

The Ocmulgee Heritage Trail & Rose Hill Cemetery




OCMULGEE
HERITAGE TRAIL



Doran & Karwoski, Inc,
Landscape Architecture ■ Land Planning ■ Site Design
650 Glen Iris Drive NE, Suite 9, Atlanta, Georgia 30308
404-872-2494 ■ info@dkiatlanta.com
June 25, 2007



Table of Contents

Purpose	3
A Brief History of the Rural Cemetery	
Movement in America	3
The 19 th Century & Beginnings of	
Rose Hill Cemetery.....	4
The 20th Century from Park to Necropolis.....	8
The 21st Century beyond the Necropolis	9
The Ocmulgee Heritage Trail.....	10
Proposed Routes through Rose Hill Cemetery	11
Case Studies.....	16
#1 – Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta, GA	16
#2 – Rose Hill Cemetery & the Silver Comet Trail,	
Rockmart, GA.....	19
#3 – Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon	21
Perceptions	22
Advantages & Disadvantages to Inclusion	22
Crime Prevention Through	
Environmental Design (CPTED).....	23
Conclusion	24
Sources.....	27

Note: Historic photographs contained in this report are courtesy of the Middle Georgia Archives, Washington Memorial Library, 1180 Washington Avenue, Macon, GA 31201 and may not be used or reproduced in any format without the expressed written permission of the Middle Georgia Archives.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide context and background on Rose Hill Cemetery, the rural cemetery movement in America (especially as the precursor to public parks), and the value of incorporating a section of the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail within the boundaries of Rose Hill Cemetery.

A Brief History of the Rural Cemetery Movement in America

In general, cemeteries in America can be classified into three basic types: the earliest being graveyards (prior to the 19th century); the rural or garden cemetery of the 19th century and then later the lawn cemetery of the 20th century.

The rural cemetery movement developed in the early 19th century in response to overcrowded urban graveyards and the widely held belief that the graveyards were the literal breeding grounds of disease and as places were to be generally avoided. The rural or garden cemetery was focused on the landscape and the owners of these rural cemeteries sought to ensure that visitors would encounter as many of nature's splendors as possible. Rather than a church graveyard, the rural cemetery became a place for the living to derive pleasure, emotional satisfaction and an instruction on how to live life in harmony with art and nature. Mount Auburn Cemetery in Boston (est. 1820) is both the first and best known of this type cemetery. Mount Auburn was developed before the creation of public parks and it and all of the rural cemeteries developed in its style, including Rose Hill, became a pleasure ground for the general public. Part of the reason for the popularity of these rural cemeteries was the novelty – the sensory experiences, primarily visual and the “pleasures of melancholy” elicited greatly appealed to the contemporary romantic sensibilities of the time.

The rural cemetery is also note worthy since for the first time burial grounds became businesses instead of being the purview of churches. Those purchasing lots were given the right to construct elaborate fences and memorials, as well as to plant trees, flowers and shrubs as they saw fit. Families of the deceased were responsible for the maintenance and up keep of plots & memorials, while the cemetery association was responsible for general maintenance of the cemetery

The lush vegetation and natural landscape that is the hallmark of a rural cemetery is also the reason that the movement was relatively short. While these cemeteries appeared “natural” in reality huge amounts of labor were required to maintain that illusion.

The 19th Century & Beginnings of Rose Hill Cemetery

Early in the nineteenth century as the United States began to grow and prosper, attitudes on death and the afterlife began to change as well. The average person was no longer solely consumed with meeting life’s most basic needs, but now enjoyed the time to consider a deeper meaning toward what was promised and to be enjoyed in the next. From newspaper accounts of the day, both the Pierre le Chaise Cemetery in Paris and Mount Auburn Cemetery outside of Boston had become quite well known as paradise-like gardens where one could share eternity with family and friends in a place of perpetual beauty and tranquility. And Macon, seeing itself as no less a cosmopolitan city of the day, would not be outdone.



Central Avenue District, c. 1877

Ultimately, Macon had the need to solicit proposals for the design and location of a new City cemetery and eventually decided on the location and design proposed by prominent local businessman, Simri Rose. Rose first proposed his ideas for the cemetery in a detailed diagram in 1839, which unfortunately no longer exists. While issues of public health were the primary force behind the rural cemetery movement in America, the romantic ideals of the Victorian age seemed to perhaps be the strongest motivational force behind the development of Rose Hill.

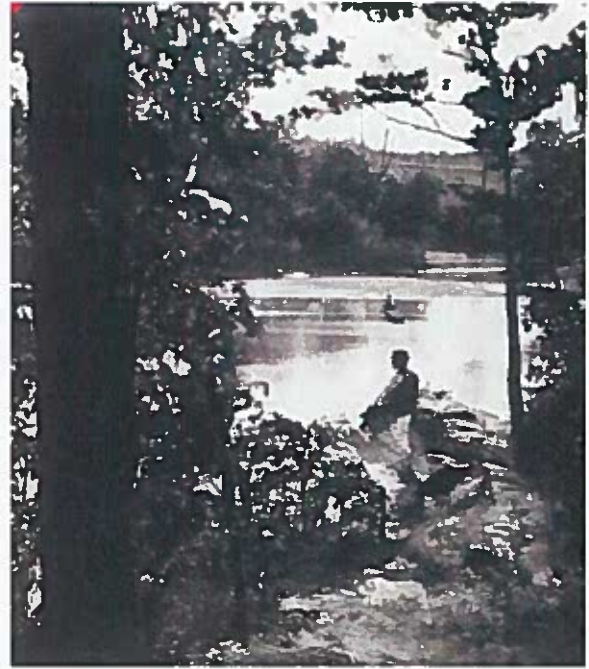
Rose Hill Cemetery was established by the City of Macon in 1840. Located adjacent to the Ocmulgee River on land that had originally been designated as part of the City’s “Commons”. The idea of a community owned common green space was atypical of the day, and very forward thinking of the City

founders. As the City grew and faced the development pressures, "The Commons" gradually became developed and was absorbed into the fabric of the City.

