

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic GREENWOOD CEMETERY, CITY CEMETERY, OLD CEMETERY

and/or common GREENWOOD CEMETERY

2. Location

street & number City block bounded by West, Davis, Lamar and George Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Jackson N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Hinds code 049

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<u>N/A</u> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Cemetery

4. Owner of Property

name City of Jackson

street & number City Hall, P. O. Box 17

city, town Jackson N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hinds County Chancery Court Building

street & number 316 South President Street

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1974 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Greenwood Cemetery, bounded by West, Davis, Lamar and George Streets, occupies a 20.9-acre terraced parcel in downtown Jackson, Mississippi. Due to the absence of incisive primary or secondary resources, and pending an archaeological investigation of the site, Greenwood Cemetery's physical evolution cannot be definitively ascertained. Evidently, the original 1822 tract was augmented in the late-nineteenth century, and according to the best available information, the actual size of the cemetery has not been altered in the twentieth century.

Entirely enclosed by a vine covered metal fence, the cemetery is accessible by a gravel road at the southeast corner and by various pedestrian entrances on the perimeter. Beginning at the southeastern entrance, at the intersection of George and West Streets, a gravel road runs to the northern boundary, Davis Street, bisecting the cemetery. The road, which is lined by brick curbing, passes under a decorative trellis, over a bridge and on through the northern half of the cemetery, where it diverges into cloverleaves.

The cemetery entrance is delineated by a substantial, inscribed rounded arch gate, a Mississippi State Historical marker, and inside the grounds by a large granite marker.

A caretaker's cottage (circa 1930s) is located near the cemetery's southwest corner, and is the sole non-contributing element within the cemetery. Because of the rolling landscape and multitude of trees and markers, the cottage is visually isolated from most of the cemetery. Besides the caretaker's establishment, the only other building in the cemetery is a small frame cottage (circa 1870s), defined by gothic arched bays, which is located along the drive near the cemetery's core.

Like many other cemeteries whose development or growth can be determined by the physical location of burial markers, Greenwood Cemetery possesses three basic burial sites which can be delineated both chronologically and aesthetically. The oldest grouping of sites, from the 1820s to 1870s, is concentrated in the northern regions of the lateral southern half of the cemetery. These sites are identified by their simple markers. The Confederate Cemetery, honoring Confederate soldiers and veterans, enclosed by a fence and identified by orderly lines of markers, is located near the mid-section of the eastern perimeter. The majority of interments, from the 1880s to the present day, are located within the cemetery's northern lateral half and reflect the exuberance of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century funerary customs.

The physical condition of grave sites varies greatly throughout the cemetery. The Confederate graves are tended regularly, as are certain family plots. Many of the early markers have succumbed to erosion, and a few of the more majestic and imaginative markers have tempted vandals. Cemetery maintenance is provided by the city and consists primarily of lawn care and the rescue of endangered markers.

All of the lots in Greenwood Cemetery have been appropriated, and it is anticipated that these future interments will be in keeping with Greenwood's stately tradition. As property of the City of Jackson, Greenwood Cemetery is a Mississippi Landmark as defined by the Mississippi State Antiquities Law. As such, any prospective changes to the cemetery shall be submitted to the Department of Archives and History for consideration.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1822 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Greenwood Cemetery is significant as Jackson's oldest historic site, representing and commemorating many of Jackson's and Mississippi's political, social, religious and commercial leaders. Greenwood Cemetery is also significant as the city's finest collective example of the elaborate funeral design which dominated America's cemeteries during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

Five years after Mississippi became a state in 1817, a centrally located site on high bluffs above the Pearl River was selected as the new state capital. In 1822 Peter Van Dorn plotted the scheme for the prospective city, which was named Jackson in honor of General Andrew Jackson. Van Dorn's original city plan, bounded by Crescent (present-day North), High, West and South Streets, provided for alternating blocks of buildings and greens, public areas for state and local governmental structures, and educational institutions. One necessity not represented in the idyllic scheme was a burial ground. To augment the plan, the federal government ceded lands to the state for a cemetery. Located just beyond the original northwest corner, High and West Streets, the City Cemetery, renamed Greenwood Cemetery in 1899, became Jackson's first public cemetery and its oldest historic site. In 1837, fifteen years after the cemetery's creation, the state ceded the burial ground to the city of Jackson. In turn, the city sold individual lots to individual citizens and also provided for the interment of paupers and convicts.

As Jackson developed from a raw wilderness into a more sophisticated capital city, other cemeteries were created to accommodate the diversified citizenry. Jackson's Jewish congregation, which was unable to accept interment in the unconsecrated grounds of the City Cemetery, created the Beth Israel Cemetery in the 1860s. Mount Olive Cemetery, a facility designated for Jackson's black community, recorded burials as early as 1840, but enjoyed greatest prominence in the post-Civil War years. Cedarlawn Cemetery on West Capitol Street was created in 1899 and was Jackson's second official public cemetery.

From the outset, Greenwood Cemetery served Jackson's white and black populations. As with many other public and private graveyards, slaves were buried in their master's plot, and possibly, as Jackson's tradition suggests, slaves were buried at the foot of the master's grave. The number of slave burials, undistinguished by markers or other identification, can only be estimated. After emancipation and the establishment of Mount Olive Cemetery, many blacks continued their custom of burial at Greenwood.

Enclosed and formally arranged in a central location near Greenwood Cemetery's eastern border, the Confederate Cemetery honors the victims of Jackson's Civil War engagements, veterans who died after the war, and their families. The Confederate plot was formally dedicated on April 26, 1915 (Confederate Decoration Day), and in later years, a large marker, commemorating the contribution of Mississippi's Confederate troops was erected. In the Confederate plot, unlike the rest of Greenwood Cemetery, uniform headstones are arranged in the even rhythm of military cemeteries. Confederate Decoration Day is still respected each year with ceremonies at the Confederate enclosure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Greenwood Cemetery, Hinds County,
Continuation sheet Mississippi

Item number 8

Page 2

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In contrast to the celebration of the Confederate cause and soldiers, the Union troops, who were originally buried at the northern tip of the cemetery, were removed from Greenwood Cemetery and reinterred at the Vicksburg National Military Cemetery.

As a historic site, Greenwood Cemetery possesses primary significance as Mississippi's necropolis of influential citizens. Seven Mississippi Governors--George Poindexter (1820-22), Abram M. Scott (1832-33), Charles Lynch (1833, 1836-38), Alexander McNutt (1838-42), Albert G. Brown (1844-48), John I. Guion (1851), and William Lewis Sharkey (1865)--are buried at Greenwood Cemetery. Their collective interments have been honored with a marker, erected by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in 1961. In addition to the seven Mississippi Governors, four State Supreme Court Justices, five Jackson Mayors, four Episcopal Bishops, one Methodist Bishop and members of Jackson's social, political, religious and commercial elite are interred at Greenwood.

Because of the dearth of historic buildings or sites associated with these influential Mississippians, the associative value of Greenwood Cemetery cannot be over-stated. James Lynch, a Negro who served as a Mississippi Secretary of State in the turbulent post-Civil War years, provides a strong example of this associative value of Greenwood Cemetery. Upon his death in 1871, James Lynch was buried in the western central area of Greenwood Cemetery, bordering Jackson's evolving black community on Lamar Street. Soon thereafter, the Republican legislature approved funds and commissioned a granite obelisk honoring Lynch. In 1900, Governor Vardaman approved the removal of Lynch's remains and marker to one of Jackson's black cemeteries. No cemetery documents record that Lynch's body was reinterred, and the obelisk remains in Greenwood Cemetery, as Mississippi's sole monument to James Lynch's political career. Without this physical symbol, which is mentioned periodically in newspapers and magazines, James Lynch would certainly be forgotten.

