

CITY OF HIGH POINT

AGENDA ITEM



Title: Historic Marker Request
(Greenhill Cemetery)

From: Chris Andrews, Interim Planning and
Development Director

Meeting Date: December 6, 2021

Public Hearing: No

Advertising Date: NA

Advertised By: NA

Attachments: A. Historic Preservation Commission Recommendation
B. Staff Report

PURPOSE:

A request by Yalik's African American Art & Cultural Movement in partnership with the Washington Street Historical Preservation Society, DRIVE High Point Foundation, and Visit High Point for approval of a historic marker to recognize Greenhill Cemetery to be located on the south side of the cemetery, 350 feet from the corner of Meredith Street and R.C. Baldwin Avenue.

BACKGROUND:

The Historic Preservation Commission is designated by the Historic Marker Policy to review and evaluate all proposed roadside historic markers prior to consideration by City Council. This roadside historic marker request is the tenth request under the City's roadside Historic Marker Policy.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Yalik's African American Art and Cultural Movement is purchasing this marker.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:

A. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommended approval of this request as outlined in the attached staff report.

- B. At its November 10, 2021 meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed a request for a historic marker recognizing Greenhill Cemetery. Six members of the Commission were present. Mr. David Fencil, Senior Planner, presented the request and recommended approval of the request as outlined in the staff report.

The Historic Preservation Commission determined that the proposed marker met the minimum evaluation criteria of the Historic Marker Policy, which includes the site's significance occurred at least 50 years before the request, no other public or private markers

recognize Greenhill Cemetery, and the location of the proposed marker is within the corporate limits. The Historic Preservation Commission also determined that the proposed marker will be consistent in appearance with several existing City markers and recommended approval of the historic marker request, as recommended by staff, by a vote of 6-0.



To: Historic Preservation Commission Members

From: David Fencl, Senior Planner

Meeting Date: November 10, 2021

Subject: Greenhill Cemetery Historic Marker Request by Yalik's African-American Art & Cultural Movement, in partnership with the Washington Street Historical Preservation Society, DRIVE High Point Foundation, Visit High Point, and the City of High Point

PURPOSE:

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is designated by the Historic Marker Policy to review all requests for historic markers to be located in public street rights-of-way. The HPC shall first determine whether the request meets the minimum evaluation criteria outlined in the policy, and if the request meets the minimum evaluation criteria, the HPC shall then evaluate the request based on relevant criteria as determined by the HPC.

The following criteria must be present and factually correct in order for the HPC to review any request for placement of a marker:

1. Any site or event requested to be recognized must be at least 50 years old and for any individual to be recognized with a marker, the individual's contribution that is the subject of the request must have occurred as least 50 years before the request.
2. There may not be any current markers, public or private, currently recognizing the site or event within the City of High Point.
3. The location requested to be recognized must be within the corporate limits of the City of High Point and within public view.

Requests for markers shall be evaluated based on relevant criteria as determined by the HPC, including the following:

1. Is each historical claim by the applicant presenting the request supported by documentation or other evidence of the claim's validity? Documentation should consist of primary sources that were created at the time of the event and may include tax records, deeds, newspaper articles, meeting minutes, photographs, etc. Secondary sources may be submitted to help provide context and justify the significance of the event, person, or location.
2. In an attempt to avoid repetition and promote diversity in the recognitions, is the requested site, event or individual closely related to a site, event or individual accomplishment that has already been recognized with a Marker?

3. Has the site, event, or individual contribution maintained its significance over time?
4. Is the site, event or individual recognized outside of High Point at state wide, national, or international levels?
5. Marker proposals will be rejected if the Commission cannot authenticate or verify the historical information to its satisfaction. The Commission shall make the deciding rule if there is conflicting evidence.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

According to the information supplied with this Historic Marker Request, the city purchased 6 acres of property for \$750 on the east side of the city to establish a cemetery for African American residents in January 1910. The first burial in what is now called Greenhill Cemetery took place in August 1910. Prior to the establishment of Greenhill Cemetery, African Americans had been buried in Oakwood Cemetery. Greenhill Cemetery now covers eleven acres and consists of 1250 burial plots.

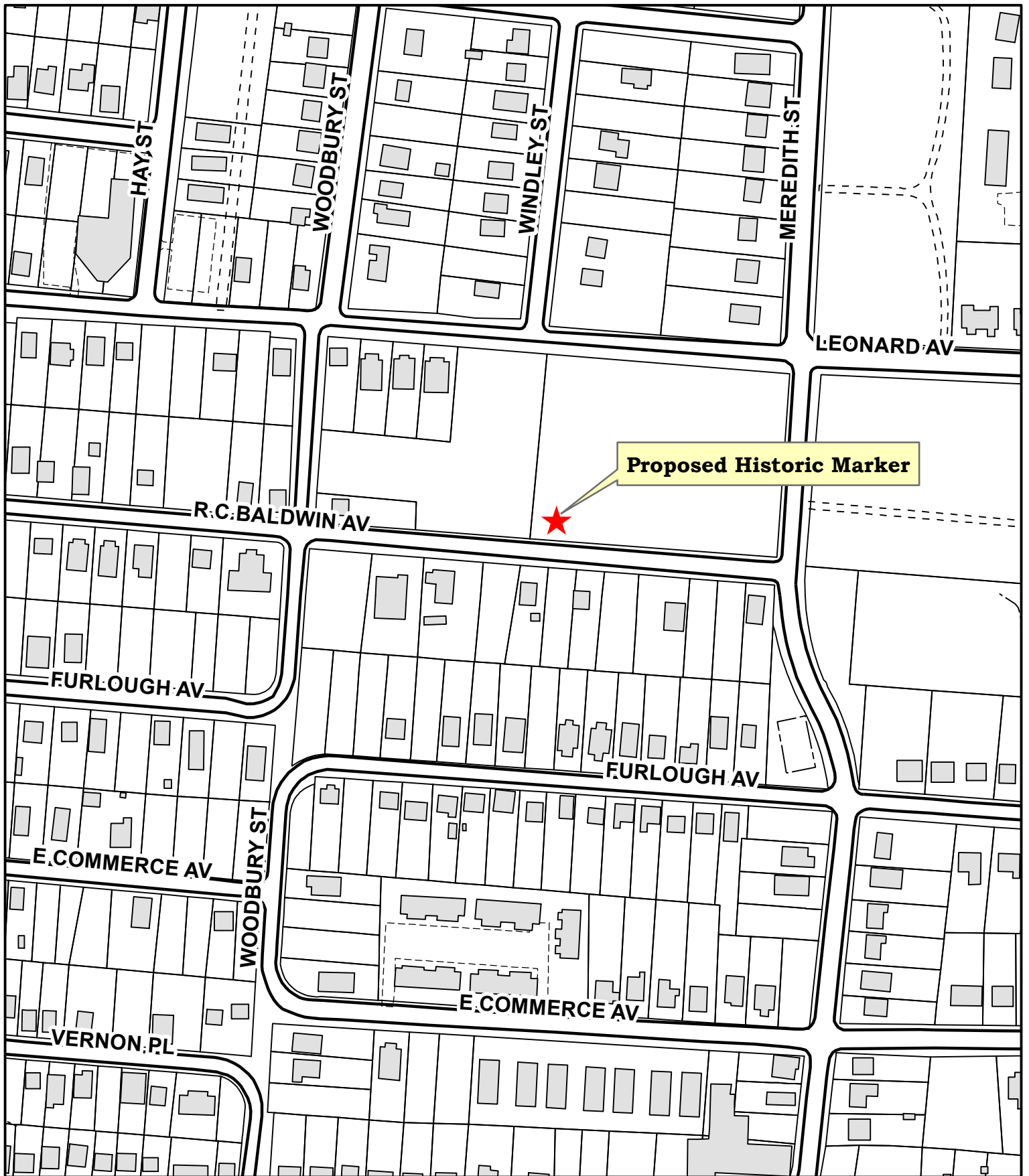
Greenhill Cemetery is the final resting place for many prominent African American families, educators, politicians, preachers, doctors, and lawyers. Among those buried at Greenhill includes Willis R. Hinton, who was born into slavery and eventually owned and operated the Hinton Hotel on Washington Street; Alfred J. Griffin, Principal of High Point Normal and Industrial School from 1897-1923 and William Penn High School from 1923-1930; Reverend William Blair, presiding elder of St. Stephens A.M.E. Zion Church and John Coltrane's grandfather; John and Nannie Kilby, business pioneers and owners of the Kilby Hotel; Dr. Garland Alfonso Gerran, who was High Point's first black doctor to set up practice in the 1890s; and E.E. Curtwright, who became Principal of William Penn High School following A.J. Griffin and had joined the staff in 1902.