The first internment was Mrs. Caroline Wilson of Baldwin County on February 27, 1840.

By 1849, five miles of roads and footpaths had been developed. Many "...cut into steep side of he river banks and hills, winding through every place the presents any object of attraction." Soon after its

development, Rose Hill Cemetery proved to be one most popular places in Macon to visit. Newspaper accounts of the day indicate that, "...Rose Hill was thronged with visitors on Sunday afternoons. All Macon spent an hour or so there."



"Lover's Leap" c.1877

Access to the Ocmulgee River was one of the primary attractions, "The serpentine paths, which led down to the precipitous riverbank, received the most ardent attention." Critics of the day remarked that this was one area in which Rose Hill fell short in comparison to Mount Auburn Cemetery, "...However skillfully accomplished, the layout of the drives exhibit little sympathy for the topography." However, this did not seem to deter visitors (see historic photograph of "Lover's Leap").

Simri Rose described the overall site as, "... covered with towering poplar, giant oaks, beech and sycamore... and thickly wooded by a young and thrifty growth." He was very proud of the site he had chosen and further remarked, "...there is scarcely a tree, shrub or wild flower, that is known in our country that may not be found within this area of fifty acres." In addition to being a successful newspaper publisher, Rose was also a nurseryman and was known to have imported exotic plants in keeping with the fashion and taste of the Victorian aesthetic. In the Masonic plot, Rose is said to have planted Oriental Cypress, Balm of Gilead, Norway & Silver Fir, Hemlock, Broom and Furze. Additionally, if Arborvitae, Cedar, juniper, Olive, iron railing was too expensive to be installed around the perimeter of the lot, owners were urged to plant hedges of Cherokee or white microphylla rose. In 1886,

elm trees were planned for Central Avenue. However, it is unknown if these trees were ever planted as none exist today.

Three fresh water springs were located on the grounds of Rose Hill. These springs were said to have been of the purest quality and were one of the attractions for many of the visitors to the cemetery. This is worth noting, because, in general most people of the time had real public health concerns and fears regarding toxic gases, disease, etc. that dead bodies were thought to emit. The springs were quite well known and highly thought of at the time and health issues did not seem to be a concern.



Visitor's Spring c.1877

"Crystal Spring" is said to have issued from a natural cave in the side of a hill. Simri Rose built a grotto around this spring. He enlarged the cave, paved the floor with smooth stones and depressed the center to serve as a catch basin. To further enhance the effect Rose embellished the ceiling with "bright and sparkling" stalactites he had brought in especially from a Kentucky cave. Rose described the grotto as, "A most attractive spot for visitors." Apparently, the Union Army camped in or near Rose Hill for written accounts exist of soldiers bathing in and around the grotto and even removing the stalactites and taking them as souvenirs. It is not known exactly when the grotto was removed.

Above Crystal Spring, Rose built a small dam and created a lake having dimensions approximately 240x60 feet. The lake is described as having a sodded grass bank and planted with weeping willows and bald cypress. Rose planted 'perpetual roses' near the lake and throughout the grounds. The two existing bald cypress in the Lakeside Terrace section are believed to be the two trees shown to be planted on the small islands in the historic photograph.



Lake c.1877

Below the lake, two rustic bridges of rock and earth were built across the streams and a second, smaller pond was created, probably between 1854 and 1865. Remnants of the smaller pond appear to exist as a wetland area today.

In 1872, John James (Rose's protégé) delivered his final report to the Cemetery committee and announced that a summer house (gazebo) was to

be built. The summer house was built (see the historic photograph) but was short-lived as the site had graves located on it by 1895.



Summer House c.1877



Ravine - Holly Ridge c. 1877

Rose Hill was never the same after the rail line was constructed. First, as is readily seen from the site the rail line effectively cut off visitor access to the Ocmulgee River and eliminated one of Rose Hill's primary attractions for visitors. The "Lover's Leap" rock in the historic photograph was covered by construction. Secondly, during the late nineteenth century areas surrounding rail lines were often inhabited by hobos and other vagrants and were perceived by the public as crime ridden and un-safe. Both of these elements combined to contribute to the

gradual decline in the number of visitors to Rose Hill.

The Railroad did not honor its commitment to build a proper fence to separate itself from Rose Hill until 1896, when a wholly inadequate wire fence was replaced with an ornamental iron fence. Apparently the

ornamental iron fence was not maintained and it eventually disappeared over time. All that remains of this fence are scattered rusted fragments.

The 20th Century from Park to Necropolis

By the early part of the 20th century most of the burial plots in Rose Hill had been sold and developed. The new century also brought with it, changing ideals and attitudes toward death and the afterlife. As health and working conditions continued to improve for the average person, societal attitudes gradually shifted from the promise of a better life in the hereafter to enjoying life's pleasures in the present. With this shift in values coupled with the



Main Office and Gate c.1908

natural transition from construction to maintenance, the number of visitors to Rose Hill continued to wane.

By 1916, for unknown reasons the lake had become stagnant and putrid. Since the lake was no longer an asset to Rose Hill, it was filled in and developed as the Lakeside Terrace division. According to accounts of the time removing the lake was not considered to be a significant loss.

In 1945 the five principle roads in Rose Hill had been designated for paving by the City, however the roads were not actually paved for another ten years.

