

## NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

### Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

Monument  with Sculpture  without Sculpture  with Cannon  standalone Cannon  
 Historical Marker  Plaque  Other ( flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Note: try to record items separately. Cannons near monuments should be recorded & photographed separately, etc. Thank you.

### Affiliation

GAR  MOLLUS  SUVCW  WRC  ASUVCW  
 LGAR  DUVCW  Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

Tennessee Civil War Trails.

### Original Dedication Date 2009

Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

### Location

Old Gray Cemetery

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: 543 N Broadway

GPS Coordinates N35°58'26.25999" W83°55'27.51000"

City/Village &/or Township Knoxville

County Knox

State TN

Zip Code 37917

The front of the Memorial faces:  North  South  East  West

### Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name Old Gray Cemetery

Dept./Div. \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address 543 N Broadway

City Knoxville

State TN

Zip Code 37917

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( 865 ) 522-1424

ext \_\_\_\_\_

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places  Yes  No ID # if known 96001402

Entire Cemetery on NRHP

### For Monuments with/without sculpture:

#### Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon =  Stone  Concrete  Metal  Other

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Material of the Sculpture  Stone  Concrete  Metal  Other Is it hollow or solid? \_\_\_\_\_

If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**For Historic Marker or Plaque:** aluminum metal frame, copolymer sign  
 Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = \_\_\_\_\_

**For Cannons with/without monument:**

Material of Cannon = \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze \_\_\_\_\_ Iron \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Cannon (if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Rifled \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
 Markings: Muzzle \_\_\_\_\_ Base Ring/Breech \_\_\_\_\_  
 Left Trunion \_\_\_\_\_ Right Trunion \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**For Other Memorials:** (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial

Materials of the Memorial

**Complete for All Memorials**

**Approximate Dimensions** (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

4' Height 4' Width 2 1/2" Depth or \_\_\_\_\_ Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

**Markings/Inscriptions** (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum – narrative sheet if necessary.

Old Gray Cemetery - Silent Voices  
(See Pictures)

**Environmental Setting**

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

**Type of Location**

Cemetery  Park  Plaza/Courtyard  "Town Square"  Post Office  
 School  Municipal Building  State Capitol  Courthouse  College Campus  
 Traffic Circle  Library Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Vicinity**

Rural (low population, open land)  Suburban (residential, near city)  Town  Urban / Metropolitan

**Immediate Locale** (check as many as may apply)

Industrial  Commercial  Street/Roadside within 20 feet  Tree Covered (overhanging branches)  
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)  Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

Any other significant environmental factor Trees in area, could benefit for some light cleaning

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

Submission of this form requires at least one type of identification so that you may be contacted regarding the information on this form. This information will most likely be in the public domain. Your name is required; please include one (or more) pieces of contact information.

1. If a member of an Allied Order, the name of your camp, auxiliary, tent, circle or corps; along with your department;
2. Physical Address;
3. Phone Number
4. E-Mail address.

By submitting this, you are allowing the posting of this information on the internet.

Inspector Identification \_\_\_\_\_ Date of On-site Survey 12/04/2025  
Your Name Walter E Busch, PDC & P-Commander Central Region Allied Orders Assoc  
Address 1240 Konert Valley Dr  
City Fenton State MO Zip Code 63026  
Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail cwmemorials@suvcw.org

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?  
US Grant Camp 68 MO-SUVCW, Central Region Allied Orders of the GAR, MOLLUS, Logan Brigade

**Supplemental Background Information**

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Photographs & GPS Co-ordinates are very much desired.

Pages 4 & 5 attached to this electronic file are the Monument's Condition and the Narrative forms. Only the Monument's Condition form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.

**Please mail (or e-mail pdf, and picture files) to:**  
**Walt Busch, PDC, Chair, 1240 Konert Valley Dr., Fenton, MO 63026, cwmemorials@suvcw.org (314) 630-8407**

*Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.*

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Civil War Memorials Committee.**

# OLD GRAY CEMETERY



*Silent Voices*



Since the Civil War, the thirteen-acre Old Gray Cemetery has been the final resting place for Union and Confederate veterans. During the conflict, control of Knoxville shifted from Confederate to Union forces, so it is appropriate that both sides are represented here.

