

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

November 29, 2010

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Edson Beall Historian National Register of Historic Places Phone: 202-354-2255 E-mail: Edson_Beall@nps.gov Web: www.nps.gov/history/nr

NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 2012)			and the second s
United States Department of the Interior 73 National Park Service	34 Fi	ECF	/ 22901
National Register of Historic Places		OCT 1 4	173-3
Registration Form	NAS		STORIC PLACES
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for indi National Register of Historic Places registration Form (National Register by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter of entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a)	er Bulletin 16A). Complete property being document only categories and subca	icts. See instruct e each item by m ed, enter "N/A" fo tegories from the	tions in How to Complete the marking "x" in the appropriate bo or "not applicable." For function a instructions. Place additional
1. Name of Property			
historic name Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery			
other names/site number Lebanon Presbyterian Ceme	tery		
2. Location	1.4.1.1.1		
street & number Asbury Road north of Norfolk Souther	n Railroad		N/A not for publication
city or town Knoxville	Knov	code 093	I vicinity zip code 37914
state Tennessee code _TN	KNOX	code 093	_ zip code
3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the do National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Meeta does not meet the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and my opinion, the property meeta does not meet the National Meeta does not meeta does no	ocumentation standards fo professional requirement nal Register criteria. I reco	or registering pro s set for in 36 CF ommend that this	perties in the FR Part 60. In s property be
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Lebanon	in the	Forks	Cemetery	1
Name of P	roperty	1.00		

5. Classification

apply)

(Check as many boxes as

X private public-local

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Funerary/Cemetery

public-State

Knox County, TN

County and State Number of Resources within Property **Category of Property Ownership of Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in count) (Check only one box) Contributing Noncontributing building(s) district П buildings X site 1 sites public-Federal □ structure object structures objects 1 0 Total Number of Contributing resources previously listed Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) in the National Register 0 Historic and Architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee **Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions) (Enter categories from instructions) Funerary/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural	Classification
(Enter categories	from instructions)

N/A

Materials	
(Enter categories	fr

om instructions)

foundation N/A

N/A walls

N/A roof

Stone, metal, wood other

Narrative Description

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

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Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery Historic and Architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee Knox County, TN

Narrative Description

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery is located in a rural area of Knox County east of Knoxville. It is situated on a 2.76 acre plat along the east side of Asbury Road near the confluence of the French Broad and Holston rivers. The cemetery contains approximately 80 stones with dates of interment ranging from 1793 to 1974. The stones are typically limestone slabs with few decorative elements, although examples of obelisks and a box tomb are also present. Near the center of the plot is a small pavilion commemorating the location of the former Lebanon in the Forks Presbyterian Church that burned down in 1981.

The cemetery slopes up from the southwest to the northeast and is bordered by Asbury Road to the west and railroad tracks to the south. The north half of the property is wooded while the rest of the property is an open field with a few scattered trees.

A low stone wall extends along the southern edge of the property and has a short set of steps near its eastern end. These steps lead to a grouping of a few rows of tombstones. Included in this grouping are the obelisks for General John Ramsey and J.G.M. Ramsey, and the well-kept box tomb of Col. Francis Alexander Ramsey. Another small grouping of stones is located in the eastern half of the cemetery, and the remainder of the stones are scattered. There does not appear to be a regular pattern to the layout of the tombstones. In addition, there are several unmarked grave sites scattered around the cemetery.

A stone marker was placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1928 at the eastern edge of the cemetery. An inscription on its eastern face reads.

Lebanon in the Fork First Presbyterian Church in Knox County 1791 Rev. Samuel Carrick Founder and First Pastor Earliest Burial Ground In this Section

At the center of the cemetery is an ell-shaped concrete pad with a small pavilion commemorating the former Lebanon in the Forks Presbyterian Church.¹ The pavilion contains four fluted columns

¹Lebanon in the Forks Presbyterian Church was listed in the National Register 5/27/1975, and was removed from the register on 2/18/1983.

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				Knox County, TN

that were salvaged after the church was destroyed by fire on August 25, 1981. Housed in the pavilion is the church bell that was also salvaged from the church fire.

Lebanon in the Fork Cemetery retains a high level of integrity. The majority of the stones date to the nineteenth century. The earliest is that of Elizabeth Carrick which bears a date of September, 1793. It is a limestone slab with a rounded, shouldered top. A recent listing of tombstones shows that the most recent interment took place in 1974.

Knox County, TN

County and State

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 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.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

E

(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 #	n Qrei ve A

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance

1793-1960

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery Historic and Architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee Knox County, TN

Statement of Significance

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its significance in early settlement history in Knox County, Tennessee. Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery is an excellent example an early cemetery that contains the graves of the area's early settlers. This is the oldest graveyard in the county and has become historical for its early conception and respectability and the worth of those who were buried in it. The cemetery meets the requirements for eligibility as set forth in the multiple property form "Historic and Architectural Resources of Knoxville and Knox County Tennessee" in the context of Cemeteries and Gardens.

