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NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN

Technical information on comprehensive planning, survey of cultural resources, and registration in the National Register of Historic Places

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Cultural Resources
Interagency Resources Division

GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING AND REGISTERING CEMETERIES AND BURIAL PLACES

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(Cover Photo). The East Parish Burying Ground in Newton, Massachusetts, is an important link to the city's 17th century origins and illustrates the characteristic features of a dense concentration of tablet-type markers bearing grim epitaphs and carved imagery. (Thelma Fleishman, 1981).

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by
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U.S. Department of the Interior
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PREFACE

The creation of the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 provided the first national recognition for historic properties possessing State or local significance, and uniform standards for evaluating them. The National Register's Criteria for Evaluation established the threshold for defining the qualities that would make such a property worthy of preservation, but also needed to ensure credibility through adherence to standards acceptable to relevant professional disciplines. Through the special requirements of the Criteria Considerations, the criteria both caution against subjective enthusiasm for certain types of resources, and also reinforce the importance of objective historical analysis.

In the legislative history of the 1980 Amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Congress indicated a desire that the Secretary of the Interior review National Register Criteria for Evaluation from time to time to ensure their effectiveness in carrying out the policies of the Act. In 1986, upon the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Park Service organized such a review. In their December 17, 1986, report, those who reviewed the criteria concluded that no revision of criteria wording was warranted, but recommended several issues that could benefit from clarification through additional published guidance. The application of National Register criteria to graves and cemeteries was one such issue.

A greater appreciation has evolved in both scholarship and public perception for the important historical themes that graves, cemeteries, and other types of burial places and features can represent. The growing emphasis on the history of ordinary individuals, grass roots movements, cultural and designed landscapes, and various cultural groups has nurtured this evolution. At the same time, the identification, maintenance, and preservation of burial places is increasingly threatened through neglect, ignorance, and vandalism. This publication is intended to focus attention on these resources and provide detailed guidance on the qualities that render burial places significant representatives of our history worthy of preservation.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Individual and collective burial places can reflect and represent in important ways the cultural values and practices of the past that help instruct us about who we are as a people. Yet for profoundly personal reasons, familial and cultural descendants of the interred often view graves and cemeteries with a sense of reverence and devout sentiment that can overshadow objective evaluation. Therefore, cemeteries and graves are among those properties that ordinarily are not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places unless they meet special requirements. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation include considerations by which burial places may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register. To qualify for listing under Criteria A (association with events), B (association with people), or C (design), a cemetery or grave must meet not only the basic criteria, but also the special requirements of Criteria Considerations C or D, relating to graves and cemeteries.[1]

Burial places evaluated under Criterion D for the importance of the information they may impart do not have to meet the requirements for the Criteria Considerations. These sites generally have been considered as archeological sites. It is important to remember that although cemeteries and other burial places may be evaluated for their potential to yield information, they also may possess great value to those who are related culturally to the people buried there.

Roughly 1,700 cemeteries and burial places in all parts of the country have been entered in the National Register since 1966, either as individual listings or because they are part of historic districts.[2] These numbers reflect the essential presence of burial places in the cultural landscape. Various factors have contributed to the continuing trend of registration. Clearly important is the growing literature on funerary art and architecture, and on landscapes. With greater frequency since the 1960s, studies in American culture have treated not only the form and symbolism of gravemarkers, but also the social and spiritual values expressed in burial placements and the organization of burying grounds — including the different attitudes about death held by the various cultural groups that make up our society.

Though the tradition of cleaning up and beautifying old cemeteries is a long one, the current interest in these subjects partly owes to widespread incidents of abandonment, theft, vandalism, real estate development, and environmental hazards such as acid rain, which have pushed cemeteries to the forefront of preservation issues. National Register listing is an important step in preserving cemeteries because such recognition often sparks community interest in the importance of these sites in conveying the story of its past. Listing also gives credibility to State and local efforts to preserve these resources for their continuing contribution to the community's identity. The documentation contained in surveys and nominations of these historic burying places — especially those cemeteries that are neglected or threatened — is the key to their better protection and management. This information has a variety of uses, including public education; planning by local, State, or Federal agencies; or publication. The purpose of this bulletin is to guide Federal agencies, State historic preservation offices, Certified Local Governments, preservation professionals, and interested groups and individuals in evaluating, documenting, and nominating cemeteries, burial places and related types of property to the National Register.

The resources or types of properties relating to mortuary customs in the United States and its associated territories vary from region to region and age to age according to prevailing spiritual beliefs and methods of caring for the dead. The burial mound of prehistoric populations in the Mississippi River Valley, the tablet-filled graveyard of the Colonial period, the park-like "rural" cemetery of the early-to-mid 19th century, and the Art Deco mausoleum and crematorium of the modern industrial age — all are distinct manifestations of the cultures and environments in which they were created. These places are capable of providing insight to the cultural values of preceding generations unless they have been looted, severely vandalized, or compromised by development or natural forces. To measure the significance of burial places in American culture, we must know something of their geographic extent, the historic events affecting their creation, the span of time in which they evolved, their ceremonial functions, their aesthetic value, the reasons for the location and orientation of graves, and the underlying meaning of their embellishments.

This bulletin defines the term "burial place" broadly as a location where the dead are prepared for burial or cremation, or where the remains of the dead are placed. A burial place may be a

[1] The discussion of the criteria begins on page 9, and the requirements of the considerations on page 14. For a list of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and the Criteria Considerations, see p. 33.

[2] For information on the National Register, contact the State Historic Preservation Officer in your State, or The National Register of Historic Places, Interagency Resources Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

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single feature, ranging from the grandly monumented tomb of a national leader to an isolated grave expediently prepared alongside a battlefield or emigrant route. Other burial places are more complex, such as compound burial sites and cemeteries developed after deliberate selection and arrangement of the landscape. In Native American and Pacific Island cultures, certain burial places were ephemeral because they took place above ground. However, where evidence remains of cremation areas and sites traditionally used for scaffold and other encasement burials, such places would be encompassed by the general classification, burial place.

Cemeteries and burial places traditionally have been regarded as sacred and inviolate, especially by those whose ancestors are buried there. Recently, the concern of Native Americans about appropriate and respectful disposition of burial remains and objects of their descendants has resulted in greater sensitivity toward those for whom a burial place has familial or cultural importance. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-601) sets out the rights of Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding human remains, funerary and sacred objects, and other culturally significant objects for which they can demonstrate lineal descent or cultural affiliation. One of the main purposes of the legislation is to protect Native American graves and related items, and to control their removal. The Act encourages the avoidance of archeological sites that contain burials and also makes Federal agencies responsible for consulting Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian groups when they encounter such sites, either in the course of planned excavations, or through inadvertent discovery. Consultation is required to determine the appropriate treatment of human remains and cultural objects. Many States, also, have passed legislation that addresses the discovery and disposition of graves.

Several factors resulted in a decision to omit detailed guidance on identifying, evaluating, and documenting archeological sites that contain burials, and on appropriate methods for studying them, from this bulletin. These factors include the specialized nature of investigating these burials, ongoing debates over the appropriate treatment of such sites, and evolving policies and procedures relating to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Nevertheless, references, examples, and brief discussions of prehistoric burials appear throughout this bulletin in recognition that they may be eligible for National Register listing.

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II. BURIAL CUSTOMS AND CEMETERIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The types of cemeteries and burial places that might qualify for National Register listing are many and varied. They include:

- town cemeteries and burial grounds whose creation and continuity reflect the broad spectrum of the community's history and culture;
- family burial plots that contribute to the significance of a farmstead;
- beautifully designed garden cemeteries that served as places of rest and recreation;
- graveyards that form an important part of the historic setting for a church or other religious building being nominated;
- formal cemeteries whose collections of tombs, sculptures, and markers possess artistic and architectural significance;
- single or grouped gravestones that represent a distinctive folk tradition;
- graves or graveyards whose survival is a significant or the only reminder of an important person, culture, settlement, or event; and
- burial places whose location, grave markers, landscaping, or other physical attributes tell us something important about the people who created them.

Examples of these and many other types of burial places appear throughout this bulletin, especially in the section on applying the criteria. Some types of burial places represent events, customs, or beliefs common to many cultures, locations, or time periods. Others are unique representatives of specific people or events. Background information on some of the traditions in American burials that are so common that numerous examples have been, or are likely to be, identified and nominated is discussed briefly in this section; the omission of other traditions or historical developments should not be interpreted as precluding cemeteries or graves that do not fit into the topics that are included. For example, community cemeteries that reflect early settlement or various aspects of an area's long history may not fall into one of the traditions described in this section. Yet they frequently are nominated and listed in the National Register.

NATIVE AMERICAN BURIAL CUSTOMS

Native American burial customs have varied widely, not only geographically, but also through time, having been shaped by differing environments, social structure, and spiritual beliefs. Prehistoric civilizations evolved methods of caring for the dead that reflected either the seasonal movements of nomadic societies or the lifeways of settled communities organized around fixed locations. As they evolved, burial practices included various forms of encasement, sub-surface interment, cremation, and exposure. Custom

The Crawford-Dorsey House and Cemetery near Lovejoy, Clayton County, Georgia, represent a historic Southern plantation; the earliest graves are covered by seashells. (James R. Lockhart, 1983)

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usually dictated some type of purification ritual at the time of burial. Certain ceremonies called for secondary interments following incineration or exposure of the body, and in such cases, the rites might extend over some time period. Where the distinctions in social status were marked, the rites were more elaborate.

The Plains Indians and certain Indians of the Pacific Northwest commonly practiced above-ground burials using trees, scaffolds, canoes, and boxes on stilts, which decayed over time. More permanent were earthen constructions, such as the chambered mounds and crematory mounds of the Indians of the Mississippi River drainage. In some areas of the Southeast and Southwest, cemeteries for urn burials, using earthenware jars, were common.

After contact with European Americans, Native American cultures adopted other practices brought about by religious proselytizing, intermarriage, edict, and enforcement of regulations. The Hopi, Zuni, and other Pueblo peoples of Arizona and New Mexico were among the first to experience Hispanic contact in the 16th century, and subsequently, their ancestral lands were colonized. At the pueblos — stone and adobe villages — where Roman Catholic missions were established, burials within church grounds or graveyards consecrated in accordance with Christian doctrine were encouraged for those who had been converted to the faith. However, Native Americans also continued their traditional burial practices, when necessary in secret.

Throughout the period of the fur trade in the North Pacific, beginning in the late 18th century, Russian Orthodox missions were established among the native populations settled along the coastline and mainland interior of Russian-occupied Alaska. At Eklutna, a village at the head of Cook Inlet, north of Anchorage, an Athabascan cemetery adjacent to the 19th century Church of St. Nicholas (Anchorage Borough - Census Area), illustrates continuity of a burial custom widely recorded in historic times, that of constructing gable-roofed wooden shelters over graves to house the spirit of the dead. In the cemetery at Eklutna, the spirit houses are arranged in regular rows, have brightly-painted exteriors fronted by Greek crosses, and are surmounted by comb-like ridge crests. In this particular example, variation in the size of the shelters is an indication of social status, while clan affiliations are identified by color and by the styling of the crest.

COLONIAL AND EARLY AMERICAN BURIAL CUSTOMS

The earliest episodes of Spanish, French, and English settlement on the eastern shore of North America followed voyages of exploration in the 16th century. The original attempts at colonizing were made in Florida, the Carolinas, and Virginia. In 1565, the first lasting European community was established by the Spanish on the east coast of Florida, at St. Augustine, which survived attack from competing forces in colonization of the New World. An essential feature of the fortified settlement was the Roman Catholic mission church with its associated burial ground. Where they are uncovered in the course of modern day improvement projects, unmarked burials of the 16th and 17th centuries provide evidence for identifying the historic locations of successors to the founding church — sites that gradually disappeared in the layerings of later town development. The archeological record shows shroud-wrapped interments were customary in the city's Spanish Colonial period. Traces of coffins or coffin hardware do not appear in Colonial burials before the beginning of English immigration to the area in the 18th century. Graves of the Spanish colonists occurred in consecrated ground within or adjacent to a church. They followed a pattern of regular, compact spacing and east-facing orientation. These characteristics, together with arms crossed over the chest and the presence of brass shroud pins are a means of distinguishing Christian burials from precolonial Native American burials sometimes associated with the same site.

With the notable exception of the secular graveyards of Puritan New England, the ideal during the Colonial period in English colonies was to bury the dead in churchyards located in close proximity to churches. Churchyard burials have remained standard practice into the 20th century for European Americans and other cultures in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Early Puritans rejected churchyard burials as they rebelled against other "papist" practices, as heretical and idolatrous. Instead, many 17th century New England towns set aside land as common community burial grounds. Headstone images from this period also reflect the rejection of formal Christian iconography in favor of more secular figures, such as skulls representing fate common to all men.

In areas such as the Middle Atlantic region and the South, settlement patterns tended to be more dispersed than in New England. Although early towns such as Jamestown established church cemeteries, eventually burial in churchyards became impractical for all but those living close to churches. As extensive plantations were established to facilitate the production of large scale cash crops, such as tobacco, several factors often made burial in a churchyard problematical: towns were located far apart, geographically large parishes were often served by only a single church, and transportation was difficult, the major mode being by ship. The distance of family plantations from churches necessitated alternative locations for cemeteries, which took the form of family cemeteries on the plantation grounds. They usually were established on a high, well-drained point of land, and often were enclosed by a fence or wall. Although initially dictated by settlement patterns, plantation burials became a tradition once the precedent was set. Along with the variety of dependencies, agricultural lands, and other features, family cemeteries help illustrate the degree of self-sufficiency sustained by many of these plantations. Pruitt Oaks, Colbert County, Alabama, is one of many National Register examples of such a plantation complex.

ORIGINS OF THE "RURAL" CEMETERY MOVEMENT

In the young republic of the United States, the "rural" cemetery movement was inspired by romantic perceptions of nature, art, national identity, and the melancholy theme of death. It drew upon innovations in burial ground design in England and France, most particularly Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, established in 1804 and developed according to an 1815 plan. Based on the model of Mount Auburn Cemetery, founded at Cambridge, near Boston by leaders of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1831, America's "rural" cemeteries typically were established around elevated viewsites at the city outskirts. Mount Auburn was followed

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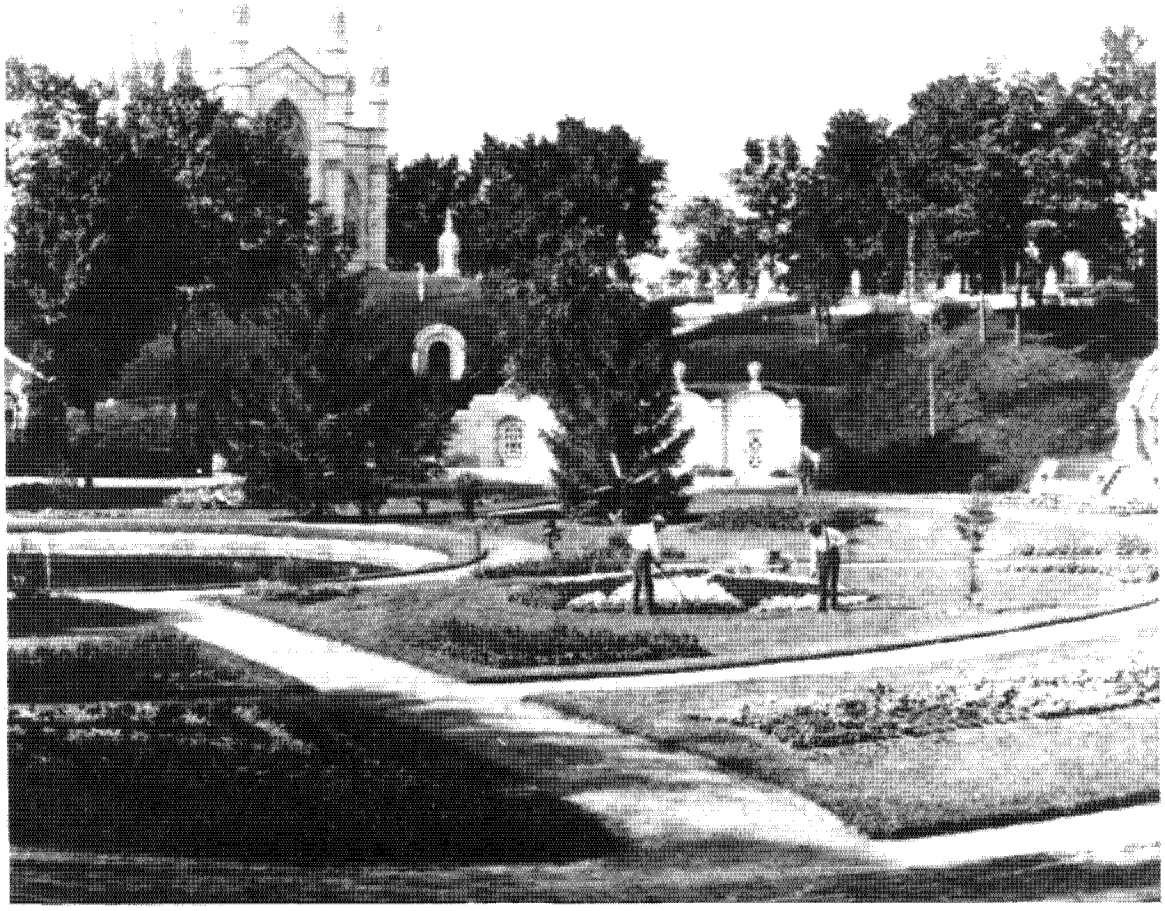

Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was a model for suburban landscaped cemeteries popular in the 19th century. Mount Auburn and other "rural" cemeteries of its kind inspired a movement for public parks. (Photographer unknown; ca. 1870. From the collection of the Mount Auburn Cemetery Archives)

by the formation of Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia in 1836; Green Mount in Baltimore, 1838; Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn and Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, New York, in 1839; and ultimately many others.[3]

After the Civil War, reformers concerned about land conservation and public health agitated for revival of the practice of incineration and urn burial. The cremation movement gathered momentum rapidly around the turn of the century, particularly on the west coast, and resulted in construction of crematories in many major cities. Columbariums and community mausoleums were erected in cemeteries to expand the number of burials which could be accommodated with the least sacrifice of ground space.

Perpetual care lawn cemeteries or memorial parks of the 20th century represent a transformation of the "rural" cemetery ideal that began in the last half of the 19th century. At Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati (Hamilton County), Ohio, superintendent Adolph Strauch introduced the lawn plan system, which deemphasized monuments in favor of unbroken lawn scenery, or common open space. Writing in support of this concept and the value of unified design, fellow landscape architect and cemetery engineer Jacob Weidenmann brought out *Modern Cemeteries: An Essay on the Improvement and Proper Management of Rural Cemeteries* in 1888. To illustrate his essay, Weidenmann diagrammed a variety of plot arrangements showing how areas could be reserved exclusively for landscaping for the enhancement of adjacent lots.

"Modern" cemetery planning was based on the keynotes of natural beauty and economy. Whereas 19th century community cemeteries typically were organized and operated by voluntary associations which sold individual plots to be marked and maintained by private owners according to individual taste, the memorial park was comprehensively designed and managed by full-time professionals. Whether the sponsoring institution was a business venture or non-profit corporation, the ideal was to extend perpetual care to every lot and grave. The natural beauty of cemetery sites continued to be enhanced through landscaping, but rolling terrain was smoothed of picturesque roughness and hilly features. The mechanized equipment required to maintain grounds efficiently on a broad scale prompted standardization of markers flush with the ground level and the elimination of plot-defining barriers.

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[3] Mount Auburn (Middlesex County), Laurel Hill (Philadelphia County), and Green Mount (Baltimore Independent City) are listed individually in the National Register. Because National Register files and published lists are organized by State and county, the name of the county is provided for each individually listed burial place cited in this bulletin. Other referenced cemeteries and burial places may be included in the National Register as part of larger historic properties, especially historic districts.

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THE "RURAL" CEMETERY MOVEMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON AMERICAN LANDSCAPE DESIGN

The "rural" cemetery movement, influenced by European trends in gardening and landscape design, in turn had a major impact on American landscape design. Early in the 19th century, the prevailing tradition was the romantic style of landscape gardening which in the previous century the English nobility and their gardeners had invented using classical landscape paintings as their models. English garden designers such as Lancelot "Capability" Brown, William Kent, Sir Uvedale Price, Humphrey Repton and John Claudius Loudon artfully improved vast country estates according to varying aesthetic theories. To achieve naturalistic effects, gracefully curving pathways and watercourses were adapted to rolling land forms. Contrast and variation were employed in the massing of trees and plants as well as the arrangement of ornamental features. The "picturesque" mode of 18th century landscaping was characterized by open meadows of irregular outline, uneven stands of trees, naturalistic lakes, accents of specimen plants and, here and there, incidental objects such as an antique statue or urn on a pedestal to lend interest and variety to the scene.

The "rural" cemeteries laid out by horticulturists in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York in the 1830s were romantic pastoral landscapes of the picturesque type. Planned as serene and spacious grounds where the combination of nature and monuments would be spiritually uplifting, they came to be looked on as public parks, places of respite and recreation acclaimed for their beauty and usefulness to society. In the early "rural" cemeteries and in those which followed their pattern, hilly, wooded sites were enhanced by grading, selective thinning of trees, and massing of plant materials which directed views opening onto broad vistas. The cemetery gateway established separation from the workaday world, and a winding drive of gradual ascent slowed progress to a stately pace. Such settings stirred an appreciation of nature and a sense of the continuity of life. By their example, the popular new cemeteries started a movement for urban parks that was encouraged by the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing and the pioneering work of other advocates of "picturesque" landscaping, most particularly Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted, who collaborated in the design of New York City's Central Park.

With the rapid growth of urban centers later in the 19th century, landscape design and city planning merged in the work of Frederick Law Olmsted, the country's leading designer of urban parks. Olmsted and his partners were influential in reviving planning on a grand scale in the parkways they created to connect units of municipal park systems. Although Olmsted was more closely tied to the naturalistic style of landscape planning, his firm's work with Daniel H. Burnham in laying out grounds for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago conformed to the classical principles of strong axial organization and bilateral symmetry. The central unifying element of the imposing exposition building group was a lengthy concourse, a lagoon, terminated by sculptural focal points at either end. Following the Chicago World's Fair, civic planning was based for some time on a formal, monumental vision of "the City Beautiful."

The historic relationship of cemetery and municipal park planning in America is well documented in *Park and Cemetery*, one of the earliest professional journals in the field of landscape architecture. Inaugurated in Chicago in 1891 and briefly published as *The Modern Cemetery*, a title that was resumed in 1933, the journal chronicles the growth of an industry and indicates the developing professionalism within related fields. For example, the Association of American Cemetery Superintendents was organized in 1887. Cemetery superintendents and urban park officials held a common interest in matters of design as well as horticulture and practical groundskeeping.

The tradition of naturalistic landscape design that was developed by Olmsted and his followers continued into the 20th century. Widely influential was the work of John C. Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., successors of the elder Olmsted and principals of the Olmsted Brothers firm which was consulted throughout the country on matters of civic landscape design. But after 1900, parks and cemeteries took on aspects of formal landscape planning made fashionable by the "City Beautiful" movement and renewed interest in formal gardens of the Italian style. Typically, classical formality was introduced to early 20th century cemetery landscapes in the axial alignment of principal avenues of approach centered on building fronts, and also in cross axes terminated by rostrums, exedras, and other focal features drawn from various traditions in classical architecture. By the 1930s, newer cemeteries and memorial parks showed the influence of modernism in a general preference for buildings and monuments that were stripped of excessive decoration. Greek architecture, admired for its purity and simplicity, was the approved model for monumentation in the early modern age.

MILITARY CEMETERIES

Military cemeteries, created for the burial of war casualties, veterans, and their dependents are located in nearly every State, as well as in foreign countries, and constitute an important type of American cemetery. There are over 200 cemeteries established by the Federal government for the burial of war casualties and veterans. These include national cemeteries, post cemeteries, soldiers' lots, Confederate and Union plots, American cemeteries overseas, and other burial grounds. Many States also have established veterans cemeteries. The majority of veterans, however, likely are buried in private and community cemeteries, sometimes in separate sections reserved for veterans.

During the American Revolution, soldiers were buried in existing burial grounds near the place of battle. One of the earliest types of organized American military cemetery was the post cemetery. Commanders at frontier forts of the early-to-mid 19th century buried their dead in cemetery plots marked off within the post reservations. Post cemetery registers reveal a fairly uniform system of recording burials, sometimes even including assigned grave numbers. Management of burial grounds fell to quartermaster officers. In 1850, the U.S. Congress called for the establishment of a cemetery outside Mexico City for Americans who died in the Mexican War. This was a precedent for the creation of permanent military cemeter-

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ies over a decade before the creation of a national cemetery system.

During the Civil War, there was a critical shortage of cemetery space for large concentrations of troops. At first, this need was addressed through the acquisition of lots near general hospitals, where more soldiers died than in battle. As the war continued, however, it was clear that this was not an adequate solution. In 1862, Congress passed legislation authorizing the creation of a national cemetery system. Within the year, 14 national cemeteries were established. Most were located near troop concentrations, two were former post cemeteries, one was for the burial of Confederate prisoners and guards who died in a train accident, and several were transformed baftlefield burial grounds. By the end of 1864, 13 more had been added. Two of the best known of the national cemeteries from the Civil War period are Arlington National Cemetery, established in 1864, and Andersonville, established in 1865. Arlington, the home of Confederate General Robert E. Lee at the beginning of the Civil War, was confiscated by the Union army in May of 1861. In 1864, on the recommendation of Brig. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, Quartermaster General of the Army, the grounds officially became a national cemetery. Andersonville became the final resting place of almost 13,000 soldiers who died there at the Confederate prisoner of war camp.

The establishment of Civil War-era military cemeteries often resulted from decisions by local commanders or by State civil authorities in conjunction with private associations. Burial grounds were established near battlefields, military posts, hospitals, and, later, veterans homes. Before the creation of the National Cemetery System, these burial grounds were referred to variously as national cemeteries, soldiers' lots, Confederate plots, Union plots, and post cemeteries. Many later were absorbed into the National Cemetery System.

Immediately after the Civil War, an ambitious search and recovery program initiated the formidable task of locating and reburying soldiers from thousands of scattered battlefield burial sites. By 1870, over 90 percent of the Union casualties — 45 percent of whose identity were unknown — were interred in national cemeteries, private plots, and post cemeteries. In 1867, Congress directed every national cemetery to be enclosed with a stone or iron fence, each gravesite marked with a headstone, and superintendent quarters to be constructed. Although many national cemeteries contain Confederate sections, it was not until 1906 that Congress authorized marking the graves of Confederates who had died in Federal prisons and military hospitals. The post-Civil War reburial program also removed burials from abandoned military post cemeteries, particularly those in the western frontier, for interment into newly-created national cemeteries.

Following World War I, only 13 percent of the deceased returned to the United States were placed in national cemeteries; 40 percent of those who died were buried in eight permanent American cemeteries in Europe. Similarly, after World War II, 14 permanent cemeteries were created in foreign countries. Today, there are 24 American cemeteries located outside the United States, which are administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Until 1933, the War Department administered most military cemeteries. That year an executive order transferred 11 national cemeteries near national military parks or battlefield sites already under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service to that agency. Today, the National Park Service administers 14 national cemeteries.

Originally, hospital military cemeteries associated with former National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and former Veterans Bureau (later Veterans Administration) hospital reservations were not part of the national cemetery system. In 1973, the Department of the Army transferred 82 of the 84 remaining national cemeteries to the Veterans Administration — today the Department of Veterans Affairs — which had been created in 1930 from the merging of the National Homes and Veterans Bureau. Also in 1973, the 21 existing "VA" hospital cemeteries were recognized as part of the National Cemetery System. The system has continued to expand, and there now are 114 national cemeteries managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, where more than two million Americans — including veterans from all of the country's wars and conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the Persian Gulf — are buried.

The total number of military and veterans burial places in the United States is unknown because there are numerous veterans plots in private and non-Federal public cemeteries. In 1991, 70 percent of the markers provided by the Federal government to mark new gravesites were delivered to private or State cemeteries, and the remainder to national cemeteries.

