JA-AS-040-001

Missouri Historic Resources Survey **Reference Number** Form D. Address / Location Gl. Owner's Name Address (if Different) 2640 Blue Ridge Boulevard Highland Sales Investment Company South **B.** County E. City Kansas City 095 Jackson H. Acreage: 23.2 **Legal Description** A. Historic Name Blue Ridge Lawn Memorial Gardens Use, Historic 07 Funerary C. Other Name Use, Present 07 Funerary 2M. Resource Type Site 2D. Construction Date 1925 2F. Date Rebuilt N/A 2E. Alteration N/A 2G. Date Moved N/A 2L. No. of Ancillary Structures **Dates** 2H. Demo Date N/A 2A. Architect / Builder 2N. Stories George B. Post & Sons **Primary Structure** N/A 20 Structural Systems Charles D. Woodward Secondary Structure N/A N/A Secondary Structure N/A 2B. Architectural Style N/A 2W. Plan Code 2P. Wall Materials N/A 2C. Vernacular Type N/A N/A 2R. Roof N/A Shapes 2K. Historic Sub-Function 2J. Historic Function 07 Funerary 07A Cemetery 2S. Roof N/A **Materials** 2T. Roof N/A **Features** 2Q. Other Materials 2V. Porch Type N/A N/A 2U. Foundation N/A **Materials** 2X. Description of Property-2Y. Description of Environment T. History / Significance-X **Continuation Sheet** and Outbuildings-Continuation **Continuation Sheet** Sheet Q. Areas of Significance/Contexts S. Significant Date(s) R. Significant Person(s) 130 ETHNIC HISTORY/Black 1925 See Continuation Sheet 280 Social History 1964 N. Ownership National Register Name 2Z. Sources **Private** "Blue Ridge Lawn Memorial Garden Local **NR Eligibility** Cemetery 1925-1950. M.A.G.I.C. State Individually eligible February 2001. Tuttle, Ayers and Federal Woodward Atlas of Kansas City, MO Mix Integrity Good **Survey Report Property Photograph** Blue Ridge Boulevard African American Cemeteries Preparer Sally F. Schwenk Organization Historic Preservation Services, LLC Date June 2001 Photo Roll and Frame Number

Historic Name County Address

Blue Ridge Lawn Memorial Gardens Jackson 2640 South Blue Ridge Boulevard

## T. History / Significance

Established in 1925 and advertised as a "Park Plan," the 23.2 acre Blue Ridge Lawn Cemetery reflects the shift in the early twentieth century in cemetery design to the memorial park plan. The development team for the cemetery included both Caucasians and African Americans. The marketing plan targeted Kansas City's African American community and stressed the benefits of perpetual maintenance. The cemetery is the only one of the three African American cemeteries on Blue Ridge Boulevard to have an endowment. Developed by United Cemeteries Company, the landscape designers are the New York architectural firm of George B. Post and Sons and landscape architect Charles D. Woodward of the engineering firm Tuttle-Ayres-Woodward. Officers of the company were: president, Dr. J. E. Stevens, a Kansas City native "well known in Republican political circles;" general manager, James A Hodges, former manager of the Hollywood Mausoleum and Cemetery of Los Angeles; H. D. Payne, a Kansas City lawyer; vice president and treasurer, F. A Mayes of the Chase Manhattan Bank; and general sales manager, Charles O. Gossard, formerly with Mt. Moriah and Memorial Park cemeteries. Over 4,700 burials occurred between the year of its founding and 1950. Like the other black cemeteries on Blue Ridge Boulevard, it is the final resting place of notables in Kansas City's African American community and the thousands of the City's African American's who owned small businesses, waited tables, cleaned homes and businesses, worked as common laborers, taught school and kept house, as well as the graves of veterans of all United States twentieth century wars. These burial places provide visual insight into the rich, diversified life of the area's African-American community during the nineteenth and twentieth century. The cemetery is part of a handful of remaining African American landmarks in Jackson County. Blue Ridge Lawn Cemetery is individually significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Social History. As a contributing element to a Multiple Property Submission it is significant under Criterion B as the burial place of numerous important individuals and under Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture. Individual burial places may be eligible for listing after conducting research and evaluating other sites associated with specific individuals.

