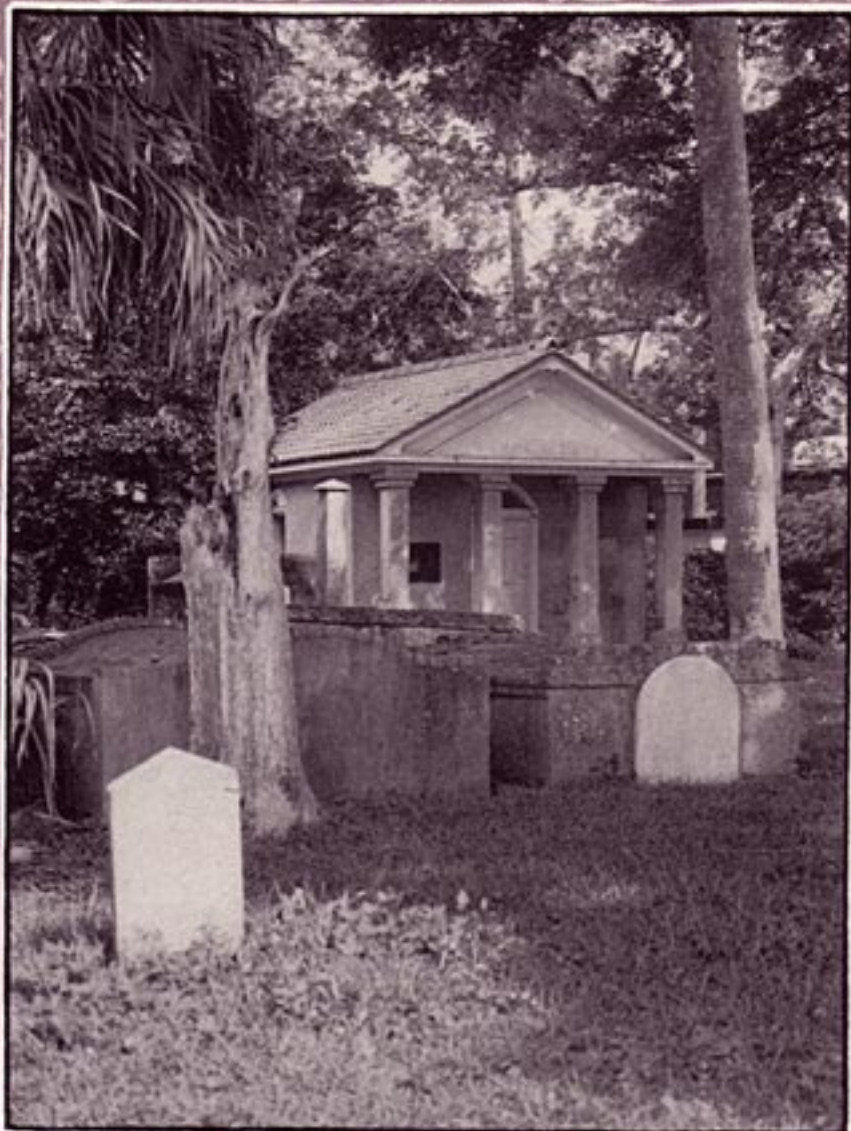


# Florida's Historic Cemeteries

AP

PRESERVATION  
HANDBOOK



by **Sharyn Thompson**  
chapter four by **Lynette Strangstad**

*Cover: Tolomato Cemetery, St. Augustine 1987. Photo by Sharyn Thompson.*

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*Cover art and book design by Christine Margot Tait.*

## PREFACE

Florida's Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook was published in 1989 by The Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board. Funding was provided by historic preservation grant-in-aid assistance from the Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State.

The Handbook was created to assist individuals and organizations concerned with the preservation of historic cemeteries in Florida. It describes methods for field survey and archival research, and presents restoration guidelines and conservation treatments that are appropriate for the preservation of these important sites. The author revised the publication (2004) for the Florida Division of Historical Resources On-line Resource Guide for Historic and Abandoned Cemeteries.

The Division of Historical Resources is pleased to support the preservation of historic cemeteries in Florida. We hope this guide will be helpful in your efforts to restore, care for, and protect the burial places that represent the unique heritage of Florida.

**Frederick P. Gaske, Director  
Division of Historical Resources  
and State Historic Preservation Officer**



SHARYN THOMPSON

## INTRODUCTION

**D**URING THE past few years a growing public awareness has developed concerning the importance of early graveyards and cemeteries. However, at the same time an appreciation for these historic burying grounds has emerged, the sites themselves have been rapidly deteriorating and disappearing from the landscape. Florida's cemeteries are a valuable part of our heritage. They reveal evidence of people and events that have shaped our history and reflect burial customs and funerary art and architecture that extend from the Second Spanish Period through the turn of the 20th century.

Florida has made a strong commitment to preserve its historic cemeteries. The Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State, has provided grant support for preservation planning, surveying, and/or restoration of historical cemeteries including Tallahassee's Old City Cemetery, the Miami City Cemetery, St. Augustine's Huguenot Cemetery, Pensacola's St. Michael Cemetery and the Key West Cemetery. It also supplied grant support for the development of this handbook. In addition, local organizations and governments within the state have supported various cemetery surveys and restorations—including Greenwood Cemetery by the City of Tallahassee, Pinewood Pioneer Cemetery by the City of Coral Gables, and the Monticello Old Burying Ground and abandoned plantation graveyards by the Jefferson County Historical Association.

Because many natural and man-made factors are adversely affecting Florida's historic graveyards and cemeteries, the sites must be systematically surveyed and documented or information valuable to the state's historical record will be irretrievably lost. **Florida's Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook** is designed to assist individuals, organizations, and agencies who are interested in the preservation and protection of these valuable resources. It suggests guidelines and methods for identification, survey, and documentation of historic cemeteries and discusses preservation techniques that can be employed to stop or retard their deterioration. Appendices include information on the Florida Master Site File program, the National Register of Historic Places, the Florida Historical Marker Program, statutes that affect the protection of the state's historical burial sites, and a bibliography of selected books and articles about cemeteries and graveyards in the southern United States. The handbook is not meant to be a guide to the state's historic cemeteries, nor does it consider prehistoric burials that are regarded as archaeological sites.

# I

## FLORIDA'S CEMETERIES AS HISTORICAL RESOURCES



VAST AMOUNT of information can be contributed to the historical record through the study of cemeteries and graveyards. Such sites provide us with a sense of place. A burying ground's gravemarkers and attendant funerary art and architecture reflect the social history of its community—offering clues about the social, economic, ethnic and cultural diversity, and the religious beliefs, of the persons buried there. Gravemarker inscriptions and designs are valuable not only for the study of genealogy, but also contain information about such topics as settlement patterns, trade and transportation routes, demographics, epidemiology, folk art, and the craft of stone carving. In addition, historic cemeteries provide important open space and passive parks for urban environments.

The earliest cemeteries still in existence in Florida are both associated with the Spanish colonial Period. Tolomato Cemetery in St. Augustine was established sometime prior to

1788 and documentation suggests it may have existed as part of a Spanish mission as early as 1737. Pensacola's St. Michael Cemetery was established in 1810 when the Spanish Crown granted 30 arpents of land to the Church "for a cemetery and other uses." However, church records indicate that the site may have been used as a burying ground as early as 1786.

When Florida became a territory of the United States, Anglo-American pioneers moved into the area from Georgia, Virginia, and the Carolinas during the 1820s-1830s. They brought with them their customs

and beliefs about death and immortality, most of which differed significantly from the cultural and religious traditions practiced by the Spanish.

*Historic St. Michael Cemetery in Pensacola was established in 1810, although Church records indicate it was used for a burying ground as early as 1786.*



FLORIDA PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

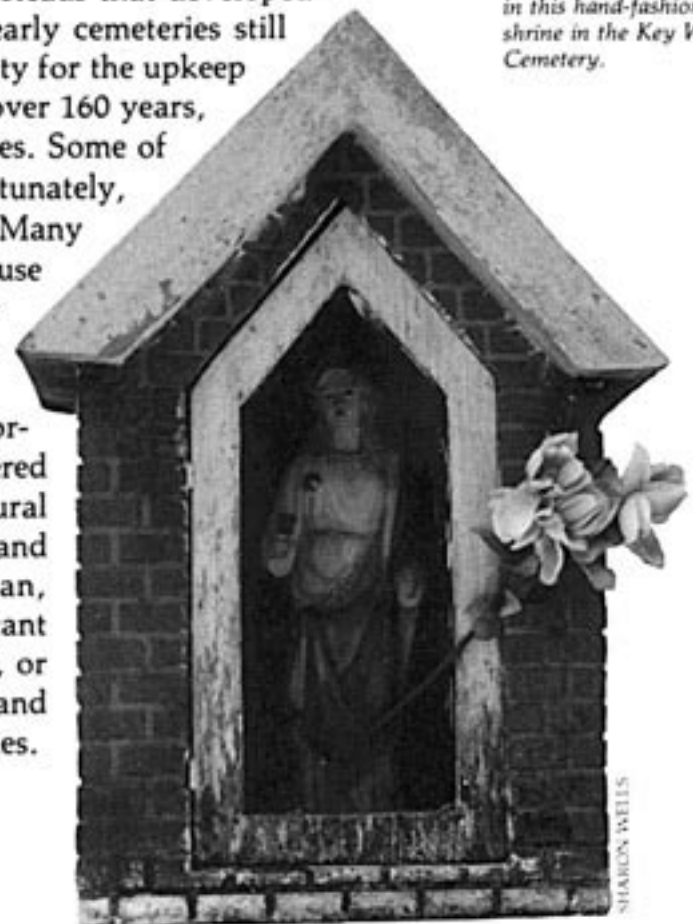


SHARON THOMPSON

*Scraped earth and mounded graves decorated with shells are typical features of many rural, upland south cemeteries.*

The pioneers established public burying grounds in the newly founded settlements and towns. Churches often established burial areas within their yards. Private family graveyards became an integral part of the plantations and farmsteads that developed during the territorial and antebellum periods. Many of these early cemeteries still exist. Various municipalities that originally accepted responsibility for the upkeep of public burying grounds have continued their obligations for over 160 years, acknowledging the importance and sacredness of the historic sites. Some of the graveyards associated with plantation properties have, fortunately, received attention from generations of family descendants. Many others, however, have been neglected or abandoned as land use patterns have changed or descendants have moved away or died—leaving no one to care for these small, but significant bits of history.

There are also a number of cemeteries in Florida that are important because of their unique cultural significance. Scattered throughout the state are cemeteries that represent the diverse cultural and ethnic populations that have contributed to its history and character, including Southeast Indian, African-American, Minorcan, Bahamian, Cuban, and Greek. These sites are important because burial practices tend to be one of the most conservative, or least changed, factors of a group's material culture—the oldest and most persistent values are sometimes preserved only in cemeteries.



SHARON WELLS

*Religious and cultural traditions are reflected in this hand-fashioned shrine in the Key West Cemetery.*



## II

# IDENTIFICATION AND SURVEYING

**N**ATURAL WEATHERING, vandalism, neglect, abandonment, agricultural practices, encroachment by development, and industrial pollution such as acid rain, all pose threats to Florida's historic cemeteries. Much that could have been valuable to the historical record has already been lost because of these factors. If the information that currently exists is to be retained and made available for future study and interpretation, it is important that it be accurately recorded and documented.

Identifying and surveying historic cemeteries is the first step toward preserving and protecting them. Surveying creates a permanent record of the resources that exist, evaluates a site's historical and cultural resources, assesses the physical condition of its gravestones and monuments, and places it within its historical context. Such work is essential for assigning "value" to the sites and determining which should be given priority for preservation/restoration. Survey records also provide a safeguard against vandalism and theft.

Surveys can be conducted in various ways, depending upon the amount of information that is required and the time and financial resources that are available to accomplish the work. A preliminary survey, usually general in nature, gives an overview of one or more cemeteries or graveyards within a designated area. It includes basic information such as the cemetery's size, the date it was established, and the number, type, and condition of

*Gravehouses are located in rural cemeteries in the Florida panhandle. These structures were destroyed soon after the photograph was taken in 1977.*

FLORIDA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES



the gravemarkers. Information compiled during a preliminary survey often determines which sites merit comprehensive surveys that involve higher levels of detail within their scope of investigation. This chapter discusses both types, but focuses on suggested guidelines and methods for conducting comprehensive surveys.

Although most cemeteries are considered within the public domain, before starting any survey work the authorities responsible for each site should be informed about the project. To survey abandoned graveyards and cemeteries, permission should be obtained from land owners to cross their property. Traditionally, access to a cemetery cannot be denied to family members or descendants of persons interred there.

## THE PRELIMINARY SURVEY

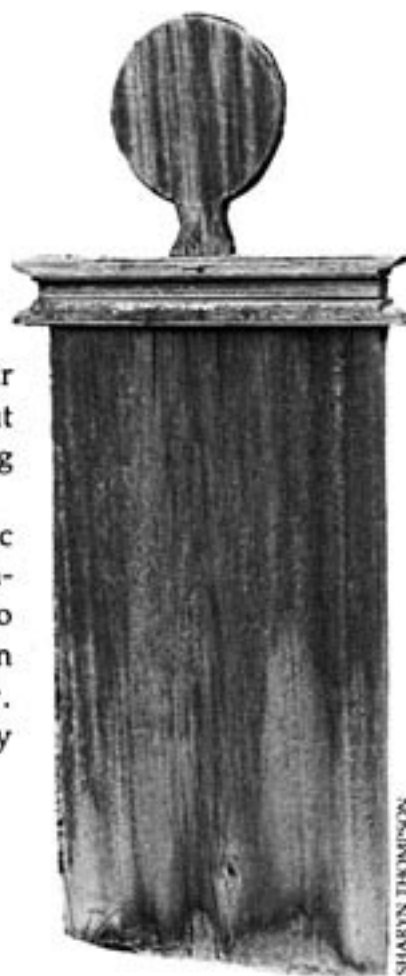
### Determining Boundaries and Selecting Sites

When conducting an "overview" or preliminary survey it is important to determine both the purpose of the survey and the geographic boundaries of the survey area. This might include surveying all cemeteries within the limits of a neighborhood, town, or county, or using a thematic approach to determine which cemeteries should receive attention—for instance, graveyards located on antebellum plantations. Other criteria can then be used to further identify the cemeteries to be included.

When the boundaries for the preliminary survey are determined, all graveyards and cemeteries within the area that fit the established criteria must be located. This may sometimes be difficult if the survey location is a rural area where small family and church graveyards have been abandoned or are located in isolated spots hidden from view by vegetative growth.

*Maps* are one of the best sources for locating old cemeteries. U.S. Geological Survey topographical sheets and county maps published by the Florida Department of Transportation often show churchyards, cemeteries, and family graveyards. It is preferable to obtain the earliest available edition of any map, because updated maps do not always include all of the information found on previous editions. Locating settlements, towns, and farmsteads that no longer exist will indicate the possible locations of burying grounds that might otherwise be overlooked.

*Interviews* (oral histories) with long-time residents of the area are often a good source of information regarding the location and history of old cemeteries and graveyards. The informants may recall a variety of details that have been overlooked or disregarded by others, and may provide interpretations of burial customs or traditions practiced within the cemetery. If possible, oral history interviews should be tape recorded and transcribed so that future researchers will have access to the information.



*Wood graveboards can rapidly deteriorate in Florida's climate. Vital information will be irretrievably lost if they are not surveyed and photographed.*

SHARYN THOMPSON



A. CEMETERY NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

B. LOCATION AND ACCESS

1. County \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_
2. Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_
3. Specific directions for locating \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Access Restricted \_\_\_\_\_ Access Unrestricted \_\_\_\_\_
5. Access by automobile \_\_\_\_\_ boat \_\_\_\_\_ foot \_\_\_\_\_

C. DESCRIPTION AND OWNERSHIP

1. Private: family \_\_\_\_\_ church \_\_\_\_\_ fraternal \_\_\_\_\_  
Public: municipal \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Approximate Size: acres \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ft. x \_\_\_\_\_ft.  
Approx. No. Markers \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. No. Graves \_\_\_\_\_
3. Topography: level \_\_\_\_\_ gentle slope \_\_\_\_\_ hilly \_\_\_\_\_
4. Current Status: maintained but not used \_\_\_\_\_ being used for burials \_\_\_\_\_ abandoned \_\_\_\_\_
5. Type: American Indian \_\_\_\_\_ African-American \_\_\_\_\_  
Plantation:  
White \_\_\_\_\_ Slave \_\_\_\_\_  
Folk or Ethnic traditional \_\_\_\_\_  
Early Public Burying Ground \_\_\_\_\_
6. Appearance:  
Well maintained \_\_\_\_\_ Poorly maintained \_\_\_\_\_ Overgrown by vegetation \_\_\_\_\_  
Markers in good condition \_\_\_\_\_ poor condition \_\_\_\_\_ vandalized \_\_\_\_\_  
Not identifiable as a burial site, only known to exist by oral tradition or other means \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain \_\_\_\_\_

D. GRAVEMARKERS AND FUNERARY ART/ARCHITECTURE

1. Are gravemarkers present? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are the markers legible? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Materials most markers are made of:  
marble \_\_\_\_\_ granite \_\_\_\_\_ metal \_\_\_\_\_ wood \_\_\_\_\_ concrete \_\_\_\_\_  
sandstone \_\_\_\_\_ slate \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are there markers of artistic significance? \_\_\_\_\_  
Describe: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are there stones signed by carvers? \_\_\_\_\_  
Carver Names: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are there above ground tombs \_\_\_\_\_  
box tombs \_\_\_\_\_ mausolea \_\_\_\_\_ grave houses \_\_\_\_\_ grave goods \_\_\_\_\_
7. Are there persons of historical significance buried here? \_\_\_\_\_  
Describe: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Date of earliest burial \_\_\_\_\_ Date of most recent burial \_\_\_\_\_
9. Are there enclosures around graves? \_\_\_\_\_  
Are enclosures wrought iron \_\_\_\_\_ cast iron \_\_\_\_\_ brick wall \_\_\_\_\_ wooden pickets \_\_\_\_\_ chain link \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the cemetery threatened by: neglect \_\_\_\_\_ vandalism \_\_\_\_\_ farming operations \_\_\_\_\_  
development \_\_\_\_\_ looting or robbing \_\_\_\_\_ poor maintenance practices \_\_\_\_\_

Brief history of the Cemetery: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Has the cemetery been listed in a published or unpublished genealogical survey?  
Has a history of the cemetery been written previously?  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Surveyor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

MAP INFORMATION

Example of the type of form that can be used for a preliminary survey.

regarding maintenance, condition of the gravemarkers, the approximate number of markers, the earliest and latest death dates on the markers, whether there are markers of stylistic or artistic significance, and if persons of historical significance are buried there. A brief history of the cemetery should also be included, along with any references that provide

*Research* to discover what is already known about selected cemeteries will help determine what should be recorded during the survey. Libraries, historical and genealogical societies, and local preservation boards are good sources for information. Some cemeteries may have been previously surveyed and the surveyor may have submitted the material to the Florida Master Site File, a program administered by the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Florida Department of State. The office should be contacted to learn if any of the cemeteries included in the survey are have been listed. (Please refer to Appendix A.) Gravemarker inscriptions copied by genealogical society members are another source of information. Such records may be useful in determining if any markers have been lost from a cemetery since the initial recording was done, and can also help decipher inscriptions that, because of vandalism or weathering, are no longer legible.

### Completing "Overview" Survey Forms

As each cemetery is surveyed, a form about the site must be completed. In Florida there is no standard form currently being used for historic cemetery surveys, and the person or group doing a survey has some latitude in determining what to record. However, certain information must be obtained. This includes the name(s) the cemetery is known by, its location, size, ownership (private, public, fraternal, church, etc.), general condition

information about the site. The date and the name of the surveyor(s) should always appear on the form.

## THE COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY

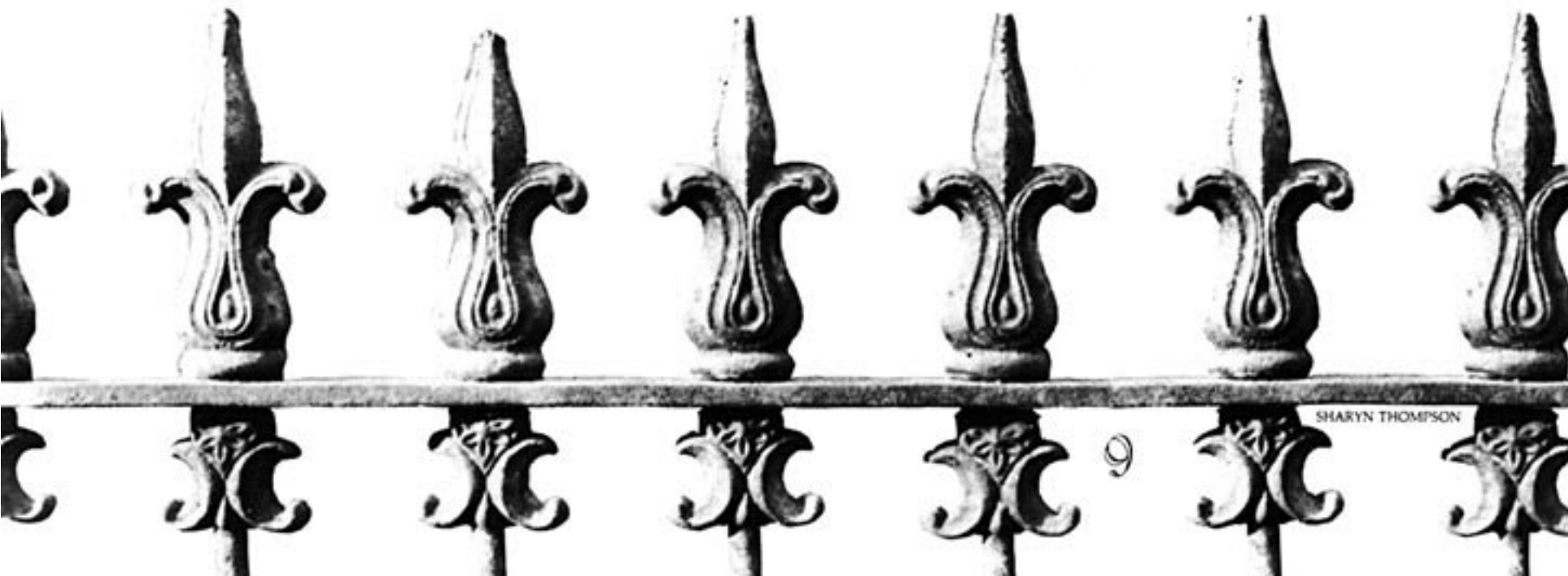
A comprehensive survey compiles detailed data about a cemetery by systematically recording both the physical condition and the historical/cultural aspects of the site on a "grave-by-grave" basis. Information compiled in such a survey is essential for determining preservation goals and priorities.

**Getting Organized** for a comprehensive survey can be a laborious undertaking. It requires exact observation, meticulous attention to the recording of details, and the commitment of large amounts of time. Before beginning a survey, people must be organized, funds to support the project secured, and a person(s) selected to supervise the work.

**Financial Resources** are a prime consideration when planning a survey. The cost to employ a consultant (if required) and/or train volunteer surveyors must be determined. Film, photo processing, printing of survey forms and final reports, as well as miscellaneous expenditures such as postage, telephone, and photocopying, are costs associated with the project's total budget.

**Personnel** for the survey should consist of (1) the individual responsible for supervising the project, and (2) the person(s) who will do the survey, which includes completing the field work and the photography, recording data on forms, and submitting a final report. The survey can be conducted by a professional consultant placed under contract, or it can be done by volunteers. Survey work of any type requires a degree of training, practical application, and research ability. If volunteers conduct the survey it is important that they be trained to identify and accurately record the required information.

**A Survey Form** must be developed that includes all the criteria necessary for documenting the cemetery. The project supervisor or the surveyor should design a form that addresses both the typical and the unique features of the site. Depending upon the funerary



art and architecture that is present, more than one type of form may be needed to adequately record all of the cemetery's features. This is particularly important if there are a number of unusual markers or above-ground tombs or mausolea. Recorded information

should include the gravemarker inscription; type of material, dimensions, shape and design motif of the marker; signature of the stone carver (if available); orientation of the grave; and a detailed description of the physical condition of the marker. There should be space on the form for remarks about such items as coping stones, fencing, grave goods, statuary, etc. If the collected data will be kept on a computer, it may be helpful if the survey forms used in the field are compatible with the computer program.

## CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY

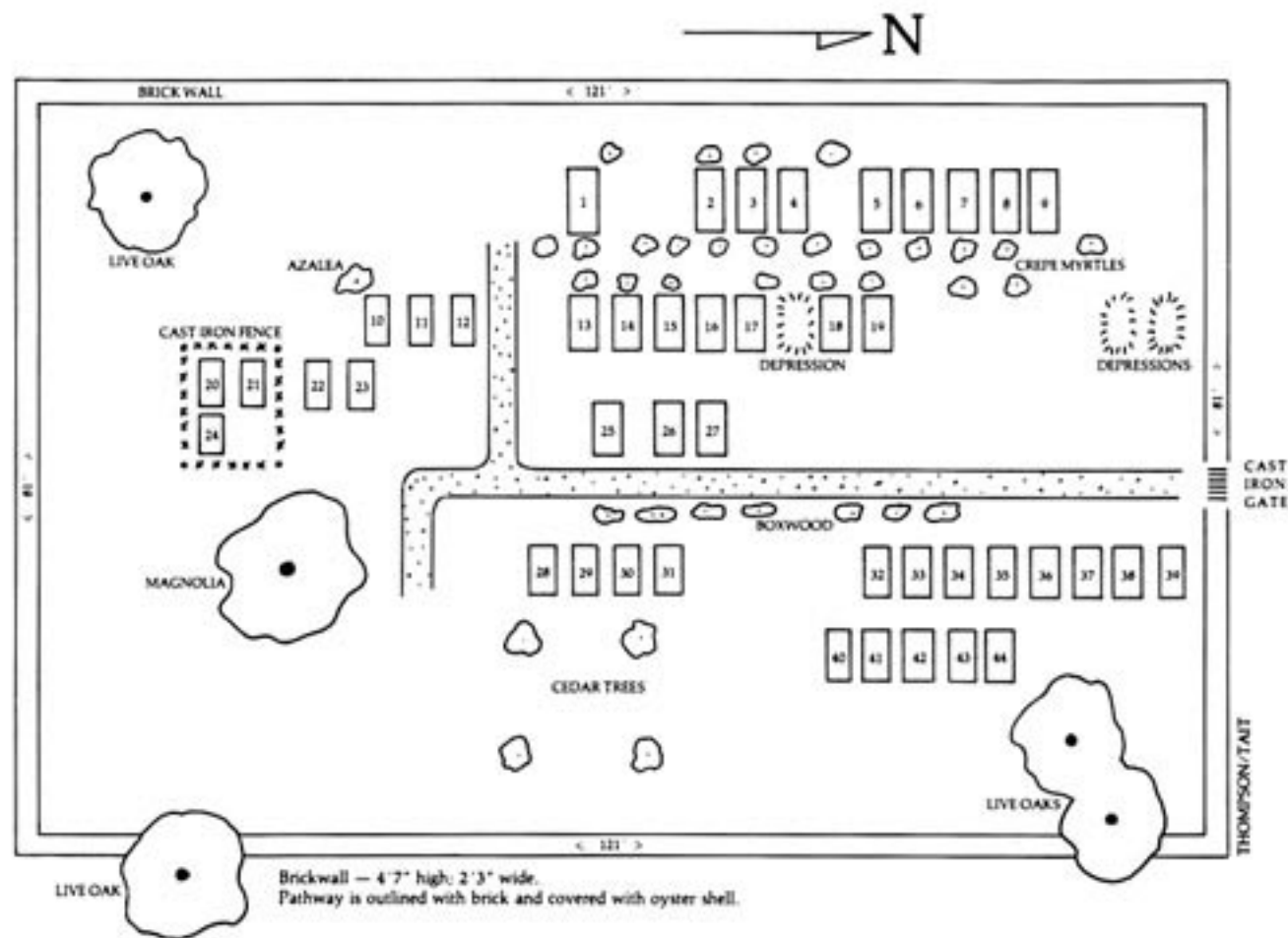
**Beginning Field Work** — If the survey is conducted in a well-maintained cemetery there should be little difficulty with starting the work. However, if the cemetery or graveyard has been neglected for a long time and is covered by dense vegetation, surveying may be slow and difficult. Tall grass and shrubs can hide graves and markers and create a hazardous situation for the surveyor. The site should be cleaned before attempting to record what is there. If possible, plan to do both clean-up and survey work during the winter months when vegetative growth and heat/humidity will cause the fewest problems.

The sections entitled "Initial Cleanup" and "Fragment Care" in Chapter IV discuss the steps to be used when starting a clean-up.

**Platting the Cemetery** — An important first step of any survey is to map the location of graves and other cultural features, such as plantings, fences, and walls, within the cemetery. A plat not only records the location of graves but shows their spatial relationships to one another and to other artifacts. If, at a later date, the site suffers deterioration or

FIELD SURVEY SHEET—INDIVIDUAL MARKER	
Grave # _____	Section # _____
Name on Marker: _____	
INSCRIPTION:	Inscription Technique <input type="checkbox"/> Carved <input type="checkbox"/> Painted <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
	Gravemarker Material <input type="checkbox"/> Marble <input type="checkbox"/> Granite <input type="checkbox"/> Sandstone <input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input type="checkbox"/> Cast Iron <input type="checkbox"/> White Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> Wood <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
	Gravemarker Size <input type="checkbox"/> Height _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Width _____
	Gravemarker Design <input type="checkbox"/> Willow and Urn <input type="checkbox"/> Latin Cross <input type="checkbox"/> Cross & Crown <input type="checkbox"/> Bible <input type="checkbox"/> Hands <input type="checkbox"/> Flowers <input type="checkbox"/> Lamb <input type="checkbox"/> Dove <input type="checkbox"/> Inverted Toech <input type="checkbox"/> Draped Urn <input type="checkbox"/> Masonic <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
CONDITION OF GRAVEMARKER: weathered _____ cracked _____ broken _____ several fragments _____ vandalized _____ disaligned _____ previous repairs _____ Description: _____ _____ _____	
FOOTSTONE: material _____ design/initials _____	
COPING: material _____ design _____	
FENCING: material _____ design _____	
GRAVE ORIENTATION: east/west _____ north/south _____	
GRAVE GOODS: _____ _____ _____	
Surveyor _____	Date _____

*Example of a comprehensive survey form used to record information about a gravemarker.*



*A good map is an essential part of any cemetery survey. Features that should be recorded include marked and unmarked graves, vegetation, roads and pathways, fences and walls.*

vandalism, there will be a record of how its features were located.

When making a map it is important to include not only marked graves, but depressions in the earth that might indicate unmarked graves, plantings that appear to have been placed in the cemetery for the specific purpose of marking grave sites, and features such as roads, pathways, and fences.

Ideally, a map should be made by a professional cartographer, especially if the cemetery is large and has a complex layout. However, this is often not feasible for a survey project that is operating with a small budget. An adequate map can be made on graph paper, with distances and the location of objects determined by using a tape measure. The exact size of the cemetery should be measured and the gravemarkers and other features placed in relative position to one another. A "north arrow" to indicate orientation of the graves is essential. Each grave on the map should be assigned a number and the grave's map number should be included on the corresponding survey form and in all photographs.

**Recording the Information** — Data for each grave and marker must be recorded. The *condition* of each grave marker should be noted, with any damage, and the location of the damage, described in detail (for instance, "mortar eroding from the brick work on south side of vault," "lower right (north) corner of stone chipped at ground level from being hit by lawn mower," or "headstone broken in half and lying on the ground"). Similarly, any repairs that have been made to a marker should be noted.

For a comprehensive survey unusual grave-stones and markers, such as this coffin-shaped vault, should be fully described and photographed.



SHARYN THOMPSON

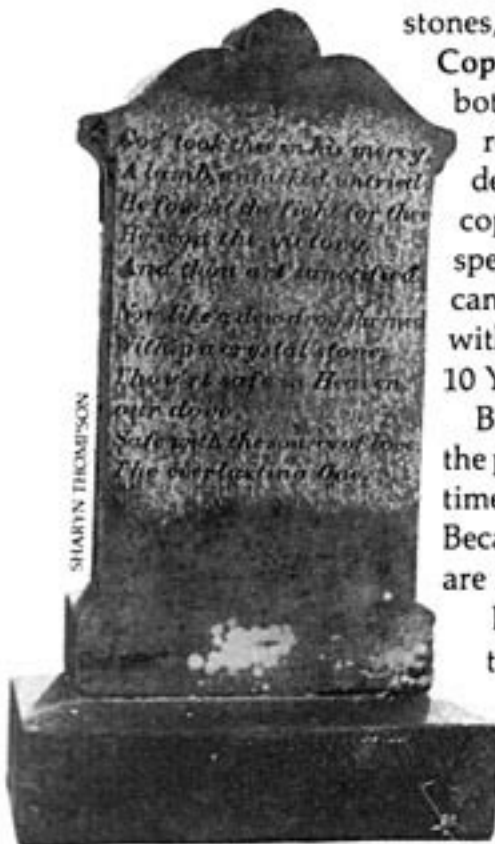
Rubbing chalk on the face of a headstone can sometimes make an inscription easier to read. However, chalk can stain a stone and it should be removed with water and a soft-bristled brush.

The *type of marker* at the grave (slab on brick vault, tablestone, tomb, etc.), should be recorded, as should the kind of *material* from which the marker is made (marble, sandstone, concrete, white bronze, etc.). It is also important to *indicate (and describe) the presence of other types of funerary art or architecture* which might mark the grave, such as coping stones, statuary, fences, or enclosure walls.

**Copying Inscriptions** — The inscription on a gravemarker provides valuable data for both the historical and genealogical records. As discussed in Chapter I, inscriptions reveal information on such subjects as social history, settlement patterns, demographics, and religion. Attention to detail is vital—an inscription must be copied *exactly* as it appears on the marker—line by line—including all punctuation, spelling, upper and lower case lettering, and abbreviations. If any part of an inscription cannot be read, its content should not be assumed. Illegible parts should be indicated with a question mark. For example: "Memory of/ Dear Adell/ Died Oct 27:1877/ Aged 10 Years/ Too fondly loved/ Too early lost./ TRIAY."

Bible verses, poems, and other types of epitaphs are frequently found inscribed below the personal information about the deceased. In many instances the carving for such sentiments is more shallowly incised than the carving for other parts of the inscription. Because of this, the epitaphs are sometimes badly weathered and difficult to read. They are important, however, and, if possible, should always be copied.

Early scripts and carving techniques can sometimes make an inscription troublesome to read. If a gravemarker is weathered or otherwise damaged, copying errors can easily be made by confusing some letters and numbers. Common mistakes are 1-4-7; 3-5-6-8; and 9-2. When possible, marker inscriptions should be copied during the times of day when the sun strikes the face of the stone at an angle, creating shadows that make the inscriptions appear more sharply.

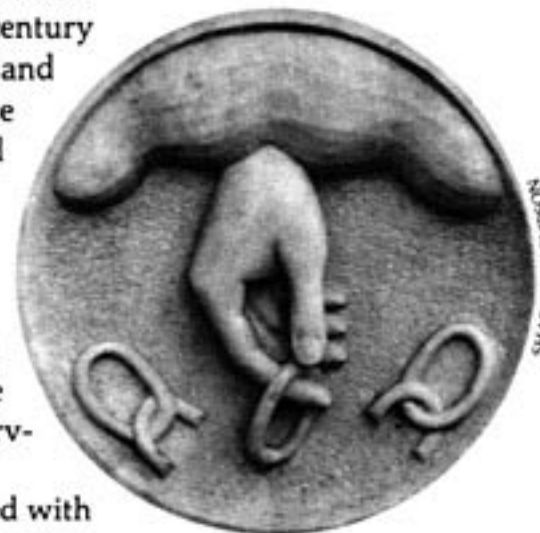


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**Design Motifs** — Funerary art in Florida encompasses a variety of motifs, with some designs having many variations. Common designs found in 19th and early 20th century cemeteries include Latin crosses, urn and willow trees, doves, lambs, hands, bibles, and flowers and vines. All designs should be noted. If the carving is outstanding, or if the design seems unique to the cemetery or the survey area, it should be fully described and photographed.

**Signed Gravestones** — Early stones were sometimes signed by their cutters, while stones of the late 1800s and early 1900s may bear the name and location of the monument company. The signature most often appears in the lower right-hand corner of the gravestone, although sometimes it is on the back or on the base. Metal gravemarkers and cast iron fencing may have a plate or sign which gives the name and location of the foundry. These signatures are important to the study of stone carving, folk art, and regional trade and transportation patterns.

**Plantings** — Some plant species have special meanings or superstitions associated with them and were commonly placed at burial sites by mourners. This type of information should be noted because of the rich detail it can add to the study of burial customs. In addition, cemeteries are sometimes a refuge for early varieties of plants that are no longer grown in today's gardens and orchards.



*Gravestone designs give information about attitudes regarding death and resurrection.*

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographic documentation is an important part of any survey. A visual record of all material artifacts in a cemetery provides exact information for preservation and restoration efforts, and gives detailed evidence for the study of such subjects as social history, religion, art and carving traditions, and regional architecture. Photographs can also be used as evidence to recover artifacts that may be removed from a cemetery by thieves or vandals.

Only black and white film should be used for survey photographs. The dyes used in color film deteriorate over time and photos will ultimately be lost. A 35mm camera, with a macro or "zoom" lens, is the most efficient type for photographing. Print film with 125 ASA is recommended, although faster film, such as 400 ASA, may be desirable if the site has a heavy tree canopy that blocks the light. The best time to photograph gravestones is from midday through early afternoon. During this time the angle of the sun casts shadows that bring out the most detail. "False readings" will sometimes occur from a light meter because of the way light reflects from the face of a stone or other flat surface. An "incident light" meter will overcome this difficulty.

Every attempt should be made to photograph marker inscriptions and art work clearly. To prevent distortion of the image, markers should be photographed with the lens pointing level with their centers. If possible, a "north arrow" should be placed at the base of the marker, and the number which indicates the grave on the accompanying map and the survey form, should be included in the photo. This type of information is particularly useful if the cemetery is large and if photographs and survey sheets might become separated from one another.

*Many plantation graveyards in north Florida are abandoned and neglected because of changing land use patterns.*



SHARYN THOMPSON

Photographs pertaining to each grave should be attached to the appropriate survey form. Negatives should be placed in acid-free holders and stored in such a way that they will not wrinkle or be exposed to light. The storage environment should not be subject to extreme fluctuations of humidity or heat.

### THE FINAL COPY

When the survey is complete, it may be preferable, or necessary, to transfer information from the field sheets to new forms or to computer discs. The more times material is copied, the greater the chance for error. To insure the greatest degree of accuracy, proofread the final copy.

It is important to keep and store the original field sheets because they are the "primary" documents of the survey. If possible, the field sheets should be printed on acid-free paper and, when stored, appropriate archival methods employed to guarantee their availability to future researchers.

Placing copies of the survey with libraries and historical and genealogical societies will insure against loss of the document, and allow access to the information by others interested in the subject. However, information valuable for the preservation of an historic cemetery can also lead to its destruction. The desecration and robbing of graves, particularly at abandoned or isolated sites, is not uncommon. Graves are sometimes robbed because it is believed that the remains may have antique jewelry, and graves of soldiers who died in America's early wars are robbed for such items as uniform buttons and belt buckles because they bring a high price from collectors. A cemetery can also fall prey to unscrupulous individuals who steal unique gravestones, fencing, statuary, etc., to sell as antiques and folk art. While there is no foolproof way to prevent records from falling into the wrong hands, restricting access to survey information for certain cemeteries and graveyards should be considered.



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### Tools

There are several items a surveyor will find useful when doing field work. These include a measuring tape for plat work and for recording the size of markers; a clipboard to hold the survey forms; a small bag or box for keeping track of exposed rolls of film; a soft-bristle brush and a plastic spray-type bottle filled with distilled water for removing lichen and bird droppings from gravestones; a broom for sweeping leaves and debris from slabs and vault tops; a hand clippers for removing branches, roots, and grasses which may obscure a marker; and a small trowel for removing earth from around sunken stones.

### Safety

Personal comfort and safety are primary considerations for anyone working in a cemetery. A first aid kit and drinking water should always be available. Items such as insect repellent, sun screen, gloves, and a wide-brimmed hat are useful during certain seasons of the year. Soap and water for washing, and cortisone ointment, will help alleviate some of the problems that may be caused by toxic plants such as poison ivy.

Four species of venomous snakes live in Florida: the Southern Copperhead, Eastern Coral Snake, Florida Cottonmouth, and the Rattlesnake (three subspecies of the rattlesnake range within the state). While these snakes are not known to have a particular liking for old cemeteries, such areas do provide excellent hiding and sunning spots. Surveyors should be alert and take care to avoid these reptiles, particularly if the site has not had regular maintenance.

In some areas heavy infestations of ticks are common during certain parts of the year, and chiggers, or "red bugs," can often make surveying an old cemetery very unpleasant. The bite of the hard-to-see chigger causes redness, swelling, and itching, and can plague an individual for several weeks. A hard frost usually guarantees the absence of ticks and chiggers, but it is always best to take precautions. Wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants, with socks pulled *over* the pant cuffs, together with the use of insect repellent, will prevent many problems. A salve mix of sulphur powder and petroleum jelly is usually effective against chiggers.

Precaution also means being aware of areas that are unsafe for an individual to work alone. In an isolated survey site, or in "a high crime area," work with at least one other person. Local authorities or participants of the survey project should be notified about when and where work will be done, and the approximate time the surveyors expect to return.





### III

## RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

**T**O UNDERSTAND how a cemetery has developed and changed, and to evaluate the significant cultural features that are reflected in its gravemarkers and attendant funerary art and architecture, it is necessary to compile a history of the site. All information concerning the site is relevant and in many instances can be utilized for both historical and preservation purposes. For example, determining the original source of brick used in a cemetery's wall may give details about an early brickmaking industry and about the area's trade patterns; the same information can also influence decisions regarding techniques used for preserving the cemetery's brickwork.

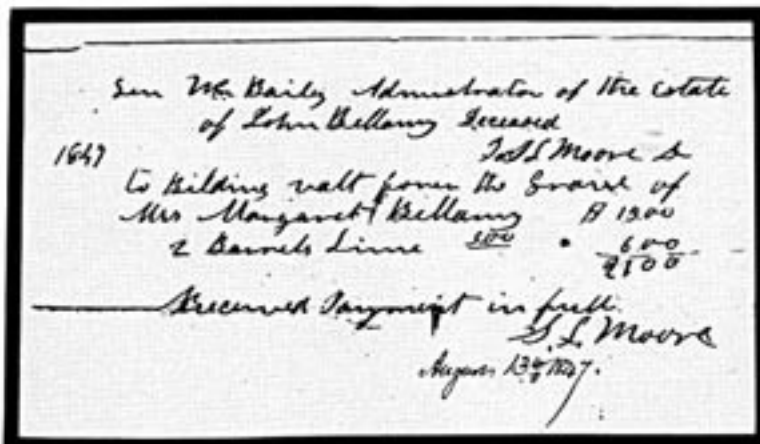
A variety of primary and secondary source material is available for researching the history of a cemetery. In many instances, information from one source will give clues about other sources that should be consulted. This chapter briefly discusses some of the primary sources that can be helpful when researching the history of a selected cemetery. At the end

of this section is an historical overview of Tallahassee's Old City Cemetery (1829-1937) that illustrates how some of these sources can be utilized and interpreted.

**Probate and Estate Records** often contain material relating directly or indirectly to a cemetery. The name and address of an undertaker, stone cutter, or monument dealer is sometimes found on bills to the deceased's estate and may provide detailed information about such items as the coffin or the type of gravemarker that was purchased to mark a plot. Wills, probate records, and estate papers are recorded in the appropriate county courthouses. Early probate records for some Florida counties are available on microfilm at the

Florida State Archives, Florida Department of State, R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250.

**Deed records** provide a legal description of the property including its size, boundaries, and the date it was acquired by the purchaser ("grantee") from the owner/seller ("grantor"). Cemeteries owned and operated by municipalities or cemetery companies will usually have recorded deeds. In some instances, a deed may note that a private graveyard, located on the transferred property, has been excluded from the sale. It is helpful to know the approximate date a cemetery was established, and when properties were sold, when searching for deed information. Deed records are located at county courthouses. Early deed records for most



Estate and probate files sometimes contain miscellaneous information about an early cemetery. This invoice was found among the papers of John Bellamy, whose estate was charged \$21.00 "to building vault over the grave" of his wife, Margaret, in 1847.



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VIEW OF

# MONTICELLO, FLA.

COUNTY SEAT OF JEFFERSON CO.

1885.

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- 1 City Hall
- 2 Jefferson Academy
- 3 Court
- 4 Presbyterian Church
- 5 Methodist
- 6 Episcopal
- 7 Baptist
- 8 S. B.
- 9 Catholic Church
- 10 Catholic Church
- 11 Post Office
- 12 The Commission Office, T. S. Fitch, Esq. and Prop.

- 13 The Johnson House
- 14 Perry
- 15 Park & Threshing, General Machinery
- 16 A. T. Johnson
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FLORIDA PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

Florida counties are available on microfilm at the Florida State Archives in Tallahassee.

**Personal Papers** in archives, libraries, and private collections may contribute information that pertains to a cemetery or a burial. Letters and diaries in these collections are very useful but other items, such as business receipts and account books, should not be overlooked.

**Business Records** of funeral homes and monument dealers, particularly if the firm has been in business for a number of years, can have records that provide information regarding gravemarkers—but as important, they may include notations about lot and plot numbers within the cemetery, or indicate the location of graves that are now unmarked.

**Oral Histories** obtained from persons familiar with the cemetery and its locality can be an excellent resource. A community's older residents may remember the location of long-abandoned graveyards and recall how a certain site appeared at a much earlier date. Personal recollections of funerals and mourning customs will add rich detail to the understanding and interpretation of a cemetery.

**Historical Maps** are a valuable source of information for researching the history of a cemetery. Public cemeteries, churchyards, and family graveyards figured prominently in Florida landscapes and were often designated on contemporary maps. Early city and county maps, as well as original plans for the laying-out of towns, are among the best primary sources for determining the location and original boundaries of historic burying grounds.

*"Bird's-eye View" maps of Florida towns are often helpful for researching the history of a cemetery, but should not be relied upon as the sole authority. For example, this 1885 view of Monticello clearly shows the public cemetery but does not include the Palmer family graveyard that is located at the western edge of town.*

Newspapers are an important primary source. Obituaries sometimes include references to cemeteries; advertisements placed by stone cutters and monument dealers indicate the artisans who supplied the area with funerary art and architecture; the shipping news columns may list gravestones on a ship's manifest, indicating from what port the items were shipped. Ordinances pertaining to burying grounds and their operation were sometimes printed, as were articles concerning events such as clean-up days, memorial services, etc. Cemetery vandalism is a topic often covered by local newspapers—these articles can provide vital clues about a cemetery's appearance during earlier time periods.

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Early Photographs, Postcards, and Stereopticon Views are particularly useful for understanding how a cemetery looked during previous time periods and for determining if its gravestones and funerary art have been altered or lost. Information gathered from these sources is also necessary when decisions are made that affect preservation and restoration procedures which will be used at a site. Collections of historical photographs are often



FLORIDA PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES



SHARYN THOMPSON

Tolomato Cemetery, St. Augustine, c.1882.

Tolomato Cemetery, St. Augustine, 1987.

found at local libraries, historical societies, and preservation boards. The Florida Photographic Archives has a number of cemetery photographs among its vast holdings (R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250).

*A comparison of photographs taken 105 years apart shows dramatic changes at Tolomato Cemetery—particularly in vegetation types and in the loss of the wooden crosses and paling fences used to mark graves. However, the chapel, above-ground tombs, and many of the marble markers appear much the same today as they did a century ago.*



West Palm Beach, Fla. Entrance Woodlawn Cemetery.

*Cemeteries that were considered old and picturesque, or had graves of important historical figures, were popular scenes on early postcards.*

## AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF TALLAHASSEE'S OLD CITY CEMETERY

Tallahassee's Old City Cemetery was officially established in 1829, five years after the town was founded as the capital of Florida Territory. A cross-section of early Tallahassee's population—slaves, planters, governors, yellow fever victims, soldiers killed in battle, and, perhaps most importantly, the many citizens who were part of "everyday life"—are buried there. Because it is the final resting place of so many of the men and women who contributed to the history of Florida during its territorial and antebellum periods, the cemetery is of statewide significance. All Floridians have a vested interest in its remarkable history and in its preservation.

The material which follows was compiled from various primary and secondary sources to illustrate how information sources can be used to understand and interpret the history of a cemetery.

The earliest mention of Tallahassee's cemetery is in *Records of the Territorial Council*. The council established the public burying ground in 1829 on the city's western boundary in an unplatted area near Two-hundred Foot Street (present-day Park Avenue).

The City of Tallahassee acquired the burying ground several years later when lots were auctioned in the Northwest Addition. According to the 21 March 1840 issue of the newspaper, *The Floridian*,

*On Monday, the 4th day of May next, will be offered for sale . . . by the Commissioner of the City of Tallahassee a number of valuable BUILDING LOTS, varying in size from one to ten acres, . . . Some of these lots are advantageously situated in the City of Tallahassee, and others lie immediately contiguous to it on the West.*

That certain lots were acquired for the city burying ground during the auction is mentioned in a letter that Charles Hutchinson wrote on 29 May 1840 noting that,

*The place has been considered public land until about 4 weeks since, when the streets were cut thro' & the land on either side was sold at auction . . . that on which our brother remains was purchased by the corporation for a grave yard. . . .*

The following year a yellow fever epidemic swept through north Florida. The disease may have been the reason city officials passed the *Ordinance for the Establishment and Regulation of a City Burying-ground*. The ordinance, published in the 20 August 1841 issue of the *Florida Sentinel*, specified how the burying ground was to be laid out, graves located and dug, and records kept.

*[The] . . . ground between Call, Boulevard, and McCarty streets, and Grave-Yard Alley, running from McCarty to Call street . . . laid off into oblong squares of 40 feet by 36 feet, to be separated by alleys running from North to South and East to*



*West, each square to be subdivided by lines crossing each other at right angles, into four small and equal lots, each 20 feet by 18 feet; the alleys to be 5 feet wide, excepting two main alleys or walks, crossing at right angles through the centre of the ground, which shall be 16 feet in width . . . whence the lines of said squares, alleys or borders shall cross graves already made, the lines in that case, shall only be indicated by stakes on both sides at their junction with the occupied ground.*

The ordinance also created the position of superintendent for the burying ground and assigned responsibility for upkeep of the cemetery to the city of Tallahassee.

*To take charge of the ground and enclosures when erected, and attend to their preservation . . . the said superintendent shall bury all white persons to be interred in such section of the premises as shall be set for that purpose by the direction of the City Council; and all negroes and persons of color, in such other section as shall be designated by a partition fence to be erected by order of the City Council.*

The required method of record-keeping was designated in Section 6, which specified that it would be

*The duty of the superintendent to keep two separate books, in one of which he shall fairly and accurately register the interment of all white persons, and in the other the interment of all negroes and persons of color buried in this burying ground.*

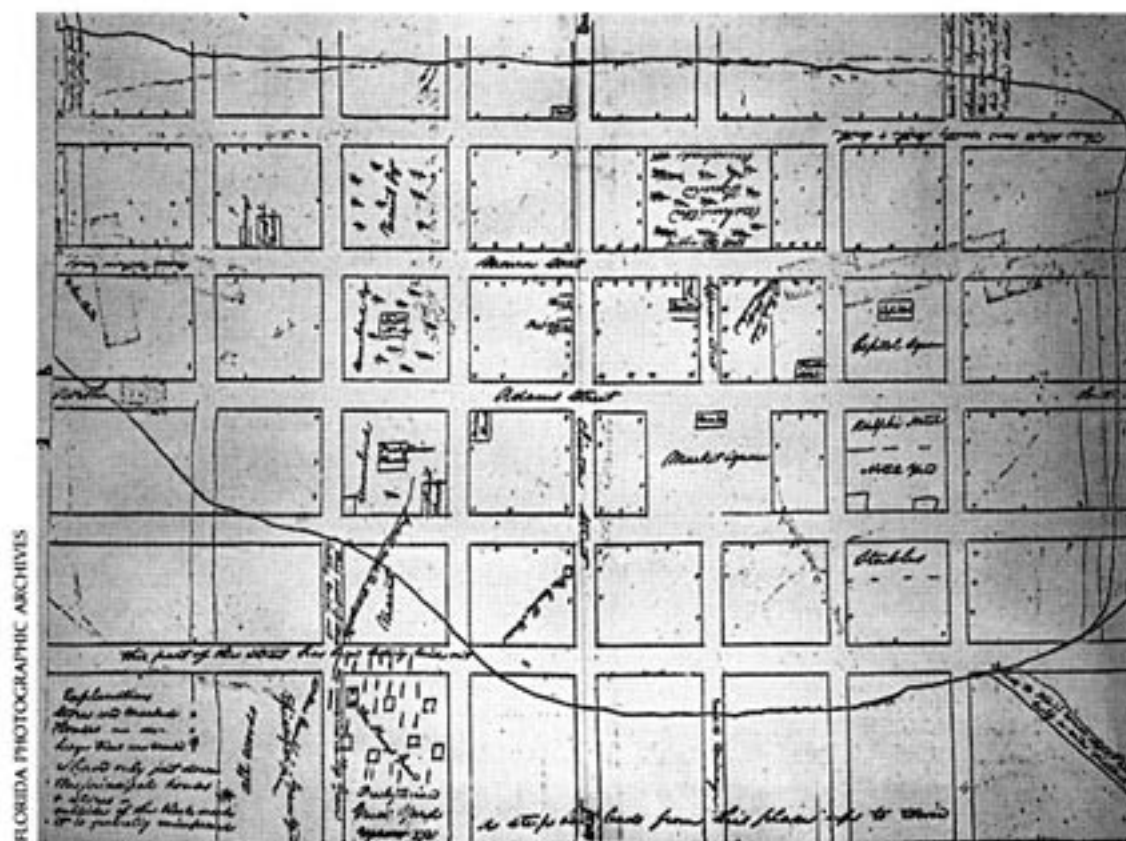
The book concerning burial of white persons was to include such information as the date of interment, name, age, occupation, "place of nativity," the person's time of residence in the city, and the disease or casualty of which the person died. The records kept for Negroes and other people of color distinguished free persons of color from slaves, gave the date of interment, the name, age and place of birth, time of residence in Tallahassee, and the disease or other cause of death. If the person was a slave, the owner's name was listed in the book.

The ordinance established rules and set punishments for breaking these guidelines. Interment within the corporate limits of Tallahassee was illegal except within the public burying ground or in the burying grounds of religious denominations. The deceased was required to be buried in the graveyard ". . . within 21 hours after death." The ordinance also specified that:

*Any free person, who shall wantonly destroy or damage the tombs or fences of any of the burial grounds of this city, shall, on conviction, pay a fine of twenty-five dollars, and if the party so offending be a slave, be condemned to receive not less than 10, nor more than 39 lashes.*

Other documents supply details concerning the burying-ground's early appearance. One of the most helpful sources is a series of letters written in 1840 by Charles Hutchinson, who had only recently arrived in Tallahassee. Several of Hutchinson's letters, written to his sisters in New York, describe the grave of their brother, Henry, who had been shot in July 1839 while pursuing a group of Indians who had killed members of the Green Hill Chaires family.

Charles Hutchinson's 1840 map of Tallahassee showed the location of the public burying ground and St. John's churchyard.



In one of his letters Hutchinson included a detailed map showing the location of Henry's grave. In his letter of 29 May he gave an account of the grave and how he had cared for it.

*I worked this morning on the grave of bro Henry, helping Geo. Proctor put a head and foot board to the grave around which was put a paling of pitch pine for which together with the two boards at the head and foot I paid him thirty dollars. . . . the headboard has his two initials painted in black (HH) upon the inside.*

*You will see by the plan which I have been drawing, the exact location of the graveyard & the situation of brother's grave—The grave by the side of & North of brother's, with a star at the head of it is R.R. McNelly's who was a clerk here with Harry, [sic] who died but about two months before our brother—You will observe that McNelly's grave lies in the street as does several others. The place has been considered public land until about 4 weeks since, when the streets were cut thro' and the land on either side was sold at auction—that on which our brother remains was purchased by the corporation for a grave yard, & that on the north side was purchased by the members of the Episcopal Church, for a similar purpose.*

*Mrs. Gamble is first & only one buried in that yard [St. John's]—she was a member of that church—You will observe that the grave of our brother & Mrs. Gamble are nearly opposite. Mrs. G's is about 10 feet from the corner & our brother's is about 15 feet—Our brother's paling is about one foot inside the line where the fence is to run—As yet neither of the grave yards are enclosed, but are to be so immediately . . . [her husband] has been at work for two days past beautifying the grave setting out grass & roses etc. He is going to get tomb stones and an iron railing in New York this summer. . . .*

*The graves in the streets have to be removed—you will see by the map that the line of the street runs between Brother's & McNelly's—I should think there were about twenty, which will have to be removed out of the two streets.*





*This c. 1880 stereopticon view of Tallahassee Cemetery shows that both wooden picket fences and masonry walls were used to enclose plots.*



The Minutes of the Tallahassee City Council also reveal some of the cemetery's history. J.R. Cohen read a resolution before the council 5 February 1890.

*Whereas it is a religious custom of the Jews to bury their dead only in consecrated ground, and whereas the Jewish citizens of Tallahassee owing to the fact that there is no place in the city cemetery set apart to their exclusive use, are put to the trouble and expense of carrying their dead to the city of Jacksonville for Interment, and whereas it is the desire of the City Council to respect the religious customs of this people, many of whom are among our best and worthy citizens therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Tallahassee, That lots six and seven as shown on city maps of the cemetery, better described as the first 2 lots north of the main Eastern entrance be set apart and devoted to the Exclusive use of citizens of the Jewish faith as a burying ground for their dead.*

*Provided the said lots be held by them subject to the general regulations for the government and control of the cemetery.*

Another newspaper, the *Tallahassee Weekly Democrat* noted on 9 March 1906 that there was a need for good sidewalks from St. John's Episcopal Church to the cemeteries, because

*The ladies as well as the gentlemen had to wade through the mud in the middle of the street. In some places the clay was very thick . . . much to the inconvenience of the ladies especially.*

The United Daughters of the Confederacy (U.D.C.) for many years assumed the responsibility for caring for the graves of Confederate soldiers in Tallahassee. The records of the **Anna Jackson Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy** (now in the Florida State Archives at Tallahassee), contain information about the soldiers buried in the public graveyard during the Civil War, and about the placement of those graves. These records are especially important because the names and dates of some burials were recorded from the *Cemetery Register* before it was lost in a fire which burned the caretaker's shed (c. 1914). The U.D.C. files also contain information about the cemetery's appearance in the late 1800s.

In an attempt to find and record the names of all the Confederate States soldiers buried in Tallahassee the U.D.C. compiled information from the *Cemetery Register*, letters from people involved in the burials, and interviews with Tallahassee residents. A January 1899 letter to General Patrick Houstoun from Mrs. Robert Howard Gamble informed him that ". . . the ladies of the Memorial Association of Tallahassee respectfully submit the following:

*In the old Cemetery book for that period, there are recorded the names of forty-six soldiers dying here and buried in the cemetery. But there are many more besides these whose names do not appear on the record. Some were brought here after the Battle of Natural Bridge, some after "Olustee," and some died in camps and hospitals near here.*

*The mounds were unfortunately leveled some years back; but a careful examination of the ground by the old Sexton—Isaac Jenkins (who knows more about our old Cemetery than any other living man) shows that there were buried in these six plots 186 men. There are probably others scattered in different places. . . .*

*There are also in a different part of the Cemetery many graves of Union soldiers. There are 72 in all. One row of head-stones answers for a double row of graves; 15 head-stones mark 30 graves. Then there are 22 graves; each with its own grave-stone; and about 20 unmarked graves. There are a few more unmarked graves, but this is as correct as we can make it.*

The 1885 "bird's-eye view" map of Tallahassee clearly shows many marked graves in the public cemetery as well as the large obelisks in St. John's Churchyard that mark the graves of Prince and Princess Murat.



A note in the file written by the chapter's historian, Mrs. Clara R. Hayden, states, "The Union soldiers buried in Tallahassee are negroes killed in the battle of Natural Bridge. The graves are situated in the South West corner of [the] cemetery."



FLORIDA PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

City Commission meeting minutes reveal how the city's cemeteries reflected Tallahassee's social and political climate. In 1936 and 1937 efforts began to close the city's public cemeteries to Negro burials.

Tallahassee's earliest burying-ground allowed burials of all races, although in segregated areas, as decreed by city ordinance in 1841. The minutes of the 12 January 1937 City Commission meeting show that the city sexton recommended to the city commissioners that the Negro

section of the old cemetery be closed. The commissioners directed the city attorney to draw up an ordinance "requiring that that part of the old cemetery devoted to the burial of negroes be closed unless they can show title to family lots in the said cemetery."

On 26 January the ordinance was introduced:

*An Ordinance closing that part of the City Cemetery heretofore designated as the public burying ground for the purpose of the burial of the dead bodies of colored persons and prohibiting the further burial of the dead bodies of colored persons in said cemetery.*



*The business records of funeral homes and monument dealers are good sources of information for documenting the history of a cemetery.*

On 9 February 1937 the members of the city commission voted upon and passed the Ordinance. This action resulted in the establishment of the Greenwood Cemetery Company in 1937, a private corporation which purchased land to be developed as a burying ground for the city's black population.



## IV PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

*It is important to have an understanding of preservation principles before beginning work in any historic cemetery so that nothing will be mistakenly discarded or destroyed.*

**P**ROPER CARE of old graveyards and cemeteries is a complex task. Often it begins by rescuing a yard from tangles of brambles and years of neglect. In order to avoid poor procedural choices or inadvertent damage to the yard or its stones, it is important to consider all aspects of a site before beginning any process. This chapter outlines basic procedures for preserving a cemetery and identifies some acceptable techniques for the caring of gravestones. *It is strongly recommended that actual stone conservation be executed only by carefully chosen professionals.*

The term *preservation* refers to steps taken to retard, stop, or prevent deterioration. Properly approached, it represents an attitude toward the site that is both historically aware and respectful of the dead. This attitude, as much as the work which follows it, ensures that the historical character of the yard will be maintained during restoration efforts and after the work is completed.

While preservation deals with stopping or retarding deterioration of a cemetery, *restoration* deals with righting the wrongs of both man and nature against gravestones, markers, walls, and fences. Restoration seeks to correct problems and may include cleaning and resetting stones, rejoining broken fragments, reconstructing crypts and vaults, and probing for buried stones and fragments. The intent in restoration is not to "make like new," but to correct deterioration as much as possible to preserve the stones and the yard while retaining historical integrity.

### BEFORE WORK BEGINS

When considering an historic cemetery, one should approach the yard much as an architectural conservator might look at an historic building—that is, by keeping in mind that *all* features of the yard must be examined and all, by their very existence, are a part of the history of the cemetery.



SHARON THOMPSON

A basic understanding of preservation principles is needed before considering specific aspects of the work. The three principles which follow will be familiar to preservationists. They are:

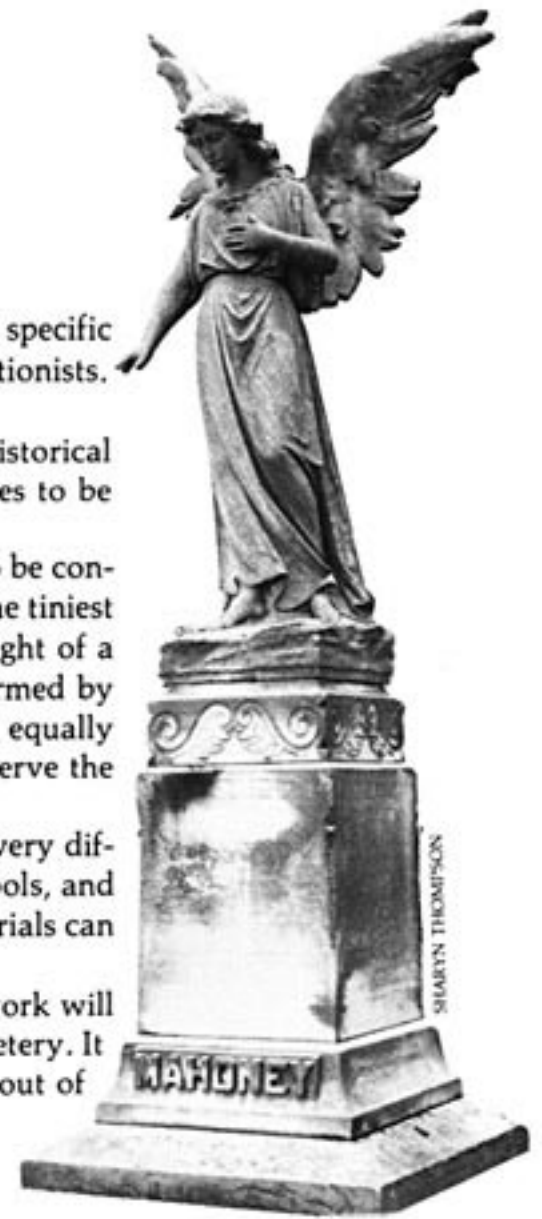
- **Determine what work is required and why.** That is, determine social and historical significance and form, underlying deterioration problems, and proper procedures to be used to correct problems.
- **Retain original form and original fabric.** In this case, the "form" and "fabric" to be considered apply to the features of the yard in both the largest and smallest sense. The tiniest stylistic details of a single memorial or marker—the brick bond pattern, the height of a marker above ground level—are equally as important as the larger patterns formed by roads and paths or placement of ornamental plantings. All should be considered equally and all should be retained in as original a condition as possible in order to preserve the historic integrity of the site.
- **Use appropriate materials and techniques.** Working with historic materials is very different from new construction and requires specific skills, knowledge, materials, tools, and techniques appropriate to each circumstance. Introduction of inappropriate materials can cause serious, even irreparable damage.

Careful consideration of all the needs of the cemetery before beginning any work will ensure that hastily-made decisions do not result in work which damages the cemetery. It will also save money and time, and prevent unnecessary delays and work done out of sequence which then must be repeated.

## PRESERVATION PROCEDURES

**Fences and Walls** — Consider plot designation at an early point in any project. In many Florida cemeteries cast iron fencing, brick or coping stone borders, or walls define grave plots. When cleanup takes place workers often tend to remove these because it may be difficult or time-consuming to move mowers in and out of plots and around stones. However, these enclosures are an integral part of the yard. They do a great deal to establish the character of an individual site and they represent the local cultural and stylistic preferences regarding funerary practices as much as the monuments do themselves.

Retaining walls also are removed sometimes to simplify maintenance. However, such action generally occurs without consideration of their intended purpose. Without such walls at cemeteries located on steep slopes, the hills erode. In many cases only a thin layer of grass holds the soil. As erosion occurs, gravestones gradually disalign, leaning down the hill; as the grade level of the soil changes foundations meant to remain underground are exposed. In extreme cases, stones actually drop off the side of the hill, to be found years later at the bottom, sometimes with burial remains that have been exposed by the



*The repair of statuary should be left to professional stone conservators.*

*This tabby wall is significant to the historical character of the cemetery.*



same process. The message is clear. It is not only historically correct, but a practical necessity, to keep retaining walls in good condition. They may require periodic tuckpointing of masonry joints or restuccoing of surfaces for maintenance.

When elements of brick walls are missing, they can often be replaced with the same or similar material. Replacement of ironwork can be more difficult. Ironwork should be

replaced by experienced restoration artisans with work that matches the material and design of the original as closely as possible. If cost prohibits such reproduction it is preferable to clean and stabilize the existing work, leaving gaps in the enclosure, rather than to use inappropriate ironwork. When a cemetery has a substantial amount of ironwork, and existing funds allow for only partial restoration, restore one example of each style and stabilize the remaining ironwork.

**Landscaping** — In a small, simple cemetery “remedial” maintenance may be all that is necessary. Removal of tree limbs which threaten stones and removal of trees and saplings that are entwined around stones, uprooting tombs, or causing other problems will upgrade the yard and prevent further deterioration of the markers.

Efforts should be made to retain historic vegetation since it, too, creates the character and historical statement of the cemetery. Some trees and shrubs may have been planted by mourners as symbols of death or bereavement or to simply add beauty to the grave site. Occasionally, a tree of historic importance may be disrupting a stone by pushing it out of plumb or threatening to envelop it with its roots. In such a case, one may document the stone to indicate its original location, and move it to a location as near the original site as possible. Moving a stone always must be

the exception to the rule: when in doubt, the stone remains and the foliage is removed. Once a monument is moved and no longer marks a grave, it becomes merely a memorial stone.

In a large or more sophisticated cemetery, landscape preservation requires the advice and assistance of an historic landscape architect. This is particularly true of cemeteries whose date and style reflect the rural cemetery movement when large yards with elaborate landscaping plans emerged. A landscape architect experienced in working with these cemeteries can recognize which plantings are appropriate, which developments have taken place much later, and what choices regarding removal and the addition of plantings should be made.



CLAYTON ROBERTSON

*Trees will sometimes dislodge gravemarkers, as has happened in the Old Manatee Burying Ground.*

These cemeteries may be particularly difficult to deal with since the question arises whether to restore the landscaping to a particular historical period or whether to allow the landscaping to reflect the history of the yard. An additional concern (and one which often dictates what approach will be used) is that such elaborate schemes are costly to develop, restore, and maintain.

## RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

Cemetery restoration will generally upgrade the condition of a neglected or damaged yard, as well as repair damage to fences, walls, roads, and other aspects of the yard. Volunteer workers can be useful in many aspects of preserving a cemetery, and can sometimes become involved with certain aspects of restoration. However, they need training before attempting any type of corrective procedure.

Only qualified conservators or masonry artisans should repair early tabletstones, box tombs, and other monuments. Such professionals are familiar with qualities peculiar to old stone and early brick which have distinct requirements and problems associated with their repair. Special mortars, adhesives, and application techniques must be used in repairing these early materials because they are different from materials and techniques used in the construction and repair of modern monuments. Specific skills are also required for the successful completion of these types of repairs.



*Proper restoration often requires skilled artisans who are familiar with the techniques and materials used in early brick and stone work.*

## RESTORATION PROCEDURES

**Initial Cleanup** — The initial cleanup is often the first “hands-on” activity to take place in the restoration of a cemetery. While most of the work centers around removing debris and cutting back vegetative overgrowth, persons engaged in this task must understand the importance of considering the stones first.

In a badly overgrown yard, an awareness of traditional 19th-century plantings and assistance of a horticulturist is recommended because accidental removal of historic vegetation can easily occur. It is essential that no markers or fragments be moved or discarded, and that they all should be considered fragile. Many are brittle from years of standing exposed to both the natural elements and the influences of modern society.

**Fragment Care** — In cleaning and maintaining any cemetery, the problem of what to do with broken and uncovered fragments and dislodged stones will occur. Fragments are



especially vulnerable. Souvenir-hunters, vandals, and collectors may steal fragments small enough to carry easily; ordinary maintenance may result in damage from mower blades or discard in cleanups; well-meaning individuals might place undocumented stones in a basement or closet for safekeeping where, unidentified, they eventually will be thrown away. Any cemetery preservation project requires safe storage for stone parts, especially if restoration work will not begin immediately.

A clear and accurate record of each broken and dislodged stone and fragment should be made before any are moved from the cemetery. Fragments should be identified by location within the cemetery and, if possible, by the name on the headstone to which each belongs. No fragment should be discarded, no matter how unimportant it may seem. Its place, in what at first may appear to be a jigsaw puzzle, might become apparent at a later time.

If stones cannot be housed in a secure, dry indoor storage facility until restoration can begin, the more vulnerable may be protected by constructing a wooden or canvas (not plastic) case over them and by resting them on wooden pallets which are clear of the ground. While the intention is to keep out precipitation, the passage of water vapor is essential. Another alternative is to bury stable fragments and stones on site after documentation, in the exact location in which each was found, maintaining the same orientation. If the parent stone is known, the fragment should be buried directly behind that stone for easy retrieval. Documentation is especially important since those buried are

lost to view. Stones must be buried to a sufficient depth so they will not sustain damage from above ground forces such as footsteps and lawnmowers. They should be set in a bed of sand to encourage drainage and to provide a cushion on which the stone can rest. Stones stored in this manner are in remarkably good condition when uncovered for restoration. They have not weathered, and may be much cleaner than their above ground counterparts.

**Cleaning Gravestones and Monuments** — Many people concerned with cemetery care find soiled stones objectionable. Damage can occur equally from cleaning stones with the wrong tools and cleaning agents as well as from lichens and other growth.

The causes of soiling and staining of stones is a complex subject. Briefly stated, a variety of types of biological growth, together with airborne corrosive and soiling agents such as acid rain and industrial pollution, create the discolorations. The increasingly familiar acid rain is particularly destructive when it acts upon calcium carbonate materials which include marble, limestone, coquina, and tabby.

Fungi, lichen, and algae most often inhabit damp, shady areas. Frequently, such biological growth occurs on stones under large trees or adjacent to heavy foliage, or on stones with vines growing on them. Lichens are acidic in nature, actually etching the surface of some stone types in addition to discoloring them. It is important to be aware of specific causes of soiling before attempting any treatment.

If general stone cleaning is recommended, the work may be carried out effectively by trained volunteers and regular maintenance staff. However, it is advised that actual work take place only after careful instruction by a stone conservator or similar professional.



*Fragments of gravemarkers are vulnerable to theft and loss. They should be documented and stored in a secure place until restoration efforts can begin.*

Do not clean any stone with questionable stability. Unstable stones include those with any face or carved surface flaking, and those with "sugaring" surfaces, in which grains of stone fall away at the touch of a finger.

Do not use acidic cleaners (such as muriatic acid or most of the commercial stone cleaning preparations) on marble, limestone, coquina, or tabby. Acids attack these calcium carbonate materials and their surfaces can become badly etched or pitted.

Avoid high-pressure techniques in cleaning stones. Sandblasting harms the soft stones common to 19th century cemeteries and high-pressure water spraying can also cause damage. Many stones tolerate a water spray of only 90 pounds per square inch (p.s.i.)-common pressure from a garden hose nozzle. Pressure sprayers commonly begin at 500 p.s.i. and may go as high as 2500 p.s.i.

After selecting a stone to be cleaned, use a soft-bristled brush (plastic or natural bristle) to remove loose dry material. Then wet the stone thoroughly with clear water and scrub. Clean stones from the bottom up to the top to avoid streaking. This method will usually produce dramatic results.

Common household bleach and other cleaning agents should never be used to clean stones. While a dilute solution of calcium hypochlorite (such as is found in swimming pool disinfectant) was previously considered effective in removing biological growth from marble and limestone, some conservators now caution against its use.

In addition to using correct tools and solutions, the most important point to remember is to *pre-wet* the stone before using any cleaning agent. Apply the cleaning agent and scrub, then *flood* the stone thoroughly and scrub again with water only. Do not allow any cleaning solution to dry on the stone.

Use a soft wooden stick, such as an ice cream stick or tongue depressor, to clean out recesses on hard, stable stones such as granite. Do not use a stick on soft grainy stones, such as sandstone or limestone, or on stones that have deteriorated. Such a procedure could cause significant damage. Instead, use a cotton swab or toothbrush. Never use a metal implement.

Lichens can sometimes be removed during dry weather by carefully brushing them away with a soft, natural bristled brush. Adding water to remove them during dry periods will make some types cling more tenaciously. When the weather is damp or humid, soak the lichens with clean water and scrub with a soft-bristled brush, wooden stick, or cotton swab.

*The black-colored fungus that is common on white marble grave-markers can usually be removed by scrubbing with clean water and a soft-bristle brush.*



SHARON THOMPSON

If the stone will be damaged by their removal, let them remain. Look instead for the cause of the prolific growth on a particular stone, keeping in mind that lichens flourish in damp, shady areas. Removal of nearby foliage to allow the sun to strike the stone may be a solution to the problem.

Do not clean stones frequently. Although it may be useful to remove lichens and to prevent accretions (accumulation of organic growth) from forming, each time cleaning takes place some particles of stone wash away.

**Coatings** — Use of coating agents is not recommended because many are actually harmful to stones. Sealants often prevent water vapor passage which can eventually cause the face of the stone to break away, particularly during freeze/thaw cycles. While this is not the severe problem in Florida that it is in northern states, it still bears consideration. Sealants also stain the stone surface. Water repellents which are water vapor permeable are acceptable; however, their effects last only a few years and must be repeated. Few repellents sold for use on stone are truly water vapor permeable; many of them actually act as sealants.

Because of the wide variety of products on the market and because most have not received years of field testing, avoid using any coating product. Such a product should be used *only* upon the advice of a stone conservator or similar expert (not a company sales representative).

**Resetting Stones** — Tabletstones (a single piece of stone set directly into the ground) are sometimes found lying on the ground, sunken so deeply the inscription is obscured, or tilted precariously to endanger the stability of the stone itself. More recent markers, consisting of a stone setting on a stone base, may be tipped over. Large obelisks are sometimes toppled as well. All these monuments are appropriate for resetting.

Many gravestones can be successfully reset by volunteer workers. However, as with all phases of conservation work, it is strongly advised that no work be attempted without some prior training by a knowledgeable professional. Keep in mind that these stones weigh about 170 pounds per cubic foot. Damage can easily be done either to the stone or to the workers. Following is a brief description of the procedures to be used for several types of stone resetting.

In resetting tabletstones choose those which are severely in need of resetting and which appear to be stable. Do not choose those only in minor need of resetting since a stone may have internal fractures not apparent from looking at it; however, when it is moved, it may easily break.

Once a tabletstone has been selected for resetting, dig from the back side of the stone (if at all possible) in order to avoid marring its face. If a stone is seriously out of plumb, it may have to be dug on the side away

from the tilt even if that is the face side. Once the stone is completely free of earth, remove it carefully from the ground.

