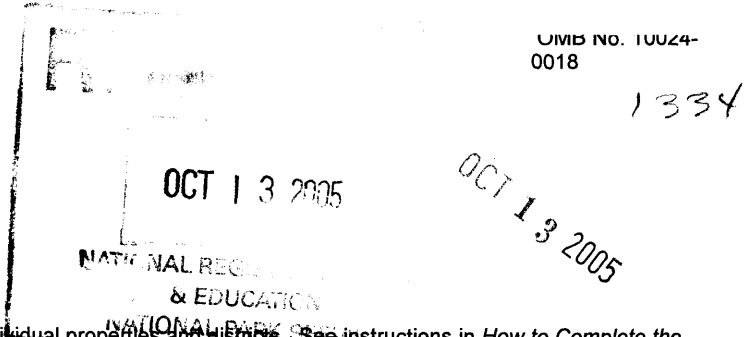


(Oct. 1990)

1334

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Olivet Cemetery

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1101 Lebanon Pike

N/A not for publication

city or town Nashville

N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Davidson code 037 zip code 37210

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 for 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.)

Herbert L. Hays
Signature of certifying official/Title

10/11/05
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

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:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

11-25-05

Mount Olivet Cemetery
Name of Property

Davidson Co, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	3	buildings
2		sites
		structures
		objects
5	3	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

N/A

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)

Gothic Revival, Carpenter Gothic, Romanesque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls Brick and concrete

roof Metal and brick
other Limestone, marble, granite

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY
OTHER: FUNERARY ART AND ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1855 - 1955

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Dobson & Williamson, Adolphus Heiman, unknown, multiple

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

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): N/A

- Criteria for previous documentation on file.

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Mount Olivet Cemetery
Name of Property

Davidson Co, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 206 acres Nashville East 311 NW

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u> Zone	<u>523478</u> Easting	<u>4001127</u> Northing	3	<u>16</u> Zone	<u>524689</u> Easting	<u>3999905</u> Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>524733</u>	<u>4000858</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>523275</u>	<u>4000058</u>

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 Rozanne E. Folk, President
organization Historic Mt. Olivet Preservation Consortium date May 30, 2005
street & number 330 Bellevue Road telephone 615-646-6504/423-5136
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37221

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 Stewart Enterprises, Inc c/o Frank Stewart
street & number 1333 South Clearview Parkway Telephone 504-729-1400
city or town Jefferson state LA zip code 70121

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.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Founded in 1855, Mount Olivet Cemetery is a two hundred six acre site bounded on the west by Calvary Cemetery and a commercial/industrial business park facing Fesslers Lane; on the south by a commercial/industrial business park and Elm Hill Pike (formerly Old Lebanon Road and then Stones River Pike); on the east by Greenwood Cemetery and commercial property; and on the north by Lebanon Pike. The cemetery currently has over 192,000 graves with at least 60 percent within the period of significance, and over 200,000 monuments, mausoleums and markers, of which at least 75 percent are within the period of significance. Mount Olivet was designed using standards established by Mount Auburn Cemetery, the first garden/rural cemetery in the United States. Victorian era sentimentality towards death and their desire to honor their dead is reflected through the creation of a beautifully landscaped park with winding roads, an emphasis on nature complemented by the lofty obelisks pointing towards Heaven and the grand mausoleums softened by the soft embrace of shade trees. Mount Olivet has serpentine roads with mature landscaping and trees that define the burial sections of the cemetery and draw the eye to the diverse collection of monuments and mausoleums marking both family and individual interments. The design of the mausoleums ranges from Greco/Roman and Egyptian Revival to Victorian Gothic, and at least 40 percent of the monuments in the cemetery are classic Victorian era funerary art. Changes in American attitudes regarding spirituality, death and immortality from 1855 to 1955, as well as to the present day, are reflected in the monuments, markers and mausoleums. As a whole, the cemetery retains a high level of historic integrity.

Mount Olivet Cemetery is divided into 35 numbered sections as well as 5 sections labeled as single grave/strangers sections. Additionally there are 8 sections that are identified by name rather than number. These named sections are located on the eastern end of the cemetery.

The development of Mount Olivet is different from many other cemeteries in the state. Initially, segregation in the cemetery was by class with the elite families buried in the most desirable sections of the cemetery. Blacks could be buried anywhere in the cemetery up to circa 1889. This is considered the first period of development of the site and is represented by the first 15 sections of the cemetery as well as the single grave/stranger sections. After this, the second phase from around 1890 to 1955 was when African Americans were restricted from the cemetery. Finally, beginning around 1955 contains the newer sections of the cemetery that are identified by name rather than number. This division is based on a timeline— each section of the cemetery continues to be active as of 2005. The boundary of the cemetery increased in size as new property was added after 1889 allowing burial sections to be added as demands required. The time span of the first two parts was determined by legislation. In 1889, an act was brought before the Tennessee General Assembly that allowed the maximum acreage of a Tennessee cemetery to increase from 200 to 400 acres. Phase 3 interments occur throughout the cemetery, but can primarily be found in the easternmost sections of the cemetery. However, the land upon which they are located was purchased prior to 1955, and therefore, the entire property remains within the period of significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

Unlike many historic cemeteries, Mount Olivet does not have sections designated only for black burials. Some were buried with the families they served, either as free persons of color or as slaves. Others were buried in the single and/or strangers sections located at the rear of the cemetery. There are other apparently 'unused' areas that may hold the remains of persons of color.

Mount Olivet was first segregated by class or station; after the Civil War and Reconstruction, the interment of persons of color was prohibited until the 1960's. The elite were buried in the most desirable sections of Mount Olivet, and Section 1 appears to have been reserved for the most prominent citizens: judges, engineers and architects, doctors, educators, bankers and children of the founding families of Nashville. The founders of the cemetery, such as Adrien Van Sinderen Lindsley (1814-1885) and John Buddeke (1808-1887) are buried here. Sections 2 through 8 of the original 15 sections would follow its example.

Separate sections at the rear of the cemetery were reserved for strangers, single persons or families of lower social status, paupers, and free persons of color or slaves that were not buried with the families they served. Burials here are in dense linear rows with straight roads, the area has the lowest elevation and could be called "bottom land" and most graves are unmarked. During the Depression, these sections were also used for persons who could not afford a burial spot. Since ninety percent of the interments in this area are unmarked, the location and identity of the individuals interred remain in eternal anonymity.

Mount Olivet is accessed through its front entrance on Lebanon Pike. 100 feet of the stone wall forming the original north boundary of the cemetery is still visible on Lebanon Pike, 40 feet from the Gothic Revival stone fence of Calvary Cemetery (established 1868). The breach between the two wall sections is about the width of the original entrance drive, which had a stone guardhouse, entrance gates, and gate lodge. The remnant of the stone wall is made of locally quarried limestone that was cut, shaped and constructed in a garden style bond with stone cap. There is a chain link fence on the east, south and southwest boundaries restricting access from the commercial and industrial areas, and from the L & N Railroad, which separates Mount Olivet and Greenwood Cemetery. No other fences occur at Mount Olivet, and there are no burial plots defined by fences.

After entering the cemetery and directly in front of the divided entrance on Lebanon Pike, a hill rises steeply to meet Section 1 and its scenic vista view. On the bottom of the hill approximately 5 feet higher than the elevation of the drive is a large rounded rock with a bronze plaque commemorating Tennesseans who died serving the United States in World War I. Previously located in an older section of the cemetery in 1924, General Hugh Mott of the Tennessee National Guard presided at its rededication sponsored by American Legion Post 88. It commands the attention of all who enter Mount Olivet. Above this memorial, "Mount Olivet" is spelled out in large, sculpted shrubbery, marking the location of the cemetery from above. The shrubbery appears to date circa 1930 and is boxwoods. Several of the trees planted when the cemetery was founded still remain on the drive leading past Section 1 on the hilltop.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

Turning west at the entrance, the drive climbs the hill to the west to connect to the original entrance drive. This drive continues to define the north boundary of Section 1 just as it did in 1855, leading past the most premier location to be buried in the cemetery. The drive then leads to Sections 2 through 15, with the road meandering in gentle curves that follow the natural contours of the land. These are the oldest sections of Mount Olivet Cemetery, and part of the original layout that consisted of 125 acres – 100 acres for burials and 25 acres for streets and burial alleys.

Turning east at the entrance, the drive follows the path of a service road that was added between 1889 and 1927 – after the cemetery had expanded to over 200 acres. Originally turning south and leading to the Vault – as shown on the 1927 survey - this drive was extended south/southeast to allow better access to sections included in Part 2 and 3.

The diversity of funerary art and architecture at Mount Olivet reflects: both Catholic and Protestant spiritual beliefs; fraternal societies such as the Masons, Woodmen of the World and the Odd Fellows; periods of national history and social change; and economic booms and depressions. Only in the mass grave or single/stranger sections of Mount Olivet is there equanimity in death – thousands share eternal anonymity. In the newest sections of the cemetery, located in the eastern third and forming the east boundary, the markers and monuments become more uniform. There are very few mausoleums. The newest sections have no numbers, only names and have restrictions on markers. Penalties must be paid if more than a small flat granite slab is chosen. This reflects more than just budget constraints – legal changes in how cemeteries operate were just as much a reason for these restrictions as maintenance requirements and costs. No more than 15 percent of the 206-acre cemetery falls under these new guidelines.

Part 1 – 1855 to 1889, containing the original 125 acre cemetery

From the first burial of Mary (Shelby) Anderson (?-1855) on September 26, 1855, wife of cemetery founder Thompson Anderson (1813-1892) to the present, the original 15 sections of Mount Olivet retain their curvilinear roads and cemetery park landscaping. The indenture forming the cemetery had occurred less than six months prior to Mrs. Anderson's unexpected death, and she was buried before the official incorporation of Mount Olivet. The cemetery opened with 125 acres and was founded during the Rural Cemetery Movement that began with Mount Auburn Cemetery Park in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Like Elmwood (NR 03/20/02) in Memphis and Old Gray in Knoxville (NR 12/04/96), it was laid out according to precedents established by Mount Auburn – a spacious, open area with avenues that complement the natural contours of its terrain; use of native plants and trees; use of trees, flowers and shrubbery symbolically associated with death and immortality; Victorian era funerary art and architecture which complement the emphasis placed on spirituality expressed through nature; a park-like environment that reinforced the important role of family and family values. Younger generations were taught to actively care for the final resting place of their ancestors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

Part 1 is divided into 15 sections. The markers, monuments and mausoleums are made from marble, granite, limestone, concrete/cinder block and concrete. There are three cemetery related buildings and one site that are contributing in Part 1: Chapel/Office, the Vault, and Confederate Circle. There are also three non-contributing buildings in Part 1: maintenance shed, sexton's house and mausoleum. The historic and intact character-defining features found in Part 1 are the graves, markers, vaults, mausoleums, monuments, statuary, family plots with curbs, walkways, cemetery alleys, road system, stone walls, plantings, historic buildings and historic cemetery plan that represent each stage of historic development.

The cemetery was rectangular, length running south from its Lebanon Pike entrance to its south boundary of residential property that faced Stones River Pike (which would later be purchased by the cemetery). The first Lot Deed Certificates show Mount Olivet with the topography of the property and how the roads were laid out to trace the both the geographic contour lines and the boundaries of the burial sections. Receipts from Eichman's, the first treasurer of Mount Olivet, account books show that trees and shrubbery were ordered to landscape Mount Olivet from Ellwanger and Barry, Mount Hope Nurseries of Rochester, New York. Mount Olivet would order from other nurseries, but soon established their own greenhouse on-site (demolished in 1960).

Sections 1 and 2 still have a scenic vista view of Nashville, albeit more restricted than originally due to mature trees. Mount Olivet is full of Masons, engineers, architects, surveyors and real estate developers. The buildings were state of the art where function followed form. Major Eugene Castner Lewis (1845 – 1917) is buried in one of the most unique tombs of Mount Olivet in Section 2, Lot 220 (1064 square foot lot). It has a pyramid entrance above ground with a bronze north arrow and star embedded in the walkway. "Lewis" is also bronze and embedded directly above the tail end of the arrow and star. The entrance to the walkway is guarded by a pair of Sphinx – symbolic of the Memphis Rite, a Masonic order. The two heavy aluminum doors of the pyramid once opened to reveal steps that lead down into the crypt. Because of vandalism the doors are welded shut. Above the door is a Masonic epitaph to Lewis – text contained within a bronze equilateral triangle, a symbol and geometric form that was once especially significant to Freemasonry. Major Eugene C. Lewis was Director General of the Tennessee Centennial, and was responsible for the construction of the Parthenon (NR 02/23/1972). He also built Union Station (NR 12/30/1969) in Nashville, Tennessee during his tenure with the railroad.

The roads here define the soft curving contours of these sections. This changes when approaching the west boundary of the cemetery lying adjacent to Calvary Cemetery and after passing sections west and southwest of Confederate Circle. The land levels out and the elevation falls gently. The straight roads, sparse markers and monuments, and absence of mausoleums indicate that the single grave and/or strangers, and pauper sections have been reached. Because of the thousands of graves in this area, the social demographics of these sections have not yet been determined. However, Mount Olivet Cemetery Company records are complete, and every burial since the founding of the cemetery is accounted for. Records are also kept regarding disinterment and graves that are moved to other sections or other cemeteries outside the Nashville area. The divisions between old and new, elite class or pauper, are clearly defined.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee



The Daniel Carter mausoleum is the only family/private mausoleum in Mount Olivet Cemetery that has its own section. It is a Moorish Revival structure approximately 15 feet wide by 20 feet long. It is made of Italian marble and was built in 1868. Mr. Carter had the mausoleum built to hold the remains of the son he lost during the Civil War. Pointed arches supported by columns line each side and the corners are accented by flying buttresses that intersect at a 45 degree angle. It has a low slope gable roof that is unadorned. The marble was provided by James Sloan, a Nashville businessman who specialized in stone and marble. Many of the obelisks and marble monuments in Mount Olivet were purchased, designed or built by

him. It is well preserved and is as beautiful today as it was when it was built.

Victorian era sentimentality towards death and their desire to honor their dead through the creation of a beautifully landscaped park with winding roads, an emphasis on nature complemented by the lofty obelisks pointing towards Heaven and the grand mausoleums softened by the soft embrace of shade trees are found in the first nine sections of the cemetery.

These drives terminate at the west drive, which is parallel to the Calvary Cemetery, runs north to south, and travels down hill to the single grave and stranger's sections, as well as the southwestern sections of the cemetery. One passes from drives and sections with mature trees dating from the founding of the cemetery and family plots to unadorned sections that look like open pasture land. Turning east or north and looking uphill, it is like driving from a completely full cemetery to used land. It is deceptive – no other sections of Mount Olivet are laid out as densely as Single Grave Sections 4, 5 and 6, and Single Grave and Stranger Sections 1, 2 and 3. There are thousands of interments here, but only approximately 100 markers or monuments. It is here where one of the few Union soldiers buried in Mount Olivet is located: Private Oliver Rood who captured one of the southern battle flags at Gettysburg and lived until 1885 when he was buried without a marker in Section 5. In the 1970s, this Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient was awarded his honor in the form of a bronze marker and a white US military headstone. Since there are no other markers around it, Rood is easily located.

After climbing the hill west of the entrance past the northern boundary of Section 1, the old drive leads past the eastern boundary of Sections 2 and 5 with their stunning Victorian era monuments to the Chapel/Office.

Chapel/Office (circa 1872) - Contributing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

The Chapel/Office was built in 1872 and is thought to be the work of Hugh Cathcart Thompson, "native Tennessee architect."¹ The oldest known photograph of this petite and stunning American Gothic Revival building by prominent Nashville photographer Otto Gier² shows that it was red brick, designed like a small Gothic Chapel with a narthex opening into an octagonal vestry. The roof covering the octagonal vestry is a steep hip roof, and behind the two eastern most sections is centered a chimney capped with three terra cotta English-style chimney pots.

The Chapel/Office sits near the original east boundary of the cemetery above the Vault. It has three sections: 1) the original main structure which looks like a small chapel and is built in the American Gothic Revival style; 2) the circa 1890 addition on the east end of the main structure and includes the south bell tower housing the company safe; and 3) the circa 1930 rear addition east of first addition that forms a "T" and the 2 story bath addition to the south façade where the main structure and first addition intersect. Like the Vault, it was constructed of brick with a quarried limestone foundation and sill.

The first section is comprised of three parts, the narthex, vestry, and office. The narthex serves as the entrance to the Chapel/Office. The equilateral pointed arch opening is accented by brick laid in an alternating stretcher/double header pattern. The narthex has a gable roof with a roll and fillet cornice. Situated on the gable roof is a pavilion forming a stage that supports the Carpenter Gothic belfry. The belfry has a tent roof with concave slopes on all four sides and a pinnacle supporting a spire. The gable roof is a standing seam tin roof; the pavilion has a herringbone tin shingle roof with standing seam corner joints; and, the belfry tent has a stamped tin shingle roof, also with standing seam corner joints. The north and south walls of the narthex each have a small 30 inch lancet with two lights. The exterior walls are double width brick in a garden bond. The bricks are solid with a smooth glazed exterior finish. The equilateral arch door opening has a pair of wood doors, each forming one half of the arch and having a light that matches the arch. The bottom half of the doors is a single rectangular panel. The doors have brass knob plates in a Chinoiserie geometric design resembling a Chinese fret.

The vestry is laid out as an octagon, with six of eight walls having a single centered lancet. The ceiling of the vestry has rafters with chamfered edges. The ceiling framing accentuates the octagonal shape of the vestry and is laid out like a spider web. The lancets have a top light with a lancet arch over three rectangular lights stacked vertically. The vestry opens into the office with what was once a door opening and is now a cased opening. A similar entry opens into the hall. The roof of the vestry is covered with standing seam tin roofing, the seams intersecting at each corner of the octagon shaped roof and forming an inverted "V". Dormers forming a hood over the lancets are centered in each of the six windowed brick walls. Each dormer is trimmed with a roll and fillet cornice. The peak of the roof was once adorned with both a pinnacle and spire, but only the pinnacle survives. Boxed gutters are enclosed and hidden by the cornice.

¹ Howell, William W. "Hugh Cathcart Thompson: Native Tennessee Architect"

² Hoobler, James. Nashville, From the Collection of Carl and Otto Giers, Volume II (Images of America, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 2000); Page 86.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

From the exterior, the office area appears to be the sanctuary of a church. It forms a rectangle behind the octagonal vestry. Like the vestry, it has exterior brick walls; however, the lancets have a center divider of cypress. There are two lancets on the north wall and, prior to the final additions, two on the south. They divide each wall into three equal sections. The northern two-thirds of this rear rectangle is an office and the remaining one-third serves as a hall. Originally, it was one large room. The present layout was formed when the first addition was built circa 1890. The roof over the office is gabled, and covered with standing seam tin.

Together, the vestry, office and hall provide 400 square feet of space. The floors are tongue and groove hardwood, presently covered with carpet (a later addition). The walls were originally plaster and are presently covered with circa 1960 wood-like paneling.

The first addition (circa 1890) is easily identified by an expansion joint in the exterior brick walls, a change in the foundation material from quarry faced stone to cinder/concrete block, and rounded arch double-hung wood windows. The arch over these windows is a double brick header row arch supported by a wood lintel – a common characteristic of construction methods used in Nashville from 1880 to 1910. It adds a total of 600 square feet (300 on the main floor and 300 in the full basement under the addition) to the original 550, and is accessed by the hall of the main structure. The roof of the first addition is a standing seam tin to match that of the office and hall of the main structure. Its fascia is once again a roll and fillet cornice with boxed gutters.

On the south side, a semi-octagonal bell tower whose body and foundation encase the company safe was constructed. The bell tower is covered by a stage supporting a Carpenter Gothic belfry covered by a pyramidal roof with standing seam corner joints. The pinnacle is adorned on all four sides by a Mason square and compass, and is topped with a spire. The Carpenter Gothic belfry is open on all four sides to expose the large bronze bell once used to mark the hour of burials. The walls surrounding the safe are solid concrete at least 12 inches thick. Thompson was familiar with construction of banks and safe security enclosures – he built the Fourth National Bank of Nashville.³

The second and final addition (circa 1930) – the rectangular shaped, two story addition on the east side of the first addition, and the two story bathroom addition on the south façade west of the bell tower – are easy to identify by their abrupt change of materials and utilitarian design. Mount Olivet Cemetery Company was no longer run “hands on” by descendants of the founding families and board members – it had to be run like a real business and had a full-time staff that needed housing. In order for the Chapel/Office to truly act as an office, and for the cemetery to function more economically, space had to be added.

It is a concrete block structures and has a flat roof. The roof of the rear addition has parapet walls on the north and south ends. The parapets are capped with terra cotta tiles. The flat roof slopes from west to east to

³ Hoobler, Page 109.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

allow water to drain into the round galvanized metal gutter. The roof of the bathroom addition begins under the cornice of the main structure, and slopes north to south. It has no gutter.

The windows in the rear addition are jalousie style on the main floor, and in the full basement, operable metal frame casement windows. The casement windows have eight lights and are rectangular. The jalousie windows have frosted glass. The bathroom addition has a small, double-hung window on the main floor. The restroom on the main floor was reserved for office staff and patrons of the cemetery, and the restroom in the basement was for maintenance staff.

The walls are plaster with metal lath in both additions. The restroom on the main floor is tiled, and the basement restroom is unadorned. The basement is divided into two rooms, one large and the other small, probably a storage room. There is a concrete walk and steps located adjacent to the north wall leading to a 30-inch wood door from the front of the Chapel/Office on the partial west wall of the basement. This same walk also leads to a metal stair and elevated metal walkway that allows access to the main floor of the rear addition. There is no interior stair from the main floor to the basement. On the rear east wall, there is a 3-foot wood entry door into the basement that is centered on the wall.

When the Main Drive approaches the Chapel/Office, it splits into two drives, both traveling south: one passes in front of the Chapel/Office and one passes behind it. It allows access to the Vault.

Vault (1856/1862) – Contributing

Located north/northeast of Confederate Circle and behind the Chapel/Office (circa 1860 to 1872) is the Vault (Begun 1856 and completed in 1862). The Vault was first used during the Civil War. Mount Olivet was located within 3 miles of the City Cemetery, had a vault, and allowed better management of the dead to comply with Nashville health regulations enacted to help contain and prevent epidemics. W.R. Cornelius, an original stockholder of the Mount Olivet Cemetery Company was a prominent and well-known undertaker in Nashville, and provided the same services for Confederate dead as he did under contract with the Union. The National Cemetery was not founded until 1866, so all dead were taken to either the Nashville (City) Cemetery or to Mount Olivet for temporary and/or permanent interment. Bodies were held in the Vault for up to 3 months according to cemetery records. Storage, interment and removal of bodies for reinterment in other cemeteries were common practice both during and especially after the Civil War.

The Vault has a structural front façade made of brick, which is now painted white. Located behind and east of the Chapel/Office, the structure burrows into the hill underground. It is one of the few intact buildings designed and built by prominent Nashville engineer and architect Adolphus Heiman (1809-1862) that remains in Nashville. A plaque in Confederate Circle identifies the Vault as Heiman's work.

The interior of the Vault is designed like the Third Century Saint Callistus Catacomb, the burial place for third century popes in ancient Rome: triple brick barrel vault ceilings covered with plaster, and bond beams

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

carrying the weight of the vaulted ceilings supported at span point loads by columns. The Vault still has some of the original plaster finish still intact. The bond beams each have 3 span sections and two point load locations, identified by circular metal columns (6 inch diameter) painted in faux marble to each side of a concrete pier. There are two bond beams and a total of four column configurations in the Vault supporting its triple barrel vault ceiling.

The front façade is designed like a castle or medieval fortress entrance with octagonal towers to each side of the gate/panel door entrance. These towers have a function – they provide ventilation to the Vault. There is a 10-inch diameter vent stack in the center of each tower. The interior vents opening to these vent stacks are located in each outer barrel ceiling section to the left and right of the center section, and are visible on the inside of the front exterior wall. This is a standard building practice used even today, and at the time, was considered state-of-the-art design.

According to Eichman's account book, it was begun in 1856 and completed for use in January of 1862. The Confederate Preservation Society, Inc. maintains and preserves this valuable feature of Mount Olivet Cemetery. It has tall wrought-iron gates, and arched double entry doors that are 2 inches (+) thick and paneled. The front looks like a fortress entrance – a design that Adolphus Heiman often used in Nashville.

The interior is now used by the Confederate Memorial Association as a museum, and on all four walls, pictures of the Confederate Officers and heroes of the Civil War that are buried at Mount Olivet are hung. Each of the pictures gives a concise biography of each Confederate Officer interred in the cemetery. Gravel has been added on the floor, and a rubber vapor barrier on the ground on top of the Vault provides protection for this structure that does not compromise the historic integrity of the Vault. The Confederate Memorial Association has respected the historic integrity of the Vault, and maintains this structure. They have found an excellent re-use for the Vault.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

Confederate Circle Cemetery (1869) – Contributing

The Civil War did not interrupt the operation of Mount Olivet. In fact, the cemetery grew rapidly. In 1869, 26,588 square feet were purchased by Confederate veterans and surviving families. Confederate Circle is directly south of the Chapel/Office and the Vault. It was located in an area used during the war for the interment of Confederate dead. Founded as the Confederate Cemetery, it was renamed Confederate Circle the same year by the Ladies Memorial Society of Nashville.

Laid out in a circle, the center area was reserved for an obelisk that was under design. Around this monument are 13 circular rows of graves. Four avenues cut through these concentric grave circles, extending from the obelisk north, south, east and west. The first six rows closest to the monument contain Confederate dead from other states. The seventh row is for unknown Confederate dead, and the outer six rows contain the remains of officers and soldiers from Tennessee. There are approximately 1500 burials in the circle, and other Confederate veterans are buried in Sections 1 to 8.



