(Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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historic name: Anchorage Cemetery
other name/site number: Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery AHRS Site No. ANC-766
2. Location
street & number: 535 East 9th Avenue not for publication: n/a
city/town: Anchorage vicinity: n/a
state: Alaska county: Anchorage code: 020 zip code: 99501
3. Classification
Ownership of Property: public-local
Category of Property: district
Number of Resources within Property:
Contributing Noncontributing
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a
Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Date of Action

USDI/NPS	NRHP Registration For	m 	Anchorage	Cemetery	Page 3
6. Function	on or Use				
Historic:	Funerary		Sub:	Cemetery	
Current:	Funerary		sub:	Cemetery	
7. Descri	========== ption				
Architect	ural Classification:	n/a			<u> </u>
Other Des	cription: n/a				

n/a

n/a

Describe present and historic physical appearance. \underline{x} See continuation sheet.

roof

other

Materials: foundation n/a

n/a

Executive Order Number 2242, dated August 31, 1915, and pursuant to an Act of Congress approved March 12, 1914, established the Anchorage Cemetery. Located in the East Addition to the new townsite of Anchorage, the original cemetery encompassed 16.39 acres (although the Executive Order said 16.98 acres) and had a 5.96 acre reserve. The cemetery is bounded on the north by Sixth Avenue, the east by Fairbanks Street (formerly East F Street), the south by Ninth Avenue, and the west by Cordova Street (formerly East C Street). Closed to through traffic, Seventh and Eighth avenues are the main east/west routes in the cemetery and four north/south driveways evenly intersect the two streets.

Executive Order Number 2836, signed April 10, 1918, authorized dividing the cemetery into tracts, one-half of which could be sold to religious or fraternal organizations qualified to hold title to real estate. The cemetery was subdivided into twenty tracts, each approximately 180 feet (north/south) by 200 feet (east/west) for a total of 36,000 square feet. The original cemetery has twenty tracts, and the reserve has ten tracts. One tract in the reserve has the utility substation and the cemetery office and garage on it. The plat, certified on November 5, 1920, further divided four of the public tracts into seventy grave plots in a six row, north-south pattern. The fourteen plots in the middle two rows were designed for two people, presumably a husband and wife. Private groups quickly purchased the available tracts.

<u>Tract</u>	<u>Owner</u>						
1	I.O.O.F. (dissolved, now owned by Pioneers of Alaska)						
2	B.P.O. Elks						
5, 6	Catholic Church						
9	Masonic Lodge						
10, 11	Pioneers of Alaska						
12	Loyal Order of Moose						
19	Veterans of Foreign Wars						
20	American Legion						

The remaining tracts are owned by the Municipality of Anchorage.

8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): D

Areas of Significance: Exploration/Settlement

Social History

Period(s) of Significance: 1915-1943

Significant Date: 1915

Significant Person(s): n/a

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: n/a

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

× See continuation sheet.

The Anchorage Cemetery is associated with the settlement and development of Anchorage. The period of significance begins in 1915 with the founding of Anchorage and the first six burials in the cemetery. It ends in 1943, fifty years ago, when another cemetery in the Anchorage area opened. Original settlers, merchants, miners, entrepreneurs, politicians, doctors, educators, engineers, laborers, contractors, and sailors are buried in the Anchorage Cemetery. Because burial in the cemetery is open to everyone, different ethnic and religious groups are represented in the cemetery. With very few early Anchorage properties still standing on their original sites and used for their original purposes, the cemetery assumes greater significance. (The Kimball Building, a commercial property, listed in the National Register, is the only documented property from 1915 that is on its original site and used for its original purpose.) The Anchorage Cemetery, where over seven thousand individuals from all walks of life are buried, is significant as the only property in existence that is associated with many of Anchorage's pioneers.

When the Alaska Engineering Commission, a federal board created to construct the government-funded Alaska Railroad, announced that construction would proceed north and south from a camp at the mouth of Ship Creek in 1914, over a thousand people rushed to the site. A tent city grew overnight. Those interested in opening businesses appealed to the Alaska Engineering Commission to survey and plat a townsite and sell lots. The government conducted the survey of the Anchorage townsite in the spring of 1915 and held a lot sale in July. In August, an executive order added an east addition to the townsite and reserved land for a cemetery in the new addition. There were six burials in the new cemetery that year.

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9. Major Bibliog	raphi	cal Refe						1960 April April 1960 1960 1960 1960 1960 1960 1960
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Primary location					.9			
State historic preservation office Other state agency Federal agency Local government University Other Specify Repository:								
10. Geographical	:===== Data			===				حدر است خان برسا زبان است بالبار الأخراج الله الله الله الله الله الله الله ال
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UTM References:	_				Zone	Easting	Northing	
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	See continuation sheet.							
Verbal Boundary Description: \underline{x} See continuation sheet.								
Boundary Justification: \underline{x} See continuation sheet.								
11. Form Prepared By								
Name/Title: John P. Bagoy								
Organization: n/	<u>′a</u>					D	ate: Octob	oer 20, 1992
Street & Number:	611	West 11	th Ave.			Tele	phone: (90)7) <u>272-9364</u>

City or Town: Anchorage State: AK ZIP: 99501

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The City of Anchorage received patent to its tracts in 1922, and the private owners received their patents from 1922 through 1925. The patents specify that if the land is not used for burials it reverts to the federal government. The 1918 Executive Order also stated that the cemetery would be divided into "burial lots of suitable size which shall be open to burial privileges by the public without charge for the land."

The city and private tract owners cleared land as needed. There was not formal landscaping plan. The private tract owners and individuals annually cleaned up the cemetery. There were no regulations or organized plan for the cemetery until the 1950s when the public pressured City officials to take an interest. The Municipality of Anchorage (the entity formed of a merger of city and borough governments) began regular grounds maintenance in the 1970s. At that time the Municipality constructed a fence of wrought iron pickets, six and one-half feet high, on the west and north boundaries and a chain link fence, eight feet high, on the south and east boundaries. The chain link fence has since been removed and a fence similar to the one on the west and north sides now borders the reserve on the south and east sides. There are entrances to the cemetery on Cordova and Ninth streets. Each corner of the cemetery has an identifying sign in a flower garden. Inside the cemetery, signs identify the tracts.

In 1975 the Municipality declared the cemetery a Memorial Park and renamed it the Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery. Today, the cemetery is a place of beauty, peace, and tranquility. Trees and shrubs have been planted. Municipality, private tract owners, and friends and relatives care for the grounds.

There are over seven thousand known grave sites, about two thousand of them without markers. The cemetery has some ethnic monuments such as crossed whalebones of the Point Hope Eskimo people, triple crosses of the Russian Orthodox religion, and white marble headstones of military veterans. Pioneers of Alaska and American Legion have placed monuments in their tracts.

In 1947 the City used the southeast corner of the Cemetery Reserve for a utility substation that still stands. On the cemetery property, it is a non-contributing structure. When land was desperately needed for housing in Anchorage following World War II, the City sold the remainder of the reserve to the Territory of Alaska for a housing project. In 1991, the Alaska State Housing Authority destroyed the dilapidated housing project, except for the office and garage, and returned the reserve area to the

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Municipality of Anchorage. The Municipality incorporated the land into the cemetery. It has been enclosed with a wrought iron picket fence similar to the rest of the cemetery. The housing project office has been remodelled and is used for the cemetery office. Built after the period of significance, the office and adjacent garage are non-contributing buildings. Two temporary buildings, standing on skids in the southeast corner of the original cemetery, are expected to be removed in the next few years. They are also counted as non-contributing buildings.

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The fact that the Cemetery Reserve was nearly seventeen acres and much larger than the spaces reserved for parks elicited the comment that "Anchorage has been figured to be a place to die in, but not much of a place to live in" (J. Horace McFarland, "How Not to Plan Cities," National Municipal Review, January 1917, p. 58). A second executive order, in 1918, permitted the sale of cemetery tracts to qualified religious and fraternal organizations, but reserved at least half of the tracts for public ownership and stipulated that those tracts be open to anyone. Patent 873718, issued on July 27, 1922, identified a 5.96 acre reserve for the cemetery on the south and east sides.

The City of Anchorage incorporated in 1920, and the Alaska Engineering Commission turned over designated public property in the Anchorage townsite to the new local government. The City of Anchorage received patent to its tracts in the cemetery in 1922. The Anchorage Cemetery was the only burial ground in Anchorage until the 1940s when the military opened Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Field and established a National Cemetery. Another cemetery, Angelus Memorial Park, originally south of the city but now part of the municipality, opened in the early 1950s.

