

# **STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE INVENTORY, CONSERVATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF RALEIGH'S HISTORIC CEMETERIES, RALEIGH,NORTH CAROLINA**



**Chicora Research Contribution 470**

# **STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE INVENTORY, CONSERVATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF RALEIGH'S HISTORIC CEMETERIES, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

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## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This study focuses on the three City of Raleigh cemeteries known as City Cemetery (or Old City Cemetery), O'Rorke Cemetery (or Catholic Cemetery, Pauper Cemetery, Tarboro Road Cemetery), and Mount Hope Cemetery. Only Mount Hope is considered an active cemetery, although a few burials still take place in City Cemetery. Records for the cemeteries are fragmented, but it is certain that the three contain thousands of Raleigh's inhabitants. All are under the care and control of the city's Park and Recreation Department.

Cemeteries, however, are very different from virtually all other types of properties that the city Parks and Recreation Department administers.

- ❖ They are sacred sites – consecrated within are the remains of loved ones deserving of the utmost of care and respect.
- ❖ They are artistic sites, such as sculpture gardens or outdoor museums, representing permanent collections of three-dimensional artifacts requiring the same level of care that museums provide.
- ❖ They are archives – storehouses of genealogical information, representing our individual and collective pasts.
- ❖ And they are scenic landscapes – like parks or open spaces, but requiring far more focused and specific care.

In sum, cemeteries are social, historic, architectural, and archaeological artifacts. When

there is little else physically remaining of a community's earliest history, the local cemetery provides a unique tie to the past that would otherwise be lost.

Therefore, cemeteries require very specific consideration and different care from the other types of open sites found in most communities.

Over the years these three cemeteries have received uneven care. Historic documents have been scattered and lost. Burial registers have been poorly maintained or perhaps even ignored. Burials have been moved from one location to another with few records. The landscape has been inexplicably altered. Markers have been damaged through inappropriate care and management. And the cemetery has gone through episodes of limited care and maintenance. As a result of these years of deferred or inappropriate maintenance, a number of issues – many of them critical and costly – require the City of Raleigh's immediate attention.

This report evaluates these needs, classifying them into three broad categories:

- ❖ Those issues that are so critical – typically reflecting broad administrative issues, health and safety issues, and issues that if delayed will result in significantly greater costs – that require immediate attention during the immediate fiscal or calendar year.
- ❖ Those issues that, while significant and reflecting on-going deterioration and concerns, can be spread over the next 2

to 3 years. This allows some budgeting flexibility, but this flexibility should not be misconstrued as a reason to ignore the seriousness of the issues.

- ❖ Finally, those issues that represent on-going maintenance and preservation issues. These costs can be spread over the following three to five years. Like the Second Priority issues, this budgetary flexibility should not be interpreted as allowing these issues to slide since further delay will only increase the cost of necessary actions.

Critical first year priorities include:

- ❖ We recommend mapping, recordation, and creation of a web site that would provide public access. This action would provide significantly higher public visibility, ensure public access to data, and promote additional interest in the three cemeteries. While the cost may be reduced through the use of volunteers, it should still be anticipated to be a major undertaking.
- ❖ Another significant – and critical – issue is the pruning of the historic trees in the three cemeteries by an ISA Certified Arborist.
- ❖ Another major first year expense is a stone by stone assessment. While the current document provides an overall preservation plan, this work would provide treatment proposals, costs, and prioritization for each stone in the three cemeteries that requires conservation treatment (repair). This would provide the final portion of the plan, allowing the city to allocate funds for the necessary repairs in a careful, considered fashion. This work should be conducted by a conservator subscribing to the AIC Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.
- ❖ Funding must be provided for regulatory and identification signage that is critically needed at all three cemeteries. None has appropriate signage and this should be an initial step toward controlling problems at the properties.
- ❖ The iron boundary fence for City Cemetery is in particularly poor condition, exhibiting a variety of problems and inappropriate repairs. It requires a detailed conservation assessment by a conservator subscribing to the AIC Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. This will develop specifications for repairs and maintenance that this fence will require over the next several years to prevent additional loss of the historic fabric. Given the importance of this fence to the community, this should receive a very high priority.
- ❖ Some tasks require only modest sums of money, such as applying bumpers to the mowers used in the cemeteries to minimize damage to stones, making necessary repairs to the roads in City Cemetery, and securing plot gates.
- ❖ It is imperative that the city officially accept its ownership responsibilities for City, O'Rourke, and Mount Hope Cemeteries. Not only are there compelling legal reasons to do so, but failure to undertake critical conservation work will result in the loss of irreplaceable historic fabric and, ultimately, the loss of these cemeteries as viable historic resources.
- ❖ The crew responsible for the care of these three cemeteries is significantly under-staffed. A crew of at least 12, including supervisors, is necessary to provide the level of care required by these historic properties. While it may

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

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be impossible to increase the staffing to the level required in the current budget year, the process should begin immediately with the addition of at least three full-time persons.

