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: Forest Hill Cemetery

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing**:**

N/A

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

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2. Location

Street & number: 2181 South County Road 50 West

City or town: Greencastle____ State: IN___ County: Putnam

Not For Publication: [ ] Vicinity: [x]

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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 ___statewide _X__local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x_A ___B x_C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Date

Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and 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

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	
1	0	buildings
2	0	sites
6	1	structures
5	4	objects
14	5	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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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.)
MID-19TH CENTURY: Gothic Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation:	BRICK
walls:	STONE: limestone
	MARBLE
roof:	
other:	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 Forest Hill Cemetery is located south of the city limits of Greencastle in the NE1/4, Section 28, Township 4 North, and Range 4 West, Putnam County, Indiana. Topographically, the land is characterized by a gently sloping profile from the higher southern boundary towards the lower northern boundary along the east-west road extending from the east boundary of the district to the east drainage ditch along Cemetery Road. Given the age of the cemetery and absent any other information, the general appearance and changes in elevation encountered throughout the property reflect how the land appeared, minus trees removed to accommodate grave sites, when the landscape first became the city's official cemetery in 1865. There is no indication in city council records that preparation of the land included any significant excavation, earth moving or the like activity other than cutting down trees and selling them to local mills. Pathways initially were unpaved and as time passed, they became graveled and then asphalt paved.

The sloping character of the landscape, south to north, has a notable exception to its generally uniform transition from the highest to the lowest elevations within the site. The presence of a sizable swale that extends northward from the two stone bridges on the pathway between Sections 5 and 6 and divides Section 6 from Section 13 to the east. An unusual aspect of the swale are the two crypts located in its east bank and according to local sources the swale never really carries much water from the elevations to the south. The crypts are discussed below.

Narrative Description

From its first creation and over the course of nearly 150 years of existence, the man-made symbols and rituals associated with resting places for our loved ones and our venerated have transformed Forest Hill from a pastoral hillside to its present day character: it contains elements of both the rural/garden cemetery and the memorial park of more recent times. In *Silent Cities*, the authors make the case for the former being the forerunner of public parks where "visitors could escape the grime and bustle of urban life." They also attribute this transformation, from the simple church yard cemetery, to a desire of the wealthy to leave their mark and thereby change funerary customs in the nineteenth century. Examples of this are noteworthy throughout the older sections of the site, but practically, the prominent/wealthy are just a few steps from the more middle-class interred nearby (photograph 1). [1]

Viewscapes encountered as a visitor moves about the site offer changing images of the spatial arrangements of graves within a given section. Some signal the presence of a family plot while others make visible a collection of small obelisks which call to mind the rebirth and spiritual connection between heaven and earth in Egyptian religious symbolism, an architectural form popular in Victorian cemeteries. For example, looking west-northwest from Section 16, the presence of obelisks throughout the older section of the site is readily apparent (photograph 2). From a higher perspective in Section 16, in the same direction, is an imposing obelisk belonging to the Bowman family (photograph 3) with family member markers arranged around the base of the obelisk (photograph 4). A configuration in family plots found throughout the older portion of the site. Another view looking east from near the stone bridges (photographs 5 and 6) in the depth of summer and with bare vegetation further captures the distribution of older markers versus the more uniform distribution of markers in the newer portion. From these distributions, the pattern of site development is readily apparent. [2]

Visual images of a memorial park organizational schema are present at Forest Hill. An early proponent of this developmental philosophy envisioned " …a great park, devoid of misshapen monuments and other customary signs of earthy death" that would give prominence to the park-like landscape; clearly a radical change from the Victorian concept of final resting places that conjure up past achievements. The veterans graves in Section 2 provide a good example of this use of flat markers and wider open spaces to engender a more "park-like" atmosphere (photograph 7). The shelter (built in 1986) visible in the right of the photograph and south of the Pine Lawn Mausoleum is a more substantial example than others around the site. [3]

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[1] Kenneth T. Jackson and Camilo J. Vergara, *Silent Cities: the Evolution of the American Cemetery* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1989), page 5.
[2] Fact Sheet, "Cemetery Symbolism," Indiana Department of Natural Resources, no date.
[3] Kenneth T. Jackson and Camilo J. Vergara, *Silent Cities: the Evolution of the American Cemetery*, page 28.

The significant architectural resources within the cemetery reflect not only architectural style preferences of certain time periods in our history but also the various views of death and celebration for those left behind. The Gothic crypts (photographs 16 and 17) reflect the architectural design elements of a very popular style of residential architecture common in many upscale homes of the mid-1860s; they signify both trendiness and a position in the social world relative to those gone and their families. The classical crypts located in the swale (photographs 18 and 19) announce to the world a social status above the crowd in a more subdued manner; their location in the swale away from others reinforces this same theme both visually and geographically. Collectively, the crypts demonstrate an awareness of acceptable architectural standards of a social class and acknowledgment of past success.

The Abbey (photographs 8 and 9) demonstrates many of the design elements of the Art Moderne style. Culturally, the building exterior surfaces and profile create a sense of solicitude and privacy for the remains within. Similar to crypts, the interior vaults announce a status for those interred. Although non-contributing, the mausoleum (1985) with unpretentious exterior surfaces open to all views and the weather denotes a change in thought process more in keeping with an economical view of interment with no need for privacy. The square block form of the building has no historical architectural design elements to draw attention to those interred; the message it sends to viewers is "death is an aspect of life" and there is no substantive reason to make much of it (photograph 7).

The cemetery is divided into numerous sections, identified by numbers to aid in locating a specific marker, monument, etc. (See the accompanying map.)

The following list of buildings, structures, sites, and objects includes specific physical elements of the overall historic property. Too numerous to discuss in any detail, nearly 12,000 interments make up the bulk of the physical/visual character of the site.

