

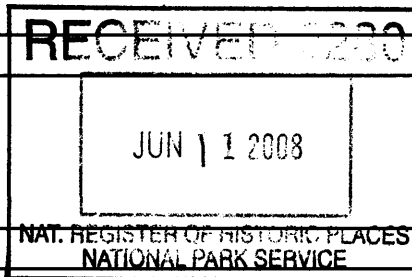
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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name      Lott Cemetery  
other names/site number      N/A



## 2. Location

street & number      Butler Street, between Tebeau and Pendleton streets  
city, town      Waycross      ( ) vicinity of  
county      Ware      code GA 299  
state      Georgia      code GA      zip code      31501

( ) not for publication

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property:

- ( ) private
- (X) public-local
- ( ) public-state
- ( ) public-federal

### Category of Property:

- ( ) building(s)
- ( ) district
- (X) site
- ( ) structure
- ( ) object

### Number of Resources within Property:

### Contributing

### Noncontributing

buildings	0	0
sites	1	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

W. Ray Luce  
Signature of certifying official

5-27-08  
Date

to W. Ray Luce  
Historic Preservation Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Bell 7.24.08

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

FUNERARY/Cemetery

### Current Functions:

FUNERARY/Cemetery

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

N/A

### Materials:

foundation	N/A
walls	N/A
roof	N/A
other	N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Lott Cemetery is located northeast of the Ware County Courthouse in a residential area of downtown Waycross, Ware County, in southeast Georgia. The cemetery encompasses the city block bounded by Butler, Tebeau, Quarterman, and Pendleton streets. The cemetery is entered on Butler Street through an iron gate supported by four brick posts and is divided into sections by three north-south main driveways and six east-west driveways with walkways in between. The oldest section of the cemetery is the northeast quadrant near the intersection of Quarterman and Pendleton streets and is slightly askew from the grid with plots laid out on the diagonal. There were no designated sections for religious or ethnic groups. African Americans were buried along the western edge of the cemetery. The earliest burial in the cemetery was in 1877, and Lott Cemetery was the primary burial place in Waycross until two new city cemeteries were opened, the 1907 African-American Pine Hill Cemetery and the 1901 Oakland Cemetery. A wide variety of funerary art is found in Lott Cemetery including flat slab markers, decorative upright markers, obelisks, and statuary. Some of the plots are outlined in brick, stone, or concrete coping. There are six family plots surrounded by cast-iron fencing, including one marked with "Stewart Iron Works Company." The cemetery has fine examples of Victorian-era funerary art including angels, Woodsman of the World markers, urns, and broken columns. Some unique grave markers include a statue of a young girl, a bas-relief carving of a teenage boy with his boat, and a monumental round colonnade with an angel in the center. The cemetery also contains an unknown number of unmarked burials and an indigent or "potter's field" burial area. Landscaping includes cedar, magnolia, pecan, palm, and dogwood trees, and oleander, camellia, forsythia, and azalea bushes.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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*The following description is taken from the August 23, 2005 "Lott Cemetery" Historic Property Information Form that was prepared by Mrs. William Bowen, Jr. and Mrs. Spurgeon Clark, Jr. for the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia – Waycross Town Committee and edited by Lynn Speno, Historic Preservation Division. It is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.*

Lott Cemetery is the oldest public city cemetery in Waycross and is located on the northeast side of the city, just a few blocks from downtown. Located on flat land consisting of one city block just over five acres in size and bounded by Butler, Tebeau, Quarterman, and Pendleton streets, the cemetery is surrounded by residential areas. The streets were named for prominent Waycross citizens: Jesse Butler (county ordinary); Major Philip Coleman Pendleton (early settler of Tebeauville); Captain F. E. Tebeau, father of Catherine Tebeau (wife of Major Pendleton); and Reverend John Way Quarterman (pastor and professor). The residential areas consist primarily of small, frame houses. Across Tebeau and Butler streets are public housing units; Quarterman and Pendleton streets contain small modest residences. The four-lane Tebeau Street (the northern boundary) has grown into a major thoroughfare and businesses have developed within sight of the cemetery. The main entrance to the cemetery is on Butler Street (photograph 1).

The rights of way on Tebeau and Butler streets contain grass and paved sidewalks, while the rights of way on Quarterman and Pendleton streets contain grass only. The cemetery's landscaping has no formal plan. The grounds are interspersed with some mature, very large cedar and magnolia trees, along with red-tipped photinia, pecan, palm, and dogwood trees. There are also oleander, camellia, forsythia, and azalea bushes (photographs 6, 12, 19, and 27).

Lott Cemetery has a green cyclone perimeter fence with a primary entrance on the Butler Street side. Four red-brick columns and a black, metal, double-gate mark this entrance, which is located in the middle of the cemetery at Center Drive. Each gate is inscribed in raised lettering with the words "Cyclone Fence Co. Wuegan Ill., Cleveland O., Newark, N. J., Ft. Worth, Tex." (photographs 1, 33, and 35). There is also a double-gate entrance at Quarterman Street at the end of Center Drive that is generally not open except for service vehicles.