The obelisk was finally designed and built by the Confederate Monumental Association, incorporated May 9, 1887 for the sole purpose of building and erecting the monument. M. Muldoon & Co. of Louisville, Kentucky built the monument and assembled it at Mount Olivet. It is Vermont granite, and rises 45 feet, 6 inches above finished grade. The first base is 16 feet square with three smaller bases on top of the first. "Confederate Memorial" is inscribed in bold, raised relief on the upper most base. On the third base, a die block with four raised panels sits and reads:

North: This shaft honors the valor, devotion and sacrifice unto death of Confederate soldiers of Tennessee. The winds of heaven kissing its sides hymn an everlasting requiem in memory of the unreturning brave.

South: Erected through the efforts of women of the state, in admiration of the chivalry of men who fought in defense of home and firesides, and in their fall sealed a title to unfading affection.

West: In the magnanimous judgment of mankind, who gives up life under a sense of duty to a public cause deemed just, is a hero.

East: The muster-roll of our dauntless dead is lost, and their dust dispersed on many fields. This column sentinels each soldier grave as a shrine.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 11

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

Confederate Circle was dedicated on May 16, 1869. Confederate memorial cemeteries called "Confederate Circle" that are located within the boundary lines of a host cemetery can be found in Tennessee, South Carolina, Missouri, Virginia and Washington D.C.'s Arlington Cemetery. Confederate Circle at Mount Olivet has a concentric circle interment layout. After an inventory of Confederate dead interred at the cemetery was taken and the property that became Confederate Circle was laid out and purchased, the bodies of soldiers meeting the requirements of each of the 13 rows were removed to Confederate Circle. Some of the remains came from other cemeteries and some from other states.

Sexton's House (circa 1940)— (Non-Contributing due to lack of integrity)

The sexton's house is located east of the chapel/office. It is one story brick building that is topped by a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The north facade has two main entrances and original 2/2 double-hung windows. The building is vacant and in a state of disrepair.

Maintenance Shed (circa 1980)— (Non-Contributing due to age)

The maintenance shed is located southeast of the chapel/office and south of the sexton's house. The one story gable roof building is clad in vertical aluminum siding and an asphalt shingle roof. The building has two large overhead door openings on the north and south elevations. There is a shed roof extension on the south elevation.

Mausoleum (circa 1990)— (Non-Contributing due to age)

The mausoleum is located near the northwest corner of the cemetery. The northeast facade of the mausoleum is concrete cast to look like stone. The other elevations are clad in stone. It has a pedimented entry with two fluted columns. The entry opens to a large open central hall. The building is covered with a flat roof.

Part 2 - Mount Olivet circa 1890 – 1955

In 1887, Mount Olivet amended its charter to allow it to expand and own up to 400 acres. During this period, burials were still taking place in the original 125 acres, but the demand for lots had increased. Mount Olivet experienced steady growth for the next 50 years. The children of the founders of Mount Olivet took over and continued to offer services that made the cemetery famous from the beginning.

As seen on the 1927 survey by McMurray Engineering and on the current Mount Olivet Cemetery map, the drives became less serpentine but the park-like layout with open spaces, trees and other landscaping was retained. There is no stark contrast between Part 1 and 2. Part 2 comprises Sections 16-35 and Single Grave Sections 6 – 8. The graves in Sections 16 – 35 are denser, have smaller family plots, and have few mausoleums. The roads have softer curves or are rectangular in shape with rounded corners. In some areas, the roads run parallel. There are no discernable burial alleys in Sections 17 to 35. In the eastern most sections, graves dating from 1890 to 1955 slowly disappear. However, the difference in marker or monument design and material make them easy to locate.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 12Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

There is a definite line formed in Sections 22 and 23 between modern on the north end and historic on the south end. The south sections have monuments – the north sections only slabs, and a few of those have bronze flowers vases that have a base inset in the slab. The sections which have no number and are known by their names have the same appearance as the north sections of 22 and 23 - flat parallel roads with unadorned and sparse landscaping. Unless the area is observed by walking, those interred here appear virtually anonymous, just like Single Grave Sections 4 and 5 in Part 1.

In Part 2, there is a section near the boundary of Mount Olivet and Greenwood Cemeteries reserved for orphans (Section 34), as well as Single Grave Sections 7 and 8. In the southwestern most section of Mount Olivet, Section 19, there is a mass grave with no markers and a single collective monument reading "Old [West End] Women's Home". Once again, only company records verify the identities of those women interred here. East and northeast of this section are Single Grave Sections 4 and 5, where two-thirds of the graves have no markers, but thousands of graves densely packed in long linear fashion traveling north to south. There is also Single Grave Section 6, parallel to and north of Section 19 and south of the southern boundary of Calvary Cemetery. Many of the graves in this section are Woodmen of the World, and at least 50 percent of the graves are marked, in contrast to those of Sections 4 and 5.

There were fewer mausoleums built in the sections of Part 2 made active after 1889, and those are located in Sections 16, 17, 20, 21, the south end of 22, and 25. A generational transition is expressed – the twentieth century and its forward thinking is reflected in the lack of sentimentality shown in the markers and monuments. They are simple and stately, not ornate. There are fewer obelisks – they disappear like the mausoleums. Most of the monuments are lower and rectangular in shape, usually granite. There are no marble statues, trees representing a life cut short, lilies and ferns, doves or angels, and no lambs to mark the graves of children. Most of the monuments simply bear the paternal surname of the family. This change can be attributed to the Spanish American War, World War I, the Depression, World War II and the Korean War. Death was no longer looked on as a mystery – war had changed that. There is also an absence of epitaphs or poetry, favorite quotes. The monuments do not distinguish those interred, nor are they symbolic of their life work.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

The monuments in these sections are more uniform, and the rare grand configurations such as the grouped columns forming a semicircle of Horace Greeley Hill (1873-1942, successful grocer who owned the H.G. Hill grocery store chain in the southeast United States) really commands attention against a field of relatively plain, low monuments.

There are elements of Part 2 that also reflect the original cemetery design of the Rural Cemetery Movement. The sections included in Part 2 are still laid out like a patchwork quilt with diverse shapes. However, the land in the rear, south sections is more flat, and the same applies to the eastern most sections, 30 and 33-35. Sections 16, 17, 20 and the south end of 22 retain the contoured hills of the original cemetery. Sections 23 – 35 are either flat, or slope slowly from south to north (rear of the cemetery to the front).

Restrictions regarding monuments begin here in the northern sections of 22 and 23. The main reason is the exorbitant cost of grounds maintenance. If a person desires to place an above ground monument that must be cared for, it is much more expensive. Regulations regarding perpetual care of cemeteries are now very strict because of the overwhelming number of cemeteries of the Rural Cemetery Movement that declared bankruptcy, failed to maintain perpetual care trusts properly and went into receivership with the local or state jurisdiction they were located in according to Federal law.

The Reed Mausoleum (circa 1880) – Contributing

The mausoleum is located in Part 2. Dating from the late 1800s, it was used to temporarily store remains until a personal vault or mausoleum was erected. Dedication ceremonies were held here. The mausoleum is large enough to hold chairs and has a capacity of between 50 and 75 persons. It was purchased by the Reed family after the restoration it received through the efforts of Stewart Enterprises, Inc., the current owner of Mount Olivet. The main entrance to the mausoleum is slightly recessed in a projecting bay that is topped with a pediment and flanked by fluted columns. It has stone walls and a broad cornice.

Part 3 – Mount Olivet 1955 - present

The sections contained in this part have only names, not section numbers. They are: Garden of the Gospel; Garden of Gethsemane; Garden of Life; Garden of Everlasting Life; Masonic Garden; Masonic Lawn; Sunrise; and Devotion. In addition, a cremation vault is located at the northern tip of the Garden of Life, and the Lawn Crypt Gardens is the northern most burial site in the eastern third of Mount Olivet which makes up Part 3. There are a few burials within the period of significance listed above, but most occur after 1955.

This part of the cemetery is the starkest. It is, when compared to the other two parts, plain and uneventful because of company regulations regarding grave markers. Like the newer burials in Part 2 that do not occur in the period of significance, persons interred here are all but anonymous. You will not know who is there unless you walk through. The park-like environment of Mount Auburn or Elmwood is gone. It appears to be a neatly mowed flat field. Masonic Garden has a low base with a Bible and a Masonic square and divider on it, but it is dwarfed by its surroundings. Sunrise has a low square base with a bronze sundial in the shape of a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

globe. The Garden of Gethsemane has a statue of Jesus standing at a well, with a figure of a woman nearby, and this is framed by masonry walls with no gates at any access point.

Until 1960 there were two rear entrances to Mount Olivet: a driveway that lead through to the original 15 sections, and a drive that met the L & N Railroad spur located on and running parallel with Elm Hill Pike, which allowed delivery of human remains. These rear entrances existed until at least 1951. Their use was discontinued when Mount Olivet sold the property along the south boundary for developments now located on Elm Hill Pike and Fesslers Lane.

Landscaping, walks and tree-lined drives change in Sections 10 through 26. The concentration of burials in these areas are more dense, and the curves of the road almost indistinguishable. Still laid out as a park-like environment, these sections are both large and small, and vary in shape – ovals (16), triangles with rounded points (15), irregularly shapes (22), and the mausoleum centered in a traffic round-about in the middle of Sections 25, 26, 30 and 33. In the single grave, stranger, black and white pauper sections, as well as the mass grave burial sites, there is no landscaping. Funerary art and architecture in Sections 1 and 2 are similar – they are all the finest in the cemetery. Sections 3 to 26 have: 1) ever more dense burial concentrations, increasing with the section number, 2) ever more diverse markers, monuments and mausoleums, also increasing with the section number; 3) define family generations both by section and individual family plots; 4) age and type of trees or shrubbery in each section; and 5) have trees growing over and through both graves and plots as the sections 11 to 26 (exceptions, Section 18, and Single Grave Sections 4 - 6).

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 15

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Olivet Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C. It is an impressive example of the rural and garden cemetery movements. Its magnificent funerary art and architecture are the work of some of the finest artists from 1855 to 1955. The cemetery has a diverse collection of monuments, mausoleums and markers from 1855 through 1955 to the present. Each social class and religion had different traditions with respect to death, the soul, immortality, and resurrection. The landscaped park with sculpted open spaces and gently curving roads that trace the topographic contours of the land provide a peaceful backdrop for the architectural epitaphs of persons of all races, nationalities, wealth and religions. More than three-quarters of the cemetery reflects the aforementioned characteristics. Mount Olivet has maintained a high degree of historic integrity.

Mount Olivet is also being nominated under criterion A for its representation of and significance in the social history of Nashville and its surrounding counties. Nashville is the capitol of Tennessee, and Mount Olivet is still considered the premier burial location for the elite citizens of Nashville. The cemetery will celebrate its sesquicentennial in 2006 – 150 years of continuous operation. The cemetery serves as a historical timeline for both Nashville and Tennessee: business and banking; state, national and international politics; religious movements of national significance; Women’s Suffrage and the Nineteenth Amendment; educators and social reformers; wars and epidemics. The Civil War would see the cemetery serve as a temporary and permanent burial ground for Confederate and Union dead. Slaves and free persons of color were buried at Mount Olivet before the Civil War. During the era of Jim Crow segregation the bylaws and cemetery regulations of the company were changed to prohibit the burial of persons of color. African American cemeteries such as Greenwood were founded (1888, south and southwest boundary of Mount Olivet). Scenic vista views were reserved for the elite on spacious lots and the more compact lots of the middle class formed the barrier between the elite on high ground and the paupers of the bottomlands.

Criterion A – Social History

Mount Olivet is a two hundred seven acre site located two and one-half miles from the center of Nashville. The cemetery was founded in 1855 and officially incorporated in 1856. While Mount Olivet is not the oldest cemetery in Nashville and the surrounding counties, it was one of the first incorporated by an Act of Tennessee after the Nashville [City] Cemetery. The Nashville [City] Cemetery was the first official burial site established by Nashville. It was between 20 and 30 acres when founded, but epidemics and the fact that it was the only public place of burial resulted in it nearing its capacity by 1850. Nashville’s Mayor and Aldermen had been addressing the “question of opening new grounds for burial purposes [which had] been agitated for the past three or four years, and many locations in different directions from the city [had] been spoken of in connection with this object. Finally, the grounds now comprising Mount Olivet Cemetery were selected as being admirably adapted for the purpose”.⁴ The men who founded Mount Olivet were considered

⁴ Mount Olivet Cemetery Company Charter Rules and Regulations; Smith, [J.F.] Morgan & Co, Book and Job Printers, Patriot Office, Nashville, Tennessee, 1856; pages 4-5.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

leaders of Nashville and were or had been members of the Tennessee General Assembly, employees of the city government, or were deeply involved in the politics of the city. States and cities had to follow the lead of the U.S. government which, for reasons of public health, passed laws regarding the location of cemeteries – they could not be located within the defined boundary lines of a city.

After the Cholera Panic of 1833, 13 years of vigilance where Nashville newspapers reported daily the health of the city and the Panic of 1849, Nashville decided that cemeteries needed to be located outside of the city limits, but within a reasonable distance. Cholera so scared persons that if a body had to be disinterred for removal to another location, all persons coming into contact with the body had to cleanse their hands and clothes repeatedly to prevent the spread of germs. This was not the only thing people feared – there was diphtheria, typhoid fever, tuberculosis. Epidemic diseases so scared people that, following the lead of the U.S. Congress, Tennessee and its cities passed laws to protect the health and welfare of their citizens. Included in this legislation were restrictions on both cemeteries and burials; strict guidelines were set regarding the disposal of bodies if a communicable disease was the cause of death; and, no cemetery could be established within the city limits of Nashville.

