NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

714

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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.

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Beecher Mausoleum

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: **N/A**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: Junction of Route 1 and Horner Lane

City or town: Beecher Vicinity State: IL County: 197 Zip 60401

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: Beecher, IL

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _x_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _x_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___**national** ___**statewide** _x_**local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_x_**A** ___**B** _x_**C** ___**D**

Anne E Haaker IDSHPO 7/24/13

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Jon Edson H. Beall 9.18.13

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	x
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public - Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	x
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings

0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Funerary: graves/burials

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Funerary: graves/burials

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:
STONE: Limestone, Marble
CONCRETE

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style,

method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Beecher Mausoleum sets on a ridge on the southeast side outside of the Village of Beecher, Washington Twp. It is Neo-Classical and is largely composed of limestone and marble. It has an ornate front portico, but overall the elevations are very simple and rectilinear in nature. The building is at grade and therefore lacks steps or a raised foundation. The building was designed by famed community mausoleum architect, Cecil Bryan. It was featured in a brochure Bryan produced on his mausoleums in 1917.

Narrative Description

Beecher Mausoleum, Neo-Classical. 1913-1914
Cecil E. Bryan, architect (attributed)
Contributing

The Beecher Mausoleum is located east of Illinois Route 1 at the intersection of Horner Lane and South Hillcrest Drive in Washington Township, Will County, Illinois. The building lies just outside of the Village of Beecher and has always been known as the Beecher Mausoleum. It was constructed as a community mausoleum for the residents of Beecher and the surrounding townships of Will County.

The parcel of land the building is located on is approximately 150' x 90', but is not a true rectangle. The building is situated in the center of the parcel and faces north. Its entry is centered on South Hillcrest Drive (see photo 0002 for view from Hillcrest). An early community burial ground is located northeast of the mausoleum (seen on right side of photo 0004). The cemetery was renamed St. Lucas' when the church of the same name in Beecher assumed responsibility for the care of the cemetery. The area the cemetery and mausoleum are located on is high ground that forms a ridge on the southeast side of Beecher. The land east, west, and south of the cemetery is mostly undeveloped farm ground.

Landscaping, thought to be original to the construction, is around the site (see left and right sides of photo 001). In 1935 low posts with chains strung between them were placed around the perimeter of the site. While the posts and chains are gone, the concrete bases for several of the posts are extant. The bases are flush with the ground; "1935" is carved into the base in the northwest corner of the site. A few ornamental trees and shrubs remain from the landscaping; they were planted around the perimeter of the site. They include a white cedar tree on the west and east sides of the site, an ornamental flowering tree on the south side and southwest corner of the site, and two deciduous shrubs on the northwest corner of the site (right side of photo 0001).

The Beecher Mausoleum was designed in the Neo-classical style, typical of most community mausoleums. The building measures 100 feet in length and 50 feet in width. It has a tall center portion and a wing on its east and west sides. It is constructed of reinforced concrete with an exterior veneer of Bedford Stone (Indiana limestone). A tall stone block forms a base at the bottom of the building's exterior walls. A tall stone cornice is at the top of the building's exterior walls; it forms a parapet at the roof. The entry has a pair of bronze doors with wood inserted into the area where windows were once located. The windows in the building and the doors were originally composed of stained glass. According to a local newspaper, vandals broke windows in 1937. After continued vandalism, glass block was used to fill the window openings, and the doors' windows were replaced with wood. The interior walls, crypt covers and floors are composed of white marble veneer.

The front wall of the building is dominated by its entry portico that is centered on the building (photos 0002-0003). The portico has a tall gabled pediment that forms the front parapet wall of the center portion of the building. The portico has a wide recessed entrance with a pair of Doric columns. Low stone bases with a stone cap are located on the wall in front of the columns. These bases flank each side of a concrete stoop in front of the entry.

An arched entry with a pair of bronze doors is centered between the columns. The entry forms a shallow bay. A stone cornice that is supported by a pair of scrolled brackets is at the top of the entry bay. Bas relief carvings of garland swags are above the arched opening. The doors have bronze crosses on the wood panels that were inserted into the window openings. A bas relief carving of a wreath and ribbon design is centered in the pediment's front wall. "1913" is carved into a block in the center of the wreath. This detail appears to be influenced by the Art Nouveau movement.

