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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 National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Masonic Placer Cemetery-Valley Brook Cemetery

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 905 Airport Road

City or town: Breckenridge State: CO County: Summit

Not For Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

AWF

5/16/14

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Jon Colson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

7-18-14
Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>6</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>8</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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.)

No Style

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Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Sexton's Building: earthen foundation, vertical wood plank siding, rolled asphalt roofing

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Masonic Placer Cemetery - Valley Brook Cemetery (hereafter referred to as Valley Brook Cemetery) encompasses approximately twenty acres of flat to gradually sloping forested terrain. Two-thirds of the cemetery is within the Breckenridge town limits; the remainder is outside the town boundary. Civil engineer A.C. Whipple designed and platted Valley Brook Cemetery in 1882. The overall plan is characteristic of the Rocky Mountain garden cemetery movement, but the Celtic cross design is unusual. Lodgepole and limber pines, Engelmann spruce, quaking aspen, potentilla, elderberry, Wood's rose, and native grasses cover the site, while natural drainages and six unlined, abandoned ditches traverse it. The only entrance to Valley Brook Cemetery is under a 20' wide x 15' tall arch constructed in 1938. The site is marked by an iron and barbed wire fence around most of its boundary. The one-story, one-room sexton's building, constructed in 1901, is the only building on the property. Valley Brook Cemetery can accommodate up to an estimated 5,000 burials, though only about 3,000 souls have been interred to date. The burial plots are oriented east-west. Individual burial sites measure 4' x 10' while family plots measure 20' x 20' and accommodate up to ten burials. A small portion of plots are marked with iron or wood fences, or concrete or stone coping. A vast majority of the grave markers are modest in size, generally maintaining the overall setting within the natural mountain landscape. Preferred materials for markers are sandstone and marble; also present are naturally-shaped boulders and concrete.

Edwin Carter is among the interred; he was a Breckenridge naturalist who studied and preserved wildlife specimen and how area mining processes affected those specimens. A part of his wildlife collection was eventually one of the major exhibits that started the Colorado Museum of Natural History in 1900.

Narrative Description

Valley Brook Cemetery is situated at the historically northern edge of the town of Breckenridge near the intersection of Airport Road and Valley Brook Street; entry is via Airport Road. The cemetery is bordered by privately- and municipality-owned land. The rectangular site consists of two sections: 13.3 acres owned by the Town of Breckenridge and 6.67 acres owned by the Breckenridge Masonic Lodge. The site gradually slopes downward in elevation from southwest (9503') to northeast (9455') with a loss of approximately 48'.

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Character-defining features of the historic designed landscape include: the entrance arch, boundary fences, roads, vegetation, sexton's building, a non-historic Masonic area entrance, grave lots, grave demarcations and markers, and ditches.

Historic Designed Landscape, 1882 (contributing site):

Valley Brook Cemetery epitomizes the design of Rocky Mountain garden cemeteries platted and constructed during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Cemetery historian Annette Stott notes that original town burial grounds were crude and impermanent. As towns matured, they developed permanent and professionally designed cemeteries, often known as "Fair Mount."¹ Stott notes that these cemeteries were "the first public emblems of culture" and described them as thus:

The fair mount was an orderly park with neatly laid out burial plots, planned pathways, mountain vistas, and white marble monuments. A fence around the perimeter separated the cemetery from open range. Where no trees grew naturally, they were planted, along with ornamental shrubs and flowering bushes. Various irrigation schemes kept these plants alive, from artificial ponds and ditches to wells with windmills. Smaller towns and those with arid cemeteries that could not be watered nevertheless arranged their fair mount with either a grid or an organic park plan and filled it with carved sandstone, limestone, and marble monuments. Benches invited citizens to enjoy the beauty of a quiet moment in a hard work week and to contemplate the passing of friends, neighbors, and strangers. Before the advent of art museums, public libraries, or civic sculpture, fair mounts functioned as sculpture gardens that recorded local history.²

Although Valley Brook Cemetery never had ornamental shrubs, flowering bushes or artificial ponds in its plans, sizable, naturally-growing coniferous trees of 5, 6, 10 and 15 inches in diameter grew on the site.³ Valley Brook Cemetery still embodies the organic park plan and the mountain setting.

Entrance Arch and Gate, 1938, photograph number 9: A 20' wide x 15' tall arch built in 1938 serves as the only entrance to Valley Brook Cemetery. The entrance is located near the northeast corner of the cemetery, at the intersection of Airport Road and Valley Brook Street. Valley Brook Street leads to and ends at the cemetery entrance. Both automobiles and pedestrians use the same entrance, though a four-spoke wood turnstile capping a cast-iron post (39" tall x 43" wide) is immediately adjacent to the north end of the arch.⁴ A wrought iron gate measuring 6'-6" at the center and 8' high at both ends opens beneath the arch. Two 8'-tall pillars constructed of local cobble and mortar support a black, wrought-iron arch measuring approximately 17' high at the center finial. In the

¹ Annette Stott defines the terms 'Boot hill' and 'Fair Mount' in *Pioneer Cemeteries*. Boot hill is the designation for the earliest burial ground in a pioneer settlement with the name derived from the "phrase "to die with your boots on," meaning suddenly, while fully engaged in living" and the term has become "especially associated with the dangerous living of gamblers, gunslingers, and miners." (Stott, 9).

² Annette Stott, *Pioneer Cemeteries: Sculpture Gardens of the Old West* (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2008), 15.

³ Masonic Placer claim by William McAdoo, filed on July 17, 1893.

⁴ The turnstile was installed in 1938 adjacent to the entrance gate to allow pedestrian access to the cemetery while keeping range cattle out of the cemetery.

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arch are the white-painted words "VALLEY BROOK CEMETERY." The wrought-iron arch was restored in 1958, though it is unknown if the restoration included anything other than painting.⁵

Boundary fences, circa 2000, photograph number 11: Much of the fence surrounding the cemetery is rather bland, with barbed wire held upright by T-posts delineating the cemetery from private property; the barbed wire and T-posts are contemporary. The portion of the fence running north from the entrance is ornamental. This section is black-painted wrought iron and 44" high x nearly 300' long. There is no physical divider at the northern boundary of the cemetery. In addition to the boundary fences, steel cylinders, original to the 1882 survey, mark sections of the cemetery.⁶

Roads, 1882, photographs 9, 12, 19, 21: The streets of Valley Brook Cemetery are laid out in the shape of a Celtic cross, and each street is named. Upon entering the cemetery, visitors can follow Columbine Street to its intersection with Mountain Bluebell Street. This intersection is the center of the Celtic cross and is encircled by Columbine Circle. Other streets follow a grid pattern, and are oriented to the cardinal directions. Streets oriented east-west, from north to south are: Mountain Alder Lane, Coneflower Street, Sage Buttercup Street, and Ponderosa Lane. Streets oriented north-south, from east to west are: Spruce Lane, Larkspur Street, Juniper Lane, Marsh Marigold Street, Aspen Lane, the aforementioned Columbine Street, Bristlecone Lane, Lupine Street, Alpine Fir Lane, Paintbrush Street, and Lodgepole Lane. The streets in the Masonic portion of the cemetery are unnamed. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic is not delineated and the roads remain narrow, as they were originally cleared for horse and carriage traffic. All of Valley Brook Cemetery's roads are still unpaved.

Vegetation: Prior to the mining activities of the 1860s, the historic vegetation of the site consisted of Englemann spruce, lodgepole pine, and aspen. As prospectors entered the area, vegetation in many areas in and around Breckenridge changed from unfettered natural growth to an almost barren landscape of placer mining. Although the Valley Brook Cemetery site had been a mining claim, the site was not devoid of trees. According to an 1882 newspaper article, there were a number of evergreen trees on the site. It does not appear that any additional trees were planted as part of a formal landscape design (no alleys or shrub rows exist), rather the evergreens populated throughout the cemetery. Today, a mature subalpine forest creates the canopy at Valley Brook Cemetery, and this canopy covers a majority of the twenty acres. Established trees and immature undergrowth of various ages are mixed within the site. However, the northwest corner of the cemetery consists of a treeless meadow. Flowers and shrubs within Valley Brook consist of potentilla, elderberry, Wood's rose, and native grasses. Customary cemetery decorative shrubs and flowers such as peonies, lilacs, or gladiolas do not grow in Valley Brook. Oxeye daisies (*chrysanthemum leucanthemum* a/k/a *luecanthemum vulgare*), an invasive species, appear to have taken hold in the sunnier areas of the cemetery.⁷ A windstorm in late October 1997 uprooted hundreds of trees in the northeast portion of the cemetery. The area has recovered quite well with many trees approximately fifteen years old.⁸

⁵ The Landplan Design Group, Inc., *Valley Brook Cemetery Preservation Master Plan* (Denver, Colorado: The Landplan Design Group, Inc., 2011), 3-24.

⁶ Monument conservator David Via notes: Each cylinder held a wooden post and the post listed the section. There are two of three wooden posts left that still sit in the steel cylinders. (David Via phone call with Larissa O'Neil, February 10, 2014).

⁷ The Town of Breckenridge is aware of the noxious specimen and will be taking appropriate actions.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 3-2.

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The outward view from Valley Brook Cemetery can vary depending on location within the site. Views from within the Masonic portion are relegated to the cemetery itself; while the vegetation is generally not dense, it restricts the view. The view from the northern section of Valley Brook is much more expansive. Visitors can see across the valley to Boreas Mountain to the southeast, and Breckenridge Ski Resort's peaks 7 and 8 to the southwest. The view changed since the time the cemetery was platted, due to natural landscape growth. The windstorm of 1997 changed the views minimally, as the view from the northeast portion of the cemetery is somewhat obstructed by trees outside of the cemetery's boundaries.

Masonic area entrance, circa 2000, photograph numbers 19, 21: The Masonic area is only accessible from the town-owned area and there is no barrier between the two. There are two identical entrance markers to the Masonic area of the cemetery located along the two roadways; one centered north-south and the other near the eastern boundary. Each entrance is sided by two identical square columns; there are no gates. The columns, likely wood frame construction, measure 28" square and are clad in a cobblestone veneer. Each column is capped by a 40" x 6" square sandstone slab. The total height of the columns is approximately 5'-2". Each column is protected from vehicular accidents by yellow-painted steel bollards. Of each set of columns, the westernmost column contains an entablature featuring the Masonic insignia and the message "ENTERING BRECKENRIDGE MASONIC CEMETERY." These markers are contemporary and were constructed since the year 2000. There is no other entrance into the Masonic portion of Valley Brook, contemporarily or historically.

The graves and lots, photograph numbers 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18: Valley Brook Cemetery can accommodate up to an estimated 5,000 burials, though approximately 3,000 interments have occurred as of 2013. Due to the cemetery's potter's field, combined with the relocation of other cemeteries to Valley Brook, it is difficult to determine the exact number interments and not every interment is accompanied by a gravemarker. Burial sites are and have historically been sold with no formal selection system for location, which has led to interments in all areas of the cemetery at various times.⁹

Burials are oriented east to west, with headstones on the western side of the interred. Valley Brook Cemetery has allowed exceptions to this orientation. Two burials are oriented southeast/northwest, with the gravemarkers at the northwest end; the orientation of these burials appear arbitrary. Individual burial sites measure 4' x 10' while family plots measure 20' x 20' and accommodate up to ten burials.

Research conducted by the Masonic Lodge No. 47, circa 1950s, found that some Masons were buried in the Town section of the cemetery, in some cases a Mason was buried in the larger family plot located in the Town section. As a result, the Masonic Lodge purchased and placed markers on all Masonic graves located in the Town section of Valley Brook Cemetery. These consist of concrete cylinders, measuring approximately 6" in diameter and extending about 3" above ground level. Embedded in the center of the cylinders are 2" round flat metal markers. The metal markers contain a number that corresponds to a burial number. Masonic Lodge members also placed two steel pipes in the ground on all Masonic graves, in both the Town and Masonic sections, to serve as flag posts. On

⁹ Taryn Power, "# of Burial Spaces," September 10, 2013.

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Memorial Day, Lodge members place American and Masonic and/or Eastern Star flags on all known Mason's and Eastern Star (the women's auxiliary of the Masons) gravesites. The steel pipes are approximately 2" in diameter and extend from the ground by approximately 6". Records of the Masonic Lodge No. 47 reveal that the height of the pipes and the concrete markers assisted with snow removal of the cemetery streets, so that if a snow plow inadvertently hit one of these markers or pipes, the driver quickly guided the plow back to the road. The Breckenridge Masons added these steel pipes along with the concrete and metal markers circa 1950s – 1960s.¹⁰

Though many American Rocky Mountain garden cemeteries have distinctive reserved areas for religious denominations or social classes, at Valley Brook Cemetery anybody can be buried anywhere on the grounds as long as someone paid for the burial space. Still, Valley Brook contains differing official and unofficial burial areas. Paupers and many Masons are buried in designated areas, other fraternal lodges purchased numerous lots, and the earliest veterans are grouped together. The Town of Breckenridge grouped the transferred burials from Kokomo and Robinson town sites together. Valley Brook Cemetery is not divided into sections for ethnicities or individual religious groups, though records from St. Mary's Catholic Church denote an area just north of Columbine Street and within Columbine Circle as the "Catholic Cemetery." This designation was purely unofficial, and it appears that the local Catholic congregation preferred to be buried in close proximity to one another.¹¹

The initial plat for Valley Brook Cemetery designates an area extending north from the entrance as a paupers' burial ground. Allocated as a space for the burial of Breckenridge's indigent population, Potter's Field contains two rows that measure 10' wide separated by a 10'-wide alley. Each row includes thirteen 20' x 20' plots and one 15' x 20' plot. Potter's Field contains only one gravemarker, that of Bob Lott. Lott defies the definition of pauper, as he was a popular African American Breckenridge restaurateur. The remaining interred in Potter's Field are anonymous. While it does not appear that grave sites were segregated by race or ethnicity, further research in this regard and the reason Lott was buried in the pauper section may yield this information.

It was not unusual for cemeteries in the Rocky Mountain region to border neighboring cemeteries of fraternal lodges. While there are no neighboring cemeteries to Valley Brook, Valley Brook is typical in that several lodges from Breckenridge and the surrounding geographic area purchased burial spaces for the interment of their members in their respective preferred areas. Those fraternal organizations which purchased several lots included: Joseph A Mower Post 31 of the Grand Army of the Republic, Blue River Lodge 49 International Order of Odd Fellows, the Gold Nugget Lodge 89 of the Knights of Pythias, and Kiowa Tribe 6 of the Independent Order of Red Men. All of these fraternal organizations purchased their lots in 1896. Several other fraternal organizations are represented in Valley Brook Cemetery, though not in specific areas. These organizations include: Breckenridge Camp 305 of the Woodmen of the World, Mt. Helen Homestead Yeomen Lodge 2066, and Mt. Baldy Tent 6 of the Knights of the Macabees of the World.

¹⁰ Wesley M. Enyeart, *The History of Breckenridge Lodge A. F. & A. M. No. 47*. Dillon, CO: D & L Printing, Inc., 1977.

¹¹ Stott, *Pioneer Cemeteries: Sculpture Gardens of the Old West*, 21; The Landplan Design Group, Inc., *Valley Brook Cemetery Preservation Master Plan*, 2-3.

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The women's auxiliaries to the fraternal organizations are represented in Valley Brook since the wives of several lodge members reside immediately next to their husbands. The women's auxiliaries include: Mt. Helen Rebekah Lodge 102 (Odd Fellows), Sacajawea Council 51 of the Daughters of Pocahontas (Redmen), Summit Circle 140 of the Women of Woodcraft (Woodmen), and the Breckenridge Chapter 79 of the Eastern Star (Masons).¹²

The largest reserved area in Valley Brook Cemetery belongs to Breckenridge Lodge Number 47, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons. Instead of purchasing multiple burial spaces, Lodge 47 reserved one-third of the cemetery for the burial of their dead and associated family members. The formation of the Masonic portion happened concurrently with the formation of the Town portion of the cemetery in February 1882. At that time, member of Lodge 47 William McAdoo relinquished the thought of the land yielding great golden mining riches and permitted an alternative use of the claim.¹³

A veteran's area is located immediately south of the center of the Celtic cross. The area lacks a formal barrier or enclosure, but features a flagpole erected in 1950 and a simple white-painted wooden cross in the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) area. Erected sometime after World War II, the wooden cross memorializes "The Unknown Dead". There are at least five different styles of military grave markers identified in this area of Valley Brook Cemetery. The earliest markers are located in the GAR area and identify Civil War Union veterans who served in Company K, 3rd Colorado Calvary, 2nd Colorado Calvary and the 3rd Battalion of Infantry of the Colorado National Guard. One peculiarity in the veteran's area of the cemetery is that the majority of members of the Joseph A. Mower Post 31 GAR oriented their headstones to the west, however, the reason is not known.¹⁴

Two areas at the western edge of Valley Brook Cemetery contain burials from the Kokomo and Robinson town sites, which were relocated in 1959 and 1966, respectively. Each of these areas is distinguished by a 6"-wide concrete curb set just above grade. The Kokomo section is approximately half the size of the Robinson area. Some of the transferred graves from Kokomo are outlined by a 3'-high black wrought-iron fence.

Several individual and family burial plots in Valley Brook Cemetery are surrounded by defining features. Decorative ironwork fences were manufactured in the Eastern United States, as evidenced by the identification tags affixed to the fencing, and sold by dealers in Leadville and Denver. The fences measure approximately 3' high and surround over fifty of the individual and family plots in Valley Brook. Ground-level concrete coping outlines at least ten plots, pressed red brick frame approximately five, native stone cobbles outline approximately thirty-five, and approximately 3'-high wooden fence surrounds approximately five. There are two observed plots outlined at ground level by prefabricated concrete cylinders. All of the observed delineating features appear to be original.

Plots and grave fencing, circa 1890 – 1920, photograph numbers 3, 4, 13, 14, 15, 16: Wood and iron fencing surrounds a few of the lots. Of the iron fences, manufacturers include: the Muncie Ironworks of Muncie, Indiana; the Stewart Ironworks Company with manufacturing plants in

¹² Town of Breckenridge, "Information about Valley Brook Cemetery" (Town of Breckenridge, November 2011), 2.

¹³ The Landplan Design Group, Inc., *Valley Brook Cemetery Preservation Master Plan*, 2-7.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 3-11.

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Covington, Kentucky, Wichita, Kansas, and Cincinnati, Ohio; the Valley Forge Company of Knoxville, Tennessee; and W.L. Malpuss¹⁵ of Leadville, Colorado. The Valley Forge Company manufactured approximately half of the fencing in Valley Brook Cemetery. While the fencing was manufactured almost exclusively outside of Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region, it was sold to parties in Breckenridge through dealers who marketed the products in Leadville or Denver.¹⁶

Gravemarkers: The earliest gravemarkers at Valley Brook Cemetery in the early 1880s would likely have been fashioned out of wood or nearby natural stone. Sometimes a simple cross marked the final resting place of an early settler. The same year that Valley Brook officially opened, the Denver, South Park & Pacific Railroad lumbered into Breckenridge which could deliver larger, heavier, and often more ornate gravemarkers and carved monuments. There appear to be no archival records or advertisements identifying any carvers or monument retailers in Breckenridge or the surrounding Blue River Valley at least through the 1920s.

Headboards, painted upright wooden boards placed at the head of a grave and usually a couple of feet tall, likely identified the earliest interments at Valley Brook Cemetery. One wooden headboard in Valley Brook was painted with the interred's name and date of death. It is unknown if other wooden headboards, no longer extant, had painted identifying information. As Annette Stott writes in *Pioneer Cemeteries: Sculpture Gardens of the Old West*, "In many places, wood was the most readily available material and the least expensive." Stott also writes that, unfortunately wood was not the ideal choice for an enduring marker to survive a Rocky Mountain winter as "many headboards rotted at ground line and had to be reburied, shortening them in the process." Appropriately, there are only three remaining headboards in Valley Brook as of the summer of 2013.¹⁷

Marble¹⁸ and granite appear to be the preferred material choices for gravemarkers in Valley Brook Cemetery. Marble and granite headstones date from the 1890s to the contemporary. Markers vary widely in size. Some are small, rectangular stones embedded in the ground. In contrast, the non-historic white marble obelisk of Charles Terrill measures 9' tall x 26" square.¹⁹ The only concentration of marble monuments in Valley Brook Cemetery are located in the veteran's area where approximately twenty-five simple white tablets with rounded tops mark the soldiers' graves. None of the marble or granite gravestones in Valley Brook Cemetery contain a maker's mark or other identifying feature.

While the majority of gravemarkers in Valley Brook Cemetery appear to be marble and granite, there is no shortage of other materials. Natural boulders and concrete, both familiar materials in the Rocky Mountain region, are used throughout the cemetery. The area of Valley Brook Cemetery containing the remains transferred from the Robinson cemetery has small 4" x 6" metal markers; the majority of

¹⁵ For a short biography of William L. Malpuss and his monument company in Leadville see Annette Stott, *Pioneer Cemeteries: Sculpture Gardens of the Old West*, (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2008), 101-103.

¹⁶ Stott, *Pioneer Cemeteries: Sculpture Gardens of the Old West*, 78.

¹⁷ Ibid. Monument Conservator David Via confirmed that the wooden markers were "painted on (not carved), most often using linseed oil" (David Via phone call with Larissa O'Neil, February 10, 2014).

¹⁸ The marble headstones and monuments in Valley Brook Cemetery could have come from two different sources. The earliest marble pieces, from 1882 to the mid-1890s, could have been imported from Italy just as many of the same pieces in eastern United States' cemeteries. From the mid-1890s and continuing, the marble would likely have been quarried at Marble, Colorado, which was then serviced by rail. (Stott, *Pioneer Cemeteries: Sculpture Gardens of the Old West*, 35-36).

¹⁹ The Terrill monument was erected in 2009, though Mr. Terrill remains alive.

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these markers read "Unknown." There are no observed artificial stone, sandstone, limestone, or terra cotta markers in the cemetery.

Social classes do not appear to have had different preferences for gravemarker materials. Many of the larger monuments signify wealth, but even some of the smaller gravemarkers are made from marble or granite. A variety of materials are located throughout the cemetery except for the aforementioned veteran's headstones. The only gravemarkers that do not appear original to the date of burial were placed by the Town of Breckenridge beginning in 1992. As of that year, the Town Clerk identified approximately 370 unmarked graves of people who passed away prior to 1920, the majority of whom passed between 1890 and 1906. The Town purchased 100 8" x 16" marble slab headstones with polished tops and rough-faced chamfered edges in 1992, with plans to purchase the remaining stones in subsequent years. "Unknown" was inscribed on the 100 headstones. Crews installed the headstones flush with the ground chiefly in the northern portion of the cemetery just west of the sexton's building.²⁰

Differing types of symbolic statuary are part of several gravemarkers in Valley Brook Cemetery. Often sold through mail-order catalogues as well as local showrooms, these monuments personalized gravemarkers. Valley Brook Cemetery boasts the imagery of obelisks, lambs, children and babies, laurels, flowers, doves, gates, hands, wreaths, and spheres. These symbols could be carved into the headstone, rest atop of the headstone, placed freely adjacent to a grave, or installed within a family lot. While statuary in other Rocky Mountain cemeteries could reach larger-than-life proportions, statuary in Valley Brook Cemetery is relatively small and does not generally measure more than 1'-2' tall.²¹

Unnamed Ditches (6) – Contributing structures, no photographs: Other features observed in Valley Brook Cemetery are six unlined ditches that cross the property. These ditches run southwest to northeast, but are not perfectly straight. Typically, they are 2' – 3' wide and currently approximately 6" deep. The ditches are purportedly left-overs from the land's placer mining days, but there are no archival records that divulge such information. The ditches are associated with a diversion gate on Cucumber Creek, which is outside the southwest boundary of Valley Brook Cemetery. Though the diversion gate's origin as a control device for mining or irrigation is unknown, according to one local and adjacent property owner the diversion gate was opened historically on Memorial Day to "to deliver water through the Cemetery for people to get water for their flower bouquets and they also served as an amenity."²² Pipes (essentially small culverts) under the road allowed the water to flow throughout the property. However, at an unknown date the town removed the pipes and also "dug out the main ditch across the back of the cemetery...to provide "fire protection" at the Public Works Shops "and this deep ditch prevents the smaller ditches from being fed."²³ This passive irrigation system is now defunct. An online database search of the Colorado State Engineer's Office regarding water structures was conducted on September 3, 2013 and found none either active or abandoned in association with the cemetery.²⁴

²⁰ Breckenridge Town Clerk, "Memorandum - Update on Work in Valley Brook Cemetery" (Town of Breckenridge, August 7, 1992).

²¹ Monument Conservator David Via confirms that the symbols "were carved (not adhered) to the stones" (David Via phone call with Larissa O'Neil, February 10, 2014).

²² Robin Theobald via email to Larissa O'Neil. We use the term "ditch" for these features, following Mr. Theobald's description.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Per CFR 60, only real property is subject to this nomination; there are no associated water rights included within this nomination.

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Sexton's building, 1901, contributing building, photograph numbers 5, 6, 7, 8: Facing south, the 1901 single-story sexton's building lacks a formal foundation and appears to rest directly on the earth. Light-brown painted vertical wood plank siding clads the wood-frame construction. Green-painted paired wood doors are located on the south (main) façade. Similarly painted double-hung eight-light windows open on the west, north, and east façades and are protected by functional wood plank shutters that open on non-historic black metal strap hinges. The boxed eaves are painted to match the doors and windows. A galvanized metal stovepipe extends upward near the northwest corner of the steeply pitched front gabled roof. The roof is protected by green rolled asphalt roofing. The box form Sexton's building measures 14'-5" wide x 20'-5" long.

Sexton's building alterations: Archival records do not indicate any alterations to this building other than those that occurred in 1974. At that time, repairs amounted to: replacing one rafter, removing three shutters and replacing them with others of similar design, replacing the wooden stoop outside of the door, covering a woodpecker hole, and installing a cap on the existing fluepipe.²⁵

Sexton's building integrity: The sexton's building has a high degree of integrity. A complete restoration of the building in 2003, pursuant to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Restoration, and regular maintenance has kept the building in good condition. The replacement shutters are sympathetic to the original design and the rolled roofing has been on the building for many years. In 2003, the rolled roofing was replaced.

Alterations & Integrity: Valley Brook Cemetery's design has changed little since the time it was first platted in 1882 and therefore retains a high degree of integrity. Changes to the cemetery as a whole are typical and do not impact the overall integrity. They include: the growth of vegetation and the slow but steady addition of interments and associated monuments. Historic gravemarkers are positioned throughout the cemetery, with contemporary monuments viewed as infill. New burials and their associated monuments are surrounded by historic monuments and do not detract from the integrity of the property. The Town sold lots and individual burial spaces wherever the purchaser desired. There is no 'historic' portion of the cemetery. Therefore, historic gravemarkers can be found alongside newly-installed gravemarkers throughout the cemetery. Gravemarkers were repaired by the Town of Breckenridge in 1992. Starting in 2001, a professional conservator completed monument and iron fence conservation in Valley Brook Cemetery. No extant records indicate that any grave markers have ever been moved or relocated within Valley Brook Cemetery.

Valley Brook Cemetery contains all of its original design elements with the complimentary additions of a sexton's building in 1901 and the installation of the entrance arch and gate in 1938. These two resources (the entrance arch and the sexton's building) retain a high degree of integrity; the sexton's building is devoid of any design alterations. Similarly, historic materials and workmanship of the building, the arch, the fences, coping stones, and grave markers are intact.

The cemetery retains a high degree of integrity in regard to its setting and feeling. The site's setting in the mountain landscape and its associated view of the peaks creates a distinctive feeling. The cultural landscape is dominated by natural features; not even the grave markers detract from this mountain

²⁵ G.M. Grkovic, "Construction Agreement" (Town of Breckenridge, July 1, 1974), Town of Breckenridge Town Clerk; Town of Breckenridge, "Field Inspection Report" (Town of Breckenridge, n.d.), Town of Breckenridge Town Clerk.

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scene. The most dramatic change to the setting occurred on Halloween night in 1997, when an estimated 100-mph windstorm blew down hundreds of trees in a 6.4-acre area in the northeast corner of the cemetery, damaging numerous gravemarkers and fences. Voluntary lodgepole pines have begun to regrow in this area.

The cemetery retains its historic features including the sexton's house, entrance arch, and boundary fences.

Chronology of changes to Valley Brook Cemetery:

- 1882: The cemetery is platted and the roads established within.
- 1901: The sexton's building is constructed.
- 1938: Entrance arch is constructed, giving the cemetery a formal presence in the community.
- 1997: 100-mph windstorm blows down and uproots trees on 6.4 acres in the northeast corner of the cemetery causing damage to gravemarkers and surrounding fences.

Records reveal maintenance efforts within the cemetery grounds, including road grading, tree pruning, and weed pulling by Town staff and volunteers. There is also mention of the installation of culverts underneath some of the cemetery's roadways to improve drainage and minimize the seasonal flood damage. Regular maintenance on the sexton's building and entrance arch have kept them in good condition. Some of the gravemarkers and fences exhibit signs of age and weathering, which is normal. Maintenance of lots and their accompanying memorials are the responsibility of descendants and other relatives per cemetery policy, yet the Town makes an effort to maintain gravemarkers. During nine individual seasons of work since 2001, a professional monument conservator treated 154 monuments and iron fences in Valley Brook Cemetery.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Exploration and Settlement

Conservation

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1882-1896

1900

1882-1938

Significant Dates

1882, 1900, 1901, 1938

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Edwin Carter

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

A.C. Whipple

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Masonic Placer Cemetery - Valley Brook Cemetery (hereafter referred to as Valley Brook Cemetery) is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of *Exploration and Settlement* for its association with the development of the Town of Breckenridge and Summit County. Additionally, it is locally significant under Criterion B in the area of *Conservation* as the final resting place for Edwin Carter, a naturalist whose life work to study and preserve each type of wildlife found in Colorado's Rocky Mountains was significant to Breckenridge and the State of Colorado. Finally, it is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of *Landscape Architecture* for its designed plan in the form of a Celtic cross.

The period of significance for *Exploration and Settlement* begins with the plat of the cemetery in 1882 and ends in 1896 when the Town of Breckenridge and the Breckenridge Masonic Lodge No. 47 finalized the purchase of the cemetery land. The period of significance for *Conservation* is 1900 when Edwin Carter died. The period of significance under Criterion C for *Landscape Architecture* begins with the plat of the cemetery in 1882 and ends in 1938 with the construction of the entrance arch.

As a cemetery nominated individually under Criterion A, B, and C, Criteria Consideration D applies; however, as the resource derives its primary significance from its association with Breckenridge's settlement, a significant person, and its designed landscape architecture in the form of a Celtic cross, Valley Brook Cemetery meets the exception to Criteria Consideration D.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A - Exploration and Settlement: Valley Brook Cemetery is the final resting place to many early miners and settlers of the Blue River Valley. The cemetery contains the remains of several individuals transferred from other cemeteries in Summit County, notably Robinson and Kokomo. Resting in Valley Brook are also the transferred remains from unofficial burial grounds. Though Valley Brook does not date to the founding of the Town of Breckenridge, the cemetery certainly derives importance as the early population recognized the importance and need for a formal burial ground. As Breckenridge seasoned from a mid to late nineteenth century frontier mining camp to a twenty-first century tourist destination, Valley Brook Cemetery remained a community constant.

Notable individuals interred at Valley Brook are: Luther Smart, an early Breckenridge mayor; Charles Walker, first Town Surveyor who surveyed the Town for the original plat; several members of the Engle family, members of the family which founded Engle Brothers Bank; William McAdoo, placer miner who provided the land for Valley Brook Cemetery; and Helen Rich, Martha Rich, and Belle Turnbull²⁶, published authors. Also buried in Valley Brook are John and Catherine Nolan, successful proprietors of a mining company in the Breckenridge area; after John passed away in 1888,

²⁶ Many of the books written by the Rich sisters and Belle Turnbull are available at the Denver Public Library, which also houses the archives of Belle Turnbull and Helen Rich.

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Catherine oversaw the mining operations and was noted as being "a most efficient business woman."²⁷

Criterion B in the area of Conservation: Valley Brook Cemetery is also significant for being the final resting place of Edwin Carter, a person significant to Breckenridge and the state of Colorado. Carter's contribution to conservation is important for his long-tenured study and preservation of Colorado wildlife specimen and how mining affected those specimens.

Carter was born about 1828 in Oneida, New York. Carter mover to Council Bluffs, Iowa, at eighteen and heeded the call of the Pikes Peak Gold Rush in 1858. Carter's first stop in the Rocky Mountain region was Russell Gulch just south of Central City, but by 1860 he moved on to California Gulch outside of what later became Leadville. Carter spent the summer months mining near Leadville and headed over the mountain to Breckenridge to spend the winters manufacturing buckskin clothing, the hides of which he obtained by trading with area Utes. Carter repeated these seasonal traditions for a few years.

As he mined, he observed changes to the wildlife in the mining areas. He believed that the chemical processes, including the application of cyanide, used to extract gold and other precious metals from ore negatively impacted the wildlife. Some of the chemicals seeped into the streams, soil, and the air. His interest in these environmental effects became his passion, surpassing his mining interests. Carter journeyed to Central City where he learned the art of taxidermy and began his new life work of studying wildlife and collecting examples of the abnormalities he found in various species. Carter took long winter snowshoe trips assisted by his dog that pulled a small sled of supplies. He collected, catalogued, and preserved one representation of each animal he could. His collection included, among many other species, birds, squirrels, deer, bison, wolves, and grizzly bears. He collected more than 360 ptarmigans, nearly one for each day of the yearly plumage changes.²⁸ In the spirit of a true naturalist, it was reported that Carter never carried a gun. However, this was false, as Carter "realized that to preserve animals, he would have to kill them. And so he did. He shot thousands from a wide range of species, everything from grizzlies to grouse. Then he showed them off."²⁹ Although his method of preservation appears contradictory to current standards, Carter was instrumental in educating people about the negative impacts of the chemical processes used in mining to wildlife and obtained specimen for future generations to study.

Edwin Carter's collection of taxidermy became large enough by 1870 that he abandoned mining completely in order to sell his work from his log cabin home in Breckenridge, which is a contributing resource in the Breckenridge Historic District (NRIS.80000927, 5ST.130.2). It appears the sale of his specimens was a means to an end for Carter, as "He was not, however, a commercial taxidermist and to him the sale of specimens was merely to provide the means for better work."³⁰ Carter planned to exhibit his best specimens at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. A wealthy banker

²⁷ Maria Davies McGrath, "The Real Pioneers of Colorado" (The Denver Museum, 1934), 349.

²⁸ "Edwin Carter Museum & Discovery Tour," Summit Historical Society web page accessed March 2014 at: www.sumithistorical.org/Edwin

²⁹ Frederick C. Lincoln, "In Memoriam-Edwin Carter," *The Condor* 31, no. 5 (October 1929): 198; Devon O'Neil, "The Accidental Activist," *5280.com*, April 2009, <http://www.5280.com/magazine/2009/04/accidental-activist>.

³⁰ Lincoln, "In Memoriam-Edwin Carter," 198.

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from Georgetown, however, derailed this plan with an offer "too attractive to be refused".³¹ Carter sold many of his pieces in 1875 to the banker, but could not replenish his planned exhibit. Officials exhibited another naturalist's work at the Exposition but it "lacked the scientific accuracy that characterized the work of Carter and was responsible for many errors in the State bird list that have been difficult to rectify."³² Edwin Carter's pride of workmanship showed in the records he kept for each specimen. Praise for his data included: "Measurements, often a complete set, were taken in the flesh, and anything at all questionable was so indicated. Each specimen was carefully labeled, the numbers corresponding to the data slips which constituted his catalogue."³³

In 1898 Edwin Carter offered his collection for sale. His disinterest in piecing out his collection contributed to a difficult sale; individuals in Denver tried to no avail to form an association to purchase the collection. In his thirty years of collecting, Carter amassed "one of the most complete collections of Colorado fauna"³⁴ numbering over 3,300 specimens. Edwin Carter fell ill, ironically from arsenic poisoning, which he used to preserve his specimens, in late 1899. He moved to Galveston, Texas, under the premise that the lower altitude might aid his health, but passed away there on February 2, 1900. Newspapers as far away as Chicago reported his death, "and people worldwide mourned him as a pioneer."³⁵ His body was moved to the Colorado State Capitol, where it lay in state on February 8. This was the first time a private citizen held this honor. Edwin Carter was buried in Valley Brook Cemetery February 11, 1900 with the services conducted by Masonic Lodge No. 47.³⁶

Edwin Carter's collection was moved into storage following his death, where, "either through ignorance, indifference, or carelessness, many specimens were ruined, including some of those of special scientific significance."³⁷ Later in 1900, a group of ten Denver citizens pledged \$1,000 each to purchase the intact specimens and on December 6, 1900 the Colorado Museum of Natural History was incorporated to hold Carter's and other collections in Denver. A new building was constructed in Denver's City Park in 1903 with the primary collection being Carter's bird egg collection and many pieces from his wildlife collection. Additional, but smaller, collections displayed included John T. Mason's butterfly and moth collection and John F. Campion's crystalline gold collection. The official opening of the museum occurred in 1908. While the Colorado Museum of Natural History (later known as the Denver Museum of Natural History and currently as Denver Museum of Nature and Science) has expanded over the years, it continues to display specimens from Carter's collection.³⁸ Carter collected his life's work in the mountains surrounding Breckenridge, and it is only appropriate that he is interred in Valley Brook Cemetery's natural setting.³⁹

Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture: Valley Brook Cemetery is important for its association with the development of cemeteries as a designed landscape in Colorado platted between the 1880s and the mid-twentieth century. Valley Brook is a garden cemetery-a planned

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ O'Neil, "The Accidental Activist."

³⁵ O'Neil, "The Accidental Activist."

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Lincoln, "In Memoriam-Edwin Carter," 199.

³⁸ Norgren, Barbara. Inventory Sheets for National Register nomination for City Park, 1980. On file with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, Colorado.

³⁹ Ibid.

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burial ground exhibiting park-like characteristics. A takeoff of the same movement established in early nineteenth century Europe, the first garden cemetery in the United States was Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts founded in 1831 (NRIS.75000254). Key concepts of the garden cemetery movement are: substantial size, located outside but possibly adjacent to a town, exhibit a patterned plat, offer a high-quality view, and display an elevated degree of design.⁴⁰

Many cemeteries of the western United States, particularly in the Rocky Mountain region, developed into garden cemeteries. Early settlers buried friends and relatives on what they considered non-productive land or rarely in a church graveyard. These early "boot hills" soon gave way to "fair mounts" as settlements evolved from camps to towns. Fair mount cemeteries are synonymous with garden cemeteries. As art historian Dr. Annette Stott writes, the western cemetery "often began as an unkempt 'boot hill,' reflecting the violent early days of mining camps and cattle towns, and quickly grew into a 'fair mount,' the western version of a rural cemetery."⁴¹

Valley Brook Cemetery is of particular importance to the garden cemetery movement due to its distinctive Celtic cross design. A Celtic cross is identified as a cross with a ring encircling the intersection and for funerary purposes denotes a belief in Christianity. Dr. Stott notes the distinctiveness of Valley Brook's design: "[I] am not aware of any other Rocky Mountain cemetery that is" laid out as a Celtic cross. Furthermore, Dr. Stott adds: "If not unique, it is certainly an unusual feature."⁴² Additional research has substantiated this claim; no other cemeteries laid out as Celtic crosses are known to exist in Colorado.⁴³ However, an exhaustive survey of Colorado's cemeteries is not known to exist and is not on file at Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's records.

Rocky Mountain pioneer towns commonly lacked the resources to set aside and establish designated parks for recreational purposes. No doubt this was true in Breckenridge, where prospectors searched for mineral wealth in nearly all of the surrounding valleys and mountainsides. Valley Brook Cemetery itself is a played-out placer mine, salvaged for use as a garden cemetery. Approximately one mile north of the original plat of the Town of Breckenridge, Valley Brook provided a sense of liberation. "Far from the saloons, gambling halls, and prostitutes' quarters that provided the majority of entertainment in the early years of many western towns, the rural park cemetery with its emphasis on nature and artistic beauty offered a moral alternative for families, courting couples, and others."⁴⁴ Valley Brook Cemetery not only served the dead, but also the living in this manner.⁴⁵

Types of markers on display in Valley Brook are: wooden headboards, flush ground markers, slant face markers, white marble veterans' stones, horizontal tablets, simple tablets, one obelisk, one shadowbox type monument and several metal plaques. Materials include: marble, granite, wood, natural boulders, concrete, and metal. With the exception of the Charles Terrill obelisk, the gravemarkers in Valley Brook are typical of the time with the majority dating to the late nineteenth and

⁴⁰ Ron Sladek, "Golden Cemetery National Register Nomination Form 5JF401" (Tatanka Historical Associates, January 2012).

⁴¹ Stott, *Pioneer Cemeteries: Sculpture Gardens of the Old West*, xi.

⁴² Annette Stott, "Design of Mountain Cemeteries," e-mail communication to Jeffrey DeHerrera August 12, 2013.

⁴³ Annette Stott, "Design of Mountain Cemeteries," e-mail communication to Jeffrey DeHerrera August 12, 2013.

⁴⁴ The Landplan Design Group, Inc., *Valley Brook Cemetery Preservation Master Plan*, 2-6; Stott, *Pioneer Cemeteries: Sculpture Gardens of the Old West*, 242.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

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early part of the twentieth century. While some lettering and ornamentation is fancy, there are no gravemarkers that overpower the landscape. Valley Brook does not feature sarcophagi, ledger-stones, or crypts. Two oversized white marble exedras⁴⁶ accompany the Terrill obelisk at the far south end of the Masonic portion of the cemetery. Valley Brook lacks any life-size or larger-than-life statuary.

Historical Background

The shout of the word "GOLD!" first rang in the Blue River Valley on August 10, 1859, merely months into the Pikes Peak Gold Rush. The shout travelled both east and west bringing pioneers to an undeveloped, harsh mountain environment. Summit County, a part of Utah Territory until 1861 when Colorado Territory formed, is located approximately eighty miles west and south of Denver requiring gold seekers to traverse challenging mountainous terrain.

Breckenridge was not the only town in the Blue River Valley following the Pikes Peak Gold Strike. Rival towns sprang up every couple of miles or sometimes closer, as proprietors and businessmen followed prospectors into the region. What became southern Summit County boasted no less than ten towns in those formative years in addition to Breckenridge: Buffalo Flats, Delaware Flats, Lincoln City, Parkville, Preston, Rexford, Swan City, Swandyke, and Tiger.⁴⁷

Conditions in the early mining camps and town proved deplorable. The unsanitary environment caused deaths in the Blue River Valley and throughout the Rocky Mountains. These illnesses coupled with any number of accidents killed many of the early settlers in Breckenridge, but the fledgling town did not have a formal burial ground. Settlers recognized the need for a formal burial ground and established an unnamed cemetery at the south end of Main Street. The cemetery was located on the west side of Main Street, along present-day Broken Lance Drive between Main Street and Columbine Road. This location is now The Corral condominium complex. There are no extant burial records from this cemetery, though it did exist by about 1876.⁴⁸

As early as 1880, the Catholic congregation at St. Mary's Church began using a burial ground outside of town toward the north end, at a flat parcel of land that became Valley Brook Cemetery. Records at St. Mary's divulge the moniker "Catholic Cemetery," but the congregation never likely owned the land. The number of burials in this area remains unknown.⁴⁹

There are many reasons Breckenridge residents pushed for a new satisfactory cemetery. First, the initial cemetery proved inadequate and fell into disrepair within five years of its inception due to the failing local economy brought about by the Panic of 1873. As the economy picked up later in the decade, residents pressed for an adequate burial ground in line with the garden cemetery movement. Additionally, residents wanted to cleanse the town of a burial ground located uphill of its only water

⁴⁶ An exedra can range from a simple garden bench situated within a cemetery to a long, often curved, bench with defined ends. Exedrae are often curved; those the examples in the Terrill monument are straight, oversized benches.

⁴⁷ Breckenridge Heritage Alliance, "Breckenridge Timeline," July 12, 2013, <http://breckheritage.com/brecktimeline/>.

⁴⁸ Rebecca Waugh and Carl McWilliams, "Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Management Data Form for Valley Brook Cemetery 5ST884" (Cultural Resource Historians, January 15, 2001), 6; Larissa O'Neil, "Original Cemetery Location," September 16, 2013.

⁴⁹ Waugh and McWilliams, "Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Management Data Form for Valley Brook Cemetery 5ST884," 6.

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source. An effort to move the town's cemetery outside of city limits to the north developed. This action aligned with the garden cemetery ideal regarding cemetery locations.⁵⁰

The garden cemetery movement in Breckenridge came to fruition in 1882. In February of that year, William McAdoo⁵¹ donated a portion of land on his placer mining claim to the Town in order to establish a cemetery. The location proved ideal: it was on relatively flat ground approximately one mile north and fairly downhill from the Town limits. "[I]t is an excellent location," noted the February 14, 1882 edition of the *Summit Daily Journal*, "[t]here are a number of fine evergreens on it already, and it is so situated that it can be easily watered." A miner, carpenter, and member of local Masonic Lodge No. 47, McAdoo provided twenty acres for the cemetery grounds; 13.3 acres to the Town and 6.7 acres to Lodge No. 47. McAdoo retained the mineral rights to two adjoining parcels, though no records indicate the continuation of mining activity. McAdoo did not accept any payment for the land until 1896. In honor of McAdoo's fraternal affiliation, officials initially named the new burial ground Masonic Placer Cemetery.⁵²

Conflicting sources state: "[b]esides Mrs. Peter Engle there were no other references in the *Daily Journal* to any other grave being relocated to the New Masonic Placer Cemetery from the old cemetery south of town"⁵³ and "[i]n 1882, the graves were moved to the present site, save one, Baby Eberlein."⁵⁴ Additional research for this nomination did not uncover any evidence that the graves were moved from the first cemetery to Valley Brook. The headstone and footstone of Baby Eberlein were both moved to Valley Brook in late October 1997, but her remains were left at her original burial site. Other gravemarkers were likely to have been moved in this manner as well, without the accompanying remains.⁵⁵

Civil engineer and newly appointed Town sexton A.C. Whipple began platting the cemetery in November 1882. His Celtic cross design is the only one known to exist in Colorado. Streets and alleyways oriented on the cardinal directions accompanied the cruciform shape. The survey work apparently continued throughout the winter as the April 11, 1883 *Daily Journal* reported: "The cemetery...is enclosed, platted and the lots marked with stakes, this is an ornament to the town..."⁵⁶

A trickle of burials followed throughout the 1880s and into the 1890s and both the Town and Masonic Lodge No. 47 paid for their portions in 1896. The Lodge paid William McAdoo \$120.34 for their portion of land, while the Town paid \$240.66 for a total payment of \$361. McAdoo's price came with restrictions: both parcels could only ever be used as a cemetery, if the Masons ever abandoned their portion it was to be ceded to the Town for use as public park, if the Town ever abandoned its portion that land too would become a public park, and finally that neither the Masons nor the Town could change anything from A.C. Whipple's original design. The total price appears to be relatively substantial as these payments occurred only three years after the economic Panic of 1893. The

⁵⁰ The Landplan Design Group, Inc., *Valley Brook Cemetery Preservation Master Plan*, 2-7.

