



Oak Hill Cemetery  
Name of Property

Douglas County, Kansas  
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 the count.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
		buildings
1		sites
5	1	structures
5	1	objects
<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Total</b>

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

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

Funerary: Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Funerary: Cemetery  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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**7. Description**

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

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Rural Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation: N/A  
walls: Stone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: N/A  
other: Stone, Asphalt, Concrete  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Narrative Description

**Summary**

Oak Hill Cemetery, located two miles southeast of downtown Lawrence, was founded in 1865. After the devastation of Quantrill's Raid, the residents of Lawrence desired a new cemetery designed in the style of a Rural Cemetery to be the final resting place for the Raid victims. The cemetery was a popular burial place and expanded rapidly between 1865 and 1921. Holland Wheeler, County Surveyor and later City Engineer, laid out the first plat for the cemetery in 1868 and continued to be a leading force in the cemetery's development until his death in 1920. Additional sections were platted within the original 40-acre grounds in 1886, 1904, and 1913; land acquisitions expanded the cemetery property to nearly 60 acres between 1918 and circa 1979.

As an early and excellent example of a Rural Cemetery in Kansas, Oak Hill exhibits the characteristic features of the movement, including the meandering and curvilinear roadways, the conservation of landscape features and mature trees as part of the design, and the display of grand and artistic funerary monuments. At present, only one other cemetery survey has been completed within the State of Kansas and that for Topeka Cemetery which predates the creation of Oak Hill. There are several cemeteries in other cities that may meet the definition of Rural Cemetery that have not been surveyed.

Oak Hill Cemetery has served and continues to serve the City of Lawrence and surrounding community for all but the earliest years of the settlement. Many early settlers and residents of Lawrence who moved away from the area chose to be buried in Oak Hill upon their passing. Interments include many persons with state and national significance.

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**Elaboration**

Setting

Oak Hill Cemetery occupies 60 acres on the eastern border of Lawrence, Kansas, approximately two miles to the south and east of the historic downtown and approximately one mile due south of the Kansas River (Figure 1). Although originally founded outside the city limits, Lawrence, Kansas, has since grown and now encompasses the site, with suburbs to the west and south. The location chosen for Oak Hill was previously undeveloped land, reported to be heavily wooded with oaks and other trees. The site selection was rooted in both politics and aesthetics; the location of the new cemetery was intended to be closer to the city center and more respectable than the existing Oread (Pioneer) Cemetery, the land was purchased from a surviving family of the Quantrill Raid – a driving influence for the development of the new cemetery, and the site was chosen for the suitability of its natural features to the design of a Rural Cemetery.

Site Boundaries

Oak Hill is bounded on each side by a varying formality of perimeter (Figure 2). The southern border is bounded by East 15th Street (the old Eudora road) and enclosed by a modern metal picket fence; this border most closely follows the original site extents. The eastern border is less rigidly defined, terminating against the tree line and enclosed by a modern metal chain link fence; this border also appears to closely follow the historic extents of the site. The cemetery was expanded to the north in ca. 1979 with land acquired from multiple property owners; the northern boundary is not enclosed and terminates at the railroad tracks well north of the existing tree line. To the west, the original site boundary was extended with land acquired from the Lawrence Light and Power Company in 1918 and is separated from the adjacent Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery by a modern metal chain link fence. The existing western entry extending from Oak Hill Avenue was likely relocated after the 1918 expansion and incorporates ironwork from the historic entry gate.

As shown in Figure 4, the boundary of significance does not include the entirety of the current site but is limited to approximately 45 acres that include the original 40-acre parcel, the additions along the west boundary made prior to 1921, and the Public Mausoleum to the north. This includes the following Sections: 1-5, 5N, 6-7, S8, N8, 9-18 (including the Veteran's Plot) and 23. The historic development of the site is described in detail in Section 8 of the nomination and illustrated in Figures 3 and 4.

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Physical Description

The cemetery in its current form is a trapezoidal parcel approximately 60 acres in size, square on the southern boundary with the northern boundary sloping southward from the west to the east, following the railroad lines. The northern third of the site is heavily wooded and undeveloped; the developed cemetery occupies the southern two-thirds of the site. The site is surrounded on the west and south by residential neighborhoods, to the north by farmland, and to the east by a wooded area with some residential farm structures. Memorial Park Cemetery, also owned by the City of Lawrence, is located across East 15<sup>th</sup> Street to the immediate southwest of Oak Hill; Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery is located immediately to the west of Oak Hill, on the north side of Oak Hill Avenue.

The main entry to Oak Hill is located at the terminus of Oak Hill Avenue on the west side of the cemetery. The entry is articulated by a gate constructed of four rock-faced ashlar limestone piers with orb finials that flank a black ironwork gate and fence. Small bronze plaques with "OAK HILL CEMETERY" are located on both piers flanking the drive gate. From the main gate, roadways throughout the cemetery are paved with asphalt; some original marble block curbs and lot corner markers with stairs are extant at Sections 2 and 3, but the majority of curbs have been replaced with modern concrete. Roadways are curvilinear and meandering, characteristic of a Rural Cemetery, and follow the contours of the landscape, particularly in the oldest sections which crown the central hill. Cemetery burial sections are delineated by the roadways. Individual roadways and paths are not named, which would have been common for cemeteries of this age and style.

The landscape is naturalistic, meaning that it is a landscape created by manmade interventions that are intended to appear natural. The center of the cemetery forms the highest point at an elevation of 894 feet above sea level – "Oak Hill", which drops nearly 45 feet of elevation along a steeply sloped drive to the Holding Vault and Usher Mausoleum to the east. This section of drive along with its descent was an important design feature according to Holland Wheeler, who intentionally centered his plan around the hill to provide views in all directions. In response to criticisms on the steepness of the slope, Wheeler stated "I defend it by saying its declivity is its beauty; its utility makes it a necessity."<sup>1</sup> Other interventions into the natural landscape were made either with the original design or over time, including filling of the ravines that can be seen in the 1913 map, see Figure 6.<sup>2</sup>

Large trees are important to the character of Oak Hill Cemetery. Mature trees of numerous native varieties, including burr oak, pin oak, Shumard oak, black oak, green ash, red cedar, sycamore, shag bark hickory, black walnut, hackberry, and others, are present; the largest burr oaks predate the founding of the cemetery, and the red cedars appear to be original nineteenth-century plantings along the roadways.<sup>3</sup> Oak Hill is also home to the state champion shag bark hickory.<sup>4</sup> Less wooded sections feature smaller, ornamental trees not native to Kansas or abundant shrubbery.

Oak Hill is still today an active burial ground. The cemetery contains over 36,000 burials, dating from as early as 1860 to current date. The oldest burials are typically located in Sections 1, 2, and 3, the first sections to be platted. Burials in Oak Hill include veterans of every war with formal American involvement, including veterans of the War of 1812, and a sizable number of Civil War veterans, including those from the United States Colored Troops. Local oral history describes Oak Hill as having always been racially integrated, and Sections 1, 4, 8, and 9 in areas originally platted as individual plots have been identified as areas containing early, racially diverse burials.

Sections are amorphous in shape, typical of a Rural Cemetery. Except at the Veteran's Plot, monuments are oriented to the roadways, following the organic shape of the section rather than being arranged in a rigid grid. In Section 8 with the hexagon plots, monuments are typically smaller markers circling a larger, central family monument. In the Veteran's Plot, a later addition not designed in the Rural Cemetery style, markers are flush with the ground and arranged in a rigid grid. The Potter's Field in the northeast corner is an open lawn on a short bluff with few markers.

Markers throughout the cemetery are primarily granite or marble; sandstone, conglomerate, and other natural stones are occasionally found in the older sections, and several folk-art concrete markers also exist. Marker style is equally as diverse as material, ranging from the simplest of small markers set flush with grade to the grandest highly ornamented cenotaphs. Victorian funerary motifs, including obelisks, columns, urns, and drapery are commonly found in the pre-1920 sections. Unique markers featuring human figures, animals, tree stumps, floral ornamentation, and those with fraternal

<sup>1</sup> Holland Wheeler, "Oak Hill Cemetery, Chapter II," *Lawrence Daily Journal* (September 30, 1877): 2.

<sup>2</sup> *Oak Hill Cemetery* [map], 1913.

<sup>3</sup> Lurita McIntosh Blank, Interview with John Standing on the trees of Oak Hill Cemetery. Lawrence, KS, September 15, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Kansas Forest Service, "Champion Trees of Kansas," 2016.

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order symbolism are also found. After 1920, marker style begins to transition to the slab- and block-style markers still in common use today. The newest burial section for "natural burials" is heavily wooded, and burials are informally marked with wood, stones, or family mementos.

### Contributing Features

#### **Site**

The topography of the site, particularly the central area (Sections 1, 2 and 3), remains as it was since the founding of the cemetery. The promontory nature of the rise is still evident from the west entry. Grading and other topographic alterations that were made historically appear to be intact based on written descriptions of the site. The cemetery still is home to numerous trees and some date from before the establishment of the cemetery and from the earliest efforts in the 1870s to beautify the site.

The historic layout of roads in Oak Hill have had very little alteration as a comparison of the present-day map, 1913 map and the earliest plat map (see Figures 6, 7 and 8) illustrates. The road along the west side of Section 16 has been straightened a bit. The road along the north edge of Section N8 has been extended and now wraps down the west edge of Section 12. The only other alteration has been the addition of roads along the north edge of Section 18, which was developed after 1913. Original stone curbs still exist along portions of Sections 1, 2, 4, 7 and 10.

There are a variety of plot sizes within Oak Hill. Sections 4, 5, N8, 9, 11 and 12 tend to have the smaller plots although there are single burial plots designated in Section 1. Section S8 and N8 are unique because the plots in these sections were laid out in a hexagonal pattern; the extreme east end of N8 being the one exception. No explanation for this unusual layout has been found, but Holland Wheeler, who is believed to have been largely responsible for the design of Oak Hill, chose Section S8 for his family burial plot. Within the nominated boundary, only sections 15, 16, 18 (including the Veteran's Plot) and 23 have been added since 1913.

Victorian monument style grave markers that were part of the Rural Cemetery style still populated the oldest sections of Oak Hill. Marker style, size, and material vary as does the condition, but fine examples of central family markers with smaller stones for individual family members are abundant. Veterans buried before the establishment of the Veteran's Plot in 1946 are interspersed and government issued markers as well as folk markers can be found.

#### ***Holding Vault, ca. 1884 (KHR# 045-5926; 38.958835, -95.210573)***

The Holding Vault, historically used for the temporary storage of bodies until interment could be completed, is located in Section 10 at base of a dramatically descending drive that circles the central hill. Designed in the Egyptian Revival style by Holland Wheeler, the Holding Vault is a single-room, hillside structure constructed of limestone over brick backup and foundation walls. The interior is a pointed barrel vault and is finished with cement plaster. The steel doors and gates appear to be original. The Holding Vault is generally in poor condition, showing evidence of long term water infiltration at the interior that has damaged the interior plaster; the exterior limestone is heavily deteriorated at the cornice and at grade. All joints between stones exhibit deep loss of mortar.

#### ***Usher Mausoleum, ca. 1885 (KHR# 045-5927; 38.958704, -95.210581)***

Immediately to the south of the Holding Vault is the Usher Mausoleum, constructed in Section 10 for the private use of the Usher Family ca. 1885. John Palmer Usher, interred in 1889, served as Secretary of the Interior (1863-1865) under President Lincoln and was present at the delivery of Gettysburg Address. He later also served as Mayor of Lawrence (1879). The Usher Mausoleum is a hillside structure constructed of limestone in a Neoclassical Revival style with subtle Egyptian Revival influence evident at the cornice. Convex wing walls made of limestone form a small forecourt. The double entry is flanked by granite and limestone columns. The Usher name is carved in low relief above the gated entry. The interior features a shallow vestibule. The mausoleum contains 12 burial niches; burials within the mausoleum date from 1889 to 1957. The exterior condition is good to fair, some limestone units exhibit distress.

#### ***Public Mausoleum, 1917 (KHR# 045-5928; 38.960743, -95.211837)***

Located to the north of Section 8, the Public Mausoleum was constructed in a Neoclassical Revival style with Romanesque Revival, and possibly Art Deco, influences seen in the saltire cross cornice panels. The stone used appears to be Carthage Marble or a similar dense dolomitic limestone.<sup>5</sup> The interior features a small narthex with 24 burial niches and single-aisle nave with 88 burial niches along the side walls; the ceiling is a plastered segmental barrel vault with a short clerestory for light and ventilation. The Public Mausoleum is not actively used for new burials; the mausoleum had

<sup>5</sup> "Marble for Mausoleum," *The Daily Gazette*, December 22, 1915, p. 1.

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previously been fully occupied, but over half the burials have been removed for reinternment at other locations currently unknown.<sup>6</sup> The interior of the Public Mausoleum is in extremely poor condition. The marble trim and name plates have been mostly removed or destroyed. The floor is finished in small white hexagonal tiles bordered with a blue meander. Remnants remain of the stained-glass lunette over the main entry, but other windows have been infilled with concrete. The bronze doors appear to be original but have been modified and damaged. At the exterior, mortar joints are heavily deteriorated and cracking is present at building corners.

***Monroe Mausoleum, est. 1910s (KHRH# 045-5929; 38.960487, -95.212468)***

This free-standing vault was constructed for the private use of the Monroe family and is located immediately to the west of Section 8. Alexander Monroe, interred after his death in 1916, was a prominent Lawrence businessman, operating a successful railroad contracting company and serving as President of the Merchants National Bank from approximately 1887-1915. Burials within the vault date from 1916 to 1962. The vault is rock-faced granite in the Romanesque Revival style. Doric columns flank the entry which features the original bronze doors with reversed flaming torch ornament. The roof is constructed of granite slabs. The pediment bears the name "Monroe" in raised carved letters bounded by a chiseled frame. Stained glass windows with a lily motif are located on the long sides of structure. Burials are lengthwise along the back wall of the vault. The flooring of the vestibule is tile set a black and white diamond pattern. This vault typifies the type of pre-fabricated burial structure readily available for purchase from monument catalogues in the early twentieth century. The vault is in good condition with no observable deterioration or damage.

