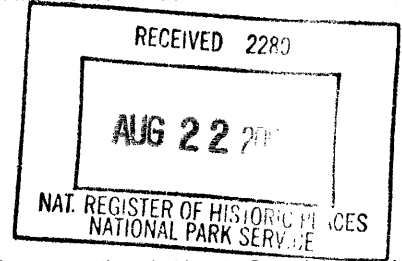


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Richland Cemetery  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Hilly Street and Sunflower Street not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Greenville vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state South Carolina code SC county Greenville code 045 zip code 29601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 8/18/05  
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 10-4-05  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Richland Cemetery  
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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** **Category of Property** **Number of Resources within Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

(Do not include previously listed resources)

<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>		buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site			sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure			structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
				Total

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)

Category: Funerary Subcategory: Cemetery

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Funerary Subcategory: 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 N/A

**Narrative Description**

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

Richland Cemetery  
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**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.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development  
Ethnic Heritage/Black

**Period of Significance**

1884-1954

**Significant Dates**

1884

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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:  
South Carolina Room, Greenville Co.  
Public Library, Greenville, S.C.

Richland Cemetery  
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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 6 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 372794 3857647</u>	3 <u>17 372258 3857639</u>
2 <u>17 372553 3857431</u>	4 <u>17 372390 3858001</u>

     See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title David R. Arning, Principal  
 organization Palmetto Preservation Works date 27 June 2005  
 street & number 101 College Street, Suite 2B telephone (864) 270-4406  
 city or town Greenville state SC zip code 29601

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

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

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Greenville  
 street & number P.O. Box 2207, 206 South Main Street telephone (864) 232-2273  
 city or town Greenville state SC zip code 29602

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

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Richland Cemetery was established by the City of Greenville in January, 1884, as the first municipal "colored" cemetery. It is named for nearby Richland Creek, a branch of the Reedy River around which the City of Greenville was founded. Today the cemetery occupies approximately six acres on a small hill northeast of downtown Greenville, in a traditionally African American area known as the Greenline-Spartanburg neighborhood.

The cemetery is roughly trapezoidal in shape with its highest elevation at the northwest corner. It is bounded by Hilly Street to the north and west, Sunflower Street to the south, and Oakwood Avenue to the east. Two roads within the cemetery divide it into quadrants: Magnolia Drive to the south and Fern Avenue, which runs the length of the property from east to west. The quadrants are known as Sections A, B, C, and D. Section A, in the southwest corner, is the oldest part of the cemetery.

Portions of an original stone wall run along the north side of the property, and three sets of stone steps provide access to that part of the cemetery. Concrete brick pillars, installed at an undetermined date, mark the west entrance at the intersection of Hilly Street and Fern Avenue. Historically, the main entrance was on the east side off of Oakwood Avenue. A black chain-link fence with gates runs around the perimeter of the cemetery to provide security. Simple, black signs labeled "Historic Richland Cemetery" have been installed recently at the entrances.

Family plots within the cemetery are defined by stone, brick and concrete block borders. At least one plot is fenced. According to a 1957 trace of an undated "old plat," the cemetery contains at least 477 burial plots of varying shapes and sizes. A recent GIS survey identified 760 individual gravemarkers, with the total number of graves estimated at over 1400.<sup>1</sup> The exact number is unknown because cemetery records were destroyed when the sexton's house burned in the 1950s. Grave identification is further complicated by missing, moved and damaged headstones and the numerous unmarked graves evidenced by large, open areas and depressions in the earth. Burials have taken place throughout the cemetery with graves oriented east-west. Tradition suggests African Americans were buried with their heads to the west so that they would not have to turn to hear Gabriel's trumpet sound in the eastern sunrise. It has also been suggested that the dead were buried such that they faced their homeland of Africa.<sup>2</sup>

Gravemarker types and materials range from natural stones to elaborate Victorian monuments. The variety of headstones reflects the financial and social diversity of those buried in Richland Cemetery. Manufactured funerary art includes monoliths, engraved tablets, ledgers, and ornamental stones. Symbolic images are found throughout the cemetery. For example, tree stumps represent life cut short, clasped (praying) hands reflect devotion, wreaths convey heavenly reward, and urns signify an adult death.

