United States Department of the Interior
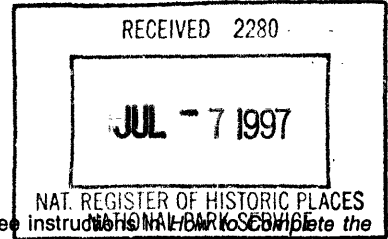**National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

RECEIVED 2280

JUL ~ 7 1997

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 _____ Elizabethtown City Cemetery _____

other names/site number _____ HD-E-409 _____

2. Location

street & number _____ East Dixie Avenue _____ N/A _____ ☐ not for publication

city or town _____ Elizabethtown _____ ☒ vicinity

state _____ Kentucky _____ code __ KY __ county __ Hardin __ code _093_ zip code __42701__

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. Morgan, SHPO and

_____ Executive Director 7-1-97 _____
Signature of certifying official/Title   Date
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
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 commenting 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 _____ Patrick Andrus _____

Date of Action _____ 8/18/97 _____

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	
		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary/cemetery

Religion/religious facility

Defense/fortification

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation __N/A__

walls _____

roof _____

other _____

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)

Exploration/Settlement

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1807-1901

Significant Dates

1866

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Grove, Benjamin (Surveyor/Engineer)

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:

Western KY University, KY Library
Elizabethtown Community College

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _Approximately 20 acres_

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

1 | 1,6 | 6,0,0,9,6,0 | 4,1,7,1,8,2,0 | Elizabethtown, KY
   Zone   Easting   Northing   quad map

2 | 1,6 | 6,0,1,0,2,0 | 4,1,7,1,7,0,0 |

3 | 1,6 | 6,0,0,8,0,0 | 4,1,7,1,2,6,0 |
   Zone   Easting   Northing

4 | 1,6 | 6,0,0,6,4,0 | 4,1,7,1,4,8,0 |

☐ 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 _Janet L. Johnston_

organization _____ date _March 28, 1997_

street & number _1511 Benson Avenue_ telephone _502-796-6039_

city or town _Bowling Green_ state _KY_ zip code _42104_

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 Elizabethtown   Attn: Steve Park_

street & number _P.O. Box 550_ telephone _502-765-6121_

city or town _Elizabethtown_ state _KY_ zip code _42702-0550_

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                                                   Hardin County, Kentucky

_____

Narrative Description

The Elizabethtown City Cemetery (HD-E-409) contains approximately twenty acres and is located on East Dixie Avenue and approximately one-fourth mile southeast of Elizabethtown's courthouse square. Situated on rolling land and a natural ridge overlooking Elizabethtown's central business district, the cemetery is bounded by East Dixie Avenue (U.S. Highway 31W) on the east side; open space, parking facilities, and Crestwood Street on the south side; Nicholas Street and residential and commercial development on the north side; and, Skyline Drive on the west side. The nominated property developed in four tracts, and its current layout and design developed as a response to growing community needs and the emergence of landscape architecture as a scholarly discipline. To provide a clear description of the entire nominated property, the historic and current condition of each tract is provided.

The original burial ground, established in 1807 and denoted as Section M (see attached map), is approximately 220' in width and 450' in length. Fronting on East Dixie Avenue, this tract includes the primary entry (Main Avenue A) to the cemetery and the exit from the cemetery. Both avenues are one-way routes. The topography of this tract is gently sloping. Originally associated with the Severn's Valley Baptist Church, this burial site was not originally divided into lots. It has a rectangular shape defined by the existing entry and exit avenues, and its internal layout is unorganized and somewhat cluttered. This tract contains the oldest burials and markers in the cemetery. Significant family plots exist; however, grave markers and monuments vary in age, style, material, and ornamentation. The original site contains sparse landscaping.

Acquired in 1866, the second tract is located on the south side of the original burial ground and is today designated as Section N. Containing approximately four acres, Section N contains moderate to heavy sloping topography, and its design used and maintained the natural landscaping. This tract was designed on a grid pattern and included six blocks and smaller individual lots. The individual lot sizes ranged from the small lots of "one rod square" (16.5' x 16.5') to large lots (22' x 34') (Jones iii). Besides dividing the tract into blocks and individual lots, the tract also provided for a principal entry (Main Avenue A) from Dixie Highway into the

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cemetery. The main avenue abuts the original section and extends northwest to the rear of the property. Besides the main avenue, Section N also incorporates several minor avenues (Avenues B, C, D, and E) designed in a geometric pattern and providing access to the blocks. Within the blocks, narrow pathways were created to provide access to individual lots. This section possesses few trees and shrubs, and it is bounded on the south side by a small grove of trees.

The third tract, historically known as the "Joplin addition," was acquired by the City of Elizabethtown in 1889 and was located on the north side of the original burial ground (Section M). Designated as Section L, this tract contained only one-half acre (approximately 50' x 452') of moderately sloping land. This tract now abuts Nicholas Street on the north side. This small tract was divided into blocks containing four 16' x 24' lots, and each block was divided by a six-foot pathway (iii). The Joplin addition features limited landscaping features.

The most organized and detailed section of the Elizabethtown Cemetery is located to the rear of the first three tracts. Acquired in 1898, this fourteen-acre tract is the balance of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery. Today the tract is bounded on the south by a natural ridge and a Crestwood Street, on the west by Skyline Drive, and on the north by dense trees and commercial and residential development. Its topography ranges from moderately to heavily sloping terrain, with the highest point being approximately 806.4' above sea level. In 1901, the City Cemetery Association hired Louisville cemetery designer, surveyor, and civil engineer Benjamin Grove to design and layout the new section. Grove's design resulted in a lawn-park cemetery featuring curving roadways, circular sections, minimal landscaping, and use of natural topography and features. The Cemetery Association implemented many elements of Grove's design and completed these projects in phases.

