United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Spring Hill Cemetery Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1554 Farnsworth Drive

city, town Charleston

county, state West Virginia

not for publication

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use
X. district X. public X. occupied agriculture
___ building(s) X. private ___ unoccupied commercial
___ structure X. both ___ work in progress educational
X. site Public Acquisition Accessible entertainment
___ object X/A in process ___ yes: restricted government
___ being considered X. yes: unrestricted industrial

4. Owner of Property

name City of Charleston

street & number 1554 Farnsworth Drive

city, town Charleston

county, state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 407 Virginia Street, East

city, town Charleston

county, state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

this Spring Hill Cemetery Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X. no

date 1980; 1984-85

federal ___ state X. county ___ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Unit, Department of Culture and History

city, town Charleston

state West Virginia
Mountain View Cemetery  
c/o Mr. Sears & Mr. Wick  
4301 MacCorkle Ave., S.W.  
South Charleston, WV 25309

B'nai Israel Cemetery  
Congregation B'nai Israel  
2312 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, WV 25311

Loewenstein Cemetery  
Mr. Stanley Loewenstein  
P. O. Box 3041  
Charleston, WV 25331

Mt. Olivet Cemetery  
Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral  
1032 Virginia Street, East  
Charleston, WV 25301
7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Spring Hill Cemetery is located on a series of tree-shaded and landscaped hills overlooking much of central Charleston, the city business district, and the State Capitol Complex. Despite its location adjacent to the core of a bustling state capital, the Spring Hill Cemetery is a tranquil, park-like complex which presents visitors with spectacular views of the city and cemetery grounds. Despite the substantial size of the complex, in excess of 172 acres, the various parts are wholly integrated with regard to access and design; virtually all sections are visible from any selected vantage point.

At the heart of the cemetery historic district, and astride the approaches to the major cemetery subdivisions, is the Spring Hill Mausoleum (1910) a stone-faced reinforced concrete structure of considerable size and architectural character. The Moorish-style building is the largest of the above ground crypts and stone mausolea that were built in the late 19th- and early 20th-century in architectural styles appropriate to the fashions of the period (e.g., Neo-Classical Revival, Romanesque Revival, Gothic Revival, Art Deco).

The grounds of the cemetery are filled with a wide variety of monuments reflective of mortuary and funeral art popular during the period 1869-1935. The largest monuments are obeliskoid-style polished granite, marble and limestone monolithic shafts marking the graves of such prominent West Virginians as Gov. Atkinson, immediately west of Spring Hill section 26; black leader Sam Starks, immediately west of the Confederate Cemetery; businessman Arnold Modelburg, Hebrew Cemetery (B'nai Israel Cemetery); Judge James H. Brown, Spring Hill Old Circle section; and Senator John Kenna, Mt. Olivet Cemetery. The glint of sunshine from the polished surfaces and pyramids of the Spring Hill obelisks can be seen for miles.

Victorian symbolism is everywhere evident in the Spring Hill Cemetery Historic District. Marble, a favorite medium of 19th-century carvers, was used extensively on the grounds to depict detailed subjects such as flowers, scrolls, cushions, draperies, shields, butterflies, weeping willows, fingers pointing heavenward, anchors, and many other florid motifs, including long, decorative epitaphs, that were easily carved into the malleable white stone. Spring Hill's large collection of delicate marble funerary art is slowly deteriorating due to atmospheric pollution and weathering caused by winds which whip across the hill tops.

The oldest section of Spring Hill, known as the Old Circle, is artfully laid out, being situated on a promontory overlooking Farnsworth Drive. The monuments, curbs and walls are in good repair; and visually, the landscaping creates a strong sense of dignity and serenity. Other sections of the cemetery historic district encompass the old Jewish burying ground, a part of the Old Circle; a Confederate soldiers' plot, located between the Capito and Wehrle additions; a field for the American Legion; a pattering field; B'nai Israel Cemetery (1873); and Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

The cemetery is composed of several integral parts characterized by thoughtful sectioning, careful detailing of curb work, and beautiful views. Architectural elements, such as hedges, terracing and curb walls, are present. The landscape architectural value of the cemetery is due in part to its placement within the city, giving it a position of
unusual prominence considering its size and the scale of its surroundings. The juxtaposition of markers and sloping banks, curb walls and crypts is pleasing in places, particularly in the Mt. Olivet section and in the old circle. There are numerous older evergreen trees, shrubs, and shade trees which add a slightly universal touch to parts of the cemetery. Viewed as a green space within the city complemented by effective design in the mausoleum and other edifices and markers, the cemetery is an important part of the historical and architectural legacy of West Virginia's capital city.

The Spring Hill section, upon which the other portions of the historic district radiate (including Spring Hill sections 26 and 31), is designed in circular patterns with pathways running palmate, or outward in straight lines from a tiny circular core. The curbed, grass walkways are thus important landscaping features. Pathways and narrow roadways echoing the curvilinear patterns of the oldest portion of Spring Hill intersect with and unite other sections in long curving tracks that frequently "switchback" in a manner that permits gradual ascent of steep grades. The whole of Spring Hill is thereby united visually and physiographically.

**Contributing and Non-Contribution Resources**

The resources of the Spring Hill Cemetery Historic District relate to one another, especially as regards distinctive design features. There is however one non-contributing resource - a frame cemetery office less than 50 years of age that does not possess historical or architectural significance. The building is modest in size; it does not obtrude upon the visual character of the cemetery. The office building is located southwest of the mausoleum in the center of the cemetery historic district.
The Spring Hill Cemetery Historic District is West Virginia's largest cemetery complex. The cemetery district, composed of sections integrated by design, is highly significant because it possesses the largest display of symbolic funerary art and cemetery architecture in the state. The historic district, covering more than 172 acres of scenic ridgetops and hillsides, is also significant for its large-scale design features that form the earliest surviving example of landscape architecture in southern West Virginia. The Spring Hill Cemetery Historic District derives additional significance from the graves of persons who played leading roles in the settlement and development of Charleston which became the capital city in 1870-75, and the permanent capital in 1885.

Spring Hill Cemetery was established in 1869 by the City of Charleston and so-named because of the "Chalybeate" spring on the hillside near the cemetery road. The cemetery was designed by A. J. Vosburgh, a civil engineer, although early records indicate that one Thomas Matthius, a surveyor, may have played a role in the survey work. By choosing a site some distance from the valley floor of Charleston, the city fathers were responsible for creating the first "rural cemetery" in southern West Virginia. Located on the edge of town and overlooking the valley, Spring Hill was designed in an elaborate circular plan centered with a quatrefoil-like pattern, with curbed pathways radiating outward. The intent of this circular and curvilinear design that appeared in a modified form in Spring Hill sections 26 and 31, was to provide easy access to family plots by cemetery visitors.

The "promenades" thus provided were appropriate to the 19th-century concept of a cemetery as a pleasant place to visit, a park-like landscaped grounds upon which artistic and elaborate funerary art and memorials could be placed. In such a tranquil place might family members visit not a "graveyard", but a place of repose, rest and quiet. The idea of a cemetery in late 19th-century America was to provide inspirational and instructional surroundings where visitors might gather on a sunny afternoon, perhaps with a picnic lunch.

The cemetery abounds with markers and monuments of high quality construction and materials being particularly expressive of funerary symbolism and design. Examples of artistic expressions of hope, regeneration and new life include the butterfly (flitting homeward), the lamb (mindful of the Lamb of God), the fingers pointing heavenward, the angels, and female figures, often winged, suggesting comfort. Examples of forms expressing despair and grief include the weeping willow, the tree trunk with severed limbs (meaning a life cut off), and the broken column. Foltar designs are prevalent, especially the lily and the rose. Drapings, cushions, and urns are expressive of the times, being Victorian in idea, to shield and to decorate.

The largest display of granite, limestone, and marble obelisks in West Virginia is found in the Spring Hill Cemetery Historic District. Rising to a height of 30 feet or more, these objects represent an ancient Egyptian form sacred to the solar religion.
and popular with 19th-century Americans searching for an appropriate historic style among the classical and Near Eastern civilizations.

Several architecturally significant mausolea representing various popular styles were erected in Spring Hill to provide above-ground interment. The Romanesque Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, Gothic Revival, and Art Deco were regularly chosen "fashionable" styles. The bronze doors of the Mary Brown mausoleum in the Old Circle are especially important works of art in the Art Deco idiom. Largest of the above-ground Spring Hill crypts is the red tile-roofed Spring Hill Mausoleum (1910), a limestone, reinforced concrete structure of Moorish-Byzantine design, noteworthy for its wrought iron grilles. The structure was put up by Charleston builder Elliott Abbitt (architect not presently known).

The principal Charleston supplier of fine monuments for Spring Hill in the 19th-century was George R. Jacobs, who operated the Jacobs Granite and Marble Works in the period c. 1875-c. 1910. After 1910, the Sears Monument Company of Charleston, founded by William, Pearl, and Ray Sears, provided an impressive source of memorials that were often commissioned to embellish the grounds at Spring Hill. Out-of-state companies, however, are known to have advertised their products in the Charleston area, as evidenced by an ad in the Charleston City Directory of 1874-75 which lauded the Alfred White Company of Cincinnati, suppliers of "Scotch Granite" monuments from Aberdeen, Scotland.

