**Lake View Cemetery**

Lake View Cemetery, at the north end of the historic district, was established in 1858, as growth and changing ideas about appropriate burial sites made the village’s existing cemetery unsuitable. Prior to the establishment of Lake View Cemetery, Jamestown’s main burial ground was located at Fifth and Cherry streets. By the midnineteenth century, the downtown cemetery was running out of space, and its central location was considered undesirable for sanitary reasons. At a meeting in July 1858, village voters passed a resolution authorizing village trustees to impose a tax to raise $1,500, the maximum that a village of its size could raise, toward the purchase of land for a new cemetery. A group of citizens who recognized that $1500 was unlikely to be sufficient formed a cemetery association, which raised additional funds to enable the purchase of more property. Together the village and the association purchased a total of 27.5 acres; a group of private citizens donated funds to allow the purchase of an additional 10 acres, bringing the entire size of the original cemetery to 37.5 acres. The land purchased for the cemetery was known as Carter’s Woods, and was located at the north end of what was then known as Henry Street.

In April 1859, Gilbert W. Hazeltine, the cemetery superintendent, began laying out the grounds; by the time the cemetery was dedicated in October 1859 Hazeltine had laid out 600 lots and nearly four miles of roads. In 1860, a Catholic cemetery was established north of Lake View Cemetery on the east side of North Main Street. Due to later northward expansion of Lake View cemetery, the old Catholic cemetery is now surrounded on three sides by Lake View Cemetery; the two remain separately owned entities, and although the Catholic cemetery is no longer fenced, it is easily distinguished by its elevated site, mature trees lining its perimeter, and the presence of older monuments than those in the surrounding, newer portions of Lake View Cemetery. (See description of the two cemeteries in Section 7.)

Lake View Cemetery is an example of a rural cemetery, a type of burial ground that gained popularity in the United States in the early and mid-nineteenth century. Rural cemeteries were picturesque landscapes inspired by romantic perceptions of nature, art, national identity, and the melancholy theme of death. Early and influential examples of rural cemeteries included Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, and Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, all of which were specifically cited in Lake View Cemetery’s dedication ceremonies as models. Lake View Cemetery incorporates the elements of rural cemetery design, including elevated viewsites, with views of Chautauqua Lake, location at the city outskirts, a romantic and pastoral setting, and picturesque landscapes. The setting and the grounds are spacious, providing a spiritually uplifting atmosphere for contemplation of nature and eternal life. Monuments and mausoleums in classical style represent purity and simplicity and exemplify the standard mode of the day.

Lake View Cemetery became the final resting place of Jamestown’s elite as well as ordinary citizens; as expressed by Hazeltine in his introductory address at the dedication ceremony, “This is one of the advantages of our cemetery; it combines the two objects of a rural cemetery and a public burial ground; it secures to the poor as well as to the rich their portion, and unites public with private effort in the care and improvement of the grounds.” Lake View Cemetery now encompasses over 140 acres and contains over 43,000 burials, including early city leaders and their families like James Prendergast (1764-1846, moved from the previous cemetery), Orsell Cook (1807-1895), Alonzo Kent (1810-1888), Reuben Fenton (1819-1885), and William Broadhead (1819-1910). Catherine Harris (1809-1907), a local leader of the Underground Railroad and important member of Jamestown’s African American community, is buried here, as is Edith Ainge (1873-1948), a local woman’s rights activist. The actress Lucille Ball (1911-1989) is buried here as well.

**Lake View Cemetery**

**Dedicated 1858**

**907 Lakeview Avenue Lake View Cemetery**, at the north end of the nominated district, is bounded on the west by North Main Street, on the east by Lakeview Avenue, on the south by Buffalo Street, and on the north by Marvin Parkway. The southern half of the cemetery, consisting of 37.5 acres acquired in 1858, contains 28 sections, named after trees and topographical features (Olivet, Forest, Falling Leaf, Lake View, Myrtle, Maple, Lake Bluff, Hemlock, Hawthorn, Hillside, Laurel Hill, Mountain Ash, Cypress, Cedar Wood, Lake Lawn, Willow, Hazelwood, Rolling Ridge, Evergreen, Prospect, Mount, Oakwood, Linwood, Walnut Hill, Chestnut Hill, Wildwood, Monument Hill, and Highland). North of this, an additional 30 acres, added between 1881 and 1894, is considered the newer section of the cemetery.

2 Although the name of the street is now Lakeview Avenue, the cemetery retains the older spelling of Lake View.

Within the “newer” section of Lake View Cemetery is the Old Catholic Cemetery, described in more detail below. This cemetery was established in 1860 and is located at the west edge of the cemetery near the intersection of West Oak Hill Road and North Main Street.

There are six vehicular entrances to the cemetery. The main entrance, at the southeast corner, features a curving wall of wrought iron, concrete, and brick posts that flank two vehicular-sized entrances. Two additional entrances are located on the south side. An entrance opposite Prendergast Street was added in the 1920s, and commemorates Robert Newland Marvin, a trustee and president of the Lakeview Cemetery Association from 1892 to 1909). This gate consists of a pair of posts with decorative iron fencing and gates. At the southeast corner, another gate was added in 1936 in honor of Frederick P. Hall; this gate has concrete posts and wroughtiron gates. An iron fence lines the property along Buffalo Street between the three sets of gates. On the west side, a set of wrought iron entry gates topped by finials is located opposite Oak Hill Road. These gates are believed to have been located on the east side near Clyde Avenue as an original main entrance to the cemetery. Two additional entrances in the newer section, one on the north side and one on the east side, contain modern metal gates. There are also two pedestrian entrances with simple gates on the east side. Iron fencing lines the south side of the cemetery; the other three sides are enclosed by modern chain-link fencing.

At the main entrance, to the northeast of the entry gates, is a one-story administration building built in 1925 and designed by Oliver R. Johnson. Executed in buff brick with a flat roof, the building has a symmetrical façade featuring a central entrance with a low stoop and pediment and projecting vestibule. The building also has a concrete foundation, multipane casement windows, and paneled parapet concealing the roof. The only other building in the cemetery is a mid-twentieth-century maintenance building/garage; this is constructed of buff brick and has four garage bays on its north side, a ribbon of windows on its east side, and a flat roof. Both buildings were constructed within the district’s period of significance and are contributing buildings.

Typical of a mid-nineteenth-century rural cemetery, Lake View Cemetery features hilly topography and curving, winding roads, including paved roads and dirt or grass paths. Many roads and paths are lined with mature trees that provide shade and picturesque views. There is a distinct change in the configuration of roads from the older south section laid out in 1858 to the newer sections added in the late 19th century, as is easily seen on a plan of the cemetery. Roads in the older section include both straight and curving alignments that reflect and accentuate the hillier topography and create a variety of section shapes and sizes. The road layout in the north half of the cemetery create generally larger sections compared to the older south half; these are identified by number rather than name. A straight diagonal road running northwest to southeast through the north part of the cemetery was originally Oak Hill Road, which allowed travelers heading south to Jamestown to bypass the toll booth on the plank road (now Main Street) and take the toll-free Lakeview Avenue instead. The road alignments in the north portion also create several circular and oval sections, as well as others of more amorphous shape.

Vegetation includes both evergreen and deciduous trees, as well as shrubbery and other plantings, intended to promote the appreciation of nature and the contemplation of eternal life. Generally the land rises to the east, gently up from North Main Street at the west, then more acutely to high points on the Forest, Olivet, and Oakwood sections.

Lake View Cemetery includes a variety of burial markers. Most are constructed of marble or limestone; sandstone, cast stone, and metal monuments can also be found. The setting of monuments in the natural landscape was intended to be spiritually uplifting. Classical styles are common. The most prominent of the monuments in the cemetery are the seven mausoleums situated in the Highland, Maple, and Cypress sections. The Reuben E. Fenten Mausoleum (1885) is situated in the Maple section. It is a stone structure in the Gothic Revival style, featuring battered walls, rusticated base, trefoil arched entrance, and a Celtic cross above the front gable end. The George Ahrens Mausoleum (1897) is a representation of a classical Greek temple, with fluted Doric columns in antis, a full pediment, a podium, and triglyphs in the frieze. It is situated in the Cypress section. Other mausoleums include the Humphrey, Preston, Sheldon, Abbot, and Bradshaw mausoleums, all of which feature classical motifs.

A majority of the burials in Lake View Cemetery took place in family plots, with a central monument bearing the family name, often in the form of an obelisk, surrounded by smaller stones marking individual burials. The Foote family plot is also fenced; this was the first family monument erected in the cemetery (1861) and includes burials ranging from c. 1850 to the 1920s. The “Mound” sections at the east end of both the newer and older sections are set aside for non-family plots purchased individually or for couples. A Potters Field section at the far northeast corner of the cemetery (believed to have been moved from the Mound area of the original cemetery) contains few markers. Two sections are set aside for infants, along the east side of the cemetery.

Several statues are found within the cemetery. One of the most significant is that of the Prendergast family (1882), in the Maple section, which features a robed woman on a tall base. A low flight of steps with flanking posts and urns leads to the monument. The Galloway statue is one of the most notable figurative monuments; this features a marble statue of a woman, carved in Florence, Italy, and has been enclosed in glass to protect it from the elements.

Specific sections of both the older and newer portions of the cemetery have been dedicated to veterans, including Monument Hill, at the center of the south section, which includes Civil and Spanish-American War veterans, and Soldiers’ Circle, in the newer section, a circular arrangement of markers for soldiers who served in World Wars I and II.

Old Catholic Cemetery dedicated 1860 North Main Street The Old Catholic Cemetery, established in 1860, is located on the east side of North Main Street, and is surrounded on its north, east and south sides by the “newer” (added in the late nineteenth century) section of Lake View Cemetery. It is distinguished by its higher elevation, sitting atop a plateau, and is lined by trees on the south and north sides; otherwise the topography, burial markers, and vegetation are similar to the surrounding Lake View Cemetery. The only fence adjacent to the Old Catholic Cemetery is the chain-link perimeter fence of Lake View Cemetery, which runs along its west side. Outside (west of) this perimeter fence are two sets of concrete steps that once provided access to the cemetery, but there are now no openings in the fence to provide direct access to the Catholic cemetery from North Main Street. Markers in this area display a range of ages and styles, reflecting long use, and are generally oriented with the inscriptions facing west. Although surrounded by Lake View Cemetery, the Old Catholic Cemetery is still in separate ownership.