***Murphy-Yost Mausoleum, est. 1910s (KHRH# 045-5931; 38.959845, -95.212458)***

This free-standing mausoleum occupies an island near Section 8. It was constructed for the private use of the Murphy family. Descendants of the Murphy family have since relocated the interments to an out of state cemetery, and the mausoleum was recently sold. There were no interments in place at the time of the survey. The vault is rock-faced granite in the Romanesque Revival style. Corinthian columns flank the entry which features the original bronze entry doors. The roof is constructed of granite slabs. The Murphy name is carved in raised letters above the door on the pediment end. The vault contains 6 six burial niches – 4 four above ground and 2 two below. Burial niches line the sidewalls of the structure. Interior flooring is tile in a black and white diamond pattern. This vault typifies the type of pre-fabricated burial structure readily available for purchase from monument catalogues in the early twentieth century. The vault is in good condition with no observable deterioration or damage.

***Quantrill's Raid Memorial, 1895 (KHRH# 045-5933; 38.958008, -95.212031)***

Located in Section 3, the Raid memorial is a cenotaph-style granite marker with corniced hipped roof, bead and reel molding, and fluted Composite pilasters at the corners. On one side, along with the dedication date, appears with the inscription "Dedicated to the memory of the one hundred and fifty citizens who defenceless fell victims to the inhuman ferocity of border guerrillas led by the infamous Quantrell [sic] in his raid upon Lawrence, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1863." The reverse side is inscribed: "The roll of their names may be found in the city Clerk's office Lawrence. And in the records of the State Historical Society, Topeka." The memorial is in good condition with no observable deterioration or damage. The monument was dedicated on May 30, 1895 during a Decoration Day celebration.

***Woman's Relief Corps, est. 1910s (KHRH# 045-5936; 38.957821, -95.211742)***

The Women's Relief Corps monument was erected as a memorial to Robert S. and Mary McFarland. McFarland served as the sexton of Oak Hill from 1886-1905, which was an important period of development for the cemetery. The modest memorial is located on an island at the intersection of Sections 1, 3, and 7. The monument features a short stretch of concrete sidewalk with a white marble block caved with "W.R.C." on one side. Just behind the marble block is a traditional bowl-shaped fountain which appears non-functioning. A concrete block with a metal plaque sits at the apex of the triangular island; the fountain may have once stood on this block of concrete. The monument appears to have been modified, disassembled, or damaged.

***Grand Army of the Republic Memorial, 1913 (KHRH# 045-5934; 38.957965, -95.211438)***

The Grand Army of the Republic monument, located in Section 7, was erected in the memory of Union soldiers buried in "unknown graves". The polished granite cenotaph features a simple corniced hipped roof and sits on a rock-face granite base. In front of the monument, stand the markers for 20 servicemen. The memorial is in good condition with no observable deterioration or damage.

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<sup>6</sup> Ruth E. Love, "Judge Stavely Orders City to Repair Mausoleum at Oak Hill," *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, October 24, 1951, n.p.

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***Spanish-American War Memorial, 1910 (KHR# 045-5930; 38.960100, -95.212294)***

Located in Section 8, the memorial is a figural sculpture of a soldier in uniform on a tall granite base with a commemorative bronze plaque, erected in the honor of Company H of the Kansas 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry, which served in the Spanish-American War. The statue's clothing, boots, rifle, canteen, and satchel are carved in expressive detail in Indiana limestone. The soldier is modeled after Corporal David Martin Horkmans, a soldier in Company H who was wounded in the Philippines during the war. The statue was carved in Bedford, Indiana of Indiana Limestone.<sup>7</sup> Erection of the monument reportedly cost \$1,000 with all the funds raised by Company H.<sup>8</sup> The monument is in excellent condition, although covered with biological growth; the intricately carved fine details of the boot laces are still evident.

***West Entry Gate, 1889/ca.1921 (KHR# 045-5925; 38.958345, -95.214893)***

The gate is located at the western edge of the cemetery at the entry from Oak Hill Avenue (Cemetery Road). The gate was originally located further east along the same avenue within the cemetery and likely relocated ca. 1921 when the roads were paved. During the relocation, the original cast iron posts and lettered arch were discarded, and the ironwork installed into limestone piers. The limestone piers have projecting cap stones with orb finials. The ironwork is in serviceable condition with minor areas of corrosion; mortar joints at the limestone piers are deteriorated.

Noncontributing Features

The following features are within the nominated boundary, but are not considered contributing objects or structures.

***Veteran's Plot, 1946 (KHR# 045-5932; 38.957917, -95.214700)***

The Veteran's Plot is located in the southwestern quadrant of the cemetery grounds, immediately south of the entry gate. In contrast to the curvilinear, organic layout of the historic cemetery, the Veteran's Plot is set in a grid with burials located on evenly spaced, straight rows that are organized around a cruciform plaza paved with asphalt. At the crossing of the plaza is a granite eternal flame memorial erected in 1971 by the America Legion. Monuments are small and laid flush with grade, and there are no trees or significant plantings. The Veteran's Plot is noncontributing because it post-dates the period of significance.

***Maintenance Shed, unknown date***

The maintenance shed is a small, prefabricated wood structure located on the extreme west edge of Section 6. The shed is noncontributing because it post-dates the period of significance and is a prefabricated, temporary structure with little architectural significance.

Missing Features

***Sexton's House***

The second sexton's house, which replaced the first, was situated along the south edge of Oak Hill. Descriptions include some reference to barns, greenhouses and other outbuildings associated with the maintenance of the cemetery. Little description exists and while photos of a house occupied by Sexton McFarland are in the Spencer Collection at the University of Kansas and in the collection of the Douglas County Historical Society; it is unclear that the house in the photos was located at Oak Hill – the surroundings seen the background of several photos suggest it was in town somewhere. The house and outbuildings were in Section 5N. Interestingly the 1913 map of the cemetery shows plots in this location though the house must have existed and remained in that location for several years as it wasn't relocated to Eudora until 1945. Numerous mentions of repairs and renovations to the Sexton's house appear in newspaper accounts, including the addition of sewer service in 1911 and repairs in 1919.<sup>9</sup> Buildings are evident in this location in both the 1937 and 1941 aerial photos of the site, but by 1954 it appears the buildings have been removed though the drives and building sites are still evident in the photo. By 1966 the area is planted with grass. The current Sexton's house, no longer occupied by a sexton, is located on a parcel just outside the west gate.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> "Co. H Monument is Dedicated", *Lawrence Daily Journal*, (May 29, 1911): 1

<sup>8</sup> "The Unveiling", *The Daily Gazette*, May 25, 1911, p.1.

<sup>9</sup> "Many More Storm Sewers," *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, November 7, 1911, p. 8; "To Repair Sexton's House," *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, September 30, 1919, p. 5.

<sup>10</sup> *Douglas County, KS, Historic Air Photos, 1937, 1941, 1954, 1966, 1976, and 1986*. University of Kansas Libraries, <http://guides.lib.ku.edu/gis/data> (accessed August 30, 2016).

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### **South Entry**

The aerial photos that show the south entry was west of the Sexton's house and occupied land between Section 5N and 18. This entry off 15<sup>th</sup> street, while it may have initially been primary and certainly existed in some form until the 1960s seems to have become secondary after the construction of the cemetery road, present day Oak Hill Avenue, in 1889. The west entry was an intentional design that included purchase of a right of way from the Haskell family; the deed for this transfer includes plans for the cemetery including plantings along the road. Photos taken of the cast iron entry gate published in the 1895 and 1898 souvenir histories of Lawrence Kansas show the west entry gate. Topography, roads and trees visible in the background can still be identified at present within Oak Hill Cemetery. The south gate was closed and locked to prevent public use in 1915.<sup>11</sup> By 1966 the road area was planted with grass.<sup>12</sup>

### **Miscellaneous Structures**

The comfort houses shown in Section 9 on the 1913 map (Figure 6) are no longer extant on the site. And the foot bridge along the north property line that joined Sections 11 and 12 also no longer exists.

### **Integrity**

In its current form, Oak Hill Cemetery retains a high level of integrity as a designed landscape. Although no concept drawings or original plats (with the designer's name) have survived to prove Holland Wheeler's original design intent for Oak Hill, historic narratives provided by both others and Wheeler himself can be closely matched with existing features, particularly within the earliest platted sections – Sections 1, 2, and 3, which do have early but unattributed plat maps. The changes to the site imposed by Leo Weltz in the 1870s are not readily apparent in the existing landscape; his bridges and sunken lanes appear to have been removed and infilled over time. For the large addition in 1886, a strong argument for attribution to Holland Wheeler can be made, knowing that he was active at Oak Hill at this time and that he had returned to political office in Lawrence, serving as City Engineer until his death in 1920. One can also imagine, given Wheeler's boldness in publicly airing his displeasure about the changes made under Weltz's supervision, if Wheeler had not been responsible for the 1886 expansion, he certainly would not have been circumspect with his criticisms. Both the 1886 and 1918 expansions preserved the design language that was established by Wheeler and is characteristic of a Rural Cemetery: the meandering and curvilinear paths, the preservation of natural features in the designed landscape, and the incorporation of shade trees and dramatic plantings.

Oak Hill is still an active burial ground and as such has responded to changing aesthetics and burial needs. Despite this, the historic core of the cemetery remains virtually intact. Modifications made over time, particularly paving of the roadways, removal of the south entry, additions of new burial sections, and incorporation of new individual monuments into the historic sections, have not detracted from the experience or interpretation of the historic landscape. The cemetery as a site is well cared for with minor to moderate age-related deterioration of monuments and structures. With the exception of the west gate, no extant structures have been modified on the exterior to an extent that would jeopardize authenticity of design or materials. Burial sections with family monuments retain their historic orientations and markers, which range from homemade folk art to high-style Victorian.

<sup>11</sup> "Close Cemetery Drive," *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, May 25, 1915, p. 1.

<sup>12</sup> *Douglas County, KS, Historic Air Photos*, 1966.

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**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.)

Property is:

- 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.
- 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**

Exploration/Settlement

Landscape Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1865-1921

**Significant Dates**

1865, 1886, 1895, 1917, 1918

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Wheeler, Holland

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### **Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance for Oak Hill Cemetery begins with the purchase of the original 40-acre tract intended for development of a Rural Cemetery for the City of Lawrence, Kansas. The cemetery developed rather slowly for the first 20 years. From the middle 1880s to the early 1900s, several additional sections were platted, roads laid out, and many memorials were erected. By 1921, the City had purchased additional land to the west and had paved the existing roads in the cemetery. Styles of grave markers begin to change in this period to styles that are more consistent with lawn-style burials rather than the rural- or garden-style markers that marked the Rural Cemetery movement.

While Oak Hill continues to be utilized and additional sections as well as land have been added, the core of the cemetery has good integrity and continues to reflect the Rural Cemetery design style. The additional roads, while not in keeping with the rural style layout are not highly visible and the more recent style of grave markers as well as memorials that post-date 1921 has not detracted from the design of the historic core of the cemetery.

### **Criteria Considerations (justification)**

The site meets criteria consideration D for cemeteries. The property is a strong example of Rural Cemetery design in Kansas, and the integrity is such that the design features are evident. Founded in 1865, Oak Hill is an early and superb example of a movement that became popular in the Midwest over the next 30 years, spawning numerous cemeteries laid out in the Rural style. Oak Hill can be documented to predate comparable examples of professionally designed cemeteries in the region, such as Horace W.S. Cleveland's Highland Cemetery (1870) in Junction City, Kansas, and George Kessler's Elmwood Cemetery (1872) in Kansas City, Missouri. Further research is needed to determine if other rural cemeteries of comparable design and age in Kansas, for example Highland Park Cemetery (ca. 1872/1914) in Pittsburg, Maple Grove Cemetery (ca. 1888) in Wichita, or Mount Muncie (1866) in Lansing, could also be attributed to the hand of a professional designer.

The cemetery is strongly associated with the development of the City of Lawrence and surrounding Douglas County, as well as associated with Quantrill's Raid in 1863 during the Civil War. The need for appropriate and accessible burial grounds for the victims of the Raid was the impetus for the creation of Oak Hill. Oak Hill is the second oldest public cemetery for the City of Lawrence and as such it is also significant as it serves as the final resting place of many notable early Kansans who had an impact on local, state, and national history.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

**Summary**

Oak Hill Cemetery was incorporated during a critical moment of identity for the City of Lawrence, Kansas. Still reeling from Quantrill's Raid which destroyed much of the fledgling city in 1863, Oak Hill was founded in part to act as a memorial to the citizens killed in the Raid and in part to establish Lawrence as a settled and sophisticated city on the edge of America's frontier. Oak Hill meets Criterion A for local significance both for its connection to the Civil War, Bleeding Kansas, and Quantrill's Raid and for its place in the urban development of Lawrence, Kansas. Furthermore, Oak Hill meets Criterion C as an early expression of the Rural Cemetery movement in Kansas. As a designed public landscape, majorly attributable to the single hand of Holland Wheeler, an important figure in the development of Lawrence, Oak Hill is a masterful example of Rural Cemetery design in the Midwest. Criteria Consideration D is applicable due to the wealth of historically important and influential figures interred on the site as well as the high degree of design and integrity of the site.