The cemetery has been the primary burial ground of Charleston for over a century; it has therefore achieved considerable historical importance from graves of persons of transcendent importance in West Virginia history. In many instances, the homes or buildings associated with these important West Virginians have been lost as Charleston expanded along its narrow valley floor. John P. Hale's Charleston home was long ago demolished; his tumulus and monolithic granite memorial in Spring Hill's Old Circle are the only objects which survive in association with the men who helped make Charleston the capital city of West Virginia. U.S. Senator John Kenna is represented with a white marble statue in Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol, although his only West Virginia memorial is his giant gray granite obelisk in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Following is a list of several representative historical figures buried in the Spring Hill Cemetery Historic District:

Arnold Midelburg
Jewish Leader - merchantile leader who opened up much of the New River Valley for development.

Reverend Lewis Rice
Notable Black Minister; founder of the first black Baptist Church in West Virginia.

Samuel Starks
State and national leader of black people, State Law Librarian - his funeral was attended by over 500 people.
<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Moses Frankenburger</td>
<td>First Jewish statewide nominee for office (Secretary of State, G.O.P., 1876); prominent business leader.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor Atkinson</td>
<td>Governor of West Virginia, elected 1896 (historian; congressman).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James F. Brown</td>
<td>Elected to West Virginia House of Delegates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge James H. Brown</td>
<td>Supreme Court Justice (one of first three justices)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governor Clark</td>
<td>Governor of Alaska, 1909-13, publisher of the Daily Mail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckner Clay</td>
<td>Charleston Newspaperman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julius de Gruyter</td>
<td>Historian, Scholar, Artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. C. Dickinson</td>
<td>Early family, Mayor of Charleston, 1871, founder of Kanawha Valley Bank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John P. Hale</td>
<td>Historic figure and businessman, historian, primarily responsible for bringing the Capitol to Charleston.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senator John Kenna</td>
<td>Elected 1883; (1877, 1879, 1881 to Congress); one of West Virginia's representatives in Statuary Hall in U.S. Capitol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressman Adam B. Littlepage</td>
<td>Elected to the House of Representatives in 1911, 1915, 1917.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Spicer Patrick</td>
<td>Prominent physician and business, First Speaker of the House of Delegates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Ritz</td>
<td>West Virginia Supreme Court Justice, Lawyer, Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Summers</td>
<td>Speaker of House (1871); last speaker under First West Virginia Constitution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge George W. Summers</td>
<td>Whig nominee for Governor of Virginia, 1859. Congressman in 1840-s. Extremely influential (Summers County, Summers Sreet).</td>
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</table>
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet  Spring Hill Cemetery  Item number 8  Page 4

Thayer Family
Attorney General C. C. Watts
Governor E. W. Wilson
Arthur B. Koontz
Charles Hedrick
B. S. Smithers
Walter S. Hallanhan
Ivor F. Boiarzky
Philip Doddridge
William A. Ohley, d.1952
Grant P. Hall
Greenbush Slack
James A. Holley
Dr. George McQueen
William G. Brown
Henry C. McWhorter
Reverand S.R. Bullock

Early family, foundry business operators.
Elected 1880, Democrat nominee for Governor of West Virginia in 1896
Governor of West Virginia, elected 1884, served 1885-1890, only Governor to serve five years. He was also Speaker of the House (1881-83).
Democrat nominee for Governor of West Virginia in 1920.
Secretary of State of West Virginia 1873-77
Founder of the Town of Smithers
State Senator – Chairman of Republican National Convention in 1956
West Virginia Speaker of the House, 1969-71
Congressman in 1830's. Noted orator. Doddridge County named for his father
West Virginia Secretary of State, 1890-1893
Mayor of Charleston, 1919-1923
One of the founders of West Virginia, member of First Constitutional Convention
Mayor of Charleston
Mayor of Charleston
One of West Virginia's first three U.S. Congressmen
Supreme Court Justice
Noted black minister of Charleston's First Baptist
SELECTED GROUP OF EARLY SETTLERS, FOUNDERS & SUPPORTERS OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON

NAMES IN EVIDENCE AT THE SPRING HILL CEMETERY

*Blaine
*Brown
Adams
Alderson
Baker
*Brooks
*Bullitt
*Clendenin
Cox
*Dickinson
*Donnally
*Dunbar
*Fife
*Hale
Harriman
*Laidley
*Lewis
*Lovell
*McClung

*McFarland
*Miller
*Morris
*Noyes
*Patrick
*Reynolds
*Ruffner
*Shrewsbury
*Slack
Slaughter
*Smith
*Summers
*Thayer
Tompkins
Watkins
*Welch
*Whitteker
Williams
Wilson

*There is now or was at one time a street named after these early citizens.
Spring Hill Cemetery Historical Perspective

Spring Hill Cemetery sits on a hill overlooking the central business district of Charleston. It carries a place of visual and social significance because of its size and placement within the city; but, its historical significance sets it apart, being a tribute to the founders of the city and the area.

