

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Nomination Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oak Hill Cemetery Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Mt. Vernon Rd. SE, 15th St SE, and south and east lot lines not for publication N/A

city or town Cedar Rapids vicinity N/A

state Iowa code IA county Linn code 113 zip code 52403

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

for
Edson H. Beall 5.8.13

Oak Hill Cemetery Historic District
Name of Property

Linn County, IA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>17</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STONE

roof ASPHALT
other WOOD
METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Oak Hill Cemetery Historic District
Name of Property

Linn County, IA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☒ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1853-1962

Significant Dates

1853

1869

1880

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Cleveland, Horace William Shaler

Simonds, Ossian Cole

Primary Location of Additional Data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☒ Other

Name of repository:

Oak Hill Cemetery Association Office

Oak Hill Cemetery Historic District
Name of Property

Linn County, IA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 36.1 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	611907	4647928	3	15	612464	4647606
2	15	612456	4647912	4	15	612134	4647610
				X	See continuation sheet.		

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leah D. Rogers, Principal Investigator, Jane Thoresen, and Jennifer A. Price
organization Tallgrass Historians L.C. date February 20, 2013
street & number 2460 S. Riverside Drive telephone 319-354-6722
city or town Iowa City state IA zip code 52246

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps: A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Oak Hill Cemetery Association
street & number P.O. Box 1962 telephone 319-362-8452
city or town Cedar Rapids state IA zip code 52406

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Narrative Description

The Oak Hill Cemetery Historic District is located on the rolling terrain of an upland interfluvium overlooking the Cedar River valley to the south and southwest.¹ It is situated within the corporate boundaries of the City of Cedar Rapids but was historically located on the city's rural outskirts. Through time the cemetery has become surrounded by residential, commercial, and some industrial development. Three other cemeteries border Oak Hill including: the City Cemetery on the south; St. George Orthodox Cemetery on the southwest corner; and St. John's Cemetery off the southeast corner of Oak Hill. The current Oak Hill Cemetery Historic District is bounded by Mt. Vernon Road SE on the north, 15th Street SE on the northwest corner, a residential development and the City Cemetery along 16th Street SE on the southwest corner, a modern residential development along Americus Drive SE on the south side, and the residential development along 19th Street SE on the east side. Contained within the district boundaries are the original cemetery established in 1853, the 37-acre first expansion of the cemetery dating from 1868 and a second expansion area dating from 1908-10 at the northwest corner for a new entryway into the cemetery.² Also within the boundaries are the burial places of an estimated 11,525 persons (± 50); nearly 10,000 grave markers of numerous shapes, sizes, which are collectively counted as a single contributing object to the district; nine above-ground mausoleums; the memorial gateway, stone walls and shelter house at the northwest corner of the cemetery; the caretaker's house and garage dating from the early twentieth century on the south side of Mt. Vernon Road; a late nineteenth century barn used for grounds-keeping equipment storage; paved and curbed driveways; some grass-covered but concrete curbed driveways; some grass-covered driveways and paths having no curbs; and both mature and replacement shade trees, evergreens, and shrubs, some of which are remnants of the H.W.S Cleveland and O.C. Simonds designed landscapes. The cemetery was so-named for the stands of oak trees on the hill at this location. Many of these mature oaks still stand, while some new oaks have been planted in recent years.

The main entrance into the cemetery is currently at the northwest corner. This entryway was added in 1908-10 as a memorial to Lawson Daniels, who died in 1906. It was designed by the architectural firm of Josselyn & Taylor of Cedar Rapids for Lawson's widow, Harriette Daniels. The design included: curving stone walls fashioned from native glacial boulders that were cut and fit into a rustic wall pattern; a gable-roofed shelter house with open-arched openings, walls built of the same cut glacial boulders, and a roof originally covered with clay tiles (now green-colored asphalt shingles); gateposts also built of cut glacial boulders; and decorative iron gates. A bronze plaque noting the memorial to Lawson Daniels and the year 1906 is on one of the gateposts. The overall style of the memorial gateway and shelter house is Arts and Crafts/Craftsman, decorative and architectural styles popular at the time but also complementary to the rural picturesque landscape design of the late nineteenth century cemetery.

The cemetery can be accessed at other locations including an informal drive off of 19th Street SE near the mid-section of the east side of the cemetery. This entrance was added in the 1920s-30s when neighbors asked the Oak Hill Cemetery Association to purchase this lot in order to remove an unsanitary and odor-ridden chicken coop. It was developed into its current access drive configuration in the 1970s when Mt. Vernon Road was being widened. Additional informal

¹ The river is less than a half mile due south of the cemetery.

² Total acreage is minus a six-acre tract that was never developed for cemetery use and was sold in 1997 for a Habitat for Humanity housing development along Americus Drive.

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access was historically at the southwest corner of the cemetery onto what is now 16th Street SE south of the City Cemetery. By at least the 1890s, there was a wide entrance at what was then the northwest corner of the cemetery off the south side of Mt. Vernon Road. This wide entry accommodated the streetcar line that extended into the cemetery at that location. This entry was later moved farther west to the current entryway in 1908-10 when the memorial gateway was built on lots added to the cemetery. The shelter house built as part of this gateway was used for sheltering riders on the city streetcars, which stopped at the new cemetery entrance.

The location of the formal entrance to the original cemetery is not entirely known although it was suspected to have been on the west side of the original cemetery at the mid-section of its gridded plat. This entry was off what is now 15th Street SE (historically 18th Avenue at this location). However, the dedication map of Oak Hill Cemetery dating from 1864 suggests that the main entry was from the north and connected to what is now Mt. Vernon Road approximately 264 feet due north of the original section of the cemetery.³

The nine mausoleums in the cemetery primarily are concentrated in the middle section of the cemetery, with three in a row and others scattered throughout this section as family plots dictated. They face in nearly every direction depending on their location in the cemetery and the orientation of the driveways and burial plots. All are built of stone but in several different styles representing different time periods of construction. The Romanesque Revival, Gothic Revival, Classical Revival, Egyptian Revival, and Art Moderne styles are represented in their designs. Those with identified designer/builders include: the Dows Mausoleum built by the Howard Granite Company; the Howard Hall Mausoleum built by the Waterloo Memorial Company, in consultation with the Howard R. Green Co. and the Cold Spring Granite Company; the Stewart Mausoleum designed and built by the Chicago office of the Harrison Granite Works of New York; and the Reichart Mausoleum built by Fidelity Memorial Studios of Chicago, Illinois.

Gravestone types within the cemetery are widely varied and range from modest in size to grand in scale and ornamentation. Most are of stone, including marble, limestone, and granite, but a number are white bronze markers. Some bronze metal markers and plaques are present, particularly to mark military veterans' graves. In general, the markers in Oak Hill Cemetery reflect the religious background, ethnic heritage, and social class of the persons buried here. In the original section of the cemetery, the majority of markers are upright stone slabs inscribed on one face with the name, date of birth, date of death, and age at time of death. Sometimes the family relationship is noted, such as husband, wife, father, or mother. Slabs also commonly feature symbols, such as angels, cherubs, clasped hands, willows, and urns, reflecting Victorian cemetery iconography, religious affiliation, or fraternal affiliation. This section also features markers in the form of obelisks and pillars topped with crosses and urns, some quite monumental and ornate befitting the status of the person buried there. These include the monuments of Cedar Rapids' pioneers: Judge George Greene, Nicholas B. Brown, and Sampson C. Bever.

An inventory of notable gravestones in the Oak Hill Cemetery was recently compiled by volunteers, who photographed and counted all markers excluding military-issued markers, lawn-type markers, and contemporary, wedge, slant, or upright die markers. From this, an initial typology was formulated based on several sources but primarily based on the

³ Dedication of Oak Hill Cemetery in Linn County, Iowa, Gabriel Carpenter and Freeman Smith, filed for the record June 9th, 1864, and including a map of the cemetery, original on file in the Oak Hill Cemetery records, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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Field Guide of the Chicora Foundation and the Association of Gravestone Studies. The Oak Hill typology was compiled by Jane Thoresen of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association. An evaluation of the relative significance of the monuments and markers in the inventory is yet to be conducted. Therefore, while some of the markers could potentially be considered to be of the "outstanding rank" required for counting as individually contributing objects, all markers in the cemetery are currently counted collectively as "a single undifferentiated object contributing to the character of the nominated area."⁴ Other features such as concrete stairs on family plots and driveway curbs are considered part of the overall contributing site. The typology of the Oak Hill Cemetery gravestones is presented in Table 1 (Continuation Sheets, pp. 79-89).

Gravestone symbolism represented at Oak Hill Cemetery is quite varied. Examples include the anchor, which can denote a sailor's burial but was also used by Christians as a disguised cross, with an anchor with a broken chain denoting the cessation of life. Angels guard the tomb, guide the soul, and direct the visitor to think heavenwards and often decorate the graves of children. The broken column, which can represent the eventual ruin or decomposition of us all or can denote the life of a child or young person cut short. The cross, which reflects the hope of resurrection but can also represent specific religious denominations based on the style of the cross. The dove appears on both Christian and Jewish graves, with Christians seeing the dove as the Holy Spirit and Jews interpreting the dove as a symbol of peace. Hands shown as clasping can symbolize a marriage or other close bond, while other hands represent praying, pointing heavenward, and blessing. The heart symbolizes affection and marriage bonds. The hour glass is a classic symbol for time running out. The lamb is typically used on the grave of a child or infant and stands for innocence or the Lamb of God. The lamp stands for knowledge and the immortality of the spirit. A lion or lion's feet symbolize the power of God and standing guard over the tomb. The open-book represents the Bible or the Word of God but can also stand for the importance of education, intellectual freedom, or the search for truth, knowledge and understanding. The obelisk reflects an Egyptian influence in tomb art and was considered a symbol of ancient greatness, patriotism, and uplifting in its soaring height and tapered sides. Obelisks also fit well in tight spaces. The torch when lit signifies life or eternal life and when extinguished signifies death. The urn, both draped and empty, signifies the soul having fled the shrouded body or the urn that held one's ashes or bones. Flowers, trees and leaves can reference the short life of a child (rose bud), a young mother (rose in bloom surrounded by buds), a full life led (rose in full bloom), the presence of God and the hope of the resurrection (daisies opening to the sun), power, victory, or hospitality (oak leaves), resurrection and Christ's victory over death (lilies and palm fronds), sadness (weeping willow), and return of happiness (lilies of the valley). The wreath may represent an oversized crown and thus the symbol of saintliness and glory. Tree stumps symbolize a living tree cut down or an individual cut down in the prime of life. Some have branches cut off that symbolize other family members who have died before their time. Tree stump markers were sometimes associated with members of the fraternal organization known as Woodmen of the World and are found inscribed with W.O.W. or with Woodmen of the World plaques (Thoresen 2004).

There are some monuments in Oak Hill Cemetery that are unique or very person specific in their designs. These include: below-ground burials with stone vaults or stone coping above-ground; natural boulders with inscribed plaques; ethnic and other religious markers inscribed in foreign languages and carrying symbols reflective of those religions or

⁴ This counting system follows that outlined in *National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places* (Potter and Boland 1992:24).

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nationalities; markers that contain historical and biographical information and often placed on a grave at a later date by historically-minded family members or groups such as the D.A.R., G.A.R., and historical societies; and others that carry the symbols of their fraternal organizations, such as the Masons and Odd Fellows, and their affiliated women organizations such as the Eastern Star and Rebekahs, or their professions or personal interests (Thoresen 2004).

Among the notable grave markers identified in the Oak Hill Cemetery inventory (see Table 1, Continuation Sheet, page 89), are 33 family or head stones manufactured of white bronze, which is a molded metal that mimics the appearance of a bluish gray stone, and are generally less prone to erosion than stone markers.⁵ The white bronze markers in the Oak Hill Cemetery include a variety of sizes and designs from small upright slab-type markers and horizontal plaques on the ground to massive upright columns and obelisks with elaborate details and molded inscriptions. Since these markers were only manufactured for 40 years, they can be rare or scattered in other cemeteries; however, with one of the manufacturers located in Iowa, most Iowa cemeteries, both large and small, contain examples of these monuments. Oak Hill Cemetery possesses a notable number, which may be attributable in part to the Krebs Bros Co., which was a Cedar Rapids' dealer of white bronze monuments (Thoresen 2004:33-34).⁶

By the mid to late twentieth century, grave markers generally became less elaborate, probably due in large part to the growing expense of hand-crafted and inscribed markers as well as the cost of high quality stone. While some elaborate markers are still being placed at Oak Hill Cemetery, most are limited in size and scale and feature simplicity in their inscriptions and detail. Flat-to-the-ground markers became popular as did upright markers featuring the family surname on one side and individual markers at the foot of each grave. Some markers of this era feature the family name written in

⁵ The method of casting white bronze was perfected by M.A. Richardson and C.J. Willard in 1873. They did not have the capital required for full-scale manufacturing, so they sold out to W.W. Evans, who also failed to get anything going and again sold the process to the Wilson, Parsons & Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut, in 1874. Subsidiary plants were opened in Detroit as Detroit Bronze in 1881 and operated until 1885; in Chicago as American Bronze, which opened in 1886 and operated until 1909; and in Des Moines as the Western White Bronze Company, which operated from 1884 until 1908. The subsidiary plants did not do the castings but rather did the final assembly of the cast pieces, which were cast at the home plant in Bridgeport under the name of the Monumental Bronze Company. The Bridgeport plant continued to cast monuments until 1914 when the plant was taken over by the federal government for the manufacture of munitions during World War I. By the end of the war, the demand for white bronze markers had faded, so the company turned to the casting of automobile and radio parts until it closed in 1939. The company used a patented process for fusing the larger pieces together using melted zinc poured into the joints and proved much stronger than soldering. The zinc carbonate used in the process gave the monuments their distinctive bluish gray, stone-like color and created a hard protective skin so that the moldings remained sharp and clear. However, the brittle qualities of zinc made the monuments vulnerable to breakage if hit by a falling branch. They also are prone to sagging, bowing and cracking because of the effect of gravity on the essentially unsupported weight of these monuments' various parts (People's Publishing & Adv. Co. 1888:70-71; Thoresen 2004:33).

⁶ Interestingly, the short production run of white bronze markers was largely due to the inability of the general public to fully accept them as an alternative to stone. Many people were skeptical that these markers were superior to stone in durability (Thoresen 2004:34). Of course, those same people did not live long enough to see how durable these markers truly were, with many still as crisp and sharp in their details and structural integrity as they were the day they were placed in the cemetery. On the other hand, the average stone marker typically suffers from erosion, a process exacerbated by air pollution and acid rain.

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script and are so-called "signature" monuments. There remain a few examples of monuments in shapes or featuring crosses or other iconography, such as Masonic symbols, but not to the extent seen in the late nineteenth century. In the modern era, there is the trend to laser etching, which allows for photographs and other elaborate images to be transferred to granite stone faces. Often the images are of the person buried there and the activities that they enjoyed in life.

While most of the grave markers remain in good condition, some at Oak Hill have been broken by weathering, trees falling, and vandalism. Added to the cemetery entrance in recent years, is an upright stone marker engraved with the cemetery name. This marker was placed next to the driveway just outside of the stone gateway entrance.

The caretaker's house is located on the south side of Mt. Vernon Road SE on a high spot very near the current road right of way. This is the second caretaker's house at this location and was built in the early 1900s. The design of the house reflects the Colonial Revival style then popular in the nation. It is a one-and-one-half story house that features a side-gabled roofline that flares at the eaves and extends out over the open front porch. A large front-gabled dormer is on the front roof slope and features exaggerated cornice returns and flared eave overhang. The house has a two-story porch added to the rear that originally had a sleeping porch on the second level. The foundation is made of stone blocks, and the walls are clad with narrow clapboard siding. The porch features the round columns and simple balustrade typical of the Colonial Revival style. A secondary building, identified as a garage is used for storing cemetery equipment and an informal office for cemetery business. This building is located slightly downslope and to the southwest of the caretaker's house. This is a front gabled wood-framed and clad building. Both the house and garage are considered contributing to the historic district.

The other contributing building is the barn built in the late nineteenth century and located in the northeast corner of the cemetery along the east boundary line. This barn may have been originally built for a residential property that fronted 19th Street to the east of the cemetery and was later incorporated into the cemetery boundary. However, there are two references to barns in the cemetery board and committee meeting minutes, which suggest that the barn may have been built for cemetery purposes. Specifically, on May 2, 1896, the minutes of a special board meeting made note of "the barns and barnyard to be removed and its space to be cleaned up and sodded down, the present barn to be used (or a new one constructed) to the east of the house or out beyond the orchard, the barn to be used for horses needed and for the tools used about the cemetery and for no other purpose." The house is assumed to be the caretaker's first house, with the location of the orchard currently unknown but probably in the northeast corner of the cemetery property. Another reference in a May 5, 1899 meeting noted that George Douglas had been instructed to "prepare plans for barn and ascertain the cost." The extant building features a jerkinhead or clipped gabled roof, wood and shingle siding, and a cupola on the roof ridge. The roofline has extended rafters ends and a wide roof overhang. Shallow shed-roof overhangs are over the windows and front wood-paneled sliding doors. The hay mow projects out from the façade and is a gabled dormer that pierces the front roofline. In general, this building exhibits the stylistic influence of the Late Victorian Stick style. It remains unknown whether it was one of the barns noted in 1896 or was the new one built in 1899. However, the style of the extant barn suggests a construction date prior to the 1890s.

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Seven Aspects of Integrity

- Location - The Oak Hill Cemetery Historic District retains good integrity of location. It encompasses the original cemetery location, all but six acres of the first 37-acre expansion area, and all of the 1908-10 expansion area at the northwest corner of the cemetery.
- Design - The cemetery district retains good integrity of design containing evidence of the full evolution of its design from the grid pattern of the original cemetery, to the curvilinear naturalistic landscape design of H.W.S. Cleveland, and the redesign of some portions by O.C. Simonds. Both Cleveland and Simonds were noted and influential landscape designers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The intact architectural design of the memorial gateway by Cedar Rapids' architects, Josselyn and Taylor, and the architect/engineer designs of the nine mausoleums also remain intact and possess a high degree of integrity. Added to this are the number of intact and often stylish monuments and grave markers that reflect the social status, wealth, religious and/or ethnic affiliations of the occupants of the cemetery. There have been impacts through the years to the landscape designs of the cemetery in the loss of some trees;⁷ the infill of the lake; the loss of some land;⁸ and the loss of the stone receiving vault (removed in the 1920s) and one mausoleum (the Palmer Mausoleum, which was dismantled and moved to another cemetery). The original caretaker's house was also replaced in the early 1900s with the current house but this occurred within the period of significance for the district. Overall, this cemetery is still recognizable as a significant late nineteenth-early twentieth century designed picturesque/park-like landscape and as the resting place of many of the city's pioneers and influential men and women in the Cedar Rapids community.
- Setting - The district retains fair integrity of setting because through the years what began as a rural cemetery has been encompassed by the expanding city. Residential developments now encroach and border the district's east, south and part of the west sides. Mt. Vernon Road has also been widened on the north side removing an iron fence and frontage of the historic cemetery. However, the cemetery itself still imparts a park-like setting featuring a number of mature shade and evergreen trees, winding paths, curvilinear drives, and scenic vistas.
- Materials - The historic materials of the cemetery still largely intact include: the grave stones and mausoleums; curbing along some of the curvilinear driveways; grass-covered drives and pathways; the stone gateway entry, wall and shelter house; the caretaker's house and barn; and the late nineteenth century barn.
- Workmanship - The workmanship of the district retains a high degree of integrity. This is evidenced by the variety of monumental markers and mausoleums; the use of native materials in the construction and design of the memorial gateway, walls, and shelter house; and the execution of the original cemetery plan and the landscape design plans of both Cleveland and Simonds. Their landscape plans are still evident in the layout of the driveways, grave sites, and the shaping and use of the natural terrain and vegetation.
- Feeling - The Oak Hill Cemetery still conveys a strong historic feeling despite the surrounding residential and modern developments and still imparts a sense of quiet beauty and a park-like setting once entered.

⁷ At least eleven mature shagbark hickory trees of similar size and age remain standing in areas of the cemetery known to have been designed by Cleveland. Whether these trees were planted as part of his landscape design or were existing trees that were left in place as part of his plan is uncertain.

⁸ Land was lost along Mt. Vernon Road SE frontage in the early 1970s when that road was widened and the iron fence in this area was removed. Also, six acres, including a stand of trees, was removed from the south end of the property in the late 1990s for a Habitat for Humanity housing development.

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- Association - The Oak Hill Cemetery District retains good integrity of association because it is still recognizable as an important cemetery and as an historic designed landscape in the City of Cedar Rapids.

It should be noted that cemeteries that remain viable and active continually evolve to meet the changing tastes and design aesthetics of the national and local scene through the years. Oak Hill Cemetery is no exception to this evolution, with even O.C. Simond's circa 1911 landscape design involving changes to his predecessor, Horace W.S. Cleveland's driveway plan. Simonds' plan involved grading driveway elevations to lessen curves and profiles in some areas. The careers of both designers were rooted in the same early landscape design tradition but they had some differing ideas about how best to achieve the ideal landscape. Impose on this the changing ideas of modern cemeteries, monuments and burial customs and cemetery, and the general commercialization of cemeteries in order to maintain those cemeteries in a deteriorating economy, and it is the rare cemetery that still retains a high degree of its nineteenth century integrity.

Deborah L. Cooper, a graduate student in the Landscape Architecture, College of Design at Iowa State University has just completed a landscape study of Oak Hill Cemetery for her thesis. This study was unavailable for the current nomination but does include a treatment and management plan for this historic landscape. This plan should be considered for implementation at Oak Hill in order to restore historic elements of the designed landscape and to help preserve this significant property for generations to come.

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Significant Dates (continued)

1908-10
1911

Architect/Builder (continued)

Josselyn and Taylor

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Oak Hill Cemetery Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for the historical significance of the cemetery and its representation of the settlement and development of the City of Cedar Rapids. It is further significant under Criterion A for its association with families and individuals who played an important role in the settlement and development of the city, including a number of the city's pioneer businessmen and industrialists. Additional significance under Criterion A is achieved through the representation of the social history of the city including race relations, the role of women, and the role of immigrant groups in Cedar Rapids history. The cemetery is also significant under Criterion C for its association with the Rural Cemetery Movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The cemetery is further significant under Criterion C for its representation of the work of two important landscape architects, Horace W.S. Cleveland and Ossian C. Simonds, whose work shaped the picturesque landscape of this historic rural cemetery. The work of the Cedar Rapids' architectural firm of Josselyn and Taylor also added substantially to the architectural significance of the cemetery by the addition of the monumental stone gateway and shelter house. Oak Hill Cemetery qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion Consideration D, as a cemetery that derives its primary significance from distinctive design features and the graves of persons of transcendent importance in Cedar Rapids and Linn County, Iowa. Significant buildings include the caretaker's house and garage, the barn, the gateway shelter house, and the nine mausoleums. Significant structures include the two stone walls with stone gateposts that form the memorial entrance at the northwest corner of the cemetery. Significant objects include the numerous gravestones and monuments in the cemetery collectively counted a single contributing object. The significant site is the cemetery's designed landscape, the curving driveways with curbing, the driveways without pavement and curbing, and the grass-covered pathways that are part of the designed landscape. The period of significance for the district is from 1853 to 1962, with 1853 being the date of the cemetery's establishment. The end date of 1962 represents the fifty year mark for consideration of National Register eligibility because the cemetery is still evolving and is still a site where important persons in Cedar Rapids are being buried. Significant years include: 1853, when the cemetery was established; 1869 and 1880 when landscape architect, Horace W.S. Cleveland was hired to design the landscape for the cemetery expansion area; 1908-10 when the memorial gateway designed by Josselyn and Taylor was added to the northwest entrance of the cemetery; and 1911 when landscape architect, Ossian C. Simonds was hired to redesign a portion of the historic landscape of the cemetery.

Early History of Cedar Rapids

The town of Cedar Rapids was laid out in 1841 and was named for the Red Cedar trees that lined the river valley and the rapids in the river at the town site location. Judge George Greene was instrumental in the founding and platting of the town having recognized the role water power would have on transportation, mills, and other industries at this

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location. But first he had to acquire the land. In 1838, it is reported that Osgood Shepherd jumped the claim of William Stone on the east side of the river. Claiming squatters' rights, he either built a cabin or had taken it from the previous owner. Shepherd was a man with an unsavory reputation. Accounts vary on the names, but in 1841 Osgood Shepherd sold his squatters rights to a group of men. Among this group were George Greene and Nicholas B. Brown, who were both later buried in Oak Hill Cemetery (Brewer and Wick 1911a:150; Western Historical 1878:489). By 1842, the city property had passed entirely into the possession of Brown and Greene. Cedar Rapids was incorporated as a city in 1856 (Brewer and Wick 1911a:314; Danek 1980:230; Western Historical 1878:493).

David W. King operated the first ferry across the Cedar River and platted the town of Kingston in 1850 on the west side of the river opposite Cedar Rapids. He died in 1854 at the age of 46, but Kingston continued to maintain a separate town status, including having its own city government and city officers, until 1870 when it was annexed into the City of Cedar Rapids (Brewer and Wick 1911a:161, 347).

Nicholas B. Brown was instrumental in the initial harnessing of the river's waterpower by building a brush and rock dam across the river near the natural rapids in 1841. He also built the first saw and grist mills in the city in the early 1840s. When Brown's first dam in 1841 proved unsatisfactory, it was rebuilt by Alexander Ely, brother-in-law of John L. Shearer, who had settled in Linn County in 1839 with his wife, Elizabeth (Weare) Shearer. Alexander Ely of Allegan, Michigan, had experience in mill construction and operation; thus, what would be a long connection between the Greene, Weare, and Ely families was first made.⁹ These pioneers and their families are all represented among the burials in Oak Hill Cemetery.

From these early beginnings, the City of Cedar Rapids would grow into the industrial, business, and transportation center of Linn County. But it was not until 1919 that it actually became the county seat of government. That distinction was held by Marion from 1838 until 1919 when Cedar Rapids was finally successful in wresting the county seat designation from Marion (Oxley 1946).

The Village Cemetery and the Establishment of Oak Hill Cemetery

As the City of Cedar Rapids was developing, families with ties to the eastern and southern states as well as immigrant families began arriving. Infant mortality was high as was the risk of death from disease and accidents. Burials were first made in the "village cemetery" located at what is now Eighth Street and Fifth Avenue SE (Brewer and Wick 1911a:242, 358; Rasdal 2006).

In 1852, the Gabriel Carpenter family came to Cedar Rapids where his oldest son, Dr. Seymour Carpenter had already settled. The Gabriel Carpenter family lived on a section of land in what is now the southeast part of the city. Fifth

⁹ Additional connections by marriage would soon be made by members of the Weare family with the Daniels and Carpenter families, also connected to the history of Oak Hill Cemetery. In fact, Gabriel Carpenter, whose son Dr. Seymour Carpenter would marry Sarah Weare, was the founder of Oak Hill Cemetery (Murray and Murray 1950).

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Avenue was one boundary of the farm, which extended west as far as the river.¹⁰

Development soon overtook the peaceful country setting of the village cemetery. Gabriel Carpenter along with Freeman Smith, whose farm adjoined his to the east, laid out a new cemetery first called "Rose Hill"¹¹ and "Mount Washington" (or simply Washington Cemetery) but subsequently named "Oak Hill" on their property.¹²

The earliest reference to Oak Hill Cemetery was an ordinance dated August 23, 1853, which pertained to a tract of land considered to be out in the countryside where Gabriel Carpenter had purchased 300 acres of land adjoining the city. The ordinance stated:

the proposition made by G. Carpenter in respect to ten acres of land for purpose of graveyard be filed and accepted. Provided, however, that if the collegiate institute will pay the aforesaid G. Carpenter for the aforementioned ten acres of land, and further provided, that if the mayor and council hold and possess the power and right to sell and convey the lot of land now occupied by a graveyard (within the corporate limits) and can sell and convey the same to the Collegiate Institute for the sum of three hundred dollars, then the afore-mentioned proposition is accepted (Brewer and Wick 1911a:358).¹³

Brewer and Wick (1911a:358) in their *History of Linn County* further state that "the legal and other difficulties in the way were surmounted and on February 22, 1854, it was resolved to quit claim the interest of the town in the present burial ground to Smith and Carpenter, at such time as they shall lay off and deed to the corporation a block of ground in the *Washington cemetery* for a 'potters' field,' which shall contain at least three acres (emphasis added)." It was further conditioned that "Smith and Carpenter should give bond for the careful removal of all occupants of the present burial ground before making any use of the land" (ibid.). The "present burial ground" is that referred to informally by others as the "village cemetery" and may never have had a formal name.¹⁴ "Washington Cemetery," in the above quote refers to one of the early names for Oak Hill Cemetery; Mount Washington and Rose Hill being the other early names.¹⁵

¹⁰ Mercy Hospital, McKinley School, and part of the old Sinclair meat packing plant are all located on part of the original Carpenter farm.

¹¹ Information was obtained by Jane Thoresen of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association from review of a compilation of newspaper clippings and obituaries on microfiche in the Oak Hill Cemetery records, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. None of the clippings included the dateline or name of the newspaper, but most are likely gleaned from the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*.

¹² A quit claim deed from Maria Carpenter to Freeman Smith dated April 19, 1854, and filed on April 3rd, 1865, referred to the cemetery as "Mount Washington Cemetery" (Margin notes on the "Map of Oak Hill Cemetery as laid out and platted by Gabriel Carpenter and Freeman Smith, May 134, 1864. Filed June 9, 1864," on file in the Oak Hill Cemetery Association records, Cedar Rapids Iowa).

¹³ The Collegiate Institute became known as Coe College in the early 1880s.

¹⁴ The reference to this having been called the "village cemetery" is from the handwritten notes of John M. Ely on file in the Oak Hill Cemetery Association records, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Information researched by Jane Thoresen of the Association.

¹⁵ The three acres to be laid off as the potters' field is the parcel that became the City Cemetery, which is situated on the south side of the original Oak Hill Cemetery plat. The City Cemetery is not included in the Oak Hill Cemetery Historic District.

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On October 7, 1856, the following announcement appeared in the *Cedar Rapids Democrat*:

OAKHILL CEMETERY: The grounds of this cemetery are now arranged and prepared for reception of the bodies buried in the old grave yard. Messrs. Carpenter and Smith, who were to remove them, hereby wish to notify those who have friends buried in the old yard, that if they desire to superintend the removal themselves, they will have to do so soon, as their obligation requires them to preform the act at once. They hope that no delay will be made by those interested in this matter.

The relocated burials were moved to the area of Blocks 1-60 in the original section of Oak Hill Cemetery and represented about ten years of burials at the old location. Reportedly, not all of the bodies made the move since years later construction projects may have encountered human remains at the old village cemetery location (Rasdal 2006). It is also reported that the reburial layout in Blocks 1-60 was an exact duplicate of the layout of the old village cemetery.¹⁶ This is the only area of the cemetery where lots are laid out true to the compass directions.

Two plat maps of the original section of Oak Hill Cemetery dating from the 1860s show rectangular blocks numbered from 1 to 60 with each block subdivided into four lots.¹⁷ The grid has a 30 foot-wide driveway labeled "Washington Avenue" bisecting the grid north to south, with a 20 foot-wide driveway (no name) bisecting the grid east to west. Similar 20-foot wide drives labeled only as "streets" border the north, south, east, and west sides of the cemetery grid. A "Public or Free Ground" is shown off the south side representing the City Cemetery.¹⁸

Some of the pioneer families who shaped the history of the city, including city founder Judge George Greene and developer Nicholas B. Brown were buried in the original section of Oak Hill Cemetery (Western Historical 1878:489). Harold Ewoldt, a Cedar Rapids historian, also noted:

It is fitting that George Greene, Nicholas Brown and Sampson Bever lie close together in Oak Hill. Very few industrial or commercial ventures in the city took place without these three individuals involved in them (Ewoldt 1983).

Additionally, the Gabriel Carpenter family plot is located in Block 35 Lots 1 & 2 of the original section. Children of Gabriel Carpenter included: Harriet Carpenter Reed, Anne Carpenter, Taylor Carpenter, and George Carpenter.

¹⁶ This information came from a hand-drawn inked map of the cemetery that was drawn in the effort to issue deeds. On the same paper stock in the cemetery records, there is a list of lot owners in what appears to be the handwriting of Lawson Daniels. This was confirmed in a 2004 first-person interview by Jane Thoresen of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association with John M. Ely, Jr. who has since passed away. John Ely was long associated with the cemetery association and served as president of the cemetery board. He was born in Cedar Rapids on February 17, 1919, and died on March 30, 2007 (Obituary for John Ely, Cedar Memorial Online Tribute Legacy accessed at <http://www.cedarmemorial.com/obituary/1814/john--ely-cedar-rapids-ia/>, April 2012). John represented the fourth generation of a Cedar Rapids' pioneer family, who were integrally involved in the development and history of Oak Hill Cemetery.

¹⁷ One of the maps shows Block 4 subdivided into eight lots.

¹⁸ Plat maps dating from 1864 on file in the Oak Hill Cemetery Association records, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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The Development of Oak Hill Cemetery

Progression of Development

In the early years, Oak Hill Cemetery operated as a for-profit cemetery. By the fall of 1868, an announcement appeared in the *Cedar Rapids Times* of the incorporation under the title "Oak Hill Cemetery Company," as a non-profit organization. The Board of Directors took control of the cemetery and began to lay out suitable lots between the "Old Cemetery" and Mount Vernon Road (ibid.). New and replacement fencing was added on the east, west, and south sides of the cemetery. On the motion of George Greene, the subscription committee was instructed "to make the additional purchase of land, not to exceed 50 Acres, and said committee be empowered to carry out all arrangements by John Weare as agent of the Company" (ibid.). Shares of stock in the Oak Hill Cemetery Company were sold to raise the capital needed for this expansion. In October 1869, the Grounds Committee reported the titles for about 37 acres of land had been perfected. They employed a landscape engineer from Chicago, Horace W.S. Cleveland, "to lay off and plot a portion of these lands."¹⁹ This portion contains 216 lots and an "ample amount has been reserved therein for streets and ornamental purposes."²⁰

In addition to buying the old grounds from Carpenter and deeding back his family lot, the adjoining 40 acres originally known as the Freeman Smith and later as the Simon Archer property and a small strip of land giving frontage to Mount Vernon Road was purchased by the Association. The Directory of Association²¹ reads as a who's who of Cedar Rapids' founders and developers including: John Weare, George Greene, Dr. John F. Ely, S.C. Bever, N.B. Brown, Wm. Greene, Charles Weare, A.C. Churchill, and Gabriel Carpenter. The Board of Officers consisted of S.C. Bever, President, John Weare, Vice President, Charles Weare, Treasurer, and John F. Ely, Secretary.