BUILDINGS

Forest Hill Abbey 1931 Contributing Photographs 8 and 9

Ground was broken for the Abbey, originally identified in local news sources as the Forest Hill Mausoleum, after the Memorial Day services on 29 May 1930. Construction continued through the remainder of the year and by 1931, citizens visiting the cemetery were able to view the newly completed building. The Abbey, designed with a mixture of Art Deco and Art Moderne elements, is a one-story building, rectangular in shape, with exterior walls of white marble. The façade has decorative bands of darker marble, triangles, on each side of the entry; they define the lower edge of the parapet around the flat roof. A leaded-glass transom is located above the double entry doors; leaded-glass windows grace the other three exterior walls. The interior consists of a central hall with space for family gatherings and two wings that extend north and south from the central space. The wings contain the individual crypts for the remains. Leaded-glass windows in each exterior wall allow natural light to enter. [4]

STRUCTURES

Shelters (4) Variable Non-contributing Photographs 10 – 13

[4] "To Break Ground for Mausoleum Decoration Day," *Greencastle Herald*, 29 May 1930, page 6.

The various shelters for visitors are scattered around the cemetery site. With the exception of the larger, more formal shelter south of the newest mausoleum (1986), the others are the work of the cemetery's maintenance section. Their ages range from twenty to five years.

Pine Lawn Mausoleum 1985 Non-contributing Photograph 14

The newer of the two mausoleums is a plain square building with crypts for remains in each exterior wall. Basis construction materials are concrete and stone with marble closure panels for the individual crypts.

Stone Bridges (2) c. 1885 Contributing Photograph 15

The two limestone-block, true-masonry arch, bridges that carry one of the cemetery's pathways over the south end (highest point) of the swale are typical in construction technique and materials expected of the period. The limestone quarries in Putnam County provided much of the material for early bridges in the county and likely the stone for some of the markers in the site.

Crypts (4) c. 1880 Contributing Photographs 16 –19

The Renick Family produced carriages and later other wheeled conveyances starting in the late 1840s. As other community needs arose, the factory also produced wheel barrows, plows, and other wood/metal implements for shipment around the state. The Goulding Family were partners with another entrepreneur in operating a planning mill that produced doors, sashes, venetian and panel shutters, and window and doors frames from the mid-1850s into the early-twentieth century. The Overstreet Family produced three generations of dentists from 1874 to 1938. Dr. Orsa Overstreet, who died in 1959, included many civic and fraternal activities in his long and productive life in addition to caring for generations of Putnam County citizens. The fourth crypt, marked as "F.H.C." served as a holding area for remains for a number of years, now it is used for equipment storage. Two of the crypts serve as examples of the Gothic Revival design popular during the period. [5]

SITES

Cemetery 1865 Contributing Photographs 20 – 21

The Forest Hill Cemetery and its associated features are a simplified example of some of the more elaborately landscaped "garden" cemeteries cited in various published works on the subject. However, from various viewpoints the evolutionary aspect of the development of rural/garden cemeteries is obvious. Views west from Section 17 (photographs 20 and 21) demonstrate the use of winding roadways, vistas including trees and expanses of grass, and a multitude of different markers in a semblance of order but not "dress right dress." These views evoke a sense of serenity for those visiting their departed loved ones. Newer sections of the cemetery take on a more formal arrangement of the markers. As the visitor proceeds along the pathways, changes in elevations and direction shorten the dimensions of some of the viewscapes causing viewers to focus on their immediate surroundings and heighten the intimacy of the visit. Other more open viewscapes support the park-like appearance and peaceful setting sought in

[5] John J. Baughman, *Our Past, Their Present: Historical Essays on Putnam County, Indiana* (Putnam County: Putnam County Museum, 2008), pages 332 and 333.

most every garden cemetery. The winding roadways, besides acting as limits to the various sections, engender/support the need to "meander" along the formal route before diverting to a final destination. Trees and shrubbery, green during the warm season and skeletal during winter, define some of the sections and offer stark contrasts between man's work and nature's, all the while adding to the complexity of the whole.

Soldiers' Section c. 1865 Contributing Photograph 22

The Soldiers' Section, Section 4, contains a collection of various markers, headstones, and four Civil War-era cannons that delineate the corner boundaries of this small site. Included in the site are the headstones for Sergeant Nathanial L. Cunningham, a veteran of the Revolutionary War and Elzey Talbott, the oldest grave in the cemetery, 1827. The four six-pounder bronze cannons are typical of the small-caliber field artillery pieces used in the Civil War. Collectively, the manufacturing dates for the cannons cover the period 1844 to 1846. The date is impressed in the end of one trunnion. Three of the cannons were cast by the N.P. Ames Company of Springfield, Massachusetts; the cannon at the northwest corner of the site came from the foundry of the Cyrus Alger Company of Boston, Massachusetts. In addition to those mentioned, the site contains markers for veterans from the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II and Korea. The styles include upright limestone headstones, that define the east and west limits of the section, from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in various shapes. The flat bronze markers are from the World War II era. [6]

OBJECTS

Soldiers' Monument 1870 Contributing Photograph 23

Portions of the monument were constructed at different times but the official dedication date is in July of 1870. The base of the monument is octagonal in shape with a diameter of 12 feet, and is constructed of Putnam County limestone. The pedestal is five circular limestone rings, each one two feet thick, upon which are inscribed the names of the county's Civil War dead. It is 19 feet high and has a diameter of almost 8 feet. Including the statue of the soldier, the monument rises 29 feet, 4 inches above grade. More recent bronze plaques on four of the facets of the base include additional names of Civil War dead discovered by community researchers. The designer/sculptor of the soldier's figure was Thomas Dow Jones, a noted artist who operated a business in Cincinnati, Ohio and also designed/sculpted a soldier figure for the Civil War memorial in Pomeroy, Ohio. The figures, with exception of the stone rifle on the Pomeroy statute, are twins. Fire (1979) destroyed the wooden rifle that once rested in the grasp of the Forest Hill Cemetery soldier statue.[7]

Cast Iron Fence c. 1880 Contributing Photograph 24

This fence dates from the earliest years of the cemetery and defines the western boundary of the site proper from the southwest to the northwest corners of the site.

