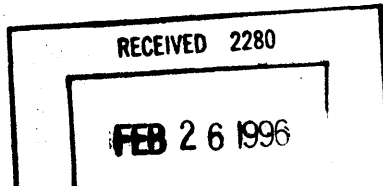


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 38). Complete each item by marking "x" on the appropriate line or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name SPRING CREEK FRIENDS CEMETERY

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Osburn Avenue at intersection of 235th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Vicinity of Oskaloosa N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Mahaska code 123 zip code 52577

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 (nationally statewide X locally). (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Churking DSHPO 2-21-96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property (meets does not meet) the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is :
 entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- Other, (Explain)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action
3/29/96

Entered in the
National Register

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery
Name of Property

Mahaska County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many lines as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one line)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
1	0	objects
3	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

The Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, Iowa

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/cemetery

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other Stone

Narrative Description

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

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery
Name of Property

Mahaska County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all the lines that apply)
Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
RELIGION
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Circa 1848-circa 1900

Significant Dates

Circa 1848

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliography References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- previous determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Record
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historical Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery
Name of Property

Mahaska County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .58 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 533 270 | 45 73 200 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

3 | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

4 | | | |

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Walroth

organization Oskaloosa Historic Preservation Commission date October 28, 1994

street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue telephone 515-243-5740; FAX 515-243-7285

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs - Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name Spring Creek Township Trustees, c/o Jean DeKock

street & number 2238 Lynn Avenue telephone 515-673-6455

city or town Oskaloosa state Iowa zip code 52557

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, Mahaska County, Iowa.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery consists of about one-half acre of rural land adjacent to Osburn Avenue one mile north of Iowa Highway 92. The cemetery contains an unknown number of burials, of which approximately 123 are identified with plain grave markers. The grave markers are arranged in a linear fashion of nine rows. Plantings of vegetation are noticeably absent. Spring Creek Friends Cemetery is classified as a site for the National Register.

RESOURCES

The Spring Creek Friends Cemetery contains three resources. These resources include the cemetery itself, which is classified as a site; the pedestrian circulation network, which is classified as a structure, and the grave markers, which are classified as an object.

Cemetery

Located in the southwest part of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Spring Creek Township, Spring Creek Friends Cemetery contains an area of approximately one-half acre. There are no buildings on the site. The surrounding land is generally hilly and is riven with small streams. Spring Creek, a tributary of the South Skunk River, is situated about one mile northwest of the cemetery. The South Skunk River is located one and one-half miles to the northeast. Numerous strip coal mines have impacted the area. At least six strip mines have historically been located within two miles of the cemetery and one was located less than one-quarter mile to the southeast. The cemetery stands adjacent to a gravel road, which forms the dividing line between Sections 8 and 9 of Spring Creek Township.

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery itself measures about 183' x 258' in dimension. This land is surrounded by a fence, laid out in a network of pedestrian paths, and contains an unknown number of burials, of which approximately 123 are identified by grave markers. The boundaries of the cemetery consist of fences on the south, west, and north, and volunteer vegetation on the east. Land within the cemetery grounds is generally level. The main entrance to the cemetery is on its west boundary, near its southwest corner. This entrance is defined by poured concrete posts flanking it. The grounds are planted and maintained as a grassy lawn. Grave plots are laid out in rows running north and south. Burials and grave markers face west.

Fence posts on the south, west, and north sides of the cemetery are constructed of poured concrete. They appear to have been erected circa 1900. The two gate posts, which flank the main entrance, are slightly larger than the others. Wire net is stretched between these posts to provide the fencing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, Mahaska County, Iowa.

Pedestrian Circulation Network

The pedestrian circulation network consists of ten north-south corridors laid out between the nine rows of burials. Two additional corridors run east to west at each end of the cemetery. This circulation network provides pedestrian access to the grave plots. Because grave markers do not identify all burials in the cemetery, the pedestrian circulation network lacks strong visual definition.

Grave Markers

The approximately 123 grave markers in the cemetery generally date from the 1860s through the 1890s. The grave markers are sparsely sited in the cemetery. These grave markers comprise a limited range of shapes, sizes, and materials. Most markers are limestone, with marble and granite little in evidence. Monuments are placed in north-south rows.

These grave markers can be divided into the following typology according to the shape of the stone:

Slab, Flat Top

This, the simplest type of grave marker in the Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, consists of a small, rectangular slab of limestone with a flat top. Although they vary in height, typical examples stand about 2' above grade.

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery contains 77 examples of this type of grave marker.

Slab, Arch Top

This type of grave marker in the Spring Creek Friends Cemetery is closely related to the previous type. It is similar in all respects except that it possesses an arched top. Although they vary in height, typical examples stand about 2' above grade.

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery contains 18 examples of this type of grave marker.

Slab, Scroll Top

This type of grave marker in the Spring Creek Friends Cemetery is closely related to the previous two types. Similar in most respects except, this type possesses a decorative, scrolling design carved into the limestone at the top of the marker. Some of these grave markers also exhibit further decorative designs, such as two hands clasped in a handshake. Although they vary in height, typical examples stand about 2' above grade.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, Mahaska County, Iowa.

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery contains 6 examples of this type of grave marker.

Pillar

The pillar grave marker consists of a stepped base, surmounted by a thin rectangular column. Although they vary in height, several examples measure 4' high. This type of grave marker conveys a decidedly vertical feeling.

These grave markers date from the late 1870s and 1880s. Most of these grave markers belong to the Critchett Family.

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery contains 7 examples of this type of grave marker.

Late

These grave markers differ from others in Spring Creek Friends Cemetery because of their shape and materials. Generally dating from the 1890s, these markers are larger than the earlier ones and exhibit a massive, rectangular shape. They also vary as to material and include marble and granite.

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery contains 10 examples of this type of grave marker.

Unidentifiable

Although the bases of some grave markers can be seen, the design of these markers cannot be determined because the markers themselves are nonextant.

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery contains 5 unidentifiable grave markers.

The shapes identified above define the most noticeable aspects of these grave markers. Although some grave markers feature decorative elements, such as two clasped hands, such examples of mid-Victorian decoration (widely found in period cemeteries in Iowa) are not widely employed at Spring Creek. One marker, that of George E. Chamberlain, features devices of Masonic symbolism.

Only a handful of grave markers in Spring Creek Friends Cemetery feature the pillar type. Although these are frequently found in Victorian cemeteries in Iowa, they are noticeably absent at Spring Creek. A low incidence of marble and granite grave markers is also apparent.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

