

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Brooke Cemetery #9

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2200 Pleasant Avenue not for publication

city, town Wellsburg vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Brooke code 009

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of Brooke Cemetery

street & number Box 451

city, town Wellsburg vicinity of state West Virginia 26070

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Brooke County Court House

street & number Main and Seventh Streets

city, town Wellsburg state West Virginia 26070

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pleasant Avenue Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Winter-Spring, 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Wellsburg Landmarks Commission

city, town Wellsburg state West Virginia 26070

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Brooke Cemetery is an integral and essential part of the proposed Historic Resources of Pleasant Avenue Area. Located on another segment of the same bluff on which each of the Pleasant Avenue mansions are situated, it climbs the hill behind the bluff. Invisible from Pleasant Avenue and the streets of Wellsburg below, this cemetery was a true "rural setting" so desired by Victorian planners of "cities of the dead." On the other hand, almost every lot within the cemetery overlooks the city of Wellsburg and provides a vista of several miles of beautiful Ohio River Valley scenery. It would be difficult to imagine a more Eleusinian setting for a 19th century cemetery.

Carefully planned by John Chislett, one of the pioneer engineers of the 19th century "rural cemeteries," the roads and family lots take advantage of the undulating hillside both to emphasize the beauty of the setting and to give some privacy to family areas. In several cases multiple generations of the same pioneer family are buried in close proximity to each other as the family lots also climb the hill. The road which zigzags its way to the top of the hill, provides regular level places where visitors can pause and in assured privacy contemplate the verities of life and death itself while looking out on the beautiful Ohio and the eternal hills.

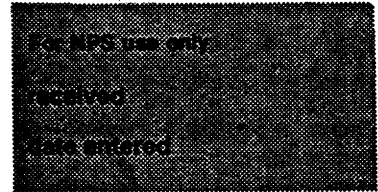
Brooke Cemetery contains several above-ground crypts and stone mausolea built in the 19th and early 20th century in architectural styles both appropriate to the fashions of the period in use in the houses of the community. The oldest is the ashlar-stone mausoleum of W.H. Dr. This simple Greek Revival structure in pedimental style is decorated with a single anthemion; it resembles nothing so much as a primitive Greek sanctuary within a Doric temple. The striking Neo-Classical mausoleum of T.J. Carle is an almost perfect Corinthian structure with an ornamental pediment. Making use of different shades of stone, this mausoleum is a pure Greek temple in statement, completely lacking in the romantic sentimentality so characteristic of many Victorian monuments. In contrast, the beautiful mausoleum of the Abrahams family and the stark (almost Art Deco) mausoleum of the Anderson family are two very different examples of early 20th century funerary art.

The grounds of the cemetery are filled with a wide variety of monuments reflective of mortuary and funerary art popular between 1857 and the present. The largest monuments are obeliscoid-style, monolithic shafts of granite, marble and limestone. These come from all periods of the cemetery's usage and vary in height from less than three feet to almost 30 feet. They mark the final resting places of such prominent West Virginians as John Prather, heir of the original proprietor and founder of Wellsburg, and Joseph Doddridge, noted pioneer, churchman and author.

Victorian symbolism is everywhere evident in this Brooke Cemetery. Carved in marble, limestone, granite and even sandstone, the monuments use ancient sculptured metaphors to affirm the community's faith and hope in life everlasting. The simple obelisk copied from the oldest western civilization points a solitary finger heavenward and affirms a memory and a hope undaunted by death. Temples with their peaked pediments, i.e., places where men meet the Gods, marble couches, anchors, nimble fingers pointing heavenward, draped urns and guardian angels, along with many florid motifs all bear a witness to later decades which only now is deteriorating due to atmospheric pollution.

All of Brooke Cemetery is one integrated unit. Its special character is a result of the layout of lots and the roads with their frequent "switchbacks" which permit a gradual ascent of the steep grades. At key places within the cemetery there are groups of large trees. For the beauty of the setting however, and its special character, the forest at the upper edge of the cemetery and the rows of great trees on the other three sides are very important.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Brooke Cemetery

Item number 7.

Page 2

At great expense of time and energy, and with limited financial resources, the trustees of Brooke Cemetery maintain this pioneer "rural cemetery" in good condition. They are presently engaged in a multi-phased project to restore and renovate the cemetery so that its historic form and statement will be maintained with integrity.

CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

The sources of Brooke Cemetery all relate to one another, especially as regards distinctively designed features. There is, however, one non-contributing resource-- a small cemetery office without historical or architectural significance. It is a building of modest size, located against the hill, hidden by some large trees, and near the gate. It does not obtrude on the visual character of the cemetery; in fact, it is invisible from most of the cemetery.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Public cemetery
Specific dates	1857	Builder/Architect	John Chislett, surveying	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Brooke Cemetery is an integral part of the Historic Resource of Pleasant Avenue Area. The cemetery is highly significant because it is the pioneer "rural cemetery" in West Virginia, having been planned in 1857 by John Chislett, Superintendent and Engineer of Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh. It also derives additional significance from the graves of the persons who played leading roles in the settlement and development of northern West Virginia and the Ohio Valley, as well as the establishment of the State of West Virginia.

Brooke Cemetery is one of the very early "rural cemeteries" in America and is a linear descendant of the original cemetery of this type, Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Boston, which was established in 1831. John Chislett, one of the originators, as well as the first Superintendent and Engineer of the Allegheny Cemetery, had studied the Mt. Auburn Cemetery and had adapted that idea to the Allegheny Cemetery in Pittsburgh. In 1857 he designed and engineered Brooke Cemetery.

From the beginning Brooke Cemetery was a community venture. The town of Wellsburg commissioned the study committee which chose the site and hired John Chislett for design and engineering. Later the city advanced monies for enclosure and developing. On the other hand, in 1986, the cemetery continues to be operated by its own board of trustees, who are currently renovating and restoring Brooke Cemetery to its original form and statement.

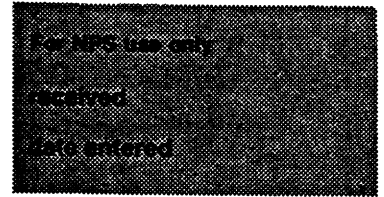
Brooke Cemetery is located on another segment of the same bluff as that on which each of the Pleasant Avenue mansions of Historic Resources of Pleasant Avenue Area are located. The families who built those mansions were involved in the creation of the cemetery in 1857 and are buried here. The land was purchased from George Cox, who had received it as a "tomahawk right" claim and who was also a nephew of Friend Cox, the original settler of this area. The remainder was purchased from David Fleming, who with Adam Kuhn and Campbell Tarr, Jr., acted decisively in the early days of the American Civil War to keep this area of Virginia securely within the Union.

Historically, Brooke Cemetery is the third burial ground of Wellsburg. The original proprietor of this city, Charles Prather, deeded the community a burial ground in 1791. It was one block square located on the rough, sloping ground at the foot of the hill between Commerce and High Streets and Green and Ohio Streets. This original cemetery filled fast.

Wellsburg's early population was highly mobile because the prospering small industry and heavy river commerce made the town a convenient way-station for Americans and other immigrants seeking their Eldorado in the West. Thus, the "old graveyard" was never well cared for because so many families had moved away, and it fell into complete disuse. In the early decades of the 19th century the second cemetery, the "new graveyard," was opened at the upper end of Water Street, between Twelfth Street and Skull Run. By 1855 that cemetery was also filled. This new graveyard was also susceptible to flooding. Space and health, as well as taste, made it necessary for the community to seek another burial ground by mid-century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Brooke Cemetery

Item number 8.

Page 2

In the spring of 1857 a committee of six citizens was appointed to recommend a site for a new cemetery. They examined a number of sites in and around the community and finally recommended that almost 12 acres be purchased from the farms of George Cox and David Fleming.