The cemetery bears the remains of many of the founding fathers of the city. Well known and influential names abound on markers and monuments throughout the cemetery. Dates on the markers go back to as far as the eighteen hundreds. The city record books record the action of Town Council on August 5, 1867 as follows:

"John A. Truslow called the attention of the Council to the fact, that at this time, the town of Charleston is without a cemetery or any burial place, for the interment of ourselves, or of our Citizens; and moved that a committee of five persons be appointed to take into consideration the foregoing state of things and to take immediate steps to procure for the Corporation a suitable cemetery to meet the wants of our place for generations to come and to report to this Council at as early a day as practicable. Whereupon the following persons were appointed on said committee:

"Viz" John A. Truslow, James H. Brown, John Slack, Sr., Richard Walls, and C.J. Botkin."

The city acquired a 20 acre parcel of land to be used as a cemetery in July of 1869 for $2,118.02. (Although officially established as a municipal burying ground in 1869, cemetery records go back to 1818, which, in view of the relatively short span of city history, is a significant difference). Additional ground was purchased from Mr. Jeffries in August of the same year. The cemetery was surveyed and the layout of plots was done by Thomas Matthius.

In 1908 and 1910 more land was offered to the city by Mrs. E.L. Wood and Mr. Joseph Wehrle. The City Council voted against acquiring the land for additional cemetery grounds and moved that the land be used for a park. The action resulted in a city park adjoining the cemetery which was used until 1971 when the land was used to house the residential community City Park Village now called Spring Hill Apartments.

Other ground was offered and proposed for city acquisition by various groups and by various means. The Roman Catholic section, Mt. Olivet, was consecrated in 1887. Also in 1887, the cemetery acquired 13.2 acres from E.H. Bennet and 2 acres from M.V. Smith. In September of the same year, the land purchase known as the Scruggs Addition was recorded in the Council Record Book 5. At the same time, it was recommended to Council that the McWhorter land be purchased for cemetery purposes.
In the bankruptcy case of J.P. Hale, the city bid against Richard Walls, for
grounds consisting of approximately 46 acres but lost at the last moment when the
bidding was reopened by Mr. J.W. Goshorn with a personal bid of $50 more than the
city's maximum proposal. Goshorn and his associates, R.P. Warren, V.A. Gates and
J.T. Hubbard later sold the property back to the city keeping back the land between
Piedmont and Cemetery Roads and requesting 20'x20' lots for themselves. The action
took place in August 4, 1887 and is recorded in the City Clerk's Record Book 4,
page 563-564. Mr. Goshorn and Mr. Gates were serving on City Council at the time. 11

Other acquisitions include 1 16/100 acres of land from the Swann estate in
1899, 12 and some Wilson property in 1903. 13 There was an exchange of land by the Jewish
Education Society of 2.49 acres for 4 acres in 1905. 14 A contagious hospital was
disposed of by the city in 1905 and the land was given to the cemetery. 15 There was
a 23 acre purchase in 1904 from the Wilson Heirs. 16 The Roman Catholics exchanged
land in 1915 for 23 acres and access right-of-way. 17 In 1918, 24.8 acres known as the
(Hall and Edmund) Wall property was bought for $30,000. 18

The Capito Heirs, Riggs and Jeffries, Woods and Lynn, and Ewart and Hunter
jointly proposed deed agreements. Their separate deeds were accepted on October 28,
1926. 19 In November of the same year, the Wehrle Cemetery Company (owned by Wehrle
and Dickinson, operated by Thayer) made an agreement to sell cemetery grounds to the
city. 20 In September of 1927, the remainder of the Wall property was deeded to the
city by Mrs. Edmunds. 21
FOOTNOTES FOR HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