As noted previously, it was thought that the main access to the original section of Oak Hill Cemetery was from the west along a steep drive off 15th Street. This driveway led to the center of the cemetery between the Greene and Carpenter family lots. However, there was a driveway that provided access from the north from Mt. Vernon Road that, based on the 1864 plat maps of Oak Hill Cemetery, was probably intended to have been the original formal entrance into the cemetery. This north-to-south driveway was the widest platted drive in the cemetery and was labeled as "Washington Avenue;" however, the long distance from this avenue in the cemetery to Mt. Vernon Road may have made access too difficult along this route resulting in the much shorter (but steeper) west entrance becoming the formal entrance in practice. The north entry drive into the cemetery was reworked when the cemetery expanded with the straight alignment north to Mt. Vernon Road replaced with a curvilinear driveway plan designed by Horace W.S. Cleveland. There remained an entrance off of Mt. Vernon Road but this entry drive did not directly connect to the old "Washington Avenue" driveway in the original cemetery section.

¹⁹ This information was obtained by Jane Thoresen of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association from a bound journal in the Oak Hill Cemetery records that was entitled "Records of the Oak Hill Cemetery Company. October 1868." Early entries in this journal appear to be in the handwriting of Lawson Daniels, while later entries are in the handwriting of John Stoney Ely.

²⁰ ibid.

²¹ The Directory of the Association was a list of all who held stock in the capitalization, while the Board of Directors consisted of at least five but no more than nine of those listed in the Directory according to the bylaws (Definition provided by Jane Thoresen of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association).

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It was noted that in 1880, Elmer J.C. Bealer, who later opened the Cedar Valley Quarry and was a bridge and street builder in the city, was grading and macadamizing the Oak Hill Cemetery driveways (Brewer and Wick 1911b:667).²² Then around 1881-82 Bealer was reported to be grading and macadamizing the addition to Oak Hill Cemetery (ibid.). This flurry of improvements in the early 1880s was likely related to the hiring of Horace W.S. Cleveland for a second landscape design commission for the cemetery.

In 1886, a streetcar line was extended along Tenth Street and Mount Vernon Road "to Oak Hill Cemetery" and opened for business on July 4th of that year (Brewer and Wick 1911a:342). A map at The History Center in Cedar Rapids of the city's streetcar lines in the 1890s shows the 1886 line terminating at the northwest corner of Oak Hill Cemetery and extending into that corner south and then a little east within the cemetery (Henry and The History Center 2001:19). This line entered the cemetery in the area where the stone gateway and streetcar shelter house were added in 1908-10 on lots that had been added to the cemetery for the new entrance. The cemetery again expanded in the 1920s-30s when neighbors asked the Oak Hill Cemetery Association²³ to purchase a property on the 19th Street side to remove an unsanitary and odor-ridden chicken coop.

Beginning in the late 1930s, St. George Orthodox Cemetery was established adjacent to Oak Hill Cemetery, with some of the earliest burials in the new cemetery being older burials disinterred from Oak Hill. The parish of St. George of Cedar Rapids was formed in 1914 by a group of Syrian and Lebanese immigrant families.²⁴ Around this same time, the Assyrian Orthodox Benevolent Society had acquired the interment rights to a series of lots (56 through 59) in Block 166 in Oak Hill Cemetery for use by the church members. The earliest burial in this area dates from 1914. It was from this area of Oak Hill Cemetery that a number of burials were removed to St. George Cemetery between 1938 and 1955, although not all of the burials in this section were moved.²⁵

In 1970-71, another change to Oak Hill Cemetery occurred when Mt. Vernon Road was widened. In the process, the original iron fence was removed and the 19th Street entrance to the cemetery was developed.

Finally, the property to the right of the drive into St. George Cemetery was purchased from Oak Hill Cemetery in the early 1990s for the construction of low-income housing by Habitat for Humanity. An archaeological survey conducted at the time found no evidence of burials in that location (Chadderdon 1997).

²² Elmer J.C. Bealer is also buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. He began contracting in Cedar Rapids in the early 1880s and among his projects were the grading and macadamizing of the addition to Oak Hill Cemetery, laying the foundation for the Masonic Library, and building bridges for the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad. He opened the Cedar Valley Quarry in 1884.

²³ When the stock was first issued, it was called the Oak Hill Cemetery Company. Although the company never really made a profit, they were still considered "For Profit" as long as they were giving small dividends on the stock. When the last of the stock was repurchased in the early 1900s with the proceeds of lot sales, it became the "not for profit" Oak Hill Cemetery Association.

²⁴ Information obtained from "Featured Parish: St. George + Cedar Rapids, IA," accessed at <http://www.antiiochian.org/node/20180>, November 2012).

²⁵ Information obtained by Jane Thoresen of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association from cemetery records.

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Cemetery Improvements

Improvements within the cemetery itself through the years included the installation of a "neat and permanent fence" around the entire premises in 1868 (*The Cedar Rapids Times*, September 24, 1868). This action must have followed some dark days for the reputation of the cemetery because the last paragraph of this newspaper article read:

Henceforth instead of looking with feelings of disgust and horror toward our city burying ground we can look and think upon it with a pride resulting from a consciousness that we have done our duty in rearing this tribute to the memory of those who have gone before us and will soon follow.

The fence was just the beginning of notable improvements to the cemetery, with the Association hiring Chicago landscape architect, Horace W.S. Cleveland in 1869 to "lay off and plot" a portion of the new 37-acre addition to the cemetery. They anticipated "streets" and "ornamental" improvements.²⁶ However, even after these design improvements, the local newspapers continued to make note as late as 1895, of cows grazing, the grass being mowed only once a year, and a dilapidated fence that shames the visitor in the cemetery.

In February 1880, a motion was made by John F. Ely for the Association to again employ Horace W.S. Cleveland to plot as much additional ground as the committee deemed best. One thousand dollars was appropriated for "grading and macadamizing the streets in the cemetery" and the grounds committee was directed to advertise for proposals to do the work (Records of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association, February 1880). A 1907 plat book of Cedar Rapids shows a detailed plan map of Oak Hill Cemetery that may represent the full plan as envisioned by Cleveland (Iowa Publishing 1907). The map shows that the area where the entrance wall and shelter house were built in 1908-10 was then plotted for a residential area. There were different entrances into the cemetery and the southern area of the cemetery was not yet developed in 1907.²⁷ The entrance into what was then the northwest corner of the cemetery came directly off of Mt. Vernon Road. This entrance was depicted on the map as a wide space that funneled into a smaller driveway that then followed a flowing, curvilinear pattern into the cemetery proper. The wide space at the mouth of this entrance may have been to accommodate the streetcar line that was known to extend into the northwest corner of the cemetery in the 1890s. The wide opening was probably needed for a turn-around for the streetcar or room for riders to get on and off the cars.

The 1907 map also showed a lake in the south-central part of the cemetery plat. This lake is non-extant but there is evidence that it was actually built and then later removed. Specifically, on May 7th, 1883, the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* noted:

Oak Hill is out again with its lovely suit of green, and the picture presented by nature was never prettier at this season of the year than now. The grass is thick and healthy, and the trees are putting forth their leaves and foliage abundantly. The walks are in splendid condition, and the sexton, Mr. S.B. Card, is rapidly pushing the work of sodding, trimming and generally caring for the grounds, and graves.

The new artificial lake is completed, and the water, which is to come from a spring in the hill about a quarter of

²⁶ Information obtained by Jane Thoresen of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association from a bound journal in the Oak Hill Cemetery records entitled "Records of the Oak Hill Cemetery Company. October 1868."

²⁷ It was within this undeveloped area that the Habitat for Humanity parcel was developed in the late 1990s.

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mile south of the cemetery, will be turned on within a few days [emphasis added].

Later that same month, *The Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* made note:

From the Stockholder Meeting notes January 30th 1884: Chairman of the Committee on Grounds, W.W. Higley made a report showing what had been done on the grounds in the fiscal year and recommended the bottom of the lake be cemented to prevent seepage.²⁸

The seepage in the lake may have remained a concern, or the lake was becoming a problem for other reasons, because in May 1896, notes from a Special Meeting of the Directors²⁹ (May 2, 1896) contained the following recommendations made by the committee of the grounds:

the Lake to be removed [illegible] tile drains for storm water be put in between ridges with lateral drains for low ground and spaces be platted for medium priced lots and ornamental grounds.

The July 14, 1991, edition of *The Cedar Rapids Gazette* further indicated that stones had once edged the lake at the cemetery, with these stones later becoming part of the historic Armstrong house in Cedar Rapids.³⁰

[Grant] Wood discovered that *Stone City stones edging a pond at Oak Hill cemetery were being crushed for gravel, so he quickly suggested the Armstrongs buy other gravel and trade it with the cemetery for the stones* [emphasis added]. They did, and with those, he designed the garden seat and front gate curbs (ibid.).

By March of 1907, the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* noted that additional improvements were planned for the cemetery.

Some fine improvements are to be made at Oak Hill this spring and work will begin very soon. The old unsightly board fence which separates Oak Hill cemetery from the city cemetery adjoining is to be removed at last and in its stead an appropriate wire fence will be erected with suitable openings. The old board fence has long been a disgrace.

Also added to the cemetery in the early 1900s was the entrance structure, which was given to the cemetery by Harriette Weare Daniels in memory of her second husband, merchant Lawson Daniels.³¹ She first married Lowell Daniels and,

²⁸ According to his 1911 biographical account, Wellington Wesley Higley "was greatly interested in the development and beautification of Oak Hill cemetery of which he was treasurer for many years" (Brewer and Wick 1911b:383).

²⁹ This special meeting was attended by President John S. Ely and the following board members: Charles Weare, George B. Douglas, M.A. Higley, W. Higley, and Lawson Daniels.

³⁰ The Robert and Esther Armstrong House in Cedar Rapids was designed in the 1930s by architect, Bruce McKay, with input from artist and Armstrong family friend, Grant Wood.

³¹ Harriette Weare Daniels' brother, John Weare Jr. became a noted banker and railroad promoter. In his capacity on the Board of Directors for Oak Hill Cemetery he was responsible for the hiring of landscape architect, Horace Cleveland, the addition of the receiving vault, and was active in the expansion of the cemetery grounds. Their brother, Charles Weare was involved in railroad construction, served as mayor of Cedar Rapids, Cedar Rapids postmaster, and as a consul in foreign countries. Upon the death of

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after his death in 1876, married his brother Lawson, who also served as president of the cemetery association. Lawson, and Harriette's brothers, John and Charles Weare, served on the Board of Directors of Oak Hill Cemetery for many years. Lawson Daniels was serving in the office of board president when he died suddenly on June 16, 1906. Charles Weare, then Secretary of the Oak Hill Cemetery, died three days later.

The Board of Directors for the cemetery entered the following into their minutes of June 23, 1906:

A special meeting of the Directors of the Oak Hill Cemetery Company was held at the office of the company, Monday June 23rd, at 1:30 p.m. 1906. Present – John S. Ely, George B. Douglas, W. D. Douglas, being all of the surviving directors. George B. Douglas, Vice President, in the chair. W. D. Douglas acting as Secretary Pro tem. The following resolution was unanimously adopted on the motion of W. D. Douglas: Mr. Lawson Daniels, the President and Treasurer of this Company, died June 16th 1906, and Mr. Charles Weare, Secretary of this Company, died June 19th 1906. In recording the deaths of these two men, we, their associates and surviving directors of this Company realize what an affliction has visited us and what a sweeping loss we have sustained.

This memorial which we spread on the records of the Company is but a feeble attempt to express what this community has lost, what this Company has suffered and what ties of friendship have been broken. From the very beginning of this city, through all of the many trials and difficulties of pioneer life, through the struggles of more recent times, for nearly sixty years, these two men have stood together, devoting their labors to the up building of the city and the best interests of the community.

Connected with the management of this Company, from its inception, for forty years they have officially guided its affairs. Whatever success has been attained in providing and beautifying Oak Hill Cemetery as a final resting place for our dead is due in great measure to the efforts of Mr. Daniels and Mr. Weare. As friends and associates, our loss is to be measured by our long time relationship with these men of loyal friendships and sterling integrity. We realize that with their deaths the former generation has passed away, the generation of founders and pioneers, and upon us, their successors, devolves the conduct of institutions which they have established. We continue in this work with the earnest hope that our labors may in a measure produce results commensurate with the heritage we have received.

On the motion of W. D. Douglas, Mr. John S. Ely, was unanimously elected president and treasurer to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Lawson Daniels.

On the motion of J. S. Ely, Mr. John McCosh was appointed assistant secretary to hold office during the pleasure of the board. On the motion of W. D. Douglas, J. M. Dinwiddle was elected secretary of the Company caused by the death of Mr. Charles Weare. On motion the meeting was adjourned.

Among the dreams of Lawson and Lowell Daniels fulfilled by their widow, Harriette Weare Daniels was the gift to the city of a park that is still known as Daniels Park, and for Lawson, specifically, the construction of the memorial gateway to Oak Hill Cemetery. Brewer and Wick noted in their 1911 Linn County History that "the new entrance to the cemetery

his brother John, Charles took an active role on the Board of Directors of Oak Hill Cemetery. He was also with the First National Bank of Cedar Rapids and the Cedar Rapids Water Company.

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was one of his [Lawson Daniels] pet schemes and it was carried out after his death by a provision in his will and it now stands as a memorial to a long and honorable career" (Brewer and Wick 1911b:65).

The Cedar Rapids Daily Republican made note of this project in the March 24, 1908, edition:

HANDSOME NEW ENTRANCE TO BE
ERECTED AT OAK HILL

New Iron Gateway and a Shelter House of Boulders with a Tile Roof

A new gateway and shelter house at the entrance to Oak Hill Cemetery is one of the added beauties to Cedar Rapids which has been made possible through the kindness of Mrs. Lawson Daniels. The late Lawson Daniels at various times in his life expressed a wish that there might be a better gateway at the entrance and before his death he asked that this be done although he did not provide for it in his will. The firm of Josselyn and Taylor architects have [sic] drawn up the plans for this new entrance and already the stones to be used in its construction are being hauled to the place. The gateway contemplated is one of granite boulder posts with an iron gate and a shelter house of boulders with a tile roof. The entrance will be placed about one half block this side of the present entrance, the land having been secured for this purpose.

While construction on the memorial gateway began in 1908, there were still disbursements being made to the "H.S. Daniels Gateway Fund" in 1910.³² Therefore, it appears that construction was spread out over at least two construction seasons. However, by July 1908 the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* was reporting that at least some portions of the new entryway were nearing completion.

Oak Hill Cemetery is completing the improvements described in this paper some time ago, and others which have been decided upon since that time. There is to be a handsome entrance of art iron with walls of field stones and a large station building at the entrance. This is the main improvement. It is to be located at the Mount Vernon Road and the street railway track and the main drive into the cemetery will wind gradually from it through the trees. Furthermore the driveways are to be materially improved into the cemetery and the principal ones are to be curved.

The fieldstone wall, gateway and shelter house³³ eventually cost over \$6000 to complete.

There are many stories about the origin of the stone used in the construction of the entrance structure. Some sources reported that the stone had been brought in by the railroad, while others say that farmers would bring it in by wagons on Saturday and use the money it generated to buy groceries and other supplies.³⁴ First person accounts passed down through the Weare and Ely families indicate the structure was built of material from a local glacial deposit. The stone is definitely glacial in origin and is a type often is referred to as "field stone" in this area of Iowa because it had to be removed from the farm fields before tilling. According to Murray and Murray (1950), the cut granite boulders were

³² Information obtained from the Oak Hill Cemetery Records by Jane Thoresen of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association.

³³ The shelter house was described as such because the streetcar stop for the neighborhood was located at the corner and this structure was built to shelter riders.

³⁴ First person interview by Jane Thoresen with John M. Ely, Jr., in 2004 and repeated by Ely in a May 2006 Elementary School tour of the cemetery. The source location was also noted in Murray and Murray (1950).

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most likely gathered from the ancestral farm of the Honorable James Good, just north of the city limits on Center Point Road.³⁵

The glacial stones were used in the construction of the shelter house, which features round-arched openings and gabled roof with wide eave overhang. The stones were also used in the construction of the gate posts and curving wall that wraps in a curvilinear, nearly "S" pattern, out from the shelter house up to Mt. Vernon Road SE and over to 15th Street SE. The overall design of the gateway structure reflects the Arts and Crafts Movement and the Craftsman style of architecture then gaining popularity in the nation.

The wrought iron entrance gate is believed to be a product of the Carmody Foundry, which produced manhole covers and fire escapes, some of which are still extant in the city.³⁶ The bronze marker on the stone gatepost is embossed with the following: "The Gift of Lawson Daniels President of Oak Hill Cemetery 1906," with the date referring to the year of Lawson's death. Whether this plaque was also made by the Carmody Foundry is not known.

Changes in the Cemetery

As with every property, the appearance of Oak Hill Cemetery has changed over the years. Some of the mature trees have fallen victim to wind and ice storms and have been replaced by new plantings. In some cases, landscaping has disappeared due to vandalism and outright theft. A notice in *The Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* on December 19, 1910, reported a complaint from the sexton of Oak Hill Cemetery that three young boys had been charged with theft of evergreen trees from the cemetery. "The boys had managed to cut down and carry away several small trees from the cemetery, which they evidently intended to sell as Christmas trees" (ibid.).

One notable structure was removed from the cemetery in the early twentieth century. This was the receiving vault once located near the entrance of the property on the hillside above the current entrance structure. This vault was used when the conditions of the ground did not allow for burial, such as wet conditions, frost, or snow. It was also used when family members had to travel from a distance and burial had to be delayed, or when the ownership of a lot was in question. It was also used to hold the remains of the deceased being transported to another location until the railroad departure time. This vault was necessary at a time before funeral homes began providing this type of service. There is one known photograph of the cemetery entrance taken after 1908-10 that shows the vault on the hillslope in the background.

In January 1879, Board of Director, John Weare made arrangements to have plans for receiving vaults sent to him from Chicago, but the cemetery records fail to identify who was sending the plans. A motion was made by the board to build a receiving vault not to exceed the cost of \$1,000.00. The construction of the vault was announced in the October 28,

³⁵ James Good graduated from Coe College and became a lawyer, the city attorney, and later a congressman. He served as Western Campaign Manager for Herbert Hoover in 1928. As a member of the Hoover Cabinet, he served as Secretary of War. In November 1929, Good died suddenly while still in office. He was buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in an impressive military funeral procession and 19 gun salute (Murray and Murray 1950; also newspaper clippings on microfiche in the Oak Hill Cemetery records).

³⁶ After the sudden death of John Carmody, the foundry became known as the Iowa Steel Company under the direction of Howard Hall.

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1880, edition of *The Weekly Times* as follows:

OAK HILL CEMETERY.—Those of our citizens who have not recently visited this “silent city” have but little appreciation of what is being done in the way of beautifying the grounds and in making permanent improvements. The cemetery association has been actively at work during the summer, and this work is now beginning to show what the future of Oak Hill Cemetery will be. The drives have been graded and are being macadamized, in a most thorough and substantial manner; the ornamental parts of the grounds have been beautified, and *a large, substantial and neat public vault is in process of construction* [emphasis added]. This vault will be capable of holding twenty bodies, and when completed will be highly ornamental and as substantial as stone and cement can make it. When the season’s work is completed the company will have spent over six thousand dollars on the grounds this year; and this is but a commencement of the work in contemplation. We do not think there is a more beautiful or attractive cemetery in the state than Oak Hill, as, in addition to what the company has done and is doing, a large majority of the private lots have been beautified and the shrubbery well cared for. Everything within the sacred grounds is being well cared for, and when the work now commenced by the company is completed Oak Hill Cemetery will be among the most attractive places in the vicinity of the city.

In 1884, rules and charges for the use of the receiving vault were published:

The owners of lots in the Cemetery who deposit the bodies of their relatives or friends in the vault until the ground or weather is suitable for interment, the following vault charges will be made in addition to the interment charge. Both the interment charges and the vault charges must be paid to the Secretary in advance of the deposit of the body, who will issue a permit for the same.

The use of the vault for each body

One month \$5.00

Two months \$8.00

Three months \$10.00

Each additional month \$2.00

Strangers will be required to make an additional deposit of \$10.00 (the cost of a single grave) which in case of the selection of a lot will be applied towards payment of the same.

In no case will a body deposited during the winter be allowed to remain in the vault longer than the first day of May following. The remains of persons dying from disease designated as contagious are not receivable in the vault.

It is speculated that the vault became obsolete when the John B. Turner Funeral Home began to provide temporary burial storage service. However, another reason may have been the placement in Oak Hill’s vault of someone who died of diphtheria, a contagious disease. This placement took place before the person’s cause of death had been determined.³⁷ Regardless of the reason, the vault was used through December 1918 but was removed sometime after.

³⁷ Information provided by Jane Thoresen from Oak Hill Cemetery records.

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The Landscape History of Oak Hill Cemetery

When Oak Hill Cemetery was first established it was out in the rural countryside and outside of the city proper. An 1868 bird's eye illustration of Cedar Rapids depicts the cemetery in the open countryside with only a scattering of houses along the road that led from the city to Mt. Vernon (and now known as Mt. Vernon Road) (Ruger 1868). The cemetery was within a grassy open area with woodlands to the south and west and open grassland to the east. There appear to be two rows of trees, with some gravestones represented in a schematic fashion in this illustration. The rows of trees may represent the earliest attempt at purposeful landscaping. By 1875, a plan map of the City of Cedar Rapids shows the city now platted out to the cemetery and on the verge of encompassing it completely (Andreas 1875).

The earliest portion of Oak Hill Cemetery was a simple grid platted on a north-south, east-west axis laid out over the highest knoll. Such a location and plan was typical of the day and reflect a human tendency for placing order on nature and the desire to be buried on a high point closer to the heavens or at a vantage point overlooking a scenic view. However, this formal, ordered type of thinking was beginning to change nationwide, with a movement taking place to plan rural cemeteries to be more at one with nature and the natural setting. Such plans represent a break from the imposition of the artificial grid pattern to instead embrace the natural rolling terrain and then enhancing it with plants and trees to create a park-like setting. Oak Hill Cemetery was to become part of this movement with the hiring of Horace W.S. Cleveland in 1869 and again in 1880 to develop the original landscape plans for the cemetery expansion.

One intent of the so-called "rural cemetery movement" was to create places of beauty to be enjoyed by visitors not only in times of sorrow and but in quiet memorial. On Sunday afternoons, many such cemeteries became gathering places for families and friends to walk the curving pathways and drives, pay respect to their loved ones, tend to family graves, and share fellowship and perhaps even a picnic lunch in the cool shade of the trees. Oak Hill Cemetery seemed to have been such a gathering place, but things did not always go well in this or other similar cemeteries. In the 1870 cemetery rules concerning visitors to Oak Hill it was stated that "picnic parties" will not be allowed suggesting that some visitors were not being respectful or that picnic trash had become a problem in the cemetery. On April 29, 1895, *The Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* noted that "thousands of sorrowing mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers visit the cemetery every Sunday, and large numbers go daily, to care for the graves of their loved ones." However, the 1895 article went on to note that these visitors were being harassed by "foul-mouthed boys" and loafers to the point that the newspaper was calling for the police to do something to stop this and other unsavory activities reportedly desecrating the sanctity of the cemetery (ibid.). It would appear that some people were treating Oak Hill Cemetery too much like a city park.

The American Rural Cemetery Movement, 1831-1900

Oak Hill Cemetery's distinctive design features – its winding paths and general park-like setting – are rooted in the American rural cemetery movement that began in the northeastern states in the 1830s. Three early rural cemeteries became models for countless others throughout the country: Mount Auburn in Cambridge (1831); Laurel Hill in Philadelphia (1836); and Greenwood in Brooklyn (1837). One observer described their proliferation in 1849:

Already, not only the larger towns, . . . but smaller ones, . . . and we know not how many others, have large areas in their neighborhood laid out for the mansions of the dead, where beauty of scenery, taste in landscape gardening, elegance and costliness of monuments awaken wide curiosity... (Thomas Woolsey quoted in Sears

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1989:99-100).

The popularity of these cemeteries stemmed from widespread anti-urban sentiment and an attraction to “the picturesque,” a Romantic aesthetic which, in the English garden and landscape tradition, evoked a “‘natural’ landscape appearance of rougher terrain and dramatic asymmetric composition in contrast to the axial geometry of earlier Renaissance and Baroque landscapes, such as Versailles” (Cultural Landscape Foundation 2012). Unlike their British counterparts who “distinguished the ‘Beautiful’ aesthetic (as seen in the rolling pastoral landscape designs of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown) from the wildly dramatic ‘Picturesque’ (replete with ravines, dead trees and artificial ruins),” American landscape architects combined the two approaches into the “natural” landscape aesthetic (ibid.). American landscape architects often employed both approaches on a single site.

In the early nineteenth century, people were still being buried in burial grounds and churchyards where there was often a “confused medley of graves” often in poorly kept locations and symbolizing sorrowful places of death where one would rarely want to linger (Sloane 1991:13). Other established burial grounds followed the formal English garden model that imposed formality and order on the landscape with little regard for the natural terrain or vegetation. The isolation of pioneer life on the frontier also led to family burial grounds away from church and closer to home. Churchyard burials were an alternative and followed a European tradition. This often resulted in a social hierarchy, with the wealthiest buried closest to the church or in vaults within the church itself, these locations being the safest locations from vandalism and grave robbing. It also put the higher social order closer to God. Space in urban churchyards quickly became a premium (ibid.:13-19). So-called “Potter’s Fields” also became part of the American burial tradition at an early date, being a location where those who could not afford a vault or grave in an established burial ground or church yard could be buried at the community or church’s expense (ibid.:24-25).

In the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries, the customs surrounding burials and burying grounds evolved into one having a stronger family orientation, formalized the funeral ceremony, and resulted in the establishment of “cemeteries” rather than “burial grounds.” There was also a change in emphasis from “in-city” burial grounds to “rural cemeteries,” in part in response to growing fears of contagious disease but also to overcrowding in the city and new attitudes and aesthetics concerning burial places in general (Sloane 1991).

Americans were searching for a burial place that did not evoke the city’s fast pace or commercial life. “Only when cemeteries...abandoned traditional urban forms and took on aspects of the country, did they become...’rural.’” Only when Americans embraced mid-nineteenth-century rural values did they discover a new burial place (Sloane 1991:43 quoting in part Schuyler 1986:41).

The new burial place became a “cemetery” located in a rural setting. The rural cemetery was also the garden cemetery due to its growing horticultural orientation. However, the cultural significance of the “rural cemetery” was in its reflection of “city dwellers’ growing isolation from rural life and their attempts--through first the *rural cemetery*, then the *rural park*--to reestablish some of the virtues of country life in the cities” (Sloane 1991:94).

The new cemeteries reversed the priorities predominant in urban life. The visitor was immersed in nature and cut off from urban civilization. The cemetery’s landscape integrated various aspects of the ideal picturesque landscape: wild scenery, rolling or sharper terrains, and water. Roads and paths were serpentine, to ensure that

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the “garden of graves” would not remind the mourner and visitor of life in the geometrically ordered city.

Within these picturesque grounds, lot-holders wished to celebrate their heritage and success. Family lots became means through which middle- and upper-class Americans could commemorate their families, their ancestors, their community, and themselves. Large, artistically styled monuments dotted the sections, and smaller, more standardized monuments filled the spaces between. Even as critics complained about the loss of naturalism, the growing ostentation of the monuments, and the crowding of sections, Americans proud of their success continued to erect monuments to their past.

As much as the founders tried to establish rural cemeteries as burial places for the whole community, the institution embraced the values and goals of only part of the diversified urban community. The number of cemeteries grew because Catholic, Jewish, and other religious groups desired their own communal burial places and further diminished the centrality of the rural cemetery. Antebellum Protestant leaders had tried to impose their culture on American society. They were successful in altering the burial habits of the community, but not in fostering all their values and symbols.

The rural-cemetery movement had begun to evolve as soon as the first cemetery was organized. By the 1850s, a new generation of landscape designers was experimenting with a simpler and cleaner landscape, and Americans began to retreat from their close relationship with death (ibid.:94-95).

This “retreat from sentimentality” and the evolution of the rural cemetery from picturesque natural gardens to pastoral, park-like landscape-lawn plans designed by a new profession of trained landscape architects and landscape gardeners is reflected in the progression of Oak Hill Cemetery. The original cemetery was a rural cemetery, located away from the city center in the adjacent countryside but situated on a scenic, natural location. However, it included in its original design the formal grid pattern of the old burial ground tradition. Soon after its establishment, the cemetery board greatly expanded the landholding and hired a landscape architect from Chicago, Horace W.S. Cleveland to design a picturesque cemetery beginning in 1869. Cleveland was hired again in 1880 to expand his plan for the cemetery, with another landscape architect, Ossian C. Simonds hired in the early 1910s to redesign portions of the cemetery. Both Cleveland and Simonds brought their own vision of the picturesque rural cemetery/landscape-lawn design aesthetics to Oak Hill’s overall design.

American picturesque landscapes featured “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” (Potter and Boland 1992:6). Such scenery imparted to viewers moral inspiration, spiritual awakening, and an appreciation of nature (ibid.). Frederick Law Olmsted, Andrew Jackson Downing, and Horace W.S. Cleveland all created American picturesque landscapes, which included many rural cemeteries and public parks. The style remained popular from the 1840s well into the early twentieth century (Cultural Landscape Foundation 2012).

Rural cemeteries were designed to be picturesque landscapes, with “serene and spacious grounds, where the combination of nature and monuments would be spiritually uplifting” (Potter and Boland 1992:6). Located on the outskirts of towns and cities, rural cemeteries stood apart from the communities they served, while providing retreats within easy reach of residents. An elaborate cemetery gateway physically established for visitors this separation from the

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everyday world. The cemetery grounds consisted of a hilly, wooded site further “enhanced by grading, selective thinning of trees, and massing of plant materials which directed views opening onto broad vistas” (ibid.). Winding paths and circuitous avenues adapted to the contours of the land encouraged leisurely promenades and carriage rides among ornamental monuments, headstones, and statuary, and provided visitors with attractive scenic views (Sears 1989:100, 102, 104). In this way, rural cemeteries served as early recreational parks, civic amenities intended for the enjoyment of the living.

Oak Hill Cemetery in Cedar Rapids was no exception. A visitor to the cemetery in the summer of 1870 praised the rural cemetery attributes of what would have been Cleveland’s original landscape design:

Oak Hill Cemetery will be to Cedar Rapids, what Green-wood [sic] Cemetery is to New York, it will be a place of quiet and religious recreation, a healthful addition to the city, and comfort to those who reverence the Almighty, and those who wish to pay tributes of love to the memory of departed friends, apart from public intrusion, where it can be exercised by the devout, the private reflections, and spiritual communings (*Cedar Rapids Times*, July 14, 1870).

As noted previously, the ideal was not always the reality. The cemetery board had to regulate visitor activities, and the local newspaper editorialized on improper behavior in the cemetery. However, Oak Hill Cemetery was, for the most part, treated with respect and its park-like beauty was appreciated by the living.

Not surprisingly, the popularity of rural cemetery grounds led to the urban park movement of the mid-nineteenth century, which produced, among others, New York City’s Central Park, Boston’s Franklin Park, and Chicago’s Washington Park (Potter and Boland 1992:6).

Adolph Strauch was influential in the later evolution of the rural cemetery movement beginning with his transformation of Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati into a garden-park cemetery. This was “three years before the success of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux’s Greensward plan for Central Park would start a generation of ‘rural’ parks” (Sloane 1991:99).

Using what he termed the “landscape lawn plan,” Strauch, the cemetery’s new landscape gardener, proclaimed in his design for Spring Gove an age of new professionalism and renewed accessibility, both physical and psychological.

The sections that Strauch laid out, as well as those he redesigned, were simpler, more spacious, and more pastoral landscapes, in which management’s control was increasingly extended over monuments and plantings. Lot-holder’s responsibility for molding the landscape was restricted. The foal of melding nature and art into a comfortable balance that could be maintained as the cemetery matured was embedded through the entire design and maintenance plan (ibid.).

Strauch would influence “generations of cemetery designers and managers, through both his published reports for Spring Grove and his designs for several cemeteries, including Mount Hope in Chicago and Forest Lawn in Buffalo” (Sloane 1991:99). Among those so-influenced was O.C. Simonds, who met Adolph Strauch on a visit to see Spring Grove where Simonds remarked that “the charm of Spring Grove...was due to its beautiful graded surfaces, its broad

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open spaces, its simple groups of trees, often with branches sweeping to the ground, its border plantations of shrubbery and its lakes margined with foliage" (Bachrach 2000:83). Simonds even received instruction from Strauch "on ingenious methods to achieve gently curving grades and drives" and in "the importance of making finishing touches 'on the ground,' in a manner like 'that of the sculptor'" (ibid.).

During the late nineteenth century, "many cemetery designers, managers, and lot-holders would turn towards Strauch's ideas" (Sloane 1991:107).

In their cemeteries, the pastoral would replace the picturesque. The lawn would expand, and the grouped trees were thinned. Cemeteries would become more parklike. Monuments would be more formalized and standardized. The artfulness of the landscape would become more obvious and more celebrated.

Strauch's ideas and innovations were central to the development of the lawn-park cemetery and the modern cemetery in general. Jacob Weidenmann, a landscape architect who wrote the first manual of cemetery management and designed several cemeteries, considered Strauch the founder of the modern cemetery. Ossian Cole Simonds, America's most influential cemetery designer at the turn of the twentieth century, called Spring Grove, a "Mecca for those interested in cemeteries" (ibid.).

Both Olmsted and Strauch "accepted the role of art in the landscape and the cemetery" and "both recognized that the cemetery was not a park, a playground, or a garden" (Sloane 1991:109). They "encouraged lot-holders to honor their dead through simple, stylish, and artistic monuments," with Strauch placing the cemetery management on a professional basis. He encouraged rules and regulations and "set the stage for the emergence of the superintendent as the overseer of the cemetery landscape" (ibid.). Near the end of the nineteenth century, "lawn-park" cemeteries had become commonplace and worked well with the rise of the City Beautiful Movement of the 1890s to early 1900s (ibid.:121).

Family mausoleums designed in classical and other popular styles of the day became popular during this same period.³⁸ Mausoleums placed a new level of concern for cemetery maintenance and who would pay for their upkeep and perpetual care because mausoleums were essentially buildings constructed within the cemeteries. This was a problem in Oak Hill Cemetery as well with at least one mausoleum having major structural issues at a time when no one in the family survived or could take financial responsibility.

