

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name River View Cemetery

other names/site number River View Cemetery / Inventory of Dearborn County

2. Location

street & number 3635 East Laughery Creek Road

city or town Aurora

state Indiana code IN county Dearborn Code 029 zip code 47001

	not for publication
X	vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national X statewide local

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana DNR – Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology

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

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

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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

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	sites
2	1	objects
4	0	structures
3	3	buildings
12	4	Total

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

N/A

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian / Romanesque / Romanesque

Revival

Late 19th and Early 20th Movements Century

American Movements / Bungalow / Craftsman

Other / Rural Cemetery Movement

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

STONE/LIMESTONE

roof: TERRA COTTA

other: STONE/GRANITE

STONE /MARBLE

METAL/BRONZE

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The River View Cemetery is an architect-designed landscape occupying about 30 acres on the south boundary of Dearborn County, Indiana. The River View Cemetery Association has operated the Perpetual Care Cemetery since its founding in 1869. The south boundary of Dearborn County is defined by Laughery Creek, a large stream flowing past the cemetery and northeastward about one-quarter mile into the Ohio River which provided the inspiration for the cemetery's name. This location lies about 29 miles downriver from Cincinnati, Ohio. Although the environment of River View Cemetery is rural and situated within no incorporated boundary, it is socially identified with the town of Aurora, which lies about one mile to the north. The cemetery bears identifiable features of the original design, as well as features added in the later 19th and early 20th centuries. Curvilinear and contoured drive paths and radial burial arrangements especially distinguish its original association with the "rural" cemetery movement and its period of cultural popularity in the middle 19th century. Mature, well maintained trees ornamentally complete the sylvan landscape, and gravestones and tombs are mostly typical to later 19th century American funerary tastes. Two functional buildings and a monumental entry gate are stylistically distinctive to their respective historic periods of construction. A distinctly contemporary 1945 expansion to the cemetery on its northwest corner does not intrude upon its historic character or feeling of the original cemetery. While financial strain of the Association's operating capacity shows in some deferred maintenance, the cemetery remains in overall good condition and retains a high degree of historical integrity.

Narrative Description

Approach, Boundaries and Surrounding Context

The primary approach to the cemetery is by means of Indiana State Road 56. The contemporary Indiana State Road 56 is a two-lane rural highway following the course of the Ohio River, running a more or less north-south direction between the towns of Aurora (Dearborn County) and Rising Sun (Ohio County). About one mile south of the Aurora town limits, the cemetery is approached at the junction of East Laughery Creek Road. Turning to the west from State Road 56, the cemetery's Main Entrance is within instant view. Immediately encountered is a short section of Old State Road 56 (now a Dearborn County road) that runs parallel to the contemporary highway. Upon turning south on Old State Road 56, the Main Entrance is immediately approached next to the Caretaker's Residence at the cemetery's northeast corner. (PHOTO #0001)

The cemetery's original plat and period expansions approximate the shape of a parallelogram that is more or less oriented to a north-south axis. From W. Tinsley's original plan State Road 56 was identified as the Rising Sun Road and East Laughery Creek Road was labeled Hartford Road.

Occupying land adjacent to the south part of the west boundary is an active gravel quarry, which is screened from the cemetery property by a stand of trees. Situated on the north part of the west boundary is the cemetery's modern expansion, occupying about twelve acres jutting out from the original plat and being visually distinct from it. Occupying land on the other side of Old State Road 56 is a commercial boat yard. A boat marina is located farther east, on the other side of the contemporary State Road 56, but is not directly viewable from the cemetery. Crossing Laughery Creek by means of Old State Road 56, at the cemetery's southeast corner, is the 1878 Triple Whipple Iron Truss Bridge historically known as the Laughery Creek Bridge, listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1976) and restored to pedestrian use in 2009. Otherwise, wooded hills and agricultural fields characterize the immediate surroundings.

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Entrance and Circulation

The cemetery's entry on the northeast corner is gained through a monumental gateway. Movement through the grounds of the original plat is conducted by narrow blacktopped roads that carry individual names. An overall one-way (counter-clockwise) circulation route is initiated by signage and pavement markings. From the entry, traffic is guided straight ahead and to the west. The house and garage of the Caretaker's Residence is passed on the right. (PHOTO #0004) A large open grassy area is passed on the left, where the road then curves southward and into the interment sections. (PHOTO #0003) The irregular, curvilinear roads generally delineate the alphabetically marked burial sections. Anchoring the interment area's design and creating the cemetery's signature experience are three dispersed fully enclosed circular sections (A, O, H). Once in the central area of the plat, the driving pattern is no longer explicitly guided by directional signage or indicating arrows, thus creating an orbital, free-hand experience. The un-orchestrated effect enlarges the feel of the cemetery. Yet the one-way direction initiated at the entry subtly steers travel northward and back toward the entrance, completing the counter-clockwise circuitous route.

Situated adjacent to the northwest corner of the original plat, accessed by Forest Avenue is the cemetery's distinct modern expansion. Drive paths through the modern expansion are curvilinear but not contoured to any detectable topographical features. The plat of the expansion exhibits no distinct circular configurations and thus does not replicate or otherwise blur its discrete relationship to the original plat.

Topography

The cemetery's north boundary rises on a grassy slope steeply to the grade of East Laughery Creek Road. The east boundary drops a few feet down an embankment to the grade of Old State Road 56. The south boundary drops steeply down the bank to Laughery Creek. The topography of the cemetery district is mostly undulating, consisting of modest grades, with the area of Circle Avenue (Section A) rising to a prominent summit occupied by an undisturbed prehistoric Native American burial mound. Most of the cemetery's south half is bordered by screening stands of trees. Dispersed vegetation throughout the cemetery and border stands of trees cultivates an overall sylvan landscape.

Constructed Elements

Entry, Fencing and Signage

The east side of the cemetery is bounded by a chain-link fence, anchored in concrete posts, in fair condition.

