

Guidelines for Recording Historic Cemeteries

August 2013

Introduction

Historic cemeteries with 1 or more grave markers should be recorded on South Carolina Statewide Intensive Survey Forms. This includes cemeteries that are partially marked and markers with no writing (for example, a field stone). Cemeteries that are unmarked (no markers visible) or prehistoric should be recorded on a South Carolina Archaeological Site Form. This form is available through the [South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology \(SCIAA\)](#).

Before filling out an Intensive Survey Form, please read the Survey Manual: Statewide Survey of Historic Properties section Va. *Guidelines for Preparation of Survey Forms*. When a cemetery is related to a church, the cemetery should be recorded as a sub-number of the church.

For a historical overview of eighteenth to twentieth century cemeteries, see the [South Carolina's Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook](#) (pdf).

Instructions for Completing the South Carolina Statewide Survey Forms for Cemeteries

The Intensive Survey Form should be filled out according to the instructions in the Survey Manual: Statewide Survey of Historic Properties under section Vb., with the exception of the following:

Identification

Category: Site

Historical Use: Funerary

Current Use: Funerary

Property Description

Construction Date: Enter the date range for the cemetery. The date range can be the earliest and most recent marked graves observed. If the exact date is not known, a circa date may be entered.
Examples: 1866-1925
c. 1890-1955

Significant
Architectural
Features:

Describe the character-defining architectural features of the property. For example, describe any fences and their materials or if trees line the boundary.

Describe the type of headstones/footstones and their materials present.
Provide an estimated number of burials.

Historical
Information:

Explain the historical role, function, and significance of the property. Information should seek to answer questions regarding the eligibility of the property for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Identify any significant events or persons associated with the property. Include any prominent family names in the cemetery.

Surveyors should refer to pages 37 and 47-49 of the National Register bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* (rev. ed., 1997), for guidelines on applying the National Register criteria and evaluating significance.

Historical information should be written in clear, concise prose.