The front wall of the wings on each side of the portico has two shallow recessed bays divided by pilasters. The outside bay is narrower than the bay located near the center portion of the building. A large stone base with a stone cap is centered in front of the narrow bay. The base has a stone urn centered on top of its cap. Two small metal vents are located near the bottom of each of the wings' front wall. A stone scupper is centered at the top of the wide bay on the east wing. It is missing from the west wing.

The west and east walls of the mausoleum are identical; they are the end walls of the wings (photos 0004 and 0005). They are divided into three shallow recessed bays by stone pilasters. The outside bays are narrow. The middle bay has three tall narrow windows composed of glass blocks. The back (south) wall of the mausoleum is similar to the front wall, but does not have a portico (right side of photo 0004). The center portion of the building has a gabled parapet wall that is flanked by wide pilasters. Three tall narrow windows are centered on the back wall of the center portion of the building. The windows are composed of glass blocks. The windows have stone sills and lintels. A transom window is located above each window. They are composed of glass and have metal awnings above them. The back walls of the wings are identical to their front walls, but they do not have low stone bases and urns.

The building's floor plan has aisleways laid out in the shape of a cross. The main central hall is wide and has a vaulted ceiling (photos 0006 and 0007). The intersecting aisles are centered in the wings of the building (photo 0008). The floor is covered with marble tiles. The wall surfaces are covered with marble veneer. In some locations the marble veneer is beginning to separate from the subsurface. The ceilings are covered with plaster. The crypts have marble caps that are engraved with the deceased's name and the years of their life. In many cases the engravings have been painted gold or washed with green stain.

The central hall's ceiling is supported by six solid trusses. The trusses have recessed panels and are supported by corbels on each end. Clerestory windows composed of glass blocks are located between the trusses on the east and west walls of the central hall. The front (north) wall of the central hall has the entry centered in it. The entry has a marble surround with a pediment. The gable walls and the clerestory walls in the central hall are covered with plaster.

A family crypt room is located in each corner of the central hallway. The crypt rooms are gated with an ornamental bronze gate with a Classical Revival design. The rooms' walls do not extend to the ceiling of the central hall. Each crypt room has five rows of crypts (vertically) on their north and south walls. The rows are very wide with the crypt centered in each row. The crypt rooms' front walls have entraces with marble surrounds and pediments. A name block is centered in the base of the pediment, but only the Thielman crypt room (northeast room) is marked by an engraved name (see photo 0009).

The wings are divided into four bays. Each bay has five rows of crypts (vertically); the bays are one, two, or three crypts wide. A narrow door with faux marble painting is located in the front, north corners of each wing. The doors lead to small storage closets. Marble pilasters divide the bays and support concrete lintels on the ceiling. The walls of the wings are entirely clad with marble. The ceilings of the wings have

a slight vault and are covered with plaster. A small square metal plate is located near the center of the wings' floor. It provides access to the formaldyhyde tanks below the floor.

Concerning the marble veneer, it is possible that the white marble on the interior of the building came from the Yule Marble Quarry in Marble, Colorado. The marble that covers the Lincoln Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. came from the Yule Quarry. A Cecil Bryan designed mausoleum in Fairview Park Cemetery in DeKalb, Illinois, has been verified to contain Yule Quarry white marble. Another significant feature of the building is the original stained glass. Cecil Bryan used Tiffany stained glass in many of the mausoleums he designed and built. Only one section of damaged stained glass from the Beecher Mausoleum remains. Having it examined by an expert and authenticated is planned. A goal of the Beecher Mausoleum Guardian Angel Association and the Beecher Mausoleum Board of Directors is to replicate the stained glass windows and return the building to its original appearance. The association has an original small vent window from which to research and replicate the remaining windows.

The Beecher Mausoleum has sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register. The only known change to the property has been the addition of glass block windows and the wood panels in the front door, which replaced the stained glass windows that were destroyed by vandals. A descendent of the Thielman family, Sandra Thielman, has spearheaded the effort to restore the mausoleum and secure the building's long-term future. The effort began in 1996 and has resulted in the general cleaning of the mausoleum and repair to stone and windows damaged by vandalism. The Will County Historic Preservation Commission designated the Beecher Mausoleum as a local landmark in March, 1998.

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.)