Staff believes that this historic marker request meets the minimum evaluation criteria due to Greenhill Cemetery being established more than 50 years ago, there are no other historic markers recognizing Greenhill Cemetery and the marker's proposed location is within the City of High Point and within public view. The applicant has submitted copies of primary resources, such as a 1910 High Point Enterprise article and City Council minutes documenting the purchase and payment for the cemetery property, a newspaper article documenting the first burial in the cemetery and city plans documenting cemetery plots dated 1952 and 1959.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:

Staff recommends the Historic Preservation Commission recommend approval of the historic marker request for Greenhill Cemetery. This historic marker request meets the minimum evaluation criteria, and with the documentation submitted with this request, staff believes this request meets the relevant evaluation criteria of the Historic Marker Policy.

Attachments: Greenhill Cemetery Historic Marker Location Map
 Historic Marker Request and Documentation



HISTORIC MARKER REQUEST

Greenhill Cemetery

Planning & Development
Department

City of High Point



Scale: 1"=200'



Proposed marker location

City of High Point Historic Marker Request

The cast aluminum roadside marker falls under the new City of High Point Historic Marker Policy. The marker will be manufactured by Sewah, Inc., a company who manufactures for NC State Highway Historic markers. The wording was written by Jerry Mingo, President of the Burnhill Neighborhood Association.



We would like to use the following shape mounted on a 7-foot post with the city seal. The following measurements and costs of the roadside marker are from Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio, who make many state roadside markers in cast aluminum and bronze throughout the US, including those for NC.

Size: 30"x 42" Georgia pattern

Style: Georgia Pattern

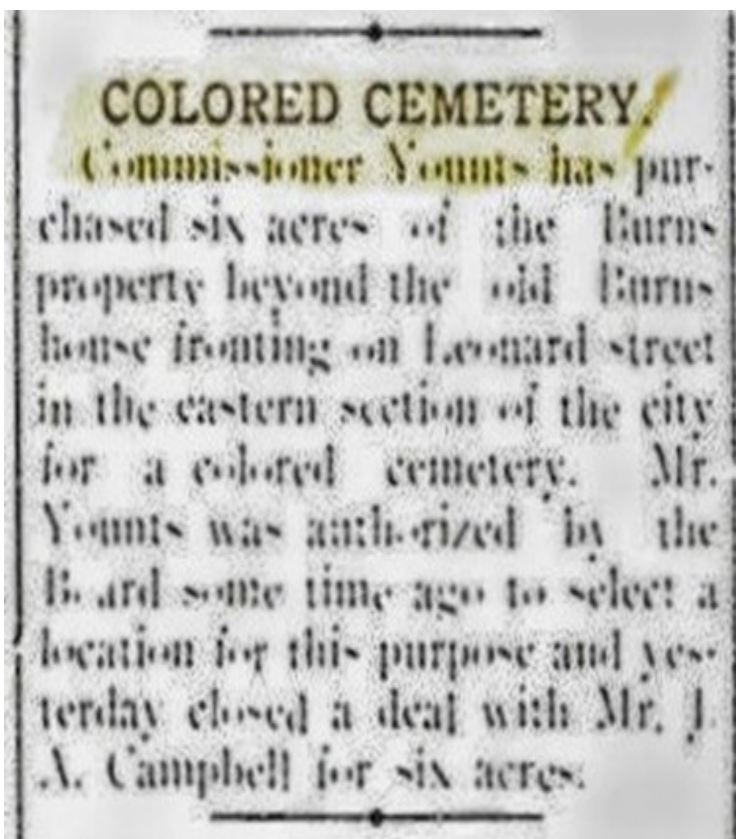
Post: 7foot mounting post

Letters: 1 inch

(Same copy both sides.)



