United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: __First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery_____

Other names/site number: _Bloomington Cemetery_____

Name of related multiple property listing**:**

__N/A_____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: __10340 Lyndale Avenue South_____

City or town: _Bloomington_ State: _Minnesota____ County: _Hennepin_____

Not For Publication: [N/A]   Vicinity: [N/A]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As ./ designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ 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 ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___**national**   ___**statewide**   ___**local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___**A**   ___**B**   ___**C**   ___**D**

_____

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

_____

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

_____

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

_____

Title :   **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

_____   _____
Signature of the Keeper   Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: ☐

Public – Local ☒

Public – State ☐

Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☐

District ☒

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)
Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
	1	structures
1		objects
3	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register ____N/A_____

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
 _FUNERARY: cemetery__

 _____
 _____
 _____
 _____
 _____

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
 _FUNERARY: cemetery__

 _____
 _____
 _____
 _____
 _____

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7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
 _NO STYLE_____

 _____
 _____
 _____
 _____
 _____
 _____

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: METAL, BRICK, ASPHALT_____

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery (hereinafter referred to as Oak Grove Cemetery) tract (now part of the larger Bloomington Cemetery) occupies a 2.75-acre site located on the west side of Lyndale Avenue South at 104th Street West in Bloomington, Minnesota. The municipal address for the cemetery is 10340 Lyndale Avenue South. The original graveyard is bound to the south by a residential neighborhood, and to the west and north by subsequent expansions to the cemetery grounds, which occurred from 1938 through 1973. The nearly flat cemetery contains over 150 burials that date back to the period of significance (1856 to 1890). The cemetery contains one contributing site (the original Oak Grove parcel donated in 1855), one contributing building (an early brick utility shed), one contributing object (the 1890 Soldiers' Monument), and one non-contributing object (a modern, tubular ornamental fence along Lyndale Avenue South). The cemetery maintains good integrity and sense of place with the early tombstones dispersed somewhat randomly around the grounds, indicative of its origins as a mid-19th century church graveyard. The cemetery is anchored at its center by the 1890 Soldiers' Monument which is the tallest, most prominent object within the original grounds.

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Narrative Description

First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery
First Recorded Burial: 1856
Resource Count: one contributing site

The Oak Grove Cemetery — the grounds around and including the original location of the 1856 First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove (hereinafter referred to as the Oak Grove Church)— is a parcel of land approximately 364 feet east/west with 330 feet north/south along Lyndale Avenue South. (Figures 2, 5) The site was deeded to the missionary Gideon Pond for the construction of the Oak Grove Church in December of 1855 by territorial pioneer Martin McLeod. The relatively flat parcel, which was originally part of the McLeod farm, displays only a slight rise in the terrain at the center of the grounds. Early burial patterns suggest that this slightly elevated, comparatively level expanse of land may contain archeological remains from the original 1856 church (approximately 22' x 32'). The raised area was later to become the earthen platform for the 1890 Soldiers' Monument. (Figure 1) (Photos 1-3)

Most of the area's early settlers and some Dakota Indians are buried in the original cemetery grounds. This group includes the Reverend Gideon Pond and family, the original landowner Martin McLeod and family, early settlers, and veterans of the Civil War and the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.

The original cemetery grounds are laid out with 240 blocks, each supporting 4 – 12 burial plots. The nearly symmetrical pattern displays a u-shaped bituminous walkway that provides access from Lyndale in the northerly and southerly portions of the original tract. (Figure 5)

The cemetery grounds are indicative of the original farming use of the land, in that they are relatively flat with little or no old-growth vegetation. The only known photograph of the cemetery that dates back to the period of significance was taken at the dedication of the Soldiers' Monument on Memorial Day, 1890. The photograph, which is looking to the south and east, shows a crowd of Bloomington citizens, young and old, gathered around the new monument. They stand in a landscape of unkempt, calf-high weeds with no mature vegetation. In addition to the war memorial, the site displays one tall family monument, a few small upright stones, and two fallen stones in the weeds. To the far left in the distance along Lyndale Avenue there appears to be a white post-and-rail fence with hitched horses. (Figure 3)

The current landscape includes some mature deciduous and evergreen trees and ornamental bushes randomly and sparsely planted around the grounds, however, these do not appear to adhere to any formal landscaping plan. (Photo 1) The exception is along the sides of the U-shaped drive (predominately located outside the original cemetery's boundary) where trees of mixed types randomly flank the drive a few feet from the pavement. These trees would have been planted after the construction of the drive between 1949 and the last quarter of the 20th

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century. Only the north side of the drive's southerly portion interfaces the original district. (Photo 14)

Headstones and grave markers necessarily define a cemetery. Most of the historic stones in the original Oak Grove Cemetery are modest, rectangular or obelisk-shaped. Their inscriptions range from simple listings of name, date of birth and death, to elaborate monuments listing family histories of burials.

The majority of very early headstones are concentrated around the center of the tract, in a pattern that would have originally sited them surrounding the church. (Figure 4) The placement of the 1850s-60s burial stones provides a sense of the original churchyard layout. Today they are freely mixed with 20th century stones and plaques, especially further out at the periphery of the original tract. Naturally some descendants of the early Bloomington settlers would be buried in their family blocks well into the last quarter of the 20th century. Due to subsequent north and west cemetery additions, the north and west boundaries of the original Oak Grove Cemetery visually blend with the newer stones of later burials.

It should be noted that tombstones placed during the period of significance are not included individually in the count of contributing objects. They are rather, as a collection, viewed as an integral contributing component of the cemetery site.

Brick Shed
Constructed: second half of the 19th century
Resource Count: one contributing building

Centered on the west portion of the U-shaped walkway is a simple, one-story, buff-colored, brick shed that dates back to the nineteenth century. Written reminiscences (Stanford 215) note that the brick structure served as a holding station for bodies that could not be buried in the depth of winter. The utilitarian building's fenestration consists of a single, vertically planked door on the east elevation. The shed shows signs of structural fatigue at the southeast corner and along the south-facing side due to moisture penetration from the surface water. The building's northwest corner displays early repairs in red brick. The gabled roof is currently sheathed in asphalt shingles. (Photos 5-6)

Soldiers' Monument
Dedicated: 1890
Resource Count: one contributing object

Centered in the original cemetery's pedestrian loop walkway is a slightly raised plateau that holds the 1890 Soldiers' Monument. The 11-foot tall monument is made of zinc alloy (popularly known as "white bronze"). The process for oxidizing zinc for cemetery and public monuments was invented in the 1870s. Up into the 1910s this type of commemorative marker was a popular alternative to bronze and proved to be less susceptible to weathering than either stone or bronze.

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This monument was most likely cast to specifications at the *Monumental Bronze Company* plant in Bridgeport, Connecticut and assembled in the company's subsidiary in Des Moines, Iowa. (Saturday Evening Spectator) While many of the marble family monuments and simple stones have lost much of their definition through time, the Soldiers' War Monument looks nearly new in condition and maintains strong material integrity. (Photos 1-3, 7, 10, 12)

The hollow metal structure is four-sided and sits on a stone platform. The bottom tier of the monument is cast to emulate stone. Above the base, in raised block letters, each side displays the name of a major battle of the Civil War or the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, as listed below.

The monument's side facing east to Lyndale Avenue displays GETTYSBURG at the base. On the tier above, in raised letters, are the names of Bloomington soldiers that had DIED SINCE DISCHARGE. [1] Directly above is a bolted, recessed panel that lists the soldiers that DIED IN THE SERVICE. [2] On the obelisk above is a bas-relief of three muskets.

The south-facing side of the monument commemorates the battle of ANTIETAM at the base. On the tier above, in raised letters are the names of the members of the Monument Committee. [3] Above the committee listing is a bolted, recessed panel that reads: ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF BLOOMINGTON, MEMORIAL DAY, 1890 IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF OUR COUNTRY'S DEFENDERS 1861-1865. At the base of the obelisk is a bas-relief profile bust of a Union soldier.

The west-facing side commemorates the battle of FORT BLAKELEY at the base. On the tier above are the names of SOLDIERS NOW LIVING. [4] The recessed panel above also lists SOLDIERS NOW LIVING. [5] The bas-relief on the obelisk above displays two crossed and

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[1] JAMES CRAMMOND 2ND MINN. VOL. INF.; GEORGE AMES CO. D, 6TH; JOHN STARRET CO. C; THOMAS MATTEN, JASPER BROWN, JAMES KELLEY 116TH N.Y. VOL. INF.; GEORGE ROBINSON 6TH MO. CAV.

[2] JOHN MCCLAY CO.B, 1STMINN. VOL. INF.; ORVILLE AMES; MARTIN S. WHALEN; JOHN LIVERCOMB; ROBERT CHADWICK A, 6TH; MARINER W. GATES; WILLIAM B. BUSH; WILLIAM LOGAN K,; GEORGE W. PALMER BERDAN'S SHARPSHOOTERS; JAMES HYLAND 3RD MINN. VOL. INF.

[3] SEVER ELLINGSON, CHAIRMAN; WM. OXBOROUGH, JR.; H.H. POND, TREAS.; J.N. KELLY; E.B. MILLER, SEC'T'Y.

