

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97000792

Date Listed: 8/1/97


Columbia Cemetery
Property Name

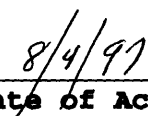
Boulder
County

CO
State

Multiple Name

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.


Signature of the Keeper


Date of Action

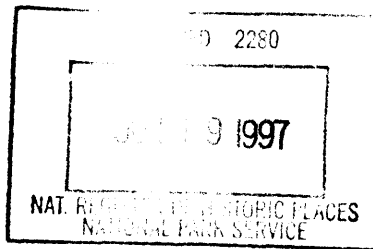
=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 5, Classification: The cemetery is a historic district.
Resource Count: The nomination does not account for the burial markers or the system of roads and paths. The correct resource count = 4 contributing structures and 1 contributing site. This information was confirmed by Suzanne Doggett of the Colorado SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 Columbia Cemetery
other names/site number Pioneer Cemetery, Pioneer Gateway, 5BL571

2. Location

street & number 9th Street, between Pleasant Avenue & College Avenue [N/A] not for publication
city or town Boulder [N/A] vicinity
state Colorado code CO county Boulder code 013 zip code 80302

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 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 [].)

James Edward Hartman State Historic Preservation Officer June 17, 1997
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society
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
See continuation sheet [].

Signature of the Keeper Date
Beth Boland 8/1/97

Columbia Cemetery
Name of Property

Boulder County/CO
County/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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

0 0 buildings

0 0 sites

4 0 structures

0 0 objects

4 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.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary/cemetery
Landscape/park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation
walls

roof
other Sandstone, Marble, Bronze

Narrative Description

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

Columbia Cemetery

Boulder County/CO

Name of Property

County/State

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 patterns of our history.
- B** Property is 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 Bibliographic 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):

- 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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Art

Periods of Significance

1870-1947

Significant Dates

1870

1910

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other:

Name of repository:

City of Boulder

Columbia Cemetery

Boulder/CO

Name of Property

County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 475760 4428640
Zone Easting Northing

3. 13 475970 4428380
Zone Easting Northing

2. 13 475970 4428640
Zone Easting Northing

4. 13 475760 4428380
Zone Easting Northing

[] 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 Helen Hudson, Historic Preservationist (Edited by S. Doggett)

organization Winter & Company date 12/31/96

street & number 775 Poplar Avenue telephone 303-440-8445

city or town Boulder state CO zip code 80304

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 Boulder (Contact: Doug Hawthorne, Parks and Recreation Department)

street & number Iris Center, 3198 Broadway Center telephone 303-413-7200

city or town Boulder state CO zip code 80304

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 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 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 20503.

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COLUMBIA CEMETERY
Boulder County, CO

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DESCRIPTION

Columbia Cemetery was established by Boulder's Columbia Masonic Lodge in 1870, on open prairie located approximately one-half mile south of Boulder's early downtown core. The 10.5 acre cemetery site slopes down to the north, resulting in a 26' drop in elevation from the southern to the northern boundary. Over the years, the University of Colorado campus and the late 19th and early 20th century residential neighborhoods of Flatirons and University Hill developed and expanded nearby. Nevertheless, the area immediately surrounding the cemetery remains open in feeling. To the north, across Pleasant Street, a narrow lane with no curb or sidewalk, is Mattie Dean Park, an undeveloped Boulder Open Space. The Flatirons Elementary School and playground is to the west, and there are clear views of the Rocky Mountains that form Boulder's dramatic backdrop.

Although exhibiting some signs of neglect and vandalism, this locally significant cultural landscape retains sufficient integrity in terms of location, setting, feeling, and association to convey its historic use as Boulder's oldest cemetery. There are relatively few grave markers associated with burials outside of the 1870-1947 Period of Significance. The cemetery's varied and extensive collection of late 19th and early 20th century funerary art exhibits a high degree of integrity in terms of design, materials, and workmanship.

The cemetery is composed of rectilinear burial plots, predominantly oriented east/west, arranged according to a grid system. There are individual plots, as well as plots where extended families have been buried. The plots are organized into quadrants delineated by gravel roads dating from 1915. The roads, intersecting at right angles, provide vehicular and pedestrian access to the grave sites. The 1860 New Anderson Ditch runs east and west through the site. The cemetery is enclosed with a combination of fencing. The main entry point is through the Pioneer Gateway at the corner of 9th and Pleasant.

