United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name __Columbia Cemetery__

other names/site number ___Beth Olem Cemetery, Beth Shalom Cemetery, Elmwood Cemetery,__

2. Location

street & number ___30 East Broadway_____ [N/A] not for publication

city or town ___Columbia_____ [N/A] vicinity

state _Missouri____ code _MO__ county _Boone___ code __019_ zip code __65201____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

_____
Signature of certifying official/Title   Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO   Date

_Missouri Department of Natural Resources_____
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

_____
Signature of certifying official/Title   Date

_____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper   Date of Action

  [ ] entered in the National Register.
          See continuation sheet [ ].   _____

  [ ] determined eligible for the National Register.
          See continuation sheet [ ].   _____

  [ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.   _____

  [ ] removed from the National
      Register.   _____

  [ ] other, (explain:)   _____

_____
_____

5.Classification

Number of Resources Within Property

Ownership of Property	**Category of Property**	Contributing	Non-contributing	
[x] private	[ ] building(s)	2	0	buildings
[ ] public-local	[ ] district	4	0	sites
[ ] public-State	[x] site	3	0	structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure	0	0	objects
	[ ] object	9	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

_____N/A_____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

_____N/A_____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

_____FUNERARY/cemetery_____

Current Functions

_____FUNERARY/cemetery_____

7. Description

Architectural classification
    LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque
    OTHER: Rural Cemetery

Materials
foundation____stone_____
walls _____stone_____

roof _____metal_____

other _____

 See continuation sheet [   ]

Narrative Description   See continuation sheet [x].

Columbia Cemetery
Boone County, Missouri

8.Statement of Significance
Applicable National Register Criteria

[ ] **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.

[x] **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
Property is:
[ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] **B** removed from its original location.

[   ] **C** a birthplace or grave.

[x] **D** a cemetery.

[ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] **F** a commemorative property.

[ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
See continuation sheet [x].

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography See continuation sheet [x].

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
  #_____

Areas of Significance
  Art
  Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance
ca. 1821-1928

Significant Dates
  1858

Significant Person(s)
  N/A

Cultural Affiliation
  N/A

Architect/Builder
 Major, Horace F./landscape architect

Primary location of additional data:
  [ ] State Historic Preservation Office
  [ ] Other State Agency
  [ ] Federal Agency
  [ ] Local Government
  [ ] University
  [x] Other:
Name of repository:
Columbia Cemetery Association Records

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10.Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: _____ Approximately 26 acres _____

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	557369	4311628	15	557467	4311628
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	557477	4311511	15	557540	4311511

[x] See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title____ Debbie Sheals _____

organization___ Private Contractor _____ date _August, 2006_

street & number_ 29 S. 9th St. Suite 204 _____ telephone_ 573-874-3779 _____

city or town___ Columbia _____ state__ Missouri ___ zip code_____ 65201 _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name_____ Columbia Cemetery Association c/o Dorothy Hendricks _____

street & number____ 2000 Cobblestone Court _____

telephone _____ 573-445-2742 _____

city or town_____ Columbia _____ state_MO _____ zip code_____ 65203 _____

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Summary: The Columbia Cemetery Historic Site covers approximately 26 acres of land at 30 E. Broadway. It sits on a hilltop, with a grid of streets that divides the property into evenly spaced blocks. The well-kept grounds are dotted with mature plantings, and several of the streets are lined with large trees. The cemetery has its origins in a common burying ground established ca. 1821, and it has been in continual use since that time. The end of the period of significance has been set at 1928, when a park entrance was created at Broadway, and the last major land purchase was made. The boundaries of the site include all land currently associated with the cemetery which was in use as of 1928. There are nine contributing and no non-contributing resources. There are four contributing sites, two contributing buildings, and three contributing structures. Contributing sites include the cemetery as a whole, plus three smaller cemeteries that have been incorporated into the larger site over the years. The smaller cemeteries include the original Columbia Burying Ground, (ca. 1821), Beth Olem Cemetery (1880), and Elmwood Cemetery (1914). The general site also includes a large section for African-Americans and a section for indigent burials. There are two contributing buildings; a vernacular stone receiving vault (1887), and a Romanesque Revival style mausoleum (1911). The contributing structures are: an iron boundary fence (ca. 1914), and two sets of limestone gateposts (1928). There are no non-contributing resources; the only post-1928 construction on the cemetery grounds is a modest caretaker's complex that is located outside the boundaries of the historic site. The cemetery has seen over 10,000 burials since 1900 alone, a number which renders a detailed survey of grave markers (objects) impractical. It should be noted, however, that a good deal of the markers exhibit a high level of craftsmanship, and they contribute to the overall sense of time and place in the Columbia Cemetery. Post-1928 monuments are in keeping with the overall character of the site, and do not detract from its historic integrity. The Columbia Cemetery is in excellent condition, and it exhibits a high level of integrity in all areas of consideration: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.
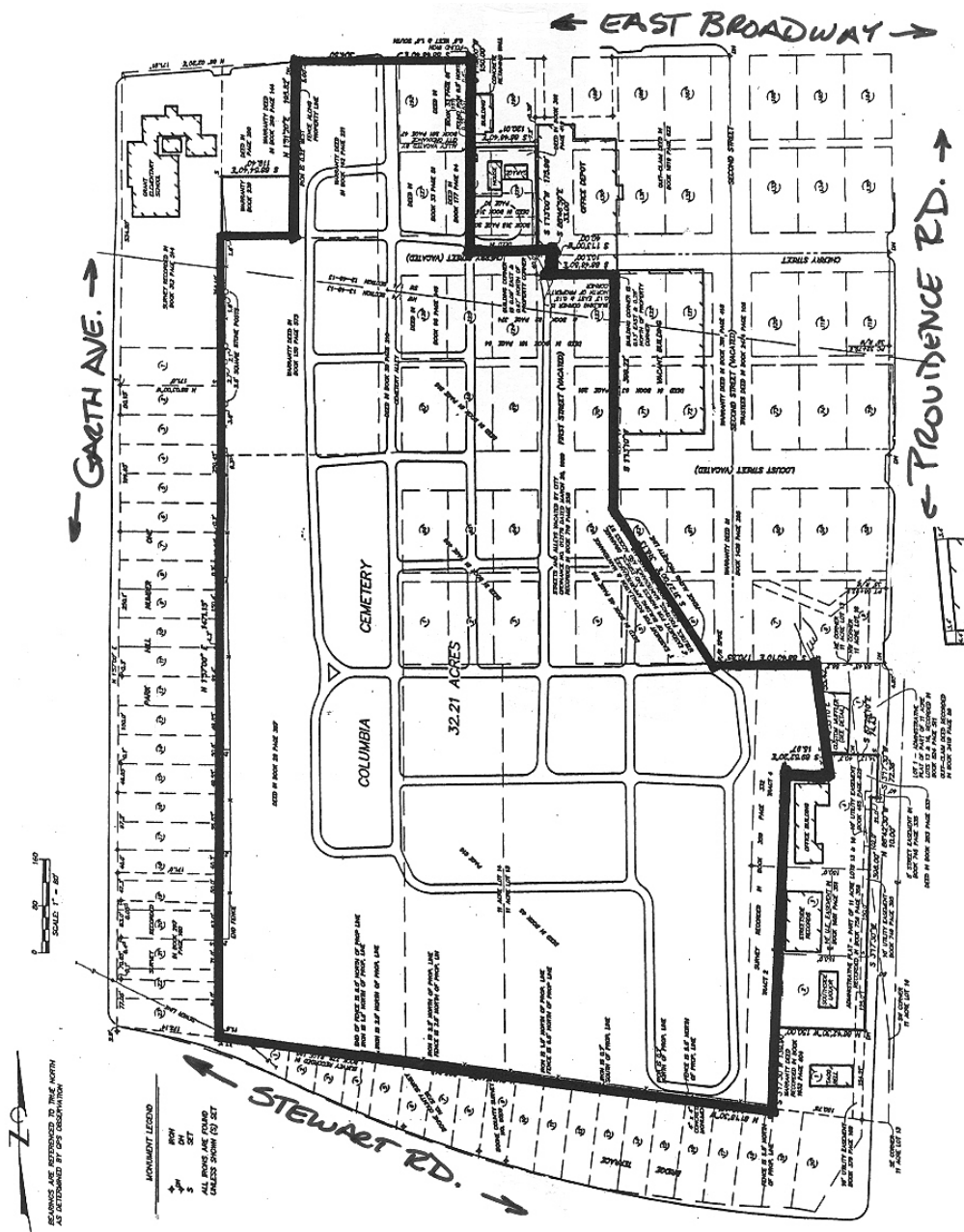
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Figure One. Site Map, with boundaries, and surrounding streets.
From a 2005 survey prepared by Tim Reed, Engineering Surveys and Services.
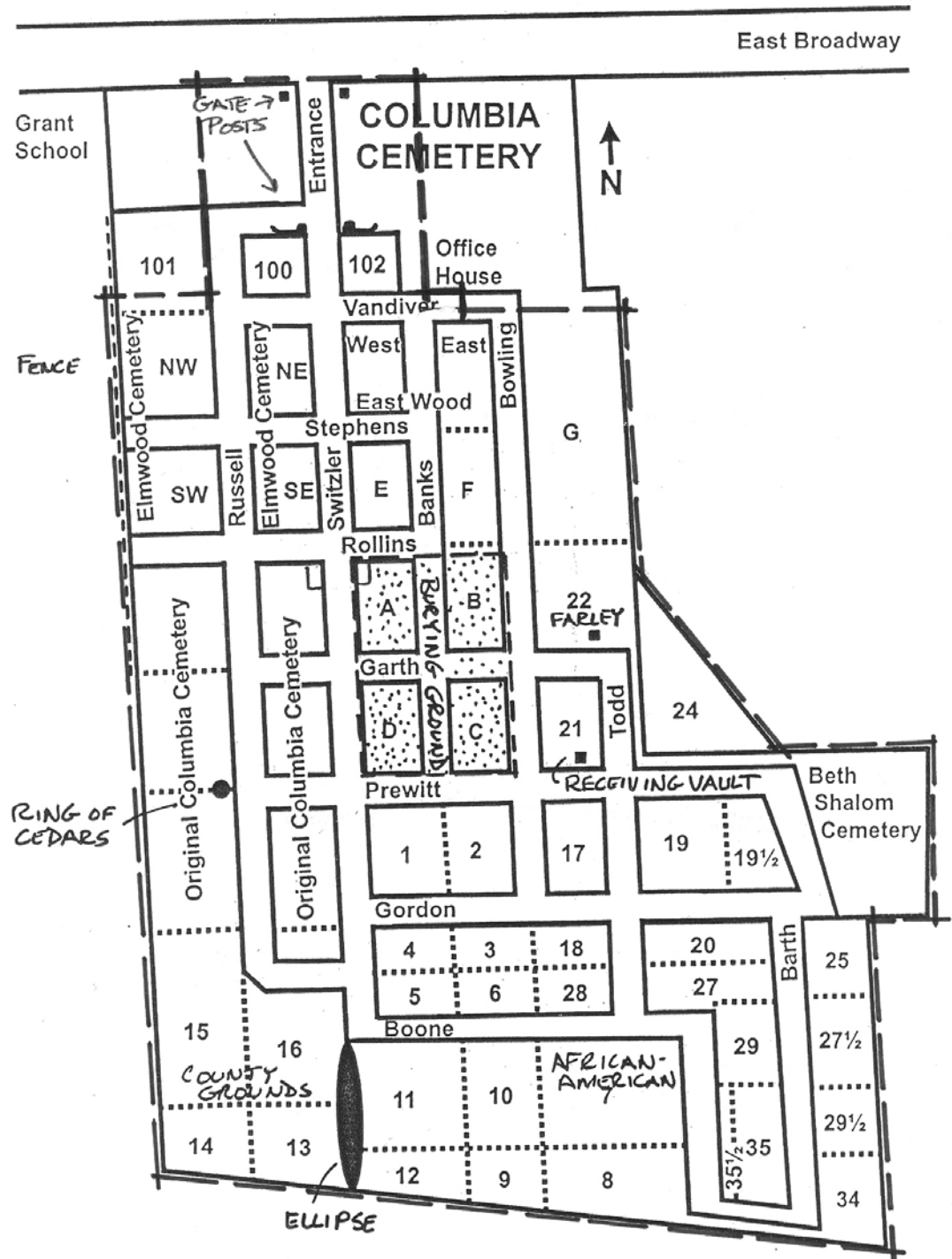Not to scale.