[4] COL. FRANCIS PETELER 1ST MINN. SHARPSHOOTERS; 1ST LIEUT. SAM'L MC CLAY CO. G, 6TH MINN. VOL. INF.; 1ST LIEUT. CHAS. H.D. FRIEND CO. F, 2ND; WILLIAM MATTEN CO. F, 2ND; JOHN BROWN CO. D, 1ST; GEORGE MADDOCK CO. D, 1ST; JOHN S. CLARK 1ST; JOHN COOPER CO. I, 1ST; HENRY COLEMAN CO. I, 1ST; WM. RAY CO. B, 1ST M.R.; CHARLES RYE CO. H, 1ST; EDWIN B. MILLER CO. H, 1ST; JOHN N. KELLY CO. D, 6TH; JOHN LOGAN CO. C, 6TH; ALLEN L. GOODRICH CO. D, 6TH; FRANK MADDOCK CO. K, 6TH

[5] JOSEPH CHADWICK CO. A, 6TH MINN. VOL. INF.; AARON JAY CO. A, 6TH; LOTT PALMER CO. G, 4TH; WALTER KEOUGH BRACKETT'S BATT. CAV.; SEVER ELLINGSON CO. D, 3RD IOWA INF.; ELI E. BUSH CO. E, 5TH MINN. VOL. INF.; SYLVESTER BUSH CO. I, 2ND; ANDREW SHAW 6TH; ASA KENTER; GEORGE GODFREY

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sheathed swords.

In contrast to the three sites commemorating the Civil War, the north-facing side of the monument commemorates the battle of BIRCH COOLIE in the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. In the recessed panel above is a bas-relief image of a medal of valor with eagle, ribbon and star that reads: GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC 1861-VETERAN-1866. Above, at the base of the obelisk, is a flag and standard.

Aluminum Fence
Installed: 2009
Resource Count: one non-contributing object

The cemetery is enclosed along the Lyndale Avenue South, eastern boundary by a five-foot tall ornamental tubular aluminum fence with a dark anodized finish. There are swinging gates at the two vehicular entrances and two pedestrian access points along the public right–of-way. Between the two pedestrian access points in the original cemetery tract, the fence sits on a low, stepped concrete block retaining wall. (Photo 15)

Cemetery Expansion

There were several additions to the original cemetery following the period of significance. In November of 1938 an addition of 363.46' x 220.15' (approximately 1.8 acres) was appended to the north of the original tract along Lyndale Avenue. In March of 1949 a parcel of 221.57' and 220.1' (approximately 1.1 acres) was appended to the west of the 1938 addition. The two additions provided 131 blocks generally ranging from 8 – 24 burial plots/block. (Figures 6-7).

In 1973, the last addition appended a strip of land (135.64' by 330.3') directly west of the original cemetery, completing the current boundaries. The greater Bloomington Cemetery is now a rectangular parcel with 508 linear feet along the west side of Lyndale Avenue South and 499 linear feet deep west to the East Bloomington Parkway frontage road along Interstate 35-West, or a total of 6.6 acres. (Figure 8).

The north, south and west boundaries of the expanded cemetery are defined by a contemporary six-foot tall chain link fence. Also outside and to the west of the original tract in the 1973 expansion area is the cemetery's signage. The mid-late 20th century sign has routed letters that read: BLOOMINGTON CEMETERY - ESTABLISHED 1856 and sits just to the east of the back chain link fence that separates the greater cemetery from the frontage road and I-35W right-of-way to the west.

The only other structures on the grounds, which are outside the boundaries of the original Oak Grove Cemetery, are two late-20th to early-21st century, rough-faced concrete-block, utility buildings that are positioned at the northwesterly and southwesterly turns in the vehicular driveway.

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_____

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[x] 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.

[ ] 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
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

[ ] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
__Social History_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Period of Significance
_1856-1890_____
_____
_____

Significant Dates
1856, 1890_____
_____
_____

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
___N/A_____
_____
_____

Cultural Affiliation
__N/A_____
_____
_____

Architect/Builder
__N/A_____
_____
_____

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery (hereinafter referred to as the Oak Grove Cemetery) (alternate current name: Bloomington Cemetery), located at 10340 Lyndale Avenue South in Bloomington, Minnesota is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, with the Area of Significance being Social History. Its level of significance is local to Bloomington. Related state contexts include "Indian Communities and Reservations: 1837-1934" and "Early Agriculture and River Settlement: 1840-1870." The land represented in this period is the original approximately 2.75 acres within the Bloomington Cemetery, which includes 240 burial blocks. The period of significance is from 1856 — when the land was first utilized by Gideon Pond's First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove (hereinafter referred to as the Oak Grove Church) building and cemetery — to 1890 when the Soldiers' Monument was erected in the cemetery. Although generally cemeteries are not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the Oak Grove Cemetery is an exception in that under Criteria Consideration D the cemetery is of significant age and consists of the graves of many persons of transcendent importance to the mid-19th century settlement and founding of Bloomington, Minnesota. It appears to be the oldest known pioneer cemetery in the western metropolitan area; however, within the greater metropolitan area only Oakland Cemetery in Saint Paul pre-dates it. The Oak Grove Cemetery is thus significant as a pioneer cemetery in that the original burial plots represent early territorial settlers including McLeod, Pond, several other Pond family missionaries, other early pioneers, Dakota Indians, village founders, soldiers from every major conflict, farmers, merchants, and businessmen. The cemetery is also significant for the distinctive Soldiers' Monument, a memorial that represents the evolution of Bloomington from an individualistic, pioneer settlement to a community which identified wholly as a part of the State of Minnesota, and which accordingly sent soldiers to fight in Minnesota regiments of the Union troops.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Early Development of Oak Grove Settlement and Bloomington
In 1805 Army Lieutenant Zebulon Pike met with local Dakota Indians at the juncture of the Mississippi and what is now known as the Minnesota River. The territory was being explored after the Louisiana Purchase when Pike had been ordered to develop an alliance with the Indians. Once a treaty was signed, the same location was selected to establish a military presence. Fort Snelling, initially called Fort St. Anthony, was completed in the early 1820s. As a military post, the Fort became a hub for all the surrounding settlements as they developed over the nineteenth

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century. A portion of present-day Bloomington was within the original boundaries of the Fort, where the west line of the Fort Snelling reservation cut diagonally through east Bloomington. Though the route is somewhat altered today, the Old Shakopee Trail (now Old Shakopee Road), was the main transportation and travel route from the Fort. It followed an Indian path and, later, a stagecoach route from the confluence of the rivers at Fort Snelling, straight through what is now known as Bloomington, and on to the village of Chief Shakopee on the southern bank of the Minnesota River. The halfway point on this journey was the crossing at Nine Mile Creek, so named because it was nine miles from Fort Snelling. An inn called the Halfway House was built there in 1854 by the French settler Jean Bailiff, which offered the first lodging available in the vicinity. John (Jean) Bailiff and his wife Victorine are buried in Block 150, plots 3S and 3N at the cemetery. (Frye)

Minnesota Territory was considered a part of the great Western wilderness in the early and mid-nineteenth century. That same wilderness offered untapped opportunities for adventuresome residents of the American Eastern seaboard as well as to Europeans eager to determine what the expanding United States had to offer. The Minnesota Territory was created in 1849 and Hennepin County, within which Bloomington is located, was organized by the third territorial legislature in 1852. The county was named for Father Louis Hennepin, the Franciscan missionary who, with a French companion, was the first white man to see the only major falls on the Mississippi River. Father Hennepin subsequently named them the Falls of Saint Anthony in honor of his patron saint, Anthony of Padua.

The area was originally home to Mdewakanton Dakota natives. The large-scale influx of settlers occurred once the Treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota were signed in 1851 between the Indians and local representatives of the U.S. government. Brokered by Alexander Ramsey, first territorial governor of Minnesota, the treaties moved local Native Americans to reservations and opened up vast stretches of agricultural land to white settlers. Unwilling to wait for official ratification by the U.S. Senate, many settlers moved in immediately to occupy land still legally owned by the Indians. (Gilman 56) By early 1853 large numbers of Easterners and Euro-Americans were arriving, ready for a land sale set up by the government. By the time the territory was officially opened up to settlement after the treaty ratification in 1854, many whites had already staked claims to land. (Wingerd 199) As historian Mary Wingerd remarks, the interaction of Indians and whites during this time period "shaped a hybrid culture that was neither purely Indian nor purely European." (Wingerd 9)

In 1853 three families from Bloomington, Illinois arrived to begin new lives in the area. Members of the Goodrich, Whallon and Ames families named the area where they settled — "Bloomington" — after their hometown. (Hendricks 44) When first organized as a township on May 11, 1858 (the same day that Minnesota became a state), the name Bloomington was chosen to combine the communities of record at that time: Oak Grove in the southeast; Bloomington, an area centered at 102nd Street and Penn Avenue; and Bloomington Ferry, in the southwestern-most section of the community at the Minnesota River. Bloomington remained a rural community, along with neighboring Richfield and Burnsville, for almost one hundred years. A

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growth surge began only in the post-World War II era, leading ultimately to Bloomington's place today as the state's fifth largest city.