⁵¹ William McAdoo is buried in Valley Brook Cemetery.

⁵² The Landplan Design Group, Inc., *Valley Brook Cemetery Preservation Master Plan*, 2-6.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 2-8; Summit Historical Society, "Town of Breckenridge Valley Brook Cemetery History and General Character," n.d., Town of Breckenridge Town Clerk; Jane Stebbins, "Wind Gusts of 100 Mph Crush Cemetery, Cars, Homes," *Summit Daily Journal*, November 6, 1997, 11.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ The Landplan Design Group, Inc., *Valley Brook Cemetery Preservation Master Plan*, 2-8.

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United States government accelerated this recession with its decision to cease backing its currency with silver, a decision that hit Rocky Mountain mining towns especially hard. Additionally in 1896, several local fraternal lodges purchased lots in the Town portion of Valley Brook for distribution amongst their members. These organizations included: Joseph A. Mower Post 31, Grand Army of the Republic; Kiowa Tribe No. 6, International Order of Red Men; Blue River Lodge 49, International Order of Odd Fellows; and the Gold Nugget Lodge 80, Knights of Pythias.⁵⁷

With Valley Brook Cemetery's fortune tied to the economic health of the town of Breckenridge, the cemetery was subject to the same boom and bust cycles. The late 1890s gold dredging boom produced prosperous economic times that resonated throughout Valley Brook Cemetery. Management of the cemetery appears to have been in disarray prior to the transfer of management to the Town Board in 1897; transfer from which entity remains unclear. That same year the Town began employing a part-time sexton, usually an infirm miner, to ensure the proper maintenance on the cemetery grounds, and also began recording deaths and burials in an official logbook.⁵⁸ By the beginning of 1898, the Town attorney drafted an ordinance "to govern and regulate Breckenridge cemetery."⁵⁹ Immediate implications of the ordinance were the founding of a cemetery committee⁶⁰ and a cemetery fund that provided money for maintenance and indigent burials.⁶¹

Neither the committee, nor the fund, nor the sexton's position lasted much longer than a year. The Town scheduled a meeting of persons interested in "beautifying and improving"⁶² Valley Brook Cemetery to be held on May 24, 1900; this also appears to be the first recorded instance of the name "Valley Brook Cemetery." Basically, the meeting fulfilled the requirements of the 1898 ordinance again: the Town established a committee to liaison with local fraternal organizations to beseech financial aid for maintenance. The Town also established committees to solicit maintenance funds from private citizens and to procure volunteers that could provide maintenance handiwork. All of these solicitations were to occur immediately, as the goal was to position "the grounds in shape for Decoration Day."⁶³

The fundraising efforts paid dividends. The campaign raised enough money by 1901 to erect a sexton's building that provided a workshop, tool storage, and an unofficial funeral chapel in poor weather conditions. The Breckenridge Masonic Lodge No. 47 contributed \$25 toward the building.⁶⁴ Fundraising afforded the Town to hire a fulltime sexton, John (Jim) Gough, by spring of 1902. An editorial in the *Daily Journal* noted: "This action is proper, and should have been taken years ago."⁶⁵

The bust cycle returned by autumn of 1902. Beginning on September 2 of that year, the Town offered gravesites for purchase. Only fraternal organizations who wished to bury their deceased in one area paid for lots previously, not private individuals. Single gravesites sold for \$3, one-half lot (five sites) sold for \$5, and a lot (ten sites) sold for \$10. This pricing structure remained in effect for over six

⁵⁷ Waugh and McWilliams, "Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Management Data Form for Valley Brook Cemetery 5ST884," 7.

⁵⁸ This logbook is extant today and still in regular use by the Breckenridge Town Clerk's office in addition to an electronic database.

⁵⁹ The Landplan Design Group, Inc., *Valley Brook Cemetery Preservation Master Plan*, 2-9.

⁶⁰ The initial cemetery committee consisted of the Breckenridge Town Board.

⁶¹ The Landplan Design Group, Inc., *Valley Brook Cemetery Preservation Master Plan*, 2-9.

⁶² Waugh and McWilliams, "Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Management Data Form for Valley Brook Cemetery 5ST884," 8.

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ Wesley M. Enyeart. *The History of Breckenridge Lodge A. F. & A. M. No. 47*. Dillon, CO: D & L Printing, Inc., 1977, 3.

⁶⁵ The Landplan Design Group, Inc., *Valley Brook Cemetery Preservation Master Plan*, 2-10.

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decades until 1964. As was typical at the time for cemeteries, the Valley Brook Cemetery fund had to be replenished by dying people in order to acquire enough funds to adequately maintain the cemetery.⁶⁶

The original plat of the Masonic Placer Cemetery of 1882 was finally recorded by the Summit County Clerk's office on September 28, 1904. Though it was now commonly known as Valley Brook Cemetery the plat indicated the former name. A push to identify the unmarked graves in Valley Brook began the next month. Summit County Judge William Thomas requested "that all persons having relatives or friends buried in graves not marked by tombstones or headboards call at his office."⁶⁷ The names of "numerous" John and Jane Does were successfully recorded, though the exact number is unknown. Additionally in 1904, the remains of people buried in the Lincoln City Cemetery, to the east of Breckenridge along French Creek, were moved to Valley Brook to allow for gold dredging operations in the Creek. Unlike other remains moved to Valley Brook, those from Lincoln City are not in an identified area.⁶⁸

The remainder of the first decade of the twentieth century and the second passed rather routinely for Valley Brook Cemetery. The Town appropriated \$500 of its annual budget for cemetery operations in 1910, and by 1915 another call for volunteers was needed to ready the grounds for that year's Decoration Day. The Town paid \$97 to cover the cost of ceremonies that year, which included a march of local fraternal organizations from the Grand Army of the Republic Hall on North Main Street to Valley Brook. The next year's Decoration Day⁶⁹ festivities included a fundraiser: residents could board a round-trip auto ride at Evans Pharmacy at 103 South Main Street to be taken to the cemetery for fifty cents per rider. The international Spanish Influenza pandemic arrived in Breckenridge in 1918. Valley Brook Cemetery records a dramatic rise in burials in both 1918 and 1919, as deaths were noted in the local newspapers nearly every week. One Town philanthropist, Lester Owens, purchased rows of gravesites where he himself interred flu victims. Among those interred by Owens included: miners, young children, the elderly, and women.⁷⁰

The decade of the 1920s continued the boom and bust cycle at Valley Brook Cemetery. The Town held organized Memorial Day activities on June 5, 1920 after a hiatus of a few years, but does not appear to have held organized activities again until 1923. Additionally that year, Summit County advertised for bids for the burial of paupers; there do not appear to be any extant records that indicate the results of the bids. The Town of Breckenridge once again hired a fulltime sexton in 1924, Jacob Wild, though his employment only lasted one summer.⁷¹

Like any other town in the United States, Breckenridge was not immune to the effects of the Great Depression during the 1930s. The Town endured, though the economic state left nothing in the budget for a sexton or maintenance. The *Daily Journal* reported Valley Brook fell into "a deplorable state."⁷² The condition reflected the effects of sporadic, minimal, or nonexistent maintenance to a Rocky

⁶⁶ Ibid.; Summit Historical Society, "Town of Breckenridge Valley Brook Cemetery History and General Character."

⁶⁷ Waugh and McWilliams, "Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Management Data Form for Valley Brook Cemetery 5ST884," 9.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Decoration Day is the precursor to Memorial Day. The two names were often historically used interchangeably.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ The Landplan Design Group, Inc., *Valley Brook Cemetery Preservation Master Plan*, 2-11.

⁷² Waugh and McWilliams, "Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Management Data Form for Valley Brook Cemetery 5ST884," 10.

Masonic Placer Cemetery-Valley Brook Cemetery
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Mountain cemetery: snow, wind, and erosion toppled gravemarkers and some even migrated slightly downhill, graves collapsed due to the absence of vaults, the perimeter fence fell in several areas, the carriageways became rutted and overgrown, and the natural water drainages overflowed with debris.⁷³

The Breckenridge Woman's Club took up the cause of maintenance within Valley Brook in 1938. Feeling "the cemetery's condition reflected badly on the community"⁷⁴ the Woman's Club planned a comprehensive cemetery beautification project overseen by a committee. The first order of business the club and committee undertook was the repair of the fence. With the fence down, cattle foraging the adjacent ranch land roamed and grazed freely throughout the cemetery grounds. The cattle also unseated numerous gravemarkers. With only small donations from club members and Masonic Lodge No. 47, the club contracted in July of 1938 to replace 100 fence posts and to have the wire fence restretched.

To augment the Masonic and Woman's Club member donations, the club solicited the community for financial support and volunteers. The club's cemetery committee conducted both a local door-to-door and direct-mail fundraising campaign to former Breckenridge residents. Led by Charlotte "Lottie" Porter, the fundraising efforts succeeded. By the end of summer the club raised enough money and enlisted enough volunteers to replace all remaining fence posts, trim trees, raise toppled gravemarkers, and clear debris from the drainage areas. The highlight of the club's work was the 1938 entrance arch and gate. The 20' wide x 15' tall wrought-iron arch supported by native stone columns and accompanied by a wrought-iron gate was commissioned by Breckenridge attorney Barney Whatley. Whatley required enough room for the installation of a wooden turnstile at the north end of the entrance arch, which allowed pedestrians, but not livestock to enter the cemetery.⁷⁵

The Second World War did nothing to grease the bearings of Breckenridge's rusty economy and Valley Brook Cemetery began to reflect the economic circumstances once again. Weeds and trees grew unchallenged throughout the grounds, mud and dirt accumulated unattractively in low-lying areas, and the once dignified entrance arch lay on the ground "twisted and torn in desecration."⁷⁶ Lottie Porter once again recognized the need for maintenance in 1954 and suggested to anyone clearing a gravesite to clear several adjoining sites as well. Porter also developed a plan to replace the fallen wrought-iron arch; the plan proved futile and the arch was instead repaired and reinstalled. Porter continued her cemetery beautification efforts in the subsequent years by fundraising for the purchase and installation of over sixty bronze markers to identify unmarked graves. The fundraising efforts during the 1950s are nothing short of phenomenal; the population of Breckenridge dwindled to approximately 295 hardy souls at the beginning of the decade.⁷⁷

The Climax Molybdenum Mine, located about ten miles southwest of Breckenridge as the crow flies, experienced growing production in the late 1950s. In the 1960s, American Metal Climax, Inc. excavated and quarried large tailing ponds at the locations of the Robinson and Kokomo townsites. The ponds not only invaded the towns, but also their respective cemeteries. In 1959 and 1966

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid., 10-11.

⁷⁶ Ibid., 11; Breckenridge Heritage Alliance, "Breckenridge Timeline."

⁷⁷ Ibid., 11; Breckenridge Heritage Alliance, "Breckenridge Timeline."

