

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 "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Young Cemetery Cabin

Other names/site number National Youth Administration Cabin/NeHBS #CC00-331

## 2. Location

Street & number Young Lane E400 Not for publication

City or town Plattsmouth Vicinity

State Nebraska Code NE County Cass Code 025 Zip code 68048

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 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.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

11/15/04  
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society  
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 this property is:

entered in the National Register.

see continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

see continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]

12/30/04

[Signature]  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Young Cemetery Cabin

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- X Private
Public-local
Public-state
Public-federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- X Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: Buildings, Sites, Structures, Objects, Total. Values: 1, 0, 0, 0, 1.

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Other/shelter

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Other/shelter

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: log cabin

Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Concrete
Walls Stucco
Roof Wood Shingle
Other

Narrative Description

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1941

Significant Dates

1941

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

National Youth Administration

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
Previously listed in the National Register
Previously determined eligible by the National Register
Designated a National Historic Landmark
Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location for additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local Government
University
Other
Name of repository:

Young Cemetery Cabin

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

Table with columns: Zone, Easting, Northing. Rows 1-4. Row 4 contains: [ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael T. McQuillen and Gayle A. Kiszely
organization Heritage Research, Ltd. date July 29, 2004
street & number N89 W16785 Appleton Avenue telephone (262) 251-7792
city or town Menomonee Falls state Wisconsin zip code 53051

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name/title Young Cemetery Association c/o Sandra Allgeier
street & number 1416 S. 15th Street telephone (402) 296-2249
city or town Plattsmouth state NE zip code 68048

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined 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, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Young Cemetery Cabin**

Name of Property

**Cass County, Nebraska**

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

The Young Cemetery Cabin is found approximately 1.7 miles northeast of the Village of Murray in Cass County on the east side of U.S. Highway 34/75. Located next to the tree-lined Young Cemetery, which contains nineteenth and twentieth century headstones, the cabin rests on top of a hill and is surrounded by a pastoral setting. Plattsmouth, which is the county seat, is approximately 4 miles to the north. Constructed in 1941 by the National Youth Administration, the one-story, side-gable, stuccoed Young Cemetery Cabin is composed of repurposed hand-hewn logs from the original William Young family home.

**Description**

The Young Cemetery Cabin is a one-story, log cabin composed of hand-hewn, white oak logs with a wood-shingle, side-gable roof and exterior limestone chimney. The building features wood shingles in the gables and stucco sheathing, which was added ca. 1950 to preserve the logs. The footprint of the building measures approximately fourteen feet, two inches by sixteen feet, four inches.<sup>1</sup>

The symmetrical primary (south) elevation features a center entrance with a wood board door. Flanking the entrance are two boarded-over window openings. The limestone chimney is located on the west façade and is approximately twelve feet, nine inches tall. It measures six feet wide at the base, tapering to approximately three feet wide at the top. Two, small, boarded-over window openings flank the chimney. The north and east elevations lack any openings.

On the interior, the hewn logs, measuring approximately six-to-nine-inches in width, were left exposed revealing concrete chinking. Interior space simply consists of a single room with a concrete floor, deep limestone fireplace and exposed wooden rafters and joists.

A cabin originally constructed in 1856 by William Young was disassembled and materials from this 1856 cabin were then recycled and used by the National Youth Administration to construct the Young Cemetery Cabin in 1941. A bronze plaque by the building entrance reads: "Young Cemetery; Founded 1855; This cabin dedicated to Nebraska Pioneers; May 25, 1941; Constructed by National Youth Administration; Logs from Wm Young home; Built 1856"<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Young Cemetery Association papers and clippings, ca. 1940-42, copies located at the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO).

<sup>2</sup> Young Cemetery Association papers and clippings. The bronze dedication plaque was apparently made in the National Youth Administration workshop in Lincoln (Letter to Mrs. Guy White dated 14 April 1941, Young Cemetery Association papers and clippings).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Young Cemetery Cabin

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

The Young Cemetery Cabin is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. In 1941, the former dwelling of Nebraska pioneer William Young was disassembled and its materials were repurposed and used in the construction of the Young Cemetery Cabin by the National Youth Administration. This cabin served as a shelter for the cemetery that had been established on the Young homestead. The building is significant under Criterion A for its association with the National Youth Administration, a work project and vocational training program established under the New Deal during the Great Depression.

### New Deal Relief Programs

While the stock market crash in October of 1929 created a crisis in America's business and industry, agricultural areas throughout the United States had been in a depression for most of the decade of the 1920s. Farm prices that spiked during and after World War I fell as drastically as they had risen. As prices fell in mid-1920, farmers were faced with debts they were unable to pay. Farmers' incomes did not keep pace with inflation, and a devaluation in land prices contributed to their financial problems. Suffering in the agricultural economy caused economic problems for the rest of Nebraska at large. Black Tuesday was simply another devastating blow to an already depressed economy.

By December 1932, farm prices were the lowest in Nebraska history. In addition, Nebraska, and the rest of the Midwest, was suffering from a severe drought that caused valuable topsoil to erode, damaged crops and reduced agricultural production. Nationwide, more than 12 million people were unemployed and in need of assistance. Twenty-five percent of the American labor force was jobless. State governments were incapable of supporting the vast numbers of destitute citizens who required help. The Federal government was forced to intercede, and with the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932, the New Deal was instituted. Roosevelt's New Deal policies came in many manifestations, from the Social Security Act that provided monthly pensions for the elderly to direct relief payments from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and perhaps most importantly public work relief projects that provided jobs to America's able-bodied unemployed. Some of these projects took the form of road construction, sewer repair, ditch digging, reforestation projects, and the construction of public buildings, among others. Throughout much of the Roosevelt administration, from 1933 to 1941 when public assistance was most required, billions of dollars were spent on projects intended to provide the working man with employment.<sup>3</sup>

### National Youth Administration

In this environment of unemployment and economic depression, tens of thousands of young people were forced to quit school to help support their families. The first New Deal program specifically geared toward youth was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a relief organization created in 1933 and designed to send unemployed males between the ages of 18 and 25 to rural areas to work on such projects as reforestation and road construction. It soon became apparent that additional aid was necessary, which resulted in the implementation of the National Youth Administration (NYA) in June 1935 by Executive Order 7086.<sup>4</sup>

The National Youth Administration had multiple facets aimed at various segments of the youth population. For males and females enrolled in high school, college and graduate school, the NYA provided funds to continue schooling in exchange

<sup>3</sup> Phoebe Cutler, *The Public Landscape of the New Deal* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1985), 5; Page Smith, *Redeeming the Time: A People's History of the 1920s and the New Deal* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1987), 598.

<sup>4</sup> Richard A. Reiman, *The New Deal & American Youth: Ideas and Ideals in a Depression Decade* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1992), 76; Bernard Sternsher, ed., *Hope Restored: How the New Deal Worked in Town and Country* (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, publisher, 1999), 239-40.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetYoung Cemetery Cabin

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

for work in order to keep young adults from competing for the scarce number of jobs in the general work force. This student assistance was not restricted to those whose families were on relief, however the ability to prove financial hardship was a requirement. For youth not in school whose families received relief, a work project program was available. Ideally, these projects were to be educational to provide some form of vocational training and were to serve both the youth and the community in which they lived. Examples of such projects in Nebraska included landscaping a forty-acre park in Lincoln and the construction of park facilities and structures in Alliance (BX01-067). Additional projects involved twelve students at the University of Nebraska constructing an observatory and, in Central City, Nebraska youth attended a weekly class to learn the use of slide rules and other tools of the surveying trade while working for the county surveyor's office. Statistics for Nebraska during the years 1935-38 indicate that 6,201 young people enrolled in either the student aid or work project programs of the National Youth Administration.<sup>5</sup>

Although federally funded, the NYA was decentralized and designed to be administered at the state and local levels in order to best meet community needs. As the program progressed, it also evolved. Early in its history, officials realized that rural youth were at a disadvantage because locally based projects were not always economically feasible in areas of low population density. Therefore, "resident centers" were developed to bring rural youth to a central facility. In Nebraska, resident centers were located in Bellevue and Peru; the former for boys, which offered various forms of vocational training, and the latter for girls, which focused on teaching cooking, sewing and other home economics skills. As international events signaled a looming threat in the late 1930s, the National Youth Administration turned its focus to national defense. In 1939, the program was turned over to the newly created Federal Security Agency and, by the early 1940s, student aid and work project funds were reduced as more money was directed towards training for the war effort. By March 1941, proposals were being made to expand the NYA job-training efforts in anticipation of a shortage of shipyard workers as ships were being constructed to meet British requirements. Following the entrance of the United States into World War II, the National Youth Administration ended in 1943 as young people in America were called to serve in the military or in numerous defense industry jobs on the home front.<sup>6</sup>

**Young Cemetery Cabin**

In 1855, the family of William and Rebecca Young were among the early pioneers to arrive in Nebraska following the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which opened the territory for settlement. A year later, William Young built a cabin as his family dwelling. Tragedy soon struck the family with the death of their infant Joseph, who was buried on the highest point of land on their homestead. The Youngs allowed other settlers to inter their loved ones at this location, which came to be known as the Young Cemetery. In 1888, the Young Cemetery Association formally organized to care for the burial ground. Their desire for a "shelter house" at the cemetery for funerals is evident in Young Cemetery Association papers in early 1940.<sup>7</sup>

The person most responsible for enlisting National Youth Administration involvement in the project of moving the Young family cabin to the cemetery appears to be Mrs. Clara White, granddaughter of William Young and member of the Young Cemetery Association. A letter addressed to her dated 23 October 1940 from the National Youth Administration Office in Nebraska City states, "... we are prepared to take immediate action in establishing this project and I believe as soon as we iron out the details it will be possible to begin work very shortly." By January 1941, "Notice to Report For Work"

<sup>5</sup> Bruce L. Melvin, *Rural Youth on Relief*, Research Monograph XI (Washington, D.C.: United States Printing Office, 1937), xvii, 48, 51; Betty and Ernest K. Lindley, *A New Deal for Youth: The Story of the National Youth Administration* (New York: Viking Press, 1938), 72, 166, 284, photograph section.

