

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

ATTACHMENT 4

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Chapel Hill Cemetery

other names/site number College Graveyard

2. Location

street & number NW corner N.C. 54 & Country Club Road N/A  not for publication

city or town Chapel Hill N/A  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Orange code 135 zip code 27599

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility 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  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
	1	buildings
1		sites
4	1	structures
16	1	objects
21	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other gravemarkers: marble, granite

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Ethnic Heritage: black

Other: Funerary Art

Period of Significance

1798-1944

Significant Dates

1798

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, Orange Co., NC

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### Section 7: Description

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery was established as a burying ground for the University of North Carolina and the village of Chapel Hill in the late eighteenth century. It was located one-quarter mile southeast of the then-small campus on a portion of the 125-acre tract of land sold by Hardy Morgan to "Alfred More [sic] and other trustees of the State of North Carolina" for five shillings on October 21, 1776 [Orange County D.B. 5, 660-61]. No recorded action designated a cemetery at that site and its selection may have taken place on short notice when George Clarke, a nineteen-year-old student, died unexpectedly on September 28, 1798, three years after the new university opened. Clarke's grave, in Section I, is assumed to be the earliest interment and likely formed a nucleus around which the cemetery grew during the next 196 years to include 6.98 acres and 1,621 marked burials. Almost certainly there are more; scant records were kept through the years and visual evidence of an unknown number of nineteenth and early-twentieth century grave sites has disappeared.

Today the University of North Carolina campus has surrounded the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery on the north, west and south sides. Mature oaks, hickories, gums, cedars, maples and pines shelter rows of gravemarkers or family plots and create an informal setting. Scattered shrubs, including boxwoods, azaleas, nandinas, and crape myrtles reinforce a park-like feeling. English ivy and vinca overgrow a number of individual plots, in some cases obscuring the grave sites and markers within.

Low rubblestone walls surround the cemetery, setting it apart from dormitories and tennis courts on the north side. The walls follow the University's Tennis Court Drive on the north, and follow the edge of a wooded grove adjacent to Country Club Drive on the east, then along South Road (NC 54) on the south and parallel to several dormitories on the west. Five paved access drives punctuate the walls on the north and south, dividing the cemetery into six approximately equal sections according to race and time of interment. These are designated as Sections A, B, I, II, III, and IV (see Exhibit A). The following description treats Section I, the oldest area, first. Sections A and B on the west, the African-American area, are treated secondly, and finally the more recent white sections II, III, and IV to the

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east. Section I burials are primarily nineteenth century. Section B was the slave cemetery: the earliest inscribed stone has a death date of 1853, but it was probably in use before this. Section A came into general use by Chapel Hill's African-Americans in the mid-1880s. Section II contains only a few nineteenth century burials and did not come into general use until the early twentieth century. Likewise Section III had sporadic burials before it came into general use in the late 1920s. Section IV contains several early twentieth century burials and came into general use in 1930.

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery contains a wide variety of stone monuments dating to the present. The following percentages represent the number of monuments, not including unscribed fieldstones, since these cannot be dated, that predate 1945: Section A, 66%; Section B, 40%; Section I, 62%; Section II, 45%; Section III, 15%; Section IV, 12%. Altogether, 37% of the monuments date from the period of significance, 1798-1944. Although this represents less than a majority of the monuments, the post-1945 monuments are primarily small tablets, set nearly flush with the ground, and are not visually intrusive. The entire cemetery was platted during the period of significance and surrounded by a stone rubble wall, and has integrity of feeling because of the visual dominance of the historic monuments. Furthermore, many of the significant individuals mentioned in this nomination are buried in Sections II, III, and IV. During the antebellum period, the types of monuments represented are unscribed fieldstones, headstones, ledgers, box-tombs, tomb-tables, and obelisks. Monuments from the 1860s to the 1940s consist of headstones, obelisks, and family monuments with smaller tablets marking individual graves. Post-1945 monuments also consist of family monuments with individual tablets. Primary materials are marble and granite, but a few of the antebellum monuments are of local stone and some of the later are of concrete. Only the most significant monuments and walls or fences, and the utility shed and gazebo, are counted as resources noted in bold type and keyed to the map, Exhibit A, by referencing their location on the grid. The stone enclosure walls are counted as one contributing structure, the overall site is contributing, and all non-contributing monuments are counted collectively as one non-contributing object.

### Section I

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In the center of the cemetery, in the midst of cedars and evergreen ground covers at the high point of the land, is the oldest section of the cemetery. It is obvious from the cemetery plot map (Exhibit A) that this section was not originally platted into family plots but evolved over time. The arrangement of graves is loosely by family, and a number of family plots are enclosed by low concrete curbs, low brick walls, and, in a few instances, low stone walls. A few of the plots have iron fences. One of the most ornate is the cast-iron fence for the W.S. Guthrie plot (contributing structure: EE15). The gate has the family name, the date 1892, and a mourning tableau of a willow tree shading two reclining lambs. The railing consists of heavy woven wire with finial accents along the top. A new cross-gabled gazebo of wood (non-contributing structure: CC26) with a metal roof was recently built at the southwest edge of this section.

The earliest monument in the cemetery appears to be the marble headstone of Baroque style for Margaritta Chapman, died 1814 (contributing object: NN7), aged sixteen. George Clarke, who died in 1798, is the first known individual buried here, but the marble ledger for George Clarke (contributing object: PP12) appears to have been installed a number of years after his death. The ledger has floral decoration characteristic of late nineteenth century gravestones, and is probably a replacement of the original and perhaps temporary marker erected by the Philanthropic Society.

The fenced plots of the Dialectic Society and the Philanthropic Society, located close together in the north central portion of Section I, have extremely ornate cast-iron fences, indicating that these organizations went to great expense to honor their deceased members. The Philanthropic Society fence (contributing structure: LL7) encloses a rectangular plot approximately 15 x 30 feet, and contains six monuments. The fence rests on a neatly chiseled brownstone base. At the south end is a gate containing the society name. The fence is of ornate rectilinear Gothic Revival style characteristic of the mid-nineteenth century, with posts containing pointed arch detailing and a railing with a lower band of geometric design and pickets ending in fleur-de-lis. The Dialectic Society plot, of approximately the same size, contains five monuments. The Dialectic Society cast-iron fence (contributing structure: PP11) is of ornate Gothic Revival style, set on a brownstone base, and has a south gate with the society's name and their date of

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establishment, 1795, as well. The curvilinear floral design, Eastlake Gothic in character, features posts that are clustered colonnettes and a railing with a lower quatrefoil border and elliptical-patterned rails topped by fleur-de-lis finials. This fence was probably erected in the 1880s.

The so-called "Di" and "Phi" monuments are not only among the earliest monuments in the cemetery, but are also the most artistically significant. The large size and elegant carving of these marble headstones, ledgers and obelisks indicate that the families or friends of these students spent lavishly to provide a handsome memorial. These are among the few monuments in the entire cemetery which have stonecutters' signatures, indicating that these were specimen examples of these artisans' work. The earliest society burial, and the original burial in the cemetery, for George Clarke in 1798, is outside of the Dialectic Society fence. The earliest dated monument within the fences is the monument in the Philanthropic Society plot for James N. Neal, 1809-1832 (contributing object:LL7). This is a marble ledger supported on marble posts of classical design, and was an expensive monument favored by affluent antebellum families. In the Dialectic Society Plot, the tomb-table (a marble ledger on a brick base) for Lewis Bowen Holt, died 1842 (contributing object:PP11), is a fine example of the sculptural skill of Fayetteville stonecutter George Lauder. Holt's ledger contains a tableau depicting, in consummate illusionism, a fountain, cistern, and broken objects set in a desert landscape. This scene is described in a Biblical passage from Ecclesiastes XII, of which part is included in the epitaph: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Lauder did not sign this monument, but did sign a nearly identical monument in Cross Creek Cemetery in Fayetteville, enabling the Holt monument to be attributed to Lauder. Lauder signed the ornate marble obelisk of John Alexander Smith, 1836-1855 (contributing object:PP11) in the Dialectic plot. He signed two marble obelisks in the Philanthropic plot, for David White Fisher, died 1850 (contributing object:LL7) and for Mark Bennett, died 1851 (contributing object:LL7). The Raleigh stonecutting firm of Maunder & Campbell, active in the later nineteenth century, signed the obelisk of Joshua P. Perry, died 1856 (contributing object:LL7) in the Philanthropic plot.

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Among the early stones outside the Philanthropic plot is the tall marble headstone for Charles A. Brewster, died 1815 (contributing object:MM6). He was apparently from New York City, and the inscription reveals that the Assistant Missionary Society of New York erected the monument "as a testament to his memory." This stone was probably imported from New York. An early signed monument is a marble headstone with an urn-and-willow scene for Mary Jane Wilson, died 1842 (contributing object:MM6), also just outside the Phi plot. It is signed by a New York stonecutter, "R.I. Brown, N.Y."

Scattered among the commercially-carved monuments in Section I are a number of uninscribed fieldstones erected by families who did not have the money to purchase a gravestone. Such markers, salvaged from the rocky fields of the area, are one of the most common types of gravemarkers in the North Carolina piedmont during the antebellum period. The dates of these markers are unknown, but they probably represent burials throughout the nineteenth century.

A recent stone in Section I with a humorous epitaph perhaps attracts the most attention. The monument of Jane Tenney Gilbert (BB01) announces:

I was a Tar Heel born  
and a Tar Heel bred  
and Here I lie  
A Tar Heel dead  
Born Jan. 2, 1896  
And still here, 1980

**Sections A and B: African-American Sections**

These two western sections contain African-American graves. Pines, cedars and gums grow tall among the gravestones on a lawn covering made sparse by deep year-round shade. A mixture of fieldstones, headstones, tablets and family markers are set in plots or placed in loosely organized rows, and significant areas of these sections appear to be empty. The southern portions of these sections are dominated by family monuments from a later date, while the central and northern

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portions contain primarily individual gravestones. The cemetery is maintained by the town of Chapel Hill, and, in the past several years, emphasis has been placed on restoring and caring for vegetation, but Sections A and B show the most obvious effects of vandalism to gravemarkers. Many are broken or have been toppled from their bases and placed against boundary walls or cast aside.

A north-south paved drive separates the older Section B from Section A. At the east edge of B, a crumbling stone rubble wall along another paved drive forms a racial boundary, dividing the historically black section from the historically white Section I. Midway within the wall a small one-story brick utility shed (noncontributing building:W18), built in 1949, holds groundskeeper's implements.

As might be expected, monuments in Section B, which began as the slave section, are primarily uninscribed fieldstones. Since these have no inscriptions, both the identity and date of death of the interred are unknown. Some probably mark slave burials; some probably mark later African-American graves. There are, however, three well-crafted antebellum gravestones for African-Americans in this section. The earliest is for Ellington Burnett, 1831-1853 (contributing object:Q24). His brownstone ledger is broken, and lies in pieces on the ground, but the inscription notes that he was the son of Cornelius & Caroline Burnett. Also in Section B are two brownstone headstones: for Thomas Fletcher, 1838-1862 (contributing object:O6) and George, son of Samuel Barbee, no dates (contributing object:P19). These have the discoid shape, with matching monogrammed footstone, that was popular during the antebellum period, although the choice of brownstone (probably local) and the relatively rough shaping of the stones indicates that the artisan was probably not a commercial stonemason but perhaps a stonemason who cut gravestones as a sideline.

Certainly the most significant monument in the African-American sections is the tall sandstone obelisk for Wilson Swain Caldwell (contributing object:R25), an African-American servant at the University who died in 1891. This stands in the center of Section B. The marble plaque mounted in its base also contains the names of three other African-American university servants "who served the university faithfully," but they are apparently only commemorated, not buried

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here. The imposing, severe shaft was erected over the main campus grave of Joseph Caldwell, first president of the university, who died in 1835. After a new Caldwell Monument of marble replaced this sandstone obelisk, it was moved here and reused for these four servants in 1907.

The small granite headstone of Dilsey Craig, 1802-1894 (contributing object:W8), located in the north end of Section B, is another monument that was actually ordered by the white family for whom she was a servant. The material and design of the stone indicate that it was erected many years after Dilsey's death, probably in the 1930s. The inscription reads:

60 years a slave  
chiefly in the home of Dr. James Phillips  
whose grandchild erects this in grateful memory  
Well done good and faithful servant.  
Always remembered.

The rest of the gravestones in the African-American sections are headstones of either concrete or marble, and family monuments of granite which date from the 1880s to the present. A number of the early twentieth century headstones are of concrete, and several of these, such as that of Eliza Jones, died 1927 (contributing object:E15) have an anchor entwined by ivy ornamenting the top. Such commercially cast concrete markers were sold all over North Carolina during this period, and were an inexpensive alternative to marble monuments. They are especially numerous in African-American cemeteries, and have withstood weathering surprisingly well.

**Sections II, III, IV**

This area comprises the eastern half of the cemetery. Large specimen oak trees, small ornamental trees, and flowering shrubs grow in the grassy lawn of these sections. Section II is divided into rectangular family plots with a driveway running north-south through the center. There are scattered graves with death dates of 1829, 1843, 1862 and 1872, apparently made by families prior to the

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platting of these sections. Regular interments did not begin in Section II until the early twentieth century. In 1903 plat a plot enlarging the cemetery by one and one-third acre on the east side, apparently for Section II, was presented to the town of Chapel Hill. The majority of monuments are post-1900 marble or granite family monuments surrounded by smaller tablets marking individual family members, set generally in rows with no borders marking family plots.

Sections III and IV, approximately one and one-third acres in size, were apparently platted on the two acres added to the east side of the cemetery in 1928. Family plots are smaller, square-in-shape, and oriented on a different axis from Section II. As in Section II, there are scattered earlier burials made prior to platting, for example, in 1882, 1890, 1915 and 1916. Burials have been constant in these sections beginning in 1928. Like Section II, these sections contain family monuments, generally of granite, with smaller tablets for individual burials. Family plots generally have no borders.