

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

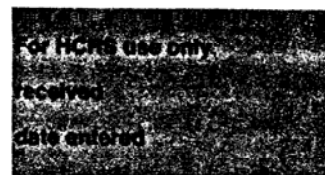
FHR-8-300 (11-78)

FILE COPY
FILE COPY

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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



1. Name

historic New York Marble Cemetery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Between East 2nd and 3rd Streets, Second Avenue and Bowery not for publication

city, town New York vicinity of congressional district 18

state New York code 036 county New York code 061

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>cemetery</u>

4. Owner of Property

name Thomas T. Frazer c/o Marble Cemetery

street & number 19 Rector Street

city, town New York vicinity of state New York 10006

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. New York County Register's Office

street & number 31 Chambers Street

city, town New York state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY LP-0466
 title LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date MARCH 4, 1969 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records 305 BROADWAY

city, town NEW YORK state NEW YORK

7. Description**7. Description****Condition**

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The New York Marble Cemetery is situated in the interior of the block bound by East 2nd and 3rd Streets, Second Avenue and the Bowery, and cannot be seen from the streets or avenues. This non-sectarian cemetery, once in the heart of the most fashionable section of New York, is now completely surrounded by the crowded tenements and storefronts that typify Manhattan's Lower East Side.

Barely more than one-half acre in extent, the New York Marble Cemetery is characterized by "smooth swards, some ancient lilac bushes, languishing trees"¹ but no monuments or tombstones since all of the 156 burial vaults are underground. The entrance is through an alley squeezed between Nos. 41 and 43 Second Avenue and is protected at both ends by iron gates. The double-door iron gate at the Second Avenue end of the alley is twelve feet high, framed by decorative Greek Revival style newel posts, and terminates in a broad arch. Framing the small green lawn is a high stone wall. On the east portion of the wall there is an inscription, almost indecipherable today, testifying that it was a "place of interment for gentlemen." Marble tablets of uniform size are set in the north and south walls in tiers of three. Inscribed on the tablets are vault numbers and the names of the 156 original vault owners. The vaults themselves were constructed of Tuckahoe marble from which the cemetery gets its name. At the southwest corner of the cemetery, the old "dead-house" once stood, a primitive rough-hewn structure of stone.

In the early part of the 1900's the cemetery was very run down and interments had virtually ceased. In 1915 an endowment fund was started to preserve the Marble Cemetery from deterioration and by 1934 the burial grounds had regained dignity. Today, the New York Marble Cemetery's grounds and plantings have been kept up fairly well, but the surrounding wall has deteriorated. The western portion of the north wall, for instance, is crumbling. The tombs, however, have remained undisturbed.

¹Alvin F. Harlow, Old Bowery Days (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1931), p. 318.

8. Significance**8. Significance**

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				design

Specific dates 1830-1832

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The New York Marble Cemetery was Manhattan's first non-sectarian burial ground open to the public. Established in 1832, it is located in what was the most fashionable residential section of New York City and was used as a place of interment by some of New York's oldest families. The New York Marble Cemetery is also notable because it retains its original and unusual design.

In 1830 a city ordinance was passed prohibiting interments within the city limits below Canal Street, under the penalty of a fine of \$250. At that time, Second Avenue was a fashionable section and three business men, Perkins Nichols, Anthony Dey and George W. Strong, surmised that a burial ground laid out near this neighborhood would prove to be very profitable. The cemetery would be private and was not connected to any church. On July 30, 1830, Dey and Strong purchased half an acre of land from shipwright Henry Eckford and his wife, and Nichols then had 156 vaults constructed of Tuckahoe marble. When completed, the vaults were sold to the city's leading families who were determined to be buried not only in Manhattan but in the most exclusive area. The promoters had cleverly located their cemetery in the center of a block, slightly south-east of Astor Place, leaving room for fine houses on the street fronts. Some months later, Nichols, Dey and Strong, together with the vault owners, applied to the State Legislature for a special act of incorporation as the New York Marble Cemetery. This was granted on February 4, 1831, and on May 1, 1832, Dey and Strong conveyed title to the land to the new corporation.

Dr. Valentine Mott, a prominent surgeon, Dr. Gardiner Spring, pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church, publisher Uriah Scribner and his son Charles, and Peter Lorillard II, who established the landmark Lorillard Snuff Mill in the Bronx and later founded a thriving tobacco empire, were among those who, looking forward to the future, bought the original vaults. Of this original group, however, only the Scribners were ever buried there. Subsequent interments included Aaron Clark, Whig Mayor of the City from 1837 to 1839; David Olyphant, a wealthy China trade merchant known for his refusal to deal in opium and for his support of the Protestant missions; and James Talmadge, member of Congress, 1817-1819, one of the founders and first presidents of New York University. In addition, branches of several well-known New York families such as the Varicks, Beekmans, Hones, Van Zandts, Hoyts, and Quackenbushes have vaults there.

The history of New York City is a constant record of pushing the dead out of place by the living. As the city grew, burying grounds were continually being moved northward, many being obliterated. Once there were 40 extensive cemeteries south of Fourteenth Street. In 1934 there were only nine left in all of Manhattan. Today there are even fewer and all except two of these are but parts of what they were originally. The New York Marble Cemetery is one of two cemeteries still in existence, unchanged in size and shape, within Manhattan's boundaries.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data See Attached Site Map

Acreage of nominated property less than one acreQuadrangle name BrooklynQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8
---	---

5	8	5	1	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	0	9	5	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone

Easting

Northing

B

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone

Easting

Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 458, Lot 30 and is roughly 83' x 275' in size.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By Holly Huckins, Research Consultant for

Contact: Elizabeth Spencer-Ralph, 518-474-0479

name/title Joan Olshansky, National Register Coordinator

organization Landmarks Preservation Commission

date January, 1980

street & number 305 Broadway

telephone 566-7577

city or town New York

state New York

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau

date 2/27/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

New York Marble Cemetery

New York County, N.Y.

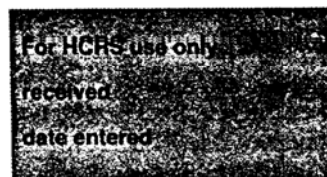
Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

1



Goldstone, Harmon H. and Martha Dalymple. History Preserved: New York City
Landmarks and Historic Districts. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1974.

Harlow, Alvin F. Old Bowery Days. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1931.

King, Moses. King's Handbook of New York City. Boston: Moses King, 1892.

Landmarks Preservation Commission. New York Marble Cemetery Designation Report
(LP-0466). New York: City of New York, 1969.

McKelway, St. Clair. "The Marble Cemeteries," The New Yorker Magazine.
(August 4, 1934), pp. 36, 38-39.



NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY
 Interior of the block between East
 2nd and 3rd Streets, Second Avenue
 and the Bowery
 New York County, New York
 Manhattan Land Book, Plate 23
 New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1977.

RIGHT
 SANBORN MAP COMPANY, INC.

Pierre Van Cortlandt Lib 160 P 285



ART OF
 TION 2

whole or in part forbidden.
 rights reserved.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY
New York, New York County
UTM Reference:
18/ 585160/ 4509570

Brooklyn Queens