



South Carolina Department of Archives & History
National Register of Historic Places
PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF)
to evaluate National Register eligibility

Please return to: **South Carolina Department of Archives & History**
Historical Services Division
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223-4905

Please complete every blank that applies to the property in which you are interested.

- ① NAME OF PROPERTY _____ Hopkins Family Cemetery _____
② STREET ADDRESS _____ Back Swamp Road _____
③ CITY (OR VICINITY) _____ Hopkins _____ COUNTY _____ Richland _____
④ MAPS

Tax Parcel # _____ R21600-04-03 _____ USGS Topo Quad Sheet _____ Fort Jackson South _____

Attach a county tax map and a USGS Topographic Map. Contact the county assessor's office for a tax map. For a USGS Topographic Map, contact South Carolina Geodetic Survey, 5 Geology Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212 (Telephone: 803-896-7700), or a topographic map can be downloaded from www.topozone.com or www.maptech.com. Mark the location of the property and the boundaries in pencil on both maps.

⑤ **OWNER OF PROPERTY** (as recorded in city/county tax or land records)

Name _____ Theodore Jervey Hopkins, Jr., Trustee, Hopkins Family Cemetery _____

Address _____ 141 Edisto Avenue _____

City _____ Columbia _____ State _____ SC _____ Zip _____ 29205 _____

Telephone (provide area code) Home: _____ 803-799-1091 _____ Work: _____ 803-254-1378 _____

⑥ **PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

Present Use _____ Family Cemetery/Burial Ground _____ Original Use _____ Family Cemetery/Burial Ground; earlier house/garden _____

Date(s) of Construction _____ earliest documented burial 1775 _____ Date(s) of Major Alterations _____ 1835, 1918, 1960 _____

Moved? (check if yes) ☐ Original Location _____

Date(s) of move(s) _____ n/a _____

Outbuildings/Other Features _____ cemetery surrounded by two walls, dating to 1835 and 1960 _____

Archaeological Remains/Potential _____ Very high; this is site of the ca. 1760 John Hopkins house; also anticipate excellent preservation of bioanthropological data given the sandy, well drained soils. _____

⑦ **SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTY**

*In the space provided below and on a separate page if necessary, please provide a brief (paragraph or two) statement about **why this property is worthy of recognition** by the National Register of Historic Places. You may wish to consider the following questions when formulating a statement.*

- A. Did an important event happen there? Is it important for its association with the development of a town or community? Was it used, for instance, as a meeting place of an important local organization? Is it the site of an important battle of the American Revolution or Civil War?
- B. Who built it and when? Who lived there over the years? Can you document that he/she/they were prominent or important in the community, county, region, state of South Carolina, or nation? Did they live or work there during the productive years of their lives?

- C. Did an architect, landscape architect, or master carpenter/brickmason design and/or build it? If so, please provide biographical information on him or her.

7 SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTY *continued*

*Please include copies of pertinent sources, including summaries of interviews and documents that are not readily available. **Do not send copies of pages from secondary sources unless they are from a rare book.** In researching the history of the property, check records at your local library, church, historical society, and county courthouse. Interviews with local historians may also yield information. Label all published sources with the name of the author, name of publication and publisher, date and place of publication, and page number(s). In the case of unpublished manuscripts, provide the name and page number(s) of the particular document, the name of the document collection, and the name and location of the repository.*

Use the space below for your statement of significance.

History and Description

The Hopkins Family Cemetery is located on Back Swamp Road approximately 1 mile west of its junction with Lower Richland Blvd. in the community of Hopkins, in Richland County. Situated on the sandy bluff overlooking Myers Creek, the cemetery is in a still rural section of Richland County surrounded by dense forest and agricultural fields. The setting has good integrity, evoking a sense of the original isolated and agrarian nature of Richland County during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It is accessed by way of a private dirt road off Back Swamp Road, a rural 2-lane blacktop road.

