

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 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 Union Cemetery

other names/site number South Elm Street Cemetery

2. Location

street & number 900 block South Elm Street N/A not for publication

city or town Greensboro N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Guilford code 081 zip code 27401

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 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.)

William S. Rain, Jr. SHPO 9-7-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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: 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:)

Union Cemetery
Name of Property

Guilford County, N.C.
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 in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Historic & Architectural Resources of Greensboro, N.C., 1880-1940

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

-0-

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
walls _____
roof _____
other gravemarkers: granite, marble

Narrative Description

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

Union Cemetery
Name of Property

Guilford County, N.C.
County and State

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** a birthplace or 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)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black
ART

Period of Significance

1882-1940

Significant Dates

1882

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Union Cemetery
Name of Property

Guilford County, N.C.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

117	60881610	3991091410
Zone	Easting	Northing

3

Zone	Easting	Northing

2

Zone	Easting	Northing

4

Zone	Easting	Northing

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 Kaye Graybeal

organization _____ date March 17, 1993

street & number 5618 Tower Road telephone (919) 292-5177

city or town Greensboro state N.C. zip code 27140

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 Greensboro, Division of Cemeteries

street & number P.O. Box 3136 telephone (919) 373-2160

city or town Greensboro state N.C. zip code 27402-3136

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 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 20503.

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UNION CEMETERY
GREENSBORO, GUILFORD CO., N.C.

Physical Description

Union Cemetery occupies approximately four acres of land in South Greensboro, just east of the location of the no longer extant, post-Civil War black suburb of Warnersville. The cemetery is bounded on the west by South Elm Street, which is lined with early 20th century and modern commercial and light industrial buildings. Its northern boundary is edged by undergrowth and for several feet, a narrow watercourse. This watercourse turns and follows the eastern edge of the cemetery, running parallel to Arlington Street. A residential area begins to the east of this street. The southern boundary is East Whittington Street, on the other side of which is an early 20th century brick warehouse. Most of the gravemarkers are concentrated on the western half of the cemetery, close to South Elm Street, and on the northern edge. The land begins to slope to the east from the center of the property, and levels out as it extends toward Arlington Street. Few gravemarkers remain on the slope or on the eastern half. The grounds are grass-covered and minimally maintained by the city. Approximately 20 trees, mostly pin oaks, are interspersed among the graves with a large pine near the center of the cemetery.

Some indication of the prior physical appearance of the cemetery exists in city documents. The 1936 minutes of the Greensboro City Council meetings indicate proceeding with the residents' request to remove a high hedge surrounding the cemetery to help eliminate vagrants by facilitating surveillance of the property. (Greensboro City Council: Vol. 15: 184&192) A 1986 aerial view map of Greensboro indicates that an access road once ran east through the middle of the property from South Elm Street ending where the land begins to slope. (Guilford Co. Planning Dep't.: ACL 3-144) A depression and curb cut at S. Elm indicate where the road began. Union retains 97 gravemarkers, with death dates from 1882 to 1940, with the exception of one marker with a death date of 1821 (It is not known whether or not this oldest grave is a reinterment). However, Greensboro's Superintendent of Cemeteries estimates that potentially as many as 1200 graves could exist. (Ravenel:1992) This number cannot be verified since the city possesses no record or early map of the cemetery and did not acquire the property until 1936. The now regular ground surface cannot suggest a pattern or number, as city maintenance filled in numerous sunken graves in a 1974 effort to convert the cemetery to a park-like facility. Although many overturned markers were uprighted, many have been broken or lost after years of neglect. (Greensboro Division of Cemeteries: 1983)

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Almost all of the gravemarkers' inscriptions face west; a few appear to have been turned or moved from their original position. According to the city's Superintendent of Cemeteries, the orientation of bodies in the graves is with the head on the east side of (behind) the gravestone with feet pointing towards the east. This orientation of the body facing the sunrise has basis in religious symbolism.

