

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name WILLIAMSON MAUSOLEUM AT ORPHANS CEMETERY
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Orphans Cemetery, Orphans Cemetery Road, between U.S. 23 and U.S. 341, 2 and 1/2 miles northwest of Eastman
city, town Eastman (X) vicinity of
county Dodge code GA 091
state Georgia code GA zip code 31023

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

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

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	0	0
sites	1	0
structures	0	0
objects	2	13
total	3	13

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

September 30 1997
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beall

4/7/97

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

FUNERARY/cemetery/grave
RECREATION AND CULTURE/work of art

Current Functions:

FUNERARY/cemetery/grave
RECREATION AND CULTURE/work of art

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

None

Materials:

foundation	marble
walls	marble
roof	marble
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Williamson Mausoleum is a 1912 double mausoleum with accompanying sculpture under a circular canopy supported by five Doric columns. The canopy appears to be adapted from the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates of Athens, Greece, erected around 335 B.C. The Williamson Mausoleum appears to be a simplified version of the ancient one which was popular in many buildings and especially in funerary interpretations, although originally created as a monument for awards. The effect of the Williamson Mausoleum is that the simplification of the canopy and columns allows the statues to be more dominant, emphasizing the sculpture and thus the man being honored, rather than the architecture. The mausoleum is of Georgia marble and the sculpture is of white Italian Carrara marble. The two burials are in rectangular boxed above-ground crypts. The sculpture, a virtual family portrait in marble, consists of three statues, two of which are seated, and one of which is standing, under a circular canopy supported by five Doric columns. The canopy and columns are also of Georgia marble. The statues represent Albert G. Williamson, his wife, Martha J. Buchan Williamson and their nephew, Jay Gould Williamson. Before the seated figures is a classical urn used for flowers. The name "Williamson" is inscribed on the entablature. The mausoleum and sculpture are by far the most impressive monuments in the Orphans Cemetery. The mausoleum and sculpture are in the southwest corner of the family lot which is 44 feet square and is surrounded by a historic ca. 1912 wrought iron fence which has three original gates.

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Section 7--Description

The nominated property, a 44 foot square lot, also contains the burials of several other members of the Williamson family. Besides Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Williamson who are buried in the mausoleum and depicted in the statue, the other graves are:

In a row to the right of the mausoleum:

Hannon Havana Williamson. Bachelor brother of A. G. One of the Orphans. He is in a separate, one person, above ground vault or mausoleum.

Felix Williamson, Sr. One of the Orphans. Within his plot are his wife, daughter (Mrs. W.I. Stuckey), Mr. Stuckey, and Mr. Stuckey's second wife. There is a coping around this plot. All the tombstones lie flat on the ground and are of marble.

Lewis Richard Goolsberry Williamson, one of the Orphans. He and his wife and son are buried northeast of the mausoleum near a gate to the lot. Their plot includes three marble tombstones, an upright monument with the name "Williamson" on it, and two urns, all out of marble.

There are four other graves within the lot, three of whom are children, and one marked, but unnamed, adult.

The lot is in the midst of the Orphans Cemetery, within the original one acre cemetery section. The cemetery is 2 1/2 miles northwest of the city of Eastman in a very rural area. The Orphans Cemetery, which surrounds the nominated mausoleum, sculpture, and lot but is not being nominated in its entirety, has been expanded twice in recent years to its current three acre size. In 1988, the cemetery streets were paved, other landscaping was done, and the gates on the main road were built.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ART

Period of Significance:

1912

Significant Dates:

1912

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

The Cordele Consolidated Marble Co. of Cordele, Georgia, erected the monument.

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Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Williamson Mausoleum is significant in art as a fine and very unusual, perhaps unique, example for Georgia of a commemorative burial monument commissioned by, designed for, and constructed in the lifetime of the man who was to be buried underneath it. Albert G. Williamson (1854-1925) was a major businessman in Dodge County. After encountering a traveling monument salesman ca. 1910, he commissioned the three-person sculpture to be carved based on a family photograph. The monument was constructed by the Cordele Consolidated Marble Co., of Cordele, Georgia, but the sculpture is reputed to be of fine Italian Carrara marble and to have been carved in Italy. The sculptures are life-size and are definitely a very unusual form of funerary art for such a small community as Eastman, or for anywhere in Georgia, for that matter. It is also unusual to have a funerary monument commissioned to be an exact likeness of living persons, and the grouping of three persons is not known to exist elsewhere in Georgia. The monument is the largest and most impressive in the Orphans Cemetery and assures Mr. Williamson and family of recognition in death as he had in life of being the most outstanding person in the community. The newspaper reported that 1,000 people attended his funeral. A. G. Williamson came from North Carolina to Dodge County to first work in the naval stores industry. He later owned 8,000 acres of land. His interests included farming, timber, naval stores, ginning, warehousing, and banking. He served on the city council, and as county ordinary. He and his five brothers, who lost their parents at an early age, were referred to as "the orphans" in the county, hence the name of the cemetery and the nearby community that used to exist.