The church around which the cemetery was located was the center of a Presbyterian congregation in the area dating to 1791 and preceded the First Presbyterian Church (cemetery listed 12/04/1996) in Knoxville. One of the congregation members, Francis Alexander Ramsey donated nine acres of land on December 7, 1896 for a Presbyterian congregation, which had outgrown its initial location. The site for the church edifice was an eminence in the center of a beautiful grove of cedars and other trees, covered by vines forming a dense arbor and a shady bower that excluded the sun.

A series of church buildings were built on the site as the needs of the congregation changed through time. The church is said to be the first to be organized in the Knoxville area. Reverend Samuel Carrick, who was responsible for organizing the church delivered its first sermon. Carrick remained at the church until 1803. He then went on to become the first president of Blount College, which later became the University of Tennessee.² The most recent church building was built in 1903 and burned down in 1981. The structure was not rebuilt and currently no church building is located on the site.

After its occupancy the early church became the session house and the grounds around were used as a cemetery by the first settlers, the trappers and traders, and afterwards by soldiers. Among the first Christian interments here was that of Mrs. Elizabeth Carrick, the wife of the first pastor. It occurred on the day of the contemplated attack upon the infant Knoxville by the Indians, September, 1793. All the inhabitants of the area who would bear arms had gone to the city's defense. As a result, the remains of Mrs. Carrick were attended and interred by the women of the area who had not gone to defend the Knoxville settlement. Her grave is easily pointed out – a tombstone erected long since by the faithful care and piety of her grandson, the late Samuel Carrick White of Knoxville.

² Lebanon in the Forks Presbyterian Church National Register Nomination Form.

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Additionally, burials of many prominent early citizens of the area occurred over the nearly two hundred years of the church's existence. Included in this number are Francis Alexander Ramsey (1764-1820), who donated the land to the church, and was one of the early pioneers of East Tennessee as a surveyor, businessman, and civic leader. Ramsey served as the Secretary to the convention that formed the short-lived State of Franklin. The Ramsey House was listed in the National Register 12/23/1969.

Other early pioneers interred here are Archibald Rhea, Sr. (d. 1793), Rev. James Kennedy (1768-1826), James McNutt (1787-1852), and Jeremiah Jack (d.1825). Perhaps one of the more notable burials is that of Dr. James Gettys McGready Ramsey (1797-1884), the renowned Tennessee historian and early Tennessean who contributed to the early growth and development of East Tennessee. He was a medical doctor, a bank president, and an early proponent of the railroads. His participation in various activities contributed to the civic improvement of the area. His most lasting contribution to the area was as a historian. He was instrumental in forming the East Tennessee Historical and Antiquarian Society, today known as the East Tennessee Historical Society, and in 1853 his highly influential book *The Annals of Tennessee to the End of the Eighteenth Century* was published. His home, which was located near the cemetery, housed the documents and relics that were owned by the society. Unfortunately his home and its four thousand volume library were destroyed during the Civil War. During the Civil War he left Tennessee, but returned in the 1870s. He would go on to serve as the president of the Tennessee Historical Society from 1874 until his death in 1884.

Also among those interred at Lebanon are Reynolds (1736-1816) and Naomi Alexander Ramsey (1736-1813), the parents of Francis Alexander Ramsey. Reynolds Ramsey's tombstone has the following inscription: "He was with Washington at Trenton and Princeton."

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery is a good example of an early settlement cemetery. Typically these cemeteries had little or no decorative or landscape elements. Instead the emphasis was placed on the soul of the deceased. Landscaping generally included only a few naturally occurring trees and shrubs. The tombstones were arranged loosely in rows or without a particular order. This cemetery follows the latter arrangement with two groupings of stones and the rest of the stones are scattered around the site. The tombstones likewise display very little graphic decoration or symbolism.

It was common for early cemeteries to be located alongside churches as settlements grew and gained a measure of stability. "It was not until a community was strong enough to protect itself from Indian attacks that the formal church grave came into existence in the United States in the

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Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery Historic and Architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee Knox County, TN

middle and late eighteenth century."³ Prior to this, settlers often tried to hide their burials in order to conceal any potential weakness from hostile Indians. Then as communities strengthened, the church and churchyard often became a focal point and gathering place. "The graves served as a constant reminder of the importance of living a functional, pristine, religious life."⁴

At the time of the first burial in Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery, tensions and threats of Indian attacks were running high. This grave is located in the back corner of the cemetery near the edge of the woods. Possibly this was purposely done in order to give the burial an inconspicuous location. Subsequent burials occupied more conspicuous spots in front of and along the side of the church.

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery retains its prominence and unique design characteristics. It continues to remind observers of the time when attitudes toward death and cemeteries were different than they are today. It remains an oasis of green and solitude in twenty-first century Knox County, creating thoughts of a time when the area and the views from it were of wilderness and recently settled homesites. The cemetery has very few modern tombstones and retains a high level of integrity.

³ "Historic and Architectural Resources of Knoxville and Knox County, TN," Multiple Property Documentation Form. E 11.

⁴ Ibid.

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Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery Historic and architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee Knox County, TN

Bibliography

- Bennett, Ann. "Historic and Architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee." 1996.
- Coddington, Jon. "Lebanon in the Forks Presbyterian Church National Register Nomination." 1974.
- McGinnis, Robert A. "Asleep In Jesus Vol 2, A Record of Church Cemeteries of Southeast Knox County, Tennessee." Self-Published. 2001.
- Ramsey, Dr. J.G.M., *History of Lebanon Presbyterian Church 1791*. Hubert Hodge Printing Company. Knoxville, Tennessee. 1918. Reprinted 1973.
- Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture. "J.G.M. Ramsey." www.tennesseeencyclopedia.net. Web site accessed June 22, 2010.

Lebanon in the Forks Cemet Name of Property	ery		Knox County, TN County and State		
0. Geographical Data			-		
Acreage of Property _2.76	6 acres	Shooks Ga	p 147 NE		
JTM References place additional UTM references of	n a continuation sheet.)				
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Zone Easting	Northing		4	Easting	Northing
				ee continuation s	sheet
Explain why the boundaries were s	perty on a continuation sheet.)				
Explain why the boundaries were s 1. Form Prepared By name/title	selected on a continuation sheet.) Sears		date	4/23/2010	
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Explain why the boundaries were s 1. Form Prepared By name/title _Helen Keough Sorganization _Knox County street & number _919 Miles	selected on a continuation sheet.) Sears Presbytery		date telephone TN	4/23/2010 865-919-03 zip code	
Explain why the boundaries were s 11. Form Prepared By hame/title <u>Helen Keough S</u> organization <u>Knox County</u> street & number <u>919 Miles</u> bity or town <u>Knoxville</u> Additional Documentation	selected on a continuation sheet.) Sears Presbytery s Ct.		telephone	865-919-03	
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street & number <u>919 Miles</u> city or town <u>Knoxville</u> Additional Documentation submit the following items with the of Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 0)	Sears Presbytery s Ct. completed form:	state	telephone TN ation	865-919-03 zip code	37923

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 East Tennessee Presbytery c/o Mr. Ray Paden	_				
street & number 609 Cedar Lane			telephone	865-688-5581	
city or town Knoxville	state	TN	zip cod	e <u>37928</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 listing. 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 20303.

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Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery Historic and Architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee Knox County, TN

Boundary Description and Justification

The nominated boundary includes all of parcel 096 041 as depicted on the attached survey map, except for the portion of the property located west of Asbury Road. This boundary includes all of the property associated with the active use of the cemetery.

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Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery Historic and Architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee Knox County, TN

Photographs

Photographs by Lindsay Johnson Preservation Planner, East Tennessee Development District August 20, 2010

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery DAR Marker, photographer facing northeast. 1 of 16

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery, photographer facing southeast. 2 of 16

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery, photographer facing west. 3 of 16

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery, photographer facing northeast. 4 of 16

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery, photographer facing northeast. 5 of 16

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery, photographer facing southwest. 6 of 16

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery, photographer facing north. 7 of 16

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery, photographer facing northwest. 8 of 16

Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery, photographer facing southeast. 9 of 16

Box Tomb of Col. Francis Ramsey (1764-1820) 10 of 16

Obelisks, photographer facing east. 11 of 16

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Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery, photographer facing southeast. 12 of 16

Markers for Rev. James Kennedy (1768-1826) and Mary Kennedy (1777-1853). 13 of 16

Markers for James McNutt (1787-1852) and Mary McNutt (1791-1839). 14 of 16

Markers for Elizabeth Carrick (d.1793) and Jacob Hagar (1800-1843), photographer facing north. 15 of 16

Bell and columns from former church. 16 of 16



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery NAME:

MULTIPLE Knoxville and Knox County MPS NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Knox

DATE RECEIVED: 10/14/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/28/10 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000934

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

ACCEPT

11.29. (DATE REJECT

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RETURN

Entered in The National Register of Historic Places

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.





































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TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION 2941 LEBANON ROAD NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0442 (615) 532-1550

September 30, 2010

Carol Shull Keeper of the National Register National Park Service National Register Branch 1201 Eye Street NW 8th floor Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find the enclosed documentation to nominate Lebanon in the Forks Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Brian Beadles at 615/532-1550, extension 125 or Brian.Beadles@tn.gov.

Sincerely

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr. State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures