



HISTORIC PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

Bloomington Cemetery

Prepared by the Planning Division

Address: 10340 Lyndale Avenue South (PIN 21-027-24-14-0001)

Year Built: Established in 1856

Lot Size: Approximately 8.6 acres

Zoning: R-1 Single Family Residential

Guide Plan: Public

Historic Designation: National Historic Register

HISTORY

10340 Lyndale Cemetery established in 1856 whose pioneer, Dakota burials and 1890 soldiers' monument reflect Bloomington's transition from frontier settlement to participant in state affairs like military service.

The First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove Cemetery (hereinafter referred to as the Oak Grove Cemetery) (alternate current name: Bloomington Cemetery), located at 10340 Lyndale Avenue is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, with the Area of Significance being Social History. Its level of significance is local to Bloomington.

Related state contexts include "Indian Communities and Reservations: 1837-1934" and "Early Agriculture and River Settlement: 1840-1870." The land represented in this period is the original approximately 2.75 acres within the Bloomington Cemetery, which includes 240 burial blocks. The period of significance is from 1856 - when the land was first utilized by Gideon Pond's First Presbyterian Church of Oak Grove (hereinafter referred to as the Oak Grove Church) building and cemetery-to 1890 when the Soldiers' Monument was erected in the cemetery.

Although generally cemeteries are not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the Oak Grove Cemetery is an exception in that under Criteria Consideration D the cemetery is of significant age and consists of the graves of many persons of transcendent importance to the mid-19th century settlement and founding of Bloomington. It appears to be the oldest known pioneer cemetery in the western metropolitan area; however, within the greater metropolitan area only Oakland Cemetery in Saint Paul pre-dates it. The Oak Grove Cemetery is thus significant as a pioneer cemetery in that the original burial plots represent early territorial settlers including McLeod, Pond, several other Pond family missionaries, other early pioneers, Dakota Indians, village founders, soldiers from every major conflict, farmers, merchants, and businessmen. The cemetery is also significant for the distinctive Soldiers' Monument, a memorial that represents the evolution of Bloomington from an individualistic, pioneer settlement to a municipality which identified wholly as a part of the State of Minnesota, and which accordingly sent soldiers to fight in Minnesota regiments of the Union troops.

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Snapshot from City of Bloomington GIS

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