From 1910 to 1965 the cemetery was owned by the Park Cemetery Association. Although funding maintenance and improvements was a constant struggle, by the early 1930s, the overall character of the cemetery had evolved from its early rustic condition into its present more park-like appearance. During 1912, the site was seeded with grass and surrounded by wire cattle-guard fencing. Wrought iron fencing was installed in 1913. The existing gravel road system dates from 1915. Circa 1927, there appears to have been a major tree planting effort. Since 1965, the cemetery has been under the ownership of the City of Boulder and is administered as a part of the city's Parks and Recreation Department. The cemetery was designated as a local historic landmark in 1977. A Preservation Master Plan was completed in 1996.

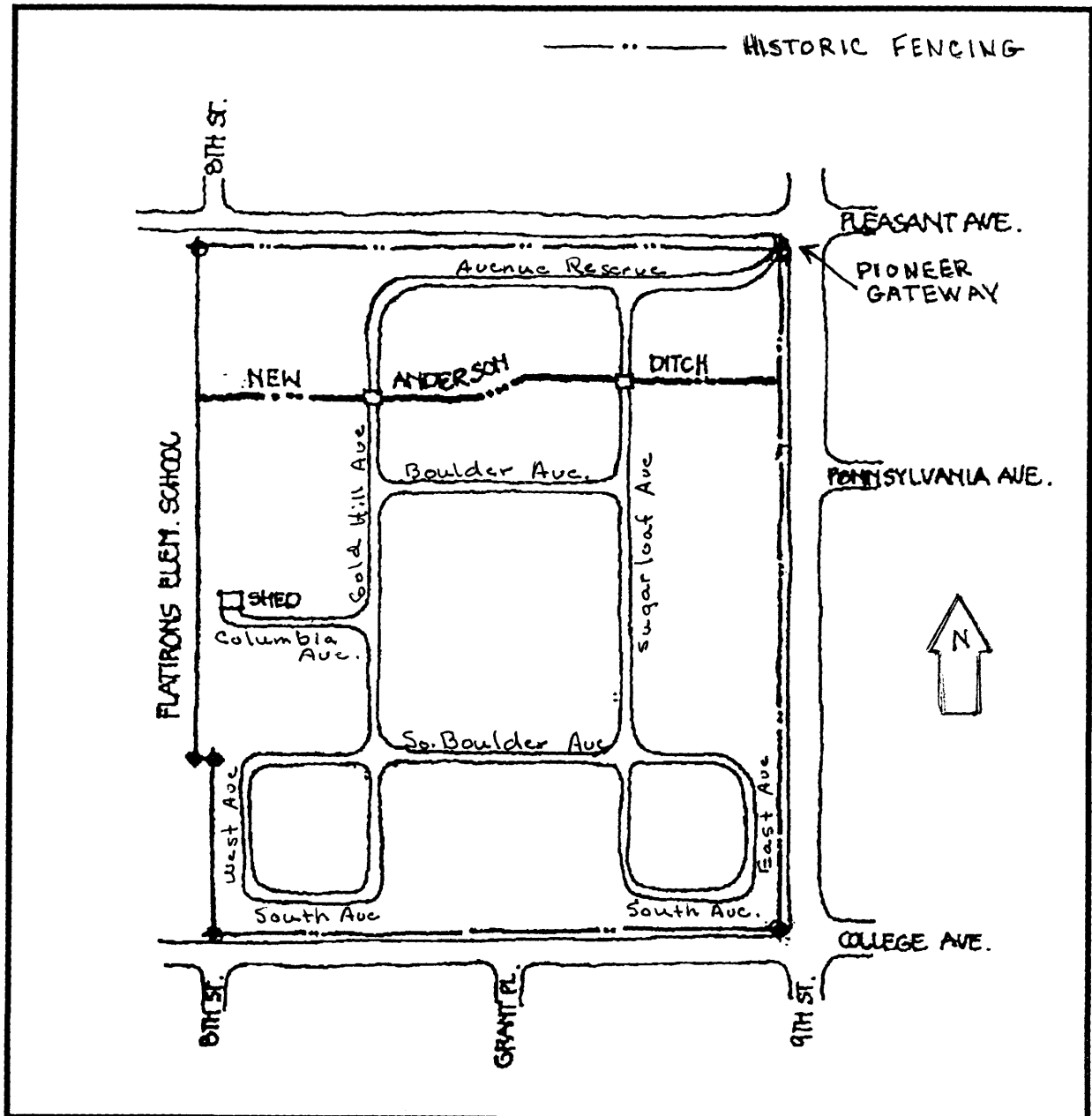
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SKETCH MAP