The cemetery is believed to have been begun by John Hopkins, who is the earliest documented burial, dating to 1775. Hopkins had moved into this area about 1764 from along the Savannah River in Georgia and, prior to that, Hanover County, Virginia.¹ At his death the burial took place in the family garden to the side or rear of the house. This apparently became the family burial grounds since, by 1836 the will of David Thomas Hopkins (great grandson of John Hopkins) specified that the "Brick Wall" surrounding the graveyard be maintained and the burial grounds be reserved "forever."²

The cemetery consists of an original low wall, begun ca. 1835 and completed in 1836³ measuring 94 feet north-south by 82 feet east-west. It is built of ferruginous sandstone and originally enclosed the cemetery without an opening. Such fences are rarely seen today, but seem to have been designed to prevent accidental access by livestock, which were allowed to freely roam. In 1918 an opening was created adjacent to these steps for the burial of English Hopkins. A matching opening in the south wall was created in 1986.⁴ Surrounding this wall is a secondary wall consisting of several courses of brick capped with granite coping and above a heavy wrought iron fence. The entrance is at the northern corners of the east and west walls, where there double gates of decorative ironwork.

The cemetery contains 67 known graves ranging in date from 1775 to 1998.⁵ Being an active cemetery the number of burials will increase until the cemetery is filled. Currently approximately 19.1% of the burials date from 1981 through 2000, with the remainder dating from 1980 or earlier (46 of the dated 68 burials, or 68%, pre-date 1950). This date range is reflected in the range of monument types. There are several rebuilt box tombs, reflecting eighteenth century burials. Also present are marble monuments, including tab in socket and die on base examples. These reflect primarily early to mid-nineteenth century memorial art. From about the last several decades of the nineteenth century through today the monuments are dominated by granite examples of die on bases, ledgers, plaque markers, and lawn style markers.

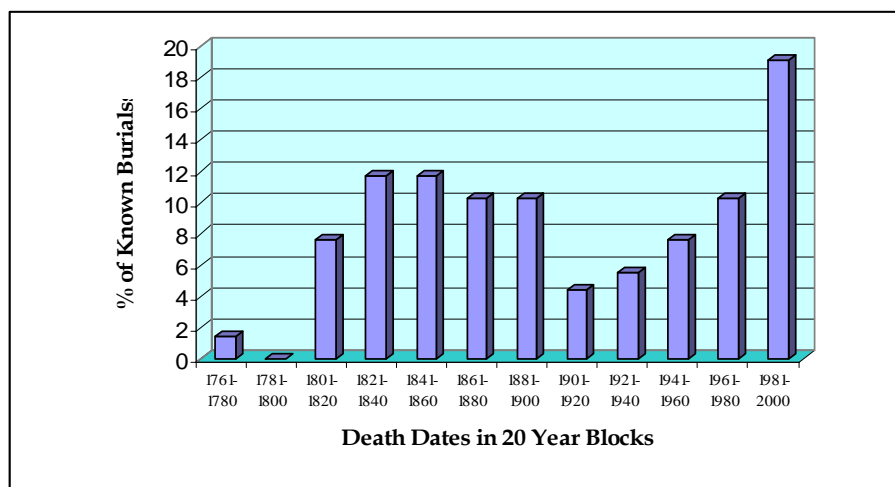
Although the cemetery is today grassed, there is otherwise minimal landscaping and this is likely consistent with its historic setting. Within the original fence there are several magnolias and a cedar, all likely dating from the late nineteenth century. Individual grave plantings are very rare and this too is probably historically accurate for a rural, white, family cemetery.

Significance

The cemetery was recorded during the 1993 survey of Lower Richland County as 171-3746 and was identified as eligible for inclusion on the National Register under Criteria B, association with persons of transcendent importance and Criteria C, art, meeting Criteria Consideration D.

Individuals buried in the cemetery include many of the most prominent planters of the Lower Richland area, including John Hopkins (1739-1775) who amassed over 2,000 acres and 40 African American slaves, was a deputy surveyor for the Crown, and operated a trading post.⁶ His house was situated near the cemetery and the fireplace is incorporated into the sandstone wall of the cemetery. Archaeological remains of the house, and perhaps other structures, are likely to exist on the 1 acre cemetery plot. Hopkins' plantation grew rice and indigo according to surviving account records and he built a second and principal home at Oldfield Plantation (no longer standing) several miles to the north (today 5304 Lower Richland Blvd.)

Also buried at the Hopkins Family Cemetery is John Hopkins (1765-1832), who served as the Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina (1806-1810) and subsequently the first senator from Richland County (1810-1818). He was also a trustee of the newly founded South Carolina College (later the University of South Carolina) and was a director in the Planters and Merchants Bank in Columbia.⁷



A female of considerable interest and importance buried at this cemetery is Keziah Goodwyn Hopkins Brevard (1803-1886). On the eve of the Civil War she owned four homes, at least three plantations, a grist mill, and over 200 slaves. Known as “Kizzie” within the family, she lived primarily at her Sand Hills home, today called Alwehav, although she also spent considerable time at Oldfield. She also purchased a Columbia townhouse, on the southwest corner of Blanding and Bull streets.⁸ Unlike most widows of the day, she was known not for her social activities, but instead for her daily management of a

very large plantation operation, primarily at what is today called Oldfield. The agricultural schedules reveal significant food crop production, as well as cotton and rice. The slave population grew from around 100 to over 200.⁹ The core of this wealth was inherited from her father, Dr. James Hopkins (1774-1844) who is also buried in this cemetery.

Other Hopkins family members buried at this cemetery include Amy Goodwyn Hopkins (1772-1842), Sarah Cook Goodwyn Hall (1791-1867); Elizabeth English Hopkins (1780-1848); David Thomas Hopkins (1802-1836) and Frances Martha Tucker Hopkins (1806-1864); Thomas Adamson Hopkins (1803-1831); Gen. William Hopkins (1805-1863) and Emma Goodwyn Hopkins (1808-1868); James Hopkins, CSA (1839-1904) and Martha Magruder Hopkins (1843-1898); English Hopkins, CSA (1842-1918) and Laura Jervey Smith Hopkins (1860-1928); Sarah Thomas Hopkins (1851-1927); Dr. Theodore Jervey Hopkins (1901-1962) and Jane Calvert McDowell Hopkins (1908-1998); and Laura Jervey Hopkins (1895-1998).

The cemetery exhibits the characteristics commonly associated with family cemeteries – an approximately east-west arrangement consistent with Christian beliefs, arrangement that reflects some familial organization rather than strict adherence to a linear pattern, and limited landscaping. While it is uncertain if the current sandstone wall is original, it does clear reflect the original intent of David Thomas Hopkins. The original entrance, a series of steps mounting the wall, is an unusual design that is still present in very few family cemeteries. In addition, the sandstone was apparently mined from the Wateree River area, reflecting local procurement of a resource. The outer fence, erected in 1960, is not yet 50 years old, but is constructed in a sensitive fashion using high quality wrought iron (not aluminum fencing) and does not affect the original wall. The setting itself remains agricultural and wooded, reflecting the historic nature of this section of Richland County.

It is highly likely that the cemetery property, defined as approximately 1 acre, contains significant archaeological remains, including the original house site of John Hopkins. This is supported by the chimney footing being incorporated into the cemetery wall. In addition, there may be remains of the trading post thought to be operated by Hopkins. Finally, the sandy soils in this cemetery promote rapid drainage and such conditions are typically seen to promote the preservation of human skeletal remains. It seems likely, therefore, that this cemetery may be eligible under Criterion D, important information. Bioanthropological examination of genetically related remains for examination of changing health, diet, and disease

patterns would provide a significant contribution to our understanding of eighteenth and nineteenth century planter populations.

Because the significance of the cemetery lies in those buried there as well as the distinctive characteristics of rural family cemeteries, it meets Criteria Consideration D for cemeteries.

8 PHOTOGRAPHS

Send at least six (6) clear photographs showing the front, side and rear elevations, additions, interior, and outbuildings, and at least two (2) additional photos of the surroundings. Take extra shots of significant interior and exterior details. Label each photograph with the name of the property, what the photograph shows, the name of the photographers, and the date taken. Either write the information on the back of the photo with a soft lead pencil or permanent ink marker, attach a post-it note to the back, or attach a list of the photos.

Photographs cannot be returned.

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) COMPLETED BY:

Name_____Michael Trinkley, Chicora Foundation, Inc._____

Address_____PO Box 8664_____

City_____Columbia_____ State_____SC_____ Zip_____29202_____

Phone (include area code) H_____ W_____803-787-6910_____

E-mail address_____trinkley@chicora.org_____

Date Completed_____May 2, 2005_____

DID YOU REMEMBER TO ENCLOSE:

- ☒ County Tax Map
- ☒ USGS Topo Map
- ☒ Photos (exterior, interior & setting)
- ☐ n/aCopies of Sources
- ☒ Statement of significance

¹ Hopkins, Laura Jervey. *Lower Richland Planters: Hopkins, Adams, Westons and Related Families of South Carolina*. (Columbia: R.L. Bryan Company, 1976), p. 1, 3-4, 54.

