the white blooms of yucca were associated with death (see Section One, Chapter Three). Many cultural plantings include "passalong" plants, such as daffodils and azaleas, that were propagated by multiple generations of the same family and used in cemeteries.

Bonaventure Cemetery is known for its lush azalea plantings and live oaks with Spanish moss, Chatham County.

TREES:

Trees are the most common vertical element in cemeteries, besides gravestones. The species vary, but common examples include Southern magnolia, cedars, oaks, American holly, Eastern red cedar, ginkgo, dogwood, elms, cherries, redbuds, willows, and pecans. These plantings may form patterns on the landscape that can provide valuable clues to design intent or cultural meaning.

Allee:

Cemeteries may have trees planted along roadways in a consistent row on one or both sides of the road.

Grave-Specific Plantings:

Some trees, such as red cedar, may be planted to mark or enhance specific graves. A good indication of this type of planting is a situation where a gravestone has shifted due to the growth of the plant. Typically, these plants will be understory trees or evergreens, such as crepe myrtles, red cedars, or magnolias.

Specimen Trees:

Trees of extraordinary age or size may have been deliberately planted or naturally occurring. The relationship of these trees to their surroundings, and the presence of similar specimens in other areas of the landscape, can indicate that they were planted deliberately.

Blooming Yucca Plants, New Bridge Baptist Cemetery, Hall County.

ORNAMENTAL PLANTINGS AND SHRUBS:

Ornamental plantings and shrubs were used to mark graves as singular specimen plants or to create hedges. Boxwood, yaupon holly, and privet are the most common examples of shrubs. Many cemeteries have little or no understory plantings. Where they do exist, roses, hibiscus, arborvitae, and other common Southern plants will be present. Daylilies and canna lilies are frequently planted in cemeteries as well. Some ornamentals and shrubs are planted within the cradles of the grave themselves, and others are planted at edges of cemetery plots. The most common ornamentals are daffodils, periwinkle, violets, and English ivy. While these plants may sometimes carry a deeper cultural meaning, their use may be purely decorative.

GROUND COVERINGS:

Turf is a common feature in many cemeteries. The type and style of turf ranges depending on the location within Georgia. Common types include Bermuda, centipede, St. Augustine, and tall fescue. Many turf grasses include mixes of clover and wildflowers that have entered the cemetery over time.

There are also places where the ground is exposed either as a deliberate cultural choice (see Section One, Chapter Three) or due to trees shading areas that originally received full sun. Certain groundcovers are also present in cemeteries.

Laurel Grove Cemetery was developed originally with an eye towards retaining the large specimen trees already on the property, Chatham County.

Stone, in various formats, is a grave covering that was introduced in the mid-20th century to replace turf. It was thought to be more maintenance free; however, others may have preferred the aesthetic of stone instead of vegetation in the same way that some preferred swept dirt or sand gravesites. In general, both the presence or complete absence of ground covering, as seen in swept cemeteries, can indicate cultural preferences.

(Left) Swept Graves, School Street Cemetery, Wilkes County. (Below Left) Large Historic Red Cedar Tree. Red cedars were sometimes planted to recall the cedars of Lebanon. Jackson Cemetery, Palmetto, Fulton County. (Below Right) Turf is featured prominently at the Eternal Hills Cemetery, Gwinnett County.

Views and Vistas

Certain Georgia cemeteries were constructed with views and vistas in mind. Dramatic views and vistas in cemeteries typically take advantage of two different landscape features - hills and long linear paths. In both cases, these include three different perspectives. The first is the view from the surroundings to the burial plot. The second emphasizes the view from the plot to the surroundings, and the third considers the view from within the plot or nearby plots. Finally, a repeating pattern of markers can create views and vistas, as seen in military cemeteries.

A long linear view at Oakland Cemetery, Fulton County.

The View to Downtown Rome from the Battery Memorial, Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Floyd County.

The side of Myrtle Hill Cemetery facing the Etowah River is known as the "wedding cake side" for its dramatic terraces, Floyd County.

Vistas may be more localized and specific to the plot, such as this view in Bonaventure Cemetery, Chatham County.

Cemeteries have utility infrastructure that often goes unnoticed. Most common are water systems and stormwater facilities. Ponds can serve the purely functional role of holding runoff, or be incorporated into the designed landscape as an aesthetic feature. Additionally, retaining walls that are associated with the site, rather than a specific plot, are a common element in cemetery landscapes.

UTILITIES:

Larger cemeteries often have a more complex infrastructure, which could even include restrooms, water fountains, and irrigation. In rural areas, potable water is connected to a septic field, and drinking fountains and irrigation are supported by wells. In urban areas, these systems are connected to municipal utilities. Irrigation is the most visible utility. Irrigation control valves will be evident near roadways, and spigots are often scattered throughout the cemetery. Water meters on the edge of the cemetery property are clear indicators of an irrigation or water line system. Larger cemeteries may have additional utilities, including electricity and sanitary sewer, and often will include aboveground power poles. These are modern elements that have been placed in the cemetery to support its active use.

STORMWATER AND DRAINAGE:

Smaller cemeteries may lack stormwater infrastructure. In larger cemeteries, roadway infrastructure may be accompanied by curbing and inlets. Inlets may also be located in low areas to capture water. Some cemeteries have gutters constructed of brick or concrete to carry water offsite. Brick or concrete gutter systems tend to be older than more recent curb and gutter installations.

The pond at Decatur City Cemetery serves to hold runoff water and functions as a decorative element, DeKalb County.

Original Brick Stormwater Gutter, Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Floyd County.

ORGANIZATION AND LAYOUT

The organization and layout of a cemetery can be both practical and aesthetic. If the cemetery has a formal entrance, it likely lies on the most prominent access point. Administrative buildings are typically placed near the front of a cemetery along with community mausoleums, chapels, columbaria, or gallery mausoleums. As many cemeteries grew and were used over a century or more, there tends to be both older sections of burials and newer sections with various types of design elements present and, in some cases, overlaid on top of one another. The diagram below represents ways to think about these elements and their relationships to one another. It is based on Decatur City Cemetery, DeKalb County.
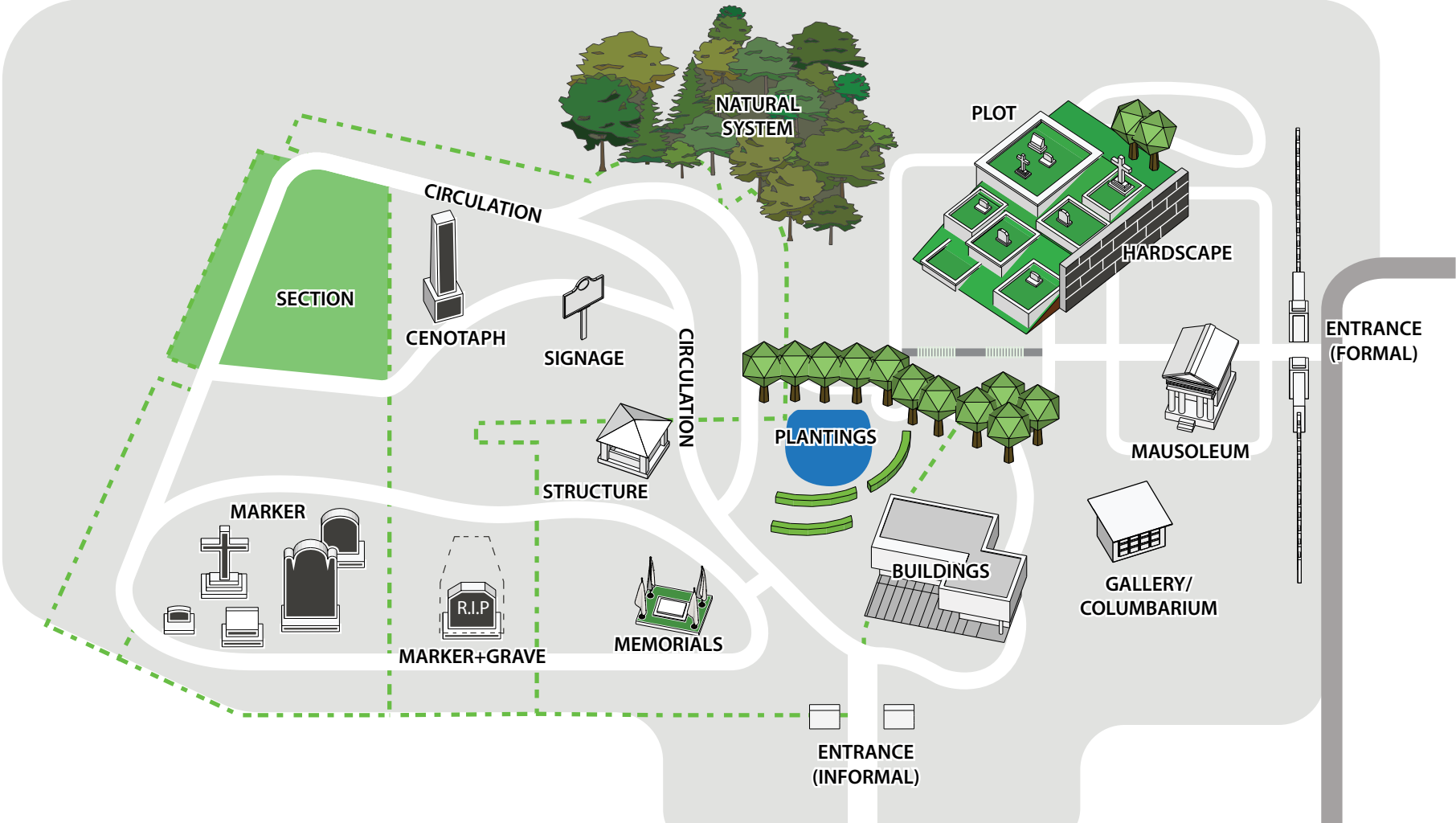
A cemetery's plan refers to the overall organization within a cemetery landscape, particularly as it relates to the arrangement of graves and plots. The plan at a cemetery may be fairly informal, developing slowly over time as new burials are added, or it may be determined in advance and adhered to rigidly. Between these two extremes, there is a large amount of variation. What may begin as an informal plan cemetery may have sections added later that are curvilinear or even regimented. Identifying a cemetery's plan can provide clues to the period and context in which the cemetery was established and used. This context describes the four most common cemetery plans found in Georgia: Informal, Grid, Curvilinear, and Regimented. Most cemeteries will fall into one category, but is is also possible to have different plans in different sections, which likely reflects development over a number of years.

- **Informal Plan** cemeteries lack a defined arrangement of graves and plots.
- **Grid Plan** cemeteries have been laid out with central avenues and other roads and paths intersecting at right angles.
- A **Curvilinear Plan** cemetery has plots, graves, roads, and sections arranged to suit the topography with curving roads.
- **Regimented Plan** cemeteries have a rigid and measured precision to the placement of graves and lack plots and sections.

Informal plans date back to 1733 when the prevailing layout emphasized only the Judeo-Christian tradition of graves oriented east-west. Grid cemeteries became more prevalent in 1783 in Georgia's town planning period. In 1831, the establishment of the Rural Garden Cemetery movement in Massachusetts saw the beginning of curvilinear cemetery plans and in 1865, Georgia's first regimented cemetery, Andersonville National Cemetery, was established.

INFORMAL PLAN

A cemetery with an Informal Plan is one that lacks a defined arrangement of graves. Arrangement can be non-linear and random, or it can be linear but lack any clear burial order. Informal cemeteries often appear linear, resulting from efforts to maximize burial space and maintain the same grave orientation. They are often in the typical Judeo-Christian east-west orientation. By subsequently adding rows in the future, they often end up roughly parallel to the first row, which ensures that previous burials are not disturbed when new ones are added.

Nevertheless, these cemeteries lack a clear plan at their onset or for much of their use. This is evident because additional rows may not follow a defined set of rules on arrangement. Informal plans are commonly associated with Family, Community, Religious, or early Municipal cemeteries.

The Howell Cemetery, Echols County, was established circa 1916 and is an excellent example of a community cemetery with an Informal Plan. The graves are in an east-west orientation, but do not follow a formal plan.
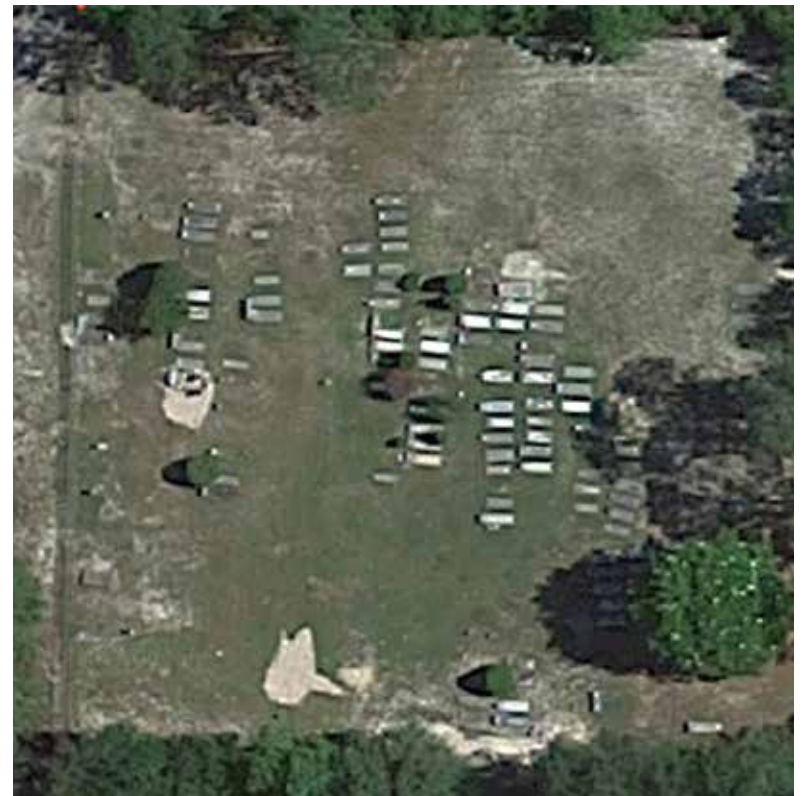
GRID PLAN

Grid Plan cemeteries were built within a square or rectangular plot of land with the grid grounded on a line running through the center of the cemetery, which becomes the central avenue. The Grid Plan typically holds square or rectangular plots organized by grid section and roads intersecting at 90-degree angles. It was used to maximize the use of space for burials. During the 19th century, many municipal cemeteries designed by engineers adopted this form. Grid Plan cemeteries are represented in a number of different types and can be located in rural or urban areas. In addition to maximizing space, the larger number of graves would also maximize revenue for a for-profit cemetery.

Evergreen Cemetery, Bleckley County, features an array of roads that are laid out in right angles to one another and a regular gridded pattern to plots.

CURVILINEAR PLAN

Curvilinear Plan cemeteries have winding circulation patterns and plots or sections that may be arranged in curved sections. These curved roads or paths may follow natural contours. Most popular in the 19th century, Curvilinear Plans do not prioritize space as a commodity; rather, they seek to present a rural, pastoral setting or follow existing site contours. They follow design ideals of the Romantic and Victorian movements. Curvilinear Plan cemeteries can be located in rural or urban contexts and are most often found in 19th-century Municipal or Corporate cemeteries.

(Above Left) Aerial View of Riverside and Rose Hill Cemeteries Showcasing a Curvilinear Plan in Roads and in Some Plots, Macon, Bibb County.

Plan (continued)

REGIMENTED PLAN

The Regimented Plan features regularly spaced graves in orderly rows. Distance between graves and markers is consistent throughout the cemetery. Typically, headstone markers are identical in form. The Regimented Plan is most often seen in Institutional or Military cemetery types. These differ from an Informal and Grid Plan cemetery in that a Regimented Plan adheres to measured, identical spacing between graves and markers.

Andersonville National Cemetery, Sumter and Macon Counties, Features Uniformly Spaced Graves and Rows.

Boundary refers to the outer periphery of the entire cemetery and not fencing or walls delineating individual graves or plots. Some cemeteries have formal boundaries. Others may have historically had a wall or fence that has been removed or lost over time. In rural areas, enclosures were particularly critical to keep animals out of the cemetery and to protect the cemetery from activities such as farming. In urban areas, enclosures are used for privacy, security, and to distinguish the space from the street using a vertical element, such as a fence or wall. The following is a general overview of the enclosure types often encountered in Georgia, classified according to material.
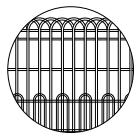
ENCLOSURES

Metal
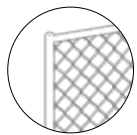
CHAIN LINK FENCE

- Most utilitarian and available in the U.S. around 1900.
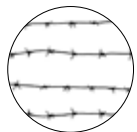- Lack of powder coating may indicate age.

IRON RAILING

- Wrought iron traditionally forged by hand, later by machine.
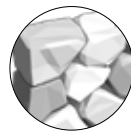- Cast iron poured. Popular in mid to late 19th and early 20th centuries.

WOVEN WIRE FENCE

- Popular in later 19th and earlier 20th centuries.

BARBED WIRE FENCE

- Common in agricultural settings.

Masonry

STONE WALL

- Often granite or other stone.
- Can be mortar set or dry stacked.
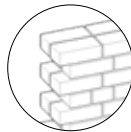
BRICK WALL

- Solid or lattice design.
- Age can be determined by type of brick and method of construction.
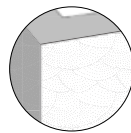
STUCCO WALL

- May be tabby in coastal areas.
- Often overlaid on brick.

Wood

WOODEN FENCE

- Examples include picket, split rail, privacy panel and 2-, 3-, or 4-board fences.

Masonry and Metal

PIER AND PANEL FENCE

- Stone or brick piers at consistent intervals.
- Connected with metal pickets.
- Made of iron, steel, or aluminum.

⊞ Boundary (continued)

ENTRANCES

While many cemeteries have some kind of entrance through their enclosure, the type and size of the entrance varies depending on the type and style of cemetery. When present, these entrances can be divided into two categories: formal and informal.

⊞ Informal Entrances

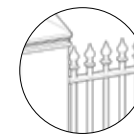- Informal entrances are pragmatic and constructed primarily for access and protection, not for display.
- Informal entrances may have a gate to restrict access, which can be as simple as an opening in an enclosure.
- Informal entrances may only be wide enough for pedestrians.
- Gates at informal entrances most often consist of a chain and post gate, a metal farm gate, simple stone entry, basic wooden gate, or a chain link gate.

(Top) A chain link gate serves as an informal entrance at the Clay Cemetery, DeKalb County. (Bottom) Although attractive and substantial, this informal entrance lacks the monumental public facade of a formal entrance. Chupp Cemetery, DeKalb County.

⊞ Formal Entrances

- Formal entrances are constructed primarily for display and to restrict access. They generally project a specific design objective.
- Larger cemeteries often have more elaborate entrances supported by walls, iron gates, and arched entries.
- Formal entrances may include a keystone or entablature denoting the date established and name of the particular cemetery.
- Larger cemeteries with formal entrances will often have secondary access points either parallel to the main entrance or along a different block. These secondary entrances will be designated for vehicular or pedestrian use and are often locked or inaccessible for security purposes. They may also connect to service roads and facilities within the cemeteries.


(Left) Oakland Cemetery Formal Entrance, Fulton County. (Right) Formal Entrance at Marietta National Military Cemetery, Cobb County.

Many smaller cemeteries lack formal infrastructure such as roads or sidewalks. Larger cemeteries that have a consistent burial layout will generally have a vehicular roadway for visitors, funeral processions, and service vehicles. It is less common for a cemetery to contain pedestrian circulation systems. In larger cemeteries where there is a more sophisticated organizational pattern, sidewalks and paths create a hierarchy of access to cemetery plots.

VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

Depending on the size and layout of the cemetery, there may be a single road or series of roadways. Roadway width can be indicative of age. Historic roads are often narrower and will show signs of retrofit. The roadways are often only wide enough for one car width and can range from 8 to 16 feet in width. In cemeteries where there are multiple road systems, narrow paths would indicate a minor road, whereas wider drives would signal a primary travelway. Asphalt is the most common material today; however, until the mid-19th century, cemetery roads were constructed of dirt, brick, gravel, or cobblestone. Asphalt and concrete became much more popular after the 1930s. These new materials would often be overlaid onto existing roadways rather than a complete road replacement. In many cemeteries, the roadway doubles as a pedestrian path due to few cars and low speeds. Roads in cemeteries generally fall into two categories - linear and curvilinear.

LINEAR
Linwood Cemetery, Muscogee County.

CURVILINEAR
Westview Cemetery, Fulton County.
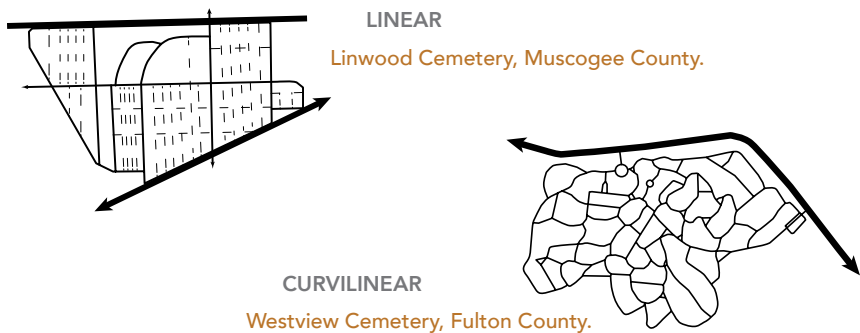
In addition to public roads in a cemetery, there may also be roads set aside as service roads. In larger cemeteries, service roads provide a discrete passage for cemetery employees during the cemetery maintenance process and are often designated as employee only.
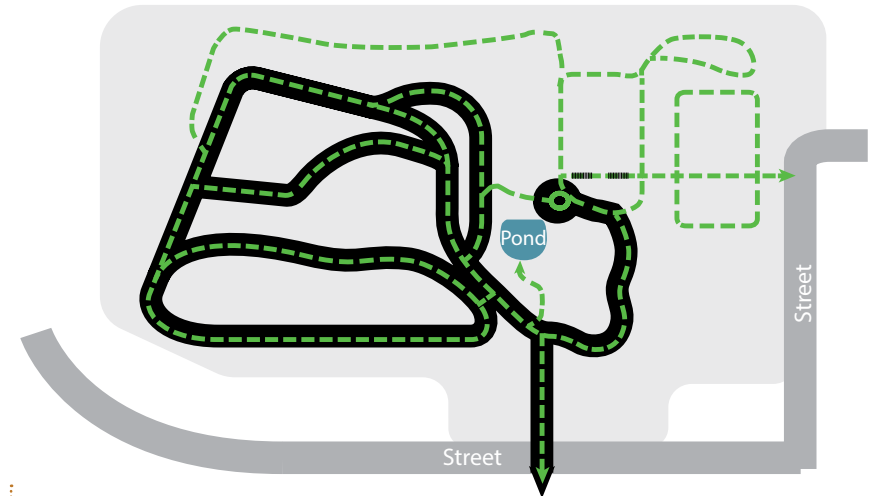
- - - - PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

▬▬▬ VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

Decatur City Cemetery, DeKalb County.

PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

Sidewalks and pedestrian paths have multiple construction methods: concrete, exposed aggregate, brick, concrete hexagonal pavers, oyster shell (coastal areas only), dirt, and/or grass. In a designed cemetery landscape, grass paths may be used where hardscape materials would detract from the aesthetic experience of the user. Paths are typically designated by wayfinding signage. Most designed paths can provide a visual clue about which corridors may be heavily used by pedestrians. In smaller cemeteries and those without a formal design, simple dirt paths are also common. In areas were topography is a challenge for accessibility, stairs will often be present.

Arrangement of Graves, Plots, and Sections

Many cemeteries will not have a designed layout or arrangement. Usually, larger cemeteries will have a formal layout of a specific pattern at the time of construction. These specific patterns or arrangements may be designed to work with the topography of the site, to maximize space, to create visual interest, or to convey a specific cultural ideal. The arrangement of grave markers in relation to immediately adjacent markers, both inside and outside of plots, as well as their relation to large groupings of markers comprising sections, is an important characteristic of a cemetery. Plots and sections, often set apart with hardscaping or enclosure divisions, help to define the cemetery's overall character and feeling. All of these things, when considered together, can tell us when, how, and by whom a cemetery developed.

