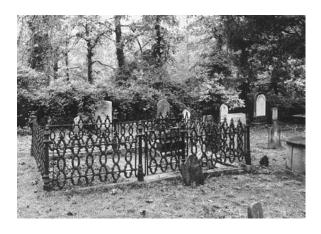# SOUTH CAROLINA'S HISTORIC CEMETERIES:

A PRESERVATION HANDBOOK

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Cover: Graveyard at Old Brick Church, Fairfield County. Photo Jack E. Boucher, Historic American Buildings Survey.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

emeteries constitute an important and diverse feature of South Carolina's heritage. In some, imposing entrances or intricate cast-iron fencing enclose collections of beautifully carved stones and monuments. Others—family cemeteries near hosme sites—have irregularly spaced rows and groupings of gravestones surrounded by a stone or brick wall, or a cast-iron fence with plantings of cedars, rose hedges, or gardenias rising *in memoriam.* Some African American cemeteries are marked with household items like pitchers, clocks, medicine bottles, and lamps.

These serene historic settings, diverse though they are, can yield much information about our state's social, religious, artistic, and cultural heritage. All record genealogical information. All mark the final resting place of our ancestors.

Vandalism, development, neglect, and the eroding effects of pollution are among the many forces that threaten our historic cemeteries. Even the well-meaning—but uninformed—can cause irreparable damage when they remove vegetation or clean and repair gravestones.

It is critical, therefore, to educate yourself before you begin any cemetery project. This handbook describes the different types of cemeteries and gravestones and their historical context, sets out guidelines for planning and carrying out a cemetery preservation project, cites the laws protecting historic cemeteries, and lists additional sources.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Eighteenth-Century Graveyards

Field stones or wooden slabs, most of which have been moved or have disintegrated, probably marked the majority of South Carolina's 18th-century graves. The relatively small number of remaining carved gravestones suggests that back then, few South Carolinians could afford either to purchase carved gravestones or to transport them to the burial site.

In the sparsely settled areas of the state, family burial grounds were common. Families buried their own in small plots set aside on the farm or plantation.

Charleston probably established the state's earliest church graveyards. By the first half of the 18th century—or even before—the city had several graveyards associated with churches. Church yards were generally small with closely-spaced markers arranged irregularly.

The upcountry established church graveyards in the second half of the 18th century. One of the earliest is Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church Cemetery in present-day Lancaster County. The oldest legible gravestone records the death of Mary Taylor in 1758.[1] Other early graveyards include those at Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church in Chester County and Bethesda Presbyterian Church in York County.

Family cemeteries are found in rural areas across the state. The Marsh family created this burial ground on their farmstead in Edgefield County in the 19th century. Photo Carrie Clark.

The winged soul was a popular gravestone motif from the mid-18th through the early years of the 19th century. The figure represented the soul in or ascending to heaven. These motifs can be seen in graveyards at St. Philip's Church, the Circular Congregational Church, First Scots Presbyterian Church, St. Michael's Church, and other churches in the city of Charleston. Photo J. Tracy Power.

Eighteenth-century gravestones were usually thin upright tablets of slate, soapstone, or sandstone. Many were largely plain, carved only with the name and birth and death dates of the deceased and perhaps an epitaph. On the coast and in some sections of the upcountry, however, more sophisticated stones carved with images were used.

In the ports of Charleston and, to a lesser extent, Georgetown, prosperous citizens often purchased gravestones from stone carvers in New England. A few Charlestonians even imported gravestones from England. In the early-18th century, skull and crossbones and hourglass motifs on some stones emphasized the inevitability of death and the briefness of life. The stones were intended to remind the living of the uncertain fate of the soul. As the 18th century progressed, gravestone motifs reflected changing attitudes toward life and death. The Great Awakening, a religious revival that swept the country between 1726 and 1756, emphasized a joyful resurrection for those who repented. By the end of the century, carvings of a winged soul, reflecting confidence in resurrection, had largely replaced the skull and crossbones and hourglass.

Carvers from New England did not execute all of South Carolina's 18th-century gravestones. Thomas Walker, an immigrant from Scotland and one of the major early local carvers, settled in Charleston in the late-18th century and operated a gravestone business until the 1830s. Walker carved gravestones with winged souls, but he used other motifs as well. Influenced by architectural ornamentation, he carved stones with urns, festoons, and floral motifs. Walker's stones are found in the upcountry as well as in Charleston.

In the upcountry, there were also local gravestone carvers practicing their trade in the late-18th and early-19th centuries. Scots-Irish immigrant Hugh Kelsey settled in Chester County and began work as a gravestone carver before the American Revolution.

The Bigham family carved this stone, now at Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Lancaster County. Photo J. Tracy Power.

The Bigham family of present-day Mecklenberg County, North Carolina, operated a gravestone carving business from 1740 to 1820. Prominent families in Chester, York, and Lancaster counties purchased stones from the Bighams, and examples are found in the cemeteries at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church (Rock Hill), Bethesda Presbyterian Church (York County), Bethel Presbyterian Church (Chester County), and Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church (Lancaster County). Kelsey and the Bighams used traditional Scots-Irish motifs on their gravestones. Designs included coats-of-arms, birds, and animals.

Nineteenth-Century Graveyards

Eighteenth century traditions in gravestone carving continued into the early years of the 19th century. As the century progressed, however, graveyards changed dramatically, reflecting changing attitudes toward life and death, new technologies, improved transportation, and a growing population. Even the word Americans used for a burial place changed from graveyard to cemetery—a word that in Latin means sleeping chamber and carries with it a sense of optimism.

By the 1840s, lighter-colored marble markers largely replaced the darker slate and soapstone markers of the 1700s. The use of tablet markers continued, but a profusion of more elaborate markers rose—three dimensional ornately carved monuments, obelisks, statues, table top stones, and cradles. Motifs were softer—angels, crosses, rosebuds, draped urns, weeping willows, and the like. Some families erected mausoleums to display their wealth and status. Monuments often reflected the revival styles that were popular in the 19th century—especially Gothic, Classical, and Egyptian. The great

Clockwise from top left. 1. The graveyard at Old Brick Church in Fairfield County was established in the late-18th century. Markers in the foreground are tablet stones. Behind them are box tombs, which became popular in the 19th century. Photo Jack E. Boucher, Historic American Buildings Survey. 2. In the 19th century, more elaborate marble monuments became popular. Cemeteries were a place for the prominent to display their status and wealth. Photo Andy Chandler. 3. This mausoleum in Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston is an example of the Egyptian Revival style. Photo Mary Ann Eaddy.

attention given cemeteries during the second half of the 19th century reflected Victorian sentimentality and preoccupation with the rites of death.

South Carolina's widely dispersed agricultural population kept family burial grounds popular. Church graveyards became more common as the number of churchgoers increased, and new churches were established. Some towns and cities established community cemeteries.

By the mid-19th century, overcrowding in many church yards resulted in the rural-cemetery movement, which swept across the United States. Rural cemeteries were community graveyards laid out on large tracts outside the city limits. They featured winding paths and drives and ornamental trees and shrubs. Intricate cast-iron fences often surrounded family plots within the cemeteries. Rural cemeteries were intended to be inviting. Some even had benches so visitors could sit and enjoy the beauty and serenity of the surroundings and remember their loved ones. Two of the best examples of the rural cemetery in South Carolina are Magnolia Cemetery, founded in 1850 in Charleston, and Elmwood Cemetery, founded in 1854 in Columbia. Although South Carolina had fewer rural cemeteries than did other parts of the country, cemeteries throughout the state were influenced by the movement.

