

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Iowa Men's Reformatory Cemetery

other names/site number Boot Hill Cemetery

2. Location

street & number County Trunk Highway E28 not for publication n/a

city or town Anamosa vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Jones code 105 zip code 52205

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L... 10/23/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

12/18/92
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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Municipal, County, and State Corrections Properties in Iowa

none

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

n/a

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation n/a

walls n/a

roof n/a

other Limestone

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

LAW

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1914-1942

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 5	6 3 9 8 1 0	4 6 6 3 3 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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 Joyce McKay, Cultural Resources Consultant

organization private consultant date April 10, 1992

street & number P.O. Box 258 telephone 608-424-6315

city or town Belleville state Wisconsin zip code 53508

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Iowa Department of Corrections

street & number 523 East Twelfth Street telephone 515-281-4811

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50319

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Description

The Iowa Men's Reformatory Cemetery¹ sits near the top of a hill overlooking the valley containing the Men's Reformatory in the City of Anamosa, Iowa. It lies 4500 feet to the east of the reformatory complex and 2000 feet to the northeast of Farm No. 1 (see nominations for the Iowa Men's Reformatory Historic District and Farm No. 1). It sits in the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 4, township 84 north, range 4 west. Enclosing .92 acres, the boundaries of the cemetery and the district form a triangle running along County Trunk Highway E28 along the southeast leg. A barbed wire fence resting on wood posts separates the cemetery from the surrounding agricultural lands along the north and west legs. The cemetery stones are surrounded by cut grasses, scattered trees, and trimmed shrubs. Opened in 1914, the cemetery includes only the burials of prisoners from the reformatory. It composes one contributing site which represents subtype 1d of the Auburn Penitentiary Property Type. The cemetery is one of the associated properties commonly placed outside the penitentiary wall. Except for the addition of post-1942 gravestones, it has not experienced any known physical alterations.

The cemetery is composed of four rows of limestone gravestones running northwest-southeast along the hillside. However, the stones are not aligned one behind the other in the opposite, southwest-northeast direction. Four varieties of stones prevail. (1) Altogether containing about thirty-five individuals, the earliest variety is tall, about four and a half feet in height; rectangular in horizontal and vertical cross-section; narrow in width; and flat-topped. One additional stone related to them is tall, about six feet high; square in horizontal cross-section; and flat-topped. (2) Many of the stones are about three and a half feet tall and square in cross-section. They have a pyramid-shaped top resembling an intersecting gambrel roof. (3) A third variety is rectangular in horizontal cross-section and narrow in width. Their tops are rounded, and they stand about three and a half feet high. (4) Shaped like a rectangular box, the last variety is low to the ground, about half a foot high; rectangular in horizontal and vertical cross-section; and wider than it is taller. Identifying information occurs on the vertical faces of all stones except the fourth variety where it is written on the horizontal, top face.

Varieties 2 and 3 compose most of the cemetery. They mark single graves and range in age from 1914 to the 1940s. These stones note the name, age, date of death, and occasionally the prisoner's number. Variety 1, the tall stones, clusters in the last two rows of the rear in the northwest corner of the

¹ Specific references to the Iowa Men's Reformatory Cemetery and prison cemeteries may be found on the following pages in sections E and F: 91, 104, 108, 113, 116, and 128.

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cemetery. They are mass graves containing as many as six to eight individuals. Their original burial dates begin as early as 1876. One grave many contain burials ranging, for example, from 1881 to 1889 and another from 1876 to 1891. These stones note the name and death date of each individual in the grave. Variety four clusters in the southeast corner of the yard and denotes the most recent burials which date primarily to the late 1940s, 1950s, and early 1960s. It displays the same information as varieties 2 and 3. None of the stones display designs or epitaphs in association with this identifying information.

Other than the inclusion of the post-1942 gravestones (variety 4) in the southeast corner, the cemetery has undergone no known alterations. Although post-dating 1942, these later stones represent the continued utilization of the prison cemetery.

8. Significance

Through The Prison Cemetery subtype (1d) of the Auburn Penitentiary Property Type (1), the Iowa Men's Reformatory Cemetery site gains significance within the Iowa Corrections Institutions context. The prison cemetery represents one kind of property located beyond the walls of the Auburn Penitentiary complex. The property acquires significance under criterion C in the area of landscape architecture for the specific spacial arrangement of the stones within the cemetery, the location of the cemetery, and the stark design and specific forms of the individual stones. It gains significance under criterion D in the area of law for the potential information the cemetery may yield about early twentieth century society's perception of those imprisoned at Anamosa. Cemetery properties associated with corrections institutions become eligible under criterion consideration D because of the social information they provide and their unique designs. Thus, the cemetery provides potential data about society's view of deviants which contradicts the historical ideas espoused by the prison reform movement. These views affected prisoner treatment in the late nineteenth and first third of the twentieth century which the Iowa Corrections Institutions context discusses. The cemetery gains significance from the date of the first burials in 1914 to the beginning of the modern era in 1942 when the cemetery remained in use. The significant date of 1914 denotes the opening of the cemetery. Because it functioned as part of a state institution, the cemetery acquires significance at the state level.