The following citizens joined A.V.S. Lindsley in founding the Mount Olivet Cemetery Company on June 30th, 1855. They were: Dr. B.W. Hall, R.A. Herman, John H. Buddeke, Moses Ryan, Wm. H. Gerard and C. W. Nance. Nance (1811-1893) was a surveyor who worked with Lindsley in real estate development, and prior to the Civil War, he occupied a residence on property that would become part of the original cemetery. These men were authorized to print stock certificates valued at \$100.00 per share. A total of 40 shares were sold according to the bylaws of the company, and on February 18, 1856, Chapter 192 of the Acts of Tennessee record that the following men were recognized as the Mount Olivet Cemetery Company:

1. Adrien Van Sinderen Lindsley(1814-1885)– first President of company – a founder of Edgefield, (suburb of Nashville); Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the University of Nashville (1839-1885); Trustee of Montgomery Bell Academy; member of the Tennessee General Assembly; member of the Tennessee state executive committee of the Union Party; postmaster of Nashville (1862-1867); President of the Nashville and Lebanon Turnpike
2. B.W. Hall – doctor
3. J.H. Buddeke (1808-1897) – German – Catholic – founder of Germantown – grocer and commission merchant
4. Thompson Anderson (1813–1892) - Allison, Anderson & Co, dry goods merchant – wife was first burial in Mount Olivet, September 26, 1855
5. John F. Morgan – Book and Fancy Job Printer
6. Anson Nelson (1821-1892) – Treasurer of Nashville; Recording Secretary of Tennessee Historical Society; President of South Nashville Streetcar line
7. Clement Woodson Nance (1811-1893) – first Secretary of company – RR contractor, surveyor

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

Anson Nelson confirms in his "Brief Annals of Nashville" that Mount Olivet was laid off into burying lots in October, 1855.

The Mount Olivet Electric Railroad provided affordable transportation to the cemetery. Beginning at Broad Street in Nashville, it traveled southeast, climbing the incline east of Rutledge Hill, connected to Hermitage Avenue and on to Lebanon Pike, where its terminus was located at the original entrance to Mount Olivet. It is clearly shown in full operation on the 1891 Map of Nashville, and was still in place in 1935, as shown on a map of Nashville dated that year.

C.W. Nance, a surveyor, and B.F. Woodward (1826-1917), the cemetery's first Superintendent, a surveyor and son-in-law of Nance, laid out all burial plots. Nance was known for his work in and around Nashville and Davidson County with both the railroad and roads/turnpikes, and worked with many of the engineers and architects interred at Mount Olivet. A.V.S. Lindsley was a licensed attorney who chose real estate as his specialty, and was known as both a developer and the executor of estates of many prominent citizens of Nashville, such as Major William Berkeley Lewis. Of all the founders, it was the efforts of these men that would establish Mount Olivet as the preferred burial location in Nashville and her surrounding counties for nearly 150 years.

A document outlining the layout of the cemetery states that the cemetery was to have sections for inhabitants of the city and sections for strangers and paupers.⁵ This describes exactly how the original 15 sections of Mount Olivet were laid out. Although the document posts dates of approval prior to the 1855 Indenture and the 1856 Charter, a project of this magnitude required lengthy planning. There were at least 5 separate properties to be purchased, and the proposal had to be presented to Nashville for approval.

Burials at Mount Olivet Cemetery occurred according to class or station when it was founded – and this policy was followed through to the middle of the twentieth century. The best sections with scenic vista hillside locations were reserved for the elite of Nashville and its surrounding counties. Nashville was the state capitol – the political center of Tennessee. It was also considered the "buckle of the Bible Belt". Restoration and Evangelical Christian Movement leaders were centered here. Mount Olivet represents the settlement patterns of Nashville and its surrounding counties from 1855 until Civil Rights ended Jim Crow and segregation.

Mount Olivet also had single grave and strangers grave sections. Persons buried there ranged from visitors to Nashville who died during their stay to paupers. These areas were located along the western boundary of the cemetery in the bottomland of the southwestern section. Also at the southwestern most corner of Mount Olivet in Section 19, there is a mass gravesite with a single headstone that reads "Old Women's Home". Fewer graves here are marked; few graves of paupers, free persons of color or slaves and orphans are marked in Mount Olivet. These people were allowed burial at Mount Olivet through 1880, but they were not afforded

⁵ Original copy vellum sheet in Mount Olivet manuscript file, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

the same attention as the elite of Sections 1 – 9 at the front of the cemetery. In the single grave sections, class can still be determined by whether or not a monument or marker is present, and they are dwarfed in size by those in the elite sections lying north and east of these sections. Here thousands of persons rest in equal anonymity. The number of burials at Mount Olivet – over 192,000 - currently prohibits social and religious demographic surveys.

Section 1 was the most premier location in Mount Olivet and one of two sections that offered scenic vista views of Nashville. General Benjamin Cheatham is buried there, as well as the John Overton family. A.V.S. Lindsley is also buried there with his family, and the hillside barrow style tomb of Anson Nelson is one of the first interments seen along the old entrance drive.

Many of the children of the founders of Nashville are buried at Mount Olivet, and some moved their family members from the City Cemetery, or from family estate cemeteries to Mount Olivet, such as: John Overton and family buried at Traveler's Rest (NR 12/30/1969) in Oak Hill, Tennessee; Matthew Barrow and Patsy Childress (and children) of Barrow Hill; and the Harding-Jackson family of Belle Meade (NR 12/30/1969). Remaining together as a family was important.

It is not known by monument or marker where slaves and free persons of color were buried prior to their prohibition after the Civil War. To date, one exception has been found: when the grave of Felix Grundy was removed from its original location to Mount Olivet, his slave Ambrose was also moved to rest beside him. Sections for slaves and free persons of color are not named, numbered, or identified in any way on the grounds of the cemetery. However, not all persons of color (free and slave) were restricted to burials in an unidentified section. Sometimes they were interred with the families they served: T. Anderson ("colored woman") was buried in Section 1, Lot 54; Mary Bryan ("col") died at the age of 11 months from teething and was buried in Section 1, Lot 57; Fannie Brown ("col") died at 3 days old from brain fever and was buried June 28, 1875 in Section 2, Lot 110. These graves are not marked. Until Jim Crow laws, the company burial indexes were fairly complete and noted: the reason of death, date of birth and death, date of interment, the physical components used for the burial, the location and grave number, name and race or nationality.

The first known black burial at Mount Olivet was August 2, 1856. His interment is noted in Eichman's Account Book as "Mr. Coles Negro". No location of the interment was noted. On January 3, 1860, Eichman notes in an account under Clement Nance the interment of a slave. Not only is no name given, but also no location of interment. No other persons had specific racial information included in their burial records other than persons of color, and the notation made was either "(col)" or "(colored)". The cemetery was non-denominational, and no one was singled out because of their spirituality. The only distinction made was racial and the location can be determined only by searching the index.

When Mount Olivet was founded, burial grounds – especially those of elite citizens – were subject to vandalism and grave robbers, often in search of cadavers for medical research. Mount Olivet addressed this situation by having guards, marshals and a superintendent in residence. Wealthy families of Nashville

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

traditionally hired persons to guard family graves for a set period of time. A descendent of Mount Olivet's first Secretary, C. W. Nance and first Superintendent B.F. Woodward, Mr. Milton Woodward, was hired for a period of six weeks to watch over the grave of Confederate Colonel E. W. Cole "as was customary then...as double protection against grave robbers"⁶ In fact, the Nance and Woodward families would serve Mount Olivet as superintendents, marshals and groundskeepers for over 50 years.

There are natives of Ireland, England, Scotland, France, Germany, Italy, Nova Scotia, and other locations here. John Eakin (1806-1849) of Derry, Ireland died while visiting Mammoth Cave, was first buried in Nashville [City] Cemetery and is now buried at Mount Olivet in Section 13. J.H. Buddeke (1808 – 1887) was German, Catholic, and one of the founders of Germantown. Buddeke was named in the Mount Olivet Charter, owned a 30 acre lot fronting on Lebanon Road which became part of the original 125 acres comprising the cemetery, and is buried in Section 1. George Thompson, from England, was an architect and one of Hugh Cathcart Thompson's partners. Adolphus Heiman was Prussian and is interred in Confederate Circle. He died in Jackson, Mississippi as the result of wounds received in battle and was interred there until the Civil War was over. His remains were removed and reinterred in the center under the foundation of the obelisk.

Mount Olivet was the preferred place of burial for local, state and national politicians. U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Catron, the justice appointed as the last official act of President Andrew Jackson, is buried here in Section 2. There are at least 20 mayors of Nashville buried here, among whom are: Randel McGavock (1824); John M. Bass (1833 and 1869); Charles C. Trabue (1839-1840,); Richard B. Cheatham (1860-1861); Morton B. Howell (1874); and Robert H. Dudley (1898 – 1899). There are six governors of Tennessee buried here, among whom is Neill S. Brown, the Speaker of the House in 1856 when the Charter of Mount Olivet was recognized by the General Assembly; William B. Bate, an incorporator of the Confederate Memorial Association; and Aaron Venerable Brown.

Mount Olivet has several leaders in education and social work interred at the cemetery:

1. Fannie Battle – pioneer social worker – founder of Fannie Battle Home for Unwed Mothers; General Secretary of the Nashville Relief Society founded in 1881 after the great flood of the Cumberland River
2. Samuel Watkins – former bondservant and self-educated businessman, owned Watkins Brick Company, founder of Watkins Institute
3. Phillip Lindsley, President of the University of Nashville, which would become Vanderbilt University
4. David Lipscomb – founder of Lipscomb University
5. Anna Russell Cole – founder of the Fatherless Children of France Society (1914-1919)

⁶ Davis, Louise. "Growing up at Mount Olivet", The Tennessean Magazine, Sunday, October 12, 1975 edition, p. 7.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

- Kate Eastman Savage Zerfoss – with her husband, Dr. Thomas Zerfoss, established the Vanderbilt Student Health Center; credited with the suggestion that “white lines be drawn on the side of the road to reduce accidents” as a member of the Federal Highway Safety Commission⁷

Other institution founders buried here are associated with: George Peabody College for Teachers; Belmont University; Fisk University; and Trevecca College.

Leaders in women’s movements of the past 150 years are buried at Mount Olivet. Ann (Dallas) Dudley (1876-1955), wife of Life & Casualty Insurance founder, Guilford Dudley, is buried with her husband and Dallas family members at Mount Olivet. Ann was the President of the Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association, Inc. from 1915 – 1917, when she became the third vice president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Nanny Dudley Folk assumed part of her duties in the Tennessee Association after this move, and introduced her when, after a successful national campaign, Ann Dallas Dudley returned to Nashville to witness the ratification of the 19th Amendment by the General Assembly of Tennessee that resulted in the right of women to vote. She served as the president of the Maternal Welfare Organization of Tennessee that, in 1938, brought Margaret Sanger to Nashville to increase awareness of birth control.⁸

Fraternal orders are represented at Mount Olivet in all sections, and the newest sections, the Masonic Garden and Masonic Lawn, are reserved for their use. There are Masons such as Major Eugene Castner Lewis (1845-1917), Nashville/St. Louis Railroad Engineer; builder of Union Station (NR 12/30/1969) in Nashville; founder of the Nashville Park system; and, the Director General of the Tennessee Centennial Exhibition and project manager of the construction of the scale replica of The Parthenon (NR 02/23/1972). His pyramid mausoleum reveals he was a Memphis Rite Mason. Mr. Francis Furman (1816-1899), a Mason, is buried in a mausoleum that is styled after the Porch of the Maidens on the Erechtheum on the Acropolis of Athens, Greece. It dwarfs all other monuments in its vicinity, including John L. Nolen (1854-1908) whose Odd Fellow sponsored monument lies to the west. Woodmen of the World, a fraternal benefit life insurance society founded in 1890, are buried throughout Mount Olivet, but their greatest density occurs north of Section 19 on the south boundary of Calvary Cemetery in Single Grave Section 6.

There are at least 18 Restoration Movement leaders buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery. Perhaps the best known of its leaders in Tennessee is David Lipscomb (1831-1917). He founded the Church of Christ school which would become David Lipscomb University. His brother, William Lipscomb (1829-1908) shares the lot and their brother, Granville Lipscomb (1845-1910) is buried nearby in the same section. Jephthah C. McQuiddy (1858-1924), Restoration leader and editor of the Gospel Advocate, is buried in the cemetery. Reuben Lindsay Cave (1845-1924), Disciples of Christ, was a veteran of the Civil War and served under Stonewall Jackson until his death; was present with Robert E. Lee when he surrendered at Appomattox in

⁷ Kaplan, Carol Farrar and Simpson, Livy I. Remember the Ladies: Women of Mount Olivet Cemetery (self-published, Johnson Graphics (printer), Nashville, Tennessee, 1995); page 49.

