

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Father Dickson Cemetery

Other names/site number Father's Dickson Cemetery

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number <u>845 S. Sappington Road</u>	N/A	not for publication
City or town <u>Crestwood</u>	N/A	vicinity
State <u>Missouri</u> Code <u>MO</u> County <u>St. Louis</u> Code <u>189</u> Zip code <u>63126</u>		

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A     B     C     D

Signature of certifying official/Title *Bruce K. ...* DEPUTY SHPO Date 8-19-21

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <u>   </u> entered in the National Register                  | <u>   </u> determined eligible for the National Register |
| <u>   </u> determined not eligible for the National Register | <u>   </u> removed from the National Register            |
| <u>   </u> other (explain:) _____                            |  |

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Father Dickson Cemetery  
Name of Property

St. Louis County, Missouri  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>	
1		buildings
		sites
2		structures
2		objects
5		<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARAY: Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARAY: Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: side-gabled frame house  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE  
walls: SYNTHETICS: Vinyl  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: ASPHALT: Shingle  
other: STONE: Granite, Marble, Limestone, Other  
TERRA COTTA; CONCRETE; METAL: Iron

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUTATION PAGES**

Father Dickson Cemetery  
Name of Property

St. Louis County, Missouri  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: St. Louis County Library Headquarters

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1903-1970  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1903  
1915  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

Black  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Elbring, Richard, Surveyor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Father Dickson Cemetery  
Name of Property

St. Louis County, Missouri  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 12.4 acres

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 38.567381 -90.385254      3 38.565829 -90.387872  
Latitude:                      Longitude:                      Latitude:                      Longitude:

2 38.564373 -90.384557      4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Latitude:                      Longitude:                      Latitude:                      Longitude:

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927    or    \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone      Easting                      Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone      Easting                      Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone      Easting                      Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone      Easting                      Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title April Scott, SHPO staff member; Kirstin E.S. Zapalac, Ph.D., author of previous drafts;

Research: Ernest Jordan and Sharon Stalzer, Friends of Father Dickson Cemetery

organization Missouri State Historic Preservation Office ( Mo SHPO)    date August 18, 2021

street & number P.O. Box 176                      telephone (573) 522-2473

city or town Jefferson City                      state MO                      zip code 65102

e-mail April.scot@dnr.mo.gov

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**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.460 et seq.).



Father Dickson Cemetery  
Name of Property

St. Louis County, Missouri  
County and State

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log:

Name of Property: Father Dickson Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Crestwood

County: St. Louis County State: Missouri

Photographer: April Scott

Date

Photographed: November 9, 2020, May 21, 2021; all photos confirmed accurate May 21, 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo Keys on Figure 9

- 1 of 26: Father Dickson Cemetery Entrance along S. Sappington: Gates, Caretaker's Office, Father and Mother Dickson Obelisk from across Sappington looking WNW
- 2 of 26: Slope from Entry Gates, Caretaker's Office to right, Father and Mother Dickson Obelisk right of center; from Entry Gate looking WNW.
- 3 of 26: Caretaker's Office, façade (south elevation) and east elevation; from NW of entrance looking WNW
- 4 of 26: Caretaker's Office, façade (south elevation) and west elevation; from entry parking lot SW of building looking NE
- 5 of 26: Father and Mother Dickson Memorial Obelisk from entry parking lot SE of obelisk looking NW.
- 6 of 26: Section A eastern portion, North-South Road to left; thicket background right; from entry parking lot looking SW
- 7 of 26: Section A northern portion along boundary with subdivision, fenced garden mid-ground left of center; from entry parking lot looking W
- 8 of 26: North-South Road lined with ornamental trees, Section B left, Section A right, Section C and East-West Road in background right; from mid-point of road looking S
- 9 of 26: Section A southern portion and thicket in background; from intersection of interior roads looking NW
- 10 of 26: Section A western portion, northern boundary in background, thicket at right; on East-West Road at cul-de-sac looking N
- 11 of 26: Section A cul-de-sac in SW corner, "Baby Heaven" 2013 installation; on East-West Road just east of cul-de-sac looking W
- 12 of 26: Detail of "Baby Heaven" 2013 memorial installation; from east end of cul-de-sac looking W
- 13 of 26: Maintenance Lot, Section A; at mid-point of East-West Road looking NW
- 14 of 26: Section B northern portion, partial view of Entry Gate at left; from entry parking lot looking SW
- 15 of 26: Section B southern portion, from North-South Road along south end of Section B looking N
- 16 of 26: East-West Road with Section C left and Section A and Maintenance Lot right; from intersection of North-south and East-West Roads looking NW
- 17 of 26: Section C western portion; from west end of cul-de-sac looking SE
- 18 of 26: Section C mid portion; from East-West Road looking S
- 19 of 26: Section C eastern portion; from East-West Road west of intersection of north-south and east-west roads looking S
- 20 of 26: Section C eastern portion, North-South Road left and East-West Road right; from intersection looking SSW

Father Dickson Cemetery

St. Louis County, Missouri

Name of Property

County and State

- 21 of 26: Southern boundary with Grant's Trail along Sections C (background right) and D, bike pull-off far right; on Grants Trail looking W
- 22 of 26: Section D, houses in subdivision on east side of S. Sappington Road in background; from western edge of section looking E
- 23 of 26: North-South Road after turn east to exit onto S. Sappington; from east of North-South Road's turn looking E
- 24 of 26: Grant's Trail pull-off rest area, on north side of trail, two metal benches, informational kiosk, wooden bike rack, Section D in background; from Grant's Trail looking N
- 25 of 26: James Milton Turner markers: original large stone was stolen, smaller stone placed, then original stone returned; near middle of Section B near North-South Road looking W
- 26 of 26: Madame C.J. Walker markers: Walker grew gravely ill while on a visit to St. Louis, friends had monuments prepared but she recovered and returned to New York. Walker is not buried here; just SW of Entry Gate looking WNW

### Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

- 1 of 12: Father Dickson Cemetery Context Map 1: St. Louis Greater Metropolitan Area
- 2 of 12: Father Dickson Cemetery Context Map 2: Crestwood and Surrounding Municipalities
- 3 of 12: Current Site Map with Boundaries and Sections
- 4 of 12: Father Dickson Cemetery plot map, executed by St. Louis County surveyor Richard Elbring, c. 1903
- 5 of 12: Detail of 1903 USGS Survey Map of St Louis County, red circle indicates cemetery (approximate)
- 6 of 12: Detail of area surrounding Father Dickson Cemetery, 1909 map0010
- 7 of 12: Comparison of cemetery through aerials from 1937, 1955, mid-1990s, and 2018
- 8 of 12: Father Dickson Cemetery Counted Resources Map
- 9 of 12: Photo Keys: North and South Details
- 10 of 12: Map of Commercial African-American Cemeteries and Quinette Cemetery, St. Louis County
- 11 of 12: Greenwood Cemetery, 6571 Saint Louis Ave., Hillside, St. Louis County.
- 12 of 12: Washington Park Cemetery, 4650 James S. McDonnell Blvd., Berkeley, St. Louis County.

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Continuation Sheet

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Father Dickson Cemetery
Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Summary:**

Father Dickson Cemetery, the second commercial cemetery opened for African Americans in the St. Louis area, is located at 845 South Sappington Road in Crestwood, St. Louis County, Missouri (Figure 1, 2). The 12.4 acre cemetery is shaped like a pie piece pointing northward, bounded on the east by South Sappington Road, on the northwest by property lines of a subdivision, and on the south and southwest by the curving Grant's Trail, a hardened-surface bike and pedestrian trail (Figure 3). The cemetery has two main internal roads and lies on a southern-facing slope. The cemetery has been reclaimed from vegetative overgrowth during an extended period of neglect, and the layout very closely resembles the cemetery in 1903. More than 6,800 people were buried in Father Dickson Cemetery since the (re)interment of Father Moses Dickson (d. 1901) in 1903, to the official closing of the cemetery in 1970, with rare burial and exhumation activities through 1984. The site includes five contributing resources that are described in further detail below: one entrance gate assembly, a small one-story side gabled caretaker's building, the large red granite obelisk dedicated to Father and Mother Dickson, and two narrow roads that provide access though the cemetery.

**Setting and Environment:**

The areas to the north, east, and west of Father Dickson Cemetery are today largely residential (Figure 2, 3). It is heavily populated with mature trees – particularly along South Sappington - and a mix of early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century single family dwellings and semi-enclosed subdivisions with winding streets. When the cemetery was first established, this area was rural agricultural land with occasional houses and associated outbuildings (Figure 5, 6) By the 1950s, the subdivisions had been established (Figure 7). South Sappington Road runs close to the north-south axis along the cemetery's east boundary, and both the cemetery and the road follow the downward slope of a large hill as it descends to Grant's Trail along the south. During the cemetery's period of significance, the trail bed was the rail bed for the Missouri Pacific Railroad's Kirkwood-Carondelet Branch. Service on the branch was discontinued in 1990, and between 1994 and 2006, the branch's rails and ties were replaced with concrete for what is now a heavily used public walking and biking trail.<sup>1</sup> A light industrial and commercial area populated by one- and two-story metal and concrete buildings is located along the south side of Grant's Trail, in place by the 1990s (figure 7). The Thomas Sappington House is also just south of the cemetery along South Sappington. Built in 1808, it is a Federal style brick house built for an early area family (National Register listed 6/28/1974). The eastern boundary of the cemetery runs along South Sappington Road and is a mostly vegetated bank that slopes down to the concrete curb along the road. There is a northern and southern access point from South Sappington. A sidewalk that runs along the west side of South Sappington from the north ends at the cemetery's north entrance. The cemetery's south/southwestern boundary with Grant's Trail is a mix of topography and vegetation volume, with heavy vegetation and a gully on the western corner that opens to manicured lawn and levels out as the boundary curves eastward (Photo 21). Near the southeast corner, Grant's Trail has a pull-off along the trail with two metal benches and an informational kiosk about historic features in the area, including the cemetery (Photo 24). This pull-off was in place by 2008, beyond the cemetery's property and part of the

<sup>1</sup> Laura Stark, "Grant's Trail, Missouri" from America's Trails, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, posted November 1, 2012, accessed April 22, 2021, <https://www.railstotrails.org/trailblog/2012/november/01/grants-trail-missouri/>.

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Father Dickson Cemetery
Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Grant's Trail property.<sup>2</sup> The cemetery shares its north/northwestern boundary with the fenced backyards of a later 20<sup>th</sup>-century subdivision of primarily Ranch style homes (Photos 7, 10).

The main access is from Sappington Road via a one-lane road flanked by a set of four historic ashlar-detailed concrete block pillars with iron gates (Entry Gate, 1914 installation, contributing object) (Photo 1 & Figure 8). As visitors pass the gates and climb the short slope, they are met with the immense red granite obelisk dedicated to Father and Mother Dickson (1915 installation, contributing object) and the one-story, side-gabled Caretaker's Office (installed c. 1903, contributing building) with a small parking area (Photo 2-5). There is a non-historic wood kiosk on the north side of the entrance road used by the non-profit Friends of Father Dickson organization for posting information about the cemetery and notices and a non-historic metal flagpole just north of the kiosk (Photo 2). These items are not included in the resource count due to their minimal size and footprint. The Caretaker's Office is sited very close to the boundary with a private residence to the north. The residence's garage, visible in Photo 4, is located outside of the nominated property's boundary. The North-South and East-West Roads (installed 1903, contributing structures), and small parking areas are currently a mix of asphalt, degraded asphalt aggregate, and gravel. The cemetery slopes downhill to the south and west from this area and is dotted with grave markers of various shape, size, and complexity (Photos 6, 14). Evidence of grave subsidence (sunken plots) are mixed in among the grave markers and viewed together make north-south grid patterns somewhat evident. Most graves and markers are facing east. The frequency of trees varies throughout, with many being mature cedars or deciduous species. The northern half of the cemetery holds very few trees. Growth is thicker along the boundaries, with the southwest being the thickest. The southern and western portion is more densely populated with mature deciduous trees that seem to have encroached somewhat from the boundary fringe over time (Figure 3, 7). The entrance road (called the North-South Road in this nomination) turns south at the Caretaker's Office and runs downhill, forming a "T" intersection with the road leading to the western portion (called the East-West Road) and then turning east to the southern access at South Sappington Road. There are some mature ornamental trees planted along either side of the North-South Road that have been added within the last ten years (Photo 8). The East-West Road ends in a small cul-de-sac with that encircles Baby Heaven, a non-historic memorial placed in 2013 (Photo 16, 11). The cemetery is dotted with small numbered signs on metal T-posts that guide visitors through a walking tour set up by the Friends of Father Dickson Cemetery. There are also several non-historic benches located in the cemetery, mostly built and gifted as Boy Scout projects.

**Description:**

When the land was purchased for use as a cemetery in 1903, it was surveyed and plotted by Richard Elbring with revisions by his brother William (Figure 4). Richard served as the county surveyor during this time, but he was also involved the family-ran Elbring Surveying Company.<sup>3</sup> Damage to the 1903 property map has obscured some text, so it is difficult to determine if the cemetery layout was a product of Elbring's county duties or his private surveying business. For

<sup>2</sup> Based on a comparison of the "Aerials 2006" and "Aerials 2008" layers, St. Louis County Historic Aerial Imagery, St. Louis county GIS Service Center, accessed June 23, 2021, <https://data.stlouisco.com/apps/stlcogis::historic-aerials/explore>.

<sup>3</sup> Esley Hamilton, *St. Louis County Postwar Subdivisions Study*, SLAS042 Report, Missouri State Historic Preservation Office: 2003, 1, accessed April 20, 2021, <https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/STLC%20Postwar%20Subdiv%20Report.pdf>.

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Father Dickson Cemetery
Name of Property
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County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

purposes of clarity in this text, the Father Dickson Cemetery site has been described in sections that align with the sections identified on the Elbring plan: Sections A, B, C, and D (Figure 3) and the Entrance area. The area within the East-West Road's cul-de-sac named "Baby Heaven" will be considered part of Section A. The grave markers vary in material, type, size, and complexity. Some graves have markers at both head and foot. Many graves have no visible markers but are evident due to grave subsidence (depressions in the ground formed by casket collapse). Many of the markers are weathered to the point of being illegible or have toppled or broken. In some cases, newer monuments have been set either alongside or in place of deteriorated or missing monuments. Several seating areas have been placed throughout the cemetery (Photos 11, 19, 22). These consist of wood or wood and metal or plastic-framed benches and small wood tables. Most of these are non-historic Boy Scout projects installed within the last 10-15 years. They are not included in the resource count due to their small size.

The Elbring plan provided groups of ten-foot-square plots in two rows of ten plots with three-foot walkways separating the groupings. The groups near the boundaries were shortened or left with larger, irregular-shaped lots likely to maximize land use and provide accessibility to the lots, as seen in the outlying groupings on the survey map (Figure 4). The estimated capacity is 12,000 burials. Burial count is today estimated at over 6,800 and may be closer to the 12,000-burial capacity. The plan indicates that most of the land was gridded for plots and circulation with no indication of vegetation or other landscaping details, so it is not clear if Elbring was influenced by the lawn-park cemetery design philosophy that was popular at the time. It is difficult in some areas to determine how closely the plan was adhered to, but it does not appear that the grave diggers or sexton always followed the rigid size and shape of the burial plots. As seen on the aerial images between 1937 and 2018, there has been a gradual shift from what appears as planned vegetation to loss and encroachment from neglect (Figure 7).

Entrance (Photos 1-5):

The first feature seen when approaching Father Dickson Cemetery is the Entry Gate, a set of four painted concrete pillars and iron gates that flank the one-lane hardened surface road leading up the embankment from Sappington Road (see description in **Additional Resources** below). The road reaches the top of the short rise and opens to a small, graveled parking area on the north side that is wide enough for three or four vehicles (not counted as a resource due to small footprint). The single-story side-gabled frame Caretaker's Office and the Father and Mother Dickson memorial obelisk to the north are located here (see **Additional Resources** below). The road curves to the left and heads south, passing between Sections A and B.

Section A (Photos 6-7, 9-13):

Section A is located in the northwest portion of the site and the largest section by area (Figures 3, 4). It is a triangular area bounded by the neighboring fenced back yards along the northwest, the cemetery's North-South Road on the east and East-West Road on the south. Much of the section is open lawn. A portion roughly from the center of the section to the East-West Road is occupied by a large thicket of mixed-age deciduous trees and undergrowth. The terrain within the thicket has many piles of soil, suggesting this area has been used in the past as the location for soil displaced by grave digging. It is not clear if any graves exist within the thicket. The

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Father Dickson Cemetery
Name of Property
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County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

portion along the northern boundary north of the thicket does not appear to contain burials. There is a recent alteration on the north edge of the thicket: a rectangular garden has been tilled and fenced (Photo 7). There is a small, graveled parking area on the north side of the East-West Road at the south end of the thicket. This lot is large enough for a few vehicles and has two small modern sheds and some maintenance equipment (Photo 13). These items are temporary in nature and therefore not included in the resource count. The parking lot is not included in the resource count due to its small footprint. The East-West Road's cul-de-sac is an oval area with a young deciduous tree, perennial plantings, two wooden benches, and a small angel statue with "Baby Heaven" inscribed in the base (Photos 11, 12). These features were installed in 2013 and are therefore non-historic. It is believed based on common oral history and indications in the Burial Books that this area was used as the burial space for infants.<sup>4</sup> It only has one individual grave marker, a short, upright polished granite stone located on the west edge for a one-year-old who died in 1960.

Section B (Photos 14-15):

Section B covers the east portion of the property. It is bounded by the Entrance area at the north, the cemetery's North-South Road on the west and southwest, and South Sappington on the east (Figures 3, 4). It is the most visible area of cemetery from South Sappington Road. It appears to be the most densely populated with extant grave markers and holds most of the taller and more complex monuments as well as some of the notable grave sites, such as war veterans, the memorial for Madame C.J. Walker (one of the earliest black female millionaires, though she is not buried here, Photo 26), and abolitionist and activist James Milton Turner (Photo 25). A low, metal interpretive kiosk (non-historic) has been placed on the east side of the North-South Road near Turner's grave that provides information on Turner, Moses, and African American soldiers in the Civil War. It is not included in the resource count due to its small size and footprint.

Section C (Photos 17-21):

Section C is the most varied section in terms of vegetation and grave density. It is located along the south side of the East-West Road and meets Section D where the North-South Road turns east to meet South Sappington Road (Figures 3, 4). It is bounded on the south/southwest by Grant's Trail, but a heavy fringe of mature trees and a steep, narrow gully creates a sharp divide in the southwestern area (Photos 17, 18). The markers in this area are very sparse and degraded. What markers exist are small and simple and seem to be some of the older burials. It is difficult to determine if a pattern was followed in this area or how many burials there are. A culvert runs under the East-West Road from the thicket in Section A. Erosion has created a small ditch that runs from the road southward to the boundary. From this point eastward, the trees thin out and the grade gradually levels out (Photos 19, 20). The markers in the western portion of this more open area are older, many dating from the 1920s and 1930s.

Section D (Photos 22-24):

<sup>4</sup> *Father Dickson Cemetery Burial Books*, (1904-1983), vols. 1-3, microfilm, Genealogical Collection, St. Louis County Library Headquarters. The burial locations of stillborn births and infants were commonly listed in "Child Section," but were also listed as buried with mothers who died in labor or with other seemingly unrelated individuals who were buried that same day.

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Father Dickson Cemetery
Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section D is the smallest area, bounded by the North-South Road's approach to the exit to South Sappington on the north, South Sappington on the east, Grant's Trail on the south, and Section C on the west (Figures 3, 4). It is relatively flat land with a light, mature tree cover that becomes denser as it approaches the southeast corner and embankment along South Sappington. The grave markers are for the most part simple, small, and varied in age and condition. A pattern is somewhat evident, but it is not clear if markers are missing or if the plots have not been utilized.

**Additional Resources:**

See the Figure 8 Resources Map for the locations of counted resources, labeled by number.

1. Entry Gate c. 1914 Contributing Object Photo 1

The Entry Gate is a set of four ashlar-detailed concrete block pillars and iron gates that flank the one-lane hardened surface road leading up the embankment from South Sappington Road. The pillars are painted white, and the gates are painted black. The white pillars that immediately flank the cemetery road are taller and have flat overhanging caps with round finials. Each has an iron gate leaf with a top rail that curves down toward the center meeting point. All pickets are narrow square tubing with spearhead caps. The full-length pickets alternate with half-height pickets. The leaves can close but generally remain swung open. The outer square pillars are similar to the inner pair, but they are shorter and have a squared obelisk type finial with stepped tapers. Shorter, less detailed black iron gate leaves span the spaces between the inner and outer pillars. The rails are level and the pickets are narrow square tubing with no decorative tops. A small set of concrete steps lead from the public sidewalk to a concrete sidewalk that leads through the north gate to the cemetery's parking area and office. Both side gates are closed, and the north gate has some non-historic informational signage attached to it. From south to north, each pillar cap has a word carved into it and painted black: "Father," "Dickson," Cemetery," and "1914." The inner pair of pillars each have a short evergreen shrub in front of it, and the surrounding area supports other low, decorative vegetation. The Elbring plan for the cemetery has the indication of four objects at this entrance (Figure 4). With the "1914" year inscribed on one of the pillars, however, this is the date ascribed to this installation under the assumption that the entry assembly was part of the initial plan but delayed. For this reason and the assumed installation date falling within the Period of Significance, it is considered contributing.

