

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Auburn Cemetery

other name/site number B-5060

2. Location

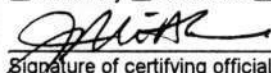
street & town 2614 Annapolis Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Baltimore ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Baltimore City code 510 zip code 21230

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official/Title

3-22-01

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Mount Auburn Cemetery
Name of Property

Baltimore, MD
County and State

B-5060

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ public-local
☒ private
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(check only one box)

- ☒ district
☐ building(s)
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
1		sites
		structures
1		objects
4	0	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: cemetery

Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK; STUCCO
roof ASPHALT
Other STONE; METAL; WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Mount Auburn Cemetery
Name of Property

Baltimore, MD
County and State

B-5060

8. Description

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Period of Significance

1872-1950

Significant Dates

1872

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Roland Pinkney, Sr. (builder of office building)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church Archives

B-5060

Mount Auburn Cemetery

Name of Property

Baltimore, MD

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 33.917 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 -
Zone Easting Northing2
Zone Easting Northing3
Zone Easting Northing4
Zone Easting Northing☒ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Dorothy M. Dougherty, Church Historianorganization Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Churchdate March 2001street & number 1206 Etting Streettelephone 410-523-7200city or town Baltimorestate MD zip code 21217**Additional Documentation**

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**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.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name/title Board of Trustees, Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Churchstreet & number 1206 Etting St. (church office)telephone 410-523-7200city or town Baltimorestate MD zip code 21217

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

*Mount Auburn Cemetery
Baltimore, MD*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Mount Auburn Cemetery is located in the Westport / Mount Winans community of southwest Baltimore, Maryland. The main entrance to Mount Auburn Cemetery is from Waterview Avenue, which runs along the north boundary. Bounded on the east by Annapolis Road and on the west by Hollins Ferry Road, the cemetery of 33.917 acres overlooks the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. Asphalt roadways organize the cemetery into a loose rectangular grid containing family-owned lots with monuments of various ages, materials and styles. A receiving vault dates from the earliest period of the cemetery; an office built at a later date exhibits alterations in siding and fenestration. Despite evidence of deterioration, the cemetery still conveys its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The entrance gate on Waterview Avenue is flanked by concrete walls; the wall on the left contains the name "MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY" painted black on white on a plywood rectangle bordered with inlaid mosaic sandstone shards. The wall on the right carries the painted information, "FOUNDED 1872 BY REV. JAMES PECK / PASTOR 1970 REV. RICHARD L. CLIFFORD," also bordered with mosaic shards. The rest of the perimeter is fenced with chainlink.

The drive from the gate intersects with the main east-west axis, which runs the length of the cemetery from Hollins Ferry Road to Annapolis Road. The cemetery office is at this central intersection. Most of the roads are named and marked with signs. A receiving vault is located at the end of the axis toward Hollins Ferry Road. The main view corridor follows the longitudinal roadway axis and affords a broad vista to the harbor. The cemetery's location on an elevated viewsite at the city outskirts is a characteristic held over from the "rural" cemetery tradition. The variety and individuality of monuments also reflect the "rural" tradition.

The early monuments are of marble and the later are mostly of granite. Types of monuments include markers, vertical and horizontal tablets, crosses, pedestals, obelisks, shafts, cross gables, ledgers and boundary markers. Two marble sculptures are found: a life sized angel (c. 1911) and a child (1934). Three bronze portrait medallions were used in two of the family lots owned by funeral directors; only one medallion remains. Later use of bronze is found in flush markers, most dating to the 1970s. Curbing and a stoop with the family name are found at the lot of one of the funeral directors, and in a prominent lot across from the office. A few other lots carry complete curbing. There are cast concrete stones and crosses. Recent monuments are more modest in scale and ornamentation; changes in demographics are reflected in the grave marking traditions. There are home made memorials of wooden crosses, gravel, cast and impressed concrete, painted concrete and one early marble shaft monument garbed in fabric, topped with a head wrap and embellished with oranges and artificial flowers; bottles of water hang from a shrub within the lot.

A number of stones are tilted, fallen, broken and scarred. Some boundary markers are dislocated and most iron pipe railings are missing. Sections of curbing exist at some of the outlying lots. The landscape is rolling and open, with some remnants of original plantings: yuccas and roses, cedars and other evergreens, and a few deciduous trees. Most of the groundcover is grass, with some vinca. In some areas the landscape has grown to meadow. Shallow burials have left depressions in the soil. There have been recent efforts to fill the depressions.

The receiving vault is a one room, gable-roofed brick building, rectangular in plan with a door at the west gable end. The exterior is parged and whitewashed. The roof has asbestos shingles. The iron door hangs on strap hinges within a substantial granite frame above a granite threshold. There is a box lock on the inside of the door. Remnants and ghosting indicate the center of the door was embellished with a diamond shape framed with half round molding. The top of the door retains its flat molding.

The cemetery office is a hip roofed structure, rectangular in plan. Vinyl siding covers a mix of materials, including cinderblock, with evidence of numerous alterations. The ridge of the tarred roof is aligned on a north-south axis. The principal façade on the east elevation contains a central door flanked by another door to the south and a window to the north. On the north elevation, two windows flank a filled-in doorway. The west elevation has two windows flanking a block chimney stack. The south elevation has one window. Church oral history attributes construction of the office to Roland Pinkney, Sr.

*Mount Auburn Cemetery
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance:

Mount Auburn Cemetery is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, for its association with African American social history in Baltimore. Dedicated in 1872 and originally known as "The City of the Dead for Colored People," Mount Auburn Cemetery was one of the first and is the only remaining cemetery owned and operated by African Americans in Baltimore and it uniquely represents the values and burial traditions of the community from the late nineteenth century to the present. As a cemetery, it meets Criteria Consideration D through derivation of primary significance from its historic association with the African American community and the Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church. The congregation is one of the oldest in the city and was highly influential in organizing and providing services for the community, in the freedom movement during the Civil War, and through participation in the civil rights movement in the twentieth century. The Baltimore chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People conducted meetings, rallies and fundraisers at Sharp Street Church.

Historical Background:

The Sharp Street Church dates from 1787 as a separate African American Methodist congregation. Free Blacks built the first Sharp Street Church in 1802 on Sharp Street in south Baltimore. It was a central meeting place for secret orders and for planning and organizing the community. The church established a day school, later to become the first Colored public school in Baltimore, and established a school for trained leadership, the Centenary Biblical Institute, now Morgan State University. The Washington Conference of Black Ministers was organized at the church in 1864. To further serve the community, the church purchased a home for the elderly in 1870. In 1898 the church moved to its current location on Etting Street, a granite Gothic Revival building by architect Alphonsus H. Bieler, listed on the National Register.

Mount Auburn Cemetery was founded in 1872 by Rev. James Peck, pastor, and the trustees of the Sharp Street Methodist Episcopal Church to continue the tradition of the church members to provide a final resting place in Baltimore where African Americans could be buried in dignity. The church had owned another cemetery dating to 1810, 2 ¼ acres on Belair Road purchased from Francis Hollingsworth. When the road was widened in 1886, graves were moved to nearby Laurel Hill Cemetery, another early African American cemetery, now gone.

In 1871 the Sharp Street Church purchased land from the Glen Estate in the Westport community of Mount Winans for \$2,400. The cemetery was dedicated by Rev. Peck in 1872 and named the "City of the Dead for Colored People." The name was changed to Mount Auburn Cemetery in 1894.

Around the time of the creation of the cemetery, members of the Sharp Street Church had begun to settle in the Westport community. On March 10, 1886, the Maryland General Assembly gave sanction to the trustees of the Sharp Street Church to use a parcel of land within the cemetery to build a chapel to serve the community. Called the Sharp Street Mission, it stands at the corner of Hollins Ferry and Waterview roads. The deed to the chapel was transferred to Mount Winans United Methodist Church in 1986.

Mount Auburn Cemetery has served the African American community of Baltimore since its dedication. Sharp Street Church clergy, at least one bishop of the United Methodist Church, the founder of the *Baltimore Afro-American* newspaper John Henry Murphy, the president of the Baltimore branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson, the first African American lightweight boxing champion Joseph Gans, the first female African American mortician in Baltimore, the first female African American doctor in Baltimore, business owners, professionals, former slaves and thousands of Black families rest at Mount Auburn. The cemetery is listed as a Baltimore City Landmark.

The period of significance for Mount Auburn is 1872-1950, since no specific date can define the end of the historic period and the cemetery continues to be used today. In the early nineteenth century Black churches provided burial grounds in Baltimore, most of

*Mount Auburn Cemetery
Baltimore, MD*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

which were relocated for construction projects or disappeared. After the decline of Laurel Hill Cemetery in the 1930s (it was condemned in 1957) and until desegregation, Mount Auburn Cemetery may have been the only burial site for African Americans in Baltimore. The cemetery remained in use in the 1970s and a number of monuments of substantial scale and finish date to that time, but 1980 marked the beginning of a period of decline. The cemetery was incorporated in 1982 and leased to the Westport Cemetery Corporation until 1986. The 1990s have brought efforts to maintain the landscape and to develop a preservation plan; a new board of directors was elected in 1995. The cemetery was once one of the most profitable ventures for the church. Today, no new lots are being sold, but there are frequent new burials in the family-owned lots.

