

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	Yes 9/15/78
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Elmwood Cemetery Gates

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Elmwood Street at South Cross and Charles NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sycamore

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

15th

STATE

Illinois

CODE

12

COUNTY

DeKalb

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Cemetery

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Elmwood Cemetery Associaton

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street and South Cross

CITY, TOWN

Sycamore

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

DeKalb County Courthouse, Office of Cemetery Sexton

STREET & NUMBER

State and Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Sycamore

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Illinois Historic Structures Survey

DATE

October, 1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Conservation Division of Historic Sites

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Elmwood Cemetery entry gates are situated on the East and North of the cemetery boundaries, facing Charles Street to the North and South Cross Street to the East. The two sets of gates are identical, each consisting of a large double gate vehicular entry flanked by pedestrian gates. The overall width of the entrance is twenty feet, and it is about eighteen feet high at the top of the arch.

The tripart gates are of Serlian motif, a design popularized by Palladio, which consists of three openings, the central one arched and wider than the others. Four cast iron columns support the overhead structure of arch and lintels.

The cast iron columns are all identical, square, with a plain pedestal supporting a base with chamfered corners and decorative panels on all four sides. The shaft has rounded, ribbed chamfered corners and plain, molded panels. The square capital rests on a nailhead design band and has a modified anthemion and scroll design. A truncated pyramid atop the capital is decorated with a foliated scroll design and is surmounted by an urn.

The lintels spanning the pedestrian gates feature a central medallion decorated with a festoon and foliated scrolls. A segmental arch spans the twelve feet between the two inside columns. It has a rectangular cap, inscribed "incorporated 1865." This is crowned with a semi-circular cap with a scroll design. On the arch is inscribed "Elmwood Cemetery."

Beneath the arch are two wrought iron gates, each six feet wide by six feet tall at the highest point. These are flanked by the pedestrian gates, also of wrought iron, each 4 1/2 feet wide and the same height as the central gates. These gates are delicately wrought, and display a sensitive relationship to the massiveness of the cast iron, exhibiting a well proportioned total design.

The design of the wrought iron gates is in four general sections. Alternate straight and turned posts make up the bottom half with the straight posts continuing to the bottom of the gate and the turned posts terminating above a band of circles. Above the posts is a rectangular section of scrollwork featuring a semi-circular band of tight scrolls, with looser work filling in the corners and below the semi-circle. The top section consists of a curved railing intersected

see continuation sheet

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CONTINUATION SHEET Elmwood Cemetery ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE
Gates

by a repetition of posts ascending the curve. These posts are capped with trefoil finials.

As far as can be determined, there have been no alterations on either the North or the East gates. The craftsmanship and design remain intact.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) urban furniture
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1865 (?)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The years from 1850 until after the Civil War saw a rapid expansion in the use of cast iron for structural and ornamental building. The Elmwood Cemetery Gates, constructed at about the height of this expansion in the midwest, represent a unique and estimable manifestation of this construction technique. These gates are significant as an example of cast iron urban furniture during a time when most decorative cast iron was utilized as building facades. In addition, the wrought iron portions reflect skill in wrought iron craftsmanship, with the overall design exhibiting an artistic union of cast and wrought iron construction. According to the Illinois Historic Structures Survey, these are the best representative of iron cemetery gates in Illinois.

The exact date of construction of the Elmwood Cemetery Gates is not known, because the early cemetery records were destroyed by fire. However, the March 22, 1865 Sycamore True Republican carries notice of a meeting of the incorporators of the cemetery, and on April 5, a board of managers was formed. The newspaper reports the signing of a contract for 18 acres of land on the H. L. Boies farm at the southwest corner of the village incorporation and describes the board as "proceeding with vigor" to secure the necessary stock of \$6000.00, planning to "lay out and ornament the grounds in the most admirable style." It appears from these records that the cemetery gates were included in the original plan.

On May 24, 1865, five hundred cemetery lots were offered for sale. A November 7, 1866 account indicates discussion of passing control of the cemetery to the trustees of the corporate village. This was not done, however, and today the cemetery still operates as a separate corporation under the Illinois Cemetery Act.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

DeKalb Chronicle, Souvenir Edition, 1899

Sycamore True Republican, 1863 - 1867

Condit, Carl W. American Building, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1968

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
---	------	---------	----------

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
---	------	---------	----------

C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
---	------	---------	----------

D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
---	------	---------	----------

E	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
---	------	---------	----------

F	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
---	------	---------	----------

G	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
---	------	---------	----------

H	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Clifford Danielson Susan M. Seibert

ORGANIZATION

Sycamore Hist. Dist. Comm. Division of Hist Sites

DATE July 12, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

724 W. State St.

405 E. Washington

DATE August 8, 1978

TELEPHONE 815-895-2336

217-782-3775

CITY OR TOWN

Sycamore

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___

STATE ___

LOCAL ___

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE _____

TITLE _____

DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION