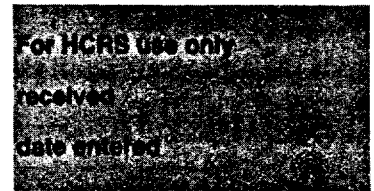


FILE COPY

**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 City Marble Cemetery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 52-74 East 2nd Street ___ not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: cemetery

4. Owner of Property

name Bernard J. Schwartz c/o 29 BAF Corp.

street & number 250 West 57th Street

city, town New York ___ vicinity of state New York

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

title New York City Marble Cemetery LP-0464
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

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 City Marble Cemetery is located on the north side of East 2nd Street between First and Second Avenues in the thickly settled tenement district of the Lower East Side. The cemetery is about half the length and half the depth of the block. Enclosing the grounds on three sides is a tall, brick wall, shutting out the surrounding alleys and tenements. On the south side, bordering the street, is the original arrow design iron fence of 1832 which is graced with a decorative Greek Revival entrance gate and corner piers.

Unlike the New York Marble Cemetery, located one block west, this cemetery can be readily seen from the street. It is laid out in a grid arrangement: four parallel gravel walks run the length of it and one crosswalk extends from the entrance gates to the back wall where the "dead-house" is located. (The dead-house, a rough-hewn stone structure, was built to store the corpses until interment.) Between the walks, narrow strips of sodded ground are marked by flat marble slabs which cover the entrances to 254 underground vaults constructed of Tuckahoe marble. In this cemetery, families were permitted to erect tombstones and monuments to indicate the locations of the vaults. Many of these monuments have classical forms -- urns, columns, and obelisks -- and most are constructed of white marble. One of the most graceful monuments is to the memory of Preserved Fish, a 19th century shipping merchant.

In 1917, a resident of New York City described her impressions of the New York City Marble Cemetery: "a hidden graveyard ... forgotten and neglected, ...which may still be admired as a distinguished bit of garden, giving breath to Second Street."¹

¹Helen W. Henderson, A Loiterer in New York (New York: George H. Doran, 1917), p. 165.

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) cemetery

Specific dates 1831 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The New York City Marble Cemetery, begun in 1831, was the second non-sectarian burial ground in the City of New York open to the public. Situated in an area which was once a fashionable section of Manhattan, the many impressive marble memorials and markers denote the location of the 254 underground vaults belonging to some of New York's and the nation's most distinguished families.

In 1831, Perkins Nichols and Evert A. Bancker bought a plot of ground to be used as a private cemetery for their own and a few other families. It was organized by Bancker and Samuel Whittmore, Henry Booraem, Garret Storm, and Thomas Addis Emmet, and was begun on some land belonging to Samuel Cowdrey, a vault owner in the New York Marble Cemetery,¹ located one block west on the same street. The New York Marble Cemetery had been opened to the public just one year when construction of the New York City Marble Cemetery began. Both cemeteries were laid out as a result of the city ordinance of 1830 which prohibited burials below Canal Street, under penalty of a fine of \$250.

Perkins Nichols, one of the developers of the first Marble Cemetery, contracted for the construction of the original vaults of Tuckahoe marble² (hence the name of the cemetery), and the first vaults were ready by the summer of 1831. The new organization received its own act of incorporation on April 26, 1832,³ as an annex to the other Marble Cemetery. Over the next three years, the corporation acquired the first parcel of land in which the vaults were situated, and then the adjoining lots, until it reached its present limits in 1835.

By 1835, interments were prohibited south of Grand Street, and some old cemeteries in lower Manhattan were being abandoned. "Among others, the remains of the Dutch dominies in the 'Ministers' Vault" at the foot of the island were removed to the Nichols-Bancker burying grounds, and are probably the oldest white men's bones buried in New York."⁴

The cemetery contains the various remains of many important New Yorkers such as Stephen Allen, one-time mayor of the city and governor of New York State; James Lenox, whose library, together with the Astor and Tilden collections, formed the New York Public Library; Isaac Varian, another mayor; Preserved Fish, a well-known New York merchant in mercantile and shipping ventures; and Marinus Willet, a local hero of the Revolutionary War. Also, there are six members of one branch of the Roosevelt family, including James Henry Roosevelt who founded Roosevelt Hospital; all the remains from the churchyard of the South Dutch Church, and all the Kip family remains from Kip's Bay.⁵ Such prominent family names as Lewis, Ogden, Ogilive, Webb, Oothout, and Hyslop can also be found here.