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION/SURVEY OF SIMILAR CEMETERY MONUMENTS

A survey has been conducted by telephone amongst knowledgeable people on Georgia cemetery monuments and cemeteries in general. There are apparently very few cemetery monuments designed in the likeness of the deceased and erected in the deceased person's lifetime. Obviously a life-size and life-image statue would be an expensive proposition in any era.

Those contacted include the coordinators of the two Save Outdoor Sculpture projects in GA, the 18-county metro-Atlanta one, and the one for the rest of the state. The staff of Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery, the city's oldest cemetery, were consulted, as was the previous director of the Georgia Historical Society's Library in Savannah, a woman who had worked with several of Savannah's historic cemeteries. In general, it would appear that the Williamson Mausoleum, while unknown to most Georgians outside of the immediate area, appears to be unique on the following grounds:

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that it consists of three people and is the only known one containing two, let alone three people and also because it contains a man and his wife together. The only other known sculpture of any kind in Georgia of a man and his wife is that in bronze of Gov. Joseph E. Brown and his wife on the State Capitol Grounds in Atlanta.

The Save Outdoor Sculpture Survey for the 18-county Metro-Atlanta region turned up the following: Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta has Jasper Smith, who rests in a chair. He had the statue done before he died in 1918, and in his own likeness.

In Walton County, Georgia, east of Atlanta, there is a statue of James L. Moore whose death date is not on the statue but is presumed to be around 1915. His wife died in 1909 and is commemorated on the statue's base, but not in a statue form. Also in that county is a presumed life-size statue designed to represent a man who died in the Civil War, Capt. Matthew Talbot Nunnally, who died in 1863. This was obviously put up after he died by his family. Both of these statues are standing and are of marble.

The Save Outdoor Sculpture Survey for the rest of Georgia, covering the remaining 141 counties, produced the following results of funerary statues other than the Williamson Mausoleum.

Chatham County, Savannah had four statues. Corinne Elliot Lawton, died in 1877, statue in 1879, in marble, by artist Civiletti Palermo or from Palermo. Originally in Laurel Grove Cemetery, it was moved in 1898 to Bonaventure Cemetery. Obviously erected by the deceased's family. Female figure kneeling.

Also in Savannah, at Bonaventure, is the marker for Gracie Watson, who died about age 6, in 1889. The statue, in marble, was designed by John Waltz, in 1894. It was carved from a photograph. The figure is seated. Erected by her parents.

Also in Savannah, at Laurel Grove Cemetery, the monument to John J. Kelly, president of the Hibernian Society. Carved by J. J. Horgan of Boston, it was erected by the society for Mr. Kelly, who died in 1872.

Also in Savannah, at Laurel Grove, is a monument/statue to Ether Gibson Taylor, a female figure in Victorian dress, in marble. She died in 1896. The statue is seated and believed to be an exact likeness.

In other less populated areas of the state, are found: Crawford County, statue of James Taylor, who died in 1913. The statue is done in great detail, and believed to be a likeness.

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In Hall County, are found two statues. That of Lee E. Garner, who died in 1918, as a soldier in World War One. The statue is dressed in a military uniform. Also in that county is one to Robert G. Elrod, who died in 1918, also while a soldier in World War One. It is in marble, and in uniform.

In Miller County, there is a marble statue to Stephen M. Spooner who died in 1901, nearly age 80. The statue is seated in a Victorian-era chair. It would appear to be a likeness of Mr. Spooner, due to the elaborate details of the statue and the chair.

In Oglethorpe County, there is a statue, in marble, on the grave of Sara Louise Little, who died in 1902, almost age 4. Erected by her parents, the statue appears to have been carved based on a photograph.

In Whitfield County, there is a stone sculpture of a man in 19th century clothing that is said to be W. B. Farrar (1863-1894) who with his family is buried under and commemorated by this statue.

Outside of the SOS Surveys, one other pair of statues has been located that was not picked up in the surveys:

In Macon County, Georgia, south of Atlanta, are statues of two males, presumably brothers, standing upright on their separate, but adjacent, cemetery pedestals. One, Robert L. Lewis, died in 1895, age 14, the other is Elijah John Lewis (1879-1896). They are standing side by side in the Felton Cemetery, now the city cemetery of Montezuma, Georgia.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESEARCH INFORMATION:

Further research by the applicants/owners have resulted in the following information: The local newspapers have been searched for the periods surrounding 1912, by both Mr. Steele, and Mr. Tad Evans, of Savannah, a local historian-genealogist and an expert on newspaper sources and abstracting. Neither turned up any new facts about the monument. A thorough search of the monument itself with a magnifying glass failed to turn up any name or location for the sculptor. The Williamson family's oldest surviving members were also contacted, but again, nothing new was learned.

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National Register Criteria

The nomination meets National Register Criterion C because it possesses high artistic value as a life-size funerary monument carved in the owner's lifetime on behalf of the owner and is of the finest quality marble and is said to have been carved in Italy. It is one of a very few such pieces of art in Georgia, especially in a cemetery setting. It is very usual to have a couple carved and memorialized together, and the addition of a third person, in this case the nephew/adopted son, makes for a very unusual monument and one that is not believed to be duplicated in the state.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The nomination meets Criteria Consideration D because it is a single piece of art in the midst of a cemetery (which is not being nominated) and is so unusual in its life-like representation of a man, his wife and their nephew, that has achieved local and regional recognition for its uniqueness and its association with a man, A. G. Williamson, who was the most important man in his community for a number of decades.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance is the date (1912) when the monument was completed.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing: 3

- 1 site which is the cemetery lot containing the mausoleum.
- 1 object which is the Williamson Mausoleum with its three statues.
- 1 object which is the c.1912 fence around the cemetery lot.

Non-Contributing: 13

13 objects. These include all the other burials within the Williamson Lot. They are not considered contributing because they were all placed there after the initial mausoleum was built and none have artistic merit and are burial markers and tombstones of the type found in the rest of the cemetery and in most cemeteries of the same era. While they do not contribute, they also do not detract from the nominated property.

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Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The following narrative was prepared by William J. Steele and others representing the Orphans Cemetery Association. Explanatory bracketed material added by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.

ORPHANS CEMETERY

The story of the origin of Orphans Cemetery, and its later naming, is as uniquely heartwarming as any of the pioneer era of Dodge County. It is a story inseparable from that of Albert Genavie Williamson and his five orphan brothers, born in Evergreen, Columbus County, North Carolina, in the mid 1800s.

The Williamson brothers were, by order of birth: Albert Genavie (1854-1925), Hannon Havana (1856-1922), Milton M. (1859-1935), Lewis Richard Goolsberry (1860-1938), Johnston Lee ([dates unavailable]), and Doctor Felix (1866-1910). They were the sons of Felix Williamson (1810-1866) and Emiline Joiner Williamson of Columbus County, North Carolina. Felix Williamson was a great-grandson of Ignatius K. Flowers and Lewis Williamson, Revolutionary soldiers who died in Bladen County, North Carolina. The Williamson family was one of the most prominent and educated families of that section of the state where they owned a large plantation prior to the Civil War. Albert Genavie, being the oldest brother was probably the best educated as he attended boarding school prior to the Civil War. The youngest brother, Doctor Felix, was born a year after the Civil War and their father died that same year, leaving a widow with ten children, four from a previous marriage. This coupled with the devastation of the Civil War, carpetbaggers, and reconstruction changed the lives and fortunes of many southerners including the Williamsons.

Albert Genavie, or A.G. or "Jay" as he became known, "Jay" being a contraction of Genavie, felt the need to get out on his own and try to recoup some of what his family had lost. His interest was in the tall yellow pines of south Georgia. So at age 19, he came to Dodge County in 1873 and was employed by Coleman and Sessions Naval Store as a woods-rider.

Their mother died leaving them orphans and A.G., being the oldest son, became the head of the family at an early age. Soon after getting established here, he brought his five brothers to Dodge County. Their ages ranged from Doctor Felix, about eight, up to Hannon Havana about seventeen, they comprised one of the newly-created county's most unusual families.

As a rather natural occurrence the local people, in short order, began to affectionately refer to the six Williamson brothers as "the orphans." A.G. was then big brother, parent, and guardian. He approached these responsibilities and his vocation with all equal diligence. A.G. combated his

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upbringing, education, intelligence, and his way with people to begin a business life that would make him one of the wealthiest and most influential men in this section of Georgia.

Soon after coming to Dodge County, A.G. married Miss Martha "Mattie" Buchan, daughter of Dr. J. M. Buchan, Dodge County's first representative, having been elected from here when it was still Pulaski County. Dr. Buchan introduced the legislation giving the new county its name of "Dodge." Mattie had three brothers, each of whom, like their father, were physicians.

Being a man of keen business judgment, A.G. realized the value of land. No name is entered in old Dodge County deed books more than A.G. Williamson. He continually bought, sold, and traded anything, until over the years, he acquired 8,000 acres of Dodge County land. There were many opportunities here for the entrepreneur and A.G. had few peers. His interests were largely in farming, timber, naval stores; ginning, warehousing, city property, government bonds, and banking.

In their early years of marriage, A.G. and Mattie made their home near the intersection of the Hawkinsville Highway and Old River Road, about three miles northwest of Eastman. As the brothers became adults, they married and established homes in the Community with the exception of Johnston Lee, who returned to Columbus County, N.C. upon coming of age. Also, Hannon Havana, who had an impairment since birth, lived all his life with A.G. and Mattie, and never married.

Such men as A.G. and his orphan brothers were very much the object of conversation, both light and serious. "Who bought that land?" "Who is constructing that building?" These were questions often asked. "The Orphans," referring to the Williamson brothers, was the most frequent answer. As time passed both friends and neighbors of the county commonly referred to the community immediately northwest of Eastman between Cochran and Hawkinsville Highways as "Orphans" in honor of the Williamson brothers. The road through the community became known as "Orphans Road" and for many years The Times Journal ran a regular column entitled "Notes from Orphans."

A.G. manifested his Christian upbringing in many ways, not the least of which was through his generosity. About 1885, he gave the land and built a church midway between the Hawkinsville and Cochran Highways. The church was established as a "Disciples of Christ" Church and named Orphans Christian Church.