The first phase of Grove's design included the extension of Main Avenue A between Sections M and N into the new section. Grove designated the extension as Pine Avenue. Besides the main avenue, Grove also created an internal road system and named the individual roads after local species of trees. This road system created three inner loops around the sections with the outer loop being Birch and Oak Avenues, the middle loop as a grassy pathway called Mahonia Walk, and

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an inner loop called Cedar Avenue. Outside each section, Grove also provided narrow grassy pathways or walkways for easier access to individual lots and named the walks after local flowers. While Benjamin Grove designed the triangular islands in the roads for use as landscaping islands, the cemetery used these small triangular sections for lots. Besides the triangular islands, the first phase of Grove's design also contained eight sections (Sections A through H).

While Grove envisioned the construction of a shelter house in Section A, this element was never implemented. Thus, instead of ten lots, Section A contains thirteen lots. A pathway around Section A and a t-shaped pathway within the section exist. This section contains few trees and minimal landscaping. Located as a central section in the design, Section B contains twelve lots, designed as spokes from a central circular lot. The center lot is 30' in diameter with a cedar tree in the center and ultimately became the thirteenth lot of Section A. Because the intended use of the center lot was a landscaping lot, the only constructed pathway is a small walkway around the outer edges of the section.

Situated on the south side of Pine Avenue, Section C contains two kidney-shaped parts consisting forty-two lots. The lot sizes within this section vary. To provide access to the exterior lots, a pathway called 'Privet Walk' and located along the outer edge of the section's parts was built.

Situated between Oak and Cedar Avenues, Section D is a circular division divided by Mahonia Walk. Besides its thirty-four lots, this section includes a six-foot u-shaped walkway on the eastern side. Section E consists of two parts. The main part is located between Birch and Cedar Avenues and is further divided into two parts by Mahonia Walk. The second part of Section E only contains eleven lots. Daisy Walk, a narrow pathway, is behind the rear lots. Containing thirty-seven lots, Section F also fronts on Birch and Cedar Avenues and is divided into two divisions by Mahonia Walk. Section G fronts on Pine and Willow Avenues and is divided into two divisions by an internal pathway named Myrtle Walk.

On the northern side of Pine Avenue and Willow Way, Section H includes eighty-three lots with differing sizes. Section H includes minimal landscaping and trees but provides sufficient access to individual lots by pathways. The pathways are located within and on the outer edge of the

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section and are called Verbena Walk, Clematis Walk, and Pansy Walk.

The second phase of Grove's 1901 design was never implemented. However, the remaining acreage has recently been used for expansion of the cemetery. The existing Birch Avenue was extended into two directions, creating a connected drive and creating Section K. In addition, a gravel road extending from Willow Avenue was recently constructed in Sections O and R. Sections J, K, O, and R are the newest sections of the cemetery and contain the largest concentration of twentieth century burials and markers. These sections are located at the extreme western portion of the nominated property. Section J contains a secondary entrance (Cemetery). In 1970 and 1981, the City of Elizabethtown acquired three lots adjoining the cemetery for open space and parking facilities. However, the nominated property does not include these recent acquisitions.

Today, the City of Elizabethtown continues to provide thorough maintenance and security of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery. Many improvements have been undertaken. Today a wrought iron fence and stone columns extend the width of the cemetery on the East Dixie Avenue side and extend approximately 135' on the cemetery's south side. The cemetery's entrance features a stone identification wall, a monument containing a bicentennial time capsule, and three Kentucky historical markers. A chain link fence provides adequate protection on sides less visible to the public, and a wrought iron gate and stone columns provide a secondary entrance to the rear sections of the cemetery. The most recent cemetery improvements include the paving of interior roadways, the planting of trees, the repairing of deteriorating markers and monuments, and the replacement of missing markers and monuments.

These recent improvements have not impaired but have maintained the cemetery's historic integrity. The cemetery still contains the naturalistic configuration of Grove's 1901 design and so retains the feeling of a late 19th and early 20th century lawn-park cemetery. Integrity considerations appear at the end of the statement of significance.

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Statement of Significance

The Elizabethtown City Cemetery meets National Register Criteria A and C and Criteria Consideration D. The Elizabethtown City Cemetery is historically significant within two contexts of evaluation, "Settlement and Development of Elizabethtown and Hardin County, 1807-1857" and "Cemetery Design in America, 1800-1945." While the nominated property is one of the many early organized town cemeteries in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Elizabethtown City Cemetery is ". . . a window through which we can view the hopes, fears, and designs of the generation that created it and is buried within it" (Sloane 6). In many cases, it is the only material reminder of important settlers and early residents. The cemetery reflects local, state, and national trends in burial customs and cemetery ownership, operation, and design. Its significance within the context of early 20th century landscape architecture is due to the work of surveyor and civil engineer, Benjamin Grove.

The period of significance, 1807-1901, is the time in which the Elizabethtown City Cemetery grew to its present day form. The beginning date 1807 constitutes the creation of the public burial ground, and the ending date 1901 signifies the completion of cemetery design plans by Benjamin Grove. The significant date 1866 indicates the beginning of the cemetery's transformation from a small burial ground into a large, town-owned and -operated cemetery.

Settlement and Development of Elizabethtown and Hardin County, 1807-1857

To evaluate the historic significance of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery and to begin to understand the role of the cemetery in the early settlement and development of Elizabethtown and Hardin County, historical documentation was reviewed. Source materials, such as *Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown Kentucky, Two Centuries in Elizabethtown and Hardin County, 1776-1976, and the Elizabethtown City Cemetery Directory*, provided detailed information on the settlement and development of Hardin County and the role of significant early residents interred in the cemetery. The literature review included the first fifty years

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of the cemetery's existence (1807-1857) and showed that the survival of this burial ground is a significant reminder of the early settlement and development of Elizabethtown and Hardin County and provides important information about the settlers and early residents.

Elizabethtown and Hardin County lies in the northcentral region of Kentucky historically called Severn's Valley. Historical accounts and sources suggest that John Severn and a group of explorers first explored the area of Elizabethtown in the summer of 1779 and then settled in the area in the spring of 1780. While John Severn and other early settlers remained in the area for several years, they had a limited impact on the permanent establishment of Elizabethtown and Hardin County.

