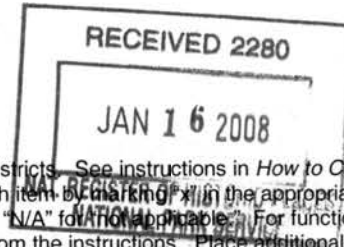


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration 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 in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 St Agnes Cemetery
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 48 Cemetery Ave [] not for publication
city or town Menands [] vicinity
state New York code NY county Albany code 001 zip code 12204

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Ruth J. Pierpont DSHPO 12/28/07
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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) _____

Edson H. Beall date of action 2-28-08
Signature of the Keeper

Name of Property

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 the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____ 1	buildings
_____ 1	_____	sites
_____	_____ 2	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	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

1

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)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other: Primarily stone used for funerary purposes

Narrative Description

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

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St. Agnes Cemetery
Menands, Albany County, New York

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Narrative Description

St. Agnes Cemetery is located in the small village of Menands, just north of Albany, New York. The 114-acre parcel is west of the Hudson River and adjacent to Albany Rural Cemetery (NR listed 1979). It is situated on a steeply sloping site, which rises from the river to a plateau in the westernmost quadrant of the cemetery. Higher elevations surround the northwest perimeter and lead down toward the cemetery's flatter landscape along the eastern border. The land is bounded by NY Route 378 to the south, the former D&H railroad to the east, and Albany Rural along the northwest perimeter. It is entered from Broadway, on the east, via Cemetery Avenue, which leads to the main entrance. There is a second entrance off of Albany Rural's main entrance on Route 378. Separating the two adjoining cemeteries is a cast-iron fence along St. Agnes's northwest perimeter, with further iron fencing located along the eastern perimeter. Additional chain-link and wire fencing enclose the remainder of the property.

The cemetery reached its current size in four transactions between in 1867 and 1952. The original plot of land was 50 acres, sited on the northern portion of the parcel. The cemetery was expanded in 1900, when the Hart family sold a 75-acre portion of their estate, known as Fernwood. This addition, which extended south and west, more than doubled the size of the cemetery. In 1938 an additional 14 acres were purchased from the Sage Estate, forming the southwestern portion. Finally, the property decreased slightly in 1952, when New York State appropriated 3.2 acres to build NY 378.

The plan of St. Agnes is irregular, reflecting the cemetery's growth, as well as changing developments in cemetery design over time. Much of the early landscape was designed by William H. Grant and Donald G. Mitchell, who were appointed lead engineers by the board of trustees. This early plan incorporates a labyrinth of winding roads and pathways that meander through sloping hills and around cresting mounds. Cemetery sections and family lots tend to be smaller and irregularly shaped. The areas added to the cemetery after 1900 are more organized, with larger sections and lots in more strict symmetry.

The cemetery features more than 20 different varieties of trees, including pine, oak, spruce, and hemlock, as well as more unusual types such as Kentucky coffee, weeping cherry, ginko, and Japanese maple. Throughout the property there is an abundance of shrubbery, and the sprawling lawns are meticulously maintained. A diversity of birds inhabits the skies above St. Agnes, with 41 species recently classified in a three-hour period. Water sources have been diverted under the cemetery, which is evident in the frequently flooded areas along Cemetery Avenue. The only current water feature is a small man-made pond in the south of the property.

St. Agnes Cemetery encompasses over 50,000 individual interments, marked by a variety of mausoleums, monuments, family plots, decorative markers, and simple stones. As a whole they illustrate the array of

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Catholic funerary art popular during the period of significance. Throughout the cemetery there is a range of materials including assorted stones in granite, marble, limestone, and sandstone. There are examples of bronze and copper, as well as the unusual use of zinc, which was produced between 1874 to 1939. In size, the markers and monuments range from monolithic mausoleums and monuments to restrained footstones and flush markers. Plots are both very elaborate and simply designed. Burials include those who served in the Spanish-American, Civil, and 20th Century World Wars. Presently there is an initiative underway to identify, catalogue, and remark Civil War burials.

The cemetery can be divided into four distinct sections. Each of these areas reflects different landscape designs and funerary motifs characteristic of its period of development. The following descriptions outline the setting, defining features, notable burials, and non-contributing features in each of the four areas.

Area 1 -Original 1867 St. Agnes Cemetery Plot:

The original 50 acres of the cemetery is perhaps the most picturesque and highly designed area of St. Agnes. This portion includes the oldest burials, family plots, and monuments. Located along the northern border of the parcel, it contains intricate curving roadways and an abundance of mature trees. Sections and lots vary in size and are laid out in a well-designed pattern among the rolling hills. The main entrance and administrative building are in the northeast portion, with a small parking lot that was the site of the now-demolished caretaker's house. Defining features and burials in this area include:

The Main Gate- (Main Entrance) – c.1900 – The main gate is marked by four granite columns that form a large gate and two side gates. The two main columns are topped with simple granite crosses and the smaller columns are topped with stone statues of angels. This gate is a replacement of the original 1867 gate, which was constructed of wood with a dramatic gothic arched entrance.

Administrative Building – (Main Entrance) – 1981- Constructed to house administrative functions of the cemetery, this non-historic feature is a one-story, white stone building that includes a chapel, offices and a garage.

The Receiving Vault- (Section 25) -1873 - Originally surmounted by a large cross that has since been moved to the front entrance (Photo 3), the vault's once grand façade has deteriorated over time. The original design included a roman arch entry, gabled roof with simple cornice, and a scrolling retaining wall. Recently, stones recovered from the vault were moved to Section 52, where they have been incorporated into the design of the St. Francis of Assisi statue and water feature. Efforts have been underway to restore this once magnificent feature. (Photo-1)

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The McArdle Lot (Section 19)- The lot for Colonel John McArdle (1814-1874), Lieutenant Colonel of the 25th Regiment of the state militia, St. Agnes trustee, and local businessman, is one of the largest and most artistically designed plots. The lot is surrounded by fourteen bronze and granite shrines depicting the Stations of the Cross. The north and south entrances have granite representations of the four apostles guarding the tomb and the central entrance features wrought-iron statues of the Virgin Mary and John the Baptist. McArdle set aside land in the northern third of the lot for the burials of the Sisters of Charity, who ran the local orphanage, and in the southern third for the orphans. McArdle's grave, in a granite sarcophagi shape, is in the center surrounded by the graves of his loved ones. A McArdle family servant who converted to Catholicism on his deathbed is also buried in the plot. (Photo-7)

The Reverend Clergy Lot (Section 14)- 1868- A Latin cross surmounts this granite and marble monument to several clergymen who died in and around the Albany area and did not have immediate relatives living nearby. As a general rule, most local clergymen have their own individual lots in different parts of the cemetery. The clergy lot is noted for its picturesque location and commanding proportions. The marble is currently in deteriorating condition.

The Cagger Monument (Section 12)- Peter Cagger (1814-1868), first president of the board of trustees of St Agnes and founder of St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, died in 1868 in New York City's Central Park when he was thrown from a carriage and instantly killed. Cagger's success in business helped him secure the original lands of St Agnes, which he donated to the Albany Diocese. His monument occupies one of the steepest and most centrally located plots in the cemetery. At one of the highest points, a simply designed, but dominating granite obelisk overlooks the cemetery and the Hudson Valley. (Photo-4)

The Cassidy Lot (Section 12)- The lot of William Cassidy (1815-1873), a political writer and second president of the cemetery association (following the death of Peter Cagger), includes a monument to William and Ambrose Cassidy. The imposing altar tomb is covered by a granite canopy and supported by four stately symmetrical columns. The altar is marble, with ornamentation on the sides, and is topped by a massive granite cross, which is simple and severe in its design. (Photo 2)

Memorial Altar for St. Mary's Burials (Section 12)- c.1870- This plot contains the remains of some of the bodies that were moved to St. Agnes from the old St. Mary's Cemetery in the city of Albany. These bodies were moved in 1869 to make way for Albany's Washington Park and the City of Albany erected this monument to perpetuate their memory. It is a baldachino, an altar surmounted by a canopy on a stone slab, with square columns, stone covering, and a simple cross atop. Just next to the altar are flat markers on the ground for Thomas Barry and his family. Barry was a founder of St. Mary's Church in Albany in 1797. These markers are

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more than 200 years old and represent possibly the oldest burials moved from St. Mary's. Additional burials from St. Mary's Cemetery can be found in the West Gardens area.

Farrell Lot- (Section 17)- The grave of John H. Farrell (1839-1894), founder of the (*Albany Times Union*) and St. Agnes trustee, is marked by a simple granite headstone. The lot also includes the graves of Farrell family members and reporter Thomas Connolly, who died in Mr. Farrell's employment.

Terence J. Quinn lot (Section 38)- The grave of Terrence Quinn (1836-1878) is noted by an elaborate and delicately carved gothic marble marker. Quinn was the first Catholic elected to the United States House of Representatives.

Breen, Burns, and O'Brien Burials- (Section 32)- There was once a pond near the top of the cemetery, in section 47, an area popular for picnics and walks. On September 5, 1903, three girls fell out of a boat on the pond and drowned. After that tragedy, the pond was filled in. The girls are buried in section 32, in the O'Brien family plot.

Heenan Burial-(Section 13)- This stone marks the burial of John Heenan (1835-1973), a Troy native who went on to become the Heavyweight Champion of the World after a fight with Tom Sayers in Farnborough, England on April 17, 1860. He was inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame in 1954.

Medal of Honor Recipients:

White Lot- (Section 19)- This simple flush marker identifies the burial of Patrick White (1832-1915), a captain in the Civil War. Cited for his role in the 1863 Battle of Vicksburg, White was awarded the medal on January 15th, 1885.

Dunn Burial- (Section 16)- Parker F. Dunn (1890-1918) died in battle in France during World War I after volunteering important information to a forward brigade across open territory. The c.1930's Dunn Memorial Bridge, a link between Albany and Rensselaer, was named after him. The bridge was reconstructed in 1967 and still bears his name.

-Other notable plots are those reserved for members of some of the area's religious orders, who often taught in local parochial schools and served the Catholic hospitals. Those include: Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Little Sisters of the Poor, Sisters of Charity, Sisters of St. Joseph, Dominican Sisters and Brothers of the Christian Schools. In general their plots are often times characterized by a larger monument surrounded by simple markers. Sections such as these, reserved for various groups, are scattered throughout the cemetery and are similar in character.

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Area 2 -The Central Area:

The second phase of cemetery development is to the south of the original 50 acres and occupies the large middle section of the property. The highest point is to the far west, where several sections are located. The land gradually slopes down to the east until it reaches the flat sections on the eastern border. This area was developed after 1900. Unlike the 1867 portion, the sections here are much larger and the lots are laid out more symmetrically. (Photo-10) Mature trees line the organized roads, rather than comingle with the burials. Individual sections retain the headstone mixed with monument character of the original plot, though several sections introduce the practice of lawn crypt burial. (Photo-11) Defining features and burials in this area include:

Hoellenger Monument (Section 15)- One of the earliest and finest Celtic crosses seen in St Agnes, this large granite monument is dedicated to the Hoellenger Family. John C. Hoellenger, a Troy, New York, businessman, erected this monument to his wife Catherine in 1890. The monument features finely carved lettering and inscriptions surrounding the base of the cross. (Photo-5)

Stokes Lot- (Section 7)- This lot contains the burial of Jerimiah Stokes (1834-1915). Born in Tipperary, Ireland, Stokes migrated to New York City by way of Liverpool and eventually served in the Confederate Army in 1864 and later in the 2nd US Volunteer Infantry in Santa Fe. Stokes lived through three momentous periods in American history: The Irish Immigration, the Civil War, and Santa Fe Indian Campaigns, all before the age of 25. A simple polished granite headstone marks the grave of Stokes and his family members.

Wansboro Lot-(Section 15)- A Christian Brothers Academy (in Albany) and West Point graduate, Thomas Wansboro (1841-1898) is noted as the first American officer killed in the Spanish-American War. First buried in Cuba, his body was subsequently reinterred in St. Mary's and later moved to St. Agnes after 1916 when the cemetery's burials were moved. A large granite marker topped by a cross is surrounded by the graves of family members.

O'Connell Lot-(Section 40)- Dan O'Connell (1885-1977) is famously known in Albany as the leader of the Democratic political machine from 1919 until his death. Over more than half a century, O'Connell remained behind the scenes, yet wielded undeniable power in the political life of Albany, determining patronage and essentially ruling the city. His family's red granite monument has finely carved detailing and is flanked by simple urns. O'Connell's burial is marked by a flush veteran's marker.

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Shrines Overlooking Flush Markers:

Queen of Heaven Shrine – (Section 40)- c.1950-The marble shrine of the Queen of Heaven faces west and is framed with a stone arched wall serving as a backdrop. It overlooks Section 40.

Sacred Heart and St. Teresa's Shrines – (Sections 39 & 35)- c.1950 – These two accompanying marble shrines overlook sections 35 and 39. The shrine of St. Teresa faces the east and the Sacred Heart faces the west. Both statues are in granite on stone bases surrounded by slate.

Other notable plots in this section include: Albany Medical College, Farano House Community Maternity Service, Daughters of Charity St., Vincent DePaul, Franciscan Friars, and Hospitality House.

Area 3 – Community Mausoleum Area:

This area in the south-central portion of the cemetery is notable for its array of early twentieth century, classical revival granite mausoleums. The land abuts the southern perimeter and is situated on the hill leading down to the east. The plantings are more sparse in this area, creating an organized tree-lined boulevard atmosphere, which, lined with mausoleums, is commonly referred to as the “millionaire’s row.” (Photo-8) This area is also the location of two large structures built as community mausoleums, lawn crypt areas developed for newer burials along the southern fence, several diocesan plots, and a collection of St. Mary’s burials on the area’s eastern edge. Defining features and lots of this area include:

Mausoleum Row – (Section 52 & 35) Noteworthy Mausoleums (by family name):

Mack– Mary Nash (1884-1976), a stage and screen actress, who appeared in numerous films, including the 1940s *The Philadelphia Story*, is buried in this family mausoleum.

Walsh– Four generations of the Walsh family, which ran Albany’s prominent Walsh’s Department Store from 1861 to 1978, are interred here.

Brady Mausoleum– The most grand structure of the mausoleum row, the Brady family mausoleum is surrounded by a colonnade of fluted Ionic columns in a stately temple form. The interior is entirely done in marble and has a north facing stained-glass window depicting the Virgin Mary. Anthony Nicholas Brady (1843-1913) was an Irish-American who made a fortune in railroads and electric lighting companies in Albany and Brooklyn. His empire included the Municipal Gas Co. of Albany, New York Edison Co. and other power companies in Brooklyn, Memphis, and Chicago. (Photo-6)

Glynn– First elected Catholic governor of New York State Martin Glynn (1871-1924) served from 1913 to 1914. In December of 1924, he took his own life.

Nolan- Michael Nicholas Nolan (1833-1905), first elected Catholic mayor of Albany and a US Congressman, is interred in this family mausoleum.

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Sections Reserved for New Burials:

St Francis of Assisi Garden Lawn Crypts- (Section 52)- Located to the rear of mausoleum row, this area is reserved for new burials and is marked by a non-historic statue of St. Francis. Currently work is being done to add a water feature surrounding the statue. Pieces recovered from the receiving vault have been incorporated into the design.

Rachel's Garden's- (Section 52)- This area next to St. Francis is reserved for recent infant burials and marked by a contemporary bronze sculpture.

The Community Mausoleums – (Section 53)

St. Agnes Mausoleum – 1987- This non-historic structure is one of two large-scale community mausoleums. It is a one-story brick and stone structure with two wings off a central chapel. There are crypt burials on the interior and on the exterior wings.

American Saints Mausoleum – 2001 – The second non-historic building provided additional space for St. Agnes's community mausoleum. It has a steep gable roof and a large reflective glass façade. Constructed of brick, with exterior granite wall crypts on the sides, it is surrounded by large concrete retaining walls that contain various shrubberies. The interior features an Intarsia, a hand-carved wood mosaic depicting the American saints.

-Other notable plots include: Dominican Sisters, Missionary Canonesses of St. Augustine, Little Sisters of the Poor, Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Monastery of the Immaculate Conception, Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul, and Brady Maternity

Area 4 – The West Gardens:

The West Gardens are located on the cemetery's southeastern corner. This area is marked by new burials from the mid-twentieth century to the present identified by flush markers and headstones. (Photo-9) The area is primarily flat and treeless, with meticulously groomed shrubbery. A large section is dedicated to the Christian Brothers. This area includes:

The Resurrection- (Section 49) – This newer section is marked by a large non-historic statue of Christ's resurrection.

St. Josephs Shrine – (Section 48)- This statue of St. Joseph overlooks section 48's flush markers. (Photo-11)
The Resurrection Urn Garden-(Section 54)- This newer section is offered for the interment of those who have chosen cremation

Name of Property

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.)

- [X] A Property 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.
[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that 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 boxes that apply.)

- [X] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
[] B removed from its original location
[] C a birthplace or grave
[X] 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

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

- social history
landscape architecture
funerary art
architecture

Period of Significance:

1867-1957

Significant Dates:

1867,1900,1938

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

William H. Grant & Donald G. Mitchell

Peter Hogan & Peter Brown

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 Building Survey #
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- [] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal Agency
[] Local Government
[] University
[] Other repository:

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St. Agnes Cemetery is significant under criteria A and C for the information it provides about the social history of the city of Albany, capital of New York State, and as it illustrates landscape architecture associated with the nineteenth-century Rural Cemetery Movement and the evolving cemetery designs that followed. Located in the village of Menands, the cemetery was acquired in 1867 to bury the bodies of the Catholic population of the Albany Diocese. Within the borders of St. Agnes, there is a distinct and large sampling of the socioeconomically diverse group of Roman Catholics that helped shape the history and development of Albany. Catholics went from being small segment of the population of Albany, many of whom suffered years of discrimination, into a dominating force that shaped the communities, business, and politics of the area for many generations. The predominantly Catholic immigrant communities of Irish, German, French, and Italians evolved into the most important decision-making body in local government, a status that is still reflected in Albany's Democratic political machine. The Catholic parishes of Albany created a long line of institutions that shaped the growth of the neighborhoods. These institutions include the multitude of parish churches and diocesan schools, the city's Catholic colleges, as well as the numerous social services institutions, including St. Peter's Hospital, named in part after St. Agnes's first president, Peter Cagger. St. Agnes is also significant as it illustrates mid-nineteenth and early twentieth century styles of landscape architecture as applied to cemeteries and for the catalogue of outstanding and representative examples of funerary monuments, many of which reflect distinctly Catholic beliefs about death and resurrection. The combination of designed surroundings and burial shrines with religious motifs makes St. Agnes a distinctive Catholic cemetery of age and beauty. Including more than 50,000 interments, St. Agnes is the largest and most important Catholic cemetery in the region. Situated on a hillside that looks over the Hudson Valley, St. Agnes is a rare example of a Catholic cemetery of this size that combines Catholic funerary motifs with the elegance and idyllic layout characteristic of the Rural Cemetery movement.

-“Riding up the winding road of St. Agnes Cemetery in the back of the old rattling truck, Francis Phelan became aware that the dead, even more than the living, settled down in neighborhoods.”

