National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

AUG 2 8 1980 NATION REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets

(rom ro cood). Typo an omnos.			
1. Name of Property			
historic name Highland Cemeter	v Historic District		
other names/site number Highland			
2. Location			
street & number 2167 Dixie Hig	rhway	l no	t for publication n/a
	ilway	····	inity n/a
city, town Fort Mitchell	777		······
state Kentucky code K	Y county Kenton	code KY 117	zip code 41017
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3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources	• •
x private	building(s)		contributing
public-local	x district	4	3 buildings
public-State	site	2	<u>0</u> sites
public-Federal	structure	0	0 structures
	object	0	0 objects
	-	6,	3 Total
Name of related multiple property listing	a:	Number of contributing	resources previously
Historic Resources of Fort	Mitchell	listed in the National R	
4. State/Federal Agency Certifica	tion		
State Historic Preservation State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meet	and meets the procedural and profess does not meet the National Re L Morgan Officer, Kentucky Heritage (ssional requirements set fortigister criteria. See continu Council gister criteria. See continu	h in 36 CFR Part 60. ation sheet. ation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official State or Federal agency and bureau			ate
Time or i datital agoing and baroad			
5. National Park Service Certifica	tion		
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.	Patrick Andr	'us	10/12/89
removed from the National Register other, (explain:)			
	Signature of	the Keeper	Date of Action

6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Funerary; cemetery	Munerary; cemetery
7. Description	
Architectural Classification enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
	foundation <u>concrete</u>
Early 20th Century American:	walls <u>brick</u>
Bungalow/Craftsman	stone
	roof <u>tile</u>
	other brick, stone
Bungalow/Craftsman	stone roof_tile

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this propert nationally	ty in relation to other properties: X locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria A B XC	D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	XD DE DF DG	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Architecture	Period of Significance 1869–1917 Cultural Affiliation n/a	Significant Dates 1869
Significant Person n/a State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria consid	Architect/Builder Walters and Stewart (David Davis (gateway)	

. Major Bibliographical References	
See overview form	
no to	See continuation sheet
evious documentation on file (NPS): n/a preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested	$\begin{bmatrix} x \end{bmatrix}$ State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register	Other State agency Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	University Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository: Kentucky Heritage Council
Record #	Mentale of Mentales (Manna 1
Creage of property approx 229	
creage of property approx. 220	
TM References	B
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
	D 1
Covington Quad	$\lfloor_{X}\rfloor$ See continuation sheet
erbal Boundary Description	
	$[\underline{x}]$ See continuation sheet
oundary Justification	
	[X] See continuation sheet
1. Form Prepared By	
ame/title Margaret Marminski, Preservation Co rganization Mo. Kentucky Area Development Dist	onsultant rict date May 1989
treet & number <u>7505 Sussex Drive</u>	telephone <u>(506) 283-1885 (606) 581-2</u> 0
ity or town Blorence	state <u>Kentucky</u> zip code 41017

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Section 7. Description

Highland Cemetery is located in south Fort Mitchell, on the south side of the Dixie Highway just west of Interstate 75. A post-World War II residential subdivision is located south of the cemetery, and St. Mary's Cemetery adjoins its western boundary. The nominated area of approximately 220 acres includes the cemetery grounds, two contributing buildings (the chapel and superintendent's house), one contributing structure (the bell tower), and two contributing sites (the twin lakes). There are also three non-contributing buildings; the cemetery office, the mausoleum building, and the storage facility.

Highland Cemetery is one of three garden cemeteries in the Greater Cincinnati, all of which were influenced by the cemetery reform movement of the early 1300's. Of these three, Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery (National Register, 1976) is clearly in a class by itself due to its national reputation as a major work of landscape architecture, greatly admired by Frederick Law Olmsted and others. Both Highland and Evergreen Cemeteries are noteworthy examples of garden cemeteries executed on a considerably smaller scale than Spring Grove.

The plan of Highland Cemetery, like that of most other Victorian rural—era graveyards, is characterized by its parklike appearance. It was designed to conform to its site's gently rolling topography. Its original central section was designed around a pair of lakes. The main avenue leads from the Dixie Highway entrance gates past the cemetery buildings (office, superintendent's residence, chapel, and mauseleum) and down a slope toward the central lakes, where it intersects a series of winding drives. The newer section, along its eastern edge, slopes down toward Interstate 75. Large trees of many different species are important landscape features, as are a number of vintage garden urns and statues. Most of the cemetery's early burials took place in the area surrounding the lakes, thus its most significant funerary momuments can be found there. But interments still continue in all parts of the cemetery, so the whole remains in active use.

