

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 59

7 - DESCRIPTION

Historic Cemeteries in Port Gibson (Thematic Group)

The historic cemetery theme relates to the historic development of Port Gibson. The founding of the early settlement, organization of religious institutions, and the beginnings of self-determination for blacks after the Civil War are important historic movements reflected in the establishment of the cemeteries. Their major common physical characteristics are rural setting and relative isolation from residential areas.

The group displays striking contrasts in individual physical treatment and in historic and associational significance. Wintergreen is representative in plan and design quality of mid-nineteenth-century romantically inspired funeral landscapes, epitomized by Mount Auburn in Cambridge, Greenwood in Brooklyn, and Laurel Hill in Philadelphia. Wintergreen lacks only the topographical contours of its contemporaries. The contiguous Catholic and Jewish cemeteries share similar settings; however, the compacted plan, elevated monuments, and superior maintenance of the Jewish Cemetery contrast with the partially barren field of its neighbor, which is accentuated by an overgrown crucifix focal point and vandalism to several notable monuments. Golden West Cemetery, with its grassy hillside setting, displays none of the landscape elements of the other three, nor does it have a symmetrical arrangement of plots. Random placement of makeshift cast-concrete monuments and lack of shrubbery or any formal landscape plan impart an appealing pastoral folk-art quality to Golden West.

This cemetery survey of the Port Gibson multiple resource area was conducted by Jack A. Gold, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Of the five extant cemeteries in Port Gibson, Scott Memorial Cemetery was the only one omitted from the thematic group. It was not included because it lacks historic or landscape significance.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF PORT GIBSON  
[Miss.]

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 60

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Cemeteries in Port Gibson (Thematic Group)

Each of the four cemeteries included in the thematic group relates to the historic development of Port Gibson as described in the individual survey forms. A fifth cemetery, Scott Memorial, is not included because of its recent establishment and lack of historic or landscape significance. The historic significance of Wintergreen as the burial ground for Samuel Gibson, an early Port Gibson settler, is enhanced by the application of mid-nineteenth-century principles of landscape planning in the United States. In the context of Mississippi, the thematic cemetery group is notable as a significant aggregation of small-town cemeteries supported by private associations (Wintergreen and Golden West), and religious congregations (Catholic and Jewish).



# Historic Sites Survey 1B

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Wintergreen Cemetery is situated on a large eight-acre lot heavily forested with giant cedars. A curving drive with an inner loop leads east to a new section. Family plots are characteristically outlined with intricately decorated cast-iron fences, most in imitation of gnarled tree trunks. Several prominent family monuments are embellished with statues and obelisks. At the west end of the inner loop is a circular gathering place used in the past for Confederate Memorial Day exercises (Arnold). A soldiers' row from the Battle of Port Gibson is identified by an iron marker and located west of the gathering place.

## ALTERATIONS:

Extension of the cemetery east of its original site.

## OUTBUILDINGS:

LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Presence of cedars throughout the cemetery casts pebbled shadows and darkens the entire space. Grounds are planted with a variety of shrubbery and flowering trees.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Wintergreen Cemetery began as the Gibson family burying place after 1800. A grandchild of Samuel Gibson was buried here in 1807. The impressive monuments, ornate family gates and fences, and curving drive create a striking visual impression and express the romantic inclinations of mid-nineteenth-century cemetery landscapes popular in the eastern United States.

NAME: Wintergreen Cemetery

STREET NO: East End, Greenwood Street

TOWN/VIC: Port Gibson

COUNTY: Claiborne

BLOCK/LOT:

PRESENT OWNER: Wintergreen Cemetery Association  
ADDRESS c/o James O. Carpenter, 1401 College  
Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

PRESENT USE: cemetery

FORMER USE:

DATE: 1807 - present

STYLE:

ARCH/BUILDER:

SOURCE OF DATE:

ENVIRONMENT: residential, forested

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

- NEIGHBORHOOD
- LOCAL
- STATE
- NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #





BERTON

WIFE OF  
WALTER  
W. BERTON  
DIED 1888  
MAY 2 1888

*Port Gibson Multiple Resource Area*

HISTORIC CEMETERIES IN PORT GIBSON

(THEMATIC GROUP)

Port Gibson, Mississippi *Claiborne Co.*

Jack A. Gold

January, 1979

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Wintergreen Cemetery; view to southeast

Photo # *84 of 125*

*DOE*

**JUL 22 1979**

**MAY 30 1979**





*Port Gibson Multiple Resource Area*

HISTORIC CEMETERIES IN PORT GIBSON

(THEMATIC GROUP)

Port Gibson, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

January, 1979

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Wintergreen Cemetery. View to east.

Photo ~~102~~ *93* of *125*

*Claiborne Co.*

*DOE*

MAY 30 1979

JUL 22 1979





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HISTORIC CEMETERIES IN PORT GIBSON

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January, 1979

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Wintergreen Cemetery. Gathering place; view to  
northeast.

Photo ~~WAP~~ *94 of 125*

MAY 30 1979

DOE

JUL 22 1979

*Claiborne Co*



*Port Gibson Multiple Resource Area*

HISTORIC CEMETERIES IN PORT GIBSON

(THEMATIC GROUP)

Port Gibson, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

January, 1979

*Clairborne Co.*

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Wintergreen Cemetery. Monument, view to  
northeast.

Photo ~~95~~ 95 of 125

*DOE*

MAY 30 1979

JUL 22 1979



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HISTORIC CEMETERIES IN PORT GIBSON  
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Port Gibson, Mississippi

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January, 1979

*Claiborne Co.*

Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Wintergreen Cemetery. McAlpine gate; view  
to east.

Photo ~~W~~ 96 of 125

*DOE*

**JUL 22 1979**

**MAY 30 1979**





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HISTORIC CEMETERIES IN PORT GIBSON  
(THEMATIC GROUP)

Port Gibson, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

January, 1979

*Claborne Co.*

Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Wintergreen Cemetery. View to east.

Photo ~~90~~ *90* of 125-

*DOE*

**JUL 22 1979**

**MAY 30 1979**



*Port Gibson Multiple Resource Area*

HISTORIC CEMETERIES IN PORT GIBSON

(THEMATIC GROUP)

Port Gibson, Mississippi *Claiborne Co.*

Jack A. Gold

January, 1979

Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Wintergreen Cemetery. Row of Confederate dead;  
view to north.

Photo ~~108~~ *98 of 125* MAY 30 1979

*DOE*  
JUL 22 1979



*Port Gibson Multiple Resource area*

HISTORIC CEMETERIES IN PORT GIBSON

(THEMATIC GROUP)

Port Gibson, Mississippi

*Clairborne Co.*

Jack A. Gold

January, 1979

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Wintergreen Cemetery. View to west.

Photo W11 *103 of 125*

*DOI*

JUL 22 1979

MAY 30 1979