

35

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
other names/site number BONAVENTURE PLANTATION, EVERGREEN CEMETERY

2. Location

street & number One mile north of US 80 on the Bonaventure Road
city, town Savannah (N/A) **vicinity of**
county Chatham **code** GA 051
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31404

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	2	0
sites	1	0
structures	25	1
objects	106	0
total	134	1

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

W. Ray Luce _____ Date 12/20/00
Signature of certifying official

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register Ethan H. Beall 2.2.01
 determined eligible for the National Register _____
 determined not eligible for the National Register _____
 removed from the National Register _____
 other, explain: _____
 see continuation sheet _____
Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: Institutional housing/ Caretaker's house

RELIGION: Religious facility/ Chapel

FUNERARY: Cemetery

Current Functions:

RELIGION: Religious facility/ Chapel

FUNERARY: Cemetery

OTHER: Office/Visitors' Center

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

N/A

Materials:

foundation	Brick
walls	Brick
roof	Standing seam metal; slate
other	Marble, granite, cast iron, stained glass

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Bonaventure Cemetery is located in the coastal low country area of Savannah, Georgia. The cemetery is 3 ½ miles southeast from Savannah's City Hall. It is comprised of 160 acres, situated on a bluff overlooking the Wilmington River (an intracoastal waterway) to the east and a salt marsh to the south. In 1846 Peter Wiltberger, a Savannah businessman, dedicated 70 acres in the northeastern corner of the Bonaventure Plantation tract for use as a cemetery. In 1850, James H. Rion made a survey of the Bonaventure property, the lots laid off within the four angles made by the two avenues crossing each other, and it has been ever since known as "the Cemetery at Bonaventure." In 1868, Peter Wiltberger's son, William, formed the Evergreen Cemetery Company. A map drawn in 1869 by John Postell shows the boundaries very close to the present-day layout of Bonaventure. In 1907, the City of Savannah acquired Bonaventure. A large number of live oak trees dating from the 1800s still line the irregular, unpaved avenues and foot paths. Other flora include azaleas, camellias, dogwood, magnolia trees, cedar, pine, and palmetto trees. Two gateways give access to the cemetery. One is comprised of two stone pillars, one on each side of the drive, which form the base for statues of Mary and the Cross. These were built prior to 1908. The other gateway has entry pillars topped with the Star of David, indicating the Jewish entrance. Today, the cemetery contains approximately 6,010 burials. There are a number of group burials in the cemetery, including those known as the American Legion Field (for World War I and II veterans), the Confederate States of America Section (for Civil War veterans), Order of Railroad Conductors Section, and the Spanish-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

American War of 1898 Section. Many of the older family plots are bordered by low marble coping stones or decorative cast iron fences. A variety of funerary architecture, monuments, and sculpture is found here, including 25 historic mausoleums, as well as crypts, tablets, obelisks, and statuary. Classical Roman, Greek, Egyptian, and High Victorian Gothic were common styles used in the decoration of funerary objects as were cherubs, angels, the Virgin Mary, Celtic and Christian crosses, and human portraits, usually carved in granite or marble on brick or granite supports. There are two buildings in the cemetery. The two-story, brick gatehouse was originally the caretaker's house built prior to 1900. It now serves as the cemetery office and visitors' center. The other building is a Jewish chapel, built in 1917. It is a one-story brick building with a truncated hipped roof clad in tin. Located in the Jewish section on 15 to 20 acres which was allocated by the city in 1909, the Jewish chapel is the only mortuary chapel built within a Savannah cemetery and is believed to be the only Jewish chapel located within any city cemetery in Georgia. Sculptor John Walz and architects Henry Urban and Henrik Wallin designed some of the cemetery's most significant monuments. A number of other sculptors from Savannah, New York, Philadelphia, and Palermo and Florence in Italy have produced monuments. The cemetery continues to be a place for active burials.

DESCRIPTION

Bonaventure Cemetery is located in the coastal low country area of Savannah, Georgia. It is comprised of 160 acres, situated on a bluff overlooking the Wilmington River (an intracoastal waterway) to the east and a salt marsh to the south.

The cemetery began in 1846 when Peter Wiltberger, a Savannah businessman, purchased the 600-acre Bonaventure Plantation and dedicated 70 acres of it for use as a cemetery. It remained a privately-owned cemetery until 1907 when it was purchased by the City of Savannah and expanded to 160 acres by 1909. It is operated by the city to the present day.

Live oak trees, dripping with Spanish moss, still line the irregular, unpaved avenues and foot paths. Azaleas, camellias, dogwood and magnolia trees add color and fragrance in the springtime and early summer. Cedar, pine, and palmetto trees are informally scattered about, adding to the informality of the natural landscape.

The two gateways that give access to the cemetery are located on either side of the caretaker's house. One built prior to 1908 is comprised of two stone pillars, one on each side of the drive, which form the bases for statues of Mary and the Cross. The other has two pillars topped with the Star of David, indicating the Jewish entrance. (Photos 1, 2, and 3.)

Today, the cemetery is divided into 19 sections, labeled A through H and K through U, and contains approximately 6,010 burials. Of these, 5,800 are located in sections A through H, which were the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

first to be used for interment. Section F is believed to be the site of the former Bonaventure Plantation house, and the Tattnall family cemetery is in Section E, Lot 1. There are a number of group burials in the cemetery, including the American Legion Field (for World War I and II veterans-Section O)(photo 16), the Confederate States of America (Veterans-Section A), Order of Railroad Conductors (Section L)(photo 32), and the Spanish-American War of 1898 (Veterans-Section K) (photo 31).

Many of the older family plots are bordered by low marble coping stones or decorative cast iron fences. A variety of funerary architecture, monuments, and sculpture are found here, including mausoleums, crypts, tablets, obelisks, and statuary. Classical Roman, Greek, Egyptian, and High Victorian Gothic were common styles used in their decoration as were cherubs, angels, the Virgin Mary, Celtic and Christian crosses, and human portraits, usually carved in granite or marble on brick or granite supports.

There are 25 historic mausoleums in the cemetery and one non-historic one. While the exact construction date of each mausoleum is not necessarily clear, eight appear to be 19th century, ten from the period 1900-1927, and six from 1930s-1950. (Photos 10,12,14, and 33.) The non-historic Davis Mausoleum (U-158, photo 33) was built c.1993 but is in the same style as the others. Several of the mausoleums were moved to Bonaventure from other cemeteries or private family cemeteries, the moves taking place usually in the late 19th century. Examples are the Gaston Mausoleum, photo 46, at the cemetery entrance, moved in 1873 from Colonial Park Cemetery in Savannah; and the Mongin Mausoleum (H-99, photo 28) moved in 1873 from Daufuskie Island, S.C.) The mausoleums are made of a variety of materials from tabby (the Kollock Mausoleum, E-2, c. 1872, photo 20) to marble and granite (photos 10, 12, 14, and 33). Many of them are built to appear as small temple-form houses in the Greek tradition of some of the earliest mausoleums in western Europe.

