

**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 Laurelwood Cemetery
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Bordered by Laurel, W. White, Stewart, and W. Main Streets not for publication
city or town Rock Hill vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county York code 091 zip code 29730

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 _____

Rodger E. Stroup, 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): _____

Laurelwood Cemetery
Name of Property

York County, South Carolina
County and State

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

(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	Total

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

Historic Properties of Rock Hill

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)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation
- walls
- roof
- other

Narrative Description

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

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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)

Community Planning/Development
Art: Gravestone Art
Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1872-1950

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Draper, Earle S. (Landscape Architect)

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:
York County Library

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 496829 3895466</u>	3 <u>17 497107 3865218</u>
2 <u>17 497031 3865620</u>	4 <u>17 497260 3865342</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 Paul Gettys
 organization _____ date 16 June 2008
 street & number 4180 Cureton Ferry Road telephone (803) 329-3567
 city or town Catawba state S.C. zip code 29704

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 Rock Hill
 street & number P.O. Box 11706 telephone (803) 329-8726
 city or town Rock Hill state S.C. zip code 29731-0176

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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Laurelwood Cemetery
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Laurelwood Cemetery is located to the west of downtown Rock Hill and occupies approximately 25 acres. It is bounded by Laurel, West White, Stewart, and West Main Streets. The cemetery was created in 1872 to serve as the first municipal cemetery for the growing community of Rock Hill. It now contains 11,414 marked grave sites, and is nearing capacity. Although all plots have been sold, spaces remain within some family plots. Neighboring land uses are mixed. To the north across West White Street is the abandoned Rock Hill Printing and Finishing Company mill complex, known locally as the Bleachery. A portion of the mill complex is being used as offices, and the plans are under way for redevelopment of the entire complex as part of the city's Textile Corridor redevelopment plan. To the west across Stewart Avenue is mostly vacant land, with some scattered single family residences and a City of Rock Hill storage yard for equipment nearby. The south side includes some frontage on West Main Street, but the majority of the boundary of the cemetery is on the rear property lines of commercial uses and single family houses fronting West Main Street. Near the Laurel Street corner, there is a City of Rock Hill elevated water tank. Across Laurel Street are both single family homes and apartments, commercial uses, and Pilgrim's Inn, a non-profit organization.

The cemetery is surrounded by a black metal fence featuring stone posts at the gates and corners. On the Stewart Avenue side, the fence is manufactured chain link fence. There are gates on Laurel Street, at the corner of Laurel and West White Streets, in the center of the West White Street frontage, and on West Main Street. The topography features a high point near the Laurel Street side and slopes gently to the west toward Stewart Avenue. The cemetery has a network of paved drives, mostly curving across the contour of the slope. The oldest graves are on the high point near Laurel Street. Sections of the cemetery are labeled with lettered signs. There is a small office and storage facility near the West Main Street gate.

The cemetery has an irregular planting of trees and shrubs. Mature trees include magnolias, crepe myrtles, dogwoods, oaks, and various varieties of evergreens. Shrubs include boxwoods, hollies, and camellias. Most of the shrubs have been planted within family plots, and some plots have geometric plantings of shrubs. In the older sections of the cemetery, family plots are often enclosed by granite or marble edging. In one case, the remnants of a wrought iron fence are evident.

The funerary art in Laurelwood Cemetery varies greatly because of the changes in tombstone design over the years and because of the range of financial means of the families using the cemetery. In the older sections of the cemetery, graves are adorned by a few raised stone tombs and a number of obelisks, table markers, spheres, and other forms. Symbolic images include carved angels, figures of children, urns, wreaths, tree stumps, and open books. At the highest point stands a Confederate monument, the tallest structure in the cemetery, providing a focal point for the older section. In the newer sections in the western portions of the cemetery, stones are more uniform and generally include a granite monolith with the family name and footstones with individual information. Near the West Main Street entrance, many stones are small and unadorned in the area shown on older maps as the "Potters' Field". There is a modern section for flush name markers.

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Laurelwood Cemetery retains its integrity as a public burial ground despite the many changes that have taken place in the surrounding environment. The land for the cemetery was purchased in three parcels over a number of years from Ann Hutchison White and members of her family. The design for the last of the three parcels was done by noted landscape architect Earle S. Draper. Despite the fact that it was developed in sections, the cemetery appears as a unified whole, with pleasing views over the western part of downtown Rock Hill and the Winthrop University campus. The stones and monuments are in good condition. In some cases, older stones which have been broken or cracked have been placed flat on the ground to prevent further damage.

