

2/5/73

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Davidson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 001	DATE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Nashville City Cemetery (Representative Richard Fulton).

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1001 4th Avenue, S. at Oak Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashville

STATE Tennessee	CODE 047	COUNTY: Davidson	CODE 037
--------------------	-------------	---------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Cemetery</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Metro Court House

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville	STATE: Tennessee	CODE 047
----------------------------	---------------------	-------------

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Davidson County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville	STATE: Tennessee	CODE 047
----------------------------	---------------------	-------------

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

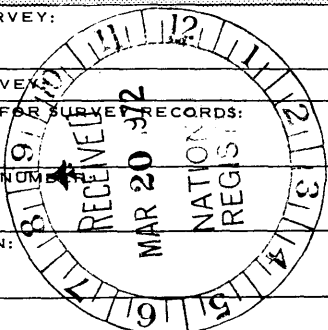
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
---------------	--------	-------



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Davidson
ENTRY NUMBER: 001
DATE: OCT 18 1972
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

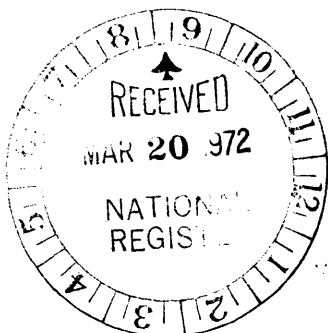
Located south of downtown Nashville is 28 acres of land known as the Old City Cemetery. It was opened in 1822 and by 1847 contained 5,075 graves. This cemetery served as the burial place for many important persons during some of Tennessee's early years and thus contains many impressive monuments designed to befit the people whose final resting place they marked.

By the last of the nineteenth century with the opening of newer cemeteries, few new graves were opened there. The aging cemetery fell into disrepair as attention was focused elsewhere. In 1911 the beautiful entrance gates were contributed by a local woman's club and the city replaced a dilapidated wire fence with the handsome stone wall still there.

By the 1950's the cemetery was a disgrace to the city, when Mayor Ben West initiated a restoration program. By 1959 the restoration was completed with streets graveled and marked as originally outlined, lights installed, tombstones carefully restored and recarved to the original, and a superintendent appointed to care for the grounds.

Today there are 23,000 people buried on 23 acres of land in this historic plot. The grounds contain beautiful magnolias, oak, holly, and various shrubs that compliment the many cast iron fences and marble, limestone, concrete, and fieldstone markers.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6 SIGNIFICANCE

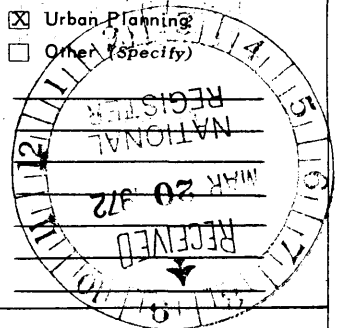
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1822**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

While cemeteries are not usually subject of nominations to the National Register, the Old City Cemetery in Nashville, opened in 1822 as the city's third cemetery, is one of the most important historic shrines in the community. Dr. Alfred Leland Crabb, noted educator and author, has called the Old City Cemetery: "One of the six or seven most historically interesting cemeteries in America, from the standpoint of the number of distinguished persons buried there."

Nashville's first cemetery was the east side of the public square overlooking the Cumberland River. Because of difficulty in digging graves deep enough, a second cemetery was soon opened and was known as the French Lick Cemetery. It was here that General James Robertson, founder of Nashville, and his wife and son, Dr. Felix Robertson who was the first white child born in Nashville, were buried. Anne Cockrill, General Robertson's sister who started their first school aboard the riverboat "Adventure," along with many other distinguished citizens who helped in the incorporation of Nashville had been buried there, but were all moved in 1822 when the new city cemetery was opened on the plains south of town. There is no remaining tangible site connected with Robertson in the area other than his grave.

Among other notables buried there are Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rutledge, both of whose parents signed the Declaration of Independence; Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell who led Lee's Center at Gettysburg; Gen. William Carroll, 12 years Governor of Tennessee; William Edward West, artist famous for portraits of Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelly, and Henry Clay; Judge George Washington Campbell, minister to Russia, Congressman, Senator and Secretary of the U. S. Treasury; Alfred Hume, founder of Nashville Public School System; Francis B. Fogg, first president of the Board of Education; Capt. William Driver, who named the flag "Old Glory" and thus making the City Cemetery one of the few places in the world where the American flag flies twenty-four hours a day; John McNairy, first judge of the Mero District; Brig. Gen. Felix Zollicoffer, first Confederate general killed in the Civil War; Mable Lewis Imes and Ella Sheppard, two of the original Fisk Jubilee Singers; Charles Maddis, a young Spaniard who was the interpreter for Andrew Jackson at New Orleans.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brochure, "Old City Cemetery", printed by Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.

Newspaper clippings and miscellaneous items in vertical file, Tennessee State Library and Archives Building, Nashville.

Handwritten notes and numbers on the right margin:
 525750
 400030
 525710
 379117
 520620
 400030
 520430
 400030

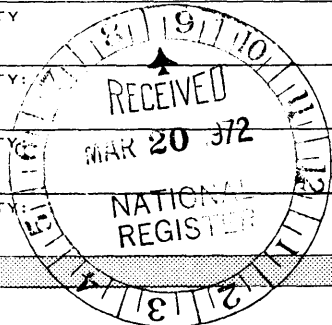
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	36° 08' 52"	86° 46' 22"	86	46	22
NE	36° 08' 57"	86° 46' 10"	86	46	10
SE	36° 08' 45"	86° 45' 04"	86	45	04
SW	36° 08' 47"	86° 46' 15"	86	46	15

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 28

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 May Dean Eberling, Director of Programs

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 2-14-72

STREET AND NUMBER:
 403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Herbert L. Harper
 Director of Field Services
 Title: Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: 2-15-72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/18/72

ATTES: William R. Mumby
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-16-72

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Tennessee	
COUNTY	
Davidson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
OCT 18 1972	

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (cont.)

This cemetery was the original burying place for President James K. Polk in 1849 but his body was moved after 11 months, one week to his home, and, finally moved in 1893 to his final resting place on the Tennessee State Capitol grounds.

These are but a few of the famous and well known who are buried in this cemetery. At least twenty Nashville mayors along with seven Revolutionary War veterans and other noted educators, soldiers, ministers, artists, civic leaders, and "just plain folk" - both black and white - rest in this serene area. William Strickland, noted American architect and designer of the Tennessee State Capitol, designed at least one of the most beautiful tombs in the Cemetery. It is of simple Greek design, capped by a Roman arch in which stands a small urn.

Several thousands of visitors come from all sections of the United States and foreign countries each year to visit this historic cemetery. The city of Nashville and the local people are very proud of this portion of their heritage and the care given the area reflects this. However, the cemetery is located in an area that is in transition from residential to commercial usage and must be safeguarded as the necessary changes are made in the neighborhood.

