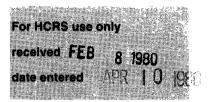
### United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

### 1. Name

historic A	American Cemetery (	AHRS Site No. KOD-	132)	
and/or common	Old City Cemete	ry		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	Upper Mill Ba	y Road	_	not for publication
city, town	Kodiak	vicinity of	congressional district	Alaska at large
state A1a	aska code	02 county	Kodiak Division	code 150
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted X yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial X military	museum park private residence X religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Proper	ty		
name City	of Kodiak	(907) 486	-3224	
street & number	Box 1397			
city, town	Kodiak	vicinity of	state	Alaska 99615
5. Loca	ation of Lega	al Description	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Dist	rict Recorder	(907) 486-57	65
street & number	Alaska Stat	e Court Building,	204 Marine Way	
city, town Ko	odiak		state	Alaska 99615
6. Repr	resentation	in Existing	Surveys	
title <sup>Alaska</sup> He	(AHRS) eritage Resources Su	urvey has this pro	operty been determined ele	egible? yes no
date June	30, 1974		federalX_ stat	e county loca
depository for su	rvey records Alaska Di	vision of Parks, 6	19 Warehouse Dr., S	uite 210
city, town	Anchorage		state	Alaska 99501

## 7. Description

Condition	37	Check one
excellent	X deteriorated	X unaltered
good	ruins	altered
fair	unexposed	

Check one X original site moved date

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Other than the surroundings--and the settling and shifting of pits, mounds, markers and headstones; the expected attrition of age--the American Cemetery, physically, appears much as it did when abandoned in 1940; and except for later graves and growth--particularly noted in the size of the spruce and evergreen trees--somewhat as it was before the end of the 19th Century, as witnessed in old photographs.

When established in 1868 the American Cemetery was in a pastoral, natural setting, quite removed from the residential and business district of Kodiak. By 1940 however, the town had so engulfed it that no grave sites remained for further burials; but the cemetery itself, allowing for normal depreciation, remains intact. Except for facing Mill Bay Road it is completely surrounded by buildings.

There is nothing singularly distinguishing in the physical appearance of the American Cemetery. Its present appearance is quite typical of many pioneer cemeteries-unkemp, neglected (for the most part) and deteriorating more with every passing year. It is a forlorn reminder of one-time purpose and function. Yet the heritage of this plot of ground goes beyond its antiquity or its purpose. Its greatest value, now and in the future, resides in the significance of its association with persons and events which deserve commemoration in Alaskan history. American Cemetery--as the name implies--constitutes a part of the social fabric that was once Kodiak. It exemplifies the true meaning--and value--of the Heritage factor in historic preservation.

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## 8. Significance

		community planning     conservation     economics     education     engineering     exploration/settlement	landscape architectur law literature _X_ military music t philosophy politics/government	e_X_ religion science sculpture _X_social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1868-1940	Builder/Architect <sup>U</sup> •	S. Army	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

2. 18 8 A.

Other than the Orthodox church graveyard, the American Cemetery is the only historic cemetery at or near Kodiak that has not been obliterated. The earlier Russian graves near the Harbor were largely destroyed by buildings and structures soon after the American occupation in 1867. Another cemetery, clearly marked on a map of the Fort Kodiak Military Reservation in the present Alder Lane, Rezanof Drive area, was partially extant until as late as the early 1940's. But subsequent development--essentially residential, has completely eliminated existence of this grave site.

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#### Previous History

The first Russian Colony in the New World, and the first European Colony on the West Coast North of San Francisco, was on Kodiak Island. This was Three Saints Bay, established by Shelikov in 1784. Eight years later the Chief Factory of the Russian-American Company was moved to Paul's Harbor, or Saint Paul, which became Kodiak after the purchase of Alaska. Kodiak is thus the oldest permanent settlement in Alaska. The site area has suffered severe natural devastation: the eruption of Katmai Volcano in 1912 and the terrible earthquake and tidal wave of 1964, which quite drastically altered the face of the City. Certainly Kodiak is one of the most significant historical places in Alaska; and remains so, despite the ravages of time and change.

#### American Cemetery

The American Cemetery originated from the inherent need to establish a Military Cemetery to serve old Fort Kodiak. This Fort and Military Post began with the American occupation of Alaska (Russian America) immediately after the purchase of the Territory. This cemetery was used for the Americans, as opposed to the Russians or Natives, and thereby received its name.

Five of the soldiers from the original Fort are known to be buried there. Their names are listed in the National Archives, Old Military Records. In addition to these men, there exists two graves of unknown soldiers, and many local residents during the years from 1868 to 1940--including G.G. Holt, first white man across Chilkoot Pass, killed by Indians in 1884.

The Cemetery continued to be used by the Village for many years; and then by the City of Kodiak until discontinued in 1940. Now it a shared responsibility between city and Borough government, with ownership residing in the city.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Huggins, Do Elia Huggir	orothy M., Calins, U.S.A., Kod	iak, 1868-18	. Society, Sar 870.		o; Lett	ers, Gen.	
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state		code	county			code	
name/title Hern organization	nan T. Buekers, City of Kodia			Lce of His	tory an		, Historian gy, ADP, Anch.
street & number	Box 1397				(907)	486-3224	
				telephone	(907)	400-5224	
city or town	Kodiak				Alaska	400-5224	 
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FHR-8-300A (11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS	USE ONI	Y	
RECEIVED	•28	300	
DATE ENTE	RED		

CONTINUATION SHEET	1	ITEM NUMBER	10	PAGE	1 of 1	
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East, 102.51 ft. along a line common with Lot Eighty Eight (88); thence north  $30^{\circ}$  30' 00" east, 145.89 ft. along a line common with a portion of Lot Twelve (12) and with Lots Eleven (11), Ten (10) and a portion of Lot Nine (9) to the True Point of Beginning; containing 15,247.74 square feet, more or less.