

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Starkville Colored Cemetery\_\_\_\_\_

Other names/site number: Odd Fellows Old Cemetery for Colored, Colored Odd Fellows Cemetery

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A\_\_\_\_\_

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: North side of University Drive, west of North Nash Street and east of Hartness Street\_\_\_\_\_

City or town: Starkville\_\_\_\_\_ State: Mississippi\_\_\_\_\_ County: Oktibbeha\_\_\_\_\_

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  X  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  X  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_ statewide       X  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X  A      \_\_\_ B      \_\_\_ C      \_\_\_ D

<p>_____  <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p>	<p>_____  <b>Date</b></p>
<p>_____  <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_ entered in the National Register
- \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register
- \_\_\_ removed from the National Register
- \_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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**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	
_____	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Funerary/cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Hickory Wood, Marble, Sandstone, Concrete

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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**Summary Paragraph**

The Starkville Colored Cemetery is a 2.0 acre rectangular site located on the north side of University Drive between Hartness Street and North Nash Street near downtown and Mississippi State University in Starkville, Oktibbeha County Mississippi. The Colored Cemetery has scattered marble, concrete and sandstone markers, many of which are deteriorated or broken.



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Mature trees and other plants are located throughout the site, but there is no pattern of planned landscape design visible. The oldest extant burial marker is dated 1882 but the period when the majority of the burials took place is unknown. The markers are varied in size, style and iconography. There are many unmarked and sunken graves.

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## **Narrative Description**

The Starkville Colored Cemetery (Photo 1) in Starkville, Mississippi is located on the north side of University Drive, east of downtown Starkville. University Drive is a major east-west arterial road that connects the downtown area with Mississippi State University. In the vicinity of the Colored Cemetery, University Drive was primarily a residential street that has become more commercial over time. The Odd Fellows Cemetery, a white burial ground, is located south of University Drive, across from the Colored Odd Fellow Cemetery. The (white) Odd Fellows Cemetery is maintained by the City of Starkville, which assumed responsibility for the grounds in June, 1946.

The Starkville Colored Cemetery (Photo 2) occupies a rectangular lot with the narrower edge fronting on University Drive. The cemetery lot rises slightly from the street level marked with four steps composed of concrete pads. The lot extends north along a shallow ridge which slopes down toward the east and west. There is no gate, fence, or marked entrance delineating the cemetery from the surrounding lots. However, the west boundary, at least on the northern end of the lot, is marked with a line of trees. Since the cemetery was not maintained for many years, trees and other vegetation dominated the site. However, in recent years much of the undergrowth was removed, but trees, bushes and ornamental flowers remain.

Unfortunately there are no records memorializing burials in the Starkville Colored Cemetery (Photo 3). There are likely scores of unmarked graves. There are marble, sandstone and concrete markers on some graves. Some plots have iron fences. Due to deterioration, vandalism and lack of maintenance many markers are broken, displaced or have been lost entirely.

### *Grave markers*

The cemetery does not have records of a formal plan for the burial sites. Existing markers erected in the Starkville Colored Cemetery date from 1882, the date of the earliest marker, through 1954, the date of the latest marker. The dates of primary use of the cemetery remain unknown.

Notable markers include the tin and zinc monument with raised lettering "Gone but still remembered" (Photo 4), belonging to Daniel Austin, who died May 5, 1883 "AGED 66 YRS 5 MOS 10 DYS". The rear of the monument (Photo 5) bears a hand with one finger pointing upward holding a cross. This stone belonging to Reverend Daniel Austin is well kept. The Sears Roebuck catalog offered similar monuments for sale.

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An upright monument (Photo 6) belonging to John Drake, has an obelisk appearance but has been knocked to the ground or fallen over. The marker has symbols associated with the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows (G.U.O. of O.F.) Lodge 2948. The symbols include an all-seeing eye, a three-link chain, the Odd Fellows' motto "Friendship, Love, Truth," and a verse, signed by Leila, his wife. The headstone reports his birth date of August 1872 and death date of January 25, 1904.

A sandstone plinth (Photo 7) has a waving flag carved into the roughly finished top. The stone memorializes Eugene Rush, a World War I veteran, who was born on March 25, 1888 and died on March 20, 1922.