As the twentieth century progressed, American attitudes towards death and burial places evolved once again. Cemeteries became professionalized and commercialized and increasingly less family oriented. As a result, "the business of death was becoming complex" (Sloane 1991:126).

The new cemetery with its less dramatic appearance, was in keeping with the withdrawal of most Americans from a close relationship of death, which had characterized the antebellum period. Sanitarians and medical scientists had jointly lowered the risk of living in the cities. Professionals managed the process of death and burial. Consolation poetry and prose became less prevalent. Death continued to be a powerful social issue, but did not engage the attention of Americans as it had earlier.

³⁸ This popularity was spurred in part by the theft of A.T. Stewart's remains from a Manhattan churchyard in 1878 and held for ransom, but also by a desire by wealthy families to display their success even in death (Sloane 1991:122)

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Because of all these factors, not only the appearance but also the character of the cemetery changed. Entrepreneurs, who assumed responsibility for so much of the American economy and culture during this period, commercialized the burial ground. Whereas rural cemeteries and ethnic and religious lawn-park cemeteries retained loyal lot-holders, for-profit cemeteries attracted other Americans. Americans began to recognize the commercialization of the cemetery, and such commercialism evoked a storm of anger and ignited a movement of reform, which eventually led to the redesign of the cemetery into the memorial park (ibid.:127).

Cremation also rose in popularity, with a whole new set of issues arising related to the interment or scattering of cremains.

In 1929, a new cemetery was established in Cedar Rapids based on the "park plan" but essentially following the trend of the memorial park cemetery (Cedar Memorial 2012). This cemetery was founded by Carl K. Linge, who purchased a farm along the road between Cedar Rapids and Marion on which to establish his "Cedar Memorial" cemetery. "Instead of large monuments, it would feature enduring bronze memorials set flush with the ground" (ibid.). Cedar Memorial would eventually purchase the Turner Funeral Home business and add those properties to the company's operation.³⁹

The Architects of Oak Hill Cemetery

The two landscape designers who left their imprint on Oak Hill Cemetery were Horace W.S. Cleveland and Ossian C. Simonds. They both approached cemetery design from the same basic picturesque garden aesthetic but differed in some key ways based on their own experiences, those who mentored and influenced them, and the time periods in which they worked.

Horace William Shaler Cleveland (1814-1900) - Landscape Architect

Horace William Shaler Cleveland was born in 1814 in Lancaster, Massachusetts, and educated at the Lancaster School, a Unitarian Universalist school founded by his parents on the theories of Swiss educator Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi. The school's unique curriculum emphasized nature excursions, landscape study, and observation as its dominant learning tools.⁴⁰ His family moved in social circles that included Ralph Waldo Emerson, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, and Horatio Greenough, and thus Cleveland grew up surrounded by Transcendentalism, a philosophy that espoused communing with nature to understand both reality and the Divine. After moving with his diplomat father to Cuba in the 1820s, Cleveland returned to America and worked as a surveyor and engineer for the railroads in Illinois and out west throughout the 1830s. In the early 1840s, he bought a farm near Burlington, New Jersey, and practiced scientific farming. He began writing for the *Horticulturist*, the periodical of renowned landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing (Wilson 2003).

³⁹ The new Cedar Memorial Cemetery would have been a definite contrast in design and aesthetics to Oak Hill Cemetery. An avenue for future research would be to study the criteria influencing people to select one burial place over another into the modern era.

⁴⁰ Pestalozzi's learning by looking approach to education was an early expression of the 1870s kindergarten movement and the early twentieth-century Nature Study movement, which emphasized field trips, gardening, manual training, and other experiential learning opportunities as part of the public school curriculum.

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Translating this background into a philosophy of landscape design aesthetics, Horace W.S. Cleveland disdained the superfluous and merely decorative in favor of the simple and natural. His vision of landscape design "was rooted in principles of conservation and wise land use" and was a "vision for orderly growth" (Tishler 1989:24, 2000:27). He would come to believe that landscape architecture was the "art of arranging land so as to adapt it most conveniently, economically and gracefully to any of the varied wants of civilization" (Tishler 1989:24).

In 1854, Cleveland joined with Robert Morris Copeland in the practice of landscape and ornamental gardening. Together they created the design of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Massachusetts. The plan for Sleepy Hollow "avoided the imposition of a geometric grid of lots over the terrain" (Wilson 2003). Instead, the plan respected native trees and plants and featured cemetery lots lined with paths and drives that followed the natural outlines of the land (ibid.).

After the Civil War, Cleveland became a consulting field employee for the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. In 1869, he traveled to Chicago to work on South (Washington) Park and possibly Riverside. He saw Chicago booming with railroad development and the numerous towns sprouting up along the tracks heading west across the prairies of Illinois and Iowa. Cleveland must have imagined an endless need for his services and decided to stay. He opened his own landscaping firm and soon formed a consulting partnership with civil engineer William Merchant Richardson French (Neckar 1995:77).

That first year in Chicago, Cleveland and French were hired to create a picturesque landscape design for the new community of Highland Park, Illinois. Cleveland was also hired that year to design a landscape for the grounds of the new Oak Hill Cemetery in Cedar Rapids. In October 1869, Cleveland's plat of the Oak Hill Cemetery grounds was completed and landscaping work had begun. The following year, Cleveland was, with Swain Nelson and Company, appointed consulting landscape gardener to the General Officers of Graceland Cemetery.⁴¹ Cleveland's design for Graceland Cemetery "marked an important point in the evolution of Cleveland's design vision for the Midwestern garden. . . . [He] transformed it to meet the conditions of a broad, flat ridged western savannah." In so doing, Cleveland made Graceland "a country cemetery, laced with curving drives and dotted here and there with limestone markers and low curbs among oak groves and wild shrubs" (Neckar 1995:78).

Cleveland's years in Chicago were marked by tragedy, with the first coming during the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, when most of his office records were destroyed.⁴² The economic Panic of 1873 further impacted the business and brought a halt to Cleveland's South Park commission. His wife became critically ill in 1874, and in 1880, their son Richard died unexpectedly. His personal and professional setbacks prompted him to move from Chicago, settling in Minneapolis where he would achieve his greatest success. However, the 1870s were not without notable achievements for Cleveland including, in 1873, the writing of his landscaping guide, *Landscape Architecture as Applied to the Wants of the West*, and his subsequent hire by William Rainey Marshall to design Saint Anthony Park, a neighborhood in Saint Paul, Minnesota. In 1881, Cleveland composed a publication entitled *A Few Words on the Arrangement of Rural*

⁴¹ In the 1880s, O.C. Simonds would make Graceland Cemetery into one of the preeminent garden cemeteries of the nation (Neckar 1995:78).

⁴² "Only two rolls of plans, the contents of a trunk, and a few mementos escaped destruction" during the fire (Tishler 2000:32).

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Cemeteries. It was in Minnesota that Cleveland began work on his life's crowning achievement, the Twin Cities Metropolitan Park System, recognized today as one of the most significant open space systems in the United States. Cleveland completed his last major project, the landscaping for the campus at the University of Minnesota, in 1892. He died on December 5, 1900, in Hinsdale, Illinois. His body was returned to Minneapolis and is buried in Lakewood Cemetery (Cultural Landscape Foundation 2012; Tishler 2000:33-36).

Horace W.S. Cleveland and Oak Hill Cemetery

On May 7, 1868, the author of a letter to the editor of *The Cedar Valley Times* identified simply as "A Citizen" noted the following:

During the past winter, an effort was made by some of our citizens to form a Cemetery Association, and procure additional land adjoining the present Oak Hill Cemetery, and then have the whole properly enclosed with a suitable fence, and make such improvements, by removing the underbrush, planting ornamental trees and shrubs, as to make the place pleasant to look at by those who feel interested in the memory of those who rest there in peace. But the matter seems to have been forgotten, although that at both the meetings which were held in the Mayor's Office in winter, the greatest unanimity of sentiment seemed to prevail in all the discussions. Then why is it that a laudable and humane, and I had almost said Christian undertaking should thus get leave to languish and die; simply because every one waits for another.

The writer urged the efforts to form an association and beautify the cemetery move forward, and so they did. The association was formed and by October 28, 1869, *The Cedar Rapids Times* was reporting the following:

The plat of Oak Hill Cemetery grounds is completed and the Association is ready to dispose of lots. The grounds of this "silent city" have been laid off by one [of the] best artists in Chicago, who has taken great pains and exhibited much skill in so arranging the plat that the landscape is beautifully diversified, and access to the grounds and to each particular lot easy and convenient. Those of our citizens more directly connected with the management of this important improvement, and who have directed and controlled the enterprise from the beginning [sic], have inaugurated and are carrying forward a work of which every citizen of Cedar Rapids may be justly proud. In fact, this is a part of the city, a part too, in the improvement and beautifying of which all should feel a personal interest, as there are but few of us who have not borne loved ones to this ward, and sooner or later, we too must be carried thither. The managers of the grounds have spared no pains nor expense, and will spare none to complete the work laid out and already so advanced, and which when completed, will make Oak Hill Cemetery the most beautiful burial place in the west. The managers are doing, and will continue to do their part of the work efficiently, and not let those owning private lots see to beautifying and keeping them in repair, and soon this, the "Sacred Ward" of our city will be the most beautiful.

The "artist" from Chicago who was hired to complete this plan was Horace W.S. Cleveland, with at least part of his original plan executed in 1869 as part of the largest expansion of the cemetery. Then in 1880, he was hired again to either further expand or complete that design.

The 1869 addition of land encompassed 37 acres and included the land in-between the original cemetery and what is now Mt. Vernon Road, the land to the east of the original cemetery, and the land south to S. 9th Street (now 12th

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Avenue SE). According to the 1907 plat of the cemetery, the section at the south end was not developed and showed no evidence of a planned landscape. Therefore, the Cleveland plan is assumed to encompass that portion of the 1907 plat east and north of the original cemetery where a plan of curvilinear drives, vegetation, and a lake are shown. How much of this plan was executed in 1869 and how much was completed or revised in 1880 when Cleveland was again hired, is not specifically known because no original plans are known to survive. However, it is known that the 1880 plan included "grading and macadamizing the streets in the cemetery," a project for which \$1,000 was set aside (Records of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association, February 1880).

If one compares the dates of burial in the blocks in the added section of the cemetery, those areas immediately north and east of the original cemetery including Blocks 61-76 and 80 contain burials dating from 1870 to 1880. The blocks more to the center of the added land date primarily from the 1880s to 1900 (e.g., Blocks 81-91, 139, and 166) and those on the east and south perimeters date from the early to late twentieth century. The 1907 plat is assumed to reflect the entirety of Cleveland's plan. The curving driveways hugging the natural rolling terrain still match in many areas the 1907 map. It is known that the lake did exist and was built in 1883 likely the result of Cleveland's second design commission for the cemetery. However, the lake proved problematic and was recommended for removal in 1896 (Special Meeting of the Oak Hill Cemetery Board of Directors, May 2, 1896). If the lake was backfilled in 1896, then the 1907 map is likely based on Cleveland's original plans more so than a map made of existing features in 1907.

While the west and central portions of the cemetery addition still contain and were known to contain the plan and features (such as the lake) of the 1907 plat, the eastern half does not currently conform to that plan except in some sections of the outer driveway curve and the platting of Blocks 101-127 on the south side of the 1907 plat. Therefore, the current configuration of Oak Hill Cemetery is not entirely Cleveland's plans, but there are certainly notable components of his plans that remain intact. Despite changes, Oak Hill Cemetery remains recognizable as part of Cleveland's body of work.

Since the burials in the eastern half date primarily from the 1910s-20s, it is strongly suspected that this area of the cemetery plan was redesigned circa 1911 when Ossian C. Simonds was hired to do some work on the driveway and landscaping plans. The remnant blueprint plans in the records of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association include a section showing new profile plans for driveways in the cemetery identified with Simonds and dated April 1911 as well as a plat for Block 95 (in the oval-shaped area in the northeast corner of the cemetery) unsigned but dated March 1912. Blueprint plats for Block 94 (undated) and Blocks 169-170 (dated 1919 but not further identified) are also extant in the cemetery records.

Ossian Cole Simonds (1855-1931) - Landscape Gardener

Ossian Cole Simonds was born on a farm in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where growing up he developed a life-long appreciation of nature and rural landscapes. At the University of Michigan, Simonds studied civil engineering and took architecture courses taught by William LeBaron Jenney. After graduation in 1878, Simonds accepted an apprenticeship with Jenney in Chicago, where the architect had just begun a major drainage and expansion project at Graceland Cemetery, five miles north of the city. Jenney put his new protégé to work on the project (Geiger 2012a, 2012b). H.W.S. Cleveland had been earlier involved in the design of the expansion of this cemetery where he suggested that the overall design should produce "the proper mingling of wood and lawn" and "whose ideas clearly shaped the context in

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which Simonds was first introduced to landscape gardening” (Bachrach 2000:83).

During the project, Simonds became well acquainted with Bryan Lathrop, president of the Graceland Cemetery. Lathrop mentored Simonds, teaching the young civil engineer about naturalistic English-style landscape design, and together visiting the famous rural cemeteries of the day, including Mt. Auburn near Boston, Laurel Hill in Philadelphia, and Spring Grove in Cincinnati (Bachrach 2000:83; Geiger 2012a, 2012b). As noted previously, it was at Spring Grove that Simonds became acquainted with Adolph Strauch and was influenced by Strauch’s approach to cemetery design (Bachrach 2000:83).

Graceland Cemetery became Simonds’ laboratory where he developed his expertise in landscape gardening. Lathrop introduced him to what was then an unusual practice – transplanting wild trees and shrubs from local farms into an existing designed landscape. Simonds adopted the practice for the cemetery and in the process became a master horticulturalist. He made use of groupings of native trees and shrubs and studied the local woods and prairies to understand the natural association of different species. He also studied topography and hydrology to better understand and utilize natural processes in creating scenic landscapes.

After about two years, Simonds left Jenney’s employ and started a partnership with a young architect, William Holabird. The firm soon added Martin Roche as a third partner. Simonds resigned in 1883 to become the full-time superintendent at Graceland Cemetery; however, he continued to work on projects with Holabird and Roche, which would become one of Chicago’s most prolific architecture firms in the early twentieth century.⁴³

By the early 1890s, Simonds was gaining a national reputation. At Quincy, Illinois, he completed Horace W.S. Cleveland’s design for the cemetery in 1895 and designed a system of eight new parks for the Mississippi River town. During this same period, Simonds also found his talents in demand for the newly popular game of golf.⁴⁴ The master landscape gardener worked on the design of two of the first eighteen-hole golf courses in the country – Chicago Golf in Wheaton, Illinois (1894) and the Glen View Golf and Polo Club in Golf, Illinois (1897) – and contributed setting and drainage designs for several other courses in the Midwest (Geiger 2012a, 2012b).

With his private practice growing rapidly, Simonds resigned as Graceland’s superintendent in 1897. He continued as the cemetery’s consulting landscape gardener, guiding the cemetery’s landscape development for the rest of his life. From this time through the turn of the twentieth century, Simonds designed landscapes for Rockcliffe Mansion in Hannibal, Missouri; Sinnissippi Farm in Oregon, Illinois; the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association in Madison, Wisconsin; and Chicago’s Lincoln Park redesign and expansion in collaboration with Bryan Lathrop in 1903 (Geiger 2012a).

Simonds also played a key role in promoting the profession of landscape architecture. He was a founder of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1899 and a founding member of the Association of American Cemetery

⁴³ For example, in 1887, Simonds worked with Holabird and Roche on one of his largest projects: the development of Fort Sheridan, Illinois, a residential community situated on high bluffs above Lake Michigan, north of Chicago (Geiger 2012a, 2012b).

⁴⁴ Golf was popularized in the United States during the World’s Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893.

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Superintendents and the American Park and Outdoor Art Association. By 1900, Simonds had become a regular contributor to *The House Beautiful* and other national magazines. In 1909, he helped establish the landscape design program at the University of Michigan, his alma mater. In his 1920 book, *Landscape-Gardening*, Simonds expressed that his professional mission was to “open the eyes of those who fail to see such beauty as already exists” (Geiger 2012a; Simonds 1920:3).

During the early twentieth century, Simonds found plenty of demand for his landscape-gardening talents in Iowa, including designing landscape improvements for the Iowa State Fairgrounds (1911) and the campus at Iowa State College in Ames (1916) (Iowa Department of Agriculture 1911; *Palo Alto Reporter*, May 18, 1916). Simonds was especially active in Cedar Rapids. There, Simonds developed the gardens at Brucemore (1906); drew a landscaping plan for May’s Island (1909); made improvements at Oak Hill Cemetery circa 1911; and designed several landscaped suburban additions, including Ridgewood (1908); Mound Farm Addition (1914); Bever Woods Addition (1917); and Eastland Manor (1919) (*Cedar Rapids Republican*, November 15, 1919; Simonds 1920; *The Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, November 14, 1914 and April 27, 1917). These self-contained residential subdivisions utilized many of the same landscape design features as rural cemeteries, including winding roads, strategic plantings, and engineered scenery.⁴⁵

Cemeteries remained a specialty of Simonds, who believed cemeteries “should be, as the name implies, sleeping-places, places of rest and freedom from intrusion” (Simonds 1920:306).

It seems natural that one should seek for such a place the very best production of landscape-art, where spreading lawns give a cheerful sunny effect; where pleasing vistas show distant clouds or the setting sun; where branching trees give grateful shade, furnish pleasing objects to look at, and places for birds to come each year and sing again their welcome songs; where blossoming shrubs delight the eye, perfume the air, and make attractive nesting-places (ibid.:306-307).

His vision of the ideal cemetery, brimming with nature and devoid of monuments, “may seem to exist more for the living than for the dead,” Simonds admitted, “but the living are the ones that need them” (Simonds 1920:307). He went on to state that “if it seems natural to choose a beautiful park for a sleeping-place, it seem incongruous to put into this picture obelisk after obelisk, stone posts and slabs of all shapes and sizes, and stone tombs” (ibid.). It is here that human individuality won out over design aesthetics because people want to immortalize themselves and their ancestors as well as showcase their wealth and social status in the monuments and memorials that grace their burial plots. To many, the monuments were just as important as the landscape as can be seen in the number of stylish and important monuments and mausoleums in Oak Hill Cemetery. The tendency to create a “city of the dead,” replete with buildings and large stones, and often grouped in neighborhoods (reflecting those where the living resided before death), is seen in Oak Hill Cemetery as well.

Simonds, who loved his work, continued to accept projects until the end of his life. In 1923, he drew the original plans for the Morton Arboretum, and when he died in 1931, he left unfinished a design for a new park in East Hannibal,

⁴⁵ O.C. Simonds & Co., May’s Island Plan, 1909, Lantern Slide Collection, Art, Architecture and Engineering Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

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Illinois (Geiger 2012a, 2012b).

O.C. Simonds and Oak Hill Cemetery

Only a few pieces of original blueprints exist for Oak Hill Cemetery, but the name “O.C. Simonds & Co./Landscape Gardeners/1101 Buena Ave. Chicago Ill” appears on a blueprint dating from 1911. The remnant blueprint was for new driveways at Oak Hill Cemetery but was obviously part of a larger set of plans since the blueprint was labeled “Sheet No. 2 Profile for New Driveways Oak Hill Cemetery Cedar Rapids Iowa April 1911” (Plans on file with the Oak Hill Cemetery Association, Cedar Rapids, Iowa). Some of the reshaping and realignment of the driveways at Oak Hill Cemetery from the original Cleveland plans (as depicted in the 1907 plat of the cemetery compared to the present-day configuration) was likely the work of Simonds. This is most evident in the driveway changes in the east half of the cemetery where the sinuous interior driveway plan depicted in the 1907 plat was altered to a simpler plan having fewer interior drives and more open burial spaces. This is seen specifically in Blocks 94-96 and Blocks 169-173. The burials in these blocks primarily date from the mid to late 1910s into the late 1920s. Since Simonds was hired to design new driveways at Oak Hill circa 1911, this area of the cemetery may most reflect his contribution to the landscape design of the cemetery.

This reduction in the number of driveways as an element of Simonds’ design influence is further supported by his belief that “there should be as few roads in the cemetery as possible” (Bachrach 2000:85). The 1907 plat showed a rather dense network of drives and paths in the east half of Oak Hill Cemetery, a network that was dramatically reduced under Simonds’ suspected plan. At Graceland Cemetery, Simonds was against dotting the lawn with shrubs in an artificial manner, and felt that “trees and shrubs [should] be planted in large groups as they appear in nature” (ibid.:84). He worked to minimize the trimming of trees and shrubs and suggested that “foliage should meet the lawn” and leaves should be left unraked. He further “advocated the removal of fences, borders, and railings as well as the substitution of grass for paved walks (ibid.).

It is not known whether Simonds design at Oak Hill Cemetery extended into the southern portion of the property that was shown as undeveloped in the 1907 plat and where the Habitat for Humanity houses were built in the late 1990s. It is known that this area was never used for burials and appears to have had a drainage problem that the lake in Cleveland’s design only temporarily addressed. There was a stand of mature trees on the southern parcel. Whether these trees were a remnant of the natural woodland that surrounded the original cemetery and remained standing because the land was incorporated into the late 1860s expansion of the cemetery landholdings (and the area never developed), or were purposefully planted as part of Simonds’ circa 1911 redesign for the cemetery is not really known. However, the southern parcel never appeared to have any driveways or other features to directly incorporate it into the main part of the designed cemetery landscape.

While the remnant blueprints in the Oak Hill Cemetery Association’s records related to Simonds are dated April 1911, there was a short article in the July 7, 1908, edition of *The Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* that noted the following:

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SPLENDID IMPROVEMENTS
AT OAK HILL CEMETERY

Macadam Drives Being Built With
Curb and Gutters--Entrance is to be
Changed and Placed at Corner.

Several thousand dollars are being expended out at Oak Hill cemetery in beautifying that burial ground which has always been recognized as one of the best kept and most beautiful cemeteries in the state of Iowa. The entrance is to be changed and put in at the extreme northwest corner of the cemetery, near the corner of Mt. Vernon road and Eighteenth avenue. At the entrance the cemetery association will pave the intersection, as well as to run a curb for 200 feet east along Mt. Vernon road. *All the principal drives in the cemetery are being macadamized and curbed with a combination curb and gutter. The grades are being reduced in some places and the entire place being beautified in a most approved manner* [emphasis added]. The work which has been in progress for three or four weeks will not be completed yet for several weeks.

While Simonds did not design the new entrance (that was executed by architects, Josselyn and Taylor), he could have redesigned the driveways particularly where the grades were being reduced.

The October 17, 1908, edition of *The Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* noted that "tar-macadam paving," specifically a surfacing material called "Tarvia" was reportedly "introduced in Cedar Rapids by Mr. O.C. Simonds, landscaper for Ridgewood, who recommended it highly for the Ridgewood drives." It was subsequently used for the resurfacing of Ellis Park Drive as well as Ridgewood and possibly in the Grande Avenue development. The 1908 article further noted that Simonds' assistants on the Ridgewood project were "Mr. J. Roy West and Mr. Bolton," of Bolton & Co. of Cedar Rapids. It is not known if Simonds used "Tarvia" to surface the driveways in Oak Hill Cemetery that were being improved circa 1908-11 but it is certainly a possibility given that the July 7, 1908 article noted that the driveways were being "macadamized."

In addition to the landscape architects, structural architects also left their mark on the plan of Oak Hill Cemetery. In 1908, the northwest corner of the cemetery was expanded by the addition of formerly platted residential lots. This area was added to enable the construction of the new memorial gateway entrance to the cemetery in honor of Lawson Daniels. This gateway was designed by the local architectural firm of Josselyn and Taylor and added an element of the Arts and Crafts movement and the associated Craftsman style of architecture to the cemetery. Since the thrust of this style was to utilize natural elements and rustic hand-crafted materials, it did not represent a huge departure from the intent of Cleveland's landscaping plans. The use of native glacial stones in the construction of the walls and the shelter house, along with the sinuous curving design of the walls complemented the landscape design. It is suspected that the proposed construction of the new entrance structure and the need to incorporate the new entrance into the overall cemetery plan prompted the hire of O.C. Simonds to rework Cleveland's original driveway plan.

Josselyn and Taylor - Architects

George Josselyn, father of Henry, was a builder-architect and was the superintendent of construction for the firm. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies, he spent his early years in England and Belgium. At an early age, he studied

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mechanical engineering at Neuwiede, Germany. He immigrated to the United States in 1839 and settled first in Dayton, Ohio, where he learned the carpentry trade. He became a building contractor and worked in Cincinnati as well. In 1842, he married Anna Broadwell. Their only child, Henry Saville Josselyn, became an architect. In 1855, George was hired as foreman of carpenters at the Iowa Insane Hospital at Mount Pleasant and moved his family to that town. He worked at the hospital until 1861 becoming superintendent of construction. In 1868, he reviewed plans for the Iowa Hospital for the Insane at Independence, Iowa, and made extensive changes to the design. He was then hired to be superintendent of construction for the new hospital. "During the 1870s Josselyn, with his extensive knowledge of design and construction, was also employed either as architect or as superintendent of construction for smaller buildings at Mount Pleasant, Independence, Vinton, and West Union" (Shank 1999:89).

Henry Saville Josselyn was born in Dayton, Ohio, and obtained "on-the-job training in construction, starting work in May 1870 as clerk and bookkeeper for his father" (Shank 1999:90). In 1873, Henry left to work for Wheelock & Thomas, an architectural firm in Chicago, returning in 1874 to work again with his father in Independence, Iowa, until September 1876. Henry then enrolled in a two-year architectural course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston, where he studied under Eugene Letang, who had been educated at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He returned to Iowa by 1877 where he worked various jobs, including a four-month stint with Des Moines' architect, William Foster, before leaving in 1879 for a "sight-seeing, sketching, and study tour of Europe that lasted until November 1880, traveling in France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, England, and Ireland" (ibid.).

When Henry returned to Iowa late in 1880, he and his father founded George Josselyn & Son, Architects, in Independence. In 1881, Henry was in charge of the new branch office in Cedar Rapids, and by November 1882, had formed a partnership with Eugene Taylor, who in turn had a branch office in Des Moines. Taylor and Josselyn had become friends at MIT and remained in contact through the years. Josselyn appears to have been the primary architectural designer of the firm, with Taylor of more of an "encyclopedic rather than the creative bent" (Shank 1999:90). The partnership would last for more than 40 years, with Taylor in charge of the Des Moines office and Josselyn in Cedar Rapids. From March 1883 to January 1884 the Cedar Rapids office was closed and Josselyn joined Taylor in Des Moines before returning to Cedar Rapids and reopening the office. In 1886, they closed the Des Moines office, and Taylor joined Josselyn in Cedar Rapids where the firm was incorporated as Josselyn & Taylor Co. in 1892.

The firm remained a major architectural firm in the state until about 1912 when competition from firms such as Proudfoot & Bird in Des Moines and Dieman & Fiske in Cedar Rapids, began to impact Josselyn & Taylor's business. After Taylor's death in 1924, Josselyn continued to practice under the partnership name for another year when in September 1925 he formed the firm of Josselyn & Todd (Benjamin Todd of Shenandoah). Josselyn retired in 1929 and died in Cedar Rapids several years later (Shank 1999:91).

Eugene Hartwell Taylor was born in Denmark, Iowa, in 1853. After his father's death in 1862, the family moved to Grinnell where Eugene graduated from Iowa College (later known as Grinnell College) with a Bachelors of Science. He then enrolled at MIT where he completed the two-year architectural course and met fellow Iowan Henry S. Josselyn. Taylor returned to Grinnell upon graduation and worked various jobs before finding work in 1880 as a draftsman with Chicago architect, John J. Flanders. In 1882, Taylor formed the partnership with his old classmate, Henry Josselyn, and moved to Des Moines where Taylor was in charge of the firm's Des Moines office until 1886 when that office was

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closed and Taylor moved to Cedar Rapids where the firm was then solely based. That same year, Taylor married Mary Montague Woodworth of Berlin, Connecticut, having met her while both were attending Iowa College in Grinnell. Among Taylor's notable interests was city planning and urban design. He wrote a paper entitled "The City Beautiful," which he read at the 1908 annual convention of the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He was influential in Cedar Rapids' purchase circa 1908 of Mays Island in the middle of the Cedar River and the city's transformation of the island into the city's Civic Center, which played a role in the city wresting the county seat designation away from nearby Marion in 1919. Taylor also played a role in the enlargement of the state capitol grounds in Des Moines in the 1920s. Taylor died as the result of a bicycle/automobile accident in Cedar Rapids in 1924 (Shank 1999:160).

Josselyn & Taylor has been described as "one of the first major modern architectural firms in Iowa" (Shank 1999:90). Among the notable buildings designed and built by this firm were: the Agricultural Hall and Morrill Hall at Iowa State College; the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railway Office Building in Cedar Rapids; the Cedar Rapids Public Library (now the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art); the Cedar Rapids Savings Bank; Grace Episcopal Church, Mercy Hospital, Saint Luke's Hospital, Security Savings Bank, the Mrs. T.M. Sinclair Mansion (later known as Bruce more) in Cedar Rapids; the Cherokee, Iowa, Hospital for the Insane; Alumni Hall at Grinnell College; the Iowa Building at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893; and the Iowa Building at the Trans-Mississippi International Exposition in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1898 (Shank 1999:91).

George Josselyn (died in 1898), Henry Saville Josselyn (d.1934), and Eugene H. Taylor (d.1924) are all buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. Their respective graves are marked by modest flat stone markers.

Prominent Families and Persons Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery

Every cemetery is a microcosm of its associated community, neighborhood, and society in general. Who is buried where and with whom, how their graves are marked, and who is allowed to be buried at all, speak to the larger issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and class in American society and how they evolved in each community. In Oak Hill Cemetery, the list of burials reads like a who's who of Cedar Rapids' business, industry and society. Many of the city's early pioneers and noted industrialists, business persons, and politicians are buried here. Persons of wealth as well as those of more modest means are numbered among the burials. While the cemetery as a whole is not specifically identified with any one ethnic, immigrant, or religious group, and contains representatives of most of the groups that defined Cedar Rapids through the years, the majority are Euroamerican and protestant.

Unusual for the time, Oak Hill Cemetery was not segregated and allowed African Americans to be buried in the cemetery and did not restrict their burials to any one section or place in the cemetery. There are at least three African Americans buried in the original cemetery and one in the north portion of the first cemetery addition. Most are buried in the south section of the cemetery but even there they do not concentrate in any one block. The influence of family connections and neighborhood may have played a larger role in where people chose to be buried in the cemetery, with burials often clustered in groups of people from the neighborhoods in which they had lived.

The following is an alphabetical list of those families and individuals, men and women, who are buried in Oak Hill

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Cemetery and who made notable achievements in their lives and in the history and development of the City of Cedar Rapids. This list should by no means be considered finite.⁴⁶

Sam & Anna (Cooper) Armstrong, Block 96 Lot 130

Samuel Gaines Armstrong was born in Clarence Iowa in 1858. In 1890, he founded the Armstrong Clothing Company, a long time and noted clothing and department store in Cedar Rapids (Danek 1980:95). In 1895 he married Anna Cooper. They became the parents of two children, Mrs. Frank B. (Margaret) Race and Robert C. Armstrong. Upon the death of Mr. Armstrong, in 1928, Anna became the store director. Anna Cooper was the daughter of William S. Cooper, a pioneer miller who came to Cedar Rapids in the 1850s, establishing one of the first flour and feed mills in this part of Iowa. Anna attended Washington High School and graduated from Coe College in the second graduating class after Coe became an accredited four-year college. She was the second woman graduate of the college.

Duane Arnold, Block 96 Lot 120

Duane Arnold will always be associated with the Duane Arnold Energy Center, Iowa's only nuclear-powered generating station. Mr. Arnold is recognized as a staunch supporter of the nuclear power industry, and when the plant went into service in 1974 it was named in his honor. Born in Sanborn, Iowa, Arnold graduated from Grinnell College in 1942. Following service in the Marine Corps during World War II, Arnold married Henrietta Dows in 1946. He joined Iowa Electric Light and Power in 1946 and became vice president in charge of operations in 1950. He was elected to the board of directors in 1960 and succeeded his father-in-law, Sutherland Dows as board chairman. Duane Arnold was also president and director of the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railway Co. in addition to having served in many community and professional organizations. He died in 1983 at the age of 65 (Fleming 2004).

A.T. Averill, Block 63 Lot 35

Arthur Tappan Averill was born in Vermont in 1843 and migrated to Cedar Rapids in 1865 where found work as an assistant to the local agent of the C.H. & L.C. McCormick implement business. He rose to the position of superintendent of agents for the firm by 1869. In that same year, a former classmate, John T. Hamilton became associated with Averill in the firm of Averill & Hamilton, dealers of agricultural implements, seeds, coal, and other related products. The firm was profitable and lasted for five years, after which Averill went into partnership with John R. Amidon and the firm became known as Averill & Amidon.⁴⁷ After two years, Amidon disposed of his interests in the business, which then became the sole proprietorship of Averill after that point. Averill expanded his business interests to include a controlling interest in the Cedar Rapids Gas Light Company in 1875 and served for 21 years as president of the Cedar Rapids National Bank. His business and real estate interests extended beyond Cedar Rapids and Iowa and made him a wealthy man. He married Allie R. Doolittle of Cedar Rapids in 1867, and the couple had three children: Glenn M., Jessie, and Arthur. The Averill House at the corner Twelfth Street and Second Avenue east is one of the last the grand old homes in the area. A.T. Averill died on February 14, 1910 (Brewer and Wick 1911b:8-11).

⁴⁶ Information compiled by Jane and Carl Thoresen of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association from their research using local histories (Brewer and Wick 1911b; Western Historical 1878), oral history, family genealogies, historic newspapers, and Oak Hill Cemetery records.

⁴⁷ John Amidon is also interred in Oak Hill Cemetery in Block 67, Lot 100 along with his wife, Nancy (Potwin) Amidon.

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The Bever Family, Block 3 Lots 1-4

After several successful business ventures in Pennsylvania and Ohio, Sampson C. Bever and family made their way to Cedar Rapids in 1852, with the intent of making farms for Sampson and his sons. With 200-300 acres under cultivation, Sampson Bever became dissatisfied with farming and returned to the mercantile trade. He became involved in banking, specifically a private bank considered to be the oldest monetary institution in the city, and in the organization of City National Bank along with his son, James.⁴⁸ He was later identified with the development of the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska Railroad, which was the first to cross Iowa and later became the Chicago and North Western Railway Company. Sampson Bever was also closely associated with the growth of Grace Episcopal Church and the construction of St. Luke's Hospital (Brewer and Wick 1911b:806; Western Historical 1878:653). On August 18, 1886, *The Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* noted the placement of a monument on Sampson Bever's gravesite:

A beautiful monument was placed on the S.C. Bever lot to-day at the Oak Hill cemetery. It is eight feet square at the base and twenty-four feet high. Four large tablets adorn the die, and the family name in bas relief is carved on the plinth. The letter "B" is on each side of the upper die and the whole is crowned with a draped urn seven feet high. The style of architecture is Corinthian and the design is very beautiful.

