Cultural Landscape Information

Past Survey Efforts

In 1976, a survey of the burying ground by a 4-H group recorded ninety-four graves. Forty years later, approximately one third of those grave markers are missing. Work primarily consisted of cleaning the graveyard in addition to transcriptions of the markers. This information is on file at the Manatee Village Historical Park.

The City Historic Resource Survey was completed in 1980. It covered 3.6 square miles (bounded by 34th Street West, 13th Avenue, and the Manatee and Braden Rivers) but only included approximately 200 structures. Of those 200, 85 were submitted to the FSMF. Manatee Burying ground was not a part of the 85 submitted resources; a copy of the survey was not provided, and it is unknown if it was included in the larger survey. Any survey updates in the future should include any cemeteries within City limits.

Additional exploration of historic maps and property records would be beneficial to determine if the boundaries of the Burying Ground have changed at all over time. Searches of historic Sanborn maps did not yield any information for this area of Bradenton, nor did historic topographical maps.

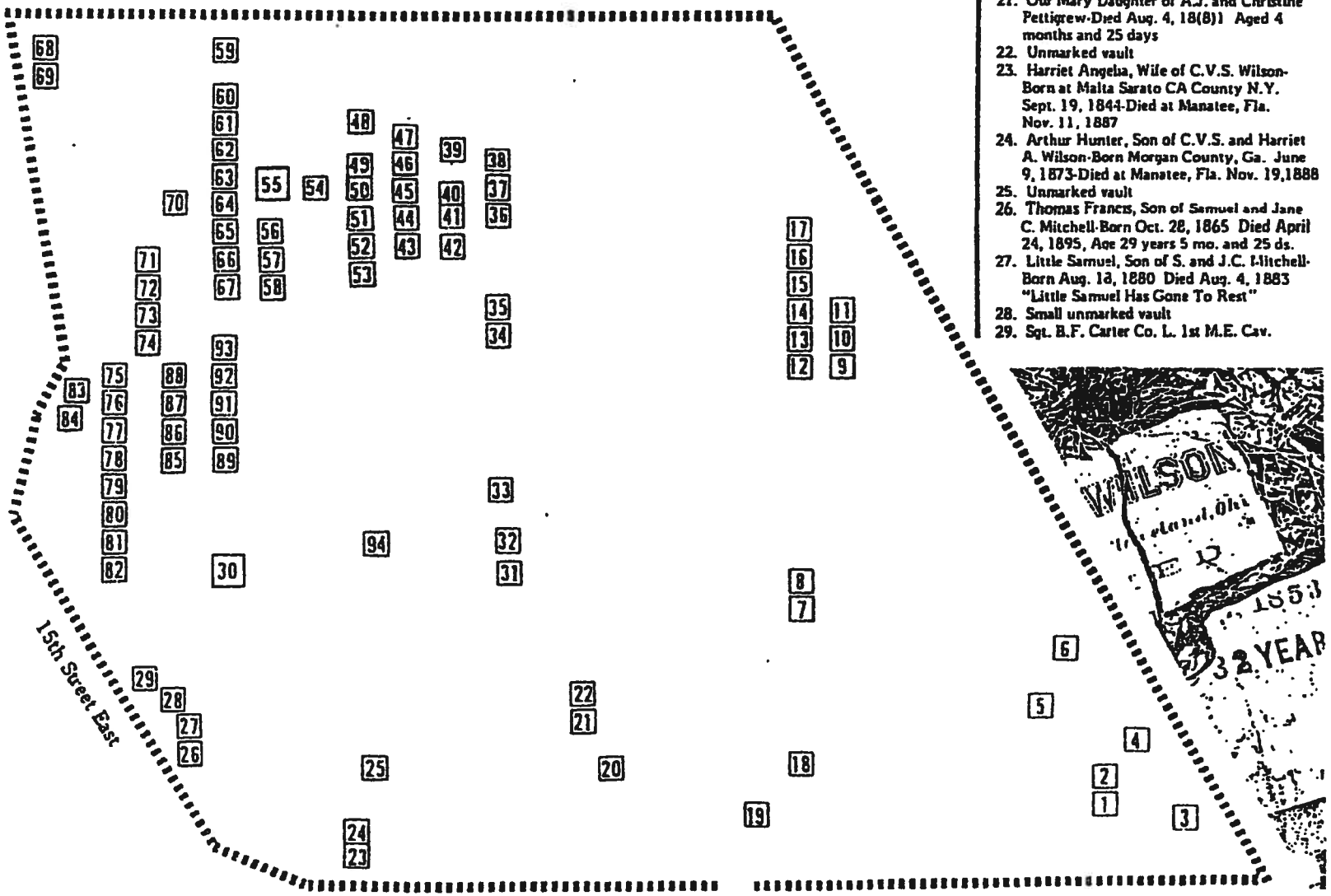
Figure 20. An aerial of Manatee Burying Ground with current fence line (yellow) and 4H map overlaid.

Tombstone Inscriptions

1855-1856
2. Unmarked vault
3. Daughter of Richard ( )
4. Paul Bartholomew-Born 1864; Died 1889
5. Curtis Henderson Stanton Apr. 9, 1865-Aug. 20, 1982
6. Unmarked vault
7. Unmarked vault
8. Headstone tipped over-recent

1862-Died July 5, 1881
10. Unmarked vault
11. Mrs. Louisa Ellen Tresca Jan. 1st, 1828-Dec. 23, 1906
12. Unmarked vault-almost totally disintegrated
13. Elizabeth A.W. Wyatt Born in Chelsea Mass. Aug. 9, 18(3)7-Fe. 27, 1854. Wife of Wm. H. Wyatt

15. Margaret S -Wife of Henry T. Glazier Dec. 2, 1858- Sept. 18, 1896
16. Ezekiel Glazier-Died Feb. 14, 1888, Ag- Aged 73 years (Footstone- Ezekiel Glazier Mem. Fla. Sucession Con. C.S.A.)
17. Unmarked vault
18. Small unmarked vault
19. Sgt. Rob't Greer Co. K. 8th MO.S.M. Cav.
20. W.A. Jones-Born in Iowa City Nov. 18, 1867; Died in Manatee Sept. 19, 1890
21. Our Mary Daughter of A.J. and Christine Pettigrew-Died Aug. 4, 18(8)1 Aged 4 months and 25 days
22. Unmarked vault
23. Harriet Angelia, Wife of C.V.S. Wilson-Born at Malta Sarato CA County N.Y. Sept. 19, 1844-Died at Manatee, Fla. Nov. 11, 1887
24. Arthur Hunter, Son of C.V.S. and Harriet A. Wilson-Born Morgan County, Ga. June 9, 1873-Died at Manatee, Fla. Nov. 19,1888
25. Unmarked vault
26. Thomas Francis, Son of Samuel and Jane C. Mitchell-Born Oct. 28, 1865 Died April 24, 1895, Age 29 years 5 mo. and 25 ds.
27. Little Samuel, Son of S. and J.C. Mitchell-Born Aug. 18, 1880 Died Aug. 4, 1883 "Little Samuel Has Gone To Rest"
28. Small unmarked vault
29. Sgt. B.F. Carter Co. L. 1st M.E. Cav.