There are two buildings in the cemetery. The gatehouse (photo 2) was originally the caretaker's house, built prior to 1900. It now serves as the cemetery office where the cemetery's records are kept and as a visitors' center. It is a two-story brick structure seven bays wide. The windows are two-over-two with arched lintels. The square plan is covered with a hipped roof and wide overhanging eaves. Three one-story porches extend from the north, south, and west facades. A two-story porch is on the east elevation. The gatehouse is situated between the two gates at the northwest corner of the cemetery.

The other building is a Jewish chapel, built in 1917 (photo 9). It is a one-story brick building with a truncated hipped roof clad in tin. The square, symmetrical plan has been divided into a main room which is furnished with pews and a podium and used for funeral services; and a second room which was once used for the preparation of bodies and is now storage and rest rooms. The chapel faces east and has large multi-paned casement windows with arched heads. There is a Star of David over

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

the front door. The architect of this chapel is unknown, although there is speculation that it was designed by Hyman Witcover, a member of Mickve Israel synagogue, who is credited with designing a Savannah synagogue, the Masonic Temple, City Hall, and 309-315 West St. Julian Street (for a Hebrew Congregation in Savannah). Located in the Jewish section (Q), on fifteen to twenty acres which was allocated by the city in 1909, the Jewish chapel is the only mortuary chapel built within a Savannah cemetery and is believed to be the only Jewish chapel located in any city cemetery in Georgia.

The cemetery is a repository of a collection of funerary sculpture, architecture, and ironwork of high artistic value. Over 100 sculptures carved by a locally prominent sculptor, the German-born John Walz (1844-1922), have been recorded and indexed (photo 43, Schafer c.1890 on right, and photo 48 of the Gracie Watson monument, c.1890). Some were even copyrighted by Walz. This inventory of his known works is on file at the cemetery. Savannah-based architects Henry Urban and Henrik Wallin, who have individually contributed to Savannah's architectural history, designed some of the cemetery's most significant monuments. A number of other sculptors from Savannah, New York, Philadelphia, and Palermo and Florence in Italy have produced monuments. These artists's works have also been recorded and inventoried and a list with the title "Marked Sculptures by various Sculptors in Bonaventure Cemetery in Sections A-K" is on file at the cemetery office along with separate ones for ironwork, and another of fences, posts and rails. (Photo 30 is the Lawton lot with the statue by Civiletti of Italy).

Section F, which is circular in plan and forms the axis of the cemetery, is most likely to be the site of the former Bonaventure Plantation house. Burnt debris and old bricks, uncovered here by digging, suggests evidence of the site's original settlers. Also discovered was evidence near the river bank suggesting the location of a pier used at the plantation or during disembarkation of Count Henri d'Estaing's French troops and artillery during the 1779 Siege of Savannah. This is also site of Tattnall family cemetery (E-1), now incorporated into Bonaventure.

The cemetery remains open and active. It is operated by the City of Savannah's Park and Tree Commission. The Bonaventure Historical Society, created in 1994, works with the city in the preservation of the cemetery.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Art
Architecture
Community Planning and Development
Ethnic Heritage-Jewish
Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance:

1846-1950

Significant Dates:

- 1846 - The 600-acre Bonaventure Plantation purchased by Peter Wiltberger with 70 acres earmarked and dedicated for a public use cemetery
- 1868 - Evergreen Cemetery formed as the corporate entity for the 70-acre cemetery
- 1887 - Mickve Israel synagogue begins negotiations for a Jewish Cemetery, or burial area, to adjoin Evergreen/Bonaventure. Not realized until 1909. (Wilson, p. 94)
- 1907 - City of Savannah purchases Evergreen Cemetery and renames it Bonaventure Cemetery
- 1909- Jewish Section is created with additional 20-acre purchase and added to Bonaventure (Wilson, p. 94)
- 1917 - Jewish Chapel built

Significant Person(s):

N/A

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Architects:

Urban, Henry, of Savannah
Wallin, Henrik, of Savannah

Landscape Architects:

Rion, James H.

Sculptors

Aliffi, Antonio (Italian born, worked in Georgia)
Civiletti of Palermo, Italy
Pietch, W. F., New York
Struthers, Philadelphia Stone Carver
Walz, John (German born, lived in Savannah)

Ironwork

Ely, M., Newark, N. J.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

Bonaventure Cemetery is significant in art and architecture because of the numerous forms of burial monuments reflecting various eras and architectural styles in both the statues and obelisks as well as 25 historic/contributing mausoleums. The mausoleums date from the mid-19th century to the 1940s and vary in size and workmanship and are all finely built and most were probably designed by architects. The cemetery is also significant for having a rare Jewish Chapel built c.1917 within the cemetery. The cemetery contains a large number of sculptures, over 100 that have been specifically inventoried, by John Walz (1844-1922), a sculptor of transcendent local importance, and are considered to be of high artistic value. One of these is the famous Gracie, one of the few funerary monuments in Georgia carved in someone's exact likeness. Many of the monuments were designed by known and noted architects, including Savannah-based Henry Urban and Henrik Wallin. Others are by other well-known local artisans. Collectively, the works of funerary art at Bonaventure Cemetery rank among the finest and most numerous in the state.

The cemetery is significant in landscape architecture and community planning and development because it was laid out to be a privately owned cemetery starting in 1846 and then purchased by the City of Savannah in 1907, incorporating it into the responsibility of a major urban center to have a publicly owned burial ground for its citizens. While the other city-owned cemetery, Laurel Grove, had sections for white and black burials, Bonaventure was for white burials only. The landscaping of live oaks was part of the original, natural-looking layout and has been continued by the city, maintaining the cemetery's beauty. The cemetery's siting on a river adds to its landscape significance. It was conceived and laid out as good local example of a cemetery in the style of and during the rise of the national Rural Cemetery movement which was gaining popularity in the United States in the early to mid-19th century. It was created as a response to the overcrowding of the urban cemetery in the center of Savannah and was considered a place to visit, and it was often featured in early 20th-century postcards as a place to visit and to send a postcard from. It is the final resting place of a number of notable figures of transcendent importance including governors, generals, judges, congressmen, diplomats, poets, clergy, military servicemen, and prominent business people. It is also the final resting place of many other citizens who contributed to the history of the city of Savannah and the region.

The cemetery is significant in Ethnic Heritage-Jewish because of the existence of the Jewish Chapel, the only one known to be in a public cemetery in Georgia. The Jewish Section also has a significant layout of graves, many of which are very close together resembling European graveyards where land is a premium. The Jewish graves also contain specific Jewish symbolism, most notably the Star of David, as well as, in many cases, Hebrew writing. The Jewish Section was sponsored by two local synagogues, one Reform and the other Orthodox, as well as several burial societies. It represents a united effort by the Jewish community, which started in Savannah in the summer of 1733, within the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

first year of the founding of the Colony of Georgia, to continue their burial practices in an area dedicated for Jewish burials. The Jewish population in Savannah has remained strong and active since the founding of the city and the colony.