The placement of interments within the cemetery chronicles the growth of the city of Jackson and reflects the evolution of funeral customs of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Evidently, the southern quarter of the cemetery, located within view of the developing city, was not used for interments. Early burials from the 1820s through the 1870s are located on the second lower quarter and represent the simple, dignified churchyards prevalent in the first half of the nineteenth century. These unevenly placed sites are fairly uniform and simple, reflecting the solemn funeral customs of their times: the stones are small tablets, plainly identified, and the stacked crypts, constructed of stuccoed brick, are functional and unadorned.

During the late-nineteenth century, urban America's cemeteries evolved from quiet pastoral graveyards into elaborately landscaped parks. Following European inspiration, many post-Civil War American cemeteries were designed as romantic visions with cheerful summerhouses and gazebos, artificial ponds, streams and waterfalls, and extensive picturesque walks, arbors and even grottos. Although Greenwood Cemetery had little space to express the physical romantic flourishes evident in explicitly designed cemeteries, landscape changes at Greenwood included the gravel-lined cloverleaves shooting off both sides of the main road, the erection of a weatherhouse in the 1870s and the placement of shade trees on the rolling acres.

The northern half of Greenwood Cemetery, still used for family interments today, defines the true flowering of Jackson's funeral celebration. Elaborate Gothic-arched entrances and markers, canopied aediculas atop pedestals, wrought iron fencing, poetic broken columns and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Greenwood Cemetery

Continuation sheet Hinds County, Mississippi

Item number 8

Page 3

For NPS use only

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stately obelisks, statues of angels, animals and people, formal mausoleums constructed on Grecian designs and the distinctive "log" markers of the Woodmen of the World, all express the new romantic influences on funeral style.

Around the turn-of-the-century, with the establishment of Cedarlawn Cemetery in 1899, the original city burial ground was named Greenwood Cemetery. In 1903, a city ordinance created a commission to maintain the cemetery and to augment the responsibilities of the sexton.

Throughout the twentieth century, Greenwood Cemetery has been the site of the interment of many prominent Mississippians. Family members and concerned organizations such as the Society of Colonial Dames, the Pioneer Club, the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Greenwood Cemetery Association have maintained their associative ties with the cemetery, and as the residential neighborhoods around the cemetery have been replaced by commercial and governmental buildings, these groups have been at the forefront in preserving the cemetery's historic integrity.

A revitalization of the Greenwood Cemetery Association in the 1980s has spurred new goals for the preservation of Greenwood Cemetery. Along with Jackson's newly-revived historic preservation advocate, the LeFleur's Bluff Heritage Foundation, the Greenwood Cemetery Association has obtained a substantial grant for restoration and maintenance of the cemetery. Both the Greenwood Cemetery Association and the LeFleur's Bluff Heritage Foundation are eager to complete the documentation of interments at Greenwood Cemetery and to interpret the historic association and architectural significance of the cemetery through such public activities as walking tours and gravestone rubbings.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

West Street for 1700 feet; thence run westerly along the north ROW line of George Street for 400 feet; thence run northerly along the east ROW line of Lamar Street for 1730 feet to said point of beginning.

All of said bounded property lies in the E1/2 NE1/4 T5NR1E, Section 3, City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Christovich, Mary Louise, ed. New Orleans Architecture: Vol. III The Cemeteries.
Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing Co., 1974.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 20.9 acres

Quadrangle name Jackson, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5
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7	6	5	3	2	0
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3	5	7	8	1	4	0
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B

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7	6	5	2	7	0
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3	5	7	7	6	2	0
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C

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7	6	5	1	4	0
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3	5	7	7	6	4	0
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D

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7	6	5	1	2	5
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3	5	7	8	1	7	0
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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the point of intersection of the south ROW line of Davis Street and the east ROW line of Lamar Street as now laid out and constructed, this being the point of beginning. Thence run easterly along the south ROW line of Davis Street for 670 feet; thence run southerly along the west ROW line of

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	N/A	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title P. Ana Gordon, Historian

Mississippi Department of
organization Archives and History

date April, 1984

street & number P. O. Box 571

telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson

state Mississippi

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Kenneth H. P. Paul

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 8, 1984

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Greenwood Cemetery
Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCES:

- A 15/765320/3578140
- B 15/765270/3577620
- C 15/765140/3577640
- C 15/765125/3578170



Greenwood Cemetery, Jane Graves Marker, view
to the west

Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

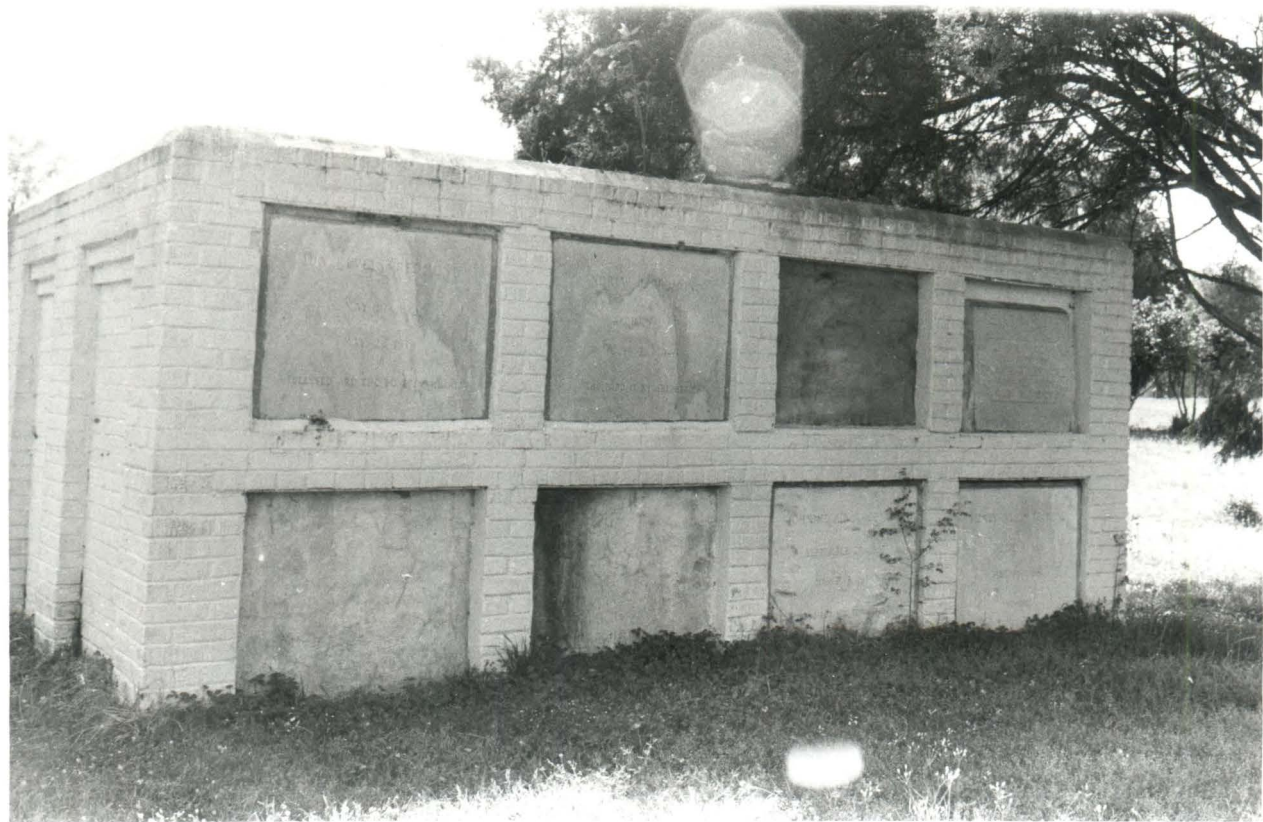
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May, 1984

