

# Alabama Register Property Information

RECEIVED

MAY 19 1997

Ala. Historical Commission



## 1. Name

EDWARDSVILLE CEMETERY

historic

Yes, more than one hundred years old

and/or common

## 2. Location

0.3 miles from U. S. Hwy. 78

street & number

Cemetery Street

city, town

Edwardsville, Alabama — vicinity of

state

Alabama

county

Cleburne

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Edwardsville Cemetery Care, Inc.

street & number

Cemetery Street

city, town

Edwardsville

— vicinity of

state

Alabama

## 5. Please use space below to sketch floor plan/site plan.

Please see the attached description sheet.

# 6. Description

**Condition**

- excellent
- good
- fair

- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

**Check one**

- unaltered
- altered

**Check one**

- original site
- moved

date May 15, 1997

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Lined area for describing the present and original physical appearance.

# 7. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Cemetery

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Edwardsville Cemetery is at the outer perimeter of the Talledega National Forest. The owner of the property was Mr. James Baber, born February 14, 1815 and died November 19, 1892. He died before he could donate the land to the Town of Edwardsville so his family did this after his death. The first recorded burial there is for James Baber born June 2, 1762 and died July 17, 1836. The Cemetery was deeded to the Edwardsville Cemetery Care, Inc. on November 25, 1991 for the purpose of perpetual care.

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## 8. Major Bibliographical References

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## 9. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property 3.14

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Form Prepared By

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name/title Howard H. Entrekin, President *Howard H. Entrekin*

organization Edwardsville Cemetery Care, Inc. date May 15, 1997

street & number 2766 Cottonwood Dr. telephone 770-422-3392

city or town Marietta state Ga. 30066

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**11.** Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

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**12.** Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form to:

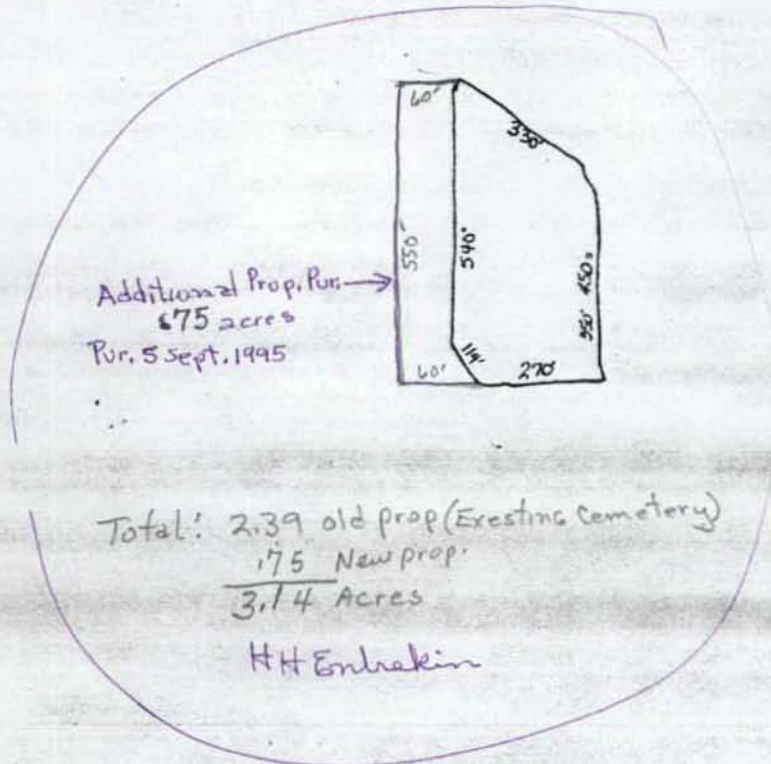
ALABAMA REGISTER COORDINATOR  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET  
MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130-0900