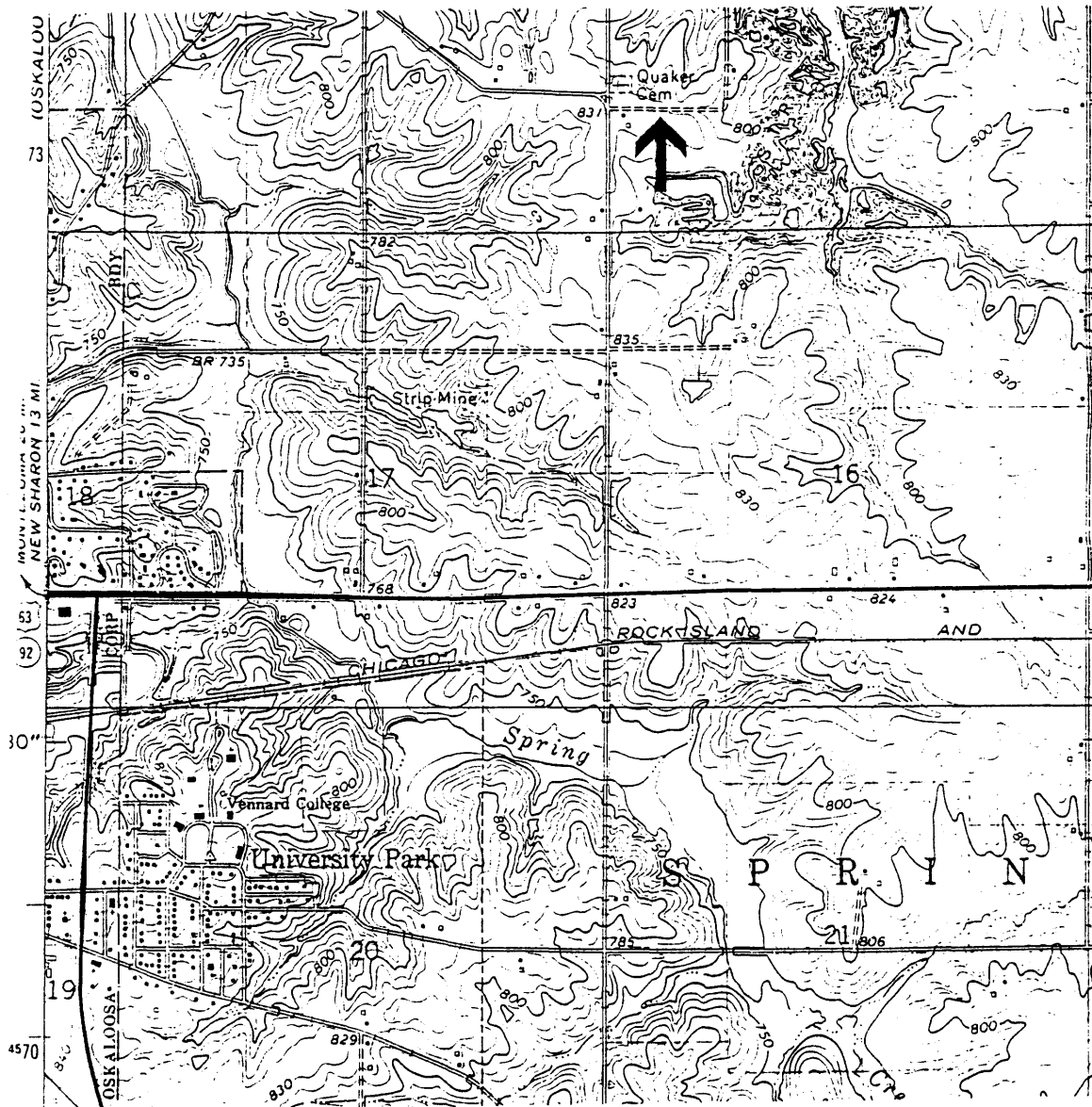
Page 4

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, Mahaska County, Iowa.

SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), University Park Quadrangle, 1968.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