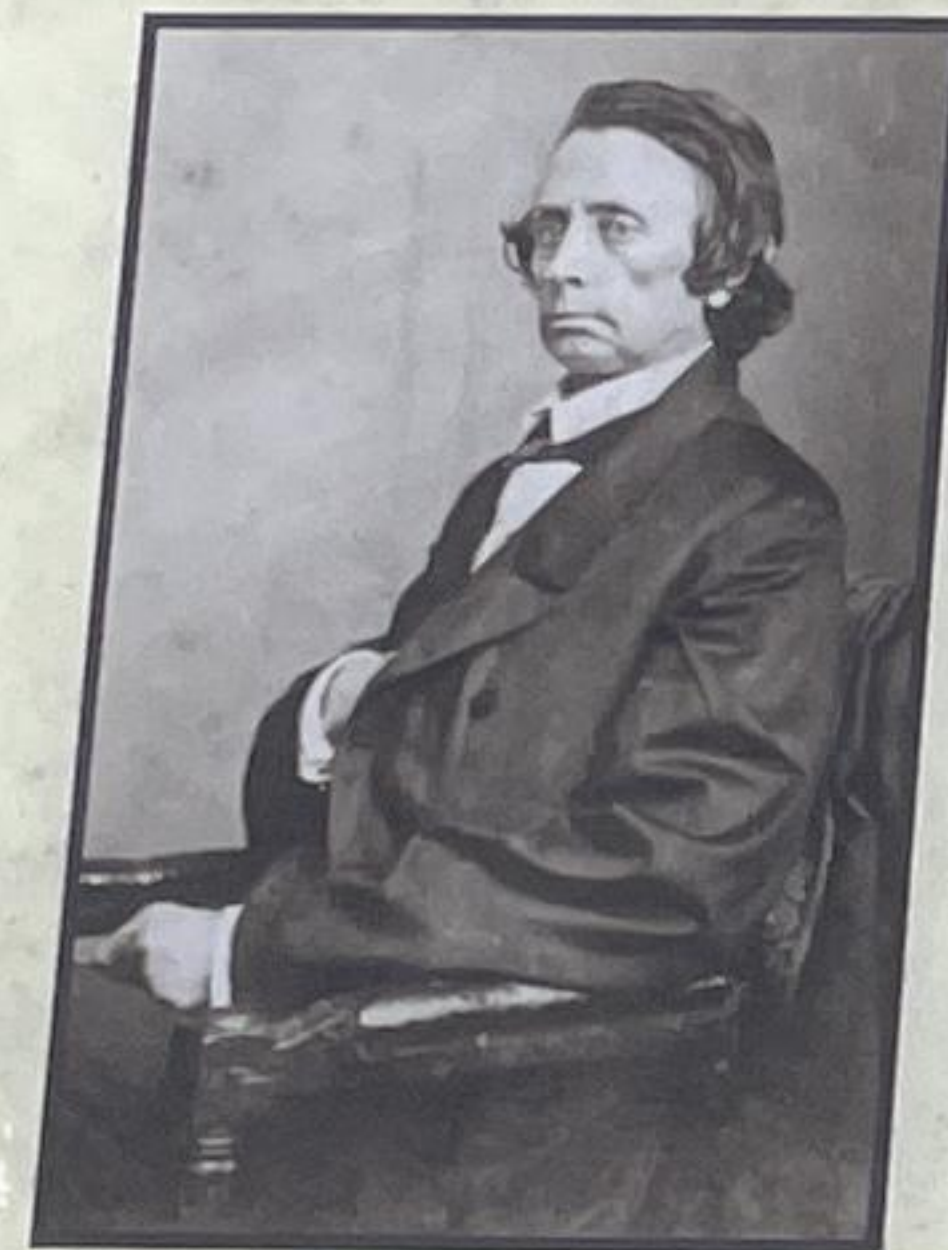
The cemetery was established in 1850 and reflects the Rural Cemetery Movement that swept the urban South in the decade before the war.

There are no political divisions within Old Gray.

Tennessee's Reconstruction-era governor William G.

"Parson" Brownlow

(1805–77) lies buried just across the way from Henry M. Ashby (1836–68), one of the Confederacy's youngest colonels. William Richard Caswell (1809–62), a brigadier general in the Provisional Army of Tennessee, was murdered at his Knox County home in 1862. U.S. Congressman Leonidas C. Houk (1836–91) organized the



**William G. Brownlow**  
Courtesy McClung  
Historical Collection



**Henry M. Ashby**  
Courtesy McClung  
Historical Collection

1st Tennessee Infantry (USA), while U.S. Congressman Horace Maynard (1814–82) was one of the leaders of the 1861 Unionist Convention at Greeneville. Ellen Renshaw House Fletcher (1841–1907) called herself "a very violent rebel"

and kept an invaluable diary of life in Knoxville during the Civil War. The Horne Monument features an almost life-sized sculpture of a Confederate soldier to mark the graves of William A. Horne (1845–91) and his brother John F. Horne (1843–1906).

Union cavalrymen known as Gen. George Stoneman's "Cossacks," members of "The Immortal Six Hundred" (see sidebar), Confederate nurse Jennie Gammon (shot during the Battle of Fort Sanders), and Union caregiver Maggie S.P. Haynes (matron of the Union army's Asylum General Hospital)—Unionists and Confederates alike are now peacefully at rest here.

*"Next day we moved our camp to a grove opposite the Gray Cemetery.... We had a beautiful situation here for a camp, in a pine and cedar grove, the ground softly carpeted with pine straw.... While here we increased our battery to four guns.... For a few weeks we had a hard time of it drilling new recruits. I got sick of giving the command, 'Load by detail, Load!'" — Sgt. Samuel Bell Palmer, Mabry's Artillery (CSA), Sept. 1862*



**Samuel B. Palmer drawing** — Courtesy McClung Historical Collection

"The Immortal Six Hundred" is the name given to that number of Confederate officers confined on Morris Island near Charleston, S.C. In Oct. 1864, they were positioned in the line of fire from Confederate guns at Fort Sumter, in retaliation for the exposure of six hundred Union officers imprisoned in Charleston to Federal artillery fire. The standoff soon ended when a yellow fever epidemic forced Confederate authorities to remove the Federal prisoners from the city.

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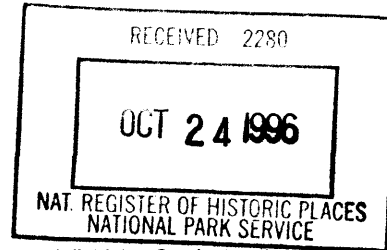
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Gray Cemetery  
other names/site number KN.2331

2. Location

street & number 543 North Broadway N/A  not for publication  
city or town Knoxville N/A  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Knox code 093 zip code 37917

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays 10/21/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Ma J. Murray 12/14/96  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Old Gray Cemetery  
Name of Property

Knox County, TN  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

1	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
1	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
3	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Hist & Arch Resources of Knox Co., TN

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY: cemetery

FUNERARY: cemetery

OTHER: porter's lodge

OTHER: cemetery office

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A; Gothic Revival

foundation STONE

walls STONE

roof SLATE

other wrought iron

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

- 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 boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ART  
 ARCHITECTURE  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1850 - 1940

**Significant Dates**

1850, 1897, 1909

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Douglass, Frederick and Graf, Richard Franklin;  
Producers Marble Company

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Knoxville-Knox Co. Metro Planning Commission

Old Gray Cemetery  
Name of Property

Knox County, TN  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 13.47 acres

**UTM References**

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Knoxville, TN 147NW

1	<u>17</u>	<u>236000</u>	<u>3985000</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>236340</u>	<u>3985000</u>

3	<u>17</u>	<u>236320</u>	<u>3985000</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>17</u>	<u>236000</u>	<u>39847000</u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Ann K. Bennett, Senior Planner  
organization Knoxville-Knox County Metro Planning Commission date January 1996  
street & number 400 Main Avenue telephone 423-215-2500  
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37902

**Additional Documentation**

submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Old Gray Cemetery c/o F. H. Pittenger  
street & number 620 State Street telephone 423-546-2531  
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37902

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Old Gray Cemetery  
Knox County, TN

