

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Brockport Cemetery

other names/site number High Street Cemetery

2. Location

street & number 56-98 High Street

N/A	not for publication
N/A	vicinity

city or town Brockport

state New York code NY county Monroe code 055 zip code 14420

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 X local

Roger A. Perpoint DBHPO 1/6/16
Signature of certifying official/Title 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

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): _____

Joe Edson H. Beall 3.8.16
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

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	1	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
2	2	objects
3	3	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

N/A

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: _____

Narrative Description

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(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Located in the southeast quadrant of the village of Brockport, Brockport Cemetery is a historic, settlement era cemetery established in 1829 on a trapezoid-shaped property encompassing 4.55 acres of land. The property has a U-shaped, concrete-paved road that extends, north-south, through the middle of the site. The grounds are divided into three sections with burials in rows that run north to south, with twenty-two rows from east to west. All of the cemetery plots in general are square or rectangular in shape. Plots tend to indicate family ownership and many are marked with a large monument surrounded by individual burial markers for family members. The cemetery contains over 1,800 burials, aligned in rows north-to-south. The graves are oriented east to west with the majority of the markers facing west. The cemetery includes a wide array of funerary symbolism typical of the early nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries. The cemetery grounds also include a contributing early-twentieth-century water pump near the west entrance, a contributing 1906 iron fence along the north/High Street, west and east property lines, a non-contributing chain link fence along the south property line, and a non-contributing garage of recent date on the eastern edge of the property. Located just inside the east entrance to the cemetery is a green-painted wood sign installed in 2015 that has the words "High Street Cemetery" in stenciled yellow letters, on its west side. In 1914 a receiving vault was built in the cemetery on lots # 130, 131 and 132 but it was removed in the 1990s due to severe deterioration.¹ The majority of the grave markers are in good condition, especially the older markers and the cemetery retains integrity in terms of its age, lay-out and association with the history of Brockport. A portion of the cemetery is dedicated to Brockport residents who served in the armed forces and contains a 2008 monument and bench, plus four Civil War era mortars. Due to the age and purpose of this memorial, it is considered noncontributing to this nomination.

Narrative Description

Brockport is an incorporated village in western Monroe County in the Finger Lakes region of New York State that was originally settled in the early nineteenth century. The Brockport Cemetery is a settlement era cemetery roughly 4.55 acres in size, located on the south side of High Street, a secondary east-to-west residential street in the east central area of the village of Brockport. The cemetery is situated at the eastern edge of a residential neighborhood and is immediately adjacent to the Amtrak/Conrail railroad tracks on the

¹The cemetery receiving vault was located in the middle of the cemetery, next to the road, on a site that includes lots #130, 131 & 132. Built in 1914, this one-story, steel-and-concrete building was clad with stucco and was an example of Egyptian Revival design, featuring battered walls, a curved cornice, and flat roof. A door was located on its east elevation. Due to deterioration, the vault was removed in the 1990s and the site is now graded and planted with grass.

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south and two large industrial complexes, one being the former Brockport Cold Storage Company. The property is generally flat and rises up slightly towards the south end.

Just outside of the cemetery's northern boundary, marked by a decorative 1906 iron fence, are a concrete public sidewalk, a wide tree lawn, and dwarf, deciduous trees that extend along the High Street frontage. A map marked "Brockport Cemetery" in the files of the Town of Sweden Highway Department shows the cemetery laid out in seven sections, which are further divided into mostly square or rectangular plots, numbered 1 to 448. There is no date indicated on this map; however, it appears to be from the early twentieth century. Lots consist of both rectangular and square plots of land. The burials tend to be in neat rows with the markers facing the interior roadways. The headstones and monuments are generally evenly placed throughout the site. There is a memorial to Brockport residents who served in the armed forces at the northeast corner of the cemetery. This memorial is located immediately adjacent to a dozen graves, most of whom are Civil War veterans, with burials marked by round-headed grave markers of identical design.

Only one previous map of the cemetery exists. This "Map of the Brockport Cemetery Copied from the Map & Survey of H.L. Smith 1860" is an 1894 copy of the map drawn by George B. Harmon just one year after the "Brockport Cemetery Association" was created and assumed responsibility for the care and maintenance of the cemetery, transferred from the village of Brockport. Located in the collections of the Emily L. Knapp Museum and Library of Local History at the Brockport Village Hall, the Smith/Harmon map shows the cemetery as being the same as the current 4.55-acre property with a layout that is nearly identical to its current design. This map shows the rectangular burial lots, also numbered 1 to 448, and at least 90 percent of the burial lots on the map are shown with the owner's name.

The maps also show the current U-shaped road, which is described by the map's key as "Carriage Ways, East 8 ft.–West 8 ft. Wide." Also shown on the Smith/Harmon map are a series of walking paths described in the map's key as "alleys," which are laid out in a grid pattern of north-south ("4 ft. 8 wide") and east-west ("6 feet wide") design. There are twenty north-south alleys, which are located between each north-south row of burial lots. The wider east-west alleys, which total five in number, are interspersed between every three consecutive burial lots (north-south). Today, these alleys remain mostly intact and are now overgrown with grass, making them barely visible.

The interior of the cemetery is accessible via a U-shaped roadway paved with concrete that appears to date from the early twentieth century, judging by its composition and current condition. A small section of concrete curbing survives near the east entrance. There are two entrances/exits off of High Street. This roadway runs

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north-to-south through the middle of the cemetery. There are no additional roads or marked walking paths through the cemetery, with the majority of the grounds covered with mowed grass.

The east, north, and west boundaries of the cemetery are marked by an iron fence that was installed in 1906. This decorative iron fence parallels High Street, where it marks the north boundary of the cemetery and has two openings for the entrance near the east end and the exit at the west end. At the entrance and exit to the cemetery, the fence features square, decorative iron posts with chamfered shafts, decorative finials, and plain bases. An early-twentieth-century photo of the cemetery shows the east exit with a pair of iron gates and an iron arch over the exit. The arch includes a decorative finial and the words, BROCKPORT CEMETERY. The arch is attached to the iron posts by two, vertical iron supports. The iron gates, arch, and vertical supports are no longer extant.

