

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS 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 Harrisburg Cemetery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 13th and Liberty Streets

NA not for publication

city, town Harrisburg NA vicinity of congressional district 17th

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Dauphin code 043

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Harrisburg Cemetery Association c/o Leslie McCreath

street & number 5450 River Road

city, town Harrisburg NA vicinity of state Penna. 17110

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dauphin County Courthouse

street & number Front and Market Streets

city, town Harrisburg state Penna. 17101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Harrisburg Historic Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records City of Harrisburg, Dept. of Community Development

city, town City Government Center, Harrisburg state Penna. 17101

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

Harrisburg Cemetery comprises thirty-five acres of principally wooded and rolling graded parkland situated on the western bluff of Allison Hill, overlooking downtown Harrisburg, between State and Herr Streets and the bluff and 15th Street. The cemetery is stocked with various kinds of burial monuments, ranging from mausoleums, obelisks, statues, and architecturally embellished tombstones. The cemetery is bisected with a series of perpendicularly intersected and curved lanes which, in certain areas, form a grid pattern. The majority of the mausoleums are located along the western edge of the premises, being the most prestigious area as a view is commanded of the city. The chronological evolution of interments indicates that the oldest portions of the cemetery are in the western and central portions, becoming increasingly more recent as the cemetery's southern, eastern, and northern periphery is reached. Principal vehicular access to the property is provided at the intersection of 13th and Liberty Streets and through an iron gate supported by limestone constructed piers.

The caretaker's house, located just inside the cemetery's main entrance, was built at the time the cemetery opened in 1845. It is Gothic Revival in design and is built in the shape of a cross with respect to floor plan layout. The building is two and one-half stories high and is brick constructed. The roof of the side wings is hipped while the perpendicular center section comprises an open-ended gable. The eave line of the roof is lined with bargeboards in traditional Carpenter Gothic form. The main doorway, and second story center window above, are arched and trimmed with decorative lintels of the same configuration. Also, the basement windows, which are fully exposed on the sides and rear of the building, are arched in a similar fashion and are set in a stone foundation wall. All other windows are square, double one-over-one sashed, and capped with protruding window lintels. The facade of the building is highlighted by a wide front porch which reaches beyond the width of the central gabled end. Two brick panelled chimneys rise conspicuously from the roofs of the northern and southern wings of the structure. In general, the romantic architecture expressed through the design of the caretaker's house well compliments the cemetery's overall curious appearance.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1845 **Builder/Architect** [unclear]

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Harrisburg Cemetery is the largest and oldest cemetery located within the corporate limits of the city of Harrisburg. Throughout its one-hundred and thirty-five year history, the cemetery has provided a resting place for many of the influential families of Harrisburg as well as for many famous persons known at the local, state, and national levels. It has acquired a significant reputation based not only on the people buried within its confines, but also on its extreme beauty, setting, landscaping, and the significance, from an architectural standpoint, of its many monuments and mausoleums.

In the early 1840's, several leading Harrisburg citizens recognized the growing need for the establishment of a planned, public cemetery in the city. Prior to that time, the dead were buried in either small family or church grounds which were scattered throughout the then borough. As the borough expanded in development, economic pressures mounted against these valuable open spaces, most of which existed in the current downtown area, and it became evident that these cemeteries would ultimately become vacated for new construction and development. Thus, even though Harrisburg Cemetery was not opened until September of 1845, many of those buried there, after having been "removed" from earlier grave sites, died in the latter 18th and early 19th centuries, thus representing a different chapter in the settling of Central Pennsylvania.

The Harrisburg Cemetery Association was chartered by an act of the State General Assembly on February 14, 1845. It was comprised of ten prominent citizens of the time: Henry Walters, John Roberts, Henry Buehler, Herman Alricks, Hamilton Alricks, Luther Reily, James Peacock, Valentine Hummel, John Bucher and William Dock. The Association purchased that same year, twelve acres of land from the farm of Henry Herr for the consideration of \$1,571.00. The ground was located at the top of the bluff, which topographically divides Harrisburg north and south, between Herr and Liberty Streets. This portion of the bluff, at that time on the outskirts of Harrisburg and principally rural land, commanded a striking panorama of the borough and was most likely viewed as a fitting resting place for its citizens. Over the years, additional lands were acquired by expanding the cemetery to the east. Today, the cemetery is thirty-five acres in size, reaches to 15th Street as its eastern boundary, and contains approximately 33,000 interments.

