

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Final

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

68

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: Oak Hill Cemetery

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: 935 East Washington Street

City or town: Lebanon State: IN County: Boone

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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

	<u>1-29-2014</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u>	
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

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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:)

[Signature] *Edson H. Bell* *3-26-14*
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: STONE: Granite

STONE: Limestone

roof: ASPHALT

other: _____

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

Oak Hill Cemetery is located at 935 East Washington Street in Lebanon, Indiana. Lebanon is the county seat of Boone County and is located northwest of Indianapolis. Originally established in 1872 as Rodefer Cemetery, Oak Hill Cemetery contains many noteworthy examples of Victorian funerary art and illustrates the transformation from a formal garden design cemetery into the lawn-park cemetery and, later, the memorial park approach to cemetery design. Many prominent Lebanon residents including founders of the city and past city officials are buried in Oak Hill. The cemetery encompasses a total of 115 acres of which thirty six acres are currently plotted and includes just under fifteen thousand grave sites¹. There are three historic buildings in the cemetery – the William L. Powell Chapel completed in 1930, the ranch style limestone office building built in 1955, and an English barn that houses the cemetery's burial and maintenance equipment. The new mausoleum, completed in 1986, is a non-

¹Oak Hill Cemetery Association, Inc., *Cemetery Ledger*, document that contains the updated total number of interments within the cemetery (2012).

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contributing building. The cemetery contains six contributing structures: the main gate, the north gate, the original mausoleum, the Metzger Mausoleum, the Heath Mausoleum, and the Stokes Mausoleum. There are no non-contributing structures. The cemetery contains three contributing objects of note: the Rice sarcophagus, the Ulen sarcophagus, and the Lord's Prayer monument. In addition, there are other objects and funerary markers that are counted as part of the one contributing site.

Narrative Description

Oak Hill Cemetery is characterized by its relatively flat, pastoral landscape with grave markers and winding pathways (contributing site). The site encompasses the three types of cemetery design found with Oak Hill ranging from a formal pattern, to lawn-park and, more recently, the memorial park approach. The pathways are meant for both pedestrians and vehicular passage. Wooded acreage lines the southern border of the cemetery. There are a variety of mature tree species located within the oldest sections of the cemetery (sections 1-28) giving shade to those on foot. The cemetery surrounds the now abandoned Midland Railroad right-of-way that runs east and west directly through the center of the site as a pathway.

Each section in the cemetery is given a number (1-39) or the letters A or B to denote the area in which a burial is located, each marked by a small limestone square. Some of the larger sections, such as section 37, are further divided by north and south.

The original cemetery entrance (photo 0002) is marked by an Arts and Crafts stone gate, located off of East Washington Street that was commissioned by C.F.S. Neal in 1905. This entrance is the simpler of the cemetery's two entries being composed of four cobblestone tapered piers with pyramidal caps. Half height walls having a slight curve attach to the east and west sides of the gate. The cobblestone construction and the gate's simple form give this entrance its Arts and Crafts character.

This entrance heads directly south into the original rectangular Rodefer Cemetery. This portion is approximately one-fifth of the total area of Oak Hill and is notable for its formal garden organization. Sections are laid out in a grid pattern with roads and grass pathways dividing the sections on north-south and east-west axes. The entrance road heads directly south into the center of the land purchased by Samuel Rodefer in 1872, including sections 1-18. An English barn (photo 0007) located in the northeast corner of the Rodefer section was constructed between 1910 and 1920 to support the operation of the cemetery. A lower wing has been added to its south end and the barn has been sided with metal although the original wood siding remains beneath the metal. Despite the siding, the barn still clearly conveys its service function.

The cemetery's current main entrance (photo 0001) is located on East Main Street on the west side of Oak Hill. It is marked by a Romanesque Revival archway. The archway is composed of two tall rock face stone piers flanking the arch whose voussoirs are of smooth limestone. "Oakhill" is spelled out with one letter in each voussoir in raised relief. A frieze with dentils and a cornice surmount the arch and extend into each pier. Segments of the piers extend above the cornice and are terminated by flared capstones and crenelated crowns. A crenelated parapet spans the distance between the two pier segments. To the south of the arch a shorter, free

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standing pier defines a pedestrian passage through the gate. Both the main arch and the pedestrian passage have iron gates that were donated and constructed in 1961.²

To the north and south of the main entrance lies the area known as "Babyland"³ and section 30. The William L. Powell Chapel (photo 0003), completed in 1930, is located directly ahead.

The main drive leads past the chapel toward the Rodefer sections or around section 30 to the southern parts of Oak Hill. While the Rodefer sections are formally laid out, the sections to the south of the abandoned rail line are characterized by long, arcing curved roadways separating large sections of lawn. Trees and shrubs are located randomly, mostly around the perimeter drives leaving the sections largely open (photo 0022). The southern border of the cemetery is defined by a heavy tree line that follows Prairie Creek.

A portion of the southeastern part of the cemetery that is located in sections 33 A and B has been designated as a Memorial Park (photo 0023) and represents a more recent approach to cemetery design. In this section burials are arranged in rows running diagonally from northwest to southeast and individual grave markers are flush with the ground. Two monuments – the Lord's Prayer Monument (photo 0023) and a larger-than-life image of Christ (photo 0010) – serve as memorials for the park.