This white bronze monument is still among the notable grave markers in the cemetery and was erected by Krebs Bros. of Cedar Rapids.

George W. Bever was ten years old when his family came to Linn County in 1842. He served during the Civil War in Company E of the 46th Iowa Volunteer Infantry and also served as a commissioned captain in the Fifth Iowa Battery during the Spanish-American War. In Cedar Rapids, George became associated with the City National Bank, of which his father was president (Western Historical 1878:653). George was also a 33rd-degree Mason and past grand commander of the Knights Templar of Iowa. He served as a board member of the Valley City Building Association and was actively identified with the building of the City Auditorium and the Masonic Temple.

James L. Bever was twelve when the family migrated to Linn County. James was also part of the City National Bank and was one of the incorporators of the Cedar Rapids Water Company, vice-president of the Electric Light & Power Company, and president of the Bever Land Company. He was a 32nd-degree Mason (Brewer and Wick 1911b:805).

John B. Bever was born in Cedar Rapids in 1852. He commenced his business career as a messenger in the City National Bank and, after serving in various positions in the bank, was made cashier and as such served until 1898. Much of the popularity of the bank was attributed to him. With the organization of the Bever Land Company in 1891, John became identified with its interests. He was a Mason in Mt. Hermon Lodge, No. 263, A. F. & A. M., and a member of El Kaher Temple, Mystic Shrine. The Protective Order of Elks also numbered him among its members.

Jane Bever Spangler was a daughter of S.C. Bever and owned 160 acres as part of her father's estate. It extended north from Third Avenue to Bever Park along Bever Avenue. Bever Park is one of four city parks that were named in honor

⁴⁸ The bank began as S.C. Bever & Son and was reorganized in 1864 as the City National Bank of Cedar Rapids. It was later renamed Citizens National Bank.

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of city pioneers. The others include: Greene Square Park, Ellis Park, and Shaver Park. Bever Park was developed on the property of Sampson C. Bever and was donated for parkland to the city in 1900 by the Bever Estate.

Nicholas B. Brown, Block 15

Nicholas Brown first visited Linn County in 1840 and returned in October of that year to construct a saw mill for a Mr. Doty near Bertram. Mr. Brown purchased property where Cedar Rapids is located and in 1841-42 built the first dam across the Cedar River at this point. At the same time, he was engaged in the construction of a saw and grist mill, and he carried on milling business extensively in the county from 1842 to 1877. He built a woolen mill in 1846-47, which was later converted into a knitting factory. He had a grist mill and distillery on McLeod's Run in Rapids Township which was destroyed by fire in 1861. Also a land developer, Brown built several large and elegant blocks including a block known for Brown's Hotel and six stores near the Hotel Block on North Commercial Street in Cedar Rapids (Western Historical 1878:655).

The Cherry Family, Block 95 Lot 60, Block 96, Lot 131 and Lot 58

The J.G. Cherry Company was established in 1880 when John George Cherry invented and began producing a jacketed cream can for use in the dairy industry (Brewer and Wick 1911b:79); Danek 1980:172). In 1917, when Block 95 in the "new section" was being staked out, Mary A. Cherry made arrangements for a family lot and the reinterment of her husband John. G. Cherry, who had died in 1899. Mary A. (Miles) Cherry, who died in 1927 is buried next to him. Also buried here are daughters Agatha M. and Nell L. Cherry and Mabel (Cherry) Lutgerding.

Walter L. Cherry, the oldest son, was compelled to give up his studies at Coe College to enter the business due to his father's failing health. At age 25, he became the President and General Manager of the Cherry Company on the death of his father (Brewer and Wick 1911b:79). A 1928 merger resulted in the formation of the Cherry-Burrell Corporation, and Walter moved to Chicago to establish executive offices there (Danek 1980:43, 172). During his years of residence in Cedar Rapids, Walter Cherry gained prominence in civic and business affairs of the city. He served as alderman before the adoption of the commission form of government. In 1918 he became the first president of the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce. The industrialist was also a member of the first city planning commission. His wife was Laura (White) Cherry.

Herbert T. Cherry also graduated from Washington High School and joined his father in the J.G. Cherry Company. In 1908, he was sent to Peoria Illinois as the manager of the branch factory in that city. In 1914, when the Cherry Company purchased a paper factory in Tama, he was sent there as manager. Under his brother, Walter Cherry's guidance, the Tama concern merged with seven other paper mills to form the Central Fibre Products Company. Herbert's wife, Louise (Henderson) Cherry is also buried at Oak Hill Cemetery. A bench was erected on this lot in 1948, after the accidental death of their son Leonard Cherry.

Howard H. Cherry, although working part time for the company when he was still in elementary school, began his full time career with the organization upon his graduation from Washington High School in 1898. The company at that time produced two products, the cream can and drawboard egg case fillers (Brewer and Wick 1911b:78). His wife, Neva (Verbeck) Cherry is buried here, and Howard Cherry Jr. is buried nearby.

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The Clark Family Mausoleum, Block 98-A

Edward Cyrus Clark was a longtime resident of Cedar Rapids associated with the Jones-Douglas Cracker Company, the Cedar Rapids and Marion City Street Railway, and the Clark-McDaniel Company, among other businesses. He had retired to Florida ten years before his death but his body was returned to Cedar Rapids where it was interred in the family mausoleum that had been built in 1938. The mausoleum is built of Mount Airy White Granite (North Carolina) on the exterior and faced with marble on the interior. G. Reinke & Company of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, was the builder. Other family members interred in the mausoleum are Edward's wife, Nellie E. McNary Clark (died in 1958) and their children: daughter, Helen Clark Riordan (her body was reinterred in the mausoleum in 1938 from another plot in the cemetery); son, Edward Cyrus Clark, Jr., who died in 1938 in Baltimore, Maryland; son, James Henry Clark and his wife, Pearl Moyer Clark; and grandchild, Ann Elizabeth Riordan.

Arthur Collins, Block 96 Lot 62

Born in Oklahoma in 1909, the Collins family moved to Cedar Rapids when Arthur was nine. He attended Coe College and the University of Iowa. A pioneer inventor in radio communications and avionics, at age 15 he made history when he established contact with the MacMillan Expedition to Greenland with a transmitter he built himself. He also manufactured the first assembled radio transmitting apparatus sold as a working unit. Arthur founded Collins Radio Co. in 1931, and after the North American Rockwell Corp. (now Rockwell Collins, Inc.) took control of the company, he formed a new firm, Arthur A Collins Inc., which conducted system engineering studies in communication and computer fields. Collins died in 1987 (Danek 1980:99-107).

The Daniels Family, Block 74 Lot 200

Addison Daniels was the first of the Daniels brothers to arrive in Linn County and was among the group of men who purchased the squatters rights of early settler Osgood Shepherd to the location would become the City of Cedar Rapids. Lowell Daniels, the third Daniels brother, was among the early merchants of Cedar Rapids and began business with Addison in 1846. In 1854, Lowell married Harriette S. Weare, the youngest daughter of John and Cynthia (Ashley) Weare. Lowell Daniels was later joined by brother, Lawson, with the firm then known as L. Daniels & Company. Lowell Daniels died on November 7, 1876. After Lowell's death, Lawson continued the mercantile business until 1880. On July 26, 1882, Lawson married his brother's widow, Harriette. In 1883, he helped organize the Cedar Rapids Savings Bank and was elected vice president. Lawson Daniels was one of the stockholders in the company that gave the city its water works. He also assisted in completing the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska Railroad through the county, was secretary of the Cedar Rapids Bridge Company, and secretary of the Cedar Rapids Transportation Company. He was also a stockholder in the Oak Hill Cemetery and served as secretary of that company from its organization (Brewer and Wick 1911b:63-65; Western Historical 1878:659). He later served as president of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association. Upon his death in 1906, his widow, Harriette carried out her husband's plan and presented the city with the Lowell and Lawson Daniels Park. She also presented the Oak Hill Cemetery Association with the memorial gateway to honor Lawson and was a strong supporter of Coe College.

The Douglas Family Mausoleum, Block 83 Lot 342

Interred within the elaborate stone and granite Douglas Mausoleum at Oak Hill Cemetery are the following Douglas family members: George Douglas, Sr., Margaret Boyd Douglas, Walter Douglas, Lulu Camp (the first Mrs. Walter) Douglas, Mahala Dutton (the second Mrs. Walter) Douglas, Edward Bruce Douglas, George C. Douglas, George Bruce

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Douglas, Irene Hazeltine (Mrs. George B.) Douglas, and William Bruce Douglas. The date plate on the mausoleum reads "1896," which likely corresponds to the date of its construction.

George Douglas, Sr. emigrated from Scotland to Canada in 1845. As a stone mason, he found a demand for his craft in the building of stone arch bridges and railroad trestle works across North America. During a quarter of a century of intense activity with the railroad, George Douglas acquired the capital to use for the investments and business ventures. The Douglas family invested their capital in businesses that relied on agriculture and a reliable, well-educated labor force made up largely of German and Czech immigrants. In Cedar Rapids, Douglas established and/or was a partner in various industries and manufactories. Most notable was his association in 1874 with fellow Scotsman, Robert Stuart, in the North Star Oatmeal Mills, which was the forerunner of Quaker Oats (Brewer and Wick 1911b:368; Danek 1980:41-42).

Working first in his father's cereal business, George Bruce Douglas later became a partner of the business his father co-founded when the mills were merged into The Quaker Oats Company. George and his brother, Walter Douglas, also founded Douglas & Company, which originally processed linseed oil. In 1903, the company switched over to processing corn into starch and related products and became known as the Douglas Starch Works. In May of 1919, a massive grain dust explosion destroyed most the buildings on the ten-acre site, killed over 40 workers, and was the worst industrial accident in Cedar Rapids history. George Bruce Douglas managed to keep the business going until it was sold to Penick & Ford, Ltd. in December 1919. Penick & Ford was a subsidiary of a New Orleans-based corn and cane plant and brought many African American workers to their new plant and who settled in the city⁴⁹ (Brewer and Wick 1911b:368-371; Danek 1980:43).

George Bruce Douglas married Irene Hazeltine (Brewer and Wick 1911b:371). She became a charter member of the White Cross Society, the Cedar Rapids Art Association, and helped found the Junior League.⁵⁰ Mrs. Douglas was a benefactor of many civic organizations, opening her home to annual meetings of the Beethoven Club, the College Club, and the Cedar Rapids Garden Club. She was one of the six original donors to Camp Good Health. Both George and Irene were trustees of Coe College, Irene Douglas succeeding her husband after his death (Whitworth 2009). She made college educations possible for many young women who were unable to defray their own expenses and contributed to the student loan fund.

Walter D. Douglas married Lulu Camp, daughter of Edward L. Camp. Walter and Lulu had two children: Edward B. and George C. Lulu Douglas died in 1899. Walter remarried in 1908 to Mahala Dutton. Walter Douglas had been a partner in the Midland Linseed Oil Company in Minneapolis in the 1890s. This company eventually evolved into the Archer Daniels Midland Company, or ADM. In 1899, after selling the linseed oil business, Douglas became a partner with Piper, Johnson & Case, a grain firm, where he remained until retiring in 1912. Afterwards, Walter and Mahala took an extended tour of Europe, and in early April, Walter wanted to be home in Minneapolis for his birthday, so passage was booked on the next ship, the *Titanic*. Mahala and her maid made it aboard a lifeboat and survived, but Walter

⁴⁹ Penick & Ford later became today's Penford Products, a company of Penford Corporation headquartered in Colorado. The Penford Products Company continues to occupy the old Penick & Ford/Douglas Starch Works site.

⁵⁰ Douglas family history accessed at <http://www.brucemore.org>, November 2012.

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remained on board and drowned (Whitworth 2009). His remains were recovered and first taken to his home in Minneapolis before being shipped by special train to Oak Hill Cemetery in Cedar Rapids for burial in the family mausoleum. A plaque on the inside of the mausoleum reads "Walter D. Douglas *Born April 21, 1861, Died in the 'Titanic' disaster, April 15, 1912.*" Mahala Dutton's father had been associated with Judge George Greene in the railroad interests of the city. George Bradford Dutton, Mahala's brother, was an executive in the Secale Flakes Mills, featuring pre-cooked breakfast food started by Walter Douglas. However, the idea of pre-cooking was ahead of its time, so the business was changed to a linseed mill, of which Mr. Dutton was manager.

Walter and Lulu Douglas' sons, George Camp Douglas (1885-1925) and Edward Bruce Douglas (1888-1946) were accounted for in Walter Douglas' will, which specified that each son would receive a set amount for ten years. If they proved the ability to earn \$25,000 in ten years or \$2,500 for two successive years, they would each receive a third of the estate. George Camp Douglas was known in his youth and early manhood as adventure loving, reckless, daring, and "spent money like water" (Obituary found on microfiche in Oak Hill Cemetery records). After the terms of his father's will became known, he went to work as a laborer in the Douglas Starch Works to learn the business; however, in 1915 enlisted in the British army and was commissioned a captain. The military salary and injuries and illness that he endured did not allow him to meet the terms specified in the will. He appealed to the trustees of the Douglas estate who determined he was deserving of his inheritance. Edward Bruce Douglas studied art in New York after serving for a time in the military in France in 1914. He later moved to Rome where he refined his sculpting techniques and later returned to the United States where he split time between the Douglas' Minneapolis home and San Francisco where he had a study and founded an art gallery. He died of a heart attack in 1946 as he was making plans to return to his villa in Versailles after the Germans had been driven out of France.

The explosion of the Douglas Starch Works had a tremendous impact on Cedar Rapids in the shock of the event, the impact to an important industry, and the loss of life. The Douglas Company paid all funeral expenses and erected a monument to the victims. Some of the victims of the explosion are buried at Oak Hill Cemetery including the following: Mike Trialonis, whose service was held at the Syrian Church and was buried in the Block 166, which had been purchased by the Syrian Orthodox Benevolent Society prior to the establishment of St. George Cemetery; Dewey Alnut, an African American Missouri native, who was employed at the Starch Works and died at a local hospital following the explosion; and John G. Hatzakls, whose body was recovered from the ruins of the starch works and whose service was also held at the St. George Orthodox Church (*The Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, May 24 and 26, 1919 and June 9, 1919).

The Dows Family, Block 62 Lots 26 & 18 and the Dows Mausoleum, Block 67-1

Stephen L. Dows was born in New York City in 1832. He came to Cedar Rapids in 1855 and was a pioneer railroad builder in the community and Iowa. He was associated with leading early settlers in the building of the B.C.R. & N. Railroad in Cedar Rapids, the Iowa Central from Mason City to Oskaloosa, and the road from Marquette through western Iowa that later became part of the Milwaukee Railroad system. Mr. Dows also built the first Chicago & North Western railway bridge over the Des Moines River west of Boone to Moingona. Among the buildings of note that he had built was the Dows Block in Cedar Rapids. He was also partner with Isaac H. Shaver in the cracker factory as well as a number of cheese factories in the vicinity (Brewer and Wick 1911b:675-77; Danek 1980:43). Stephen L. Dows married Henrietta W. Safely in October 1855, and their six children included: Minnie Marie (died at age 15), Elizabeth

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(Mrs. Thompson McClintock of Pittsburg), Henrietta (Mrs. James E. Blake of Chicago), Stephen Leland (died 1899), and William G. (died in 1926).

The Col. William G. Dows family is buried in the Dows Mausoleum believed to have been built in 1927 by the Harrison Granite Company. William G. Dows died in November 1926 and was the first interred in this structure. Prior to the completion of the mausoleum, his body had been held in the receiving vault at Turner Mortuary. Col. Dows became identified with the Iowa National Guard, enlisting as a private, then filling nearly every position in the organization up to, and including, colonel of the First Regiment Iowa National Guard. Together with J.H. Smith, William G. Dows built a power plant that was the forerunner of the Iowa Electric Light & Power Company. They also built the CRANDIC interurban line between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City (*Cedar Rapids Gazette*, December 5, 1976). was the principal builder of the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company and Central Iowa Telephone Company. The Dows name was also associated with the farm and dairy interests of Sutherland C. Dows, who was president of Dows Farms, Inc., as well as general manager and later president of Iowa Electric Light and Power (*ibid.*). In addition to William D. Dows, other family members interred in the Dows Mausoleum include: his wife, Margaret (Cook) Dows; daughter, Margaret (Dows) Muzzy; son, Sutherland C. Dows and his wife, Frances (Mills) Dows.

The Ely Family Mausoleum, Block 86 Lot 616

The Ely Mausoleum appears to have been built around 1914 when the Cemetery Association granted the right to build a mausoleum in January of that year. A pin oak tree was planted at the southeast corner of the structure in April 1942. Ely family members interred in the mausoleum include: John Fellows Ely (died 1902), Mary Ann Weare (Mrs. John F.) Ely, John Stoney Ely (1950), Bessie Shaver (Mrs. John S.) Ely, John Montague Ely Sr. (1957), Laurel Sullivan (Mrs. John M.) Ely, and Frederick S. Ely (1918).

The Alexander L. Ely family came to Cedar Rapids from Massachusetts in 1844 to assist Judge George Greene in the building of the milling interests of the city. Ely began the construction of a dam and flour mill in 1844 but died in 1848 leaving much property in the city to be administered by his heirs. His brother, Dr. John F. Ely came to Cedar Rapids to look after his brother's estate, and in 1853, married his brother's widow Mary Weare Ely (Hough 1975). In addition to his medical practice, John F. Ely became associated with H.G. Angle in the milling, real estate, and mercantile business in Cedar Rapids. Ely served during the Civil War as a surgeon with the 24th Iowa Infantry but had to resign after a year because of ill health. Back in Cedar Rapids, Ely became active in railroad construction to the city (Western Historical 1878:661). Dr. John F. Ely was one of the original incorporators of Oak Hill Cemetery as were Mary Weare Ely's brothers, Charles and John Weare, and brother-in-law, Lawson Daniels. Through the years the family played a prominent role in the management of Oak Hill Cemetery, with Dr. John F. Ely serving as president and secretary of the cemetery association through the years.

John Stoney Ely was born in Cedar Rapids in 1853, the son of John F. and Mary A. Weare Ely. For two years following college, he was engaged in mining in Utah but subsequently returned to Cedar Rapids. He held a position in the office of the Williams Harvester Works and engaged in various lines of business, devoting his time to the real estate business. He also served as vice-president, secretary and treasurer of the Cedar Rapids & Marion City Railway Company. In 1881, Mr. Ely married Bessie E. Shaver, daughter of Isaac H. Shaver. After leaving college, she was one of the first women to enter business life here, becoming bookkeeper in the office of her father's cracker factory. John S. Ely was

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instrumental in organizing the Home for Aged Women. He was also a trustee of the Young Men's Christian Association (Brewer and Wick 1911b:826).

The Ely family took an active interest in Coe College, with Dr. Ely becoming a trustee in 1891, succeeded by his son, in 1893 (Brewer and Wick 1911b:826). Mrs. John S. Ely was on the committee to select the furnishings for Voorhees Hall when it was built.

The Hall Family Mausoleum, Block 98-3

The Hall Mausoleum is built of light gray granite quarried at Isle, Minnesota. Howard Hall, with the help of John Ely began to research this type of granite in 1939. The construction of the mausoleum was executed by Waterloo Memorial Company, with consultation by Howard R. Green Co. and the Cold Spring Granite Company, which operated a granite quarry in Isle, Minnesota (likely the source for the granite used in the mausoleum). It was completed in the fall of 1941, and the remains of Harry Douglas Hall, the father of Howard Hall, were re-interred in the mausoleum. Harry Douglas Hall had died in 1914. His widow, Margaret Larney Hall, was interred in the mausoleum upon her death in 1958. Howard Hall died in 1971 and was interred in the mausoleum followed by his wife, Margaret Douglas Hall in 1981.

Howard Hall was born in Onslow, Iowa, in 1894 and came to Cedar Rapids at the age of 15 to work as a bookkeeper in a local bank. After serving in World War I, he purchased an interest in Iowa Steel and Iron Works in Cedar Rapids. In 1923, he organized Iowa Manufacturing. He came to be associated with a number of area businesses. In 1924, he married Margaret Douglas, daughter of George B. Douglas and resident of Brucemore. The newlyweds lived in the guest cottage at Brucemore and later occupied the main house for the rest of their lives. The Halls were known for their philanthropic endeavors including the Hall Foundation, now the Hall-Perrine Foundation. The Hall Radiation Center is also named for the couple. Mrs. Hall bequeathed Brucemore to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1981.⁵¹

The Greene Family, Block 26 Lot 3, Block 12 Lot 4, Block 74 Lots 194-196

Judge George Greene was born in England and studied law in Buffalo, New York. He came to the Iowa frontier in 1838 with first wife and worked as a land surveyor. He first located in Ivanhoe at a point on the Cedar River where the Military Road crossed the river via a ferry. In 1840, he was admitted to the bar and soon after began to practice law. He played an active role in most major business ventures in early days of both Marion and Cedar Rapids. He was one of the founders of Grace Episcopal Church and a promoter of Coe Collegiate Institute (later Coe College). He was also instrumental in the founding of St. Luke's Hospital. Greene was involved with the construction of a steamboat named the *Cedar Rapids* and erected the first bridge across the Cedar River. His name was associated with the Star Wagon Works, the City Water Works, the Cedar Rapids and Marion City Railway, the City Street Car Co. as well as the first railroad (the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska Railroad in 1859) into Cedar Rapids and across Iowa. He was editor of the *Miners Express* in 1845 and his court decisions were published as "Greene's Reports of Iowa." With brother-in-law Calvin Graves, he established a machine shop, foundry and iron and woodworking plant to manufacture agricultural equipment, supervised by a young man with a practical engineering education named Stephen L. Dows. At the age 30, Greene was elected the youngest Iowa Supreme Court Justice. He retired from the bench after eight years. Upon his return to Cedar Rapids, his interests were to recruit and advance the business, manufacturing, banking and railroad

⁵¹ Hall family history accessed at <http://www.brucemore.org>, November 2012.

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enterprises of the city. His Mound Farm Nurseries (later the site of Mount Mercy College) was the first commercial nursery in the area. In 1872-78, Greene hosted the Iowa State Fair on the grounds below his Mound Farm. Greene was laid to rest in Oak Hill Cemetery with Masonic honors on June 23, 1880 (Brewer and Wick 1911b:57; Western Historical 1878:663-4).

Joseph Greene was the first of the Greene brothers to locate permanently in Cedar Rapids having arrived in 1843. In 1844, he opened a mercantile store under the name of Greene & Brother, the latter being George Greene, who may have furnished the capital for this enterprise. In 1846, a third brother, William Greene, migrated from Burlington to join the firm and for many years the brothers carried on the mercantile business. William Greene made Cedar Rapids his permanent home where he also became involved in real estate and railroads in company with his brother, Judge George Greene. William Greene married Louisa M. Higley, and they had ten children.

The Higley Family, Block 22 Lots 2-4

Abiel & Prudence (Crane) Higley and their family arrived in the area from West Granby, Connecticut via Bloomington, Illinois, in 1842. They settled on a farm near Marion, where Abiel died suddenly. With six children reaching young adulthood, the newly-widowed Prudence sold the farm and purchased land for development in Cedar Rapids. It was this land purchase that prompted the moving of the Village Cemetery. Her sons Henry, Harvey, Mortimer, and Wellington established a successful stage line as well as other business ventures, including one of the city's leading hardware stores (Western Historical 1878:665). Prudence also arranged the marriages of her two daughters into prominent families. Daughter Louise Higley married William Greene. Daughter Sarah married Albert Kendall of Marion. Kendall also hailed from Granby, Connecticut.

Henry E. Higley was the eldest of the four brothers and came with the rest of the family to Bloomington, Illinois, sometime in July 1841. Leaving the family there, he came on to Marion looking for a place of permanent residence. The rest of the family arrived in Marion in April of 1842. Henry and his brother Harvey engaged in heavy freighting to Indian trading posts in the far west. They also owned and operated stage lines to Dubuque and Iowa City (*Cedar Rapids Gazette*, June 27, 1999). In 1849, the recently-widowed Henry followed the Gold Rush to California where he remained for a time. He later returned to Cedar Rapids and rejoined the business ventures of his brothers. He died in 1868 was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery with full Masonic honors (Western Historical 1878:665-6).

Harvey and Henry Higley moved their business enterprises from Marion to Cedar Rapids in 1845. Here they engaged in mercantile, livery, stagecoach, and real estate businesses (Western Historical 1878:665). In November of 1849, Harvey married Anna Bishop daughter of one of the early mayors of the city. In 1850, Harvey entered into the grocery trade. He died in 1878 with five of his children surviving him among them son, Elmer Higley, who took over his father's real estate business (ibid.). Among Elmer's real estate developments in the city was the Idlewood Addition and the Elmer Higley Addition, both made from sections of the original Prudence Higley homestead. Elmer later founded a poultry packing business under the name Elmer Higley and Company. In 1891, Elmer Higley built the Granby Building in Cedar Rapids named for the family's ancestral home in West Granby, Connecticut. He also built the Higley Building in 1917. Among the grand homes built by the Higley family were the mansion built in 1908 by Elmer Higley and his wife, Helen Olds Higley, at 860 17th Street SE on part of his grandmother, Prudence Higley's original homestead. In later years, the home was converted into its present use as the Higley Mansion Care Center.

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Wellington W. Higley clerked for the Greene & Bros. mercantile from 1849 to 1856. He then engaged in the lumber trade and for some years was involved in the livery business with O. McClelland from 1858 to 1860 and then in the same business with his brother Harvey from 1860 to 1866. The brothers were also involved in the general merchandise business during this same period. After 1866, Wellington was best known for his partnership in the Higley & Bro. hardware store located on 1st Street SE. He and his brother Mortimer were partners in this business. They would later pursue real estate and banking interests. Wellington and Mortimer were among the first stockholders in the Merchants National Bank. Wellington's real estate interests would include the establishment of the neighborhood known as Wellington Heights. Wellington was also actively involved in the layout, expansion and beautification of Oak Hill Cemetery and served as treasurer of the Oak Hill Cemetery Association for many years. He married Jane Farnum in 1858 (Brewer and Wick 1911b:382-3; Western Historical 1878:666).

Mortimer A. Higley was the youngest of the Higley brothers. His business ventures began in Waverly, Iowa, where he stayed for a couple of years before moving to Kansas and then back to Cedar Rapids around 1858. He served during the Civil War in Co. A. of the 15th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. After the war, Mortimer engaged in the hardware business with P.W. Zeigler and, in 1865, became a member of the firm. In 1866, both Mr. Zeigler and H.E. (Henry) Higley retired from the firm, with the firm of Higley & Bro., composed of Wellington and Mortimer Higley then formed (Western Historical 1878:666). Among his other accomplishments in Cedar Rapids were serving as president of the Merchants National Bank, as city recorder, as a member of the school board, and as treasurer of the Cedar Rapids Gas Light and Coke Company.

Belden Hill, Block 95 Lot 20

In addition to being the owner of the Belden Hill Cigar Store, Belden Hill was the former president and organizer of the Mississippi Valley baseball league and was well known in Eastern Iowa through his connection with organized baseball in Cedar Rapids. Born in 1864 in Kewanee Illinois, he decided early on baseball as a career. He worked for a time on farms near Kewanee and played on neighborhood teams. He was a major league player in the early 1890s but had to retire from the big leagues as an active player when his leg was broken during a game. He did continue to play minor league ball into the early 1900s but was better known for his management of teams including the Cedar Rapids Bunnies from 1906-08 and 1913-14. In 1901 he helped form the Three-I or Three-Eye League and he later organized the Mississippi Valley League in 1922 serving as its president in 1926 and from 1928-1931. Hill died in Cedar Rapids in 1934 at the age of 70. Hill was inducted into the Cedar Rapids Professional Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999.⁵²

The Ives Family Mausoleum, Block 91 Lot 16

This ornate Richardsonian Romanesque-inspired mausoleum was built of rusticated Sioux Falls Granite in the 1890s around the time that Charles John Ives' first wife, Ellen Dale Ives, died (i.e., 1895). It is one of the oldest mausoleums in the cemetery. It appears likely that the family burials that pre-date the 1890s represent re-interments in the structure once it was built. Unfortunately, the structure of the mausoleum failed over the years for lack of maintenance. Serious repairs were needed as early as 1937 when it was nearly condemned by the State Board of Health. This was prevented by the Cemetery Association, which applied funds generated by the Perpetual Care endowment for repairs. Mrs. Walter

⁵² Information obtained from "Cedar Rapids Professional Baseball Alumni Bios - Belden Hill" at <http://mlblogsthesproutingnews.wordpress.com>, December 2012.

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Douglas and Margaret L. Johnson (an Ives family relative) also pledged funds to cover additional repairs.

Charles John Ives was president of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railway (BCR&N) for 19 of the railway's 34 years in existence. His wife, Ellen Dale Ives, even had a private railroad card named the "Ellendale" (*Cedar Rapids Gazette*, May 26, 1993). As noted above, she died in 1895 and was interred in the newly built mausoleum. Charles died in 1906 and was also interred in the mausoleum.

In addition to Charles J. Ives and his first wife, Ellen Mary Dale Ives (1832-1885) and his second wife, Elizabeth Collamer Johnson Ives (1843-1917) the following Ives family members are interred in the mausoleum: children, Lucretia J. Ives (1855-1871), Charles Dale Ives (1857-1902), Nellie Ives (1864-1865), Fannie Ives (1866-1866), Harriet J. Ives Douglas (1869-1926), and Maggie Ives (1871-1872); the parents of Charles J. Ives, John Ives (1803-1866) and Lucretia Johnson Ives (1809-1848); and Nathaniel Ives, brother of John Ives. The remains of John and Lucretia Ives and some of the Ives family children who did not survive to adulthood were moved from the Ives family plot in Lee County, Iowa, to be reinterred in the mausoleum.

The Reichart Family Mausoleum, Block 95 Lots 142 & 143

This mausoleum was built in 1929 for the Renhold Reichart family. It was designed and built by Fidelity Memorial Studios of Chicago, Illinois, of light Barre (Vermont) Granite.⁵³ It contains six crypt spaces. Renhold Reichart was a German immigrant, who came to the United States as a youth. In 1893, he married Mary Nyere in Marion, Iowa. Renhold was a realtor and spent the last 65 years of his life in the Chicago area. He died on September 9, 1939. Mary Reichart died on September 11, 1944. Both were laid to rest in the family mausoleum. Spaces reserved in the mausoleum are for Mrs. Reichart's sisters and nephews.

The Shaver Family, Block 63 Lot 27

Isaac H. Shaver's burial site is on one of the most distinctive lots in the older section of Oak Hill Cemetery and is actually an underground vault with crypt spaces for nine family members. Instead of a door or entrance at ground level, the capstone must be lifted to gain access for burials. Burials were made by lowering them into the vault, with the crypts sealed with brick on the sides of the structure. It was planned for three burials to a side and space for three in the center of the structure. It was built a little before, or immediately after, the death of Isaac Shaver in 1906 by his son Fred H. Shaver.

The original lot owners were Isaac H. Shaver and his wife, Esther Carpenter Witwer Shaver. Isaac Shaver was of German descent and had been born in New Jersey to a family descended from one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Isaac migrated to Rockford, Illinois, where he farmed and was involved in the buying and shipping of produce. In 1856, he moved to Vinton, Iowa, where he lived for eight years and worked as general agent for the C.H. McCormick Reaper Manufactory. In 1863, Shaver moved to Cedar Rapids and established a cracker factory in association with Sampson C. Bever and later Stephen L. Dows. This was reportedly the first cracker factory west of the Mississippi and was known as Shaver & Dows for 25 years (Clarke 1901; Danek 1980:43). The factory was located at Fourth avenue and First Street S.E. and had a branch factory in Des Moines. In 1890, both factories were sold to the

⁵³ Light Barre Granite is also called Barre Grey and comes from quarries in Barre, Vermont (Steinshouer 2012).

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New York Biscuit Company, which in 1898 merged with American Biscuit Company to become the National Biscuit Company or Nabisco.

Fred H. Shaver, was one of the founders of Peoples Bank and Trust Co. and was, at one time, associated with the Dearborn Brass Co. It is believed that he was chairman of the building committee and was primarily responsible for the selection of Louis Sullivan as the architect for the Peoples Bank Building. Fred Shaver and his wife, Jessie French Shaver, were close friends of Evangelist Billy Sunday.

The Sinclair Family, Block 76 Lot 210, Block 89 Lot 654, and the Sinclair Mausoleum, Block 94

The Sinclair Family lot in Block 76 Lot 210 is trapezoid in shape and bounded by granite coping with a granite step in the middle of the curved front. The name "Sinclair" is engraved in the step. Buried in the lot are Thomas M. and his wife, Caroline C. (Soutter) Sinclair; their son, Robert Soutter Sinclair, and his wife, Elizabeth Alexander Sinclair, and Agnes Sinclair Vincent, Amy Sinclair, Mary Sinclair, and Elsie Sinclair Hart. Amy and Agnes were the daughters of T.M. and Caroline Sinclair. Mary Sinclair was a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Sinclair as was Elsie Sinclair Hart.

Thomas McElderry Sinclair was born in Belfast, Ireland, on May 11, 1842. He immigrated to the United States in 1862 where he mastered the details of business and, in 1871, after moving to Cedar Rapids, he laid the foundations of the largest pork packing plant west of the Mississippi. By the 1870s, it was the fourth largest packing house in the world (Western Historical 1878:525). Sinclair located his plant on the east bank of the Cedar River on the south side of the city. Factors in the plant's success included: railroads, refrigeration (the ice harvest of the Cedar River), and immigrant (largely Bohemian) workers.⁵⁴ The city passed several laws to allow the plant direct connection with all railroads entering the city. In turn, Sinclair assisted the city by reorganizing the Water Board, regulating its finances, and helping to provide the city with a good water supply (Brewer and Wick 1911b:36-7). Thomas Sinclair's life was cut short in 1881 by a fatal accident at his plant. He fell through the open hatchway of an empty elevator shaft in his own packing house and never recovered consciousness. His burial site in Oak Hill Cemetery faces the packing plant and the neighborhood that grew around it. His burial site is also very near the burial site of Hugh Ross, another native of Belfast, Ireland and foreman of the T.M. Sinclair & Co. Packing Plant.⁵⁵

In the weak and struggling days of Coe Collegiate Institute, before it emerged into Coe College, T.M. Sinclair was credited with saving the college through his generous act of liquidating the institution's debt. He went before the Synod of Iowa North in October 1880 and asked the synod to assume the care and control of the institute. Steps were taken at once to frame articles of incorporation of a new organization to be called Coe College. The articles were filed for record on the 16th day of April, 1881, less than a month after Sinclair's death. The Sinclair family later donated the money to build the first Sinclair Memorial Chapel in 1911 to commemorate his generosity and commitment to the college. The chapel was destroyed by fire in 1947 but the present auditorium bears the Sinclair name.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Bohemia later became part of the Czech Republic.