Historical Background

The two prison cemeteries at the Iowa Men's Reformatory contained those deceased prisoners whose bodies remained unclaimed by relatives and who were not transferred to the state medical colleges. Although it is known that the state

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~~placed the first cemetery on a hill top somewhere at Farm No. 1 or Farm No. 5 west or north of the reformatory, its location remains unidentified. Here, head and foot stones marked the graves which were arranged side-by-side in rows. The state opened its first cemetery by 1876 (Remley 1901: 65). Requiring the location for agricultural purposes, it moved the first prison cemetery, about thirty-five individuals, to its current location in 1914 (Finn 1988: 83; Husman 1991). By the time the state created its second cemetery, it had established the Iowa Men's Reformatory seven years before.~~

Symbolic resources such as the cemetery provide a better understanding of prevailing attitudes toward the prisoner during the 1870 to 1930 corrections period (Rothman 1973; 1981; Deford 1963; American Correctional Association 1983; Cosson 1912; Haynes 1956; McKelvey 1977; Wines 1910; Barnes 1973). The early mass burials and the stark stones of the later period suggest lack of individuality. Society had banished the prisoners from society, and they became therefore faceless entities. The reformatory program at the Iowa Men's Reformatory in the early nineteenth century corroborates this supposition. It was committed not to the punishment of the prisoners and not to their reform through individual penitence and hard labor. Instead, a single program was to reform all prisoners through the retraining of the moral, mental, and physical being. By the initiating act of 1907 and subsequent funding in 1913, the reformatory was to establish work which retrained work skills as well as work habits and moral and mental habits through undifferentiated programs (Iowa, State of [IA Docs.] 1857-1931 [1908: 13-14; 1915: 18; 1919: 36]; Iowa Board of Control 1898-1934 [1914: 6-7]). While it did establish state-use industries, the program failed to provide individual prisoners with the work skills needed for employment. It slowly improved its elementary education program. The reformatory attempted to improve self-discipline through military drill. Moral reform remained the duty of the chaplain. This area of the reform program still appears to have remained tied to penitence and the conversion process. Guided by the grading system, discipline still relied on rigid rules. But, by the 1930s, recidivism still remained high. The reformatory program of the early twentieth century generally continued to include activities added to but not replacing the programs of the Auburn systems and brought only superficial behavior changes. The program did not address individual problems until the progressive era of prison reform in the 1940s.

The national prison reformatory program initiated in 1870 had failed to reform perhaps because the prevailing view of and resulting treatment of individual prisoners as social deviants and as society's outcasts had altered little since the initial Auburn penitentiary movement of the 1820s. Along with the belief that each criminal could undergo reform, the element of punishment in the Auburn system lingered in its program of hard labor through the end of the nineteenth century. Prisoners continued to lack individuality in the reformatory program which treated them alike whatever their past. Even before the 1920s, the

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progressive reform movement slowly sought to change this image of the prisoner and to find answers to the problem of prisoner reform in the individual rather than the mass analysis and treatment of prisoners. It sought to find the cause of criminality for each prisoner and prescribe individual treatment. However, few prisons including the Iowa Men's Reformatory adopted this program by the end of the 1930s. The cemetery stones at the prison cemetery reflect this faceless image of the prisoner.

Significance Statements

Law

The Iowa Men's Reformatory gains significance under criterion D in the area of law for its potential contribution to the understanding of the orientation toward prisoners under the reformatory program at the Iowa Men's Reformatory. The 1914 reburial of prisoners in mass rather than individual graves, the stark appearance of individual stones and the cemetery itself, and the impersonalized treatment of each stone parallels the absence of individualized treatment or consideration at the reformatory. The tone of the cemetery suggests that they were not men to be vocationally retrained and socially and mentally refitted for re-entrance into society. Rather, the prisoners were undergoing punishment and supporting the operation of their institution through their hard labor. The mass of prisoners represented social deviants who were something less than human and no longer belonged to society. Similarly, upon their release, former prisoners continued to experience great difficulty resuming their role within a community. The inability of the Howard Association and the Iowa Parole Board operating after the turn of the century to ease this transition resulted from social resistance as much as prisoner deficiencies (Iowa Board of Control 1934-42 [1936: 112]).