Early Church and Cemetery History
In 1855 a small but growing congregation of worshipers had been meeting at the Gideon Pond home, just east of what would become the future location of the Oak Grove Church and Cemetery. As the area became more settled and attendance grew, it was clear a church building was needed. That same year territorial pioneer Martin McLeod donated part of his farmland to the Oak Grove Mission and its leader Gideon Pond. The oldest European-American cemetery in the City of Bloomington was thus established at this site in concert with the church in 1856. (Figure 2)

Though stand-alone cemeteries in the area (such as Lakewood in Minneapolis, established 1871) often adopted the "lawn park" model made popular as part of the rise of the urban park movement, the early planning of Oak Grove Cemetery harkened back to a rural and east coast model. That design was based on a churchyard, in this case clustered around the Oak Grove Church. Regular and closely set graves were placed around the yard with ample open areas for future family burials. For that reason, although the more recent memorials stand in contrast to the original headstones, the burial pattern still maintains integrity.

Due to Pond's influence, early Christian Native American converts attended church services along with the local white congregants. According to Jeff Williamson, author and descendant of Gideon Pond, Oak Grove Church records show seventeen Dakota were received into membership between 1871 and 1889. By 1863 more room was needed than the small church could provide, as worshippers were joining the church from the nearby communities of Richfield and Eden Prairie. No record exists on a motion to enlarge the building; however, committees were chosen to identify possible new locations and also to decide whether the existing building could be moved. The church structure was subsequently moved off the grounds in April, 1864 to the intersection of Old Shakopee Road, 102nd Street and Penn Avenue, the recommended site of two that were put forward by the committee. (Norman 76) The small church was literally placed on skids and pulled by four yoke of oxen and two teams of horses west to the site. Pond continued to serve at the church until he retired in 1873 due to ill health, dying in 1878 at the age of 67. A 24-foot addition was ultimately built in 1865 at the new location where the contemporary church, now known as the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, remains today. (Norman 81) (Figure 4)

The township took over responsibility for the cemetery, its first municipal property, in1864 when it became the landowner. (Hendricks 78) In 1867 a "1/2 mill" levy was imposed by the Board of Supervisors to improve the cemetery. (*Short History of the Bloomington Cemetery*) The name was changed from the Oak Grove Cemetery to the Bloomington Cemetery at a town meeting in March 1880. (Hendricks 78)

The Oak Grove Cemetery contains the graves of many of the first white settlers of Oak Grove,

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including Gideon Hollister Pond, Martin McLeod, several Pond family members, and other original settlers who made important contributions to the development of the community. (Photos 7-13) Pond was a significant figure in early Bloomington and Minnesota Territorial history; he and his family were the earliest Christian missionaries to the Indians to arrive in the area. McLeod, an early member of the 1836 Dickson expedition, was a Canadian fur trader and early territorial representative.[6] Both marked and unmarked Indian graves (some believed to pre-date the period of significance) are located here, as well as the graves of other early settlers and war veterans. Twenty-four veterans from the Civil War or the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, as well as men who served in all subsequent wars are buried here.[7]

Indian Burials
Pre-dating the Oak Grove Cemetery is an Indian burial ground that dates from 1843. At that time Gideon Pond began making coffins and burying Dakota Indians at this site. (Pond, Samuel W. 1986 162) The burial grounds (due east of the Oak Grove Cemetery and immediately across a ravine from the Pond homestead) have more than fifty unmarked graves overlooking the Minnesota River Valley. Records are not complete or always clear; however Pond may have buried fifty-five and perhaps more in the Indian graveyard between the mid 1840s and the mid 1850s.[8] With the dedication of the Oak Grove Church in 1856 he generally buried them in the church cemetery.

Church records exist in Gideon's own hand listing burials he conducted, including the second recorded 1856 burial of a male Indian child, and in October the burial of an Indian man. (Figures 9-10) On January 19, 1863 he recorded the burials of "3 Indian children." (Oak Grove Church Session Minutes) Additionally, there are unmarked Indian graves at the Oak Grove Cemetery.

Gideon Pond's writings tell the story of an Indian woman from the internment camp who arrived carrying a box with the body of her young grandson inside. She had walked from the Fort to the Pond house, a distance of some nine miles, because she was told that Pond might help her. Gideon relates that he sent William (his step-son) "to help her dig a grave and bury the little boy by the side of some other Indian graves in the public burying ground."

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[6] McLeod barely survived this ill-fated mission from Canada that was headed for New Mexico to foment an uprising among the native tribes there. The "army" disbanded due to desertion and, finally, death in extreme weather conditions.

[7] James Parker, a Bloomington resident and veteran of the War of 1812, was moved to the Oak Grove Cemetery from the Pioneer and Soldiers Cemetery in Minneapolis when it closed in 1930.

[8] Indian burials continued, however, into the 1890s, although it is not known whether it was missionaries, settlers or the Dakota themselves digging the graves. It is possible that Pond quietly buried Dakota from the Fort Snelling internment camp there, as desecration of the dead had taken place at the Fort. (Monjeau-Marz 59,74) The burial grounds lay forgotten for almost 100 years when a land sale occurred as the result of the death of a Pond descendent in 1965. The burials were discovered when the land was being surveyed for a planned housing development for the eight-acre site. Disagreements arose on the Bloomington City Council as to how to address the property, but ultimately it was decided to preserve the graves and authorization was given to spend up to $6000 to purchase the land. This quiet unmarked grave yard remains today on a bluff overlooking the Minnesota River, still bearing no indication of its importance in the history of the area.

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An early pioneer remembered that the Dakota graves were marked with a white picket fence "slightly northwest of the bend in the northern leg of the inner drive" and recalls seeing a "procession with a horse-drawn wagon from Shakopee and the men riding on the wagon and the women walking alongside." (Stanford 215) Unmarked graves mistakenly opened in the 20th century revealed items such as tools and beads along with human remains. (Jones) [9]

Undocumented burials continued on the site well after the period of significance. Formal recordkeeping did not begin until 1911, when sexton Walter Pedersen was hired to tend the graves and handle maintenance. Up until this time, local residents and gravesite owners had managed these tasks themselves. Members of the church had been allowed to choose their preferred burial lots and no deeds were issued.[10]

Since the initial arrival of Europeans to Indian lands, both groups mixed freely and intermarried (though the "country marriage" between, typically, white men and Indian women, was not binding under American law at that time). Thus, the area and its cemetery were populated with many individuals of mixed heritage. There are likely twenty-nine known Dakota burials in the Bloomington cemetery. (Williamson) Among them are the wife and children of Martin McLeod and others from mixed families.

Pioneer Settlers and Their Relationship to the Cemetery

Gideon Pond
Gideon Pond, born in 1810 in New Preston, Connecticut, and his older brother Samuel arrived at

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[9]   In one recorded instance of the accidental discovery of Native remains, Marie Pederson, the cemetery sexton's wife said, "…those bones and things must have been 100 years old at least. It used to be mostly Indians living around here, you know. I should have given them to the historical society, I suppose, but I just didn't feel like doing that. Once they're down there, I just think they ought to be left in peace…." (Abbasi) The article notes that Mrs. Pederson re-buried the remains adjacent to their original location and that they remain there "to this day." A more contemporary burial occurred when, in 1968, workmen digging near 106th Street and Nicollet Avenue found the remains of a 20-year-old Dakota woman, thought to have died between 1800 and 1861. A grave at the Bloomington Cemetery was eventually donated and, along with representatives of the Prior Lake Sioux tribe, members of Oak Grove Church held a ceremonial re-interment in 1971. (Berns 1972)

[10]   Phyllis Pedersen Gisselman, daughter of the original caretakers, Walter and Marie Pedersen, was quoted saying "In 1911 my father was given the responsibility of caring for the cemetery. The grass was waist high and there were no records of where anyone was buried. People would just go down and pick a spot and make a grave there and they wouldn't tell anyone where it was. After some probing, my folks found out who the people were and where they were buried and through the years had kept an accurate record of all the graves." (Hendricks, 94) Mrs. Pedersen maintained this information on a window shade, according to her grandson Gary Gisselman. Burials were marked on the shade with the name of the deceased and the location of the grave carefully identified. (The present location of the window shade is unknown). The Pedersons had maintained long ties to the area, Mrs. Pederson having previously worked for Agnes Pond. Walter Pedersen, who had lost his left arm to the elbow in a sawmill accident, dug the graves until shortly before his death in 1953. (Gisselman) According to the *Short History of Bloomington Cemetery,* "Mr. Pedersen had to chisel the graves out by hand in order to get below the frost line. A fire was left in the uncompleted trench at night to help thaw out the ground."

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Fort Snelling from Connecticut in 1834 without benefit of ordination, eager to meet and convert the local Dakota to Christianity as a part of the Second Great Awakening.[11] They and their families were the first Indian missionaries in the new territory, with their wives and daughters teaching in the schools and working with the Indian women as the first female missionaries in the area. They began their work in a small log cabin on the eastern side of Lake Calhoun in present-day Minneapolis with the Dakota Chief Cloudman before coming to the Oak Grove site in 1842. (Folwell 186) The Pond brothers were especially known for the development of the Pond Indian alphabet.