⁵⁵ T.M. Sinclair's son, Robert S. Sinclair, served as president of his father's company from 1917 to 1930. He and his second wife, Ethel H. Bennett, whom he married in 1923 after his first wife, Elizabeth's death in 1908, left Cedar Rapids for Indianapolis.

⁵⁶ Information obtained from "Thomas M. Sinclair, Coe College the First Hundred Years, 2006," accessed at <http://www.public.coe.edu>, December 2012).

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Caroline Soutter married Thomas Sinclair in 1870. The newlyweds moved to Cedar Rapids in 1871 where they had six children: Robert, John, Elsie, Amy, Fanny, and Agnes. Three years after Thomas' death in 1881, Caroline purchased 10 acres of land on the north side of the city and hired architects to design a new stylish home for the family. While the home was originally designed by Maximillian Allardt, during the home's construction Allardt had to leave the project, and Cedar Rapids' architects, Henry Josselyn and Eugene Taylor, completed the project. This Queen Anne style brick mansion was completed in 1886 and was first known as "Fairhome" (Brucemore 2005). Because Caroline wanted her children to be educated in Philadelphia, the family spent the summers at Brucemore and the school years in Philadelphia. In 1906, with her children grown, Caroline decided to move back to Cedar Rapids full time; however, she wanted a somewhat smaller home in which to live, so she traded homes with George and Irene Douglas. The Sinclair Mansion was rechristened "Brucemore" after George Bruce Douglas. Today, Brucemore is Iowa's only National Trust Historic Site (ibid.).

The Sinclair family lot in Block 89 Lot 654 is the site of the burial of Archer C. Sinclair, the son of John Sinclair, who was T.M. Sinclair's cousin. Archer C. Sinclair served as vice-president of the T.M. Sinclair & Co. but left Cedar Rapids in 1930 to join his cousin, Robert Sinclair in the management of Kingan & Company in Indianapolis. When Archer died in 1956, his body was returned for burial next to his first wife, Sarah Ewing Sinclair who died in 1912, in Oak Hill Cemetery (*Cedar Rapids Gazette*, February 6, 1956). His second wife, Helen Brocksmit Sinclair, who died in 1969, is also buried in this lot.

The Sinclair Mausoleum located in Block 94 is the interment site of Sydney Edgar Sinclair, native of Ireland, and son of Thomas and Elizabeth Edgar Sinclair. His uncle, John Sinclair was the father of T.M. Sinclair. Thomas and John Sinclair were partners in the pork-packing business. In 1883, Sydney came to Cedar Rapids to serve as assistant manager in the Sinclair packing plant. In 1892 he went to England to manage that branch of the family packing business but after five years he returned to Cedar Rapids to take charge of the Sinclair plant (*Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 19, 1992). He married Marie L. Matier in 1883 and they had two surviving children, S. Mervyn and G. Marguerite. Sydney Sinclair died in 1917 and was first buried in Block 86 Lot 624. His remains were reinterred in this mausoleum upon its completion in September 1935. The body of Catherine Frazer Sinclair, who died in 1912, was also moved to the mausoleum. Marie L. Sinclair died in 1936 and was also interred here.

The Stewart Family Mausoleum, Block 97

This granite, marble and bronze mausoleum was completed in 1939, with the design and construction work executed by Harrison Granite Works of New York (Chicago office) under the direction of Colonel Robert and Mrs. Maude Stewart. Family members interred in the mausoleum, in addition to the Colonel and his wife, include their children: Robert Giffen Stewart, James Wright Stewart, John Elliott Stewart and his wife, Mary Terry Schlamp Stewart, and Donald William Stewart.

Colonel Robert Wright Stewart was born in 1866 in Cedar Rapids, the son of William and Eliza (Lucore) Stewart. William died in 1919 and is buried in Block 57 Lot 2. Eliza died in California in 1921 and her cremated remains are buried in that same lot. Col. Stewart died in 1947. He attended Coe College and later served on the college's board of trustees. In 1929, he gave the college \$200,000 for a library in memory of his parents. The building was completed in

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1931. During the Spanish-American War, Stewart was a member of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders cavalry unit. He rose to the rank of major and, after the war, was made colonel of the First Regiment of the South Dakota National Guard (Curry 1912). Col. Stewart's varied career included: graduating from Yale law school; working as an attorney in South Dakota and representing Standard Oil, International Harvester, and the Chicago and North Western Railroad in various litigations in that region; and attorney general, general counsel, and chairman of the board of directors for Standard Oil of Indiana. It was during his years with Standard Oil that Stewart became embroiled in the infamous Teapot Dome scandal of the late 1920s. He was ousted from the board of directors by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and then had to resign by Rockefeller's demand even though Stewart was acquitted of any wrongdoing in the scandal.

The Turner Family, Block 63 Lot 47, Block 94 Lot 45, Block 95 Lot 3

Turner Funeral home had a very close association with Oak Hill Cemetery. It was in 1887, fifteen years after he came to Cedar Rapids that John Bissell Turner went into the mortuary and furniture business as a partner of Herbert McDougall. A year later the partnership was split, Mr. Turner taking sole control of the undertaking work. Along with his son David, Turner introduced Cedar Rapids citizens to the concept of using a funeral parlor for funeral services rather using the traditional practice of using the home of the deceased.

Mr. Turner's first business enterprise was a hardware store which he started when he was 21 years old in Crown Point, Indiana, where he was born to David and Caroline Bissell Turner. He sold out in two years and migrated to Fort Dodge where he opened a hardware store which he operated until 1872. In that year he was appointed to the railway mail service and moved to Cedar Rapids where he made the run between Clinton and Council Bluffs for seven years. He was later put on the Cedar Rapids division when it was established and handled it for five years before becoming the first money order clerk in the Cedar Rapids post office. A change in administration and revamping of payrolls prompted Mr. Turner to turn from government to private business. His funeral home would become one of the leading firms in the city, starting at a location near the east end of the First Avenue Bridge (Brewer and Wick 1911b:689-90). From that location it moved to 700 Third Avenue S.E. and in 1925 to the 800 Second Avenue location. The Second Avenue building was originally the grand home of George B. Douglas but was traded by Douglas to Caroline Sinclair for what would become known as Brucemore. The Turners acquired the Second Avenue property from Robert Sinclair, Caroline's son.

David Turner was born in Cedar Rapids, the son of John B. and Mary (Boynton) Turner (Brewer and Wick 1911b:690). He was educated in Cedar Rapids and graduated from Washington High School. After school he became advertising manager of the *Cedar Rapids Republican* before buying the *Belle Plaine Union*. He disposed of the *Union* after two years and went to South Dakota, taking up a homestead near Pierre. A year later he returned to Cedar Rapids and became associated with his father. Long known for the funeral home, John B. and David Turner also incorporated the Turner Company in 1931. This company manufactured public address systems, particularly microphones, and embalming machines.⁵⁷ It grew out of the funeral business when David Turned urged his father to install an electronic public address system in the funeral home so that mourners could better hear the minister. The systems were so popular that the Turners subsequently began manufacturing the systems in the funeral home and later set up a manufactory at

⁵⁷ Information obtained from David Turner's obituary, *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, June 9, 1954.

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700 Third Avenue.⁵⁸ The company operated until 1979 when it was sold and the Cedar Rapids plant was shut down (Braun 2002; Murphy 1951).

David Turner also was a friend and patron of noted Regionalist artist and Iowa native, Grant Wood. Mr. Turner provided Wood with a studio and living quarters in the garage behind the Turner Mortuary. The studio became famous as "No. 5 Turner Alley." Grant Wood was a struggling young artist and interior decorator when he was given the job of redecorating the Turner Mortuary. After the decorating was finished, Turner became a patron to Wood and came to own a number of paintings, his prize possession being a portrait of his father, John B. Turner (*Cedar Rapids Gazette*, June 9, 1954).

John B. Turner II was the son of David Turner and carried on the family's business traditions. Through the years, Turner Funeral home had a close working relationship with the Oak Hill Cemetery Association. In 1978, Turner Mortuary was sold to Cedar Memorial Funeral Home, Inc., which operates the Cedar Memorial Park Cemetery.⁵⁹

Van Vechten/Shaffer, Block 76 lots 201 & 203 (and walkway between)

The Van Vechten/Shaffer family was part of a prominent pioneer family, whose members were instrumental in Cedar Rapids' banking since 1877. Charles D. Van Vechten and Ada (Fitch) Van Vechten were the parents of Ralph Van Vechten, who along with his nephew Giles F. Van Vechten were leaders in organizing banks in Cedar Rapids. Van Vechten Shaffer was associated with banking enterprises in Chicago and New York before returning to Cedar Rapids in 1921 where he was employed at Cedar Rapids National Bank and was vice president and director at the time of the merger with Merchants National bank. He became a vice-president at Merchants and remained in that position until 1934 when he helped found Guaranty Bank & Trust, becoming president and director (Brewer and Wick 1911b:544-6, 774-5).

Others of note in the family were Carl Van Vechten, a noted author, music critic, and Paris correspondent for the *New York Times*; Ada Van Vechten, who served as president of the library board of trustees in the early 1900s and was instrumental in the 1902 Carnegie grant to construct the Cedar Rapids Public Library, and Sarah Adelaide (Addie) Lawton Van Vechten who was one of the founders of the Home of the Friendless and a leader of many cultural and charitable organizations.

The Witwer Family, Block 86 Lot 610, Block 95 Lot 82, Block 96 Lot 70

Although the Witwer family name appears in several family lots within the cemetery, among the most recognizable names in Cedar Rapids history are those of Weaver & Hettiebel (Barclay) Witwer and Frank M. & Rachel (Holt) Witwer. Weaver and Frank were the sons of Frank R. and Emma J. (Palmer) Witwer.

Frank M. Witwer graduated from Washington High School and attended the University of Iowa for one year, when he

⁵⁸ During World War II, the Turner Company ground quartz crystals for electronic devices and manufactured microphones for the military. After the war, the company went back to the commercial manufacture of microphones and embalming machines (Murphy 1951).

⁵⁹ Information obtained from History, Cedar Memorial at <http://www.cedarmemorial.com>, December 2012.

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left school to volunteer for the army during World War I. Home following his army duty, he was employed by the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company for a short time, and in 1920 with brother Weaver founded the Witwer Grocery Co. (*Cedar Rapids Tribune*, February 10, 1944). Frank was also Vice President of the Barclay Security Company. His wife was Rachael (Holt) Witwer.

Through his farms and grocery operations, Weaver G. Witwer of Hilltop Farms, East Post Road, was well known in Linn County and in Iowa. Inspired as a young man by an uncle who was a wholesale grocer, Witwer formed Witwer Grocery Co. He later began the Me Too Supermarkets but in 1963 sold his interest in those stores. Witwer owned 32 farms in Linn and Benton counties, totaling some 7,000 acres. At the time, with the exception of the Amana Society farms, the Witwer farm complex was said to have been the largest farming enterprise in Iowa under single management. One of his farm operations and a meat processing plant were located northeast of Marion. The building at Second Avenue and Third Street SE known as the Witwer Building became county-owned upon his death. Many of his farms were purchased by his tenants under options exercised upon his death, and the bulk of his estate after bequests to family and former employees was established into a charitable trust, known as the Witwer Trust (*Cedar Rapids Gazette*, June 27, 1999; Murray and Murray 1950).

Mayors Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery

Many of Cedar Rapids' mayors, from the very beginning under the Town Charter after incorporation and through the enactment of the Commission form of government, are buried at Oak Hill Cemetery. These include: Nicholas B. Brown (Mayor in 1851); William W. Smith (1853), Judge George Greene (1855), Isaac Newton Whittam (1856), R.C. Rock (1858), Homer Bishop (1861), Thomas Z. Cook (1862 and 1871), Mowry Farnum (1863), Henry Church (1865), Andrew R. West (1867 and 1869), Dr. John P. Coulter (1868), William B. Leach (1870), James F. Charles (1873), J.H. Smith (1875 and 1880), John Taylor Hamilton (1878), Orville N. Hull (1879), Charles A. Clark (1882; also an advocate of the commission of government), John W. Henderson (1883), Cyrus W. Eaton (1884 and 1886), Frank C. Hormel (1885), J.J. Snouffer (1890), John B. Henderson (1891), William P. Daniels (1893), George A. Lincoln (1895), John M. Redmond (1898), Amos H. Connor (1906, but died in office), Judge George S. Lightner (1906, serving out Connor's term), John T. Carmody (1908), Julius F. Rall (1918-24 and 1928), and Frank K. Hahn (1935-1963, appointed to fill the term of W.J. Neil who was elected in 1935 and died in office).

Amos H. Connor is of particular note having greatly influenced the built environment of Cedar Rapids and Marion in the late nineteenth to very early twentieth centuries. Through his contracting firm, A.H. Connor Building Construction, Connor helped build many of the commercial and industrial buildings in both cities until his sudden death in 1906 while visiting one of his construction sites. He had just been elected Cedar Rapids mayor at the time of his death.

At the time of his death in 1963, Frank K. Hahn had served as Cedar Rapids' mayor longer than any man prior. He began his career with the Sinclair packing plant but later got into construction work. In 1913, he formed his own company, which he later sold when he became postmaster for 12 years. He became public improvements commissioner in 1934 upon the death of Louis Zika and was appointed mayor a year later when William Neil died in office. The sewage treatment plant, Hawkeye Downs, the original police station, Ellis Park pool, the Third Avenue widening, and the introduction of bus service were all inaugurated during his tenure in office.

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Editors, Publishers, and Literary Notables Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery

Luther A. Brewer, Block 93 Lot 16

Luther Albertus Brewer came to Cedar Rapids in 1884. In 1887 he began working as the city editor for the *Cedar Rapids Daily Republican* newspaper. In 1889 he became assistant manager in the business office, and in 1892 he purchased an interest in the newspaper. In 1894 Brewer became business manager of the paper and subsequently sold his interest. In 1907 Brewer left the newspaper to open his own publishing house known as The Torch Press. However, that same year he again purchased an interest in the *Daily Republican* and in the *Cedar Rapids Evening Times*. With B.L. Wick, he also compiled a *History of Linn County Iowa*, a two-volume tome published in 1911 that helped preserve the county's pioneer history and biographies. Brewer died in 1933. He was married to Elinore Taylor, who passed away just eight weeks prior to his death (Rogers 1998).

Johnson Brigham, Block 93 Lot 21

In 1881, Johnson Brigham became editor, publisher, and subsequently part owner of the *Cedar Rapids Republican* and served in that capacity until 1893. On December 20, 1892, he married Lucy H. Walker (daughter of W.W. Walker, who built the Chicago & North Western Railroad from Cedar Rapids to Sioux City, Iowa). In February 1893, Brigham was appointed consul at Aix-la-Chapelle, Germany. On his return to America he founded the *Midland Monthly Literary Magazine*, which he published in Des Moines from 1894 to 1899. He became state librarian in 1898 and held that post for 38 years maintaining an increasing collection of pioneer records and other documents. Among his own literary works was a *History of Polk County* published in 1915, a compilation similar to Brewer and Wick's book on Linn County (Wright 1952).

Fred W. Faulkes and Clarence L. Miller - Block 61 Lot 24

Fred W. Faulkes and Clarence L. Miller purchased the *Cedar Rapids Daily and Evening Gazette* in 1884. Mr. Miller was the business manager, while Mr. Faulkes was the editor. The two men were brothers-in-law, Faulkes having married Miller's sister, Alice (Brewer and Wick 1911b:630-4).

Ethnicity, Race, and Gender in Oak Hill Cemetery

In the early to mid 1900s, the Board of Directors of Oak Hill Cemetery saw that with the general trend for smaller families and a more mobile society that large family burial plots were no longer in demand. The cemetery began to accommodate families who preferred to choose single or double grave spaces by subdividing several lots into single lots. This was done in every block that still held open spaces. Within these subdivided areas, clusters of a common theme appeared, such as ethnicity and race. For example, the south side of the cemetery, where the block numbers take on three digits, such as Block 101, developed as immigrant populations in the city were on the rise. The business and residential areas around Oak Hill Cemetery hosted a variety of nationalities.

African Americans in Oak Hill Cemetery

Although there were no known definitions in burial policy for segregated areas within the cemetery records, clusters have been found within the cemetery by race, with the patterns having a common theme of residential neighborhoods,

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church affiliations, and/or occupations. For example, many of those who had a family member who worked for the railroad or the hotels near Union Station are buried together. Interestingly, for a number of years in the cemetery records, race was not even noted in the burial records. The only means of confirmation was if a State of Iowa death certificate was included in the records, or it was indicated by a funeral home record.

The mortuaries that handled African American funerals and burials in Oak Hill Cemetery included the Johnson Funeral Home and the Rice Funeral Home. Although it does not appear that Mr. and Mrs. George Rice are themselves buried at Oak Hill, they do have family connections here including Mrs. Elizabeth (John) Blakey, grandmother of Mrs. George Rice and buried in Block 29, Lot 2 SG 3, and Rupert Rice, brother of George Rice, buried in Block 29 Lot 2 SG 11.

It is perhaps notable that Dr. John F. Ely, who was an original member of the Oak Hill Cemetery board, and his wife, Mary Weare Ely, whose family members were also among the original board members, were both strong abolitionists. When the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Cedar Rapids was organized in 1871, the congregation's first church was built on land granted by the Elys. It is not known whether the Elys' abolitionist leanings helped keep the cemetery board from a formal policy of segregation as did so many others where minorities were grouped in specific, and often less desirable areas of the cemetery, if they were allowed at all. It does seem unusual for the time for blacks to be buried in few identifiable concentrations within the Oak Hill Cemetery and buried among white burials without much seeming regard for race or economic or social class.

Some of the African Americans buried at Oak Hill Cemetery had been born into slavery and eventually found their way north through various means and circumstances to live, work, and die in Cedar Rapids. Others were born in Iowa and came to reside in Cedar Rapids because of the economic opportunities that the city offered in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Many of these arrivals were connected to the railroad industry and the hotels that were built to service rail traffic. The Empire, the Grand, the Allison, the Magnus, the Taft, the Eppley, the Montrose, and finally the Roosevelt were all hotels located near Union Station and the downtown tracks. These businesses provided many service job opportunities as well as skilled positions of tailors and seamstresses for the African American community.

Among those who worked for the railroad and are buried at Oak Hill Cemetery were Herman C. Howard, who worked at Union Station for 15 years and William G. Reed, who also worked at Union Station beginning around World War I. Sidney Tate hailed from North Carolina and worked in Cedar Rapids as a flagman for the North Western Railroad. John Louis Blakey had been born in Virginia before the Civil War and ended up in Cedar Rapids where he worked as a porter for the railroad.

Among the African Americans buried in Oak Hill Cemetery who worked in the hotel industry in Cedar Rapids was Lillian Lorraine Horne, who had been born in Mexico, Missouri, circa 1890 and came to be employed at the Eppley Hotel. Miss Eva Marie Watkins was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, about 1900 and came to be employed by the Montrose Hotel in Cedar Rapids. Gracie Mae Thompson had been born in Milan, Tennessee, in 1908. She moved to Cedar Rapids in 1943 where she worked as a housekeeper and seamstress at the Montrose Hotel.

In addition to working in the railroad-related businesses, there were a few businesses that African Americans established in Cedar Rapids on their own. Among these was Marshall Perkins' restaurant, which operated from the late 1800s into

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the 1950s. His restaurant was located near the downtown area and was “part of the ‘black block,’ where several hundred of the town’s black citizens lived in the early 1900s” (Lufkin 2001:202).

The city’s industries were also a major draw for African Americans to settle in Cedar Rapids. Among the industries to employ black workers were the Douglas Starch Works and its successor, Penick & Ford.⁶⁰ Among the African Americans buried at Oak Hill Cemetery and who worked at Penick & Ford and the starch factory were: Louis Milling Bragg born in 1890 in Louisiana and moved to Cedar Rapids in 1920; Morgan Lewis born in 1871 in Kentucky and who worked at Penick and Ford until his death in 1922; George W. Christian born in 1872 and a resident of Cedar Rapids for most of his life where he worked at Penick & Ford; Charles Henry Boone, a lifelong resident of Cedar Rapids and employee of Penick & Ford; Booker T.W. Jones, born in 1904 at Buxton, Iowa, and employed for many years at Penick & Ford; and Charles Francis Conway, born in 1872 in Montreal, Canada, and who worked as a laborer at the starch factory.

Other African Americans buried at Oak Hill Cemetery worked in the city’s other industries and businesses including: Keever Davis, an employee at Sanitary Farms Dairy; William John Miller, a conveyor operator at the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company for 34 years; William Warren employed as the chauffeur for the James E. Hamilton family (a prominent banking family) for 55 years of the 63 years he was a resident of Cedar Rapids; William B. Lowery, a minister at the A.M.E. Church and statistician of the Chicago Conference of the A.M.E. Church, born August 6, 1876, in Cedar Rapids, and a graduate of Coe College class of 1901; Miss Frances (Fannie) Lucille Lowery, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Lowery, born in Cedar Rapids and attended local schools including Coe College for one year and Iowa University for one year; and Edward Boyd, laborer for the Ford Paving Company.

Also of note in the African American burials at Oak Hill Cemetery, is a cluster pattern of common birthplace in Buxton, Iowa. Buxton was a coal mining town in Monroe County, Iowa, established in 1900 by the Consolidation Coal Company. “For at least 20 years the miners, many of whom were black, commuted daily by train from Buxton to the outlying mine operations” (Gradwohl and Osborn 1984:2). While the town’s population was not solely African American, this race composed a large segment of the population having been recruited to live and work here by the mine owners. The black population of Buxton also came to include a number of black merchants and professionals. The community was often described as a “black utopian community,” which to some degree appears to have been true. It was a town where blacks often had the same economic, educational, and business opportunities as whites, the town population seemed to have a feeling of group solidarity and mutual support, and discrimination appeared to be little of

⁶⁰ The latter was founded by William S. Penick and his brother-in-law, James P. Ford, who formed a partnership in Shreveport, Louisiana, to sell barreled syrups and canned molasses. In 1913, the Corn Products Refining Company (which had purchased a 25% stake in Penick & Ford) was forced to divest its interest in Penick & Ford by a Supreme Court ruling that resulted from the trust-busting campaign of President Theodore Roosevelt. The interest was then acquired by F.T. (Fred) Bedford, who was the son of E.T. Bedford of the Corn Products Refining Company. But F.T. Bedford was determined to build his own company, and after purchasing the destroyed Douglas plant, Bedford incorporated it as Penick & Ford, Ltd. on February 7, 1920. By 1921, the newly rebuilt plant was producing corn syrup (*International Directory of Company Histories*, Vol. 55, St. James Press, 2003, accessed at <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/penford-corporation-history/>, 2012).

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an issue. While “utopia” is likely not a totally accurate description, “Buxton may have been closer to that concept than are many towns today” (ibid.:192-4). Buxton reached its peak in coal production around 1914 as World War I began. After the war’s end in 1919, coal demand dropped off and the Consolidation Coal Company moved its base of operations elsewhere. The remaining residents of Buxton were forced to move elsewhere to find employment and economic opportunity. The townsite was completely abandoned during the 1920s (ibid.:2).

Some of Buxton’s African American residents found their way to Cedar Rapids where some retired and others went on to work in other occupations and professions. Those buried in Oak Hill Cemetery with an identified connection to Buxton include: Dorothy Ione Smith, born July 15, 1917, in Buxton to Clarence and Harriet Ione (Crank) Smith; Elmer Hurst born in Buxton on September 27, 1900; Mrs. Georgia Mae Chipley, daughter of Milton Atkinson and Lula Henly, born in Buxton on February 22, 1911; Robert J. Blakey, son of John and Lucinda (Reeves) Blakey, born May 10, 1880 in Charlotte, Virginia, but who died in 1922 from pneumonia reported to have been contracted while working as a miner in Buxton; Bennett T. Crank, born in Charlottesville, Virginia, on September 22, 1860, and was a retired mine worker at the time of his death May 1, 1931; and Magnolia M. Fields, born January 15, 1924, in Buxton, as was her foster parent, Elmer Hurst. Magnolia worked for the Wilson Packing Plant and the Jane Boyd Community Center in Cedar Rapids.⁶¹

The early twentieth century was a time of serious influenza (1918, 1925 and 1928) and tuberculosis (1921-1926) outbreaks, which created patterns among the African American burials in the cemetery as well. Specifically clustered in Blocks 169 and 171-173 were the following burials: Mrs. Mary Willis, housewife, born 1868 in Kentucky and died from influenza in 1925; Mrs. Harriet Lee, born in 1850 in Virginia and died May 28, 1928, of pneumonia brought on by influenza; Martin Lee, born in 1838 in Virginia and died of pneumonia on December 14, 1928; eighteen-year-old student, Earl Brown, who died May 23, 1921, of tuberculosis; Horace Wilson Jr., born 1886 in Polk County, Iowa, and died on May 13, 1922, from tuberculosis; Mrs. Essie (Louis) Bragg, a 21-year-old housewife (husband worked for Penick & Ford starting in 1920) who died of tuberculosis on July 14, 1922; and Mrs. Nettie Clarke, daughter of Richard and Nettie (Johnson) Bass, who died on December 24, 1926, of tuberculosis.

Notables among the African Americans buried in Oak Hill Cemetery are the following individuals and families listed in alphabetical order.⁶²

Dr. William H. Beshears, Block 180 Lot 88

William Hutchason Beshears was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, on October 27, 1897. He moved to Cedar Rapids about 1917 and lived in the city for 41 years. He was a dentist, whose office was located at 323 S. 2nd Street. During his lifetime he served as president of the NAACP circa 1926 and was a member of the Masons. He continued to practice dentistry until his death in 1958.

⁶¹ Wilson was the successor to T.M. Sinclair & Co., Ltd. (as it was reorganized in 1899). In 1913, Schwarzschild & Sulzberger of Chicago (predecessor to Wilson & Co.) bought the Sinclair plant but kept operating under the Sinclair name until 1935 when it became Wilson & Co. (Svendsen 2006).

⁶² Informational hand-outs and maps compiled by The Thoresen Project for the Oak Hill Cemetery Association, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, particularly “African American History at Oak Hill Cemetery,” 2009.

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Obadiah B. Clare, Block 156 Lot 1314

Clare was an African American born in New York in 1851. He moved to Cedar Rapids in 1880. On October 9, 1880, he received patent number 390,753 for a trestle he invented that could be folded compactly and easily transported to set up to support heavy carpets for beating to remove dust.⁶³ On April 23, 1904, Obadiah's wife, Ida died. He then married Nellie (Wiley) Spinks on November 8, 1909. During his life, Obadiah worked as a farm laborer, servant, laborer, restaurant manager, janitor, saloon manager, and teamster. He died in 1916 and was buried with his first wife in Oak Hill Cemetery.

George R. Collins, Block 180 Lot 75

George Russell "Buck" Collins became one of Coe College's greatest athletes in the early 1920s at a time when a black man was a rarity in college football. A halfback, Mr. Collins starred on both offense and defense, winning All-State and Midwest honors. He also played on the baseball team. He graduated from Coe in 1923. He was a teacher and coach at Bishop College in Texas and a college in Jefferson City, Missouri, before returning to Cedar Rapids and entering the mail service.⁶⁴ A mail carrier for 16 years, he had a downtown route in Cedar Rapids. Other family members buried in Block 176 SG 10 & 11 at Oak Hill Cemetery include Mrs. Emma Victoria Collins, who died June 6, 1937, and her husband, Russell Collins, who died June 7, 1939. Both had been born in Missouri. For 15 years, Russell was custodian of the Shenandoah post office, retiring in 1929 and moving to Cedar Rapids. Notable among the couple's children were Dr. Elmer Collins, a surgeon in Washington D.C.; George Collins, former all state football player at Coe College; Eugene and Robert also former athletic stars; and Mrs. Ruth Blackburn, former Omaha YWCA worker.

Amelia Jackson Gomer Culp and Richard Gomer, Block 142 Lot 1271

As a charter member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church, Amelia filled every office in that institution. For four years she had been a missionary in Africa and on her return to Cedar Rapids she spent time lecturing on her experiences. Cemetery records show that Mrs. Culp purchased the lot in 1895 at the death of first husband Richard Gomer in 1895. In addition to Amelia, two granddaughters, Daisy and Maxine Jackson, are buried on this lot. They were the daughters of her stepson, Thomas Jackson. Both girls died of tuberculosis in 1931. Another husband of Amelia, Josephus Culp, is buried in Block 177, SG 21.

Richard Gomer was a member of the famous Company 54 Mass. Infantry led by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw.⁶⁵ The Fifty-fourth was made up of free blacks including the sons of Frederick Douglass, who were instrumental in the formation of the unit. On July 18, 1863, the regiment achieved fame by leading the bloody assault on Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina. In the attack nearly half the regiment was killed, wounded, or captured. Colonel Shaw was among those who died. The survivors of the Fifty-fourth went on to participate in the eventual capture of Fort Wagner several weeks later. This company was the inspiration for the movie *Glory*.

⁶³ Information obtained from Iowa2.pdf 2008 accessed at www.state.libraryofiowa.org, April 2012.

⁶⁴ "African American Footprints of Cedar Rapids, Iowa," accessed at <http://africanamericanfootprints.blogspot.com/p/family.html>, December 2012.

⁶⁵ Massachusetts Historical Society, accessed at <http://www.masshist.org/>, December 2012.

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Rev. Andrew Ford, Block 173 Lot 47

Born June 29, 1845, on a farm adjoining George Washington's Mount Vernon, Virginia, estate, Andrew Ford served in the Civil War with Company H, First Negro Infantry. Ford served as the first associate pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Cedar Rapids when it was organized in 1871. His wife was Romelier Ford. Other family members are buried at Oak Hill Cemetery including Reuben M. Ford (Andrew's brother) born circa 1879 in Virginia and moved to Cedar Rapids from Philadelphia circa 1919. He was employed by the city sanitation department.

His wife, Nina E. Ford, was the daughter of Horace and Pamela (also spelled as Permelia) Wilson. She was born in Excelsior, Iowa, in 1885. Horace Wilson was a coal miner, and the family lived in Excelsior in Mahaska County until c.1900 and then moved to Buxton in Monroe County to work in the mines in that area. Her brother, Clarence "Baldy" Wilson had been born in Excelsior in 1888 and was working as a miner along with his father and brother, Adolph, in the Buxton mine by 1910. While in Buxton, Clarence Wilson married Almena "Midge" Curtindahl on February 21, 1912. He and his wife moved circa 1913 to Cedar Rapids where Wilson was employed at the Majestic and State theaters for a number of years before taking a job as police station custodian in 1936. Clarence worked at the police station until he retired two years before his death in 1956. Almena worked as a seamstress at the Montrose and Roosevelt hotels in Cedar Rapids. She later worked as a seamstress at Mercy Medical Center before retiring.⁶⁶

Adolph Rudolph "Skinny" Wilson was born in 1890 at Excelsior, Iowa, and married Martha F. Genrich in 1922 in Cedar Rapids. Adolph played with the Colored Giants baseball team for many years and was a member of the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps. He also played with the Peoples Band for a number of years. Martha F. Wilson was born in 1900 at Lotts Creek, Iowa, to William and Amelia Genrich. She worked as a housekeeper for the Sheraton Montrose Hotel in Cedar Rapids.

Viola Gibson, Block 179 Lot 80

Viola Gibson was a resident of Cedar Rapids from the age of nine when she arrived from Tennessee until her death in 1989. She was educated in the Cedar Rapids public schools, was trained as a practical nurse, and worked as a Red Cross home nursing instructor. Spurred by the denial of the access of African Americans to the Ellis Park Pool, Mrs. Gibson helped to resurrect the Cedar Rapids chapter of the NAACP in 1942 and served as president of that chapter for a time. She served on the Cedar Rapids-Marion Human Relations Council and led a campaign to convince the Iowa congressional delegation to support the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Mrs. Gibson was also instrumental in the inclusion of Black History in local schools. In a speech given in 1963 explaining the need for teaching Black History she said, "If we want our children to grow up and be respected, we must set an example and teach them to respect others" (*Cedar Rapids Gazette*, January 5, 1964). Mrs. Gibson provided leadership for countless community and religious organizations. The children who currently attend the Linn County Day Care Center, learn to swim at the Bender Pool, and participate in programs at Jane Boyd Community Center (which she was involved in building), benefit from the dedicated service of Viola Gibson. She was also active in establishing the senior and low-income housing in the Oak Hill area as a member of the Mayor's Committee for Oak Hill Citizens and was involved in the creation of the Witwer Senior Center. In 1970, a park next to Metro High was named in her honor. In 2001, a call was made for nominations

⁶⁶ *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, July 15, 1956; *The Gazette*, June 17, 1998; U.S. Population Censuses 1900, 1910 and World War I Draft Registration for Clarence Wilson, accessed at www.ancestry.com, 2013).

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for the naming of a new elementary school in northeast Cedar Rapids, and the school was named Viola Gibson Elementary.⁶⁷

Mitchell Edward Harris, Block 29 Lot 2 SG 7

Mitchell Edward Harris was a sewer construction worker, who died in 1956 along with co-worker, Theodore Wold, in a trench cave-in at the construction site of the new Washington High School in 1956. His identity was known immediately because he was the only African American on the construction job.

Charles H. Henderson, Block 51 Lot 3

Charles H. Henderson was born and reared as a slave in Alabama and lived in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas after the Civil War before heading north to Davenport, Iowa. He came to Cedar Rapids from Davenport at the age of 82 and lived to the age of 103. While in Cedar Rapids, Henderson worked at odd jobs and caring for his small apartment building. Other family members buried at Oak Hill Cemetery included his wife, Laura Henderson buried in Block 177 SG 34. Mrs. Henderson was born March 19, 1879, in Tallassee, Alabama. At the time of her death in 1946, she had been a resident of Cedar Rapids for 35 years.

Herman C. Howard, Block 11 Lot 3 SG 8

Howard was born in Paducah, Kentucky, on February 2, 1891. He was a resident of Cedar Rapids for 45 years working as a porter at the Union Station for 15 years.