The monumental Entry Gate creates a portal of two large stone columns bridged by a decorative wrought-iron arch. (PHOTO #0002) The square columns are finished limestone referencing formal classical features. The stone shafts are finished with recessed rectangular panels on each side. Engraved below the Tuscan styled molding of the capital of each column are the words "RIVER VIEW." On the base of each stone column is carved the date "1869." The ornamental wrought iron arch bears the lettering "RIVER VIEW CEMETERY." Operable ornamental wrought iron gates are hinged to each stone column. Ten sections of ornamental wrought iron fencing mounted on a concrete curb extend from the left stone column to the point where the chain-link fencing begins. Similar sections of wrought iron fencing extend, likewise, from the right stone column and enclose the front and side yards of the adjacent Caretaker's Residence.

Contemporary informational and commemorative signage is situated both outside and inside the main entrance. (PHOTO #0003) Incidental contemporary informational signage is distributed throughout the cemetery, all in good condition.

The narrow roads of the cemetery are surfaced in asphalt throughout, following the original plan of 1869, except where expansions are noted. (PHOTO #0007) As outlined in W. Tinsley's plan, Main Avenue leads visitors into the cemetery. However, historically the first 800 feet is referenced, even in the earliest Association's records, as Entrance Drive. On similar note the Outlet Drive was originally named Retreat Avenue adhering to the "Rural" Cemetery Movement's concept of leaving a place where nature perfected balances with our fondest memories of our loved ones, but was not officially referred to as the name of the road in other historic documents. There are no curbs or evidence that any have existed. Short contemporary wooden posts identify the roads (and cemetery sections) at strategic intersections. Short historic stone markers, with the street names carved in high relief, are also found distributed at strategic intervals. (PHOTO #0015)

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Former Pond Basin

At the cemetery's entry just inside the gate, Entrance Drive and Outlet Drive converge to form a grassy triangular basin to the left. This basin was historically excavated, following the original design, to accommodate a pond in its center. On the south side of this shallow triangular basin is the steep slope rising to the prominent summit of Section A and the prehistoric mound. The slope was originally terraced to accommodate a road that connected the entrance and exit roads. This terrace road is now closed but remains identifiable as a grassy ledge. The pond, apparently created by damming a small brook, was abandoned as impractical to maintain many years ago. The course of the brook (episodically active) is still detectable as it drains across the grassy field. The exit road remains an elevated causeway, under which the brook drains through a culvert and off of the property to the east.

The pond would have created a distinct architectural impact upon entering the cemetery, cultivating an expanse of sylvan relief in the foreground, accenting the prominent summit of the mound in the background, before entering the densely arranged interment areas. Absent the pond, the grassy basin still creates the same relieving effect, a "front lawn" to the cemetery, formally signifying the experience of its entering and exiting. (PHOTO #0003)

Chief Architecture

Caretaker's Residence Complex: Immediately to the right inside of the Main Gate are two structures associated with the Caretaker's Residence Complex (house and garage), situated at the northeast corner. The ornamental iron fence enclosing the front yard of the house includes an ornamental wrought iron gate indicative of the earlier residence removed and replaced by the standing residence, c. 1960. (PHOTO #0004)

Concrete Block Barn: Behind the caretaker's complex, built into the slope rising to East Laughery Creek Road and bordering on the road itself, is a Concrete Block Barn estimated c. 1900, maintaining original openings filled with hinged wood doors and shutters. (PHOTO #0005)

Cemetery Chapel: On the crest of the slope rising from the grassy area of the Former Pond Basin sits the Cemetery Chapel. The front is oriented toward the prominent summit of the prehistoric Native American burial mound (Section A). The chapel is a one-story, hip-roof, rectangular building constructed of blond brick walls. The hip roof is covered in half-barrel terra cotta. The roof extends from the front, forming an integral canopy supported by two square brick columns at each corner. The canopy extends far enough to accommodate the vehicular approach of Circle Avenue. The canopy bears a pressed-metal decorative ceiling. The building roof is finished with wooden box gutters and a pressed-metal decorative fascia course. The building is in overall good condition. Deterioration on upper parts of the east and west walls has been recently repaired with in-kind material. Window openings retain original limestone sills, lintels, and dimensions but are filled with modern material, one-over-one sashes. The main entry retains its original double wood doors with a transom. A west side service doorway is filled with modern material. Overall the chapel expresses the form and style classified as Craftsman, typical to the period of its building in 1906. (PHOTO #0025)

Well House: Near the south boundary of the original plat, on the south side of Laughery Avenue and near the bank of Laughery Creek, is the cemetery Well House. The Well House is a small but tall, rectangular building of red brick. The roof is a gabled style with a rectangular parapet on the north end wall. The walls are stylized by manipulating the brick into a shallow relief that creates a single recessed panel on each wall surface. The north wall parapet is finished with a corbelled frieze. Openings are rectangular, finished with round arches on the north wall and segmental arches on the two sides. The windows are filled with assumed original material. The wood door is assumed replacement. The functional building once housed the boiler and steam pump machinery that supplied water to the cemetery. Today, the Well House does not serve any contemporary use except as storage and is in deteriorated (but structurally sound) condition. This structure is currently scheduled for tuck pointing and replacement of the roof structure. The Well House expresses the form and style that would be classified as Romanesque Revival, consistent with approaches to industrial applications and taste at the time of construction in 1889. (PHOTO #0018)

Maintenance Garage: Situated on the southwest corner of the original plat is a concrete block and brick Maintenance Garage added in 1960. (PHOTO #0009)

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Mausoleums

The cemetery features three mausoleums. The York Mausoleum executed in 1886, in the rectangular form common to the 19th and early 20th century building practices, with bare walls of large rustically finished limestone block. The York Mausoleum features a standard gabled roof finished in slate with three stone pilasters on each side extending above the roofline. The end walls feature distinct stepped parapets. (PHOTO #0022)

The Stevens Mausoleum of 1907, also displays the architectural features common to the rectangular form of the 19th and early 20th century finished in large limestone block walls. The Stevens Mausoleum features a distinctive stepped stone roof; the entry features a curved portico on stone columns and a segmental arch entry filled with a set of decorative iron doors. The rear wall features a small stained glass window covered by a wrought iron grate. (PHOTO #0011)