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Laurelwood Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C and Criteria Consideration D. It is included as an addition to the Multiple Property Nomination Historic Properties of Rock Hill, S. C., previously listed in the National Register. Within this nomination, it conforms with the Associated Historic Context “Commercial and Cultural Development of Rock Hill, 1869-1935” and with the property type “Cultural Properties of Significance.”

Laurelwood Cemetery is significant at the local level of significance for its association with a number of persons important to the early history and development of Rock Hill, for its funerary art, and for its association with a noted landscape architect and planner.

Rock Hill was created in 1851 as a depot on the new Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad Company line. In its early years, it grew by attracting rail business from surrounding rural areas such as Ebenezerville, and gradually a number of stores and houses were built. Most of the early residents migrated to the village from the surrounding countryside. Upon their deaths, they were generally buried in the church grave yards or family burial plots of their ancestors. After the Civil War, Rock Hill began to grow more rapidly, and it attracted new residents from a much wider area. The churches which were established in the growing village were placed on city lots, with no room for cemeteries. It became evident that a municipal cemetery was needed to serve the rapidly growing community. The development of Laurelwood was one of the early civil projects of the town.

The original section of the cemetery was a six-acre tract which was purchased by the city from Mrs. Ann Hutchison White on December 13, 1872.¹ George and Ann White were instrumental in the early development of Rock Hill. Married in 1838, they acquired land which today includes a large part of central and northern Rock Hill. Their home, known locally as the White House, still stands on East White Street. George died in 1848 during the early development of the rail line which would create the town. Ann White continued to manage the farm and oversaw the sale of many parcels which led to the development of commercial, residential, and cultural elements of the new community. The site of Laurelwood was on the western edge of the White family property.

The original six-acre section of Laurelwood was laid out on a high point of ground by Rev. James Spratt White, son of George and Ann White, and Iredell Jones, who was serving as Mayor of Rock Hill at the time.² It is believed that White created the name. Their plan included curving drives and family burial plots. The first grave was that of Edgar McCosh, the 14-year old son of Captain and Mrs. Reid McCosh, who lived on Black Street in a brick home which still stands.³ The McCosh family was typical of many of the new residents of the city. Captain McCosh, a Civil War veteran, brought his family to Rock Hill from Chester County to take a position as a clerk in one of the new mercantile establishments. The original plots were sold quickly, and in

¹ “Laurelwood Cemetery” (City Commissioners, City of Rock Hill: London Printery, 1919), p. 3.

² *Herald* (Rock Hill, S. C.), 11 November 1941.

³ Douglas Summers Brown, *A City Without Cobwebs* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1953), p. 213.

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1894, a second six-acre section was purchased from the estate of Ann White.⁴ By 1914, lots in the first two sections were sold out, although many individual grave sites remained unused.⁵ A third tract of 8.5 acres was purchased in that year from A. H. Witherspoon, a son-in-law of Mrs. White.⁶ In the original sections of the cemetery, individual families had been responsible from the care and maintenance of their plots.

The city accepted maintenance of the drives and walks. This arrangement was proving difficult, as some families were neglecting the maintenance of their plots, detracting from the beauty and appearance of the whole. The city undertook a study of modern cemetery management, and it was decided to implement a policy of perpetual care by the city of the new lots in the Witherspoon tract.⁷ This policy was later extended to the entire cemetery.

The original two sections of the cemetery were shown in a drawing done in 1912 by W. Walter Miller, who was a partner in the Miller and White civil engineering firm in Rock Hill and who also served as City Engineer.⁸ To lay out the new Witherspoon Tract in a professional manner, the city employed Earle S. Draper, a landscape architect and city planner from Charlotte, N. C.⁹ Draper, who was trained at the University of Massachusetts, won a position with John Nolen of Boston, a pioneer in city planning and the founding president of the American Planning Association. Draper was sent to Charlotte in 1915 to oversee the development of the Myers Park area, a large suburban development. By 1917, Draper had formed his own firm in Charlotte and it quickly grew to become one of the largest landscape architecture and planning firms in the nation, with branch offices in Atlanta, Washington, and New York. Draper's work included parks, cemeteries, private estates, college campuses, upper class residential areas, and mill villages. In Rock Hill, he designed the expansion of Laurelwood Cemetery and also a portion of the campus of Winthrop University.

Draper's most important work was in the design of residential neighborhoods. Between 1917 and 1933, his firm designed over 100 suburban communities and almost 150 mill village communities in the South. The upper class residential neighborhoods, many modeled on Charlotte's important Myers Park, were characterized by gently curved streets following then topography and planted shade trees. Examples include South Roanoke (Virginia), Farmington (Charlottesville), Sequoyah Hills (Durham), Hayes-Barton (Raleigh), Forest Hills (Durham), Eastover (Charlotte), Emerywood (High Point), and Lake Lure, N. C. The mill villages he designed had a higher level of amenities than was normally the case, including tree-lined streets, parks, and community centers. His designs included villages in Spindale, Salisbury, and Gastonia, N. C. and in Chicopee, Georgia.

⁴ "Laurelwood Cemetery," p. 3.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ "Laurelwood Cemetery," p. 4.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *City Directory*, City of Rock Hill, 1913-1914.

⁹ "Laurelwood Cemetery," Map Section.

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In 1933, Draper was chosen as the first head of planning for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and directed the land use planning for the multi-state TC+VA area. He supervised the design of the new town of Norris, Tennessee. He later served with the Federal Housing Administration.¹⁰

Draper's design for Laurelwood, although early in his career, reflected his approach of working with the topography by placing streets and drives with the slope of the land. The original plan called for a chapel and a series of walks connecting courtyards with seating, emphasizing a park-like atmosphere. Many of these amenities were never completed. The design of a portion of Laurelwood by Earle S. Draper, perhaps the foremost landscape designer in the southeast in this period, provides significance under Criteria B and C.

A second area of significance, under Criteria C, is the high quality of funerary art represented by many of the tombstones and monuments in Laurelwood Cemetery. Examples include carvings of ivy leaves, other designs, and urns on the stone of Mr. J. M. Ivy (1838-1889); a statue of a woman with a cross and crown of thorns on the stone of Kathleen Moore (1880-1902); an unusual sphere on top of the stone of J. W. Fewell (1847-1895); a winged angel stop a spire on the grave of Willie Virginia Smith (1909-1926); and a touching depiction of two small children on the stone of Jennie and Conner Ivy, aged 8 and 4, who both died in the fall of 1876. Several stone carvers whose work is signed include: W. G. Berryhill of Charlotte, L. D. Childs, McNinch of Concord, N. C., R. H. Morse & Son of Charlotte, Lugano and Taylor of Rock Hill, and F. H. Y. V., believed to be Frank Happerfield (1831-1891) of Yorkville (now York), who owned and operated a marble yard in York and is represented in several York County cemeteries.¹¹

Laurelwood Cemetery also includes Rock Hill's Confederate monument. It was originally erected in Confederate Park (on Confederate Avenue) in 1922 by the Ann White Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Moved to this cemetery in 1936, it was placed on the highest point of ground and is visible from most of the older section. It features a colonnade topped by a statue of a soldier. At least 171 Confederate veterans are buried in Laurelwood.¹² There are also graves of veterans of all the twentieth century conflicts, and a memorial to veterans of the First World War.

¹⁰ Information on E. S. Draper from paper by Thomas W. Hatchett, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historical Properties Commission, May 4, 1983, located in the Carolina Room, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library.

¹¹ From files on tradesmen in York County, Historical Center of York County, McCelvey Center, York.

¹² *Herald* (Rock Hill, S.C.), 8 May 1907; Robert S. Seigler, *A Guide To Confederate Monuments in South Carolina: . . . Passing the Silent Cup* (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1997), pp. 453-56.

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A third area of significance, under Criteria A, lies in the interment of a large number of leading citizens who made significant contributions to the broad pattern of development in the early history of Rock Hill. During the first few decades of its existence, Laurelwood became the resting place for most of the early settlers and leaders in Rock Hill. These men and women made significant contributions to the creation, development, and life of the community. Prominent families represented include White, Black, Roddey, Holler, Anderson, Hutchison, Poag, Jones, London, Ivy, Friedheim, Caldwell, Springs, McCosh, Johnston, Johnson, Witherspoon, Rawlinson, Hope, and many others. These families provided leadership for a young city in areas such as business, industry, cultural affairs, medicine, government, religion, and education.

Some of the early leaders of Rock Hill who are interred in the cemetery include: Ann Hutchison White (1805-1880); Rev. James Spratt White (1841-1891) educator, civic and religious leader; Richard Austin Springs (1807-1874) owner of Springsteen Plantation and member of the influential Springs family and his wife Susan Jane Springs (1829-1884) who helped to start the Methodist Church; John R. Allen (1828-1892) first Intendant (Mayor) of Rock Hill in 1870; Capt. A. E. Smith (1844-1917), another early mayor; James Milton Cherry (1856-1920), an early mayor, longtime city councilman, businessman, real estate developer, and agriculturalist; physicians Dr. Robert Hervey Hope (1818-1890) Rock Hill's first physician who served the community for fifty years; Dr. J. W. Fewell (1847-1885) who also served as Mayor, and Dr. John B. Patrick II (1853-1890); John Gary Anderson (1861-1937) who led the Rock Hill Buggy Company and Anderson Motor Car Company; Andrew Rhett Smith (1850-1898), a leader in the Rock Hill Buggy Company and the early telephone system; J. M. Ivy (1838-1885) leading cotton merchant, newspaper owner, and leader in the Episcopal Church; Capt. W. L. Roddey (1834-1909), preeminent merchant and entrepreneur; John R. London (1833-1904), merchant, cotton broker, Mayor, and leader in the Episcopal Church; A. D. Holler (1840-1919), contractor who built many of the early commercial buildings and five textile mill structures; and A. E. Hutchison (1826-1905) who was a merchant and leading investor in the Rock Hill Cotton Factory (1881), the first textile mill in the city.

Laurelwood Cemetery satisfies Criteria Consideration D for cemeteries because it contains the graves of a number of persons of transcendent importance who helped to determine the course of events in Rock Hill, leading to significant advances in government, commerce, industry, education, religion, and cultural development. It also contains a comprehensive grouping of cemetery styles and materials which exhibit the development of funerary art and it encompasses the work of an important landscape designer.

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SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Historical Center of York County, McCelvey Center, York, S.C.
Files on Tradesmen in York County

Brown, Douglas Summers. *A City Without Cobwebs*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1953.

City Commissioners, Rock Hill, S.C. "Laurelwood Cemetery." Rock Hill, S.C.: London Printery, 1919.

City Directory, Rock Hill, S.C., 1913-14.

The Herald (Rock Hill, S.C.)

8 May 1907
11 November 1941.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the accompanying portion of York County Tax Map, Parcels #5981201001, 5981201002, and 5981202001, with a heavy black line marked "Laurelwood Cemetery."

Boundary Justification

The boundary is restricted to the historic cemetery bounded by Laurel, West White, Stewart, and West Main Streets.

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

Name of Property: Laurelwood Cemetery
Location of Property: Rock Hill, York County, South Carolina
Name of Photographer: Janice Miller, City of Rock Hill
Date of Photographs: January 2008
Location of Original Digital Files: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. View of several late 19th/early 20th century tombstones
2. Grave marker of William Ernest Graham, son of J.A. and P.W. Graham
3. View of large portion of cemetery with mature magnolias, cedars and boxwoods
4. View of section of cemetery with variety of grave marker types, including that of Dr. Robert Hervey Hope
5. Cast metal grave marker of William Harris Crawford, infant son of Rev. J.S. & C.C. White Crawford
6. Grave marker of Dr. J.W. Fewell, Confederate veteran
7. Example of table top tomb with side panels, of James Mar Rutland
8. View of a section of cemetery with a variety of marker types, obelisk at right of Confederate veteran
9. Unusual grave marker of Jennie and Connor Ivy
10. Grave marker of Kathleen Moore
11. Example of a young child's grave marker
12. Grave marker of Blanche Steele
13. Grave marker of John Harvey Neely
14. Grave marker of May Stevens, daughter of Leroy S. & Annie Davidson
15. View of a section of cemetery with a variety of marker types, including that of John R. London
16. View of two elaborately carved grave markers
17. View of Fewell family section
18. Grave of Ida B. Waters
19. View of Confederate section of cemetery
20. Confederate Monument (1922, relocated to Laurelwood Cemetery in 1936)
21. Confederate Monument (1922, relocated to Laurelwood Cemetery in 1936), Detail