



Management Summary

S&ME, Inc. (S&ME), on behalf of Forsyth Mansion Property Owner, LLC, and at the request of Hunter Maclean Savannah, has completed archival research in an attempt to identify the presence or absence of a documented cemetery present on the property. We conducted this investigation in general accordance with S&ME Proposal Number 23130201R1, dated March 29, 2023.

The goal of the investigation was to review archival documents that may record the presence or absence of a cemetery on the parcel of the Mansion on Forsyth Park. The property is located at 700 Drayton Street, the northwest side of the intersection of Gwinnett and Abercorn Streets in Savannah, Georgia.

On March 31-April 14, 2023, Quinn-Monique Ogden, RPA conducted the Archival Research. Quinn-Monique Ogden consulted Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources Geographic Information System (NAHRGIS), a GIS-based program with information about Georgia's Historic Resources compiled by the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources (HPD) and National Register of Historic Places documentation maintained by the U.S. National Park Service, and the Archaeological Site Files maintained by the University of Georgia. Quinn-Monique Ogden, RPA visited the Georgia Historical Society on Whitaker Street, and the Savannah Municipal Archives at City Hall. The research investigation was designed to collect readily available archival data on the land use of 700 Drayton Street, the northwest side of the intersection of Gwinnett and Abercorn Streets in Savannah, Georgia. and its surrounding properties.

The archival research did not identify a documented cemetery in the Project Area of Mansion on Forsyth Park.



2.0 Methods

This section of the report discusses the methods used during this study.

Background Research

On March 31-April 14, 2023, Quinn-Monique Ogden, RPA conducted the Archival Research. Quinn-Monique Ogden consulted Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources Geographic Information System (NAHRGIS), a GIS-based program with information about Georgia's Historic Resources compiled by the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources (HPD) and National Register of Historic Places documentation maintained by the U.S. National Park Service, and the Archaeological Site Files maintained by the University of Georgia. Quinn-Monique Ogden, RPA visited the Georgia Historical Society on Whitaker Street, and the Savannah Municipal Archives at City Hall. The research investigation was designed to collect readily available archival data on the land use of 700 Drayton Street, the northwest side of the intersection of Gwinnett and Abercorn Streets in Savannah, Georgia. and its surrounding properties. Please note that access to some databases and archival information required disclosure of the geographic area that we were researching.

3.0 Archival Results

This section of the report discusses the results of the background research and field investigation.

Background Research of Project Area

Background research (Figures 3-1 and 3-2) on the Project Area itself indicated that the property contains the Kayton-Granger-Huger house at 700 Drayton Street. In 1880, Alfred S. Eichberg built the Kayton-Granger-Huger house. In 1953, John H. Fox and James S. Weeks converted the house into a funeral home. The primary architectural addition when converting to a funeral home was the addition of a new chapel, removal of the double-sided porches on the south side of the building, removal of a garden, and replacement of parking lot on the south side. (GA Historic Resources 1990). Fox and Weeks were the owners up until the Kessler Collection purchased and decided to convert the property into a hotel in 2001 (Savannah Morning News October 4, 2003). The current owners purchased the hotel from Kessler in 2022 (Savannah Business Journal August 16, 2022).

GNARHGIS and Site Files Documentation

Review of GNARHGIS indicates that Georgia HPD records 72 previously documented historic structures are located in the 0.2-mile radius of the Project Area (Table 2, Figure 1-1,1-2, and 3-1). Georgia Archaeological Site Files record four archaeological sites (9CH1405, 9CH1409, 9CH1420, and 9CH1422) in the 0.2-mile radius of the Project Area. The archaeological sites 9CH1405, 9CH1409, 9CH1420, and 9CH1422 were artifact scatters discovered in tree stump falls after Hurricane Matthew. Site 9CH1405 is considered eligible due to this was the collection of tree falls in Forsyth Park, and Forsyth Park is significant to the history of Savannah. Site 9CH1409, 9CH1420, and 9CH1422 were recommended as not eligible for the NRHP. GNARHGIS or Georgia Archaeological Site Files do not record a cemetery in the Project Area.



remove their dead from this cemetery had the opportunity to do so to either Laurel Grove or Bonaventure cemeteries, although many graves were not opened and remain under the built homes.

The second article from the Savannah Morning News dated September 29, 1887, is entitled *Ruin among the Graves, False Sentiment in the way of using the Old Cemetery*. This 1887 article discusses a bill considered by the city take ownership of Old Colonial Cemetery on South Broad Street, now known as Oglethorpe Street, which has gone into ruin with two possibilities of moving it or leaving it and having walkways throughout it. The comparison is made that this cemetery has fared better than the cemetery south and east of the Savannah Hospital. The 1887 article discusses the cemetery south and east of the Savannah Hospital interred prominent businessmen, a musician, and a physician. The cemetery was stated to be on a hill, which was cut down and leveled and the dead now only lay a foot or two from the ground surface. Streets and built homes were laid at the present in 1887 in the area of the former cemetery.

In summary, the Savannah Morning News articles of 1885 and 1887 tell that the cemetery near the Project Area was south and east of the hospital and has streets and homes built upon it. The boundaries of this cemetery were not discussed in these articles. If the cemetery was south and east of the cemetery on city land, it is not located in the Project Area which two city blocks south and not recorded as city-owned land.

4.0 Conclusions

No cemeteries are documented in the Project Area on the reviewed maps.

The reviewed sources do not explicitly describe the boundaries of the cemetery near the Savannah Poor Hospital. If the cemetery was south and east of the cemetery on city land, it is not located in the Project Area, which is two city blocks due south of the Savannah Hospital. The Project Area was not documented to have been on city-owned land in the reviewed sources.

The archival research did not identify a documented cemetery in the Project Area.