The majority of the gravemarkers span the fifteen year period between 1901-1917 and represent styles popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Crafted from granite, white and gray marble, and cast stone, the forms in order of prevalence include slant markers, steles, flush markers, tree stumps, serpentine and pedimented tablets, obelisks, lambs, and urns.

It was common for freed slaves to assume the surname of their former owners. This may be the reason for the number of prominent Greensboro white family names found on many of the gravestones. Among the names possibly assumed from their owners by freedmen are: Caldwell, Gilmer, McAdoo, Mendenhall, Morehead, Price, Rankin, Richardson, and Wharton.

Most of the stones are erect and in good condition, but approximately five stones are dismantled and turned over. However, the greatest damage has been the loss of finials from the taller gravemarkers, a result of years of poor maintenance and vandalism.

Statement of Significance

Summary

The historical significance of Union Cemetery, Greensboro, N.C.'s earliest known black cemetery, lies in its association with the city's first planned residential subdivision. This subdivision, known as "Warnersville," was unique in that its lots were set aside expressly for purchase by newly freed slaves shortly after the Civil War. It was one of North Carolina's earliest planned subdivisions for "freedmen." Many of Warnersville's prominent citizens, who were among the first black leaders in Greensboro, are buried at Union Cemetery. Because it is one of only two historic resources associated with Warnersville, the property meets *Criteria Consideration D* under *Criterion A*. The cemetery is also eligible under *Criterion C* for its distinctive funerary sculpture. The size, sophisticated design, and ornamentation of the gravestones reflect the relative prosperity of Warnersville and the professional status of many its citizens.

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GREENSBORO, GUILFORD CO., N.C.

The period of significance of the property spans the years from 1882 to 1940 during which burials took place in the cemetery. These dates place the property within Historic Context 1 of Greensboro's Multiple Property Documentation Form: "The Development of the Gate City, 1880-1899," and the subcontext: "Early Suburbanization and Neighborhood Growth, 1900-1941." The cemetery falls into the category of Property Type 6: "Parks, Cemeteries, and Bridges."

Historical Background of Union Cemetery

Union Cemetery "for the Colored Race" was established by the congregations of three churches in the early 1880's: the now St. Matthew's Methodist, St. James Presbyterian, and Providence Baptist Churches. (Arnett: 1955, p. 458) In 1917, the City closed Union stating that further interments would be a potential health hazard to residents whose homes surrounded the cemetery. (Greensboro B.O.C.: Vol. 8: 49) Its proximity to white South Greensboro, and the strained race relations of the mid-teens in the city may have also contributed to the commission's decision to close the cemetery. Periodic interments were granted by permit only in continuously owned family plots which had sufficient space. Although maintenance of the cemetery was neglected, sporadic burials continued throughout the twenties and thirties. To provide further burial sites for the city's blacks, Maplewood Cemetery was opened in east Greensboro in 1918. (Greensboro Division of Cemeteries: 1983)

In 1936, the city foreclosed on the property because of delinquent taxes and street assessment left unpaid by the three congregations since 1925. The cemetery grounds had not been maintained during this eleven-year period, and although overgrowth was removed from the property upon acquisition by the City, upkeep over the next thirty-five year period was minimal since city maintenance was limited to the use of a sickle bar mower. (Greensboro Division of Cemeteries: 1983)

By 1971 Union Cemetery had fallen into very poor condition, with many of its markers overturned and graves sunken. In 1972 the city began considering redevelopment of the cemetery, and in 1974 uprighted markers and filled the sunken graves in an attempt to achieve a more "park-like" appearance. Since that time, the property has been minimally maintained by the city. (Greensboro Division of Cemeteries: 1983)

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UNION CEMETERY
GREENSBORO, GUILFORD CO., N.C.