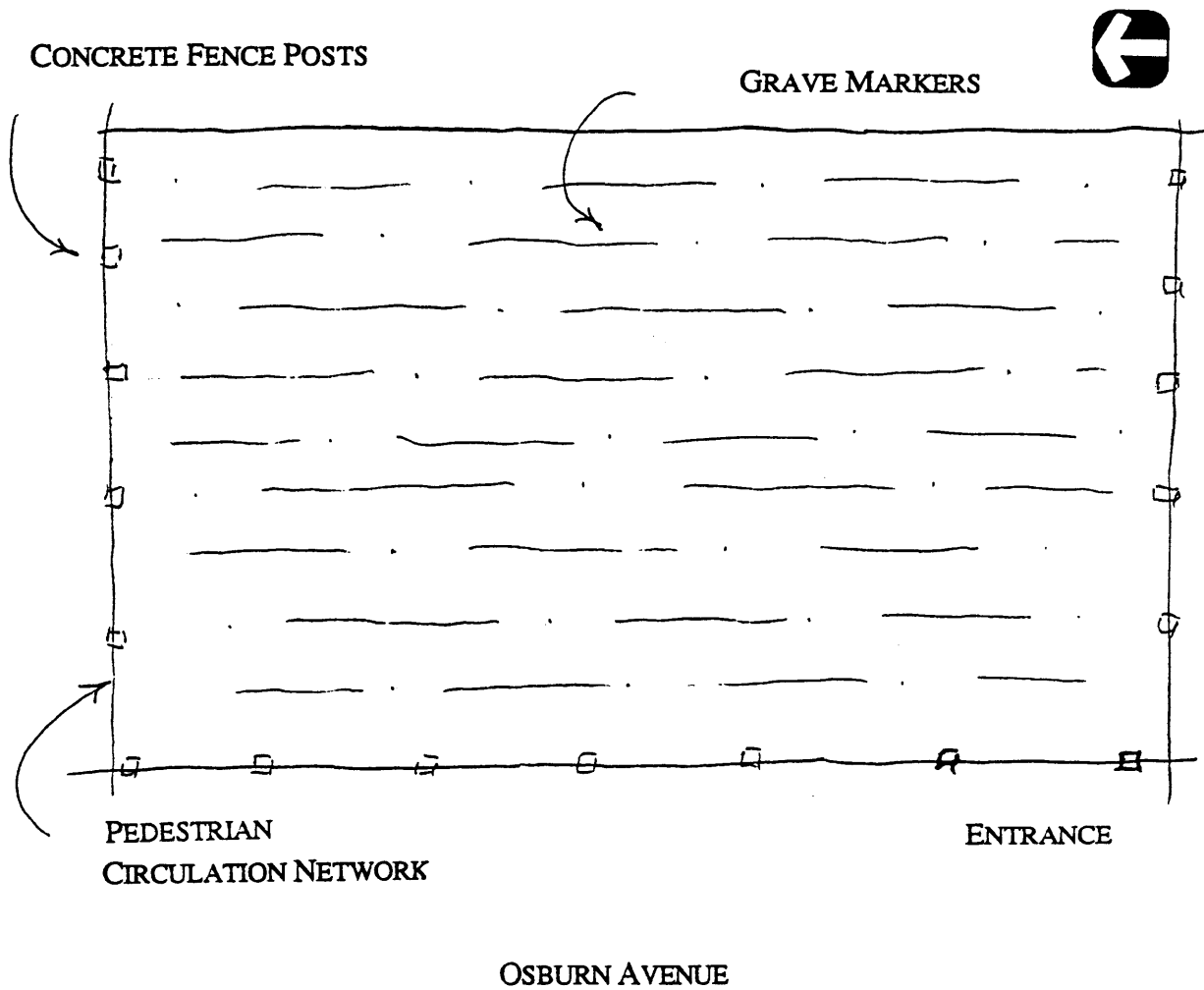
Section number 7

Page 5

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, Mahaska County, Iowa.

SITE PLAN



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

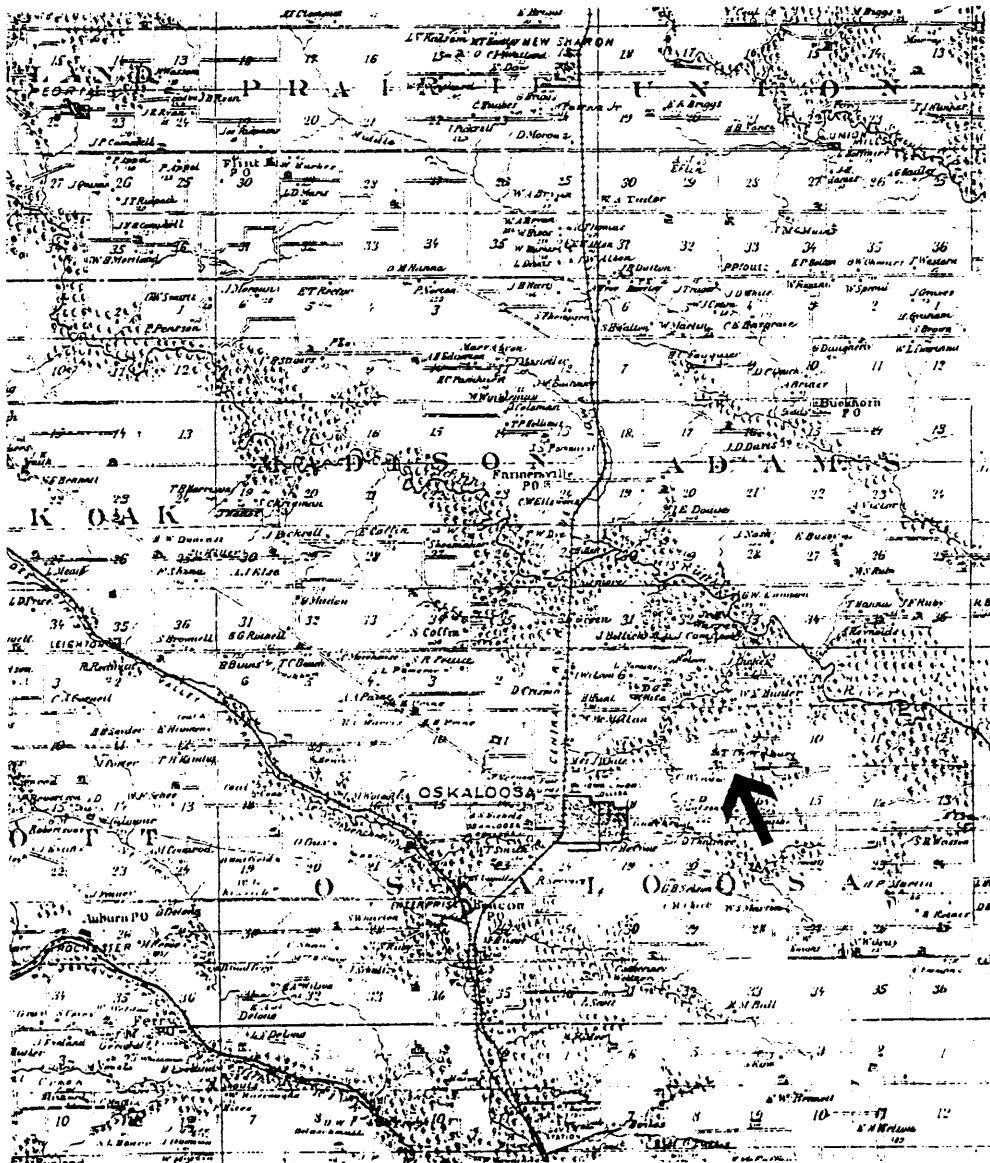
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 6

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, Mahaska County, Iowa.

SITE IN 1875
ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: *Andreas Atlas of Iowa*, p. 64



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 8

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, Mahaska County, Iowa.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

First established in circa 1848 and continuing to accept burials until circa 1892, the Spring Creek Cemetery possesses historic significance, under National Register Criterion A, because it calls attention to events and patterns associated with Quaker institutions within the historic context "The Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, Iowa." Already the site of the Spring Creek Monthly Meeting in 1844, the location of this cemetery was associated with that vanished center of Quaker settlement. The setting of the Spring Creek Friends Cemetery illustrates the rural nature of Quaker settlement in Mahaska County before the growing centralization of this sect's activities away from the countryside and into Oskaloosa.

The Spring Creek Cemetery is also architecturally significant, under National Register Criterion C. The plain design of the grave markers in this cemetery show restraint. As such, they call attention to the Quakers' preference for simplicity.

The period of significance, under Criteria A and C, for the Spring Creek Cemetery is circa 1848 to circa 1900, the time when the cemetery accepted the majority of its burials, concluding when the final improvements were constructed. The date circa 1848 is significant because it marks the time of the cemetery's establishment.

Criteria Considerations (Exception) A and D apply to this nomination. The property derives primary significance from the simple design of its grave markers--a distinctive feature of this cemetery.

The property contains three resources for this nomination--the site, the pedestrian circulation network, and the grave markers.

EVENTS AND PATTERNS

Spring Creek Cemetery calls attention to the earliest period of Quaker settlement in Iowa, when it was primarily rural in nature. Towards the end of the Nineteenth Century, the sect saw a growing consolidation of its institutions and, in the Oskaloosa vicinity, a centralization of them in that city.

The Spring Creek Meeting provides a good example of this trend. Established sometime in the 1840s or 1850s, the Spring Creek Meeting sprang from Quaker settlers pushing northwest into Iowa from the Mississippi River. Pleasant Plain became a Monthly Meeting on December 28, 1842, and other Quaker communities, such as Richland and Rocky Run, soon sprang up. As Jones has noted:

Thence others migrated to Mahaska County where by February of 1844, Joseph D. Hoag of Salem was to be found at Spring Creek preaching the Quaker message from the rough-hewn doorstep of Thomas Stafford's log cabin, by the light of a pile of burning logs--the house being filled with women and the yard with men and boys. (Jones:53).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 9

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, Mahaska County, Iowa.

Spring Creek became distinguished among other early meetings in Iowa because this site was selected for the first Iowa Yearly Meeting held in 1863.

Situated in a rural area near Oskaloosa and serving a rural membership, the membership of the Spring Creek Monthly Meeting numbers declined towards the end of the Nineteenth Century. In 1894, the Spring Creek Meeting merged with the Center Grove Meeting to form the Oskaloosa Monthly Meeting. Subsequently the Spring Creek Meeting House was relocated to North H Street in Oskaloosa to become a mission of the Oskaloosa Monthly Meeting. Probably about this same time, Spring Creek Cemetery fell out of favor, and fewer burials occurred. Friends selected grave sites closer to the meeting houses still in use.