National Register Criteria

Bonaventure Cemetery is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A as an excellent example of a cemetery, a basic need for any people. Beginning as a private development, and later becoming city-owned, it shows the progression of a city's need to expand its services for its residents, in providing a burial spot. The location and overall continued maintenance of the site follows the national trend of cemeteries in the mid-19th century of being a place for visitation, gatherings and meditations, and the park-like nature of this place continues to this day.

Bonaventure Cemetery is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of a cemetery created in the "rural cemetery movement" tradition. In keeping with the concept of a Rural Cemetery, Bonaventure was laid out in the midst of a very picturesque setting, adjacent to a river. It became a major spot in Victorian times for visits and peaceful solitude. Its broad avenues and moss-covered trees later became the subject of postcards. The cemetery contains a number of tombstones and monuments designed by some of the best-known architects of Savannah, including Henrik Wallin and Henry Urban, as well as statues and other carvings by some of the finest locally based artisans, such as John Walz, as well as others. Over 100 sculptures have been attributed to Walz. There are also 25 historic mausoleums although not attributed to specific architects or builders, were no doubt designed by prominent architects. They date from the mid-19th century to the 1940s and are finely crafted using marble, among other stones. All of these works, the monuments, sculpture, and mausoleums, are certainly those of local masters with high artistic values.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

Since the cemetery remains open and in use, the period of significance runs from its beginning (1846) to the end of the historic period (1950).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Buildings: 2 contributing, the Caretaker's House and the Jewish Chapel.

Sites: 1 contributing, the overall cemetery itself.

Structures: 25 contributing. These are the 25 historic mausoleums.
1 non-contributing: The Hinton Davis mausoleum was built c.1993.

Objects: 106 contributing, being the 106 works of John Walz that have been specifically inventoried by the cemetery. A list is on file.

Total contributing: 134 Total non-contributing: 1

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

When James Oglethorpe laid out the plan for the City of Savannah in 1733, he not only included places for public meeting and worship but also designated an area for public burial. Sited in Percival Ward, Savannah's first burying ground served the early colony for only 17 years. As Savannah expanded all evidence of its existence was lost until 1950 when several skeletons were unearthed during construction excavation on York Street.

In 1750, the City established a new burying ground outside the city walls. In 1758 the City transferred ownership of that burying ground to Christ Episcopal Church and it was maintained by the Church until it was sold back to the City in 1896. It was later known as Colonial Park Cemetery. Urban development gradually surrounded this walled cemetery, and in 1846 plantings were provided specifically "to protect citizens from poisonous effluvia arising therefrom". Shortly before 1850, it was becoming obvious in the City of Savannah that more burial space was needed.

In 1846 Peter Wiltberger, a Savannah businessman, purchased the 600-acre Bonaventure Plantation from the last of the Tattnall family. The Tattnall family burial ground (E-1, photo 21) was among this acreage. He selected 70 acres, including the Tattnall family burial ground, in the northeastern corner of the Bonaventure Plantation tract, and dedicated them for use as a privately owned cemetery open to public use. This cemetery was several miles southeast of downtown Savannah in a very picturesque setting.

(Note: The early history of the Bonaventure Plantation can be found at the end of this narrative history.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

One of the earliest observers to write about the beauty and potential of Bonaventure as a cemetery site was James H. Rion who was hired early on to make a plan for the cemetery.

James Henry Rion, a young son of an employee at the Pulaski House (a Savannah hotel), made an impression on Captain Peter Wiltberger. Wiltberger engaged Rion to lay out Bonaventure Cemetery. Rion's obituary written by Bernard E. Bee in the Journal of the South Carolina Bar Association in 1887 relates that "Rion was employed during his vacation (from college at Columbia, S. C.) by Captain Wiltberger to make a survey of the whole place."

In 1849, James H. Rion wrote of Bonaventure: "Long rows of venerable oaks meet the eye on every side...forming extensive avenues...The hand of man has done this much in planting these living colonnades...richly festooned...with a magnificent drapery of moss which hangs in all possible forms." He also noted that by that date (1849) some burials were taking place in Bonaventure when he observed "From what I observed around, active preparations are going on to fit this place for a cemetery. At the end of one of the avenues, I saw a neat monument, recently erected."

In 1850, Rion made a survey of the Bonaventure property. "His artistic eye at once seized the beautiful idea to transform the ground covered by the avenues into a cemetery. Wiltberger favored the scheme. The survey was made, the lots laid off within the four angles made by the two avenues crossing each other, and it has been ever since known as "the Cemetery at Bonaventure." [Quote from Rion's obituary, cited above.]

Rion went on to write "Bonaventure is indeed wonderfully adapted for a Cemetery. The only objection I have heard anyone urge against it, is its distance. This, far from seeming to me to be an objection, is in favor of it. Besides, being so much more in keeping with a burial place, to be removed from the hum and turmoil of life and the habitations of the living, it is advisable as a sanatory [sic] measure that it should be removed at a distance from the city. All experience shows the noxious character of the atmosphere in and around grave yards...I have no doubt that Savannah will soon have another added to her now many beauties...before many generations pass away Bonaventure will take its place by the side of Mount Auburn and Chapel Hill. I am confident that with the advantages which a more Southern sun gives for calling Nature to assist in the decoration, this Cemetery will yield to neither in melancholy beauty."

In a letter to the editor written by James Henry Rion in 1849 he also notes the oak lined avenues, but goes on to say that "In the spaces, not occupied by these long lines of oaks, is seen the gloomy cedar, which, as if to give variety to the scene, is planted 'in orderly disorder,' while around are bunches of the low palmetto, and occasionally, Georgia's favorite tree, the stately Magnolia."

Savannah's need for new burial space, due to the filling up of the old 18th-century cemetery later known as Colonial Park Cemetery, was a major issue in the mid-19th century. Rion's opinion

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

notwithstanding, in 1849 Savannah citizens petitioned the city government to establish a new city-owned burial ground outside the city limits. The city purchased Springfield Plantation tract and allotted 100 acres for the purpose of public interment. The first sale of lots in the new cemetery, known then and now as Laurel Grove (National Register, listed September 6, 1978) took place in 1852 with the city offering free burials to those who would re-inter family remains from Christ Church burying ground (a.k.a. Colonial Park Cemetery) into Laurel Grove. As many as 600 burials were transferred between 1852 and 1888. Laurel Grove Cemetery is located 1 ½ miles southwest of Savannah's City Hall, in the opposite direction from Bonaventure. It remains a city-owned and maintained cemetery.

At nearly the same time the Catholic Cemetery on Wheaton Street opened in August 1853, the year the Christ Church cemetery (Colonial Park Cemetery) was closed to burials. More remains were transferred from Christ Church/Colonial Park Cemetery to the new Catholic Cemetery.