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FEATURES

Pioneer Gateway - The gateway is a contributing structure. Constructed in 1913, at the northeast corner, the gateway provides the only vehicular access to the cemetery. It is comprised of two random coursed rustic stone piers spaced 12 feet apart and two 6 feet wide, ornately scrolled historic wrought iron gates. A two-foot high stone wall extends from the north pier northwest approximately 4 feet and then west approximately 70 feet. A wrought iron fence is set on top of the wall. A low stone retaining wall extends south from the south column approximately 24 feet.

Although they have experienced some weathering, the stone columns and walls appear to be in stable condition. The words "Pioneer Gateway" are found near the top of the south column, and the words "Columbia Cemetery" are on the north column. The entry gates have been damaged and bent and are chain locked. Iris beds installed in the 1970s are located directly in from the gateway columns.

Perimeter Fencing - The fencing is a contributing structure. On the north, south and east the historic fence is of wrought iron and totals approximately 1,945 feet in length. This 1913 fence is approximately three feet tall and has 1/2" x 1/2" vertical pointed iron poles. Support posts are located at 8'4" intervals along the fence and are capped with spearhead finials. While the fence is a simplified version of the often elaborately detailed Edwardian fence, it does provide an indication of the exuberance, artistic expression and tastes of its time.

The fence exhibits evidence of neglect, vandalism, and damage from automobiles that have strayed from the road. During the 1960s, a 1/8"x 1 1/2" strip of black painted metal was welded along the top of the pointed iron poles in response to an injury that occurred when a bicyclist fell onto the fence. Approximately 17% of the fence has been evaluated as being beyond restoration and will have to be replaced.

At this time, there are three major points of pedestrian access into the cemetery. To the south of the Pioneer Gateway, along 9th Street, 6 feet of the wrought iron fencing was removed in the 1970s when the gates were locked in order to restrict vehicular access. A sloping flagstone path, with railroad tie edging, provides for pedestrian entry. Restoration of the fencing along 9th Street is now underway. Along College Avenue, toward the southeast corner, the original three-foot wide wrought iron gate was stolen sometime after 1977. The squared gate posts, of intricately patterned open ironwork, remain in place. At the southwest corner, there is an opening in the fence. Early plat maps do not indicate a gate at this corner, although neighborhood pedestrian traffic now is frequent.

On the west, the wrought iron fence was removed when Flatirons Elementary School was constructed in 1956. It was replaced with non-contributing aluminum pole and chain link fencing. Early plat maps indicate a three-foot wide gate to the south of the northwest corner. While a north/south drainage ditch was just west of the original wrought iron fence, the 1956 fencing was installed just east of the ditch

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in order to protect the school children. At the northwest corner there is an opening between the corner of the school fence and the northern wrought iron fencing.

Roads and Paths - The gravel roads within the cemetery were constructed in 1915. The road widths average approximately 10 feet and are located within 25 foot-wide rights-of-way. The east/west roads from north to south were named: Avenue Reserve, North Avenue, Boulder Avenue, Columbia Avenue, South Boulder Avenue, and South Avenue. The north/south roads from west to east were named: West Avenue, Sugarloaf Avenue, Central Avenue, Gold Hill Avenue, and East Avenue.

In some instances, pedestrians have worn informal paths within the cemetery. Primarily, these paths are found at the southwest corner, from the gate opening northeast to the intersection of South Boulder Avenue and Gold Hill Avenue; at the northwest corner from the opening between the fences, southeast to Gold Hill Avenue, crossing the New Anderson Ditch; and along both the north and south sides of the New Anderson Ditch, between Gold Hill and Sugarloaf Avenues.

New Anderson Ditch - The ditch is a contributing structure. Constructed in 1860, the ditch predates the cemetery and runs west to east through the property. Water flows into the ditch from mid March through October. Within the cemetery, the banks recently were stabilized with large river rocks. Approximately one third of the ditch has been lined with rocks, with the highest concentration located where the ditch curves between Gold Hill and Sugarloaf Avenues. The water flows under Gold Hill and Sugar Loaf Avenues through corrugated metal culverts that are informally dressed with rough cut concrete slabs.

Maintenance Shed - The shed is a contributing structure. Located on the west edge, this 15' x 20' shed is a strictly utilitarian building of vertical board and batten siding painted brown. It has a wood shingled gable roof. There is one large door on the south and a standard size door on the east. There are no windows. Although the exact construction date is unknown, an 1882 plat map indicates a "tool house" of the same dimensions, with an outhouse to the west, located in the same spot.

Grave Markers - The grave markers at Columbia Cemetery provide a record of late 19th and early 20th century burial practices and commemorate a cross section of the town's citizenry. The total number of burials is unknown, as is the number of stones that may have been removed. The vast majority of burials occurred within the Period of Significance. While there are numerous ornate markers, there are no mausoleums or truly "grand" monuments such as those associated with the much larger and more formally designed cemeteries of the era. Since 1965, burials have been restricted to only those with proof of prior plot ownership.

During 1993 and 1994, the markers were inventoried by Volunteers for Historic Boulder, Inc. The inventory indicated that there are approximately 3,100 extant markers. In general, their styles and materials reflect the assumed dates of their placement. There is little evidence of patterns of concentration relating to particular styles or materials. As might be expected, a majority of the markers

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were recorded as exhibiting some degree of weathering or damage due to natural erosion, growth of vegetation, shifting soil, or vandalism.

The earliest marker dates from the 1870s. The predominant materials include: granite, marble and sandstone. Granite at 57% of the total is the most prevalent. Marble accounts for 33%, and 4% are sandstone. The remaining 6% includes: limestone, concrete, white bronze, sheet metal and fiberglass. A cluster of Civil War veteran's graves, with their simple marble markers, is located in the southwest corner of the cemetery. A potter's field, just to the north, includes both simple and more elaborate markers.

Plant Materials - Over the years, a variety of plant materials have been added to the grounds, typically in what appears to be an unorganized manner. The earliest photos of the cemetery show small trees and ornamental shrubs planted around family plots. Many of the spruce and western cedar appear to date from a concerted planting effort in 1912. Mature Ash represent over 33% of the present cemetery forest and most likely are the result of a Park Cemetery Association planting effort in 1927. Many of these trees stand adjacent to the gravel roads. Although it is difficult to see a distinct pattern, it may be surmised that the Association hoped to establish a street tree pattern within a cemetery park-like setting.

Large deciduous trees within the cemetery include: Ash, Silver Maple, Bur Oak, Linden, Siberian Elm, White Poplar, Box elder, Catalpa, American Elm, Black Locust, Norway Maple, and Hackberry. Large evergreen trees include: Cedar, Juniper, Blue Spruce, and Douglas Fir. Small ornamental trees include: Crabapple, Peach, Plum, and Willow.

In the spring of 1994, the City of Boulder's Urban Forestry Department conducted an inventory and evaluation of the condition of the trees. The inventory identified a total of 342, of which 21% were in "good" condition, 51% were in "fair" condition, 20% were in "poor" condition, and 8% were diseased or dead. Subsequently, these 26 trees were removed and the remaining 316 were pruned. A heavy, early snow in September 1995 required that a second pruning be done to prevent further disease and damage.

The landscape understory includes ornamental shrubs such as: lilac, spirea, rose, juniper, and iris. Iris beds, planted in the 1970s, are found at the Pioneer Gateway, between the fence and sidewalk along 9th Street, and outside the fence at each support post along College Avenue. In general, the turf grasses are not well established, and weeds are particularly visible when the dandelions bloom.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Columbia Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with Boulder's early Social History and under Criterion C for its significant collection of Funerary Art. The property meets Criteria Consideration D. Dating from 1870, it is Boulder's oldest cemetery and the burial place of numerous persons important in Boulder's history. Its collection of funerary art includes a wide variety of grave markers exhibiting the artistry, craftsmanship, and symbolic values associated with late 19th and early 20th century burial practices.

Criterion A - Social History

Beginning in the late 1850s, the front range of Colorado's Rocky Mountains attracted miners and ranchers in search of land and wealth. As the front range experienced an influx of pioneers, Boulder, the county seat of Boulder County, grew and prospered. It became the home of the University of Colorado in 1877.

