

PH0663522

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 21 1978

DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Elmwood Cemetery Office and Entrance Bridge
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
824 South Dudley Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Memphis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Eighth

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Tennessee

CODE
47

COUNTY
Shelby

CODE
157

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
___ DISTRICT	___ PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	___ UNOCCUPIED	___ MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	___ WORK IN PROGRESS	___ COMMERCIAL
___ SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ EDUCATIONAL
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	___ ENTERTAINMENT
	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES: UNRESTRICTED	___ GOVERNMENT
		___ NO	___ INDUSTRIAL
			___ MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: cemetery office

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Elmwood Cemetery

STREET & NUMBER
824 South Dudley

CITY, TOWN
Memphis

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Tennessee

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Shelby County Deed Register

STREET & NUMBER
Shelby County Courthouse - 160 N. Main

CITY, TOWN
Memphis

STATE
Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Preliminary Survey - Memphis Landmarks Commission

DATE
January 1977

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Memphis Landmarks Commission

CITY, TOWN
Memphis

STATE
Tennessee

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Elmwood Cemetery Office and Entrance Bridge, located adjacent to each other, are at the main entrance to Elmwood Cemetery. The cemetery itself was founded in 1852, and has played an important role in the city's history. Over one thousand Civil War soldiers are buried at Elmwood, including fourteen Confederate generals and one Union general. Most of the victims of Memphis' yellow fever epidemics of the 1870s are interred at Elmwood; the cemetery also houses many of the city's mayors and political figures prominent since the 1850s, as well as two governors of Tennessee.

The main entrance to Elmwood Cemetery is impressive. An arched bridge, (ca. 1900) providing for one lane of automobile traffic, spans four railroad tracks. At the northern approach to the bridge, a wrought iron sign identifying Elmwood Cemetery crosses the bridge. It is supported by rectangular wrought iron posts embellished with elaborate iron filigree. These posts rest on the bridge columns, which are limestone.

The bridge itself is of cement construction, with recessed rectangular niches emphasizing the graceful arch and the length of the bridge. At each edge of the bridge, outside the concrete railings, is a pedestrian walkway. The southern edge of the bridge is marked with double iron gates of elaborate wrought iron which can be closed to bar the cemetery grounds to traffic. Two large wrought iron lanterns, which no longer have their original glass sides, mark the southern end of the bridge.

At the southeastern corner of the Entrance Bridge stands the Elmwood Cemetery Office. The office is housed in a Gothic cottage, circa 1880. The cottage walls are shiplap, with rectangular windows and a brick foundation. The office entrance is on the west side of the building, facing the roadway. Elaborate iron planters with scalloped urns and elaborately shaped legs, frame the cottage. A porch extends from the western side of the cottage, supported by rectangular wooden columns and framed by three gothic arches. Steps are placed at each end of the porch, passing under additional arches which mirror the gothic shape found in the porch. A wooden railing enclosed the porch and steps on the western edge. On the east side is a small, one-story, shed wing.

The cottage is topped by a standing seam metal roof which is steeply pitched. At each eave of the roof is an elaborately carved barge board trim. A small steeple shaped finial appears on the roof ridge at the northern edge; a brick chimney is at the southern edge of the roof ridge.

Two additions have been made to the office. The first of these, a pentagonal bay to the south, was added about 1900 to provide a waiting room. The five-sided bay has windows on three sides, with a roof sloping upward and meeting the eave of the cottage.

At the same time the bayed room was added to the office, in about 1900, a one-story brick vault was added to the northern end of the structure to house the cemetery records. Its flat roof is topped by a metal bell tower, which supports a large bell. The bell was originally located at the State Female Cottage in Memphis, which was active in the 1870s. The interior of the office building still has many of its original features. The original walnut desk and oak panelling are still in place. In the bay-sided room originally used as a reception room is located the fireplace, with its oak carved mantel and dark green ceramic tile hearth.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Office Building, ca. 1880 BUILDER/ARCHITECT
Entrance Bridge, ca. 1900

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Elmwood Cemetery Office is the only known surviving example of the Gothic Cottage style of architecture in Memphis. A preliminary survey conducted by the Memphis Landmarks Commission confirms this. Although other similar buildings once stood in the city, these have been removed. The unusual porch trim, while frequently found in Middle Tennessee, rarely appears west of the Tennessee River. Pentagonal bays have been occasionally added to country churches in the state, but this is the only such element discovered to date attached to a secular building. The decorative barge board trim is distinctive; a comparable example of this style of Victorian ornamentation has not been discovered in Memphis. The building is in good repair and appears structurally sound. It still serves as the cemetery office and records repository. The volunteer board, which administers Elmwood Cemetery, has agreed to expend \$40,000 to restore the Office Building.

The gracefully arched Entrance Bridge spans the deep cut for the railroad tracks. Memphis has dozens of small concrete bridges which are of post and lintel construction, but the Elmwood bridge is the only known single lane, arched bridge in the city. It was recently restored and remains in good condition.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Elmwood Cemetery Records, Memphis, Tennessee

Keating, John M. History of the City of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Citizens 2 vols. in 1. Syracuse, N.Y.: D. Mason, 1888

M Memphis City Directories, Memphis Public Library and Information Center, Memphis Room

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .75

QUADRANGLE NAME Southwest Memphis

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 770730 3890650

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on the east side of the entrance bridge and the north side of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad; thence easterly 100 feet to a point; thence southerly 200 feet to a point; thence westerly 150 feet to a point at the west side of the entrance bridge; thence northerly 200 feet to a point;

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

thence easterly 50 feet to the point of beginning.

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Ann K. Bennett, Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Memphis Landmarks Commission

DATE

June 1977

STREET & NUMBER

61 Adams Avenue

TELEPHONE

(901) 528-2860

CITY OR TOWN

Memphis

STATE

Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Herbert L. Stagner

TITLE

Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE

2/15/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-26-78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Walter Colz

DATE

5-16-78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION