

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 12-000523

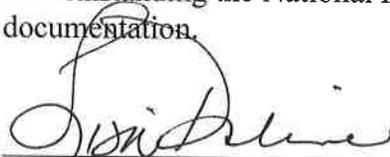
Date Listed: 8/22/2012

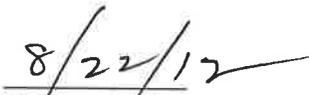
Property Name: Maple Hill Cemetery

County: Madison

State: AL

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====

### Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued to amend the registration form to clarify the number of resources and the boundary justification.

Section 5. Classification. Contributing historic resources include 1 building (administration bldg.), 2 sites (representing unmarked graves and the overall landscape design), 5 structures (representing stone walls, cast-iron fencing, mausoleums, roadways, and masonry curbing) and 1 object (representing monuments and markers).

Section 10. Geographical Data. The district boundaries contain the cemetery's oldest historic sections, which are distinguished by the dates of gravemarkers (the vast majority date prior to 1962), the large mature plantings of trees and other ornamental plantings from prior to 1962, and the early twentieth century paths and roadways of the cemetery. The excluded sections of the cemetery reflect expansions and gravemarkers installed outside of the dates of the nominated property's period of significance.

The State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

-----  
**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



523

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 an 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 Maple Hill Cemetery  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 203 Maple Hill Drive NA  not for publication  
city or town Huntsville NA  vicinity  
state Alabama Code AL county Madison code 089 zip code 35801

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for 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]*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

28 June 2012  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Alabama Historical Commission  
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 certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

*[Signature]* Signature of the Keeper  
8/22/12 Date of Action

Maple Hill Cemetery  
Name of Property

Madison Co., AL  
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 in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	Buildings
2		Sites
5		Structures
1		Objects
9	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**  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: Cemetery  
Government: government office

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: cemetery  
Government: government office

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

CLASSICAL REVIVAL

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Concrete  
walls Brick; Concrete  
roof Asphalt shingle  
other Stone, Metal, Concrete

**Narrative Description**

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

See 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 in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement  
 Art  
 Social History

**Period of Significance**

c.1820-1961

**Significant Dates**

1820: first documented burial

1916: stone wall constructed

1957: cemetery administrative office built

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Multiple

**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): N/A**

- 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:

Huntsville Pilgrimage Association

Maple Hill Cemetery  
Name of Property

Madison Co., AL  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 35 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u> Zone	<u>538900</u> Easting	<u>3843500</u> Northing	3	<u>16</u> Zone	<u>539260</u> Easting	<u>3843070</u> Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>539285</u>	<u>3843500</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>538940</u>	<u>3843050</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 Carroll Van West (reviewed by Susan Enzweiler, AHC NR Coordinator)  
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date July 15, 2011  
street & number Box 80 telephone (615) 898-2947  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

### 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Huntsville (Joy McKee, cemetery administrator)  
street & number 203 Maple Hill Drive telephone (256) 261-9304  
city or town Huntsville state AL zip code 35801

**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 listing. 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co. AL

### 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Maple Hill Cemetery, established c. 1820, is located in the city of Huntsville, the seat of Madison County, Alabama. The city-owned cemetery contains over 100 acres but the nominated property consists only of the historic sections of the cemetery, as marked on the attached cemetery map as sections 1-15 and 200-202 as well as sections A-K, and IV and VI, which comprise approximately 35 acres of the cemetery.

The nominated property is situated adjacent to the historic downtown district of Twickenham, and is roughly bounded by Wells Avenue, Girard Street, Kingsbury Avenue, Maple Hill Avenue, McClung Avenue and California Street. A low stone wall, erected c. 1916 by the Woman's Club of Huntsville, separates the nominated property from streets and sidewalks. The nominated property is crossed by original roads and paths, which have been paved surfaces since c. 1950, and is characterized by numerous historic plantings of trees, especially oak, dogwood, and maple trees. Historic cemetery furniture such as benches and stools are uncommon; beginning c. 2000 modern metal and concrete benches have been added by families, situated throughout the historic sections of the cemetery. The new pieces are limited in number and do not detract from the nominated property's overall historic and architectural appearance.

The historic section of Maple Hill Cemetery has two sets of vehicular entrance gates: on its north side on Wells Avenue, an entrance that once provided access to a no longer extant Cumberland Presbyterian church (originally located within sections 201-202), and the main entrance, on Maple Hill Avenue.