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<sup>1</sup> "Richland Cemetery Inventory Project Report," Arcadis, November, 2002.

<sup>2</sup> *Grave Matters: The Preservation of African-American Cemeteries*, Chicora Foundation, Inc., 1996.

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Modest graves are typically simple stone or slate tablets with crude inscriptions or none at all. Others are marked only by natural stones, trees or other plantings. Gravel covers the ground of some graves. Artifacts peculiar to West African burial traditions like seashells, vases and iron pipes are present around many of the graves.<sup>3</sup> The material condition of the stonework varies greatly between modern headstones that are in like-new condition and severely deteriorated, broken or missing tablets from the nineteenth century.

Richland Cemetery is not a formal landscape, but rather a modest and largely open tract. The grass-covered grounds feature mature magnolia, cedar and hemlock trees. Azaleas and privet, memorial features common to many South Carolina cemeteries, are found at the entrances and near graves. Yucca plants and cacti are planted next to several graves, reflecting the belief in some traditional African American cultures that such plants inhibited the movement of spirits.<sup>4</sup> Small trees have been planted by the City on either side of Fern Avenue and along Oakwood Avenue, but they do not detract from the historic landscape of the cemetery. Modest landscaping has also been added at the entrances and corners of the cemetery.

Richland Cemetery continues to operate as a municipal cemetery serving Greenville's African American community.

### Integrity

Richland Cemetery retains its historic integrity. Richland is situated in its original *location* and still features its historic vernacular *design* and tranquil urban *setting*. New gravemarkers do not detract or overwhelm older markers. Extant historic *materials*, though somewhat deteriorated, represent the diversity of funerary monuments used in African American cemeteries during its period of significance. Original *workmanship* is still evidenced by the variety of historic gravemarkers and landscape elements. The site has not been significantly altered since its creation; visually and physically, the cemetery retains the same historic *feeling* as it did during its historic period. Richland Cemetery maintains a strong, traditional *association* with Greenville's African American population.

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<sup>3</sup> McGahee, Susan H. and Mary W. Edmonds, *South Carolina's Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook* (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1997), p. 11.

<sup>4</sup> McGahee and Edmonds, 24.

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Richland Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C and Criteria Consideration D. Richland is locally significant in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Ethnic Heritage (Black). The cemetery played an important role in the development of a distinct, self-sustaining African American community in downtown Greenville (Criterion A). Richland is also significant as the final resting place for many of Greenville's most notable African American educators, health practitioners, and community leaders (Criterion B). The cemetery features a variety of funerary art, landscape features, and cultural artifacts which distinguish it as a traditional African American cemetery and provide important information about ethnic burial customs in the American South (Criterion C). Richland Cemetery satisfies Criteria Consideration D because it derives its significance from the graves of several persons of transcendent importance in the community, it reflects distinctive design values indicative of a particular historic period, and it is associated with the settlement of an area by a distinct ethnic group that had an important impact on the community.

**Criterion A**

**Areas of Significance: Community Planning and Development; Ethnic Heritage (Black)**

Richland Cemetery reflects the organization, settlement, and development of the black community in Greenville, South Carolina during the late nineteenth century. Prior to emancipation, many African Americans were buried unceremoniously on a slaveowner's private land. After the Civil War, African Americans generally were excluded from or segregated within white cemeteries. Black leaders consequently began to establish their own burial grounds, many of which were affiliated with churches. The beginning of Richland Cemetery coincides with a broader movement by freedmen of the late nineteenth century to establish dedicated black cemeteries. In South Carolina, that movement led to the founding of, among others, Randolph Cemetery in Columbia in 1872 and the Orangeburg City Cemetery in 1889.

