

7.31.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 31 1979
DATE ENTERED	approved 9/12/79

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Amendment to the Americus Historic District:
East Church Street and Oak Grove Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

East Church Street, Oak Grove Cemetery

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Americus

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third - Jack Brinkley

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Sumter

CODE

261

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

___ BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

X Amendment to District

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

___ PRIVATE

X BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

___ OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___ YES: RESTRICTED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

X OTHER: Cemetery

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership [see attached list]

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Superior Court, Sumter County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Americus

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

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

Located at the east end of Church Street, Oak Grove Cemetery was originally designed so that it would be set apart from the business and residential sections of Americus. Although most of the land surrounding the cemetery is now filled with twentieth-century structures, the Church Street entrance from Horne Street to the brick gates remains relatively free from intruding buildings. Only one late-Victorian cottage and two or three modern homes intrude upon this vista.

The cemetery is fronted on Reese Street by a brick gate erected in the 1930s. There is a network of roads, both paved and unpaved, laid out in a grid pattern within Oak Grove. The monuments and mausoleums generally stand within well-defined family plots. In the oldest section of the cemetery (that nearest Reese Street), these plots are often surrounded by iron fences. Small concrete walls are found in Oak Grove's newer sections.

There is one building within the cemetery's boundaries. An early-twentieth-century brick structure; it is presently used as the cemetery office. The building is relatively plain, with no significant architectural features.

Scattered throughout the cemetery are many large oak trees, which are the source of the cemetery's name.

Boundaries: Boundaries for this amendment to the Americus Historic District have been drawn to include Oak Grove Cemetery and East Church Street, the two principal features of the amended area and integral parts of the city of Americus since 1859. Property north of East Church Street has also been included since it remains largely undeveloped (nos. 13, 14, and 15 in particular) and preserves a semblance of the original separation between the cemetery and the city. Several contributing turn-of-the-century residences and one non-contributing residence (no. 17) are included as well; those to the west merge with the established residential district. Property south of East Church Street is more intensively developed with small lots, streets, and largely non-contributing twentieth century residences; thus, this area has not been included.

The attached sketch map indicates the entire boundaries of the Americus Historic District (both existing district boundaries and boundaries proposed by this amendment).

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"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1859

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Established in 1859 as the burial place for the citizens of Americus, Oak Grove Cemetery has remained an integral component of the downtown section of this west-central Georgia community. Its location at the eastern terminus of East Church Street, adjacent to the original downtown area, attaches the cemetery environmentally to the Americus Historic District. Architecturally, many of the monuments, mausoleums, and iron fences are products of the Victorian era, an age of great significance to Americus. Finally, with the loss of many of the city's landmarks, Oak Grove remains the single link between much of the community and its past. The cemetery is now seen as an area possessing previously unrecognized significance in the history of Americus.

Located on property previously belonging to Dr. Albert Rees, an early citizen of the community, Oak Grove Cemetery met the needs of a growing town. An earlier cemetery on Forsyth Street was encircled by residences and could no longer be expanded. Because of this need for additional space, the city leaders established Oak Grove, named for the many oak trees found on the property, on the eastern outskirts of town. This move allowed for future expansion while retaining the close tie with the community. The open space between the cemetery and the residences on Church Street remains, in a somewhat modified form, to the present day.

As is to be expected, Oak Grove Cemetery reflects the Victorian heritage of Americus. The monuments, many of which were produced by Americus artisans, are often large and ornate. Several are personal in design, based upon the deceased's occupation or accomplishments. The mausoleums in Oak Grove tend to be more classical in design and employ, in at least one instance, stained glass. Decorative ironwork is found throughout the cemetery in the numerous fences surrounding family plots and on the mausoleums. Sculptured figures range from representations of a small child sleeping to large, angelic characters.

The relationship between the cemetery and the original section of Americus (designated a National Register district in 1975) is close. Interred in Oak Grove are the leaders of Americus who constructed and occupied the homes that give the community its unique character. Businessmen whose money built the late-nineteenth-century business district are buried in Oak Grove, as are the workmen who provided the labor. With the destruction of many of the city's landmark homes, the cemetery's graves are all the visible remains of the lives

[continued]

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harvey, W.D., and Harvey, Mrs. W.D. Sumter County, Georgia, Cemetery Records. Americus: privately published, 1972.
 Williford, William Bailey. Americus Through the Years. Atlanta: Cherokee Publishing Company, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 29 (est.)

QUADRANGLE NAME Americus, Georgia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1,6	76,19,5,5	3,55,15,0,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

1,6	76,25,1,0	3,55,15,0,5
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C

1,6	76,25,3,0	3,55,12,4,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D

1,6	76,19,6,0	3,55,12,3,5
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

E

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

F

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

G

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

H

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of this amendment is described by a heavy black line on the attached map entitled "Amendment to the Americus Historic District: East Church Street and Oak Grove Cemetery," scale 1" = 100', dated May, 1979.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE David J. Brown, Historic Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Middle Flint APDC

DATE

July 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 6

TELEPHONE

(912) 937-2561

CITY OR TOWN

Ellaville, Georgia

STATE

Georgia 31806

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

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

Elizabeth A. Lyon

DATE

7/20/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. Jones

DATE

9-12-79

ATTENT:

Carol Shull

DATE

9-12-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

of some of the community's foremost citizens. Those buried in Oak Grove range from the nationally-known to the common man. Charles F. Crisp, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in the early 1890s, is buried in Oak Grove. Local leaders such as Dr. George F. Cooper, founder of the public-school system in Americus, were also interred in the community's cemetery. An unmarked paupers' field is the burial site for many of the area's unfortunate citizens.

Two small sections of Oak Grove commemorate the war dead of Americus. In 1880, 129 bodies of Confederate soldiers were moved from Andersonville to Americus and placed in Oak Grove Cemetery. The Ladies' Memorial Association of Americus erected a monument in their honor in 1899 at a cost of \$1,800. The cemetery also contains a much smaller Spanish-American War section.

Oak Grove Cemetery stands, therefore, as an integral part of the history of Americus. Its significance to the local community is derived from its close ties, historically, environmentally, and architecturally, with the Americus Historic District. These ties combined to make Oak Grove Cemetery an important cultural resource to the city of Americus.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

Lots 12 and 13:

Ms. Sarah Dupre
208 East Church Street
Americus, Georgia 31709

Lot 12A:

Mr. Frank Brewer
P.O. Box 443
Americus, Georgia 31709

Lots 14 and 15:

Mrs. J.B. Witt
1017 Oglethorpe Avenue
Americus, Georgia 31709

Lot 16:

Mr. L.D. Dew
704 East Church Street
Americus, Georgia 31709

Lot 17: (non-contributing)

Mr. Adolf Kobs
708 East Church Street
Americus, Georgia 31709

Cemetery:

City of Americus
P.O. Box 886
Americus, Georgia 31709