

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

925



# 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 Brandon Cemetery

other names/site number Old Brandon Cemetery

### 2. Location

street & number Corner of Old Depot Road and Miss. State Hwy 471 Ext.  not for publication

city or town Brandon  vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Rankin code \_\_\_\_\_

### 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

*R.C. Roberts*  
Signature of certifying official

*Sept. 21, 2010*  
Date

*SHPO*  
Title

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 not eligible for the National Register
- other (explain:)
- determined eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

*James [Signature]*  
Signature of the Keeper

*11/18/2010*  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Historic and Architectural Resources of Brandon, MS

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

none

**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: marble, limestone, iron, brick, stucco,  
concrete

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### **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 Old Brandon Cemetery is located on a hilly rectangular 8.83-acre site bounded on the north by Old Brandon Road, on the east by Old Depot Road and on the west by Highway 471 Extension. The cemetery is accessed through three entrances which connect to the 1500-foot gravel drive which runs south from Old Brandon Road then east to Old Depot Road then south, making a loop throughout the southern half of the cemetery and exiting back east onto Old Depot Road. The cemetery is enclosed by a decorative iron fence. A Mississippi State Historical Marker, that describes the cemetery, welcomes visitors at the southeastern entrance on Old Depot Road (photo 1). There are over 1,000 marked graves which are placed around a meadow in the center of the cemetery. There are trees along the perimeter of the cemetery and one large magnolia tree (photo 23) in the cemetery itself.

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### **Narrative Description**

The eastern side of the cemetery contains the earliest graves, dating from 1834. These graves are identified with markers ranging from simple stones to ornate obelisks. Graves dating from 1854 (photo 2) to the present are located in the western side and are marked with decorative obelisks, monuments and statuary indicative of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century burial customs. In the center section of the cemetery are buried remains of more than 200 Union and Confederate soldiers who fought at the Battle of Shiloh. A monument (photo 20) has been erected by the Sons of Confederate Veterans to honor these soldiers. A part of the center field also contains unmarked graves of those who perished during yellow fever epidemics. Toward the south and southwest are unmarked graves of black residents of Brandon.

The cemetery appears to have been laid out in family plots (photo 4, 16, 17, 18) with those delineated by brick or stuccoed-brick curbs (photo 14), pipe and post, three-foot stone (photo 10), brick, and rubble walls (with and without stucco), and wrought iron fences (photo 3, 15). Some of the family plots are indicated with a family name marker, a large headstone inscribed with the name of the family to whom the plot belongs. Single graves are found in areas between the family plots.

Graves in the Old Brandon Cemetery are identified with a variety of markers. The majority of markers are headstones with flat or rounded tops or scrolls (photo 13), but there are also a good number of footstones (photo 21), ground tablets, pedestal obelisks (photo 15), and bedsteads (photo 9). There are several Woodmen of the World markers (photo 6) which are carved in the shape of a tree stump and recognize the individual's affiliation with the benevolent fraternal organization. Some markers are enhanced with sculpture, crosses, relief decoration, incised decorations and plaques. These adornments are generally traditional designs such as roses, lilies, small angels, hands, Woodmen of the World (photo 11, 14) and Masonic (photo 7) symbols, etc. There are also a few statues of angels (photo 12, 13) and a few urns, all of which appear to be stock mortuary pieces, not original designs (photo 8).

There is one small four-person mausoleum (photo 5) which is a rectangular stuccoed brick building eight feet by six feet in size, with a gable roof. The mausoleum holds four members of the DeWees family, with the earliest being Frances DeWees, interred in 1919.

The markers, walls, curbs, fences and other adornments are in varying conditions. The majority of these are in good condition, however, there are some stones that have been knocked off or have fallen off of their bases, are covered with mold, or the inscription is worn and is difficult to read. There has been a concerted effort over the last few years to improve the cemetery with a new perimeter fence, some landscaping and better grass cutting. This is an active cemetery in that, while there are no plots available for purchase, burials continue to occur for those who long ago purchased their final resting place here. The Old Brandon Cemetery certainly retains its integrity of design, setting, and materials.

**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 and SETTLEMENT  
ART

**Period of Significance**

1831-1960

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance for the Old Brandon Cemetery extends from the date that the cemetery was platted in 1831 to 1960, fifty years from the date of this application.

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

This cemetery's significance is not just as a memorial to those who are interred here, but the markers provide a glimpse of the history of Brandon. They interpret the settlement and development of the community and even highlight how events in other parts of the state, nation, and world have impacted this central Mississippi town.

