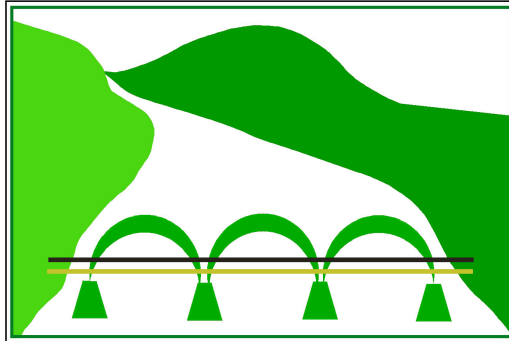


WAPSI VALLEY



ARCHAEOLOGY

**Historic Resources Evaluation:
Ames Municipal Cemetery**

*Wapsi Valley Archaeology
Report #692*

**Prepared for:
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Des Moines, Iowa**

By Kristy J. Medanic, Principal Investigator/Architectural Historian and
Abby Glanville, Project Architectural Historian

Anamosa
Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc.
P.O. Box 244
Anamosa, Iowa 52205
(319) 462-4760

Ames
Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc.
P.O. Box 1959
Ames, Iowa 50010
(515) 233-1146

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an intensive level architectural and historical evaluation of the Ames Municipal Cemetery (Site 85-00564). The cemetery is located east of Maxwell Avenue, between 13th Street and East 7th Street in Ames, Story County, Iowa. The City of Ames intends to construct a new water treatment facility east of the cemetery. Because the City applied for financial assistance through the State Revolving Fund, the project necessitated a Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act review. Due to concerns about potential construction impacts, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office, requested that additional investigations be completed on the cemetery as part of the requirements for this project.

William C. Page evaluated the cemetery as part of the 1992 City of Ames Historic Survey. He noted landscape architect A.N. Carpenter of Galesburg, Illinois designed the original portion of the cemetery. Page suggested the Ames Municipal Cemetery was potentially eligible under Criterion C as a designed historic landscape. Results of the current field survey and historic research concur with this finding for the original portion of the cemetery. As the remainder of the cemetery cannot be associated with the a rural cemetery movement landscape architect, has been re-plotted numerous times and only generally maintains the character of the original portion, it is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This report also includes an evaluation of effects to the property that may be caused by the proposed construction project.

The proposed construction project will take place downhill from the 45-degree slope on east side of the cemetery and on the far side of the city-owned access road. As such, it is recommended that absolutely no construction activities be allowed between the north-south access road between 13th Street and the existing city operations facility east of the Ames Cemetery to ensure the protection of the cemetery. This includes staging, equipment storage, stock piling of gravel, fill, and topsoil, and all equipment traffic. A temporary construction fence should be placed across this area to ensure there are no trespasses into the cemetery.

Introduction

This report presents the results of an intensive level historical and architectural evaluation of the Ames Municipal Cemetery (Site 85-00564), Ames, Story County, Iowa. The project was completed by Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc. on behalf of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The City of Ames proposes to construct a new water treatment facility east of the cemetery. The proposed project includes plans for piping to run near the cemetery's east side. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office, requested that additional investigations be completed on the cemetery as part of the Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act requirements for this project. The nearest property listed on the National Register of Historic Places is the Bandshell Park Historic District, approximately one-quarter mile south and west of the current project area.

The original portion of the Ames Municipal Cemetery (Site 85-00564) was located south of present day 9th Street to the bounds of the current project area on the S.S. Paxton farm. The cemetery remained outside city limits (privately managed by the Ames Cemetery Association) until 1917, when the city purchased the property for \$500 per acre, and included it within the incorporation line.¹ Additional cemetery land was purchased in 1929, bringing the total size of the cemetery to its current 54 acres.

The purpose of the current project was to perform an intensive level historical and architectural evaluation of the cemetery to determine its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places and to evaluate potential effects to the cemetery by the proposed water treatment improvement project. The survey included a physical examination of the area as well as background research from local histories and newspapers.

Kristy J. Medanic of Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc. served as the Principal Investigator for this project. She and Jennifer Lambert conducted the field investigations. Medanic and Abby Glanville authored this report. Glanville and Lambert prepared the figures.