Left: This monument to South Carolinians who lost their lives at Gettysburg is in Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston. Photo J.Tracy Power. Top: The Victorians erected special monuments for children, often with motifs of lambs or cherubs. Sculptures of children, like this one in Kingston Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Conway, were also popular. Photo Tom Shaw.

Gravestone carving had also become more mechanized, standardized, and commercial. Prominent families in York County and throughout the state, for example, began to purchase stones from Thomas Walker in Charleston and, later, from the Whites, also in Charleston.[2] Small local carvers in rural areas, like John Caveny of York, were often unable to compete and began to hire themselves out as engravers to these and other firms in Columbia, Charleston, and elsewhere.

The catastrophic losses of the Civil War—more than 600,000 lives—vested with more significance memorials to the dead and the establishment and maintenance of cemeteries in both the North and the South. South Carolina lost over 18,000 men in Confederate service, and citizens honored the dead during or soon after the war with individual gravestones as well as monuments and other memorials. Common motifs were laurel wreaths, broken columns, broken swords, and shields. Markers often included elaborate or detailed epitaphs memorializing a soldier's death from battle or disease. In the first few decades of the 20th century, the United Daughters of the Confederacy marked the graves of many Confederate veterans with cast-iron crosses.

At the turn of the 19th century, middle class families were able to purchase by mail modest mass-produced monuments. The 1902

In the 18th and 19th centuries, some carvers "signed" the stones they engraved with their names or initials to advertise their work. Photo J. Tracy Power.

Sears, Roebuck Catalogue included marble markers that ranged from a tablet stone trimmed with tracing and beveling for $5.10 to a shaft on a stepped base measuring 4 feet, 4 inches, for $23.85.

African American graves were segregated from white graves in both the 18th and 19th centuries. In Charleston, an 1859 report noted that in the Upper Wards there were fourteen graveyards for whites and twelve for "the colored, not including the Potters Field." In the antebellum period, slaves were often buried outside the walls of family burial grounds or church graveyards or in a separate slave graveyard. The small number of carved stones on slave graves today suggests they were rarely erected.

After the Civil War, African Americans, excluded from white burial grounds, began to establish their own cemeteries. In 1872, a group of black civic leaders established Randolph Cemetery in Columbia. The Orangeburg City Cemetery was organized in 1889 for black citizens of Orangeburg.

Leading African American citizens of Columbia organized Randolph Cemetery during Reconstruction. It was named for Benjamin F. Randolph, a black state legislator, who was assassinated in 1868 by three white men. Photo J. Tracy Power.

AFRICAN AMERICAN GRAVEYARDS

Today, most African American cemeteries are similar to white cemeteries. Some African American graveyards, however, especially in the rural areas of the state, still follow burial traditions with roots in Africa.

Many slaves brought to South Carolina came from the Kongo and Angolan ports of the West African coast. The Bakongo culture dominated these areas. The Bakongo believed in one god and an afterlife in a world populated by spirits. The spirit world was turned upside down under the world of the living and connected to it by water.

To the Bakongo, graves were important as mediums for communication with the spirits of the dead. The Bakongo decorated graves with personal belongings of the deceased—items the spirits would need in the afterlife. A traveler in Africa in 1891 noted that the Bakongo decorated the graves of their friends with items like crockery, empty bottles, and old cooking pots.

Many slaves adopted Christian beliefs, but they also continued to practice African traditions, sometimes vesting them with new meanings. Although the practice has declined, personal goods still mark some African American graves.

Items associated with water—shells, pitchers, jugs, vases, and the like—are often found on graves. These items reveal a link to the Bakongo belief that the spirits pass through a watery world in their journey to the afterlife.

Items placed on graves are often turned upside down and broken. This practice also reflects Bakongo practices in Africa. The upside down position of the object symbolizes the inverted nature of the spirit world. The breaks allow the object to release its spirit so it can journey to the next world to serve its owner.

Objects associated with light—lamps, lamp shades, and candlesticks—are also found on graves in South Carolina. In the 1920s, a scholar recorded seventy-one graves on the South Carolina coast with lamps. According to tradition, items associated with light would help lead the spirit to the spirit world. Also found on graves are beds, favorite possessions of the deceased, and shiny objects like coins and tinfoil.

The placing of personal items on graves is not as common as it once was. The traditional graves that remain, therefore, are important reminders of the African cultural roots of black South Carolinians.

*For more information about African American burial customs, see **The Last Miles of the Way: African American Homegoing Traditions, 1890–Present,** edited by Elaine Nichols.*

Twentieth-Century Graveyards

By the late-19th century, rural cemeteries across the country had begun to fall out of fashion. Lawn-park cemeteries became popular. They were less elaborate and more standardized. Their gravestones stood in neat rows, there were fewer trees and shrubs, and individual family plots separated by fences were discouraged. Rather than requiring each family to maintain their plot, this layout made it easier for a crew of gardeners to maintain the entire cemetery. Noting this, the trustees of Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia decided in 1921 to open a new section of cemetery on the "Modern Park or Lawn Plan." The purchase price for lots would include a sum to be placed in trust for the perpetual care of the cemetery.

Beginning in the late-19th century, granite began to replace marble as the most common material for gravestones. As the twentieth century progressed markers generally became less elaborate. By mid-century, they were usually mass-produced with little ornamentation. In other cemeteries, called memorial parks, individual stone monuments were eliminated. Graves were marked with small bronze plaques placed flush with the ground.

This section of Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia, which opened in 1921, followed the lawn-park plan. Photo Karen Nickless.

DEVELOPING A MASTER PLAN

hether you are building a house, a highway, or a backyard deck, you always begin with a master plan. Similarly, to be successful, cemetery restoration projects must begin with a master plan. Naturally you want to start work at once, removing vegetation and cleaning the grave markers. Resist the urge! Begin only when you know as much as possible about your cemetery. Create a master plan. It will include:

- information about your cemetery
- a record of the important features
- a description of what you want to accomplish—your goals
- a priority list of clean-up activities
- an annual maintenance plan
- estimated costs for clean-up and maintenance

Step 1
Gathering Basic Information About Your Cemetery

Learning about the history and character of your cemetery will help you identify and understand its important features and plan for their preservation. The written record of your research will teach future generations about your cemetery and encourage them to continue to care for it. Document the history of the cemetery and include information about who was buried there, and where the important features are located.

Search the library and county deed books for information. Deeds will give you a legal description of the property and the names of the seller and buyer of the cemetery. The library may be able to supply local histories that discuss the cemetery as well as historic maps of the community that include the cemetery's boundaries.

An association, church, or group may once have cared for the cemetery. Their records will yield a wealth of information. And don't neglect oral histories. People familiar with the cemetery may be able to describe how it looked at a much earlier time, tell you if gravestones have been moved, and locate features that have become overgrown.

