

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



430

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Springhill Cemetery

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number The Springhill Cemetery is located at the northwest corner of College Street and West Oak Grove Road.

☐ not for publication

city or town Hernando

☐ vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county DeSoto code 033 zip code 38632

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local

Signature of certifying official [Signature]

Date 5-22-2012

Title SHPO

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper [Signature]

Date of Action 7-25-12

Springhill Cemetery  
Name of Property

DeSoto, Mississippi  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- |                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | private          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | public - Local   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | public - State   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | public - Federal |

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- |                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | district    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | site        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | structure   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | object      |

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		district
1		site
		structure
	1	object
1	1	<b>Total</b>

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: cemetery

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: cemetery

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: N/A

---

walls: N/A

---

roof: N/A

---

other: stone (marble, granite, limestone,  
sandstone), concrete, iron, copper

---

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Springhill Cemetery is located in Hernando, Mississippi, in the northwestern portion of the state in DeSoto County. The cemetery is located within the city limits of Hernando a few blocks southwest of the Courthouse Square Historic District which is the historic commercial center in Hernando. The cemetery dates to the founding of the town and has approximately one-hundred surviving grave markers, many commemorating the founding families of Hernando. Located on top of a hill, the cemetery was the first public cemetery in Hernando. It is casually laid out with family plots and individual markers spread throughout the cemetery amongst an informal landscape of mature trees. The earliest burial dates to 1837 with the majority of the burials taking place between 1850 and 1900, with only a few after 1900. The markers are varied in style, size and iconography. Several of the family plots are surrounded by decorative cast-iron fencing.

### Narrative Description

The Springhill Cemetery is located within the City of Hernando and southwest of the historic commercial core surrounding the DeSoto County Courthouse. The cemetery is located at the intersection of College Street and West Oak Grove Road in the northwest corner of the intersection.

Springhill Cemetery sits on a lot of approximately five acres which lies on a high wooded ridge. The City of Hernando lies on a topographic high in the Coldwater River basin of northwestern Mississippi, on the dividing ridge between Hurricane Creek to the north, Mussacuna Creek to the south and Short Fork Creek to the east. All are direct tributaries of the Coldwater River. The cemetery loess soil is gullied and surrounded by cut banks and ravines, however on the ridge top there is dark rich soil which once covered the north central hills of Mississippi.

The elevation of the cemetery is about 360 feet above sea level while the surrounding creek valleys lay at a mean sea level of about 240 feet. The cemetery site is made up of steeply sloping loess soil surrounding a partly grassy and partly hardwood-covered ridgetop, with an unusual light, soft, dark brown loam. There are sloping south and east cut banks; a flat, street level parking area; a north slope deep gully, and several wooded flats and hillsides besides the main, grassy ridge top where the historic grave markers are located. Evergreens, particularly cedar, holly and magnolia, are traditional features of old Southern cemeteries and are found in the Springhill Cemetery.

The Springhill Cemetery is accessed by a gravel drive from College Street which is very close to the intersection with West Oak Grove Road. The drive is at street level on the southeastern corner of the site. To the north of the drive is a small parking area with a small amount of gravel and grass. The drive leads up to the main portion of the cemetery which sits on a grass covered hill above the drive and Oak Grove Road. The cemetery entrance is delineated by a non-contributing metal entrance gate which was recently erected bearing the name of the cemetery.

The cemetery does not have a formal plan for the burial sites. The majority of the markers are grouped in family plots with graves, two or three to eight or ten, in rows aligned north-south and facing east.

Markers were erected in the Springhill Cemetery from 1837, the date of the earliest marker, to 2006 the date of the latest marker. The primary use of the cemetery occurred between the 1840s and 1870s as evident by the burial dates on the remaining markers. Unfortunately about twenty of the remaining markers in the cemetery no longer have burial dates visible due to deterioration of the marker surface. For the markers that do have burial dates visible, the number of markers can be broken down by the following dates:

1830 - 1839	1
1840 - 1849	8
1850 - 1859	31
1860 - 1869	10
1870 - 1879	12
1880 - 1889	4
1890 - 1899	3
1900 - 2006	6

### *Grave Markers*

There are approximately 100 remaining markers in the Springhill Cemetery of varying shapes and sizes from simple to more ornate and with varying iconography. The majority of the markers in the cemetery are marble, which was the primary material for grave markers during the mid to late nineteenth century. In addition there are also markers of sandstone, limestone, and granite. There are a few newer markers spread throughout the cemetery which are granite and appear to have replaced earlier markers that have deteriorated or were broken over time. Granite became the preferred material for grave markers in the twentieth century. There are three markers for the Robinson family with engraved copper plates set in concrete (Photo 6) at the front of the cemetery dating to 1883 and 1903, with the third of an undeterminable age.

There are four plots of markers which are bordered by iron fencing. The Wood family plot (Photo 9) contains five graves from 1872 to 1889 surrounded by an iron wire fence with a gate and decorative finials. The Shearer family plot contains eight graves dating from 1846 to 1867 surrounded by an iron fence (Photo 12) with an arched design held together by horizontal cross bars and open boxed corners with finials on top. The fence has no gate. There is one plot with two markers for James Riley (1856) and T.J. West (1893). Their markers are surrounded by iron fencing with arched pieces which have center vertical pieces with a finial under the arch. The vertical pieces are held together by horizontal bars and the corners are square vertical pieces with finials. The most decorative of the iron fencing (Photo 7) is found surrounding the grave of Sarah M. Roe which dates to 1856. It is made up of cast iron panels with a square base, mirror image scroll work above, and then a square with a quatrefoil cutout. The panels rest on horizontal bars with the top bar having anthemions above the bar. The corners are circular with a decorative design and finial. There is no gate.

The tallest markers in the cemetery are those of an obelisk shape. There are four tapered obelisk shape marble markers in the cemetery for: James Dickson (1871); William Caruthers (1870), although the top of the obelisk has broken off and is resting on the ground; Michael Quinlan (1878); and Wiley Jones (1852) (Photo 15), although the obelisk is off its base and resting on the ground.

Similar to the obelisk shape markers are pedestal vault markers which are square columns with four pointed arched tops forming a "vault" in the middle. They are not as tall as the obelisk markers. There are two of these types of markers in the cemetery, belonging to the Wood family (Photo 10) and Shearer family. The markers have the names of the family members inscribed on each side. The burial sites for the family members are marked in the plot by small headstones with the family member's initials inscribed in the stone (Photo 14).

### *Iconography*

Many of the markers in the Springhill Cemetery have interesting iconographic images. Those found in the cemetery include:

Angel - The angel is used to represent rebirth, resurrection, protection, judgment, wisdom, mercy, or divine love. The angel is used on the markers of Mary Wilcox (1873 - 1895) and H.M. Caruthers (1842 - 1858) (Photo 16).

Bible - An open "Holy Bible" is found on the marker of R.G. Hester (no birth date listed, only a death date of 1851).



Broken Column - The use of a broken column symbolizes a life cut short<sup>1</sup> and is found on the marker of Sarah M. Roe (1826 - 1856).

Clasped Hands - The use of clasped hands on a marker symbolizes farewell and hope of meeting in eternity.<sup>2</sup> It is found on the marker of Ella Nora Evans (1852 - 1879).

Cross - The use of the cross signifies faith and resurrection<sup>3</sup> and is found on the marker of Michael Quinlan (1815 - 1878).

Dove with Leaf - The dove symbol represents love, purity, resurrection and the holy spirit.<sup>4</sup> The dove is found on the markers of Ester D. Slade (no dates) and infant Joseph B. Slade (1868).

Drapery - The use of drapery represents mourning<sup>5</sup> and is found on the marker of S.H. Calhoun (1858 - c. 1865, the last number of the death date is not readable) in combination with a lamb.

Flowers - There are several markers with varying types of flowers, which in general symbolize human life and beauty.<sup>6</sup> Markers with stylized or abstract flowers include: Cynthia Slade Robinson (1797 - 1856), N.C. Ferguson (1917 - 2006), and Stewart Lee (1872 - 1940). Roses represent victory, pride, triumphant love, or purity.<sup>7</sup> They are found on the markers of Emma Slade (1862 - 1871), Bertie Lowes Wood (1868 - 1879), Annotile Hester (1835 - 1848), and Margaret J. Quinlan (1854 - 1855). The use of the lily represents purity<sup>8</sup> and is found on the marker of an infant with the last name Caruthers who died in 1858.

Heart in Hand - The use of a heart in the palm of the hand symbolizes charity and denotes a member of the International Order of Odd Fellows.<sup>9</sup> It is also present on the backside of the marker for Wiley Jones (1809 - 1852).

Ivy - Ivy symbolizes fidelity, attachment, undying affection or eternal life<sup>10</sup> and is found on the marker of Geo. Wood Sr. (1829 - 1879).

Lamb - The lamb symbolizes the Christ in his sacrificial role and personifies innocence, gentleness and humility.<sup>11</sup> The lamb is found on three markers in the cemetery including: Rebecca Robinson (1823 - 1848), S.H. Calhoun (1858 - c. 1860, the last number of the death date is not visible), and an infant Alice Dodds (1857).

Masonic Symbol - A couple of the markers including those of Andrew Satterfield (1812-1851) and Jacob Dickson (1812-1871) have Masonic emblems denoting their association with the Masonic Order.

Pointing Hand - The pointing hand symbolizes the hope of heaven<sup>12</sup> and is found on the markers of Sarah Murchison (1826 - 1851), and Caroline Blake (1811 - 1851).

Scythe - The scythe is used to denote death, the final harvest, or cutting life short.<sup>13</sup> Once again it is found on the backside of the marker for Wiley Jones (1809 - 1852).

Skull and Cross Bones - The use of a skull and cross bones symbolizes death and crucifixion<sup>14</sup> and is found on the marker of Wiley Jones (1809 - 1852) (Photo 15).

<sup>1</sup> Save our Cemeteries web site - [www.saveourcemeteries.org](http://www.saveourcemeteries.org)

<sup>2</sup> Tomb with a View's Guide to Commemorative Motifs, Mourning, Images and Memento Mori.

<sup>3</sup> Save our Cemeteries web site - [www.saveourcemeteries.org](http://www.saveourcemeteries.org)

<sup>4</sup> Tomb with a View's Guide to Commemorative Motifs, Mourning, Images and Memento Mori.

<sup>5</sup> Gravestone Symbolism web site - <http://www.graveaddiction.com/symbol.html>

<sup>6</sup> Save our Cemeteries web site - [www.saveourcemeteries.org](http://www.saveourcemeteries.org)

<sup>7</sup> Tomb with a View's Guide to Commemorative Motifs, Mourning, Images and Memento Mori.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid

<sup>9</sup> Gravestone Symbolism web site - <http://www.graveaddiction.com/symbol.html>

<sup>10</sup> Tomb with a View's Guide to Commemorative Motifs, Mourning, Images and Memento Mori.

<sup>11</sup> Save our Cemeteries web site - [www.saveourcemeteries.org](http://www.saveourcemeteries.org)

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> Tomb with a View's Guide to Commemorative Motifs, Mourning, Images and Memento Mori.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

Three Links of Chain – Three links of chain is symbol of the Odd Fellows<sup>15</sup> and is also found on the backside of the marker for Wiley Jones (1809 - 1852).

Weeping Willow - The weeping willow on a marker was a symbol of sorrow and mourning<sup>16</sup> and is found on the markers of Sarah M. Roe (1826 - 1856) (Photo 8), Franklin Caruthers (1833 - c.1855, the last number of the death date is not readable), and Sarah Murchison (1826 - 1851).

### *Inscriptions*

Many of the markers in the cemetery are inscribed with text in addition to the name, birth date, and death date. Several have the location of their birth listed such as: Jacob Dickson (1812 - 1871) born in Franklin County, Tennessee; Ann Caruthers (1804 - 1862) born in Lexington, Virginia; Robert T. Wood (1858 - 1872) born in England, Bertie Lowes Wood (1868 - 1879) born in England; Ella Macon (1851-1852) born in DeSoto, Mississippi; and John P. Robinson (1793 – death date not readable) born in Greenville County, Virginia. Some of the markers are inscribed with text about the deceased including: Jacob W. Dickson (1812-1871) with "an honest man the noblest work of God"; R.G. Hester (died 1851, no birth date listed) with "Here lies a good man"; and John P. Robinson "Mark the perfect man and behold the upright for the end of that man in peace." Besides the birth and death dates several markers have the ages inscribed as well such as: Rebecca H. Robinson (died 1848, no birth date listed) with "In the 25 year of her age"; Mary Wilcox (1873 - 1895) with "Age 22 years and 27days"; Wiley Jones (1809 - 1852) with "Aged 42 years less 22 days"; Thomas P. Gwyn (1791 -1853) with "62 years 7 months"; Bro. WC Blake (died 1853, no birth date listed) with "Aged 52 years" (Photo 17); Armsted Thompson (died 1889 with no birth date listed) with "In the 72 year of his age" (Photo 19); and Katie Quinlan (died 1863 with no birth date listed) with "Aged 1 year 9 months and 9 days." Many markers are inscribed with "in memory of" or "sacred to the memory of" followed by the name of the deceased including: Virginia V. Robinson, John P. Robinson (1793 with the death date not readable), A.M. Cowan (1804 with the death date not visible), Geo. Wood Sr. (1829 - 1879), Alfred B. Wood (1862 - 1887), Jane Thompson Wood (1883 - 1912), and Michael Quinlan (1815 - 1878). There are some other markers with miscellaneous text including: Bro. WC Blake (died 1853, no birth date listed) with "Be faithful to the cause, a tribute by Coldwater Division No. 31, Sons of Temperance"; Jane Thompson Wood (1883 - 1912) with "entered into eternal life"; Bertie Lowes Wood (1868 - 1879) with "asleep in Jesus"; Alfred B. Wood (1862 - 1887) with "palms of victory are his."

### *African American Gravesites*

There are several African Americans buried in the Springhill Cemetery. As was custom at the time the cemetery was developed and grew, the African Americans were buried towards the rear of a cemetery or less desirable land in the cemetery such as areas that sloped away towards gullies or ravines. The gravesites were most likely marked by simple wood markers or some kind of plant material, which have been lost to time. It is also possible that many were buried without markers as well. At least two Freedmen were buried in the cemetery who were victims of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1878. They were A.D. Thompson and Thomas Nelson, both buried in the rear of the cemetery on the north side where the land slopes down into a wooded area. The area where they are buried is heavily overgrown so it is not known if a marker exists for the two men. The marker was present during a 2009 inventory of the cemetery markers.

Armsted Thompson, who died 1889 at the age of 72, is buried at the rear of the cemetery (Photo 19) with a subsutaintal marker, denoting that he had some prominence in the community and the resources to erect such a marker. Armsted Thompson had a store in Hernando in 1868.<sup>17</sup> The 1870 census lists Armsted Thompson, 47, black from Alabama, blacksmith, with \$500 real estate and \$400 personal property, with Sallie, 37, black from Alabama, housekeeping, and Sara, 19, and Annie 16, blacks from Mississippi, both "at home."<sup>18</sup>

### *Non-Contributing Element*

<sup>15</sup> Tomb with a View's Guide to Commemorative Motifs, Mourning, Images and Memento Mori.

<sup>16</sup> Save our Cemeteries web site - [www.saveourcemeteries.org](http://www.saveourcemeteries.org)

<sup>17</sup> Bell, J.B. *Hernando Historic Windows*, p. 21

<sup>18</sup> Friends of Springhill Cemetery web site, <http://www.springhillfriends.org/HISTORY.htm>

Springhill Cemetery

Name of Property

DeSoto, Mississippi

County and State

The non-contributing element in the cemetery is the newly erected cemetery entrance gate (Photo 1). The large metal gate was erected in 2010 at the entrance to the cemetery on top of the hill. The gate features the name of the cemetery across the top with the date of establishment along with trees, an owl and turkey. Supporting the top of the gate are sides depicting the roots of the trees at the top of the gate.

**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.
- ☒ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Art

**Period of Significance**

1837 - 1946

**Significant Dates****Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance for the Springhill Cemetery starts after the cemetery was platted with creation of the town of Hernando in 1836 and with the first burial in the Springhill Cemetery in 1837 to 1946, the date of the last historic burial in the cemetery.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

The Springhill Cemetery is the only remaining resource in the City of Hernando related to its founding and settlement.



**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Springhill Cemetery located within the city limits of Hernando, Mississippi in DeSoto County, was established with the founding of Desoto County and its seat, Jefferson, now known as Hernando, in the territory newly acquired from the Chickasaw Cession. The cemetery was the public burial ground for residents of Hernando, free and slave, until churches and other groups established separate cemeteries. The Springhill Cemetery is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for significance under Criteria A in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Art. The period of significance is from 1837, the date of the first burial in the new cemetery in Hernando, to 1946, the date of the last historic burial in the cemetery.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

*Hernando's History*

DeSoto County, where Hernando is located, was formed in 1836 from land ceded by the Chickasaws to the United States of America. The town of Hernando, originally named Jefferson, was also founded in 1836. There is some speculation that the town may have originated as an Indian trading post, and therefore predates the forming of the county.<sup>19</sup> Edward Orne, a commissioner of the Boston and Mississippi Cotton Land Company, purchased thousands of acres of land in the cession for the Company. On June 16, 1836, the land was sold to Edward Orne and on August 16, 1836 he donated 40 acres of the purchased section for a seat for the newly formed county.<sup>20</sup>

The 40 acres was platted and laid out with a public square, 450 feet on each side, surrounded by 172 lots. In the two blocks around the square there were five streets north and five streets east and west which still form the center of Hernando. Funds were raised to build a courthouse from the sale of the lots in 1836. At that time the new town was called Jefferson. The name was quickly changed by the Mississippi Senate to Hernando to avoid confusion with several other post offices in the state also called Jefferson.<sup>21</sup>

Hernando developed steadily as transportation routes were added to and from Hernando. In 1839 the United States established a mail route from Holly Springs to Hernando. The state legislature in 1852 chartered a stock company to build a plank road from Panola to Memphis, going through Hernando. Originally called the Panola DeSoto Plank Road, it was later changed to Memphis and Hernando Plank Road.<sup>22</sup> The road was built as a toll road and was not cheap; however, it did provide relief from dust and mud. A year later in 1853 the Tennessee and Mississippi Railroad was chartered, which linked Memphis to Grenada, and in 1856 the first train arrived in Hernando.<sup>23</sup> This brought about the demise of the Plank Road, but vastly improved the transportation of cotton and other agricultural crops to New Orleans.

The Civil War brought a halt to the progress of Hernando. Union troops occupied the town in 1863 and during a period of five days destroyed the courthouse and the main businesses in Hernando. The town was again occupied in 1864 and a hotel and other buildings were also burned.<sup>24</sup>

During the Reconstruction Era, times were hard in DeSoto County like most of the state throughout the south. But from about 1880 and continuing through the 1920s, Hernando and DeSoto County entered a prosperous period. At the turn-of-the-century Hernando was described as a small, agricultural town, growing slowly but steadily as a shipping center for agricultural production of traditional southern crops.<sup>25</sup> The railroad carried crops toward Memphis or New Orleans and brought back goods to stock the general merchandise stores and specialty shops. Virgin pine timber was also a major product for rail shipment during the postbellum years when Mississippi pine forests were being harvested.

<sup>19</sup> Desoto County, "Formation," WPA Records.

<sup>20</sup> DeSoto County Genealogical Society. *DeSoto County Mississippi – History and Families*, p. 4.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, p. 4.

<sup>22</sup> Scott, Mildred. *19<sup>th</sup> Century Hernando*.

<sup>23</sup> DeSoto County Genealogical Society. *DeSoto County Mississippi – History and Families*, p. 5.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*, p. 5.

<sup>25</sup> Bell, J.B. *Hernando Historic Windows*.

Late-19th and early-20th century events that promoted prosperity in Hernando included: purchase and expansion of the Mississippi & Tennessee Railroad by the Illinois Central in 1886; establishment of the Farmer's Alliance in 1888; chartering of Hernando Bank in 1890; establishment of the first high schools for black and white students in the early 1890s; establishment of Randle University (first nine month preparatory school) in 1901; introduction of car dealerships in 1909; expansion of city services to include the first electric power plant in 1916 and the city water system in 1923; and organization of the Farm Bureau in 1927.<sup>26</sup>

Hernando's first automobile agency, a Ford dealership, was opened by W. H. Entrikin in 1913. The introduction of the car and other motorized vehicles such as delivery trucks coincided with changes in Hernando's development patterns, commercial orientation, and housing types. From 1910 to 1930 the population grew from 660 to 938, about a 30 percent increase.<sup>27</sup>

Hernando continued to grow between 1930 and 1950, with a population increase from 938 to 1206, a growth rate of about 22 percent. Unlike some other Mississippi towns, Hernando weathered the Great Depression between 1930 and 1940 and then came through the World War II era still growing.<sup>28</sup>

The growth of Hernando into the mid-20th century resulted in the building of additional structures which are now important elements in Hernando's present-day character. The DeSoto County Courthouse constructed in 1941 is especially important as it is located in the center of the historic commercial area.

### *Establishment of the Springhill Cemetery*

Springhill Cemetery was established in 1836, with the founding of DeSoto County and its seat, Jefferson, now known as Hernando. A copy of the original plat map drawn for Hernando shows "Grave Yard Donation" on the lot that is now the Springhill Cemetery.<sup>29</sup> The lot was set aside as the public burial ground for residents of the town. The date of the first use of the name "Springhill" for the cemetery is uncertain. The cemetery sits on a hill, thus the later part of the name. The "spring" portion may have come from a spring located close to the cemetery. On the plat map of Hernando there are several lots labeled "water donations," which were presumably springs. However, there is no "water donation" lot in the vicinity of the grave yard labeled on the plat map.

The Springhill Cemetery and its markers are the oldest known historic resources in the City of Hernando. They predate any of the existing historic structures, including those in any of the National Register Historic Districts in the city.

### *A Nineteenth Century Public Burial Ground*

While there are only around 100 grave markers, and these mostly represent the most prosperous families, there are probably 500-1000 burials present on the site.<sup>30</sup> Many of the graves may have been marked with only wood boards or posts, plantings, or earthen mounds decorated with the personal effects of the deceased such as a cup, bowl, bottle, or other personal effects like conch-shell calling horns. Those have been lost to time and deterioration. After Emancipation, several prominent freed men and women had monuments erected to their memory which have also been lost to time.<sup>31</sup>

The oldest graves marked at Springhill are the ten monuments indicating death between the establishment of the settlement in 1836 and 1850. They include: Pauline Donohoo Shearer (1813 - 1837), Caroline A. Payne (1840, age 7 months), Jane S. Payne (1810 - 1841), Delitha Bell Shearer (1833 -1846), Clara Jane Evans (1846, birth date unknown), Prudence Payne (1847, age 12), Pricilla Payne (June 1848, birth date unknown), Annotile Hester (1848, birth date unknown), Rebecca Robinson (1823 - 1848), and William H. Payne (1849, age 11 months). It is noteworthy that only one of the ten earliest marked interments was a male, the 11 month old William H. Payne. As adult white men controlled economic resources, it might be asked why only women and children were memorialized. Perhaps husbands' and fathers' guilt at having removed them from their homes and families and brought them to die in the wilderness is the easiest explanation, but not one that is testable. It is also likely that a wife having died first would be supplied a monument by her husband or father, where a widow and orphans may not have the resources to place a monument if the husband died first.

<sup>26</sup> *Commerce Street Historic District*, National Register of Historic Places historic district nomination, Section 8, Page 6.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>29</sup> 1913 copy of the original plat map for Hernando on file at the DeSoto County Courthouse.

<sup>30</sup> Friends of Springhill Cemetery web site, <http://www.springhillfriends.org/HISTORY.htm>

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid*

In this period, widows were allowed only a small portion of the estate (minimal household/kitchen goods, food for a year, tools for one hand) as a dower when estates of the intestate or debtors were sold at sheriffs' or trustees' auctions.<sup>32</sup> There was a further decrease in the monuments, during the period from the beginning of the Civil War until the period of Reconstruction following the war. Only four graves were marked in the 1880s and only three in the 1890s. Use of the public cemetery, at least by whites who could afford tombstones, was obviously in steep decline. Part of this decline might be explained by the dislocation caused by war and the failed Southern economies of the war and reconstruction era, the recovery from which took well over a generation. It may also be explained by population movements, as part of the native population, whites as well as Freedmen, sought new farms in the newly opened lands of Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. Conversely, it might indicate that the cemetery was becoming filled. The later 19th century saw a continuation in the trend of speculation-fueled boom and bust cycles, with major downturns in the later 1870s and the 1890s. These periods also saw periodic reduced means with which to erect monuments and increased inter-state mobility comparable to the pre-war "panics."<sup>33</sup>

However, these assumptions about the decline of Springhill Cemetery can at present be based on only what is available for study above-ground. There may be underlying issues of race and/or class that are not evident in the pattern described above. Very few former slaves could afford monuments, so if the cemetery continued in use by the urban freed population in the later 19th century, there might be a significant cemetery population that is not evident today because of the lack of permanent monuments. Such graves were probably marked by posts, boards, plantings or small portable items like local sandstone slabs, ceramics, glass vessels, sea shells, or other personal effects of the deceased, much of which has deteriorated or has been lost to time with few above-ground traces present.<sup>34</sup>

In 1878 a Yellow Fever epidemic struck Hernando. This epidemic nearly destroyed the town of Hernando. In response to the epidemic, the town officials established a committee which met each day and inventoried the situation to keep track of those that were stricken as well as to report the progress of the fever.<sup>35</sup> The epidemic struck many other settlements as well, including Memphis, which declined so precipitously that it lost its city charter. The shared small tombstone<sup>36</sup> of two elders of the black community, A.D. Thompson and Thomas Nelson, is directly attributable to the epidemic.<sup>37</sup>

There are only 6 marked graves dating after 1900. They are: Amanda Lauderdale Robinson (1831-1903), Jane Thompson Wood (1883-1912), Matt Toles (died 1918), Lee Stewart (1872-1940), George Wood Jr. (1856-1946), and N.C. Ferguson (1917-2006).<sup>38</sup>

The Woods as well as the Stewarts were immigrants to the area (the Woods from England and the Stewarts from central Mississippi); the last two 20th century graves, before the 2006 burial of N.C. Ferguson, Sr., are George Wood and Lee Stewart. That they were contemporaries and not natives may be significant in evaluating why Stewart chose to be buried here in what was an essentially abandoned cemetery in 1940, leaving a way open for the related Ferguson family to continue interments in the cemetery sixty years later. The elderly Amanda Lauderdale Robinson was interred in 1903 in the Robinson family row of mid-19th century graves with her contemporaries, after the family had otherwise ceased to use Springhill.<sup>39</sup>

During the later part of the 20th century, the old public burial ground became a pasture and woodlot.

#### *Families Buried in Springhill Cemetery*

Many early settlers, officials of the city and county, as well as merchants and tradesmen, and their families and servants are buried in the Springhill Cemetery.

<sup>32</sup> Friends of Springhill Cemetery web site, <http://www.springhillfriends.org/HISTORY.htm>

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

<sup>34</sup> Ibid

<sup>35</sup> Bell, J.B. and Scott, Mildred M. *DeSoto Cemetery Inscriptions*, p. 153

<sup>36</sup> The marker was not able to be verified with the investigation for this nomination due to heavy growth covering the area where the marker was located during a cemetery wide inventory in 2009.

<sup>37</sup> Friends of Springhill Cemetery web site, <http://www.springhillfriends.org/HISTORY.htm>

<sup>38</sup> Ibid

<sup>39</sup> Ibid



The first settlers to Hernando arrived in 1836 with the founding of the new town. Two jury lists from the 140 men known to be in the county were made by Judge Cobb.<sup>40</sup> Of these lists of first established immigrants in Hernando were members from the Jones, Payne, and Walker families, all of which have family members buried in the Springhill Cemetery.

The first sheriff of the county was C.B. Payne and his son, Marion J. Payne, who was only six years old at the time of his death, was buried in the Springhill Cemetery in 1837.<sup>41</sup> His marker is the earliest known marker in the Springhill Cemetery. He was the son of C.B. and Jane Payne, who is also, buried in the cemetery. Their daughters Caroline and Prudence are also buried in the cemetery. Caroline died as an infant in 1840 and Prudence died in 1847 at twelve years old. Jane Payne died in 1841 and was buried in the cemetery. After her death C.B. remarried, and his new wife was named Priscilla. Their one year old son William H. who died in 1849 and son C.B. who died in 1851 at age five are also buried in the cemetery. Priscilla died in 1848 and is buried in the cemetery.<sup>42</sup> There appears to be no marker for C.B. Payne himself, although there are some unmarked graves in the vicinity of the other Payne family graves, so it is possible that he was buried there without a marker.

The Payne family abandoned the Springhill Cemetery in favor of the Baptist Memorial Cemetery in Hernando after 1872 with the burial of William B. Payne in the Baptist Cemetery in 1872.<sup>43</sup>

Jacob Dickson, another early sheriff of DeSoto County is buried in the cemetery. He was born in 1812 and died in 1871. He was sheriff during the 1850s. No other Dickson family members are known to be buried in the cemetery.

Sarah N. Ellis, wife of Dr. W.D. Ellis passed away in 1842 at the age of 32. The 1841 tax roll in Hernando shows W.D. Ellis and James Ellis as the owners of a total of 4 1/2 lots in the original plat.<sup>44</sup> James Ellis was county treasurer.<sup>45</sup> In 1845, Dr. W.D. Ellis advertised as a surgeon in the local newspaper.<sup>46</sup> There are no markers for James or W.D. Ellis in the cemetery.

The Evans family has several family members buried in the cemetery. L.W. Evans shows up on the 1840 census as a resident of DeSoto County.<sup>47</sup> L.W. Evans and his wife Mary Ann had three children buried in the cemetery including Molly (1851 – 1853), Clara (1846), and Thomas (death date of 1845 and birth date not visible). Mary Ann was buried in the cemetery in 1852 at the age of 26.<sup>48</sup>

Thomas Nelson (1799-1878) died in the year yellow fever nearly destroyed the town. Nelson, born 1799, lived 65 years under slavery and lived his last dozen years as an old man in freedom. He died on November 10th, the same date as A.D. Thompson (1842 – 1878) who was also a former slave. Both share a single marker.<sup>49</sup>

Andrew C Satterfield (1812 – 1851), cabinetmaker and the first mayor of Hernando, is buried in the Cemetery.<sup>50</sup> He was born in Tennessee. In 1837, when the Masons contracted for a building that would house a Baptist Church on the lower floor, Satterfield, in his mid 20s, was the senior warden. He married Caroline Elizabeth Robinson who was born around 1816 in North Carolina on 12 April 1838 in Fayette County, Tennessee. She was the oldest daughter of John P and Cynthia Sledge Robinson. Satterfield is buried in the same row as the Robinson family, near his father-in-law John P Robinson. His wife is probably buried in the same vicinity as the rest of the family; however, there is no marker remaining for her burial site.

While early newspaper printer W.S. Slade is buried at Memorial/Baptist Cemetery along with one daughter, four of his children were buried at Springhill beginning in 1868, two in the yellow fever year of 1878. The children buried in the

<sup>40</sup> Bell, J.B. *Hernando Historic Windows*, p. 13

<sup>41</sup> Bell, J.B. and Scott, Mildred M. *DeSoto Cemetery Inscriptions*, p. 159

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid*, p. 167-168

<sup>43</sup> Friends of Springhill Cemetery web site, <http://www.springhillfriends.org/HISTORY.htm>

<sup>44</sup> Bell, J.B. *Hernando Historic Windows*, p. 15

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid*, p. 14

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid*, p. 16

<sup>47</sup> Friends of Springhill Cemetery web site, <http://www.springhillfriends.org/HISTORY.htm>

<sup>48</sup> Bell, J.B. and Scott, Mildred M. *DeSoto Cemetery Inscriptions*, p. 168

<sup>49</sup> The marker was not able to be verified with the investigation for this nomination due to heavy growth covering the area where the marker was located during a cemetery wide inventory in 2009.

<sup>50</sup> Friends of Springhill Cemetery web site, <http://www.springhillfriends.org/HISTORY.htm>



cemetery were Joseph (1868), Emma (1864 – 1871), Esther 1875 – 1878), and Annie (1857 – 1878).<sup>51</sup> In 1867, Slade's newspaper became known as the *Hernando Press*; in 1876 it merged with the *Senatobia Times* and became known as the *Press and Times*; then in 1889 W.S. Slade changed the name of his weekly paper to the *Desoto Times*, which merged with the *Times Promoter* and continued to be called the *Times Promoter*. Slade retired in 1897.<sup>52</sup>

Lee Stewart (1872 - 1940) arrived in DeSoto County in the 1890s. He was the owner of Stewart Chevrolet, and step-father to N.C. Ferguson, Sr., who is buried beside him in the cemetery. By 1909 he was operating a bus service in Hernando and by 1936 he had a Chevrolet automobile dealership.<sup>53</sup>

Armsted Thompson, who died in 1889 at the age of 72, appears to have been a Freedman of the Thompson family. His marker (Photo 19) is to the rear of the cemetery. Armsted Thompson had a store in Hernando in 1868.<sup>54</sup> The 1870 census lists Armsted Thompson, 47, black from Alabama, blacksmith, with \$500 real estate and \$400 personal property, with Sallie, 37, black from Alabama, housekeeping, and Sara, 19, and Annie 16, blacks from Mississippi, both "at home."<sup>55</sup>

In 1841, William H. Wise paid taxes on 2 1/2 town lots showing that he was an early settler of the town of Hernando.<sup>56</sup> He died in 1856 at the age of 48 (Photo 20) and is buried with other family members in the cemetery. The other Wise family members buried in the cemetery include James B Wise (1853 – 1855), Thomas James (1841), and J.H. (no dates).<sup>57</sup>

The George Wood family emigrated from England. They were interred in a fenced family plot (Photo 9) between 1879 and 1946, some of the latest interments at Springhill. George and his wife Jane Thompson emigrated from Liverpool, England in 1865. They had six children with some born in England, one on the ship over to America, and the rest born in DeSoto County. George Wood's son George Wood, Jr., was elected alderman in 1892 and was keeping a livery stable in town.<sup>58</sup> William F. "Will" Wood was Desoto County Circuit Court Clerk from 1911 until his death in 1945. The Wood family members buried in the Springhill Cemetery include George Sr. (1829 - 1879), wife Jane Thompson (1833 – 1912), and children Joseph Manhattan (1869 – 1889), Verty Lowes (1868 - 1879), and George Jr. (1856 – 1946).

