

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received FEB 8 1980

date entered APR 10 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic American Cemetery (AHRS Site No. KOD-132)

and/or common Old City Cemetery

2. Location

street & number Upper Mill Bay Road _____ not for publication

city, town Kodiak _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Alaska at large

state Alaska code 02 county Kodiak Division code 150

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Kodiak (907) 486-3224

street & number Box 1397

city, town Kodiak _____ vicinity of _____ state Alaska 99615

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. District Recorder (907) 486-5765

street & number Alaska State Court Building, 204 Marine Way

city, town Kodiak _____ state Alaska 99615

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date June 30, 1974 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Alaska Division of Parks, 619 Warehouse Dr., Suite 210

city, town Anchorage _____ state Alaska 99501

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Other than the surroundings--and the settling and shifting of pits, mounds, markers and headstones; the expected attrition of age--the American Cemetery, physically, appears much as it did when abandoned in 1940; and except for later graves and growth--particularly noted in the size of the spruce and evergreen trees--somewhat as it was before the end of the 19th Century, as witnessed in old photographs.

When established in 1868 the American Cemetery was in a pastoral, natural setting, quite removed from the residential and business district of Kodiak. By 1940 however, the town had so engulfed it that no grave sites remained for further burials; but the cemetery itself, allowing for normal depreciation, remains intact. Except for facing Mill Bay Road it is completely surrounded by buildings.

There is nothing singularly distinguishing in the physical appearance of the American Cemetery. Its present appearance is quite typical of many pioneer cemeteries--unkempt, neglected (for the most part) and deteriorating more with every passing year. It is a forlorn reminder of one-time purpose and function. Yet the heritage of this plot of ground goes beyond its antiquity or its purpose. Its greatest value, now and in the future, resides in the significance of its association with persons and events which deserve commemoration in Alaskan history. American Cemetery--as the name implies--constitutes a part of the social fabric that was once Kodiak. It exemplifies the true meaning--and value--of the Heritage factor in historic preservation.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1868–1940 **Builder/Architect** U. S. Army

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Other than the Orthodox church graveyard, the American Cemetery is the only historic cemetery at or near Kodiak that has not been obliterated. The earlier Russian graves near the Harbor were largely destroyed by buildings and structures soon after the American occupation in 1867. Another cemetery, clearly marked on a map of the Fort Kodiak Military Reservation in the present Alder Lane, Rezanof Drive area, was partially extant until as late as the early 1940's. But subsequent development--essentially residential, has completely eliminated existence of this grave site.

Previous History

The first Russian Colony in the New World, and the first European Colony on the West Coast North of San Francisco, was on Kodiak Island. This was Three Saints Bay, established by Shelikov in 1784. Eight years later the Chief Factory of the Russian-American Company was moved to Paul's Harbor, or Saint Paul, which became Kodiak after the purchase of Alaska. Kodiak is thus the oldest permanent settlement in Alaska. The site area has suffered severe natural devastation: the eruption of Katmai Volcano in 1912 and the terrible earthquake and tidal wave of 1964, which quite drastically altered the face of the City. Certainly Kodiak is one of the most significant historical places in Alaska; and remains so, despite the ravages of time and change.

American Cemetery

The American Cemetery originated from the inherent need to establish a Military Cemetery to serve old Fort Kodiak. This Fort and Military Post began with the American occupation of Alaska (Russian America) immediately after the purchase of the Territory. This cemetery was used for the Americans, as opposed to the Russians or Natives, and thereby received its name.

Five of the soldiers from the original Fort are known to be buried there. Their names are listed in the National Archives, Old Military Records. In addition to these men, there exists two graves of unknown soldiers, and many local residents during the years from 1868 to 1940--including G.G. Holt, first white man across Chilkoot Pass, killed by Indians in 1884.

The Cemetery continued to be used by the Village for many years; and then by the City of Kodiak until discontinued in 1940. Now it a shared responsibility between city and Borough government, with ownership residing in the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Kodiak Public Library; mss., Papers, Letters.
 Huggins, Dorothy M., California Hist. Society, San Francisco; Letters, Gen.
 Elia Huggins, U.S.A., Kodiak, 1868-1870.
 Old Military Records, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
 HDQS, U.S. Army, Alaska, Anchorage, Files, records and correspondence.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
 Acreage of nominated property 0.35
 Quadrangle name Kodiak (D-2) USGS Quadrangle scale 1:63360 Series

UMT References

A	<u>0 5</u>	<u>5 3 5 6 4 0</u>	<u>6 4 0 5 3 3 9</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification That portion of Block 6 of U.S. Survey 562 commencing at the most southern corner of Lot seventy-seven (77); thence north 59° 30' 00" west, 102.32 ft. along the line common with the Right-of-Way of Upper Mill Bay Road; thence south 63° 00' 00". See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Herman T. Buekers, Acting City Manager, assisted by Michael S. Kennedy, Historian
Office of History and Archaeology, ADP, Anch.
 organization City of Kodiak date January 27, 1975
 street & number Box 1397 telephone (907) 486-3224
 city or town Kodiak state Alaska

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William Buekers

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/28/80

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for W. Ray Price date 4/10/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Kristin O'Connell date 4/9/80
 Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	FEB 1980
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CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1 of 1

East, 102.51 ft. along a line common with Lot Eighty Eight (88); thence north 30° 30' 00" east, 145.89 ft. along a line common with a portion of Lot Twelve (12) and with Lots Eleven (11), Ten (10) and a portion of Lot Nine (9) to the True Point of Beginning; containing 15,247.74 square feet, more or less.