Operated as the first for-profit cemetery in the city, Wiltberger's venture was slow to prosper because of its distance from the city (three miles). This attribute, however, was to become its greatest attraction, as its establishment coincided with the "rural cemetery" movement which began at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1831. Christ Church cemetery, located in the heart of Savannah, had become overcrowded and overgrown, an unpleasant place to visit and linger. New burials were stopped in 1853. Burial space at the city-owned Laurel Grove Cemetery also eventually became limited, and families were given the option of choosing Bonaventure as a final resting place for their loved ones. The serene and picturesque landscape of Bonaventure provided a lovely view and an uplifting, park-like atmosphere for the living, and a suitably sublime, eternal resting place for the dead. An excellent example of a rural cemetery and the picturesque landscape aesthetic popular in the mid-19th century, Bonaventure represents a trend, born in the northeast and adopted into the unique historic and geographic context of the South. Eighteenth-century oak-lined avenues and a terraced bluff along the Wilmington River are further identifying features of Bonaventure.

In 1864 Jacob Ritner of the 25th Iowa U. S. Infantry, accompanying U.S. General William Tecumseh Sherman on his march through Georgia, wrote, "I went yesterday to see Bonaventure, which is an old cemetery used by the aristocracy of Savannah. It is one of the most picturesque, as well as gloomy places I was ever in! I wish I could describe it to you. It is planted with live oak and cedar, so thick that they make very dense shade. The trees are large and tall, and have very long branching boughs, which are hung thick with moss. I never saw it grow so long, or the trees so loaded with it before. This gives a gloomy spectral appearance to the place that seems very appropriate to the last resting place of fallen greatness. The vaults and monuments are of marble and very costly."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

In 1868, Peter Wiltberger's son, William, formed the Evergreen Cemetery Company as the corporate body to operate the cemetery at Bonaventure. A map was drawn in 1869 by John Postell which is close to the present-day layout of Bonaventure. During this period Bonaventure consisted mostly of current sections B, C, D, E, F, G, and H. In 1869 the original 70 acres of Bonaventure Cemetery were sold by William Wiltberger, Peter's son, to the Evergreen Cemetery Company and an additional 70 acres, presumably the land between the original north oak drive and the road to Greenwich Plantation, were added for a total of 140 acres. The 1869 John Postell plan shows the extent of the cemetery at that time. This layout remained virtually unchanged until 1907 when the City of Savannah acquired title to the cemetery.

In 1880, the operation of Bonaventure passed to J. H. Estill when he became President of the Evergreen Cemetery Company. Estill (1840-1907) also owned the Savannah Morning News during this time. During his tenure, the idea of establishing a Jewish section in the cemetery first came to light:

"In 1888, members of Congregation Mickve Israel first proposed the idea of purchasing land adjoining Bonaventure for the site of a new Jewish cemetery. Space in Laurel Grove Cemetery was growing more limited and new options had to be pursued. Initial plans fell through and it was not until the city of Savannah became custodian of Bonaventure that negotiations for a Jewish section began again." [Quote from Wilson, p. 94; see Rubin, pp. 214-215, 254-255, for clarification.]

The Savannah Morning News in 1898 reported that age and recent hurricanes had destroyed a number of Bonaventure's famous live oaks. In December of that year, it was proposed to plant young live oaks to replace those that were missing. Also, additional live oaks were planted along the southern sides of the two avenues leading up from the entrance to the cemetery.

Upon the death of Estill in 1907, the City of Savannah acquired Bonaventure, and under the Park and Tree Commission the city operates both Laurel Grove and Bonaventure cemeteries, among others.

In 1909-1910, an additional 20 acres between the original southern boundary and the marsh were purchased, added to Bonaventure, and dedicated for Jewish burials. This purchase brought the size of the cemetery up to 160 acres, the current total. Both Congregation Mickve Israel and Congregation B'nai B'rith Jacob were involved in this purchase. An archway marked the entrance to the Jewish section.

Burial procedures for Orthodox Judaism were ordained in the holy Scripture's book of Genesis. In 1917, a Jewish chapel (photo 9) was built at Bonaventure to fulfill the Scripture's instructions. Originally, the chapel served a dual purpose: for the preparation of the body for interment, and for funeral services which could be conducted immediately following the preparation. In Orthodox

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Judaism, preparation and service are more connected than in Christianity; therefore, having to use a funeral home for preparation and then move to the chapel for service impeded the interment process. Adjacent to the chapel at Bonaventure are burial lots for Orthodox Jewish burials. In 1985, the chapel was renovated and became a site for memorial services during Jewish holy days. It is owned by the Holy Friends, a men's burial society.

There are two other cemeteries adjacent to Bonaventure which are not part of this nomination, although to the untrained eye they might appear as one continuum. The tract known as Greenwich, north of Bonaventure, but separated by Forest Lawn Cemetery, was acquired by the city in 1933 and is operated as a separate cemetery by the city. It was formerly the Greenwich Plantation whose main house burned in 1923. Between Greenwich and Bonaventure is Forest Lawn Memory Gardens, a privately owned cemetery that began in 1955.

While Bonaventure Cemetery is a very old public burial ground, it is not the oldest in the state. There are other large, city-owned cemeteries. Magnolia Cemetery in Augusta began in 1800 as a private family cemetery. The City of Augusta took it over in 1817 and although it predates Mt. Auburn and the rural cemetery movement it fulfills many of the precepts of that movement. Linwood in Columbus dates from 1828, when that city was founded. Rosehill Cemetery in Macon dates from 1840. Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta dates from 1853.

The distinctive development pattern of Bonaventure is that it has maintained the 18th-century plantation layout of avenues and built around it the curvilinear picturesque lane layout of the northern rural cemetery movement augmented by the lush southern natural landscape.

Bonaventure Cemetery remains owned and operated by the City of Savannah. Since its founding in 1994, the Bonaventure Historical Society has worked alongside the city to preserve the cemetery under its own mission, "Dedicated to the Evolution and Preservation of the Historical Significance of Bonaventure Cemetery." The society is membership-based, and publishes a newsletter as well as a brochure that gives the history and important burials.

NOTABLE PEOPLE BURIED AT BONAVENTURE:

Bonaventure is the final resting place for many prominent persons and families. Their histories tell the story of Savannah and Georgia. Here are some of those people whose graves are included on tours of the cemetery for their historic and artistic importance. Others are listed in the cemetery's "Historical Society Guide."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Noble Jones (1702-1775): At the time of his death he was probably the last surviving head of a family of the 114 colonists who came to Georgia aboard the Anne with Oglethorpe. Credited with surveying the town of Savannah and the Salzburger settlement of Ebenezer. Owned Wormsloe (National Register listed). Experimented with the growing of plants. Body moved to Bonaventure Lot 13, Section D, having originally been buried at Colonial Park Cemetery. (Photo 17)

Conrad Aiken (1889-1973): Pulitzer Prize winning poet.

Henry R. Jackson (1820-1898): Superior Court Judge 1849-53, U. S. Minister to Austria 1853-1858, Brigadier General in Confederate Army. (Photo 28, rear.)

