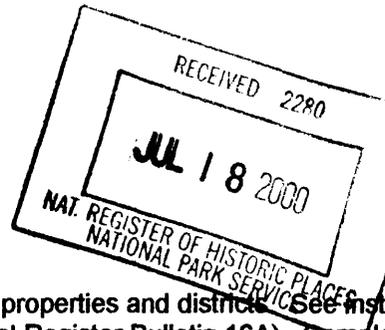


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

984



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name OAKLAND CEMETERY

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1600 North 15th Street  
city or town Fort Dodge  
state Iowa code IA

county Webster

code 187

not for publication N/A  
vicinity N/A  
zip code 50501

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 X locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia O'Connell DS/HPD 7-14-00  
Signature of certifying official Date

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 commenting or other official Date \_\_\_\_\_

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register Sunda McCallum 8/25/00  
See continuation sheet.  
determined eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

=====  
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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

=====  
6. Function or Use  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Rural Cemetery Movement

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation N/A
- roof N/A
- walls N/A
- other Stone

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

- 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.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1859-circa 1950

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1859

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Bagg, Egbert  
Pollock, William

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property 40 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>15 402240</u>	<u>4708280</u>	3	<u>15 402825</u> <u>4707880</u>
2	<u>15 402240</u>	<u>4708280</u>	4	<u>15 402240</u> <u>4707900</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 B. Diane Findlay, Freelance Writer

organization Fort Dodge Historic Preservation Commission

date 1/30/2000

street & number 1620 N. 11<sup>th</sup> St. telephone 515-576-1027

city or town Fort Dodge state IA zip code 50501

=====

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.

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

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

name City of Fort Dodge

street & number 819 First Avenue South          telephone 515-573-7144

city or town Fort Dodge          state IA          zip code 50501

=====  
**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 the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

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Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Oakland Cemetery consists of 40 acres of land north of Soldier Creek and west of 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Fort Dodge, Iowa. The cemetery contains an unknown number of burials, of which about 7,000 are marked with stone grave markers in a range of styles reflecting the Victorian influence and specific design trends of the period. It was planned as a natural park setting, with graves and monuments arranged around the natural contours of the hilly area overlooking Soldier Creek. A variety of oaks and other native trees dot the landscape. Access to the cemetery is from 15<sup>th</sup> Street; it was originally accessed from 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Other than some expected weathering of limestone and marble grave markers, the removal of a vault erected in 1882, the construction of a brick equipment shed circa 1930 and the addition of a frame equipment/maintenance shed in 1985, the property has undergone very little change since the period of significance.

RESOURCES

The Oakland Cemetery is classified as a district for the National Register. It contains eleven contributing resources. They include the overall landscape design, which is classified as a site; a potter's field, which is classified as a site; and nine individual or grouped gravesites or monuments, which are classified as objects.

1. Overall Landscape Design – Contributing Site

The forty-acre cemetery site, originally located on the outskirts of what would become the City of Fort Dodge, is made up of rolling hills overlooking Soldier Creek to the south. It includes the highest point in the Fort Dodge area. It was chosen as a cemetery for its park-like beauty. The curving roadways and clusters of gravesites were laid out around the natural contours of the land and the existing vegetation, creating a beautiful park setting reflective of the Rural Cemetery Movement of the mid-1800s. The most prestigious burial sites, and thus the most elaborate grave markers, are located on the highest ground, along with a monument to Civil War soldiers; a potter's field sits on the lowland near the Creek. The Cemetery is divided into 10 sections, separated by roadways that follow the contours of the site. They are identified by letter names, from A through J. All graves in the cemetery face either east or west, with many large family plots laid out around a central monument. Within these plots each grave faces the same direction, but markers are placed away from the monuments, toward the perimeter of the plots. To supplement the variety of oak and other native trees on the land, the founding Association planted evergreens and shrubs in the 1890s. Very little additional planting has been done. The cemetery borders on Soldier Creek to the south, on a housing area to the west, on 15<sup>th</sup> Street to the east, and on Corpus Christi Catholic Cemetery on the north. The perimeter is not fenced except on the west, where a wire fence separates it from the housing development. Three cemetery entrance sculptures along 15<sup>th</sup> Street, installed in 1998, are not from the period of significance and count as noncontributing objects.

2. Civil War Monument (1\*) – Contributing Object

On the high ground of the cemetery stands a monument to the unknown soldiers of the Civil War. It was created in 1900 by local sculptor William Pollock, who was a Civil War soldier himself. The red granite monument takes the form of a life-sized Civil War soldier on a high pedestal, facing the east with his rifle at parade rest. It is inscribed with these words, "Erected in memory of unknown soldiers of the Union army, 1861-65, By Fort Donelson Post No 236 Fort Dodge and citizens of Webster County, Iowa, Unveiled May 30, 1900." Its unveiling was part of a large and impressive Decoration Day ceremony.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

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Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa

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While perhaps not a masterful work of art in its own right, the monument expresses the intense and abiding interest of the citizens of Fort Dodge in their Civil War history, and in honoring the sacrifice of those who served and died in that War. It is located in Section D.

**3. Potter's Field (2\*) – Contributing Site**

The potter's field sits on the lowland near Soldier Creek. It includes 5-6 acres of ground, subject to flooding. In it are located close to 500 burials, about 10% of which are marked in some way. Most markers are homemade by family members, out of concrete or brick and tile. Six graves are marked with upright white stone markers. Unlike the rest of the cemetery, the graves in the potter's field are all laid out in rows facing east. There is little vegetation, due to the lowland conditions. Burial in the potter's field was, and still is, based on inability to pay. From the earliest days to the present, indigents without family or means, or those whose relatives claim poverty, have been buried in the potter's field. The owners of the cemetery provide the necessary services without charge.

