

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| STATE: North Carolina | |
| COUNTY: Carteret | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Old Burying Ground

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Block between Ann, Craven and Broad streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Beaufort (First Congressional District, The Hon. Walter B. Jones)

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| STATE North Carolina | CODE 37 | COUNTY: Carteret | CODE 31 |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>cemetery</u> |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Cemetery Association of Beaufort

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Beaufort

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|--------------------------|------------|
| STATE: North Carolina | CODE 37 |
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Carteret County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Beaufort

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|--------------------------|------------|
| STATE: North Carolina | CODE 37 |
|--------------------------|------------|

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

| | |
|--------|-------|
| STATE: | CODE: |
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7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Burying Ground, where Beaufort's citizens have been buried for well over two centuries, is, even for the quiet town of Beaufort, an unusually peaceful, shady place where a sense of the past is especially strong. The cemetery is located in the block between Ann, Craven, and Broad streets and measures at its greatest expanse 440 feet by 266 feet. It is roughly in the shape of a rectangle with an L-shaped extension to the north and a central square projection to the south. Three churches border the cemetery. It is surrounded by a concrete wall, which has recessed panels between posts topped by simple spheres. The burying ground is shaded throughout by many gnarled old trees, notable among which are live oaks whose branches are covered by resurrection ferns, which revive after each rain. Instead of the usual smooth grassy expanse, the ground is covered with fallen leaves, among which grow ivy and other vines. A profusion of azaleas and naturalized daffodils bloom in the spring.

The cemetery is rather crowded with markers, which follow a variety of designs, including table stones, obelisks, and official military markers. The best known is that of Otway Burns, a naval hero in the War of 1812. His grave is marked by a large box-like stone, in the top of which is embedded the cannon from his privateer, the Snap Dragon. Many of the older graves have simple vertical cypress slabs--of some seventeen designs in all, each with a weathered, lichen-spotted texture. Another common grave treatment is the construction, in front of a stone marker, of a sort of grave cover of brick, usually about two feet in height, which protects the grave from being washed out in the sandy soil. Some are rounded and some are of a gabled configuration, but all run approximately the length of the coffin beneath--whether of a tall man or a small child--providing a vivid and somber reminder of those who lie buried. These occur singly, but more frequently are lined up in family groups. Many of the family plots are surrounded by handsome wrought and cast-iron fences. Probably the most outstanding is that enclosing the Norwood plot, which was manufactured by S. Patch of Boston in 1865. Round arches adorned with volutes support the narrow railing. Spiral posts with elaborate finials flank the gate, which features entwined scrolls, flowers, and leaf motifs.

Many of the stones, varying from simple ones to elaborate monuments with urns, figures, and crosses, are signed, providing a museum of the stonecutter's art during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The makers' marks evidence Beaufort's orientation to the sea and to relatively distant coastal cities rather than to inland North Carolina, for the stones come from such places as Boston, Charleston, Brooklyn, and Baltimore. From North Carolina only the port city of Wilmington is represented. There are some 200 stones from the pre-Civil War era, approximately forty-five from the war period, about 150 from 1865 to 1900, and a few twentieth-century markers.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In June, 1724, the trustees of the town of Beaufort deeded to the "wardens of the Parish of St. Johns and the rest of the Vestrymen," lot 91, Old Town. This acquisition of land for the Anglican church--and presumably for a cemetery as well--is the earliest definite date indicating the use of the present burying ground for that purpose. Since the lot was a public one, and the site of the courthouse where the church had been meeting, it is likely that burials may have occurred there earlier. Although the earliest legible date of death on a tombstone is 1756, many of the older markers have no dates or their inscriptions are so weathered as to be illegible. There are also many unmarked graves.

The cemetery was enlarged in 1731, when Nathanael Taylor, "by and with the consent of Richd Rustull, senr, and Joseph Bell, Esqr, Commissioners," gave all of lot 81, Old Town (adjacent to lot 91), to the inhabitants of the town for a burying ground. Burials were probably confined to these two lots until 1820, when the Methodists acquired lot 101, Old Town, and erected a church on part of the lot. The cemetery was enlarged again when the Baptists acquired part of lot 72 in 1851, and when the Methodists bought part of lot 71 in 1853 for a new church. In each case the part of the lot not occupied by the church building added to the area of the burial ground. Both Methodist structures still stand, and a new brick church occupies the site of the original Baptist structure. The town lot, lot 81, must have filled up early, for by 1828 the commissioners, recognizing a need for additional space, ordered that a new cemetery be surveyed and laid off. In 1867 the commissioners began the planting of elm trees in front of the churches that border the cemetery.

In the cemetery are buried people who played notable roles in the eighteenth and nineteenth century history of the state: Colonel William Thompson, a revolutionary soldier who was a delegate to the Hillsborough Convention; Captain Otway Burns, whose privateer, the Snap Dragon, took many prizes during the War of 1812, who served in the North Carolina legislature, and who made in his kiln many of the bricks for Fort Macon; Confederate Captain Josiah Pender, whose forces took Fort Macon in April, 1861; Mary and Robert Chadwick, who adopted and educated a young Chinese stowaway named Soong, who eventually became the father of Madame Chiang Kai Shek and Madame Sun Yat Sen.

Today the cemetery encompasses part of lots 71, 72, 82, 92, 101, and all of lots 81 and 91. Included are the original burying ground, the Methodist cemetery, and the Baptist cemetery. The whole area with its lichen-

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8.

encrusted stones shaded by great trees is pervaded by an atmosphere of age, peace, and pleasant melancholia that makes it one of the most memorable spots in one of North Carolina's most picturesque communities. The range of tombstone design is quite remarkable, from the primitive grace of the simple cypress slabs to the sober functionalism of the long brick grave covers to the ornate memorials of the Victorian period. Particularly notable is the vividly descriptive Otway Burns marker--a cannon atop the grave of a naval hero. The cemetery is a grant-in-aid project of the Cemetery Association of Beaufort, under the auspices of the Division of Archives and History.

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encrusted stones shaded by great trees is pervaded by an atmosphere of age, peace, and pleasant melancholia that makes it one of the most memorable spots in one of North Carolina's most picturesque communities--the seaport town of Beaufort.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(Carteret County Records, Carteret County Courthouse, Beaufort, North Carolina, Office of Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Carteret County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Muse, Amy. The Story of the Methodists in the Port of Beaufort. New Bern: Owen G. Dunn, Company, Printers, 1941.
 "Information taken from stones in Old Community Graveyard in Beaufort." Compiled and edited for the Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, by the Carteret County Historical Society, Miss Amy Muse, Chairman, Committee, 1956. (Copy at Library, Beaufort).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 34 ° 43' 05" | 76 ° 39' 49" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit Staff

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: 3 February 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date 3 February 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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"Old Burying Ground." Beaufort Historical Association, 1965.

"Records of the Proceedings of the Commissioners of the Town of Beaufort,"
various dates, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Town Hall, Beaufort.

Wrenn, Tony P. Beaufort, North Carolina. Alexandria, Virginia: privately
printed, 1971.



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KODAK SAFETY FILM