Nine grass-covered driveways, three that run north-south and six shorter ones, generally running east-west, make the entire cemetery highly accessible. One of the driveways is designated as Center Drive, and another is East Drive, while the others are not named (photographs 23, 35). Many grass-covered walkways delineate the gravesites in an orderly grid fashion (photographs 4, 23, 28, and 35).

The somewhat formal rows of gravesites begin at the main entrance on Butler Street. These rows are laid off in an orderly grid. What is termed the "Old Section", located in the northeast quadrangle of the cemetery, contains plots that are slightly askew to the rest of the gravesites.

A wide variety of funerary art sculpted in marble, granite, cement, brick, and concrete is found in the cemetery. There are numerous examples of flat, stone, slab markers (photographs 4, 5, 9, 21) typically with the name and dates of the deceased on the top, but upright monuments are also common. Raised, etched, or indented lettering can all be found. The standing monuments range

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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from very simple, small markers (photograph 10) to very large ornate monuments (photographs 20 and 37). Particularly prominent are truncated columns and obelisks which are symbolic of life being cut short and were often used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to mark graves of men of distinction (photographs 7, 8, 11, 24, and 25). Many of the markers contain angels, crosses, cradles, urns, flowers, sarcophagi, conch shells, crowns, wreaths, hands holding flowers or hands praying, and carvings of candles and flames (photographs 3, 9, 14, and 32). Other various decorative symbols include tree stump and log monuments, sculptured doves, cherubs, lambs, and babies sleeping (photograph 17). Some plots have commemorative benches on them. Due to weathering, neglect, and vandalism, some gravesites are unmarked, identified only by piles of bricks, a mound or depression (photograph 11). Inscriptions on some markers have faded with time, but new metal identity markers have been placed on some of these (photograph 18). Original cypress markers and headstones, a few in the shape of a cross, have vanished over time according to the cemetery sexton. Ornate iron fences surround six of the family plots. These fences are characteristic of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century practice of enclosing burial plots (photographs 7, 19, 23, 24, and 30). Many of the plots are surrounded by brick, stone, or concrete coping (photographs 3, 6, 9, 16, and 17).

Many sentimental epitaphs in Lott Cemetery are in Biblical verse, some are in beautiful artistic prose, while others are humorous in nature and relate much about the persons interred and the times in which they lived. The epitaphs are vital inscriptions of an important aspect of the cultural content of Lott Cemetery.

Since there are many unmarked gravesites, there is no accurate accounting of the number of graves. Known records indicate over 1,700 persons have been interred in both family and individual plots.

Lott Cemetery retains a high degree of historic integrity. The original cemetery boundaries are unchanged over time. Changes and alterations to the markers have been fairly minimal, although the condition of some markers is poor. The cemetery is still in use.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:**

nationally       statewide       locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A       B       C       D

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):**  N/A

A       B       C       D       E       F       G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

ART  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance:**

1877-1958

**Significant Dates:**

1877 – date of first burial  
1889 – cemetery acquired by the city

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Statement of significance (areas of significance)**

Lott Cemetery is the oldest city cemetery in Waycross. It is located northeast of downtown Waycross on land given to the city by one of its founding families. The first burial occurred just a few years after the area was settled in 1872. It is a local historic community landmark.

The Lott Cemetery is significant in the area of art for its numerous examples of late 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century funerary monuments and ornamental fencing. Decorative grave markers, obelisks, statuary, and ornamental fencing are all representative of the burial practices and funerary symbolism of that time period. There is a variety and range of markers of various sizes, shapes, styles, and composition, representative of similar cemeteries in other Georgia towns and small cities. Because the town had many prosperous citizens, many monuments reflect the wealth of these people. Other memorials reflect less prominent citizens and are of simpler and smaller size, reflecting the economic diversity of the population.

The cemetery is significant in the area of community planning and development for its historic association with the development of Waycross. Dr. Daniel Lott was one of the civic leaders and founders of Waycross. From his vast property, land was donated for the development of Waycross, including land for the cemetery. Lott Cemetery was established as a public cemetery, a necessity in newly established and growing urban centers. Many of Waycross' important civic, business, and social leaders are buried in the cemetery, including Dr. Daniel Lott, William S. Bailey, Dr. Benjamin F. Williams, and Captain Cuyler W. Hilliard, early founders of the town. The fact that the cemetery was established early in the town's history indicates that the presence of a community cemetery was a concern of the town's founders and early residents.

Lott Cemetery is significant in the area of landscape architecture as a good example of a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century park-like cemetery in Georgia with its grid-iron plan with driveways arranged along the cardinal directions, the plots delineated by brick, stone, or concrete coping, and decorative trees and shrubs. The cemetery retains a significant degree of historic integrity. It retains its characteristic features that represent the function, associations, and appearance it had during its historic period.

**National Register Criteria**

Lott Cemetery meets National Register Criterion A because as a burial place it provides an important and necessary role in the life of a community. It was planned as a public burial ground as part of the city planning for Waycross.