- ❖ The use of 60-inch deck (or larger) mowers should be eliminated at City Cemetery (except perhaps for the African American section where there are relatively few stones). Elsewhere only 21-inch walk behind mowers should be used.
- ❖ All historical and ownership data currently housed at the Mount Hope office should be transferred to an archival facility capable of providing controlled temperature and humidity, security, fire detection and suppression, and appropriate long-term care.
- ❖ The city should establish – and enforce – flower regulations for Mount Hope Cemetery that would control the proliferation of random flower placement and limit the length of time that flowers are allowed to remain on graves. We have identified an inexpensive container that should be required, allowing more effective mowing and maintenance activities.
- ❖ Recommendations are offered concerning organization and operation of a friends group.
- ❖ There are a variety of additional tasks that require immediate attention, but which may be accomplished using in-house staff at no additional cost to the city. Included in this category are such issues as formalizing the policy that all decisions affecting the cemetery will be made in the context of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation; ensuring that police patrols routinely monitor the cemetery;

establishing policies and procedures to report any damage or vandalism at the cemetery; and formalizing the policy that all treatments at the cemetery will be conducted under the direction of a conservator subscribing to the standards of practice and code of ethics of the American Institute for Conservation.

The second priority actions may be spread over three years, but the costs will increase once a stone-by-stone and fence assessment have been conducted since there will be significant conservation costs requiring the city's immediate attention. Much of this funding will be devoted to maintenance issues that have been deferred for years. Included are:

- ❖ The fertilization of the historic trees in the cemeteries. This reflects part of the on-going costs of inspection, pruning, soil testing, and fertilization in order to maintain the historic landscapes.
- ❖ The City should initiate a limited pre- and post-emergent weed control program at the cemeteries. The goal will be to establish a better turfgrass that, ultimately, will require less maintenance.
- ❖ We recommend the installation of a water line along the edge of the road in Mount Hope that would allow resodding/reseeding and watering of stressed areas in the cemetery once current water restricts permit.
- ❖ Since the City intends to say in the cemetery business long-term, we recommend the purchase of a proprietary cemetery data management program.
- ❖ We have identified specific historic research that is needed to better tell the cemeteries' stories. Much, perhaps all, can be done by supervised volunteers.

The work, however, should not be allowed to take longer than a year.

- ❖ Areas of erosion along the road sides in Mount Hope should be stabilized using granite rip rap. This has already been very effectively conducted by the staff in some areas.
- ❖ The mausoleums at City Cemetery and Mount Hope should be structurally evaluated by an architectural conservator and structural engineer.
- ❖ Loose iron and monuments should be mapped, identified, marked, and collected for secure storage.
- ❖ The Mount Hope roads require crack repairs.
- ❖ Bollards should be placed judiciously in City Cemetery in order to protect monuments at the sharp turns.
- ❖ The city should establish a training fund or program to help the maintenance crew become certified in various landcare areas.
- ❖ Other recommendations, such as specifications for tree and shrub selection, replacement trees, reduction in the diameter of nylon string trimmer line, and so forth have very limited costs to the city.
- ❖ A variety of recommendations are offered concerning strategic partnerships, alliances, as well as the need to institutionalize the cemeteries into the broader heritage tourism opportunities of Raleigh.

The items listed as third priority are those that can be spread over five years – perhaps extending into FY 2012-2013. These issues, however, are no less significant :

- ❖ The Mount Hope maintenance yard should be moved from its current location to a more remote setting to minimize its intrusive affect on the cemetery. Alternatively, it should be carefully screened using vegetation.
- ❖ We also recommend that several areas at Mount Hope be screened to eliminate other intrusive elements and help preserve the historic landscape.
- ❖ Catch basins at all cemeteries require cleaning.
- ❖ Eventually the surplus buildings, especially the one at City Cemetery, should be removed.
- ❖ The shrubbery at City Cemetery requires careful renewal pruning. If staff does not receive appropriate training (see the training budget), then this activity should be contracted out.

Cemetery preservation is an on-going requirement. The approach used by the city over the past 100+ years of waiting until there is a crisis or public outcry and then making cosmetic changes will no longer suffice. Failing significant maintenance activities to make up for these years of deferred maintenance, the city can anticipate even more serious deterioration of the historic fabric. Within the foreseeable future, absent critical conservation and maintenance efforts, so much fabric will have been lost that these cemeteries may cease to be places of historic and cultural pride.