² Hopkins, p. 172.

³ It is uncertain if the existing sandstone wall is original. The 1836 will of David T. Hopkins specifies that the cemetery was at that time enclosed by a "Brick Wall." In spite of this, family history declares that the sandstone wall was erected by David T. Hopkins and completed after his death by his brother, General William Hopkins.

⁴ Documented by marble plaques set into the wall.

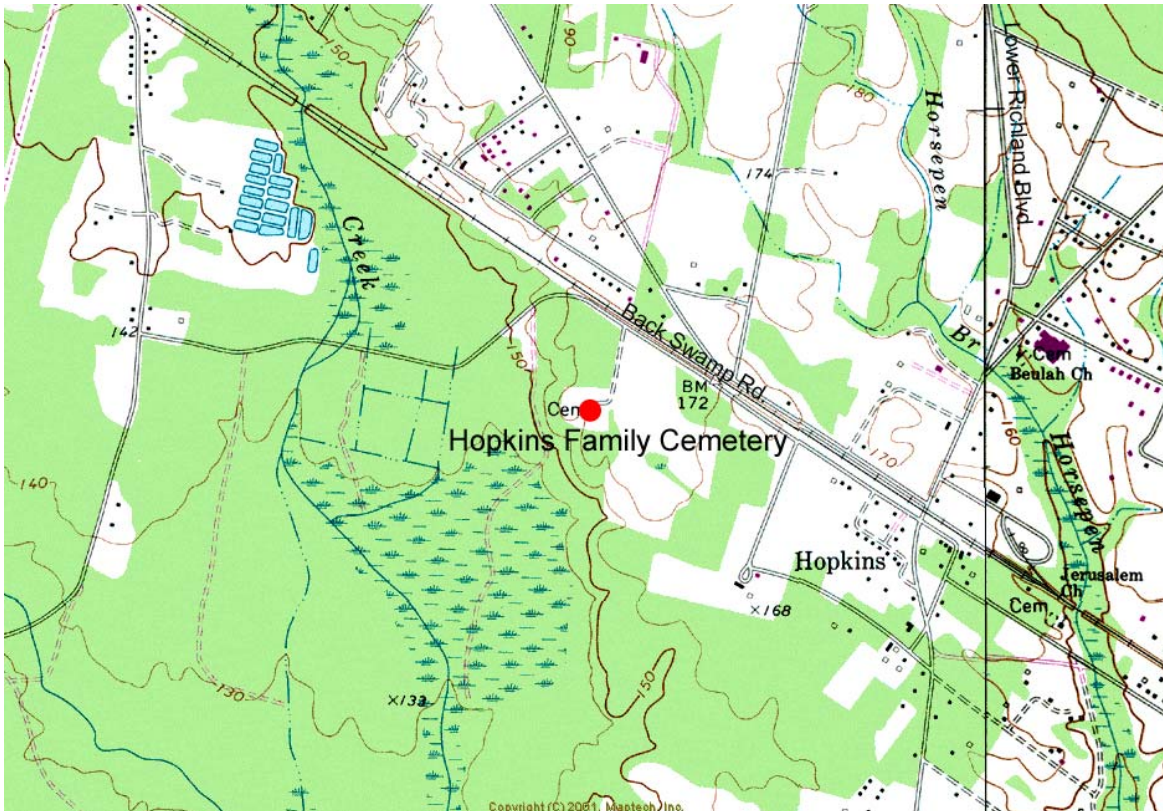
⁵ See attachment to this PIF.

⁶ Hopkins, p. 4, 6.

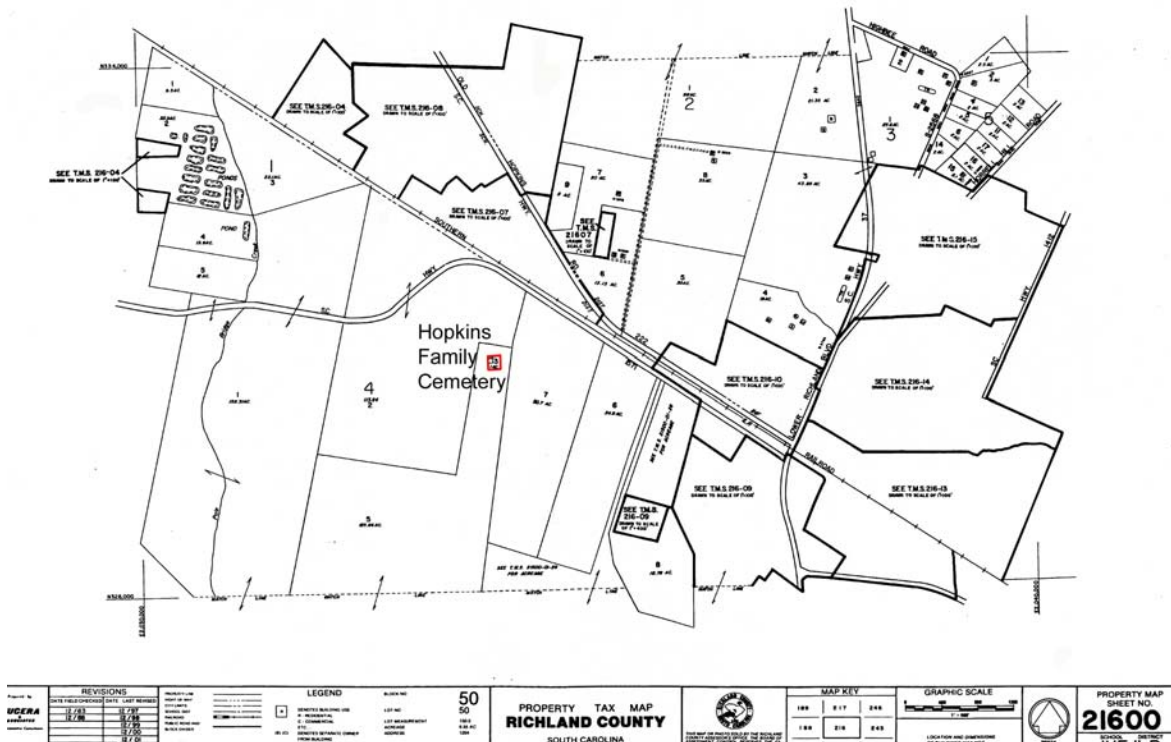
⁷ Hopkins, p. 10-14; Bailey, N. Louise, Mary L. Morgan and Carolyn R. Taylor, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina Senate 1776-1985*, vol. 3. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1986), p. 746

⁸ Moore, John Hammond, editor, *A Plantation Mistress on the Eve of the Civil War: The Diary of Keziah Goodwyn Hopkins Brevard, 1860-1861*. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1993), pp. 8-9.

⁹ Moore, p. 10; Hopkins, pp. 26-31.



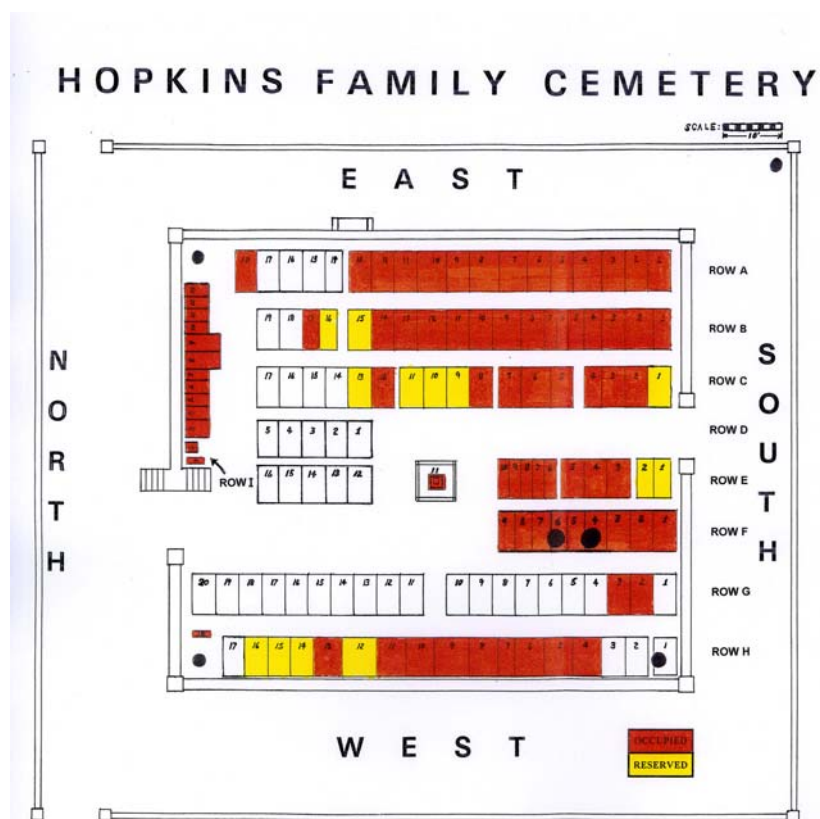
Portion of the Fort Jackson South USGS showing the location of the Hopkins Family Cemetery.



Richland County Tax Map 21600 showing the Hopkins Family Cemetery as a 1 acre parcel.



Richland County GIS aerial showing TMS 24600-04-03, Hopkins Family Cemetery



Map of the Hopkins Family Cemetery showing the inner and outer walls, as well as occupied graves (in orange).



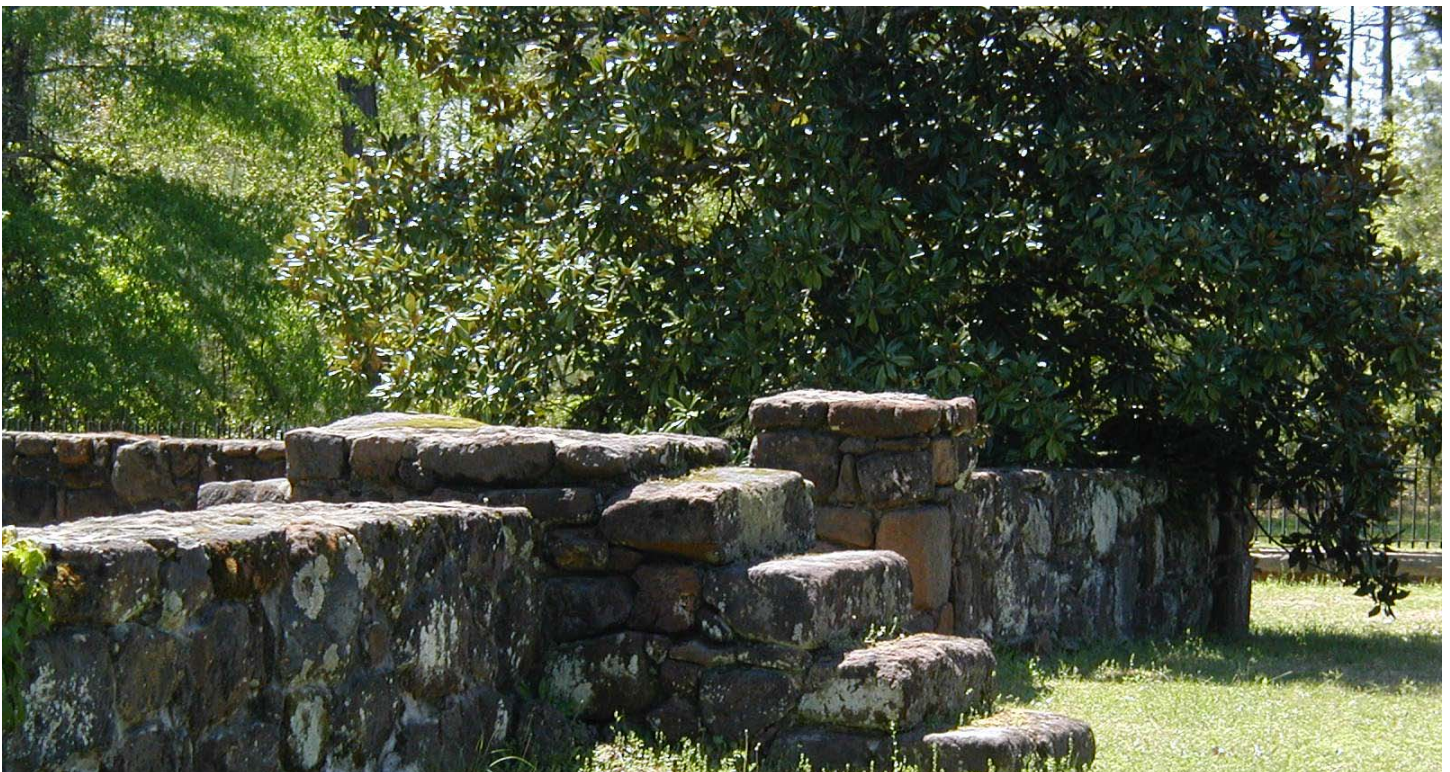
General view of the Hopkins Family Cemetery in a grassed field; an agricultural field is behind the photographer.