**4. Tree-Stump Marker (3\*) – Contributing Object**

Seven tree stump grave markers can be found in Oakland Cemetery. The basic form of this type of marker symbolizes a life cut short. An interesting example of the style, due to its very good condition and the unusual use of separate trunks (Elizabeth's trunk is slightly shorter) for husband and wife, is a double tree-stump marking the graves of Peter Simmons (1803-1863) and his wife Elizabeth Simmons (1806-1882). It is made of Indiana limestone, and is decorated with a rose (symbolizing love, wisdom and beauty), ivy (for memory, fidelity and immortality) and ferns (representing spiritual victory). A third short tree stump structure stands between the two trunks as a flower vase. Peter died in the Civil War. The grouping stands in section G.

**5. Major William Williams' Grave (4\*) – Contributing Object**

Major William Williams, founder of Fort Dodge, died in 1874. His large upright grave marker of white granite is located at plot 100 of section H. The inscription reads, simply, "Major William Williams, Founder of Fort Dodge."

**6. Black Civil War Soldiers' Graves (5\*) – Contributing Object**

Twin white Georgia granite tablet markers with segmented tops mark the graves of two black Civil War soldiers. The U.S. Government provided the markers in recent years, and their presentation with the accompanying metal military marker and small cloth American flag is standard. The inscriptions read, "Joseph Kinner, Co H, 1 USCI, 1890," and "Joseph A. Palmer, Serg Co F, 54 Mass Inf. (no date)" They are located in section D, plot 131.

**7. Dr. Thomas Fitzhugh Grayson's Grave (6\*) – Contributing Object**

This Confederate doctor, Field & Staff, 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, is buried in Section H, plot 119. The gray granite monument on a base, inscribed only with his name, marks his grave. Grayson died in 1903, after living and practicing medicine in Fort Dodge for many years following the Civil War.

**8. Agnes Grayson's Grave (7\*) – Contributing Object**

A small granite square top tablet marker on a base inscribed with "Faithful Colored Servant" marks the grave of Agnes Grayson, servant in the home of the Dolliver family, who died in 1935. The marker sits at the edge of the hilltop overlooking the Creek, on the periphery of the Dolliver family plot in section E of the Cemetery. Our research shows no connection between Agnes Grayson and Dr. Grayson, named above.

**9. Jonathan P. Dolliver Grave (8\*) – Contributing Object**

The former U.S. Senator's large family monument stands on the high ground of section E. It is ornamented with garlands and a classic Greek key design, and features four large pillars. The inscription  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

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**Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa**  
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on Dolliver's headstone reads, "Jonathan Prentiss Dolliver, Born Kingwood County West Virginia, February 6, 1858, Died 1910, Webster County, Iowa."

**10. William S. Kenyon Grave (9\*) – Contributing Object**

Also a former U.S. Senator, Kenyon died in 1933, and was buried in plot 142 of section D. His grave is marked by a white granite ornamented square top tablet marker on a base, reading, "William Squire Kenyon, 1869-1933, his wife Mary Judith Duncombe, 1867-1939. Rest is thine and sweet remembrance ours." The ornamentation includes lilies, symbolic of purity and humility, and two insignias which appear to represent association with social or military organizations.

**11. Governor Cyrus Clay Carpenter Grave (10\*) – Contributing Object**

Former Governor Carpenter died in 1898. His grave is located at plot 6 of section H, and marked by a gray granite horizontal, single block flat marker that reads, "Cyrus Clay Carpenter, 1830-1898." The great seal of the State of Iowa, marked with the dates of his years in office, is the only ornamentation.

**12. Two Entrance Sculptures (11\*) – Noncontributing Object**

Two entrance sculptures flank the main entrance to the Cemetery on 15<sup>th</sup> St. They take the form of white concrete vases set on square brick pedestals, inscribed with "Oakland Cemetery Est. 1866." These sculptures were placed in 1998 by the Oakland Beautification Group, precursor to the Fort Dodge Historic Preservation Committee, and are not significant to this nomination.

**13. Entrance Sculpture (12\*) – Noncontributing Object**

A third entrance sculpture, about 250' farther north, marks the south side of the secondary entrance, shared with Corpus Christi Cemetery, which is adjacent to the north of Oakland. This sculpture is similar to the others, but is topped by a white concrete globe rather than a vase.

**14. Shed (13\*) – Noncontributing Structure**

A red brick equipment shed, measuring about 13'X21'X10', was constructed just to the left inside the main entrance to Oakland, in about 1930. It included restrooms with toilets for men and women, which are no longer in use. It remains unchanged, but is not significant to this nomination.

