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Monumental Issues

Third Phase of Work at Trinity Cathedral

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Trinity Cathedral in Columbia, SC has embarked on restoration work for its bicentennial — and the cemetery hasn't been forgotten. For the third year in a row we have been honored to be involved in the work to repair and beautify the historic graveyard.

Monuments are being straightened; broken stones are being repaired; and unsafe stones are being reinforced.

Some of the work is being paid for by family members, other work is coming from the cemetery budget. All of the work is under the direction of Mr. Jim Simms, who is in charge of the cemetery and its grounds.

So far over 50 stones have been worked on by Chicora's team. Some have been completed taken apart and rebuilt. Others needed only simple repairs. And one, the tomb of Mary Hampton, has been brought back to its original beauty with a gleaming white coat of fresh limewash.

As you walk though the historic Trinity churchyard, however, don't expect to see much. Good conservation should be invisible explains Chicora's Director, Michael Trinkley. "We want people to see the beauty of the original stone, not the conservation work."

And Trinity is one of Colum-



Chicora's team is carefully resetting a Trinity monument using a 1-ton tripod and lifting device.

bia's most beautiful churchyards. Now it is also one of Columbia's best preserved!

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 Selected to Treat Charleston Unitarian Church Monuments

Charleston's Unitarian Church at 4 Archdale Street is the city's second oldest church and has been designated at National Historic Landmark. After more than 200 years of history the churchyard monuments are in need of conservation help.

A series of 12 monuments will be the first to be repaired this winter. Most are simple head-

stones that have been broken and are laying on the ground. Therefore, their repair will dramatically change the appearance of the churchyard.

Chicora is especially proud to be able to help preserve the beauty of the cemetery in the "Holy City." We'll have more about the work in upcoming issues.



Major Assessment of Mobile, Alabama Cemetery and Upcoming Work



This is one of the nearly 400 stones identified by Chicora conservators for treatment at Magnolia Cemetery

Magnolia is Mobile's third oldest municipal cemetery, begun in 1836. The cemetery covers over 100 acres and includes over 100,000 burials. Thus, it is no surprise that after 170 years it needs attention.

Chicora conservators Michael Trinkley and Nicole Southerland visited the cemetery and its caregiver, Mr. Mark Helseth this summer.

Nine of the oldest sections were

examined, with critical stones identified and conservation treatments proposed.

After carefully reviewing the assessments, the cemetery's Board hired Chicora to begin treatments on the several dozen Priority 1 stones. In addition, the Board is expanding the assessment to include additional areas of the cemetery.

Of particular concern in Mobile are the many broken or warped

ledgers. These are being treated by stabilizing their foundations, repairing breaks, and resetting the ledgers.

Other common problems — typical of all nineteenth century cemeteries — include ferrous pins, broken stones, and corroding ironwork.

We'll have more on this cemetery as conservation treatments begin this winter.



Before and after views of a small obelisk at Settler's Cemetery in downtown Charlotte, NC.

Work at Settler's Cemetery in Charlotte, NC

Settler's Cemetery is tucked away in a block of downtown Charlotte surrounded by condos and office buildings. Most people walking through it may even have never noticed the monuments scattered about.

But it is one of Charlotte's first — and oldest — cemeteries. Today it is managed by the City's Park Department, with the careful oversight of the Mecklenburg Historical Association.

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Chicora began working at Settlers in 1999, periodically conducting additional conservation treatment as funding allows.

We were back this fall, conducting additional repairs on several stones. The small obelisk to the left required the ferrous pin to be core drilled out and replaced with a stainless steel pin. The broken top por-

tion had to be similarly set with a stainless steel pin. Then Jahn Marble Repair Mortar was used to infill lost fabric.

Making the job more difficult, many of the stones at Settler's have had previous repairs, often using inappropriate materials.

Every new treatment at Settler's helps improve the beauty of his unique Charlotte resource.



North Attleborough Assessment

Our colleague Barbara Donohue, a preservation consultant in Boston, asked us to consult on the conservation needs of the Mann Family Cemetery in North Attleborough, a small town southwest of Boston.

Chicora conservator and director, Michael Trinkley, visited

the cemetery this fall, examining the stones, wall, and general condition of the cemetery.

Unfortunately, a previous attempt to "preserve" the cemetery paved the graveyard with 4-inches of concrete. This caused many of the slate markers to break off and shatter.

The preservation efforts today, involve "undoing" these earlier misguided efforts and helping the community restore this unique family cemetery.

This is just one example of the many challenges that Chicora takes on every month. Every cemetery is different, but each one gets our full attention.



One of the beautiful slate stones in the Mann Family Cemetery, North Attleborough, Massachusetts.