

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUL 2 1987

date entered AUG - 3 1987

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

1. Name

historic City Cemetery

and or common Old City Cemetery

2. Location

street & number West Church St., Cemetery St., and Haynes St. N/A not for publication

city, town Sandersville N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Washington code 303

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Sandersville c/o Honorable Franklin Haynes, Mayor

street & number P.O. Box 71

city, town Sandersville N/A vicinity of state Georgia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Washington County Courthouse

city, town Sandersville state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Description

The Old City Cemetery in Sandersville, Georgia is located on a five and a half acre tract of land located slightly to the west of the city's business district. The cemetery is situated on gently rolling land and is bounded on three sides by city streets. Two entrances, one on the east side and one on the south side, serve as the basis for the grid plan used in laying out the burial plots as well as the alleys which provide access to the plots. The overwhelming majority of the burials in the cemetery are below ground, with burial markers ranging in size and monumentality from simple headstones to cast metal statuary. A small number of the cemetery plots are surrounded by ornamental iron fences.

Sandersville's Old City Cemetery is situated somewhat to the west of the city's business district and is bounded on the east by Virginia Avenue, on the south by West Church Street, and on the north by Haynes Street. The western boundary of the cemetery is formed by the rear lot lines of a series of residences facing onto Haynes and Church Streets. The principal entrances to the five and a half acre cemetery site are on Virginia Avenue and West Church Street. The major means of access to the various burial plots in the cemetery is provided by the alleys which lead to these two entrances. The east-west alley leading to Virginia Avenue is the broadest of the four east-west alleys in the cemetery, while the broadest alley in the entire cemetery runs north from the entrance on West Church. Two other north-south alleys flank the major alley. The cemetery is divided into approximately 240 lots for burial. The majority of these lots are occupied by more than one funerary monument, with only 23 of the lots containing either no above ground markers or known to be completely vacant.

The grid plan used to lay out the cemetery lots is not uniform throughout the cemetery. A portion of the northwest quadrant of the cemetery was not plotted on the grid, and it contains several early funerary monuments placed randomly on the ground. An open area in this portion of the cemetery is reported the site of a former early 19th-century church.

The funerary art found in the Old City Cemetery is quite varied and merits a detailed description of the principal types. Roughly half of the burials in the cemetery are marked by flat slabs of stone, with the name and dates of the deceased incised on the top of the slab. Most of these flat slabs are not associated with any upright monuments or statuary, but one exception is the Haynes family plot, lot 12, which features an ornamental shaft topped by a draped urn at the center of a series of flat slab markers. Lot 18, the family plot of the Strange family, contains two sarcophagus style tombs formed of slabs of granite and marble, devoid of any carved ornamentation. Three above-ground brick vault tombs are situated in the open ground to the northwest of the cemetery. Only one has survived intact, and none of them bear any sort of identification for the remains they contain. The largest work of funerary architecture in the cemetery is the family mausoleum located on the plot purchased by the Brantley and Pringle families. The marble-faced structure features pilastrated side walls, with access to the vaults being obtained through a round-arched door set behind a pair of Tuscan columns which support a rather heavy parapet on the front of the tomb. The most common form of ornate funerary monument to be found in the cemetery takes the form of the allegorical figure, invariably of a woman, set atop a marble base, upon which is carved the name of the deceased. The single largest collection of this monument type is located in the Evans family plot, where three small monuments are placed side by side to commemorate the deaths of three

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small children, with winged putti serving as the allegorical figures atop each monument. The most unusual of these figurative monuments marks the grave of Ernestine Artman Roberts. With the exception of the granite base plinth, the entire monument was cast by the Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut, and is clearly identified as one of their works by a raised letter label on the base. Perhaps the most austere and commanding monument in the cemetery is the massive granite block marking the grave of 1st Lieutenant Beverly Daniel Evans, Jr., who died in the Battle of Meuse-Argonne in World War I. The marker measures approximately six feet in length, three feet in width, and three feet in height and is a single block of stone.

Ten of the lots in the cemetery are surrounded by ornamental iron fences. Of these, the most striking is the cast-iron Gothic Revival style fence which surrounds the Youngblood plot, which has recently been restored. A marble cross located in the north-central section of the cemetery marks the reported location of the Sandersville Methodist Church. This church, which was established circa 1840 and in use until a larger church was constructed in 1859, was moved out of the cemetery site in 1879 to a location on Minden Street, where it was used by a black congregation.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1836 - - 1936 **Builder/Architect** several

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Significance

The Old City Cemetery in Sandersville is significant in the areas of art and sculpture and historic archeology.

In the areas of art and sculpture, the cemetery is significant for its collection of 19th and 20th century funerary monuments. Nowhere else in Washington County can this aspect of material culture be more readily observed. The growth in the scale and ornamental quality of the monuments found in the cemetery is characteristic of the development of funerary art in the United States. The simplest burial markers, which consist of flat slabs of stone set directly into or on top of the ground itself, reflect the most basic type of memorial art, with decoration limited to the carving of the name and dates for the deceased. With the advent of the mass production of cemetery art which took place in the second half of the 19th century, it was possible for families to obtain sculptural memorials to commemorate the dead. The full range of 19th century cemetery iconography can be found in the Old City Cemetery, including draped urns, obelisks, human figures, usually of women, in various stages of lamentation, as well as markers designed to memorialize the death of a child. While most of the monuments are not signed by either a craftsman or a company, two monuments bear the signature of the Macon, Georgia firm of T.B. Artope, and one monument, a life-size metal statue commemorating Ernestine Artman Roberts, bears the name of the Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut. The 19th century practice of fenced burial plots is also well represented here, with ten fenced plots, including two important cast-iron ante-bellum fences. The most important 20th century monument in the cemetery, that of 1st Lieutenant Beverly Daniel Evans, Jr., reflects the rather sober and unadorned character of memorials for the dead of the First World War, both in public memorials at the major battlefields in France, as well as memorials erected in the United States.

In the area of historic archeology, the cemetery has the potential to provide important information on 19th-century burial practices. There are known to be a number of unmarked graves in the earliest section of the cemetery, and archeological investigations into these graves would provide information on the social position of the individuals interred in these graves and the manner in which burials were conducted. The period in question would commence with the founding of the cemetery in 1836 to the expansion of the cemetery to its present size in 1868.

National Register Criteria

"C" for significance in terms of art and sculpture.

"D" for potential to yield information pertaining to 19th-century burial practices, especially relating to unmarked burials about which little else is known.

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Layton, Benjamin R. "Historic Property Information Form - Old City Cemetery in Sandersville". January, 1985. (On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5½ acres, approximately

Quadrangle name Sandersville, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

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

C

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

D

Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

All cemetery property contained within the chain-link fence that surrounds the cemetery. This is the property that is both historically and currently associated with the City Cemetery.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date June 10, 1987

street & number 205 Butler Street S.E., Floyd Tower E. telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/26/87

For NPS use only

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

John C. Ferguson
Keeper of the National Register

**Entered in
National Register**

date

8/2/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Criteria Consideration "D" for the distinctive historic design features which characterize the funerary monuments in this cemetery and which, taken together, constitute the largest and most impressive collection of historic sculpture in the city and county.