Landscaping within the cemetery property is sparse, as the majority of the mature deciduous, coniferous trees and shrubs planted in the late nineteenth-early twentieth century have been removed. Fewer than six surviving mature deciduous trees (maple) have survived in the cemetery and they are all located along the north, east and west boundaries of the property. A small European Mountain Ash tree and a pair of mature, coniferous Japanese Yew shrubs are also intact. Randomly situated deciduous trees (maple, oak, sumac) and wild grapevines are located along the east, south, and west boundaries of the property, outside of the cemetery fence.

Established in 1829, the cemetery appears to have had its first burial in June of that year: Charles Wilkie, who died June 18, 1829 aged four months and ten days. One earlier death date is recorded in the 1992 inventory of burials in this cemetery: Ruth Brownson, who died October 13, 1827, age 72 years. It is possible that Ruth Brownson's remains were moved here from the original village burial ground on Main Street. The most recent burial in the cemetery was 2011, when the cremains of Monika W. Andrews (1942-2011) were interred in lot 123. Despite this recent burial, the cemetery is no longer active. The town estimates that a total of roughly 1,855 interments are in the Brockport Cemetery.

Brockport Cemetery features mostly traditional headstones and monuments with over two dozen obelisks and one Celtic cross and is devoid of statuary and private mausoleums. The cemetery markers reflect the range of materials and funerary symbols popular from the early nineteenth through the early twentieth century. Marker materials are primarily marble and granite (gray, brown) and many, including the more monumental obelisks and markers, are embellished with period motifs and allegorical designs. These include weeping willow, vines, clasped hands, laurel wreaths, stylized foliage, Christian crosses, and fraternal insignias (Masonic and Odd Fellows). The plot of Hiel Brockway, for whom the village of Brockport is named, is a typical example of this

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period, with a tall marble obelisk in the center of the plot and smaller individual headstones for specific family members surrounding it in adjoining lots 44, 60, 61 & 77.

As previously stated, noticeably absent from the cemetery is the use of figures on top of monuments. A number of the obelisks are topped with finials that resemble classical urns in design. An exception is the occasional use of a lamb on the headstone indicating a child's burial and are found in fewer than six plots, one being in the Pollock family (lot 137). There is one example of a marble broken column with wreath monument, which also denotes the grave of a child. It is located on the plot of Jamie McCulloch, who died in 1859 at age one year, three months (lot 146). Weathering has deteriorated most of the surviving lamb statues but overall, the cemetery monuments and markers are in relatively good condition.

Less than half-a-dozen family plots include nineteenth-century decorative stone "curbing" and/or stone corner markers to indicate the boundaries of these plots. The H.J. Fellows and William Whipple family plots retain portions of the round iron railings, which are set in the stone posts marking the boundaries of these plots. An early twentieth century photo of the cemetery shows one family plot with decorative cast iron fencing surrounding the site that has since been removed. Cast iron cemetery fencing was often removed for scrap metal drives during World Wars I and II or was removed as part of a maintenance strategy which enabled cemetery staff to more easily mow the grass in these plots.

Markers dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century are generally granite and ornately decorated with religious and funerary symbolism. The family plot of Daniel and Mary Jane Holmes (lot 396) has a Celtic cross, the only one in the cemetery. Distinctive examples of markers from this period include the pedestal-and-orb granite marker on the L. J. Pease plot (lot 229), the coffin-shaped granite marker in the center of the Edgar Benedict family plot (lot 366), the eclectic marble marker consisting of a rectangular base with four columns supporting a pediment, located on the Nobles plot (lot 184), and a marble pedestal with an inverted urn on top on the Fletcher Mathews plot (lot 368). Located in the northeast corner of the Elias B. Holmes family plot (lots 92 & 93) is the low, rectangular, coffin-shaped, granite marker for Mary Holmes Stevens (died 1873), which is topped by a horizontal Gothic cross and includes quatrefoil motifs. All of these aforementioned markers this paragraph are exceptional examples of specific period designs in the cemetery.

Markers dating from the twentieth century are generally granite and lower in height than the earlier stones. Some are double markers indicating two side-by-side interments, usually a husband and wife. A triple marker for three side-by-side interments (father, son, mother) is located on the George Bort plot (lot 172). A grave marker with attached bronze plaque usually seen on military or fraternal interments, is on only one headstone in the cemetery. It is the 1923 metal plaque on the granite marker for the grave of Joseph Morgan Allen,

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whose fraternity brothers and friends from Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity and Club in New York City erected this memorial plaque in his honor (lot 210).

Included in the cemetery is an unmarked potter's field, but indicated in the cemetery's ledger book, on file at the Town of Sweden Highway Office, as an area "to be used by Poor Master and board of health" for the burial of indigents. Three separate locations in the cemetery were reserved for these interments: Lot #112 in Section #5-6 at the eastern edge of the cemetery, lots # 268 & #269 in Section #7 at the southeast corner of the cemetery, and lot #299 in Section #3 in the south-central area of the cemetery.

Roadways divide the cemetery into three visible areas with two sections in each division. Burials are aligned in six rows running north to south in the eastern portion (section 1 and 2) and seven rows in the center (section 3 and 4). The western end of the cemetery (sections 5, 6 and 7) has seven full rows and three partial rows. In spite of the loss of the vault, the Brockport Cemetery retains a high degree of integrity in terms of its age and the variety and generally good condition of the extant markers. The information contained on the markers is generally legible, providing demographic information on the village's earlier inhabitants as well as indicating the tastes and funerary practices evident by the iconography and placement of the markers.

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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.)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Community Planning

Period of Significance

1829-1906

Significant Dates

1829, 1906

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Period of Significance (justification)