The caretaker's house was constructed in 1845, when the cemetery opened, at the then eastern edge of the premises. This building is still standing and houses the cemetery's offices. It is of Gothic Revival style which, although was popular in larger cities in the 1820's and 1840's was a bit early for Harrisburg, thereby displaying some innovation on behalf of the architect.

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Available information indicates that the Cemetery rapidly grew from its original twelve acres of 1845 to a planned gridwork layout by 1871 to include the present cemetery boundaries north and west of the caretaker's house, with the exception of the arch layout of Mulberry, Oak, and Beech Avenues. These drives were created between 1871 and 1875 based upon review of two city maps produced for those years.

A comparison of these maps and the more detailed Roe's City Atlas of 1889 with the cemetery plot plan of 1929 shows that Maple Avenue followed the same course as the former Herr's Lane which acted as the country access road to the Herr Farm at later to be established 13th and Verbeke Streets. This lane formed the eastern and southern boundaries of the cemetery property at that time.

A later cemetery expansion plan, prepared c. 1900 and drafted by A.B. Yaomans of Chicago, illustrates the absorption of the Herr's Lane/Maple Avenue cartway into the cemetery along with the subdivision of additional lots on annexed lands to the south and west conforming to present cemetery boundaries. This plan also indicates that massive shrub and tree planting landscaping improvements were undertaken at that time not only on the newly annexed grounds, but also in the interior, older portions of the cemetery; over 3,700 plantings including 550 trees. Specific trees included Elm, Mountain Ash, Tulip, Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Pin Oak, Red Oak, White Oak, Linden, and Flowering Dogwood. Also shown on the Yaoman print is the prevailing line of mausoleum locations capping the bluff and overlooking the city later to be built upon for the entombment of many of the cemetery's most significant dead.

Of those noted persons buried in Harrisburg Cemetery, four were past governors, three were United States Senators, ten were members of the United States Congress, two were ambassadors to foreign countries, and numerous others were county judges, members of the State General Assembly, and mayors, as well as persons famous in many different professions. The following number of soldiers who fought in 18th and 19th Century American wars are interred in the cemetery: Revolutionary War - 52; War of 1812 - 43:

(continued on continuation sheet #3)

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Mexican War - 14; Civil War - 155. A bronze tablet located at the main entrance to the cemetery contains the names and ranks of Revolutionary soldiers interred within the grounds. In addition to the original burials made since 1845, the remains of approximately 1550 persons which are marked by grave stones were removed from other, smaller cemeteries in the borough. Hundreds of others, who were never identified, were placed in communal plots, one of which in particular is marked by a large granite obelisk erected in 1857 in memory of the unknown dead of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches.

In addition to those important people buried there, Harrisburg Cemetery is probably most noted for its statuary. More specifically, the place is proliferated with every size and shape of monument imaginable representing wide ranges of embellished architectural styles scaled down to miniature temples, cathedrals and the like. As soon as one enters the cemetery from North 13th Street, it becomes evident that the grounds have been a final resting place for the wealthy and people of influence through the number of impressive monuments, each one apparently attempting to be more ostentatious than the other, and all erected to emphasize to future generations the significance of those interred beneath.

Of particular note are the cemetery's mausoleums and obelisks. Within thirty years after the cemetery opened, the number of obelisks became so great that the cemetery management was concerned that diversity would be eliminated and the cemetery would take on a monotonous appearance. As evidenced by its desire in making the cemetery visually attractive from an architectural and design point of view, the management in 1876, published "Suggestions to Lot Holders" and specifically addressed the obelisk problem as follows: "There is another suggestion which the managers feel it their duty to make to lot holders; they trust it will be received as an evidence that they are anxious to unite in encouraging an improved taste in monumental sculpture. It has been the frequent remark of visitors - our own citizens, as well as strangers - that a monotony already begins to be apparent in the style and form of the improvements. Obelisk succeeds obelisk, etc., with only slight variations, and if this is continued, we shall see in time too dull a uniformity to strike the mind with agreeable sentiments..."

Drawings, to a great extent and variety, have been made, whose adoption would materially obviate this too just criticism, and ultimately redeem the character of the place in this respect. A correct idea, expressed in marble, may be beautiful, so long as it is unique; but by too frequent imitation and in too close proximity with its original, it may destroy the charm of the first, and ultimately raise feelings in the beholder the reverse of those desired."

Thus, it was evident that the obelisk, which had become popular because the Greek Revival period was at its height in Central Pennsylvania when the cemetery opened, was the theme on which different families made their respective variations.