## Narrative Description

Old Gray Cemetery is a 13.47 acre site bounded by Broadway, Tyson and Cooper Streets, with Broadway, its primary access, forming the eastern edge of the cemetery. The Knoxville National Cemetery (NR listing pending) is adjacent to Old Gray Cemetery on its northern boundary. Gray Cemetery was the original name for the cemetery until the establishment of New Gray Cemetery in 1892; following New Gray's incorporation, Gray Cemetery became known as Old Gray Cemetery, and continues to be popularly known by that name. Gray Cemetery was incorporated by the Tennessee Legislature on February 9, 1850, with a board of seven trustees. The original members of the board of trustees were William B. Reese (President), Marcus D. Bearden (Treasurer), Joseph L. King (Secretary), James C. Moses, James M. Welcker, John H. Crozier, and Perez Dickinson. Under the Act of Incorporation for the State of Tennessee, the trustees organized the creation of Gray Cemetery and were authorized to purchase grounds. The first purchase of land for Gray Cemetery was made on December 3, 1849, two months before the cemetery was incorporated. John H. Crozier, Joseph L. King and James M. Welcker, who would become trustees, purchased eight acres about a mile northwest of the city for \$500.00. The land was sold by John Dameron, the builder of Knoxville's second courthouse, who was then living in Shelbyville, North Carolina. On November 21, 1850, after incorporation, Crozier, King and Welcker deeded the eight acres to the trustees of Gray Cemetery. The land first purchased for Gray Cemetery was evidently the cause of some controversy. Many citizens felt the soil quality was poor, and the location was much too far removed from the city.

Although the land was purchased in 1850, the cemetery was not dedicated until June 1, 1852. The Masons, Odd Fellows, Sons of Temperance and citizens walked in procession to the cemetery where the corner stone prepared by John Niblo was laid by W. Claiborne Kain, worshipful master of Mt. Libanus Lodge N. 59. A prayer by Reverend R. B. McMullen, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, was followed by the opening address by Honorable W. B. Reese, president of the center and president of East Tennessee University. An address was given by Reverend Thomas W. Humes, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Knoxville. Music and a concluding prayer by Reverend Samuel Patton, pastor of East Hill Avenue Methodist Church, concluded the ceremony. Following this dedication ceremony, the first forty lots were sold at public auction.

An iron fence was built in front of Gray Cemetery's original entrance, which was located on Jacksboro (now Cooper) Street at the western boundary of the cemetery. It was not until August 11, 1853, that a plan for laying off the grounds, devised by Frederick Douglass, was adopted subject to a detailed description of the plan. This plan was then accompanied by an attached verbal description of the plan. Originally, Mr. Douglass' plan incorporated design features popular in many garden cemeteries of the era. Those features included a careful respect for the natural topography when placing carriage drives throughout the site, and design features that enhanced a park-like atmosphere. The cemetery is named in honor of Thomas Gray (1716-1771), the English poet who wrote "Elegy Written in a Country Church Yard."

Since its initial incorporation the cemetery has made four more purchases: Lots 33, 34 and 35 on Broadway in 1864; a 3/4 acre tract where the sextant's house stood on Broadway in 1868 (the house is not extant); four and three-fourths acres between Old Gray Cemetery and the National Cemetery in 1879; and half of a lot on Broadway in 1909. The purchases have now been incorporated in the cemetery grounds.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Old Gray Cemetery  
Knox County, TN

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Old Gray Cemetery supports a wide variety of trees and natural vegetation. Although originally sparsely populated with trees, the cemetery now contains many stately oaks, dogwoods and maples. This has changed the cemetery landscape from an open pasture to a wooded garden over the past 148 years. Over the years Old Gray Cemetery expanded, but the basic intent of the original design was left intact.

Old Gray Cemetery was originally designed following the popular garden cemetery movement of the mid-1800's. The design of the cemetery follows the natural topography of the landscape and the roads leading through the cemetery follow the slopes and rises of the terrain. An avenue runs from the entrance on Broadway to the fence running along Cooper street. Connected to this avenue are smaller curved roads. The cemetery roads were first laid out so that each grave site was located on a carriage path or walkway; the cemetery board eventually elected to remove many of the carriage paths and walkways in order to provide additional plots for the cemetery. However, the original road design has been retained. Cemetery roads were surfaced in the early twentieth century.

During 1863 and 1864 the Confederate troops located in Knoxville camped within the cemetery grounds. This fostered members of the cemetery board to promote the erection of a fence that would surround the cemetery and protect the grave sites from destruction. Eventually permanent fences were constructed around the boundaries of Old Gray Cemetery. At one point during the Civil War, the minutes of the Old Gray Cemetery Board of Directors, report an iron fence was to have been placed along the boundaries of Cooper Street. The new fence would join a wood fence in place at that time to provide an additional amount of protection from soldiers who camped in and around the grounds of Old Gray. The current fencing protecting the cemetery from traffic on Broadway is constructed of wrought iron and is placed on a stone foundation. The side and back walls are made of stone and covered with stucco.

In 1854, the Board of Mayor and Alderman and different churches of Knoxville were asked by the Board of Trustees of Old Gray Cemetery to procure grounds for the burial of the poor. Space was set aside near the south wall in the cemetery where people of color and without means were allowed to be buried. There are several of children's graves in Old Gray Cemetery, in great part due epidemics between 1850 and 1873.

In 1856, a portion of the grounds was set apart for those not wishing to buy a lot but only to make a single interment. That section in the northwest corner is often referred to as "Little Ireland," since many of the Irish Catholics who came to Knoxville for the building of the railroads are buried there. In 1856, a piece of ground was also set apart for the burial of "people of color," where there owners or friends were willing to pay for the ground and the sexton's fee.

In 1885, water from the city water works was brought to the cemetery. In 1889, the Circle in the cemetery was laid off into lots. A small plot at the center of the Circle was reserved, and in 1890 A. J. Albers had a large bronzed iron fountain twenty feet high and weighing four tons erected in memory of his wife on this plot. The "Ella Albers Memorial Fountain," has since been removed due to rust and difficulty with maintenance. The first sexton of Old Gray Cemetery, Edmond Lavin (1797-1863), was born in Ireland. He and his son John (1841-1903), the second sexton, are both buried in Old Gray Cemetery. Edmond Lavin's responsibility was to oversee the digging of all graves, for which he was paid \$2.00 each. If he was required to dig the grave, he was to receive \$5.00. He also received \$10.00 for each disinterment.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Old Gray Cemetery  
Knox County, TN

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Significant markers include the Horne and Shepard monuments. The Horne monument with a nearly life-sized sculpture of a Confederate soldier marks the graves of two Confederate veterans, William Asbury Horne (1845-1891), an assistant quartermaster with the 42nd Georgia Infantry, and John Fletcher Horne (1843-1906), who was a sergeant with the Kansas Bottom Tennessee Artillery. Folklore surrounding this monument says that it faces south, with its back to the graves of Union soldiers buried in the National Cemetery to the north of the grave site. The Shepard monument is the only white bronze marker in Old Gray Cemetery, and marks the graves of Lazarus C. Shepard (1816-1902) and his wife Emily T. Shepard (1814-1882). L. C. Shepard was Knoxville's first embalmer. Folklore states that his monument served as a drop-off point for bootleg liquor.

In addition to the many grave markers found in Old Gray Cemetery, there is a building which contributes to the significance of the cemetery along with the gateposts located at the Broadway entrance. The porter's lodge, built in 1897, is Gothic Revival in design. The porter's lodge is constructed of Tennessee marble and is a one story building, rectangular in plan. The roof is a bell cast hip roof covered with slate shingles of blue and green. There is a smooth faced string course of marble on the lower half and a water table at the surface. The entry is recessed under a full arch. The door has a half light and both sides have one over one sidelights. A chimney is centered on the left side of the building and is also made of coursed marble. The porter's lodge was reportedly designed by Richard Franklin Graf.

The entrance posts, constructed in 1902, are square and made of smooth faced marble in a dressed faced ashlar design. A molding with an egg and dart design appears under each pedestal; the pedestals support acorn shaped electric lanterns. A triglyph design molding is located under the egg and dart design. The main gate is made of wrought iron and has diagonal bracing for support. The entrance posts were constructed following plans and specifications supplied by Producers Marble Company of Knoxville.

The monuments in Old Gray Cemetery reflect the Victorian era during which they were installed. Although there are some rectangular stone markers, the first impression of the cemetery is of the elaborately shaped and carved monuments. Burial records indicate that approximate 5,700 burials have been made in Old Gray Cemetery since it was founded. Although closed for additional burials, approximately six to eight burials take place in family plats during the year.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 Old Gray Cemetery  
Knox County, TN

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## Statement of Significance

Old Gray Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C, for its illustration of the development of a garden movement cemetery in Knox County, Tennessee, for the architectural design of the porter's building and the fence as well as the artistry of several of the tombstones.

