Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 1 1975

DATE ENTERED JUL 12 1976

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## 7 DESCRIPTION

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FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lexington Cemetery, 833 West Main Street, is located on the fringe of downtown Lexington approximately one mile west of the Western Suburb Historic District (see National Register form forwarded to Washington, December 19, 1975). West Main Street bounds the cemetery on the south; Greenwood Cemetery along with a residential area to the north. A right-of-way for the L & N Railway is to the east.

The cemetery originally embraced only forty acres when it was founded in 1849. Subsequent purchases of land expanded the boundaries north and east and increased the acreage to 170, of which 120 acres have been developed for burial purposes. The remaining fifty acres comprise the reserve land for future development.

The original gatehouse, torn down in 1890, was said to have been built by John McMurtry. The Gothic design, according to architectural historian Rexford Newcomb, "consisted of a turreted wall pierced by three pointed openings, one for vehicles and two for pedestrians, flanked by lower buildings with triple Tudor windows" (Newcomb, p. 152). The gate fronting Main Street resembled one built by McMurtry for a cemetery in Paris, Kentucky, still standing on the southern edge of town.

The present gatehouse, built in 1890, contains an interesting assortment of texture and forms. It consists of a tall square tower with an open belfry and a slate roof covering the entire building (see photo 2). A large porch shelters the entrance to the building, attained by broad steps. The structure is similar to other types of Romanesque buildings constructed in Lexington at the end of the 1880s, such as the Post Office, which stood at the corner of Walnut and Main, and on East Short Street the 1891 Lexington jail, still extant. In front of the gatehouse an iron gate with square stone posts was also erected (see photo 1).

Adding to the charm and beauty of this nationally-known cemetery is a profusion of shrubs, trees, and flowers planted within its boundaries. In 1963 a flower garden encompassing approximately four acres was established. There are, in addition, two large lakes which provide homes for ducks, swans, and other waterfowl, as well as hundreds of large goldfish.

In the center section of the cemetery stands the monument to Kentucky's famous senator, Henry Clay, whose **estate**, "Ashland," is located on the opposite (eastern) end of the city.<sup>I</sup> The monument was erected in 1857, a few years after Clay's death in June 1852. Julius W. Adams, Lexington civil engineer and architect, drew the plans for the monument, which called for "a Corinthian column 120 feet high, surmounted by a colossal figure of Clay" (article by J. Winston Coleman appearing in The Lexington Herald Leader, date unknown).

Ashland is one of fifteen sites in Kentucky designated as National Historic Landmarks. (continued)

## **8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	A'R	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	$\mathbf X$ landscape architecture	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	XART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
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SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1849cemetery 1861monument	BUILDER/ARCH designer; T	litect monumentJuli homas Lewinski, supe	ius W. Adams, rintendent of construct-

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ion; John Haly, builder.

The Lexington Cemetery, established in 1849, was the first rural cemetery in Lexington, Kentucky, and the burial place of many distinguished Kentuckians, notably Henry Clay (1777-1852), United States Senator and Representative; John C. Breckinridge (1821-1875) Vice President of the United States under James Buchanan; and James Lane Allen (1849-1925), Kentucky's famous man of letters.

The rural cemetery, characterized by gardens, trees and shrubbery, was a new concept in the early 19th century to most Americans. Previously, it is recorded, "human burial was traditionally in crowded, nondescript churchyards, often surrounded by the bustle of growing cities; or, less happily, charnel houses were used" (Harris, p. 200). Intellectual movements arising out of the late 18th century glorifying the tranquilizing and purifying influence of nature on the human spirit, in addition to the practical physical demands of rapidly expanding cities, resulted in a break with tradition and the creation of larger, more attractive cemeteries which served a social and aesthetic purpose as well as utilitarian. Necessary characteristics of the rural cemetery, wrote one contemporary, "should partake more of the character of a cheerful park or garden, than of a common grave yard, where everything has a gloomy and dismal appearance, and every inch of ground is used for graves . . . A rural cemetery should form the most interesting of all places for contemplative recreation, and everything in it should be tasteful, classical, and poetical" (Spring Grove, p. 31).

A major influence in the development of the cemetery-park concept was Alexander Jackson Downing, landscape gardner, architect, and publicist. It was Downings' view that fine architecture and landscaping proved an enobling experience for those exposed to it and performed a social good. Downing set the stage for the public-park designers of the next generation, like Frederick Law Olmsted, who recognized the need to preserve or set aside areas of natural beauty for contemplation and recreation for the public use.

The concept of the rural cemetery found support in and around the central Kentucky region and several cemeteries were established, such as Louisville's Cave Hill Cemetery (founded in 1848) and Spring Grove in Cincinnati. (These two cemeteries, like the Lexington Cemetery, were arboretums, each having a horticulturalist as its first superintendants.

(continued)

## **9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Collins, Lewis. <u>Historical Sketches of Kentucky</u>. Cincinnati: Lewis Collins, 1847, p. 196.
Harris, Neil. <u>The Artist in American Society</u>. New York : Simon & Schuster, 1966, pp. 200-209.
''Judge George Robertson,'' <u>Bicgraphical Cyclopedia of the Commonwealth of Kentucky</u>. Chicago: John M. Gresham Co., 1896, p. 540: ''Henry Clay,'' p. 378-383.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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ORGANIZATION		۵	DATE	
Lexington-F	avette County Histo	ric Commission	May 7, 1976	
STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE	
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The Lexington Cemetery and Henry	Clay Monument	
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Major Thomas Lewinski, the well-known Lexington architect principally known for his remodeling of Cassius Clay's home, 'White Hall'', in Madison County (placed on the National Register March 11, 1971), was made resident engineer in charge of construction. Work was completed during the summer of 1861 at a cost totaling \$58,000. Native limestone for the monument was quarried at Grimes Quarry on Boones Creek, sixteen miles from Lexington on the Athens-Boonesboro Road, John Haley, Frankfort general contractor, built the monument. The 14' statue (in four sections) of clay was carved by two Cincinnati artisans, Ciacorna Bossi and Garabin Giacomo, from a model by Joel T. Hart, Kentucky's noted sculptor (see photos 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9).

The remains of Clay and his wife, Lucretia, rest in two marble sarcophagi on the floor of the vaulted chamber behind the iron doors guarding the room.

Lightning hit the Clay figure on the evening of July 23, 1903, destroying the head and shoulders. Charles J. Mulligan of Chicago replaced this portion of the statue after the Kentucky Legislature (in 1908) appropriated \$10,000 for the work. On September 21, 1910, lightning again struck the Clay figure tearing off the right hand and shattering the right thigh and leg which cost another \$10,000 for repairs. Most recently a piece of the column's capital fell through the tomb's roof. Cemetery records show additional repairs have been needed at least since 1939. Accurate restoration is now under way.

Part of the Lexington Cemetery includes one of the eight National Cemeteries, or military burial grounds, in Kentucky (see photo 14). Buried here are Union and Confederate soldiers, and veterans of the Spanish-American War.

Another particularly interesting monument in the Lexington Cemetery is the Ladies' Confederate Memorial described in the July 17, 1880, issue of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper as "probably the most perfect thing of its kind in the South." The memorial was erected by the Ladies' Memorial and Monument Association of Lexington and dedicated on The Muldoon Monument Company of Louisville was contracted to create May 26, 1875. Burton Milward, in his Newsletter of the Kentucky Civil War Round the memorial. Table, describes the monument as "having a base of rugged rocks, apparently upon which is erected a rustic cross of admirable design and execution. From the cross hangs in festoons the Confederate flag, its staff broken, and its blazonry dimmed as if **borne** down in the last battle. A broken sword beneath the cross gives further expression to the sentiment of buried hopes and a despairing cause. Around the rocky base springs the vine and flowers of southern growth, and everything about it has a southern and a saddening association."<sup>2</sup>

 $^{2}$ Burton Milward quotes from a contemporary description of the monument from the Kentucky <u>Gazette</u>, September 2, 1874.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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The Lexington Cemetery and Henry Clay Monument

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Nearby, in Covington Kentucky, is another well-known rural cemetery, Linden Grove, established in 1843.

The \$7,000 required to purchase the forty-acre woodland of Thomas E. Boswell on West Main Street in Lexington was obtained by public subscription in 1849. The men who raised most of the money were M.T. Scott, Benjamin Gratz, Madison C. Johnson and Richard Higgins. The original charter was amended after the property had been purchased and paid for, with the Messrs. Scott, Gratz, Johnson and the following men as incorporators: Stephen Swift, Joel Higgins, David A. Sayre, the banker; John Tilford, a noted merchant of early Lexington; A.T. Skillman, pioneer printer; E. K. Sayre, Robert Wickliffe, the noted advocate; Thomas Hemingway, John W. Telford, John Lutz, D. M. Craig, A. F. Hawkins, Benjamin Warfield, Dr. Robert J. Breckinridge, Elisha Warfield, G.W. Sutton, John Brand, Henry T. Duncan and Edward MacAlister. All these men were distinguished citizens of mid-19th-century Lexington.

After the cemetery was in operation, each of the original incorporators was repaid his initial investment with interest, and from that time on the Lexington Cemetery has been owned by its lot owners.

The Lexington Cemetery was dedicated June 25, 1850. The day was declared a holiday in the city, all business houses closing and the entire population joining in the dedicatory ceremonies.

The first individual to be buried in the Lexington Cemetery was Robert Boyd, a pioneer merchant, who was interred on October 2, 1849. Since that date, 46,000 interments have been made.

The most famous individual buried in the Lexington Cemetery is Kentucky's "Harry of the West," Henry Clay, who served as United States Senator and Representative from Kentucky during the period of the War of 1812 up to the decade preceding the Civil War. A great nationalist and author of the American System, Clay is perhaps best known for his attempts to secure a compromise between the states on the issue of slavery. Although unsucessful in several bids for the presidency, Clay remained nevertheless an important power within the Whig party throughout his career in politics.

The monument to Clay was erected with private funds by the Henry Clay Monument Association organized shortly after Clay's death in June 1852. The cornerstone was laid July 4, 1857, with the Reverend Robert S. Breckinridge delivering the principal address.

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The Lexington Cemetery and Henry C	lay Monument
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Also buried in the Lexington Cemetery:

John C. Breckinridge, who at 35 years of age was elected Vice President in 1856 under James Buchanan. He also served as a General in the Confederacy during the Civil War.

General John Hunt Morgan (1825-1863), Confederate cavalryman famous for his daring raids on Union troops throughout Kentucky and into Tennessee, Indiana, and Ohio.

<u>Colonel James Morrison</u> (1755-1823), called by one historian, "one of the most wealthy and influential citizens of Lexington in his day"(Collins, <u>Historical Sketches</u>, p. 196). Among the more important offices, held by Morrison after his arrival in Lexington in 1792, were that of land commissioner, representative in the Legislature, supervisor of the revenue, navy agent, contractor of the Northwestern Army during the War of 1812, quarter-master general, president of the Lexington branch of the United States Bank, and chairman of the board of trustees of Transylvania University (Ibid, p. 196). Morrison Hall is named in his honor.

Judge George Robertson (1790-1874), a member of Congress (1816-21), elected to the State Legislature in 1822 from Garrard County and elected Speaker of the House in 1823, '25, '26, and '27. In 1828 Robertson was named to the Court of Appeals and the following year appointed Chief Justice. He served in that office until 1843 (Biographical Cyclopedia, p. 540). (For additional information see Boyle-Robertson-Letcher House in Garrard County placed on the National Register, April 14, 1975.)

James Lane Allen (1849-1925), a writer who produced numerous works of fiction about Kentucky, made the Bluegrass region known to a large reading public. His best-known books include <u>Flute and Violin</u>, <u>The Blue Grass Region of Kentucky</u>, <u>A Kentucky Cardinal</u>, and <u>The Reign of Law</u>.

The beauty of the cemetery is the result of the conscientious planning by the cemetery's four superintendents. All of the managers, beginning with Charles S. Bell, the Scottish civil engineer who laid out the original grounds, down to the present superintendent, Robert F. Wachs, have been horticulturalists. A comparison of the present layout with that shown

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The Lexington Cemetery and Henry Clay Monument

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	8	PAGE	4	

of the early map and view (maps 3, 4, & 5) suggests the extent to which the original concept has been preserved. Although improvements have been made through the years, (the early Gothic gatehouse by architect John McMurtry was replaced in 1890 by a handsome stone Richardsonian structure for instance), the Lexington Cemetery, although located a few blocks from the downtown area, remains today a "rural cemetery."

The Henry Clay Monument erected from 1857-61, is the most conspicuous landmark in the cemetery. With its 160-foot height it rises high above the surrounding trees and is visible from a considerable distance in the city. It was the product of a collaboration among at least four major mid-19th century Kentucky designers and craftsman. The competition was won by a little-known Lexingtonian, Julius W. Adams, but the design was executed under the resident supervisian of Major Thomas Lewinski. John Haby of Frankfort, builder of the old Capitol Hotel and many other important structures in the State's capitol, erected the monument. The carvers of the statue atop the monument enlarged a model by Joel T. Hart, Kentucky-born sculptor who became one of the most accomplished of American portrait sculptors. The monument, in its complementary and well-maintained setting is therefore an artistic achievement in its own right.

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The Lexington Cemetery and Henry Clay Monument

#### CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Lexington Cemetery Scrapbook

- 1) Herald Leader, J. Winston Coleman, Jr., "Historic Kentucky."
- 2) Lexington Herald, March 17, 1975, August 27, 1975.

Milward, Burton. Newsletter of the Kentucky Civil War Round Table. September 18, 1972.

Newcomb, Rexford. Architecture in Old Kentucky. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1953.

The Cincinnati Cemetery of Spring Grove. Cincinnati: C.F. Bradley and Co., 1857.

Townsend, John Wilson. "Kentucky Progress Magazine," May 1930.

The minutes and records of the cemetery corporation prior to 1920 have been lost (search for them has been unavailing since 1937).



The Lexington Cemetery and Henry Clay Monument Lexington, Kentucky Urban County Planning Commission

227 North Upper Street<sub>JUN 3</sub> 1976
Lexington, Kentucky
1 inch = 400 feet compiled 5/68
updated 6/71
Boundaires of Cemetery shown in red.

Map 2

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Birds Eye View of the City of Lexington, Fayette County, Ky., 1871, as printed in <u>The Squire's</u> <u>Sketches of Lexington by</u>

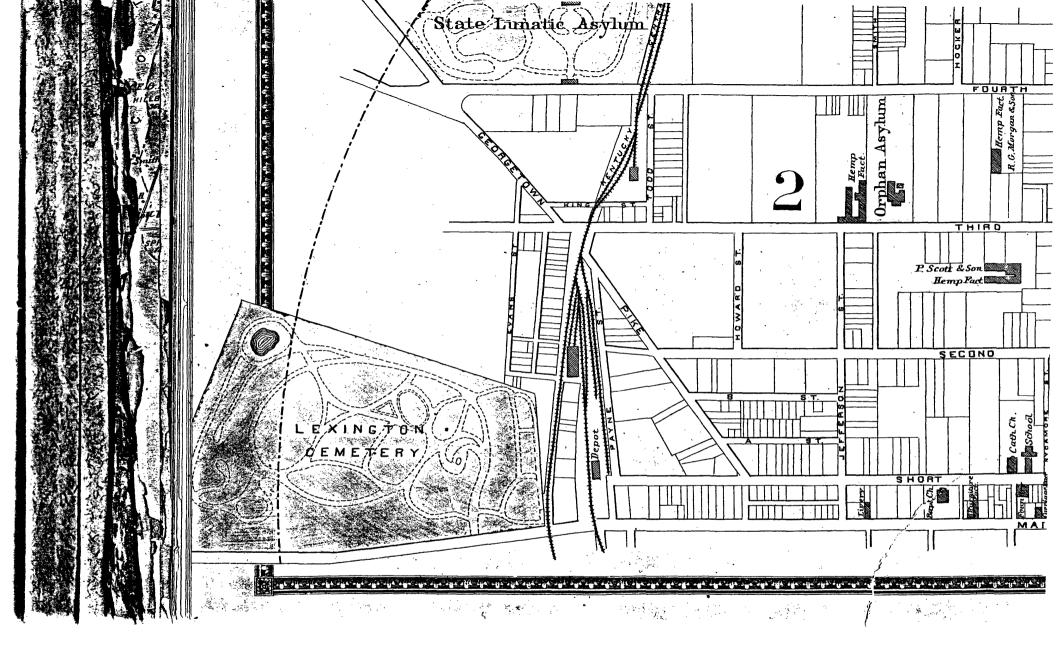
J. Winston Coleman, Jr., Lexington: Henry Clay Press, 1972.

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JUL 12 1976 Map 3

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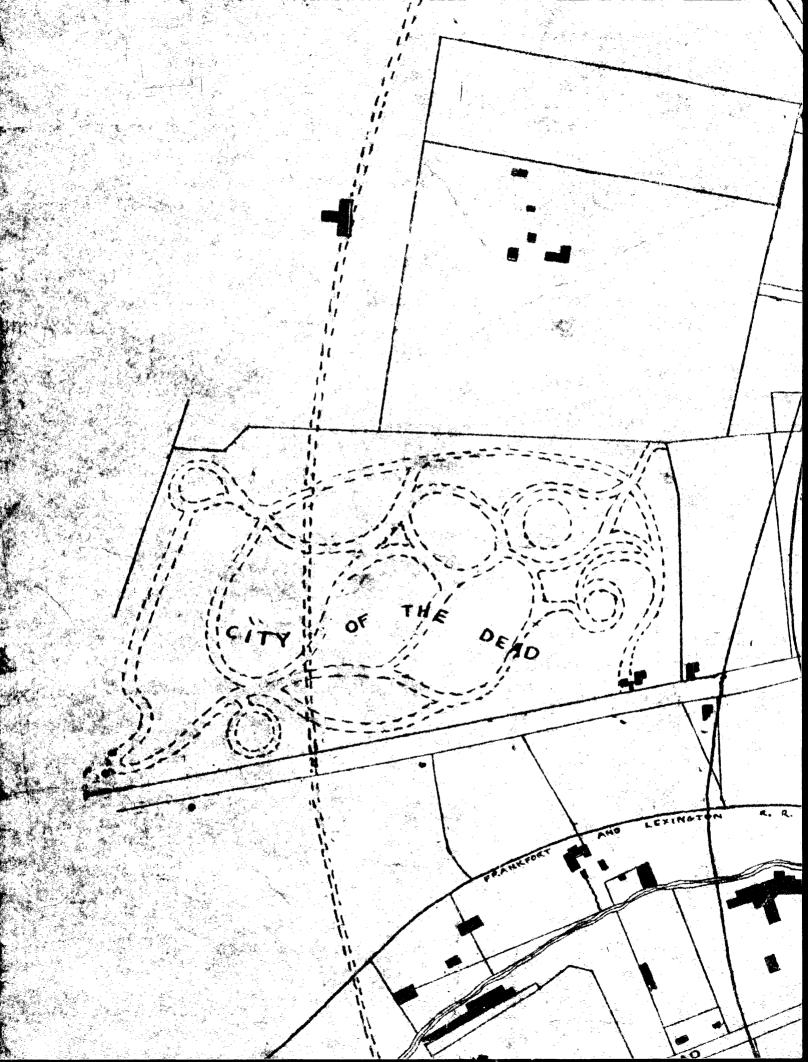
The Lexington Cemetery and Henry Clay Monument, Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky Atlas of Bourbon, Clark, Fayette,

Jessamine and Woodford Counties, Kentucky. D. G. Beers & Co. 1877, Philadelphia. 1976 Map 4 JUN 3

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The Lexington Cemetery and Henry Clay Monument Lexington, Kentucky Hart and Mopother Civil Engineers & Co.

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Louisville, Kentucky Date: 1855

## JUL 12 1976 Map 5