A period of significance from 1865 to 1921 was established based on the date of incorporation and the date of the last major developments to the site under the direction of Holland Wheeler. This period includes the initial 40-acre parcel with the 1918 additions and the 1917 Public Mausoleum. The year 1921 also corresponds with the paving of the roadways inside the cemetery, the final improvement put in place by Holland Wheeler before his death. Holland Wheeler, like many settlers in Lawrence, was born, raised and educated in New England. The Rural Cemeteries of the east coast would have been familiar to him and to the other early community leaders responsible for the creation of Oak Hill Cemetery.

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**Elaboration**

**The City of Lawrence and the Development of Oak Hill Cemetery**

Lawrence: Settlement Period (1854-1863)

The City of Lawrence was founded shortly after the Kansas Territory was opened for settlement in May of 1854. Charles Robinson, who later served as governor, and Charles Branscomb both working as agents for the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society selected the site on the Kansas (Kaw) River in July of 1854.<sup>13</sup> The Massachusetts Immigrant Aid Society was founded by Eli Thayer in April of 1854 to be an agent for political and financial motives. Thayer, a legislator in Massachusetts, was keen to advance the anti-slavery movement and saw both threat and opportunity for the cause of abolition in the Kansas-Nebraska Act.<sup>14</sup>

The Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society sent two parties of settlers and by September of 1854 they had adopted a constitution and formed a town association. The town site was surveyed by A. D. Searl and streets were named for states, with Massachusetts Street being the main north-south street from the Kansas River.<sup>15</sup> After consideration of several names, the town was named Lawrence in October 1854. It was selected in part to honor Amos Lawrence who was an officer of the company.<sup>16</sup> The Emigrant Aid Society continued to organize and send parties of settlers to the area; some remained in Lawrence, and others moved further west to present-day Topeka and Manhattan.<sup>17</sup>

Pro-slavery settlers did come to Kansas, particularly from Missouri. However, not all Missouri settlers lived on their claims, and slavery in Missouri was not the same commercial enterprise as in the Deep South. The South did not traditionally organize companies to bring in permanent new settlers, such as the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society (later the New England Emigrant Aid Society).<sup>18</sup> Tensions between communities and even neighbors within the territory were not uncommon. However, tensions along the border with Missouri were heightened. The first confrontation in Lawrence occurred March 30, 1855, when some 800 armed men from Missouri made their way to Lawrence to vote for

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<sup>13</sup> David Dary, *Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas, an Informal History* (Lawrence, Kansas: Allen Books, 1982), 22.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 22

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, 27.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 30.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, 30-31.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, 37.

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the first territorial election and brought two pieces of artillery.<sup>19</sup> After the territorial governor, Andrew H. Reeder, learned of the Missourian voters in Lawrence and other areas, another election was set for May due to what he termed "irregularities."<sup>20</sup> The Emigrant Aid Society response to the weapons was to furnish the young town with a howitzer and over one hundred Sharp's rifles.<sup>21</sup>

Lawrence was home to outspoken abolitionists such as Charles Robinson, Richard Cordley, and John Speer. Speer is credited with publishing a newspaper for Lawrence as early as October of 1854.<sup>22</sup> The irregularities of the March territorial election continued as the legislature met in July of 1855, and Free-State representatives were challenged by Pro-slavery representatives. The Pro-slavery forces held the upper hand, and the territorial capitol was moved from Pawnee (Riley County) to Shawnee Mission (near the Missouri border) and then to Lecompton, located approximately thirteen miles west of Lawrence along on the Kansas River. The proximity of Lecompton to Lawrence and the designation of Samuel Jones, a Missourian who lived in Westport, as the sheriff of Douglas County increased tensions in the area.<sup>23</sup>

By the end of 1855, fighting between Pro-slavery forces and Free-State forces in and around Lawrence was not uncommon. While tensions subsided some in the winter, they resumed in the spring. Lawrence was sacked May 21, 1856, by Pro-slavery men from as far away as Georgia, led by Sheriff Jones, US Deputy Marshall Fain, and Colonel Alexander Doniphan. The downtown, including the newly opened Free-State Hotel, was destroyed as were the two newspapers. The destruction of Lawrence was brought on by the defiance of many Lawrence leaders who refused to recognize the authority of both Sheriff Jones and the Pro-slavery or "bogus" legislature in Lecompton. The Battle of Black Jack occurred south of Lawrence fewer than two weeks later.<sup>24</sup>

In the fall of 1856, Lawrence was rebuilding and the Free-State forces in the territory were increasingly going on the offensive, led by men like John Brown and James Lane. The conflicts in Kansas Territory had garnered national attention, and Lawrence's reputation as a Free-State stronghold was established. Lawrence also continued to grow as a transportation and commercial hub as the 1850s continued. Holland Wheeler, who would later be heavily involved in the development of Oak Hill cemetery, prepared the second city plan for Lawrence in 1858.<sup>25</sup>

In 1857, Free-State men gained a majority in the territorial legislature. This change in political power led to the 1858 independent city charter for Lawrence.<sup>26</sup> While hostilities between border ruffians from Missouri and jayhawkers from Kansas Territory continued, they had moved further south. The Underground Railroad had become active, and families in Lawrence were reported to be agents as well as conductors. On July 29, 1859, the Free-State constitution was adopted, an important step for Kansas Territory to become a state.<sup>27</sup>

The election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, along with the majority control in the north shifting to Lincoln's Republican Party was good news for Free-State settlers who had seen their hopes of statehood stymied by Pro-slavery politicians in Washington, D.C. In January of 1861, Kansas was admitted to the Union.<sup>28</sup> However, the 1860 election also set in place a chain of events that led to southern state secession and the firing on Fort Sumter April 21, 1861, marking the start of the Civil War.<sup>29</sup>

Lawrence's reputation as an abolitionist town and her outspoken inhabitants meant the town remained a target and tensions remained high during the Civil War. Guerrilla raiders from Missouri, led by William Clark Quantrill, rode into Lawrence on the morning of August 21, 1863, intent on destroying the town and killing many inhabitants. The raiders carried with them a list of influential people to kill, but the list was not to be a limit. The resulting devastation was widely reported in the newspapers, including *Harper's Weekly* and *Leslie's*. Reports of those left dead range from 124<sup>30</sup> to 180.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Dary, *Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas, an Informal History*, 38.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 38-39.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 40.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 29.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, 42-43.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, 52-61.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, 63-67.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, 84-85.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, 84-92.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, 93-96.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, 96.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, 118.

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The newspapers, homes, business, and most of the downtown was set to fire and otherwise destroyed. Many of the wounded died in the days following the raid, and families continued to suffer for years afterward due to the loss of property and fathers and elder sons who were primary providers. Though suffering great personal loss, two sons were killed in the raid and his press was destroyed, John Speer published a special edition of the *Kansas Weekly Tribune* on August 27, 1863, with an account of the raid. He was determined that Lawrence would not “wink out.” He was not alone in his steadfast hold on his new hometown or his beliefs.<sup>32</sup> The citizens of Lawrence and their scarcely nine-year old town had been violently attacked; their homes and livelihood destroyed for the second time in fewer than seven years, but Lawrence would go on to thrive in the years after the Civil War.

Lawrence: City-Building Period, 1864-1873

Oak Hill Cemetery, though outside the city the limits at the time it was created, was established during the period when Lawrence saw the population grow at a then unprecedented rate and political turmoil of the settlement period quiet. These years coincided with the conclusion of the Civil War and the expansion of the railroads. Immigrants from foreign countries contributed to this population boom as did the settlement of newly freed slaves who hoped Lawrence would be a place of tolerance. The downtown commercial district was built with stone and brick to prevent the easy spread of fire. Residential areas continued to expand and the first permanent public schools were established.<sup>33</sup>

*Establishment of Oak Hill Cemetery*

Most of the victims of Quantrill’s Raid were buried in Oread Cemetery (now Pioneer Cemetery). Oread Cemetery was located on a hill, southwest of Lawrence at the time of the raid. This site is west of present-day Iowa Street and between 15th and 19th Streets on the University of Kansas West Campus. The cemetery did not have a sexton. Maintenance and the difficult access to the cemetery became a concern as time passed. These concerns resulted in a determination of the necessity of developing a new cemetery, a beautiful space that would provide a respectful resting place for victims of the raid. The aesthetics and mass interments at Oread were publicly disparaged by civic leaders, including the mayor R. W. Ludington who said in his May 1864 inaugural address: “At present we are but a little better off than entirely destitute of a public burial space for the dead.”<sup>34</sup> Newspaperman John Speer, owner of the *Kansas Tribune*, editorialized multiple times on the shortcomings of the Oread Cemetery in 1864, calling it “...a blot upon our character...unfeeling, uncivilized and unchristian.”<sup>35</sup> Through several editions in the spring and summer of 1864 Speer chided his fellow citizens and drew comparisons to neighboring cities, such as Topeka, which had opened a beautiful cemetery in 1859.<sup>36</sup> Positive public and political support for a new cemetery resulted in the establishment of a committee to find a new burial ground.

With a deed recorded on April 25, 1865, the City of Lawrence purchased 40 acres east of the city limits from Thomas J. Sternbergh \$3,000;<sup>37</sup> Sternbergh was himself a raid survivor and was an early signatory in a plea for reparations from the federal government for losses incurred due to the raid.<sup>38</sup> Contemporary county atlases show the area to be undeveloped and wooded.<sup>39</sup> The new mayor, Gurdon Grovenor, who would become heavily involved in the development of the new cemetery and later be elected mayor and appointed Superintendent of Cemeteries for the City, called it “...a beautiful site.”<sup>40</sup> City Engineer Holland Wheeler (Jr.) designed the first plat of the new cemetery, which was put on public display,<sup>41</sup> and the site that would be named Oak Hill Cemetery became the first designed public landscape in Lawrence, Kansas.

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<sup>31</sup> Katie H. Armitage, *Lawrence Survivors of Quantrill’s Raid* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2010), 9; Richard Cordley, *A History of Lawrence, Kansas* (E.F. Caldwell, 1895), 9.

<sup>32</sup> Dary, *Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas, an Informal History*, 93-120.

<sup>33</sup> Deon Wolfenbarger & Dale Nimz, “Historic Resources of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas,” National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form, August 31, 2001, Section E, 8-14.

<sup>34</sup> Cathy Ambler, *Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement* (Unpublished typescript, 1990), 50. Kansas Collection, Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Cathy Ambler, “A Place Not Entirely of Sadness and Gloom: Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement,” *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 15 (Winter 1992/1993): 246.

<sup>37</sup> Douglas County Register of Deeds, Deed of Sale from Thomas J. Sternbergh and wife Emma R. Sternbergh to the City of Lawrence, Kansas, 1865, *Volume L*, 427.

<sup>38</sup> Senate of the United States, *The Miscellaneous Documents of the First Session Thirty-Eighth Congress*. “Memorial of Citizens of Lawrence, Kansas,” (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1864), 1-2.

<sup>39</sup> *Map of Douglas County, Kansas Territory* (Leocompton, Kansas: Surveyor-General’s Office, 1857).

<sup>40</sup> Ambler, *Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement*, 52.

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The land was well suited to development of a Rural Cemetery in the tradition of New England cemeteries such as Mount Auburn, Laurel Hill, and Green-Wood, which would likely have been familiar to the four well-traveled and well-educated men largely responsible for the creation of Oak Hill: R.W. Ludington, Gurdon Grovenor (who also served as mayor), John Speer, and Holland Wheeler. Although development and improvements to the site began almost immediately after acquisition of the property, the name "Oak Hill" was not selected until 1868,<sup>42</sup> and Wheeler's 1865 plat was not formally adopted by the City until 1869.<sup>43</sup> Although no extant copies of Wheeler's 1865 proposed plan for the site have been located, the original collection of cemetery section plats clearly shows that a design in keeping with a Rural Cemetery (sometimes also called a "Garden Cemetery") was intended from the onset. Wheeler appeared to have made extensive study of other cemeteries during the development of his original plat and later fiercely defended the naturalistic landscape features and meandering pathways of his original design.<sup>44</sup> Cemetery rules and regulations were developed in 1866 by the new Committee on Cemeteries.<sup>45</sup> These regulations limited the type of plantings and monuments, excluded the erection of walls around plots, discouraged the erection of mausoleums, and placed limitations on vaults. While there is a good deal of detail about the keeping of the grounds, there is little concerning interments.

An existing house located in the southwest corner of the property, marked on the 1873 Douglas County atlas but no longer extant, was repurposed as the Sexton's House.<sup>46</sup> Holland Wheeler, who served as the Superintendent of Cemetery in 1866-67, began to measure and layout Oak Hill in 1867.<sup>47</sup> Plats for Sections 1 and 2 are dated May 20, 1868.<sup>48</sup> Plots in these sections, located at the highest point on the grounds with views in all directions, were offered for sale at that time.

In 1869, the Committee on Cemeteries requested the City Council open a new section in Oak Hill and expand the Potter's Field.<sup>49</sup> Section 3 was platted in 1870.<sup>50</sup> While the plats in the Oak Hill plat atlas are not signed or attributed to a designer or city official, Wheeler held the office of City Engineer until the early 1870s, so it is reasonable to assume that Section 3 also followed his original design. In this early stage of the cemetery, the main entry was located at the south, leading off present-day East 15th Street; the west entry, if it existed was not a formal entry.<sup>51</sup>

Decoration Day was celebrated in Lawrence for the first time in 1870 and Grovenor was once again mayor. This celebration brought renewed attention to the raid victims as well as Oak Hill Cemetery.<sup>52</sup> Grovenor worked diligently to have raid victims re-interred from Oread (present-day Pioneer) between 1868 and 1872.<sup>53</sup> Prior to the opening of the first two sections, a small number of burials were already located on the site; in 1860, Amanda O. Marcy was buried on the grounds prior to any planning for the cemetery in what is now Section 1,<sup>54</sup> and in 1865, after some confusion, Dozier Cavender Gill was buried on the grounds prior to the platting of Oak Hill because Oread (Pioneer) Cemetery had been closed to new interments.<sup>55</sup>

Though Grovenor was not re-elected mayor in 1873 he continued to serve as the Superintendent of Cemeteries. Grovenor was not satisfied with the progress of development at Oak Hill and was continually implementing improvements to the site; curbs and gutters were installed in 1873 and the installation of trees and decorative plantings was ongoing.