In the spring of 1780, three settlers, Captain Andrew Hynes, Samuel Haycraft Sr., and Thomas Helm, along with their families, arrived in the Severn's Valley. These three settlers constructed individual forts located approximately one mile apart and creating a triangle. The construction of these forts was the first permanent settlement in the area of Elizabethtown. Besides the arrival of the Haycraft, Helm, and Hynes parties, Jacob VanMeter and a group of approximately one hundred individuals settled in the area.

The settlement of Elizabethtown and Hardin County continued to expand and predated the establishment of many communities in central and western Kentucky. In 1792, the first Kentucky legislature created Hardin County, the fifteenth county, and in 1797, the Hardin County Court established Elizabethtown as its county seat. According to the United States Census, the population of Hardin County was 3,653 persons in 1800 and was 17,531 persons in 1810 (McMurtry 110, 112). By 1810, the Elizabethtown population numbered 181 persons.

Today the cemetery is one of the only reminders of early Elizabethtown and Hardin County, and, its monuments are the only reminders of significant residents and their contributions to the settlement and early development of Elizabethtown and Hardin County. The city cemetery is the only site in its historic form existing from the early settlement and establishment of city and county. Evidence of the forts established by early settlers is nonexistent. Many first public buildings, such as the courthouse and jail, and significant residential, religious, and

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commercial structures were destroyed or have been demolished. For instance, the first three county courthouses, constructed in 1796, 1806, and 1932, were destroyed.

The earliest section (Section M) of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery is significant as the only intact site available to communicate the community's earliest history and culture. Many early settlers and residents were interred in this cemetery, and the monuments and site clearly provide an association and knowledge of the early establishment. Since the original burial ground still contains a multitude of intact burials and markers of significant residents, only the most significant settlers and residents who were buried in the cemetery before 1857 will be discussed.

Samuel Haycraft, Sr. (1749-1823) and his wife Margaret Haycraft (1760-1843) were among the first settlers in Severn's Valley (1780), and Haycraft, a Revolutionary War veteran, was influential in the city's establishment and responsible for the creation of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery. John L. Helm (1761-1840) was also an early Kentucky settler. Andrew Fairleigh, Sr. (1761-1829), a Revolutionary War veteran, and his wife Letitia Swan Fairleigh (1778-1845) arrived in Elizabethtown in the late 1790s. According to the *Elizabethtown City Cemetery Directory*, the marker of John Fairleigh (d. 1818), son of Andrew Fairleigh, Sr., is the one of the two oldest markers in the cemetery. Horatio Gates Wintersmith (1785-1835) moved to Elizabethtown in 1806 and became an influential businessman owning a dry goods store and hotel. Dr. William Young (1790-1827) moved to Elizabethtown in 1814 and was one of the first doctors in Elizabethtown. John Hill (d. 1855) came to Elizabethtown in 1818, served in the state legislature in 1832 and was a successful builder. Jacob VanMeter and his wife, Letitia Stroud VanMeter, were also among the first settlers in 1780. Originally, Jacob and Letitia VanMeter were buried on their family farm, but according to local citizens, descendants exhumed theirs remains and relocated the remains and markers to the Elizabethtown City Cemetery in 1965. The markers of Jacob VanMeter (1723-1798) and his wife, Letitia (1725-1799), are the oldest intact markers in the cemetery.

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Cemetery Design in America, 1800-1945

Over one hundred ninety-seven years after Samuel Haycraft donated the first acre for a public burial ground, the Elizabethtown City Cemetery is surrounded by residential development and Elizabethtown's central business district. The cemetery has been transformed by significant changes in cemetery design, urban growth, burial customs, and technology. The Elizabethtown City Cemetery began as a one-acre church graveyard and transformed into a twenty-acre, publicly-owned and -operated, planned landscape. The Elizabethtown City Cemetery is significant as an example of the transformation of American cemetery design and an example of the early 20th century lawn-park cemetery. The City Cemetery also is an example of the work of surveyor and civil engineer Benjamin Grove who designed many cemeteries in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

To evaluate the significance of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery as an example of landscape architecture, a review of current literature on landscape architecture and the history of American cemetery design was undertaken. One source, *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History,* by David Charles Sloane (1991), became the primary tool for the knowledge of history and design of American cemeteries. Sloan provides an excellent typology of American burial grounds and cemeteries created between 1796 and the present. He defines eight American cemetery types, each delineated by five factors -- period, design, location, monument type, and management.

Frontier burials were the earliest type of interment in the history of American cemeteries. This type of burial practice occurred in the 17th century and extended into the 20th century in remote areas of America. Mostly, frontier burials occurred at the site of death, and often protection or maintenance was absent. Burial identifications, such as markers, were simple in design and material or often absent. Because documentary evidence does not indicate burials in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery before its creation in 1807, the City Cemetery cannot be classified as a frontier burial.

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Because early inhabitants resided on farmsteads distant from towns and churches, they often interred family members or close neighbors in **domestic or farm graveyards**. This burial practice began in the 17th century and extended well into the early 20th century. Often located on elevated locations and in a grove of trees in a field, these graveyards had minimal organization in burial placement, and protection and maintenance often was minimal. Today domestic or farm graveyards are a common site on Kentucky's landscape but are deteriorating and abandoned. Evidence does not indicate that the Elizabethtown City Cemetery began as a domestic or farm graveyard. However, documentation does indicate that the original burials of Jacob and Letitia VanMeter occurred on their family farm in Hardin County. Their remains and markers were relocated to the city cemetery in 1965.

The most common type of cemetery historically and today is the **church graveyard or cemetery**. Located beside religious structures, this type of cemetery provided an independent burial ground for parishioners and their families. Often small, church cemeteries possessed little design and ornamentation before 1900. In a few cases, the design of 19th century church graveyards was geometric or resembled a formal garden. The range of ornamentation on markers was wide, from minimal elaborateness to artistic and symbolic. Often, these cemeteries were better protected and maintained. While church cemeteries are still used in many Kentucky communities, these cemeteries often became overcrowded, cluttered, and abandoned. Also, as a community's burial customs and preferences and demographics changed, church cemeteries came to be regarded as antiquated.