It might also be useful to consult professionals of related disciplines. An archaeologist may be able to identify grave sites without markers. A historic architect might help you understand more fully the cemetery's stone or masonry features. Soil engineers, landscape architects, and cultural geographers can all contribute information about cemeteries.

Step 2
Identifying and Recording Features

Before you begin, you will need to record all important features with photographs, with written descriptions, and on a site map. Begin by walking around the cemetery to find out what's there. Look for fencing, markers, walkways, unmarked graves, landscaped areas, special vegetation, and the cemetery boundaries. Your cemetery may hold some or all these important features. Identify and measure them, photograph them, describe them, and then record them on your site map.

Work slowly and with great care if the cemetery is overgrown. Remove only enough vegetation to allow the identification of features; leave any vegetation that may have been planted as part of a planned landscape or as a memorial. You may be able to identify some features

Top: This South Carolina cemetery was cleared of vegetation, including mature trees and shrubs, before the plants could be assessed. The cemetery has lost its historic character. Right: Most of the plants that have overtaken this gravesite are native tree seedlings and brambles. They were flourishing in the summer heat when this photo was taken. Some of this vegetation will die back in the winter, making the search for markers and walls somewhat easier. Photos SCDAH.
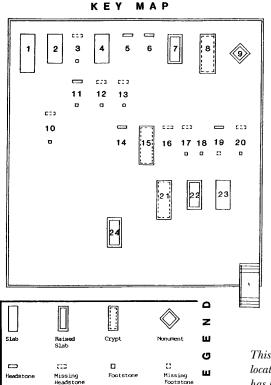
more easily in the winter when plants have died back, leaves have fallen, and freezing temperatures have reduced the chance of being aggravated by biting insects and snakes. Both professionals and carefully trained volunteers can do this work.

Preparing a Site Map

Volunteers can prepare an adequate map on graph paper, using a tape measure to determine the size of features and distances between them. Each feature should be given an inventory number—you will use it later to identify each feature on maps, in photographs, and on survey forms—then measured and drawn to scale on the graph paper; accurate distances between features should be recorded.

To ensure the map can be read easily, use a uniform method to draw the various features. Use symbols or a series of marks—like xxxxxx—to identify a cast-iron fence, for example, and other marks to identify brick walls, and still others for stone walls. Add an interpretive key to describe the symbols and their meaning to a corner of the map.

This sample site map shows the size and location of cemetery features. Each feature has been assigned an inventory number.

Making a Photographic Record

Use black and white film. Black and white prints will have more contrast and will be less likely to fade. Photograph all sides of each feature, including the details of carved stones and cast-iron fences. You may need to brush away loose dirt or wash it off with water, and you may need to trim vegetation or get your helpers to hold it back while you take the photos.

To photograph carvings on shaded stones, wait for a sunny day, then use a lightweight, door-size, framed mirror to cast sunlight on the stones. Your helper can position the mirror at the side of the stone and angle it so the sun's rays reflect from the carvings.

Create a numbered index for each roll of film as you shoot it. The number of each item in your index will correspond to the number of each exposure on your film—a roll with twenty-four exposures, for example, will have an index beginning with one and ending with twenty-four. Beside each number enter information about the photographed feature—its inventory number, a brief description of the feature itself, the direction of the view being shot, the photographer's name, and the date. After the film is developed, you will use the index to tie each photographed feature to its counterpart on the map.

exposure number	inventory number	description	photographer name/date
1	38	BELLE FAIRLEIGH'S HEAD-STONE FRONT VIEW	SUSAN McGAHEE 9-15-95
2	16	PAUL WOOD'S HEADSTONE FRONT VIEW	DAN ELSWICK 10-10-95
3	22	THOMAS HEYWARD'S TOMB & MONUMENT	JOHN TUCKER 12-6-95
4	26	OLD HOUSE CEMETERY LOOKING THROUGH OUTER IRON GATE	JOHN TUCKER 12-6-95

Sample photo index, giving exposure number, inventory (or feature) number, a brief description of the feature with the direction of the view being shot, the photographer's name, and the date the photograph was taken.

Use a mirror to reflect sunlight on to difficult-to-read stones. Photo Rusty Sox.

Writing Descriptions of the Features

Besides taking photographs, you should record descriptions of each feature in writing. The most useful written descriptions are those that have been uniformly recorded on a survey form. In recording each feature, you should give the name of the cemetery, the date of your survey, and the feature's inventory number. You should also specify the type of feature (headstone, crypt, cast-iron fence, vegetation, etc.), its size and material, and its condition. In addition, note any repairs that are visible and carefully record the inscriptions. Copy *exactly* the beginning and end of each line, punctuation, upper and lower case letters, and misspellings. If the inscription is hard to read, use a mirror to reflect sunlight. *Never* use chalk or talc to highlight the carvings.
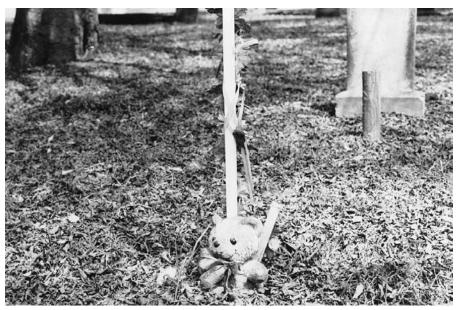

Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia includes many cemetery features that should be recorded. This view shows mausoleums, a variety of gravestones, and brick, stuccoed, and stone walls. Paved drives, walkways, and a variety of mature trees are also included in this scene. All these features should be included on the site map, in photographs, and in the written descriptions. Photo Karen Nickless.

Create survey forms for vegetation and landscape features—walkways, walls, terraces, water, and so on—in the same way. Ground covers, roses, bulbs, and some trees loved ones planted as memorials or grave markers may be rare or hard-to-find varieties. Though winter may be the best season for creating measured drawings and locating features in a cemetery, vegetation should be recorded and identified in all seasons since flower varieties appear throughout the year in South Carolina.

In a variety of cultures, the bereaved place personal items or small objects on graves or memorials. Some of these gestures are tied to spiritual beliefs, some are demonstrations of honor or sentiment, and some are a combination of the two.

Toys, children's clothing, photos, or seasonal decorations are often left at the grave of a child. Some bereaved, following Jewish tradition, leave small stones at the grave site. Others, following African American tradition, place household articles or personal items on the grave. Most people in the United States place flowers at grave sites and small American flags at veterans' graves. All these objects should be treated with respect and recorded in the inventory.

This stuffed bear has marked this grave site at Randolph Cemetery in Columbia for months. Caretakers at this cemetery leave the personal items in place. Photo Tom Shaw.

Small stones and coins have been left by visitors to this grave at the Columbia Hebrew Benevolent Society graveyard. Photo Tom Shaw.

This grave in rural Kershaw County is ornamented with a pitcher with the bottom broken out. **Lest We Forget: Preserving Historic Cemeteries.** *Columbia, South Carolina. South Carolina Educational Television. 1997. Video.*

This gravestone, which has been broken from its base, has been moved from the grave site. If this stone's location is mapped and all fragments are saved and photographed, a conservator may be able to repair it and restore it to the grave site. Photo Tom Shaw.

