Purpose of Evaluation
Please use the following space to explain briefly why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.
To try and ensure that Solon Cemetery will remain as such for years to come and to be able to apply for grants in order for the cemetery to continue to be maintained and improved. It is an African American Cemetery established in 1883 and is historical under the umbrella of the Town of Middleburg, Va. All of the old people of the town who were Trustees of the Cemetery have passed on and the new regime is trying to hold onto the cemetery so that it does not end up like many AA cemeteries, over-grown and abandoned. We are a small group, but dedicated to preserving this part of AA community history and the history of Middleburg, Va.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits?   Yes _____ No _____
Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR’s easement program? Yes _____ No _____

1. General Property Information
   Property name:  __Solon Cemetery____________________________________________
   Property address: ____795 West Washington St.________________________________________
   City or Town: Middleburg_______________
   Zip code: _20117__________________
   Name of the Independent City or County where the property is Located: __Loudoun___________
   Category of Property (choose only one of the following):
   Building ____ Site X___ Structure _____ Object _____

2. Physical Aspects
   Acreage: __2.15_______________________________
   Setting (choose only one of the following):
   Urban _____ Suburban _____ Town x_____ Village _____ Hamlet _____ Rural_____ 
   Briefly describe the property’s overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

Solon Cemetery set off Rt. 50 just outside and west of the town of Middleburg, Va. The cemetery is situated on a slope bounded by two residential properties to its east and west. A gravel drive leads up to and through the gate( there is a small gatehouse at the gate) into the cemetery. The road travels up and around with graves on both sides of the road. The cemetery is bordered by fencing (belonging to neighboring property owners) on all sides. There are various types of headstones (obelisks and tablet form), monuments in the cemetery along with old cedar trees, other trees, bushes, and shrubbery. Many of the headstones have artwork of Angel, Flowers, and various etchings.
3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): ____________________________ Site ____________________________________________

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list
here: ___________________________________________________________________________________

If the builder is known, please list here: _________________________________________________________________________________________

Date of construction (can be approximate): ____________________ 1883 __________________

Narrative Description:
In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire property, such as its current use
(and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house,
store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the architectural style, materials and method(s) of
construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions, remodelings, or
other alterations.

The cemetery is accessed off of route 50 via an unpaved gravel drive that leads to a gate with two
cinderblock gate posts painted white and topped with concrete. Each gate post has a wrought iron gate
attached to it that usually remained closed during the week, but is now open at all times to allow access to
the cemetery. Just to the right of the gate posts stands the gatehouse, also constructed of cinderblock. The
drive continues and loops around and is the only access to the burials. There are indications or depressions
of footpaths that provide further access to burials but most of these are now grass covered.

The oldest section of the cemetery appears to be in the upper southwest quadrant and the lower northwest
quadrant near the gatehouse. More recent burials are found to the east of the access road. The cemetery’s
burial markers and monuments consist of almost entirely of marble, granite and cement in the form of
 tablets and obelisks. Many plots were set up with a central family stone with smaller individual markers
surrounding it. Many of these family plots have their boundaries delineated with low concrete or stone walls.
A few have their boundaries marked by a 4 metal posts with a chain link threaded through the posts.

Most of the markers are inscribed with funerary artwork of angels, flowers, and various etchings.

Briefly describe any outbuildings or secondary resources (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage
tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

The gatehouse is a small one room structure built of cinderblock with an open ceiling. There is tile roofing
and 3 windows in the building. Outside of the building (on one side) there are 2 separate small closet like
areas, one which was used as a restroom years ago and the other which is used to store tools, etc. that are
used from time to time at the cemetery. In the past few years there was some work done to the building as it
was falling into disrepair: a new roof, new floor inside, windows, and fresh paint inside and outside.
No idea of when the gatehouse was built.
In the space below, briefly describe the history of the property, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property. Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

Solon Cemetery was established in 1883. The property was sold (by the owners of the property, Elias and Selina Smith) to the Trustees who had established the Solon Cemetery Association as a burial site for the African American Community in the town of Middleburg, Va. Established at a time when segregation and Jim Crow laws were still in effect, it was then a final resting place for African Americans only. Since then the cemetery has people of many races and ethnicities interred there. However, it is still mostly African American. The cemetery remains to this day a burial place for descendants of those who were wise enough to purchase gravesites in earlier years. Many of the graves there are unmarked as we imagine that in the early days former slaves were illiterate and so location of graves was passed down through oral traditions.

The property that became Solon Cemetery was sold to the Association by Elias and Selina Smith in the early 1880s. They were said to be teachers of African American Slaves during segregation and the era of Jim Crow Laws. It is noted in a list of people that are buried there, that the earliest burial was in 1866. A woman known as Johanna Buckner. There is a monument there with her name on it. As to how she was buried there prior to 1883 is something of a mystery. The property was located across the road from the old site of the first Shiloh Baptist Church which was established in 1867. According to the list of persons buried there from the Loudoun County Cemetery Database of the Thomas Balch Library, there are over 900 plus graves located within Solon. The records we have (present day) appear to have begun with burials in 1959.

Buried in Solon are many, if not all of the African American business owners who once owned and operated businesses within the town of Middleburg. Members of the Hall Family, who were building contractors, the Cook Family who were roofing contractors, the Wanzer family who owned a blacksmith shop in the town, the Turner Family of which Mr. Charles "Jack" Turner was the first African American to service on the Middleburg Town Council, the Jackson Family of which Mr. William McKinley Jackson was the first President of the Loudoun NAACP. Among the graves there are many graves of those who served in WWI, WWII, and the Vietnam War.

Solon Cemetery, formally established in 1883, was the principal burial ground for African Americans in the Town of Middleburg. It is significant under National Register Criterion A, in the area of Ethnic Heritage, African American and Criterion Consideration D for its long association with the African American community in Middleburg. It contains burials of formerly enslaved, freedmen and prominent African American leaders in the Middleburg area. It is also a good example of a rural and vernacular cemetery, illustrating common burial practices within the African American community. It was likely one of the only public burial grounds that could be used by African Americans in Middleburg and surrounding area.
Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):
Private: X Public\Local _____ Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)
name/title: Solon Cemetery Association
organization: Solon Cemetery Association
street & number: P O Box 264

Legal Owner's Signature: Elizabeth Washington Wallace
Date: __________

**Signature required for processing all applications.**

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.
Contact person: Elizabeth Washington Wallace
Daytime Telephone: 703-217-7906

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)
name/title: Elizabeth Washington Wallace
organization: Solon Cemetery Association
street & number: P O Box 712

city or town: Middleburg state: Virginia zip code: 20118

e-mail: wsport50@msn.com telephone: 703-217-7906

6. Notification
In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator, City Manager, and/or Town Manager
name/title: Danny Davis, Town Manager
locality: Town of Middleburg (Loudoun County)
street & number: 10 W Marshall St. (P O Box 187)

city or town: Middleburg state: Virginia zip code: 20117

telephone: 540-687-5152
Solon Cemetery Association  
P O Box 264  
Middleburg, Virginia  20118  

Board of Directors/Trustees  

Lewis Christian, III President  
Elizabeth Washington Wallace, Secretary  
Geraldine S. Napper, Treasurer  
Joann Tibbs  
Robert Campbell (Pending filing of paperwork)
Solon Cemetery
259-5006

Much Haddam
259-0164

Boxwood
030-0091

Middleburg Historic District
259-0162

Solon Cemetery
259-5006

Little River Rural Historic District
030-5579

Burrland Farm Historic District
030-1017

Listed Resources

259-5006

Created By: D. Bascone 4/21/2022
Sources: VDHR 2020, ESRI 2020, VDOT 2020, VGIN 2020
Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation date and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. The map may contain errors and is provided "as-is." Contact DHR for the most recent information as data is updated continually.
MOTHER
E.J. MARTIN
Wife of
W. H. Martin
 Born 1829
 Died May 24, 1924
 Age 95

FOR MOTHER
ELMIRA
WASHINGTON
Died Oct 11, 1906
In the 72nd Year
of her age.

But not forgotten.
CLARENCE SMITH
VIRGINIA
PVT. VET. HOSP. 4
WORLD WAR I
SEPT. 4, 1892 — MARCH 4, 1944

WILMER HATCHER
PVT. U.S. ARMY
WORLD WAR II
1908 — 1976
WILLIE DECatur SMITH
VIRGINIA
PVT CO F 1st CHEMICAL BN
WORLD WAR I
OCT 25 1892 JUNE 12 1933

JOSEPH W. WATERS
CK3-US NAVY
WORLD WAR II
1908-1975
WAYNE MICHAEL TURNER
CAPT. US NAVY
VIETNAM
JUN 11, 1947
SEP 21, 1995

BELIEVED
JOHN E. WILKINS
1943 - 1989
IN HEAVEN
JAN 16, 1943