

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

LISTED ON:
VLR 12/16/2010
NRHP 03/28/2011

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name East Hill Cemetery
other names/site number Maryland Hill, Round Hill, Rooster Hill, City Cemetery

2. Location

street & number East State Street at Georgia Avenue NA not for publication
city or town Bristol NA vicinity
state Tennessee and Virginia code TN, VA county Sullivan, TN; Bristol (Independent City)/VA code 183 & 520 zip code 37620 & 24201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
E. Patrick Nitzel 10-1-10
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)
M. L. Hatten 1/31/2011
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register.
 other (explain _____)
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

East Hill Cemetery
Name of Property

Sullivan Co, TN; Bristol Ind. City, VA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing Noncontributing

1		buildings	
		sites	
		structures	
		objects	
1		Total	

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: Cemetery

Funerary: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

foundation N/A
walls N/A

roof N/A
other N/A

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets

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 boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance

1857 - 1960

Significant Dates

1857 – First Burial
1862 – First Civil War soldier buried
1872 – Burial of Revolutionary War Gen. Evan Shelby

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Multiple, Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

East Hill Cemetery
Name of Property

Sullivan Co, TN; Bristol Ind. City, VA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 16.7 acres Bristol TN-VA 206 SW

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>395133</u>	<u>4050791</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>395427</u>	<u>4050348</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>395411</u>	<u>4050439</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>394925</u>	<u>4050578</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gray Stothart, Historic Preservation Planner
organization First Tennessee Development District date 5/30/2010
street & number 3211 North Roan Street telephone 423-928-0224
city or town Johnson City state TN zip code 37601

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name East Hill Cemetery Memorial Association -- John S. Gaines, President
street & number 120 Woodside Drive telephone 423-652-1630
city or town Bristol state TN zip code 37620

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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East Hill Cemetery
Sullivan County TN and Bristol Independent City VA

DESCRIPTION

East Hill Cemetery is located on a hill at the eastern end of Bristol, Tennessee – Virginia, immediately to the east of and overlooking the historic downtown area. Just as the Twin Cities of Bristol, Tennessee – Virginia are divided by the State line, the 16.7 acre cemetery is almost equally divided by the same boundary. It includes elaborate gravestones, simple concrete slabs with names and dates, and unmarked graves. Entrance to the cemetery may be gained from the south off of East State Street and near the southeastern corner off of Williams Street. Both access roads are on the Tennessee side. There are paved roads throughout the cemetery to provide vehicle access to all sections. Although the majority of markers and burials are historic, the cemetery is still active. It is well-maintained and has a mixture of markers of social classes, occupations, and ages.

East Hill Cemetery rises to a crest near the state line and has no formal or planned landscaping. There are small trees and shrubs, with older trees at the north. Paths and roads through the cemetery evolved over the years. Markers range from upright slabs, small markers flat on the ground, smaller obelisks, and blocks. There are a few large and elaborate markers, but the majority are typical markers found in cemeteries. What is atypical of many cemeteries is that East Hill Cemetery contains the burials of important individuals from both Tennessee and Virginia.

When a census of the cemetery was developed in 2004, the cemetery was divided into sections that would be easily recognized. Roadways within the cemetery's boundaries were used as a grid to divide the 16.7 acres into manageable sections. These sections were labeled, beginning on the west side then working east. Sections 1-A through 1-F and portions of section 1-G follow closely the boundaries of the original cemetery deed given to L.F. Johnson by Samuel Goodson in 1868. Other sections were mapped and numbered to facilitate tombstone locations. After nearly eighteen weeks of calculating and consulting with local surveyors, the map of East Hill Cemetery was numbered and printed. A copy has been made a part of this narrative. (See Figure 1.)

Sections 1-A, 1-D, and 1-F are located west of the original entrance of the cemetery (which is no longer there). There are few graves in those sections. Until the 1950s, these sections contained the family plots of the Reynolds family. In the decades of the 1920s, the 1930s, and 1940s, the cemetery fell into a state of disrepair and was considered an eyesore. Descendents of the Reynolds family decided it would be more fitting for their ancestors to be moved to the city's newest cemetery, Shelby Hills. This removal, March 21, 1957, left these sections of East Hill vacant. A vote by the board of directors in the 1990s declared these sections abandoned property and new burial plots could again be sold.

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Sections 1-B, 1-C, and 1-E contain the oldest gravesites in the cemetery. A circular, gravel drive cuts through portions of 1-B and 1-E, producing section 1-C or "the Circle" as it is commonly known. Within sections 1-A and 1-D are the graves of 101 Confederate soldiers. With the exception of three, these tombstones are unmarked. The dates these tombstones were erected could not be determined. It was, however, because of these burials that the East Hill Cemetery came into existence. During the Civil War, the Confederacy established hospital facilities in Bristol. The bodies of soldiers who did not survive were taken to East Hill for burial. The markers for these soldiers may be placed for individual soldiers, but may represent mass graves of unknowns.

Entry to the part of the cemetery where the Civil War Confederate soldiers are buried is through two heavy stone posts. The posts are connected by a circa 2000 metal fence that has CONFEDERATE UNKNOWN at the top. Similar to national cemeteries in the United States, the majority of the markers in this part of the cemetery are plain upright stone slabs with segmental arch or pedimented tops. They are placed in rows. In 1995 the United Daughters of the Confederacy put up a small commemorative monument to the Civil War dead. The stone and brick monument looks like a cross between the obelisks and pedestal markers in the East Hill Cemetery. There is a plaque with the names of the dead on three of the faces of the monument.

The western part of the cemetery contains standing stone block markers and truncated/blunt obelisks, many of which have vaulted tops that are said to resemble the vaulted ceilings of churches. Unlike the nearby Confederate section, there is no pattern to the markers.

Section 1-E also contains the first burial in East Hill. According to local historian and storyteller, V.N. "Bud" Phillips, in 1857, a Gains family from Holston Valley brought their young daughter, Nellie, to Bristol for burial. Samuel Goodson, described as a sympathetic man, told the family they could bury their daughter on the hill he owned east of town. A single horse pulled wagon hauling the body of the little girl up the steep hill to the gravesite. The wagon driver picked a branch from an overhanging limb to prod the horse. At the conclusion of the services, the branch was used as a grave marker. The branch grew into a large tree that stood until 1973. The stump of that tree was visible until the mid 1980s. The Bristol Preservation Society has marked the gravesite with a stone marker.

Section 1-G is a heavily wooded area and until 2005, no graves were marked in that area. Phillips had maintained that the graves of twelve slaves were buried in that area. He based this on interviews he had done with area residents in the 1950s who remembered the gravesites being marked by wooden crosses and fieldstones. One grave site was marked by a whitewashed locust post. Based on Phillips' research, the Board of Directors of East Hill Cemetery decided to restore this slave section of the cemetery. The Sons of Confederate Veterans from Blountville and Bristol cleared the area of trees and brush around 2005. Eleven wooden crosses and twelve fieldstones were placed symbolically in the area. The whitewashed locust post was also placed in the section. There is also a small decorative iron fence here. According to Phillips, four of the twelve slaves

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can be identified. Aunt Mellie or Melzeeda was a slave of Joseph Rhea Anderson, the founder of Bristol. She was his cook and died near Christmas of 1857. Rose and Luke were also slaves of Anderson. Jacob or Jake was the slave of John Bosang, an early merchant in Bristol. Jacob's gravesite was marked by the locust post. Silas Goodson or Old Si was a slave of James King. He died in 1862 and was first buried in the slave cemetery located at Rose and 7th Streets. In 1872 he was moved to East Hill. Old Si was reportedly 130 years old when he died. It is the goal of the cemetery to enclose this section on three sides with a fence.

At the center of East Hill Cemetery, looking at the state line, there are a variety of monuments. Large standing stone blocks, upright slabs, small flat markers set on the ground, and tall obelisks are included in this section. Not only are there a variety of markers here, they span the entire timeframe of the cemetery. There is minimal landscaping here at the crest of the hill.

Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 were added in the 1880s. These sections contain the burials of many of the City's early founders. Joseph Rhea Anderson, Bristol founder, is buried in section 4. Samuel Goodson, the original owner of the land on which East Hill Cemetery is situated is buried in Section 3. One of the more ornate monuments is in this part of the cemetery. The "gateway" monument to the Haynes family is embellished with a large draped urn, arched sides flanked by columns (the gateway) with Scamozzi capitals, acanthus, flowers, leaves, fringe, and a dove. Nearby is another gateway monument, much smaller, but also topped with an urn.

Sections 2-A, 2-B, and 7 were added at the turn of the twentieth century. These sections were acquired from East Bristol Land and Improvement Company. This acquisition was the final expansion of East Hill. Burial markers in this part of East Hill Cemetery tend to be rectangular standing stone blocks, either smooth or rusticated stone, with a family name. Individual burials are near the larger markers and are denoted by small flat stone markers with the person's name. There is a scattering of short obelisks throughout this area. The northeast part of this section shows the most variety. There are stone blocks, obelisks, pedestals, truncated/blunt obelisks, and low stone or brick dividers between some family burial plots.

Bristol's East Hill Cemetery retains integrity to its period of significance from 1857 to 1960. It contains the graves of African American slaves, Civil War soldiers, and persons of local and national historical importance. This cemetery serves as a continual reminder of Bristol's history, and contains the only remaining connection to people and events that have shaped the community.

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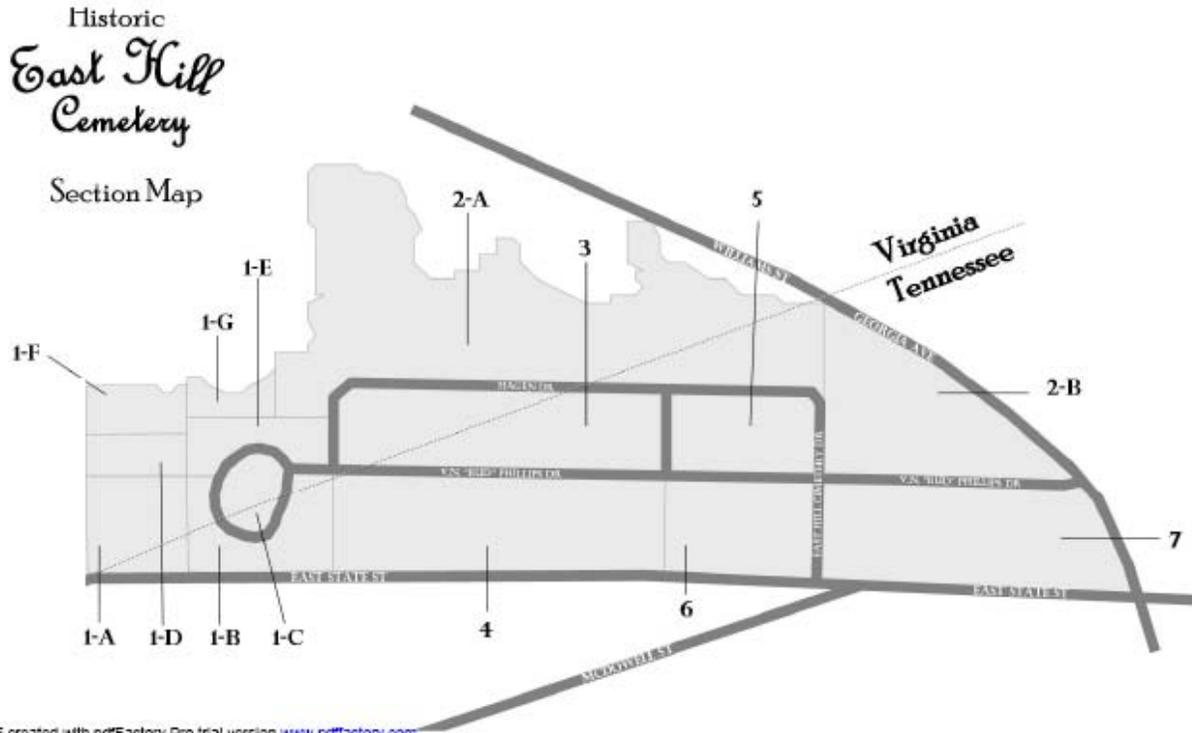


Figure 1. East Hill Cemetery showing sections.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

East Hill Cemetery is a significant property associated with settlement history in Bristol. Among its graves are the founders of the city, representatives of enslaved African-Americans, Civil War soldiers including those who died as a result of the war as well as those who survived the war, a Revolutionary War General of Militia, and many who have made contributions to Bristol and the nation. This cemetery, in Bristol, Sullivan County, Tennessee and Bristol, Washington County, Virginia is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its locally significant association with the town's exploration and settlement history. Established circa 1857, the cemetery is the best representation of these patterns in both states. Although still in use, according to a census of the cemetery conducted in 2004 by Gary D. Rose and Debra C. Rose, over 80% of the burials are from before 1961 and more than 18% are from before 1900. This establishes the period of significance from circa 1857 to 1960. The cemetery contains the graves of Bristol's founders, over 179 Civil War soldiers, and African American slaves. The cemetery retains its historic integrity and there is no collection of buildings that represent this era of the community as well as the East Hill Cemetery. The cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D both for its age in relation to the exploration and settlement of the community and the large number of outstanding, locally significant individuals who are buried here.

Over the years, the hill on which the cemetery is located has been known by a variety of names, including Maryland Hill, Round Hill, Rooster Hill, City Cemetery, and beginning in the early 1890s, East Hill Cemetery. Local legend tells a story of Revolutionary War General Even Shelby, in his later years, wandering confused from his home. He was sometimes found on the hill thinking he was back in Maryland. Thus, residents often called the hill east of town Maryland Hill out of respect for the old soldier. As memories of General Shelby faded, the hill was renamed Round Hill, reflecting the geological shape of the land. The unpopular sport of cock fighting was not well received in Bristol, so men would gather on the hill to gamble and fight their roosters. Thus, Round Hill became known as Rooster Hill. The establishment of the City Cemetery was precipitated by the closing and removal of bodies from Oak Grove or Shelby's Cemetery on Fifth Street. The name was adopted by default. It is uncertain when East Hill Cemetery became the official name. At the time of the Shelby Cemetery removal, it was known as City Cemetery, but by 1890 it was known as East Hill.

The Founding of Bristol

The City of Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia began as the dream of a merchant from nearby Blountville, Tennessee. This merchant, a young man named Joseph R. Anderson arranged to purchase 100 acres of land from his father-in-law, Rev. James A. King. Anderson believed that this land, which straddled the boundary between Virginia and Tennessee, was ideally situated for growth of a town. Shortly after purchasing the property in 1852, he had the town planned and

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surveyed. He distributed maps and began offering lots for sale. Believing, or hoping, that his town would become an industrial center, he named it for a city in England that was known at that time for developing new industries and commerce: Bristol.

One of the reasons for Anderson's optimism concerning growth of his town was the fact that it was on the proposed route of the railroad that would connect Richmond with Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Atlanta. As he predicted, the railroad did play an important part in Bristol's development and growth. The railroad also played an important role in the establishment of the East Hill Cemetery.

Anderson, however, was not the only person who could see the potential for a town located at the point at which the railroad would cross the state line between Virginia and Tennessee. At about the same time, or immediately afterward, Col. Samuel Goodson, cousin of Rev. James A. King, platted a town on land he owned immediately to the north of Bristol. He called his development Goodsonville. Like Anderson, he anticipated growth and proceeded to construct rental property.

In 1856, the Town of Goodson, Virginia was incorporated to include all of Goodsonville, plus that portion of Bristol on the Virginia side of the State line. At that point, these "twin cities" were Bristol, Tennessee and Goodson, Virginia. That same year, the railroad came into town, and the already rapid growth accelerated.

Although it was officially called Goodson, the city north of the state line continued to be known unofficially as Bristol. By 1890, the unofficial was made official, and Goodson, Virginia became Bristol, Virginia. The border cities shared their name.

To this day, the thriving downtown areas of both Bristol, Virginia and Bristol, Tennessee are joined together along State Street (Bristol Commercial Historic District NR 5/22/03). Running east and west, much of State Street is also the state line. Also shared by the two states on East State Street is the Bristol Virginia-Tennessee Slogan Sign (NR 9/8/88). However, to the east of the central business district, State Street veers southward into Tennessee. The state line continues due east, through the middle of East Hill Cemetery, where one can find the graves of Anderson and Goodson.

The Establishment of East Hill Cemetery

The founding of Bristol took place in 1852, and the first action that led to creation of East Hill Cemetery took place only five years later in 1857. As they prepared to move, the Gains family suffered the loss of a five-year-old daughter named Nellie. The child's body had to be laid to rest before their departure, and the family was concerned that if it was buried on the land they were

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about to leave, the grave would be neglected and ultimately forgotten. Samuel Goodson, one of the recognized founders of Bristol, owned the hill to the east of town and thought that it would be a good place for a cemetery. He offered to allow the Gains' to bury their daughter on that hill, and the body of young Nellie Gains thus became the first to be interred there, a few feet north of the Virginia/Tennessee state line. Her grave is marked with a flat stone placed in the mid-1980s.

From 1857 until 1862, very few burials took place on the hill where Nellie Gains had been placed. With the onset of the Civil War and the aforementioned railroad, there was a need for burial space in Bristol, and East Hill met this need. During the Civil War, Bristol was the site of the junction of the East Tennessee and Virginia Railway. This was the only north-south railway that connected Virginia directly with the Deep South. About 1862, the Confederate Medical Corps established hospitals in Bristol. Because of Bristol's strategic location and its railway, Bristol soon became a hospital hub for the Confederacy. Soldiers were brought by railway from battles north and south of Bristol for treatment. The soldiers who did not survive were taken by wagon to the hill east of town for burial to the west of the crest of East Hill in an area of about 7,500 square feet. Today, this is the westernmost part of the cemetery. It is not known whether each grave was marked at the time of burial or whether the stones that mark the graves today are representative of mass graves of unknowns.

L.F. Johnson made it publicly known; it was because of the soldier's graves that he purchased the land for the cemetery from Samuel Goodson. When Johnson deeded the cemetery grounds to the Ladies Memorial Association, he stated that it was for the preservation of the soldiers' graves.

Adjacent to the place in which the Civil War dead are interred is an area in which, according to oral history, about a dozen African American slaves are buried. The exact locations of slave graves have not been determined. Representative markers have been placed there to indicate the significance of the area.

Although it was used for burials since the interment of the Gains' child in 1857, the privately-owned hill east of downtown Bristol had not been officially designated as a cemetery until 1868. That was when Bristol merchant L. F. Johnson purchased two acres of land at East Hill, including the plot with the graves of the soldiers. His purpose in making that purchase was to honor those who had served and died. He donated the land to the Ladies Memorial Association to be used as a town cemetery.

As part of the deed in which the land was transferred from L. F. Johnson to the Ladies Memorial Association, "the trustees are required to keep said lot enclosed and the soldiers and their graves in good condition."¹ They were also allowed to sell plots of 18 by 20 feet "for burying

¹ Deed. L.F. Johnson to Ladies' Memorial Association. Washington County, VA Deed Book 27 pp 328-329.

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purposes or vaults nothing else.”² Income from the sale of the plots was to go toward upkeep of the cemetery. A price of twenty dollars per plot was established.

After the Ladies Memorial Association took control of it, the cemetery grew rapidly. By the time of Goodson’s death in 1870, its limits stretched down the eastern slope of East Hill. The cemetery’s eastern boundary had reached all the way to the current location of the East State Street entrance by 1890.

As the cemetery expanded, the main gate was moved. The very first gate allowed entry at the cemetery’s extreme western edge. As the cemetery expanded eastward, the gate was moved eastward as well, and allowed access from East State Street into what is now called Section 4. When improvements were made to East State Street, this gate was no longer usable and the entry was moved to its current location. No above-ground evidence remains of the older gates.

It should be noted that there are a number of markers for graves of persons who died prior to 1857. The graves of people buried in other cemeteries have been disinterred and buried at East Hill. Some relocated graves include those of General Evan Shelby; B. F. Zimmerman, Bristol’s first doctor; and Sarah Ann Anderson, the daughter of Joseph and Melinda King Anderson.

In its early days, East Hill Cemetery was tended by the local citizens, who would set aside a Saturday each May to be designated as a work day at the cemetery. At other times, East Hill was documented to have an overabundance of dense vegetation. The editor of the newspaper complained of broken fences allowing livestock in, of the theft of decorative flowers, and of people using the cemetery for activities they wanted to be kept secret. Thus, East Hill has gone through periods of benefiting from civic pride as well as periods of neglect.

Many of the very first headstones were provided by a local man who became an agent of Caddess Monument Company of Lynchburg, Virginia. Markers would arrive on the train, and the owner would haul them directly from the depot to the cemetery on his shoulder, or in a two wheeled cart pulled by an ox. A. T. M. Provence established Bristol’s first monument works about 1860. Shortly thereafter, W. A. Ray established a similar business which operated for many decades. It was a common practice for the makers of monuments to inscribe their names in tiny letters near the bottom of their stones. East Hill Cemetery still has monuments that include the names of Provence, Ray, and the Caddess Monument Company.

1900 to 1960

During the first half of the 20th century, East Hill Cemetery was (and continues to be) cared for by the East Hill Cemetery Memorial Association. During the period from 1900 to 1960, a number of people important to the history of Bristol were interred at East Hill. Rives Walker, Isaac Chapman

² Ibid.

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Fowler, and J. A. Dickey were buried in 1901, 1905, and 1919. All three of these men were mayors of Bristol, Virginia. LaFayette Johnson, known to most as L. F. Johnson, was buried in the cemetery in 1904. It is Johnson who purchased two acres at the top of East Hill from Samuel Goodson, and deeded the land to the Ladies Memorial Association for use as a cemetery. Jessie Albert Wallace, who died in 1912, served as King College's second president from 1885 until 1889. Mrs. LeGrande Sexton served in a Confederate hospital, and in the Confederate Treasury. She was buried at East Hill in 1919. Arvle Canter was buried in 1958. For many years, Canter was a grave digger and groundskeeper for East Hill Cemetery. It should also be pointed out that descendants of persons who were significant in 19th century regional history have been buried in their family plots. East Hill Cemetery now has 10 interments from the family of Joseph R. Anderson, founder of Bristol, and six from the family of Rev. James King who was the previous owner of the property on which Bristol was built; founder of King College; and the father-in-law of Joseph R. Anderson.

The cemetery has many graves of people who served in military conflicts. Between 1900 and 1960, 57 veterans of the American Civil War were laid to rest in this cemetery. During that same period, two veterans of the Spanish American War were buried at East Hill. At least 12 World War I veterans were buried there during that time, and four of those men died in France in 1918. Prior to 1960, three veterans of World War II were buried at East Hill. Many more World War II veterans were buried there from 1961 to the present. This cemetery also has a marker honoring Alfred P. Crosswhite, who was the first person from Bristol, Virginia killed in World War II. He was killed in action on December 15, 1942 and his remains are interred at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.

Noteworthy Burials

There are a number of burials in East Hill Cemetery that are of historic or local interest.

Section 1-B

- Dr. R. M. Coleman – Buried 1870 – One of Bristol's first physicians, he opened Bristol's first drugstore in 1855. He worked in the Confederate hospitals in Bristol.
- Nellie Gaines – First burial in the cemetery in 1857. A plain commemorative slab (placed in the mid-1980s) flat on the ground has FIRST GRAVE IN EAST HILL NELLIE GAINES 1852-1857.
- William G. Lindsey – Buried 1898 - Engineer of the first train to arrive in Bristol in 1856.
- William H. Smith – Buried 1901– Smith was responsible for construction of many of the buildings in Bristol. The monument was constructed so that it could be seen from the front porch of his house. It is the largest monument in the cemetery and marks

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Smith's family plot. A heavy stone obelisk sits on an elaborate base adorned with colonettes, Greek key and scroll details, rusticated stonework, and brick. The obelisk has SMITH carved at the base and rests in the middle of a low, brick and stone enclosure. Two small segmental arched headstones are located within the enclosure.

Section 1-E

- James Keeling – Buried 1895 –During the Civil War, railroads were extremely important to the Confederacy for moving men and supplies. The Union and Union-sympathizers in the South made and carried out plans to deprive the Confederacy of the use of its railroads at every opportunity. Keeling was responsible for single-handedly saving the vital railroad bridge at Strawberry Plains, Tennessee from would-be saboteurs who had intended to burn the bridge. Located just outside the circle area where most of the Confederate soldiers are buried, Keeling has a small, plain obelisk resting on a heavy base with KEELING in block letters. Defender of the Bridge and a Confederate flag in bas relief are near the apex of the obelisk. A statement about the bridge defense and Keeling's death date (Feb. 12, 1895) are incised on one side of the obelisk.
- General Evan Shelby – Reinterred 1872 –Revolutionary War figure and father of Isaac Shelby, first Governor of Kentucky. This is his third burial. General Shelby was first buried in the Shelby or Oak Grove Cemetery near downtown Bristol, and then was buried twice in this cemetery. Shelby's commemorative marker is a simple segmental arch headstone with a cross and EVAN SHELBY, INDIANA, BRIG GENERAL VA MILITARY, REV WAR 1794 incised on it. It stands at the head of a coffin shaped iron cover encased in concrete. The cover has GENERAL EVAN SHELBY DIED DEC 4, 1794 AGED 74. In 1997 a commemorative plaque was placed by the NSDAR at the foot of the slab.

Section 2-B

- Isaac Anderson – Buried 1932 – He was the first child born in the new Town of Bristol. He gave to King College the site of the present campus.
- Judge Joseph L. Kelly – Buried 1925 – Attorney, Virginia Supreme Court President and teacher of what was once the largest Sunday school class in America

Section 3

- Dr. Jeremiah Bunting – Buried 1899 – In charge of pharmaceutical supplies for the Confederacy.
- John MacGregor Crowell, Sr. – Buried 1900 – Built many of the early buildings in Bristol. The 1890s obelisk for John and Mary and their three children, Mary E.,

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Cordelia A, and John Jr., is tall and slender with molded trim at the base and scrolls and pediment detailing midway up the obelisk.

- Ben L. Dulaney – Buried 1891 – One of the founders of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Col. Samuel E. Goodson – Buried 1870 – Founder of Goodsonville, which along with the original Bristol, Virginia was incorporated as the composite Town of Goodson in 1856. Located on the Tennessee side, his marker is a simple arched stone slab with a design of drapes partially covering the top. COL. SAMUEL E. GOODSON, BORN OCT. 7, 1793, DIED JAN. 31, 1870 AGE 76 YEARS 3 MONTHS AND 24 DAYS is written on the slab. Near the marker is a commemorative sign noting Goodson as the founder of the city.
- Oliver Taylor, Sr. – Buried 1923 – Author of *Historic Sullivan*, a book that is much sought by students of history over a century after it was written.
- Major Henry Clinton Wood – Buried 1909 – The man for whom Clintwood, Virginia is named.
- William M. Wood (aka Uncle Billy) – Buried 1943 – Last survivor of the Virginia Military Institute cadets who fought in the Civil War Battle of New Market on May 15, 1864. Wood's pedestal monument is similar to Fulkerson's (see below) but it is decorated with acanthus leaves and beaded trim. His monument reads BILLY WOOD 1846-1943 LAST SURVIVOR OF THE V.M.I. YOUTH CADETS WHO FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF NEW MARKET MAY 15, 1864.
- Dr. B. F. Zimmerman – Reinterred circa 1871 – Bristol's first doctor.

Section 4

- Joseph R. Anderson – Buried 1888 – Planned and founded the original Town of Bristol, TN/VA in 1852. The base of this obelisk contains a commemorative marble plaque that reads IN TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH R. ANDERSON WHO FOUNDED BRISTOL IN 1852. Above this are Anderson's name and birth and death dates (1819-1888). Molded edges, incised leaf designs, pediments, chamfered edges, a triangle (probably representing the Christian trinity) and the Mason's compass decorate the monument, which is capped by an urn. A modern marker with information about Anderson is located near the grave.
- Dr. M. M. Butler – Buried 1913 – Surgeon who helped to amputate the arm of Stonewall Jackson.
- Col Abram Fulkerson – Buried 1902 – Confederate officer during the American Civil War, Virginia lawyer and politician. He served in the Virginia House of Delegates and the U. S. House of Representatives. Unlike some of the other prominent people in the cemetery, Fulkerson's monument is not an obelisk. It is a pedestal with incised writing on the east side that describes his life accomplishments. It was erected in 1903 by his widow and son. The gently curved sides of the pedestal support a truncated pediment that is embellished with anthemions. A small box-like marker to his son, S. V. Fulkerson, is adjacent to Fulkerson's pedestal.

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- Parents of Dr. C. T. Pepper – For whom the popular soft drink is named. Jess and Mary Pepper were buried in 1889. A simple pedestal monument with panels and cove molding, IN MEMORY OF DR. JESS H. PEPPER AND FAMILY is written in one of the panels.
 - John Slack – Buried 1900 – Started the *Bristol News*, which later became Bristol's current newspaper, *The Bristol Herald Courier*.
 - Col. N. M. Taylor – Buried 1898 – Lawyer for whom Bristol's Taylor Street is named.
 - Capt. J. H. Wood – Buried 1917 – Prominent lawyer in Bristol, Washington, D. C., and New York City.

Section 6

- Rev. James King – Buried 1867 – Owned the plantation upon which the oldest portion of the City of Bristol is located and donated the land upon which the Bristol Depot is located. He was the founder of Bristol's first Presbyterian Church and King College.

If approved, this cemetery will join thirteen sites and three districts within a mile of the cemetery that have already been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One National Register structure and one district are in both Virginia and Tennessee. However, the cemetery has a wider time-span of significance than any other listing in the immediate area, stretching back to within five years of the founding of the City of Bristol.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The Nomination is for all of East Hill Cemetery which is encompassed by a boundary described as follows:

Situated in the 17th Civil District of Sullivan County, Tennessee, Bristol, Tennessee and in the City of Bristol, Virginia, BEGINNING at a point in Bristol, Tennessee at the northwest corner intersection of the rights-of-way of Williams Street and East State Street; proceed N 62° 20' W 850'±; thence N 65° 20' W 815'± to a point on the boundary between the State of Tennessee and the Commonwealth of Virginia; thence into Virginia N 5° 40' E 175'±; thence S 83° 30' E 50'±; thence N 15° 50' E 25'±; thence S 74° 10' E 165'±; thence N 6° 30' E 40'±; thence S 79° 30' E 230'±; thence N 27° 30' E 440'± to the southern boundary of the right-of-way of Williams Street; thence southeasterly and southerly along said right-of-way for all remaining calls S 51° 30' E 45'±; thence S 42° 50' E 130'±; thence S 41° 00' E 560'±; thence crossing the boundary line from the Commonwealth of Virginia into the State of Tennessee S 39° 30' E 160'±; thence S 37° 30' E 85'±; thence S 35° 30' E 75'±; thence S 30° 30' E 100'±; thence S 24° 10' E 90'±; thence S 21° 40' E 85'±; thence S 17° 30' E 60'±; thence S 8° 00' E 30'±; thence S 3° 10' E 50'±; thence S 3° 20' W 80'± to the point of beginning, being 16.73 acres ±.

This includes parcel 021AD021.00 in Tennessee. This includes all the acreage currently and historically associated with East Hill Cemetery. It is bounded on the northeast by industrial property, on the east and southeast by residential property, on the south by residential and public property, and on the west by commercial and residential property.

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East Hill Cemetery
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PHOTOGRAPHS

Name of Property: East Hill Cemetery
Name of Photographer: Gray Stothart
Date of Photographs: May 2010
Location of Digital Files: F TDDt, VA and TN SHPO offices

Photo #1 of 42
Easternmost end of cemetery from the southeast end, camera facing west.

Photo #2 of 42
Easternmost end of cemetery from the east end, camera facing northwest.

Photo #3 of 42
Northeast end of cemetery from the center of the cemetery, camera facing northeast.

Photo #4 of 42
Southeast end of cemetery from the center of the cemetery, camera facing southeast.

Photo #5 of 42
Northwest part of cemetery from the center of the cemetery, camera facing west.

Photo #6 of 42
West end of cemetery from the crest of East Hill, camera facing northwest.

Photo #7 of 42
Looking down the state line from the crest of East Hill, camera facing east.

Photo #8 of 42
Rut of the old road from Bristol to the crest of East Hill, camera facing west.

Photo #9 of 42
Gate to the westernmost end of the cemetery -- Civil War graves, camera facing north.

Photo #10 of 42
Civil War graves at the west end of the cemetery, camera facing southwest.

Photo #11 of 42
Civil War graves at the west end of the cemetery, camera facing west.

Photo #12 of 42

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Civil War graves at the west end of the cemetery, camera facing northwest.

Photo #13 of 42

Civil War graves at the west end of the cemetery, camera facing northeast.

Photo #14 of 42

Marker for the Civil War graves at the east end of the area.

Photo #15 of 42

Monument to the Confederate veterans, camera facing east.

Photo #16 of 42

Close-up of the Monument to the Confederate veterans.

Photo #17 of 42

Grave of an identified Confederate infantry soldier in the Civil War section.

Photo #18 of 42

Grave of an identified Confederate soldier in the Civil War section.

Photo #19 of 42

Grave of an identified Confederate infantry soldier in the Civil War section.

Photo #20 of 42

Burial area for African American slaves on the north side of the west end of the cemetery, camera facing northwest.

Photo #21 of 42

Burial area for African American slaves on the north side of the west end of the cemetery, camera facing east.

Photo #22 of 42

Headstone of Revolutionary War General Evan Shelby.

Photo #23 of 42

Grave site of Revolutionary War General Evan Shelby.

Photo #24 of 42

Commemorative plaque at the foot of the grave of Revolutionary War General Evan Shelby.

Photo #25 of 42

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Grave of Bristol founder Joseph R. Anderson, camera facing southwest.

Photo #26 of 42

Close-up of the marker for Bristol founder Joseph R. Anderson camera facing southwest.

Photo #27 of 42

Commemorative sign at the grave of Bristol founder Joseph R. Anderson, camera facing south.

Photo #28 of 42

Commemorative sign and marker at the grave of Goodsonville founder Col. Samuel E. Goodson, camera facing northeast.

Photo #29 of 42

Marker at the grave of Confederate private James Keeling, camera facing west.

Photo #30 of 42

Marker at the grave of Nellie Gaines.

Photo #31 of 42

Marker at the grave of Col. Abram Fulkerson, camera facing north west.

Photo #32 of 42

Marker at the grave of William M. (Uncle Billy) Wood.

Photo #33 of 42

Marker at the grave of John MacGregor Crowell, Sr.

Photo #34 of 42

Marker at the grave of John MacGregor Crowell, Sr.

Photo #35 of 42

Marker at the grave of Dr. Jeremiah Johnson.

Photo #36 of 42

Marker at the grave of Dr. B. F. Zimmerman.

Photo #37 of 42

Marker at the grave of the parents of Dr. C. T. Pepper.

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East Hill Cemetery
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Photo #38 of 42

Largest Monument in the cemetery, William H. Smith, camera facing southeast.

Photo #39 of 42

Non-professional marker.

Photo #40 of 42

Old markers near the center of the cemetery, camera facing southwest.

Photo #41 of 42

Ornate Marker on the south side of the cemetery, camera facing southeast.

Photo #42 of 42

Marker erected in honor of City Historian Bud Phillips, camera facing north.