



**Chicora Foundation, Inc.**  
PO Box 8664, Columbia, SC 29202

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# Monumental Issues

## Chattahoochee's Cemeteries

Mention Chattahoochee and most folks will look at you blankly. But Chattahoochee, Florida is rich with history — and cemeteries. The community is nestled up against the Georgia border about 45 minutes west of Tallahassee.

A US Army was constructed in the fledging community during the 1830s. During that time at least two deaths occurred with burials at one of the studied cemeteries. Between 1868 and 1878 the arsenal served as



**Cemetery 4 was used by the hospital between 1926 and 1931, but is today completely overtaken by woods.**

the hospital “lost” virtually all of these cemeteries. Each was filled and, in turn, essentially abandoned.

What we call Cemetery 1 was “accidentally” found in the 1950s and again in 1978. It is thought to have less than 30 burials and may be the prison

cemetery. Unfortunately much of the burial ground is today covered by buildings and concrete. A GPR survey was conducted and probable burial anomalies were identified.

Cemetery 2, used between 1897 and 1905, is now also heavily damaged by construction.

But there is evidence that this cemetery was moved. Unfortunately no one knows for sure where.

Cemetery 3 is the only historic cemetery that is currently being recovered from the woods, with the

assistance of a nearby prison labor camp. Cemetery 3 was used between 1905 and the mid-1920s.

The modern cemetery is still being somewhat maintained, although as burials decline the fear is that it, too, will not be cared for.

These cemeteries require much remedial attention before they reflect positively on the State of Florida.



**A few wooden headboards remain in Cemetery 3, marking the graves of long-forgotten patients.**

### Inside this issue:

- Chattahoochee's Cemeteries **1**
- Richland Cemetery Stone Assessment **2**
- New Silica Standard Proposed **2**
- Additional work Conducted on Dade Memorial **2**

### Upcoming Talks & Workshops

- March 26, 2011 — Cemetery Preservation for Churches. A 1-day workshop. For information contact Mr. Brian McKown, bryan@scdah.state.sc.us.
- April 12-14, 2011 — Cemetery Preservation: Making Good Choices (3 day workshop) in Columbia, SC. Contact NPI at info@npi.org for more information.
- June 8-9, 2011 — A two-day cemetery workshop for the staff of Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum.



**Conducting GPR at the Prison Cemetery, now largely under buildings and concrete.**

Florida's first prison. During that period there were at least 26 deaths. In 1877 the Asylum for Indigent Insane was created on the old prison property. Between 1877 and 1966 there were 22,300 deaths at the asylum — most of these individuals were buried in the hospital's three (ore more) cemeteries.

Unfortunately, over the years

## Richland Cemetery Stone Assessment



**Richland is the African American cemetery in Greenville, South Carolina and is maintained today by the city.**

Chicora conservation staff completed a stone-by-stone assessment of the African American Richland Cemetery in Greenville, South Carolina during November 2010 and provided several presentations in 2011 to the city and to the Richland Cemetery friends.

A total of 908 stones were examined during the assessment. Of these 444 (48.9%) require some form of treatment. While a large number, the cemetery has been little maintenance over its history. In addition, many of the problems can be traced directly back to the way the stones were

set originally. Many lack adequate foundations and very few were ever pinned, even when pin holes were provided.

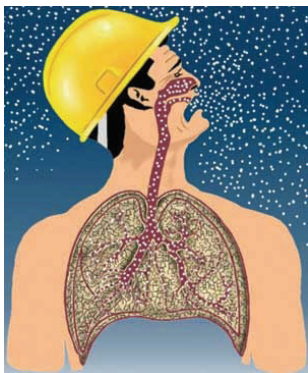
While the total cost for the treatments is estimated at \$129,000, there are 25 stones that were identified as Priority 1 problems — representing a threat to the public. The cost of repairing these stones is less than \$10,000.

An additional 266 stones were placed in the Priority 2 group, needing attention as soon as possible since deterioration was on-going. The cost of this work is estimated to be over \$70,000.

The assessment illustrates how critical it is to avoid deferred maintenance. Stone problems only get worse with age.



**Example of a Priority 1 repair, this stone could easily be toppled, injuring visitors to the cemetery.**



**Silicosis is a debilitating and often fatal lung disease. It is incurable, but preventable by avoiding exposure to silica dust.**

## New Silica Standard Proposed

The wheels of government grind very slowly. Over 14 years ago OSHA began formulating new rules on crystalline silica. They are just now being published and would revise the permissible exposure limit.

No surprise, there was immediate opposition from industry that complained the new rule would be costly. Business in-

stead proposed more education (something, of course, that they could have been doing for the past 14 years).

Scientific reports clearly show that increased exposure to some types of crystalline silica may lead to greater risk of developing silicosis, a deadly respiratory disease.

This is of concern to stone conservators since drilling stones like marble and sandstone produce clouds of respirable silica.

The NIOSH Hazard Review is on-line at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2002-129/02-129a.html>. Chicora has a plan to prevent worker exposure — do you?

## Additional Work Conducted on Dade Memorial

Chicora returned to St. Augustine in February to examine the finial on top of the Dade Memorial. While not part of the original contract, the VA became concerned about its stability. The revised work was intended to determine if a ferrous pin was present and if so to remove it. The work would also involve pointing the finial with a high-lime mortar.

One of the obstacles that had to be overcome was that most lifts weight too much and are too wide to use the sidewalk to the monument.

A special lift from Taylor Rental was identified that was light weight and narrow, but of adequate height to reach the 17 foot tall monument.

We were able to determine

that the finial actually has a stone tab that fits into a socket on the obelisk. The finial was pointed using a NHL lime and should be good for another 100 years!



**The additional work made use of a small, lightweight lift that could be pushed by hand up to the Dade Monument and not damage the sidewalk.**