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<sup>41</sup> "City Council Proceedings," *Daily Kansas Tribune* (November 10, 1865): 3; Ambler, *Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement*, 52.

<sup>42</sup> Cathy Ambler, [Notes taken from review of the original Lawrence, Kansas, City Council meeting minutes, 1865-1881], 3. Standing Files: Oak Hill Cemetery, Watkins Museum of History, Douglas County Historical Society.

<sup>43</sup> Ambler, *Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement*, 57.

<sup>44</sup> Holland Wheeler, "Oak Hill Cemetery, Chapter II," *Lawrence Daily Journal*, September 30, 1877, p. 2.

<sup>45</sup> Ambler, *Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement*, Appendix E.

<sup>46</sup> *Atlas of Douglas Co. Kansas* (New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1873), pl. 19.

<sup>47</sup> Ambler, [City Council meeting minutes, 1865-1881], 3.

<sup>48</sup> *Oak Hill Cemetery* [atlas], n.p.

<sup>49</sup> Ambler, *Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement*, 57.

<sup>50</sup> *Oak Hill Cemetery* [atlas], n.p.

<sup>51</sup> Wheeler, "Oak Hill Cemetery, Chapter II," 2.

<sup>52</sup> Ambler, *Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement*, 62, 65-66.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, 70.

<sup>54</sup> B. Jean Snedeger, *Complete Tombstone Census of Douglas County, Kansas*, Vol I (Lawrence: Douglas County Kansas Genealogical Society, Inc., 1987) 7d.

<sup>55</sup> Mrs. A.W. Berger, Mrs. Geo. T. Reynolds, and Miss Hazel Watts, "The first person to be buried in Oak Hill cemetery...", transcript of oral history. Standing Files: Oak Hill Cemetery, Watkins Museum of History, Douglas County Historical Society.

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Lawrence: Agriculture and Manufacturing, Foundations of Stability, 1874-1899

The recession of the 1870s as well as the drought and grasshopper invasion brought severe economic distress to Lawrence and Douglas County. Population growth in this era was small. The economy started to focus on more local interests and turned away from the railroad speculation that had helped create the recession. While growth was slow, progress was made. A dam was constructed across the Kansas River to provide power to the Consolidated Barbed Wire and Wilder Brothers Shirt factories in 1879. By the 1880s Lawrence was constructing public water and sewage systems to improve sanitary conditions in the city. Electricity began to be generated and distributed in the middle and late 1880s. Commercial and residential districts continued to expand slowly as the city spread to the south, west and east.<sup>56</sup>

*Expansion of Oak Hill Cemetery*

Grovenor, as Superintendent of Cemeteries, was actively searching for a landscape architect to complete and polish the design of the Oak Hill. In 1874, shortly before Wheeler resigned as City Engineer, Horace W.S. Cleveland of the firm Cleveland and French, designer of Highland Cemetery in Junction City, Kansas, was discussed in several reports.<sup>57</sup> But if there were plans to hire Cleveland they may appear to have fallen through. Between 1874 and 1876, a Committee on Cemeteries was established which was not required to petition City Council for changes or expenditures; modifications made to the site in these years would not have been public record and have been largely lost to history.<sup>58</sup>

In 1876, the City Council granted the Committee on Cemeteries the authority to act on matters of completing the design for Oak Hill. By May of 1876, R.W. Ludington was mayor again, and Leo[pold] Wertz, (also printed as Levi Wiltz) of Wilmington, Ohio, was hired to complete the design of the cemetery. Wertz resided at the Ludington home while in Lawrence for work at the cemetery. Leo Wertz, a gardener and landscape designer of some international renown, was engaged by the City and made a number of minor changes to Oak Hill.<sup>59</sup> On Wertz's arrival, Oak Hill had not expanded beyond the initial three sections but grand plans were certainly expected for future development. No extant drawings of Wertz's designs for Oak Hill have been found, but narrative descriptions of his work were provided in two contemporary newspaper articles. The tone of these articles could not have been more contradictory. The first narrative, written in 1876, published a glowing account of Wertz's plans, describing the beauty of the man-crafted nature with plantings, rustic bridges, graceful carriageways, and dramatic ravines;<sup>60</sup> the second narrative, a scathing editorial criticizing the plans and the engineering work penned in two parts in 1877 by Holland Wheeler, was an angry response to changes being made to his "rural cemetery". Wheeler strongly criticized the changes, describing the work as "torture to nature" and a "terrible mutilation", and Wheeler went further to accuse Wertz of providing an incorrect plat.<sup>61</sup> Wheeler's articles were intended to stir up sentiment against changes to the cemetery, and he called for political action through his dramatic closing: "Some one [sic] must act – or you will probably hear more from HOLLAND WHEELER." His impassioned writings were successful, and the resulting uproar culminated in a public meeting of all interested parties at Oak Hill. While little has been found to document the public meeting, and no plat has been found, Wertz was released of his duties by the end of the year. The City further rejected Wertz's plat and accepted the resignation of Grovenor from the position of Superintendent of Cemeteries.<sup>62</sup> Shortly after this in 1878, Wheeler became City Clerk and later regained the position of City Engineer, returning to active involvement with Oak Hill.

No original plat has been found showing Section 4. Interments in this section date as early as 1870. Section 4 may have been platted as part of the 1870 expansion, but more likely, was platted separately shortly afterward. Curiously, the current plan of the cemetery grounds published by the City shows Section 4 as an "Undeveloped Area" despite being heavily populated with single-plot interments.<sup>63</sup> The 1913 map shows a layout for the cemetery that includes lots in Section 4. While the history of this section is in question, this area was featured heavily in Wheeler's critical editorials and coincides with a time when Grovenor desired to provide less expensive burial plots, Section 4 may be a vestige of Wertz's work.<sup>64</sup>

<sup>56</sup> Wolfenbarger & Nimz, "Historic Resources of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas," Section E, 15-20.

<sup>57</sup> Ambler, *Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement*, 75.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> C.E. Thorne, "Wertz, Leo," in *Cyclopedia of American Agriculture, Vol. 4: Farm and Community*, edited by Liberty Hyde Bailey (New York, NY: The MacMillian Company, 1909), 625; "Our Cemetery," *Western Home Journal* (June 15, 1876): 7.

<sup>60</sup> "Our Cemetery," *Western Home Journal* (June 15, 1876): 7.

<sup>61</sup> Wheeler, "Oak Hill Cemetery, Chapter II," 2.

<sup>62</sup> Ambler, "A Place Not Entirely of Sadness and Gloom," 252.

<sup>63</sup> City of Lawrence, Kansas, "Oak Hill Cemetery Map," 2016.

<sup>64</sup> Ambler, *Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement*, 72.

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The last decades of the 1800s brought major changes to Oak Hill. A new Sexton's House was proposed and constructed as the 1870s drew to a close, relocating the house from the southwest corner of the property to a site "at some place convenient to the south entrance."<sup>65</sup> In 1883, the City Council approved the construction of a public holding vault, engaging Wheeler to provide its design.<sup>66</sup> The neighboring Usher Mausoleum, constructed for prominent businessman and politician John Palmer Usher, was likely constructed sometime between 1883 and 1895, as both vaults appear in a photograph in a *Memorial Album* published May 30, 1895, by E.S. Tucker.<sup>67</sup>

The second expansion to Oak Hill doubled the size of the cemetery. In 1886, Sections 7, 8, 6, and 5 (in that order) were added to the Oak Hill plat atlas.<sup>68</sup> As the bulk of the 1886 expansion, Section 8 provided two sections divided into large hexagonal burial plots, a highly unusual platting for a cemetery. Although no specific attributions to Wheeler for the hexagonal burial plot design have been uncovered, his noted distaste for rigidly partitioned cemetery plots and preference for a central family monument, combined with his involvement in additions to the cemetery at this time, strongly argue in favor of Wheeler being responsible for the hexagonal layout of Section 8.<sup>69</sup> Section 9 was likely added shortly after the 1886 expansion; although, no original plat for this section has been found, burials began as early as 1891.

On June 7, 1887, John G. and Mary Haskell deeded right of way through their land which adjoined the cemetery to the west for the creation of a cemetery road for the sum of one dollar.<sup>70</sup> J.G. Haskell was an architect and responsible for the design of many public buildings throughout the state, including portions of the Statehouse. The road was an extension of Lee Street (present-day 13th Street). This deed of sale is unusual in the amount and detail of the listed covenants, describing the construction and care of grading and drainage, specifying planting patterns for shade trees, prescribing allowable tree species and sizes, and requiring bridges or culverts where the road would pass over water courses. In 1889, a new cast iron double drive entry gate was fabricated by the Champion Iron Fence Company of Kenton, Ohio, for the west entry connecting to the new Cemetery Road, present-day Oak Hill Avenue.<sup>71</sup> At the time, the cemetery had two entries: the original southern entry from the Eudora Road (later Morris Street, present day 15th Street) and the western entry created by the new Cemetery Road through the Haskell property. From the dates, it appears likely that the gate described in 1889 was intended for the new western entry. A photograph of the west entry gate also appears in the *Memorial Album* by E.S. Tucker, see Figures 10 and 11. By the 1880s, city water had also been extended to the cemetery, replacing the onsite well.<sup>72</sup> Allotments for plantings, landscaping, and site improvements appear regularly in City Council meeting minutes in these decades.

Lawrence: A Quiet University Town, 1900-1945

Throughout this period, Lawrence continued to grow slowly. Manufacturing began to decline; what remained centered around agricultural production. The University of Kansas continued to grow as did the commercial and residential districts. As the line between the University and town began to be diminished; in the middle of the 1920s efforts to begin planning and zoning commenced. Infrastructure continued to be expanded and roads were greatly improved during this period. Trolleys and interurban trains and streetcars were implemented with the improved roadways.<sup>73</sup>

At the turn of the twentieth century, the development of Oak Hill mirrored the development of the city, growing to accommodate an increasing population. Lawrence was expanding to the south and west, annexing much of the land immediately west of Oak Hill in ca. 1910 from the executors of the Haskell family. This area would be developed into residential neighborhoods, and the street car lines would be extended to this area to serve the Woodland Park amusement park that occupied the northern half of the Haskell parcel until its closure in the early 1920s.<sup>74</sup> The parcels to the east of Oak Hill remained farmland. Information on the development and influence of the cemetery is scarce during

<sup>65</sup> Ambler, [City Council meeting minutes, 1865-1881], 22.

<sup>66</sup> "The City Council", *Lawrence Daily Journal-World* (October 10, 1883): 4.

<sup>67</sup> E.S. Tucker and Geo. O. Foster, *The Lawrence Memorial Album: A Souvenir of Lawrence, Kansas* (Lawrence, KS: E.S. Tucker and Geo. O. Foster, May 30, 1895) n.p.

<sup>68</sup> *Oak Hill Cemetery* [atlas], n.p.

<sup>69</sup> Wheeler, "Oak Hill Cemetery, Chapter II," 2.

<sup>70</sup> Deed of Sale from John G. Haskell and wife Mary E. B. Haskell to the City of Lawrence, Kansas, 1887.

<sup>71</sup> "The New Entrance at Oak Hill," *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, August 7, 1889, n.p.

<sup>72</sup> "Alexander G. Eidermiller," *The Lawrence Daily Journal and Evening Tribune*, January 22, 1891, p. 4.

<sup>73</sup> Wolfenbarger & Nimz, "Historic Resources of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas," Section E, 20-29.

<sup>74</sup> Dary, *Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas, an Informal History*, 234.

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this period, but Oak Hill appeared to remain the preferred burial ground in the City. By 1921, the neighborhoods around Oak Hill looked very much like they do at the present time, and many of the historic homes built in the 1910s and 1920s remain. In 1926, Memorial Park Cemetery, a lawn-style cemetery, was established southeast of Oak Hill across 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

*Further Expansion of Oak Hill Cemetery*

Wheeler maintained the position of City Engineer from the 1880s until his death in 1920; it is possible that his involvement with Oak Hill continued through this time and that the sections shown on the 1913 map and those added by the 1918 western addition were completed under his direction.

The year 1904 saw another significant expansion of the cemetery grounds with the platting of Section 10 and another addition to Section 5.<sup>75</sup> Two private mausoleums, for the Murphy and Monroe families, were likely constructed in the 1910s and represent excellent examples of the type of pre-designed mausoleums available in stone fabricators' catalogues around the turn of the century. In addition to the Quantrill's Raid Citizen's Monument erected in 1895, several other group monuments or memorials were erected in the following years. In 1910, Company H of the 20th Kansas Volunteers erected a monument in their plot in Section 8 in honor of veterans of the Spanish-American War.<sup>76</sup> The monument is standing solidly dressed in khaki on a granite pedestal. The solidly is carved in fine detail and was executed by carvers in Bedford, Indiana. The monument was reported to cost \$1,000 and was dedicated on Decoration Day, 1911.<sup>77</sup> In 1913, the Grand Army of the Republic and the auxiliary Woman's Relief Corps dedicated two monuments in Section 7.