-Opening line of William Kennedy's *Ironweed*
1984 Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction

The settlement of Albany, New York was precipitated by the arrival of the Dutch in the Hudson Valley after 1614. While other areas, like Plymouth, were being formed from self-governing religious fellowships, Albany's early roots were steeped in the business of the Dutch West India Company. The company maintained a military presence, established colonial governments, and built forts. The establishment of Fort Orange in 1624 in Albany brought the first wave of settlers to the area. These settlers practiced the approved Reformed Calvinist faith. After 1650, most people attended the Protestant services in the Dutch Reformed Church in Albany, constructed in 1656. In these early years, there were a small number of Catholics scattered throughout the area,

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with only a few persons in Fort Orange. This era is marked by the beginning of a mission to introduce Catholicism to the Iroquois by the Jesuits of France, an effort that would last, on and off, for over sixty years. The first mass in New York State was celebrated November 14, 1655 in a native cabin on Indian Hill, two miles south of the present village of Manlius, west of Syracuse. The bark hut that was erected at the site would also serve as the first Catholic Church in New York State. Throughout upstate New York, Catholics unified in clusters, in areas of the Hudson Valley, Mohawk Valley, Syracuse area, and the lower Adirondacks. The 1697 Census of Albany only lists two people as practicing Catholics, though there were certainly handfuls more. As a result of the Protestant ascendancy to the British throne and French aggression, Catholicism went temporarily underground in New York. Between 1700 and the American Revolutionary War, several pieces of anti-Catholic legislation were passed in the colony. Though these laws were generally disregarded, there were several incidents in which Catholic supporters were punished and one instance of a hanging involving an allegedly Catholic Anglican clergyman in New York City in 1741.

A burgeoning acceptance of Catholicism began to take hold in upstate New York after 1780, especially after the first wave of Irish immigration. The introduction of a multitude of Irish Catholics and, especially, Irish priests led to the formation of St. Mary's Parish in 1797. St. Mary's is the second oldest parish in New York State, only preceded by St. Peter's in Manhattan, and in 1808 it became part of the newly established Diocese of New York. (The third construction [1867] of St. Mary's church has been NR listed since 1977.) The large parish's boundaries extended to Rochester on the west, the Canadian border on the north, and Poughkeepsie on the south. In the early nineteenth century the population of Albany began to increase, its population swelling with Irish and German immigrants and a smaller population of French Canadians. This increase in large part occurred after 1817, when construction began on the Erie Canal. St. Mary's Parish grew with the construction of new churches, including St. John's in Utica (1819), St. Patrick's in Rochester (1820), Holy Family in Auburn (1820), St. James in Carthage (1821), and St. Peter's in Troy, (1827). Within the city, St. Mary's church parish would expand to include St. John's (1839), St. Joseph's (1842), and the German parish of Holy Cross (1843). St. Mary's School and Orphanage, run by the Sisters of St. Mary, was the first of many Catholic institutions that would later provide an extensive array of social services for members of this and other city parishes. Beginning in 1845, the population of the parish exploded with an onslaught of Irish immigrants entering the area due to Ireland's Great Famine. Though Irish Catholics were the most numerous, large numbers of immigrants from Italy, the German principalities, and other European counties were largely Catholic as well. The New York archdiocese and St. Mary's were in desperate need of organization to accommodate this surge in population. In 1847, by the order of Pope Pius IX, the new upstate dioceses of Buffalo and Albany were established.

The Rev. John McCloskey was appointed the first Bishop of Albany on May 21, 1847. Born to Irish parents, he was the first priest born in New York State. Previously he had served as the auxiliary Bishop of the New York Diocese and was the first rector of the present day Fordham University. Under his leadership, both the diocese

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of Albany and the landscape of the city were dramatically transformed. One of his first concerns was addressing the hostilities aimed at his primarily Irish flock, who, mostly poor and uneducated, experienced ridicule and scorn from their Yankee counterparts. McCloskey believed that construction of a great cathedral in Albany would help the immigrant Catholics take their rightful place in their new country. In 1848, 10,000 people stood in the rain to watch the cornerstone for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (NR listed 1976) laid by New York Bishop John Hughes and Bishop McCloskey. Construction of the cathedral cost \$250,000, a price that exceeds \$6,000,000 in today's dollars. In all, sixty-seven new churches were opened throughout the Albany diocese during Bishop McCloskey's tenure. In addition to creating new parishes, which had an enormous impact in defining communities and neighborhoods, McCloskey also established a multitude of Catholic institutions. Making sure children were well cared for and well educated was a paramount objective of his administration (and of the American Catholic church in general). He established several orphanages, small hospitals and increased the number of schools from five to twenty-seven. In 1864 McCloskey was elevated to the position of Archbishop of New York, and in 1875 Pope Pius IX named him the first American Cardinal in the Roman Catholic hierarchy.

Prior to 1866, Catholic burials in the city of Albany were interred in the northwestern area of the present day Washington Park in Albany. These city burying grounds, known as the State Street Burial Grounds, laid out in 1800, were divided into large sections and segregated by religious affiliation. Sections for members of the Dutch Reformed and other Protestant faiths were closest to downtown and African-Baptist and Catholic sections were interred furthest away. By the early 1840s, these burial grounds were quickly reaching full capacity. This and several other factors contributed to the creation of St. Agnes Cemetery. In 1841, after years of dwindling space and flooding in the Protestant end of the burial grounds, a public movement was undertaken to create a "Rural Cemetery" to accommodate new burials. On October 7, 1844, an elaborate dedication was held at the newly formed Albany Rural Cemetery, just outside of the city in the future village of Menands. Though non-denominational, the new cemetery was primarily patronized by Protestants. For the time being, Catholics would continue to bury their dead in the dwindling lots in the Catholic section of the State Street Burial Grounds.

Catholic cemeteries more frequently filled to capacity due to their obligation to care for the dead and their willingness to bury the multitude of indigent people who were arriving from overseas. In the mid-nineteenth century, two additional Catholic cemeteries were established in the city to create more space. St. John's Cemetery was located on Delaware Avenue and St. Mary's Cemetery was located on the grounds of the present Albany High School. However, these additional cemeteries only served to address the issue of space after the mid-nineteenth century population explosion. In addition, these cemeteries became battle grounds for rival Irish and German gangs, particularly in the centrally located State Street Burial Grounds. The extensive vandalism and neglect that resulted, as well as the general increase in crime throughout the city, stymied development in the area adjacent to the burial grounds, which, was already stigmatized because of its close proximity to the

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United States Department of the Interior
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St. Agnes Cemetery
Menands, Albany County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

cemetery. Simultaneously, while Bishop McCloskey and his prominent Catholic laymen board of advisors (composed of church leaders, local business men, and elected officials) began to explore ideas about how to address the cemetery's urban problems and impending lack of space, Albany's civic leaders commissioned (in 1866) the planning of a grand "rural" designed park in the area occupied by the old cemetery. In 1866, the Albany Common Council passed a resolution authorizing the disinterment and transfer of all the remains located in the State Street Burial Grounds to make way for the new Washington Park (National Register listed). Faced with an impending need for a new large Catholic cemetery, Peter Cagger, who later served as president of St. Agnes's board of trustees, acquired 50 acres of land adjacent to Albany Rural Cemetery and donated it to the Diocese of Albany. Catholics were given a choice to move their dead to the Catholic grounds of St. Mary's or St. John's, to the nondenominational Albany Rural, or to the newly acquired land that would become St. Agnes.

St. Agnes Cemetery was consecrated on May 19, 1867. Thousands of spectators lined the grassy roads as McCloskey's replacement, Bishop John J. Conroy, hallowed the grounds. Public transportation to the cemetery, which was several miles north of the city, was provided by the D & H Railroad. The first burials in St. Agnes were the bodies of Catherine N. Haggerty, William H. Poe, and Thomas Poe on June 2, 1868. A month later, Peter Cagger, the man responsible for the purchase and donation of the land, was interred in the new cemetery after he died in a fall from a carriage in Central Park. Soon after the ground thawed in 1869, the remaining burials from the Catholic section of the State Street Burial Grounds were moved to St. Agnes. A monument was erected by the city to commemorate the removals. In 1910 and 1916, the city of Albany again appropriated Catholic burial lands for new development, and the interments in St. John's and St. Mary's were exhumed and moved to St. Agnes. For many of the interred, this would be their third burial.

The creation of St. Agnes provided the diocese with an opportunity to create a Catholic cemetery according to the strict rules mandated by the Vatican. Catholic burial practices, which date to the earliest years of the Christian church, reflect the belief that those who have been baptized belong to Christ and that the life of God dwells within them. Therefore, the human body is to be respected as temple of the Holy Spirit and treated with reverence and dignity, even after death, when it is surrendered "into the Father's hands" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1683). Burial of the dead is considered a corporal work of mercy that honors the children of God. Catholic burial grounds were perceived as extensions of the parish community; they were consecrated by bishops and revered as sacred spaces that affirmed the Catholic belief in the resurrection. Their designs and funerary art were expected to be an outward expression of those Catholic beliefs. Likewise, those interred were strictly screened to ensure that they were Catholics in good standing at the time of their death, members of the community who had been transformed by death and were awaiting the resurrection. Among the most important rules was that the consecrated grounds were to be strictly reserved for Catholic burials, with no exceptions. Interestingly, many of the burials within the cemetery suggest that numerous interments came shortly after deathbed Catholic conversions.

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St. Agnes Cemetery
Menands, Albany County, New York

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Other restrictions called for the exclusion of those who died “outside the community,” the un-baptized, those who had remarried outside of the church, those known to be “public sinners,” and those who had taken their own lives. However, from the early days of the cemetery, these rules were also selectively enforced depending on repentance, patronage, or influence. This is perhaps most evident in the burial of Martin Glynn, the first elected Catholic governor of New York, who committed suicide in 1924. The most severely enforced rule was the exclusion of those who had been cremated, a practice that (although common among ancient Catholics) was not approved by the modern church until 1963. In contemporary times, all of these rules have been modified and/or lifted, allowing even the burial of non-Catholics in Catholic family lots.

In terms of appearance, Catholic cemeteries established in the second half of the nineteenth are characterized by the almost exclusive use of Catholic religious iconography, which distinguishes their funerary art from those found in other religious and nondenominational cemeteries. Statues and inscriptions were intended to help the living gain a better understanding of death and resurrection, as well as preserve the community, reinforcing the relationship between the living and the dead, as well as between loved ones. Though many of the motifs seen in Catholic cemeteries can be found elsewhere, most cemeteries mandate that a Roman Cross or other Catholic symbol be the most prominent feature in any design. Crosses are the most commonly used symbol and appear in an array of sizes on both monuments and carvings. Designs vary from simple to ornate and include heritage designed, such as the Celtic or Germanic crosses, architectural, such gothic or medieval, and crosses depicting the Crucifixion or the Resurrection. The overlapping letters IHS, the abbreviation of Jesus’ name in Greek, are inscribed on crosses. The letters INRI can also be found, meaning “Jesus King of Jews.” According to John 19:19, after Jesus was crucified, Pilate mockingly wrote on the cross in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of Jews.” Saints and angels are the predominate form of statuary. Other popular symbols include the Lamb, frequently to denote the burial of youth, the Rose for martyrdom, Dogwood symbolizing Christ’s passion, and Wheat denoting immortality and resurrection. Common religious scenes frequently depicted in Catholic funerary art include the Adoration, Annunciation, Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Passion of the Christ.

The design of St. Agnes Cemetery is attributed to William H. Grant and Donald G. Mitchell, who were appointed by the cemetery’s board of trustee’s. Not much is know about the background of these two engineers; however, like the adjacent Albany Rural, St. Agnes was laid out in the accordance with the popular “Rural” Cemetery Movement of the nineteenth century. The movement’s origins were in the cemeteries of England and France, particularly the 1815 plan of Pere Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. America’s “rural” cemeteries were typically established around elevated view sites on the outskirts of cities. The park-like designs illustrated the romantic style of landscape development and featured meandering paths, an abundance of foliage, and a variety of artful funerary monuments. Inspiration was drawn in part from the Picturesque Movement’s notions of

See continuation sheet

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St. Agnes Cemetery
Menands, Albany County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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beautiful and naturally sublime spaces. The notion behind these concepts and designs was to create a space outside of the city that would be a respite from urban living, a public space to enjoy art and nature, reflect on the melancholy of death, and rejuvenate the living's soul. The first rural cemetery in American was Mount Auburn in Boston, MA, founded in 1831. The earliest portion of St. Agnes closely adheres to the rural cemetery model in its use of topography, circulation systems, and layout. However, as the cemetery expanded to the south and east, newer sections reflect later trends in memorial park cemetery designs, which favored larger sections in strict symmetry, and other twentieth-century funerary types, such as community mausoleums and urn gardens.

Throughout the years St. Agnes has more than doubled in size and its growth illustrates patterns of development in cemetery landscape design and the growth of the Albany Catholic Diocese from the late nineteenth century to the present. As Albany grew into one of the state's leading cities, its dominant Catholic population assumed a leading roll in all facets of the city's social and physical development. Politicians, business leaders, blue-collar workers, and even the clergy itself shaped all aspects of the city's life. Neighborhood development, education, and social customs were all influenced by the close-knit community of Catholics, who, despite differences in class or ethnicity, all shared a similar view of the appropriate world order. St. Agnes Cemetery helped to expand the idea of community modeled by the Catholic parish, maintaining bonds between families and their loved ones and reinforcing the idea of the continuing community that Catholics believed awaited them beyond the grave. St. Agnes is a veritable who's who of the city of Albany: many of the city's most notable civic, business, and religious leaders are buried here, as well as the hundreds of families who made up the fabric of the city, those who educated their children, cared for their sick, and guided their moral development. St. Agnes is significant for the greater understanding it provides about the influence of ethnicity and religious affiliation on the settlement of the area as well as the thoughtful use of nineteenth-century landscape design to shape this sacred space.

-“St. Agnes' Cemetery: Many who planned it, and worked for it, now sleep within its shades, beneath the sod where taste and tenderness have wrought their names in marble, and it has been left to later generations to carry on their beneficent work.”

-*St Agnes Cemetery, Its Past and Present Associations*
Edited by Myron A Cooney, 1899

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National Park Service

St. Agnes Cemetery
Menands, Albany County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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Sloane, David Charles. *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data (SEE CONTINUAION SHEET)Acreage of Property 114 acres**UTM References (SEE CONTINUAION SHEET)**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 | 8 | 604546 | | | | 4728731 | | | |
Zone Easting Northing3 1 | 8 | 604193 | | | | 4727964 | | | |
Zone Easting Northing2 1 | 8 | 604345 | | | | 4728004 | | | |4 1 | 8 | 603627 | | | | 4727964 | | | |**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 Byname/title Daniel McEneny, Historic Preservation Specialistorganization New York State Parks and Recreation date 12/26/2007street & number Peebles Island State Park telephone 518-237-8643 x-326city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188**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 locationA **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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)name Albany Diocesan Cemeteriesstreet & number 48 Cemetery Ave. telephone 518.432.4953city or town Menands state NY zip code 12204**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 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, D.C. 20503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

St. Agnes Cemetery
Menands, Albany County, New York

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Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include all the acreage associated with St. Agnes Cemetery during the historic period.

UTM References

See parcel map for references-

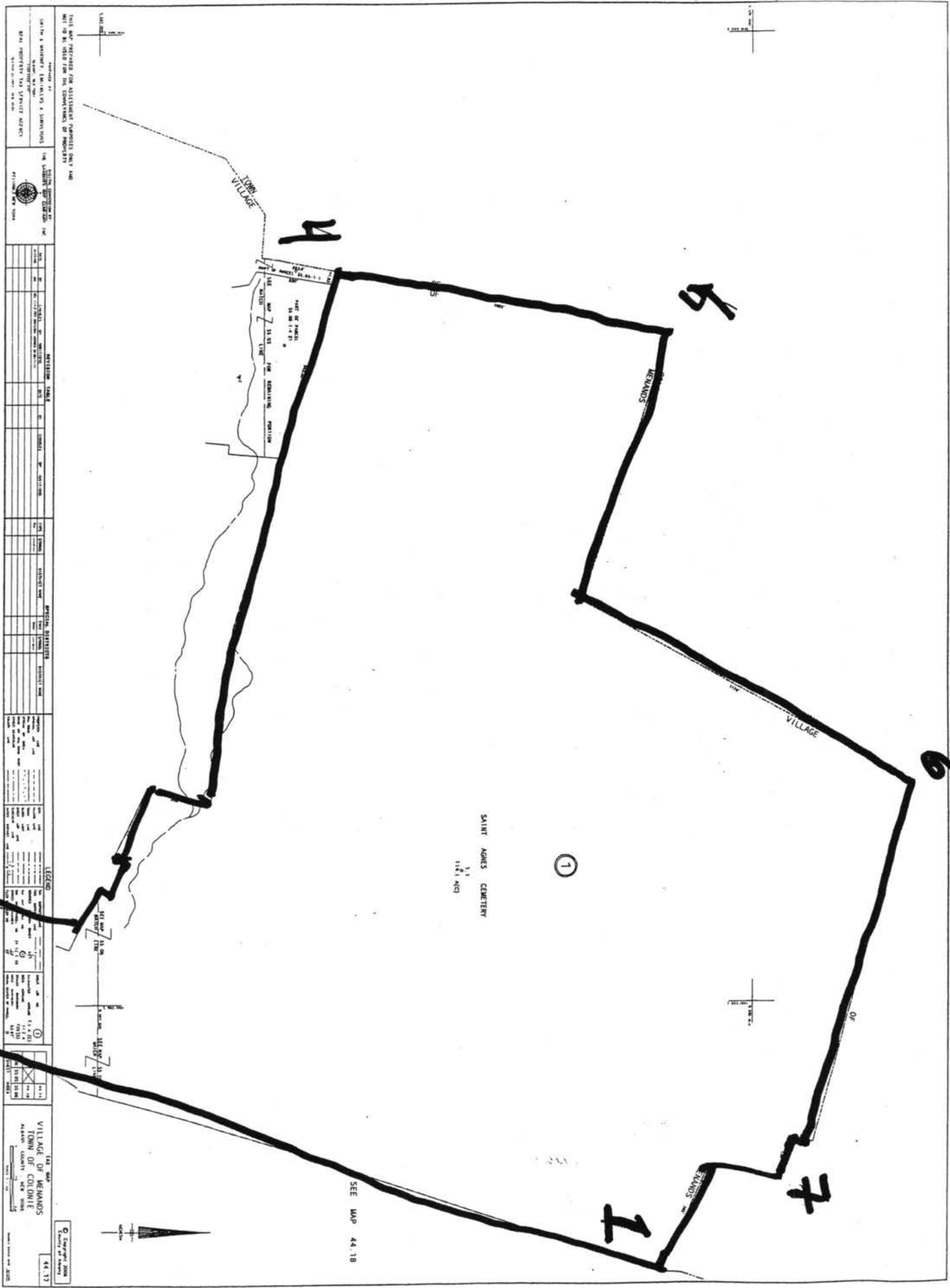
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2. 18/2 E.604345 N.4728004
3. 18/3 E.604193 N.4727964
4. 18/4 E.603627 N.4728412
5. 18/5 E.603691 N.4728726
6. 18/6 E.604118 N.4728951
7. 18/7 E.604438 N.4728860

Photo List

1. St. Agnes Entrance Cross, formerly atop the receiving vault- Facing North
2. McArdle Lot- Facing East
3. McArdle Lot- Metal Statues Facing East
4. Cagger Lot- Facing East
5. Cassidy Lot- Facing North
6. Hoellenger Cross- Facing East
7. Walsh Mausoleum- Facing South
8. Brady Mausoleum- Facing North
9. O'Connell Monument- Facing East

See continuation sheet

St. Agnes Cemetery
 Menands, Albany Co., N.Y.
 Property map with UTM points.



KEY

SHRINES AND FEATURE LOTS

- A. Queen of Heaven Shrine
- B. Sacred Heart Shrine
- C. St. Teresa's Shrine
- D. St. Joseph's Shrine
- E. The Resurrection
- F. West Garden of the Resurrection
- G. Resurrection Urn Garden
- H. St. Francis of Assisi Garden Lawn Crypts
- I. Rachel's Garden
- J. Community Mausoleums and Chapel
- K. Memorial Altar
- L. Old Receiving Vault
- M. Stations of the Cross

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

- 1. Albany Medical College I
- 2. Albany Medical College II
- 3. Community Maternity Services—Farano lot
- 4. Brady Maternity
- 5. Hospitality House

RELIGIOUS ORDERS

- 6. Daughters of Charity Of St. Vincent DePaul (Sec. 2)
- 7. Daughters of Charity Of St. Vincent Depaul (Sec. 9)
- 8. Franciscan Friars
- 9. Brothers of the Christian Schools
- 10. Sisters of Charity
- 11. Dominican Sisters (Sec. 17)
- 12. Dominican Sisters (Sec. 2)
- 13. Missionary Canonesses of St. Augustine
- 14. Little Sisters of the Poor (Sec. 14)
- 15. Little Sisters of the Poor (Sec. 2)
- 16. Sisters of the Good Shepherd (Sec. 14)
- 17. Sisters of the Good Shepherd (Sec. 2)
- 18. Monastery of the Immaculate Conception
- 19. Sisters of St. Joseph
- 20. Reverend Clergy Lot

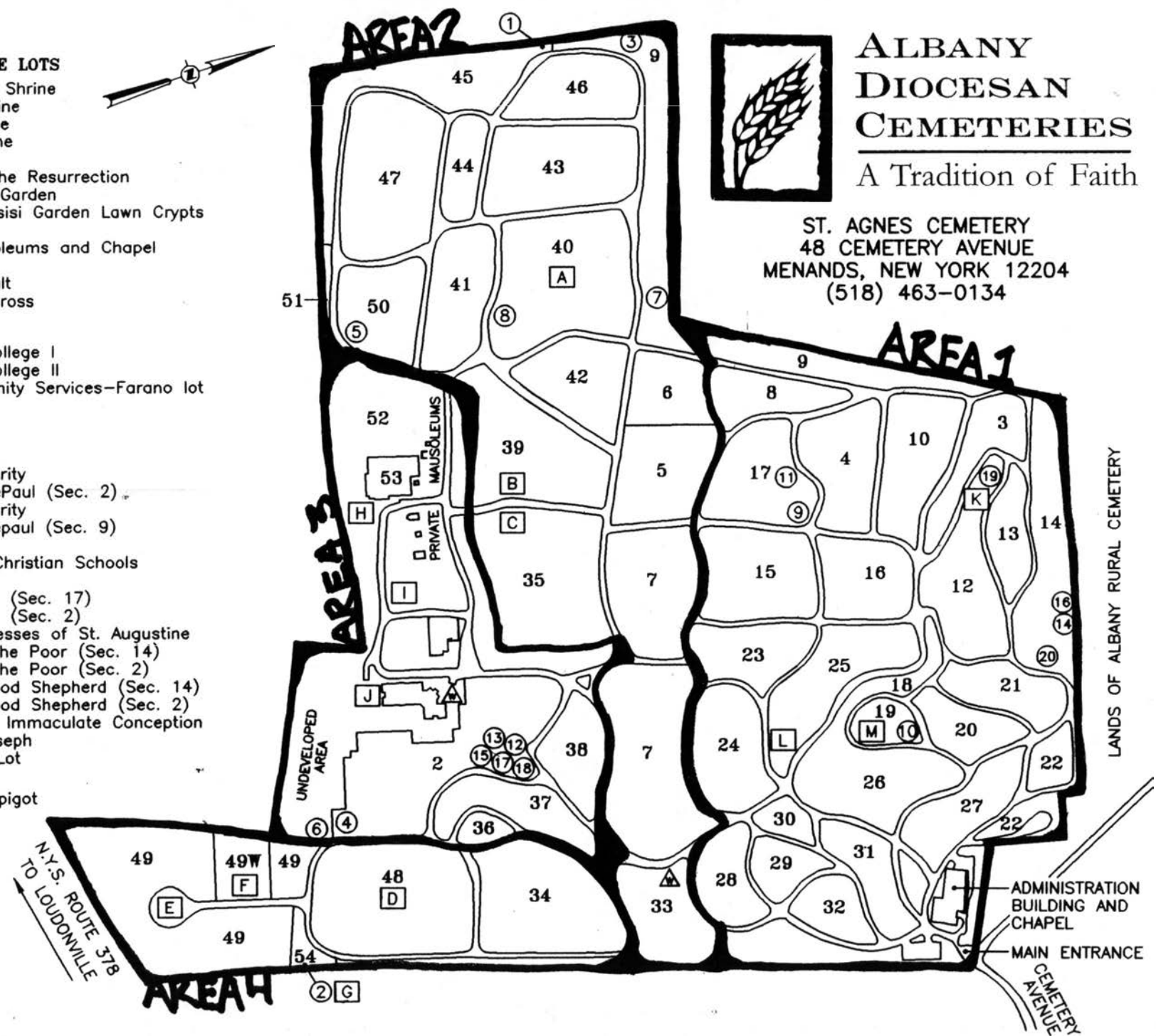
▲ Seasonal water spigot



ALBANY DIOCESAN CEMETERIES

A Tradition of Faith

ST. AGNES CEMETERY
48 CEMETERY AVENUE
MENANDS, NEW YORK 12204
(518) 463-0134



LANDS OF ALBANY RURAL CEMETERY

ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING AND
CHAPEL

MAIN ENTRANCE

CEMETERY
AVENUE



THIS CATHOLIC MONUMENT IS A TESTAMENT
 TO A FATHER WHO HAS PASSED INTO THE
 GREAT UNKNOWN. HIS NAME WAS
 JOHN WALTON AND HE WAS BORN
 IN THE TOWN OF BOSTON, MASS.
 ON THE 15TH OF FEBRUARY, 1845.
 HE DIED ON THE 15TH OF FEBRUARY,
 1915, AT THE AGE OF 70 YEARS.
 HE WAS BURIED IN THE CATHOLIC
 CEMETERY OF BOSTON, MASS.
 HIS WIFE WAS MARY WALTON,
 BORN IN THE TOWN OF BOSTON,
 MASS., ON THE 15TH OF FEBRUARY,
 1845, AND DIED ON THE 15TH OF
 FEBRUARY, 1915, AT THE AGE OF
 70 YEARS. SHE WAS BURIED IN
 THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY OF BOSTON,
 MASS. HIS GRAVE IS LOCATED IN
 THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF THE
 CEMETERY.

WALTON

Photo 1

St. Agnes

Menands, NY

Albany County



Photo 2

St. Agnes

Menands, NY

Albany County



McARDLE

BY 1844
AND PURIFY THE

BEHOLD THE LAW

Photo 3
St. Agnes
Menands, NY
Albany County



Photo 4
St. Agnes
MENANDS, NY
ALBANY COUNTY

WILLIAM CASSIDY

Photo 5

St. Armands

Menands, NY

Albany County



FOLLERSON

Photo 6

St. Agnes

Menands, NY

Albany County



WILLIAM EDWARD WALSH

Photo 7
St. Agnes
Menands, NY
Albany County



A-N-BRADY

Photo 8

St. Agnes

Menands, N.Y.

Albany County

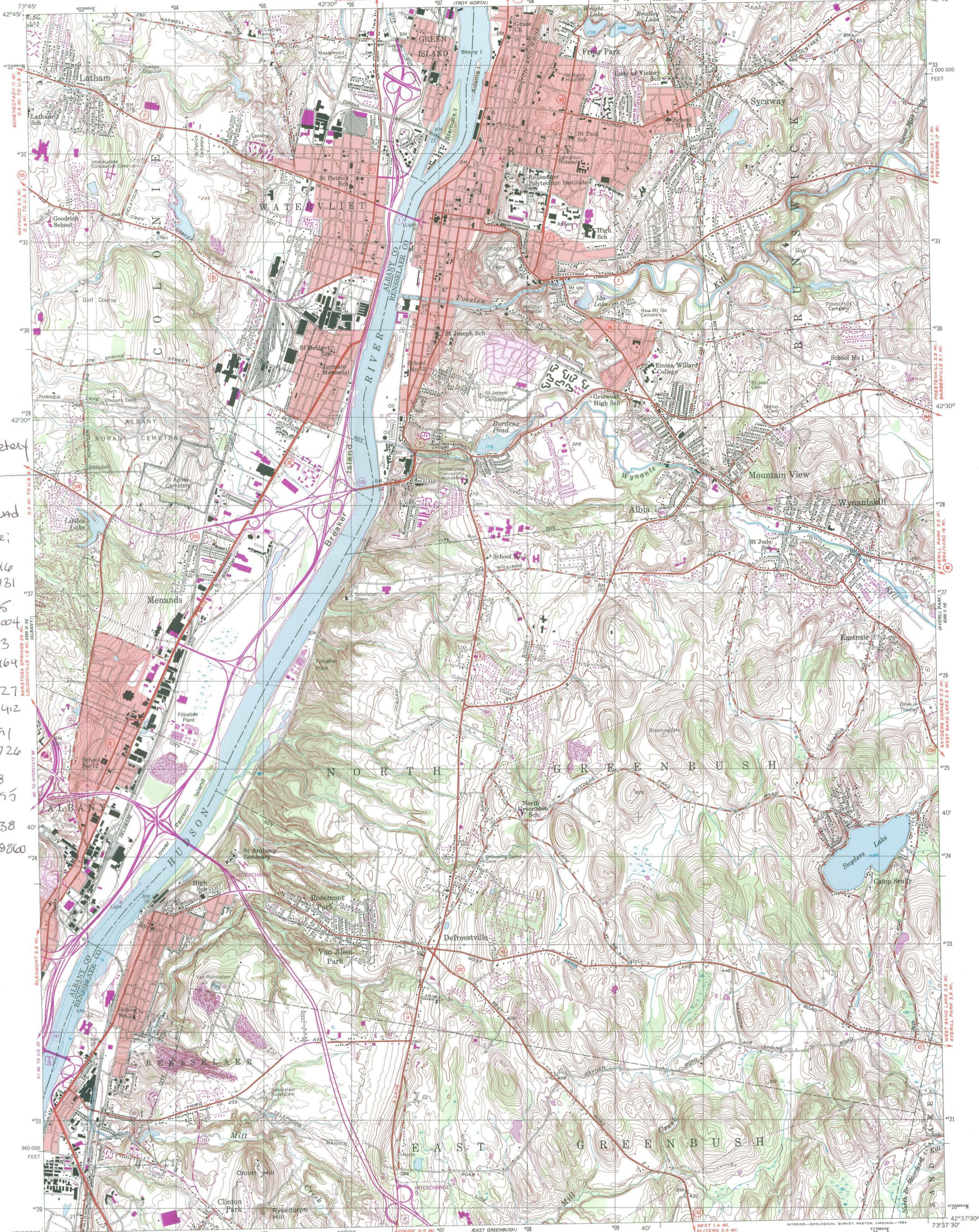
O'CONNELL
BURNSIDE

Photo 9

St. Agnes

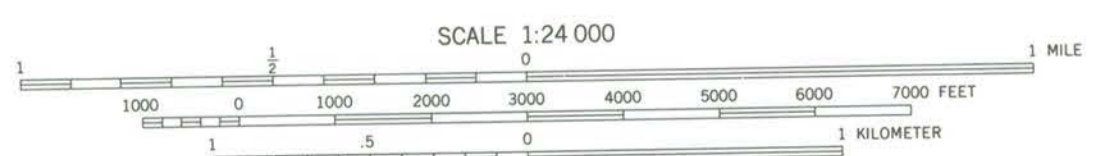
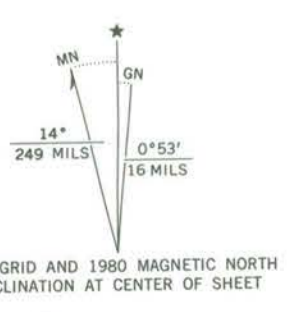
Menands, NY

Albany County



St. Agnes Cemetery
Menands, NY
Albany Co.
Troy South Quad
UTM Reference:
18/1 E. 604546
N. 4728731
18/2 E. 604345
N. 4728004
18/3 E. 604193
N. 4727964
18/4 E. 603627
N. 4728412
18/5 E. 603691
N. 4728726
18/6 E. 604118
N. 4728555
18/7 E. 604438
N. 4729800

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field checked 1953
Hydrography from NOS chart 284, dated 1942
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on New York coordinate system, east zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 5 meters south and 35 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1978, and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 4.7 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
○ Interstate Route	○ U.S. Route
	○ State Route

TROY SOUTH, N. Y.
N4237.5—W7337.5/7.5
1953
PHOTOREVISED 1980
DMA 6269 II NW—SERIES V821

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2018

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Additional Documentation

Property Name: St. Agnes Cemetery

Multiple Name:

State & County: NEW YORK, Albany

Date Received: 7/10/2018 Date of Pending List: 7/31/2018 Date of 16th Day: 8/15/2018 Date of 45th Day: 8/24/2018 Date of Weekly List: 8/24/2018

Reference number: AD08000095

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Accept the additional Area of Significance of Ethnic Heritage:Black

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer  Alexis Abernathy

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236

Date

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

St. Agnes Cemetery
Albany County, New York
Additional Documentation

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, Albany County, was listed on the National Register in 2008 for its significance in social history, landscape architecture, funerary art, and architecture. The 114-acre cemetery, which is immediately adjacent to the Albany Rural Cemetery (476 acres, NR listed 2002) was acquired in 1867 to accommodate the Catholic population of the nearby city of Albany. Including more than 50,000 interments and still in active use today, St. Agnes is the largest and most important Catholic cemetery in the Capital District region. Laid out on a steep hillside overlooking the Hudson River, St. Agnes is a rare example of a Catholic cemetery of considerable size and scale that combines Catholic funerary motifs with the elegance and idyllic layout characteristic of the picturesque, rural cemetery type.

The purpose of this amendment is to document the cemetery's additional significance in the area of **ethnic history (African American)** as the final resting place of fourteen anonymous enslaved African Americans, who are believed to have lived and worked on the eighteenth/early nineteenth century farms of the Schuyler family that were located on this land prior to the laying out of the cemetery. Long before St. Agnes Cemetery was established, the acreage that is now contained within it was part of the vast tract of rural farmland owned by the regionally prominent Schuyler family. The farm of Peter Schuyler, established in the eighteenth century, overlapped with the land that is now part of St. Agnes Cemetery (see map). The Schuylers, like most of their generation, were slave owners from the settlement period at least through the eighteenth century. The family's original slave burial grounds, the Schuyler Flatts Slave Cemetery, was located at a distance from the family estate houses and closer to the Hudson River, under what is now a busy thoroughfare (see map). When the burial ground was discovered and these fourteen interments disturbed by a sewer project in 2005, substantial historical, anthropological, and bioarcheological research was undertaken in order to document as much as could be learned about the identities of these individuals and the lives they led. Scientists learned that the remains were those of six women, one man, two children and five infants, all of African or mixed African descent who were born in this area. The skeletal remains of the adults suggested a lifetime of hard work and

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poor health care with evidence of high infant mortality and heavy mechanical stress typical of rural enslaved populations in this period. Facial reconstruction was used to suggest images of what the adults may have looked like in order to more clearly establish identities for the remains. At the conclusion of the study, in 2016, the Diocese of Albany, which owns St. Agnes, graciously donated land within the cemetery to reinter these fourteen displaced individuals, who were buried on Founders Hill in a special ceremony (see photos). Since the cemetery's land can be documented to be part of the farms owned by the Schuyler family during these individuals' lifetimes, they have been reinterred on lands that they were associated with historically. Because these were enslaved people whose history has been erased by anonymity and whose original burial place has been destroyed, this is a rare and unusual opportunity to recognize the significant association between their lives and this land.¹

Schuyler Family

For more than two centuries (1672-1910) the area known as Schuyler Flatts, an expanse of flat fertile land along the western bank of the Hudson River between the village of Watervliet and the city of Albany, was owned by the Schuyler family, one of a network of wealthy merchant families who controlled colonial Albany's economic, political, and religious life. Rural farms like that of the Schuylers were major producers of flour, livestock, and lumber for local use and for export to regional and international markets via the Hudson River. In 1672, Philip and Margarita Schuyler established a farm on the flatts and built a large gambrel-roofed home. Their tenure extended from 1672 to 1711. At the elder Schuyler's death, his son Peter, an early colonial governor and first mayor of Albany, and wife, Maria, inherited the property, retaining it from 1711-1723. He was followed by his

¹ Much of the documentation for this report was drawn from Lisa Anderson, Vanessa Newell, and Dawn M. Lawrence, "Life, Work, and Death among 18th Century African Americans in Rural Upstate New York," Paper presented at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Northeast Anthropological Association in organized symposium entitled "Bioarchaeology of the Disenfranchised, Albany New York, May 2006.

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National Park Service

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Albany County, New York
Additional Documentation

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page 3

son Phillip and his wife, Margaret, whose period was 1723-1771. Stephen and Engeltie Schuyler (1771-1792), Peter and Catherine Schuyler (1792-1832) , and Catherine, John and Stephen Schuyler (1832- ?) followed. The colonial era Schuyler house was destroyed by fire in 1962 but the Schuyler Flatts Historical Park preserves a rich archeological record of native America history, of its history in the American Revolution, and of the early agricultural history of the region. The site has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and a portion of it has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

Schuyler Family Burial Ground

The Schuyler Family Burial Ground is located just northwest of the Schuyler family house site and is within the Schuyler Flatts National Register nomination. This was the original burial place for the Schuyler family and included at least fifty graves, including those of most of the family members associated with this farm, along with many of the children born to these couples, all laid to rest between 1728-1755. In 1920, as development began to encroach upon the Schuyler site, members of the family had the remains moved, along with their headstones, and reinterred across the street in Albany Rural Cemetery, which had been established in 1844 on land that had originally belonged to the family. Fortunately, all the inscriptions had been recorded by Joel Munsell in 1874, so there is a record of who was buried there.

Slavery

Enslaved labor was integral to the success of Albany's economy and to that of the Schuyler farm from the Dutch settlement era until slavery was outlawed in New York State in 1827, and the Schuylers, like most of their generation, were slave owners at least through the eighteenth century. The earliest mention of a Schuyler slave, named Jan, occurred in 1682. A 1711 property inventory from the Philip and Margarita Schuyler house included five men and two women (Jacob, Charles, Peter, Tom, Anthony, Mary and Bettie), and a 1723 list named a man called Primus and another called Toney. In the mid-eighteenth century, an inventory from the household of Philip and Margaret Schuyler enumerated fourteen slaves. These include several who were

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baptized: Sarah (1769), Evah (1771), and Catherine (1772); two women named Diana and Maria (c1770s); and a man named Chalk (also 1770s). Piet and nine other slaves are believed to have lived in the 1790s, while Deanna, who ran away, and fourteen others are from the first two decades of the nineteenth century, from the household of Peter and Catherine Schuyler.

At the end of the eighteenth century, even after the New York's initial 1799 emancipation act, census records continued to list large numbers of slaves in the households of the Schuylers and their neighbors. The fact that the percentage of slaves on these farms didn't change substantially after the legislation probably reflected the crucial importance of the labor that these workers provided to keep these farms running efficiently.

Schuyler Flatts Slave Burial Ground

The Schuyler Flatts Slave Burying Ground was discovered in June 2005 during sewer construction in the town of Colonie. This site is located southeast of the house site and does not appear on any historic maps or other records. It was most likely a separate place of internment designated solely for slave use. Although fourteen burials were affected by the sewer project and removed, several others were identified outside the project site and left in situ, suggesting that the excavated remains are part of a larger cemetery of unknown size. At least one burial had been removed in the past.

The fourteen burials were arranged in two rows, with their feet all pointing to the east. Each one was wrapped in a burial shroud fastened with a small brass straight pin and placed in a plain wooden (pine) four-sided coffin that was either rectangular, hexagonal, or trapezoidal in shape. Although the bodies lacked clothing, they were shrouded, reflecting African rites such as washing the body, covering it, not letting it touch the earth, and placing it with the head to the west. Otherwise the burial practices seemed to be similar to those of western societies in the period.

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Historical evidence suggested that the individuals buried there were most likely enslaved African Americans whose labor supported wealthy landowners such as the Schuyler and their neighbors. The burial ground appeared to be a separate place designated solely for slave use. The skeletal remains of these fourteen individuals reflected a lifetime of hard work and poor health care with evidence of high infant mortality and heavy mechanical stress. Scientific study identified the remains as eight adults (seven females and one male), two children, and five infants less than one year old. The fact that the cemetery fell into disuse beginning in the early nineteenth century may relate to the gradual process of emancipation in New York State between its first emancipation law in 1797 and freedom for all in 1825.

Bioarcheological Analysis

To understand the lives and lifestyle of the Schuyler Flatts people, bioarcheological analysis focused on two main types of skeletal data: evidence of health stress and activity related behavior.² Although the burial ground is a small sample, age at death data provides a useful context for evaluating health and behavioral patterns. Age and sex were determined using standard developmental indicators of bone and teeth.³ Of the fourteen individuals recovered 8 were adults, including 7 females and 1 male; 2 were children; and 5 were infants less than 1 year of age. With the high proportion of infants, the average age of death was 22.3 years. The short life expectancy may be due to sampling bias, but it is similar to findings from the African Burial Ground in New York City, where it was also about 22 years of age.⁴

² Anderson, Dale, and Lawrence, 2006.

³ J.E. Buikstra and D.H. Ubelaker, *Standards for Data Collection from Human Skeletal Remains*, Proceedings of a Seminar at the Field Museum of Natural History. Organized by Jonathan Haas. Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Series Number 44. (Fayetteville AK: Arkansas Archeological Survey, 1994)

⁴ M.L. Blakey and L.M. Rankin-Hill, ed., *The New York African Burial Ground: Skeletal Biology Final Report* Vol 1. The African Burial Ground Project (Washington DC: Howard University, 2004)

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Evidence of health stress was identified from several pathological conditions indicative of nutritional and disease stress, including porotic hyperostosis, periostitis, linear enamel hypoplasias, and dental disease.⁵ The location, appearance, and severity of pathological conditions in bone and teeth were described and coded using a numerical system adapted from Buikstra and Ubelaker.⁶ Porotic hyperostosis can result from a number of pathological conditions, including inflammatory processes or dietary disorders such as anemia.⁷ It is present in four of seven adults (1 male, 3 females) but all instances are mild and well-healed with the exception of a 30-40 year old female (B.13) who exhibits active lesions possibly associated with an infection in the sacroiliac joint. Although PH is a common condition in children, there was no evidence of it in the child or the 2 infants complete enough for study.⁸ Periostitis is a nonspecific inflammatory process that affects the outer surface of bone or periosteum.⁹ It is present in all of the adults as generally mild, well-healed cases. The male and 2 females exhibit active but mild, healing periostitis on their tibiae. In one of the women, it is also present on the ribs, humerus, and legs and may indicate a systemic infection rather than a localized response. Four adults exhibit infectious lesions in the sacroiliac area that may be the result of a systemic condition or trauma or biomechanical stress associated with childbirth, or possibly work, since a mild infection is also present in the male. No pathologies were noted in the two complete infants (B.5, 8) or the 6-10 year old child (B.4).

As a record of childhood stress, linear enamel hypoplasias are defects in tooth enamel that form when disease and/or nutritional stress temporarily disrupts the normal process of dental development. Hypoplasias are recorded by frequency and by measuring their location to estimate the timing of a stress event. Among the

⁵ A.C. Aufderheide and C. Rodriguez-Martin, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Human Paleopathology* (Cambridge University Press, NY), 1998; D. Ortner, *Identification of Pathological Conditions in Human Skeletal Remains*. 2nd ed. (San Diego: Academic Press, 2003)

⁶ J.E. Buikstra and D.H. Ubelaker, *Standards for Data Collection from Human Skeletal Remains*.

⁷ Ortner, *Identification of Pathological Conditions*, 189.

⁸ D. Ortner, 2004.

⁹ Ortner, *Identification of Pathological Conditions*.

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Schuyler Flatts people, four of six adults and the 6-10 year old child exhibit 1 or 2 hypoplasias each, although they are very faint and thin suggesting a mild or brief stress event in childhood.¹⁰

Dental health is another component of overall health assessed as frequencies of cavities, abscesses, and tooth loss. All of the adults and the 6-10 year old child exhibit dental pathologies. The most commonly affected teeth are molars and while most cavities are in the maxilla, over half the adults (57 percent) had already lost teeth due to dental disease, primarily in the mandible. Five out of 7 adults suffered from abscesses, most of which were in the maxilla and the oldest individual is completely edentulous. Dental health was clearly poor; however, other skeletal indicators of dietary and disease stress reflect a population that experienced periodic but mild episodes of stress.

Evidence of activity related stress was identified by mechanical changes to the skeleton including osteoarthritis, musculoskeletal stress, trauma, and dental wear. Osteoarthritis is caused by the loss of joint cartilage and subsequent bone on bone contact. It is a chronic progressive condition that normally occurs with age but can be aggravated by repetitive activity and stress to the joints. It was scored as changes to articular surfaces such as porosity, marginal lipping, osteophyte development, Schmorl's Nodes, and eburnation which may include polish, porosity or grooving. These conditions were scored numerically from absent (0) to severe (3). Scores from opposing articular surfaces of major joint complexes, such as neck, lower spine, elbows and knees, were combined bilaterally to evaluate functional changes.

All of the adults are affected by osteoarthritis. The most commonly affected area is the spine. Other moderately to severely involved areas are the shoulders, elbows, knees, and hips. The frequency and severity of osteoarthritis is correlated with age, as would be expected; however, evidence for early onset in the youngest

¹⁰ C.S. Larsen, *Bioarchaeology: Interpreting Human Behavior from the Skeleton* (Cambridge University Press, NY, 1997).

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adult (B.12, 25-35) is seen in very slight development in the temporal mandibular joint, neck, thoracic spine, shoulders, hips, and knee. Three women aged 30-40 have a similar pattern that also includes the elbow with more moderate osteoarthritis in the mid-lower spine and sacroiliac regions. The three oldest individuals (40+), including the male, exhibit moderate to severe involvement in all joint areas primarily the spine and hips followed by the shoulders, elbows, and knees. One of the older women (Bur. 9) also is severely affected by osteoarthritis in the joints of her fingers and toes.

Another form of activity related stress is the development of muscle and ligament attachment sites, or musculoskeletal stress markers (MSMs). They are identified by protuberances of bone, which form crests and spicules or non-lytic lesions and pits (with extreme stress) where muscles and ligaments attach to the bone and were scored from absent (0) to heavy (3) after Hawkey and Merbs.¹¹

The upper body shows the greatest amount of development especially in the shoulder girdle. In the lower body, the hips and upper legs are most rugose. As with osteoarthritis, the extent of muscle development was associated with increased age. The oldest female (B.7, 50+) and the male (B.15, 40-50) stood alone as having the most highly developed muscle attachment sites. Muscle development in other individuals varied probably as a result of the types of activities they performed. In some cases specific areas of the body were highly developed such as fingers and feet and others exhibit stress lesions indicative of muscles pulls or tears.

Five of seven adults experienced trauma and in all but one individual, the cases are mild and well-healed. The oldest individual, a female 50+ years (B.7), who also was osteoporotic, sustained four broken ribs that were in the initial stages of healing at the time of death. She also had spondylolysis, which is a fracture resulting from stress, in her 5th lumbar vertebra, an associated secondary infection, and a slight crack in the 1st cervical vertebra

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that may have been the beginning of a stress fracture.¹² The male has a healed fracture of the second metatarsal and fused proximal phalanx along with possible localized trauma on the right tibia. Other minor forms of trauma include a well-healed scaphoid fracture in the left wrist of a 30-40 year old woman (B.3), and a possible talar compression fracture in the foot a 50-60 year old woman (B.9).

Additional evidence of activity related behavior is seen in the dentition of four out of six adults. The man and two women display circular wear facets on either side of their canines from pipe smoking. Another woman (B.13, 30-40) has grooves on her first and second maxillary incisors consistent with holding or pulling something through her teeth, such as thread.

Lastly, four of six adults exhibit premature cranial suture fusion. In each case, the skulls were of adult size indicating fusion occurred during late teenage or young adult years. Although the etiology is unclear, Kelly and Angel (1983) noted early suture fusion among African American workers at the Catoclin Furnace site and suggested it may be a genetically determined trait.

Ethnicity

DNA analysis concluded that all individuals were born in this area and were of African descent. Four were from West/East Africa and Central Africa. Two sets were descendants from Madagascar. One individual, possibly of mixed ancestry, was descended from a Native American.

¹¹ D.E. Hawkey and C.F. Merbs, "Activity-induced musculoskeletal stress markers (MSM) and subsistence strategy changes among ancient Hudson Bay Eskimos," *International Journal of Osteoarcheology* 5(4)1995:324-338.

¹² "Spondylolysis," *Identification of Pathological Conditions*, 148.

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Photos

Photographer: Clifford Oliver

Date: June 18, 2016

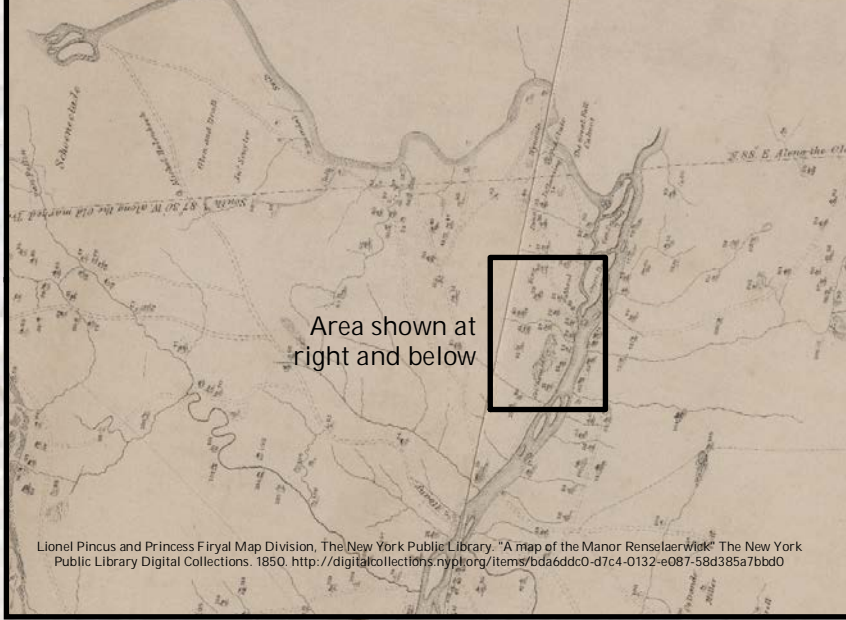
CD-R of .tiff files on file at
National Park Service
Washington, D.C.
and
New York State Historic Preservation Office
Waterford, NY

Views:

- 0001 – African American reburial site, looking southwest
- 0002 – detail showing coffins made by local artists
- 0003 – looking east from Africa American reburial site during the ceremony

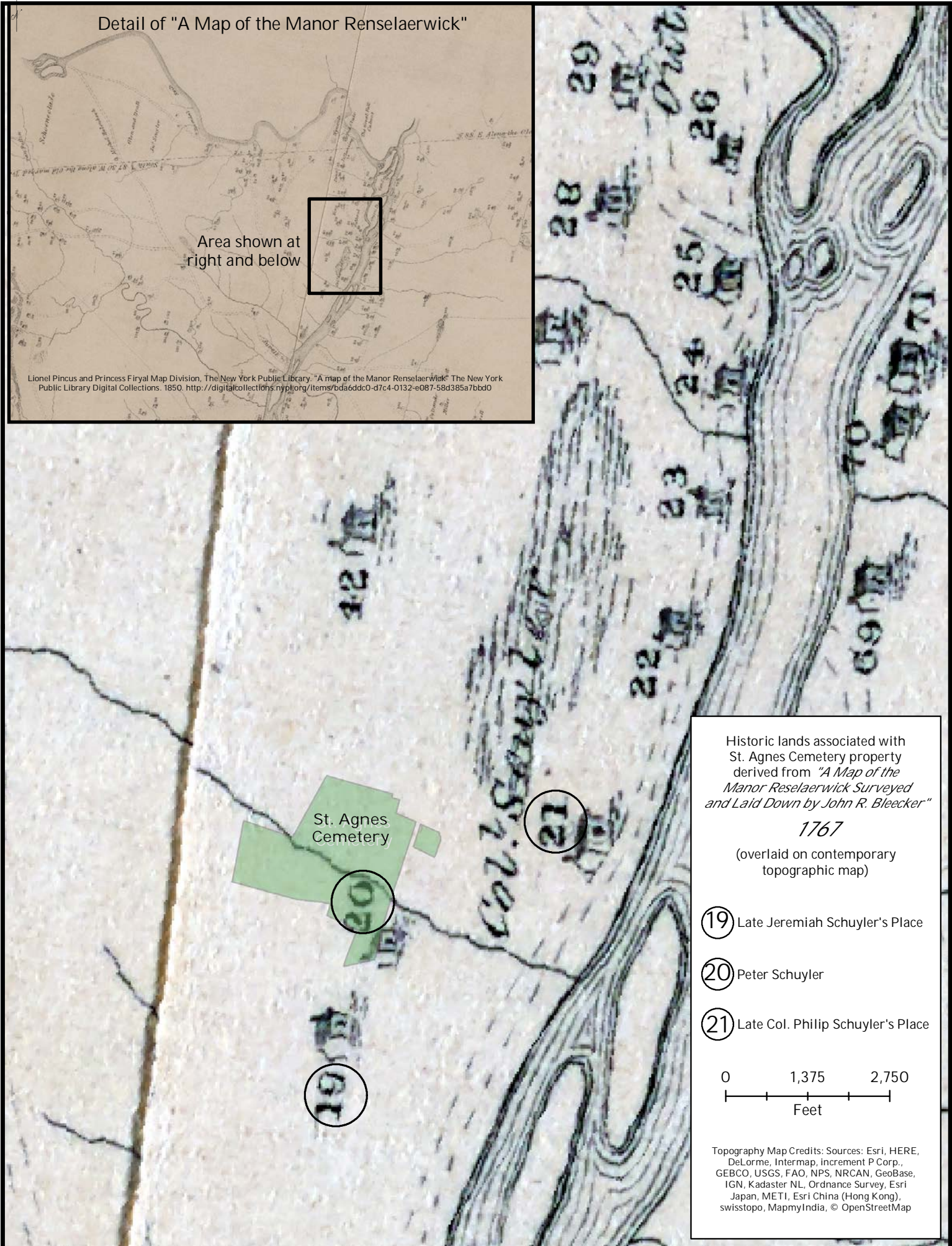
See continuation sheet

Detail of "A Map of the Manor Renselaerwick"



Area shown at right and below

Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library. "A map of the Manor Renselaerwick" The New York Public Library Digital Collections. 1850. <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/bda6ddc0-d7c4-0132-e087-58d385a7bbd0>

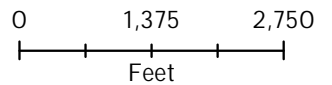


Historic lands associated with St. Agnes Cemetery property derived from "A Map of the Manor Reselaerwick Surveyed and Laid Down by John R. Bleeker"

1767

(overlaid on contemporary topographic map)

- 19 Late Jeremiah Schuyler's Place
- 20 Peter Schuyler
- 21 Late Col. Philip Schuyler's Place



Topography Map Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap



PETER DALLER
1845-1915

HERE LIES THE REMAINS OF
KAYAKA...
OF...
THE...
...





HERE LIES THE REMAINS OF 14 SOULS
KNOWN ONLY TO GOD.
ENSLAVED IN LIFE,
THEY ARE SLAVES NO MORE.



THE WHOLENESS OF THE LIVING IS
DIED WHEN THE ANCESTORS
NOT HONORED

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: St. Agnes Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Albany

DATE RECEIVED: 1/16/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/04/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/19/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/29/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000095

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2-28-08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

red in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY
Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

40 North Main Avenue, Albany, New York 12203
Telephone: 518-453-6623 Facsimile: 518-453-6792

August 23, 2007

Mark Peckham
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Peebles Island
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Mr. Peckham:

This letter is to inform you that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany welcomes the opportunity for St. Agnes Cemetery, 48 Cemetery Avenue, Menands, N.Y. to apply for registration in the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Noel Olsen
Director of Real Property

AUG 24 2007



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

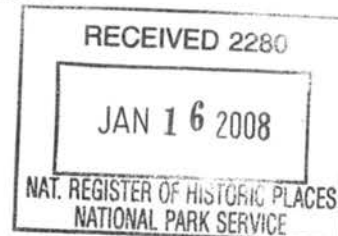
www.nysparks.com

Eliot S.
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

January 10, 2008

Ms. Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW
8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005



Re: Transmittal of National Register
Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to transmit four new National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register as follows:

St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, Albany Co., NY

Village Park Historic District (Boundary Expansion #2), Canton, St. Lawrence Co., NY

Peter and Karen McComb House, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co., NY

Brewster House, East Setauket, Suffolk Co., NY

Thank you for your assistance in processing these proposals. Please feel free to call on me at 518-237-8643 ext. 3258 if any questions arise.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Peckham
National Register
Program Coordinator

enclosures



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

AD0800095



28 June 2018

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Re: St. Agnes Cemetery Additional Documentation

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit additional documentation for the following National Register listed property:

St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, Albany County

St. Agnes Cemetery was listed on the National Register in 2008 for its significance in social history, landscape architecture, architecture, funerary art and architecture. The purpose of this amendment is to document the cemetery's additional significance in the area of **ethnic history (African American)** as the final resting place of fourteen anonymous enslaved African Americans who are believed to have lived and worked on the eighteenth/early nineteenth century farms that were located on this land prior to the laying out of the cemetery. I believe that the enclosed documentation fully supports this additional significance. Please feel free to call Kathleen LaFrank at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Roger Daniel Mackay
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
New York State Historic Preservation Office