Arthur Andrew Jackson, Block 177 SG 35 & 36

Arthur Andrew Jackson was born February 5, 1882, at Sigourney, Iowa. He resided in Cedar Rapids for 52 years. He was an employee of the Iowa Illinois Gas and Electric Company but was best known as a music instructor and clarinetist in concert and popular orchestras. His wife, Francine (Fannie) Jackson was born in Lexington, Kentucky, on September 17, 1885, and came to Cedar Rapids in 1910. She played piano in the old Praha and Ideal theaters on Fourteenth Avenue SE. She also played in an orchestra with her husband at theaters in and around Cedar Rapids in an earlier day.

Alvia Reno Joyce, Block 29 Lot 2 SG 8

Born in Minneapolis about 1882, Mr. Joyce spent most of his life in Cedar Rapids. He was employed as janitor in the physical department of the YMCA from about 1920. He was affiliated with Mt. Zion Baptist Church and was a past grand senior warden and past grand custodian of A.F. and A.M. of the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

William Oliphant, Block 62 Lot 50

Born in Alabama in 1892, the Oliphant family came to Cedar Rapids when William was a young boy. He became well known in baseball circles, having played with semi-pro teams and in sandlot circles in Cedar Rapids. A lover of horses, he was for many years, an attendant in the Montrose stables and traveled throughout the United States with the Montrose horses. He specialized in the training and care of jumping horses and was an expert rider. He also boxed professionally. Prior to his retirement due to ill health, he worked as the janitor at the police station.

⁶⁷ "Viola Gibson," accessed at <http://gibson.cr.k12.ia.us/firstyear/gibsonbio1.html>, December 2012.

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Marshall Perkins, Block 144 Lot 1280

Marshall Perkins, son of a Virginia slave, was born February 25, 1862, in Palmyra, Missouri. He operated the first black-owned restaurant in Cedar Rapids for 44 of the 55 years that he and his wife Louisa lived in the city. Located on First Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Street SE, he called his restaurant "Marshall's" because he thought it had more appeal than his surname (Hough 1968). The Perkins family lived above the restaurant. Fred & Bertha (Tate) Perkins are buried in Block 180 SG 160 & SG 161. Fred Perkins was born September 11, 1889, in Cedar Rapids. He grew up working in his father's restaurant and attended the old Jefferson Grade School. In a 1968 *Cedar Rapids Gazette* article (ibid.), Fred Perkins recalled he was at one time a schoolmate of Sutherland Dows. When he was 16, Fred "quit school for good and started hard work" (ibid.). He drove a coal wagon, helped put in sewers, and did construction. He took a course at the Cedar Rapids Business College and was recommended for a bookkeeping job, which he did not get. He passed the Civil Service exam but did not get a permanent job. After that he went to railroading where for 44 years he worked as a chair car porter and then as a brakeman for 30 years. His wife, Bertha (Tate) Perkins was born March 23, 1904, in Straight Creek, Kentucky.

Susan and Charles Pugh, Block 10 Lot 4 SG 12 & 13

Susan E. Pugh was born into slavery as Susan Jones in 1860 in Caldwell County, Missouri. When she was about three years old, she came with her parents, Richard and Malvina Jones, to Decatur County, Iowa. The family was nearly overtaken by rebel soldiers at the Iowa border, but the Iowa Home Guard protected them and they crossed safely into Iowa. She received a grade school education in a country school in Decatur County. By making and selling rag rugs and working for her board, she was able to attend high school in Osceola. Returning to Decatur County she attended three sessions of normal school and received a teacher's certificate in 1878. She went to Bethany, Missouri, where she taught, and it was there that she met and married Charles Pugh.

As a young man, Charles Pugh worked for a Missouri doctor, who passed on his interest in politics to the young man. Charles would later be appointed deputy sheriff under Sheriff A.J. Allen of Decatur County, Iowa. Mr. Pugh also worked as a barber in Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa for more than 35 years. At some point, the Pughs were in Buxton, Iowa, and migrated to Cedar Rapids after World War I. He opened a barber shop of his own on Tenth Street SE in Cedar Rapids, when he felt the prices at the "uptown shops" were too high. This shop drew in customers from the old Sinclair meat packing plant where he once worked in addition to city officials and a "bigwig who wanted a shave in a hurry so he could catch the train" (Information provided by Barbara Elam from July 11, 1947, *Cedar Rapids Gazette*). Susan was a deaconess of Bethel A.M.E. Church and a member of the Colored Federated Women's Club. She was one of the first women drawn for jury duty in Linn County. Mrs. Pugh is believed to have been the first black woman on an Iowa jury.

Cecil A. Reed, Block 180 SG 231

Cecil Reed was the first African American and only black Republican historically elected to the Iowa House of Representatives in 1967. He was 50 years of age when the federal Civil Rights Act was signed into law in 1964. He had been born in Collinsville, Illinois. His family moved to Davenport, Iowa, Omaha, Nebraska, and Rock Island, Illinois, before settling in Cedar Rapids in 1923 when Cecil was ten years old and where his father worked as a custodian for the railroad (Reed and Donovan 1993). Cecil graduated from high school in Cedar Rapids and worked as a newsboy, shoeshine boy, handyman, cook, waiter, bartender, and various other jobs (Lufkin 2001:202-3). Reed subsequently

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operated a broiler chicken processing plant. In addition, Cecil, his sister, Edith Reed Atkinson, and their brother, Wallace Reed, performed as the Gold Flashes dance team from 1935 to 1944 (The Gazette 2004:97). Edith was a trained classical singer and later had her own radio show on WMT and was choir director of the Bethel AME Church for 30 years. In 1949, Cecil became the first African American Chamber of Commerce member in Iowa. In the 1940s-50s, he established a floor refinishing business and a business selling building maintenance supplies. The latter grew into a sizable enterprise and eventually included many Reed family members including his son Richard.

It was on a trip west that the Reed family was confronted with a common problem for black travelers at the time—they were refused lodging by white innkeepers.⁶⁸ Based on that experience, Reed opened the Sepia Motel in 1953 on old U.S. Highway 30 in Cedar Rapids. The motel policy was to accommodate everyone. Many black entertainers stayed at this motel, it being the only motel or hotel in the Cedar Rapids area where they were welcomed. When the highway was moved in the late 1950s, the motel was converted to rental units.

Reed's legislative career lasted for only one term because Democratic Governor, Harold Hughes, appointed Reed to the Iowa Employment Security Commission launching a career in government service that included appointments as regional administrator for the Department of Labor and assistant administrator of the Job Corps. While still in the legislature, Reed made history by occasionally presiding over the House of Representatives when Speaker Maurice Baringer could not be in attendance. "These occasions marked the first time an African-American served in this esteemed position in the Iowa legislature (Langston 2001:351). He was also "one of the first legislators to actively promote teaching African-American history in Iowa schools" (ibid.). Cecil Reed passed away on August 14, 2006.

Other Reed family members buried in Oak Hill Cemetery include: Cecil's parents, Mrs. Julia (Jones) Reed, member of Bethel A.M.E. Church and the NAACP, and William G. Reed, who worked at Union Station until his retirement and was a member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church and various fraternal organizations; and another of Cecil's sisters, Lulu B. (Reed) Walker, who was a self-employed caterer.

Dorothy Robinson, Block 182 Lot 14

Dorothy Robinson was the first black nurse to work in a Cedar Rapids hospital. Encouraged to pursue nursing by her mother, Dorothy graduated in the 1930s from Provident Hospital Nursing School in Chicago, Illinois. She was certified as a nurse in Illinois and Iowa. She set a goal and never thought there would be trouble finding a job in a city where she felt she belonged. However, when she returned to Cedar Rapids to get a job, she was told the only position open was for a cleaning lady. Robinson did domestic work to earn money while seeking a nursing position. In between domestic jobs she would receive work that involved patient care. She helped new mothers at home and cared for a patient with pneumonia. Seven years later, a nursing supervisor at St. Luke's contacted her with an offer of general duty nursing. Although there was an adjustment period for both staff and families, the hospital administration was supportive. She worked there, taking a brief break from 1952 to 1958 to be near family in California, but returned to Cedar Rapids and worked at St. Luke's until 1978, retiring as head of urology. In the mid-1970s, she was a panel member for community affairs to bring harmony between the black and white races. She was quoted as saying she never thought of herself as a

⁶⁸ Owner of the Sepia Motel: Cecil Reed, The Heroes Center, Spaulding Center for Transportation, accessed at <http://www.transportationheroes.org>, December 2012.

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pioneer but that "I opened the doors" (*Cedar Rapids Gazette*, February 2, 1992).

Ellen Taylor Memorial Marker, Block 202

Ellen Edeth (Nicholas) Taylor was born into slavery in Virginia in 1817. She would be the first black settler in the city of Cedar Rapids arriving in 1865. Her husband, Johnson Taylor, was a carpenter who died in Missouri where they were living at the time. Ellen Taylor may have been removed from Missouri in 1862 by an Iowa Infantry Company that was sent there to confiscate "contraband" blacks off plantations. One hundred were sent to Iowa by train with the last stop in Tama/Toledo.⁶⁹ Ellen Taylor died July 31, 1901, and her obituary read:

Mrs. Ellen Taylor died at 7:20 o'clock yesterday morning at the residence of Mr. E.C. Thomas, 918 South Eight Street, at the age of 92 years. She was the oldest and first colored settler, in the city coming here in 1865. She leaves three granddaughters to mourn her loss; Mrs. Viola Green, of Toledo; Mrs. Olena Roper, of St. Louis and Mrs. Mattie Morgan of this city. The funeral will be held at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon from the A.M.E. church (*Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, July 1901).

When she died, Mrs. Taylor was at the home of E.C. Thomas, who was married to her granddaughter Mary. Thomas was one of the founders of the A.M.E. Church. Granddaughter Mattie (Martha) was married to James Morgan. She in turn had four daughters, one named Ardath, who married Robert Collins. They became the parents of Dr. Russell L. Collins, who is noteworthy as having trained to be a fighter pilot at the Negro Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama, before the end of that program.⁷⁰

Henrietta Washington, Block 132 Lot 2

The Oak Hill Cemetery death register for Henrietta Washington notes only that she was a "Colored woman brought to this county by Geo. W.(M.?) Clarkson(?) with whom she lived for many years. Lately on the William Stewart farm." This notation was followed by the death date of September 18, 1881. William Stewart was a native of Pennsylvania, and the Stewart Memorial Library at Coe College was donated in memory of Stewart and his wife. There is no marker on Henrietta Washington's lot and nothing else to tell her story. The 1850 U.S. Population Census record for Linn County lists a 21-year-old black female from Virginia in the George Clarkson household. No occupation was listed for her. The household also included a five-year-old black male named David Wesley born in Iowa. [Although Ellen Taylor was the first black woman in the city, Henrietta Washington may have been the first in Linn County.] The 1880 U.S. Population Census for Linn County listed Henrietta Washington as then 50 years old and living in Cedar Rapids in her own household. She was also listed as widowed and working as a washerwoman. The only discrepancy is that her birthplace was listed as Kentucky, although this was a handwritten abbreviation over an original notation that is not legible. The age and name certainly fit the Henrietta Washington in the 1850 census.

⁶⁹ Information researched by Pamela Nosek, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for the memorial marker placed in 1999; also information authored by Imelda K. Collins regarding the Ardath Olena Morgan Family accessed at <http://africanamericanfootprints.blogspot.com/p/families.html>, April 2012

⁷⁰ Information researched by Pamela Nosek, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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Other Ethnic and Immigrant Burials in Oak Hill Cemetery

As word spread of the opportunities brought by the mills, the railroads, and other industries, new residents soon followed. The influence of Judge Greene brought the English and Scottish. The Scotch-Irish followed Ellis and King from Pennsylvania. The Sinclair family was an early representative of the city's Irish population. Central European countries were well represented in the city's population. Additional Northern European immigrants arrived in the 1860s. By the early 1900s, Syrian and Greek merchants made the city home, and although the African American population was already established here shortly after the Civil War, their numbers increased with the transfer of the Douglas Starch Works to Penick & Ford, a Louisiana-based company, which brought workers familiar with their process with them and with the expansion of industry in general between the two world wars. Mexican immigrants began arriving in the 1920s (Murray and Murray 1950).

Other cemeteries in the vicinity were subsequently established by ethnic and immigrant groups for their own use including the adjacent St. George Orthodox Cemetery and the nearby St. John's Cemetery. The latter was one of two cemeteries in Cedar Rapids for Bohemian/Czech and Slovak immigrants and their descendants. St. John's served the Bohemian neighborhood on the east side of the Cedar River in the south part of Cedar Rapids, which was the earliest Bohemian immigrant settlement area, while the Czech National Cemetery on the southwest side of the river reflects the later settlement of Czech immigrants in that area of Cedar Rapids (St. Wenceslaus of Cedar Rapids 2012).

The 1913 Sanborn fire insurance map of Cedar Rapids showed St. John's Cemetery as the "Bohemian Cemetery," then a small parcel at the southeast corner of S. Ninth and 19th streets off the southeast corner of Oak Hill Cemetery (Sanborn Map Company 1913). The *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* noted on June 28, 1886 that the "St. Joseph and St. Wencislav [sic] societies of the Bohemian Catholic church" had dedicated their burial place, which had formerly been "the old Catholic burying ground, which the Bohemian Catholics recently purchased." By the 1940s, the Bohemian cemetery had expanded to the west over to 17th Street due south of Oak Hill Cemetery and was now known as St. John's Cemetery (Sanborn Map Company 1913-49).

The west or south side Bohemian Cemetery was begun by several of the city's Bohemian Societies, who charged in 1895 that they were "forced" to establish their own burial ground due to their perception of high-priced lots in Oak Hill Cemetery and the restrictions of the City Cemetery to pauper burials (*Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, August 17, 1895).⁷¹ This cemetery was officially established in 1896 and later became known as the Czech National Cemetery.

As noted previously, St. George Orthodox Cemetery was established in the mid-twentieth century and was associated with the Syrian, Lebanese, and Greek immigrant settlement in the city. The Syrian Orthodox Benevolent Society was the foundation of the St. George Orthodox Church in Cedar Rapids. Initially, the Society purchased a series of lots in Block 166 in Oak Hill Cemetery for use by its church members before the establishment of St. George Cemetery (*Cedar*

⁷¹ It is also assumed that the east-side St. John's Cemetery was restrictive to those of the Bohemian Catholic congregations. However, the location of the new cemetery on the west side of the river further reflected the later settlement of Bohemian/Czech immigrants in that area, a settlement that gave rise to what is now known as the Czech Village in Cedar Rapids (Svendsen 2000:E-50).

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Rapids Evening Gazette, February 18, 1914). Among the burials in Oak Hill Cemetery were Mike Trialonis of Greece and John Hatzakis of Crete. These two young single men were among those workers killed in the Douglas Starch Works explosion in 1919.

Oak Hill Cemetery was never segregated by race or ethnicity, but there are definite areas where burials clustered based on residential neighborhoods, church affiliations, involvement in the same organizations, or having the same traditions. The following are examples of immigrant burials in Oak Hill Cemetery.⁷²

Harry Carter Bird – Block 179 Lot 13

Although there is no marker on the lot, Harry Carter Bird, an American Indian is buried at this location.

Allan McDuff – Block 4 Lot 7

Born in Johnston, Scotland, in 1847, Allan McDuff was educated in his native land where he learned the machinist trade before immigrating to America in 1868. He arrived in Cedar Rapids about 1871 and was employed as a stationary engineer for three months before he was employed by the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern railroad as general machinist. He remained with the railroad when it was absorbed into the Rock Island Railroad system, resigning later because of his health. Mr. McDuff was one of the founders of the Perpetual Savings and Loan Association and served as the association's director and vice-president for more than 30 years.

Warren A. Hansen – Block 159 Lot 1413

Mr. Hansen was publisher of *Kvinden Og Hjeninut* for 50 years in Cedar Rapids. A monthly illustrated journal for the Norwegian and Danish Women in America, this publication also had a Swedish edition.

Vaclav Hlavaty – Block 159 Lot 1401

In 1891, the congregation of the Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church of Cedar Rapids called upon Vaclav Hlavaty to be their minister. The following men who served as elders of the church are also buried at Oak Hill: F. Nemecek, Block 72 Lot 176; Jos. A. Popelka, Block 132 Lot 5; John Dudycha, Block 157 Lot 1318 or Block 166 Lot 51; and Frank Stary, Block 162 Lot 2.

Aziz Jahangiri - Block 175 SG 1

A student at Coe College, Jahangiri was killed in a pedestrian/auto accident on First Avenue in 1934. Born in Persia in 1910, he was an outstanding student in chemistry, mathematics, and physics. His father and sister were said to be descendents of the oldest ruling family in Persia.

Theophilus G. and Susanna (Dahler) Krebs – Block 9 Lots 4-7

Theophilus Gottlieb Krebs and Susanna Dahler Krebs, originally of Berne, Switzerland, were founders of the Krebs Greenhouse and Market Garden on the southwest edge of Cedar Rapids in 1869. Their five sons and two daughters

⁷² Information obtained from hand-outs and maps compiled by The Thoresen Project for the Oak Hill Cemetery Association, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, particularly "Early Immigration and Ethnic Communities," 2008.

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grew up in the area, and the greenhouse and garden flourished under at least four generations. The family name is also associated with businesses that include Krebs Bros. Co. Monument & Statuary and the Dutch Maid Dairy.

John & Josephine Letovsky Block 159 Lot 1347

Mr. Letovsky and his father edited the first Czech weekly paper in Cedar Rapids, the *Slovan Americky*.

Lobenstein Family – Block 12 Lot 3

Hailing from Bavaria, the Lobenstein family was involved in the mercantile business in Cedar Rapids. William Lobenstein, was born in Bavaria, Germany, November 21, 1833, and after a few years came to this country. During the Civil War, he enlisted in the 12th Maine Company I and was wounded at Port Hudson on June 2, 1863. He continued to serve until the end of the war. By 1875, he was head clerk at Simon Adelsheim, a ready-made clothing store in Cedar Rapids. By March 1878, he became a salesman in the retail department of the wholesale and retail-clothing house of Israel Bros. and eventually opened his own Lobenstein Clothing Store. His wife, Kate had a millinery store in the early 1880s. William died in 1886 and had been an invalid for the last seven years as a result of his war wounds. After his death, Kate Lobenstein became the fore-lady of the millinery department at Lyman's in the Kimball Building in Cedar Rapids. In 1898, she left to make her home with a son in California.

Robert Palmer – Block 161 Lot 5

Born in Marlborough, England, Robert Palmer came to Cedar Rapids as manager for the R.C. Dun Company holding that post until 1920. Joining with a group of others, he was an organizer of the original Cedar Rapids Savings Bank and later became the manager of the bank building. Serving as treasurer of many of the community organizations with which he was affiliated, he was serving in that capacity when Andrew Carnegie donated \$75,000 to the city for a public library building.

Frederick Schauwecker – Block 72 Lot 152

Born in Cedar Rapids in 1896, Frederick Schauwecker was the son of Theodore & Emma Schauwecker, German parents who had lived in the French speaking Alsace-Lorraine area. He grew up speaking fluent English, German and French. He learned his first musical notes from Lulu Engleman Welty, his piano teacher through his high school days. After high school graduation in 1915, he attended the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago and studied several years in France and Germany under famous European instructors. He began his career about 1920. Because of his artistic duties and tours Mr. Schauwecker saw many parts of the world, and his passports were given to Coe College. He also left the bulk of his estate to Coe College to establish endowed scholarships in music.

W.F. Severa – Block 96 Lot 93

Born in Bohemia in 1853, W.F. Severa came to the United States in 1868 as a penniless immigrant, working his way from Racine, Wisconsin, to Cedar Rapids Iowa, and then to Belle Plaine, Iowa. In 1876, he prepared himself practically for the pharmaceutical profession. In 1880, as a registered pharmacist he returned to Cedar Rapids and bought a drug store. The business was a success from the start, largely because Mr. Severa was engaged in the manufacture of certain proprietary medicines based on tested prescriptions. Over time demand for the products he was manufacturing grew and after disposing of the retail drug business in 1903, he founded the W.F. Severa Company. Distribution of preparations known as the Severa Family remedies went worldwide, and at one time *Severa's Medical Almanac* advertised the

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products and were printed in eleven languages. One of Severa's first philanthropic movements was the support of Damska Matice Skolska, a group of Czech women fostering the education of children of Czech decent in the Czech language. Mr. Severa also engaged in real estate transactions, was one of the founders of Bohemian American Savings Bank (later became the American Trust and Savings Bank), and was associated with the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company.

Tzu Nien Wang – Block 169 Lot 3

Tzu Nien Wang was born in Hinghua, China, about 1900. He died of tuberculosis while as a student at Cornell College in nearby Mount Vernon. He remained buried at Oak Hill Cemetery when details involved in returning his remains to his homeland in 1926 could not be resolved.

Notable Women Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery

Those buried in Oak Hill Cemetery also include women who had a tremendous impact on the city's social, economic, educational, and religious development. The list below consists of those notable women not previously discussed and are listed in alphabetical order.⁷³

Abbie Abbott - Block 95 Lot 86

Miss Abbott hailed from New England. Her half century of teaching in Iowa began as a grade school teacher in Mechanicsville in the 1870s. After serving as a mathematics and history teacher in Marion, Iowa, between 1879 and 1881, and as principal of the Marshalltown High School from 1881 to 1886, Abbott came to Cedar Rapids to become the Washington High School principal. Her career as a teacher spanned some 50 years, 35 of which were spent as principal of Washington High.

Minnie Blasier, Block 93 Lot 18

Minnie Blasier was the first Linn County probation officer of the juvenile court, appointed to that post in 1907 after Women's Club members had shown a marked interest in juvenile court work. For two years she was matron in charge of the Home for the Friendless and was police matron for twelve years. Mrs. Blasier along with Col. C.B. Robbins, and others, was credited with a great share in the passage of the Iowa Law providing for widow's pension allowances for dependent children. Her husband, Herbert Blasier, was a violin maker.

Jane Boyd, Block 95 Lot 86

The contributions to the Oak Hill neighborhood and the city as a whole made by Jane Boyd reached farther than the community center named after her. Miss Boyd entered the Tyler School district as a first grade teacher in 1894. When school was out, she would start on her mission of mercy through the district, and everyone regardless of race or income benefited from her mission. In 1918, the Board of Education realizing that the value of Miss Boyd's service extended beyond the walls of her schoolroom, released her from her teaching duties and allowed her to give full time to her social welfare work. She still retaining connections with the schools in the health department she maintained in Tyler school.

⁷³ Informational hand-outs and maps compiled by The Thoresen Project for the Oak Hill Cemetery Association, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, particularly "The Women of the Community," 2008.

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The kitchen, dining room, nursing room, and storeroom were her headquarters. She began serving milk to undernourished children in the school, financing it from her own pocket until the project was undertaken by a businessmen's luncheon club. In the storeroom adjoining her office were racks of clothing and rows of shoes waiting for the children of poor families, who could not attend school were it not for the supplies provided by Miss Boyd. A needle prick while working with these garments resulted in an infection that contributed to her death in 1932. A dream of Miss Boyd's was realized in 1921 when the house of Dr. W. Ruml was moved to the site of the first Community House. It was named the Jane Boyd Community House, and her place on the board of directors was only a small representation of her contributions to its service. All organizations serving the needy of the city found Miss Boyd a willing sponsor (*Cedar Rapids Tribune*, December 16, 1932; Rogahn 2004).

Frances Winfred "Teddy" (Robyn) Cherry - Block 96 Lot 58

"Teddy" Robyn Cherry was the daughter of Arthur Robyn and the niece of Louise Robyn. Frances was the inspiration for the first of a long list of books which comprise the Robyn system of musical training for children. At the age of five Teddy showed musical aptitude, but when scales and other exercises couldn't command her attention and the resulting boredom, her Aunt Louise sketched some little exercises based on a story element. This was the beginning of *Technic Tales*, sheet music for children. In the first book the movement of fingers and hand is likened to an airplane in a nose dive. Teddy as well as her aunt Miss Louise Robyn had a musical ancestry that goes back to Emmerich-On-The-Rhine Germany where grandfather, William Robyn lived and was associated with the descendents and colleagues of Beethoven. He came to America settled in St. Louis and founded the St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra.

Bessie (Shaver) Ely - Block 86 Lot 616

Bessie Shaver Ely was one of the first women to enter business life in Cedar Rapids, becoming bookkeeper in the office of her father, who was a partner of S.L. Dows in the cracker factory of Shaver and Dows. The business was later sold to the National Biscuit Company. Bessie remained in business with her father until her marriage to John S. Ely in 1881.

Emma J. Fordyce - Block 9 Lot 4

Emma Fordyce was a teacher in the Cedar Rapids public schools for 56 years. She was the first teacher in the city to be awarded a pension. Among her students were the Wright Brothers, author Carl Van Vechten, Edwin McDaniel (who went on to take charge of a missionary leper hospital in what was then known as Siam); and Walter Shirer, a foreign correspondent for the *Chicago Tribune*.

Nellie Turner (Mrs. Charles) Hickok - Block 94 Lot 38

Nellie (Turner) Hickok was born in Sandusky, Ohio, and taught at Western Reserve Academy where she met and married Dr. Charles Hickok. Mrs. Hickok's first community service came during World War I, when she served two years on the Red Cross civilian relief board. She subsequently served on the YWCA board for six years, prior to her appointment to the school board, for which she is best known. She filled out an unexpired term in 1927 and was re-elected five successive times before resigning for health reasons. She served on the educational committee, which was responsible for hiring teachers; served on the rules committees; and was chairman of the supplies committee from 1931 to 1933 during the time Harrison School was built and equipped. She also headed the women's division of the Community Chest.

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Cordelia (Post) Hickox – Block 42 Lot 1

Dr. Cordelia Hickox was the first woman physician in Iowa.

Mary Amidon Holbrook – Block 67 Lot 100

As a graduate of the University of Michigan class of 1898, Mary Amidon Holbrook was the first librarian at Coe College.

Maude M. Krebs – Block 89 Lot 4

Miss Krebs joined the ranks of city employees in March 1903 as deputy city clerk when the city offices were located at the site of the Killians department store. Her office later moved to the old Smulekoffs building on Mays Island, finally moving into the Memorial Building in December 1928. During her long city career she was named City Clerk in 1941, serving in the administrations of more than a dozen mayors over a period of 57 years. Miss Krebs was also a charter member of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Margaret Mann - Block 73 Lot 175

The daughter of Amasa and Emily (Devendorf) Mann, Margaret Mann attended the library school at the University of Illinois in 1895. She was assistant librarian and instructor at the University of Illinois from 1897 to 1902 and head cataloguer at the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh from 1902-19. She was an organizer of the Engineering Societies library in New York City from 1919 to 1924 and instructor of the Paris Library School from 1924-26. In 1926, she was named assistant professor of Library Science at the University of Michigan and was named associate professor in 1927. In 1938, she was named associate professor emeritus. Miss Mann was the author of several books in the field of library science, one of them a standard text in library schools, *Introduction to Cataloguing and Classification of Books*. Upon her death, she was buried in the family lot at Oak Hill Cemetery along with her parents and other family members.

Elizabeth Calder Rock – Block 34 Lot 3

Elizabeth Calder Rock left her home in Cherry Valley, New York, in 1849, to assist Judge George Greene (a relative) in preparing the Iowa Supreme Court reports. This was despite her parents objections due to the fear of an outbreak of cholera along the road to Dubuque. When Judge Greene decided to come to Cedar Rapids the following year, she followed and soon established Miss Elizabeth Calder's School for Girls, an even older private school than the one started by Williston Jones that became Coe College. Calder's school was on the second floor of the Greene Brothers Store. She taught English, French, drawing, and needlework. Elizabeth Calder Rock was one of the first five members of the Grace Episcopal Church, and her school room was used for services before the organization of Grace Parish.

Ada and Addie Van Vechten - buried in the Van Vechten/Shaffer Block 76 Lots 201 and 203

Ada (Fitch) Van Vechten was president of the library board of trustees in the early 1900s and was instrumental in obtaining a Carnegie grant to construct the city's public library. There was a little known law that allowed women the right to vote in such matters, and she led the campaign. She was the grandmother of Van Vechten Shaffer, who helped found Guaranty Bank & Trust.

Sarah Adelaide "Addie" (Lawton) Van Vechten one of the founders of the Home of the Friendless and a leader of many cultural and charitable organizations. She married Charles D. Van Vechten, a widower in 1907. A charter member of

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the Cedar Rapids Woman's Club and founder of the Ladies Literary Club, Addie was one of the leaders to demand manual training and domestic sciences in the schools. She was also active in the work to establish a juvenile court in the county. Her role with Women's Club was influential in establishing a visiting nurses program in the schools. She was affiliated with the Peoples Church and a charter member of the Suffrage Club organized in 1876.

Ruth Bryan Chehak Vogel -- Block 4 Lot 2

Born August 29, 1907, to Milton and Clara Parks Bryan, Ruth Vogel earned a bachelor's degree from Coe College in 1929 and a Masters Degree from the University of Iowa. She taught English and Latin in the Cedar Rapids schools for many years. At the time of Pearl Harbor, Ruth was employed in Honolulu as a civilian and was prompted to join the WAVES where she had an outstanding career, retiring as a lieutenant commander in the Navy.

Civil War Veterans in Oak Hill Cemetery

There are 292 known Civil War veterans buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. This number includes one Confederate soldier named Daniel Anderson and another who may have been a Confederate. Some of the veterans died in battle or in prisoner of war camps.

Daniel Anderson was born in Warrentown, Virginia, in 1842 and lived there until the outbreak of the Civil War. He enlisted as a drummer boy in the Confederate Army to serve under General Lee. He participated in many engagements including Pickett's famous charge at Gettysburg. After the war he returned to his native city and married Miss Annie Jacobs. The couple moved to Cedar Rapids in 1871. For several years after coming to Cedar Rapids, Mr. Anderson followed the trade of bricklayer and stone mason helping to erect many of the older business blocks in the city. He was elected alderman from the third ward in 1893 and served one term under which he sponsored the establishment of a paid fire department. When Bever Park was under development, Anderson was placed in charge of the work.

G.A.R. Plot

There is a plot in the cemetery that was purchased by a committee of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) for the burial of soldiers who had been buried in other cemeteries, particularly for those buried in the city's "potter's field." It was reported in the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* on May 24, 1889:

There are buried in the cemeteries in Cedar Rapids quite a large number of the fallen heroes whose graves are not marked as they should be, nor as they will be.

At a meeting of the soldiers in the city hall last year a committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. A.B. George, M.A. Higley, W.B. Leach, Dr. Skinner and S.L. Dows, to take into consideration the matter of purchasing a plat of ground in Oak Hill cemetery for the remains of the soldier boys, it having been a source of much regret to surviving soldiers that the remains of any soldier had ever been buried in the Potter's field. There was a strong determination on their part to purchase a plat of ground and have those who were buried in the Potters' field removed to the plat to be selected by the committee. In accordance with their instructions, the committee took the necessary steps to secure a plat of ground, being aided by the liberality of the Cemetery company, and the citizens of Cedar Rapids, and it gives us pleasure to state that they have made arrangements to have the bodies removed from the potters field into the new ground before decoration.

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The same newspaper edition also noted that "The Hawkeye Marble works are just finishing setting up the new granite monument at Oak Hill Cemetery which they so generously donated to the G.A.R. of this city. The monument is a fine one and will be done this week" (ibid.). Early cemetery records further note that S.L. Dows served as trustee of the soldiers' graves.

On March 23, 1927, the *Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette* reported:

T.Z. Cook post of the G.A.R. has passed a resolution of thanks to the Oak Hill Cemetery Association for its action in agreeing to take over the permanent care of the G.A.R. plot in the cemetery. R.J. Wilson, a member of the post, asked the board of directors of the association if it would be possible to endow the ground for permanent care. The board unanimously agreed that members of the G.A.R. neither collectively nor individually would be expected to provide the endowment.

George Bushnell was the last living Civil War veteran in Cedar Rapids. He died on December 29, 1943, at the age of 96. At the time of his death, there were only 18 G.A.R. members left in Iowa. Reportedly, Bushnell had lied about his age (told them he was 17 when he was actually 15) when he enlisted in Company E of the 46th Iowa Infantry. This Iowa group was sent to guard the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. On his return from the war, he worked in the carpentry and cooper trades before becoming an employee at the Federal Building.

Oak Hill Cemetery Connections to Grant Wood

Grant Wood achieved fame as a leader of the Regionalist art movement in the early twentieth century. Among his best known paintings was the iconic *American Gothic*. Many of his paintings were of rural and town scenes based on landscapes and places in Linn County and his native Jones County. As a young boy, the family moved from Anamosa to Cedar Rapids in 1901 after his father died and settled in what is known as the Mound View neighborhood. It was from here that he attended Washington High School and, together with his good friend and fellow Regionalist artist, Marvin Cone, painted scenery for school plays and illustrated school publications. The two budding artists assisted with the installation of exhibitions at the Cedar Rapids Art Association, founded in 1905 in the Carnegie Library building. After time spent in Minneapolis, where he attended art school; in Chicago, where he enrolled in the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and four trips to Europe to study styles of painting, Wood returned to Cedar Rapids where he lived at 5 Turner Alley from 1924 to 1935. While here he painted murals in the Montrose Hotel (non-extant), designed the stained glass window in the Veteran's Memorial Building, decorated a porch at Brucemore, and aided in the design of the Armstrong House, among other commissions. He helped found the Stone City Art Colony, which was held in 1932-33 and taught painting at the University of Iowa's School of Art from 1934 to 1941. In 1934, Grant Wood was appointed Director of the Public Works of Art Projects in Iowa, a program responsible for a number of public artworks including many murals in post offices built throughout the state during the Great Depression. Wood died in Iowa City in 1942 one day shy of his 51st birthday.⁷⁴

⁷⁴ Information was obtained from Oak Hill Cemetery Records on microfiche; "Where Tillage Begins: The Stone City Art Colony and School" accessed at <http://projects.mtmercy.edu/stonecity/> and <http://moundviewneighborhood.wordpress.com/grant-wood/> and compiled by Jane Thoresen, Oak Hill Cemetery Association.

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While Grant Wood is not buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, many from the Mound View Neighborhood where Grant Wood spent his youth or were connected with his professional life and endeavors in Cedar Rapids and Stone City are buried here.⁷⁵

Mound View Neighbors, Friends and Patrons of Grant Wood

John Bissell Turner (Block 63 Lot 47), whose history with the Turner family's mortuary business has already been discussed, was a friend of Grant Wood and had Wood decorate the Turner Mortuary (the former Douglas/Sinclair House) and landscape the grounds. Wood also designed the iron gates at the front entrance and lived in above the coach house on the property at an address known as "5 Turner Alley." Turner was the man Wood depicted in his painting of "John B. Turner, Pioneer."

