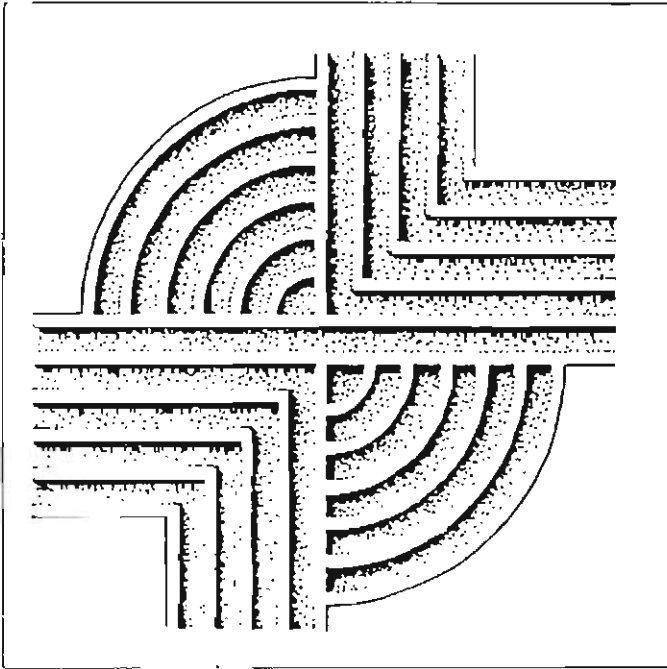


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL  
RECONNAISSANCE OF THE MCALLISTER CEMTERY,  
LAKE CITY, FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RECONNSIAANCE  
OF THE MCALLISTER CEMETERY,  
LAKE CITY, FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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**Chicora Foundation Research Series 233**

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November 13, 1997

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## ABSTRACT

This study reports on a brief assessment of the McAllister Cemetery situated on the northwestern edge of Lake City in southern Florence County. According to the available information, this graveyard was perhaps the first community cemetery used by the residents of Lake City (previously known as Graham), growing in size to incorporate perhaps 5 to 8 acres. By the 1950s, however, use of the cemetery had declined and there is some evidence that significant portions of the graveyard had already been developed.

This development appears to have continued to this day. Of the 45 individuals recorded for the cemetery in the late 1970s, stones for only about half could be found at the time of this brief investigation. Recent house construction, coupled with logging, appears to have had an unfortunate affect on the integrity of the cemetery. There are unsubstantiated accounts of broken stones being removed shortly after logging, as well as stones being discarded into a nearby pond.

During this current investigation the maintained area of the cemetery is limited to perhaps 150 feet by 100 feet, although several broken monuments as well as numerous sunken depressions were found in the surrounding underbrush created by the recent logging.

In addition to this physical evidence that the cemetery was originally larger than the area today maintained by family members, several maps have been identified which show significantly larger areas being designated as graveyard.

Based on this investigation, the cemetery has been recorded as an archaeological site (38FL357) with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

We recommend that the boundaries of the cemetery be firmly established so that the surviving graves may be left undeveloped. Until such time

as this is accomplished, we recommend that the maintained portion of the cemetery, perhaps including the identified stones in the surrounding woods, be clearly fenced. All parties should be made aware that South Carolina law protects cemeteries and makes their damage or destruction a felony.

We also recommend that the damaged stones be repaired to prevent further loss or destruction. Cemeteries which are cared for are much less likely to sustain damage than those which appear "abandoned."

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kelly for bringing the McAllister Cemetery to our attention and for taking their time to show me its location. They also shared their knowledge of the site and its history. I also want to thank the current owner, Mr. Glenn Weaver, for his interest in the cemetery and willingness to do the right thing.

Mr. Keith Derting, at the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology assisted us with site

recordation. We thank him for his speedy and thorough work. In addition, the staff of the Thomas Cooper Map Repository, the S.C. Department of Archives and History Search Room, the South Caroliniana Library, the Florence County Clerk of Court, and the Florence County Probate Court were also especially cooperative as we tracked down the history of the McAllister Cemetery. We appreciate all of their efforts and assistance.

# INTRODUCTION

## Background

The Foundation was called on November 10 with an inquiry concerning a cemetery in Lake City. The caller, Mr. Charles Kelly, was concerned that the cemetery was being damaged by recent developments, including both logging and the construction of several houses on the fringe area.

Mr. Kelly explained that the cemetery, known locally as the McAllister Cemetery, was perhaps the earliest for the Lake City area and that it contained graves dating back at least to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. He also explained that at least some African-Americans were buried in the cemetery and that it was thought to be associated with the town's earliest Methodist-Episcopal church.

Originally the cemetery covered a very large area. He remembered, as a child, an extensive field of graves and also explained that a local individual living perhaps a quarter of a mile to the southwest of the cemetery tells of looking out her upstairs window to see the field of marble stones in the distance. Through time he reports that the cemetery has been gradually overtaken by development, with pieces sold off for housing and monuments gradually disappearing. About a year ago the cemetery area was logged with the result that a number of stones were damaged. Today, these

stones can no longer be found on the site.

He also explained that perhaps in the 1950s the highway department (or their contractor) was excavating a borrow pit to the northeast of the cemetery when graves were encountered. The work stopped at that point and no further excavation was conducted.

Mr. Kelly asked that the Foundation examine the cemetery and offer recommendations on how it might be preserved. In particular, he was interested in what could be done to stop the continued gradual loss of graves.

As a result of that call a visit was scheduled for the next day, Tuesday, November 11 and the author visited with Mr. Kelly at the cemetery, as well as examining photographs of the cemetery dating to about 1977. The cemetery is situated in the northwest corner of Lake City, at the end of Burch Road (Figure 1). The cemetery

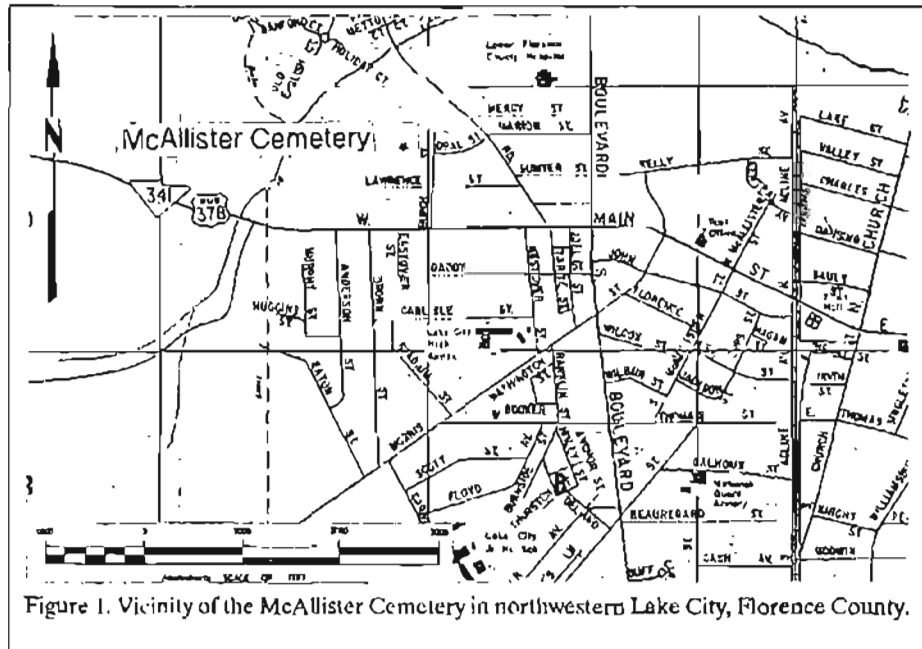


Figure 1. Vicinity of the McAllister Cemetery in northwestern Lake City, Florence County.

