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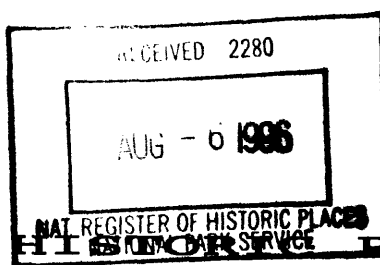NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

OMB No. 1024-0018

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Elmwood Cemetery

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 501 Elmwood Avenue   not for publication ___
city or town Columbia   vicinity ___
state South Carolina   code SC   county Richland   code 079
zip code 29201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 ___ nationally ___ statewide _X_ locally.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds   _8/1/96_
Signature of certifying official   Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

_____   _____
Signature of commenting or other official   Date

_____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_✓_ entered in the National Register
        ___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the
    National Register
        ___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the
    National Register
___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain): _____

Edson B. Beall 9.6.96

Entered in the
National Register

_____
Signature of Keeper   Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
- <u>x</u> private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
- ___ building(s)
- ___ district
- <u>x</u> site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)_____N/A_____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register ___0___

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: FUNERARY   Sub: Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: FUNERARY   Sub: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation   N/A
roof   N/A
walls   N/A
other   N/A

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

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.
- <u>X</u> 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 prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
____ B removed from its original location.
____ C a birthplace or a grave.
_X_ D a cemetery.
____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
____ F a commemorative property.
____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)
  Landscape Architecture

Significant Dates
  1854
  1921

Significant Person
  (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
  N/A

Cultural Affiliation
  N/A

Period of Significance
  1854-1945

Architect/Builder
  N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been
    requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey   # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
_X_ University
___ Other
Name of repository: South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 168.46 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	494640	3763880	3	17	495600	3763080
2	17	495200	3764060	4	17	494940	3762760

___ See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen Nickless and Anne Parker Hubbard Cohen

organization _____ date June 1, 1995

street & number 2329 Lincoln Street telephone (803)771-4640

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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

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

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

Property Owner

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

name Elmwood Cemetery and Gardens

street & number 501 Elmwood Avenue telephone (803)252-2133

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29201

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Elmwood Cemetery is a mid-nineteenth century cemetery in Columbia, South Carolina. Founded in 1854, it originally consisted of approximately 200 acres (the original title is not extant). In 1872 and 1899 acreage on the western border totaling four acres was sold to the Randolph Cemetery Association to establish an African-American cemetery. In 1884 three and one half acres on the eastern border were deeded to St. Peter's Catholic Church for a Catholic cemetery. The 168.46 acres that now comprise Elmwood Cemetery are bounded on the south by Elmwood Avenue, on the west by Randolph Cemetery and the Southern Railroad tracks, on the north by the Southern Railroad tracks, and on the east by an unpaved road and St. Peter's Cemetery. Although located within the city limits of Columbia, the setting is a combination of both urban and rural. There is a busy highway at the cemetery's southern edge, but on the east and west it borders other cemeteries and wooded land. Burials have taken place in approximately two-thirds of the land owned by Elmwood Cemetery. Gravemarkers are varied, including flush stones, tablets, headstones, mausoleums, ledgers, and obelisks. The "Old Cemetery" or "Southern Division" is visually distinct from the "New Cemetery" or "Northern Division." The former is more heavily wooded, and with larger gravemarkers. An area in the northwestern corner of the Southern Division, which is devoted to Confederate dead, takes on the appearance of a military cemetery. It is enclosed by low stone retaining walls, and contains rows of matching tablet markers. The eastern and western edges of the cemetery are overgrown with thick woods. The rest of the site is maintained.

The topography of the cemetery is even, with gently rolling hills. A spring and creek are located in a cut toward the center of the western boundary, in an area that has not been opened for burials. Elmwood Cemetery is a designed landscape. In the Southern Division landscape features include winding drives and many large cedars, magnolias, and oaks. Some family plots contain flowering plants and ornamental trees and shrubs. In the Northern Division the landscape is more open, with fewer and younger trees, primarily oaks and dogwoods. A few individual plots have shrubbery or other plantings.

Cultural features include a drive, fencing, buildings, a rostrum, a wrought iron archway, and markers. An asphalt drive with curbing and a center landscaped median enters from Elmwood Avenue. After ten yards the road splits, forming a teardrop-shaped park that contains two large standing family monuments, thirteen associated tablet markers, and approximately three hundred flush markers. Additional curbed drives radiate from this central drive and wind throughout the developed area. The boundary between Elmwood Cemetery and Randolph Cemetery is delineated by a dilapidated fence composed of concrete fence posts and wire fencing topped with barbed wire. The northern boundary between Elmwood and St. Peter's cemeteries is delineated by a metal fence. On the southern border of Elmwood, east of the entrance, is a five-foot-high cast iron fence. A portion of its original brick foundation wall is visible at the far eastern end. Fencing, primarily cast iron, also surrounds some family plots in the Southern Division. There are three buildings on the grounds. Two of these are directly west of the entrance. The first is a yellow brick office building and bell

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tower constructed in 1961. Just west of it is a smaller yellow brick building that served as a maintenance shed until it was converted to office space in 1993. The current maintenance shed is hidden fron view behind a screen of trees in the northeast corner of the property. Within the Confederate enclosure is a rostrum dedicated in 1935. Approximately six feet high, the foundation is rough cut stone, and the railings are metal pipe. Also in the Confederate area stands a fifteen-by-fifteen-foot wrought iron gateway which reads "Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865, U.D.C. [United Daughters of the Confederacy], 1951."

Gravemarker types and materials are varied. In the Southern Division many plots are family plots, marked by low stone retaining walls or iron fencing. Prominent in the Southern Division are ornately carved marble and granite markers. These include obelisks, tablets, ledgers, table-top stones, and mausoleums. In the Northern Division most markers are granite, both standing and flush. There are few mausoleums; one notable exception is a stone mausoleum honoring the Fair family. There are several monuments in Elmwood Cemetery that are not gravemarkers. These include an obelisk dedicated to "Soldiers of the Confederate States," a granite monument to Confederate veterans who died in the Confederate Soldiers Home, and a granite monument to seventy-five Confederate soldiers who lie in unmarked graves. At the Fair mausoleum there are individual bronze flush markers for two homes once lived in by the Fair family.

The present appearance of Elmwood Cemetery is little altered from its historic appearance. The entryway as shown in historic maps of Columbia consisted of an iron gate and fencing. A caretaker's residence stood to the west. The current entrance is a landscaped drive with no gate. A portion of the historic fencing remains to the east of the entrance. A modern brick and granite sign reading "Elmwood Memorial Gardens" stands to the west of the entrance. The caretaker's house has been replaced by a 1961 belltower and office, and the additional office building. A concrete retaining wall runs the entire southern border, ranging from twenty feet high at its western end to four feet high at its eastern end. The teardrop shaped lawn directly inside the entrance was converted to burial space in the early 1960s. All new markers are flush, but bronze vases that stand ten inches high somewhat alter the historic appearance.

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Elmwood Cemetery is a 168.46 acre cemetery in Columbia, South Carolina, established in 1854 by a group of prominent Columbia citizens, including Wade Hampton III, James Lyles, and T.C. Robertson. The southern section of Elmwood Cemetery is an example of a "rural cemetery." Elmwood became the fashionable place for Columbians to be buried, and many influential Columbia citizens have been interred there, including Confederate General Maxcy Gregg, and South Carolina governors Milledge Luke Bonham and Duncan Clinch Heyward. By 1921 the cemetery had become overgrown, and seemed out of step with current burial customs. The trustees of Elmwood Cemetery, including Mrs. A. M. Gibbes, Mrs. William Barnwell, and J.J. Seibels, recommended the opening of a "Modern Park or Lawn Plan" section in Elmwood Cemetery.[1] Elmwood Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a representative of the distinctive characteristics of both the rural cemetery movement of the nineteenth century and the lawn-park cemetery of the turn of the twentieth century. It is also eligible for listing under Criteria Consideration D as it represents the principles of the aesthetic traditions of both the ruarl and lawn-park cemetery movements in its plan and landscaping, and gravemarkers.

Elmwood Cemetery was founded in 1854 to fill a need. Prior to 1854 burials in Columbia had taken place in family plots, in churchyards, and in Potters Field, which was used by all races and classes. In 1854 Potters Field was reaching capacity, as were downtown churchyards. In addition, sentiment had shifted away from urban burials due to sanitary concerns. Elmwood Cemetery was established as a rural cemetery, and as such it served its citizens from 1854 to 1921.[2]

The first "rural cemetery" in the United States was Mount Auburm, established in 1831 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mount Auburn was a very large cemetery, some seventy-two acres, the largest American burying place (before Mount Auburn, the six-acre New Haven Burying Ground was considered large). Rural cemeteries were large to provide a sense of isolation and retreat from an increasingly urban world. Mount Auburn and the many cemeteries patterned after it were ornamental, both in their landscape and in their funerary art. The intent was to create a picturesque landscape; Mount Auburn was called "a garden of graves."[3]

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[1] Deed Book C, p.298, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Richland County Courthouse, Columbia, S.C.; [Elmwood Cemetery],"Elmwood Cemetery Perpetual Care Plan" (Columbia, SC: Privately Printed, 1922).

[2] Julian Selby, Memorabilia and Anecdotal Reminiscences of Columbia (Columbia, SC:R.L. Bryan, 1905), p. 93; David Charles Sloane, The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History(Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1991), p. 11.

[3] For more on Mount Auburn and the rural cemetery movement, see Sloane, pp. 44-64.

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One of the main features of the rural cemetery was the family plot. Families were encouraged to buy a large plot and erect an impressive standing monument with the family name. Smaller markers were used on individual graves. Family plots were often enclosed with decorative fencing. The cemetery management (usually a non-profit group of citizens) planned and provided for the landscape background, with winding carriage drives and thickly planted trees. Individual owners developed the final landscape, both with monuments and with the landscaping of individual plots.[4]

Within twenty years after the establishment of Mount Auburn these large picturesque cemeteries were preferrd to small enclosed family or church plots. Rural cemeteries differed from older burying grounds in almost every detail, including gravemarkers. While older markers were dark in color, usually slate or limestone, the new aesthetic called for the light colors of white marble of granite. Older gravemarkers tended to be tablet markers with surface engraving. In a rural cemetery owners of plots were encouraged to place large three-dimensional ornately carved monuments on their plots. Rural cemeteries took on the aspect of outdoor sculpture gardens, as families vied to have the largest or most ornate monument. Markers were carved with a myriad of motifs, from urns, crosses, and angels to trees and representative statuary. As these ornate monuments became the norm, standardized monuments in various styles became available. Wealthy citizens often hired local stonecarvers to make custom monuments, or contracted with master crafters in other cities. Possessing a fashionable cemetery designed on the rural cemetery plan became a symbol of a "successful, prosperous city."[5]

Columbia in the 1850s was just such a city, and the men involved with the establishment of Elmwood Cemetery were civic-minded men who were interested in keeping abreast of the times. Charleston and Richmond had opened rural cemeteries,[6] and in 1854 Columbia followed suit. The main features of Mount Auburn and other rural cemeteries are reflected at Elmwood Cemetery. Elmwood is a large tract on the outskirts of town (when planned, it was directly north of the northern boundary of the city), it is a planned landscape featuring winding drives and large trees, and family plots with ornate standing markers dominate the oldest section of the cemetery. Also in keeping with most of the rest of the nation, Elmwood Cemetery was a cemetery for white Protestants. As in many cities, African-American and Catholic cemeteries were established next to Elmwood Cemetery. In 1872 and 1899 Elmwood Cemetery Association sold four acres to Randolph Ccemetery Association for an African-American Cemetery, and in 1884

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[4]Sloane, p. 53.

[5]Sloane, p.78.

[6]Sloane, p. 55.

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they ceded three-and-one-half acres to St. Peter's Church for a Catholic cemetery.[7]

Elmwood Cemetery evolved from the teardrop-shaped drive and lawn just inside the entrance. As late as 1872 this was the only drive in Elmwood Cemetery, and there were no burials within the drive. The earliest burials in the cemetery are found around the central park. The lawn within the circle holds only two family plots. At the southern end is a monument to A.N. Tally, a local physician who died in 1897. Near the center of the lawn is the Robertson family monument, an impressive oversized granite chest marker. It is surrounded by eleven individual tablet markers, including one for T.J. Robertson, one of the founders of Elmwood Cemetery, who died in 1897. The monuments in the Southern Division or Old Cemetery section are the most impressive in the cemetery and reflect the scale and design motifs common to rural cemeteries. Many stones are custom-cut, including those of Lieutenant Joseph Friedeberg, Abigail Caldwell Southern, and Hannah Elizabeth Southern, all made by W.T. White of Charleston. Other monuments were ordered from out of state. The Caldwell, Scaife, and Robertson families had some of their stones carved by Steinmetz Stonecutters of Philadelphia. As in Mount Auburn and other rural cemeteries, most family plots in the older section of Elmwood are set off in some way. Some have low stone retaining walls, others have elaborate cast or wrought iron fencing.

Elmwood Cemetery gradually grew from this central loop. New areas were opened as needed. During the Civil War a section on the western border was set aside for the burial of Confederate soldiers. These graves are now marked by uniform marble tablets, giving the Confederate section the look of a military cemetery. The Confederate enclosure has seen a numbers of additions through the years, most of them instigated by the Wade Hampton Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who hold a Confederate Memorial Day service in the cemetery every May 10. In 1935 they added a rostrum, in the 1950s an entry arch, and in the 1980s a marker for soldiers buried in unmarked graves.

At the turn of the twentieth century a new aesthetic for cemeteries began to challenge the rural cemetery. Called the "lawn-park" cemetery, the plan mirrored that of the new urban parks and middle-class suburbs. These lawn-park cemeteries, pioneered by landscape architect Adolph Strauch at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cinncinati, featured a more open look than the rural cemetery. In lawn-park cemeteries more lawn and fewer trees were planted, monuments were more standardized (almost all were granite) and scaled down, and plot owners were discouraged or forbidden from individual plantings. The effect was parklike, and made the old style rural cemetery seem cluttered by comparison. Many of these cemeteries featured "perpetual care," and the cemetery administration

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[7]Deed Book G, p. 22, and Deed Book AC, p. 517, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Richland County Courthouse, Columbia, S.C.; Richard M. Uray & Elizabeth D. Bernadin, eds., A History of St. Peter's Church (Columbia, SC: St. Peter's Parish, 1990), p. 12.

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became responsible for the upkeep of individual plots as well as the cemetery as a whole. Many rural cemetries around the country changed their landscaping plan to keep up with the times, or added lawn-park sections to their cemeteries. Elmwood Cemetery was one of these cemeteries.[8]

In 1922 owners of plots in Elmwood's Old Cemetery section received a booklet in the mail from the trustees of the cemetery. Titled, "Elmwood Perpetual Care Plan," it explained the latest development in the cemetery. According to this missive, in 1921 the cemetery trustees had appointed a committee consisting of John W. Lillard, W.H. Cary, E.O. Black, and George Lafaye to look into updating Elmwood Cemetery. They visited Charleston, Savannah, Charlotte, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Atlanta, Cinncinati, and Cleveland, to look at both new cemeteries on the "Modern Park or Lawn Plan," and cemeteries on the "old plan." In their report of 24 June 1921 they recommended opening a "Modern Park or Lawn Plan" division of Elmwood Cemetry to be located just north of the Old Cemetery. In fact development had commenced on 15 June 1921, even before their report was made final. The purpose of informing the owners of plots in the Old Cemetery was to inform them of the concept of "perpetual care" that was to be instituted in the "New Cemetery." One third of the purchase price of each lot was to be placed in trust, the income to be used for perpetual care. The booklet explained that a problem of the Old Cemetery was that there had been no provision for perpetual care, and that the initial funds of the cemetery had long since been depleted. Consequently, many family plots were overgrown. For an investment of between $250 and $600, depending on the size of the plot, owners of plots in the Old Cemetery would be assured perpetual care as well.9 Still visible in some family plots in the Old Cemetery are small bronze plaques marking the plot as one to receive perpetual care.[9]

The Northern Division opened on 15 June 1921. Following the dictates of the style of the day, it featured fewer trees, a more open and parklike vista, and smaller and more standardized markers. Individual plantings, mausoleums, and enclosed family plots were discouraged, and there are very few in the Nortehrn Division. Markers are almost all granite. Most are simple flush markers or tablets with little ornamentation.

Elmwood Cemetery fell on hard times in the mid twentieth century, as did the adjoining neighborhood. The living and the dead went to the new suburbs, and the plots in the Southern Division that had not purchased a perpetual care plan became overgrown. One "upgrade" in 1961 resulted in the construction of the buildings that now stand near the entrance. With the revitalization of downtown Columbia there has been renewed interst in Elmwood Cemetery as a final resting place. The latest owners, who have renamed the site "Elmwood Cemetery and Gardens" plan to add additional landscaping and build a new mausoleum.

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[8]For more on lawn-park cemeteries, see Sloane, pp. 97-125.

[9][Elmwood Cemetery], "Elmwood Cemetery Perpetual Care Plan," pp. 2-3.

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Elmwood Cemetery reflects the trends in high-style cemetery landscaping and gravemarkers from 1854 to the present. Its value is further enhanced by being one of three cemeteries on Elmwood Avenue. St. Peter's Cemetery, to Elmwood's east, is a Catholic cemetery. Randolph Cemetery, to Elmwood's west, is a vernacular African-American cemetery previously listed in the National Register. Both are easily visible from Elmwood, and help establish Elmwood Cemetery in its historic and ethnic context.

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     Richland County Register of Mesne Conveyance

PUBLISHED MATERIAL

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Described as lying and being in the City of Columbia, County of Richland, State of South Carolina, consisting of that tract or parcel of property generally known as "Elmwood Cemetery," containing in the aggregate approximately 168.46 acres, being more fully shown and delineated upon a map or plat bearing the legend, "Plan of Elmwood Cemetery-Established 1854-Columbia, S.C-May-1972" prepared by D. George Ruff, Professional Engineer, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Richland County, South Carolina. The plat butting and bounding as follows as shown on said map or plat: On the South by Elmwood Avenue; on the West by the right of way of the Southern Railroad Company lands of the State of South Carolina; on the North by other lands, the owner of which is not designated on said plat (see Richland County Tax Map sheets 270 and 52) and Richfield Drive; and on the East by other lands, the ownership of which is not designated on said plat (see Richland County Tax Map Sheets 47 and 43) and St. Peter's Cemetery; and being and consisting of the areas designated upon said map of plat as "Areas A.B,C,D, and E."

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nomimated property is the boundary of the historic cemetery as established in 1854, excluding the portions sold to Randolph Cemetery Association and St. Peter's Catholic Church.

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

Name of Property: Elmwood Cemetery
Location of Property: 501 Elmwood Avenue
                           Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina
Photographer: Karen Nickless
Location of Negatives: South Carolina Department of Archives and History
                           Columbia, South Carolina
Date of Photographs: 29 May 1995

1. Elmwood Cemetery Entrance
2. Belltower and office buiding
3. Overview of east side of Old Cemetery
4. Gravemarker of Lieutenant Joseph Friedeberg
5. Gravemarker of Abigail Caldwell Southern
6. Gravemarker of Children of T.J. and M.O. Robertson
7. Overview of Confederate enclosure, looking west
8. Overview of New Cemetery, looking north
9. Fair Mausoleum