The National Cemetery Section of Lexington Cemetery, Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky, includes burials of Union and Confederate soldiers, and veterans of the Spanish-American War. (Lexington Herald-Leader Newspaper, 1958)

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III. TYPES OF BURIAL PLACES AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES

Distinctive mortuary features and burial places may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register as free-standing buildings and sites nominated individually. Others are eligible because they are significant in a larger context, as, for example, a mausoleum located in a cemetery or a family burial plot on a farmstead or plantation. Cemeteries have been included in the National Register as component elements of historic districts encompassing entire villages, military reservations, or industrial complexes, as well as in association with churches. When a cemetery is included in a larger historic district, it is evaluated like other resources in the district: it contributes to the district's historic significance if it dates from the historic period, relates to the district's significance, and retains integrity; or if it possesses significance independent of the district's. Cemeteries also may be historic districts in their own right.

A cemetery that is evaluated on an individual basis is treated either as a historic site or as a district made up of individual graves, their markers, and plot-defining characteristics. A cemetery that is a site may or may not possess above-ground features that convey their significant historic associations, but still must retain historic integrity. A cemetery district, like other historic districts, is more than an area composed of a collection of separate elements; it is a cohesive landscape whose overall character is defined by the relationship of the features within it. More elaborate cemeteries may have, in addition to the basic cemetery features, ornamental plantings, boundary fences, road systems, gateways, and substantial architectural features such as mausoleums, chapels, and residences of sexton or superintendent — all requiring description and evaluation of significance.

Opposite are some of the types of properties or features that might be encountered in documenting and evaluating burial places. The list covers places for preparation and interment of the dead, commemorative objects, and a number of buildings and structures commonly associated with larger cemeteries (for definitions, see the Glossary, p. 28).

amphitheater
bench
burial cache
burial mound
burial mound complex
burial site
cairn
cemetery
chapel
columbarium
cremation area
crematorium
crypt
fountain
gatehouse
grave
gravemarker
graveyard
grave shelter
greenhouse
lych gate
mausoleum
memorial park
monument
mortuary
office building
ossuary
pumphouse
receiving tomb
rostrum
service building
sexton's residence
shelter house
superintendent's residence
tomb
vault

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IV. EVALUATING CEMETERIES AND BURIAL PLACES

It is not essential that those evaluating cemeteries for potential National Register eligibility hold credentials in scholarly disciplines, but it is important that they be able to place the resource type in as broad a context as possible and to describe and analyze its components. Those not trained in the disciplines discussed below are encouraged to refer to the recommended sources listed at the end of the guidance, and to consult their local historical commission and State historic preservation office. They may wish to consult professionals who have had training or experience in archeology, anthropology, art history, architectural history, history of landscape architecture, horticulture, history American studies, cultural geography, or historic preservation. Within a number of these disciplines, the study of funerary art and custom is a specialized area. Appropriate expertise may extend to the fields of iconology, ethnology and folklore. Familiar with the terminology used to describe characteristic elements of prehistoric and historic burial sites, cemetery landscapes, buildings, and monuments, individuals in these fields may more easily be able to identify those elements in historic photographs, in plans, and upon inspection of a site.

Archeologists and anthropologists are qualified to evaluate the potential of burials to yield significant information about the past, and often are able to do so without disturbing the remains. Anthropologists and cultural geographers glean information from gravemarkers, inscriptions, and epitaphs, which reveal changing attitudes about death and afterlife, about demographics (the migration patterns of population groups), and about the prevalence of disease. The folklorist and anthropologist perceive meaning in the commonplace, traditional ways of treating graves that are untouched by the currents of high style monumentation.

Art and architectural historians are prepared to assess the visual qualities of the resource, the elements of artistic and architectural style embodied in sculptural monument, gatehouse, and mausoleum. Landscape architectural historians can evaluate and document elements of historic landscape design. Those who specialize in the study of material culture are knowledgeable about the evolving techniques of manufacture and the icons (forms and symbols holding special meaning) used by monument makers in various historic periods. Historians are qualified to relate cemetery development to changing attitudes about death and burial, trends in community planning, aesthetic taste and choices, and historic events such as episodes of settlement and military actions.

APPLYING THE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

To be eligible for the National Register, a cemetery or burial place must be shown to be significant under one or more of the four basic Criteria for Evaluation. Criteria A, B, C, and D indicate the several ways in which a property may be significant in American history, architecture (including the disciplines of landscape architecture and planning), archeology, engineering, and culture. Decisions about the relative significance of cemeteries and burial places can be made only with knowledge of the events, trends, and technologies that influenced practices of caring for and commemorating the dead, and with some concept of the quality and quantity of similar resources in the community, region, State, or nation. Such background provides the context for evaluating significance.

The term "context," as applied to the process of evaluation, may be described simply as the relevant social, political, economic, and environmental circumstances of the historic period in which a property was developed. By studying a burial place in its broadest possible context, and by applying the basic criteria, the researcher is able to recognize those resources which are significant in representing a given period and historic theme.

Within the broad patterns of American history, the National Register defines a number of "areas of significance." Areas of significance are equivalent to the historical or cultural themes that the property best represents. Some of the areas of significance relevant to burial places are art and architecture, landscape architecture, community planning and development, archeology, ethnic heritage, exploration and settlement, health/medicine, military history, religion, and social history. It is important when applying National Register criteria to keep in mind that, except for archeological sites and cemeteries nominated under Criterion D, burial places also must meet the special requirements of Criteria Considerations C or D, which refer to graves and cemeteries, and possibly to A (religious properties) or other Criteria Considerations.

Criterion A: Properties can be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Under Criterion A, the events or trends with which the burial place is associated must be clearly important, and the connection between the burial place and its associated context must be unmistakable. There are many ways in which a cemetery might represent an important aspect of a community's or a culture's history through association with a specific event or by representing broader patterns of attitudes or behavior. For example, our legacy of community

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cemeteries began in Colonial times. In Boston, when "Brother Johnson" died in 1630, his burial was soon followed by others close by. This property then became the first burial ground for the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and was the only Colonial burial ground in Boston for 30 years. Ultimately, it assumed the name of a later church constructed there, becoming King's Chapel Burying Ground (Suffolk County). Depending on the history of an area, the age required of a cemetery to represent early exploration, settlement, and development will vary. In Colorado, the Doyle Settlement (Pueblo County), established by early pioneer Joseph Doyle in 1859, was one of the earliest non-mining communities in the State. Once a self-contained unit consisting of residences, dining facility, store, flour mill, blacksmith shop, school, and granaries, its importance in the early development of southern Colorado is now represented by only the school, the cemetery, and building foundations.

A cemetery may represent a variety of important aspects of an area's early settlement and evolving sense of community. Union Cemetery, in Redwood City (San Mateo County), California, was the subject of the State's first cemetery legislation in 1859. Early in its history, it became the focal point for an annual Memorial Day celebration, which grew over the years into one of the town's most important communal traditions. In addition, a study of the birthplaces of those buried there found at least 17 foreign countries and 26 States, demonstrating the ethnic and cultural diversity characteristic of early northern California communities.

Cemeteries may be significant for associations with specific events as well as long-term trends. The Kuamo'o Burials, Hawaii County, Hawaii, is the burial ground for warriors killed in a major battle in Hawaiian history. The Hawaiian ruling class traditionally had exercised power through a system of sacred rules, or *kapu*. After the death of Kamehameha I in 1819, authority was divided so that Kamehameha I's son Liholiho (Kamehameha II) controlled the secular government, and his nephew Kekuaokalani maintained the *kapu* system. When the new king acted to abolish the *kapu*, Kekuaokalani led an army in rebellion to protect the sacred traditions. Liholiho's forces prevailed, and the abolition of the *kapu* system, occurring the same year as the arrival of Christian missionaries, accelerated the assimilation of western culture. In contrast, Magnolia Cemetery, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, already was a cemetery when the Battle of Baton Rouge took place there in 1862. Although the Confederates failed to expel the Union forces occupying the city, the ferocity of their attack helped persuade Federal leaders to evacuate. As a result, the Confederates were able to secure a stronghold for transporting supplies on the Mississippi River. Much of the rest of the battlefield has succumbed to urban development, but the cemetery retains its integrity from the Civil War period.

Battles are a common, but not the only type of, event associated with cemeteries and other burial places. The Mass Grave of the Mexican Miners, within Mount Calvary Cemetery, McAlester (Pittsburg County), Oklahoma, is the only site representing a major 1929 mining disaster. Mexicans played a major role in the area's mining industry and made up almost half of the casualties from the 1929 explosion. The creation of a mass grave for 24 of the Mexican victims, dug by State prisoners and initially marked with only a single wooden cross (ten stone family markers were added later), also is evocative of a time in mining history when terms of employment did not include survivors benefits.

The evolution of burial customs and memorializations also can be an important context for understanding our history. In the 19th century, romantic appreciation of nature and changing

One of the few reminders of the vanished Doyle Settlement near Pueblo, Colorado, this cemetery also includes one of the state's best collections of carved Spanish headstones and represents the dual cultural influences on the community. (James Munch, 1979)

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attitudes about death and memorialization led to gradual abandonment of overcrowded urban graveyards and church cemeteries in favor of spacious, landscaped burial grounds on the city outskirts. The great "rural" cemeteries outlying major cities in the eastern United States and the Midwest were founded by voluntary associations in the 1830s and 1840s. Their popularity inspired a benevolent movement, led to the development of urban parks, and was the foundation of an entire industry. Although most of the Register-listed community cemeteries across the country that were established in their image before 1900 are documented under Criterion C only — for landscape architecture, and sometimes art or architecture — many also may meet National Register Criterion A in the areas of social history or community planning.

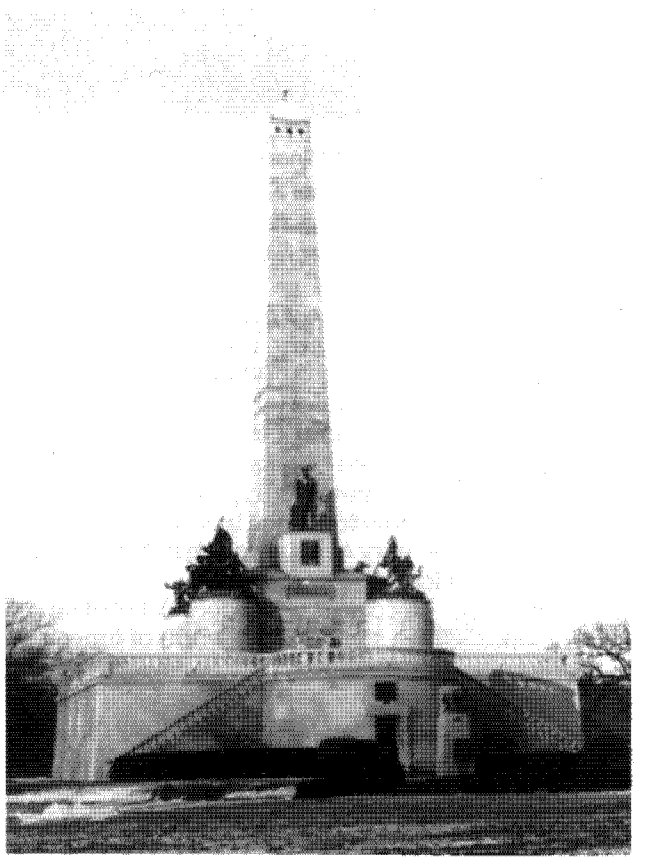
In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, American mortuary practices were greatly influenced by the cremation movement spurred by advocates in the medical and scientific community and a general awareness of the world's mounting population. The first national convention leading to formation of the Cremation Association of America was held at Detroit in 1913. In areas of the world where it was not in conflict with religious doctrine, the movement was well developed by the 1920s and 1930s. Public health laws were revised to allow hygienic disposal of the dead by incineration, and cremation societies were organized to promote and maintain private facilities. Some crematories were municipally owned. Typically, crematory design incorporated, in addition to the retort, a chapel and mausoleum, or columbarium. Frequently, the combination facility was sited in a conventional cemetery or memorial park. The spread of the movement related, in part, to the ideals of economy and efficiency that marked the early 20th century. The nation's early crematories and those representing later benchmarks in the broad reform movement would be eligible, in all likelihood, under Criterion A.

Criterion B: Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Under Criterion B, the person or group of persons with which the burial place is associated must be of *outstanding* importance to the community, State, or nation, as required by Criteria Consideration C (see page 16). As an example, Abraham Lincoln's tomb in Springfield (Sangamon County), Illinois is significant as the final resting place of the martyred figure who, as the nation's 16th president, successfully defended the Union of States in the Civil War and drafted the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862-1863. While not all other properties directly associated with President Lincoln's productive life are lost, the tomb also is important, in part, under Criterion A as the focal point of a broad-based commemorative effort begun shortly after he was slain in 1865.

Graves of persons significant to a particular State , region of the country, or cultural group also may qualify for listing. The Free Frank McWorter Grave Site, also in Illinois (Pike County), is listed in the National Register for its significance in representing the accomplishments of a former slave. Free Frank McWorter purchased his own freedom and that of his wife with the profits of his business before moving to Illinois in 1830. In Illinois, he established a farm, engaged in land speculation, founded a prosperous frontier community, and secured the freedom of 13 additional family members. The gravesite is the only property that survives to represent his achievements and his impact on this area of the State. In Utah, the Martin Harris Gravesite (Cache County) is listed as the State's only property associated with Martin Harris, one of three witnesses to the Book of Mormon, who also served as the first scribe to Mormon prophet Joseph Smith.

Cemeteries, as well as graves, may be eligible under Criterion B. Forestvale Cemetery, on the outskirts of Helena (Lewis and Clark County), Montana, is one of many National Register cemeteries that contain the graves of numerous persons who made outstanding contributions to the history of the State or area in which their graves are located. Among those buried in Forestvale are James Fergus, first commissioner of the territory, also credited with spearheading the formation of Fergus County; Cornelius Hedges, who played a prominent role in the development of the State's public education system and in the formation of Yellowstone National Park; J. Scott Harrison, the chief geological engineer who mapped all of Montana, including boundaries, mountains, principal rivers and streams, and some county borders; Albert Kleinschmidt, credited with the construction of the three largest irrigation



The Lincoln Tomb, Springfield, Illinois, is the final resting place for Abraham Lincoln, his wife Mary Todd Lincoln, and three of his sons. Built between 1869 and 1874, it was the culmination of a broad-based community effort to memorialize the slain president. (Stephen Lissandrello, 1975)

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canals in the State; and W. A. Chessman, who constructed the Chessman Reservoir, ensuring a stable water supply for the city of Helena.[4]

Criterion C: Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Under Criterion C, funerary monuments and their associated art works, buildings, and landscapes associated with burial places must be good representatives of their stylistic type or period and methods of construction or fabrication. Alternatively, such property types may represent the work of master artists, designers and craftsmen, or the highest artistic values of the period. Appropriate areas of significance would be architecture, art, or landscape architecture.

In the Colonial period, tablet-style gravemarkers typically were inscribed and embellished in low relief with the imagery first of death, and later also of resurrection, with various decorative symbols. Much of the work was done by stone carvers whose craftsmanship was of outstanding quality, recognizable in one burial ground after another by distinguishing motifs, craft techniques, or other signature marks. A 17th or 18th century graveyard containing a good representation of gravemarkers of the period and region would be eligible under Criterion C if the body of work is documented sufficiently to provide a basis for comparison. Attribution of particular works to a specific master carver, family, or group of artisans would be helpful, but is not essential to the documentation. Quality craftsmanship or distinctive folk art may be eligible even if the identity of the artisan is unknown. For example, the Hebron Church, Cemetery, and Academy, Banks County, Georgia, is eligible, in part, because of an unusual form of folk art found in northern Georgia. Early 19th century discoid markers there are believed to be made of hand-carved rock from a nearby outcropping by an early settler who learned the craft from ancestors in the British Isles.

In the closing years of the 19th century, the arts in America achieved a high point of integration based on the ideals of Renaissance classicism. The nation's leading architects and sculptors, most notably Richard Morris Hunt, Stanford White, Daniel Chester French, and Augustus Saint-Gaudens, collaborated in the design of important civic and cemetery monuments. There are many examples of high artistic achievement in funerary monumentation of the period eligible under Criterion C in urban centers. Among the best-known of these is the Adams Memorial in Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, D.C., where Stanford White provided an architectural setting for the sublime bronze figure of transcendent peace completed by Saint-Gaudens in 1891. Historian-writer Henry Brooks Adams commissioned the monument in memory of his wife, the former Marian Hooper.

A cemetery that does not contain "high style" master works of funerary art nonetheless may be eligible under Criterion C as a distinguishable entity made up of a significant array of gravemarkers and monuments representing the common artistic values of a historic period. For example, the elaborate monumentation characteristic of cemeteries of the Victorian era was derived from the influence of the romantic movement in literature and art, which revered nature and sentiment. Grief and devotion could be expressed nobly in artistic terms by means of code-like imagery. Pyramid-capped mausoleums and tapering shafts on pedestals were among the popular monument forms drawn from the ancient world. Because of their association with Egyptian sepulchral monuments signifying eternal life beyond the earthly realm, the pyramid and obelisk became symbols for Christian belief in the eternity of the spirit. Indeed, obelisks were so widely used as gravemarkers that they, along with classical columns, account for much of the bristling quality of cemetery landscapes of the period. Some of the imagery was figural, encompassing effigies and idealized figures as well as lambs, cherubs, and other orders of angels. Among the many cemeteries listed for their notable collection of Victorian funerary art are Oakwood Cemetery, Onondaga County, New

The Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Newark, Essex County, New Jersey, illustrates characteristic features and attitudes toward death in the Victorian period in the profusion of attenuated, vertical forms, such as columns and obelisks, imagery expressing confidence in spiritual after-life. (Anna Sanchez, 1985)

[4] Refer to *National Register Bulletin 32: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons* for additional guidance on applying Criterion B.

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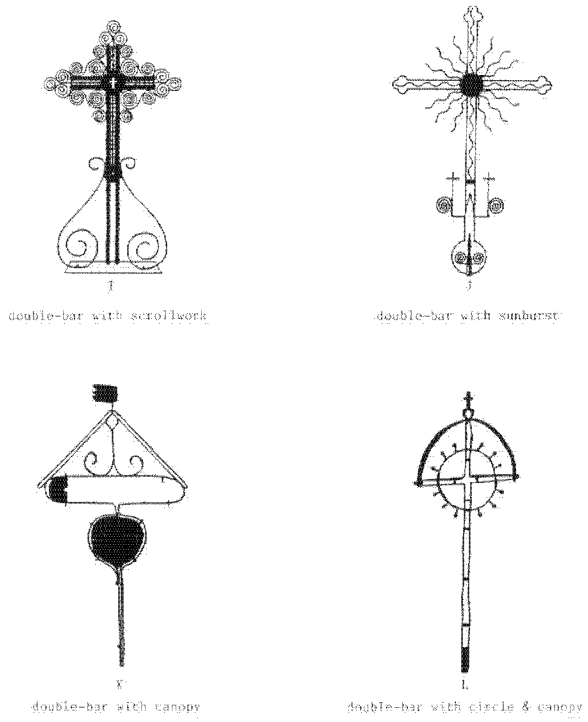
The Sculptures of Dionicio Rodriguez at Memorial Park Cemetery in Memphis, Tennessee, illustrate the work of a master artist. (Tennessee Historical Commission, 1990)

Four of the dozens of individually designed styles found in the German-Russian Wrought Iron Cross Sites in Central North Dakota represent an Old World folk tradition, which enjoyed its greatest period of popularity in this region from the 1880s until about 1925. (Timothy J. Kloberdanz, 1988)

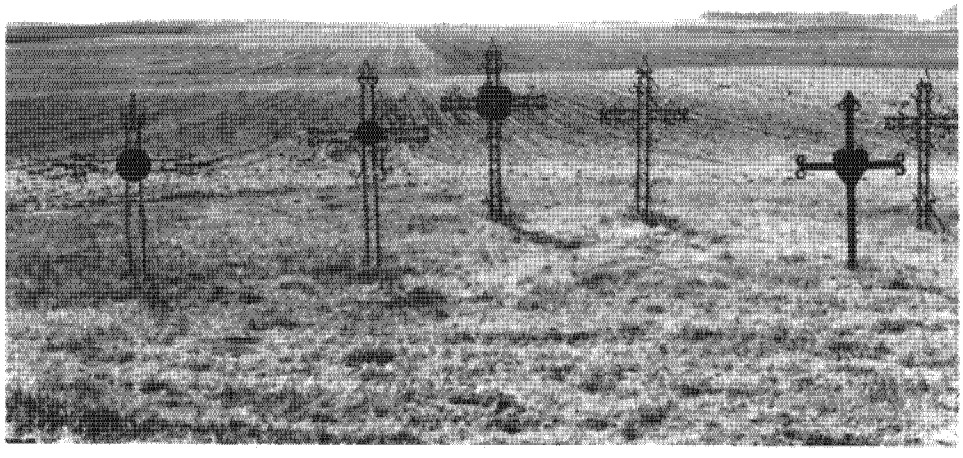
York; Oakland Cemetery, Fulton County, Georgia; Elmwood Cemetery, Jackson County, Missouri; and Cave Hill Cemetery, Jefferson County, Kentucky. Not surprisingly, all are significant in the area of landscape architecture as well.

In part, the richness and variety of monuments in Victorian cemeteries was derived from the introduction of mechanized manufacturing processes. A broad range of patterns was available to monument makers in printed handbooks, a notable example of which was *Palliser's Memorials and Headstones*, published in 1851 by Palliser, Palliser, and Company, New York architects and designers. A great many markers were mass marketed through marble works and manufacturers' catalogs. Monuments of cast zinc marketed as "white bronze" were popular throughout the country after a fabrication process was developed in the 1870s. Metal gravemarkers generally were cheaper than marble and granite markers and, depending on the number and variety of casting molds used, could surpass in elaboration the carved stone monuments they emulated. City Cemetery, Washington County, Georgia, contains a significant collection of mass-produced designs. Cast iron fences, also readily available at this time, became extremely popular for fencing of both individual plots and entire cemeteries. The cast iron fences in Rapides Cemetery, Rapides Parish, Louisiana, are among the most important examples of Victorian ornamental cast iron in the State outside of New Orleans.

Less commonplace, but highly distinctive, examples of funerary art or



The rural setting and these six crosses, the only objects remaining from the old Mt. Carmel settlement in Pierce County, North Dakota, are evocative of the State's early period of German-Russian immigration. (Timothy J. Kloberdanz, 1988)



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craftsmanship also may qualify for National Register listing. The Sculptures of Dionicio Rodriguez at Memorial Park Cemetery, Shelby County, Tennessee, constitute one of the finest collections of sculptures executed by this Mexican artist. His rustic works in tinted reinforced concrete imitate natural forms such as trees and stone masses. Mountain View Cemetery, Stillwater County, Montana, is known for its concentration of hand-carved sandstone tree stump and log tombstones, most believed to be the work of two local Italian carvers. In central North Dakota, German-Russian Wrought Iron Cross Sites contain a dazzling array of intricately embellished hand-crafted iron grave crosses, a long-established Old World folk tradition brought to the United States by German-Russian immigrants. The crosses, some by highly-skilled blacksmiths whose names are known, and others by unknown artisans, display a balance of cultural tradition and individual creativity.

Criterion D: Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Burial places may be eligible for their potential to yield information about cultural and ethnic groups. Under Criterion D, the common requirements are that the property have information to contribute and the information is considered important. The importance of the information to be yielded usually is determined by considering a research design or a set of questions that could be resolved by controlled investigation of the site. While commonly understood to apply to archeological research, Criterion D also encompasses information important in the study of material culture and social history. Except for the graves of significant historic individuals, burial places nominated under Criterion D need not meet the special requirements of the Criteria Considerations.

Information collected on Native Americans in all parts of the country reveals a great range and variation of burial ritual. The placement and orientation of burial remains and the objects associated with burials, such as implements, vessels for food offerings and personal adornment, reveal a people's spiritual beliefs, their view of afterlife, and distinctions in social, economic, and political status. Some aspects of burials, such as the lining or closing of graves with stones and the plugging of burial chambers with debris, indicate methods of protecting the remains. The similarity of burial practices in different regions could indicate links through trade and migration.

Present Federal, State, and local laws protecting Native American burial remains, burial goods, and sacred objects may constrain physical anthropological studies. However, where disturbance of burials is accidental or unavoidable, legally authorized scientific analysis of skeletal remains can disclose important information about environmental conditions of prehistoric times, including the prevalence of disease and trauma inflicted in combat. Sometimes these properties may be eligible without having been excavated; Hodgen's Cemetery Mound in Ohio, revealed as a burial mound by erosion, has never been excavated and was seeded to prevent further erosion; its significance is enhanced by its relatively undisturbed integrity. Also, it is not uncommon to find burying places associated with other archeological features, and such burial places may be eligible for National Register listing as part of a larger area of occupation for which testing or partial excavation has been carried out. Whether burial places are identified individually, or as part of a larger site, one should always consult representatives of any group for whom the burials or site have historic or cultural meaning, and also the State historic preservation office.

Anthropologists and historical archeologists can gain information significant in American culture from burial places. For example, West Africans carried in the slave trade to the east coast of America, and their descendants, adapted traditional burial rites to plantation and community life. Studies of African American cemeteries in the South reveal a variety of gravesite treatments based on a view of the spirit world that can be traced to the Bakongo culture of West Africa. Light-reflecting objects and personal possessions used to define and decorate graves are intended to attract and contain the spirit. The spiralled conch shell seen on graves in the coastal areas is an emblem of the eternal cycle of life and death, and inverted objects are oriented to the spirit world, which in traditional culture is a shimmering mirror of the living world beneath the earthly plane. Cemeteries having the potential to illustrate the practice of such beliefs may be eligible under Criterion D.

In cases where written documentation is not available, studies of a cemetery may reveal important information about an area. The site of Old Greenville is the location of a frontier town and county seat important in the early settlement of the Missouri Ozarks. Because a series of courthouse fires destroyed early records, information that can be obtained from cemetery features can enlighten various aspects of the area's past. Features documented as having information potential include location and grouping of graves; use and quantity of commercial markers, fieldstone, impermanent markers, or no markers; funerary art; and inscriptions indicating identity, cultural affiliation, birth and death dates, and cause of death.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS

Certain types of properties, including cemeteries and graves, do not qualify for the National Register unless they meet certain special conditions. This category also includes birthplaces of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years. However, cemeteries and graves may qualify under Criteria A, B, or C if they are integral parts of larger properties that do meet the criteria, or if they meet the conditions known as Criteria Considerations. In some instances, a burial place nomination will need to be justified under more than one of the special conditions in addition to the basic criteria. Except for the graves of historical figures, burial places nominated under Criterion D are exempt from the Criteria Consideration requirements.

In the discussion below, examples that must be justified under the Criteria Considerations are those for which an explicit justification must be included in the nomination documentation. Following these are examples of properties likely to be accepted for National Register listing if the nomination documentation included an adequate explanation. Each discussion also includes at least one example of a type of cemetery or burial place that may be nominated, or included

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in a larger nominated property, without the necessity of checking a Criteria Consideration blank on the form or providing a special justification in the nomination.

Criteria Consideration A: A religious property is eligible if it derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.

Examples of religious burial places that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration A requirements:

- A graveyard maintained as property of a church or synagogue.
- A crypt or crypts of a historic church or synagogue.
- A cemetery containing burials of members of a religious order or group, if the religious affiliation is a major part of the cemetery's significance.

Examples of religious burial grounds that likely would meet Criteria Consideration A requirements with adequate documentation:

- A graveyard of a church or synagogue distinguished by the artistic quality of its gravemarkers or by relatively early historical associations.
- A crypt significant for its artistic embellishment or associations with a person of outstanding importance.

Example of religious burial places that *do not* need to be justified under Criteria Consideration A:

- A graveyard or cemetery that is nominated along with the church or synagogue with which it is associated when the church or synagogue is the main resource nominated.

Criteria Consideration B: A property removed from its original or historically significant location can be eligible if it is significant primarily for architectural value or if it is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event.