Documentation of changes and additions to the cemetery is scarce after the 1904 expansion. An extant map of Oak Hill dated 1913, produced by the City Engineer's office, shows the cemetery nearly in its entirety but does not accurately show the south entrance. The south gate still existed at the time and had structures in place, likely including the 1880 Sexton's House.<sup>78</sup> This map shows the cemetery platted out to Sections 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 17. A footbridge is shown spanning a ravine at the extreme northwest corner, and a small "Comfort House" is shown at the southern tip of Section 9. Weltz's bridges over the eastern ravine may have been taken down by this time, as little to no evidence of his 1870s changes to the site can be identified on the 1913 map.

The strong desire for burial space at Oak Hill continued into the early twentieth century. Starting in 1910, newspaper articles began discussing the possibility of the construction of a public mausoleum,<sup>79</sup> and in 1914, the City Council was approached by the Ohio Mausoleum Company to construct a stone mausoleum costing \$12,000, to be located on private property just outside the northern boundary of Oak Hill.<sup>80</sup> Newspaper accounts from the time describe a somewhat grander structure than exists today, describing it as a "...Modern and Scientific Burial Place..." and saying "The plans are for a four hundred crypt building, although the company will build for two hundred if the conditions justify the smaller size only."<sup>81</sup> The "smaller size" was actually constructed. The City accepted trusteeship of the mausoleum,<sup>82</sup> and it was dedicated and opened in 1917.<sup>83</sup>

Two tracts of land, totaling approximately five acres, north and south of Oak Hill Avenue were added to the western edge of the cemetery grounds. The northern tract was acquired in 1918, the southern tract was likely acquired about the same time, but documentation has not been found.<sup>84</sup> This land would eventually be platted and make up all or portions of Sections 15, 16, and 18, along with what is presently the Veteran's Plot (not established as such until 1946). Sometime during this period, the gate at the western entry was also relocated to the new property line; during this move, the cast iron posts and arch seen in the 1895 photo were removed, and the remaining ironwork was incorporated into limestone piers. A hint of the west gate in its current location can be seen in the 1937 aerial photograph. This change likely

<sup>75</sup> *Oak Hill Cemetery* [atlas], n.p.

<sup>76</sup> "Erect Monument," *Jeffersonian Gazette*, November 30, 1910, p 1.

<sup>77</sup> "Co. H Monument is Dedicated", *Lawrence Daily Journal*, May 29, 1911, p 1.

<sup>78</sup> *Oak Hill Cemetery [map]*, Lawrence, KS: City Engineer Office, October 13, 1913.

<sup>79</sup> "Mausoleum? Probably Not," *Lawrence Daily World*, June 18, 1910, p 1.

<sup>80</sup> *City Council Journal Minutes*, December 15, 1915.

<sup>81</sup> "A Mausoleum Here," *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, January 9, 1915, p 2.

<sup>82</sup> "Offers City a Mausoleum," *The Lawrence Daily Gazette*, January 6, 1914, p 1.

<sup>83</sup> "Dedicate Mausoleum," *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, July 13, 1917, p 1.

<sup>84</sup> "City Buys Land." *The Lawrence Daily Journal-World*. May 29, 1918, p. unknown

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occurred between 1918 and the early 1920s in conjunction with paving the roads – one of the final actions set in motion by Wheeler at Oak Hill.<sup>85</sup>

Starting in 1937, regular aerial photography of Douglas County becomes available, showing the development of Oak Hill Cemetery during a time from which few records have survived or been located.<sup>86</sup> This photography collection is particularly important for documentation of the modifications that were made to the south entry before its complete removal around 1960. In 1937, the south entry with two drive lanes leading from East 15th Street through Section 5 can be clearly seen, and there appears to be a single structure sitting between these lanes.<sup>87</sup> This would be consistent with historic references to the Sexton's House that was described as being convenient to the south entry.<sup>88</sup> By 1941, a second, larger structure had been built over the eastern lane; this structure appears to have a central loft or gable and may be the horse barn that was once on the site.<sup>89</sup>

Lawrence: Modern 1945-1975

Like the rest of the United States, Lawrence experienced a post war building boom. This boom was accompanied by a sharp increase in attendance at the University of Kansas. The University expanded south and west from the central campus. Similarly, land was annexed into the City, particularly to the west and south. These new areas were largely residential but were accompanied by construction of schools and neighborhood shopping districts. The downtown area remained the heart of the City.<sup>90</sup>

*Oak Hill Cemetery, 1945-1975*

Aerial photography of Douglas County show that all structures associated with the south entry from 15<sup>th</sup> Street appear to have been removed by 1954, possibly recently as grass had not yet covered the footprint of the larger building, and the drives were still partially in place.<sup>91</sup> The Douglas County Tombstone Index states that the "two story house on the grounds that had been home for the caretakers through the years was sold to Carl Perkins in 1945 and moved to Eudora."<sup>92</sup> The 1966 aerial photograph shows the drive lane to East 15th Street had been removed completely and the area was grassed over.<sup>93</sup> Based on cemetery records and the 1913 map of Oak Hill, the land under the south entry and Sexton's House was platted as part of Section 5, but interments were not made until the 1980s.

Also, visible in the 1954 aerial photograph is the Veteran's Plot in the southwest corner of Oak Hill.<sup>94</sup> Dedicated in 1946, the Veteran's Plot is a significant departure in style and design from the historic core of Oak Hill Cemetery, representing the twentieth-century preference for open lawn-style cemeteries with flat markers and grid-like organization. Some modest improvements to this Plot were made in 1971.

The final major expansion of Oak Hill occurred in ca. 1979, when approximately 20 acres were acquired to the north of the existing property, bringing the cemetery to its current size. This land is currently majorly undeveloped, but does include Section 19 and 20 as well as the Natural Burial area. In the 1980s, the roadways along the northern edge and at the southwest corner of the developed cemetery were extended, and this is visible in the 1986 Douglas County aerial photograph.<sup>95</sup> In 2000, Wheeler's garden at the apex of Oak Hill was converted to burial space as a children's section, and in 2008, the northwest corner of the cemetery just inside the tree line was dedicated for "natural burials" (burials performed without embalming or other chemical preservation), the first such burial ground in Kansas.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>85</sup> "Pave Edge Hill Road," *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, July 15, 1919, p 1.

<sup>86</sup> *Douglas County, KS, Historic Air Photos*, 1937, 1941, 1954, 1966, 1976, and 1986. University of Kansas Libraries, <http://guides.lib.ku.edu/gis/data> (accessed August 30, 2016).

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*, 1937

<sup>88</sup> Snedeger, *Complete Tombstone Census of Douglas County, Kansas*, Vol I, 7d.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>90</sup> Dale Nimz, "Historic Resources of Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas," National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form Amendment, July 30, 2014, Section E, 1-2.

<sup>91</sup> *Douglas County, KS, Historic Air Photos*.

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*, 1954

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*, 1966.

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*, 1954.

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.*, 1986.

<sup>96</sup> Chad Lawhorn, "Natural Selection: Burial Method Gains Popularity," *Lawrence Journal-World*, May 27, 2012, online, n.p.

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Burials continued in Oak Hill, as they still do. However, the addition of Memorial Park Cemetery likely slowed the interment rate at Oak Hill. Burials during this period at Oak Hill are predominantly marked in a manner consistent with the lawn-style burials and mark a departure from the Rural Cemetery style markers that predominate the older sections of Oak Hill.

### **The Rural Cemetery Movement**

By the 1860s when Oak Hill was incorporated, the Rural Cemetery style had been used in the United States for over thirty years. Evolving from the Picturesque Garden aesthetic of eighteenth-century England, Rural Cemeteries employed a unique design language that was a radical departure from burial grounds of the past.<sup>97</sup> This new cemetery style incorporated man-crafted nature and inserted dramatic monuments into the landscape refined by the garden movement. Early Rural Cemeteries were also truly rural; they were developed outside the city limits and were intended to provide visitors with a pastoral retreat from the grit and pollution of the Industrial Revolution-age urban center.

Père Lachaise, founded in 1804 in Paris, France, is commonly considered to be the earliest cemetery to embrace the full aesthetic of the Rural Cemetery movement, which then spread contemporaneously to England and the United States where the form was enthusiastically adopted.<sup>98</sup> Founded in 1831, Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is considered the first major example of the form in the United States, followed quickly by Laurel Hill (1836) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Green-Wood (1838) in Brooklyn, New York.<sup>99</sup>

The Rural Cemetery movement spread westward as frontier towns sought to use architecture and city planning to rebrand themselves as refined cities. By the 1860s, while the form was in decline in the east, it was gaining popularity in the Midwest, and towns often engaged established designers (such as Horace W.S. Cleveland who actively promoted his landscape practice in the Midwest) from outside the region to design a fashionable new cemetery.<sup>100</sup> Midwestern Rural Cemeteries were often more modest in scale and ambition than the East Coast examples while still embodying the aesthetic of the movement. Throughout Kansas, cemeteries in the rural style were incorporated well into the 1880s before losing favor to lawn-style cemeteries with low markers and level grounds.

### **Oak Hill and Quantrill's Raid**

The anniversary of the Raid is often reflected upon in Lawrence, and presently this commemoration is part of a larger group of events centered on educational activities relating to the Civil War. The event certainly left an indelible mark on Lawrence and the persevering spirit of the early settlers is enshrined in the City logo, which features a phoenix rising from the ashes of the post-Raid ruins. Buildings that survived the Raid are predominantly domestic structures, and Oak Hill stands as an enduring monument to the event.

On May 30, 1895, a committee formed by Quantrill Raid survivors erected a monument in Section 3 to commemorate the citizen victims. The Decoration Day ceremony to dedicate the monument was conducted by Reverend Richard Cordley, a Raid survivor as well as the author of an early history of Lawrence that was published in 1895.<sup>101</sup> Many of the raid survivors alive at this time had also survived the 1856 sack of Lawrence and a group photograph was made.<sup>102</sup> Raid survivor's strong ties to Lawrence are evident in the burial patterns. Though many of the survivors' left Lawrence for Kansas City, Missouri, or places as far as California, many have their final resting place in Oak Hill.<sup>103</sup> This includes

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<sup>97</sup> Blanche M.G. Linden, *Silent City on a Hill: Picturesque Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery*, Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 2007, p. 37-53

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*, 72-79.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.*, 145-149.

<sup>100</sup> H.W.S. Cleveland, *Landscape Architecture, as Applied to the Wants of the West; with an Essay on Forest Planning on the Great Plains*, Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co, 1873, p. 61-72.

<sup>101</sup> Armitage, *Lawrence Survivors of Quantrill's Raid*, p. 113.

<sup>102</sup> "Survivors of the Border Ruffian Attacks, Lawrence, Kansas," Photograph, Kansas Historical Society, Kansas Memory available from <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/219481> (accessed February 22, 2017).

<sup>103</sup> Armitage, *Lawrence Survivors of Quantrill's Raid*, p. 56.

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Thomas J. Sternbergh and his wife who sold the City the original forty-acre tract; both of whom died in California but were interred at Oak Hill.<sup>104</sup>

The year 1913 marked 50 years since Quantrill's Raid and another gathering of Raid survivors was held to mark the occasion. The *Lawrence Daily Journal-World* published a special supplement on December 23 of that year to showcase the prosperity of Lawrence and the surrounding areas. In the back of the edition was a copy of the panoramic photo of survivors taken on August 21, 1895, and narratives from and about those who survived the raid were included. Gurdon Grovenor was among those with longer narratives recorded.<sup>105</sup>

### Lack of Segregation in the Cemetery

The earliest rules for the cemetery do not explicitly address issues of race, and race was not a vital statistic required to be declared for a permit to bury.<sup>106</sup> Oak Hill is an integrated cemetery and appears to have been from its inception. Section 1, which was part of the first plat in 1868, contains the burial of Gabriel Gray, an African American Minister,<sup>107</sup> as well as Jesse and Frances Dillard who were African Americans living in Lawrence's Pinckney neighborhood.<sup>108</sup> George Albach, a German immigrant and Raid victim, is buried a short distance from the Grays and Dillards. Section 1 contains burials of several other families of German descent in and around the African American burials, notably Achning and Weidemann. Both families were downtown merchants with family members in Lawrence during the Raid.

In Section 4, there is something of a concentration of veterans from the 79th and 83rd United States Colored Troops, including Louis Love, David Kennedy, Hiram Hunter, Squire Hughes, and George Washington. Interspersed in this grouping are other Civil War veterans such as Solomon Edmondson and Charles A. Noble. Many of the Planz family, including the patriarch Jacob Planz who was a long-time baker in Lawrence, are also buried in this section, as is Thomas D. Lescher, whose family was involved in architecture and construction in Lawrence and Topeka, including the Statehouse. This pattern of interracial interment can be found in Sections 1, 4, 5, and 9 according to a Memorial Day publication in the newspaper listing veterans in Oak Hill.<sup>109</sup>

Given the political leanings of Lawrence's leaders, many of whom were involved in founding Oak Hill, early rules regarding race may have been intentionally omitted. Speer was not only an abolitionist; he was an outright proponent of equality and was in favor of integration.<sup>110</sup> Wheeler, who was involved in the creation and management of Oak Hill Cemetery for most of his life, built his own home at 346 Illinois in the Pinckney neighborhood, which has traditionally been an integrated area of Lawrence. At the present time, no regulations regarding the integration or segregation of races have been identified. Interestingly, other cemeteries in the region, including Topeka Cemetery in Topeka, Kansas, and Elmwood Cemetery in Kansas City, Missouri, were not racially segregated by policy, although financial considerations may have acted as *de facto* segregation for many families.<sup>111</sup>

### Notable Kansans in the Cemetery

William Allen White, a nationally renowned journalist, Progressivist, and native Kansan, referred to Oak Hill as the "Arlington of Kansas" in a February 1942 piece published in the *Emporia Gazette* (reprinted in the *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*) about the passing of Kansas Attorney General Roland Boynton.<sup>112</sup> While White's list was brief, it did contain many notable Kansas citizens buried in Oak Hill Cemetery:

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<sup>104</sup> "Mrs. Sternbergh to be Buried Here", *Jeffersonian Gazette*, September 13, 1906, p. 3; "The Sternbergh Funeral," *Daily Gazette*, January 27, 1913, p.1.