As the only burial place for white Huntsville until c. 1965, the markers in the cemetery represent a mixture of social classes, occupations, and ages. The historic sections of the cemetery also contain markers from different ethnic and religious groups. Before the creation of the legally separate African American cemetery at Glenwood in 1870, African American slaves and free blacks were buried at Georgia Graveyard (not extant—it has been impacted by the twentieth century construction of the Huntsville Hospital). Consequently, there may be no African American burials at Maple Hill until after the end of public segregation c. 1965, but a "potter's field" at section VI may include slaves and other African Americans from the nineteenth century since few records of burial for that section of the cemetery exist prior to 1895. Other markers document that Jewish and Catholic members of the community were buried among whites until legal segregation led to the designation of separate Catholic (Section 15) and Jewish (a portion of Section 10) areas within the cemetery. The Catholic section is further designated with an in-the-ground stone that says "OUR DEAD" (photo 40). Gypsies were also allowed to bury their dead in Section 7 along the wall facing Maple Hill Avenue.

The cemetery contains a mixture of tombstone forms and styles. Markers range from simple tablet styles and ledger stones to elaborately carved obelisks and life-size sculptures, representing significant examples of cemetery art. A few large family crypts or mausoleums are also present.

# United States Department of the Interior

## National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places

### Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co. AL

Symbolic motifs include a variety of both religious symbols and secular decorative elements, from the weeping willow tree of the early nineteenth century to Gothicized monuments and crosses from the end of the nineteenth century. The design influence is varied. Vernacular hand-carved or hand-blocked markers are found in burials from 1820 to 1860. Classical style is seen in the columned stones and statues, while Gothic style is noticeable in the pointed arches and finials that adorn various stones. Egyptian influence is present with numerous obelisks of varying sizes and stones scattered throughout the cemetery. In addition, more eclectic Victorian-styled markers dignified many graves from 1880 to 1910. Hollow cast-iron markers began to appear at Maple Hill in the 1880s in limited numbers, a trend found in many southern cemeteries (photo 45). Statuary depicting angels are also found in limited numbers within the cemetery; perhaps the best example is the beautiful Kathleen D. Thompson memorial of 1908 (photo 38) and the McGee family memorial of 1913 (Photo 39). Art Nouveau style is rare, but mid-twentieth century markers often exhibit Art Deco-influenced styling.

A few crypts are scattered through the cemetery. A Greek Revival styled stone crypt (c. 1835) holds the remains of Mary S. Bibb and William D. Bibb in Section 2; it was the cemetery's first crypt and legend has it that the house-like appearance and height was so Mary S. Bibb could be buried sitting in a chair.<sup>1</sup> The Burritt Mausoleum is Gothic Revival in style (photo 43) and located in Section 13. The Erskine Mausoleum, a classical temple, is associated with the last significant expansion of the historic cemetery and also led to the construction of a circular automobile turn-around at the mausoleum. Since those alterations the original road system and paths of the cemetery have remained extant (photo 54).

As found at other nineteenth century-established cemeteries, several family sections, such as the family of Thomas Fearn (photo 6), the William H. Moore family plot (photo 15), the Beirne family (photo 31) and the Teal family (photo 8), are surrounded by either iron fencing or stone or concrete curbing to denote their separateness from the rest of the cemetery.

The Potter Field is a distinct zone within the historic cemetery (photos 55 and 56). Burials began here at an unknown date but prior to 1860. Many graves have no markers, others have purchased, standardized design stones while some have roughly etched engravings in limestone or concrete. In 2000, a monument was erected listing the known names of burials from 1895 to 1984.

Most markers are marble, limestone, granite, or concrete. A few markers used locally available sandstone and hollow cast-iron designs.

The cemetery contains several historic memorials. 187 unknown Confederate dead from the Civil War are buried in Section 3, marked by an unadorned 1901 stone marker provided by Anna Buell

<sup>1</sup> Diane Robey, et al., *Maple Hill Cemetery: Phase One* (Huntsville: Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, 1995), 11.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   3  

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co. AL

---

Drake Robertson. In 1935, low stone markers worded “CSA Unknown” were added to the memorial.<sup>2</sup>

A metal historic marker, erected in 1962, notes the history of the cemetery as well as the five Alabama governors buried there.

The Huntsville Meridian, an 1807 surveyor’s line that intersects the cemetery and served as the basis of the land surveys in northern Alabama, is marked and memorialized by a large obelisk in Section 4 that was provided by Richard W. Anderson as a memorial to his relatives who are buried adjacent to the meridian itself.

The Maple Hill Cemetery Office (c. 1957) is a one-story Classical Revival-styled symmetrical three-bay brick building with a concrete foundation and asphalt shingle gable roof. Its classical pediment is supported by four fluted posts and fluted pilasters and a fanlight frames the entrance door (photo 163). The cemetery office is a contributing building to the cemetery. (C)

The nominated sections of Maple Hill Cemetery retain a high degree of historic and architectural integrity. The road and path system remains unchanged since c. 1922; many historic plantings of trees, boxwoods and other ornamentals remain extant. The City of Huntsville maintains the grounds and the markers on a regular basis. While some markers need repair, the vast majority are intact from their initial placement in the cemetery.