Vandals, thieves, storms, even wild animals can damage or completely destroy historic gravestones. Natural weathering, lichen, fungus, and air pollution take their toll as well. Nancy Crockett, who has helped care for the stones at Waxhaw Cemetery since the 1940s, says, "The stones were legible in 1946. . . . They were still legible in 1965 when we copied the inscriptions, but today they are almost illegible." Photographs of features and survey forms carrying descriptions and transcribed inscriptions preserve the beauty and value of damaged stones and the information they once carried. In addition, they can guide conservators in their repair of damaged stones, and they can help recover stolen features like carved angels or cast-iron fences. There are many good reasons to document a cemetery.

Step 3
Setting Your Goals

Once you have recorded the information, you should define your goals. Do you want to fully restore the cemetery, or do you simply

want to clean it up by removing only the most intrusive vegetation and resetting or repairing some stones? Your decision will be based on the number of volunteers available, the amount of time you can all give to the project, the cost, the information you have gathered from the historical research and survey, and your ability to maintain the cemetery once the project ends. Avoid setting goals you cannot sustain.

Step 4
Creating a Scope of Work

Once you define your goals, you will be ready to draw up a scope of work. It will describe the work that needs to be done, the stages in which you will do it, the number of volunteers needed for each stage, what stage will require a professional, and an estimate of how much each stage will cost.

It will also describe the trees and other vegetation that need to be removed and how that will be done. It will set out a pruning and maintenance plan for the remaining vegetation. It will include recommendations for work on landscape features like walkways and terraces. And it will list the work needed for the grave markers, fences, and other features.

Step 5
Developing a Maintenance Plan

An annual maintenance plan will arm your cemetery caretakers with a guide that lists their frequent duties and provides a schedule for special projects. It should reflect the fact that upkeep of the cemetery should be carried out continuously and should follow a regular schedule to prevent backlogs and preserve cemetery features.

Include in your plan a regular inspection of the walls, fences, grave markers and monuments. Caretakers should know how to inspect the features and who to contact when problems are found.

You should also include guidelines for the care of vegetation— guidelines for mowing, trimming around stones, and pruning—you should identify plants used as memorials or grave markers, and you should maintain those plants and memorials accordingly.

Consider as well, within the context of tradition, a plan for toys, flowers, flags, and other marks of remembrance. Cemetery workers should not, for example, disturb household and personal

items left by mourners at African American graves, even though they will deteriorate from exposure to rain, sunlight, and changing temperatures and may eventually become covered by vegetation. On the other hand, workers following a different tradition might remove faded flowers and flags.

In short, become familiar with and respect the beliefs and traditions that are reflected in the historic cemetery.

The Completed Master Plan

Once completed, the master plan will include the cemetery inventory—the map, photographs, and written descriptions or survey forms—the written history, your goals, a list of prioritized activities, an annual maintenance plan, and estimated costs. These are valuable records. They tell you a great deal about your cemetery and what you want to accomplish. They also provide benchmarks to measure your progress. Though much work, planning, reading, and consultation goes into the creation of a master plan, the results will be worth the time and effort because your project will be a success. To give others access to the valuable information you have compiled, you might consider giving copies of your master plan to your local library and historical society.

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

ne way to enhance local awareness and appreciation for your cemetery is to nominate it to the National Register of Historic Places. Listing in the Register can also make it eligible for certain grants. Though cemeteries are often ineligible for listing, yours may qualify if it "derives its primary significance either from the graves o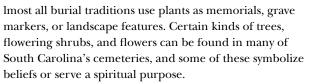f persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events." Cemeteries in South Carolina that are listed in the National Register include the Kingston Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Conway, which includes exceptional examples of Victorian gravestone art, and the Singleton Family Graveyard in Sumter County, which includes the grave of Revolutionary War hero Thomas Sumter.

The Historical Services Division at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History administers the National Register program in South Carolina. If you are interested in nominating a cemetery to the National Register, call the Department to request a Preliminary Information Form. After you complete this form, the staff can tell you whether or not the cemetery appears to be eligible for the National Register.

Coming Street Cemetery in Charleston is listed in the National Register for its historical and artistic significance. The cemetery, which was established in the 1760s, is the oldest Jewish cemetery in the South. Photo Stephen Ziff.

PLANTS AS MEMORIALS
AND GRAVE MARKERS

lmost all burial traditions use plants as memorials, grave markers, or landscape features. Certain kinds of trees, flowering shrubs, and flowers can be found in many of South Carolina's cemeteries, and some of these symbolize beliefs or serve a spiritual purpose.

Gravestone art of the Victorian period often depicted spiritual symbols that comforted the mourners. Many of the plants placed in cemeteries during that period also held symbolic meaning, though interpretations of their meanings sometimes vary from one source to another.

Mature and beautiful cedars, magnolias, and oaks are commonly grown in cemeteries throughout South Carolina, often as landscape features and memorials. All three are large evergreens, and in some traditions, they symbolize eternity or everlasting life. Smaller dogwood and crepe myrtle trees were often planted and valued for their annual flowers. Some Christians see the dogwood flower, with its four petals and stained edges, as a symbol for Jesus's blood on the cross.

Some African American cultures believe that at death, the deceased's spirit remains among the living and certain plants affect the spirit's actions. The thorny yucca and cactus are two such plants. Traditionally, they were planted to inhibit the spirit's movement around the cemetery.

Roses, azaleas, and camellias, some of the flowering shrubs often found in South Carolina's cemeteries, may hold symbolic meaning as well. Their popularity, however, may also derive from their natural hardiness in our climate. Boxwood and other small evergreen shrubs, once established, are dependable growers and were probably planted for their beauty rather than for symbolism.

Many Christians see lilies, a hardy perennial that returns year after year, and flowering bulbs, like narcissus and daffodils, as symbols for rebirth or resurrection. Historic family cemeteries and abandoned family cemeteries may shelter old varieties of lilies and spring bulbs that were planted as memorials or grave markers. Iris foliage in overgrown cemeteries should alert you to the possibility of a grave site.

Many bereaved planted hardy ground covers to control erosion and weeds and to add beauty to a loved one's grave. As a result, vinca and English ivy often compete in the takeover of neglected cemeteries and make tempting targets for a dose of herbicide. Before you eradicate them, however, remember not only that they were deliberately planted but also that when their growth is controlled, they discourage erosion and weeds.

Clockwise from top left. 1.Cedars like these matured trees in Elmwood Cemetery are often planted as memorials. 2 and 3. Pointed yucca and prickly cactus are found in many of South Carolina's cemeteries. In some African American traditions, these thorny plants were planted to inhibit the movement of spirits around the cemetery. 4. These well tended boxwoods are located at the Columbia Hebrew Benevolent Society cemetery. Boxwoods are commonly planted in our cemeteries. 5. The distinctive foliage of the iris makes it easier to identify than many other plants during a cleaning project. The iris may have been deliberately planted to mark a grave site. Photos Tom Shaw.

GRAVESTONE RUBBINGS

reating rubbings by covering a carved stone with paper and rubbing chalk or crayon over the paper until the image on the stone appears has become a popular activity. Unfortunately, it can damage historic gravestones. Some cemeteries now even forbid the practice.