¹ Ames Centennial, Inc., *Ames Community History, 18645-1964*. (Ames Centennial Inc.: Ames, Iowa, 1964)91.

Project Area Description

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is located in east central Story County, Iowa, on the east side of Ames, Iowa (Figures 1 and 2). The project area is located south of east 13th Street, east of Maxwell Avenue and north of east 7th Street. Its legal location is Township 83N, Range 24W, NE ¼ and the N ½, SE ¼ of Section 2 (Figure 3).

Due to the proposed construction of a new water treatment facility for the City of Ames, city property adjacent to the east side of the Ames Municipal Cemetery is slated for the construction of new water pipelines. This proposed construction project has the potential to create adverse effects to historic properties. As such, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office, requested the cemetery be evaluated for its eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the current investigation addressed whether the project could have direct or indirect adverse effects on the cemetery.

LOCAL CONTEXT

The Ames Municipal Cemetery (Site 85-00564) sits on the edge of the rolling hills of east Ames, on the eastern edge of a predominately residential district. To the west lies the current city water treatment facility, farmland, and, closest to Interstate 35, an industrial park. Historically, the Ames Cemetery stood a great distance from all residential and business districts (Figures 4 through 8). It was customary to place cemeteries, places of quiet refuge, away from the hustle of the city. As the city grew, however, the border of the cemetery land joined with the city and it is now easily accessible from connecting city side streets. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps (Figures 9 through 12) depict this evolution.

Approach to Architectural History

RESEARCH DESIGN AND FIELDWORK STRATEGY

The goals of this historic resources survey were to examine the Ames Municipal Cemetery (Site 85-00564) to determine if it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and to assess potential effects to this property caused by the construction of the new Ames water treatment facility. An aerial photograph showing the location of the project area is provided in Figure 13. Fieldwork was conducted to determine if the senses of place and time, feeling, and association with late nineteenth and early twentieth century ideas about landscape design and rural cemeteries are present in the Ames Municipal Cemetery. In addition, the area was examined to determine the cemetery's proximity to the Ames water treatment facility project and to determine any potential effects this project might have on the cemetery. Local historical research was conducted to determine if original design plans were available for the cemetery, if a designer could be identified, and to determine if the cemetery meets the special cemetery eligibility requirements for the National Register of Historic Places. Resource evaluations were conducted according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for identification and evaluation of historic places.² The practices used in this survey also meet recommendations for cultural resource management and historic preservation in the state of Iowa.

BACKGROUND AND FIELD RESEARCH METHODS

Field investigations and historical research for this project were conducted in October 2012 by Kristy J. Medanic and Jennifer Lambert of Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc. at the Ames Public Library; Parks Library on the campus of Iowa State University; and at the Ames Historical Society, Ames, Iowa. Additional property information was gathered from the Story County Assessor's website. Historic maps were also gathered from various other online sources. Items examined included local histories, historic maps, and photograph collections. Digital photographs were taken and sketch maps were drawn at the project site.

² National Park Service, *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Architectural and Engineering Documentation*, (Department of the Interior: Washington, D.C., 1983).

DISPOSITION OF RECORDS

Following the completion of fieldwork, all notes, records, and pertinent data collected during the survey were returned to Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc. facilities in Ames, Iowa. All notes, photographs, and records associated with the project are on file at Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc., Ames, Iowa.

Results of Investigations

BACKGROUND RESEARCH RESULTS

An initial evaluation of the Ames Municipal Cemetery (Site 85-00564) was included in William C. Page's 1992 study of the Historical and Architectural Resources of Ames, Iowa. Page suggested the cemetery as a whole was potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because, "the Ames Cemetery is a particularly unusual, not only designed historic landscape, but also because, at this time, the population of the community only numbered about one thousand." Page continued, "Additional significance [is obtained] because Carpenter's plan for the cemetery remains extant."³

In the records, Page discovered the Ames Municipal Cemetery (then referred to as the Ames Cemetery) was originally designed by Landscape Architect A.N. Carpenter of Galesburg, Illinois. Page included a copy of Carpenter's design plans in the original Iowa site inventory form for the cemetery, and these plans are shown in Figure 14 of this report. According to Page, the cemetery's historical record is unique because unlike most cemeteries, historic plats for the cemetery were entered into the public record. These plats show an original plat entered in 1878 (incorporating Carpenter's design); a second, altered plat in 1890; and a third plat entered in 1901 by Ames Cemetery Association President I.F.T. McLain based on a survey completed by H.J. Burt. Accordingly, this plat included the first recorded addition to the cemetery, nearly doubling its size.⁴

The City of Ames took possession of the cemetery in 1917, and in June of that year purchased additional land from George Henry Maxwell to expand the cemetery yet again. Finally in 1929, the city purchased the 33 acres known as Maxwell Park (the former location of the Ames Chautauqua), completing the cemetery to its current size.⁵ At this time, Ames residents raised concerns about the city's plan to hire a professional landscape architecture firm to design the newest additions. Arguing that Iowa State College's landscape architects were

³ William C. Page, *Historical and Architectural Resources of Ames, Iowa*. (Dunbar/Jones Partnership: Des Moines, Iowa, 1992) Vol 2, 135

⁴ Page, 136

⁵ Farwell T. Brown, *Ames in Word and Picture; Further Tales and Personal Memories, Volume 2*. (Huess Printing: Ames, Iowa, 1999) 48. City of Ames, Iowa, *A Report Upon the Comprehensive City Plan for Ames, Iowa, 1955*. (The Art Press, Inc.: Ames, Iowa 1955) 99.

some of the best in the nation, residents pushed the city to hire a local designer.⁶ The historic record is unclear about whether this happened. What is clear, however, is the city hired Ray F. Wyrick, a landscape architect from Des Moines, to develop the piecemeal grounds into a unified design in the 1960s.⁷ A sketch map of the current design and layout of the cemetery is included in Figure 15.

The following table includes all National Register listed properties in Ames, Iowa. None of the properties are located in the Ames Municipal Cemetery (Site 85-00564), and the nearest listed property is the Bandshell Park Historic District, at the corner of east 5th Street and Duff Avenue, approximately one-quarter mile southwest of the cemetery.

Table 1. National Register of Historic Places Listed Sites in Ames, Iowa.⁹

Name	Address	City
Ames High School	515 Clark Avenue	Ames
Bandshell Park Historic District	Bounded by Duff Avenue, East 5 th Street, East 6 th Street and Carroll Avenue	Ames
Budd, Professor J.L., Sarah M., and Etta Budd, House	804 Kellogg Avenue	Ames
Delta Upsilon Chapter House	117 Ash Avenue	Ames
Skunk River Bridge	255 th Street over Skunk River	Ames vicinity
Agriculture Hall	Iowa State University	Ames
Alumni Hall	Iowa State University campus	Ames
Christian Petersen Courtyard Sculptures and Dairy Industry Building	Union Drive and Wallace Road, Iowa State University campus	Ames
Engineering Hall Union Drive	Iowa State University campus	Ames
Home for Science and Technology	Iowa State University campus	Ames
Knapp-Wilson House	Iowa State University campus	Ames
MacDonald Gilmour B., and Edith Craig House	517 Ash Street	Ames
Marston Water Tower	Iowa State University campus	Ames
Morrill Hall	Morrill Road facing toward central campus, Iowa State University	Ames
Municipal Building	420 Kellogg Avenue	Ames
Old Town Historic District	Between Duff and Clark Avenue, and 7 th and 9 th Streets	Ames
Sigma Sigma-Delta Chi Fraternity House	405 Hayward Avenue	Ames

⁶ Ames Daily Tribune and Evening Times, *That Planning Commission*, (Ames Daily Tribune and Evening Times: Ames Iowa, September 10, 1929) 4

⁷ Page, 136

⁹ National Register Sites in Iowa, available at: <http://www.iowahistory.org/historic-preservation/national-register-of-historic-places/properties-in-iowa.html> (Last Accessed 10/23/12).

FIELDWORK RESULTS

The on-site visit for this project was conducted on October 15th and 16th, 2012. The Ames Municipal Cemetery was examined and photographed. The field examination, in consideration with the historic research, concluded the following:

The Ames Municipal Cemetery (Site 85-00564) is located on the eastern edge of Ames on a bluff overlooking the Skunk River Valley. It is bounded by East 13th Street to the north, Maxwell Avenue and Crawford Avenue to the west, East 7th Street to the south, and a steep slope to the east that levels into agricultural fields. The cemetery is approximately three city blocks long running north to south and approximately two city blocks wide.

The oldest part of the cemetery is located south of East 9th Street and was designed by A. N. Carpenter in 1878. Photographs of the segments of the cemetery associated with this portion are included in Figures 16 through 18. The oldest burials in the cemetery are located in the southeast corner of this section and date from the mid-nineteenth century (Figures 19 and 20). They are often ornamented with intricate carvings and embellishments common to the time period. Most are in fair to good condition and add to integrity of place and time associated with this portion of the cemetery. Some original stones have been replaced with modern monuments but, at least in this area, those are the exception. Photographs of representative examples of these stones are available in Figures 21 through 26. The only mausoleum in the cemetery stands in this section and belongs to the Greeley Family. It is located immediately south of East 9th Street in the original portion of the cemetery. It is a rectangular, granite structure that is oriented to the east. It has Tuscan style columnation at the entrance and three steps leading up to the door. The architrave, frieze, and cornice are quite plain and the entire structure appears to be capped with a monolithic piece of granite. There are fixed windows on the north and south facades. A photograph of the mausoleum is provided in Figure 27.

Other parts of the cemetery include unmarked charity burials located at the southeast corner of the property (Figures 28 and 29), and infant burials are located at the south end of the property. The majority of burials in this portion of the cemetery are marked with traditional Victorian style, limestone headstones.

The middle third of the cemetery contains a mixture of burials ranging from the early 20th century to the present (Figures 30 through 36), and the northern third contains burials that predominantly date from the last twenty years (Figures 37 through 44).

Paved, primary roads divide the property into approximately 25 sections (Figure 45). Sections in the south third of the property tend to be relatively flat while those in the central and northern sections tend to be slightly rounded. Because of this, individual plots located closer to roads tend to be spaced further apart due to greater change in grade, while those in the middle of sections are placed closer together due to less variation in grade. In general, plots are oriented towards the nearest north-south road. The cemetery is also characterized by its display of mature trees and shrubs that have greatest concentration in the northern third and along the eastern edge of the property.

Structures within the cemetery include a poured concrete wall situated at the northern edge of the property along East 13th Street (Figure 46), five buildings for storing lawn care and interment equipment at the southwest corner of the property (Figure 47), and a cemetery office located immediately south of East 9th Street (Figure 48). The storage buildings are non-descript, metal utility buildings with garage door openings and driveways for parking vehicles. The cemetery office is a small, single-story, building that is oriented to the east. The building is clad in limestone blocks and has a flat roof likely clad in rolled asphalt. A parapet wall capped in finished limestone runs the perimeter of the roof. There is a single-door entrance located in the east façade that is surrounded by a fluted portal. The original door appears to have been replaced with a modern vinyl one, although the wooden frame and transom light are still extant. There are two wood-framed, double-hung, four-over-one windows on the north and south facades of the building. Each window has a stone sill. Across the street from the cemetery office there are several donated memorials including a flagpole (Figure 49), a sundial (Figure 50), a platform from the Ames Patriotic Council (Figure 51), and a Veteran's memorial headstone (Figure 52). Other unique features in the cemetery include a cut stone monument denoting the Garden of Memories (Figure 53), and a multiple burials cremation remains monument (Figure 54). None of these features are included in the oldest portion of the cemetery, and all date to the early to mid-twentieth century.

Conclusions

This project involved a historic resources survey of the Ames Municipal Cemetery (Site 85-00564). William C. Page evaluated the cemetery in 1992 during the citywide Reconnaissance Historical and Architectural Resources of Ames, Iowa study. At that time, Page suggested the cemetery as a whole was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a designed historic landscape. However, in 1992 Page noted, survey and evaluation of designed historic landscapes was just beginning. Today, the cemetery can be more thoroughly evaluated as the National Park Service has since published a bulletin on evaluating these special properties.

According to Page's associated property types completed during the 1992 survey, the Ames Municipal Cemetery is eligible for the National Register for its association with his historic context on the "Dream of Arcadia, 1859-1943." In this description, Page asserted the cemetery was an outstanding example of the late nineteenth century, professionally designed rural cemetery, reminiscent of landscape design styles of the period that attempted to make beautiful parks available to the public. Page was on the right track in 1992, but according to current standards for the evaluation of cemeteries and the evaluation of designed historic landscapes, the entirety of the cemetery is not eligible for the National Register, only a small portion in the southeast corner.

The first thirteen rows in the southeast corner of the cemetery (from east to west, south of 9th Street) are the only portion of the cemetery that can be linked to 19th century landscape architect A.N. Carpenter. It appears as though this portion stands today as it did in Carpenter's original landscape design for the cemetery (see Figures 16 through 20). The rows, comprised of largely period monuments, are arranged according to Carpenter's plan, and the roads, trees and other features in this area also retain good integrity to the original plotting. The current plot map for the cemetery (highlighting the National Register eligible portion) is available in Figure 55.

Beyond this area, however, the cemetery's character does not match that of the southeast corner. Land was added to the cemetery in pieces, platted, and replatted and redesigned again in the 1960s in an attempt to make the cemetery appear to be a cohesive landscape. These redesigns took into account the natural landscape of the property, adding winding, curvy roads, changing the alignment of the burial plots and stones to work with the rolling hills, and accounting for changing fashions in burial monuments. These changes, however, did not keep to the original, grid-like patterns of the earliest plats.

Results of investigations conducted for this report concluded the southeast corner of the cemetery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a designed historic landscape historic district, and the remainder of the cemetery is not eligible for the National Register as it does not represent a cohesive era or the work of a master landscape architect and does not contain any architecturally or artistically significant features. This portion of the cemetery, however, is still protected under Iowa's cemetery laws.

As for effects caused by the construction of the proposed Ames water treatment facility to the National Register-eligible portion of the cemetery, barring any intrusion of construction activities into the cemetery property (including any activity on the west side of the city maintenance road downslope from the cemetery) the proposed project should have no adverse effects to historic properties. The mature deciduous trees lining the bluff stabilize the soil in this area, preventing a potential slide caused by construction activities and the majority of burials in the cemetery are a sufficient distance from the edge of the bluff to ensure their stability. Care should be taken, however, to stay within the current Area of Potential Effects in order to protect the unmarked charity burials at the top of the slope.

Recommendations

As the southeast corner of the Ames Municipal Cemetery (Site 85-00564) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and as there are unmarked charity burials in the southeast corner of the cemetery between the road and the bluff, it is recommended that absolutely no construction activities be allowed between the north-south access road between 13th Street and the existing city operations facility east of the Ames Cemetery to ensure the protection of the cemetery and any unmarked graves. Construction activities include staging; equipment storage; stockpiling of gravel, fill, and topsoil; and all equipment traffic. We recommend that a temporary construction fence be placed across this area to ensure there are no accidental trespasses into the cemetery.

In addition, though not an adverse effect of the current proposed project, some graves within the charity burial portion of the cemetery may be in danger from erosion. We suggest that the City of Ames examine the area and consider measures to protect the graves.

If any human remains are encountered during construction, it is required by Iowa law (Iowa Code §§263B and 716.5; Iowa Administrative Code 685-11.1) that all work in the area of the remains be temporarily stopped, security provided for the remains, local law enforcement officials notified to help protect the remains, and the State Burials Program Director contacted immediately at (319) 384-0740. Archaeologists with the State Historical Society of Iowa at (515) 281-4358 and Wapsi Valley Archaeology at (319) 462-4760 can also offer advice on matters relating to unanticipated findings of cultural resources.

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