Then on September 14, 1887, signaled the sad and untimely death of a neighbor's child, the three year old son of L.C. and Theodocia Barnes who lived on the Williamson farm. A.G. gave the Barnes a burial plot across the road from the church. After the child's funeral, A.G. had a magnolia tree planted by the Barnes boy's grave which lives to this day. Thus was the beginning of the new cemetery, known as Orphans. An unusual naming, but it stuck. The original grave is today a well marked vault at the front of the big, old magnolia tree, a pioneer planting. Although a sad

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commentary of the times, practically all the burials of the early years of Orphans were infants and children of the Thomas, Weldy, and Lashley families.

On May 11, 1909, A.G. Williamson formalized Orphans Cemetery by deeding one acre of land to the Orphans Cemetery Association and naming the Board of Trustees. The Trustees were to govern the cemetery with such powers necessary to transact business in the name of the cemetery and with power to name their successors perpetually. He set aside a section of plots for use by paupers. The original Board of Trustees consisted of R. G. Williamson, L. N. Pinnell, and L.C. Smith.

The cemetery was never owned nor controlled by Orphans Church; they were two separate entities. However, the majority of the original members of Orphans church are interred in the cemetery. The Board of Trustees was composed solely of members of Orphans Church or their descendants until Orphans Christian Church merged with the first Christian Church of Eastman. In 1954. The Orphans Church building was decommissioned and torn down shortly thereafter. Even today, most of the trustees are descendants of early members of Orphans Christian Church.

During the 1890's, A.G. having established himself and his brothers vocationally, became quite active in politics and attracting other businesses to the county. He could see Dodge County transforming from a pioneer driven lumber economy to an agricultural economy with diversified businesses. In 1891, he was a prime mover to forming a group to bring a second railroad to Eastman, which came to fruition in 1905 with the opening of the Dublin and Southwestern Railroad into Eastman. He built a home on Fifth Avenue in Eastman and was elected to several terms on the City Council and was elected to two terms as County Ordinary [Probate Judge], serving from 1893 to 1897. Also, during this time A.G. built a summer house back at his old family hometown of Cerro Gordo, Columbus County, N.C., and spent considerable time there.

A.G. and Martha had no children, but loved and cared for many of their relatives' children. His brother L. R. G. Williamson's wife, called "Molly", died in 1901, leaving six children without a mother. A.G. and Martha extended their loving hospitality to them as well. Over the years, their nephew Jay Gould spent much time with them. While he was never [formally] adopted, he became a son to them.

[On] August 17, 1912, A.G. had erected a truly magnificent, one of a kind, twin mausoleum for himself and Martha, along with a separate mausoleum for his bachelor brother Hannon, who lived with them. Since that time, it has become a prominent part of Dodge County's folklore and attracted visitors, historians, and photographers from many parts of the United States and Canada.

The mausoleum was erected by [the Cordele Consolidated Marble Company, from Cordele, Crisp County, Georgia]. It is built of Georgia marble adorned with a marble columned canopy housing a life size sculpture of A.G., Martha, and their young nephew Jay Gould. The statuary was

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sculpted in Carrara, Italy, from Italian marble which is a "soft" marble. The sculptor had only a photograph from which to do his work. Of the many people who knew the Williamson family, there was complete agreement that the statues are a true likeness of them.

Actually, the statue's existence is the result of somewhat of a fluke. A.G. loved pictures and had nearly everything under the sun photographed. A salesman came through about 1910 selling statues. There being few possible customers he was directed to Mr. Williamson, who at first was not really interested. He did inquire of the possibility of making a statue from a photograph. The salesman, eager to make a commission, assured A.G. that could be done. A.G. sent Jay Gould into the house to find a picture, and he returned with a photograph of himself standing between his seated Aunt and Uncle. Again, the salesman said it could be done. Whereupon, A.G. said he would buy it provided the salesman could come up with an idea for appropriate use of such a statue. Not only was this salesman of sculpture convincing, but he was equally creative, for at that moment he suggested what stands until this day in Orphans Cemetery - a marble canopied twin mausoleum with life-size family statue, unlike any other such edifice known [by this writer] to be in existence [in this region]. Through the years there has been much speculation about the cost of the structure which has never been revealed. Today, it is a priceless historical landmark.

A.G. was well pleased with his lasting memorial and admired it for the remaining thirteen years of his life. A.G. Williamson was one of Dodge County's most memorable pioneer-settlers and so was his final rites and entombment. The following is an excerpt from his obituary recorded in the December 10, 1925, issue of The Times Journal:

"A.G. Williamson Died Friday Night.

"Hon. A. G. Williamson, for fifty years one of Dodge County's most prominent citizens, died at his home in this City Friday night about nine o'clock, following illness of more than a year, during which time he was practically an invalid.