The Site

As stated, the entire 36 acre cemetery containing approximately 15,000 grave markers, the formal and meandering roadways, landscape elements and those items not specifically identified as objects constitute the one contributing site. Among the artifacts included as part of the site are a sundial given in 1907 by C.F.S. Neal in memory of his mother (photo 0008), a buhrstone that came from Crose's water powered grist mill, also given by Neal (photo 0009), an over-life size statue of Jesus Christ, and the veteran's memorial located in section 33B on the west side of the cemetery (photo 0024).

Chapel

Entering the cemetery from East Main Street, you encounter the William L. Powell Chapel immediately (photo 0003). It is oriented northeast to southwest and was designed by R. J. Pfeiffer, a Lebanon resident, and completed in 1930 by Donaldson & Company⁴. It is cruciform in plan and has bearing walls made of rock face pink granite set in an ashlar pattern. Cast concrete water tables and trim accent the granite.

The building is designed in a simplified Late Gothic style that was in vogue in the years before World War II. Its façade is organized around a 3-stage projecting bell tower with diagonal buttresses at its corners. A pointed arch entrance, approached by a short flight of stairs, fills the width of the base of the tower and rises almost to the height of an attic level that is marked by a limestone molding. A pedimental parapet rises above the gabled roof and intersects the tower just below its top two stages. Two narrow windows set in a quoined limestone surrounds are the only other openings in the solid façade wall.

² Oak Hill Cemetery Association, Inc., "Our Heritage in Oak Hill Cemetery."

³ "Babyland" is a section dedicated solely to infants who did not live to childhood.

⁴ Derek Clay, "Powell Chapel Renovation Possible," *The Lebanon Reporter*, 29 December 2000.

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The side elevations are each pierced by four rectangular openings that have limestone sills and lintels. The glass within the steel window frames is the original light-to-dark amber glass. Two wall buttresses are evenly spaced on each elevation between the front wall and the transepts. A port cochère extends from the south transept.

The rear elevation contains fifty-six chambers that hold cremated remains. Two windows with a floral stained glass design also appear on this elevation along with a granite plaque inscribed with the verses of a hymn by Adelaide A. Procter.

The interior of the chapel (photo 0004) contains a flat ceilinged sanctuary with four pendant light fixtures. There are nine chambers used by families waiting for burial that are accessed from inside the building.

Cemetery Office

The cemetery office (photo 0006) is a ranch style limestone building constructed in 1955. It has an asphalt shingle hip roof and wide eaves. The building is symmetrical with double hung, aluminum cased windows on either side of the aluminum cased front door. The building was made possible through a bequest of Harry Bohannon (1876-1939) who is buried in the cemetery.

Public Mausoleums

The original mausoleum (photo 0003), adjacent to the chapel, was the first of two to be built in the cemetery and has sixty-four compartments. The cube shaped structure is constructed from the same granite as the chapel and trimmed with moonlight gray granite. Its north and south elevations contain granite art panels with the text "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" while the east and west elevations provide access to the individual crypts.

The new mausoleum, completed in 1986, (photo 0005) sits just south of the abandoned rail line in section 33B. Two sections of ashlar limestone flank a dark glass wall segment which contains the entrance to the interior crypts while polished granite end walls contain the exterior crypts. A gabled roof that runs perpendicular to the limestone and glass primary elevation extends in front of the entrance to form a portico supported by two tall, simple columns.

Family Mausoleums

The cemetery contains several family mausoleums and larger monuments that contribute to its collection of funerary art. The Stokes mausoleum (photo 0015) is in the form of a primitive temple with four un-fluted Doric columns supporting the rock face slabs of stone that form its pedimented roof. Four graves stacked under this canopy form the cella of the temple. The simple form of the mausoleum and rough textured stone convey an ancient, pre-classical quality.

The S. S. Heath mausoleum (photo 0014), the largest of the family mausolea, stands in contrast to the rugged simplicity of the Stokes monument. This tall cubical block is made of smooth cut stone. The crisp edges of its diagonal corner buttresses and its simple cornice yield an almost streamline appearance that contrasts with the more traditional treatment of the bronze double entry doors. It is unclear how many individual tombs are located within.

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The Metzger mausoleum (photo 0013) is made of gray granite and holds four sets of remains. Its metal grill that stands slightly in front of the individual burials, rounded corners, simple urns, and stylized chisel cuts give it an Art Deco sensibility.

Two sarcophagi are particularly noteworthy for their fine design. The Luther V. Rice monument (photo 0012) is an elegantly proportioned rectangular volume in granite resting on a stepped pedestal.⁵ The face of the piece simply features the deceased's name. The Ulen sarcophagus (photo 0011) containing the remains of both Henry Charles and Mary Matilda Ulen is a simpler rectangular block that relies on delicate incised detail to enrich it.⁶

Victorian era Grave Markers

The cemetery displays a rich variety of smaller scale, good examples of nineteenth century grave markers (photos 0016-0023). Obelisks have a long association with memorialization and notions of eternity and are particularly prevalent in the oldest sections of Oak Hill. Examples of traditional obelisks and Victorian variations of the form can be seen in photos 0016 and 0020. Classical columns, like obelisks, often are monumental in scale and therefore achieve prominence within a cemetery landscape. The thirty foot column of Virginia red granite seen in photo 0020 is said to have come from Chicago's old city hall.⁷ Another columnar monument of Virginia granite stands ten feet in height and is surmounted by a bronze bust of the deceased (photo 0021), the work of Clara Barth Leonard, an Indianapolis sculptress.⁸

Figurative sculpture also played an important role in Victorian funerary art. The Lockhart burial marker displays a classically inspired female figure with downturned head mourning the departed. She holds a wreath, a common symbol of victory over death. The gravestone of Samuel S. Doyle (photo 0017) includes a sculpted Civil War soldier pointing his rifle into the distance. That image, which is a copy of the 13th Michigan Infantry Monument at Chickamauga National Battlefield near Chattanooga Tennessee, honors Doyle's service in the Union Army during the war.

Many grave markers employ symbolism that was commonly recognized and understood during the Victorian era and early twentieth century. Hands in various positions can be found on a number of grave markers. The clasped hands seen in the gravestone in photo 0025 likely symbolizes eternal friendship or eternal love and was often used on the graves of married couples. The drapery that appears on other grave markers was a common symbol of mourning. There are a number of tree stump tombstones which were prevalent at the turn of the century across the United States. The grave marker in photo 0019 represents a tree stump, sometimes

⁵ The Ferris wheel is a staple at most fairs and amusement parks today. The first Ferris wheel was invented for Chicago's Columbian Exposition of 1893 by George W. G. Ferris. Luther Rice was hired as the engineer supervising construction of the wheel and would later act as the operator. Rice was only three years out of engineering school at the time but proved himself with this first major project. At the end of the Exposition, Rice was entrusted with disassembling the wheel and moving it to its second location in St. Louis in 1904.

⁶ Henry Ulen organized the American Light and Water Company and was an influential member of the Lebanon community. In the 1920s, after amassing a fortune in business, he built an estate for himself as the centerpiece of the tiny town of Ulen. The town of Ulen is a model community the engineer tycoon envisioned as a mini utopia inside the Lebanon city limits. Katie Maurer, "Living in History: Couple Makes Home in the Ulen Mansion Built by Town's Founder", *Indianapolis Business Journal*, August 2010.

⁷ Ralph W. Stark, "Lebanon's Oak Hill Cemetery: Its History and Points of Interest," vol. 6, *Boone Magazine*, August 1979.

⁸ Leonard achieved statewide recognition for her talent as a sculptor. Demarchus C. Brown, "Editorials," *The Indiana Quarterly Magazine of History*, vol. 5, January 1908, 147.

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a reference to a life cut short, wrapped in ivy, a symbol of immortality. It also displays an open book, often a reference to the Christian Bible and an anchor that symbolizes hope.

Recent Grave Markers

Many grave markers from the later twentieth century are simpler and smaller in scale than their earlier counterparts (photo 0022). The Memorial Park was designated in sections 33A and B in 1954 and mandated that all markers be flush with the ground (photo 0023).

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery

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- 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.)

Art

Landscape architecture

Period of Significance

1872-1955

Significant Dates

1872

1903

1930

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Pfeiffer, R.J.

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the cemetery's establishment in 1872 as Rodefer Cemetery and ends in 1955 when the last contributing building (the office) was built.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Oak Hill Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register for its significant collection of funerary art. It also is eligible as an example of changes in cemetery design from the formal garden layout represented by the Rodefer section to the lawn-park approach pioneered by Adolph Strauch at Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati. More recently, Oak Hill has been witness to the memorial park approach that encourages grave markers flush with the ground has been employed.

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.)

Oak Hill Cemetery, founded in 1872, contains Lebanon, Indiana's most notable collection of funerary art. Included in the collection are several family mausoleums and numerous grave markers that reflect artistic styles ranging from a Victorian taste for rustic/primitive design to Classical and Art Deco influenced work. Many of the grave markers incorporate a rich body of symbolism that was valued by Lebanon families as a way of memorializing their loved ones. The cemetery also is significant for its landscape design which transitions from the formal, symmetrical layout of the oldest section to the more natural, lawn-park approach developed in the second half of the nineteenth century and popular into the twentieth century.

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

Cemetery Art

Oak Hill Cemetery boasts a variety of different types of funerary art that are typical of the late 19th century. As the primary burial ground during the Victorian era in Lebanon, it is not surprising that the cemetery amassed a significant collection of Victorian funerary art. Popular shapes and styles represented in the oldest sections of Oak Hill include obelisks, tablets, and statuary grave markers. In addition to their overall form, many of these markers incorporate symbolism that was meaningful to Lebanon residents of the period. One notable example is the obelisk. The ancient Egyptian form was popular due to its association with a culture renowned for its focus on funerary practices and because it was relatively inexpensive to produce. A variety of obelisk types can be seen at Oak Hill Cemetery ranging from simple obelisks to those with elaborate carvings of draped cloths and vases such as Talitha Rodefer's monument. That monument stands twelve feet high and is crowned by a draped urn of stone imported from Italy.

Many of the Victorian-era grave markers include beautiful statuary and elaborate carvings. Graves of young children were often marked with the figure of an angel or lamb (photo 0017). Tree stump gravestones were often associated with members of the fraternal organization

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known as Woodmen of the World.⁹ While tree stump tombstones are found throughout the country they were very popular in Indiana. In his article titled "Investigating the Tree-Stump Tombstones in Indiana", Warren E. Roberts notes "mixed in local cemeteries among the simpler stones of an earlier era and the chaste, almost severe tombstones of contemporary times, one finds jutting skywards these almost exuberant memorials which date from 1890-1920."¹⁰

While the overall shape of grave markers in many cases has symbolic meaning, many of the gravestones in Oak Hill Cemetery also have symbols that reveal additional information about the people for whom they were erected. Hands in various positions were a common symbol in nineteenth century grave art. A hand with one finger pointing upward symbolizes the deceased person's belief in a higher power and is meant to indicate his or her ascent to heaven. A hand holding a heart is meant to represent the person's generosity and charitable nature. Two hands clasped together usually indicates marriage or a close bond between individuals, showing unity and affection even after death. Clasped hands are also symbolic of a farewell or last good-bye. The person who died first holds the other's hand, guiding the recently departed to heaven.

Markers with the relief of a book or scroll are meant to represent the Bible, and indicate a person's strong faith in God. Gravestones that incorporate the carved representation of drapery symbolize mourning or sorrow, indicating that the deceased left behind family members who grieved their death.

Relief carving depicting three interlocked links of chain with the letters FLT (friendship, love, and truth) denote the fact that the deceased was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. That symbol is found on a number of Oak Hill graves as is the masonic symbol of the letter G placed within a compass and square.

Landscape Architecture

Oak Hill Cemetery demonstrates changing views in cemetery design illustrated by the Rodefer Cemetery layout (sections 1-28) with its formal garden design, sections 29-39 laid out according to the looser, more natural lawn-park aesthetic, and more recently the memorial park approach employed in sections 33A and 33B. The original plot of Rodefer Cemetery comprises a formalized garden design of symmetrically arranged plots and a grid-like circulation pattern.

The urban cemetery that utilized formal garden design started in the 18th century in the U.S. Communities that moved away from traditional religious burial grounds utilized a style that incorporated "elements of eighteenth century English gardens, American domestic graveyards, and the flowering orchards of the surrounding countryside."¹¹ The first of this type was developed in New Haven, Connecticut in 1796 offering a burial ground for all citizens of the community regardless of their faith. The 1796 New Haven Burial Ground, which replaced an earlier, smaller cemetery, had a grid layout which stemmed "from a central roadway at the entrance" with a geometric design which emphasized "the regularity and stability of the institution."¹² In an interesting parallel, Oak Hill replaced Lebanon's first burial location, Cedar

⁹Jessie L. Farber, "Symbolism on Gravestones", <http://www.gravestonestudies.org/faq.htm> (2005), (accessed June 2012).

¹⁰Warren E. Roberts, "Investigating the Tree-Stump Tombstone in Indiana". *American Material Culture and Folklife: A Prologue and Dialogue* (1985), 137.

¹¹David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991), 32.

¹² *Ibid*, 32.

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Hill, and was located on the outskirts of the town to allow for growth. The original, Rodefer section of Oak Hill cemetery follows the formal garden design plan which utilized geometric plans and traditional urban forms and is illustrative of early cemetery landscape design in the United States.

Despite the universal appeal of rural cemeteries, by the 1850s they had become difficult to maintain as well as congested and overcrowded. In his book *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*, David Charles Sloane explains that "as a result of the criticism, the cemetery was refashioned, with a more formal, less picturesque design, which mirrored that of the new suburban parks and middle-class suburbs."¹³ In 1855 Adolph Strauch, a gardener at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, pioneered the landscape lawn plan, which limited marker size, thinned trees and dramatically opened up the landscape.¹⁴ Today, Strauch is considered to be the founder of the modern cemetery. Lawn-park cemeteries, characterized by their open plan, winding pathways, and sparse foliage, continued to grow in popularity through the end of the 19th century. The Strauch design de-emphasized the placement of larger monuments with the art of the landscape taking precedence. The lawn-park design and increased technological improvements in lawn care necessitated the need for cemetery maintenance with a superintendent. Cemetery superintendents were responsible for maintaining the cemetery to the park-like standards.¹⁵

With its path system, sparsely planted trees and open, grassy spaces, sections 29-39 at Oak Hill Cemetery follow the lawn-park style. In the sections of the cemetery plotted from 1900, the visitor begins to see more uniform headstones and sprawling grassy knolls, with less foliage. The circulation pattern features winding pathways with larger, uniquely sized sections. While in the original Rodefer plot burials are placed in neat rows, gravestones in the lawn-park sections are placed irregularly following the contours of the roads and walkways. Gravestones are closer to the ground than in the formal garden, Victorian section. The construction of the barn during this period (1910-1920) is most likely in response to the practice of hiring a cemetery superintendent which would require storage for lawn mowers and maintenance equipment.

The addition of Memorial Park at Oak Hill in 1954 represents an approach to cemetery landscape popularized during the first half of the 20th century. Dr. Hubert Eaton took the lawn-park to this next stage in Glendale, California (Forest Lawn). Eaton's design at Forest Lawn required "memorial tablets to be flush with the ground, thus making lawn care more economical and giving greater prominence to the park-like landscape."¹⁶ Cemeteries adopted the memorial park ideal in the 1920s and 1930s but in the years following World War II the memorial park design dominated the cemetery landscape.¹⁷ The memorial park created an egalitarian burial ground where the standard size of monuments and gravestones created a community where every burial was treated equally.¹⁸ A centralized, large monument also highlighted the sense of community and allowed management control over the size, design, and location of such a monument.¹⁹

¹³Sloane, 97.

¹⁴Ibid., 97.

¹⁵Sloane, 110.

¹⁶Kenneth T. Jackson and Camilo José Vergara, "Silent Cities: The Evolution of the American Cemetery," (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1989), 28.

¹⁷ Ibid., 29.

¹⁸ Sloane, 161.

¹⁹Ibid., 166.

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Oak Hill's memorial park illustrates many of the common design features promoted by Eaton's design for the memorial park landscape. When added in 1954, it allowed up to 4200 graves in two sections. In sections 33A and 33B, gravestone tablets are flush to the ground and are placed in neat, organized rows, making it easier for lawn care and maintenance. Common, centralized monuments are placed at central points within the memorial park landscape for all to enjoy; these include an eight foot plaque with Lord's prayer in section A and a over life size statue of Jesus Christ in section B. The addition of the memorial park at Oak Hill within the larger lawn-park landscape demonstrates the desire for the contemporary styles of landscape design within the primary burial ground in Lebanon.²⁰

As the predominate burial ground at the turn of the century, Oak Hill demonstrates the changes in landscape design found throughout Victorian and early 20th century cemeteries in the United States. It is the best example of formal garden, lawn-park, and memorial park cemetery landscape designs in Lebanon, Indiana.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

The City of Lebanon was officially established on April 30, 1830 by two men named General James Perry Drake and Colonel George L. Kinnard from the state capitol. Lebanon became the county seat of Boone County in 1832 and was a thriving city soon after.²¹

When the founders of Lebanon mapped the town into streets and lots, they designated a knoll on what is now North Park Street as a public burial ground. The first burial at the old cemetery was in 1832 but the cemetery was without a formal name until 1907. Christened "Cedar Hill", the cemetery was used until 1872. Cedar Hill Cemetery was the final resting place for many founders of Lebanon as well as veterans and casualties from both the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

By the mid-to-late 19th century, Cedar Hill had fallen into disrepair and there were a limited number of burial plots remaining. Recognizing the need for a new cemetery, Samuel Rodefer purchased land at what is now Oak Hill Cemetery to meet the expanding city's needs. Ralph W. Stark, a Lebanon businessman and active conservationist and archivist, estimated of the approximately 800 interments at Cedar Hill Cemetery, 150-200 bodies were moved.²² Unfortunately due to poor record keeping and time, the exact number of relocated graves is not known. James McCann (1785-1870) was a founder of Lebanon who was later removed from Cedar Hill and relocated in Oak Hill Cemetery.²³

Though Cedar Hill was restored in the early 1900s, it once again fell into disrepair in the early 1950s. In 1954, city council members recognized the lack of space and poor upkeep. They had all of the headstones removed and Cedar Hill was converted into a park now known as "James Hill Memorial Park".²⁴ The park is still very much a part of the community and is provided for by the City of Lebanon's Park Department.

²⁰ "Oak Hill Developing Large Memorial Park," *The Lebanon Reporter*, September 1953.

²¹ "Lebanon Indiana: The Friendly City", <http://www.cityoflebanon.org> (accessed June 2012).

²² "As many as 1000 may lie buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery," *The Lebanon Reporter*, 2 April 1993.

²³ Rosemary Peterman & Marilyn Walker, ed., *The Lebanon Reporter*, 2 April 1993.

²⁴ "City Cemeteries Serve as Historical Markers," *The Lebanon Reporter*, 14 March 1964.

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The abandoned track of the Midland Railway Company runs directly through Oak Hill Cemetery. The Central Indiana Railway was first envisioned on July 3, 1871 as the Anderson, Lebanon & St. Louis Railroad during a meeting in Lebanon. On June 14, 1877 the first passenger train was run but changes in the railway's ownership slowed progress greatly.²⁵ Four years later in December, 1881, the name was changed to the Cleveland, Indiana & St. Louis, which once again changed after reorganizing into the Midland Railway Company on July 7, 1885. By 1943, the track between Lebanon and Advance was abandoned leaving only the railway from Anderson to Lebanon.²⁶ The now out of use track runs east and west directly through the middle of Oak Hill Cemetery. The tracks are no longer in place, but it has turned into a grassy path pedestrians can use to meander through the cemetery. During the railway's use, the track formed the southern boundary of Rodefer Cemetery. Once abandoned, the cemetery expanded into Sections 28-39 which are to the south.

Grave Torpedoes

Between 1865 and 1890 the number of medical schools in the United States almost doubled leading to a need for more cadavers to study. Many states only permitted the bodies of executed criminals to be used for dissection and churches also objected to the use of cadavers.²⁷ One avenue for medical schools to obtain bodies was through black market business with grave robbers. Some people who believed that graves needed protection from this vandalism resorted to placing explosives – grave torpedoes – within the gravesite.

The practice of setting grave torpedoes within gravesites had some vogue in the last two or three decades of the 19th century. On December 20, 1881, former probate judge, Thomas N. Howell of Circleville, Ohio, received a patent for an exploding shell that was buried underground above a coffin.²⁸ Tradition has it that at least one of these devices was buried atop a casket in Oak Hill. Whether by purpose or accident, there are no known records of where these explosives have been placed.²⁹

Significant People Buried at Oak Hill Cemetery

Significant individuals buried in Oak Hill Cemetery include notable local, statewide, and national civic and business leaders:

William M. Smith (1807-1877), one of Lebanon's first settlers who arrived in the year 1833 and kept the town's first hotel and tavern.

Samuel Rodefer (1817-1901) founded the cemetery in 1872, sold his land to Oak Hill Cemetery Association in 1899, and was buried in Oak Hill in 1901. His wife, Talitha (1831-1866), also buried in Oak Hill, has a monument that stands twelve feet in height that is crowned with a draped urn that was imported from Italy.

²⁵Roger P. Hensley, "The Central Indiana Railway: A History in Brief," <http://madisonrails.railfan.net/cirwy.html>, (1994), (accessed July 2012).

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷*History Detectives: Cemetery Alarms*, PBS, 2009, DVD.

²⁸T. N. Howell, "Grave Torpedoes", www.google.com/patents/USRE9719.pdf (May 1881), (accessed July 2012).

²⁹Ralph W. Stark, "Lebanon's Oak Hill Cemetery: Its History and Points of Interest," vol. 6, *Boone Magazine*, August 1979.

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Samuel M. Ralston (1857-1925) practiced law in Lebanon in 1886 and was elected governor of Indiana in 1912. He was able to declare Indiana debt free for the first time in eighty-two years. He died serving as a United States Senator representing Indiana.

Henry Clay Ulen (1872-1963) organized the American Light and Water Company which later became the Ulen Contracting Corporation. Executive offices were in Chicago and New York with a branch office in Paris, France. He built the town of Ulen, located within the Lebanon city limits as his own private utopia, complete with its own private golf course and club.

Henry Lane Hazelrigg (1841-1865) was Captain of a Company in the 10th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was killed in the SS Sultana disaster on April 27, 1865.³⁰

³⁰Stephen Ambrose, "Remembering *Sultana*", http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2001/05/0501_river5.html, May 1, 2001, (accessed June 2012). The SS Sultana was a steamboat that was carrying 2,300 newly-released Union prisoners of war, along with other crew and civilian passengers back home. On April 27, 1865, the steamboat, only seven miles north of Memphis Tennessee, exploded and sank. Approximately 1,700 people perished, making this the worst maritime disaster in United States History, more so than the RMS Titanic disaster in 1912.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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
 Other
Name of repository: Oak Hill Cemetery Association, Inc.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 011-349-28081

Oak Hill Cemetery
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 36

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 546178	Northing: 4433276
2. Zone: 16	Easting: 546746	Northing: 4433264
3. Zone: 16	Easting: 546746	Northing: 4432788
4. Zone: 16	Easting: 546182	Northing: 4432764

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

The point of origin is located at the northeast corner of the St. Joseph's Cemetery at the south right of way of East Washington Street. The boundary heads east following the south right of way of East Washington Street to a point directly north of the east edge of sections 8, 9, 16, and 17 of Oak Hill Cemetery. The boundary turns south and follows the east edge of said sections until it reaches a point directly north of the north edge of section 40. The boundary turns east and follows a line north of the north edge of sections 40 and 38 until it reaches the northeast corner of section 38. The boundary turns south and follows the east edge of sections 38 and 39 to the southeast corner of the Oak Hill Cemetery property. The boundary turns west and follows the edge of Prairie Creek as it curves around sections 32A and 33B to the point where it intersects the east edge of the Oak Hill Cemetery property. The boundary travels directly north 430 feet to reach the northwest corner of the property. From this point, the boundary heads east 670 feet to reach the western boundary of St. Joseph's Cemetery. The boundary turns south and follows the perimeter of St. Joseph Cemetery south, then east, then north until it reaches the point or origin.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the site correspond to the boundaries of the plotted burial sections which comprise the cemetery.

Oak Hill Cemetery
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lara Olinger, Historic Preservation Intern/Rebecca Smith, Community Preservation Specialist
organization: Indiana Landmarks
street & number: 1201 Central Ave.
city or town: Indianapolis state: IN zip code: 46202
e-mail central@indianalandmarks.org
telephone: 317-639-4534
date: August 10, 2012

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 3000x2000 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: Oak Hill Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Lebanon
County: Boone State: Indiana
Photographer: Lara Olinger
Date Photographed: July 2012
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Description of Photograph: Main entry gate, camera facing east
1 of 25

Oak Hill Cemetery

Boone County, IN

Name of Property

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Description of Photograph: East Washington Street gate, camera facing north
2 of 25

Description of Photograph: William L. Powell Chapel, camera facing southeast
3 of 25

Description of Photograph: Chapel interior, camera facing northwest
4 of 25

Description of Photograph: New mausoleum, camera facing southeast
5 of 25

Description of Photograph: Cemetery office, camera facing northeast
6 of 25

Description of Photograph: English barn, camera facing east
7 of 25

Description of Photograph: Sundial, camera facing north
8 of 25

Description of Photograph: Buhrstone, camera facing northeast
9 of 25

Description of Photograph: Section 33B with statue of Jesus, camera facing west
10 of 25

Description of Photograph: Ulen sarcophagus, camera facing east
11 of 25

Description of Photograph: Leonard Rice sarcophagus, camera facing south
12 of 25

Description of Photograph: Metzger mausoleum, camera facing northwest
13 of 25

Description of Photograph: S.S. Heath mausoleum, camera facing northwest
14 of 25

Description of Photograph: Stokes mausoleum, camera facing southwest
15 of 25

Description of Photograph: Hazelrigg obelisks, camera facing east
16 of 25

Description of Photograph: Lamb gravestones, camera facing east
17 of 25

Description of Photograph: Civil War sharpshooter gravestone, camera facing south

Oak Hill Cemetery

Boone County, IN
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Name of Property

18 of 25

Description of Photograph Tree stump tombstone, camera facing east

19 of 25

Description of Photograph: Section 10 with Pinnell obelisk and the Chicago City Hall column, camera facing southwest

20 of 25

Description of Photograph: Virginia granite column gravestone, camera facing northwest

21 of 25

Description of Photograph: contemporary gravestones, camera facing southeast

22 of 25

Description of Photograph: Memorial Park with Lord's Prayer monument, camera facing southwest

23 of 25

Description of Photograph: Veterans' Memorial, camera facing southwest

24 of 25

Description of Photograph: Obelisk gravestone with clasped hands symbol, camera facing north

25 of 25

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.

OAK HILL CEMETERY

LEBANON, INDIANA
BOONE COUNTY

39

32A

37S

STOKES MAUSOLEUM

CS

36

MEMORIAL PARK
33B

S.S. HEATH MAUSOLEUM

ULEN SARCOPHAGUS

RICE SARCOPHAGUS

MEMORIAL PARK
33A

LORD'S PRAYER

37N

35

33

38

MAUSOLEUM

MIDLAND RAILROAD

40

34S

NB

* MAP NOT DRAWN TO SCALE *

17

18

19

20

24

23

34N

LEGEND

— Paved road

▪▪▪ Grass pathway

--- District boundary

17 Name of section

Photo indicating direction of camera

North arrow

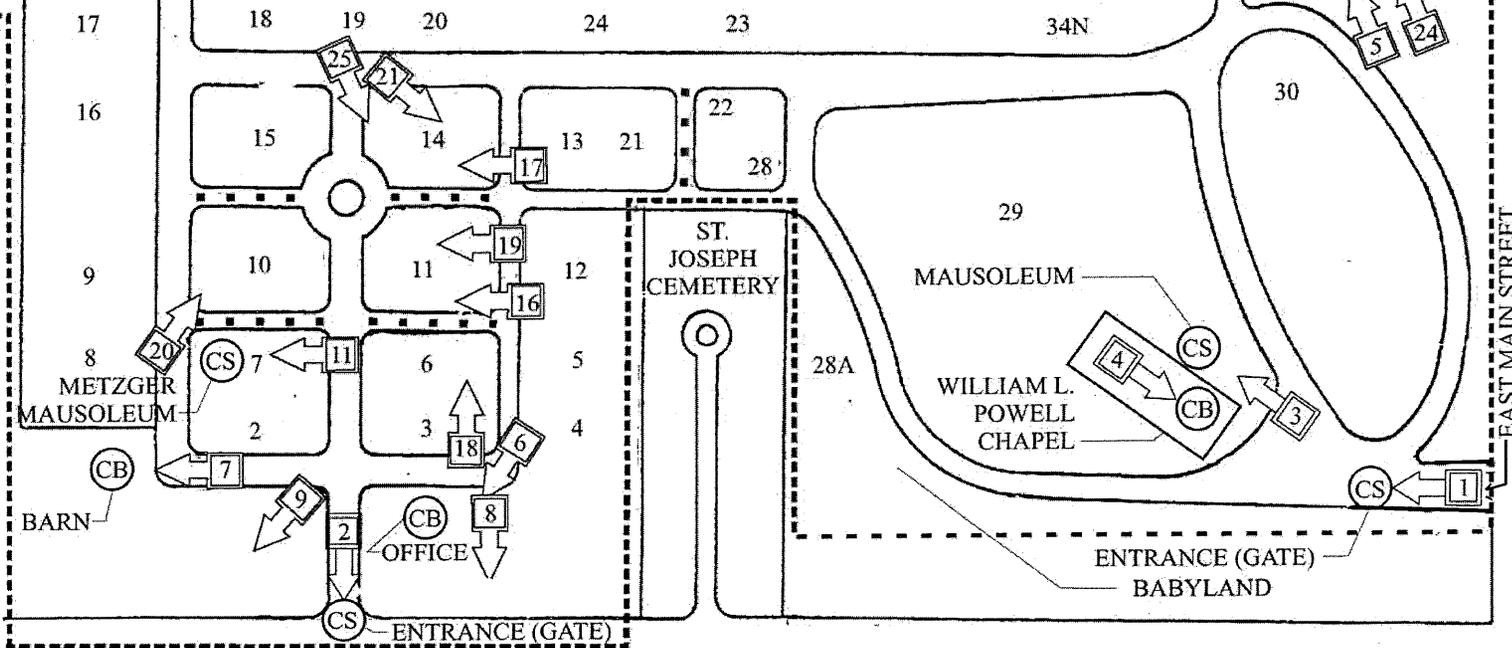
CB Contributing building

CS Contributing structure

CO Contributing object

NB Non-contributing building

NC Non-contributing object



EAST WASHINGTON STREET

EAST MAIN STREET

OAKHILL

OAK HILL CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION
ORGANIZED MAY 4, 1899
DIRECTORS FOR 1912
ALBERT E. WITT, PRES.
SAM L. CASON, VICE PRES.
CHARLES NEAL, SEC'Y.
BEN F. COOMBS, TREAS.
BEN F. McKEY
Wm. J. DE VICK
DAVID L. WHITTAKER
JOHN HADY, MAYOR FROM
1904 TO 1910
FIRST BURIAL, APRIL 1872

ERECTED BY FEDERATION
OF WOMEN, 1910
1905



WALTER
1915 - 1985









OAK HILL
CEMETERY
OFFICE

BRIER





Small bird perched on the top of the monument.