⁸ West, Dr. Carroll Van (editor). The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture (Tennessee Historical Society, Rutledge Hill Press, Nashville, Tennessee, 1998); page 264.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

1865. After many years of serving congregations, he became the President of Kentucky University 1897-1900, when he returned to preaching in Missouri and Tennessee. Most of the Restoration Movement leaders have stately, unadorned, low granite monuments, but Cave's family specifically requested that their graves remain completely unmarked. He and his family are interred directly across from his father-in-law, Dr. W.H. Hopson (1823-1888).

Leaders of all faiths are represented at Mount Olivet: Evangelical, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, and Catholics. Edgar Estes Folk (1856-1917), Baptist, editor of the "Baptist and Reflector"; was the first President of the Anti-Saloon League; and his debate on the Plan of Salvation with Jephthah McQuiddy is perhaps the most well known of the Restoration Movement. Cemetery founder John Buddeke was Catholic. The typical indicator of a person's faith is the style of cross found on the monument or marker, or other religious symbols such as angels. Although it was referred to in the past as "the Protestant Cemetery" by Nashvillians after the founding of Calvary Cemetery (Catholic) in 1868, it was a non-denominational cemetery when it was founded and still is.

Although the National Cemetery (NR 12/20/1996) on Gallatin Road, founded in 1866, was available for military burials, many veterans of the armed forces that were also members of Nashville's elite families preferred burial at Mount Olivet. Cornelia Fort, a pilot during World War II, is buried there. Major General Lytle Brown, a graduate of Vanderbilt's school of engineering, is buried here. He was the grand nephew of Tennessee governor John C. Brown and grandson of Governor Neill S. Brown. He served in the Spanish American War in the Philippines, and fought in the campaign that crushed Aguinaldo's insurrection. In 1916, he was with General Pershing in the punitive expedition against Pancho Villa and was a veteran of World War I. He proposed the survey of the Tennessee River that became the basis for TVA. This former professor of General Douglas McArthur would be assigned by the same general to command the Panama Canal department in its mapping of the Corregidor defenses. He then directed the construction of the Wilson Dam at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, before serving as the Army Corps District Engineer in Louisville, Kentucky from 1909-1912. He was then assigned to the Army War College and became its President.

Civil War – Confederate Circle

Mount Olivet experienced rapid growth as a result of the Civil War, but not in a manner that was planned. The cemetery attempted to maintain normal operation, but the company minutes show that no meetings were held from April 12, 1861 to May 1, 1862, and from May 1, 1862 to August 1865. Nashville was occupied early in the war by the Union forces – it was an important center of transportation because of its central location and various railroad spurs. The Nashville *Daily Union*, founded August 1, 1862, paints a grim picture of the conditions in Nashville. The Headquarters of the U.S. Forces in Nashville issued a reminder in the August 3, 1862 edition under the title "General Order No. 18...no orders authorizing an indiscriminate pillaging and robbing of the inhabitants have yet been promulgated...On the contrary, the orders heretofore

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 22

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

issued against marauding and other like practices...are still of binding force in the District of Ohio.”⁹ A curfew of 8:00 PM was imposed on August 22, 1862 on all saloons, barrooms, groceries and other places where liquor was sold. In September 1862, approximately 3,000 Union men arrived in Nashville because their lives were threatened by Confederate troops, and were followed a few days later by a wagon train of women and children. Food and fuel were so short as to cause panics.

The Civil War began shortly after Mount Olivet was founded and local cemeteries were used jointly during the Civil War since Mount Olivet had facilities allowing storage: the Vault. Confederate dead from the Battle of Nashville, as well as battles in the vicinity of Nashville, were interred at Mount Olivet, while Union dead were interred at the Nashville [City] Cemetery. The same undertaker, W.R. Cornelius, handled interments for both sides – he was one of the original stockholders of Mount Olivet Cemetery. He interred persons at both the Nashville [City] Cemetery and Mount Olivet.

Mount Olivet was the site of a Union encampment. On October 26, 1862, the Nashville Daily Union reported an attack by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest to which the Union answered, with “our guns rolling back an echo from the Lebanon Pike, and the melody ...chorused by artillery from the Murfreesboro and Nolensville Pikes.”¹⁰ The actual battle occurred on October 21, and Col. Dibrell “repulsed them on the Lebanon Pike” where he “killed Stokes and cut up his command.”¹¹ By November, private residences were being seized, which included the houses still located at Mount Olivet: the Herman House and the Nance House were among those used.

A.V.S. Lindsley and the Board of Directors of Mount Olivet met in August 1865, and J.H. Buddeke was not only made Treasurer, but also ordered to work with C.W. Nance to rebuild the fence around Mount Olivet, which had been destroyed during the war. In August 1866, they met on the cemetery grounds and the minutes record their gratitude to Mr. Schlueing for caring for the cemetery during the “last five years when they remember that the Cemetery was always outside of the lines the fences entirely destroyed and at times in the midst of a large encampment of troops they are greatly surprised to find any thing in such a perfect state of preservation the shrubbery scarcely damaged the monuments not...defaced by a scratch and under great difficulties some improvements made”¹² However, they later appointed Anson Nelson as their attorney to pursue payment of damages to the cemetery from the U.S. government.

It was hard for the South to accept defeat and then witness the establishment of National cemeteries for the internment of Union dead in every state, including the South. The cost of the interment of Union dead was covered by the U.S. government. Unless a family could afford the expense of bringing their loved ones home for burial, many Confederate dead remained buried where they fell. Confederates who survived the war and returned to Nashville soon made their sentiments regarding this indignation known. In 1869, the Ladies

⁹ Nashville Daily Union, August 3, 1862.

¹⁰ Ibid, October 26, 1862, page 2, column 3.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Mount Olivet Cemetery Board Meeting Minute Book # 1, page 41.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 23

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

Memorial Society of Nashville with surviving Confederate veterans such as William B. Bate, Daniel Carter, General Benjamin Cheatham, and Thomas Harding purchased 26, 588 square feet in the center of Mount Olivet and established Confederate Circle, part of an area “originally for the burial of Confederate soldiers who fell in the battles in the vicinity of Nashville”¹³ It was the highest elevation in Mount Olivet. In 1887, John Overton, Jr., Matthew Barrow Pilcher, Isaac Litton, and 34 men and women incorporated the Confederate Memorial Association to complete Confederate Circle – although the interments were already arranged in 13 concentric circles, with Adolphus Heiman interred in the center, the obelisk had yet to be erected. The reason was simple – the obelisk desired could not be paid for until Nashville and its economy recovered. After 2 years of fund-raising, the commanding Vermont granite obelisk with the Confederate soldier (carved at Carrara, Italy by Carlo Nicoli) at its apex was erected and dedicated on May 16, 1889. Muldoon and Company built the obelisk, and the choice of Vermont granite was significant: it is the most expensive. Nothing less than the best was acceptable.

Unlike the Confederate dead who have been identified with plaques placed by the Confederate Memorial Association in recent years and by Confederate Circle, those who supported the Union are not honored at Mount Olivet. However, none is so isolated as Private Oliver Rood (1844 -1885), Company B, 20th Indiana Infantry, whose brilliant white National military headstone and bronze marker noting his award of the Congressional Medal of Honor make his interment one of the few marked in Single Grave Section 5, located in the bottom land of the southwestern section of the cemetery. His grave stands alone, apparently surrounded by a flat, open field. In reality, this section has thousands of unmarked interments. Until the 1970’s, his grave was also unmarked. He survived Gettysburg and was credited with capturing Confederate Battle Flag of the 21st North Carolina Infantry of Hoke’s Brigade. He does not appear to have married, and was buried here after dying at the age of 41 on June 11, 1885. No record explaining his choice of burial site has ever been located, but his courage to defend his convictions eclipses even death.

Confederate burials at Mount Olivet were not restricted to Confederate Circle, the location of 1,500 Confederate generals, officers and soldiers. They are buried throughout the original 15 sections. Captain Matthew Barrow Pilcher (1840-1908), CSA and descendent of the Barrows of Louisiana and Tennessee, was severely wounded at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee. Nicknamed the “Fighting Quartermaster”, Pilcher served in the First Tennessee under General Cheatham. Barrow survived to become one of the founders of Confederate Circle; a principal donor for the construction of Ryman Auditorium (Union Tabernacle Church); founded Immanuel Baptist in Belle Meade; was one of the founders of Belle Meade Country Club; and owned the M.B. Pilcher Building of the Second Avenue Historic District (NR 02/23/1972).

Nanny Dudley (Pilcher) Folk (1877-1954) and her husband, former State Treasurer and Insurance Commissioner Reau Estes Folk, Sr. (1865-1948), are also buried with their relatives listed above. Nanny Dudley Folk was Regent of The Hermitage during the 1930s. R.E. Folk, “a pioneer in the field of insurance regulation, ...achieved national prominence ...when, as state insurance commissioner, he inaugurated the

¹³ Manuscript File, Mount Olivet Cemetery, Tennessee State Library and Archives, page 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 24

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

Hughes investigation conducted by former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Evan Hughes, which ultimately cleaned up the insurance field and brought about the standardization of life insurance policies.”¹⁴ Their oldest son Admiral Winston Estes Pilcher Folk, Executive Office of the Birmingham in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, The Philippines, and their daughter Judith Dudley Folk Templeton, an executive of McCann Erickson and late wife of Sir John Marks Templeton, are interred next to them. And behind them, family members originally interred at Barrow Hill, the estate of Matthew Barrow and Patsy Childress Barrow, were moved and reinterred in 1897 with their relatives when the land was subdivided and sold. The Pilcher, Barrow, Benson, Childress and Folk family members buried in the lots at Mount Olivet are typical of the families buried throughout the original 15 sections of the cemetery. Between three and four generations of a family normally share the same burial lot in these sections. Through World War II, families in the South stayed together - even unto death.

Mount Olivet continued to make improvements and expand its boundaries from 1870 to 1950. A V.S. Lindsley; B.F. Woodward; C.W. Nance; Morton B. Howell, and son, R.B.C. Howell, all purchased new land. Improvement continued to be made as well. A greenhouse was debated by the board beginning in 1868 according to the Minute Book and finally built around 1870. Company records indicate that Mount Olivet was supplying and had for sale to its patrons and visitors flowers, trees and shrubbery. The company purchased a license and several steel vault molds from The Norwalk Vault Company to manufacture their own vaults in 1920. The company was extremely self-sufficient. All things that could be done ‘in house’ were. The Gatekeepers Lodge House and the Chapel/Office were built between 1871 and 1876, and the Chapel/Office would be expanded twice during the period of significance. Ongoing research has provided evidence that the architect of the chapel is Hugh Cathcart Thompson. Information about Thompson is included in an appendix.

Country music is also represented at Mount Olivet. Fred Rose (1897-1954), of Acuff-Rose, is buried here. His company was instrumental in Nashville becoming known as the Country Music Capitol of the United States, and for the Ryman Auditorium’s success hosting the Grand Ole Opry, for which it is most well known.

When Mount Olivet was established, provisions were made for perpetual care, and families could pay extra for additional lot maintenance and for landscaping provided by the staff horticulturists. Laws governing perpetual care and requiring both bonds and additional trusts to maintain these cemeteries began changing in 1890. Despite the best management techniques, maintenance of the cemetery grounds and the elaborate, densely packed monuments placed a strain on the financial stability of even the best-run cemeteries.

Mount Olivet was bought in the 1960s, and by this time, it held approximately 400 acres of land. The new owner found a challenge on his hands, and began to demolish buildings one by one. First the old entrance and guardhouse, then the greenhouse – the new owner intended to streamline the operation at Mount Olivet.

¹⁴ The Nashville Tennessean, Monday Morning, February 9, 1948, Front Page, column 4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 25

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

However, laws again changed, and increased the portion of the sale of burial plots and funeral expenses that were required to be paid to cemetery bonds and trusts for its perpetual care. They failed to properly pay into these funds, began to sell off sections of the cemetery that were inactive or had commercial businesses on them, and diverted funds inappropriately that were intended for perpetual care trusts and grounds maintenance. Formally charged in a court case beginning in the 1980s, the cemetery was taken into receivership by the City of Nashville under the protection of the Nashville Cemetery Association led by Mayor Richard Fulton. They made good progress in cleaning up the cemetery, portions of which had fallen into neglect and were the victims of vandalism.

Stewart Enterprises assumed ownership of Mount Olivet in 1994, and has transformed the cemetery to a beautiful Rural Cemetery Movement Park once again. They built the new office/funeral home/mortuary to provide a full-service cemetery. They are known nationally as the second largest funeral home/cemetery and mausoleum business in the United States. Stewart was responsible for restoring the public mausoleum. Once the location of burials and dedications of other mausoleums in the cemetery, the mausoleum was sold to the Reed family for their personal use.

Criterion C – Funerary Art, Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Common features traditionally associated with nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery parks are represented here: 1. design based on Mount Auburn; 2. landscape architecture incorporating scenic vistas in elevated terrain and curvilinear roads and walkways; 3. irregular burial patterns; 4. emphasis on nature with a park-like environment. The markers of Mount Olivet represent the period of significance, 1855 to 1955. The rolling hills and spacious grounds of Mount Olivet are the perfect backdrop for its magnificent funerary art and architecture – mausoleums, markers, and monuments. The oldest sections of Mount Olivet are complemented by Victorian era funerary art, which is grand, ornate, and employs the greatest use of symbolism associated with death, immortality, resurrection, and heaven. The South has a distinct blend of Christian spirituality and traditional burial practices. The funerary art of Mount Olivet is an excellent example of this symbolism.