GRAVES

Graves can appear individually within a cemetery or in groupings. As groupings, there are four arrangement variations that occur frequently, either within the context of an individual plot, or within the context of the entire cemetery. These include irregular, familial, linear, and circular. Understanding these arrangements is an important to identifying the style and plan of a cemetery.

- Irregular: Burials with no consistent pattern, which were added at varying times, in available spaces, within a plot or throughout a cemetery.
- Familial: Gravestone groupings can represent single or multiple generations of a family. These can be grouped together in spatially defined plots, or related by immediate proximity.
- Linear: Graves can be arranged in lines. Linear layouts are used to maximize available space, often resulting in rows of gravestones.
- Circular: A less common form of gravestone arrangement, these graves are arranged in a circle.

PLOTS

Within cemeteries, graves and grave groupings may have visible demarcations created by enclosures. These are known as plots and can accommodate the burial of a number of individuals, often a family. Plots can be enclosed by walls, fences, hedges, and copings, but sometimes plot boundaries are not obviously marked.

- Walls: Walls can either be free standing or gravity retaining. Brick and stone are common material types.
- Fences: Fences are generally in place to either separate the graves physically from surrounding areas for protection, such as near a pasture to keep livestock from roaming inside; for decorative purposes; or to signify ownership.
- Hedges: Plots can be made using hedges to create an enclosure. Japanese privet and boxwood are common examples.
- Coping: Coping is a small curb rising slightly above ground level used to designate burial plots. Common materials include stone, brick, or concrete.

SECTIONS

Within larger cemeteries, there are often larger groupings of graves and plots based on their association. These include the following categories: religious, institutional, military, ethnic, perpetual care, and other.

- Religious: Outside of church cemeteries, larger cemeteries often have designated areas for particular religious groups. Jewish sections are common and are designated with different markers, grave goods, signage, or with an enclosure.
- Institutional: These groups can include those associated with educational institutions, orphanages, or fraternal organizations.
- Military: Portions of larger cemeteries are reserved for military personnel. In Georgia, Confederate sections are most common.
- Ethnic: Some cemeteries were historically segregated by ethnicity, either by choice, social convention, or law. These might include sections for African Americans or Chinese Americans, for example.
- Perpetual Care: Sections are designated as perpetual care meaning that a financial trust has been set aside in perpetuity to provide for the cemetery's care.
- Other: Sections may be set aside within a larger cemetery for strangers, paupers (potter's field), children, or victims of an epidemic or natural disaster.

BURIALS

For the purpose of this context, a grave refers to a place of burial for a dead body, in an excavated hole below ground, which is either unmarked or marked. The type of grave is determined by the number of individuals contained within a single excavated hole.

INDIVIDUAL GRAVE

The most common type of burial in historic cemeteries, these graves hold a single individual. They can be identified by the presence of one or more of the following:

- Headstones.
- Footstones.
- Curbing.
- Grave covers.

Individual Grave, Timber Ridge Baptist Church Cemetery, Hall County.

MASS GRAVE

Mass graves hold multiple individuals interred at the same time. They usually have a single marker with coping or fencing defining the margins of the grave. Examples include:

- Victims of natural disaster, conflict, or epidemic.
- Remains from a charnel house.
- Remains exhumed and reburied.

SHARED GRAVE

Shared graves contain two or more people buried in the same pit. The individuals may be stacked or lie side by side. They are not necessarily interred at the same time. Examples include:

- Couples.
- Mother and child.
- Single grave for family members interred over time.
- Deceased children from one family.

(Left) Shared Grave, Decatur Cemetery, DeKalb County. (Right) This mass grave contains remains of bodies studied at the Old Medical College of Georgia. Cedar Grove Cemetery, Richmond County.

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🏛 Mausoleums

A mausoleum is an aboveground burial structure. Early mausoleums were built of traditional materials, were highly aesthetic with a great deal of craftsmanship, and had controlled access through a door. Open-vault mausoleums offered aboveground burial space as well, but access was from the outside, not an interior walkway as was typical of traditional mausoleums. During the 20th century, some cemeteries in Georgia began constructing "public" or "community" mausoleums, often in the form of an outdoor gallery. These provided burial space that was available for anyone to purchase. These spaces are easier to maintain, provide easier access for visitation, and have served as civic facilities.

TRADITIONAL MAUSOLEUM

- Aboveground with doors that open to indoor central walkways.
- Niches along the walls for non-cremated remains. Can house the remains of one or more individuals. Families are the most prevalent with each member having their designated burial niche.
- Mausoleums belowground often called "tombs."
  - Staircases descend to the access door.
  - Subsurface entryways sometimes filled in for security or safety.
- Popular from mid-1700s through today.

Traditional Family Mausoleum, Stone Mountain Cemetery, DeKalb County.

Traditional Family Mausoleum, Douglas City Cemetery, Coffee County.

OPEN-VAULT MAUSOLEUM

- Aboveground with the access panel on the outside of the building for interring non-cremated remains.
- Modern 20th-century forms tend to favor the open-vault design.

Open-Vault Family Mausoleum, Stone Mountain Cemetery, DeKalb County.

Open-Vault Individual Mausoleum, Melwood Cemetery, DeKalb County.

GALLERY AND COMMUNITY MAUSOLEUMS

- Contain multiple niches for inhumations.
- Open-vault gallery mausoleums are freestanding walls, often located outside.
- Niche walls may also form more complex buildings or be inside of other buildings. Buildings dedicated to interior mausoleum space for unrelated individuals are known as community mausoleums.
- Gallery and community mausoleums date to the 20th century in Georgia.

(Top) Gallery Mausoleum at Eternal Hills Cemetery, Gwinnett County. (Bottom) The Westview Cemetery community mausoleum, which is an elaborate exalmple, has gallery mausoleums inside the building. Fulton County.

HILLSIDE TOMB

- Built into the side of a hill in order to blend in with the landscape. Most common north of the Fall Line.
- Often built in dramatic or prominent locations with views.
- Common in the mid- to late 19th century.

BARREL VAULT BRICK MAUSOLEUMS

- Barrel-shaped vaults are most common in coastal Georgia.
- Sometimes they were designed to be opened only once and other times they were designed to be reused.
- Popular in the 18th to mid-19th centuries.

(Left) Dr. Robert Battey's hillside tomb atop Myrtle Hill was placed to be visible from downtown Rome. Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Floyd County. (Right) Barrel Vault Brick Mausoleum, Colonial Park Cemetery, Chatham County.

Brick Barrel Vault. The brick work is contiguous with, or a separate brickwork component from the underlying vault. Tabernacle Methodist Church Cemetery, Washington County.

Columbaria

Ashes of cremated individuals are placed in an urn and stored within niches or recesses in a room or building above ground called a columbaria. These can be located inside a building, on a freestanding outdoor structure that holds many non-related individuals, or on a smaller columbaria dedicated to several, usually related individuals.

COLUMBARIA

- Communal columbaria are located outside in a freestanding structure, on an exterior wall of a building, or inside a community mausoleum building.
- Niches hold urns.

This columbaria can hold up to 32 individuals. Eternal Hills Cemetery, Gwinnett County.

FAMILY COLUMBARIUM

- Typically used by a single family.
- Often constructed as part of a family plot containing non-cremated burials.

Single Family Columbaria, Eternal Hills Cemetery, Gwinnett County.

ARCHITECTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Markers

Grave markers are the most recognizable feature of a cemetery landscape. Although often called monuments in the funerary business, for this context they all will be generally referred to as markers. Grave markers can be formal – created by a professional, typically as part of an industry – or vernacular (informal), including found or repurposed items; they can also be the work of an individual or craftsman not connected to an industry. **Appendix A - Cemetery Markers and Materials** showcases the myriad of shapes and decorations found on markers in Georgia's cemeteries.

INDIVIDUAL MARKER

Designed to memorialize and mark the burial site of a single individual. They often consist of two components:

- Headstone - marks the head of a grave. They typically serve as the primary marker; provide information, including the names, titles, birth and death dates; and exhibit symbols, epitaphs, and other decorations.
- Footstone - marks the foot of a grave. Footstones provide supplemental spatial and personal information about the occupant; are frequently smaller and less ornate than the headstone; and serve to identify each individual in settings where individual headstones are not used, such as with family and group monuments.

A Headstone and Footstone Marking the Grave of a Single Individual, Stone Mountain Cemetery, DeKalb County.

SHARED MARKER

Identify and memorialize multiple individuals. They imply a social bond between individuals, such as marriage, parentage, or siblings, and are commonly employed by families and religious, military, or fraternal organizations. They often are larger and more prominent than individual markers.

Shared Markers in a Family Plot, Melwood Cemetery, DeKalb County.

CENOTAPH

Commemorates people whose remains are located away from the burial site. Cenotaphs can be used to memorialize individuals or groups. They frequently honor those lost at sea, military units, lost graves, or victims of a mass disaster.

Military personnel lost at sea are common recipients of cenotaph markers. Stone Mountain Cemetery, DeKalb County.

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FORMAL MARKERS

Formal markers are those that were made within a commercial context. They are diverse in material and form and can be enhanced with a number of features and accessories.

(Left) A Formal Marker with Urns and Photograph, Colquitt City Cemetery, Miller County. (Below Left) Iron Tablet Marker with a Patent Date of 1887, Riverview Cemetery, Muscogee County. (Below Right) A Formal Ledger Marker with Fleur Cross Decoration, Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Bibb County.

INFORMAL MARKERS (VERNACULAR)

Informal grave markers include modified and unmodified everyday objects that have been drafted into use as markers. For some communities, the vernacular marker provides a means of expressing ideas that are not conveyed by more mainstream monuments.[1] Recognition and interpretation of a folk marker frequently entails an understanding of local community cemetery traditions.

(Top) A Mounded Ledger Grave with Embedded Shells, Smyrna Presbyterian Cemetery, Wilkes, County. (Below Left) Vernacular Marker at Douglas City Cemetery, Coffee County. (Below Right) A ship's wheel marks a grave in St. Andrew's Cemetery, McIntosh County.

Georgia's cemeteries often feature a wide variety of buildings and structures that support the operation and use of the cemetery or enhance the visitor's experience. These buildings do not include those associated with burials such as Community Mausoleums or Columbaria.

GATEHOUSES

Gatehouses are located near the front entrance of larger cemeteries to monitor visitors and assist in funeral processions. They are sometimes incorporated into an entrance gate or attached to the cemetery office. New cemeteries often do not have these as part of the cemetery complex.

CHAPELS

Larger cemeteries may incorporate a chapel on-site. This was a common feature in many larger Northern cemeteries such as Mt. Auburn in Massachusetts or Green-wood in New York, but it was rare in Georgia. Cemeteries dating to the mid-20th century are common locations for these facilities. Westview Cemetery in Fulton County is a good example.

Gatehouse, Westview Cemetery, Fulton County.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS

These buildings provide space for on-site staff to oversee cemetery operations. A single building can serve one function or many, such as being an office and a visitor center, or a chapel and a funeral home. Examples of administrative buildings include offices, funeral homes, and visitor centers. A few Georgia cemeteries have a visitor center, such as Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta or Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah. The visitor center exists to support guests who are primarily visiting for non-funerary purposes, such as recreation or tourism. The competitive nature of the funerary business has led to close collaboration between cemeteries and funeral homes. In some instances, funeral homes are located on-site; however, this is a modern trend from the second half of the 20th century and was not seen historically.

Administration Building, Bell Tower, Oakland Cemetery, Fulton County.

♰ Buildings and Structures (continued)

OPEN AIR STRUCTURES

Cemeteries can include open-air structures such as gazebos and pavilions that can accommodate small groups of people or individuals for reflection or even memorial services.

SERVICE BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Utilitarian support structures house equipment for moderately-sized and large cemeteries. Later buildings are often built of concrete block and are simple in style and design, whereas their historical counterparts may have been constructed of brick and also served as a carriage house or boiler room. These buildings were typically located near the rear of the facility. Georgia cemeteries after 1931 may have a crematoria on site, such as the Georgia Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, Cobb County.

(Left) Open Air Structure for Services, Marietta National Cemetery, Cobb County.
(Right) Visitor Information Gazebo, Memory Hill, Baldwin County.

GREENHOUSES

Greenhouses were rare with the exception of larger public cemeteries. These may have been complex, including an internal heating system, or as simple as a hot house partially submerged in the ground. They served a dual function: plant propagation for staff installation and opportunities for visitors to purchase plants for graves. Like their other service structure counterparts, they are frequently located near the rear of a cemetery.

SPOIL PILES

Remnants of plants, soils, and grave construction were often located adjacent to service buildings. This material was actively maintained in preparation for new burials. This was also the location where newer materials were stored prior to installation.

(Left) Service Building, Memory Hill, Baldwin County. (Right) Spoil Pile at Westview Cemetery, Fulton County.

ENCLOSURES

Enclosures around graves or plots provide protection and decoration. They also are used to designate plot ownership. Typical forms include low copings, fences, walls, berms, or even hedges. Like markers, enclosures can be formal (commercially purchased) or can be vernacular in nature, made from common, everyday items. Natural items such as plantings or dirt berms are also commonly seen in either formal or informal circumstances.

Curbs

Curbs are designed to emphasize the margins of a grave or a plot, but still allow physical and visual access.

- Set low into the ground.
- Frame the grave on three or four sides.
- Made from durable materials, such as marble or granite that fasten together, or fashioned from concrete.
- Popular through the Victorian era of the mid-19th century (1837-1901) to the present.

Edging

Edging refers to groups of small independent objects, usually of the same material, used to frame a grave or a plot.

- Rocks, bricks, seashells, bottles, and garden border blocks are among the more common materials used.
- Prevalent throughout the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

Cradles

These are named for their resemblance to a baby's bed, although some look less like a cradle and more like an adult bed, hence the alternate term, bedsteads.

- Includes a "headboard" and "footboard."
- Popular during the Victorian era of the mid-19th century (1837-1901). Fell out of fashion in the early 20th century.

Marble Curbing Emphasizes a Grave, Murrayville Cemetery, Hall County.

White Rocks Used as Edging to Define a Grave, Westview Cemetery, Richmond County.

Two Side-by-Side Cradle Enclosures in Timber Ridge Baptist Church Cemetery, Hall County.

⊞ Enclosures (continued)

FENCING

Some grave surface structures are designed to enclose the grave or plot on all four sides. The fence allows visual access but restricts physical movement across the grave. Iron fences can be difficult to date accurately because they may have been reused, or people may have chosen an older style due to personal preference. It is likely that there were more metal cemetery fences prior to the scrap metal drives of World War II, when many were gathered up and melted down to contribute to the war effort. Most iron fences were ordered from out-of-state manufacturers such as Stewart Ironworks Company, Cincinnati Iron Fence Company, or Sears, Roebuck and Company. (See fencing highlight on page 100).

Wrought Iron
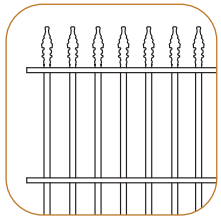
- Oldest type of metal fence made of malleable iron originally formed by blacksmiths. Since the early 20th century, "wrought iron" fencing has typically been made from steel instead of iron.
- Popular during the late 18th to early 19th century, these fences often featured classical, as well as "C" and "S" designs.

Bath Presbyterian Cemetery, Richmond County.

Wrought Iron with Cast Iron
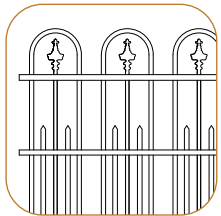
- Adding cast iron embellishments to wrought iron fencing was popular beginning in the early 19th century. The more brittle cast iron could be welded to stronger wrought iron. Finial points were often added to fence bars. Decorative elements, such as angels or plants, were sometimes welded onto gates.

Wrightsboro Quaker Cemetery, McDuffie County.

Cast Iron
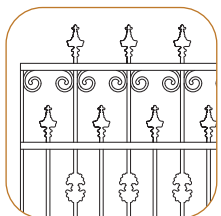
- Fully cast iron fences were the most popular in mid- to later 19th century, with many having very elaborate designs.
- Many different designs were available as stock or custom, and ordering from catalogs was popular. The cast iron fences and gates often contained a prominent mark from the foundry that made them.

Bonaventure Cemetery, Chatham County.

FENCING (CONTINUED)

Gas Pipe with Cast Iron
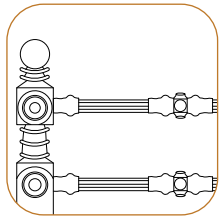
- This fence type, which is made from iron gas pipes, was popular in the 19th century during the Victorian era (1837-1901).
- Posts might be iron, brick, stone, or concrete.
- Often featured chains and cast iron embellishments such as urns or lyres.

Savannah Catholic Cemetery, Chatham County.
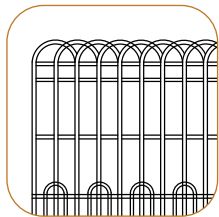
Woven Wire

- Woven wire fencing was popular in the later 19th century and was a precursor to modern chain link fencing.
- Less expensive than cast iron, but also less durable.

Linwood Cemetery, Muscogee County.
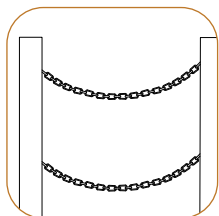
Chain and Post

- Fences were made with chain and post materials at hand. Posts may have been constructed from wood, metal, concrete, or even fieldstones.

Illustrations Adapted from Drawings by the Chicora Foundation Inc. "Cemetery Ironwork."
Source: Chicora Foundation Website

Old Bethel Cemetery, Butts County.

Enclosures (continued)

WALLS, BERMS, AND HEDGES

Walls, berms, and hedges are also used to separate graves or plots.

Grave/Plot Walls

- Heavy constructions made of durable materials, including stone, bricks, logs, or cinderblock.
- Generally, frame on all four sides and can include steps or openings.

Berms

- Low, linear earthen mounds that frame a grave on all four sides.
- More common around plots than individual graves.

Hedges

- Plants that have grown tightly together to create a wall surrounding the grave.
- Used to restrict physical movement across the grave.

(Top) A Grave Wall on a Single Grave, New Haven Cemetery, Crawford County.
(Bottom) Plot Walls at Pinewood Cemetery, Troup County.

(Top) Berms to the Right of the Graves. School Street Cemetery, Wilkes County.
(Bottom) Hedging on a plot at Oakland Cemetery, Fulton County.

MEMORIALS AND STATUARY

Memorials are a common feature of mid-sized to larger cemeteries. They typically consist of a base and a plaque or engraving specifying who is being memorialized; they can also include a statue or obelisk. Memorials are often found in military sections of larger cemeteries, or commemorating groups of people buried in a specific section of the cemetery, such as a potter's field.

Memorial Recognizing the Unmarked Graves in Oakland Cemetery, Fulton County.

Obelisk at Oakland Cemetery Dedicated to "Our Confederate Dead," Fulton County.

Classical Statue in St. Andrew's Cemetery in Darien, Glynn County, "Here Rest Til Roll Call the Men of Gettysburg."

CULTURAL TRADITIONS

Offerings are objects that are laid on or embedded in the surface of the grave. They are designed to enhance the symbolic and decorative aspects of the grave and enhance the viewer's understanding to the decedent. In some communities, they include objects left to protect or appease the dead. Visitor tokens are small offerings left by by people who visit a grave to show that there was a visitor and to denote respect.

BOTTLES

- Medicine bottles were sometimes emptied into the grave to provide aid to the dead.[2] This is often tied to African Amerian traditions.
- A folk tradition shared by a number of cultures is to leave a spirit bottle symbolizing a drink shared with a departed friend.
- Used as flower vases and also left for other personal reasons.

INCENSE STAND/BURNER/FLAME POT

- Incense and other burned offerings are important components of many Asian and Middle Eastern commemorations. Stands, burners, and pots are often left at the gravesite for these rituals.

(Left) Empty Whiskey Bottles on a Grave at Bonaventure Cemetery, Chatham County. (Right) Family members have burned incense in the built-in incense burner to honor this husband and wife. Melwood Cemetery, DeKalb County.

RELIGIOUS ITEMS

- Religious objects including medallions, Bibles, and small crosses are left to emphasize the spiritual link with the deceased.

PERSONAL ITEMS

- In some communities, such as the Gullah Geechee, personal objects, including tools, or those last used by the dead, were commonly left to provide the spirit with things they needed in the next world and to deter the spirit from returning to the world of the living.[3] Tokens left by visitors may also be observed as a grave offering.

(Left) Rosaries are frequently left on Catholic interments. Oak Grove Cemetery, Camden County. (Middle and Right) Personal items, such as tools, are embedded into the concrete marker of "Super Dave." East Porterdale Cemetery, Muscogee County.

SHELLS

- Shells are not only decorative, but their white color and spiral whorls are important mortuary symbols in some African American and American Indian communities.
- Among more Anglo American communities, shells symbolize harmony, journeys, and pilgrimages.[4]
- Shells are commonly left on top of gravestones as a visitor token. Over time frequent depositing of shells may result in mounds at the gravesite.

Several conch shells have been left on this early 20th-century grave. Laurel Grove Cemetery, Chatham County.

BOOKS/LETTERS

- Books and letters, usually addressed to the dead, provide a cathartic link between the dead and the living.

SHINY OBJECTS

- Glass, glazed pottery, metal, and other shiny objects are sometimes left on a grave. This is a tradition that is followed in many rural African American communities.
- When struck by sunlight, the shimmer is believed to provide the spirit with a pathway to the land of the dead.[5]
- Shiny objects were also believed to attract malevolent spirits and distract them from the soul of the departed.

(Left) This letter was left for a little girl's father on Father's Day. Catholic Cemetery, Chatham County. (Right) These ceramic and glass fragments exposed on the surface of a late 19th- early 20th-century grave may have symbolically served as a doorway between worlds. Chatham County.

TOYS/FIGURINES/MEMORABILIA

- Toys and figurines added to communicate aspects of the individual's age, interests, and personality.
- Often found on the graves of children.

(Left) Several Toys Left on a Child's Grave, Dorchester Cemetery, Liberty County. (Right) Georgia Bulldogs Bench Marker, St Andrews Cemetery, McIntosh County.

VASES/POTS/STATUARY

- Flowers and potted plants are often left at the gravesite to show that the individual has not been forgotten.
- Containers holding live or imitation flowers and potted plants are common grave objects found around the world. These may be made from glass, ceramic, plastic, metal, stone, or other materials.
- Most tend to be located at or near the headstone.
- Statues are sometimes added to the grave following initial interment.
- Vernacular forms may be handmade or designed for use as grave art.

(Left and Right) Along with vases and pots of real and artificial flowers, these two large concrete angels and a smaller angel were left at nearby graves. Mt. Hope A.M.E. Church Cemetery, Bibb County.

Offerings and Visitors Tokens (continued)

PEBBLES AND SHELLS

- The tradition of leaving a pebble at the grave of a loved one is generally associated with Jewish cemeteries.[6]
- This custom has spread to other communities.
- Like flowers, pebbles emphasize that the dead have not been forgotten.
- Shells are commonly left for the same reasons as pebbles.

COINS

- Coins are common tokens.
- Pennies, nickels, and dimes are left to symbolically provide fare for the ferryman to take the deceased across the rivers to the land of the dead.[7]
- In military communities, coin denominations emphasize how well a visitor knew a fallen serviceman.

FLOWERS/WREATHS/SADDLES

- May be single flowers left on a grave.
- Floral arrangements and wreaths add symbolism, color, and decoration.
- Floral decorations are temporarily affixed with floral wire or saddles to a monument, the top of a marker, or on easels on or near the grave.

Pebbles left on Saul Bernard Minkovitz's grave. Bonaventure Cemetery, Chatham County.

This grave has a combination of pebbles and shells lined up across the top of the headstone, Flemington Presbyterian Church, Liberty County.

Four pennies were left at this grave site in Savannah. Bonaventure Cemetery, Chatham County.

This saddle floral arrangement was left during the Spring. Dorchester Cemetery, Liberty County.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

SURFACE INDICATORS

These are a few observations that can help identify an unmarked grave's presence.