### Grave Markers as Art

Many of the markers in the Springhill Cemetery could be considered works of art with their decorative designs, and use of iconography inscribed in the stones. Even the lettering on some of the markers is highly ornate with a combination of bas-relief and inscribed lettering.

There are several tall tapered obelisk shaped markers in the cemetery for: James Dickson (1871); William Caruthers (1870); Michael Quinlan (1878); and Wiley Jones (1852) (Photo 15). Similar to the obelisk markers are pedestal vault markers which are square columns with pointed arched tops to each side forming a vault in the middle. There are two of these types of markers in the cemetery, each belonging to a single family. One is for the Wood family (Photo 10) and the other for the Shearer family. The markers have the names of different family members inscribed decoratively on each side.

The marker for Wiley Jones (1809 - 1852) (Photo 15) has several symbols carved into the obelisk including a skull and cross bones, three links of chain which is a symbol of the Odd Fellows<sup>59</sup>, a heart in a hand denoting that he was a member of the International Order of Odd Fellows,<sup>60</sup> and a scythe.

The marble marker for H.M. Caruthers (Photo 16) is highly decorative with a central rectangular shape with a segmental arched top flanked by carved scroll work. It has a decorative outline for the name, birth date and death date. Above that is a bas-relief angel in a circle, surrounded by leaves.

<sup>51</sup> Bell, J.B. and Scott, Mildred M. *DeSoto Cemetery Inscriptions*, p. 169

<sup>52</sup> Friends of Springhill Cemetery web site, <http://www.springhillfriends.org/HISTORY.htm>

<sup>53</sup> Bell, J.B. *Hernando Historic Windows*, p. 40 and 55

<sup>54</sup> Bell, J.B. *Hernando Historic Windows*, p. 21

<sup>55</sup> Friends of Springhill Cemetery web site, <http://www.springhillfriends.org/HISTORY.htm>

<sup>56</sup> Ibid

<sup>57</sup> Bell, J.B. and Scott, Mildred M. *DeSoto Cemetery Inscriptions*, p. 168

<sup>58</sup> Bell, J.B. *Hernando Historic Windows*, p. 29, 31

<sup>59</sup> Tomb with a View's Guide to Commemorative Motifs, Mourning, Images and Memento Mori.

<sup>60</sup> Gravestone Symbolism web site - <http://www.graveaddiction.com/symbol.html>

The marker for Sarah M. Roe (1826 - 1856) (Photo 8) is located within a highly decorative cast iron fence (Photo 7), the most decorative of all of the fencing in the cemetery. The marble marker has a simple shape with elaborate carvings at the top with a willow tree within a decorative scalloped border.

The most decorative portion of many of the markers is the iconography or symbols carved into the markers. Some of the symbols refer to associations during the person's life, such as a fraternal organization, or are a reference to a life cut short, mourning, beauty, eternal life, Christianity, or other meaning. Several of the markers have more than one symbol carved on the marker. A couple of the markers including those of Andrew Satterfield (1812-1851) and Jacob Dickson (1812-1871) have Masonic emblems denoting their association with the Masonic Order. The markers of Sarah M. Roe (1826 - 1856), Franklin Caruthers (1833 - c.1855, the last number of the death date is not readable), and Sarah Murchison (1826 - 1851) all have markers with the weeping willow. Sarah Murchison (1826 - 1851) and Caroline Blake (1811 - 1851) have a hand pointing to heaven. Clasped hands are found on the marker of Ella Nora Evans (1852 - 1879). The use of the lamb is found on several of the markers including: Rebecca Robinson (1823 - 1848), S.H. Calhoun (1858 - c. 1860, the last number of the death date is not visible), and an infant Alice Dodds (1857). A dove can be found on the markers of Ester D. Slade (no dates) and infant Joseph B. Slade (1868). The use of flowers on markers was very popular in the cemetery. Stylized or abstract flowers were used on the markers for Cynthia Slade Robinson (1797 - 1856), N.C. Ferguson (1917 - 2006), and Stewart Lee (1872 - 1940). The markers of Emma Slade (1862 - 1871), Bertie Lowes Wood (1868 - 1879), Annottile Hester (1835 -1848), and Margaret J. Quinlan (1854 - 1855) have roses. The lily is found on the marker of an infant with the last name Caruthers who died in 1858. A broken column is found on the marker of Sarah M. Roe (1826 - 1856). The angel appears on the markers for Mary Wilcox (1873 - 1895) and H.M. Caruthers (1842 - 1858) (Photo 16). Drapery is used on the marker of S.H. Calhoun (1858 - c. 1865, the last number of the death date is not readable) in combination with a lamb. The marker of Geo. Wood Sr. (1829 - 1879) uses ivy. An open "Holy Bible" is found on the marker of R.G. Hester (no birth date listed, only a death date of 1851). The marker of Michael Quinlan (1815 - 1878) uses a cross.

Many of the markers in the cemetery are inscribed with text in decorative fonts denoting the name of the person buried in the grave, usually the most decorative, and the birth date, death date, and possibly an additional inscription. The marker for W.H. Wise (1808 - 1856) (Photo 20) uses bas-relief for the name which is surrounded by a scalloped border and "Born" and "Died" in bas-relief with the dates inscribed. The marker for H.M. Caruthers (1842 - 1858) (Photo 16) uses bas relief for the name which is placed in an inscribed arch so that the name stands out. The marker for Sarah M. Roe (1826 - 1856) (Photo 8) uses bas-relief as well for her first name on the marker so that it stands out with the rest of the text inscribed rather than in bas-relief. Instead of standard script as on many other markers, the marker for Armsted Thompson (1817 - 1889) (Photo 19) uses text for the name inscribed into the stone in an arched pattern giving the effect that the name projects from the marker.

### *Comparison of Cemeteries in Hernando*

There are two other cemeteries located within the city limits of Hernando. They are located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Oak Grove Road and Magnolia Drive which falls within the South Side Historic District. The two cemeteries are joined by a common road off of Magnolia Drive. The cemetery at the end of the drive is the Hernando Baptist Cemetery, and the cemetery south of the drive is the Hernando Memorial Cemetery which has a service road down the center which connects with Oak Grove Road. Both cemeteries are well preserved and well tended.

The Baptist cemetery is the older of the two and was developed after the Springhill Cemetery. It appears to have taken over for the Springhill Cemetery in terms of the number of burials, especially after the Civil War. The Baptist Cemetery was formally planned, unlike Springhill Cemetery, with rigid rows of graves intersecting a central service road. Old trees shade most of the grave sites and statuary. A fence surrounds the entire grounds, with iron gates at the entrance. There are many high quality and well designed decorative monuments from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries throughout the cemetery. Many of the family plots are outlined in low concrete walls, which were probably installed in the 1920s. The main service road through the center of the cemetery is paved. The earliest dated marker in the cemetery dates to 1838. There is a section of the cemetery for the Confederate dead with a historic limestone obelisk monument and a newer stone monument with a brass plaque with the names of sixty soldiers buried in the cemetery in 1862.

There is a separate fenced area which is encircled by the service drive from Magnolia Drive. It contains the grave of Felix LaBauve with a simple monument surrounded by a wrought iron fence. Felix LaBauve, was one of Hernando's founders and he donated the cemetery grounds to Hernando.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Gravestone Symbolism web site - <http://www.graveaddiction.com/symbol.html>

Most notable among the monuments in the Baptist Cemetery are: the Confederate Monument, a limestone obelisk, ca. 1875; the R.T. Lamb grave marker, ca. 1916, which has a stone bust of R.T. Lamb on a stone base; and the LaBauve monument and grave marker, a limestone obelisk, ca. 1879.<sup>62</sup>

The Hernando Memorial Cemetery has later burials than the Springhill Cemetery or the Baptist Cemetery. Burials in this cemetery start in the twentieth century. It is a planned cemetery with a rigid pattern of rows for burials parallel to the service road which intersects with Oak Grove Road on the south and the main cemetery service road on the north. Markers in the Hernando Memorial Cemetery are low ground stones with no grand or large markers as found in the Springhill or Baptist Cemeteries.

#### *Hernando's National Register Listings and Districts*

There are five National Register of Historic Places historic districts in Hernando and one property individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The districts are: Hernando Courthouse Square Historic District listed in 1998, Commerce Street Historic District listed in 2001, South Side Historic District listed in 2001, North Side Historic District listed in 2001, and North Elm Street Historic District listed in 2012.

The Courthouse Square Historic District includes the downtown commercial core of Hernando around the county courthouse and is northeast of the Springhill Cemetery. The other districts are primarily residential in nature. The Commerce Street Historic District is located several blocks north of the Springhill Cemetery. Just north of that district and touching the northern boundary of the Commerce Street Historic District is the North Elm Street Historic District. The North Side Historic District is west of the North Elm Street Historic District and northwest of the Courthouse Square Historic District. The South Side Historic District is east of the Springhill Cemetery and southeast of the Courthouse Square Historic District. The South Side Historic District includes the Felix LaBauve House which was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

#### *Conclusion*

The establishment of the Springhill Cemetery in 1836 with the platting of the town of Hernando, Mississippi in DeSoto County, allowed for the burial of residents of the newly formed town before churches and other groups established separate cemeteries. Many of the people buried in the cemetery were early settlers of the town and important members of the community. Even with only a hundred or so remaining markers there are still excellent examples of markers used during the time period of the 1850s to 1880s when the cemetery was most active. The markers use decorative shapes, iconographic images, and text to honor the deceased. The significance of the Springhill Cemetery is derived from members of the early families of Hernando who were buried there and their markers which represent a decorative art form typical of the period in which they were erected.

---

#### **Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

---

<sup>62</sup> Ibid



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

- Bell, J.B. *Hernando Historic Windows*. Hernando, MS: J.B. Bell, 1986
- Bell, J.B. and Scott, Mildred M. *DeSoto Cemetery Inscriptions*. Genealogical Society of DeSoto County Mississippi: Hernando, Mississippi.
- Commerce Street Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 2001. On file at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (Jackson, Miss.)
- DeSoto County Genealogical Society. *DeSoto County Mississippi – History and Families*. Rose Publishing Company: Humboldt, Tennessee, 1999.
- DeSoto County, Mississippi. "Formation" WPA Records. On file at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (Jackson, Miss.)
- Gravestone Symbolism web site - <http://www.graveaddiction.com/symbol.html>
- Hernando Courthouse Square Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1998. On file at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (Jackson, Miss.)
- Investigation at Springhill Cemetery, Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi*. Report prepared by Northwest Mississippi Community College: Civil Technology & Drafting and Design Technology.
- North Side Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 2001. On file at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (Jackson, Miss.)
- Scott, Mildred M. *19<sup>th</sup> Century Hernando*. Genealogical Society of DeSoto County Mississippi: Hernando, Mississippi.
- South Side Street Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 2001. On file at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (Jackson, Miss.)
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Hernando, Mississippi: 1903, 1909, 1915, 1925, 1936. On microfilm at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (Jackson, Miss.)
- Save our Cemeteries web site - [www.saveourcemeteries.org](http://www.saveourcemeteries.org)
- Scott, Mildred. *19<sup>th</sup> Century Hernando*. Genealogical Society of DeSoto County.
- Tomb with a View's Guide to Commemorative Motifs, Mourning, Images and Memento Mori.

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)
- ☐ 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
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 033-HER-0083

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)



Springhill Cemetery  
Name of Property

DeSoto, Mississippi  
County and State

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>7 74 359</u> Easting	<u>38 56 528</u> Northing	3	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>7 74 125</u> Easting	<u>38 56 623</u> Northing
2	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>7 74 387</u> Easting	<u>38 56 623</u> Northing	4	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>7 74 127</u> Easting	<u>38 56 547</u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary for the Springhill Cemetery is the original plot of land created for the cemetery in Hernando, Mississippi. Starting at the northwest corner of the intersection of College Street and West Oak Grove Road, the plot of the land for the cemetery travels 366 feet due north from the southeast corner to the northeast corner of the plot. At that point it makes a 90 degree turn and travels west 880 feet to the northwest corner of the plot where it again makes a 90 degree turn and travels south for 366 feet to the southwest corner. It then makes another 90 degree turn and from that point travels 880 feet east to the starting point at the southeast corner of the plot.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary is the historic dimensions of the lot for the Springhill Cemetery which was created in 1836 when the town of Hernando was platted.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Springhill Cemetery

Name of Property

DeSoto County, Mississippi

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page           

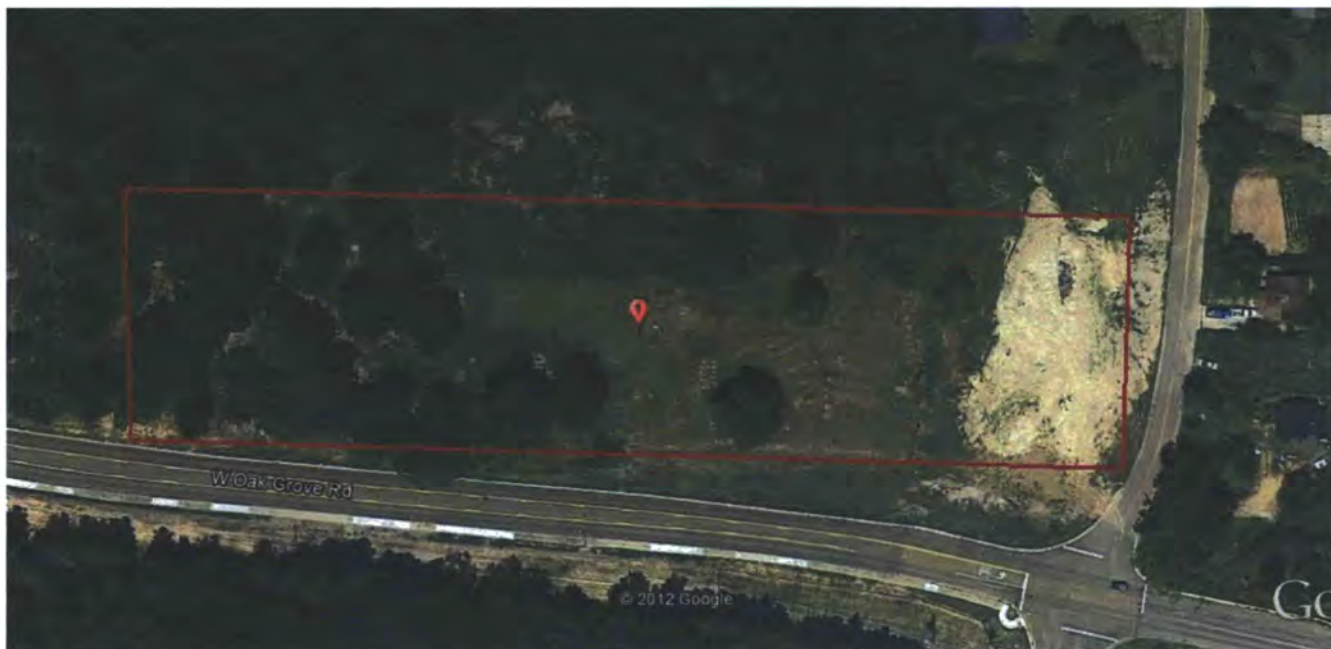
**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

(Follow similar guidelines for entering the lat/long coordinates as describe on page 55, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* for entering UTM references. For properties less than 10 acres, enter the lat/long coordinates for a point corresponding to the center of the property. For properties of 10 or more acres, enter three or more points that correspond to the vertices of a polygon drawn on the map. The polygon should approximately encompass the area to be registered. Add additional points below, if necessary.)

Datum if other than WGS84:                       
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34°48'60" N

Longitude: 90°00'06" W



Springhill Cemetery  
Name of Property

DeSoto, Mississippi  
County and State

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title David Preziosi  
organization Mississippi Heritage Trust date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number 600 East Amite Street, Suite 201 telephone 601-354-0200  
city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39201  
e-mail david@mississippiheritage.com

---

**Additional Documentation**

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

**Photographs:**

---

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Springhill Cemetery

**City or Vicinity:** Hernando

**County:** DeSoto

**State:** Mississippi

**Photographer:** David Preziosi

**Date Photographed:** August, 2011

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- 1 of 20:** View to W  
**2 of 20:** View to W  
**3 of 20:** View to NW  
**4 of 20:** View to W  
**5 of 20:** View to SE  
**6 of 20:** Marker for Rosa Adeline Robinson  
View to Ground  
**7 of 20:** Fence for Sarah M. Roe Marker  
View to N

- 8 of 20:** Marker for Sarah M. Roe  
View to W
- 9 of 20:** Wood Family Plot  
View to NW
- 10 of 20:** Wood Family Marker  
View to NW
- 11 of 20:** Plot for James Riley and T.J. West  
View to W
- 12 of 20:** Shearer Family Plot  
View to SW
- 13 of 20:** Shearer Family Marker  
View to SW
- 14 of 20:** Headstone for M.A.S. (Martha Ann Shearer)  
View to W
- 15 of 20:** Marker for Wiley Jones  
View to E
- 16 of 20:** Marker for H.M. Caruthers  
View to W
- 17 of 20:** Marker for Bro. W.C. Blake  
View to W
- 18 of 20:** Marker for Mary Ann Evans  
View to E
- 19 of 20:** Marker for Armsted Thompson  
View to West
- 20 of 20:** Marker for W.H. Wise  
View to West

---

**Property Owner:**

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name City of Hernandostreet & number 475 West Commerce Streettelephone 662-429-9092city or town Hernandostate MSzip code 38632

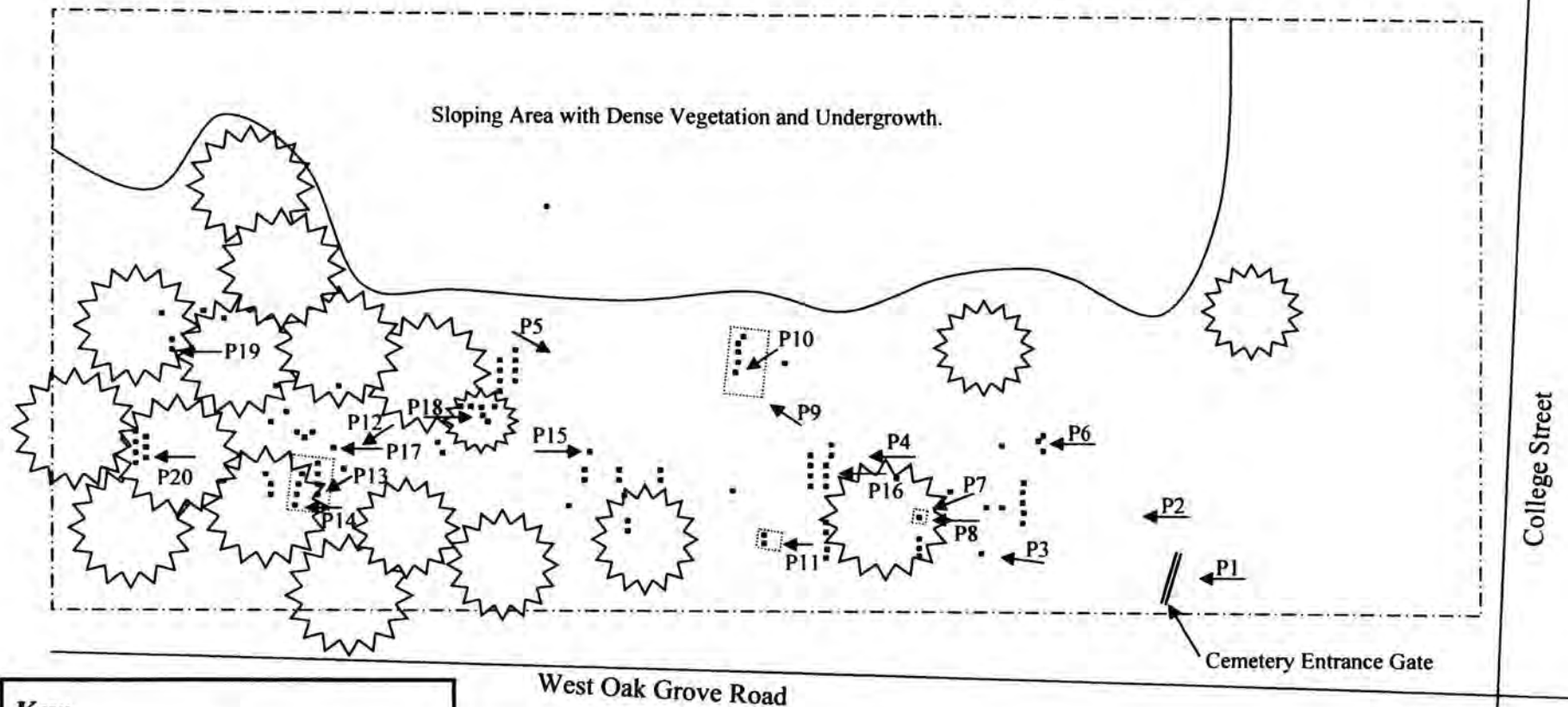
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



# Spring Hill Cemetery

## Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi



### Key:

- Cemetery Property Line
- Marker or Gravesite Location
- - - - - Plot Fencing
- ☼ Tree
- P Photograph Number

*Note: Tree and grave site locations are approximate based on a 2009 survey of the Cemetery.*

0 25 50 100  
(Scale In Feet)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Springhill Cemetery  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MISSISSIPPI, De Soto

DATE RECEIVED: 6/08/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/09/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/24/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/25/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000430

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 7.25.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 2 of 20

002.JPG 4LENOVO-30729874USB  
00000096012 N N N+INN2090.6/100.0





Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, De Soto County, Mississippi  
Photo 30 F 20

003.JPG 5LENOVO-30729674USB  
00000096012 N H H1NN2090.6/100.0



Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 4 of 20

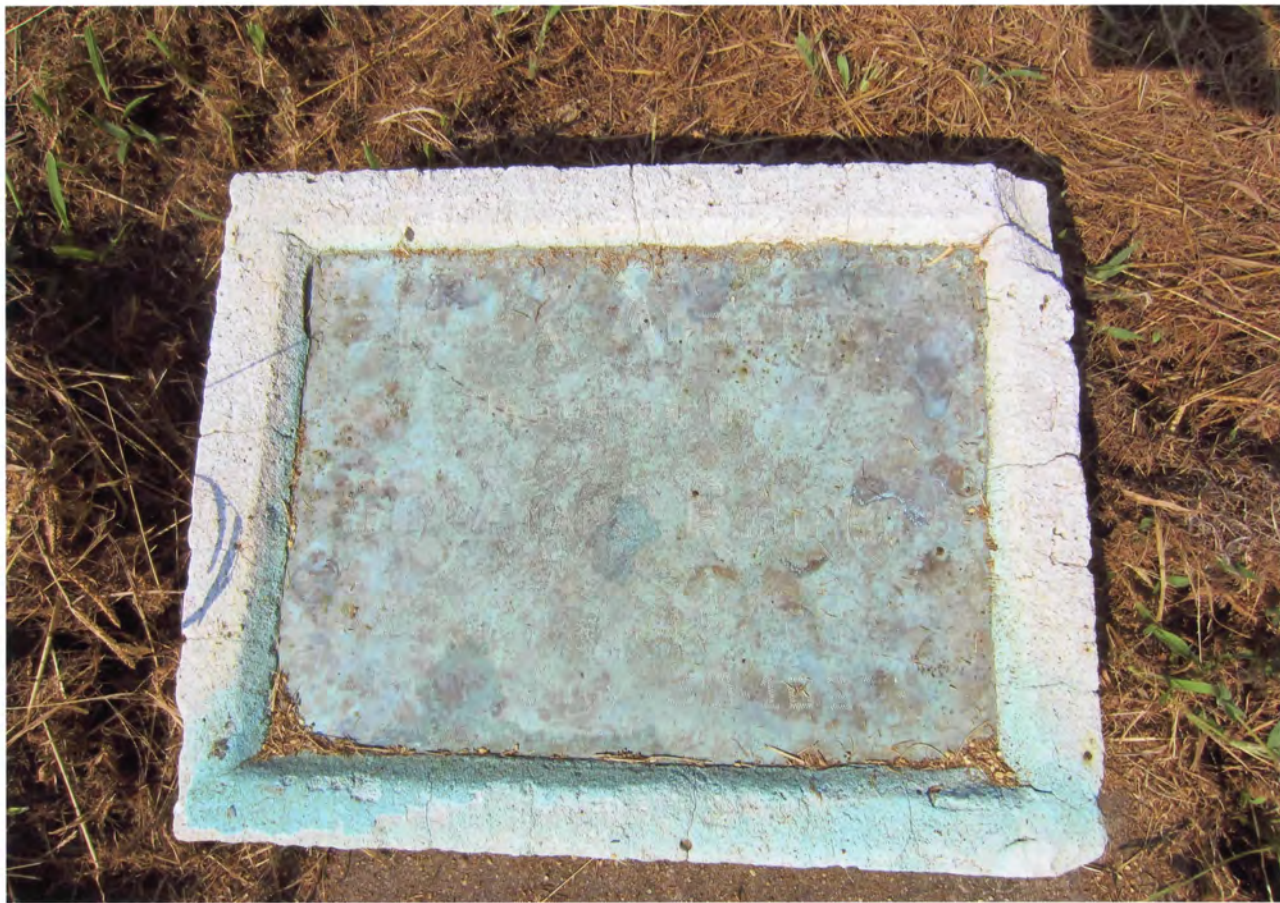
004.JPG 7LENOVO-38729874USB  
00000096012 N N N+1HN2090.6/100.0





Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 5 of 20

005.JPG 9LENOVO-38729874USB  
00000096012+1 N N-1NN2890.6/100.0



Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 6 of 20

006.JPG 11LEN000-30729074USB  
00000096012 N N N MH12098.6/100.0





Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 7 of 20

007.JPG 13LENOVO-30729074USB  
00000096012+1 N-1-2NN2090.6/100.0



SARAH ANN

Daughter of

JOHN S. & M. R. G.

BORN

Nov. 24, 1826

DIED

Oct. 15, 1856

Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 8 of 20

008.JPG 15LENOVO-30729874USB  
00000096012+1 N-1-1--2090.9/100.0





Springhill Cemetery

Mernardo, DeSoto County, Mississippi

Photo 9 of 20

009.JPG 17LENOVO-30729B74USB  
00000096012 N N+1 NNN2090.6/100.0



WOOD  
BORN  
IN ENGLAND  
Apr. 2, 1829  
Died  
Feb. 28, 1879

WEDDED TO THE  
MURPHY  
ALFRED  
Son of  
C. J. WOOD  
BORN  
IN ENGLAND  
Oct. 16, 1862  
Died  
April 1882



Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 10 of 20

010.JPG 19LENOVO-30729674USB  
00000096012 N N N N—2090.9/100.0





Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 11 of 20

011.JPG 21LENOVO-30729074USB  
00000096012 N N+1#1NN2090.6/100.0





Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 12 of 20

012.JPG 23LENDVD-30729074USB  
00000096012+1 N N-1NH2090.6/100.0





Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 13 of 20

013.JPG 25LENOVO-30729074USB  
00000096012+1 N-1-3--2090.9/100.0

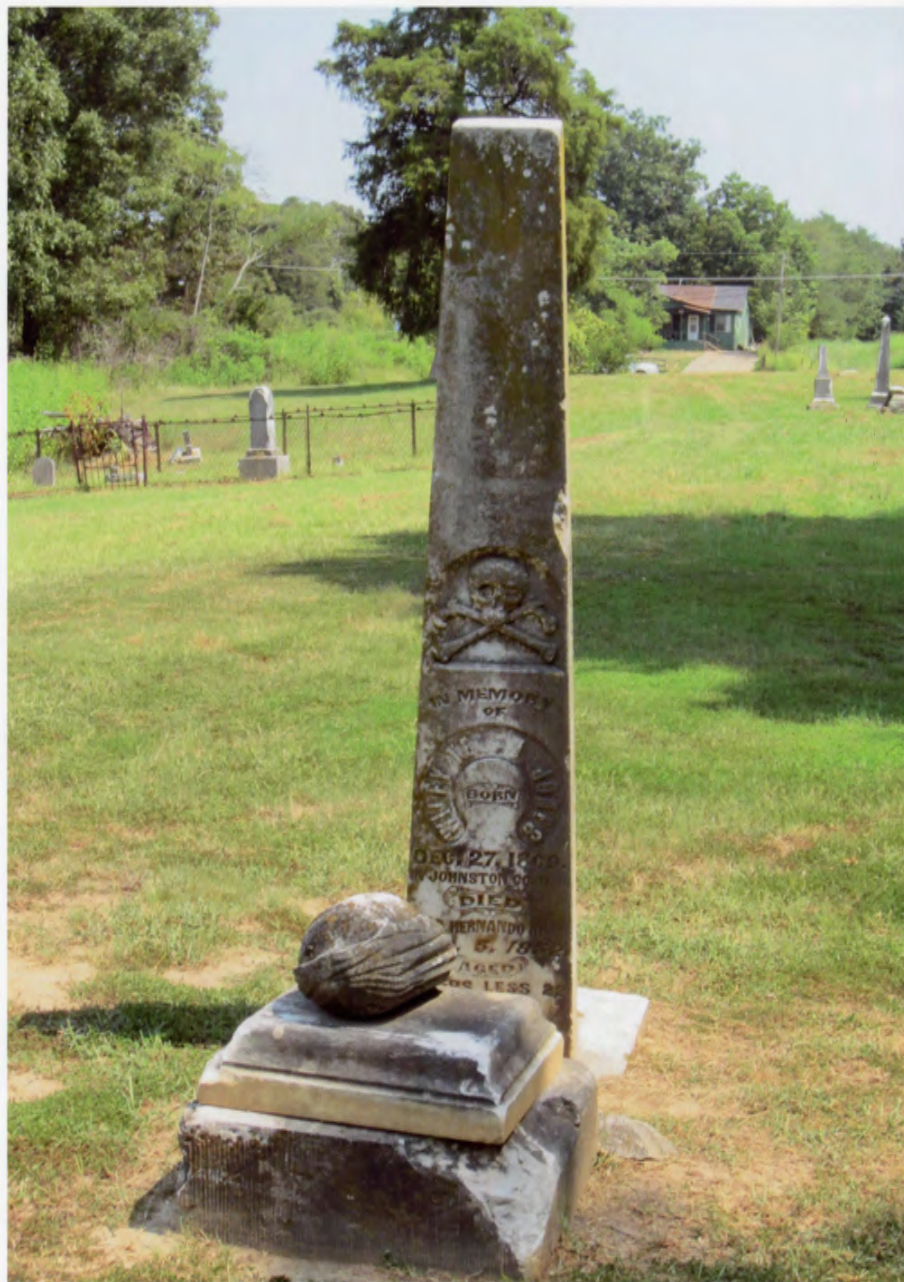




Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 14 of 20

014.JPG 27LENOVO-30729874USB  
00000096012+1 H H-2H2090.6/100.0





Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 15 of 20

015.JPG 29LENOVO-30729074USB  
00000090.012 N N N-2---2090.9/100.0



H.M. CARUTHERS  
BORN  
June 8, 1842  
DIED  
Dec. 9, 1858.

Spring hill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 16 of 20

016.JPG 31LEH000-38729B74USB  
00000096012+1 N-1-1---2090.9/100.0





Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 17 of 20

017.JPG 331.FM000-307290740SB  
0000009601241 H-1-1--2090.9/100.0





Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 18 of 20

010.JPG 351 ENMU-30729874USB  
00000096012+1 N-1-1--2090.9/100.0





Springhill Cemetery

Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi

Photo 19 of 20

019.JPG 37LENDU0-30729074USB  
00000096012+1 N-1-2---2090.9/100.0

W. H. WISE,

BORN

Nov. 14, 1808.

DIED

May 15, 1856.



Springhill Cemetery  
Hernando, DeSoto County, Mississippi  
Photo 20 of 20

020.JPG 39LENOVO-30729B74USB  
0000009012+1 N N-11N2090.6/100.0



## Missing Core Documentation

**Property Name**

Springhill Cemetery

**County, State**

De Soto County,  
OH

**Reference Number**

12000430

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

☐ Nomination Form

☒ Photographs (#1)

☒ USGS Map



May 29, 2012

Ms. Carol Shull  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to enclose the nomination form and supporting documents to nominate the following properties to the National Register of Historic Places:

Springhill Cemetery, Hernando, De Soto County

The property was approved for nomination by the Mississippi Historic Preservation Professional Review Board at its meeting on May 17, 2012.

We trust you will find the enclosed materials in order and will let us hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H.T. Holmes".

H.T. Holmes  
State Historic Preservation Officer

By: William M. Gatlin

National Register Coordinator