<sup>105</sup> "Lawrence, Today and Yesterday: Commemorating the Semi-Centennial Memorial of the Lawrence Massacre," *The Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, December 23, 1913, p. 125, reprinted booklet by Joanne Chiles Eakin, 1999.

<sup>106</sup> Ambler, *Oak Hill Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement*, Appendix E.

<sup>107</sup> Katie H. Armitage, "African Americans Build a Community in Douglas County, Kansas." *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 31, Autumn 2008, p.162.

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*, 170

<sup>109</sup> "List of Soldiers Dead", *Lawrence Daily Journal*, May 29, 1899, p. 4.

<sup>110</sup> Dary, *Lawrence: An Informal History*, 45.

<sup>111</sup> Bruce Mathews, et al., *Elmwood Cemetery: Stories of Kansas City* (Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2010): 37.

Jan Biles, "Topeka Cemetery Marks 150th Anniversary," *Topeka Capital Journal* (February 1, 2009): online, n.p.

<sup>112</sup> William Allen White, "The Kansas Arlington," Reprinted *Lawrence Daily Journal-World*, February 14, 1942, p. 4.

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- **Roland Boynton:** Kansas Attorney General. (Section 13, Lot 177)
- **Dudley Haskell:** United States Representative, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee; State Representative 1872, 1875, 1876. (Section 3, Lot 29)
- **James H. Lane:** First United States Senator from Kansas. (Section 2, Lot 27)
- **Alexander Mitchell:** United States Congressman. (Section 8, Lot 45)
- **Charles L. Robinson:** First Kansas State Governor who also selected town site for the City of Lawrence. (Section 8, Lot 117)
- **Walter Roscoe Stubbs:** Kansas Governor and railroad constructor. Sect. (Section 8, Lot 188)
- **Solon Thacher:** Influential delegate during the creation of the Wyandotte (Kanas Free-State) Constitution, State Senator, and newspaperman. (Section 2, Lot 104)

Other notable Kansans buried in Oak Hill include:

- **Colonel James Blood:** First mayor of Lawrence and survivor of Quantrill's Raid. (Section 2, Lot 100)
- **Dr. Forrest C. "Phog" Allen:** Influential college basketball coach at the University of Kansas who spawned many other notable coaches in the game. (Section 13, Lot 16)
- **Justin De Witt Bowersock:** United States Representative, State Representative, City of Lawrence Mayor, and prominent manufacturer and banker in Lawrence. (Section 5, Lot 204)
- **Alfred Bromelsick:** Businessman, benefactor of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H in Douglas County, and son of Raid survivor William Bromelsick. (Section 10, Lot 3)
- **Reverend Richard Cordley:** Author of the 1895 *History of Lawrence, Kansas*, abolitionist preacher, and survivor of Quantrill's Raid. (Section 2, Lot 123)
- **Lewis Lindsay Dyche:** University of Kansas Professor and Researcher, explorer. His 1893 World's Fair Exhibit *Panorama of North America* revolutionized the display and teaching of anthropology. (Section 12, Lot 95)
- **James S. Emery:** First United States Attorney, Kansas legislator, United States District Attorney for Kansas, and President of the Kansas State Historical Society. (Section 6, Lot 99)
- **Edward P. Fitch:** Started the first school in Lawrence in 1855 and Quantrill's Raid victim. (Section 2, Lot 31)
- **John G. Haskell:** Early architect in the state responsible for numerous churches, schools, courthouses, university buildings, and portions of the Statehouse. (Section 3, Lot 29)
- **Charles and Mary Langston:** Grandparents of Langston Hughes, a celebrated Harlem Renaissance Poet who helped raise him while he lived in Lawrence. (Section 50, Lot 104)
- **Josiah Miller:** State Senator and survivor of Quantrill's Raid. (Section 2, Lot 51)
- **Clair and Vivian Patee:** Proprietors of one of the earliest motion picture houses west of the Mississippi in 1903. (Section 10, Lot 31)
- **Sarah Tappan Doolittle Lawrence Robinson:** Author of the 1856 book *Kansas: Its Interior and Exterior Life* which helped publicize the political troubles of the territorial era, benefactor University of Kansas, daughter of Amos Lawrence, and wife of Charles Robinson. (Section 8, Lot 117)
- **Wilson Shannon:** First Kansas Territory governor, Ohio governor, United States Congressman, United States Diplomat (Section 2, Lot 65)
- **John Speer:** Member of the territorial legislature, newspaper publisher, and survivor of Quantrill's Raid. (Section 2, Lot 1)
- **Lucy Hobbs Taylor:** First woman to graduate from dental college in the United States with a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree and first woman dentist in Kansas. (Section 9, Lot 37)
- **John P. Usher:** Secretary of the Interior under President Abraham Lincoln, 1863-65. (Section 10, Lot 144)
- **George "Nash" Walker:** Vaudeville performer and co-writer of *Dahomey*, the first all African-American production on Broadway in 1902. (Section 8, Lot 17)
- **Jabez B. and Elizabeth Watkins:** Prominent banker, philanthropist, benefactor University of Kansas. (Section 8, Lot 233)

## Conclusion

Oak Hill Cemetery was an intentionally designed site that was to be both functional and commemorative and serves as a final resting place for a number of important figures in local, state, and national history. It is locally significant as the

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second oldest public cemetery and the first designed public landscape for the City of Lawrence, Kansas (Criterion A). Oak Hill's design reflects the Rural Cemetery design movement that was popular in the New England states from which many of the early Lawrence settlers emigrated. The use of rolling hills, winding roadways, trees, and other plantings with Victorian-style markers throughout the historic core of the cemetery are earmarks of Rural Cemetery designs (Criterion C). The site also retains a high level of integrity and still displays characteristics of the Rural Cemetery design aesthetic that are described in Holland Wheeler's documented design intentions.

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Stark, Andrew, ed. *The Kansas Annual Register for the Year 1864*. Leavenworth, KS: State Agricultural Society, 1864.

"Mrs. Sternbergh to be Buried Here", *Jeffersonian Gazette*, September 13, 1906, p. 3

"The Sternbergh Funeral", *Daily Gazette*, January 27, 1913, p.1.

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Tucker, E.S. and Foster, Geo. O., *The Lawrence Memorial Album: A Souvenir of Lawrence, Kansas*. Lawrence, KS: E.S Tucker and Geo. O. Foster, May 30, 1895.

"The Unveiling", *The Daily Gazette*, May 25, 1911, p.1.

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Wheeler, Holland. "Oak Hill Cemetery, A Criticism on Its Management." *The Lawrence Daily Journal*, September 29, 1877, p. 2.

Wheeler, Holland. "Oak Hill Cemetery, Chapter II." *The Lawrence Daily Journal*, September 30, 1877, p. 2.

**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: Douglas County Historical Society  
Spencer Research Library, Univ. of Kansas

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 45

**Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.**

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A 38.957068      -95.214915  
Latitude:              Longitude:

C 38.960620      -95.209533  
Latitude:              Longitude:

B 38.957026      -95.209572  
Latitude:              Longitude:

D 38.960710      -95.214811  
Latitude:              Longitude:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

Property Boundary

The cemetery is roughly bound by East 15<sup>th</sup> Street to the south, fenced along the east and west, and open to an old railroad right of way north.

Legal Description: 32-12-20 BEG AT IRON PIN IN E LINE & 46 FT S OF NE COR SE 1/4 SW 1/4 SD SEC TH W 168 FT TO IRON PIN TH S PARA E LINE 761.5 FT TO IRON PIN, TO N LINE OAKHILL AVE; TH S78DEG56'E ON SD LINE OAK HILL AVE 171.25 FT TO IRON PIN, IN E LINE SD QR SEC; TH N 793.75 FT ON SD LINE TO PTBEG; ALSO BEG AT SE COR SW 1/4 32-12-20 TH N 409 FT TO S LINE OF CEM ROAD TH ALONG S LINE SD ROAD IN WLY DIR 207 FT TO A STAKE TH S 448 FT TH E 203.75 FT TO PT BEG; ALSO BEG 38 RDS E OF NW COR SE 1/4 32-12-20 TH S 80 RDS E 22 RDS N 36 RDS TO S BNDRY R/W HERETOFORE GRANTED TO ST LOUIS, LAWRENCE & DENVER RR (NOW AT&SF RR CO) TH ALONG S BNDRY SD R/W SD RR CO TO PT 12 FT E OF FIRST MENTIONED N & S LINE TH N TO N LINE SD SE 1/4 TH W 12 FT TO PT BEG (5.91A) (ANNEXED TO CITY OF LAWRENCE ORD NO 7243 ADOPTED 08/08/2000 BK 683/166); ALSO THAT PART OF FOLLOWING DESC TR LYING S OF AT&SF RR CO: BEG AT NW COR SE 1/4 TH S 80 RDS E 38 RDS N 80 RDS W 38 RDS TO PT BEG (12.54A) (ANNEXED TO CITY OF LAWRENCE ORD NO 7319 ADOPTED 01/23/2001 FILED 04/10/01 BK 705/902 REPLACES 800594B); ALSO SW 1/4 SE 1/4 63.45A (U08464A01 & ANNEXED 800594B COMBINED 2002)

The Parcel Identification Number is: 079-32-0-40-02-004.00-0

Nominated Site Boundary

Only a portion of the entire property is included in for the purposes of the National Register Nomination. These portions are the original 40-acre parcel (the SW quarter of the SW quarter section of Section 32, Range 13, Township 20) and the 3.08-acre 1918 western addition north of Oak Hill Avenue and the 1.87 acres south of Oak Hill Avenue that were added between 1912 and 1921. See Figure 2.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nominated boundary for the site encompasses the limits of the property as they existed at the end of the period of significance.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Julia Mathias Manglitz, AIA / Associate Principal  
organization TreanorHL date Fall 2016/Spring 2017  
street & number 1040 Vermont Street telephone 785.842.4858  
city or town Lawrence state KS zip code 66044  
e-mail jmanlitz@treanorhl.com

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**Property Owner:** (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

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name City of Lawrence  
street & number 6 East 6th Street telephone 785.832.3000  
city or town Lawrence, KS state KS zip code 66044

**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.

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial 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.

#### Photograph Log

Name of Property: Oak Hill Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Lawrence

County: Douglas State: Kansas

Photographer: TreanorHL

Date  
Photographed: August 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera (See Figure 5):

- 1 of 19: West entry gates, looking east.
- 2 of 19: Overall view, looking east toward Section 1
- 3 of 19: Overall view, looking east through Section 7 to the Holding and Usher Vaults
- 4 of 19: Overall view, looking northeast at Section 3
- 5 of 19: Overall view, looking east from southeastern tip of Section 2 toward Section 3
- 6 of 19: View, looking north along the vaults in Section 10
- 7 of 19: Overall view, looking north through Section 8N toward the public mausoleum
- 8 of 19: Quantrill's Raid Citizens Memorial, Section 3
- 9 of 19: Overall view, looking northeast into Section 2
- 10 of 19: Overall view, looking northeast through Section 8N to the public mausoleum
- 11 of 19: Overall view, looking southeast through Section 13 up to Section 1
- 12 of 19: Overall view, looking southeast into Section 5
- 13 of 19: Folk markers with seashells, looking east into Section 9, Potter's Field in the background
- 14 of 19: View looking north from Section 8N
- 15 of 19: View of Hanna marker in Section 1, looking south, Section 5 in the background
- 16 of 19: United States Colored Troops marker in Section 4
- 17 of 19: Edwards marker in Section 5, view looking south
- 18 of 19: Victorian marker in Section 4
- 19 of 19: Cast iron hitching post, Section 4

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Figures



Figure 1: Oak Hill Cemetery's location in Lawrence, Kansas (Google Maps, Sept. 2016).

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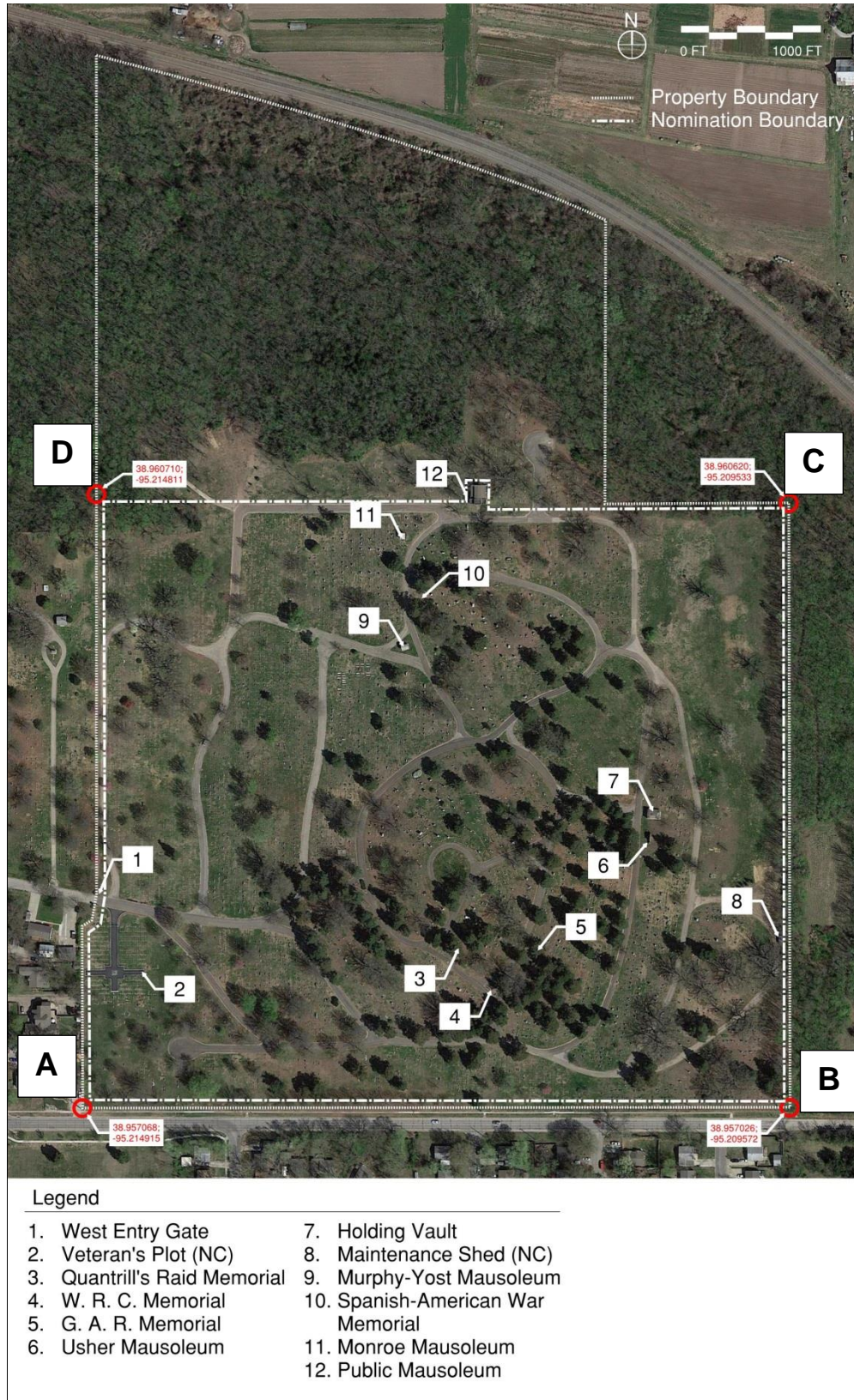


Figure 2 (Boundary Map): Oak Hill Cemetery's notable features (Google Earth, Sept. 2016). Letters correspond to GPS coordinates on page 27.

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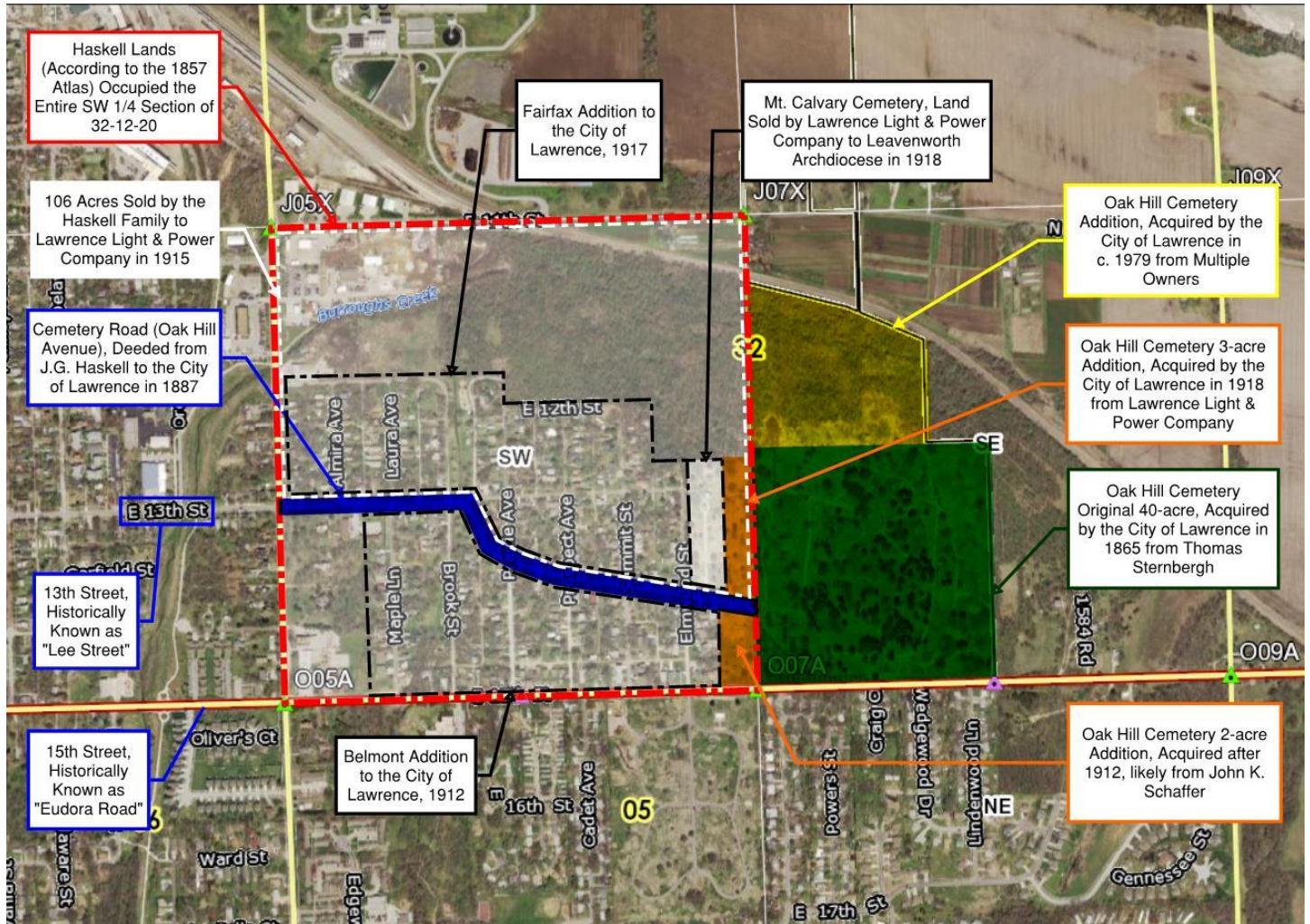


Figure 3: Oak Hill Cemetery's Site Development (Douglas County GIS, Sept. 2016).

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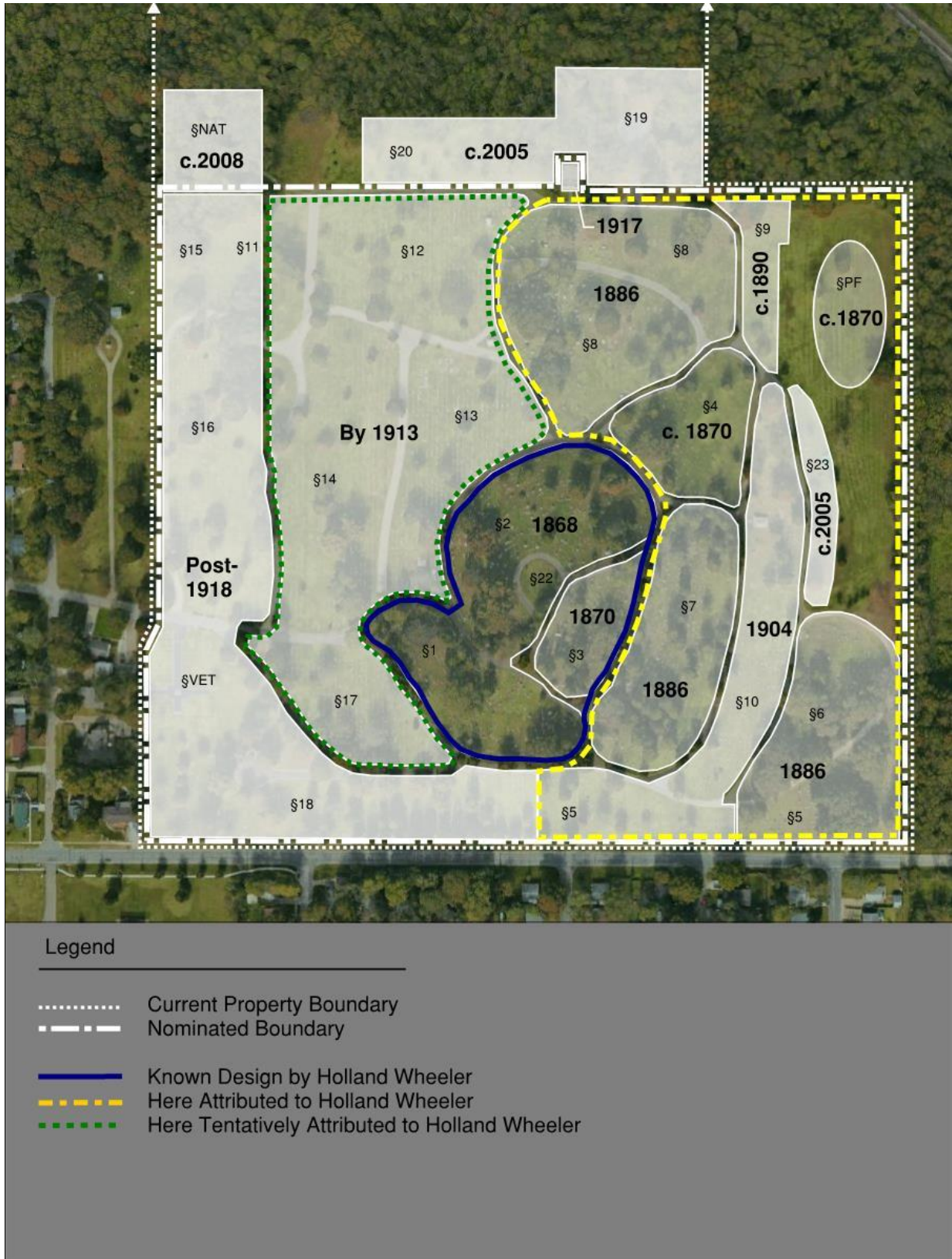


Figure 4: Oak Hill Cemetery's Plat Development (Google Earth, Sept. 2016).

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Figure 5: Map to Accompany Photo Log.

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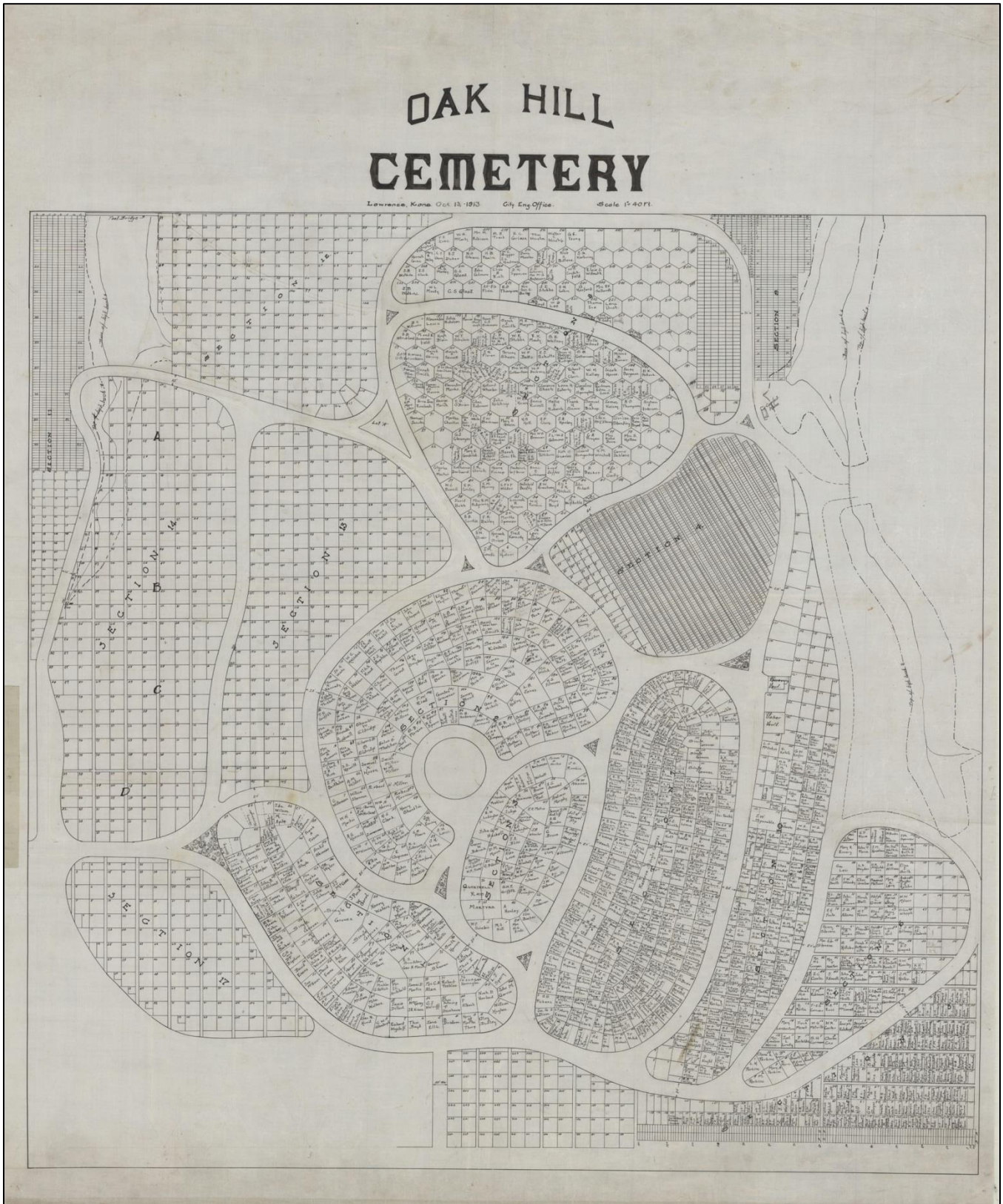


Figure 6: 1913 Map of Oak Hill Cemetery.

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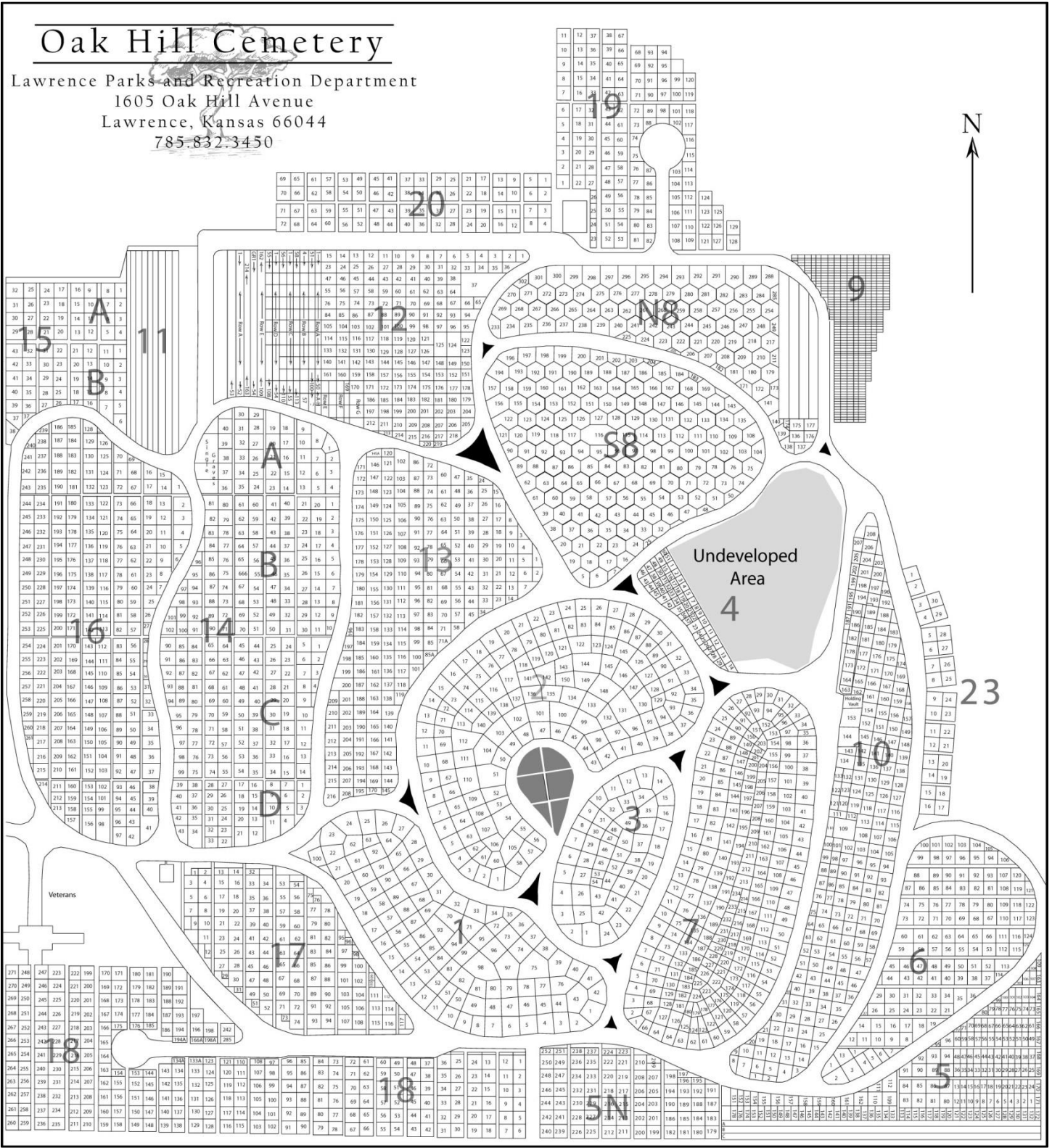


Figure 7: Current Map of Oak Hill Cemetery.

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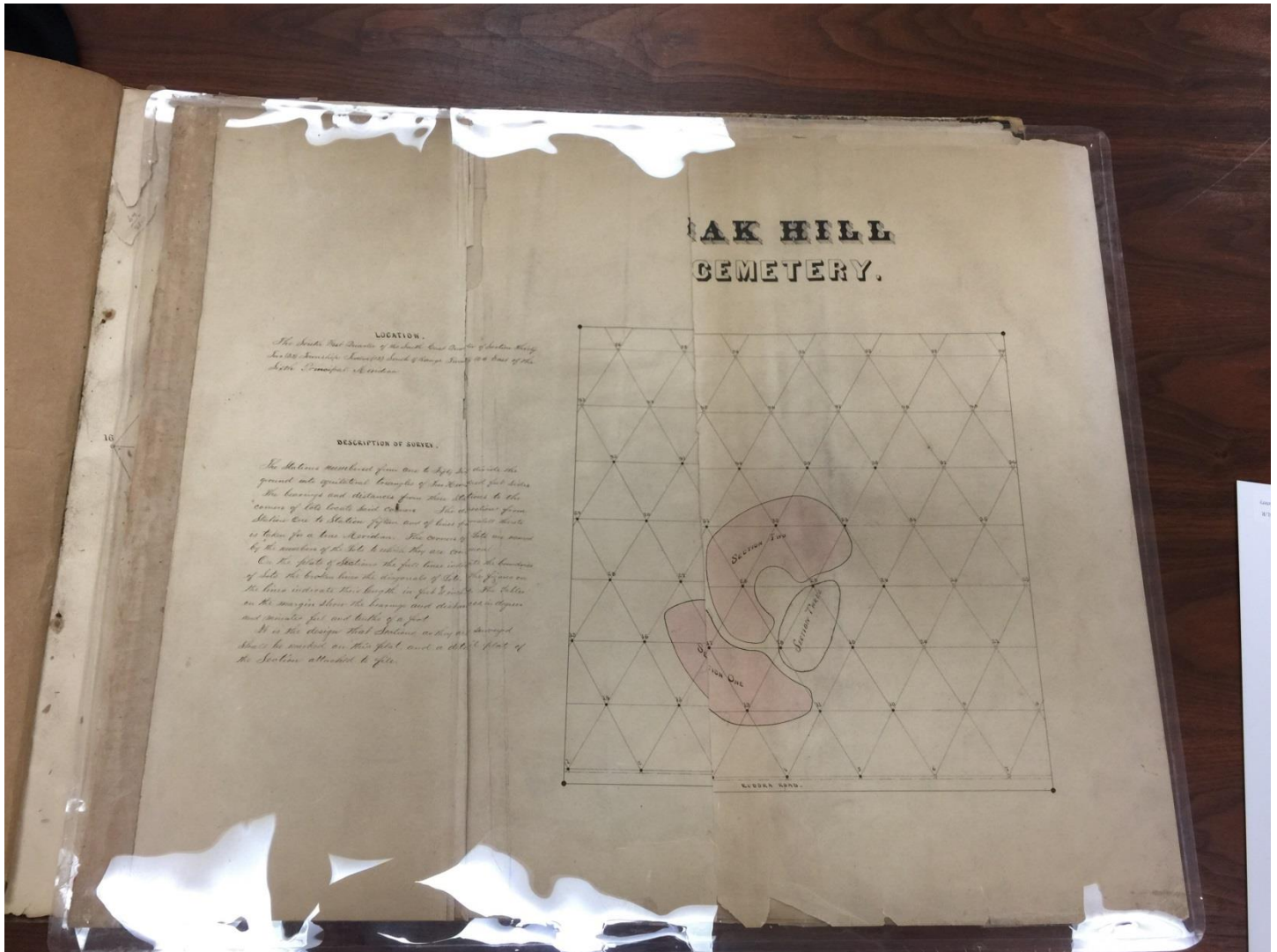


Figure 8: Photograph of original plat for Oak Hill Cemetery. Plat book showing original three sections and many additions is in the Kansas Collection at the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

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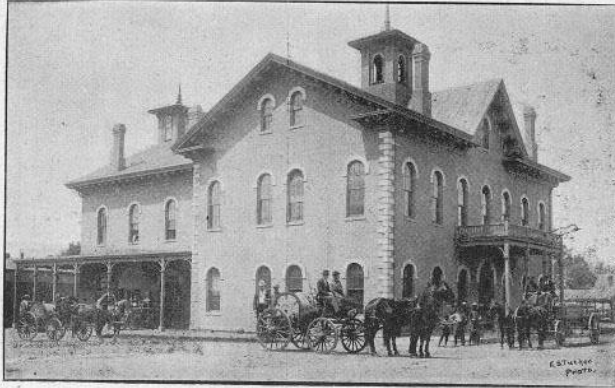
Douglas County, Kansas  
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**Figure 9: Top image - Postcard view of Oak Hill Cemetery Lawrence P.C. & Novelty Company postmarked 1914. View looking north toward the Hughes burial plot in Section 1, Lot 1. Lower image – Present day photo of the same area.**

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THE CITY HALL.

The City Hall was erected in 1869 at a cost of \$28,000. Since then there has been many additional expenditures for vaults and other improvements. It is occupied by county offices as well as city, and also furnishes quarters for the Head Center Hose Company, composed of twelve men. The fire department consists of two hose-reels, hook and ladder, and steam fire engine. Two teams of horses are kept in training.



The resting places for the dead are unsurpassed for their location, natural surroundings and artificial improvements. The first cemetery was established soon after the first settlement of Lawrence, on the high lands west of the city. Here is found the grave of the first victim who fell in the border war, and who lies immortalized by a poem of Whittier's entitled, "Burial of Barbour." In this cemetery were first buried the victims of the Quantrell massacre. In 1865 the city authorities purchased a tract of forty acres, southeast of the city, and named it Oak Hill Cemetery. Early in 1872 the unfortunate victims of the raid were re-interred in this cemetery. An appropriate monument was unveiled on Memorial Day with imposing ceremonies by the survivors of the raid and citizens of Lawrence.



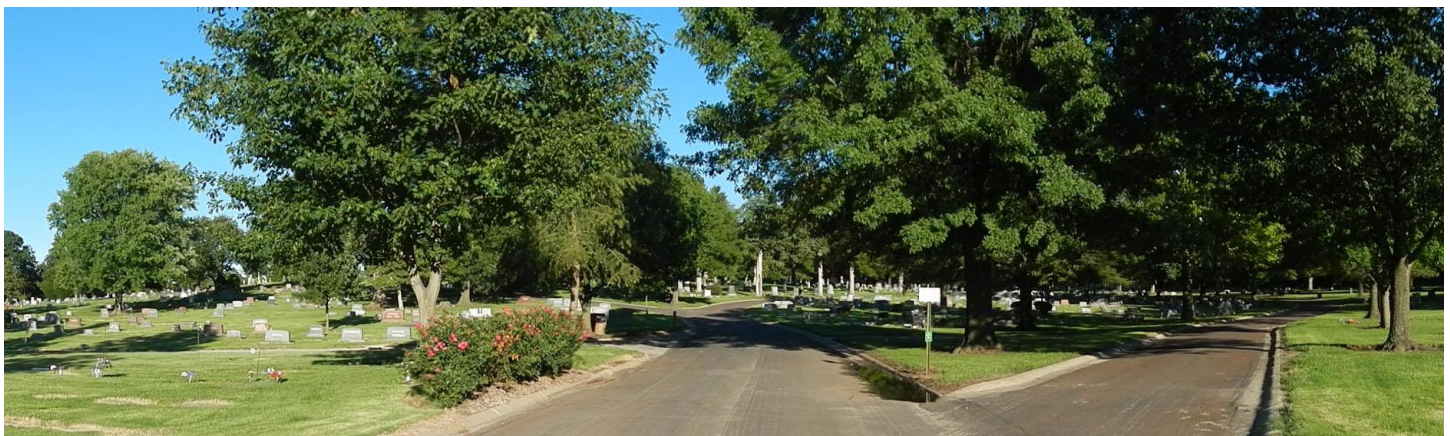
CEMETERIES.

**Figure 10: View of entry for Cemeteries in Lawrence, Kansas Memorial Album; published May 30, 1895 by E.S. Tucker and Geo. O. Foster; photos by E.S. Tucker. Image at the upper right shows a view of the west entry from Oak Hill Avenue (cemetery road) – portions of this gate were relocated to the west after additional lands were purchased. Image at the lower right shows the Holding Vault and the Usher Mausoleum in Section 10.**

The album was published and with the following inscription by the authors: "A souvenir of Lawrence, Kansas, representing the past and present features of the city; illustrated by a collection of photographic reproductions and explained by foot notes. Published for distribution May 30, 1895, on Decoration Day, in commemoration of the unveiling of the Citizens Monument in Oak Hill Cemetery, in honor of the victims of the Quantrell Raid."

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**Figure 11: Top image: printed copy of photo by E.S. Tucker showing the west entry gate circa 1895. See Figure 10 also. Kansas Collection, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. View is taken looking east, markers on the central hill in Section 2 can be seen on the left. Lower image: present day panoramic view looking east along the main entry drive from approximately the same vantage point; trees block the view of the monuments, but the rise of the hill is evident on the left and central portions of the photo.**

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**Figure 12: Photo of Sexton McFarland with the Simmons marker in Section S8, Lot 200, view is taken looking west. Unidentified men in the background. Douglas County Historical Society, Watkins Museum of History, Lawrence, Kansas.**