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

The Old Brandon Cemetery in Brandon, Mississippi is eligible for National Register listing under Criteria A, within the theme of EXPLORATION and SETTLEMENT and ART. Brandon's legacy, which is rich in tales of Native Americans, early pioneer families, politicians, governors, and history makers, has virtually no visible remnants today with which to interpret the history of the city which has been the county seat and political center of Rankin County for over 175 years. Over the years, the majority of historic homes, buildings and sites have been destroyed by fire, neglect and apathy. The Old Brandon Cemetery, established in 1831, remains to perpetuate the memories of those who bequeathed to their communities the amenities that give a place character and definition. The cemetery is a gallery of funerary art depicting more than a century's worth of mortuary symbolism.

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

The Old Brandon Cemetery is eligible for National Register listing under Criteria A, within the theme of Exploration and Settlement. The cemetery is locally significant as the earliest resource remaining to illustrate Brandon, Mississippi's historical development. Because of numerous fires and mid-twentieth century demolitions, there are only a few historic buildings remaining in the city and none pre-date the establishment of the Brandon Cemetery. The cemetery is the burial site for two Mississippi governors, two state treasurers, three state senators, three state representatives, thirty elected county officials, and eleven city officials, as well as, veterans of eight American wars.

The cemetery was platted along with the town of Brandon in 1831 by Thomas Shaw. It is located on 16th section land, owned by the Rankin County School District and leased to the city of Brandon. It is the final resting place for those men and women who established Brandon and those who worked to make it the community that it continues to be. They were pioneers, traders, merchants, businessmen, politicians, soldiers, clergy, educators, and prominent women.

Brandon is the county seat for Rankin County and is located twelve miles east of Jackson, just off Interstate 20. Historically it was on the line of the Alabama and Vicksburg Railroad and for several years was the terminus of the Vicksburg-Meridian Railroad. According to Dunbar Rowland in History of Mississippi: The Heart of the South, "Brandon was at one time the most important trading points in this section of the state" (p. 818). Brandon's importance as a trading point was first established by the many tribes of Native Americans who inhabited the southeast. This site was centrally located near the crossing of the north-south and the east-west Indian trails leading to various villages, and was used for council meetings and other events. The area was rich in game and dotted with springs. It was located on a spring near the intersection of two early territorial roads; one heading north through Madison County, crossing the Natchez Trace and heading toward Cairo, Illinois and south to Mobile, Alabama; and the other road toward the Mississippi River to the west and then east to Hillsboro, Scott County, and on toward central Alabama. Traders, missionaries, and early settlers also camped near what is now the town square. Soon a blacksmith and repair shop was built to meet the needs of the travelers. The best of overnight accommodations for man and livestock could be found at the trading post owned by D. W. Wilkerson in the early 1820s and 30s, located on College Street. The town continued to grow with commercial buildings being constructed on the town square and to the east and west on Government Street.

Early settlers came to Brandon from South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina and other parts of Mississippi generally looking for better land than that which they were afforded. Immigrants from Holland who had settled in South Carolina moved on to Mississippi because of unrest in South Carolina because of that state's Nullification Act. This act declared that the federal government would not be paid high tariffs on imported goods. According to accounts in A History of Rankin County, Mississippi, "the white men came for various reasons. Some of them were Revolutionary War veterans, restless, but looking for a place to settle down. Some were quite the opposite, defeated Tories who felt a little uncomfortable in the new country because of their stand for England. There were adventurers, looking for easy-to-obtain wealth. Some of the newcomers were no doubt hiding from the law. There were veterans of the War of 1812, who had traveled through this area on their way to New Orleans and had liked what they had seen. Traders and missionaries also came."

In 1828, Rankin County was carved out of Hinds County and named in memory of the late Christopher Rankin, a distinguished lawyer and politician who served Mississippi in Congress from 1819 until his death in 1826. The site for Brandon was chosen as the seat of the new county because it was the highest point in the new county and centrally located. Originally proposed to be named Poindexter, the name Brandon was chosen to honor the new governor of Mississippi. Gerard Chittocque Brandon was a native of Natchez and had been lieutenant governor for both Governors Leake and Holmes. Brandon was elected governor in 1827 over four opponents and was widely known as a man of ability, character, and culture. In addition, he was Mississippi's first native-born governor.

On July 24, 1828, Daniel Fore bought 79.75 acres from the United States Government, this land being the current downtown area of Brandon. Fore and his wife deeded forty acres to the town with an understanding that a courthouse would be erected in the center of the public square. The land was square, 1320 feet on each side and was divided into four quarters. Brandon grew quickly as is evidenced by an 1838 article in the "Republican and Eastern Advocate" where editors stated that Brandon "was an insignificant little village three years ago with perhaps a courthouse, a store, a lawyer and a physician. Now it is surpassed by few towns in the state. Probably no town is improving faster than Brandon is at this time. There have been not less than 175 to 200 carpenters daily at work here during the winter."

Some of the earliest to be buried in the Old Brandon Cemetery were Thomas S. Shaw and Wright Fore. Thomas Shaw was Brandon's first postmaster and he completed the original survey of Brandon which laid out the city around a public square. Wright Fore, a veteran of the War of 1812, settled in Brandon after his brother, Daniel and his wife Mary, offered forty acres of land to establish the town of Brandon. Wright later became sheriff and treasurer of Rankin County. In addition to this War of 1812 soldier, there are two veterans of the American Revolution buried here: Lt. Thomas Shelton and his son, Capt. Thomas Shelton, Jr.

The cemetery is forever linked with events that occurred during the Civil War, both in Brandon and during the Battle of Shiloh. In 1862, not only were 335 men from Rankin County killed in the Battle of Shiloh, but trains filled to overflowing with wounded and dying soldiers were emptied at the Brandon depot (not extant). The Old Brandon Cemetery holds the remains of more than 200 dead from the battle of Shiloh. While these may have initially included both Union and Confederate soldiers, the Union dead were most likely exhumed and reburied at the Vicksburg National Cemetery, which was established in 1866. There are also graves of men who survived the Civil War, came home to Brandon, died years later, and were buried here.

In February 1864, Union troops, under the command of Maj. General James B. McPherson, occupied Brandon. General William T. Sherman accompanied McPherson's corps and made his headquarters at the home of Col. E. H. Lombard (not extant) in Brandon. Lombard is buried in Old Brandon Cemetery. General McPherson occupied the home of E. S. Weille (extant) who is buried in the Brandon Cemetery as well. Another citizen interred at the cemetery is Col. A. J. Franz, who was the editor of the "Brandon Republican" when Brandon was occupied by Federal troops who ransacked Franz's office. Franz was forced to flee to the woods with his type and press and so was able to continue publishing news about the war.

There are veterans of other wars buried here as well. These include two men who served in the war with Mexico, one in the Spanish American War, fourteen who served in World War I and thirteen who served in World War II. Korean War veterans are also represented.

In addition to those who gave service to their country during war time, the cemetery is the final resting place for those who served Mississippi, Rankin County, and Brandon in public office. There are at least eleven people who held the office of mayor in Brandon, dating from A. B. Shelby who was the mayor in 1837, to Marion Overby, mayor from 1973 to 1977. There are eight Rankin County sheriffs, whose terms date from 1855 to 1920. Other county elected officials include three superintendents of education, six treasurers, nine chancery clerks, and four circuit clerks. In the cemetery are also interred two state of Mississippi treasurers, one state bank comptroller, three people elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives and three to the Mississippi Senate. Two of Mississippi's governors are also buried here: Robert Lowry (photo 10), whose term extended from 1881 to 1889, and Anselm Joseph McLaurin (photo 15), whose four-year term began in 1896.

There are also a number of prominent women who changed the face of Brandon or who brought prominence to the community. One of these women is Daisy McLaurin Stevens who served as the national president of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Another important woman who is interred in Old Brandon Cemetery is Susie Blue Buchanan (1882-1938) who was the first woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar and the first to practice before the Mississippi Supreme Court. Buchanan compiled a book of Rankin County land plats which is still in use today and is referred to as the "Susie Blue Book." An example of a woman who changed lives in Brandon in a much less public way is represented by the grave stone of F. A. Johnson (photo 9). The marker reads "F. A. Johnson/ January 3, 1831 – December 4, 1896/ Erected by the pupils of "Miss Frank"/ The great educator and noble woman in grateful recognition of her work and worth./ No ostentation marked her tranquil way her duties all discharged without display."

Other interesting individuals whose grave markers represent historical events include Wallace Cole Burns (photo 19) and Alexander Speers (photo 8). Wallace Cole Burns (March 10, 1893 – February 21, 1922) was born in Brandon and educated at Mississippi College. After college he joined the United States Navy and was sent to Europe where he became interested in airplanes and airships. At the end of World War I, Burns rejoined the Navy to help with the development of the Navy's air fleet. The Navy purchased the Italian dirigible called the "Roma." The airship crashed and burned on February 21, 1922, killing all thirty-four airmen, including Wallace Cole Burns. A figure of a dirigible is incised on Burn's headstone.

The inscription on the marker indicating the burial of Col. Alexander Speers references one of the worst railroad disaster in Mississippi's history which took place on February 25, 1870. A Mississippi Central train on a run between Oxford and Water Valley, Mississippi, ran off the rails while crossing a high trestle bridge over a 40-foot deep ravine. The engine made it across to the other side, but the passenger cars plummeted through the woodwork, landing on top of one another in the ravine. Twenty people were instantly killed and sixty people were wounded, according to reports at the time. The wreck was believed to have been caused by the unsound condition of the trestle timbers which permitted the rails to spread apart. Col. Alexander Speers of Brandon died in the wreck and his body was buried in the Old Brandon Cemetery beneath a stone that reads "Alexander Speer/ January 11, 1821/ February 25, 1870/ A victim of the railroad disaster near Oxford, Mississippi."

Tradition holds that the meadow in the center of the cemetery holds unknown grave sites where the markers were either not erected or have totally disintegrated. These graves may include victims of yellow fever epidemics, as well as, black residents of Brandon.

The Old Brandon Cemetery is one of at least four cemeteries in Brandon, Mississippi. The other cemeteries are the Brandon Memorial Gardens, Ponderosa Cemetery, and graves sites associated with Rock Star Missionary Baptist Church (not extant). As the oldest of the cemeteries, the Old Brandon Cemetery remains the most significant element of the built environment relating to the earliest days of the settlement of the city. Due to its age, Old Brandon Cemetery offers the broadest range of funerary arts and best illustrates the changing styles members of the community employed to memorialize their deceased family members.

The Old Brandon Cemetery is also eligible for National Register listing within the theme of ART. Images that became popular expressions of grief and mourning throughout the country during the last half of the 19th century and first half of the 20th century are found in this locally significant cemetery. One of the most visible types of marker in this cemetery is the obelisk, a very popular form of Egyptian architecture, which is representative of a ray of sunlight. These obelisks vary in size and are sometimes draped, the drape being a symbol of the veil between earth and the heavens. Some of the obelisks, and other stones for that matter, are enhanced with laurel wreaths which represent eternity, immortality, and chastity. Other relief symbols found in Brandon cemetery include a hand holding a broken chain, a distraught woman leaning on a broken column, an open bible, and flowers. A variety of flora is found on the tombstones: morning glories (representing resurrection), roses (purity and love), ivy (immortality and fidelity), oak leaves (strength, honor, and faith), lilies of the valley (innocence and purity), ferns (humility and sincerity), and a sheaf of wheat which denotes immortality and resurrection. In addition, there are a number of tree-stump tombstones, after often affiliated with Woodmen of the World. These are adorned with various flowers and vines. There is also a wood cross enhanced with relief morning glories and roses. Several statues of angels overlook graves on the west side of the cemetery and a small angel holding flowers marks a child's grave. The only truly uniquely designed marker is the gravestone for Wallace Cole Burns which has a figure of a dirigible incised on it.

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

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Bearss, Margie Riddle. *Sherman's Forgotten Campaign: The Meridian Expedition*. Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1987.

*Brandon, Mississippi; A Pictorial History*. Florence, Mississippi: Stephens Printing and Publishing, 2002.

Morrow, Rosemary. Information gathered for preliminary evaluation of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (in the possession of Peggy Schooler). 2006.

Rankin County Historical Society. *A History of Rankin County, Mississippi Vol. I and II*. Florence, Mississippi: Stephens Printing and Publishing, 1988.

Rowland, Dunbar. *History of Mississippi: The Heart of the South*. 1925. Spartanburg, South Carolina: Reprint Company Publishers, 1978.

Schooler, Penny. Interview in Brandon, Mississippi. February 2010.

Old Brandon Cemetery  
Name of Property

Rankin, Mississippi  
County and State

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): 21-BRN-0037 ML

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.83  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>218155</u>	<u>3574705</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Commencing at a 2-inch bar marking the northwest corner of Section 16, T5N-R3E, run thence south for a distance of 2513.08 feet, thence east for a distance of 3769.11 feet to a set 1/2 inch iron pin on the south right-of-way of Old Brandon Road and marking the point of beginning of the herein described property, thence south 73 degrees 01 minutes 17 second east along said south right-of-way or Old Brandon Road for a distance of 75.77 feet to set 1/2 inch iron pin, thence south 78 degrees 52 minutes 45 seconds east along said south right-of-way of Old Brandon Road and a fence line, more or less, for a distance 35.24 feet to a set 1/2 inch iron pin, thence south 82 degrees 43 minutes 27 seconds east along said right-of-way of Old Brandon Road and a fence line, more or less, for a distinct of 98.56 feet to a asset 1/2 inch iron pin, thence south 80 degrees 36 minutes 45 seconds east along said south right-of-way of Old Brandon Road and a fence line, more or less, for a distance of 288.20 feet to a set 1/2 inch iron pin on the west right-of-way of Old Depot Road, thence south 01 degrees 55 minutes 48 seconds east along a fence line, more or less, on the west right-of-way of Old Depot Road for a distance of 295.37 feet to a set 1/2 inch iron pin at a fence corner, thence south 78 degrees 05 minutes 18 seconds east along a fence line, more or less, on the westerly right-of-way of said Old Depot Road for a distance of 45.34 feet to a asset 1/2 inch iron pin at a fence corner; thence south 00 degrees 13 minutes 34 seconds east along a fence line, more or less, for a distance of 386.59 feet to a found 1/2 inch iron pin at a fence corner; thence south 89 degrees 35 minutes 25 seconds west along a fence line, more or less, for a distance of 549.78 feet to a set 1/2 inch iron pin at a fence corner; thence north for a distance of 329.22 to a found 1/2 inch iron pin, thence north 00 degrees 36 minutes 09 seconds east for a distance of 454.31 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries are the boundaries of the cemetery itself.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy H. Bell  
organization Vicksburg Foundation for Historic Preservation date April 30, 2010  
street & number 1107 Washington Street telephone 601.636.5010  
city or town Vicksburg state MS zip code 39183  
e-mail Vburgfoundation@aol.com



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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Photographs:**

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Submit clear and descriptive black and white 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:** Old Brandon Cemetery

**City or Vicinity:** Brandon

**County:** Rankin

**State:** Mississippi

**sdfsdf**


**Photographer:** Nancy Bell

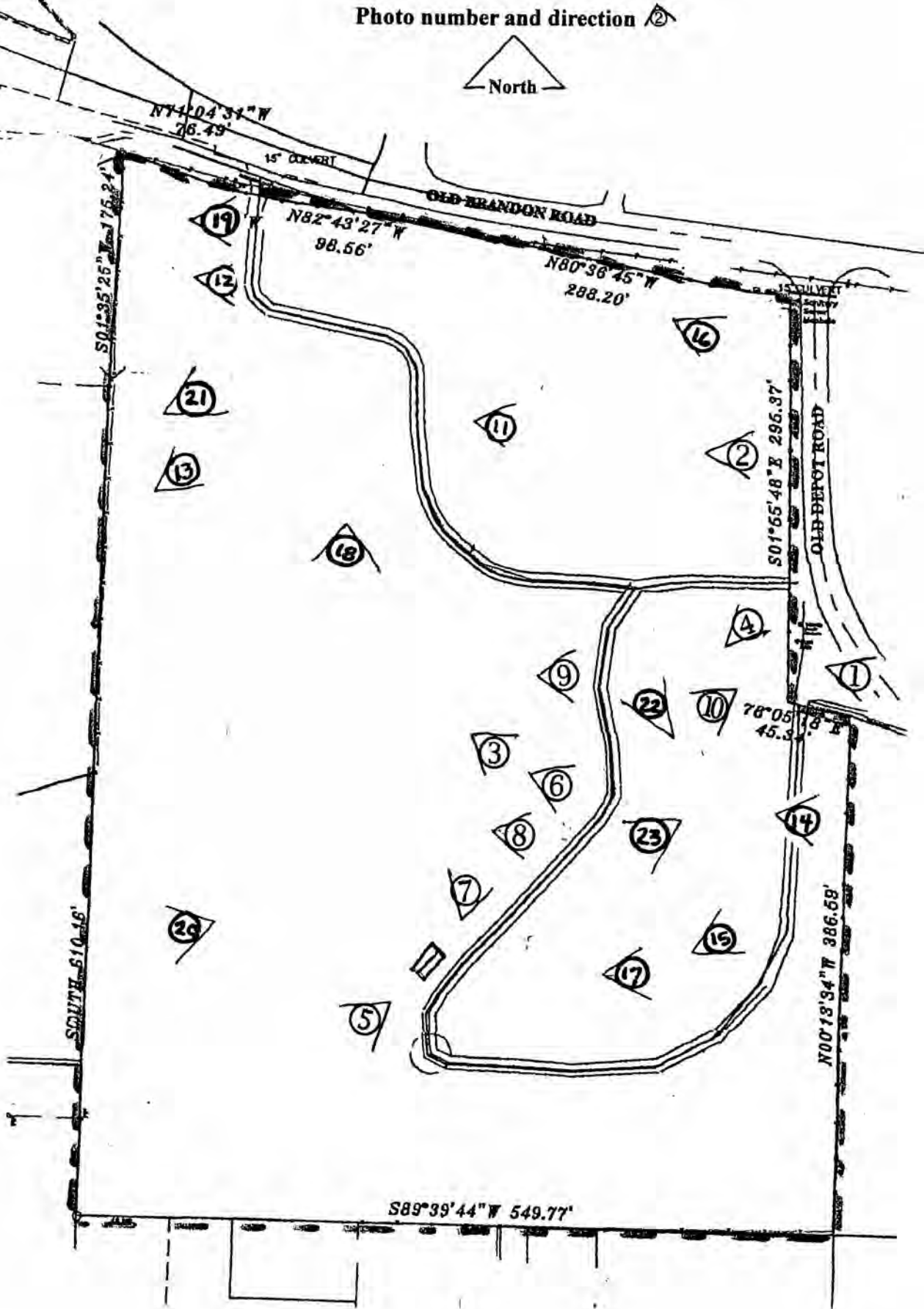
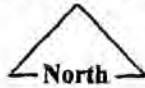
**Date Photographed:** April 2010

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

1. Mississippi State Historical Marker, view to west
2. View to west
3. View to northwest
4. View to southwest
5. Mausoleum, view to northeast
6. View to west
7. View to south
8. Alexander Speer marker, view to west
9. F. A. Johnson marker, view to west
10. Governor Robert Lowry marker, view to northeast
11. View to west
12. View to west
13. View to southwest
14. View to west
15. Governor Anselm Joseph McLaurin marker, view to southwest
16. View to west
17. View to west
18. View to north
19. Wallace Cole Burns marker, view to west
20. Confederate Memorial, view to east
21. View to southwest
22. View to southeast
23. View to east

# Old Brandon Cemetery Brandon, Rankin County, Mississippi

Photo number and direction 



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 10000925

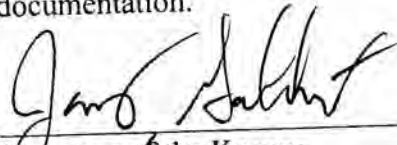
Date Listed: 11/18/2010

Property Name: Brandon Cemetery

County: Rankin

State: MS

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper  
fn

11/18/2010  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Criteria; Period of Significance

Criterion C is hereby added. The Period of Significance is hereby Changed to 1831-1910

The nomination cites "Art" as an area of significance; this necessitates the use of Criterion C. The cemetery has significant and representative examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century funerary art, exhibiting the idioms and tastes that reflect Victorian era burial culture. There are exceptional examples of both fraternal markers and individually designed and carved markers. The period of significance should reflect the time when high art was reflected in the markers, before the more generic, machine-cut stones of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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The Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Brandon Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MISSISSIPPI, Rankin

DATE RECEIVED: 10/04/10      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/29/10  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/15/10      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/18/10  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000925

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    10/11/2010    DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Cemetery Represents Early History of Area, as town much ravaged by fire with few remnants of Antebellum history. Good collection of mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> Century funerary art*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A & C

REVIEWER J. Grubbs      DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



## OLD BRANDON CEMETERY

Established in the early 1830s, the old Brandon cemetery contains more than 1,000 graves, including two Mississippi governors, Robert Lowry (1881-1889) and Anselm McLaurin (1896-1900). Also buried here is postmaster and surveyor Thomas Shaw, educator Miss Frank Johnson, and Susie Blue Buchanan, a pioneering female attorney.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND HISTORY, 2006

Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS  
Photo 1 of 23

**ALEXANDER**

Wm. H. ALEXANDER BORN 18 1844 DIED 12 1902	MARY BECKHAM WIFE OF Wm. H. ALEXANDER BORN 18 1844 DIED 12 1902	JOYANA ALEXANDER BORN 12 1880 DIED 12 1902
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IN THE REDEMPTION OF THE SOUL

**GATHERINE E.**  
Wife of Wm. Standard  
born March 25 1822  
died Nov. 15 1874

**WILLIAM ALEXANDER**

Wm. H. ALEXANDER  
BORN 18 1844  
DIED 12 1902

MARY BECKHAM  
WIFE OF Wm. H. ALEXANDER  
BORN 18 1844  
DIED 12 1902

JOYANA  
ALEXANDER  
BORN 12 1880  
DIED 12 1902

Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS

Photo 2 of 23





Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS  
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Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Raului, U.S.  
Photo 4 of 23



Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rensselaer, US  
Photo 5 of 23



Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Caulkin, MS

Photo 6 of 23





GRAVE OF  
ANDREW  
MCCRELL  
BORN  
DIED

GRAVE OF  
ANDREW  
MCCRELL  
BORN  
DIED

GRAVE OF  
ANDREW  
MCCRELL  
BORN  
DIED

Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS

Photo 7 of 23



ALEXANDER SPIVEY  
BORN  
Jan. 11, 1821  
DIED  
Feb. 25, 1870.  
A Veteran of the First  
and was once near  
Gettysburg.

old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS  
Photo 8 of 23

F. A. JOHNSON

JANUARY 3, 1831,  
DECEMBER 4, 1896.