The town government advanced the funds to the cemetery board to make improvement in the lands according to plans developed by John Chislett of Allegheny Cemetery. A state charter was obtained and the grounds were enclosed and prepared in the summer and fall of 1857. The cemetery was formally opened on 16 October 1857, although Eleanor, the wife of Samuel George, a prominent industrialist and banker, as well as an original trustee of Brooke Cemetery, was buried there on 10 July 1857.

The choice of John Chislett of Allegheny Cemetery to survey and design Brooke Cemetery was very fortuitous. In 1834, Chislett, along with Stephen Caldwell and Dr. J.R. Spear, began an effort to establish a "rural cemetery" for the city of Pittsburgh. Over a period of several years they studied major cemeteries in the eastern United States, especially Mt. Auburn in Boston (est. 1831), Laurel Hill in Philadelphia (est. 1836), and Greenwood in New York City (est. 1838). This committee early decided that America's original "rural cemetery", i.e., Mt. Auburn in Boston, was the appropriate model for the proposed new cemetery for Pittsburgh and Allegheny City, Pennsylvania.

Having chosen the "rural cemetery" as the model, these three men (plus other prominent ecclesiastical and civic leaders of both cities) spent several years examining different sites north of the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers seeking a place for a fitting city of the dead. Finally, they chose the site of the present Allegheny Cemetery as the ideal rural setting. Their description of the site sounds strikingly like Brooke Cemetery. In summary, they claim that Allegheny Cemetery gives a wide panorama of the river and the city from many spots throughout. The land is not level, nor is it too hilly or rugged. It is ideal for ornamentation and rural scenery. The native trees in the autumn made the area one of special sylvan beauty -- (1888 report).

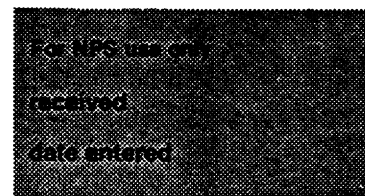
Allegheny Cemetery was incorporated on 21 April 1844. John Chislett, Sr., the first Superintendent and Engineer of Allegheny Cemetery, occupied that position for 25 years and was succeeded by his son, John Chislett, Jr. In 1857, at about the same time he was chosen to design and survey Brooke Cemetery, John Chislett reported to the trustees of Allegheny Cemetery that the Pittsburgh cemetery had become the second largest cemetery in America, second only to Greenwood in New York City. Its roadways, he claimed, were now designed, its trees and shrubs planted and the cemetery completed as planned.

The selection committee obviously intended to create a "rural cemetery" when they chose the sight on the farms of George Cox and David Fleming. Not only was the site on the bluff some distance above the valley floor, but it was also at least a mile from the northern edge of the town. This rural situation, with its peaceful panoramas of the city and the Ohio River Valley, was the natural capital which John Chislett developed as a pleasant place to visit, a place of repose, rest and quiet meditation, rather than a graveyard.

Chislett's own 1857 report on Allegheny Cemetery indicated that he engineered that cemetery also as a site where elaborate funerary art and memorials could be effectively placed. The idea of a cemetery in the late 19th century was to provide inspirational and instructional surroundings where visitors might gather for reflection, inspiration and recreation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Brooke Cemetery

Item number

8

Page

3

The funerary art in Brooke Cemetery enhances this 19th century understanding. Especially notable are the expressions of hope, regeneration of new life (lambs, fingers pointing heavenward, angels, and the frequent pillows and rolls at the end of funerary couches) remind the observer that those who repose here are not dead, but simply sleeping, or else are already in the presence of God. While a few broken columns and tree trunks with severed limbs remind one that life has been cut off, the temple-like mausolea, the obelisks, and many other carbed metaphors, as well as the mottoes engraved on very simple stones, remind the observer that those who have died are now in the bosom of an eternal God who gives undying life.

In spite of being established 66 years after Wellsburg was established, Brooke Cemetery is a final resting place of Wellsburg's dead in the earliest days of the community. The process of reburial from the "old graveyard" and the "new graveyard" began almost immediately after Brooke Cemetery was opened in 1857. Finally, in 1876 Brooke Cemetery gave a contract to E. Gaver & Company to remove and rebury all of the bodies from the early graveyards to Brooke Cemetery. This was completed on 1 December 1876.

