

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery

2. Location: 3759 Friendship Road (State Route Hwy 347), Hall County, Georgia

3a. Description: Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery, one of the oldest intact cemeteries in the area, is located northwest of the city of Buford in Hall County approximately one mile from the Gwinnett County line in a once rural agricultural area off Friendship Road. The c.1854 cemetery is associated with the early settlement of this area after Hall and Gwinnett Counties were formed in 1818 from portions of Jackson County. The cemetery is associated with Friendship Baptist Church, organized c.1835. The church building is located approximately one-fourth of a mile away and is not included in this nomination due to lack of historic integrity. Within the cemetery there several hundred graves, with a majority of those marked dating from 1855 to the 1960s. A 2016 archeological survey done on the property noted the potential for unmarked graves in the cemetery, and church history and records indicate that there are many. The unmarked graves are throughout the cemetery with a concentration located in the center, which is also the location of the oldest marked burials. The earliest readable marker dates to 1854. Family plots are delineated by brick, block and granite curbing many covered by crushed stone. Funerary art represented in the cemetery includes concrete, sandstone, granite and marble headstones, footstones, obelisks, and government-issued veteran markers. There are a variety of symbolic motifs represented, such as secular decorative elements including crosses, doves, lambs, flowers, open gates to heaven, crown & cross, as well as Masonic and Woodman of the World symbols. Burials in the cemetery include early settlers, farmers and veterans of the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Many generations of families are buried here including five generations of the Hays and Puckett families, as well as other influential families in the settlement of Hall County. Landscaping in the cemetery is informal with minimal mature trees including hickory, sycamore, oak, holly, and pine. The cemetery is raised approximately three feet above the surrounding land and is bordered by a circular paved driveway. The area surrounding the cemetery is primarily wooded with sparse 20th-century residential development. The cemetery retains a high level of integrity in feeling, setting, materials, and workmanship.

3b. Period of Significance: c.1854-1967

3c. Acreage: 1.53 acres

3d. Boundary Explanation: The proposed boundary is the circular driveway surrounding the cemetery.

4a. National Register Criteria: A and C; Criteria Consideration D

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Art and Exploration/Settlement

4c. Statement of Significance: Hall and Gwinnett Counties were created in 1818 from portions of Jackson County, and this area was sparsely settled by Revolutionary War land grantees. Friendship Baptist Church was established in 1835 by fifteen early area settlers on the land owned by one of the church founders. The land was later sold to the church for \$1. The Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery was likely established around the same time as the church. Many early settlers, planters and farmers, and military veterans are buried in the cemetery, with the earliest readable marked grave dating to 1854. The cemetery is significant in the area of exploration/settlement for its association with early white settlement in the area, now near the city of Buford, located in southern Hall County. As one of the oldest cemeteries in the area, the cemetery pre-dates the forming of the nearby town of Buford and the Friendship General Militia District #1419 by 20 years or more. The cemetery is also significant in the area of art for its collection of grave markers that are representative of early 19th- to mid-20th-century markers found in church cemeteries in Georgia.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The cemetery is being nominated at the local level of significance as a good and intact early 19th-century cemetery associated with the exploration and settlement of this area.

5. Sponsor: The proposed nomination is sponsored by the property owner, the Friendship Community Baptist Church, Inc. The nomination materials were prepared by a volunteer, Teresa Owens.