Irene (Mrs. George B.) Douglas was a charter member of the Cedar Rapids Art Association. The Douglas's interest in supporting local artists included a sleeping porch designed and created in 1925 by Grant Wood at Brucemore. Mrs. Douglas also purchased a painting from Wood and two paintings from his friend Marvin Cone, "Thunderheads" and "Banking Clouds."

Leota Swem (Block 7 Lot 4) was a school teacher at Polk School in 1903 when Grant Wood was attending. Her father was Edward L. Swem, a Civil War veteran. Edward is buried in the same lot as his wife.

Charles P. Hubbard (Block 55 Lot 4) was the founder of the Hubbard Ice Company in Cedar Rapids. In 1932 the old horse-driven ice wagons were obtained from then owner, Joseph Chadima, to be used by Grant Wood for housing during his two summers of the Stone City Art Colony. Many of the wagons were decorated by the colony members.

John Barry (Block 66 Lot 75) was a businessman who owned Hawkeye Lumber Company in Cedar Rapids. His son, John W. Barry, Jr., was a photographer at the Stone City Art Colony and was the youngest of six children. John's older brothers maintained an art studio in the basement of the family home in the Mound View neighborhood, crafting projects from metal, paint, and wood. Artist, Grant Wood, was frequently part of the studio group. Barry's mother, Ruth purchased Wood's first painting to help him pay for needed art supplies. Wood signed the image, an Impressionist-style rendering of a scene of the Palisades on the Cedar River in what is now Palisades Dows State Preserve.

Minnie Pope (Block 89 Lot 664) was Grant Wood's aunt (sister of his mother Hattie). His mother and sister (Nan) lived with Minnie Pope in the Mound View neighborhood after they lost their home to foreclosure in 1916. Matilda Peet (aunt of Minnie Pope) was also the model for Grant Wood's "Victorian Survival."

Austin N. Palmer ran a business college but is best known for the Palmer Handwriting method, one with numerous loops and swirls. Grant Wood painted four panels depicting the evolution of hand writing and the Palmer Method for the 1933-34 Chicago World's Fair: A Century of Progress Exposition. Originally interred at Oak Hill Cemetery, the body of Austin N. Palmer was moved to Cedar Memorial in 1943 at the request of his widow, Sadie Palmer. The Palmer Mausoleum at Oak Hill Cemetery was then sold in 1946 and removed to the Dysart Cemetery in Tama County, Iowa.

⁷⁵ Grant Wood is buried in Riverside Cemetery just west of Anamosa near where he was born.

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Walter L. Cherry (Block 96 Lot 131) was the manager of the J.G. Cherry Company, which later became Cherry-Burrell and is now the Evergreen Packaging Company. Grant Wood drew several pictures of the Cherry Company workers and one of the Cherry Plant in 1925. Grant's younger brother, John C. Wood, was a worker at the Cherry Company.

Julius F. Rall (Block 96 Lot 47) was the mayor of Cedar Rapids in 1927 when Grant Wood received a prestigious local commission from the City of Cedar Rapids to design a stained glass window for the Veterans Memorial Building. Construction of this building had also been done during Rall's term as mayor. The window took two years to complete including time spent supervising the fabrication of the glass in Munich, Germany. The window was damaged by the Cedar Rapids Flood of 2008 but was removed and repaired and has since been reinstalled in the building. It was rededicated in 2010 (Sharp 2010).

Dr. Byron McKeeby (Block 95 Lot 40) was a dentist, who as a friend of artist Grant Wood was immortalized in Wood's most famous painting, *American Gothic*. Dr. Byron McKeeby practiced dentistry in Cedar Rapids for 45 years, yet he is best known as the model for the lean dour farmer in the painting. Dr. McKeeby, a much warmer personality than the canvas portrayal, for many years would not admit he had posed for the famous work of his late friend.⁷⁶ His dentistry practice was located at 1508-1/2 First Avenue N.E. Born in Pennsylvania in 1867, his family came to Iowa when he was a boy. Dr. McKeeby graduated from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in 1894. He practiced dentistry in Winthrop, Iowa, before starting his practice in Cedar Rapids in 1901. His first wife, Belle Metcalf McKeeby, preceded him in death in 1917. He is buried next to her. Son, Byron McKeeby, was the owner and operator of the Globe grocery store. He and his wife Miriam Douglas McKeeby are also buried in the family lot.

Fred D. Weaver (Block 159 Lot 1343) had the first auto garage in Cedar Rapids and the first automobile dealership west of the Mississippi. He lived in the Mount View neighborhood and was the brother of Hattie Wood making him the uncle of Grant and Nan Wood. DeVolson Weaver was involved with his son in this auto dealership and was the grandfather of Grant Wood.

Stone City Art Colony students and colleagues

Mary Brigham Johnson, whose father Johnson Brigham is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, attended both sessions of the Stone City Art Colony, traveling each time from Alabama to attend. Mary continued painting and drawing, even composing bookplates for her father's literary endeavors.

Charles B. Keeler (Block 34 Lots 1-2) was the grandson of Elizabeth Calder Rock and had an art studio in Chicago. He periodically returned to Cedar Rapids, visiting family and exhibiting works of note. As an artist, Keeler was involved with The Torch Press, based in Cedar Rapids. He designed, etched, and printed the frontispiece and title page for The Torch Press' 1915 and 1916 popular Christmas series releases. As the United States entered World War I, Keeler was a translator being fluent in French. He attended the Stone City Art Colony in 1933 and may have shared an ice wagon with Grant Wood.⁷⁷ He later moved to California. His works were exhibited at the Smithsonian Institution's Division of

⁷⁶ The farmer's daughter in the painting was Wood's sister, Nan.

⁷⁷ Ice wagons from the Hubbard Ice Company in Cedar Rapids were used as housing on the grounds of the Green Mansion at Stone City by the art colony. The wagons themselves became works of art painted by Wood and the students of the colony.

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Graphic Arts (1937) and at the Library of Congress.

David McCosh (Block 161 Lot 2) was a Cedar Rapids native and son of Oak Hill caretakers, John and Anna McCosh, David McCosh followed his art interests with studies at Coe College (1922-23) and the Art Institute of Chicago (1923-26). He was asked to be an instructor at Wood's 1932 Stone City Art Colony and accepted the position. McCosh returned to the 1933 colony for a short time but left for artistic reasons (a reported dislike of local weekend crowds and frustration over students copying Wood's style instead of developing their own). He would later be known for several WPA Murals as well as painting and lithography. In 1934, after his marriage to fellow artist, Anne Kutka, McCosh accepted a position in the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon in Eugene teaching drawing, painting, and lithography. He held this position until his retirement in 1970. There are three images of Oak Hill Cemetery by David McCosh located in the McCosh Memorial Collection at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art in Oregon, courtesy of Anne K. McCosh.

Marvin Cone (Block 95 Lot 42) was a Cedar Rapids native and it was in this city in 1906 that he began a lifelong friendship with Grant Wood. Cone graduated from Coe College in 1914 and then studied for several years at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. World War I interrupted his studies. Cone left for France in 1917, where he served for several years as an interpreter. Returning to Cedar Rapids in 1919, he continued to pursue his interest in art. He chose to accept a position teaching French at Coe College for the 1919-20 academic year. Cone quickly renewed his friendship with Grant Wood and resumed his active involvement with the local Art Association (now the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art). In the summers of 1932 and 1933 Marvin Cone and Grant Wood led the Stone City Art Colony, which brought together a group of Regionalist painters and students. Unfortunately, the Great Depression caused the colony to close after only two summers. Cone was then appointed professor of painting at Coe College, where he continued to teach until 1960.

Conger Metcalf (Block 95 Lot 126) began his career in art at Washington High School, where he took art classes and designed covers for the school's yearbook. Marvin Cone and Grant Wood were judges for the annual Cedar Rapids garden club poster contest and awarded him third place in their 1932 competition. That summer, Metcalf spent much time at their Stone City Art Colony and returned for the 1933 session. Following his time in the art colony, Metcalf enrolled at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, planning to become a concert pianist. As a student, he took art classes from Marvin Cone and majored in music. After graduating in 1936, Metcalf moved to Boston to pursue additional art studies. By 1954, Metcalf had firmly established himself in the Boston art community.

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Oak Hill Cemetery records including minutes of the Board of Directors, plats and remnant blueprints, and newspaper clippings, obituaries, and death registers, both printed and saved to microfiche. [Until about 1880 it was the responsibility of the families to maintain the records of burials on a family lot.] All records on file with the Oak Hill Cemetery Association, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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- "President's Day and Black History Month." *Oak Leaves*, February 2009. Oak Hill Cemetery Association, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- "The Ives Family Mausoleum." *Oak Leaves*, Winter 2010. Oak Hill Cemetery Association, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
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- "African American History at Oak Hill Cemetery," 2009.
- "Burial Dates by Blocks," 2004.
- "Blocks 73-76 and Block 161," n.d.
- "Blocks 95 and 96," 2008.
- "Early Immigration and Ethnic Communities," 2008.
- "Facts and FAQ," n.d.
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- "The Women of the Community," 2008.

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10. Geographical Data

UTM References (continued):

#5	Zone 15	612134 Easting	4647650 Northing
#6	Zone 15	612091 Easting	4647651 Northing
#7	Zone 15	612907 Easting	4647928 Northing
#8	Zone 15	611947 Easting	4647736 Northing
#9	Zone 15	611947 Easting	4647784 Northing
#10	Zone 15	611902 Easting	4647784 Northing

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Oak Hill Cemetery Historic District is shown as the solid black outline on the accompanying map entitled "Topographic map showing nomination boundary of Oak Hill Cemetery Historic District."

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the original cemetery section, that portion of the first expansion area that remains part of the cemetery landholdings, and the second expansion area at the northwest corner of the cemetery. This boundary encompasses H.W.S. Cleveland's 1868 and 1880 landscape design and O.C. Simonds' circa 1911 redesign of the cemetery's historic landscape.

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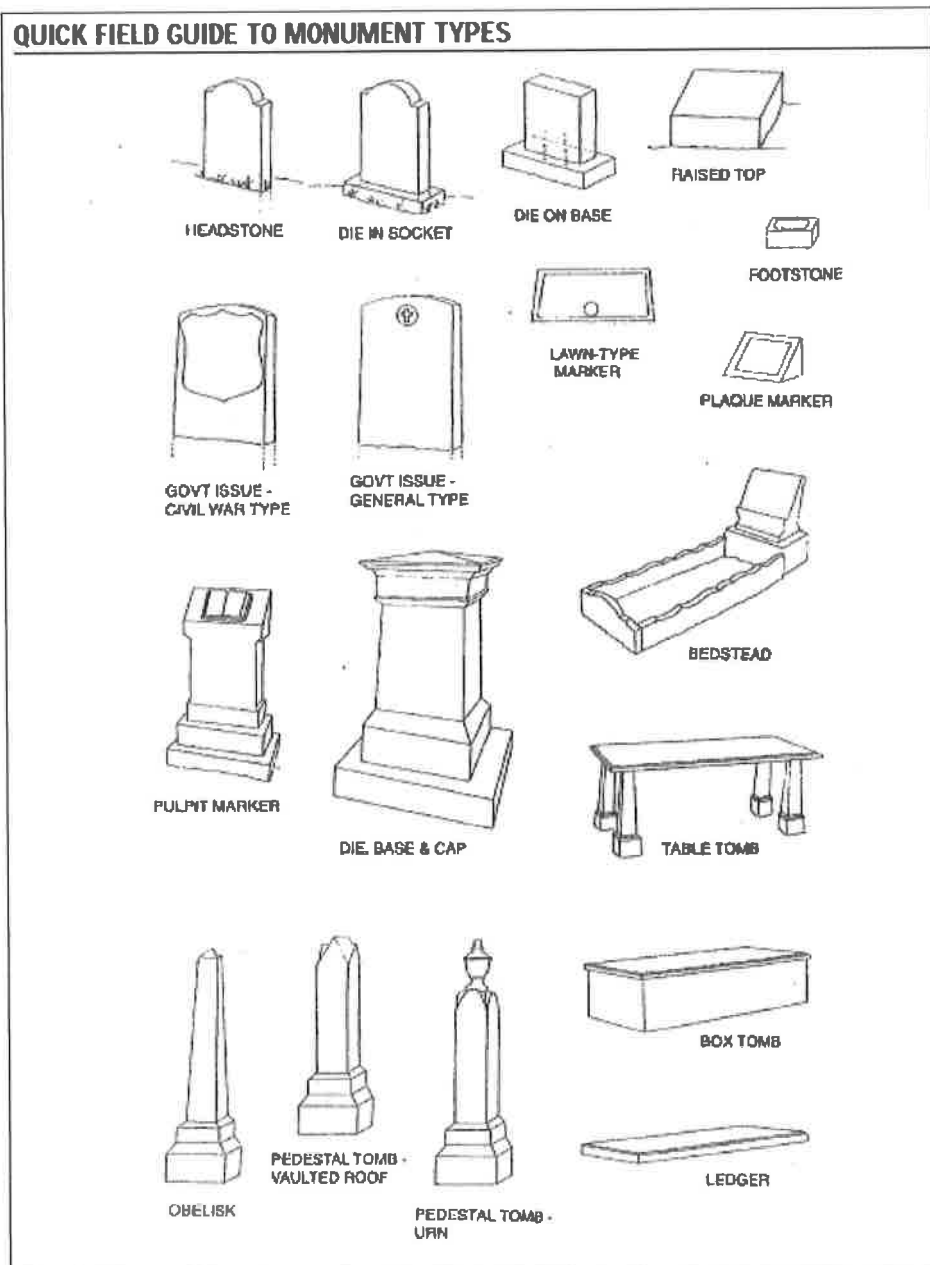
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Additional Documentation

Monument Type Guide for Historic Cemetery Inventories

Source: Chicora Foundation as reproduced in King et al. 2004



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Table 1. Typology of Notable Monument Types at Oak Hill Cemetery

The definitions are a compilation of several sources; most are based on the Field Guide of the Chicora Foundation and the Association of Gravestone Studies (see page 78 for illustrations of general monument types). Many markers are eligible for more than one category but are categorized under the unique defining feature of each.

Definition	Example	Number
Bedstead or Cradle or Crib – this is formed by upright stones forming the head, foot, and side railings of a bed, crib or cradle.		2
Bolster - a form where a cylinder (usually at least 18 inches in diameter and 36 or more inches long) rests on its side on a footing. Bolsters were most common in the early twentieth century.		62
Bolster on Upright Die		7

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Emerging stone - a type of gravestone where one portion of the stone has been fully carved, while another portion remains undressed or only partially dressed, giving the impression of a stone that has been incompletely carved. The emerging stone was most common in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and symbolized a life partially completed but cut short.		12
Fieldstone - a natural glacial boulder with plaque or inscriptions but otherwise a natural stone		3
Die, Base with Cap and possible columns - a classical type of monument		65
Die and Base without a Cap - a less elaborate variation of the classical type		52

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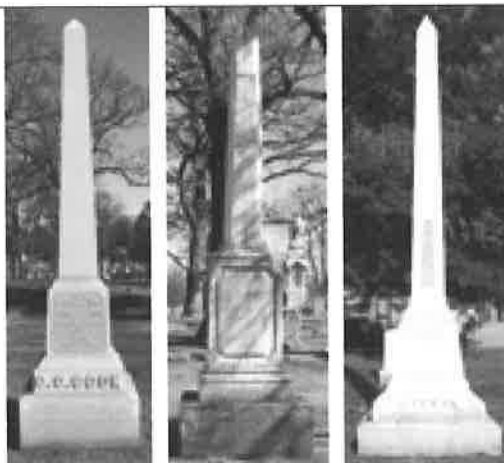
County and State Linn County, IA

Pillar - a grave marker consisting of a tall, slender, ornate gravestone with a circular cross-section. This circular cross section definition also applies to several monuments we have classified as Neoclassical due to urns, drapes and decorations topping the column.



7

Obelisk - a gravestone that is tall, slender, square in cross-section, and pointed at the top. Obelisks usually are quite large and imposing, indicating the wealth and stature of the deceased. We have included blunt top monuments in this definition. Some of these markers were included in the Neoclassical count due to urns, drapes and decorations topping the column.



46

Neoclassical - referring to the art style of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, where motifs and scenes drawn from classical Greece and were used in decoration. Urns, draperies, columns.



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Pulpit Marker – a type mimicking a preacher's pulpit



5

Pedestal Vaulted Roof - distinguished by the four-sided vaulted "roof" at the top of the pedestal.



87

Signature Stones – the name of the decedent appears as their signature on the stone.



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Slab, Ledger or Capstone –

Flat marker covering the entire burial area, or vault.

At least one example includes exposed brick vault used before the current concrete vaults.

One has a monument over the top of the slab.

One capstone is over entrance to underground crypt chamber.



6

Tomb, false - a type of grave marker where a slab of stone or concrete covers the area of a grave and extends above the ground anywhere from a few inches to a couple of feet. A false tomb most frequently is boxy but it may be rounded or otherwise embellished. It may have an accompanying gravestone, or it may bear an inscription itself. It is not a true tomb, since the burial is underground.



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Early nineteenth century, headstones, simple rectangular or cambered shapes - Many more of this style exist, but are damaged, unreadable or laying flat on the ground.



27

Decorative Monument

Shapes

Anchor

Floral

Arches

Crosses

Gothic (pointed arch)

Romanesque (broad rounded arch)



26

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Decorative Monument
Shapes
(continued)



Trees, Limbs, Tree Stumps

Wood stacked with scroll
Stone stacked with scroll



20

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Trees, Limbs, Tree Stumps

(continued)



Mosaic Urn stands



3

Metal Urn - This metal urn is on the plot of the maternal uncle of artist Grant Wood.

It is not known if Wood designed or executed the metal work.



1

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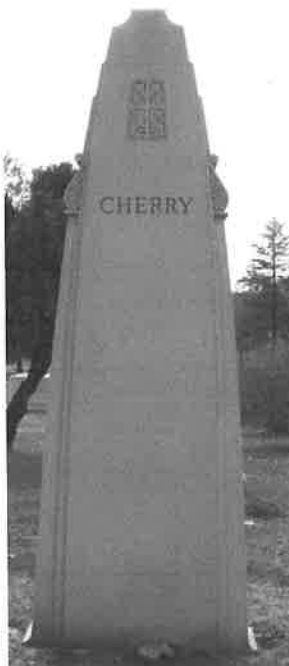
Additional

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Art Deco/Moderne

Monuments - These monuments date from the 1920s-1930s and reflect in their design features of the Art Deco and Moderne styles of art and architecture.



39

Globes/Balls on ground level or on top of column



3

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Ethnic inscription
examples



Uncounted

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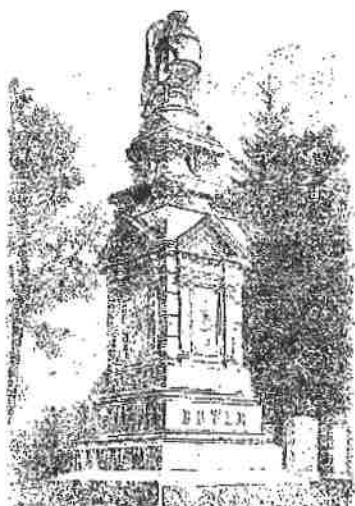
Additional

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White Bronze Markers -
manufactured of "white
bronze" metal and designed to
mimic stone monuments from
the 1880s to circa 1914. The
Bever monument below was of
the "Cottage" style as identified
by the Western White Bronze
Company in an 1888
advertisement (People's
Publishing & Adv. Co.
1888:70-71).

1886 *Cedar Rapids Evening
Gazette* advertisement for Krebs
Bros. showing the Bever
Monument, which is also shown in
current photograph to right.



WHITE BRONZE MONUMENT

ERECTED BY **KREBS BROS.**

In 1886 *Evening Gazette*, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, L. A. C. BREYER, President
of the Cedar Rapids White
Bronze Co. has been elected to the
position of President of the White
Bronze Co. of the United States.
The White Bronze Co. of the United States
has been elected to the position of
President of the White Bronze Co. of the United States.
We have a large stock of white bronze monuments.



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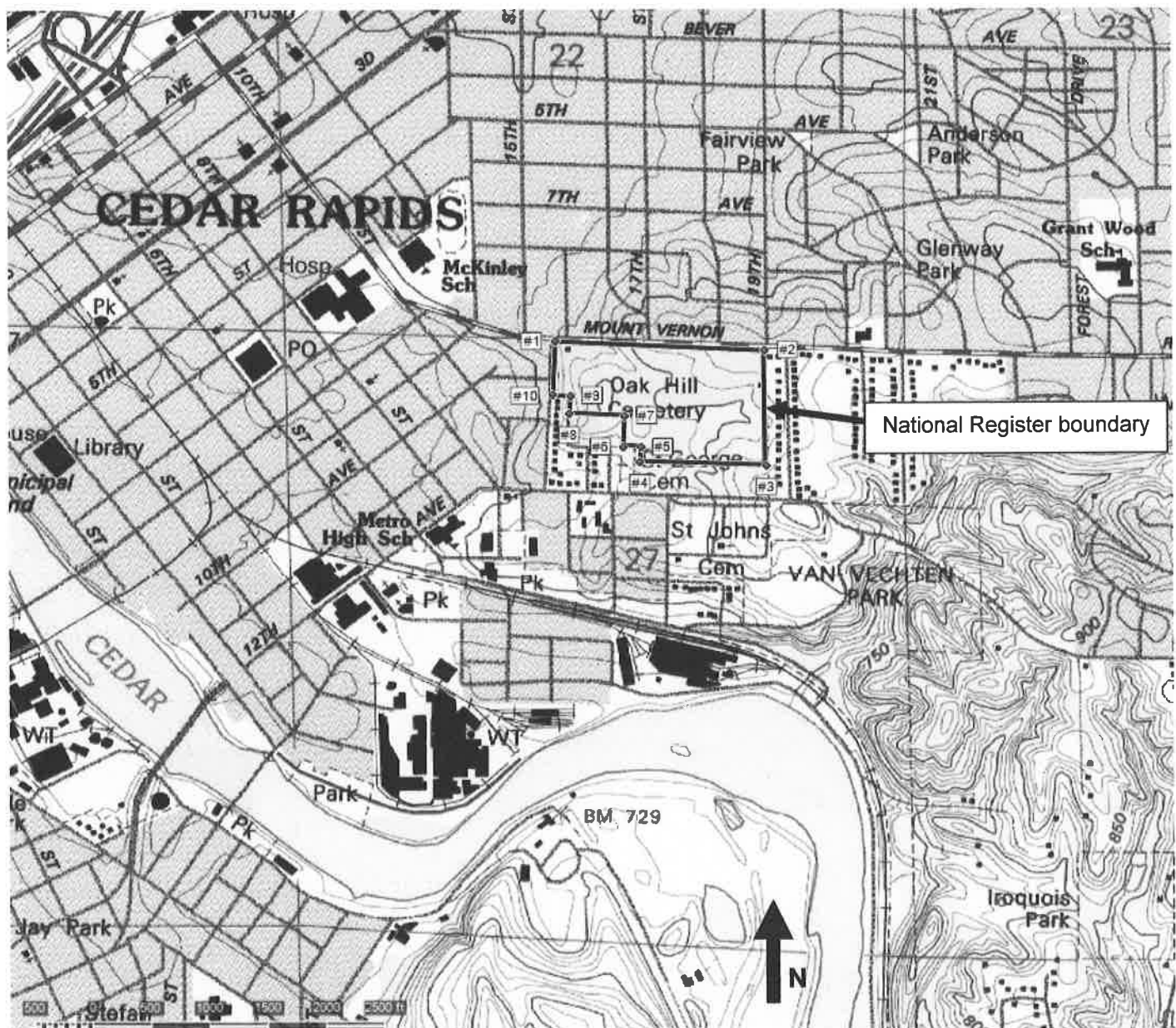
Additional

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Topographic map showing nomination boundary of Oak Hill Cemetery Historic District as solid black line.
UTM Coordinates labeled by number and shown as dots along boundary.

Source for base map: USGS Cedar Rapids South, 1994, Quadrangle
obtained from ExpertGPS mapping software, July 2012.



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2008 aerial photograph showing National Register boundary for Oak Hill Cemetery as the black dashed outline and location of contributing and non-contributing buildings and structures.

Source: Linn County GIS website accessed at <http://www.linncounty.org>, 04/2012



-  = contributing building (shelter house, caretaker's house, garage, carriage house)
-  = contributing building (nine mausoleums)
-  = contributing structure (stone wall and gate)

200 feet



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1875 Plat map of Cedar Rapids showing location of original Oak Hill Cemetery in relation to aerial plan that shows the relation to the village cemetery site and other Cedar Rapids' landmarks.

Source: Andreas 1875; Copies obtained from "Relocation of the Old Village Cemetery," *Oak Leaves*, Spring 2008.

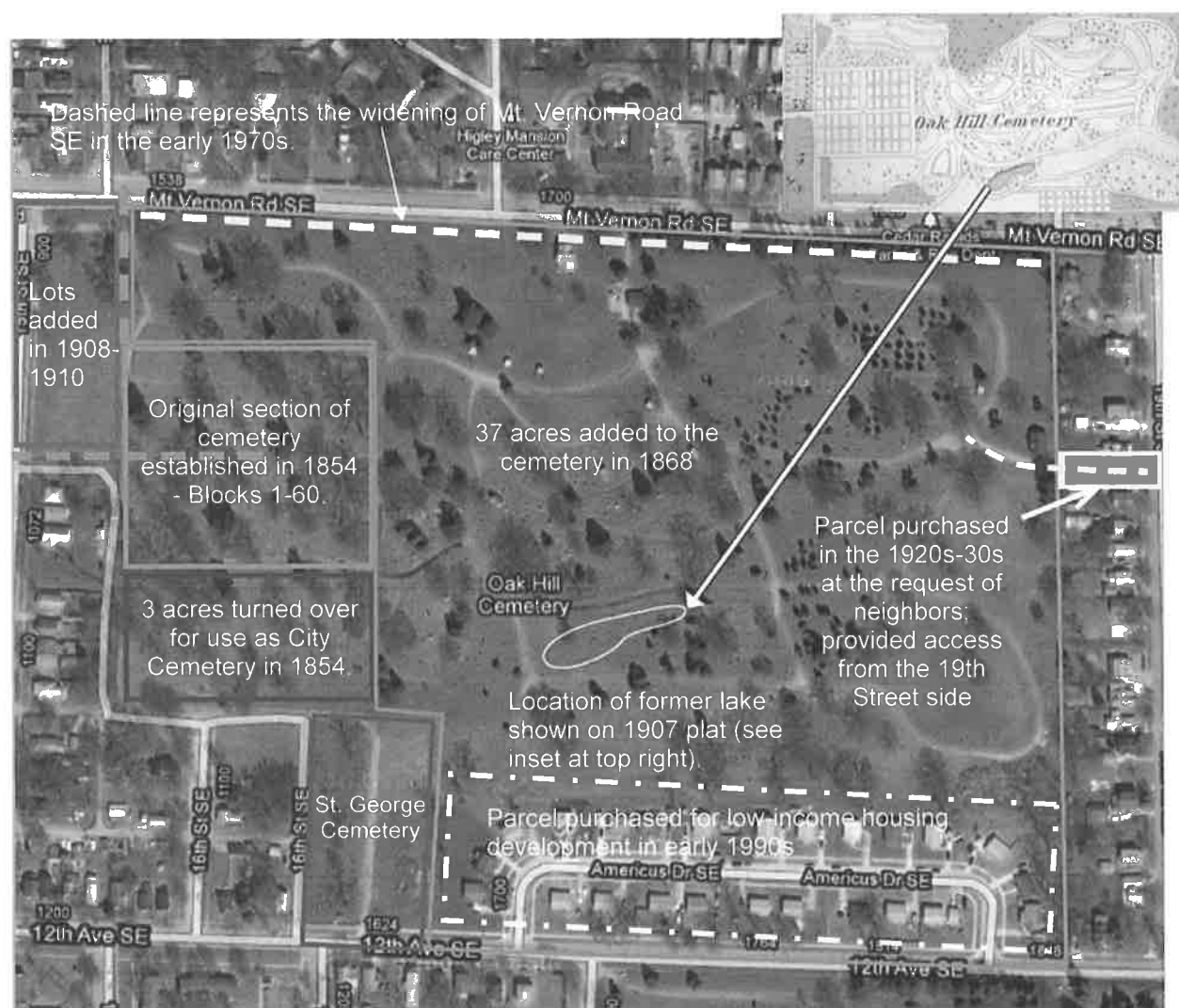


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Source: Oak Hill Cemetery Association; 1907 City of Cedar Rapids Plat Book



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1868 bird's-eye illustration of the City of Cedar Rapids looking to the southeast and showing the location (in long view and in detail at top) of the original section of Oak Hill Cemetery labeled simply as "7. cemetery" in the illustration key. Source: Ruger 1868



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A second closer view of the cemetery location (dashed outline) on the 1868 bird's-eye illustration.
Source: Ruger 1868



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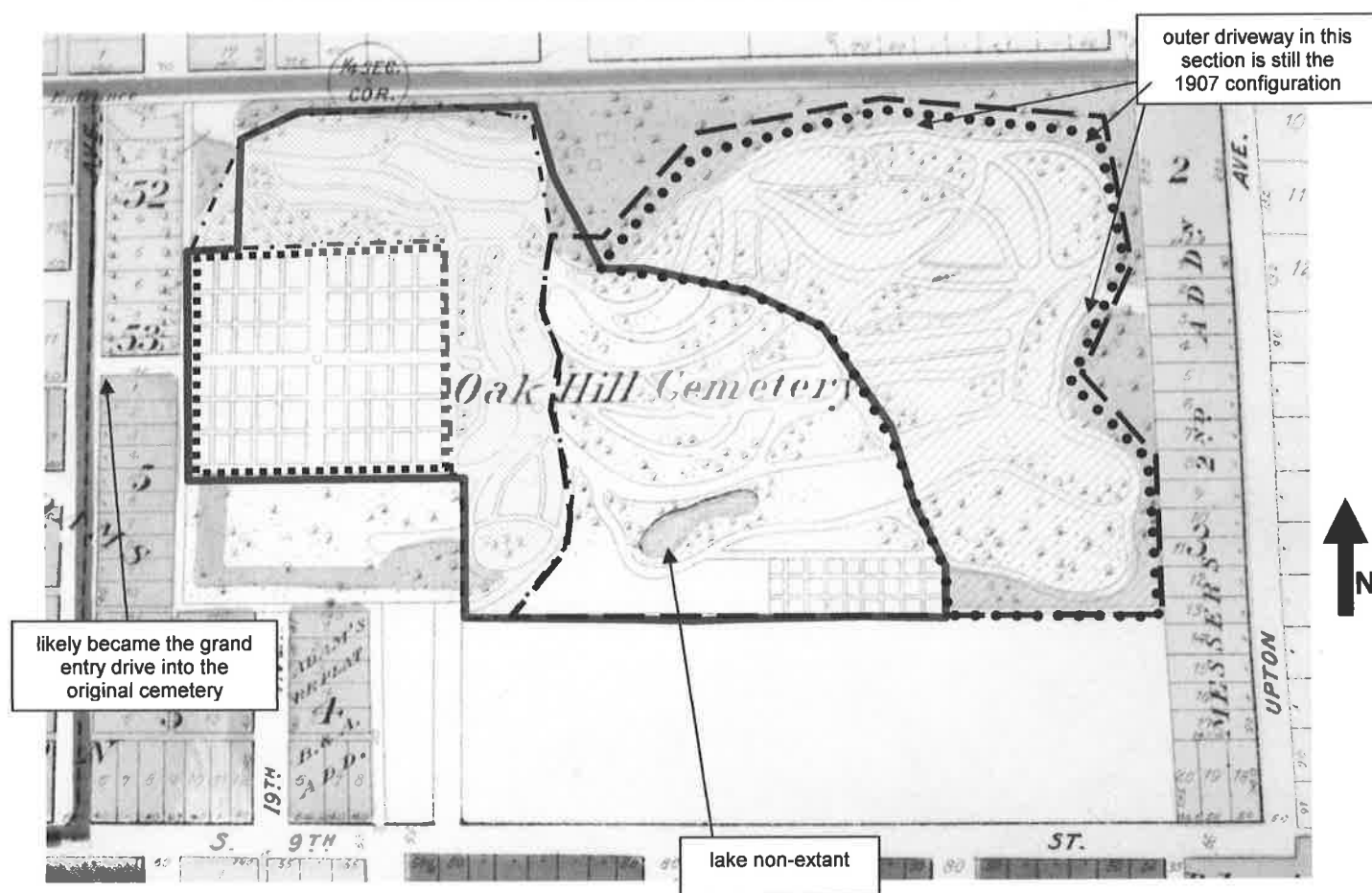
Additional

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Map of Oak Hill Cemetery from 1907 map of the City of Cedar Rapids.

This map shows what may have been Horace W.S. Cleveland's landscape plans for the 1869 and 1880 expansions of cemetery in relation to the original cemetery section. Source: Iowa Publishing 1907.



