



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**RON DESANTIS**  
Governor

**CORD BYRD**  
Secretary of State

May 5, 2025

Polk County  
PO BOX 988  
Bartow, FL 33831

RE: Intent to add information documenting Shady Oaks Garden to the Florida Master Site File after 60 days from the date of this letter

Dear Polk County:

This letter is being sent to inform you that the Florida Department of State's Historic Cemeteries Program identified information concerning a reported cemetery located on the following property:

Address: 3927 Old Homeland Rd, Bartow, Florida  
Parcel ID: 25-30-29-000000-014020

Per the Polk County Property Appraiser, you are listed as the owner of record for the property.

The Florida Master Site File is a statutorily required program operated by the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources. The Florida Master Site File is the State of Florida's central inventory of historic properties that are reported to the Division of Historical Resources under s. 267.031(5)(m), *Florida Statutes*. The Historic Cemeteries Program serves as the organizational center for recording and updating in the Florida Master Site File records of cemeteries in this state established at least 50 years ago under s. 267.21(1)(a), *Florida Statutes*.

Florida laws that you may wish to be aware of that provide protections for both marked and unmarked burials, include:

- Chapter 872, *Florida Statutes*, Offenses Concerning Dead Bodies and Graves (particularly Sections 872.02 and 872.05)
- Section 704.08, *Florida Statutes*, Cemeteries; Right of Ingress and Egress for Visiting or Maintenance
- Chapter 497, *Florida Statutes*, Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services

No action is necessary from you at this time. However, the Historic Cemeteries Program intends to add this information with the Florida Master Site File 60 days from the date of this letter. If,

**Division of Historical Resources**  
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) • [FLHeritage.com](http://FLHeritage.com)



in advance of the 60<sup>th</sup> day, you wish to provide additional information about the existence, ownership, location, size, or condition of the reported cemetery, you may reach out to our office using the contact information below. To receive a copy of the information referenced in this letter, please send a written request to [HistoricCemeteries@dos.fl.gov](mailto:HistoricCemeteries@dos.fl.gov) or call 850.245.6361.

Sincerely,

Division of Historical Resources