Though most people intend no harm, tall thin stones and some impressive monuments are not as sturdy as they appear, and when they are rubbed the pressure applied often breaks the stones or topples them from their base.
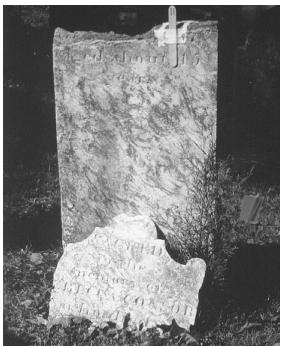
Stone surfaces can also receive damage from the strong adhesive tape that is used to attach the paper to the stone, both when it is removed and later when the adhesive residue, which remains on the stone, attracts debris. To minimize damage, attach adhesive tape only to the back of stones.

Stones can be marred by enthusiastic rubbers when the waxy crayons and powdery chalk they use break through the paper and run off its edge. These unsightly marks, or gravestone graffiti, remain on the stone long after the rubbing, and if the stone is porous, efforts to clean the pigment trapped in small areas erodes its surface.

If you decide to make gravestone rubbings, avoid as much damage as possible by consulting Lynette Strangstad's *A Graveyard Preservation Primer.*

Top. To avoid breaks like the one on the left, never attempt to make a rubbing on fragile stone tablets. Bottom. Repairs to this tablet have left it extremely fragile. It should not be rubbed. Use a mirror to reflect sunlight so the inscription can be transcribed. Photos SCDAH.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC CEMETERIES

The work of archaeologists has taught us a great deal about how humans lived and died and plays a number of important roles in the study of historic cemeteries and pre-historic burials. Through archaeological studies, we've learned that early settlers suffered from a variety of injuries and diseases and from lead poisoning. We have also learned that the embalming practice of using arsenic—common during the late-19th century through the first decades of the 20th century—continues as a potential health hazard to archaeologists and cemetery workers who come in contact with the contaminated dirt.

Today, however, most studies do not focus on the excavation and examination of human remains. More often, concerned property owners call in archaeologists to locate what they suspect may be graves. Sometimes it is the remains of burial markers that suggest the presence of grave sites. Depressions in the ground, and the presence of certain kinds of plants add to that evidence. And archival records can also suggest their existence. Recently, archaeologists from the Chicora Foundation helped the Maple Grove United Methodist Church in Waynesville, North Carolina, locate unmarked graves in the church cemetery. Using a penetrometer, a device that measures the compactness of soil, the archaeologists located over 300 unmarked graves and plotted them on a site map. Debbie Hacker, an archaeologist with Chicora Foundation, notes that because the penetrometer locates unmarked graves with minimal intrusion, it does not disturb the remains.

An archaeological survey of a cemetery can also determine its boundaries and locate underground features like walkways, foundations, and walls.

Top. The depression shown in the foreground at this historic cemetery is likely an unmarked grave. Archaeologists use these depressions, other clues, and sensitive instruments to help them locate unmarked grave sites. Photo Tom Shaw. Bottom. Chicora Foundation's Debbie Hacker records a tombstone inscription. Photo courtesy Charleston Museum.

CEMETERY RESTORATION GUIDANCE

his section offers some basic preservation and restoration procedures for cemetery landscape features, grave markers, and monuments. Though they require hours of long hard work, restoration projects reflect our respect both for our ancestors and their culture and for our history. Keep these key guidelines in mind:

• Design all aspects of the scope of work to retain and preserve the historic character of the cemetery.

• Avoid removing historic materials or altering features and spaces that characterize the cemetery.

• Respect and preserve distinctive features of the cemetery.

• Repair rather than replace damaged historic features.

• Use the gentlest procedure possible to clean features. Never use abrasive cleaners, sandblasters, or chemical cleaners on cemetery markers, fences, or other features.

• Assume unmarked graves exist and avoid disturbing either the ground or someone's remains.

An experienced professional should conduct the gravestone conservation. Inappropriate work can speed the deterioration of gravestones and cause terrible damage. Volunteers should not attempt repair projects.

Landscape Features

It is important to preserve major landscape features like terraces, water, boundary walls, and walkways, and to correct erosion. Qualified professionals—a civil engineer or a landscape architect—should oversee repairs. If brick or stone walls need repointing, a mortar that duplicates the historic mortar in color, texture, and strength should be used because repaired joints should match the historic joints in appearance. In most cases, a mortar with a high portland cement content will damage historic bricks or stones.

Trees and Shrubs

Mature trees and shrubs are distinctive features of a cemetery and should be preserved. Respect trees and shrubs planted as memorials or as grave markers. Limbs that threaten to fall on grave markers should be pruned carefully. If trees or their roots disturb grave markers or other features, the trees may need to be cut down. Before removing the stump and roots, however, consider the impact—it may disturb a burial site and its remains. If a tree or shrub of significance is threatening a grave marker, you will have to choose between removing the tree or relocating the marker. Keep in mind that when grave markers are moved, they no longer mark the grave; they become memorial stones instead.

This mature cedar tree and stone have become joint grave markers at Randolph Cemetery in Columbia. Photo Tom Shaw

Vines, Flowers, and Ground Covers

Clean up carefully. In most cemeteries, shrubs, flowers, and ground covers were planted for their beauty and as a memorial to those buried there. A patch of ornamental ground cover, an over-grown rose or gardenia, a prickly yucca plant, or a clump of lilies-of-the-valley may signal the presence of a grave just as a carved stone does. If historic or significant vegetation does not threaten grave markers or other cemetery features, it should be preserved in place. If the vegetation keeps stones or walls damp or is causing damage, it should be cut back or removed.

Use weedeaters around grave markers with caution—the nylon thread will permanently scar the softer historic stones if it comes in contact with them. Don't use power mowers near stones and monuments—the blades and thrown debris can scar and even break or topple them. Keep fertilizers and herbicides away from stones—they can stain and damage them. Though it takes longer, use hand-held clippers to trim vegetation around the grave markers—it's the best way to avoid permanent damage.

The recently mowed grass is the only vegetation left at this historic family graveyard. Traditionally, mourners planted trees, flowers and shrubs at the graves of loved ones. These plantings are an important feature of historic graveyards. Photo SCDAH.

Left. Weedeater scars are visible at the base of this historic stone. **Lest We Forget.** *South Carolina Educational Television. Right. The angled setting and scarred edge of this stone were both caused by a riding lawn mower that came too close. Photo SCDAH.*

When you are planning a clean up, keep in mind the age and significance of your cemetery—was it a family burial ground, a church yard, or a formally planned cemetery? Traditional maintenance varied with the age and type of cemetery. A cemetery established in the early-20th century as a planned lawn-park cemetery will have characteristics like mown grass lawns and markers in neat rows, all of which should be preserved. On the other hand, walls or fences with markers placed irregularly inside the enclosure are characteristic of rural family cemeteries. Grass and weeds were cut from time to time, and loved ones planted and cared for flowers and shrubs. You would lose the historic character of a rural family cemetery if you placed the stones in perfect rows and replaced the traditional vegetation with a grass lawn.

This stone has been repaired with Portland Cement, which is much too hard an adhesive for this fragile stone. Furthermore, smears of the cement have covered parts of the inscription. Photo Dan Elswick.

Grave Markers and Memorials Repairs

Qualified conservators or masonry artists should repair historic stones, tablets, tombs, and other memorials. Improper repairs will inflict additional damage. Professional conservators will use special mortars and adhesives for different kinds of stones and will choose a repair technique that will not cause future damage. Volunteers should not make repairs. In most cases, monument companies lack the expertise required to repair historic gravestones.

If a break or damage weakens the structure of a stone or monument, a conservator should be called promptly. Additional damage could occur quickly if repairs are delayed.

A *Graveyard Preservation Primer* describes basic repair techniques. Cemetery caretakers can use it to evaluate both the techniques the professional proposes and the quality of the work itself. Get a written detailed proposal from your conservator and compare the techniques to those described in the *Primer*.

Resetting Stones

Do not reset stones into straight rows yourself. Historic stones are fragile and can break easily. While the weakness of some is apparent—they have cracks that can be seen—others may have interior fractures or weak points that will break unexpectedly with the slightest movement. In addition, because gravestones and monuments are extremely heavy, inexperienced workers can be seriously hurt if they try to move them. Qualified stone conservators should reset stones.

A *Graveyard Preservation Primer* by Lynette Strangstad describes basic resetting techniques. Cemetery caretakers can use it to evaluate both the techniques the professional proposes and the quality of the work itself.

Moving Stones

When a stone is moved, it is no longer a grave marker. At best, a moved stone becomes a memorial to the deceased. When stones are moved, the historic character of the cemetery is changed, and some of the value of authenticity is lost.
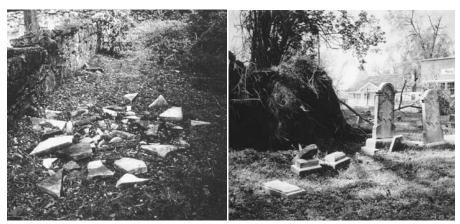

When these stones were moved, the grave sites became unmarked graves. If the stones are reset at another location, they will become memorial stones at best. Photo SCDAH.
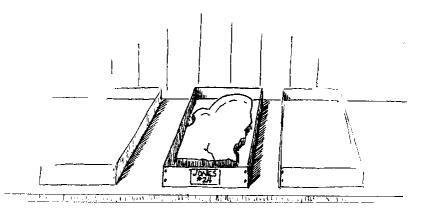
Fragments and broken stones

Stone fragments are important and should be saved. Frequently, souvenir-hunters, vandals, and collectors carry off these bits and pieces of grave markers or cemetery structures. They are stepped on by visitors, crushed by mowers, and sometimes thrown away by caretakers. Even when they are moved to a safe location they will lose most of their value if their original location in the cemetery has not been well documented.

Document stone fragments by photographing their original location and establishing them on a site map before they are moved. Try to identify the gravestone to which the fragments belong, and collect all fragments, no matter how small. Each fragment should be tagged or boxed with information that identifies it and links it to the site map.

If it is not possible to move a documented fragment to a safe dry location, then bury it where it is found in the cemetery. If the fragment is part of a stone that is still standing, bury it behind the stone. If a fragment cannot be associated with a standing stone, then bury it where it is found in a hole big enough to put it down flat. Pour clean sand into the hole to improve drainage and to make the surface level. Place the fragment on the sand, then cover it with several inches of clean sand followed by cemetery dirt to protect it from theft and to slow the natural weathering process.

Left. Marker fragments are important and should be saved, not thrown away as these fragments were. Photo SCDAH. Right. If your cemetery is documented, the devastation caused by hurricanes like Hugo will not obliterate the information, beauty, and value of historic gravestones. Photos SCDAH.

If stone fragments are moved, they should be clearly identified and linked to their original location by the cemetery site map.

This gravestone is being cleaned with clear water and is being scrubbed with plastic bristle brushes. **Lest We Forget.** *South Carolina Educational Television.*

Cleaning

Most people begin a restoration project because they want to clean the gravestones and monuments to make them "look like new." But the cleaning needed to return them to this state will cause permanent damage and likely speed the natural weathering process. The distinction of historic stones and monuments comes in part from the stains and evidence of natural weathering. When excessive cleaning produces a "like new" appearance, the stone will lose some of its historic integrity.

 Only stones and monuments with sound structures and surfaces should be cleaned, because any cleaning will permanently damage stones with flaking or peeling surfaces and structural weaknesses. And even then, you should clean sound stones only to halt deterioration or to remove heavy soiling. You should use the most gentle method possible. Avoid acidic cleaning solutions or solutions containing chlorine bleach. When you use water, avoid high pressure sprayers. Use something like an ordinary garden hose instead because that sort of pressure will probably not harm the stone. Avoid frequent cleaning; even the most gentle cleaning will remove some of the stone surface.

First, use a natural or plastic soft-bristle brush to remove loose dirt and lichen. Next, use a toothbrush to clear away debris in carved niches. Once the loose dirt is removed, thoroughly soak the stone with clear water, then scrub the embedded dirt with the soft-bristle brush. Wash out the dirt and debris with clear water. This most gentle method will probably clean satisfactorily.

If more cleaning is needed, dissolve a non-ionic detergent in water. This type of detergent will not deposit a solid, visible residue. Thoroughly soak the stone with clear water, spray it with the non-ionic solution, then scrub with the soft brush. Finally, rinse it with clean water thoroughly to remove all trace of the detergent solution. You can find non-ionic detergents at photographic, conservation, and horse grooming suppliers. A solution of one part ammonia to four parts water can be used to clean marble stones.

Never use abrasive cleaning methods. Dolomite powder, baking soda, and other household cleaning agents will erode the stone surface. In one day, a harsh cleaner can cause as much surface erosion as fifty years of normal weathering. Household bleaches like Clorox and Purex can damage even polished granite.

FUNDING A CEMETERY PROJECT

ublic funds for cemetery projects are rare. People are often disappointed to learn that no state agency has the authority or the funds to maintain cemeteries. And while South Carolina's laws authorize municipalities and counties to use public funds to care for cemeteries within their boundaries, few South Carolina cemeteries receive public monies. Funds for anyone wishing to repair broken stones, collapsed walls, and rusted fences in historic cemeteries are in chronic short supply, and funds for cleaning and maintaining cemeteries are usually a local and private responsibility.

The Department of Archives and History administers two grant programs that can be used for some kinds of cemetery projects. Both programs have limited dollars to award each year and use an annual competition to select projects. Both require recipients to match the grant award dollar for dollar.

• Federal Survey and Planning grants can be used for a variety of planning projects involving historic cemeteries that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Examples of projects include identifying and recording historic cemeteries in a county, developing a master plan for a historic cemetery, or producing an educational brochure about a historic cemetery.

• State Historic Preservation grants provide state dollars to stabilize historic cemetery features (walls, grave markers, etc.), if the cemetery is either listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information about the programs, contact the Department.

Most cemetery projects in South Carolina are funded from local fund-raising projects. Some groups have raised enough from the sale of aluminum cans, bake sales, and calendar sales to fund significant restoration projects. Others have contacted descendants of people buried in the cemetery and received funds. One group holds an annual fund-raising picnic and reunion in the cemetery.

Most cemetery projects are funded from non-public sources and rely on volunteers for regular maintenance. Photo SCDAH.

