



2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221; Telephone: (804) 367-2323; Fax: (804) 367-2391

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

The Preliminary Information Form (PIF) constitutes an application for preliminary consideration of a property for eligibility for the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The PIF is **not** the same as a nomination to the Registers, but is a means for evaluating the **eligibility** of a property for listing. The PIF is evaluated by Department of Historic Resources (DHR) staff and the State Review Board (SRB) based on information available at the time of preparation. Recommendations are subject to change if additional information becomes available. DHR and SRB recommendations regarding the property's eligibility will be provided to the property owner in writing.

Before Preparing a PIF

Contact **DHR's Archivist** for assistance in obtaining any information DHR may have on file about your property, such as a previous architectural survey record or eligibility evaluation. You are welcome to use this information in preparing your PIF. Contact **DHR's Archivist** by phone at (804) 482-6102, or by email at Quatro.Hubbard@dhr.virginia.gov.

Staff at one of DHR's three Regional offices also are available to answer questions you may have as you begin preparing your PIF. Locations and contact information for each office is at <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/about-dhr/regional-preservation-offices/>. (You also are welcome to ask DHR's Archivist for the contact information.)

Preparing a PIF

A PIF consists of three equally important parts:

- Form:** Complete the attached form to the best of your ability, using your own research about the property to be evaluated as well as any information that DHR has provided. Remember that DHR's Regional staff also are available to assist you. The form may be completed using Microsoft Word software, typed, or hand-written. If using MS Word, send the electronic file via CD, email, ftp, or other file sharing means to **DHR's Archivist**.
Your PIF will not be evaluated if it is missing the property owner's signature and/or contact information for the person submitting the form (if different from the property owner)
- Photos:** Provide color digital images (JPGs are preferred) of your property's exterior and major interior spaces, with emphasis on architectural features instead of furnishings. Digital photos typically include views of the main building from all sides, as well as important ornamental and/or functional details; any outbuildings or secondary resources; and the property's general setting. Also provide one set of photo prints on 4" x 6" glossy photo paper. Digital images can be submitted on CD, USB drive, or other file sharing means. Contact **DHR's Archivist** if you need assistance working with digital images. For further guidance on how to take photos, please refer to DHR's [Architectural Survey Guidelines](#).
- Maps:** A minimum of two maps must accompany your PIF.
 - Location map:** This map shows the exact location of your property. The map can be created using Google Maps, Google Earth, Bing, or other mapping websites. A copy of a road map also may be used as long as the property's exact location and physical address are shown on the map. If you need assistance, **DHR's Archivist** can provide you an example of an acceptable location map that shows boundaries.
 - Sketch map:** This map shows the locations of all resources on your property, such as the main building; any secondary resources (often referred to as outbuildings); major landscape features such as a stream, formal gardens, driveways, and parking areas, and the road on which the property fronts. The sketch map can be drawn by hand, or an annotated aerial view, tax parcel map or survey map may be used.

Submitting a PIF

Once you have completed the PIF, submit it to **DHR's Archivist** at the mailing address at the top of this page or via email at Quatro.Hubbard@dhr.virginia.gov. The PIF will be forwarded to the Regional staff member who will review your PIF and will answer any questions you may have about the evaluation process. Do not include materials for other DHR programs, such as easements or tax credits, with your PIF.

Note: All submitted materials become the property of DHR and will be retained in our permanent Archive. In addition, the materials will be posted on DHR's public website for a period of time during the evaluation process.

Thank you for taking the time to prepare and submit a Preliminary Information Form to DHR!



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) _____

1. General Property Information

Property name: Ivy Hill Cemetery

Property address: 2823 King Street

City or Town: Alexandria

Zip code: 22302

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Alexandria City

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building Site Structure Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 22

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town Village Hamlet Rural

Briefly describe the property’s overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

Ivy Hill Cemetery is a still active, private, nondenominational cemetery situated on approximately 22 acres in Alexandria, Virginia. The cemetery was formed by a group of investors from Alexandria in 1854.¹ The property features numerous hills and woodlands, and is crossed by a natural stream, the Timber Branch. The grounds are laced with numerous walkways and drives. The newest section of the cemetery is located at the rear of the grounds and reached by crossing a bridge over the Timber Branch. The cemetery is enclosed on all sides by a fence and backs up to a residential neighborhood. The primary entrance is on King Street although the original entrance has now been closed to the public. A secondary entrance can be reached from West Timber Branch Parkway. Located alongside King Street is the 1855 keeper’s lodge and a maintenance shed from around the same time. A few steps away from the keeper’s lodge is the Firemen’s Monument, dedicated in 1856. The area surrounding the Firemen’s Monument was dedicated as the Circle of Honor in 1970 as a place for firefighters and EMS personnel to be buried. Trees in and around the Circle are several hundred years old. To the right of the Circle, is the oldest section of the cemetery, where members of Smith family, who deeded the land upon which the cemetery sits, are buried. Between the Circle and the old portion of the cemetery is the 1855 receiving vault.