Stone Entrance c. 1895 Contributing Photograph 25

[6] Ian V. Hogg, *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Artillery* (New Jersey: Chartwell Books, Inc., 1988), page 113.
[7] "A Great Day for Putnam County," *Greencastle Republican Banner*, 7 July 1870, page 6; Baughman, *Our past, Their Present*, pages 103-105.

The wing walls of the entrance leading off of Cemetery Road are constructed of limestone blocks similar in size and type as those found in the two bridges between Sections 5, 6 and 13. The cast iron gates date from the same period.

Entrance Signage c. 1920 Contributing Photograph 25

Visible through the entrance gates and to the rear (east) of an interior road is the cemetery signage consisting of two red brick square columns that support a painted wooden welcoming sign designating the site as the "Forest Hill Cemetery." The simple wooden structure visible over the end of the left wall in one of the four shelters scattered around the site.

DAR Monument 1915 Contributing Photograph 26

The Daughters of the American Revolution monument is constructed in the manner of a simple square panel inscribed with the dedication to the Revolutionary War dead of Putnam County. It is situated in Section 2 to the west of the Soldiers' Monument. Representatives of the DAR usually conducted a separate service in conjunction with the larger May Day observance.

VFW/AL Monument c. 1980 Non-contributing Photographs 27 and 28

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion monument is one entity, with medallions on the east and west surfaces, sited west of the Soldiers' Monument and east of the Veterans Section of the cemetery.

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.

[x] 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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
ART
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance
1865 – 1964

Significant Dates
1865
1870

Significant Person (last name, first name)
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)
Tinsley, William
Jones, Thomas Dow

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance was chosen to encompass the years in the life cycle of the cemetery that best define the nature of its importance to the community, both as a symbol of pride and reverence for fallen veterans, and as the resting place for the deceased loved ones of the entire community.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Forest Hill Cemetery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Consideration D because it derives its significance from its design features, from its information important to the study of material culture and social history in the community, and from the artistic content of many of its older markers that encompass the society's concepts of death and/or resurrection.

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.)

Located in Greencastle, Putnam County, Indiana, the Forest Hill Cemetery occupies approximately 27 acres and its conversion from farmland to a community cemetery began in 1865. The purchase and planning of the cemetery site was the earliest civic endeavor of the city government that was organized in 1861. The cemetery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Originally sketched out for the city in 1865 by William Tinsley, a noted architect, the site became the community's place of interment when an earlier cemetery near the grounds of Asbury College reached its limit for accepting any more remains. Immediately after the end of the Civil War, local citizens organized an effort to erect a significant monument to its dead citizen soldiers. Paid for by county-wide subscriptions, the Soldiers' Monument designed by Thomas Dow Jones and constructed by his firm, came to fruition in 1870. Dedicated during a July 1870 celebration attended by the governor of Indiana, General Lew Wallace and other notables, the monument continues to be the focus of community celebration each Memorial Day.

Over time, the Forest Hill Cemetery has evolved from a 19th century "park-like" setting to the modern memorial park interment ground that became more the standard in the early 20th century. From the day of its opening to accept interments, the cemetery (to the present) continues in its role as a reminder (the physical manifestation) of all those who have died in service to the nation, of passed loved ones, and of the significant and not so significant who have been a part of the fabric of the community's history. Architecturally, the crypts, the Abbey, and mausoleum define different times and different perceptions of how our culture popularizes various architectural styles and celebrates/memorializes the passing of our heroes and loved ones.

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

The Forest Hill Cemetery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with events that define the history of the community of Greencastle, the larger community of Putnam County, and the state of Indiana. Specifically, it marks the celebration of the conclusion of the Civil War, acknowledgment of the sacrifice of

those who died in its prosecution, in its part as the resting place for many of the community's notables such as Dr. Thomas Bowman, a president of Asbury College and a Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church; the parents of Colonel Eli Lilly; Colonel John R. Mahan, president of the Soldiers' Monument Association; Jesse Weik, recognized Lincoln historian and author; and Dr. Orsa Overstreet, a Greencastle dentist for 46 years. The cemetery's Soldiers' Monument captures the patriotic fervor following the Union victory in the Civil War and the need of the living to pay homage to those who lost their lives in the war. As an example of the evolution of funerary practices from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century, the cemetery contains examples of the history of this transition in its inventory of markers and monuments.

The end of the Civil War in April of 1865 precipitated a number of actions by the city council. By mid-May of that year, the city engineer had authorizations to visit a number of well-known cemeteries, Crown Hill in Indianapolis and Spring Hill in Cincinnati, Ohio, to improve his judgment in laying out the new cemetery and "…to employ a competent landscape gardener to assist him." A week after detailing the city engineer, the council ordered that "… a suitable lot of ground…be appropriated as a burial ground for the bodies of all soldiers from Putnam County and for a suitable monument to their memories." The council directed that all the names were to be inscribed whether or not the bodies were buried in the cemetery.[8]

After his tasking the city engineer apparently proceeded on his search for information and the employment of a "gardener." A notation in the city records on 24 July 1865 recorded the fact that the council adopted a sketch by Mr. William Tinsley of Cincinnati, Ohio, "… as the general outline of Forest Hill Cemetery…." Later entries in the records established that Mr. Tinsley expected to be paid $100.00 for his work but after some squabbling among the council, a final payment of $60.00 became the agreed upon amount paid out in March of 1866. The first cemetery lots went on sale on 14 August 1865. [9]

