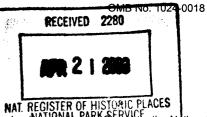
## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM





This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. Sed instructions with the appropriate back register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate back the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.	or by entering architectural
1. Name of Property	
historic name GREENWOOD CEMETERY	
other names/site number FMSF #LE1398	
2. Location	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
street & number Old Bainbridge Road N/A not for publication	วท
city or town <u>Tallahassee</u> N/A vicinity	
state <u>Florida</u> code <u>FL</u> county <u>Leon</u> code <u>073</u> zip code <u>32303</u>	<u> </u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this A nomination request for determination of eligibility 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 does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (Bee continuation sheet for additional comments.) Hence Herein Hatthews 4/17/2003 Signature of certifying oficial/Title Date State Historic Preservation Official Resources State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property 🗆 meets 🖾 does not meet the National Register criteria. (□See continuation sheet for additional comments.)	
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that the property is: Dentered in the National Register See continuation sheet determined eligible for the	03
National Register	
<ul> <li>determined not eligible for the</li> <li>National Register</li> <li>See continuation sheet.</li> </ul>	
removed from the National Register.	
□ other, (explain)	

Leon Co., FL County and State

5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resou (Do not include any pre	viously listed resources	<b>rty</b> in the count)
<ul> <li>□ private</li> <li>☑ public-local</li> <li>□ public-State</li> <li>□ public-Federal</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>□ buildings</li> <li>□ district</li> <li>⊠ site</li> <li>□ structure</li> </ul>	Contributing	Noncontribu	ting
		0	0	buildings
	object	1	0	sites
		0	0	structures
		0	00	objects
		1	0	total
Name of related multiple pro (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of		Number of contribution In the National Number of Contribu		previously
N/A		0		
6. Function or Use		··· <u>·</u> ·····		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instr	ructions)	
FUNERARY: cemetery		FUNERARY: cemetery	an an an anti-traine an	
······	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	n instructions)	
<u>N/A</u>		foundation <u>N/A</u>		
<u> </u>				
	•	other		

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ✓ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

#### **Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

### Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- **B** removed from its original location.
- **C** a birthplace or grave.
- $\square$  **D** a cemetery.
- **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- **F** a commemorative property.
- **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

#### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References Bibliography Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) Primary location of additional data: Previous documentation on file (NPS): State Historic Preservation Office preliminary determination of individual listing (36 Other State Agency CFR 36) has been requested Federal agency previously listed in the National Register Local government previously determined eligible by the National Register Other designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey Name of Repository # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Leon Co., FL County and State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

### ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

SOCIAL HISTORY

ART

### Period of Significance

1937-1953

### Significant Dates

1937

### Significant Person

N/A

### **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

### Architect/Builder

N/A

Leon Co., FL County and State

3 3 7 2 6 6 0

3 3

7 2 6 6 0

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

approx. 12 acres

### **UTM References**

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 6	7 5 9 6 2 0	3 3 7 2 8 2 0
Zone	Easting	Northing
2 1 6	7 5 9 8 4 0	3 3 7 2 7 0 0

#### Verbal Boundary Descri

(Describe the boundaries of the

### **Boundary Justification**

11. Form Prepared By

(Explain why the boundaries v

See continuation sheet			
<b>ption</b> property on a continuation sheet.)			
vere selected on a continuation sheet.)			

7 5 9 7 0 0

9 6 8 0

Easting 51 7

		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
citv or town	Tallahassee	state	Florida	zip code	32399-0250
street & num	ber 500 S. Bronough Street			telephone <u>850</u>	-245-6333
organization	Bureau of Historic Preservation			date Ap	ril 2003
name/title T	hompson, Sharyn/Robert O. Jones				······

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### **Continuation Sheets**

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### **Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner			
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)			
name City of Tallahassee			
street & number Department of Public Works	telephone		
citv or town <u>Tallahassee</u> ,	_ state <u>Florida</u> zip code <u>32301</u>		

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number \_\_\_\_7 Page \_\_\_1

GREENWOOD CEMETERY, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

### SUMMARY

Greenwood Cemetery is located on the east side of Old Bainbridge Road, south of Tharpe Street, and north of Seventh Avenue, in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida. The cemetery occupies 16.47 acres, and is subdivided by single lane paved roadways and walking paths. Approximately 12 acres used during the historic period are included in the National Register nomination. Begun in 1937, the cemetery remains in current use with over 1000 burials, all African-American.

### SETTING

On the west, the cemetery fronts onto Old Bainbridge Road, one of Tallahassee's oldest north/south thoroughfares (Photo #1). One block to the north is the intersection with Tharpe Street, a major east/west thoroughfare. Residential neighborhoods are located directly north, east, and west of the cemetery. A large parking lot and a branch of the Leon County Health Department and the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church occupy the adjacent parcels to the south. A small Florida Union Methodist Church was established on the northern boundary to the cemetery in 1989; access to the front of the church is through the cemetery grounds. The cemetery is mostly gently rolling grass-covered lawn with groupings of several varieties of trees and shrubs, including oaks, cedars, dogwoods, crepe myrtle, azaleas, and camellias.

### **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

The cemetery's main entrance is a paved drive off of Old Bainbridge Road near the middle of the cemetery. This drive curves across the property west to east. Another pathway south of it parallels this main drive, and three pathways connect them. The pathways through the cemetery are designated as public; only the main paths are paved with a single lane of asphalt. Most pathways noted on the official plat maps are grassy lanes between burial plats. Many plots have copings of cement surrounding them to mark the boundary, with ownership distinguished by family names inscribed on the coping (Photo #2). There are a high number of unmarked depressions, especially in the historic portions of the cemetery. The grave markers are mostly tablets/headstones, and ledgers. They are composed of marble, concrete, granite, and metal. Most are commercially made markers, including many marble markers provided by the U.S. Government for military veterans. The locally made concrete markers in particular have been given a variety of forms and artistic treatments.

### **Commercially Made Markers**

Isaace Robinson's memorial (Photo #3) is a good example of the numerous, standard marble military markers. A 1946 marble memorial to Mariah Scott has a triangular pointed top (Photo #4). A commercial granite memorial marks Matilda Robinson's grave (Photo #5).

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

**GREENWOOD CEMETERY, TALLAHASSEE,** LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

### Hand Made Concrete Markers

Concrete memorial markers give expression to largely unknown, local Tallahassee/Leon County community craftsmen. Inscriptions were sometimes hand drawn into the wet concrete such as the example of Eddie White's marker (Photo #6) that contains the wording "Sleep On." The same wording and hand is seen on other markers within the cemetery. Hand drawn lettering following horizontal inscribed lines is seen on Ora Lee White's marker. It also displays a rounded top (Photo #7). Similar inscriptions drawn across horizontal lines are found elsewhere in northern Leon County. They were executed by a Reverend R.H. Richardson of the Miller's Landing Church. He usually signed them on the lower right corner (Jackson 2002). Pre-formed letters were stamped into the wet concrete, giving a more precise appearance, as on the marker for R. White (Photo #8). The inscription is unusual in that it gives White's address on West Virginia Street. The headstone for Dorothy Hardy has top corners that are clipped at forty-five degrees, and stamped letters (Photo #9). Julia Margan's memorial in the shape of the cross has letters inscribed into a raised bed of concrete, formed while the body of the marker was still wet (Photo #10). A small "pillow" style marker is on a base so exactly formed, lettered, and bordered that it appears mechanically done (Photo #11).

Colored ceramic tiles pressed into the wet concrete are used to decorate some markers. Tiles form a simple cross as at the top of James Smith's marker (Photo #12), and a triangle is at the top of Pleasant Tucker's marker (Photo #13). Tiles are placed across the "T" shaped marker for Della Adams (Photo#14).

The most unusual variation to the individualized concrete markers are their forms. Some tops form segmental arches such as James Smith's marker (Photo #12). Pleasant Tucker's marker has a flat arch centered on a flat top (Photo #13). A triangular arch tops is on an un-inscribed marker (Photo #15). Various cross-shaped markers are best illustrated by an un-inscribed marker (Photo #16), the arms of which are broadly extended. Several markers are in the form of a "T," such as Della Adam's (Photo #14), and several "T's" have short extensions as shown in Photo #17. One marker has a triangular top forming an arrow (Photo #18).

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 GREENWOOD CEMETERY, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

### **SUMMARY**

Greenwood Cemetery is nominated to the National Register for significance on the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heriyage: Black, Social History, and Art. The cemetery was established as a private cemetery in 1937 when the City of Tallahassee closed the public Old City Cemetery and Oakland Cemetery to African-American burials. The cemetery's existence is a physical outgrowth of a local policy of racial segregation in Tallahassee during the 1930s. In response to a local ordinance the Greenwood Cemetery Association was formed, purchased and platted the property, and sold burial lots. The cemetery displays a wide variety of handmade concrete markers that are significant as folk art.

### HISTORIC CONTEXT

Most Blacks in Tallahassee and Leon County prior to the Civil War were slaves; with freedom, most lived on the farms surrounding the city. Most were buried on the plantations and farms where they worked, in segregated cemeteries or near the family graveyards of the white owners. Post Civil War citizens were more frequently buried in small church cemeteries. Markers for most were ephemeral in nature, made of field stones, wooden stakes, plants and various grave goods. Ground depressions and vegetative irregularities are the only indications for many. Some of those living in Tallahassee were buried in a segregated portion of the public City Cemetery (Thompson, 1987:4).

Tallahassee's City Cemetery (now called the Old City Cemetery) was established in 1829 by the Florida Territorial Council, and became city property in 1841 during a devastating yellow fever epidemic (Florida Sentinel 1841). The 1841 Ordinance stipulated, "all negroes and persons of color, [shall be buried] in such other section as shall be designated by a partition fence" (Ibid.). In 1902, a second city-owned public cemetery was begun called Oakland Cemetery. Oakland was intended to contain burials of "paupers," and in 1903 a section was specified to contain 1408 spaces for Blacks (Holshouser memorandum to Kleman, 1987). In 1936 the city created a segregated cemetery for Blacks known as Evergreen Cemetery in what is now Griffin Heights subdivision. City Ordinance 272 did not state the reasons for a Black-only cemetery. Local Blacks registered opposition to its low geographical location at a 13 October 1936 City Commission meeting (Commission Minutes, 1936). At the meeting it was stipulated that only blood and marriage relations could be buried in previously purchased lots in the Tallahassee City Cemetery, and lots with no burials would be exchanged for lots in the new Evergreen Cemetery. No further lots were sold to Blacks until the 1960s (Holshouser memorandum to Kleman, 1987).

### **SIGNIFICANCE**

On 12 January 1937, the city sexton recommended that the commission close city cemeteries to "negroes" unless they could prove title to family lots. Two weeks later a new, more broadly prohibitive ordinance

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 2 GREENWOOD CEMETERY, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

prohibiting the burial of "dead bodies of colored persons" was read and passed unanimously on 9 February 1937 (Commission Minutes).

In response to the closure of the public cemeteries to Negroes, members of the Black community took steps to establish a suitable place for burials. On 19 March 1937, the Greenwood Cemetery Company was founded to create a cemetery for the "dead of the colored race near Tallahassee in Leon County" (Charter 1937). The founders were the Reverend Robert L. Gordon, president; J.R.D. Laster, vice president; William Mitchell; Erma Jenkins; Sam Hills; Maude Lomas, secretary/treasurer; James H. Abner; M. Johnson; and T.H. McKinnis. The company purchased ten acres of land from a portion of land owned by founder Erma Jenkins for \$10 (Charter 1937). Lots and blocks within the ten acres were laid out by surveyor E. G. Chesley (Leon Co., Deed Book #33). Bartow Duhart was hired to mark the blocks and lots with metal stakes within concrete (Duhart to Thompson 1987). The charter stated that "any colored person of good character and not less than 21 years of age" could become a member of the company by application and approval of the board. With imminent need, burials began at Greenwood Cemetery shortly afterward.

On 24 March 1942, the city manager presented the plat for the private cemetery to the commission, which accepted it on 26 May 1942. Streets and pathways within the cemetery were designated as public right-of-ways. The community's need for the cemetery continued to expand over time, and platted additions were made to Greenwood in 1950, 1954, and in 1964. The first addition was surveyed by R.G. Flanagan, and a plat dated September 1950, was adjacent to the east side of the original plat. In ground directly south of the original and 1950 plat are burials from the early years of the cemetery, interred beyond the legal plats. The placement of these graves would indicate that the need for burials did not wait until formal plats were done, but continued in an area perceived as a community cemetery. The original plat filed with Leon County recognizes these burials outside the designated lots with the words "reserved for graves" noted in a triangle of land. The first two plats and the additional early burial land is included within the National Register boundary.

Sales of lots to individuals and families were made with the understanding that families of the deceased would maintain their spaces. In time, care for the graves became very inconsistent when family members moved away or died. Burials continued, but Greenwood began to look neglected. Most of the property was untended and there was no mechanism to maintain the entire cemetery. Details of ownership and burials were not accurately or consistently kept. As the original founders passed away, the only consistency was provided by Mrs. Reather Laster Doyle, daughter of J.R.D. Laster, the founding vice president. She continued his funerary business and sold lots to the cemetery.

On April 22, 1987, the city agreed to assume responsibility for the care of the cemetery with the condition that local groups accomplish cleanup work, and that a fund raiser be held to provide money to pay to have a heavily wooded area cleared by professionals. Beginning in May, various local groups worked to clean the cemetery, and on October 10, officials of the county and city government were present for a rededication ceremony.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 3 GREENWOOD CEMETERY, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

### ART SIGNIFICANCE

The availability of concrete since the early twentieth century has made durable cemetery markers affordable to many poorer people. The malleability and self-mixing of small quantities of the material has lent itself to personalized and artistic treatments that reflect individual creativity and community trends. Most cemeteries of modest size and larger include concrete markers of various types. A single cemetery may contain a few distinctive forms or artistic treatments. The significance of Greenwood Cemetery is that it exhibits an unusually high diversity of concrete forms.

The concrete funeral markers in Greenwood exhibit diversity of forms and treatments, and are the expressions of folk art by largely unknown local designers. Colored tile decorations, and several types of inscription techniques were employed to personalize the memorial markers. The diversity of marker forms shows a high degree of innovation and variety of taste. The tops of markers are finished with a variety of arches, points, and angles. Most unusual were the extended arms on crosses, markers in the shape of "T's," and an "arrow," pointed-top marker.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1 GREENWOOD CEMETERY, TALLAHASSEE,

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 1

GREENWOOD CEMETERY, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

### **BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

A portion of Greenwood Cemetery Parcel #2126200300000 26 1N 1W 16.47 Acres DB 33/411 Chartered 19 March 1937 PB 2/113 3/79 129 4/87 9/89 10/12 (see attached scaled map)

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The approximately 12 acres illustrated on the scaled map comprised the original 10 acres acquired by the Greenwood Cemetery Association in 1937, and 1+ acre added to the property in 1950, and an adjacent portion historically used for burials outside the designated boundaries.

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number <u>Photo</u> Page <u>1</u>

GREENWOOD CEMETERY, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

- 1 Greenwood Cemetery, Old Bainbridge Road, Tallahassee
- 2 Leon County, Florida
- 3 Althamese Barnes
- 4 January 2003
- 5 Riley House Museum
- 6 Cemetery boundary at Old Bainbridge Road, looking northwest
- 7 Photo #1 of 18

Items 1-5 are the same for the following photographs.

- 6 Northwest corner of the cemetery, looking west
- 7 Photo #2 of 18
- 6 Isaac Robinson Memorial, marble military marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #3 of 18
- 6 Mariah Scott Memorial, marble commercial marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #4 of 18
- 6 Matilda Robinson Memorial, granite commercial marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #5 of 18
- 6 Eddie White Memorial, concrete marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #6 of 18
- 6 Ora Lee White Memorial, concrete marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #7 of 18
- 6 R. White Memorial, concrete marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #8 of 18
- 6 Dorothy Hardy Memorial, concrete marker, looking west7 Photo #9 of 18
- 6 Julia Margan Memorial, concrete marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #10 of 18

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photo Page 2

### GREENWOOD CEMETERY, TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

- 6 "Pillow" Style concrete marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #11 of 18
- 6 James Smith Memorial, concrete marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #12 of 18
- 6 Pleasant Tucker Memorial, concrete marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #13 of 18
- 6 Della Adams Memorial, concrete marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #14 of 18
- 6 Triangular-arch top concrete marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #15 of 18
- 6 Cross form concrete marker, looking east
- 7 Photo #16 of 18
- 6 "T" form concrete marker, looking west
- 7 Photo #17 of 18
- 6 Arrow form concrete marker, looking northwest
- 7 Photo #18 of 18