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respectively as the result of a court order, Valley Brook became the *new* final resting place for those buried in Robinson Cemetery and Kokomo Cemetery.⁷⁸

Robert Theobald, part-time Breckenridge resident and lawyer with familial ties to land adjacent to Valley Brook Cemetery, suggested to the Breckenridge Mayor and Board of Trustees in June of 1969 that he believed the "solution to the upkeep of the cemetery is the formation of a non-profit corporation which can receive contributions which will be tax deductible."⁷⁹ In addition to donations, Theobald theorized that the Town could augment the corporation's funds by giving money from the sale of lots and by levying a one- or two-mill tax for the first few years. Theobald noted that the Town could subcontract with the association for these fees, but not provide anything from the Town's general fund. A Board of Directors could manage the corporation, with the mayor and one member of the Board of Trustees among the members. It is unknown if the Mayor or Trustees ever considered the formation of the corporation, but the plan never culminated.⁸⁰

The Town of Breckenridge opened bids on July 1, 1974 for repairs to the sexton's building. The repairs were quite minor, among them: replacing one rafter, removing three shutters and replacing them with others of similar design, replacing the wooden stoop outside of the door, covering a woodpecker hole, and installing a cap on the existing fluepipe. The Town contracted with low-bidder B.C. Enterprises for \$295 who completed the work in less than two weeks.⁸¹

Town of Breckenridge Community Services Director Dick Margetts proposed establishing a cemetery committee in 1975 that would "voluntarily maintain the cemetery in a presentable manner, with our own Public Works Dep[artmen]t rendering assistance when and where we are able, work loads allowing."⁸² Margetts apparently thought maintenance at Valley Brook to be a financial drain to the city. In his letter to the Town Administrator, Margetts explained that the Public Works Department spent approximately 224 man-hours maintaining the cemetery with work including fixing broken and fallen headstones, filling sunken graves and installing culverts under some roadways. Margetts noted that the Town budgeted \$1,000 for cemetery maintenance in 1975, but that the proposed volunteer committee could supply most of the manpower. There are no extant records which indicate whether the Town acted on this proposal.⁸³

The Town of Breckenridge annexed its portion of Valley Brook Cemetery into the Town limits in September of 1986. The Town grew north during its first 100 years and encroached on the cemetery, which was originally one mile away. This annexation did not include the Masonic portion of the cemetery, and it remains under Summit County jurisdiction as of 2013.⁸⁴

The Town improved some of the roads within Valley Brook Cemetery in the early 1990s. The Breckenridge Engineering Department staked and identified the roadway which made up the

⁷⁸ Archival research for this nomination did not extend to why the graves were moved to Valley Brook and not a geographically closer location such as cemeteries in Frisco or Leadville.

⁷⁹ Robert Theobald, "Valley Brook Cemetery Non-Profit Corporation," June 5, 1969, Town of Breckenridge Town Clerk.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Grkovic, "Construction Agreement"; Town of Breckenridge, "Field Inspection Report."

⁸² Dick Margetts, "Formation of a Cemetery Committee," January 8, 1975, Town of Breckenridge Town Clerk

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ The Landplan Design Group, Inc., *Valley Brook Cemetery Preservation Master Plan*, 3-4.

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overgrown southern half of the Celtic cross in September of 1991. The Streets Department then graded the 12'-14' wide roadways and laid corrugated metal culverts where necessary. The Town continued the work in August of 1992 when portions of Lupine and Coneflower Streets were improved. All improvements were completed under the direction of the original cemetery plat.⁸⁵

Also in 1991, after lengthy negotiations, the Knights of Pythias (KOP) relinquished ownership of their unused burial spaces to the Town of Breckenridge. Even though spaces were purchased under the original pricing structure, negotiations endured on and off for years due to the KOP wanting the current selling price for each of the spaces. The KOP finally settled on a \$3500 payment from the Town: a \$1000 check and a recognized charitable donation of \$2500.⁸⁶

Breckenridge Masonic Lodge No. 47 considered installing a separate entrance into its portion of Valley Brook Cemetery in the early 1990s, as it has always only had the main entrance. However, while conducting an initial assessment to find a suitable location, the surveyor discovered a discrepancy between the 1896 legal description and the plat from 1904 that questioned the ownership of a 40' strip of land between the Town and Masonic portions of the cemetery. The 1986 annexation included the 40' strip, but this looked incorrect when overlaid on the 1904 plat map; when viewed that way, the annexation bisected a row of burial spaces in the Masonic portion of the cemetery. The surveyor was able to determine that the Town was correct in annexing the land by using the 1896 legal description. The Breckenridge Town Attorney and Masonic representatives agreed that the 1896 legal description was the preeminent governing document and that the best course of action was to prepare a deed for the 40' which the Lodge signed over to the Town. The Masonic Lodge decided against the separate entrance.⁸⁷

The most damaging incident ever to occur within the boundaries of Valley Brook Cemetery occurred on October 31, 1997. A rogue windstorm blew through the Blue River Valley with gusts estimated at 100 miles per hour. Valley Brook Cemetery bore the brunt of the damage; the greatest destruction occurred in a 6.4 acre area at the northeast corner. Approximately 1,000 falling trees squashed gravemarkers and their accompanying fences "as if a giant foot had walked through the area."⁸⁸ The uprooted trees left the soil mounding in areas and acted as a tiller allowing weeds and tree seeds to infiltrate the fertile soil. It was estimated that the soil damage permitted up to 40,000 lodgepole pine seedlings per acre to sprout. Of course, not all of these seedlings emerged as full-fledged trees and there are no plans of mitigation at the time of this writing.⁸⁹

The first decade of the twenty-first century brought a renewed preservation effort to Valley Brook Cemetery. The Town completed its Preservation Master Plan for Valley Brook Cemetery in January of 2001. The Town hired Landplan Design Group (LDG) of Denver to prepare the plan in response to the overwhelming damage of the 1997 windstorm. The LDG project team consisted of land planners, monument conservators, an ironwork restoration specialist, an archaeologist, an historian, and a botanist. As a result of this work, the Town of Breckenridge now possesses a preservation document

⁸⁵ Town Clerk, "Memorandum - Update on Work in the Cemetery"; Breckenridge Town Clerk, "Memorandum - Update on Work in Valley Brook Cemetery."

⁸⁶ Mary Jean Loufek, "Knights of Pythias Burial Space Sale," n.d., Town of Breckenridge Town Clerk.

⁸⁷ unsigned, "Valley Brook & Masonic Cemetery," undated, Town of Breckenridge Town Clerk.

⁸⁸ Stebbins, "Wind Gusts of 100 Mph Crush Cemetery, Cars, Homes," 11.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

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that can answer virtually any question regarding how to administer the cemetery with topics such as repairing headstones, cleaning monuments, grading the roads, and native vegetation. The plan also included several maps identifying several conditions of the cemetery. Colorado Preservation Inc. awarded the Town of Breckenridge a State Honor Award for its Preservation Master Plan in 2003.⁹⁰

The cemetery restoration fund grew by \$10,000 from a private donation in May of 2001. The generous philanthropists allocated their donation to "complete the planning phase of the [preservation] project and begin work on restoring, conserving, and interpreting the gravestones, fences, vegetation, and other historic landscape features in the cemetery."⁹¹ The Town put some of the money to immediate use, with stabilization and restoration work to begin June 1 that same year.⁹² Since completion of the master plan, the Town has invested over \$200,000 to restore more than 150 headstones and ironwork/gates.⁹³

As the Knights of Pythias did in 1991, the Great Council of Colorado Order of Improved Redmen sold its unused burial spaces back to the Town of Breckenridge in 2004. The number of spaces could not be determined, but the Redmen received \$3,500 in compensation. The Redmen stipulated in the quitclaim deed that ownership of the spaces would revert to the fraternal organization if the Town ever used them "for any purpose other than as public open space, or if any human remains are buried or interred in such cemetery lots."⁹⁴

Valley Brook Cemetery reflects the Town's booms and busts. As the Town's economy and population peaked and bottomed, so did the maintenance at the cemetery. Valley Brook Cemetery never suffered complete neglect despite this unsettled past. The cemetery is an asset to the community and valued as such, evidenced by multiple philanthropic contributions throughout the years. The cemetery remains active with approximately forty percent of its spaces still available. Valley Brook still displays the original garden cemetery ideals. The native tree canopy shades the burial sites, roads retain the signature Celtic cross design, gravemarkers exhibit the names and ideals of the interred, and the Rocky Mountain garden cemetery landscape is unmistakable.

⁹⁰ Jane Stebbins, "Cemetery Preservation Work Nets Award," *Summit Daily News*, June 6, 2003; Mark A. Rodman, "State Honor Award," April 9, 2003, Town of Breckenridge Town Clerk.

⁹¹ Tim Gagen, "Donation Thank You Letter," May 21, 2001, Town of Breckenridge Town Clerk.

⁹² Tim Gagen, "Donation Thank You Letter," May 21, 2001, Town of Breckenridge Town Clerk.

⁹³ Larissa O'Neil to Cheri Yost via email (26 September 2013).

⁹⁴ Great Council of Colorado Order of Improved Redmen, "Cemetery Property Bill of Sale and Quit Claim Deed," 2004, Town of Breckenridge Town Clerk.

Masonic Placer Cemetery-Valley Brook Cemetery
Name of Property

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9. Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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- Theobald, Robert. "Valley Brook Cemetery Non-Profit Corporation," June 5, 1969. Town of Breckenridge Town Clerk.
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Masonic Placer Cemetery-Valley Brook Cemetery
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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other: Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 5ST.884

9. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jeffrey DeHerrera (for property owners) (edited by staff) _____
organization: Historitecture _____
street & number: P.O. Box 181095 _____
city or town: Denver state: Colorado zip code: 80218-8822 _____
e-mail: jeffrey@historitecture.com _____
telephone: 303.390.1638 _____
date: September 17, 2013; Revised March 2014 _____

Masonic Placer Cemetery-Valley Brook Cemetery
Name of Property

Summit County, Colorado
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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 20

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

The UTM reference point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

- 1. 13 E409 493 N437 2748
- 2. 13 E409 733 N437 2688
- 3. 13 E409 733 N437 2328
- 4. 13 E409 483 N437 2328

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

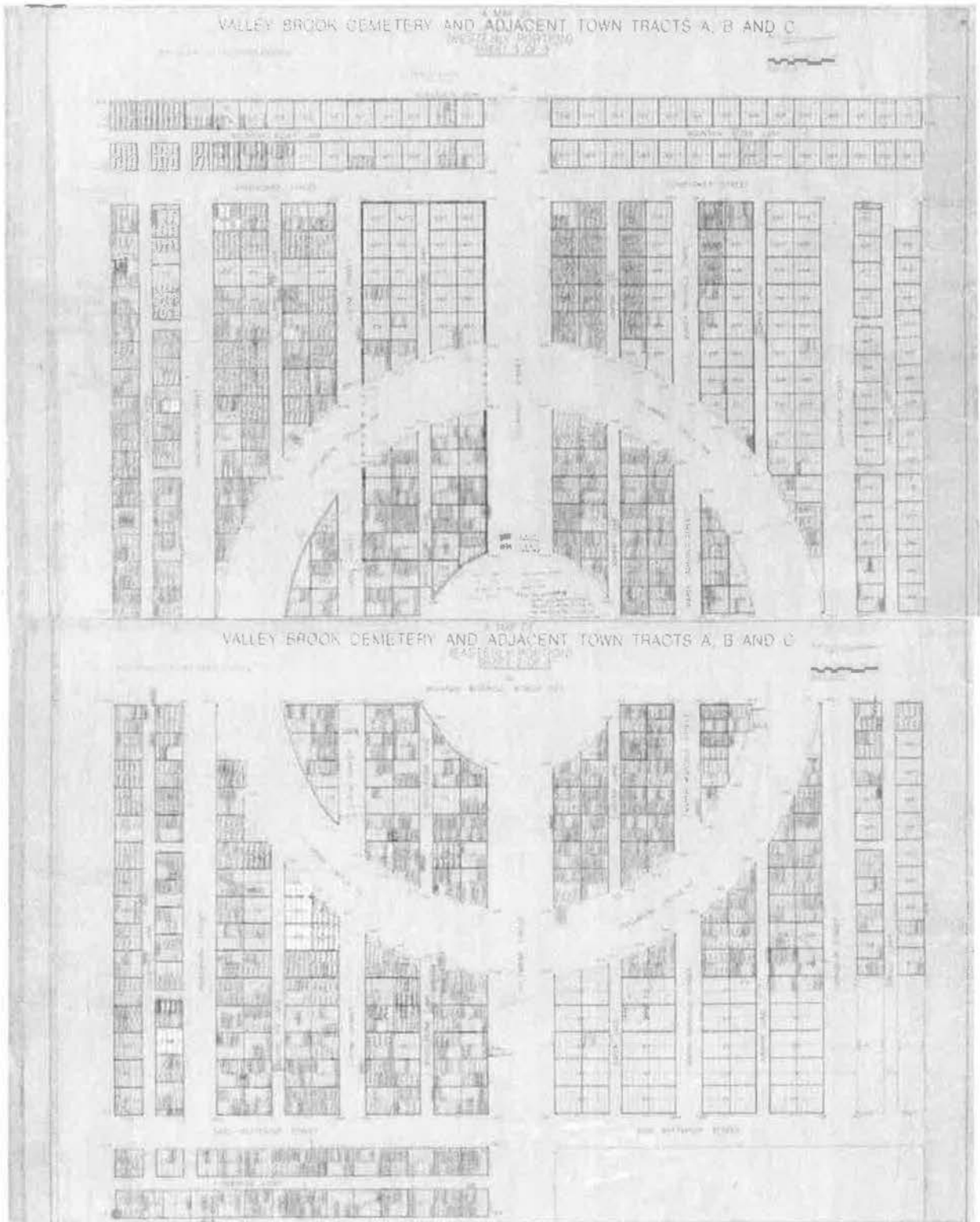
The Masonic Placer Cemetery-Valley Brook Cemetery is located at 905 Airport Road in Breckenridge. It is further described as the southwest quarter of the west half of section 30, township 6 south, range 77 west and the northeast quarter of the east half of section 25, township 6 south range 78 west all in the 6th Principal Meridian. The entire cemetery grounds encompass approximately twenty acres.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes both the Town and Masonic portions of the Masonic Placer Cemetery - Valley Brook Cemetery and their associated graves, gravemarkers, monuments, landscaping, and all cultural artifacts. The nominated property consists of the fenced cemetery that was platted in 1882 and recorded in 1904 and used as a burial ground for the Town of Breckenridge and Summit County. This area includes all portions of land historically associated with the cemetery.