The cemetery meets National Register Criterion C for its distinct pieces of funerary art, its plan and its landscaping. The cemetery also includes a good collection of ornamental fencing that is representative of fine work done by artisans in that field.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

Lott Cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D as a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, or from distinctive design features. The cemetery is the final resting place for many prominent Waycross families, including members of its founding families. It was established over 100 years ago as a public cemetery, and features some fine examples of funerary art in both the grave markers and the ornamental fencing.

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance runs from the earliest burial in the cemetery in 1877 until 1958, the end of the historic period. The cemetery has remained a functioning cemetery throughout this time.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The cemetery is the one contributing site.

**Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

*The following historic context is taken from the August 23, 2005 "Lott Cemetery" Historic Property Information Form that was prepared by Mrs. William Bowen, Jr. and Mrs. Spurgeon Clark, Jr. for the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia – Waycross Town Committee and edited by Lynn Speno, Historic Preservation Division. It is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.*

Ware County

Ware County was formed from Appling County on December 15, 1824. Early settlers came to live in Waresboro, Ware County's first village and county seat, which was located seven miles northwest of the area that came to be Waycross. Another settlement in the county six miles east began c.1857 with the extension of the first rail line from Savannah towards the Gulf of Mexico. This was where the earliest trains made a refueling stop. In the beginning it was simply called Number Nine (for the ninth refueling stop), and later Tebeauville. When the second rail line came through from Brunswick to Albany c.1858-1859, it joined the first rail line about a mile southeast of Tebeauville. The rail line had been extended through the junction to the eastern edge of Waresboro by 1861, but the rails were taken up for other uses during the Civil War. Tebeauville became a refuge for many families from the Georgia coast during the war, but afterwards most of them returned to their homes, and only four families remained there by 1868.

Waycross

Beginning in 1857 what would become Waycross, appeared on some maps as Yankee Town named for William Stacey Bailey, a Maine transplant who had set up a tent camp between today's Knight



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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Avenue and Dewey Street in Waycross. He and families of his workers lived there as they cut down and shipped logs on the Satilla River to Burnt Fort in Camden County.

After the war ended in 1865, some businesses developed near the railroad junction. Many of the residents and leaders of Ware County felt there was a greater chance for growth at the railroad junction than in Waresboro or Tebeauville. This settlement where the two rail lines crossed was called Junction for a few years before the name Waycross was officially chosen about 1874. Methodist church records reflect that in 1873 their church was referred to as being in Junction and in 1874 it was referred to as being in Waycross.

Four men are credited with founding Waycross. They owned most of the land on which the town is located today and played leading roles in its development. Dr. Daniel Lott was the first dentist in the county and was active in Ware County governmental affairs from 1845. Before moving to Junction from Waresboro, he acquired part of Land Lot 166 that included much of the land on the north side of the Savannah, Florida & Western Railway. It included the area that would be donated to the town for a cemetery, along with land on which the courthouse and many other buildings and houses were constructed in the early 1870s.

The second man was William Stacey Bailey, a Maine native who worked for lumber mills in the Northeast. Around 1855 he found a promising supply of timber in Ware County and by 1857 had established his tent camp. The third man, Dr. Benjamin Franklin Williams, was a family physician with large holdings in timberland and turpentine in North Carolina. In 1860 he moved his family to an area in Ware County about four miles northeast of Tebeauville and purchased most of the land on the south of the Savannah, Florida & Western Railway. The fourth man, Captain Cuyler Walter Hilliard, a distinguished Civil War officer, moved from Waresboro to Waycross about 1874, and worked hard in developing the new township.

Although the village of Waycross was created in 1872, it was not incorporated until March 3, 1874. At the time of its incorporation in 1874, the population of the town was 300. A referendum was held in May 1872 to consider moving the county seat from Waresboro to the new settlement. The vote carried and the name Waycross was chosen for the new village, reflecting the crossing where the rail lines and other trails met. A small, new wooden courthouse was soon built near the rail junction in the general location of today's courthouse. The residents of Waresboro were unhappy about this change, and on October 12, 1874, the new Waycross courthouse mysteriously burned during the night. The next morning petitions were circulated encouraging the populace to take the county seat back to Waresboro where there was a perfectly good log courthouse. The leaders of the new settlement stopped this movement by having the old log courthouse dismantled and moved to Waycross.

The city experienced rapid growth and was referred to as "The Magic City of Southern Georgia" because of its remarkable growth in the period between 1872 and 1920. This growth came about primarily due to the city's relationship with the Plant Investment Company and its system of railroads and repair shops for the railroad cars that ran from Maine to Miami. Connecticut entrepreneur Henry B. Plant built a network of railroads across southern Georgia and northern Florida. He purchased the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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Atlantic & Gulf rail line in 1879 and renamed it the Savannah, Florida & Western Railway. As he developed his network of rails in the 1880s, Waycross was selected as the site of a large rail car repair center. It continues to operate in that capacity on an expanded basis. Rice Yards in Waycross was the largest computer-operated distribution center for freight cars east of the Mississippi River in the 1970s. Today there are a few other similar computer-operated freight car distribution centers in the larger cities of the Northeast.