The Elizabethtown City Cemetery began as a church graveyard. About 1807, Samuel Haycraft, Sr. " . . . donated about one acre of ground on the southeast of the town for a Baptist meeting house and a common burying ground, free for all societies" (Haycraft 83). Located approximately one-fourth mile southeast of the courthouse square, this burial ground (Section M) shared a one-acre lot with a frame meeting house of the Severn's Valley Baptist Church. About 1815, the congregation demolished the unfinished structure and constructed a log structure on the site. In the early 1830s, the Baptist congregation

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constructed a brick building on a new site, demolished the log structure, and incorporated the vacant church site into the public burial ground.

Since its creation in 1807, this portion of the present Elizabethtown City Cemetery remained as a small church graveyard until the late 19th century. Historical documentation indicating the definite ownership of this burial ground is unavailable. However, its association with the Baptist meeting house suggests that the congregation assumed ownership and operation of the graveyard. This burial ground has a rectangular shape, and its internal configuration of lots developed without formal design. The original burial ground possesses monuments and markers of different ages, styles, materials, and ornamentation. In a few cases, family plots possess wrought iron fencing and large family monuments. The grounds possess few trees, shrubs, and plantings.

Besides the private burial grounds, two types of public cemeteries also existed in the early 19th century. These cemeteries were responses to the growing urban population and the overcrowding of private burial grounds. Public entities often provided burial grounds for the public and the indigent. Located on the edge of the city, the **"potter's field,"** as it was called, afforded burial ground for the city's indigent. The potter's fields possessed a geometric layout with little or plain monumentation and were frequently under-maintained and not protected. On the other hand, public entities also provided a **town or city cemetery**. Established at the city's border, city cemeteries provided a convenient location for urban dwellers. Often designed on European cemetery practices, city cemeteries often resembled formal gardens and possessed three-dimensional markers and monuments. However, city cemeteries might have had little protection and maintenance and be subject to increased population, overcrowding, and changing burial customs and preferences.

In 1866, the Elizabethtown City Cemetery began its transformation from a small, private, church graveyard into a large, publicly-owned and -operated, city cemetery. On December 19, 1866, the Trustees of Elizabethtown purchased a tract (Section N) adjoining the original cemetery from the heirs of Jacob W. LaRue for $162 (Hardin County Deed Book 8, page 223-224). Located on an elevated site and south of the original burial ground, this tract contained five acres. However, the

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LaRue family said in the deed that a 38 feet x 44 feet lot was ". . . hereby expressly reserved and not hereby conveyed but is to remain perpetually as a burial ground for the family and heirs of Jacob W. LaRue, deceased" (224).

The LaRue tract provided an opportunity for the Elizabethtown Trustees to design an organized and accessible landscape. Based on a simple grid pattern with little landscaping, this section was subdivided into blocks, lots, roads, and pathways. To provide a main entrance into the cemetery and access to the new and original sections, a main avenue (Main Avenue A) extending northwest between the sections and south along the rear of the new section was constructed. The new section also featured interior roads connecting the blocks and pathways within the blocks. Within each block, lots were layed off and ranged in size and price according to location within the section (Jones iii). After these improvements were made, the remaining acreage was dedicated for use as a potter's field (iii).

On June 24, 1889, the Board of Trustees of Elizabethtown purchased an adjoining one-half acre tract (Section L) from F.M. Joplin and Addie Joplin, his wife, for $125 (Hardin County Deed Book 34, pages 168-169). This one-half acre tract laid on the north side of the original burial ground and was divided into blocks, individual lots, and pathways. Again the City subdivided the new section into blocks and lots based on a geometric design. Each block contained four 16' x 24' lots, and the blocks were separated by a six-foot pathway (Jones iii). This section featured several interspersed trees and plantings.

As early as the early 1800s, people began to seek improved burial practices, and new cemetery designs emerged. Urban cemeteries were crowded, cluttered, vandalized, and deteriorated. Changes in demographics, technology, aesthetics and cultural values appeared, and epidemics, such as yellow fever, and other public health concerns emerged. These factors influenced new cemetery designs, aesthetic considerations, and management.

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The 'rural cemetery' was one response to the movement for improved practices and designs. The rural cemetery movement began in 1831 with the establishment of Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts and represented French and English landscaping theories and designs, such as Paris's Pere Lachaise. Located in the suburb or an area removed from the town's center, the rural cemetery was a picturesque site and designed as a natural garden. Often resembling a forest, these cemeteries possessed winding roads along its terrain, wide pathways, and numerous trees and plantings. The site also contained multitudinous monuments, markers, and art forms. The rural cemetery featured individual family plots containing a large family monument and individual markers. Also the plots included trees and plantings preferred, planted, and maintained by the family. Compared to early burial grounds, the ownership and management of a rural cemetery were an innovative approach. Frequently, a private association was incorporated. The association sold individual family plots and allowed purchasers to create and maintain the individual sites.

Mt. Auburn in Massachusetts was the first rural cemetery in the United States and became a model for the creation and redesign of other American burial grounds. The rural cemetery movement continued for approximately forty years and its effects were many. This movement created a new and professional approach to cemetery design and provided for a method of separating the cemetery from everyday urban life. Another result was the creation of private associations, individual lot ownership, and perpetual care maintenance.

The Elizabethtown City Cemetery contains elements of a rural cemetery. However, its landscaping features, layout, and monumentation does not constitute the overall composition of a rural cemetery. Unlike late 19th century rural cemeteries, the Elizabethtown City Cemetery possessed a geometric layout with limited landscaping features, roads, and pathways. Its plan possessed individual lots with minimal monumentation and markers and without artwork.

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While the rural cemetery movement provided one alternative to earlier burial practices and customs, this cemetery plan, too, became overcrowded and cluttered. By the mid-19th century, many individuals wanted a simpler cemetery design with fewer monuments and markers, trees, plantings, fences, roads, and pathways. The rural cemetery movement also passed with continuing changes in urban society, technology, and burial customs and practices.