Historic Name County Address

Blue Ridge Lawn Memorial Gardens Jackson 2640 South Blue Ridge Boulevard

## 2X. Further Description

The 23.2-acre Blue Ridge Lawn Memorial Gardens incorporates a vast expanse of open ground and slopes to the west and southwest from Blue Ridge Boulevard. A system of curving gravel roads divide the open space, creating a central area divided into four general burial areas that are connected by a central triangular grassy "island" [Photographs #10, #11, #18, #19, #20, #22]. Throughout the cemetery "street," signs of iron pipe and cast metal denote the various cemetery sections by name. In the outer portions of the cemetery near its boundaries, the gravel roads consist of double ruts created by tires. Except along the boundaries, which are defined by mature vegetation and trees indigenous to the region, plantings are scattered, suggesting a random placement of ornamental vegetation. The age and species of the trees reflect a planted landscape in these open areas. A formal entrance gate consists of four, square fieldstone columns capped with triangular hipped shake single "roofs" [Photographs # 1, #2, #3]. The tallest and innermost flank the entrance drive. From there, a low chain link fence curves outward and ends with another set of square columns. Although flush markers predominant, there are a few scattered vertical granite headstones. On one knoll, in the northwest quadrant of the cemetery, a concrete monument in the form of an open book has an image of the Christ on one page and a scriptural passage on the other. The "book" rests on a fieldstone wall [Photograph # 14]. A chain link fence surrounds the cemetery and can be found in the underbrush that encroaches upon the open space. Like the other cemeteries located on the west side of Blue Ridge Boulevard, the burial plots have their short side running north and south and their long side running east and west.

JA-AS-040-001

**Historic Name** 

County

Address

Blue Ridge Lawn Memorial Gardens

Jackson

2640 South Blue Ridge Boulevard

2Y.	Description	of	<b>Environment a</b>	nd	<b>Outbuildings</b>
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The Cemetery is on a high ridge on the west side of Blue Ridge Boulevard, between Truman Road (15th Street) and 23rd Street. The viewshed to the west and southwest is unbroken. A mix of commercial and residential buildings line Blue Ridge Boulevard. To the west is the Little Blue River industrial area.



