A third mausoleum, the McHenry Mausoleum erected in 1877, is executed in a distinctive hexagonal form, finished in a steep pyramidal roof covered in polychromatic slate tile. The walls are constructed of elongated, rustic limestone blocks. A single oculus punctures each wall face. The McHenry Mausoleum is the most arresting architectural feature on the grounds. It is a clear exercise in the style associated with the "Romantic Picturesque" Movement popular in landscape and architectural design during the latter half of the 19th century. (PHOTO #0014)

Gravestones and Monuments

The primary period of interments in the original plat of the cemetery was active for nearly a century and features a variety of gravestone and monument styles. Limestone, granite and marble markers are common throughout the original plat. Most of the simpler slab headstones are associated with the earliest interments. Some of these early markers predate the founding of the cemetery and often cause superficial conclusions. Most pre-1869 interment dates are associated with three wholesale relocations of cemeteries from Aurora and Dearborn County, including the Aurora Graveyard, the Probst family cemetery and the Buffington family cemetery. Other markers bearing dates of death prior to 1869 are attributed to a common practice of commemorating family members who were interred in another community, prior to immigration to this locale. The first burial in River View Cemetery is authoritatively cited as July 5, 1869, prior to the official opening of the cemetery. A few contemporary burials in the original plat are associated with existing family plots. For the most part, active interments in the original plat were concluded by the middle 20th century. (PHOTO #0021)

Predictably, more refined materials and craftsmanship become more prevalent on markers for burials in the later 19th and early 20th century. A few examples of cast bronze markers that achieved some popularity in that time are viewable in the cemetery. River View Cemetery features a large number of horizontal or flush markers, completed in stone or cast concrete. (PHOTO #0023)

River View Cemetery contains two instances of regionally distinct limestone "tree trunk" markers. Limestone "tree trunk" markers were associated with the Indiana limestone industry and related craftsmanship. River View Cemetery features the especially distinctive Schipper family plot of limestone tree trunk markers, including a very large central monument and individual interment headstones. (PHOTO #0013)

River View Cemetery features several large obelisks and sculptural monuments of distinction. Funerary imagery is typical of the 19th century, including urns, draped urns, female forms and winged angels.

Other Objects and Sites

Dedication Book or Founder's Monument: Installed among the closely arranged plots of Section M is a small monument honoring the mission of the perpetual care cemetery. Erected in 1947, the Dedication Book is a carved stone monument consisting of an open book resting upon a simulated stack of stones. (PHOTO #0012)

Soldier's Circle and Soldier's Section: A Soldier's Circle was added to the cemetery in its southeast corner, at the intersection of Pine Avenue and Elm Avenue, on September 12, 1897. Although the plot's circular design befits the general design of River View Cemetery as originally laid out by William Tinsley, the Soldier Circle was a distinct design motif popular for memorializing veteran's burials in the late 19th century. The radial, concentric burial order, rising to a

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modest mound, mimics a "last stand" battle arrangement. The Soldier's Circle was associated with commemorative efforts of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), a Civil War Veteran's Association. A G.A.R. monument, consisting of a carved stone base, a cast iron artillery piece and cast iron cannonballs commemorates the date of installation and veterans of the Civil War period. A single flag pole stands at the circle center. (PHOTO #0020) The circle is now a part of a larger Soldier's Section that expanded across the road and to the east, and down the slope to the border of the cemetery, where the Laughery Massacre Memorial is located. (PHOTO #0019) The 1918 artillery piece used during World War Two was placed at the cemetery in 1970 signifying the military significance of the burial section. This piece underwent complete restoration through the efforts of Aurora's four veteran's organizations and was placed near the entry to the cemetery to highlight the work. The piece was relocated after restoration. (PHOTO #0027)

Laughery Massacre Memorial: Two markers memorializing the Laughery Massacre and listing its American victims and participants were installed in 1924 and 1982, respectively, at the edge of the cemetery on the southeast corner, adjacent to the Soldier's Section. The Laughery (or Lochry) Massacre was an engagement during the American Revolutionary War. On August 23, 1781, Colonel Archibald Lochry and a troop of Pennsylvania militia were routed by a Native American contingent on the bank of the Ohio River where the large creek now bearing Lochry's name intersects. It seems that the incident did not occur within the cemetery boundaries, although the contemporary wooden signage identifies the area as "Lochry Massacre Site". No burials associated with the event are identified in the Laughery Memorial area, which is distinct from the interment section associated with the Soldier's Section. The 1924 memorial design features a brass plaque of cast lettering mounted in a vertical stone monument. The 1982 memorial is a free-standing cast metal plaque of raised lettering mounted on a single metal post. (PHOTO #0019)

Boulder from the Civil War Battlefield at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: Having protected Captain Alexander B. Pattison of Aurora when he served his country as commander of Company A of the 7th Indiana Infantry, the boulder was brought back with Pattison at the end of the war. The boulder continues to serve as protection sitting next to Captain Pattison's grave and marker in Section I from Rose Avenue. (PHOTO #0016)

Vegetation

River View Cemetery features mature trees as a distinctive contribution to its landscape. Twenty-seven indigenous and exotic varieties are identified by literature and signage. (PHOTO #0007) Dispersed trees are dense enough to create a rather solid canopy over much of the cemetery in the leafing season. (PHOTO #0006) Most visually striking are towering ornamental conifers planted in the mound area of Section A and Circle Avenue, viewable from the entrance and many parts of the cemetery, accentuating the already prominent summit. (PHOTO #0024)

Summary of Alterations and Integrity

The boundaries of River View Cemetery conform to William Tinsley's original plan of 1869 and period extensions. For all practical purposes, the parcel occupied by the original cemetery plan remains intact and reflects the situation of its design. Historic period expansions on the west side, primarily the Aurora Cemetery Section and the Catholic Section, extended the plat from West Avenue to Forest Avenue.

The original plat appears to have responded to the existing topographical features. Other than the excavation of the Former Pond Basin, there is little evidence of the topography's alteration. Overall, River View Cemetery retains a high degree of integrity with additions and alterations either contributing to or not disturbing the feeling and period character.

Additions

The following sites, objects and buildings are specifically noted as additions to the original cemetery design:

Chief Architecture: The Well House of 1889 (PHOTO #0018) and the Cemetery Chapel 1906 (PHOTO #0025) are additions, maintaining the character of their respective stylistic periods. The Concrete Block Barn maintains the character of its period and contributes to the cemetery's period of significance. (PHOTO #0005) The Maintenance Garage and the Caretaker's Complex are buildings that do not contribute to the cemetery's character in its period of significance. The main entrance gateway, replacing original gateway architecture in 1968, maintains the character of its stylistic period.

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Soldier's Circle/Section and Laughery Massacre Memorial: Added to the cemetery in 1897 (*PHOTO #0020*) and 1924 (*PHOTO #0019*), respectively, these additions did not technically expand the cemetery's original boundary.

Catholic Section: The Catholic Section, associated with Aurora's St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, was established in 1875 on the west side of West Avenue in what is now Section R. The addition of the Catholic Section technically expanded the cemetery interment plat to the west.

Cemetery Relocations: Three cemeteries have been relocated to River View Cemetery. The Aurora Graveyard, its interments and markers, was relocated to an area on the southwest corner of the original plat in 1886, designated as Section K on the west side of West Avenue. (*PHOTO #0010*) The addition of the Aurora Graveyard technically expanded the interment plat to the west. The Probst and Buffington family cemeteries were relocated to an area on the south boundary, on the south side of Laughery Avenue across from Section J and adjacent to Laughery Creek, in 1972 and 1973, respectively. Although situated outside of the original interment plat, these two relocated cemeteries did not technically extend the cemetery's original boundary.

Other Interment Expansions: Identified separately from the Soldier's Section, the Aurora Graveyard (*PHOTO #0010*) and the Catholic Section are other expansions of the cemetery plat to the west. While Section K, lying between West Avenue and Forest Avenue on the cemetery's southwest corner, is occupied primarily by the Aurora Graveyard and part of the Catholic Section, it is also occupied by incidental interments, most occurring in the late period of significance and some in the modern period. Section K, in effect, expands the interment plat with little disruption in character to Forest Avenue (which is also an addition). In the same manner, sections KK and KKK are filled with late period and modern period interments consistent with the character of older interments in the older area to the east. On the other side of Forest Avenue is a narrow patch of interments abutting the property boundary, very recent and visually distinct. (*PHOTO #0008*)

In 1945, a large expansion was opened on about 12 acres on the cemetery's northwest corner. While the modern expansion does not intrude upon the neighboring historic character of the original plat, it is distinguished by character and approach.

Undeveloped and Abandoned Features

Observed are features either never developed from the original Tinsley design or since abandoned.

Southwest Circle: The original design shows a fully enclosed circle section at the southwest corner of the cemetery, adjacent to the bank of Laughery Creek, at about the location of the Maintenance Garage. It was either never developed per plan or abandoned early on, prior to interments.

Excavated Pond Areas: The original design indicates one pond in the triangular basin enclosed by the Entrance Drive and Exit Drive and one pond in a grassy area between the Entrance Drive and Locust Avenue (now Section P). Both ponds were abandoned many years ago. Section P is an area of interments and the triangular basin is maintained as an open grassy field.

Closed Roads: Some roads in the original design have since been removed from use, identified as the road terraced in the north slope of the hillside rising from the triangular pond basin (*PHOTO #0026*) the west section of Circle Avenue enclosing Section A, and a lane that would have led down from that section of Circle Avenue to the Entrance Drive. A road enclosing the west side of Section P, formerly Locust Avenue, is no longer used. These abandoned road sections are today covered in turf but remain clearly discernible.

Archaeological Description

Two identified prehistoric archeological sites are located within River View Cemetery. Indiana Archaeological Survey #12D45 is identified as a habitation site with a burial mound, which is now identified by signage at the summit of interment Section A. (*PHOTO #0024*) Indiana Archaeological Survey #12D44 is a burial less prominently located on the property. The two prehistoric mounds are common to types identified in this region of the Ohio River Valley. Their location and significance were known of at the time of the cemetery's founding and were consciously incorporated into the original design.

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With the presence of the two identified prehistoric mounds, it is assumed that a high potential for prehistoric archeological resources exists within and around the boundaries of the cemetery. No existence of historic period archaeological resources is indicated within the boundaries of the cemetery. Burial records since the cemetery's founding are maintained by the River View Cemetery Association. The potential of unidentified and unmarked graves is minimal.

Counted Resources

The site of the cemetery, including its topography, both man-made and natural; site features such as former pond basins; and funerary markers that are not mausoleums, 1 contributing site

The man-made circulation pattern of the cemetery, 1 contributing site

The Soldier Circle, 1 contributing site

Laughery Creek Massacre Marker, 1924, 1 contributing object

Laughery Creek Massacre Marker, 1982, 1 non-contributing object

Field Artillery piece, 1918, placed at cemetery 1970, 1 contributing object

3 historic Mausoleums, 3 contributing structures

Caretaker's House, 1 non-contributing building

Caretaker's Garage, 1 non-contributing building

Concrete Block Barn, 1 contributing building

Chapel, 1 contributing building

Well House, 1 contributing building

Maintenance Garage, 1 non-contributing building

Gates and iron fence, 1 contributing structure

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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.)

- ☒ 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.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☒ 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Art
Architecture
Community Planning and Development
Landscape Architecture
Social History

Period of Significance

1869 - 1945

Significant Dates

1875, 1886, 1897

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Tinsley, William

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance extends from the founding of River View Cemetery in 1869 to 1945, a concluding date reflecting the opening of the first modern addition to the cemetery that broke the traditions of Victorian Romantic landscape design at River View.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Criterion Consideration D (for a cemetery): River View Cemetery embodies the principles of aesthetic design associated with the recognized 19th century "rural" cemetery movement, preserving an important contribution to its national occurrence and an important association with the history of the community that pursued its implementation.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

River View Cemetery was established in 1869, by civic leaders of Aurora, Indiana, and is identified with the social history of the town's development from being an Ohio River frontier outpost to the maturing community of commerce and wealth in the later half of the 19th century. The original thirty-acre plat of River View Cemetery was professionally designed in the recognized style of the "rural" cemetery movement, a declaration of the town's progress and material capacity. Thus, River View Cemetery demonstrates significance on local, state and national levels. With minimal exceptions, headstones and monuments in the original plat date from the cemetery's founding in 1869 to the middle of the 20th century. Additions of architecture and burial plots are characteristic to their respective periods and otherwise complement the historic scale and character. A twelve-acre 1945 expansion to the cemetery is distinguished from the original plat and does not intrude upon its context or character. With the modern expansion being the place of most contemporary burials, the area of original location maintains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, therefore meeting National Register Criteria A, C and Criteria Consideration D (for a cemetery). River View Cemetery has statewide significance as one of Indiana's early examples of a professionally designed landscape. The cemetery was an out-of-the-ordinary commission for noted regional architect William Tinsley, which also contributes to the statewide significance of the property.

