

# HISTORY

Established circa 1810 on property included in the University's original Athens land grant, Old Athens Cemetery (a.k.a., Jackson Street Cemetery) was developed as a common burial ground. As a common burial ground, lots were not purchased and no cemetery records were kept. Loved ones of the deceased selected a location, arranged for burial, and maintained the grave. A formal property deed was not negotiated between the Board of Regents and the City of Athens, and the resulting ownership disagreements triggered a long period of decline after Oconee Hill Cemetery opened in 1856.

Rescued in the early 1980s by The Old Athens Cemetery Foundation, Inc., the group obtained a deed and managed the site between 1983 and 2004. The Foundation deeded Old Athens back to the University System of Georgia in 2004, and it has been managed by the UGA Grounds Department since that year.

The cemetery does not contain a grid; notice how the graves follow a north-south axis along the site's topography. The Jackson Street entrance, and the walking path behind the cemetery and parallel to Thomas Street, both date to the 1960s. The perimeter fence was installed in 2013.

According to current research, approximately 800 individuals are believed to be buried within the 2-1/2 acre site.