

VLR 12/7/5
NRHP 2/1/6

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cedar Hill Cemetery

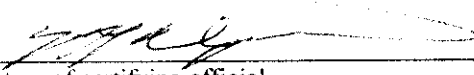
other names/site number Green Hill Cemetery
DHR Number 133-5018

2. Location

street & number South of East Constance Road not for publication
city or town Suffolk vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Suffolk code 800 Zip 23434

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

12/16/05
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

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**Cedar Hill Cemetery
Suffolk (independent city), Virginia**

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Architectural Description

Summary Architectural Description

Cedar Hill Cemetery is a city-owned, 25-acre, public cemetery dating to 1802. It is situated on an elevated hill planted primarily with cedar trees. The cemetery was expanded throughout the 19th century to its current size in 1910. The original portion lies at the approximately southeast end. The first phase of its expansion was to the north. The second expansion phase was to the west on a flat landmass at the bottom of the hill. The plan is a traditional grid with regularly-sized plots laid primarily east-west, though the earlier part of the cemetery reflects a more flexible plan with larger and smaller rectangular-shaped plots. The cemetery features some land alteration, including the grading of the west slope of the hill in a stepped pattern for burials. Grave markers within the cemetery date from the early 19th century to the present day. The earliest markers are plain, while the mid- to late-19th century markers exhibit high craftsmanship through statuary and traditional funerary motifs. Considered under Criterion C (Architecture) and Criterion Exception D (Cemetery) with a period of significance from 1802-1955, this cemetery is a representative example of public cemetery planning and funerary artwork found in southeast Virginia and Suffolk.

Detailed Architectural Description

This cemetery is located in the city of Suffolk, approximately ½-mile of downtown Suffolk. The cemetery lies on the east side of North Main Street on an elevated landmass planted primarily with cedar trees. The site is bound by the CSX Railroad track right-of-way to the south and east, East Constance Road to the north, and the east side of the house lots situated on the east side of North Main Street on the west.

The cemetery is organized with a traditional grid pattern. There are three distinct sections within the cemetery, which reflect the development and expansion of the cemetery from its original creation in 1802. The oldest section is located at the south end at the top of the hill east of the east terminus of East Mahan Street; additional lands were added to the north and then to the west of the lands added to the north. All sections retain the grid pattern, though the oldest section's grid pattern is slightly modified with intersecting lanes and irregularly shaped plots. The two later sections have regular grid patterns with equal or similar sized plots. The west slope of the hill is stepped in a north-south orientation to accommodate burials.

The oldest section is located on the highest point within the cemetery east of east Mahan Street that serves as the entrance to the cemetery. At the base of the west side of the hill are three mausoleums; the Brewer-Godwin mausoleum, the Hill mausoleum and the Darden mausoleum. The Brewer-

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Godwin and Hill mausoleums are in the form of small Greek temples with rectangular forms and monumental porticoes. The Darden mausoleum is a domed, plain stone structure with a cast double-leaf, foliate-motif gate. To the south of the mausoleums is a pedestrian path with poured concrete stairs leading to the top of the hill. To the south of the path are additional graves with stone markers.

At the top of the hill there are irregular-shaped, rectangular plots. The plots are clustered within irregularly shaped blocks bound by wider lanes. These are predominately oriented east-west with intersecting lanes oriented north-south. The north-south lanes are named with numbers, and the east-west lanes are named for types of trees. The central lane is named Elm Street and is on axis with East Mahan Street. To the south is Holly Street and to the north are two parallel lanes, Cedar and Cherry Streets. Some family plots have metal iron fences with cast-iron posts and wrought-iron fencing and gates. Other family plots are surrounded by low brick wall enclosures. Some of these have been parged. The markers are cut stone; mostly limestone, marble and granite. The forms are simplified. The plots are mostly in an east-west orientation.

The second expansion of the cemetery occurred in the mid-19th century to the north and south of the first plan. Additional lanes oriented east-west were added to the south and north. At this time a unified naming of lanes occurred. East-west lanes were primarily named for types of trees, except for one lane named, Kilby, for the first superintendent of the cemetery. The north-south lanes were named First through Thirteenth Avenues. First Avenue is located on the west end of the cemetery at the hill's base. Second Avenue is located to its east at the top of the hill. Third through Thirteenth Avenues are located west to east, respectively, on the top of the hill. The monuments within this area date to the mid-19th century to early 20th century. Most are granite, sandstone and marble.