Alexander R. Lawton (1818-1896): President of the Augusta and Savannah Railroad, Member House of Representatives and State Senate, President of the American Bar Association, and Brigadier General in the Confederate Army. (Photo 30, the arch on the right.)

Johnny Mercer (1909-1976): Lyricist. (Photo 26)

Josiah Tattnall (1764-1803): Governor of Georgia 1801-1802. (Photo 21, lot E-1)

Edward Telfair (1735-1807): twice Governor of Georgia 1786-1787 and 1789-1793.

ARTISTS AND ARCHITECTS WHOSE WORKS ARE FOUND AT BONAVENTURE

Bonaventure's monuments include work by a number of artisans. Research has provided details on the lives and careers of several of the most important ones. The sculpture and iron work of 26 other artists have been identified on 89 pieces, including iron fencing, stone tablets, crypts and sculpture. Many were produced and signed by Savannah artists such as Robert Allan, G. B. Little, R. D. Walker and the Dixie Stone Company. There is a list available of the identified works of artists and artisans.

Below is information on those considered the most important:

John Walz, Sculptor (1844-1922)

Bonaventure contains a remarkable collection of 106 pieces (per the inventory) of sculpture, memorials, and tablets by local sculptor John Walz. Walz was born in Germany and studied art in Paris and Vienna, where he was a student of Victor Tilgner. While in Vienna, Walz was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

commissioned by Carl Brandt, the first Director of the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences in Savannah, to carve the figures of Michelangelo, Rubens, Raphael, Rembrandt, and Phidias which still stand around the rotunda of the Telfair Academy on Telfair Square, Savannah. Walz moved from Germany to Philadelphia where he was commissioned to carve sculpture and designs for several of Savannah's most prominent buildings, including the carvings on the Masonic Temple on Bull Street, the figures over the entrance of Chatham Academy on Oglethorpe Avenue, designs on the Wright Square Post Office, and the baptismal font at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. In the midst of these commissions, Walz came to Savannah in 1886 and never left. One of his most sought-out works at Bonaventure is the statue of a six-year-old girl, Gracie Watson, commissioned by the girl's father after she died in 1889 (photo 48). Other examples are the Hartman baby crypt, the Schafer stone (photo 43), and the Baldwin family memorial. In addition to the memorials at Bonaventure, Walz's funerary sculpture can be found in Laurel Grove Cemetery and the Catholic cemetery. The body of work by this master carver found in Bonaventure has been documented and indexed by the Bonaventure Historical Society and is considered to be of high artistic merit. The list is on file with the cemetery.

Antonio Aliffi, Sculptor (1888-1936)

Antonio Aliffi was born on July 19, 1888 in Italy. Three generations before him were sculptors. He was invited to come to Savannah by John Walz to carve for Walz. His known works include the carvings on the Liberty Bank Building (demolished), the Flood and N. Aprea monuments in the Catholic cemetery, the Orsini Monument in Bonaventure, the ceiling of the Lucas Theatre, and work on the Armstrong mansion. He also assisted in the carvings on Georgia's Stone Mountain as well as on Mount Rushmore. He also worked on Asa Candler's Atlanta mansion. His Savannah marble yard was located at the corner of 32nd and Paulsen Streets. He later worked for Milton J. Little at Oglethorpe Marble Company.

Henry Urban, Architect (c.1833-1911)

Henry Urban, who is credited with the design of the Beth Eden Baptist Church (1893), the New School for Negro Children (1911), the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist spires after the 1889 fire, and supervision of the building of the Hotel DeSoto (demolished), designed the Lawton Memorial monument located in Section H (photo 30, right rear).

Henrik Wallin, Architect (1873-1936)

The memorials for the Hitch and Armstrong families have been attributed to Henrik Wallin, a prolific Savannah architect who was responsible for the design of the General Oglethorpe Hotel on Wilmington Island, the DeRenne Apartments, the Armstrong mansion, and the old City Auditorium among others.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

LANDSCAPE HERITAGE AT BONAVENTURE--BEFORE THE CEMETERY

Bonaventure has a landscape heritage that predates the establishment of the cemetery in 1846.

The 1779 Antoine O'Connor map of Bonaventure indicates clearly a road flanked by trees leading to a settlement area. Here the road divides and a tree-lined road extends toward the River. The road plan is again depicted on the 1846 plat which clearly shows the tree-lined avenue which splits and three tree-lined roads extend toward the river.

In 1828 Mary Telfair described the landscape elements that remained at that time in a letter. "There is nothing remaining of the house but the wall, on the inside of which are cedar trees. The garden [presently the northeastern portion of Section H] was once a hanging one and descended to the river. It was walled with tabby, a species of mortar made of shell. It is white and very pretty."

The letter continues "Wild flowers and weeds almost cover it. The [Tattnall] graveyard is but a few rods from the garden. The wall around it is entire and the names of the silent inhabitants are engraved on slabs of marble surrounded with trees. But nothing struck me more strongly than the venerable old trees which everywhere adorn this desolate spot. They are covered with a species of moss, a light brown color which hangs about a yard from the branches. It waves with every breeze and reminded me of the gray hair of nature. We approached the place by an avenue of live oaks whose branches formed a complete arch where the roof waved in solemn grandeur."

BONAVENTURE PLANTATION--THE HISTORY BEFORE THE CEMETERY BEGAN

Bonaventure had a rich heritage of historical activities as the site of war activities as well as being a major plantation in the years before it became a cemetery.

First settled by Englishman John Mullryne in 1753, the 600-acre plantation was named Bonaventure, meaning "Good Fortune." When Mullryne's daughter, Mary, married Josiah Tattnall in 1761, landscape gardeners were employed to create the monograms of "M" and "T" in avenues of live oak trees. Good fortune, however, was not long lived at Bonaventure, as in 1771 the plantation house burned. Rebuilt, it burned again in 1800.

During the Siege of Savannah in 1779, Bonaventure was the site at which the French troops under Count Charles d'Estaing established their hospital camp after a futile attempt to regain Savannah from British control. D'Estaing had sailed with his troops from Santo Domingo to arrive at Bonaventure Plantation in early September 1779. Many of the men had arrived ill with scurvy and fever. Two hundred soldiers and 12 officers were hospitalized at Bonaventure, unable to walk the three miles into Savannah, the site of the battle. The French, with the assistance of the American

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

militia, attempted to regain Savannah from the British but were tragically defeated. More than 300 soldiers were killed and again that many wounded. The injured were transported from Spring Hill, the site of the battle on the west side of Savannah, to Bonaventure with the assistance of the British and the use of their carriages. Many of the wounded taken to Bonaventure died there and are probably buried in unknown graves. An article in the Savannah Morning News from 1929 reads, "... In the early dawn of October 9, 1779 there was fought on the then western outskirts of Savannah what was unquestionably the most sanguinary battle of the entire eight years of the American War for Independence...In a single hour there fell within an area of a few hundred square yards more dead and wounded than are credited to any other battlefield in the struggle for American Independence." From Bonaventure, the remaining French troops and 545 Volunteer Chasseurs from Santo Domingo boarded their ships on October 13, 1779, to retreat from the British in defeat.

