

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

Alabama Historical Commission
725 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fort Dale Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Alabama Highway #185 North Range 14E, Township 11N, Section 28 4½ miles North of

CITY, TOWN

Greenville, Old Fort Dale Community, Butler County

36037

STATE

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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

Fort Dale Cemetery Perpetual Care Assoc. c/o Mrs. J. M. Duncan

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 167

CITY, TOWN

Greenville, AL

VICINITY OF 36037

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Butler County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

East Commerce St.

CITY, TOWN

Greenville, AL. 36037

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Building Survey of 1935 also included in The Bartram Trail Brochure

DATE

June 13, 1935

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of the Interior

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fort Dale Cemetery is located across the road from where Fort Dale once stood, On highway #185, 4½ miles North of Greenville. The cemetery is on a level lot 514'x 125' and enclosed with a chain-link fence across the front and by a plain bobwire fence down the two sides and rear. There is a beautiful brick arch at the front entrance with the words in black letter spelling out "Fort Dale Cemetery Founded 1818 Erected 1968". There are two other openings in the fence for an old wagon road which passes through the cemetery. The old cemetery is surrounded by a beautiful woodland of Alabama's native trees.

Many of the first pioneer settlers of Butler County were buried here, but many have no tombs to mark their resting places. Some are marker with native stones, and one or two graves have wooden crosses, but most of the graves have tombstones of white marble. These reveal interesting historical and personal data and are varied in design and execution.

The Fort Dale Cemetery was presented in the Historic American Buildings Survey of 1935. In the photograph there are several grave houses shown, unfortunately only one of these grave houses remain today. This house covers the grave of Mary Ola Bush, who died in 1885. It stands about 5'-8" high and is 6'-0" wide by 8'-0" long. The post are 4x4 with paling wood in between. The roof is a gable covered with tin and the end gables enclosed with horizontal beveled siding. The grave house was restored and painted in the summer of 1979 by the Landmarks Foundation of Butler County.

In the fall of 1979 the Landmarks Foundation renovated the oldest section of the cemetery. Several graves were in terrible condition, restoration of the cemetery was under the direction of the Landmarks Foundation President Tom Braxton with Dunklin-Herndon Funeral Home working with the foundation on the project. For years the cemetery was obscured by neglect and vandalism. Today, the restoration has made it an attractive site of historical and civic significance. The cemetery, which is still used today, is kept very clean by the Perpetual Care Assoc., under the direction of Mrs. John Duncan. The cemetery is an important link to the history of both Butler County and the State of Alabama.

See drawing of grave house and plot of cemetery.

8 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Oldest Grave 1818

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first marked grave in Butler County is in old Fort Dale Cemetery located near the original site of Fort Dale. Col. Sam Dale came to Butler County to help the settlers build a fort, it was named for him.

There was a fort only a couple of miles from the Fort Dale site, built by Thomas Gary. Mr. Gary charged a fee for the use of his stockade, and his neighbors built in competition to keep from paying the fee. In 1818 Mr. Gary lost his health on account of the loss of his investment in this fort and died soon after. His grave was marked and evidence points to the fact that the marker was put there not too long after his death. His wife placed the marble and she died only eight years later in 1826. Thomas Gary's grave is the oldest marked site in Butler County. He is the only American Revolutionary Soldier buried in this county.

There is no doubt that children, infants and probably adults among the early settlers died in what was to become Butler County before Mr. Gary, but the graves were not marked and there is no record of their death. Some of the graves are marked with native stone, but most of them have tombstones of white marble.

A quotation from Little's "History of Butler County 1815 to 1885":

Stated that "The thing now at this place, of most interest to the general reader, is the old graveyard. Here are deposited the remains of many of the first settlers of the County, the descendants of whom are now scattered to all parts of the state. Thomas Gary was the first person ever buried here. He was born in South Carolina, in 1794, and came to this county in January, 1818, and died in the fort in April of the same year. His wife died in 1826. Andrew Jones was buried here in 1822. Ennis McDaniel died in 1831. Other old citizens recently buried here are: Joseph Hartley, born 1769, died 1849; his wife born 1777, died 1863; Jesse Stallings born 1795, died 1881; his wife, born 1804, died 1883."

"The palings that once enclosed this burial-place, have long since rotted down, and should be replaced by those who have relatives and friends buried here."

The cemetery is now enclosed with a wire fence and the oldest section of the cemetery has recently been restored by the Landmarks Foundation of Butler County. The grave house, which is listed in the Historic American Building Survey of 1935 has also been renovated.