ERNEST BROTHER
1875-1941





ULEN

MARY MATILDA DUTCH ULEN

JUNE 10, 1871

MARCH 17, 1951

HENRY CHARLES ULEN

JUNE 12, 1871

MAY 17, 1963

LUTHER-V-RICE

METZGER

METZGER

FERN BRENDL
METZGER

1886 1971

ROY
METZGER

1883 1969

CHRISTMAN

LAURA LOUISE

1912 1993

JOHN FREDERICK

1913 1989

S. S. HEATH



STOKES

MARY MARGARET
STOKES
1871 — 1927

MARY E.W. STOKES
1877 — 1969

IN MEMORIAM
JOSEPH R. STOKES
1907 — 1965

WILLIAM F. WIESEHA
1883 — 1955

GROVER C. STOKES
1884 — 1962



HAZELBICK

HAZELBICK

HAZELBICK
BORN 20. 1867
DIED 23. 1914

HAZELBICK
BORN 20. 1867
DIED 23. 1914

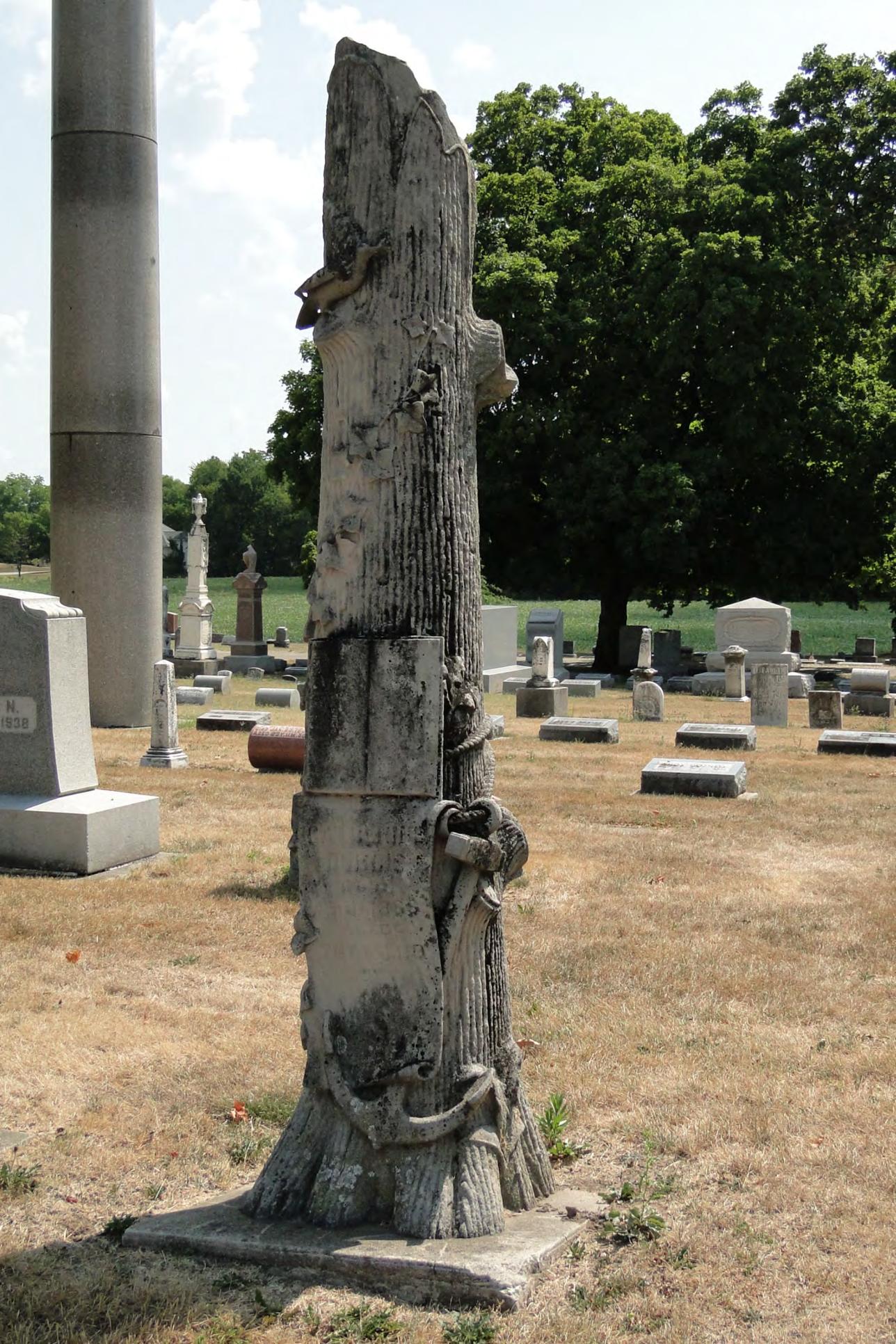


NEALIS



DOYLE

CO. I 51st REG. IND. INF.





PINNELL

BLACK

ADAM



JESSE NEAL