Historical Background of Warnersville

The community of Warnersville was founded shortly after the Civil War in 1868 by Yardley Warner, a Quaker missionary and member of the "Association of Friends of Philadelphia and Its Vicinity for the Relief of Colored Freedmen," an organization which assisted freedmen. Acting as agent for The Association, Warner bought 35 and 1/2 acres of land just south of Greensboro, and sold half-acre lots on an "ability-to-pay" scale to former slaves. This tract of land was bounded roughly by what is now West Lee Street, South Elm Street, Freeman Mill Road, and Florida Street. (Guilford County Grantor Index to Real Estate Conveyances: book 39, pp. 219-225) The purpose for the establishment of such a community was to promote the independence and self-sufficiency of former slaves. One reason for the selection of the Greensboro area for such an "experiment" may have been the substantial population of Quakers who were supportive of this goal. In further support of this mission, Warner taught Negro children in his home, and in 1868 he established a community trade school for the adults. (Craig: 1941, June 1. Reprinted in Warner: 1957, p. 287)

Historian Samuel Kipp, in his dissertation on urban growth and social change in Greensboro from 1870 to 1920, noted that after the Civil War was over, freed slaves in Greensboro continued to live in shacks near the homes of their former masters. Gradually, blacks were relegated to the southern section of the city, in the vicinity of the community of Warnersville. Although housing remained substandard, segregation allowed blacks the unexpected opportunity to develop a business community of their own, and small restaurants and shops developed in the area. (Kipp: 1974)

In ca. 1890, an English Quaker named Henry Stanley Newman visited the United States, and wrote of his travels through North Carolina in letters which were sent back to England and published in The Monthly Review. His letters provided some insight into Warnersville's character:

I have today been to Warnersville, visited the coloured people in their own houses, examined their garden plots, seen their schoolhouse and their church, and can bear testimony to the thriving character of the population. They number between 500 and 600 people, all coloured. Warnersville has extended far beyond the original purchase of Yardley Warner when he commenced the project about 1869. They have about 200 coloured children attending their school. They have a good house as a residence for the school teacher, who has two well-qualified assistants. I find that in the

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adjoining city of Greensborough, there is a very friendly spirit between the white people and the coloured. Coloured men are occupying several public offices, and a number of them are successful men of business managing their own stores. (cited in Craig: 1941, June 1. Reprinted in Warner: 1957, pp. 289-290)

The establishment of Warnersville had an impact in other unforeseen ways on early residential development in South Greensboro. According to a master's thesis by J. F. Baylin, the settlement "established an important element in the emerging residential pattern, and had a distinct effect on subsequent development." He asserts that the presence of a Negro community kept property values down and prevented the expansion of adjacent white neighborhoods in South Greensboro. The community retained its racial and economic character during subsequent growth in the surrounding area, "...thus proving stronger influences than the high value area along [the adjacent] Asheboro Street, which failed to expand, and eventually declined in value. (Baylin: 1968, pp.40-41)

Warnersville served as a model for similar smaller communities started in Friendship, Jamestown, and Oak Ridge, all townships surrounding Greensboro. The English Quaker Newman wrote of Warnersville's influence in his 1890 article for The Monthly Review:

It forms a colored settlement that has found many counterparts in other districts in the southern States. It has had this remarkable effect. Other landholders, when they found that Yardley Warner had made this provision for the coloured people, changed their tactics, and sold their land irrespective of the colour of the purchaser, and the five years' leasehold system was abandoned throughout the country. Thus he won a victory for the coloured people that has made his name a household word amongst them. The effect of the good deed goes rolling on, assuming vaster proportions year after year, until in some of the southern States, such as Louisiana, Alabama, and South Carolina, it seems probable that in ten years' time the colored people will own almost as much land as the white people. (cited in Warner: 1957, p. 212)

Several prominent citizens and leaders associated with the development of Warnersville are buried in Union Cemetery. According to Ethel Stephens Arnett, in her 1955 history of Greensboro (p. 458), the body of former slave and community leader Harmon Unthank (died 1894) is interred there. Although his gravemarker no longer exists, his son's is intact (Jasper Unthank: 1850-1911). In a 1941 interview by the