Masonic Placer Cemetery-Valley Brook Cemetery
Name of Property

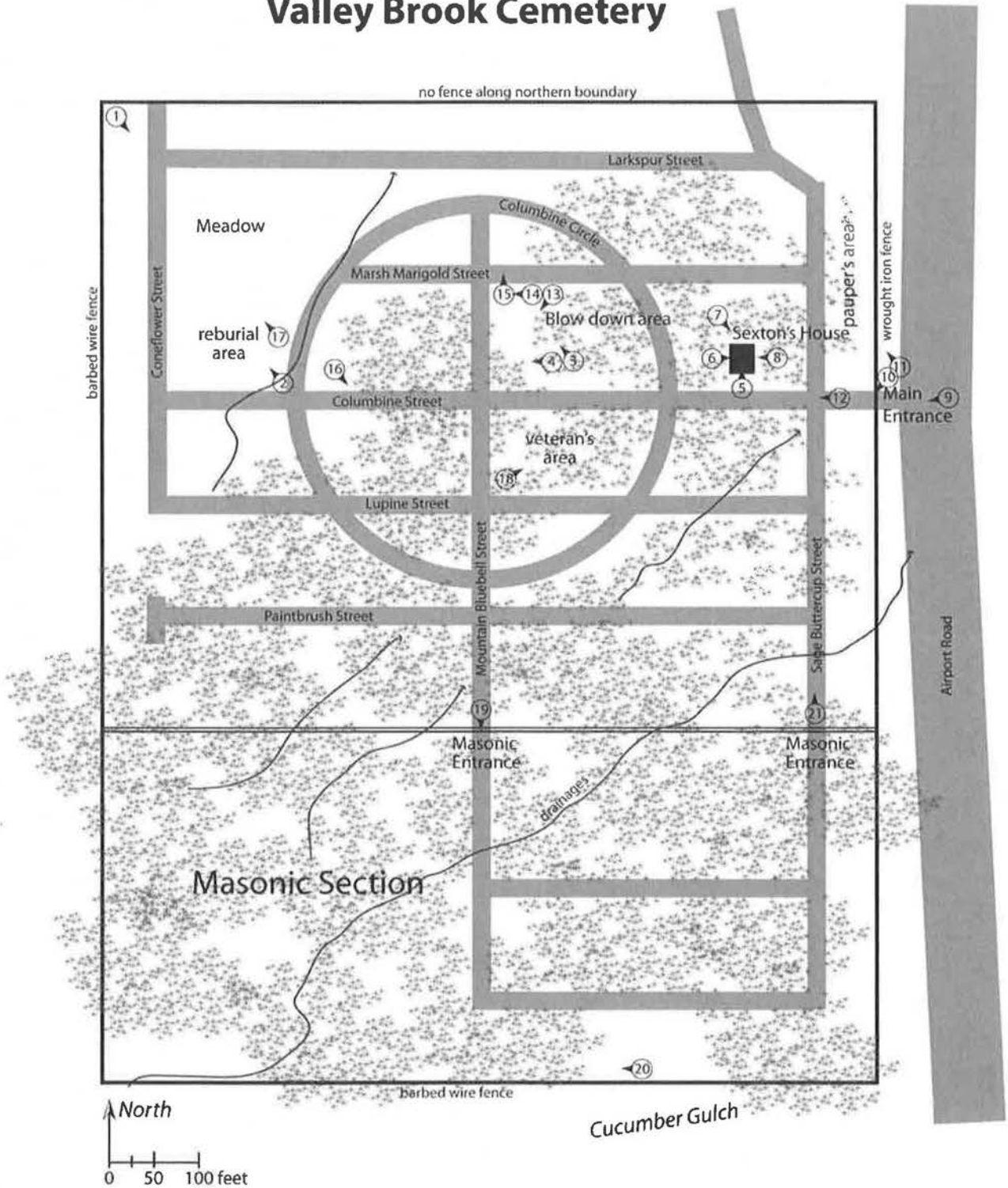
Summit County, Colorado
County and State



**Map of Valley Brook Cemetery with names of interred, n.d., however post 1928.
On file with the Town of Breckenridge.**

Site map by Cheri Yost, September 2013

Valley Brook Cemetery

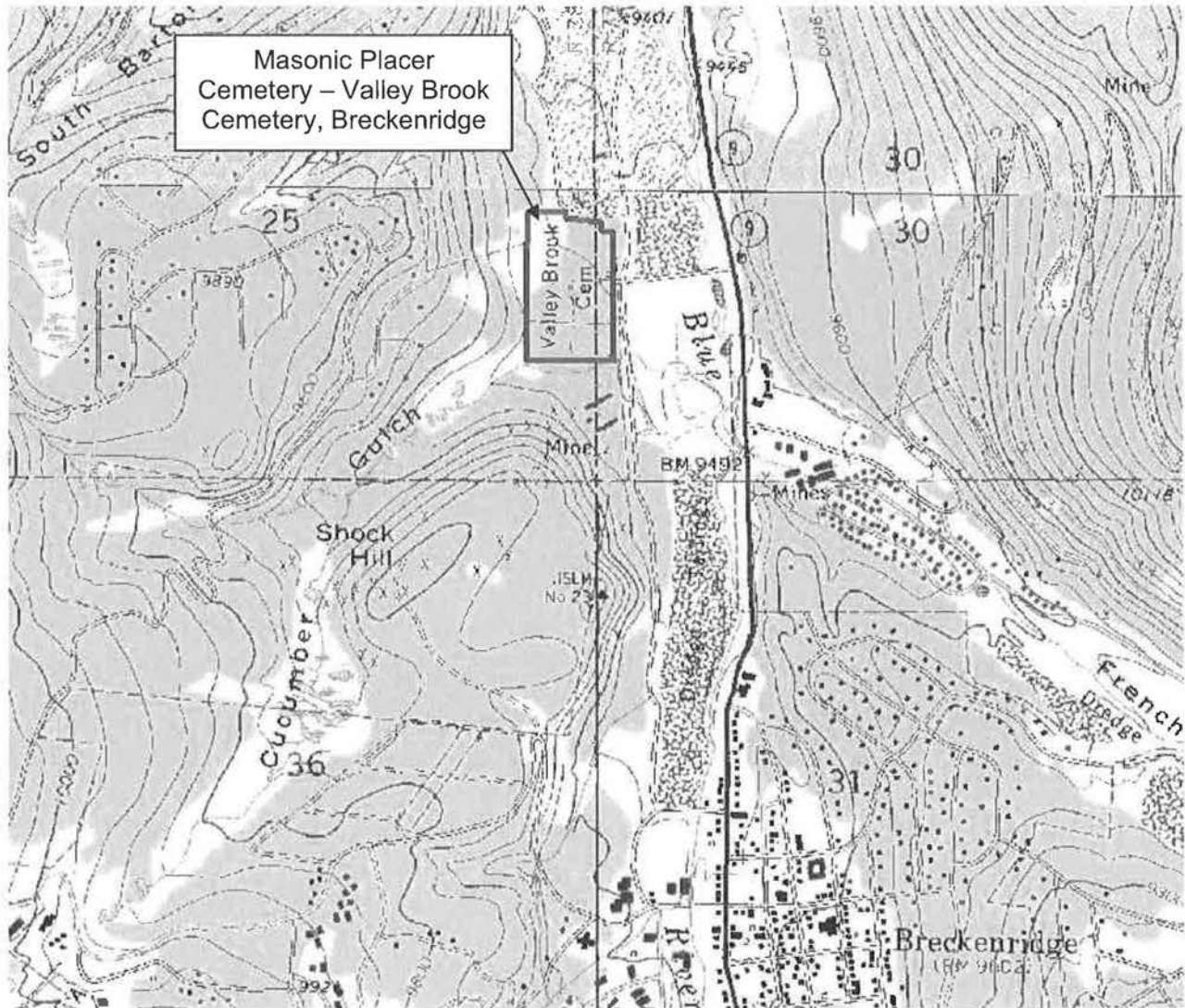


Masonic Placer Cemetery-Valley Brook Cemetery
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Summit County, Colorado
County and State

USGS Quadrangle – regional perspective
7.5 minute series
Breckenridge quadrangle

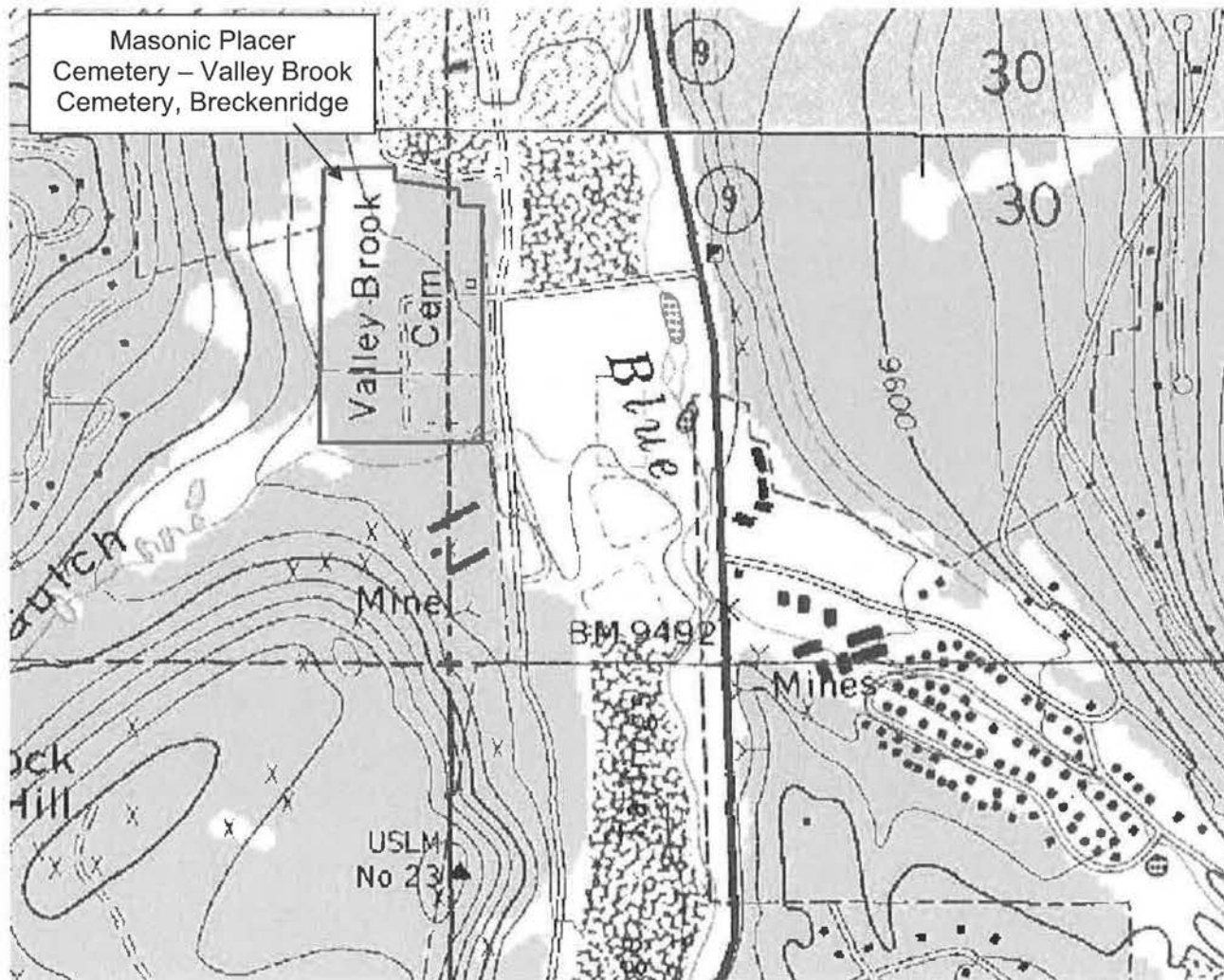
Elevation 9500'