"Mr. Williamson's body was embalmed by J. W. Peacock Co., undertakers, and according to instructions previously given by him, was deposited in a vault at Orphans Cemetery at sundown Sunday afternoon. This vault, above which rested life-size statues of Mr. Williamson, Mrs. Williamson and J. Gould Williamson, a nephew and adopted son, was erected by Mr. Williamson about fifteen years ago, and full directions were given by him as to the disposal of his body at death. The body, lying on the left side, reposed on a cedar cot, which also had been provided by Mr. Williamson, and in this position was deposited in the vault. The funeral service, which was conducted by Rev. Frank Adams, of the Christian church, consisted only of scripture reading, prayer and two songs. The scripture was from the 14th chapter of St. John, the second to fourth verses, inclusive. The songs "Shall I Know Him" and "Asleep in Jesus," were rendered by a double quartet-composed of O. V. Lashley, Henry Manley, Robert Bennett, Mrs. Jeter A. Harrell, S. H. Goolsby, H.E.

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Dickens, John Parkerson; Mrs. C.F. Coleman, C. H. Peacock, R.G.P. McKinnon, C. C. Burch. An honorary escort was composed of C.D. Phillips, W. J. Deffinall, C.B. Murrell, J. H. Rogers, W. W. Puett, and J. C. Wall. The floral offerings were banked about the mausoleum in abundant profusion and were magnificently beautiful. A throng of about one thousand people was in attendance.

"Mr. Williamson united with the Christian church when quite a young man, and as long as his health would permit, took a very active interest in its affairs. He built the Christian church at Orphans and was an important factor in the erection of the Christian church in Eastman. To both of these institutions he was a strong pillar and liberal contributor.

"Mr. Williamson was Ordinary of Dodge County two terms, beginning about 1895. His administration of this office was marked by splendid efficiency and admirable economy, he rendered to the people the same fine business management that characterized his personal affairs.

"Mr. Williamson's life and character constitute a remarkable demonstration of what a man may accomplish through the exercise of economy, energy and industry, coupled with the practice of that rigid honesty and justice that marked all of his transactions."

Martha Buchan Williamson died in 1934, and she too, is entombed in the mausoleum. Their nephew, Jay Gould Williamson, now deceased, is interred at historic Christ Church (Episcopal), St. Simons Island, Georgia, where he resided in later years. He had one son, Van Gould, and two daughters, Martha Lee and Maude Whaley.

Doctor Felix Williamson was the last of the orphaned Williamson brothers born and the first to die at the youthful age of forty-four. He married Cora Powell and they were the progenitors of a family that would bring much fame and renown to Dodge County and the state of Georgia during the middle and latter years of this century. Their daughter, Sallie Lee Williamson (1889-1923) married William Ira Stuckey (1883-1951). One of their children was Williamson Sylvester Stuckey, Builder and President of the vast Stuckey's Pecan Candy Empire, whose life changed the course of events and the fortunes of many people of the county, the state, and beyond. No sphere of business, community, civic, or religious life was devoid of his attention and influence.

He brought his brothers Felix J. Stuckey and W. Frank Stuckey into the candy business along with other family members and friends. Mr. Stuckey was elected to the state legislature and served on numerous boards and commissions. He gave much of his time, talent, and wealth to charitable and religious causes, including Candler School of Theology [at Emory University in Atlanta]. Through all his successful accomplishments, his boyhood friends remained his lifelong best friends.

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W. S. Stuckey and his great uncle A.G. Williamson had much in common. They both were industrious, generous, sought a good name, and made this a better place in which to live. W. S. Stuckey married Ethel Mullis and their children were Williamson Sylvester, Jr. and Lynda Stuckey Franklin, who continue to enhance the good name of this family through their business, civic community and religious activities.

W. S. Stuckey, Jr., known as "Bill", was elected to five terms as United States Congressman, eighth district of Georgia. He served with honor and distinction from 1966-1976 deciding at that time to devote himself fully to family and business interests

With the exception of Johnston Lee Williamson, who returned to North Carolina, all the orphan Williamson brothers lie at rest within a "stones throw" of each other in Orphans Cemetery.

Through the years the cemetery filled. On two occasions March 31, 1934, and July 24, 1964, the Williamson family generously gave an additional acre of land. This gave Orphans Cemetery a total of three acres. Today, a stroll through the original one acre of Orphans will most often reveal the family names of Hardy, Manley, Steele, Stuckey, Thomas, and Williamson.

One of the oldest graves is that of a German brick mason who made the oversized brick on his grave. It is laid in a north to south direction, instead of the traditional pattern facing east. His name and date of death are unknown. The earliest known birth is Elizabeth Manley (1822-July 8, 1912), who is also one of the oldest persons interred. Alice Corine Persons (nee Williamson) was the first wife of prominent Eastman attorney, E.E. Persons. There are four Confederate soldiers: John Newton Steele (1842-1926) First Corporal, co. C, 6th Regt., Georgia Infantry; John Stuckey (1823-1908) co. F. 2nd Georgia State Line; Joseph W. Weldy, co. G. 27th Regt., Georgia Infantry; and William A. Butler. Araminta Hardy (1846-1932) was the wife of a Confederate soldier, Cornelius Hardy (1824-1896) Company A, 32nd Regt., Georgian Infantry, who is interred in the Hardy Cemetery located in Jasper County Georgia.