is situated on property identified as Parcel 22 on Tax Map 167.

During the time at the cemetery several brief forays were made into the surrounding brush, although no systematic effort was made to either survey the cemetery or to identify grave locations. In all respects this was a very brief exploration focusing on the remains clearly visible.

After the field visit, several hours were spent in Florence conducting a very brief overview of historic documents relating to the property and its transfers. The goal of this work was to not only identify the current owner, but also to examine recent deeds and plats to see if any mention of the cemetery had been made in recent land transfers. This research took place at the Florence County Clerk of Court and the Florence County Probate Court.

In addition, the resources of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, the South Caroliniana Library, and the Thomas Cooper Map Repository were also scanned for pertinent information. Although there are a number of aerial photographs of the cemetery area on file at the Map Repository these resources were not examined and are not included in this overview. They should, especially as enlargements, provide very good information on the gradual disappearance of the cemetery. This, however, was beyond the current scope. The results of the historic research are briefly presented in the discussion below.

#### Historic Research

Although no detailed synthesis of either the immediate area or the cemetery was attempted, the vicinity of Lake City in the early 1820s was the land of Aaron F. Graham who had a plantation in the area. By 1858 when the railroads were establishing in southern Florence County the stop at what is now Lake City was known as Graham. Lake City was not incorporated until 1912 and was part of Marion County until 1888, when Florence County was actually created from parts of Williamsburg, Marion, and Darlington (King 1981).

As a result, it seems likely that the burials at the McAllister Cemetery from the first half of the nineteenth century might be tied to the location through kinship, representing families with particular ties to the land owner. By the mid-nineteenth century, however, it appears that a small community was already forming and those buried during the second half of the nineteenth century might reflect a wider range of family ties. While there were competing family cemeteries from this period, there does not appear to have been any formal church graveyard in the immediate area (although this has not been thoroughly researched).

The 1914 Soil Survey Map of Florence County shows the area between Mathews Road and SC 341 as open. The nearest structure is about 1,000 feet on SC 341 or perhaps 600 feet on the east side of Mathews Road. That no cemetery is shown in this location is not meaningful — this particular soil survey fails to reveal cemeteries or graveyards.

These efforts to trace the property did not extend back further than about 1935 when several separate tracts were conveyed by C.F. Gaddy to T.A. Gaddy (Florence County DB 12, p. 53-54). One 36 acre parcel was part of what was known as the Gaddy Brothers Place. It was bounded to the north by Lake Swamp and lands of the Lyndles Estate, to the east by Mathews Road, on the south by SC 341, and to the west by lands of Roland Burroughs, formerly of Mrs. Ruth Floyd. Another portion of the same Gaddy Brothers Place consisting of 78 acres was also conveyed in this deed. In exchange, T.A. Gaddy conveyed a 66 acre portion of the Gaddy Brothers Place south of SC 341 to C.F. Gaddy.

Although no plats are referenced, it appears that the 36 acre parcel is the property on which the cemetery is located. The deed, however, makes no mention of the cemetery or any graveyard on any of the parcels.

In 1942, 20.4 acres of the Gaddy lands were sold by C.W. Muldrow, Master in Equity, to R.D. Burroughs for \$500. This was a sale forced by a Court of Common Pleas judgement against Mary



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Lawrence Gaddy and her mother, Manie B. Gaddy by Burroughs (Florence County, DB 79, p. 90). While it is possible that an examination of the Court documents may provide additional information and might even mention the cemetery, these records were not examined during this study. The deed, however, specifies that the conveyed property was bounded to the north by the run of Lake Swamp, to the east by Olive M. and J.W. Brown and a canal ditch line, to the south by other Gaddy lands, and to the west by lands of R.D. Burroughs.

A plat was identified from this general time period that clearly identifies the McAllister Cemetery (Figure 2). Unfortunately, it is in very poor condition and the date has been obliterated by either adhesive tape or insect damage. Regardless, it was prepared for Burroughs and shows 13 acres *outside* the cemetery to the west and south. To the west are lands of an Anderson, today specified as Parcel 20 on Tax Map and owned by the Mabel I. Anderson heirs.

This plat can be pieced together with another showing the division of a portion of the Gaddy property (Florence County Plat Book E, p. 45) to reveal that the unnamed street running N17°E is, in fact, Burch Street. The street running off Burch to the east is today known as Lawrence Street. What I believe to be a later plat (Florence County Plat Book E, p. 45) shows these streets named and the triangular portion of the property to the west of Burch Street becomes lot 2000, shown as owned by R.D. Burroughs. This later plat, however, does not mention the cemetery, perhaps because it was focussing on the successful sale of lots in the immediate area.

R.D. Burroughs sold 11 acres to Archie Brickle in 1963 for \$3,250. This land was bounded to the north by Lake Swamp, to the east by Mathews Road and property of the Lake City Housing Authority, to the south by the Lake City Housing Authority and the Grace Free Will Baptist Church, and to the west by other lands of Burroughs (Florence County Clerk of Court, DB A5, p. 116). A plat prepared at the time (Florence County Clerk of Court, PB S, p. 85) shows this property to be that on which the cemetery is

located (Figure 3), although the plat fails to mention any graves or cemetery.