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Figure Two.
Current Plat Map,
with street names
and lot numbers.
The historic
district boundary
is marked by a
heavy dashed line.
Not to scale.
Map courtesy of the
Columbia Cemetery
Association. Not to
Scale.

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Figure Three. Site Map, with the dates various parcels were added to the cemetery grounds. Note that three areas were established cemeteries before they were added to the main site. Not to scale.

Map and dates are from a 2005 survey prepared by Tim Reed, Engineering Surveys and Services.

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Elaboration:

Columbia Cemetery. (1821-1928 contributing site.)

  The Columbia Cemetery occupies a relatively level site, directly south of East Broadway, which is a major east-west road through the city of Columbia. It is located just a few blocks east of the Central Business District. The cemetery sits on high ground, with a level ridge of land that runs down the center of the property, along the path of the entrance drive. The lot slopes down gently along the eastern edge of the property, and a little more steeply along the southwest corner. (See enclosed topographic map.)

  The cemetery property is roughly rectangular, with its short end along Broadway. There is an elementary school and playground opposite the northwest corner of the cemetery, and the straight west edge of the property is bordered by a row of modest early 20th century residences. A similar row of residential properties runs along the south border of the property as well. The east boundary, which is more irregular than the others, is bounded by a row of large modern commercial buildings that face Providence Road to the east. Providence Road is lower in elevation than the cemetery, and many of those commercial buildings are built into a hillside, with the upper parts of their back walls directly against the cemetery boundary fence. (See Figure One.)

  Most of the cemetery boundaries are lined with modern cyclone fencing, and in most places dense vegetation grows along the fencing. Large trees and shrubbery mark the edges of most of the residential properties to the west and south, and much of the fencing is covered with vines. There is one section of historic fencing on the property. It is located at the northern part of the west boundary, where the lot borders the elementary school and playground. (Photo 3.) The historic fencing, which is a contributing structure, is described in more detail later in this narrative.

  An even grid of tree-lined streets provides access to the cemetery grounds, and delineates neat rectangular blocks of lots. The streets have all been named within the last twenty years after prominent Columbians interred in the cemetery; those names are shown in Figure Two and used throughout this document for reference. The center blocks are of fairly uniform size, while the land around the perimeter of the cemetery tends to have fewer roads, especially in the southwestern corner of the property, which is largely open green space. That area also has more widely spaced grave markers, and fewer trees than the other sections. (Photo 21.)

  The entrance drive, Switzler Street, is the longest road on the grounds. It runs straight south from the entrance, almost to the back (south) edge of the property. Early plats of the cemetery label the area at the southern terminus of the road as the "ellipse,"

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and it is shown on the plats as a long narrow oval with a road along the outside edges. The ellipse currently exists primarily on maps; there is no landscaping or notable change of grade in the ground there to indicate its presence. (Photo 6.)

Another landscape feature shown on early plats is visible on the grounds, albeit in a slightly different form. A jog in the road at the intersection of Russell and Prewitt Streets near the western edge of the property contains a ring of cedar trees which is edged by a circle of heavy stone blocks. (Photo 5.) An 1895 plat and other records show that plans originally called for a circular drive at this location, with a gazebo or other small building in the center of the space. A plat drawn in 1936, however, shows that by then, a small tool shed had been built in the center of the circle, and the area that had been marked for a drive was being used for burials. The circle of stones there now may be the foundation of that tool shed. The trees appear to have been in place for several decades.

Records also document the location of areas set aside for specialized purposes. An early cemetery plat shows that the area directly west of the ellipse, near the southern edge of the cemetery, was the "county grounds," where the county took care of burials of those who had no money for a funeral or plot. That area today contains few to no grave markers, even though cemetery records include the names of numerous people buried there.

Cemetery records also show that the ellipse was put into use at some point as well. Current plat books for the cemetery record hundreds of names of those buried in the ellipse, many of whom were infants. Notes on the plat show that the ellipse had sections set aside for both white and "colored" infants. A few modest headstones in the north end of the ellipse are the only above-ground record of those burials.

The area directly west of the ellipse was set aside exclusively for African-American burials in the 1870s, and it continued in that use to modern times.[1] Although written records show that the area is relatively densely used, headstones there are more scattered than in the northern sections, and those that are in place are generally modest rectangular markers of limestone or granite. (See Photo 7; cemetery plats shows that the empty land just left of that roadway is filled with graves.) One of the best known graves in the African-American section is that of John William "Blind" Boone (1864-1927), who overcame both race and blindness to become an internationally known ragtime musician. His wife, Eugenia Lange Boone, and his business manager and brother-in-law, John Lange, Sr., are buried nearby. (Photo19; Boone's marker was placed there by a local foundation in 1971.)

A large area near the center of the western boundary of the cemetery is referred to as

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1 Minutes from the Board of the Columbia Cemetery Association show that they were promoting the "colored" section of the cemetery by 1873.

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the "Original Cemetery." (1858-1928, part of overall site; photos 5, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17.) Although it adjoins the common burial ground, which is the oldest parcel in use within the boundaries, it occupies land purchased by the Columbia Cemetery Association in 1858, for use as the new Columbia Cemetery. The 1858 parcel is partly bounded on the east by the burying ground, and it extends westward to the property line. The land is level in the blocks closest to the burying ground, and slopes down away from the roadway west of Russell Street.

Those blocks are divided in to 226 separate lots, and although plat records show burials in all parts of the blocks, there are fewer markers close to the boundary and south of the ring of cedars. The original cemetery holds some of the largest, oldest and most elaborate markers found on the grounds today. Some may even pre-date the platting of that area; a description of the cemetery written in 1895 noted that when the new section was opened, "many bodies were moved from the common burying ground by their friends, to the new burying ground."[2]

The original cemetery holds several of the more impressive groupings of Victorian era grave markers, including a number of family plots with notable collections of markers. The Lowry family plot, near Garth, just west of Russell, for example, features a row of three large identical markers for the daughters of the family, as well as a number of equally impressive columns and obelisks for other family members. (Photo13; the three markers in the center date to the 1870s.) The Allen family plot, located just a block to the west, features a Gothic Revival style column for a plot marker, along with identical "pillow-topped" tablet markers for the surrounding individual graves. (Photo 15.) One of the largest family plots in that area is the Rollins family plot, which was among the first lots sold, to James S. Rollins. (Photo 11.) James Rollins, often referred to as the "father of the University of Missouri" was one of the first trustees of the Columbia Cemetery Association and one of the most prominent Columbia citizens of his time.[3]

Throughout the cemetery, markers are generally arranged in rows that align north and south. The individual markers tend to face the lane that they are closest too, although there are a few sections in which the markers faces east, even if that means the lettering is placed away from any road. It is common for family plots from all time periods to feature a

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2 Judge Thomas B. Gentry, president of the Columbia Cemetery Association, writing in Columbia, MO Herald, Historical Edition, 1895.

3 Winn, Kenneth H., "Rollins, James Sidney (1812-1888)," in Dictionary of Missouri Biography, (Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 1999.) pp. 655-658.

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large central plot marker with the family name, and several plots also have low stone corner posts.

Raised borders that surround entire plots are found at only one location in the cemetery, to either side of Switzler, just south of its intersection with Rollins. Large family plots on either side of the road there are bordered by a low molded fence of poured concrete, with simple low finial-topped posts of the same material. (Photos 4 and 11.) An 1894 plat shows that at that time, the main gate into the Columbia Cemetery was located at that intersection, and those plot markers were no doubt placed to form a more impressive entranceway.

The types of markers found in the cemetery show a distinct evolution over time. The earliest markers are fairly small, flat tablets, usually of limestone or marble. Those stones are relatively soft, and in many cases early inscriptions have eroded to the point that the lettering is no longer readable. Those that are legible bear dates as early as the 1820s. There are also a limited number of large chest markers, also of limestone, that appear to be from the first two thirds of the 19th century as well. Most of those early markers are located south of Rollins and east of Bowling Streets.

Markers from the last half of the 19th century are much more dimensional and highly ornamented. There is a definite emphasis on the vertical, and obelisks and columns are extremely common. The obelisks are often set upon square bases and are often topped with finials or urns. Obelisks and other vertical markers are concentrated in the center of the cemetery, usually between Rollins and Gordon, and west of Bowling. Many of those 19th century markers were also adorned with relief sculpture, and there are also a very few freestanding sculptures, all in the older parts of the cemetery. Traditional lamb sculptures can be found on several children's graves, and relief sculptures of angels are also used.

After the turn of the 20th century, markers became much more subdued in design, and most stones erected after the early years of the century consist of heavy, low, rectangular slabs. (Photo 20.) Granite replaced limestone as the material of choice, and it remains the most common material in use yet today. Markers erected earlier in the 20th century tend to be of gray or other light colored granite, and red and brown tones have been used with more frequency in later years. The northern blocks in the cemetery, which were developed largely in the 20th century, tend to be more uniformly laid out, and markers in those sections are generally newer than those to the south.

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<div align="center">

Other Contributing Resources.

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The general site contains three smaller sites, each of which started out as a separate cemetery, as well as two buildings and three structures, all of which are contributing.

Common Burial Ground. (1821-1928 contributing site; photos 4, 12, 16.)

     The common burial ground was established shortly after the city was platted in 1821, on city lots 1, 2, 3, 64, 65, and 66. It is known as Blocks A, B, C and D on the current plat of the Columbia Cemetery. The old burial ground is located on high level ground near the center of the current property. Several large trees are scattered along the edges of the blocks, and there are a few mature ornamental shrubs as well. All four blocks are rectangular, and all except block B is bounded by a paved roadway. The north edge of block B adjoins cemetery block F, which was added later. Switzler Street runs along the west side of blocks A and D, and Rollins runs along the north.

     As would be expected, the oldest graves in the cemetery are located in the old burial ground. The oldest readable marker in the entire cemetery, the 1823 stone for Mary Jane Todd, is located there, in Block C.[4] Block D, in particular, contains a significant concentration of early graves and markers. (Photo12.) Block D contains the grave of William O'Rear, who served in the Revolutionary war, and who died in Columbia in 1839. Abraham J. Williams (1781-1839), Missouri's third governor, is also buried in this part of the cemetery.

     The burial ground also features an impressive collection of early grave markers, most of which date to the middle part of the 19th century or earlier. Many of the oldest tablet markers in the cemetery are located there, including a row of thin limestone tablets with molded tops that date to the 1850s. There are also several large limestone chest markers from the mid 1800s or earlier. (Photo12.) A number of the oldest obelisk markers in the cemetery are in that section as well.

Beth Olem Cemetery. (Now Beth Shalom Cemetery. 1880-1928 contributing site; photo 18.)

     Beth Olem Cemetery was created by the Columbia Hebrew Association in 1880, and incorporated into the main cemetery in 1928. It is a one acre site located at the eastern

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4 A description of the cemetery written in 1895 mentions a grave from 1821, but that marker has apparently either been lost or become unreadable; many of the earliest limestone markers have become seriously eroded.

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edge of the property. It is bounded on the west by Barth Street and surrounded on the other three sides by the general boundaries of the cemetery, which are edged by large trees. The land slopes gently down from Barth Street. As of 1999, Beth Olem contained 84 headstones and over 100 graves, all for Jewish residents of the area. Dates of death for those interred in the section at that time ranged from 1881 to 1994, and there have been a few additional burials since that time.[5]

One of the more impressive sets of early gravestones in Beth Olem mark the graves of Joseph and Babette Barth, the parents of Victor Barth, one of Boone County's more prominent early merchants. (Photo 19.) The gray granite obelisks were probably placed when Babbette Barth died in 1898. The obelisks are topped with particularly well-executed sculptures of veiled urns.

Elmwood Cemetery. (1914-1928 contributing site; photo 3.)
Elmwood Cemetery is the newest of the smaller sites; it was formed by the Elmwood Cemetery Association in 1914, and it became part of the Columbia Cemetery two years later. Elmwood Cemetery is located near the northwest corner of the property, west of Switzler Street and south of the entrance gates. It is just slightly larger than the original burying ground, and it too is divided into four large blocks. It is on level ground and has fewer large trees than many of the other parts of the cemetery.

The grave markers are relatively uniform in that part of the cemetery, with even rows of fairly simply rectangular markers, most of which are low, and made of gray granite. Graves of note in the area include those of the Nifong and Lenoir family, who were prominent Columbia families in the area in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The Nifong house is operated as a historic site by the Boone County Historical Society. Sanford Conley Hunt, a prominent local banker, is also buried in that section.

Receiving Vault. (1887, contributing building; photo 10.)
The receiving vault, which is also called the rock house or the cold storage house, is located one block east of the burying ground, on land that was added to the cemetery in 1873. The vault was built in 1887 to hold bodies awaiting burial in the cemetery, and was used in that capacity into the 20th century. It is a modest stone building with a gable roof that faces south to Prewitt Street. It measures roughly 14 feet 6 inches square. The walls are constructed of rough-cut blocks of limestone, and the centered front door is of metal,

5 Scott Latman, "Jewish Section of the Columbia Cemetery," (Graduate research paper, typescript on file with the Columbia Cemetery Association, 1999) p. 2.