Between 1855 and the 1920s, an alternative to earlier burial grounds and the rural cemetery emerged. The idea of the **lawn-park cemetery** began with Adolph Strauch's design of the Cemetery of Spring Grove in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1855. Born in Germany and trained as horticulturalist in England, Strauch designed a cemetery based on a scientific plan. Strauch's lawn-park cemetery resembled an urban park and pastoral scene. Less picturesque, the lawn-park cemetery featured expansive open space and fewer and interspersed trees, shrubs, and plantings. Monumentation and sculpture were fewer and less obtrusive and elaborate. Roads and pathways were limited, and the complete layout was more formal and organized. Influenced by the City Beautiful movement, the lawn-park cemeteries did not possess a geometric layout but featured concentric circular sections, curved pathways and roads, and open space. Adolph Strauch became known as the "founder of modern cemetery" and the Cemetery of Spring Grove became a model for the lawn-park cemetery design. This form of cemetery design was also promoted and adapted by other landscape architects, such as Frank Law Olmstead.

The lawn-park cemetery also was a model for an innovative approach to cemetery management. Strauch modernized cemetery management in the early 20th century by promoting professional central management. While individuals continued to purchase lots, a cemetery association existed, and the association's board of directors and a superintendent or sexton managed the entire cemetery operation, including appearance and maintenance. Strauch expanded the idea of perpetual care and professional management.

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By the turn of the century, the Elizabethtown City Cemetery began its transformation into a carefully planned and modern landscape and lawn-park cemetery. The cemetery's transformation was a response to the city's growth and modernization and to the national City Beautiful movement. On July 20, 1898, the City of Elizabethtown acquired the last tract historically associated with the city cemetery. The City purchased approximately fourteen acres from the Chicago, St. Louis, and New Orleans Railroad Company for $210 (Hardin County Deed Book 44, pages 458-459). Located to the rear of the existing cemetery tracts, the terrain of this fourteen-acre tract included rolling fields and a steep hill. This large tract and its topography provided the opportunity to create a modern, picturesque cemetery design. In 1901, the City Cemetery Committee hired Benjamin Grove to design and layout the newest section of the cemetery.

Born in England, Benjamin Grove (1824-1915) resided in Louisville in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and was a surveyor and civil engineer. While working as a railroad engineer in his early career, Grove later specialized in the design and landscaping of cemeteries (Thomas 42). By the turn of the century, Benjamin Grove became a respected and well-known cemetery designer in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Grove designed many Kentucky cemeteries, including but not limited to Maysville City Cemetery, Flemingsburg City Cemetery, St. Louis Catholic Cemetery in Louisville, Ryder Cemetery in Lebanon, Fairview Cemetery in Bowling Green, Israel Cemetery in Louisville, Ashland City Cemetery, Danville City Cemetery, Midway Cemetery, Grove Hill Cemetery in Shelbyville, and Sections A and P of Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville (Thomas 42; Kyman). In an August 23, 1864 article of the *Louisville Daily Journal*, Benjamin Grove and his work are described as follows:

> He has taken advantage of every peculiarity of location to produce effective combinations, so that he exhibits all the taste of a landscape gardener with the scientific attainments of the Engineer. He is a public benefactor who can relieve the grave of its sombre [sic] character

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and make our monuments stand in their
cemeteries as if they were the accessories of a
superb floral design, intended simply to please
the eye and gratify the taste.

In reviewing cemetery designs by Benjamin Grove, apparently he combined elements of the rural cemetery and lawn-park cemetery movements and was influenced by the works of Strauch and Olmstead. Although many elements of Grove's design for the Elizabethtown City Cemetery were not completed, the Elizabethtown City Cemetery is locally significant as an example of the lawn-park cemetery and an as example of Grove's work.

For the newest section of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery, Benjamin Grove's design possessed all elements of a lawn-park cemetery. His design used and enhanced the natural setting of the fourteen-acre tract and emphasized utility, accessibility, and simplicity. Grove designed a curving roadway system that used the existing contour changes of the site. He extended the main avenue of the original section. Within the larger tract, Grove designed circular and kidney-shaped sections surrounded by the curving roadways. The circular framework and curving roadways provided for easier access to individual lots within the sections. In addition, Grove subdivided the large circular sections into smaller lots and designed narrow pathways between rows of lots to provide walkways to the individual lots. Grove also designed triangular islands within the roadways for use as flower beds. His visionary design also included the retention of open spaces, the placement of benches, and the construction of a pool and fountain (Jones iv). Grove also envisioned each original tract or block bounded by a line of trees, shrubs, and other plantings and separating the older sections from the newly designed section by a dense tree line. In his plans, Grove also indicated the construction of a shelter house in Section A.

In comparing Grove's 1901 design and a current aerial photograph, it is obvious that the City Cemetery Association completed Grove's design as the need for burial space increased, that they elected to complete the layout and landscape in phases, and that they did implement the first

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phase (Sections A through H). A comparison of the 1901 plan and a current aerial photograph show the elements of Grove's design that were implemented. While the shelter house, pool, fountain, and benches were never constructed, the association did extend the main avenue from the original section and constructed the circular sections and the curving, interior roadways. Within each section, the association also completed the subdivision of individual lots and creation of narrow pathways. While the tree lines and separation of old and new sections were never created, the association did plant trees and shrubs within the sections and flower beds in the triangular islands. The second phase of Grove's plan was never carried out, but the rear section of the cemetery maintains the ideals of the lawn-park cemetery, including open space and fewer roadways.

In the early 20th century, a new form of cemetery design and management developed. Located in the suburbs, the **memorial park** featured a pastoral design similar to the lawn-park cemetery. However, the cemetery featured an expanded lawn with only flat markers and centrally located sculptures. Roads were limited, and interior pathways were often omitted. Memorial parks offered families all the necessities for burying a family member. This form of cemetery often became a real estate business venture. Its management style was strict and included marketing strategies for selling the cemetery. Redesigned in 1917 by Hubert Eaton, Forest Lawn in Glendale, California was the first memorial park in the United States. While memorial parks became a popular American cemetery design, the Elizabethtown City Cemetery never developed into this cemetery design.

During the 20th century, variations of these American cemetery designs and management forms appeared. However, the design and management of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery remains as it developed between 1807 and 1901. It includes the approximately twenty acres historically associated with the original cemetery and exemplifies the transformation of small burial grounds into planned landscapes.