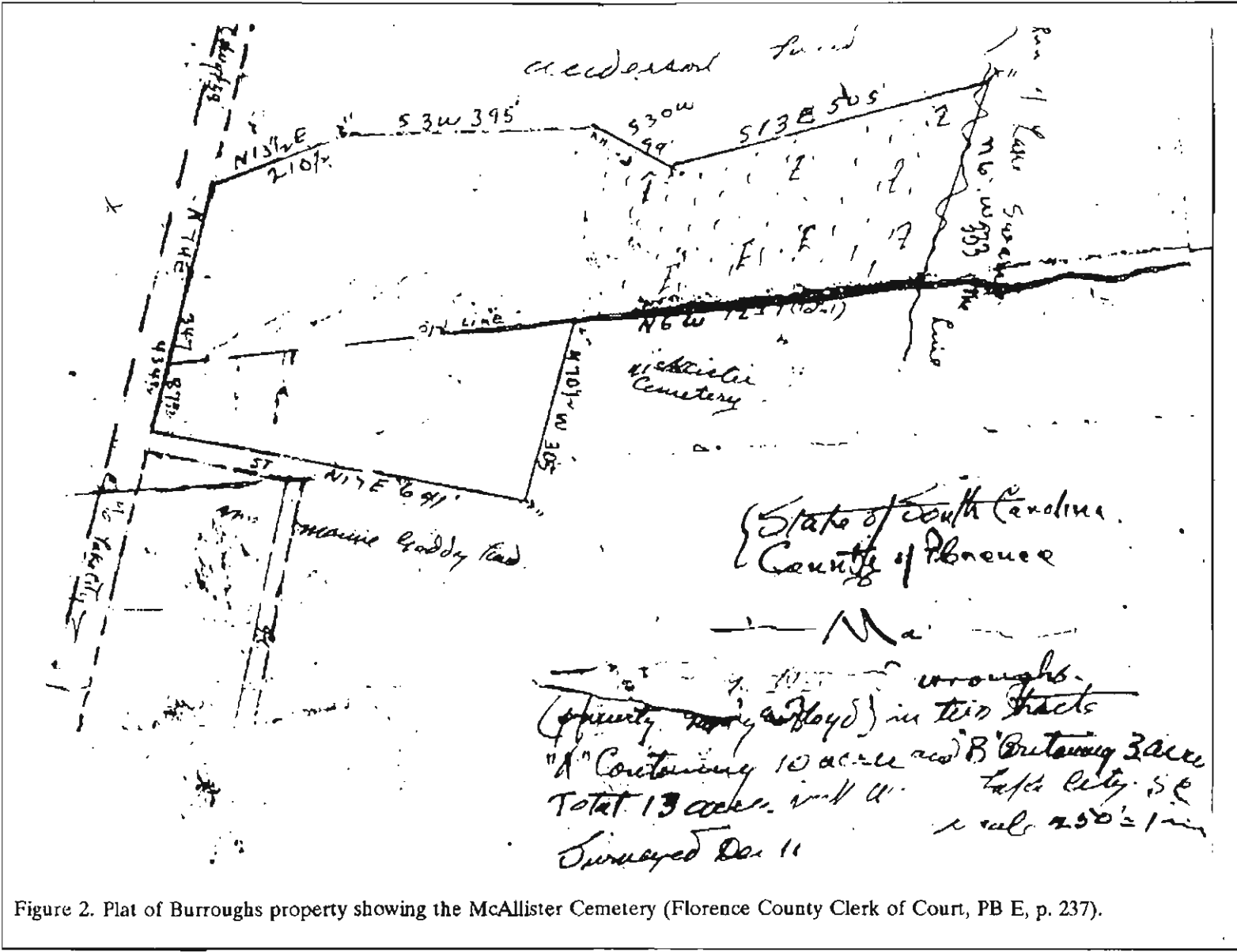
In 1974 the Florence and Sumter County soil survey was completed and published using aerial photographs taken in 1972 (Pitts 1974). The soils maps identify the cemetery on the Brickle property (Figure 4). It is shown as roughly triangular in form measuring about 250 feet on its southern base and about 417 feet on its eastern and western sides. The cemetery would have incorporated, based on this mapping, about 1.1 acre.

The property passed from Archie Brickle to his wife, Frances S. Brickle, by will in 1981 (Florence County Probate Court, Will 15,794). At that time the 11 acres were valued at \$60,000, although no mention was made in the appraisal that a portion of the land was a cemetery.

In 1990 the United States Geological Service published the Mill Bay topographic map (Figure 5) showing the cemetery as it was recognized during field checks in the 1982. A decade after the Soil Conservation Service's mapping, the McAllister Cemetery was shown as essentially square with a northward projection, toward the creek which oral history reported had identified burials. The size of the cemetery is about 150 feet square, with the northward projection adding another 50 by 50 foot area. Combined, this map reveals a cemetery of about 0.6 acre — or about half the size identified only 10 years earlier.

Mr. Kelly reports that in 1996 the area he knows as cemetery, as well as the adjacent property, was logged by a local firm. Afterwards he found a great number of stones broken and toppled down. During that visit he took photographs of many of the damage stones and then he reported the problem to the logging company, anticipating that they would at least reset the stones. He believes that the broken stones were removed from the cemetery shortly thereafter and no trace has been found of them since.

Most recently, on June 17, 1997, the 11 acres have been sold to Glenn Weaver



ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE McALLISTER CEMETERY

Figure 2. Plat of Burroughs property showing the McAllister Cemetery (Florence County Clerk of Court, PB E, p. 237).

INTRODUCTION

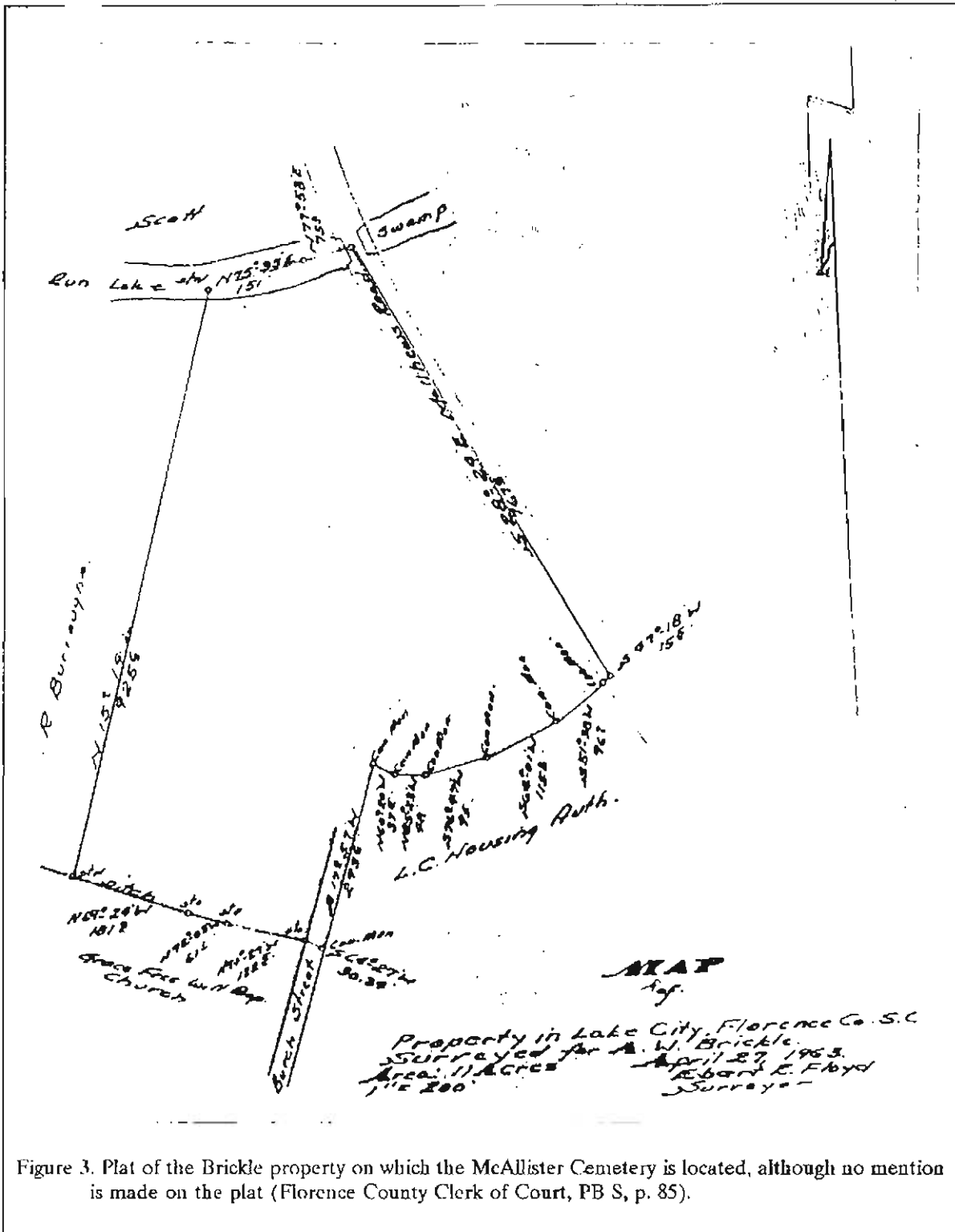


Figure 3. Plat of the Brickle property on which the McAllister Cemetery is located, although no mention is made on the plat (Florence County Clerk of Court, PB S, p. 85).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE McALLISTER CEMETERY

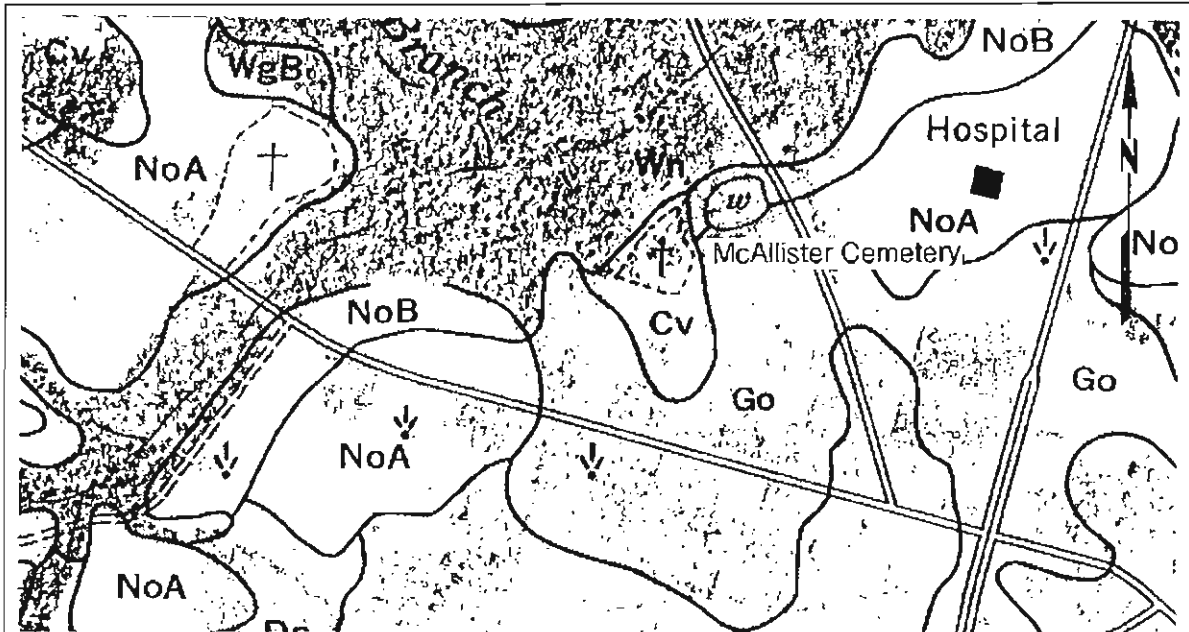


Figure 4. Portion of the 1972 aerial photograph used in the Florence County soil survey showing the location of the McAllister Cemetery (Pitts 1974:Map 91).

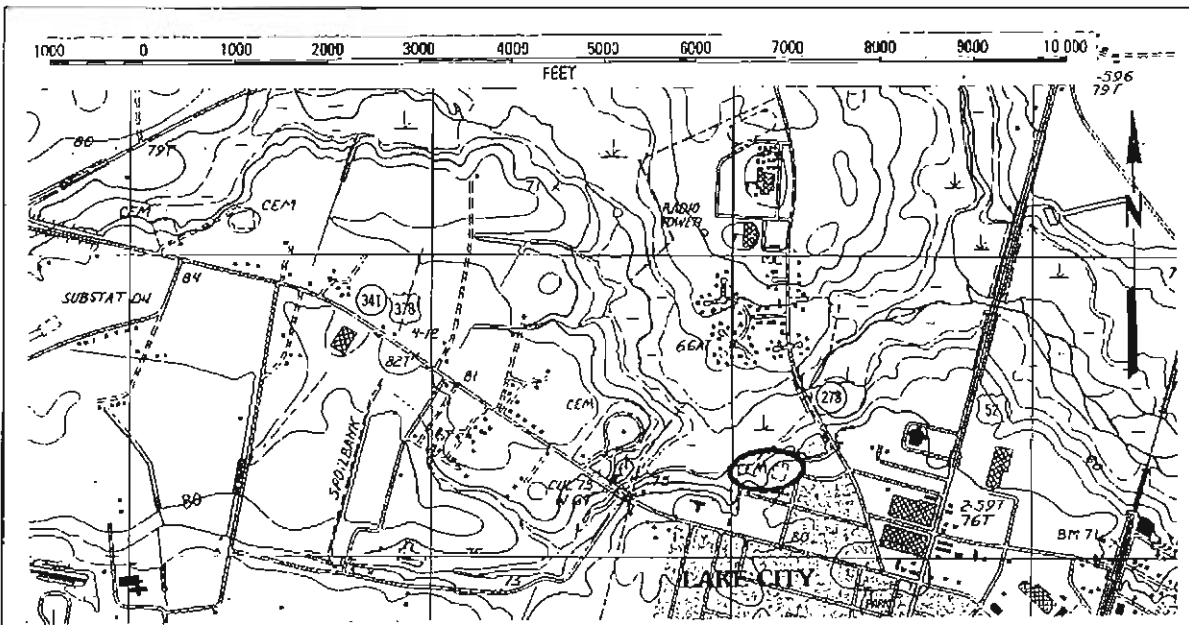


Figure 5. Portion of the 1990 Mills Bay 7.5' USGS topographic map showing the location of the McAllister Cemetery.

## INTRODUCTION

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Construction. This deed sets aside the maintained portion of the cemetery and is the first of the deeds examined to acknowledge the existence of the McAllister Cemetery and attempt to deal with it in a forthright manner.

The historic documents examined should be supplemented by (1) extending the title search beyond the 1930s in order to see if earlier records mention the cemetery and (2) examining the aerial photographs dating between 1937 (when the first overflight occurred) and the early 1990s.

It is surprising that only one plat, and none of the deeds, mention the cemetery. Given its posited size and use, and that at least some portions have been carefully maintained at least since the 1940s, this lapse in detail is difficult to accept as accidental. Further research may help reveal if the cemetery was ever mentioned in deeds and if there was ever a detailed plat recognizing the boundaries of the burials. Oral history suggests that the land was intentionally set aside as a community cemetery — this alone suggests that some deed may provide additional clues.

Most of this photography is at a scale 1:20,000 and can be relied on to provide very good information on cemetery boundaries, if the cemetery is open and in use. It should be able to clearly document the portions of the cemetery which have been maintained and they should be useful in documenting the gradual changes to the property.

### Curation

During this investigation the cemetery was recorded as an archaeological site, 38FL357, with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. The site file included some general notes of discussions with Mr. Kelly, as well as the plat showing the cemetery location. A series of color prints were taken showing the current condition of the cemetery. Since these are not archivally stable, they have been retained by Chicora Foundation.

Mr. Kelly does have black and white prints of photographs of a number of the monuments

dating from about 1977. These prints, however, are unstable and are beginning to fade. He also has a small collection of color transparencies from that same time period, including two slides showing the overall area. These, too, are beginning to exhibit color shifts. I strongly recommend that the black and white prints be copied by a professional photographer and printed for archival stability. Likewise, black and white prints should be made from the color transparencies of the overall views. These are important photographs since they show the cemetery in an earlier, and less disturbed, condition. Without this additional effort, however, these images will be lost within the next 10 to 20 years.

In addition, Mr. Kelly reports having a series of color prints taken shortly after the cemetery and adjacent areas were logged in 1996, but these could not be located during my visit. I recommend that if they can be found black and white prints be made of representative color images, again to enhance long-term stability and preservation.

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## SITE VISIT

### Site Setting

The McAllister Cemetery is situated in the northwestern section of Lake City, just within the modern city limits. The site is at the end of a short dirt path or one-lane trail that runs west off the terminus of Burch Road (see Figures 1 and 5). The cemetery may be conveniently divided into two parts — the section which is maintained by Mr. Kelly and some other family members and the section which is "lost" in the surrounding woods.

The maintained section is situated behind (i.e., west of) a small, one-story frame house covered in asbestos siding which was reportedly moved onto the site in the early 1990s. The rear yard of this house is surrounded by a chain link fence, although a clothes line has been erected outside the fence. Mr. Kelly reports that somewhere in the vicinity of the fenced-in yard there used to be at least two infant graves with small head stones and surrounded by coping. Oral history has attributed these graves to African American slaves. No evidence of these graves was found after the house was moved to this location.

To the east-northeast a duplex is currently under construction by Glenn Weaver Construction which has recently purchased the property from the Brickles. Although no graves have been reported in this area, the duplex is situated midway between the known, maintained cemetery and the pond at which graves were reputedly hit during borrow activities. In addition, an in situ monument fragment was found behind (i.e., northwest) of the house.

The maintained section of the cemetery is situated on a ridge top at an elevation of about 240 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). This area has well maintained grass, although toward the rear of the section there is a large log covered in vines which has been mowed around. This section can be further divided into three subsections. In

the southeast are a number of Kelly family graves, surrounded by a low chain link fence. To the southwest are other graves, somewhat clustered together, while to the north is the third cluster. It is from the edge of this third cluster that Mr. Kelly reported moving one of the older Kelly stones into the fenced area to protect it. To the south of the fenced Kelly section is the most recent grave in the maintained section — that of an elderly black man who lived in the nearby housing complex who was buried in the 1960s. The monument, a low concrete cross and a flat concrete slab on the grave bears no name or date.

Just beyond this maintained section to the north and west the ground begins sloping downward toward Lake Swamp. This area is overgrown in vines and scrub hardwood trees. A few small hardwoods are also present, although they are heavily damaging by logging activities. Pine stumps, 2 to 2.5 feet in diameter, are common on the slopes and in several areas there are piles of logs. Branches are common in the entanglements, typical of clear cutting. Logging appears to get less intense as one moves to the northwest, into the Lake Swamp drainage.

To the northeast the topography is fairly level, terminating in the dug pond. The portion of this pond nearest the graveyard has been used for dumping of construction debris, but there does not seem to have been any effort to log this area. To the east is the small house and modest homes rented by the Lake City Housing Authority on Opal Street.

In several wooded areas around the grassed or maintained cemetery section I observed old hog wire fencing which Mr. Kelly reports was erected by a previous owner to establish what he was willing to set aside as cemetery. Today this fence is rusted and has nearly disappeared. Where ever found, however, it is at least 50 to 100 feet out from the currently maintained cemetery area.

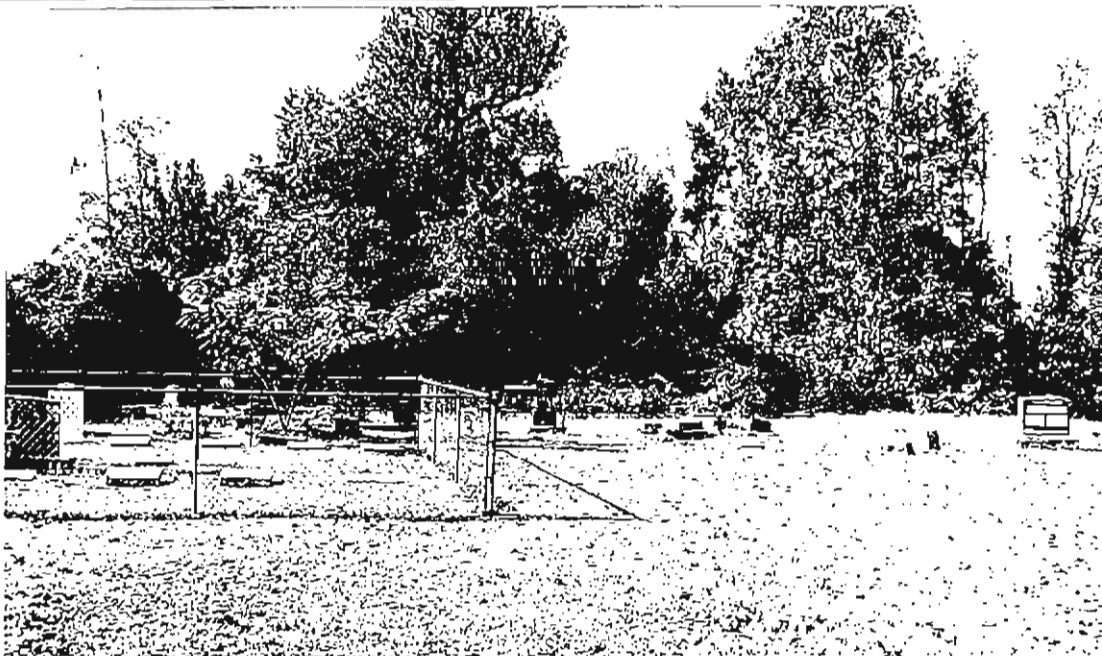


Figure 6. View of the maintained cemetery from the access trail, looking to the west.



Figure 7. View of broken monument in brush and vines to the north-northwest of the maintained section.



While the topography stays level to the south, the cemetery area is separated from the Grace Free Will Baptist Church by a drainage ditch. Once past this ditch the rear yard of the church is grassed. Mr. Kelly reports that at least one monument was present in the rear yard some years ago, but it could not be relocated during this visit.

The central UTM for the maintained section of the cemetery is E614150 N3749230 and the maintained section measures about 150 feet by 100 feet, or about 0.4 acre. This is about 0.2 acre less than shown by the 1990 USGS topographic map, perhaps reflecting further loss of the cemetery.

While the ridge top, where the cemetery is maintained, is well grassed and exhibits almost no open or exposed soil, the side slopes in some areas exhibit rather severe sheet erosion with some gullying. This may be the result of the logging operations, with the U.S. Forest Service notes can cause very aggressive erosion. Logging is associated with erosion of about 0.004 ton of soil per acre per year, compared to erosion rates of about 0.001 ton per acre per year on undisturbed soils (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1983:25). Where the soils are exposed, considerable quantities of sandy clay and, in some areas, gravel, have been exposed.

#### Site Condition

Perhaps most noticeable is how much of the cemetery has been lost. Examination of the slopes to the northwest revealed one fragmented monument and one metal undertaker's marker. Several depressions with a "correct" east-west orientation were observed during the brief inspection and several other areas of very loose ground were felt. Since this was a brief reconnaissance, no effort was made to use a penetrometer to locate graves (see, for example Trinkley and Hacker 1997). Examination of the woods toward the pond revealed an in situ monument base and at least two grave depressions.

As previously noted, I did encounter several sections of old fence, although all were down and were within the logged wooded areas.

There is much rutting from the logging, as well as several areas which appear to have served as staging areas for the logging operations. There is much trash wood on the ground and the number of large pine stumps seems to suggest that the logging focused only on the prime pine timber. The one fragmented monument was found under a mass of downed wood and vines and it seems likely that it was damaged by the logging operations.

This survey revealed that while the central core is well maintained, the stones exhibit a wide range of damage. Mr. Kelly reports some vandalism of stones is thought to be caused by individuals from the nearby housing complex. While the source of the source of the damage cannot be determined, two forms of damage are immediately obvious. Many of the stones are fragmented, often in multiple pieces. Some of the fragments are laying on the ground, while others appear to be missing. Several stone bases are missing their tablets. This breakage may be accidental (i.e., a tree falling on a marker) or may be intentional (i.e., snapping off the marker or fragmenting the marker once broken). The other form of damage appears to be paint or some other liquid which has been splashed on several monuments, defacing their surfaces. Both forms of damage are quite severe and require immediate professional attention in order to ensure the long-term preservation of the cemetery.

In addition, several monuments are not attached to their bases, with one marker having fallen. A number of the markers also exhibit what appears to be mower damage, resulting from mower blades or the mower housing hitting the stones. Some suggestions for implementing a preliminary preservation plan are provided in the concluding remarks.

#### Summary

It is clear that the currently maintained cemetery represents only a portion of the original. The amount of loss cannot be completely documented without additional historical and field investigation, but this study has provisionally documented a loss of slightly over 50%, declining from the 1.1 acres shown in 1974 to the 0.5 acre

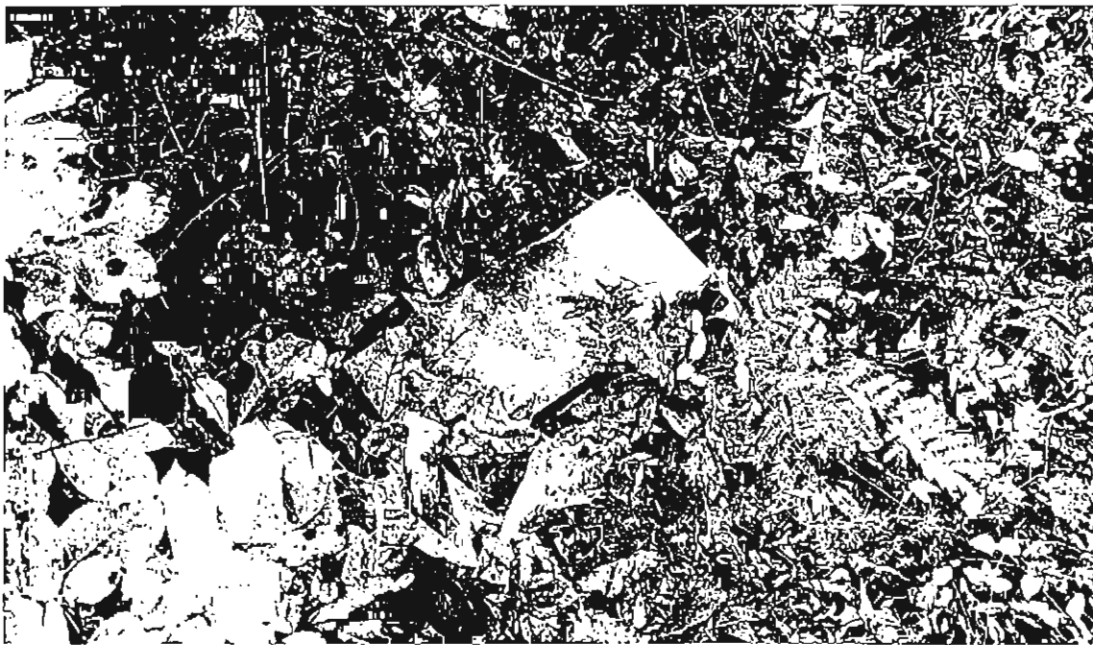


Figure 8. View of monument base in brush to the north-northeast of the maintained section.

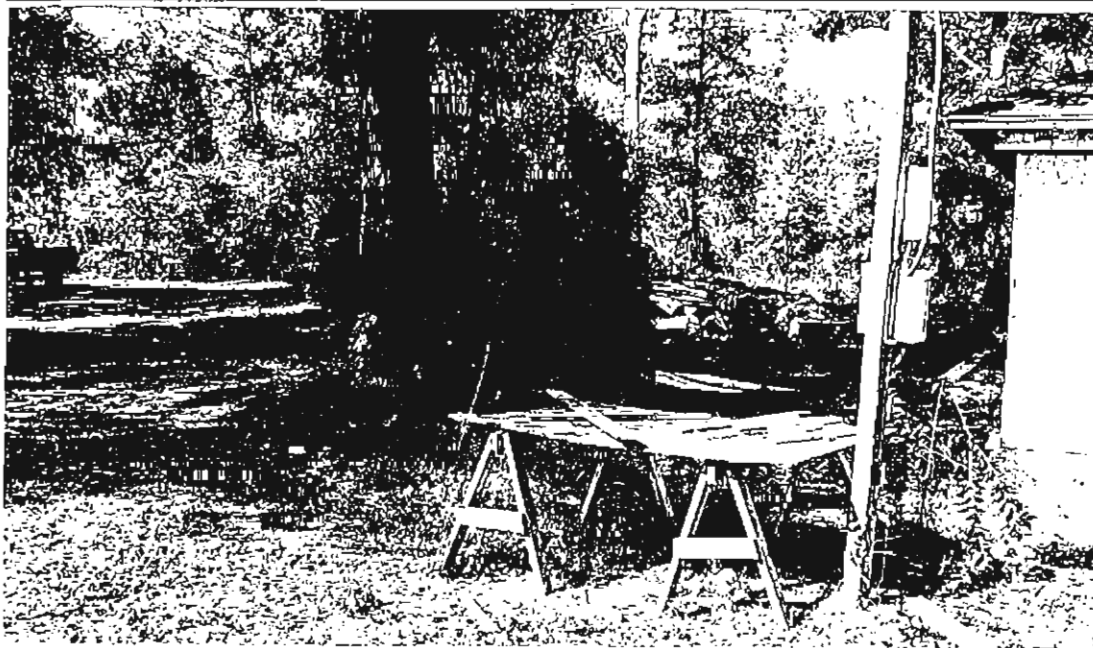


Figure 9. House under construction on the fringe of the McAllister Cemetery.

present today. Oral history suggests that the loss is much greater, with the cemetery perhaps originally covering at least 5 to 8 acres.

In addition to the loss of cemetery land and associated graves, there is also a loss of monuments. The 45 individuals reported by a 1977 cemetery survey have been reduced to perhaps half that number today. Where these monuments are today is unknown.

The study has also documented some vandalism. Logging damage is reported by Mr. Kelly and at least one monument exhibits clear staining from some liquid substance.

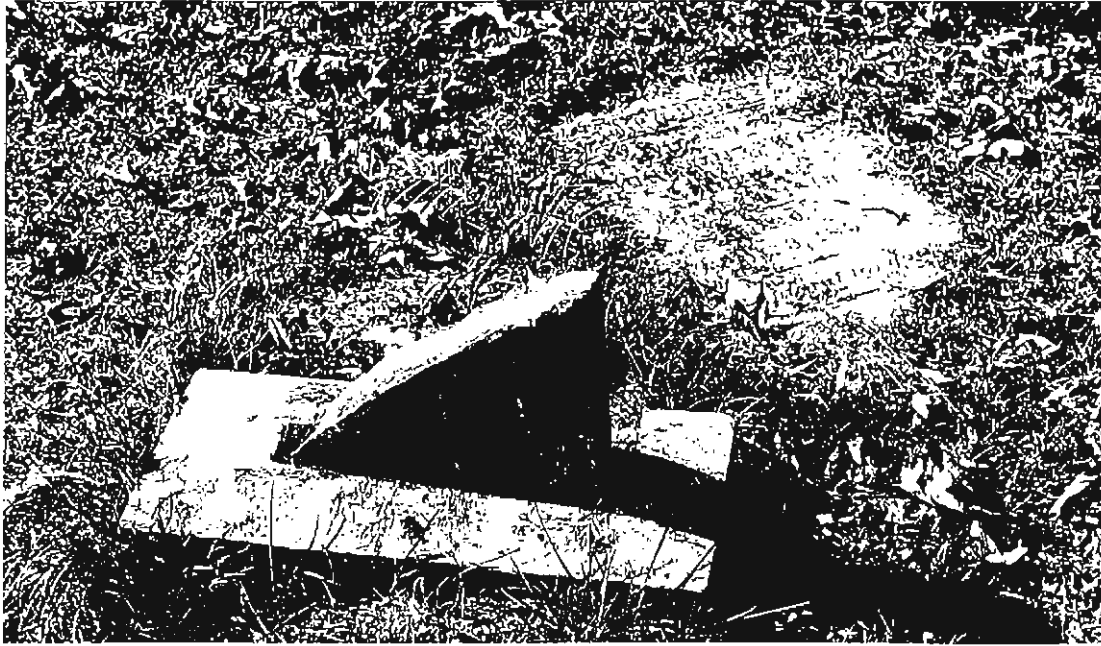


Figure 10. Example of fragmented or snapped monument requiring repair.

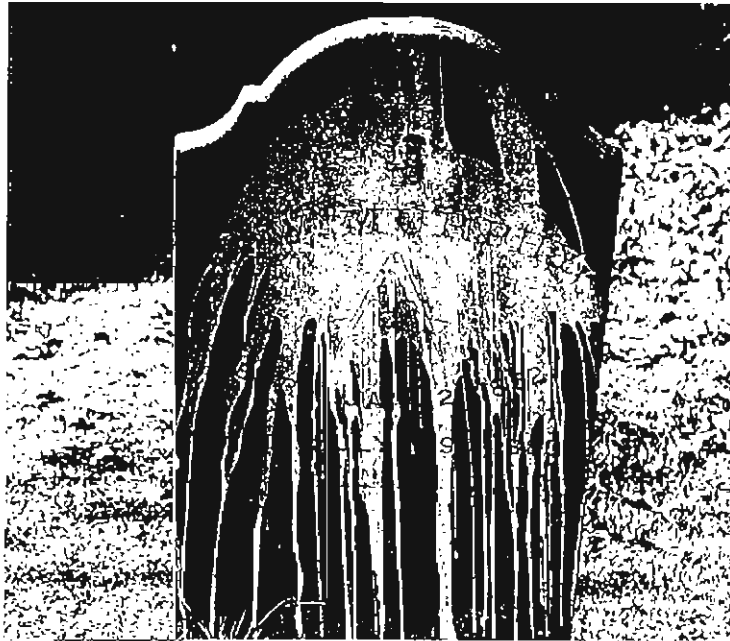


Figure 11. Example of vandalized monument stained by paint or some other substance.

## CONCLUSIONS

### Laws Protecting Cemeteries

I am not an attorney and these comments are not intended to offer legal advice. In fact, I strongly encourage the parties with family buried in the McAllister Cemetery to consult with a legal advisor. These comments are intended only to place the issues into perspective. For this purpose, I will quote extensively from West Publishing Company's *The Guide to American Law*, which provides overviews of significant legal issues.

In general, a property right does not exist in human remains, although for the purpose of burial, they are "considered to be property or quasi-property, the rights to which are held by the surviving spouse or next of kin" (West Publishing 1984:4:35). With burial the body is considered part of the ground and is "considered to be in the custody of the law" (West Publishing 1984:4:36). Consequently, disinterment is not a matter of right and disturbance of burials is subject to law control and censure.

It is also important to note that the owner of land on which burials are made has, in general, very limited rights:

An owner of land who allows the burial of a deceased person on his or her property cannot later remove the body against the will of the surviving spouse or next of kin. . . . A landowner may not assert that a burial was made without his or her consent if he or she fails to raise any objections within a reasonable time after the interment of the decedent (West Publishing 1984:4:36-37).

Finally, both common law and statutes control unauthorized disturbances of burials since such actions are typically considered "contrary to

acceptable community conduct" (West Publishing 1984:4:38).

South Carolina does have a law protecting cemeteries, although it is unevenly enforced. The law, section 16-17-600 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. This section makes it a criminal offense (a felony) to damage human remains, vandalize or damage a cemetery or its monuments, or damage fencing or vegetation associated with a cemetery or grave.

The South Carolina laws also provide for the removal of abandoned graves. The failure to reserve a cemetery in a deed is evidence of abandonment and graves may be removed with the permission of the local governing body and 30 days published notice of intent. The removal must be overseen by a licensed undertaker, although the state law does not stipulate who may do the actual work. The removal, however, must be with due care and any associated monuments must also be removed and re-established in a suitable manner (see South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 27-43-10 et seq.).

### Recommendations

The gradual loss of the McAllister Cemetery is unfortunate, but very typical of many South Carolina graveyards. It seems that this particular cemetery was slowly built over as pieces of the property were gradually sold off. While it would be possible to trace with some considerable accuracy this gradual dissolution, it would likely serve little purpose.

At the local level my recommendations (offered only from the perspective of a preservationist) focus on reaching an amiable agreement with the current land owner to preserve and protect what is still recognizable as a cemetery. Although it would be possible to carefully screen virtually every square foot of the cemetery and

record virtually every "lost" grave, this would be a labor intensive undertaking. As such it would be costly. A more viable approach, I believe, is establishing boundaries that reflect respect for the cemetery and a recognition that many of the graves have already disappeared.

As a result, based on the currently available information I offer the following recommendations:

- An area approximately 1.5 acres should be set aside as the McAllister cemetery. This would include the maintained portion, as well as portions of the side slopes to the north and west, as well as the ridge top southward to the property line with the Grace Free Will Baptist Church.
- This cemetery area should be recognized by deed, along with access to the cemetery. By recognizing the cemetery area the property owner may not be required to pay taxes on that acreage.
- The cemetery area should be fenced. This fencing may be either hog wire or chain link. While the former is less expensive, the latter has considerably lower maintenance costs.
- Some agreement should be reached regarding long-term maintenance of the cemetery and the rights of family members to participate in activities and observations in the cemetery.
- As an initial activity, the newly incorporated areas of the cemetery should be cleaned of vines and scrub brush by hand. Mechanical clearing should be

avoided and care should be used with brush hooks, axes, and chain saws not to further damage the cemetery or its stones. Once cleared of brush, a ground cover should be quickly established to prevent erosion.

- An effort should be made to recover "lost" stones from the cemetery. It should be made clear that return of stones, "no questions asked," is the goal. Although these stones can no longer be associated with specific graves, their recovery would help keep the stone carver's art associated with the cemetery intact. In addition, their replacement in the cemetery would help restore, to some degree, the historic significance of the property. But most of all, the return of stones is an appropriate way to ensure that the memory of these individuals is kept alive.
- The broken stones in the cemetery should receive conservation treatments. Their repair, while not inexpensive, would be an investment in the long-term preservation of the cemetery. Graveyards which appear abandoned and uncared for are more likely to receive additional damage. Those which appear well tended are less likely to be damaged. These treatments, however, should be conducted by individuals with training and expertise in stone conservation. They should not be attempted by local brick masons or others unskilled in restoration and conservation.
- Where broken stones are too fragmented to be restored, the

## CONCLUSIONS

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broken fragments should be buried immediately behind the stone in order to protect and preserve these remains from loss or vandalism.

- The one or two toppled stones should be professionally reset.

- The few stones with severe staining should be professionally cleaned. Under absolutely no circumstances should the cleaning use abrasives, sand-blasting, or high pressure water washing. All of these techniques can seriously damage the stones and are inappropriate for historic markers.

- A maintenance program for the cemetery should be developed which reduces the potential for monument damage. This will entail the use of nylon string weed trimmers around monuments and the careful use of lawn mowers to eliminate edge damage to monuments. In addition, an effort should be made to select historically appropriate plants for landscaping in the fenced cemetery area.

- The cemetery should be identified and signage should be erected asking for people to help protect and care for the cemetery. These are typically more effective than traditional "no trespassing" signs since they encourage a sense of community ownership and care. Highway Department signs should be erected on SC 341 at Burch Street and on Mathews Road at Opal Road for the McAllister Cemetery.

- The local police department

should be asked to periodically patrol the cemetery. Simply driving down Burch, flashing lights into the cemetery, and then driving through Opal Street at irregular intervals during routine night time patrol will reduce unauthorized activities in the cemetery. This request should come from both individuals with family members buried in the cemetery and the property owner.

Although these thirteen steps do not guarantee preservation, they will help. Each offers some critical element of a long-term preservation plan by providing a solution for a common preservation pit-fall. While much of the cemetery has been lost, these steps will dramatically reduce the rate of loss and re-establish the cemetery as an important community asset.





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