Closer view of the general setting for the Hopkins Family Cemetery showing the two walls and the landscape dominated by the Hopkins obelisk.



View of the fireplace of the ca. 1760 John Hopkins House integrated into the ca. 1835 sandstone wall.



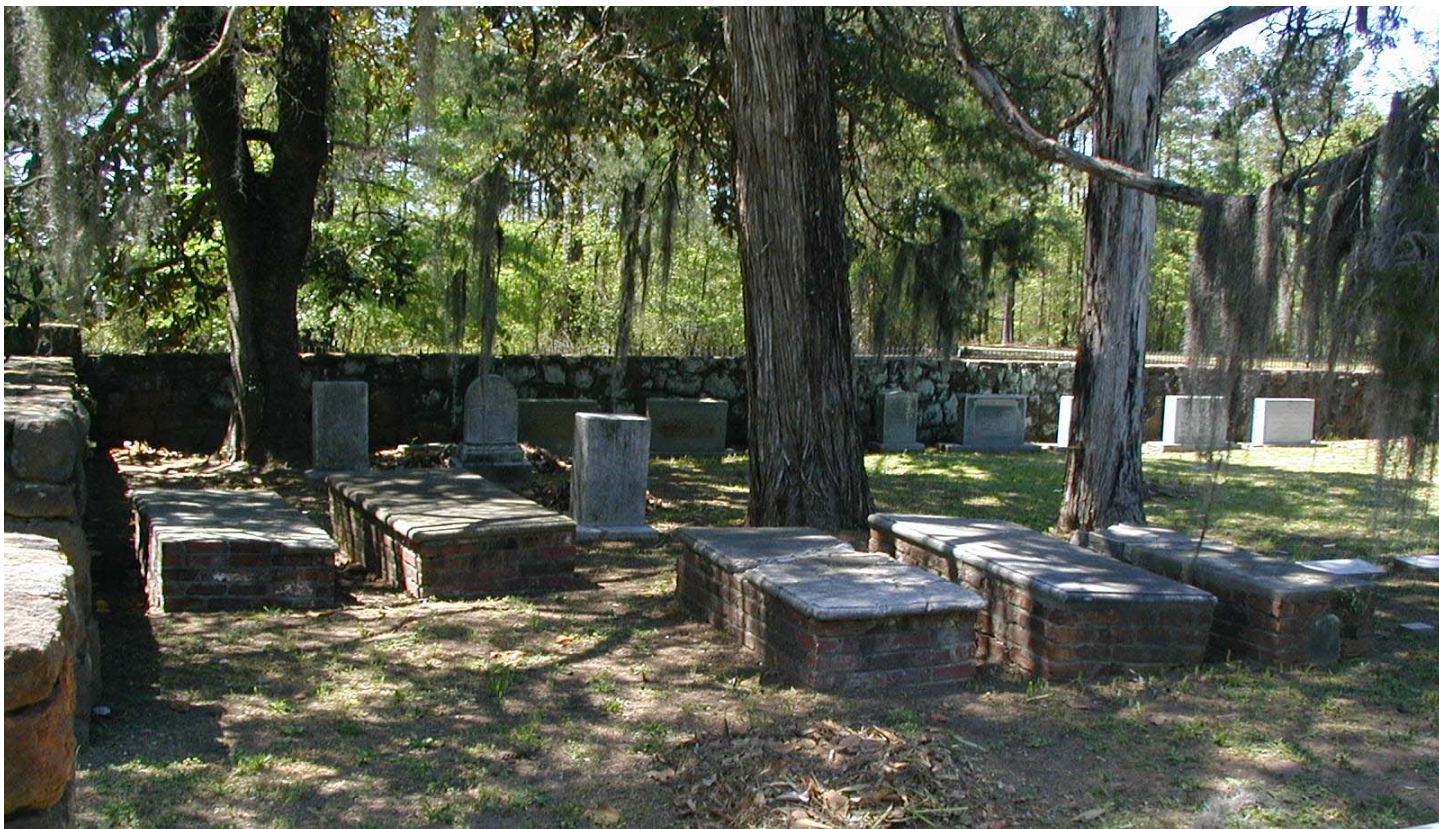
Original steps providing access to the cemetery enclosure. The northern opening was added in 1918 for the burial of English Hopkins.