VEGETATION CHANGES

Digging and refilling a grave changes the soil's compaction, structure, and ability to retain moisture. In turn, these factors alter how and what plants grow on top of them. Often graves are identifiable by a difference in grass health (e.g. dead grass or taller, healthier grass).

This unmarked grave is visible as a rectangular patch of dead grass. Lawrenceville Cemetery, Gwinnett County.

DEPRESSIONS

Graves sink from a combination of the collapse of the coffin or casket and from re-compacting of the dirt over time. Left unfilled, the resulting cigar-shaped depressions are important clues to a grave's location.

A shallow depression is a typical characteristic of an unmarked grave. Salem-St. John Baptist Church Cemetery, Glynn County.

SOIL STAINS

While some unmarked graves can be spotted from the ground surface, many cannot be identified unless the topsoil is removed. When a grave is first dug, the topsoil and subsoil get mixed together. The result is a darker stain in undisturbed soil, which can be seen in archaeological contexts.

The topsoil has been removed from this cemetery to allow archaeologists to accurately pinpoint unmarked graves. This grave stands out as a dark gray rectangle in the bright red Georgia clay. Avondale Burial Place, Bibb County.

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CHAPTER TWO

WHY TYPES AND STYLES?

Little-Terry-Strickland Cemetery in Forsyth County began as a Family cemetery and eventually was used by the larger community.

The following part of Section Two defines a typology for Georgia's historic cemeteries based on both form and function. Chapters Two and Three categorize cemeteries by "type" and "style," both of which provide insight into the creation, organization, and aesthetic design of cemeteries in Georgia. It is important to note here that these descriptions were created for this context to help describe cemeteries with a common language and to help tease out the elements of a cemetery that may make it historically significant for the National Register of Historic Places. These are not categories recognized by the National Register. They are presented here in the hopes that by defining the type and style of a cemetery, the researcher will uncover which National Register Areas of Significance are best applied to a Section 106 evaluation of the cemetery.

Types and styles are an evaluation tool, part of a process of researching, describing, and evaluating the historical significance of a cemetery. Also of note, type is not used in the same manner here as it would be used for a building type describing form. Instead Type will address the formation processes of cemeteries. Defining a type will show who created a cemetery and who retained (or retains) authority over a cemetery. Authority refers to who can be buried there and if there are rules on how they are interred. Authority can change over time. Style considers the aesthetic design of a cemetery, the architecture, and the political, social, and cultural forces that influence burial traditions. Types and styles may change in a cemetery over time. Cemeteries may have layers of types and styles and exhibit elements of multiple types and styles. Teasing apart the layers will help in understanding the cemetery's history. How these layers interact with one another in the landscape will also be critical for examining a cemetery's potential to convey its historic significance and its integrity.

Shinall Cemetery in Bartow County is an excellent example of a Upland Folk style cemetery.

Within each type and style presented in Chapters Three and Four, "Features to Consider" are outlined. These utilize the parts of a cemetery landscape that were defined in the previous chapter and discuss how these elements typically present in the type or style being discussed. These features, however, are generalizations, not a checklist. A cemetery does not need to exhibit all of the features noted, and likewise may have some features that are not included here. A holistic approach should be noted when using the presence or absence of these features to define the type(s) or style(s) seen in a cemetery. Cemeteries that have layered types and styles will exhibit this with their features.

CHAPTER THREE

CEMETERY TYPES

RELIGIOUS TYPE

FAMILY TYPE

COMMUNITY TYPE

MUNICIPAL TYPE

CORPORATE TYPE

INSTITUTIONAL TYPE

MILITARY TYPE

Reverend Bill Allison Memorial Cemetery, Fulton County.

INTRODUCTION

A cemetery type is defined by the formation process of a cemetery and its ownership/management over time – by who built the cemetery and why they built it, and by who retains authority over who can be buried there and how they can be interred. Many cemeteries may have been originally developed as one type and then changed to another type. For example, a family cemetery may now serve the broader community, or a church cemetery may later have been designated as a municipal cemetery. It is also possible to see one type of cemetery within another, such as a military section within a larger municipal type cemetery. In this case though, the overall cemetery type is likely to conform more to the municipal type than the military type. In each of these cases above, the type or types may have left indelible marks on the cemetery landscape. As noted in Chapter Two of this section, cemetery type is meant to be used as a tool to look more deeply at a cemetery and to discover how best to evaluate it. On the timelines for each type in this chapter, the first of that type are frequently denoted.

RELIGIOUS   Religious cemeteries are governed by a religious group, such as a church, synagogue, or mosque.

FAMILY   Family cemeteries are established and managed by the family on family land and contain the graves of individuals in the same kinship group, typically related by blood or marriage.

COMMUNITY   This type serves larger communities of people, usually those in close proximity, that either choose to bury within their community or do not have access to another type of cemetery.

MUNICIPAL   Municipal cemeteries are governed and managed by a municipal authority such as a town or city.

CORPORATE   Corporate cemeteries are owned and/or operated by private organizations and corporations (both For-Profit and Nonprofit).

INSTITUTIONAL   These cemeteries are controlled by a state institution, such as a hospital or prison.

MILITARY   Military cemeteries are managed by a military institution and reserved for formally defined members and, in some cases, their immediate family.

Starts from	1733	Religious Type			
	1752	Family Type			
	1752	Community Type			
	1763	Municipal Type			
	1847	Corporate Type			
	1850	Institutional Type			
	1864	Military Type			

Cemetery Types in Georgia   **Present**

1700   1800   1900   2000
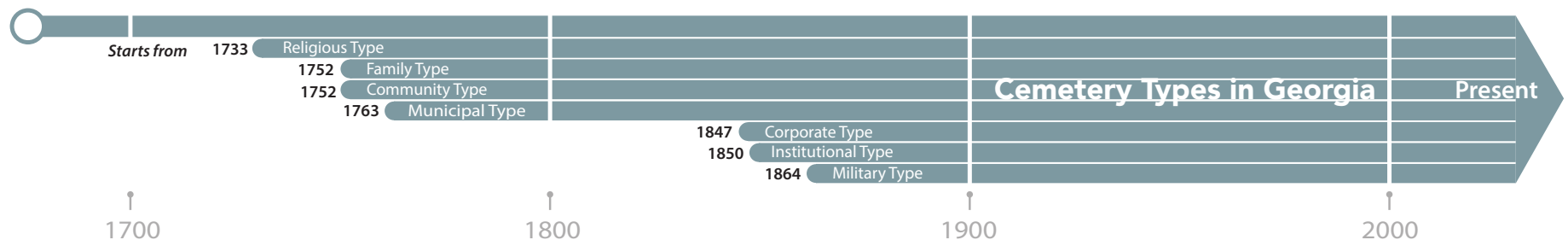
RELIGIOUS TYPE

In Georgia, four major religious groups generate most of the distinct cemeteries and cemetery sections: Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim. The sharing of a religious belief system amongst those buried together is the critical character-defining feature of religious cemeteries. The host congregation's size and vibrancy over time, as well as the legal description of the property, determine this cemetery type's size and configuration. With Protestant and Catholic cemeteries, the close proximity of a church is a key descriptor. In contrast, Jewish and Islamic cemeteries are not necessarily associated with a synagogue or a mosque. They may be situated on available land distant from their religious buildings. Religious cemeteries are found as early as 1733 with the founding of the Georgia Colony, where the first cemeteries were managed by the church and synagogue in Savannah. Until the 1960s, most Georgians were Christians of either European or West African descent. Immigration from countries where Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam were the dominant religions did not begin in earnest until the second half of the 20th century. Cemeteries are rarely associated with the Hindu faith as the predominant tradition is cremation and many people's cremains are sent to India to be spread on the Ganges or in another location chosen by the family. The oldest historic period cemeteries in Georgia are religious cemeteries (see Section One, Chapter Two).

DATES:	LOCATION:	OVERSIGHT:	SIZE AND CONFIGURATION:	STYLE:
1733–Present	Statewide	Religious leadership	Religious cemeteries, when connected to a place of worship, would include the building and likely the entire parcel. When placed separate from the place of worship they will likely consist of the entire parcel and will be shaped accordingly.	Vernacular (Page 252) Lawn Park (Page 258) Memorial Park (Page 260)

1733
Founding of Georgia colony in Savannah; Church of England is the official church of Georgia

1785
End of religious establishment laws in Georgia

1790s-1830s
Second Great Awakening

1980
The Atlanta Mosque established (renamed Al-Farooq Masjid of Atlanta)

1700　　1800　　1900　　2000

Religious Type Cemetery *Starts from 1733*　　Present

1733
42 Jewish colonists arrive in Savannah

1750
Christ Church (Old Colonial) Burying Ground, Savannah/St. Paul's Churchyard, Augusta

1754
Midway 1754-1757-Sunbury

1768
Founding of Quaker community at Wrightsboro

1801
God's Acre Cemetery established by Moravians in Chatsworth

1792
First Catholic church and cemetery organized near Sharon

1773
Jewish Community Cemetery, Savannah

1878
Mormon Southern States Mission opens in Rome

1865
Establishment of free Black congregations

1850/1853
Establishment of the Catholic Diocese of Savannah/opening of Catholic Cemetery

1845
Defense of slavery leads to split within Baptist and Methodist denominations along North/South lines

1912
First Mennonite settlements in Georgia, Pulaski & Appling counties

1987
Hindu Temple of Atlanta opens as the first in Georgia

1965
Revision of U.S. immigration laws allows for increase of African and Asian immigrants

Protestant Cemeteries

Protestant cemeteries are commonly found next to churches. Hardens Chapel Cemetery, Toombs County.

Location

Protestant cemeteries are commonly placed in churchyards.

Graves

In general, Protestant graves are oriented east-west, with the decedent's head to the west allowing them to face Jesus Christ on his arrival from the east during the second coming.[1]

Section

For the Protestant community, status may be expressed by placement within elite sections of the cemetery or by the type of ornamentation applied to the grave.

Plan

An informal plan is typical for Religious cemeteries, but occasionally a true grid plan may be noted.

Plots

Plots may be present and are often associated with one family.

Markers

Protestants recognize that graves should be marked. While Methodists, Presbyterians, and Lutherans allow a wide range of marker forms and sizes within their cemeteries, more conservative groups such as Quakers, Mennonites, and Moravians favor simple uniform markers for all graves. Western crosses are common motifs. Biblical verses written in the community's native tongue (usually English) are frequently added.

Signage

Signs indicating religious affiliation are frequently present.

Jewish Cemeteries

(Left) The Jewish section of Oakland Cemetery in Fulton County. (Right) Leaving pebbles on a grave for remembrance is a Jewish tradition.

Location

Organizations or committees within a synagogue will purchase burial space for use by the congregation, but members are not required to use it. These grounds tend to be more common in urban settings. Cemeteries may be placed on land adjacent to a synagogue, but there is no requirement for it. While freestanding Jewish cemeteries are present, historically, they more commonly form sections in existing cemeteries.

Graves

Few rules govern Jewish grave construction. Graves do not follow a specific orientation, although in many cemeteries, the dead are buried with their feet towards the entrance to symbolize that they will leave the cemetery at the end of time.[2] Graves are often closely spaced, likely to conserve available burial space. Jewish tradition discourages plantings and ground coverings and encourages markers to be a similar size as adjacent markers and to not be boastful.

Markers

Graves are typically left unmarked during a 12-month mourning period, followed by a monument unveiling ceremony.[3] Leaving a grave permanently unmarked is considered disrespectful and forbidden by Jewish law.[4] Markers may take on any form. Traditional Jewish markers contain the decedent's name, birth and death dates, and sometimes a verse written in Hebrew; more modern forms will include (or be replaced by) English text.[5] The Hebrew term *Peh Nun* meaning 'here lies,' is usually included.[6] Family emblems, including a water pitcher and basin, lion, or Cohanim hands; the Star of David; commandment tablets; menorahs; and scrolls are also common motifs.[7] Other frequently used symbols include book piles, bookcases, and oil lamps.[8]

Signage

Signs indicating religious affiliation are frequently present.

Offerings/Visitors Tokens

The leaving of stones, pebbles, or tokens on a grave as a sign of respect is common on Jewish graves.

Roman Catholic Cemeteries

(Left) Rosary Beads left on a Catholic grave in Oak Grove Cemetery, Camden County. (Middle) Land pressures within the City of Savannah and a large Catholic population prompted the establishment of Savannah's Catholic Cemetery on grounds separate from the church, Chatham County. (Right) The St. Joseph's Cemetery was purchased in the late 1800s to allow burials on grounds consecrated by the Catholic Church in Macon's Rose Hill Cemetery, Bibb County.

Features to Consider...

Location

In the past, piety of the dead was often reflected by placement in and around the church, with those of greater faith placed within the church and close to the altar.[9] Modern churches rarely allow burial within the church.

Graves

Church doctrine encourages burial placement in an east-west orientation, with the head at the west end so that the decedent is in appropriate position for prayer (towards the altar at the east end of the church); however, this pattern does not appear to be a firmly established church rule.[10]

Markers

Markers may assume a wide variety of styles reflecting the decedent's socio-economic status. The initials I.H.S. (Iota Eta Sigma) and I.H.C. (Iota Eta Sigma) are variations of the first three letters in the name of Jesus in Greek, while I.N.R.I. (Iesus Nazarenus Rex Ludaeorum) is Greek for Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. Rosaries are common offerings on gravestones. Crosses are commonly inscribed icons or marker shapes. Orthodox and Greek crosses are most commonly associated with Eastern Orthodox (Russian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, and Greek Catholic) churches. Chalices, sacred (bleeding) hearts, and Latin inscriptions may be observed.

Plots

Plots may be present.

Section

Burials on church grounds tend to be placed within sections between trails designed to accommodate access to the grounds. Some sections may be reserved for specific religious orders or divided by monument type (vertical versus flush markers).

Plan

An informal plan is typical, but occasionally a true grid plan may be noted.

Enclosure

Traditionally, a fence or wall marks the boundary between consecrated and unconsecrated ground in a Catholic cemetery.

Signage

Signs indicating religious affiliation are frequently present.

Offerings/Visitors Tokens

Religious goods as well as personal items may be left on a grave as a token of respect.

Islamic Cemeteries

(Left) Faye "Amedah" Moran's grave is positioned in a northwest-southeast plane to allow her to face the *Qiblah* (the direction towards Mecca). Hopkins-Belleville Cemetery, McIntosh County. (Right) Unobtrusive graves in the Muslim Cemetery of Lawrenceville, Gwinnett County.

Features to Consider...

Location

Islamic cemeteries are frequently placed wherever grounds can be made available. In general, Muslims separate their places of prayer from their graveyards. Additionally, if a cemetery is close to a mosque, it cannot be in the direction of the Qiblah for the mosque. In the past, Muslims have chosen to bury in non-sectarian cemeteries or repatriate the dead to their country of origin. Individual Muslim graves may be found scattered across many Municipal, Corporate, and Institutional cemeteries. As Muslim communities become more permanent features in the South, a small but growing number of dedicated cemeteries are being developed.

Graves

Graves are designed to allow the body to return to the natural elements from which it was originally made. The preferred burial receptacle is a shroud within a simple grave pit; however wooden caskets and vaults filled with soil may be substituted where legally required.[11] Graves are oriented so when the individual is buried on their right side, their head is facing the *Qiblah* (Mecca).[12] In Georgia, the graves of Muslims are dug along a northwest-southeast plane, with the head placed at the southeast end of the pit. When deposited in a nonsectarian cemetery, which tend to follow an east-west orientation, Muslim graves often require more than one grave plot to meet Islamic tradition. Once the body is in the grave, a layer of wood or stone is added to prevent grave fill from coming in contact with the body.[13]

Markers

While graves must be clearly marked, Islamic tradition discourages the use of elaborate monuments. In America, coping is commonly placed around the grave to help define its location. Decorations are kept to a minimum and are not designed to be permanent. Graves traditionally are marked with a stone or small monument placed low or flush to the ground. They may be inscribed in Arabic or Turkish script and exhibit star and crescent moon motifs.[14]

Plantings

The grounds are rarely landscaped and individual interment sites are kept simple and sparsely adorned.

Signage

Signs indicating religious affiliation are frequently present.
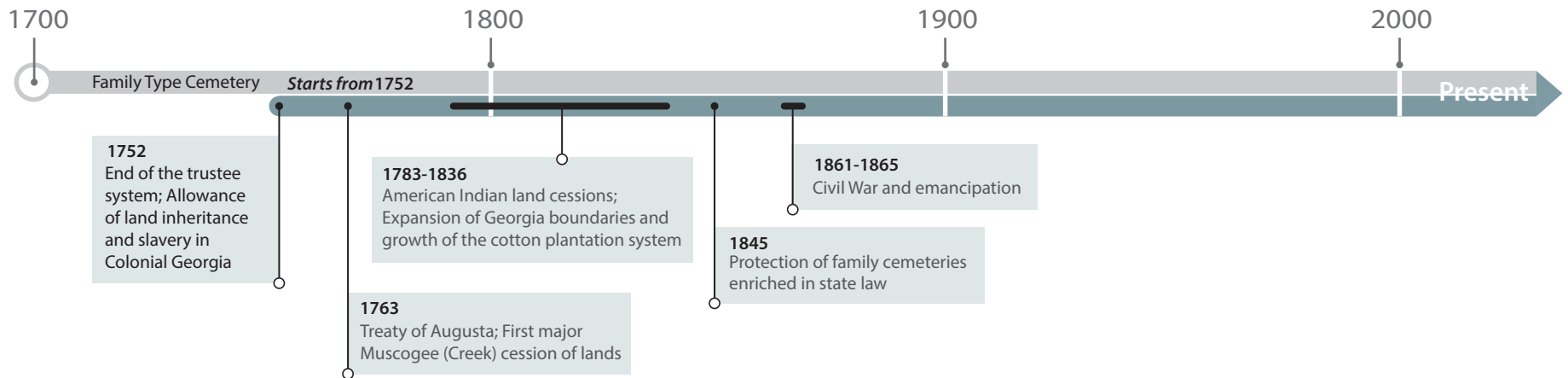
Plan

An informal plan is typical, but occasionally a true grid plan may be noted.

FAMILY TYPE

Family cemeteries contain burials of individuals that are part of the same kinship group. They can be composed of nuclear families or larger extended family networks, and as such, only a few surnames will dominate the assemblage. One of the easiest ways to identify a kinship-based cemetery is by its name. Family cemeteries are frequently named after the dominant surname(s) in the burial ground. Graves tend to cluster by surname, with children buried in close proximity to their parents. The relationship of individuals may be defined by marker inscription ('brother of,' 'wife of,' 'father of'). A common burial tradition in the South was to place the wife on the left side of the husband, which is the typical arrangement in English Christian cemeteries. Some family cemeteries and family plots are not organized around the male lines. A larger number of these burial grounds center on female or matrilineal bonds than might be expected. Family cemeteries were established during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries in Georgia with some still in use today. Despite this long span, they tend to maintain a consistent look; most exhibit a Vernacular style.

Family cemeteries in Georgia start increasing in number after the Trustee Period ends in 1752 (see Section One, Chapter 2). Before this period, there was a mandate to bury in the church cemetery. When Georgians were allowed much larger land allotments beginning in 1752, the dispersed nature of settlements meant that it was far more convenient and desirable to create family burial plots on family land. It is important to note, however, that although they were typically established on family owned land, frequently the land is sold out of the family who will no longer retain ownership.

DATES:	LOCATION:	OVERSIGHT:	SIZE AND CONFIGURATION:	STYLE:
1752–Present	Statewide	A family or extended family	Small, less than 100 burials and located within a discrete area on land originally owned or used by the family.	Vernacular (Page 252)

1700   1800   1900   2000

Family Type Cemetery   *Starts from 1752*   **Present**

1752
End of the trustee system; Allowance of land inheritance and slavery in Colonial Georgia

1763
Treaty of Augusta; First major Muscogee (Creek) cession of lands

1783-1836
American Indian land cessions; Expansion of Georgia boundaries and growth of the cotton plantation system

1845
Protection of family cemeteries enriched in state law

1861-1865
Civil War and emancipation

The Stephen Bush Family cemetery is on the family farm in Baker County, Georgia (Left); the most recent burial is 2009, while the earliest dates to 1915 (Right).

Features to Consider...

Location

Family cemeteries are typically on rural land, but some may be found in previously rural urbanized areas. They may be situated on grounds that cannot be adequately used for other purposes, such as the corner of land lots or along property lines. Frequently located near the residential area of a property, they may be situated on high ground to avoid flooding and to serve as a metaphor for heaven.

Entrance

If an enclosure is present, it is likely an informal entrance, or at most, a gate in a fence or a wall.

Graves

Graves are often arranged in family or kinship groupings. While grave orientation tends to follow the Christian tradition of east-west alignment, there is no rigid pattern of spacing. The plan is typically Informal.

Plantings

Frequently present with locally available plants. Cedar trees are common throughout the state. Individual graves may exhibit yucca, daylily, and vinca.

Plots

Groupings of nuclear families typically comprise a "plot" in a family cemetery, but formal plots, as found in a Corporate or Municipal cemetery are rarely present.

Enclosure

May be enclosed with simple fencing or a stone or brick wall used to either denote the edges of the cemetery and/or to protect it, such as from livestock or farm equipment. May be decorative or merely functional.

Markers

Vary widely in style and size. Markers may be handmade by family, purchased from a local craftsman, or commercially made/purchased. Everyday objects can often be repurposed for use as markers. These may not be immediately recognizable as grave markers to those outside the family. Unmarked graves are common.

Plan

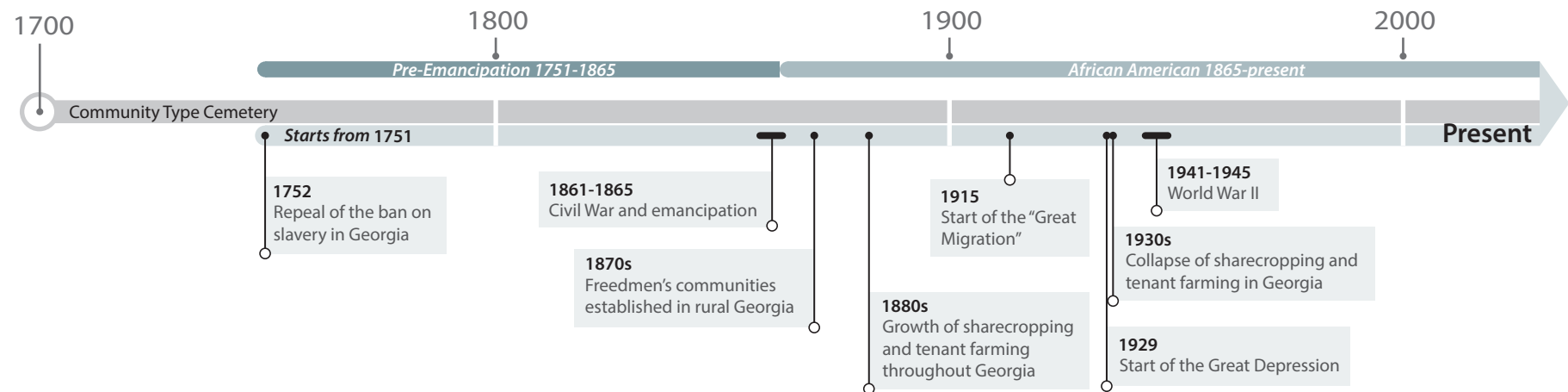An informal plan is typical for Family cemeteries.

COMMUNITY TYPE

Community cemeteries most often have their roots as Family cemeteries and, over time, have transformed into places that serve a larger community. In older, or more folk-oriented burial grounds, the Community cemetery may be identified as the only burial area available within a given region. It is common for a Community cemetery to be associated with other local nodes, including churches, cross roads, and town centers.

Community cemeteries are created in a place that is in close proximity to where people live, and the cemetery is likely managed by a group of their peers. An important feature of Community cemeteries concerns the usually unwritten, but commonly understood, rules about who can be buried in the cemetery and where the dead can be interred. Individuals who may be elders or influential community members, long-term residents, or property owners usually implement these rules. The cultural composition of these cemeteries varies. As such, they may take different forms, including cemeteries where all members of a community are buried together regardless of race or ethnicity; burials are exclusive to one group; or burials are mixed, but contain separate sections within the same complex for different groups. As a result, Community cemeteries tend to reflect a greater diversity in surnames than generally found in a Family cemetery.

