

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

Noel Holcomb, Commissioner

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
34 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1600, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 651-8739 <http://www.gashpo.org>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Helen Talley-McRae, 404-651-5268

helen.talley-mcrae@dnr.state.ga.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lott Cemetery Listed in National Register

ATLANTA (August 13, 2008) –Lott Cemetery, located in downtown Waycross, Ware County, was listed in the National Register on July 24, 2008. Members of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia – Waycross Town Committee prepared the nomination materials. The City of Waycross supports the nomination.

Dr. Daniel Lott, one of the founders of Waycross in 1872, donated the land for Lott Cemetery to the city and burials began in 1877. Most of the burials in the cemetery date from its beginning through the 1920s, and the cemetery is still active today. Lott Cemetery is significant in art for its numerous examples of late 19th- and 20th- century funerary monuments and ornamental fencing. Decorative grave markers, obelisks, statuary, and ornamental fencing are all representative of the burial practices and funerary symbolism of that time period.

The cemetery is significant in community planning and development for its historic association with the development of Waycross. Lott was one of the civic leaders and founders of the town. From his large landholdings in the area, he donated land for the cemetery and the courthouse. The cemetery was established as public cemetery and many of the town's civic, business, and social leaders are buried there.

Lott Cemetery is significant in landscape architecture as a good example of a late 19th-century

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park-like cemetery with its gridiron plan with driveways arranged along the cardinal directions, the plots delineated by brick, stone, and concrete coping, and decorative trees and shrubs.

Lott Cemetery is located northeast of the courthouse and encompasses the city block bounded by Butler, Tebeau, Quarterman, and Pendleton streets. The oldest section of the cemetery is the northeast quadrant and is slightly askew from the grid with plots laid out on the diagonal. The cemetery has fine examples of Victorian-era funerary art including angels, Woodsman of the World markers, urns, and broken columns. Some unique grave markers include a statue of a young girl, a bas-relief carving of a teenage boy with his boat, and a monumental round colonnade with an angel in the center. The cemetery also contains an unknown number of unmarked burials and an indigent or “potter’s field” area. Landscaping includes native plantings of mature cedar and magnolia trees, pecan, palm, and dogwood trees, and oleander, camellia, forsythia, and azalea bushes.

The National Register is the federal government's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. According to Richard Cloues, deputy state historic preservation officer, listing in the National Register recognizes a property's significance and ensures that the property will be taken into account in the planning of federally funded or licensed projects. In addition, owners of income producing National Register properties may be eligible for rehabilitation tax incentives.

For more information on the National Register and other preservation programs, contact the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources at 404-656-2840 or visit our Web site at www.gashpo.org.

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