Although the Spring Creek Meeting House was relocated, the cemetery associated with this meeting remains in its original rural setting, thus calling attention to that pattern among early Quaker settlers in the Oskaloosa vicinity.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The landscape architecture of Spring Creek Cemetery calls attention to funerary traditions among the early Quaker settlers in the Oskaloosa area. The size of the grave markers in this cemetery is generally small and they feature a plain and simple design. In this sense, the Spring Creek Cemetery, which was founded prior to the Schism of 1877, also calls attention to early Quaker preferences for simplicity. After this schism, the more evangelical Friends who retained control of the Iowa Yearly Meeting gradually began moving away from traditional Quaker simplicity and restraint.

The integrity of this cemetery as an example of these earlier Quaker practices is high. Because fewer burials occurred following the merger of the Spring Creek Meeting with that of Center Grove, Spring Creek Cemetery did not reflect the change in character within the later Iowa Yearly Meeting. Friends' Cemetery on North E Street in Oskaloosa provides a good contrast, where larger and more decorated grave markers predominate. In this sense, Spring Grove Cemetery retains the character of the pre-schism Quakers and their practices in the burial of the dead. As such, it relates more to the practices of Eastern Friends in the United States and to Conservative Quakers in Iowa. In an exception proving the rule, the grave marker of George E. Chamberlain features Masonic emblems. Although it is not known if he were a Quaker, this grave marker is noteworthy. If a Quaker, his affiliation in a fraternal order illustrates the growing evangelism of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends. If not a Quaker, this grave marker illustrates the same phenomenon. Friends traditionally restricted burials in their cemeteries to members of their own sect.

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

This resource has never been evaluated previously in a cultural resources survey.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 10

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, Mahaska County, Iowa.

PRESENT STATUS OF PROPERTY

The Spring Creek Cemetery no longer accepts burials but is maintained by the Spring Creek Township Trustees.

POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The site's potential for archaeological research is, as yet, unevaluated. There is a likelihood that unmarked burials are situated in this cemetery. There is also the possibility that historical archaeological remains might be discovered associated with the original Iowa Yearly Meeting House, which stood on this site. It was constructed in 1863 as an addition to the Spring Creek Meeting House. The historic archaeological remains of that building, or other ancillary structures, such as privies, might also be discovered at the Spring Creek site. The meeting house and its addition were destroyed by fire in 1878.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND REGISTRATION

This resource may have significance, under Criteria D, at the state level, however, further research is needed to place it within the broader context of Friends' cemeteries in Iowa before a definitive evaluation can be made.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 11

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, Mahaska County, Iowa.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRIMARY

Atlas of Mahaska County, Iowa, Midland Map Company, 1913.

History of Mahaska County, Iowa, p.368.

Recorder's Office, Mahaska County, Iowa. Deed Record Book A, p. 414.
Conveyance of land by John and Mary Mayo to Trustees of the Society of Friends of
Spring Creek Preparatory Meeting. February 2, 1848.

Recorder's Office, Mahaska County, Iowa. Title Transfer Book 56, p. 60.
Conveyance of land by Oskaloosa Monthly Meeting of Friends (successor to Spring
Creek Preparatory Meeting of the Society of Friends) to Excelsior Coal Company.
August 7, 1893.

SECONDARY

Jones, *Quakers*, pp. 87, 258-259.

Lewis, "History of Penn College."

Page, William C., and Joanne R. Walroth; *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the
Quaker Testimony in Oskaloosa, also including the Chicago, Rock Island, & Pacific
Railroad Area*; Report prepared for and on file at the Oskaloosa Historic Preservation
Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; 1992.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10

Page 12

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, Mahaska County, Iowa.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A parcel of .58 acre in southwest part of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 9 in Township 75 North, Range 15 West, being in Mahaska County, Iowa.

Also described as an one-half acre tract as follows: Begin at a point 14 chains and 37 links south of the northwest corner of the SW 1/4 of Section 9 Township 75 Range 15, running east 2.39 chains, south 31 degrees east, 1.63 chains, then south 76 links, then west 3.03 chains, then north 2.24 chains to beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary contains all land associated historically with this resource.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 13

CFN-259-1116

Spring Creek Friends Cemetery, Mahaska County, Iowa.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Spring Creek Friends Cemetery
Vicinity Oskaloosa, IA 52557
Looking northeast
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer
April 24, 1994

2. Spring Creek Friends Cemetery
Vicinity Oskaloosa, IA 52557
Looking north northeast
Patricia Pierce Patterson, Photographer
April 24, 1994