[x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

[ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

[ ] B. Removed from its original location

[x] C. A birthplace or grave

[ ] D. A cemetery

[ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

[ ] F. A commemorative property

[ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Architecture
Social History

Engineering

Period of Significance
1914-1963

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Bryan, Cecil E.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Beecher Mausoleum is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. It is eligible under Criterion A because of the community's embrace of a burial method not previously practiced in the United States. This represents a shift in cultural and social norms and is significant under social history. The mausoleum is also eligible under Criterion C because of its high level of architectural craftsmanship and engineering. Criteria Consideration C is marked due to the building's use as a community mausoleum in which the remains of people are placed in crypts, though technically not graves in the traditional practice of burial.

The period of significance is 1914-1963. It begins with the completion of the building in 1914 and ends in 1963, the required fifty year cutoff period for eligibility. The building continued to be used through the latter part of the 20th century and the most recent interment was made in 2001.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

The development of the community mausoleum was a new concept for burial in the United States when it was designed and promoted during the first years of the 20th century. The community mausoleum movement began in Ohio and expanded across the United States. The community mausoleum movement's early years found a receptive audience in Beecher where the idea was first promoted in 1912. This was only a few years after what is considered the first community mausoleum was constructed in Ohio in 1907.

The early development of community mausolea in the United States was in response to a number of issues prominent at the beginning of the 20th century. Probably the most significant factor that allowed the development of community mausolea was the cultural acceptance of a burial practice that differed than traditional practices in America. Other factors that set the stage for the use of community mausolea were advances in engineering and construction materials, hygienic concerns, general neglect of cemeteries, and widespread new wealth of the first decades of the 20th century. These factors coupled with the commercial promotion and marketing of community mausolea created a receptive audience in several population centers across the country.

Mausolea, grounded in ancient precedents, joined the architecture of a culture fixed on Classical design with the projection of both social status and an idea of permanence for the living, together in an engineered structure. Their popularity grew from the introduction of the first community mausoleum in 1907 through the 1930s and adapted to popular architectural styles. The community mausoleum movement typically left its mark on larger cities; however, community mausolea that were scaled to fit appropriate population centers were developed even in small rural communities like Beecher.

The construction of mausolea during this early period was more typical of small family vaults; the construction of community mausolea was infrequent and was usually reserved for larger communities or urban areas. The rural nature and subsequent size of Beecher is an unusual condition in which to find a community mausoleum constructed during the early 20th century. The relevance of Beecher's mausoleum was evident given its prominent position near the community burial ground. The Beecher Mausoleum was located on axis with South Hillcrest Road. It terminated the street at the south edge of town, immediately west of St. Lucas' Cemetery.

Community mausolea were promoted for several reasons. Mausolea were promoted as a return to a more sensitive and respective way to deal with the remains of the departed. By the placement of the remains of family members in an above ground crypt versus the placement of remains in the ground it was thought that family members could more easily deal with grief and show respect to their loved ones. The mausolea were also considered to be more enduring than the typical practice of ground burials. At the time the community mausolea movement was occurring concrete vault burials were just becoming a practice and many old cemeteries were being razed and moved due to their unsightly conditions. Mausolea were also promoted as a more sanitary method of burial due to the process through which decomposition of the body occurred in a controlled, engineered manner rather than unwanted contamination of the ground in and around the cemetery.

Community mausolea were constructed based on subscription. A local association would be developed to own the buildings in fee simple forever. The crypts were sold to individuals or families, similar to the sale of grave sites in cemeteries. The purchase of a crypt included funds that would be set aside in the

creation of a permanent endowment that was supposed to provide for the ongoing care of the building. Based on the condition of many community mausolea today and several that have been decommissioned and demolished, the ability to provide for perpetual care was not always reality.

The idea of a community mausoleum in Beecher was first announced in the local newspaper on March 1, 1912. Henry Thielman and Arthur Struve met with representatives of the International Mausoleum Company to discuss the project. Several men from Beecher visited a newly constructed community mausoleum in Crown Point, Indiana, in June, 1912. Enough subscriptions were sold to begin construction in June, 1913. In some cases payment plans were permitted for those who could not afford the full subscription price. The building was essentially completed by February, 1913, but was not dedicated until June 14, 1914. The dedication included a male quartet, prayer, and sermons. The newspaper estimated 500 people were present at the dedication. The mausoleum contains 170 aisle crypts and four family compartments consisting of ten crypts each, for a total of 210 crypts. The remains of 172 deceased are entombed in the mausoleum; they represent 65 family surnames. Many are important characters of Beecher's past. There are eight confirmed veterans interred at the mausoleum; eight additional individuals are thought to be veterans and research is being completed to confirm this.

The four family crypt rooms at the Beecher Mausoleum include the Bahlmans, Struves, Horns, and Thielmans. Charles Bahlman (1872-1925) built and operated Bahlman's Sinclair Oil service station in 1921 on the Dixie Highway (Illinois Route 1). After his death, Minnie (1872-1960) continued the operation. Henry Bahlman, a brother, (1862-1946) is also interred in the mausoleum. Henry served on the school board, as township supervisor, assessor, justice of the peace, and was the president of the Eagle Lake Brick and Tile Works. Charles and Minnie's daughter, Dorothy (1903-1992) and her husband Herbert Saller (1897-1958) are also interred in the mausoleum. Herbert and Dorothy also helped operate the Sinclair station.

Arthur Struve was one of the proponents of the mausoleum. Arthur (1870-1932) and his wife Caroline (1874-1950) are interred in the southeast family crypt room. Arthur's mother, Rosamunda (1837-1915) is also interred in the room. She was born in Austria and immigrated to the United States in 1858. Arthur Struve became the president of the First National Bank in Beecher. The Horn family crypt room is across the aisle from the Struves. Arthur Struve's wife, Caroline, is a cousin to Caroline Horn (1866-1918). Caroline Horn was the wife of Charles Horn. Charles was the son of the first mayor of Crete, Illinois, a nearby community.

The Thielman name is the only name engraved on a family crypt room; this was completed in 2001. The Thielman room is located in the northeast corner of the central hall. One of the leading proponents of the mausoleum was Henry Thielman (1864-1947). He married Minnie Bielfeldt (1878-1942) in 1901. Henry was the vice-president of the German-American Land Company which dealt in sales of southern lands, particularly in Arkansas. Their son, Walter (1903-1959) and his wife Paula (1903-2001) are also interred in the family crypt room, along with their son Loren. Walter owned and operated an airport in Chicago Heights and in Richton Park, known as Governors Air Park. Paula was the last person to be interred in the mausoleum.

Some other Beecher merchants interred in the mausoleum include August Batterman (1877-1917), Arthur Hack (1896-1956) and his wife Esther (1898-1978), Emil (1857-1940) and Louise Koch, and Henry Wehmhoefer (1871-1936) and his wife Augusta. Henry Wehmhoefer operated a garage on the Dixie Highway, was the president of the school board, and became the president of the Farmers State Bank in Beecher. The farming community is also represented in the mausoleum. William Ristenpart (1863-1933) and his wife Hermine (1869-1945) were engaged in farming. William conducted a large-scale thrashing and corn shelling operation on area farms. William was born at sea during his parents' voyage to America from Germany. Another proponent of the Beecher Mausoleum was Henry Hack (1855-1936). He immigrated to the United States in 1864. He married Mary Biefeldt and established the Hack and Son Funeral Parlor in 1912.

The earliest date of birth in the mausoleum belongs to Carl Beseke Sr. (1825-1915). He immigrated to the United States in 1856 from Germany. He was the father to Condrad and Charles, who are also interred in the mausoleum. A Civil War soldier by the name of Joseph Cloidt (1840-1932) is interred in the mausoleum. He built the first grain elevator in Beecher and was in the grain trade with Charles Beseke. The first interment was made in December, 1914; Anna Hack was born in 1862 and died on December 10, 1914. Another interesting burial is that of Harry Kirchoff (1900-1902) and Louise Kirchoff (1858-1912). Harry died of an accidental gunshot before the age of two years old. He was moved into the mausoleum after it was completed along with his father, Louise Kirchoff from the adjacent cemetery. The wife and mother, Carolina (1862-1942) was also interred in the mausoleum.

ARCHITECTURE

The Beecher Mausoleum is representative of a new architectural form: the community mausoleum. This building type was developed in Ohio in the early years of the 1900s. The building's style also represents a period of architecture that reflected permanence by the adaptation of historical precedents from the Classical period. The Beecher Mausoleum is an excellent local example of Neo-Classical, or Classical Revival architecture. Classical architecture experienced a revival in the United States after the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, which featured neoclassical buildings. The Beecher Mausoleum has several characteristics of the style, including the temple front, entablature, and Doric columns. One other Classical Revival building in Beecher was identified in the Illinois Structures Survey, completed in the early 1970s. The property, the First State Bank Building on Gould Street, is still extant. It has had replacement windows and doors installed but otherwise exhibits characteristics of the style. The Beecher Mausoleum better integrity, however, and is a better representative of the style.

The Beecher Mausoleum appears monolithic in its construction with massive stone block walls. It has a formal entrance portico and extensive use of marble in the interior. The interior contains marble cladding on its walls and marble tiled floors. The most striking architectural feature of the mausoleum is the entry portico. It has Doric columns, an arched entry, and carved swags of garland in bas relief. Additional carving is above the portico; it has 1913 carved into a wreath design. Other important architectural features are the clerestory windows and shaped solid trusses on corbels that create the vaulted ceiling in the central hall, and the decorative metal gates on the family crypts.

The building was designed by architect Cecil Bryan. Cecil E. Bryan was born in 1878 in Irving, Illinois. Upon completion of his education, Cecil went to work for Frank Lloyd Wright for one year. He then spent another year working with Ralph Modjeske, a pioneer in the use of reinforced concrete. Cecil Bryan, Sidney Lovell, and Henry Sievert, successfully promoted the community mausoleum movement in the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century. They secured patents for their innovative design methods for drainage and ventillation in their mausoleums. They used reinforced concrete to create fireproof and lasting internal structures that would stand the ravages of time. Several mausoleum companies were incorporated in Ohio and Illinois, and many were absorbed into larger national companies. Bryan and Sievert often found themselves at the center of promoting, or defending, their mausoleum designs within those companies. Cecil Bryan is credited with the design and construction of 80 mausoleums across the United States.

Cecil Bryan was called the "dean of mausoleum builders" by the *Los Angeles Times* upon his death in 1951. His designs included large mausolea in Hillsboro, Rockford, Morris, Moline, Mattoon, and Hinsdale Illinois. Cecil Bryan was a key figure with the National Mausoleum Company which started in Ohio and was later reorganized as the International Mausoleum Company of Chicago. Bryan used the phrase "Build a Better Way" in his promotional literature.

ENGINEERING

The Beecher Mausoleum represents a new method of entombment used by communities in the United States. The community mausoleum movement was developed and promoted primarily by two men named Henry Sievert and Cecil Bryan. The men introduced patents to protect their own methods of construction for ventilation and drainage. Several mausoleum companies were incorporated in Ohio, only to be absorbed into larger national companies and these men were often at the center of promoting, or defending, their mausoleum designs within these companies.

Engineering of public works projects typically involved road and bridge construction and water and sewage services to towns. The community mausoleum was a type of public work that incorporated the highest styles of the period into its engineered form because of the place of honor it held in the community. Not only did the buildings have to reflect respect and posterity, careful consideration had to be made for ventilation, drainage, light, and the general permanence of the buildings.

The Beecher Mausoleum is filled with natural light from the clerestory windows located above the main aisle. This allows the use of the space during the day without electricity. The windows were often composed of art glass which provided an aesthetic commonly found in religious buildings of the period.

One of the key components to the development of the community mausoleum was the introduction of reinforced concrete. The use of formed concrete was an emerging technology applied to construction of bridges, buildings, and other structures beginning at the end of the 19th century. This new technology allowed for the construction of a honeycomb-like structure into which caskets were placed. Unlike the family mausolea, which were almost exclusively constructed with stone, the community mausolea used a vault composed of reinforced concrete to maximize the number of available crypts in the building. The vaults were stacked in rows four to five crypts high, and then had the front of the vault's frame clad with marble. The exterior of the buildings were then covered with granite or limestone. The standardized vault design allowed the mausoleum companies to easily customize their product to the size of the community in which they promoted their product.