At Oak Grove, Gideon Pond continued to work with Cloudman and his village. From Lake Calhoun the tribe had re-located to the river valley nearby due to re-awakened conflict with the Ojibwe. One year later, in 1843, a two-story log mission house was constructed on the top of the bluff at Oak Grove, which served as a dwelling for both families of the Pond brothers, as well as a mission school for the children of both the Dakota band and those of the early white settlers. This was the first school in the area, led by the Pond wives Sarah and Cordelia. Female missionaries were only allowed to perform mission work if they were attached to husbands or other male family members, and were expected to work with Native women and children, running prayer meetings and teaching school, modeling Christian values through their example. (Clemmons 26-30)

Despite Gideon Pond's best efforts, the Indians resisted Christianity. There were several reasons for this. Their spiritual tenets held that if their system of spiritual beliefs was abandoned for any other, evil spirits would destroy their nation; the lack of a cohesive theology within the various Christian sects also undermined their efforts because the Euro-Americans were not unified in their religion, but chose from a variety of doctrines within the Christian faith; and finally, the range of poor behaviors exhibited by white traders, Indian agents, settlers and soldiers, put lie to what was preached as a loving (and supposedly superior) religion. (Folwell 170-171)

In spite of this the Pond brothers played a significant role in the development of the Dakota language as well as the transitioning of the Dakota culture. Gideon Pond, dubbed "Grizzly Bear" by the Dakota because of his 6-foot height, (Green 45) was an advocate for Indian and black rights within his Presbyterian church. After being ordained finally in 1848 (Folwell 197), he served as a member of the 1849 Territorial Legislature for one year. (His name had been placed on the ballot upon request of Henry Sibley.)[12] With his missionary experience, Pond chaired the

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[11]   In the early part of the 19th century a religious revivalism spread westward, coinciding with the settlement of new territories in the western United States. This was a reprise of the Great Awakening of the early 18th century, which emphasized personal piety over education and theological background. In northern New England it took the form of social activism. The aim of one of the reform movements that arose at this time was to redress injustice and alleviate suffering. Interdenominational missionary groups (such as the ABCFM (American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions) - to which the Pond brothers eventually reported - formed out of a desire to evangelize the West.

[12]   Henry Sibley (1811-1891) was a fur trader, military leader, congressman, and the first governor of the new State of Minnesota in 1858.

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Schools Committee. He also was the editor of the first religious bilingual newspaper published in Minnesota, *Dakota Friend*, from 1850 to 1852. Printed in both Dakota and English, its purpose was to lead the local tribes to Christianity as well as convince them of the rightness of adapting to the new American civilization being thrust upon them. (Johnson 15-19)

Though Gideon Pond and his brother Samuel are the most recognized, it was his entire family's efforts that stood out and made them an important family in Bloomington Township in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Over 100 Pond relatives are buried in the Bloomington Cemetery in both the original and newer sections. During the period of significance Gideon Pond and his first wife, Sarah Poage Pond, were buried in block 152 at the cemetery and future Pond family burials plots were secured. Sarah, who died in 1853, is buried in lot 3N and Gideon, who died in 1878, is buried in lot 3S. It appears that Sarah Pond was originally buried elsewhere, perhaps on the homestead, and was re-interred in the new cemetery once established in 1856. Outside the period of significance are the burials of Pond's second wife, Agnes Hopkins Pond in lot 2S (1915), Gideon's son with Sarah, Edward R. Pond, (1925) in block 216 lot 4S and his wife (and step-sister) Mary Francis Hopkins Pond (1924) in the same block in lot 4N. Jeannette Pond (1922), granddaughter of Gideon, is also buried in block 216, lot 1S. (Photos 7-11)

Martin McLeod
Martin McLeod, whose donation of farmland in 1855 became the location of the Oak Grove Church and Cemetery, was an important figure in his own right. McLeod, a college-educated Scots-Canadian, first came to Minnesota in the Dickson Expedition of 1836. An influential trader for the American Fur Company, he settled in Oak Grove and became a neighbor of Gideon Pond's in 1849 and in 1851 was married by him to Mary Elizabeth Ortley, who was the daughter of a Dakota Indian mother and white trader father. Martin McLeod eventually served in four consecutive territorial legislatures, once as president; was elected chairman of the first Board of Supervisors when Bloomington's township was organized in 1858; and represented Bloomington on the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. McLeod was responsible for naming Hennepin County after Father Louis Hennepin, Franciscan missionary and explorer. He himself was the namesake for nearby McLeod County (Upham). His most significant achievement was likely the sponsorship of a legislative bill to establish public schools in the area. (Carroll 2007) He was also a charter member of the Minnesota Historical Society. Martin McLeod (1860) and his wife Mary Elizabeth Ortley McLeod (1871) were buried in Block 184, plots 2N and 2S at Oak Grove Cemetery. (Photo 12) Martin's son Walter spent his life in Bloomington as a successful farmer and, as a government agent, purchased 340 acres of land for the Dakota at Prairie Island, Prior Lake and Birch Coulee teaching the Indians to construct traditional housing to replace tipis. Walter is buried at Oak Grove Cemetery in the McLeod block 184 in lot 3N near his parents.

Martin Whallon
Community founder Martin Whallon (sometimes spelled Whalon) arrived in the Oak Grove settlement from Illinois along with several other families in 1852. The community's name of Bloomington came from his group of travelers, naming it for their hometown in Illinois. He

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attended the first church services held in Gideon Pond's home before the construction of a dedicated church building in 1856. His family took in a young Dakota girl called Susan Ellison by the settlers (Dakota name Washtasyotankewin) whose death was memorialized on her Oak Grove tombstone. Susan died at the age of 10 in 1856, killed by Ojibwe Indians during a period of unrest between the Ojibwe and the Dakota. She is buried at Oak Grove in block 214, lot 1S. (Photo 13) Martin died at Danville, Virginia in a Civil War prisoner of war camp in 1864. He is buried next to Susan in block 214, lot 1N.

Many of the other early Bloomington settlers were buried at Oak Grove Cemetery, including:

- French settler John (Jean) Bailiff (1868), elected a Town Supervisor in 1859, is buried in block 150 lot 3S.
- French settler John Ancel (1890), emigrated to the United States in 1852 and to Bloomington in 1857, and is buried in block 148 lot 3N.
- John Oxborough (1886), from England, arrived in the 1850s with his three brothers (block 104 3N). The Oxborough name (sometimes with altered spelling) persists today on Bloomington businesses, health clinics, a park and a library, as well as several residential streets.
- Angelina Scofield (1861) was a teacher to the Gideon Pond children before she married J.D. Scofield. Angelina and J.D. lived in the Pond house after Gideon's first wife, Sarah, died, until his marriage to his second wife, Agnes. J.D. went on to a distinguished career in service to Bloomington. Angelina is buried in block 237 lot 4N.
- New Yorker James Kelley (1887) served in the Civil War and is buried in block 39, lot 2S.
- Samuel Goodrich (1865), another founder who arrived with Martin Whallon from Bloomington, Illinois, was elected first county assessor and Justice of the Peace. He also served as a Town Supervisor six times in the 1860s (buried in block 67, lot 1S).
- William Chambers (block 172, lot 3N) who, along with Joseph Dean, came to the area in 1852 with authorization from the government to start a ferry service providing the only means to cross the Minnesota River in the Bloomington area until a bridge was built there in 1889. Chambers died in 1868.
- Huldah Cook Harrison (1864), and Martha Harrison (1890), wife and daughter respectively of Joseph Harrison, native of Ireland, are buried in block 120 lots 2N and 3N. Hulda was born in Ontario Canada, marrying in 1840, moving to Minnesota in 1854 and to Bloomington in 1874. The Harrisons had thirteen children.
- Edward B. Stanley (1864), a charter member of the Oak Grove Church Society in 1855, and his wife H. Mariah Stanley (1863) are buried in block 187, lots 4S and 4N respectively. Stanley was Secretary at the first town meeting in 1858 and was elected a Justice of the Peace at that time.
- Susannah West (1866), who with her husband William West, moved to a farm in Bloomington in 1863, is buried in block 108 lot 3N.

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Except for Pond and Chambers[13], none of these influential early settlers appear to have surviving related resources. Particularly in the case of the women and children, and for several of the Dakota, the simple gravesites in the original Oak Grove Cemetery are the only remaining markers of their lives and social history.

Oak Grove in Relationship to Other Cemeteries of the Nineteenth Century
Until the mid-1800s (pre-territorial days) there was no systematic means to dispose of the deceased and so the need for immediate action compelled most burials. For both Indians and Euro-Americans graves were dug either where death occurred or perhaps at a nearby Indian burial ground. If markers were made (and often they were not) they were of the simplest wood. No need was perceived to mark a grave, as no maintenance of the site would occur. (Sloane 14-15) When farming began to take hold in a given area, farm fields began to be used to inter the landholder's family dead. An elevated site was often chosen and sometimes neighbors were buried there as well.

When official burial grounds began to be utilized they were often attached to a churchyard, as was the case with Oak Grove. The Oak Grove Cemetery was the first (and only) officially recognized cemetery in the Bloomington area until the establishment of Dawn Valley Memorial Park, well into the third quarter of the 20th century. Indeed, Oak Grove Cemetery appears to be the earliest cemetery in the western Twin Cities; the now lost Maple Hill Cemetery in Northeast Minneapolis was also established in 1856, and the National-Register listed Minneapolis Pioneer and Soldier's Cemetery was established in 1858. In Saint Paul, the oldest cemeteries, Oakland and Calvary, were established in 1853 and 1856 respectively. With the advent of an organized burial ground families continued to dig and tend to the graves of their loved ones until such time as the church hired a sexton or communities took over the responsibility.

Regardless of denomination, church graveyards had many similarities: their acreage was small; graves were not plotted, so the markers were non-linear; and originally the graveyards were not fenced, so it was not uncommon for farmers to make good use of the tall grass by allowing their farm stock to graze in the cemetery. (Sloan) Oak Grove Cemetery was no exception. In her memories of the cemetery and church, Elizabeth Stanford notes that when her great-grandmother, Hulda Harrison, died in August 1864 "the cemetery had become overgrown with grass." Forty-seven years later, when the first sexton was hired for Bloomington Cemetery in 1911, his wife said it was "overgrown like a hayfield." (Jones) As the maintenance of individual plots was haphazard, the sexton was hired to ensure more uniform care for the grounds. (Figure 11)

The Soldiers' Monument
Although the gravesites in the cemetery provide the most important social history records, the Soldiers' Monument, an 11-foot marker dedicated in 1890 by the "citizens of Bloomington" to

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[13]   William Chambers' 1853 home is located south of Auto Club Road on the way to the 1890 Bloomington Ferry bridge.

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celebrate the sixty-four Bloomington residents who fought in the Dakota Conflict and the Civil War, also marks a turning point in the development of the community, its transition from settlement to community, from farmers to soldiers, from immigrants to citizens.

Typically, as communities began erecting Civil War monuments in this same time period, the town square or courthouse lawn was selected as the site for the memorial, i.e., the town's most public arena. Bloomington's first municipally owned property, its Town Hall, was not constructed until 1892. Thus the 1890 memorial to the community's war effort, including the names of living and deceased soldiers, was naturally placed on the town's only publicly owned property, its cemetery.

The structure is made of zinc alloy, popularly referred to as white bronze. The memorial cost $300.00 (paid for by subscription) and was supplied by George Griggs of Saint Paul, general agent of the Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Likely located on the site of the original church, it is the historic resource that most demonstrates the evolution of Bloomington from an individualistic pioneer settlement to an emerging community of the new State of Minnesota. The monument looks both forward and back in its commemoration of American patriotism. (Wingerd 355)

The north-facing side of the monument commemorates the definitive battle of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, Birch Coolie. Many of the early Bloomington settlers, volunteers for the Union side in the Civil War, fought against the Indians in the Dakota conflict.

The other three sides of the monument celebrate the Bloomington natives who joined Minnesota Regiments to fight for the young State of Minnesota in the Civil War, starting only five years after the cemetery was established. The monument particularly honors the battles of Antietam, Fort Blakely, and Gettysburg.

Minnesota's first governor, Alexander Ramsey, was in Washington on April 13, 1861, when it was announced that the Civil War had begun. He immediately offered a thousand soldiers from the relatively new state. Consequently, Minnesota was the first state to respond to the President's call for volunteers and the First Minnesota Regiment became famous for its crucial role in the victory at Gettysburg, where 70% of their 229 soldiers died fighting (Moe 296). Upward of 25,000 Minnesota men fought for the Union in the war – half of the state's eligible male population. (Moe 14, MNHS website)

Since the monument was established, Memorial Day ceremonies have been held in the cemetery every year. While many Civil War monuments can be found across Minnesota, this one is thought to be the first erected. Sixty-two of the sixty-four military veterans listed on the memorial are buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery. (Frye)

The importance of this monument in the transition of Bloomington cannot be overstated. When the cemetery was dedicated in 1856 it was a limited resource, used to memorialize pioneer

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graves and to continue Christian Indian burials. As it developed, however, it became an important community resource, eventually becoming municipally owned, and expanding several times. Similarly, the Bloomington pioneers developed from entrepreneurial seekers of fortune into a citizenry with a communal stake in the state's future. The Monument is important in that it reflects this commitment to serve statewide needs through military service as inhabitants moved forward as Minnesota residents, not simply individual homesteaders. At the same time the monument reflects Indian/settler relations and commemorates that story as well. Rarely in Minnesota do these corresponding histories co-exist, making the Soldiers' Monument — and Oak Grove/Bloomington Cemetery itself — a truly unique resource.

Bloomington's monument, as it stands today in the old cemetery, is the sole extant object from the period of significance representing a significant civic initiative and expenditure, and is believed to be the earliest and only remaining marker from that period acknowledging Bloomington as a community. It reads: "ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF BLOOMINGTON, MEMORIAL DAY, 1890 IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF OUR COUNTRY'S DEFENDERS 1861-1865.

Conclusion
The period of significance coincides with a major transition in the social history of this part of Minnesota. In the 1850s the area was populated with indigenous Indian tribal members, a few whites and numerous people of mixed heritage, resulting from the arrival of fur traders, soldiers and settlers who inter-mingled with the Native Americans and lived with them harmoniously side by side. By the 1890s treaties had removed most Indians to reservations, the bloody Dakota Conflict had erupted, and a massive influx of white settlers had moved onto land previously held by the Indians, making new rules for the society at large. Intermarriage and, sadly, even civil treatment of the Indian had faded from the scene. The cemetery stands as a distinctive marker for the City of Bloomington, Minnesota, depicting the intersection between the indigenous peoples, their protectors/advocates and the white settlers determined to remove them from their land.

The cemetery continues to retain the integrity of its location, design, materials, feeling and association. The graves have remained largely intact and contributing objects untouched throughout its long history. The addition of acreage on the north and west borders and newer gravestones within the original parcel have not altered the simplicity of feeling and association developed throughout its one hundred and fifty-eight year history.

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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 # _____

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____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
    Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): __HE-BLC-065_____

_____

10. Geographical Data

 Acreage of Property _____2.75 acres_____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: Longitude:

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery   Hennepin, Minnesota
Name of Property   County and State

☐ NAD 1927   or   ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15   Easting: 477119   Northing: 4962441

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting :   Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the nominated property is within boundaries of the Bloomington Cemetery, Hennepin County Parcel: Addition Name: CEM BLOOMINGTON CEMETERY 1ST ADDITION; Lot 001; Block 001; including only the grounds covered by burial blocks 001 through 240.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the nominated property includes the parcel of land historically associated with the cemetery during the period of significance.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: __Thomas R. Zahn, Peg Reilly, Bethany Gladhill_____
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street & number: __807 Holly Avenue_____
city or town: __Saint Paul_____ state: __MN_____ zip code:_55104_____
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telephone:__651-221-9765_____
date:__May 4, 2014_____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900   OMB No. 1024-0018

First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery   Hennepin, Minnesota
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Additional Documentation

Chronology of Events
Gideon Pond, the First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Church and Cemetery

1810, June 30   Gideon Hollister Pond was born in New Preston, Connecticut.

1831   Gideon and brother, Samuel W. Pond, converted to Christianity after
                     attending a revival meeting.

1834   Gideon and his brother came to Fort Snelling, in what was to become the
                     Minnesota Territory, hoping to begin a lay ministry to the Dakota Indians.

                     The Pond brothers developed an association with Chief Cloudman and his
                     Dakota community.

1834, summer   The Pond brothers began their ministry from a small log cabin on the
                     eastern shore of Lake Calhoun approximately 8 miles northwest of Fort
                     Snelling, which is located at the confluence of the Minnesota and
                     Mississippi Rivers.

1834-1835, winter   Gideon and Samuel Pond developed the "Pond alphabet" of the Dakota
                     language.

1835   The Rev. Thomas Williamson, missionary and physician, and the Pond
                     brothers started the first church in what is now Minnesota at Fort Snelling.

1836   Gideon Pond left the mission school on the east shore of Lake Calhoun and
                     went to Lac qui Parle, Minnesota, over 150 miles west of Fort Snelling, to
                     join the Reverend Williamson at a mission there.

1839   Gideon and his wife, Sarah Poage, and their daughter returned to Lake
                     Calhoun where he taught farming techniques to the local Dakota tribe.

1842-43, winter   Gideon Pond established the Oak Grove Mission in a small cabin on the
                     banks of the Minnesota River approximately 10 miles southwest of Fort
                     Snelling, in what is now Bloomington, Minnesota.

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1843, spring	A tamarack log, two-story mission house was built on the top of the bluff in a settlement known as Oak Grove. The mission house served as a dwelling for the Gideon and Samuel Pond families in addition to providing space for mission use.
1843-1890	An Indian burial grounds is established by Gideon Pond on the river bluff. Burials continue there after Gideon's death.
1848	Gideon Pond was ordained a minister in the Presbyterian Church.
1849	Gideon Pond served as a representative to the First Territorial Legislature for one year.
	The Minnesota Territory was created.
1850	Gideon Pond began publishing a monthly bilingual paper, the Dakota Friend.
1851	With the Treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota, the Dakota ceded much of their Minnesota land to the U.S. Government and began moving westward. The territory west of the Mississippi, including what is now Bloomington, was unofficially opened to Euro-American settlers.
	Gideon Pond decided to remain on the bluff site and establish a church for the incoming settlers.
1852	Working with Rev. Stephen R. Riggs and Dr. Thomas S. Williamson, the Pond brothers published the Grammar and Dictionary of the Dakota Language.
	Hennepin County was organized.
	Early settlers that had relocated from Bloomington, Illinois named the growing community "Bloomington."
1852-1856	Gideon Pond constructed a "pre-emption house" near the log mission site.
1853	This is the date of the earliest headstone at Oak Grove Cemetery, that of E. Knott dated January 12, 1853.
	Gideon's first wife, Sarah, died of consumption and was eventually buried at Oak Grove Cemetery.

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1854   The U.S. government ratified the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux.