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with strap hinges and no window. There is a rectangular window opening in the back wall, as well as low barred vents in the side walls. The roof features short stone parapet walls, and textured metal shingles that appear to be original. A capped vent system runs along the ridgeline. The interior of the building is open, with plastered walls and a concrete floor. (The floor is early but not original.) With the exception of a newer plexiglass cover on the window opening, the receiving vault has seen no changes of note. It is highly intact, although in just fair condition.

Farley Mausoleum. (1911, contributing building; photo 9.)
        The Farley mausoleum is the only mausoleum within the historic boundaries. (Two small later mausoleums are located in an area added to the cemetery in the 1940s.) It is located almost due north of the receiving vault, in Block 22. It is about the same size as the receiving vault, and it, too, faces south to the road. It sits back a bit from the road, and the corners of its generous lot are marked by large concrete urn planters. The planters may be newer than the building.
        The Farley mausoleum is much more highly styled than the receiving vault. It is constructed of massive rock-faced granite blocks, with a high smooth stone water table, and a stepped front parapet that is topped with a small stone cross. A sculpted stone laurel wreath set into the front wall beneath the cross surrounds the date 1911, and FARLEY is spelled out in raised letters beneath the wreath. The central front doorway is topped by an oversized arch of smooth stone blocks which is supported by pairs of short smooth granite columns. The heavy capitals of the columns feature stylized acanthus leaves. The double doors of the entranceway are covered by ornamental metal grills. The building is highly intact and in very good condition.

Boundary Fence. (ca. 1914, contributing structure, photo 3.)
        There is a fairly long section of historic boundary fence along the northern edge of the west boundary, between the cemetery and an adjacent elementary school. It is an open iron fence with a double row of arrow-topped pickets and widely spaced square stone posts. The iron fence runs along what was originally the west edge of Elmwood Cemetery, and may have been installed when that cemetery was established in 1914. Although the fence is now found only on that relatively short section of cemetery boundary, it was originally quite a bit longer. The current street corner markers in the cemetery are constructed of sections of the same type of fencing that were found stacked in the receiving vault. (See photo 2.) Since those sections have been relocated, they are not counted as contributing structures, but they do add to the overall historic atmosphere of the grounds.

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Entrance Gate Posts. (1928, 2 contributing structures, photo 1.)
        The entrance to the cemetery is centered in the northern boundary of the grounds, facing East Broadway. That drive has served as an entrance to the cemetery since 1860. The entrance drive is flanked at Broadway by square stone posts that are topped by large ball finials. A matching set of limestone gateposts are located about 100 feet back from the road, and the land on either side of the front lane is open, with simple lawns and shrubbery borders. The second set of gateposts are similar to those at the road, except that they are taller, and have low curved brick walls extending out to either side of the entrance. The gateposts and surrounding landscaping were installed in 1928.[6]

Conclusion
        The Columbia Cemetery is an impressively intact historic site. The separate areas are unified by the neat grid of tree-lines streets, as well as the subtly uniform placement of markers in rows. The various shapes and styles of the markers help to identify different sections of the cemetery, and landscape features enhance the pastoral ambiance. The contributing buildings are highly intact, as are the front gateposts and the early boundary fence. Together, the resources of the Columbia Cemetery reflect the site's status as Columbia's oldest and largest historic rural cemetery.

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6 "To Move Cemetery Gates," <u>Columbia Missourian</u>, June 22, 1927, p.8.

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Summary: The Columbia Cemetery, at 30 East Broadway, in Columbia, Missouri, is significant under Criterion C, in the areas of Landscape Architecture and Art, with a local level of significance. It also meets Criterion Consideration D, as a cemetery which possesses important historic associations from Columbia's early period of settlement, and which serves as a local embodiment of the principles of the rural cemetery movement. The site includes a common burial ground that is as old as Columbia itself, as well as the first privately owned large-scale cemetery in the community. It gains further significance from its extensive collection of intact historic grave markers, which represent all periods of development for the site. Markers erected later are of sympathetic scale, and they do not detract from the overall sense of time and place. At the core of the cemetery is the original Columbia common burial ground, which was in use by 1821, when the town was founded. The Columbia Cemetery Association established the Columbia Cemetery next to the burial ground in 1858, and over the next 70 years, the Columbia Cemetery expanded to include the burial ground and a number of adjacent parcels. The period of significance for the site runs from ca. 1821, when the common burial ground was established, to 1928, the date of the last major land purchase and improvement to the grounds by the Columbia Cemetery Association. Under the ownership of the association the cemetery developed into, and operated as, a typical rural cemetery, a status it maintained throughout the period of significance. It is the oldest and largest historic rural cemetery in Boone County. Rural cemeteries first came into use in the United States around 1830, and the type dominated national cemetery development for much of the 19th century. The physical location and general landscape design of the cemetery, which include numerous lanes, a planned landscape, and a location outside the city center, are typical of rural cemeteries throughout the country. There are nine contributing resources, including four sites, three structures, and two buildings. The sites are: The Columbia Cemetery, which includes an African-American section and various landscape features (site, 1821-1928), the Columbia burial ground (site, 1821-1928); Beth Olem, a Jewish Cemetery established in 1880 and added to the main site in 1928 (site, 1880-1928), and Elmwood Cemetery, a private cemetery established in 1914 and added to the main cemetery in 1916 (site, 1914-1928). The structures are: a boundary fence (structure, ca. 1914.); two sets of gateposts (2 structures, 1928). There are also two contributing buildings, a vernacular stone receiving vault (building, 1887) and a high style Romanesque Revival style mausoleum (1911, building). There are no non-contributing resources, and the cemetery is highly intact

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and in very good condition.

Elaboration: The town of Columbia was platted in April of 1821, by surveyor Peter Wright, for the Smithton Land Company. That plat represented the Land Company's second attempt at settlement in the area. Just a few years earlier, in 1818, the company had tried to establish a community just a few hundred yards north of where the Columbia Cemetery is now located. When that spot proved to be lacking good well sites, a new plat was laid out a short distance to the east. The new location, which offered high ground and available water, proved to be favorable, and the new settlement thrived. Much of the current and historic central business district in Columbia now occupies the land covered by Wright's plat.

The Columbia plat of 1821 included a central section containing nearly 400 rectangular town lots, laid out in a standard grid pattern.[7] Broadway, which was intended to serve as the main road through town, was the widest street in the plat; it maintains that impressive width though the center of the city today. The road also became part of the Boonslick Trail shortly after that plat was made, and it has been a major east-west route through the community ever since. The front gate of the Columbia Cemetery faces East Broadway.

Although the early city plat included no mention of a burial ground, other sources indicate that a handful of the original town lots served that function from the very beginning. A history of the cemetery that was written in 1895, by Cemetery Association President Judge Thomas B. Gentry, noted that six lots on high ground in the southwest corner of the plat were "appropriated and used for a common burial ground."[8] The land was apparently put into use immediately; Gentry's account held that the oldest monument in the cemetery as of 1895 marked the grave of Robert Barr of Kentucky, who died in 1821. Barr was not the first to be buried there however; Gentry noted that "it is believed from the statements of early residents that the first interment in the cemetery was that of Dr. James Wilcox." Although no date was given for Wilcox's death, since he preceded Barr, it appears that the burial grounds came into use almost as soon as the town was platted, in 1820 or 1821.

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7 Paulina Ann Batterson, The First Forty Years, (Columbia, MO: Public Relations Committee Columbia Chamber of Commerce, 1965) p. 5.
8 Gentry, Thomas B. "The Columbia Cemetery," Columbia Herald Historical Edition, (Columbia: E. W. Stephens Press, 1895, p. 91.) The lots were numbered 1, 2, 3, 64, 65, and 66.

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It is also possible that the burial ground was established even before the plat was made. Gentry claimed that Columbia was "laid out" in 1820; the official plat may have been filed several months after the lots were created. Also, those six lots were located just south of the original site of Smithton, and the burial ground may have been established by residents of that settlement.

