OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

734

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   **Beech Grove Cemetery**

other names/site number   035-442-45125

2. Location

street & number   1400 West Kilgore Avenue   N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town   Muncie   N/A ☐ vicinity

state   Indiana   code   IN   county   Delaware   code   035   zip code   47305

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 36CFR 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.)

> _____   5/14/99
Signature of certifying official/Title   Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

_____   _____
Signature of certifying official/Title   Date

_____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☑ entered in the National Register.
　☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
　National Register
　　☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
　National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper   Edson W. Beall

Date of Action   6-25-99

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
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	4	buildings
1	0	sites
21	3	structures
11	0	objects
34	7	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Gothic Revival
OTHER: designed landscape

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   STONE: Limestone

walls   STONE: Granite
        STONE: Limestone

roof   TERRA COTTA

other   STONE: Marble
        METAL: Cast Iron

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 contriibution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☒ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1841-1947

Significant Dates
1841
1904
1923

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Kibele, Cuno
Mahurin, Marshall S.
Crabbs, Oscar Wells

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☒ University

☒ Other

Name of repository:
Muncie Public Library; Beech Grove Cemetery-Administration Building; Ball State University, College of Architecture and Planning-Drawings and Documents Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property   Approx. 105

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

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

3 | 1 6 | | 6 3 5 0 4 0 | | 4 4 4 9 4 4 0 |
   Zone   Easting   Northing

2 | 1 6 | | 6 3 5 3 1 0 | | 4 4 4 9 0 8 0 |

4 | 1 6 | | 6 3 6 0 8 0 | | 4 4 5 0 4 7 0 |

☐ 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   Laura Renwick Dreistadt

organization   Muncie Community Development   date   01/01/97

street & number   300 North High Street   telephone   (765) 747-4825

city or town   Muncie   state   IN   zip code   47305

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

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

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

Property Owner

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

name   City of Muncie

street & number   300 North High Street   telephone   765-741-1352

city or town   Muncie   state   IN   zip code   47305

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(8-86)

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Continuation Sheet

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Beech Grove Cemetery
Delaware County, Indiana

DESCRIPTION

Beech Grove Cemetery is located on the near west side of Muncie, Indiana, on the northwest side of State Road 32, which is called Kilgore Avenue as it runs through the city. The cemetery consists of approximately one hundred and five acres along the White River and includes seventy platted burial sections. The grounds include one contributing building (administration building, 1923), four noncontributing buildings (maintenance barns), twenty-one contributing structures (three gates, iron fence/main gate, private mausolea, 1904-1933), three noncontributing structures (chain link fence, overpass, and public mausoleum, 1974), one contributing site (cemetery landscape), and eleven contributing objects (significant grave markers). The cemetery's landscape is varied, including flat open areas, rolling hills, and naturalistic groupings of trees and shrubs. This landscape, the Gothic Revival style used for the main gate and administration building, and the varied mausolea and grave markers are all typical of the picturesque cemetery of the nineteenth and early twentieth century, and maintain much of their integrity today. The Gothic Revival cemetery chapel, built circa 1910 and razed in 1955 after a fire, also contributed to the unity of design, and is the only architectural element which is no longer extant.

The main entrance to Beech Grove Cemetery, located on Kilgore Avenue, is marked by a large stone Gothic Revival-style gate. The administration building is located just inside and to the west of the gate. Behind the administration building is a section known as the "G.A.R." (Grand Army of the Republic), which is reserved for the burial of veterans, primarily of the Civil and Spanish-American wars (photo 1). Several military artifacts are found in this section in addition to the stones, including a plaque made from the U.S.S. Maine battleship, a torpedo, and a cannonball. Lakeside Drive, the primary north-south roadway through the cemetery, runs past the front of the administration building and continues to the rear of the cemetery, where it terminates in front of the maintenance barns. The road is flanked by ornate mausolea which serve as the resting places of many of Muncie's leading families. The mausolea are set atop gentle slopes (photo 2). The extreme northeastern portion of the cemetery is known as the "Old Ground" and contains the original land and earliest graves. According to cemetery records, the northern edge of the Old Ground was reserved for the burial of Africa-Americans, and several other of the early sections were similarly segregated. South of this area is the "Old Part," which is slightly newer and feature's much of the cemetery's outstanding funerary sculpture. A section just south of Section F is reserved for members of the Jewish faith, and the Elks Lodge owns a small plot in section A. Most of the streets and plots in this area of the cemetery are laid out in a grid, other than section B, in which the plots form a spiral pattern. Overall, the landscape here is flat to gently rolling, with some scattered trees and shrubs.

The cemetery is cut roughly in half by the Norfolk and Southern railroad tracks (formerly the Nickel Plate railroad), and the only access between the two sections is via an underpass located just north of Section 22. Prior to the construction of the underpass (around 1940), traffic passed over the tracks through cast iron gates located on both sides of the tracks. The gates remain intact and are located just south of sections F and Legion 1 (photo 3).