30. Permelia Griffin, Wife of Apollos Griffin-Died April 18, 1857 Aged 62 yrs
31. Henry James, Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Wenman of Goswell Wood London, Who departed this life Feb. 27, 1874 in the 22nd year of his age
32. Sid. P. Saunders, Born July 23rd, 1857 Died Feb. 19th, 1879
33. Eliza A., Wife of Peter T. Williams-Born June 6, 1822, Died Jan. 9, 1853
34. J.C. Wilson late of Cleveland, Ohio Jan. 17, 1853, Aged 32 yr.
35. Benjm. F. Rupert, Born Feb. 1827-Died Feb. 1849
36. Mary A. Wood, Wife of Enos Emory Johnson July 24, 1841-May 15, 1905
37. Our Father Enos E. Johnson, Born at Erie, Indiana May 25, 1837-Died Nov. 9, 1887
38. James Albert Son of Mary A. and Enos E. Johnson Oct. 6, 1881-Oct. 16, 1896
39. Rosa M. Jones Born Nov. 11, 1873-Died July 24, 1892
40. Mr. Ben S. Curry
41. Julia Curry-1924
42. Welton Stewart, Son of P.S. and A.N. Harllee, Born Dec 21, 1880-Died Feb. 22, 1881
43. J.W. Harllee (Capt. John) Born in S.C. Aug. 12th, 1837-Died Dec. 20th, 1887 (Footstone: Haygood Brigadier C.S.A.)
44. Mary, Wife of John W. Harllee, Born Nov. 7, 1852 in Key West. Sept. 15 in Manatee 1879
45. John Curry, Born Green Turtle Key, Jan. 25, 18(1)1-Died Nov. 29, 1882
46. Mary Ward Curry, Born at Harbor Island Bahamas Dec. 12, 1814-Departed life Manatee, Fla. Sept. 5, 188(3)-Wife of John Curry
47. J.M.
48. Unmarked vault
49. Mary E. Sawyer, Born April 9, 1860- Died April 9, 1862
50. Theodore L. Sawyer, Born Oct. 23, 1858-Died April 11, 1888
51. Annie Ward, Daughter of J.W. and M.E. Harllee, Born Manatee Fl. Aug. 28, 1872-Died Manatee, Fl. Feb. 22, 1874
52. Mary Elizabeth, Daughter of J.W. and M.E. Harllee, Born Manatee, Fl. April 2, 1875-Died May 8, 1875
53. Robert, Son of J.W. and M.E. Harllee, Born Manatee, Fl. July 5, 1876-Died July 11, 1876
54. John Curry Wyatt, Born July 2, 1867-Died Aug. 10. 1876
55. Josiah Gates Nov. 15, 1802-Oct. 3, 1871
His Wife, Mary M. Oct. 6, 1816-Oct. 10, 1896
Rev. Edward F. Gates Sept. 8, 1836-July 26,1923
His Wife Euphemia T. Jan. 11, 1839-Dec. 20, 1922
56. Rebecca A., Wife of A.A. Robinson, Born Washington Wilkes Co., Ga. April 12, 1819-Died Manatee, Fla.-Aug. 28, 1879
57. Rev. A.A. Robinson, Born Oct. 29, 1815-Died Oct. 29, 1892
58. In Memory of Lucy Daniels, Wife of A.A. Robinson of Fla. Conference Died June 4, 1908
59. Rev. J.R. Crowder, Born in Paris, Tenn. Aug. 5, 1845-Died Nov. 1, 1887
60. Eva May Gates 1875-1967
61. Josiah Gates, Born Jan. 13, 1846-Died Nov. 29, 1924 "He Lived for Others"
62. In Memory of John W., Son of J. and C.R. Gates, Born July 20, 1887-Died June 11, 1899 "The Idol of His Family"
63. Christianna R. Gates, Born Sept. 14,1850-Died Jan. 6, 1892
64. In Memory of Frankie, Son of J.C. and S.L. Vanderipe, Born Aug. 7, 187E-Died Aug. 1, 1883
65. In Memory of Nancy J. Cunliffe who died April 5 A.D. 1888, Aged 68 yrs 4 mos and 26 days
66. In Memory of Lewis H., Son of W.H. and Eliza Vanderipe, Born Dec. 5, 187E-Died Oct. 4, 1882
67. In Memory of Wm. A. Vanderipe, Born Oct. 5, 1868-Died Nov. 7, 1881, Son of J.C. and Ellen F.
68. James H. Helveston, Spencer Co. C.S.A. "How strange it seems, with so much gone of life and love to still live on."
69. Lula Helveston, Wife 1833-1923
70. In Living Memory of James W. Vanderipe, Born Oct. 31, 1870-Died Jan. 2, 1885
71. Daniel Lloyd, Born at York, England Aug. 6, 1837-Died at Manatee, Fla. June 15,1904
72. Mother Hannah A. Lloyd Feb. 28, 1857-April 1, 1945
73. Little Hannah
74. Maria Belle Cal. Lloyd
75. Crews
76. Unmarked vault
77. Unmarked vault
78. Unmarked vault
79. John Coope Pelot Died Feb. 27, 1879 (Footstone: Pres. Fla. Sucession Con.C.S.A.)
80. James Gignilliat Cooper Sept. 8, 1801 June 20, 1879 (Footstone: Mem. Fla. Secession Con. C.S.A.)
81. Pharaba Jane Vaughn Cooper Sept. 27, 1812-Jan. 9, 1899 (Daughter of a Revolutionary Soldier)
82. Neal, Son of James O. Steel and Mary E. Steel, Born in Robinson, Ill. March 23 A.D. 1874-Died at Manatee, Fla. Jan. 27 A.D. 1876
83. Unmarked vault
84. John C. Pelot, M.D.
85. Unmarked vault
86. Henry A. Clark, Co. A. Munnerlyns Brig. C.S.A.
87. Henry S. Clark of Canton, N.Y., Died July 27, 1850 on his 42nd yr.
88. Toppled headstone
89. Rectangular wooden slats
90. Unmarked vault
91. Unmarked vault
92. Unmarked vault
93. Unmarked vault
94. Rebecca U. Watson, Born Oct. 7, 18(E)6, Died March 3, 1883

Survey Results

Manatee Burying Grounds is located between 15th Street East and 6th Avenue East in Bradenton, Florida, and found in the middle of an urban landscape. The cemetery is surrounded by an iron fence and main entry at the corner of 15th Street East and 6th Avenue East and is 1.92 acres in size and contains an estimated 229 potential grave features, including the headstones, markers and vaults that are visible above ground. The 197 Survey recorded ninety-four (94) graves, of which one-third were noted as missing in the 2018 RFP from Manatee County. The results of the current GPR Survey analysis show that there may be an additional 135 grave features within the surveyed areas. The potential total grave features is estimated to be 229. This number may increase or decrease depending on the actual size or method of burial for all areas.

The local setting, size, Future Land Use and zoning designations, city plans and documents, state statutes, and infrastructure, maintenance and repair practices, markers and monument preservation, programming, use, and recreation can be found in the Master Preservation Plan. The Master Plan also includes potential threats along with disaster preparation and resiliency.

Preservation Concerns

Figure 23. Main entry to Manatee Burying Grounds, located on the corner of 15th Street E and 6th Avenue East.

Signage

Although the cemetery has a very distinct entry gate, erected in 1958, it is located on the corner of 15th Street East and 6th Avenue East. The cemetery lacks signage along the main road, Manatee Avenue. Furthermore, the cemetery located behind a commercial building on the corner of 15th Street E and Manatee Avenue, hiding all evidence of the local landmark.

Pedestrian path

No clear pedestrian path is marked and is unrecognizable to the visitor. Potential graves and grave markers have been identified throughout the cemetery and are in danger of damage due to an unknown pedestrian path.

Fallen or sunken grave markers

Many markers have fallen or have sunk into the soil. These markers are in danger of being lost as a resource as they are unidentifiable unless found by special probing or other more technical investigative practices (Figure 26).

Broken markers

Vaults, ground tablets, and fallen vertical tablets have been covered with debris and therefore are no longer easily detected. If they are visible on the surface, they are in danger of being removed from the site altogether. Furthermore, they can pose a significant safety hazard as well as deterioration of the resource (Figure 24 and Figure 26).

Figure 25. Broken base of vault.

Figure 24. Broken headstone in danger of loss.

Figure 26. Fallen headstone in danger of loss or damage.

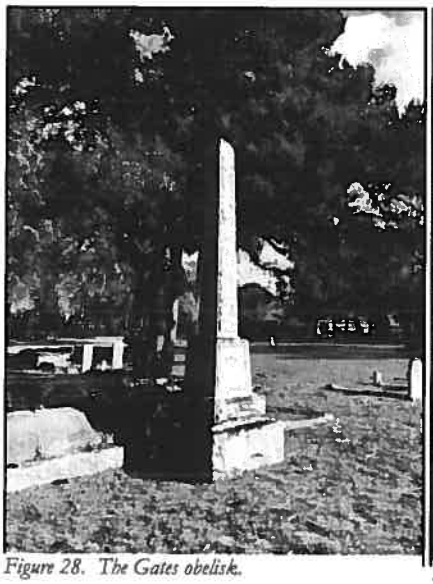


Figure 28. The Gates obelisk.

Figure 27. The zinc marker belonging to James Helveston.

Built Environment

At this point, the Burying Ground has more open space than monuments and memorials, but of those that remain, there is much diversity. Stones may have been lost or removed over time, and many markers would have been wood, given the time of development. This is validated by notes within the FMSF file for the Old Manatee Village Historic District (MA00305). Wood markers do not stand the test of time. The majority of markers appear to face east, which is common in the Christian tradition.

Marker Types

There are a variety of markers included in the Burying Ground, primarily constructed of granite, concrete, brick, and in one unique circumstance, zinc (James Helveston). Some burials are underground with markers above ground, and other burials are in above-ground barrel vaults.

Materials Observed

A variety of markers were observed at Manatee Burying Grounds including granite, concrete, brick, and in one unique circumstance, zinc (James Helveston). Most grave markers are headstones, although some burials are in above-ground vaults.

Figure 29. Markers in Manatee Burying Ground.

Granite

A material that became extremely popular for grave markers in the 19th century, granite is an igneous rock that is extremely hard and resistant to weathering. It is made up of medium to coarse grained quarts, mica, and feldspar crystals. Granite is almost exclusively used for markers now and is an indicator of later burials in any cemetery.

Marble

Marble is a metamorphic limestone that has a wide variation in quality – the grade of stone is determined by the amount of calcite or dolomite in its composition. High grade marbles, such as Carrara marble are primarily calcite, while on the other end of the scale, poorer quality marbles are composed mainly of dolomite. Dolomite contains magnesium which contributes to the breakdown of stone through weathering processes. The quality of

marble, or "white stone" as it was sometimes called, also determines price, which in turn, usually denotes the socioeconomic status of the deceased.

Marble was quarried in the southeast beginning in Alabama in the 1830s and Georgia in the 1840s. Even with marble available in such close proximity to Floirda, the cost and difficulty of transportation sometimes made it impractical to use. During Florida's territorial period (1821-1845), much of the marble for gravestones was imported from Europe (usually handled by Southern stone carvers and monument dealers who worked with unfinished stone) or from the northeastern United States.

Cast Concrete

Vernacular grave markers made of cast concrete were encountered during the project. Repair or reconstruction of cast concrete markers can usually be achieved by present-day masons who are familiar with the construction methods of the various types of grave coverings. As with any other marker restoration, reconstructed markers must be made as close to the original as possible, including size, shape and scale, material, ornamental detailing, etc. If reconstruction is done for markers requiring armature, it is highly recommended that stainless steel be used in place of iron or other easily weathered metals that will eventually cause the same deterioration problems. (316 Stainless Steel Alloy is marine grade alloy and holds up well.) However, vernacular markers hold significance beyond historical reference to the burial; many vernacular markers hold cultural significance as well and simply refashioning a new marker with like material will not have the same significance as a historic marker.

Figure 30. The Griffin enclosure.

Zinc

Popular from 1970 through the early 1900s, zinc, a nonferrous metal, does not contain iron and is resistant to corrosion. Sometimes referred to as "white bronze," due to the unique methodology of sandblasting stone to imitate a mat appearance. Most cast-zinc is blueish in color and can be a very brittle material with a tendency to deform when exposed to high temperatures. This brittle material is also known to separate at joints and is subject to *creep*, or a permanent deformation over time. Concrete should never be used to help repair sagging monuments.

Enclosures

Only one family plot, the Griffins, has an extant wrought-iron fence enclosure, although it is impacted by a large tree. In other portions of the Burying Ground, there are metal remnants that appear to have once been part of plot enclosures. It would be worth documenting the existing remnants to understand what family plots may have had enclosures in the past.

Fencing

According to information from the Manatee Village Historical Park, the fencing around the Burying Ground was replaced in 2018. It is a 6' high wrought-iron fence in a style appropriate to the era of the Burying Ground's founding and development. It replaced a lower chain-link fence that used to surround the Burying Ground. The entry to the Burying Ground at the southwest corner has two brick masonry columns that support a gate.

Figure 31. Entry arch.

Memorial Arch

A wrought iron arch at the southwest entry way to the Burying Ground says "1850 Manatee Burying Ground." The arch is supported by masonry pillars. A nearby sign notes the arch was erected through the "efforts of the Judah P. Benjamin Chapter No. 1545, United Daughters of the Confederacy of Bradenton, Florida in honor of the many soldiers and civilians connected with the development of this section and the State of Florida who are buried here." It was erected in December of 1958 and dedicated the following month.

Natural Environment

Water and Stormwater

The Burying Ground is on high ground, not adjacent to wetlands, and does not to have been historically adjacent to wetlands. The Manatee County GIS mapping system does not show any wetland change in the Burying Ground or immediate vicinity from 1950-2007. It is at constant elevation between 10' and 15' (Manatee County provides 5' contours).

Figure 32. Looking west through a part of the cemetery across 15th Avenue East. Part of Manatee Village Historical Park is visible beyond the trees.

Parts of Florida have a high-water table. It is possible some of the raised barrel vaults were constructed to address this issue. Overall, sinking and water damage does not appear to be a major problem within Manatee Burying Ground. Notes from a stakeholder meeting indicated a problem with ponding in the northeast corner after heavy rain. The ground penetrating radar report indicates some low confidence hyperbolic results in this area. It would be worth looking at potential solutions to alleviate the ponding in this area.

Trees & Landscape

Oaks and palms make up the bulk of trees in the Burying Ground. The canopy is composed solely of oaks, leaving the coverage vulnerable to pests or disease. There is also the consideration of diversification by age: in order to maintain canopy coverage, it is important to have an age variety so as old trees die there are mature and young trees to take their place. Determining where to plant new trees will be a challenge, as the older trees often conflict with

stones and markers. It would not be recommended to simply replace an existing tree in the same location in these cases.

The rule of thumb for diversity is 10/20/30. No more than 10% of the forest should be composed of one species, no more than 20%, of one genus and no more than 30% of one family. Future plantings should be selected to increase diversity. With a varied tree cover, the canopy and feel can remain intact even if an entire species is wiped out.

Figure 33. Looking south along the west fence line.

A third consideration is the use of native plants. There is a growing movement to use native plants in design. They help maintain the integrity of local ecosystems and are well adapted to the environment. They are also critical habitat for fauna, as many creatures have developed relationships with specific species. Natives should require no irrigation beyond establishment.

The City has a tree ordinance and a Notable Tree program. As owners and stewards of Manatee Burying Ground, the City should consider environmental, cultural and economic impacts when replanting and maintaining trees and these aspects should be a part of any landscape planning. In the Burying Ground, it is essential to be mindful of what grows, how root systems expand, and the impact this may have on stones and fencing. A landscape professional should assist with a tree and landscape plan for the Burying Ground, which will serve as an important planning step for the future. It is also worth consulting with the Manatee County UF/IFAS Extension Office, who can provide tips on planting and landscape care.

General tree recommendations include:

- Failing trees or limbs should be thinned and removed as soon as possible.
- Replacement trees should be native and slow growing
- New trees should not be planted in the same spot as the old ones but placed in nearby more open areas and be no larger than 4" in diameter breast height
- Planting a variety of species, as well as species with good groundcover is encouraged
- Non-hardwood trees, such as crepe myrtle or bottlebrush

Wildlife

Data provided by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) Biodiversity Matrix indicate there are eleven species and natural communities considered *rare* in the immediate vicinity of the Burying Ground. These include reptiles, fish and amphibians: wood stork, West Indian manatee, Gulf sturgeon, Eastern indigo snake, Hawksbill sea turtle, Godfrey's swamp privet, gopher tortoise, gopher frog, Florida clapper rail, Sherman's fox squirrel, and Florida prairie warbler. Of course, many of these animals are not present in the Burying Ground. Bird species, squirrels, and armadillos are perhaps the most common animal visitors to the cemetery. No bald eagle nests are reported in the vicinity of the Burying Ground according to the Manatee County GIS database.

There is a trend in cemetery management to recognize and embrace wildlife. There are opportunities for birds and other pollinators like bees to thrive in cemeteries and help plant life. As an example, the Dorset Wildlife Trust in the UK has a "Living Churchyards" program that encourages the planting of natural plants to attract pollinators, and the use of bird houses and bat boxes to support wildlife. Cemeteries can provide a relatively natural area that can also serve as wildlife corridors. Bird watchers and outdoor photographers can visit cemeteries to glimpse area wildlife.