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

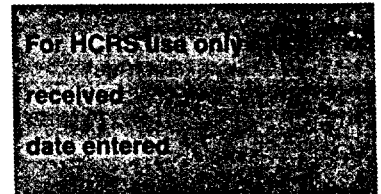
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

New York City Marble Cemetery
New York County, N.Y.

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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People of national importance buried in the cemetery include Moses Taylor, an exceedingly wealthy New York financier, who backed Cyrus Field in the first Atlantic Cable venture, and who strongly supported the Lincoln administration during the Civil War, heading the banker's committee which took the first federal loan in 1861. Another nationally known figure buried here is John Lloyd Stephens, who pioneered archeological research in the Yucatan country of Mexico in the nineteenth century; his vault is marked by a Mayan glyph designed by his celebrated collaborator, Frederick Catherwood. John Ericsson, inventor of the ironclad Monitor, was also buried here before his body was returned to Sweden in 1890.

The most important person buried in this cemetery was ex-President James Monroe who had moved to New York in 1830, after the death of his wife, to live with his son-in-law, Samuel Gouverneur. Gouverneur owned a vault in the cemetery, and when Monroe died on July 4, 1831, he became one of the first to be buried here. The interment ceremonies were carried out with much pomp and military pageantry, which served to increase greatly the prestige of the cemetery. In 1857, however, a number of Virginians residing in New York decided to erect a monument over Monroe's vault. This move prompted the Virginia Legislature to pass a resolution to have the ex-President's remains returned to Virginia. The Gouverneur family agreed, and on July 2, 1858, Monroe's body was removed to the Church of the Annunciation on Fourteenth Street, while church bells tolled and every ship in the harbor flew its flag at half mast. It lay there in state for several days and was finally sent by steamer to Virginia, preceded in another ship by its escort, the Seventh Regiment. It was buried at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

As the neighborhood around the cemetery deteriorated, the trustees became alarmed, fearing that the encroaching construction of houses might force them out of the property. In 1891, Alexander Maitland, a grandnephew of James Lenox, started a movement to raise an endowment fund. He formed a committee which collected about \$12,500. By 1934, the fund amounted to \$26,500.⁶ Today the cemetery is supported by the endowments administered by boards of trustees. Fifth Avenue has since become the city's most elegant thoroughfare, and this small plot near Second Avenue is an oasis in a shabby neighborhood.

¹See New York County Conveyance Liber 291, p. 201, the trust deed by which Banker, the agent turned over to the trustees the first parcel of land purchased from Crowdrey.

²New York Mirror, Sept. 13, 1836.

³Laws of New York, 1832, chap. 319; amended by Laws of New York, 1843, chap. 36.

⁴Alvin F. Harlow, Old Bowery Days (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1931), p. 318.

⁵See the Burial records for the New York City Marble Cemetery at the New-York Historical Society.

⁶St. Clair McKelway, "The Marble Cemeteries," The New Yorker Magazine, (August 4, 1934) pp. 36-38.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data See Attached Site Map

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Brooklyn

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	5	8	5	3	2	0	4	5	0	8	4	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 444, Lot 49.

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

name/title Joan Olshansky, National Register Coordinator Contact: Elizabeth Spencer-Ralph
518-474-0479

organization Landmarks Preservation Commission date December 1979

street & number 305 Broadway telephone (212) 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	

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

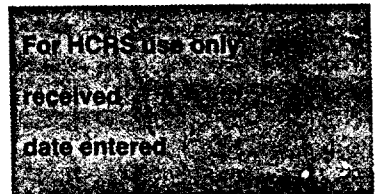
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

New York City Marble Cemetery

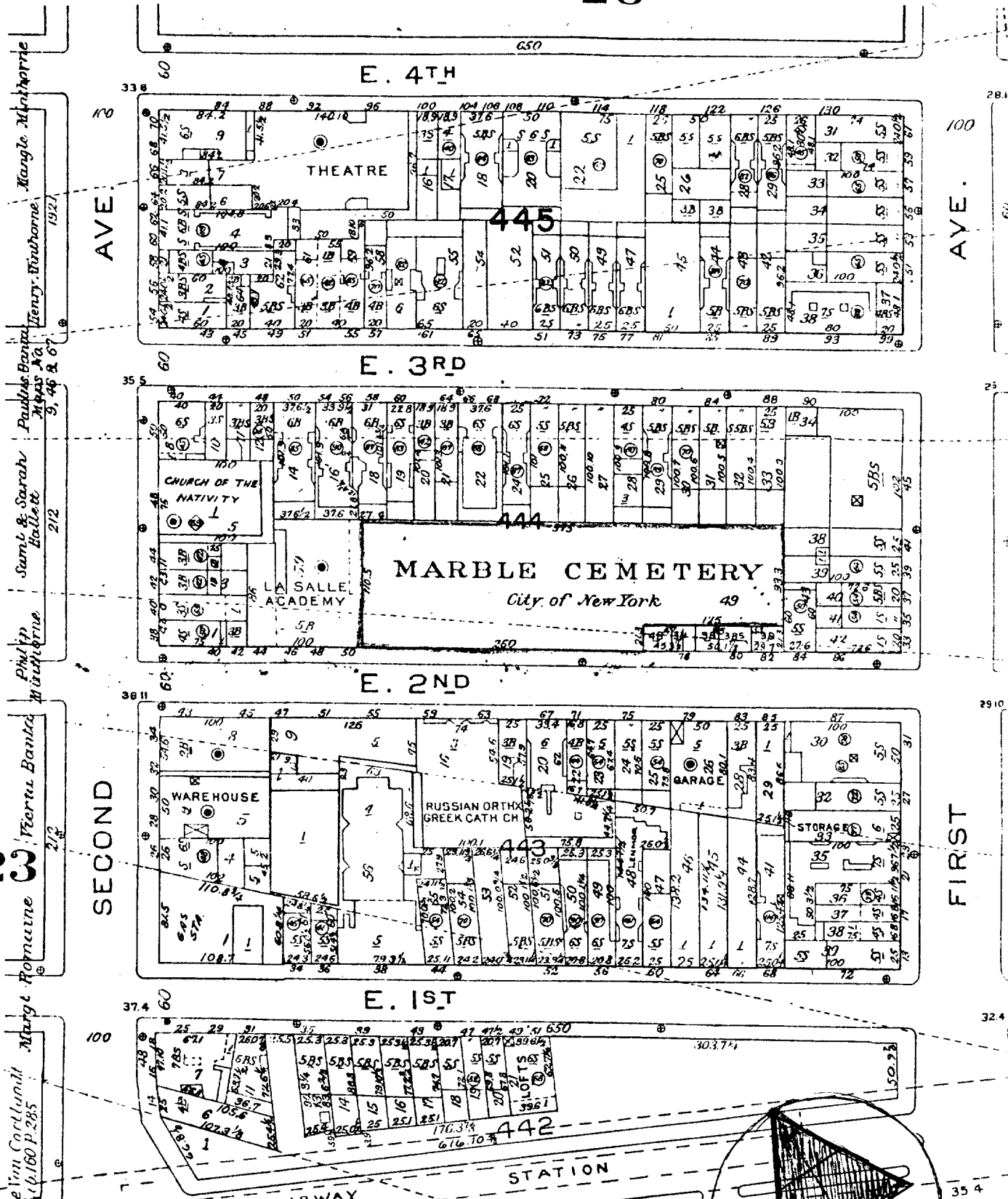
Continuation sheet New York County, N.Y.

Item number 9

Page 1



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NEW YORK CITY MARBLE CEMETERY
 East 2nd Street between First and
 Second Avenues
 New York County, New York
 Manhattan Land Book, Plate 24
 New York: Sanborn Map Co, revised 1977

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

51651 SE
WEEHAWKEN



6261
QUEENSBORO BRIDGE 4.6 MI. CENTR

TRIBOROUGH BRIDGE 4.6 MI. 57°30'N

585000m E 74°00' 40°45' 4511000m N

NEW YORK CITY MARBLE CEMETERY
New York, New York County
UTM Reference:
18/ 585320/ 4508460

Brooklyn Quad