A dual marble monument marks the graves of George Washington and Henrietta Chiles (Photo 8). The monument is carved with floral/art nouveau epitaph inscriptions and a planter and leafy plant. The stone was erected by their children and bears the words "Father" and "Mother" and the notation "They died as they lived-Christian." Markers for other Chiles family members surround the marker.

A flat marble US Government-issued marker (Photo 9) memorializes Grover Henry Zuber, a World War I veteran, who was born October 7, 1896 and died October 11, 1948.

A similar flat marble companion marker (Photo 10) commemorates the Winston, Jack (1864 – 1938) and Frances (1872 – 1954). Markers for other family members surround the marker.

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## 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black/Mulatto

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**Period of Significance**

1882-1954

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**Significant Dates**

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**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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**Architect/Builder**

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Starkville Colored Cemetery in Starkville, Mississippi is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criteria A, within the theme of Ethnic Heritage: Black/Mulatto. The cemetery was used by the black community in Starkville from the late 1800s to the mid-1950s and remains an important reminder of African American life in Starkville in the late eighteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Starkville, Mississippi is located in north central Mississippi. It is the county seat of Oktibbeha County. At the time of European contact, the area was on the frontier between the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes. The name "Oktibbeha" is derived from the name of a creek separating the Choctaw and Chickasaw lands. The name most likely means "blocks of ice therein." Other sources suggest the name means "fighting water," possibly based on conflicts between the Choctaw and Chickasaw.<sup>1</sup>

The Choctaw ceded territory, including current day Oktibbeha County, to the United States in the 1830 Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. The legislature organized Oktibbeha County in 1833, with Boardtown designated as the county seat. Some residents disliked the name, which apparently referred to the widespread use of clapboard siding in place of logs. The town was renamed Starkville. Again, the derivation is disputed. Some writers say the town was named in honor of General John Stark, a Revolutionary War leader from New Hampshire. An alternative version says the town is named for Colonel Horatio Stark, a cousin of John Stark.<sup>2</sup>

The town developed as the governmental and commercial center of an agricultural district. The city's growth was hampered by economic hard times in the 1840s, the Civil War and Reconstruction and a massive fire which destroyed much of the downtown business district in 1875. However, three events bolstered the community and set it on the path to economic stability and population growth. The Mobile and Ohio Railroad established a branch from Artesia to Starkville in 1874. The CA&M, which later became the Illinois Central Railroad, built a line

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<sup>1</sup> Keith A. Baca. *Native American Place Names in Mississippi*. (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2007), 74-75.

<sup>2</sup> Shirely Carley. "Starkville: Whose Namesake?" *Starkville Daily News, Sesquicentennial Edition*. December 8, 1983, p. 23.

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from Durant to Aberdeen through the town in 1883. However, perhaps the greatest stimulation came in 1878, when the legislature established Mississippi A&M College (now Mississippi State University) in Starkville.<sup>3</sup>

Robert A. Lampkin Sr. (1809-1885) was an early settler of Starkville. He and his family were members of the Methodist Church, Albert Mason Lodge No. 82 and Ridgley Lodge 23 Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) of Starkville, chartered 1848, On February 1, 1841 Lampkin purchased from US Land Office a large tract of land in Oktibbeha County Mississippi, including the west half of the southwest quarter of section thirty five in township nineteen north of range fourteen east containing eighty acres and fifteen hundredths of an acres. Lampkin's grant was signed by the President Martin Van Buren. This tract included the lot where the Colored Cemetery is located. The Oktibbeha County land records show that the Colored Odd Fellows, Grantor, granted a deed of trust to R.A. Lampkin, Grantee, in December 12, 1894. The transaction is recorded in the Reverse Deeds Book 62 Page 627. However the instrument is missing and a diligent search has not found the document. It is possible R.A. Lampkin Jr. sold land to the Colored Odd Fellows and the land may include the lot where the Colored Cemetery is located.