In 1947 the City used a portion of the Cemetery Reserve for a utility substation. Desperate for land to build housing for the thousands of people who moved to Anchorage following World War II, the Territory of Alaska bought the remainder of the cemetery reserve from the City in 1952 for a housing project. To sell the land, the City determined that the patent to the reserve was unrestricted. In 1975 the City of Anchorage merged with the Greater Anchorage Area Borough to form the Municipality of Anchorage. At that time, the City transferred the Anchorage Cemetery to the new Municipality. When the Alaska State Housing Authority demolished the housing project in 1991, the land reverted to the Municipality of Anchorage. It has been incorporated into the cemetery. The State transferred the housing office and garage on the southeast corner of the property to the Municipality as well, and they have been remodelled to be used for cemetery administration.

As early as 1917, Anchorage residents held memorial ceremonies at the cemetery and continue to do so today. Until the mid-1970s private tract owners, friends and relatives of the deceased maintained the cemetery. Then a group of community residents took an interest in beautifying the cemetery, organizing the records, and getting the Municipality to take a more active role in maintaining the cemetery. In 1975 the Municipality declared the cemetery a Memorial Park and renamed it the Anchorage Memorial

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Park Cemetery. Today, the combined efforts of the Municipality, private tract owners, and friends and relatives have made the cemetery a place of peace, tranquility, and beauty.

A diverse group of people founded and built Anchorage. Original settlers, merchants, miners, entrepreneurs, politicians, doctors, educators, engineers, laborers, contractors, and sailors are buried in the Anchorage Cemetery. People from many different ethnic groups, including Alaskan Native groups, are buried in the cemetery. To mention a few:

Baldwin, William A. "Lucky." 1863-1942. Baldwin arrived in Anchorage in the late 1920s from Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, where he had served with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. A colorful character who was crippled by polio, Baldwin went around town in an electric three-wheel cart. He established the first self-service cash grocery store in Anchorage, and constantly worked to cut food prices for residents. His motto was "In God we trust, all others pay cash." He was brash, irascible and sarcastic, but loved by his customers. He kept his tombstone beneath his bed for many years prior to his death.

Bagoy, John. 1869-1940. A participant in the Klondike gold rush, Bagoy arrived in Alaska in 1897. He stampeded to Fairbanks in 1908, Iditarod in 1910, and Otter Creek (near Flat) in 1913. He established the first commercial nursery and greenhouse at Flat in 1915, and then at Anchorage in 1921.

David, Leopold. 1878-1924. David arrived in Alaska in 1904. He worked for the Alaska Central Railway and later practiced law in partnership with L.V. Ray in Seward. He moved to Anchorage in 1915. Anchorage residents elected Judge David, as he was known, the first mayor of Anchorage in 1921 and reelected him in 1922. Asked many times to run for Territorial office, he declined on all occasions, preferring to serve his local community.

Dorbrandt, Frank. 1890-1935. Dorbrandt was a well-known American aviator and Alaskan bush pilot. He brought the first tri-motored aircraft to Alaska, the famed Ford Tin-Goose. He made many daring rescue missions, among them the nationally-recognized Jochinson rescue in Siberia.

Ezi, Chief. Died 1935. Chief Ezi was a leader of the Eklutna people (Tanaina Indians). He was highly respected as a man of his word. Dedicated to the unity of all people, Chief Ezi sought to bring all races together in mutual understanding.

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Gill, Oscar S. 1880-1947. Gill arrived in Seward in 1907. In 1909 he operated a sawmill at Susitna Station. After relocating to Knik, Gill carried mail by dog team along the Iditarod Trail. In 1915 he worked for the Alaska Railroad at Ship Creek. In 1923 he opened an auto garage at Fourth and I Streets. He served two terms in the Territorial Legislature and was Speaker of the House, three terms as Anchorage City Councilman, and three terms as Mayor.

Hoffman, Frank. 1871-1937. Hoffman came to Alaska during the Klondike gold rush in 1898. He served as a law officer for thirty years, and was the personal bodyquard of President Harding when he visited Alaska in 1923. From Police Chief in Valdez to U.S. Marshal in Anchorage and Chisana, Hoffman's reputation for fairness was known far and wide. The high esteem in which people held him was evidenced by the fact that year after year, with changing administrations, he was retained as U.S. Marshal--reputedly the finest Alaska has ever seen.

Koslosky, Isaac. 1872-1940. Koslosky came North with the Klondike gold rush in 1898. Koslosky became the most prominent fur buyer and trader in the Territory in his day. His expertise in the business brought fur buyers from all over the U.S. to Anchorage, making the town the fur trading hub of Alaska.

Laurence, Sydney. 1865-1940. An internationally famous artist, Laurence came to Alaska to prospect for gold. He painted Mt. McKinley in its every mood and commanded the highest prices of any Alaskan artist. His paintings hang in the National Art Gallery and the Louvre. He was twice offered a title by King Edward VII and twice he declined. His profession took him to almost every country in the world, but his greatest love was Alaska and his mountain.

McCutcheon, Herbert H. 1887-1945. McCutcheon arrived in Alaska in 1899 and came to Anchorage in 1915. He was a contractor and built sections of the railroad between Whitney and Birchwood, then worked as yard foreman for the railroad until 1938. He was elected to the Territorial House of Representatives in 1931 and served as Speaker of the House in 1941, moving to the Territorial Senate in 1943. He was one of the first members of the Elks Lodge in 1919 and served as exalted ruler in 1920, and was president of the Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo 15 in 1944-1945.

Watson, Charles. 1867-1940. Watson came north to the Klondike in 1897 where he was a prospector, miner, and stage driver and owner. He

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established the first passenger and freight stage service on the Dawson-Whitehorse Trail. Later, he expanded his service to Valdez and Fairbanks. Watson moved to Anchorage in 1915. He owned and operated freight and stage services until the early 1930s when he became a U.S. Deputy Marshal under Frank Hoffman.

Wendler, Anton J. 1868-1935. Wendler came to Alaska in 1909. He was one of the first residents of Anchorage in 1915 and is considered one of the fathers of Anchorage. He was a member of the Townsite Selection Commission, a member of the first school board, the first President of the Chamber of Commerce, and a charter member of the Elks Lodge. He was very interested in the development of schools and quality education. Wendler Junior High School is named in his honor.

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section number _9_

_______ Anchorage Daily Times (later The Anchorage Times). Obituaries. 1916-1992.

Carberry, Michael and Donna Lane. Patterns of the Past: An Inventory of Anchorage's Historic Resources. Revised edition (Anchorage, Alaska: Municipality of Anchorage, 1986).

Municipality of Anchorage. Burial records.

State of Alaska, Office of Vital Statistics.

University of Alaska. Archives. Anchorage and Fairbanks.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The cemetery is located in the East Addition to the original Anchorage Townsite (T. 13 W., R. 3 W., Seward Meridian). It is bordered on the north by Sixth Avenue, on the east by Fairbanks Street, on the south by Ninth Avenue, and on the west by Cordova Street. It covers nine city blocks. The boundary is shown on the 1991 plat included in this nomination package.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes all of the area designated for the cemetery by Executive Order 2242 issued on August 31, 1915, and the reserve as established by Patent Number 873718 issued on July 27, 1922. These are the areas that have historically been associated with a public city cemetery in Anchorage.

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Section number Photograph identification

- Anchorage Cemetery (AHRS Site No. ANC-766) 1. Anchorage, Alaska Alaska Engineering Commission May 30, 1918 Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 West Seventh Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 Decoration Day (now Memorial Day) ceremonies at the cemetery
- Anchorage Cemetery (AHRS Site No. ANC-766) 2. Anchorage, Alaska John Cowdery July 10, 1992 Anchorage Cemetery files, Municipality of Anchorage, P.O. Box 196650, Anchorage, Alaska 99519 Looking east over tracts 3 and 8
- Anchorage Cemetery (AHRS Site No. ANC-766) 3. Anchorage, Alaska John Cowdery July 10, 1992 Anchorage Cemetery files, Municipality of Anchorage, P.O. Box 196650, Anchorage, Alaska 99519 Looking southeast over tract 5, one of earliest graves, that of Alexander Tuckaeff who died in 1916, is in the foreground



