

*File Copy*

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

<p>RECEIVED for HCRS use only DATE RECEIVED DATE ENTERED DEC 15 1981</p>
<p>INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE</p>

**1. Name**

historic Riverside Cemetery

and or common

**2. Location**

street & number 1301 Riverside Drive N/A not for publication

city, town Macon N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Georgia code 013 county Bibb code 021

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Riverside Cemetery, Inc. , c/o Winburn E. Stewart, President, Board of Managers

street & number P. O. Box 373

city, town Macon N/A vicinity of state Georgia 31202

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Bibb County Courthouse

city, town Macon state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title A Guide to Macon's Architectural and Historical Heritage has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1972  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Middle Georgia Historical Society

city, town Macon state Georgia

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## 7. Description

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

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

Riverside Cemetery is a late nineteenth-early twentieth century landscaped cemetery park located on a high bluff overlooking the Ocmulgee River in Macon, Bibb County, Georgia. Bordered and unbordered cemetery lots, simple tombstones, architectural monuments, sculptural elements, a gate house, a mausoleum, and the remains of a Civil War redoubt are located on the fifty-four acre tract of land. The nominated property includes the original twenty-three acres purchased by the Board of Managers of the Riverside Cemetery Company, along with additional acreage purchased some years later. The cemetery was developed in stages in sympathy with the original design, and consequently, there is no visual break between the original and added acreage. A portion has not yet been developed.

The grounds are landscaped with natural and introduced plant materials located within a planned setting of rolling hillocks and curving drives and walkways that both define the plan and enhance the placement of monuments within the grounds. Strict design controls established in conjunction with the landscape plan have limited the intrusion of fences and plant materials that would violate the original plan. The appearance of the cemetery remains parklike and open.

Major buildings on the grounds are the 1897 gate house and a mausoleum, constructed about 1918. The gate house, located at the southeastern corner of the cemetery, is a one-story brick building composed of rectangular, gable-roofed wings that flank a central roofed-over area protecting the main drive into the cemetery. The structure is detailed with wood trim laid over the brick to resemble half-timbering and sawn-work vergeboards in the gable ends. The interior is finished with beaded tongue-and-groove wainscoting, elaborate door and window surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks, and in the western wing which served as a reception room for the Cemetery Association, a tongue-and-groove ceiling divided into an octagon by ribs radiating from a central turned boss. A small one-room addition is located on the southeastern facade. The mausoleum is a long, narrow, rectangular, white marble structure designed in a simplified Neoclassical style. Shallow pilasters define the corners of the building, and a central bay highlighted with additional pilasters and a rounded arch motif projects forward slightly on both the front and rear. On the south, front facade, steps lead up to two doors in this section. A simple cornice and parapet wrap around the entire structure.

The historic remains of a Civil War redoubt are located within the cemetery on the highest point of ground overlooking the Ocmulgee River. The triangular-shaped earthen work redoubt was incorporated into the original landscape plan for the cemetery and serves as the location for a number of burials, both against its walls and within its confines. A ca. 1970 sheet metal maintenance building on the cemetery grounds is the only intrusion, and this structure is largely removed from view, reducing its impact.

### Boundary

The fifty-four acre cemetery, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed map, is bounded on the southwest by Riverside Drive, on the southeast by Rose Hill Cemetery, on the northeast by the Southern Railway tracks, and on the north and northwest by Interstate 75. The entire cemetery acreage has been included in the nomination except for a northern portion severed from the historic acreage by the construction of Interstate 75. This area had not been developed prior to the construction of the highway.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local history

**Specific dates** 1887 - 1889 and later, **Builder/Architect** Calvert Vaux and Co.,  
in stages **landscape architects**  
**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Peter E. Dennis, local supervising architect

## Summary Statement of Significance

Riverside Cemetery, first laid out in 1887-1889 and added to in stages, is historically significant in the areas of landscape architecture, architecture, historic archaeology and local history. In terms of landscape architecture, Riverside Cemetery is important as a well-preserved late-nineteenth century example of the type of rural cemetery popular in this country during the second half of the nineteenth century. The cemetery is particularly significant for its association with Calvert Vaux, whose firm, Vaux and Company, were the designers of the original twenty-three acre plan. In terms of architecture, the cemetery is significant for the presence of two buildings, The Gate House and the Mausoleum, which are good examples of late-nineteenth century and early-twentieth century cemetery architecture. In terms of historic archaeology, the cemetery is significant for the presence, in its midst, of a Civil War redoubt which was carefully preserved and incorporated into the cemetery's original plan. In terms of local history, the cemetery is significant as a local project organized by seven prominent Macon citizens.

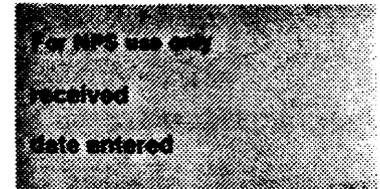
## Landscape Architecture

Riverside Cemetery is an important well-preserved example in the southeast of the type of landscape design popular for parks and cemeteries in the late-nineteenth century. Its naturalistic park-like setting with its grassy rolling hills, gently curving drives and walkways, and carefully planned plantings is typical of this type of design. Monuments and funerary sculpture are controlled as to scale, placement and design so as to conform to the spirit of the overall design.

The original twenty-three acres of the cemetery were planned by the noted New York firm of landscape architects, Vaux and Company, of whom the principal partner was Calvert Vaux (1824-1895), an extremely prominent, nationally known architect and landscape architect. Vaux worked at various points in his career with Andrew Jackson Downing and Frederick Law Oldmstead. While working in partnership with Olmstead, he shared responsibility for the design of Central, Morningside, and Prospect Parks in New York and Riverside Park in Chicago. Riverside Cemetery is one of the few documented works of landscape architecture by his firm in the southeast. Peter E. Dennis (1854-1929), the local supervising architect for the cemetery and designer of the Gate House, was a locally prominent figure who designed many residences, churches, schools and other public buildings in Macon and the surrounding counties. Dennis, a native of Talbotton, Georgia

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Continuation sheet

Significance

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attended the University of Georgia and established his architectural practice in Macon in 1884. The correspondence between Vaux and Company and Dennis, and the cemetery company minutes detailing the exact nature of the contract between the parties and the three stages involved in the design process, remain in the hands of Riverside Cemetery.

Architecture

The Gate House and the Mausoleum on the cemetery grounds are both good examples of late nineteenth-early twentieth century cemetery architecture. The Gate House, designed with Tudor influences by Peter E. Dennis in 1897, is a somewhat late example of the rustic, "picturesque" style popular for park and cemetery architecture earlier in the nineteenth century. The ca. 1918 Neoclassical-styled Mausoleum designed by the Georgia Mausoleum Company reflects a turn-of-the-century concern for more formal, classically inspired structures.

Historic Archaeology

The approximately triangular-shaped eastern Civil War redoubt preserved in the cemetery's midst is located on a high bluff overlooking The Ocmulgee River. It was probably constructed hastily on or just before July 29, 1864 in preparation for what is known as Stoneman's Raid on Macon. This raid was part of General Sherman's March to the Sea. The redoubt was carefully preserved when the cemetery was laid out, perhaps because so many of the cemetery's founders had served in the Confederate Army and had such recent memories of the war. The redoubt has been little disturbed except for a few vaults built into its walls. It offers considerable potential for military archaeology.

Local History

Riverside Cemetery Company, a private cemetery corporation, was established in 1887 by seven prominent Macon Citizens to protest the City of Macon's poor maintenance of its major public burial ground, Rose Hill Cemetery (National Register, 1973). Rose Hill, located adjacent to Riverside Cemetery along the river, had been established about 1840 and, according to many Maconites, had, by the 1880s, been allowed to slip into considerable disrepair. The location of the two cemeteries side by side serves nicely to point up important changes in cemetery design that occurred between the early and late nineteenth century. It also documents the growing national trend toward private rather than public control of burial grounds.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 54 acres

Quadrangle name Macon West, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

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

B 

1	7	2	5	3	1	3	5	3	6	3	7	1	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	7	2	5	3	3	6	5	3	6	3	7	6	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

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

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Section #7.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

organization Historic Preservation Section  
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date 3/9/1983

street & number 270 Washington Street S. W. telephone 404-656-2840

city or town Atlanta, state Georgia 30334

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon 3/16/83  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet      Bibliographical References      Item number      9

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Harrold, Charles C. "The Story of Riverside Cemetery, 1887-1948." Macon, Georgia:  
Friend of Riverside Cemetery, 1948.

Hopkins, John Linn. "Draft National Register Nomination: Riverside Cemetery."  
January 1982. On file Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of  
Natural Resources, Atlanta.

