

## Preliminary Site Information Questionnaire (PSIQ)

To Evaluate Register Eligibility for Cemeteries in Kansas

This questionnaire is intended to provide preliminary information to assist in evaluating a cemetery's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Register of Historic Kansas Places. **This is not a nomination form.** If, based on this information, the property appears to meet the criteria for Register listing, we will provide a nomination form for you to complete. If you have questions about this questionnaire, contact us at 785-272-8681 ext. 240.

**Please include with this questionnaire** photographs of the cemetery from each direction and close-ups of any architecturally and/or historically significant features of the cemetery. Include a map of the cemetery noting any significant features including driveways, clusters of graves, etc. Include a historic photo of the cemetery (a photo copy is acceptable), if one is available. Color print photographs or high resolution digital images will be accepted. In answering these questions, you may attach additional pages as necessary.

Historic Name of Property: Greenwood Cemetery

Current Name or Other Names of the Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or Location: W. Main Street

City (or Vicinity): Council Grove County: Morris

Historic Use (check one): Public burials  Private/Restricted burials \_\_\_\_\_

Present Use (check one): Public burials  Private/Restricted burials \_\_\_\_\_ Inactive \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Construction / 1<sup>st</sup> Burial: 1863

Last burial (if applicable): Lots are no longer for sale but burials take place on lots previously purchased as needed

Cemetery established by (if known): Samuel N. Wood; Architect or Designer (if known): None



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**Describe the organization and features of the cemetery. Provide a sketch map of the cemetery.** Are stones arranged in rows or by family plots? Are there roadways or paths? Are there any buildings? Are there substantial monuments or mausoleums? Are there gates/walls/fencing around the cemetery? (You may attach additional pages if necessary).

Greenwood Cemetery is a generally rectangular parcel bordered by Jefferson Street on the east, Hays Street on the north, Sunset Drive on the west and Main Street on the south. A limestone wall defines the south edge on the east half of the cemetery framing a vehicular and pedestrian gates that serve as the main cemetery entrance. There are three additional entrances off W. Main Street on the west half of the cemetery aligning with the primary N/S roadways in the cemetery. The cemetery includes both paved roadways and unpaved paths framing sections with multiple lots. Most graves are arranged in lots comprised of 12 graves.

The original portion of the cemetery is generally located in the eastern half of the existing cemetery and is distinguished by the organic form with curved roadways with the NE quarter being juxtaposed approximately 20 degrees from the rectangular grid pattern that defines the rest of the cemetery. The original cemetery (as defined by its 1870 plat) was comprised generally of four quarters with a small vacant lot in the center. Prior to that time, the cemetery was not platted and early burials were made without an established or regular pattern. The first quarter donated by Col. Wood in 1862 is the NW and contains no major roadways likely due to the irregular layout of early graves and the fact that many early graves were unmarked. The second parcel donated by Seth Hays ca. 1863 comprises the east half of the original cemetery. The final parcel – the SW quarter - was purchased by the Odd Fellows from McNay in 1871. A U-shaped drive circles the southern half of the cemetery. The NE quarter has a narrow inverted U-shape roadway that extends along the east side of the original cemetery curving on the north and returning to the center point. For an unknown reason, the NE quarter is laid out at an angle. All other sections of the cemetery are arranged on a rectangular grid oriented N/S. There are three major N/S roadways in the west half of the cemetery (1923 expansion). A center E/W road extends from the center of the original cemetery and a second E/W roadway curves around the northern border of the west half of the cemetery.

Following purchase by the IOOF in 1871, the cemetery was platted with individual lots and roadways except that section of the northern part of the original cemetery where the early irregularly-laid unmarked graves are found. Centrally located in the original cemetery was an area labeled "Monument Park." However; no record has been found that a monument was ever erected there.

In 1871 the IOOF had a stone wall built around all four sides of the cemetery (seen in an 1873 Bird's-eye sketch lithograph of Council Grove). Today the stone wall remains only along the south border of the cemetery. It is not known when the other walls were removed but in 1908, the City Commission authorized the Cemetery Committee to purchase fence for the east side of the cemetery (the 10 April 1908 minutes note that the cost was not to exceed 50 cents per post and 30 cents per foot). The 1908 east fence may well be the existing chain fence that would have been relocated with the 1945 east expansion along Jefferson Street. The east fence is round metal posts with a two tier chain. The cemetery grounds were expanded in 1923 and 1945 adding additional blocks, paths, and roadways. The south cemetery wall was apparently extended to the east likely after the 1945 expansion along Jefferson Street. The stone in the east 20' of the wall did not match the original wall although the corner column had clearly been relocated to the new SE corner. In 1994 the City received a grant from a local foundation to reconstruct the east end of the wall to match the original wall. This was completed by Hartman Masonry.



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The existing building near the center of the original cemetery is in the area noted as “Monument Park” on the 1871 plat. It was constructed in 1922 as a shelter house and restroom with a simple rectangular plan and side-facing gable roof with metal shingles. The building is a one-story structure with a stucco exterior. A restroom is located on the east end and the west end has been enclosed and is used for maintenance. The building is recessed on the south providing a covered shelter that is supported by corner columns – short round wood columns on concrete bases. The primary distinguishing feature of the building is its pan-tile metal roof with roof crest. The gable-roof has wide eaves with exposed rafter tails. There are windows on each side of the building which are 1/1 double-hung wood windows. There are doors on the north, south and east sides – generally paneled wood doors but on the rear/N facade is a sliding wood door made of tongue and groove vertical boards.

The SW corner of the cemetery is absent of grave sites. A tree-lined roadway angles SE to NW framing a triangular lot at the corner. For years, this was the site of John Wilson’s Monument Shop although the land is included in the cemetery parcel owned by the City. A stone-carvers symposium was held at this location in 2002.

For decades, Greenwood Cemetery was a forest of large evergreens, an effort that began in 1891. *The Council Grove Guard* reported on 13 February 1891 that James Sharp the proprietor of the Morris County Nursery was soliciting orders to plant 200 evergreens in the cemetery promising to take care of the trees for one year or longer if required. Only a few of the early evergreens survive and few replacements have been planted within the cemetery grounds. There are mature coniferous and a few deciduous trees along the southern border inside of the cemetery wall, mature trees dot locations throughout the cemetery, and rows of trees line the north and west borders of cemetery.

There are large dominant gravestones in various areas of the cemetery generally reflecting prominent or wealthy residents but there are no mausoleums. There has been a decades-long restoration attempt to restore individual gravestones making them readable when possible and resetting or straightening the stones as needed.

**How was the cemetery established?** Was the cemetery land purchased all at one time or in pieces? Was the land intended for burials originally?

The cemetery land was assembled from multiple parcels. Samuel N. Wood dedicated land in 1862 immediately west of the original town site to be used as a cemetery – the NW quarter of the “original” cemetery. Soon after, Seth M. Hayes donated an additional tract just inside the city limits (portions of Blocks 89-90) adjacent to the Wood tract on the east.

Few records have been found to document operation of the cemetery prior to 1870. The *Council Grove Press* 16 April 1864 reported that there was to be “a meeting at the schoolhouse on Friday evening April 22<sup>nd</sup> for the purpose of organizing a cemetery association.” County Records (Book B Deed, pgs 157-158) document the incorporation of the Council Grove Cemetery Association at a “meeting held 19 May 1864, at the schoolhouse. A.S. Pollard was elected president and H.C. Akin elected secretary. M. Conn, R.B. Lockwood, C.G. Akin, J.E. Bryan, T.S. Huffaker, A.S. Pollard, Thomas White, J.J. Hawkins, and Dr. A. Woodworth were elected Trustees.”



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*The History of Morris County 1820 – 1890* by John Maloy, notes that people wanted a cemetery and met at the schoolhouse on 23 May 1864, but “they did not succeed just then” (pg 49). Local historian Ken McClintock has discovered no further reference to the Cemetery Association.

*The Council Grove Democrat* on 2 May 1872 reprinted an article from *The Lawrence Journal*, reporting that the Odd Fellows of Council Grove, disgusted with the appearance of the neglected and unfenced cemetery adjoining town, took matters into their own hands. The result is a plot of 7 acres including the old grounds neatly laid out in lots, avenues, and drives, and surrounded by a substantial stone fence.”

It was in 1870 that the Council Grove Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows took on the operation of the cemetery. They obtained deeds from Wood and Hayes, and an additional tract from Heseekiah W. McNay, to create a rectangular tract that comprises the 7 acre “original” cemetery. The cemetery was bounded on the north by Hays Street; on the east by Jefferson Street and on the south by Main Street; it extended west approximately 1-1/2 blocks.

After nearly 50 years under their care, the IOOF turned the Greenwood Cemetery over to the City of Council Grove in 1917. A shelter house was constructed in 1922, funded in part by the Civic Club with the City of Council Grove paying the balance. The 25 April 1922 Commission minutes document hiring of Joseph Axe to construct the building for \$1,000; referring to the building as the “Memorial Building.” The following year, the City expanded the cemetery by purchasing and platting additional property extending the west boundary to what is now Sunset Drive. This expansion resulted in removal of several homes. Another expansion was made in 1945 by vacating a portion of the west side of Jefferson Street from Main to Hays Streets – expanding the cemetery to the east. The 1945 expansion brought the cemetery to its current form.

**Who did this cemetery serve?** Was this a family cemetery? Was this open to the general public?

The cemetery was original dedicated to and continued to serve the citizens of Council Grove and Morris County; many of the lots were purchased by local families and are still used as family burial plots.

**Describe how the property has changed or developed over time.** When was the first burial? When was the most recent burial? How many burials are there? Are they all marked? Is the cemetery still in use? Has the cemetery expanded? Are multiple groups of people buried here (i.e., there is a military plot within a larger interment area)?

The first burial was in 1863 when Sarah Conn, wife of local merchant, Malcolm Conn was buried. Prior to the creation of Greenwood Cemetery, burials were made in a graveyard near the Kaw Mission (precise location unknown). At an unknown date, the remains of those interred in the Kaw Mission area graveyard were moved to Greenwood Cemetery (the northern portion of the Greenwood Cemetery is largely void of gravestones but is believed to have numerous burials). *Kansas Historical Collections* Vol. X (1907-08) p.209 states that Christopher Columbia died 16 November 1861 and was buried in the old graveyard near the Mission Building and his remains were afterwards removed to Greenwood Cemetery.

The basic evolution of the cemetery is covered above including the expansions and primary changes over time. Most groupings are family lots but there is reportedly an African-American Section in the NW quarter although it is



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not defined. Sarah Taylor, an African American woman and companion of Seth Hays, the first white settler in Morris County, is buried beside Hays in his lot. No specific groupings are visible other than prominent family lots.

**Who has owned and maintained the cemetery over time?**

**Are there any cemetery records? Where are they held?**

**Are there other similar cemeteries in the township or county?**

The City of Council Grove has owned and operated Greenwood Cemetery since 1922 and maintains the cemetery records. Greenwood was/is the primary cemetery that served the town of Council Grove. After Greenwood was filled (all lots sold), a new cemetery – Sunny Slope - was established on Old Highway 4 northeast of town. West of town is Cavalry – a Catholic cemetery.

**Why is the property historically or architecturally important? (Please Note: Cemeteries are not eligible for listing in the register unless they meet special requirements. A cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.)**

Greenwood Cemetery is historically significant to Council Grove because of the people whose remains are interred there. The cemetery was established in the 1860s and most of the town founders were buried in this cemetery. The cemetery is still used by local families and residents who bought plots years ago; most major families in the community are found here, many with family plots. The history of Council Grove can largely be recounted by walking through the cemetery. A few of the notable graves include:

- The first settler and town founder, Seth M. Hays (great-grandson of Daniel Boone), who came with his slave, Sarah (Aunt Sally Taylor) in 1847 to construct and operate the Boone and Hamilton Trading Post;
- G.M. Simcock, later a partner with Hays when they built the Hays House in 1858-59;
- Malcolm Conn, an early merchant, who with two partners built the Conn Store in 1858;
- Thomas S. Huffaker, first teacher at the Kaw Mission (1851); and
- Christopher Strieby, an early and long-time blacksmith.

**Provide a list of sources that document the historical significance of the property.**

A majority of the above information is taken from a summary of the History of Greenwood Cemetery by local historian Kenneth W. McClintock, 2017 provided to the author. Other sources include:

Brigham, Lalla Maloy. *The Story of Council Grove on the Santa Fe Trail*. 1921.

City of Council Grove Cemetery Records.

Local Newspapers.

Maloy, John. "History of Morris County." *Kansas Cosmos*. Mar. 5, 12 and 19, 1887. [1 p.]. (Kansas State Historical Society, Reel: C1522).

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.



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## Why is Register Listing being sought?

The City and their Historic Preservation Committee is interested in listing the cemetery as a means to protect the cemetery and make it eligible for financial incentives for needed historically-appropriate repairs and maintenance.

### Submitter's Information

Name: Brenda R. Spencer, Spencer Preservation

Telephone: 785-456-9857

Address: 10150 Onaga Road, Wamego, KS 66547

### Property Owner Information

Name: City of Council Grove, Danny Mathews, City Manager

Telephone: 620-767-5417

Address: PO Box 313, 205 Union Street, Council Grove, KS 66846

If the person submitting this form is not the property owner, do you have the consent of the owner of the property to submit this form for listing consideration?

Yes  No

Spencer is working under contract for the City of Council Grove

Date: 22 November 2017



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