In John Woolridges' 1890 *History of Nashville*, Mount Olivet was described as "one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the South...In the cemetery are numerous monuments, mausoleums, obelisks, etc., and many distinguished men lie buried within its limits; among them Hon. John Bell and Aaron V[enerable] Brown. Its surface is undulating. It has a clear, running brook and many noble native forest-trees. The entire tract has been laid out by a skillful artist, and thousands of evergreen and other ornamental trees, collected from the surrounding forests, have been added to the native forest-trees, and the whole is surrounded by an osage-orange hedge. Neither pains nor expense have been spared in its adornment."¹⁵

¹⁵ John Woolridge, *History of Nashville*, Cemetery Chapter, page 35; Main work, page 545.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 26

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

Mount Olivet is spacious and open with avenues that complement the natural terrain. It contains native plants and trees, as well as trees, shrubbery and flora that symbolize death, resurrection and immortality. It has a peaceful park-like environment that encourages personal reflection and meditation; an environment that reinforced family values by teaching the younger generations to actively care for the final resting place of their ancestors. The cemetery is the home of several examples of Victorian funerary art and architecture emphasizing nature but also representing epitaphs of the deceased, a characteristic of Victorian sentimentality towards death.

While called an example of the rural cemetery movement, cemeteries like Mount Olivet were not located in rural areas. They were within a few miles of a city and the site was usually elevated, had rolling hills and scenic vista views of the city it would serve. These precedents were established in 1831 at Mount Auburn, but 20 years would pass until Nashville followed its example. Called the "quiet City of the Dead" in an 1855 Rules and Regulation Book of the Mount Olivet Cemetery Company, it incorporated many of the characteristics of garden/rural cemeteries. The cemetery still provides a peaceful setting in a natural park-like environment with meandering roads and walks under trees that are as old as the cemetery itself.

The cemetery markers – or lack thereof - indicate class or station of the person interred – elite or anonymous, wealthy or pauper, free citizen or slave. All socio-economic groups are represented at Mount Olivet. They are spaced further apart in Sections 1 – 9 and 11 – 15 that follow the natural terrain of the land, the oldest sections of Mount Olivet dating from 1855. With each generation, the density of the burials increases while the overall size of a family plot decreases because it becomes ever more expensive to purchase and maintain a large lot. The density continued to increase through the late 1970's when ground maintenance demands resulted in restrictions for markers and monuments in the most recently activated burial sections of the cemetery. These sections are located in the northeast section of the cemetery. The fields here are unadorned and unless the sections are walked through, it is not possible to know who is buried here. They have the same empty feel of the single grave and strangers sections in the original 1855 south/rear portions of Mount Olivet. Although less grand than the older sections, the monuments of Mount Olivet dating from 1890 to 1955 normally bear either the paternal surname of the family or the names of husband and wife together. The new sections stand adjacent in stark, empty contrast.

All but three of the original fifteen sections of Mount Olivet display the traditional styles of both classical and late Victorian era monuments. Tall, stately obelisks stand surrounded by angels. Epitaphs identify spiritual foundations or station in life. The monuments of children pierce the heart with their tiny lambs or solemn statuary of children in repose. Particularly notable is the statue of Jesus embracing the three children of the Warner's, who all died together as result of an influenza epidemic. The three original sections that contrast are the Single Grave and Strangers Section, as well as Section 19, the southwestern most section of the cemetery. On the north end of Single Grave Sections 4 and 5, the diverse variety of classical and late Victorian era funeral markers mimics the elite sections. Then abruptly then number of markers drops to perhaps 100 for the remaining two-thirds of these sections that travel south to the back of the cemetery. In the newer sections, there are few if any clues regarding the life of persons interred since usually only the

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 27

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee



person's name and personal information is made available on flat slabs, or low, rectangular monuments in the sections dating from 1900 – 1970. In the original sections of Mount Olivet, the garden park cemetery is dominated by Victorian romanticism, and corresponds with the introduction of American Gothic Revival in southern architecture, in particular, church buildings. The Chapel/Office reflects the use of a classic Gothic Chapel design which also effectively functions for funerary use. Several mausoleums and monuments in the first eight sections of Mount Olivet are designed in this style. One of the finest examples of a Gothic mausoleum in Mt Olivet is the Adelicia Acklen Mausoleum (shown in picture on left).

Although the Woodmen of the World was one large fraternal organization, their monuments and markers are diverse. The two most consistent characteristics are the circle emblem with their name printed around its circumference and a tree trunk column for the body of the monument. Original monuments of the Woodmen were tree trunks atop a stacked log base. Flora covering the base is most often ferns and lilies, or ivy, which represented immortality and friendship. There are many variations as well. Katie C. Foster (1968-1908) has a monument bearing this emblem. It was unusual but not unheard of for women to be adopted by fraternal organizations or Masons when they exemplified a high degree of personal, social and spiritual integrity.

It is nearly impossible to discern where most slaves, free persons of color, or post Civil War blacks are interred. Only the company burial indexes and slips reveal their location and possible identity. In some cases, only "negro" and the owners name are listed, along with the section number and lot of interment. Only the interments of blacks buried in sections reopened through desegregation laws regularly note their names. However, there is no symbolic hint of ethnic origin in the new sections.

Cynthia Conner is quoted in "Grave Matters" for her description of differences in white and black attitudes towards death. The rural cemetery movement garden park represented the denial or conquering of death, its beauty focusing on rebirth and inspirational self-reflection on resurrection or rebirth of the spirit. It was a very romantic view of death. Blacks had only recently suffered slavery and bittersweet 'freedom' of the Emancipation Proclamation that set them legally free but delivered them into economic slavery as the Industrial Age moved into prominence after the Civil War and the South rebuilt while the North encouraged their migration there for cheap labor. The African American graves contrast with white Victorian sentimentality. Conner states that their cemeteries are not as purposeful or contrived.¹⁶ In this case, the

¹⁶ *Grave Matters: The Preservation of African-American Cemeteries.* (Columbia, S.C.: Chicora Foundation, Inc., 1996) , 11.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 28

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

adjacent Greenwood Cemetery and the lack of markers for black burials in Mount Olivet make the class and economic disparage between white and black contrast even more. Greenwood Cemetery looks like the 1890-1955 sections of Mount Olivet, but even more densely used. As stated above, it is difficult to identify blacks buried in Mount Olivet. The company burial indexes reveal their race, and whether they were buried with the families they served, or separately at the back of Mount Olivet.

The markers, monuments and family vaults of Mount Olivet retain their historical integrity, and show the large range of styles that distinguish generations and changing tastes in funerary art and architecture. It also illustrates changes in spirituality, economic well-being, and social and ethnic attitudes towards death from 1855 to 1955. One thing remains fairly consistent – the cemetery park environment. Although the roads become straighter and there is less landscaping in the sections of the cemetery dating from 1890 to present with their densely buried and flatter lands, old intermingles with new. Class is not only denoted by location of burial in Mount Olivet, but also by the size and design of the markers, monuments and mausoleums in original sections 1-15. The more wealthy the family or individual, the more ornate and grand the marker. There are no handmade markers at Mount Olivet – the company had to approve of all markers or monuments. The choice was apparently either a marker made to minimum specifications, or an anonymous grave. In the newer sections dating from 1890, the burials become more dense and linear. The markers of the newer sections are normally rectangular, low to the ground, granite have and little, if any, ornamentation. Epitaphs occur infrequently in the newer sections. Those who were wealthy have markers that stand out among the sea of low granite markers of the middle class - true to tradition in the original sections of Mount Olivet. These families are normally descendents of the wealthiest patrons buried in Sections 1 – 9 of the cemetery. Where the poor or lower class whites and blacks are buried, there are few, if any, markers. Although Mount Olivet segregated by station in life, it did not place walls or fences between them.

Confederate Circle is a unique configuration, graves face in all directions of the compass, representative of their collective states of origin in the South (though not necessarily facing the state they were born in). It is interesting to note that no Union supporter or war veteran has their resting place set apart and so distinguished. The monuments and epitaphs of person loyal to the Union are focused on spiritual or worldly themes, not the war. Only one woman, Catherine Laws Palmer (1844-1944), is buried in Confederate Circle on the outermost ring by her husband William Asbury Palmer (1844-1944).

Landscape design is as much a part of the entire cemetery as it is in Confederate Circle and individual burial lots. Each segment - curvilinear roads, walkways, curbing, and trees and shrubbery – traces its origin back to Mount Auburn. They provided a suitable and acceptable solution to what David Sloane refers to as the “Last Great Necessity”. This was ever more true for Rural Cemetery Movement Parks in the South because of its gardening tradition reflecting old English traditions. Although the movement is considered a response to the cold, rigid Industrial Revolution with its expanding urban environment full of pollution and disease, the South was only beginning its industrial period when the Civil War began. In the South, rural cemetery movement parks were attractive as designs for cemetery plans since they reflected the agrarian roots of so many of its citizens. Whether an intentional decision, or a sub-conscious thought that guided them, it was a

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 29

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

way that the citizens of Nashville and other cities placed a barrier between the ugliness and reality of industrialization, disease and urbanization.

Mount Olivet has a diverse collection of trees: elm, Jerusalem spruce, cedar, oak, maple, walnut, ginkgo and a variety of shrubbery, with a preference for boxwood varieties. The cemetery still has most of the trees planted or native to the property when it was founded in 1855. In some areas, trees have grown through, over and/or around markers and graves. Trees had a strong place in Victorian tradition; they were symbols of everlasting life and rebirth. They also have a practical use - the South is hot and humid in the summer, Nashville included. The trees provide shade, a cool peaceful place to walk in the middle of a hot summer day, and they soften the event horizon, painting a picture of green against clear blue skies. Victorians loved their gardens. It expressed their affection for nature or natural beauty. Frank Scott, author of *Victorian Gardens, The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds* explains that “grounds, however, which are blessed with grand old trees should have them cherished lovingly – they are treasures that money cannot buy –and should be guarded with jealous care.”¹⁷ One of the most impressive old trees is a ginkgo. It appears to be the only one in Mount Olivet and approximately 125 years old by its size and trunk circumference of 10 feet.

Unlike other cemeteries of the rural/garden park design, Mount Olivet has no fences around any of the lots like there are at Maplewood (NR pending) or Elmwood (NR 3/20/02). The feeling of community in all its forms and classes pervades Mount Olivet. The sections flow unencumbered from old to new. It reinforces the open space tradition of Mount Auburn. Conner describes the lack of landscaping in *Grave Matters: African American cemeteries have grave depressions and mounded graves. There is no attempt to make grass grow over the graves or create special vegetation. Trees “are neither encouraged nor discouraged.”*¹⁸ This describes the physical terrain and condition of the single grave and strangers sections of Mount Olivet located in the rear of the southwestern portion of the cemetery. Blacks valued family over possessions. If they looked too prosperous, they had their wealth challenged. Their attitude about possessions was different that white people because they too had once been ‘possessions’. They made their statement while among the living, not in death.

¹⁷ *Victorian Gardens: The Art of Beautifying the Home Grounds: A Victorian Guidebook of 1870* by Frank J. Scott. (Watkins Glen, New York: Library of Victorian Culture American Life Foundation, 1982), 103.

¹⁸ *Grave Matters*, 11.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 30

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 31

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 32

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Davidson County, Tennessee

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 33

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Davidson County, Tennessee

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 34

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 35

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 36

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

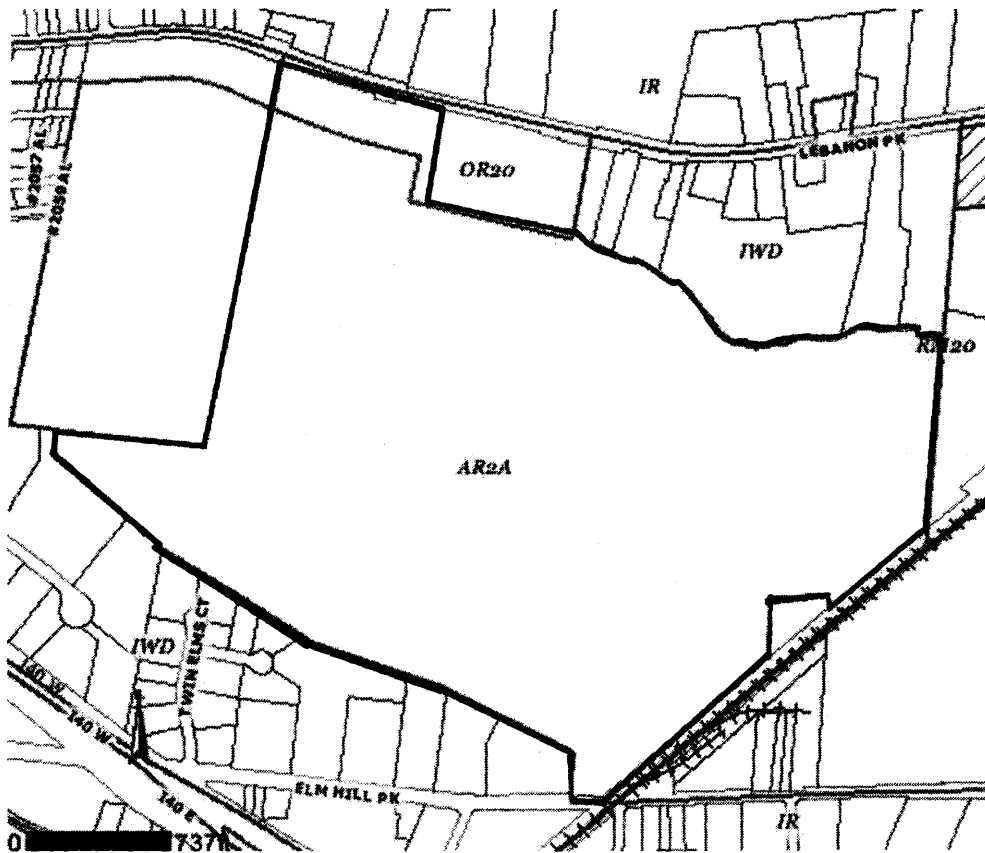
Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is parcel 10600000400 documented in the attached Davidson County tax map, excluding the northeast corner of the parcel located east of the main entrance and north of the main drive.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain the historic and current legal property associated with Mount Olivet Cemetery and currently owned by Stewart Enterprises, Inc. dba the Nashville Historic Cemetery Association.