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Greensboro Daily News, Unthank's daughter, Alice Reynolds, states that he was a member of the First National Bank board of directors. According to Arnett, he was one of the two first blacks to achieve such a position in North Carolina and possibly in the entire South. Serving with Unthank on the bank's board of directors was Aaron Mendenhall, buried in the cemetery in 1906. (Arnett, 1955: p.458) Alice Reynolds states in the newspaper interview that Unthank was also a Mason, a carpenter, and was well respected by the leaders of the white community. (cited in Craig: 1941, June 1. Reprinted in Warner: 1957, p. 293) She gave insight to the work day of her late father, by giving this account to the Greensboro Daily News:

My father went to work at 6 a.m. and worked until 6 p.m. He arose at 4 a.m. and worked his garden which supplied his family, the neighbours who had none, and all that the children could sell to make their own money. That's how we dressed ourselves. We had every fruit and berry that grew. I got up every morning and set out plants until time to go to school. He had considerable land and used great tracts for a garden. (cited in Craig: 1941, June 1. Reprinted in Warner: 1957, p. 290)

Stanley Newman's 1890 article for The Monthly Review refers to Unthank as having been a member of the County School Board since shortly after the end of the Civil War. (cited in Craig: 1941, June 1. Reprinted in Warner: 1957, p. 290) A characterization of Unthank and his contribution to Warnersville was written by a journalist in the 1941 Greensboro Daily News article:

...Certainly by his own example of industry and thrift, "the boss" encouraged his fellow freedmen in developing a stable type of citizenry, which has, through successive generations, worked diligently and been self-supporting, educated its children in public schools and in colleges and stayed out of police court and jail. (cited in Craig: 1941, June 1. Reprinted in Warner: 1957, p. 289)

It was Unthank who named the community "Warnersville." When Yardley Warner left the area only a few years after his 1862 arrival, his trusted friend Unthank took over as the sales agent for the Philadelphia Association. (Craig: 1941, June 1. Reprinted in Warner: 1957, p. 289-290) Unthank worked towards promoting black independence as a member of a group called the "Radical Republicans," an 1860's pro-Negro group of which one of the leading spokesmen was Albion Winegar Tourgee. Tourgee was originally a carpetbagger of sorts, and became infamous in North Carolina for his championing of Negro civil rights and formation of the "Loyal Reconstruction League"

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in Guilford County. (Gross: 1963, p. 24) His newspaper, The Union Register, focused particularly on events related to civil rights in Warnersville. He assisted the Negroes in buying land and helped to establish the Freedman's Aid Society Day School in the basement room of what was then the Warnersville Methodist Episcopal Church (now St. Matthews Methodist Church). Also a writer of novels based on the plight of the blacks after the Civil War, Tourgee completed parts of his first novels while teaching at the day school. A character in one of Tourgee's novels was modeled after Unthank, and he used Warnersville as the basis for a fictional black community in his significant literary work A Fool's Errand. (Olson: 1965, p. 76)

According to long-time resident Nettie Ledwell Jackson, the Jacksonville section of Warnersville was named for her in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jackson, who were highly regarded by the community. (J. Hodge and B. Hodge: 1986, p.10) Thomas Jackson was buried in Union Cemetery in 1903 according to his stone's inscription. He had purchased land in 1884 through The Association. (Craig: 1941, June 1. Reprinted in Warner: 1957, p. 295) The former McAdoo School, founded in the late 1800's as one of the first Negro schools in the city, was renamed in his honor in 1926 as the "Jacksonville Primary School" according an article in the January 9, 1947 Greensboro Record. According to Nettie Jackson he served as the first janitor of the school.

Among the large property owners buried in the cemetery are William Bailey and his wife Emily, whose stone's inscription indicates her death in 1921 at the age of 65. No death record or gravemarker exists for Mr. Bailey. The Baileys owned several blocks of rental property, supported the Jacksonville School, and were charter members of the community's Shiloh Baptist Church. (J. Hodge and B. Hodge: 1986, pp. 8 & 25) Another prominent family of large land holdings was that of Henry Barringer and his wife Emeline Sellars. Mrs. Barringer's date of death is listed in her marker's inscription as 1907. According to the Barringer's granddaughter, Mrs. Eleanor Bennett, a native of Warnersville, Henry Barringer is also buried at Union. Barringer did not purchase his land from the Philadelphia Association; instead it was given to him in 1872 by his master, Colonel Barringer. In addition to owning rental duplexes which he built on his property, Henry Barringer was a carpenter, mason, farmer, and preacher. He helped to construct the first Shiloh Baptist Church building in 1892, as well as crafted its pulpit. Mrs. Bennett remembers that at one time the Barringers owned the only well in the area. "People tracked all day to and fro carrying water for many different families. He also owned chickens, ducks, cows, and horses." (cited in J. Hodge and B. Hodge: 1986, pp. 3 & 4)

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Reverend Matthew Alston, who was buried in the cemetery in 1921 according to his stone's inscription, is credited with the 1868 founding of Warnersville Methodist Episcopal Church, today known as St. Matthews Methodist. According to the church's records, it is the oldest African-American church in Greensboro, and contributed much to the early growth and development of Warnersville. (J. Hodge and B. Hodge: 1986, p. 39) Bennett Seminary, one of the country's first colleges for black women, was established in 1873 in the basement of the original church, which had served as the community's day school. (Craig: 1941, June 1. Reprinted in Warner: 1957, p. 291) Alston's obelisk-shaped gravestone is one of the most prominent markers in the cemetery.

Another of the most prominent gravemarkers, an embellished tapered column, marks the Nocho family plot. Jacob R. Nocho, a railroad man, civic leader, and one of the first principals of the "Negro graded school," was buried in the cemetery in 1933. (Arnett: 1955, p. 458) (Guilford County Death Records, book 44: 498) Nocho was described in the March 25, 1928 Greensboro Daily News, as "one of the most respected Negroes ever to live in Greensboro." Among the finest black recreational facilities and golf courses in the South, Greensboro's Nocho Park was named for him upon its opening in the 1920's. It was established to provide black professionals a way in which to avoid the "difficult situation" which faced "those Negroes who wished to rise above the level of a slave hut or an East Market Street hovel." (cited in Robinson and Stoesen: 1980, p. 209)

A few inscriptions bear the title of "Doctor." Dr. J. Lot Bullock was one of the first black physicians in the city. He was succeeded by Dr. James C. Waddy, whose gravemarker bears the cemetery's latest date of death, 1940. Dr. Waddy was born in Warnersville and served the community as a physician from an office in his home and often made home visits. (J. Hodge and B. Hodge: 1986, p. 15) Due to segregation practices, there was no hospital for treating blacks until Dr. Charles C. Stewart, among others, opened Trinity Hospital on East Market Street in Greensboro in 1914. (Arnett: 1955, p. 353) Stewart's grave is marked, but no date of death is listed. Before the hospital opened, David J. Gilmer, whose marker indicates his 1911 death, opened a makeshift treatment center for minor ailments in his Warnersville home, according to Nettie Jackson. He was also owner of the community pharmacy. (J. Hodge and B. Hodge: 1986, p. 10) Gilmer and his wife, also buried in the cemetery, were former slaves belonging to Greensboro's Judge John Gilmer. (Craig: 1941, February 2)

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UNION CEMETERY
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Warnersville was a thriving community until World War I. During the late 1920s and early 1930s its development was not well regulated, and with a growing number of absentee ownerships, the community declined rapidly. During a 1960s redevelopment program, the city razed the slum area and replaced it with public and private housing projects. The only remaining physical vestige of the community is the building which housed the second Warnersville school, the former J.C. Price School, now owned by Guilford Technical Community College. (Schlosser: 1990, September 23, p. 21) A bronze plaque commissioned by a long-time resident of Warnersville was placed on a boulder at the northeast corner of Ashe and South Streets by the Greensboro Housing Authority. The plaque eulogizes Yardley Warner as "lawyer, teacher, preacher." (Tilley: 1976, March 1, p. B2). The only other tribute to the vastly significant historic Warnersville community is Union Cemetery.