Although other subtypes may be identified in the future based on additional research, at this time there are two defined subtypes – African Pre-1865 Community cemeteries and African American Post-1866 Community cemeteries.

DATES:	LOCATION:	OVERSIGHT:	SIZE AND CONFIGURATION:	STYLE:
1751–1945	Rural Georgia, but may be found in developed areas that were once rural.	Community leaders/ elders	Vary in shape and size, but will be placed in areas where they can be accessed by the community and typically on land that is less useful agriculturally. Will often be a small part of a larger parcel.	Vernacular and Upland Folk (Page 252)

1700   1800   1900   2000

Pre-Emancipation 1751-1865   African American 1865-present

Community Type Cemetery

Starts from 1751

Present

1752
Repeal of the ban on slavery in Georgia

1861-1865
Civil War and emancipation

1870s
Freedmen's communities established in rural Georgia

1880s
Growth of sharecropping and tenant farming throughout Georgia

1915
Start of the "Great Migration"

1929
Start of the Great Depression

1930s
Collapse of sharecropping and tenant farming in Georgia

1941-1945
World War II

The Old Field Cemetery served as a local burial spot for a rural community on the outskirts of Fitzgerald, Ben Hill County.

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Features to Consider...

Location

Placed in a location that the local residential community could freely access. Like African pre-1865 community cemeteries, they were built in rural, agricultural areas. The cemeteries were likely sited away from prime agricultural land, on less usable parcels, or on the edges and corners of land lots or property lines.

Graves

Graves in a Community cemetery typically reflect the siting and orientation of the predominant ethnic or religious group.

Plots

These cemeteries often contain well-defined family plots.

Markers

Range from simple fieldstone markers, to many styles of vernacular markers, to commercially available grave markers. What is important is that the community has the authority over what can be used and that this authority is often understood rather than formally expressed.

Entrance

These cemeteries may have an informal entrance, such as an arch or a gate.

Plantings

Plantings are likely in Community cemeteries. The types would depend on the ethnic or religious group that utilized the burial grounds. Plants such as yucca, vinca, evergreens, hollies, dogwoods, and flowering bulbs, such as daffodils and lilies, are all used and may hold specific community meaning.

Circulation

Circulation would be minimal. Larger Community cemeteries may have a perimeter road, or one or two tracks, to access the interior graves.

Enclosure

May be fenced to protect the graves from inadvertent damage or livestock.

Plan

An informal plan is typical for Community cemeteries.

African and African American Cemeteries

AFRICAN CEMETERIES PRE-1865

African Pre-1865 Community cemeteries in Georgia were mostly associated with plantations, but also included enslaved and free people in other industries. Many enslaved people were placed in unmarked graves in locations chosen by their enslavers. When graves were marked, it was often with materials that could be salvaged from local resources, including wood planks, shingles, fieldstones, shells, and every day objects. Graves were often mounded to help define their locations.[15] Enslavers sometimes provided milled commercial markers as a reward for faithful service. Islamic influences could be present within the burials, as many enslaved people were from West Africa (see Section One, Chapter 3).

(Right) Fieldstone-marked depressions immediately outside the walls of the Lewis Family Cemetery in Baldwin County are likely graves of the enslaved people who were forced to work on the plantation. (Far Right) Historical archaeologist James C. Garman has suggested that the commemoration of an enslaved person's grave with a milled commercial gravestone was a way that enslavers expressed their status in an African environment. Laurel Grove South, Chatham County.[21]

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Features to Consider...

Location

Burial grounds for enslaved people were placed as either highly visible or hidden facilities in the landscape. Sometimes these cemeteries were placed next to the plantation owner's burial ground.[16] Conversely, cemeteries for the enslaved developed outside of the plantation house's line of sight. Portions of the plantation that were not useable for other functions, including the edges of fields, land lot corners, pastures, or on grounds dedicated to housing for the enslaved, were commonly used as burial areas.[17] The grave of the enslaved person had meaning only to the enslaved African community, and its location was subservient to other parts of the plantation's operation. Families living on multiple plantations were interred in separate cemeteries, emphasizing that ties to the plantation were greater than to the enslaved person's family unit.[18]

Graves

As the plantation owner controlled when and where an enslaved person was buried, choices on grave siting and orientation varied widely. Grouping deceased family members in plots or employing Christian burial conventions may or may not have occurred. Little is known on this topic.

Plots

These cemeteries might contain family plots, but it is not easily discernable on the landscape.

Enclosure

Although it was likely uncommon, some cemeteries for enslaved or free Africans could have been fenced.

Markers

The contrast between the stately memorials of the plantation owner and the minimally marked graves of enslaved Africans emphasized that the social hierarchy of the plantation was expected to continue after death.[19] African burials typically were marked with a variety of items or locally-available materials, such as personal possessions; fragments of glass bottles, vases, or dishes; white, silver or reflective objects; wooden markers; fieldstones; and shells (see Section One, Chapter 3).

Plan

An informal plan is typical.

Plantings

Little is known about the use of grave plantings on Pre-1865 African Community cemeteries in Georgia. The overgrown nature and the age of most of these cemeteries makes it difficult to tell if plantings were used historically and culturally to mark graves; although, it is clear that, post-Emancipation, many African American graves were marked and decorated with plants. Plants with significance to West African cultures included cactus-like succulents to guard a grave and trees, whose roots showed the direction in which the deceased journeyed to the afterlife and which were used to express immortality and permanence.[20]

AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERIES POST-1866

A great number of African American Post-1866 cemeteries are believed to have begun as cemeteries for enslaved Africans. Finally with the opportunity to choose burial locations, African American cemeteries were designed to accommodate the family or community and were rarely sites of public display. Churches and religious burial grounds were sometimes establised on the location of earlier plantation cemeteries. These frequently were isolated from the living environment and out of view except to the decedent and neighboring African American community.[22] Recognizing that cemeteries were gateways between worlds, these grounds were frequently placed near bodies of water.[23] Burial grounds occupied terrain that was resistant to flooding. In urban settings, the African American cemetery was frequently part of a larger burial ground, placed in the back of the complex or in less immediate parts of the landscape. Grave orientation reflected cosmology. While placing the dead in an east-west alignment, with the head at the west, corresponded with Judeo-Christian traditions, it also meant the dead were synchronized with the path of the sun, an important feature in many African and African American cosmologies.[24]

African American cemeteries were typically established alongside churches and would more closely align with the Religious type. Independent examples appear to be more common in coastal or rural environments. In urban settings, the Post-1866 African American cemetery is often a section in a larger burial complex. These burial grounds tend to be relatively small; however, large examples, such as the School Street Cemetery in Wilkes County, may occasionally be encountered. It is not uncommon that these cemneteries may be entirely unmarked and may be brought to the attention of the public through oral history.

(Above Left) Kinship is an important concept, and many African American cemeteries are divided into family clusters. Stargell Family Cluster, Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery, Fayette County. (Below Left) Yuccas, symbolizing plants found in Africa, are common flora in African American cemeteries. Smith AME Zion Cemetery, Walton County.

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Features to Consider...

Graves

Graves are typically arranged by the family unit. Related families may or may not be in closer proximity. As members of a Community cemetery may share a religious belief, grave orientation may be consistent. Grid arrangement and straight lines, however, are less likely, as the plan of the cemetery evolves over time. The lack of surface markers on some graves means that perfectly straight or spaced rows are not expected. Additionally, as new graves were added over the years near previous graves, the community may have left informal buffers between burial areas to ensure earlier graves were not disturbed.

Location

Located where the community can access, even if they lack actual legal possession of the property.

Plots

Families are generally buried together in informal plots that grow with available space over time.

Plan

An informal plan is typical.

Markers

Markers in Community cemeteries are extremely variable. Any commercially-available marker can be present, but vernacular forms, utilizing wood and concrete, and found objects, like fieldstone, are characteristic of this type. Some graves are completely unmarked. It is probable that these originally contained some sort of marker that has either decayed, been moved or removed, or is not immediately recognizable as a marker to someone outside the community. Markers may also have consisted of found or repurposed items, been purposefully purchased, or are constructed locally as grave markers.
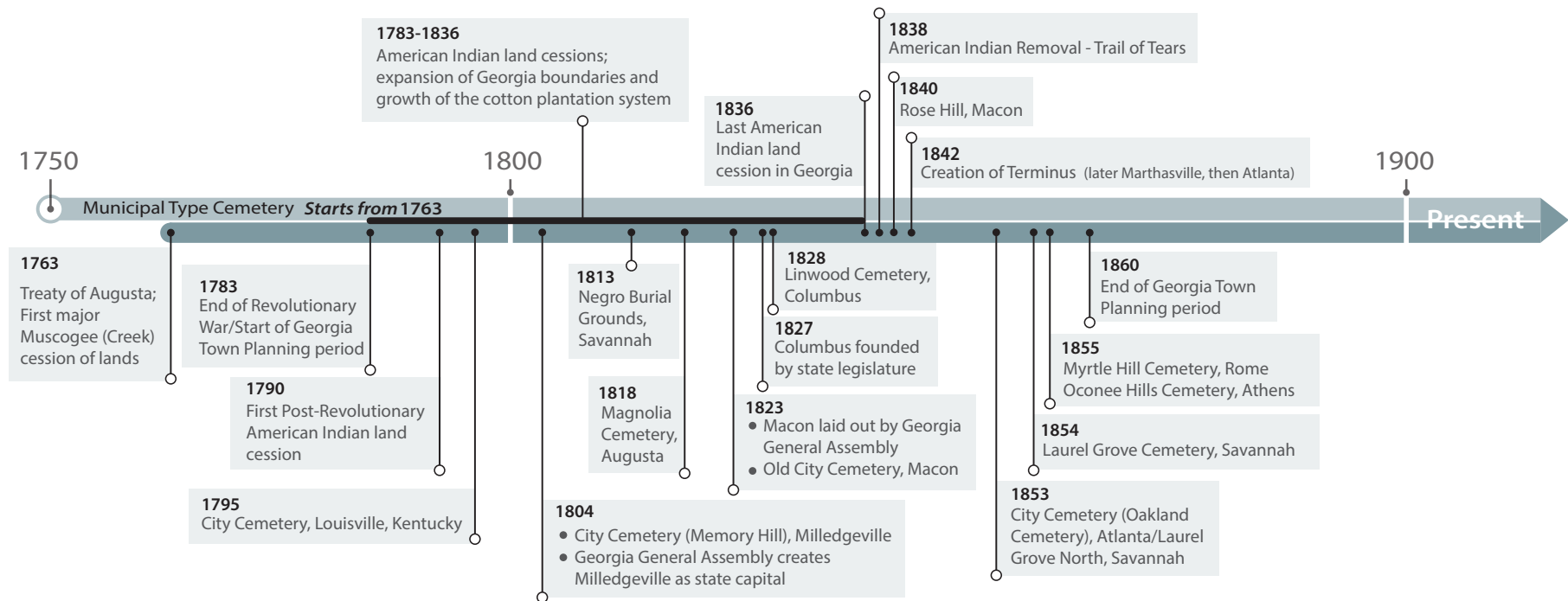
Plantings

Plantings are common at African American Community cemeteries as there are far fewer specific rules detailing what can and cannot be used to decorate gravesites at Community cemeteries in general. While symbolism associated with Upland and Vernacular plantings often have a Judea-Christian or western European foundation, plants such as the giant reed are often used because they are similar to plants found in Africa. Yuccas are commonly used because they their white flowers correspond with African traditions in which white was the color associated with death (see Section One, Chapter 3).

MUNICIPAL TYPE

Municipal cemeteries tend to be functional spaces with a focus towards conserving space and making a profit. These cemeteries appear after the Revolutionary War with the end of the Church of England as the state religion and the start of the Town Planning period in Georgia (see Section One, Chapter 4). They intensify in number as additional American Indian land cessions increase the size of Georgia until 1836 and then eventually begin to decline in number after Corporate cemeteries emerge in the 1840s. Sections were a prominent feature in Municipal cemeteries, where they were set aside for the exclusive use of specific groups or for those interred due to a mass death from epidemics, combat, and disasters of natural or human origin. Early Municipal cemeteries often featured a grid plan. Municipal cemeteries were public places and were typically outfitted with the same public facilities that a park would have, including paved roads and walkways; operational buildings; public shelters, such as gazebos; and elaborate plantings. As public spaces, they had commemorative elements such as cenotaphs and memorials, and allowed for standing in the community to be emphasized through decorative burial spaces.

DATES:	LOCATION:	OVERSIGHT:	SIZE AND CONFIGURATION:	STYLE:
1783–Present	Town peripheries. Later as the town grew, they were integrated into the city's fabric.	Municipal governments	Often irregular. As cemeteries filled up, municipalities added more land to the cemetery, forming a patchwork of adjoining parcels.	Rural Garden (Page 256) Lawn Park (Page 258) Memorial Park (Page 260)

1783-1836
American Indian land cessions; expansion of Georgia boundaries and growth of the cotton plantation system

1838
American Indian Removal - Trail of Tears

1840
Rose Hill, Macon

1836
Last American Indian land cession in Georgia

1842
Creation of Terminus (later Marthasville, then Atlanta)

1750

1800

1900

Municipal Type Cemetery *Starts from* 1763

Present

1763
Treaty of Augusta; First major Muscogee (Creek) cession of lands

1783
End of Revolutionary War/Start of Georgia Town Planning period

1790
First Post-Revolutionary American Indian land cession

1795
City Cemetery, Louisville, Kentucky

1813
Negro Burial Grounds, Savannah

1818
Magnolia Cemetery, Augusta

1828
Linwood Cemetery, Columbus

1827
Columbus founded by state legislature

1823
• Macon laid out by Georgia General Assembly
• Old City Cemetery, Macon

1804
• City Cemetery (Memory Hill), Milledgeville
• Georgia General Assembly creates Milledgeville as state capital

1860
End of Georgia Town Planning period

1855
Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Rome Oconee Hills Cemetery, Athens

1854
Laurel Grove Cemetery, Savannah

1853
City Cemetery (Oakland Cemetery), Atlanta/Laurel Grove North, Savannah

Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta, Fulton County, exhibits all of the features discussed below for a Municipal cemetery.

MUNICIPAL TYPE

Features to Consider...

Location

Municipal cemeteries were almost always placed on the periphery of a town plan. While the intent was to have them outside the main residential areas, they inevitably became part of a city's fabric as its boundaries expanded and development eventually encircled the cemetery.

Graves

Graves were typically arranged in a grid plan. Orientation of the graves followed the custom of individual religious or ethnic groups within family plots, although grave arrangement, plot, and section design would change with the prevailing style during the period of construction.

Markers

Marker styles vary widely in Municipal cemeteries. While the majority of markers were commercially made, vernacular markers are still seen. Marker style was also dependent on the prevailing styles during the times of the cemetery's active life and development. Municipal cemeteries constructed during the Rural Garden Movement have elaborate romantic statuary, while those constructed in the Lawn Park and Memorial Park design styles have much more uniform and far less elaborate markers.

Plot

Plots were arranged in a linear manner initially with a grid plan, but later would be arranged in Rural Garden, Lawn Park, or Memorial Park style. Based on the authors' observations, preference in plots was granted to families of higher social standing. Prominent locations included those near the road and locations at the top of hills. Conversely, less desirable locations were lower-lying elevations, which were more prone to flooding, or the edges and less visible, peripheral locations.

Section

As these cemeteries were owned and managed by the municipality, they accounted for the separation of church and state by allowing burial from many different groups or religions. These groups, however, were confined to different cemetery sections. As with plot locations, sections were assigned on a hierarchical basis based on social status. Municipal cemeteries typically had different sections for different religious groups, ethnic groups, the indigent and poor, travelers without local family, and sometimes fraternal societies and organizations. During and after the Civil War, sections were often established within municipal cemeteries for the interment of veterans. Sometimes a mass death event within a community, such as an epidemic or natural disaster, also resulted in a separate cemetery section.

Mausoleum/Columbaria

These are an important feature of many Municipal cemeteries. Mausoleum types vary with date of construction from individual, to family, and community. These are most popular between the 1870s and 1920s. Prominent families would erect a mausoleum in the town cemetery to commemorate their family and as a symbol of their social standing and influence. Typically, columbaria did not begin to appear in cemeteries until the late 20th century.

Cenotaph

The city or members of the community frequently placed cenotaphs in Municipal cemeteries to honor a specific group in absentia. In Georgia, cenotaphs honoring the Confederate War dead are common.

Memorial

City or community members placed memorials in Municipal cemeteries to honor a specific group of burials. Larger memorial statues are common in veteran sections.

Buildings

Municipal cemeteries have gatehouses, offices, chapels, and maintenance buildings.

Structures

Municipal cemeteries frequently have gazebos, statuary, flagpoles, and other decorative structures.

Plan

Grid plans and informal plans are most commonly noted. Grid plans are useful to maximize space.

Entrance

Municipal cemeteries typically contain a formal entrance and possibly additional informal entrances. Gates or gatehouses may flank the formal entrance.

Plantings

Decorative plantings are common in earlier municipal cemeteries particularly those constructed in the 19th century.

Hardscape

Retaining walls, paths, stairs, and other hardscape features are common in Municipal cemeteries.

Circulation

Municipal cemeteries often have extensive circulation networks, particularly in larger cities. These allowed access to the graves by carriage and later by cars and encouraged the recreational use of cemeteries, which was popular during the 19th century.

Enclosure

Typically walls or fences enclosed Municipal cemeteries.

Signage

Signs delineating sections or pointing visitors to important graves would be a typical feature of Municipal cemeteries.

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Sections are a prominent feature of Municipal cemeteries. At Oakland Cemetery in Fulton County, there are numerous sections including (from Left to Right): an African American section; a Pauper section, with a memorial and unmarked graves in an open grassy area; and a Jewish section.

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Memorials and cenotaphs are common features in Municipal cemeteries. At left, a cenotaph at Decatur Cemetery in DeKalb County honors those who died and are buried on foreign soil, and the Confederate Memorial on the right honors the Confederate dead in Oakland Cemetery in Fulton County. In general, cenotaphs commemorate individuals buried elsewhere, while memorials commemorate those buried in the cemetery.

(Left) Extensive landscaping at Municipal cemeteries added to the park-like feel and (Right) wealthy residents exhibited their social status with elaborate mausoleums. Oakland Cemetery, Fulton County.

"Cause of Death" Sections in Municipal Cemeteries: These graves typically took on one of two forms. If time and circumstances permitted, decedents were interred in individual graves. In many cases, these individuals would have originally been provided with independent grave markers. Examples include the graves of disease victims associated with the Old Sailor's Cemetery (McIntosh County) and the Old Quarantine Station Cemetery (Glynn County). Conversely, all victims associated with an event may be deposited in a shared common grave and memorialized by a single marker. Trenches containing Civil War dead in the Stone Mountain Cemetery (DeKalb County) are examples of this form of interment.

(Left) This gravestone marks the approximate location of a trench containing Confederate war victims. Stone Mountain Cemetery, DeKalb County. (Right) This historical marker in Chatham County's Old Colonial Cemetery emphasizes that many interments share a common cause of death. Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

CORPORATE TYPE

Corporate cemeteries run the gamut from nonprofit benevolent societies to for-profit cemetery companies. Their common thread is that the authority for operating the cemetery comes from a non-governmental source, and they have the power to require that families or individuals purchasing burial space conform to certain rules. Corporate cemeteries are divided into two subtypes: For-Profit cemeteries and Nonprofit cemeteries (see Section One, Chapter 6).

DATES:	**LOCATION:**	**OVERSIGHT:**	**SIZE AND CONFIGURATION:**	**STYLE:**
1847–Present	Statewide	Business or association	Typically conforms to parcel size and shape at time of purchase	Rural Garden (Page 256) Lawn Park (Page 258) Memorial Park (Page 260)

1880s-1900
Growth of funeral industry in Georgia (undertakers, grave markers, coffin makers/manufacturers) serving both Whites and Blacks

1842
First Commercial Funeral establishment in Georgia opens in Savannah

1900s-1920s
Growth of Perpetual Care Cemetery Service and Mutual-Aid Societies

1831
Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts

1796
New Haven Burying Ground (Grove Street Cemetery) established in Connecticut as the first privately-financed cemetery in the United States

1861-1865
Civil War and Emancipation

1931
First commercial crematorium in Georgia opens in Macon

1700   1800   1900   2000

Corporate Type Cemetery *Starts from* 1847   **Present**

1847
Incorporation of Evergreen Cemetery (later Bonaventure Cemetery), Savannah

1890
Riverdale Cemetery, Columbus

1884
Westview Cemetery, Atlanta

1944
Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery, Augusta

1887
Riverside Cemetery, Macon

1886
South View Cemetery incorporated as a private cemetery for African Americans in Atlanta

For-Profit Corporate Cemetery

(Left) Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah was the first For-Profit cemetery in Georgia, chartered in 1847 and opened in 1869. (Middle) Westview Cemetery in Fulton County illustrates that For-Profit cemeteries can have multiple styles as they were developed over long periods. (Right) At a mid- to later 20th-century cemetery, such as Eternal Hills Cemetery in DeKalb County, a Memorial Park style dominates the landscape.

Features to Consider...

Location

Beginning in the later 19th century and throughout the 20th century, these cemeteries were typically established in visible and accessible areas along transportation routes on the outskirts of town, or within suburban areas.

Graves

The For-Profit corporation sold graves, like family plots, with an eye toward profit. Higher ground and more prominent locations could command a higher price. Conversely, less desirable locales would be priced lower and aimed at a lower socioeconomic bracket.

Plot

Family plots, like individual gravesites, were priced based on the desirability of their location within the cemetery. In earlier cemeteries such as Bonaventure, these may have featured elaborate family mausoleums.

Mausoleums/Columbaria

Mausoleums and Columbaria were prominent features of larger For-Profit Corporate cemeteries depending on when they were built. These offered the consumers perpetual care and additional choices in burial space, as well as helping to maximize profit as more people could be interred in a smaller space.

Section

Sections were prevalent in For-Profit Corporate cemeteries as they allowed marketing to specific groups, as well as providing a means to segregate certain sections of the population. Sections were often based on race, socioeconomic status, trades, societies, or religion.

Markers

Varied widely with the popular styles of the time period. An overall trend in For-Profit Corporate cemeteries is towards markers requiring less maintenance and more regulation in marker style.

Buildings

Buildings are a common feature of For-Profit Corporate cemeteries. Examples of these may include offices, chapels, maintenance buildings, greenhouses, funeral parlors, or indoor mausoleums.

Structures

Structures are a common feature of For-Profit Corporate cemeteries. Cemeteries often contain a mix of ornamental and utilitarian structures including, but not limited to, fountains, statuary, eternal flames, follies, flagpoles, gazebos, and shelters.

Entrance

For-profit Corporate cemeteries often feature prominent, formal entries. Styling would depend on the period in which the cemetery was constructed.

Plantings

Plantings in For-Profit Corporate cemeteries, like markers, vary with the style of the cemetery and the period in which it was constructed. Since For-Profit Corporate cemeteries are largely a 20th-century development, they tend to reflect more modern trends, which emphasize orderly, open space with minimal plantings. This also results in less maintenance. Plantings at Lawn Park cemeteries are highly regulated and are usually completely prohibited at Memorial Park cemeteries.

Plan

Corporate cemeteries have either grid or curvilinear plans.

Hardscape

While pathways and retaining walls were common in early For-Profit Corporate cemeteries, later period cemeteries tended to be constructed on more open, flat terrain and emphasize lawn over hardscaping.

Circulation

Circulation patterns are varied with older For-Profit Corporate cemeteries having a more curvilinear style and more modern cemeteries being oriented towards automobile traffic with main roads and intersections radiating out into organized sections.

Enclosure

Enclosures depend on the style. Older For-Profit Corporate cemeteries likely have a fence or wall enclosure. Later cemeteries, such as those built in a Memorial Park style, are less likely to be fenced, as an open view was preferred, especially from adjacent roadways.

Signage

Signage is a prominent feature in For-Profit Corporate cemeteries, particularly used to indicate sections.