In the southern half of the cemetery, the roads are more winding, the terrain is more rolling, and the trees are more numerous than in the northern section described above. Here the monuments are generally smaller, less distinctive, and somewhat secondary to the landscape. Three narrow sections along the railroad tracks are owned by the American Legion and reserved for the burial of veterans (photo 4). A Catholic area in Section I is marked by a statue of "Our Lady of Fatima." A large, public, wall-style mausoleum was built in 1974 and is located in

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Section O. An unplatted section west of the underpass is reserved for the burial of indigent persons (photo 5). Earlier in Beech Grove's history, paupers' graves had been scattered throughout various sections, particularly in Sections C and 17, and in the less desirable graves closest to the river [1].

The Gothic Revival-style main gate is one of the most striking features of Beech Grove Cemetery (photos 6 & 7). Sixty-five feet tall at its central point, the gate provides three entrances to the cemetery: a twenty-two foot wide central passage for vehicular traffic, and two flanking six foot wide pedestrian entrances. The three pointed arches which contain these openings are all topped with ornate acanthus-leaf finials, and above the central passage is a stone nameplate which reads "BEECH GROVE 1904". The gate is constructed of rough, multi-color granite boulders, some of which were collected from the cemetery grounds, and trimmed in buff-colored Indiana limestone. The arches are separated by heavy stone buttresses, and cast iron gates can be used to close each of the entrances. The gate was designed by well-known Fort Wayne, Indiana architect Marshall Mahurin, and was completed in 1904. Cemetery superintendent Oscar Wells Crabbs oversaw the construction of the gate, and his name is inscribed on a plaque inside the west arch, along with those of cemetery committee members L.W. Cates, W.A. Petty, and W.F. White. The gate is unchanged from its historic appearance.

Adjoining both sides of the gate is a stone and cast iron fence which runs along Kilgore Avenue (photos 8 & 9). Continuing the design of the main gate, the stones used for the posts are large, rough granite boulders and the trim is limestone. Between these supports are one-hundred foot sections with square cast iron pickets set atop a low granite and limestone base. The fence was designed by prominent Muncie architect Cuno Kibele, and was completed in 1927. A few of the sections have suffered some minor damage from weathering and auto accidents, but otherwise the fence and its integrity are intact.

The administration building is located just west of the main gate and continues the Gothic Revival style (photo 10). It was built from 1921-1923, and like the fence was designed by Cuno Kibele. The building, which is cruciform in plan, is constructed of granite boulders with limestone trim. Although it was built more than fifteen years after the gate, the unity of style and material makes them appear to have been constructed together. This single story building features a cross-gabled roof covered in Mission tile and drained by copper gutters. The east or primary facade faces Lakeside Drive, and features as its most prominent element a crenelated porte-cochere with massive piers. North of the porte-cochere on this elevation is a row of three ten-over-one double hung windows with stone drip molds. A matching window is located beneath the porte-cochere, as is a pair of modern glass and steel doors. Topped by a fixed transom, these doors replaced the original oak double doors in 1974. A band of limestone runs around the building beneath the windows, forming a continuous sill. A small, five pane window in a pointed arch shape is located in the cross gable on this elevation. Similar openings are found in the building's other cross gables, although the ones on the north and south facades are larger and have ten-pane windows, and on the west side the opening contains horizontal wooden louvers rather than glass. The north facade is the simplest, and contains only a row of five six-over-one windows under a single drip mold (photo 11). Two single pane basement windows with large limestone lintels are also visible on this facade, and three are found on the east elevation. The rear of the building faces west and features groups of six-over-one and four-over-one windows set under common stone hood molds. The south facade has the most noticeable exterior alteration; in 1974, the porch was enclosed to provide a larger chapel area (photo 12). This crenelated porch, which is similar to but smaller than the porte-cochere on the east facade, now has large fixed windows on the south and west sides,

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and a modern glass and steel door on the east. The only other significant exterior alteration to the administration building is the 1974 replacement of the wood-framed windows with similar aluminum models throughout.

The interior of the administration building originally contained a storage vault, two lavatories, a garage, and three large rooms: the Board of Trustees meeting room, an office, and a waiting room. The Trustees' meeting room was located in the north end of the building and originally featured a cork floor, partially frescoed walls, and marble wainscoting. Just south of the meeting room was the main office, also with a cork floor and marble wainscoting. South of the office was the waiting room, or "rest room" as it was then known. It had a tile floor and a frescoed design around the top of the walls. Two brass grilles in the north wall allowed communication with people in the office. At the southern end of the administration building was an open porch. To the west of the aforementioned rooms was the superintendent's garage, which had a cement floor and wood paneled ceiling, as well as cabinets for the temporary storage of corpses.

The administration building was renovated in 1974 and redecorated in 1991. Few of its original interior features are visible today, although many have been retained under later additions. For example, in the Board of Trustees room, which is now used as the main office, the cork floor was carpeted, the frescoes were painted over, and the original chandeliers were removed during the 1974 renovation. Only the marble wainscoting and the brass wall sconces remain (photo 13). The original office, which is now used as the superintendent's office, retains its marble wainscoting. The cork floor, however, has been covered with carpet, and a wall has been added to create a small hallway between the office and chapel (photo 14). The waiting room, which is now the seating area for the chapel, has had a dropped ceiling and carpeting installed. The brass communication grilles have been removed. The ceremony area for the fifty-seat chapel is located in what formerly was the open porch. Enclosed in 1974, it now has carpet, a dropped ceiling, and exposed stone walls (photo 15). The board room has been moved to what originally was the garage. Here, the concrete floor was carpeted, a dropped ceiling was installed, and the cabinets were removed. Also, the exterior oak door and sidelights from the south end of the waiting room were relocated to the garage and installed in place of the garage door (photo 16).

The private mausolea in Beech Grove Cemetery represent a variety of architectural styles. Their construction during the first decades of the twentieth century coincides with a prosperous time in Muncie's history, and also when many of the individuals who had become rich during Muncie's 1880s "gas boom" were aging and dying. The earliest mausoleum belongs to C.H. Over and was built in 1904 in the Classical Revival style (photo 17). The tomb, which is made of large limestone blocks, features on its main facade a row of four Ionic columns topped by a triangular pediment with a floral design in its tympanum. Some other particularly notable mausolea are those built for William Bell Stewart, Edmund Ball and J.M. Maring. The Stewart mausoleum (circa 1925) is an excellent representative of the Art Moderne style (photo 18). It features smooth, polychromatic granite walls with rounded corners, and an elegant arched entrance with metal floral medallions. Edmund Ball's mausoleum (circa 1911) was built in the Egyptian Revival style and features the flared columns and cubic form typical of the style (photo 19). The corners of the structure are marked by engaged pylons. J.M. Maring's Greek Revival-style mausoleum was built in 1910-11 (photo 20). It is faced in smooth granite, with a triangular pediment and square engaged Doric columns which mark the corners of the structure. In total, there are seventeen contributing mausolea designed in the Greek Revival, Art Deco, Sullivanesque, Romanesque Revival, Classical Revival, Art

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Moderne, and Exotic Revival styles. Most are concentrated in the area along Lakeside Drive known as "Mausoleum Row," although a few are farther to the west or north (see site map).

Like the mausolea, the significant statuary and grave markers found in Beech Grove Cemetery are all of high quality, but vary in design (photo 21). Some of the markers included in this group are obelisks, tree stumps, a bench, and various statues of women and angels. Most are located in the northeast portions of the cemetery known as the "Old Ground" and the "Old Part". Among the most noteworthy are those belonging to the Charman family, F.A. Preston, and the Hutchings family. The Charmans' (c.1870) is notable for its material, which is cast metal rather than stone, which is predominant in the cemetery (photo 22). Set on a concrete base, the monument tapers upward in five square layers and is topped by an urn. Decorative and symbolic elements, including an anchor, a wreath, a pointing finger and a flag, are cast in relief around the top layers. The Preston marker (c.1880) is distinguished by its statue of a standing woman clutching a cross, her eyes turned heavenward (photo 23). The piece is skillfully executed and highly representative of Victorian funerary art. Carved on the base is "NE Granite Works, Hartford, CT". This is one of the few early markers in Beech Grove upon which the manufacturer is visibly acknowledged. The setting for the Hutchings family marker (c.1900) helps to make it particularly outstanding (photo 24). A stone tree stump is set between two living trees, and another marker in the shape of a fallen branch is located on the ground behind the main marker.

Beech Grove's landscape is an example of picturesque cemetery design. The cemetery's rolling hills, winding avenues, open spaces, and varied trees and plants arranged in a naturalistic manner are characteristics of the style. Around the turn of the century, Beech Grove contained two small lakes and a lily pond which contributed to its picturesque design. Unfortunately, they have since been filled in. Unlike many other cemeteries, the landscape was not professionally designed at the time of its founding, but rather developed over its one hundred and fifty-five year history through the influence of many people. The first known landscape plan for the cemetery dates from 1913, over seventy years after its founding. At that time, an additional fifty-one acres had been acquired for the cemetery, so the new plan incorporated the existing conditions while planning for the new addition. The oldest sections of the cemetery are laid out in a grid pattern on flat terrain, with few trees or other plantings. The grave markers are the most visually significant features in these sections (photos 25 & 26). The southern half of Beech Grove, and those areas just north of the railroad tracks which contain hills, winding roads, and many trees and plants, are more typical of a picturesque cemetery (photos 27 & 28). The 1913 plan and the design of the newer areas are primarily the work of Oscar Wells Crabbs, the cemetery's third superintendent. Crabbs, who held that post from 1899-1915, was also responsible for landscaping the grounds of the Eastern Indiana Normal School (now Ball State University) and several Muncie city parks, as well as for the planting of hundreds of trees along Muncie streets. At Beech Grove, Crabbs is reported to have planted over five hundred shrubs, approximately thirteen hundred peonies, and more than five hundred trees, including elms, maples, birches, horse chestnuts and mulberries [2]. All of these plantings and landscaping plans were recorded in Crabbs' notebook, which is still in the cemetery's possession.

NOTES:

1. Rinehart, "Two Natural Beauty Spots of Magic Muncie," c.1914
2. Scott, "Down But Not Out," June 22, 1991, p.B10

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CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES AND OBJECTS (CHANGE AND CHANGE MAP)
(numbers correspond to map)

STRUCTURES:

1.   Kitselman mausoleum (Classical Revival), 1914
2.   Frank C. Ball mausoleum (Greek Revival), c.1920
3.   William Bell Stewart mausoleum (Art Moderne), c.1925
4.   Walter Petty mausoleum (Sullivanesque), 1910-11
5.   Joseph Goddard mausoleum (Romanesque Revival), 1908-09
6.   Davis and Johnson mausoleum (Classical Revival), c.1920
7.   O.W. Storer mausoleum (Art Deco), c.1925
8.   George A. Ball mausoleum (Art Moderne), c.1911
9.   William C. Ball mausoleum (Exotic Revival), c.1920
10.   Edmund Ball mausoleum (Egyptian Revival), c.1911
11.   Hardin Roads mausoleum (Exotic Revival), c.1920
12.   C.H. Over mausoleum (Classical Revival), 1904
13.   Mitchell and Anthony mausoleum (Art Moderne), c.1930
14.   John W. Smith mausoleum (Classical Revival), 1912
15.   Spilker and Winans mausoleum (Greek Revival), c.1920
16.   Johnson mausoleum (Romanesque Revival), 1907
17.   J.M. Maring mausoleum (Greek Revival), 1910-11

OBJECTS:

I.   Flaherty marker (bench), c.1930
II.   Preston marker (standing woman), c.1880
III.   Shideler marker (tree stump), c.1900
IV.   Charman marker (cast metal spire), c.1870
V.   Spilker marker (standing woman), c.1900
VI.   Ryan marker (sitting woman), c.1910
VII.   Burson marker (octagonal obelisk), c.1900
VIII.   Garst marker (angel trumpeter), c.1905
IX.   Hutchings marker (tree stump), c.1900
X.   Kemper marker (obelisk), c.1915
XI.   Johnson marker (exedra with female relief), c.1920
XII.   Entrance Gate and Wall, 1904 and 1926-27

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beech Grove Cemetery is significant under National Register Criterion C, as an outstanding example of picturesque cemetery design. Elements of this design include the landscape, main building, mausolea, and grave markers and statuary. Furthermore, the administration building and entrance gate are excellent examples of the Late Gothic Revival style, and were rated as 'outstanding' in the Delaware County Interim Report, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. The private mausolea are skillfully executed in a range of styles including Art Moderne, Classical Revival, Exotic Revival, and Sullivanesque. Very few changes have been made to any of these elements, and therefore Beech Grove maintains a high degree of integrity. Because the cemetery derives its significance from its distinctive design elements, Criteria Consideration D is satisfied. Beech Grove's period of significance is from 1841, the date of the cemetery's founding, to 1947, the last year of its eligibility for the National Register. The years 1904 and 1923 are selected as significant dates as the years of completion of the main gate and the administration building, respectively.

Muncie, or Munseytown as it was then known, was founded in the mid-1820s on land donated by Goldsmith C. Gilbert, Lemuel Jackson and William Brown [1]. Although it was named the Delaware County seat soon thereafter, the new settlement grew slowly in its early years and was not incorporated as a town until 1854. Eleven years later, in 1865, Muncie was incorporated as a city. In 1876 an area farmer drilling a well encountered a foul smell and a strange rumbling sound. The hole, popularly believed to lead to Hell, was quickly covered and virtually forgotten. Ten years later, however, it was realized that the hole had actually contained natural gas, and east central Indiana's "gas boom" was underway [2]. For the next fifteen years the gas wells burned constantly, many industries such as the Ball Brothers' glass company were lured to town by the virtually free fuel, and Muncie became a major manufacturing center. By 1901, however, the seemingly inexhaustible gas resources had been almost completely depleted. Many of the factories left the area. Enough remained, however, to provide an industrial base for the city's continued, but much slower, growth. The decade from 1910 to 1920 also was a period of growth for Muncie and Delaware County, this time centered around an expanding automobile industry and the manufacturing demands of World War I. From a town of approximately six thousand residents in 1885, Muncie almost doubled in size in the next five years. By 1920 the city had almost thirty-five thousand citizens [3]. Some of this growth can be attributed to the annexation of what had previously been independent suburbs.

Beech Grove existed as a publicly-owned burial prior to Muncie being incorporated as a city, and its history is inextricably linked to the city's. The first recorded public cemetery in Muncie was located in the east end of town, on the north side of Main Street, east of Beacon Street. The second was on the north side of Adams Street, west of Franklin Street, and was composed of approximately two city lots [4]. As the community grew, however, the size of both of these in-town sites proved to be inadequate. To alleviate this problem, the trustees of Munseytown purchased one and one-half acres on the outskirts of town from Moses Eby in 1841. The site had been used as a burial ground by Delaware Indians who had previously lived in the area, and was known as Beech Knoll because of the beech trees which lined the White River there. Many of the bodies which had been interred in existing cemeteries were moved to Beech Grove; therefore, a few of the tombstones predate 1841.

Beginning in 1858, additional land was purchased to the south, west, and east of the 1841 lot, primarily in small parcels of less than ten acres. In 1902 the largest addition was made with the acquisition of fifty-one acres of the

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John Galbraith farm, southwest of the original cemetery boundaries. Six additional city lots were added in 1906, bringing the cemetery to its current boundaries. (In the 1970s, however, a small parcel west of Nichols Avenue was sold by the cemetery.) In the late 1930s the White River, which forms the northwest border of the cemetery, was straightened as part of a WPA project and levees were constructed along its banks. This project allowed the reclamation of approximately twenty acres of cemetery property which had previously been too swampy to use for burial purposes [5].

Throughout its existence, Beech Grove has been municipally owned and operated by the city government. Prior to April 1905, the cemetery was administered by a Cemetery Committee of the City Council. In that year, however, the City Council adopted an ordinance which established a five-member Board of Trustees charged with full control of the cemetery. The first Board was composed of five of Muncie's leading citizens: George McCulloch, C.H. Over, Edward Tuhey, L.W. Cates, and W.A. Petty [6]. This five-Trustee system is still in use at Beech Grove.

The earliest burial places in the United States were generally found in churchyards or public greens. Because of their small, in-town locations, these graveyards were limited in the number of people who could be interred there, and in the amount of landscaping or other ornamentation which could be included. In the early nineteenth century, however, people began to recognize the need for larger cemeteries located farther away from the town centers, for health, space and aesthetic reasons. These 'rural' cemeteries featured diverse landscapes and many elements of the picturesque style as defined by Andrew Jackson Downing. Characteristics of the style are irregular lines, abrupt and broken surfaces, natural and wild plant growth, and rustic buildings in the Gothic, Old English, Italian Villa or Swiss Cottage style [7]. The first American cemetery which followed these principles was Mount Auburn, which was established outside Boston in 1831. This style dominated cemetery design for a number of years, and large 'rural' cemeteries were laid out on the outskirts of most of America's larger cities. Included among these are Laurel Hill in Philadelphia (1836), Green-Wood in Brooklyn (1838), Graceland in Chicago (1860), and Crown Hill in Indianapolis (1864).

The next major development in cemetery design was that of the landscape lawn plan in the mid-1850s. Created by Adolph Strauch, superintendent of Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, this new design was a reaction against the overcrowding and showiness found in many rural cemeteries. In older rural cemeteries, the profusion of large, ornate monuments had detracted from the natural landscape, and made maintenance very difficult. Strauch's plan responded to this by opening the landscape and emphasizing natural terrain features rather than artificial monuments. Families were encouraged to erect a single large family marker and to keep individual markers to a minimum. Groupings of trees and shrubs were also minimized, and were used primarily to frame open spaces [8]. This new style represented a move away from the picturesque, and toward the beautiful. According to Andrew Jackson Downing, the beautiful was characterized by flowing curves, soft surfaces, luxuriant vegetation, and buildings in one of the classical modes. In the beautiful, nature had been subdued by man and art [9].

Another development in nineteenth century cemetery design was that of the national cemeteries. During the Civil War, the need arose to quickly bury large numbers of military casualties, many of whom had originally been interred in temporary battlefield graves. The solution was the establishment of a number of national cemeteries across the country. The design of these cemeteries was based primarily on the ideas of simplicity and democracy: to eliminate competition and ostentation, all the grave markers were simple, identical and provided by the

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government. The stones were laid in neat rows, and little landscaping was done around them. As opposed to the picturesque, where the grandeur and power of the rugged landscape was designed to awe the observer, the rows of identical monuments in a military cemetery were intended to evoke feelings of solemnity and respect [10].

Along with the changing design of the American cemetery through the nineteenth century, the role of the cemetery also underwent a cycle of changes. In the earliest American cemeteries, the emphasis was on function; graveyards were used primarily as resting places for the dead and occasionally as livestock grazing areas. Life was difficult, and survivors had little time for pomp or sentimentality about death. Later, rural cemeteries such as Mount Auburn, with their spaciousness, diverse landscape, and natural feel, offered a welcome contrast to noisy, overcrowded Victorian cities. In addition to this sense of escape, the elaborate mausolea and grave markers erected on many lots in rural cemeteries became showcases for the social or economic standing of the owners and a magnet for visitors. The relative security and prosperity of the Victorian era afforded the opportunity for survivors to have a sentimental, romantic view of death. Also during this period, the families of those interred in the cemetery were responsible for the care and decoration of the lot. These factors, and the lack of public parks, encouraged the active use of the cemetery by the living, and it quickly became a favorite spot for strolling, picnicking, and other recreational activities. Many cemeteries were also the site of elaborate annual Independence Day and Memorial Day celebrations.