*This sandstone tabletstone must be reset if it is to be preserved.*



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Prepare a bed for the stone consisting of an even layer of bricks followed by about six inches of clean pea gravel. (Early stones were set about 40% below ground). Replace the stone carefully in the ground, positioning it vertical and level. Be sure enough stone remains below ground to support the upper portion and prevent it from tilting once it is reset. Refill excavation to just below grade with a mixture of half sand and half pea gravel for better drainage. Tamp this setting mix solid every few inches. Fill to grade with remaining soil and sod, grading the surface to encourage drainage away from the stone.

Sometimes tabletstones are broken at ground level. If both halves of the stone are available, the stone should be professionally mended and reset. If only the upper half is available, the stone cannot be reset in the usual way. Perhaps the most important thing that can be said here is *do not lay stones flat in a bed of cement and do not place the stones upright into a bed of cement*. Both techniques can be very damaging to stones and are virtually irreversible.

Cement is harder than most early stones and has very little "give" or flexibility. When the stone and cement are combined as a unit, one element will expand or contract more quickly than the other. The weaker element—the stone—will break. After a number of years, such so-called repairs often show cement intact and stone cracked in several places.

One alternative for resetting a major stone fragment is to build a wooden form and prepare a concrete box with a slot in it. The box should be several inches longer and wider than the stone which is to be reset. The slot should be at least a quarter of an inch wider and longer than the stone. When the concrete box, or base, is completely cured, it should be placed in the ground where the stone will stand. The ground should be prepared beforehand with several inches of pea gravel for drainage, deep enough that the top edge of the base is about two inches below grade. At this point, a soft mortar, consisting of one part portland cement, four parts masons' lime, and eight parts clean graded sand, should be mixed fairly wet.

The bottom and sides of the slot should then be lined with the mortar and the stone set into the slot. It can be lightly shimmed if necessary until it is level. Wait 20 to 40 minutes to cut away any excess mortar which is on the stone. If the stone is still not completely clean, wait several hours and clean it with a toothbrush and a small amount of water. The mortar will be fairly firm by this time, but still removable by scrubbing. Remove shims, and let the



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*A broken headstone that is laid flat and fixed in place with cement will rapidly deteriorate.*



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mortar set completely. Finally, cover the base level with the surrounding earth and grade it away from the stone.

When completed, this technique is not visible. Perhaps more important, if a superior method is developed or if the missing stone fragment is found, this method is reversible. Since the mortar is weaker than the stone it surrounds, it can be successfully removed if necessary. This repair does not present the problem which occurs when stones are set in cement since in expansion/contraction cycles it is the mortar, the softer material, which will break down first rather than the stone. This means the resetting may have to be repeated after some years but the stone itself is not damaged by the technique.

Markers consisting of a stone resting on a larger stone base can be reset although such stones are usually extremely heavy and may be dangerous. Attempt such repairs only if the individuals involved are familiar with the safe lifting of heavy objects, and with levers, pulleys, and hoists. Once the stone is in position, it may be set with a mortar as described above. Lay a thin bed of mortar on the surface of the base and ease the stone into place, removing all traces of mortar from the exterior of the stones. Lead shims were traditionally used for leveling and to prevent stone resting directly on stone; today plastic shims are used and may be available from a monument dealer. Appropriate adhesives may also be used but these are most readily available to conservators, contractors, and those in the monument industry. Keep in mind that different stone types require different adhesives. Although some stone types could benefit from a stronger adhesive (which might damage softer stones), the mortar technique outlined above is safe for all stone types.

Obelisks and other larger markers should be reset only by a monument firm with the equipment and knowledge to deal with such large stone masses.

**Wood Markers** — Preservation of wooden headboards and fences should be done in much the same way as other wooden structures. Treatment with a water repellent preservative (a non-toxic one consists of turpentine, linseed oil, and dissolved paraffin) will improve water runoff although it will not be effective against insects. Regular maintenance to keep foliage from growing on or near the markers is important. Plant growth keeps the wood surface damp which hastens water-caused deterioration. Wooden gravehouses require those procedures appropriate to maintain the life of any wooden building. Care should be taken to preserve as much of the existing fabric as possible.

**Probing** — A simple technique for finding fragments and stones which are usually buried just beneath the ground's surface can be accomplished by probing. To make a probe, bend a half-inch diameter metal rod to resemble a cane and gently taper the opposite end for easy insertion into the ground. Look for fragments especially in these places: rows of stones where one appears to be missing; the footstone location corresponding to a headstone which has no apparent footstone; the headstone location corresponding to a footstone which has no apparent headstone; an open area in the cemetery surrounded by stones, suggesting there once may have been stones there. Whole stones are likely to lie very near where they once stood, and fragments are often near the parent stone to which they belong.

Fragments must be unearthed very carefully in order to avoid damaging them. Once uncovered, each should be documented and repaired in the usual fashion.

*Wood gravemarkers are subject to deterioration from insects and Florida's humid climate.*



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## MAINTENANCE

Too often “good maintenance” has meant keeping the grass mowed and the litter picked up. While this is a part of cemetery maintenance, much more is involved. Good maintenance is basic to the preservation of any cemetery. Caretakers should know where to report problems. They should also know the procedure for caring for broken stones and fragments and be aware of the importance of proper documentation and storage.

**Mowing** — The mowers used to cut grass and trim around stones cause much damage in maintained cemeteries. Riding mowers, inappropriate in most historic cemeteries, severely damage stones that they hit. Even a hand mower can create tiny nicks from brushing against a stone. Once the face of a stone is damaged, water can travel under the top layer, eventually working to delaminate an entire layer of stone.

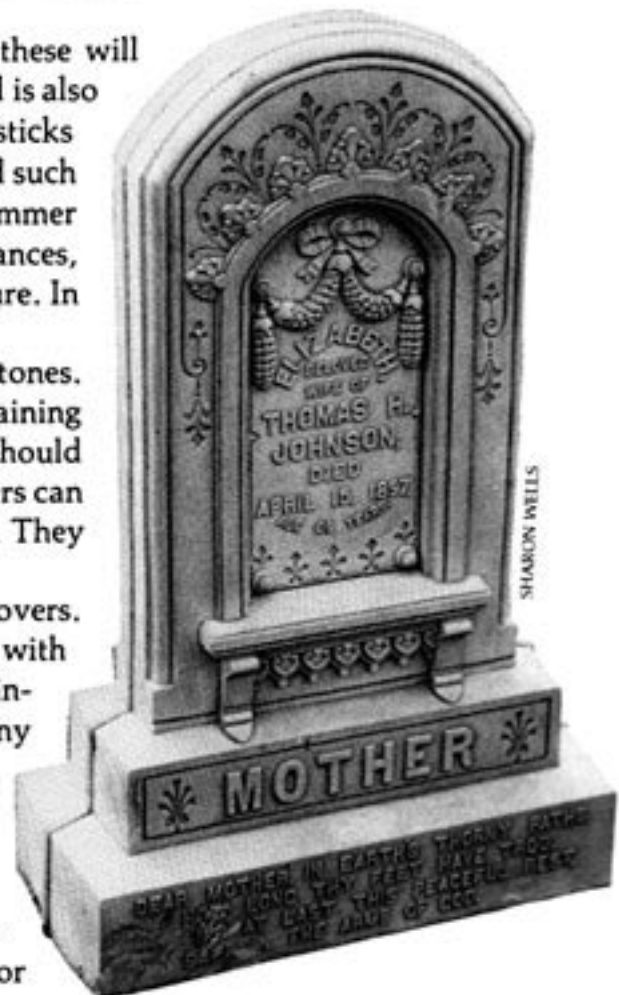
Use of rubber bumpers around mowers may be helpful, although these will sometimes leave black streaks on a stone if a mower hits it. A blade guard is also essential, not only for the safety of the caretaker and visitors, but because sticks and rocks thrown by the mower can easily damage nearby stones. Avoid such damage by eliminating the use of mowers. A nylon whip grass trimmer (“weedeater”) will effectively trim around most stones but, in some instances, even these may be more than the soft or unstable face of a stone can endure. In such cases, use hand clippers.

**Use of Chemicals** — Avoid using commercial herbicides near gravestones. They contain salts or acids which literally “eat away” markers containing calcium carbonate (marble, limestone, coquina, and tabby). Fertilizers should be avoided as they tend to be acidic. Staining and etching of stone markers can occur when chemicals leach into the soil and are waterborne to the stone. They then wick up into the stone causing discoloration and deterioration.

**Groundcovers** — Avoid mowing around stones by planting groundcovers. When grown in appropriate areas, groundcovers last many years with minimal care. They can also be used to deal with large problem areas including those with numerous markers. In cemeteries which contain many bordered plots, groundcovers will reduce maintenance and protect the stones from mower abuse. Planted according to a landscape plan, they can enhance a cemetery with repeated patterns of blossoming flowers at various times during the year.

**Trimming** — Dead trees and branches that could fall and damage markers and vaults, and tree roots or trunks which threaten to break or

*“White bronze” gravemarkers, cast of pure zinc, were popular from the 1870s through the turn of the century.*



SHARON WELLS

*Keeping vaults and tombs free of vegetation will retard deterioration.*



SHARYN THOMPSON

disrupt stones, should be removed. Small scrub trees, left untended, quickly grow into large trees which can damage stones.

Overgrown bushes and vines that are encroaching on markers, or keeping them damp, should be trimmed or removed, as should vines and other vegetation that work their way onto stones and into structures. Crypts and vaults are sometimes seen with vines and even small trees growing from the roofs. Such plant growth exerts a powerful force—even over a short time period—and should be closely controlled.

**Schedule** — All cemeteries should have established maintenance schedules. Grass mowing and trimming are chief concerns and may be on-going throughout much of the year. In winter months, trim back dead limbs and overgrown bushes and remove scrub vegetation which has sprung up during the summer. A horticulturist can assist with preparing an appropriate time schedule for such necessary maintenance activities. Some activities should take place weekly while others may be monthly, semiannually, or annually.

**Appropriate Security** — Vandalism and theft are two of the greatest problems facing historic cemeteries. In urban areas, a cemetery sometimes can be secured with a wall or fence. Although these barriers may be substantial obstacles, once trespassers are inside they are fairly free to do what they please, unseen and undisturbed. Night lighting and frequent visits can sometimes be an effective deterrent against vandals and other trespassers.

Unfortunately, cemeteries and graveyards are much more difficult to protect in rural areas, simply because they tend to be more isolated. Yards that are well cared for and frequently visited, dispelling the appearance of neglect and abandonment, offer some protection from disturbance.



# APPENDIX A

## THE FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE

**T**HE FLORIDA Master Site File is administered by the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, under the Florida Department of State. The program is a clearinghouse for information regarding Florida's archaeological sites, historical structures, and the field survey of archaeological and historical sites. The Master Site File relies on reports submitted by individuals and organizations throughout the state for its information.

When a site is accepted to the Florida Master Site File it receives an identification number which designates the state and county of the site location and the order number that the site was assigned when reported in the county. For instance, the site file number for Dog Ear Lake Cemetery, 8MR1894, indicates that it is located in the state of Florida ("8"), in Marion County ("MR"), and is the 1,894th site that has been reported from that county.

A site does not require any preset level of significance to be listed and most sites that are reported are accepted. The Historical Cemetery Form should be used for recording cemeteries. A Guide to the Historical Cemetery Form, which provides detailed information about completing the form, is also available. In addition to information requested on the Site File form, a photocopy of a USGS topographic map with the site marked, and photographs of the cemetery, must be included.

The records of the FMSF are available to the public although information about the location of certain sites may be limited if the sites are considered threatened by looting or vandalism. This restriction applies especially to prehistoric archaeological sites and unprotected shipwrecks.

For further information on the Florida Master Site File, including how to obtain and complete the historical cemetery form, contact Supervisor, Master Site File, Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State, R. A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250, telephone 850-245-6440



*This poignant expression of grief and loss was found in a north Florida cemetery.*



## APPENDIX B

### THE NATIONAL REGISTER



LISTING HISTORIC cemeteries with the Florida Master Site File is an important part of protecting such sites. In addition, the possibilities of having cemeteries that possess an extraordinary degree of significance listed on the National Register of Historic Places should be investigated. Listing on the National Register acknowledges the historical significance of a property, and offers it a degree of protection. Florida Statute 267.061 (2) requires that any project receiving state funds from a state agency of the executive branch be reviewed to determine if it will have an effect upon any historic property that is included, or eligible for inclusion, in the National Register for Historic Places. The National Historic Preservation Act makes the same provision for any project receiving federal funding.

The National Register of Historic Places, established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, is administered by the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. As described in National Register Bulletin 41 entitled, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places"

*To be eligible for the National Register, a cemetery or burial place must be shown to be significant under one or more of the four basic Criteria for Evaluation. Criteria A, B, C and D indicate the several ways in which a property may be significant in American history, architecture (including the disciplines of landscape architecture and planning), archaeology, engineering, and culture. Decisions about the relative significance of cemeteries and burial places can be made only with knowledge of events, trends, and technologies that influenced practices of caring for and commemorating the dead, and with some concept of the quality and quantity of similar resources in the community, region, State or nation. Such background provides the context for evaluating significance.*

The term "context," as applied to the press of evaluation, may be described simply as the relevant social, political, economic and environmental circumstances of the historic period in which a property was developed. By studying a burial place in its broadest possible context, and by applying the basic criteria, the researcher is able to recognize those resources which are significant in representing a given period and historic theme.

Within the broad patterns of American history, the National Register defines a number of "areas of significance." Areas of significance are equivalent to the historical or cultural themes that the property best represents. Some of the areas of significance relevant to burial places are art and architecture, community planning and development, archaeology, ethnic heritage, exploration and settlement, health/medicine, military, religion and social history. It is important when applying National Register criteria to keep in mind that, except for archaeological sites and cemeteries nominated under Criterion D, burial places also must meet the special requirements of Criteria Considerations C or D, which refer to graves and cemeteries, and possibly to A (religious properties) or other Criteria Consideration. Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they meet one or more Criterion, described as follows:

A: if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

B: if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

C: if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

D: if they have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

Certain types of properties, including cemeteries and graves, do not qualify for the National Register unless they meet certain special conditions. Included in this category are birthplaces of historical figures and properties that are owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes. Cemeteries and graves may qualify under Criteria A, B, or C if they are integral parts of larger properties that do meet the criteria, or if they meet the conditions known as Criteria Considerations. In some instances, a burial place nomination will need to be justified under more than one of the special conditions in addition to the basic criteria. Except for the graves of historical figures, burial places nominated under Criterion D are exempt from the Criteria Considerations requirements. Criteria Considerations are as follows:

A: A religious property is eligible if it derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.

B: A property removed from its original or historical significant location can be eligible if it is significant primarily for architectural value or if it is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event.

C: A birthplace or grave of a historical figure is eligible if the person is of outstanding importance and if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life.

D: A cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.

E: A reconstructed property is eligible when it is accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived.

F: A property primarily commemorative in intent can be eligible if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance.

G: A property achieving significance within the last fifty years is eligible if it is of exceptional importance.

To qualify for National Register listing, properties must retain historical integrity. The Criteria for Evaluation recognize seven factors which define historic integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. All must be considered in determining whether a burial place retains enough of its characteristic features to represent the associations, function and appearance it had during its period of significance. The natural and developed landscape features that are associated with complex burial places such as cemeteries must be considered as part of the evaluation of integrity.

Requests for information concerning proposals for the nomination of cemeteries to the National Register of Historic Places should be directed to the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State, R. A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250, telephone 850-245-6333.

# APPENDIX C

## THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM



THE FLORIDA Historical Marker Program is administered through the Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State. It “recognizes historic properties, persons and events that are significant in the areas of architecture, archaeology, and Florida history by promoting the placing of historic markers and plaques at sites of historical and visual interest to visitors. The purpose of the program is to increase public awareness of the rich cultural heritage of the state and to enhance the enjoyment of historic sites in Florida by its citizens and tourists.” Resources may be recognized as either a Florida Heritage Site or Florida Heritage Landmark depending on which set of criteria they meet.

### **Florida Heritage Site:**

To qualify as a Florida Heritage Site a building, structure or site must be at least 30 years old and have significance in the areas of architecture, archaeology or Florida history, or be associated with a significant event that took place at least 30 years ago.

Properties associated with a historically significant person may qualify as a Florida Heritage Site 30 years after the death of the individual or 30 years after the event with which the person is associated.

The resource should visibly retain those physical characteristics that were present during the period for which it or the associated person is significant.

A moved building or structure may qualify as a Florida Heritage Site if the move was made 30 or more years ago, or the move was made to preserve the resource from demolition and reasonable attempts were made to ensure that the new setting is similar to the historical setting.

**Florida Heritage Landmark:**

To qualify as a Florida Heritage Landmark a building, structure or site must be at least 50 years old and have regional or statewide significance in the areas of architecture, archaeology or Florida history, or be associated with an event of statewide or national significance that took place at least 50 years ago.

The resource should visibly retain those physical characteristics that were present during the period for which it or the associated person is significant.

A moved building or structure may still qualify as a Florida Heritage Landmark if the move was made 50 or more years ago, or the move was made to preserve the resource from demolition and reasonable attempts were made to ensure that the new setting is similar to the historical setting.

Application can be made for matching grants for Florida Historical Markers when funds are available. These funds are to be used solely to defray half the cost of manufacturing the marker or plaque. Other activities related to requesting an Official State Marker, such as research and the preparation of marker and grant applications, are not eligible for grant funds. There is no limit on the number of markers or plaques for which funding can be requested in a single grant application. Normally, individuals and for profit organizations must bear the full cost of paying for historical markers and plaques, but state and local governmental agencies and non-profit organizations may apply for matching grants to defray half the cost of markers used to recognize resources of regional and statewide significance.

Detailed information and application forms for historic markers can be obtained from The Florida Historical Marker Program, Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, R. A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399; telephone 850-245-6333.



# APPENDIX D

## FLORIDA STATUTES AFFECTING PROTECTION OF HISTORIC CEMETERIES



HERE ARE several laws which affect the preservation and protection of Florida's historic cemeteries and graveyards. The most important of these is Chapter 872, *Florida Statutes, Offenses Concerning Dead Bodies and Graves*. Amendments to the statute, which went into effect October 1, 1987, provide protection for human remains and archaeological sites.

### **872.02 Injuring or removing tomb or monument; disturbing contents of grave or tomb; penalties.--**

(1) A person who willfully and knowingly destroys, mutilates, defaces, injures, or removes any tomb, monument, gravestone, burial mound, earthen or shell monument containing human skeletal remains or associated burial artifacts, or other structure or thing placed or designed for a memorial of the dead, or any fence, railing, curb, or other thing intended for the protection or ornamentation of any tomb, monument, gravestone, burial mound, earthen or shell monument containing human skeletal remains or associated burial artifacts, or other structure before mentioned, or for any enclosure for the burial of the dead, or willfully destroys, mutilates, removes, cuts, breaks, or injures any tree, shrub, or plant placed or being within any such enclosure, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(2) A person who willfully and knowingly disturbs the contents of a tomb or grave commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(3) This section shall not apply to any person acting under the direction or authority of the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State, to cemeteries operating under chapter 497, or to any person otherwise authorized by law to remove or disturb a tomb, monument, gravestone, burial mound, or similar structure, or its contents, as described in subsection (1).

(4) For purposes of this section, the term "tomb" includes any mausoleum, columbarium, or belowground crypt.

### **872.05 Unmarked human burials.--**

(1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent of the Legislature that all human burials and human skeletal remains be accorded equal treatment and respect based upon common human dignity without reference to ethnic origin, cultural background, or religious affiliation. This section applies to all human burials, human skeletal remains, and associated burial artifacts not otherwise protected under chapter 497 or other state law and found upon or within any public or private land in the state, including submerged lands.

The primary historic preservation law for Florida is the **Historical Resources Act (1986)**, Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*. Section 267.061(1) of the act defines the state's policy toward its historical resources:

(a) The rich and unique heritage of historic properties in this state, representing more than 10,000 years of human presence, is an important legacy to be valued and conserved for present and future generations. The destruction of these nonrenewable historical resources will engender a significant loss to the state's quality of life, economy, and cultural environment. It is therefore declared to be state policy to:

1. Provide leadership in the preservation of the state's historic resources;
2. Administer state-owned or state-controlled historic resources in a spirit of stewardship and trusteeship;
3. Contribute to the preservation of non-state-owned historic resources and to give encouragement to organizations and individuals undertaking preservation by private means;
4. Foster conditions, using measures that include financial and technical assistance, for a harmonious coexistence of society and state historic resources;
5. Encourage the public and private preservation and utilization of elements of the state's historically built environment; and
6. Assist local governments to expand and accelerate their historic preservation programs and activities.

(b) It is further declared to be the public policy of the state that all treasure trove, artifacts, and such objects having intrinsic or historical and archaeological value which have been abandoned on state-owned lands or state-owned sovereignty submerged lands shall belong to the state with the title thereto vested in the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State for the purposes of administration and protection.

Part (a) of s.267.061(2) offers some protection for historic cemeteries and graveyards by providing that:

(a) Each state agency of the executive branch having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed state or state-assisted undertaking shall, in accordance with state policy and prior to the approval of expenditure of any state funds on the undertaking, consider the effect of the undertaking on any historic property that is included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. Each such agency shall afford the division a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to such an undertaking.

The Historic Preservation Compliance Review Section of the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State, is the agency primarily responsible for reviewing development projects which alter the environment (Section 106 of the **National Historic Preservation Act** and s.267.061(2) of the **Florida Historical Resources Act**), determining the components of historic preservation to be included in state lands management plans, and assisting local governments in comprehensive planning for historic resources.

Chapter 497, *Florida Statutes*, the **Florida Cemetery Act**, regulates the cemetery business within Florida. It does, however, address an issue concerning the preservation of historic graveyards and cemeteries.



Section 497.284 reads:

**Abandoned cemeteries; immunity; actions.--**

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a county or municipality which has within its jurisdiction an abandoned cemetery or a cemetery that has not been reasonably maintained for a period in excess of 6 months may, upon notice to the department, take such action as is necessary and appropriate to provide for maintenance and security of the cemetery. The solicitation of private funds and the expenditure of public funds for the purposes enumerated in this subsection are hereby authorized, provided that no action taken by a county or municipality under this subsection shall establish an ongoing obligation or duty to provide continuous security or maintenance for any cemetery.

(2) No county or municipality nor any person under the supervision or direction of the county or municipality, providing good faith assistance in securing or maintaining a cemetery under subsection (1), may be subject to civil liabilities or penalties of any type for damages to property at the cemetery.

(3) A county or municipality that has maintained or secured a cemetery pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1) may maintain an action at law against the owner of the cemetery to recover an amount equal to the value of such maintenance or security.

State law provides certain access to cemeteries in s.704.08:

**Cemeteries; right of ingress and egress for visiting or maintenance.--**

The relatives and descendants of any person buried in a cemetery shall have an easement for ingress and egress for the purpose of visiting the cemetery at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner. The owner of the land may designate the easement. If the cemetery is abandoned or otherwise not being maintained, such relatives and descendants may request the owner to provide for reasonable maintenance of the cemetery, and, if the owner refuses or fails to maintain the cemetery, the relatives and descendants shall have the right to maintain the cemetery.



## APPENDIX E

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FLORIDA PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

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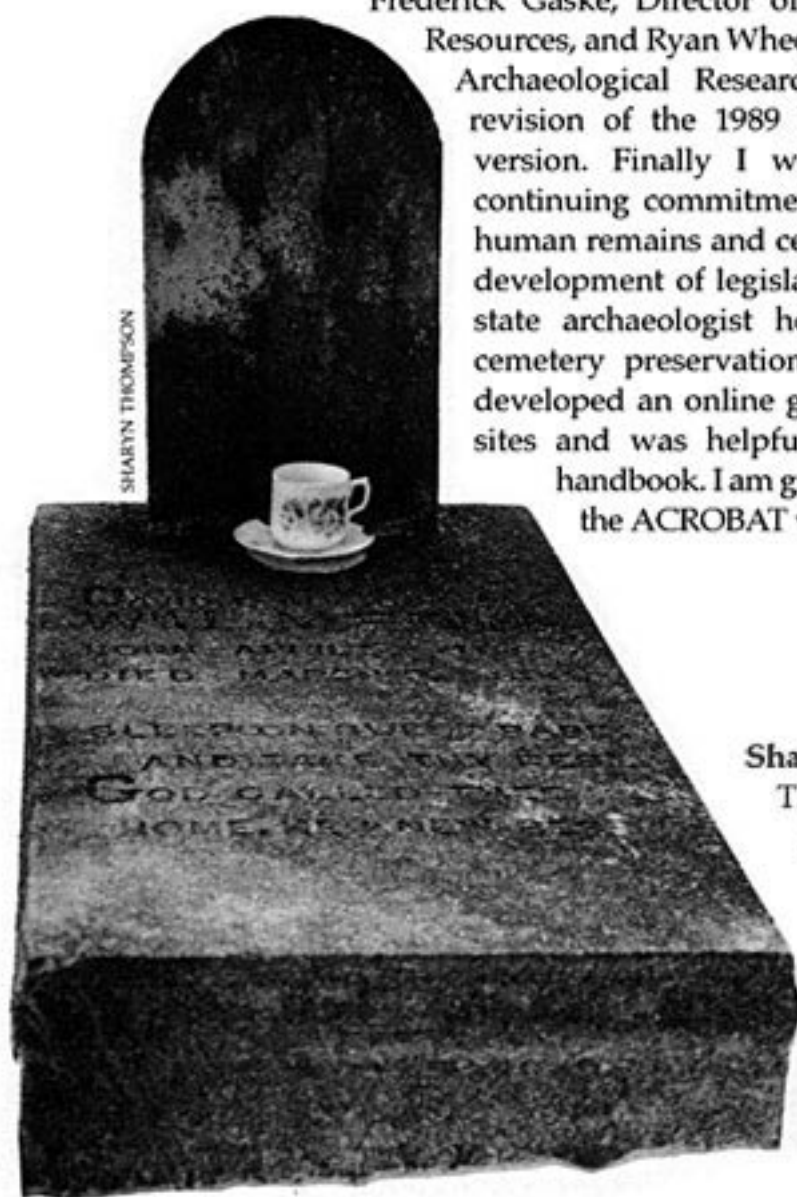
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