The period is defined from when the cemetery was established to when the historic iron fencing was added.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The cemetery is being nominated for its age and for its association with the founding and development of the village of Brockport, as well as for the demographic information contained within the premises that is lacking in the surviving written documentation of the village.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Brockport Cemetery is significant for its age as an intact settlement era burial ground deliberately placed on the edge of the village that, over time, became landlocked by industry and a growing residential area. It also illustrates the early-to-mid nineteenth century attitudes about cemetery practices and design. This cemetery served as the final resting place for many of Brockport's citizens and the surrounding area from 1829 until 1891 when Lake View Cemetery (NR Listed 2009) became the primary burial ground. The information on the markers and accompanying iconography provide demographic and genealogical information often missing from the recorded histories of the community, especially for a settlement such as Brockport, which had its beginnings around the turn-of-the-nineteenth century. This also makes the cemetery significant under social history. The area now known as the Town of Sweden/Village of Brockport was originally part of the Triangle Tract, which was purchased and surveyed in 1801. The opening of the Erie Canal brought expansion and prosperity to the town and the village of Brockport was incorporated in 1829, the same year that the cemetery was established. A previous burial ground on the west side of Main Street was near capacity and a Baptist church was scheduled to be erected on its site. Necessity required that a new cemetery be established and the earlier burials were moved to the newly created "Village Cemetery" (Brockport Cemetery) on High Street, at the southeast edge of the village. Significant for its age and character as a settlement era cemetery, it follows the common early pattern of rows running north to south with the interments oriented east to west. Many of the markers display period iconography and family monuments/plots are frequently occurring throughout the site. The names on the headstones represent many of the prominent families of the early settlement period of Brockport, including Hiel Brockway and William Seymour, the founders of Brockport. The cemetery was owned by the village of Brockport from 1829 until 1893 when the Brockport Cemetery Association was organized. This association assumed ownership of the cemetery from until 2007, when it was dissolved and the cemetery was transferred to the town of Sweden. According to records, the earliest headstones in the cemetery date from 1827-1829 and that the majority of the burials took place between the 1840 and 1890. Although the cemetery is no longer active, occasional interments occur, the most recent taking place in 2011.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The area now known as the town of Sweden, Monroe County, New York, was originally part of the Triangle Tract, which lay between the Phelps and Gorham Purchase on the east and the Holland Purchase to the west.

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Originally owned by Robert Morris, it was purchased in 1801 by LeRoy, Boyard and Everts of New York City and surveyed into lots that same year by Robert Stoddard. Settlement began soon after 1802, when Lake Road (now State Route 19) was opened, which allowed for the access from the village of Le Roy to Lake Ontario and the purchase of lots. In 1814, the population was sufficient for the town of Sweden to be officially incorporated. Continued expansion was made possible with the opening of the Erie Canal, which brought prosperity to the town and to the village of Brockport, which was founded by land developers Hiel Brockway and James Seymour, who bought land on both sides of Lake Road. In 1829, the village of Brockport was officially incorporated.

Growth of the village and increased settlement brought with it the eventual need for a burial ground. The first burial ground in the village was established on an elevated site on the west side of Main Street (Route 19) by the 1820s. This prominent site was soon acquired by a Baptist congregation, which erected its first church on this property in 1829. Burials were moved from the Main Street burial ground to the new "village cemetery" (now Brockport Cemetery) on the south side of High Street, where village trustees had purchased the land. The village cemetery was located at the east end of High Street in a sparsely settled neighborhood, at a distance from the main residential and commercial areas of the community.

Among the earliest cemeteries, or burying grounds, the Brockport Cemetery was among the earliest burying grounds in the settlement of the town of Sweden and the village of Brockport. Due to the town's rural character, most of its cemeteries were located near small settlements, with East Sweden, West Sweden and Locust Cemeteries all being established at a distance from the village. The Beach Ridge Cemetery on Lake Road, also laid out in 1829, was approximately 1.5 miles south of the village. Both the Brockport and Beach Road graveyards were plotted in the linear pattern, with headstones oriented in an east-west direction. Beach Ridge Cemetery, originally situated on about thirty acres, eventually contained 310 plots on a one-acre site, but never expanded until it was incorporated into Lake View Cemetery in the 1890s. The establishing of Brockport Cemetery in 1829 made it a conveniently located, early burying ground with a typical linear arrangement. Its placement on High Street was originally at the edge of the village that quickly became surrounded as the village expanded.

The oldest interments in the cemetery on High Street date from 1827-1829. Like most settlement-era burial grounds, the Brockport Cemetery became the final resting place of the village's founders and early settlers, and over time, the prominent members of the community along with members from all ranks of economic and social backgrounds. The plots of the more affluent or prominent were located in the more visible areas of the

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cemetery, such as the northeast quadrant near High Street or contained tall obelisks or columns and more elaborate markers, indicating the importance of these families in the community.

One such family plot was the Brockway family plot (lots 44, 60, 61 & 77) that featured a tall, marble obelisk in the center of the plot, with smaller headstones for other family members surrounding it. Hiel Brockway (1775-1842) was a land developer and a founding member of the village. Information on the central obelisk is now obscured due to the deterioration of the marble. The obelisk was a common nineteenth-century funerary symbol whose classical origins denoted mourning. It became popular in the late eighteenth century and carried well over into the nineteenth century. The tallest and most prominent headstones in the Brockport Cemetery are obelisks, which are located on several dozen burial plots. A number of these obelisks are topped by decorative finials. One obelisk, in the center of Dr. Davis Carpenter's plot (lot 45), is draped with a funeral pall on top of the monument.

William H. Seymour (1802-1903) was the younger brother of James Seymour, another founder of the village. The Seymour plot (lots 6 & 22) features a polished granite pedestal marker topped by a pediment in the center of the plot. It is inscribed with Seymour family names, dates, and ornamental lettering for interments spanning the years 1841-1933. William H. Seymour was the senior partner in the Seymour and Morgan Foundry in Brockport, which manufactured the first McCormick reapers in the United States. Seymour lived to the advanced age of 101 years. A historic photograph shows him riding in the village's first automobile when he was 100 years old.

By mid-century, the cemetery needed more room and the original Brockport Cemetery was expanded to the west in 1859, with the purchase of an additional lot, as all plots in the original burying ground were sold by that time. In 1860, a map of the cemetery was drawn by H. L. Smith and the property was depicted as a site of slightly less than five acres with lots numbered 1 through 448, accessible by a U-shaped roadway (a layout and acreage that is identical to the size and design of the present cemetery). Additional acreage for burials was needed again by the late 1860s and plans were made to enlarge it in 1870 when village trustees purchased additional land directly south of the cemetery. A separate entrance to this site was proposed through the former county fairgrounds. There were also plans to build a bridge over railroad tracks to connect the two sections of the cemetery, but development of the section beyond the tracks never occurred. By the late nineteenth century, three more cemeteries were established in the town of Sweden to meet the needs of the growing Brockport/Sweden community.

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In 1891, the Lake View Cemetery Association was officially organized for the purpose of establishing a new cemetery on Lake Road, about 1.5 miles south of the village. Thirty acres were purchased adjacent to the existing Beach Ridge Cemetery and a "rural cemetery" was laid out by Rochester landscape architect William W. Parce. Lake View Cemetery (National Register listed 2009) featured terraces, a Romanesque Revival chapel/receiving vault, a small pond, a cast iron tiered fountain, and a distinctive serpentine road system, all typical of the lawn cemetery designs of this period. In addition to Lake View, Mount Olivet Cemetery was established on the Canal Road northeast of the village in 1892 for the interment of Catholics. This succeeded St. Mary's Cemetery on East Avenue, a smaller burial ground at the northern edge of the village, which was created in 1856 and ceased operation in 1892.

Another cemetery was established in the area, but with a specific purpose in mind. The Brockport Rural Cemetery was incorporated in 1882 and land acquired for a new cemetery that was intended mostly for the interment of Civil War veterans. Dedicated in 1893, this cemetery was located on the east side of Owens Road, approximately one mile east of the village of Brockport. In 1894, a 52-foot high Soldiers' Memorial Tower (National Register listed 1994) was erected on the site. Although plots were purchased, fires and neglect caused the site to be abandoned with most interments moved to other cemeteries, including Lake View Cemetery, south of the village.

With the creation of these three new cemeteries in the Brockport/Sweden area at the end of the nineteenth century, plans to expand the Brockport Cemetery into the new area south of the main railroad tracks were rendered moot and the land was sold and eventually developed for industrial use by the early twentieth century. The larger cemeteries, with their fashionable layouts and picturesque locations, became more popular with local residents, and the Brockport Cemetery on High Street began a period of decline.

In response to these developments, management of the Brockport Cemetery on High Street was transferred from the village government to the newly established Brockport Cemetery Association, which was incorporated in 1892. Inadequate financial resources for the maintenance and care of the cemetery were a major issue for decades with the lack of village funds available to maintain the cemetery continually reported in the newspapers from the 1860s to the 1880s. Although plots were purchased, neglect caused the site to suffer from a lack of maintenance, in spite of the threat of fines to lot owners who were supposed to maintain the lots. The creation of the new Brockport Cemetery Association resulted in a revised business plan to address these issues. Increased fees and endowments for the perpetual care of lots improved the financial stability of the association. An article in the *Brockport Republic* of April 5, 1906 reported on the meeting of the cemetery association, and described the Brockport Cemetery as "probably the most heavily endowed of any of its class

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in the state and a leader in cemetery legislation and improvements.” The newspaper article reported that “the front iron fence with handsome entrances” was to be erected that summer (1906) to replace an earlier wood fence from the 1870s located on the cemetery’s east, north and west borders that had fallen into disrepair.

The Brockport Cemetery Association’s further improvements to the High Street burial ground were reported in their 1914 Annual Report. The major project completed that year was the construction of a steel and concrete receiving vault on adjoining lots 130,131, and 132. The report stated that “past experiences have shown the need of such a building and we now feel that all the physical and structural requirements of the burial grounds are met.” With its stucco exterior, battered walls, and cavetto cornice, this receiving vault was a fine example of early twentieth century, Egyptian Revival architecture in Monroe County. Due to deterioration, the receiving vault was removed in the 1990s and the site was graded and landscaped with grass.

The association’s 1914 report also cited that the maintenance and landscaping needs within the cemetery included issues such as lawn care, the upkeep of walks, fences, drives, paths and the care of shrubs and trees. In a rare, early twentieth-century photograph taken from High Street, looking southwest, the cemetery’s landscape was shown to include numerous mature deciduous and coniferous trees that had been added to enhance the site. The photo also depicted the newly installed 1906 front iron fence with handsome arched entrance with the name BROCKPORT CEMETERY in metal letters on the arch. These landscape improvements, with new receiving vault, trees, shrubs and decorative fencing, reflected the competition from the new Lake View Cemetery by attempting to incorporate the trends of late nineteenth cemetery practices. These were an outgrowth of the Rural Cemetery Movement, which began in the early nineteenth century, when new attitudes toward burial customs and gravestone design changed the appearance of burial grounds. Burial grounds became cemeteries, moving beyond the mere depositories of the dead to parks. To highlight the park atmosphere and assist the living with respectful contemplation, these new cemeteries featured elaborate entrance gates, chapels and receiving vaults, benches, fountains, gazebos, and man-made lakes. Lush plantings of trees, flowers and shrubbery were added to enhance vistas and create picturesque settings. Only the plantings and a receiving vault were added to the Brockport Cemetery, most of which were removed in the late twentieth century.

Another important change was that families could purchase plots before they were needed, often erecting a central monument featuring the family name. The monument was then supplemented with low individual head or foot stones as burials were made. Often, the remains of family members buried in family graveyards were moved to the newly established cemeteries. Simple headstones were replaced with prominent stone monuments or sculpture, depending on the wealth and status of the families. Markers often contained

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classical, religious and or allegorical figures and symbolism that was less severe in reminding the living about the brutality of death.

One of the most common funerary symbols of the nineteenth century was an obelisk, a classical symbol of mourning that became popular in the late eighteenth century and carried over into the nineteenth century. Already mentioned was the tall, marble obelisk in the center of the Brockway plot but nearby was the Cornes family plot that featured a tall marble obelisk in the center of the plot (lots 230, 241) for the family whose members were prominent in local business and politics. Thomas Cornes (1813-1878) was an English-born who settled in Brockport where he was a five-time village mayor and three-time town supervisor. In the 1870s, his slaughterhouse operation was located just northeast of the cemetery. Also interred in this plot was his son, James (1845-1934), a lieutenant in the Union Army, who recalled in a newspaper article some twenty years after the war his adventures of having wandered behind Confederate lines, being lost for weeks before capture and escaping three times

Another popular monument design of the nineteenth century was the pedestal, which tended to be large with four sides for inscriptions and was topped with either a flat capital or pediment. The style was adapted from architectural styles found in ancient Pompeii and was usually enriched with inscriptions and ornamental designs. The plot of William H. Seymour (1802-1903) featured a polished granite pedestal marker topped by a pediment in the center of the family plot (lots 6 & 22). It was inscribed with Seymour family information from interments spanning the years 1841 to 1933. William H. Seymour died at the advanced age of 101 and was the senior partner of the Seymour and Morgan Foundry in Brockport, which manufactured the first McCormick reapers in the United States.

Other village notables interred in the cemetery include Elias Holmes (died 1866) who was Brockport's wealthiest resident at the time. He was also an attorney, owner of an Erie Canal packet boat line, a Whig member of the U.S. House of Representatives (1845-49), a temperance leader, first president of the Board of the Brockport Collegiate Institute, director of the Rochester and Niagara Falls Railroad, owner of the largest house in the village, and married to Hiel Brockway's daughter. Horatio N. Beach (1826-1898) was the founding editor and publisher of the *Brockport Republic* newspaper, a real estate developer, Republican party leader, village trustee, collector of Erie Canal tolls, and consul general to Ecuador, Venezuela, and Columbia. He was the prime mover in establishing the Brockport Rural Cemetery and Soldiers Memorial in the 1880s.

Equally notable interments from the late nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries included two families of African-American descent. Anthony Barrier (1824-1890) was the village of Brockport's leading barber, a coal

Brockport Cemetery

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dealer and treasurer of the First Baptist Church. His daughter, Frances, known as Fannie, was the first African-American to graduate from the Brockport Collegiate Institute. She and her husband, Laing Williams, were leaders in the civil rights movement in the Midwest. Frances was interred next to her sister, Ella D. Barrier (1852-1945), in the Barrier family plot (lot 415). The family of African-American resident William L. Page (1834-1910) was interred in lot 33. Page graduated from Macedon Academy in Wayne County and was an engineer on the Erie Canal. Also interred in this plot is William L. Page's sister, F. Gertrude Page (1868-1962), who was reputedly present at the house of Frederick Douglass in Washington, D.C. when he died at home on February 20, 1898.

Another common symbol used during the nineteenth century was a broken column for a life cut short, which was used on the grave of Jamie McCulloch, who died in 1859 at the age of one year and three months (lot 146). Urns were also popular, being classical Greek and Roman receptacles for containing cremated remains (another symbol of death). Sheep and lambs commonly depicted the death of a child, especially infants, signifying innocence, as indicated by the marker on grave of Charles Pollock, who died April 1, 1868, age 3 months (lot 37). One plot in the cemetery featured a Celtic cross, a form that appeared in American cemeteries in the 1890s and in the early twentieth century in communities with a strong Celtic heritage. This type of cross symbolized eternity by depicting a large ring running through the arms of the cross and was often decorated with intricate interwoven designs. The singular, large granite Celtic cross was placed on the plot of Daniel and Mary Jane Holmes (lots 92, 93). Daniel Holmes (1828-1919) was a lawyer, village clerk for 20 years, justice of the peace for 30 years and a member of the Brockport College Council for more than 50 years. His wife, Mary Jane Holmes (1828-1907) was a best-selling American novelist in the second half of the nineteenth century, an author of 47 novels and many travel articles.

By the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, granite stones became popular due to their durability and ability to be ornately decorated. The family marker (plot 229) for Levi Pease (1824-1902) was characteristic of this type of decorative work and featured a wide pedestal base topped with an orb of polished granite. The distinctive granite monument for Abiram (1794-1875) and Abigail (1799-1869) Ransford had a wide, horizontal band at the top, distinguished by intricately carved foliage and vines, a design only found in this lot (lot 196).

A number of village residents who were veterans of military service in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were given special interment in the cemetery. Stephen Randall Stafford (1842-1902) was a Civil War hero and Brockport's only professional soldier, who rose in the ranks from private to major as a reward for faithful and meritorious service. He was wounded in May 1864, recovered to fight in the Indian Wars and command Fort Sheridan near Chicago. He retired in 1898 and returned to Brockport. Dr. William B. Mann (1830-1920, lot

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413) was a native of nearby Kendall and a medical student, who served as an assistant surgeon in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. He entered medical practice in Brockport after the war and was the village's leading physician for over 50 years. Captain Aaron Lester Cady (1836-1865) was a Civil War hero and commanded the 24th New York Independent Battery. His unit was captured in the siege of Plymouth, North Carolina, and he spent five months in a Confederate prison. While being transferred, he jumped from the moving train and escaped, finding his way to Union lines. His health was ruined by his imprisonment and he died November 8, 1865, aged 29 years (lot 304). At least 18 Civil War veterans were buried in adjoining lots that were later marked with a monument and artillery pieces at the northeast corner of the cemetery (lots 46 & 62).

In recent decades, the Brockport Cemetery has had only occasional interments, often members of families who had family burial plots already established in this burial ground. The most recent burial was in 2011, when the cremains of Monika W. Andrews (1942-2011) were interred in lot 123. A prominent resident and wife of deputy village mayor William Andrews, she had a life-long commitment to health care and community advocacy through her work as a nurse, Peace Corps member, Habitat for Humanity volunteer, and Local Food Cupboard, and Public Health initiatives. Although no longer an active cemetery, the Brockport Cemetery retains a high degree of integrity largely due in part to stewardship by the town of Sweden. Its value to the community was underscored when the town assumed ownership and responsibility for its care in 2012, after the Brockport Cemetery Association was dissolved.

Brockport Cemetery
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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_____. *Images of America: Around Brockport*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2002.

Beers, F.W. *Atlas of Monroe County, New York*. New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1872.

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Browne, P.J. *Gillette's Map of Monroe County, New York*. Philadelphia: John E. Gillette, 1858.

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http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_books/3.

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McIntosh, W.H. *History of Monroe County, New York*. Philadelphia: Everts, Ensign and Everts, 1877.

Peck, William F. *Landmarks of Monroe County, New York*. Boston: Boston History Co., 1895.

Plat Book of Monroe County, New York. Philadelphia: J.M. Lathrop & Co., 1902.

Sloane, David Charles. *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.

Smith, Jonathan Mark, "Brockport, New York: A Narrative of That Place (and the Place of that Narrative)." Syracuse University: Ph. D. dissertation (n.p.), 1991.

Brockport Cemetery
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
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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: Landmark Society of WNY

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.55 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18N</u> Zone	<u>261686</u> Easting	<u>4788382</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

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

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

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the same as for the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cynthia Howk, Architectural Research Coordinator
organization Landmark Society of Wester New York date 3 December 2015
street & number 133 South Fitzhugh St telephone 585-546-7029
city or town Rochester state NY zip code 14608
e-mail Chowk@landmarksociety.org

Brockport Cemetery
Name of Property

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Brockport Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Brockport

County: Monroe State: New York

Photographer: Cynthia Howk

Date Photographed: 16 September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001 of 0022: View looking southwest from Section 4 at sign and fence at High Street.
- 0002 of 0022: View of east gat of fence and part of roadway looking northeast along High Street.
- 0003 of 0022: Overview of cemetery looking southeast from near center of grounds.
- 0004 of 0022: Overview looking northeast from west gate entrance (High Street).
- 0005 of 0022: Overview of sections 5 & 6, looking north from High Street.
- 0006 of 0022: Northeast end of cemetery showing extant plot fencing (Whipple Family).
- 0007 of 0022: View showing draped urn of Harmon Family monument, northeast corner of cemetery.
- 0008 of 0022: Obelisk for Hiel Brockway and family, northeast corner of cemetery.
- 0009 of 0022: Looking southeast at Ransford Family burials, east side of section 6.
- 0010 of 0022: Overview of center area of cemetery looking east from north end of section 3.
- 0011 of 0022: Cornes family plot and view of southeast corner of cemetery.
- 0012 of 0022: Holmes family monument with Veterans Memorial to the northeast (left) marked with flag.
- 0013 of 0022: Celtic cross in southwest section of cemetery, view looking southwest.
- 0014 of 0022: Overview of section 1 (northwest end of cemetery) looking north toward High Street.
- 0015 of 0022: Noncontributing garage, east side of cemetery.
- 0016 of 0022: Benedict sarcophagus, west side of cemetery.
- 0017 of 0022: Pierson sisters' markers, lot 415 in southwest end of cemetery (section 2).
- 0018 of 0022: Weathered stone showing hand and flowers.
- 0019 of 0022: One of the child markers with lamb figure.
- 0020 of 0022: Triple pillow type marker for Bort Family.
- 0021 of 0022: Metal marker for Joseph Morgan Allen.
- 0022 of 0022: Truncated column in McCullough family plot, east side of cemetery.

Brockport Cemetery
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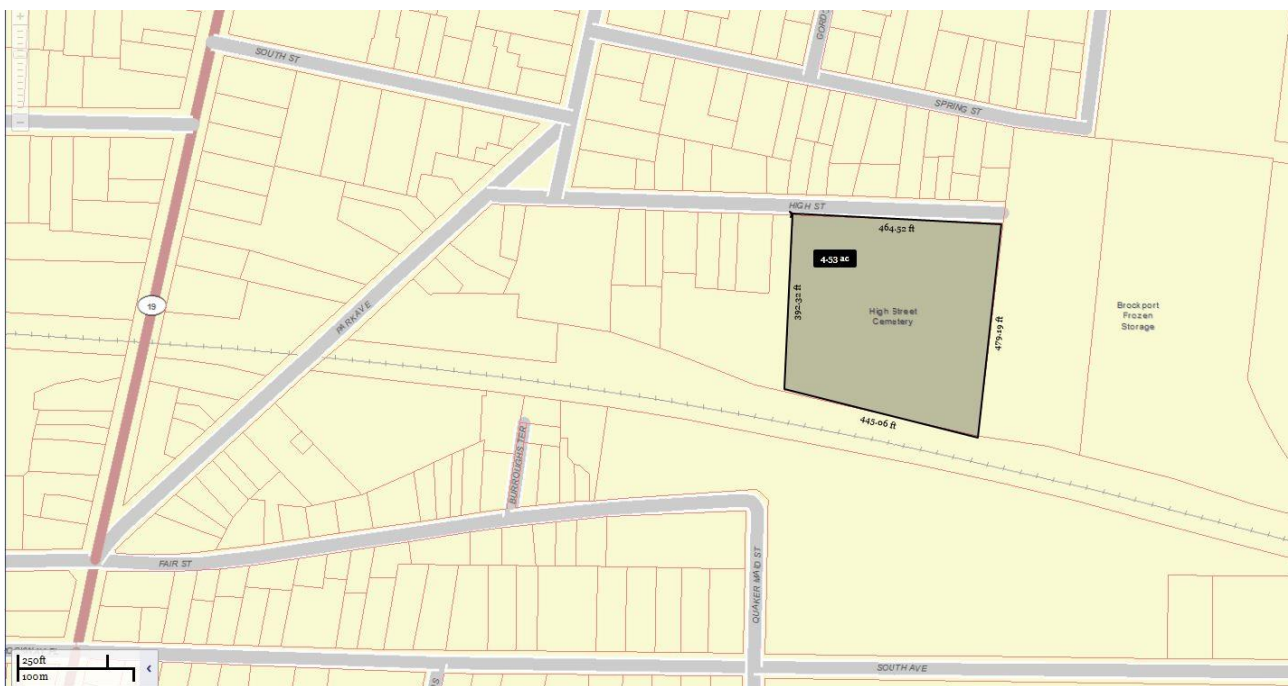
Property Owner:

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

name Town of Sweden
street & number 18 State Street telephone 585-637-2144
city or town Brockport state NY zip code 14420

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Brockport Cemetery
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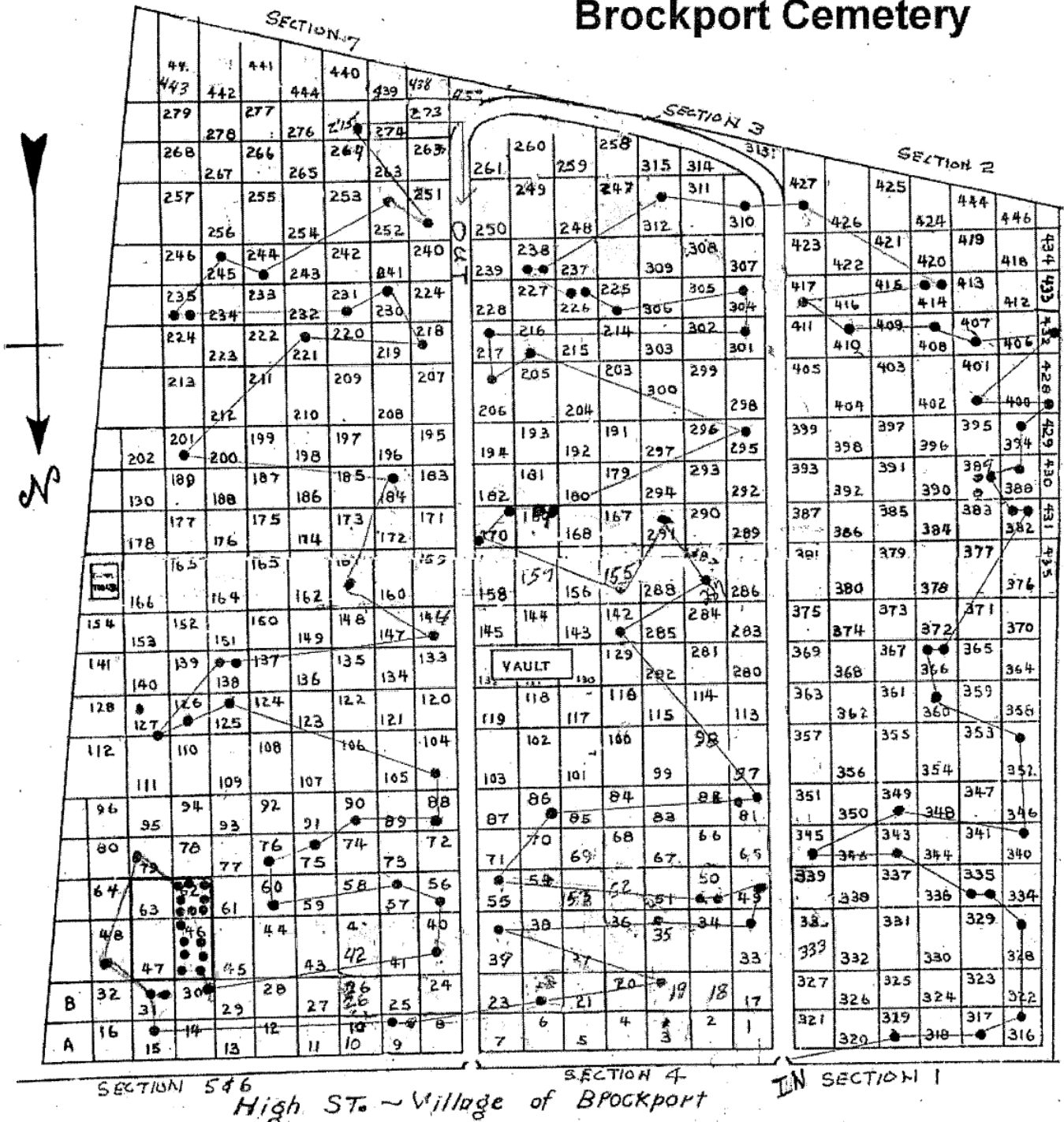


Vault prior to removal, ca. 1989

Brockport Cemetery
 Name of Property

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Brockport Cemetery



Brockport Cemetery
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State



Town of Sweden Supervisor's Office
18 State Street, Brockport, NY 14420

www.townofsweden.org
supervisor@townofsweden.org
Phone (585) 637-7588
Fax (585) 431-0039

July 23, 2014

Virginia Bartos
NYS Historic Preservation Office
Peebles Island
Waterford, NY 12188-189

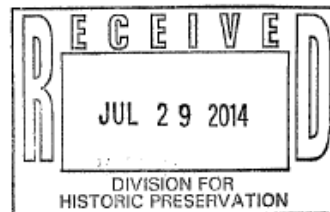
Dear Ms. Bartos,

The Town of Sweden owns and operates the High Street Cemetery, parcel ID #069.13-5-16, in the Town of Sweden, County of Monroe.

On July 22, 2014, the Town Board of the Town of Sweden granted permission for the cemetery to be nominated for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Carges
Supervisor



Brockport Cemetery
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State



VILLAGE OF BROCKPORT

49 State Street · Brockport, New York 14420
Telephone (585) 637-5300 · Fax (585) 637-1045
Website: www.brockportny.org

*The Victorian Village on the Erie Canal
Preserve America Community
Listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places
Certified Local Government
Tree City USA Community
Erie Canalway Heritage Award of Excellence*

November 18, 2015

Ms. Ruth L. Pierpont
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Peebles Island
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189



Re: **Support for Brockport Cemetery High Street Brockport, NY 14420**

Dear Ms. Pierpont:

I am pleased to join the Village of Brockport's Historic Preservation Board in lending our strong support to the nomination of the Brockport Cemetery on High Street in the Village of Brockport as worthy of listing on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Listing the Brockport Cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places would be an exciting and appropriate action furthering the Village's historic preservation efforts.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to support this effort. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret B. Blackman
Mayor
Village of Brockport

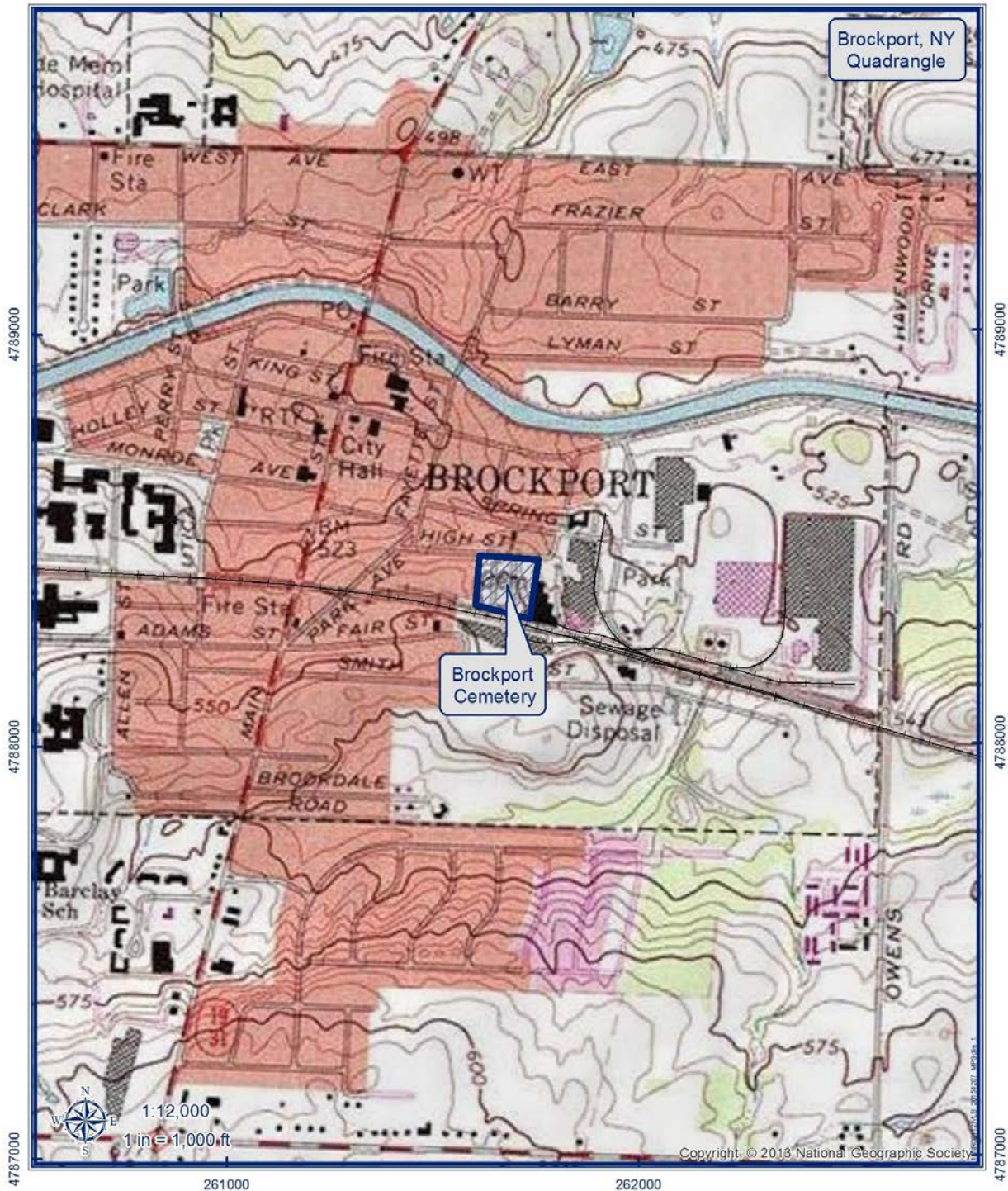
Xc: Kevin McCarthy, Historic Preservation Board Chair