ERECTED BY PUPILS OF "MISS FRANK"  
THE GREAT EDUCATOR AND NOBLE WOMAN  
IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF HER WORK  
AND WORTH.

NO OSTENTATION MARKED HER TRANQUIL WAY  
HER DUTIES ALL DISCHARGED WITHOUT  
DISPLAY.

P. V. A.

Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS  
Photo 9 of 23



old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS  
Photo 10 of 23





W.A. BARBER  
1844  
MAY 14, 1893  
BY SOMEWHAT LINE AS TO  
AND DWELL APART

...OF A  
...SISTER  
...PER POPE,  
...18. 1890.  
...55 YEARS.

Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Racine, Wis  
Photo 4 of 23



MILDRED  
DAU. OF  
MARGARET G.  
WARD,  
JANUARY 5,  
1891.

DANIEL McLAUPIN  
MAYERS  
MAY 14 1900  
JULY 15 1966

ALFREDO GRAYMERS  
1875-1925  
JAN 18 1875  
AUG 18 1925

CHARL  
M  
JUN  
OCT

GEORGE HENRY  
MAY  
1897  
1966

PMPSON

YERS

GRAVE

Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Maine, US  
Photo 12 of 23



Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS  
photo 13 of 23



IN MEMORY OF  
MRS. MARY ANN  
WIFE OF  
MR. JAMES M.  
DECEASED  
MAY 15, 1865  
DIED  
MAY 15, 1865



BMBB



Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS  
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Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Cauhin, MS  
Photo 15 of 23



Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS  
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Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Canton, MS  
Photo 17 of 23



Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS  
Photo 18 of 23



LIEUT. BURNS

WALLACE COLE BURNS  
MAR. 10, 1893  
FEB. 21, 1922



LIEUT. DARTING

Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS

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Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS  
Photo 20 of 23



Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS  
Photo 21 of 23



Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin, MS

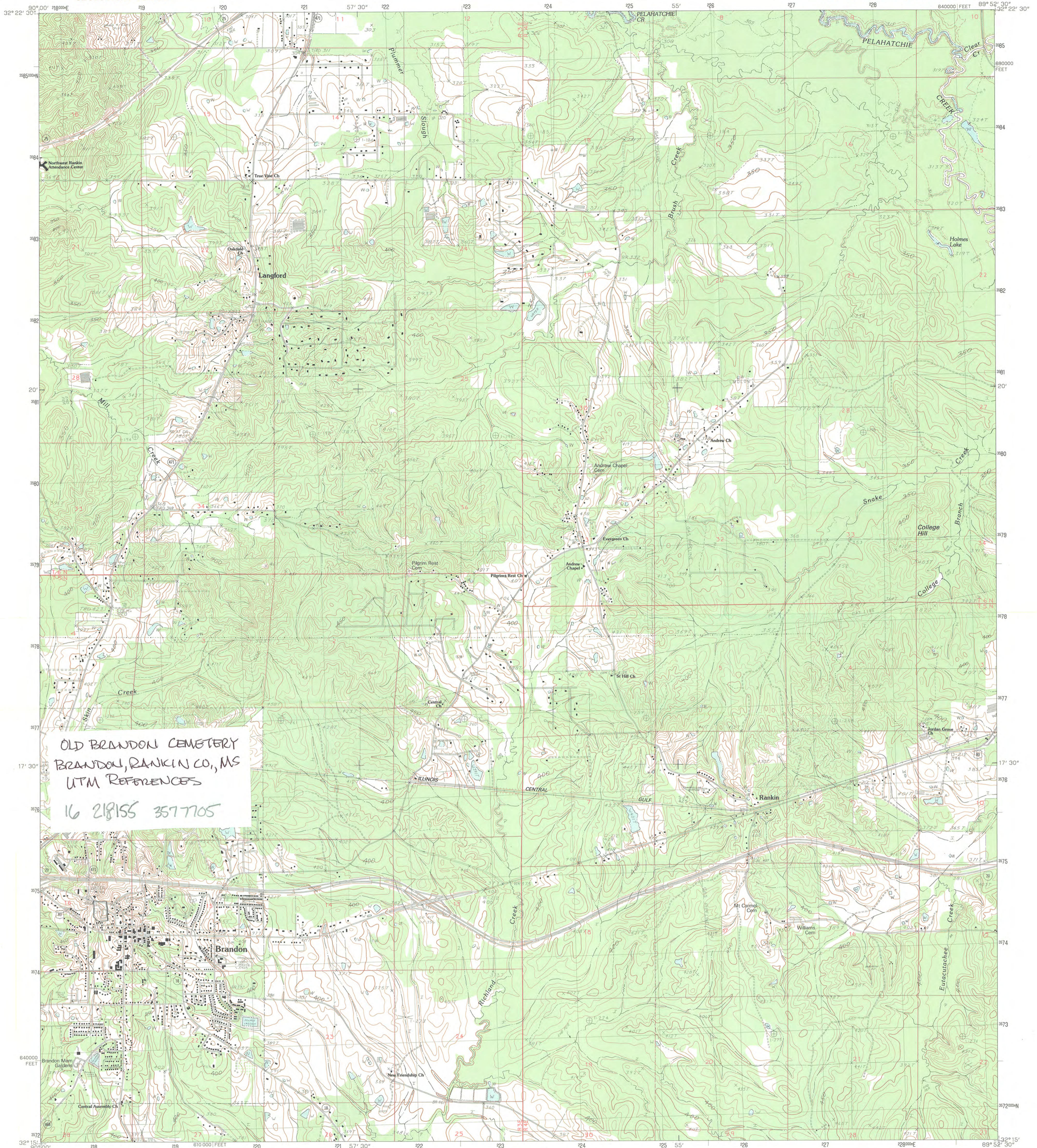
Photo 22 of 23





Old Brandon Cemetery  
Brandon, Rankin County, MS

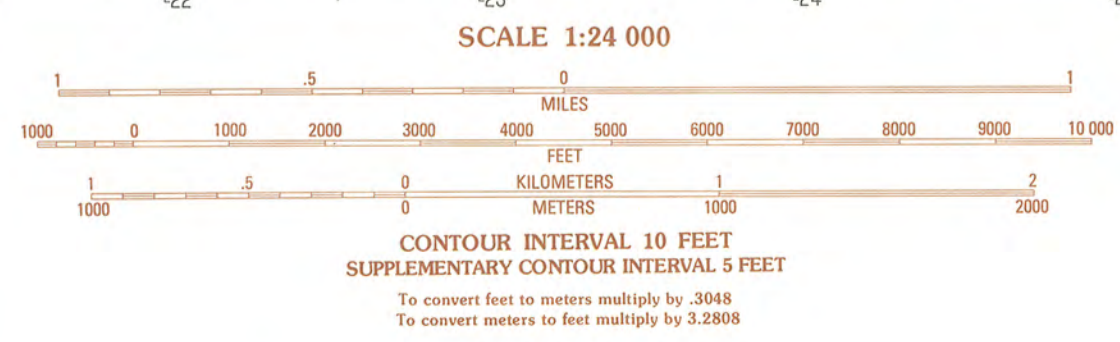
Photo 23 of 23



OLD BRANDON CEMETERY  
BRANDON, RANKIN CO., MS  
UTM REFERENCES  
16 218155 3577105

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
CONTROL BY USGS AND NOS/NOAA  
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1976  
FIELD CHECKED 1981. MAP EDITED 1982  
PROJECTION TRANSVERSE MERCATOR  
GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR  
ZONE 16  
10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS MISSISSIPPI WEST ZONE  
UTM GRID DECLINATION 1°54' WEST  
1982 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION 3°30' EAST  
VERTICAL DATUM NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
HORIZONTAL DATUM 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM  
To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983  
move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks  
(13 meters south and 7 meters east)  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any  
Federal and State reservations shown on this map

**PROVISIONAL MAP**  
Produced from original  
manuscript drawings. Infor-  
mation shown as of date of  
field check.



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1 Madison
			2 Goshen Springs
			3 Leeburg
4	5	4 Jackson SE	
		5 Pelahatchie	
		6 Winfield	
6	7	7 Puckett NW	
		8 Johns	

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

ROAD LEGEND

Improved Road  
Unimproved Road  
Trail

Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

BRANDON, MISSISSIPPI  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1982



PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571  
601-576-6850 • Fax 601-576-6975  
mdah.state.ms.us

*H.T. Holmes, Director*



October 1, 2010

**Dr. Janet Snyder Matthews**

**Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and Associate Director for Cultural Resources**

**National Park Service**

**1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)**

**Washington, D.C. 2005**

Dear Dr. Matthews:

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

**Brandon Cemetery, Brandon, Rankin County**

The properties were approved for nomination by the Mississippi Historic Preservation Professional Review Board at its meeting on September 16, 2010.

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 black ink, appearing to read "William M. Gatlin".

**Kenneth H. P'Pool**

**Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer**

**By: William M. Gatlin**

**National Register Coordinator**