Masonic Placer Cemetery-Valley Brook Cemetery
Name of Property

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USGS Quadrangle- close- up perspective
7.5 minute series
Breckenridge quadrangle



Masonic Placer Cemetery-Valley Brook Cemetery
 Name of Property

Summit County, Colorado
 County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: Masonic Placer Cemetery - Valley Brook Cemetery, 5ST.884
 City or Vicinity: Breckenridge
 County: Summit
 State: Colorado
 Photographer: Deatrice DeHerrera (photographs 1-21), Larissa O'Neal (photograph 22)
 Date Photographed: August 19, 2013 (photographs 1-21), May 2014 (photograph 22)
 TIFF images on file with the National Register, Washington, D. C.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo	View to	Description
1	SE	Site overview from NW corner of property
2	NW	Reburial section
3	NW	Concrete and brick border example, Gough/Rogers plot
4	W	Reinforced concrete border example, Curtin plot
5	N	Sexton building, front (south) elevation
6	E	Sexton building, west elevation
7	SE	Sexton building, north elevation
8	W	Sexton building, east elevation
9	W	Cemetery entrance arch and gate
10	SW	Pedestrian entrance turnstile
11	NW	Iron fence on eastern cemetery boundary
12	W	Site overview from just inside cemetery entrance
13	SW	Prefabricated concrete cylinder border example, Riley plot
14	W	Wooden grave marker example, unintelligible
15	N	Link chain border example
16	SE	Wooden corral-type border example, Rudy plot
17	NW	Reburial section
18	NE	Veteran's section
19	S	Western Masonic section entrance
20	W	The modern Terrill markers (the largest and most prominent marker in the cemetery)
21	N	Site overview from eastern Masonic entrance
22	S	Edwin Carter's grave marker in the Masonic section

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Historic Photo Log

Figure 1 Edwin Carter standing beside a taxidermied wolf and various other animals, likely at the Carter Museum in Breckenridge, circa 1890 – 1900. Photographer Harry H. Buckwalter. Courtesy History Colorado, Denver, CO, (CHS-B1518 Harry H. Buckwalter Collection)



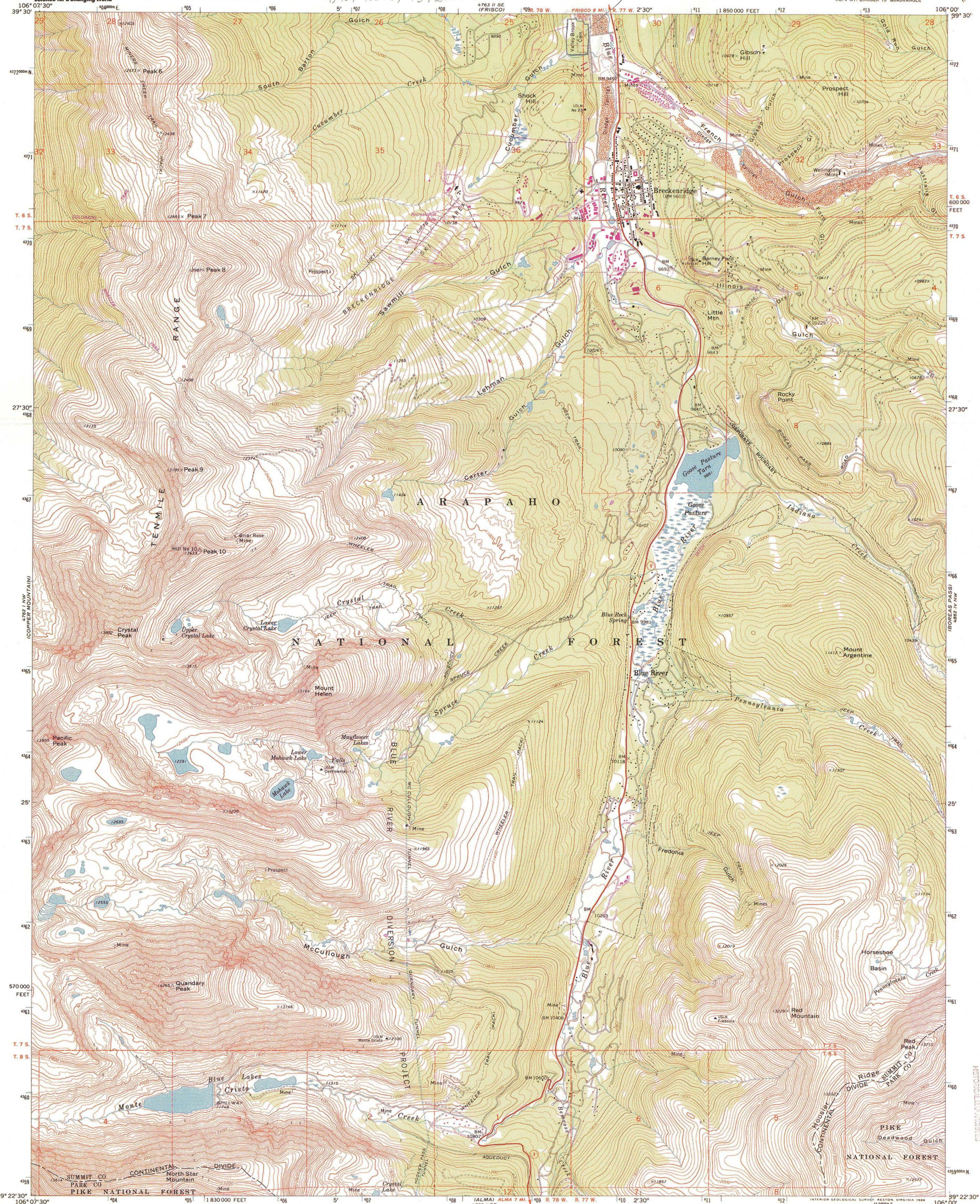
Figure 1



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UTMs: Zone 13, 4372748mE, 4372688mN
1) 409 493mE, 4372688mN
2) 409 733mE, 4372328mN
3) 409 733mE, 4372328mN
4) 409 483mE, 4372328mN

BRECKENRIDGE QUADRANGLE
COLORADO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE 4 MT. LINCOLN 15' QUADRANGLE

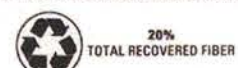


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum 10,000-foot grid based on Colorado coordinate system, central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 13, shown in blue

Where omitted, land lines have not been established or are not shown because of insufficient data
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 5 meters north and 50 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1982 and other source data.
Partial check by U. S. Forest Service. Map edited 1987

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BRECKENRIDGE, COLO.
NE 4 MT. LINCOLN 15' QUADRANGLE
39106-D1-TF-024

1970
PHOTOREVISED 1987
DMA 4762 1 NE - SERIES V877

RECEIVED
NOV 30 1993



780607113914



























MARGEN RICH

JOHN WALTER RILEY
AUG 18 1856
JUN 1937

GRAVE OF
MRS. MARY
RILEY
DIED 1881













ENTERING
RECKENRIDGE
MASONIC
CEMETERY





CARTER

EDWIN CARTER
JUNE 1828 — FEB. 1900



FOUNDER OF CARTER'S MUSEUM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Masonic Placer Cemetery--Valley Brook Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: COLORADO, Summit

DATE RECEIVED: 6/05/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/25/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/10/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/22/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000422

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 7.19.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

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 ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

June 4, 2014

Carol Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye "I" Street, N.W. 8th Floor (MS 2280)
Washington, D.C. 20005-5905

Re: National Register Nomination for the Masonic Placer Cemetery – Valley Brook Cemetery, 905 Airport Road, Breckenridge, Summit County, Colorado (5ST.884)

Dear Ms. Shull:


We are pleased to submit for your review the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Masonic Placer Cemetery – Valley Brook Cemetery. In accordance with the new submission policy, enclosed please find:

- CD with letters of support and a PDF nomination for the Masonic Placer Cemetery – Valley Brook Cemetery
Note: **The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Masonic Placer Cemetery – Valley Brook Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places.**
- CD with TIF images
- USGS map
- Physical nomination with original signature

The State Review Board reviewed the nomination at its meeting on May 16, 2014. The board voted unanimously to recommend to the State Historic Preservation Officer that the nomination met the criteria for listing in the National Register.

We look forward to the listing of this nomination. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (303) 866-4684 or at heather.peterson@state.co.us.

Best regards,


Heather Peterson
National & State Register Historian

Enclosures above noted

MASONIC HALL

Breckenridge  Lodge No. 47
A. F. & A. M.

P.O. BOX 761 • BRECKENRIDGE, COLORADO 80424

October 1, 2013

Ms. Larissa O'Neil
Breckenridge Heritage Alliance
PO Box 2460
Breckenridge, CO 80424

Dear Ms. O'Neil,

Please accept this letter in support of the Breckenridge Historic Alliance's nomination for the Valley Brook Cemetery to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Breckenridge Lodge No. 47, A.F. & A.M is a Masonic Lodge that was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Colorado on September 22, 1882. It has been a part of the Breckenridge and Summit County community since before this date.

Breckenridge Lodge No. 47 owns a portion of the Valley Brook Cemetery in Breckenridge. This historic cemetery is one of the numerous historic assets that contributes to and supports the historic character of Breckenridge. The Lodge feels strongly that the historic integrity of this asset should be preserved. The members of the Lodge feel that it is important for the cemetery to deserve the recognition that would be achieved through designation to the National Register.

Please contact me if there is any additional information that the Lodge may provide in support of this nomination.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Ferris
Past Master, 1989 and 2010
Breckenridge Lodge No. 47, A.F. & A.M
(970) 485-0837

**COLORADO CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
REVIEW REPORT FORM**

Property Name: Valley Brook Cemetery
 Address: 905 Airport Road
 Certified Local Government: Town of Breckenridge

Date of public meeting at which nomination was reviewed: DECEMBER 3 2013

Eligibility Criteria: (Check applicable boxes)

Criterion A
 Criterion B

Criterion C
 Criterion D

Please check the boxes below appropriate to the nomination review:

Commission/Board

- The commission/board recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.
 The commission/board recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.
 The commission/board chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

Chief Elected Official

- The chief elected official recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.
 The chief elected official recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.
 The chief elected official chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

Attach an additional sheet to make any further comments.

Certify this report with both signatures below

CLG Commission/Board Chair or Representative

Print name: Jim Lamb

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

12/3/13
(Date)

Chief Elected Official or Designee

Print name: John Warner - Mayor

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

12-10-13
(Date)