**15. Shed (14\*) – Noncontributing Structure**

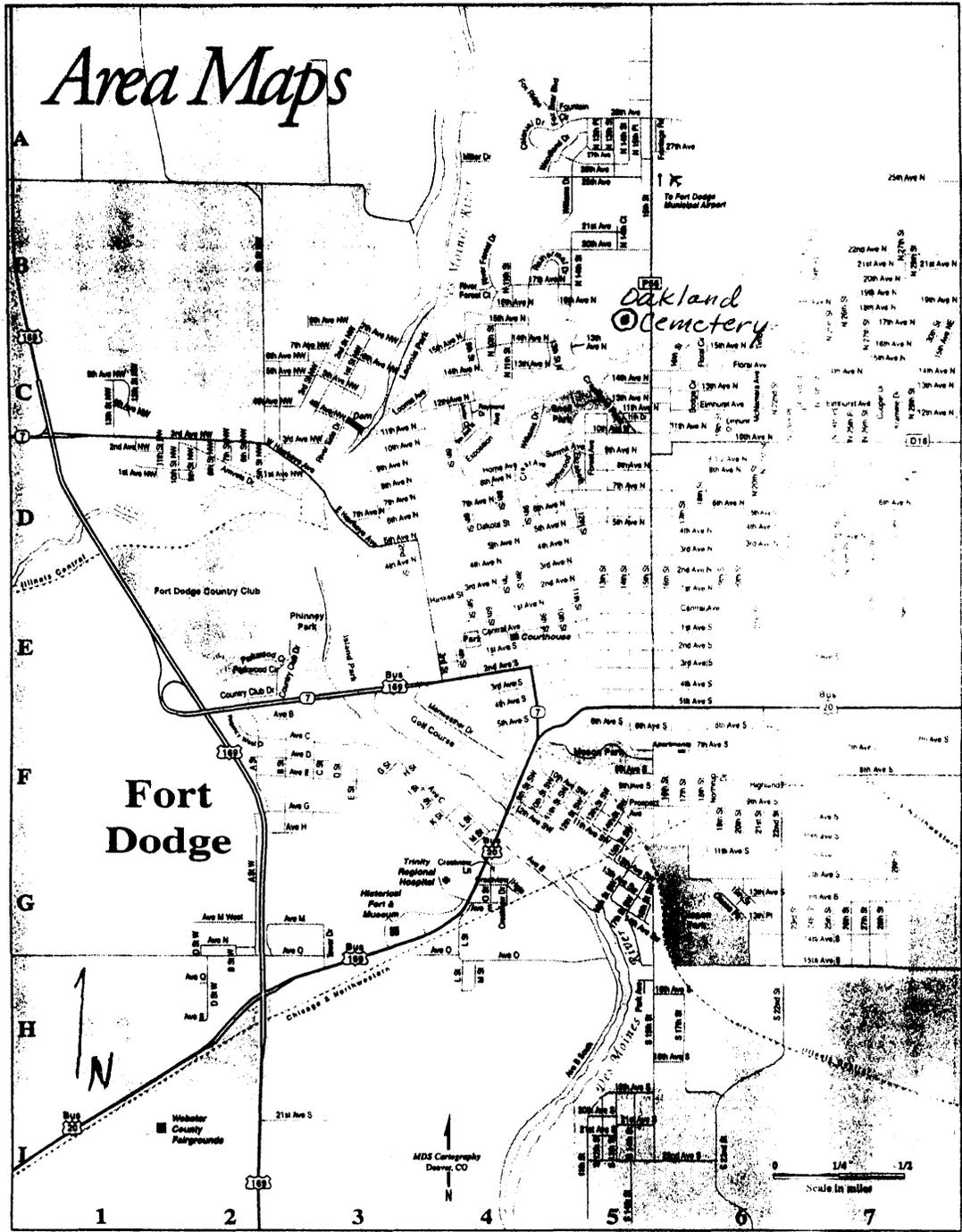
A reddish-brown frame equipment/maintenance shed, measuring 24'X24', was moved to a site near Soldier Creek and the Potter's Field in 1985. It is not significant to this nomination.

\*The numbers in parenthesis refer to locations on the site map on page 6.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa



Map from THE OFFICIAL 1999-2000 WEBSTER COUNTY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

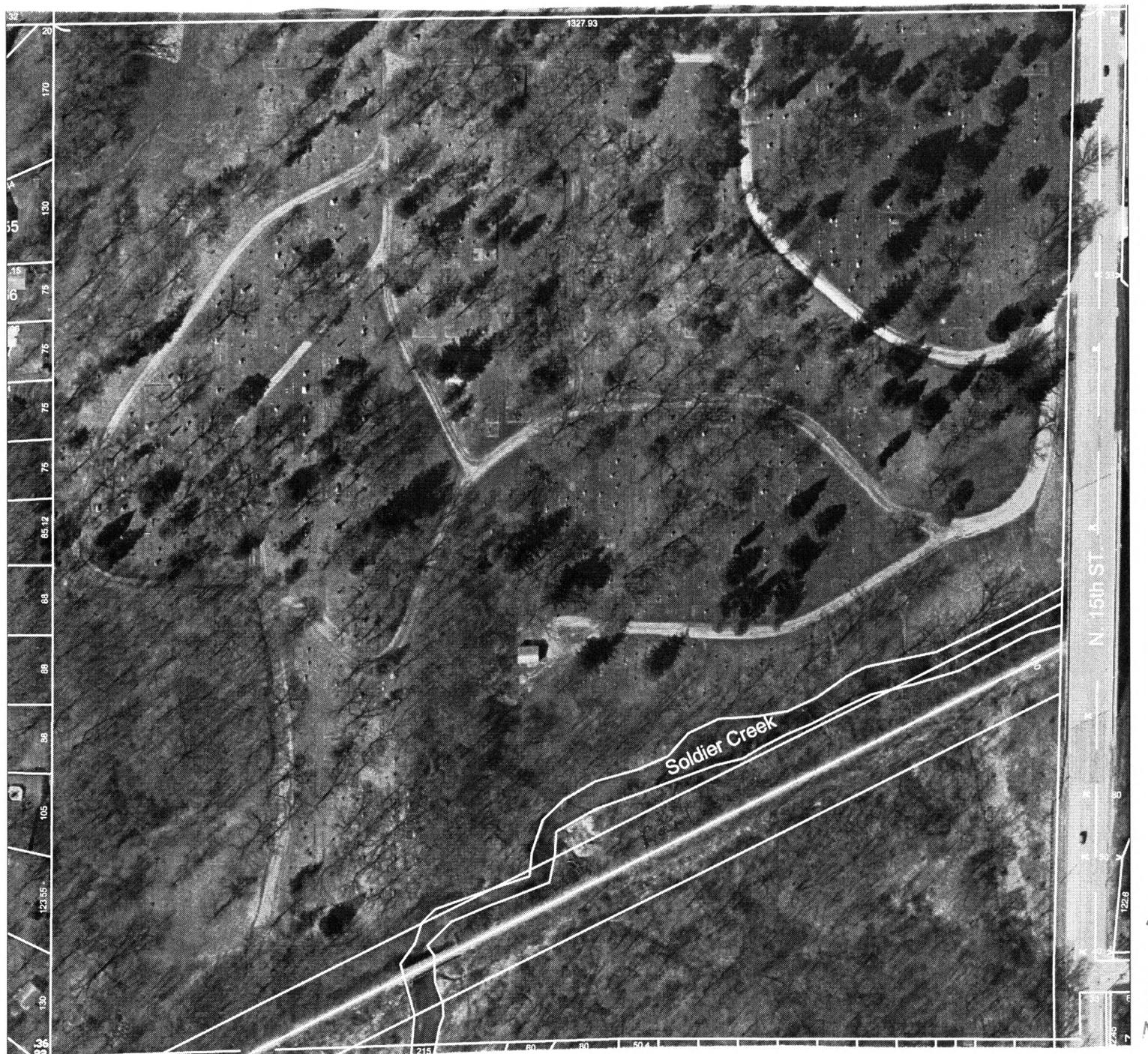
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa

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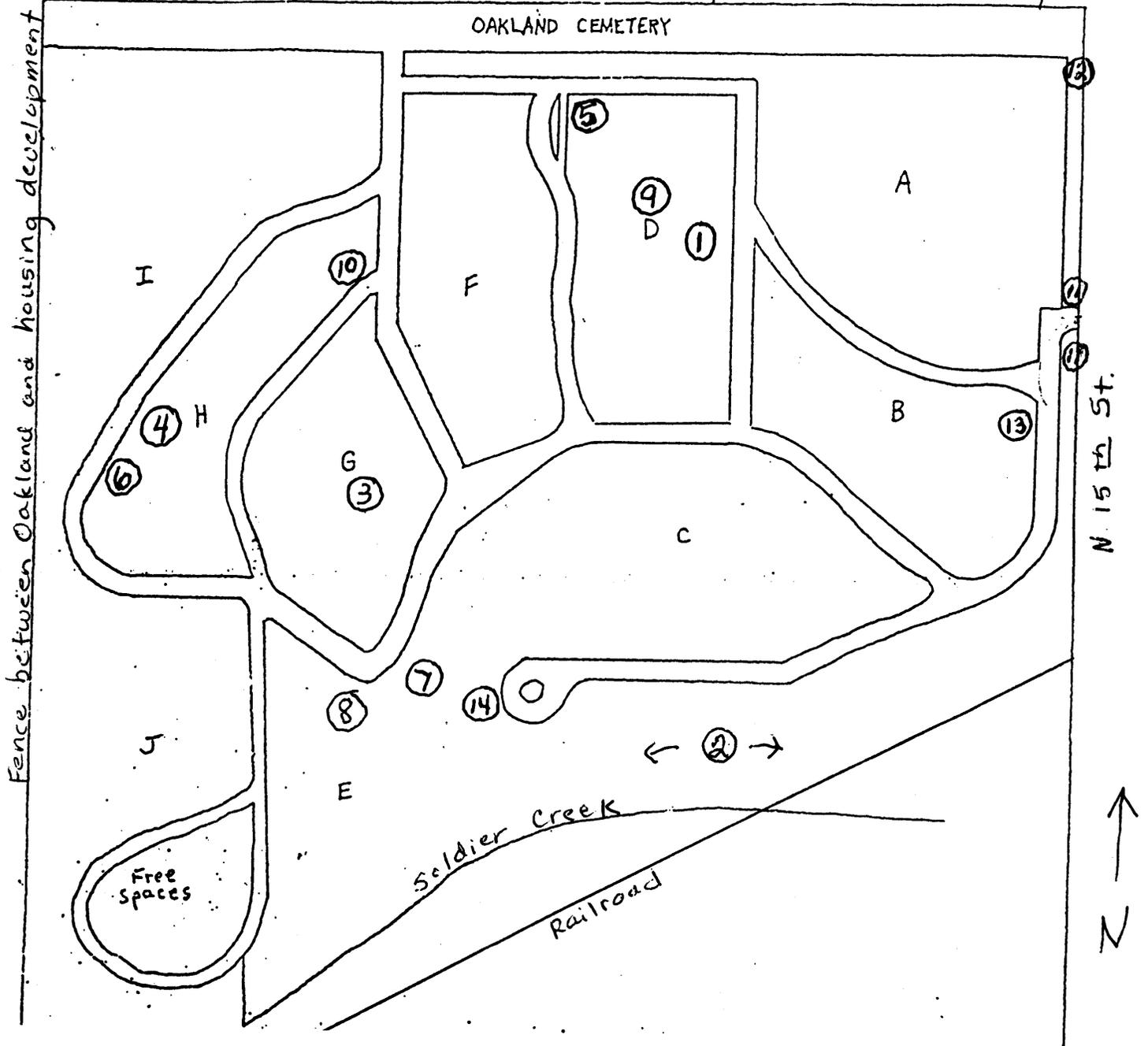
Copy of aerial photo, 1997. Source: Parks & Recreation Department, City of Fort Dodge.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa

Entrance Road shared with Corpus Christi Cemetery



Site map showing resources, numbered as on Section 7, pages 1-3. Circa 1979. Source: Former Oakland Caretaker Blanche Saunders.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

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Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa

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**SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Set aside as a cemetery in 1859, Oakland Cemetery possesses architectural significance under National Register Criterion C, as a good and rare example, in north central Iowa, of the influence of the Rural Cemetery Movement of the mid-1800s. It was laid out in 1859 by an architect and civil engineer named Egbert Bagg, from Utica, New York. Its picturesque setting, including the highest point in Fort Dodge and overlooking Soldier Creek; its park-like landscape architecture accommodating the natural contours and vegetation of the land; and the great variety of Victorian styles in grave markers and monuments typify the movement. At the same time, the vernacular execution of these architectural and style elements reinforces the ties between the Cemetery and the history and development of the local community.

Oakland Cemetery is also historically significant under National Register Criterion A, because of the close association of its establishment and development with the settlement and development of the City of Fort Dodge, and its ongoing reflections of the community's intense and enduring interest in its Civil War history. The founder of Fort Dodge and many others of great significance to the early history of the City are interred there, and several unusual graves evoke stories of Civil War times that have become a deeply-rooted part of Fort Dodge's identity as a community. The Cemetery is one of a very few sites in the area that has not changed significantly in the nearly 150 years since the City was established.

The site is significant at the local level. Future surveys related to cemetery types and styles, and to properties associated with Iowa governors, may demonstrate it to be of significance to the state as well. The period of significance under Criteria C and A is 1859—circa 1950, the time during which the Cemetery accepted most of its burials, and after which there have been very few significant changes. Its level of historic integrity is high. 1859 marks the year the site was laid out as a cemetery. Other dates of significance include 1866, when the Cemetery was incorporated; 1876, when former Iowa Governor Cyrus Clay Carpenter was buried there; circa 1880 – circa 1920, when annual Memorial Day celebrations at Oakland rallied the community; 1882, when a receiving vault (8' X 11' with 11' ceiling) was erected; 1900, when the monument to Civil War soldiers was commissioned and dedicated; and circa 1935, when the last of the supporting grave sites came into use.

Criteria Consideration D applies to this nomination. The Cemetery derives its primary significance from distinctive design features and from its association with historic events.

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**

As mentioned in the summary, Oakland Cemetery is a good example of the Rural Cemetery movement of the mid-1800s. The movement began as a response to changes in both social conditions and philosophical attitudes in the young country's growing cities of the east. Cities like New York and Boston were rapidly growing and developing. The traditional city-owned or church-related graveyards in the city centers were filling up at alarming rates, and their overcrowding raised serious issues and concerns. Crowded graveyards were often abandoned and allowed to fall into disrepair. They became vulnerable to increasing vandalism. Many feared that crowded, overused graveyards in the cities represented a health hazard for the living. In addition, a growing economy caused merchants to view land in the cities for its commercial value, and motivated landowners to sell and develop it for profit, as opposed to using it for burials. David Charles Sloane, in his book *THE LAST GREAT NECESSITY*, comments, "The graveyards that had served towns and villages for a century were now overcrowded and inconveniently located. Entrepreneurs wanted the center of the city for business or at least as a place of pleasure for the living.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

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Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa  
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Above all, there were growing worries about the safety of the living in the presence of the dead." (P.34)

At the same time, attitudes toward death and the social role of the graveyard were changing. While the association of death with religion and moral training remained, the necessary connection of graveyards with churches was loosening, and the attitude toward death's role in molding the morals of the living was softening and becoming more romanticized. The surrounding rush and pressure of city life was seen to interfere with the potential for graveyards to provide a "didactic landscape," discussed by David Schuyler in *THE NEW URBAN LANDSCAPE*. Schuyler saw a new role for cemeteries as "retreats frequented by city residents in search of contemplative recreation... whose scenery and monuments instructed visitors in morality and respect for the dead." (P. 39) There was a growing belief that beautiful landscape scenery, of itself, had a comforting and elevating effect on the mind of the mourner.

The first true Rural Cemetery in America was Mount Auburn, established near Boston in 1831. It departed from the transitional 1796 Grove Street Cemetery, outside New Haven, Connecticut, by abandoning a rigidly geometrical layout of lots in favor of a design that accommodated the natural contours of the land. Several other rural cemeteries (i.e. Laurel Hill Cemetery near Philadelphia and Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn), were established using Mount Auburn as a model and further developing the evolving characteristics of the growing movement. Again quoting Sloane's *THE LAST GREAT NECESSITY*: "The elements of the rural cemetery—the family monument, planned landscape, picturesque vistas, rolling roadways, and location outside the city—were imitated throughout much of America. Midwestern and western pioneers latched onto the concepts, as they did to much of what they missed from the East..." (P. 66)

All of these elements are evident in Oakland Cemetery, along with the profusion of a variety of styles of monuments and grave markers, which also characterized cemeteries of the movement. From a legal and organizational point of view, Oakland exemplifies the change from older inner city cemeteries, which were owned and administered either by local governments or religious communities, to the more family-focused rural cemeteries, owned and operated by incorporated nonprofit volunteer associations. Part of the appeal of this changing legal status of cemeteries was its provision for the permanence of burials, which was a great reassurance to the families of the deceased. The Oakland site was chosen for its picturesque beauty on a hill overlooking a creek on the outskirts of the City, as it was originally envisioned. Money for the purchase of the land was raised by subscription. It was laid out in 1859, for a fee of \$150, by a local architect and civil engineer named Egbert Bagg, originally from Utica, New York. While we could find no specific connection between Bagg and the early New York examples of the Rural Cemetery movement, we do know that he later served as the superintendent of a cemetery in New York. He was an amateur naturalist, co-authoring at least one published article on the birds of Oneida County. It is interesting to speculate on whether Bagg may have brought with him to Iowa knowledge of these early Rural Cemeteries, and applied it to the landscape design of Oakland. At any rate, the gracefully curving roads and plot layouts adapted to the natural vegetation and the contours of the land are characteristic of that movement, as is the great variety of Victorian style grave markers and monuments throughout the Cemetery. While the execution of these architectural and style elements is vernacular rather than "high style" in nature, the effect of the design is beautiful, serene, and spiritually uplifting. The intent to create a park-like setting was successful, as evidenced by the use of the site through the years for leisure time picnics. To this day, Oakland is enjoyed by walkers and joggers, as well as by mourners.

The tone of an article in *THE FORT DODGE SENTINEL* in January, 1859, reporting the plan to lay out

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

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Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa

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the hilly grove as a Cemetery, reflects a sentimental and romantic attitude toward the project, also typical of the Rural Cemetery movement. The author editorializes, "...we sincerely hope, and from the past have reason to expect, that Oakland Cemetery will be a delightful resort for lovers of nature and beauty, and that it will be the home of fallen age, and not of reckless dissolute youth." The same article explained that half of the proceeds from the sale of lots was to be donated to improve and beautify the grounds.

In 1930, the Board of Directors of the Oakland Cemetery Association, incorporated in 1866, printed a document entitled RULES AND REGULATIONS OF OAKLAND CEMETERY. It was a combination of historical information, rules for visitors, and plea for financial support for maintenance of the property. Quoting from that document, "For many years only a small portion of the Cemetery tract was opened and lots in opened portion were sold at prices ranging from \$10.00 up to \$25.00 for the choicest lots. Each lot received only such care as its owner chose to bestow upon it, and the vacant lots were allowed to become covered with weeds and underbrush. The roads were gradually opened up and improved in a more or less shiftless manner."

Because so much of Oakland was designed and sold as family lots, the variation in grave marker styles over time is evident throughout the Cemetery rather than from section to section, as generations of family members were buried within family lots.

An article concerning the Cemetery appearing in ILLUSTRATED FORT DODGE 1896 claims, "Drives and walks have been laid out and graded and graveled, so that every part of the grounds is easily accessible."

Burial records indicate that Sections D, G and H were the first sections to be used – Section H lists a burial in 1844! Section E appears to be the last section put into use, with the first recorded burial in 1906. It is somewhat unclear when the letter designations for sections of the Cemetery came into use. We have in possession a plat filed in 1887 and a replat filed in 1912, which use the letter designations. But neither the City of Fort Dodge nor the abstractor has in possession the original plat or the drawings by Egbert Bagg. This may be due to a downtown fire circa 1970 that damaged records from Young's Funeral Home. It is believed that there were Oakland Cemetery records kept by Young's at the time. However, the abstractor's records show entries for the sale of the first four lots sold. All four transactions took place in 1867, and the lots are identified as being in "Block D" or "Block H" of the Cemetery. It appears that the letter designations were in use, then, by 1867, and may have been part of Baggs' original design. There are records referring to a "Replat of Blocks C and E in Oakland Cemetery," describing regular lots measuring 16' north and south, and 32' east and west. These records specify, "All alleys are 2 feet wide. All streets are 10 feet wide, and all avenues 25 feet wide as marked..." The only date shown on these records is below the name of the surveyor, "C. H. Reynolds, C.E., 1902." This date may refer to the year of the surveyor's license, rather than the date of the replat.

Oakland has no areas set aside for particular churches or social groups. Some lots are still owned by local churches, but these were probably donated by individual families to their churches as unused lots.

Returning to the subject of upkeep at the Cemetery, the RULES AND REGULATIONS document mentioned above explains,

"In 1924, the Cemetery Trustees adopted a rule that all lots sold in the future should be sold under a perpetual care agreement, and that there should be added to the sale price of lots sold \$100.00 for each full lot, or \$50.00 for each half lot, this money to be placed at interest and the revenue therefrom to be used for the care and maintenance of the grounds. Since 1924 many,

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

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Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa

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who had prior to that time purchased lots, have voluntarily made deposits in the perpetual care fund to the end that their lots and the cemetery in general may receive proper care for all time.

“Since the establishment of the perpetual care fund, many needed improvements have been made in the Cemetery, and in the year 1930 in particular, many extensive improvements were made which called for the expenditure of approximately \$3,000.00. Among the other improvements made in 1930 were the laying of two thousand feet of curb and gutter; the building of a rest room with toilets for men and women; the placing of refuse containers at convenient points in the cemetery; the making of flower beds, and the removal of approximately 350 trees that were detrimental to the burial lots and to the grass and foliage.”

It is interesting to note that the cost of perpetual care, as established in 1930, was set at \$4.10 per year for a full lot, and \$2.05 per year for a half lot.

As to the rules and regulations themselves, set out in the 1930 document, most specified details about the excavation of graves and the placing of markers and monuments. A speed limit of ten miles per hour was established, and visitors were prohibited from picking flowers or destroying shrubs, and from placing any lot or grave decorations other than plants or shrubs.

A wide range of grave markers are to be found throughout the Cemetery, reflecting examples from the pioneer period, the Victorian period and the conservative period described by Richard Francaviglia in his 1971 article, “The Cemetery as an Evolving Cultural Landscape” (see full reference in Section 9 below). An interesting contrast is offered, in light of Francaviglia's discussion of the Victorian period, by the Dolliver family plot (#8 and 9 above in the description of contributing resources). The plot itself is one of the most prestigious in the Cemetery, sitting as it does on high ground overlooking the Creek. The Dolliver monument is an excellent example of the grand style and classical ornamentation of the period, attesting to the prominence and wealth of the Dolliver family. It's large size, Greek key and garland ornamentation and pillars express the class consciousness of the period. At the same time, the presence of Agnes Grayson's grave within the family plot attests to a flexibility within that consciousness. Grayson's stone is small, relative to those of Senator Dolliver and his wife, which may be another reflection of attitudes toward the differences in social class, or an expression of the different tastes of the conservative period, during which Grayson was buried.