¹ John W. Green and B. Barton, “May 23, 1881, Relating to accounts of Ivy Hill Cemetary [sic],” (Unpublished, 1881), Virginia Museum of History & Culture archive.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Rural Cemetery Movement; Italianate Keeper's Lodge

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: _____

If the builder is known, please list here: _____

Date of construction (can be approximate): Established 1856. Tombstones with death dates back to 1816.

Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

Ivy Hill Cemetery is a still active burial ground. Ivy Hill was officially opened June 18, 1856.² During its early years, several families moved the remains of loved ones to plots within the cemetery grounds. It is likely that the oldest portion of Ivy Hill was created around an original Smith family cemetery which dates to at least 1837.³ The oldest death date for a burial in the cemetery is 1816, for Benjamin Barton, Sr. who was reinterred at Ivy Hill possibly around 1857.⁴ Historically, cemetery sections were not filled completely before moving on to the next section. This led to open plots which were filled in at later dates resulting in burials from different centuries next to one another. The last section of Ivy Hill was platted and opened in 2020.⁵

Located adjacent to the original entrance of Ivy Hill is the keeper's lodge. The lodge is a two-story frame, Italianate dwelling that was built in 1855 and retains much of its integrity. The house is constructed in an L-shape and has a side gable roof. The keeper's lodge originally served as housing for the cemetery superintendent and their family but now serves as office space for cemetery staff. This lodge is one of the oldest in Northern Virginia.⁶

The receiving vault is located a short walk from the keeper's lodge and is built into an adjacent hillside. The vault was constructed between 1855 and 1856.⁷ The receiving vault interior is made of brick while its facade is veneered in rusticated ashlar blocks, possibly Seneca red sandstone, with scored edges carved into the stones. Shelves were outfitted along the walls for the temporary placement of bodies but were removed at an unknown

² "Alexandria Correspondence," *Evening Star*, June 21, 1856, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1856-06-21/ed-1/seq-3/>; "Dedication of Ivy Hill Cemetery," *Alexandria Gazette*, June 17, 1856, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1856-06-17/ed-1/seq-3/>; "Dedication of Ivy Hill Cemetery," *Alexandria Gazette*, June 20, 1856, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1856-06-20/ed-1/seq-3/>.

³ Smith Family Burial Lot one child death dates to 1837.

⁴ Benjamin Barton II was a stockholder for the cemetery and reinterred his father into his family lot.

⁵ Section 5 of the cemetery was opened 2019.

⁶ Personal Communication from Benjamin Skolnik to Vincent Turner II, October 20, 2022. Research also included looking at websites about cemeteries in Fairfax and Arlington Counties which did not turn up any information on extant keeper's lodges. Several lodges are mentioned on National Register nominations for cemeteries in Virginia, but none are as old as the keeper's lodge at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

⁷ John W. Green and B. Barton, "May 23, 1881, Relating to accounts of Ivy Hill Cemetery [sic]," (Unpublished, 1881), Virginia Museum of History & Culture archive.

date. When the cemetery first opened, families were responsible for securing their own burials. Today the vault has a concrete floor instead of dirt and is used for public programming. This receiving vault is one of the oldest in Northern Virginia.⁸

The Circle of Honor is adjacent to the keeper's lodge and at its center is the Firemen's Monument. The monument is dedicated to seven firefighters who were killed in a devastating fire in Alexandria, Virginia on November 17, 1855. Planning for the monument began at least by March 1856⁹ but it is not known exactly when the monument was erected in Ivy Hill Cemetery.¹⁰ The monument is in the shape of an obelisk and is crowned with an urn. Along the west face the names of the firefighters are carved as well as the date "Nov. 17th 1855." and a woman in a robe surrounded by laurels and scrollwork. In 1970 a memorial fountain was dedicated to the Alexandria Fire Department which features a fire hose nozzle as its nozzle. The fountain was rededicated in 2001 to the Fire and EMS personnel who gave their lives on September 11, 2001.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- Behind the keeper's lodge is a groundskeeper's shed. The original portion of the shed was likely used in the same manner as the current shed, to house groundskeeping equipment. The shed was altered at an unknown time with a single bay addition. The shed is in good condition and is currently used to store groundskeeping equipment for the cemetery. It also has a visitor bathroom and an office for the staff.
- The Timber Branch, a tributary of the Potomac River, flows through the northern portion of Ivy Hill Cemetery.

4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

Alexandria, Virginia was founded in 1749 and for nearly sixty years its citizens were interred in burial grounds scattered throughout the city. In 1804, the Alexandria Common Council passed a law disallowing graves to be dug "in any ground within the corporation, not opened or allotted before the twenty-seventh of March, eighteen hundred and four."¹¹ Many of the churches in Alexandria chose to bury their dead south of the city, just outside of the city limits. Alexandria continued to grow throughout the early nineteenth century and with that growth came an increasing number of burials. Beginning in the 1830s, the American view towards death changed from

⁸ Personal Communication from Benjamin Skolnik to Vincent Turner II, October 20, 2022. Personal Communication from Mary Lipsey to Vincent Turner II, October 24, 2022. Research also included looking at websites about cemeteries in Fairfax and Arlington Counties which did not turn up any information on extant receiving vaults. Several receiving vaults are mentioned on National Register nominations for cemeteries in Virginia, but none are as old as the receiving vault at Ivy Hill Cemetery.

⁹ "The Monument," *Alexandria Gazette*, (Alexandria, VA), March 12, 1856, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1856-03-12/ed-1/seq-3/>; "The Monument," *Alexandria Gazette*, (Alexandria, VA), March 19, 1856, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1856-03-19/ed-1/seq-3/>.

¹⁰ An article for the *Alexandria Gazette* dated December 2, 1856, mentions that the monument is soon to be erected. "Ivy Hill Cemetery," *Alexandria Gazette*, (Alexandria, VA), December 2, 1856, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1856-12-02/ed-1/seq-2/>. It was certainly in the cemetery by 1883 when an article in the *Evening Star* dated August 22, 1883, mentions the monument among the notable features of the grounds. "Ivy Hill Cemetery," *Evening Star*, (Washington, D.C.), August 22, 1883, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1883-08-22/ed-1/seq-1/>.

¹¹ "Introduction to Alexandria Cemeteries," [Alexandriava.gov](https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic-sites/historic-cemeteries-of-alexandria), October 8, 2022, accessed December 20, 2022, <https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic-sites/historic-cemeteries-of-alexandria>.

the old Puritan idea of death as a somber occasion to a new idea of death being filled with hope for a better afterlife. The Rural Cemetery Movement shaped cemeteries by moving graves from crowded cities to bucolic landscapes where rolling hills, ornamental plantings, water features, and sculptural gardens of gravestones evoked a parklike setting. These places of rest were also protected by around the clock patrols, sometimes housed on the grounds of the cemetery.

On August 4, 1854, Hugh Charles Smith passed away, leaving just over 22 acres of his estate to executor Richards C. Smith to turn over to trustees for a cemetery. The Ivy Hill Cemetery Company began taking subscriptions on October 11, 1854, and by January 19, 1855, had received 100 subscriptions, totaling \$2,000 in all.¹² The title transfer was not confirmed until 1857 when Richards C. Smith, the executor of the Smith estate, and Samuel Miller, William N. McVeigh, and John W. Burke, the trustees for Ivy Hill Cemetery Company, created a title of transfer to the Company. Early subscription holders of the cemetery hoped that Alexandria's growth would spread westward and that plots in their new cemetery would be needed. Between 1855 and 1858 a keeper's lodge, a receiving vault, and a perimeter fence along with an ornamental gate were constructed. Winding pathways that followed the natural contours of the land were laid and ornamental tombstones decorated the landscape. The builders of Ivy Hill Cemetery embraced the ideas of the Rural Cemetery Movement to the fullest.

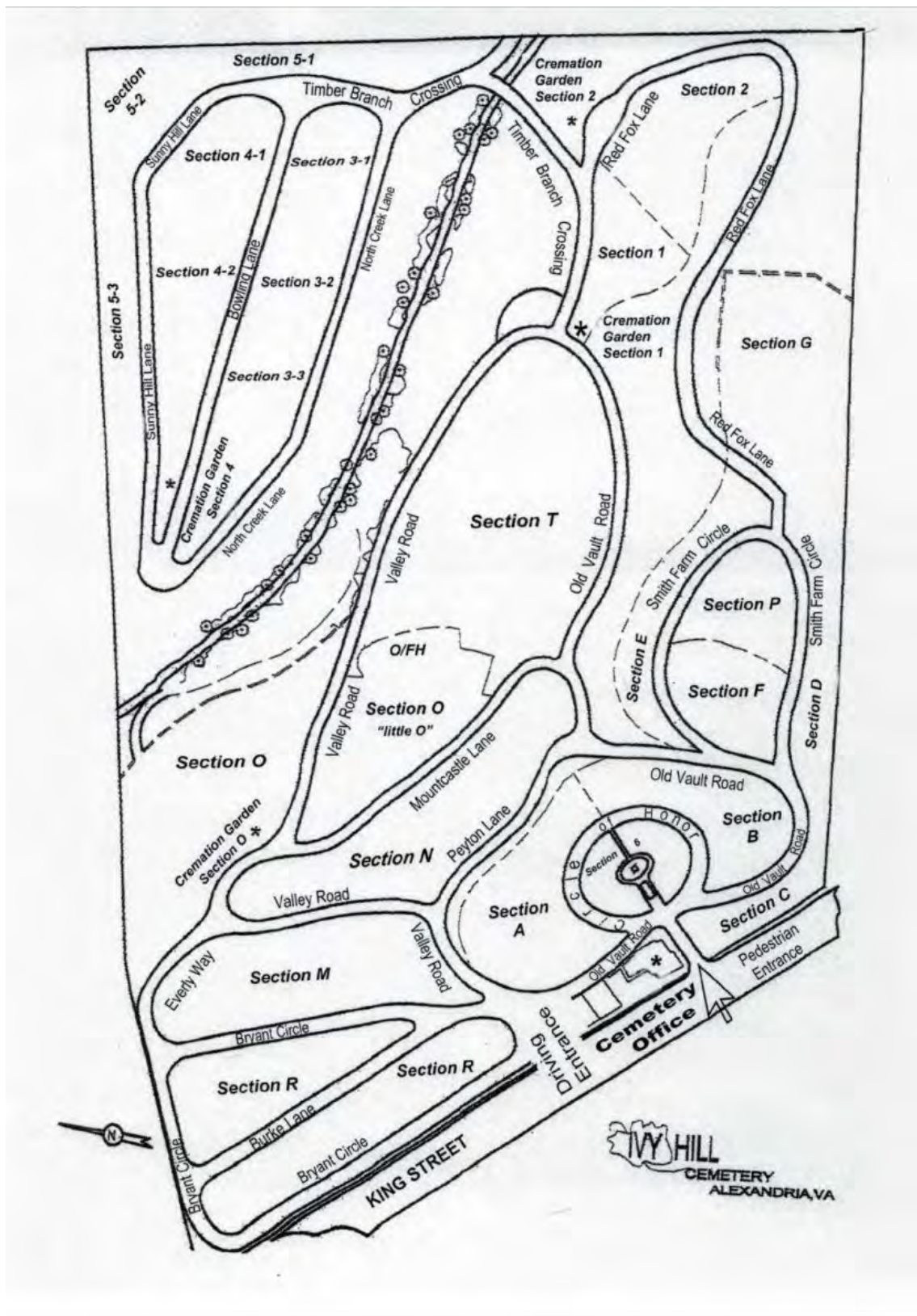
Ivy Hill Cemetery was established as a nondenominational burial ground and members of all faiths were allowed to be buried within. No sections of the cemetery were or have been set aside for religions or races. The oldest known African American burial is of Emily Adams who was interred at Ivy Hill Cemetery in 1902.¹³

There are at least 53 Civil War veterans interred at Ivy Hill in addition to at least another 750 veterans of wars up to Vietnam. The cemetery contains the remains of both Union and Confederate veterans although no known soldier's burial dates to the Civil War.

Ivy Hill Cemetery is the resting place of many famous local, state, and nationally known people. Alice Morgan dedicated her life to community service in Alexandria and was the first woman, as well as first African American, to serve on the Alexandria Planning Commission. Sarah Scott Tracy was the secretary to Ann Pamela Cunningham, who formed the Mount Vernon Ladies Association in 1853. John Critcher served in the Virginia State Senate and was a member of the State secession convention in 1861. Nicholas Philip Trist negotiated the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848. The most famous and most visited burial is of Wernher Von Braun, a German aerospace engineer who was the leading figure in the development of rocket technology in Germany during the Second World War and later in the United States.

¹² John W. Green and B. Barton, "May 23, 1881, Relating to accounts of Ivy Hill Cemetary [sic]," (Unpublished, 1881), Virginia Museum of History & Culture archive.

¹³ Emily Adams was an African American who served as a cook for the Leadbeater family and was buried in their lot. The Leadbeaters owned and operated the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary from 1792-1932.



Survey Map of Ivy Hill Cemetery

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property, such as deeds, census and tax records, and/or published articles and books. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

- “Alexandria Correspondence,” *Evening Star*, June 21, 1856, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1856-06-21/ed-1/seq-3/>.
- “Dedication of Ivy Hill Cemetery,” *Alexandria Gazette*, June 17, 1856, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1856-06-17/ed-1/seq-3/>.
- “Dedication of Ivy Hill Cemetery,” *Alexandria Gazette*, June 20, 1856, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1856-06-20/ed-1/seq-3/>.
- “Discovering the Decades,” [Alexandriava.gov](https://www.alexandriava.gov), December 30, 2021, accessed December 20, 2022, <https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic-alexandria/basic-page/the-history-of-alexandria-discovering-the-decades>.
- “Introduction to Alexandria Cemeteries,” [Alexandriava.gov](https://www.alexandriava.gov), October 8, 2022, accessed December 20, 2022, <https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic-sites/historic-cemeteries-of-alexandria>.
- “Ivy Hill Cemetery,” *Alexandria Gazette*, (Alexandria, VA), December 2, 1856, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1856-12-02/ed-1/seq-2/>.
- “Ivy Hill Cemetery,” *Evening Star*, (Washington, D.C.), August 22, 1883, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1883-08-22/ed-1/seq-1/>.
- John W. Green and B. Barton, “May 23, 1881, Relating to accounts of Ivy Hill Cemetary [sic],” (Unpublished, 1881), Virginia Museum of History & Culture archive.
- Meg Greene, *Rest in Peace: A History of American Cemeteries*, (Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., 2008).
- “The Monument,” *Alexandria Gazette*, (Alexandria, VA), March 12, 1856, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1856-03-12/ed-1/seq-3/>.
- “The Monument,” *Alexandria Gazette*, (Alexandria, VA), March 19, 1856, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85025007/1856-03-19/ed-1/seq-3/>.
- Personal Communication from Benjamin Skolnik to Vincent Turner II, October 20, 2022.
- Personal Communication from Mary Lipsey to Vincent Turner II, October 24, 2022.

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: Public\Local Public\State Public\Federal

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: Ivy Hill Cemetery
organization: The Ivy Hill Cemetery Company of Alexandria
street & number: 2823 King Street
city or town: Alexandria state: VA zip code: 22302
e-mail: Text telephone: 703-549-7413

Legal Owner’s Signature: _____

Date: _____

•• **Signature required for processing all applications.** ••

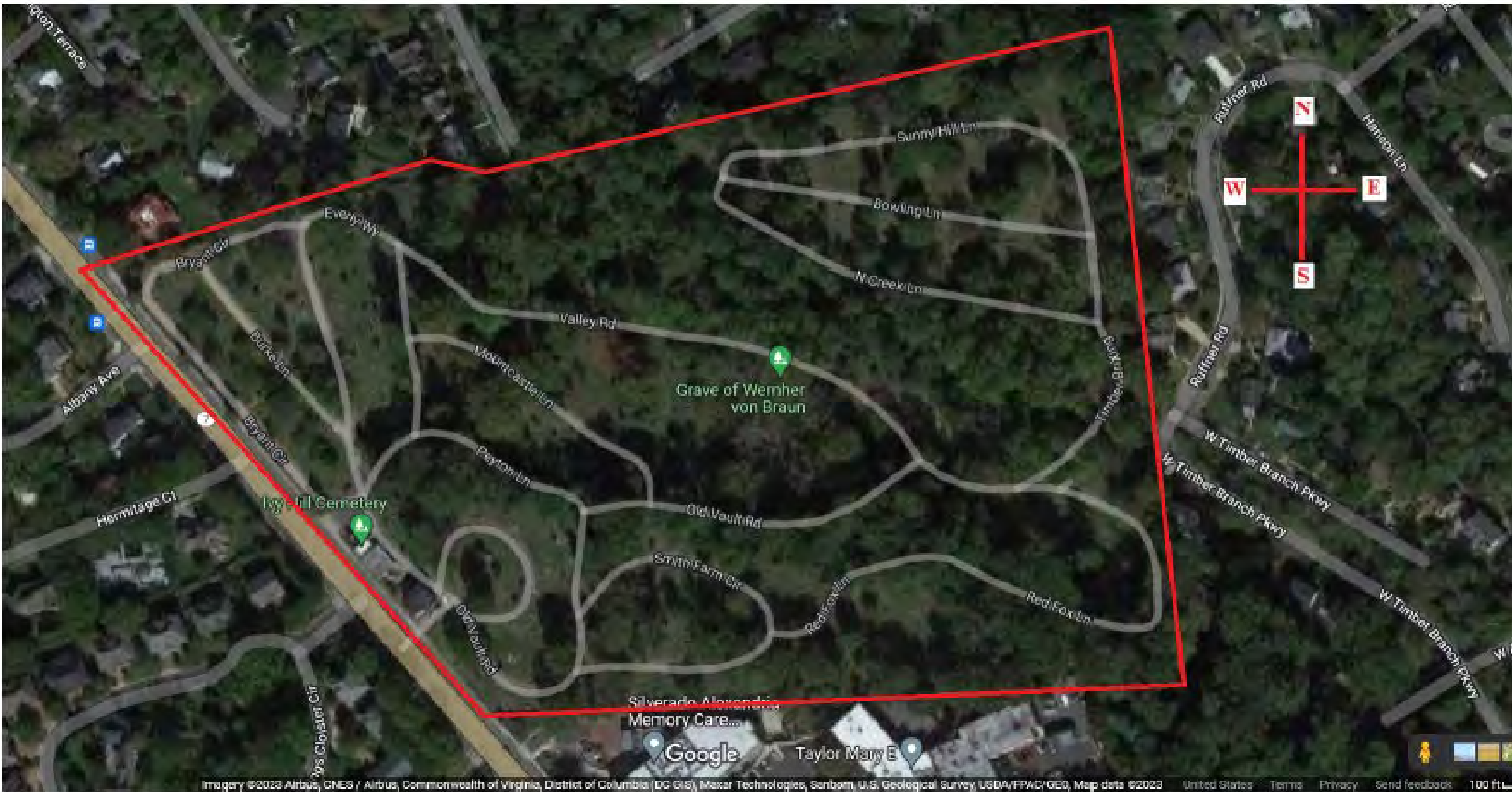
In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____
Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

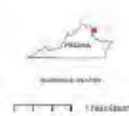
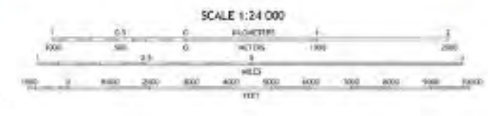
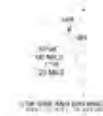
name/title: Catherine Weinraub / Historian
organization: Ivy Hill Cemetery Historical Preservation Society
street & number: 2823 King Street
city or town: Alexandria state: VA zip code: 22302
e-mail: cats2w@yahoo.com telephone: 571-236-3782
Date: _____

PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!





Produced by the United States Geological Survey
 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
 World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) Projection used
 1:50,000 scale
 This map is not a legal document. Boundary lines are for general reference only. No warranty is made by the Government. Users assume all liability for use of this map. Obtain permission before defining private lands.
 Imagery: © 2015, July 2015 - September 2015
 Base: © 2015, © 2014
 Data: © 2015, © 2014



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Expressway	Local connector	State Route
Secondary way	Local Road	US Route
Road	Trail	State Road
Interstate Point	US Route	State Road



100-0203_Ivy_Hill_Cemetery_2023_PIF_COHToday



100-0203_Ivy_Hill_Cemetery_2023_PIF_Creek



100-0203_Ivy_Hill_Cemetery_2023_PIF_KeepersLodge



100-0203_Ivy_Hill_Cemetery_2023_PIF_LandscapefromVault



100-0203_Ivy_Hill_Cemetery_2023_PIF_LookingUpfromCreek



100-0203_Ivy_Hill_Cemetery_2023_PIF_Overview



100-0203_Ivy_Hill_Cemetery_2023_PIF_Shed



100-0203_Ivy_Hill_Cemetery_2023_PIF_Tombstones



100-0203_Ivy_Hill_Cemetery_2023_PIF_Trail



100-0203_Ivy_Hill_Cemetery_2023_PIF_Vault