A tornado hit Macon and Rose Hill in 1954 and caused considerable damage to a number of monuments and destroyed many of large trees throughout the grounds. Comparison between a 1938 aerial photograph and one taken in February 1999 further illustrates the level of tree loss at Rose Hill over the past half century.

The area identified as Cherry Ridge is the most recent division within Rose Hill. The earliest internment observed in this division was 1996, with most

occurring after 2000. Plots in this division are a uniform 9'x4'. This division has a distinctly different look and feel from the remainder of Rose Hill. This feeling is reinforced due to the lack of physical connection to the historic sections of the Cemetery, in part due to grade changes adjacent to the Terraces division. The only access to this division, either pedestrian or vehicular, is an asphalt drive located outside of the College Street gate.

Perhaps the largest influence on Rose Hill in the 20th century has been the construction of Interstates 75 and 16 on the east bank of the Ocmulgee River. Views have been permanently altered (i.e., the large bridge connecting I-16 to I-75 south). Interstate 16 was constructed in the early 1970's and has had perhaps the largest impact on Rose Hill since the construction of the railroad a century earlier. Constant noise generated by I-16 is a real and constant intrusion onto Rose Hill, permanently altering the quiet, peaceful experience that once so moved visitors. Rose Hill is currently threatened by the planned expansion of Interstate 16 and its associated interchanges and flyovers with Interstate 75.

While there were definite and specific rules enacted by the Cemetery Committee against the removal of the forest canopy originally covering Rose Hill, there was never any provision made for the replanting or management of the tree canopy. The only confirmed major tree planting recorded are the Yoshino cherry trees planted in the Magnolia Ridge and Carnation Ridge divisions. This occurred in 1973 when these trees were relocated to Rose Hill from other city parks in Macon.

Rose Hill Cemetery was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

The 21st Century beyond the Necropolis

While Rose Hill is owned by the City of Macon, all plots and monuments are the responsibility of the individual plot owners. Over the years many of the descendants of those buried at Rose Hill have either moved away, lack the resources or in some cases no descendants exist to provide the necessary upkeep and maintenance. The Historic Rose Hill Foundation was founded in 2002 to help provide for the preservation and restoration of the Cemetery.

However, the changing attitudes toward death and the general decline in interest in traditional burial and increased interest in cremation suggests that a different approach toward interesting the larger community in Rose Hill Cemetery be explored. In 2004, the Foundation developed a Master Plan for the Rose Hill. Among the strategies recommended included allowing the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail to pass through the Cemetery, with conditions. Outlined below is general background on the Trail and the various routes

proposed along with there relative merits. Additionally, the route recommended by the Master Plan is presented along with its more detailed recommendations.

The Ocmulgee Heritage Trail

The Ocmulgee Heritage Trail was conceived in the early 1990's as the Ocmulgee Heritage Greenway. Through an extensive public private partnership the Trail developed into a successful recreational opportunity for the community and region.

The Trail also provides a cultural resource connecting a variety of natural and historical resources in and around the Ocmulgee River and Macon, including: the Ocmulgee National Monument, historic Rose Hill Cemetery and Macon's original water works. Recreational opportunities provided by the Trail are running, walking, bicycling and rollerblading. Access to the Ocmulgee National Monument is restricted by an electronic gate (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) and bicycle access to trails within the Monument is restricted by signage.

The annual number of visits to the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail is estimated to be in excess of 75,000. The current length of the Trail is 9 miles and is anticipated to extend to 22 miles at its finished length and encompass more than 1400 acres of green space.

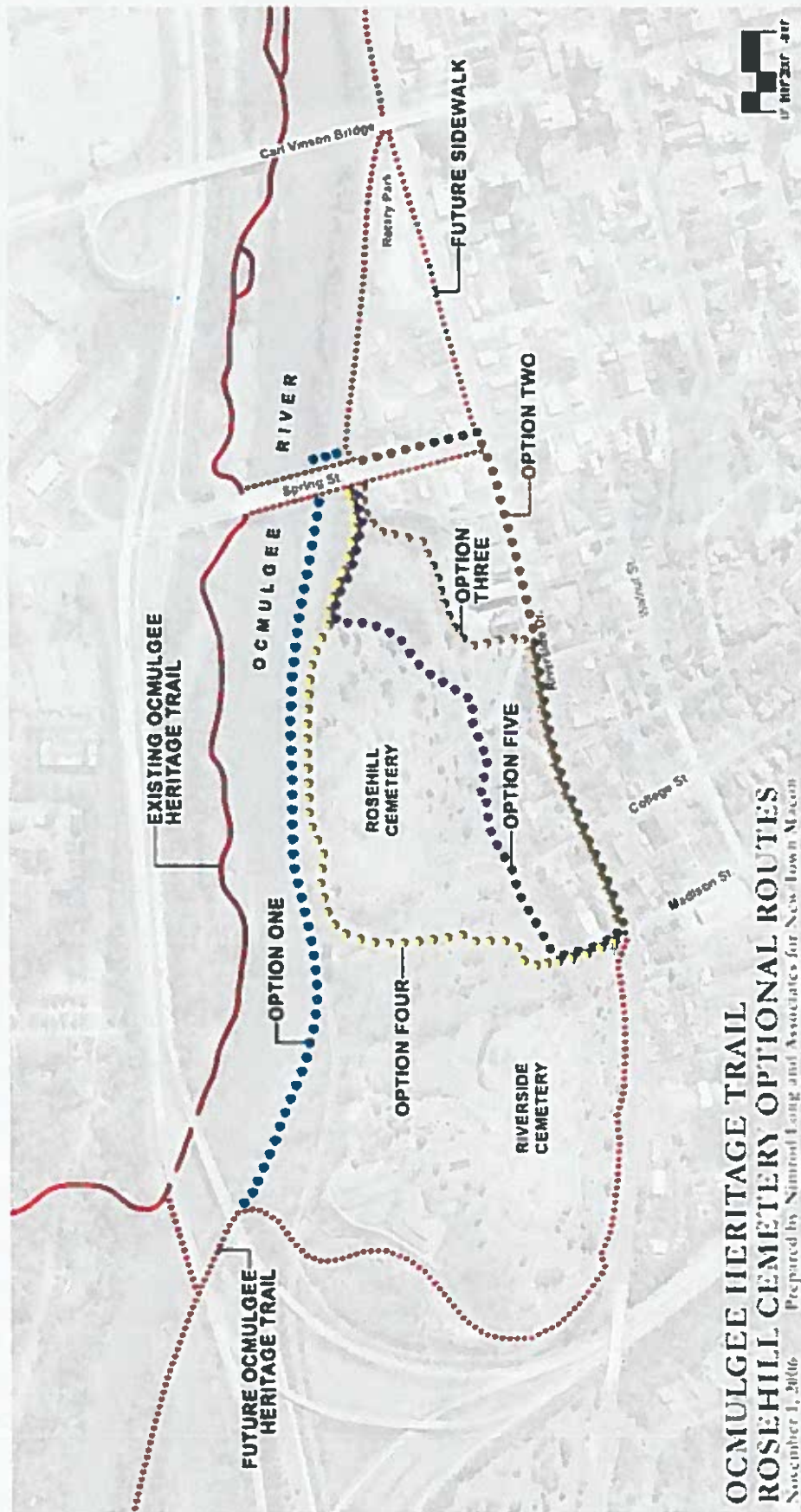
The Trail is currently managed by a structure of volunteer boards supported by the staff of NewTown Macon. Eventually, NewTown hopes to transfer all management responsibilities for the trail to an independent non-profit corporation. The Trail is maintained by several different groups. Parts of the trail owned by the city are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. All other parts of the trail are maintained by landscapers under contract by NewTown Macon.

Proposed Routes through Rose Hill Cemetery

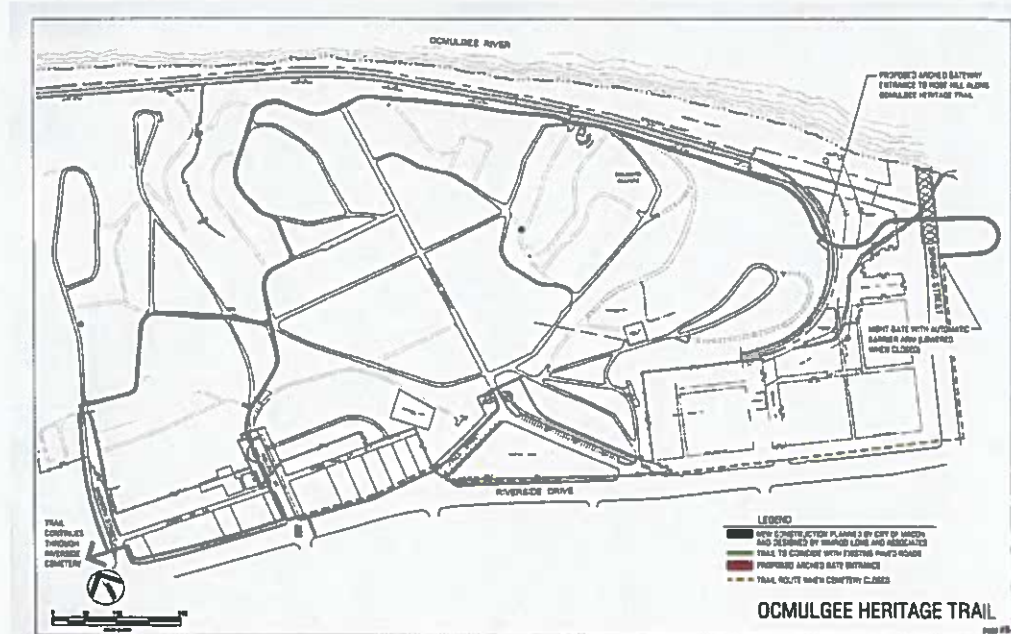
Five proposed routes through Rose Hill Cemetery have been explored by New Town Macon & Ocmulgee Heritage Trail Designer, Nimrod Long & Associates of Birmingham, Alabama. Listed below are the five routes, along with their respective pros & cons and estimated costs. See following graphic for the location of route options.

- Option One – TRAIL BETWEEN RIVER & NORFOLK SOUTHERN RR (Blue Route on Map)
Estimated Cost: \$9,115,000+/-
Pros:
 1. Beautiful trail with spectacular views
 2. Not separated from river by Railroad.Cons:
 1. Very expensive construction.
 2. Difficult environmental permitting - No assurance of approval.
 3. Difficult / Lengthy Permitting to cross over Norfolk Southern Railroad/
 4. Railroad blocks links to downtown neighborhoods.
 5. Isolation/Security concerns due to limited links to downtown.
- Option Two – SIDEWALK ALONG SPRING STREET & RIVERSIDE DRIVE (Green Route on Map)
Estimated Cost: \$1,780,000+/-
Pros:
 1. Creates redevelopment Streetscape like MLK.
 2. Improved lighting and connectivity to downtown.Cons:
 1. Important "Heritage Trail" section lost.
 2. Difficult / Lengthy DOT Approval Process.
 3. Limited R.O.W.
 4. Costly construction plus R.O.W. Acquisition.
 5. Not safe for bicyclists.
 6. Crosswalks at Busy Intersection.
 7. High-speed traffic area much less safe than trail along river or cemetery.
 8. Auto exhaust fumes.
 9. Much less attractive than trail along river or cemetery.
- Option Three – TRAIL ON OLD RAILROAD AND SIDEWALK ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE TO MADISON STREET (Orange Route on Map)
Estimated Cost: \$1,599,000+/-
Pros:
 1. No significant strengths.Cons:
 1. Important "Heritage Trail" section substantially lost.
 2. Old railroad segment is hidden, very unsafe.