STATE CEMETERY LAWS

There are numerous South Carolina laws governing cemeteries. The following are of particular interest to those interested in preserving and protecting historic cemeteries.

Penalties for Damaging Graves, Gravestones, or Other Cemetery Features

The following law outlines penalties for persons who damage graves, gravestones, or graveyards. It is important to become familiar with the law and to alert law enforcement officials of any violations. Enforcement of the law is the responsibility of county and municipal law enforcement officials. Persons who violate the law can also be charged in civil court to help the owners of the cemetery pay for repairing the damages.

SECTION 16-17-600. *Destruction or desecration of human remains or repositories thereof; liability of crematory operators; penalties.*

(A) It is unlawful for a person wilfully and knowingly, and without proper legal authority to:

(1) destroy or damage the remains of a deceased human being;

(2) remove a portion of the remains of a deceased human being from a burial ground where human skeletal remains are buried, a grave, crypt, vault, mausoleum, or other repository; or

(3) desecrate human remains.

A person violating the provisions of subsection (A) is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not less than one year nor more than ten years, or both.

A crematory operator is neither civilly nor criminally liable for cremating a body which (1) has been incorrectly identified by the funeral director, coroner, medical examiner, or person authorized by law to bring the deceased to the crematory; or (2) the funeral director has obtained invalid authorization to cremate. This immunity does not apply to a crematory operator who knew or should have known that the body was incorrectly identified.

(B) It is unlawful for a person wilfully and knowingly, and without proper legal authority to:

(1) obliterate, vandalize, or desecrate a burial ground where human skeletal remains are buried, a grave, graveyard, tomb, mausoleum, or other repository of human remains;

(2) deface, vandalize, injure, or remove a gravestone or other memorial monument or marker commemorating a deceased person or group of persons, whether located within or outside of a recognized cemetery, memorial park, or battlefield; or

    (3) obliterate, vandalize, or desecrate a park or other area clearly designated to preserve and perpetuate the memory of a deceased person or group of persons.

A person violating the provisions of subsection (B) is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more than ten years or fined not more than five thousand dollars, or both.

(C) (1) It is unlawful for a person wilfully and knowingly to steal anything of value located upon or around a repository for human remains or within a human graveyard, cemetery, or memorial park, or for a person wilfully, knowingly, and without proper legal authority to destroy, tear down, or injure any fencing, plants, trees, shrubs, or flowers located upon or around a repository for human remains, or within a human graveyard, cemetery, or memorial park.

    (2) A person violating the provisions of item (1) is guilty of:

       (a) a felony and, upon conviction, if the theft of, destruction to, injury to, or loss of property is valued at two hundred dollars or more, must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both, and must be required to perform not more than five hundred hours of community service;

       (b) a misdemeanor triable in magistrates court if the theft of, destruction to, injury to, or loss of property is valued at less than two hundred dollars. Upon conviction, a person must be fined, imprisoned, or both, pursuant to the jurisdiction of magistrates as provided in Section 22-3-550, and must be required to perform not more than two hundred fifty hours of community service.

Moving Cemeteries

Several laws outline the process that a person who wants to move an abandoned cemetery on his property must follow.

27-43-10. Notice of proposed removal; due care required.

When any person owns any land on which is situated an abandoned cemetery or burying ground, and where it becomes necessary and expedient in the opinion of the governing body of the county or municipality in which the cemetery or burying ground is situated to remove the graves, it shall be lawful for such person, after thirty days' notice to the relatives of the deceased persons buried therein, if any are known, and if no relatives are known, then after thirty days' notice published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the property lies, and if no newspaper is published in the county, then by posting notice in three prominent places in the county one of which shall be the courthouse door, to remove the graves to a suitable plot in some other cemetery or other suitable location, due care being taken to protect tombstones and replace them properly, so as to leave the graves in as good condition as before removal.

27-43-20. Removal to plot agreeable to governing body and relatives; board may determine suitable plot in case of disagreement.

The plot to which the graves are removed shall be one which is mutually agreeable between the governing body of the county or municipality and the relatives of the deceased persons. If a suitable plot cannot be agreed upon between the parties concerned the matter shall be finally determined by a board of three members which shall be convened within fifteen days after final disagreement on the new location of the plot. The board shall be appointed as follows: One member shall be appointed by the county or municipality, one member shall be appointed by the relatives, and a third member shall be selected by the two. The decision of the board shall be final.

27-43-40. Evidence of abandonment.

The conveyance of the land upon which the cemetery or burying ground is situated without reservation of the cemetery or burying ground shall be evidence of abandonment for the purposes of this chapter.

Preservation of Abandoned or Unmaintained Cemeteries

This law authorizes local governments to spend public funds to preserve and protect abandoned or unmaintained cemeteries within their jurisdiction. Note that the law authorizes, but does not require, the local government to assume this responsibility.

6-1-35. Preservation and protection of cemeteries.

(A) Counties and municipalities are authorized to preserve and protect any cemetery located within its jurisdiction which the county or municipality determines has been abandoned or is not being maintained and are further authorized to expend public funds and use county or municipal inmate labor, in the manner authorized by law, in connection with the cemetery.

(B) As used in this section, the term "preserve and protect" means to keep safe from destruction, peril, or other adversity and may include the placement of signs, markers, fencing, or other appropriate features so as to identify the site as a cemetery and so as to aid in the preservation and protection of the abandoned cemetery.

Rights of Descendants to Visit Cemeteries

There is no state law in South Carolina giving descendants the right to visit the graves of their ancestors. Neighboring states have laws assuring reasonable access to descendants. For example, a Florida statute states that relatives and descendants of a person buried in a cemetery can visit the cemetery "at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner." The statute also gives them the right to maintain the cemetery if the owner refuses to provide for reasonable maintenance.

YORK COUNTY ABANDONED CEMETERY PROJECT

Too often abandoned cemeteries are destroyed before developers or other owners are aware of their presence. Rather than relying solely on state laws, York County has taken steps to encourage the protection of abandoned historic cemeteries. The York County Planning Office and the York County Historical Commission have worked together to identify abandoned cemeteries in the county and establish an ordinance to enhance their protection.

First, the York County Historical Commission conducted a survey of abandoned cemeteries in the county. It located them, mapped them on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps, photographed them, and recorded their significant features on survey forms. Then the Commission gave this information to the York County Planning Department to incorporate into the county planning maps.

The County Council also enacted an ordinance that refers to the pertinent state laws and clarifies how they will be enforced in York County. The ordinance requires developers to maintain a protective buffer around historic cemeteries affected by development projects.

Now, when citizens come to the county planning office to ask about property they are planning to buy or develop, the planners can tell them where abandoned cemeteries are and what responsibilities they have toward their upkeep.

If you are interested in planning a survey of historic cemeteries in your area, Sharyn Thompson's book *Florida's Historic Cemeteries* is a good source of information. It includes advice on researching, identifying, and recording historic cemeteries.

OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS PROTECTING HISTORIC CEMETERIES

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 gives some protection to cemeteries that are eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This protection applies only when federal funds or licenses are involved. The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies or their representatives to identify historic properties that will be affected by a federally-funded or -licensed project and to determine those properties' eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. If the properties are eligible, the federal agency must gauge the effect the project will have on the properties. The Historical Services Division at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History administers this federal review process at the state level. If you suspect that a federally funded or licensed project will disturb a historic cemetery, notify the appropriate federal agency or call the Historical Services Division at the Department. Examples of federally funded or licensed projects are highway construction, projects requiring Army Corps of Engineers wetlands permits, and construction of gas pipelines.