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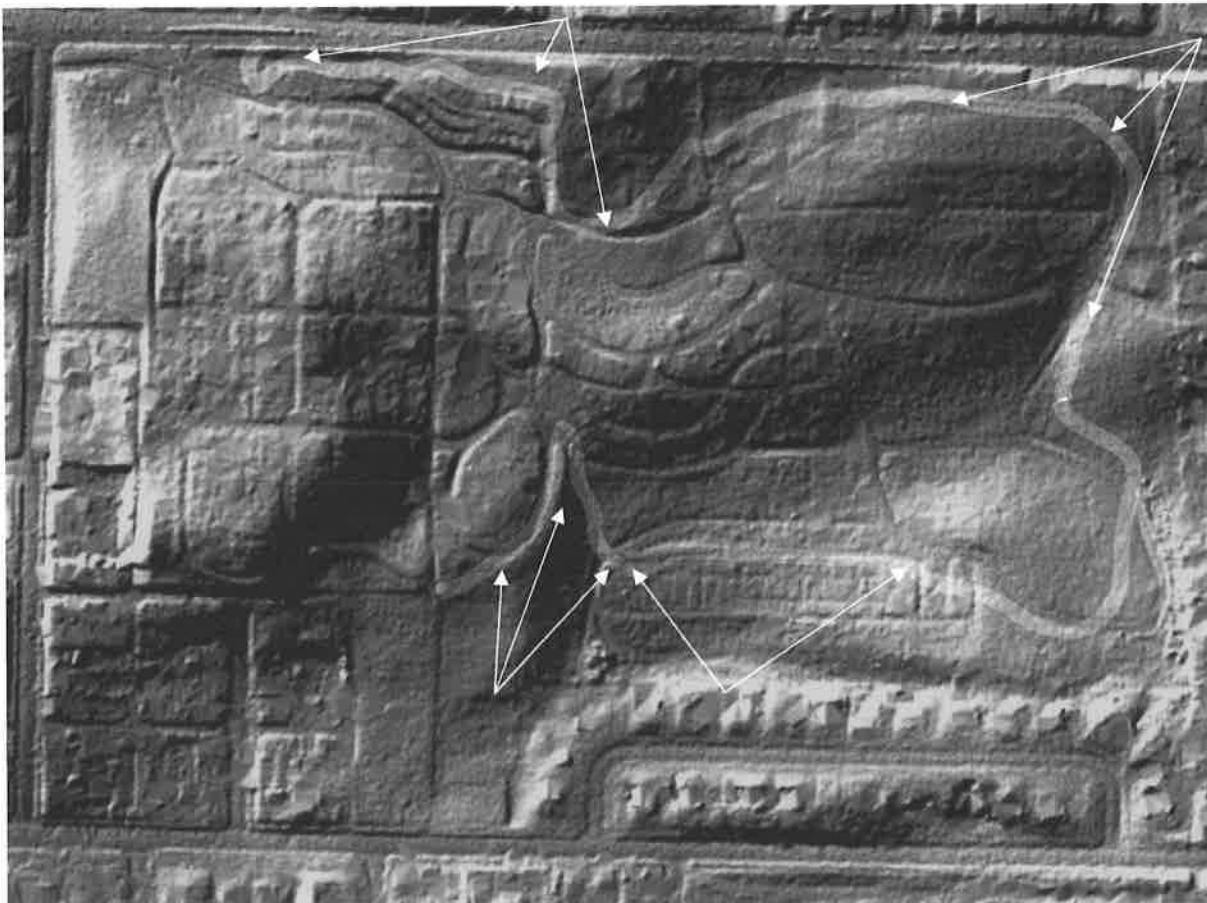
Additional

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Hillshade terrain map of Oak Hill Cemetery showing current relation of driveways and cemetery plots to the rolling terrain of this site.

Overlaid on the map is the transparent white outline of the *approximate* outer driveway configuration as depicted on the 1907 plat of Oak Hill Cemetery. White arrows point to and bracket those portions of the 1907 outer driveway that appear to match up with existing swales and driveways that show up on the hillshade terrain map of the present-day site. This includes the sinuous section in the northwest corner of the cemetery. The 1907 outer driveway also hugs the hillslope terrain a little tighter in places than the present-day configuration.



Sources: Iowa Publishing 1907; LiDAR hillshade terrain map obtained from the Iowa Geographic Map Server at <http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu/>. Base map was generated from 2007-10 high resolution LiDAR terrain mapping project using 1-meter resolution digital elevation models from the LiDAR bare-earth datasets.

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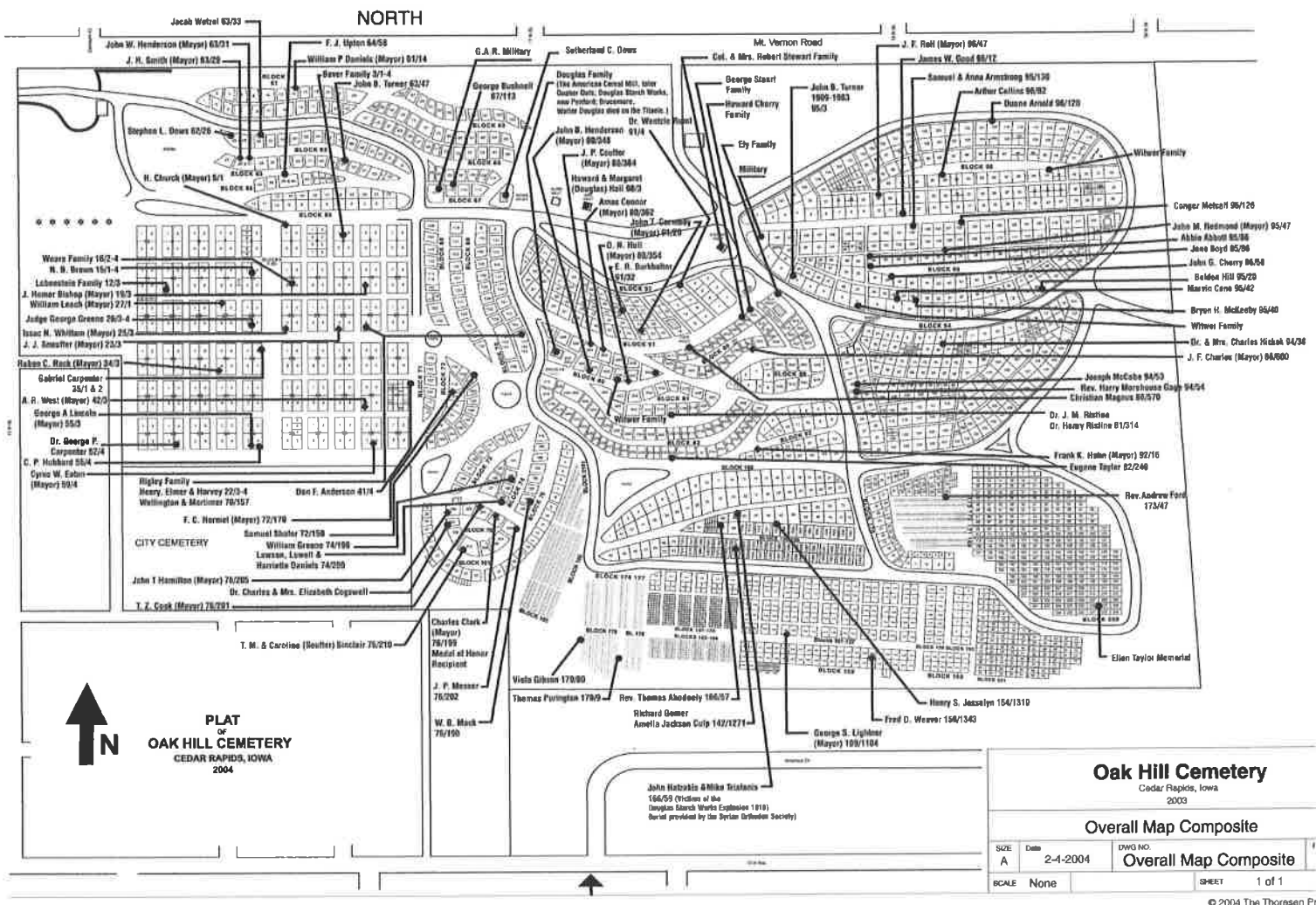
Additional

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Composite map showing the blocks and lots within Oak Hill Cemetery and the location of key burials of noteworthy individuals and families.

Source: The Thoresen Project 2004



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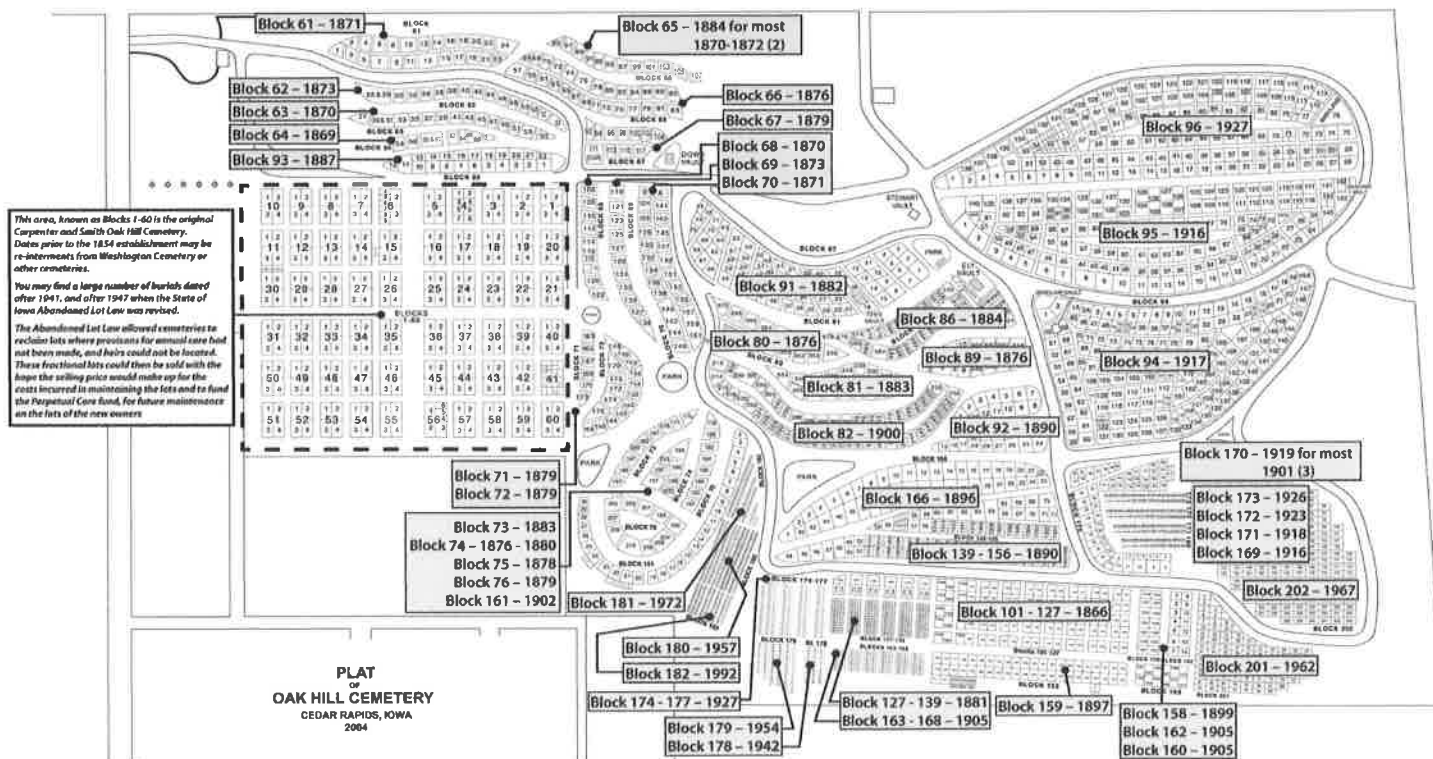
Section Documentation Page 100 Property name Oak Hill Cemetery Historic DistrictCounty and State Linn County, IAComposite map showing the burial dates by blocks within Oak Hill.
Source: The Thoresen Project 2004

Oak Hill Cemetery was established in 1854

By 1856, "the grounds of this cemetery are now arranged and prepared for reception of the bodies buried in the old grave yard". (Washington Cemetery at 8th Street and 5th Avenue SE.)

By the fall of 1868 an announcement appeared in the *Cedar Rapids Times* of the incorporation under the title Oak Hill Cemetery Association as a non-profit organization. In addition to buying the old grounds, the adjoining 40 acres Known as the Freeman Smith or Archer property and a small strip of land giving a front to Mount Vernon Road was purchased.

In October 1869, the Committee on Grounds of the Oak Hill Cemetery Company had employed a landscape engineer Mr. Horace W. S. Cleveland of Chicago to lay off and plot a portion of these lands. This portion contains 216 lots. Additional ground was plotted at a later date, "as the committee may deem best". Removing dates we believed related to disinterments and re-interments this map reflects approximate burial years of each of the blocks.



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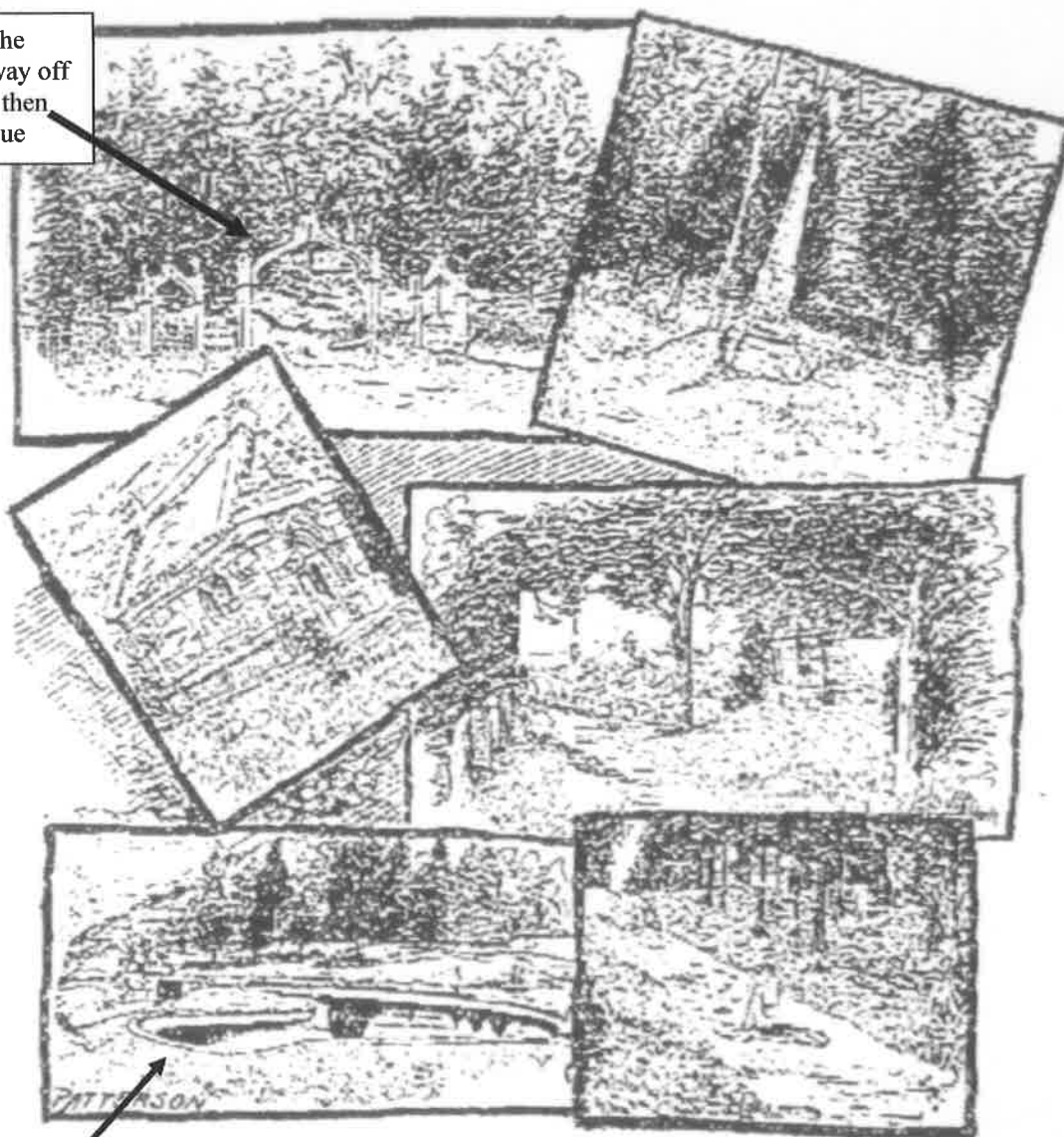
Additional

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Illustrated views of Oak Hill Cemetery as published in the May 30, 1893,
edition of the Cedar Rapids' newspaper. Source: *The Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette*, May 30, 1893

Probably the
entrance gateway off
of what was then
18th Avenue



VIEWS IN OAK HILL CEMETERY.

Only known image of the lake at Oak Hill Cemetery

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Photograph of Oak Hill Cemetery in 1899 looking to SE. Ives Mausoleum is to right and Douglas Mausoleum is to left. Source: Art Photogravure Company 1899; Digitized copy provided by The History Center, Cedar Rapids, Iowa



Douglas Mausoleum is still there, just obscured by the tree cover. Monuments have been added and the planters since removed.



Ironically, the Krebs monument, which was white bronze in the 1899 photograph, was later replaced with a stone marker. Krebs Bros. were dealers in white bronze markers.

Current photograph near same location at Oak Hill Cemetery.

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Postcard dating taken between 1908 and 1920 showing the receiving vault in background at right (white arrow) and the stone gateway, wall, and shelter house at the cemetery entrance. View is looking to the east-southeast. Copy provided by Oak Hill Cemetery Association; Original on file Linn County Genealogical Society, Cedar Rapids.



Current photograph of former Palmer Mausoleum now the Von Lackum Mausoleum in the Dysart Cemetery, Tama County, Iowa.

The Palmer Mausoleum was originally in Oak Hill Cemetery but was removed after Austin Palmer's remains were moved to Cedar Memorial.

Photograph provided by Jane Thoresen,
Oak Hill Cemetery Association, Cedar Rapids.



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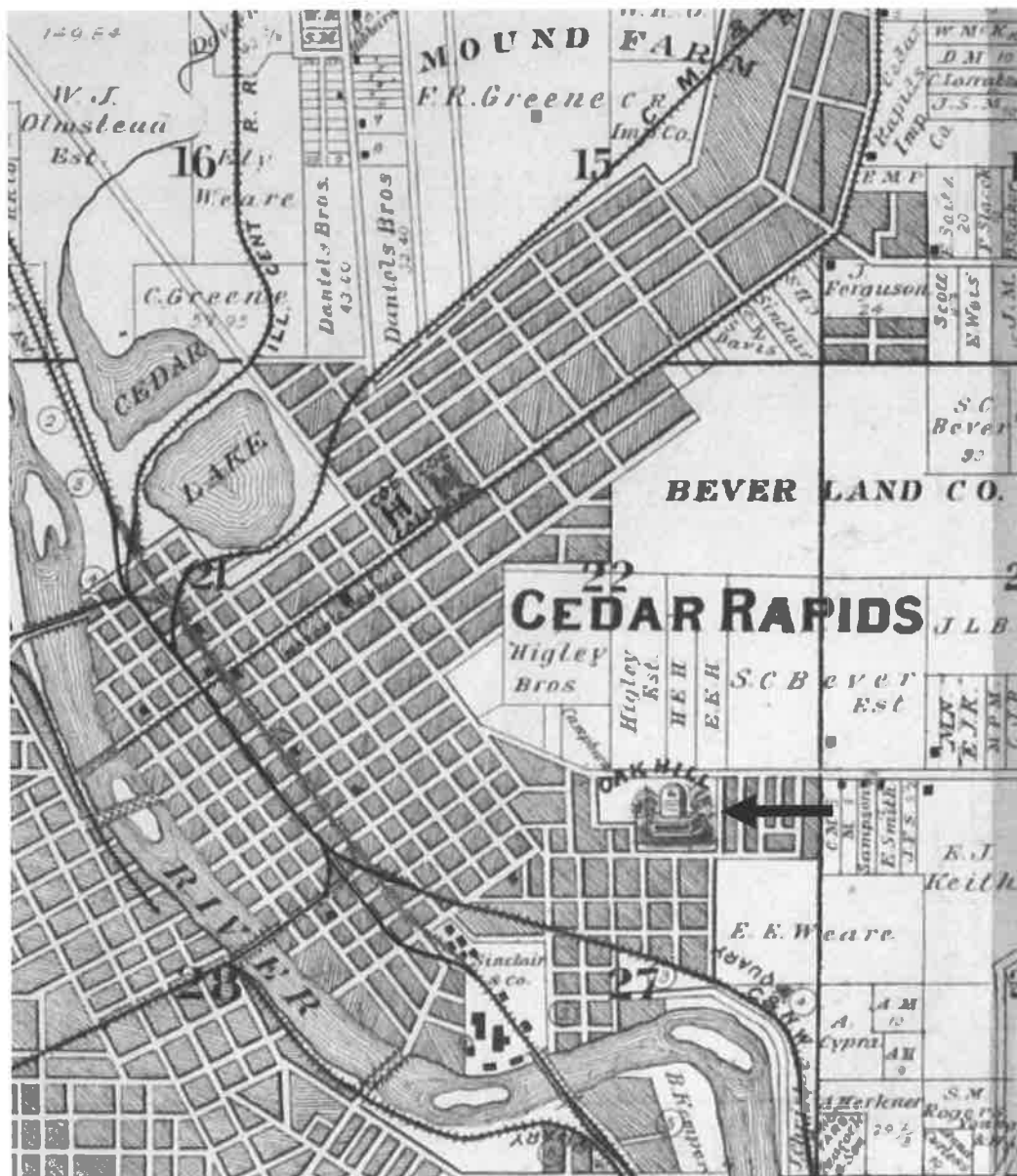
Additional

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1895 plat map of the southeast quadrant of Cedar Rapids showing location of Oak Hill Cemetery (arrow).
Note the names of Higley Bros., Bever, Weare, Sinclair (and the location of the Sinclair & Co. plant by the river just southwest of cemetery), Greene (and his Mound Farm residence), Daniel Bros., and others who were the founders and developers of nineteenth century Cedar Rapids and most of whom are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery (arrow).

Source: Bergandahl 1895



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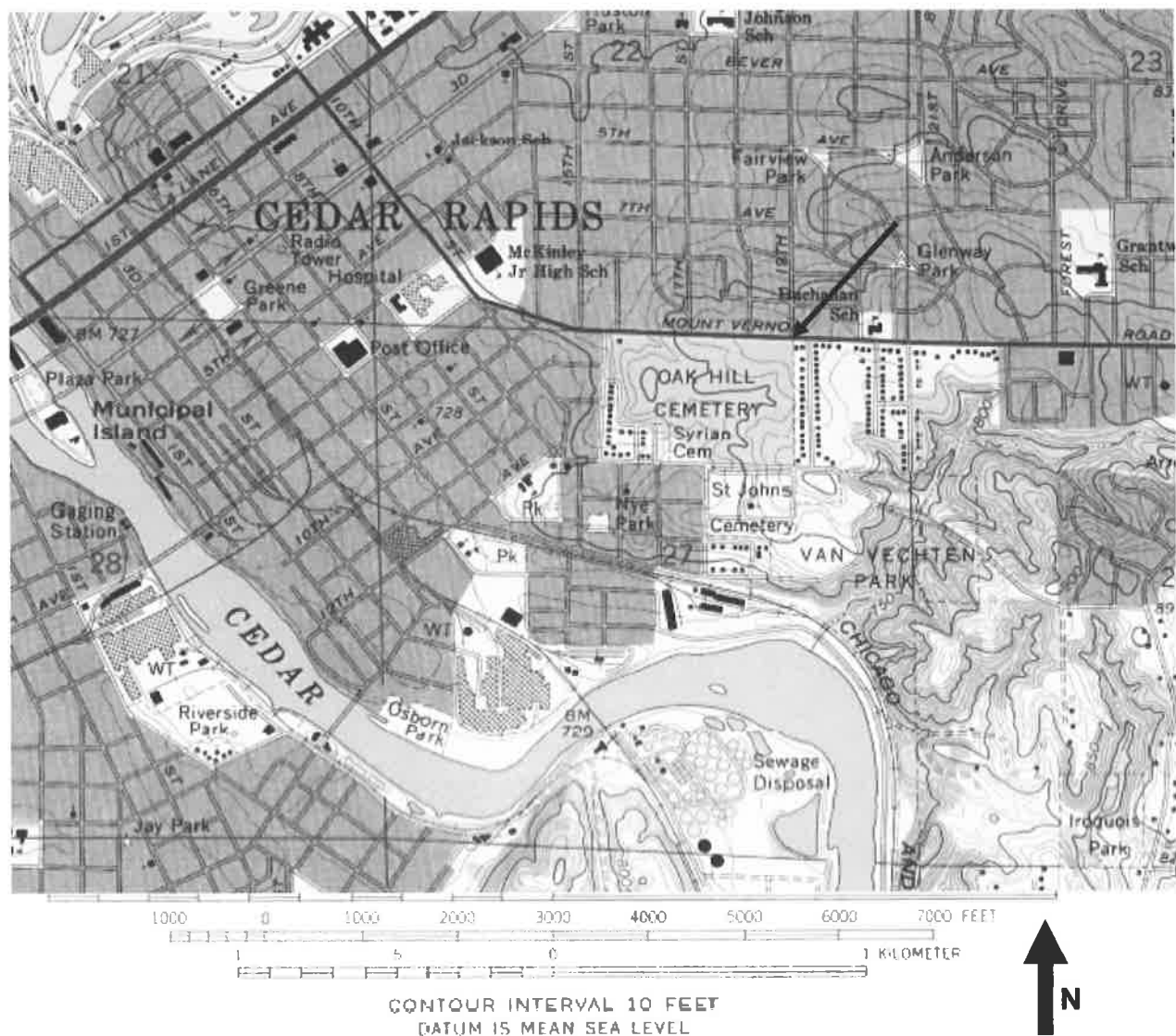
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The topography of Oak Hill Cemetery as depicted on the 1967 USGS Cedar Rapids South, Iowa Quadrangle.
Digitized copy accessed at <http://cida.usgs.gov>, 04/2012.

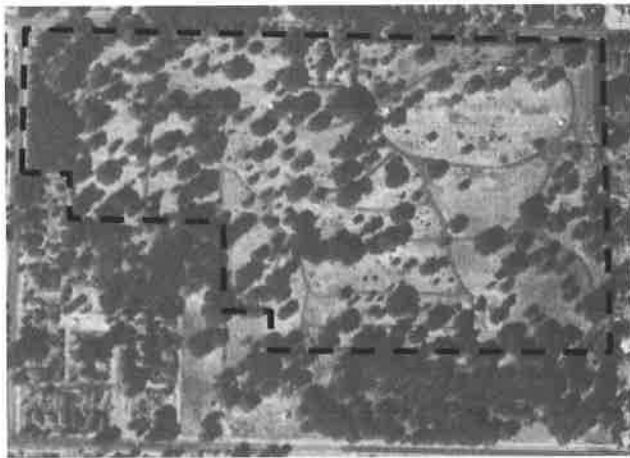


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Aerial photographs of Oak Hill Cemetery from 1940 to the 1970s
showing National Register boundary (black dashed outline).
Source: Iowa Geographic Map Server 2012



1940



1950s



1960s



1970s

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Additional

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County and State Linn County, IA

Aerial photographs of Oak Hill Cemetery from 1990 to 2010
showing National Register boundary (black dashed outline).
Source: Iowa Geographic Map Server 2012

200 feet



1990



2002



2008



2010

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

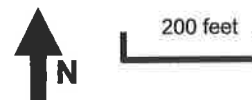
Additional
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Aerial Map Showing Direction of Photograph Views

Source of 2008 base aerial: Linn County GIS website accessed at <http://www.linncounty.org>, 04/2012



dashed outline = National Register boundary



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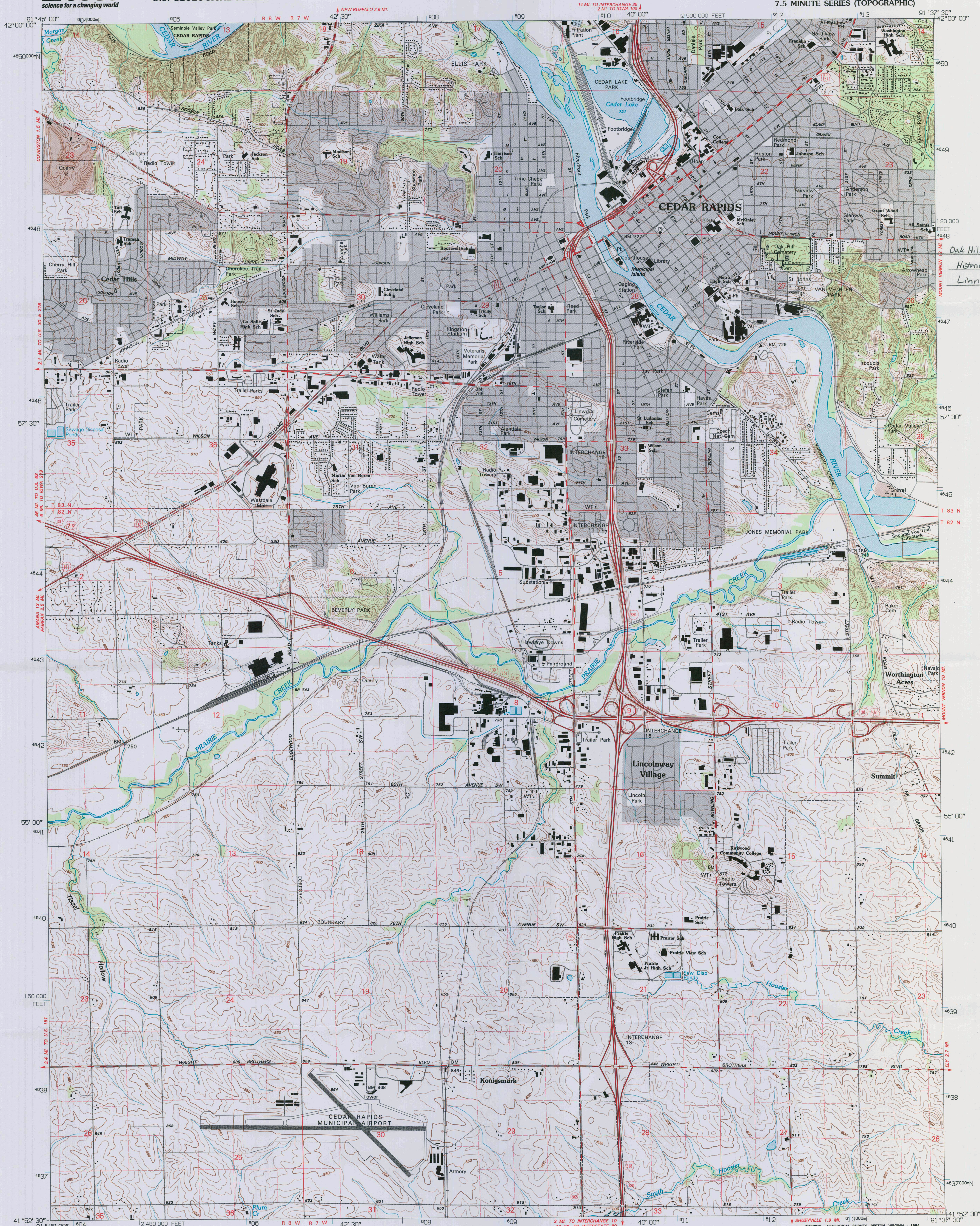
List of Photographs

Name of Photographer: Leah D. Rogers, Tallgrass Historians L.C.

Date of Photographs: December 18, 2011

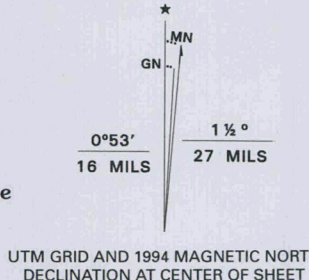
Location of Original Digital Photographs: 2460 S. Riverside Drive, Iowa City, IA 52246

1. General view of Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the WSW along Mt. Vernon Road SE
2. General view of Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the ESE along Mt. Vernon Road SE looking at gateway entrance
3. Gateway entrance to Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the SSE from Mt. Vernon Road SE
4. General view of Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the West from Mt. Vernon Road SE
5. Caretaker's House at Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the SW from Mt. Vernon Road SE
6. Memorial gateway shelter house at Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the ESE
7. Memorial gateway shelter house at Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the West
8. Original section of Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the SSE from the gateway entrance
9. Original section of Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the ESE towards the Bever monument at left center
10. Original section of Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the WSW towards the Higley monument at left center
11. Original section of Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the West towards the Greene monument at right center with Higley monument at far right
12. First expansion area of Oak Hill Cemetery designed by Cleveland, View to the SE towards the Ives Mausoleum in far left background
13. G.A.R. Plot in Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the NE with caretaker's house in upper right in background
14. First expansion area of Oak Hill Cemetery designed by Cleveland, View to the SE towards Ives Mausoleum in right center and Dows, Clark and Hall Mausoleums in row at left
15. Area of Clark, Dows, and Hall Mausoleums, View to the NNE with caretaker's house and garage in upper right
16. Area of Stewart Mausoleum, View to the NE
17. Area of first expansion that was redesigned by Simonds, View to the West
18. Area of Reichardt Mausoleum in area redesigned by Simonds, View to the North
19. Carriage house along east boundary of district, View to the NE
20. Southeast quadrant of Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the NE
21. Southeast quadrant of Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the WNW with Ellen Taylor Memorial marker at left center
22. Southeast quadrant of Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the SE
23. Area of Sinclair Mausoleum, View to the NNE
24. Area of the Ely Mausoleum, View to the ESE towards the Sinclair Mausoleum at right center in background
25. Area of Ives Mausoleum, View to the ENE
26. Central portion of Oak Hill Cemetery in area designed by Cleveland, View to the West
27. Central portion of Oak Hill Cemetery in area designed by Cleveland, View to the WSW
28. Area of Douglas Monument, View to the ESE towards the Ives Monument at left center in background
29. South-central portion of Oak Hill Cemetery in area designed by Cleveland, View to the SE
30. South-central portion of Oak Hill Cemetery in area designed by Cleveland, View to the SSE
31. South end of Oak Hill Cemetery, View to the East

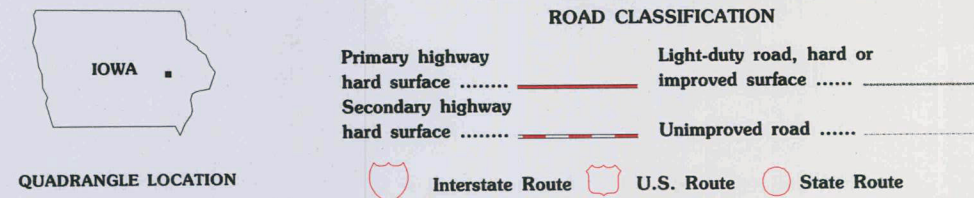


Oak Hill Cemetery
Historic District
Linn County, IA

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Iowa agencies
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1965. Field checked 1967. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1990. Field checked 1992. Map edited 1994
Universal Transverse Mercator projection
10,000-foot grid ticks: Iowa coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute
intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875
Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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AND IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION		
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

1 Shellsburg
2 Cedar Rapids North
3 Marion
4 Fairfax
5 Bertram
6 Amasa
7 Swisher
8 Ely

CEDAR RAPIDS SOUTH, IOWA
41091-H6-TF-024
1994
DMA 7667 1 NW - SERIES V876





17th ST SE











CEMETERY
BOUNDARY



OAK
CEMETERY

































GRAVE

MOTHER
MARY BITTNER
1860-1969

FLORENCE
BITTNER

GRAVE

GRAVE

GRAVE

GRAVE

GRAVE

