3. Difficult / Lengthy DOT Approval Process.
 4. Limited R.O.W..
 5. Costly construction plus R.O.W. Acquisition.
 6. Not safe for bicyclists.
 7. High-speed traffic area much less safe than trail along river or cemetery.
 8. Auto exhaust fumes.
 9. Much less attractive than trail along river or cemetery.
- Option Four – TRAIL THROUGH LOWER ROSE HILL CEMETERY CONNECTING TO MADISON STREET (Yellow Route on Map)
Estimated Cost: \$405,000+/-
Pros:
 1. Scenic trail along railroad and cemetery.
 2. Retains "Heritage Trail" concept.
 3. Safer for pedestrians
 4. Aesthetic route, Less costly than (3) other options.
 Cons:
 1. Less visible trail
 2. Concern for vandalism of cemetery.
 - Option Five – TRAIL THROUGH ROSE HILL CEMETERY USING EXISTING PATHS AND CONNECTING TO MADISON STREET (Purple Route on Map)
Estimated Cost: \$325,000+/-
Pros:
 1. Scenic trail along railroad and cemetery.
 2. Retains "Heritage Trail" concept.
 3. Safer for pedestrians
 4. Most cost effective and aesthetic route
 Cons:
 1. Less visible trail
 2. Concern for vandalism of cemetery.



Additionally, the idea of including the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail within the boundaries of Rose Hill Cemetery was also considered and explored in the 2004 Master Plan for Rose Hill Cemetery, prepared for the Historic Rose Hill Cemetery Foundation.



Ocmulgee Heritage Trail Route endorsed by the November 2004 Rose Hill Master Plan

The proposed Trail Rout Recommended by Rose Hill Cemetery Master Plan Summary Report, 2004 is shown above and most closely resembles Option Four shown previously.

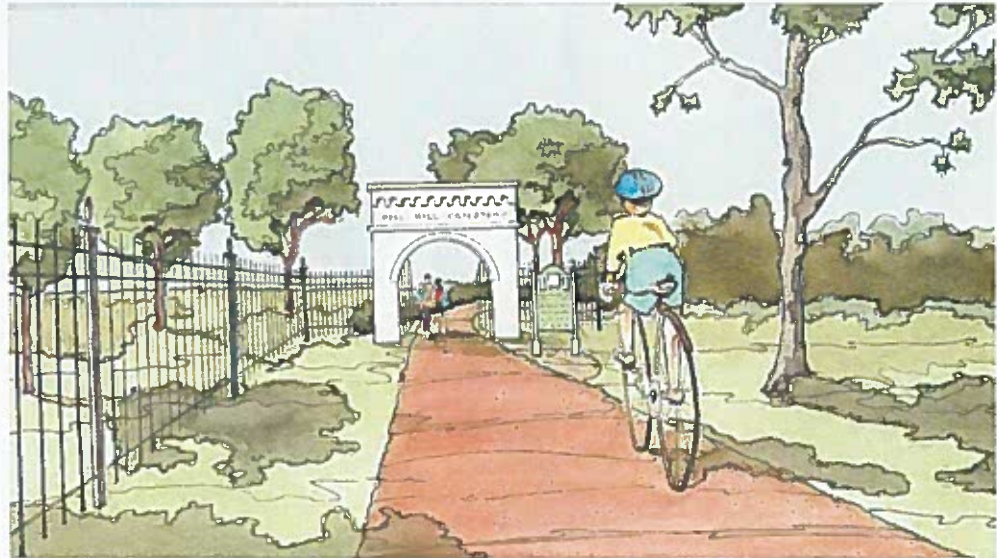


Interstate 75 Bridge crossing the Ocmulgee River beyond and the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail across the River to the right

The Master Plan recommends allowing the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail to be routed through Rose Hill Cemetery as proposed by Nimrod Long and Associates. The master planners believe that Rose Hill already receives value from the existing Trail located across the Ocmulgee River due to the much greater visibility

provided to some of the least visible areas of the Cemetery. The opportunity to increase the number of visitors to Rose Hill via the

Ocmulgee Heritage Trails is also considered a major asset. Increasing desirable activity is a major opportunity to increase security throughout all of Rose Hill. Additionally, the City Parks & Recreation Department indicates that police officers regularly patrol the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail on bicycle and that would include the portion through Rose Hill Cemetery – again an opportunity to further increase security. The Master Plan recommends that access to the trail be gated and access permitted only during operational hours of the Cemetery (8:30 am – sunset). This should be clearly signed, both at the access gates and along other portions of the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail as necessary.



*Ocmulgee Heritage Trail Entrance Proposed in the 2004 Master Plan for Rose Hill Cemetery
by Doran & Karwowski, Inc.*

The Master Plan also recommends that the City Parks and Recreation Department consider installing a secondary access gate at the Spring Street bridge access point to the trail, as the actual gate into Rose Hill is quite isolated and may pose a security risk when the Cemetery is closed. The Master Plan recommends that the gate into Rose Hill along the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail be constructed of brick to resemble all of the other gates into the Cemetery. Historical accounts typically discuss entering Rose Hill “under the arch” and this is an excellent opportunity to announce entry into this significant historic resource. A rules and information kiosk should be located at the gate to alert visitors to special requirements while on Cemetery property and that trespassers/rules violators will be subject to criminal and civil prosecution.

