



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 111-5265

Purpose of Evaluation

To proceed to listing this property in the National Register of Historic Places.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes No X

Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR's easement program? Yes No X

1. General Property Information

Property name: Fredericksburg City and Confederate Cemeteries

Property address: 1000-1100 Washington Avenue

City or Town: Fredericksburg, Virginia

Zip code: 22401

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: City of Fredericksburg

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building Site X Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: approximately 6 acres

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban X Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural

Briefly describe the property's overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

The Fredericksburg City and Confederate Cemeteries are situated on 6 acres of land on the west side of Washington Avenue and north side of William Street in the City of Fredericksburg. Historically located at the edge of town, this resource is now primarily surrounded by residential properties with some light commercial development to the southeast. Although these cemeteries share many physical features and have intertwined histories, they have been owned and managed by two separate entities since their inception: the City Cemetery is under the auspice of the Fredericksburg Cemetery Company and the Confederate Cemetery by the Ladies Memorial Association. Positioned adjacent to one another, these two properties are enclosed by a single brick boundary wall with two entrances. The original gate dates to 1844 and is located near the center of the parcel along William Street, but this entrance is no longer in use. Today, all visitors pass through the larger 1870 gate located on Washington Avenue at the terminus of Amelia Street. Despite separate stewardship, both cemeteries are predominately laid out in a grid pattern featuring 21 rectangular sections divided into smaller lots of varying sizes. An exception to this pattern is a 1-acre area of the Confederate Cemetery where thousands of headstones are arranged in the shape of St. Andrew's Cross, also known as the "cross of Honor," and a symbol of the Confederacy in the time since the Civil War.

### 3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Gothic Revival, Egyptian Revival, Classical Revival

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: Malaleel Carter; Joseph Wigglesworth; William A. Jackson; Scott & Bowering Foundry, Fredericksburg, VA; Monumental Bridge Company of Bridgeport, CT

Date of construction (can be approximate): 1844, 1866, and 1870

#### **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.

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 Fredericksburg City Cemetery's 3-acre lot was laid out in 1844 in an ordered grid pattern and enclosed by a brick wall featuring a wrought iron railing along William Street that flanked a Gothic Revival-styled stone gateway. The most prominent feature of the Fredericksburg City Cemetery, the gateway was constructed of carved, dry-laid, locally quarried, sandstone blocks by local stone mason, Malaleel Carter (Gamache 1994). Embracing what had been seen as a religious style of architecture, Carter used Gothic Revival features including the lancet arch, a castellated parapet, and a series of rosettes to denote the formal entrance to the new interdenominational, privately owned cemetery. Carved into the frieze of the gate in a serif font are the words, "FREDERICKSBURG CEMETERY." This gateway is locked and no longer in use as it is deteriorating from exposure to the elements and various pollutants over time.

The brick wall flanking the original entrance of the Fredericksburg City Cemetery entrance has been routinely modified over time as materials have eroded and damage from automobile accidents as well as alterations to the surrounding roadways have affected its condition. Originally constructed by William Jackson, much of the brickwork appears to be in fair condition with sensitive mortar replacement and repairs, particularly along the Washington Avenue elevation. An exception is located at the southwest corner of the cemetery where a small section of the brick wall along William Street where dense, hard-fired bricks, likely dating from the mid-twentieth century, were used to increase its size and strength when the street level was dropped between 5 to 10 feet. Also notable along the William Street elevation of the wall is the wrought iron railing that may be original, but which currently sets in a pre-cast concrete coping that likely replaced an earlier material.

In 1866, the Ladies Memorial Association of Fredericksburg (LMA) purchased a 3-acre lot adjoining the north side of the City Cemetery and arranged for the removal of the northwest section of the brick wall that surrounded it to connect it with a newly established Confederate Cemetery. In June 1870, a new cast iron gate forged and designed by the local firm of Scott & Bowering was installed just west of the intersection of Amelia Street and Washington Avenue (*Fredericksburg Ledger* 1870). This arched gateway is divided into three parts with two pedestrian entrances flanking a larger, central vehicular entrance and features Classical design elements including acanthus leaves, rosettes, pointed finials, and astragals. A brick wall similar in form to the earlier wall surrounding the City Cemetery is said to have been constructed with bricks recycled from the many buildings in town destroyed during the Civil War (Hodge 1991).

Over time, memorials in both cemeteries have continued to reflect a variety of cultural beliefs and artistic preferences of the citizens buried there, often in family plots. Stylistic trimmings of the cemeteries' markers, fencing, and gates reflect trends of the Gothic Revival, Egyptian Revival, and Classical Revival styles typical of the Victorian period, beginning c. 1840 and extending to the early-twentieth century, as well as later styles of the mid-twentieth century. Numbering in the thousands, these features illustrate significant design trends in funerary iconography and contain individual expressions of mortality and memory.

Three non-contributing structures—two maintenance sheds and one electrical shed constructed in the last quarter of the twentieth century—are located inside the cemeteries' brick wall. In the City Cemetery, a one-story, one-bay, brick maintenance shed is covered by a side-gabled roof. Fenestration is limited to the east elevation where a single-leaf metal door provides access to the building. Near the northeast corner of the Confederate Cemetery is a small, one-story, one-bay, brick, electrical shed covered by a shed roof. Fenestration is limited to a single-leaf wood door on the west elevation. South of the electrical shed along the north wall of the Confederate Cemetery is a frame, pre-fabricated, storage shed covered by a gambrel roof. A set of double-leaf doors marks the south elevation of this building.

#### **4. Property's History and Significance**

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.