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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 37

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

PHOTOGRAPHS

Mount Olivet Cemetery, Nashville, TN

**Photos by: Rose Parrish Bacon and Rozanne E. Folk
Historic Mount Olivet Preservation Consortium**

Date: May – August, 2005

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, TN

North from Confederate Circle to Carter Mausoleum, Section 8 on left, Section 6 on right – Photographer facing north.
1 of 13

Intersection of west boundary drive and drive between sections 3 and 9 – Photographer facing south.
2 of 13

Standing in Section 9 looking toward Section 10 (center and right background) and Section 12 (left background) –
Photographer facing southwest.
3 of 13

Standing in Single Grave/Strangers Section 4 with Section 12 on the right and Section 10 in the background –
Photographer facing north.
4 of 13

Drive between Section 12 (on left) and Single Grave/Strangers Section 4 (on right) – Photographer facing south.
5 of 13

Drive between Section 25 (on right) and Section 26 (on left) looking at the Reed Mausoleum – Photographer facing
east.
6 of 13

Gardner and Nickel hillside mausoleums on old main drive that defines north boundary of Section 1 – Photographer
facing southwest.
7 of 13

East elevation of Chapel/Office – Photographer facing southeast.
8 of 13

Furman mausoleum in Section 9 – Photographer facing south.
9 of 13

Eliza Mitchell marker in Section 3 – Photographer facing east.
10 of 13

Major Eugene C. Lewis mausoleum in Section 2 – Photographer facing south.
11 of 13

Captain Thomas Ryman monument in Section 9 – Photographer facing northeast.
12 of 13

T.T. Hillman monument in southern end of Section 6 – Photographer facing north.
13 of 13

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix A Page 39

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

-
- Obelisk:**
1. Adrien Van Sinderen Lindsley and family, Section 1 – eternal life
 2. Stahlman - greatness
 3. John Overton (1766-1833) – patriotism – top draped with shroud
 4. Samuel Watkins – died 10-16-1880 –personal story told on obelisk
 5. Robert Massengill Porter, M.D. (1818-1856) – First Professor of Anatomy, University of Nashville – greatness
- Rocks:**
1. Foster – mausoleum – building on the rock
 2. monument – everlasting strength
- Photographs:** Paul J. Watkins (1885-1921), Father, and Christa A. Watkins, Mother (1854 – 1926) – a visual epitaph that speaks to future generations – older woman married younger man
- Urns:**
1. B.H. Stief (1845-1890) – draped urn – grief, mourning and mortality
 2. Mollie B. Stahlman – adult death – container of tears or planter, immortality
 3. McGavock Mausoleum – unusual pairing over double bronze entry doors – loyalty
- Mausoleums:**
1. Anson Nelson - Hillside barrow with structural front facade
 2. John Catron – walls and corners of mausoleum look like wood
 3. Alex Foster – quarried limestone in garden bond
 4. Vernon King Stevenson – scale replica of Napoleons tomb
 5. Cheek family – stained glass window – cross and crown in clouds
 6. Adelia Acklen – High Gothic Cathedral with four bays and roof forming a cross
- Epitaphs:** Cheek, 2nd and 3rd generation – “There is no Death, What seems so is transition”
- Greek:**
1. Furman – temple
 2. U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Catron – Classic Greek Revival architecture
- Romanesque:** Receiving Vault – Adolphus Heiman, architect
- Moorish Revival:** Daniel Carter – mausoleum with Moorish influence and arches supported by columns
- Gothic:**
1. Adelia Acklen (1817-1887) – High Gothic – cathedral mausoleum
 2. Medora Carter (1839-1865) – Statue of woman inside a monument designed like a miniature cathedral
- Roman:** H.G. Hill (1873-1942) – group of columns, semicircular arch
- Statuary:**
1. Louise Thompson (1858-1864) - Woman with chain draped around her
 2. Annie K. Thompson (1861-1940) - Woman in repose
 3. Eliza Mitchell (1866-76) - Child seated with clasped hands and bowed head
 4. Thompson family - Angel with basket, right hand raised and index finger pointing up
- Ledgers:**
1. Percy Warner (1861-1927), and wife, Margaret Lindsley Warner (1864-1936)
 2. Nanny Dudley (Pilcher) Folk
 3. William Bransford (1851-1938)
 4. Guilford Dudley (1854-1945) – husband of Ann Dallas Dudley
 5. Judith Dudley (Folk) Templeton (1912-1951)– first wife of Sir John Marks Templeton

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix A Page 40

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

- Plaques:
1. Margaret (Winston) Caldwell (1862-1933) – Organizing Regent, D.A.R.
 2. Maj. Gen. Benjamin Franklin Cheatham (1820-1886) – Confederate Mem. Trail
 3. Jacob McGavock (1790-1878) – bronze wreath encircling his initials
 4. Private Oliver P. Rood (1844-1885) – Union, Co B, 20th Indiana Infantry – veteran of the Battle of Gettysburg – Congressional Medal of Honor
 5. Katherine Armistead Metz (1891-1950) – Bronze D.A.R. Emblem
- Piano: Fred Rose (1897-1954) – grand piano on monument
- Shells: James S. Warner (1830-1895) – shell pattern on monument - corner motif
- Stained Glass:
1. person - wreath against patterned background
 2. Cheeks Sr. - cross and crown in clouds
 3. family - angel in garden with stream at feet, right index finger pointing up

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix B Page 41

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

Chapel/Office Architect – Hugh Cathcart Thompson

Thompson was born in Monroe County, Tennessee in 1829, came to Nashville in 1849 and lived with James Thompson. Thompson married Nancy Ellen McGinnis and was established as a carpenter with his brother in law, James M. McGinnis. Based on his clientele over the next 30 years, he was first considered Nashville's most prominent finish carpenter, working for and then becoming a partner of the Robertson brothers. As contractors, they worked with Nashville's architects and engineers, such as Adolphus Heiman, Wilbur Fisk Foster, and Dobson and Williamson.

In 1861, Thompson was working with Heiman on Elmwood, the residence of W.W. Berry.¹⁹ Heiman was wounded at Fort Donelson in 1862, taken prisoner by the Union Army, and died in Jackson, Mississippi in 1862. The Berry house, though incomplete, was used by the Union Army during the Civil War.²⁰ Thompson wrote a letter in 1862 to Andrew Johnson, the Military Governor of Tennessee regarding his work and requested assistance in obtaining payment for his work. This was approximately the same time that the Receiving (Publick) Vault was built at Mount Olivet, the design of which former cemetery employee Robin Shank credited to Heiman. Soon after, in April 1861, C.W. Nance and J.H. Buddeke were appointed to investigate the possibility of selling the lot where the old office was located in downtown Nashville; of "the cost of a new office"; and, of building "said new office and in doing so...to get as much work done by persons owing the company as practicable."²¹ There is no further mention of progress on this task since the Civil War and the occupation of Nashville began shortly after the entry.

The first appearance of Thompson in the Nashville Business Directory is in 1866 where he is listed as a carpenter residing at South College Street and near the hospital, which was the University of Nashville Medical Department. A.V.S. Lindsley's estate was located nearby on Lindsley Avenue. Not only did they live in the same neighborhood of Nashville, due west of the cemetery on Lebanon Turnpike, which became Hermitage Avenue, but they both supported Lincoln each time he ran for the Presidency. He returned to complete the W.W. Berry residence from 1866 to 1867 with the Robertson Brothers. Since his letter indicates that he was working with Heiman before the war, he was familiar with the deceased architects design, drawings and vision, and his knowledge of the project would have been vital to its completion.

In the Board Minutes recorded on May 28, 1869, J.H. Buddeke was appointed to head a committee charged with procuring "from some competent architect a design for a gate keepers lodge to be erected at the entrance on the Lebanon Turnpike Road." John Woolridge notes in his *History of Nashville* that Thompson was one of three school directors of Edgefield who, on March 24, 1869, proposed the "erection of a schoolhouse for the

¹⁹ May Winston Caldwell. *Historical and Beautiful Country Homes Near Nashville, Tennessee* (Nashville; Brandon Printing Co, 1911).

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Mount Olivet Cemetery Board Meeting Minute Book #1, page 39.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix B Page 42

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

freedmen...on the corner of Foster and Joseph Streets”²² to the Mayor and Aldermen of Nashville. This was the Searight School. A.V.S. Lindsley was Treasurer to the Trustees of the University of Nashville and a Trustee of Montgomery Bell Academy when his brother, Dr. John Berrien Lindsley was its President.

In 1871, Dobson and Williamson were the architects who designed the residence of Judge John Lea at the corner of Vine and Union. Thompson, Robertson & Co. were the frame and finish carpenters for this residence. Olive Sallee Lesueur was the brick mason. September 4, 1871, the Board of Mount Olivet Cemetery Company met at A.V.S. Lindsley’s office where Thompson Anderson, Chairman of the Gate Lodge Committee, reported that “after careful consideration the plan of Dobson and Williamson was adopted and the committee directed to put it under contract as early as practicable.”²³ Actual construction did not begin until 1873, when Thompson, as an Alderman of Edgefield and Chairman of the Building Committee, passed an act to build a school in Edgefield and selected “Lindsley’s lot on Main Street...between Foster and Minnick (7th and 8th)...for the site of the new schoolhouse...with [a] bell-tower”.²⁴ In 1872, he proposed a free bridge be erected to connect Edgefield and Nashville, and was also Chairman of the Edgefield Street Committee.

Construction of the Gatekeepers Lodge House and the Chapel Office would have been underway at this time, and Thompson became the partner of P.J.Williamson in 1874 when Dobson left the partnership. He worked with him until 1875, when he hung his architects sign in Edgefield in November. This is when he began building churches in Nashville and Franklin, Tennessee. He also worked with both C.W. Nance and B.F. Woodward – surveyors and officers of the cemetery. They assisted in subdividing the estates that became the City of Edgefield, the lots upon which Thompson would design and construct residences for clients such as: Senator and Governor William B. Bate, Rev. Marcus B. Dewitt, Rev. James H. McNeilly, and Robert Orr. Thompson’s clients in Nashville included the son of the President of Mount Olivet Cemetery Company, A.V.S. Lindsley, Jr., an attorney whose specialty was real estate like his father.

Most of the residents of Edgefield and Nashville whose homes were designed and constructed by Thompson, as well as businessmen for whom he designed buildings such as Baxter Court and the Noel Block are buried at Mount Olivet. John Corman described Thompson in 1886 as “the leading architect in the Rock City [Nashville]” who was responsible for the design and construction of “many of the most elegant residences in the city and adjacent country, and a large proportion of the most imposing public buildings [and] business blocks.”²⁵ In the thesis of William W. Howell, “Hugh Cathcart Thompson: Native Tennessee Architect”, design characteristics, building methods, materials and finishes are outlined: 1. octagonal rooms; 2. brick churches, 3.coved ceiling with exposed rafters; 4. bay windows with 3 of 8 sides of an octagon; 5. quarry

²² Woolridge, John. History of Nashville, Tennessee, with Full Outline of the Natural Advantages, Accounts of the Mound Builders, Indian Tribes, Early Settlement, Organization of the Metro District and General and Particular History of the City Down to the Present Time (Nashville: Methodist Publishing House, 1890), page 450.

²³ Mount Olivet Cemetery Board Meeting Minute Book #1, page 45.

²⁴ Woolridge, page 451-452.

²⁵ Howell, page 13.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

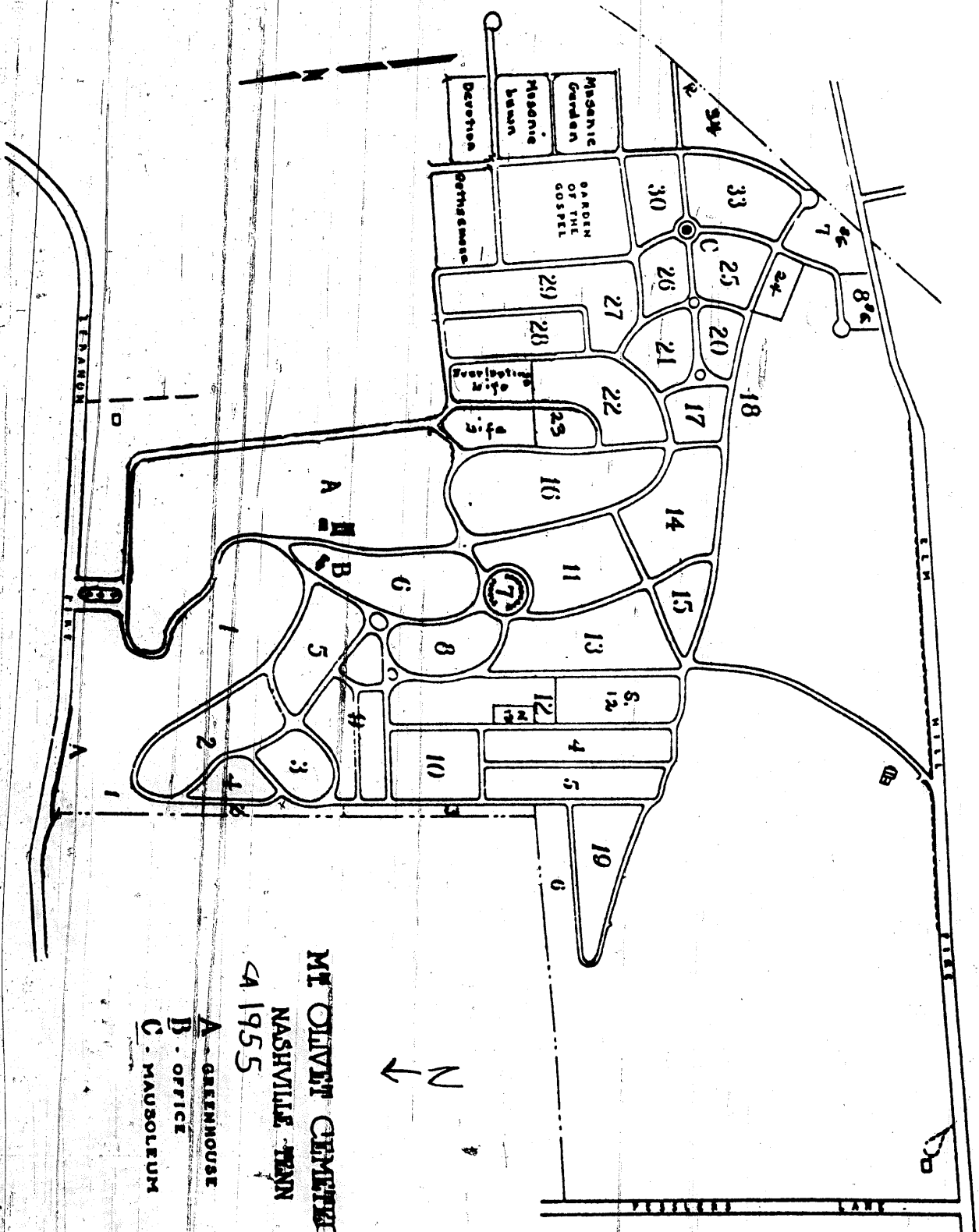
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix B Page 43

Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Davidson County, Tennessee

faced limestone foundations with trimmed margins and a cut, smooth face water table capping the stone; 6. hip roof on the octagon rooms with dormers that hood the window and trace its arch, usually equilateral, and have detailed cornice trim with boxed in gutters; 6. metal roofs; 7. square bell towers with pyramidal roofs; 8. equilateral arch lancet windows; 9. use of native woods for floors, doors and window frames. Each of these design characteristics is found in the Chapel/Office. Thompson's signature features are found in the main structure of the Chapel/Office, whose first use was noted in 1877.

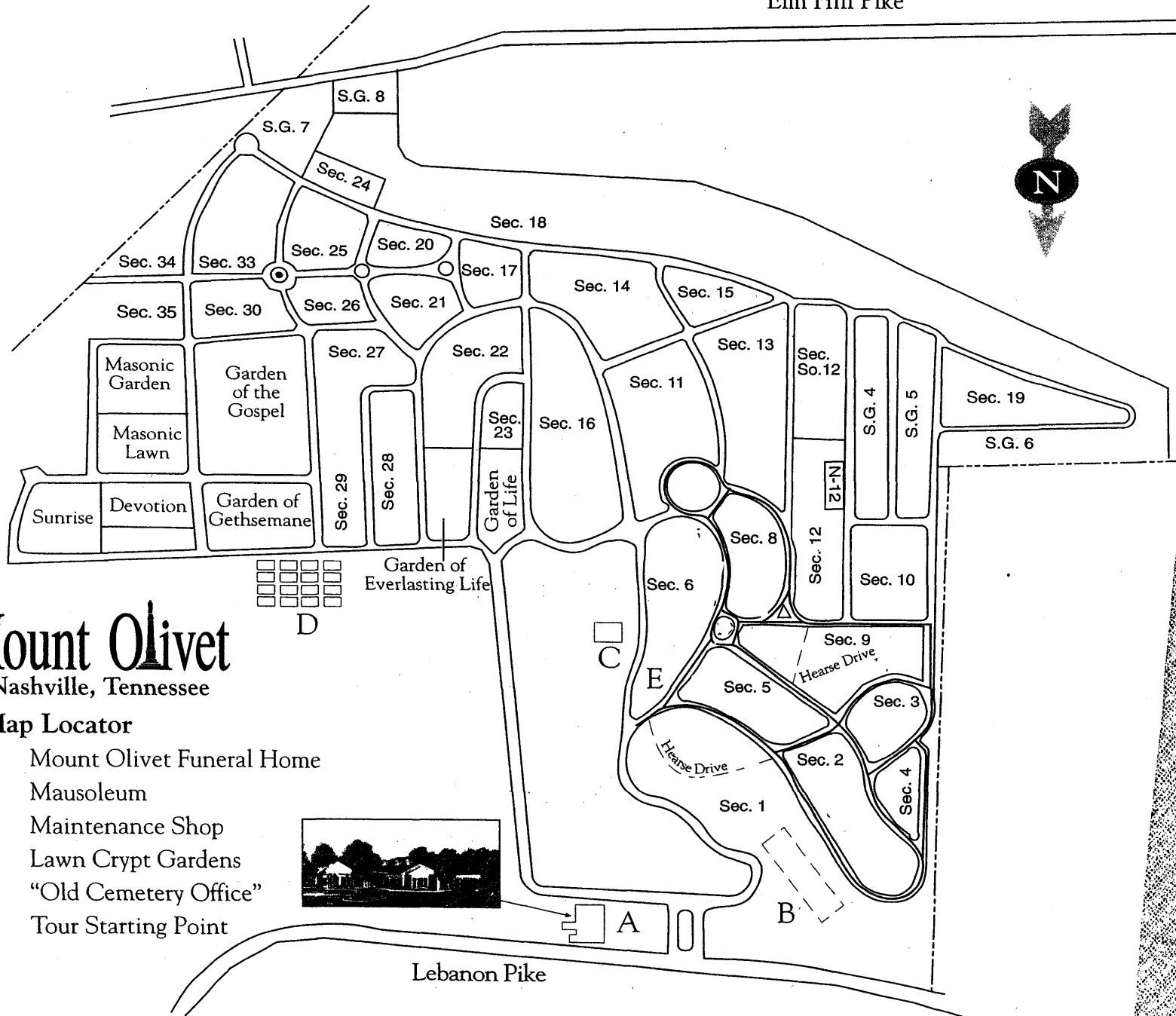
Of the two buildings, the Gatekeepers Lodge House and the Chapel/Office, only the latter survives. However, it is this building that reflects Thompson's signature architectural design characteristics. And, its construction corresponds with Thompson's Gothic Revival Church period when McKendree Methodist (1877), the Edgefield Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1875), the Edgefield Christian Church (1878), Franklin Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1876), and St. John's Episcopal Church (1876) were built.



MT OLIVET CEMETERY
 NASHVILLE, TENN
 CA 1955

- A - GREENHOUSE
- B - OFFICE
- C - MAUSOLEUM

Elm Hill Pike



Mount Olivet

Nashville, Tennessee

Map Locator

- A** Mount Olivet Funeral Home
 - B** Mausoleum
 - C** Maintenance Shop
 - D** Lawn Crypt Gardens
 - E** "Old Cemetery Office"
- Tour Starting Point



Lebanon Pike

is date from
 tions shown
 n 1927 & 1955.

MT. OLIVET CEMETERY.

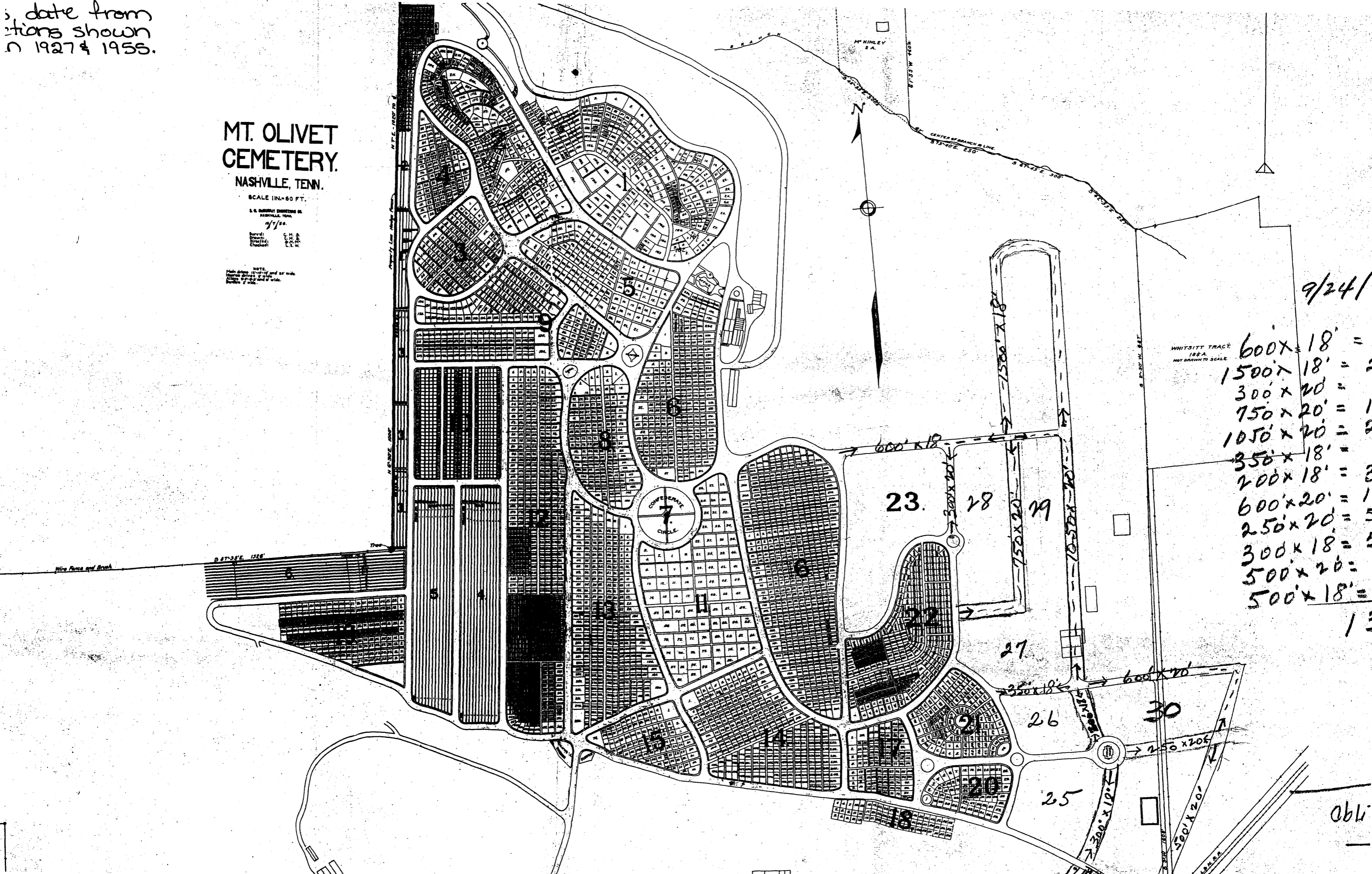
NASHVILLE, TENN.

SCALE 1 IN. = 60 FT.

U.S. SURVEY DIVISION OF
 NASHVILLE, TENN.
 11/1/55.

Surveyed: C. H. B.
 Drawn: P. H. B.
 Checked: L. H. B.

NOTE:
 Main drive 12'-0" and 8'-0" wide.
 Access drives 6'-0" wide.
 Sidewalk 3'-0" wide.



WHITSITT TRACT
 22-A
 NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

9/24/55

600' x 18'	=	1
1500' x 18'	=	2
300' x 20'	=	1
750' x 20'	=	1
1050' x 20'	=	2
350' x 18'	=	1
200' x 18'	=	3
600' x 20'	=	1
250' x 20'	=	5
300' x 18'	=	1
500' x 20'	=	1
500' x 18'	=	1

obl