Highland Cemetery is very well maintained, and unlike a number of other old burial grounds in the area has been little troubled by vandalism. Most of its monuments have survived in very good condition. Likewise, its annual and perennial plantings are carefully tended. Several Victorian-era decorative elements, including cast-iron planters and wrought-iron benches, remain in place.

1. Chapel C
The cemetery chapel, built in 1869, is a Gothic Revival edifice constructed of rockfaced fieldstone and embellished with a profusion of smooth-faced sandstone trim. This
distinctive pairing of materials may have been a trademark of the the chapel's
designers, the firm of Walters and Stewart, since it is employed on another two other

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building attributed to them, the First Baptist Church (1870's) in downtown Covington, and the Covenant-First Presbyterian Church (1870's) in downtown Cincinnati. The Highland Cemetry Chapel has a gently-pitched gabled roof, lancet-arched entrance portals, and paired, lancet-arched windows. Its west elevation is adjoined by a porte-cochere. Following the 1917 fire, the chapel was rebuilt using the existing walls, and diamond-paned windows of translucent art glass hues were installed in the old openings. The original slate roof, destroyed in the fire, was replaced with one of regularly-coursed red Mission tile.

- 2. Superintendent's house C The cemetery superintendent's residence (built c. 1917-exact date unknown) is a two-story American Foursquare residence similar to a number of other dwellings built in and around Fort Mitchell during the late 1900's and 1910's. It stands two stories high with a hipped roof and prominent front dormer and is faced with buff pressed brick. A full-width brick porch extends across the facade.
- 3. Bell tower C Located directly behind the superintendent's house is the cemetery's old bell tower, also constructed in the 1910's (exact date unknown). The bell tower is constructed of the same buff pressed-brick as the superintendent's house, and features a gabled red tile roof. The bell, which tolled for funerals for many years, is still in place but is no longer used.
- 4. Main entrance gate C The cemetery's main entrance dates from 1915 and replaced an earlier stone archvay. The wrought-iron fence of bold design, created by the Cincinnati Architectural Iron Works Company, gives way to a curved fieldstone wall anchored by cut limestone pillars. These display sandstone acanthus friezes and are surmounted by stone urns. Tile plaques bearing the initials "H" and "C" can be seen on the main gates. The gateway was designed by architect David Davis.
- 5. Cemetery markers C Highland Cemetery's funerary monuments are some of the most impressive in the northern Kentucky area. They range in style from the Gothic-inspired memorials of the High Victorian era to the "naturalistic" ones of the late nineteenth century, the Neo-Classic monuments of the early twentieth century, and the Moderne stylings of the 1920's and 1930's. Particularly fine examples of the Victorian era include a marble tablet erected to the memory of Maria Slack Worthington, embellished with floral swags and garlands, and the naturalistic I. W. and Elizabeth Livesey naturalistic monument, carved to resemble a tree trunk. Also noteworthy is the classically-inspired Perkins family tombstone, borne by squat modified Doric colonettes.

Monuments range in size from a row of small limestone headstones with acanthine carvings

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to a towering limestone obelisk erected by the Deglow family. The Amos Shinkle memorial, possibly the most imposing in the cemetery, displays an angel atop a towering Corinthian column.

A number of ornate mausoleums can also be found. Perhaps the most distinguished is the Fisk family crypt, a Gothic Revival structure executed in sandstone with corner buttresses and a pedimented entry portal carried by stylized columns in the Neo-Grec mode. A notable example from a much later period is the Art Moderne D. B. Wallace tomb, constructed of massive blocks of smooth-faced limestone. Engaged Tuscan colonettes flank the entrance, and the roofscape is formed by rock-faced limestone whose texture provides a striking contrast to that of the wall surfaces.

- 9. Office building N-C
- As the cemetery's growth continued in the post-World War II era, several new structures were built on the grounds. A one-story office building with flat roof was built in the 1950's. It stands on the east side of the main avenue near the main entrance. The office building is faced with a light-colored brick similar to that utilized by the superintendent's house and bell tower. Although it is clearly modern in design, and is a non-contributing element because of its age, its presence does not seriously compromise the cemetery's overall integrity.
- 6. Mausoleum N-C
 During the 1960's a large mausoleum was constructed on the east side of the main avenue, farther from the main entrance. It stands two stories high with a flat roof and is faced with light-colored brick similar to that used by the office building.
- 7. Storage building N-C Just east of the mausoleum building stands a storage building, also constructed in the 1950's. It stands one story high with a flat roof and is faced with light-colored brick.
- 8. Lakes C
 A pair of small spring-fed lakes or ponds, sited in a valley in the center of the cemetery, form the focal point of the landscape. The lakes are surrounded by mature hardwoods and fruit trees.

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Section 3. Significance.

Highland Cemetery, established in 1869, is significant under Criterion C and the theme of architecture as the premier rural or garden cemetery of northern Kentucky. The cemetery's original "landscape lawn" plan, developed by landscape architect Adolf Strauch, has been preserved, and the graveyard as a whole has been very well-maintained and little troubled by vandalism. Highland Cemetery includes an excellent collection of funerary monuments and mausoleums dating from the 1860's through the 1930's, as well as documented works of local architects: the chapel (Walters and Stewart) and the gates and main entrance (David Davis). Perhaps best-known for its many graves of Confederate veterans, the cemetery is also the resting place of many well-known local residents as well as a Kentucky governor. Highland Cemetery's period of significance extends from 1869, the year of its founding and date of its earliest contributing major building, to c. 1917, the approximate construction date of its most recent contributing buildings.

A number of Victorian-era cemeteries are still in operation in northern Kentucky, including Linden Grove in Covington, St. John's, St. Mary's and Mother of God Cemeteries in Kenton County, and St. Stephen's and Evergreen Cemeteries in Campbell County. Although no formal survey of these resources has yet been conducted, their significance was assessed during an informal reconaissance survey conducted by Margaret Warminski during the fall of 1933. These graveyards are based on earlier concepts of cemetery design and exhibit grid-like plans. Most lack architectural distinction or suffer from diminished integrity. They possess relatively undistinguished collections of funerary markers and lack mausoleums. With the exception of Mother of God and St. Stephen's Cemeteries, these cemeteries lack architecturally significant major buildings such as caretakers' residences, offices, and the like. As a result they are more significant as social documents than as works of landscape architecture. An exception is provided by Linden Grove Cemetery, locally famed for its graves of Civil War veterans. Linden Grove presents a fine example of a little-altered urban burial ground of the mid-nineteenth century. However, it has suffered severely from lack of maintenance and a number of its monuments have been seriously damaged by a rising water table. Another important exception is presented by Evergreen Cemetery, located on a hilltop in suburban Campbell County. Evergreen, a garden cemetery founded in the 1350's, possesses architectural distinction and integrity. However, further research is needed to fully assess its significance in the local context.

Highland Cemetery was developed during the garden cemetery movement that began in the United States during the early nineteenth century. The concept of the rural or garden cemetery, designed to resemble a park and intended to be a place of tranquility, originated in Europe and was imported to the United States in the 1830's. By the midnineteenth century several garden cemeteries had been developed in various American

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cities, including Boston's Mount Auburn (1830's), Brooklyn's Greenwood (1830's), and Cincinnati's Spring Grove (1846). The garden cemetery was promoted as an alternative to older urban graveyards which were by this time often overcrowded, frequently unsightly, and castigated (rightly or not) as potentially hazardous to the health of nearby residents. At the same time, urban growth made the land occupied by these cemeteries more valuable for development purposes.

Sometimes the opening of new rural cemeteries coincided with the condemnation of older, urban ones. Such was the case in Cincinnati, where an old Presbyterian burial ground in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood near downtown was closed by church authorities and, after the bodies were moved elsewhere, was converted to a city park. This same sequence of events took place in Newport, seat of Campbell County, Kentucky. During the 1350's leading residents of Newport developed a new garden cemetery named Evergreen in what was then a rural area several miles south of the city. Newport's Harris Street burying ground, located in the city's core area, was then closed. After the dead were reinterred at Evergreen, the Harris Street property was sold to the city School Board.

The development of Highland Cemetery followed the same pattern. During the 1860's some prominent residents of Covington desired to develop a spacious new garden cemetery that, like Evergreen and Spring Grove, would be far enough from the city to ensure tranquility yet close enough for practicality's sake. In 1863 these men, the majority of whom were business and civic leaders, formed the Highland Cemetery Association. According to the minutes of the Trustees' first meeting, they spoke of the need for a large, new rural cemetery, similar to Cincinnati's famed Spring Grove Cemetery, to be built "at some distance from the city." This new graveyard would take the place of Covington's municipal Craig Street burying ground, which was rapidly becoming overcrowded.

The Trustees' Minutes state that "many of our citizens desire to purchase lots and erect handsome monuments in some suitable and permanent location." Since none was available in the Covington area, some residents of that city were buying lots in Spring Grove, a trend the Trustees felt would continue until an alternative was developed. Thereby, on December 21, 1368, the businessmen resolved that "the unanimous sentiment of Christian communities requires a place of solitude and beauty to bury the dead." The name chosen for this new resting place was Highland Cemetery, chartered on March 9, 1359. After considering several sites, the Trustees decided to purchase a large plot of land belonging to the Sandford family, conveniently located on the Covington-Lexington Turnpike (now the Dixie Highway) approximately three miles from Covington. The new cemetery's original 114 acres were purchased on March 18, 1369 for \$27,205.

Although the new cemetery was not specifically sectarian, from its inception it has been a burial place primarly for Protestants. This was undoubtedly influenced by the fact that the Catholic Diocese had for many years maintained a number of parish graveyards in northern Kentucky, so there was no need of a new cemetery to serve the Catholic

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population. The first entry in the Trustees' minute book, dated December 12, 1868, includes a request that ministers of Protestant churches inform their congregations of the proposed new cemetery.

On March 25, civil engineer George A. Yates of Covington was hired to do a survey of the grounds. The Trustees also obtained maps of Spring Grove and other garden cemeteries to use as models. In addition, they consulted Adolf Strauch, the famous landscape designer then employed as the superintendent of Spring Grove. Strauch, who had come to Cincinnati in the 1350's, was a protege of the great Prussian park reformer Prince Herman von Puckler-Musau, and received further horticultural training in England. During his tenure at Spring Grove, which began in 1354, Strauch instituted a major reform of the cemetery according to what he called the "landscape lawn plan;" a park-like atmosphere that kept the works of man subordinate to those of nature.

Strauch designed the main avenue of Highland Cemetery in April, 1869. He was also put on retainer by the Trustees to provide further consultations. The rules and regulations subsequently adopted by the Trustees clearly show his influence. As at Spring Grove, planting of bushes and shrubs on lots required permission from the superintendent, the size of monuments and markers was strictly limited, and no more than one large monument was permitted on a lot. No fences could be erected by lotholders, and ornaments such as trinkets, toys, and jars were not permitted on graves. The cemetery was officially dedicated on June 22, 1869.

As the century progressed, the cemetery continued to grow. Additional streets and avenues, winding and curvilinear, were designed. They had pastoral names such as Locust, Prospect, Willow, Ash, and Maple. The cemetery's chapel or "receiving tomb" was completed in the summer of 1869. It was designed by the prominent Cincinnati architecture firm of Walters and Stewart, locally noted for their ecclesiastical designs. Other buildings designed by the partnership include Covington's First Methodist Church (1866) and Mutter Gottes Kirche (Mother of God Church-1871). Cincinnati's Covenant-First Presbyterian Church (1870's) has also been attributed to the firm. All three of these landmarks are listed in the National Register.

As the Craig Street burying ground was phased out by the city of Covington, the dead were re-interred at Highland. Additional parcels of land were also ourchased by the Trustees over the course of the century. These were surveyed by engineer Henry Earnshaw, son and former partner of Thomas Earnshaw, surveyor of Spring Grove.

Major improvements took place in Highland Cemetery during the 1910's. In 1915, an elaborate new wrought-iron fence with stone pillars was designed for the cemetery by Newport-based architect David Davis, best known for his ecclesiastical designs. Perhaps Davis' most famous commission was his design for the facade of Covington's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption (1890's; 1910's; National Register, 1976); he also designed

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the nearby St. Augustine's Church, located in the Peaselburg neighborhood. The new fence's ironwork was produced by Covington's Architectural Iron Works; George F. Roth acted as contractor. Two years later, a fire gutted the old chapel. It was rebuilt in the spring of 1917 by contractor J. J. Craig at a cost of \$3,000. The cemetery superintendent's house also dates from this period, as does the bell tower; their designers remain anonymous.