Whatever the first date, use of the property as a burial ground appears to have been done on an informal basis for many years. The six lots were sold several times in the early 1820s, usually as part of larger parcels, and never with mention of the burial ground function in the deeds. Boone County deed records show that the town trustees sold them along with 30 other lots in December of 1821, and that they were conveyed at least three different times in the next eight years, usually in association with various groups of lots. None of those deeds mentioned a burial ground.[9]

The first known mention in deed records that the lots were in use as a burial ground came in 1829, when Daniel and Elizabeth Wilcox sold those same six lots to the Trustees of the Corporation of the Town of Columbia for "the sum of seventy dollars, good and lawful money." That deed notes that the six lots "are now used and occupied as a burying ground" and that the trustees wanted them for that purpose.[10]

The Wilcox's were the first to buy those six lots by themselves; all earlier buyers had acquired them as part of a larger parcel. Although the 1828 deed that recorded the Wilcox's purchase included no mention of the burial ground function, it is possible that they bought them with the intent of getting the land back into public domain. Daniel Wilcox may have chosen to put the common burying ground back into public ownership out of concern for the grave of a family member. The James Wilcox named by Gentry as the first to be person buried in the cemetery may have been related to Daniel Wilcox.

Daniel Wilcox may also have been acting simply out of concern for public welfare. He was a physician who had lived in the area from the first days of settlement, and he had a history of public service. He was one of the few people to have lived in the Smithton settlement before it was moved to the new town of Columbia, and he served as the only doctor in the tiny settlement. He moved to Columbia when everyone relocated in 1821, and continued his medical practice there until 1830, when he was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives. He died in office in 1831, at a relatively young age.[11]

Those six city lots remained in public ownership after that, and they appear to have

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9 Boone County Recorder's Office, Deed Book A, pp. 51, 58, and 126.
10 Boone County Recorder's Office, Deed Book B, p. 89.
11 William F. Switzler, History of Boone County, Missouri, (St. Louis: Western Historical Company, 1882) pp. 145, 801-803.

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served as the only public burial ground in the community for the next three decades. The grounds were fenced at some point, and an entrance was established off of Locust Street.[12] (Locust Street would have been what is now called Rollins within the cemetery grounds; see Figures One and Two.) The markers found in that part of the cemetery today reflect that early use; the area includes some of the oldest graves and markers in the cemetery.

Grave markers in the Columbia cemetery that were installed prior to the late 1850s generally take one of two basic forms; thin upright tablets or simple low chest markers. Almost all are of what appears to be local limestone, which unfortunately is somewhat soft, and many of the oldest tablet markers are illegible or nearly so. The horizontal tops of the chest markers fared even worse. The only chest marker that is still readable, that of former governor A. J. Williams, dates to 1839. (A bronze tablet added later has preserved that information.) Almost all of the chest markers in the cemetery are located near that of the Williams grave, and all appear to be roughly that same age as it is.

It is not surprising to find thin tablet markers in the oldest part of the site; the upright stone tablet is one of the earliest permanent types of grave markers used in the United States.[13] Many of the oldest burial grounds in the United States are filled with rows of flat stone tablets, and many of those are ornamented with intricate carvings of death's-heads, cherubs and other common 18th century sepulchral icons.[14] The tablets that remain in the Columbia cemetery tend to be simpler than those found in 18th century cemeteries; ornament is limited or left off altogether, and inscriptions tend to be brief. Chest markers, or chest tombs, as they are sometimes called, are also common to the early 19th century, and like the tablets, those in the Columbia Cemetery are quite simple.

Figure Four. Grave Markers in the Common Burial Ground.

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12 Columbia, MO Statesman, April 27, 1849, p. 2.
13 The common use of that form has been documented in numerous studies of early American gravemarkers, including Richard Meyer, ed., Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture, (Ann Arbor, Michigan: UMI Research Press, 1989) and Harriette Merrifield Forbes, Gravestones of Early New England, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1927.)
14 See James Deetz, In Small Things Forgotten, (New York, NY: Anchor Press, Doubleday, 1977) for a good discussion of common 18th century cemetery iconography.

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In spite of continuing use, the burial ground apparently saw little public care in the first part of the 19th century. By 1849, conditions there had deteriorated to the point that the local paper chided the "Town Trustees" for the "*disgraceful* condition of the Grave-Yard." That short article notes that "not only is the fence down so as to allow the Graveyard to be a place of pasturage of stock, but the lane leading to the entrance is almost impassible for hearse, carriage or horsemen."[15]

A few years after that article was printed, a group of civic leaders banded together to form a private cemetery association, possibly in reaction to the poor conditions in the common burial ground. On February 23, 1853, "An Act to Incorporate the Columbia Cemetery Association" was approved by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri. The articles of incorporation gave the organization the power to "purchase and hold land to be appropriated to and used as a cemetery or burial ground." [16] It appears that the Columbia Cemetery Association was the first private organization that was formed for such a purpose in Boone County, and the association has owned and operated the cemetery ever since, which means they are also the oldest such group in the county.

Five years later, the Cemetery Association made their first land purchase. On October 19, 1858, the association bought seven acres of land next to the common burial ground. A newspaper article about the purchase noted that the new land was "west of, and adjoining our present sadly neglected and crowded burying ground."[17] They moved quickly after that first purchase. Within a month, the new land had been divided in lots, and the Columbia Cemetery had been created. On November 20, 1858, the first sale of lots was held, with much success. Judge Gentry's historical account noted that some purchasers even bought lots for already departed friends and family: "Many bodies were moved from the common burying ground by their friends, to their own lots in the new ground."[18]

The choice of the new association to use the term "cemetery" in their name reflects national changes in the way burial places were being viewed. *Cemetery* is from the Greek word for "sleeping chamber," which connotes peaceful rest rather than lost life. Although the term had been used off and on for centuries, it was not until the modern cemetery movement of the 19th century that it came into widespread use. As it was explained in Inventing the American Way of Death: 1830-1920:

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15 Ibid.
16 Columbia Cemetery Association, "Records," On file with the Columbia Cemetery Association, Columbia, MO.
17 Columbia, Missouri Herald, Oct. 22, 1858, p. 1.
18 Gentry, p. 91.

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Between 1830 and 1920, Americans developed new burial grounds to express their new conceptions of themselves, their society, the environment and death. The development of the modern cemetery occurred in two stages. In the first stage, between 1830 and 1855, the "rural" or garden cemetery predominated. During this period, the development of the cemetery proceeded in tandem with the development of the profession of landscape architecture and pubic parks movement.[19]

Rural cemeteries were, as the name implies, located away from crowded city centers, but they were not actually rural, in that they were built to serve city populations, and were therefore generally located on or near the edge of urban centers. They were characterized by an emphasis on nature, and generally included planned landscapes, with extensive plantings and other features calculated to create a picturesque setting. The grounds of rural cemeteries were often created with the help of professional landscape architects.

The modern cemetery movement came about as a result of a number of factors, including changing attitudes toward death as well as simple practicalities. Before the early 1800s, American and European city dwellers tended to bury their dead in the heart of their cities, often in churchyards, and frequently in very crowded conditions. As ground became scarce, graves were sometimes used for multiple burials, and in many cases the graves were used over and over. Decomposed remains would simply be dug up after a few years and stored in ossuaries or charnel houses, freeing the space in the ground for a new burial.[20] One history noted that in some 18th century cemeteries, crowding was so bad that bodies were left in the ground for only a few years.[21]

Where changing cultural values led to a general reluctance to disturb the dead, it became common practice to relieve crowded conditions by stacking graves, often adding soil and retaining walls to achieve added vertical space. By 1800, century-old Trinity Church in New York, for example, held over 100,000 remains, and as one historical account noted, the "burial ground encompassed only a few acres, and no corpses were removed, so the space was reused many times. Burials raised the level of the churchyard by several yards during the century."[22]

19 James J. Farrell, Inventing the American Way of Death, 1830-1920, (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1980) pp. 99-100.
20 David Charles Sloane, The Last Great Necessity, (Baltimore, Maryland: The John Hopkins University Press, 1991) p. 19.
21 Sloane, p. 28.
22 Sloane, p. 20.

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  That type of overuse posed health threats as well as simple practical obstacles. The problem was illustrated vividly in Paris in 1790, when burials from the ancient *Cimetiere des Innocents* actually spilled into the basements of surrounding apartment buildings. The overcrowded conditions of the burial ground had caused the building foundation walls to give way, allowing some two thousand bodies into the neighboring basements. Similar, if less dramatic, conditions elsewhere in Europe, paired with growing interest in public health, began to spawn discussions on how burial customs should be modified. Although American graveyards were not as crowded as those in Europe, comparable issues existed, and as one history noted "in the 1780s and 1790s, many residents of American cities, particularly those who followed developments in European science and medicine, began campaigns to close in-city graveyards and move them outside of towns."[23] At the same time, the United States saw a growing interest in natural beautification, which led to the public parks movement and the development of the profession of landscape architecture.[24]

  Those changes came together to effect the development of a new kind of burial place, often referred to as the rural or garden cemetery. Many sources credit Mount Auburn Cemetery near Cambridge, Massachusetts as the original "rural cemetery."[25] Mount Auburn was established in 1831 to address overcrowding in Boston burial grounds. Located in a suburban setting and covering 72 acres, it represented a dramatic departure from the crowded churchyards and town commons that had to date held most of the city's dead. Another major difference was that the grounds were professionally designed, due to a partnership with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.[26] The Mount Auburn Cemetery, which featured curving roadways and carefully planned natural vistas, was an immediate success. Similar cemeteries were established in cities throughout the country, and the rural-cemetery movement was born. [27]

  Another important component to the rural cemetery movement was the transfer of stewardship of the burial ground out of public or religious domain and into private hands. The New Haven Burial Ground, which was established in 1796, was the first cemetery incorporated in America, and the ownership structure established there became industry standard as the rural cemetery movement took hold. [28] As one description of the New

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23 Sloane, p. 29.
24 Farrell, p. 99.
25 Farrell, p. 100, and Sloane, p. 44.
26 Sloane, pp. 45-46.
27 Farrell, p. 99.
28 Sloane, pp. 29-32.

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Haven Burial Ground association noted, "Permanence and security were the primary goals of the new association; a private corporation insured that a family could protect the graves of their ancestors."[29]

Records of the Columbia Cemetery Association show that the association had similar concerns, and that the cemetery was in many ways a typical rural cemetery. The Articles of Incorporation gave the members the power to "purchase and hold land to be appropriated to and used as a cemetery or burial ground" and that the "net proceeds of the sale of such lots shall be expended in improving and embellishing the grounds of said cemetery…"[30] An attention to maintaining pleasantly landscaped grounds is also apparent; one of the articles notes that anyone damaging the tombs, monuments, fences or shrubbery was to be held accountable by the managing board.

Although it is not clear if the Columbia Cemetery grounds were originally laid out with the help of a professional landscape architect, the presence of such an extensive set of roadways indicates that there was some overriding vision in place at a very early date. The roads could not have been added later, since early burials would likely have blocked access without a master plan in place. Landscape features were obviously also considered from the beginning, since rules pertaining to shrubbery were part of the articles of incorporation. Also, the minutes of the association include scattered references to a "plan" which was apparently followed more or less throughout the period of significance.

A set of rules for the cemetery printed a few years after the association was incorporated shows continuing attention maintaining the grounds as well as the overall ambiance and setting. Horses were not to be left untied, and were not allowed to leave the lanes, and "no vehicle will be allowed to pass through the grounds at *a rate exceeding four miles to the hour*".[31] No trees were to be removed from the grounds without permission, and picking of flowers was strictly forbidden. It was also against the rules to discharge a gun or shoot off any fireworks within the grounds.

The Columbia Cemetery Association worked throughout the period of significance to expand and improve the cemetery, and to maintain its pastoral setting. One of the first expansions came in 1860, when the association bought a 40 foot wide strip of land so that they could install a lane into the cemetery from Broadway.[32] That land, which made it

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29 Sloane, p. 31.
30 Typeset copy of the original articles of incorporation, pasted in to the front of the Columbia Cemetery Association (CCA) Minute Book. (On file at the Columbia Cemetery Association Office.)
31 Cemetery rules, March 29, 1871, CCA Minute Book. p. 21.
32 Timothy Reed, "List of Deeds and Instruments which comprise the property owned by the Columbia Cemetery Association."

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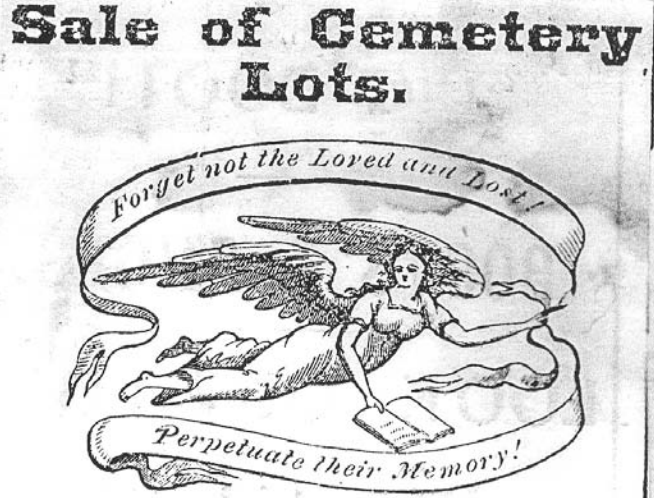
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possible to create a much more formal entranceway, was purchased from Jefferson Garth, one of the original cemetery trustees, who had also sold the association the first parcel of land.

In 1873, the Columbia Cemetery was expanded significantly, when the trustees bought a large parcel of land south and east of the area they had first platted. That transaction brought cemetery land to a total of 24 acres, including the original six lots, which were still technically owned by the city. The trustees again acted quickly, and less than a year later, in August of 1873, they held another major lot sale. An ad for the sale that was published in the local paper shows that the trustees were reaching out to a diverse audience. The ad included a note that part of the grounds were "set aside exclusively for colored people, and they are invited to the sale." The same ad noted that "The ladies are specially invited."[33] The African-American burial ground was located along the southern end of the newly expanded grounds. An early plat of the cemetery shows that the southwest corner of that same parcel served at least part of the time as the "county grounds," which were used to bury those without the money for a plot of their own.

Figure Four. Advertisement for a Lot Sale. From the Columbia Cemetery Association Minute Book, p. 36.

Sale of Cemetery Lots.

Forget not the Loved and Lost!

Perpetuate their Memory!

Notice is hereby given that **On Friday, August 8th, 1873,** a sale at auction on the Columbia Cemetery grounds will be had of a number of choice lots in the new additon. Sale at 3 p. m. Terms CASH.

These lots are not subject to tax, or sale for debt, and the public is reminded that all the proceeds go to improve the grounds.

A portion of the grounds   e set apart exclusively

FOR COLORED PEOPLE,

and will be sold at the same time and terms for their use as a Cemetery.

COLUMBIA CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.
Aug. 1, 1873-2t

(Narrative description, on file with the Columbia Cemetery Association, Columbia, MO, 2005.)
33 Copy of the ad, from the CCA Minute Book, p. 36.

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The presence of a section specifically devoted to African-American burials may explain why the Columbia Cemetery also holds the distinction of being the resting place of a significant number of United States Colored Civil War Veterans, many of whom were involved with the creation of Lincoln University in Jefferson City. Fully 31 members of the United States Colored Infantry are interred at Columbia Cemetery. Of those 31 soldiers, 12 were members of two regiments that have been credited with supplying the funding with which Lincoln was created, the 62nd and the 65th United States Colored Infantry.[34] Those regiments were composed primarily of uneducated ex-slaves from Missouri, and although laws at that time made it illegal to teach blacks to read and write, many of the soldiers gained a rudimentary education while serving in the Army. [35] After the war, they pooled a total of $6,400 to establish Lincoln Institute in Jefferson City, which later became Lincoln University. Classes for free black students began in 1866, and in 1890, Lincoln Institute became Missouri's black land-grant institution. It seems likely that many of the college founders remained in the mid-Missouri area after the school was organized, and the dedicated African-American section of the prestigious Columbia Cemetery would have offered an attractive option for their final resting places.

A few years after the African-American section was created within the grounds of the Columbia Cemetery, a separate organization established a Jewish burial ground just off its eastern edge. On May 28, 1880, the Columbia Hebrew Cemetery Association created a one-acre cemetery exclusively for Jewish use. By the end of the century, the cemetery was being referred to as "Beth Olem" or "Home of Eternity."[36] Beth Olem operated semi-independently of the main cemetery, although Columbia Cemetery records indicate that the Hebrew Cemetery Association contracted with the Columbia Cemetery for maintenance of their grounds at least some of the time. The Jewish Cemetery was fenced at a relatively early date, with a gate on its north end, off of Locust Street. The main cemetery still had a gate off of Locust Street as well at that time.

Later in that decade, the trustees of the Columbia Cemetery ordered the construction of a "receiving vault" on the cemetery grounds. Receiving vaults were used to hold bodies awaiting burial. In some cases, the receiving vault was used to give family

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34 Andy Waters, for the Columbia Cemetery Association website, at <http://www.columbiacemetery.org/colored_infantry.html>, and <http://www.lincoln.edu/history>, September 28, 2006.
35"62nd & 65th Regiments United States Infantry, Co-founders of Lincoln Institute, Later, Lincoln University." September 28, 2006. <http://www.buffalosoldier.net/62th%20&%2065th%20Regiments%20U.S.%20Colored%20Infantry.htm>
36 Scott Latman, "Jewish Section of the Columbia Cemetery," (Graduate research paper, typescript on file with the Columbia Cemetery Association, 1999.)