Examples of relocated burial places that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration B requirements:

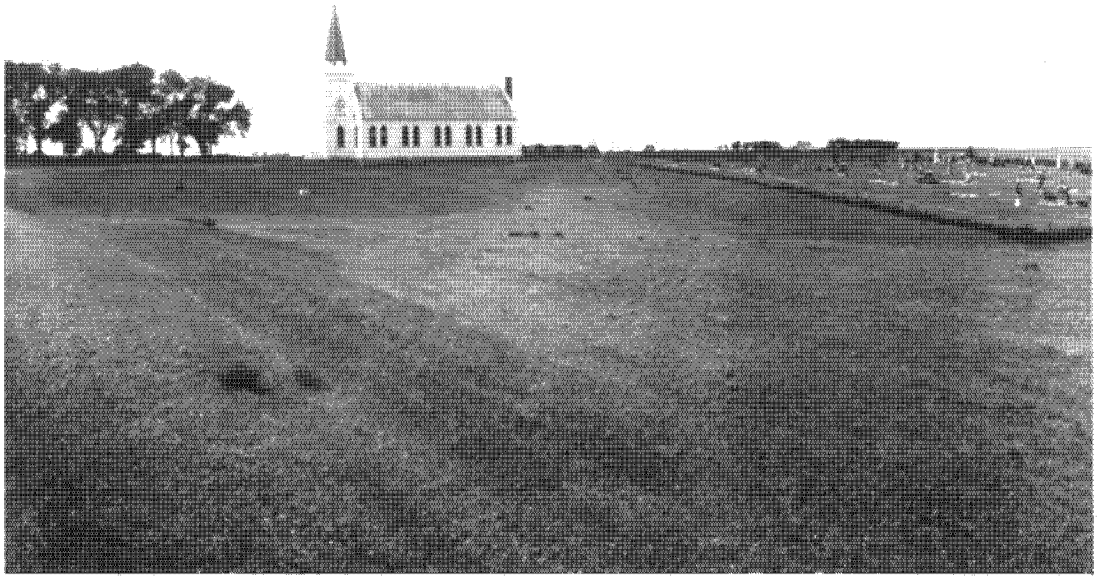
- A grave of a historic figure that has been moved from its original or earlier historic location to a place that became the focus of commemorative monumentation.
- A mausoleum, columbarium, or other building that has been relocated.
- A cemetery or section of a cemetery that became the location of reinterments of a group of historic figures.
- A graveyard or cemetery relocated in its entirety.

Examples of relocated burial places that likely would meet Criteria Consideration B requirements with adequate documentation:

- A mausoleum or other building relocated within the bounds of its historic setting without loss to its significant architectural character and without destroying the character of a historic district.
- A cemetery or section of a cemetery where a group of historic persons of outstanding importance were reinterred fifty or more years ago.
- A graveyard moved in its entirety if it represents a historic relocation and the artistic qualities and social significance of its historic gravemarkers are preserved.
- An ossuary or other burial place that represents reinterment as a traditional cultural practice.

Example of relocated burial places that *do not* need to be justified under Criteria Consideration B:

- A graveyard or cemetery in which a few reinterments have taken place; in which a small number of gravemarkers original to the grounds are missing or separated from their historic positions; or for which the age or historical associations are of overriding rarity and significance.



As part of a church nomination, the cemetery next to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Colfax County, Nebraska, need not meet the requirements of Criteria Considerations A or D. (D. Murphy, 1980)

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Criteria Consideration C: A birthplace or grave of a historical figure is eligible if the person is of outstanding importance and if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life.

Historical figures of outstanding importance in local, State or national history usually are more vividly associated with the places relating to their productive lives than with their graves. Gravesites may be far removed, geographically, from the setting of the individual's momentous activities. But if residences and business or professional headquarters are not preserved, the final resting place sometimes may be significant as the most substantial link to that person. A historical figure of outstanding importance is one whose contributions to local, State or national history were truly extraordinary. The accomplishments of such a person must stand out in kind and degree from those of others active at a comparable level in the same field and during the same period of time.

Prehistoric graves do not fall under this Criteria Consideration.

Examples of graves that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration C requirements:

- A grave nominated for its associations with the person buried there.

- The grave of a historical figure that is nominated for its potential to yield information significant in local, State or national history.

Examples of graves that likely would meet Criteria Consideration C requirements if adequately documented:

- A grave that is the only substantial intact link to a historical figure of outstanding importance.

- The grave of a historical figure nominated under Criterion D for significant information about the past that is not available from other sources.

Example of graves that *do not* need to be justified under Criteria Consideration C:

- A grave located on the grounds of the house, farm, ranch, or plantation where the outstanding historical figure spent his or her productive years, and the property is being nominated as a whole.

Criteria Consideration D: A cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.

As collective burial places, cemeteries are the focus of many individual expressions commemorating family members and spiritual beliefs. In and of itself, this characteristic does not qualify a burial place for listing in the National Register. However, when a burying ground is of sufficient age and scope to represent more, such as patterns of early settlement or the values of a society generally, National Register Criteria Consideration D provides for its eligibility. Cemeteries nominated for the importance of the information they may impart may be eligible for listing without application of Criteria Consideration D.

To be considered a person of transcendent importance, an individual would have to meet the same test as that for a grave. To qualify for its age, a cemetery must date from an early period within its geographic and cultural context. The age of a burial place might be considered early relative to the period for which we have information about human activity, or relative to the exploration, settlement, and development of an area by a particular group. As with any other type of property, a cemetery may be eligible for the quality of design represented in its funerary art, construction or engineering techniques, landscape architecture, or other values recognized under National Register Criterion C. Likewise, under Criterion A, a cemetery may possess significant associations with historic events, including general events that reflect important broad patterns in our history.

Examples of cemeteries that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration D requirements:

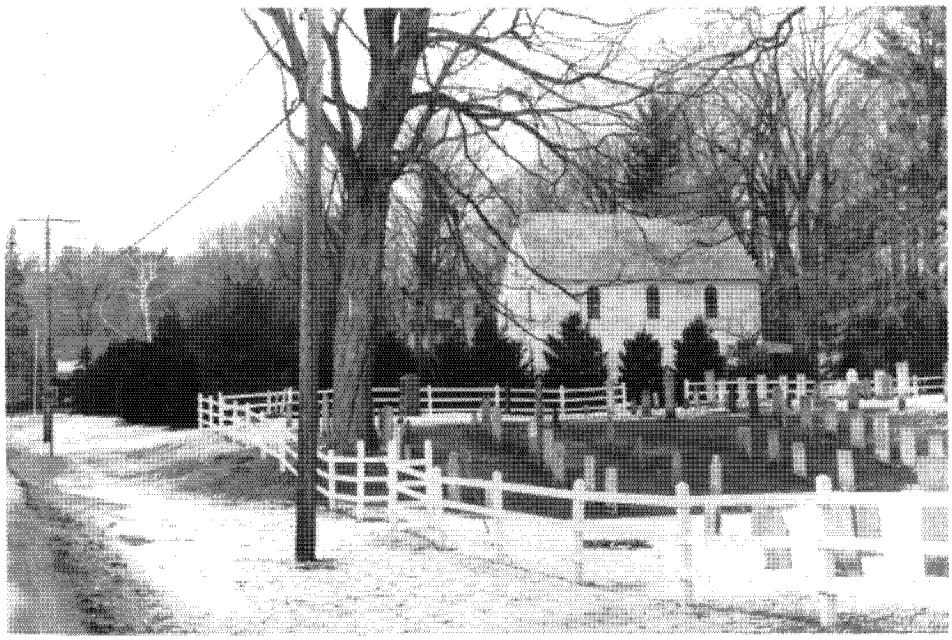
- Any cemetery nominated individually under National Register Criteria A, B, or C.

- A cemetery that constitutes a substantial or pivotal portion of a historic district nominated under Criteria A, B, or C.

Examples of cemeteries that likely would meet Criteria Consideration D requirements if adequately documented:

- A historic cemetery containing the graves of a number of persons of outstanding importance — those whose activities determined the course of events in local, State, or national history; or those whose

The St. Matthew's Church cemetery contributes to the significance of East Plymouth Historic District in Plymouth, Litchfield County, Connecticut, a community that was settled by a historically significant religious minority, and which developed as a center for surrounding farm families. (Connecticut Historical Commission, 1984)



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activities were especially important in reflecting significant cultural currents of the time.

• A cemetery possessing important historic associations from a community's early period of settlement, or which reflects important aspects of community history.

• A cemetery that embodies the principles of an aesthetic movement or tradition of design and monumentation through its overall plan and landscaping, its gravemarkers and funerary sculpture, or its buildings and structures.

• A cemetery that is associated through its burials with a single important historical event such as a pivotal military battle.

• A cemetery that embodies the folkways, burial customs, or artistic traditions of an ethnic or cultural group whose impact on the community or region was significant but is not well documented in other resources.

Examples of cemeteries that *do not* need to be justified under Criteria Consideration D:

• A cemetery associated with a distinguishable cultural group that has the potential to yield important information such as migration patterns, subsistence levels, and prevalence of disease in historic or prehistoric times.

• A cemetery that is nominated along with the church or synagogue with which it is associated when the church or synagogue is the main resource nominated.

• A cemetery that is nominated as part of a historic district but is not the focal point of the district.

Criteria Consideration E: A reconstructed property is eligible when it is accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived.

Examples of reconstructed burial places that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration E requirements:

• A burial mound or other surface burial place reconstructed largely of fabric that is not original.

• A cemetery in which a significant number of character-defining features, such as mausoleums and gravemarkers, are reconstructed of fabric that is not original.

Example of reconstructed burial places that likely would meet Criteria Consideration E requirements if adequately documented:

• A cemetery in which landscape plantings, road systems, mausoleums, and/or gravemarkers have been repaired and restored largely with original fabric in accordance with a well documented preservation plan.

Criteria Consideration F: A property primarily commemorative in intent can be eligible if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance.

Most burial places, ranging from gravemarkers and grave shelters to substantial mausoleums and cemeteries as a whole, are commemorative in intent. Unlike many commemorative properties, however, the significance of a burial place often includes direct association with events that occurred on or near the site, or with the person or persons buried there. Other burial places may be significant for their artistic quality or their capacity to evoke widely-shared emotions.

Gettysburg National Cemetery, which now contains approximately 6,000 burials from the Civil War through the Viet Nam conflict, was established as a cemetery for the Union casualties from one of the decisive battles of the Civil War. The number of killed, wounded, and captured in the fighting of July 1-3, 1863, reached 51,000 and was unsurpassed in any other engagement of the Civil War. In addition to its direct association with the battlefield, the cemetery shares significance with the adjacent battlefield because of their long history as a place where the pathos of a nation was expressed, beginning with President Abraham Lincoln's immortal address at the cemetery's dedication little more than four and half months after the battle ended.

In general, national cemeteries meet Criteria Consideration F because they have been designated by Congress as primary memorials to the country's military history. Many of these also are directly associated with the battles in which the interred lost their lives.

Examples of commemorative burial places that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration F requirements:

• A funerary monument of a heroic or martyred figure, or a tribal or national leader, if it is the commemorative function that is of primary significance.

Example of commemorative burial places that likely would meet Criteria Consideration F requirements if adequately justified:

• A national cemetery.

Examples of commemorative burial places that *do not* need to be justified under Criteria Consideration F:

• A gravemarker or monument significant primarily for its age or its distinction as an example of craftsmanship or architecture of a historic period or school.

• A gravemarker significant primarily as a document of the traditions of an ethnic or cultural group.

• A cemetery significant chiefly because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a historic period or school of landscape design or of an important tradition of vernacular or folk design.

Criteria Consideration G: A property achieving significance within the last fifty years is eligible if it is of exceptional importance.

National cemeteries, collectively, possess inherent exceptional significance from associations with important events in our history. Because the cemeteries include the graves of military personnel associated with every war and branch of service, and draw their essential significance from the presence of the remains of those who have served their country throughout its history, the age of each cemetery is not necessarily the determining factor. To qualify, however, each cemetery must be used or prepared for the burials of veterans and their dependents, and must possess historic integrity.

Examples of burial places less than fifty years old that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration G requirements:

• A grave that is less than fifty years old.

• A cemetery established less than fifty years ago.

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• A new national cemetery or tracts of recently acquired land not yet developed for cemetery purposes, even if added to existing cemeteries.

• A mausoleum, mortuary, or crematorium that is less than fifty years old.

Examples of burial places less that fifty years old that likely would meet Criteria Consideration G requirements if adequately documented:

• A grave of a national or tribal leader that is exceptionally important because the leader's death had a galvanic effect on broad social movements and the gravesite is the focal point of reverence for the leader's achievements.

• A mausoleum, mortuary, or crematorium that is exceptionally significant as a pivotal design in the development of new technologies for care of the dead.

• A developed national cemetery that contains interments of veterans and their dependents, or one that has been clearly prepared for that purpose.

Examples of burial places less than fifty years old that *do not* need to be justified under Criteria Consideration G:

• A historic cemetery established more than fifty years ago, where the vast majority of burials, markers, and monuments are over fifty years old, but which is still active, and in which a number of burials occurred less than fifty years ago. (The period of significance in such a case would end either at the end of the cemetery's period of historical importance, or fifty years prior to the evaluation and documentation if the continuing use is perceived as significant but not exceptionally significant.)

• A cemetery significant for its plan or design which, although commenced over fifty years ago, was fully executed at a date that overlaps the most recent fifty year period by a few years.

INTEGRITY

To qualify for National Register listing, properties must retain historic integrity. The Criteria for Evaluation recognize seven factors which define historic integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. All must be considered in determining whether a burial place retains enough of its characteristic features to represent the associations, function, and appearance it had during its period of significance. The natural and developed landscape features that are associated with complex burial places such as cemeteries must be considered as part of the evaluation of integrity.

In essence, the researcher should ask the following questions in evaluating integrity: 1) To what degree does the burial place and its overall setting convey the most important period(s) of use? 2) To what degree have the original design and materials of construction, decoration, and landscaping been retained? 3) Has the property's potential to yield significant information in American culture been compromised by ground-disturbance or previous investigation?

To assess the completeness and condition of a burial place, it is helpful to begin by identifying the characteristic features of the type of property under study, especially those that give the property significance. For a cemetery, such features would include gravesites, gravemarkers, boundary enclosures, walkways, gateways, road systems, natural and planted vegetation, buildings, structures, and the spatial relationship among all of these. By their constant exposure, certain gravemarker materials, such as wood and marble, are especially vulnerable to natural cycles of weathering and deterioration, just as vegetation is subject to growth and decay. Damage to, or modification and loss of, characteristic features do not necessarily render a burial place ineligible. It is a question of degree. A burial place which meets National Register standards for integrity should retain enough of its significant features from its period of significance to make clear its distinction as an important representative of its physical type, or of its historic associations.

Since the 19th century, American cemeteries commonly have been planned as "eternal" resting places of the dead. Even so, occasionally they are moved, obliterated, or adapted for new uses. Frequently, they are enlarged and their landscape altered or "improved" in keeping with changing tastes. It is important, therefore, both to distinguish nonhistoric development from that which reflects the historic period(s) of significance, and also to discern which changes occurred historically and may have acquired significance, and which help maintain the significant historic appearance — landscape restoration, for example. Nevertheless, to meet National Register standards for integrity, development of the historic period should predominate. The National Register defines as "historic" those elements, qualities, and associations that are at least fifty years old.

