

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic LANCASTER CREMATORIUM

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Greenwood Cemetery, 719 Highland Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Lancaster N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Lancaster code 071

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Greenwood Cemetery & Mausoleum, Mr. Terry Shamberger, President

street & number 719 Highland Avenue

city, town Lancaster N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania 17603

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster County Courthouse

street & number North Duke at East King Street

city, town Lancaster state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Survey of Lancaster
title City Architecture

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978-1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

city, town Lancaster state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at the northern extremity of the Greenwood Cemetery, the original Crematorium is a one story, rectangular brick structure measuring 48 x 32 feet. The moderately pitched gable roof is covered with sheet metal, as was the original. The two side walls have, respectively, four gothic arched window openings. The facade was erected with a 3 bay treatment, with gothic arched windows flanking the central gothic arched doorway. The keystone over this doorway is inscribed "1884" and above this date-stone is a white marble tablet inscribed "Crematorium" in gothic style script. The rear elevation essentially matched that of the facade, with the exception that there is a central window instead of a doorway. Many of the original window sash and shutters remain. On all four exterior walls, the gothic arched openings are set in panels of recessed brickwork.

The chief losses and changes to the exterior of the building include the removal of a small deck with iron cresting at the center of the gable roof, the alteration of the facade's three openings, the alteration of the southern window of the east side wall, and modifications to the rear elevation's central window. All of these altered features are proposed to be restored to the original state. Also, the later chimney on the west side wall will be removed.

In interior originally was divided into four rooms. Although the original furnaces and retorts no longer exist, the interior retains most of its original woodwork, including a fine trussed roof structure with reticulated trefoils and quatrefoils. An old, and possibly original, concrete floor also remains. All extant original parts of the interior will be preserved.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1884 **Builder/Architect** Builder-Philip Dinkelberg

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1884 Lancaster Crematorium possesses related aspects of significance pertaining to social history and architecture. As architecture, this building possesses two-fold significance: it shows an innovative function for a basic Gothic Revival design more often favored for churches, and it illustrates the tenacity of the first Gothic Revival in the 1880's. Because funerary practices are an important part of human social history, the Lancaster Crematorium possesses unique significance for both Pennsylvania and the United States. This structure was the focal point of the Lancaster Cremation and Funeral Reform Society, the first public organization of its kind in the U.S. which placed no geographic limits on its services. When this building was dedicated on November 25, 1884, the Lancaster Daily New Era noted that it was "the only one in the U.S. for the general use . . .". The pre-eminence of the Lancaster Crematorium gains significance in view of the fact that the first public crematorium in the New York City area was only under construction at the time when the Lancaster Crematorium was dedicated in November, 1884. Further, the noted and earlier crematorium in Washington, Washington County, Pennsylvania was intended for a private organization. See all 1884 newspaper references in the bibliography, plus Paul Irion, Cremation, p. 30.

Further, the Lancaster Cremation and Funeral Reform Society issued some of the first publications about cremation in the U.S., including The Modern Crematist, a periodical published c. 1886-1887, and a pamphlet, Cremation - Lancaster, Pa. (1886). These publications precede those of the New England Cremation Society by about five years. See Paul Irion, Cremation, pp. 29-32. Finally, the innovative furnaces and retorts of this building influenced another aspect of social history; later Dr. Miles L. Davis, the chief promoter of cremation in Lancaster, was a pioneer inventor of garbage incinerators.

This Crematorium was built for the Lancaster Cremation and Funeral Reform Society, which held its first meeting in the offices of the Intelligencer on May 27, 1884. In June, 1884, this Society purchases 2½ acres of land from John J. Evans as the site for a crematorium. On July 14, 1884 the construction contract was given to Philip Dinkelberg for \$1900. Philip Dinkelberg (1832-1886) was a prominent Lancaster carpenter and contractor; it is likely that the exterior of the building was designed by him. However, it is possible that the design may have been influenced by Dinkelberg's son Frederick, who was then an architect in New York. However, the furnaces and retorts, then considered to be very advanced, were designed by Dr. Miles L. Davis of Lancaster, who was the chief promoter of the cremation movement in this locale. Most of the work on the building was finished by September, 1884 although some details were

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not completed until mid November. The Lancaster Crematorium was dedicated on November 25, 1884. However, the initial interest in cremation waned, and the last cremation here took place about 1895. In 1905, the Lancaster Cremation and Funeral Reform Society terminated its activities.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property original 2 1/2 acre lot now incorporated into large Greenwood Cemetery
Quadrangle name Lancaster Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 1 8	3 8 8 6 6 0	4 4 3 1 3 4 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John J. Snyder, Jr., Architectural Historian (Consultant)

organization Historic Preservation Trust date 4/25/82

street & number 123 North Prince Street telephone 717-291-5861

city or town Lancaster state Pennsylvania 17603

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

LARRY E. TISE, Executive Director
title Pa. Historical & Museum Commission

date 3/6/83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Books and Pamphlets:

John S. Cobb, A Quarter Century of Cremation in North America, Boston, 1901.

Cremation - Lancaster, Pa., Lancaster, the Lancaster Cremation and Funeral Reform Society, 1886.

The Modern Crematist (1886-1887), Lancaster, the Lancaster Cremation and Funeral Reform Society.

Paul Irion, Cremation, Philadelphia, Fortress Press, 1968.

Newspapers: Lancaster Newspapers Inc., clipping files for September 6, 1925; Lancaster Sunday News for October 25, 1953; the Lancaster Daily New Era for August 4, 1884, November 19, 1884, and November 25, 1884; the Lancaster Daily Intelligencer for May 28, 1884, July 1, 1884, July 15, 1884, November 19, 1884, and November 25, 1884. For biographical information on the builder Philip Dinkelberg, see the Lancaster Daily New Era for October 15, 1886, and the Lancaster Examiner and Express, for March 9, 1877.

Unpublished Sources: Information Files, Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster, Pa.

Lancaster Crematorium

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The Lancaster Crematorium is located near the northern extremity of Greenwood Cemetery; the facade, which faces north, is about 800' southeast of the intersection of Cheaspeake and South Queen Streets in Lancaster.

The bounds of the immediate premises of this Crematorium are as follows: 15' N of the facade, the Northern most land of Greenwood Cemetery; 10' E of the east side wall, a parking lot; 35' S of the southern wall, a steep hillside descending to the Conestoga River; and 15' W of the west side wall, grave lots of the Greenwood Cemetery. It should be noted that only the Lancaster Crematorium and the above defined premises are submitted on this nomination for the National Register of Historic Places; the totality of Greenwood Cemetery is NOT begin nominated.



LANCASTER, PA. Quadrangle
N4000-W7615/7.5

 Crematorium
 Greenwood Cemetery