NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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

historic name BOXWOOD CEMETERY		
other names/site number		
2. Location		
street & number3717 North Gravel Road		[] not for publication
city or town Medina		[] vicinity
state New York code NY cour	nty <u>Orleans</u>	code073 zip code14103
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
determination of eligibility meets the documentation standar the procedural and professional requirements as set forth in National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title	36 CFR Part 60. In my opin	ion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the
State or Federal agency and bureau		
	e National Register criteria. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)
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In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the	e National Register criteria. ([
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In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification	Лом	Date
In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: [Mentered in the National Register [] see continuation sheet [] determined eligible for the National Register [] see continuation sheet	e National Register criteria. ([Date
In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the Signature of certifying official/Title State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: [M entered in the National Register [] see continuation sheet [] determined eligible for the National Register [] see continuation sheet [] determined not eligible for the	Лом	Date

OOD CEMETERY Orleans, New York		
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Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Res (Do not include prev	ources within Property iously listed resources in the count)
[] building(s) [] district [X] site [] structure [] object	Contributing 5 1 0 2 8	Noncontributing buildings sites structures objects TOTAL
operty listing a multiple property listing)	Number of con- listed in the Na	tributing resources previously tional Register
	N/A	<u> </u>
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<u>y</u>	FUNERARY/o	cemetery
	Materials (Enter categories fro	om instructions)
	foundation	
	walls	
	roof	
	Category of Property (Check only one box) [] building(s) [] district [X] site [] structure [] object operty listing a multiple property listing)	Category of Property (Check only one box) [] building(s) [] district [] structure [] object Current Function (Enter categories from foundation

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

BOXV	VOOD CEMETERY	Orleans, New York
	of Property	County and State
	tement of Significance	Areas of Cignificance
(Mark "x'	able National Register Criteria in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property nal Register listing.)	Areas of Significance: (Enter categories from instructions)
[] A	Property associated with events that have made	Landscape Architecture
[]	a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Architecture
[]B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
[X] C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and	Period of Significance:
	distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1849 - 1964
[] D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates:
	important in premistory or history.	_1849, 1850, 1899, 1903
	a Considerations in all boxes that apply.)	
[] A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person:
[]B	removed from its original location	N/A
[] C	a birthplace or grave	
[X] D	a cemetery	Cultural Affiliation:
[]E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure	N/A
[]F	a commemorative property	INIA
[] G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years	Architect/Builder:
	within the past 50 years	Levan Merritt, Adam Garter
		Albert L. Swett , Charles Ingersol
(Explain 9. Maj Bibliog	ve Statement of Significance the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) or Bibliographical References graphy books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or	r more continuation sheets.)
Provio	us documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
[] [] [] []	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 Building Survey #_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	
ι 1		
	#	

Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 19.39 acres	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 <u> 1 8 224395</u> 4792514 Zone Easting Northing	3 <u> 1 8 224090</u> 492272 Zone Easting Northing
2 1 8 224446 4792307	4 1 8 224113 4792530
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet	i.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation she 11. Form Prepared By	eet.)
name/title Todd Bensley, Village Historian	[Contact: Jennifer Walkowski, NY SHPO]
organization New York State Historic Preservation	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
street & number _ Peebles Island Resource Center	·
city or town Waterford	state <u>NY</u> zip code <u>12188</u>
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) A Sketch map for historic districts and	indicating the property's location properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photo	ographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the S	SHPO or FPO)
name Village of Medina	
street & number119 Park Avenue	telephone <u>585-798-0710</u>
city or town Medina	state <u>NY</u> zip code <u>14103</u>

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, D.C. 20503

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Boxwood Cemetery occupies an approximately 20-acre parcel on the east side of North Gravel Road. Although it is located partially in the northernmost area of the Village of Medina and partially in the Town of Ridgeway, it is owned and operated by the village. The Village of Medina is located in Orleans County in Western New York and is sited around the Erie Canal. The cemetery parcel is aligned roughly westeast, with Medina Sandstone gates (1925) fronting North Gravel Road. The general overall shape of the cemetery is a blunted triangle, with its broad end along North Gravel Road and its narrower end toward Glenwood Lake, with the Rogers-Hurd section adjacent to the northeast.

The cemetery was formally established in 1850, and the original and oldest area was designed in the fashionable Rural Cemetery style. Established on a natural hillside, this area is known today as the Old Cemetery and retains the original rolling topography, winding lanes and picturesque qualities associated with the Rural Cemetery movement that was fashionable in the mid- to late-nineteenth century. Local businessman, Levan Merritt, "with the assistance of Adam Garter, as surveyor, laid out, plotted and mapped the Boxwood Cemetery." Within this section there are a number of family plots – one fenced off, but the others built as terraces in the hillside, usually with a family monument surrounded by individual headstones. While many graves in the section are laid out east-west, some are oriented north-south due to the constraints of the topography. The Whipple and Cleveland sections, located at the south and east base of the Old Cemetery hill, also follow the Rural Cemetery model. Later additions to Boxwood Cemetery, dating between 1912-1917, to the north and east follow the Lawn-Park model. These sections, now known as the Troup, Northeast, and Single Graves, emphasize the unbroken landscaped lawn and common open space typical of this late-nineteenth century cemetery design type. The sections opened up from 1971 to 1999 – Rogers-Hurd, House Single Graves, 3rd Single Graves, New Veterans, and Single Graves 400 – have followed the Memorial Park style. All of the sections following the Lawn-Park and Memorial Park models are oriented east-west. Boxwood Cemetery contains a total of thirteen sections.

There are approximately 5,000 marked burials in the cemetery, spanning from 1849 until the present day. Within Boxwood Cemetery, there is a good collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century funerary art and architecture. The landscape is dominated by various examples of mausoleums and funerary art. The entranceways are flanked by Medina sandstone pillars and wrought-iron gates. The dedicated military section also includes two cannons.

While headstones and funerary sculptures are the most common features, Boxwood Cemetery also contains several notable buildings. Contained within the cemetery is a chapel (1903), a vault (1903), a 1 ½-story wood frame caretaker's office (ca. 1900s), and a maintenance building (ca 1970s).

¹ Ed Grinnell, Medina: Here's to Our Heritage (Albion, NY: Lake Country Pennysaver, 1996), 55

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Narrative Description of Property

Boxwood Cemetery was formally organized in 1850, one year after its first burial, and covers approximately 20 acres straddling the boundary of the Village of Medina and the Town of Ridgeway. Typical of cemeteries established in the mid-nineteenth century during the Rural Cemetery movement, Boxwood Cemetery was sited outside of the most populated areas of Medina, an area that, to this day, contains few buildings in the vicinity. The cemetery began on a hillside and gradually grew first to the east, then the north to contain thirteen sections. The various sections are bisected by asphalt-paved roadways and the hillside has several unpaved alleys. The roadways have utilitarian names such as Summit Road, North and South Avenue, and North Ridge Alley.² The entranceways to these roads are flanked by Medina sandstone columns and wrought-iron gates which were built in 1925 by Harry Ellis, a local mason.³ For the convenience of people walking from the village to the cemetery, a concrete walk and retaining wall were added to the front of the cemetery in 1913.⁴ The cemetery is bordered on the west by North Gravel Road, on the east by Glenwood Lake (a man-made lake created by damming Oak Orchard Creek for water power), on the north by a town park and boat launch, and on the south by a village compost facility.

Rural Cemetery Sections: Old Cemetery, the Cleveland Section, and the Whipple Section

Boxwood Cemetery's first burial was of a local man whose dying wish was to be "buried on the hill north of the village." To accommodate burials, the hillside was terraced and a dirt path was established that winds up the hillside. In some areas, where the rolling, hilly terrain requires it, small retaining walls of Medina sandstone have been built, to help secure the terraced landscape. This seven acre section is simply referred to as the Old Cemetery (which includes a potter's field), and extends across North Avenue. A sub-section of this area is the Veterans' plot, which features two Civil War era cannons. There are many mature maple trees covering the older sections of the cemetery, lending to the rural cemetery feel of this section. Throughout this section there are many examples of funerary art carved into gravestones made of granite, limestone, Medina sandstone, marble and "white bronze" (metal). One of the granite monuments, made for W.B. Robbins, was special enough to warrant a small article in the local *Medina Daily Journal*. The May 16, 1903, article states that the Jenny & Nelbach Granite Co. of Barre, VT,

² Map of Boxwood Cemetery (1952), on file at the Medina Department of Public Works.

³ Boxwood Cemetery Commissioners Minutes (1886-1951), on file at Village Hall, 109-111.

⁴ Ibid., 70-71.

⁵ Russell Waldo, *Medina's Hitching Post Days, Vol. 1-3*, ed. Craig Lacy (Medina, NY: Medina Historical Society, 2012), 732.

⁶ Gregg G. King, et al. *Michigan Historic Cemeteries Preservation Guide*, (USA: McNaughton and Gunn, 2004), 28-29.

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was "erecting a beautiful granite monument" drawn from ancient Roman sources.⁷ The most impressive of the white bronze monuments is the L'Hommedieu monument, featuring a kneeling angel atop a monument built on four base layers topped by Doric columns supporting a stylized roof. There are several obelisks of varying sizes. The most ornate is the Skinner monument near the top of the hill. This granite obelisk stands approximately twenty feet tall and features scrollwork near the top. Another prominent feature of this section is the Davey family plot. It is typical of late-nineteenth century family plots in that it is surrounded by a wrought iron fence, setting it apart from other plots and noting the significance of the family buried within.

Many of the headstones are carved into various shapes such as crosses, spheres, cylinders, urns and angels. Many gravestones also have funerary motifs such as praying hands, open Bibles, and flowers carved into the stones. Another prominent feature of many gravestones is their affiliations with local fraternal organizations such as the Masons and Odd Fellows. The Odd Fellows even erected a monument to its lodge (No. 217) made of a granite base depicting the three interlocking links which symbolize the fraternal organization, topped by a cast iron urn. While both organizations bought a group of plots for their members, the symbols are not limited to these small groups of plots.

The most prominent feature of this section is the Gothic Revival Chapel, built in 1903 of rough-cut red Medina sandstone. The main building in the cemetery, the chapel is built partially into the hilly terrain and prominently located at close proximity to the southwest entrance. The chapel is approximately 18-feet by 22-feet in size and roughly 20-feet high at the peak. The modest building features a front-gable design. Typical of Gothic Revival architecture, the building has a pointed-arch stained-glass window on the west side and a pointed-arch window with tracery above a simple entablature with "Boxwood" incised above the entry door. Extending out from the back on both sides is a Medina sandstone retaining wall that tapers to ground level. Despite some modernizations, including new metal security doors and asphalt shingle roofing, the chapel retains a good degree of integrity. The inside walls are plastered and paneled; the paneling is a later addition. Inside, the most remarkable feature of the chapel is the stained glass window. The back of the chapel opens into a vault, used to store bodies in the winter when the ground is too frozen for burials.

As the Old Cemetery began to reach capacity in 1892, a new section was developed to the east where the hillside levels out. Known as the Cleveland section, this area maintains the rural cemetery design of the Old Cemetery section.

⁷ "A Beautiful Monument," *Medina Daily Journal*, May 16, 1903, http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn94057567/1903-05-16/ed-1/seq-3/

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Two mausoleums are located in the Cleveland section, belonging to the Davey family and the Easlick family. The first one, which you come to as you follow South Avenue around the backside of the original part of the cemetery, is the Davey family mausoleum. While the design of the 9-foot by 13-foot by 9-foot high mausoleum is modest, its large, rough-cut granite blocks suggest permanence and longevity. The entryway is highlighted by a wrought-iron gate that has a whimsical vine-like design on the bottom and a series of *fleur de lis* topping the vertical bars in the middle and at the top. Continuing along the same roadway is the Easlick mausoleum. This Romanesque style building measures 9-feet by 14-feet and is 9-feet in height. It is made of both rough-cut and smooth-cut granite and features a heavy portico with short columns and an arched entablature reading "Easlick" with a continuous over-sized carved molding. There are two Masonic symbols prominently displayed, one on each side of the name.

The third area of the cemetery developed was the Whipple section. This section is located between the Old Cemetery and South Avenue and was developed in 1899. This section maintains the feel of a rural cemetery as it follows the natural contour of the hill that is the prominent landscape feature of the Old Cemetery and levels out in the Whipple section. The most prominent feature of this section is the Beach family mausoleum, which was made of both rough-cut and smooth cut granite. It measures 9-feet by 14-feet by 8-feet in high and is an example of a Neoclassical style mausoleum. The building features paired bronze doors flanked by Doric columns *in antis*. The mausoleum also incorporated elements of Egyptian Revival influences, including a winged sun disk in the tympanum as well as raked corner pilasters that suggest a pylon form. While not as ornate as the Beach mausoleum, many of the headstones and family monuments in this section are decorative – symbolic flowers such as lilies and ferns being some of the main motifs – and leave the impression that families were competing to outdo each other in the memorialization of their ancestors.

Lawn-Park Sections: The Troup, Northeast and Single Grave Sections

The fourth area to be developed was the Troup section to the east, in the direction of Glenwood Lake. The Troup section was established in 1912 as other sections of the cemetery became full. This area follows the Lawn-Park model of cemeteries. Typical of the Lawn-Park model, the Troup section features a landscape that is more pastoral and park-like, with a more organized, formal plan to the burials. There are a few trees, mostly maple but also a few pines, in this section as well. Here, the terrain is flat and the grave markers are more uniformly laid out. The headstones are mainly granite and feature little ornamentation. Those that have engravings typically feature flower motifs that were selected more for stylistic purposes than for symbolic significance.

⁸ Ibid. 29.

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The fifth area opened for burials was the Northeast section (1914) of the cemetery, located north of the Troup section. This area includes the headstones and bodies that were removed from the old Gwinn Street Cemetery in 1894. The land is flat and the headstones vary from the typical nineteenth century limestone slabs from the old Gwinn Street Cemetery to the basic, typical twentieth century granite headstones. They are generally rectangular and relatively uniform in size and shape. There are few headstones with ornamentation. Like the other more recent areas, this one is reminiscent of the Lawn-Park model of cemeteries. There are a few maple and pine trees in this section, but it is generally open.

The sixth expansion of burial plots was called the Single Grave section, which was opened in 1917. This section continues the Lawn-Park model of the Troup and Northeast sections. Most of the headstones in this area are basic granite headstones, similar in size and shape to those in the nearby Northeast section.

Memorial Park Sections

The last several expansions were designed following the Memorial Park model. The Memorial Park type is a further refinement of the Park-Lawn concept, with large sections of uniform, pastoral land; here, however, flat stone or metal markers are placed flush to the ground level rather than rising above it. Due to pressure from the public, headstones are now allowed to be upright, as well. Those that are upright often feature ornamentation more common today, such as etchings of the deceased or their interests and some with actual photos of the departed. These sections all date to the late twentieth century. At Boxwood Cemetery, the Memorial Park sections include the Rogers-Hurd section, House Single Graves, 3rd Single Graves, New Veterans, and Single Grave 400. Characteristic of the Memorial Park type, grave markers here are simple and generally uniform, and the burials are laid in uniform rows. The only ornamentation in these sections is a series of crab apple trees along a roadway leading to a flagpole in the middle of the Rogers-Hurd section.¹¹

Caretaker's Office

The last major building constructed at Boxwood Cemetery is a small residential building that once served as the caretaker's office. It is a modest 1 ½-story wood-frame front-gable clapboard-sheathed house with an open, full-width front porch, constructed ca. 1900. The office features two historic wood entry doors flanking a central four-over-two wood double hung window. The entry porch features three turned

⁹ Boxwood Cemetery Commissioners Minutes (1886-1951), 77.

¹⁰ Waldo, 428.

¹¹ King, et al., 30.

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columns with small lacy brackets and a hipped roof. The upper story of the building contains a single four-over-two wood double hung window and prominent cornice returns. Both side elevations of the building have two, four-over-two windows, and the rear elevation has no openings. The interior is divided into three rooms on the first floor, serving as an office, a bathroom, and a storage area. The upper floor was used for storage. Today the caretaker's office is not used, but there are plans for creating a museum related to Boxwood Cemetery. There is also an outhouse-style bathroom that is only accessible from the outside.

Summary

Boxwood Cemetery in Medina reflects the changing and developing tastes in cemetery design from the mid-nineteenth to the late twentieth centuries, and how these trends were adapted to a small, evolving cemetery. Originally established in the Rural Cemetery manner in 1850, as the cemetery grew in size, with later sections added in the Lawn-Park and Memorial Park styles.

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Statement of Significance

Boxwood Cemetery is significant as an intact example of a cemetery that developed in the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the Village of Medina, Orleans County, NY. Originally established in 1850, a year after its first burial, Boxwood Cemetery was originally established as a modest Rural Cemetery. Later, as early sections were filled and the cemetery expanded, new sections drew from the Park-Lawn and Memorial Park models. Boxwood Cemetery is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture, as a good representative example of a modestly sized cemetery that served a smaller community for more than 150 years. Boxwood Cemetery demonstrates that the proliferation of changing cemetery design theories, including Rural and Park-Lawn cemetery models, influenced the design and planning of smaller, more humbly scaled cemeteries as early as the 1850s. While larger and more prominent American cemeteries, such as Mount Auburn Cemetery near Boston or Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia, explored new thoughts and ideas about cemetery design and use in the early nineteenth century, these ideas were translated to a smaller scale in communities across the county. At Boxwood Cemetery, the basic principles of these design trends, such as the rolling landscape and individual fenced family plots typical of Rural Cemeteries and later the emphasis on the unbroken lawn landscape, were translated for the size and resources of the growing Medina community. As the cemetery grew in size throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Boxwood Cemetery looked to the latest theories and ideas about cemetery design, designing subsequent additions reflective of this evolution.

The first burial at this site occurred in 1849 for a local man named David Card, whose dying wish was to be "buried on the hill north of Medina." This request prompted the formal establishment of the cemetery in 1850, and it was "laid out, plotted, and mapped" by the prominent local businessman Levan Merritt with the assistance of surveyor Adam Garter. The location appealed to Card and others due to its location in the outskirts of the village and because its rolling terrain and natural landscape fit in with ideas of the Rural Cemetery Movement that was in fashion at the time. Was located on the east side of North Gravel Road, the main thoroughfare between the village of Medina and the town of Ridgeway, three miles to the north. As the cemetery expanded, the newer sections transitioned from the Rural Cemetery model to the Lawn-Park model. Boxwood Cemetery is a good example of the evolution of small-scale cemetery design between the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. The primary burial ground for the Medina area, Boxwood Cemetery is also the final resting place for people who made their mark,

¹² Waldo, 732.

¹³ Grinnell, 55; Waldo, 89.

¹⁴ Thomas Bender, "The 'Rural' Cemetery Movement: Urban Travail and the Appeal of Nature," in *Material Life in America*, 1600-1860, ed. Robert Blair St. George (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1988), 506.

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locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. The cemetery continues to grow with approximately 5,000 burials.

The period of significance for the cemetery begins with the initial burial of David Card in 1849, and as the cemetery continues to be an active place of burial, it concludes in 1964.

Development of Medina

The area that became known as the Village of Medina is located in Western New York, ten miles south of Lake Ontario, in an area that was traversed by local Native Americans for centuries prior to European-American settlement. They came through the area to hunt and to take advantage of the salt works located just north of the Village of Medina. Through competing claims, the states of Massachusetts and New York worked out a plan of ownership that allowed Massachusetts to benefit from the proceeds of land sales while giving New York political control over the area. After an unsuccessful attempt at ownership by Phelps and Gorham, the lands were re-possessed and sold to Robert Morris, who in turn sold it to the Holland Land Company in 1792. After surveying the purchase, Joseph Ellicott became the land agent for the company, in 1799, and he took advantage of his knowledge of the area to secure for himself a tract of land approximately 900 acres in size that included the important waterfall on Oak Orchard Creek, which would become a major factor in the location and development of the Village of Medina. In fact, the earliest settler in what would become Medina was Samuel Gear, who opened a saw mill at the falls in 1805, hoping to take advantage of the plentiful trees in the area. Recognizing the need to establish an orderly way of developing the area as the Erie Canal approached, Ebenezer Mix was hired in 1823 to lay out the village. By 1832, the area had grown enough to successfully be incorporated as the Village of Medina.

Because of its location on a bend in the Erie Canal that made it a natural harbor, Medina became a growing trade center. Farmers in the area would bring their produce to the docks at Medina to ship on the canal, or they would sell it to the local millers, who would then process it and send it to markets in the East. The farmers would then buy needed items in the stores that emerged on Main Street to sell the various goods manufactured in Medina, or brought to Medina on the Erie Canal. The village began to spread in all directions from the docks along the canal. People were drawn to the area to work in the Medina sandstone quarries, the mills, the foundries, the shops and the offices that were started to take

¹⁵ Grinnell,1.

¹⁶ Ibid, 2.

¹⁷ Ibid, 5.

¹⁸ Ibid. 3.

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advantage of the canal and the corresponding trade that it brought. Just as the people's needs in life needed to be taken care of, the needs of the deceased also had to be addressed.

Origins of Boxwood Cemetery

The first attempt to establish a burying ground occurred shortly after the Erie Canal was opened, but it was quickly abandoned because it was too close to the center of development – just two blocks away from the center of activity at the corner of what are today West Center Street and West Avenue. A more appropriate area was donated by David E. Evans, the nephew of Joseph Ellicott, who inherited the land in the village of Medina owned by Ellicott. This one-acre lot is located at the present corner of Gwinn Street (known previously as Burying Ground Road) and West Oak Orchard Street. The few burials from the first burying ground were moved to this cemetery when it was opened, sometime between 1825 and 1834.

It did not take long for the village to begin to encroach on this second burying ground. When it became obvious that this lot would quickly be filled and that further expansion in the area would not be possible, a suitable alternative was sought.²¹ The six acres of land that would become Boxwood Cemetery were purchased in 1846 from William R. Gwinn by a group of twenty-four individuals. Most prominent among them were Silas M. Burroughs, George Northrop, and Caleb Hill. In 1850, this group sold the land to the village for the purpose of creating a cemetery.²² The village then engaged Levan Merritt, a former village trustee and locally prominent businessman, to layout and plot the cemetery. He, in turn, sought the assistance of a surveyor, Adam Garter.²³ This section is referred to as the Old Cemetery. In 1886, an additional section considered part of the Old Cemetery, separated by North Avenue, was laid out by cemetery commissioner Albert L. Swett.²⁴

The Old Cemetery contains some of the most distinctive features in the entire cemetery. The GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) lot, actually a sub-section of the Old Cemetery, was purchased in 1883 by Supervisors Acer, Hardie and Bowman.²⁵ Two Civil War era cannons adorn this area due to the efforts of the Honorable Henry A. Childs.²⁶ They were secured from the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 1897, and are two of the eight remaining out of a total of eighty-seven manufactured. The "two cannons are 8-inch Heavy

¹⁹ Waldo, 531.

²⁰ Grinnell, 25.

²¹ Ibid. 286.

²² Grinnell, 54; Arad Thomas, *Pioneer History of Orleans County, New York* (Albion, NY: H.A. Bruner, 1871), 71; Waldo, 732.

²³ Grinnell, 55; Waldo, 89.

²⁴ Computer Map of Boxwood, on file at the Medina Department of Public Works; Boxwood Cemetery Commissioners Minutes (1886-1951), 9.

²⁵ Waldo, 481.

²⁶ Ibid., 218; *Medina Register*, Nov. 4, 1897, http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn88074109/1897-11-04/ed-1/seq-3/

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Seacoast Howitzers, Pattern 1844. They were founded as a solid casting of hot-blast cast iron in 1855 at the West Point Foundry in Cold Spring, NY, by Robert P. Parrott....Today, for display purposes only, they are mounted on a decorative carriage made by the Washington Iron Works of Buffalo, NY." ²⁷

The most easily recognizable feature of the cemetery is the elegant yet diminutive Chapel. It was built by the cemetery commissioners in honor of Silas Mainville Burroughs in 1903. Burroughs grew up in Medina and went on to international business fame as the co-founder of the pharmaceutical giant, Burroughs Wellcome & Co., which later was absorbed by the pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline. He passed away in 1895, and as part of his will he left over \$22,000 to Boxwood Cemetery. It was the desire of the commissioners to have his body removed from its grave in Monte Carlo, Monaco, and re-interred in Boxwood Cemetery. When it was determined that this would not happen, the commissioners looked for a suitable memorial to this generous patron and native son. They settled on building a chapel which would serve as not only a memorial to Burroughs, but also as a place where funeral services could be held and bodies stored for the winter in anticipation of interment in the spring. Adding to the history of the chapel is the Medina sandstone that was used to build the exterior. This stone type was first quarried in Medina and was a major industry from the early days of Medina extending into the first decade of the twentieth century.

This hillside section provides a cross-section of various types of funerary art with many examples of typical late nineteenth and early twentieth century symbolism. For example, there are obelisks, urns, draperies and common religious and fraternal symbols. The grave markers also use a variety of materials such as marble, granite, sandstone, and white bronze. While the majority of burials are single graves, there are also many family plots. One of these, for the family of Edward Davey – a locally prominent carriage maker – is surrounded by a wrought iron fence. The earliest graves were set out in a typical eastwest orientation, while later graves did not necessarily follow this pattern. Retaining walls and family crypts use locally quarried Medina sandstone. There is also a potter's field in the back of this section.

The Old Cemetery is also the final resting place of many who were prominent locally, statewide, nationally or internationally. Some of the locally prominent individuals include: Don Bent, who established the local opera house that was a major center of civic, educational, and social affairs in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; Charles Newton Hood, who ran the opera house and was also a newspaperman; Edward Davey, an award-winning carriage maker; John Ryan, the first commercial quarryman of Medina sandstone; Levan Merritt, a successful businessman who helped lay out Boxwood

²⁷ Craig Lacy, "The Boxwood Cemetery Cannon," Medina Historical Society Newsletter, Sept 2008, 3-4.

²⁸ Boxwood Cemetery Commissioners Minutes (1886-1951), 31, 36.

²⁹ Boxwood Cemetery Commissioners Minutes (1886-1951), 29.

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Cemetery; and W.B. Robbins, part owner of a foundry and four-time village president. Those achieving statewide acclaim are: Silas M. Burroughs, a general in the New York State Militia, a state assemblyman, and a representative in the U.S. Congress; Henry A. Childs, a Supreme Court Justice for the Western District of New York; and Irving L'Hommedieu, a state senator. Making a name for himself nationally was Edwin Franklin Brown, a wounded Civil War veteran who went on to be the military mayor of Vicksburg, MS during Reconstruction and then became the inspector general of the National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers; a hospital in Dayton, OH, was named in his honor.³⁰ A couple of people buried in the Old Cemetery who made a name for themselves internationally were: Major General John S. Thompson, who, as a captain during WWI, was decorated with the British Distinguished Conduct Medal, Belgian Medal, French Service Cross and United States Medal; and George Shattuck, whose books on penmanship were used throughout the world.³¹

While the commissioners did not reveal why they called the second section the Cleveland section, it is assumed that it was named in honor of Grover Cleveland, who was elected to a second, non-consecutive presidential term in the year this section was plotted in 1892. It was during his first term, in 1886, that he married Frances Folsom, a former resident of Medina.³² This section includes two of the mausoleums in the cemetery, the Easlick and Davey mausoleums. The Easlick mausoleum was built for Thomas Easlick and his family, including his wife Jenny, sister Adriana, her husband Gainham, their son Clark, and Easlick's son-in-law William D. Holdredge. Thomas Easlick was a circus performer and theater owner with interests in several major cities, including New York and Chicago, who went by the name Thomas Miaco – the name being his wife's maiden name.³³ The Davey monument was built for Edward H. Davey and his wife Susan. He was a business partner of his father in the carriage making business. The other major figure buried in this section is Albert L. Swett. He was a prominent businessman who helped put Medina on the map with his company, Swett Iron Works. He is also responsible for bringing electric power to Medina by damming Oak Orchard Creek, located just to the east behind Boxwood Cemetery, thus creating Glenwood Lake as a reservoir to run his electric-generating plant.

The third area of the cemetery developed was the Whipple section, bought from Watson H. Whipple in 1899.³⁴ This section contains the other mausoleum in the cemetery, built for Frank A. Beach and his wife,

³⁰ Dayton Remembers: Preserving the History of the Miami Valley, *Dayton Metro Library*, accessed July 10, 2014, http://content.daytonmetrolibrary.org/cdm/search/searchterm/Soldiers'%20Homes--Ohio--Dayton/mode/exact; *New York Times*, January 11, 1903, http://localhistory.morrisville.edu/sites/unitinfo/brown-28.html.

³¹ *Medina Tribune*, July 19, 1917, http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyorlean/obits2.htm.

³² Grinnell, 353.

³³ *New York Times*, June 1, 1900, http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=9501EFD81339E733A25752C0A 9609C946197D6CF.

³⁴ Boxwood Cemetery Commissioners Minutes (1886-1951), 32.

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Myra. Beach was the founder of a custom shirt manufacturing company in Medina. Robert H. Newell became a partner and eventually bought out Beach's interest. Another locally prominent manufacturer is buried in this section, as well. S.A. Cook made furniture that gained a national reputation. Based on calls to the Medina Historical Society inquiring about the company, the distribution of the furniture spread across the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Not surprisingly, Watson H. Whipple, the namesake of this section is also buried here.

The fourth area developed was named after George E. Troup, the man who plotted the section in 1912.³⁵ This was the first section developed along the Lawn-Park model. The fifth area opened for burials, in 1914, was the Northeast section of the cemetery. This area includes the headstones and bodies that were removed from the old Gwinn Street Cemetery in 1894.³⁶ George Kennan, a nineteenth century Russian expert who was expelled from that country because of his exposé of the exile system, is buried in this section. The sixth expansion of burial plots was called the Single Grave section. It was laid out in 1917, by Charles Ingersoll, a civil engineer.³⁷ This is the last of the sections using the Lawn-Park model.

The last several sections were laid out using the Memorial Park model. This includes the Rogers-Hurd section, which was established in 1971, named after Dr. Fulton Rogers, a long-time cemetery commissioner. The House Single Graves section was started in 1979 and is used mainly for Social Services burials. The 3rd Single Graves section was opened up in 1988. When the cemetery commissioners informed the Orleans County legislature in 1990 that the Veterans section was filled up, the county authorized the purchase of sixty additional plots the next year in what is now called the New Veterans section. The most recent section established was the Single Grave 400 section, opened in 1999. The 400 in the name simply refers to the plot numbers which begin with 400.

