

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **AUG 3 1983**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Myrtle Hill Cemetery

and or common

2. Location

Bounded
street & number ~~In South Rome, bordered by South Broad Street, Myrtle Street, Pennington Avenue and Branham Avenue~~ N/A not for publication
city, town Rome N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Floyd code 115

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Cemetery, Park

4. Owner of Property

name City of Rome, Honorable Tom Caldwell, Chairman, Rome Commission

street & number Post Office Box 1433

city, town Rome N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30161

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Floyd County Courthouse

city, town Rome state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey: Floyd County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Myrtle Hill Cemetery in Rome, Floyd County, Georgia is located on one of the city's seven hills, in South Rome, at the point where the Etowah and Oostanaula Rivers join to form the Coosa River. Its steep hillside setting provides a dramatic view of Rome and its rivers.

The cemetery was laid out in the 1850s with curvilinear drives, extensive stone terracing, and informal landscaping in the picturesque manner typical of mid-nineteenth century cemeteries. Over the years the cemetery has been expanded in stages beyond the originally developed area (about half the present acreage) in a manner consistent with the original design, thus creating a uniform appearance throughout. At the present time the northern edge is used for a city park, but this is part of the original land purchase and is reserved for eventual cemetery use. Seven marble vaults dating from 1891 to 1940 and a number of monuments are the cemetery's main architectural features. A variety of tombstone types, iron fences, many large shade trees, shrubs and hedges, and a long flight of steps at the east entrance contribute to the picturesque, park-like, environment. Myrtle Hill has a large section for Confederate war dead at its south end. In the southwest corner are less extensively landscaped areas for paupers and blacks. Four non-historic maintenance structures are located on the grounds.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1850s to present **Builder/Architect** Col. C.M. Pennington

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Myrtle Hill Cemetery is historically significant in the areas of community planning and development, landscape architecture, and architecture. In terms of community planning and development Myrtle Hill Cemetery is significant as a major component of Rome's early town plan. In terms of landscape architecture, it is significant as an important early example in Georgia of the type of picturesque "rural" cemetery that became popular nationwide during the nineteenth century. In terms of architecture, the cemetery is significant for its group of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century vaults which provide examples in Rome of typical funerary architecture of the period. These areas of significance support district eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C.

Myrtle Hill was purchased by the City of Rome in the early 1850s for development as a cemetery. It replaced the city's original cemetery, Oak Hill, which had rapidly become inadequate in size as Rome grew around it. Myrtle Hill Cemetery was a major component of Rome's early town plan. Its prominent location attests to the important role played by the cemetery in the nineteenth century community. Its picturesque layout with curvilinear drives provides a dramatic contrast to Rome's almost exclusive use of a gridiron plan. As the city cemetery, it grew to include special areas for the burial of Confederate soldiers, paupers, and blacks.

Myrtle Hill is an important early example in Georgia of the type of picturesque "rural" cemetery that became popular nationwide beginning with the development of Mt. Auburn Cemetery outside of Boston in the 1830s. Its curving drives, informal landscaping, stone terracing, and dramatic siting are all important components of this type of rustic, romantic, naturalistic cemetery design. The variety of grave markers and stone and iron fences (many of the fences made locally by the Noble and McCoullough Foundry) and a number of monuments add to the picturesque atmosphere. About half of the existing cemetery was laid out in the 1850s by Colonel C.M. Pennington, Myrtle Hill's original designer. A number of additions to the cemetery occurred in the ensuing years, all within the area originally purchased by the city for cemetery use and all respecting Pennington's original informal landscaping. As a result, the present cemetery appears well-unified in design.

Between 1891 and 1940 seven funerary vaults were built at Myrtle Hill, all but one constructed by the McNeel Marble Company of Marietta, Georgia. These vaults provide examples in Rome of typical late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century funerary architecture.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approximately 22 acres.

Quadrangle name Rome North, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	6	7	8	8	0	3	7	9	1	3	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	6	6	6	7	7	5	0	3	7	9	1	1	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	6	6	6	7	4	4	0	3	7	9	1	2	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	6	6	6	7	4	2	0	3	7	9	1	5	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	6	6	6	7	7	6	0	3	7	9	1	6	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed map, consists of the entire area of Myrtle Hill historically reserved by the city of Rome for use as a cemetery.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
	N/A		

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date June 29, 1983

street & number 270 Washington St., S.W. telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon

Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/18/83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/1/83

J. Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 9 Page 1

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Bathey, George Magruder, Jr. A History of Rome and Floyd County, 1540-1922. Atlanta: The Webb and Vary Company. 1922.

Brown, David. Historic District Information Form: "Myrtle Hill Cemetery Historic District." September, 1982. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.

"Dead Rest on Hill in Rome." Atlanta Journal. September 10, 1975.

Early History of Rome, Floyd County, Georgia. Rome: Chamber of Commerce. n.d. On file at State Archives.

1874 Map of Myrtle Hill Cemetery (on file at City Hall).

Map of Branham's Addition to Myrtle Hill Cemetery (on file at City Hall).

Myrtle Hill Cemetery by J.N. Johnson. Typescript at Rome library. 1936.

"Myrtle Hill Cemetery...historic resting place." Rome News-Tribune. April 9, 1972.

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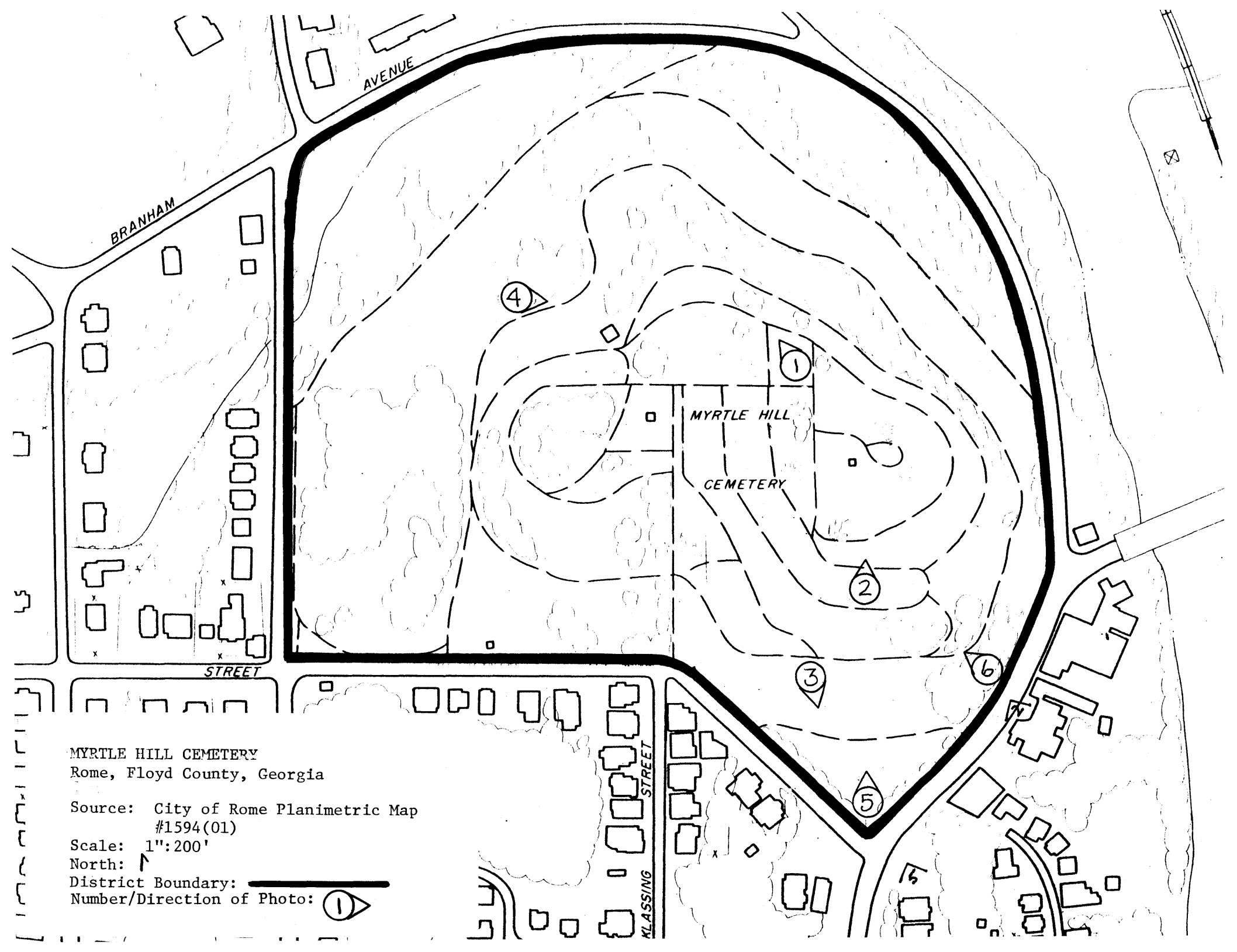
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"Remarkable Rome, Illustrated." Rome Tribune-Herald. 78 pages. December 1911.

Sanborn Insurance Maps for Rome, Georgia. 1885. 1888. 1893. 1898. 1903. 1909. 1915. 1926.

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AVENUE

BRANHAM

MYRTLE HILL

CEMETERY

STREET

KLASSING STREET

MYRTLE HILL CEMETERY
Rome, Floyd County, Georgia

Source: City of Rome Planimetric Map
#1594(01)

Scale: 1":200'

North: ↑

District Boundary: ————

Number/Direction of Photo: ①

④

①

②

③

⑤

⑥

⑤