

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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).

MAY 30 1983



State of Mississippi  
Department of Archives & History  
P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 39205

# Historic Sites Survey 3-B

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Jewish Cemetery is situated on a small lot approximately 150 feet square, adjacent to Marginal Street residences located within the boundaries of the Market Street-Suburb St. Mary Historic District. Cemetery boundaries are outlined by a thin-gauge iron fence with decorative iron corner posts. Some plots are raised two to three feet above ground with masonry retaining walls.

## ALTERATIONS:

## OUTBUILDINGS:

## LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Although the Congregation Gemiluth Chassed was organized in 1859, a cemetery was not established until 1870. Prior to 1870, Jewish dead were buried in Natchez.

The site is significant as a reflection of the Jewish community in Port Gibson, and for its historic value as one of the early Jewish cemeteries in the state after those in Natchez, Grand Gulf, Columbus, Vicksburg, and Jackson (James J. Pillar, "Religious and Cultural Life, 1817-1860," in A History of Mississippi, 2 vols., ed. Richard A. McLemore (Hattiesburg: University Press, 1973), 1:392-93.

NAME: Jewish Cemetery  
STREET NO: 900 Block, Marginal Street  
TOWN/VIC: Port Gibson  
COUNTY: Claiborne  
BLOCK/LOT:  
PRESENT OWNER: Jewish Congregation of Port Gibson  
ADDRESS c/o Karl Weil, 212 Walnut Street  
PRESENT USE: Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150  
Cemetery  
FORMER USE:  
DATE: ca. 1870 - present  
STYLE:  
ARCH/BUILDER:  
SOURCE OF DATE:  
ENVIRONMENT: residential  
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
LOCAL X  
STATE  
NATIONAL

## PHOTOS

NEG. #

SITE OR AREA PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:

CONTINUATION:

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Well maintained

THREATS:

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Refer to cemetery boundaries as outlined on U.S.G.S. map

ACREAGE: less than one acre

UTM REF:

A 

1	5	6	9	1	0	0	0	3	5	3	7	1	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
ZONE EASTING                      NORTHING

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
ZONE EASTING                      NORTHING

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

Jack A. Gold

February 1979

JEWISH CEMET



*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

Jewish Cemetery; view to east

Photo # *86 of 125*

MAY 30 1979

*DOE*  
JUL 22 1979



*Port Gibson Multiple Resource Area*

HISTORIC CEMETERIES IN PORT GIBSON

(THEMATIC GROUP)

Port Gibson, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

*Clairborne Co.*

January, 1979

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Jewish Cemetery. View to southeast.

Photo ~~104~~ 99 of 125

*DOE*

MAY 30 1979

**JUL 22 1979**



*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  
Jewish Cemetery. View to east.

Photo ~~100~~ *100 of 125*

*DOE*

JUL 22 1979

MAY 30 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

Jewish Cemetery. View to northwest.

Photo JE2 / *101 of 125*

*DOE*

MAY 30 1979

**JUL 22 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  
Jewish Cemetery. View to west.

Photo JEL 102 of 125

*Claborn Co.*

MAY 30 1979

JUL 22 1979  
Doc



*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  
Jewish Cemetery. View to east.

Photo JE5 *104 of 125*

MAY 30 1979

*DOE*

**JUL 22 1979**