Cemetery Design Context

The original area of the Boxwood Cemetery was laid out in 1850, drawing from the Rural Cemetery ideas that were fashionable at the time. The Rural Cemetery concept drew from new developments in burial ground design popular in Europe, notably Pere Lachaise Cemetery in Paris (established 1804, developed

³⁵ Ibid., 69.

³⁶ Waldo, 428.

³⁷ Boxwood Cemetery Commissioners Minutes (1886-1951), 90.

³⁸ Medina Village Board Trustees Minutes (8/28/69-5/22//73), 254.

³⁹ Files of Boxwood Cemetery, Medina Village Hall.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

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in 1815). In the United States, the first Rural Cemetery was founded at Mount Auburn in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1831, which was highly influential on other large and small American cemeteries. Prior to the growth of Rural Cemeteries, most burial grounds tended to be in church yards and associated with a specific denomination. However, Rural Cemeteries created a non-sectarian burial place that emphasized Romantic associations with picturesque, park-like natural landscapes. Drawing from the Mount Auburn model, American Rural Cemeteries tended to be established outside of the settled city boundaries and were located on elevated sites with dramatic, rolling topography. These cemeteries established a carefully and intentionally designed landscape for mourning the dead, drawing from emerging Victorian concepts on death and memorialization. Drawing also from contemporary English romantic landscape design ideas, Rural Cemeteries utilized varied topography, curving drives for carriages and separate pedestrian pathways, and in larger cemeteries, carefully constructed scenes and areas on the grounds were meant to provide moments of quiet reflection on the deceased. Before the advent of public parks and recreation grounds, Rural Cemeteries were also designed to provide the living with a place of relaxation and natural enjoyment.

Although Boxwood Cemetery was owned and operated by the Village of Medina since 1850, Rural Cemeteries were typically privately owned and operated, rather than tied to a church or municipality. Family plots became typical in Rural Cemeteries, where elegant monuments, sculpture and mausoleums boasted a family's wealth and status. These family plots were typically sectioned off with some manner of fencing, railing or stone walls as a way to mark the family's claim on their burial site. 43

As the original portion of the cemetery became filled, new areas were added in the 1880s drawing on the Park-Lawn movement. Lawn-Park cemetery design was first developed after the Civil War by Adolph Strauch at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, Ohio and was popular into the early twentieth century. Compared to the earlier Rural Cemeteries, Lawn-Park cemeteries were generally characterized by an emphasis on a more pastoral or lawn-like setting, which was less picturesque in its landscape. Lawn-Park cemeteries were typically more organized and formal in appearance. While family plots were still common, fencing was generally eliminated to emphasize the continuous landscape of the cemetery. Lawn-Park cemeteries also typically featured more simplified and less sculptural burial markers, as new advances in mass-produced stone cutting created more standardized shapes and designs.⁴⁴

⁴³ Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. *1833-1875: Rural Cemetery Movement.*http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/developmental_history_of_pennsylvania_cemeteries/1879/183
3-1875_rural_cemetery_movement/279989. Also, Elisabeth Walton Potter and Beth M. Boland. *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places Bulletin.* Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1992.

⁴⁴ Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. *1900-Present Lawn-Park Cemeteries and Memorial Parks*. http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/developmental_history_of_pennsylvania_cemeteries/1879/190 0-present_lawn-park_cemeteries_and_memorial_parks_/280081.

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A variant of the Lawn-Park cemetery that was also employed at Boxwood Cemetery was the Memorial Park. The Memorial Park model was first utilized in the 1913-design of Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California and became popular in the early twentieth century. Like the Lawn-Park type, Memorial Park cemeteries emphasized the continuous lawn setting, with a rational, organized plan. Here, the concept is carried even further, with headstone typically placed flush with the ground plane, providing a nearly totally unobstructed landscape. Plantings such as trees and shrubs are generally kept minimal, and when used, are located around the perimeter of the cemetery or section. Memorial Park cemeteries often emphasized vehicular circulation routes, rather than pedestrian pathways.

Boxwood Cemetery exemplifies how national cemetery design trends influenced the design of local, more modest municipal cemeteries in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The growth and design of the sections of Boxwood Cemetery reflect the changing attitudes towards death and memorialization, as well as the evolving trends in landscape design.

Monument Design

Boxwood Cemetery provides a great study in the changing tastes of Americans in regards to cemeteries and how the dead are honored and remembered through funerary art. The headstones that were moved from the previous burying ground at Gwinn Street represent the early nineteenth century style of simplicity – a thin stone slab with either a squared off or rounded profile, adorned only with the name and dates of the deceased.

The section of the cemetery known as the Old Cemetery contains burials from between 1850 and the early 1900s, and holds many fine examples of typical mid- to late-nineteenth century funerary art. Family monuments in the shape of obelisks are prominent throughout this section. Many of the obelisks are topped with a pyramid, which draws the observers gaze toward Heaven, the presumed destination of the deceased. This design was used on the Skinner and Newell monuments. Other obelisks such as the one for the Whedon family, feature urns – some draped and others not – symbolizing death and mourning. Another prominent monument, memorializing the Underhill family, is a statue of an angelic figure with a flowing gown, clutching a cross and looking skyward. The Whipple monument is unique in that it is topped with a sphere, perhaps a symbol of perfection. The individual grave of May Ella Fuller is interesting for several reasons. First, it is a good example of the use of "white bronze" in the late nineteenth century for headstones. Second, although she was twenty-years-old when she died, her grave

⁴⁵ Indiana Department of Natural Resources. *Cemetery Symbolism.* http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3750.htm.

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not only refers to her as the daughter of D.R. and R.I. Fuller, it also uses some symbolism usually reserved for children – a dove indicating innocence and the shape of the grave itself, which is suggestive of a cradle, although it is actually used as a flower bed. The headstone also features an anchor, symbolizing hope, and drapery representing mourning. There are also examples throughout the Old Cemetery of other nineteenth century symbols such as praying hands, hands pointing skyward, open books, oak leaves, laurel branches, as well as fraternal symbols representing the Masons and the Odd Fellows.

Indicative of changing tastes as well as increasing community wealth in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Cleveland and Whipple sections feature the three mausoleums in Boxwood Cemetery. The Davey family and the Easlick family mausoleums are located in the Cleveland section. Both mausoleums impress through their size in relation to other plots nearby. In fact, they both occupy double plots and stand over eight feet tall. The Davey mausoleum utilizes large, rough-cut granite blocks to signify permanence and longevity. The entryway is highlighted by a wrought-iron gate (symbolic of entering the gates of Heaven), with a vine-like design on the bottom (representing the church and the followers of Christ), and a series of *fleur de lis* (signifying the Holy Trinity) topping the vertical bars in the middle and at the top. ⁴⁶ Next to the Davey mausoleum is the Easlick mausoleum, a Romanesque style building made of both rough-cut and smooth-cut granite. The heavy portico with short Corinthian columns and an arched entablature reading "Easlick" with a continuous over-sized carved molding suggest a permanence that will last through the ages. There are two Masonic symbols prominently displayed, one on each side of the name, as well as triangles representing the Holy Trinity.

The third mausoleum is in the Whipple section. The Beach family mausoleum, which was made of both rough-cut and smooth cut granite is an example of a Neoclassical style mausoleum. The paired bronze doors are flanked by Doric columns *in antis*. This is the most decorated of the three mausoleums. The smooth granite flanking each side of the doors is adorned with a bunch of flowers, including roses and lilies, hanging upside down, signaling the death of a loved one. On each door panel are torches turned upside down, symbolizing death. However, above these are wreaths attached to bars, symbolizing victory over death as the departed enters Heaven's gates. The mausoleum also incorporated elements of Egyptian Revival influences, including a winged sun disk in the tympanum that is representative of divine protection, as well as raked corner pilasters that suggest a pylon form.

The Whipple section also features the two largest crosses in the cemetery, marking the Stanton and Brownell family plots. These two crosses, at opposite ends of this section are nearly identical. They are approximately ten feet tall and made of granite. At the bottom of the cross, both feature lilies, symbolizing

⁴⁶ Ihid.

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love. However, the Stanton cross also has two broken lilies lying on the base, suggesting a love that was cut short. The other difference between the two is that the Brownell monument also has two Biblical inscriptions, one on the cross ("I am the resurrection and the life") and the other on the base ("Until the day break and the shadows flee away").

As Boxwood Cemetery's design transformed from Rural Cemetery to Lawn-Park in the early twentieth century, the funerary art also changed. In the Troup, Northeast, and Single Graves sections the headstones tend to be a more uniform size and ornamentation is typically limited to engravings on the stones. Embellishments in these areas are most often stylized flowers (without significance beyond decoration) and fraternal symbols such as the Masons and Odd Fellows.

By the late twentieth century, Boxwood Cemetery transformed once again, this time from a Lawn-Park to Memorial Park design. Correspondingly, the funerary art changed again also. In the Rogers-Hurd, House Single Graves, 3rd Single Graves, New Veterans, and Single Grave 400 sections, the headstones are smaller, many actually flush to the ground. Symbolism in these sections is even less than in the Lawn-Park sections. Symbols are limited to those that depict various branches of the military and small crosses which are engraved in the stones. In the twenty-first century, as technology allows, families are now beginning to incorporate etched photos of the deceased on polished-stone headstones.

Summary

Boxwood Cemetery in Medina, Orleans County is eligible under criterion C, as a good representative example of a modest cemetery reflective of many of the most prominent cemetery design theories that were popular during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As the cemetery grew in size, new sections were designed using the contemporary concepts of how cemeteries should be designed and used by those visiting their deceased loved ones. The cemetery contains a good collection of notable mausoleums and funerary art, all reflecting the tastes and trends of the era.

NPS Form 10-900a (8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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Verbal Boundary Description

See attached maps with scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary has been drawn to reflect all property currently and historically associated with Boxwood Cemetery.

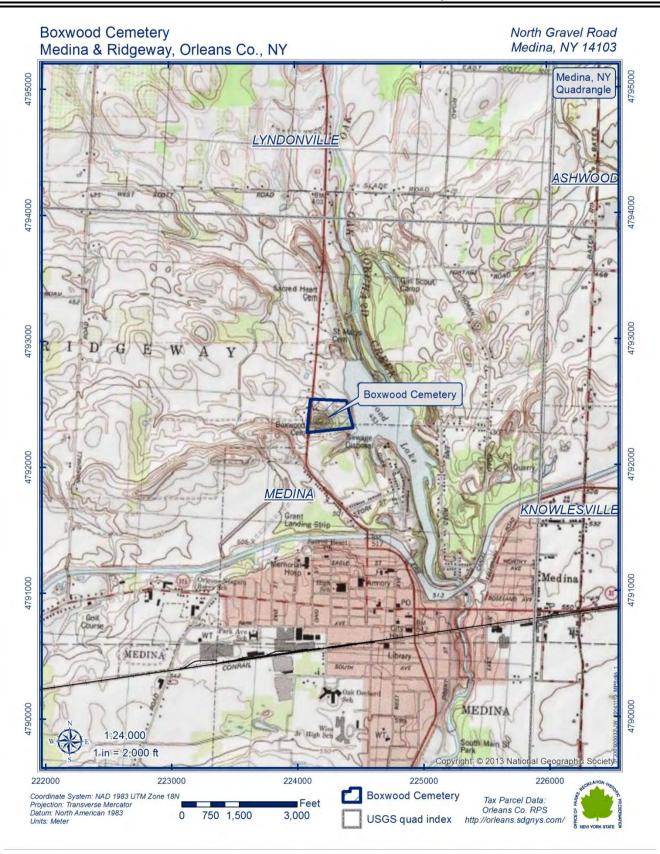
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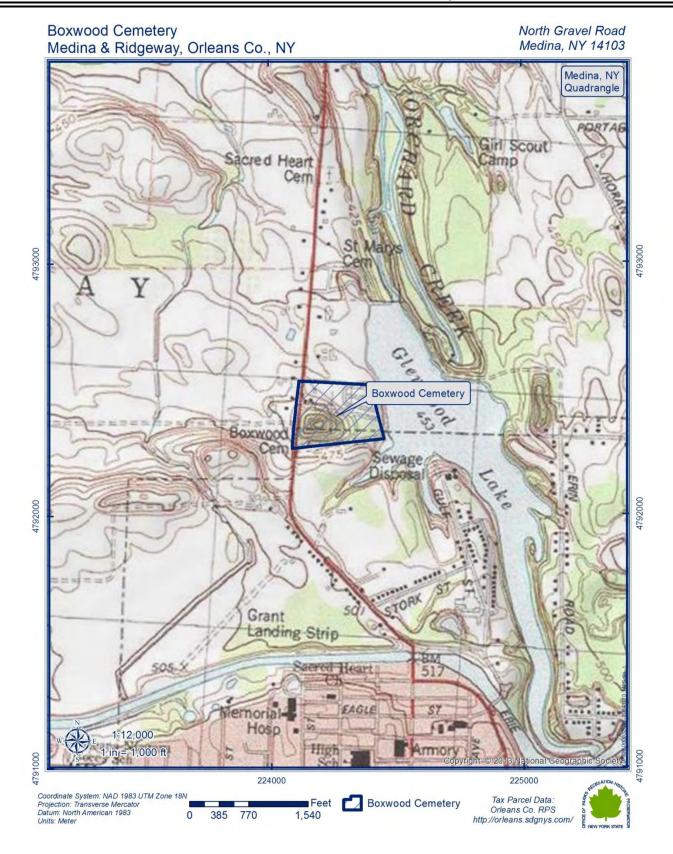
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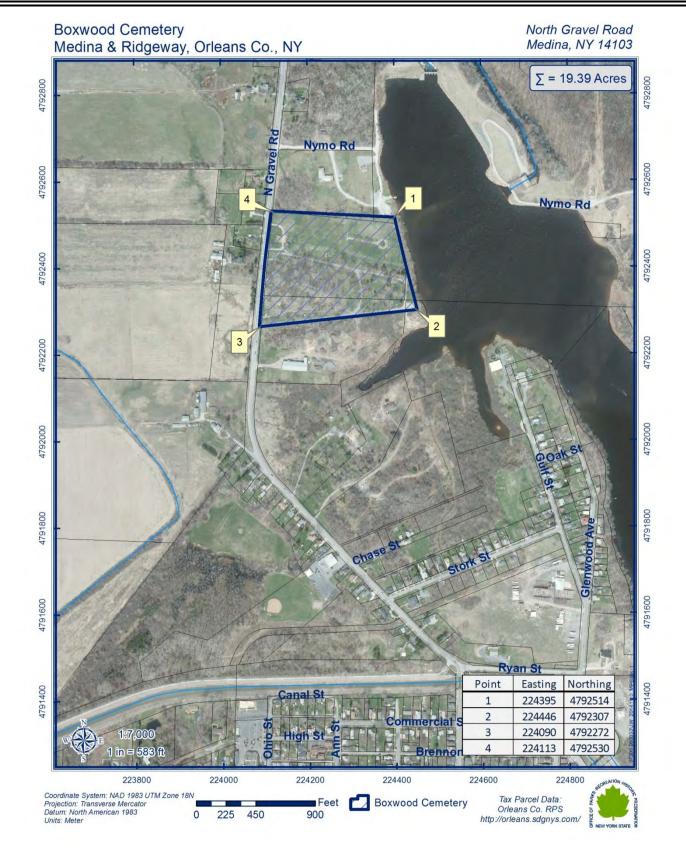
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BOXWOOD CEMETERY Name of Property Orleans, New York

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PHOTO LOG

Name of Property: Boxwood Cemetery

County: Orleans State: New York

Photographer: Todd Bensley, Village Historian

Date Photographed:

Photos-

01: Looking NE at main gates from North Gravel Road

02: View of Chapel Building, looking NE

03: Detail of Medina sandstone main entrance gates, looking SE

04: The Davey family plot, located in the Old Cemetery, looking E

05: View of the Cleveland Section, looking NW

06: View of the Old Gwinn Section, looking S

07: View of the Troup Section, looking SE

08: The Beach Mausoleum, looking NE

09: The L'Hommedieu marker, located in the Old Cemetery looking N

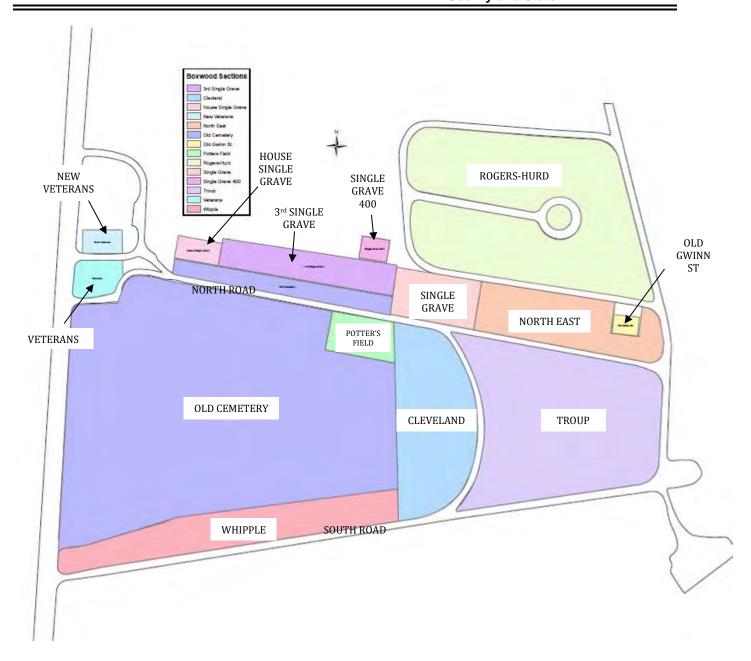
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Boxwood Cemetery NAME:
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Orleans
DATE RECEIVED: 12/12/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/15 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/27/15 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001216
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N VACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1.27-15 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
no peu la contra de la contra del la contra de la contra de la contra del la
$(-1)^{2} = (-1)^{2}$
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWER DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189 518-237-8643



Andrew M. Cuomo Governor

> Rose Harvey Commissioner

10 December 2014

Alexis Abernathy National Park Service National Register of Historic Places 1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose the following two nominations, both on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Boxwood Cemetery, Orleans County Pond-Hitchens House, Niagara County

Please feel free to call me $518.237.8643 \times 3261$ if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank

National Register Coordinator

New York State Historic Preservation Office