

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 4 1986  
date entered MAR 18 1986

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

1. Name

historic PALMER-PERKINS HOUSE AND PALMER FAMILY GRAVEYARD

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 625 W. PALMER MILL ROAD N/A not for publication

city, town MONTICELLO N/A vicinity of

state FLORIDA code 012 county JEFFERSON code 065

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

street & number COURTHOUSE CIRCLE

city, town MONTICELLO state FLORIDA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title JEFFERSON COUNTY SURVEY has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1975  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records FLORIDA DIVISION OF ARCHIVES, HISTORY AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

city, town TALLAHASSEE state FLORIDA

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Palmer-Perkins House is a 2½ story Classical Revival structure with load-bearing brick walls on the first story and wood frame walls on the second. The plan of the house is basically rectangular, and the five-bay entrance facade has a central two-story portico. The interior plan is central hall and two rooms deep. There are interior end chimneys, a gable roof, and interior details executed in the Classical Revival motif. The Palmer family graveyard is located a short distance south and west of the house. It is situated in a small grove of trees dominated by magnolia and live oak. The tract is surrounded by a chain link fence. There are 57 marked graves, 16 of which are without inscriptions on the headstones.

The house has a gable roof with shallow eaves and a boxed cornice. In each gable there are two windows between the end chimneys. The first and second stories of the side elevations are four bays deep. All windows are six over six double hung sash with plain surround and exterior blinds. The windows of the brick first story have jack (flat) arches. The central bay of the main facade is wide to emphasize the doorway. The doorway consists of panelled wood doors with sidelights and a transom. The second story doorway, which opens onto the gallery of the portico, is similar to that on the ground story, except that the transom is absent.

The two-story portico occupying the central bay of the main facade is pedimented and has superimposed boxed columns. The first floor deck is raised on brick piers five steps above grade. There is a plain balustrade around the gallery.

For many years, Palmer family members took responsibility for maintaining the graveyard, keeping the site clean and free of undergrowth. But in spite of this attention, the graveyard began to deteriorate after a century and a half of existence. In 1984, the Jefferson County Historical Association began a campaign to restore the graveyard and have it preserved as a historic site. The City of Monticello assisted in this effort to reset fallen tombstones and repair damaged vaults and rebuild the fence surrounding the graveyard.

## 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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** ca. 1836

**Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This nomination is essentially a revision of that of the Palmer-Perkins House, which was listed on the National Register 7/10/79. It was felt that the Palmer Family Graveyard, an essential element of the property was inadvertently omitted. The Palmer-Perkins House, along with Lyndhurst Plantation (listed N.R. 4/2/73) are the only extant examples of the construction technique employing load-bearing brick walls on the first story and wood frame on the second to be found in Florida. The Palmer Family Graveyard, visually and physically associated with the house, is the only private graveyard remaining in Jefferson County that is still associated with the original family home and not been destroyed by neglect, vandalism, or other circumstances. Because establishment of a graveyard was typical of antebellum plantations in the South, this graveyard should be considered an essential component of the Palmer-Perkins House historic property. The graveyard has been maintained by the Palmer family since it was established in the 1830s.

Martin Palmer and his wife Amelia (Miles) moved to the town of Monticello in Jefferson County, Florida, from Edgefield, South Carolina, in 1829. They brought with them their slaves, household goods, and nine children. They purchased land on the outskirts of Monticello on which was constructed a large log house used by the family until the completion of the present structure about 1836.<sup>1</sup> In addition to being a planter, Martin Palmer owned a general store and a tavern.<sup>2</sup> Palmer also served as a county commissioner and trustee of the local Jefferson Academy. In addition, he was one of the founders of the Southern Rights Manufacturing Association, a cotton mill built in Monticello in 1853. This mill operated until the end of the Civil War.<sup>3</sup>

Other members of the Palmer family made contributions to the community as well. One son, John Miles Palmer, fought in the Second Seminole War (1838-1842), and all the Palmer sons who were of age served the Confederacy in the Civil War.<sup>4</sup> The most prominent of these was Thomas Martin Palmer, who was appointed by the governor of Florida as surgeon to the 2nd Regiment, Florida Infantry. He was in charge of all Florida hospitals in Richmond, Virginia, from 1861 to 1865. Thomas was also a delegate to the Florida Constitutional Convention and one of the signers of the Ordinance of Secession. In 1876, he became the first president of the Florida Medical Association.<sup>5</sup> A number of Palmer descendants entered the medical profession. Among both direct and lateral lines of descent, five generations of Palmers have produced 14 practicing physicians. Some of these were instrumental in establishing the state professional medical and licensing boards.<sup>6</sup>

After Martin Palmer died in 1857, the Monticello property passed to Thomas Palmer. In the 1880s, He sold the plantation to John H. Perkins, but the Palmer family retained the burial ground. Perkins was a prominent business man in

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Quadrangle name SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Quadrangle scale: 24,000

### UTM References

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. CARL SHIVER / HISTORIC SITES SPECIALIST

organization DIVISION OF ARCHIVES, HISTORY AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

street & number DEPARTMENT OF STATE telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town TALLAHASSEE state FLORIDA

# 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 *Gregory A. Perry*

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date January 27, 1896

### For NPS use only

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

*Cheryl Schrage* date 3/18/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Monticello from the 1880s until the 1920s. In 1889, he was elected president of the Monticello Board of Trade (the forerunner of the chamber of commerce) and started construction of the Perkins Block, a new brick and cast iron store. Local citizens encouraged Perkins to include an opera house on the second floor for the benefit of the community. The Perkins Opera House was listed on the N.R. 9/14/72.<sup>7</sup>

The Palmer family graveyard was established about 1830 when the Palmers' ninth child, William Lewis, died. His is one of the 16 graves without inscriptions on the tombstones. The earliest inscribed grave is that of Stephen Palmer, who died in 1849. The inclusion of a graveyard on family estates and plantations was typical practice in the South before the Civil War. The burying ground was often planted with flowering shrubs and maintained by family members. In the rural areas of Virginia and the Carolinas, family plots outnumbered public cemeteries established by churches and towns.<sup>8</sup> Many of the planter families that settled Jefferson County emigrated from that region of the country and continued the practice.<sup>9</sup>

Although Jefferson County was one of the wealthiest in north Florida and once had numerous plantations, most of the plantation houses and other appurtenances have vanished. There is evidence that a number of these originally had private graveyards, but except for the Palmer graveyard, only those at Lyndhurst and Sunrise remain. The latter two are seriously deteriorated and have been vandalized. Few headstones remain to identify the persons once associated with the sites. In contrast, the Palmer family graveyard has been protected and maintained by Palmer family descendants.<sup>10</sup> Of the 57 marked graves in the plot, 41 have extant headstones. The graveyard is laid out in sub-family groupings to allow easy location of individual members. The funerary art demonstrates popular taste in grave markers and epitaphs over a period of 150 years. Three of the gravestones are signed by the artisans who made them.

The Palmer family has continued to use the graveyard for occasional family burials. The last to be buried was Samuel A. Palmer, a great grandson of Martin and Amelia, in 1976. In 1984, Charlotte Palmer Watkins, a great-great granddaughter, deeded the graveyard to the city of Monticello to insure its protection as a historic site. The city formally accepted the property on April 2, 1985.

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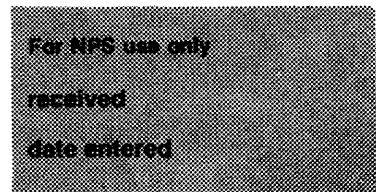
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FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup>Jefferson County, Deed Records.
- <sup>2</sup>Shofner, History of Jefferson County, p. 100.
- <sup>3</sup>ibid., p. 220.
- <sup>4</sup>Soldiers of Florida in the Seminole Indian, Civil, and Spanish-American Wars.
- <sup>5</sup>Palmer, The Palmer Physicians, pp. 1-4.
- <sup>6</sup>Soldiers of Florida...
- <sup>7</sup>Simpson, History of Jefferson County, Florida.
- <sup>8</sup>Stilgoe, Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845, p. 229.
- <sup>9</sup>Rivers, "Dignity and Importance: Slavery in Jefferson County, Florida, 1827 to 1860, p. 404.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Jefferson County. Deed and Tax Records. Jefferson County Courthouse, Monticello, Florida.
2. Palmer, Theresa Yaeger. The Palmer Physicians, ed. by Hugh Archer Palmer, n.p., 1966.
3. Rivers, Larry. "Dignity and Importance: Slavery in Jefferson County, Florida, 1827-1860," Florida Historical Quarterly. LXI, No. 4 (1983), pp. 404-430.
4. Simpson, R.C. History of Jefferson County, Florida. Monticello: Federal Emergency Relief Act, 1935.
5. Soldiers of Florida in the Seminole Indian, Civil and Spanish-American Wars. Live Oak, Florida: Democrat Book and Job Print, n.d.
6. Stigloe, John R. Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845. New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1982.
7. Watkins, Charlotte Palmer, interview by Sharyn Thompson, Tallahassee, Florida, January 22 & 23 and February 11, 1985.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Palmer-Perkins House:

Acreage of Property: Apprx. 10 acres

Quadrangle Name: Monticello / Lake Miccosukee

UTM References: A. 17/224100/3382420  
B. 17/224210/3382420  
C. 17/224210/3382380  
D. 17/224230/3382160  
E. 17/224100/3382160

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Palmer Family Graveyard:

Acreage of Property: Apprx. 1 acre

Quadrangle Name: Lake Miccosukee

UTM References: 17/224000/3382280

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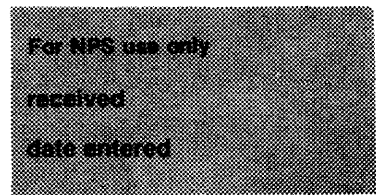
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Palmer-Perkins House

All that certain piece described as the eastern 1/2 of the southeast 1/4 of Section 25, Township 2 North, Range 4 East enclosed within the following boundary: beginning at the northwest corner of that certain lot conveyed unto Mrs. Ollie Sheffield Anderson Lacy by Mary E. Williams, widow, August 12, 1946 at DDD 317 and run Thence south along the western boundary of said land 600 feet thence west at right angles with said line 606 feet, run thence north 726 feet and to southern boundary of Walnut Street 486 feet to the western boundary of Hickory Street, run thence south with the western boundary of Hickory Street 126 feet, run thence east 120 feet to the point of beginning, embracing what is known as the "Perkins Home," and comprising 10 acres, more or less.



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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Palmer Family Graveyard

All that certain one acre parcel in the City of Monticello, Florida, known as the Palmer Family Graveyard in the east one-half of the southeast one-quarter of Section 25, Township 2 North, Range 4 East; being a portion of those lands conveyed known as a portion of lots 178 and 179, Town Lots, in the Town of Monticello; and being land currently fenced and used as the Palmer Family Graveyard. This property was specifically referred to in Deed Book "XX", page 453, public records of Jefferson County, Florida.

Item Number: 4

OWNER OF PROPERTY

Palmer-Perkins House: Mrs. Richard Simpson  
625 West Palmer Mill Road  
Monticello, Florida 32344

Palmer Family Graveyard: City of Monticello  
City Hall  
Monticello, Florida 32344



Old City  
Cemetery

Madison Street

York St.

Pearl Street

(S.R. #146)

Dogwood Street

Hickory Street

Jefferson Street

(U.S. 90)

West Washington Street

East Washington Street

Water Street

Olive Street

Mulberry Street

(U.S. Hwy 19)

Cherry Street

Waukeenan St.

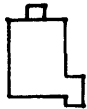
Hill Street

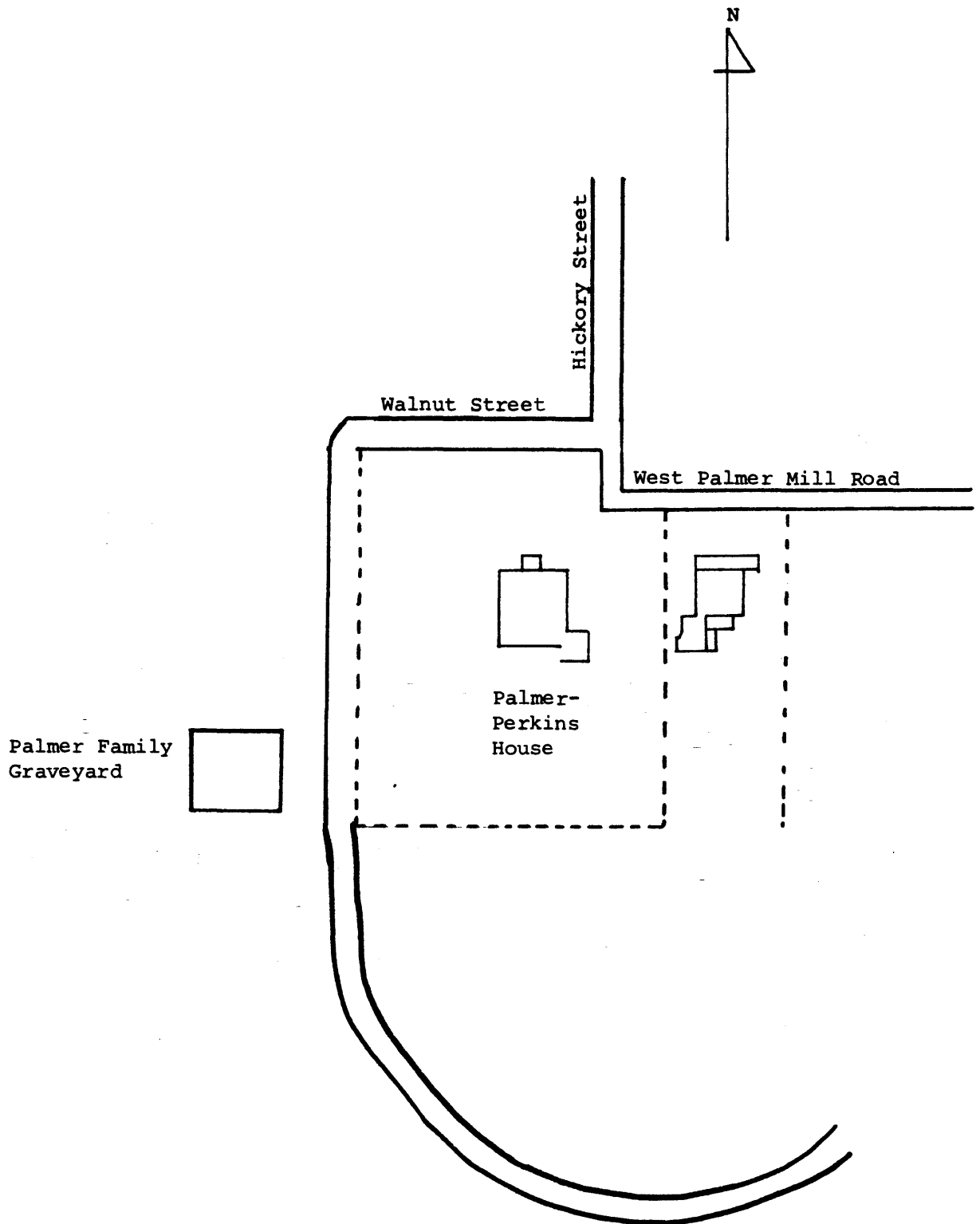
Walnut St.

West Palmer Mill Road

Palmer  
Family  
Grave-  
yard

Palmer-  
Perkins  
House





Location of the Palmer Family  
Graveyard and the Palmer-Perkins  
House in Monticello, Jefferson  
County, Florida

PALMER FAMILY GRAVEYARD  
MONTICELLO, FLORIDA

- 1 Unknown
- 2 Unknown
- 3 Clara Nigels Palmer
- 4 Dabney Bailey Palmer
- 5 Laura Josephine Willie Palmer
- 6 J. Dabney Palmer, M.D.
- 7 Leonora Celey
- 8 Margaret Leonard Palmer
- 9 John M. Palmer
- 10 Agnes B. Leonard
- 11 John Reynolds Palmer
- 12 Thomas Augustus Palmer
- 13 Samuel Augustus Palmer
- 14 Mary Rebecca Gassaway Palmer
- 15 James Averett Palmer
- 16 James Burch Palmer
- 17 Jessie Denham Palmer
- 18 Dr. T. M. Palmer
- 19 Jane Denham Palmer
- 20 Unknown
- 21 T. W. Palmer
- 22 Minnie Palmer
- 23 John Denham Palmer, M.D.
- 24 Unknown
- 25 Unknown
- 26 Unknown
- 27 Unknown
- 28 Unknown
- 29 Unknown
- 30 Unknown
- 31 Unknown
- 32 Julia Womack Palmer
- 33 Joseph Palmer
- 34 Unknown
- 35 Unknown
- 36 Unknown
- 37 H.F. Bibb
- 38 Mary B. Footman
- 39 Edward Footman
- 40 D. Williams
- 41 Mrs. P. G. Williams
- 42 M. Eliza Footman
- 43 T. N. Footman
- 44 Edward Footman
- 45 Helen Footman
- 46 Rosa Amelia Turnbull
- 47 Unknown
- 48 Elizabeth Clark
- 49 Julia Clark
- 50 Marion J. Clark
- 51 Thomas P. Clark
- 52 Unknown
- 53 Stephen Palmer
- 54 Martin Palmer
- 55 Amelia Palmer
- 56 Mary Floride Weston
- 57 Samuel A. Palmer