*Greenhill Cemetery 1700 Leonard Street
High Point, NC*



Commissioner E.A. Younts purchased six acres of the Burns property beyond the old Burns house fronting on Leonard St. in the eastern section of the city for a colored cemetery. Mr. Younts was authorized by the board some time ago to select a location for this purpose and yesterday closed a deal with Mr. J.A. Campbell for six acres.

[High Point Enterprise, January 25, 1910](#)

HP- Streets

July 14 1910

Regular meeting of the Board of Council of the City of High Point was held in the Mayors office February 14th, 1910, at 2:30 P.M.

Fred N. Tate, Mayor, presiding.

Councilmen present: S. H. Hilliard, J. H. Vestal, H. A. Millis, E. A. Younts, J. T. Burrus, J. W. Sechrest, Thiers Leach and Dr. Peacock.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Upon motion of Dr. Peacock seconded by E.A. Younts, it was ordered that poll tax for 1907 be refunded to

W. I. Montgomery. Upon motion of Dr. Peacock seconded by J. T. Burrus, the Mayor and Auditor were authorized to execute note for \$750. payable to the High Point Savings & Trust Company, placing deed in escrow to secure money to pay for cemetery purchased on Leonard Street. It was further ordered that all money paid to the City as lots are sold, be credited on this note.

Upon motion of H. A. Millis seconded by Dr. Peacock, the ordinance in regard to the obstruction of streets and sidewalks passed its second reading. ✓

Councilmen Peacock, Leach, Burrus, Sechrest, Younts, Millis, Vestal and Hilliard all voting aye.

Upon motion of Thiers Leach seconded by E. A. Younts, amendment to Section 52 City ordinances in regard to condemned meats passed its second reading. Councilmen Peacock, Leach, Burrus, Sechrest, Younts, Millis, Vestal and Hilliard all voting aye. ✓

Upon motion of Dr. Burrus seconded by J.W. Sechrest a committee composed of H. A. Millis, E.A. Younts, J. W. Sechrest, Fred N. Tate, Mayor, with authority to act, was appointed to confer with the manager of the High Point Hoisery Mills in regard to sewer rentals.

Upon motion, meeting adjourned.

R. Newby Sec. Fred N. Tate Mayor.

HP. City Council Mins.

February 14, 1910 – City Council Minutes. Upon motion of Dr. Peacock, second by J.T. Burrus, the Mayor and Auditor, we authorized to execute note for &750.00, payable to the High Point Savings & Trust Co., placing deed in escrow to secure money to pay for cemetery purchased on Leonard St. it was further ordered that all money paid to the city as lots are sold, be credited on this note.

FIRST BURIAL IN THE COLORED CEMETERY

The first burial in the colored cemetery took place yesterday. The burial ground for colored people heretofore was alongside the white cemetery, but at a meeting of the City Council, sometime ago they ordered the purchase of a burial ground for colored people. Councilman Younts purchasæd a piece of ground in the eastern part of the city, in the Burns property. Mr. Sechrest is busy today laying off the lots. Those that are not sold will be sodded with bermuda grass.

August 15, 1910, the first burial at Greenhill Cemetery

IDEA: "H" in plain terms, that it may be properly classified. The "Special Information" for persons dying away from home should be given in every instance.

Registered No. 149

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

269

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH—DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS.

PLACE OF DEATH.

Town of High Point

CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH.

(No. Moan Town Street.)

[If death occurs away from
USUAL RESIDENCE
give facts called for under
"Special Information."]

FULL NAME

Rosena Lee

[If death occurred in a
Hospital or Institution,
give its NAME instead of
street and number.]

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS.

SEX

female

COLOR

colored

DATE OF BIRTH

Aug 12 1899
(Month) (Day) (Year)

AGE

11 years, 5 months, 1 days.

SINGLE, MARRIED,
WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED

Single

BIRTHPLACE
(State or country)

Caswell Co. NC

NAME OF
FATHER

Weldon Lee

BIRTHPLACE
OF FATHER
(State or country)

Caswell Co. NC

MAIDEN NAME
OF MOTHER

Michie Moore

BIRTHPLACE
OF MOTHER
(State or country)

Caswell Co. NC

OCCUPATION

School Girl

THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY
KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

(Informant)

Sandy Lee

(Address)

High Point NC

Filed

8/14 1910

Barstons

Registrar.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

DATE OF DEATH

Aug 13 1910
(Month) (Day) (Year)

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from

Aug 10 1910 to Aug 11 1910

that I last saw her alive on Aug 11 1910

and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 10.30 P.

The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:

Pericarditis & Complications
(Endocarditis)

(duration) 3 days.

Contributory

(duration) 3 days.

(Signed) C. J. H. Gayland M. D.
8-14-10 (Address) High Point NC

SPECIAL INFORMATION only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents.

Former or
Usual Residence

How long at
Place of Death? Days.

Where was disease contracted,
if not at place of death?

PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL

High Point NC

DATE OF BURIAL

Aug 14 1910

UNDERTAKER

J. W. Sechrist

ADDRESS

High Point NC

The first burial at Greenhill, may have been for Rosena Lee, an eleven year old school girl.

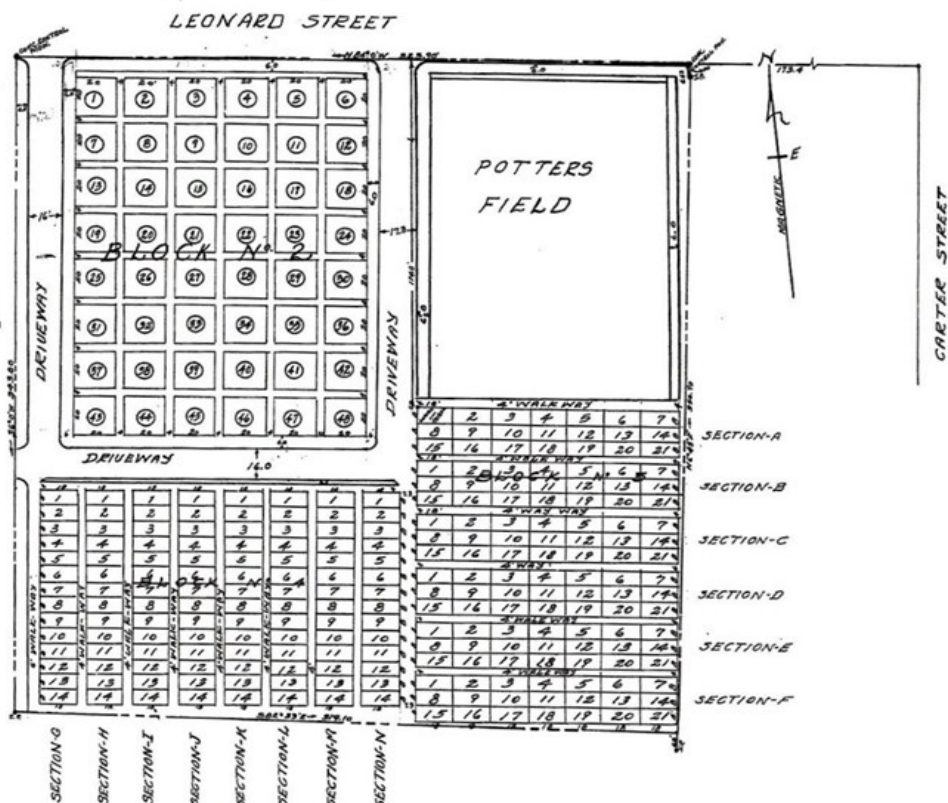
NORTH CAROLINA
SULLY COUNTY
J. H. Dean, Registered Engineer of High Point, N.C., has surveyed and says this is a true and accurate map of Green Hill Cemetery, as surveyed and plotted by him, and that the Magnetic Declination was variable.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of June, 1952.
J. H. Dean, Registered Engineer of High Point, N.C.
By Commission Expires June 2, 1952

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SULLY COUNTY
J. H. Dean, Registered Engineer of High Point, N.C., has surveyed and says this is a true and accurate map of Green Hill Cemetery, as surveyed and plotted by him, and that the Magnetic Declination was variable.
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APPROVED:-
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BY: J. H. Dean, Registered Engineer of High Point, N.C.
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
DATE: 2-19-1952
CITY OF HIGH POINT N.C.
BY: J. H. Dean, Registered Engineer of High Point, N.C.
CITY MANAGER

Filed for registration on the 26th of 1952
at 11:45 o'clock A.M., and duly recorded in
the Office of Records of Sully County, N.C.
J. H. Dean
Registered Engineer of High Point, N.C.