With the advent of the landscape lawn plan and its subsequent popularity, the role of the cemetery began to change. The new philosophy increased the power of the superintendent, and lessened the participation of the family in general upkeep and beautification of the plots. The effect of this was to lessen the amount of time that a family would need to spend at the cemetery, and helped make it seem more distant and foreign from everyday experience [11]. At approximately the same time, construction began on Central Park in New York City, and with it a new era. In most large cities public parks were subsequently laid out which offered the same 'natural' environment and recreational opportunities as the rural cemetery, but in a more convenient urban location and without the association with death. Later developments in cemetery design and administration, such as the memorial garden, further isolated the family from contact with the deceased. Gradually the cemetery again became primarily a burial ground, with few other uses or associations.

Beech Grove illustrates many of these trends, both in the design and in the role of the cemetery. The earliest sections, found in the northeast corner, are laid out in a grid plan typical of many early cemeteries, and contain little landscaping. Later sections exhibit the rolling hills, winding roads and groups of trees characteristic of picturesque design, as this style gradually reached Muncie. Two of the most significant examples of nineteenth-century picturesque cemetery design were Woodlawn and Green-Wood in New York City. Beech Grove records indicate that Superintendent Crabbs visited both of these in 1910, and incorporated elements of their designs into that of Beech Grove. The area of the cemetery south of the railroad tracks, which was laid out in 1913, shows this influence most clearly. The G.A.R. and American Legion sections exhibit the typical design of a military cemetery developed in the national cemeteries of the Civil War era.

Like many cemeteries, Beech Grove was a popular recreational area in the mid- to late-nineteenth century, filled with people strolling, picnicking, and decorating graves. Large ceremonies were held there on Memorial Day and Independence Day, and local political parties often held rallies there. The 1913 plan of the cemetery even indicates a Speaker's Stump, located in Section Single Grave A. Around the turn of the century, however, this

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attitude began to change. This shift can be seen in a 1906 cemetery booklet which states on page eight that, "neither should a cemetery be converted into a park. While making Beech Grove as pretty as we can, at the same time we have tried to retain, in its appearance, all the solemnity of such sacred ground." In this same booklet, rules are also set forth prohibiting refreshments on cemetery grounds and requiring the permission of the superintendent for any plantings [12]. The shift away from the use of the cemetery as a recreation area is also seen in the building of a series of public parks in Muncie in the early 1900s, with Oscar Crabbs acting simultaneously as Parks Superintendent and Superintendent of Beech Grove [13].

The list of those interred in Beech Grove is impressive, reflecting not only local persons and events, but also those of national and international significance. Included among its occupants are Goldsmith C. Gilbert, founder of Muncie; all five of the Ball brothers of glass-making fame; Otto Carmichael, prominent journalist and early member of the National Press Club; and painter J. Ottis Adams, of the Indiana Impressionist school. Veterans of every war from the American Revolution to Vietnam are buried at the cemetery, including both Union and Confederate dead from the Civil War.

Beech Grove Cemetery deserves recognition as an excellent example of late nineteenth / early twentieth century picturesque cemetery design. The landscape, buildings, mausolea and grave markers contribute to this design, and are largely intact. Furthermore, the administration building, gate, mausolea and grave markers are significant on their own merit, as outstanding examples of a variety of styles, including Late Gothic Revival, Classical Revival, and Art Deco. Finally, Beech Grove is the largest, most elaborate cemetery in Muncie and Delaware County. It is intimately linked to the city's history, and most of Muncie's history-makers and elite are buried there. For these reasons, the cemetery merits the protection and honor of listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

NOTES:

1. Haimbaugh, History of Delaware County, p.26
2. Lynd and Lynd, Middletown, p.13
3. Hoover, Magic Middletown, p.2
4. Rench, Beech Grove Cemetery Records, p.3
5. "Beech Grove 100 Years Old in December," May 30, 1941, p.5
6. "Beech Grove Cemetery History," April 30, 1905, p.4
7. Howett, "Andrew Jackson Downing," p.30
8. Sloane, The Last Great Necessity, p.50
9. Howett, "Andrew Jackson Downing," p.30
10. Sloane, The Last Great Necessity, p.114
11. ibid, p.99
12. Rules and Regulations: Beech Grove Cemetery, 1906, p.12
13. "O.W. Crabbs Dies," December 3, 1941, p.2

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"Beech Grove 100 Years Old in December," Muncie Morning Star, (May 30, 1941), 5.

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"O.W. Crabbs Dies," Muncie Star, (December 3, 1941), 1-2.

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　　　　June 1973), 34-41.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: Approximately 105

UTM References:

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	635050	4449500	3	16	636400	4449850
2	16	636100	4450100	4	16	635400	4449100

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of Beech Grove Cemetery is indicated by the dotted line on the accompanying map, "Aerial Map of Beech Grove Cemetery (1992)"

Boundary Justification: Conforms to historic boundaries of the cemetery, which have remained consistent since 1906.

