



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Methodist Cemetery

other names \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Murdock Mill Road between River Road and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  not for publication

city or town Washington, D.C.  vicinity

state District of Columbia Code DC county \_\_\_\_\_ code 001 zip code 200016

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments).

DAVID MALONEY, SHPD JULY 22, 2008  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 9.5.08  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

The Methodist Cemetery  
Name of Property

Washington, D.C.  
County and State

### 5. Classification

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

- Private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

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

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

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

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

Tenleytown in Washington, D.C.: Historic and Architectural Resources

**number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other Stone gravestones  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

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

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Methodist Cemetery

Name of Property

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### Description Summary:

The Methodist Cemetery occupies approximately one acre in Tenleytown at the triangular intersection of Murdock Mill Road and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, N.W., directly behind Eldbrooke United Methodist Church. It is gridded into four sections separated by concrete paths and retains a high degree of integrity. The burials are largely uniform in arrangement, featuring family plots and individual burials whose head and footstones generally face east.

### General Description:

A 1939-1940 D.A.R. report on The Methodist Cemetery describes the cemetery as having "four rectangular sections [northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast] divided by a walk leading from the gate on Murdock Mill Road to the north side of the cemetery, and a walk extending from the fence close to the Methodist Church to the fence on the east side next to the small cemetery or burial ground of St. Columba's Episcopal Church."<sup>1</sup> This rectangular shaped cemetery as described in 1939-40 was altered slightly the following year when 42<sup>nd</sup> Street was extended through the northwest corner of the property. Today, the cemetery is bounded on the northeast by the education wing of Eldbrooke Methodist Church (built 1926), on the southeast by Murdock Mill Road, on the west by 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, and on the northwest by a recent townhouse and office complex. A retaining wall approximately ten feet high along the western and northern sides of the cemetery reveals the extent to which the earth was excavated from the hillside when 42<sup>nd</sup> Street was cut through in 1941.

The walks dividing the four sections of the cemetery are paved with concrete. The ground is now covered in grass and there is one large and ancient oak tree, a large poplar tree, a number of boxwood and evergreen shrubs, and azalea bush, and a few other small trees. A wrought iron fence with a gate opening off Murdock Mill Road encloses the cemetery. A tool shed is located against the fence at the end of the north-south walkway.

The graves are arranged in roughly parallel rows and most have an east-west orientation. Some have both head and foot markers. The graves are grouped together by families, although in most cases, there is no visible demarcation of the plots. One exception is the Donaldson family plot in the southeast section, where a cast cement coping with posts at the corners is partially sunk into the earth to delineate the family plot. Tombstones of different ages and styles are found mixed together, according to when family members died and were buried.

<sup>1</sup> Eugenia Washington Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, Louise C. Chase, Chairman of Genealogical Records Committee, "Tombstone Inscriptions from the Methodist Cemetery in Washington, D.C., 1939-1940." Photocopy in the collection of the Methodist Cemetery Association.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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In general, the tombstones throughout the cemetery are indicative of available materials and reflect popular styles at the time of each individual's death.<sup>2</sup> Most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century markers are simple upright marble tablets, although there are several obelisks and cross-gable obelisks scattered throughout the grounds. The Methodist Cemetery does not contain the sort of elaborate statuary found in urban cemeteries, but some grave markers display a modest amount of ornamentation. The symbolism on these markers is representative of typical aesthetic and sentimental views of attributes of the deceased or the feelings of loved ones, such as oak leaves for strength, lilies for purity, and ivy for ever-lasting love. The rose, also a symbol for love, is found on two grave markers, both dedicated by a widow to her "beloved husband." In addition, two stones are surmounted by a three-dimensional representation of a lamb. More obvious Christian symbols are also seen, such as an open Bible, cross, star and crown, and a hand with the index finger pointed toward heaven, indicating that the soul has risen to heaven.<sup>3</sup> The broken column at Edward Stronger's grave symbolizes his life cut short while the lamb on the grave of Walter McIntosh, who died at age ten, symbolizes his youth and innocence. The 20<sup>th</sup>-century markers tend to be granite with machine cut lettering and more stylized decoration and symbolism.