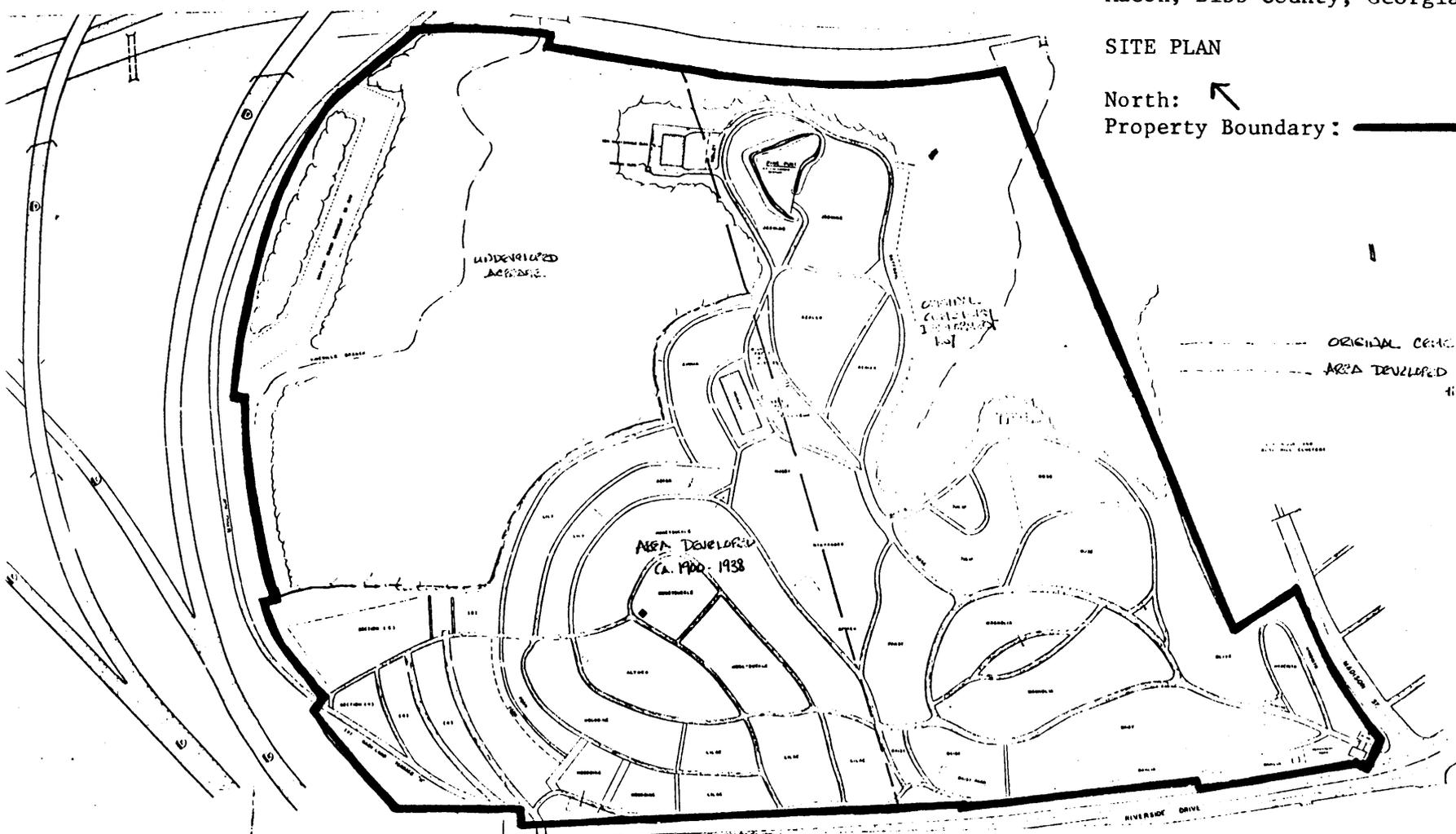
Riverside Cemetery Company. "Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Riverside  
Cemetery Company." 1887-1909. In possession of Riverside Cemetery, Inc.,  
Macon, Georgia.

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY  
Macon, Bibb County, Georgia

SITE PLAN

North: ↖

Property Boundary: **—————**



ORIGINAL CEMETERY PATHS 1857-1868  
AREA DEVELOPED CA. 1900-1938  
4. 1960-1968

RIVERSIDE DRIVE

MAYBERRY ST.

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY  
Macon, Bibb County, Georgia

USGS Quadrangle: Macon West, Georgia

Scale: 1:24000

North: ↑

Approximate Property Boundary: **—————**

UTM References:

A17/E252705/N3637800 B17/E253135/N3637190

C17/E253365/N3637690 D17/E253175/N3638070

MACON WEST QUADRANGLE  
GEORGIA-BIBB CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4249 1  
IMACON 1 62 5000