PROPERTY OF
CITY OF HIGH POINT N.C.
GREEN HILL CEMETERY
BLOCKS 2, 4, & 5
SCALE 1" = 30'
FEBRUARY 1952

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Greenhill Cemetery 1952

Be 27 1954

CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS

This is to certify that all requirements of Chapter 84, Article XV of the 1950 Code of Ordinances of the City of High Point governing subdivisions involving the Planning Department, Public Works Department, and Utility Department have been met.

Robert M. J. [Signature] 5-26-59
 Director Planning Dept.
 [Signature] 5-26-59
 Director Public Works
 [Signature] 5-26-59
 Director Public Utilities

PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL ENDORSEMENTS

Provided that this plan is recorded within 30 days of final approval, recommended by City Planning and Zoning Commission.

Date: 5-26-59
 Approved by City Council: 5-26-59 Date
 City Manager

NORTH CAROLINA
 COUNTY

That the plat or map hereon is in all respects correct and was prepared from actual survey made by him on the day of 1959 that the subdivision or development or a portion thereof is (not) within the corporate limits of the City of _____ and approved by it.

This the day of _____ 1959
 Subscribed and sworn to before me on the day of _____ 1959
 Notary Public

My Commission Expires _____

NORTH CAROLINA, GUILFORD COUNTY
 The foregoing certificate of _____ Deputy Clerk, Superior Court

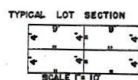
This the day of _____ 1959
 Deputy Clerk, Superior Court

CITY OF HIGH POINT, N. C.			
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS			
ENGINEERING DIVISION			
GREEN HILL CEMETERY			
PROPERTY OF			
CITY OF HIGH POINT, N.C.			
5-12-59			
Survey CHNIEL	Scale	Approved	Sheet
Drawn H.M. LEE	1" = 30'		of
Grades	Proj.		N. B.
Trace			Comp.

ADDITION TO
 GREENHILL CEMETERY
 BLOCK - 6

PROPERTY OF
 CITY OF HIGH POINT, N.C.
 5-12-59 SCALE: 1"=30'

Filed for registration on the day of JUN 1 - 1959
 1959 at 12 o'clock P.M., and duly recorded in the Office of Register of Deeds of Guilford County, N.C. in Book No. _____ Page _____
 J. H. McARDY
 Register of Deeds



I certify that this is a true and accurate survey made by me on the 12th day of May 1959 and that the survey is correct. This plat has been approved by the City of High Point.

Geo. B. Dean
 REG. ENGR. HIGH POINT, N.C.

Sign and sealed this 13th day of May 1959
 [Signature]
 Mayor

ATTEST: [Signature] 5-25-59

Greenhill 1959



Greenhill Cemetery is rich in history, housing prominent individuals, families and war veterans.

Willis R. Hinton was born into slavery around 1838 in Wake County, he arrived in High Point after slavery ended. Hinton owned and operated a restaurant on S. Main St., which he sold. He then opened an 11-room hotel at 607 E. Washington St., that he called the Hinton Hotel. It was High Point's



Alfred J. Griffin, Principle of High Point Normal and industrial School, 1897-1923, later William Penn High School, 1923-1930. Several of his family members are buried at Greenhill



Buried at the cemetery is Rev. William Blair, Presiding elder of St. Stephens A.M.E. Zion Church on Leonard Avenue and John Coltrane's grandfather.



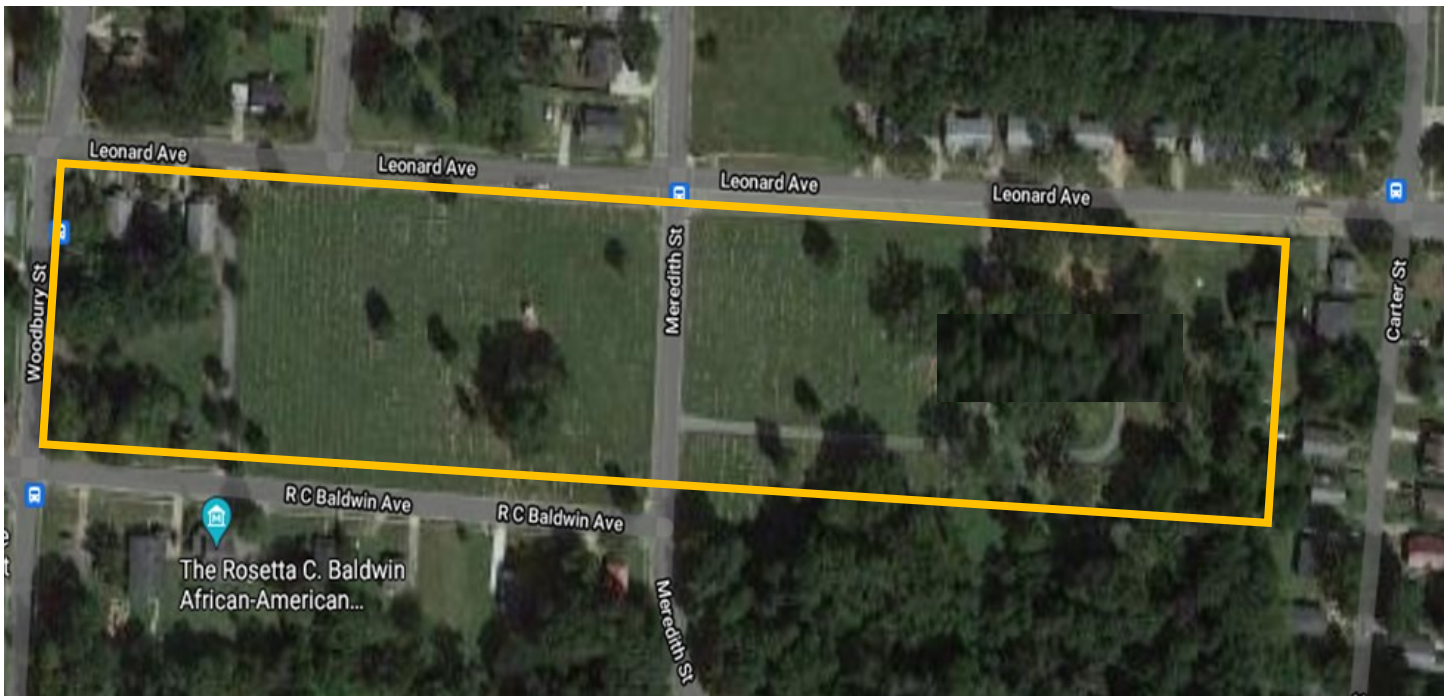
John and Nannie Kilby, Business pioneers and owners of the Kilby Hotel



Dr. Garland Alfonso Gerran was High Point's first black doctor to set up practice here in the 1890s. Gerran graduated from Shaw University's Leonard School of Medicine in Raleigh. His office was at 603 E. Washington St. and he lived 707 E. Washington St. with his wife Marie.



E.E. Curtwright joined the staff of William Penn High School in 1902 and was the principal following A.J. Griffin.



The cemetery now situated on approximately 11 acres of land owned by the City of High Point and consists of 1250 burial plots.

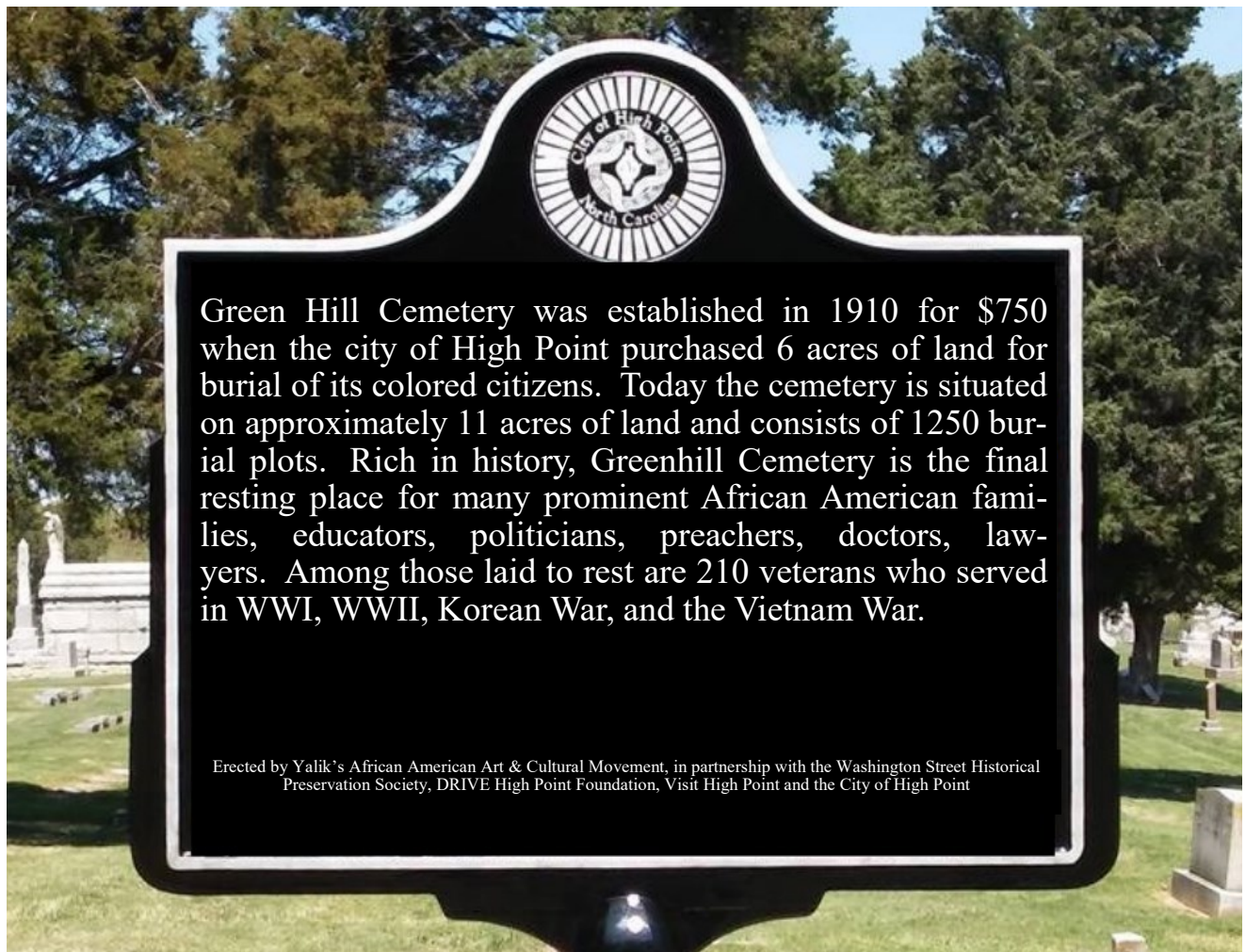


Goals for Greenhill Cemetery

- Replace fencing
- Lighting of cemetery
- Upgrade landscaping
- Improve signage inside cemetery and direction signage around the community
- Improve monuments conditions, settings and grounds
- Plan and prioritize future capital projects and improvements such as acquiring properties at corner of Leonard Ave. and Woodbury for future expansion.



The historical marker for Greenhill Cemetery will be placed on the southside of the cemetery, 350 ft from the corner of Meredith St and R.C. Baldwin Ave. The location is within the corporate limits of the City of High Point and the site will be within public view. Location of the maker has been approved by Cemetery Parks Supervisor, Brad Embry.



Verbiage for Marker

Green Hill Cemetery was established in 1910 for \$750 when the city of High Point purchased 6 acres of land for burial of its colored citizens. Today the cemetery is situated on approximately 11 acres of land and consists of 1250 burial plots. Rich in history, Greenhill Cemetery is the final resting place for many prominent African American families, educators, politicians, preachers, doctors, lawyers. Among those laid to rest are 210 veterans who served in WWI, WWII, Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Erected by Yalik's African American Art & Cultural Movement, in partnership with the Washington Street Historical Preservation Society, DRIVE High Point Foundation, Visit High Point and the City of High Point

Marker Inscription

Cost for marker \$2,315