



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
PHONE: 832-6621



ALABAMA INVENTORY AND WORKSHEET FOR LANDMARKS

COUNTY Butler

PRESENT NAME Pioneer Cemetery HISTORIC NAME

LOCATION (Street and number) Entire block of South Park Street, north side of 200 block

TOWN (Give directions if rural) Greenville

PRESENT USE Cemetery HISTORIC USE Cemetery

OWNERSHIP: Public (X) Private () Public acquisition being considered ()

OWNER'S NAME City of Greenville

MAILING ADDRESS Greenville, Alabama 36037

CONDITION: Excellent () Good () Fair () Ruins (X)

INTEGRITY: Original Site (X) Moved () When?

From where? Give details in significance.

THREATS: No () Yes (X) By What? Deteriation and Neglect

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered () Underway (X) Completed () Not planned ()

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land () Woodland () Scattered buildings (X)
High building density () Commercial () Industrial ()
Residential (X) Rural ()

If there are numerous buildings in the area, could this structure be part of a Historic District? There are several historic homes close-by and it could be a part of a residential historic district.

SIGNIFICANCE: Why is this important (X) associated with events, persons, or movements
Local (X) State (X) National ()
() a good example of a type or style of structure
() other

Explain: (Expand on the significance of the building. If architecturally significant, give details being very specific. Additional data on what aspects of the community's development the building represents, or a specific event, trend or person related to the building's importance.)

Greenville Bicentennial Commission
Horizons Committee
Chairman - Mrs. D. S. Parrish
Greenville, Alabama 36037

PIONEER CEMETERY
1822-1961

The Pioneer Cemetery located on South Street, near the center of Greenville was set aside by the earliest settlers to the town as a public burial ground, with the last burial there in 1961. The oldest marked grave in Greenville is located near the entrance to this cemetery. The cemetery has been cleaned and the markers restored as a Bicentennial Project.

The present site of Greenville was first chosen for settlement on January 14, 1819, by a group of emigrants from South Carolina. Originally it was named Buttsville for Samuel Butts, a Georgian, who had been killed at the Battle of Calebee. However, before long, the settlers petitioned to change the name to Greenville, in memory of the South Carolina district from which the first inhabitants emigrated. In 1822, these early settlers of Buttsville set aside two acres of land as a burying ground, now known as Pioneer Cemetery. The first church, a frame building, was built in a corner of this area and was used by all denominations though it was considered to be Methodist. Whether the church was built first or whether the settlers had previously used the two acres to bury their dead is not known. There seemed to be common usage by all for burial, with few family plots.

It is not known, but it is believed that there were graves whose markings have not survived, perhaps marked with a wooden cross. There are mounds of old handmade brick and shells with no inscriptions marking quite a few graves. In part of the cemetery, are several unusual metal markers, made by a Mr. Abrams, it is thought that these are distinctive to this area. Also, there are many Southern Red Oaks which have probably been there since the first graves. All these should be preserved.

A Board of Directors has been chosen for incorporation of the Pioneer Cemetery Beautification Council. These representative people will continue restoration and upkeep of the cemetery after the Bicentennial Commission has finished their efforts. The Horizons Committee had hoped to restore the grave markers, along with cleaning them and the cemetery, to help preserve these memorials to Butler County's heroic forebearers. They have accomplished much of their aims, but much still must be done.

GREENVILLE VIA ALA 1000
1:25,000

3524
3523
3522
50'
3521
3520
3519

3607 1 SW
(GREENVILLE WEST)