Nonprofit Corporate Cemeteries

Grounds reserved for members of the Independent Daughters of Bethel Society are found within South View Cemetery, a Nonprofit Corporate cemetery that began as an independent burial association. Fulton County.

Location

Nonprofit Corporate cemeteries were constructed in places that were convenient for members. They can vary from family-sized plots to large, multi-acre complexes. These locations may include grounds near supporting African American or Asian communities, on or near lodge grounds, or as sections within larger, community or municipal cemeteries.

Grave

Individual graves were often placed in orderly rows, particularly if the Nonprofit corporate cemetery is a section in a larger cemetery.

Plan

Corporate cemeteries often have either grid or curvilinear plans.

Plot

Family plots or places reserved for spouses may be present depending on the nature of the Nonprofit Corporate cemetery.

Section

Nonprofit Corporate cemeteries may be stand-alone cemeteries, in which case, they have little need for sections, or they may be part of a larger cemetery in which case they likely comprise their own section of the larger cemetery.

Cenotaph

May be present, particularly if the organization represents veterans.

Memorial

In a highly visible central location, such as near the entrance, signs or monuments were erected identifying the nature of the organization.

Markers

While some nonprofits, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, encourage use of uniform markers to add a sense of unity to the burial area, most organizations allowed a more diverse range in monument form choices. Recognizing that many 19th- and early 20th-century burial societies were linked with specific funeral establishments, this diversity in marker form provided opportunities for more elaborate (and costly) markers to be sold.[25] Markers frequently bore the organization's name or iconography.

Buildings

Buildings are not a prominent feature of Nonprofit Corporate cemeteries. While maintenance buildings may be present, large chapels or offices are uncommon.

Entrance

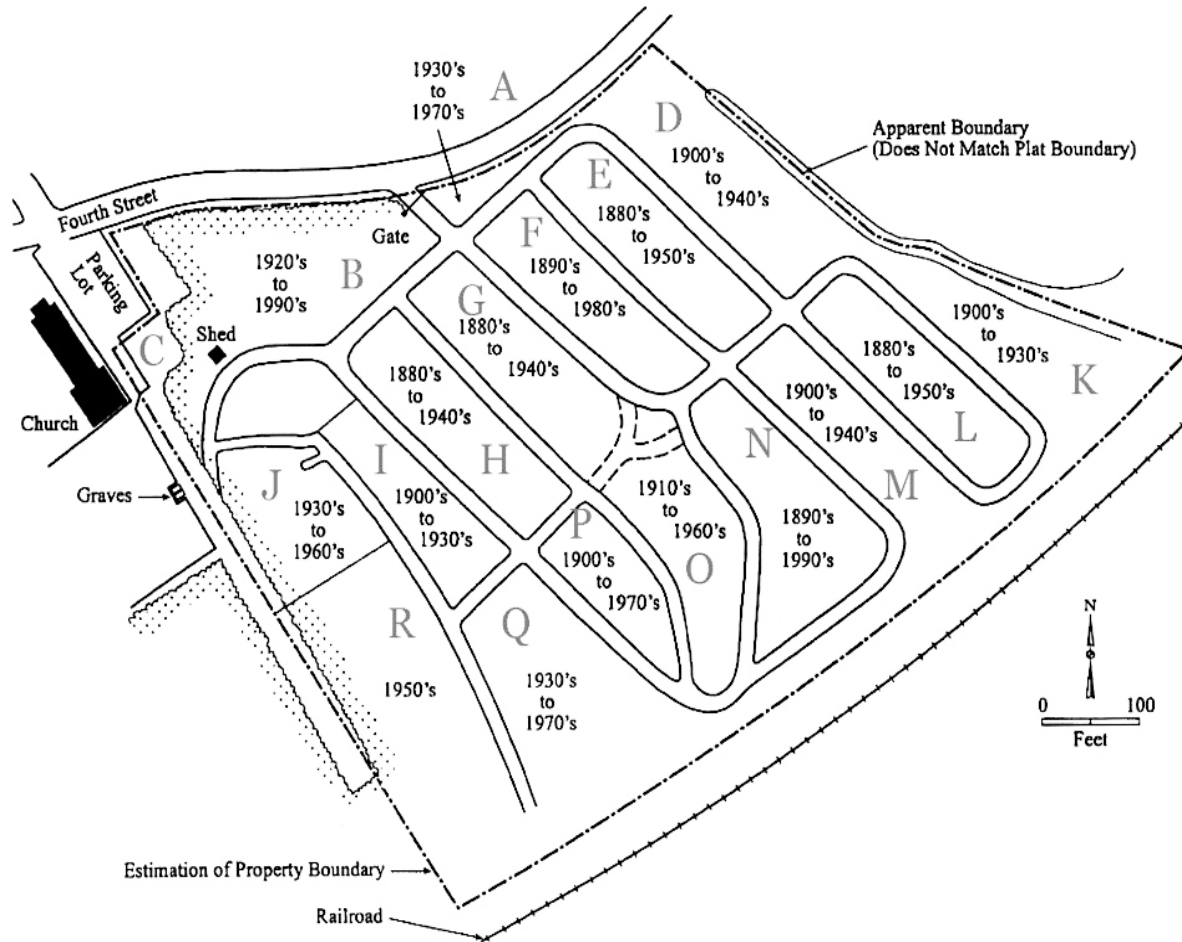Formal entrances with actual gateways or signage that serve to mark entry into space reserved for association members' burials are likely present.

Circulation

Nonprofit Corporate cemeteries often feature roads or pathways that conform in design standards to the prevailing style during the cemetery's construction.

Enclosure

Most cemeteries exhibited well-defined boundaries, in the form of walls, fences, hedges, paths, or curbing that help to identify graves within the grounds as part of the group.
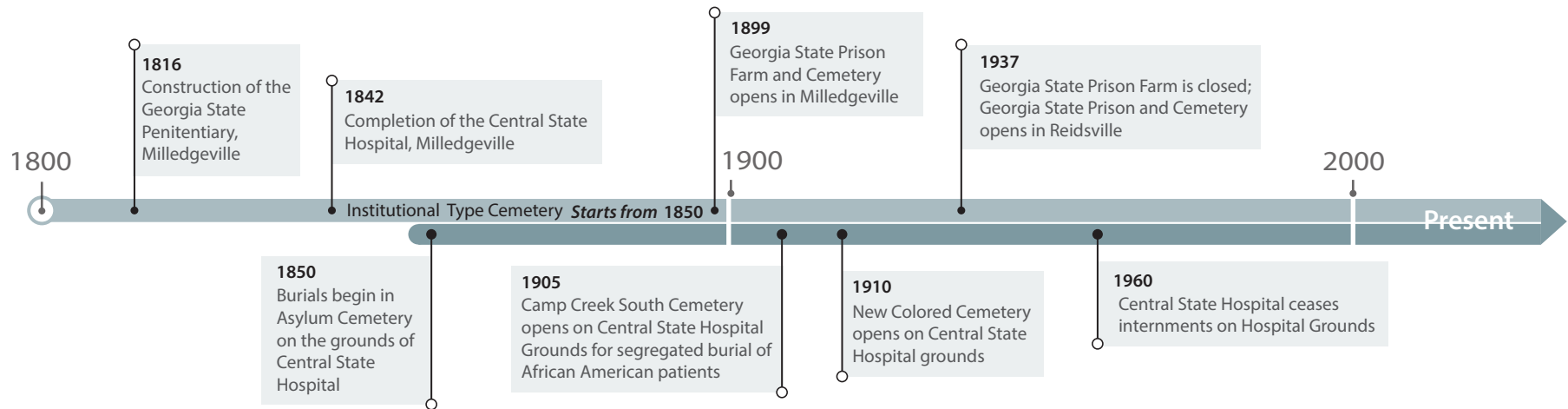
The cemetery plan shows lettered sections with date ranges:

A — 1930's to 1970's
D — 1900's to 1940's
E — 1880's to 1950's
F — 1890's to 1980's
B — 1920's to 1990's
G — 1880's to 1940's
1880's to 1940's
C — Shed
K — 1900's to 1930's
L — 1880's to 1950's
N — 1900's to 1940's
J — 1930's to 1960's
I — 1900's to 1930's
H
P — 1900's to 1970's
O — 1910's to 1960's
M — 1890's to 1990's
R — 1950's
Q — 1930's to 1970's

Fourth Street
Gate
Parking Lot
Church
Graves
Apparent Boundary (Does Not Match Plat Boundary)
Estimation of Property Boundary
Railroad

N
0   100
Feet

One of the largest Nonprofit Corporate cemeteries in Georgia is Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery, Clarke County. This African American cemetery, shown in plan above, was established and operated by the Gospel Pilgrim Society burial society and occupies a 10-acre parcel with over 3,000 interments.[26] While some are marked as shown (above right), the majority are unmarked. Listed on the NRHP, the cemetery was used heavily from 1885 until the 1940s. After the 1960s, it fell into disrepair and was largely overgrown, likely due to a lack of funding and no recorded owner.

INSTITUTIONAL TYPE

When those who died in institutional care lacked the social and financial resources for a private burial, the institution assumed responsibility for their interment. Institutional cemeteries balanced the need to provide an acceptable burial for these individuals with the costs needed for interment. Since these burials occurred at public or institutional expense, they were geared towards cost efficiency and tended to be utilitarian, spartan landscapes. They are generally orderly places that lack ornamentation. Institutional cemeteries are frequently supported by institutional labor. Inmates are often charged with preparing graves and maintaining the grounds. It is not uncommon for coffins, markers, and other grave furniture to be produced in-house. Although the Georgia State Penitentiary was constructed in the early 1800s, the Institutional cemetery type does not begin until 1850 with the opening of the cemetery at Central State Hospital. Before 1850, inmates were buried in a specific section of the Milledgeville City Cemetery, also called Memory Hill.

DATES:	LOCATION:	OVERSIGHT:	SIZE AND CONFIGURATION:	STYLE:
1850–Present	Statewide	Federal, state, or local government, or private institutions	Typically a portion of a larger parcel owned by the institution	Vernacular

1816
Construction of the Georgia State Penitentiary, Milledgeville

1842
Completion of the Central State Hospital, Milledgeville

1899
Georgia State Prison Farm and Cemetery opens in Milledgeville

1937
Georgia State Prison Farm is closed; Georgia State Prison and Cemetery opens in Reidsville

1800

Institutional Type Cemetery *Starts from* 1850

1900

2000

Present

1850
Burials begin in Asylum Cemetery on the grounds of Central State Hospital

1905
Camp Creek South Cemetery opens on Central State Hospital Grounds for segregated burial of African American patients

1910
New Colored Cemetery opens on Central State Hospital grounds

1960
Central State Hospital ceases internments on Hospital Grounds

Features to Consider...

Location

Institutional cemeteries are usually placed on land owned or managed by the institution. These burial grounds are frequently tucked in out of the way portions of the landscape that are invisible to the institution's view shed and outside of normal public access. Wooded areas, slope backsides, property margins, and secluded locales are common places for Institutional cemeteries. Decedents from the Central State Hospital (Baldwin County) were interred in a wooded cemetery area on the back margin of a multi-facility state-owned complex.

Graves

Graves are arranged typically in a dense, linear plan.

Section

If present, they relate only to time periods in which certain individuals were interred. When one section fills up, another is opened.

Markers

Markers tend to follow simple, uniform designs. Concrete crosses at the Georgia State Prison Cemetery (Tattnall County) and metal license plate markers in the Old State Prison Cemetery (Baldwin County), for example, were products made by prisoners. Institutional cemetery markers list individuals by a grave or inventory number rather than by name. Grave numbers tend to be sequential with low numbers representing early burials and higher numbers given to more recent interments. Alternatively, inventory numbers may correspond to identity numbers tied to other records within the institution. In either case, the repository for information on decedents in an Institutional cemetery is not the gravesite, but records maintained at the institution or where the institution's records are archived.

Plan

Typically arranged in a Regimented plan, they can also have informal or grid plans.

(Left) Simple iron markers, each bearing an inventory number, were used to identify the graves of inmates from the Central State Hospital. Cedar Lane Cemetery, Baldwin County.

(Right) Concrete crosses with numbers mark the graves of prisoners on a hillside near the Georgia State Prison near Reidsville, Tattnall County.

MILITARY TYPE

Military communities are based on each member having a formally defined rank and position within the organization. Rank defines what is expected from each member, as well as their privileges and duties. Conformity to the order established by the organization is a paramount feature of military society. Regimentation is also an important component of the military cemetery. In Georgia, the first cemetery devoted to the military (and was not another cemetery type with a section dedicated to military/veteran burials) was at Andersonville in 1864 (See Section One, Chapter 5). Military cemeteries restrict who can be buried there to typically service members and their spouses.

DATES:	LOCATION:	OVERSIGHT:	SIZE AND CONFIGURATION:	STYLE:
1864 – Present	Statewide	State or Federal Government	Varies; however, most are fairly large in scale.	Appearance is derived from its regimented plan, but can show influences of popular styles such as Rural Garden (Page 256) or Lawn Park (Page 258).

1783
End of Revolutionary War

1700   1800   1900   2000

Military Type Cemetery   *Starts from* 1864   **Present**

1864
Andersonville
National Cemetery

1867
Act to establish and Protect National Cemeteries

2006
Georgia National
Military Cemetery,
Cherokee Co.

1866
Marietta National Cemetery/Resaca
Confederate Cemetery
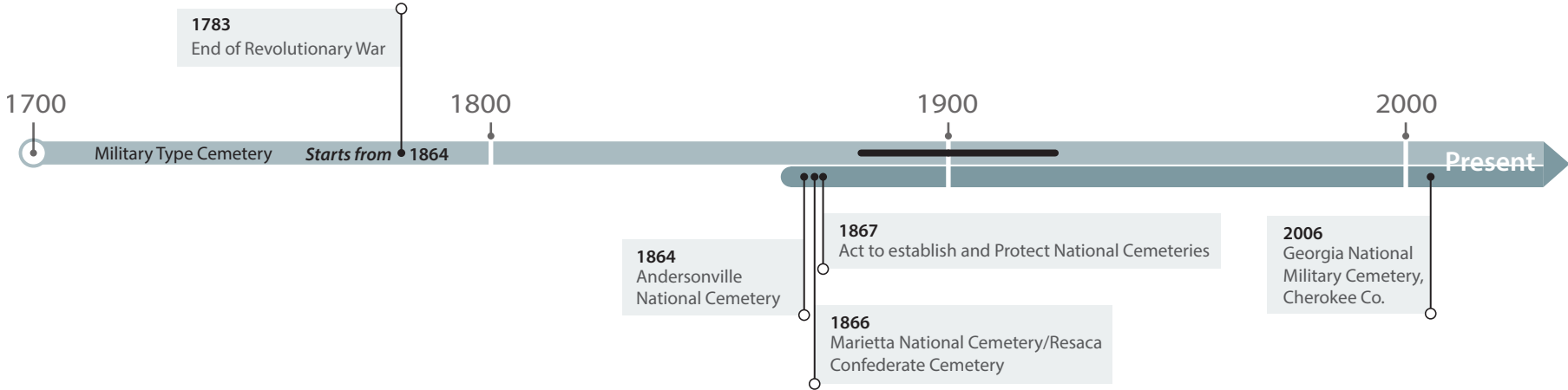
This satellite image emphasizes how grave rows in the Marietta National Cemetery (Cobb County) were arranged across the landscape to form geometric patterns (Source: Google Map).

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Features to Consider...

Location
Placed where they are easily accessible and where land makes expansion possible. They tend to value open landscapes that offer views within the cemetery.

Graves
Massed rows of uniform markers are placed for visual impact.

Mausoleum/Columbaria
In 20th-century examples, these may be present.

Section
May be grouped by units, branch of service, rank, or sequentially by date.

Markers
Graves are marked with uniform, federally issued markers that have changed several times in the past and contain little personal information(See Appendix B).

Cenotaph
May be present to commemorate those that could not be buried in the Military cemetery, i.e. POW–MIAs.

Memorial
Memorials are always present. May be designed to stand out as a highlighted element of the visual landscape.

Buildings
Administrative buildings, chapels, and service buildings are often present.

Structures
Structures such as gazebos or shelters are often present.

Entrance
Formal entrances are standard.

Plantings
Plantings are very formal and generally limited to trimmed shrub hedges delineating large spaces, or specimen trees.

Hardscape
May contain retaining walls, walkways, and stairs depending on the topography of the cemetery.

Circulation
Circulation can be linear, but is often curvilinear.

Enclosure
Military cemeteries will be enclosed with a formal fence or wall.

Plan
Follow a Regimented plan.

(Far Left) This Confederate section is within Laurel Grove Cemetery North in Chatham County.

(Left) Stone grave markers, like the front marker in Oakland Cemetery's Confederate Section (Fulton County) were added by the Ladies Memorial Association.[30] These were gradually replaced by federally issued gravestones.

Military cemeteries are reserved for servicemen, supporting personnel, and, sometimes, their families. Graves and markers in a Military cemetery are intentionally provided with a uniform treatment to emphasize that all its members are part of a single organization. In general, graves remain undecorated, and markers are designed to follow a common form. Marker forms are kept simple as a means of evoking a serious and reverential mood in the viewer.[27] Decorations are limited to specific symbols and locations, while inscriptions provide uniform information about the decedent. When an identity is provided, it includes aspects of the decedent's military status, including rank, unit(s), honors, and conflict(s).

Military cemeteries are all preplanned.[28] Originally, these grounds were strategically placed to address casualties from a battle or campaign. However, more recently, Military cemeteries appear to be placed where they are easily accessed by visitors. Grounds are selected or landscaped to emphasize the visual impact of massed rows of uniform markers. Markers are then arranged to emphasize geometry and pattern in the landscape. Military cemeteries are commonly positioned on high, stable landforms to reduce impact from ground water, flooding, and erosion. Plots within the Military cemetery are distributed and filled across the grounds following a master plan. Space devoted to a Military cemetery is defined by a wall or fence, and support structures, including administrative and maintenance buildings, are usually present within the grounds.

In Georgia, Military cemeteries are maintained by federal, state, municipal, and private organizations; however, civilian cemeteries frequently contain military sections devoted to Civil War casualties or more recently, veterans who wish to be buried with other servicemen. Graves in federal and state facilities are marked using federally issued markers. Originally, military graves in municipal and private facilities were either unmarked or marked with uniform monuments provided by local government or civic organizations. While internally consistent, the form and information provided on privately issued military markers varied by cemetery or region. A more recent trend has been to replace these markers with the more regimented federal gravestone. While the presence of a federal gravestone is evidence of a former serviceman, it does not indicate the presence of a Military cemetery. Since 1879, the federal marker has been issued to veterans interred in civilian cemeteries.[29]

Crosses on grave markers at Andersonville National Cemetery, September 2015, 150th Anniversary at Andersonville National Historic Site. These symbols are the United Methodist Cross (Left), Presbyterian Cross (Middle), and Star of David (Right).

(Below) Flags on Graves at Andersonville National Cemetery, September 2015, 150th Anniversary at Andersonville National Historic Site.

CHAPTER FOUR

CEMETERY STYLES

VERNACULAR STYLE

UPLAND FOLK STYLE

RURAL GARDEN STYLE

LAWN PARK STYLE

MEMORIAL PARK STYLE

Westview Cemetery, Fulton County.

A cemetery style is defined by the actual design of a cemetery and the political, social, and cultural forces that influence burial traditions. Design styles have their roots in architectural, social, and cultural trends, and as such they reflect societal ideas about death and memorialization of the dead. As a cemetery may be used over a long period of time, it is common to see different styles at the same site, either set apart in distinct areas or overlain and intermixed. The following pages will discuss five major cemetery styles in Georgia. Note, there is no category for "No Style" as all cemeteries reflect the intent of those who use it. If a more formal design style category is not identified in a cemetery, then the cemetery is said to have vernacular style. In addition to the photographs illustrating each style, a few good examples are listed for each, excepting Vernacular which is common throughout the state.
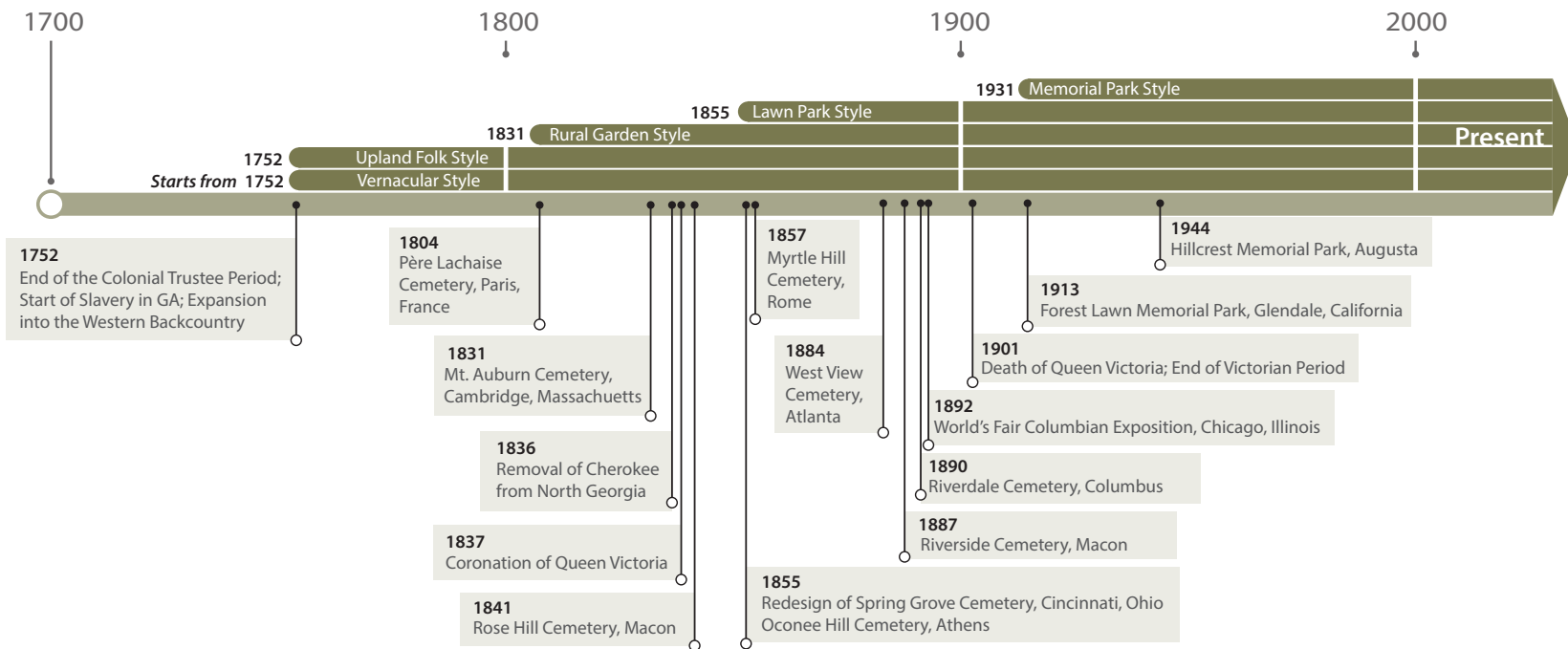
Vernacular Present throughout Georgia and featuring a generally informal design that grows and changes organically. Vernacular and informal markers are common.

Upland Folk An informal cemetery often with vernacular markers. Cultural symbols and cultural plantings are common and abundant. This style emerged from a mix of Scots-Irish, American Indian, and African cultures. Grave shelters are a common features and surfaces may be scraped or swept.

Rural Garden A formal cemetery style arising from the Romantic and Victorian movements that features a picturesque rural landscape design with curving paths, elaborate architecture and scenic views.

Lawn Park Emphasizing symmetry and classicism, a formal cemetery design presenting a pastoral landscape.

Memorial Park Visible symbols of death on the landscape are de-emphasized. Features an open landscape, typically with uniform grave markers that are flush to the ground.