Richland is a rare example of a municipal cemetery created to satisfy growing burial needs of black citizens whose churches had no cemeteries of their own. The subject garnered attention in the local newspaper, which commented in 1884 that "the general feeling seems to be that if the colored people want to establish a rival burying ground of their own they ought to be allowed to go ahead and do it."<sup>5</sup>

The City of Greenville was authorized to acquire land for the cemetery on February 8, 1884.<sup>6</sup> The City paid Emmala B. and Elizabeth E. Jones \$2,125 in exchange for two plots: a two-acre lot at "Spartanburg Road and Richland Creek" and a 7-acre lot located at the "Cemetery/Tanyard"

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<sup>5</sup> "The Colored Burying Ground Controversy," *The Enterprise and Mountaineer* (Greenville, S.C.), February 1, 1884.

<sup>6</sup> City of Greenville Records, City Council Minutes, February, 1884, Greenville City Hall, Greenville, S.C. Hereafter referred to as City Council Minutes, with date.

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properties.<sup>7</sup> The site was a practical choice due to its close proximity to Springwood Cemetery, the main municipal cemetery where many African Americans were already buried (albeit often without proper identification). The land was also located just north of the Allen School, the first secondary school in the upcountry for African Americans. The first mention of Richland Cemetery is in the 1896-97 edition of the Greenville City Directory.

In August of 1885, the Cemetery Committee accepted "petitions of several colored citizens, respectively to be appointed sexton of the colored cemetery."<sup>8</sup> Sextons were responsible for selling burial plots and managing the grounds. Zion Turner was the sexton from 1889-1902. Subsequent sextons were: Grace Johnson, 1903-1904; Isaac Johnson, 1907-1910; Gaines Johnson, 1915; J. S. Johnson, 1919-1922; Andrew Young, 1923-1928+.<sup>9</sup> Sextons are not identified in directories after 1928. According to former Springwood Cemetery sexton Tom Garraux, a six-grave lot in Richland sold for \$10. All of the cemetery plots were sold by the 1940s.<sup>10</sup>

Richland Cemetery is significant in the area of community planning for its influence on the development of the surrounding African American community. In 1886, the Cemetery Committee "were authorized to have from five to seven acres from the land purchased for the colored cemetery laid off for building lots."<sup>11</sup> The following summer, the surveyed land was divided into ten building lots and sold. The surrounding neighborhood is characterized by modest pyramidal cottages developed during and immediately after this period. African American residential growth facilitated nearby commercial and community development too. Beauty parlors, convenience stores, and churches appeared along Stone Avenue and in surrounding black neighborhoods like Nicholtown and "Little Texas." City directories from the 1920s and 1930s reference a "colored settlement" named Richland Hill. In 1941, the Allen School on Elford Street (a.k.a. The Freedmen School) burned and was rebuilt on Cemetery Street immediately north of Richland Cemetery.

Richland Cemetery was one of the earliest, permanent African American sites in Greenville and it played a significant role in the planning and development of Greenville's black community. Richland Cemetery established a distinct community nexus and provided impetus for the development of African American neighborhoods and businesses.

<sup>7</sup> Deed, Emmala B. and Elizabeth E. Jones to the City of Greenville, February 23, 1884, Greenville County Deed Book PP, 297-299, Greenville County Courthouse, Greenville, S.C.

<sup>8</sup> City Council Minutes, August 4, 1885.

<sup>9</sup> Greenville City and County Directories, 1899-1928, South Carolina Room, Greenville County Public Library, Greenville, S.C.

<sup>10</sup> Ruth Ann Butler, "Richland Cemetery." [History of Richland Cemetery.] Accessed online at [www.greatergreenville.com/neighborhoods/history\\_richland.asp](http://www.greatergreenville.com/neighborhoods/history_richland.asp), 26 June 2005.

<sup>11</sup> City Council Minutes, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1886.



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**Criterion B**  
**Ethnic Heritage/Black**

Richland Cemetery is the resting place of many of Greenville's most prominent African American citizens.

