

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 6 1983

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Laurel Grove-North Cemetery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number West Anderson Street N/A not for publication

city, town Savannah N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Chatham code 051

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Cemetery

4. Owner of Property

name City of Savannah, John P. Rousakis, Mayor

street & number P. O. Box 1027

city, town Savannah N/A vicinity of state Georgia 31402

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Chatham County Courthouse

city, town Savannah state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Laurel Grove-North, by the Savannah Chapter of the Victorian Society in America has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date December 1980 - present federal state county local

depository for survey records Georgia Historical Society, 501 Whitaker Street

city, town Savannah state Georgia

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Laurel Grove-North is a 67 acre public cemetery, having 3646 lots, located on the southwestern side of Savannah. The entrance is at the west end of Anderson Street.

At Laurel Grove-North's entrance the original cast iron gate extends from the historic two story stuccoed Keeper's Lodge on the right to the one story stuccoed Porter's Lodge on the left. The cemetery was once enclosed by a wooden picket fence and hedge on the east and north sides, and a board fence to the south and west sides. Today the original cast iron gates are at the entrance and the rest of the cemetery is enclosed by a chain link fence. The original landscape plan by James O. Morse remains unchanged except for the addition of a section of 500 lots to the southwest portion of the cemetery during the latter part of the 19th century and the division of Laurel Grove-North and Laurel Grove-South (already listed on the National Register) by the I-16 Connector.

The development of Laurel Grove-North for over 100 years has resulted in a variety of elaborate Victorian mausoleums, monuments, ironwork, and sculpture. Since 1852, Laurel Grove-North has been regarded as one of Savannah's most beautiful gardens. Moss draped live oaks and crepe myrtles line the gently curving roads of this rustic landscape that provides a pleasant atmosphere for passive recreation such as walking, bird watching, botanical study, and picnicing. Azaleas, camelias and a variety of other flowering shrubs characterize Laurel Grove-North, one of Savannah's three largest municipal parks.

There is also a one story public receiving vault used in earlier times for temporary burials. The cemetery adjoins a residential area, an interstate highway, and a public school. Changes include the fence replacement and the loss of funerary artifacts through vandalism or natural decay.

Laurel Grove-North, once the pride of Savannah, has deteriorated since World War II. This is due to the fact that most of the lots were filled by the latter part of the 19th century. The ravine, once a pond spanned by a wooden foot bridge, today is dried up and overgrown. Monuments, mausoleums, sculpture, and ironwork have suffered from vandalism and neglect. Today the Savannah Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, the Georgia Historical Society, Trustees Garden Club and other concerned citizens are working with the Park and Tree Commission of the City of Savannah to restore Laurel Grove-North to its former beauty.

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 type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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)
				Commemoration

Specific dates 1852-present **Builder/Architect** James O. Morse for the plan, Sholl and

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Fay, Architects for the buildings

Laurel Grove-North Cemetery is significant in the history of architecture, art, landscape architecture, sculpture and commemoration. In terms of architecture, it is significant as the repository for various mausolea built in various styles including Italianate, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Egyptian Revival. It also has fine examples of such cemetery-related buildings as the historic receiving vault, the keeper's lodge and porter's lodge. It also has significant works of art rendered by persons otherwise known for architecture, such as the two Woodbridge monuments designed by J. A. Wood of New York, architect of the Tampa Bay Hotel and other notable hotels. In art the cemetery is significant for the use of ironwork on many of the lots and tombs. This material came from foundries in Savannah as well as other major cities. Stained glass can also be found in many mausolea. In landscape architecture the cemetery is important for its informal, park-like landscape design. This landscaping was popularized in this country during the first half of the 19th century, and landscaped cemeteries such as this one played a leading role in promoting this new style of gardening. The cemetery is unusual in that it was laid out on the grounds of a former plantation. In sculpture the cemetery is significant for its large number of Victorian statues and monuments, as in many cemeteries of the period. Because this was the only public cemetery in Savannah for several decades, it houses the eternal monuments for every level of society. Many statues were imported from abroad such as the Carrara marble angel on the tomb of Louisa Porter. The symbols used in these various sculptures exemplify Victorian mortuary theory, such as the lyre for celestial music and the winged hour glass for the rapid passage of time. In commemoration the cemetery is important as part of the burial history of Savannah, being its second public cemetery, and for being converted from the plantation of the Stiles family. It is not known if any other communities ever converted a plantation for that purpose. It also is significant locally as being a city park in the Victorian cemetery tradition. These areas of significance support National Register eligibility under Criteria A (association with landscaped cemeteries and public parks during the mid 19th century in America), Criteria B (association with prominent 19th century and early 20th century Savannah families through land ownership and commemoration), and Criteria C (association with progressive trends in mid 19th century American landscape architecture, funerary architecture, and associated works of art such as sculpture.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Osvald, Karen E., Draft National Register Nomination Form, 16 pages plus attachments, dated March 10, 1981, on file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

(Continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 67
 Quadrangle name Savannah, GA.-S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded on the east by May Street and the Ogeechee Road; on the west by the I-16 Ramp; to the north by Sycamore Street; and to the South by Center Street as shown on the enclosed city map. It is all that is presently associated with Laurel Grove-North Cemetery.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title a) Karen E. Osvald, Archivist Assistant
 b) Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
 organization a) Georgia Historical Society date June 24, 1983
 b) Historic Preservation Section, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources
 street & number a) 501 Whitaker Street telephone a) 912-944-2128
 b) 270 Washington St., S. W. b) 404-656-2840
 city or town a) Savannah state a) Georgia 31499
 b) Atlanta b) 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/27/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 8/4/83

for Melvyn Beyer
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