Mausoleums served the purpose for those who wished to remain above ground and who had the capital. There are twelve mausoleums in the cemetery currently with the majority situated directly along the top of the bluff overlooking the city on the cemetery's extreme western edge. Famous Harrisburg family names such as McCormick, Herman, Knisely, Dull and Wallower are affixed to several of the tombs.

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The Wallower mausoleum, in which businessman, developer, and publisher E.Z. Wallower lies, is Greek Revival in style with a temple facade complete with four doric columns and simplified entablature.

Though not a mausoleum, the grave of the Marlin E. Olmsted family is also unusual and commemorates Olmsted as a sixteen year United States Congressman from Harrisburg. The principal monument, which is flanked by numerous headstones marking various family members, is built out from the bluff on land filled into a sizeable stone retaining wall which drops nearly to the base of the bluff. The area is well landscaped with a granite balustrade at the landing from which a formal set of steps divide and symmetrically curve down to the actual grave site.

Another monument of interest is a black cast iron Gothic spire contained in the interior of the cemetery. The only one of its kind on the grounds, it is richly detailed in true Gothic form with finials and tracery moldings.

Additionally significant is not only the unique placement of the cemetery on Allison Hill's western bluff which provides a striking panoramic view of the city, but also the fact that the cemetery, with its symmetrically laid out grid of lanes, has withstood the pressures of urban development which its predecessors failed to survive.

Harrisburg Cemetery physically expresses the rise of romantic and picturesque landscape philosophies of the mid 19th Century. Opened the same year as Pittsburgh's Allegheny Cemetery (National Register) in 1845, it served the purposes of both consolidating Harrisburg's prior burial locations and offering a park setting for the recreational enjoyment of the living as was popularly pursued in cemeteries at the time.

The gothic simplicity of the caretaker house, which reflected the architectural thinking of A.J. Downing (1815-1852), backdropped by the pastoral views and vistas of the bluff-mounted and rolling-graded cemetery grounds, has culminated in Harrisburg's contribution to the type of romantic English landscaping tradition which was later to inspire Frederick Law Olmstead's (1822-1903) masterpieces of Central Park and Prospect Park (New York City and Brooklyn respectively).

Though expanded over time from its original layout, Harrisburg Cemetery retains its mid 19th Century sylvan ambience, and, as the principal cemetery of Pennsylvania's capital city, stands with such other burial landmarks as Mount Auburn in Boston and Greenwood in Brooklyn, to be a precursor of modern day landscape architecture.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"History of the Harrisburg Cemetery Association" - Published in 1876

"Brief History of Harrisburg Cemetery" - Published in 1957

Annals of Harrisburg Published in 1858, Revised 1906, Authors: George H. Morgan; L. Francis

Morgan Black.
"Landmarks: A Preliminary Inventory of the Historical Resources of the City of Harrisburg"

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 35 Acres

Quadrangle name Harrisburg East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

18	341580	4459600
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

18	341860	4459740
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

18	341000	4459320
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

18	341640	4459180
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet

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

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeb Stuart, Member, Board of Managers, Harrisburg Cemetery

organization Harrisburg Cemetery

date August 4, 1982

street & number c/o Leslie McCreath, 5450 River Road

telephone 717-255-6412

city or town Harrisburg, Penna. 17110

state Penna.

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1/17/85

For HCRS use only

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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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northwest intersection of N. Thirteenth and Bratton Streets; thence easterly approximately 359 feet to the west side of Lois Alley; thence northerly approximately 105 feet to the north side of Primrose Alley; thence easterly approximately 526 feet to the west side of N. Fifteenth Street; thence northerly approximately 1,320 feet to the south side of Herr Street; thence westerly approximately 1,100 feet to the eastern line of Sunshine Park; thence south, southwesterly approximately 1,310 feet to a point; thence east, south easterly approximately 218 feet to the north side of Bratton Street; thence easterly approximately 209 feet to the point of beginning.

Harrisburg Cemetary
 Dauphin Co., Pa.
 Zone 18, Harrisburg East Quad

A.	341 580	4459 600
B.	341 860	4459 740
C.	341 000	4459 320
D.	341 640	4459 180

A-	341-580	4459-600
B-	341-860	4459-740
C-	341-000	4459-320
D-	341-640	4459-180



15664 III NW
 (LEMOYNE)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1969
 Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1947

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system.
 south zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks.
 zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

MN
 GN
 9°
 160 MILS - 1°10'
 21 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1975 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET