

**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 Darlington Memorial Cemetery
other names/site number Darlington Community Cemetery; Darlington City Cemetery (including Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery, Bethel A.M.E. Church Cemetery, and St. James Methodist Church Cemetery)

2. Location

street & number Avenue D and Friendship Street not for publication
city or town Darlington vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Darlington code 031 zip code 29532

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and 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: Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

- 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): _____

Darlington Memorial Cemetery
Name of Property

Darlington County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	_____ 1 _____	_____	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____	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)

Category: Funerary Subcategory: Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Funerary Subcategory: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A
roof N/A
other _____

Narrative Description

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

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Name of Property

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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.
- 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 in 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.
- 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)

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance

1890-1955

Significant Dates

1890

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
Darlington Co. Historical Commission,
Darlington, S.C.

Darlington Memorial Cemetery
Name of Property

Darlington County, South Carolina
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately nine acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 605224 3796140</u>	3 <u>17 605433 3796036</u>	5 <u>17 604975 3795959</u>
2 <u>17 605368 3796116</u>	4 <u>17 605061 3795829</u>	

___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 Mary L. Warsaw-Capers, with assistance from the SHPO staff
 organization Darlington Memorial Cemetery Association date 1 March 2005
 street & number P.O. Box 1494 telephone (843) 661-2358
 city or town Darlington state SC zip code 29540

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 Darlington Memorial Cemetery Association
 street & number P.O. Box 1494 telephone (843) 661-2358
 city or town Darlington state SC zip code 29540

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Darlington Memorial Cemetery

Name of Property

Darlington County, South Carolina

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The Darlington Memorial Cemetery is a late-nineteenth to early-twentieth century black cemetery in Darlington, South Carolina. Originally a five-acre tract in 1890, when it was established and laid out as the Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery, it was expanded by four additional acres in 1946 when the Bethel A.M.E. Church Cemetery and the St. James Methodist Church Cemetery were established and laid out adjacent to it, adding two acres each for a total of approximately nine acres.

The topography of the cemetery is level, with a main drive bisecting it and with little discernible landscaping or other planned features other than a few shrubs at particular plots or graves; oak, cedar, and other deciduous trees are also present, forming a natural boundary on three sides.

There are approximately 1900 graves in the cemetery, with most burials dating from the early- to mid-twentieth century. Burials still occasionally take place here in family plots, with a few plots still available for sale.

Most graves are marked with headstones or other markers of different sizes and forms. Marker types and materials vary; most are tablets, ledgers, obelisks, or table-top in form, and are granite, marble, or slate. Broken or toppled stones and markers are also present. Depressions and mounds indicate a number of graves without headstones or other markers.

Maintenance has been a continuing problem over the years as families with members buried here have died out or moved away, and as the congregations of the three sponsoring churches—Macedonia Baptist Church, Bethel A.M.E. Church, and St. James Methodist Church—have decreased in number. The Darlington Memorial Cemetery Association was established by descendants of those buried here, the pastors of the three churches, and other members of Darlington's African American community in an effort to help clean and maintain the cemetery.

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Name of Property
Darlington County, South Carolina
County and State

The Darlington Memorial Cemetery, also known as the Darlington Community Cemetery or the Darlington City Cemetery, is significant as the first cemetery established for the African American community of Darlington and for its association with many prominent black citizens of the town from the late nineteenth through the twentieth centuries. It is also an intact example of a cemetery reflecting typical burial customs and gravestone art during this period.

The cemetery dates from 1890, when the trustees of Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery purchased a five-acre tract to establish a cemetery for members of Macedonia Baptist Church and other members of Darlington's black community in Darlington. Until 1946 it was the only African American cemetery within the city limits of Darlington. In 1946, the trustees of Bethel A.M.E. Church purchased an adjoining two-acre tract on the southeast side of Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery to establish its own cemetery, named Bethel A.M.E. Church Cemetery. At the same time the trustees of St. James Methodist Church purchased an adjoining two-acre tract on the northeast side of Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery to establish its own cemetery, named St. James Methodist Church Cemetery. Both cemeteries also included the graves of other members of the city's black community. These three cemeteries—established by Macedonia Baptist Church, Bethel A.M.E. Church, and St. James Methodist Church in 1890, 1946, and 1946, respectively—are collectively known as the Darlington Memorial Cemetery, still the primary cemetery for the African-American community in Darlington.

The cemetery is also significant for its association with these churches. Macedonia Baptist Church was founded in 1866 when Rev. Isaac Brockenton and several black members withdrew their memberships from Darlington Baptist Church to form a new separate African American congregation. Its first trustees were Evans Bell, Peter Dargan, Lazarus Ervin, Antrum McIver, Samuel McIver, Samuel Orr, and Samuel Parnell. The first sanctuary was built 1866-1874 on the northeast corner of present South Main and Hampton Street. The congregation moved to its present location on South Main Street in 1922 and built the present sanctuary there in 1935.¹ Bethel A.M.E. Church was founded in 1886 by Rev. J.P. Alston and stewards D.J. Brown, J.M. Simms, and Silas Towey, Sr.² St. James Methodist Church, originally known as Pearl Street Methodist Episcopal Church, was founded ca. 1865 by Rev. B. Frank Whittemore and trustees Abner Black, Henry Brown, Wesley Dargan, Zeddidiyah Dargan, January Felder, and Randolph Hart.³

¹ South Carolina Historical Marker Program Files, Marker 16-15, "Macedonia Church," 1977, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C. (hereafter referred to as South Carolina SHPO Files).

² "Bethel A.M.E. Church Darlington," in Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, *African Methodism in South Carolina: A Bicentennial Focus* (Tappan, N.Y.: Custombook, 1987), p. 210

³ South Carolina Historical Marker Program Files, Marker 16-16, "St. James Church," 1976, South Carolina SHPO Files.

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Name of Property
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Among the prominent persons buried in the cemetery are:

Rev. Isaac P. Brockenton, D.D. (1828-1908), minister and public servant. Brockenton, born in Sumter, was the founding pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church and served there from 1866 until his death in 1908. He also organized the Colored Baptist Association of South Carolina (later the South Carolina Baptist Convention), and served as its president until his death. Educated at the Richmond Institute in Richmond, Virginia, sponsored by the American Baptist Home Society, Brockenton was a trial judge in Darlington during Reconstruction. He was also a delegate to the South Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1868, which drafted a new state constitution, and later served on the Darlington County School Board. Brockenton Elementary School in Darlington, built in 1953, was named for him.⁴

James Lawrence Cain (1871-1944), educator. Cain, a native of Orangeburg County, was educated at Claflin University in Orangeburg and moved to Darlington in 1900 to become principal of Mayo Graded School, then the only African American school in Darlington. He served as principal of Mayo Graded School and later Mayo High School as well from 1900 until his death in 1944. Mayo Graded School was a five-teacher school with an enrollment of 275 students when Cain became its principal, and Mayo High School was a twenty-teacher school with an enrollment of 1,500 students by the time of his death. The high school earned a "Class A Standard High School" rating by the South Carolina Department of Education during his tenure, one of only three African American high schools in the state to receive that rating. After Mayo Graded School burned in 1912 and again in 1921, Cain worked without pay to ensure that the school was ready to begin classes by the following term. Cain Elementary School in Darlington, built in 1954, was named for him.⁵

Edmund H. Deas (1855-1915), politician prominent in Darlington County, the Pee Dee region, and the state for more than thirty years. Deas moved to Darlington County shortly after the Civil War. He served as Darlington County Chairman of the Republican Party in 1884 and 1888, was a delegate to the Republican National Conventions of 1888, 1896, 1900, and 1908, and an unsuccessful candidate for the United States House of Representatives in 1884 and 1890. Deas also served as the South Carolina deputy collector of internal revenue 1889-94 and again 1897-1901. His house at 209 Avenue E, just off South Main Street, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988 as part of the City of Darlington Multiple Resource Area.⁶

⁴ Rev. Lucious Perry Gregg, "Biographical Sketches," Isaac P. Brockenton File, Darlington County Historical Commission, Darlington, S.C.

⁵ J.L. Cain File, Darlington County Historical Commission, Darlington, S.C.

⁶ Dreck Spurlock Wilson, *African American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary 1865-1945* (New York: Routledge, 2004), pp. 341-42; National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Edmund H. Deas House, City of Darlington Multiple Resource Area, 1988; and South Carolina Historical Marker Program Files, Marker 16-18, "Edmund H. Deas," 1977, South Carolina SHPO Files.

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Darlington Memorial Cemetery

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Lawrence Reese (1864-1915), merchant and a self-taught designer and master craftsman, who designed and built several late nineteenth-to-early twentieth century residences on West Broad Street in Darlington. Reese, a native of Marlboro County, came to Darlington by 1887. The West Broad Street Historic District in Darlington was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988 as part of the City of Darlington Multiple Resource Area. It includes fourteen houses designed by Reese between ca. 1890 and ca. 1910, featuring elaborate Eastlake, Queen Anne, and other Victorian era architectural elements. Reese also designed and built the South Carolina Western Railway Station on Russell Street in Darlington, built in 1911 and also listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988 as part of the City of Darlington Multiple Resource Area.⁷

Dr. Mable K. Howard (d. 1963), educator, who worked with the county extension service authorized by the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 to encourage the development of modern farming among the county's blacks—especially the boys and girls, and was an officer in the South Carolina Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.⁸

The cemetery also includes graves of many African American veterans of wars from the Civil War through the Vietnam War.

The Darlington Memorial Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for being the first African American cemetery in the town and its association with prominent people of nineteenth and twentieth century Darlington. It is also eligible under Criteria Consideration D because it derives its significance for its association with the early growth and development of the black community in Darlington after the Civil War and from graves of persons important in that community.

⁷ National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the West Broad Street Historic District, City of Darlington Multiple Resource Area, 1988, and South Carolina Historical Marker Program Files, Marker 16-45, "Lawrence Reese," 2000, South Carolina SHPO Files.

⁸ Asa H. Gordon, *Sketches of Negro Life and History in South Carolina* (Industrial College, Ga., 1929; Second Edition, Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1971), pp. 165, 185.

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Name of Property

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Unpublished Sources

Darlington County Historical Commission, Darlington, S.C.

Biographical Files

Rev. Lucious Perry Gregg, "Biographical Sketches."

Isaac P. Brockenton File

James Lawrence Cain File

South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office Files

National Register of Historic Places Files

South Carolina Historical Marker Program Files

Published Sources

"Bethel A.M.E. Church Darlington." Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. *African Methodism in South Carolina: A Bicentennial Focus*. Tappan, N.Y.: Custombook, 1987.

Gordon, Asa H. *Sketches of Negro Life and History in South Carolina*. Industrial College, Ga., 1929. Second Edition, Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1971.

Wilson, Dreck Spurlock. *African American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary 1865-1945*. New York: Routledge, 2004.

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Darlington Memorial Cemetery

Name of Property

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line marked "Darlington Memorial Cemetery" on the accompanying Darlington County Tax Map, an aerial photo of portions of Tax Maps #164-16 and 165-05, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is restricted to the historic boundaries of the Darlington Memorial Cemetery, including the five acres laid out as Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery in 1890 and the four additional acres laid out as Bethel A.M.E. Church Cemetery and St. James Methodist Church Cemetery in 1946.

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

Name of Property: Darlington Memorial Cemetery
Location of Property: Avenue D and Friendship Street, Darlington
Darlington County, South Carolina

Name of Photographer: Maureen M. Warsaw
Date of Photographs: 27 December 2004
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Sign at cemetery entrance
2. Overview of cemetery, Macedonia Baptist Church section
3. Overview of cemetery, Bethel A.M.E. Church section
4. Oak tree with Spanish moss
5. Overview of cemetery, looking east
6. Gravestone of Edmund H. Deas (1855-1915)
7. Gravestone of Rev. Isaac P. Brockenton, D.D. (1828-1908)
8. Gravestone of Isaac P. Brockenton, Detail
9. Gravestone of Lawrence Reese (1864-1915)
10. Gravestone of James Lawrence Cain (1871-1944)
11. Toppled gravestone