Some of the graves are decorated with live or artificial flowers. While it is customary in rural southern folk cemeteries to find various mementos placed on the graves, such artifacts are not usually seen in the Methodist Cemetery. An exception is the burial place of William B. Grigsby (died 1946) and his wife Sarah A. Grigsby (died 1964), where several whelk shells and one small cockle shell have been arranged at the foot of the stone. The shells, which are weathered to a dark gray, reportedly were placed there by a family friend in the 1960s. While seashells are most often found in African American cemeteries, they are also used as grave decorations by people of European descent.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Robert C. Lavoie, "Patterns of Change in Tombstone Styles and Artwork," *Maryland Genealogical Society Bulletin*, vol. 17, no. 1, 7-13; vol. 17, no. 2, 83-85, Winter 1976.

<sup>3</sup> Douglas Keister, *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography*, p. 45, 50, 54, 63, 65, 74, 108, 113, 124, 150.

<sup>4</sup> Keister, *Stories in Stone*, 87. In African American cemeteries, seashells symbolize the water from whence the spirit came and to which it will return. In the case of the Grigsby grave, the shells could have been souvenirs of a vacation at the beach. Information about the placement of the seashells from Audry Bates Schwartz, president of the Methodist Cemetery Association.

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The 1939-40 D.A.R. report makes reference to some wooden and metal grave markers. In 2002 Frieda Klopfenstein surveyed the cemetery and found two wooden markers, one of which was in good condition, but neither contained any legible information. These markers are now stored in the shed. One small metal cross, bearing the name "Mary," is nearly hidden by an evergreen bush in the northwest section, near the large granite Rackey marker.

Despite losing a small "slice" of the property for the extension of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, The Methodist Cemetery possesses a high degree of integrity that truly conjures up a palpable sense of the past.



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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 pattern of our History.
- B** Property 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

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

#### Previous documentation on files (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  
# \_\_\_\_\_

#### Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

#### Period of Significance

Circa 1847-1958 (50 years from the present)

#### Significant Dates

Circa 1847; 1855; 1928

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

#### Cultural Affiliation

#### Architect/Builder

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### Summary Statement of Significance:

The Methodist Cemetery is a privately owned cemetery that was originally established in 1855 by a group of twelve residents of the small crossroads community of Tenleytown who purchased the lot of land with the intention of establishing a "burial ground." The Methodist Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and D, with Criteria Consideration D for cemeteries, under the Multiple Property Document: *Tenleytown in Washington, D.C.: Historic and Architectural Resources, 1770-1941*.

The Methodist Cemetery is significant for its important historic associations with the founding of the early settlement of Tenleytown when it was an agricultural village in rural Washington County *en route* to the port at Georgetown. More specifically, The Methodist Cemetery is the only known surviving community cemetery in what was Washington County. It is the earliest public cemetery in the area and contains many of the burials of the earliest settlers and the founding members of the Tenleytown community. As a cultural landscape, the cemetery is a rare survivor of the village's formation. Historically, The Methodist Cemetery, along with the churches, schools, taverns and other businesses of Tenleytown, created the nucleus of the village. Also, because of the nature of the site, with its unknown number of burials, associations with earlier buildings, and its link to Civil War history, the cemetery has archaeological potential that is likely to yield information significant to our understanding of the District's history and/or prehistory.

While most cemeteries of the time were family plots on private land or were located in churchyards for the use of the church, The Methodist Cemetery was privately owned and administered by the founding group of Tenleytown residents and their successors. Because of its association with the earliest settlers of Tenleytown and their impact on the development of the village, the cemetery is a significant site in the history of this community. The cemetery possesses the unique quality of having retained its purity as a small community burial ground and retains its ability to convey its significance as a regional representative of 19<sup>th</sup>-century funerary art. Despite minor changes to the cemetery's original size and surroundings, its integrity has not been compromised. It is one of the few remaining ties to Tenleytown's early history and imparts a strong sense of the past.

The Period of Significance for The Methodist Cemetery extends from circa 1847, the date of the first known and marked grave to 1958, a point fifty years from the present.

### Resource History and Historic Context:

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### The Establishment of The Methodist Cemetery:

The Methodist Cemetery was officially established in 1855 immediately behind Mount Zion Methodist Church in the heart of the village of Tenleytown. At the time, Tenleytown was a small crossroads village between the port at Georgetown and the surrounding rural area. It was originally part of the 3,124 acre "Friendship" tract granted by Charles Calvert to James A. Stoddert and Colonel Thomas Addison in 1713 that was incorporated into the District of Columbia at its founding in 1791. It was located outside of Washington City and Georgetown, in the rural part of Maryland portion of the District of Columbia designated as "Washington County."

The small crossroads community of Tenleytown developed at the intersection of the Frederick-Georgetown Turnpike (now Wisconsin Avenue), River Road and Murdock Mill Road. These roads were established in the 18<sup>th</sup> century along what had once been Piscataway Indian trails, to connect the outlying farms with the market and port at Georgetown. By the late 1700s, the area came to be known as "Tennallytown" after the tavern operated by John Tennally on the Turnpike just north of the fork with River Road. During the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Tenleytown area consisted of a few large estates belonging to wealthy slave-owning families, as well as a number of small farms, dairies, mills, orchards, and a blacksmith's shop and a store, all operated by people of more modest means. The hamlet was beginning to grow into a small village with a collection of frame houses, churches, school, and several businesses, which served as the commercial and social center for the larger rural region. By 1850, there were 246 households in the greater Tenleytown area.

With this growth came the need for certain appurtenances, including a burial ground. Within Washington City, families were able to bury their dead in churchyards or one of the two public cemeteries – Eastern and Western – just beyond the city limits. An ordinance passed in June 1852 forbade the "establishment of any new burial ground within the Boundary Street limits" of Washington City.<sup>5</sup> Officials were also concerned about rowdy or lewd behavior in the cemeteries. The ordinance stipulated that it was forbidden to "engage in swearing, indecent or profane language, loud and boisterous conversation, yelling, hallooing, playing cards, casting dice...drinking liquor, throwing stones or other missiles, shooting [firearms]...or indecent conduct," and it was unlawful to deface or destroy grave markers or other cemetery fixtures. An 1854 ordinance forced all cemeteries already established within Washington City to relocate outside the city limits.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Paul Sluby, personal communication, May 31, 2006.

<sup>6</sup> Wesley E. Pippenger, *District of Columbia Internments*, "Cemeteries and Burial Grounds," viii.



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There were no formal cemeteries in Tenleytown in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and none of the early churches in Tenleytown had its own cemetery.<sup>7</sup> In the then-rural Washington County, most interments occurred as private farm burial grounds, customarily bearing the surname of the family involved. Wesley E. Pippenger's research on internments in the District of Columbia shows burial plots on land owned by the Addison, Belt, Chappell, Hurdle, Murdock, Shoemaker, and Weems families, all described as being "near Tennallytown."<sup>8</sup>

The Methodist Cemetery--the town's first burial ground--grew up behind Mount Zion Methodist Church at the intersection of River Road and Murdock Mill Road, built in 1840 and the first of four Methodist churches on the site. The first known interment (although there may be others that predate it) was that of a Mrs. Murphy, who died in 1847. Several other burials took place here in the early 1850s.

In 1855, a group of twelve Tenleytown residents, sometimes referred to as the "Tenleytown Twelve" and many of whom were members of the Mount Zion congregation, purchased from William D.C. Murdock and his wife Ellen Louisa Murdock, a parcel of land directly behind the church for the purpose of establishing a cemetery.<sup>9</sup> Despite its name and location adjacent to Mount Zion Methodist Church (now Eldbrooke Methodist Church), the Methodist Cemetery has always been operated independently, first by the original twelve cemetery organizers, then by their descendants who incorporated the Methodist Cemetery Association in 1928. The 1840 and 1850 Census shows that the original trustees were white men in their thirties and older. It is presumed that all trustees were members of the Mount Zion Methodist Church.

The Methodist Cemetery was open to whites from the Tenleytown community. Despite the numbers of freed slaves who lived around Fort Reno during and after the Civil War, the cemetery does not appear to have been available to blacks. Such segregation among cemeteries was customary in both the city and county. Although the pre-1940 cemetery records have been lost, it is safely assumed that families purchased burial lots from the cemetery administrator and commissioned tombstones from a local stone carver. Some graves had wooden or metal markers that have since disappeared, and many were never marked.

### The Methodist Cemetery Association:

For over 70 years, lot owners maintained The Methodist Cemetery on an informal basis. On April 10, 1928 perhaps as a result of anxiety and disruption engendered by the proposed taking

<sup>7</sup> Helm, *Tenleytown, D.C.*, 36-38; 87; 92.

<sup>8</sup> Wesley E. Pippenger, *District of Columbia Internments (Index to Deaths) January 1, 1855 to July 31, 1874*.