Artistic Context

The relative elaborateness and sophistication of the gravemarkers found at Union are unique among those found in the few surviving early black cemeteries in the county. Although the markers do not approach the Victorian extravagance of the funerary sculpture found in the contemporary Green Hill Cemetery (located near the prominent white neighborhood of Fisher Park on the northern side of the city), the size, quality of craftsmanship and ornamentation of these gravestones are testimony to the relative prosperity of Warnersville. Maplewood Cemetery for blacks, which opened in southeast Greensboro in 1918 after the closing of Union, possesses unexceptional stele and tablet markers of more consistent style and size. Another black cemetery, owned by the First Baptist and A.M.E. Methodist Churches in the Quaker-established community of Oak Ridge in northwest Guilford County, has stones dating to the early 1900s. However, the earliest markers are of naive design and are interspersed with modern markers since the cemetery is still in use. This description also characterizes the gravemarkers in the black-owned Bass Chapel Methodist Church Cemetery in northern Guilford County, with stones dating from the 1860s to the present day. Thus, not only the elaborateness and sophistication of its gravemarkers contribute to the significance of Union Cemetery as a collection of funerary sculpture, but also the lack of intrusion by modern monuments.

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Reference List

- Arnett, Ethel Stephens. (1955). Greensboro, North Carolina, the County Seat of Guilford. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. Located at the Greensboro Public Library, Caldwell Jones Room.
- Baylin, Jonathan F. (1968). An historical study of residential development in Greensboro, 1808-1965. Unpublished master's thesis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Located at the Greensboro Public Library, Caldwell Jones Room.
- Craig, Nell. (1941, February 2). Career of "Cap'n Dave" Gilmer reads like an adventure novel. The Greensboro Daily News. Located at the Greensboro Public Library, Caldwell Jones Room.
- Craig, Nell. (1941, June 1). A pioneer venture in home ownership by means of modest charges and long-term payments started after Civil War. The Greensboro Daily News. Located at the Greensboro Public Library.
- Fripp, Gayle Hicks. (1982). Greensboro, A Chosen Center. Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications. Located at the Greensboro Public Library, Caldwell Jones Room.
- Greensboro Board of Commissioners Minutes and Greensboro City Council Minutes Books. Located at the Greensboro Municipal Building.
- Greensboro Division of Cemeteries Memo. (1983, August 19). RE: Old Union Cemetery. Located in the Greensboro Municipal Building, Division of Cemeteries (Thomas P. Ravenel, Superintendent).
- Gross, Theodore L. (1963). Albion Tourgee. NY: Twayne Publications, Inc. Located in the Greensboro Public Library, Caldwell Jones Room.
- Guilford County Death Records. Located at the Guilford County Courthouse, Greensboro, NC.

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GREENSBORO, GUILFORD CO., N.C.

Reference List, con't.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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UNION CEMETERY
GREENSBORO, GUILFORD CO., N.C.