The plantation, which had been pillaged and damaged, was repaired, but the graves of the unknown French soldiers remain there, the locations unknown to this day.

Archaeological evidence of the plantation house has been discovered in Section F of the cemetery. Burnt debris and old bricks have been unearthed here. Also discovered was archaeological evidence near the river, which might suggest the location of a pier. Antoine O'Connor's 1779 map of Bonaventure shows a pier existed in the area where the discovery was made. This data suggests that the site is likely to yield information on plantation life during the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, although the site has never been excavated.

Having remained loyal to King George III through the Revolution, John Mullryne, Josiah Tattnall, and one of Tattnall's sons, John Mullryne Tattnall, were banished from Georgia forever and in May 1782, the Revolutionary government confiscated their property, which was sold a month later at public auction.

On June 13, 1782, John Habersham bought the plantation, but in 1785, the youngest of Josiah Tattnall's sons, Josiah Tattnall, Jr., was granted permission to return to Georgia. Upon returning to his birthplace and childhood home, he promptly bought back Bonaventure from Habersham. Here, he introduced to Georgia a new cotton plant which he imported from the Bahamas. In 1801 he was elected Governor of Georgia but due to ill health he resigned the following year. In 1803 he died in Nassau and was brought back to Bonaventure for burial, his wife having died in 1802. She was the first adult buried in the Tattnall Family Cemetery at Bonaventure, at what was to become Bonaventure Cemetery. (The Tattnall Family burial ground is now Section E, lot 1, photo 21.)

After Governor Josiah Tattnall, Jr., died in 1803, ownership of Bonaventure passed to his eldest son, Edward Fenwick Tattnall, until his death in 1832. The plantation then became the property of Josiah, Jr.'s, younger son, Commodore Josiah Tattnall III (1795-1871). It was he who sold the plantation in 1846 to Peter Wiltberger.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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- Bonaventure Historical Society Files.
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Maps and Plats

- 1779 Antoine O'Connor map showing Bonaventure, hospital site and place of French Artillery disembarkation. Georgia Historical Society, Charles Ellis Waring and Elizabeth Steward Waring, Savannah and Its Environs 1733-1903. Plate 22-23, Album III, 1974.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9

- 1846 Deed plat from sale of 70 acres of Bonaventure from Josiah Tattnall to Peter Wiltberger. R. J. Davant Collection 199, Folder 11, item 118. Georgia Historical Society.
- c.1869 Plan of Evergreen Cemetery at Bonaventure. John Postell. Endicott and Company, N. Y. Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Georgia Room. DeRenne Collection. University of Georgia, Athens.
- 1875 Map of Chatham County State of Georgia. Charles G. Platen. Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission Graphics Department.
- n.d. A Plan of Bonaventure Cemetery. City of Savannah Research Library, City Hall. Map date is probably c. 1908.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued:
- 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, Specify Repository: Georgia Historical Society, Savannah; and Bonaventure Historical Society files, Savannah.

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 160 acres.

UTM References

A)	Zone 17	Easting 495200	Northing 3545260
B)	Zone 17	Easting 495725	Northing 3545490
C)	Zone 17	Easting 495940	Northing 3545440
D)	Zone 17	Easting 495960	Northing 3545000
E)	Zone 17	Easting 495260	Northing 3544710

Verbal Boundary Description

Bonaventure cemetery is bounded on the east and northeast by the Wilmington River, on the north by a fence that is parallel to the road to Greenwich cemetery; on the west and southwest by fencing and salt marsh. The boundary is marked on the accompanying cemetery map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the cemetery have not changed since 1910. They are the legal boundaries as defined by the City of Savannah's ownership of the cemetery.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 156 Trinity Avenue, SW, Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** December 7, 2000

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

[text drafts prepared by]

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city or town state Georgia **zip code**

telephone (912) Wensel - 233-2719; Reiter - 651-1465; Shaw - 354-6718

date August 20, 1997 **Addendum** January 7, 1998

() **consultant**

() **regional development center preservation planner**

(X **other:** student and representatives of the Bonaventure Historical Society

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Bonaventure Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Savannah
County: Chatham
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April, 1999

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 55: Main Gates; photographer facing southeast.
- 2 of 55: Office (Caretaker's House, see also no. 47); photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 55: Jewish Entrance Gates looking out of the cemetery; photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 55: Celtic Cross grave marker along Sheftall Way; photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 55: Recent burials with Jewish Chapel in right rear; photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 55: Jewish tombstones near Nunez Way with Jewish Chapel in rear; photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 55: Jewish tombstones; photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 55: Jewish tombstones; photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 55: Jewish Chapel, front facade; photographer facing northwest.
- 10 of 55: Mausoleums off Sheftall Way, Meinhard on left, Perlinski on right (P-2 through 5); photographer facing north.
- 11 of 55: Jewish tombstones off Sheftall Way from the circle; photographer facing east.
- 12 of 55: Frank Mausoleum off Sheftall Way (Lot P-48-50); photographer facing northeast.
- 13 of 55: Jewish monuments off Sheftall way; photographer facing northeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

14 of 55: Mausoleums off Legion Way, on left, Guckenheimer (P-235, 236), on right, Herman (P-248-250); photographer facing east.

15 of 55: Adler semi-circular colonnade grave marker; photographer facing southwest.

16 of 55: American Legion Field (World War I and World War II Veterans, O-59-65,163-168); photographer facing east.

17 of 55: Telfair lot, D-19; photographer facing northeast.

18 of 55: Noble Jones Lot, D-13, (one of oldest, moved from older cemeteries) with fence, see also photos 50 and 51; photographer facing southeast.

19 of 55: Looking down Mullryne Way between Sections C and D, Stoddard obelisk, dark, by W. F. Pietch of New York; photographer facing southeast.

20 of 55: Kollock mausoleum, of tabby, E-2; photographer facing east.

21 of 55: Tattnall Family Lot, the original family cemetery, E-1, in area of Noble Jones Dr. and Mullryne Way; photographer facing northeast.

22 of 55: Lot F-27 near the Plantation Square; photographer facing northeast.

23 of 55: Opposite side of Plantation Square, Lot F-30 on right; photographer facing northeast.

24 of 55: Section E or H with river in background; photographer facing southeast.

25 of 55: Mechanical equipment on edge of cemetery across from Section E; photographer facing north.

26 of 55: Section H, Lot 48, grave of Johnny Mercer and family; photographer facing southeast.

27 of 55: Baldwin memorial, Section H, Lot 39, grave near southeast corner; photographer facing northeast.

28 of 55: Section H, Lot 99, pyramid-shaped Mongin mausoleum with Jackson monument (H-101) and river in background; photographer facing east.

29 of 55: View of St. Augustine Creek/Wilmington River from southeast corner of cemetery; photographer facing north.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

30 of 55: Section H-166-167, Lawton Lot, in foreground statue by Civiletti, monument to Alexander R. Lawton in right rear, east edge of cemetery with river in background; photographer facing southeast.

31 of 55: Spanish American War of 1898 Lot, to right of foreground, Section K, lots 41-42, 59-60, near Tattall Way; photographer facing northeast.

32 of 55: Order of Railroad Conductors Lot, Section L, Lots 420-427; photographer facing northwest.

33 of 55: Ramsey (L-925, c.1936) and Davis (U-158-159, c.1993) Mausoleums, north part of cemetery, note fence in background that is the cemetery boundary; photographer facing north.

34 of 55: Section L, northern edge of cemetery and more modern graves; photographer facing north.

35 of 55: Section M, showing sandy soil pathways; photographer facing east.

36 of 55: Circular garden area at intersection of Wiltberger Way and Tattall Way; photographer facing northeast.

37 of 55: Section K, Lot K-465; photographer facing northeast.

38 of 55: Section N; photographer facing northwest.

39 of 55: Bonaventure Way between Sections K and G; photographer facing southeast.

40 of 55: Section G, Lot G-44; photographer facing northeast.

41 of 55: Chisholm Celtic cross c.1883 monument in Section F, Plantation Square area; photographer facing northeast.

42 of 55: Section F, south side of Plantation Square; photographer facing east.

43 of 55: Section A, Lot 185, Schafer monument on right with tree motif designed by Walz; photographer facing northwest.

44 of 55: Section A; photographer facing northeast.

45 of 55: Section A, Lot 29, close to front entrance; photographer facing northeast.

46 of 55: Gaston Mausoleum in Section A, adjacent to office; photographer facing northeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

47 of 55: Office/Caretaker's House with main gates on left and Jewish gates on right; photographer facing northeast. (See also photo no. 2)

48 of 55: Gracie Watson Monument, carved in her likeness by Walz (c.1890), E-99; photographer facing northwest.

49 of 55: William Butler slab, c.1761, F-50, may be oldest slab in Georgia; photographer facing west.

50 of 55: Noble Wimberly Jones Tombstone, Lot D-13; photographer facing northeast. See also photo 18.

51 of 55: George Jones Monument, by Struthers of Philadelphia, c.1848, Lot D-13; photographer facing northeast. See also photo 18.

52 of 55: Confederate Crosses of Honor markers in middle of Section A; photographer facing northeast.

53 of 55: Section B, Sipple Monument; photographer facing northeast.

54 of 55: Section B; photographer facing northeast.

55 of 55: More modern burials in Sections S and T; photographer facing southeast.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Bonaventure Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: GEORGIA, Chatham

DATE RECEIVED: 1/04/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/17/01
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/02/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/19/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01000035

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/2/01 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Entered in the
National Register*

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 1 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 2 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 3 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 6 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 7 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 8 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 9 of 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 10 OF 55



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 11 OF 55



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 12 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 13 of 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 14 OF 55



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 15 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 16 OF 55

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16



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 17 of 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 18 OF 55

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18



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
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PHOTOGRAPH 19 OF 55

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5



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 20 of 55



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 21 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 22 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 23 OF 55



23
23



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 24 OF 55

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CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 25 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 26 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 27 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
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PHOTOGRAPH 28 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
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PHOTOGRAPH 29 OF 55

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29



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 30 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
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PHOTOGRAPH 31 OF 55



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CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 32 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 33 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 34 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
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PHOTOGRAPH 35 OF 55



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PHOTOGRAPH 36 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
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PHOTOGRAPH 37 OF 55

37
37



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
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PHOTOGRAPH 38 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
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PHOTOGRAPH 39 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 40 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 4/ OF 55



4



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 42 of 55

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22



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 43 OF 55



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 44 OF 55

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CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 45 OF 55



45



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 46 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 47 OF 55

PROFESSIONAL PAPER • PAPER

47



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 48 OF 55



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
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PHOTOGRAPH 49 OF 55

95



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
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PHOTOGRAPH 50 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
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PHOTOGRAPH 51 OF 55

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PHOTOGRAPH 52 OF 55

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BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 53 OF 55



BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 54 OF 55





BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 55 OF 55

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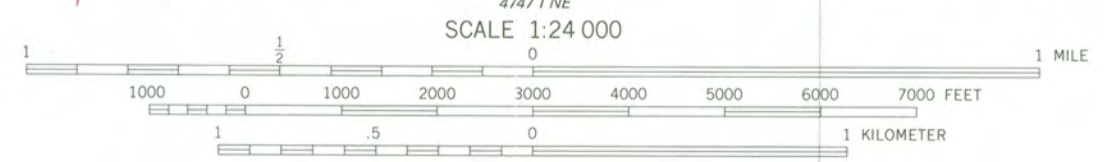
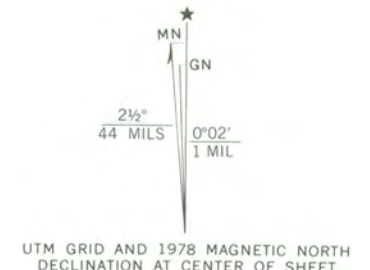




BONAVENTURE CEMETERY,
SAVANNAH, CHATHAM CO.,
GEORGIA

UTM REFERENCES:
A 17 495700 / 3545260
B 17 495725 / 3545490
C 17 495940 / 3545440
D 17 495960 / 3545000
E 17 495760 / 3544710

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, and Georgia Geodetic Survey
Orthophotomap prepared from aerial photograph taken
April 18 1974. Topography by photogrammetric methods
from aerial photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975
Map edited 1978. Supersedes topographic map dated 1955
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 11512
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Projection: Georgia coordinate system (transverse Mercator)
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Georgia coordinate system,
east zone, and South Carolina coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 17. 1927 North American datum
Portions of Georgia—South Carolina boundary
in dispute, not shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 1.5 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 2.2 METERS AT SAVANNAH AND 2.4 METERS AT THUNDERBOLT

