

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Methodist Cemetery

2. Location: 100 Woodstock Street, Roswell, Fulton County, Georgia

3a. Description: Methodist Cemetery, one of the oldest intact cemeteries in the area, occupies approximately 10 acres in the city of Roswell in Fulton County. The c.1846 cemetery is associated with the early settlement of Roswell, which was settled in the 1830s and incorporated in 1854. Located at the intersection of Woodstock Street and Alpharetta Street, the Methodist Cemetery generally slopes upward northwest of Alpharetta Street, while Woodstock Street bisects the cemetery. Within the cemetery, there are over 2,500 marked graves, with the earliest legible marker dating to 1846. Graves are situated in an overall gridded manner, and family plots, which are common throughout the cemetery, are typically delineated by concrete, granite, marble, brick, and fieldstone coping or iron fencing. While most of the cemetery is covered in grass, many of the family plots contain gravel or pebbles within their boundaries. There is a large variety of marker types ranging from simple headstones, footstones, and fieldstones to bedsteads, scroll markers, pulpit markers, pedestal tombs, and obelisks. Marker materials include marble, granite, and concrete. A wide array of funerary art and symbolic motifs is represented at the Methodist Cemetery, such as crosses; doves; lambs; flowers, including laurel, daffodils, roses, and lilies; gates; crown & cross; and Masonic and Woodman of the World symbols. Burials in the cemetery include early settlers, early church leaders, mill owners and workers, town leaders and merchants, and veterans of the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Landscaping and vegetation in the cemetery are relatively informal with a concentration of deciduous trees in the north portion of the cemetery and natural groupings of mature evergreen trees in the more open southern portion of the cemetery. Tree species include Eastern Red Cedars, Oaks, Crape Myrtles, Dogwoods, American Holly and Southern Magnolia. Circulation consists of curvilinear gravel and asphalt access roads and a meandering sidewalk through the north portion, which was constructed by the City of Roswell in 1989. Although commercial development has impacted the Methodist Cemetery's setting and vandalism has caused damage to many markers, the cemetery retains a high level of integrity in location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

3b. Period of Significance: c.1846-1970

3c. Acreage: Approximately 10 acres

3d. Boundary Explanation: The proposed boundary is the current legal boundary, which encompasses historic burials as mapped by ground penetrating radar.

4a. National Register Criteria: A and C; Criteria Consideration D

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Exploration/Settlement, Art

4c. Statement of Significance: Originally located in Cobb County, the city of Roswell was settled by white settlers in the 1830s following the 1832 Cherokee Land Lottery. Mount Carmel Methodist Church, with which the Methodist Cemetery was associated, was established c.1836. The church later changed its name to Roswell United Methodist Church and moved to a different location in 1859, but the Methodist Cemetery remained at the site of the demolished Mount Carmel Methodist Church just north of the intersection of Woodstock and Alpharetta streets. Many early settlers, church leaders, mill owners and workers, merchants, and military veterans are buried in the cemetery, with the earliest readable marked grave dating to 1846. The cemetery is significant in the area of exploration/settlement for its association with early white settlement in the area, now the city of Roswell, located in northern Fulton County. As one of the oldest cemeteries in the area, the cemetery pre-dates the incorporation of the city of Roswell by several years. The cemetery is also significant in the area of art for its collection of grave markers that are representative of early 19th- to mid-20th-century markers found in church cemeteries in Georgia. Methodist Cemetery meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration D: Cemeteries as a cemetery that derives its primary significance from age. The cemetery is a rare, extant historic resource representative of early 19th-century development of the area.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The Methodist Cemetery is being nominated at the local level of significance as a good and intact early 19th-century cemetery associated with the exploration and settlement of Roswell.

5. Sponsor: The Roswell Historical Society, Inc. sponsored this nomination and prepared nomination materials.