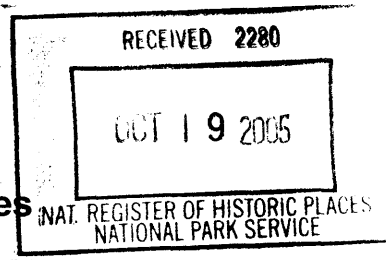


(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



OCT 19 2005

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 an 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 Maplewood Cemetery

other names/site number New Pulaski Cemetery

2. Location

street & number South Sam Davis Avenue

NA not for publication

city or town Pulaski

NA vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Giles code 055 zip code 38478

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for 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.)

Herbert L. Hays
Signature of certifying official/Title

10/18/05
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

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 the 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:)

for

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Daniel J. V. V. V.

11/15/05

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 count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

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

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

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)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other Granite, Limestone, Concrete, Marble, Wrought Iron

Narrative Description

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

See Attached Sheets

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY
OTHER: FUNERARY ART

Period of Significance

1855-1955

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown; multiple

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 file (NPS): N/A

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, etc.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, etc.

Name of repository:

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Maplewood Cemetery
Name of Property

Giles County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 16 acres Pulaski, TN 059 NE

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>497488</u>	<u>3894555</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>497473</u>	<u>3894169</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>497338</u>	<u>3894556</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>497280</u>	<u>3894197</u>

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 Barske and Leslie Sharp
organization Center for Historic Preservation date April 21, 2005
street & number Middle Tennessee State University, Box 80 telephone 615-898-2947
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

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 City of Pulaski c/o Mayor Dan Speer
street & number 203 South First Street; Box 633 931-363-2249
city or town Pulaski state TN zip code 38478

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 listing. 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303

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National Park Service

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Maplewood Cemetery
Giles County, Tennessee

DESCRIPTION

Maplewood Cemetery is located approximately one-half mile southeast of the town square of Pulaski, Tennessee (county seat of Giles County, Tennessee, population 7871 in 2000). Maplewood is bounded on the east by Ballentine Street, on the south by Cleveland Street, on the west by South Rhodes Street, and on the north by Sharewood Park, Giles County Recreation Center, and residential development that faces East College Street. The cemetery is 35.74 acres, and can be divided into three sections: 1) the Original or 1855 section known as Old Maplewood which contains a white, black, white pauper, and Confederate burial areas; 2) the 1878 section, of which a majority of the six acres was specifically designated for African-American burials; and 3) New Maplewood which contains the 1907 portion that runs east of the Sam Davis Avenue extension and the adjacent 1940s portion that borders Ballentine Street. This nomination only discusses Old Maplewood and the 1878 section. New Maplewood is excluded from the nomination due to a lack of integrity resulting from a large number of modern burials. The markers in Maplewood are made from marble, granite, limestone, and concrete and represent various types and styles of funerary art found from the middle of the nineteenth century through the twentieth century. The historic and intact character-defining features that make up the cemetery are the burials, markers, vaults, statuary, family plots, walkways, curbing, road system, stone entrance posts, fencing, plantings, historic buildings, and intact cemetery plans that represent the different stages of historical development.

The cemetery can be accessed off of East College Street via the north-south extension of Sam Davis Avenue that runs through the cemetery to Cleveland Street and off of Ballentine Street on the east. These roads intersect near the middle of the cemetery and help define the sections of the cemetery. The original main entrance off of Rhodes Street and up to the Sam Davis extension has been closed to automobile traffic since c. 1995 and the entrance from College Street is now considered the main entrance. This main entrance road contains no embellishments or gates and will also be referred to as the Sam Davis Avenue extension. The Sam Davis Avenue extension clearly delineates the boundary between the two older sections of Maplewood and New Maplewood. The c.1940 stone entrance posts remain at both the Rhodes Street and Ballentine Street entrances. Surrounding Maplewood on the west is a residential neighborhood and industrial complex, on the north is the recreation center and residential development, on the east is a residential neighborhood and the Pulaski Elementary School, and on the south is the Giles County High School.

There is a wrought iron fence on the west border of the cemetery along Rhodes Street. The fence ends approximately halfway between the old main entrance gate and Cleveland Street on the south. The fence runs north from the old main entrance gate, wrapping around the north boundary of the old Maplewood Cemetery. The fence turns into chain link fence (not historic) for approximately 20 feet, and then ends at Sam Davis Avenue. The historic wrought-iron fence is a

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Maplewood Cemetery
Giles County, Tennessee

c. 1900 iron fence, which originally encircled the Giles County Courthouse (NR listed 1983) on the main square of Pulaski, but was moved in the 1940s to its present location when the stone entrance posts were built. With the exception of several enclosed family plots, the rest of the cemetery lacks fencing. There used to be fencing between the Original Maplewood and the African-American portion of the 1878 section. This fencing (material and construction date unknown) was removed in the 1980s.

Like many historic cemeteries, Maplewood designated sections for black burials and for white burials. In the 1986 record of the burials in Maplewood Cemetery compiled by the Giles County Historical Society, four separate sections are listed: old and new white sections and the old and new black sections. It is very interesting to note the number of unmarked graves in the older two sections of Maplewood (1855, 1878) where blacks were buried. Just in the 1878 section, there are 176 members of the African-American community whose lack of grave markers has been discovered through research gathered from family bibles, obituaries in various local papers, as well as other sources. There are possibly many others in both the 1855 and 1878 sections whose names were not recorded.¹

The divisions between new and old, and black and white Maplewood, are clear. The older white section, with its curving roads, soaring obelisks, and shade trees is an unmistakable example of the Victorian era desire to create beautiful places to bury their dead. The black section of Old Maplewood and the 1878 section (also referred to as the Old Black Section), which abuts the old white section to the south, contains fewer markers, most of which are of a simple slab type. Many of them have fallen over, and many more graves lack headstones entirely. There are only a few shade trees, located on the southern border of the 1878 section. New Maplewood sharply differs from Old Maplewood because of its linear organization and regularity.

Old or Original Maplewood (a.k.a. New Pulaski Cemetery and Old White Section)

Dating to 1855, Old Maplewood is the oldest portion of the cemetery and still retains its original plan that includes curvilinear streets and walkways. Comprising the original seven acres purchased by the City in 1854, this section is made up of three distinct portions: white, black, and white pauper, as labeled on the attached 1855 plan. The plan for the main white section contains 380 family plots of various sizes and shapes with varying numbers of burials within each plot. To the east of the family plots are the black section and white pauper section. From the labeling on the plan, it appears that the northeast section, or black section, was also considered a pauper section. Confederate soldiers are buried in the area designated on the original plan as the white

¹ Giles County Historical Society, *Cemetery Records of Giles County Tennessee* (Pulaski, TN: Giles County Historical Society, 1986).

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pauper section. The burials range from the mid-nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century, with the majority of the burials dating to the nineteenth century.

The Old Maplewood Cemetery calls to mind the mid-1800s rural cemetery movement, made especially popular by Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and repeated in cemeteries throughout the eastern half of the United States. Curving roads and walkways wind through and around the old cemetery and date to the 1855 plan. The road system, which is paved and now used for foot traffic, is intact. The historic walkways (designated by the thinner paths on the attached plan, are mostly intact. Traces of the granite curbing can be seen along the walkways, some of which are not as easily distinguishable as the roads. Cedar, magnolia, sugar maple, hemlock, hackberry and oak trees are scattered throughout this section. The atmosphere is a calming one that the people of the Victorian period sought to create. Because "the grave site became an extension of the home environment"² during the Victorian period, the landscape of Old Maplewood was also a park, a place created during a time when "providing furnishings for prolonged visits and picnicking at the family grave site were not considered morbid, ostentatious, or overtly sentimental practices of communing with the dead."³

The huge trees scattered throughout Old Maplewood provide shade to many of the graves, while others stand out in the direct sunlight. Judging by the size of the trees, many appear to have been planted when the cemetery first opened or soon after. They are mostly located along the north and east sides of Old Maplewood, leaving most of the west and south sides in the full sun.

The land is relatively flat, though there is a small hill in the northwest quadrant. The streets spread out from the old main entrance in a curvilinear pattern, making the cemetery plots different sizes and shapes. The curvilinear pattern of the roads and walkways in the original section is not found in the 1878 section dedicated to African-American burials, or in New Maplewood. Like the curving streets in other Tennessee cemeteries founded during the 1850s, such as Elmwood in Memphis (NR 2002), Mount Olivet in Nashville, and Old Gray Cemetery (NR 1996) in Knoxville, the ones in Maplewood reflect the park-like atmosphere more so than straight streets and paths. The streets, because of their curvilinear pattern, draw the visitor past more monuments than a straight road would. While Old Maplewood is nowhere near the size of Mount Olivet, Elmwood, or many of the other city cemeteries constructed during the same period, Maplewood appears to embrace the same ideology: providing a beautiful landscape which allowed people to escape from their day to day concerns.⁴

² Richard Betterly. "Using Historical Rural Church Cemeteries as a Material Culture Resource in Heritage Education." (Doctoral diss., Middle Tennessee State University, 1991), 186.

³ Betterly, 186.

⁴ Davis Charles Sloane. *The Last Great Necessity*. (Baltimore, MD: The John Hopkins University Press, 1991), 56.

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Maplewood Cemetery
Giles County, Tennessee

There are some open spaces within Old Maplewood where no gravestones remain. Mostly located in the pauper and black sections of the cemetery, these open spaces stand in contrast to the family plots that are filled with tombstones.

The markers found in Old Maplewood are as varied as the people buried there. Some markers soar into the sky in the shape of huge obelisks and columns, inscribed with the names of the people buried under them and either a poem or an epitaph. There are other clearly classically influenced designs as well, such as the urn, or the stone sculptures of young women dressed in heavily draped dresses. Others are small stones, with only a few inches protruding from the grass. Often times these small stones only have one word inscribed on them, perhaps a name, or the word Mother or Father. There are Late Victorian-style marble angels reaching up to heaven, and cherubs carrying wreaths of flowers. There are also simple markers with no ornamentation.

The majority of the markers in Old Maplewood date to mid-late nineteenth century. However, some of the monuments located in Old Maplewood date to the twentieth century. These monuments are clearly identifiable because of their simplicity. Often times they are unpretentious stones, wider and larger than a slab, with polished fronts and rough sides, bearing only the names of those buried under them. The family name is frequently located on the opposite side. Unlike their Victorian era counterparts, these monuments have less ornamentation, if any at all. These simpler monuments are the most-common type found in New Maplewood. In general, the markers found in the main white section of Old Maplewood are the most elaborate; however, even here there are some smaller, simpler markers. Some of these markers were for servants, others for young children.

There are many wonderful examples of Victorian era markers within the family plots of Old Maplewood. These include life-sized statues of angels, such as the one found at the grave of Julia Flournoy, located in the northwest quadrant. The Classical style, prevalent in mid-to-late nineteenth century architecture, is reflected in the family vault of A.L. King, also located in the northwest quadrant near the South Rhodes entrance. The vault has two columns that rest on top of huge cubical blocks of stone, at the front of the mausoleum, calling to mind a small Greek or Roman temple. The name A.L. King appears in shallow relief between the two columns. The vault itself is surrounded by a beautiful wrought iron fence, and in the spirit of Victorian piety and religious values, an angel adorns the top of the vault. She is dressed in a classical, draped style with one arm stretched to heaven.

There are many wonderful examples of other markers that also share a Classical influence. The Smith family monument, located in the northeast quadrant in Old Maplewood near the Sam Davis Avenue entrance, is an interesting example of a classically influenced monument. A column emerges from rough stone on the left hand side of the monument. The column is wrapped with ivy and a lily sits at its base. The monument marking the burial site of Mary L. Martin (died 1908) and

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David Martin (died 1887) displays a mixture of Classical influences and Victorian sentimentality (located in the northeast quadrant). Two columns set side by side, sharing the same base, make up the monument. Atop the columns sit two urns, both draped with cloth and flowers. The columns are wrapped with vines of ivy and flowers.

There are also obelisks located in Maplewood. A number of them belong to Masons, but many others mark the graves of women or non-Masonic men. The grave of Harriet Perkins (died 1870) is marked by a flat topped obelisk, with the image of a willow tree carved into one side of it, symbolizing perpetual mourning and grief (northwest quadrant, by the South Rhodes entrance). One of the more interesting monuments in Maplewood does not fall into the Classical style. What is so remarkable about this grave is the setting in which it is located. The flat table-like marble marker rests on a concrete platform about 10 feet by 10 feet. At each corner of the concrete slab is a circular wrought iron planter set into the ground. In each of these planters are a number of conch shells. There is nothing like this marker in the rest of the cemetery.

Although there are wonderful examples of unique and intriguing monuments in Maplewood, it is also important to note the more typical markers. The three Stanley family monuments located near the Sam Davis entrance in the northeast quadrant of old Maplewood are more typical of the nineteenth-century monuments. Standing about two and a half to three feet high, these slab markers all have a simple arch that forms the top of the marker. The name of the family member, with the birth and death date is carved on the side of the monument facing west. The marker of Sarah Stanley (died 1890) simply states that she was the wife of Henry Stanley (died 1888). Their son, Dr. Lewis Brown Stanley's (died 1882) marker has a short epitaph. All three of the monuments have a circle at the top of the monument, in which is a laurel wreath, with a ribbon running across it. Each ribbon says a different thing: Henry's reads, "At Rest;" Sarah's, "Eternally At Rest;" and Lewis's, "Rest." These monuments, while simple, are clearly of a different style than those of the early twentieth century. They appear to be carved locally and lack the clean lines of twentieth-century markers. The verticalness of the markers is also representative of nineteenth century markers in Maplewood. While they may not all be of a slab construction, the markers of the nineteenth century are much more vertical than they are horizontal.

The marker of Elizabeth Childress Brown (died 1919), located in the Brown family plot in the northwest quadrant, is more of a typical early to mid-twentieth century marker. The marker is a simple rectangular shape, and is set into the ground so that the marker stands no more than six inches off the ground with the name carved on top of the marker. As people moved away from Victorian era sentimentalism, markers became much more plain and straightforward. Although not all markers of this period are set so close to the ground, the marker of Brown is a good example because of the simplicity, the clean lines, the horizontal emphasis and little decoration, in contrast with the lavish decorations and vertical orientation found on many nineteenth-century markers.

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Maplewood Cemetery
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In a cemetery like Maplewood, where there are many examples of ornate, elaborate markers, it is difficult for one to stand out as the most elaborate marker. However, because its skill of execution, likeness to its subject, and its great size, the John C. Brown marker is hard to miss. Located in the northwest quadrant, the over six-foot tall statue on a ten-plus foot high base was carved by the same unknown Italian artist who sculpted the Sam Davis statue located on the courthouse square in downtown Pulaski (NR 1983).

Two family vaults are located in Old Maplewood, the Martin family vault (located in the northwest quadrant) and the A.L. King vault (located on the north edge of the southwest quadrant). Both vaults are impressive in design, however the King vault has clear Classical influences, while the Martin vault's design is of gothic origin, with a large gothic arch marking the entrance to the vault itself. The Martin family vault is the most elaborate family plot in Maplewood. Set in the shade of two enormous hemlock trees and surrounded by an elaborate wrought-iron fence, the family vault is both elegant and inviting. The gothic archway over the door and the wrought-iron gate that once stood in front of a carved marble doorway are both well executed and graceful. The Martin mausoleum (burial place of Thomas Martin and his family, including Henry Spofford, at one time a Senator from Louisiana and a Supreme Court Judge) has two marble urns for plantings, as well as a cast-iron water spigot.

The oldest marker in Maplewood belongs to Robert H. Watkins. Watkins was the first person buried in Maplewood when the cemetery opened in 1855. There are a few other markers that have death dates on them that are prior to the opening of Maplewood. These graves and their markers were moved to Maplewood after it opened in 1855.

Many of the family plots are outlined in granite curbing, creating a clear definition of boundaries between the lots. Ornate wrought iron fencing surrounds other lots, most of which are still fully intact, albeit a little rusty, today. The fencing around the Martin family vault is the most elaborate of these fences. The wrought iron fence is reminiscent of the Gothic style of ornamentation. The elaborate design of the fence consists of stacked, rounded arches and pointed finials protruding from the top and bottom rails of the fence. Other fences, such as the one surrounding the Stacy family plot (located near the South Rhodes entrance), are less ornate, but still very interesting. This fence has a simple floral design along the top and bottom that is repeated along the length of the fence. These ways of making a distinct separation of lots, instead of allowing them to flow together, reinforces the notion of the family plot as an extension of the home; the curbing that divides the plots are much like the fences people put up around their houses to mark out their own territory.

A flat stone monument, donated by the Daughters of the Confederacy in 1913, marks the Confederate area in what was the white pauper section (southeast corner of Old Maplewood). Over 85 Confederate troops are buried in Maplewood. Although some are buried in the

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Maplewood Cemetery
Giles County, Tennessee

Confederate section, many others were residents of Pulaski who are buried with their families. United States Colored Troops were buried adjacent to the Confederate area, but just south of the original boundaries of the cemetery in what would become the African-American portion of the 1878 section. Like the white soldiers, some of these 40-plus African-American soldiers were buried in the area especially designated for black troops, while others were buried in with their families in the 1878 section.

1878 Section (also known as the Old Black Section)

Acquired in 1878, this six-acre section, referred to as the 1878 section or Old Black Section, lies adjacent to the original Maplewood cemetery and continues south to Cleveland Street. While the majority of this expansion was dedicated to African-American burials, the northwest corner contains white burials and is linked with the original Old Maplewood because it was limited to white people. Furthermore, this portion of the 1878 section was physically and visually separated from the black section by a fence that used to run between the black burials and the white burials and the streets of the 1855 plan were extended only to this portion of the 1878 section. Also differing from the African-American portion of this section, there is prominent granite curbing, identifiable family plots, and higher style markers as found in the main portion of the original cemetery.

The black portion of the 1878 section stretches over flat ground with markers spread out in what appears to be almost a random fashion. This area is covered in grass with only few trees and bushes scattered in the southern half. There are no prominent planned streets or walkways and many open spaces. The open areas with depressions in the land, suggest that there are many unmarked graves within this section. As mentioned earlier, historical research on the number of African Americans buried confirms the presence of unmarked graves in this section.

Some of the earliest burials in this section are the graves of the United States Colored Troops, which are located in the northeastern portion of this section, just west of the Sam Davis Avenue extension. The African-American soldiers that died in and around Pulaski during the years of the Civil War (1861-1865) were buried prior to the acquisition of the 1878 section.

The burials in this section date from the 1860s through the middle of the twentieth century. Most of the graves with this section are marked with simple vertical tablet headstones. Many of these are unreadable today, some have broken into pieces, while others stand at cockeyed angles. The markers are made from granite, limestone, and concrete. There are noticeably more hand-engraved stones made from limestone and concrete than in other sections of the cemetery. For the most part, the markers lack ornamentation; however, some of the later markers in this section do contain some decorative engraving. For example, the marker of Sarah Lacy and Abraham McKissack (died 1934, 1954, respectively) has a rusticated granite base with a rectangular monument that is rough on the edges with polished faces on which a floral pattern and cross are

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Maplewood Cemetery
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carved. Some of the gravesites are outlined in stone, mainly granite, as the family plots were outlined in the old white Maplewood.

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Maplewood Cemetery
Giles County, Tennessee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Created in 1855 and still operating today, Maplewood Cemetery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local historical significance related to the social history and African-American ethnic heritage of Pulaski, Tennessee. As the largest cemetery in both land area and number of burials within Pulaski and Giles County, Maplewood has been and continues to be the primary burial place for both black and white Pulaski citizens. The cemetery is also eligible under National Register Criterion C in terms of art and landscape architecture as an excellent and intact example of a historic cemetery with a diverse collection of funerary art that ranges from the very high style and elaborately carved Victorian and classically inspired tombstones to the vernacular markers that are hand-engraved in concrete and lack any ornamentation. Maplewood's components—burials, markers, vaults, statuary, family plots, walkways, curbing, road system, stone entrance posts, fencing, plantings, historic buildings, and plan—represent changing styles, tastes, and notions of burial practices and how differences in race and class are reflected in the material culture of cemeteries through layout, design, and marking of graves. These elements contribute to the historical, artistic, and landscape significance of Maplewood and span from its founding in the mid-nineteenth century through the end of the period of significance in 1955.

Formed because space in the Old Graveyard or Old City Cemetery had become very limited (burials ceased in 1883), Maplewood, originally called the "New Pulaski Cemetery" when it was founded in 1855, was and still remains the choice burial grounds for many people important to Pulaski and the region. When the seven acres of original land was bought from William Arrowsmith in 1854 for the development of a new cemetery, the property was under the control of the City Board. The City Board began selling lots in the "New Pulaski Cemetery" in 1855. Control by the City Board lasted a mere two years, until 1856, when the State General Assembly created a private corporation to govern the running of Maplewood Cemetery. The City Board of Pulaski formed the board of trustees of Maplewood. Many prominent local men served on the board in its early years, including Confederate General John C. Brown, historian and lawyer James McCallum and the founder of Martin Methodist College, Thomas Martin.

During the Civil War (1861-1865), Maplewood became the burial place for both white and black soldiers who died in the area. At least 85 white veterans and 40 African-American veterans of the United States Colored Troops were buried in Old Maplewood and in what would become the 1878 section. The exact number of soldiers cannot be determined because there are a number of unmarked graves located within the cemetery and some of those may in fact contain Civil War veterans.

In 1878, the cemetery's size almost doubled when six acres were bought from Dr. R. G. P. White. To the south side of the original cemetery, this first expansion included land specifically

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Maplewood Cemetery
Giles County, Tennessee

designated for the burial of African Americans. Although pre-dating the expansion, it was in this section that the United States Colored Troops were buried. Thus, the 1878 Section containing the African-American burials became known as the Old Black Section and the white portion of the 1878 section became associated with the original section and known as the Old White Section. This separation of the races, even in death, was a hallmark of Jim Crow segregation throughout the South. In 1880, the name was changed to Maplewood.

In 1907 another large addition was made to the east side of the cemetery. This was the first expansion on the other side of what is now the main entrance road that extends from Sam Davis Avenue. The separation of the races continued during this period and the white section would be on the north side of New Maplewood and the black section on the south. The cemetery office and storage buildings would also be placed at the southeast corner of the two intersection entrance roads and remain the operation center until the present. The last extension east to Ballentine Street was made in the late 1940s. This brought the total acreage to the 35.74 acres the current legal boundaries of the cemetery.⁵ The cemetery association turned Maplewood back over to the city in 1995, which continues to operate it today.

Maplewood Cemetery, as it exists today, represents the historic, cultural, architectural, and artistic patterns of Pulaski and Giles County from the mid-nineteenth century through the present. It is an intact and excellent example of a mid-sized city cemetery in the South with a high level of material integrity. Maplewood's significance in the settlement, social, and ethnic history of the area and in its design are represented by the cemetery as a whole and through the various defining features of its components.

Criteria A: Social History, Ethnic Heritage

While most of the people buried in Maplewood were regular citizens, many played a large role in the community of Pulaski, whether they were civic leaders, religious leaders, educators, participants in the political system, influential businessmen and women or farmers. Maplewood Cemetery, like many other town cemeteries founded prior to the Civil War, was open to everyone, regardless of race or religion. But also like many other town cemeteries, Maplewood was segregated.⁶ The segregation of the cemetery is clearly visible in all the sections. In Old Maplewood, the African-American section was located in the northeast corner of the original boundaries and outside of the outermost road that circled the cemetery. The majority of the additional six acres acquired in 1878 was specifically designated for African Americans and later

⁵ Nelle Roller Cohen. *Pulaski History: 1809-1950, The Beginning, The Building, The Development, The Institutions and the People of the Town of Pulaski, TN.* (Pulaski, TN: Privately printed, 1951), 95; Cohen places the last addition at the early 1950s but the 1948 update of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Pulaski shows the boundaries of Maplewood Cemetery as they are today.

⁶ C. Vann Woodward, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1974, originally published 1955), 7.

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separated from the white burials by a fence that was not removed until the 1980s. This segregation reflects typical patterns found in the Jim Crow South and would continue in the development of New Maplewood where the African Americans would be limited to the southern portion and the whites to the north.

Race was not the only divider. Differences in class can also be seen. In the original design the paupers, along with the African Americans, were relegated to the margins. The easternmost road of the original plan served as an economic dividing line with the pauper section lying along the eastern boundary of the original plan, just west of what is now the main entrance road. On the plan, the white pauper section is clearly seen in the southeast corner. The "Negro" portion of this section was located at its northern end. Presumably, all blacks whether poor or not would have been buried in this northeast corner of the cemetery that was labeled both "Negro" and "pauper." The rest of the original cemetery—west of the pauper sections and encompassing the curvilinear roads—was reserved for the white families who could afford to buy plots. In addition to the layout, the differences in monument types, both within the original section and in the cemetery as a whole, reflect the divisions among economic groups buried in Pulaski. Many of the graves are of the simple, tablet style or have no markers at all, while others are elaborate sculptures of angels or urns draped in cloth. The monuments also reflect a change in style over time as people's views about death and life changed.

Many of the people buried in Maplewood Cemetery saw their lives affected by the Civil War. Giles County, as a whole, provided the Confederacy with approximately 1400 volunteers throughout the duration of the war, including the unofficially named Martin Guards, called so because their benefactor was millionaire Pulaski citizen Thomas Martin (died 1870). Pulaski was also the site of a Union occupation, beginning in the early months of 1862, and lasting through the duration of the war. Soldiers from both sides are buried in Maplewood.

Pulaski was also the site of the founding of the 110th and 111th United States Colored Infantries. The first being organized in October of 1863 and the second in June of 1864. General Nathan Bedford Forrest captured a large number of the troops from these two regiments, as well as troops from the 106th U.S.C.I., in September of 1864. They were sent to Mobile, Alabama, where they worked on the fortifications surrounding the city until the Union Army captured the city of Mobile and released them. In the original portion of Maplewood Cemetery, there are plots within the white pauper section for the white Confederate soldiers. The black Union troops were buried south of the Confederate dead in what would be the 1878 section.

Among the Civil War veterans buried in family plots of Old Maplewood are a number of very notable men. John Calvin Brown (died 1889), brother to Neill S. Brown (Governor of Tennessee, 1847-1849), was born in 1827 in Giles County. By the late 1840s, Brown had become the superintendent of the Wurttemberg Academy in Pulaski, then a college preparatory academy. In 1856, Brown served as the Mayor of Pulaski. Brown was also a General in the Confederate Army.

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In 1865, Brown received a presidential pardon for his involvement in the Civil War and returned to Pulaski to pursue a legal career. After involvement both at the state and local government level, Brown served two terms as governor of the State of Tennessee, from 1871 to 1875, as the first Democratic governor since the Civil War. After his terms as Governor until his death in 1889, Brown practiced law, invested in real estate, and was the director at a local bank in Pulaski. He was also a director, then an officer, finally rising to the rank of president of the Texas-Pacific Railroad. Brown also served as president of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company. Brown's burial site is in the northwest quadrant of Old Maplewood.

Another important veteran of the Civil War (as well as the Indian Wars and the Mexican War), John Adams (died 1864), lies in Pulaski under a simple marker, containing just his name, army rank and birth/death dates. Adams attended the United State Military Academy, graduating 25th in his class. He became a Captain in the army in 1856 and remained so until he resigned his commission in the United States Army on May 31, 1861 to join the Confederacy as a Captain of the Calvary. He soon was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in December of 1862. Adams was killed by nine Union bullets at the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. Adams is buried under a cedar tree in the north-central quadrant of the original portion.

John Goff Ballentine (died 1915) was born in Pulaski on May 20, 1825. After schooling at Wurtenburg Academy, the University of Nashville, Harvard, and the Livingston School of Law in New York, he moved back to Pulaski to begin a career in law. Ballentine left Pulaski in 1854 to move to Mississippi and Memphis. When the war broke out, Ballentine enrolled as a private, but soon rose to the rank of Captain, heading a regiment named Ballentine's Mississippi Regiment. Although Ballentine was wounded in 1864, he rejoined the army in time to defend General Hood's retreat through Pulaski after the Battle of Nashville. Ballentine returned to the practice of law in Pulaski after the war, and was elected to the United States House of Representatives for the 48th and 49th Congresses as a representative from Tennessee. After he retired from Congress, Ballentine returned to Pulaski. He died in 1915. Ballentine's burial site is in the south central quadrant of Old Maplewood.

There are a number of people buried in Maplewood who did not achieve such rank and status as Adams, Ballentine or Brown, but contributed to the war effort nonetheless. Thomas McKissak Jones (died 1892) served on the first session of the Confederate Congress, but chose to return to Pulaski after the first session concluded. Captured by Union troops, Jones was taken prisoner, but was released by the then Military Governor Andrew Johnson. After the war Jones wore many different hats: he practiced law, pursued business interests, was appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court, and he served as a delegate to four Democratic National Conventions and the Tennessee Constitutional Convention in 1870. He is buried in the northwest quadrant of Old Maplewood near the South Rhodes entrance. Dr. Charles C. Abernathy (died 1903), perhaps better known for his successful medical practice than his role in the Civil War, was one of five citizens told to leave the county on June 23, 1862, by Colonel Munday of the Union Army (who

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headed up the troops who had come to Pulaski to refortify after the attack by Col. Morgan). Abernathy, along with Rev. Wellborn Mooney, Booker Shapard, Dr. James A. Sumpter, and Robert Winstead, was charged with "urging the enlistment of (Rebel) soldiers and furnishing them money, outfits, and arms."⁷ The men were turned over to Confederate troops south of the Tennessee River. Abernathy served as a surgeon for the Army of Tennessee in Chattanooga, as well as for the 18th Tennessee Infantry, and the Third Tennessee.⁸ He is buried in the northeast quadrant. Dr. James Sumpter (died 1885) is buried in the northeast quadrant of the original cemetery and Booker Shapard (died 1872) is buried in the north-central area of original Maplewood.

Not all veterans of the Civil War who are buried in Maplewood obtained their "fame" during the war. Minor Carter (date of death unknown but within the period of significance), who is buried in the old black portion of the 1878 section, belonged to the 112th United States Colored Infantry. After the Civil War ended, he became a drayman and drove people to and from train depots in Pulaski. Interestingly enough Carter, after fighting for his freedom, saved the home of one who had worked to keep him from ever experiencing freedom, John C. Brown. According to Pulaski Historian Margaret Butler, Minor Carter's heroics saved the home of Confederate Major General and (Governor) John C. Brown on September 10, 1871 when fire broke out there. Carter was the first to spot the fire, and his "coolness and promptness" prevented what otherwise would have been major tragedy. That house has survived the decades as part of today's Brown-Daly-Horne House (NR 1979).⁹

In the old African-American 1878 section of the cemetery, Gabriel McKissack (died 1923) lies with his wife Dolly Ann (died 1913). The name McKissack is frequently found on grave markers in Maplewood, among both blacks and whites, but these McKissacks are the mother and father of Moses and Calvin, who started McKissack and McKissack. McKissack and McKissack was the first African-American architectural firm and today remains the oldest minority owned firm in the United States. Gabriel McKissack imparted a great deal of his knowledge of carpentry and design on his sons. When they were young men, McKissack's sons would travel with him, building churches and church furnishings.

Perhaps one of the most influential men in Pulaski's history also is buried in Old Maplewood. Thomas Martin (died 1870) was born in Albemarle County, Virginia in 1799, and moved to Pulaski in 1818 "to carve out his future in what was then the far West."¹⁰ Martin was a very successful businessman, securing a market for Giles County cotton in New Orleans by utilizing a network of streams. He helped to finance railroad lines and was the president of the Southern Central

⁷ Soloman, 53.

⁸ *History of Tennessee, Illustrated*, 846.

⁹ James L. Wood, *The Historical Development of the Negro in Giles County, TN*. Vol.1 (Pulaski, TN: Privately Published) 46-47.

¹⁰ *History of Tennessee, Illustrated*, 859.

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Railroad. When James K. Polk became President of the United States, he offered Thomas Martin the position of the Secretary of the Treasury, which Martin declined. At the request of his dying daughter, Victoria, Martin established the Martin Female College for young women in Pulaski, which has evolved over time to become the now co-educational Martin Methodist College. The Martin family vault is located in the northwest quadrant of Old Maplewood.

Another notable man in Pulaski's history, James M. McCallum (died 1889), rests in the original Maplewood cemetery. Born in Roberson County, North Carolina in 1806, McCallum came with his family to Giles County when he was a very young man. He eventually began the study of law, and upon completion of his studies, he began to practice in Pulaski. McCallum served Pulaski and Tennessee in many political and governmental capacities. He was the Clerk and Master of the Giles County Chancery Court from 1842 to 1861. McCallum served as a member of the Tennessee State Senate, as well as a representative from Tennessee to the Confederate Congress from 1864 to 1865. McCallum had an avid interest in history, and authored a history of Giles County. *A Brief Sketch of the Settlement and Early History of Giles County Tennessee* was written in 1876 but remained unpublished until 1926. McCallum died on September 16, 1889 and is buried near the center of the northeast quadrant of Old Maplewood.

An important woman in the Pulaski community was Fannie M. Jackson (died within period of significance but exact date unknown). She lies under a stone tablet with her husband, John A. Jackson on the west end of the original cemetery. Fannie Jackson, in Pulaski during the Civil War, pleaded with General Dodge to give her enough time to appeal to President Lincoln on behalf of Sam Davis before he was executed. Dodge refused. This woman's desire to protect young men did not end here. At a later point, after the war, she journeyed to Washington to appeal to President Johnson on behalf of another young man who was slated for execution. Jackson is responsible for changing the name of the New Pulaski Cemetery to Maplewood during the 1880's. She also wrote a column in the *Pulaski Citizen* under the pen name of Estelle Vestise. The gravesite of Jackson is near the South Rhodes entrance to Old Maplewood.

This was by no means the only important woman buried in Maplewood. The wife of W.B. Romine (the editor of the *Pulaski Citizen* for 42 years) (died 1942), Elizabeth Romine (died 1937) was a very active member of the community in Pulaski. She organized the Student's Club in 1909. The club was primarily a literary club for the cultivation of the mind and to gain a better sense of self. She was also the Editor of the Women War Workers newsletter during World War One. She also served as the chairwoman of publicity for the group, and the chairwoman of Relief of Blind Sailors and Soldiers. The Romines are buried in the northeast quadrant of Old Maplewood.

Ophelia Martin Spofford (died 1894), the only daughter of Thomas Martin who lived into adulthood, married Judge Henry Spofford (died 1880) a Louisiana Senator and a Supreme Court Judge. She

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was considered “one of the most brilliant women of the South”¹¹ and was a prolific artist and poet, and spent a great deal of time traveling in Europe. She and her husband lay in the Martin family vault in the northwest quadrant of Old Maplewood.

Criteria C: Funerary Art and Landscape Architecture

Maplewood Cemetery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its significance in art and landscape architecture as a historic, intact and excellent example of a historic cemetery. The design, layout, markers, burial patterns, and plantings reflect trends, customs, and architectural styles common to the nineteenth and twentieth century cemeteries in the South. The markers found in Maplewood Cemetery represent the period of 1855 through the end of its significance, 1955 and illustrate the major trends in grave maker design and symbolism during that time. There are numerous types of markers, ranging from the simple, mostly unadorned, markers, to elaborate mausoleums that are the resting places of large and prominent families. Religious symbolism—such as crosses, lilies, wreaths, angels, urns, doves, and sheep—is found in all sections of the cemetery and represents the interweaving of Christianity and burial practices in the South.

The markers found in the main portion of Old Maplewood have very definite architectural influences reflecting both Classical and late Victorian era styles. The Classical obelisks are found next to intricately carved angels and sleeping children, all of which were popular forms of funerary art during the second-half of the nineteenth century. There are also a number of simpler markers found in all the sections of the cemetery, reflecting the minimal styles of funerary art in the twentieth century. These markers contain little more than the name and date of the person or persons buried under them, giving the markers a clean, streamlined look favored during much of the twentieth century.

The development of different styles of funerary art in the nineteenth century is dominated by Victorian romanticism, which became the main style of funerary art after 1840. The aesthetically pleasing grave markers found in Maplewood are used to memorialize the deceased; many contain epitaphs stating the deceased’s religious piety, such as the monument for Julia Flournoy (died 1901, located in the northwest quadrant of Old Maplewood near the South Rhodes entrance). The marker has three sentences engraved on three different sides, “Asleep in Jesus,” “Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God” and “A flower too pure for earth called home to God.” These lines, like many of the others found in Maplewood reflect a belief in compensation for the good life lived by the deceased instead of the doom that the earlier Puritan monuments expressed.

A Victorian era motif found in Old Maplewood is planters. Planters represent the Victorian interest in nature and a desire to beautify surroundings, even in cemeteries. The Martin mausoleum has

¹¹ Soloman, 37.

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two marble urns for plantings. Another popular Victorian era motif, the celebration of children, is also evident in Maplewood. The monument for the seven children of Angenol and Sarah Cox who died between 1861 and 1868 is a sculpture of a child reclining on its side, under a canopy of sorts, apparently sleeping. It is located in the shade of a tree in the northwest quadrant of Old Maplewood. The Cox's were not alone in memorializing children like this. In Maplewood, children's graves are marked with lambs, doves, cherubs and sleeping children. In an article by Ellen Snyder, entitled *Innocents in a Worldly World: Victorian Children's Gravemarkers*, Snyder talks about how children began to represent purity in the 1830s, and how they began to be viewed not as little adults, but as symbols of innocence, the antithesis of the marketplace that was beginning to dominate much of American society. Thus, their markers reflected this difference. The lambs, doves, flowers and reclining children "reinforced the separateness of the childhood and adult states by establishing clear visual correlations between the child and the home, the purity of nature, and symbols of childhood"¹²

There is obvious evidence of Classical influence in the markers of Old Maplewood. The use of classically styled markers reflects the continuing popularity of the Classical style in architecture in Tennessee and the greater South. The Classical style has remained a constant influence in American architecture from the colonial days through modern times, thus it is no surprise to find the influence in funerary art and architecture as well. There are countless urns and obelisks dotted across the old section of Maplewood. The obelisk, a popular form of monuments for the Egyptians and used also by Romans, began to become very popular in American funerary art in the 1840s and 50s. Considered tasteful and elegant (as well as cheaper than some of the more ornate monuments available), the obelisk came to symbolize greatness and patriotism.

The obelisk also became associated with the Freemasons, a connection very evident in Old Maplewood. For example, the obelisk marking the burial site of M.M. Thomas (died 1900) and his wife Mary V. Rose (died 1900) contains the Masonic symbol (located in the southeast quadrant). Masonic symbols also adorn obelisks marking the burial sites of William Silliman (died 1913) and James McCallum (died 1889). However, in no way should it be assumed that the obelisk marks just graves of Masons or that Masons only used obelisks to mark their graves. The stone marking the grave of Elihu Edmonson (died 1889), who was the Grand Master of the Masons of Tennessee, as well as a physician and member of the Tennessee State Senate from 1883 to 1885, is a huge slab covered with information about his activities as a Mason. Edmonson's stone is in the northwest quadrant.

Many of the obelisks found in Maplewood are covered in stone drapery. The M.M. Thomas monument is draped with cloth over the top of the obelisk, as are the obelisks marking the sites of James Tol Grant (died 1891, located in the northeast quadrant of Old Maplewood) and Ben

¹² Ellen Marie Snyder, "Innocents in a Worldly World: Victorian Children's Gravemarkers." in *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture*. ed. Richard E. Meyer (Michigan: UMI Research Press, 1989), 14.

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Childers (died 1917, located in the southeast quadrant of Old Maplewood). This draping of obelisks, as well as urns, symbolizes mourning and mortality, as well as the Christian theme of resurrection.

Another very popular marker in Maplewood is the urn. The urn, which symbolizes a death of an adult, and a container for the tears of the deceased's family members, is found throughout the cemetery. A very decorative cast iron fence surrounds the Martin family vault, with cast-iron urns resting on the northeast and northwest corners of the fencing. There are also marble urns used as planters in front of the vault. The J.E. Williamson (died 1883) marker is an urn atop a column, located at the far south end of the northeast quadrant of Old Maplewood. The base of the urn is covered with ivy, symbolizing immortality, friendship and faithfulness. At the base of the grave of Alice White (died 1882) is an urn filled with roses, symbolizing completion, achievement and perfection (located in the northeast quadrant of Old Maplewood).

While the urn and the obelisk are very interesting markers, and certainly hold a very important place in the history of funerary art, there are a number of other very interesting monuments in Maplewood Cemetery as well. The monument for P.J. Clark (died 1903) is that of a Woodmen of the World (located in the northeast quadrant). The Woodmen, founded in 1890, provided life insurance to its members, and for a time, a free burial with a headstone. The headstones for Woodmen vary even though they originally were supposed to be identical. The differences arose when carvers chose not to follow the pattern. Clark's headstone, however, appears to be close to the original design. The monument is a tree stump, set atop a pile of logs. The fauna covering the base of the monument serve as symbols: the lily symbolizes perfection and purity and the ivy, immortality and friendship. There are three other Woodmen monuments in Maplewood.

A unique monument in the cemetery marks the burial site of George Percy, located at the north end of the southeast quadrant of Old Maplewood. The marker, carved by J. Kabins, bears the inscription, "A mother's tribute to her only child". It is formed out of a pile of 'rocks,' topped by a draped urn. The marker is covered with different plants, including ferns, lilies, ivy and corn. This marker is unlike any other monument found on the grounds of Maplewood. The John C. Brown (died 1889) marker is also unique within Maplewood. Carved in Italy, this life-sized statue of Brown, dressed in full military uniform, symbolically faces south, to the land he loved and protected. The base of the marker is covered with inscriptions, including "He was a faithful man and feared God above many" and "Looking for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity."

There are also a number of beautifully carved figures of angels and women that dot the Maplewood landscape. The Julia Flournoy (died 1901) marker is an angel, with her wings outstretched (located in the northeast quadrant of Old Maplewood). One arm has been broken off, but at one point it directed the viewer's attention to the heavens. The other arm is holding a

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bundle of flowers, and in her hand she holds a handkerchief. Located in the southwest quadrant of the original portion, the monument for Elizabeth Hays (died 1909) is a woman atop a large stone containing the information about Hays (located in the southwest quadrant of Old Maplewood). She stands there with one hand pressed against her face, while the other hangs to her side, holding a wreath (symbolizing victory in death). The style of dress is Classical, and the features of the woman are reminiscent of the statues of ancient Greece and Rome. The monument for Charles Anna H. Carter (died 1897) is again a woman dressed in a Classical style; the dress drapes around her legs as she sits atop the monument. The statue's eyes are closed, and her head rests on one hand, while the other dangles across her lap, holding a wreath as well (located near the South Rhodes entrance in the northeast quadrant of Old Maplewood). The marker for Jno. S. White (died 1890 at the age of 26), is interestingly enough, a young girl carrying flowers in her right hand, while her left hand reaches out. Her gaze is directed downwards, and she appears to be captured in stone while walking forward (located in the northeast quadrant of the original portion).

The markers found in the older African-American sections of Maplewood Cemetery, those found marking the graves of soldiers who died in the Civil War, and those marking the graves of servants and paupers are much simpler and more austere than those mentioned above. While lacking the ornamentation of the more elaborate markers, these markers represent the more-typical style of tombstones found in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Many of the markers in the 1878 African-American section are unreadable, and many more have been removed, or perhaps never even existed; however, this section still retains its integrity. In *Grave Matters: The Preservation of African American Cemeteries*, the author devotes a section to differences between Euro-American cemeteries and African-American cemeteries. The author makes a statement about the style of grave marking that may explain why there are so many open spaces in the old black section of Maplewood. It reads, "Marking the graves was important, regardless of what was used, at least for the current generation. The predominance of temporary items – plants and wood planks, for example – suggests that it wasn't particularly important for future generations to know the location of any specific grave."¹³ The use of temporary materials would leave the many open spaces found in Maplewood today. In addition, a lack of financial resources also contributed to the temporary marking of graves and the use of lesser quality materials such as limestone, concrete, or even wood. The strict Jim Crow segregation laws and the severe economic disparity between blacks and whites in the South are clearly represented in this small town cemetery through spatial separation and the material culture of the graves.

An alternative reason for the vast differences found in old white Maplewood and old African-American Maplewood may be differing views of death. Cynthia Conner, quoted in "Grave Matters", explains the difference. She claims that white cemeteries, with their park-like

¹³ *Grave Matters: The Preservation of African-American Cemeteries*. (Columbia, SC: Chicora Foundation, Inc., 1996) 10.

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atmosphere try to deny death, to blunt the reality of it. By selecting a beautiful location, planting select trees, and creating an idealistic atmosphere, white citizens are romanticizing death. African-American cemeteries, on the other hand, are not as purposeful or contrived.¹⁴ Thus, economic factors are not the only explanation for why the African-American differs from the white section; cultural differences between the two groups resulted in two different views of death, and thus two different ways of burying their dead.

The markers of Civil War soldiers are set in straight rows, near the east side, along Sam Davis Avenue of the old cemetery. Reflecting a time of social and economic strife, these mostly vertical tablets of granite contain little more than the name of the soldier and the date of death. A number of soldiers, including H.H. Blackman, R.A. Barringer, John Copelin, I. Woodall and W. Campell, died in March and April 1863, and were buried in Pulaski, although they hailed from places like Texas, Kentucky and Mississippi. Marking the entrance to this small section of Old Maplewood is a rectangular stone donated by the Daughters of the Confederacy in 1913. The stone lies on the ground between two small arched stones.

The graves of servants or slaves are spread throughout the older sections of Maplewood, some of them even within the old white section. The simple stone for Minerva, servant of Mr. Harris, reflects the understated style in which servants were buried. It contains the small inscription, "Faithful, obedient, gentle, kind, she hath done what she could." The stone is in the black pauper's section or northeast corner of Old Maplewood. These simple stones of servants, of the poor and of troops far away from their homes, all show the differing socio-economic classes found in Maplewood.

Maplewood's markers, its cast iron fences, and its family vaults, all retain their historical integrity. The range of styles found within the boundaries of Maplewood show both changes in taste over time, and the popular styles from the period of 1855 to 1955. The markers, ranging in size from huge obelisks to fine doves and cherubs, represent the vast variety of markers available to people, as well as the Victorian desire for a beautiful surrounding for their loved ones after they died. As ideas in cemetery design evolved, so did choices of symbolism in funerary art. Although some markers merely provide indication of a burial rather than identifying or eulogizing the deceased, many Maplewood burials reflect nineteenth-century society's changing attitudes toward death and artistic expression in funerary art, and they illustrate how tombstone carvings and styles demonstrated a family's wealth and social status as the local economy rebounded after the Civil War. Whereas the markers of the twentieth century become more standardized in shape, style, ornamentation, and materials. Thus, differences in social status become less apparent in death.

Maplewood Cemetery is also eligible under Criterion C for its significance in landscape architecture with its intact features that represent nineteenth-century trends in cemetery layout.

¹⁴ *Grave Matters*, 11.

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The landscape design of Old Maplewood includes the layout of the burial sites, the curvilinear roads and walkways, curbing, plantings, and family plots. In addition to the integrity of the individual components, the overall feeling and association of a nineteenth century landscape design remains intact. The rural cemetery movement, which found its beginnings in Mount Auburn in the mid 1800s, spread rapidly throughout America, especially during the Civil War era.¹⁵ These cemeteries were so popular through America because they offered an agreeable, and often times, beautiful solution to what author David Sloane calls the “Last Great Necessity”. The rural cemetery, with its focus on natural beauty, fit well into the Southern states, especially because of the strong Southern tradition of gardening, influenced by English traditions.

The species of trees in Maplewood cemetery are varied. Some graves are shadowed by huge cedar trees, while others are shaded by various species of oak, maple, hemlock or magnolia trees. The trees in Old Maplewood tower over those in New Maplewood, a testament to their age. The trees may not have been planted when the cemetery was first created, but they were most likely planted shortly thereafter. The Victorian era desire to surround themselves with natural beauty caused them to design gardens, with flowers, hedges, and most importantly, trees. In *Victorian Gardens, The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds*, first published in 1870, author Frank Scott makes this claim about trees: “Grounds, however, which are blessed with grand old trees should have them cherished lovingly – they are treasures that money cannot buy – and should be guarded with jealous care.”¹⁶ Two of the most impressive trees located in Maplewood enhance the beauty of the Martin family vault in the northwest quadrant. The two trees, both hemlocks, are located on the north end of the family plot, and shade the vault, making it a pleasant place to relax. In Pulaski, where intense temperatures and humidity makes it almost unbearable to be in the sun, trees were necessary to insure the comfort of the family members who came to visit the plots. There are a number of other family plots that are shaded, such as the Childers family plot located in the southeast quadrant.

The old African-American cemetery has fewer trees, mainly concentrated in the southwestern quadrant. The vast majority of the old African-American section of the cemetery is in the open sun. This lack of trees could be the result of various things. African Americans may not have had the cultural desire, the financial resources, or the time to create a park-like atmosphere. What we do know is that the 1878 Section reflects the following observation about black cemeteries: “African-American cemeteries have grave depressions and mounded graves. There is no attempt to make grass grow over the graves or create special vegetation. Trees, typically, are neither encouraged or discouraged.”¹⁷

¹⁵ Sloane, 93.

¹⁶ *Victorian Gardens: The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds: A Victorian Guidebook of 1870* by Frank J. Scott. New introduction by David Schuyler. (Watkins Glen, New York: Library of Victorian Culture American Life Foundation, 1982), 103.

¹⁷ *Grave Matters*, 11.

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Another important element of landscape architecture found in Old Maplewood are the two different forms of boundary markers used to create borders between some of the family plots. The first are the iron fences that surround a large number of family plots and the second the curbing or low-lying stonewalls. There is fencing surrounding the Martin, Stacy, McKissack, King, Mays, and Childers family plots. The fences are made of wrought iron and represent various styles and types, such as the Martin's elaborate Gothic-style fence, the Stacy's delicately designed fence that incorporates a floral pattern, or the McKissack's understated fence with no detailing. Considering that these fences date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, they are in excellent condition; however, some of the gates are missing.

The other form of barrier, the low lying stone outline of a plot or curbing, appears on many more family plots than the fences do. Most of the stone used for curbing in the old white section is marble or granite. The tops of most of the curbs are only three inches off the ground. Some of the plots outlined thusly have stones standing vertically at the entrance of the family plot, making an opening to walk through. These vertical stones stand approximately six inches off the ground. While the stone borders are useful in determining what plot belongs to which family, they do not enclose the lots the way a fence does. The barrier is harder to notice and unlike a fence, seems to have come in one style only. Some of the family plots in the African-American 1878 section have granite curbing, but there is no extant fencing.

Overall, Maplewood is an excellent and intact example of a historic cemetery that has evolved over time and represents changing styles and traditions of burying. These traditions are reflected in the layout and design of the different sections, the changing styles of tombstones, and the prevalence of religious symbolism throughout the cemetery. The cemetery also has great historic significance in the areas of social, settlement, and African-American history of Pulaski. The cemetery is a microcosm of people and events important to the development of the area as well as to the social stratification found within nineteenth and twentieth century southern culture.

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X. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Maplewood Cemetery is approximately one-half mile east of the city square in Pulaski, Tennessee. It is a portion of county parcel 13 documented in the attached Giles County Tax Map 97h as shown on the attached map. The nominated property is approximately 16 acres bordered on the south by Cleveland Street, on the west by South Rhodes Street, on the east by Sam Davis Avenue, and on the north by public land on East College Street.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain historic property associated with the Maplewood Cemetery and currently owned by the City of Pulaski. The eastern portion of the cemetery known as New Maplewood is excluded from the nomination due to lack of integrity.

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Maplewood Cemetery
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PHOTOGRAPHS

Maplewood Cemetery, Pulaski, TN

Photos by: Carrie Barske and Leslie Sharp
MTSU Center for Historic Preservation

Date: May 2004 and February 2005

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, TN

Elizabeth Hays, facing south (Old Maplewood)
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AL King Vault, facing west (Old Maplewood)
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John Goff Ballentine, facing southeast (Old Maplewood)
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South Rhodes entrance, facing east (Old Maplewood)
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Charles Anna Carter, facing west (Old Maplewood)
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Detail: Planter, Jackson plot, facing south (Old Maplewood)
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Detail Julia Flournoy, facing southwest (Old Maplewood)
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Martin vault, facing northwest (Old Maplewood)
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Booker Shapard, facing east (Old Maplewood)
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John C. Brown, facing north (Old Maplewood)
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Cox Children, detail, facing east (Old Maplewood)
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McKissack plot fence, facing southwest (Old Maplewood)
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Jno. B. White, facing west (Old Maplewood)
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James Sumpter, facing northeast (Old Maplewood)
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Examples of smaller headstones in Old Maplewood, facing southeast
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PJ Clark, facing east/southeast (Old Maplewood)
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Mary and David Martin, facing east (Old Maplewood)
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George Percy, facing east (Old Maplewood)
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Andrew Ballentine, facing east (Old Maplewood)
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Confederate troops, facing southeast (Old Maplewood), Cemetery Storage Buildings in
background
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110th, 111th USCI, facing west (1878 Section)
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James Tol Grant, facing west (Old Maplewood)
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Alice White, facing west (Old Maplewood)
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M.M. Thomas, facing east (Old Maplewood)
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Old Maplewood, facing east
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Old White Maplewood, facing northeast
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Old White Maplewood, facing north/northwest
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Confederate burial section, facing east
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Old Maplewood and white section of 1878 Section, western border, facing north
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White portion of 1878 Section, showing road system, facing east. Cemetery buildings in background
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Overview of 1878 African-American Section, facing southeast
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Southwest corner of Maplewood Cemetery, 1878 African-American Section, facing northeast
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Southern portion of 1878 African-American Section, facing east
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Overview of 1878 Section and Old Maplewood from southern border, facing north-northwest
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