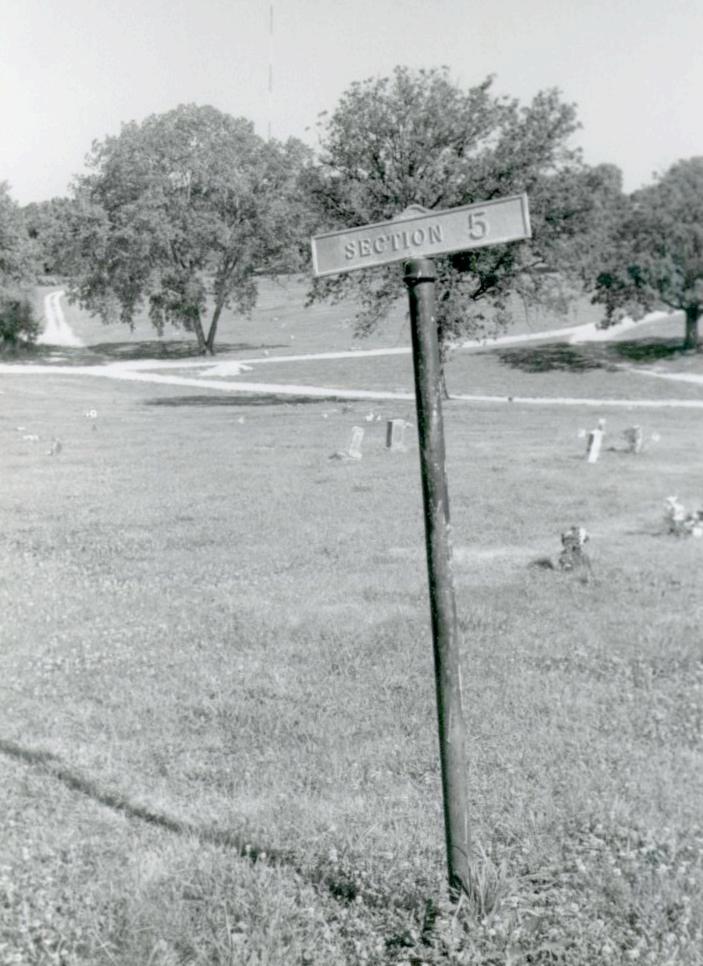
















JA-45-040-002

Missouri Historic Resources Survey Reference Number Form D. Address / Location Gl. Owner's Name Address (if Different) Blue Ridge Highland Sales Investment Company 2100 Boulevard 095 Jackson E. City Kansas City B. County H. Acreage: 28.8 **Legal Description** W 1/2 of NW 1/4 of Section 8, TWP49 R32 A. Historic Name **Highland Cemetary** Use, Historic 07 Funerary Use, Present 07 Funerary C. Other Name 2M. Resource Type Site 2D. Construction Date 1909 2F. Date Rebuilt N/A 2E. Alteration 2G. Date Moved N/A N/A 2L. No. of Ancillary Structures **Dates** 2H. Demo Date N/A 2A. Architect / Builder 2N. Stories Unknown **Primary Structure** N/A 20 Structural Systems Secondary Structure N/A N/A Secondary Structure N/A 2B. Architectural Style N/A 2W. Plan Code 2P. Wall Materials N/A 2C. Vernacular Type N/A N/A 2R. Roof N/A Shapes 2K. Historic Sub-Function 2J. Historic Function 07 Funerary 07A Cemetary 2S. Roof N/A **Materials** 2T. Roof N/A **Features** 2Q. Other Materials 2V. Porch Type N/A N/A 2U. Foundation N/A **Materials** 2Y. Description of Environment T. History / Significance-2X. Description of Property-**Continuation Sheet** and Outbuildings-Continuation **Continuation Sheet** Sheet Q. Areas of Significance/Contexts S. Significant Date(s) R. Significant Person(s) 1909 See Continuation Sheet 130 Ethnic Heritage 1964 280 Social History N. Ownership **National Register Name** 2Z. Sources Private "Highland 1909 Cemetery, Vol. 1 1909-Local **NR Eligibility** 1950." Kansas City, MO: Midwest State Individually eligible Afro-American Genealogical Interest Federal Coalition, December, 2000. Tuttle, Mix Integrity Ayers and Woodward Atlas of Kansas City, MO 1925. Good **Property Photograph Survey Report** Blue Ridge Boulevard African American Cemeteries Preparer Sally F. Schwenk Organization Historic Preservation Services, LLC Date June 2001 **Photo Roll and Frame Number** 

JA-AS-040-002

Historic Name County Address
Highland Cemetery Jackson 2100 Blue Ridge Boulevard

## T. History / Significance

Highland Cemetery is the oldest of three cemeteries that served as the only privately owned, local burial grounds available to the city's African Americans between 1909 and the passage of public accommodations laws in the 1960s. Over 11,200 graves date from 1909 to 1950, a period in which the largest number of burials occurred. Advertised as "devoted to the exclusive use of the Negro Race," its development and location outside the city limits reflect common segregation patterns of the time period. As the burial place for some of the city's African American elite as well as the final resting place for the thousands of ordinary African American citizens of Kansas City it has special significance. The thousands of graves provide visual insight into the rich, diversified lives of the area's African American community during the 19th and 20th centuries and the cemetery is part of a handful of remaining African American landmarks in Jackson County. John A. Eames and his wife Frances G. Eames sold a tract of land, legally described as the west one-half of the Northwest one-guarter of Section 8 Township 49. Range 32 located in an unincorporated area of Jackson County called Blue Summit, to the Highland Cemetery Company for \$15,000 on February 17, 1909. John Eames served as president and P. J. Loers served as secretary to the board of directors who administered the company. Envisioning 25,000 burial plots, on June 4,1909 the directors platted the land into twelve blocks and further subdivided it into lots to be made available for sale and burial. On June 15th of that year, Sallie Powell was the first person buried in the cemetery. Among the notables buried here are: Richard Thomas Coles, the "father of vocational education" in Kansas City; entrepreneurs Alexander Johnson, J. Edward Perry, Walter Williams and Stephen Hightower; Mini L. Crosthwaite, social worker; publishers Nelson C. Crews, of the Kansas City Sun and Chester Arthur Franklin, of the Kansas City Call; early civil rights activists such as the Reverend Daniel Arthur "Fighting Parson" Holmes, John Wesley Hurse and Ann Louise Bryant, the first black women admitted to the Kansas City University School of Education; jazz singer Julia Lee; and physicians Dr. J. Edward Perry and Dr. L.P. Richardson. Highland Cemetery is individually significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Social History. As a contributing element to a Multiple Property Submission it is significant under Criterion B as the burial place of numerous important individuals and under Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture. Individual burial places may be eligible for listing after conducting research and evaluating other sites associated with specific individuals.

Historic Name County Address
Highland Cemetery Jackson 2100 Blue Ridge Boulevard

## 2X. Further Description

Highland Cemetery is a rectangular area that is 951.24 feet on the east, 955.21 feet on the west, 1315.65 feet on the south and 1315.38 feet on the north, comprising 28.8 acres. It is located on sloping ground with frontage on the west side of Blue Ridge Boulevard which follows a ridge of limestone bluffs which run parallel to the Little Blue River. A series of looping and curvilinear narrow gravel roads intersect at various points throughout the cemetery. The circular and irregular areas bordered by roads constitute 11 "Blocks" that are divided into rectangular or square lots, which include 12 grave sites. The plat contains 25,000 lots [See Figures #2 and #3 in Survey Report]. Cemetery records indicate that between 1909 and 1950 over 11,200 burials occurred. A significant number of the graves are unmarked. In the southern quadrant, Blocks 11 and 9 remain undeveloped due to the change in terrain and the presence of rock outcropping. Thick underbrush and trees cover these areas. Block 8, located in the southwest quadrant, contains only a few burials. Block 2, in the southeast portion of the cemetery, is a ditch. The entrance from Blue Ridge Boulevard is denoted by a double-leaf wrought iron gate and square fieldstone piers [Photograph # 1-3]. At the first juncture of the entrance road stands a flag pole and bronze plague affixed to a short stone pillar. The plaque is dedicated to the veterans of United States wars [Photographs #4 and #5]. Directly to the west is life-sized stone statue of the Christ [Photographs #6] and #7]. To the north is a large cast concrete open book with a carved scriptural message. The book rests on a low, stepped brick wall. A wide variety of headstones are scattered throughout the cemetery. The majority are in open ground, covered with grass [Photographs #11,#12, #13, #14, #18]. In several areas paired, above-ground tombs of granite appear [Photographs # 6, #15, #16]. One, located in the southern part of Block 7, features a perpendicular cross atop the paired tombs. A wrought iron fence surrounds the plot. There are a number of standard military headstones of the design furnished by the government [Photographs #22, #27, #33, #34]. Like the other cemeteries located on the west side of Blue Ridge Boulevard, the burial plots have their short side running north and south and their long side running east and west. The earliest graves are marked by head stones that are set perpendicular to the ground. Most are small, simple markers. Only one or two have conscious ornamentation [Photograph] #29]. Many of the burial places have markers set flush into the ground. Forest vegetation denotes the boundaries of the property, [Photographs #13, #14 #30] at times encroaching on the cemetery proper [Photograph #25]. Trees, both deciduous and nondeciduous varieties, date from the time of the cemetery platting in 1909 to the current time. Formal cemetery plantings include day lilies and small cedars and yews in scattered locations. With the exception of these elements and mature trees, the remainder of the cemetery is grass [Photographs #8 and #9]. The chain link fence that encircles the cemetery is visible in the forest undergrowth. The roads are gravel, sometimes consisting of only two tire paths [Photographs #19, #21, #16]. Principle vistas from the cemetery are from east to west and northeast to southwest.

istoric Name	County	Address		
Highland Cemetery	Jackson	2100 Blue Ridge Boulevard		
/. Description of Environment	and Outbuildings			
ocated on ground that slopes to the outh along a ridge overlooking the cattered residential development.	Little Blue River Valley. Th	ge Boulevard, which runs roughly north- ne area is marked by open space and ne River industrial area.		









THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

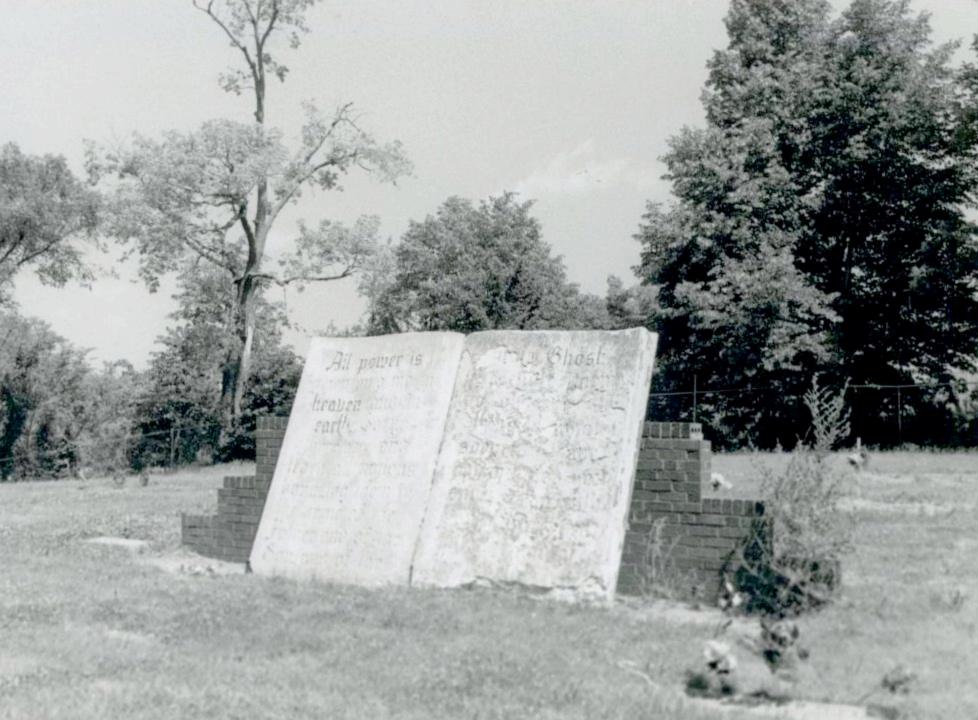
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WHO ARE BURIED IN THIS CRIMETERY.

THREE SACRIFICAS WILL FOREVER BE DELICATED.















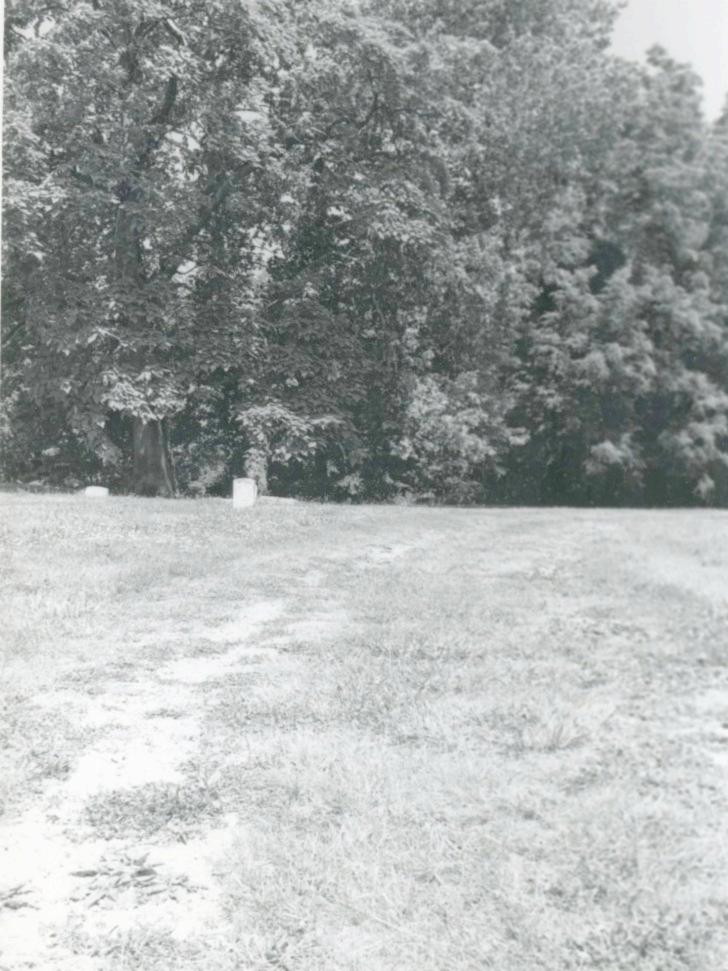




































JA-AS-040-003

Missouri Historic Resources Survey							eference		
Form						No.			
D. Address / Location				Gl. Owner's	Name Address (	if Diffe	rent)		
8604 East Truman Roa  E. City Kansas City B. County 095 Jacks			-	Lincoln Ceme	etery, Inc.				
			H. Acreage:		160				
egal Description									
Lincoln Cemetery	/			Use, Historic	07 Funerary				
C. Other Name				Use, Present	07 Funerary		Je.		
2M. Resource Type Site	2D Cons	struction	Date	1934	2F. Date Rel	milt	N/A		
	2E. Alte		N/A	1004	2G. Date Mo		N/A		
2L. No. of Ancillary Structures	Dates				2H. Demo D	ate	N/A		
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B. Architectural Style					Secondary S	tructure	9	N/A	
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2C. Vernacular Type	N/A					TALLA			
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7 Funerary	07A Cem	etery		2S. Roof	N/A				
					Materials	IN/A			
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2X. Description of Property-	2Y. Desc	ription o	f Envi	ronment X	T. History / S	Signific	cance-	x	
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Q. Areas of Significance/Contexts		S. Sig	nifica	nt Date(s)	R. Signific	ant Pe	rson(s)		
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280 Social History		1964							
National Register Name		N. Ow	nersh	ip					
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Blue Ridge Boulevard African American	Cemeteries	Гюре							
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Blue Ridge Boulevard African American Preparer Sally F. Schwenk Organization Historic Preservation Services, LLC	n Cemeteries	Ріоре							
Survey Report Blue Ridge Boulevard African American Preparer Sally F. Schwenk  Organization Historic Preservation Services, LLC  Date June 2001 Photo Roll and Frame Number	n Cemeteries	Гюре							