The first blacks in Starkville were enslaved people brought to the area by white settlers. The 1860 county census showed a total population of 12,977. Of the total, 5171 were white, 7631 were black, 18 were free people of color, and 157 had no race listed and were most likely Indians.<sup>4</sup> Following the Civil War, many freedmen moved into towns seeking employment. In Starkville, like in most towns, blacks settled into segregated neighborhoods, including a small district on South Lafayette Street.<sup>5</sup> The black community formed its own businesses, social and religious organizations. The Methodist church was the first congregation formed by freed people. The Methodist began worshipping in a barn and later constructed a church at the intersection of Louisville and Gillespie Street.<sup>6</sup> Other blacks, including George Washington Chiles, withdrew from the First Baptist Church in 1871 and established a black congregation known as the Second Baptist Church.<sup>7</sup>

Prior to the Civil War, in some congregations in Oktibbeha County whites and blacks worshipped together. Seating was segregated with blacks either seated in galleries or in the rear rows. Following the war, many freed people sought to establish their own congregations. Brush arbors erected on larger plantations served the needs of the black communities. However, some white landowners feared the influence northern white preachers might have on the black communities and burned and closed down the brush arbor churches. A committee of blacks purchased a lot in Starkville about ¾ miles east of the courthouse They established a brush arbor

<sup>3</sup> "From Boardtown to Thriving City." *Starkville Daily News, Sesquicentennial Edition*, December 8, 1878, p. 18.

<sup>4</sup> *Starkville Daily News*. December 8, 1983, p. 18

<sup>5</sup> Overstreet School Historic District, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. National Register of Historic Places.

<sup>6</sup> Historical Research Materials, Oktibbeha County. Series 447, Box 10782. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

<sup>7</sup> Historical Research Materials, Oktibbeha County. Series 447, Box 10780. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson MS.

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church where Methodists, Baptists and other denominations could worship together.<sup>8</sup> They also may have begun using the lot as a graveyard.<sup>9</sup> This is most likely the lot now known as the Starkville Colored Cemetery and the spot was known as the public grave yard.

In a manuscript cited by Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) Topic; Church History by R.C. Morris in October 20, 1937, Ben J. Robinson, an elderly black teacher and preacher, recounted a revival meeting at the Starkville brush arbor in the late 1860s. According to Robinson, "there arose a dispute about who should have the converts for up until this time the negroes all worshipped together. They could not agree and resulted in a division and some sought a church home elsewhere."<sup>10</sup> The result was the formation of the black Methodist church.

The history of black burial practices in Oktibbeha County is not well documented. Historical records collected by the W.P.A. suggest that many large landowners established family graveyards on their property. The graveyards sometimes were open to smaller families and to the enslaved peoples.<sup>11</sup>

The exact date when burials in the Starkville Colored Cemetery began is not clear. The W. P. A. records suggest it was in the early post-civil war years. The cemetery is included on the 1925 Sanborn map Starkville and labeled "Cemetery (colored)." A 1939-40 city map designated it as "Negro Cemetery."<sup>12</sup> A January 11, 1940 condition report lists the name as "Odd Fellows Old Cemetery for Colored."<sup>13</sup> It is also not very clear when it ceased to be used as a cemetery. The most recent marker is for Frances Winston, and shows the last recorded burial in 1954. Only two other existing markers bear a death date after 1930. The 1940 condition report states, "All except that part nearest College Drive is grown up on briars and bushes and is a very foul state. But very few of the graves are marked."

The oldest marker found to date in the Starkville Colored Cemetery memorializes Jimmy Cooper who died on June 21, 1882 at the age of 16. Cooper was the son of Alfred and Annie Cooper, who are also buried in the cemetery. A dual marker shows Alfred died on October 27, 1923 and Annie probably in 1929.<sup>14</sup>

The Chiles family also has multiple generations buried in the cemetery. Willie F. Chiles, the son of G. W. and H. E. Chiles, died May 16, 1883. A double marker memorializes his parents. George Washington Chiles died April 29, 1929. *The Starkville News* reported Chiles' death in

<sup>8</sup> Historical Research Materials, Oktibbeha County. Series 447, Box 10780. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

<sup>9</sup> Historical Research Materials, Oktibbeha County. Series 447, Box 10782. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

<sup>10</sup> Historical Research Materials, Oktibbeha County. Series 447, Box 10782. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

<sup>11</sup> Historic Research Materials, Oktibbeha County. Series 447, Box 10781. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS. Image page 30.

<sup>12</sup> Vicky Oswalt. "Forgotten black cemetery is location of proposed park area." *Starkville Daily News*. February 25, 1990. P. C1.

<sup>13</sup> Military Graves Registration, 1936-1941. Series 465, Box 11091. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

<sup>14</sup> Emily Breland-Ford photo no.10

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the May 10, 1929 edition. The newspaper described his funeral at the Second Baptist Church, stating

It was the first time in the history of the city where a negro funeral was largely attended by white people, both men and women, many of them bringing floral offerings and one of the white ministers occupying a seat in the pulpit and in an eloquent talk paid tribute to the deceased. Among the white citizens present were professional men, city officials, and the Confederate Veterans.<sup>15</sup>

According to the article, Chiles was enslaved to Captain W.H. Chiles and served him during the war. When Chiles was wounded, "his faithful attendant exposed himself to the fire of the enemy and carried him from the battlefield to a place of safety." Following the war, Chiles served on the Board of Election Commissioners for the Starkville. He was one of the organizers of the Second Baptist Church. Chiles was cited for his "wonderful memory and he was probably conversant with more of the county's history before, during and after the civil war than any person living."

Although Henrietta Chiles' date of death is not engraved on the stone, *The Starkville News* reported her death on April 9, 1937. The article reported that "funeral services were held Monday at the little negro cemetery on College drive. Several of her white friends were in attendance."<sup>16</sup> She was born into slavery on the Outlaw plantation. She married George Washington Chiles in 1865. The story reports that her husband worked for Mrs. Caroline Burns in her hotel and when Mrs. Burns became too old to operate the business, the Chiles family took her into their home and cared for her. A Chiles grandson, W. C. Henderson, was superintendent of the city's black schools.

Henrietta Chiles was one of the last recorded burials in the Colored Cemetery. Lodge 2948 of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, an black fraternal organization, purchased a plot of land on Highway 82 (now Dr. Martin Luther King Drive) on the north side of Starkville on February 18, 1911 and established a cemetery for blacks. Although burials in the Colored Cemetery continued up to the 1920s, the Odd Fellows Cemetery (NR, 1990) became the primary cemetery for Starkville's African American community in the 1920s. The Colored Cemetery fell into disuse and was soon overgrown. Many burial markers were displaced, either through natural causes or vandalism. The site was largely forgotten. In 1990, *The Starkville Daily News* reported renewed interest in the cemetery. John May, a landscape architecture student at Mississippi State University, proposed a park for the site which would increase awareness of the history of the cemetery.<sup>17</sup> Although the park was never created, over the years several organizations have made efforts to maintain the grounds and stabilize the markers. The Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors, the Boy Scouts, and the local NAACP have worked on the grounds. However, no one has made any substantial efforts to maintain the markers.

<sup>15</sup> "G.W. Chiles, Colored-Funeral Held at 11 O'Clock." *The Starkville News*. May 10, 1929.

<sup>16</sup> "'White Folks' In Mourning as Aged Slave Is Laid to Rest-Aunt Henrietta Chiles, 95, Is Called to Final Reward Saturday." *The Starkville News*, April 9, 1937.

<sup>17</sup> "Forgotten black cemetery..."



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The earliest burials in the Starkville area were likely Native Americans. As white settlers moved into the area, they organized by religious congregations. Some congregations also organized cemeteries for their members. At least two are known to exist. The Old Presbyterian Cemetery on Louisville Street was organized in 1834 (NR, 2008). There is also a small cemetery located off Old West Point Road just north of University Drive, perhaps associated with the Presbyterian church. The Black Odd Fellows Cemetery is located on Dr. Martin Luther King Drive (NR, 1990). The Starkville Odd Fellows Cemetery on University Drive is by far the largest cemetery in the city.

The Starkville Colored Cemetery remains an important site in the city's African American history. It marks an important era when local custom and law strictly segregated the white and black communities. However, as the stories about George Washington and Henrietta Chiles establish, there was a level of respect and esteem on a personal level that transcended race.

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## 1. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Baca, Keith A. *Native American Place Names in Mississippi*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2007

Carroll, Thomas Battle. *Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County Gulfport,.* Mississippi: Dixie Press, 1931.

Erick Foner, Freedom's Lawmakers. A directory of black officeholders during Reconstruction. Revised edition Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge and London 1993 1996,

Historical Research Materials, Oktibbeha County. Series 447. Boxes 10780, 10781, 10782 Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

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Sadye H. Wier with John F. Marszalek. *A Black Businessman in White Mississippi, 1886-1974*. Mississippi: University Press, 1977.