The number of important West Virginians whose remains are interred in Brooke Cemetery is too long to enumerate. Such a list would include many legislators, industrialists, clergymen, bankers, educators, and leaders from all walks of life. Because of the reinterrment of persons from earlier graveyards of Wellsburg, Brooke Cemetery contains the last resting place and the only structure memorializing many of the pioneer leaders of the area. For example, John Prather is buried there and memorialized by a small obelisk. He was the heir to Charles Prather, proprietary founder of Wellsburg. Prather operated the ferry which transported thousands of westward-moving families from Virginia to the booming Ohio Territory. Also in this cemetery is the only memorial to Greathouse Lazear who brought the railroad to this section of West Virginia and helped initiate Wellsburg's post-Civil War boom. Dr. Patrick Henry Cochran, noted Kentucky physician and nephew of Patrick Henry of Virginia is buried here. So also is William P. Campbell, the youngest son and heir of the great religious reformer, Alexander Campbell.

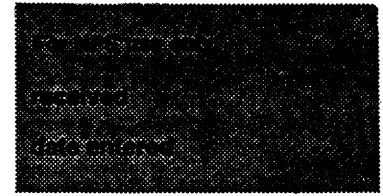
Captain Oliver Brown, a noted Revolutionary War hero, who lived to age 96 in Brooke County is buried there. Originally from Massachusetts, he fought at Lexington and Concord and most of General Washington's battles thereafter. He was officer of the group of soldiers who pulled down the statue of King George, III in New York.

One of the more notable persons buried in Brooke Cemetery is Dr. Joseph Doddridge. Dr. Doddridge was the pioneer Episcopal priest in the western territory of Virginia. He established St. John's Church, the earliest Episcopal Church in northern West Virginia. As a clergyman, his work also extended into the new state of Ohio where he was instrumental in establishing a new episcopal diocese in 1818. Soon after ordination, Dr. Doddridge also prepared for the practice of medicine under the tutorship of Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia. He was Wellsburg's very popular physician throughout its first three decades.

Dr. Doddridge's family was one of the first to settle in the area. They built a fort above the site of Wellsburg while there were still Indians in the Northern Panhandle. In the last decade before his death in 1826, Dr. Doddridge wrote and published a number of books, orations, and sermons. Theodore Roosevelt, among many others, regarded Joseph Doddridge's Notes On The Settlement and Indian Wars Of the Western Parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania, From 1763 to 1783 Inclusive, Together With A Review Of The State Of Society and Manners Of the First Settlers Of the Western Country.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Brooke Cemetery

Item number 8.

Page 4

to be the best book on the opening of the West. It is still an invaluable source for historians. The only non-literary monument for Dr. Doddridge and his family is located in Brooke Cemetery.

Another notable pioneer buried in Brooke Cemetery is Patrick Gass. Patrick Gass was the son of a middle-Atlantic family who moved westward frequently until they came to Wellsburg. Gass spent much of his early years as an Army volunteer. In 1792 he was stationed at Yellow Creek under Captain Cotton on an assignment to guard the frontiers. After a brief stint as a carpenter's apprentice, he re-enlisted in the 10th Regiment under the command of General Hamilton to follow the French War. Next year (1800) he enlisted under Major Cass with General Wilkinson to protect Ohio and the Northwest.

Gass was in Kaskaskia, Illinois, when the call came for volunteers for a government exploration expedition under Lewis and Clark. Following the expedition he again returned to civilian life for a short time before going back to military duty at Kaskaskia. At the beginning of the War of 1812 he re-enlisted under General Gaines and served throughout the war. Following the War of 1812 he returned to Wellsburg and lived the remainder of his life on a farm in Brooke County where he died on 2 April 1870.

Patrick Gass' fame, or notoriety, came from the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Members of this expedition sent by President Jefferson to explore the Louisiana Purchase to the Pacific agreed not to publish their own reports until after Lewis and Clark had published the official report. Gass broke that agreement and published the first report, Journal of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, in 1807. In 1870 Patrick Gass died, the last survivor of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Campbell Tarr, Jr., is also buried in Brooke Cemetery. This son of William H. Tarr and grandson of Peter Tarr played a crucial role in the founding of West Virginia. Elected from Brooke County to the Secession Convention in 1861, he took a strong, but ill-fated pro-Union stand. Escaping a plot to arrest him, he made his way to Washington where he interested President Lincoln in a need to defend the Upper Ohio Valley. In later months, Tarr played an active role in the West Virginia Constitutional Convention and served as treasurer, first of the Loyal Government of Virginia and then of the new State Government of West Virginia.

No man was more important in the development of Wellsburg and Brooke County than Adam Kuhn. An early lawyer with an unblemished reputation of absolute rectitude, Kuhn was executor of the estates of many prominent Wellsburgers and was a trustee of most of the community's early academic and philanthropic institutions. Radically pro-Union, he played a key role in convincing Edwin M. Stanton and Secretary of War Cameron to supply arms to the citizens of Wellsburg so that they might defend the town from an anticipated Rebel invasion.

Isaac Taylor Duval came to Charlestown in 1804, before the name of that village was changed to Wellsburg. The son of a prominent Maryland family and nephew of the Honorable Gabriel Duval, one of the early judges for the U.S. Supreme Court, I.T. Duval built a flint glass factory at Wellsburg in 1815. This was West Virginia's first glassworks and one of Wellsburg's earliest industries.

9. Major Bibliographical References

J.G. Jacob, Brooke County, Being A Record of Prominent Events, 1882. J.H. Newton, History of the Panhandle of West Virginia, 1879. Peter Boyd, History of the Northern West Virginia Panhandle, 1927. Remarks and History of Brooke Cemetery, 1885. Brooke Cemetery, A Charter, 1857. Allegheny Cemetery Report, 1888. N.L. Caldwell, A History of Brooke County, 1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 23 acres

Quadrangle name Steubenville, Ohio East

UTM References

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

A	1 7	5 3 3 7 1 0	4 4 5 9 6 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 7	5 3 3 5 0 0	4 4 5 9 3 7 0
E			
G			

B	1 7	5 3 3 8 0 0	4 4 5 9 4 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 7	5 3 3 4 0 0	4 4 5 9 6 6 0
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Brooke County Tax Maps, Wellsburg District Map #6, Parcel #126. (see attached map and red line)

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Hiram J. Lester, Project Director

organization Historic Wellsburg, Inc. date 25 September 1985

street & number The Hibernia telephone (304) 829-7941

city or town Bethany state West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 4-31-86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register date