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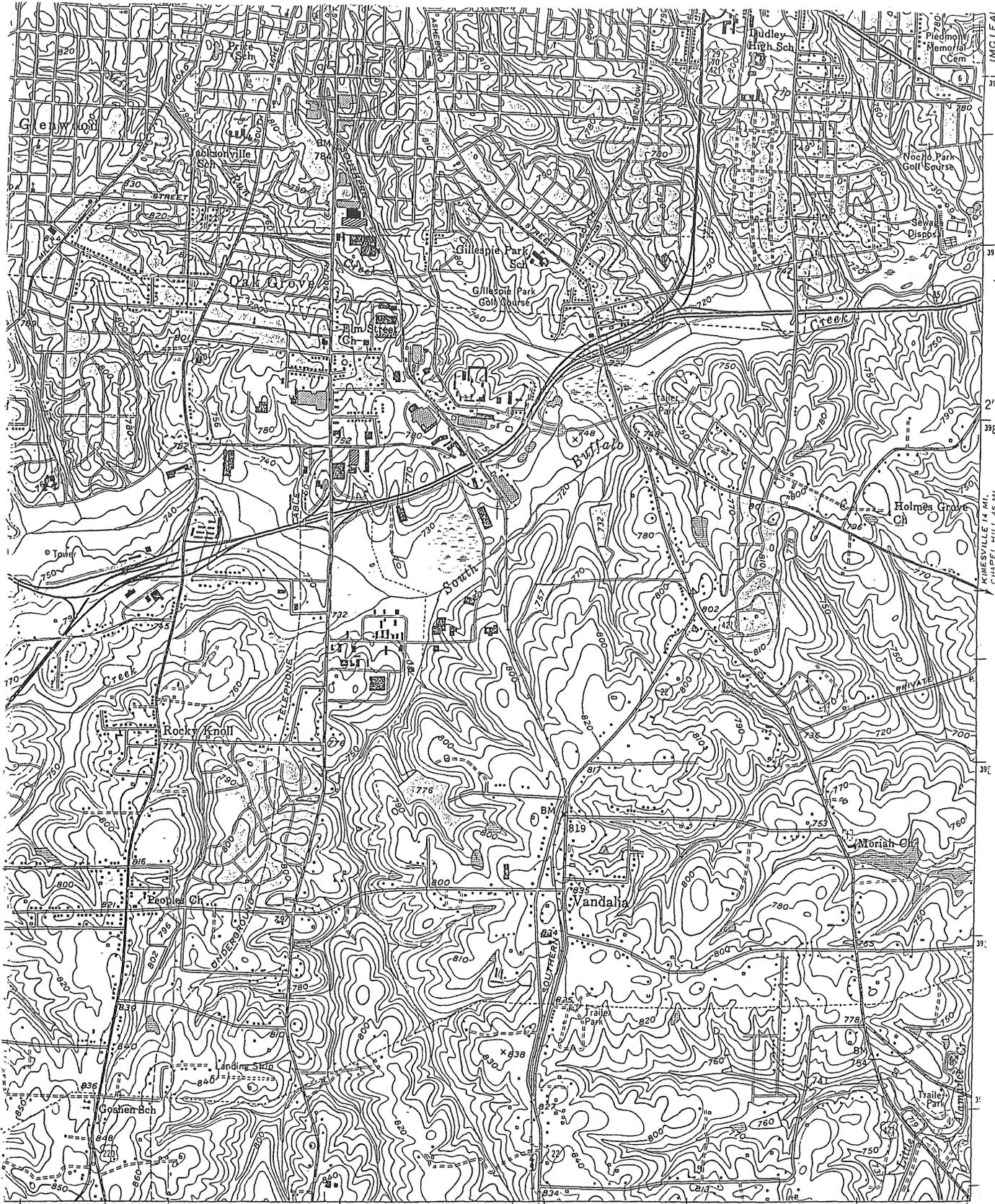
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Verbal boundary description:

The boundaries encompass all of block 7, lot 15, Guilford County Tax Sheet 17.

Boundary justification:

The boundaries include the entire cemetery tract as designated when the city acquired it in 1936.



1:24 000
 HORIZONTAL DATUM OF 1929
 VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 INTERVAL 10 FEET

ORIGINAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FEDERAL CENTER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 A LEGEND AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

UNION CEMETERY
 900 BLOCK S. ELM ST.
 UTM 17-608860-3990940



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

GREENSBORO
 GUILFORD CO., NC
 (GRID: GREENSBORO, NC)
 SCALE: 1:24,000

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty _____ Light-duty _____
 Medium-duty _____ Unimproved dirt _____
 Interstate Route □ U.S. Route ○ State Route

GREENSBORO, N.C.
 36079-A7-TF-024

1951
 PHOTOREVISED 1968
 DMA 5056 III SE-SERIES V842