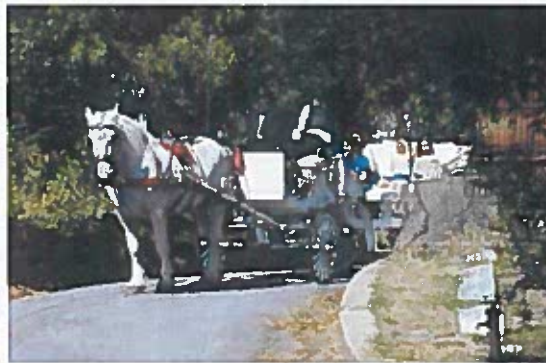
Case Studies

The following three case studies explore recreation opportunities within two historic cemeteries and on National Historic Monument to determine how others provide a dynamic interface with the larger community and which may be of help in directing the future of Rose Hill.

#1 - Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta, GA

Oakland Cemetery is located at Memorial Drive and Oakland Avenue in the Grant Park neighborhood, five blocks east of the State Capitol. While ten years younger than Rose Hill, Oakland Cemetery (est. 1850) is slightly larger at 88 acres and more densely populated at 70,000 souls. An example of the “rural garden” cemetery

movement of the Victorian period, Oakland features winding paths, large shade trees, flowers and shrubs, and appealing vistas. It was meant for the living as well as departed loved ones—just like Oakland today. The garden



Horse & Carriage Tour

flourishing wildlife habitat, public park and picturesque setting for quiet reflections.”



View of Oakland Cemetery, Spring

cemetery concept was a forerunner of public park development in America.

Oakland Cemetery provides the third largest green space in downtown Atlanta. On its website, Oakland Cemetery is describes as, “...much more than an outstanding example of a Victorian garden cemetery...it is also a magnificent sculpture garden, botanical garden,



Volunteer Picnic

Oakland Cemetery also is home to some of Atlanta's finest tree and plant specimens, including: oak, magnolia, dogwood as well as antique rose and butterfly gardens. Oakland's cherry laurel is recognized as the most outstanding in the city. In 2003, the Southeastern Flower Show awarded the Historic Oakland Foundation its prestigious Legacy Garden gift of plantings

in recognition of its horticultural importance.

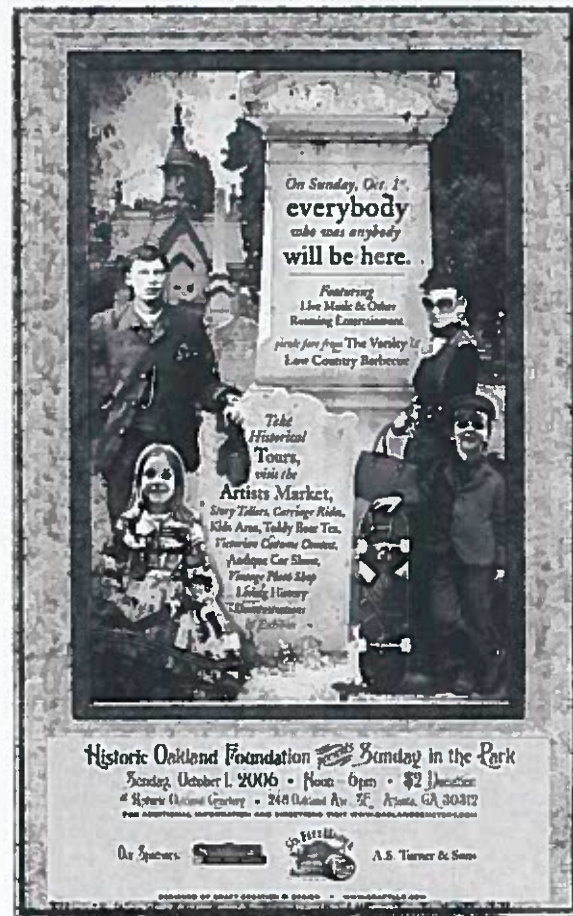
Oakland's funerary art is unequaled in the area. Elaborate mausolea, soaring sculptures and effusive inscriptions speak of an age when the bereaved found consolation in extravagant expression. Impressive art and architecture can be seen in many styles: Victorian, Greek Revival, Gothic, Neo-classical, Egyptian and Exotic Revival. Several mausolea feature stained glass windows from Tiffany Studios. Bronze urns over six feet high were cast at Gorham Factory in New York, the first art foundry in America.



Oakland Cemetery is owned by the City of Atlanta. Since the Cemetery is not perpetual care and like Rose Hill, the individual families and decedents of those buried there own all of the plots and monuments there and are responsible for maintenance and repair. The City operates and maintains Oakland in partnership with the Historic Oakland Foundation, which was established in 1976 to help stabilize and preserve the Cemetery. The Foundation views Oakland as a City Park, and encourages and welcomes all visitors. The Foundation sponsors a variety of activities at the Cemetery throughout the year including: volunteer training and picnics, an Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday in the Park (described below in detail), Halloween at Oakland, as well as daytime and Twilight Tours weekends March through October-November.

Each Fall the Historic Oakland Foundation hosts its annual "Sunday In The Park" at the Cemetery. The Victorian festival, features live entertainment; food vendors, including The Varsity and Low Country Barbeque; guided walking tours; horse and carriage tours; local story tellers; a large Artists Market offering handcrafted items; Oakland's traditional Teddy Bear Tea (bring your favorite bear); an expanded Kids Area (with crafts, games and clowning); artisans presenting living history demonstrations; an antique autos on display; a Victorian Costume Contest; and a Photography Contest.

The Historic Oakland Foundation also permits rentals for special events, private parties, weddings, and showers.



David Morse, Executive Director of the Historic Oakland Foundation, indicated the Foundation actively encourages the public to use the Cemetery as a passive park in the way it was originally intended. Mr. Morse indicated that as the 20th century progressed, Oakland Cemetery became increasingly surrounded by industrial development and residential development that declined dramatically with the shift to the suburbs in the late 1960's. Throughout the 20th century the numbers of burials gradually declined since the last plots were sold in 1884. Over time and as attitudes towards cemeteries changed, many graves went unattended as descendants moved away or lost touch with their antecedents. Oakland fell into serious disrepair from neglect and occasional vandalism.

Mr. Morse indicated that in recent years Oakland has gained renewed popularity as an urban green space, as many of former industrial buildings have been converted to loft-style residential units. Nearby residents enjoy walking and jogging through Oakland year round. Mr. Morse further

indicated that while the occasional act of vandalism still occurs, such acts are not frequent and some problems will inevitably occur – especially in a large urban area such as Atlanta. Presently the only access to Oakland is via the main gate on Oakland Avenue, however, the Foundation is exploring opening the existing pedestrian gate along Boulevard to provide easy access to nearby new residential developments.

Mr. Morse indicated that Oakland is open to the public daily during daylight hours and after hours on a limited/scheduled basis. Cemetery staff provides security when Oakland is open to the public. The City of Atlanta provides funding for a private security guard after hours. The guard patrols the grounds in a golf-cart type vehicle and scans approximately eighteen stations throughout the grounds every hour. Mr. Morse indicated that no major problems have occurred at Oakland in some time.

#2 - Rose Hill Cemetery & the Silver Comet Trail, Rockmart, GA



Historic Gazebo c.1891

Rose Hill Cemetery is located on Elm Street in Rockmart, Georgia. This Rose Hill Cemetery has much in common with Rose Hill in Macon. The Cemeteries are of a similar age and have a common boundary with a railroad. The historic gazebo (built in 1891) located in Cemetery is also listed on several websites promoting tourism in Rockmart as having excellent views of the historic downtown and the surrounding countryside.



Silver Comet Trail Approach to Cemetery

In 1998 the PATH Foundation, in association with the Georgia Departments of Transportation & Natural Resources and Cobb, Paulding & Polk Counties. The Trail is most ambitious rails-to-trails project. It is named for a train that used the identical route from 1947 to 1968. The Silver Comet originated in Boston and ran through Atlanta on the way to its final destination in

Birmingham.

The Silver Comet Trail is 65 miles long, stretching from Smyrna to the Georgia-Alabama state line where it connects with the Chief Ladiga Trail.



Silver Comet Trail – Cemetery Loop Road

When complete the Trail will provide a non-motorized 101-mile continuous trail from Northwest Atlanta to Anniston, Alabama.

The Silver Comet Trail goes through the historic heart of Rockmart, Georgia in Polk County. The Trail merges with the main cemetery loop road for approximately ¼ mile along the length of railroad. The Silver



Bicycling on Silver Comet Trail – Cemetery Loop Road

Comet Trail is signed to allow users to know that they are entering a cemetery and cautioning to remain on the marked trail. From the Cemetery, the trail is signed to alert motorists to watch for bicyclist and pedestrians.

Tamara Cook with City Clerk's Office in City of Rockmart indicated that no problems have been associated with the location of the Silver Comet Trail and Rose Hill Cemetery. And to the best of her knowledge no controversy was associated with the selection of the proposed route through the rear portion of the Cemetery. Ms. Cook also indicated that she had not heard of any complaints regarding the Trail from Rudy Hineman, the Cemetery Sexton.



Signage where Cemetery Loop Road Intersects with Silver Comet Trail



View of Trail from within Cemetery



Bicyclists paused at Cemetery Exit

#3 - Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon



The existing Ocmulgee Heritage Trail connects to the Ocmulgee National Monument via Clinton Street. The Ocmulgee National Monument was established in 1936 and comprises 702 acres and includes a Museum/Visitors Center and 5.5 miles of trails.

The Monument consists of several prehistoric mounds constructed and inhabited by Native Americans for approximately the past 11,000 years. The history of the site chronicles the story of the Creek Nation in the area along with their interaction with Spanish and British settlers, and later with American growth and development.

The Ocmulgee National Monument has been listed by both the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Nation Parks Conservation Association as among their top ten most endangered places lists.

The Ocmulgee National Monument has been included in the case studies because it faces many of the same challenges as Rose Hill Cemetery – security and preservation of fragile resources – and has current experience with the Trail in Macon.

Jim David, Superintendent with the National Park Service, indicated that to date there have been absolutely no issues at the Park regarding the Trail. The Trail provides access to the Monument from Clinton Street. A gate exists at this access point and is electronically locked between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. Mr. Davis indicated that some visitors, primarily bicyclist and joggers, access the Monument grounds via the Trail. The Monument is currently exploring the opportunity to expand the Trail so that visitor can access the Monument from the Ocmulgee River side of the Park. He feels that this will bring a much larger number of visitors to the Monument. He further indicated that while plans exist for a gate at the proposed access point, they are confident enough in the present security situation that the intention will be to allow the gate to remain unlocked at all times.