Ventilation and drainage were also important engineering components to the buildings that were often included in patents applied for by developers. A drainage system exists beneath the floor. Piping from the system allows fluids from the crypts to be channeled into tanks filled with formaldehyde. Mausoleum builders released formaldehyde gases to kill "all live germs which produce decay in the body" when it was placed into the crypt.[1] The vents in the crypts allowed gas drainage to occur through formaldehyde tanks and lime conduits that disinfected escaping odors. Gases left the building by means of automatic valves and small metal vents in the exterior walls, but not before being disinfected and deodorized. This was considered a new and superior method for mausolea because it allowed the body to "rapidly desiccate without any possibility of becoming a menace or endangering other human lives."[2] .

Additional supportive history

The Village of Beecher was established by a Chicagoan named T. K. Lathrop Miller in 1870. He had purchased several hundred acres of farmland during the 1860s. He later created the plat of Beecher in response to the Chicago, Danville, and Vincennes Railroad's construction that began through the site in 1869. Miller named the town in honor of famed orator Henry Ward Beecher. The town experienced steady growth, primarily due to the railroad, into the beginning of the 20th century. Even before the railroad era began to decline, an important automobile thoroughfare was routed through Beecher from

[1] Jenkins, pg. 646
[2] Jenkins 646-647

Chicago to Florida on Illinois Route 1, known then as the Dixie Highway. This greatly expanded business opportunities to the east side of town during the first half of the 20th century. The first large public works project was the construction of a waterworks system in 1911.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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"Crown Point's Mausoleum" June 7, 1912
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"Now Ready for Visitors" February 27, 1914
"Mausoleum Dedicated" June 19, 1914
"Notice-Damaged Glass" September 30, 1937

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Bryan, Cecil E., "*Mausoleums*", speech delivered at the AACS proceedings of the 43rd annual convention, Los Angeles, CA. September, 1929.

Bryan, Cecil E. Inc., Community Mausoleums. The Franklin Company: Chicago, 1917.

Chicago Heights Star newspaper, 1912-2001.

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State of Illinois Association Registration Documents

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Souvenir of Settlement and Progress of Will County, Ill. Chicago Historical Directory Publishing Co: 1884

Web-Site: www.beechermausoleum.org webmaster: Sandra Lee Thielman

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register

____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
__x__ Other
Name of repository: ___Beecher Herald_____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

9. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: 41.336909 Longitude: 87.618870

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Commencing at a point Twenty Eight feet (28 feet) South from the South East Corner of the West One Half (W ½) of the North West Quarter (NW ¼) of the North East Quarter (NE ¼), running thence West Forty Five Feet (45 feet), thence South Eighty Feet (80 feet) thence East One Hundred Fifty Feet (150) thence North One Hundred Eight Feet (108 feet), thence West Forty Five Feet (45 feet), thence in a South Westerly direction Sixty Feet (60 feet) more or less to the place of beginning, all in Section Twenty One (21) Township Thirty Three (33) North Range Fourteen (14) East of the Third Principal Meridian situated in the Township of Washington in the County of Will in the State of Illinois.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary described above represents the original legally recorded boundary lines for the Beecher Mausoleum association. It includes the building and its site on the edge of St. Lucas' Cemetery.

10. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Kurt West Garner, consultant, and Sandra Lee Thielman, President
Organization: Beecher Mausoleum Association
Street & number: 7416 Algonquin Road
City or town: Wonder Lake state: IL zip code: 60097
E-mail sandra@beechermausoleum.org
Telephone: 815-788-9710
Date: February 9, 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Beecher Mausoleum

City or Vicinity: Beecher

Beecher Mausoleum
Name of Property

Will County, Illinois
County and State

County: Will State: Illinois

Photographer: Kurt West Garner

Date Photographed: January 31, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 9. Exterior, looking southwest

2 of 9. Exterior, looking south at front wall from S. Hillcrest Drive

3 of 9. Exterior, looking south at front entry portico

4 of 9. Exterior, looking northeast

5 of 9. Exterior, looking northwest

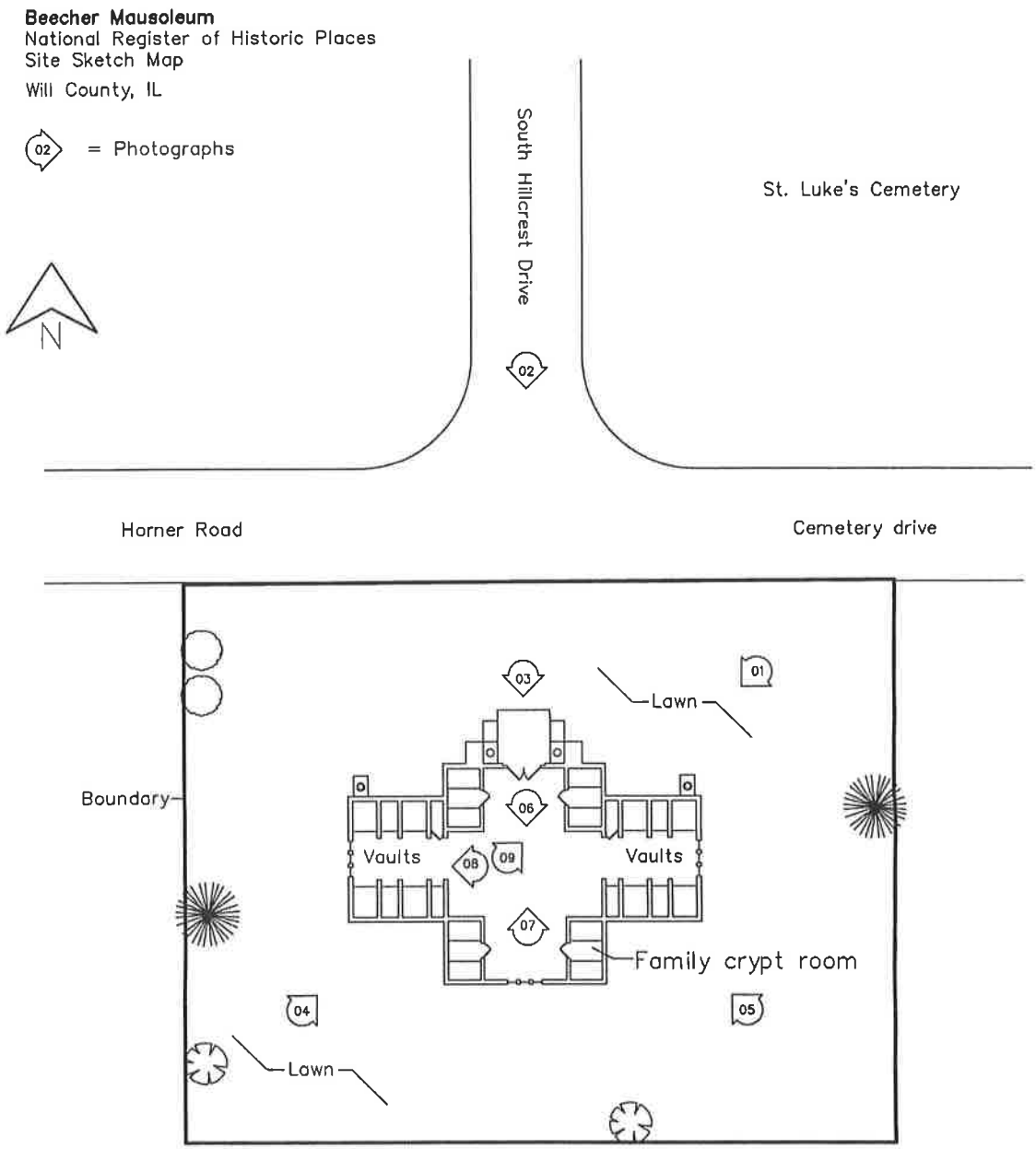
6 of 9. Interior, looking south at back wall in the central hall

7 of 9. Interior, looking north at front wall in the central hall

8 of 9. Interior, looking west into west wing

9 of 9. Interior, looking northeast at family crypt room

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.


Beecher Mausoleum
National Register of Historic Places
Site Sketch Map
Will County, IL
02 = Photographs
N
South Hillcrest Drive
St. Luke's Cemetery
02
Horner Road
Cemetery drive
03
01
Lawn
Boundary
06
Vaults
08
09
Vaults
07
Family crypt room
04
05
Lawn

Beecher Mausoleum
Will County, IL Coordinates 41.336909° -87.618870°

Google earth

feet 1000
meters 300

HILL COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARK
RICHARD MAUSOLEUM
CONSTRUCTED 1914
CHANDLER ARCHE, RESTORATION PROJECT
(817) 2281528 (817) 9667337

1913

THIELMAN