The Common Burying Ground & Island Cemetery in Newport County, Rhode Island, retains historic integrity. (Edwin W. Connelly, 1974)

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The amount, distribution, and kind of nonhistoric features should all be considered in evaluating integrity. In some cases, an entire cemetery may not qualify for the National Register. If the original area has remained essentially intact while modern expansion occurred beyond or around it, then the historic portion likely will qualify because it is easy to draw boundaries that exclude the nonhistoric areas. For example, Providence Cemetery is a two-acre rural cemetery located about 11 miles from the county seat, and has been used for burials from the 1840s until the present. The northeast 3/4-acre, which contains inscribed tombstones from 1840 to 1870, was nominated and listed in the National Register for its associations with the earliest period of white settlement (1830s-1870) in what is now Grenada County, Mississippi. This portion of Providence Cemetery is one of the few identifiable properties to survive from that period.

When a large historic cemetery with scattered gravesites has had modern infill, the entire cemetery still may be eligible if the proportional number, size, and scale of new features are not so imposing as to overwhelm the overall historic appearance. Once the nonhistoric features begin to dominate, and one's impression is of a modern cemetery with isolated historic burials or clusters of historic gravesites, then the overall historic character of the cemetery has been lost, and it would not meet National Register standards.

"Improvements" also can affect historic integrity. Replacing a simple post and wire fence with a brick wall, modest slate headstones with elaborate monuments, and natural growth with nursery plantings all reduce integrity, however well-intentioned. Although beautification efforts may make a cemetery more attractive, replacing the original features diminishes the cemetery's authentic historic character. Changes that occurred during the historic period, however, may reflect cultural beliefs and practices and contribute to a cemetery's significance. In order to appropriately evaluate the impact of changes, one must determine not only which features are crucial components of historic character, but also why they are important. For example, is a fence or wall important because it provides a sense of solid enclosure, or because of its materials and design, or both? The answer will help determine the physical attributes a cemetery must retain to possess historic integrity.

In some cases, age or the rarity of resources representing a person, events, or historic period, may allow a greater tolerance for change, damage, or loss of historic features. The Vermillion Creek Crossing (Pottawatomie County, Kansas) was one of the early major crossings, and a well-known campsite for travellers along the Oregon Trail. Here Louis Vieux, a Pottawatomie chief for whom the town of Louisville is named, built a cabin and operated a toll bridge, blacksmith shop, stable, and general store. In 1849, approximately 50 people died of Asiatic cholera and were buried here. Louis Vieux, who served in many important capacities for his tribe and became quite wealthy, also was buried here in 1872, along with some of his family. The crossing site and the two cemeteries are important as the only remaining signs of this once-busy crossing, and retain integrity despite some vandalism and the loss of most of the stones that once marked each of the graves of the cholera victims. In New England, at least two major campaigns to move headstones within 17th and 18th century burying grounds have resulted in the arrangement of gravemarkers in neat rows, which were not present in the original layouts: one in the mid-1800s related to the Victorian aesthetic and the introduction of the lawnmower, and one during the era of Works Progress Administration projects of the 1930s. Yet, the major legacy of these cemeteries remains, in that the early markers, with their inscriptions and funerary designs, still remain to convey their important age, associations, and information.

Removal of graves may or may not diminish historic integrity. Many Chinese who were active in the settlement and development of Hawaii and the Mainland in the late 19th century observed Confucian doctrine which called for properly placed graves in their homeland. As the burial remains of these sojourners were returned to China, whole sections of American cemeteries were disinterred. Sometimes the emptied gravesites were reused on a cyclical basis. If evidence of the historic use of a disinterred cemetery subdivision remains in the form of gravemarkers, monuments, or depressions in the ground, the subdivision need not be excluded from the nominated area on the basis of integrity if it is culturally significant. Such areas were not intended to be permanent, and removal of burials is part of the cultural story; if visible traces make it distinguishable, the subdivision's relative position and function in the overall cemetery landscape still can be appreciated. A cemetery that has been *substantially* disinterred, and where removal of graves is not an authentic part of the cemetery's history, however, would not meet the standards of integrity, nor would most disinterred gravesites outside the cemetery setting.

Vistas external to a cemetery's grounds may have contributed to the feeling of the place in the historic period. If view corridors within the cemetery were purposely developed to incorporate broad vistas, and if the broad vistas have been eliminated or obscured by incompatible development on adjacent property, the cemetery has lost an important aspect of its character. If the grounds have remained intact internally, however, the cemetery would likely meet the essential requirement of integrity.

Isolated gravesites and small burying grounds occasionally are found in remote locations where they may have been established in the course of overland trail migration or in the aftermath of a massacre or military engagement. While it was not uncommon for survivors to have erected permanent gravemarkers in later years, the initial marking of such graves usually was ephemeral. Over time, the precise locations of many burial places of this kind have been lost. Oral tradition may be all that remains to mark the general vicinity of a gravesite. In assessing sites such as these, the standards of integrity require that the gravesite be verifiable by archeological testing or by visual traces, even if the traces are natural markers, such as a solitary stand of trees preserved in a cultivated field.

The eligibility of an isolated grave depends upon the grave's unmistakable relationship to the associated context or theme significant in local, State, or national history or culture. Few such graves would be eligible as individual sites, since they must be the only remaining property associated with a person of outstanding importance. More commonly, they would be evaluated as sites contributing to the significance of a historic district encompassing a larger cultural landscape, such as a homestead area or an intact segment of the Oregon Trail. A single gravesite or small group of graves that has been disinterred normally would not meet the standards of integrity. If a historic gravemarker remains at an empty grave, the marker could be evaluated as an object of artistic merit, but the associative significance of the grave is lost.

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V. DOCUMENTING AND REGISTERING CEMETERIES AND BURIAL PLACES

GENERAL APPROACH

Determining the significance of a burial place requires a systematic investigation of the property and its historic context. Once assembled, the information is used to establish whether or not the burial place is a significant representative of its type, reflecting an important aspect of American history or prehistory.

Documentation begins with compiling information on the background of the site and its development over time. Such information would include the date the burial place was established, the period in which it was active, the circumstances under which it was established and maintained, and the cultural groups, individuals, organizations, agencies, or corporations responsible for initial and subsequent development. For a burial place with design distinction, such as a large, comprehensively designed cemetery, information should be provided about those who designed the overall landscape and its architectural features, and those who carved or fabricated individual monuments and grave markers. An analysis of components of the burial place would include identification of methods of construction and manufacturing techniques, as described in stone cutters' handbooks, fabricators' catalogs, and professional publications. Characteristic plant materials, layout of burial plots and circulation features, acreage encompassed, and the purpose or function of areas and features within the site boundaries also are important. The researcher should determine when newer tracts were added to the site and describe the site in relation to its surrounding landscape.[5]

Siting of burial places normally was carefully considered in both historic and prehistoric times. Chinese workers who came to Hawaii at the turn of the century founded fraternal societies that enabled them to maintain strong cultural, political, religious, and family ties with China. One of the chief concerns of these societies was care of the elderly and disabled and burial of the dead. It was important that the society's building and the adjacent cemetery be located in a beautiful, spacious area, on sloping ground, with a good view, so that spirits could roam freely. The Chee Ying Society, Hawaii County, Hawaii, is an example of such a society building, dependencies, and affiliated cemeteries.

Researchers should study the immediate setting; while the growth of a town, changing agricultural patterns, or other factors may have altered the surrounding landscape over time, often the basis for burial site selection is evident in local

Cultural and environmental factors can be important in understanding cemeteries. In southern Louisiana, cemeteries such as the Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, reflect high-style French funerary architecture. At the same time, the tradition of building burial vaults above ground was well-suited to the high water table of the delta region. (Donna Fricker, 1991)

[5] Refer to *National Register Bulletin 18: How To Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes*, and *National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* for additional information on historic landscape issues.

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landforms — in the relationship of site to topographic features or traditional routes of travel. Researchers also should consult records of land use for verification of the reason a burial place developed at a particular location, and not make assumptions. For example, in the communities of Colonial New England settled by Puritans, graveyards were perceived as secular, in conformance with Calvinist doctrine. In that region, the mere proximity of an early graveyard to a church property does not necessarily signify a historical relationship between church and burying place.

The arrangement of graves within a burial ground is a significant aspect of character also. In vernacular burial grounds, the relation of one grave to another may be irregular — not in compact rows. Such informal placement may be a sign of haphazard development over time, but it could also relate to the customs of a particular cultural group. The Christian belief in resurrection of the body after death prescribed earth burials for the faithful. Lot arrangement frequently was influenced by the scripturally-based tradition of orienting the foot of the grave toward the east to place the dead in appropriate position for arising at the day of final judgement.

The researcher should learn as much as possible about the character of the site as it was first developed or appropriated for burial purposes based on documentary views, photographs, plats, plans and specifications, business and organization records, local histories, and oral tradition. The researcher then is prepared to describe the present condition of the site and determine how well it reflects the period in which it was developed.

The landscape and developed features of a burial place should be described in narrative form and represented graphically by means of a site plan or map. When it is known that significant historic features are missing or modified, as for example in the realignment of road or driveway, such missing features should be described and their former placement indicated graphically in dashed or dotted outline. Not all of the features listed below will appear in all burial places; however, the narrative description and site plan would include, but not necessarily be limited to the following, where applicable:

- general topography, including indication of the gradient (or slope) and elevation of the site in relation to the larger setting in which it is located;

- natural features such as streams, gullies, hills, and indigenous trees; naturalistic developed features such as ponds, lakes, or landforms;

- plat, or layout of cemetery plots, whether a rigid gridiron imposed on the site or an organization of plots conforming to natural contours;

- circulation system of roads, driveways, pathways, noting whether such features have axial alignment or are winding or curving; structural features of the system, such as bridges and drainage systems; and distinctive materials, such as cobble gutters or stone paths;

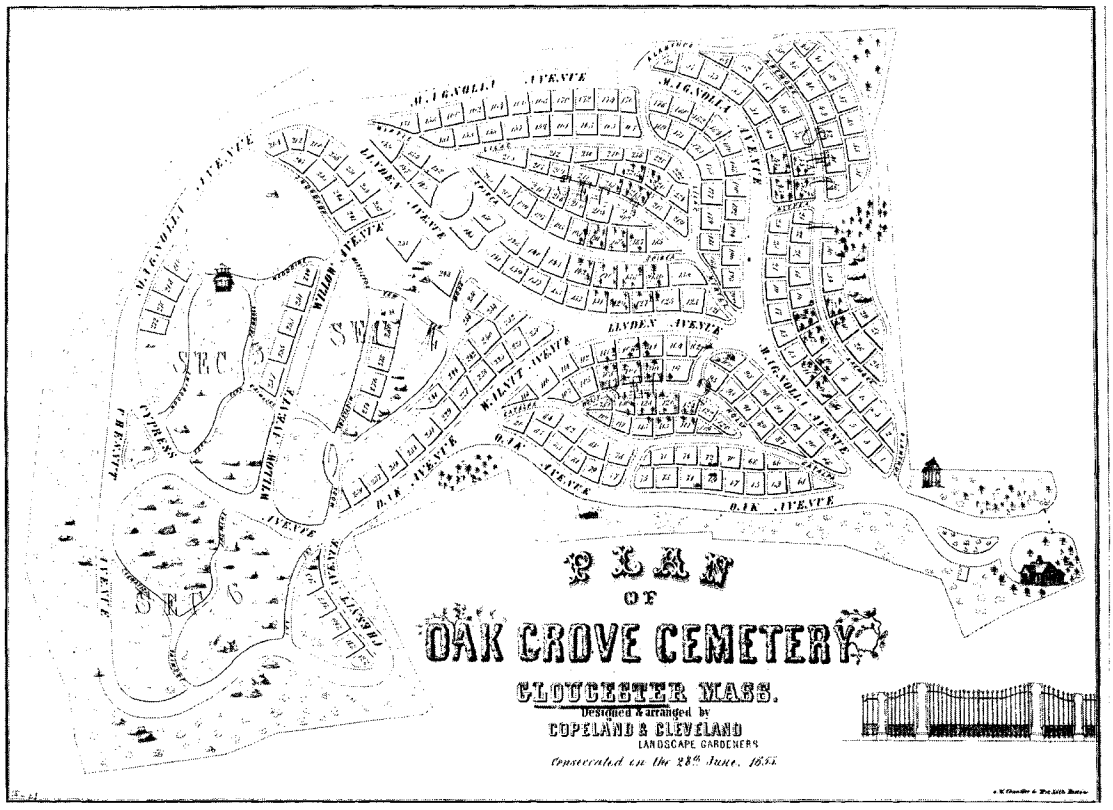
- views and vistas within the site from principal access points; views and vistas external to the site;

- characteristic vegetation, including the overstory of trees, understory of shrubs and grasses, exotic plant materials used as filler in burial plots, ornamental flower beds, and specimen plantings;

- gateways, fences, and hedges used for boundary and spatial definition;

- typical plot defining features such as wooden palings, iron fencing, and concrete curbing;

- prevalence of individual plot mausoleums, vaults, or above-surface tombs, and indication of the range and variety of individual grave markers;



The 1855 plan of the Oak Grove Cemetery in Gloucester, Essex County, Massachusetts, is an important source of cemetery documentation. (James O'Gorman, 1975)

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• entrance signs, directional markers, outdoor lighting fixtures, and small-scale site furnishings such as benches, planters, ornamental sculpture, and fountains;

• maintenance and service features such as soil disposal and waste storage areas, greenhouses, tool sheds, and pumphouses; and

• buildings such as churches, memorial chapels, gatehouses, offices, residences, crematories, mausoleums, and columbariums.

RESEARCH AND FIELD INVESTIGATION

The object of the research phase is twofold: 1) to establish the contexts, or historical and cultural themes for documenting the property's significance, and 2) to determine the property's physical character and appearance during the important period(s) of its use or development. Toward the first end, general reference works on American burial customs, historical development of cemeteries and mortuary art and architecture; professional and trade journals, community histories, and ethnographic studies may be consulted to place the property in an overall cultural and historical framework.