<sup>9</sup> Margaret R. Amundson, "The Methodist Cemetery," *Tenleytown Historic Resources Survey*. The original trustees of the cemetery were referred to as the "Tenleytown Twelve." See also the Deed of Trust between the trustees of the Methodist Cemetery and the Murdock family, November 6, 1855. Photocopy is in the possession of the Methodist Cemetery Association.

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by eminent domain of land from The Methodist Cemetery, a group met at Eldbrooke Church to establish a formal cemetery association. Several of these persons were descendants of the original "Tenleytown Twelve" while others were related by marriage to the original founders. A Certificate of Incorporation, dated May 25, 1928 stated that the "Methodist Cemetery Association is a body of persons associating themselves together as owners of burial lots in a plot of ground...known as the Methodist Cemetery." The purpose of the Association was to "properly maintain said cemetery, on behalf of the lot owners, as a suitable burial place for the dead, with good and sufficient walls or fence and necessary conveniences."<sup>10</sup> The list of names of the directors shows that most lived near the church and cemetery.

In 1929-1930, the Methodist Cemetery Association successfully fought the District of Columbia Highway Commission's plan to extend 42<sup>nd</sup> Street through cemetery property, only to be have the decision later reversed. The issue hinged on an interpretation of the law regarding the opening of public streets through privately owned cemetery property. The city's attorney was of the opinion that the D.C. Commissioners were empowered to secure a right-of-way through any grounds. Among other points, the Association counter argued that "burial places are held to be forever set aside for sacred purposes...and are not subject to condemnation for secular use." The Cemetery Association won its point and although work on Albemarle Street went forward, the extension of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street through the cemetery did not at that time. However, in 1938, the condemnation for 42<sup>nd</sup> Street went forward, despite continued opposition from the Cemetery Association.

In late 1939-early 1940, before roadwork had begun, the Eugenia Washington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution surveyed the Methodist Cemetery as well as the similarly threatened and adjacent cemetery at St. Columba's Episcopal Church. The report noted that several grave markers in a small piece of ground between St. Columba's Church and the Methodist Cemetery had not been maintained. Among the grave markers still standing, those of Isaac Williams (d. 1879), George Bock (d. 1878) and Margaret Eva Bock (d. 1898) were moved to the Methodist Cemetery for preservation. In late September 1940, the entire Episcopal Cemetery along with a "slice" of the Methodist Cemetery were dug up and removed by steam shovel. An article from the *Washington Daily News* reported that the city had "advertised for relatives of people buried there to appear and move the remains." In the Episcopal cemetery, a handful responded, but apparently none could locate their ancestors' graves. At the "larger and more populous" Methodist Cemetery, the remains were removed by surviving relatives.<sup>11</sup>

Despite the elimination of a "slice" of the cemetery property, the burial ground remained active during the middle years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. According to local lore, the Cemetery Association "retained a regular groundskeeper and the lawn was kept neat with flower beds and little fences

<sup>10</sup> Certificate of Incorporation of the Methodist Cemetery Association, typed copy, collection of the Cemetery Association.

<sup>11</sup> "Steam Shovel Turns Ghoul in Graveyard," *Washington Daily News*, October 7, 1940, p. 12.

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around each plot.” The cemetery was an important focus of community life. On Memorial Day, families would gather to clean and decorate the graves and give a cash donation for upkeep of the property.<sup>12</sup>

### Management of the Methodist Cemetery:

The last burial in the Methodist Cemetery (that of Patia Smith) took place in 1989. By that time, most of the descendants of those buried in the cemetery had left Tenleytown. The congregation of Eldbrooke Church was also dwindling. In a 1990 *Washington Post* interview, Donald Barnes who maintained the cemetery property, lamented that he and his secretary were the only two remaining members of the Cemetery Association and that the cemetery was becoming overgrown. In 1992, Mr. Barnes left the Washington area and the cemetery fell into deplorable condition. The site was vandalized, overgrown by weeds and choked with debris.

In 2001, the Cemetery Association was revitalized; the by-laws were updated, annual membership meetings were re-instituted, and a Board of Directors was selected on an annual basis. The cemetery was rejuvenated, broken gravestones were repaired, and a black iron fence built in place of the old chain link one. Today, the grass is cut regularly, and dead trees and branches are removed. These on-going repairs are funded by a combination of grants, private funding, and membership dues.<sup>13</sup> On October 9, 2005, The Methodist Cemetery celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with speeches, refreshments and prayers of re-dedication by a minister from Metropolitan United Methodist Church (Eldbrooke Church had, a few months earlier, sadly closed).

The Methodist Cemetery is not only a rare surviving resource of early Tenleytown, it is the only known community cemetery in what was Washington County of the District of Columbia.

<sup>12</sup> Eric Charles May, “A Slice of Family History,” *The Washington Post*, August 23, 1990. And, Clarence Williams, “Resurrecting a Piece of Local History—Descendants Seek to Restore Neglected Cemetery in Tenleytown,” *The Washington Post*, October 23, 2002.

<sup>13</sup> Beth Cope, “Descendants Labor to Revive Tenley Cemetery,” *Northwest Current*, May 22, 2002.

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The Methodist Cemetery

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### Major Bibliographical References:

Bowie, Effie Gwynn. *Across the Yeas in Prince George's County; genealogical and biographical history of some Prince George's County, Maryland and allied families.* Richmond, Va.: Garrett and Massie, 1947.

Eugenia Washington Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, Louise C. Chase, Chairman of Genealogical Records Committee, "Tombstone Inscriptions from the Methodist Cemetery in Washington, D.C., 1939-1940." Photocopy in the collection of the Methodist Cemetery Association.

Helm, Judith Beck. *Tenleytown, D.C.: Country Village into City Neighborhood.* 1981, reprint Kutztown, New York: Tennally Press, 2000.

Jeane, D. Gregory. "The Upland South Folk Cemetery Complex," in Richard E. Meyer, ed., *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture.* Ann Arbor, Michigan: UMI Research Press, 1989.

Keister, Douglas. *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography.* Salt Lake City, Utah: Gibbs Smith, 2004.

May, Eric Charles. "A Slice of Family History" (interview with Donald Barnes), *The Washington Post*, August 23, 1990.

Williams, Paul Kelsey. "Tenleytown Historic Resources Survey," 2003.



The Methodist Cemetery  
Name of Property

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8 Zone	0 3 1 9 6 0 Easting	4 3 1 2 9 2 6 Northing	3																
2				4																

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Long (Tenleytown Historical Society) and Kim Williams (DC HPO)  
Organization D.C. Historic Preservation Office date June 2008  
street & number 801 North Capitol Street telephone 202 442-8840  
city or town Washington, D.C. state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 20002

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

- X A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- X A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

- X Representative black and white photographs of the property.

### Additional Items

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

## Property Owner

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

Name District of Columbia  
street & number 1133 North Capitol Street, NE telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Washington state D.C. zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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### Verbal Boundary Description:

The Methodist Cemetery between Murdock Mill Road and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street occupies Lot 803 in Square 1730 in the northwest quadrant of the District of Columbia. +

### Boundary Justification:

A burial ground has been located on this site since circa 1847, several years before the official establishment in 1855 of The Methodist Cemetery on the site.

+

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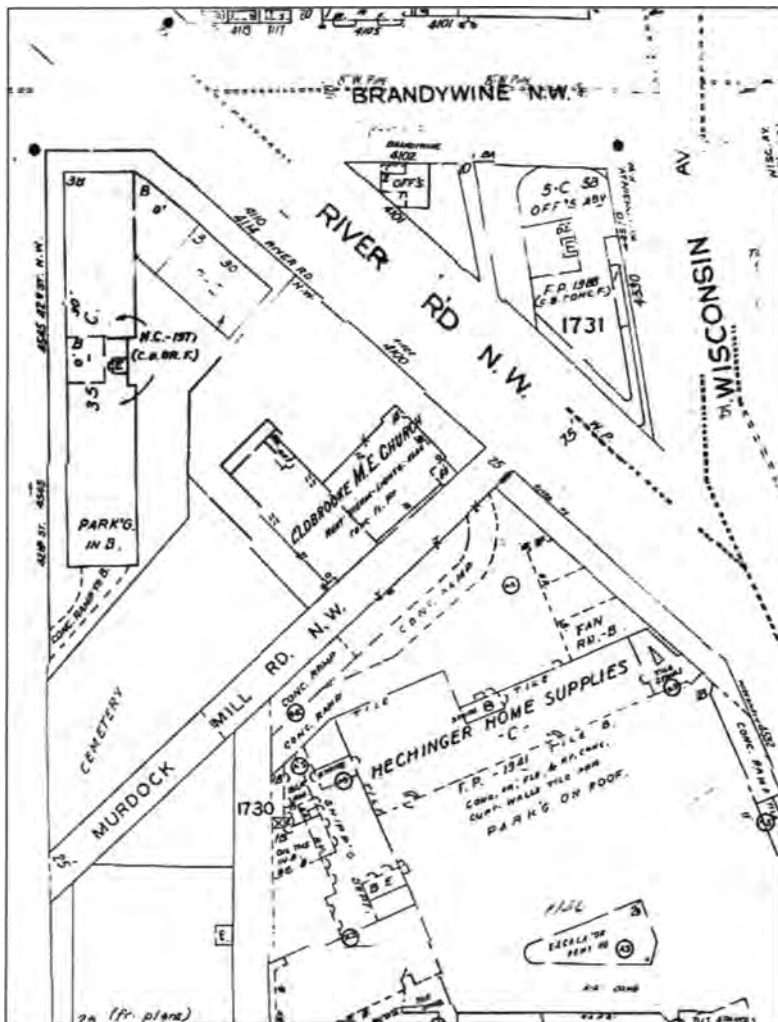
The Methodist Cemetery

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## SITE MAP



The Methodist Cemetery  
Washington, D.C.

Base Map from *Sanborn Building and Property Atlas, Washington, D.C., 1999*

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

*The following information is common to all photos:*

The Methodist Cemetery  
Between 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Murdock Mill Road, NW  
Washington, D.C.  
Carolyn Long, Photographer  
June 2006  
Carolyn Long, personal collection

- 1) General view looking northwest with entry gate in foreground  
1 of 5
- 2) View from northeast section of cemetery looking northwest  
2 of 5
- 3) View of typical family plot  
3 of 5
- 4) Detail, typical 19<sup>th</sup> century gravestone iconography  
4 of 5
- 5) Detail, mini obelisk typical of child burial marker  
5 of 5



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 08000839

Date Listed: 9/5/2008

Property Name: The Methodist Cemetery

Multiple Name: Tenleytown in Washington, D.C.: 1770-1941, MPS

County:

State:

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patricia Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

9/5/2008  
Date of Action

-----  
Amended Items in Nomination:

In the Statement of Significance (Section 8, p. 1) it is noted that the cemetery is nominated under National Register Criterion A and D. The nomination establishes the historic significance of the cemetery, but does not address how the cemetery meets Criterion D (and no Area of Significance has been assigned for Criterion D). The form is amended to delete Criterion D, and the cemetery is listed in the National Register only under Criterion A.

#### DISTRIBUTION:

**National Register property file**

**Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Methodist Cemetery, The

MULTIPLE NAME: Tenleytown in Washington, D.C.: 1770-1941, MPS

STATE & COUNTY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, District of Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 7/23/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/11/08  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/26/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/05/08  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000839

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9/5/2008 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Locally significant cemetery - See SLR*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER Patrick Andrews

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 9/5/2008

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

DC1

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



The Methodist Cemetery

Washington, DC

Carolyn Long, photographer

June 2006

Carolyn Long personal collection

General view of cemetery, view looking northwest  
showing entry gate

1/5





The Methodist Cemetery  
Washington, DC

Carolyn Long, photographer

June 2006

Carolyn Long personal collection

View from northeast section of cemetery looking  
northwest

2/5



FRANK E. BERRY  
1846 — 1884

Beloved  
AMY A.  
Daughter of  
S. E. & J. H. Berry  
Died Apr 29 1919  
Aged 44 Years.  
Remains of her mother and  
By Mother & Sister

The Methodist Cemetery

Washington, DC

Carolyn Long, photographer

June 2006

Carolyn Long personal collection

View of typical family plot

3/5



MARY V

BELOVED WIFE OF  
F BROWN

The Methodist Cemetery  
Washington, DC

Carolyn Long, photographer

June 2006

Carolyn Long personal collection

Detail, typical 19<sup>th</sup> century gravestone  
iconography

4/5





The Methodist Cemetery

Washington, DC

Carolyn Long, photographer

June 2006

Carolyn Long personal collection

Detail, mini obelisk typical for child  
burial marker

5/5

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64501018