Ethel Inez Steele (Nee Redmond) (1905-1975) was a public school teacher and a Daughter of the American Revolution. There is a grave of one foreign national, Osborne Cornelius Steele (1910-1989), a Dodge County native who became a naturalized citizen of Canada. One physician is interred, Virgil Shelnuttt Steele, M.D. (1905-1974). He was not only a surgeon and eye, ear, nose, and throat specialist but a retired U.S. Army Major, having served in the Pacific theater of World War III.

William Henry Smith (1867-1955) served two terms in the Georgia House of Representatives. He was an Elder and Sunday School Superintendent at Orphans Church for many years. So staunch was he in the Disciples of Christ faith that all ten of his children either died a Disciple of Christ or hold to it to this day. John Thomas Steele (1878-1948) and Alfred A. Hardy (1879-1953), brothers-in-

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law, were two of Dodge County's largest and most prominent farmers for the better part of the first half of this century. Henry L. Manley (1885-1949), Felix J. Stuckey (1915-1989), Walter B. Steele (1916-1990) were long time trustees of Orphans Cemetery.

In September 1988, the Board Of Trustees launched a major campaign for the renovation and beautification of Orphans Cemetery. Thanks to the time, talents, generosity of many citizens today, Orphans Cemetery is one of Dodge County's most beautiful historical landmarks with brick columned entrances, paved streets, a flagpole with daily flying of the colors, running water, and landscaped grounds.

On October 23, 1989, the trustees voted to pay tribute to Verna Lee Ragan (Nee Hardy) and Adrian Thomas (1889-1973) by naming the Orphans Cemetery street running east and west "Verna Lee Ragan Drive" and the street running north and south "Adrian Thomas Way". They were cited for more than fifty years of commendable service to mankind in the care, maintenance, and beautification of Orphans Cemetery. Their names are permanently affixed to the respective streets.

The trustees have a two-fold purpose. First, they are to continue the operation of Orphans Cemetery in the tradition of its first 100 years as a fitting and lasting memorial to both the lives of those at rest therein and to the Christian religion. To this end, they are presently developing an additional three acre purchase of adjoining land which doubles the size of the cemetery. Secondly, it is the trustees' responsibility to preserve the cemetery as one of Dodge County's historical landmarks for the Common good of future generations. To fulfill their purposes, the trustees established the "Orphans Cemetery Endowment" after receiving recognition as a nonprofit tax exempt organization from the Internal Revenue Service. Families and friends of Orphans Cemetery are invited to contribute funds as a memorial to the endowment through a bequeath of their last will and testament or by a gift. Only the interest earned from the endowment is used for the cemetery's maintenance and improvement.

The current Board of Trustees is composed of William J. Steele, Chairman; Claudette Harper, Secretary-Treasurer; Wendell V. Graham; Harold B. Haley; Larry S. Haley; J. A. Manley; Verna Lee Ragan; Gene Shadix; Frank Stuckey; and James R. Williams.

Prepared by William John Steele, with the assistance of Mrs. Claude A. Ragan and Mrs. Van Gould Williamson.

According to the local cemetery association and the historical society, the Williamson Mausoleum and Sculpture is a very popular site for visitors from surrounding counties. Many people have their photographs taken while sitting in the laps of the seated statues. The statues often have flowers left

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on them. Visitors are astounded by the beauty of the statues and the peacefulness of the surroundings. The statues have become community calling cards and have captured the peoples' imagination.

Other Property Related to A. G. Williamson:

Mr. Albert G. Williamson's main house, in the town of Eastman, no longer exists. But his farm house, where he spent a great deal of time, and others built by him in a similar style for family members, still survives near the cemetery. He also owned a house in North Carolina near where he was born.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bracewell, Mary Jean. Historic Property Information Form, April 30, 1996. Copy on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Ga.

See also "Supplemental Research" and "Comparative Information" in Section 8, Narrative Statement of Significance.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued:
- 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, Specify Repository: Dodge Historical Society, Eastman, GA.

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 291070 Northing 3565380

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is one cemetery lot, identified as "Section F" on the 1909 cemetery map/plat, within the Orphans Cemetery. It is marked on the enclosed plat of the cemetery. The Williamson lot, which measures 44 feet square, is from its northwestern side 176 feet from Orphans Cemetery Road and from its northeastern side, 182 feet from original Buchanan (now Hightower) Road.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the family burial lot which measures 44' square and is surrounded by a wrought iron fence. The lot includes the mausoleum and several other family burials within the fence. The nominated property contains four lots of equal size that make up the 44' square area within the fence. The entire area including the four lots have remained enclosed by the same fence since 1912. The Williamson Lot is within the original one acre set aside for the cemetery. This one acre is now within a much larger cemetery.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** September 30, 1997

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title William J. Steele
organization Chairman, Trustees Orphans Cemetery Association
street and number 1704 Cochran Rd.
city or town Eastman **state** Georgia **zip code** 31023
telephone (912) 374-2180

() **consultant**
() **regional development center preservation planner**
(X) **other:** owner representative

Also involved in preparation was the Dodge [County] Historical Society represented by Mary Jean Bracewell who prepared the draft nomination form in 1996.

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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Photographs

Name of Property: Williamson Mausoleum at Orphans Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Eastman vicinity
County: Dodge
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: June, 1997

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 11 Mausoleum in distance as seen from far edge of original cemetery; photographer facing west.
- 2 of 11 Mausoleum and lot in distance from rear about 40 feet away; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 11 Mausoleum and full lot from front about 40 feet away; photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 11 Mausoleum from rear at edge of original cemetery; photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 11 Mausoleum from front at front edge of lot; photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 11 Mausoleum and lot from front gate to lot; photographer facing southwest.
- 7 of 11 Mausoleum, close up of statuary; photographer facing southwest.
- 8 of 11 Mausoleum, burial vaults close up; photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 11 Mausoleum, close up of statuary and canopy; photographer facing southwest.
- 10 of 11 Mausoleum, rear view showing inscription of monument company's name and fence; photographer facing northeast.
- 11 of 11 Williamson lot, showing close up of gate on side nearest the road; photographer facing north.

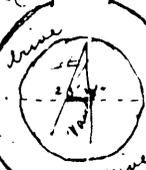
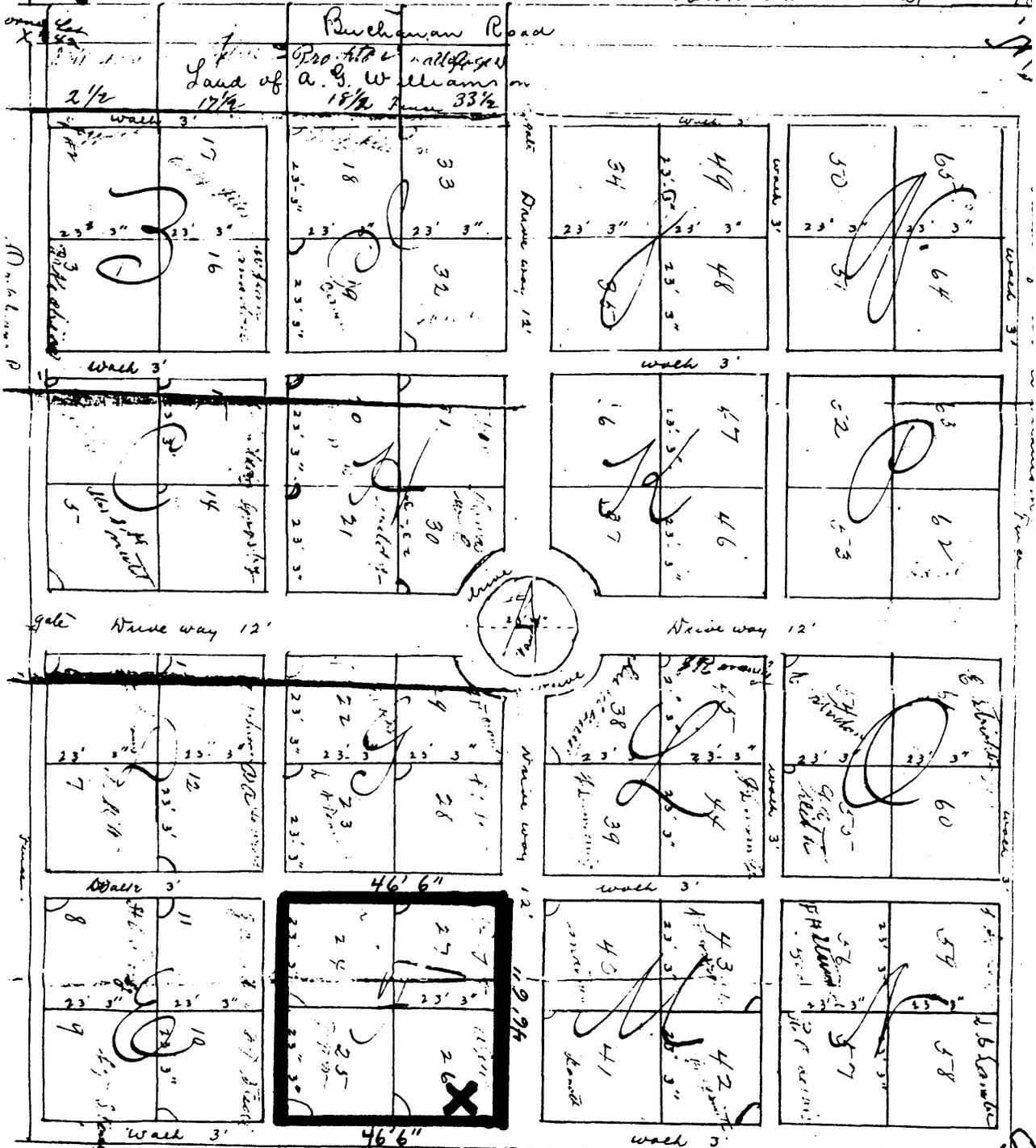
Map of Orphans Cemetery, being one acre in square near Corner Lot of Land to 47 in 15th District Dodge Co Ga, all lots, are to be 23' 3" square unless otherwise specified.

Presented to Orphans Cemetery Association by A. Williams

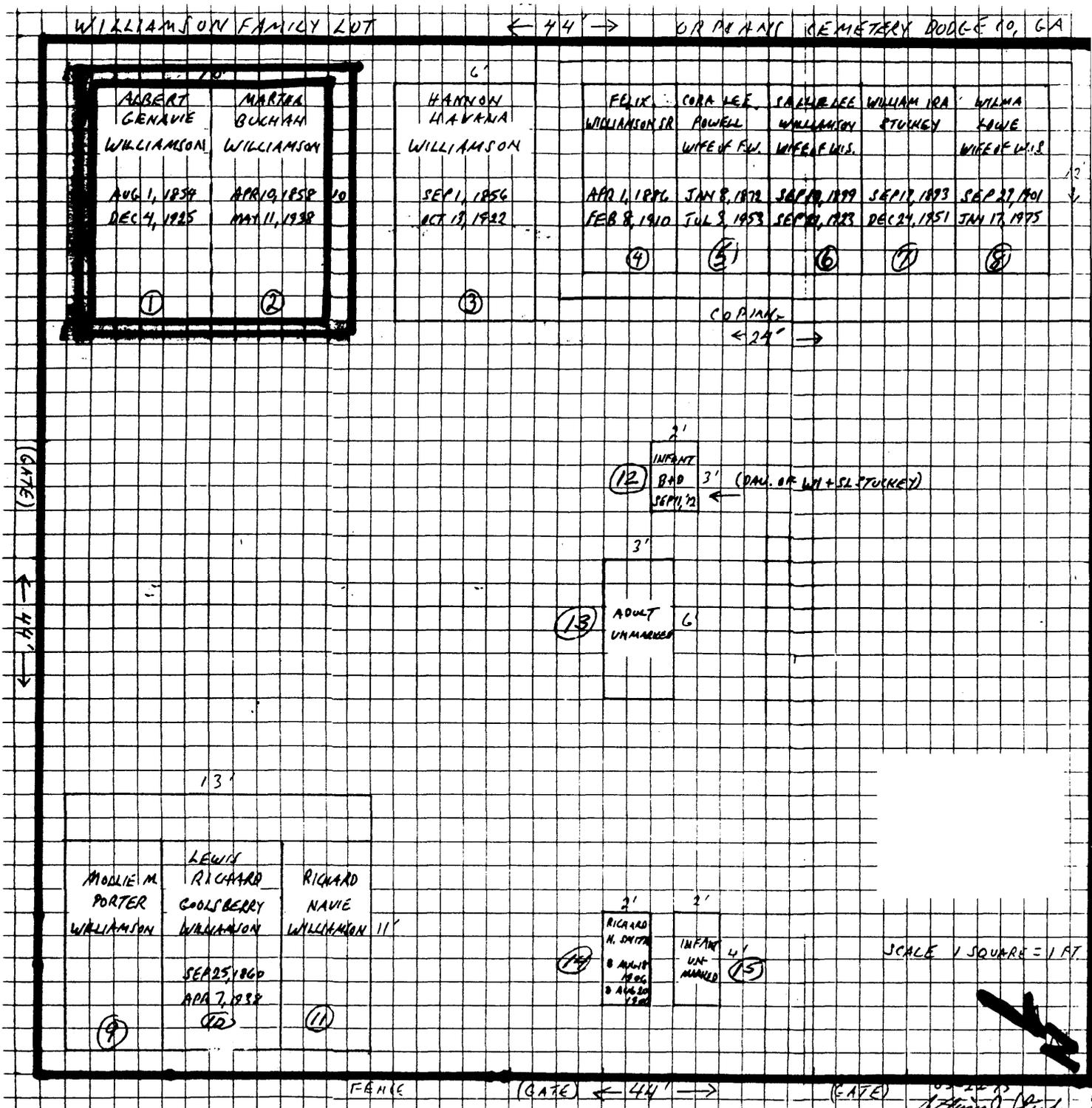
Recorded in Book 2, -folio 73

Date: 1909
 Key: The nominated lot is Section F and is marked by an "X" within that lot. Note: This is a plat of the original Orphans Cemetery. It has been greatly expanded from this plat.

Plat Map
 Williamson Mausoleum at Orphans Cemetery
 Eastman Vicinity, Dodge County, Georgia
 Scale: As shown on the Plat; Lot F drawn at 46 1/2 Squares
 Source: Dodge County, Georgia, Book 2, page 73 (Superior Court)



Recorded in Book 2, folio 73, Clerk's office SCGA
 Lands of A. Williams
 May 11th 1909.



Sketch Map
 Williamson Mausoleum at Orphans Cemetery
 Eastman Vicinity, Dodge County, Georgia
 Scale: As marked on the map. The lot is 44 squares.
 Source: Drawn by William J. Steele.
 Date: 1995
 Key: The nominated land is the entire map marked by a heavy black line. The Mausoleum is marked by a double black line and the graves are numbered 1 and 2. The objects #3 through #15 are the 13 graves considered non-contributing.