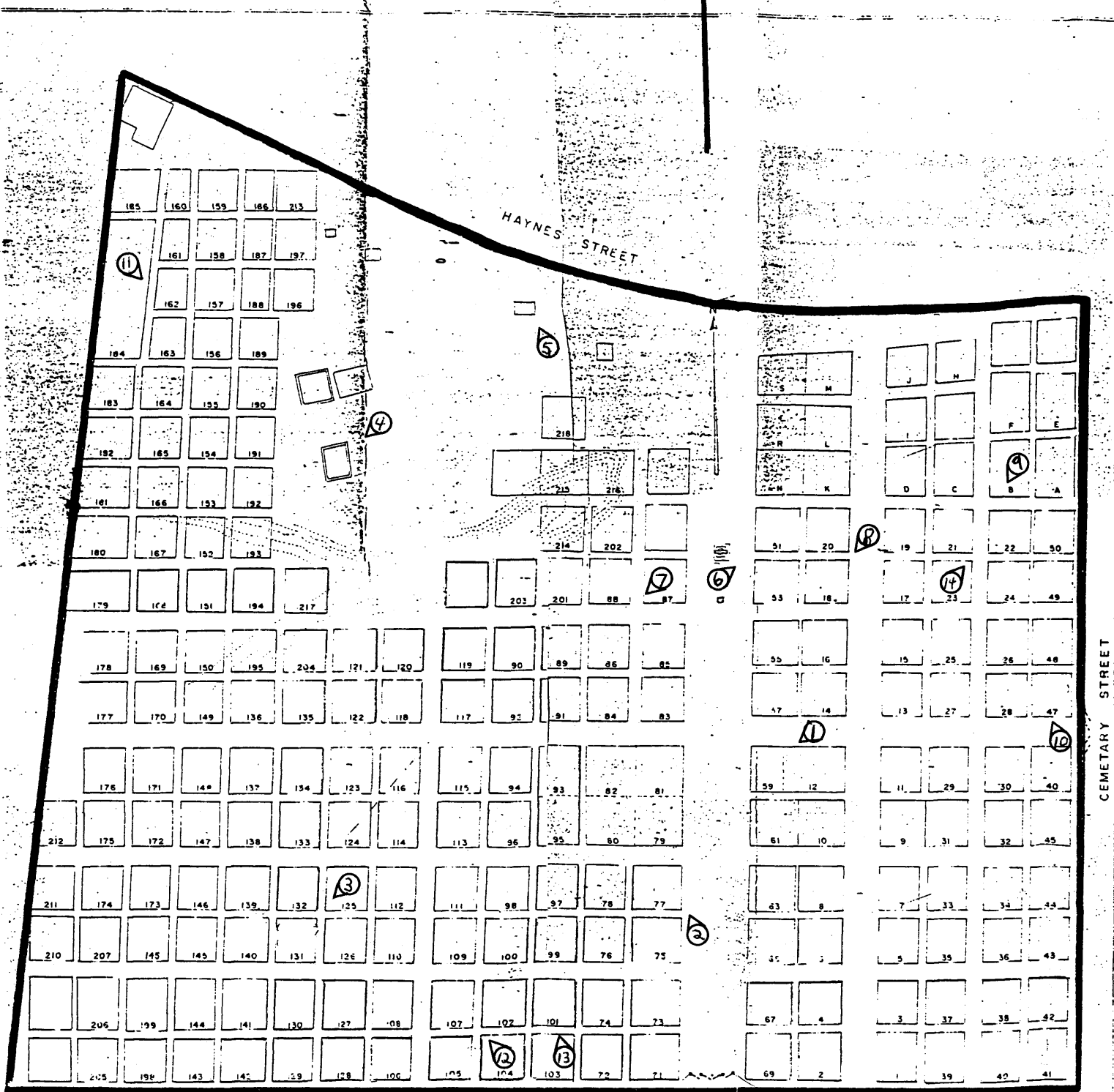
Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

1 contributing historic site (historic cemetery)

Map of the City Cemetery, Sandersville, Washington Co., Georgia
 Copy of an undated map in the Sandersville City Hall illustrating the
 original lot divisions within the cemetery.

Photo location- 

0 _____ 67' 1 inch equals 67 feet.



CHURCH STREET

REPRODUCED FROM ORIGINAL IN SANDERSVILLE
 CITY HALL BY O'CONNOR P.B.O.C.
 DECEMBER 1984

SCALE 1 inch = 25 feet