

Cemetery Conservation Plan for the Municipal Cemeteries of Savannah Georgia

Preservation Plan Highlights

This plan has been drafted to create a basis for the implementation of preservation within the municipal cemeteries of Savannah, Georgia. The Cemetery Conservation Plan, hereinafter referred to as “The Plan”, will be drafted to assist in the planning of conservation, to address technical issues, and provide guidance to the selection of future projects. The plan will enable the cemetery conservators to effectively preserve the integrity of the cemeteries for the future while complying with The Secretary of Interiors Standards for Preservation and Restoration utilizing Preservation Briefs and other publications.

1. The Plan shall be built upon the old Rehabilitation Plan. The Rehabilitation Plan will be amended to facilitate integration into The Plan.
2. The Plan shall be constructed to ensure that monuments, markers and sculptures that are in danger of damage or loss shall be moved into a priority category. Those objects will be marked for inclusion into near future plans.
3. The Plan shall be constructed so that only materials that have no apparent relevance to the lot that they are found on, or the lots in close proximity of them, shall be removed. (i.e. Cast iron fencing in a lot with wrought iron fencing or no fencing at all, or bricks upon a lot where no evidence of missing bricks can be found.) All materials that are removed from a lot where they were found shall be cataloged into the Material Salvage Program. Previously removed architectural details that have been disassociated from their original context and found within the material salvage area shall be returned into the cemetery where identical matches can be found.
4. The Plan shall consist of four separate categories including; 1. Traditional lot maintenance including resetting markers, small monuments, and lot coping. 2. Family vaults. 3. Mausoleums. 4. Cast and wrought iron. These four categories shall be separated only for the purpose of documentation and shall be conserved together so that they contribute to the lot as a whole.
5. The Plan shall be constructed so that lot fencing that is found damaged or missing elements, shall be consolidated and placed to the front of the lot to re-establish the context for which it was originally intended.
6. The Plan shall be constructed in a way that cleaning of masonry and other cemetery architecture shall be cleaned only for the purpose of preserving the integrity of those objects. In the instance of cemetery sculpture, cleaning for the purpose of aesthetic value shall be permitted due to the environmental conditions found within the region of Savannah, Georgia