---

<sup>2</sup> “Sons of Confederate Veterans Egbert J. Jones Camp #357” website, [www.scv357.org](http://www.scv357.org), accessed May 15, 2011; Michael A. Davis, “In Remembrance: Confederate Funerary Monuments in Alabama and Resistance to Reconciliation, 1884-1923,” M.A. thesis, Auburn University, 2008, p. 114.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co., AL

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Maple Hill Cemetery, in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its locally significant association with the town's settlement history and as a reflection of the ethnic and social history of the city from c. 1820, when the first burials occurred in the beginning years of settlement in Huntsville; to the agricultural boom of the late antebellum era of the 1840-50s; through the impact of the Civil War, with burials from both armies; onto the impact of ethnic settlements and the rise of segregated sections for Jews and Catholics; and to the city's twentieth century history of industrial growth in the 1900s and 1910s to its rapid development as a Cold War military-industrial complex from the 1940s to the end of the period of significance in 1961.

The cemetery is also eligible under Criterion C for its locally significant examples of antebellum, Victorian-era, and early to mid-twentieth century funerary art, design, and commemoration. It contains the work of local carver A. A. Baker, among others, and early work from nationally recognized sculptor R. E. Launitz. The cemetery contains a wide range of artistic expressions from vernacular hand-carved stones to ornate Victorian, Classical, and Art Deco styled work. A vast majority of the markers in the nominated property date from 1820 to 1961, with the greatest concentration of burials dating from 1890 to 1956.

Due to its significant associations with the significant patterns of Huntsville history, such as exploration/settlement and ethnic and social history, and due to the significance of its cemetery art, the nominated property meets the Criteria Exception D that calls for a National Register-listed cemetery to derive "its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events."

Settlement and Social History Significance

Maple Hill Cemetery is one of the oldest historic properties in Huntsville and Madison County. Established in 1822, three years after statehood, the cemetery's oldest identified burial, the grave of Mary Frances Atwood, dates to 1820. There may have been burials on this property prior to that date but these are unknown and unidentified.

The cemetery also is significantly associated with the initial federal survey of lands in Alabama. It contains the marker of the Huntsville Meridian, designated in 1807 by U. S. Surveyor Thomas Freeman as a point of reference for later land surveys in northern Alabama. Federal survey of the region began after treaties and land purchases from the Chickasaws in 1805 and the Cherokees in 1806. U.S. Secretary of War Henry Dearborn then directed Freeman to plot the new lands and prepare them for government sale. Freeman, a native of Ireland who came to Pennsylvania in 1784, had long experience with federal surveys, having previously been involved with the survey of the District of Columbia, the 1795 Spanish Treaty, and the Louisiana Purchase. Freeman met with the federal Cherokee Indian Agent Return J. Meigs, General James Robertson of Nashville,

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 5

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co., AL

Tennessee, and Native American leaders to establish formal boundaries on September 11, 1807. They created the original boundaries for Madison County, some 345,000 acres south of the Tennessee state line. At this point Freeman established what was named the Huntsville Meridian as the base point for the northern Alabama survey. Freeman followed his survey work with an 1809 census of Madison County, finding 353 heads of households and some 2,233 white residents and 522 slaves. Federal land sales began in August 1809 in Nashville and the legal white settlement of the region was underway. Freeman, who died in 1821, is also buried in the cemetery.<sup>3</sup>

The nominated property's first known name was the Public Grave Yard, as documented in an 1849 map of the estate of William H. Pope. It remained a small property in the 1820s and 1830s, but expanded at an unknown date c. 1850. This growth coincided with Huntsville's rise to prominence in early Alabama history. The cemetery, the oldest municipal burial ground in Madison County, was the final resting place for many of the town's and county's founders, leading business operators, and key civic and religious leaders. Consequently, Maple Hill Cemetery is a significant document of Huntsville's statewide political prominence from the beginning of settlement and statehood in 1819 to the end of Reconstruction in the 1870s. It is the resting place for five Alabama governors from that period of history: Thomas Bibb (1820-1821), who was buried there in 1839; Clement C. Clay (1835-1837), who died in 1866 (photo 13); Reuben Chapman (1847-1849), who was buried in 1882 (photo 19); Robert M. Patton (1865-1868), who was interred in 1868; and David P. Lewis (1872-1874), who was buried in 1884 (photo 34). It also contains the remains of four U.S. senators from the years between statehood and the Civil War: John W. Walker (1819-1822), who died in 1823; Clement C. Clay (1837-1841), who was buried in 1866; Jeremiah Clemens (1849-1853) who was interred in 1865; and Clement Claiborne Clay (1853-1861), who died in 1882.<sup>4</sup>