This day of dedication placed the Soldiers' Monument, Forest Hill Cemetery, and Decoration Day (Memorial Day) grave decoration activities firmly in the community's collective memory. While the monument primarily acknowledges Putnam County's losses in the Civil War, the area round it, designated as the Soldiers' Section, also acknowledges a veteran from an earlier war and the dead who served in wars in the last decades of the nineteenth century and all of the twentieth century. This dedication ceremony in 1870 set the example for community-wide memorial services for decades. The size and format changed over the years but Greencastle as a community continues to honor its dead, veteran and civilian, with an annual observance of memorial activities. For example, in May of 1895, Meharry Hall, on the university's campus, hosted the oratory and musical elements of the celebration prior to the procession to Forest Hill. An article in the newspaper noted that "the city at an early hour put on a handsome dress of flags, bunting, and patriotism that…spoke eloquently that Greencastle as patriotic and generous …as any city on earth." Grand praise offered for a grand purpose. [10]

By 1920, the numbers of Civil War veterans had dwindled but the support for Putnam County's fallen had not. The Decoration Day observance at Forest Hill, attended by the state GAR commander who delivered the primary address, included a parade headed by the De Pauw band that formed on the county square. Participants/veterans present for this day included

[8] Ibid., pages 83 and 84.
[9] Ibid., pages 116 and 124.
[10] "Decoration Day," *The Banner Times*, 31 May 1895, page 3.

remaining members of the GAR, the Spanish-American, World War I conflicts and representatives of the Woman's Relief Corps. The Woman's Relief Corps is the distaff side of the Grand Army of the Republic. On Memorial Day, 1930, the procession moving to the Forest Hill Cemetery included cars carrying the few surviving Civil War and other veterans not able to make a foot march to the cemetery. Generally following a format established 60 years earlier, the program called for patriotic music, oratory, and the physical act of decorating the graves.[11]

The establishment of Forest Hill Cemetery in 1865 constituted the city government's (organized in 1861) first formalized planning/developmental activity. The cemetery became the cornerstone of future city projects and was followed by the construction of cisterns throughout the city to provide water for fire fighters in the early 1870s; by the construction of a city water works and distribution system in the mid-1880s; and by the paving (with macadam) of some main streets by the early 1890s. Over and above the practical aspect of a cemetery to the city's future development, the Tinsley design brought aesthetic value to the community by its physical presence, in immediate and future times.

Forest Hill Cemetery's significance to the community is greater than a single day in a year irrespective of the importance of that day. Within the bounds of the site are physical reminders of the personal history of the community – its affluent and not so affluent, its veterans, its heralded and unheralded, and its anonymous (the unidentified man killed by a train in August, 1898 and buried in public ground), his importance to the fabric of history equal to others. But the symbols that demonstrate equality in death are not equal.

The Forest Hill Cemetery is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its representation of the works of masters that possess artistic values in the design and sculpting of the Soldiers' Monument by Thomas Dow Jones, the design layout of the oldest original sections of the site sketched by architect William Tinsley, and for its distinction as the final resting place of many of Putnam County's distinguished veterans and people who made a contribution to the fabric of the community's history.

The Soldier's Monument Association in Greencastle contracted with a firm in Cincinnati, Ohio to build the monument. The firm chosen for the project was T.D. Jones & Company doing business as the Pioneer Marble Works. The advertisement in the Cincinnati city directory, 1866, lists Jones, J.C. McConn, and O'Hare as partners in the firm and credits Jones as a member of the National Academy of Design in New York. T.D. Jones is really Thomas Dow Jones, a noted and well-respected artist whose career started in New York City (he was born in Remsen, New York); he moved to Cincinnati, Ohio in the 1840s. While his early years seem to be spent as a stone mason, by the early 1850s he began traveling to distant cities like Nashville, Detroit, and Boston to complete busts of famous people. He also developed a reputation as an accomplished medallionist. His most noteworthy works, besides the Civil War monuments in Greencastle, Indiana, and Pomeroy, Ohio were busts of Abraham Lincoln (1860-61) and Salmon P. Chase, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1876) which resides in Washington, D.C. [12]

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[11] "Pay Tribute to Soldier Dead Sunday," *Greencastle Herald*, 1 June 1920, page 6; "Program at Forest Hill," *Daily Banner*, 29 May 1930, page 9.

[12] George Groce and David Wallace, *The New-York Historical Society's Dictionary of Artists in America,1564-1860* (New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1956), page 127; Thomas Dow Jones. http://AskArt.com/askart/j/Thomas_Dow_Jones; Peter Hastings Falk, ed. *Who Was Who in American Art* (Madison, Connecticut: Sound View Press, 1999), page 118.

The city engineer employed William Tinsley, a recognized architect, who is credited with the design of a number of well-known buildings and another cemetery in Indiana. A fire in 1979 consumed the cemetery's office and likely many old records; therefore, there is no direct visual link, a copy of the sketch for example, between Tinsley and the design of the cemetery. However, the fact he was from Cincinnati, was familiar to/with Greencastle because he had designed a home for Professor William C. Larrabee of Indiana Asbury College, and he was active in designing buildings and churches in communities throughout central Indiana in the 1850s-60s supports an argument that William Tinsley, the architect, and William Tinsley, the sketcher of the layout of Forest Hill Cemetery, were the same person. Tinsley's landscape architect talents are documented in another Indiana cemetery. [13]

Forest Hill Cemetery in its entirety – the Soldiers' Monument, the other monuments to veterans, the mausoleums, and viewscapes captured throughout – is significant. The component parts tell the story of a community seeking solace at the end of the nation's wars and/or remembering loved ones. It offers a place to reflect – with a landscape that inspires the serenity that makes a visit, if not pleasant, at least more accepting.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

The city of Greencastle purchased the land that became Forest Hill Cemetery from the estate of Isaac Coffin in May of 1863 for approximately $1,300.00. For an unexplained reason, a civil suit slowed the city's progress in occupying/preparing the land for sale to local citizens. In December, 1864 the city asked a court of appeals judge to "…move swiftly in his opinion…" because "the old one [cemetery] being now filled…." The city had a full urban cemetery near the campus of Indiana Asbury College (DePauw University). [14]

The judge from the court of appeals ruled in favor of the Greencastle. By March 1865, the city council began to move on the development of the cemetery when it directed the city engineer to proceed to draft and arrange a plan "…laying out the cemetery grounds south." A month later the council appointed a committee to decide on the disposition of the trees on the cemetery grounds. Not long after that the council officially adopted the name Forrest Hill Cemetery; a later change corrected the name to its current designation as Forest Hill Cemetery.[15]

William Tinsley never established a reputation as a landscape architect. However, his early experiences in Ireland, his home country, dealing with remodeling of the town of Cahir in County Tipperary clearly demonstrates some penchant for designing landscapes and establishing spatial relationships. John D. Forbes in his book about Tinsley's career states, "This [Cahir] suggests an interest in town planning and landscape architecture that anticipated his work in Cincinnati by twenty-five years." Although Tinsley no doubt had this interest in planning, his real legacy is clearly in the buildings of note he designed in the last decades of the nineteenth century in the United States. These include as a partial list Christ Church and N.W.C University (later Butler University) in Indianapolis and Boone County Court House, Owen County Prison,

[13] John D. Forbes, *Victorian Architect: The Life and Work of William Tinsley* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1953), pages 69-70.
[14] City Council Order Book – A, 9 March 1849-23 May 1864, page 386; Common Council Minutes Book – B, 1864-1868, page 59.
[15] Common Council Minutes Book – B, pages 73-80.

Crawfordsville M.E. Church, all in Indiana. From the various titles or uses of these buildings one can be assured that Tinsley would and did undertake any work offered him. [16]

The end of the Civil War and the loss of many Putnam County soldiers spurred a patriotic fervor in those left to deal with the losses. On 11 May 1865, the *Putnam Republican Banner* published a non-attributed poem titled "Soldiers' Monuments." The last stanza no doubt reinforced local desires to commemorate the sacrifices made by its citizen soldiers:

So let the soldiers' monument
In every graveyard stand –
Although their buried forms be blent
With distant sea or sand –
To keep their memory for aye
Within a grateful land. [17]

Positive action for the construction of a soldier's monument quickly followed the end of the war. In early June of 1865, the Executive Committee of the Putnam County Soldiers' Monument Association met; the committee included the three primary officials noted below and all the township representatives. Its focus centered on acquiring necessary funds for the construction of the monument, collecting the names of the war dead for inscription on the monument, and managing the process. The subscription books opened in July of 1865. Three primary persons guided the effort – Colonel John R. Mahan, as president; William D. Allen as treasurer; and David W. Jones as secretary. The plan for acquiring the funds depended on township appointees proselytizing subscriptions from their neighbors and funneling the results to Mr. Allen. The scheme obviously worked; eventually the county collected the full amount for the monument, the actual cost estimated $5,000-$10,000. The secretary of the Association periodically published the names and amounts of many of the subscriptions. An article in the newspaper also appealed to the "… ladies throughout the county… to aid us in this enterprise." [18]

Another major force in the erection of the Forest Hill Cemetery monument was George J. Langsdale, the owner and editor of the *Putnam Republican Banner*. Langsdale fought in the Civil War and later became the commander of Greencastle's Grand Army of the Republic Post 11. Active in the raising of soldier monuments to honor the dead, Langsdale was a force in the acquisition of funds for and the placement of the Civil War Monument on the Circle in Indianapolis. While some wanted the monument to be erected in Crown Hill Cemetery, Langsdale as the president of the Civil War monument commission argued for its placement on the Circle counter to Governor Oliver P. Morton's initial wishes. [19]

The county subscriptions and the work on the monument moved on into 1866. The construction of the completed monument progressed in stages beginning with the base which appear to be in progress in September 1866. That is not to say that the people of Putnam County put commemoration of the fallen soldier's graves on hold until the monument reached completion. Each year, on what became Decoration Day in May (later Memorial Day), the

[16] John D. Forbes, *Victorian Architect*, pages 37-39 and 96.
[17] "Soldiers' Monuments," *Putnam Republican Banner*, 11 May 1865, page 3.
[18] *Biographical & Historical Record of Putnam County, Indiana* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1887), page 293; "Attention Committee," *Putnam Republican Banner*, 1 June 1865, page 3; "Soldiers Monument," *Putnam Republican Banner*, 20 July 1865, page 3.
[19] Jesse W. Weik, *Weik's History of Putnam County, Indiana* (Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen, 1910), pages 260-263.

citizens of the community gathered to form a procession from downtown to the cemetery to decorate the graves of those veterans interred there. An example of the procession's component parts includes a band leading the march, folks carrying wreaths and flowers, chaplains, church school classes, and finally, members of the general public. The composition of the procession over time changed for many reasons but the focus of the act and the reason for its being never changed. For example, in the years immediately following the war, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a national fraternal organization of Union Civil War veterans, took the lead in the yearly observance but as the Civil War veterans dwindled in number the Veterans of Foreign Wars assumed that responsibility. While the county's Civil War veterans remained in good health, they joined in the procession; by the first decades of the twentieth century, those not able to make the distance from the start point to the cemetery rode in cars included in the parade. The final "Encampment" of the GAR occurred in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1949.[20]

It appears that some of the citizens of Putnam County began to question when this monument was going to be completed and when they could dedicate is to their fallen relatives and neighbors. A letter to the company in Cincinnati resulted in a reply that while not definitive at showed it was a "work in progress." The answer, published on 17 June 1869 in the *Greencastle Republican Banner* stated that "… but it cannot be finished by the Fourth of July." But when it is finished "it will be a first-class job." The good news came later in the letter that the middle of August seemed to be a better estimate for completion.[21]

The August arrival must have been fairly accurate because in December of 1869 the Monument Association met to make arrangements for dedicating the monument. Committees were established to handle the matters of executive oversight, of finance, and of re-interments, and of invitations. The re-interments dealt with the removal of the remains of deceased soldiers to monument square, that area around the large monument delineated by the four cannons, in the cemetery.[22]

The morning of 2 July 1870 dawned cloudy and questionable for an event the citizens of Putnam County have anticipated for nearly five years. According to newspaper accounts, however, by noon time the skies cleared and the day took on a new, celebratory aspect. After the special half-fare trains arrived by 11:00 AM, with their attending dignitaries, members of the community began to gather at Peck's Grove, between the cemetery and Bloomington Street, to consume their picnic lunches and to prepare for the solemn dedication soon to begin. Needless to say, dignitaries abounded and to name a few, they included Indiana's Governor Baker, Lew Wallace, and Rev. Dr. Thomas Bowman, president of Indiana Asbury University (De Pauw). Dignitaries feted with local officials while the location of the dedication's commencement underwent preparation. Scheduled for 1:30 PM, the event opened with a "fervent and appropriate prayer" by Dr. Bowman; orations by various notables, including Lew Wallace, followed. At this juncture in the program, the speeches concluded and a procession formed at the site of the stands in Peck's Grove. Led by brass bands from Greencastle and Indianapolis, celebrants moved to the location of the veiled statue. Surrounding and at the edge of a platform at the site were tattered

[20] "Decoration of Soldiers Graves," *Greencastle Republican Banner*, 3 June 1868, page 3.
[21] "The Soldiers' Monument," *Greencastle Republican Banner*, 17 June 1869, page 2.
[22] John J. Baughman, *Our Past, Their Present: Historical Essays on Putnam County, Indiana* (Putnam County: Putnam County Museum, 2008), pages 332 and 333; "Soldiers' Monument Meeting," *Greencastle Republican Banner*, 9 December 1869, page 3.

flags of eight regiments that fought in the war. After the unveiling of the Soldiers' Monument, Gov. Baker made a few remarks. The program ended with a benedictory by Reverend Fisk. [23]

Over time, the public's attention to Memorial Day and its meaning waned as day to day living concerns during the Depression and World War II consumed the nation's energy. Since the 1950s interest in this traditional commemoration of the country's fallen has been at persistent ebb. However, Putnam County and Greencastle have persevered and continued to acknowledge veteran sacrifice although on a smaller scale. As late as May of 2012, veterans groups and others gathered near the Soldiers' Monument, guest speakers noted the history and importance of the day, a rifle salute fired, and a bugler played taps to accentuate the formality of the occasion.

For example, not far from the obelisk marker for Colonel John R. Mahan, the president of the Soldiers' Monument Association (photograph 29), and within sight, but at a distance, to the northeast, is the grave marker of a still-born child (photograph 30). The same community awareness of its history that motivates attendees at the annual Memorial Day service brings citizens to the cemetery throughout the year to view these physical reminders of everyone – veterans, relatives, friends, or anonymous – that create the fabric of the story.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Falk, Peter Hastings, ed. *Who Was Who in American Art*. Madison, Connecticut: Sound View Press, 1999.

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[23] "A Great Day for Putnam County," *Greencastle Republican Banner*, 7 July 1870, page 3.

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Weik, Jesse W. *Weik's History of Putnam County, Indiana*. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen, 1910.

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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _Approximately 27 acres

Use the UTM system

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map): USGS Greencastle Quadrangle 1:24,000

[ ] NAD 1927 or [X] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16	Easting: 512031	Northing: 4386544
2. Zone: 16	Easting: 512428	Northing: 4386541
3. Zone: 16	Easting: 512429	Northing: 4386297
4. Zone: 16	Easting : 512051	Northing: 4386284

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Beginning at the intersection of the north edge of the cemetery entrance road and the ditch east of Cemetery Road, proceed north along the east side of the ditch for approximately 150 yards to the intersection of the ditch with a point directly west of the north edge of the interior pathway running east - west along the north edge of Sections 1, 8, 12, and 11. Turn east and proceed along the north side of Section 1, 8, 12, and 11 for approximately 383 yards to the intersection of the east-west pathway and the north-south pathway east of Sections 11, 18, 17, and 16. Turn south and proceed along the east edge of the pathway east of Sections 11, 18, 17, and 16 for approximately 366 yards to the intersection of the same pathway and the property's south boundary. Turn west and proceed along the south legal limit of the cemetery for approximately 383yards to the intersection of the south legal limit and the ditch east of Cemetery Road. Turn north and proceed along the east edge of the ditch for approximately 185 yards, cross the entrance road, and close on the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary chosen incorporates the eligible and oldest sections of the cemetery but not the entire acreage of the cemetery currently in use. It does not include the areas, platted and placed in use after 1939, that do not reflect the historic trends found in the older sections of the cemetery.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: ____John Warner__
organization: _____
street & number: _5018 Broadway Street
city or town: Indianapolis _ state: __IN__ zip code:__46205_____
e-mail__jp_warner@sbcglobal.net
telephone:_3172835450_
date:_____

Additional Documentation

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.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 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: Forest Hill Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Greencastle

County: Putnam State: Indiana

Photographer: John Warner

Dates Photographed: 11 July, 23 September, 8 November, and 19 November 2013.