Before 1870, Boulder did not have a designated burial ground. Bodies were interred in the wild or on the crest of Lover's Hill (also known as Valmont Butte) described in 1869 as "...that bleak and barren bluff—destitute of everything but desolation." As a result of the apparent need for more pleasant cemetery space, Columbia Cemetery was established on land purchased by Columbia Lodge No. 14, A.F. and A.M., a Masonic order. It is believed that the first burial, that of Redmond Fisher, occurred in 1870. Shortly, other bodies were moved to Columbia Cemetery. In August 1870, the plots in the northern portion were sold to another fraternal organization, the Odd Fellows.

Inscriptions on the grave markers in Columbia Cemetery provide a glimpse into Boulder's early history. The cross section of people buried there represents a diverse group, ranging from Boulder County's pioneering miners, cattle drivers, and ranchers to university professors and prominent local businessmen. There are war veterans, members of fraternal organizations, and young and old victims of epidemics.

For many years, Columbia Cemetery served as a special place to honor veterans, especially on Memorial Day, when crowds gathered to adorn graves and eulogize the dead. During its early years, the Boulder Chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic honored Columbia Cemetery's Civil War veterans with annual parades terminating at the cemetery.

A sampling of prominent person's significant in Boulder's history buried in Columbia Cemetery includes:

Anthony Arnett (1819-1903) - Born in France, Arnett settled in Boulder in 1864, becoming a town trustee in 1871. One of the donators of land for the University of Colorado, Arnett operated the Arnett Hotel on Pearl Street.

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Eben G. Fine (1865-1957) - Known as "Boulder's First Citizen," Fine was a pharmacist who spent much of his time immersed in civic duties. He spent two months out of each year traveling around the country promoting Boulder and the Rocky Mountains.

Tom Horn (1860-1903) - Although, Horn never lived in Boulder, he was laid to rest in Columbia Cemetery next to his brother. Horn, well known in western lore, became an Indian scout for the U.S. Government, spoke fluent Apache, was a friend of Geronimo, and was hung for allegedly killing a young boy in Wyoming.

Mary Lowery (1856-1941) - Dr. Lowery received her medical education at the University of Michigan and moved to Boulder in 1889 with her husband Charles, Librarian at the University of Colorado. Lowery, one of the first women to practice medicine in Boulder, set up a tent behind her home/office which mostly likely was used for tubercular patients.

Andrew Macky (1834-1907) - An accomplished builder, Macky constructed the first frame house in Boulder. He also helped construct the first schoolhouse, the first brick business block and the first iron store front. Macky, one of the founders of the University of Colorado, donated money for its Macky Auditorium.

Mary Rippon (1850-1935) - Rippon was the University of Colorado's third faculty member and is thought to be the first woman in the country to teach in a state university. Within three years she became a full professor and head of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature, positions she held until her retirement in 1910. Rippon tirelessly raised funds for the university and local libraries and championed cultural growth for women.

Joseph Bevier Sturtevant (1851-1910) - Always dressed in buckskins, and referred to as "Rocky Mountain Joe," Sturtevant gained fame as a preeminent local photographer and painter who documented much of Boulder's early history.

Clinton Munroe Tyler (1834-1886) - Lured west in 1860 by reports of gold near Central City, Tyler set up a stamp mill at Black Hawk. Along with James P. Maxwell, he built the Boulder Valley and Central City Toll Road, the first road through Boulder Canyon.

Sylvanius Wellman (1834-1896) - After arriving in Boulder in 1859 with his two brothers, Wellman planted a crop of turnips and is recognized as Boulder's first farmer.

Criterion C - Funerary Art

Dating from the 1870s, Columbia Cemetery's collection of funerary art, is significant for the insight it provides into cultural and sociological aspects of Boulder's history. The wide variety of styles, materials, and degree of craftsmanship illustrate evolving late 19th and early 20th century popular and

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personal tastes. In many cases, the markers also indicate the socioeconomic status of those commemorated. While many of the markers are somewhat ornate and well-crafted, there are no examples of the mausoleums or truly "grand" monuments found in the larger and more formally designed cemeteries associated with the era.

Some of the markers were fabricated locally, while others were ordered from distant suppliers. In particular, those of white bronze (zinc) are representative of a gravestone material and fabrication technique popular in the late 19th century. Most were produced between 1886 and 1908 at a Des Moines, Iowa subsidiary of the Monumental Bronze Company. Found throughout the cemetery, some of these hollow monuments are fairly simple, but others are intricately shaped and detailed.

Somewhat concentrated in the southwestern corner are the plain marble markers of Civil War Veterans. Nearby is a "Potter's Field" with markers ranging from rough slabs of concrete to examples of local sandstone, carefully lettered and crafted. One concrete example has colored marbles, pressed into the cement, spelling out the name of a young girl. Other examples of vernacular artistry include several markers fashioned from plumbing pipe and sheet metal that are scattered throughout the cemetery.

A few half-carved stones depict "order out of chaos," while there is only one example of a child's marker that includes a small porcelain portrait of the child. Several poured concrete "Woodmen of the World" markers are particularly striking.

Historic Background

When Columbia Cemetery was established, it was located on the edge of town, one-half mile south of downtown Boulder. Historic photographs indicate that Columbia Cemetery began as an unfenced, open field of prairie grass, showing no signs of a unified landscape plan. Because of the abundance of wild grasses and the presence of the New Anderson Ditch, the cemetery offered prime grazing for nearby cattle. According to a December 7, 1869 article in the *Boulder News*, "The Masonic Fraternity has secured ten acres of land for cemetery purposes, near the entrance of Gregory Canyon, opposite town, at a cost of \$30.00 per acre. They expect to fence and improve it by spring." This did not happen, and families soon started building fences and curbs around their plots to keep the cattle out.

As Lynette Strangstand, a cemetery historian and conservator, points out, Victorian-era cemeteries represented places designed for contemplation, enhanced by inspiring views and natural features. As such, they were designed "...often with enclosed spaces for contemplation and broad vistas to view the sublime in nature." Although lacking such exuberant Victorian-era landscaping, Columbia Cemetery, with its proximity to the Rocky Mountains to the west, did not need to fabricate a sense of drama.

Although Columbia Cemetery was established when the "rural cemetery" movement was at its prime, its dry prairie location made it unsuited for the lush, elaborate landscapes so popular in the eastern United States. However, horticultural embellishment emerged as families grew shrubbery, rose bushes,

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and perennials in family plots. By 1912 a wire fence enclosed the cemetery, and a small stile was constructed in the northeast corner.

Columbia Cemetery developed based on a geometric grid, with plots arranged along rectilinear paths and drives. Unlike the "rural" or "picturesque" cemeteries of the east, which were based on the English gardening tradition and included curvilinear paths and swaths of green grass, Columbia Cemetery's exhibited a simple, functional design. Over time, the cemetery assumed a role as a neighborhood landmark and a popular place for visitation.

In its early days, the cemetery demanded only routine maintenance. In 1886, the Masons appointed a caretaker to plant shrubbery and flowers, repair the fence, and maintain the lawn. In 1888, a boardwalk built from the city limits up 9th Street provided better access to the cemetery. Despite these efforts to beautify the cemetery and make it more accessible, there were difficulties. For example, problems existed with identifying ownership and locating burial sites. In some instances, double burials confused the identification of plots. In other cases, families buried loved ones without markers, intending to later place a tombstone on the grave. The condition of the cemetery began to decline, and in reaction to its deteriorated state, concerned families moved ninety-one bodies to the Green Mountain Cemetery located further to the southeast, shortly after it opened in 1904.

Park Cemetery Association

By 1910, Boulderites had become outraged at the appearance of Columbia Cemetery. As the cemetery evolved from a field of random burial sites to a more formal burial ground, it required increasing care. Citizens concerned with establishing a municipal park system also felt that the cemetery merited improvements and additional maintenance. That same year, a group of concerned citizens formed the Park Cemetery Association. Its mission was to maintain and beautify the cemetery. James P. Maxwell, president of the association, sent a letter to the local newspaper, inviting support for the organization and expressing the significance of the cemetery:

That the grounds are in a deplorable state of dilapidation is patent to all eyes that have given them inspection. Weeds and grass have well-nigh obliterated all lines of demarcation between lots and avenues. Graves are, in many cases, overgrown and obscured...Unless remedial action is soon instituted, steps will be taken to declare the premises a nuisance, and with reasonable chance of success... In a large number of cases the owners occupy the graves without living relations to represent them or care for their lots, and we must here bear in mind that many of them were among the pioneers, whose early privations and struggles made Boulder possible and whose lives were devoted to its up-building. Thus the old cemetery is very intimately associated with the early history of our town... It is hoped the friends of the old time-honored cemetery, with its many sacred associations, will get together on a subscription list that will swell the grand

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total to \$15,000 or more and thereby insure the improvement and permanency of the grounds and their proper care for all time.

When the association assumed responsibility for the cemetery, the Masons and Odd Fellows relinquished title to the land. Apparently, it took the association a few years to organize and set priorities for the cemetery, as the local newspaper announced in 1912 that, "...the condition of the grounds [is] a humiliation and a disgrace."

As the Park Cemetery Association began to make improvements to the cemetery, it hired the first sexton, M. M. Parce, who served as the cemetery's landscaper and superintendent during the 1910s. After taking steps to upgrade the cemetery and to distinguish plot ownership, the Park Cemetery Association began offering unowned or forfeited plots for purchase.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, Harry Weaver maintained the grounds. In 1936, following his death after 18 years as sexton, Ben Grass assumed Weaver's duties until he died in 1961. By this time, the financially struggling association could no longer continue to support the cemetery. In 1965, the association suggested that the City of Boulder establish it as a historic park. Assets totaling \$5808 and title to the land were transferred to the city. Shortly thereafter, the city installed a sidewalk and curb along 9th Street. In 1977, the cemetery achieved local landmark designation. Unfortunately, this designation did not lead to regular maintenance, and Columbia Cemetery continued to experience neglect and vandalism.

In 1994, Boulder was awarded a grant from Colorado's State Historic Fund to develop a master plan. In 1995, a three-fourths time caretaker was hired, creating a presence at the cemetery that had not been there since Grass' death in 1961. As the cemetery began to be better maintained, and police surveillance increased, reported cases of overnight camping activities, all-night summer parties, littering and vandalism dropped significantly. The Preservation Master Plan was completed in 1996.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The S.E. 1/4 S.E. 1/4 N.E. 1/4 Sec. 36 T. 1 N.R. 71W. Except a strip of land 20 ft. in width along E. side of the whole length thereof. Beginning 10 chains N. of S.E. Cor. of S.E. 1/4 N.E. 1/4 Sec.36 T. 1 N.R. 71 W. the same being N.E. Cor. of Cemetery Grounds, thence 80 ft. more or less to S. line of Pleasant Street, thence 5 chains W. 5 chains, thence S.80 ft. more or less to N. Line of Cemetery Grounds, thence E. 5 chains to beginning. Except so much of said land as will be needed and used for extending 9th St. from Smith's Addition to West Boulder. Beginning on N. line of Cemetery Grounds at a point 10 chains N. and 5 chains W. of S.E. Cor. of S.E. 1/4 N.E. 1/4 Sec 36 T. 1 N.R.71 W to N.W. thence 5 chains to N.W. Cor. of Cemetery Grounds, thence N. 80 ft. more or less to S. line of Pleasant St., thence E. 5 chains, thence S. 80ft. more or less to beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the land historically associated with the cemetery.

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information applies to all photographs.

Property: Columbia Cemetery
Location of Property: Boulder County, CO
Photographer: Nancy Blackwood
Date of Photographs: May 4, 1997 (except # 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 - during fall of 1995)
Location of Negatives: Blackwood & Company, 1065 9th Street, Boulder, CO 80302

1. Pioneer Gateway, view southwest
2. Detail of Pioneer Gateway, view southwest
3. Pioneer Gateway, view northeast
4. Historic fencing along 9th Street, view east
5. New Anderson Ditch, view west
6. Maintenance shed, view northwest
7. Overview to southwest, with Flatirons in background
8. Sampling of grave markers, view west
9. Sampling of grave markers, view west
10. One of few fenced family plots, view southwest
11. Civil War veterans, southwest corner, view west
12. One of few large grave markers, view west
13. Marker depicting Order Out of Chaos, view west
14. Woodmen of the World marker, view west
15. Damaged, flat white bronze marker, view west
16. White bronze marker, view west
17. White bronze marker, view west
18. Only example of child's marker with porcelain portrait, view west
19. One of several markers fashioned from plumbing pipe and sheet metal, view west
20. Concrete marker with imbedded marbles, view west

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USGS TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP
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