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### *Newspapers*

*Starkville Daily News*. Death Notices: George Washington Chiles, 1929. Mississippi State University Libraries Special Collections Department. Starkville, Mississippi.

*Starkville Daily News*. Death Notices: Henrietta Chiles, 1937. Mississippi State University Libraries Special Collections Department. Starkville, Mississippi.

*Starkville Daily News*. Cemeteries Records History, December 1983 page 28. History and Government Issue 1833-1983 150 years in Oktibbeha County. 5 issues Special Supplement Sesquicentennial edition, call no. G929.3762OKT MS, 1850 Marker Cemetery on University Drive, Starkville, Mississippi.

*Starkville Daily News*. Forgotten black cemetery is location of proposed park area. Vicky Oswald, Lifestyles February 25, 199 page C1.

*Starkville Daily News*. *Department of Corrections cleans up oldest predominately Colored Cemetery*. Brian Hawkins, Volunteers Dr. Mfanya Tryman, NAACP, Assistance Chief Police John H. Outlaw and others, June 11, 2004. Starkville, Mississippi.

*The Seattle Times*. *1940 census: Family history at your fingertips*. Lornet Turnbull, Front page Martha Collins visits her 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandparents Ben and Violet Yeates, 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandmother, and other relatives at the Colored Cemetery on University Drive in Starkville Mississippi. June 5, 2012 Seattle Washington.

### *Public*

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Jackson, Mississippi. Confederate Pension Applications, African American Confederate Pensioners Series 1201. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Jackson, Mississippi. Confederate Pension Applications, African American Confederate Pensioners Series 354. Confederate Pension Rolls 1889-1935. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Broad of Registration To Appointment G.W. Chiles Book 24 Page 548 Oktibbeha Clerk. Mississippi State Archives Oktibbeha County Tax rolls 1888, Box 3752

Jackson, Mississippi. Death Index/Certificates, 1912 – 1943. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. Hotel owned by George Chiles. Deed Book 24 pages 433 and 434, January 27, 1876 in Starkville, Mississippi.

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. IOOF Trustee of Fellowship Cemetery to Deed Joseph Yeates Book 59 Page 288 January 10, 1890 Oktibbeha Court Chancery Clerk Office.

Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. Land Deed Records, 1834 through 1894. Violet Yeates (**widow**) Warranty Deed to T.B. Carroll, Book 78 page 31. Starkville, Mississippi.

Oktibbeha County Mississippi Deeds Index, REVERSE Grantor Colored Odd Fellows Grantor R.A. Lampkin Grantee Deed of Trust Book 62 page 627, December 10, 1894. Please Note Book 62 is missing from the Oktibbeha County Chancery Clerk's Office, Starkville, Mississippi. Utah Family History Center, Film Number 894484 Deed Index 1834-1895.

Oktibbeha County Mississippi. Various Records, 1820 through 1951. Military graves registrations 1836-1941 (Box 119091). Federal Works Agency WPA, by E.R. Bobbitt, January 11, 1940. *Report on condition of Starkville Oktibbeha Cemetery Odd Fellows Old Cemetery for colored College Drive is grown up on briars and brushes and is in a very foul state.* One World War I Veteran, S-T-R, Mississippi State Archives. Jackson, Mississippi.

District of Columbia. DAR GRC report; s1 v104: Federal land sales in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. Accession Number A#35294. Kathie Prince Esker. Pages 87, 104.

Recess meeting of Mayor and Board of Alderman of Starkville, IOOF Cemetery June 18, 1946 no. 3 on agenda Pages 1 and 2.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderman. Citizen Involvement: the Colored Cemetery on University Drive, Dr. Mfanya Tryman, NAACP President. October 19, 2004. Starkville, Mississippi. (Mfanya Tryman died in 2005)

Statewide Historical Research Project, Oktibbeha County Topic: Church History, FREEDOM AND RECONSTRUCTION, How they effected the Negro's Religion, R.C. Morris, MSU Library Collection.

Proclamation 175 years celebration by Honorable Mayor Parker Wiseman, City of Starkville May 12, 2013

#### *Interviews*

Businesses, Organizations, Institutions, Journalist, GUOOF and IOOF members, Community Leaders, families and friends.