Along with the growth of the new rail center, new hotels, churches, elementary and high schools, two opera houses, brick stores, and office buildings were constructed in addition to the development of many elegant neighborhoods. In the early 1900s, a streetcar line ran from the large new railroad depot to several parts of the city, including the courthouse, depot, and Lott Cemetery.

### The Cemetery

There were several family-owned cemeteries in Ware County and others connected with churches that had been used since Ware County was created in 1824. Lott Cemetery was the first public cemetery developed within the city limits of Waycross. Dr. Daniel Lott acquired part of Land Lot 166 from Sheriff Edward M. Cribb on July 4, 1871 in a sheriff's land sale before Waycross was chartered. This transaction was recorded in Deed Record D, page 841 in the Ware County Courthouse.

The Lotts permitted townspeople to bury their dead on a portion of their land beginning in 1877 according to Mock family tradition, which holds that a child in their family, Rebecca Gross Mock, was buried there in 1877 in an unmarked grave. Other family members were buried there at a later time. The earliest written cemetery burial card found in city records indicates that six-year old Henry Risner Wilson, Jr. was buried there in 1878. Burial records indicate that three more burials took place before Daniel Lott died on June 24, 1880 and was buried on the site. In the 12 years between 1877 and the actual purchase of the land for the cemetery in 1889, there were about 15 burials, including five reburials.

Upon Daniel Lotts' death, his wife Susan inherited the land and allowed other burials to continue to take place there until August 27, 1889 when she sold her 4.29-acre tract to the city for use as a public burial ground. Susan Lott had sold approximately one acre of land that adjoined the 4.29-acre site to Burrell Sweat on January 21, 1889 for the purpose of burial. The following year, Sweat sold that one-acre to the city on December 19, 1890. There is no known record that Sweat used the land for anything during the time that he owned it. The acquisition of these two parcels of land by the city completed the 5.29-acre cemetery site. It remains that today.

The deed of sale from Susan Lott contained the following provision:

It being understood that the land hereby sold and conveyed is to be used for cemetery purposes exclusively for the white people, and the party of the second part to deed to parties entitled to the same the lots embraced in the present cemetery, such parties being required only to pay the expense of executing a deed and the new cemetery ground to be laid off in lots and disposed of by the party of the second part.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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Susan Lott was paid \$200 for the land. The land was worth much more as shown by the purchase price of the one-acre Sweat tract the next year for \$220. Susan Lott conveyed almost five acres for a smaller sum, so there appears to be an element of gift on her part.

While the deed of sale for the property included a provision that the cemetery was to be for whites only, tradition says that two African-American children were buried in Section 50 and that other African Americans have been interred in the cemetery through the years. There are no designated sections for any religious or ethnic groups, but there was an area set aside for indigents.

The earliest mention of a public cemetery was recorded in Waycross City Commission minutes of May 14, 1884. Waycross City Commission member "Warren Lott, Esq. proposed to the Council to donate the Present Cemetery to the Corporation and make a deed to the same upon condition that the Council have the Cemetery laid off properly in lots and walks, set out trees and otherwise improve it. On motion of Councilman Reed the proposition was accepted and Councilmen Reed, Smith and Sweat appointed a Committee to lay off the lots and streets, have trees planted at the proper time, and have such other work done as is necessary . . ."

The commission in September 1889 appointed a committee of two, consisting of the chairmen of the Street Committee and the Committee on Public Property, to lay off the grounds into lots and walks. The commission further instructed the city attorney to draw an ordinance regulating the burial of the dead inside the city limits. On December 10 of that year, fees for lots were set at \$15, \$10, and \$5 depending on the desirability of the lot. The Committee on Public Property was given authority to use the income from the sale of the lots to put a substantial fence around the cemetery.

The first reference to the cemetery as Lott Cemetery appeared in the minutes of June 2, 1890. As part of the 13 ordinances regarding Lott Cemetery that were adopted at that Waycross City Commission meeting, the ninth ordinance set a fee for the type of grave as follows: \$2 for an ordinary grave; \$4 for an outside box; and \$6 for a brick vault. Children under 12 years of age were charged at half the rates.

The commission also put in a provision for the city to pay the fees for the indigent and for a sexton to be named as the "Keeper of the Cemetery." The cost for digging graves was set at \$2.50 per grave in 1894 and apparently reduced to \$2 per grave in 1896, with an additional cost for cleaning the lots at 25 cents for large lots and 15 cents for small lots. The first sexton was O. D'Auvergne. Others have been James M. Freeman, C. N. Rahu, Henry Bryson, Tommy Holliday, and Edgar Stone.