1855   Territorial pioneer Martin McLeod donated a northern portion of his
                            farmland, which was approximately 1 mile west of the Pond homestead, to
                            Pond and the Oak Grove congregation for the construction of a church
                            along the farm road that is currently Lyndale Avenue South.

                            The First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove was organized and a small
                            church was constructed at the donated site.

Beginning of the Period of Significance

1856   **The first recorded burial took place adjacent to the new Oak Grove
                            Church.**

                            **Reverend Gideon Pond and his second wife Agnes Pond erected their
                            two-story brick house attached to the one-story pre-emption house.**

1858, May 11   **Minnesota became a state and Bloomington, including Oak Grove,
                            became the Town of Bloomington.**

1862, August   **An armed conflict began between the United States and several bands
                            of the eastern Dakota.**

1863, Feb. 1   **Gideon Pond and Thomas Williamson baptized 274 Dakota at the
                            prison in Mankato.**

1864   **The Oak Grove Church structure was moved from its original site
                            adjacent to the cemetery approximately 1 mile west to its new location
                            at Old Shakopee Road.**

1864, Nov. 11   **The Town of Bloomington became the owner and custodian of the Oak
                            Grove Cemetery.**

1873   **Reverend Gideon Pond retired as pastor of the Oak Grove Church.**

1878, Jan. 20   **Gideon Pond died at the age of 68.**

1880, March   **The Oak Grove Cemetery name was changed to the Bloomington
                            Cemetery at a town meeting. A special tax levied for cemetery
                            improvements.**

1890   **The Soldier's Monument was dedicated to the soldiers from
                            Bloomington who served in the Civil War and the U.S.-Dakota War of**

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1862. It may have been the first monument in the State of Minnesota to be so dedicated.

End of Period of Significance

1938	The Town of Bloomington acquired 79,918 sq. ft. of land north of the original grounds for cemetery expansion.
1949	The Town of Bloomington acquired an additional 48,768 sq. ft. of land northwest of the original grounds for cemetery expansion.
1953	Exactly 95 years after first forming the town Bloomington changes status to Village of Bloomington.
1960	The Village of Bloomington becomes the City of Bloomington.
1966	Bloomington Parks Department acquired the 1843 Oak Grove Indian burial grounds.
1970, July 16	The Gideon H. Pond House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
1973	The City of Bloomington acquired a strip of land west of the original cemetery grounds completing the current layout boundaries.
2010	The City of Bloomington ranks as the fifth largest city in the State of Minnesota

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Bloomington

County: Hennepin   State: Minnesota

Photographer: Thomas Zahn

Date Photographed: June 2013 – April 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1   (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
            Cemetery_0001)
            Original cemetery grounds with the Soldiers' Monument at the center.
            Camera facing southwest. June 2013.
Photo 2   (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
            Cemetery_0002)
            Soldiers' Monument with the brick shed in the background. Camera facing
            west. April 2014.
Photo 3   (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
            Cemetery_0003)
            Soldiers' Monument with Lyndale Avenue South with fence beyond. Camera
            facing northeast. June 2013.
Photo 4   (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
            Cemetery_0004)
            Original cemetery grounds looking to the west to the brick shed. Camera
            facing west and slightly north. June 2013.

Sections 9-end page 32

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Photo 5 (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
Cemetery_0005)
Brick Tool Shed. Camera facing west. June 2013.

Photo 6 (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
Cemetery_0006) Back of tool Shed looking across original cemetery tract to
the Soldiers' Monument in the distance. Camera facing east. June 2013.

Photo 7 MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
Cemetery_0007)
General view of the original cemetery with the Pond Family block in the
center right and the Soldiers' Memorial in the distant center. June 2013

Photo 8 (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
Cemetery_0008)
Pond Family gravesite. Camera facing east. June 2013.

Photo 9 (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
Cemetery_0009)
Pond family burial block with U-shaped walkway and drive beyond. Camera
facing southwest. June 2013.

Photo 10 (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
Cemetery_0010)
Pond family burial block with U-shaped walkway and drive beyond. Camera
facing southwest. June 2013.

Photo 11 (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
Cemetery_0011)
 Gideon Pond's gravestone. Camera facing east. April 2014.

Photo 12 (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
Cemetery_0012)
Martin McLeod's gravestone with Soldiers' Monument in background.
Camera facing north. April 2014

Photo 13 (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
Cemetery_0013)
Susan's gravestone. Camera facing east. April 2014.

Photo 14 (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
Cemetery_0014)
Drive bordering on the southern edge of the original cemetery tract. Camera
facing east toward Lyndale Avenue South. June 2013.

Photo 15   (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove
Cemetery_0015)

First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery   Hennepin, Minnesota
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Original tract viewed from Lyndale Avenue South. Camera facing west and slightly south. June 2013.

Photo 16 (MN_Hennepin County_First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery_0016)

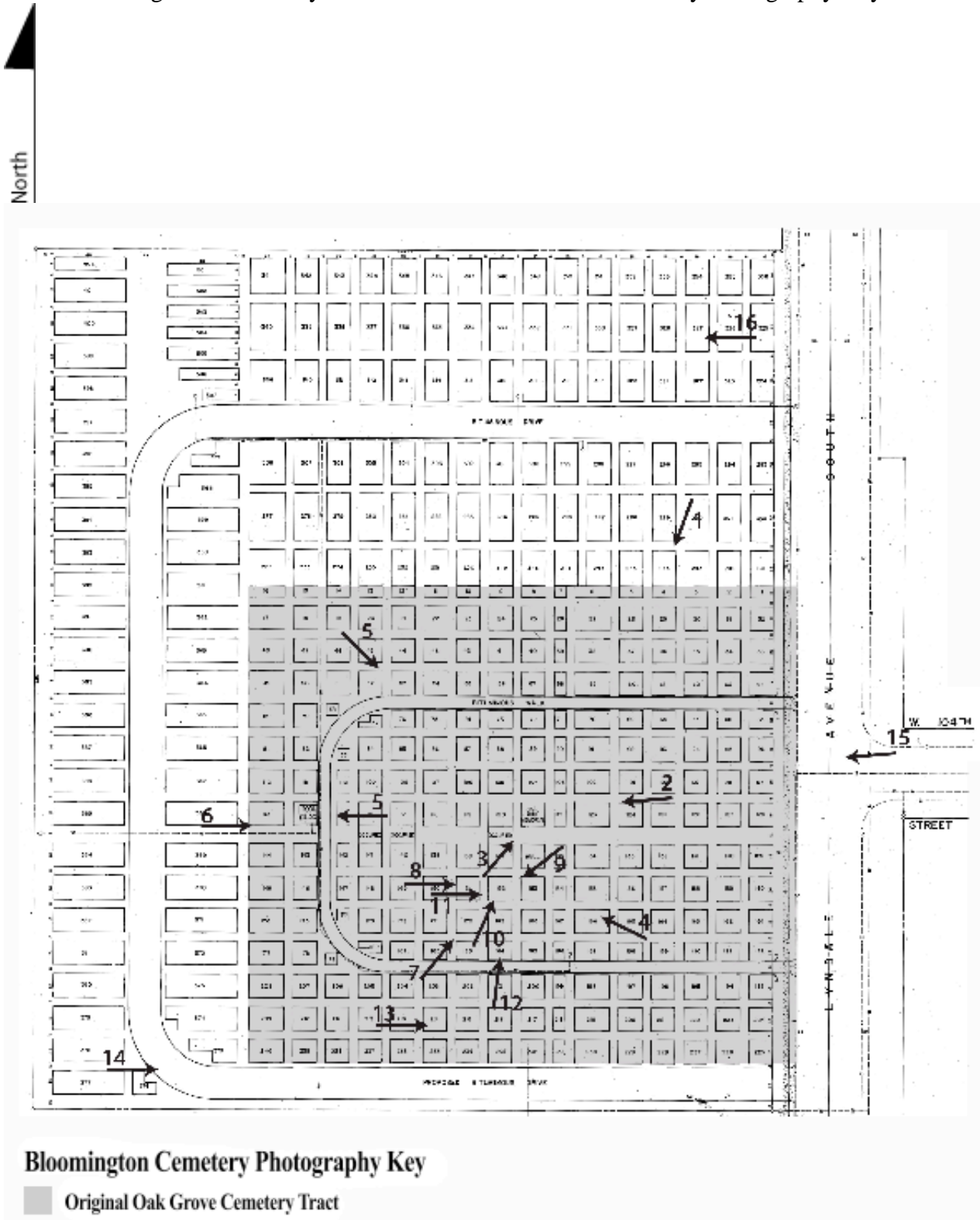Northwest (expanded) grounds. Camera facing west. June 2013.

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Figure 1 Bloomington/First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery Photography Key

Bloomington Cemetery Photography Key

Original Oak Grove Cemetery Tract

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Figure 2 Location Map (Bloomington Minnesota, 1898)
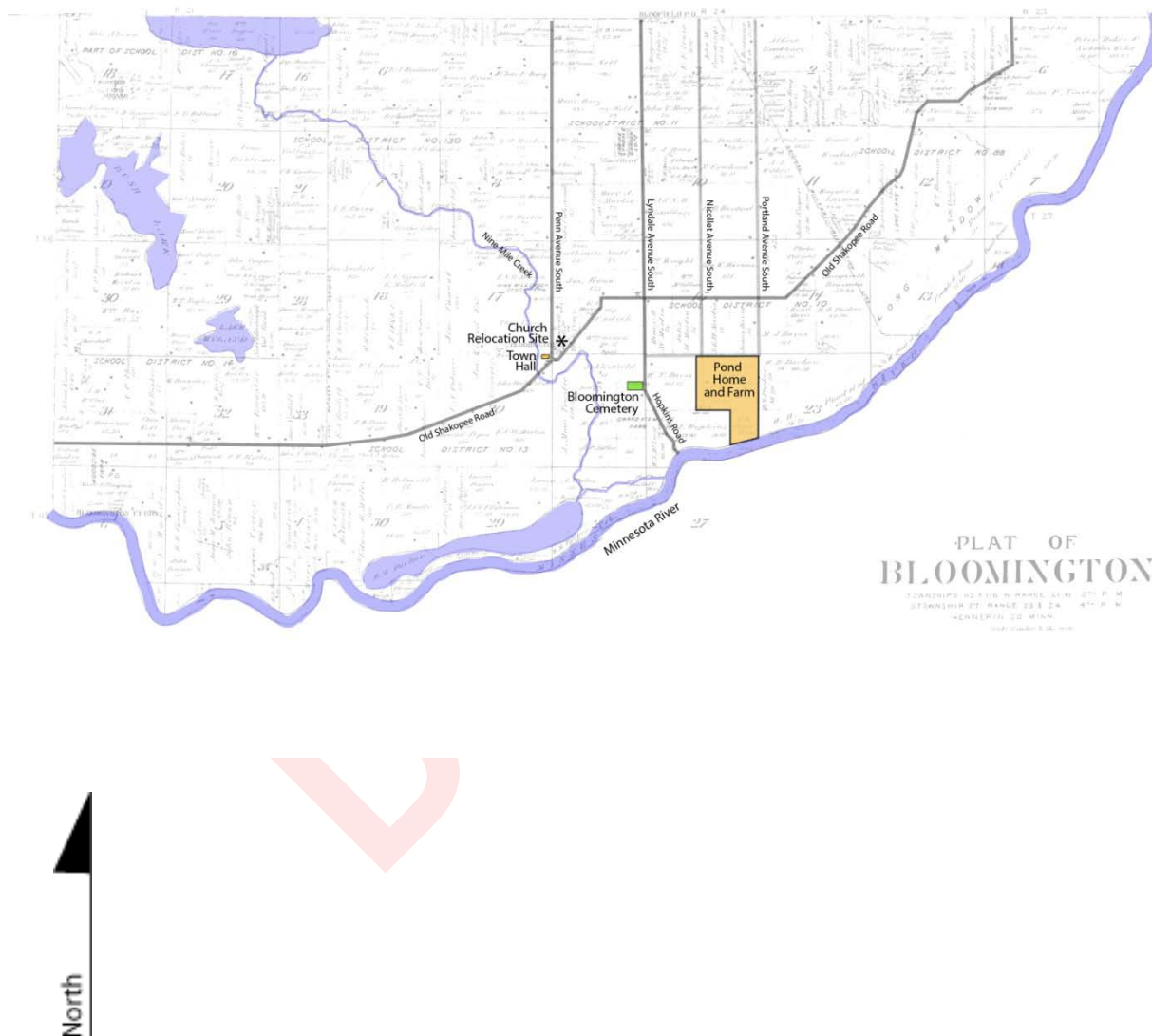
First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery   Hennepin, Minnesota
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Figure 3 Photograph of Soldiers' Monument dedication on Memorial Day 1890.

Figure 4 Circa 1865 photograph of Oak Grove Presbyterian Church after it was moved and expanded at its new location on the Shakopee Road.