1700	1800	1900	2000

1931 Memorial Park Style

1855 Lawn Park Style

1831 Rural Garden Style

1752 Upland Folk Style

Starts from **1752** Vernacular Style

Present

1752
End of the Colonial Trustee Period; Start of Slavery in GA; Expansion into the Western Backcountry

1804
Père Lachaise Cemetery, Paris, France

1831
Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachuetts

1836
Removal of Cherokee from North Georgia

1837
Coronation of Queen Victoria

1841
Rose Hill Cemetery, Macon

1857
Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Rome

1884
West View Cemetery, Atlanta

1855
Redesign of Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio
Oconee Hill Cemetery, Athens

1887
Riverside Cemetery, Macon

1890
Riverdale Cemetery, Columbus

1892
World's Fair Columbian Exposition, Chicago, Illinois

1901
Death of Queen Victoria; End of Victorian Period

1913
Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, California

1944
Hillcrest Memorial Park, Augusta

VERNACULAR STYLE

The Vernacular style is largely characterized by an informal plan that stems from its organic development over time and its lack of a formal management system. They have few, if any, formal rules on the types of markers and plantings that may be used. This results in a wide array of informal and vernacular markers mixed with commercially available markers. The markers found in these cemeteries may mimic traditional forms or make use of every-day or found objects. Likewise, plantings are varied and range from trees and native plants to ornamental shrubs, flowers, or ground covers. Vernacular style cemeteries may be associated with any cultural, ethnic, or religious group; however, it is not uncommon to find them associated with communities with lower financial resources

There are likely many different "substyles" of Vernacular-style cemeteries, but at present only one, Upland Folk, has been formally described. In this handbook, Upland Folk will be treated as a standalone style. It is likely that further future research will identify other distinct "substyles." In particular, Upland African American and Lowland African American cemeteries have been identified as in need of further study.

(Left) Mt. Hope Cemetery is an excellent example of a Vernacular style cemetery, Bibb County. (Right) Vernacular cemeteries can also occur closer to town, like Washington, Georgia's School Street Cemetery. This cemetery has a wooded setting but lies on the outskirts of town, Wilkes County.

(Left) Non-traditional grave marker shapes are a means of expressing ideas that cannot be communicated by more standardized gravestone forms as in the case of these soapstone markers, which have a stylized anthropomorphic form. Wahoo Baptist Church Cemetery, Lumpkin County. (Right) Several family plots are visible in the Little-Terry-Strickland Cemetery, Forsyth County.

Features to Consider...

Location

Found in rural or urban locations, these cemeteries are sited near the particular community that uses them. They are often situated on grounds that cannot be adequately used for other purposes.

Grave

In general, Vernacular cemeteries contain opportunistically placed graves. Unmarked graves are common. These cemeteries may have swept surfaces, and mounded graves may also be present. Graves or plots are often arranged in loose rows.

Plot

Most Vernacular cemeteries are organized along kinship lines with individual families forming clusters or plots marked by curbing, plantings, or grave marker arrangement within the burial space.[1] The placement of additional graves reflects social distances between new decedents and other personages in the cemetery.

Entrance

Informal entrances are common in Vernacular style cemeteries.

Marker

Often made by the burial community to convey social values. While they may feature commercially purchased markers, everyday objects, such as fieldstones, household goods, or other repurposed items are often used as markers. Some may not be immediately recognizable as grave markers to those outside the community. These markers are often temporary or less durable. Epitaphs are notably absent as community members may rely on mnemonics and oral tradition to record each grave's identity.[2]

Plan

Typically have an Informal plan, but could be Curvilinear or Grid plan.

Plantings

Frequently present with locally available plants. Common trees include cedars, oaks, and dogwoods, while individual graves may exhibit yucca, day lily, and vinca. Plantings have social meaning.

Enclosure

Often enclosed with simple fencing used to either denote the edges of the cemetery and/or to protect it, such as from livestock or farm equipment.

UPLAND FOLK STYLE

Burial customs in the Upland Folk style, also known as Upland Folk and Upland Folk South, emerged from a mix of Scots-Irish traditions with American Indian and African traditional cultural influences. They were practiced from the 18th century to the present, originally in isolated, rural communities of North Georgia and the Piedmont, which had limited exposure to mainstream American culture. Cemeteries of this style often consist of small plots containing the graves of a single family, or related families, and sometimes associated enslaved persons. Grave markers in both white and African American Upland Folk cemeteries typically varied in size, shape, and material. These could range in use from purchased, commercially-manufactured stones to more readily available, vernacular markers such as field stones, concrete, seashells, bottles, and jars, as well as other, common paraphernalia.[3] Even if associated with a conservative religious denomination that may eschew decoration, an Upland Folk–style cemetery can exhibit a plethora of colors and symbols stemming from many traditions. Grave shelters are a feature of Upland Folk–style cemeteries and may be evidence of American Indian influences. Grave plantings, such as cedar, spirea, daffodils, chinaberry, yucca, and roses, are common. Symbolizing everlasting life or rebirth, these species also provide visual evidence of a burial place.[4] In many Upland Folk-style cemeteries, relatives often scraped the grounds of vegetation to provide a visual contrast.[5] In an agricultural setting, these may often be identified as places on the landscape that have been deliberately avoided.

(Left) Practices such as scraping, sweeping, and mounding can result in the surface of a Vernacular cemetery being lower than the surrounding terrain. Basket Creek Baptist church Cemetery, Douglas County. (Right) Many of the stones at the Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, Walton County, are made from locally derived stone. It is an excellent example of the Upland Folk style.

Location

Upland Folk style cemeteries in Georgia originated in isolated rural settings, but later extended to rural and urban communities. Favoring locations on hilltops, these were typically placed on family land such as a farm, adjacent to a church, or near community residential areas. Expansion of these cemeteries would proceed based on need, in a direction and scale required at a moment in time, not from a pre-prescribed plan.

Graves

The graves tend to form loose rows as they are added to over time. Orientation of graves is typically east-west; however, directions were likely not formally established by use of a compass.

Plot

Plots in an Upland Folk style cemetery are not preplanned, but instead organically grow to fit the needs of the community. Families tend to bury in individual clusters with varied space in between plots.

Plan

Feature an Informal plan.

Markers

Markers are frequently made from materials that are obtained from the local environment or found on site. Common materials may include field stone, wood, concrete, and household materials (tiles, pipes, vessels, storage jars). Commercial markers may be present, but do not dominate the assemblage. In addition to traditional funerary markers, commercially produced garden statuary may be used. The purpose of the marker is to mark the grave, not to name the individual in an inscription. Community memory provides grave identification.

Entrance

The lack of an entrance and the corresponding openness of the cemetery plan is characteristic of these cemeteries.

Enclosure

Sometimes plots may be defined by enclosures, such as field and quarried stone, brick and masonry, or earthen berms, but are frequently not enclosed. The entire cemetery, if it is enclosed at all, is generally encircled with simple fencing such as barbed wire to protect from livestock or inadvertent plowing.

Structures

Grave shelters can be a feature of Upland Folk style cemeteries; however, these have not been observed in Georgia as frequently as in other parts of the Upland Folk.

Plantings

Along with markers, plantings are other key features to consider for this cemetery style. Symbolism, not beautification, drives the choice of plantings in an Upland Folk style cemetery. Cultural meaning is frequently based on Judeo-Christian, West African, and non-Christian Western European ideologies. Evergreen plants, such as vinca, symbolize eternal life, while seasonal flowering bulbs, such as daffodils, symbolize resurrection. Ground covers are typically used to prevent erosion and inhibit unwanted undergrowth. There is a heavy use of native plants that are gathered locally, as well as the introduction of commercially cultivated varieties. Other common plantings include cedar, spirea, chinaberry, yucca, irises, daylillies, and roses.

The deliberate removal of a planted surface can also be characteristic of this cemetery style. Swept, scraped, or bare soils on a grave, in a plot, or throughout the cemetery are common features of this style. This ground treatment may signify that the graves are being actively maintained.

(Left) Vernacular markers made of field stone and found items are arranged in a general east-west direction with no formal plan in this Upland Folk style cemetery at Mount Zion Church in Baldwin County. (Center) A Car Bumper Used as a Marker. Mount Zion Church Cemetery, Baldwin County. (Right) An informal plan of roughly east-west oriented graves is evident in this Upland Folk cemetery. Nash Jenkins Cemetery, Gwinnett County.

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Good Examples...

Basket Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Douglas County

Nash Jenkins Cemetery Gwinnett County

Shinall Cemetery Bartow County

RURAL GARDEN STYLE

Typically organized under a master plan and located on urban peripheries, Rural Garden style cemeteries capitalized on the natural contours of the land within rural settings, prominences, and views to achieve rusticity and to promote a new take on death, peace, and contemplation. These design values of the Rural Garden style were an outgrowth of the Romantic and Victorian movements in American culture in the mid- to late 19th century. Rural Garden style cemeteries, as well as the elaborate mausoleums, statuary, and family plots they contained, were frequently designed by architects, landscape architects, and artists.

Rose Hill Cemetery in Macon, Bibb County is an excellent example of a Rural Garden style cemetery. It possesses a park-like setting, elaborate markers, and beautiful vistas.

Location

Often originally placed along the periphery of cities or towns. As the city expanded, it would frequently envelop the cemetery. They were positioned near rail, streetcar, and thoroughfares to facilitate public access to the grounds. Locations were often chosen that featured rolling terrain and expansive vistas, such as elevated areas or hillsides.

Grave

Graves were frequently uniform within their plots, but each plot was independent of the other. It was not uncommon for statuary, mausoleums, tablet markers, and other grave furniture to be present on plots within the same section. This formed an irregular appearance across the cemetery landscape.

Mausoleums

Mausoleums are frequently present. Elaborate and costly, these served individuals or families and were often built in advance of being used.

Memorial

Frequently present, memorials were typically placed to commemorate war dead or those killed by a natural disaster or epidemic.

Section

Rural Garden style cemeteries usually contained different sections for different religious, ethnic, or social groups. Additional sections for veterans, as well as those who where indigent or poor, were common. Many southern Rural Garden cemeteries excluded African Americans and other groups from burial.[6] When interment was allowed, these sections were segregated to less desirable portions of the grounds, such as the back, less visible areas.

Plot

Sales preferences were given to plot holders desiring multi-individual or family plots and institutions wanting exclusive space for burial of their members. Highly desirable plots, principally those near the entrance, along path frontages, or on vistas, prominences, and other points of high visibility, were typically sold for premium prices. Single and double grave lots, frequently purchased by lower income households, were confined to specific cemetery sections, which were less landscaped, located along the periphery, and had greater restrictions on what decorations could be added by the plot holder.[7] Iron fencing was commonly used to define plot boundaries; however, while much remains in Georgia, some was removed during the scrap metal drives of World War II.[8]

Marker

Standardized, commercially-generated marker shapes and sizes were used as were more massive, artistic, and individually commissioned markers. Status of the family (or individual) was emphasized by erecting large, vertically oriented, central monuments with smaller supporting markers added for individual family members.[9] Ponds, birdbaths, and aesthetically pleasing sculpture were intended to demonstrate how art could be harmonious with nature.

Buildings

Offices, gatehouses, and similar structures were built by formal entrances and other central access points. These buildings often featured ornate or eclectic designs.

Structures

Ornate iron bridges and gazebos, to serve as places for services or contemplation, may be present.

Entrance

Public entry was channeled through a single ornate formal gateway emphasizing that the visitor was passing into a unique landscape.

Enclosure

The grounds were frequently fenced or walled with decorative iron fencing or stone walls.

Plan

Often features a curvilinear plan.

Plantings

Plantings, decorations, and other surface features emphasize the romantic, including flowers, ornamental trees, and shrubs, and dramatic planting such as weeping willows. Flowering plants, exotic flora, and ornamental trees were often added to provide color and texture.

Hardscape

Retaining walls, both decorative and functional, were often present along with stairways. Practically, these were necessary as most Rural Garden style cemeteries were located on rolling terrain and terraces increased burial space.

Circulation

Traffic was encouraged to flow through the grounds in a controlled pattern following trails or paths that wound their way in a curvilinear pattern. While these lanes encouraged the visitor to stroll through the park-like environment, these avenues also maximized the amount of visible frontage available in the cemetery. Trails and paths also served to divide the cemetery into sections. Most parcels were designed to highlight the landscape or specific monuments, resulting in sections with highly irregular shapes.

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To make the most of interesting terrain, retaining walls and terraces were used to provide flat locations for burials, Rose Hill Cemetery, Bibb County.

Good Examples...

Oconee Hills Cemetery, Clarke County

Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Floyd County

Bonaventure Cemetery, Chatham County

LAWN PARK STYLE

Lawn Park style cemeteries feature an open pastoral design with a focus on classicism and a more streamlined appearance. Geometric-shaped sections and even radial patterns are indicative of this style in its later period as the City Beautiful movement of the late 1890s prompted a return to symmetry. Grave markers were designed to blend with nature; thus, low to the ground grave treatments were preferred and more ornate commemoration eschewed. Also, highly polished white marbles and materials light in color were popular for their ability to present a classical or clean appearance. The Lawn Park style marked a trend towards practicality, as maintenance costs were significantly reduced from those associated with the Rural Garden style.

Neat orderly rows of graves of similar materials and massing, along with individualized, flat footstones, more open views and grass, are indicative of Lawn Park style at Westview Cemetery, Fulton County.

Location

These graveyards tended to be placed in close proximity to suburban, middle class, residential areas to serve as parks and on grounds where streams, gentle slopes, small groves, and other topographic features could be used to promote a calm, pastoral setting.[10]

Grave

Use of a grid to organize grave plots enabled markers to be arranged in neat, orderly rows across an entire section, eliminating the cluttered, disorganized appearance of more Victorian-oriented cemeteries.

Mausoleum/Columbaria

Large ornate mausoleums were still popular during the period in which Lawn Park cemeteries were at their peak. Community mausoleums were present during this period, as are open gallery mausoleums.

Plot

Within a section, a grid was superimposed onto the landscape and the grounds divided into uniformly sized grave plots. This strategy maximized the number of plots available, as well as defining less marketable space where trees and other decorations could be added.

Section

Lawn Park cemeteries were generally divided into sections, which where geometrically arranged and thematically marketed to target audiences. Sections would include those for veterans, ethnic and religious groups, as well as age groups, specifically infant or child burials.

Marker

Most Lawn Park grave markers were made of granite. Inscriptions were kept simple, frequently being little more than the decedent's name, birth and death dates, and a short epitaph. Monument size was restricted to small, low-to-the-ground, flush markers. Small markers helped maintain an air of openness and promoted a sense of social equality. Monuments tended to be relatively simple, with diamond, slant, canted block, rolled, and other geometric shapes being common. Grave statuary was limited to doves, lambs, and similar peaceful representations affixed to the monument. Use of larger markers was typically restricted to one prominent statue per family plot.

Buildings

Office and management structures were often constructed near the entrance of the cemetery. Chapels were sometimes added to provide mourners with an enclosed place for private reflection.

Structures

Structures were considerably reduced in quantity in comparison to earlier Rural Garden cemeteries. When present, their numbers and design would be highly regulated within a Lawn Park cemetery. Larger sections may have contained a planned design feature at a central axis point, such as a fountain or statue, to anchor the overall plan of an area. These were built by the cemetery corporation and not added by individual plot holders.

Entrance

Similar to a Rural Garden style, Lawn Park style cemeteries featured prominent, formally designed main entrances.

Plan

Feature a Grid or Curvilinear plan.

Plantings

In general, trees and shrubbery were selectively promoted to highlight landscape features and enhance the natural beauty of the grounds as a whole. Individual grave plantings were restricted to encourage the ground's meadow-like appearance. Flower beds were placed around entrances, intersections, and building edges to add color.[11] To add an air of tranquility, trees around the boundaries of the cemetery buffered out the sights and sounds of the surrounding urban environment.

Hardscape

Within the cemetery, pathways are wide enough to allow vehicular traffic and organized into circular or geometric courses designed to intersect with the central axis.

Circulation

Lawn Park cemeteries are typically organized around a central axis, often developed as a path or lane. Perpendicular arms were occasionally added, leading to chapels, mausoleums, and cul-de-sacs near the property margins. The cemetery center was often marked with an open non-burial space sometimes containing fountains or sculpture. A radial trail was occasionally inset from the cemetery's boundaries to provide access to all the graves.

Enclosure

Enclosures are generally present in Lawn Park cemeteries. They may take the form of fences or walls around the perimeter of the cemetery. Within a cemetery, their quantity and massing would be greatly reduced and most frequently absent entirely.

(Top) The low monuments of similar style and scale within a plot at Westview Cemetery, Fulton County, are typical of a Lawn Park style cemetery. (Bottom) The arrangement of grave plots in Lawn Park style cemeteries include geometric shapes, such as these wedge-shaped plots in a circular section at Riverdale Cemetery, Muscogee County.

Good Examples...

South-View Cemetery, Fulton County

East Porterdale Cemetery, Muscogee County

Greenwood Cemetery, Fulton County

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MEMORIAL PARK STYLE

This cemetery style is typically found in suburban areas and is still used today. In Georgia, the Memorial Park style appears in the mid-20th century as a logical extension of the Lawn Park style. Even more subdued aesthetically, the Memorial Park style removes most of the traditional visual signs of death from the landscape. Its primary characteristic is its lawn-like quality punctuated with markers flush with the ground and artificial floral arrangements that allow for easy maintenance. Existing natural features are typically removed to help create this uniformity in landscape. If gallery mausoleums or columbaria are present, they serve as architectural highlights for the cemetery or they are placed along a boundary. If the cemetery has more ornate markers, they tend to be segregated to the periphery so they do not obstruct the cemetery's open contour. Ease of maintenance and costs were integral in Memorial Park–style design.

As a service to their customers, Memorial Parks often place flags or flowers on graves during the Christmas, Memorial Day, Mother's Day, and Independence Day holidays. Eternal Hills Cemetery, Gwinnett County.

Location

These burial grounds are typically established in suburban areas, often located along major thoroughfares. This location ensures accessibility and visibility by motorists and prospective clients. Most Memorial Parks are relatively large, multi-acre facilities. Choice of site location is guided by available land, opportunity for expansion, and ability to develop the grounds as a mixed-use facility.

Grave

The appearance of grave surfaces are highly regimented in order to maintain an open park-like atmosphere and to facilitate lawn maintenance. Graves are only visible by their flush markers, as the closed grave is grassed, and plantings are often prohibited.

Mausoleum/Columbaria

While private family mausoleums are typically not permitted in Memorial Park cemeteries, open gallery mausoleums and columbaria were common.

Memorial

Use of larger memorials is typically restricted to one larger memorial dedicated to a section.

Plot

Grave plots are often placed along a traditional east-west axis, but they are also positioned to face roadways. Curbing, where permitted, is limited to forms that do not extend more than a few inches above the ground surface.

Section

Cemetery sections are typically square or rectangular to establish an orderly grid of graves and plots. Much like the Lawn Park Cemetery, the Memorial Park Cemetery is divided into sections that are often marketed to target portions of the burial community. These sections may address religious, social, ethnic, and age groups. In some examples, statues and similar art are added to accent the nature or theme of a section. Section names, such as 'Garden of Peace,' 'Tranquility,' or 'Resurrection,' convey a calm and tranquil environment.[12]

Marker

Individual grave markers are typically restricted to flush forms and set so that they are not visible until approached. Highly durable bronze and granite markers are the most common types present. The placement of flower urns and other grave decorations are restricted to integrated planters or vases at the top of monuments and most decorations are removed soon after placement.

Buildings

Offices, funeral homes, and other cemetery service centers are often built in larger cemeteries; roads generally lead visitors to these buildings. These structures are positioned to be seen but not inhibit the ground's open view shed. Maintenance facilities are usually positioned towards the back of the facility.

Structures

Dramatic, highly visible installations, including statuary, flagpoles, or fountains are placed in sections near the center of the cemetery or along prominent points in the topography.

Plantings

The grounds are intentionally landscaped flat or with minimal topography to appear as open, manicured lawns or pastures. Lakes, ponds, and other standing water features are often added to accentuate the ground's open space. Trees and shrubs are planted as accents in less desirable spaces within a section. Trees are also placed in rows to act as boundaries or divisions between different cemetery sections. Trees are commonly planted along the boundaries of the cemetery to buffer out the surrounding landscape and present a natural, peaceful backdrop to the open interior space.

Plan

Feature a Grid or Curvilinear plan.

Circulation

Drives in these cemeteries are paved and wide enough to allow automotive access. These drives are laid out into grids or follow land contours in order to simplify vehicle movement in the cemetery. Vehicle paths often serve as cemetery section boundaries.

Entrance

The entrance is often flanked by gates or gateways marked with the name of the cemetery and leads to a central avenue within the cemetery.

Hardscape

While plans may have included walkways, the auto-oriented nature of the Memorial Park cemetery reduced the need for walking. Paths that are present tend to provide access to sections across lawns and are functional rather than a design element.

Enclosure

Roadway frontages provided unobstructed views into the cemetery, further emphasizing the burial ground's open space and allowing passersby to see the grounds as an open tranquil place.

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(Left) The view of the cemetery from the road is completely unobstructed. Athens Memory Gardens, Clarke County. (Right) Recessed grave markers and placement of buildings along the facility's boundary add a park-like atmosphere to the Memorial Park Cemetery. Brunswick Memorial Gardens, Glynn County.
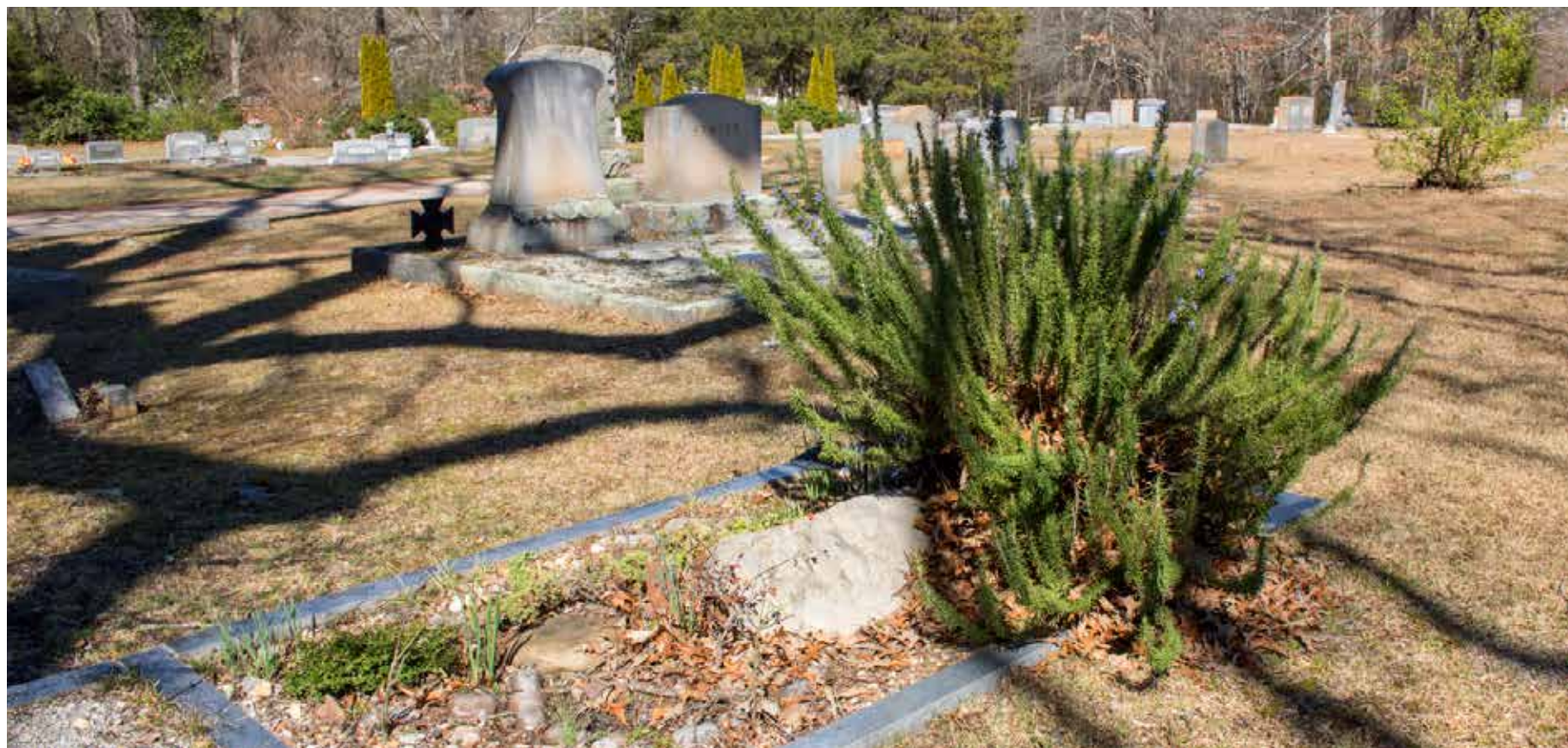
Good Examples...