<sup>6</sup> Reiman, 173-4; Sternsher, ed., 196-7; *Plattsmouth Journal*, 29 March and 5 May 1941.

<sup>7</sup> Young Cemetery Association papers and clippings. In 1857, the Young family allowed a portion of their home to be used as a school, thereby creating the first rural school in Cass County [Mary Skalak, ed., *History of Cass County, Nebraska* (Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1989), 6.]

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Young Cemetery Cabin**

Name of Property

**Cass County, Nebraska**

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

announcements were sent to the National Youth Administration "boys," all between the ages of 17 and 25, who were to be engaged in the project. Albert A. Young, brother of Clara White, served as project foreman. Seven NYA young men and Mr. Young worked intermittently from January to March 1941 first disassembling the Young family dwelling and then using its materials in the construction of the cabin on a concrete slab by the cemetery. For their work, the NYA youth were paid 25-cents an hour for no more than 64 hours of work a month. Following its construction at the cemetery, the cabin was opened to the public and contained a rocking chair, table, Bible and visitor registry book.<sup>8</sup>

The public dedication of the Young Cemetery Cabin occurred on 25 May 1941 and drew a large crowd. It featured an invocation by Reverend Neil Stewart of the Murray Presbyterian Church and a reading of the list of servicemen interred in the cemetery, which included six Civil War veterans. Judge A. H. Duxbury gave a memorial address honoring their valor and additional speeches were delivered by Gladys Shamp of the Nebraska National Youth Administration citing the importance of its activities in the state and W. A. Robertson who paid tribute to Nebraska's pioneers.<sup>9</sup>

**Summary**

The Young Cemetery Cabin is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the National Youth Administration, a New Deal work project and vocational training program established during the Great Depression for the country's young adults. A dwelling originally constructed in 1856 on the Young family homestead was disassembled and its materials, including the hand-hewn logs, were used in the construction of the Young Cemetery Cabin by the National Youth Administration in 1941. The cabin is an excellent and intact example of a New Deal public work project.

Although the Young Cemetery Cabin could technically be considered a moved property, the primary significance of the property results from the activities of the National Youth Administration in relocating the property to the cemetery. Therefore, criterion consideration B concerns regarding moved properties does not apply in this case.

<sup>8</sup> Young Cemetery Association papers and clippings; *Plattsmouth Journal* 5 May 1941. The National Youth Administration work project number for the project was #720-81-765. The National Youth Administration young men who worked on the Young Cemetery Cabin were: Richard J. Frans, Charles C. Clark, George Clark, Joseph Hoschar, Glenn M. W. Stiles, Lemuel B. Sheard and Paul Holthusen. All of these individuals were from Union Nebraska with the exception of Hoschar and Sheard who were from Murray Nebraska.

<sup>9</sup> *Plattsmouth Journal*, 29 May 1941. The Young Cemetery Cabin dedication was quite extensive and further involved a presentation of the colors by the American Legion, attendance by the Boy Scouts and signing "America the Beautiful," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "America."



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Young Cemetery Cabin

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

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**Bibliography**

Cutler, Phoebe. *The Public Landscape of the New Deal*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1985.

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Melvin, Bruce L. *Rural Youth on Relief*. Research Monograph XI. Washington, D.C.: United States Printing Office, 1937.

*Plattsmouth Journal*. 29 March 1941 – 29 May 1941. See individual footnotes for specific citations.

Reiman, Richard A. *The New Deal & American Youth: Ideas and Ideals in a Depression Decade*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, ca. 1992.

Skalak, Mary, and Plattsmouth Journal. *History of Cass County, Nebraska*. Dallas, TX: Curtis Media, 1989.

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Young Cemetery Association papers and clippings, ca. 1940-42. Copies located at the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Young Cemetery Cabin**

Name of Property

**Cass County, Nebraska**

County and State

**Section 10 Page 1**

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary is the footprint of the building.

**Boundary Justification**

This boundary encompasses the land associated with the Young Cemetery Cabin when it was constructed by the National Youth Administration.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Young Cemetery Cabin

Name of Property

Cass County, Nebraska

County and State

**Section    photos    Page    1**

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The following information pertains to all photographs:

**YOUNG CEMETERY CABIN**

Cass County, Nebraska

Photo by John N. Vogel

June 2004

Negative at Nebraska State Historical Society

Photo #1 of 9

Context view

View to northeast

Photo #2 of 9

Context view

View to northeast

Photo #3 of 9

South elevation

View to north

Photo #4 of 9

Plaque by the cabin entrance

View to north

Photo #5 of 9

South and east elevations

View to northwest

Photo #6 of 9

East and north elevations

View to southwest

Photo #7 of 9

North and west elevations

View to southeast

Photo #8 of 9

West elevation

View to east

Photo #9 of 9

Interior close-up of hand-hewn log