By the early 1900s, space in Lott Cemetery was filling up and the city council began looking for a much larger location for two more city-owned cemeteries. In 1901 the city bought 28 ½ -acres of land a few blocks from Lott Cemetery for \$1,200. It was first called Oak-Land Cemetery, and later changed to Oakland Cemetery. About 1907 a cemetery for African-Americans opened. It was first called Pine Hill Cemetery and in 1923 renamed Hazzard Hill to honor a prominent early African-American resident of Waycross. Lott Cemetery, Hazzard Hill Cemetery, and Oakland Cemetery remain the three public cemeteries located within the city limits.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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A January 4, 1911 report on the cemeteries by the Cemeteries & Parks Committee indicated the following:

1. Lott Cemetery was in very fair condition, but needed gravel on the walks and drives, and some shade trees planted on adjoining streets.
2. Oakland Cemetery was in very poor condition; no improvements had been made in 1910 due to lack of funds.
3. The colored cemetery was in good condition, very well taken care of by Sexton Rahu.

Beginning in the early 1930s, the city formed a Park and Tree Commission, possibly utilizing Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration labor, to plant flowering trees and shrubbery in the parks, cemeteries, and public roads of the city. Some of the work was done in Lott Cemetery and today city employees maintain the plantings in the cemetery.

Veterans from many of this country's conflicts are buried in Lott Cemetery and observance of Memorial Day has been held here many times over the years. Noted Waycross son Corporal John Henry Lott, grandson of Dr. Daniel Lott, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by General Pershing for "acts of gallantry" in World War I in 1918 is buried here. Renewed interest by groups such as the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Daughters of the American Revolution have been active in the years since 1945 in placing markers in Lott Cemetery on graves of veterans from several wars.

Lott Cemetery still is an active public cemetery containing over 1,700 graves. There are approximately 300 gravesites available in individual spaces. Since 1995 there have been an average of between two and three burials a year.

Persons Associated with Lott Cemetery

Daniel and Susan Lott

Daniel Lott, born March 9, 1828 in Ware County, married Susan Mobley of Appling County, Georgia, in 1849 and had six children. Lott was elected Ware County sheriff in 1847; state representative from 1851-1852; and state senator, 1853-1854. He was Justice of the Inferior Court 1853-1856, 1863, and 1867; Judge, County Court, 1867-1868; served as ordinary from 1856-1858 and 1868-1871, all before moving to Junction in 1871. He was the first mayor of Waycross, serving from 1872 until an election in 1874, when Dr. William Barden Folks was elected mayor. Before and after the Civil War, Lott accumulated several hundred land lots of 490 acres each in Ware and neighboring counties. According to family records, Lott was a firm believer in the value of land. Thus he began to accumulate large amounts of property often referred to as "wild land" because it was heavily wooded forestland.

A dentist, Lott had been practicing dentistry in Waresboro before he retired and moved to the railroad junction (later Waycross) in 1871. Lott believed that this junction where two rail lines crossed before

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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heading for the Gulf of Mexico was much more likely to become a major trade center than was Waresboro with its one rail line.

A marble marker at the site of his house that he called "Hilltop" credits him with moving into the large Victorian house in November 1871, "the first house in Waycross." He probably moved to the little settlement called Junction during Hilltop's construction and occupied five small mill houses to have room for his large family. To encourage people to build nice houses in the new village, he offered to give a lot of one acre of land to anyone who would build a house with glass windows in it.

In addition to holding several offices in county government, he was a farmer, merchant, industrialist, large landowner, and an 1857 charter member of the Masons of Waresboro Lodge #217. Lott's interest in farming continued after moving to Waycross in 1871 where he grew corn and grapes. He was listed in the *Georgia Gazetteer* as being a wine manufacturer. He also operated several sawmills and opened the first real estate office in Waycross.

In developing the new town around 1872, Lott built a warehouse/station for the trains. The building also housed a printing press from which the town's first newspaper was printed in 1876 and the first telegraph office. He helped provide the first building that served in the early days as a community-meeting house and as a place of worship. It seated about 50 people and was called the Academy.

Along with Benjamin F. Williams and William S. Bailey, Lott is credited with building the first small courthouse in Waycross after the referendum called for moving the county seat there. After the courthouse burned in 1874, Lott built another one for the community.

Daniel Lott and William Barden Folks are credited with obtaining a charter for a railroad from Waycross to St. Mary's that later became part of the Plant system and the Atlantic Coast Line. This was of great significance and led to the important rail route from Maine to Miami. The connection with the Plant system increased the development of Waycross' largest industry - railroad repair shops.

Lott died at his home on June 24, 1880 and was buried in the land that formally became Lott Cemetery in 1889. The land for Lott Cemetery was obtained from his estate and purportedly was named for him and his family. Lott's wife and children are also buried here.

Captain Burrell Sweat

Burrell Sweat was born October 17, 1825. He was the son of a pioneer settler of Ware County. He married his first cousin, Lucretia Sweat, but had no children.

Captain Sweat held the following public offices: Sheriff, Ware County, 1848-1850; Justice Ware Inferior Court, 1856-1857; State Senator from Ware, 1859-1860; Justice of Peace, 1030th district, 1857-1861, 1862-1867; County School Commissioner of Ware County, 1872-1888; N.P. Exo. J. P. 1231st (Waycross) district, 1879 to 1905 upon his death. He served in the Indian War from 1838-

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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1841, both as a private and as a 3<sup>rd</sup> corporal and as Captain, 584th district, 1844-1850; Captain, 1030th district, 1850-1855.

Captain Sweat was an active member of the Methodist church and of the Masons. He and his wife died at home in Waycross on September 12, 1905. They were buried in Lott Cemetery.

City Founders

Many of Waycross' most prominent citizens are buried in Lott Cemetery, including the city's founders.

The three men, whose details follow, along with Daniel Lott, are said to have acquired most of the land in the immediate vicinity of Junction (later Waycross), the name of the area where the rails crossed. Lott's land was mostly north of the Savannah, Florida & Western Railway; Williams' land was southeast of the railroads; Bailey's land was in the northeast section of the area and Hilliard's land was more in the western part.

William Stacey Bailey

William Bailey was born in Woolrich, Maine, in 1818, and moved to Georgia in the mid-1840s to buy the tall, strong, long leaf pines that were so important to the shipbuilding industry in the Northeast. Bailey married Mary Elizabeth Pittman of Montgomery County, Georgia, in 1847, with whom he had seven children before her death in 1886. His second wife was Nancy Clements, widow of Senator Jacob C. Clements.

By 1857 Bailey had bought Land Lot 156 composed of 490 acres in Ware County that was in the north central part of what would become Waycross. He and the men working with him cut pine trees and sent them by rafts to the shipping docks on the Satilla River at Burnt Fort. They lived for a while in a tent camp near the canal between what is now Dewey Street and Knight Avenue. For a short time this area showed up on maps as Yankee Town.

Bailey was very active in developing Waycross; served in several offices including the Ware County Board of Education, 1872-1880; County Treasurer 1879 -1891; lodge member; and local church member. Bailey joined Daniel Lott and Benjamin Williams in building the first courthouse and Union Church. He died in Waycross on September 24, 1894, at the age of 76, and was buried beside his first wife in Lott Cemetery.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Williams

Benjamin Williams was born in Greene County, North Carolina, on September 2, 1820. He married Hartford, New York, native Sarah Francis Hicks in 1853, with whom he had seven children, five of whom are buried in Lott Cemetery. Williams bought a large amount of timberland and moved to Ware County in 1860 from his family's sizeable plantation in North Carolina. Even though he was licensed to practice medicine, he devoted most of his business activities to the production of lumber and naval stores.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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The Williams moved to Waycross in 1872. Their home, reportedly the second to be constructed in Waycross, was built on the corner of Screven and Knight avenues, across from where the two rail lines intersected. Early historians report that Sarah Williams, who is called the 'Mother of Presbyterianism in Waycross,' organized a Sunday school in her home—the first Sunday school in Waycross—and that it was from this influence that the first church building in Waycross was erected.

Dr. Williams died May 7, 1892 in Waycross, at the age of 72 and was buried in Lott Cemetery. Sarah Williams died on December 23, 1917 in Waycross and was also buried at Lott Cemetery, along with four of their children.

Captain Cuyler Walter Hilliard

Captain Cuyler Hilliard was born in Bulloch County, Georgia, on November 25, 1825. He moved with his father to Ware County in his youth, married Theresa Hargraves in 1848, and had ten children.

Captain Hilliard's military service began as a private in the Indian Wars in 1841. He also served as Second Lieutenant of the militia, 451st district of Ware County; Justice of the Peace, 1850-1853; Justice of Ware Inferior Court, 1853-1856; Representative from Ware County, 1855-1856; with Company "K," 26th Georgia Infantry Regiment as First Lieutenant during the Civil War; as postmaster at Waresboro and at Kettle Creek. He was a member of the Waresboro Lodge and later was affiliated with the Waycross Lodge.

Hilliard was a large landowner in Ware County. About 1874 he moved to Waycross and worked energetically for a number of years to help build the town. Known as a promoter and big stockholder when the "Waycross Air-Line Railroad" was built from Waycross to Jacksonville in 1879-1881, he bought land along the route of the Plant System railroad in Florida and laid out the present town of Hilliard, Florida, which is named for him.

Captain Hilliard died at his home on April 12, 1903, at the age of 78; his wife died in 1907. They were buried in the cemetery at Kettle Creek Church near Waycross. Their daughter is buried in Lott Cemetery.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Angell, Linda. *Lott Cemetery Records*. Waycross, GA, 2005.

Bonner, James C. ed. "Plantation Experiences of a New York Woman." *The North Carolina Historical Review*, Vol. XXXIII, Nos. 3 and 4, (July and October, 1956).

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Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Waycross, Ware County, GA. 1930 (updated May 1966).

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Ware County Deeds and Records. Georgia Clerk of Superior Court Office, Waycross, GA.



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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Waycross City Commission Minutes Books 1-6, 1884 – 1912. Waycross, GA.

“Waycross Building Up.” *The [Waycross] Reporter*, May 25, 1889, p.1.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** (X) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued  
date issued:
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository:

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** N/A

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property**      5.29 acres

### **UTM References**

A)    Zone 17      Easting 370951      Northing 3454830

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is marked on the enclosed plat map.

### **Boundary Justification**

The nominated property is all that has been historically used as a cemetery and that is owned by the city and dedicated for that purpose.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Lynn Speno, Survey and Register Specialist  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**mailing address** 34 Peachtree Street, Suite 1600  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** May 2008  
**e-mail** lynn.speno@dnr.state.ga.us

**Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)** ( ) not applicable

**name/title** Deborah Bowen and Susan Lott Clark  
**organization** National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the state of Georgia- Waycross  
**street and number** 412 Woodlawn Terrace  
**city or town** Blackshear **state** GA **zip code** 31516-2742  
**telephone** (912) 449-6767  
**e-mail** bowensteve2@aol.com

- ( ) **consultant**  
( ) **regional development center preservation planner**  
(X) **other:** Local historians

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**name/title** Mr. Clarence Billups, Mayor of Waycross, Georgia  
**organization** City of Waycross  
**mailing address** P.O. Drawer 99  
**city or town** Waycross **state** GA **zip code** 31502-0099  
**telephone** (912) 287-2900  
**e-mail**

- (X) **property owner**  
( ) **consultant**  
( ) **regional development center preservation planner**  
( ) **other:**

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Lott Cemetery  
**City or Vicinity:** Waycross  
**County:** Ware  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** August 2006

**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 37

1. Main entrance gates on Butler Street; photographer facing north.
2. Section B towards the Kittrell plot; photographer facing west.
3. In Beach family plots, Section D and E; photographer facing west.
4. On East Drive facing the Goodrich family section; photographer facing west.
5. In the Mallon family section just off East Drive; photographer facing west.
6. In the Blackshear family plot in Old Section 1; photographer facing north.
7. On Center Drive in Section I facing Williams plot; photographer facing northeast.
8. On Center Drive in Section 25 facing Crawley plot; photographer facing west.
9. In Old Section One facing Bunn plot; photographer facing north.
10. In Old Section One facing Brady plot; photographer facing south.
11. In Old Section One facing Clark plot; photographer facing southeast.
12. In Old Section Three facing Atkinson plot; photographer facing northwest.
13. In Old Section Four facing Folks plot; photographer facing west.
14. In Old Section One facing Daniel Lott's grave; photographer facing west.
15. Section 30; photographer facing west.
16. Section 22; photographer facing southwest.
17. Section 19; photographer facing west.
18. Section 15; photographer facing southwest.
19. Towards section 16 and ornamental fencing; photographer facing northeast.
20. Section 7 towards Dubose family plot; photographer facing northwest.
21. Section 11 in Smith family plot; photographer facing west.
22. Section 15 towards Gassett family plot; photographer facing north.
23. In Center Drive; photographer facing northeast.
24. Towards Williams family plot in Section I; photographer facing north.
25. From Center Drive towards Miller family section; photographer facing east.
26. Section B towards Roof family plot; photographer facing north.
27. Along East Drive; photographer facing north.
28. Section G; photographer facing southwest.
29. Old Section Two; photographer facing northeast.
30. Old Section Two; photographer facing north.
31. Old Section Two; photographer facing north.