Photo 1 of 12



Greenwood Cemetery, Edmond Vault, view to the
southeast

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Photo 2 of 12



Greenwood Cemetery, Vault, view to the
southwest

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Photo 3 of 12



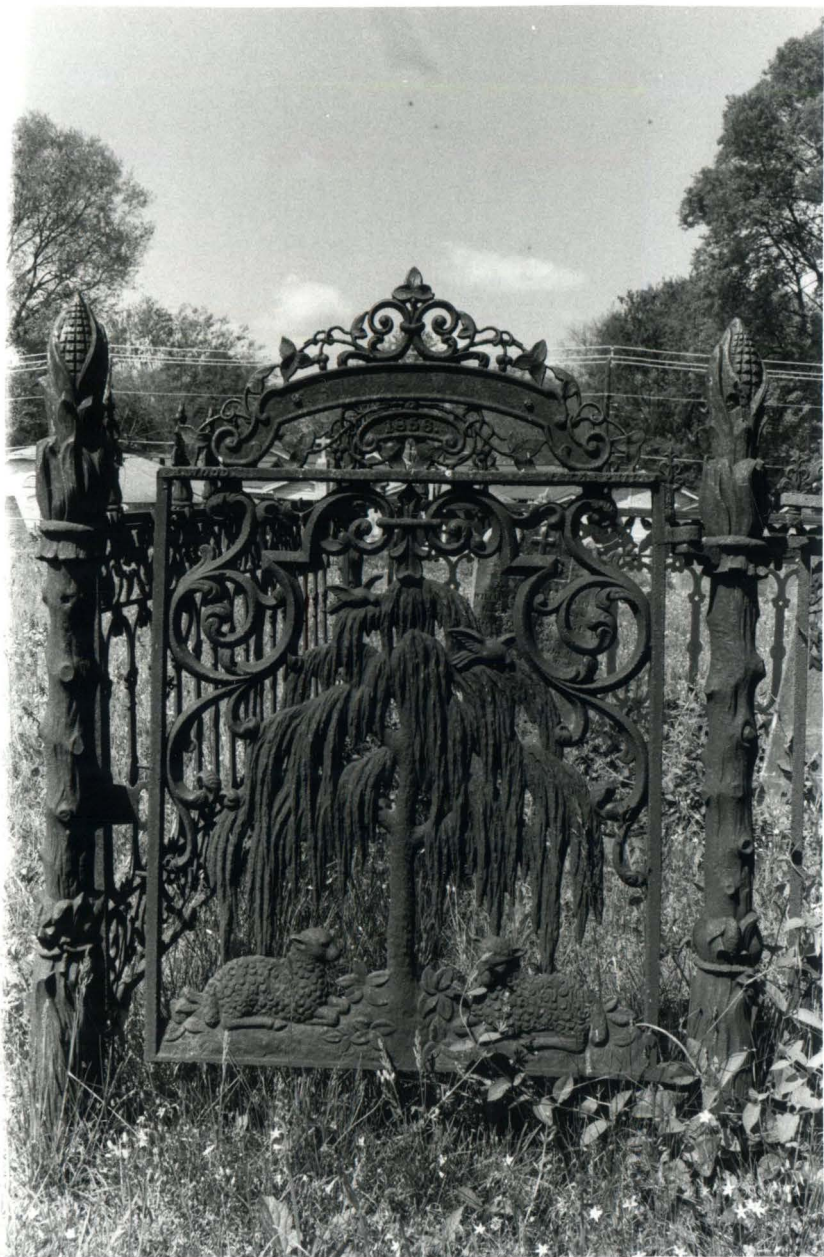
Greenwood Cemetery, Hilzhern plot, view to the
west

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Photo 4 of 12



Greenwood Cemetery, ironwork detail, view
to the west

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Photo 5 of 12



Greenwood Cemetery, summer house, view to the
southwest

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Photo 6 of 12



Greenwood Cemetery, Amos Cleaver marker, view
to the north

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Photo 7 of 12



JOSEPH W. SMITH
BORN 1805
DIED 1844
AGE 39
WIFE
M. HARRIS SMITH
BORN 1810
DIED 1850
AGE 40

JOSEPH W. SMITH
BORN 1805
DIED 1844
AGE 39

JOSEPH W. SMITH
BORN 1805
DIED 1844
AGE 39

JUNE 20, 1870
MAY 16, 1931

Greenwood Cemetery, Galloway plot, view to the
southeast

Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi

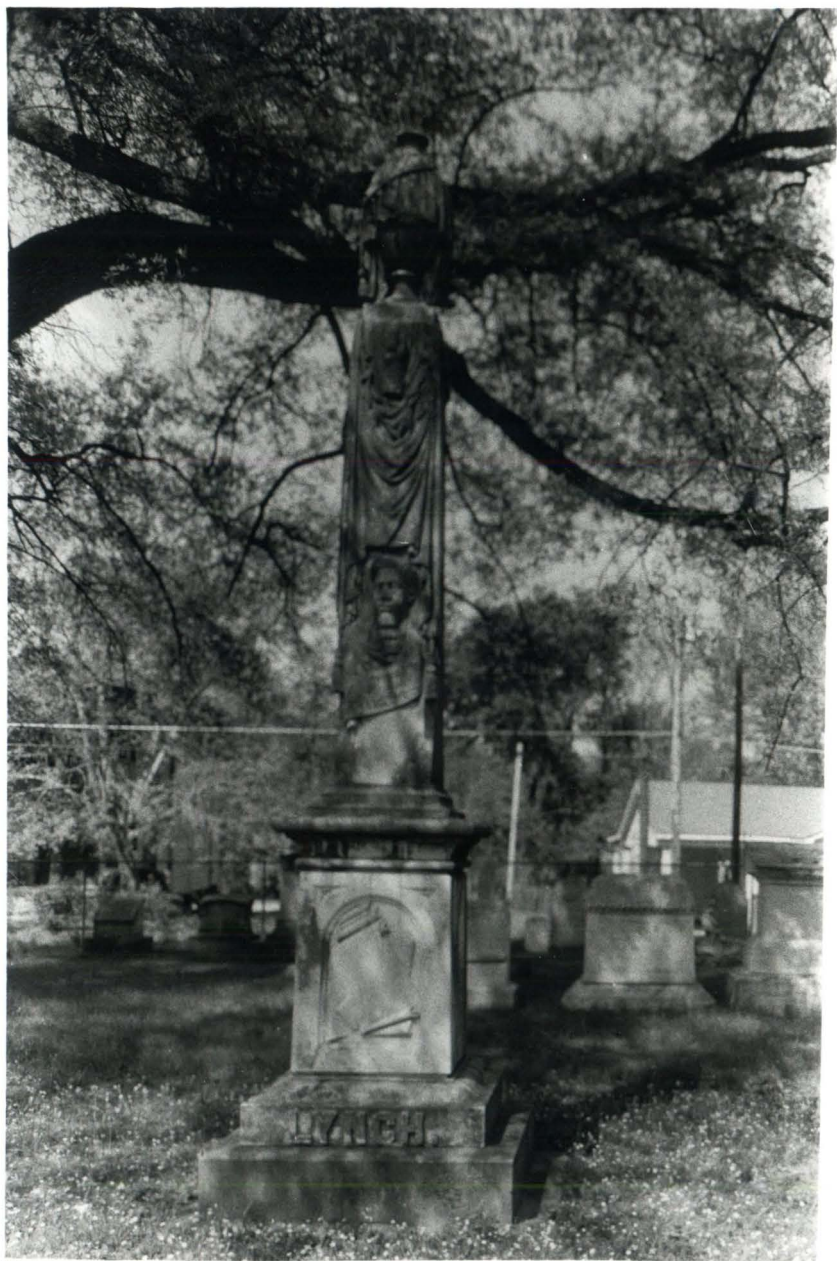
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Photo 8 of 12



Greenwood Cemetery, Lynch monument, view to
the west

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Photo 9 of 12



Greenwood Cemetery, view to the west
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Photo 10 of 12



Greenwood Cemetery, Oliver Barrett monument,
view to the west

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Photo 11 of 12



Greenwood Cemetery, Black monument, view to
the southwest

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Photo 12 of 12