Of particular note is the large number of important black educators interred in Richland. *Hattie Logan Duckett* founded the Phillis Wheatley Center in 1919 as a community center for women offering educational, athletic, and social programs. Hattie Duckett Elementary School (now the Fine Arts Center) was named in her honor. *Massalena Vivian Lawrence Bowen* taught for fifty years in the Greenville County school system, forty of them at the Allen School. *Anna McAdams Richardson*, known affectionately as "Ma Richardson," taught English at Sterling High School. *Jesse L. Bates* was an instructor in math and science at Sterling High. *Florence L. Lykes*, also of Sterling, taught social studies. *Lila Lomax Sewell* was a piano teacher and the first African American school supervisor. *Mary Moone Calhoun* was a teacher at Union Elementary School (now West End School). *Harriet Elizabeth Williams* graduated from Sterling and became the first African American woman from Greenville County to earn a master's degree in mathematics (Atlanta University). *Reverend Daniel M. Minus* founded Sterling High School. *Elias B. Holloway* served as the principal of Union Elementary School. Each of these influential educators was buried in Richland Cemetery.<sup>12</sup>

Holloway is representative of the many African American leaders who played important roles not only in education, but also in local commerce. Holloway was the first black mail carrier and later wrote for *The Greenville News*. *J. Pickens "Pick" Chappell* held positions as a trustee of Sterling High School and of Workingman's Savings & Loan, an African American community bank. Other noteworthy entrepreneurs buried in Richland Cemetery include *William R. Sewell*, who was the first African American licensed building contractor. He constructed Sterling High School and S. C. Franks Funeral Home. *Emma Clark* owned and operated Broadway Beauty Shop, one of the first black parlors in Greenville.<sup>13</sup>

African Americans who made lasting contributions to the field of health and medicine are also buried in Richland Cemetery. *Dr. Oswald M. Thompson* earned his Dental Surgery Degree in 1905 and served as one of Greenville's earliest black dentists. *Cora Kilgore Chapman* was Greenville's first African American registered nurse and went on to become the first African American superintendent of Greenville Hospital. *Lida Logan Williams* was a registered nurse as well.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Ruth Ann Butler, "Leaders of the Past." [List of Notables Buried in Richland Cemetery.] Accessed online at [www.greatergreenville.com/neighborhoods/gallery\\_leaders.asp](http://www.greatergreenville.com/neighborhoods/gallery_leaders.asp), 26 June 2005.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

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Richland Cemetery also contains the graves of military veterans of several American wars: World War I, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

**Criterion C**

**Areas of Significance: Art; Landscape Architecture**

Richland Cemetery contains several exceptional examples of symbolic funerary art. Size and ornamentation vary dramatically throughout the cemetery reflecting the diverse socio-economic status of the community and also the predominant fashions in period burial art. Taken as a whole, the gravemarkers of Richland Cemetery reflect the styles and workmanship of late nineteenth and early twentieth century funerary design. Richland also exhibits a variety of art and landscape features specific to African American burial grounds.

Unlike the large, formal parks popularized earlier by the rural cemetery movement, Richland is modest in virtually every respect. Its relatively small size, modest design, and varying detail of monuments are defining characteristics of black cemeteries of the late nineteenth century. Prominent family plots are identifiable by stone boundaries and substantial markers. Elaborate gravemarkers are the exception, however, as most families of the deceased could not afford expensive monuments. Most of the extant historic markers are of the tablet or flush variety.

Richland is an excellent example of a vernacular cemetery with Victorian influence. Transcendentalism and sentimentality in the latter half of the nineteenth century was expressed through symbolic cemetery art. Funerary design represented themes of life cut short and resurrection. Richland Cemetery includes monuments such as tree trunks that convey those ideas. Traditional burial art featuring hearts, lambs, and floral inscriptions are common throughout. Notable makers include decorative headstones, Christian crosses, obelisks and other monoliths.

Most significant, however, are the stone ornamentation and artifacts that uniquely reflect African American burial customs. Bakongo slaves brought with them from West Africa traditional burial practices still evident in South Carolina cemeteries. Several gravemarkers in Richland feature items associated with water, reflecting the Bakongo belief that deceased spirits traveled through a watery world on their way to the afterlife. Seashells and vases are incorporated into the design of many of the gravemarkers.