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# INTRODUCTION

## The Project

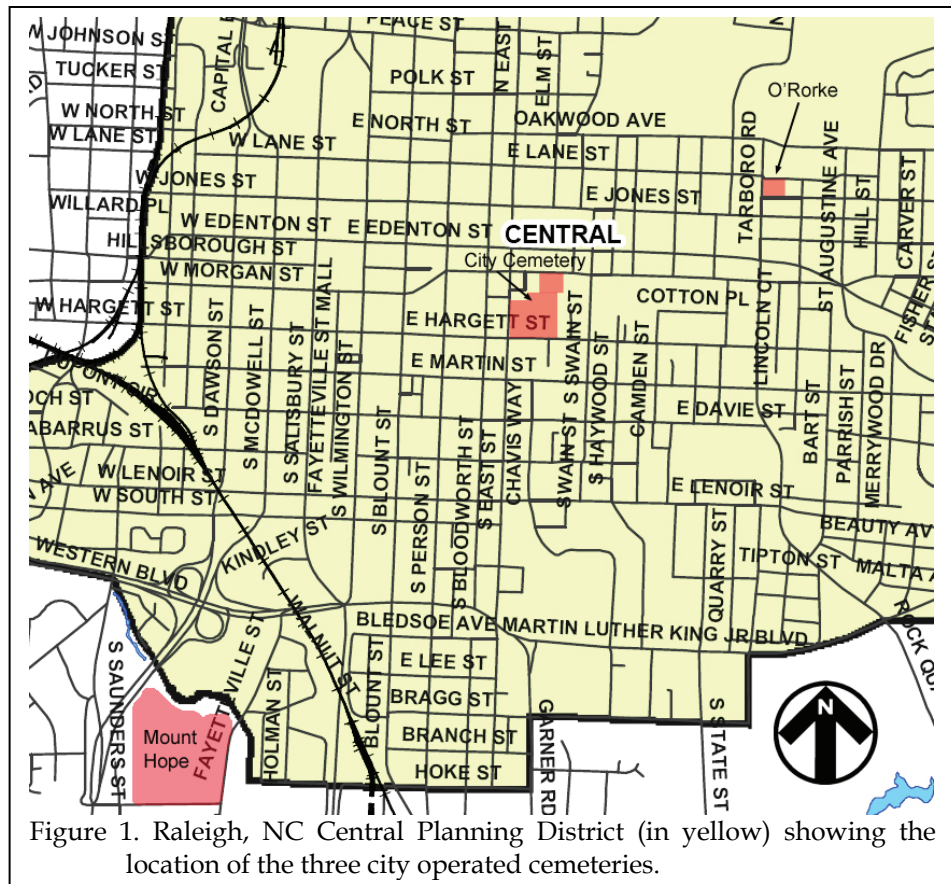
In August 2006, the City of Raleigh requested a proposal for what was termed a “Strategic Plan for the Inventory and Restoration of Raleigh’s Historic Cemeteries” (Specification No. 50900-01-2006). The proposal request was made for the three cemeteries owned and operated by the City, including City Cemetery, O’Rorke (or Catholic) Cemetery, and Mount Hope Cemetery (Figure 1).

The work was initially contemplated to include five specific tasks: research of other cemetery projects to provide examples of cemetery stewardship, research on current state and municipal codes relating to cemeteries, conduct an assessment of each of the three cemeteries, provide information on inventorying practices, and conduct interviews with stakeholders identified by the City.

While not outlined as specific tasks, other actions included in the scope of services included historic research, recommendations for undertaking critical actions, examination of heritage tourism issues, and information on fundraising strategies.

A proposal was submitted in mid-September and approved by the City October 16, 2006. The next stage was the submission of a technical and budget proposal. In negotiations to match tasks with available funding, the final project was determined to involve six major components:

- ❖ **Historical research.** It was anticipated that the data would be fragmentary, widely distributed, and difficult to recover. We proposed to conduct a week of research to gather together what was readily available and to propose areas where additional research



might reasonably be expected to be productive.

- ❖ **Legal research.** This work was dramatically curtailed since the City has its own legal staff. Our involvement was to be limited to incorporation of good practice information and a brief review of the current municipal code. We include the City's interpretation of its responsibility to cemetery upkeep as an appendix.
- ❖ **Research of other projects.** Chicora has conducted a number of cemetery assessments for cities and private groups primarily in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. We utilized our knowledge of these particular projects to provide an immediate core of information. In addition, some projects – such as the Boston Historic Burying Grounds Initiative mentioned in the Hurricane Fran Cemetery Damage Assessment and Recommendations – are well known and provide significant information on best practices. There are, of course, others such as Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. and the Massachusetts Historic Cemeteries Preservation Initiative (with its Preservation Guidelines for Municipally Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries). This information is synthesized as appropriate to provide the City with examples of good practice.
- ❖ **Research of genealogical inventory practices.** The choice of options largely depends on the goals of the inventory. Chicora proposed to help clarify these goals and match good practices with those goals.
- ❖ **Site assessments.** The primary component of this work, however, involved assessments of the current

conditions of the three cemeteries. This work would involve interviews and discussions with the various parties involved, as well as on-the-ground examination of the properties. The bulk of this study, in fact, deals with the various assessment issues for these three sites. The assessments examine a broad range of preservation topics, including not only maintenance of the landscape, but also security, pedestrian and vehicular access, vandalism, signage, and other issues involving the long-term preservation of the cemeteries. The assessment provide broad recommendations regarding future conservation efforts.

- ❖ **Stakeholder meeting and funding issues.** This focus was narrowed to a session on the potential for sustainability of the historic cemeteries as part of the broader downtown and heritage tourism efforts. The issue of funding was similarly scaled to include an overview of the types of specific projects that are more easily fundable and provide insights into the costs affiliated with constructing a competitive grant proposal.

The revised proposal was approved by the City and an agreement was signed January 25, 2007. Because of scheduling commitments and weather related issues, the field investigations for the project were conducted between March 19 and 23, 2007. During this assessment we met or spoke with a number of individuals associated with the City's Parks and Recreation Department (which has responsibility for the cemeteries), as well as several individuals in the community, including Karen-Marie Allen, Branch Manager of the Olivia Raney Local History Library and Jane Thurman, Chair of the newly formed City of Raleigh Cemetery Committee.

## INTRODUCTION

Table 1.  
Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation

1. A property will be used as it was historically, or be given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships. Where a treatment and use have not been identified, a property will be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate, and conserve existing historic materials and features will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. The existing condition of historic features will be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material will match the old in composition, design, color, and texture.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

The stakeholder meeting was conducted the evening of May 2, 2007. This meeting was attended by about 20 individuals representing a broad spectrum of parties interested in one or more of the three cemeteries.

### **Preservation Fundamentals**

Preservation is not an especially difficult concept to grasp, although the key principles are not always clearly articulated. The fundamental concepts are well presented in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation (see Table 1).

This document reminds caregivers – at least at a general level – of what they need to be

thinking about as we begin a cemetery preservation plan. Those responsible for the care of Raleigh's three cemeteries should be intimately familiar with the eight critical issues it outlines.

For example, all other factors being equal, a cemetery should be used as a cemetery – not to walk dogs, not as a play ground, and not as a park. And until caregivers are able to do what needs to be done, it is their responsibility to make certain that the site is preserved – it must not be allowed to suffer damage under our watch.

Caregivers must work diligently to understand – and retain – the historic character of the cemetery. In other words, they must look at

the cemetery with a new vision and ask themselves, "what gives this cemetery its unique, historical character?" Perhaps it is the landscape, the old and stately trees, the large boxwoods, the magnificent arborvitae. Perhaps it is the very large proportion of complex monuments, or the exceptional slate markers. Whatever it is, they become the guardians responsible for making certain those elements are protected and enhanced (whether they are particularly appealing or not).

Whatever conservation efforts are necessary must be done to the highest professional standards; these conservation efforts must be physically and visually



compatible with the original materials; these conservation efforts must not seek to mislead the public into thinking that repairs are original work; and the conservation efforts must be documented for future generations. If an agency doesn't have a conservator or if the caregivers aren't conservators, it is their responsibility as the stewards of the property to retain a conservator appropriately trained and subscribing to the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC).

The Secretary of the Interior reminds caregivers that every cemetery has evolved and represents different styles and forms. It is their responsibility to care for all of these modifications and not seek to create a "Disneyland" version of the cemetery, tearing out features that don't fit into our concept of what the cemetery "ought" to look like.

Likewise, they are reminded that there will be designs, monuments, and other features that characterize the cemetery – and they are responsible for identifying these items and ensuring their preservation. Caregivers must be circumspect in any modifications, ensuring that they are not destroying what they seek to protect.

Before acting, they are required as good and careful stewards to explore and evaluate the property, determining exactly what level of intervention – what level of conservation – what level of tree pruning – is actually necessary. And where it is necessary to introduce new materials – perhaps a pathway – into the cemetery, the responsible parties must do their best to make certain these new elements are not only absolutely necessary, but also match the old elements in composition, design, color, and texture. In other words, if the cemetery has brick pathways, they would be failing as good stewards if they allowed concrete pathways – especially if the only justification was because concrete was less expensive.

Where conservation treatments are necessary, the Secretary of the Interior tells caregivers that they must be the gentlest possible. However explained – less is more – think smart, not strong – caregivers have an obligation to make certain that no harm comes to the resource while under their care. And again, one of the easiest ways to comply is to make certain that caregivers retain a conservator subscribing to the ethics and standards of the American Institute for Conservation.

Finally, those responsible must also recognize that the cemetery is not just a collection of monuments and the associated landscape – the cemetery is also an archaeological resource. Caregivers must be constantly thinking about how their efforts – whether to repair a monument, put in a parking lot, or resurface a path – will affect the archaeological resources – archaeological resources that just happen to be the remains of people buried at the cemetery by their loved ones.

These are critical issues for all cemeteries, including those in Raleigh, since we often find these standards have been historically violated by those not familiar with historic preservation. For example, often modifications take place with little or no documentation, leaving caregivers guessing as to the nature of the work, the reason it was done, and even how it was conducted. It is common to find that original fabric has been removed, replaced, and modified, with no clear understanding of how these actions would affect the integrity and context of the cemetery. Often the modifications have been poorly conceived and inappropriately executed.

*Our first recommendation, therefore, is that the caregivers become thoroughly familiar with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation and reaffirm their responsibility as stewards of this historical resource to ensure that future preservation efforts are consistent with sound preservation principals and practices.*

## INTRODUCTION

### The Cemetery Locations, Settings, and Contexts

As mentioned earlier, this study incorporates only three of the cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Raleigh: City Cemetery which is the oldest, established in 1798; O'Rorke Cemetery which was originally known as Catholic Cemetery and was created by John O'Rorke in 1858; and Mount Hope Cemetery, created in 1872 to provide additional burial spaces for Raleigh's African American community.

#### City Cemetery

What is known as City Cemetery, or occasionally as Old City Cemetery, is bounded by New Bern Street to the north, East Street to the west, and Hargett Street to the south. The eastern boundary consists of various lots, some of which run off Monie Lane (Figures 1 and 2). Found within Census Tract 50700, this area is 92% African American and has a median household income of \$21,510 – the fourth lowest in the Raleigh area. Nearly 43% of the residents have less than a high school education and almost two-thirds of the housing units are rentals. Part of the New Bern/Edenton Small Area Plan, the vicinity of City Cemetery is recognized as “a blighted, primarily residential redevelopment area” (Anonymous 1998:11-11-1).

Social issues identified by the city include the need for better community/police

relations and a lack of social cohesion or sense of community. The city's comprehensive plan notes that area buildings are deteriorated and “the cohesion of the neighborhood is seriously undermined” (Anonymous 1998:11-11-5). In spite of these issues, the area is recognized as historic, being settled at the end of the nineteenth century. New Bern Street was originally one of the ceremonial entrances to the capitol and there are several historic houses on

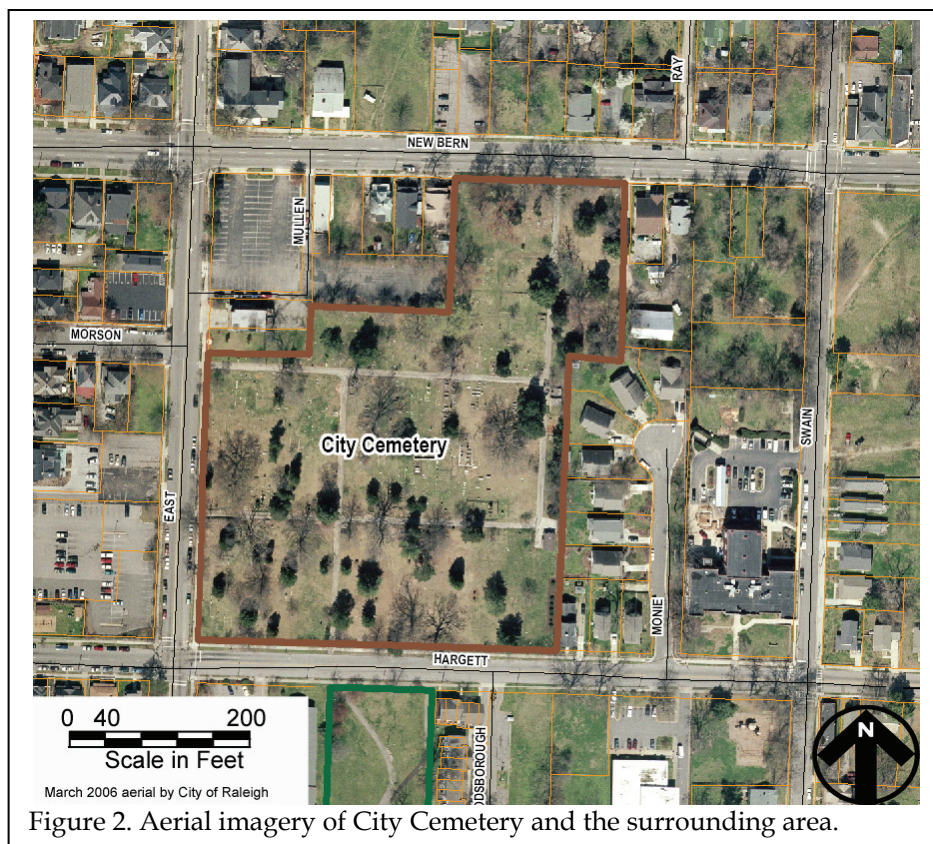


Figure 2. Aerial imagery of City Cemetery and the surrounding area.

the route. Also present is a historic African American neighborhood that resulted from Jim Crow laws which created racially homogeneous enclaves.

City Cemetery is 7.68 acres; immediately bordering the site are rental properties and single family homes. Also nearby are several commercial buildings, paved parking lots, and the YMCA.



The setting is urban, with the cemetery representing a significant green space in the city core. Traffic is heaviest on New Bern (identified by the city as a "Secondary Arterial") allowing the bulk of the cemetery to be relatively peaceful with little visual or noise intrusion. Buffering, however, is poor. This is especially noticeable along the eastern edge where houses back up closely to the cemetery property. There are no plantings along any of the fences that might help buffer the property.

The cemetery itself is dominated by a variety of three-dimensional monuments and fences, as well as the grid-like road system. This location and arrangement is typical of many city cemeteries. Within the city core, it combines characteristics of the churchyard cemetery, such as the geometric design and not altogether well organized plots. Typical of such cemeteries, through much of its history it was maintained by a Sexton. Also typical of such cemeteries, the sharing of space between the living and dead resulted in a lack of concern for the sacredness of the graveyard. Various beautification efforts were not of any particular concern until mid-nineteenth century. By the twentieth century, these cemeteries were often subjected to well-meaning, but poorly thought out, restoration efforts.

While the cemetery is recognized as having a "main" entrance off East Street, there are actually four different entrances to the



Figure 3. Aerial imagery of O'Rourke Cemetery and the surrounding area.

cemetery, all connected by the grid-like arrangement of roads.

### O'Rourke Cemetery

O'Rourke Cemetery, also at various times called the Catholic Cemetery, Paupers' Cemetery, and the Tarboro Road Cemetery, is situated to the northeast of City Cemetery in the area of Raleigh known as College Park/Idlewild. The 0.99 acre cemetery is bounded to the north by Lane Street, to the south by Pender Street, and to the west by Tarboro Road. The eastern boundary consists of two residential lots (Figures 1 and 3).

The College Park/Idlewild Neighborhood consists of about 89 acres. The Idlewild area developed as early as 1891, with College Park being subdivided in 1912. Both

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were dominated by African Americans, many of whom were property owners. Many of the College Park residents were employed at nearby St. Augustine's College. During the 1960s the neighborhood began to shift from owner occupied to renters. In 1975 this area was a part of the first redevelopment area established by the City.

O'Rorke Cemetery is within Census Tract 50600 and is today 82% African American. The median household income is only \$21,419 – the third lowest in the Raleigh area. Nearly three-quarters of the homes are rental properties, although fully three-quarters of the residents have a high school degree.

Several blocks to the south, along Edenton and New Bern, are a series of commercial establishments and fast food restaurants. Directly across Lane to the north, at the corner of Tarboro Road, is a day care facility. Surrounding homes are modest, but well cared for. Overall, however, the College Park/Idlewild neighborhood is reported to have a large number of deteriorated or boarded up houses; lot sizes are generally small. The Raleigh Comprehensive Plan notes that crime is an issue and that a city policy should be to encourage cooperation between the police and residents. Especially important is the expansion of the Crime Watch Program. At the time of the plan development there was apparently no community advisory group and this limited public involvement (Anonymous 1998:8-3.3).

This cemetery is rather non-descript, combining aspects of a church cemetery (albeit in ruinous condition) and paupers' cemetery. The few monuments which are in place are in poor condition. The O'Rorke plot fence survives, although the gate and its monuments are all missing. At least one other fenced plot in the Catholic section is no longer present. The majority of the pauper graves are unmarked and in the past many of the funeral home markers were moved off graves to make mowing easier.

Vegetation is rather minimal and much of the bordering shrubbery has been planted for accent, not for screening or historic integrity. There is a pedestrian entrance off Lane Street, near Tarboro, and a double gate for vehicular traffic off Pender Street. Although it is reported that originally there was a north-south bisecting road, this is no longer clear on the ground.

### Mount Hope Cemetery

Mount Hope is the largest of the three city cemeteries, incorporating 34.3 acres on the southern edge of Raleigh (Figures 1 and 4). The cemetery is bounded by Prospect Street to the south and Fayetteville Street to the east. To the north is Walnut Creek/Rocky Branch Creek. In the floodplain the City has created a greenway trail. To the northwest and west are McDowell Street and mixed residences and businesses along Green Street.

The cemetery is situated in the Caraleigh/Fuller Heights neighborhood, which is found within Census Tract 52201. This area is about 43% white, 32% black, and 24% "other." Nearly 56% of the housing units are rental, although a larger concern is the competing commercial and industrial land uses around the periphery of the cemetery which affect the overall image of the area and increase the difficulty in maintaining stable, single family housing. The median household income is \$32,930 and nearly two-third of the residents have a high-school degree. Owner occupied housing accounts for about 44% of the houses in the area.

Immediately to the east of Mount Hope is the large Walnut Terrace Housing Development, while to the north, on the other side of Walnut Creek/Rocky Branch, is Washington Elementary School. To the southeast are a variety of city and county properties. The area to the west is dominated by the Saunders, Dawson, and McDowell street corridors. There are a variety of commercial establishments, the largest being Senter Sanders



Tractor Corporation. Small neighborhoods are found only to the east and south of the cemetery. While modest, most appear well maintained and cared for. At the time of this study several of these areas were undergoing repairs.

Thus, a variety of commercial, public housing, and highway corridors affect the ambience and setting of Mount Hope. Just as it is critical that these factors be controlled in order to stabilize the neighborhood, it is critical that they also be controlled to preserve and protect Mount Hope and prevent further visual and noise intrusion.

for the ostentatiousness of rural cemeteries, Mount Hope has no examples of fences – instead cornerstones and plot copings are present. While there are some plots with the clearest expression of the lawn park formulae – a central, three-dimensional family monument with surrounding low, two-dimensional individual markers – there are also many examples that hearken back to the rural cemetery and its clear expression of individual intent. Thus, it seems that Adolph Strauch (the renowned nineteenth century landscape architect responsible for the lawn cemetery movement) would have been uncomfortable with the number of markers, even though the

most ornate are absent. While the roads are winding, there are still visible clear remnants of a formal grid-like pattern of walkways and plots. The newer sections of Mount Hope stand in stark contrast with the historic core, being entirely taken over by a memorial park design and flush lawn markers.

The main entrance for the cemetery, flanked by stone columns, is off Fayetteville Street at the eastern edge of the property. A

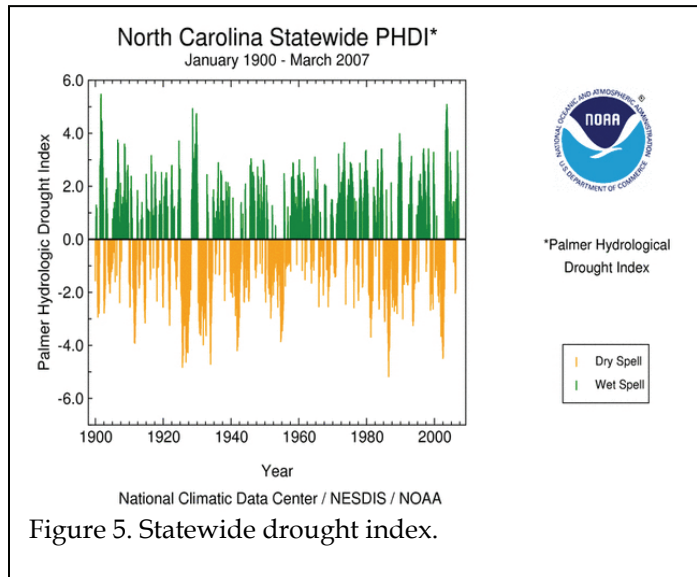
secondary entrance, running through the maintenance shop and into the newest section of the cemetery (but connecting to other parts of the property) runs off Prospect Street.



Figure 4. Aerial imagery of Mount Hope Cemetery and the surrounding area.

The cemetery itself is laid out with aspects of the lawn-park cemetery movement, prevailing at the time. The setting is pastoral or park-like and the cemetery is found in the suburbs of Raleigh. In keeping with the disdain

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### Factors Affecting the Landscape Character

Raleigh is not only the capital of North Carolina, it is also the Wake County seat.

The fall line or transition between the coastal plain and piedmont runs through Wake County, with Raleigh situated immediately above the fall line. As a result, the area is dominated by the irregular, gently rolling, dissected terrain. Elevations in the county range from 160 feet to 540 feet above mean sea level.

The soils in City and O'Rourke Cemeteries consist entirely of Cecil sandy loams, 2 to 6% slopes, moderately eroded soils. The Cecil series consists of very deep, well drained moderately permeable soils on ridges and side slopes. The soils are formed in residuum weathered from felsic, igneous and high-grade metamorphic rocks of the Piedmont uplands. The undisturbed and intact surface layer consists of a dark gray sandy loam. Below this is typically found red clay and clay loam.

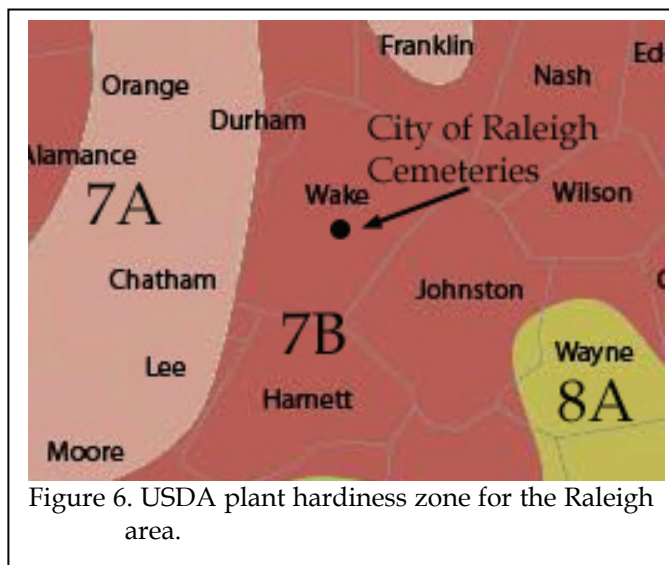
Mount Hope Cemetery, because of its size, reveals more complexity. The most common soils, comprising 56% of the acreage, are Cecil sandy loams, 6 to 10% slopes, moderately eroded. These soils are found in

the northwest and southwest portions of the cemetery. Cecil sandy loams, 2 to 6% slopes, moderately eroded soils comprise an additional 21%, running as a narrow band across the middle of the cemetery. A small area of Cecil soils with up to 15% slopes are found at the northeast edge of the tract. Erosion has removed most or all of the surface layers, exposing red clay over much of the parcel.

The remaining soil is identified as Pacolet-Gullied land complex, 4 to 25% slopes. Comprising about 19% of the total, these are found in the southeast mid-section, largely consisting of the original portion of the property. This is a moderately well drained, slowly permeable soil formed from weathered felsic igneous and metamorphic rocks.

Raleigh has a moderate climate during spring, fall, and winter. Summers are hot and can at times be semi-humid. Temperatures range from a normal winter low of about 30°F in January to a normal summer high of about 88°F in July. The annual average temperature is about 60°F.

The annual Raleigh precipitation is about 46 inches, ranging from a normal high of



4.5 inches in January and March to a low of around 3 inches in April and November. Light to moderate snow is occasional, usually occurring in January and February. There is, however, considerable variation in precipitation over the past 100 years, with periods of noticeable drought (Figure 5). Drought was common during the period from 2000 through 2002, but was briefly replaced by a wet period prior to 2007.

Much of central North Carolina is classified as in a drought, with Raleigh identified as in stage D-4 drought (exceptional; this is indicative of a 1 in 50 year drought and is based on more than 30 different indices). As of January 2008 Raleigh is under what the city terms modified Stage 1 mandatory water conservation restrictions that prohibit watering using automatic or non-automatic spray irrigation systems, sprinklers, or soaker hoses and ceases the issuance of lawn and landscape irrigation establishment permits.

Information on drought tolerant plantings for North Carolina can be found at [http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508\\_3/](http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508_3/) and <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/quickref/shrubs/shrubs-drought.html>.

Figure 6 reveals that the three cemeteries are within USDA plant hardiness zone 7B, where the average annual minimum temperature is 5 to 10°F.

### **Recommendations**

**All individuals, volunteers, city staff, and affiliated organizations should become familiar with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Preservation.**

**All decisions regarding modifications, alterations, additions, or other actions affecting the City of Raleigh cemeteries should be carefully evaluated against the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation.**

**All conservation (i.e., repair work) of monuments or fences should be conducted by conservators who subscribe to the American Institute for Conservation of Artistic and Historic Works (AIC) Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.**