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Integrity Considerations

Today the Elizabethtown City Cemetery reflects the spatial organization, physical components, and historical associations originally associated with the cemetery. While it is still used as a city cemetery, the recent grave markers and improvements have not impaired the cemetery's historic identity. The recent changes to the property exemplify the community's continual use of the property as a cemetery and its commitment to its security and maintenance. The feeling and character of the cemetery are maintained. To fully assess the historic integrity of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery, five of the seven integrity factors -- location, design, setting, feeling, and association -- were examined.

The location, setting, and design of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery remain intact and represent the plan and transformation of early burial grounds in the 19th century and early 20th century. The location and setting of early burial grounds often were influenced by topography and accessibility. In most communities nationwide and as an element of the lawn-park cemetery design, the location of cemeteries occurred on hillsides and outside the cities boundaries. Originally the Elizabethtown City Cemetery was situated southeast of the city's boundaries. Today the cemetery has been annexed into the city's boundaries, but its location retains its historic identity and remains a significant location.

The setting of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery also remains intact and represents the historical character of the cemetery. Situated on a natural ridge overlooking the city, the cemetery's setting still reflects the visual and functional relationships. In the cases of other rural and lawn-park cemeteries nationwide, urban growth often affects the setting of a cemetery. Nevertheless, surrounding commercial and residential development has been sympathetic to the existence of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery, and the development caused minimal alteration to the cemetery's setting. The setting actually was enhanced by the acquisition of three lots adjoining the cemetery and converted to open space and parking facilities for the cemetery. Within the cemetery, the topographic features, such as rolling fields and natural ridges, and manmade features, such as pathways, roads, fences, and grave markers, have been maintained. While many grave markers have been recently installed, the

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quantity and visual impact of the cemetery's setting has not been significantly impaired.

The design of the cemetery also remains intact and reflects the transformation of the cemetery from a small burial ground to a lawn-park cemetery. The differing designs evolved in response to the existing topography and the changing technology, burial practices, and aesthetics of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The design predominately reflects the open landscape design of the lawn-park cemetery movement that promoted accessibility and simplicity. The layout of blocks, lots, pathways, and roads still exist and have been maintained. Also, early grave markers in the original burial grounds still exist and are currently being maintained and restored by the City of Elizabethtown through a perpetual care fund.

Because the location, setting, and design of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery have been maintained, the Elizabethtown City Cemetery still evokes a feeling of a past time and place. The layout of the cemetery reflects the growth of an urban cemetery in the 19th century. The addition of larger tracts and the need for carefully planned landscape designs reflect the responses to the changing needs of individuals and the community in the late 19th century. The older sections of the cemetery provide a mirror of the community's culture and history, that is, of important historic associations that have vanished from the landscape elsewhere.

The relationship of the cemetery and the early settlement and early 20th century landscape architecture still exists. The original burial ground donated by Samuel Haycraft and the early burials and grave markers have been retained and maintained. This site and its elements provide the only existing link to the early settlement and the early residents of Elizabethtown and Hardin County. Its additions and designs represent the need for larger and more efficient, organized, and pleasant landscapes. This cemetery has been continually used as a public cemetery and clearly demonstrates the creation and transformation of a 19th century cemetery.

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Summary

The Elizabethtown City Cemetery is an excellent example of the history and development of early 19th century burial grounds. The nominated property includes the four tracts associated with the original burial ground and its additions. It is the combination of these tracts that exemplifies the transformation of the one-acre burial ground into today's lawn-park cemetery and illustrates the work of surveyor and engineer Benjamin Grove. This cemetery is the only intact site in Elizabethtown that represents its early settlement and development and the grave markers within the site are the only physical reminders of the lives and contributions of many settlers and early residents.

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Government Documents
Hardin County Deed Book 8, page 223.
Hardin County Deed Book 34, pages 168-169.
Hardin County Deed Book 44, pages 458-459.

Interviews
Kyman, Mary Jean, Filson Club. Telephone interview.

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Elizabethtown City Cemetery
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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description
The Elizabethtown City Cemetery includes the following four tracts:

Tract 1
Beginning at a red bud, running N 59^2 E 28 poles, thence S 27^2 E 14 poles, thence S 61 W 27 10/25 poles, thence N 31 W 13 14/25 poles to the beginning.

Tract 2 (as described in Hardin County Deed Book 8, page 223)
Beginning at a red bud, thence S 33 1/2 W 12 poles to a stake, thence up the hill S 31 E 39 poles to the old line of Dr. B.R. Young, thence N 29 E 21 poles to a tree, thence N 23 E 23 poles to a stake, thence N 27 1/2 W 4 10/25 poles to a stake, thence N 27 1/2 W 4 10/25 poles, thence S 61 W 27 10/25 poles, thence N 31 W 13 poles to the beginning.

Tract 3 (as described in Hardin County Deed Book 34, pages 168-169)
Beginning at the northwest corner of said cemetery at a stone, running thence westwardly with Main Crop Street fifty feet to a stone; thence in a southern direction from Main Crop Street with a line of a lot conveyed by the parties of the first part to J.D. Culley by deed recorded in Deed Book Number 31 page 255 to a line of a lot formerly owned by S.W.D. Stone's heirs; thence with said last named line eastwardly fifty feet to a stake; thence with the west line of said cemetery to the beginning.

Tract 4 (as described in Hardin County Deed Book 44, pages 458-459)
Beginning at a stone, the southwest corner of a tract of land purchased by the trustees of Elizabethtown for a cemetery, running thence South 33 1/2 degrees West 67 poles to a stone; thence South 54 1/2 degrees East 51 poles to a stone in B.R. Young's line; thence with said line North 20 degrees E 52 poles to a stone in said line and corner to the said cemetery tract above mentioned and thence North 31 degrees West 39 poles to the place of beginning, containing fourteen acres, more or less.

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Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery includes the four tracts historically associated with the cemetery. While the City of Elizabethtown acquired additional acreage for parking, the nominated property only includes original grounds. The nominated property represents the original cemetery and shows its historical development. The setting of this cemetery is intact and maintains its historical integrity.