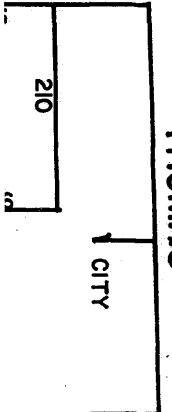
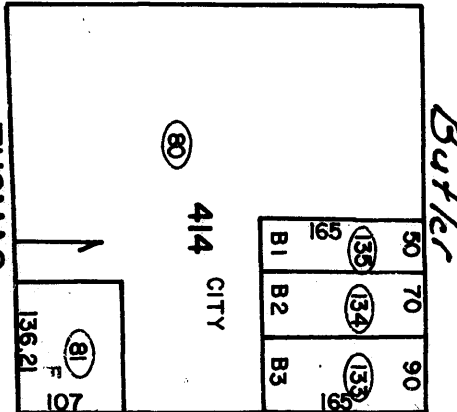
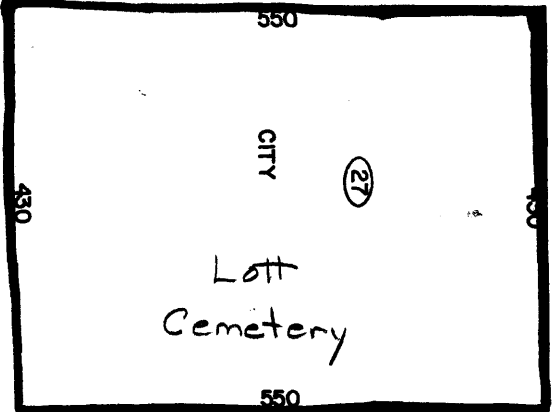
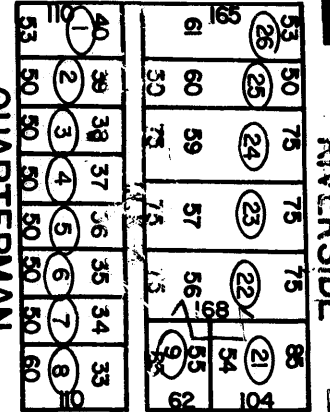
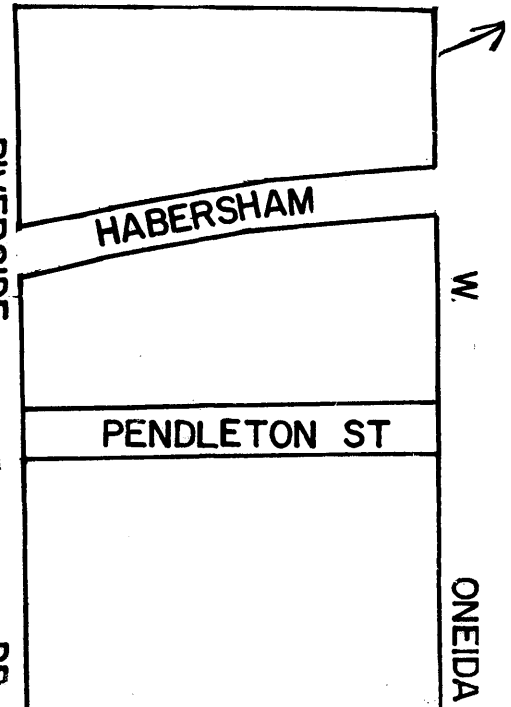
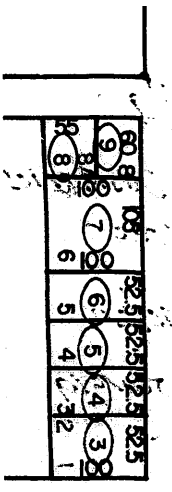
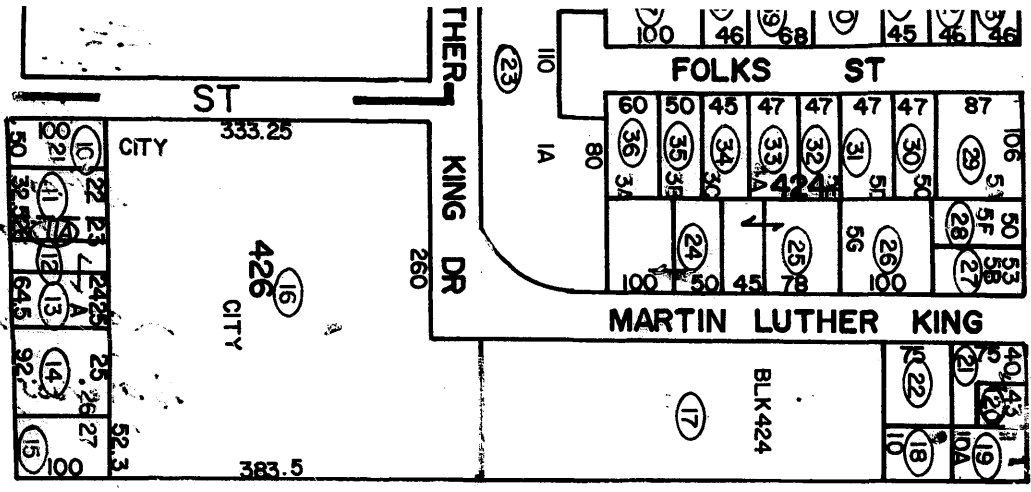
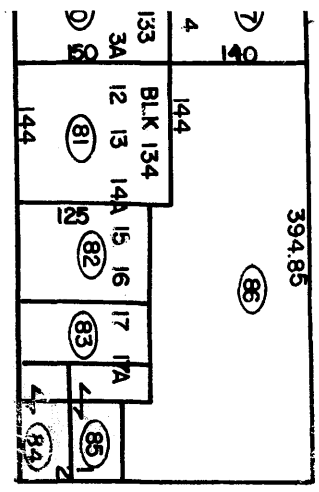
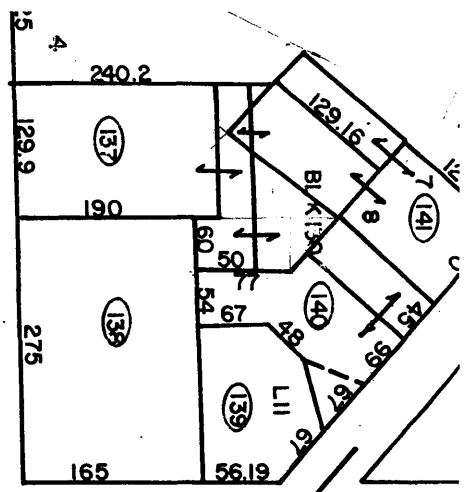
National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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32. Old Section One in Bunn plots; photographer facing north.
33. Gate lock on front gate on Butler Street; photographer northeast.
34. Section D; photographer facing northeast.
35. Looking down Center Drive from front gate; photographer facing north.
36. Butler Street side; photographer facing northeast.
37. From Lott section in northeast corner; photographer facing southwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



Lott Cemetery  
Waycross, Ware County, Georgia  
National Register Boundary —  
North: ↗  
Source: Ware County  
Scale: 1 inch = 200 feet