2. Caretaker's Office c. 1903 Contributing Building Photos 2-4

Elbring's 1903 property map is abraded at the corner and does not clearly show a building in this location, but the 1903 USGS topographic map and the 1909 map both indicate a small building on the north corner of Father Dickson Cemetery (Figure 5, 6). It is a small one-story wood frame building with a side-gabled, steeply pitched roof capped with asphalt shingles and sided with vinyl lap siding. The façade (south elevation) is asymmetrical, with the door and front-gabled stoop offset to the east and flanked by two six-over-six sash windows. A smaller, framed-down six-over-six window is near the west end. Non-historic alterations include installation of vinyl siding, replacement windows, and a door placed where a window was on the west elevation. Current owners state that the alterations were made between 1995 and 1997.

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The area immediately along the façade is bordered by low, tapered concrete or stone blocks that form boundaries for planting beds. There are various shrubs and plants in the beds. Along the east elevation, there are two tall, narrow stone markers for war veterans. The markers were displaced, and their appropriate locations are unknown. The building is considered contributing because it retains its size, massing, and purpose as the Caretaker's Office and appears to be located at the point where a building was indicated on early maps.

3. Father and Mother Dickson Obelisk c. 1915 Contributing Object Photo 5

The tapered red granite obelisk rises approximately 17 feet tall and has a base that is approximately 6 feet square. The upper section of the obelisk is carved to appear as rock-face blocks, and the twenty-one states where the Knights and Daughters of Tabor had raised funds for the obelisk have been carved into the "blocks." On the four polished tablets surrounded by the rough granite plinth are carved with inscriptions honoring Father Moses Dickson, his wife Mary Elizabeth "Mother" Dickson, and the International Order of Knights and Daughters of Tabor. It is assumed that Father and Mother Dickson are buried at or near this location, as their entries in the cemetery's records do not include location information.

4. North-South Road 1903 Contributing Structure Photos 1, 23

The North-South Road is a single lane road that spans much of the cemetery from the Caretaker's Office to Sections C and D. The road begins at the Entry Gate and runs west and uphill for a short span to the small parking area at the Caretaker's Office. At this point, it curves to the left to run southward between Sections A and B for approximately 500 feet to a "T" intersection with the East-West Road, which runs westward from this point. The North-South Road continues southward for about 200 feet to another curve to the left to run east to meet South Sappington Road. The road is a mix of surfacing materials. The portion at the Entry Gate is a short segment of concrete and then asphalt as the road climbs the slope to the Caretaker's Office. After that, it is a mix of gravel, portions of asphalt in various stages of deterioration. The North-South Road is considered a contributing resource because it appears to follow the intended road route on the Elbring plan (Figure 4) and has been in place since at least 1937 (Figure 7).

5. East-West Road 1903 Contributing Structure Photo 16

The East-West Road is a single lane road approximately 500 feet long that extends from the North-South Road west toward the southwest corner, running between Sections A and C and terminating in the small oval cul-de-sac that contains the Baby Heaven memorial. This road is also surfaced in a mix of gravel and past asphalt. It is considered a contributing resource because it appears to follow the intended road route on the Elbring plan (Figure 4) and has been in place since at least 1937 (Figure 7).

**Integrity:**

After the closing of the cemetery in 1970, there were very few burials or other activities noted in the burial books. Between 1976 and 1984, some individuals' remains were exhumed for re-



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interment at other cemeteries.<sup>5</sup> Ownership changed hands in 1969. Soon after, the cemetery fell into disrepair, overtaken by vegetation, targeted for vandalism, and used for illegal dumping. In the late 1980s, volunteers began reclaiming the land cemetery from overgrowth, maintaining it, and exploring options for its purchase. Many headstones at Father Dickson Cemetery have been damaged from weather, vandalism, or simply removed. Many graves may still be hidden by the trees and brush that remain. The cemetery has avoided ground disturbance and loss of historic boundaries. Comparison with the surveyor's plat map demonstrates the general retention of the boundaries and the internal roads. While the setting beyond the boundaries has changed from a rural area to a heavily residential area, the setting within remains aligned with its association as a cemetery. The integrity remains otherwise intact.

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<sup>5</sup> *Burial Book*, 3: 196-97.

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### Summary

The Father Dickson Cemetery at 845 South Sappington Road is a large African American cemetery established in 1903 in the city of Crestwood in St. Louis County. It was created during an era in which most cemeteries either segregated African American burials or banned them altogether, reflecting the segregation forced upon the population in daily life as well. The cemetery retains most of its original lot size and the ground has remain undisturbed. The cemetery is a significant local example of a commercial African American cemetery founded during the era of segregation in St. Louis County, eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under **Criterion A** in the area of **ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black**. **The Period of Significance is 1903-1970**, which are the opening and closing dates of the cemetery. The cemetery meets the requirements of **Criteria Consideration D** because it is associated with the under-documented local African-American population during the Jim Crow/segregation era and much of the built environment representative of this community is no longer intact.

### Elaboration

#### Cemeteries and Segregation in St. Louis County

Prior to the mid-1800s, most burials took place in land associated with churches, towns, or organizations and on private property in spaces designated for burial of those associated with the land owners (generally considered family graveyards). The free black population had similar options but those options were tempered by the contemporary beliefs of the need for separation of races. If not buried in a cemetery associated with a church or organization of Black members, they were often relegated to a space in a cemetery reserved for Black people. Often, that same area was used to bury the indigent, transient, and unidentified dead. In the case of enslaved people, they were buried in an area reserved on their owners' lands or, in the case of cemeteries not on family land, within the plots of their owners. By the mid-1800s, it became common belief that the bodies in cemeteries released gases that caused illnesses among the living. In growing urban centers, use of land within and near city limits for burials became considered poor land use, and these two factors led many cities to ban burials within their boundaries and encourage cemetery establishment far beyond the city limits. The move to larger parcels in the rural spaces contributed to shifts in cemetery design and management.<sup>6</sup> St. Louis was a city that discouraged burial within city limits. The first ban came in 1823 and was enforced with each expansion of the city limits in 1841, 1855, and 1876. The city then separated from St. Louis County in 1877. As a result of this ban, new cemeteries were established further and further into the more rural land of the county, and included exhumation of extant cemeteries that had been absorbed by the growing city limits in order to develop the land for what was seen as more efficient or profitable purposes.<sup>7</sup>

Commercial cemeteries became a common option for burial, the difference being that it was operated by a secular owner that sold burial plots with little restriction to admittance.

<sup>6</sup> David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991), 25, 36-37, 94-95.

<sup>7</sup> Ann Morris, "Sacred Green Space: A Survey of Cemeteries in St. Louis County," SLAS032 Cemeteries of St. Louis County Phase I & II Report (Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, 2000), 10, accessed April 20, 2021, <https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/STLC%20Cemeteries%20Report.pdf>.

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Bellefontaine Cemetery, opened in 1849 north of the city of St. Louis (NR listed 7/31/14), is a local example of a commercial rural or garden cemetery. Shortly before the Civil War, cemeteries started segregating and placing restrictions on Black burials if not preventing them entirely. The Bellefontaine Cemetery board followed suit in 1854, restricting burial of African Americans unless they were slaves buried within their owners' plots (extant, 4947 W. Florissant Ave., St. Louis City; NR listed 7/31/2014).<sup>8</sup> After the Civil War, many churches and cemeteries of the South and Midwest continued to follow the racial segregation that was supported by social influences and laws (1896 U.S. Supreme Court Case *Plessy v. Ferguson*<sup>9</sup> affirmed that designating separate spaces and services for whites or blacks was legal, spurring the term "separate but equal").<sup>10</sup> St. Peter's Cemetery northwest of the city of St. Louis was owned by St. Peter's Evangelical Church, a heavily German congregation (extant, 2101 Lucas and Hunt Rd., Normandy). It was opened in 1855, but began relegating African American burials to a five acre plot referred to as the "Public Grounds" in 1874.<sup>11</sup>

This was the point at which German native Herman Krueger quit as the St. Peter's Cemetery supervisor and purchased 10 acres of land in the county northwest of the city of St. Louis to create a cemetery that specifically served the Black community. Called Greenwood Cemetery (extant, 6571 St. Louis Ave., Hillsdale; NR Listed 2/24/2004), it was the first commercial cemetery for African Americans in St. Louis County. It was a very popular option for the community, featuring what was then a scenic, rolling landscape in a rural area with a rural cemetery design.<sup>12</sup> By 1993, Greenwood was surrounded by neighborhoods and had expanded to 31.25 acres with approximately 50,000 burials.<sup>13</sup>

Throughout the late 1800s, the area's black population grew along with the area's total population. By 1900, the percentage of the population of the city of St. Louis considered Black was 6.1% (35,289 of 575,382 total), and the percentage of those considered Black in St. Louis County was 7% (3,526 of 50,040).<sup>14</sup> Segregation and discrimination continued to be the norm for the local Black population, whose growing numbers required sufficient burial spaces. Father Dickson Cemetery opened in 1903 in the county southwest of the city of St. Louis, and a third African American commercial cemetery called Washington Park opened in 1920 further northwest of Greenwood in St. Louis County (extant but severely altered by highway and airport development, 4650 James S. McDonnell Blvd, Berkeley).<sup>15</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Ruth Keenoy and Eären Hummel, *Bellefontaine Cemetery National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*, Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, July 31, 2014, 68, accessed April 20, 2021, <https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Bellefontaine%20Cemetery.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537 (1896).

<sup>10</sup> "Jim Crow Laws and Racial Segregation," Social Welfare History Project, Virginia Commonwealth University, accessed April 20, 2021, <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/eras/civil-war-reconstruction/jim-crow-laws-and-racial-segregation/>.

<sup>11</sup> "About the Cemetery," Greenwood Cemetery Preservation Association, posted August 3, 2015, accessed March 3, 2021, <https://www.greenwoodstl.org/history-of-greenwood-cemetery/about-the-cemetery>.

<sup>12</sup> Brett Rogers and Gary R. Kremer, *Greenwood Cemetery National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*, Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, February 24, 2004, Sec. 7 p.1, accessed March 3, 2021, <https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Greenwood%20Cemetery.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> "About the Cemetery," Greenwood Cemetery Preservation Association.

<sup>14</sup> "Progress Amidst Prejudice: Portraits of African Americans in Missouri, 1880-1920," Missouri State Archives, accessed May 14, 2021, [https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/education/aapc/census\\_worksheet](https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/education/aapc/census_worksheet); St. Louis County Census 1900 Statistics of Total and Black Population, Social Explorer, accessed May 14 2021, <https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/Census1900/R12851830>.

<sup>15</sup> "Higher Ground: Honoring Washington Park, Its People and Place," accessed April 20, 2021, <http://omeka.wustl.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/washington-park/about-higherground>.

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Legal racial segregation in the United States continued through the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Father Dickson Cemetery and the two other African-American commercial cemeteries continued to be popular burial places. In the 1950s, cases that challenged the constitutionality of segregation such as *Brown v. Board of Education*<sup>16</sup> began to succeed in the U.S. Supreme Court. Separation and denial of service based on race was no longer protected by law, and this included the ability for Black people to purchase lots in cemeteries that were previously designated for whites only. While many African-Americans continued to prefer burial where family members were buried, the popularity of burial in the Black cemeteries generally declined in the 1960s and 1970s. With declining lot sales and under-estimated or poorly managed perpetual care funds, the owners of Black cemeteries could not afford to maintain the grounds. They often closed, fell into neglect, and came under different ownership.<sup>17</sup> Laying idle and deteriorating in areas that were becoming increasingly populated, they were often easy targets for redevelopment, as in the case of the Washington Park Cemetery, which was bisected by the construction of Interstate 70 in the 1950s and then further disturbed by the expansion of a Lambert International Airport runway in the 1990s.<sup>18</sup> In reaction to the alarming losses incurred by the Black cemeteries, in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, citizens organized to restore, maintain, and raise awareness of these resources. This volunteer effort is how many of the cemeteries continue to be supported today.

### African American Communities in South St. Louis County

The southern portion of St. Louis County was lightly populated with farms throughout most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. When the Pacific Railroad laid out the proposed route of a transcontinental line running southwest from St. Louis in the early 1850s, early commercial centers developed along the route. Many developed into towns that exist today such as Kirkwood and Webster Groves. Several other villages and towns developed near these growing towns, such as Sunset Hills and Crestwood, which also benefitted from the traffic on Route 66 after a realignment through the area in 1932.<sup>19</sup> The black population in St. Louis County was only 7% at 1900, but the percentage may have been greater in the southern section of the county due to two documented communities that featured majority black populations. North Webster was populated by many former slaves, and Meacham Park was populated by African Americans who took advantage of the lower lot prices offered by the land owner. Members of these communities likely represent a large percentage of those buried at Father Dickson.

James Marshall created the first plats of Webster Groves on a portion of his land in the early 1860s. He freed some of his slaves and gave them property north of the town shortly before the Civil War. After the war, many of his former slaves stayed in the area and began to develop a community. In 1885, Marshall's widow Cynthia subdivided more land to the north of the town into 1-5 acre lots suitable for small farms, which some of the early owners further subdivided. This area became known as North Webster (Figure 2). It was a majority black community and

<sup>16</sup> *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

<sup>17</sup> Seth Freed Wessler, "Black Deaths Matter," *The Nation*, October 15, 2015, accessed 4/20/2021, <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/black-deaths-matter/>.

<sup>18</sup> "Higher Ground: Honoring Washington Park, Its People and Place."

<sup>19</sup> "All Route 66 alignments in St. Louis MO," *The Route-66*, last updated April 11, 2019, accessed August 8, 2021, <https://www.theroute-66.com/route-66-St-Louis.html>.

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self-sufficient by the early 1900s.<sup>20</sup> In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, the community's businesses started to close due to the competition from the area's large chain stores. The communities' population has suffered from large percentages of the recent generations moving away. The last black-owned business in the area closed in 2018, and many of the historic buildings have been lost, but members of the community are working on efforts to preserve the community's stories.<sup>21</sup>

In 1892, white land speculator Elzey Meacham purchased approximately 150 acres of unimproved land south of Kirkwood and west of Crestwood (Figure 2). He named the roads after significant people and places in African American history, subdivided the land into smaller than usual lots and sold them at low prices to many black buyers. The unincorporated community grew into a self-sufficient area with several businesses by the 1940s with a demographic that remained mostly black families. The community started to decline in the late 1950s when land occupied by most of the businesses was annexed by Kirkwood and then a section was taken through the southeast corner for the construction of Interstate 44. The community was then annexed into Kirkwood in 1991, and the west third of the community was demolished and replaced by a large shopping center. Most of those displaced by the redevelopment did not remain in Meacham Park.<sup>22</sup>

### History of the Father Dickson Cemetery

On June 30, 1903, the Father Dickson Cemetery Association was incorporated as a for-profit business with the intent to establish a cemetery and sell burial lots "solely and exclusively for the interment of the bodies of members of the colored (African) Race" and "continue for the term of Fifty (50) years." The founding members of the company's Board of Directors were F.J. Autenrieth, W. D. Turner, R.L. Johnston, and T.R. Appel.<sup>23</sup> On July 18, 1903, St. Louis area newspaper the *Carondelet News* announced on its front page that the Father Dickson Cemetery Association had bought acreage at Sappington Road and Missouri Pacific's Carondelet branch from William Thane for \$5200.<sup>24</sup> This was only the second commercial cemetery in St. Louis County opened to serve the African American community since Greenwood opened 29 years earlier.

Research has not yet revealed a clear link among the four white board members with Father Dickson or the International Order of Twelve Knights and Daughters of Tabor (a fraternal organization developed by Dickson in 1872). Research on Autenrieth, Johnston, and Appel does indicate that their political and fraternal networks may have overlapped with Father

<sup>20</sup> Louis Davis et al., *A Black Community of Faith and Hope: North Webster, Historic Walking Tour* (Webster Groves, MO: Webster Groves Historical Society and City of Webster Groves, 2017), 1.

<sup>21</sup> Kieron Kessler, "North Webster residents keep black history alive in the community," *The Webster Journal*, February 28, 2020, accessed 6/22/2021, <https://websterjournal.com/2020/02/28/north-webster-residents-keep-black-history-alive-in-the-community/>.

<sup>22</sup> "Black history is deeply rooted in formation of Meacham Park in Kirkwood," *The Webster Journal*, March 21, 2018, accessed April 20, 2021, <https://websterjournal.com/2018/03/21/black-history-deeply-rooted-formation-meacham-park-kirkwood/>.

<sup>23</sup> "Articles of Association," July 6, 1903, Missouri Secretary of State, accessed Dec. 2, 2020, <https://bsd.sos.mo.gov/BusinessEntity/BusinessEntityDetail.aspx?page=beSearch&ID=14815>. Filings for "Father Dickson Cemetery Association" returns 4 downloadable PDFs including 1903 Articles of Association (Create General Business entry), 1905 Amended Articles of Incorporation, 1948 Statement of Change of Registered Agent or Office, and 1953 Dissolution.

<sup>24</sup> "A New Cemetery," *Carondelet News*, July 18, 1903, p. 1.



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Dickson and other African American activists in the Republican Party and members of the Knights and Daughters. Johnston's career in government and politics in the St. Louis area began in 1892. He was a member of the Republican Party and served as a representative on both Missouri and U.S. legislatures and the St. Louis County prosecuting attorney. He was also involved in fraternal organizations and noted as a long-time member of both the Webster Groves Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons and later the Scottish Rite.<sup>25</sup> Appel was a long-running member of the Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons as well, being recognized as a 50-year member at a 1948 annual meeting.<sup>26</sup> Autenrieth was also involved in masonic groups as an officer.<sup>27</sup> In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Republican Party voiced support for African-Americans' civil rights. The Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons was the organization that granted charters to several African-American fraternal organizations, including a group Dickson led prior to founding the Knights and Daughters.<sup>28</sup> These connections would have exposed the men to issues in the African American community, providing them with insight to the need for and profitability of an African American cemetery, particularly one that had an association with a popular fraternal group and its founder. In 1905, the Cemetery's Board of Directors was joined by A.R. Fleming, the first member who had a discernable connection to Dickson.<sup>29</sup> Fleming was the printer who had published several of Dickson's manuals for the organizations he had founded.<sup>30</sup>

On Saturday, August 29, 1903, Father Dickson Cemetery was dedicated, and Father Dickson was re-interred at the cemetery. He had passed in 1901 and was initially buried with his wife in the St. Peter's Evangelical Church Cemetery (extant, 2101 Lucas and Hunt Rd., Normandy).<sup>31</sup> The re-interment and dedication ceremony was heavily attended. Two hundred uniformed members of the International Order of Twelve Knights and Daughters of Tabor, a Masonic organization that Dickson had founded, marched from the Tabor Hall to Union Station in St. Louis to board the train to the cemetery.<sup>32</sup> The Odd Fellows' band led the march and several leaders in the African American community spoke, including civil rights activist and educator John Milton Turner. Approximately 3,000 people attended the dedication.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>25</sup> "R.L. Johnston Rites Here Tomorrow," *St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat*, September 24, 1939, 7A, Newspapers.com, accessed June 28, 2021, <https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/573388167>.

<sup>26</sup> Grand Lodge Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Missouri, "Official Proceedings One Hundred Twenty-Seventh Annual Communication," St. Louis: Sept 28-30, 1948, 35, accessed June 28, 2021, [https://issuu.com/momason/docs/gl\\_proceedings\\_1948](https://issuu.com/momason/docs/gl_proceedings_1948).

<sup>27</sup> "Crusaders Elect Officers," *St. Louis Republic*, October 22, 1902, 7. Newspapers.com, accessed June 28, 2021, <https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/76508332>.

<sup>28</sup> Robert N. Campbell, "Grand Lodge of Missouri History," Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri PHA-F&AM, accessed June 28, 2021, <https://www.glmopha.org/missouri-masons/>.

<sup>29</sup> "Certificate of Increase of Capital Stock of Father Dickson Cemetery Association," April 24, 1905, Missouri Secretary of State, accessed Dec. 2, 2020, <https://bsd.sos.mo.gov/BusinessEntity/BusinessEntityDetail.aspx?page=beSearch&ID=14815>.

<sup>30</sup> A search for Moses Dickson as author on WorldCat (accessed August 19, 2021, [https://www.worldcat.org/search?q=au%3Aamoses+dickson&fq=yr%3A1870..1903+%3E&dblist=638&qt=first\\_page](https://www.worldcat.org/search?q=au%3Aamoses+dickson&fq=yr%3A1870..1903+%3E&dblist=638&qt=first_page)) returns 12 books and revisions Moses and Mary wrote as manuals for the various incarnations of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor. A.R. Fleming (presumably a white person) was the owner of the publishing company that printed the Dicksons' manuals from at least 1889 to Father Dickson's death.

<sup>31</sup> *Burial Books*, 1: 2. Moses Dickson was the first entry of the first book, but it gives no indication of the burial location.

<sup>32</sup> The Tabor Hall was located at Eleventh St. and Franklin Ave. in St. Louis. This corner and building appear non-extant. A portion of Franklin Avenue became Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive at some point.

<sup>33</sup> "To Dedicate New Cemetery: Negroes Will Visit Oakland Station Saturday," *St. Louis Republic*, August 27, 1903, 7. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, Library of Congress, accessed November 18, 2020, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84020274/1903-08-27/ed-1/seq-7/>; "Father Dickson Cemetery is Formally

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The number of burials in the early years of the cemetery is presumably undercounted since the first few pages appear to have been entered after the fact. This count shows one burial in 1903 (Father Dickson), Burials remained in the single digits and low teens until 1914, when sixty-five burials were recorded and eighty-seven in 1915, which included John Milton Turner. Mother Mary Dickson's body was moved from St. Peter's to Father Dickson Cemetery in 1910.<sup>34</sup> On August 27, 1915, the Taborians held a lunch and ceremony to unveil the large red granite obelisk they purchased in memory of Father and Mother Dickson.<sup>35</sup>

The cemetery continued to be one of only three commercial African American cemeteries to serve St. Louis City and County. The cemetery's Burial Books show variation in yearly burial numbers, but cause is not clearly known. A decrease during the 1920s may have been related to the opening and early popularity of the Washington Park Cemetery in the north section of the county in 1920. The books reflect high numbers in the 1930s, reaching over 530 in 1935, and similar numbers until the mid-1960s.<sup>36</sup>

Burials sharply declined in the late 1960s. likely due in part of the focus of the U.S. Congress and Supreme Court on civil rights issues and the end of legal race-based segregation. The cemetery changed hands in 1969, and was considered closed in 1970 by the Burial Book keepers.<sup>37</sup> With relaxing restrictions on where people could live and bury their loved ones, many options became available to the African American community. Many moved away and utilized more conveniently located cemeteries, but some still chose to be buried or bury their loved ones at Father Dickson Cemetery, where their ancestors had been buried. In 1970, there were only 8 burials. Between 1975 and 1983, there were only twenty-five burials or related actions, and some exhumations to move remains to other cemeteries.<sup>38</sup> Today, number of burials is estimated to be over 6,800.

The cemetery fell into neglect after closure. It became overgrown, vandalized, and used as a dumping ground. In 1988, the Friends of Father Dickson Cemetery incorporated as a non-profit with the purpose of restoring the cemetery and purchasing the property.<sup>39</sup> Since then, the organization has used volunteer time and donations to clear away trash and overgrowth, reset stones, maintain its restored state, and promote the significance of those buried there to the community.

In October 2013, the angel statue, plantings, and two benches were installed in the cul-de-sac in Section A and the area was named "Baby Heaven." (Photos 11, 12). It supports only one grave marker but is commonly thought to be the burying space for infants and small children. A walking tour was also created by volunteers in 2013 to highlight the biographies of over 20 individuals buried in the cemetery. Those features in the walking tour include war veterans, social activists, and local community leaders. The graves are marked by the numbered signs

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Dedicated," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* August 31, 1903, 12. Newspapers.com, accessed November 18, 2020, <https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/571371382/>.

<sup>34</sup> *Burial Books*, 1: 7. Entry for Mary Elizabeth Dickson indicates she was moved from St Peter's to Father Dickson Cemetery, but burial location was not entered.

<sup>35</sup> "Tabors in Session," *St. Louis Argus*, August 27, 1915, 1.

<sup>36</sup> *Burial Books*, vols. 1-3.

<sup>37</sup> *Burial Books*, 3: 192-3.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid*, 192-7.

<sup>39</sup> *Old Cemeteries: St. Louis County* (St. Louis: St. Louis Genealogical Society, 1982-2003), 6: 90.

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on metal T-posts, and visitors can follow along with a printed guidebook available at the Caretaker's House.<sup>40</sup> In 2014, the flagpole was added between the Caretaker's Office and the Entry Gate (Photo 2).<sup>41</sup> The cemetery is now under the ownership of the Friends of Father Dickson Cemetery Association who maintains the grounds through donations and volunteer work.

### Notable Figures Interred at Father Dickson Cemetery

#### Moses and Mary Elizabeth Dickson

Moses Dickson (1824-1901) was born free in Cincinnati and had lost his parents by the age of fourteen. By 1848, he had moved to Galena, Illinois, as a barber and married widow Mary Elizabeth Peters.<sup>42</sup> Dickson spent most of his adult life advocating for emancipation and protection of African American freedoms through his political, religious, and fraternal activities.

Mary Elizabeth Dickson (1818-1891) was born in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Her maiden name was Butcher.<sup>43</sup>

In the 1840s, Dickson organized a group of twelve men to secretly plan and recruit for a slave uprising. Dickson called this group the Knights of Liberty. As membership and connections grew, the group was heavily involved with the Underground Railroad. In 1857, membership was over 47,000 men, and Dickson had planned to order the uprising to descend on Atlanta, Georgia. When the time had come to make the call, Dickson felt that the nation's tensions over slavery was about to develop into physical conflict. He never called the revolt, deciding that the issue of slavery would be better fought if the issue was elevated to physical conflict by the white people. The Knights of Liberty disbanded and several members including Dickson joined the Union forces during the Civil War.<sup>44</sup>

By 1866, Moses was a high-ranking member of the Prince Hall organization – the first African American freemason group - and had founded nine chapters. By 1867, he had become an A.M.E. minister, marrying couples in Franklin County, Missouri.<sup>45</sup> He submitted articles expressing the need for black suffrage and education to the *Christian Recorder* (the national newspaper of the A.M.E. Church) and other newspapers such as the *Missouri Democrat*.<sup>46</sup> He

<sup>40</sup> "New Monument, Walking Tour at Father Dickson," *South County Times*, October 11, 2013, accessed February 9, 2021, [https://www.timesnewspapers.com/southcountytimes/news/new-monument-walking-tour-at-father-dickson/article\\_2659d167-1bc1-5086-8d22-1ebd244d6ff4.html](https://www.timesnewspapers.com/southcountytimes/news/new-monument-walking-tour-at-father-dickson/article_2659d167-1bc1-5086-8d22-1ebd244d6ff4.html); Earnest Jordan, from previous caretaker and sibling of interred child.

<sup>41</sup> "Father Dickson Cemetery: Installation of flag pole in 2014," Sappington-Concord Historical Society, Accessed April 22, 2021, <http://www.schs.ws/schs2/about-us/schs-community/father-dickson-cemetery/>.

<sup>42</sup> Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, Illinois State Archives, accessed April 20, 2021, <https://apps.ilsos.gov/isavital/marriageSearch.do>.

<sup>43</sup> Lawrence O. Christensen, William E. Foley, and Gary Kremer, *Dictionary of Missouri Biography*, Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1999, 240.

<sup>44</sup> "An Underground Railway Story: How a Threatened Uprising of Slaves Was Forestalled by the Civil War," *The Minneapolis Journal*, July 4, 1901, 4, Newspapers.com, accessed April 20, 2021, <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/7505889/moses-dickson-slave-uprising/>. The article was picked up from the *Denver Post* and largely quotes a speech Dickson gave at a Knights of Tabor convention held in Denver.

<sup>45</sup> Franklin County, Missouri Marriage Book A (Colored, 1866 - 1875). <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caulleyfamilyinfo/MissouriMarriages/Franklin18661875BookAColored.txt>.

<sup>46</sup> On November 1, 1868, the *Missouri Democrat* published his "Plea for Impartial Suffrage"



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was an executive member of the Colored National Convention, convened in 1869 and active in petitioning the federal government for legislation to extend American freedoms to the newly emancipated black population.<sup>47</sup> Moses and Mary were in St. Louis by this time, overseeing construction of a church that was destroyed by arson when nearly complete in October of that year.<sup>48</sup> They were also in St. Louis in 1878 and 1879, when large numbers African Americans were arriving in the city on their immigration from the discrimination and harassment in the southern states to the promises of freedom and land in Kansas. These Exodusters became stranded through lack of funds and transportation. Dickson assumed a leading role the assistance of the immigrants, reaching out through means such as his article "The Colored Immigration to Kansas-Appeal to Aid" telegraphed to newspapers across the nation on April 2, 1879, in which he described the plight of the growing population of displaced people and called for contributions of money and clothing for their aid.<sup>49</sup> The "Appeal" was picked up by several newspapers and brought nationwide attention to the crisis.

The Dicksons, known as Father and Mother Dickson, began developing their idea for a fraternal and philanthropic organization in 1871, founding chapters in Missouri, Illinois, Colorado, and Kansas, and publishing *A Manual of the Knights of Tabor, and Daughters of the Tabernacle* in 1879. In the manual, the importance of the orders are explained, citing the influence, accomplishments, and benefits that can be reaped through group effort and collection of membership dues. This included weekly payments to sick and disabled members as well as financial benefits for members' widows and orphans and burial.<sup>50</sup> As an example of the benefits of membership, at the organization's national convention held in Chicago in 1893, Dickson announced that since 1890, the organization had paid out \$474,000 for the distressed, \$74,000 for endowments, \$42,120 to churches, and \$89,000 for education.<sup>51</sup>

Mother Dickson died on February 1, 1891, and was buried in St. Peter's Cemetery. Father Dickson continued developing the organization. He died on November 28, 1901, and was also buried at St. Peter's cemetery.<sup>52</sup> Father Dickson was reinterred at Father Dickson Cemetery in 1903, and Mother Dickson followed in 1910.

James Milton Turner (Photo 25)

<sup>47</sup> "Colored Men's Executive Committee," *The New York Herald*, January 25, 1869, 5, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, Library of Congress, accessed November 18, 2020, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030313/1869-01-25/ed-1/seq-5/>.

<sup>48</sup> Incendiarism: Colored Church in Carondelet Burned Down. Loss Over \$8,000, with no Insurance, *The Missouri Republican*, October 6, 1869, 3.

<sup>49</sup> "The Colored Immigration to Kansas-Appeal for Aid," *Evening Star* (Washington DC, April 3, 1879), 1, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, Library of Congress, accessed November 18, 2020, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1879-04-03/ed-1/seq-1/>.

<sup>50</sup> Moses Dickson, *A Manual of the Knights of Tabor, and Daughters of the Tabernacle* (Press of G.I. Jones: St. Louis, 1879), 35-36; 78-80.

<sup>51</sup> "Colored Masons: Reception to Visiting Members of the Order Now in Chicago," *The Inter-Ocean* (Chicago: August 23, 1893), 7. Newspapers.com, accessed November 18, 2020, [https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping\\_id=5512452&fcfToken=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJmcmVILXZpZXctaWQiOiJ0MjMzZm5lcjYXQiOiE2Mjk3MzZm5MzQslmV4cCI6MTYyOTgyMDMzNH0.KLjWWW5Rn-PXvzoffouE73QgGG87Mt0ibfxrB3gX6Nzk](https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=5512452&fcfToken=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJmcmVILXZpZXctaWQiOiJ0MjMzZm5lcjYXQiOiE2Mjk3MzZm5MzQslmV4cCI6MTYyOTgyMDMzNH0.KLjWWW5Rn-PXvzoffouE73QgGG87Mt0ibfxrB3gX6Nzk).

<sup>52</sup> "Father Dickson Cemetery is Formally Dedicated," *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* August 31, 1903, 12, Newspapers.com, accessed November 18, 2020, <https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/571371382/>.

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Turner was instrumental in advocating for black suffrage, education, and equal rights. He was born into slavery and injured in Union service during the Civil War. He was a co-founder of the Lincoln Institute (today called Lincoln University), a college for African Americans in Jefferson City, Missouri, and the first African American to be appointed consul to Liberia. He died on November 2, 1915, from injuries sustained in an explosion of a gas tanker at a train depot in Oklahoma. *The Kansas City Sun* noted that approximately 8,000 people attended his service with 500 Masons in the procession.<sup>53</sup>

#### Madam C.J. Walker (Photo 26)

Walker, trained by Annie Malone of Poro College fame, became one of the first African American millionaires in 1915. On a return visit to St. Louis, she bought a large plot just within the entrance of the Father Dickson Cemetery. In 1921, she fell gravely ill while in St. Louis visiting friends. They bought an elaborate marble headstone and with front curb and corner pieces.<sup>54</sup>

#### Vashon Families

In 1916, the remains of at least one member of the Vashon family was disinterred from Bellefontaine Cemetery and reinterred at Father Dickson Cemetery. Susan Paul Vashon was an educator in Washington D.C. and in St. Louis and was successful in forming women's clubs. She was the matriarch of a family of educators and advocates for improved education and civil rights for African Americans.<sup>55</sup> She had passed in 1912, and is now resting in a family plot with many of her descendants.

#### Comparison

Father Dickson is the only commercial African American cemetery in the city of Crestwood. While not a commercial cemetery, the closest known African American cemetery is Quinette Cemetery, located approximately three miles west in Kirkwood (Figure 10). Quinette's land was first used by the federal government for the burial of Civil War prisoners of war. By 1866, it was under private ownership, and in 1873, it was transferred to the Olive Chapel AME Church. The church offered free burial for local Black people, and was in use until 1973. It fell into neglect and suffered from desecration and threat of redevelopment until deeded to the city of Kirkwood in 2003. It is estimated that the 1.75 acre parcel holds 100-200 burials, but there are very few markers.<sup>56</sup> It is maintained as part of the city's park system and has paths and a kiosk at the site for interpretation of the cemetery.

<sup>53</sup> "Turner Funeral," *The Kansas City Sun*, November 13, 1915, 1. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress, accessed April 20, 2021, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn90061556/1915-11-13/ed-1/seq-1/>.

<sup>54</sup> Walker had lived for a time in St. Louis, and continued to return after moving to the east coast. In 1918 she fell gravely ill while visiting in St. Louis at Easter time. Her friends had the marker and coping prepared. She recovered and returned to New York where she died in the following year and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. "Madam Walker, Wealthy Negress, Dies in the East, Former Washerwoman in St. Louis Amassed Fortune Estimated at \$1,000,000 with Hair Preparation," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, May 26, 1919, 1.

<sup>55</sup> Susan Paul Smith Vashon, "Working for Higher Education: Advancing Black Women's Rights in the 1850s," *Colored Conventions Project*, accessed April 20, 2021, <https://coloredconventions.org/women-higher-education/biographies/susan-paul-smith/>.

<sup>56</sup> Quinette Cemetery Kiosk, Kirkwood Parks and Recreation Department.

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To find comparable properties, the scope must be raised to the county level. As mentioned previously, St. Louis County had two other commercial African American cemeteries: Greenwood (National Register listed 4/12/06) and Washington Park (Figures 11, 12).

Greenwood Cemetery at 6571 Saint Louis Avenue in Hillsdale is listed at the local level under Criterion A for the Ethnic Heritage: Black area of significance. It was the first commercial African American cemetery in St. Louis County. German immigrant Herman Krueger established it in 1874 as 10 acres in a rural part of the northwest part of the county and expanded it to over 31 acres six years later (Figure 10, 11). Greenwood's National Register nomination authors Brett Rogers and Gary R. Kremer note that Krueger, who was not trained in landscape architecture but had served as the superintendent of St. Peter's Cemetery, was likely influenced by the Rural Cemetery Movement that was popular during the mid-1800s. As examples, they point to the incorporation of the rolling topography in the design to form winding roads and scenic views and manipulation of trees and vegetation to create picturesque spaces.<sup>57</sup> The cemetery's acreage has remained intact, but it fell into neglect in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Citizens organized to reclaim the park from the overgrowth and illegal dumping, but the size of the property and lack of funding makes the task difficult, and many areas are still overgrown.

Washington Park Cemetery was established as a 75 acre commercial African American cemetery in 1920 by white businessmen, lawyer Andrew Henry Watson and realtor Joseph John Hauer (Figure 10, 12) This cemetery was also a rural parcel in the northwest portion of the county, and was designed by G. D. Joyce, a partner of St. Louis-based Joyce Surveying Company. The company had designed several other white cemeteries in the rural cemetery and memorial park styles around St. Louis County.<sup>58</sup> The cemetery fell victim to development several times, starting with the construction of Interstate 70 in the late 1950s that covered over graves and bisected the property, stranding over 12,000 graves on the north side of I-70. Further intrusion came from expansion of Lambert International Airport in the 1970s and later in the 1990s that included construction of the metro area's light rail system to the airport, ending the existence of the cemetery's north portion. In the 1980s, an advertising company purchased a strip of the cemetery along the interstate and erected billboards. The cemetery had been established to offer perpetual care, but in the 1960s and under different ownership, the cemetery started to become overgrown and neglected. The last burials were in the late 1980s. By the early 1990s, the extent of neglect, displaced and lost markers, and emerging complaints of burial mismanagement was so severe that legal action was taken against the owner.<sup>59</sup> Today, the cemetery comprises 42 acres with an estimated 40,000 burials located only on the south side of I-70.<sup>60</sup> Volunteers are working to restore and maintain what is extant, but much of it is still overgrown, and many markers have been destroyed or moved. Due to the losses of land and existing overgrowth, the original landscape design is difficult to interpret, but it has retained its association as a cemetery.

<sup>57</sup> Rogers and Kremer, p.6.

<sup>58</sup> Morris, p. 26.

<sup>59</sup> About Washington Park Cemetery, Saving Washington Park, accessed August 3, 2021, <https://www.savingwashingtonpark.com/about>.

<sup>60</sup> Saving Washington Park. Accessed August 3, 2021. <https://www.savingwashingtonpark.com/>.

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While Greenwood was the first commercial African-American cemetery in St. Louis County, Washington Park was the largest. Greenwood, Washington Park, and Father Dickson were all borne from the necessity of suitable burial grounds for the area's black population under the segregation and discrimination in the Jim Crow era, and all three have fallen victim to neglect and desecration. Father Dickson represents the need and popularity of commercial African Americans cemeteries in Crestwood and the surrounding communities in the southern portion of the county.

**Father Dickson Cemetery, Significance under Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage: Black, and Criteria Consideration D:**

The Father Dickson Cemetery is locally significant under Criterion A: ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black as an excellent example of an African American commercial cemetery existing during the 1903-1970 Period of Significance. It is representative of the both the conditions of segregation and discrimination the local black community was forced to live within and the area's historically black communities, Meacham Park and North Webster, which have lost integrity due to population loss and encroaching development. While smaller than both Washington Park and Greenwood, it is the only cemetery of this kind in the Crestwood and surrounding southern portion of St. Louis County. All three of these cemeteries have suffered from neglect and vandalism and have undergone reclamation processes by volunteer organizations. Unlike Washington Park, Father Dickson Cemetery is highly intact, avoiding any loss of its original parcel size, and retains its interior roads and early Caretaker's Office. Many of the grave markers are intact and represent a large cross-section of the under-represented local black population, many of whom were born in slavery or first-generation free people.

The cemetery meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration D because it is associated with the under-documented local African-American population during the Jim Crow/segregation era. Many of the earliest graves are those of former slaves and members of the first generation of free people who had to create a framework for life within the bounds of legal race-based segregation and Jim Crow era oppression. As the local black population is under-documented and the local built environments representative of this community have lost integrity, Father Dickson Cemetery is an excellent example of the African American population during the 1903-1970 Period of Significance.

**Conclusion**

The Father Dickson Cemetery located at 845 South Sappington Road in Crestwood, St. Louis County, Missouri, is locally significant under Criterion A: ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black during its 1903-1970 Period of Significance. It remains remarkably intact as one of only three commercial cemeteries open specifically for African Americans in St. Louis County and the only one in the Crestwood area in the southern portion of the county. It is representative of how the black community honored their deceased while living in an era of segregation so far reaching that even burial was subjected to race-based regulation.

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N/A
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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of Father Dickson Cemetery is identified by the solid white line on the Figure 3: Father Dickson Cemetery Section Map, page 25 of this form.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary selected reflects the historic boundary of the parcel when purchased and established as the Father Dickson Cemetery in 1903, minus any minor loss along the eastern boundary with South Sappington Road that may have occurred with road improvement.

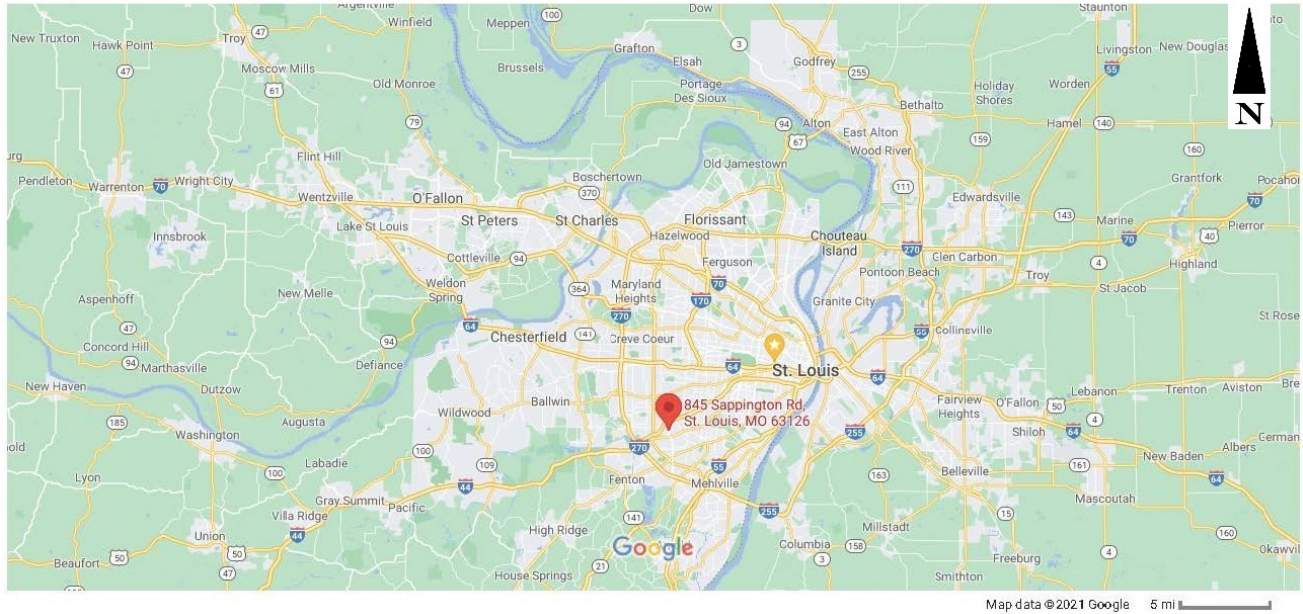
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 1: Father Dickson Cemetery Context Map 1: St. Louis Greater Metropolitan Area;

Google Maps 845 Sappington Rd



845 S. Sappington Rd., Crestwood, St. Louis County, Missouri

Source: Google Maps, accessed April 22, 2021,  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/845+Sappington+Rd,+St.+Louis,+MO+63126/@38.7057239,-90.406257,10z/data=!4m9!1m2!110m1!1e2!3m5!1s0x87d8cea65314a06d:0xe69837fddd0a32fb!8m2!3d%E2%80%A6>

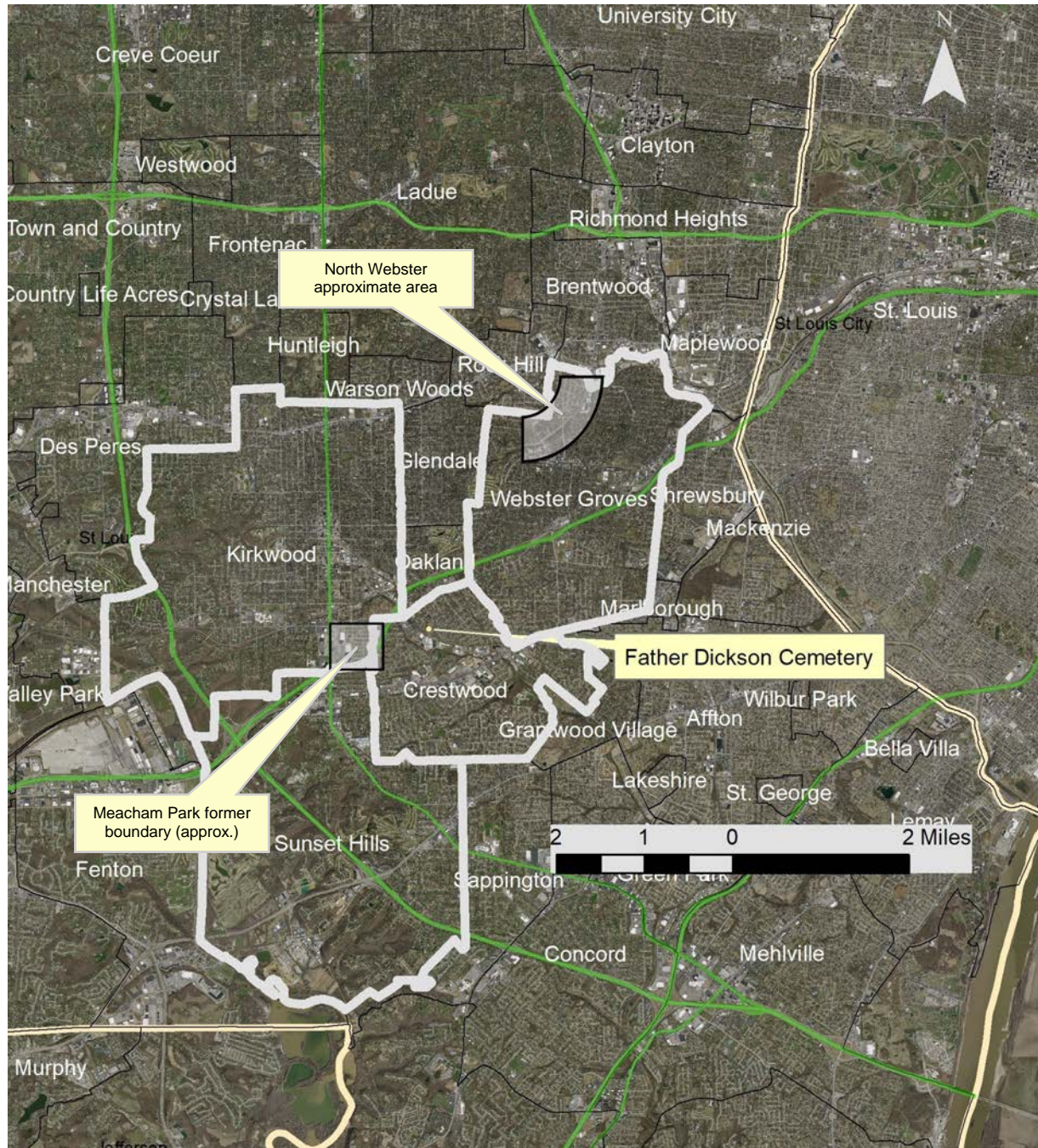


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Figure 2: Context Map 2, Father Dickson Cemetery 845 S. Sappington Rd, Crestwood, St. Louis County, and Surrounding Municipalities



Source: Created by April Scott using Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources ESRI ArcMap v. 10.7.1 and DNR data, August 2021.

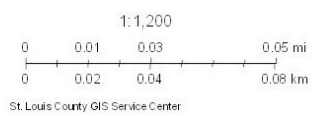


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Figure 3: Father Dickson Cemetery Section Map.



Source: St. Louis County Historic Aerial Imagery, St. Louis county GIS Service Center, accessed August 10, 2021, <https://data.stlouisco.com/apps/historic-aerials/explore>

Latitude/Longitude point coordinates:

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. 38.567381 | -90.385254 |
| 2. 38.564373 | -90.384557 |
| 3. 38.565829 | -90.387872 |



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Figure 4: Father Dickson Cemetery plot map, executed by surveyor Richard Elbring with revision by William Elbring, c. 1903.



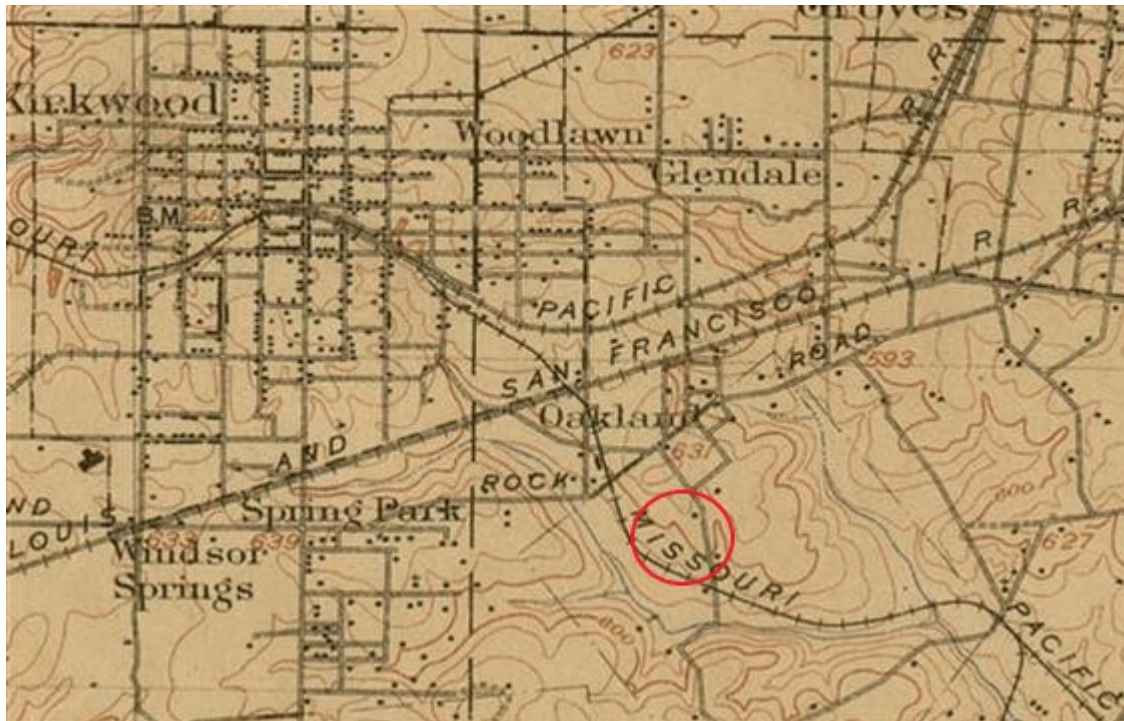
Source: St. Louis County Department of Highways and Traffic, St. Louis County Library, accessed April 9, 2021, [https://www.scl.org/sites/default/files/SC\\_Father\\_Dickson\\_Cemetery\\_map.pdf](https://www.scl.org/sites/default/files/SC_Father_Dickson_Cemetery_map.pdf).

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Figure 5. Detail of 1903 USGS Survey Map of St Louis County, red circle indicates cemetery (approximate). Indicates a building existing in approximate location of Sexton's House



Source: "Saint Louis Quadrangle, Missouri – Illinois," Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, 1903, ESRI Map Viewer, accessed November 18, 2020, <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?layers=a3d71a2feff142d3957d4b62e1ed88cf>.



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Figure 6. Detail 1909 map showing the rail line along Cemetery southern boundary and South Sappington along the eastern boundary with indication of a building at north end.



Source: *Plat Book of St. Louis County, Missouri*. Des Moines, IA: Northwest Publishing Co., 1909), 50-51.

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Figure 7. Aerial photos of the cemetery from 1937, 1955, mid-1990s, and 2018 show the shift in tree growth from intentional/designed to loss and incidental growth



1937 Aerial



1955 Aerial



1995-97 Aerial



2018 Aerial

Source: St. Louis County Historic Aerial Imagery, St. Louis county GIS Service Center, accessed June 23, 2021, <https://data.stlouisco.com/apps/historic-aerials/explore>.



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Figure 8: Father Dickson Cemetery Resource Map



Source: St. Louis County Historic Aerial Imagery, St. Louis county GIS Service Center, accessed August 10, 2021, <https://data.stlouisco.com/apps/historic-aerials/explore>

- 1: Entry Gate, contributing
- 2: Caretaker's Office, contributing
- 3: Father and Mother Dickson Obelisk, contributing

- 4: North-South Road, contributing
- 5: East-West Road, contributing



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Figure 9: Photo Keys

North Detail:



South Detail:



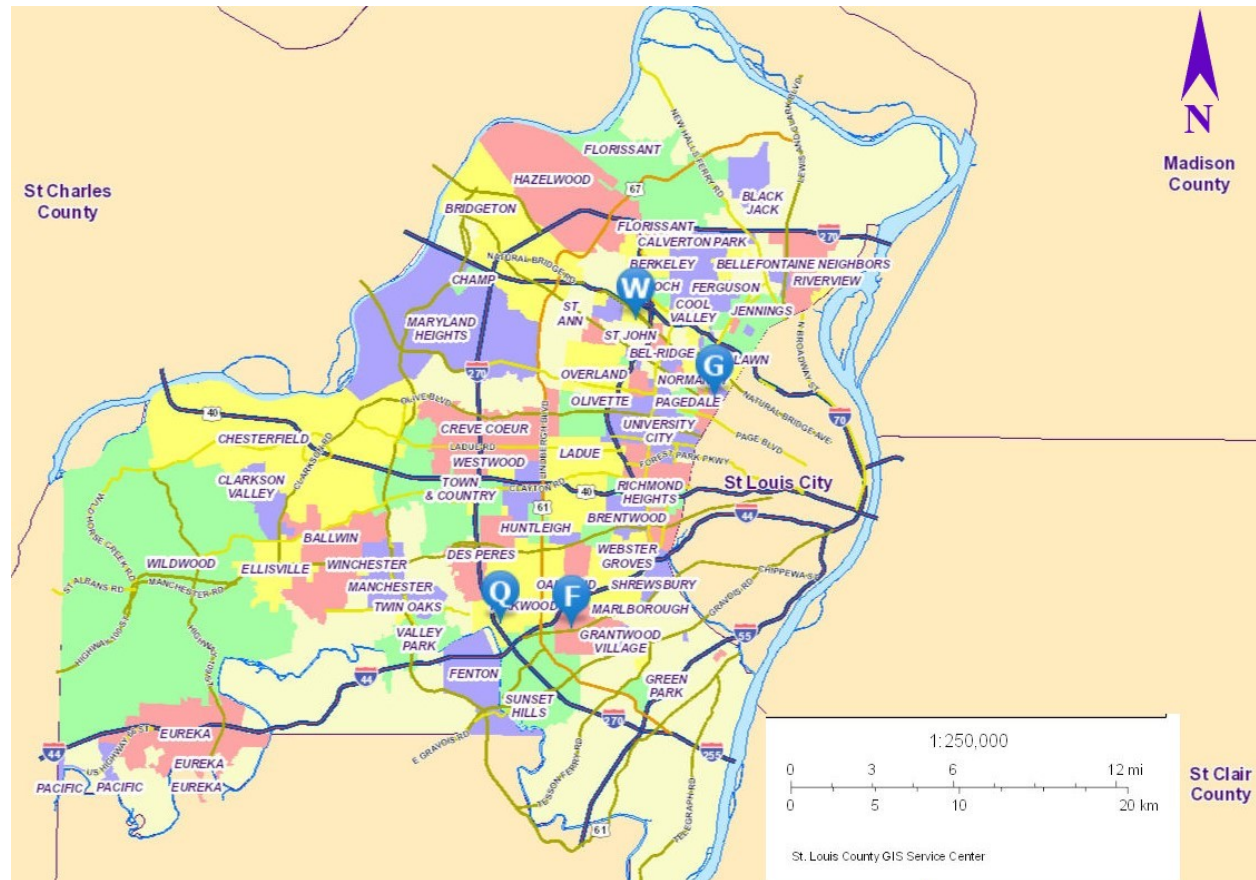
Source: St. Louis County Historic Aerial Imagery, St. Louis county GIS Service Center, accessed August 10, 2021, <https://data.stlouisco.com/apps/historic-aerials/explore>

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Figure 10: Map of Commercial African-American Cemeteries and Quinette Cemetery, St. Louis County



Source: St. Louis County Historic Aerial Imagery, St. Louis County GIS Service Center, accessed August 10, 2021, <https://data.stlouisco.com/apps/historic-aerials/explore>

- F – Father Dickson Cemetery, Crestwood, 1903
- Q – Quinette Cemetery, Kirkwood, c. 1866
- G – Greenwood Cemetery, Hillside, 1874
- W – Washington Park Cemetery, Berkeley, 1920



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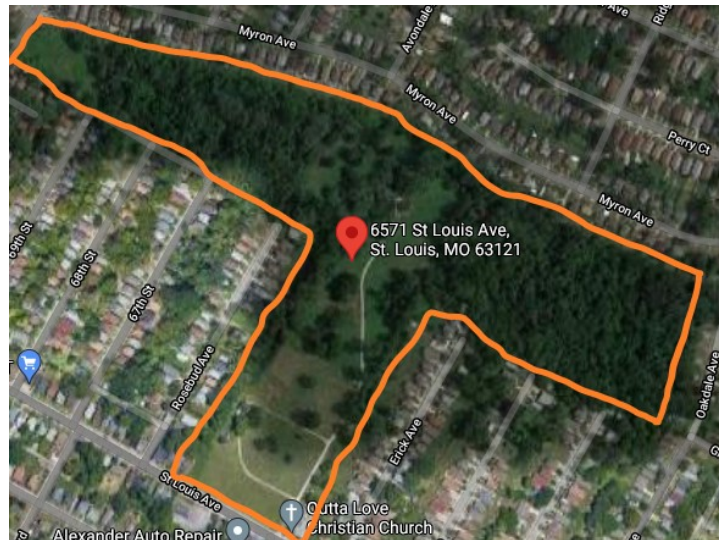
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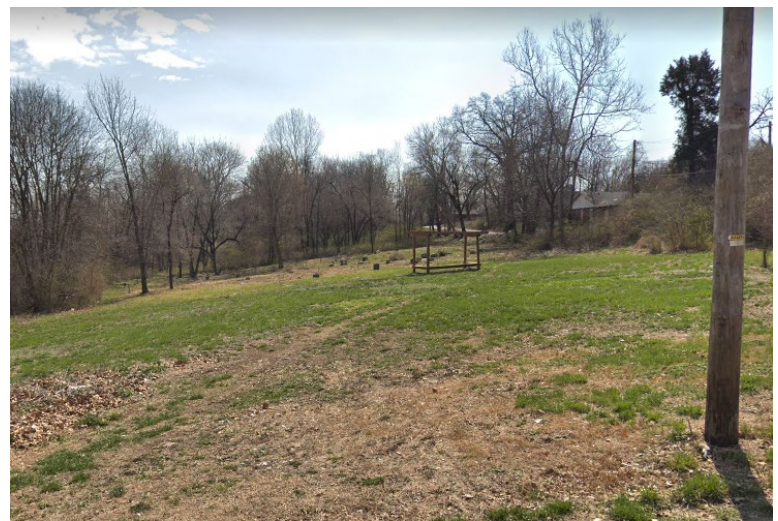
Name of Property  
St. Louis County Missouri  
County and State  
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 11: Greenwood Cemetery, 6571 Saint Louis Ave., Hillsdale, St. Louis County.



South portion of cemetery at main entrance on Saint Louis Avenue, looking northwest



West portion of cemetery from Maywood Avenue, looking east

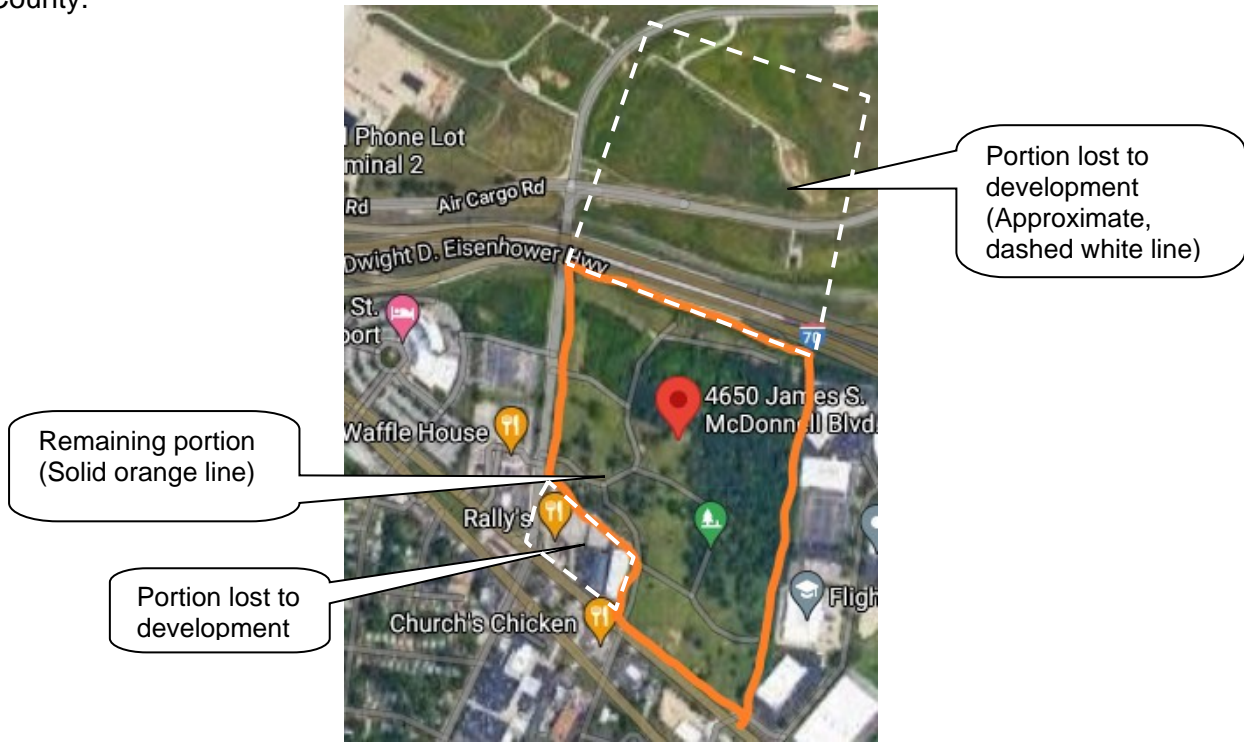
Base map and photos source: Google Maps, accessed August 10, 2021,  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/6571+St+Louis+Ave.+St.+Louis.+MO+63121/@38.6893187,-90.2894299,598m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x87df4a8f2f30ed17:0xcad90964602ac67b!8m2!3d38.688776!4d-90.288158>

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Figure 12: Washington Park Cemetery, 4650 James S. McDonnell Blvd., Berkeley, St. Louis County.



View north from south boundary at entrance from Natural Bridge Road.

Base map and photo source: Google Maps, accessed August 10, 2021,  
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/4650+James+S.+McDonnell+Blvd,+Berkeley,+MO+63134/@38.7299972,-90.3434509,711m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x87df342c026f1cfd:0x857873210fb1cc49!8m2!3d38.730644!4d-90.341844>





1





















FATHER DICKSON  
CEMETERY  
HOURS  
SUNRISE TO SUNSET

LEASHED GROUND  
PLEASE PICK UP  
YOUR DOGS WASTE

























Dedicated with Love  
by  
Mrs. Clara and Francis, BCC  
2013

BABY HEUER

















































FATHER DICKSON  
CEMETERY





JAMES MILTON  
TURNER  
1840 — 1915

SLAVE  
EDUCATOR  
AMBASSADOR



17



WILKINSON