Old Gray Cemetery is one of the oldest organized cemeteries in Knoxville, and the first in the city to be planned within the garden movement tradition of cemetery planning. Its curvilinear streets, landscaping, and monuments and markers all contribute to the design characteristics of the cemetery. In its early history, Old Gray Cemetery was used as a recreational park for the residents of the surrounding neighborhoods. At one time, the cemetery was a popular destination for social get-togethers after church services on Sunday. As there were many influential members of the local society buried in Old Gray Cemetery, the cemetery grounds attracted family members and visitors from Knoxville's elite. Many courting couples used the cemetery for "sparking" and an old beech tree still remaining in the cemetery serves as a symbol of many loves now lost and forgotten. This tree, carved with hearts and initials, is a reminder of the importance of Old Gray as a park. Many locals also recount the "good ol' days" when the cemetery was a favorite spot for sledding and playing tag. Today local residents can be found using the cemetery roads for recreational walking and running. Cemeteries designed like Old Gray were described by a young Englishman, Henry Arthur Bright, as being "all the 'rage'. People lounge in them and use them (as their tastes are inclined) for walking, making love, sentimentalizing, and everything in short." Knoxville's Old Gray Cemetery fits this description well.

Old Gray Cemetery is tied closely with the history of Knoxville from the 1850s to the present. The source of the name "Gray Cemetery" is said to be derived from Thomas Gray's famous poem "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" and that the trustees unanimously agreed to this name after considering a great number of names ending in "vale," "dale," or "wood," or commencing with "mount." The name was supposedly suggested by Mrs. Henrietta Brown Reese (1805-1859), who is interred at the cemetery. Mrs. Reese was the wife of Judge William B. Reese (1793-1860), President of the cemetery's Board of Trustees, who is also interred at Old Gray. The only information contained in the cemetery records indicates that the plan was submitted by Frederick Douglass, but no records have been found to indicate who Mr. Douglass might have been. The Knoxville City Directories do not record him as a resident at the time the cemetery was designed. Mr. Douglass was paid \$80.00 for his design. Prominent names associated with the construction of the cemetery's architectural features include Mrs. Henson, one of the major contributors to the construction of St. John's Lutheran Church (NR 4/4/1985) located at 544 Broadway, across from Old Gray Cemetery. Oral history indicates that Mrs. Henson also donated the money for construction of the porter's lodge, which was designed by Richard Franklin Graf.

Richard F. Graf was born May 1, 1865, in Nashville, Tennessee, the grandson of a Swiss immigrant who moved to Morgan County, Tennessee in the 1840s. He was first a cabinetmaker, and then a contractor. In 1891, he joined Knoxville Cabinet and Mantel Company, in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he was a supervisor. In 1894, he associated with Barber and Klutz, Architects, as a specifications writer, and then joined the construction firm headed by David Getaz. In 1901, he returned to George F. Barber's firm, Barber and Klutz, as R. F. Graf, Associate. In 1907, the firm of R. F. Graf & Sons, architects and structural engineers, was formed. Graf's designs include the Sterchi Bros. Furniture Store (Southern Terminal and Warehouse Historic District, NR

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Old Gray Cemetery  
Knox County, TN

11/18/1985), the Knoxville Journal Building (Gay Street Historic District, NR 11/4/1986), St. John's Lutheran Church (NR 4/4/1985) and Graf's own International-style house on Woodlawn Pike (KN.12229).

Old Gray Cemetery's history also reflects Knoxville's Civil War history. The Civil War was traumatic in Knoxville, and its impact was felt by the Old Gray Cemetery board members. There was a good deal of consternation among the Old Gray Cemetery board members over the purchase of cemetery plots with Confederate money. In one instance the sum of \$1,765 in Confederate money was paid for the purchase of a single plot but due to the circumstances of the War the money was deemed by the board members as worthless.

The Civil War brought other maintenance problems. In September, 1864, after having failed to obtain any aid in erecting a fence around the cemetery from the military authorities, it was deemed advisable to build a temporary wooden fence to prevent horses, mules, cattle, etc., from running over the grounds. However, by December, 1864, the committee appointed to contract with someone to build the fence reported that they had come to the conclusion "that it would be only a waste of money to erect such a fence as the troops were occasionally camping near said grounds." This report was made after looking at the grounds and considering the chances that the fence would be permitted to remain. The President of the Board of Trustees was authorized to call upon the military authorities and obtain protection for the cemetery, if possible. It is not recorded whether that protection was given.

The problem of maintaining the grounds and markers, which Old Gray Cemetery sometimes experiences today, is not a new one. As early as 1854, the cemetery board resolved that carriages and horses entering the cemetery should not be permitted to turn out of the avenues or be hitched on the grounds. In 1870, the board voted to request that the Mayor and Aldermen send a policeman to the cemetery every Sabbath to preserve order. The first of a set of by-laws offered for adoption in the same year requested that "All persons visiting the cemetery shall conduct themselves soberly and gravely." In 1896, notice was made of the crowds that sometimes gathered to observe interments out of curiosity. The sexton was to be provided with iron stakes and connecting chains or cords in order to erect a temporary fence that would assure those attending the funerals a place at the graveside. By 1899, the board was providing receptacles for collecting withered flowers, papers and other refuse.

Many noteworthy people are buried in Old Gray Cemetery. They include: Governor (and newspaper editor, minister, author, and United States Senator) William Gannaway Brownlow (1805-1877), known as the "Fighting Parson;" Lloyd Brandon (1853-1925), Knoxville artist and founder of the Nicholson Art League; Perez Dickinson (1813-1901), merchant, banker, and owner of Island Home Farm (Tennessee School for the Deaf); Lizzie Crozier French (1851-1926), educator, civic leader, founder of Ossoli Circle (NR 3/21/1985), and advocate of women's suffrage; Eliza Bond Hodgson (1810-1870), mother of the writer Frances Hodgson Burnett, author of *The Secret Garden*; Thomas William Humes (1815-1892), Episcopalian minister, President of East Tennessee University, and first librarian at Lawson McGhee Library; Calvin Morgan McClung (1855-1919), merchant, collector of local historical materials; Mary Boyce Temple (1856-1929), historian, preservationist, first president of the Ossoli Circle (the oldest federated women's club in the south), organizing regent of the Bonny Kate Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Charles McClung, surveyor, lawyer and noted early citizen, who laid out the plan for the city of Knoxville in 1791, and whose remains were moved to Old Gray Cemetery from Harrodsburgh

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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Old Gray Cemetery  
Knox County, TN

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Springs, Kentucky in 1904); Charles McClung McGhee (1828-1907), railroad entrepreneur, and founder of Lawson McGhee Library; Joseph Alexander Mabry, Jr. (1826-1882), railroad entrepreneur and landowner; Mary Utopia Rothrock (1890-1976), librarian, author, historian; Lawrence Davis Tyson (1861-1929), U. S. Brigadier-General and Anna Catherine Wiley (1879-1958), Knoxville artist whose work has recently been recognized as having significant regional importance.

Old Gray Cemetery, with its distinctive monuments, fence, porter's lodge, and mature trees, offers a green oasis on the busy commercial street of Broadway, where it is located. It clearly depicts Knoxville's history and the Victorian era, forming an important picture of an earlier Knoxville, and providing an important example of cemetery planning and design during the garden movement.

The cemetery meets the requirements for eligibility as set forth in the Multiple Property nomination of Historic and Architectural Resources in Knoxville and Knox County, Tennessee. The cemetery exhibits the rural cemetery movement, artistic tombstones, and a good example of a Gothic Revival porter's house.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number   9   Page   7  

Old Gray Cemetery  
Knox County, TN

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number   10   Page   8  

Old Gray Cemetery  
Knox County, TN

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### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The land included in Old Gray Cemetery and this nomination is generally bounded on the east by Broadway Avenue, on the west by Cooper, on the north by the National Cemetery, and on the south by Tyson and property now belonging to the Union Rescue Mission.