Attest: Chief of Registration date

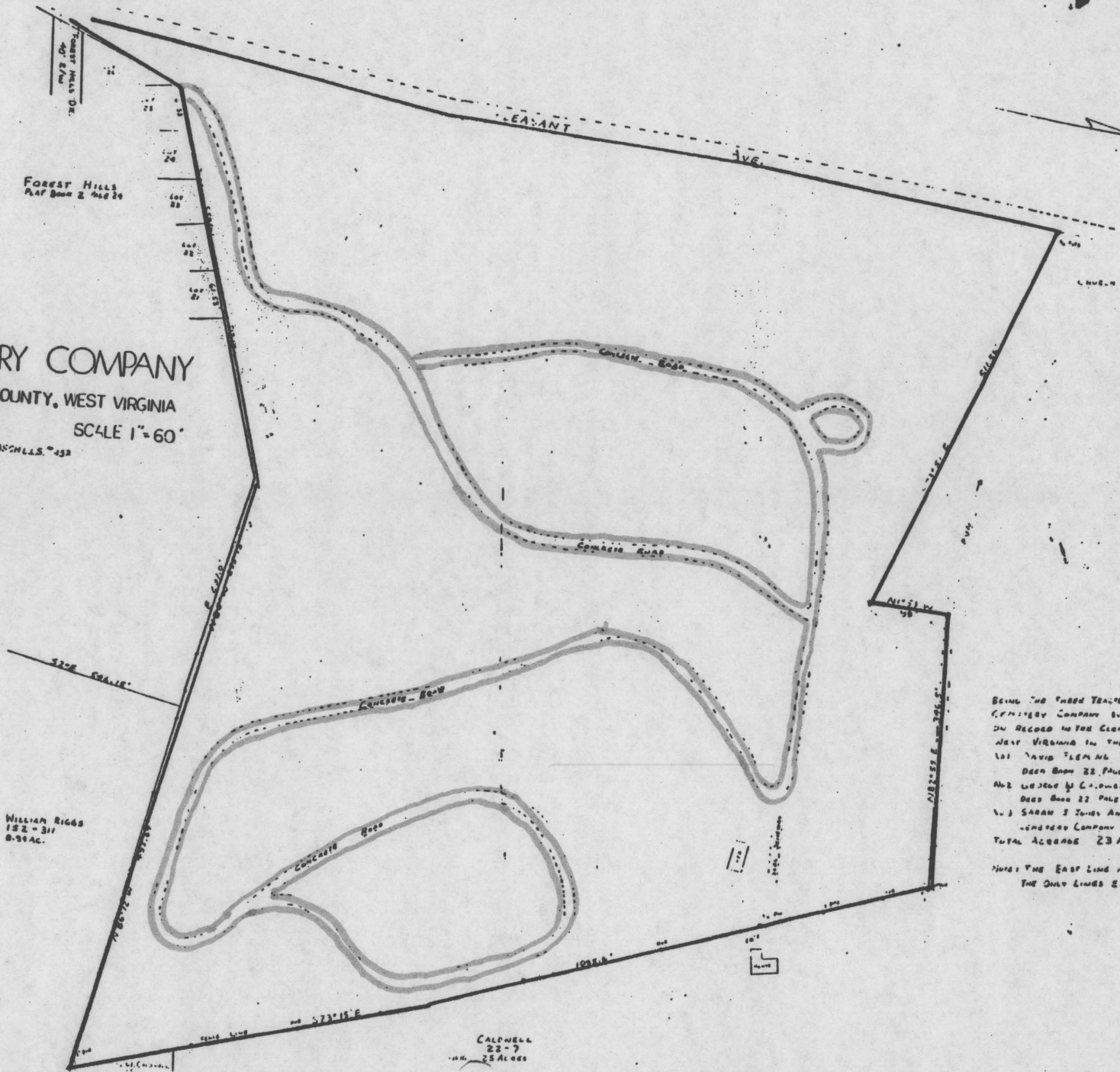
BROOKE CEMETERY COMPANY

CITY OF WELLSBURG, BROOKE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

CEMETERY # 4, 1978

SCALE 1" = 60'

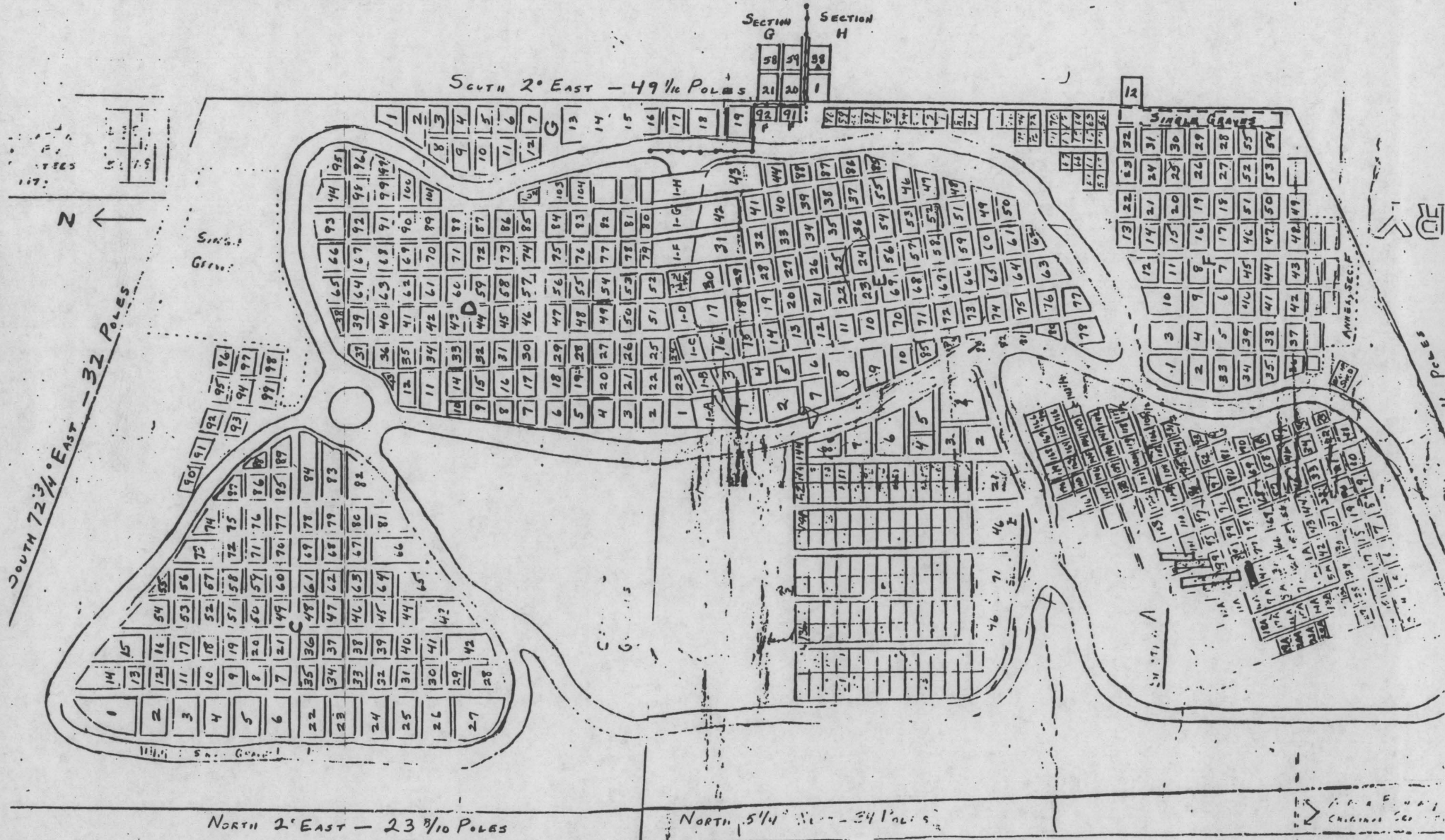
SURVEY BY MICHAEL P. DOORSCHLUS, #358



BEING THE THREE TRACTS CONVEYED TO THE BROOKE CEMETERY COMPANY BY THREE SEPARATE DEEDS, ON RECORD IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE, RECORD BOOK WEST VIRGINIA IN THE FOLLOWING DEED BOOKS: 1st DAVID FLEMING TO BROOKE CEMETERY CO. DEED BOOK 22 PAGE 59 CONTAINING 14.2 AC. 2nd LOUISE M. CALDWELL TO BROOKE CEMETERY CO. DEED BOOK 22 PAGE 83 CONTAINING 10 AC. 3rd SARAH J. JONES AND RUFUS JONES TO BROOKE CEMETERY COMPANY DEED BOOK 28 PAGE 41 CONTAINING TOTAL ACRES 23 AC. 3 CENTS .01 PER-100.

NOTE: THE EAST LINE AND THE NORTH LINES ARE THE ONLY LINES ESTABLISHED BY THIS SURVEY.

ORIGINAL PLAN
BROOKE CEMETERY CO.



J. P. & F. HAY
CHICAGO, ILL.



