

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Green Hill Cemetery Gatekeeper's House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 700 Battleground Avenue

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Greensboro

--- VICINITY OF

6th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

37

Guilford

81

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. James Middleton, Jr.

Mr. J. G. Tripp, III

STREET & NUMBER

2315 Kirkpatrick Place

801 Simpson Street

CITY, TOWN

Greensboro, NC 27408

Greensboro, NC

STATE

--- VICINITY OF

27401

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Guilford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greensboro

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>ca. 1892</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Green Hill Cemetery Gatekeeper's House, built for the first public cemetery of the City of Greensboro, was constructed in 1888-1889, a year after the establishment of the cemetery in 1887. The house is a cross-shaped one-and-one-half story frame Gothic cottage carried on a brick foundation. It is three bays wide and features a steeply pitched cross-gable roof with wide, overhanging eaves. On the northwest corner of the house is a one-story gabled wing; the east elevation of the wing features an open porch, and the west elevation displays a sun room extension said also to have been an open porch originally. The facade gable joins the roof slightly below the ridgeline while the north gable begins at the level of the ridgeline. Distinguishing the gable ends are sawnwork bargeboards with kingposts, a hallmark of the Gothic Cottage style. Piercing the roof are a central brick chimney and an exterior gable end chimney, also of brick, on the north elevation.

A varied fenestration pattern consisting of six-over-six and four-over-four sash type windows is displayed. The windows flanking the entrance are set within plain board frames, while the windows on the west and east elevations feature a gabled hood on the first story and a pointed arch label with a louvered panel in the gable. A similar label is featured over the paired windows on the facade gable. A single gabled dormer with sawnwork bargeboards and kingposts similar to the facade gable occurs on the west elevation. Also on the west elevation is the gabled exterior entrance to the cellar.

The full one-story porch is surmounted by the central, projecting second story gable and displays a hip roof carried by turned posts. The porch features ornamentation of ogee arch spandrel sawnwork and a plain rail. A second porch on the east elevation of the house displays identical ornamentation to the facade porch. The main entrance is recessed inside a peaked ogee arch opening. Within the entranceway are two diagonally mounted identical doors, consisting of a single pane of glass over three molded panels.

The interior of the Green Hill Cemetery Gatekeeper's House is divided into two areas entered separately through the two front doors. The right door enters the room that was the gatekeeper's office, and the left door opens into the living quarters of the house. The interior is largely intact featuring corner fireplaces in the office and living room with mantels which may be of a later date than the house, and symmetrically molded architraves with roundel corner blocks throughout. The simple cottage has no entrance hall, the front door opening directly into the living room. The stair rises to the east from a hall behind the living room to the three upstairs bedrooms; the closed string features square newel posts, a molded rail, and turned balusters. The only major alterations which are being made by the present owners consist of structural strengthening measures required by the building inspector, the addition of a bath for handicapped individuals on the first floor, and the installation of a small kitchenette in the rearmost room on the first floor. In the few rooms where the original woodwork had been removed, the present owners have either replaced it with matching period woodwork or with modern moldings.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1888-1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Green Hill Cemetery Gatekeeper's House is a late and simplified version of the popular Gothic Cottage style which was embraced by the American public during the middle and late nineteenth century. The house is the only surviving example of the Gothic Cottage style in Greensboro and is the last known Victorian cemetery gatekeeper's house in North Carolina. The construction of the house and the choice of the Gothic cottage style were the result of the work of Judge David Schenk, a prominent local leader in the community planning and development activities undertaken by Greensboro in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Because of the philosophical associations of the Gothic style with the theme of death in the nineteenth century, it was an especially appropriate style choice for a structure at the gate of a pastoral cemetery. The house reflects the impact of the publications of Andrew Jackson Downing, popularizer of the picturesque cottage mode. While not identical, the house with its full, ogee-arched porch, central peaked gable, and decorative bargeboards is similar to Designs II and IV of Downing's Cottage Residences (1853). The well-preserved building (circa 1888-1889) exemplifies not only the breadth but also the longevity of the popularity of the picturesque cottage.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. The Green Hill Cemetery Gatekeeper's House is associated with the municipal improvement activities which took place in the City of Greensboro in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, being built as a part of the first community cemetery in the city.
- B. The Green Hill Cemetery Gatekeeper's House is associated with Judge David Schenk, a locally prominent and progressive civic leader, who was instrumental in the decision by the city to build the house and who chose the Gothic Cottage style for its design.
- C. The Green Hill Cemetery Gatekeeper's House is the only surviving example of the Gothic Cottage style in the City of Greensboro and is the last known Victorian cemetery gatekeeper's house in North Carolina. The house is a well-preserved example of the work of such advocates of the picturesque mode as A. J. Downing who were responsible for the long popularity of the style in the United States.