The last addition to the cemetery is a flat strip of land at the west end of the cemetery, north of the main lane leading to the cemetery. Two lanes were added, named Avenue "A" and Avenue "B". The lots are rectangular and are divided by the perpendicularly oriented Sycamore Street. The monuments in this area date to the early 20th century to the present day. The developed landscape features, plantings, and fountain with the cemetery comprise one site within Cedar Hill Cemetery.

CONTRIBUTING (1 – site)

The monuments located within the earliest portion of the cemetery are primarily vernacular in style. Most markers are limestone, granite, marble, or sandstone. The most frequently seen marker type features a flat upright slab with a rounded top. The etching on the stone is simplified with the deceased's name, birth date, death date, and inscription. There are more ornately carved monuments within this area. More high-style monuments feature obelisk forms resting on pedestal or columnar forms with ornate tops. Family monuments are usually larger and feature the family name inscribed in

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Confederate Monument:

The monument is comprised of a Confederate soldier dressed in a Confederate uniform standing atop a traditional rectangular base. The soldier stands in repose with his hands resting on a rifle. The monument dates to 1889 and was designed by John P. Hall of Norfolk, Virginia. It is cast bronze.

CONTRIBUTING (1 – object)

World War I Monument:

This monument was originally located at the intersection of North Main Street and Milner Street. The figure, the Doughboy at Rest, was sculpted by Joseph P. Pollia, a sculptor from New York.

CONTRIBUTING (1 – object)

The cemetery has been enclosed with a late 20th century metal fence. There are two entrances to the cemetery. The main entrance at East Mahan Street is located east of the World War I monument. The secondary entrance is at the south end at Prentis Street.

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Statement of Significance

Summary Statement of Significance

Cedar Hill cemetery was developed in 1802 as a public cemetery in the city of Suffolk. The cemetery originally served the Union Church, a non-denominational church constructed by the city of Suffolk. The Union Church was removed from the cemetery grounds in 1872 and the cemetery was expanded through the 19th century to its current size in 1910. The cemetery has a grid plan and lies on an elevated landmass planted with cedar trees north of the downtown. The funerary markers located within the cemetery reflect varying types of mausoleums, tombstones, and tombs found during the 19th and 20th centuries. It is the final resting place for Suffolk's prominent citizens and continues to be used as burying ground for Suffolk's citizens. The cemetery is eligible under Criterion C (Architecture) and Criterion Exception D (Cemetery) as a representative example of public cemetery planning and funerary artwork found in southeast Virginia and Suffolk.

Detailed Statement of Significance

Cedar Hill Cemetery is a planned cemetery lying north of the heart of Suffolk at the approximate midpoint of downtown Suffolk and the Nansemond River, east of North Main Street. The cemetery dates to March 1802 when it was part of the Union church. At this time, the Town of Suffolk purchase two-and-one-half acres of land from John and Elisabeth Mezick for the erection of a "chapel and burying place."¹ Cedar Hill Cemetery is located on lands of the former 20-acre Constantia farm. John Constant owned the lands and had constructed a house in 1720.² The church operated as a community chapel, and served many religious denominations. The burying ground around the church was used by people from various religious and ethnic backgrounds. The cemetery was enlarged through the 19th century to 1910 and its current size and configuration.

This early period in Suffolk's religious history marks the escalation of diverse religions within the area. The Anglican Church, which was formerly located at the intersection of the present day Church Street and Western Avenue, had been abandoned by the end of the Revolution. The acquisition of the site and erection of the chapel allowed people of various religions to congregate at a non-denominational meeting house. In addition to people of various religious backgrounds, the chapel was open to people of varying races and provided segregated services. The grounds around the chapel were used as a communal burying ground. The cemetery provided burial space for Caucasians, African-Americans, and indigenous Indians. In the mid-19th century, the cemetery provided space for Union and Confederate soldiers.³