REFERENCES FOR THE RECORDED HISTORY OF SPRING HILL CEMETERY

1. Council Record Book 1 Page 30 (Procurement)
2. Council Record Book 1 Page 102 (Layout)
3. Council Record Book 1 Page 281 (Jeffries)
4. Council Record Book 1 Page 115 (Matthius)
5. Council Record Book 1 Pages 336, 499, 566, 592 (Wood, Wehrle)
6. Council Record Book 3 Page 71 (City Park)
7. Council Record Book (Consecration)
8. Council Record Book 5 Page 553 (Bennet/Smith)
9. Council Record Book 5 Page 596 (Scruggs)
10. Council Record Book 5 Page 609 (McWhorter)
11. Council Record Book 11 Pages 531, 532 and 563, 564 (Land Auction)
12. Council Record Book 8 Page 709 (Swann)
13. Council Record Book 10 Page 33 (Wilson)
14. Council Record Book 1 Pages 85 & 281 (Jewish Cemetery)
15. Council Record Book 1 Page 262 (Hospital Condemned)
16. Council Record Book 1 Pages 85 & 197 (Wilson)
17. Council Record Book 3 Pages 370 & 469 (Catholic Cemetery)
18. Council Record Book 4 Pages 238, 298, 290, 303, 315, & 316 (Wilson)
19. Council Record Book 7 Page 224 (Capito and other deeds)
20. Council Record Book 7 Page 255 (Wehrle Cemetery)
21. Council Record Book 7 Page (Wall)

Charleston City Council Record Books are on file in the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, Charleston, WV.
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
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The Spring Hill Cemetery Historic District is the site of significant works of funerary art and planning-design features which are unique to southern West Virginia. As the cemetery expanded during the decades after 1869, its various additions were designed in such a way that all parts might be easily accessible to one another through the use of curving roadways and circular paths that carried out the spirit of the 1869 plan that forms the core of the historic district.

Within the expansive grounds are numerous high quality monuments carved in bas and sunken relief, with rock-faced or polished surfaces. Neo-Egyptian Revival-style marble monuments may be seen in the Mountain View section; and the Littlepage memorial, a colossal sandstone acorn, adorns the family plot in the section 47 area of Spring Hill. One of the finest expressions of stone carving art is seen in the Stump family plot, Scruggs Addion, where markers are fashioned in the form of tree stumps. Poems, in epitaph form, are inscribed upon the flat limestone monuments covering the graves of Walter E. Clark and wife, Mountain View section, attesting once again to the richness and variety of subjects of artistic merit found in the cemetery.

The care of the cemetery district is perpetual; and plans are currently underway to interpret the resources through printed literature.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Records of the City Clerk-City Hall-Charleston, WV
Kanawha County Tax Information, Kanawha County Court House
Personal Interviews
See also attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 172.40 acres, approximately
Quadrangle name: Charleston East WV

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See map attached; Red Boundary Line encloses property. Kanawha County Tax Map NC 48
Parcel 61

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

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11. Form Prepared By

Name title: Frances Buckanenon
Organization: City of Charleston
Date: July 10, 1985
Street & number: 501 Virginia Street, East
Telephone: 304-348-0240
City or town: Charleston
State: West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national
state x
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

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration
BIBLIOGRAPHY

City Council Record Book 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 Charleston City Hall, 501 Virginia St., E., Charleston, WV 25301.

Gallagher, D.C., Genealogical Notes of the Miller-Quarrier-Shrewsbury-Dickinson-Dickenson Families and the Lewis, Ruffner, and other Kindred Branches with Historical Incidents, etc., Charleston by Gallagher, 1917.

Kanawha County Deed Books, Kanawha County Court House, 409 Virginia St., E., Charleston, WV 25301.


PERSONAL REFERENCES

Mrs. Muriel Mitchell, Director of Spring Hill Cemetery
Mr. Michael Pauley, Historian, formerly of WV Department of Culture & History

SPRING HILL CEMETERY - DEED BOOK REFERENCES

Deed Book 37 - P. 270 & 272
Deed Book 47 - P. 26 & 28
Deed Book 80 - P. 227
Deed Book 86 - P. 537
Deed Book 99 - P. 532
Deed Book 131 - P. 415
Deed Book 1192 - P. 310

Walls Property
Jeffries Heirs
Swann Addition
Jeffries Addition (Wilson)
Jeffries Addition (Wilson)
Scruggs Addition
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet  Spring Hill Cemetery           Item number  10           Page  2

Geographical Data (continued)

I.  17 445 500 4244 880
J.  17 445 930 4244 860
K.  17 446 080 4244 780
L.  17 446 620 4244 230
SITE PLAN

MAUSOLEUM at SPRING HILL CEMETERY
Charleston, WV
Map of Proposed Addition
To
Spring Hill Cemetery
Charleston, W. Va.
1910.

RECORDING OF ALL PAIRS WERE MADE IN DECEMBER 1930.
FROM INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THAT TIME.