

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	<b>DATA SHEET</b>
RECEIVED	DEC 29 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAR 24 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Magnolia Cemetery  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

North of Charleston off Highway 52

STREET & NUMBER  
(See continuation sheet)

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN  
Charleston

VICINITY OF

# 1

STATE  
South Carolina

CODE  
045

COUNTY  
Charleston

CODE  
019

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Cemetery

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Magnolia Cemetery Trust

STREET & NUMBER  
P.O. Box 6400, Myers Branch

CITY, TOWN  
Charleston

--- VICINITY OF

STATE  
South Carolina

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Mesne Conveyance

STREET & NUMBER  
2 Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN  
Charleston

STATE  
South Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE  
1973

---FEDERAL  STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS S.C. Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN  
Columbia

STATE  
South Carolina

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the outskirts of Charleston, South Carolina, Magnolia Cemetery is a large cemetery, covering approximately 92 acres. It was chartered in 1850 and designed by the noted South Carolina architect Edward C. Jones.

Magnolia Cemetery is extensively landscaped with winding drives and paths interspersed with small ponds and a lake. As shown by the original plan (see Map A), the design included a chapel, formal garden, keeper's house, and receiving tomb. Of the original cemetery structures, the Receiving Tomb remains, plus a ca. 1805 structure (now the superintendent's office), three 1890s structures, five mausoleums, and many impressive examples of cemetery art and architecture. Also remaining are excellent examples of iron work of the late 19th Century and remnants of the original landscape patterns.

Selected examples of outstanding tombs and monuments include the following:

1. Vanderhorst Mausoleum (ca. 1856): a large rectangular tomb--Egyptian revival architecture
2. Gibbes Mausoleum (ca. 1888): a marble tomb featuring the family coat of arms, an urn, and two flanking figures.
3. Col. William Washington Monument (1858): a large fluted Doric column with a rattlesnake entwined near the base. Designed by E.B. White.
4. Thomas Bennett Tombstone: a large monument with urn at top
5. William A. Courtenay Monument--monument with bust of Courtenay
6. W.B. Smith Mausoleum: Egyptian revival architecture--a large, pyramid tomb
7. Micah Jenkins Tombstone: a large obelisk with sword carved in relief
8. Elbert P. Jones Monument (1852-53): a pinnacled monument with central spire. Designed by Francis D. Lee, a noted South Carolina architect.
9. Ellen Turner Monument: a free-standing angel inscribing a book (presumably the book of death).
10. Hattie A. Bird Monument: a fully-sculptured, seated female figure
11. Trapier-Jervey Gate: an example of numerous cast iron gates and fences in cemetery
12. Masonic Gate: an example of 19th Century iron work--the gate features elaborately wrought Masonic symbols.

Other structures within the nominated property include the following:

13. The Receiving Tomb: original cemetery structure, designed by Edward C. Jones. Featuring buttresses, it is a small stucco-over-brick structure with arched entrance and gable roof.
14. The chapel (ca. 1890): a small clapboard structure with brackets and gable roof (the original Gothic Revival chapel designed by Jones no longer stands).
15. The pump house: a small 1890s structure.
16. The superintendent's office is the oldest structure at Magnolia Cemetery, having been part of the original Magnolia Umbra plantation. Built ca. 1805, the two-story structure is constructed of stucco-faced brick on the first floor and clapboard-covered balloon framing on the second floor. Windows 9/9 double-hung sash with louvered shutters. The north facade is dominated by two-story verandah and divided into five equal bays in an "AABAA" pattern. The east and west facades are each gabled with an interior chimney piercing the roof at its crest. The south facade has been extensively altered by the enclosure of the original verandah and the addition of a one-bay pedimented portico. The roof is flared at the ends over the porches and covered with standing-seam terne.

(see continuation sheet)

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Magnolia Cemetery, a large public cemetery located on the outskirts of Charleston, South Carolina, covers approximately 92 acres and contains the graves of numerous prominent South Carolinians. Established in 1850, Magnolia is extensively landscaped and contains excellent examples of late 19th Century cemetery architecture and sculpture. Although still operative today, Magnolia enjoyed prominence during the mid and late 19th Century--a time when it was also a popular spot. As Edmund V. Gillon has written, "Where we shun our cemeteries, the Victorian family delighted in them and could think of no better place, say, for a family picnic."<sup>1</sup> Although National Register policy ordinarily excludes cemeteries from inclusion, it is recommended that this policy be waived so that this outstanding cemetery can be recognized. Magnolia Cemetery--with its extensive landscaping, outstanding tombs, and monumental sculptures--is an excellent reflection of the art, tastes, and social mores of the 19th Century. Furthermore, containing the graves of numerous figures important in local, state, and national affairs, Magnolia Cemetery is important to the state. In view of this, it is recommended that Magnolia Cemetery be included in the National Register of Historic Places.

During the 19th Century, city churchyards became overcrowded, and it became necessary to establish new cemeteries outside of the towns. Mount Auburn in Boston and Greenwood in New York were among the first to be founded; Magnolia Cemetery was part of this national trend. In 1849 several Charlestonians began making plans to form a company to establish a rural cemetery. Although their efforts met opposition by those who preferred the traditional church graveyards, a company of eight stockholders was formed who selected a site on the old Magnolia Umbra plantation. The rules for governing the cemetery were copied from Greenwood and Mount Auburn. The stockholders chose the prominent Charleston architect, Edward C. Jones, to survey and design the cemetery.

The landscaping surrounding the original 1407 (now 3200) lots reflected the popular 19th Century aesthetic of picturesque ponds, winding paths and gardens. The Charleston Courier reported on July 30, 1850:

The grounds are already enclosed; the main avenues, embracing an extensive ride, are garded and constructed; the chapel, which is of the gothic style, is in rapid progress of erection; and a large portion of the ground has been laid out and surveyed into burial lots. The lake or lakes, which interest the grounds are to be supplied with water from Cooper river....

(see continuation sheet)

<sup>1</sup>Edmund V. Gillon, Victorian Cemetery Art (New York: Dover Publications, 1972), p. v.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Burton, E. Milby. The Siege of Charleston. Columbia: University of S.C. Press, 1970.
- Cardozo, J. N. Reminiscences of Charleston. Charleston: Joseph Walker, 1866.
- Curl, James Stevens. The Victorian Celebration of Death. Detroit: The Partridge Press, 1972.
- (see continuation sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 92 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	5,9,9	3,0,0	3,6	3,2	0,2,0	B	1,7	5,9,9	6,2,0	3,6	3,1	5,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C	1,7	5,9,9	2,0,0	3,6	3,1	1,2,0	D	1,7	5,9,8	6,0,0	3,6	3,1	1,2,0
E	17	598500	3631500	F	17	598680	3631620						
G	17	599220	3631720										

For verbal boundary description see continuation sheet Item 2, p. 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE (Elias Bull, Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester)

Kappy McNulty and Nenie Dixon, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION

DATE

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

August 23, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Post Office Box 11,669, Capitol Station

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Columbia

South Carolina

# 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

*Charles E. Lee*

TITLE Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE December 6, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. McNulty*

DATE 3/24/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *William J. Cole*

DATE 3-10-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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The property is bounded on north by Exxon Standard Oil Revinery, on the east by tracks of Seaboard Airline Railroad, on the south by St. Lawrence Catholic Cemetery, and on the west by Huguenin Street.

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PAGE TWO

Magnolia Cemetery is presently in poor condition. Many of the iron gates and fences are deteriorating; much of the vegetation is overgrown; and many of the monuments and sculptures need attention. Nevertheless, enough of the landscape design remains--along with the impressive tombs and monuments--to be recognized as an outstanding 19th Century cemetery.

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE Three

We feel great interest in the success of this enterprise, believing it will advance the best interests of the community.<sup>2</sup>

On November 19, 1850 the cemetery was formally dedicated with music, a religious ceremony, and an address delivered by Charles Fraser (the prominent Charleston miniaturist).

In June 1857 Harper's New Monthly Magazine wrote that Magnolia Cemetery is a "very lovely City of the Silent, answering in the Palmetto City, to the Mount Auburn of Boston, the Greenwood of New York and the Laurel Hill of Philadelphia."<sup>3</sup> In addition to becoming an important graveyard, containing the graves of many of South Carolina's most prominent families, Magnolia was also enjoyed as a popular spot for walks and outings. A letter written about 1856 records a pleasant afternoon spent sketching scenes at Magnolia--"Till sunset we remained out; there was little temptation to return home for dinner."<sup>4</sup> A few years later, Arthur Mazyck noted in his Guide to Charleston Illustrated that completion of the Enterprise Railway had made the cemetery more easily accessible to visitors from the city.

During this period some of South Carolina's most prominent citizens were buried at Magnolia: Thomas Bennett (1781-1865), governor of South Carolina 1820-22; R. Barnwell Rhett (1800-1876), a United States Congressman and Senator; Hugh S. Legare (1797-1841), United States Attorney General and acting Secretary of State under President Tyler (originally buried at Mount Auburn, Legare's remains were later moved to Magnolia); Langdon Cheves (1776-1856) Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, director of the United States Bank, and commissioner of claims under the Treaty of Ghent; George A. Trenholm, Secretary of the Treasury of the Confederacy; William Gregg (1800-1867), founder of Graniteville Mill and a leading influence in the spread of cotton mills in the South.

Literary figures buried at Magnolia Cemetery include William Gilmore Simms (1806-1870), an outstanding man of letters in the 19th Century. Representing the state's military history are Confederate brigadier generals R. S. Ripley (1823-1887) and Micah Jenkins (1835-1864), and Captain Horace Hunley and the crew of the Hunley, the submarine which sank the U.S.S. Housatonic during the War Between the States.

(see continuation sheet)

<sup>2</sup> Charleston Courier, July 20, 1850, p. 4.

<sup>3</sup> Harper's New Monthly Magazine, June 1857, p. 20.

<sup>4</sup> Amelia M. Murray, Letters from the United States, Cuba, and Canada (New York: G.P. Putnam, 1856), p. 202.

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Many of the tombs at Magnolia are significant architecturally. Outstanding examples of Egyptian revival architecture include the pyramid-shaped W. B. Smith Mausoleum and the Vanderhorst Mausoleum, which may have been designed by Francis D. Lee.

Illustrating the symbolism which was extensively used in cemetery art during the mid and late 19th Century are obelisks, urns, mourning figures, and reversed torches. The Ellen Turner monument is a free-standing angel, apparently inscribing the book of death. Another distinctive monument is that of a Greek temple containing a sarcophagus (see photograph # 17). Perhaps one of the most important monuments is the Col. William Washington Monument, erected in honor of the outstanding Revolutionary War leader. Designed by E. B. White and carved by W. T. White of Charleston in 1858, it is a fluted Doric column with a rattlesnake entwined near the base.

With the advance of the 20th Century and the rising costs of maintenance, the cemetery has fallen into decline. Nevertheless, Magnolia Cemetery, with its landscape design dating from 1850, its notable ironwork and its numerous examples of cemetery art and architecture--in addition to the graves of such outstanding Americans as Simms, Rhett, Gregg, Hunley, and Legare--is an outstanding cemetery deserving of inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.



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Who, 1967, pp. 348, 515, 555.

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"Help for Magnolia Cemetery." Charleston News and Courier, June 9, 1974.

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Magnolia Cemetery is located north of Charleston off Highway 52. The cemetery consists of 92 acres. Approximately 50% of this acreage was laid out and developed according to the 1850 plans of Edward C. Jones (see Supplementary Map A). Approximately 40% of the nominated property consists of marshland which extends to the eastern and northeastern boundary of the property. The marshland provides a physical barrier to the cemetery as well as being an important element in its design. Located along the northern boundary of the property is additional dry land (approximately 10% of the acreage) which was developed in the 1920s (see Supplementary Map B). The entire cemetery is being nominated to the National Register since all 92 acres are part of the original cemetery land which was conveyed in 1850 to the Magnolia Cemetery Company. All of the elements of the cemetery -- the marshland, the area designed by Jones, and the area developed in the 1920s -- are physically, visually and historically related. Together they form the whole of the cemetery.

Within the last two years Magnolia has begun to be revitalized under the direction of a new superintendent. The entire cemetery is being used for new burials (although the new burials do not affect its historical integrity). Much work has been done to clear underbrush and overgrown areas. As a result, Magnolia is beginning to resume its former appearance.

*cf*  
2/2/78