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members a bit more time to choose a lot. By the next spring the association had adopted rules for its use, to include a rental rate of $1 per week, and the stipulation that bodies would be held no longer than one week. They also prohibited the storage of persons who had died of infectious or contagious diseases. If the buyers did not have a lot, they would "be charged double in advance," presumably to discourage abandonment of the remains.[37]

The work of the Columbia Cemetery Association proved to be popular with the general public, and lot sales continued at a steady pace. By the end of the 19th century, the grounds were filled with an impressive collection of Victorian era grave-markers. The markers erected in the Columbia cemetery in the last half of the 19th century and the early years of the 20th century are typical of all things Victorian, in that they are much more elaborate and ornamental than the older markers, with a definite emphasis on verticality. Many of the older sections of the Columbia Cemetery practically bristle with obelisks and columns, and several of the family plots feature elaborate plot markers as well as coordinated sets of individual stones and markers.

Such visual exuberance was a common, and in some ways defining, characteristic of rural cemeteries of the time. As one description of Victorian funeral art and the rural cemetery movement put it, the "large amounts of space in the Victorian cemetery were to revolutionize cemetery art, and permit the use of sculpture in a way the crowded churchyard had never allowed."[38] Although the Columbia Cemetery has few freestanding pieces of sculpture, it does boast of an impressive array of ornamental markers, many of which utilize common funerary iconography.

Draped or veiled urns, which are common funerary icons of the period, are particularly numerous in the Columbia Cemetery, and many are so similar that they appear to be the work of the same monument makers. Examples of draped urns in the Columbia Cemetery date from the 1850s to the turn of the 20th century. (See photos 16-18.) One study of cemetery symbolism, Douglass Keister's Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography, calls the draped cinerary urn "probably the most common nineteenth century funerary symbol. Some nineteenth century cemeteries appear to be a sea of urns."[39] Leister notes that the urn was one of the first images to

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37 CCA Minute Book, pp. 49-50, 1887-1888, Similar rules were repeated in the "Bylaws of the Columbia Cemetery Association Adopted Jan, 1906," (Pamphlet, with a copy of the "Act to Incorporate Columbia Cemetery Association," On file with the State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, MO.)

38 Gilllon, Edmund V., Jr. Victorian Funeral Art. New York: Dover Publications, 1972.

39 Douglas Keister, Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography, (Salt Lake City, Gibbs Smith Publisher, 2004) p. 137.

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replace death's heads and similar images as funerary symbolism "started to take on a softer air after the Revolutionary War." He also notes that "word entomologists tell us that the phrase 'gone to pot' may have its origin as a reference to a cinerary urn."[40]

One of the more notable examples of that type of marker can be found on the 1871 grave of Moss Prewitt and his wife Nancy, near the corner of Garth and Switzler. (Photos 16-17.) That marker consists of a single high base, upon which rests a pair of urn-topped marble obelisks, with Mr. Prewitt's standing just slightly higher than his wife's. The draped urns on the Prewitt grave are like several in the cemetery, in that they have an eerily human-like form. One large sculptural monument not far away is topped with a draped urn that looks decidedly human from the back. (See Figure Five.)

Figure Five. Marble Memorial Sculpture near Switzler and Prewitt Streets.

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40 Ibid, p. 138.

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        Other markers in the cemetery include images of lambs and angels. Lambs traditionally were used to mark the grave of children, especially infants. Those in the Columbia Cemetery were most often carved from soft stones, and many have deteriorated almost beyond recognition. Angels are more in evidence; they are one of the most common subjects of relief sculpture in the cemetery today. Keister notes that "Angels have always been seen as messengers between heaven and earth," a status which makes them a natural symbol for a cemetery. As he noted, "besides tombstones, of course, the image most often associated with cemeteries is angels."[41] One of the more unusual angel motifs features what appears to be an angel sitting on a coffin that is afloat in a body of water. The angel appears to be rowing the coffin, presumably to reach heaven. (Photo14.) That same relief is used on at least two 19th century grave markers in a family plot located west of Russell Street, near Rollins Street.

        Hands are used in various ways on 19th century stones, in the Columbia Cemetery as well as other sites in the United States. Keister explains "hands that appear to be shaking are usually a symbol of matrimony. Look carefully at the sleeves. One should appear to be feminine and the other masculine."[42] A set of clasped hands adorn the base of a marker in the older part of the Columbia Cemetery which marks the grave of "Emily, consort of John Guitar." (Right) That same marker is topped with a pair of columns that are intertwined with a floral garland, another symbol of lives shared that is used on at least two markers in the Columbia Cemetery. (See photo 11.) Like some of the draped urns, those two sets of columns are nearly identical, and almost surely the work of the same monument maker.

        By the end of the 19th century, the town trustees must have decided the Columbia Cemetery Association was on solid footing, as they finally transferred the six lots comprising the old common burial ground to the ownership of the association in 1894. That deed stated that "whereas the Columbia Cemetery Association has purchased and now holds land lying on three sides of the six lots of ground, situated within the corporate limits of Columbia which six lots hereinafter described were used as a burying ground at the time of the passage of the aforesaid act of February 23, 1853, said surrounding land

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41 Keister, pp. 162-166.
42 Ibid, p. 108.

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being now used as a cemetery or burying ground in which the remains of many of Columbia's old citizens lie buried…said old ground to be continued in use as a burying ground…whereas it is now deemed best that the care, oversight, ownership and control of the old burying ground referred to above, being lots 1, 2, 3, 64, 65 and 66 within the old corporate limits of the Town of Columbia should belong to the said "Columbia Cemetery Association".[43]

A year later, on January 4, 1895, a plat of the Columbia Cemetery was filed with the County Recorder.[44] Although notes in the Association minute books had at times included mention of a cemetery plan prior to that, the 1895 document appears to be the first map or plat to be officially filed at the courthouse. It shows an even grid of streets, with an open ellipse at the south end, opposite the "Main Entrance," which was at the north end of the property, on what is now Switzler Street. The map also shows a circle around the intersection of what are now Prewitt and Russell Streets, in the area that now holds the Ring of Cedars. An article about a meeting of the Cemetery Association that was published in the local paper in 1890 had noted a discussion at that time of a plan to erect a pagoda at that spot, and to create a circle drive around it.

That plat may have been filed in response to a recent flurry of activity by the Association; Judge Gentry's 1895 description noted that the "new board in charge of the cemetery has made some improvements lately that add much to the appearance of the grounds. They have widened and straitened avenues, laid out new ones, planted trees, improved the walks and otherwise beautified the cemetery."[45] It is possible that some of the trees that now line the drives in the cemetery were planted during that time period.

With the new century came additional expansion of the grounds, via a few small purchases, as well as a few larger parcels. One of the more notable additions was that of an entire cemetery; the Elmwood Cemetery, which was created in 1914, was purchased by the Trustees in 1916. That cemetery was created by local real estate developer J. A. Stewart, who had offered to sell undeveloped land along the north boundary of the Columbia Cemetery to the trustees a few years earlier, apparently to no avail. The board minutes record his offer, but make no mention of any interest in taking him up on it at that time.[46] Stewart apparently decided to develop his own competing cemetery, and in

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43 Reed, citing Book 81, p. 469.
44 Boone County Deed Book 84, p. 136.
45 Gentry, p. 91.
46 CCA Minute Book, p. 139, 1914. Stewart was a prominent local citizen who was developing the land further west around that same time. He is buried on Lot A of the Columbia Cemetery, on a lot he bought in 1901.

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Figure Five. 1895 Plat of the Columbia Cemetery. Boone County Deed Book 84, p. 136.

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1914, he filed a plat for Elmwood Cemetery. That enterprise did not last very long; just two years later, the Elmwood Cemetery Company deeded the Elmwood Cemetery land to the Columbia Cemetery Association, with a provision for perpetual care by the Columbia Cemetery Association, for $3,000 less than the original sale price of the undeveloped land.[47] That property is still referred to as "Elmwood Cemetery" in Columbia Cemetery Records.

The ornamental iron fence that now runs along the west side of Elmwood Cemetery may have been installed when that cemetery was created. A newspaper article written about the sale noted that "the fence separating the two cemeteries has been torn down and the grounds have been merged into one."[48] Notations in the Minute Book indicate that that most of the cemetery was surrounded by a plank fence, sometimes topped with barbed wire, at least until 1890, and the location of the current fence just along the western edge of Elmwood's original border invites speculation that it was installed specifically for that cemetery.

The Columbia Cemetery continued to serve as the city's primary burying ground, and an article published in the local paper in 1922 claimed that the "Population of Graveyard is Equal to That of Columbia."[49] The article boasted that "many distinguished persons are buried there: state senators, supreme court judges…presidents of the University of Missouri, a president of Christian College and of Stephens College, and acting governor Abraham J. Williams."[50] The total number of graves in the cemetery at that time was estimated to be 13,000. Of those, 800 had been added in the last five years. Of that total, 4,095 were "negroes," and the rest were "white." The article also noted that the trustees kept the grounds "in an attractive order," and included mention of "the beautiful avenue leading from Broadway to the cemetery."

That Broadway entranceway was the target of the last major physical development to take place during the period of significance. At a formal luncheon held at a local hotel in 1926, the board of trustees announced that they had hired University of Missouri Professor H. F. Major to devise an improvement plan which would include the creation of a "100-foot parkway on the Broadway side of the cemetery"… which would be "made one of the beautiful spots of the city. Shrubbery and flowers will be planted this fall. An

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47 Boone County Deed Book 150, pp. 558-559.
48 "Two Cemeteries are Combined," University Missourian, Dec. 3, 1916, p. 1.
49 "Population of Graveyard is Equal to That of Columbia," University Missourian, Feb. 8, 1922, p. 3.
50 Ibid.

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extensive program of landscaping will be carried out."[51] The project proceeded, although a bit slower than originally planned; an article written nearly a year later noted that the front gates were just then being relocated to make way for the new parkway, and that Professor Major was set to supervise plantings after the construction work was completed. That project continued into the next year, when the Association budget included several payments for "work on entrance," including a payment of $947.37 to Major.[52] The rest of the grounds also saw improvement; the board paid the city of Columbia for paving roads that year as well.

Horace F. Major (1884-1944) was well-qualified for that job. A 1908 graduate of Cornell University, he was appointed to the University of Missouri's Department of Horticulture in 1910, and became an associate Professor in 1920. While at the University, he served as the Superintendent of Grounds for the University Campus, and one source credited him with having "figured in much of the domestic landscaping in Columbia."[53] He also designed a landscape plan for a federal hospital-prison system in Springfield, as well as campus plans for Lincoln University and the state college at Warrensburg. Of special relevance for the Columbia Cemetery, he also served as landscape advisor to the Missouri State Cemetery Association.

The year 1928 also marked the incorporation of the Beth Olem Cemetery into the grounds. The groundwork for that transfer had been laid over the past several years. In 1922, the fence around the Jewish cemetery property was removed to make it seem more a part of the general grounds, and the Columbia Cemetery Association had been taking care of the grounds, for a fee, for many years.[54] The deed which transferred the property included a provision for perpetual care of the Jewish Cemetery by the Columbia Cemetery Association. Although the Jewish cemetery became part of the larger Columbia Cemetery, it continued to be maintained according to Jewish traditions, and it serves today as one of the area's few Jewish cemeteries. In 1974, it was renamed Beth Shalom, which means "home of peace" in Hebrew.

The installation of the entrance park and the addition of Beth Olem mark the end of the period of significance for the site. Only a few smaller parcels have been added along

51 "Board Plans Improvement of Cemetery," Columbia Missourian, June 30, 1926, p. 1.
52 CCA Minute Book, p. 181, 1928.
53 Marian Ohman, "UMC Campus Plan," Notes on landscaping plans for the University, 1984. (From the State Historical Society of Missouri Vertical file: Missouri. University. Columbia—Landscape.), and Missouri Alumnus, Vol 15, #5, p. 196, Jan 1927.
54 The fence removal was mentioned in "Population of Graveyard is Equal to That of Columbia," and the CCA minute book included notations of payments by the Jewish Association for care of Beth Olem.

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the north part of the cemetery since that time, and no major changes in form or patterns of use have taken place since then. (See Figure Three.) The logical end of the period of significance is thus 1928.

It was also in 1928, that the Columbia Cemetery saw its first competition of note. Memorial Park Cemetery was established near the northwest boundary of Columbia that year. Prior to that, Columbia Cemetery had been the only large scale cemetery in Columbia, and today, Columbia Cemetery and Memorial Park are still the largest cemeteries in the city. Memorial Park can be classified as a lawn-park cemetery, which cemetery historians consider to be emblematic of the second phase of the modern cemetery movement.[55] One description of the lawn-park cemetery aptly records the differences between the two types, including the differences between Columbia and Memorial Park Cemeteries: "Unlike the wooded repositories of rural cemeteries, the lawn cemetery featured open meadows ranging over gently rolling hills. Plant life in the lawn-park cemetery accented the openness of the plan instead of shading the gravesites….Only a few paths and roadways subdivided the cemetery."[56]

Columbia Cemetery has at its core the original common burial ground for the city of Columbia, and parts of the cemetery have been in service as long as Columbia has been in existence. It was the primary cemetery in the community from the time the town was founded until well into the 20th century, and it is still one of the largest cemeteries in the community. It provides a large, highly intact example of a rural cemetery, and it is the only historic rural cemetery in the community. As the University Missourian claimed in 1914, "The cemetery of an old town is often an accurate gauge of the type of men who built up the town. This is strikingly true of the old Columbia Cemetery."[57]

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55 Farrell, p. 99.
56 Farrell, pp. 116-117.
57 "After Life's Fitful Fever---," University Missourian, Aug. 5, 1915, p. 3.

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     <http://www.buffalosoldier.net/62th%20&%2065th%20Regiments%20U.S.%20Colored%20Infantry.htm>

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Verbal Boundary Description

   The boundaries are shown as a heavy black line on the enclosed scale map of the property. The base map was prepared in 2005 for the Columbia Cemetery Association by Timothy Reed of Engineering Surveys and Services, Columbia, MO.

Boundary Justification

   The current boundaries encompass all of the land associated with the cemetery during the period of significance which still retains integrity. The boundaries generally correspond to the current parcel lines, with the following exceptions. A rectangular parcel in the southeast corner of the property which faces Providence Road has been omitted. That parcel, which is separated from the cemetery grounds by a fence and rows of foliage, contains modern commercial buildings that have no relationship to the cemetery. At the north corners of the property are two small rectangular parcels that were acquired in 1945 and 1962, outside the period of significance; they have also been omitted. The parcel in the northeast corner dates to 1945 and contains only graves and gravemarkers, and the other parcel, which was acquired in 1962, contains the caretaker's house and cemetery office, and a large maintenance building, both of which appear to date to the 1960s or later.

UTM References, continued

E. Zone	Easting	Northing		F. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	557677	4311311		15	557653	4311053

G. Zone	Easting	Northing		H. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	557326	4311112		15	557336	4311546

I. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	557375	4311551

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Photographs
The following information is the same for all photographs:
        Columbia Cemetery
        30 East Broadway, Columbia
        Boone County, Missouri
        Taken by Debbie Sheals (Except for #21, see below.)
        August, 2006

List of Photographs
See photo key for description of camera angle.

1. Entrance, from East Broadway
2. Looking south at Switzler and Vandiver, with fencing street markers.
3. Elmwood Cemetery, historic fence.
4. Looking south from Switzler and Rollins, with raised plot markers.
5. Ring of Cedars, at Prewitt and Russell.
6. Ellipse, looking northwest.
7. Looking north on Todd, from near the southern boundary. African-American section is to the left.
8.   Looking north on Russell, from the south end of the "original cemetery."
9.   Farley Mausoleum, looking northwest.
10. Receiving Vault, looking northeast.
11. Rollins family plot, marker for J. S. Rollins is the first one on the left.
12. Burial Grounds, Block D, one of the oldest groupings of markers in the cemetery.
13. Original Cemetery, Lowry family plot.
14. Detail of a grave marker in the Original Cemetery.
15. Allen Family Plot, Original Cemetery, just southeast of Rollins and Russell.
16. Looking across Block D to Original Cemetery, with draped urn markers, and statuary.
17. Detail of draped urns on the marker for Moss Prewitt and wife.
18. Beth Olem Cemetery, graves of Joseph Barth and wife.
19. African-American section, looking east from Todd, to grave of John William "Blind" Boone and John Lange.
20. Eastwood Addition, looking southwest from Vandiver and Banks.
21. Aerial view of the cemetery, from the Boone County Assessor's website.

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Photo Key.