B-5110

New Cathedral Cemetery

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 08-09-2011

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___ no ___

roperty Name: New Cathedral Cemetery Inventory Number: B-5110

Address: 4300 Old Frederick Road Historic district: ___ yes X no

City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21229 County: Baltimore City

USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West

Property Owner: The New Cathedral Cemetery Co. c/o Richard Berndt Tax Account ID Number: 20182550002

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): ___ Tax Map Number: 20

Project: Red Line Corridor Transit Study Agency: Mass Transit Administration

Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.

Preparer's Name: Katherine Larson Farnham Date Prepared: 8/25/2005

Documentation is presented in: J. Thomas Scharf: History of Baltimore City and County, 1880; http://www.stmarys.edu/archives/closed_cemeteries.pdf; findagrave.com; other internet records

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended ___ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C X D ___E ___F ___G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: ___

Inventory Number: ___ Eligible: ___ yes Listed: ___ yes

Site visit by MHT Staff ___ yes X no Name: ___ Date: ___

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

New Cathedral Cemetery is a large Catholic cemetery on a rolling 122-acre parcel in west Baltimore. It is located between the Irvington neighborhood along Old Frederick Rd. and the Allendale and Edmondson neighborhoods along Edmondson Ave. The sprawling cemetery contains a number of intersecting curvilinear paved roads, and its hilly topography and high elevation allow stunning vistas of both the cemetery and distant city landmarks. A small lake is located near the center. The property is surrounded by a tall iron fence, and the primary entrance is through an ornate gateway on the north side of Old Frederick Rd. Additional entranceways on Old Frederick Rd. and Edmondson Ave. have been closed to vehicles. The gateway has tall gateposts of rusticated stone, and the gates are double-leaf wrought-iron portals with scrollwork along the top and a cross finial at the center.

Graves throughout the cemetery have a variety of stone markers, many of which are elaborate monuments with carved statues, columns, crosses, obelisks, and other details. Simpler slabs exist as well. Two areas of the cemetery have hillside family crypts arranged in a long row, some of which resemble Roman temples or Egyptian tombs. There is one brick Gothic above-ground crypt resembling a small chapel. In some areas, family plots or other divisions have been made with oblong slabs of stone laid on the ground. These lines have carved vertical stone bollards at intervals along the divisions, and adjacent lines are laid to create

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X **Eligibility not recommended** ___

Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D **Considerations:** ___A ___B ___C X D ___E ___F ___G

MHT Comments:

[signature] 7/26/06
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

[signature] 8/7/06
Reviewer, National Register Program **Date**

200601766

walkways among the plots. The walkways sometimes have steps. Family names are sometimes carved in a flat step at the entrance to the plot. There are also fieldstone, granite slab, and concrete retaining walls at steeper areas within the cemetery. Burial markers date from the 1870s into modern times. Newer sections of the cemetery have streamlined modern stones that are not as elaborate as those found in older sections.

Among burials in the cemetery are a number of notable Baltimore citizens, including politicians, governors, mayors, religious leaders, veterans, professional athletes, and prominent businesspeople. Political figures include John Lee Carroll, state senator and later Maryland governor (1876-1880); Charles P. Coady, Maryland representative and later senator (1908-1921); Thomas L. D'Alesandro Jr., Maryland delegate (1927-1933), U.S. Congressman (1939-1947), and Mayor of Baltimore (1947-1959); Clarence "Du" Burns, first African-American Mayor of Baltimore (1987); Vincent Luke Palmisano, a lawyer and U.S. Congressman (1927-1939); Herbert Romulus O'Conor, who served as Maryland Attorney General (1935-1939), Governor of Maryland (1939-1947), and U.S. Senator (1947-1953); and U.S. Congressmen William H. Cole, Ambrose Jerome Kennedy, John Lee, Henry May, Hugh Allen Meade, and William James O'Brien. Religious leaders include Sister Mary Antonio, founder of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first black Roman Catholic religious order in the U.S., and Rev. Lawrence Sheehan, archbishop of Baltimore (1961-1974). Civil War officers and honored veterans include Union Lt. George W. Hazzard; Patrick Mullen (double recipient of Congressional Medal of Honor; Confederate Brig. Gen. Lucius B. Northrop; and Union Gen. Henry Lee Scott. A number of baseball Hall of Famers lie in the cemetery, including Edward Hugh "Ned" Hanlon, Joseph James "Joe" Kelly, Walker Irvin "Peck" Lerian, John Joseph McGraw, and Wilbert Robinson. Actors Miriam Cooper and Paul Swift, Lincoln assassination co-conspirator John Harrison Surratt, and James Keelty, a prominent developer who built thousands of Baltimore row houses, are also buried here.

Two old frame buildings stand in the cemetery. A short distance north of the main gate is a cross-gabled, two-story frame residence constructed ca. 1871 as the caretaker's home, and now used as cemetery offices. This home has a slate roof and a cross-shaped floorplan. It appears from its plan and massing to have been constructed in Gothic Revival style, though most detailing has been lost. A one-story hip-roofed porch runs along the south façade, facing Old Frederick Rd., and has simple round early-twentieth-century wooden columns without railings. The house is sided with vinyl German siding and has replacement six-over-six vinyl windows flanked by narrow shutters. At the rear, a modern one-story L-shaped addition appears to house a gathering space. A small parking area is located between the house and the main driveway.

Near the east corner of the cemetery is another frame building, probably constructed as a small chapel early in the cemetery's history. This building is a simple, small, front-gabled Gothic Revival structure with a slate roof. It is set on a teardrop-shaped rise where three roads intersect, and its basement level is exposed on the northeast side while its main level is at ground level on the upper end. The building is one bay wide on each side. Unfortunately, it has been drastically altered and enclosed due to deterioration or vandalism, and is now sided with white vinyl German siding. Its front doors are double-leaf solid modern doors, and large Gothic depressed-arch windows on each side have been boarded over with painted plywood. Its original roof overhangs appear to have been cut down to be flush with the walls. On the basement level is a small access door.

New Cathedral Cemetery was begun in 1869, when the Baltimore Cathedral trustees purchased an estate in what was then rural Baltimore County to establish a new Catholic cemetery. Old Cathedral Cemetery, established in 1816, was running out of room, and plans were made to transfer its burials to the new cemetery, then sell the old cemetery. The new cemetery site, an estate known as Bonnie Brae, was purchased from Captain Charles McBlair. For years after New Cathedral Cemetery was consecrated in July 1870, it was called Bonnie Brae Cemetery. Its winding drives and hillside vistas made it a pleasant place for carriage driving. Original buildings were probably constructed at the time the cemetery opened for use, ca. 1871, although it is possible that the caretaker's house predates the cemetery. Beginning in 1877, old burials from Old Cathedral Cemetery were gradually transferred

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ **Eligibility not recommended** _____

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D **Considerations:** ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

MHT Comments:

_____ _____

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

_____ _____

Reviewer, National Register Program **Date**

o New Cathedral Cemetery, meaning that some burials and markers predate the founding of New Cathedral Cemetery. This transfer process was concluded in 1890. It appears that New Cathedral Cemetery was later expanded from its original 40 or 50 acres to the present 122, with some newer areas located on the northwestern side beyond the lake. On the west side of the cemetery, near Edmondson-Westside High School, are some twentieth-century maintenance buildings. It is not known when the name Bonnie Brae was discontinued, but the name New Cathedral was in common use by the 1940s.

The cemetery grounds are well-maintained and preserved, exhibiting picturesque characteristics common to nineteenth-century "garden" cemetery landscape design, inspired by the example of Mount Auburn Cemetery in Massachusetts (1831). Original retaining walls, fencing, roadways, and other features remain intact. Additionally, there are a multitude of high-quality sculptural markers and family tombs. Although the city has grown up around the cemetery walls since its founding, within the cemetery, the historic setting remains intact. If anything, growth of the surrounding neighborhoods has only enhanced the skyline vistas. Finally, there are a number of significant persons buried in the cemetery. The only loss of integrity to the resource as a whole has been the modernization of the original frame cemetery buildings. Overall, New Cathedral Cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D, as it contains persons of local importance and has distinctive design features. New Cathedral Cemetery is recommended eligible for the NRHP.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

_____ _____

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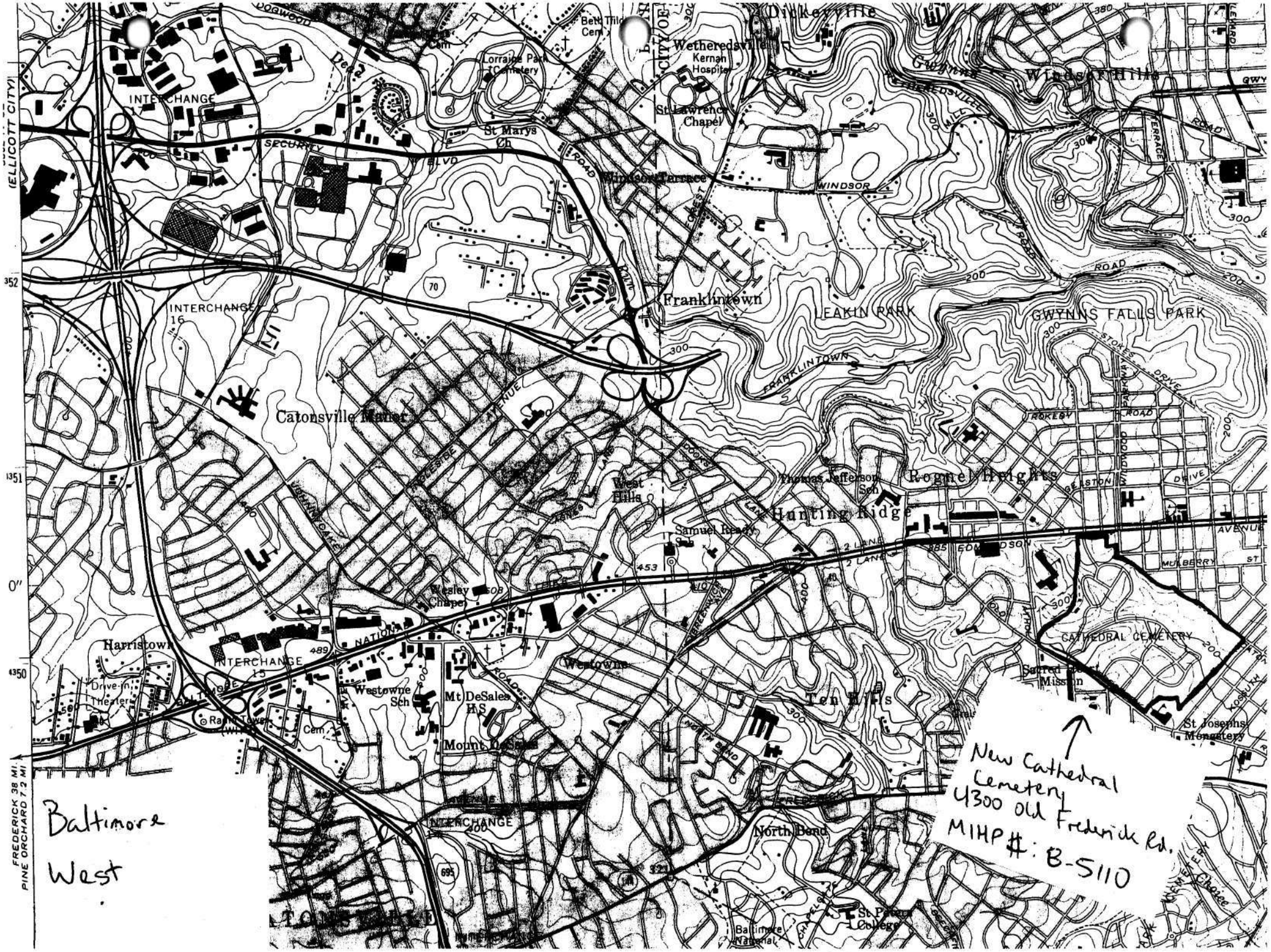
Dickeyville
Wetheredsville
Kernan Hospital
Gwynns
Windsor Hills
Lorraine Park Cemetery
St Lawrence Chapel
St Marys Ch
INTERCHANGE
SECURITY BLVD
Windsor Terrace
WINDSOR
Franklintown
LEAKIN PARK
GWYNNS FALLS PARK
FRANKLINTOWN
INTERCHANGE 16
Catonsville Manor
West Hills
Thomas Jefferson Sch
Rognel Heights
Hunting Ridge
Samuel Ready Sch
EDMONDSON
Wesley Chapel
Harristown
INTERCHANGE 15
Drive-in Theater
Radio Tower
Westowne
Westowne Sch
Mt DeSales HS
Mount DeSales
Ten Mills
CATHEDRAL CEMETERY
Sacred Mission
St Josephs Monastery
INTERCHANGE
North Bend
St Paul's College
Baltimore National
(ELLICOTT CITY)
FREDERICK 38 MI
PINE ORCHARD 7.2 MI
New Cathedral Cemetery
4300 Old Frederick Rd.
MIHP #: B-5110
Baltimore West

B-5110
New Cathedral Cemetery
Baltimore City, MD
Kate Farnham
6/14/2005
MD SHPO
Entrance on Old Frederick Rd, to NE
#1 of 11

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New Cathedral Cemetery
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MD SHPO
Caretaker's house, to N
#2 of 11

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New Cathedral Cemetery
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MD SHPO
View of tombs, looking SW
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New Cathedral Cemetery
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MD SHPO
General view to N
#4 of 11

EBERLING

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New Cathedral Cemetery
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MD SHPO
General view to SW from hill; St. Joseph's Monastery at rear
#5 of 11

LOWIE

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New Cathedral Cemetery
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MD SHPO
View of bride tomb, to E
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B-5110
New Cathedral Cemetery
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MD SHPO
Plot divisions, view to N
#1 of 11

WALISH

B-5110
New Cathedral Cemetery
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6/14/2005
MD SHPO
Typical monuments, to NE
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TURNER

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New Cathedral Cemetery
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MD SHPO
Crypts, looking SE
#9 of 11

VALLENDAUGH

B-5110

New Cathedral Cemetery

Baltimore City, MD

Kate Farnham

6/14/2005

MD SHPO

View of hill + retaining wall, to E

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B-5110
New Cathedral Cemetery
Baltimore City, MD
Kate Farnham
6/14/2005
MD SHPO
Chapel, view to N
#11 of 11