#### Oral interviews

Mattie Coding student report "Bury My Bones in Dixie" An Analysis of African American Post-Emancipation Graveyards and the Odd Fellows. Black Community Graveyard of Starkville, MS. 2013 MSU, Mississippi

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Martha Lee Collins student report Tracing Violet, 2012 UW, Washington  
Emily Breland-Ford student report AN4523 Research Project. Colored in History: A Study of a turn of the Century in Starkville, MS. 2002 MSU, Mississippi  
Mr. John Long, Oktibbeha County Clerk of the Court, Mason and Baptist Pastor  
Mrs. Carolyn Reed Genealogy Librarian Starkville-Okti Co Library and LDS member.

*Websites*

StoppingPoints.com. *One of the oldest Black Cemeteries in Mississippi*. 2009 Plots across the street from Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Emily Breland-Ford. Photographs of Cemetery Tombstones.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.4457529391546.2144507.1088956022&type=1&l=b1b7576a16>

African-Americans waiting for train, Starkville, 1923. Robert and Sadye Wier papers. Special Collections Department, Mitchell Memorial Library. (Old colored man out front with white hair and white beard, dark suit with long coat is Mr. George Washington Chiles.)

<http://cdm16631.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/charm/id/24369>

USGENWEB Oktibbeha County Mississippi Archives *World War I Enlistment Records 1918*. Grover Henry Zuber and Eugene Rush.

Ancestry.com. *U.S. Headstone Application for Military Veterans, 1925-1963*. Grover Henry Zuber. Death October 11, 1948. Burial Colored Cemetery in Starkville, Mississippi.

Tscmaps.com. Parcel Detail Report. PPIN: 2508, Parcel ID:117M-00-192.00, Section: 35, Township: 19N, Range: 14E, Legal: Lot 12 City Block 27. Colored Cemetery. Starkville, Mississippi. 39759

NASA: <http://www.landsat.com/starkville-mississippi-aerial-a2870240.html>

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University

Starkville Colored Cemetery

Oktibbeha, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

     Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 105-STK-0418

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## 2. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property**      Approximately 2

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 33.462915 | Longitude: -88.805596 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927    or     NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Starkville Colored Cemetery  
Name of Property

Oktibbeha, Mississippi  
County and State

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Colored Cemetery is located in the southwest quarter of section 35 Township 19 North Range 14 East Starkville 9 Oktibbeha County Mississippi. Approximately 115 feet by 730 feet Block 27 Lot 12 ward 4 Subdivision. East End Land Co. PPIN 2508 Parcel ID 117M-00-192.00 District 3110 Exempt II

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes a parcel of land historically associated with the Colored Cemetery in Starkville Oktibbeha County Mississippi.

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**3. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Martha Lee Collins \_\_\_\_\_  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 123 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town: Seattle \_\_\_\_\_ state: Washington \_\_\_ zip  
code: 98122 \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail: enc111@msn.com \_\_\_\_\_  
telephone: 206-726-1545 \_\_\_\_\_  
date: December 26, 2013 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional text by William M. Gatlin, MDAH Architectural Historian and Annie Daniels, supportive friend and advisor

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Starkville Colored Cemetery  
Name of Property

Oktibbeha, Mississippi  
County and State

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Colored Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Starkville

County: Oktibbeha

State: Mississippi

Photographer: Emily Breeland Ford (Photos 1-10)

Jennifer Baughn, MDAH Chief Architectural Historian (Photos 11-13)

Date Photographed: February 26, 2013

May 22, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1. Front of cemetery, bordered by University Dr. Notice parking on left in side.

Photo 2. View to North front of Colored cemetery, bordered by North side of University Drive Notice the four crumbling concrete steps inset to the incline, right side of photo.

Photo 3. Inside south of Cemetery landscape view to north.

Photo 4. Marker front view facing west, Tin & Zinc upright monument with raised details. Daniel Austin. May 5, 1883. Aged 66 yrs. 5 mos. 10 days. Gone but still remembered. A very interesting headstone. Mr. Austin was member of the Colored Methodist Church in Starkville.

Photo 5. Marker rear view facing east with hand one finger upward holding cross. Daniel Austin.