Macon Memorial Park,
    Bibb County

Riverview Memorial Gardens,
    Lowndes County

Memorial Park Cemetery,
    Hall County

CHAPTER FIVE
IDENTIFICATION AND SURVEY

RESEARCH AND MAKING CONTACTS

RECORDING CEMETERIES AS HISTORIC RESOURCES

RECORDING CEMETERIES AS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

REPORTING FINDINGS

Stone Mountain Cemetery, DeKalb County.

Cemeteries are a unique resource type as they possess both substantial above and below ground components that may contain significant cultural information. In Georgia, this duality results in cemeteries being recorded in the state's databases as archaeological sites, historic resources, or both. Information on previously identified cemeteries recorded as historic resources can be found in Georgia's Natural Archaeological and Historic Resources GIS Database (GNAHRGIS). Data on cemeteries recorded as archaeological sites is not available to the public due to preservation concerns. Many local communities, historical societies, or libraries have databases on local cemeteries as well.

To bridge this recordation gap between archaeological sites and history resources and expand what we know about the state's historic cemeteries, a comprehensive GIS data layer on historic cemeteries was developed as a research tool using data from four available sources: GNAHRGIS Historic Resources (2016); GNAHRGIS Archaeological Sites (2016); The Board of Geographic Names from the USGS (2016); and Atlanta Regional Commission's Cemetery Polygon Shapefiles (2012). While care was taken to remove duplicate locations between each of the sources, some overlap may remain within the data. Another data issue is that many of Georgia's historic cemeteries are contributing properties to a larger historic district and are not individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), which masks their presence. Given those parameters, this map may be more useful for those looking at cemeteries in the aggregate, as it shows the distribution of historic cemeteries across the state, and should be an aid in project planning and research.

The following chapter provides a research plan for the identification and survey of Georgia's cemeteries. It examines the aboveground landscapes that cemeteries represent, as well as their below ground research potential as archaeological sites. Three tasks are involved: researching, recording, and reporting findings.

RESEARCH AND MAKING CONTACTS

DESKTOP RESEARCH

To discern whether the project area contains a previously recorded cemetery, the area should be viewed in GNAHRGIS for the most updated survey and NRHP data. Additionally, the area of interest and its surroundings should be thoroughly examined using online resources. Google Earth™, Microsoft's Bing Maps™, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provide contemporary online aerial photography. For historic aerial imagery, the Digital Library of Georgia has a collection of 225,000 aerial photographs of Georgia from 1930 through the 1980s, while Historic Aerials provides both topographic maps and aerial imagery (at a cost) over a similar date range. Other online databases host historic map collections that can provide information such as soil maps produced by the USDA. County maps, county highway maps, and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps are also important tools for the identification of historic cemeteries.

If available online, historic aerial photography should be viewed and compared with current aerial photography to understand the physical development of the study cemetery and to define boundaries, if possible. If several historic aerials are available that show a cemetery over time, a developmental chronology for the cemetery can be compiled. Most Georgia counties also have tax parcel information available online; sometimes, cemeteries are listed on the parcel card.

While some cemeteries are immediately apparent in aerial photography, others are hidden in plain view. Sites in rural landscapes, particularly in systems of cultivated fields that have been studiously avoided by agricultural development, may actually contain cemeteries no longer in use. Left alone, they become vegetated over time and can be recognized by their absence of development despite the changes surrounding them. These areas that look like they should have been used, but were not, are often indicators of a cemetery and should be investigated.

Historic soil maps produced by the USDA and historic topographic maps through the USGS are helpful for identifying both formal and alternate cemetery names as they are often labeled on these maps. If the cemetery name is already known, the USGS Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) has a query form that can be used to find all cemeteries in a county with a particular name on historic topographic maps.

There are many avenues for researching named sites. If the cemetery in question has a name, it may also have a website. Counties often have webpages or websites devoted to their cemeteries. "Friends" groups and some counties have developed their own online databases. Friends of Cemeteries of Middle Georgia, for example, covers Baldwin, Hancock, Jones, Washington, and Wilkinson counties. Another invaluable tool for researchers is the USGenWeb Project. A group of volunteers is amassing a database for genealogical research in every county and every state in the United States. At the state level, the Georgia section of the website (thegaproject.org) provides information on each county. Census records, churches, obituaries, vital records, court records, land records, and maps are included that might help locate a cemetery.

The Georgia Tombstone Transcription Project and Find-a-Grave.com can be useful resources. Both of these volunteer-based programs strive to provide full transcriptions of all headstones in a given cemetery. They are particularly helpful for headstones that were once well maintained and easily readable but are now weathered, no longer legible, or completely gone. Using all of these desktop research methods together, instead of relying to heavily on any one type of source, can help to form the fullest possible picture of a cemetery's past.
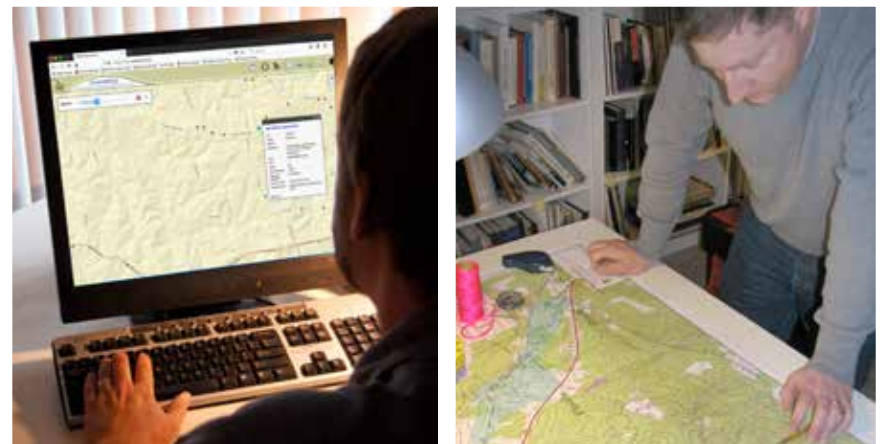
Using GNAHRGIS to Gather Information on Cemeteries.

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

When further archival research is warranted, it typically begins with a search of land records to enrich what is known beyond the online record and to get a legal sense of boundary. This can require a visit to the county courthouse to research deeds and historic plat maps, as most counties' online databases only include information from the last 20-30 years. Georgia's Department of Archives and History possesses land record information for Georgia's counties on microfilm, as well as tax rolls and wills and inventories that may assist research. While maps and tax information will not usually provide specific names of the individuals interred in a particular cemetery, they occasionally provide the cemetery name or owner that can spur further research. On occasion, family histories or commercial records can provide easy access to information about a given cemetery.

County courthouses, churches, local libraries, museums, and genealogical/historical societies often have archival information on cemeteries. Many counties have compiled a list of cemeteries keyed to a county map. County cemetery books are usually available at local repositories such as libraries, historical societies, land record offices. The Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Georgia is an excellent source of this type of resource. These county cemetery books are typically based on field visits or interviews with local landowners or community members. Information ranges from a mention of an unknown cemetery on a nearby road and estimates of the cemetery's size, to a complete record of the cemetery and a full transcription of every visible headstone.

MAKING CONTACTS

Finally, make contact with knowledgeable individuals about a county's history or local landowners who may be able to help identify the location, name, and periods of use of historic cemeteries. Representatives from local archives, historical societies, religious groups, and sextons can also provide important information and, in some cases, can be the only sources of information on cemeteries.

At the close of your research, the type of cemetery should have been identified, as well as its potential size, its users, and its developmental history. Productive desktop and archival research provides the researcher with a better grasp of the field conditions that may be encountered and the time needed to do the level of survey the project requires.
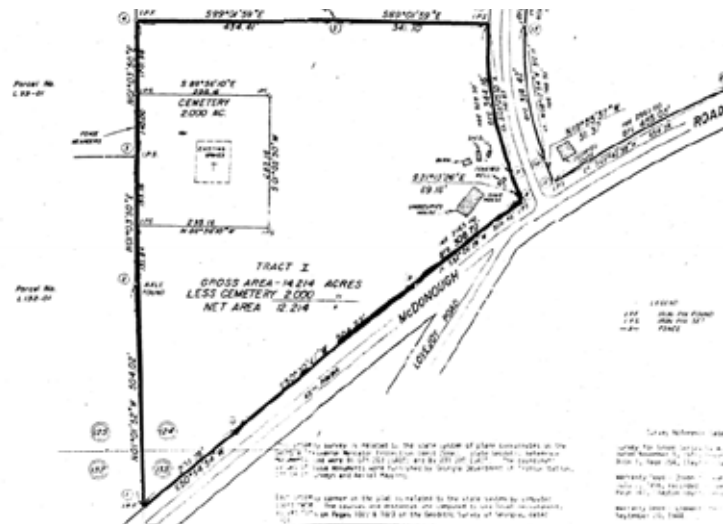
(Left) Plat of the Crawford-Dorsey Family Cemetery, Clayton County. (Above) Speaking to informants in the field, such as at Avondale Burial Place in Bibb County, can provide valuable information on a cemetery.

RECORDING CEMETERIES AS HISTORIC RESOURCES

Thorough survey guidance for Georgia's cemeteries is available on the Historic Preservation Division's (HPD) website. The broad-based guidance is aimed at large-scale cemetery inventory projects at the county level or for fully surveying individual cemeteries, as well as organizing community cemetery preservation projects. It is comprehensive in scope and provides basic instructions for tasks, including survey and mapping techniques, photography, plant inventory, basic historic cemetery marker repairs, cleaning markers and monuments, and organizing a cemetery preservation project. Survey forms were also developed by HPD to help both professionals and non-professionals successfully capture cemetery data and the methodology allows for general recordation of cemeteries, as well as on the graves, plots, and sections that compose them.

The following survey guidance complements HPD's Guide to Cemetery Surveying, however, it focuses on providing survey methods for Section 106 practitioners, who are tasked with the identification, description, and evaluation of a historic cemetery within a project scope. All cemeteries located within a project's area of potential effects (APE) that are at least 50 years of age are considered historic resources and must be evaluated to determine eligibility for the NRHP. The level of effort and detail of the survey required for Section 106 practitioners will depend on the size of the cemetery, information available for the resource, and the time frame for which the evaluation needs to be completed. The most thorough survey possible should be conducted.

Regardless of their size and scope, cemetery field surveys should begin with a pedestrian or vehicular reconnaissance survey of the cemetery grounds to determine a cemetery's plan or organization, size, style, and character-defining features. The information within this context is designed to help enrich cemetery descriptions, provide a shared vocabulary for common cemetery features, and provide guidance on how to approach cemeteries as resources in the field. The surveyor should be attentive to what is present and what is absent in terms of cemetery features. Attention should also be given to the potential for cemeteries to include one or more styles or types.

Mapping is key to understanding and illustrating a cemetery's organization or plan. It is recommended to create a sketch map while surveying all cemeteries, where the features, plans, styles, and other details can be noted. The sketch map can also be used to document timelines of different cemetery sections or the location of family plots. An enlarged print of the current aerial can be used as a base map or one can be drawn in the field. If current aerial imagery is covered by trees or other vegetation, a hand-drawn map may be required for the evaluation. Depending on the scope of the survey effort, the level of detail on the map may vary. For reconnaissance or simple surveys, particularly of smaller cemeteries, a hand-drawn sketch map is adequate. For these smaller cemeteries, an accurate map can be drawn to scale that provides a reliable depiction of the cemetery and its contents by using long measuring tapes and a compass. At a minimum, the map should include the cemetery boundary and setting (such as all nearby roads); arrangement patterns of graves; section or plot boundaries; circulation patterns; buildings/structures and objects; deliberate plantings; and other features important for identifying the plan, type, and style of the cemetery. Discerning cemetery boundaries, particularly within a rural context, may be particularly challenging. Look for soil/trash piles at the edges or back of a cemetery that may be covered with cemetery debris (wreath stands and saddles; flower pots; dead, cut flowers; etc.). These soil/trash piles emphasize the boundary of the cemetery as acknowledged by the burying community or maintenance staff. For cemeteries that do not correspond to a legal parcel, the boundary can be captured with a GPS (Global Positioning System) unit.

Visual inspection of the ground surface for unmarked graves, overgrown markers, and cemetery plantings can yield a preliminary count of the graves. Taking note of repeating family names and date ranges can help establish areas and periods of use. Care should be taken to recognize the potential for unmarked graves along a cemetery's margins, which may require an archaeological survey to identify and include in the boundary definition.

For larger cemeteries, a "district"-like approach for recordation may be required. For this approach, the objective is to retrieve sufficient data on the aboveground features that allow for a thorough evaluation. Furthermore, photography should be

CRITICAL SURVEY TASKS

The following tasks are identified as critical to a cemetery survey according to state guidelines:

- Identifying the cemetery boundary and features within it, including unmarked graves;

- Mapping the cemetery, including the overall layout, graves, and plots within the cemetery boundaries;

- Taking notes on headstone inscriptions, including date ranges and epitaphs;

- Photographing notable grave markers, monuments, and other cemetery landscape features;

- Recording the condition of grave markers, monuments, landscape, and structural features; and

- Recording the condition of the landscape.

detailed enough to support the evaluation. To the fullest extent possible, a cemetery should be photographed using high-resolution color photography that captures the topography, setting, and physical context of the resource. An aerial image or map should be presented that shows the cemetery's boundaries, organization, and interior circulation patterns. Detailed views of sections, plots and graves, buildings, structures, markers and monuments, plantings, hardscape, etc. should be taken and keyed to the cemetery plan image/map.

MARKER INVENTORIES

Marker inventories are a component of a full cemetery survey per HPD's current guidance. Often for Section 106 surveys, a full marker inventory will not be feasible, and individual markers should be documented to the degree necessary for the evaluation. Cemeteries should be surveyed and recorded to the fullest extent possible, with considerations given to the schedule and scope of individual projects. Depending on the scope of the project, developing an inventory of marked and unmarked graves can range from a simple count of graves to a full transcription and conditions assessment of each marker. For a typical marker inventory, each marker and unmarked grave should be assigned a number that is then tied to a sketch map of the cemetery. The inventory should include as much information about the marker as possible. Recording the marker shape, material, carving decorations, symbols, biographical information, carver or manufacturer information, funeral home name, the condition of the marker, repairs, dimensions, and orientation are key. Developing a standardized form that is used for each marker will ensure that the inventory is complete and consistent. As noted, HPD has developed a form that they use when surveying cemeteries that can be downloaded from their website. The level of detail may change to suit the project depending on the scope or purpose of the survey.

The use of a reflective surface or a flashlight can help illuminate the lettering on weathered monuments or when sunlight is insufficient. Use a north arrow or ruler for scale and to provide directional information. The use of rubbings, flour, chalk, or other substances to assist with the observation of marker inscriptions should be prohibited as these materials cannot be fully washed off and can hasten the stone's material decomposition.

Cemetery Survey. Philips-Swanson Cemetery, Coweta County.
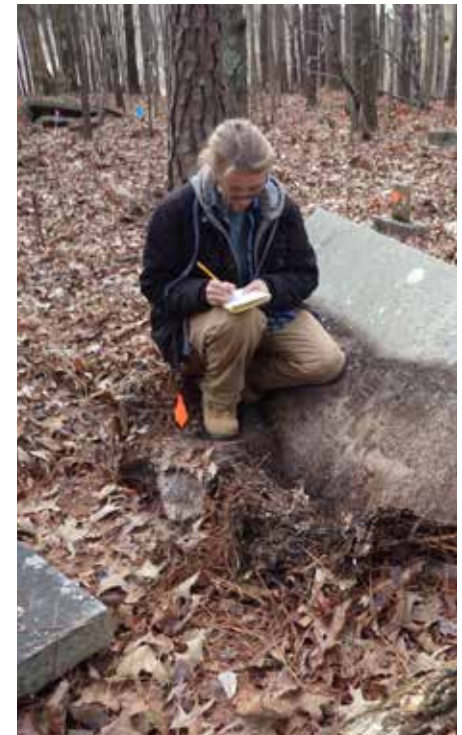
ABANDONED CEMETERIES

Cemeteries do not always receive the care and attention they deserve. Caretakers move, pass away, become infirm, or no longer can afford to take care of the grounds. Families move away. Over time the cemetery falls by the wayside and may be largely forgotten. Georgia Code 36-72 recognizes an abandoned cemetery as showing signs of neglect including overgrown vegetation, unchecked and repeated acts of vandalism, monument dilapidation, and loss of boundaries. A cemetery is considered abandoned when there is no one who is legally responsible or financially able to maintain it. While guidelines have been instituted to ensure that modern cemeteries receive perpetual care, these rules do not apply to many older cemeteries. In some cases, landowners do not have a regulatory requirement or financial incentive to provide care to abandoned cemeteries.

The Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery in Clarke County was established by a large burial association, but has since been abandoned.

The overgrown Tussahaw Creek Cemetery in Butts County is the last surviving remnant of an African American church cemetery. Cemeteries may be the last reminder of a church or community left on the landscape.

The culturally sensitive nature of the cemetery means that they are usually avoided by growth and development. They often survive when all other vestiges of a community have vanished from the landscape. As neglect reduces the abandoned cemetery's visibility it fades from memory and with it, the existence of a past community. In order to be avoided, they have to be recognized. When abandoned cemeteries are recorded, recognition of their presence is not dependent on surface features alone. They become part of a record not only of a cultural feature in the landscape but are landmarks for communities whose presence have all but disappeared. Abandoned cemeteries are perhaps the ones with the greatest need for documentation.

(Below) The abandoned Allen Ballard Cemetery is the last vestige of a Revolutionary War land grant family in Pike County, Georgia.

(Top Right) Abandoned cemeteries sometimes mark important historic sites. The Locust Grove Cemetery in Taliaferro County was one of the first Catholic burial grounds in Georgia. (Middle) The Kennedy Family Cemetery in Forsyth County is hidden in a wooded alcove in front of a busy industrial complex. (Bottom) The Greene Family Cemetery, Fulton County, features a substantial wall and is the only surviving element of a former plantation along the Chattahoochee River.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS IN A CEMETERY

Each experienced surveyor has their own typical approach to a cemetery survey – an order of operations for their particular survey. When a cemetery survey is complete, a description of the cemetery landscape elements discussed throughout Section Two should all have been covered. Deed research may be necessary, as well as research on historic maps, aerial imagery and various methods of ground truthing depending on the level of the survey. But there are also the less tangible elements of survey that develop after examining many cemeteries. The following is a compilation of some of the authors' approaches, what we look for first in a cemetery and how we break down the task of discovering a cemetery's particular story.

"When looking a cemetery, the first thing I try to do is look at the entirety of the cemetery. I purposefully ignore the details. Where am I on the larger landscape? How did I reach the cemetery? Is the cemetery overgrown or is it cared for? What is it near? Churches? A farm? What is the overall size? Does the burial area seem fully enclosed? I find that once you start looking at the details - markers, epitaphs, curbing – sometimes you lose perspective on the big picture. So try to capture that first."

The Brotherhood Burial Section (Above Left) and the Macedonia Church Burial Section (Above Right) in the Rock Springs Cemetery in Clayton County. The Rock Springs Cemetery lies adjacent to and south of the Forest Hills Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Dating from 1905 to 1987, this African American cemetery is easily overlooked at first as it is situated on wooded parcels that abut the large open grassy Memorial Garden style cemetery to the north. A first impression might be of a small, wooded, secluded Community cemetery with scattered burial clusters. Due to the municipal water tower that dominates the cemetery's west end, however, first impressions of the cemetery itself are often overshadowed. Deeper analysis reveals internal patterns of organization and displays of religious burial traditions within the clusters, each of which represents a different local historic African American organization. Rock Springs Cemetery is actually composed of at least three types of cemeteries that have joined together over time: two African American churches (Rock Springs Church and Macedonia Church) and two Non-Profit Corporate groups (Forest Park Lodge of Odd Fellows and Brotherhood of Odd Fellows). The individual distinctions within the cemetery are not obvious from first impressions. The overall first impression is of an Community cemetery.

"As an archaeologist my first thoughts are often looking at ways to determine what types of survey methods will be most appropriate to the given cemetery. What's the ground cover like? How many visible features are there to map in? Probing? Remote sensing? What field methods will allow me to discover the most information within the limits of my project scope?"

"One of the National Register aspects of integrity is feeling. This is actually one of the first and last things I look for during survey. What does the cemetery feel like? Is there a perception of a time period? A style? Socioeconomic status? Doing it first, before you discover too much, gives you the now of how the cemetery feels. Then doing it again, after the research is complete and the cemetery's developmental history is clear, you can see if the feeling matches whatever historical significance you are evaluating for."

(Above) The Waltourville Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Liberty County was originally a Protestant Church Cemetery, but was soon after used by the broader local community. The church congregation, originally established in 1855, is now in its third church building and is over a mile away. The cemetery's more monumental gate is somewhat at odds with the scale of other organizing features of the cemetery and looks out of place without the previously adjacent church building. The markers, however, strongly convey a Rural Garden and later Lawn Park style and the NRHP-eligible cemetery is considered significant for its collection of markers.

(Below) The East View Cemetery in Dekalb County was established as a Corporate cemetery in 1883 and is maintained today by a cemetery association.

"Finally, I would say, file those first impressions away and do the survey. They may be very useful – or they could be wildly inaccurate. But they often provide a starting place for a survey. For example, it felt like there was an exceptional amount of religious iconography – is there a church or religious building nearby? It seemed like plots are spaced at a distance from one another and are not really arranged in a grid like plan. Family plots in a community burial setting? Then do all the survey and the research and don't be too set in what your first impressions conveyed. Cemeteries can have many layers and the most obvious ones for that cemetery may not actually be the most significant."

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General Cemetery Survey Form
Georgia Historic Cemetery Preservation

Survey Date _4/8/11_   Surveyor's Name _H B REED_
Contact Information/Affiliation _NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES_

Current Cemetery Name _CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN CEMETERY_
Historic Cemetery Name _____

Address or location related to nearby town/landmarks _____
City _STONE MOUNTAIN_   County _DE KALB_

GIS Information _____
Owner _CITY OF STONE MOUNTAIN_
Owner's Address _____
Owner's Contact Information _____ ✓ city ___ church

Ownership
___ private-profit   ___ private-nonprofit   ___ private-unspecified
___ county   ___ state   ___ federal   ___ other _____

Accessibility to public   ✓ by car   ✓ by foot
✓ unrestricted   ___ restricted (private property)

Plan (s)
✓ informal   ✓ grid   ___ regimented   ___ curvilinear   ___ other

Type (check all that apply)
___ family   ___ religious   ___ community   ✓ municipal   ___ institutional   ___ military   N/A
___ corporate

Style
___ Vernacular/folk   ___ rural   ___ garden   ___ lawn park   ___ memorial park

Current status
___ actively accepting new burials   ___ maintained but not accepting new burials
___ maintained

Description of conditions of grounds
___ good   ___ fair   ___ poor
___ overgrown shrubs   ___ other   ___ unpruned trees
___ overgrown grass   ___ walkway/road erosion

City of Stone Mountain Cemetery

Latest Burials (toward the back)

Mausoleums

Path

Path

African American Section

Path

GRIDDED AREA

Path

POST WWII SECTION

CIVIL WAR SECTION

Mature Cedars & Hardwoods (throughout cemetery)

Oldest Burials (toward the front)

Formal Entry w/Piers

1 inch = 275 feet

b bing
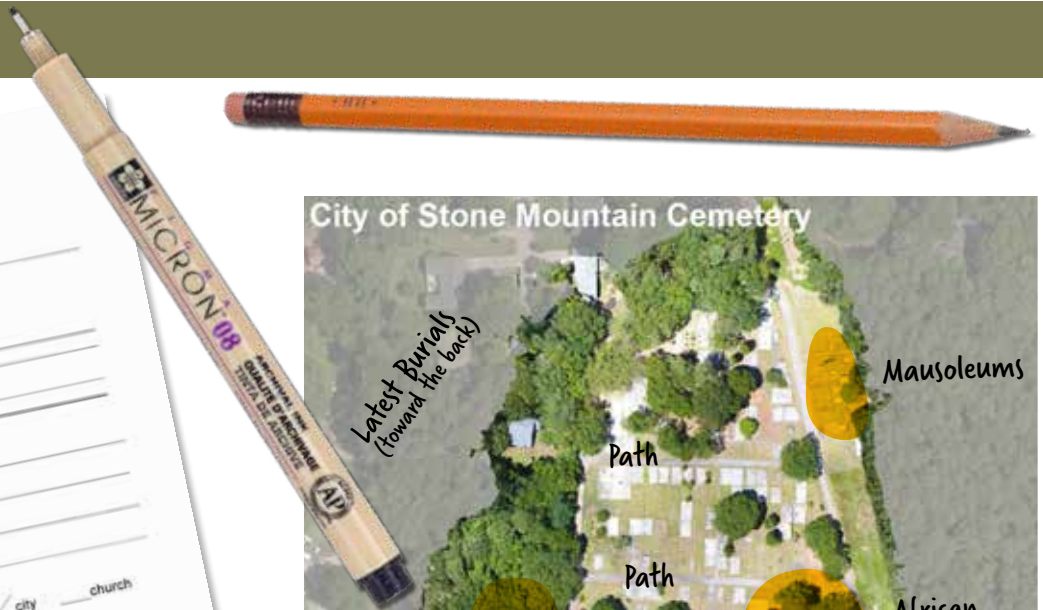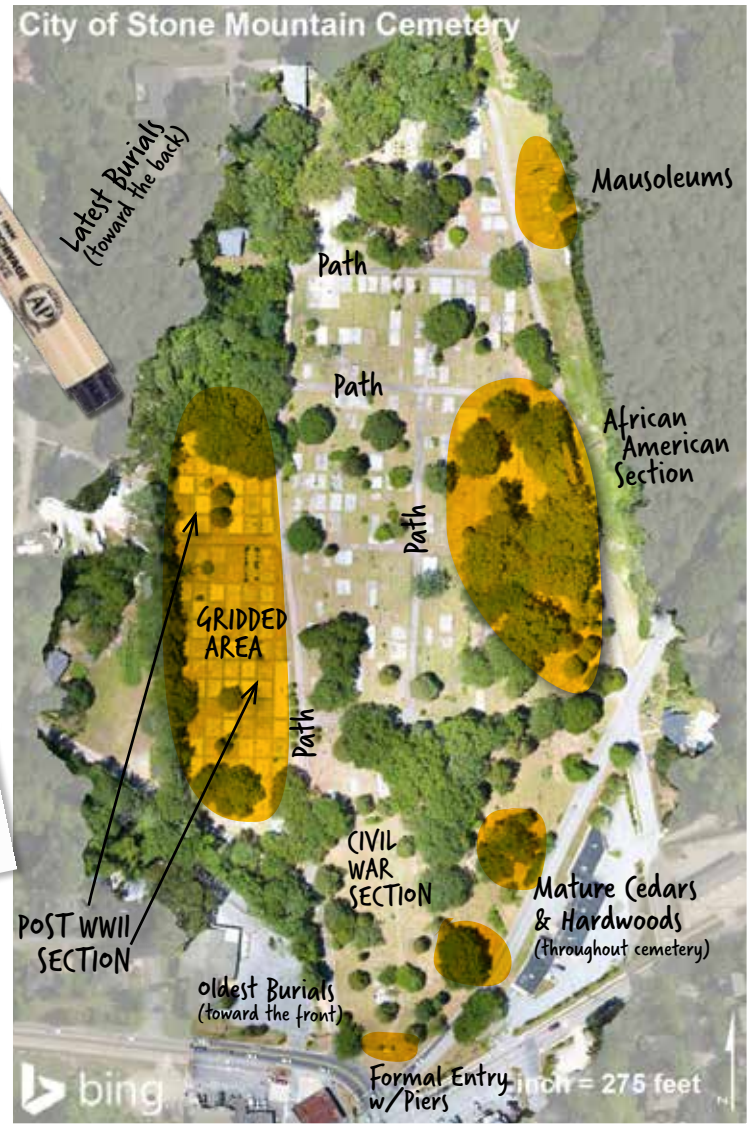
Entrance

Section

Boundary and Entrance

Marker Type

Burial Types

Inscription

Vegetation

Plot Feature

Circulation
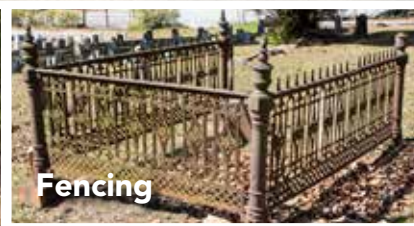
Fencing

Coping

Grave Goods

Views and Vistas

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Examples of Survey Photography Taken to Capture Notable Cemetery Features.

RECORDING CEMETERIES WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES

Cemeteries sometimes contain unmarked burials that may require archaeological techniques to identify. In some instances, no markers are extant within a cemetery and archaeology is the only technique that can identify burial locations and cemetery limits. The following techniques can be used to identify unmarked as well as informally marked burials. All of these techniques are probabilistic in nature and cannot provide definitive proof that a grave is present.

SURFACE SURVEY

The simplest form of cemetery survey is a pedestrian walk-over and visual scan of the ground surface for indications of marked or unmarked graves. From the ground surface, burials may be identified by any of the following features:

- Human-sized, cigar-shaped depressions or mounds;
- Presence of fieldstones arranged as head and/or footstones;
- Concentrations of mortuary-associated ground covers, particularly vinca, narcissus (daffodils), cedar, hemlock, crepe myrtle, gardenia, spirea, roses, lilies, and/or irises;
- Stone, metal, wood, or floral enclosures that restrict land use for other (particularly agricultural) purposes;
- Oval or rectangular concentrations of stone, glass, wood, metal, seashells, or plastic containers used to outline a potential grave;
- Low oval or rectangular piles of stones;
- Maintained areas evidenced by removal of vegetation and unwanted debris; and/or
- Oval or human-sized color/plant differences in mowed areas.

Vegetation Changes: Soil compaction, structure, and ability to retain moisture are changed after a grave is dug. Each of these affects the vegetation that can grow on the surface of the grave. Graves may be noted by a difference in grass health. Georgia State Prison Cemetery, Tattnall County.

Depressions: Graves sink from a combination of the collapse of the coffin or casket and from re-compacting of the dirt over time. Left unfilled, the resulting cigar-shaped depressions are important clues to a grave's location. Grantville Cemetery, Coweta County.

Soil Stains: While some unmarked graves can be seen from the ground surface, many cannot be identified unless the topsoil is removed. When a grave is first dug, the topsoil and subsoil get mixed. The result is a darker stain in undisturbed soil. Williams Cemetery, Fulton County.

In addition, the following landscape characteristics are helpful for identifying abandoned cemeteries in rural areas:

- Mounded dirt delineating family plots;
- Narrow terraces on sloped ground used to allow the creation of burial plots; and/or
- Roads or paths leading up to the cemetery or between grave plots.

PROBING/PENETROMETER

Archaeologists use probes and penetrometers to assess soil compaction as a means of determining whether unmarked graves are present. This method is particularly useful in wooded areas or where more sophisticated geophysical equipment, discussed below, is not practical or impossible. Probes and penetrometers can be used to assess soil compaction and can identify burials by the presence of less compact, excavated, and replaced soil in grave shafts. Traditionally, archaeologists have used simple probes that consist of a metal rod with a T-bar handle on one end and a rounded or slightly pointed tip on the other. These rely on the skill of the surveyor to identify differences in soil compaction by feel. In recent years, archaeologists have adopted the penetrometer for burial survey. Penetrometers measure soil compaction density using a pressure gauge that indicates soil compaction in pounds per square inch (psi). Comparisons of the techniques support the use of a penetrometer for grave identification.

Probing to determine if unmarked graves are present.

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Whether using a probe or penetrometer, a survey grid should be established, typically at approximately two-foot intervals. This distance between probe locations and transects has proven the most ideal for identifying small graves and to distinguish between natural burrows and trees and cultural features.

CADAVER DOGS

Domestic dogs can be used to identify burials through scent. Law enforcement agencies routinely use dogs trained to detect bombs, drugs, accelerants, and land mines as well as to track suspects and missing people. Air-scent dogs, a subset of the working dogs that includes search and rescue (SAR) dogs, cadaver dogs, and avalanche dogs, have demonstrated the ability to detect specific targets through the air and human scents. With proper training, cadaver dogs have demonstrated the ability detect buried human remains in both modern and archaeological contexts with a considerable degree of reliability.

Cadaver dogs are trained and deployed primarily through SAR teams. Members of Alpha Team Search and Rescue (ATSAR) in Georgia have noted that vegetation and water play roles in the ability of the dogs to identify graves. Paula Chambers with ASTAR suggested that trees may act like straws drawing the scent of decomposition up from the graves along with ground water and disperse the scent. She noted that her dogs often follow scents up tree trunks. Rebmann et al. suggested that scents can pool at air-flow barrier locations, such as trees or hills, forming a secondary scent pool away from the actual remains. Scent can also drain away from the body down a hill with moving water, reducing the concentration of the scent cone near the remains. Members of ATSAR have observed that when a pond or other body of water is downhill from a potential or known grave location, the ground water can carry the scent with it and the dogs often hit along the edge of the pond. Probing can help vent the scent. When dogs are having some difficulty, probing can vent the soil enough to provide a fresh source of scent for the dog to follow.

Cadaver dogs are capable of identifying graves several hundred years old and can contribute to grave detection in historic cemeteries. They are useful as tools in addition to other methods and have particular use in identifying potential cemetery locations in wooded areas when a specific location is not known. However, dogs have their limitations. Many dogs have difficulty pinpointing the exact location of the remains. Often, the dogs will alert in the general location of a grave. ATSAR team member Theresa Roche notes that dogs often have difficulty with multiple close burials and distinguishing between individual graves. She adds that this is likely due to soil saturation. Dogs are, hence, better at identifying the presence of human burials than they are at noting actual burial location. Weather conditions are also a factor in the effectiveness of the cadaver dogs. Hot, dry conditions impair the animal's ability to detect and follow scent trail, which has to do with the dog's natural cooling system that involves panting. A dog cannot pant and follow a scent at the same time.

Other problems associated with the use of dogs for grave detection revolve around adequate training. A number of studies have identified the lack of systematic and standardized training between teams. The ability of the dog to locate the scent and the ability of the handler to recognize the sometimes very subtle alert is key to a successful search.

REMOTE SENSING

There are several remote-sensing methods for grave detection commonly used by archaeologists, including, in order of applicability, ground penetrating radar (GPR), magnetics (magnetometers), metal detectors, electromagnetic resistivity, and electromagnetic conductivity. All of these methods are non-destructive and are non-invasive or minimally-invasive techniques that have been successful in the detection of unmarked graves.

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)

GPR is the most effective geophysical technique for identifying burials. GPR works by emitting electromagnetic waves into the ground and capturing the reflected signals with an antenna. When the pulses reflect off of subsurface features, the speed of the reflected signal changes, making the features visible. The greater the contrast in electrical and magnetic properties of the feature versus the surrounding soil, the stronger the reflected signal. The amount of time the signals take to reflect back to the meter provides information on depth. In general, the radar signal can detect features to depths of one
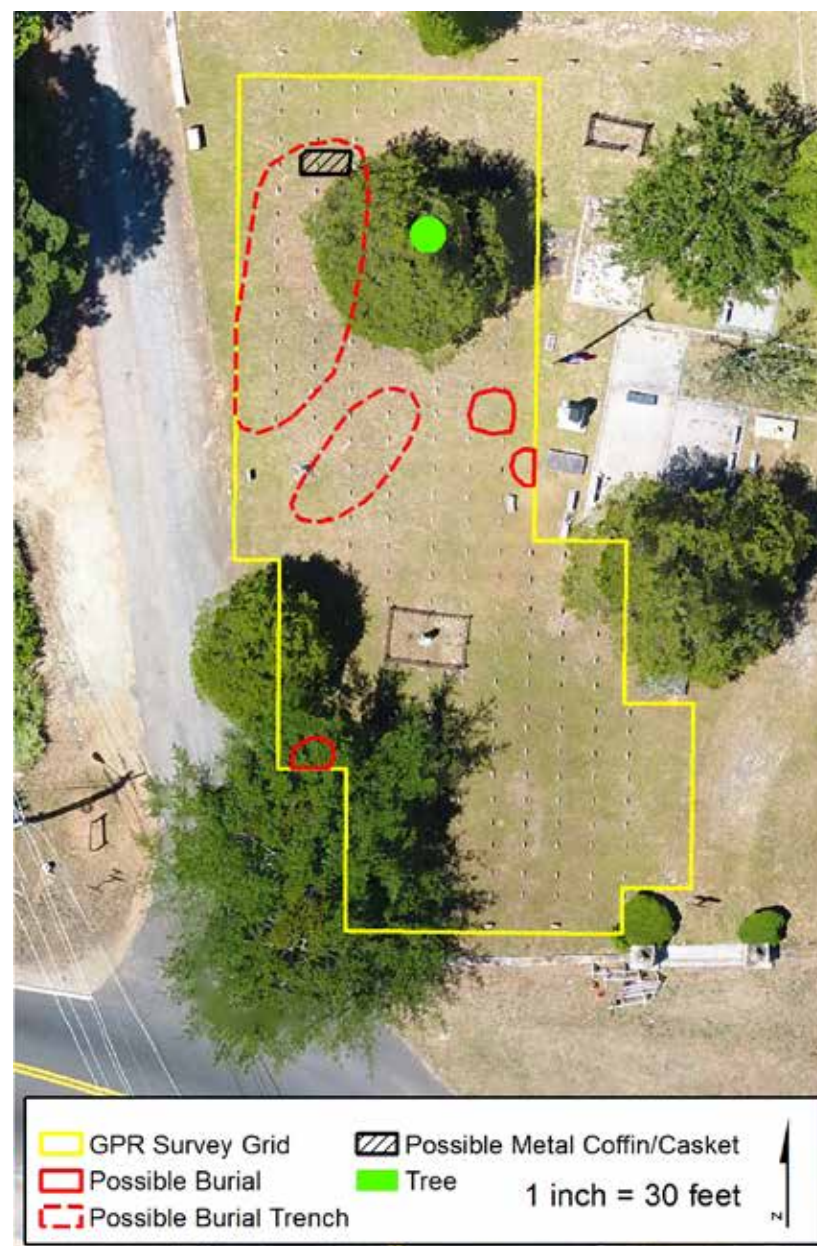
GPR Survey Showing Trench Burial Locations, Civil War Section, of Stone Mountain Cemetery, DeKalb County.

to four meters and is best used in sandy soils. GPR on a typical archaeological survey generally produces good resolution at depths up to about two meters (5 ft.). Real-time results are displayed on a monitor attached to the antenna, which is a feature that most other methods do not provide. GPR data can be viewed in both two- and three-dimensional images as well as amplitude slice maps, all of which can provide varying amounts of detail. Amplitude slice maps and three-dimensional maps are the most useful when mapping cemeteries.

GPR is frequently used for grave detection because it is able to detect relatively small, subtle features at a greater depth than other methods. GPR is able to pierce through asphalt pavement, flooring, concrete, soil layers, fresh water, ice, and stone slabs, but is blocked by sheet metal or metal reinforcing mesh with a small grid size. Flat, cleared ground is ideal for GPR surveys since the antenna works best when kept flush with the ground surface. Several factors influence the overall effectiveness of GPR for detecting graves, including soil conductivity, water content, soil density and porosity, temperature, the physical structure of the soil, the frequency of the electromagnetic pulse, and the amount of salt in the ground. Soil conditions are the most important, with clay being the most difficult to penetrate. The age of the graves is also critical, with older graves being more difficult to detect because of the length of time they have had to decompose. When possible, it is helpful to calibrate the GPR to local conditions by passing over a known grave and noting the overall strength of the signal.

Magnetometer

Magnetometry is a survey method that maps local variations in the natural magnetic signature of the soil. For archaeologists, magnetometry is used to recognize contrasts between archaeological features and the surrounding soil. The idea is based on the assumption that if there is a difference between a feature and the surrounding soil, there will be a difference in their effect on the soil's magnetic field. While a little residual primary magnetism is present in all soils and rocks, when humans interact with their environment, they unintentionally alter the naturally occurring magnetism. Using a magnetometer, archaeologists are able to identify culturally-induced magnetic variations such as kiln fires, stone or brick walls, and graves. Kiln fires, used for the production of ceramic pottery and brick, reach very high temperatures that produce thermoremanent anomalies. In other words, a new magnetic signature is introduced to the pottery or brick by heating the ground to a high temperature that can be detected by a magnetometer.

This method is ideal for archaeological survey because rapid data acquisition rates allow for large areas to be surveyed in relatively small amounts of time, and high spatial sampling densities, well in to the sub-meter range, allow for good spatial detail. Magnetometers are most successful at identifying anomalies in the upper 1-2 meters in most soil features, with a limit of about three meters unless a large burned or iron mass is present, which can be detected at much greater depths. Since the magnetic field of the Earth does not change with daily temperature or weather conditions, magnetometer surveys can be conducted throughout the year. Magnetometers are also not sensitive to groundwater like GPR and resistivity instruments. They are, however, very sensitive to interference from metal on the operator's clothing, power lines, radio transmission stations, bridge, road culverts, buildings, railroad tracks, and underground utilities.
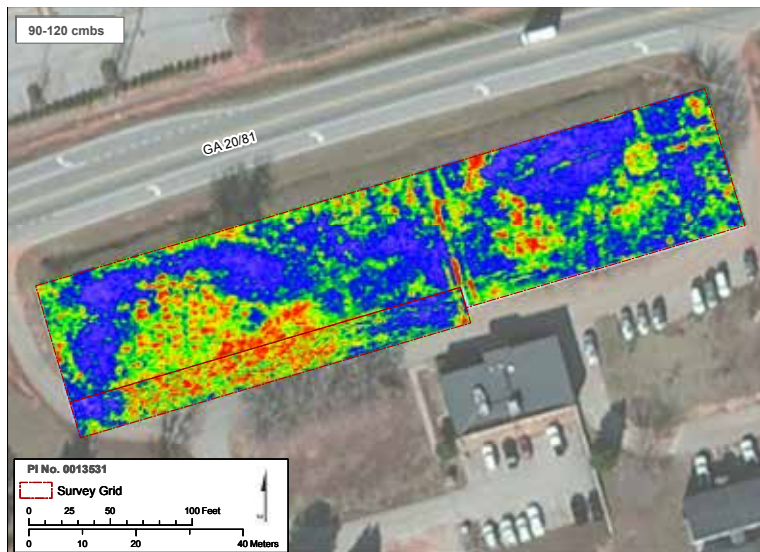
GPR Results, Unmarked Cemetery, Henry County.

Metal Detecting

Metal detectors work on the same principal as magnetometers in that the detector reacts to electrical conductivity of objects in the ground. They are the least expensive of the geophysical instruments and the easiest to operate. All metal detectors use a search coil located at the end of the machine to generate an electromagnetic field. When the field comes in contact with a metallic object, the responding current is converted to an audible signal. The advantages of using a metal detector are that they can identify metal objects through soil, concrete, asphalt, plaster, foliage, and water. They can detect a range of metals including iron, brass, copper, nickel, aluminum, steel, tin, lead, gold, and bronze.

The larger the coil, the deeper the buried artifacts can be detected. However, the typical metal detector can reliably detect objects up to 12-14 inches (30-36 cm). For that reason, metal detectors may be most useful in historic cemetery surveys after the ground surface has been mechanically removed. In areas where the grave shaft fill and the surrounding soil matrix are very similar in color and texture, such as near the coast, metal detectors can aid in the identification of very subtle grave shafts by detecting the nails, coffin hardware, or personal artifacts within the grave. If the body was deposited in a shroud with no coffin and no pins, jewelry, or buttons, then the grave will not be identifiable. Very shallow graves may be identifiable from the surface.

Electrical Resistivity

Electrical resistivity surveys measure the capacity of soil and soil inclusions to resist electricity. Electrical-resistance meters are similar to Ohm meters used to test electrical circuits in homes and offices. Resistivity surveys work by inserting probes into the ground to inject electrical current into the soil to measure the local resistance. Electrical current always chooses the path of least resistance, and burial shafts can be identified as they are more or less resistant than the surrounding soil. The typical resistivity meter induces electric current into the ground though a four-electrode array. This method is non-destructive, but minimally invasive because the metal electrodes are pushed slightly into the ground in order to make good electrical contact. The porosity of the soil, clay content, and amount and chemical make-up (free ions) of the groundwater are the most important factors that affect how well the soil conducts electricity.

In an archaeological setting, it is the contrast between the surrounding soil and the archaeological feature that is measured. For resistivity surveys, it is the differential water retention between the surrounding soil and the feature that produces high-resistance and low-resistance anomalies. The contrast between the organically enriched grave and the surrounding undisturbed soils typically produces a difference in electrical resistivity. A higher moisture content and a difference in soil consolidation between the grave and surrounding matrix also contributes to the lowered electrical resistivity of the grave. Ideal conditions for the most contrast are when the soil moisture is moderate and soil temperature is high. Because graves represent relatively small targets, they may be more difficult to detect than linear features such as trenches. The accuracy of resistivity surveys decreases with depth. Shallower graves, such as children's graves, may be more easily detectable than deeper adult graves. It should also be noted that nearby anomalies, such as irrigation ditches, will have an adverse impact on the resistivity readings as the electrical impulses will be drawn to them rather than the graves.

Electromagnetic Conductivity

Electromagnetic (EM) surveys use an electromagnetic induction meter, which measures the ability of the soil to conduct an electromagnetic signal. The machine works by using a transmitting coil near the ground surface to emit a low-frequency signal that produces a primary electromagnetic field. When the primary field bounces off of subsurface conductive materials, a secondary field is created that is then picked up by a receiving coil. The physical distance between the two coils dictates how deep the machine can see into the soil. Depth range varies with how the machine is calibrated. In general, they can reach up to six meters, but are most sensitive up to 1.5 meters in depth.

EM instruments can detect graves by identifying the contrast between grave backfill and the surrounding soil matrix. EM has been highly successful for identifying metal burial containers such as lead coffins. The machines work well in most moisture conditions ranging from fairly wet to extremely dry or frozen. Conductivity surveys are ineffective in sandy environments due to the high soil resistivity, but can be conducted in hard surface areas such as parking lots. They can also successfully be used in wooded areas, provided the instrument can be kept level and in a general line. EM can be affected by changes in temperature throughout the day; however, it is possible to correct for "temperature drift" later in the lab. One of the primary complaints against using EM to detect graves is the inherent low resolution and slow continuous sampling. Bigman suggested recording only a single frequency from a multifrequency machine can overcome these issues.

REMOTE SENSING TOOLS

GPR Survey of Stone Mountain Cemetery, DeKalb County.

Magnetometer Survey in Decatur Cemetery, DeKalb County, Georgia.

REPORTING FINDINGS

The final task is reporting the findings of the cemetery survey. In Georgia, sharing survey results can involve entering the findings into GNAHRGIS, completing a Property Information Form for cemeteries recorded as historic resources and an Archaeological Site Form for those that are recorded as archaeological sites, and completing a survey report. Section 106 practitioners should be aware of what specific reporting is needed for their project. The Georgia Archaeological Site Form and instructions can be found at **https://archaeology.uga.edu/site-forms**. A template for GDOT Historic Property Information Forms can be found at **http://teams.dot.ga.gov/offices/envservices/cultural/default.aspx** and the GDOT *Section 106 Cultural Resources Manual* further spells out requirements.

GEORGIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE FORM
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GROUND-PENETRATING RADAR SURVEY OF THE ANGLIN CEMETERY, MATHIS AIRPORT

Forsyth County, Georgia

New South Associates

GNAHRGIS

Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS