



LAURELWOOD CEMETERY

143 Laurel Street, Rock Hill, SC 29730

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Williams-Ivory House

This brick home was built in 1915 by Simon Williams as his primary residence. Known as a bricklayer and plasterer, Williams was contracted to build the AME Zion Church in Yorkville in 1922. Williams and his wife, Maggie Bailey, operated the home as a boarding house for a number of years. The house was purchased in 1937 by Charity Miller Adams, where it remained in the family until the City of Rock Hill purchased it in 2010 as the Laurelwood Cemetery office.

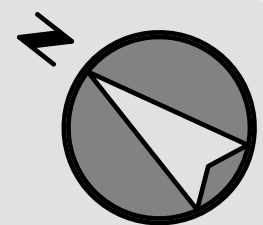
2 Potter's Field

Most of Laurelwood Cemetery was set up for families to purchase individual plots for family member burials. Established in 1912, Potter's Field created space for people who did not already own a burial plot. The area was frequently used during the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Today, there are hundreds of marked graves but there are likely a number of unmarked graves still to be identified to honor those deceased. Grave markers for the known graves are simple compared to those in the family plots.

3 Original Section

Many of Rock Hill's founding citizens were laid to rest in this original section of Laurelwood Cemetery, including the very first burial, that of Edgar Holden McCosh. Others include the White, Holler, Springs, London, Ivy, and Reid families (see back of map for more detailed information).



	Walking Tour		Fence Perimeter
	Points of Interest		Vehicle & Pedestrian Entrance
	Other Points of Interest		Pedestrian-Only Entrance

4 War Veterans Memorial

The monument area includes burials of soldiers who have served in all United States wars, as well as during peacetime. The large monument and statue were originally erected in Confederate Park in 1922 by the Ann White Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The original statue was irreparably damaged during the move from Confederate Park in 1936. Rock Hill artisan John G. Sassi designed and carved a new statue.

5 Friedheim/Jewish Cemetery

Located behind the water tower outside of the Laurelwood boundary, is the Friedheim Family Plot. It is still privately owned by the family. Shortly after the Civil War, the four Friedheim brothers – August, Julius, Samuel, and Arnold – arrived in Rock Hill. The brothers established Friedheim's store on East Main Street, which operated from 1866 until ca. 1966.

6 Industrial Vision

Rock Hill grew by the efforts of entrepreneurs seeing the need for nationwide cotton export from local farms. The local cotton industry then expanded to textile manufacturing. This industry growth transformed Rock Hill into one of the major textile manufacturing cities of the South. Across West White Street is the former site of the Rock Hill Printing & Finishing Company, or "Bleachery" as it was known. At one time this was one of the largest textile operations in the world. The site was originally the home of the Rock Hill Buggy Company and the Anderson Motor Company, one of the most successful car manufacturers of the early 1900s.

7 John George Sassi

The gravesites of John George Sassi and his wife, Livia Capponi Sassi, are located in this section, known as *the Rural Cemetery*. Sassi was an Italian immigrant who lived and operated a monument

works on the corner of West White Street and Laurel Street. Born in Ganna, Italy, in approximately 1843, Sassi learned sculpture from his uncle, T. Pelliti, an art instructor. He and his wife moved to America in 1897. Sassi first worked in a Vermont marble yard before moving to South Carolina in 1905 to work at Yorkville Memorial Works and Palmetto Monument Company, moving to Rock Hill in 1925. He died in 1945, at the age of 102.

8 Draper Extension

By the 1910s, the City needed to expand Laurelwood as all available lots had been sold. An additional 8.5 acres along the northern edge was purchased in 1914. Due to the number of complaints regarding Laurelwood's appearance, there was also a need to develop best practice standards as other municipal cemeteries had done. Earl S. Draper, noted Charlotte landscape architect and city planner, was hired to oversee the expansion. His design for the cemetery, which included curvilinear drives, secondary paths, and seating areas, was presented to City Council in

1918. Also credited with designing part of the Winthrop campus, Draper later established what was to become one of the country's largest landscape architecture and planning firms, with offices in Atlanta, Washington DC, and New York.

Draper designed curvilinear paths and drives matching Laurelwood's topography. The original plan included a small chapel and walks with seating in courtyard areas throughout in order to establish a park-like feel to the area. Although some of these amenities were not constructed, the cemetery was still used as a park until the City designated more formalized park areas.

By 1919, a number of family plots had become neglected, so the City adopted a management plan for the perpetual care and maintenance of the entire cemetery. The plan required the removal of all fences, hedges, and copings from the plots. Leveling of areas was done so that maintenance could be easily done through the use of lawnmowers. Footstones were removed, wooden markers were replaced by concrete markers, and large flat headstones were lowered and installed flush with the

ground. Rules in place also stated that there would be no planting of shrubs or trees on individual plots. The goal was to transform Laurelwood's landscape from a "rural" feel to a "lawn plan" style.

