

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 25 1979

DATE ENTERED DEC 1 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cave Hill Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

Cave Hill Cemetery

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

701 Baxter Avenue

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
3 & 4

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

021

CODE

Jefferson

COUNTY

CODE

111

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER: cemetery

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Cave Hill Cemetery Company

STREET & NUMBER

701 Baxter Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

— VICINITY OF

Kentucky

STATE

40204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

517 West Jefferson

CITY, TOWN

Louisville

Kentucky

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1974

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cave Hill Cemetery is situated at the intersection of Broadway, Baxter Avenue, Bardstown Road and Cherokee Road at the beginning of the Highlands area of Louisville. The cemetery is adjacent to the Cherokee Triangle National Register District (June 30, 1976).

Cave Hill Cemetery is a series of rolling hills, dales and five natural lakes in a 300 acre area. The grounds are entered on Broadway through an iron gate set between a stone gatehouse and one story structure housing a waiting room. Both structures are in the Renaissance Revival style. The gatehouse dating from 1880, is faced in smooth stone. The clock tower is the most outstanding feature of the building. The tower is pierced by windows with classical surrounds and is decorated with swags. The pyramid-shaped roof is crowned by a copy of Thorvaldsen's Angel of the Resurrection. The gatehouse is a major landmark in Louisville. Handsome walls of stone and iron or brick surround most of the acreage. (Photo 1)

A second entry on Grinstead Drive is marked by four stone pillars. A handsome Beaux-Arts gate lodge combines pilasters and large archways as its major architectural features. The structure is topped by a stone balustrade. (Photo 2)

The roads of the cemetery meander and curve through the terrain, opening up picturesque vistas. Cave Hill's landscape is marked by its naturalistic appearance. The current director of landscaping has described Cave Hill as "resembling a woods which has been refined through careful cultivation emphasizing the natural flowing beauty of the landscape." Cave Hill's landscaping program began under the influence of English landscape architectural tradition of the nineteenth century and the spirit of that tradition is still continued today. (Photo 9)

Besides its outstanding character as a major example of nineteenth century picturesque landscaping, Cave Hill is one of the finest arboretum in the United States. The cemetery contains one of the most outstanding collections of rare trees and shrubs. Cave Hill is second only to Arnold Arboretum in Boston in the quantity of species represented. The grounds contain such species as the wing nut tree--the only other specimen in the United States is found in California, Cedars of Lebanon--and a rare weeping beech from the original tree park of the Baron de Mau at Beersel, Belgium.

Other structures of significance are set among the grounds. The superintendent's house is an early Renaissance Revival building dating c. 1890. The rustic shelter house survives from a time when Cave Hill was a popular spot for Sunday picnics. This unique building is sheathed with bark on the side walls and limbs mimic an Eastlake-like porch. The administration building (c. 1890) is a rambling Gothic Revival structure with a central bell tower. It is situated on a rise and overlooks the largest lake in the cemetery. The cave for which the cemetery is named is close by. (Photo 3, 5,)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 300 ac

UTM NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville East, KY

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 6 | 1,2 | 7,2 | 0 | 4,2 | 3,4 | 1,4 | 0

B 1,6 | 6 | 1,3 | 5,8 | 0 | 4,2 | 3,3 | 5,0 | 0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,6 | 6 | 1,2 | 4,4 | 0 | 4,2 | 3,3 | 0,7 | 0

D 1,6 | 6 | 1,1 | 3,6 | 0 | 4,2 | 3,3 | 4,0 | 0

E 1,6 | 6 | 1,1 | 8,2 | 0 | 4,2 | 3,4 | 1,2 | 5

F | | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

City of Louisville Block 68L, Lots A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J,K,L,M,N,O

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marty Hedgepeth Research Director, Louisville Landmarks Com, and Lee Walker, Historian
ORGANIZATION Ky. Heritage Com.

Kentucky Heritage Commission
STREET & NUMBER

9/10/79

TELEPHONE

104 Bridge Street
CITY OR TOWN

502-597-3501

STATE

Frankfort, Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Edward W. Gullett

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10/12/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Sally G. Oldham

DATE 12/11/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acty Chief of Regs

ATTEST: *Reth Grosvenor*

DATE 12/8/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Cave Hill
Cemetery

7 2

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Five natural lakes dot the landscape and are important elements of the picturesque vistas. The lakes also provide a home for over twenty species of water fowl. The grounds also serve as a preserve for numerous animals including racoon, opossums and foxes. (Photo 4)

Numerous fine examples of nineteenth and twentieth century funerary monuments are found throughout the cemetery.¹ Outstanding designs can be found in many of the mausolea such as the severe Greek Revival Smith mausoleum c.1856 and the more elaborate version of the style in the Shannon family mausoleum, c.1858. The Irvin Vault c.1875, is one of the few Gothic Revival designs attributed to the prominent Louisville architect, Henry Whitestone. The Gothic Revival was a popular style for numerous mausolea which were built into the hillsides throughout the cemetery. The most striking examples of the classical revival styles of the twentieth century are the Tingley Memorial Fountain with three figures inspired by Greek bronzes and the Preston Pope Satterwhite rotunda. The rotunda, c.1927, known as the "Temple of Love," consists of a circle of Corinthian columns supporting an elegant dome with a coffered ceiling. A neo-Classical sculpture is placed under the dome. The rotunda is situated in a valley and richly landscaped with evergreens and deciduous trees, reminiscent of the classical temple at Stourhead. (Photo 7, 8, 10, 11, 12)

Cavehill continues to be a popular site for visits of both local persons and tourists. It provides a major greenspace of extraordinary beauty in an urban setting.

Encompassed within the nominated 300-acre area are approximately 107,000 grave sites; gatehouse, gatelodge, administration building, shelter house, and superintendent's house.

¹Oldest sections are found to the west of the administrative offices.

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Robert Ross died in 1890 and was succeeded by Robert Campbell who was, ironically, also a Scotsman.

The grounds of Cave Hill were officially dedicated as a rural cemetery on July 25, 1848. However, public appreciation of the "beauty and merit" of the cemetery was slow in coming. The entrance to the Cemetery posed a definite problem. It was twenty feet wide, on the southwestern side of the grounds and was used by the City as a throughfare to the quarry's pesthouse and workhouse. The Trustees were concerned that the proper atmosphere of a "rural cemetery" would not be given a chance to develop unless these conditions were altered.

Therefore, in 1849, one of the trustees, T.S. Bell, began negotiating with William Pettit for the purchase of twelve acres of land on the west front of Cave Hill Farm. And finally, in December of that year the acquisition was made, thus providing ground for an appropriate entrance and alleviating the traffic nuisance. A broad avenue leading from what was later to become Baxter Avenue was graded, paved and lined with Norway Maples, and the Cemetery's image and public opinion changed concurrently.

The first lot certificate was issued to J. McReynolds on October 14, 1848. Lot holders owned only the right to use the land for burial, as opposed to actual land ownership. A perpetual fund for the Cemetery was created by paying one-tenth of the lot sale proceeds until the sum of 200,000 dollars was reached. Cave Hill Investment Company was later chartered in 1882 to manage this fund.

Louisville's rapid growth and an increased demand for lots after 1848 prompted the Trustees to make additional land acquisitions. They appealed to the City for a donation of land adjacent to the Cemetery and, as a result, acquired an additional thirty-two acres on March 24, 1859. The event of war postponed the use of the donated land, primarily because it contained the pesthouse which became more frequently used during the Civil War.

Despite the complications of war, an additional forty-nine acres were purchased on July 25, 1863. And in April, 1865, the City donated one and a half acres on the north side of the Cemetery. There was a ravine on that side of the land and the donation was needed in order to build a fence.

Thus, the donation on the part of the City, consisting of 47.6 acres, 32 acres and 1.5 acres, combined with the purchase of 12 acres and 49.5 acres by 1865.

By 1868 noticeable changes had been made by Cave Hill Cemetery regarding the rights of lot holders and the City of Louisville. Originally the Company was restricted to the ownership of not more than one hundred acres. The lot owners had no choice in the selection of trustees; the choice was determined by the Mayor and City Council.

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However, through the 1851, 1854, 1864 and 1866 Acts of the General Assembly, certain changes were brought about. Lot holders became eligible to "hold" burial lots in the Cemetery free from debt seizure and taxation. Lot holders also obtained the right to elect three of the Trustees who were to serve on the Board.

The law passed in March, 1854 increased the amount of land that the Cemetery could own to three hundred acres. And the 1866 law gave the Trustees the power to "obtain" land "adjacent to the cemetery, desirable for cemetery purposes," when an agreement with the landholder could not be reached.

Several improvements were also made on the grounds of the Cemetery. In 1865 construction began on a new receiving vault, which was completed in 1866 at the cost of 13,000 dollars. The vault was designed by Henry Whitestone. In that same year the United States Government purchased 42,114 square feet of ground in the Cemetery at the rate of \$.25 cent per foot for the purpose of burying soldiers who had died in the service of their country. Cave Hill Cemetery thus became a National Cemetery.

On December 22, 1869, J.W. Henning of Henning and Speed Realtors proposed that an extension of Broadway be constructed across Cave Hill Cemetery. However, no action was taken. Later, in 1870 Henning and Speed met with the Trustees to discuss the proposal. After more than a month of deliberation the Trustees sent word that the proposed route was "very objectionable"; however, a different routing and a settlement of 20,000 dollars might be considered. Finally, on September 28, 1870, an agreement was reached between Henning, Speed and Cave Hill Cemetery Company providing that the avenue would take the form of a "graceful curve" across a front corner of the Cave Hill lawn. Henning and Speed agreed to pay the Cemetery \$5,000 dollars and to urge the City to pave the extension with "wooden pavement." Later, in 1873, the Cemetery purchased two hundred fifty-four adjoining acres of land from Henning and Speed Realtors, at the price of 13,756.66 dollars.

These same investors were responsible for subdividing and developing the area that later became the core of Louisville Cherokee Triangle Historic District, which is adjacent to the cemetery.

The pesthouse at Cave Hill was actually an infirmary for persons who had contracted contagious diseases. But in 1875 Mayor Charles D. Jacob proposed that the building be used as a House of Refuge for "colored children." The Board gave its consent provided that the City would erect a fence around the area to prevent any damage to the grounds by the inmates.

Later in 1875 it was decided that a gateway and fence be constructed in front of the Cemetery and that Henry Whitestone be consulted regarding the plans.

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However, shortly thereafter a plan for the new gateway, lodge, waiting room and fence was submitted by Charles Shyrook and comparisons between the two architects' plans and fees were discussed. It seems that Shyrook's plans were adopted and in June, 1876 the work on the lodge and entrance was completed. (Photo 1)

The problem of access to the cemetery emerged again in 1877 when the Louisville Transfer Company requested permission to drive through the Cemetery grounds with their omnibusses. The Cemetery granted permission provided that the Transfer Company would be responsible for any damages. But before the end of the month the Trustees decided that omnibusses with four horses would not be permitted to enter the grounds, and the next month permission to enter was revoked altogether.

By 1895 sophisticated improvements had been made on the Cave Hill grounds and the area appeared well-developed as an artistically maintained rural cemetery. Beyond the rows of Norway Maples lining the lengthy entrance avenue was a "perfectly level" lawn of bluegrass turf. The rest of the Cemetery was in rolling ground with numerous springs, creeks and ponds. The avenues that winded through the grounds were made of macadam covered with gravel, and the buildings were impressive, "substantial" structures. The entrance lodge had been constructed in "Italian Renaissance" style and a statue of Thorwaldsen's Angle of the Resurrection was mounted on its stone spire. A statue of Christ, also designed by Thorwaldsen, was placed above the entrance. The superintendent's office, centrally located on the grounds, and the rustic shelter house, made of heavy wood covered with bark, were designed by Drach and Thomas. (Photo 1,3,5,)

Approximately 1200 feet of water pipe, six wagon hydrants, and forty-five self-closing hydrants were installed and supplied by the City Water Company. In addition, 9,000 feet of sewer pipes had been installed. An eight and a half foot board fence topped with barbed wire enclosed the Cemetery except in the front where an ornamental iron fence had been constructed. About fifteen hundred trees and shrubs were planted in 1894 so that a natural screen would develop at the fenced area. And about 27,000 dollars were spent improving the three acre, spring-fed lake.

Impressive developments in landscape gardening had also taken place by 1895. The Cemetery boasted twelve varieties of magnolia, three varieties of Japanese maple, a Japanese Gingko tree, Japanese shrubs, and cypress, willow and cedar trees.

By 1900 only one hundred thirty acres of the Cemetery's two hundred and eighty were laid out in lots. The entire acreage had been mapped and each acre was estimated to be able to accomodate approximately five hundred and twenty adult graves. More than eight miles of stone and gravel avenues and driveways had been constructed, with an additional twelve miles of bluegrass sodded walks. The four miles of water mains used about 6,521,812 gallons of water for the lawns and lily ponds in the year 1900 alone.

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By that time the total area of lakes and ponds was approximately 174,810 square feet. The Cemetery had also begun to provide visitors with park carriages in order to tour the grounds in comfort, but at a nominal cost. And finally, plans were in the making for a permanent fence of stone and iron to surround the property.

Thus by 1900 Cave Hill Cemetery had proven itself both to the public and its administrators as the worthy and unique enterprise that it was originally intended to be. Public interest and support were apparent and the community in general took great pride in their rural cemetery which seemed to fit in so well with the order of the time.

Cave Hill has sustained its tradition of perpetual preservation throughout the twentieth century. It has been an integral part of Louisville's history and its landscaped grounds and architecture provide an important core environment for the Butchertown Historic District, the Cherokee Triangle Historic District and Louisville's historic Phoenix Hill neighborhood. It is an historically significant entity that provides geographic transition for the contiguity of these preservation areas.

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Cave Hill Cemetery
Jefferson County, Kentucky

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"Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Ky." The Modern Cemetery, II (October, 1892), 88-89.

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GENERAL PLAN
CAVE HILL CEMETERY
LOUISVILLE, KY



red numbers
correspond with
photographs