Similar protection is given to cemeteries that are listed in or eligible for the National Register and are affected by projects needing an Office of Coastal Resources Management (OCRM) permit or certification. OCRM is a division of the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). OCRM has jurisdiction only in the eight coastal counties of South Carolina. Examples of projects requiring an OCRM permit or certification are the construction of a boat dock or the development of a resort community in one of the coastal counties.

DISCOURAGING VANDALISM

People who damage human remains, grave markers, or other graveyard features are breaking the law and are subject to prosecution. If you discover a vandalized burial ground, contact the local law enforcement authorities immediately. Prosecute offenders who are caught and publicize the arrests to discourage other

potential vandals and thieves. The following suggestions can also discourage vandalism:

> • Keep your cemetery well-maintained. Vandals are less likely to disturb a cemetery that caretakers seem to visit regularly.

> • Arrange for people to visit and monitor the cemetery routinely. Vandals won't bother the cemetery if they think they will be seen. Ask the sheriff or police to add the cemetery to their patrol routes. Ask neighbors to watch for and report suspicious activity and consider housing a caretaker near isolated cemeteries.

> • Protection devices like fences, lighting and alarms can help. Make certain they can do the job and keep them in working order.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Documentation, Preservation, and Maintenance of Historic Cemeteries

The Association for Gravestone Studies is a national nonprofit organization that encourages the study and preservation of gravestones. For more information about the organization visit www.gravestonestudies.org or call (413) 772-0836.

Lest We Forget: Preserving Historic Cemeteries. South Carolina Educational Television Network for the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1997. (26-minute videotape) *Discusses importance of historic cemeteries and summarizes guidelines for recording, preserving, and maintaining them. Features Lynette Strangstad, nationally recognized expert. Available on loan at public libraries in South Carolina. To purchase a copy, call (800) 553-7752 or write SC ETV Marketing, Box 11000, Columbia, SC 29211.* Note: The laws cited in the videotape have been amended.

London, Mark. *Masonry: How to Care for Old and Historic Brick and Stone.* Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1988.

Although the focus of this book is historic buildings, some sections apply to the conservation of gravestones and other cemetery features such as brick walls. It includes sections on identifying types of stone, cleaning brick and stone, repointing brick and stone, and stone repair.

Strangstad, Lynette. ***Preservation of Historic Burial Grounds.*** National Trust for Historic Preservation, Revised 2003.
Designed to help individuals and organizations considering the preservation of 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-century burial grounds. Discusses project organization, plan development, setting priorities, maintenance, and appropriate conservation. To order this booklet contact the National Trust at (202) 588-6296 or visit the online bookstore at www.preservationbooks.org.

Strangstad, Lynette. ***A Graveyard Preservation Primer.*** Association for Gravestone Studies, 1995.
Intended specifically for the nonprofessional, a "how-to" manual for planning and carrying out a graveyard preservation project. Includes chapters on assessing the problem, organizational concerns, collecting data, and remedies. Most comprehensive guide to cleaning, resetting, and repairing stones. To order this book contact the Association of Gravestone Studies at (413) 772-0836 or visit www.gravestonestudies.org/publications.htm.

Thompson, Sharyn. ***Florida's Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook.*** Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board, 1989.
Designed to help individuals and organizations concerned with identifying, recording, and preserving historic cemeteries. Offers specific guidelines for locating, researching, and recording historic cemeteries and discusses preservation techniques.

Trinkley, Michael. ***Grave Matters: The Preservation of African-American Cemeteries.*** Columbia, S.C.: Chicora Foundation, 1995. (Booklet)
Discusses unique features of African American cemeteries and explores their historical roots. Describes how these cemeteries are especially vulnerable to damage by developers and others. To order a copy, contact the Chicora Foundation at (803) 787-6910 or visit http://chicora.org.

The Historical Development of Cemeteries

Combs, Diana Williams. Early Gravestone Art in Georgia and South Carolina. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986.

Examines 18th-century gravestone art in four communities—Charleston and Georgetown in South Carolina, and Savannah and Midway in Georgia. Describes the dominance of New England stonecutters as well as the work of local carvers. Traces the influences and sources for gravestone motifs and their evolution from the early to the late 18th century.

Fairey, Wade B. "The Changing York County, South Carolina Tombstone Business, 1750–1850." **Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts** 16, 2: 1–29.

Discusses the work of local tombstone carvers active in York and Chester counties, including Hugh Kelsey, Samuel Watson, John Caveny, and the Bigham family. Traces the evolution of tombstone designs from traditional Scots-Irish motifs to distinctly American symbols. Also describes the decline of local carvers by the mid-19th century.

Jackson, Kenneth T., and Vergara, Camilo Jose. *Silent Cities: The Evolution of the American Cemetery*. Princeton: Princeton Architectural Press, 1989.

Traces the development of the American cemetery using more than 350 photographs. Analyzes the effects of race, religion, class, and fashion on our memorials for the dead. Illustrates a range of cemetery types—the country cemetery, the church graveyard, the elite rural cemetery, the ordinary urban cemetery, the veterans' cemetery, the memorial park, and the potter's field.

Little, M. Ruth. *Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

Discusses the importance of gravemarkers in North Carolina as keys to culture and ethnicity. Traces the evolution of gravemarkers from early European settlement through the early 20th century. Richly illustrated with photographs.

McDowell, Peggy, and Richard E. Meyer, eds. *The Revival Styles in American Memorial Art.* Bowling Green: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1994.

Discusses the national preoccupation with commemorative monuments in the 19th century. Chapters describe each of the revival styles that flourished in this period—Classical Revival, Medieval Revival, Egyptian and Near Eastern Revival—and highlights tombs, monuments, and markers that reflect these styles.

Meyer, Richard E., ed. *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture.* Ann Arbor: UMI Research Press, 1989.
Includes a collection of articles illustrating the diversity of American cemeteries and grave markers. Of particular interest is an article by Edward W. Clark on "The Bigham Carvers of the Carolina Piedmont: Stone Images of an Emerging Sense of American History."

Nichols, Elaine, ed. *The Last Miles of the Way: African American Homegoing Traditions, 1890–Present.* Columbia: South Carolina State Museum, 1989.
Includes a collection of articles discussing African-American funeral, mourning, and burial traditions. Links traditions like placing personal objects on graves to African religious beliefs and practices.

Sloane, David Charles. *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History.* Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1991.
Traces the transformation of the American cemetery from church yards of the Colonial period to the pastoral cemeteries with elaborate monuments of the 19th century to the low maintenance modern "lawn-park" cemeteries. Relates this transformation to the increased distancing of most Americans from the graves of their ancestors and death.

NOTES

1. The date of death on a grave marker does not necessarily denote the date of the marker. It often took years to raise the necessary funds to purchase a marker.

2. Thomas Walker's son-in-law, John White, also of Scotland, had three sons, all of whom were 19th-century gravestone carvers in Charleston. The three sons were William T., Robert D., and Edwin R. White.

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