JA-AS-040-003

Historic Name	County	Address		
Lincoln Cemetery	Jackson	8604 East Truman Road		

## T. History / Significance

The 160 acre Lincoln Cemetery established in 1934 is the largest of the African American cemeteries located on Blue Ridge Boulevard. Its size and simplicity as well as the almost total adherence to the 20th century memorial park cemetery design idiom lends it special significance for its ability to represent the modern landscape design treatment. As the last of the African American cemeteries to be located on Blue Ridge Boulevard, it is the culmination of the evolution of styles presented by the three cemeteries. Over 1,800 graves in the cemetery date from 1934 to 1950. Like the other black cemeteries on Blue Ridge Boulevard, it is the final resting place of notables in Kansas City's African American community, which at Lincoln Cemetery include jazz musician Charlie "Bird' Parker, Buffalo Soldiers, Negro Leagues baseball players and such other notables as pioneer photographer, Charles W. Williams; architect, W. T. Thomas: and female business leader and hotel owner. Mrs. P.S. Street. It also holds the graves of the thousands of the City's African American porters, barbers, waiters, railway service workers, teamsters, laundresses, cooks and housekeepers, as well as the graves of veterans of all United States wars beginning with the Spanish American War and concluding with the Viet Nam War. These burial places provide visual insight into the rich, diversified life of the area's African-American community during the nineteenth and twentieth century. The cemetery is part of a handful of remaining African-American landmarks in Jackson County. Lincoln Cemetery is individually significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Social History. As a contributing element to a Multiple Property Submission it is significant under Criterion B as the burial place of numerous important individuals and under Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture. Individual burial places may be eligible for listing after conducting research and evaluating other sites associated with specific individuals.

Historic Name	County	Address			
Lincoln Cemetery	Jackson	8604 East Truman Road			

## 2X. Further Description

The cemetery is bisected by a central east-west gravel road and features one of the simplest plans of the three African American cemeteries on Blue Ridge Boulevard. There are 1,761 burials dating from 1934 to 1950. A chain link fence surrounds the property. Upon entering the property, a rectangular sign with "LINCOLN CEMETERY 1934" [Photographs #1, #2] is visible on the north side of the entrance. The main drive is gravel and follows the crest of a hill; the ground slopes to the west and southwest from it. In the western portion of the cemetery, the road completes a full loop to the north [See Figure 4 in Survey Report]. Within this loop is a flagpole [Photograph # 15]. Mature trees flank the roadway on both sides creating a bower effect and reflecting conscious landscape planning [Photograph # 5]. The almost universal use of flush markers – low, flat grave markers – allow an unbroken view of the rolling grass lawns [Photographs # 3,#7, #8, #9, #11, #13.] The graves are arranged almost parallel with Blue Ridge Boulevard; the width runs north-south and the long sides run east and west. The only graves that stand out are the pair of vaults that contain the remains of jazz musician Charlie "Bird" Parker and his mother, Addie Parker [Photograph #14]. The vaults have granite "ledgers" — large rectangular grave markers set parallel with the ground to cover the grave surface — and have carved epitaphs.

The most striking landscape features of the cemetery are the large rolling greenswards surrounded by curving lines of mature trees that denote the portion of the cemetery land that serves as a burial ground. The grading demonstrates a conscious plan to provide a series of vistas. Vegetation on the periphery of the cemetery consists of mature trees and vegetation native to the area. There are a few scattered ornamental plantings such as coniferous trees and day lilies. To the south, near the entrance, a large telecommunications tower has been erected. It is part of a series of towers running through the hilly open space between Truman Road (15th Street) and 23rd Street on the north and south and Van Brunt Boulevard and Winner Road on the west and the east. Directly to the east is Mount Washington Cemetery, designed by landscape architect George Kessler that opened around 1900.

JA-AS-040-003

Historic Name

County
Address

Lincoln Cemetery

Jackson
8604 East Truman Road

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<b>~</b> I .	Describion	u	Ettan Othinghi (	anu	Outbuildillus

Located on the west side of Blue Ridge Boulevard, the cemetery has unbroken views to the south and west. To the east, across Blue Ridge Boulevard, is the western boundary of c.1900 Mt. Washington Cemetery. To the west is the Little Blue River industrial area.





