The most significant U.S. Senator buried at Maple Hill Cemetery lies outside of the period of significance for this nomination. John S. Sparkman, who served for thirty years from 1949 to 1979, was a powerful voice for the continuation of segregation during the Civil Rights Movement but also for such progressive causes as public housing and public works spending. Sparkman also spent 12 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was instrumental in having Huntsville chosen as the location of the Redstone Arsenal and the Marshall Space Center.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Frances C. Roberts, "Thomas Freeman—Surveyor of the Old Southwest," *Alabama Review* 11(July 1987): 216-230; Diane Robey, et al., *Maple Hill Cemetery*, Phase One (Huntsville: Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, 1995), ix-x; Daniel S. Dupre, *Transforming the Cotton Frontier: Madison County, Alabama, 1800-1840* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997), 18-20; Malcolm J. Rohrbough, *The Land Office Business: the Settlement and Administration of American Public Lands, 1789-1837* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1968); John M. Allman III, "Yeoman Regions in the Antebellum Deep South: Settlement and Economy in Northern Alabama, 1815-1860," Ph.D. diss., University of Maryland, 1979.

<sup>4</sup> Samuel L. Webb and Margaret E. Armbrester, *Alabama Governors: A Political History of the State* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2001).

<sup>5</sup> Samuel L. Webb, "John J. Sparkman," *Encyclopedia of Alabama Online*, accessed July 13, 2011.

# United States Department of the Interior

## National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co., AL

In addition to the governors and senators, the cemetery is also the final resting place for significant early settlers, planters, and local civic and economic leaders. In many cases, due to Huntsville's two eras of significant growth from 1890 to 1910 and from 1940 to 1970, the cemetery grave marker is the only extant historic resource associated with these early town leaders and settlers. Neal Rose (died 1835) operated the Planter's Hotel (not extant). Dr. Thomas Fearn (died 1863) was a physician who was "one of the lead researchers in the use of Cinchona bark to produce quinine for treatment of Malaria" and was prominent in Huntsville politics, serving in the Confederate Constitutional Convention and the first Confederate Congress.<sup>6</sup> (Fearn's house stands at 517 Franklin Street.) Elizabeth Adaline Hurd (died 1840) taught at the Huntsville Female Seminary (not extant) at her death. James H. Weakley (died 1856) was the surveyor general of Alabama (neither office nor dwelling extant). Stephen Neal (died 1839) was the first Huntsville sheriff (neither courthouse nor his dwelling extant; his heirs later owned the Italianate-styled Neal house from 1849 to 1949). George Steele (died 1855) was a prominent antebellum architect who designed several still extant Greek Revival landmarks in the city. Benjamin Patteson (died 1862) served in the War of 1812 with General Andrew Jackson, served as a major general in the Alabama militia, and was the U.S. Marshall in Huntsville from 1830 to 1850 and 1852 to 1862 (house is not extant).

Huntsville, a station on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, became an important Union occupation base during the Civil War from 1862 to 1865. Maple Hill Cemetery reflects that history in that its grounds served as burial grounds for both Federal and Confederate dead. By November 1862, at least 180 Union soldiers had been buried in Rows 2 and 3 of Section 1 of the cemetery; the total number of Union soldiers buried there during the war is unknown although c. 1867 the U.S. army removed the federal dead from the cemetery and re-interred them at the new national cemetery in Chattanooga or turned the remains over to families for burial.<sup>7</sup> Presumably all of the Union dead were removed to the national cemetery; but these two rows have not had burials since the removal of the Union soldiers.<sup>8</sup>

Prominent Confederate Civil War leaders interred in the cemetery include the previously mentioned Clement Claiborne Clay, Lt. Col. Nicholas Davis, Jr. (died 1875); LeRoy Pope Walker (died 1884) who was an Alabama Secession Commissioner before becoming the first secretary of war for the Confederate States of America (photo 20); and Richard Wilde Walker (died 1874) who served in the Confederate States Senate for the last two years of the war. The most famous Confederate military veteran buried at the cemetery is Col. Egbert J. Jones of 4<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry, who died at the first Battle of Manassas in the first weeks of the war. At one marker, that of Edward Babcock (who died September 29, 1865), sentiments about the war were conveyed—in this case with a carved inset showing a sword laying on top of a copy of the Constitution (photo 26). Another marker for Richard Winter Goodloe (died 1863) is a hand-blocked carving with the

<sup>6</sup> "Fearn Fellows," University of Alabama School of Medicine website, accessed July 2, 2011; Mike Marshall, "Some possessions of a prominent Huntsvillian to be up for auction in Pensacola," *Huntsville Times*, April 8, 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Robey, 2.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 1-2.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 7

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co., AL

note that Goodloe died “Of wounds received at MURFREESBORO, TENN. Aged 20 Years” (photo 30). Later 19<sup>th</sup> and early twentieth century markers sponsored by Confederate heritage groups are found throughout the property; H. P. Turner (died 1911) was memorialized with a carving of the Southern Cross of Honor (photo 50).

Significantly, the cemetery also contains the burials of two Union brigadier generals, William T. H. Brooks (died 1870) and Gilbert M. L. Johnson (died 1871). Brooks (photo 35) is especially interesting since he fought in major battles in the Eastern Theater and was wounded at the Battle of Antietam. But he moved to Huntsville in 1866, established a plantation, and rather than being considered a “carpetbagger” Brooks became a respected member of the planter elite in Madison County. Historian Lawrence Powell noted that Brooks “was so esteemed by the local whites near Huntsville, Alabama, that when he died in 1870 they marked his grave with ‘a Confederate emblem secured in concrete.’”<sup>9</sup> Johnson, on the other hand, had commanded the city’s occupation force of the 13<sup>th</sup> Indiana Cavalry in 1864. He returned to Huntsville after the war, married, and served as postmaster from 1869 to his death in 1871. Maple Hill Cemetery also contains a few graves of Union soldiers, such as that of Joseph Monroe Hinds (died 1901) which was marked by the G.A.R., the Grand Army of the Republic (Photo 44). Interestingly, none of these three Union veterans (who died after the war) are buried in Section 1.

The cemetery was significantly expanded in 1873 when the city purchased almost twelve and a half acres of land. This followed the city’s earlier 1870 purchase of property for a legally segregated cemetery for African Americans named Glenwood Cemetery. Maple Hill, in the new world of emancipation, became segregated space within the town’s public landscape, reserved for white Protestants, since the new land also allowed city council to designate separate segregated spaces within the cemetery for white Jews (first known burial in 1878) and Catholics (photo 40). It is important to note that as late as 1861, as documented by the grave for Simon Lowman (photo 33), Jewish residents were buried with their white, Protestant neighbors; it was only after the war that religious segregation became part of the cemetery’s landscape. A subsection of Section 10 was reserved for Jewish burials; most of Section 15 was reserved for Catholic burials. Prominent Jewish citizens buried in the reserved section included Morris Bernstein (who founded Huntsville B’nai B’rith in 1875 and the Temple B’nai Sholom in 1876); Robert Herstein (who served as city treasurer and in the city council during the 1870s); and Oscar Goldsmith (who was the treasurer for Dallas Mill and president of the Huntsville Land Company). Prominent Catholics included George Mahoney (a successful mid-twentieth century Huntsville merchant and civil leader) and John N. Mazza (who operated a famous Huntsville candy shop).<sup>10</sup>

In 1881, an additional 3.2 acres were added to the cemetery.<sup>11</sup> Twenty years later, in 1901, the property was renamed Maple Hill Cemetery following a suggestion of Eliza Hill Thomas Cooper,

<sup>9</sup> Lawrence N. Powell, *New Masters: Northern Planters during the Civil War and Reconstruction* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1980), 144.

<sup>10</sup> Robey, 80, 142.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, xiii-xiv.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 8

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co., AL

who died in 1905 and is buried in the cemetery.<sup>12</sup> The cemetery during the years of 1870 to 1910 contains many monuments from the rising number of Huntsville’s working and middle classes, as it transformed from an agriculture-based county seat to a city where the cotton mill industry was much more important. With the town’s industrialization came the rise of fraternal lodges during the Victorian era. Whereas monuments prior to 1860 documented the predominance of the Masons (an organization that remained strong in numbers throughout the century, as seen by multiple markers in Sections 7-9), markers associated with the Woodmen of the World (a standardized design depicting a tree with its limbs and top cut off) (photo 51) and the International Order of Odd Fellows gained in number as well. The marker of Jon Spears (died 1871) also noted the presence of labor unions, in this case the unadorned hand-blocked marker was “ERECTED by Huntsville Division, No. 91, Brotherhood Locomotive Engineers.” T. J. Harrison sponsored another memorial to a worker, Jessup Whitehead (died 1889), who was “Chef de Cuisine of Hotel Monte Sano and author of Cook Books” (Photo 49). Pre-eminent turn-of-the-century civic capitalist Tracy W. Pratt is also buried in Maple Hill Cemetery. When Pratt died in 1928, his funeral at the cemetery was an elaborate civic event. Allegedly all businesses in the city observed five-minutes of silence when the funeral began.<sup>13</sup>

Complementing the hundreds of markers to Huntsville’s elite and its everyday middle-class residents from 1820 to 1961 is the burial place of the truly nameless from Huntsville’s past. The Potter’s Field, located in a corner of the historic cemetery, was deliberately situated at a distance from the heart of the cemetery. No record exists of how earlier burials took place in this section, but the earliest unmarked graves are believed to date prior to 1860 and may have included African American slaves. At least one slave, known only as “Mammy” is buried in the Jones family plot in Section Six. She may have been the first African American buried in the historic section of the cemetery. Better records exist after 1895 and in 2000 the cemetery erected a memorial listing the known names of those buried between 1895 and 1984.

The construction of the Erskine Mausoleum (photo 113) on a slight rise overlooking the historic sections of the cemetery completed the property’s early twentieth century landscape design. Albert Russel Erskine (1871-1933) was a Huntsville native who was an automobile executive, then president of Studebaker and the past president of Pierce-Arrow automobile company. Erskine acquired a large piece of property to hold a classical-styled mausoleum for the remains of his parents, William E. and Ursula Ragland Erskine and eventually himself and his wife, Annie Lyell Erskine. Albert Russel Erskine deeded the first property to the cemetery in 1918, and finished his gift of land by 1922. In between the city acquired three additional properties (now Sections 200-202) to complement the Erskine gifts, which allowed the cemetery to extend from the Erskine mausoleum to Wells Avenue, except for a small plot of land allowed for a Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The city acquired the church in 1936 and demolished it, using the land for additional burials from that point to c. 1960.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> “Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll,” May 3, 2009, Huntsville Pilgrimage Association.

<sup>13</sup> Patricia H. Ryan, *Northern Dollars for Huntsville Spindles* (Huntsville: Huntsville Planning Department, 1983), 38-39.

<sup>14</sup> Robey, xv.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 15

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co., AL

---

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Maple Hill Cemetery is located at 231 Maple Hill Drive Street in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama. The nominated sections of the cemetery are Sections 1-15 and 200-202 as well as sections A-K, and IV and VI , as marked on the attached cemetery property map.

**Verbal Boundary Justification**

The nominated boundaries contain all of the extant historic property significantly associated with the cemetery.

# United States Department of the Interior

## National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places

### Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co., AL

The Erskine gifts along with the city's recent purchases convinced the local government to create the City Cemetery Association on September 9, 1922. The new commission was empowered to administer all affairs of Maple Hill Cemetery and to receive donations of property as well as recommend to the city when new land purchases would be necessary. In 1924 Maple Hill Cemetery took its present form of approximately 100 acres with the commission's purchase of 59 acres. Six years later, in 1930, the City Council took over all operations, land, and administration from the cemetery commission. Maple Hill Cemetery took on a new public role over the next decades. Beginning at least c. 1950, its quiet, winding roads, with no traffic, seemed perfect to city officials for driver's license tests. The tests were administered at the cemetery with the written portions taken at the cemetery office.

In fact, the city built a new brick, Classical Revival-styled administration building at the cemetery's main entrance gate c. 1957. This building not only served as a cemetery administrative center, it also was used for driver license's tests and as a voting precinct. The most famous ballot cast from the cemetery office came during the gubernatorial election of 1970 when Dr. John L. Cashin, an African American dentist from Huntsville (who died in March 2011), came to the cemetery office with his wife and they cast ballots in the historic election, an event covered by media from across the country. Cashin was the gubernatorial nominee of the National Democratic Party of Alabama and he received 15 percent of the vote in his race against George C. Wallace. Cashin also had earlier launched an unsuccessful campaign to be mayor of Huntsville.<sup>15</sup> An account of the gubernatorial vote at Maple Hill Cemetery was recorded by journalist L. H. Whittemore in his 1971 book *Together: A reporter's journey into the new black politics*.<sup>16</sup> Whittemore wrote:

"At eleven o'clock that morning, [John Cashin] and [his wife] Joan arrived at the exclusively white Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville in order to cast their votes inside the little brick house within the gate. Joan mentioned that a television crew was supposed to be along soon. 'Stop trying to please those people,' Cashin snapped. 'If they aren't here, we're not waiting for 'em.'

Two white photographers were on hand in the cemetery to greet them as they emerged from their car. The Cashins entered the house and voted, then came out on the concrete patio, a handsome couple, to pose to the cameras.

'Did y'all know,' Cashin joked as the cameras clicked, 'that there are four governors [actually there were five] of Alabama buried just over there?'"

The cemetery office remained a voting precinct until 1987.

<sup>15</sup> "Dr. John Cashin, Legendary Black Civic and Political Leader Passes" *Los Angeles Sentinel*, July 14, 2011; Matthew C. Edmonds, "National Democratic Party of Alabama," *Encyclopedia of Alabama Online*, accessed July 7, 2011.

<sup>16</sup> L. H. Whittemore, *Together: A reporter's journey into the new black politics* (New York: Morrow, 1971), 283.

# United States Department of the Interior

## National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co., AL

#### Art Significance

Maple Hill Cemetery has a significant array of funerary art. The range of artistic expressions is impressive. Representing folk or vernacular styles is the simple 1824 stone tablet of Isabell Harris (Photo 4) which has beautiful hand carved script that reads "Here lies the body of Isabell harris who departed This Life September the 13 Aged 73 1824." But this type of hand carving is rare, although it persisted as late as 1939 with a marker in the Potter's Field. More common vernacular secular expressions are block hand carved descriptions on unadorned stone tablets such as those of Nancy Miller (no date, photo 2). One hand blocked rectangular tablet, for John Lloyd (died 1849), is signed S & B, H'VILLE, but this carver remains unidentified. The weeping willow motif is found on several markers erected before the Civil War. The stone column for William T. Weaver (died 1852) is a good example (Photo 23).

Classical motifs predominate among markers from 1825 to 1875. The tallest memorial in the cemetery, the Huntsville Meridian memorial of Richard Anderson, is an ornate classical pillar, again topped by an urn (photo 11) that was laid on a square stone base with classical pilasters. The Civil War veteran Egbert J. Jones (died 1861) has a tapered square post adorned by an urn and rests on a classical base that in turn rests on two square stones. The stone pedestal marker for Eliza Brandon (died 1827) is the earliest identified carving from A. A. Baker of Huntsville (photo 10). This marker is one of several identified as Baker works in the cemetery. Baker worked in Huntsville throughout the antebellum decades. In 1859-60, he operated the Huntsville Marble Works on Washington Street near the public square (building not extant).<sup>17</sup> Another early Baker design was the obelisk for Governor Thomas Bibb (died in 1839). For the departed governor, Baker created a tall tapered classical obelisk topped by an urn and resting on a three-part stone base. For "The Moore Sisters" marker of 1855-1859, located within the cast-iron fence defined family plot of William H. Moore, Baker created paired fluted classical columns, topped by identical urns and wrapped together by an elaborate band of flowers (photo 14). A post-Civil War Baker monument, that of Janie McDavid, who died in 1866 (photo 28), is a clear departure from his earlier classicism. The marker is a large cross, enwrapped in a vine, with a Victorian-influence design to the base.

Historian Drew Gilpin Faust has recently analyzed the cult of death and mourning that surrounded the Civil War and its aftermath<sup>18</sup>, a pattern clearly documented in markers beside that of McDavid. The cult of mourning after the Civil War also is captured by Section 4's Edith G. and Oliver Sledge memorial (photo 12), which has a Gothicized stone base topped by a statue of an angel kneeling in prayer. Another angel statue adorns the classical base of the Lewellen and Nancy Jones memorial, dated March 1870, in section 7.

The William Patton monument (died 1846) is a beautiful, carved Gothic styled tapered column topped by a Gothic finial, a rare style in the antebellum South (photo 22). Traditional Victorian

<sup>17</sup> Huntsville City Directory, 1859-1860, accessed from Madison County Alabama GenWeb, accessed July 13, 2011.

<sup>18</sup> Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War* (New York: Knopf, 2008).

# United States Department of the Interior

## National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places

### Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co., AL

motifs of the wreath (Mollie Teal, died 1899) and of open drapes framing an open Bible for Mary A. Smith (Teal's mother, died 1872) characterize the Teal family plot, which also is adorned by a low stone border with Eastlake-styled posts designating the entrance to the plot (photo 8).

Elaborate Victorian styled cast-iron (some of the metal fences are of zinc) scroll fences marked the family plots of Dr. Thomas Fearn (Photo 6) and William Brandon (Photo 21). The Brandon fence is especially notable for its log-like corner posts, topped by an open ear of corn, all cast in iron. The rear fence along Erskine Street was formerly the cast-iron fence surrounding the county courthouse until it was moved to the cemetery, c. 1900.

Egyptian Revival motifs are reflected in the stone for David and Virginia Harrison (c. 1840), signed by the stonemason R. E. Launitz of New York. Egyptian designs, such as the cavetto pediment found on the Harrison monument (photo 17), were popular in urban American cemeteries from the 1830s to the 1850s. Launitz was described by the *American Architect and Building News* of August 6, 1887 as "the first and only personality entitled to any consideration from an art point of view, that has appeared in the history of monumental art in the United States."<sup>19</sup> Launitz was praised for several cemetery monuments, including those for Major Theodore O'Hara in Frankfort, Kentucky, and the Civil War Soldiers Monument in that same city. A native of Russia, Launitz came to the United States and by 1837 to 1844 he worked as a sculptor with builder/architect John Frazee in New York City. During this time—when Launitz created both the Harrison monument and the nearby more Greek Revival styled monument (photo 18) of Dr. David Moore (died 1845)—the 1887 article related that Launitz was not "very successful. Marble work in those days was confined almost entirely to small grave-stones, plain memorial-tablets, mantel pieces, and occasionally a trifling piece of carving."<sup>20</sup> But the 1850s were another story and he received major commissions for a memorial to James Fenimore Cooper in New York City, for Henry Clay in Lexington, Kentucky, and for multiple monuments and memorials in Greenwood Cemetery in New York City.

The move toward standardized, mass-produced styles of grave markers was underway at the cemetery by the 1880s, a trend perhaps best expressed by the striking set of three hollow cast-iron markers for the Vandeventer family, erected between the 1880s and 1899 (photos 45 and 46). Many of the twentieth century markers were granite stones produced in mass and having a standardized shape—the only difference from a marker in Huntsville and one in Cullman would be the machine-carved inscription on the marker's face. But twentieth century styles are found in the cemetery. Art Nouveau style is represented by the marker for Carrie Ridley Herreshoff (died 1924) (photo 7). Art Deco style is expressed by the script of the London family marker (see photo 60).

Many of the markers and memorials in the cemetery from the twentieth century came from an adjacent stone mason shop, the Sparkman Marble and Granite Works on Wells Avenue. The

<sup>19</sup> T. H. Bartlett, "Early Settler Memorials," *American Architect and Building News* (August 6, 1887), 59.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 12

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co., AL

---

shop has been in business since 1892.<sup>21</sup> Robert L. Sparkman and his craftsmen used hand tools to prepare markers until c. 1910 when he bought an electric stone carver to do most of the firm's work. Another local monument maker was J. F. Hummel, a Union veteran who moved to Huntsville c. 1870. He carved such notable local sculptures as the "Little Lion" at the city's Big Springs International Park and the "Confederate Soldier" for the courthouse square monument, but the latter was destroyed in a late 20<sup>th</sup> century accident and has been subsequently replaced by a new sculpture similar to that of Hummel's. But no Hummel marker has been identified yet at Maple Hill Cemetery.<sup>22</sup>

Many military veterans from all of the nation's wars (from the Revolution to the Iraq War) are buried within the historic sections of the cemetery.

---

<sup>21</sup> Jacquelyn Procter Reeves, *Remembering Huntsville* (Nashville: Turner Publishing, 2000), 39.

<sup>22</sup> Communication from Henry P. Turner of the Huntsville Pilgrimage Association, February 13, 2011.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 13

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co., AL

---

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- Allman, John M., III. "Yeoman Regions in the Antebellum Deep South: Settlement and Economy in Northern Alabama, 1815-1860." Ph.D. diss., University of Maryland, 1979.
- Bartlett, T. H. "Early Settler Memorials," *American Architect and Building News*. August 6, 1887.
- Betts, Edward C. *Early History of Huntsville, Alabama*. Huntsville: The Brown Company, 1916.
- "Dr. John Cashin, Legendary Black Civic and Political Leader Passes," *Los Angeles Sentinel*, July 14, 2011.
- Davis, Michael A. "In Remembrance: Confederate Funerary Monuments in Alabama and Resistance to Reconciliation, 1884-1923." M.A. thesis, Auburn University, 2008.
- Dupre, Daniel S. *Transforming the Cotton Frontier: Madison County, Alabama, 1800-1840*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997.
- Edmonds, Matthew C. "National Democratic Party of Alabama." *Encyclopedia of Alabama Online*, accessed July 7, 2011.
- Faust, Drew Gilpin. *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*. New York: Knopf, 2008.
- Fearn Fellows." University of Alabama School of Medicine website, accessed July 2, 2011.
- Huntsville City Directory, 1859-1860, accessed from Madison County Alabama GenWeb, accessed July 13, 2011.
- "Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll," May 3, 2009. Huntsville Pilgrimage Association.
- Marshall, Mike. "Some possessions of a prominent Huntsvillian to be up for auction in Pensacola." *Huntsville Times*, April 8, 2011.
- McKee, Joy, Henry Turner, and members of Maple Hill Cemetery staff. Interview with author. Maple Hill Cemetery, Huntsville, Alabama, March 2011.
- Powell, Lawrence N. *New Masters: Northern Planters during the Civil War and Reconstruction*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1980.
- Roberts, Frances C. "Thomas Freeman—Surveyor of the Old Southwest," *Alabama Review* 11(July 1987): 216-230.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 14

Maple Hill Cemetery, Madison Co., AL

---

Robey, Diane, et al. *Maple Hill Cemetery: Phase One*. Huntsville: Huntsville-Madison County Historical Society, 1995.

Rohrbough, Malcolm J. *The Land Office Business: the Settlement and Administration of American Public Lands, 1789-1837*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1968.

Sons of Confederate Veterans Egbert J. Jones Camp #357" website, [www.scv357.org](http://www.scv357.org), accessed May 15, 2011.

Webb, Samuel L. and Margaret E. Armbruster. *Alabama Governors: A Political History of the State*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2001.

Webb, Samuel L. "John J. Sparkman." *Encyclopedia of Alabama Online*, accessed July 13, 2011.

Whittemore, L. H. *Together: A reporter's journey into the new black politics*. New York: Morrow, 1971.

# MAPLE HILL CEMETERY

Madison Co., AL

1 inch = 225 feet

**LEGEND**

- I. GATE
- II. OFFICE
- III. MILITARY RESERVE
- IV. ERSKINE MAUSOLEUM
- V. CONFEDERATE DEAD
- VI. POTTERS' FIELD

 SHADING INDICATES SECTIONS CATALOGUED

N ←