The Fredericksburg City Cemetery was established by a group of local entrepreneurs in February 1844 as a commercial venture at a time when the public burying ground was nearing capacity. Located on what was then a cornfield on the outskirts of town, this 3-acre cemetery now contains more than 3,400 known burials and more than 2,000 headstones spread across 12 rectangular sections of land separated by narrow grassy walkways (Fredericksburg City Cemetery Company n.d.; Hennessey 2010). The founders of the cemetery intended for it to reflect the diversity of Fredericksburg's residents as they set aside four lots near the center of the property exclusively for the use of "the pastors (and their families) of the four major churches in town" (Hennessey 2010). In addition to significant religious figures, this cemetery contains local leaders including more than 15 mayors, prominent businessmen and developers, and notable females in local history as well as veterans of the War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, both World Wars, and the Vietnam War.

The Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery was established on an adjacent 3-acre parcel purchased in 1866 by the recently organized LMA in reaction to several Civil War battles in the area. One of the earliest such organizations in the south, the LMA sought information and funding for the task of reinterring as many Confederate soldiers as possible following these events that left an overwhelming number of casualties in their wake. Officially dedicated on Memorial Day in May 1870, the Confederate Cemetery currently contains the remains of 3,553 soldiers from 14 southern states and more than (LMA n.d.). Nearly 2,000 of these soldiers could not be identified and rest below a mound at the center of the cemetery topped by a large monument. Work on the Confederate monument began in 1874 and was finished in 1891 after a bronze soldier was placed at the apex of a large granite obelisk. From 1870 to present day, the LMA continues to maintain the cemetery and to sponsor a Memorial Day ceremony in honor of these fallen soldiers. Graves of prominent local citizens are also found in this cemetery, buried in lots sold to the public by the LMA to raise funds and support their work to reinter and memorialize Confederate soldiers, reinforcing the interconnectedness of these two properties.

In addition to memorializing some of Fredericksburg's leading citizens and historic events that have left indelible marks on this community, these cemeteries provide a rare glimpse at funerary art and culture not found anywhere else in the city. Less than a handful of cemeteries are visible above the surface in the downtown Fredericksburg. A tour of the city's burial grounds produced in the 1990s identified 14 cemeteries, four of which

have been relocated or converted into greenspace over time (Hodge 1991). Of the survivors, the National Cemetery is the largest, containing more than 15,000 Union soldiers who fell at the region's notable Civil War battles, while more than a handful are small family plots. None of these extant cemeteries have the diversity in funerary design and time period contained within the City and Confederate cemeteries. Stylistic trimmings of the cemeteries' markers, fencing, and gates reflect trends of the Gothic Revival, Egyptian Revival, and Classical Revival styles typical of the Victorian period, beginning c. 1840, and extending to the early-twentieth century, as well as later styles of the mid-twentieth century—all of which embrace funerary iconography and associated fonts, fence types, and other design elements of their era. Burials in both cemeteries continue to occur today, though they are increasingly rarer events. A majority of the bulk of internments in both cemeteries are believed to date between 1844 and 1965. Beyond individual expressions of art and culture in this context, the spatial organization and landscape features of these sites reflect design trends at once typical of the mid- to late-eighteenth century, but unique to Fredericksburg.

The Fredericksburg City and Confederate Cemeteries are believed to meet Criteria A and C as well as Criteria Consideration D with a high level of historic integrity at the local level and, therefore, merit individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### References:

Dabney, Emmanuel A.

2007 "Fredericksburg City and Confederate Cemeteries," Mock National Register of Historic Places nomination. Copy on file at Department of Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington, and the Virginiana Room, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Fredericksburg City Cemetery Company

n.d. Informational brochure. Copy on file at the Virginiana Room, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

*Fredericksburg Ledger, The* [Fredericksburg, Virginia]

1870 Description of Confederate Cemetery gate and its production. 22 November. Copy on file at the Virginiana Room, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Gamache, Claudette M.

1994 "Preliminary Historic Structures Report: Fredericksburg City Cemetery Stone Gateway." HISP 491: Individual Study in Architectural Conservation. Copy on file at the Department of Historic Preservation Department, University of Mary Washington, and the Virgininna Room, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Hennessey, John

2010 "Forgotten in Plain Sight: A Historic Cemetery Reclaims its Place." Copy on file at the Virginiana Room, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Hodge, Robert A.

1991 "Fredericksburg Cemeteries: Now You See Them, Now You Don't," Talk for Friends of the Library, 22 October. Copy on file at the Virginiana Room, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Ladies Memorial Association of Fredericksburg (LMA)

n.d. Informational brochure. Copy on file at the Virginiana Room, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

**5. 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:  Jeanette Cadwallender & Carolyn Elstner   
organization:  Fredericksburg Cemetery Company & the Ladies Memorial Association   
street & number:  P.O. Box 7643   
city or town:  Fredericksburg  state:  Virginia  zip code:  22401   
e-mail 1:  jcadwallender@mac.com  telephone:  (540) 373-7210   
e-mail 2:  melstner@aol.com  telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Owner's Signature 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Owner's Signature 2: \_\_\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Information** (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title:  Danae Peckler   
organization:  Dovetail Cultural Resource Group   
street & number:  300 Central Road, Suite 200   
city or town:  Fredericksburg  State:  VA  zip code:  22401   
e-mail:  dpeckler@dovetailcrg.com  telephone:  540-899-9170

**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 or City Manager.

name/title:  Tim Baroody, City Manager   
locality:  City of Fredericksburg   
street & number:  715 Princess Anne Street, Room 203   
city or town:  Fredericksburg  state:  VA  zip code:  22401   
telephone:  540-372-1010