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The following information is common to all photographs:
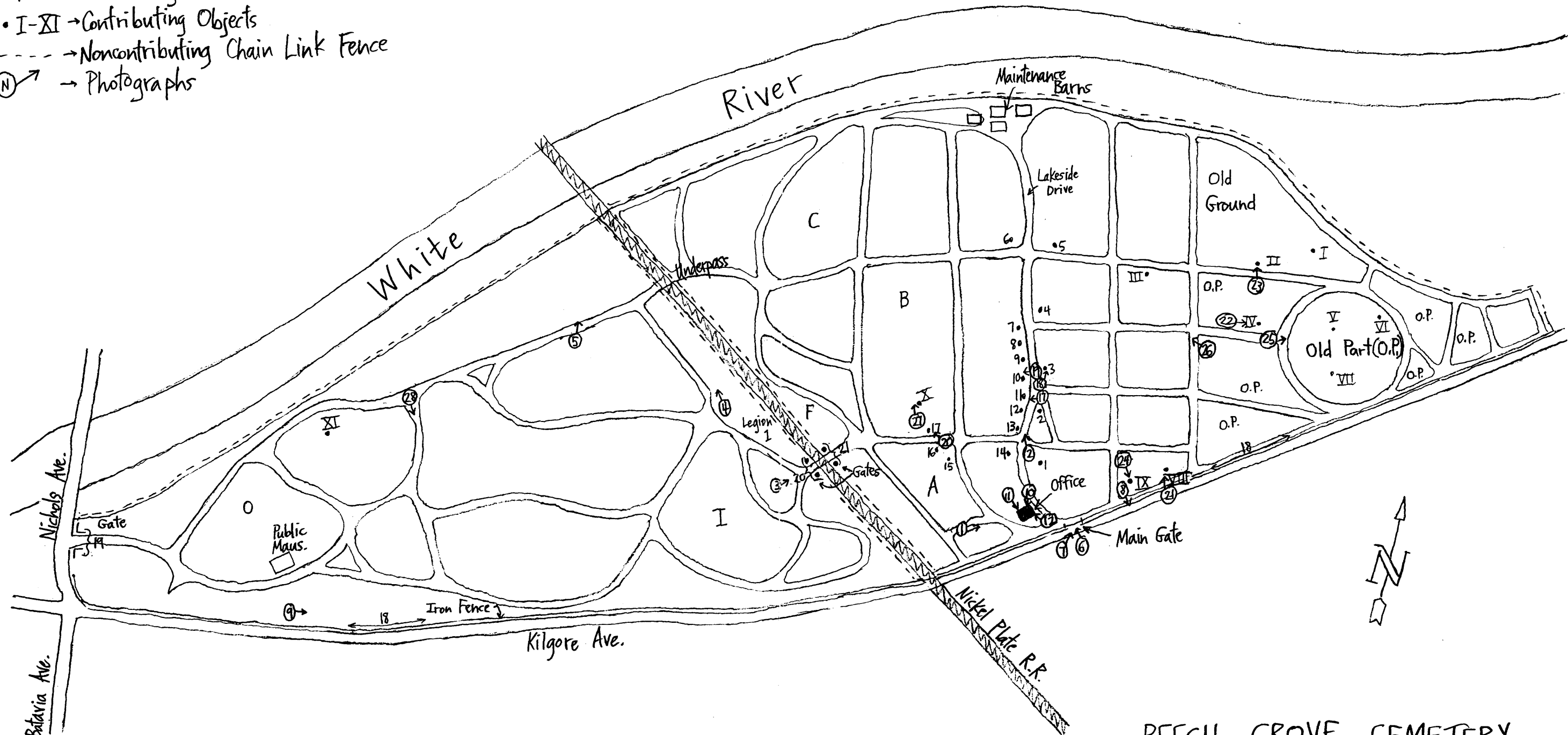
1)   Beech Grove Cemetery

