



Chicora Foundation, Inc.
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February 2008



Monumental Issues

Good Care of Ironwork

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Ironwork is a critical element of many cemetery landscapes. It was often used as fencing around family plots during the Rural Cemetery movement. Much ironwork was lost during the revolt against the perceived clutter appearance of these cemeteries during the following Lawn Park movement. Still more was lost during metal drives during the Second World War

So if your cemetery still has ironwork, it should be carefully guarded and protected. And one aspect of responsible care is ensuring that it is carefully painted.

In fact, painting is perhaps the

simplest maintenance step your cemetery can take to ensure the preservation of ironwork.

Timely treatments means that corrosion won't destroy connections and weaken the fence. So simple wire brushing will be adequate to remove loose rust.

Then one or two coats of the Rust-Oleum product Rust Reformer will convert the corrosion to a stable base that can receive a top coat paint.

Two thin coats are always better than one thick coat and will keep the fence looking good for years.



Before and after photographs of a fence treated by Chicora's conservators at Richardson Cemetery in Clarendon County, SC.



Upcoming Talks & Workshops

- Beaufort, SC SCFM Meeting, February 27-28, 2008, Museums and Cemeteries
- Hemmingway, SC, March 1, 2008, Preserving Cemeteries
- Austin, TX, April 7-9, 2008, NPI Cemetery Preservation 3-day Workshop
- For more information, visit http://www.chicora.org/preservation_workshops.htm

Chicora Conducts Assessments of Thomasville, Georgia Cemeteries

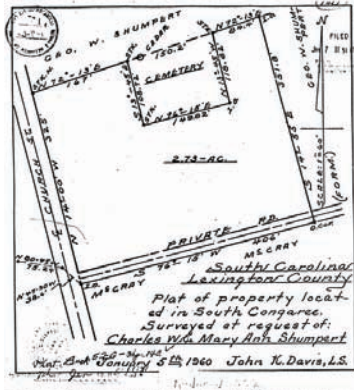
When the City of Thomasville, Georgia realized that their four historic cemeteries, totaling more than 60 acres, they turned to Chicora and our 20+ years of experience in cemetery preservation.

Tailoring an assessment to their budget, we spent two days in Thomasville, looking at the cemeteries, talking to the Pub-

lic Works Division that cares for the cemeteries, and exploring the history of the community (which has an exceptional historic district, if you've never had the opportunity to visit).

The result of our work is a 150 page assessment that evaluates the care and recommends changes, providing a detailed budget for the proposed work.





Plat showing the “lost” cemetery at the Lighthouse Baptist Church in South Congaree.

Lost Cemetery Found in South Congaree, SC

For years members of the Lighthouse Baptist Church in South Congaree, SC had heard rumors of a cemetery next to their church. But yet there seemed to be nothing there by a large grassed area.

Wanting to do the right thing, they called Chicora and asked if we had a technique to help determine if the rumors were actually true.

We suggested a penetrometer

study, pointing out that if graves were present, they should be detected by their lower ground compaction. We also pointed out that a penetrometer study would be cost-effective, something that was very important to the small congregation.

The work only took a few hours on a cold January morning. Before long four graves were identified in an area of several large — and old — cedars. Our

work also attracted the attention of an adjacent neighbor, who was interested in what we were doing. She quickly produced an old plat of the property — showing a cemetery!

The “rumors” were true — the church had purchased a 0.4 acre cemetery years ago as part of their church lot. Mystery solved — showing how often historic research can be as productive as field investigations!



Conservator Nicole Southerland drilling one of the cemetery’s broken stones for insertion of threaded stainless steel rods.

First Phase Completed at Old Athens Cemetery

The first phase of restoration efforts funded by the University of Georgia has been completed at the Old Athens Cemetery in Athens, GA.

The work involved repointing and repair of a brick vault, repointing an unusual stuccoed brick obelisk, and repair of four stones. The work on the vault was conducted by John Friedrichs, a preservation mason in Lexington, Virginia. The

stone conservation was conducted by Chicora conservators Mike Trinkley and Nicole Southerland.

The Old Athens Cemetery received a preservation assessment by Chicora in December 2006 and the University is dedicated to restoring the beauty and dignity of Athens earliest community graveyard.

The stone repair was relatively



straight forward, repairing breaks that were either caused by vandalism or natural events. One stone received a poultice to remove paint on its stucco.



A graceful and beautiful arborvitae butchered by inappropriate pruning.

Think About Landscape Care

Cemetery landscapes — and their plantings — are just as valuable as the stones and ironwork. That’s why we spend as much time evaluating landscape issues as stone conservation concerns.

Recently we’ve noticed a rash of problems dealing with inappropriate pruning techniques.

Beautiful arborvitae are not intended to be “carved out” like this example. Nor are they intended to have their crowns lifted. Any bad pruning isn’t recoverable — they don’t regrow!

Too often the crews responsible for the cemetery landscape aren’t trained in pruning — and the results can be disastrous as

seen in this illustration.

Don’t destroy your historic landscape by inappropriate pruning — if you aren’t sure how to approach landscape problems, call us — we’re always happy to provide some quick tips. We also provide workshops in Cemetery Landscape Maintenance — ask us about hosting one.