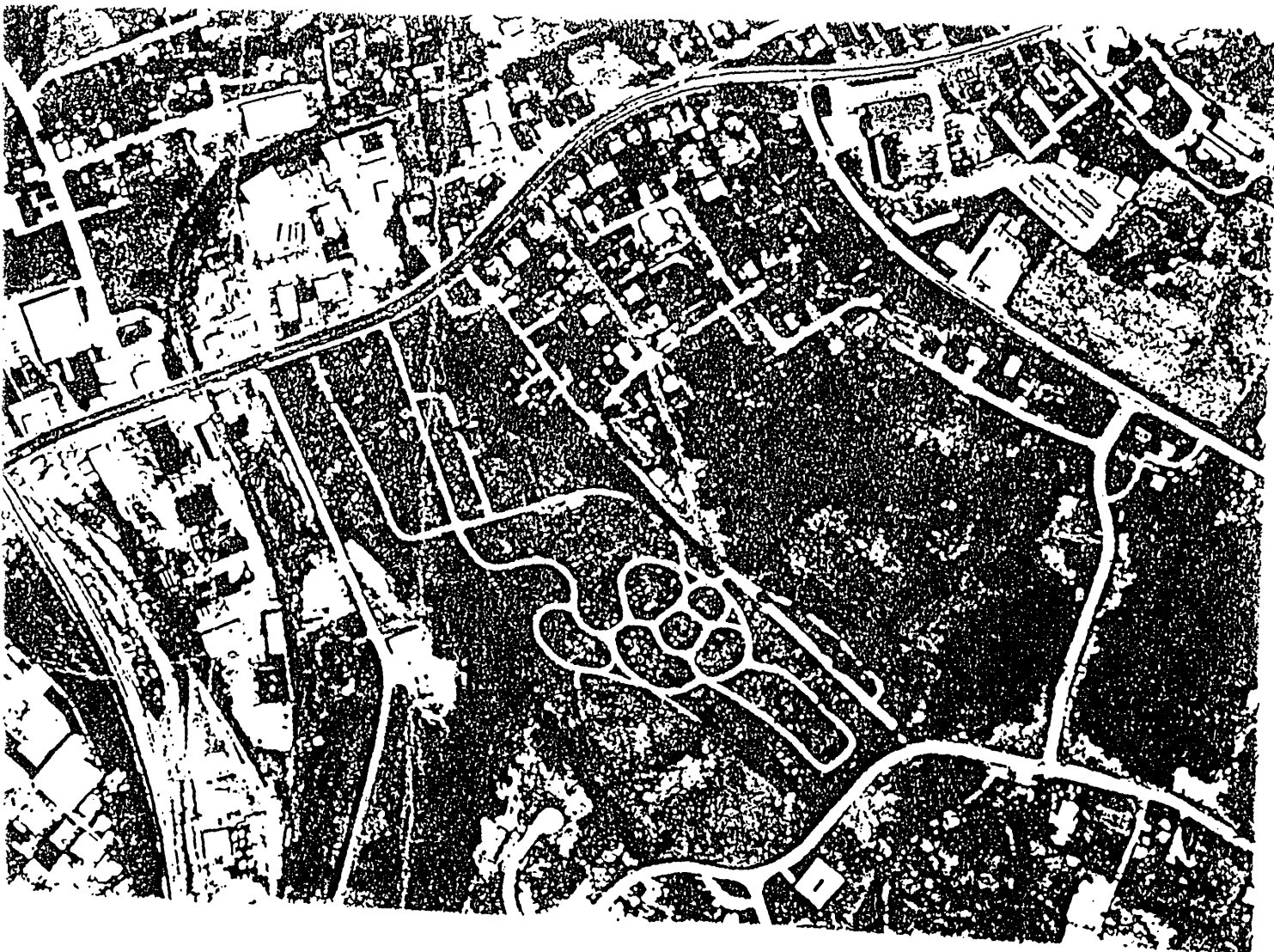United States Department of the Interior
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Additional Documentation

1992 Aerial Photograph
Elizabethtown City Cemetery
Not to scale

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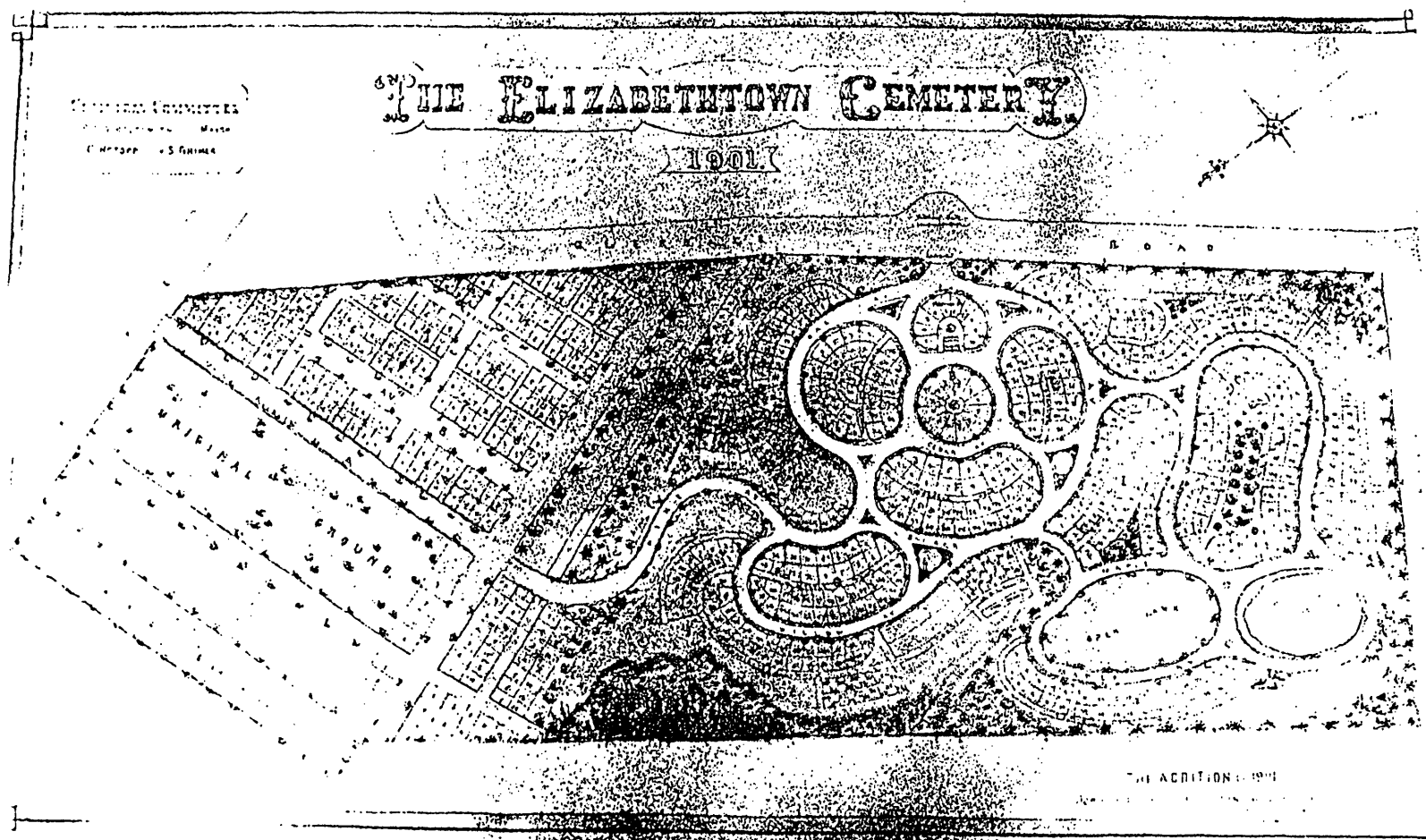National Park Seurvice

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Additional Documentation

1901 Site Plan of Existing Burial Ground and Design of 1898 Addition
Prepared by Benjamin Groves
Not to scale

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Additional Documentation

Photograph Log

Janet L. Johnston took the following photographs. All negatives are at her
residence at 1511 Benson Avenue, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104.
These photographs were taken Saturday, March 22, 1997 at the
Elizabethtown City Cemetery.

Photo #	Description
1	This photograph shows the main entrance (Main Avenue A) of the Elizabethtown City Cemetery. The stone entrance walls and portions of Sections N (left side) and M (right side) are also shown. The camera direction is southwest.
2	This photograph shows Main Avenue A and a portion of Section M (right side). The camera direction is southwest.
3	This photograph shows the east portion of Section N and the south boundary line. The camera direction is southwest.
4	This photograph shows the rear portion of Section N and the south boundary line. The camera direction is southeast.
5	This photograph shows portions of Sections C and H. The camera direction is south.
6	This photograph shows portions of Sections C, D, and H and Pine Avenue. The camera direction is south.
7	This photograph shows the rear portion of Section N and the south boundary line. The camera direction is northeast.
8	This photograph shows a panoramic view of the Elizabethtown central business district and portions of Sections C, L, M, and N from the highest point (approximately 806.4' above sea level) in the Elizabethtown City Cemetery. The camera direction is north.

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9	This photograph shows the view of the west boundary line and a portion of Section C from the highest point in the cemetery. The camera direction is west.
10	This photograph shows a view of the west boundary from the highest point in the cemetery and shows a portion of Section C. The camera direction is southwest.
11	This photograph shows Cemetery Court and a portion of Section J. The camera direction is southwest.
12	This photograph shows Cemetery Court and portions of Sections A, E, and J. The camera direction is northeast.
13	This photograph shows portions of Sections E and K and a view of the Elizabethtown central business district. The camera direction is northeast.
14	This photograph shows a panoramic view of Sections B, E, F, O, and R. The camera direction is east.
15	This photograph shows portions of Sections F, G, and O. The camera direction is east.
16	This photograph shows portions of Sections B and F. The camera direction is southeast.
17	This photograph shows a view of the west boundary and a portion of Section O. The camera direction is southwest.
18	This photograph shows portions of Sections L and M. The camera direction is east.
19	This photograph shows a portion of Section L and a view of the cemetery. The camera direction is south.
20	This photograph shows portions of Section M and N. The camera direction is southwest.
21	This photograph shows portions of Section M and a view of Section L and the north boundary. The camera direction is northwest.
22	This photograph shows the original and new grave markers of Samuel Haycraft, Sr. (1749-1823). The camera direction is east.
23	This photograph shows the original and new grave markers of Margaret Haycraft (1760-1843). The camera direction is east.

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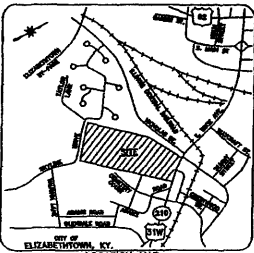# CONTINUATION SHEET

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24	This photograph shows the original and new grave markers of Jacob VanMeter (1723-1798). The camera direction is west.
25	This photograph shows the original and new grave markers of Andrew Fairleigh (1761-1829) and his wife Letitia Swan Fairleigh (1778-1845). The camera direction is west.

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Additional Documentation

Photograph Location/Direction Map

ELIZABETHTOWN CITY CEMETERY
ELIZABETHTOWN, HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

PHOTOGRAPH LOCATION/DIRECTION MAP
ELIZABETHTOWN CITY CEMETERY

DATE 3/1/97 | | SHT. 3
| | SURVEY # NB-E-402

DENOTES PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER
AND DIRECTION

LOCATION MAP
NOT TO SCALE

REDUCED
NOT TO SCALE

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97000872   Date Listed: 8/18/97

Elizabethtown City Cemetery   Hardin   KY
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick W. Andrus   _9/17/97_
Signature of the Keeper   Date of Action

==
Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR makes a technical correction to the form. In Section 5 (Category of Property) the category "structure" is checked; the cemetery is a "site" under National Register definitions, and the form is amended to make this correction.

DISTRIBUTION:
    National Register property file
    Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)