Highland Cemetery, possibly the most prestigious burying ground in northern Kentucky, became the final resting place of many prominent area residents. Perhaps the most famous person buried there was Kentucky governor William Goebel, who was assassinated in January of 1900 just after his inauguration. Among the famous Covingtonians buried there is Amos Shinkle, civic leader and philanthropist, who was instrumental in the building of the Roebling Suspension Bridge (a National Historic Landmark--built 1865) between Covington and Cincinnati, and also one of the cemetery's founders. It also became the resting place of wealthy entrepreneurs A. P. Sandford, A. S. Greer, and Thomas Buffington, as well as statesman John Finnell Fisk. Highland Cemetery is also celebrated locally for its graves of Confederate veterans, including Southern sympathizer Eli Metcalfe Bruce.

Section 10. Geographic Information

(1) BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at point A in the south line of the Dixie Highway; then proceeding north 34 degrees west 217.8 feet; then north 14 degrees 30 minutes west 131.5 feet; north 54 degrees 15 minutes east 213 feet more or less; then south 16.00 degrees east 138 minutes more or less; north 50 degrees 45 minuters east 1790 feet more or less; then north 41 degrees 30 minutes west 1514 feet more or less; then north 47 degrees 60 minutes west 628 feet more or less; then north 41 degrees 30 degrees east 1550 feet more or less; then north 43 degrees 30 minutes east 401 feet more or less; then proceeding east 299.46 feet; 153. 1 feet; 300. 28 feet; 336 feet; 300 feet; 104 feet more or less; 241 feet more or less; 471.3 feet more or less; then south 52 degrees 0 minutes west 628 feet more or less; then continuing a distance of 155 feet more or less; then north 41 degrees 30 minutes west; then south 33 degrees 30 minutes west 717.7 feet; then south 41.30 feet, and continuing south 2560 feet more or less to Point Λ: the place of beginning.

(2) BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary was drawn to exclude the Dixie Highway on the north, Interstate 75 on the east, an area of different age and use (a residential subdivision) on the south, and

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another cemetery on the west.

This nomination includes both the older (pre-1900) and newer (mid-twentieth century) sections of the cemetery. This was done because the whole of the cemetery remains in active use, and no natural or man-made barriers separate the old and newer areas. Furthermore, inclusion of this area will provide a greater degree of protection for the cemetery as a whole while not including areas incompatible in function or visual appearance with the historic section.

Areas adjacent to the Cemetery are described in Section 7.

(3) UTM REFERENCES:

Zone 16 Covington Quadrangle

A = 712220/4325140 G = 712120/4323840

B = 712780/4324800 H = 712220/4323960

C = 712780/4324060 I = 712180/4324040

D = 712460/4323720 J = 712340/4324160

E = 712360/4323820 K = 711880/4324680

F = 712220/4323700

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SUPPLEMENTARY LIST	ING RECORD	
NRIS Reference Number: 89001585	Date Listed:10	7/12/89
Highland Cemetery Historic District Property Name	Kenton County	KY State
Fort Mitchell MPS Multiple Name		
This property is listed in the Nation Places in accordance with the attaches subject to the following exceptions, notwithstanding the National Park Serin the nomination documentation.	ed nomination doc exclusions, or a	umentation mendments,
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action	<u> </u>

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR clarifies the Area of Significance for the cemetery. The district is nominated under Criterion C with Architecture as the Area of Significance. The focus of the nomination is on the significance of the cemetery for its landscape design. Marty Perry with the KY SHPO agrees that Landscape Architecture is a more appropriate Area of Significance. The nomination is now officially amended to reflect this change.

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Photo 1 Fort Mitchell Multiple Properties Submission (same for all photos) Highland Cemetery Historic District (same for all photos) 2167 Dixie Highway (same for all photos) Fort Mitchell, Kentucky (same for all photos) Margaret Warminski (same for all photos) April 1986 (same for all photos) Negative location: Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky (same for all photos) View of the main entrance gate and adjoining stone wall; sections of wrought-iron fence surrounding perimeter of cemetery are also visible. Looking southeast from Dixie Highway. Photo 2 Facade, west elevation and porte-cochere of cemetery chapel, looking southeast from main avenue. Photo 3 View of bell tower, looking southwest from main avenue. Photo 4 View of east lake, looking east Photo 5 View of west lake, looking west Photo 6 View of Deglow obelisk, looking east View of Amos Shinkle monument, looking north Photo 8 View of Elizabeth Livezey monument, looking southeast Photo 9 View of Maria Slack Worthington monument, looking south View of north and west elevations of Fisk mausoleum, looking south Photo 11 View of Wallace mausoleum, looking north