The cemetery is an important link to the history of Butler County as well as the great State of Alabama, and the restoration has made it an attractive site of historical and civic significance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Little's "History of Butler County 1818-1885"
2. Old newspaper article from the Greenville Advocate Jan. 5, 1898, October 20, 1909, Jan. 15, 1953, Nov. 8, 1962

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Ft. Dale

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 | 53,26,20 | 3,5,2,8,7,0,0

B | |

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tom Braxton, President

January 16, 1980

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Foundation of Butler County

DATE

382-5551

STREET & NUMBER

125 Boutwell St.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Greenville

STATE

Alabama 36037

12 FOR ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION USE ONLY

Staff Member _____

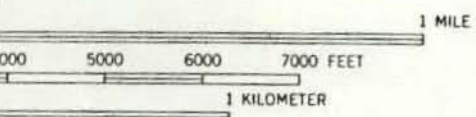
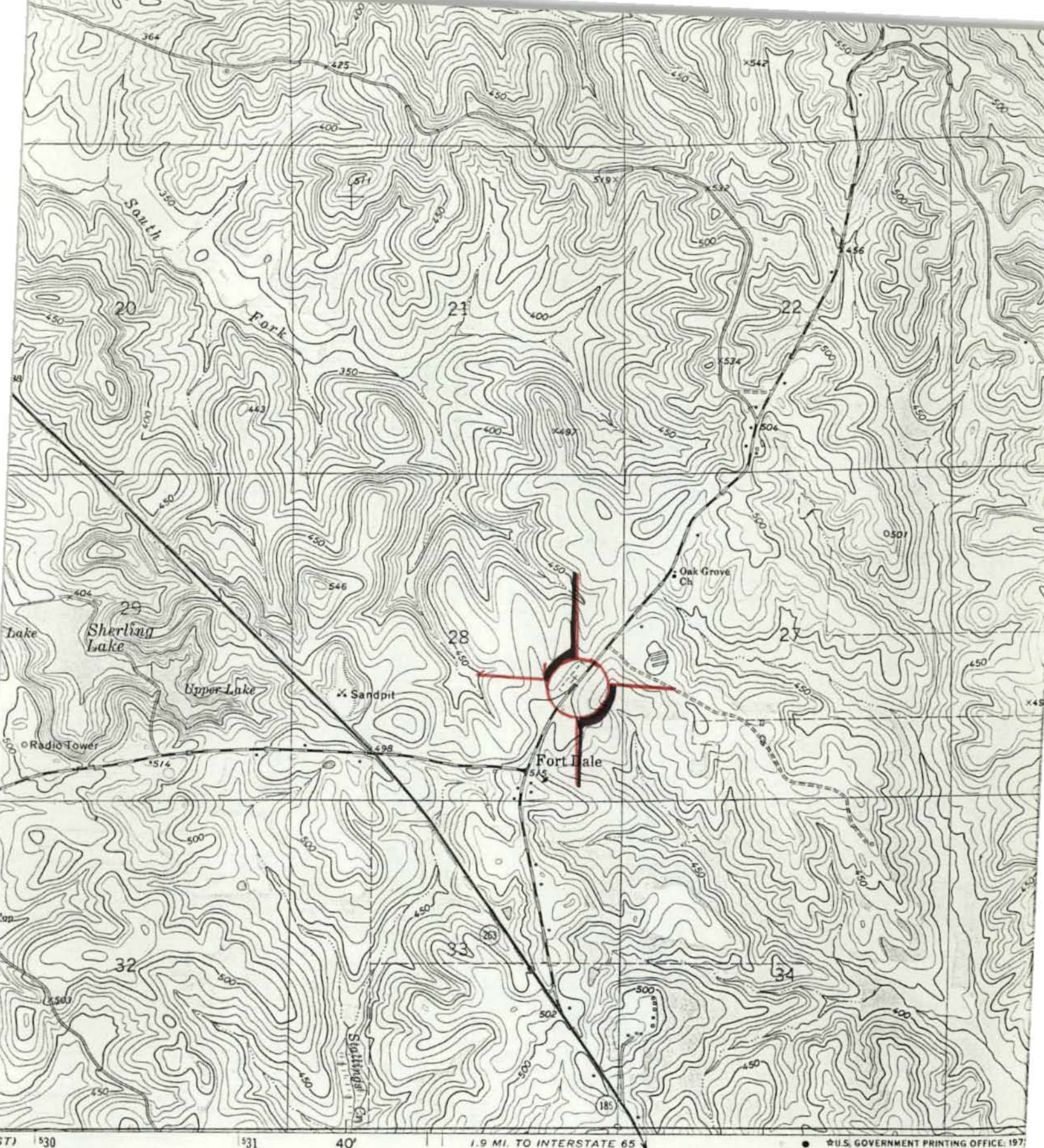
ADDED _____

Number _____

Thematic Category _____

National Register Potential _____

Added to National Register _____



0 FEET
LEVEL

Fort Dale Cemetery



1.9 MI. TO INTERSTATE 65

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 197

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, improved surface
- Unimproved
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route