# Description of Edwardsville

SVILLE CEMETERY

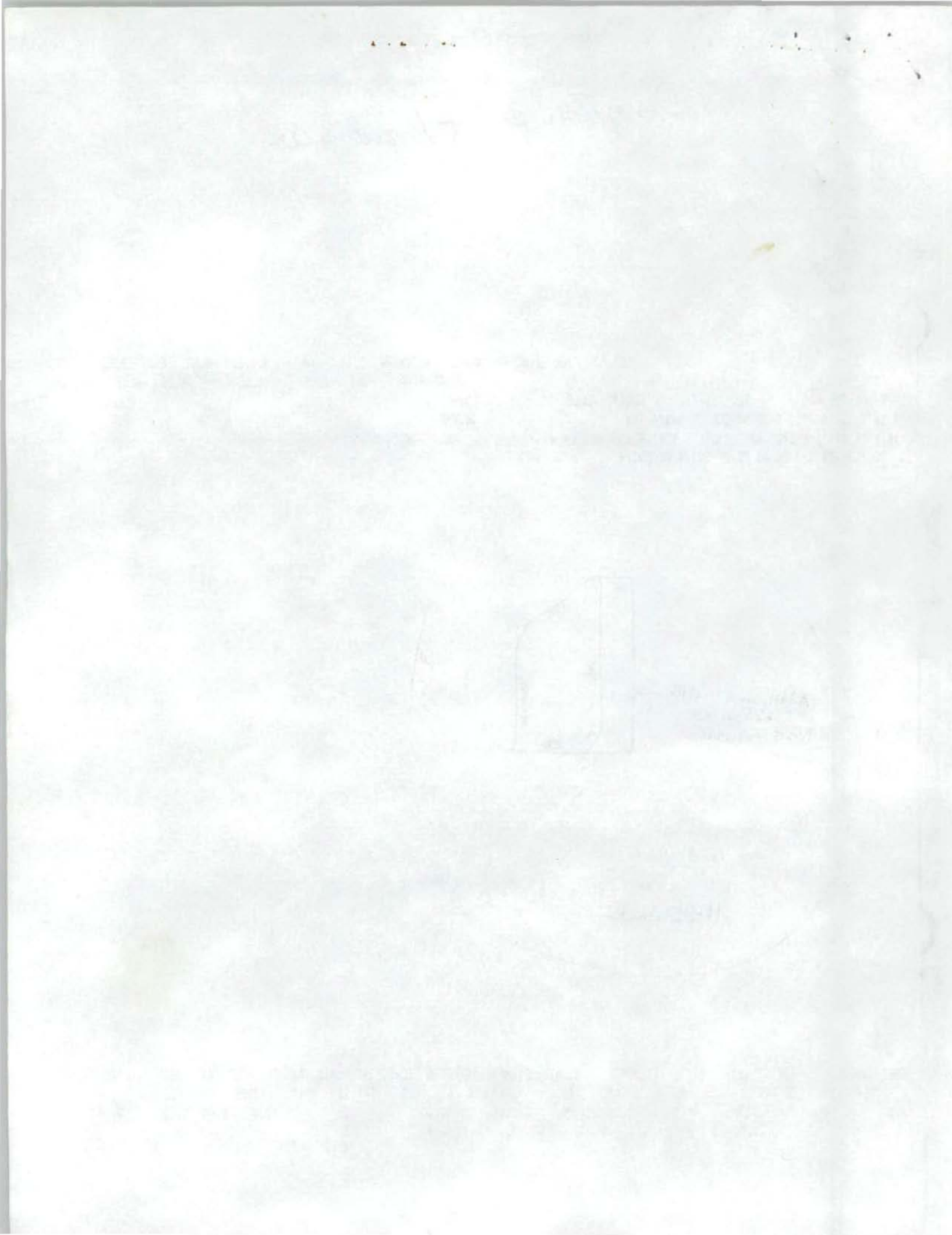
AL 36264  
0000-8389

20-0-001-028.000	S20-T15-R11	EDWARDSVILLE	ACRES	PREC. YEAR APPR. VALUE	CURR. YEAR APPR. VALUE	B.O.E. VALUE	CURR. USE VALUE	ASSESSED VALUE
PP 1670' (S) & 775' E OF NW COR OF NW1/4 TH; 1' (S); SE 114'; E 270' TO CEM ST; N 450' (S); 20' TO POB; DB 1-T PG 66 PT OF SW1/4 OF NW1/4			<del>3.6</del> 2.39					



Total: 2.39 old prop (Existing cemetery)  
 175 New prop.  
3.14 Acres  
 HH Embakin

ASSESSED VALUE	TOT ST AND	STATE EXEMPT	COUNTY EXEMPT	NET ST & SCHL.	TAX MUNIC TAX	FOREST TAX	ASSR	TOTAL
RATE PER PROP	CD TAX	VAL	TAX	CD TAX	TAX CD	ACRES TAX	FEE	
0	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.0	0.00	0.00
	0.00			0.00	2			
					3			
					4			
					5			



Alabama Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 300900  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Contact: Sally Moore  
334-242-3184  
For Immediate Release

November 17, 1997

Edwardsville Cemetery Added to Alabama Register

The Edwardsville Cemetery, located northwest of Edwardsville, Cleburne County, has recently been added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

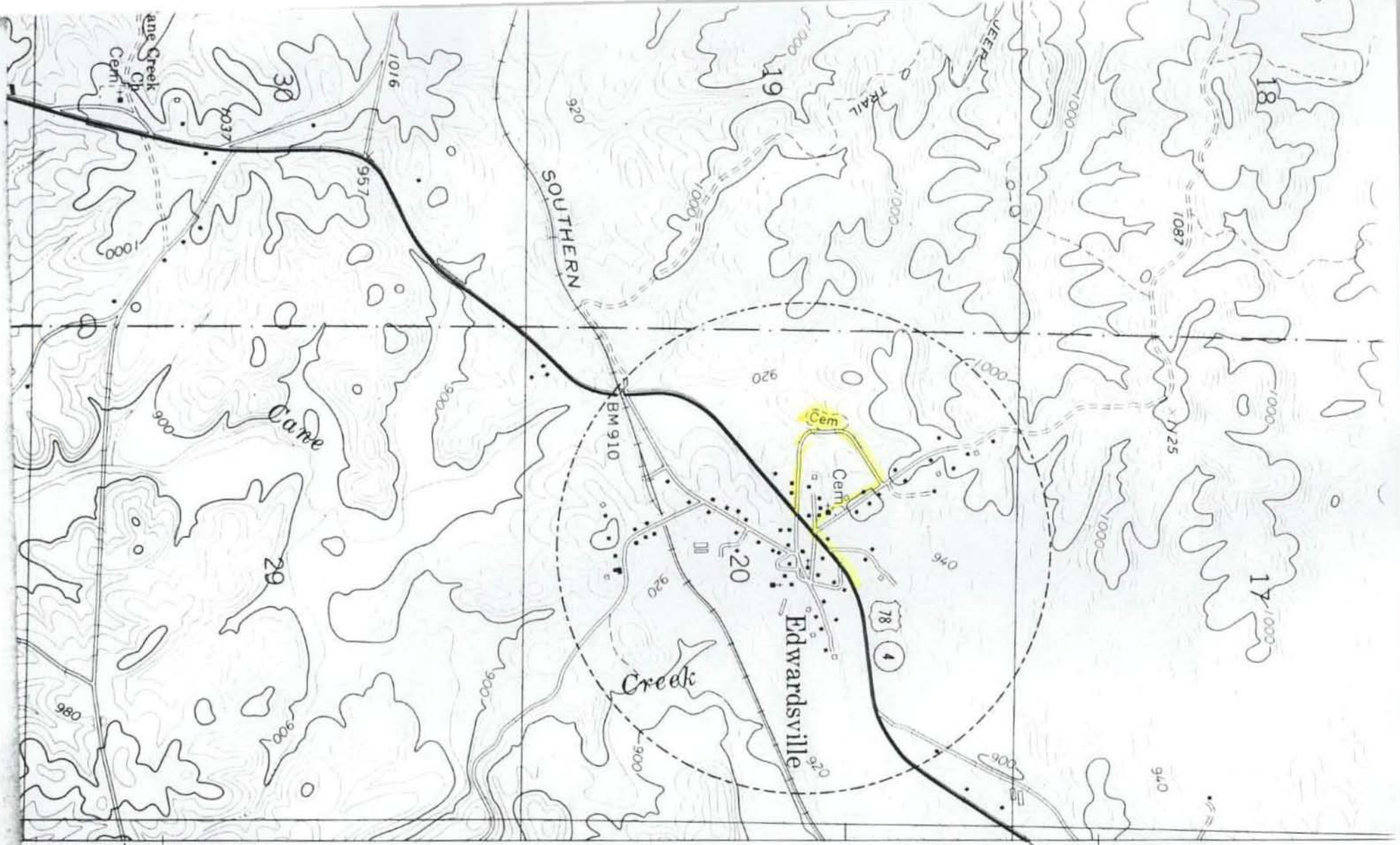
The cemetery dates from a year after five Edwards brothers settled the area. The cemetery originated as the burial ground of the Baber family. It evolved into a community burial ground after the family of Judge James Baber donated it to the Town of Edwardsville in 1893. Among the 387 burials are the graves of the community's most prominent citizens, veterans of wars from the Revolution to Vietnam, slaves, Indians, and a gypsy girl.