### **Boundary Justification**

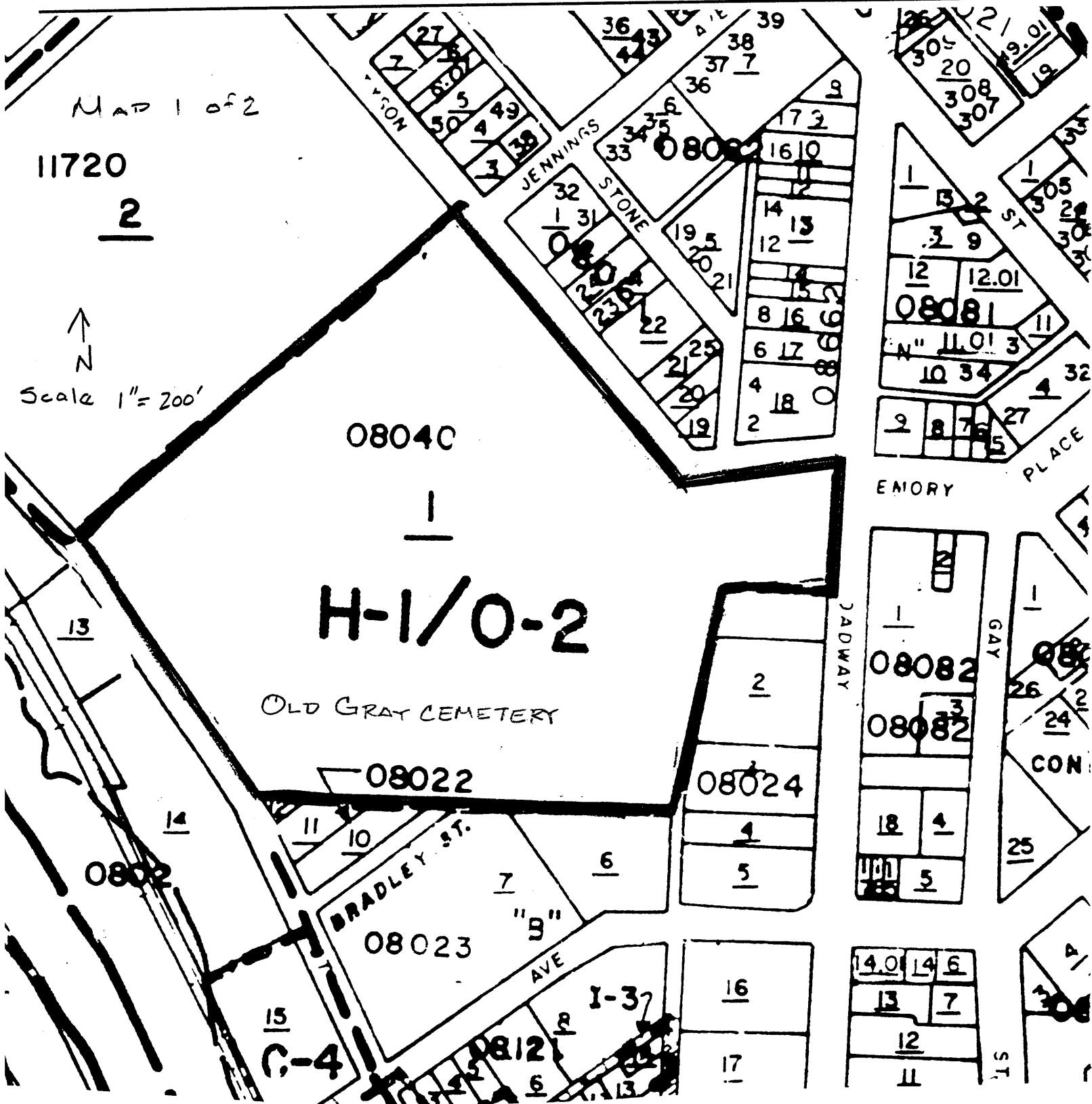
The land included in this nomination encompasses the boundaries of Old Gray Cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Gray Cemetery  
Knox County, TN

Section number 10 Page 9



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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number photos 10 Old Gray Cemetery  
Knox County, TN

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Old Gray Cemetery  
543 N. Broadway  
Knox County, Tennessee.  
Ann K. Bennett.  
August 1, 1994  
Tennessee Historical Commission.

Facing northwest  
#1

Porter's lodge, south (front) and west elevations, facing northeast  
#2

Porter's lodge, north (rear) elevation, facing south  
#3

Entrance gates and gateposts, facing east  
#4

Facing north  
#5