9 Third Expansion

The third expansion of the cemetery in the 1930s involved purchasing several privately-owned parcels located towards Constitution Boulevard and took place over the course of about 30 years. Several single-family residences were removed as result, along with several barn structures owned by the City. Landscape architect Harold B. Bursley of Charlotte was hired by the City in the 1940s to develop a plan for this tract with the desire to have it emulate the earlier Draper Plan. Bursley had worked with Draper as a field supervisor on several of Draper's Charlotte projects, and later became head of Draper and Associates in Charlotte.

The Bursley Plan mirrored the Draper Plan in that there was an oval-shaped loop driveway and curving walkways. However, plots were more rectangular and laid out in a symmetrical grid pattern. It has been observed that while the plans differ in some areas, the two are cohesive and harmonious.

Laurelwood Cemetery

Many of the Rock Hill's founding and famous residents have been laid to rest on the grounds of Laurelwood since its founding in 1872.

Laurelwood was established when Rock Hill purchased six acres from Ann Hutchison White to provide citizens with a cemetery area. Churches located in the downtown urban area lacked the room needed for burials, so a large cemetery area was planned by Mayor Iredell Jones and Reverend James Spratt White. The emphasis was on creating a large park-like area for quiet contemplation with burial plots sold to families who would then maintain those areas.

Since its establishment, the cemetery has expanded to include approximately 32 acres situated in proximity to downtown Rock Hill, Winthrop University, the historic Brookland neighborhood, and the redevelopment of the city's former textile corridor.



Above: Laurelwood historic aerial photo

HISTORIC PLOTS

A - Hope Plot

Dr. Robert Hervey Hope came to Rock Hill in 1859 with his wife, Amelia Jane McFadden from Chester County, following medical school in Charleston. He became the first doctor to establish a practice in Rock Hill, providing medical care to the area for 39 years. He was well-known for his competent and gentle manner, so much so that following his death, many contributed to a collection to install an impressive obelisk to commemorate his passing.

B - White Family Plot

George Pendleton White and Ann Hutchison White established a large working farm in what is today downtown Rock Hill. When the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad request to lay tracks through Ebenezer in 1846 was denied, adjacent landowners White and Alexander Templeton Black donated land for the tracks to run and the City of Rock Hill was born. The property on which Laurelwood Cemetery was developed was originally owned by the White family and was sold to the City of Rock Hill to be developed as a cemetery. Family members buried include Ann Hutchison White, who helped found First Presbyterian Church along with a number of Rock Hill's earliest institutions; son Reverend James Spratt White, who created the Rock Hill Library and public schools; daughter Mary E White; and Ann's sister, Adeline Caldwell. George White, who died while the railroad was being constructed on land he donated, is buried at Ebenezer ARP Church cemetery.

C - Hutchison Family Plot

Captain Adolphus Eugene Hutchison, brother of Ann Hutchison White, was a merchant and investor in the first textile mill built in the city, the Rock Hill Cotton Factory. Other White and Hutchison family members are buried in the plot, including youngest son, William Campbell Hutchison, who grew up to become Rock Hill's mayor from 1896-1898.

Grave Markers

Most graves today are marked with flat stones mounted flush with the ground or standing rectangular gravestones. Older cemeteries, especially those developed during the Victorian era of the mid- to late-19th century, have a wide array of artfully carved monuments, including statues, obelisks, angels, child-like figures, wreaths, open books, and tree stumps. These monuments are considered funerary art and were used as a mark of status, showing the economic prosperity of the deceased's family.

Many monuments were designed specifically to include symbols and details about the deceased's life. For example, the gravesite of Jennie and Connor Ivy is marked with a monument of the brother and sister who died in 1876. Photographs of the children were sent to Italy so that their likenesses could be used in carving the monument. The large tree stump monuments mark the graves of those who were members of the Woodmen of the World organization.

For families who could not afford a custom designed monument, the Sears Roebuck & Company of Chicago could provide a simple, carved headstone selected from a catalog. In 1902, stones ranged in price from \$4.88 for a two foot tall tablet to \$117 for an almost six foot tall obelisk. Sears Roebuck & Company shipped directly from their Vermont quarry by rail to the customer about six weeks after their mail-in order and payment was received.



Above: This statue depicts Jennie and Connor Ivy and was carved in Italy from a photograph provided by their parents.

K - Wood-Creed-Kerr Plot

Thomas Wood and his wife, Paulina Louisa Kerr, moved his family to the Rock Hill area in the mid-1850s. A brickmason by trade, Wood is credited with building Ebenezer Academy on the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church property in 1859-60. Paulina's uncle, William Kerr, was appointed postmaster at Rock Hill by President U.S. Grant in 1870, serving until he passed in 1872. His grand-niece, Buena Vista Wood, who had assisted him in his duties, was appointed postmistress of Rock Hill and served in that capacity until 1892. She was assisted by her younger sister, Florence Emma Wood, until Florence married Basil Whitfield Creed in 1890.

L - Ratterree Family Plot

John Ratterree, a noted horse and mule dealer, merchant and planter, moved to Rock Hill from Chester around 1860. Following the City's incorporation in 1870, he was one of the first elected councilmen to serve.

M - James Morrow Ivy Plot

Colonel James Morrow Ivy was educated at the Rock Hill Academy and Ebenezer Academy, attending South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina) before serving in the Civil War where he was badly wounded. He returned to Rock Hill in 1869 and founded the J. M. Ivy Company. He became one of the largest cotton buyers in upper South Carolina and is credited with inventing the cotton futures market around 1872. Following on the heels of this success, he along with A. E. Hutchison founded the Rock Hill Cotton Factory. He served as mayor from 1876-78 and again in 1881. Ivy's children, Connor and Jenny, buried next to their parents, died during Ivy's second term as mayor. Photographs were sent to an artisan in Italy so that their likenesses could be carved into the monument marking their graves.

N - Roddey/Reid Family Plot

Captain William Lyle Roddey came to Rock Hill after the Civil War, becoming a leading merchant, banker, textile investor, and entrepreneur constructing the Roddey Building on East Main Street to house a hotel, bank and opera house. In 1894, he was instrumental in convincing the trustees of Winthrop Normal and Industrial College of South Carolina (today's Winthrop University) to establish in Rock Hill permanently; the college opened to students in 1895. Samuel L Reid, related to the Roddey family by marriage, moved to Rock Hill in 1873. He was instrumental in bringing a telephone system to Rock Hill, creating a line from East Main Street to Roddey Station over 7 miles away.

J- McCosh Family Plot

The first burial in Laurelwood was that of 14-year-old Edgar Holden McCosh, son of Captain Reid H. McCosh and his wife, Jane McFadden, in 1872. The same year, Captain McCosh built a brick cottage at the end of Oakland Avenue on East Black Street, which remains today as the oldest brick house still standing in Rock Hill. Mrs. McCosh hosted local Baptists regularly for services, assisting in the organization of First Baptist Church in 1878.

G - Springs Family Plot

Richard Austin Springs was a member of the prominent Springs family of Fort Mill and Rock Hill. His father gave him over a thousand acres of land off Springdale Road to build Springsteen (or Springstein) Farm in the mid-1800s. Susan Jane Bobo Springs, his wife, was one of the charter members of Rock Hill's first Methodist Church, later becoming St. John's Methodist Church. The couple had one daughter, Mary Elizabeth.

F - London Family Plot

Major John Rutherford London served in the Civil War and moved to Rock Hill in 1866, becoming a merchant and expert on the "Blackjack" soils of the area. He served as mayor in 1874 and 1879, invested in several area mills, and was considered a successful banker. He and his wife, Camilla Rhodes London, were instrumental in the organization of the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour in 1869. The large Gorham stained-glass window located in the church building was dedicated to London by his wife in 1904.

D - Dr. Johnston Gravesite

Dr Thomas Lynn Johnston was a surgeon serving in the Civil War, coming to Rock Hill after the war ended and establishing a thriving medical practice. Following his death in 1879, his widow, Dorcas, divided the family farm into lots that created Johnston and Hampton Streets, the current location of City Hall.

E - Smith-Workman Plot

Andrew Rhett Smith was a founding member of the Rock Hill Telephone Company (today known as Comporium) and president of the Rock Hill Buggy Company. Following his death at the age of 48, the family had an elaborate statue of an angel imported from Italy placed on his grave. Later family members arranged with J. G. Sassi, noted Rock Hill monument carver, to trade the statue for footstones to be placed in the family plot. The statue remained with Mr. Sassi for a number of years until it was purchased by the Daughters of the American Revolution and placed as a memorial to President Andrew Jackson's wife, Elizabeth, at Waxhaw Presbyterian Church in Lancaster County, SC.

H - Holler Family Plot

Captain Adley D. Holler moved to Rock Hill with his wife, Martha Clarinda Miller, in 1872. The couple purchased a lot at the northwest corner of East Main and Caldwell Streets, building a pair of frame storehouses that were rented out for income. Throughout his career as a builder, Holler constructed a number of textile mills in the area, including the Rock Hill Cotton Factory, Highland Mill, Arcade Mill, Victoria Mill, and Manchester Mill, schools, stores, and residences. He owned a brick works operation near the site of Friendship College and later gave land to establish the college. He also operated a funeral parlor, and partnered with his son, Ellwood Holler, and son-in-law, John Gary Anderson, to establish the Holler & Anderson Buggy Company, which later became the Rock Hill Buggy Company, eventually becoming the Anderson Motor Company.

I - Ferguson H. Barber Plot

Ferguson Henderson Barber and his wife, Mary Elizabeth Watson, moved to Rock Hill from Chester in 1869 and established Allen & Barber mercantile business with John R. Allen. Next to the store, the Barbers built a two-story home. Barber farmed extensively, reportedly having cultivated more land in the Rock Hill area than anyone else. They moved to Richburg and remained there for 13 years; upon their return, they built a new home at the corner of East Main and Hampton Streets. The couple was devoted to the Methodist Church, serving with Sara Bobo Springs as dedicated members for a number of years.

Funerary Art

In the City's older cemeteries, you will find a wide array of grave markers, including statues, obelisks, carved angels, child-like figures, wreaths, and open books. Known as funerary art, these symbolic three-dimensional images adorn many graves in Laurelwood Cemetery, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 2008, and in Ebenezer Presbyterian Church (ARP). Many of these date to the mid-1800s during the Victorian era when stone carvings were more artistic in nature.

Funerary art was a mark of status, showing the economic prosperity of the family as well as symbols carved as representation of the deceased. In Laurelwood, for example, the stone of James M. Ivy includes a carving of ivy and urns, while two small children grace the stone of Jennie and Connor Ivy, who died in 1876 at the ages of eight and four. Other carvings include the statue of a woman with a cross and crown of thorns, a large marble sphere, obelisks appearing to be draped with cloth, several tree stumps, and intricately engraved urns. Laurelwood Cemetery is maintained by the City of Rock Hill and is open to the public daily.

Jewish Burials

The Jewish section of Laurelwood Cemetery is privately owned by members of the Friedheim family. In 1983, City Council established the Hebrew section dedicated for Jewish burials at Forest Hills Cemetery.

In 2021, the Temple Beth-El Memorial Plaque was installed in the Williams-Ivory House. This plaque provides the names of deceased members of the former Temple Beth-El Synagogue that was built in 1942 on West Main Street.

Monument Care

Laurelwood Cemetery is designed to be a respectful, contemplative area as a final resting place for the deceased. The City of Rock Hill is the perpetual caretaker for the cemetery as a whole, while individuals own the rights to be buried in a particular plot. The City maintains the cemetery within a general plan adopted that respects the original historic plan designed by Earle S. Draper and Harold B. Bursley. While many of the historic plots originally had fencing, coping, steps or hedges, these are no longer allowed as they become safety concerns for cemetery visitors. Trees and other plantings on original historic graves have been allowed to remain as historic elements; however, they are removed if diseased.

The Laurelwood Cemetery Master Plan recommends rehabilitation as the overall treatment approach for protecting the historic character of the cemetery. With this approach, preservation activities allow for the preservation and protection of significant historic features while allowing for necessary improvements to the site.

It is important for all visitors to Laurelwood understand that many of the monuments and gravestones have been in place for over a hundred years. Please report any damage to the City's Cemetery Division, 803-329-5548, or email cemetery@cityofrockhill.com.

Please do not:

- Lean or sit on stones
- Lift stones lying on the ground
- Make stone rubbings
- Attempt to clean stones
- Try to repair stones or monuments

If you would like to volunteer to assist in preservation of the monuments and gravestones in Laurelwood or any of the City's other cemeteries, please contact the Cemetery Supervisor, 803-329-5548 or email cemeterypreservation@cityofrockhill.com.

Below: The Bleachery mill village across from Laurelwood, 1930s



Rock Hill Municipal Cemetery System

Barber Memorial

1272 Soulsville Street
The City purchased ten acres of property from Mary Barber in 1954 to establish a municipal cemetery for the African-American community.

Forest Hills Cemetery

4290 Old York Road
Seeing the need for additional cemetery space, the City purchased this property in 1961. In 1983, City Council established the Hebrew section dedicated for Jewish burials.

Online Database

The City maintains an online database of each burial in all three municipal cemeteries. More info at: cityofrockhill.com/cemetery.

For questions, email cemetery@cityofrockhill.com or call 803-329-5548. For more information about gravestone preservation activities at Laurelwood email cemeterypreservation@cityofrockhill.com.

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- Additional research on burials in Laurelwood at: cityofrockhill.com/cemetery
- Historic preservation info at: cityofrockhill.com/historic

