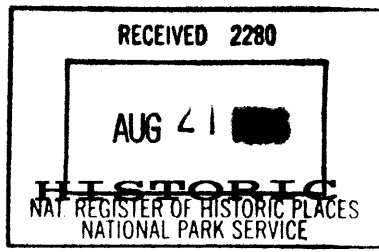


1025

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 Orangeburg City Cemetery
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Bull Street not for publication _____
city or town Orangeburg vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county Orangeburg code 075 zip code 29115

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 8/19/96
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 H. Beall 9-27-96 **Entered in the National Register**
Edson H. Beall 9-27-96 **Entered in the National Register**

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

City of Orangeburg Multiple Resource Area

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.
- 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.
- 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

Significant Dates

1889

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Period of Significance

1889-1949

Architect/Builder

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
- University
- Other

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	512360	3705610	3	17	512300 3705340
2	17	512480	3705480	4	17	512200 3705420
		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 J. Tracy Power & Andrew W. Chandler, NR Specialists, S.C. SHPO, & Ms. Geraldyn P. Zimmerman, Chair, Orangeburg Cemetery Committee

organization S.C. Department of Archives & History date 1 November 1995

street & number P.O. Box 11669, 1430 Senate Street telephone (803) 734-8610

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29211

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 City of Orangeburg

street & number 300 College Street telephone _____

city or town Orangeburg state S.C. zip code 29117

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Orangeburg City Cemetery
name of property
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
county and State

The Orangeburg City Cemetery, established in 1889, is a late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth century black cemetery in Orangeburg, South Carolina. The cemetery, located on the corner of Bull and Windsor Streets in Orangeburg, is a five-acre tract with a main drive bisecting it, and contains approximately three hundred to three hundred-fifty plots. Grave markers are primarily granite or marble tablets, obelisks, and table-top stones. Most burials date from ca. 1890 to the 1960s. Several stones are broken or toppled and several graves are sunken or mounded. Burials still take place here, but do so infrequently due to the presence of two modern perpetual care cemeteries in Orangeburg.

The cemetery is laid out in a regular grid plan, with little discernible landscaping or other planned features other than a few deciduous or evergreen trees shading particular family plots. Though the cemetery had fallen into disrepair by the late 1980s and was plagued by overgrown vegetation, vandalism, and litter, descendants of original members of the Orangeburg Cemetery Association and local civic groups began working to maintain the cemetery and went to the City of Orangeburg for assistance. City officials agreed to take title to the property since the charter of the Orangeburg Cemetery Association has lapsed, and the city now owns and has responsibility for maintaining the cemetery.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6

Orangeburg City Cemetery
name of property
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
county and State

The Orangeburg City Cemetery, established in 1889 as the first non-church cemetery established for blacks in the city, is significant for its association with many leaders of Orangeburg's--and South Carolina's--black professional class, including several prominent educators associated with the twentieth-century growth and development of South Carolina State College, a leader in black higher education in the state since its establishment in 1896. Other merchants, bankers, lawyers, doctors, and educators, forming a who's-who of Orangeburg's sizable and influential black community, are also buried here. The cemetery is also a significant example of a late nineteenth century and early twentieth century vernacular cemetery illustrating common black burial customs during this period.

The Orangeburg Cemetery Association, founded April 5, 1889, was incorporated by a group of black civic leaders in Orangeburg. Among the significant persons buried in the cemetery are:

Johnson Chesnut Whittaker (1858-1931), a prominent educator best known today for an incident that occurred in 1880 while he was a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Whittaker, who was born a slave in Camden, was one of several blacks who attended the University of South Carolina during Reconstruction; he was appointed to the Academy in 1876. He was court-martialed after he was attacked in the middle of the night by masked white cadets who slashed and beat him, then tied him to his bed and left him bleeding there. The authorities, after the court-martial, concluded that since no white cadet admitted to attacking Whittaker, then the young South Carolinian must have faked the attack to draw attention to himself. He was discharged from the Academy. "I only wish a chance in the race of life," he wrote when he left West Point, "and I think I can make my mark and win a place." Whittaker returned to South Carolina, where he attended the University of South Carolina, received a law degree, and practiced law in Sumter before teaching chemistry, mathematics, psychology, and military science at South Carolina State College. He moved to Oklahoma, where he became a high school principal, then returned to Orangeburg as principal of the high school division at South Carolina State; he died in Orangeburg in 1931. Only three of twenty-three black cadets who attended West Point in the 1870s and 1880s--including Johnson Whittaker--graduated and received their commissions in the United States Army. Whittaker received a posthumous commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Army in 1994.¹

¹John F. Marszalek, Court-Martial: A Black Man in America (New York: Scribner's, 1972); Josephus Hicks, Johnson Chesnut Whittaker: Our Teacher (Orangeburg: n.p., 1994); John F. Potts, Sr., The History of South Carolina State College, 1896-1978 (Orangeburg: South Carolina State College, 1978), pp. 26, 49; Brigid Schulte, "Righting a Wrong," The

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

Orangeburg City Cemetery
name of property
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
county and State

Robert Shaw Wilkinson (1865-1932), a prominent educator who served as the second president of South Carolina State College (1911-1932), succeeding Thomas E. Miller. Wilkinson was a native of Charleston who, like Johnson Whittaker, attended the United States Military Academy at West Point but did not graduate. He graduated from Oberlin College in 1891, then taught at Kentucky State College until 1896, when he came to Orangeburg as one of the first faculty members of the new Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina (later South Carolina State College). Wilkinson taught physics and mathematics before becoming president of the college in 1911 when Thomas E. Miller resigned in protest over the election of the outspoken demagogue Coleman E. Blease as governor. Wilkinson, who led South Carolina State through a period of transition and growth in which the campus and the curriculum were both transformed, commented in 1931 that it was necessary "to provide for maintaining the present program and allowing for future expansion. What investment can promise more for the future of the Negro and of South Carolina?" He also served as president of the Negro Land Grant College Association and the Palmetto State Teachers' Association.²

Marion Birnie Wilkinson (1870-1956), the wife of Robert Shaw Wilkinson, Mrs. Wilkinson was herself a prominent educator and social activist. A native of Charleston, Marion Birnie was a graduate of the Avery Normal Institute and taught there as well before she married Wilkinson in 1897. Mrs. Wilkinson was quite involved in campus activities while her husband was president and for many years afterward, and was instrumental in founding a chapter of the Young Women's Christian Association on the campus and in overseeing the construction of the Marion Birnie Wilkinson YWCA Hut, known as the "Y Hut," in 1925. She was also quite active in the large Orangeburg community as well, founding the Sunlight Club; was one of the founders of the South Carolina Federation of Negro Women and was an officer in the National Association of Federated Negro Women; and founded the Wilkinson Home, a home for black girls.³

Miller Fulton Whittaker (1893-1949), the son of Johnson C. Whittaker, Miller Whittaker was himself a prominent educator who served as the third president of South Carolina State College (1932-1949), succeeding Robert Shaw Wilkinson. Whittaker, who had been at the college since 1913, had

Times and Democrat (Orangeburg, S.C.), 6 February 1994.

²Potts, pp. 43-64.

³Asa H. Gordon, Sketches of Negro Life and History in South Carolina (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1929).

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Orangeburg City Cemetery
name of property
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
county and State

been professor and dean of the Division of Mechanical Arts and was an architect who designed several buildings on the college campus including Bradham Hall (1916), Manning Hall, (1916), Lowman Hall (1917), Hodge Hall (1928), and the Home Management House (1928); his design for Hodge Hall was his master's thesis in architecture from Kansas State University. The younger Whittaker served as the president of South Carolina State during a period in which he oversaw the dramatic growth and development of the college physical plant and its educational programs as well. "I have an ideal for the College," he told the graduating class of 1937. "It is this: That each student shall give evidence of high moral character and personal worth, serious intellectual effort, and an understanding of his obligations to society. . . . I would not have you become snobbish, but I would have you exhibit to the world by your manner of behavior and speech--there goes a State College man or State College woman." He also served as President of the Conference of Land-Grant Colleges and of the State Association of College Presidents, Deans, and Registrars.⁴

The Orangeburg City Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the ethnic heritage of black South Carolinians and for its association with the role of South Carolina State College in black education throughout the twentieth century. It is also eligible for listing under Criteria Consideration D because it derives its significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance in the community.

⁴Marszalek; K.W. Green, "Miller Fulton Whittaker," Negro Educational Review (April 1950), 70-72; Potts, pp. 46, 51, 60, 66-86, 91-92.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 9 Orangeburg City Cemetery
name of property
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
county and State

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- Gordon, Asa H. Sketches of Negro Life and History in South Carolina. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1929.
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- Marszalek, John F. Court-Martial: A Black Man in America. New York: Scribner's, 1972.
- Potts, John F., Sr. The History of South Carolina State College, 1896-1978. Orangeburg: South Carolina State College, 1978.
- Schulte, Brigid. "Righting a Wrong." The State (Columbia, S.C.), 6 February 1994.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 10

Orangeburg City Cemetery
name of property
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
county and State

Verbal Boundary Description

The Orangeburg City Cemetery is bounded by Broad Street on the northwest, by Windsor Street on the northeast, by Bull Street on the southeast, and by Shuler Street on the southwest.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property encompasses the historic boundaries of the cemetery as established in 1889.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section PHOTOGRAPHS Page 11 Orangeburg City Cemetery
name of property
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
county and State

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

Name of Property: Orangeburg City Cemetery
Location of Property: Bull Street
Orangeburg, Orangeburg County, S.C.
Photographer: J. Tracy Power
Location of Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives & History
Columbia, S.C.
Date of Photographs: June 1995

1. Overview of cemetery, looking E
2. Overview of cemetery, looking S
3. Overview of cemetery, looking W
4. Overview of cemetery, looking W
5. Overview of cemetery, looking N
6. Graves of Johnson C. and Miller F. Whittaker
7. Graves of Robert S. and Marion Birnie Wilkinson
8. Grave of Wilhelmina Levy

CITY OF ORANGEBURG

ORANGEBURG CITY CEMETERY
ORANGEBURG COUNTY, S.C.