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Greensboro's Green Hill Cemetery was conceived and established by the city in a burst of civic enthusiasm that gripped the community in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Prior to its establishment Greensboro had buried its dead in church graveyards or in other private graveyards. However, in the 1880s Greensboro was a bustling, expanding city. Under the progressive leadership of Robert R. King, mahor of Greensboro from 1882 until 1888, and Judge David Schenk, the city greatly expanded its role in the life of its citizens. Work was begun on a variety of projects from a water system to electric light, gas, and sewer facilities. In 1887 the city floated a loan for \$100,000 in order to open new streets, pave old ones, update utilities, expand schools, and create parks. It was in this context that the creation of Green Hill Cemetery took place.

Much of the credit for the establishment of the cemetery belongs to Judge Schenk. Imbued with what one historian has called his "progressive spirit and public energy," Schenk was on the cutting edge of many of Greensboro's most successful projects. He was largely responsible for the creation of the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. He has been called the father of Greensboro's public school system. He was similarly influential in the establishment of the city's street system. He was the dominant member of Greensboro's city commissioners for much of the 1880s.

Schenk was chairman of the city's cemetery committee in 1887, the year in which the cemetery opened. The committee also included J. W. Scott, L. M. Hawkins, and W. E. Coffin.³ A Greensboro Workman article in July, 1888 showed that the cemetery had opened in May⁴ of 1887 with two burials. For the entire year there were 33 burials in the cemetery.

In 1888 Schenk turned his attention to building a cottage for the cemetery keeper, which would serve as both a residence and an office. In an October, 1888 entry in his diary Schenk noted:

I have had the building of a Cemetery Cottage for the Keeper of the Cemetery (at present Mr. James Duffy) very much at heart for a year but not until two weeks ago did I feel safe in asking the board for an appropriation. . . . I suggested the erection of the cottage . . . [and] a resolution passed unanimously to build. . . . I have the contract bid to Wm. G. W. Jackson. . . . It is a Gothic structure and . . . I think it will be very⁵ attractive. . . . I want the cemetery where I lie to be well cared for.

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According to a newspaper account of the event, Judge Schenk "expressed his decided opinion in favor of the keeper living on the premises or as near there-to as practicable, both for the convenience of the keeper and for the better care of the cemetery grounds." Schenk's motion that a cottage be built for the use of the keeper and his family at a cost of no more than \$600 was passed. A nominal rent was established.

James Duffy was the first keeper of the cemetery and the first occupant of the cottage. He was succeeded by a Mr. Fryar, who was succeeded by Charlie Hiatt in the early 1900s. Hiatt was replaced by his son-in-law R. E. Neese in 1938. Jack Lewis served as keeper from 1950 until his retirement in 1975. He was the last keeper to live in the cottage, which was abandoned in 1961. The current superintendent is Thomas Ravel, Jr.

The cottage is believed to have been moved approximately 500 feet from its original site in the early 1890s to a lot closer to the cemetery owned by T. C. Worth and E. P. Wharton. The property was sold to Mary C. Jones in 1890. The city of Greensboro obtained title to the property in 1905 when it was purchased from Mary C. Jones, at that time a county commissioner, for slightly more than one thousand dollars. The city held title to the land until January of 1978 when it was sold to Jim Middleton, Jr., and J. G. Tripp, Jr. The two men intend to restore the house.