Brockport Cemetery
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County and State

Brockport Cemetery
Brockport, Monroe Co., New York

56-98 High Street
Brockport, NY 14420



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



 Brockport Cemetery



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Brockport Cemetery
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

Brockport Cemetery
Brockport, Monroe Co., New York

56-98 High Street
Brockport, NY 14420



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Brockport Cemetery



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**





EXIT

MURPHY

MURPHY

MURPHY



DANIEL D. WILLIAMS
BORN
JULY 6, 1823
DIED
JUNE 6, 1895

DEBORAH
HIS WIFE
BORN
OCT. 19, 1800
DIED
JUNE 26, 1895

WILLIAMS











ALLIYUAN
C. M. S. W. E. L.
M. D. E. D. A. Y.



RANSFORD

SMITH

PLUMLEY
DIED
AUG. 19, 1881

EDWARD L. RANSFORD
MAY 18, 1845
DIED
AUG. 19, 1881
CO. A 140TH REG'T N.Y. INF.
KILLED IN BATTLE OF WILBERNES

WIFE OF
CHARLES L. TAYLOR

DAUGHTER OF
ABIRAM & ABIGAIL RANSFORD

DAUGHTER OF
ABIRAM & ABIGAIL RANSFORD

WIFE OF
ABIRAM RANSFORD



STORAGE

STEELE

WENDOVER



THE
WIFE OF
THOMAS L. CORNELL
DIED JULY 21 1831
Aged 80 Yrs.

ELIZABETH
WIFE OF
THOMAS L. CORNELL
DIED JULY 21 1831
Aged 80 Yrs.

ELDINGA WALLACE
WIFE OF
JAMES P. CORNELL
CO. H. 22 NY VOL. 26
DIED JULY 21 1831
Aged 80 Yrs.

JAMES P. CORNELL
CO. H. 22 NY VOL. 26
DIED NOV. 22 1854
Aged 83 Yrs.

PALMER



HOLMES

H. HOLMES
DIED
MAY 10 1880
AGE 60 YEARS



HOLMES

IN MEMORY OF
ANNA
MAY
MISLER
DIED MARCH 1891
AGED 51 YEARS

IN MEMORY OF
JEWEL
MINNIE
DIED OCTOBER 1898
AGED 34 YEARS

FARRALL

MAGRAINE

EDWIN HARRINGTON
1854 - 1904

MARY E. SPENCER
DIED
OCTOBER 1898
AGED 34 YEARS

DIED
CHICAGO
1902

MARY E. SPENCER
DIED
OCTOBER 1898
AGED 34 YEARS

MARY E. SPENCER
DIED
OCTOBER 1898
AGED 34 YEARS







EDDIE BENEDICT
BORN MAY 25 1897
DIED AUGUST 27 1974

BENEDICT

BENEDICT
MAY 18 1894
AUGUST 27 1974

SISTER
FANNIE E. PIERSON
1861 — 1935
PEACE, PERFECT PEACE

LEONORA PIERSON
BAKER
1881 — 1975



AMELIA E.

DAUGHTER OF
M. L. MIEROP

WIFE OF
J. H. SPRING





FATHER

SON

MOTHER

JOSEPH MORGAN ALLEN

BORN-CLIFTON SPRINGS, N. Y.,
OCTOBER 8, 1864

DIED-BROCKPORT, N. Y.,
MARCH 7, 1923.

IN MEMORIAM

GRADUATED FROM WILLIAMS COLLEGE,
A MEMBER OF THE ALPHA DELTA PHI
FRATERNITY AND CLUB, NEW YORK, N. Y.,
WHERE HE RESIDED FOR MANY YEARS,
BEING ENGAGED IN THE PRACTICE OF
LAW IN THAT CITY.

HIGHLY RESPECTED AND BELOVED
FOR HIS MANLY TRAITS, STERLING AND
GENIAL QUALITIES, HIS FRATERNITY
BROTHERS, FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES
AFFECTIONATELY CONTRIBUTE THIS
EXPRESSION IN HIS MEMORY.

DECEASED
AGED 51 YEARS
MCCULLOCH

Decorative floral carving on a white marble base.

Small, rectangular, weathered white marble headstone.

Large, rectangular, weathered white marble headstone.

Large, rectangular, weathered white marble headstone.

Large, rectangular, weathered white marble headstone.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Brockport Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Monroe

DATE RECEIVED: 1/22/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/22/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/08/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/08/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000061

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 3.8.16 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.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



8 January 2016

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

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following four nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Brockport Cemetery, Monroe County
Warren Ferris House, Otsego County
Glenwood Cemetery and Mausoleum, Tioga County
Bayard Rustin Residence, New York County

I would like to note that we are submitting the Rustin Residence as part of our LGBT underrepresented properties initiative in New York City. Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office