While there are other Rural Cemeteries of this type in Iowa, we were unable to trace others in the western or north central parts of the state. Future research on examples in Iowa of this type of Rural Cemetery may demonstrate significance for Oakland Cemetery at the state level.

Oakland Cemetery possesses a high degree of historic integrity. While very little of Fort Dodge remains as it was in its early years, Oakland is largely unchanged since 1935. Its boundaries are unchanged. The Association completed some supplemental planting of native evergreens and shrubs in the 1890s; little planting has been done since. While access to the Cemetery was originally gained from 16<sup>th</sup> Street, the grading of 15<sup>th</sup> Street and change of access to its present location was completed in 1904-1905. A receiving vault erected in 1882 was filled in circa 1950. A small brick equipment shed was added just inside the entrance in about 1930, and another small frame equipment shed constructed near Soldier Creek in 1985. The transition from use of limestone and marble to the harder and more durable granite, that took place around the turn of the century with the development of technology that made granite more easily workable, is amply represented. While there are still occasional burials added to the Cemetery, the original family plots were all sold by the mid-1900s. The City, as present owner of the Cemetery, has no

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 11

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Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa  
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unsold plots. Aside from the expected weathering of limestone and marble grave markers, little has changed at Oakland, and the park-like beauty still invites visitors to stroll and reflect on both the individual stories and the collective history represented there.

#### EVENTS AND PATTERNS

Oakland Cemetery came into being at the same time the City of Fort Dodge was being established, and reflects and recalls many important aspects of the beginnings of the community. The Fort itself, originally named Fort Clarke, was established to protect settlers from Indian attacks in 1849. By a decade later, the name had been changed to Fort Dodge, and the Fort, as a military post, disbanded. Major William Williams, who was among the first men to establish the Fort, got permission to stay and laid out the original plan for the town in 1854. He became its first mayor. In 1859, the site that is now Oakland Cemetery was chosen for that purpose, and laid out by local architect and civil engineer, Egbert Bagg. It was 1866 when the land was officially deeded from the Iowa Homestead Company of Dubuque County, Iowa to the Oakland Cemetery Association, and the Articles of Incorporation for the Association were filed; thus the official date on record for establishment of Oakland is 1866.

It was during the years immediately surrounding the Civil War, then, that Fort Dodge was developing its identity as a community. Oakland Cemetery was incorporated as and by the Oakland Cemetery Association in 1864 (Articles of Incorporation filed in 1866), when many Iowans from the area, and those associated with its founding, were fighting for the Union. Great pride was taken in the deeds of Iowa's Union troops. In the immediate post-war years, Fort Dodge's deep pride in its Civil War history was strengthened when resident Cyrus Clay Carpenter, who had risen to the rank of Brevet-Colonel in the Union army, was elected Governor of Iowa. He served from 1872-1876. Carpenter later filled several other government posts, retired in Fort Dodge, died and was buried at Oakland in 1898.

In the first decades of the Cemetery, many Civil War veterans were buried there. Among them were at least two African Americans who served as Union soldiers after blacks began to be enlisted in 1862. One, Joseph Kinner, came to Coalville, near Fort Dodge, after the war and worked as a coal miner. He died and was buried at Oakland in 1899. Another was Joseph A. Palmer. While we do not have a date for Palmer's death and burial, we know that he worked as a barber in Fort Dodge. He is buried next to Mr. Kinner. Even more unusual for Iowa is the case of Dr. T. Fitzhugh Grayson. Dr. Grayson served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, as a physician for the Confederate army. He was taken as a POW at the First Battle of Bull Run, and later paroled. After the War, Dr. Grayson made his way to Fort Dodge, where he lived and practiced medicine. In fact, his work included performing physical examinations on Union veterans when they applied for pensions in the 1880s! Dr. Grayson was buried in Oakland Cemetery in 1903.

Because of the importance of these early associations with the War in shaping the character of the community, many Fort Dodge residents have consistently demonstrated an intense interest in their Civil War history. From the 1880s to the 1920s, annual Memorial Day ceremonies at Oakland were an anchor in the annual rhythm of community life. They involved parades with flags flying and drums beating. Large crowds assembled and sat on the grassy hillsides of the Cemetery to hear patriotic music, rousing speeches, and a reading of the Civil War "Honor Roll." A community picnic on the Cemetery grounds followed the program. The 1900 observance was a particularly moving affair. A local sculptor, William Pollock, had been commissioned to create a monument to the unknown Union soldiers. Webster County

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12

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Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa

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school children were involved in raising money for the monument, to the amount of 5 cents per student. Fort Dodge had an active G.A.R. Post (Grand Army of the Republic organization for Union Veterans) from the inception of that organization in the 1880s. The local G.A.R. led the movement to erect the monument, which was unveiled at that gathering. Pollock, himself a Civil War veteran, is buried near the monument. The interest in Civil War history continues to this day. For the past several years, the Fort Museum, which hosts an annual "Frontier Days" weekend around Labor Day, has added to its attractions a reenactment of the Battle of Fort Donelson. First in connection with Frontier Days, and now as a separate event called "Civil War Days" in September, the community holds an annual ceremony at Oakland, in which another Civil War soldier buried there is honored. His story is shared, and an engraved white marble stone, provided by the U.S. Government, is placed on his grave. The ceremony includes a solemn procession, the playing of bagpipes, the singing of "Amazing Grace," and an honor guard. The two black soldiers mentioned earlier were among the first honored in this revival of the earlier annual observances for Civil War veterans. In recent years, local historians have begun a program of interpreting the Civil War era events evoked by burials at Oakland, in period costume, for 300 Fort Dodge elementary students and their teachers each spring.