Noteworthy individuals interred at Mount Auburn Cemetery:

1. Bishop W. A. C. Hughes (1877-1940)
Served as the pastor of Sharp Street Church, 1905-1912.
2. Bishop Edgar A. Love (1891-1974)
First Black resident bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1952-1964.
3. Rev. McHenry J. Naylor (1867-1940)
Pastor 1912-1921. Spearheaded the building of the Community House in 1921.
4. Rev. Nathaniel M. Carroll (1837-1931)
Pastor 1891-1896. The N. M. Carroll United Methodist Home for the Aged adopted his name in 1928 to honor him while he was pastor of Sharp Street Church.
5. Rev. Daniel W. Hayes (1851-1940)
Pastor 1896-1899. Sharp Street Methodist Episcopal Church (1898) was built under his leadership.
6. John Henry Murphy (1840-1922)
Publisher. Founder of the "Baltimore Afro-American" newspaper, was born a slave in Baltimore, but was emancipated in 1863.
7. William Ashby Hawkins (1862-1941)
Attorney. First African American in Baltimore to run for the United States Senate.
8. Lillie Carroll Jackson (1898-1975)
Civil rights activist. Served as the first woman president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for 35 years.
9. James E. Dougherty (1858-1941)
Caterer. Owned one of the first Black-owned catering services in Baltimore City.
10. Joseph Gans (1875-1910)
Lightweight boxer. First lightweight boxing champion of the world, 1901-1910.

*Mount Auburn Cemetery
Baltimore, MD*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Archives, Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, Baltimore, MD.

Dougherty, Dorothy. "A Celebration of Excellence," October 1987.

Draper, Edgar. "Report to the Mount Auburn Cemetery Board," 1985.

Thomas, Betty. Historical Facts About Sharp Street Methodist Church, 1963.

*Mount Auburn Cemetery
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is indicated as parcel number 17, ward 25, section 5, block 7470 among the land records of the city of Baltimore comprising 33.917 acres.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property comprises the remnant of the acreage historically associated with the resource.

UTM References

Baltimore West, MD quad

- A: 18-358320-4346810
- B: 18-358820-4346720
- C: 18-358700-4346440
- D: 18-358380-4346500
- E: 18-358240-4346680



B-5060

MT. AUBURN
CEMETERY
BALTIMORE
CITY, MD

A: 18-358320
4346810

B: 18-358820
4346720

C: 18-358700
4346440

D: 18-358380
4346500

E: 18-358240
4346680

357000m E. WASHINGTON, D.C. 29 MI. GLEN BURNIE 6.2 MI. 39°15' 76°37'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
- Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt —————
- Interstate Route ◻ U. S. Route ○ State Route



BALTIMORE WEST, MD.

SW/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3915-W7637.5/7.5

1953

PHOTOREVISED 1966 AND 1974
AMS 5662 1 SW—SERIES V833



B-5060

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

3/16/99 N. KURTZ

NEGATIVE @ MD SHPO

VIEW WEST TO RECEIVING VAULT

1/10



B-5060

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

N. KURTZ

3/16/99

NEGATIVE @ MD SHPO

VIEW EAST TO PATAPSCO MIDDLE BRANCH

2/10



B-5060

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

N. KURTZ

3/16/99

NEGATIVE @ MD SHPO

VIEW WEST

3/10



B-5060

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

N. KURTZ

3/16/99

NEGATIVE @ MD SHPO

VIEW WEST W/ BRONZE PORTRAIT

4/10



B-5060

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

N. KURTZ

3/16/99

NEGATIVE @ MD SHPO

RECEIVING VAULT

5/10



B - 5060

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

N. KURTZ

3/16/99

NEGATIVE @ MD SHPO

VIEW S/W TO OFFICE

6/10



B-5060

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

N. KURTZ

3/16/99

NEGATIVE @ MD SHPO

VIEW S.E. TO OFFICE

7/10



B-5060

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

3/16/99

N. KURTZ

NEGATIVE @ MD SHPO

YOUNG MONUMENT

8/10



B-5060

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

N. KURTZ

3/16/99

NEGATIVE @ MD SHPO

VIEW WEST

9/10



B-5060

MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

3/14/99

N. KURTZ

NEGATIVE @ MDSHPD

DOOR OF RECEIVING VAULT

10/10