The Green Hill Cemetery Gatekeeper's House is an important example of the Gothic Cottage style which enjoyed a wide popularity in the mid to late nineteenth century through the publications of A. J. Downing. Downing's design books, such as his Cottage Residences (1853) which contains similar designs to the Green Hill Cemetery Gatekeeper's House, were circulated all over the United States spreading the picturesque cottage mode. Because of the association of things Gothic with the theme of death in the nineteenth century, the choice of a Gothic cottage for the home of a cemetery gatekeeper was most appropriate. As the only surviving Gothic Cottage in the City of Greensboro and the only Victorian cemetery gatekeeper's house known to remain in North Carolina, the Green Hill Cemetery Gatekeeper's House is a significant reminder of the popularity of the Gothic theme in nineteenth century America and of the philosophical associations which accompanied the popularization of architectural style in that period.

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Footnotes

¹ Ethel Stephens Arnett, Greensboro, North Carolina (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1955), 34-36, 455, hereinafter cited as Arnett, Greensboro.

² North Carolina Biography, Volumes IV, V, and VI of History of North Carolina, by R. D. W. Connor, William K. Boyd, J. G. De Roulhac Hamilton, and others (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 6 volumes, 1919), V, 34-36; Arnett, Greensboro, 381. Schenk was not a native of Greensboro. He was born in 1835 in Lincolnton, but lived in Greensboro from 1882 until his death in 1903.

³ Greensboro Workman, May 14, 1887.

⁴ Greensboro Workman, July 15, 1888.

⁵ Diary of David Schenk, October 20, 1888, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina. Schenk is buried in Green Hill. Other prominent people interred in Green Hill include A. M. Scales, governor of North Carolina from 1885 until 1889; educational leaders such as Charles McIver, first president of the Woman's College; his successor J. I. Foust; and four presidents of what is now Greensboro College; business leaders such as Lunsford Richardson, founder of the Vick Chemical Company; and insurance builders E. P. Wharton, Julian Price, and A. W. McAlister. Arnett, Greensboro, 457-458.

⁶ Greensboro Workman, October 9, 1888.

⁷ Green Hill Cemetery Records, Cemetery Office, Greensboro, North Carolina, hereinafter cited as Cemetery Records.

⁸ Cemetery Records; Greensboro Record, April 17, 1978.

⁹ Guilford County Deed Books, 79, p. 710.

¹⁰ Guilford County Deed Books, 186, p. 468.

¹¹ Greensboro Record, April 17, 1978.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arnett, Ethel Stephens. Greensboro, North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1955.

Green Hill Cemetery Records. Cemetery Office. Governmental Plaze. Greensboro, North Carolina.

Greensboro Record. April 17, 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Greensboro

QUADRANGLE SCALE] : 24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,7 60,84,8,0 3,9|9,3|2,5,0

B

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The block bounded by Battleground Avenue, Wharton Street, and Fisher Avenue.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Description prepared by David W. Parham, Survey and Planning Branch;
Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, Research Branch

ORGANIZATION

DATE

N. C. Division of Archives & History

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

(919) 733-4763

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina 27611

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

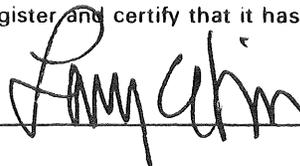
NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 8, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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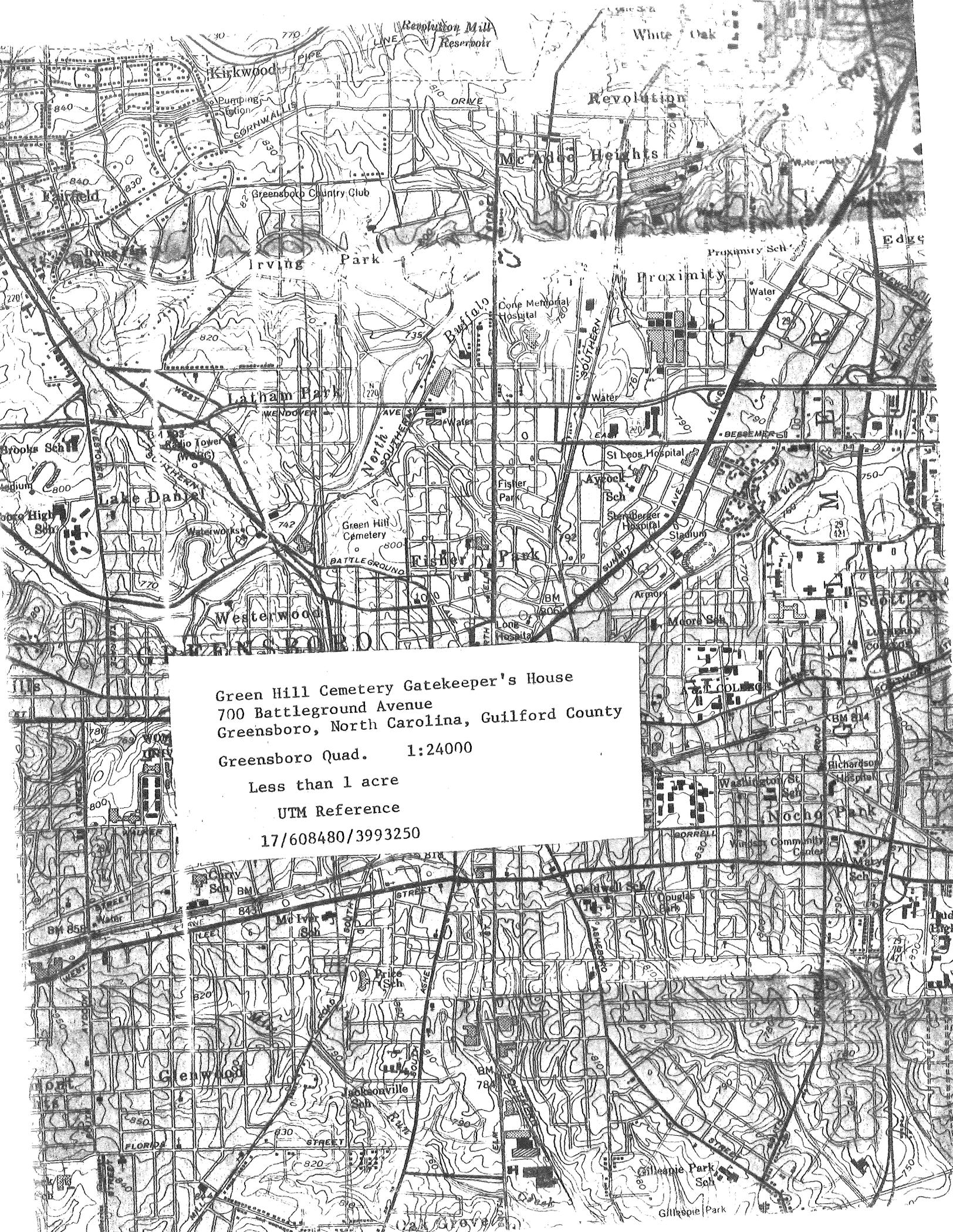
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Greensboro Workman. May 14, 1887; July 15, 1888.

Guilford County Deed Books. Microfilm copy, Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

North Carolina Biography. Volumes IV, V, and VI of History of North Carolina by R. D. W. Connor, William K. Boyd, J. G. De Roulhac Hamilton, and others. Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 6 volumes, 1919.

Schenk, David, Diary of. Southern Historical Collection. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Green Hill Cemetery Gatekeeper's House
700 Battleground Avenue
Greensboro, North Carolina, Guilford County
Greensboro Quad. 1:24000

Less than 1 acre

UTM Reference

17/608480/3993250