Regarding security, Mr. David indicated that while the perimeter of the Park is fenced there is no barrier to prevent pedestrian access from the front of the Park. Throughout its 70+ years of existence, people have always accessed the Park on foot after hours. He said that while there is some minor history

of vandalism, he would estimate that they have had on the average of only one minor occurrence every two years, mainly associated with vehicles & equipment brought to the site by outside contractors (often with the keys left by the contractor). He indicated that in his 10+ years at the Park, their facilities – the Museum, the Mounds themselves, signs, etc. have never been vandalized.

Perceptions

The greatest opposition to allowing the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail with in the boundaries of Rose Hill is the potential for increased crime & vandalism with in the Cemetery and behavior which to some may seem to be disrespectful to the perceived solemn nature of a cemetery.

The following sections discuss both the pros & cons of including the Trail as well as information on situational crime prevention

Worthy of consideration is that Riverside Cemetery adjacent to Rose Hill is very much in support of bringing the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail through their site. Mr. Cecil Coke, Jr., President, sees the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail as an tremendous asset and major opportunity to bring a new generation to the Cemetery, allowing younger people to connect with their past.

Advantages & Disadvantages to Inclusion

The advantages to incorporating the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail include:

- Provides the opportunity to increase awareness about Rose Hill with in the greater Macon community
- Promotes Rose Hill as a cultural resource in the Community
- Promotes increased visitorship – the Trail currently has +/-75,000 visitors annually
- Provides for connectivity to additional attractions along the Trail, including: the Ocmulgee National Monument, Central City Park, and potentially to the planned Water Works Park.

The primary disadvantages have been previously identified:

- Potential for increased vandalism
- Potential for security problems

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Developed during the 1970's, CPTED was developed to deter criminal behavior through strategies designed to influence bad decisions that precede criminal act. CPTED employs six basic environmental strategies:

- **natural access control** – designed to limit easy access to a crime target and to create a perception of risk
- **natural surveillance** – keep potential offenders under observation
- **creating a sense of territoriality** – extend the users' sphere of influence so that users develop a sense of proprietorship or ownership in the security of the environment
- **management strategies** – reinforce positive behavior in the use of the environment
- **maintenance & upkeep**
- **legitimate activity support** – reinforce the behavior of environment users so that crime prevention flows naturally and routinely from the activity being promoted

Additionally, the following CPTED techniques are generally employed when designing a planned environment. Many of these techniques can be employed to improve and reinforce security at Rose Hill:

1. **Provide clear border definition of controlled space.** The recognition of ownership allows for those illegitimate users to be spotted. The intention of the potential offender is to commit an act without detection or risk of being recognized.
2. **Provide clearly marked transitional zones.** Make the user clearly aware, through the design of the environment, that a change of ownership is taking place. The effort made to mark the entrance into the space reduces the range of excuses for improper behavior.
3. **Relocation of gathering areas.** Locate gathering spaces to areas of good natural surveillance and access control, enabling those spaces to become more active thereby encouraging public participation. Encouraging community participation is fostered by the feeling of safety and pride in the space.
4. **Place safe activities in unsafe locations.** The premise of safety in numbers is used as safe activities bring desirable users as magnets to

continue the tradition. The historical photographs included in this report to provide evidence that Rose Hill was a place for community gathering and not solely a place for mourning. While almost certain that most people acted "properly" while visiting Rose Hill, it is almost equally certain there were those who stretched the limits of acceptable behavior as is evidenced by the photograph of "Lover's Leap".

One of the great successes of the rural cemetery movement was the creation of public parks in urban areas. As cemetery usage in general dropped off throughout the 20th century, people turned to public parks for their recreational needs. More and more, people were once again avoiding the cemeteries as medical advances and busy lives combined to de-emphasize man's mortality. It was during this time period that cemeteries began to post rules of conduct, including speed limits. Lack of use has also had damaging consequences to most rural cemeteries, including Rose Hill, as a general lack of maintenance and vandalism often went unchecked.

By incorporating the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail into Rose Hill Cemetery, the City of Macon can introduce a whole new generation to the rich history and culture of the City. By increasing awareness of Rose Hill to the larger community the opportunity for fund raising and volunteer support will increase as well. The success of the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail as a public-private partnership also provides guidance as to how the City & the Historic Rose Hill Cemetery Foundation might work together to build a proper endowment for future needs.

Listed below are recommended strategies for successfully incorporating the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail into Rose Hill Cemetery:

1. **Provide a Transitional Zone**, i.e. the brick archway as proposed in the 2004 Master Plan for Rose Hill – To provide access control to the Cemetery and inform users of the change in "ownership."
2. This report favors **Optional Route #4**, as this route will provide the greatest opportunity to provide additional legitimate users ("eyes") to the least visible areas of Rose Hill, again increasing security.
3. **Adequate signage & way finding** – to keep users on the Trail and encourage desirable behavior.
4. Provide for an **electronic gate** at all pedestrian entrances and exits to restrict access between 6:00 pm and 8:00 am daily, as has been provided at the Ocmulgee National Monument.
5. Provide for **over-night security (private)** to be paid for by the City of Macon as has been described for Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta. Oakland Cemetery is located in a particularly rough neighborhood

Sources

Bruce W. Earnheart

Rose Hill Cemetery: Derivation, Development & Denegation
Masters Thesis, University of Georgia 1989

Rudy J. Favretti and Joy Putman Favretti

Landscapes and Gardens for Historic Buildings, American Association for
State and Local History, Nashville 1978

Ms. Muriel M. Jackson at the Washington Memorial Library

Ms. Marvia Mitchell, Cemetery Specialist with the City of Macon Parks and
Recreation Department

Designing Safe Communities and Neighborhoods

Randy Atlas, Ph.D., AIA, CPP

(This material was originally published in the proceedings of the 1999
American Planning Association National Planning Conference)

Websites:

www.deathreference.com

www.albany.edu/history/