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

Criterion A: River View Cemetery is an architect-designed landscape commissioned by Aurora's civic leaders in the full spirit of the "rural" cemetery movement, a recognized planning response to a shift in American burial customs during the middle decades of the 19th century. The "rural" cemetery movement combined a romantic appreciation of nature with socially progressive approaches to urban planning. The movement's insistence on sophisticated design also reflected the impulse of maturing towns and cities to display civic accomplishment. Fifty-years old in 1869, Aurora had matured from frontier outpost to a center of transport and industry on the Ohio River when it commissioned the new cemetery. Aurora's resolve to create this fashionable statement of progress remains reflected in notable architect William Tinsley's design of River View Cemetery, an important contribution to municipal and regional history as well as to a broad pattern of national history in the 19th century.

Criterion C: The original thirty-acre plat of River View Cemetery, executed by regionally distinguished architect William Tinsley, preserves the full expression of design principles embraced by the "rural" cemetery movement, resulting in a romantically inspired pastoral landscape featuring a ceremonious entry, inviting lawns, undulating topography, curvilinear circulation, radial burial arrangement and cultured vegetation. Subsequent interments exhibit the materials, design and aesthetic motifs associated with funerary tastes evolving from the cemetery's inception and through its period of principal use in the middle 20th century. Minimal additions to the original plat, including the Catholic Section established in 1875, the Aurora Cemetery relocated in 1886, and the Soldier's Circle established in 1897, reflect design and materials that are consistent with the cemetery's overall intended character. Architectural and sculptural objects are characteristic to the styles of their respective periods of national significance and exhibit instances of regional artistic distinction.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Brief History of Dearborn County and the Town of Aurora

The civil organization of Dearborn County goes back to Indiana's territorial era, created by proclamation of Governor William Henry Harrison in 1803, and named after Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War under President Thomas Jefferson. Dearborn County was among a handful of large counties mostly clinging to the Ohio and Wabash rivers, by which

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civilization was moving onto the frontier. Following a typical pattern after Indiana achieved statehood in 1816, Dearborn County was incrementally reduced by subdivision into a more appropriate civil unit. Lawrenceburg is the county's oldest and largest town, founded in 1802 and situated 22 miles downriver from Cincinnati, Ohio. The second largest town is Aurora, founded in 1819, by private speculators at the mouth of a large stream called Hogan Creek, another 6 miles downriver from Lawrenceburg. After some regional area competition, Dearborn County's seat of government was finally established at Lawrenceburg in 1844. By the same legal act, the county's final boundaries were concluded, creating Ohio County out of the townships south of Laughery Creek, being a large stream flowing into the Ohio River about one mile downriver from Aurora.

Like most other Ohio River frontier communities, the town of Aurora served as a junction between the river and the interior, while spawning predictable industries like boat building. By the middle of the 19th century, Aurora's industries grew to include distilleries and wood crafting. After the Civil War, Aurora had grown into a busy urban center, reflected in a dense concentration of industrial, commercial and civic architecture, much of which remains standing. On the steep hillside overlooking town stood the private residences of the leaders who had taken Aurora from frontier outpost to a maturing place of American civilization. Most prominent among them was Hillforest, an Italianate-style mansion that is today a National Historic Landmark. Its' builder, Thomas Gaff, was among Aurora's citizens in the late 1860's who began to agitate for a cemetery worthy of Aurora's achievement and progressive future.

Developmental History of River View Cemetery

The first public mention of activism for creating a new public cemetery occurred in September of 1867. Apparently a sense of competitiveness was sparked by an impressive cemetery just opened in the neighboring community of Greendale, also serving Lawrenceburg. The Dearborn Independent newspaper account stated: "our citizens have been waked up to the importance of providing a suitable public cemetery, for Aurora and the vicinity." Factional squabbling and lack of effective organization stalled progress for several months until efforts were seriously renewed in March of 1869. Answering to complaints about transparency, the Aurora Cemetery Association was formed to create and implement plans in a public process. A search committee was established to find a parcel "no more than three miles from the city of Aurora" and being a size "not less than fifteen acres and no more than thirty." The committee would look at matters of access and suitable soil constitution. By the end of April the committee was prepared to recommend a thirty-acre parcel on the north bank of Laughery Creek about one mile south of Aurora.

Swiftly adopting the recommendation, initial funds were raised by subscription. The first public reference to "River View Cemetery" occurred in the newspaper article of The People's Advocate on May 20, 1869, reporting that a professional landscape gardener and engineer was to visit the grounds and propose a plan, adding that "the enterprise is being pushed forward rapidly" and lots would soon be for sale. Rapid, indeed, for on July 15, 1869, The People's Advocate announced that "the plan for laying off and decorating the grounds executed by W. Tinsley, of Cincinnati, was presented and adopted." Under the "Local Brevities" in the July 8th edition of The People's Advocate newspaper, it was reported that "the first interment in the new cemetery [River View] was that of Jeremiah Smith, on the 5th of July, 1869." The first official burial permit was issued August 13, 1869 to Jesse Jones after the opening of the cemetery.

Significance of the Laughery Creek Site

A possible location on Laughery Creek south of town was mentioned, in-passing, among the early newspaper accounts of 1867. Apparently, the Laughery Creek site was one of the contested sites being proposed amidst the factional squabbling. Whatever intrigues and interests may have been involved, the committee came back to the Laughery Creek site, citing favorable factors beyond meeting the prescribed distance from town and the good drainage of its soil. A new bridge was being planned for crossing the creek, which would complete a modern turnpike between Aurora and Rising Sun. Other new turnpikes would also be forming a major junction nearby. The environment was ripe for improvements, including a new cemetery.

The proposed location also held some status as a local historical landmark. It was already recognized as the site of prominent prehistoric Native American burial mounds and a Revolutionary War episode known as Lochry's Defeat or the Lochry Massacre. On August 24, 1781, Colonel Archibald Lochry and a contingent of Pennsylvania militia were traveling down the Ohio River to catch up with and support the operations of George Rogers Clark when attacked and routed by

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Indian allies of the British at the junction of the large creek that would eventually commemorate the episode by name (its spelling corrupted to the presently accepted "Laughery Creek"). Although there was no intention to memorialize the episode by the cemetery's installation, the location's landmark status was mentioned as but another quality favoring the site.

River View Cemetery and the "Rural" Cemetery Movement

Boosters for the new cemetery, however, were less interested in celebrating a local landmark than they were in the site's capacity to fulfill the current popular notion of what would make an impressive and important place. For reasons both practical and cultural, the potential for a cemetery to be a prominent civic feature had begun to evolve in American society toward the middle of the 19th century. Until then, the burial ground was a rather incidental and often neglected place. But growing cities, confronted by pragmatic issues regarding public health and other planning matters, had to start addressing the location and regulation of interments. As cemetery planning was transformed into a progressive initiative, old customs were harshly criticized as unacceptable. The informal melancholic graveyard, once subject of romantic elegiac imagery, now became derided as a primitive disgrace, unfit as a sacred space for remembering and honoring the departed.

Such rhetoric was mirrored explicitly in the search committee's report on the Laughery Creek site, when declaring:

Your Committee beg leave . . . to state . . . they have been controlled by the opinion and belief that the graves of departed relatives and friends are and should be sacred; the spot where we call to mind the fondest memories and tender recollections of those who are dead; the place above all others that they less desire to be separated from than any other, but often to visit and decorate, both with the beauties of nature and art. Places like this we believe the people do not desire to have located in damp and wet ground, or in hollows of obscure places.

That a cemetery would be a place "to visit and decorate" was a novel concept, but it was suitable to the emerging American character. Generally it reflected its optimistic disposition. Toward burial customs specifically, it was rejecting the Old World morbid fatalism associated with death in favor of a philosophical reconciliation with the natural life cycle articulated by American transcendentalism. On another cultural level, the new concept of interment custom also reflected a particular American faith in the capacity of design to shape the destiny of the individual and civilization. By the designer's hand, the old informal burial ground would be literally transformed into the cultivated "cemetery," a place that would, in turn, cultivate the people who embraced it. In the meantime, this new kind of cemetery would also provide that physical counterpoint to the growing urban city, which was often a degraded environment. Thus, the fashionable choice would be "rural" in character; rural not in the literal sense, not a natural wilderness but "nature perfected" for human purposes. As a cultural idea, its rolling grass-covered landscape, being formal yet lax, rustic but comfortable, also helped to soothe nostalgic remorse over the quickly disappearing myth of America as Arcadian rural republic.

In its report the search committee went on to argue that the Laughery Creek site was the perfect fit for this precise aesthetic possibility of the "rural" cemetery:

The beautiful location of this land, it being a high rolling bottom, sufficiently undulating to relieve it of that dull and monotonous appearance of a flat and even surface, rising above the road or the approaches [sic] to it, so as to show to the very best advantage the walks, shrubbery, tombs and other ornamental fixtures, together with the beautiful and picturesque scenery of the surrounding country, cannot be excelled in this part of the State. All these conspire, we believe, to make a cemetery located here, not only the most popular, but the most patronized of any in the country.

Obviously, the cemetery boosters were well aware of the national trend that they were trying to join, hitting all of the right points in their promotion. For by 1869, the trend was not all that new. With Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery establishing the precedent in 1831, other large cities of the east soon followed. By the Civil War, many cities and towns of the East had their "rural" cemetery. Eager to keep up, the growing cities of the west had also commissioned impressive cemeteries, with Spring Grove of Cincinnati (1845) and Crown Hill of Indianapolis (1863) being most directly in the social sphere of Aurora. The compulsion had to be powerful. Beyond the mere pragmatics of having to supply the community with a serviceable burying ground, social prestige was a factor. In 1849, Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery had attracted over

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30,000 visitors – not burying the dead but enjoying the cultural values embodied in the design. The “rural” cemetery had become an authentic cultural institution rivaling any of its time. While the search committee’s projection of their new cemetery’s national popularity may have been exaggerated in statement, it was not exaggerated in premise. Creating River View Cemetery was going to be a mark in Aurora’s history, a declaration of this frontier town having come into its own.

Significance of Professional Design and Architect William Tinsley

Features of “picturesque scenery” anticipated by the search committee were part of a very specific catalog developed by an evolving American design profession. Before the Civil War, Andrew Jackson Downing had most famously popularized the romantic imagery of the pastoral landscape in the United States. Jackson combined European notions of the cultivated “picturesque” garden with the lingering myth of America-as-rural-republic to create a highly romanticized natural environment. Yet not forgetting its reformist aspect, the resulting “rural” cemetery was also a phenomenon that reinforced faith in the power of design itself to affect the perfection of civilization, thus, in turn, reinforcing the prestige of the professional designer. Growing into a fully mature design movement after the Civil War, the romantic features established by the “rural” cemetery precedent were subsequently adapted to the urban parks movement and eventually to the first planned suburban communities. Glendale, Ohio, located just north of nearby Cincinnati, embraced these concepts in the 1852 plat. Design was not just an artful indulgence; it was modern American society mastering the course of its destiny.

To reach the expected standards, the execution of River View Cemetery required a sophisticated professional architect. The details behind selection of William Tinsley (1804-1885) are not related in accounts or records. An Irish native trained in the country of his birth, Tinsley had developed a substantial practice with many commissions to his credit before immigrating to the United States in 1851. Settling in Cincinnati, Ohio, Tinsley’s practice ranged between many Midwest cities including Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Bloomington, and Columbus. Commissioned to design primarily churches and educational buildings for universities, Tinsley was building a reputation in the regional area.

Tinsley was particularly known for executions in the Romantic Gothic Revival style, and the majority of his commissions were suited to its fashion and materials. He rode the wave of its popularity from Europe to the American Midwest, where its maturing civilization hungered for monumental buildings in cities, towns and college campuses. Tinsley adapted the Victorian Gothic style particularly well to the American needs. Some consider his finest American commission to be Christ Church Cathedral (1856-1869), residing on Monument Circle of Indianapolis (National Register, 1973), which was a throw-back to the English Gothic style he had applied to churches on the Irish countryside.

Tinsley’s one comprehensive biography by Forbes points out that Tinsley was also “completely at home in the eclectic mood of his times” and capable of ranging across several architectural types and styles. He was not unfamiliar to functional buildings. In Ireland, Tinsley had executed complete manors and was thus experienced in comprehensive planning. He once designed a “model” farm with all of its functional buildings. He also had executed a comprehensive town plan. In the American Midwest, Tinsley designed jails, courthouses, homes and hospitals. He also executed the design for Cincinnati’s Fountain Square (1872). Tinsley’s work includes many building varied in style, design and function on the National Register of Historic Places. A partial listing is The Henry Probasco home, known as Oakwood, built in the Anglo - Norman Romanesque style, The Ohio State School (1847) today housing the Ohio School for the Blind, Lafayette, Indiana’s Saint John’s Episcopal Church (1857) the oldest surviving church in the district, and the Ascension Hall of Kenyon College - Victorian Gothic architecture (1859). Tinsley’s only known cemetery was Aurora’s River View Cemetery, in Aurora, Indiana.

As his biographer summarizes, “Tinsley was not an original genius” or any great “innovator.” He was thoroughly in tune with the spirit of his time, primarily occupied with revolting against Renaissance Classicism. Tinsley was not an originator so much as he was a “popularizer.” Still, his executions of distinguished Romantic styles were among the first in the Midwest and certainly responsible for increasing their appeal.

Significant Burials and Objects at River View

Grave sites of the River View Cemetery founders and their families are predictably found among the burials. Their grave sites reflect their status as prominent Aurora citizens. The Dr. George Sutton site bears a monumental column in memory

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of the physician renown for regional cholera treatment and prevention, who was also three-time Aurora mayor, charter member of the Aurora Cemetery Association and first president of the River View Cemetery Board. Other names listed among the cemetery founders, like the local industrialist Backman family, are still part of the local community's roster of first citizens. The presence of their grave sites and the monumental styling of their memorials at River View Cemetery are direct material links to Aurora's early history and the progress of its history through significant periods of American social and cultural history.

Although the majority of burials at River View Cemetery are marked with modest headstones, flush stones and tablets, a number of grave sites bear architectural and sculptural objects of artistic merit. (PHOTO #0021) While observing the "rural" cemetery prescription for disdaining the fencing of family plots (in order to create an uninterrupted lawn), several large family plots are distinguished by large central monuments. A particular feature of River View Cemetery is a collection of five monumental sculptures of female figures, a popular Victorian motif. River View Cemetery also maintains two instances of regionally distinct limestone "tree trunk" markers, associating its relationship to the regional limestone industry and its related craftsmanship. The Schipper Family plot is an especially monumental example, featuring carved individual interment stones and a central monument bearing the symbolic carved anchor. (PHOTO #0013) Of the cemetery's three mausoleums, the polygonal McHenry Mausoleum (1877) is the most exceptional; being a clear exercise in the style associated with the Romantic "picturesque" movement popular in both landscape and architectural design during the middle and later half of the 19th century. (PHOTO #0014)

Of burials associated with persons significant in state and local history, the most prominent is the Holman Family plot, particularly being the graves of Jesse Lynch Holman (1784-1842) and son William Steele Holman (1822-1897). Jesse Lynch Holman emigrated from Kentucky to the Indiana Territory in 1810, settling on high ground above the future town of Aurora that he named Veraestau (National Register, 1975). Trained as a lawyer, Holman went on to a career that placed him on the new State of Indiana's first Supreme Court in 1816. He was federal judge of the Indiana district for many years. A charter organizer of the Baptist Church in Indiana and a charter trustee of that denomination's Franklin College, he can be counted among the state's founding generation. Locally, he played a primary role in the physical and legal formation of Aurora in 1819. His interment was relocated from the Veraestau burial ground to River View Cemetery, where family interments continued, most biographically significant being that of William Steele Holman, a United States congressman for several decades in the later half of the 19th century. (PHOTO #0017)

Captain Alexander B. Pattison of Aurora served his country as commander of Company A. of the 7th Indiana Infantry throughout the entire Civil War. Aside his tombstone is the boulder credited with saving his life in the Battle of Gettysburg. The boulder with musket holes visible was moved for Captain Pattison to Aurora from Culp's Hill, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania at the end of the Civil War. Today the grave, marker and boulder connect Aurora to this historic battle. (PHOTO #0016)

Significance of Preservation

As a nationally important piece of landscape architecture, River View Cemetery stands among the most famous as a rather diminutive instance of the "rural" cemetery. Yet in its smaller scale is preserved the course by which the trend was dispersed from cosmopolitan city to smaller communities. Aurora would never be a large city, but in 1869 its creation of a "rural" cemetery matched the ambitions held by most American frontier towns. River View Cemetery is a living record of that 19th century spirit and founded as a "Perpetual Care Cemetery" affirmed a dedication to preserving it for memory and the generations to come.

Governed continuously since 1869, by the Board of Managers, the cemetery keeps an excellent repository of records. The continuity of governance also shows in the material integrity of River View Cemetery itself, maintaining its character in keeping with the original intent of its purpose and design. Plot arrangement, marker choice and artistic applications have consistently reflected the tastes and approaches of their respective periods, while honoring the original standards that make River View Cemetery a living link to its significant categories of heritage.

The objects, buildings and sites considered additions to the cemetery likewise reflect the judicious maintenance of character. Even the non-contributing Caretaker's Residence conforms to the established standard of appropriate placement and scale. Interment additions, such as the Soldier's Section (1897) and the Catholic Section (1875), also

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conform to established standards, while providing explicit material links to the cemetery's development throughout the period of significance.

By 1960, Aurora's riverside industrial and transportation profile had come to an end. Into the contemporary period, Aurora has assumed more and more a suburban character in the greater Cincinnati metropolitan region. Some of the buildings associated with the wood crafting and distilling industries, and most of the 19th century Main Street buildings erected by their wealth, survive in a densely organized district, listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1994). A plant of the Aurora Casket Company, in business since 1890, still operates in 19th century buildings on the near west side and is one of last directly active links to the pinnacle achievements of Aurora's 19th and early 20th century period, the other being River View Cemetery.

River View Cemetery Association from the original handwritten Articles of Association through the current revision as well as the minutes of the Association are titled as River View Cemetery. The second wrought iron arch over the Entrance reflected the name RIVERVIEW, which led to confusion of the spelling and official name of the cemetery and has been corrected to read RIVER VIEW in 2011.

In connection with importance and significance of River View Cemetery, the Board of Managers has completed the survey to list the property on the Indiana's Cemetery and Burial Grounds Registry of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. This is also recognized through signage of an informational marker located at the Entrance to River View Cemetery.

Archeological Significance

Prehistoric patterns of civilization are well documented in the region of Aurora and River View Cemetery. In as much as the original Cemetery Association clearly valued the Native American earthworks and disturbed them as little as possible, potential exists to retrieve information. However, Euro-American interments in and around the prehistoric features make excavation currently unfeasible. The true potential of the prehistoric sites and their eligibility for the National Register as an archeological site remains unknown. The historical period of River View Cemetery is also well documented in records kept for the fourteen decades of its existence. No particular burials or suspicion of historic period artifacts compel the notion that the district would yield significant additional knowledge to social, cultural or physical history in terms of the recorded period.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(end)

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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 # _____
☐ Recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if
assigned): 029-029-50022

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 30 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>682769</u>	<u>4321998</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>682979</u>	<u>4321673</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>682985</u>	<u>4322143</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>682754</u>	<u>4321438</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning on the northeast corner, at the junction of East Laughery Creek Road and Old State Road 56, the east boundary runs more or less southward along the Old State Road 56 right of way, about 2,000 feet, jogging slightly to the west and coming to the bank of Laughery Creek. The wooded steep bank of Laughery Creek itself forms the cemetery's southern boundary. From the southeast corner the boundary runs in a more or less southwest direction up the creek about 900 feet to a point where the boundary turns due north. The west boundary runs more or less northward about 400 feet where it joins the cemetery's Forest Avenue and runs with it for about 1,000 feet to a place where the road ends, the boundary proceeding across an undeveloped area until meeting the northwest corner. From this corner the boundary turns northeastward, following the East Laughery Creek Road right of way about 900 feet until returning to the junction of Old State Road 56. A 1" = 170' scale sketch map outlining the district boundaries and an aerial image are included with this nomination. The USGS map also identifies the location and general plan of the cemetery.

Boundary Justification

The district boundary includes all those areas historically identified with River View Cemetery, including the original 1869 plat and the 1875, 1886 and 1897 additions.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Mary Alice Horton
Organization Aurora Public Library District Date December 6, 2011
Street & number 414 Second Street Telephone 812-926-0646
City or town Aurora State IN Zip code 47001
E-mail maryalice@eapld.org

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: River View Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Aurora

County: Dearborn State: IN

Photographer: Kent Abraham and Mark Mellang

Date Photographed: 24 June – 05 July 2011 and 25 August 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

IN_Deardown County_River View Cemetery – Main Entrance panorama, view to S W (South West) - Photo #0001

IN_Deardown County_River View Cemetery – Main Entrance Gate, view to W (West) - Photo #0002

IN_Deardown County_River View Cemetery – Inside Main Entrance, signage, circulation, Former Pond Basin view to W - Photo #0003

IN_Deardown County_River View Cemetery – Caretaker's Residence, view to N (North) - Photo #0004

IN_Deardown County_River View Cemetery – Concrete Block Barn, view to NW (North West) - Photo #0005

IN_Deardown County_River View Cemetery – Main Avenue at Laurel Avenue, showing tree cover, view to N - Photo #0006

IN_Deardown County_River View Cemetery – Main Avenue at intersection with West Avenue, showing tree cover, view to S (South) - Photo #0007

IN_Deardown County_River View Cemetery – Forest Avenue, and recent burials in expansion area west of Section K, view to N - Photo #0008

IN_Deardown County_River View Cemetery – Maintenance Garage, view to SW - Photo #0009

IN_Deardown County_River View Cemetery – Aurora Graveyard of Section K, view to W - Photo #0010

IN_Deardown County_River View Cemetery – Stevens Mausoleum, Section J, view to S - Photo #0011

IN_Deardown County_River View Cemetery – Dedication Monument, between Sections L and M, view to W - Photo #0012

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IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – Limestone “tree trunk” burial markers, Schipper Family Plot, Section H, view to S - Photo #0013

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – McHenry Mausoleum, Section E, view to NW - Photo #0014

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – Representative Stone Street Marker, Woodbine Avenue at Main Avenue - Photo #0015

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – Captain Pattison’s boulder from Culp’s Hill, Gettysburg, PA, Section I, view to S - Photo #0016

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – Holman Family Burial Site and Marker, Section I, view to S - Photo #0017

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – Well House, view to SE (South East) - Photo #0018

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – Laughery Massacre Memorial Site, view to E (East) - Photo #0019

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – Soldier’s Circle, view to NE (North East) - Photo #0020

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – Panorama of typical interment Section F, view to W - Photo #0021

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – York Mausoleum, Section F, view to W - Photo #0022

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – Representative flush type burial marker, Section F, view to W - Photo #0023

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – Prehistoric Mound at summit of Section A, showing ornamental conifers, view to N - Photo #0024

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – Cemetery Chapel, Section Q, view to N - Photo #0025

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – Former Vault Avenue on slope overlooking Former Pond Basin, view to W - Photo #0026

IN_Dearborn County_River View Cemetery – World War II Artillery Piece, canon relocation in 2011 in cemetery - Photo #0027

Property Owner:

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

Name River View Cemetery Association
Street & number 3635 E. Laughery Creek Road Telephone 812-926-1496
City or Town Aurora State IN Zip code 47001

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.