The underlying perceptions about social groups at any given period may often only be gained by observing the treatment of objects associated with them. Such perceptions often oppose those related by the historical literature. Thus, while the reformatory program overtly strove to prepare its inmates to re-enter society, its treatment of all prisoners as social deviants through strict, unbending regulations and disciplinary procedures often resulted in a program that punished rather than reformed. This deviation between theory and reality in part explains the agenda of the progressive prison reform movement. In response, the progressive program of the era stressed individual analysis and treatment. They strove for a more humane treatment which indeed had been absent. The careful correlation of the subtle changes in the four varieties of gravestones: their placement, clustering and arrangement within the spatial context of the cemetery, the quality of material, and the amount and kind of information included on the stones of each variety correlated with the date of

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the stone and the nature of the overt program at the reformatory at given periods should yield a better understanding of the covert attitudes of society and of the prison administration itself toward the inmates. Thus, examination of the cemetery has suggested potential conclusions which yet require refinement through more careful correlation of the existing data. These conclusions assist the illumination of social attitudes toward the prisoner which better explain why the reformatory approach malfunctioned and the reasons for the development of the progressive approach to criminology.

Landscape Architecture

The cemetery property also possesses significance under criterion C in the area of landscape architecture. It represents a subtype of the Auburn Penitentiary Property Type. Although not identified in the historical literature, the cemetery represents one necessary resource of the property type. The reformatory required a location to place its unclaimed dead. The design, the plain stone of local material without decorative elaboration or epitaph and limited personal identification is distinctive. Stones are simply aligned on the landscape in rows near the top of an isolated hill without additional cemetery furniture. These elements produce a feeling of starkness and hopelessness rather than redemption and eternal life.

Criterion Consideration D

The cemetery gains significance under criterion consideration D because it represents the design of a penitentiary cemetery contributing to the understanding of the Auburn Penitentiary Property Type under criterion C. Under criterion D, the cemetery also enhances the understanding of society's view of the prisoner during the prison reform period occurring at the Iowa Men's Reformatory after 1907 into the early 1940s.

Period and Area of Significance

The cemetery gains significance from the date the state opened it in 1914 (Finn 1988: 83) to the beginning of the modern era in 1942. The state buried prisoners unclaimed by relatives at the cemetery from 1914 through 1942. Because it informs about individuals treated by a state institution, the cemetery is significant at the state level.

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Property Integrity

The property possesses a high degree of integrity. Although the cemetery includes individuals originally buried at the first prison cemetery, the manner in which the state interred these approximately thirty-five bodies in mass graves is an important social statement. Since prisoners at the first cemetery were reportedly buried in single graves, the stones at the second cemetery were originally prepared for this site. Thus, since the stones were not moved, the cemetery retains its integrity of location. In 1914, the state placed the cemetery in an isolated position on the property of Farm No. 1. It is still incorporated within the agricultural fields of this farm and recent development has not affected the surrounding landscape. Also, the gravestones do not appear to have been moved and thus retain their original spatial configuration. However, low, post-1942 stones have been added to the southeast corner. Easily distinguished from earlier stones yet not highly visible, they do not significantly interrupt the landscape while they represent continuity of use into the 1960s. The cemetery thus retains much of its integrity of setting. The design, material, and workmanship of the individual cemetery stones remain intact and provide the data necessary to gain significance under criterion D. Finally, because integrity of setting and design remain intact, the cemetery continues to communicate its feeling of starkness. And, because the cemetery is maintained on the property of the reformatory which is also visible from the cemetery, the site retains integrity of association. This level of integrity correlates with the registration requirements of the multiple property listing.

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9. Bibliography

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Iowa Board of Control

1898-1934 Reports to the Board of Control presented by the wardens of the Iowa Men's Reformatory, Anamosa and the Iowa State Penitentiary, Ft. Madison and the superintendents of the Training School for Boys, Eldora; the Training School for Girls, Mitchellville; and the Iowa Women's Reformatory, Rockwell City; and the State Hospitals at Clarinda and Mt. Pleasant. Published and bound separately by State Printers, Des Moines (available at the Law Library, State Capitol, Des Moines).

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10. Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point 500 meters North and 160 Meters West of the SE corner of the SE 1/4 of Section 4, R4W, T84N, then North 80 Meters, then West 65 Meters, then SE to the point of beginning.

Geographical Justification

The boundary of the cemetery site follows its legally defined boundaries illustrated on the USGS map. The boundaries run along the east side of County Trunk Highway E28 and are enclosed by fences on the other two sides.

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Photographic Documentation

Name: Iowa Men's Reformatory Cemetery

Location: Anamosa, Jones County, Iowa

Photographer's name: Joyce McKay

Date of photographs: 6/25/91

Location of negative: Historic Preservation Bureau, State Historical Society
of Iowa, Des Moines

1. View of the cemetery from CTH E28 facing east (7/10).
2. View of cemetery stones: variety 1 at the upper left and varieties 2 and 3 in the center of the photograph facing northeast (15/1).

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