Next, all available primary source material on the property under study should be assembled from church and municipal records, fraternal organizations, and cemetery corporations, as may be appropriate. Land records, maps and plats, census records, court documents, local histories, family and business papers, genealogies, newspapers, and other sources can provide information on settlement patterns, community development, and the lives of important people. Detailed information on the development of a particular burial place will be found in cemetery plats, architectural plans and drawings, landscape plans and planting keys, manufacturers' catalog orders, monument makers' statements of account, and gardeners' and sextons' diary entries. Library collections may provide documentary views and descriptions in the form of prints, early photographs, newspaper accounts, and advertisements. Interviews with church sextons, cemetery superintendents, and descendants of original owners of family plots may be useful. Archeologists also will review reports and other documentation on related or comparable sites to frame appropriate research questions that could be illuminated by a burial site investigation. It also is important to consult with any cultural group with which a burial place or cemetery is affiliated or for which it has special meaning.[6]

The object of field work is to analyze the property's present physical character in comparison with the property's appearance during the period of significance as documented through research. Field investigation may help establish the period of significance; in any case, it produces a record of the characteristic features remaining from the period of significance, and changes through time. It establishes the present extent and integrity of the property.

SITE PLANS

The essential aid to conducting field work is a site plan on which the distribution of physical elements is recorded graphically. A cemetery plat may be used effectively as a complement to a site plan, but it is not interchangeable. If a base map of the site is not available from the local planning agency, the cemetery plat may become the model from which to produce a sketch plan of the site. Planning base maps showing contour intervals as well as building ground plans are most useful because they portray with precision the siting of particular features on level ground and at prominent elevations. If a complex burial place underwent distinct episodes of development over a long period of use, a series of maps of comparable scale overlaying a base map may be useful in recording the evolutionary changes, either for the sake of analysis or as an exhibit to accompany the nomination. Whenever possible, all graphic information should be reduced to 8 1/2" x 11" format, or folded to that size, when submitted to the National Register.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs are indispensable as records of the present condition of the burial place and its characteristic features. When compared with historic views — which are not required, but which can be helpful when available — contemporary photographs assist the researcher in gaining an understanding of the phases of surface development over time. For purposes of preparing the National Register nomination for a graveyard or cemetery, it may not be practical in every case to photograph each gravemarker. It is important, however, to provide a number of general views to illustrate the overall character of the landform and its developed features. These should be supplemented by a variety of close views of individual monuments and markers to convey the range and quality of materials and workmanship. Care should be taken to photograph gravemarkers from near surface level and at times and under conditions when the high contrast of light and shadow will give sharpness and clarity to inscriptions and sculptural relief. In addition to the form, embellishment, and position of gravemarkers in relationship to other markers, epitaphs and vital inscriptions are an important aspect of the cultural content of cemeteries. If landscape design is significant, photographs of plantings, circulation patterns, and other features may be necessary to adequately represent the site.

As a practical matter, good photographic and transcription records for a historic graveyard or cemetery are highly desirable. Such records, keyed to a plat, produce scholarly archives and preserve some information should the cemetery suffer loss as a result of theft, vandalism, or damage from natural causes. Moreover, comprehensive documentation may form the basis of a cemetery maintenance and conservation master plan. Such work is labor intensive, but genealogical societies and other volunteers may be enlisted to a duly authorized and properly supervised effort.

ARCHEOLOGY

Archeological field work and documentation involves scientific techniques

[6] Refer to *National Register Bulletin 38: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties*, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 for additional guidance.

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that invariably call for qualified professional supervision. Legal clearances normally are required. Where archeological investigations have been authorized in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws; aerial infrared photography; ground-penetrating radar, and proton magnetometers are among the remote sensing techniques and devices that may be used to locate below-grade ground disturbances and gauge the density and state of preservation of burial deposits without invading the site. Dense materials, such as stone, metal, and ceramic are revealed in sharp contrast against the background of soils. Bone and other organic matter also register in these sensing techniques, to varying degrees. These techniques can be expensive.

Surface investigation to determine the extent of a burial site is most effective when combined with carefully controlled testing which allow skeletal remains to be preserved intact, and minimizes impact to the site generally. Site plans, stratigraphic profiles, scale drawings, and photographs make up the graphic record of an archeological site. They illustrate the geographic bounds of the area investigated, the depth of testing, and the concentration and relative position of the artifacts and site features. Documentation also includes a report describing the range and variety of burial objects; their age as determined by laboratory radiocarbon dating or other means, as appropriate and comparative analysis of other dated materials. The functions of the artifacts, inferred from form and placement, the identification of the cultural group that performed the burial, and architectural and associated features of the site — such as vaults, chambers, cairns, and landscaping — are essential parts of the archeological record accumulated for analysis and evaluation.

The traditional gravehouses, Christian crosses, and other features at LaPointe Indian Cemetery in Ashland County, Wisconsin, possess important associations with the Chippewa Indians in northern Wisconsin. (Michael M. Weburg, 1976)

BOUNDARIES AND PERIODS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Using the information collected from research and systematic investigation of the site, the researcher should begin to establish the scope and extent of the area to be proposed for nomination and the period of time during which the nominated area was significant in American prehistory, history, or culture. Only after determining the geographical bounds of the nominated area and that period of time in which the property achieved the qualities which make it eligible for the National Register, is it possible to enumerate the features which contribute to the significance of the property.

OWNERSHIP

Determining ownership of burial places sometimes is complex. In some cases, family cemeteries on private land have been exempted from deeds and do not belong to the property owner on whose land they are located, but to the descendants of the family. When small private cemeteries in rural areas have been abandoned and are no longer maintained, they become the domain of the current landowner. For the volunteer group or family descendants trying to establish clear title and access to an abandoned cemetery, legal research and negotiation may be required. For documentation and assessment purposes, however, researchers may refer to deed records to establish the most likely owner. Sometimes the corporate body or trust fund that once provided care for a country cemetery, though inactive for many years, was never legally dissolved. The rights of Indian tribes, Native Hawaiians, or other groups — as established by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, other Federal laws, and State legislation — also must be considered in determining ownership.

Typically, in early community cemeteries founded by voluntary associations, the cemetery land remained under ownership of the founding organization while the individual plots were separately held by the original proprietors and their heirs. In the West, where the earliest established community cemeteries often were founded by fraternal societies such as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, burial grounds today are being deeded to local governments whose agencies — commonly parks and recreation departments — are looked to for stable long-term stewardship of the community's "pioneer" cemeteries. In such cases, when it comes time to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, "public-local" or both "public-local" and "private," whichever is appropriate, should be checked.

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COMPLETING THE NATIONAL REGISTER REGISTRATION FORM

Nominations are processed according to the regulations set forth in 36 CFR 60, and are submitted to the National Park Service by the appropriate State or Federal Historic Preservation Officer. The following guidance supplements the instructions found in *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form.*

CLASSIFICATION

A burial place may be classified as a "site," "district," "building," "structure," or "object." A single or compound burial of limited scope, such as trailside graves or small family plots, would be classified appropriately as a "site." Also, when a cemetery is nominated as a significant or "contributing" feature within a larger historic district, such as a village or company town, it is counted as a "site."

A complex burial site, such as a cemetery encompassing a multitude of burials, developed landscape features, and buildings, is a "district." Its component parts are enumerated and described, and those which contribute to the significance of the nominated area are distinguished from nonhistoric features which are unrelated to the period of significance. Individual monumental tombs may be classified as "structures," and gravemarkers having artistic merit or cultural significance may be counted as significant "objects." The overall landscape design — including roadways, ponds, and plantings — may be counted as a "site" within the district if the design is a significant feature.

Because the term "burial place" is broadly interpreted in this guidance to encompass individual buildings, such as crematory and mausoleum facilities, the category of "building" would be an appropriate classification when such buildings are nominated individually or when counting the number of contributing features in a cemetery district. Also, since a property consisting of two or more resource types should be classified under the major resource, if there is one, a property consisting of, for example, a significant church and an associated graveyard would be nominated as a "building."

A principal contributing feature of the Masonic Cemetery in Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, is the Hope Abbey Mausoleum, which meets Criterion C as the State's only truly monumental example of the Egyptian style. (Richard Roblyer, 1980)

CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

The number and combination of features counted as contributing to the significance of the property will vary according to property type and will depend on the criteria under which the burial place is proposed for nomination. It is not expected that individual gravesites or markers in a cemetery would be counted as separately contributing or noncontributing features in most cases. However, buildings, structures, and objects of substantial size and scale, and those specifically discussed in the nomination text for their importance in understanding the burial place — including gravemarkers, should be counted. Plantings and other natural features should not be counted separately, but are included as part of a counted site.

In a cemetery district, individual gravemarkers would be counted as separately contributing features in those cases where gravemarkers have been comprehensively inventoried and evaluated and those of outstanding rank can be identified. When a cemetery is significant primarily because of the examples it contains of the distinctive work of regional stone carvers and other craftsmen, the important markers should be enumerated by an inventory and each one counted as a separately contributing feature. Others may be counted collectively as a contributing object. Taking the example of a national cemetery, markers by regulation usually do not vary; the amassed number of, say, stone crosses of uniform size spreading across the landscape is one of the distinguishing characteristics of a national cemetery. The gravemarkers in such a case may be counted in the aggregate as a single undifferentiated object contributing to the character of the nominated area.

FUNCTIONS

The funerary functions of all contributing resources of the burial place, must be identified, and both historic and current functions classified on the form using the instructions provided in *National Register Bulletin 16A.*

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF FEATURES AND SIGNIFICANCE

The purpose of the narrative portions of the National Register form is twofold: 1) to describe and analyze the characteristic features of the burial place, and 2) to present a coherent argument that explains why the property meets the Criteria for Evaluation, including the Criteria Considerations for graves, cemeteries, and other kinds of properties marked for special conditions.

Description

To prepare the descriptive narrative, the researcher needs to determine the characteristic features the burial place must have to be a good representative of its period, style or design, and method of construction or fabrication. Through systematic description, the researcher will show that the property possesses those characteristics. The features that date from the period of significance should be identified and described in Section 7 of the registration form, along with a discussion of any changes that might affect historic integrity. The completed description will provide an accurate image of the current appearance and condition of the cemetery, within which both significant historic

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features and nonhistoric changes and additions can be ascertained easily. It is especially important in cases where individual features within a cemetery are not inventoried and described that the description, in conjunction with maps and photographs, provide clear information on the general topography and the distribution of developed features that give the cemetery its historic character.

Consider the original cemetery in a community settled in the period of westward expansion, 1840-1890. The researcher may expect to find that it was established by a fraternal organization, platted around the nucleus of an earlier burial plot, and situated on high ground affording good drainage above the flood plain or on marginal land unsuitable for cultivation. Moreover, the gravemarkers, whether grand or modest, would reflect the vertical density and the variegation and embellishment of material characteristic of Victorian design. A community cemetery of this era that lacked well defined plots and an array of monuments ornamented in high relief likely would not be a good representative of the type; therefore, it likely would not be individually eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. This same cemetery, however, could be a contributing site in a historic district, or it might possess significant associations with the community's historic development that would make it individually eligible under Criterion A. For example, the cemetery might be the only remaining evidence of an extremely important trading, communication, and outfitting settlement along a westward migration route. In this case, the researcher would have to reconsider what physical characteristics were important in conveying the cemetery's important historic associations.

Significance

The first step in preparing the statement of significance is to identify the National Register criteria, considerations, and "areas of significance" in which the property should be evaluated. A cemetery could be evaluated in the areas of social history, ethnic heritage, art, architecture, landscape architecture, community planning, archeology, and others areas. In order to understand the property within an appropriate historic context, the researcher will have consulted reference works for information on the events, trends, and technologies which influenced development of resource types included in the area proposed for nomination. Based on information gathered in the statewide historic preservation planning process, the State historic preservation office may be able to provide data for a comparative analysis so the researcher can determine the appropriate level of significance — whether the property proposed for nomination is distinctive locally or in the State or nation. Guidebooks, conference proceedings, exhibits, and exhibit catalogs also may help the researcher place the nominated property into a larger perspective.

Periods of significance also must be specified. The period of significance cannot predate the extant features that compose the burial place. For example, the period of significance for the grave of a significant person would not include that individual's lifetime, but would be the year of burial. There may be several distinct periods of significance if the burial place remained active over a long span of time. If this is the case, all periods of significance should be noted. Ordinarily, the period of significance would not extend to the most recent period of 50 years unless specially justified under Criteria Consideration G on the basis of exceptional artistic values, historical associations, or potential to yield information.

It is desirable to keep the statement of significance as concise as possible while at the same time covering adequately the property's development and use during the period of significance. Those who shaped the burial place and its setting should be identified by name, if such information is available, or by cultural affiliation, if the property is a traditional cultural site or prehistoric burial place. It is important to focus on those aspects of the property's development and use which illustrate the property's significance under National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D.

Certain burial places may have potential for designation as a National Historic Landmark. If the property appears to have national significance and has been evaluated in a national context, the supportive argument should be presented in the nomination. Designation as a National Historic Landmark may be dependent upon the National Park Service evaluating the property in the course of a theme study. A well-documented National Register nomination for a burial place of potential National Historic Landmark quality will facilitate the property's review by National Park Service professionals.[7]

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Determining and justifying the boundaries of a burial place are important steps in completing the registration form. Boundaries should be drawn to encompass, but not to exceed, the full extent of resources which contribute to the significance of the property. External vistas from a suburban landscaped cemetery or a vernacular cemetery spectacularly sited in the countryside may be important to the overall feeling of the place. Nevertheless, boundaries should not be drawn to include scenic buffer areas or other acreage not directly related to the property's historical development. Encompassing a broad vista in the bounds of a nominated area normally is impractical. The bounds of burial sites should be based on the extent of the features associated with the burials. In some cases, site limits for archeological sites may be determined by remote sensing techniques or surface examination combined with controlled sub-surface testing.