2)   Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana

3)   Laura Renwick Dreistadt

5)   Muncie Community Development, 300 North High Street, Muncie, Indiana, 47305

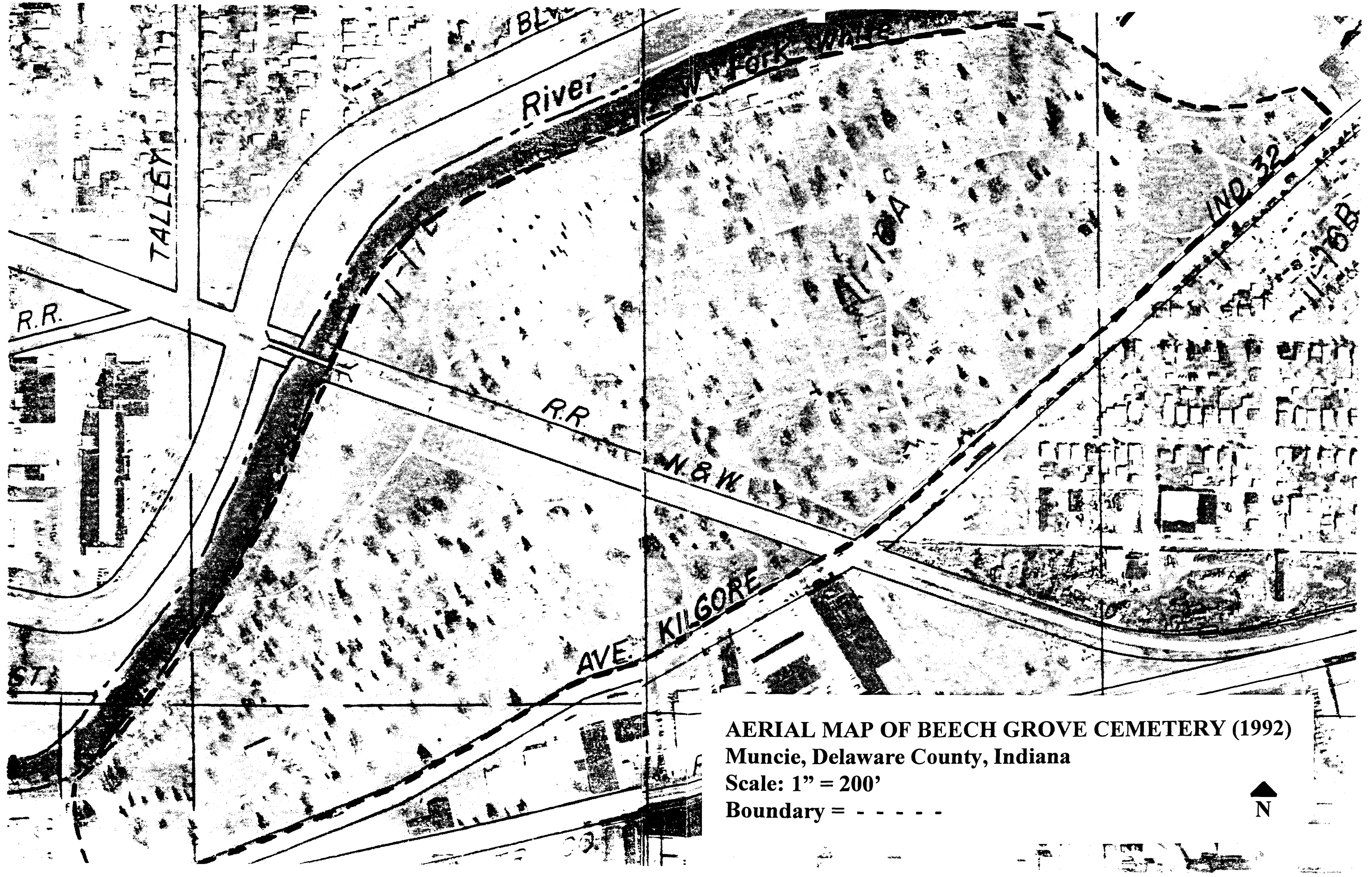Items 4, 6, and 7 vary as described below, starting with the photo number:

#1   February 1997; G.A.R. section, with Administration Building to left; looking east

#2   January 1997; Mausoleum Row along Lakeside Drive; looking northwest

#3   December 1996; south gates over railroad tracks; looking northeast

#4   December 1996; American Legion Section 1; looking northwest

#5   February 1997; potters' field, Section 32; looking west from north corner of Section G

#6   January 1997; main gate, with Mausoleum Row visible through opening; looking northwest

#7   January 1997; main gate; looking north

#8   December 1996; fence along Kilgore Avenue; looking south

#9   January 1997; fence along Kilgore Avenue; looking east

#10   January 1997; Administration Building, east and north facades; looking west

#11   February 1997; Administration Building, north facade, with main gate visible to left; looking southeast

#12   February 1997; Administration Building, south and east facades; looking west

#13   May 1997; Administration Building, main office; looking west

#14   May 1997; Administration Building, hall and superintendent's office (left); looking south

#15   May 1997; Administration Building, chapel; looking south

#16   May 1997; Administration Building, board room; looking southwest

#17   December 1996; C.H. Over mausoleum, Mausoleum Row; looking west

#18   February 1997; W.B. Stewart mausoleum, Section 9; looking northeast

#19   February 1997; E.B. Ball mausoleum, Mausoleum Row; looking northwest

#20   April 1997; J.M. Maring mausoleum, Section 27; looking west

#21   December 1996; Garst marker, Old Part 6; looking northwest

#22   April 1997; A.W. Charman marker, Old Part; looking north

#23   January 1997; F.A. Preston marker, Old Ground; looking north

#24   December 1996; Hutchings marker, Section 6; looking east

#25   December 1996; landscape, Old Part; looking east

#26   December 1996; landscape, Section 10; looking west

#27   January 1997; landscape, Section 29 in foreground, Section B in background; looking northwest

#28   January 1997; landscape, Section P in foreground, Section H in background; looking southeast

KEY
- ■ → Contributing
- □ → Noncontributing
- • 1-21 → Contributing Structures
- • I-XI → Contributing Objects
- - - - → Noncontributing Chain Link Fence
- Ⓝ↗ → Photographs

White River

Maintenance Barns

Lakeside Drive

Old Ground

C

B

Old Part (O.P.)

F

A

Legion 1

Office

Main Gate

Public Maus.

Iron Fence

Kilgore Ave.

Nichols Ave.

Batavia Ave.

Nickel Plate R.R.

Underpass

Gates

N

BEECH GROVE CEMETERY
Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana

AERIAL MAP OF BEECH GROVE CEMETERY (1992)
Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana
Scale: 1" = 200'
Boundary = - - - - -