The natural landscape is sparse, but existing features are the result of deliberate plantings. The choice and arrangement of landscaping further reflect nineteenth century vernacular cemetery design. Mature hemlock, cedar, and magnolia trees mark some of the cemetery's oldest plots. Cedars, magnolias, and oaks are frequently planted in South Carolina cemeteries for their aesthetic and symbolic (eternal life) traits. Yucca plants and cacti are prominent throughout the cemetery.

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Some African cultures believe that, once buried, a restless spirit wanders through the cemetery. Prickly plantings were believed to restrict the movement of spirits throughout the cemetery.

**Criteria Consideration D**

Richland Cemetery satisfies Criteria Consideration D for cemeteries because it: a) contains the graves of a number of people of transcendent importance who helped determined the course of events in Greenville's African American community, particularly in the areas of education, health and commerce; b) exhibits distinctive design features that embody the principles of an aesthetic movement and monumentation through its overall plan, landscaping, gravemarkers and funerary sculpture; and c) embodies the folkways, burial customs and artistic traditions of an ethnic group whose impact on the Greenville community was significant.

**Conclusion**

Richland Cemetery is one of the few extant African American historical sites in the Greenville community but, like many black cemeteries, it has suffered from disuse and neglect. Recent efforts by the Friends of Richland Cemetery have improved security, maintenance and local awareness. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places will further help to preserve and interpret one of the upcountry's most significant African American cultural resources.

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**SOURCES**

**Unpublished Sources**

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Butler, Ruth Ann. "Leaders of the Past." [List of Notables Buried in Richland Cemetery.] Accessed online at [www.greatergreenville.com/neighborhoods/gallery\\_leaders.asp](http://www.greatergreenville.com/neighborhoods/gallery_leaders.asp), 26 June 2005.

Butler, Ruth Ann. "Richland Cemetery." [History of Richland Cemetery.] Accessed online at [www.greatergreenville.com/neighborhoods/history\\_richland.asp](http://www.greatergreenville.com/neighborhoods/history_richland.asp), 26 June 2005.

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City Council Minutes, 1884-1886.

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*Springwood and Richland Cemeteries Conceptual Master Plan*. A Public Service Project Designed by Landscape Architecture Students, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C., Spring 2003.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is shown as the heavy black line marked "Richland Cemetery" on the accompanying Greenville County Tax Map, Parcel Identification # 0039020101700, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is restricted to the historic cemetery as established in 1884 and maintained since by the City of Greenville.

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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Richland Cemetery  
Location of Property: Hilly Street and Sunflower Street, Greenville  
Greenville County, South Carolina

Name of Photographer: David R. Arning, Palmetto Preservation Works, Greenville, S.C.  
Date of Photographs: October 2004  
Location of Original Negatives: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia

1. Overview of Richland Cemetery from southwest corner, featuring open space, diverse gravemarkers, and cultural landscaping
2. Stone steps along the northeast boundary of Richland Cemetery; three sets of stone steps and a low profile stone wall define the northern side of the cemetery.
3. Stone wall along the northwest boundary of Richland Cemetery
4. Privet hedge in Section A of Richland Cemetery, marking a family plot; natural features such as stones, trees, and plants were frequently used to mark the graves of those who could not afford a proper gravestone.
5. Gravestone of Harriet Elizabeth Williams; iconic images such as tree stumps reflect Victorian sentimentality and symbolize a life cut short.
6. Typical gravestones in Section B of Richland Cemetery; Richland Cemetery features headstones in a variety of styles and materials, and funerary art and images vary throughout the cemetery.
7. The Bowen family plot, including the grave of Massalena Bowen.
8. Gravestone of Anna McAdams Richardson; ivy and floral inscriptions frequently symbolize immortality or resurrection, and urns indicate an adult's death.
9. Cactus plant in Richland Cemetery; Cacti, yucca, and other thorny plants were used throughout African American cemeteries in the South because they were believed to restrict the movement of spirits throughout the cemetery.
10. Elaborate monument and ledger with yucca plants and a nearby iron pipe; Yucca plants are found beside many graves in Richland Cemetery; iron pipes and other household items were used to mark the graves of those whose families could not afford a proper gravestone.