Boundary definition is simplified when the current legal property description of a graveyard or cemetery is the same as the property's historic boundaries. However, if portions of the burial place under investigation have been irreversibly altered or eroded, it may be necessary to deviate from the current legal description in drawing the boundary in order to exclude areas which are plainly lacking in integrity and no longer contribute to the significance of the property. Similarly, large tracts of fallow acreage known as "reserve ground" within the bounds of a cemetery plat should not be included in the nominated area unless they contain development such as road systems or service buildings relating to the historic period. In any

[7] Further information concerning the National Historic Landmark Program may be obtained by writing to the Chief Historian, History Division, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

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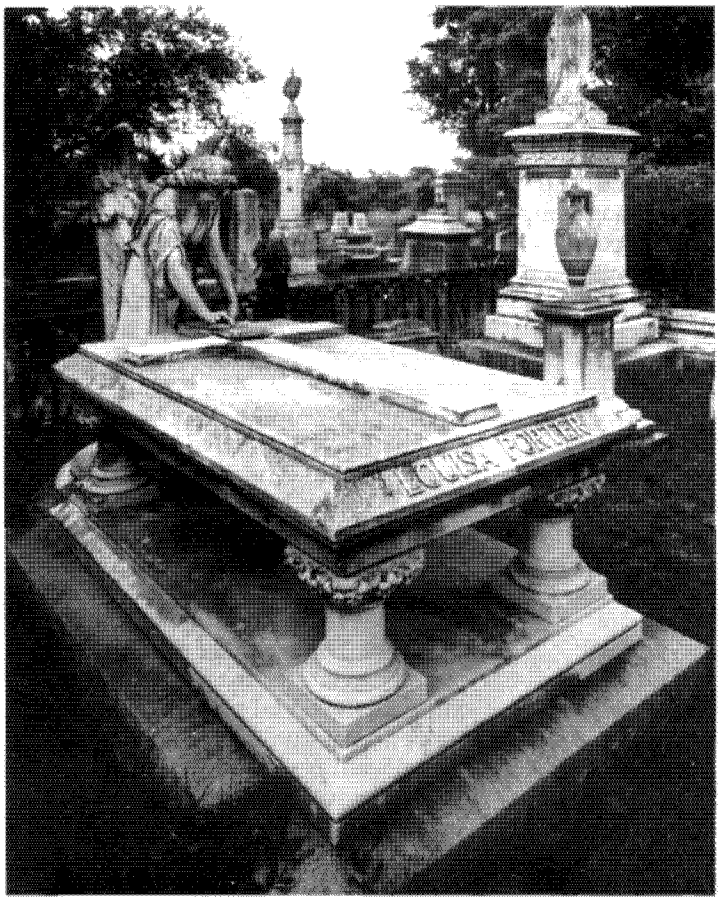
case, the boundary must be justified in a short narrative statement which explains why the boundaries were selected.

The delineation of boundaries may be documented in various ways. If appropriate, the current legal property description may be used. Where historic and current boundaries differ, the documentation may describe the area to be included from point to point, such as "from the northeast intersection of Rte. 5 and Cemetery Drive, north approximately 200 feet, . . . , then west fifty feet to the point of beginning." Although a fence may be located along the boundary, it should not be cited as defining the boundary because it may not be permanent. Features that are permanent, such as contour lines may be used to define boundaries when they constitute appropriate edges. Site plans, also called "sketch maps," may be used to indicate boundaries, if the map includes a scale indicator. For some large areas without obvious features to cite as edges, such as a rural site or a large cemetery, UTM points may define the boundaries, if the lines connecting the cited UTM points constitute the actual boundary lines of the area nominated.

Under the authorization of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, the National Park Service will restrict information on the location or character of a historic resource if revealing this information would expose the property to vandalism, destruction, or other harm. The information must be included on the National Register Registration Form, but checking the "Not for Publication" box on the form ensures that sensitive information will not be reproduced or distributed.[8]



Photographs should capture the essence of a cemetery's character. The Laurel Grove - North Cemetery in Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia, is significant, in part, for its large number of Victorian statues and monuments. (James R. Lockhart, 1982)

MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Each registration form must be accompanied by a United States Geological Survey (USGS) map with marked Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) reference points for the purposes of locating the property geographically and illustrating its position in relation to prominent topographic features. In addition, for complex burial sites and cemetery districts, the nomination should include at least one site plan (sketch map). The site plan should locate the bounds of the property; give contour intervals, if relevant; and show the placement of major features, including nonconforming, nonhistoric development. Each feature identified as contributing or noncontributing in the form should be numbered on the site plan to correspond to a numbered inventory in the narrative discussion. Although, as stated above, it is not necessary to count and describe every gravemarker and other feature, all those specifically identified and counted must be shown on the map accompanying the nomination, either individually or collectively by area.

Copies of historic plats and building plans, if they are available, are helpful in documenting the original design intent and the integrity of some burial place property types.

A number of unmounted black and white photographs of high quality must accompany each nomination. There is no requisite number of photographs to be submitted. Requirements are that there should be as many photographs as necessary to depict the property clearly. Representative views of all characteristic features, as well as altered features and development outside the period of significance, should be included. Each photograph must identify the photographer, date, subject, and direction of the view. Prints of historic photographs are recommended as a means of documenting the integrity of the property. Photographs should be keyed to the inventory of contributing features in the narrative discussion, where appropriate. Numbered directional arrows may be placed on the site plan to indicate the direction of views shown in the photographs.

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[8] Refer to *National Register Bulletin 29: Guidelines for Restricting Information about Historic and Prehistoric Resources* for additional information.

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VI. CONCLUSION

Discussion of burial practices in this bulletin is general rather than comprehensive in scope. Its purpose is to suggest the broad range of burial places from various periods that hold potential for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In selecting examples for sake of illustration, it was not possible to touch on all regions of the United States and its associated territories, nor all cultural groups and traditions. No value judgement is implied in these omissions. Neither should it be inferred that there is greater value in the high style cemetery than in vernacular examples. Users of this guidance should be encouraged that the criteria for evaluating significance and integrity are applicable equally to urban graveyards, folk cemeteries, and small burial grounds in a rural setting. Above all, those wishing to pursue the registration process should know from this guidance that their efforts will be supported by ample precedent, a growing volume of reference literature, and organizations ready to assist.

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VII. GLOSSARY

Altar tomb — A solid, rectangular, raised tomb or gravemarker resembling ceremonial altars of classical antiquity and Judeo-Christian ritual.

Bevel marker — A rectangular gravemarker, set low to the ground, having straight sides and uppermost, inscribed surface raked at a low angle.

Burial ground — Also "burying ground;" same as "graveyard" (see below).

Burial cache — A place of concealment for burial remains and objects.

Burial mound — A mass of earth, and sometimes stone or timber, erected to protect burial chambers for the dead.

Burial site — A place for disposal of burial remains, including various forms of encasement and platform burials that are not excavated in the ground or enclosed by mounded earth.

Cairn — A mound of stones marking a burial place.

Cemetery — An area set aside for burial of the dead; in Latin American culture known as "campo santo," or holy field.

Cenotaph — A monument, usually of imposing scale, erected to commemorate one whose burial remains are at a separate location; literally "empty tomb."

Chapel — A place of worship or meditation in a cemetery or mausoleum, either a freestanding building or a room set apart for commemorative services.

Chest marker — A solid, rectangular, raised gravemarker resembling a chest or box-like sarcophagus.

Cinerary urn — A receptacle for cremation remains, or ashes, in the shape of a vase.

Columbarium — A vault or structure for storage of cinerary urns.

Crematorium — A furnace for incineration of the dead; also crematory.

Cremation area — An area where ashes of the cremated dead are scattered or contained.

Crypt — An enclosure for a casket in a mausoleum or underground chamber, as beneath a church.

Epitaph — An inscription on a gravemarker identifying and/or commemorating the dead.

Exedra — A permanent open air masonry bench with high back, usually semicircular in plan, patterned after the porches or alcoves of classical antiquity where philosophical discussions were held; in cemeteries, used as an element of landscape design and as a type of tomb monument.

Family cemetery — A small, private burial place for members of the immediate or extended family; typically found in rural areas, and often, but not always, near a residence; different from a family plot, which is an area reserved for family members within a larger cemetery.

Flush marker — A flat, rectangular gravemarker set flush with the lawn or surface of the ground.

Gatehouse — A building at the main entrance to a cemetery that is controlled by a gate; a shelter or habitation for the gate keeper.

Grave — A place or receptacle for burial.

Gravemarker — A sign or marker of a burial place, variously inscribed and decorated in commemoration of the dead.

Graveyard — An area set aside for burial of the dead; a common burying ground of a church or community.

Grave shelter — A rectangular, roofed structure usually of wood, covering a gravesite, enclosed by boards or slats or supported by poles; in tribal custom used to contain burial offerings and shelter the spirit of the dead; also grave house.

Headstone — An upright stone marker placed at the head of the deceased; usually inscribed with demographic information, epitaphs, or both; sometimes decorated with a carved motif.

Interment — A burial; the act of committing the dead to a grave.

Ledger — A large rectangular gravemarker usually of stone, set parallel with the ground to cover the grave opening or grave surface.

Lych gate — Traditionally, a roofed gateway to a church graveyard under which a funeral casket was placed before burial; also lich gate; commonly, an ornamental cemetery gateway.

Mausoleum — A monumental building or structure for burial of the dead above ground; a "community" mausoleum is one that accommodates a great number of burials.

Memorial park — A cemetery of the 20th century cared for in perpetuity by a business or nonprofit corporation; generally characterized by open expanses of greensward with either flush or other regulated gravemarkers; in the last half of the 19th century, those with flush markers were called "lawn" cemeteries.

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Military cemetery — A burial ground established for war casualties, veterans, and eligible dependents. Those established by the Federal government include national cemeteries, post cemeteries, soldiers' lots, Confederate and Union plots, and American cemeteries in foreign countries. Many States also have established cemeteries for veterans.

Monument — A structure or substantial gravemarker erected as a memorial at a place of burial.

Monolith — A large, vertical stone gravemarker having no base or cap.

Mortuary — A place for preparation of the dead prior to burial or cremation.

National cemetery — One of 130 burial grounds established by the Congress of the United States since 1862 for interment of armed forces servicemen and women whose last service ended honorably. Presently, the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains 114, the National Park Service (Department of the Interior) administers 14, and the Department of the Army has responsibility for two.

Obelisk — A four-sided, tapering shaft having a pyramidal point; a gravemarker type popularized by romantic taste for classical imagery.

Ossuary — A receptacle for the bones of the dead.

Peristyle — A colonnade surrounding the exterior of a building, such as a mausoleum, or a range of columns supporting an entablature (a beam) that stands free to define an outdoor alcove or open space.

Pet cemetery — An area set aside for burial of cherished animals.

Potter's field — A place for the burial of indigent or anonymous persons. The term comes from a Biblical reference: Matthew 27.7.

Receiving tomb — A vault where the dead may be held until a final burial place is prepared; also receiving vault.

Rostrum — A permanent open air masonry stage used for memorial services in cemeteries of the modern period, patterned after the platform for public orators used in ancient Rome.

"Rural" cemetery — A burial place characterized by spacious landscaped grounds and romantic commemorative monuments established in a rural setting in the period of the young republic and at the dawn of the Victoria era; so called for the movement inspired by the American model, Mount Auburn Cemetery (1831) in the environs of Boston; a cemetery developed in this tradition. The term is used with quotation marks throughout the guidance to distinguish this distinctive landscaped type from other kinds of burying grounds occurring in the countryside.

Sarcophagus — A stone coffin or monumental chamber for a casket.

Screen memorial — A vertically-set gravemarker consisting of a tablet with wing elements resting on a continuous base.

Sepulcher — A burial vault or crypt.

Sexton — Traditionally, a digger of graves and supervisor of burials in the churchyard; commonly, a cemetery superintendent.

Shelter house — A pavilion or roofed structure, frequently open at the sides, containing seats or benches for the convenience of those seeking a place to rest; erected in rustic and classical styles to beautify a cemetery landscape.

Slant marker — A rectangular gravemarker having straight sides and inscribed surface raked at an acute angle.

Stele — An upright stone or commemorative slab, commonly inscribed or embellished on one of the broader vertical surfaces; a gravemarker type revived from classical antiquity.

Table marker — A rectangular grave covering consisting of a horizontal stone slab raised on legs, which sometimes are highly elaborate; also "table stone."

Tablet — A rectangular gravemarker set at a right angle to the ground, having inscriptions, raised lettering or carved decoration predominantly on vertical planes, and top surface finished in straight, pedimented, round, oval, or serpentine fashion.

Tomb — A burial place for the dead.

Tomb recess — A niche or hollow in a wall that shelters a tomb.

Tumulus — A mound of earth protecting a tomb chamber; in the ancient world, important tumuli were encircled by drum-like constructions of stone.

Vault — A burial chamber, commonly underground.

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VIII. SOME RECOMMENDED SOURCES

Cemetery researchers will be aided by innumerable regional studies, cemetery guidebooks, conference proceedings, exhibit catalogs, and even a growing body of videotaped material. Current publications of the cemetery and monuments industries also can be helpful. *American Cemetery, Stone in America*, and *MB News* (trade journal of the Monument Builders of North America), for example, frequently contain articles on historic cemeteries and the manufacture of traditional gravemarkers.

Bibliographic searches in the local library are recommended, as is consultation with State cemetery associations, genealogical societies, and the State historic preservation office. Many States have published guides to research and legislation affecting cemeteries and burial places. An extensive bibliography for the general study of cemeteries and gravemarkers compiled along disciplinary lines is found in *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture*, edited by Richard E. Meyer, one of the recommended sources listed below.

The Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS), a non-profit organization, publishes an annual journal, *Markers*, as well as a quarterly newsletter, and serves as an information network for cemetery scholars and preservationists nationwide. AGS maintains an archive and a limited mail-order lending library service for members. AGS can be reached at the following address: 30 Elm Street, Worcester MA 01609.

In 1985 the City of Boston, steward of as many as 16 historic cemeteries ranging in date from 1630 to 1841, launched its "Historic Burying Ground Initiative," an ambitious, long-term program encompassing comprehensive inventories and treatment of gravemarkers, landscape rehabilitation, and improved maintenance and security procedures. The Boston initiative involves a number of city agencies and community groups and is believed to be the largest cemetery recordation and restoration project undertaken by local government in the country. Further information may be obtained from the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, 1010 Massachusetts Ave., Boston MA 02118.

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NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETINS

National Register bulletins may be obtained by writing to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

No. 15 How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation

No. 16A How to Complete the National Register Registration Form

No. 16B How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form

No. 18 How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes

No. 22 Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that have Achieved Significance Within the Last Fifty Years

No. 24 Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning

No. 29 Guidelines for Restricting Information about Historic and Prehistoric Resources

No. 30 Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes

No. 32 Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons

No. 36 Evaluating and Registering Historic Archeological Sites and Districts (in draft)

No. 38 Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties

No. 39 Researching a Historic Property

No. 40 Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields

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IX. NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack distinction; or

D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS

Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

a. a religious property deriving significance from architectural or historical importance; or

b. a building or structure removed from its original location, but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a particular person of event; or

c. a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or

d. a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or

e. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master pan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or

f. a property commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or

g. a property achieving significance within the past fifty years if it is of exceptional importance.

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