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Figure 5 Original Oak Grove Cemetery Tract Map
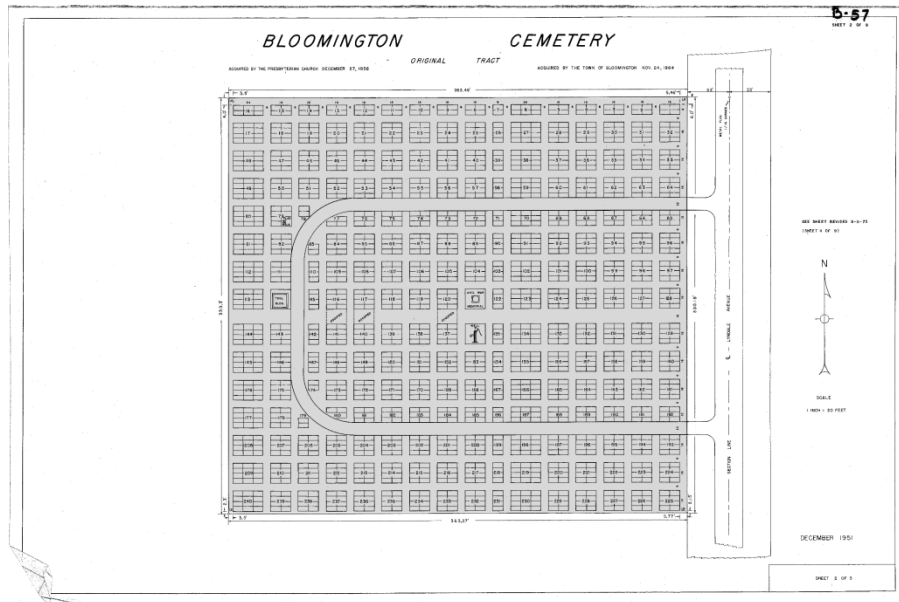
Figure 6 Bloomington Cemetery Tract 1938 &1949 Additions
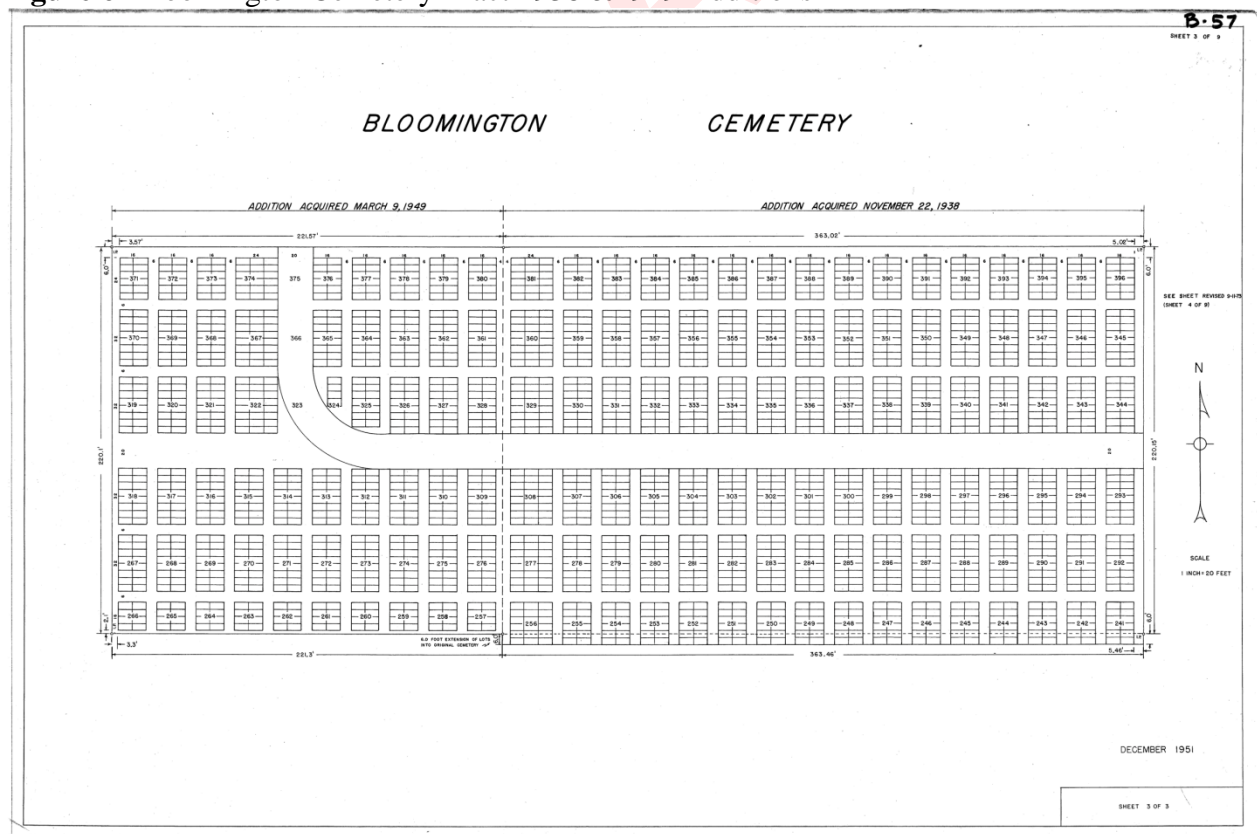
First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery   Hennepin, Minnesota
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Figure 7 Bloomington Cemetery 1951 Tract Map
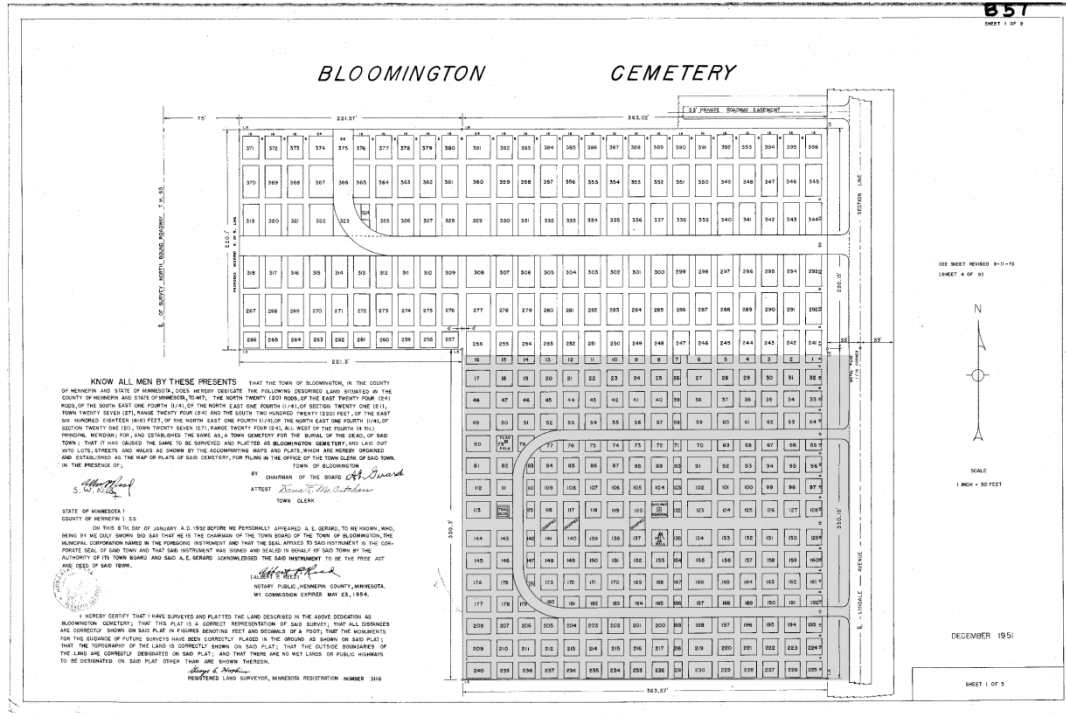
Figure 8 Bloomington Cemetery 1973 Tract Map
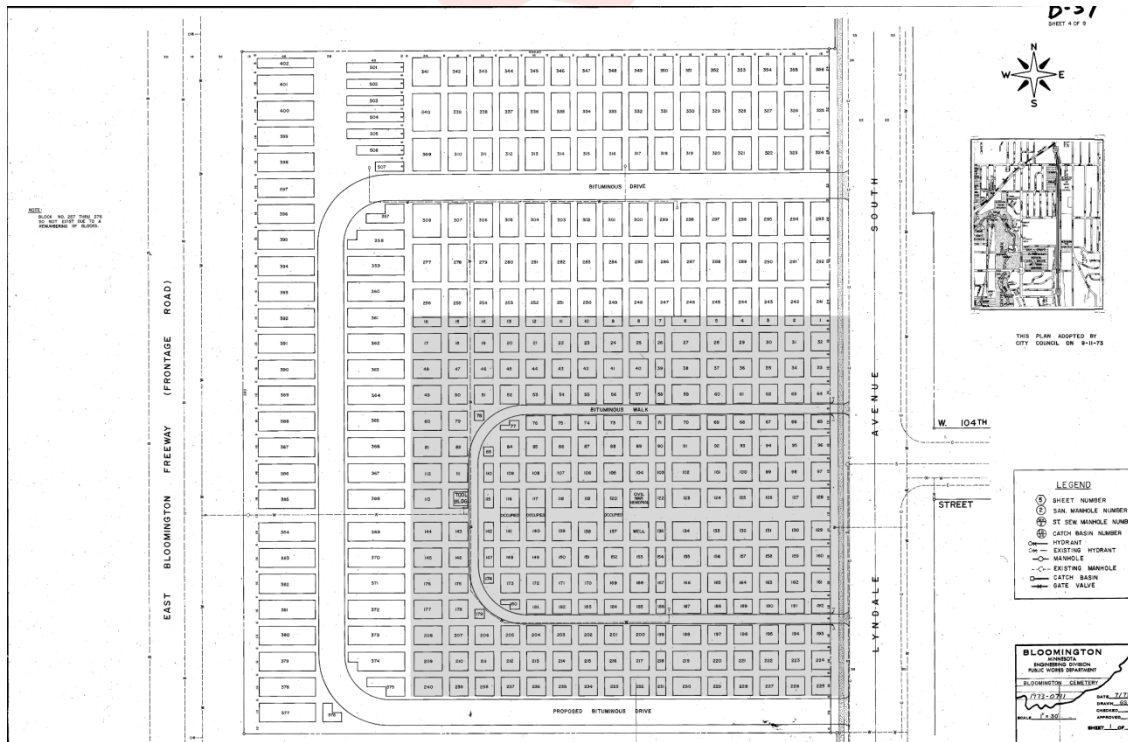
First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery   Hennepin, Minnesota
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Figure 9 Oak Grove "Grave-Yard" burial records in Gideon Pond's hand, noting the first 13 recorded burials starting in 1856.
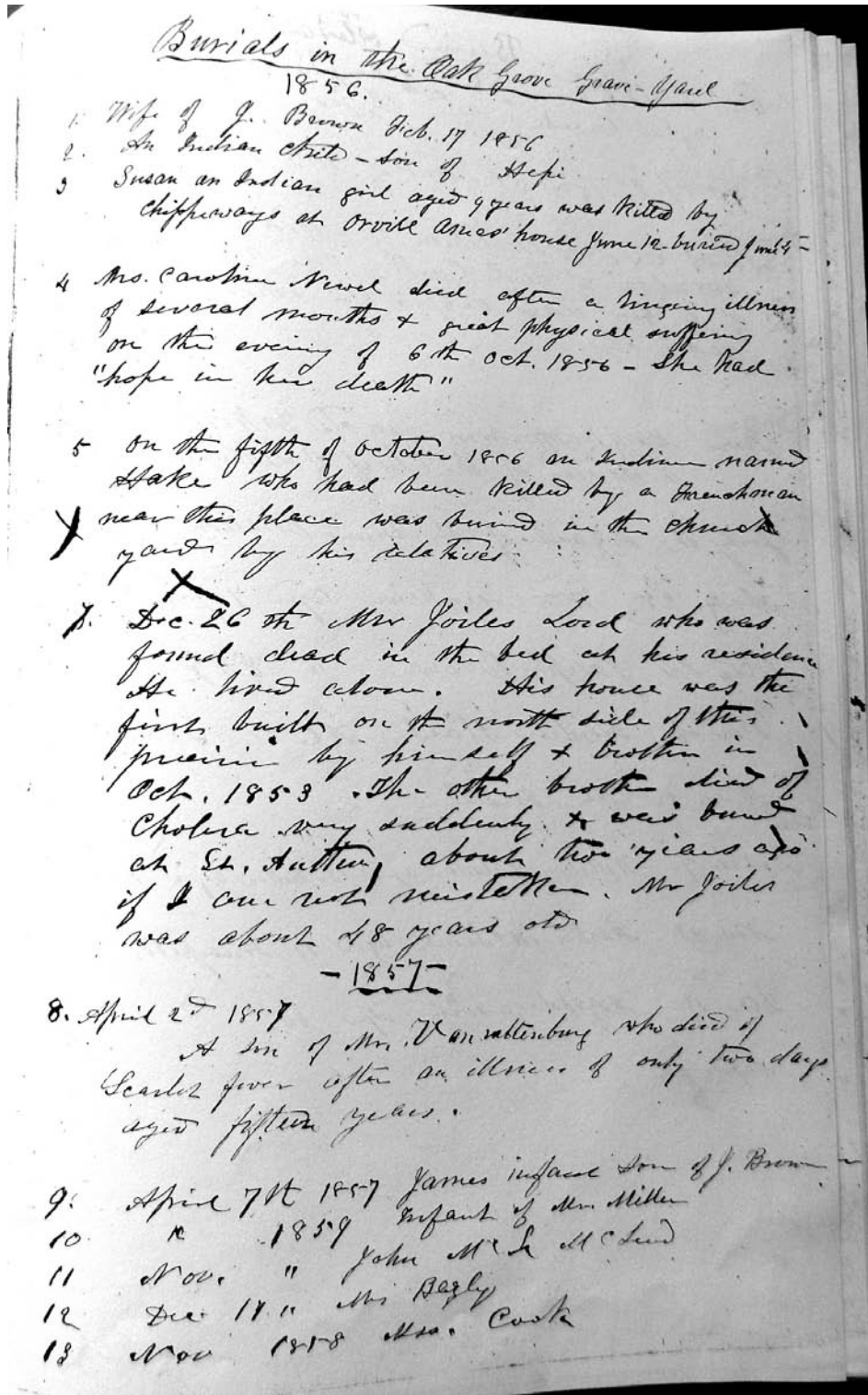
First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery   Hennepin, Minnesota
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Figure 10 Oak Grove Cemetery burial records in Gideon Pond's hand. This page was adjacent to the original record above. Note that the X denotes the insertion point for the number 6 in Pond's original listing of burials. Also, note that in this addendum, (16.) Mrs. Sarah Pond, who died in 1853, was reburied, possibly from the Pond homestead to the Oak Grove Cemetery,.

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Figure 11 Oak Grove Cemetery Burial Pattern Map.