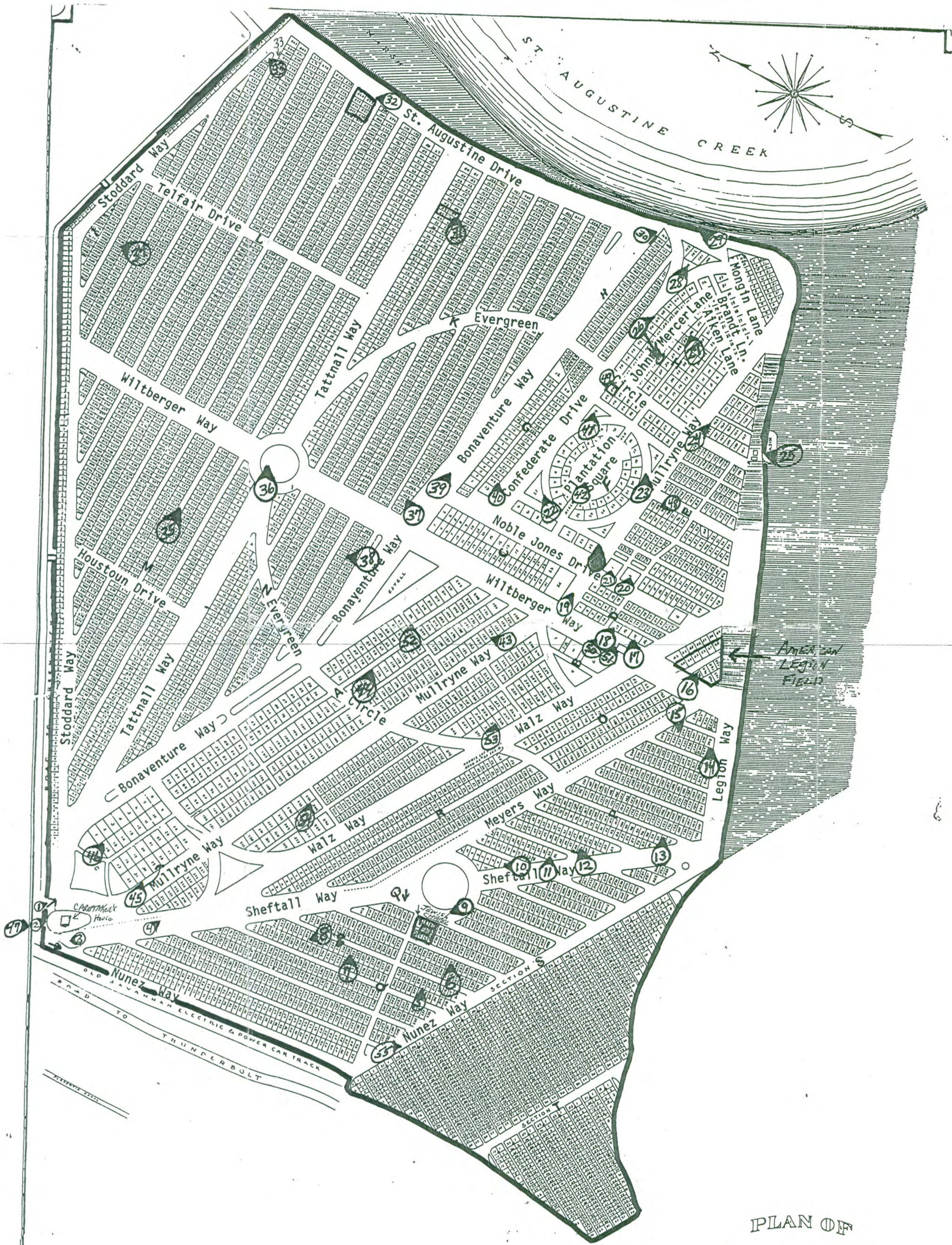
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface —————
Secondary highway, hard surface - - - - -
Light duty road, hard or improved surface ————
Unimproved road ————
Trails ————
Interstate Route ————
U. S. Route ————
State Route ————

SAVANNAH, GA.—S. C.
N3200—W8100/7.5
1978
AMS 4748 II SE—SERIES V8450





Bonaventure Historical Society, Inc.
January, 1998

Bonaventure Cemetery
Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia
Scale: Approximately 1"=166'
Source: Savannah City Hall Research Library
Date: 1998 copy-original base map c.1908
Boundary: ———
North: ⬆

PLAN OF
BONAVENTURE
Cemetery

SCALE 60' FT TO AN INCH

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 657-1040

December 27, 2000

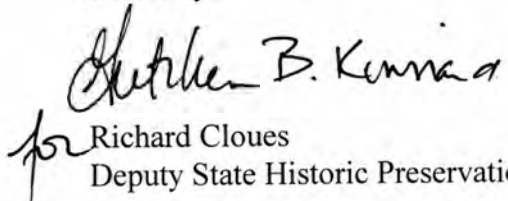
Ms. Carol D. Shull
National Register of Historic Places
History Division
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Mail Stop 2280
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find enclosed the following nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for your consideration:

Bonaventure Cemetery, Chatham County

Sincerely,


for Richard Cloues
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure



Georgia Department
of Natural Resources

**O u r
M i s s i o n**

To promote the preservation
and use of historic places for
a better Georgia.

**O u r
V i s i o n**

Georgia will be a better place tomorrow than it is today, providing quality communities in which to live, work, learn and recreate. Historic places will be widely valued as irreplaceable resources that contribute to our heritage, our economy, our neighborhoods, and our sense of who we are as Georgians. Communities and the State will plan for growth and change that respect and include our historic places. Communities will possess the knowledge, the legal and financial tools, and the authority to decide how preservation and new development will relate to one another. There will still be distinctions between city and suburbs, developing areas and countryside. All Georgians will possess a greater understanding and appreciation of our shared heritage in all its variations. People and organizations throughout Georgia will work in partnership to preserve and use historic places. Georgia's communities, economy, environment, and people will be better because of the preservation of historic resources.

PRESERVATION FAX SHEET

DATE: 1/9/01

TO: Alexis Abernethy

FAX: 202/343-1244

RE: Replacement page

SENDER: GRETCHEN KINNARD
NATIONAL REGISTER COORDINATOR

PHONE: 404/651-6782 FAX: 404/657-1040

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE 2 PAGE(S), INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL OF THE PAGES, PLEASE CALL THE TELEPHONE NUMBER LISTED BELOW.

Alexis - Here is the replacement page for the Bonaventure Cemetery, Chatham Co. Georgia I spoke to you about last week (only change is criteria consideration is checked). Hard copy to follow in the mail.

Thanks, Gretchen

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
156 TRINITY AVENUE, SW
SUITE 101

B. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

- Art
- Architecture
- Community Planning and Development
- Ethnic Heritage-Jewish
- Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance:

1846-1950

Significant Dates:

- 1846 - The 600-acre Bonaventure Plantation purchased by Peter Wiltberger with 70 acres earmarked and dedicated for a public use cemetery
- 1868 - Evergreen Cemetery formed as the corporate entity for the 70-acre cemetery
- 1887 - Mickve Israel synagogue begins negotiations for a Jewish Cemetery, or burial area, to adjoin Evergreen/Bonaventure. Not realized until 1909. (Wilson, p. 94)
- 1907 - City of Savannah purchases Evergreen Cemetery and renames it Bonaventure Cemetery
- 1909- Jewish Section is created with additional 20-acre purchase and added to Bonaventure (Wilson, p. 94)
- 1917 - Jewish Chapel built

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

Historic Preservation Division


W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

156 Trinity Avenue, SW, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 657-1040

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Alexis Abernathy

FROM: Gretchen Kinnard, National Register Coordinator 

DATE: January 9, 2001

RE: Bonaventure Cemetery, Chatham County, Georgia

Please find enclosed the replacement page for the above-referenced nomination. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for your assistance!