Photo 6. Marker front view facing east. Upright monument knocked on ground. John Drake. Born Aug. 1872. Died Jan. 25, 1904. Thou art not dead though in the grave. Through God's great mercy, thou art saved. Thy love and care throughout thy life, Cause me to be thy sorrowing wife, Lelia. Grand United Order of Odd Fellows (G.U.O. of O.F.), lodge 2948. His monument is quite elaborate and was once surrounded by a decorative iron fence. It now lays on the ground, next to what I expect is the base. The actual grave is VERY sunken in. There are other (GUOofOF) members burials here.

Starkville Colored Cemetery

OkTibbeha, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

- Photo 7. View to east. Upright monument weathered sandstone. Eugene Rush. Born Mar. 25, 1888. Died Mar. 20, 1922. At rest. Unidentified flag waving on top of marker WW1 Veteran. His parents Scott Rush and Malinda Cunningham and his wife Emma Bell.
- Photo 8. View to East. Upright monument marble, floral/art novo with epitaph inscription. "Geo. W. Chiles he was a Civil War Servant, Veteran and Pensioner, Mason, Baptist Reverend. July 1, 1840 - Apr. 29, 1929. Henrietta his wife. Feb. 10. 1842. They died as they lived – Christians, the base states Father Mother. " Born a slave, "Wash" accompanied his master on the battlefields of the Civil War. After the War, he was a charter member of the Mason and Second Baptist Church in Starkville, State of Mississippi Appointed G.W. Chiles Board of Registration of voters and he owned the hotel in town, where he worked as a boy slave. His funeral in 1929 was attended by both blacks and whites, very uncommon for the time. This grave is at the very front of the cemetery, close to University Drive then known as College Road. Surrounded by many of the Chiles family members.
- Photo 9. View to east flat marble WW1 Veterans marker to ground 24"X12"X4". This is the only headstone you can see in the small families fenced-in area. It is right at the edge, facing the fence. "Grover Henry Zuber. Missouri. MA3C USNRF. World War I. Oct. 7, 1896 - Oct. 11, 1948". Grover the grandson of Henry Zuber named in 1931 T.B. Carroll Oktibbeha County History Book Page 111 and 1869 began Piney Grove Baptist Church.
- Photo 10. Companion flat marker marble for two people. WINSTON, Jack 1864 - 1938 Frances 1872 - 1954. The only modern-looking headstone in the lot. Deacon Jack Winston at Second Baptist Church Close in proximity to William Winston his brother and Dinah Issac her mother, both members of the GUOOF and women's chapter Household of Ruth its emblem the sheaves of wheat..
- Photo 11. View to the north.
- Photo 12. View to the south.
- Photo 13. View to the west.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.





Starkville Colored Cemetery Photographs





MS - Okt. 16. beha County - Stankville Colored Cemetery - 0001





MS - Oktibbeha County - Starkville Colored Cemetery - 0002





MS - Oktobeha County - Starkville Colored Cemetery - 0003





DANIEL

AUSTIN

DIED

MAY 5, 1883.

