NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

1543

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 Randolph Cemetery

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Western terminus of Elmwood Avenue — not for publication ___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 X statewide ___ locally.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds — 12/7/94
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 — 1-20-95 — Entered in the National Register

Signature of Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- X private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ___ building(s)
- ___ district
- X 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)

X **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.
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)
Ethnic Heritage/Black
Politics/Government

Period of Significance
1872-1944

Significant Dates
1872
1899

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

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
X Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: South Carolina State Museum, Columbia, S.C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 4 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	495000	3763000	3			
2				4			

___ 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

organization _____ date 3 May 1994

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 Committee for the Restoration and Beautification of Randolph Cemetery

street & number 1024 Statler Road telephone (803) 798-1690

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29210

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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Randolph Cemetery is a late nineteenth century black cemetery in Columbia, South Carolina. It was established by the Randolph Cemetery Association as a three-acre tract in 1872; the Association purchased an additional acre in 1899. The four acres that now comprise the tract have roughly rectangular boundaries, measuring approximately 400' x 700'. The cemetery is bounded on the south by Elmwood Avenue and the right-of-way for U.S. Interstate Highway 126, on the west by the Southern Railroad tracks, and on the north and east by land owned by Elmwood Cemetery. Although located within the city limits of Columbia, the setting is a combination of both urban and rural settings. There is a busy highway at the cemetery's southern edge, but undeveloped land, the Columbia Canal, and the Broad River to the west. Beyond the northern boundary is a heavily-wooded section of Elmwood Cemetery. Adjacent to the eastern boundary a developed section of Elmwood Cemetery is visible. Burials have taken place throughout the four acres. Orientation of most graves is east-west; placement of graves is somewhat irregular. Most gravemarkers are tablets or headstones. A few are flush markers. Depressions and mounds throughout the cemetery indicate that some graves are unmarked. The site presents a rather disheveled look, with many tombstones leaning or settling. Vandalism has occurred in the cemetery and approximately five percent of the existing markers have been broken or toppled. A small area at the western end of the site is overgrown. The rest of the site is maintained.

The topography of the cemetery is uneven, with many sunken or mounded graves. Burials still take place and fresh graves are mounded with red clay. The tract slopes from the eastern to the western edge at an approximate angle of 30 degrees overall. The upper quarter descends steeply. Randolph Cemetery is not a designed landscape. With the exception of some flowering plants (roses and daffodils) that are planted on graves, the vegetation is unplanned. The ground is covered with weeds and wild flowers. Large cedars and oaks predominate, and some saplings grow from graves. The site also contains several tree stumps and dead trees. Near the midsection of the site and along the northern boundary is an area used as a dumping ground for old floral arrangements and yard trash. It is screened from the cemetery by a stand of bamboo and other vegetation.

Cultural features include a drive, fencing, and gravemarkers. An asphalt drive forms a semicircle through the cemetery with both outlets on Elmwood Avenue. The north and east sides of Randolph Cemetery are bordered by land owned by Elmwood Cemetery and the boundary is delineated by a fence composed of concrete fence posts and wire fencing topped with barbed wire. The fence is dilapidated and in some areas the wire is no longer extant.

Gravemarker types and materials are varied. Manufactured gravemarkers include aluminum mortuary markers, bronze or stone tablets, granite or marble obelisks, brick crypts, granite headstones and footstones, ledgers,

and table-top stones. Homemade gravemarkers include such elements as concrete blocks, ceramic bathroom tiles, piles of bricks, and concrete tablets crudely inscribed or marked with marking pens or stick-on mailbox letters. Some graves have footstones, usually inscribed with a nickname or to indicate a family relationship. Many graves are within enclosures such as low brick walls, wrought iron fences, short white picket fences, or white metal garden fences. Some plots are covered with gravel. Many graves are covered with artificial flowers. There is a granite monument to George Elmore near his gravestone, and a memorial obelisk to honor Benjamin Franklin Randolph, for whom the cemetery is named. The earliest burials date from 1868, when the land was still held by Elmwood Cemetery Company, but most date from the period between 1872 and ca. 1940.

Aside from the vandalism, the present appearance of Randolph Cemetery would correspond to its historic appearance. The topography has not changed; the vegetation, which is for the most part natural rather than planned, would be similar; the current driveway postdates 1899, as it traverses the acre added that year. It is possible that the original cemetery had no driveway, as none is shown in historic maps of Columbia. Some gravemarkers have been lost to vandalism or neglect. The integrity of the site has not been adversely affected by the asphalt drive or by the loss of several gravemarkers. Burials still take place, but the modern gravemarkers are in keeping with the site. Due to the haphazard maintenance of the site over the years there have been no inappropriate additions to the cemetery in the name of "beautification."

The ethnic and vernacular character of Randolph Cemetery is further enhanced by its being one of three adjacent cemeteries on Elmwood Avenue--from east to west, St. Peter's Cemetery (a Roman Catholic burying ground), Elmwood Cemetery, and Randolph Cemetery. Elmwood Cemetery is an excellent example of the nineteenth century rural cemetery movement, with its spacious landscaped grounds, winding drives, and ornamental gravemarkers. Elmwood Cemetery is easily visible from Randolph Cemetery and presents an interesting contrast to it. Its presence helps to establish Randolph Cemetery in its historic and ethnic context.

Randolph Cemetery is a black cemetery in Columbia, South Carolina, established by the Randolph Cemetery Association in 1872 and expanded in 1899. Named for Benjamin Franklin Randolph (d. 1868), a black member of the South Carolina State Senate who was assassinated during Reconstruction (1865-1877), the cemetery reflects the political turmoil of the period in which it was established and the growing sense of community among recently-freed blacks.[1] It is the final resting place of eight other black leaders who served in the South Carolina Senate or South Carolina House of Representatives during the era and contains the graves of numerous other leaders of Columbia's late nineteenth and early twentieth century black community. Randolph Cemetery is also a fine example of a late nineteenth century and early twentieth century vernacular cemetery, for its markers and landscape illustrate the burial customs of Columbia's black community during this period. It 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 political history of South Carolina during Reconstruction. 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.

Randolph Cemetery was established in January 1872 by a group of black civic leaders in Columbia. Incorporated as Randolph Cemetery Association, the group bought three acres of land from the adjoining Elmwood Cemetery for $900.[2] In 1899 the Randolph Cemetery Association bought an additional acre from Elmwood Cemetery.[3]

Randolph Cemetery fell into disrepair in the middle decades of the twentieth century, and at one time was used as a local dumping ground. The City of Columbia began to clear the land for construction in 1959, resulting in further damage to the historic cemetery. A group of concerned citizens organized the Committee for the Restoration and Beautification of

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[1]"Articles of Association," Deed Book G, p. 22, and Deed Book G, p. 242, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Richland County Courthouse, Columbia, S.C.; N. Louise Bailey, et al, eds., Biographical Directory of the South Carolina Senate, 1776-1985 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1986), II:1335-36.

[2]"Articles of Association," Deed Book G, p. 22, and Deed Book G, p. 242, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Richland County Courthouse, Columbia, S.C.

[3]Deed Book AC, p. 517, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Richland County Courthouse, Columbia, S.C.

Randolph Cemetery in 1973, winning trusteeship of the property through the courts in 1985. The Committee continues to maintain the site.[4]

Benjamin Franklin Randolph and Other Reconstruction Legislators

Benjamin Franklin Randolph, the legislator for whom the cemetery was named, was born a free black in Kentucky in the early 1820s, grew up in Ohio, and was educated at Oberlin College. Randolph became a Methodist minister and came to South Carolina during the Civil War as chaplain of the Twenty-Sixth U.S. Colored Troops, a black regiment in the United States Army which was stationed on Hilton Head Island and in the Beaufort area. When the war ended in 1865 Randolph remained in South Carolina, residing first in Charleston, where he founded one newspaper, the Charleston Journal, and served as associate editor of another, the Charleston Advocate. Randolph also served briefly as an agent of the Freedmen's Bureau before being assigned to a Columbia church by the South Carolina Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1868, a position which he never accepted. Randolph moved to Orangeburg District and became active in politics, serving as a delegate to the South Carolina Constitutional Convention of 1868 and as a South Carolina State Senator from Orangeburg District for the term 1868-1870. He also served on the executive committee of the South Carolina Republican Party, as a Republican presidential elector in the election of 1868, and as commissioner of Orangeburg schools.[5] Randolph, whose participation in Reconstruction politics made him an often controversial figure, was assassinated on 16 October 1868 at Hodges Station (near Cokesbury), in Abbeville District. According to an account published in the New York Times,

> three white men rode up, dismounted, and fired on RANDOLPH, mortally wounding him in three places. Although it was broad daylight, the murderers were not recognized, and made their escape. The body of RANDOLPH was taken to Columbia.[6]

The Columbia Daily Phoenix reported that the funeral service took place on Sunday, October 18th, at the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the corner of Sumter and Taylor Streets, "after which a procession was formed

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[4]The Committee for the Restoration and Beautification of Randolph Cemetery, "The Burial of Black History" (Columbia: n.p., n.d.), copy in National Register Files, South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, South Carolina Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.

[5]Joel Williamson, After Slavery: The Negro in South Carolina during Reconstruction, 1861-1877 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1965), pp. 182, 205-06; Bailey, et al, eds., III:1336-37.

[6]"A South Carolina Senator Murdered," New York Times, 19 October 1868.

and marched to the cemetery; where the body was interred."[7] Though most published sources and oral tradition maintain that Randolph was buried at Randolph Cemetery, there is uncertainty about his burial here since title to the property was not held by the Randolph Cemetery Association until 1872. At least three other graves in the cemetery, however, predate Randolph's death in 1868, and it is possible that other remains were buried there as well before the association was formally chartered.[8]

A monument to Randolph's memory at the entrance to the cemetery reads:

> In Memoriam, B.F. Randolph, Late Senator from Orangeburg District and Chairman, Republican State Central Committee, who died at Hodges Station, Abbeville District, at the hands of assassins on Friday, Oct. 16, A.D. 1868.

It is most likely that this monument is a cenotaph rather than a gravemarker, but in any event, the association was chartered and the cemetery was established as a memorial to Randolph.

Eight other black state legislators from the Reconstruction era--Senators Henry Cardozo (1830-1886), William Fabriel Myers (1850-1917), William Beverly Nash (1822?-1888), and Lucius Wimbush (1839-1872), and Representatives Robert John Palmer (1849-1928), William H. Simons (d. 1878), Samuel Benjamin Thompson (1837-1909), and Charles McDuffie Wilder (d. 1902)--are certainly buried in Randolph Cemetery.[9] The political careers of Senators Randolph, Cardozo, Myers, Nash, Wimbush, and Representatives Palmer, Simons, Thompson, and Wilder are significant in South Carolina political history. The Reconstruction era has long been a controversial period in American political history. For years many historians, influenced by the "Dunning School"--named for the writings of prominent historian William A. Dunning of Columbia University--viewed Reconstruction as an aberration in Southern history. They viewed the creation of interracial governments as a mistake and viewed state Reconstruction governments, which were often interracial, as corrupt. The

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[7] Columbia Daily Phoenix, 20 October 1868.

[8] Elaine Nichols, "Randolph Cemetery to be Showcased at the South Carolina State Museum," SouthCarolinian, February 28-March 4, 1989, pp. 17-18.

[9] Elaine Nichols, ed., The Last Miles of the Way: African-American Homegoing Traditions, 1890-Present (Columbia: South Carolina State Museum, 1989), p. 18; Bailey, et al, I:274-75, II:1885, 1191-93, and III:1763; Lawrence C. Bryant, ed., "Negro Legislators in South Carolina 1868-1902: Preliminary Report Number 4" (Orangeburg: School of Graduate Studies, South Carolina State College, 1967), pp. 96-97; and Lawrence C. Bryant, ed., "Negro Senators and Representatives in the South Carolina Legislature 1868-1902" (Orangeburg: School of Graduate Studies, South Carolina State College, 1968), pp. 103-133.

whites involved in these governments were considered to be "Scalawags" if they were native Southerners, or "Carpetbaggers" if they were outsiders, and were thought to be primarily interested in wielding their political power for personal gain. According to this view, blacks involved in Reconstruction politics were portrayed as being childlike and unprepared for their new-found freedom, and were led along by unscrupulous whites who had no real interest in racial equality.[10]

Many more recent historians, however, have a quite different view of Reconstruction, viewing blacks as active agents in the making of postbellum Southern society. Blacks, according to these scholars, represented themselves with ability and political acumen throughout the South in state constitutional conventions, in state legislatures, and in local politics. Nowhere was this more true than in South Carolina, where black representatives to the Constitutional Convention of 1868 were, according to historian Eric Foner, "mostly educated, articulate, and politically experienced freeborn" blacks, who "often outmanuevered white participants" at the convention.[11] The convention, at which Benjamin Franklin Randolph was a delegate and William Beverly Nash was vice-president, established the first state-funded system of free public education and made school attendance compulsory.[12] The Constitutional Convention of 1868 also forbade segregation in public schools, prompting Randolph to proclaim that the delegates were

> laying the foundation of a new structure here, and the time has come when we shall have to meet things squarely, and we must meet them now or never. The day is coming when we must decide whether the two races shall live together or not.[13]

The South Carolina Republican Party, in which all nine legislators were active, elected Randolph as their chair in 1868--over white opposition.[14] Reconstruction South Carolina, like the rest of the South, was a "massive experiment in interracial democracy," a time when black political and social leaders' "quest for individual and community autonomy" established the political and social agenda of the day.[15] In South Carolina that

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[10]Eric Foner, Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877 (New York: Harper and Row, 1988), xix-xxvii.

[11]Ibid., p. 319.

[12]Ibid., pp. 319-322.

[13]Williamson, p. 220.

[14]Foner, p. 307.

[15]Ibid., xxv.

agenda was set by Benjamin Franklin Randolph, Henry Cardozo, William Fabriel Myers, William Beverly Nash, Lucius Wimbush, Robert John Palmer, William H. Simons, Samuel Benjamin Thompson, and Charles McDuffie Wilder and their colleagues. All nine men were active members of the South Carolina General Assembly during Reconstruction. Myers also served on the state Republican executive committee (1888-1895), as the chair of the Colleton County Republican Party (1896), and as a delegate to the national Republican convention in 1888.[16] Cardozo, a minister, was chairman of the Kershaw County Republican Party in 1870.[17] Nash held a number of political positions as well as being a leader in the Columbia business community.[18]

Randolph, one of South Carolina's most significant black political leaders during the Reconstruction era, fell victim to an assassin's bullets a few months after he became chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party, in an incident which was part of a wave of political assassinations of Republican Party leaders in the Reconstruction South. An 1868 editorial in the New York Times asked, "What are the Southern Democrats thinking about? Have they all gone mad?"[19] Eric Foner has described this period as a "wave of counterrevolutionary terror [that] swept over large parts of the South between 1868 and 1871."[20] According to Foner, at least one-tenth of the black members of Southern state constitutional conventions were victims of violence due to their political activism. "It is a measure of how far change had progressed," he has commented, "that the reaction against Reconstruction proved so extreme."[21] Seven prominent black politicians, including Benjamin Franklin Randolph, were murdered as victims of that reaction.[22] Randolph and the eight Reconstruction-era members of the South Carolina legislature who are buried at Randolph Cemetery are representative of the courage and leadership shown by many black Republican leaders during the period.

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[16]Emily Bellinger Reynolds and Joan Reynolds Faunt, Biographical Directory of the Senate of the State of South Carolina, 1776-1964 (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1964), p. 1185; Bailey, et al, eds., II:1185-86.

[17]Bailey, et al, eds., I:274-75.

[18]Bailey, et al, eds., II:1191-93.

[19]"Madness of the South," New York Times, 20 October 1868.

[20]Foner, p. 425.

[21]Ibid.

[22]Ibid., p. 426.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL

The Committee for the Restoration and Beautification of Randolph Cemetery, "The Burial of Black History." Columbia, S.C.: n.p., n.d.

Richland County Courthouse, Columbia, S.C.
Richland County Register of Mesne Conveyance

PUBLISHED MATERIAL

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_____, ed. "Negro Senators and Representatives in the South Carolina Legislature 1868-1902." Orangeburg: School of Graduate Studies, South Carolina State College, 1968.

The Daily Phoenix (Columbia, S.C.), 20 October 1868.

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Verbal Boundary Description

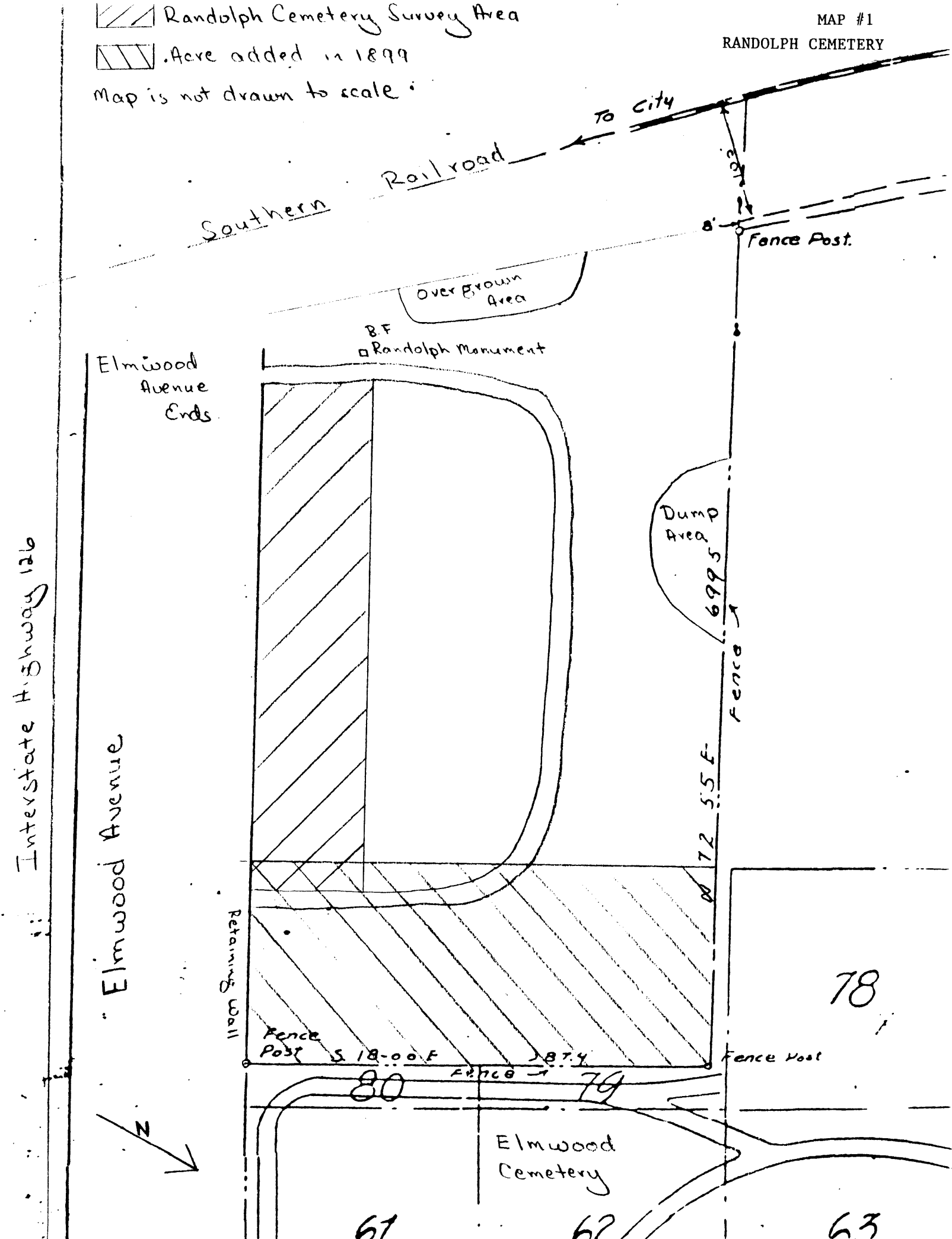
Beginning at the southeast corner of the site, proceed west 700' along Elmwood Avenue and the right of way for Interstate Highway 126, then proceed north 400' to a concrete and wire fence, then proceed east 700' to the terminus of the fence, and finally proceed south 400' to the point of origin.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is the boundary of the historic cemetery, which includes the original three acres purchased by the Randolph Cemetery Association in 1872 and the fourth acre purchased by the Association in 1899.

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

Name of Property:	Randolph Cemetery
Location of Property:	Elmwood Avenue Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina
Photographer:	Karen Nickless
Location of Negatives:	South Carolina Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.
Date of Photographs:	2 April 1994

1. Overview of Randolph Cemetery from NW corner
2. Bordered graves in W corner
3. Memorial to Benjamin Franklin Randolph
4. Homemade gravemarker of Jennie Hampton
5. Bordered and gravel-covered graves
6. Monument to George Elmore
7. Gravemarker of William Beverly Nash
8. Gravemarker of Samuel Benjamin Thompson
9. Gravemarker of Henry Cardozo
10. Gravemarker of Lucius Wimbush
11. Gravemarker of Charles McDuffie Wilder

MAP #1
RANDOLPH CEMETERY