Other significant burials at Oakland call to mind events that shaped the community. The monument to the "Faithful Colored Servant," Agnes Grayson, demonstrates the mutual devotion between Ms. Grayson, an African American servant, and her employer, Mrs. Jonathan Dolliver, whom she nursed until Mrs. Dolliver's death. It was very rare, according to Patricia Shaw, President of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, for a black servant to be buried in the family plot. But this prominent Fort Dodge family bestowed that honor on Ms. Grayson.

In 1869, the developing economy of Fort Dodge got a boost with the advent of a railroad line through town. The trains ran along the side of the Cemetery, and interacted with it in two interesting ways. A sign was erected next to the tracks, instructing trains to reduce their speed while passing the Cemetery, out of respect for those buried there. And a loading platform was built to facilitate the moving of bodies to and from the receiving vault, as they were transported in or out for burial. No evidence of the loading platform remains.

The mining of gypsum significantly shaped the economy of Fort Dodge. Early notables who established the community's economic stability through the gypsum mines and the banking industry are also buried at Oakland. Some examples are Webb Vincent, George Ringland, Stillman Meservey and their families.

Other Fort Dodge notables buried at Oakland include two former U.S. Senators, Jonathan Prentiss Dolliver (1858-1910) and William Squire Kenyon (1869-1933).

#### REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

To our knowledge, this resource has not been evaluated previously in a cultural resources survey.

#### PRESENT STATUS OF PROPERTY

Oakland Cemetery is owned and maintained by the City of Fort Dodge Parks and Recreation Department. It still receives occasional burials.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8.9 Page 13

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Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa

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POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The site's potential for archaeological research is, as yet, unevaluated. There are known unmarked burials, as well as likely unknown unmarked burials in this Cemetery.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND REGISTRATION

This resource may have significance, under either Criteria A or Criteria C, at the state level. However, further research is needed to place it within the broader context of burial places of prominent people, and of Rural Cemetery Movement examples in Iowa before a definitive evaluation can be made.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9, 10 Page 14

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Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa

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Interview: Johnson, Clarence, local historian and retired partner in Kallin-Johnson Monument Company, Fort Dodge, Iowa. Conducted by Diane Findlay via phone and in person throughout January, 2000. No tape or formal transcript; notes in the office of Diane Findlay, 2892 230<sup>th</sup> St., Dallas Center, IA 50063.

Interview: Natte, Roger, Webster County Historian. Conducted by Diane Findlay at the Webster County Genealogical Library on January 17, 2000. No tape or formal transcript; notes in the office of Diane Findlay, 2892 230<sup>th</sup> St., Dallas Center, IA 50063.

Interview: Rowe, Jerry and Marva, local historians. Conducted by Diane Findlay via phone, e-mail and in person throughout January, 2000. No tape or formal transcript; e-mail messages and notes in the office of Diane Findlay, 2892 230<sup>th</sup> St., Dallas Center, IA 50063.

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Interview: Shaw, Patricia I., President of the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries. Conducted by Diane Findlay via e-mail throughout January, 2000. No tape or formal transcript; e-mail messages and notes in the office of Diane Findlay, 2892 230<sup>th</sup> St., Dallas Center, IA 50063.

Interview: Touba, Mariam, Reference Librarian at the New York Historical Society. Conducted by Diane Findlay via phone on January 26 and 28, 2000. No tape or formal transcript; notes in the office of Diane Findlay, 2892 230<sup>th</sup> St., Dallas Center, IA 50063.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The North East Quarter of the South West Quarter of Section Seventeen (17), Township Eighty-nine (89) North, of Range Twenty-eight (28), West 5<sup>th</sup> P.M.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The legal boundaries described above define the original boundaries of the property as laid out in 1859. The Cemetery's boundaries have not changed from then until the present time, and the entire property is of significance as an entity.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Additional Documentation Page 15

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Oakland Cemetery, Webster County, Iowa

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LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

The following is common to all photographs:

Oakland Cemetery

Webster County, Iowa

All but photo #3 taken by Jennifer Findlay on March 16, 2000

All negatives are on file in the office of Diane Findlay, 2892 230<sup>th</sup> St., Dallas Center, Iowa, 50063.

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| 1) Civil War Monument<br>Camera facing north   | 9) William S. Kenyon Grave<br>Camera facing north                  |
| 2) Potter's Field<br>Camera facing south   | 10) Governor Cyrus Clay Carpenter Grave<br>Camera facing southwest |
| 3) Double Tree Stump Marker<br>Diane Findlay, photographer<br>March 22, 2000<br>Camera facing west | 11) Entrance Sculptures<br>Camera facing northwest                 |
| 4) Major William Williams' Grave<br>Camera facing east   | 12) Entrance Sculpture<br>Camera facing west                       |
| 5) Black Civil War Soldiers' Graves<br>Camera facing east  | 13) Brick Equipment Shed<br>Camera facing west/northwest           |
| 6) Confederate Doctor's Grave<br>Camera facing east  | 14) Frame Equipment Shed<br>Camera facing north                    |
| 7) "Faithful Colored Servant" Grave<br>Camera facing east  | 15) View of Rolling Terrain<br>Camera facing north                 |
| 8) Jonathan P. Dolliver Monument<br>Camera facing east   | 16) View of Natural Vegetation<br>Camera facing north              |