The cemetery possesses a number of notable markers, including an obelisk, several Victorian period post and arch type monuments, and a brick-based with wood baluster monument. Among those buried are Judge James Baber, one of the first judges of Benton County (now Cleburne) and W.A. Burgess. Burgess was said to have owned the presumably first car in Cleburne Co. and the second in Alabama (also believed to have been involved in the first reported car-train accident in the world).

The cemetery is in good condition and is maintained by the Edwardsville Cemetery Care, Inc., which was organized in 1991 as a non-profit group with the sole purpose of maintaining the property.

The Alabama Register is a prestigious statewide listing of buildings, structures, objects, and districts that possess architectural and historical significance. It is administered by the Alabama Historical Commission, the official state agency responsible for helping Alabamians preserve their historic resources.

###



VIEW 7 MI. (FRUITHURST)  
3951 III NW

3729

3730

42'30"

3731

FRUITHURST 4.2 MI.  
TALLAPOOSA, GA. 13 MI

Hefflin Quad



EDWARDSVILLE CEMETERY  
CEMETERY STREET  
EDWARDSVILLE, ALABAMA 36261

Contact:

Howard H. Entrekin  
2766 Cottonwood Dr.  
Marietta, Georgia 30066

SUMMARY:

The Edwardsville Cemetery is located 0.3 miles north of US Highway 78 in the town of Edwardsville, Alabama. It is situated on 3.14 acres of land and contains approximately 387 graves with 297 marked and 90 unmarked. These graves are of some prominent citizens as well as veterans of wars from Revolutionary to Viet Nam. It also contains graves of African-American slaves, American Indians, and one small Gypsy girl.

DESCRIPTION:

Edwardsville cemetery is located among the rolling hills of the outer edge of the Talledega National forest. It is 0.3 miles from Highway 78 which runs through the center of town. The cemetery is on a hillside overlooking mostly pine trees with some hardwoods. It has a road leading around the entire cemetery. Some additional land was purchased in 1995 and is being readied for graves in the future.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Edwardsville cemetery is eligible for listing in the Alabama Register of Landmarks under Criterion A for context of settlement and Criterion C for the context of funeary art. It is the burial ground of Judge James Baber who donated the land in 1893. Some prominent people buried there are: Judge James Baber, one of the first judges of Benton County, (now Cleburne), Judge T. J. Burton, lawyer, judge, writer, Mason, church orginazer, War Between the States veteran; W. A. Burgess, who owned the first car in Cleburne County and the second in Alabama. This car was involved in the first car-train accident in the world. Mr. John Hilton was killed in this accident and is buried in the cemetery. Larry G. Pilgrim, the first district judge in Cleburne county and probably the youngest as he died at age 39, is buried there. The graves date from 1836 to 1995.

#### HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

The Town of Edwardsville was settled in 1835 by five brothers named Edwards. The brothers moved into the settlement when American Indians were there, and of course named it Edwardsville. The town became quite a busy town with almost any business you could name. In 1867 the County of Cleburne was organized with Edwardsville being the county seat. The county seat was moved to Heflin, Alabama in 1905. After that the town began to wind down with business and schools moving to Heflin. Today Edwardsville has 1 grocery store, 1 used-car lot, a post office, three churches. It has a Mayor and Council. It also has city water, street lights telephone service and cable TV. The cemetery was maintained by the town of Edwardsville until 1991 when the Edwardsville Cemetery Care, Inc. was organized. The town deeded the cemetery to the corporation on August 29, 1992. This is a non-profit organization and funded by donations.



F LAWRENCE OAKS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-5101



TELEPHONE NUMBER  
242-3184

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

CEMETERIES—INFORMATION TO INCLUDE ON

NOMINATION FORM

When nominating a cemetery, please include the following information on the application form:

- the history of the cemetery, including who was responsible for the design, if known;
- a brief description of the cemetery and its surroundings;
- a brief overview highlighting the prominent people buried there;
- a sketch map showing the layout of the cemetery;
- a map (-city, county or U.S.G.S.-) showing the location of the cemetery.

Please include a few color slides of the markers as well as the overall layout of the cemetery.

# ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

## Nomination Form

*Added to Alabama Register 10-1-97*

### 1. Name

historic Edwardsville Cemetery  
and/or common \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

0.3 miles from U.S. Highway 78

street & number Cemetery Street

city, town Edwardsville ---vicinity of Heflin

state Alabama county Cleburne zip \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: cemetery

### 4. Owner of Property

name Edwardsville Cemetery Care, Inc.

street & number Cemetery Street

city, town Edwardsville

### 5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

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**6. Description** (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.**

The Edwardsville Cemetery is located 0.3 miles northwest of the center of the town of Edwardsville, a rural community in central Cleburne County. Edwardsville is located on U.S. Highway 78 approximately 6 miles northeast of Heflin at the eastern edge of the Talladega National Forest. The cemetery is situated on 3.14 acres of land and contains approximately 387 graves, consisting of 297 marked and 90 unmarked burials. The graves date from 1836 to 1995 and signify the burials of prominent local citizens, veterans of wars from the Revolution to Viet Nam, slaves, Indians, and one small gypsy girl. Notable markers include an obelisk, several Victorian period post and arch type monuments, and a brick-based with wood baluster monument. The cemetery is situated on a hillside and planted with pine and a few hardwood trees. A circular paved road leads from Cemetery Street around the original 2.39 acres. In 1995, 0.75 acres of land adjoining the cemetery on the west was purchased for future burials. The nominated property includes only the original acreage. The cemetery is in good condition and is maintained by the Edwardsville Cemetery Care, Inc., which was organized in 1991 as a non-profit group with the sole purpose of maintaining the property.

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## 7. Significance (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.)

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Period	Areas of Significance-Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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**Specific dates** 1836 **Builder/Architect**

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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph).

The Edwardsville Cemetery is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage under Criterion A in the area of settlement. The cemetery contains graves dating from 1836, just a year after the settlement of area by five Edwards brothers. It evolved into a community burial ground, and finally was donated to the Town of Edwardsville by Judge James Baber in 1893. Among the 387 burials are the graves of the community's most prominent citizens, veterans of wars from the Revolution to Viet Nam, slaves, Indians, and a gypsy girl. The cemetery is also potentially eligible for listing under Criteria C and D in the area of funerary art and information potential, but additional descriptive information on the appearance of the historic markers would be needed to establish a case.

### Historical Summary:

The land which was to become the Town of Edwardsville was first settled in 1835 by five brothers named Edwards. The community evolved into a thriving settlement known as Edwardsville, and by 1867 it was named the seat of the newly created Cleburne County. The cemetery originated as the burial ground of the Baber family, with the earliest grave being that of James Baber (born June 2, 1762-died July 17, 1836). In 1893, the family of Judge James Baber (born Feb 17, 1815-died Nov 19, 1892) donated the cemetery to the city in his memory. Among those buried are Judge James Baber, one of the first judges of Benton County (now Cleburne); Judge T.J. Burton, lawyer, writer, judge, Mason, church organizer, Civil War veteran; W.A. Burgess, owner of what was believed by local historians to have been the first car in Cleburne County and the second in Alabama (it was also believed to have been involved in the first reported car-train accident in the world); John Hilton (who was killed in this accident); Larry G. Pilgrim, the first district judge in Cleburne county and perhaps the youngest (he died at age 39).

It remained a thriving community for nearly forty years, until Heflin was named county seat in 1905. Upon losing its governmental status, Edwardsville's economy declined, with businesses and schools moving to Heflin. Today Edwardsville has a grocery store, a used car lot, a post office, and three churches. It is governed by a Mayor/Council city government and offers city water, street lights, telephone service, and cable TV. The city also maintained the cemetery until 1991, when the Edwardsville Cemetery Care, Inc. was organized for that sole purpose. The town deeded the cemetery to the corporation on August 29, 1992. It is a non-profit organization that is funded by donations.

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## 8. Major Bibliographical References

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Entrekin, Howard H. Draft nomination.

Farris, Nathan. Site visit during brief county survey, Spring, 1997.

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## 9. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_ 2.39 acres \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

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Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map)  
Attached.

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**10. Form Prepared By** \_\_\_\_\_ Sally Moore (AHC) and \_\_\_\_\_

name/title \_\_\_\_\_ Howard H. Entrekin, President

organization \_\_\_\_\_ Edwardsville Cemetery Care, Inc.

date \_\_\_\_\_ October 1, 1997

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ 2766 Cottonwood Drive

telephone \_\_\_\_\_ 770-422-3392

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ Marietta

state \_\_\_\_\_ GA zip \_\_\_\_\_ 30066

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**11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.**

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Color slides are essential to the review process.

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**12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form and documentation to:**

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Alabama Register Coordinator  
Alabama Historical Commission  
468 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900