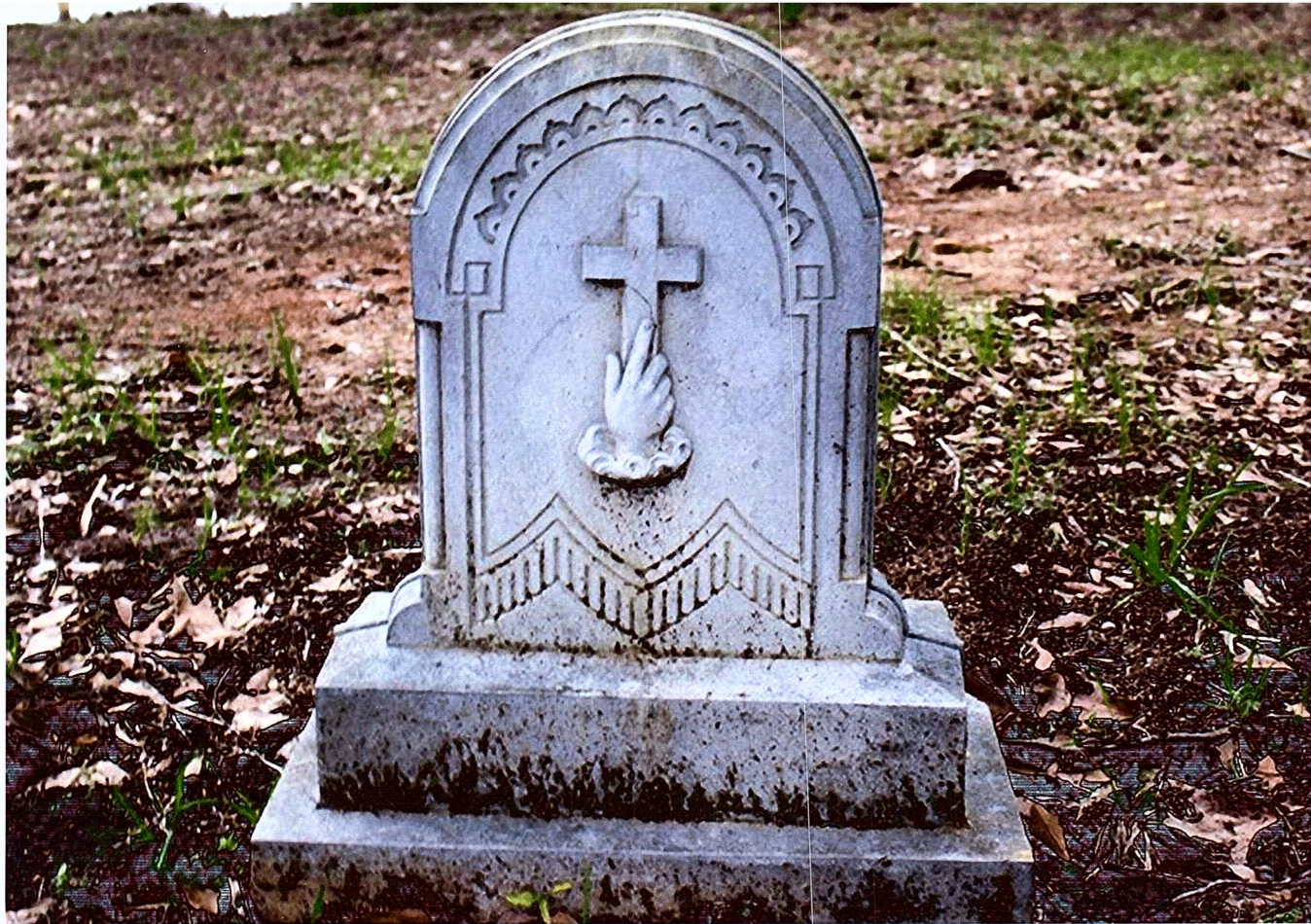
AGED

66 YRS 5 MOS 10 DYS

GONE BUT STILL REMEMBERED



MS - Oktibbeha County - Stankville Colored Cemetery - 0004



MS - Attibetah County - Starkville Colored Cemetery - 0005



Devoted to the  
memory of my  
dear husband,

**JOHN DRAKE**

Born  
Aug. 1872  
Died  
Jan. 25, 1904.

Thou art not dead,  
tho' in the grave,  
Through God's great  
mercy thou art saved.  
Thy love and care  
throughout thy life,  
Cause me to be thy  
surviving wife.

Lelia.

MS - Oktibbeha County - Starkville Colored Cemetery - 0006





EUGENE  
RUSH

FULLY ENGRAVED

MS - Oktibbeha County - Starkville Colored Cemetery - 0607



GEO. W. CHILES

JULY 1, 1840

APR. 29, 1929

HENRIETTA

HIS WIFE

FEB. 10, 1842

They died as they lived - Christians.

FATHER MOTHER



MS - Oktibbeha County - Starkville Colored Cemetery - 0008



GROVER HENRY ZUBER

MISSOURI

MAJOR USNR


WORLD WAR I

OCT 7 1896

OCT 11 1948

MS - Oktibbeha County - Starkville Colored Cemetery - 0609





WINSTON

JACK  
1864 — 1938

FRANCES  
1872 — 1954

MS - Oktibbeha County - Starkville Colored Cemetery - 0010





MS - Oktibbeha County - Stoville Colored Cemetery - GG11







MS - Oktibbeha County - Starkville Colored Cemetery - 0012



MS - Oktobersha County - Starkville Colored Cemetery - 0013