

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Glebe Burying Ground (Preferred)

(DHL 07-1150)

and/or common Glebe Cemetery

2. Location

street & number VA Route 876

N/A not for publication

city, town Swoope

vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county Augusta

code 015

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Augusta County c/o Chairman, Board of Supervisors

street & number Augusta County Courthouse

city, town Staunton

~~XXXXXX~~

state Virginia 24401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Augusta County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Staunton

state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Division of Historic Landmarks
title Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Summer 1980

federal state county local

DIVISION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS, 221 Governor Street

depository for survey records

city, town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		_____ N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Nestled into the east side of a ridge between Middle River and Back Creek, the glebe burying ground boasts a secluded setting in western Augusta County. The cemetery, located in the woods about 400 feet southwest of a 19th-century brick schoolhouse, is one of the oldest in Augusta County and contains a wide variety of stones illustrating the evolution of local funerary art from the 1770s through the 19th century.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The glebe burying ground contains among its surviving components several late 18th-century stones rarely found in this area of Virginia. The two oldest grave markers are flat, horizontal slabs with head and footstones. Several similar markers have been found scattered throughout the Valley of Virginia and into Southwest Virginia. This type of memorial generally marks older graves of more prominent people, suggested here by the lengthy epitaphs inscribed on the horizontal slab. The style and decoration of these markers reflect the local German settlement. The head and footstones retain the traditional rounded shapes rather than the popular shouldered forms. Heart and floral designs reminiscent of German folk art embellish Mary Trimble's 1770 stone.

German traditions persisted through the early 19th century, gradually blending with popular Anglicized ideals. Stones from this period continue to be carved from a finely grained sandstone, a favorite material in German settled areas, but they begin to adopt a new round-shouldered form with single side decoration. Only a few graves still retain footstones. Several markers from the 1820s are inscribed in German with Gothic script, but the majority are written in English in a new style of lettering. Yet even after many of the Anglicized ideals had been adopted, German influence prevailed through the decoration. The six-point star design, along with an eight-point design, found on John Trimble's German stone were used on most sandstone markers through the mid-19th century. A cluster of five stars adorns the top of Trimble's 1824 marker. Even simpler stones received this decoration; a footstone with the initials "I.M." has been finished with a primitive six-point compass star. This style of stone, dating ca. 1810s through 1840s, is generally the earliest type found in Augusta County graveyards from the community plots to German and Scotch-Irish churches. As with houses, German and Anglicized ideals blended, creating distinctive local forms.

By the mid-19th century, sandstone had been abandoned for the popular white marble "memorials," and round-shouldered forms had yielded to the square-shouldered shapes. These stones were embellished with the romantic images that characterized the Victorian obsession with death. Marth Ewing's 1855 marker illustrates this rich vocabulary with its willow, urn, and obelisk decoration. By the end of the century, much of the decoration had been abandoned, and the stones became smaller, chunkier, and more austere. The most recent stone is an 1891 marker for Esteline Thompson. The cemetery is preserved on a one-acre parcel of land that is owned by Augusta County and maintained by the County Historical Society.

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 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/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 N/A Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former glebe of Augusta County parish contains one of the older cemeteries west of the Blue Ridge. The cemetery's large number of surviving stones, dating from 1770 to 1891, illustrate significant changes in the local funerary art of Scotch-Irish, English, and German settlers and their descendants. These changes in style and form provide important insight into the process of acculturation occurring in the Valley of Virginia throughout the first half of the 19th century. Although cemeteries are usually not eligible for placement on the National Register, the glebe burying ground illustrates an important sequence in the development of regional funerary art.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The primary source on the early history of the glebe burying ground is the Augusta Parish Vestry Book, which constitutes the first written public record of Augusta life as well as the sole depository of county records for the period 1746 (the year in which the vestry was formed) to 1779. In 1749 the vestry purchased from Robert Campbell 200 acres of land to serve both as the "glebe" or income-producing lands for the parish and as the future site of a church and parsonage. Four years later the vestry expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of progress in building the church and parsonage, notwithstanding the fact that a minister was already engaged in conducting services in private homes in the area. The explanation for the delay is finally recorded in an undated entry on page 197 of the Vestry Book: "As it appears that the greater part of the inhabitants of the forks of the James have deserted their plantations, by reason of the frequent incursions of the Indians; [it is] unnecessary to build a chapel of ease." According to Bishop William Meade's account of the Anglican church in colonial Virginia, the decision was made in 1760 to build the Augusta Parish Church in Staunton. While it can be assumed that the glebe burying ground was used prior to this decision, the earliest legible gravestone is that of Mary Trimble, deceased in 1770. Among the other notable graves in the cemetery are those of Col. John Willson, an Irish immigrant who served in the House of Burgesses between 1746 and 1773, and a number of Revolutionary War veterans including Lewis Shuey, Thomas and John Young, and John and John R. McCutcheon. These local family names are found on numerous other stones in the burying ground.

As early as 1773 the vestry petitioned the General Assembly of Virginia for permission to sell most of the glebe lands; however, it was not until 1802 that the approximately 200 acres were sold to George Berry. In 1810 Berry sold the property to Thomas Thompson. The area remained a burying ground through the 19th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bushman, Mrs. William. Staunton, Virginia. Interview, August 1980.
Hotchkiss, Jed and Waddell, Joseph. Historical Atlas of Augusta County. "Map of Riverheads District." 1885.
Murphy, W.A. and King, W.W. Glebe Burying Ground, 1749. Staunton, 1934. Staunton Public Library, Genealogy R929.3755D.

10. Geographical Data

(See Continuation Sheet # 1)

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Greenville, Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	6	5	5	8	6	0	4	2	1	9	2	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification Justification: The bounds have been limited to the one-acre parcel owned by Augusta County but surrounded by private farmland. Verbal Boundary Description: Beginning at a point approx. 350' SSW from end of dirt access road running W off of VA 876 and located approx. 600' S of intersection of VA 841 with (See Continuation Sheet # 1)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Division of Historic Landmarks Staff

organization Division of Historic Landmarks date 1985

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director

title Division of Historic Landmarks

date 05/03/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received
date entered

GLEBE BURYING GROUND, Augusta County, Virginia

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8,9,10

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8. Significance -- Historical Background

The changing styles and forms of the surviving gravestones reflect something of the process of acculturation experienced by Scotch-Irish, English, and German settlers and their descendants in the Valley of Virginia through the first half of the 19th century. The two graves from the 1770s are marked by a flat slab with headstone and footstone, a rare early form found particularly near German settlements in the early 19th century when the popular round-shouldered form had been adopted. The use of finely grained sandstone, Gothic script, some German inscriptions, and decorative motifs, such as six- and eight-point stars, reveals the persistence of German tradition. By the mid-19th century, the more "popular" romantic stones of white marble had become the standard choice.

AMcC

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Spitler, Gene. Swoope, Virginia. Interview, August 1980.
Thompson, Catherine (Mrs. W.B.). Swoope, Virginia. Interview, August 1980.
Thompson, Robert D. Arlington, Virginia. Interview, August 1980.
W.P.A. Augusta County Cemeteries, Vol. 1, 1936-7, p. 74-76, Glebe Cemetery.
Wust, Klaus. Folk Art in Stone. Shenandoah Valley Folklore Society, 1970.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description

said route; thence extending approx. 150' SSW; thence approx. 150' NW; thence approx. 150' NNE; thence approx. 150' ESE to point of origin.