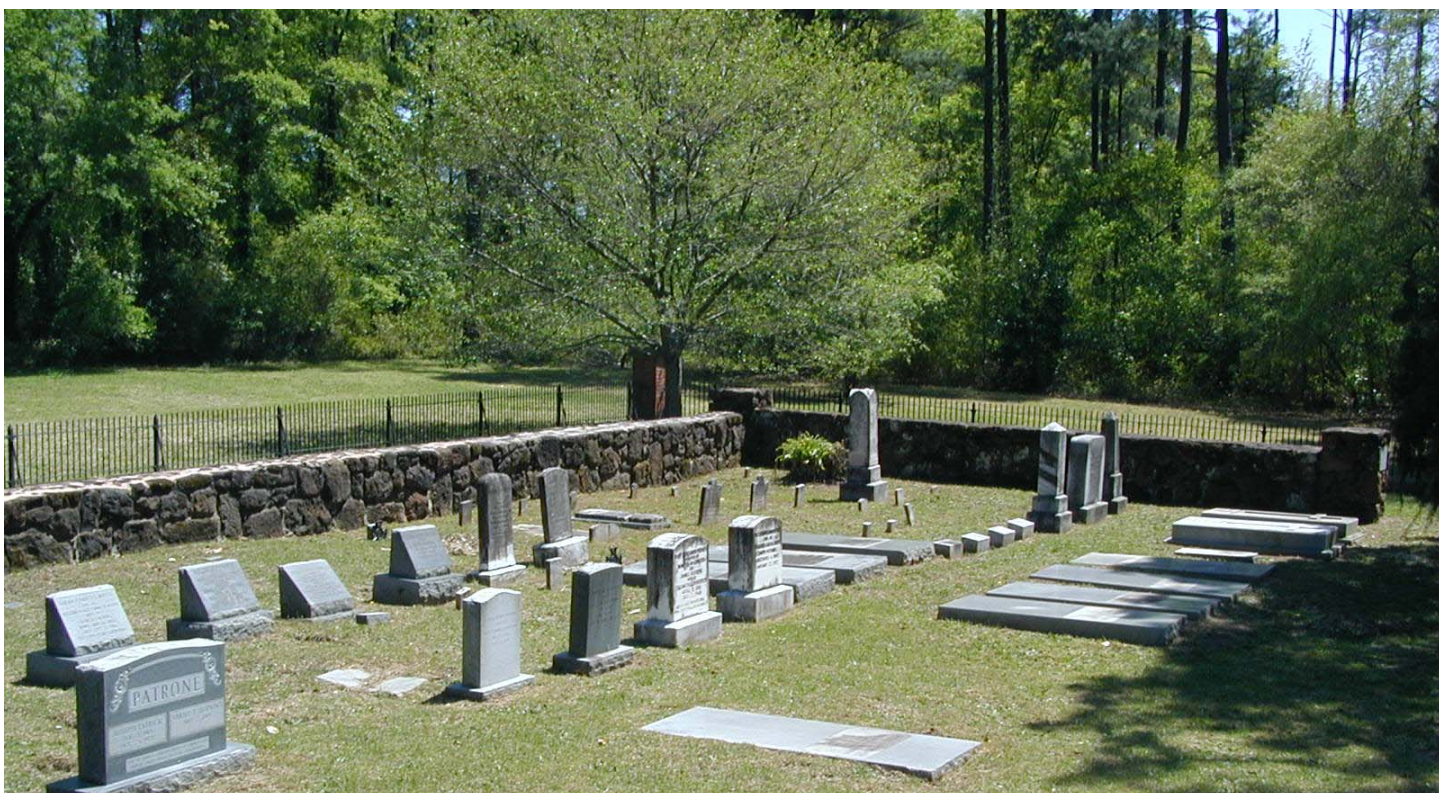
Entrance gates for the 1960 enclosure.



View of broken stones salvaged from the nearby Lykes Cemetery and laid out in the Hopkins Family Cemetery.



Hopkins Family Cemetery, southwest corner showing box tombs.



Eastern half of the Hopkins Family Cemetery, view to the southeast.



Western half of the Hopkins Family Cemetery from the access steps looking to the south.



Emma Goodwyn Hopkins pedestal monument.



James Hopkins, son of William and Emma Goodwyn Hopkins, marble tab in socket.



Martha MaGruder Hopkins monument, marble tab in socket.