

DAYTON HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY

ASSESSOR MAP NUMBER: 4-3-17 DD TAX LOT NUMBER: 2700

PLAT NAME: NA LOT: NA BLOCK: NA

PROPERTY ADDRESS: South end of Third Street

CURRENT OWNER: Dayton School District #28
801 Ferry, Dayton OR

ORIGINAL OWNER: Joel Palmer Contributing: 1

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: NA

STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE: NA YEAR BUILT: 1846

HISTORIC NAME: Brookside Cemetery HISTORIC USE: Cemetery

CURRENT NAME: Brookside Cemetery CURRENT USE: Cemetery

CONDITION: Good ALTERATIONS: NA

PHOTOGRAPH ROLL-FRAME: 4-5 INTERVIEWEE: _____

RESOURCE NUMBER: 8 RECORDER: Rees DATE: 11-10-84

SITE DESCRIPTION: _____ THEME: Exploration/Settlement

The Brookside Cemetery is located at the south end of Third Street, near the eastern edge of the Original Town of Dayton. The cemetery is sited on level ground in a forest clearing at the edge of Palmer Creek. The creek which is engulfed with riparian vegetation borders the cemetery to the east and south. Highway 221 curves around the northern edge of the cemetery; to the west is flat pasture land.

The cemetery, which is irregular in shape, is laid out on a true east-west, north-south grid, and therefore, at an angle to the city grid which parallels the Yamhill River. There are 24 rows of plots which run east-west with most of the headstones facing south. Many of the family plots have low concrete curbs surrounding them and are planted with older ornamental shrubs, such as roses, spirea, lilac and orange eye butterfly bushes, and fruit trees. The older part of the cemetery is towards the north with many of the family plots of early settlers located there.

3.41 acres.

10/494400/5007040

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Brookside Cemetery was first used in 1846 for the burial of Riley Smith, the son of Andrew D. and Polly Smith. His brother, Almond, was also buried there in 1849. Both of these burials preceed the date of 1850 which is given as the date Joel Palmer donated the land for cemetery use. It is surmised that prior to Palmer's acquisition of part of Andrew Smith's Donation Land Claim in 1850, the Smith's had used the area as a family burying ground. Andrew Smith, on whose original D.L.C. the cemetery was located, was the older brother of Riley and Almond. In 1874, Palmer officially deeded the cemetery to the Dayton School District, the only officially organized body in the community at the time. The deed specified that anyone could be buried free in the cemetery.

A number of early settlers, early Oregon noteworthies, and members of Oregon's first provisional government are buried there. The graves of Medorum Crawford (1819-1891), Francis Fletcher (1814-1871), and Pleasant Armstrong (1810-1853) have all been specially marked by the D.A.R., with the following inscription, "To honor one of those patriots who on May 2, 1843 founded the provisional government at Champoeg, Oregon". The Brookside Cemetery is also the final resting place of Joel Palmer (1810-1881), Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Oregon Territory, founder of the City of Dayton with Andrew Smith, and State Senator, (Resources #15 & 31); Stephen Coffin (1807-1882), an early promoter of Portland, (Resource #26); and Andrew D. Smith (1792-1852), a D.L.C. settler southwest of Dayton and father of Andrew Smith, the founder with Joel Palmer of the City of Dayton. Christopher Taylor, a close associate of Palmer's, the leading merchant in Dayton's early years and the first Free Mason initiated on the west coast is also buried here; his headstone reads "we part upon the square below to meet in heaven again."

SOURCES:

- .Cemetery Survey, Brookside, Dayton, Oregon.
- ."Some Chapters in the Oregon History", Dayton Reading Club, 1955, p. 16.
- ."State Of Oregon Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings: Brookside Cemetery", Yamhill County, Stephen Beckham, 1976.
- ."Yamhill County Cultural Resources Inventory: Brookside Cemetery", Yamhill County Planning Department, 1984.
- ."Dictionary of Oregon History, Edit. Howard Corning, Portland, 1956, p.57 & 191.

SIGNIFICANCE: Brookside Cemetery is significant as one of the oldest cemeteries in Yamhill County, containing the graves of many of Dayton's noteworthy citizens. First used in 1846, it was donated to the Dayton School District in 1874, by Joel Palmer. Many of the original tombstones remain intact, and for several of the settlers buried here, this is all that remains as a testimonial to the settler's contributions in Dayton, and Yamhill County. Brookside Cemetery is also significant as a cultural landscape. It is laid out on a true east-west and north-south grid, angle to the city grid plan. Concrete curbs line many of the 25 family plots. Older, ornamental shrubs, such as roses, spirea, lilac, and orange butterfly bushes, and fruit trees are amongst the plots. The cemetery is in a beautiful setting, at the south end of Third Street. Criterion b,c. Despite the normal exclusion of cemeteries, Brookside Cemetery meets National Register Criterion b, chiefly, because it is the final resting place of town founders and pioneers and members of the Provisional Government of Oregon for whom associated properties are no longer extant above ground. The cemetery is eligible under Criterion c as a compact cultural landscape reflecting 19th Century burial practices and containing an array of Victorian plant materials.