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

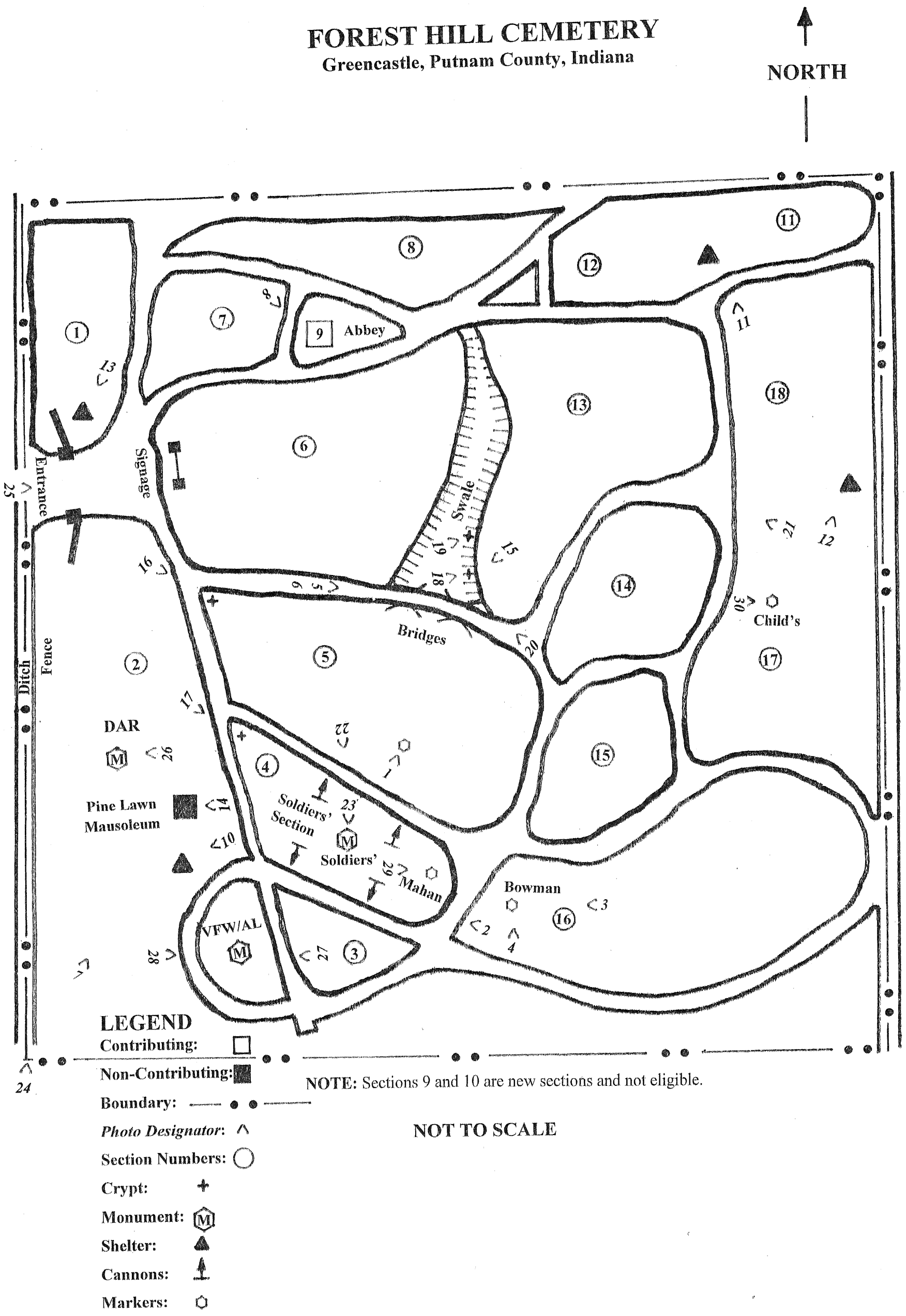
1 of 30. Looking north at an obelisk of the Foster family. The urn and shroud at the top are symbols of death as the return of the body to ashes and the shroud represents the final partition between the living world and the dead.
2. Looking west at an area of the older section as an example of the common use of obelisks as markers in the Victorian cemetery.
3. Again looking west at the very large obelisk marker for the Bowman family, one of the most prominent in the site.
4. Looking north at the markers for the Bowman family members clustered around the large obelisk. This configuration of family markers around a single large marker is quite common in this older south half.
5. Looking east-southeast from the two stone bridges at the head of the swale demonstrating the park-like visual image in the summer time.
6. The same view as photograph 5 except in the winter. The viewscape, even minus foliage, is still park-like in its lack of formality in the distribution of the stones, the meandering nature of the pathway, and the rolling terrain.
7. Looking northeast at the markers in the veterans section (2) placed in a flat area common to memorial parks beginning in the early decades of the twentieth century.
8. Looking southeast at the façade of the Forest Hill Abbey (Abbey).
9. Looking south at the interior of the Abbey showing the placement of crypts in the south wing.
10. Looking southwest at the most formal shelter provided for visitors to the cemetery. Built in 1986, this shelter is positioned south of the Pine Lawn Mausoleum.
11. Looking north at a shelter in Section 12 built by the cemetery's maintenance section in the last 10 years.
12. Looking northeast at another recently constructed shelter in Section 18.
13. Looking southwest at the oldest of the four shelters built, circa 1993, by the maintenance section sited near the main entrance to the cemetery.
14. Looking west at Pine Lawn Mausoleum that was built in 1985 in Section 2.
15. Looking southwest at the two stone bridges at the head of the swale that carry the pathway between Sections 5 and 6.
16. Looking southeast at the Forest Hill Cemetery crypt located in Section 5. Used in earlier days as a holding facility for remains it is now used to store equipment.
17. Looking southeast at the Renick family crypt constructed in a simpler design than the FHC example. This is located in the northwest corner of Section 4.
18. Looking northeast at the Goulding family crypt built into the east side of the swale, separating Sections 6 and 13 near the stone bridges.
19. Looking northeast at the Overstreet family crypt also built into the east side of the swale. \
20. Looking west-northwest at the head of the swale from the intersection near Sections 14 and 15. This view demonstrates the transitional change from obelisk markers to less obtrusive markers (lower profile) as the cemetery expanded to the north (newer sections) over time. The building in the right rear is the Abbey.

21. Looking northwest from a midpoint between Sections 17 and 18. The markers in the foreground are some of the stones in the public ground. This viewscape demonstrates the natural slope of the site from the higher portion to the south and the gradual flattening of the ground to the north.
22. Looking southeast into the Soldiers' Section. The cannons in the view mark the southeast and southwest corners of this smaller site within a larger context. The double rows of markers define the east and west limits of the section. Note the presence of the oldest headstone for the Revolutionary War veteran (the nearest of the two markers west of the base of the monument) and the World War II- era flat bronze markers.
23. Looking south at the front of the Thomas Dow Jones-designed Soldiers' Monument. The figure's head is facing west. The left arm is bent across the body and the hand, at one time, grasped a wooden rifle; the rifle was destroyed in a fire at the cemetery's administrative building in 1979. The bronze plaques on the base of the monument carry the names of Putnam County Civil War veterans killed in the war but not identified until later research discovered the omissions.
24. Looking north along the cast iron fence that borders the west edge of the site along Cemetery Road. The ditch to the west of the fence is the location of the official boundary shown on the site map.
25. Looking east at the entrance to the cemetery and the signage in the background.
26. Looking west at the Daughters of the American Revolution monument.
27. Looking west at the Veterans of Foreign Wars face of the combined monument.
28. Looking east at the American Legion face of the combined monument.
29. Looking east at the obelisk for Colonel John R. Mahan and his wife. Mahan was the president of the Soldiers' Monument Association that supervised the process of raising the money, contracting for the construction, and final placement of the Soldiers' Monument.
30. Looking down and east at the tiny marker for the still-born child buried in the public grounds.

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 100 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.

FOREST HILL CEMETERY

Greencastle, Putnam County, Indiana



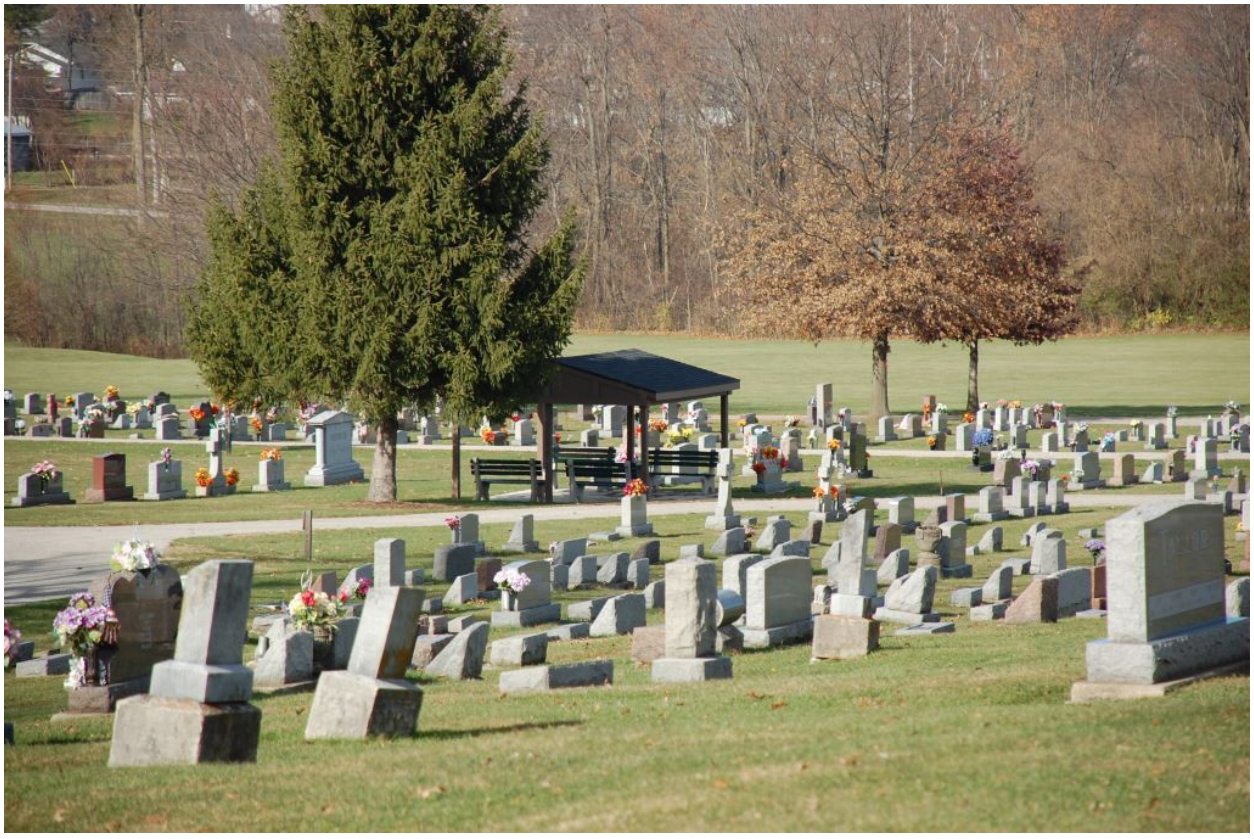
NOTE: Sections 9 and 10 are new sections and not eligible.

NOT TO SCALE

Forest Hill Cemetery, Putnam Co., IN #0002

Forest Hill Cemetery, Putnam Co., IN #0008

Forest Hill Cemetery, Putnam Co., IN #0010



Forest Hill Cemetery, Putnam Co., IN #0011

Forest Hill Cemetery, Putnam Co., IN #0014

Forest Hill Cemetery, Putnam Co., IN #0015

Forest Hill Cemetery, Putnam Co., IN #0016

Forest Hill Cemetery, Putnam Co., IN #0019

Forest Hill Cemetery, Putnam Co., IN #0022

Forest Hill Cemetery, Putnam Co., IN #0023

Forest Hill Cemetery, Putnam Co., IN #0029