

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Fillmore City Cemetery  
other names/site number The Silent City

## 2. Location

street & number 325 East 600 South  not for publication  
city or town Fillmore  vicinity  
state UT code MD07 county Millard code MD01 zip code 84631

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Fillmore City Cemetery  
Name of Property

Millard, Utah  
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 the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
	2	buildings
1		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	3	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**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: sandstone  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: N/A  
other: paths - sandstone  
roads - asphalt

Fillmore City Cemetery  
Name of Property

Millard, Utah  
County and State

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The 12.6-acre Fillmore City Cemetery was begun on 20 March 1852 with the burial of nineteen-month old Leroy King. It is located within the Fillmore City limits in an agricultural area southeast of downtown Fillmore. The cemetery is surrounded by fields and undeveloped land on a flat plain near the foothills of the Pahvant Mountains to the east. The Pahvant Valley stretches toward the horizon to the west. The main entrance to the cemetery is at its northwest corner and is marked by sandstone veneered pillars. The cemetery is laid out on a cardinal grid similar to the layout of Fillmore City, albeit with smaller blocks and narrower streets. The linear design is reinforced by rows of evergreen conifers at the perimeter of the main roads. These trees can be seen from the distance, making the cemetery a highly visible landmark. The oldest sections of the cemetery are distinguished by the use of local red sandstone for headstones, pavers and corner markers. The newer sections have marble and granite grave markers. All of the graves in the two most recently-developed sections on the west and north sides of the cemetery have flat markers. The earliest gravestones are a simple tablet style with lettering only. More elaborate styles, including stelae, with ornamentation in addition to lettering can be seen in the marble gravestones dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Footstones as well as headstones mark some graves, but there is a marked absence of ostentation among the gravestones, with the reserve and modest means of most of the cemetery's inhabitants reflected in their final resting places.

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### **Narrative Description**

#### **Location and Context**

The Fillmore City Cemetery, established in 1852, is located on a flat 12.6-acre site about 1-1/2 miles southeast of downtown Fillmore. It is reached by traveling south on 325 East Street from 500 South Street to the main entrance set diagonal to its northwest corner. The paving on 325 East Street ends at the cemetery entrance but the street continues as a dirt road paralleling the west side of the cemetery until it turns east at the southwest corner of the site and follows its southern border to an electrical substation directly south of the easternmost section of the cemetery. The dirt road continues 2 blocks south from the substation as 500 East Street, where it turns east as 900 South Street and intersects with 700 East Street, providing a secondary access to the cemetery from the southeast.

There are sweeping vistas toward the Pahvant Valley to the west and the Pahvant Mountain Range to the east across the farm fields that border the cemetery's north, east and west sides. The land south of the cemetery is also flat, but shows no signs of cultivation. It is sparsely vegetated with grasses, forbs and shrubs.

#### *Entrances and Fencing*

The main entrance gate of black ornamental metal is attached to the back or inside of pillars veneered with local red sandstone in a random ashlar pattern, topped by light gray precast concrete caps. Black carriage lamps are centered on the front (northwest) side of each pillar with the tops about eight inches below the pillar caps. The 6 1/2-foot-tall pillars adjacent to the diagonal driveway are connected to the 5 1/2-foot outer pillars by a 4-foot by 4-foot section of black ornamental metal fence on the west and a pedestrian gate of the same dimensions on the east. An 8-foot wide by 4-foot tall monument sign with the cemetery name is attached to the shorter pillar on the east side. The black lettering of the sign is set off against a white stucco background framed by the same sandstone veneer as the pillars. While the main entrance uses local sandstone in keeping with the historic character of the cemetery, it was installed in 2004 and is a non-contributing feature.

Fillmore City Cemetery

Name of Property

Millard, Utah

County and State

A gated cemetery service entrance is located at the north end of 500 East Street near the entrance to the electrical substation. The gate is made of two panels of white-painted square steel tubing welded to spell "Fillmore City Cemetery." The word "CITY" is split in half at the top center of the gate panels, with "FILLMORE" sweeping up from the outside bottom of the west panel and "CEMETERY" dropping from the inside top to the outside bottom of the east panel. Straight vertical pickets and a series of three diagonal cross-pieces angling up toward the center support the lettering. The tops of the outside frames curve down about two-thirds out from the center so the outsides of the top sections are about a foot lower than the centers. This gate was originally installed as a 1997 or 1998 Eagle Scout project as the main gate at the west end of the north cemetery road at either side of a cattle guard dating from 1938. While this gate demonstrates local vernacular craft, it is also a non-contributing feature.

The cemetery is surrounded by a field wire fence topped by a single strand of barbed wire supported by T-posts. The use of field or "net" wire fencing topped by barbed wire is a historical feature dating to 1924, but it was originally supported by wooden posts rather than metal T-posts. This type of wire fencing is authentic and contributes to the integrity of the cemetery.

*Layout and Circulation*

The rectangular cemetery parcel is oriented along an east-west axis and is laid out in a grid pattern of blocks measuring 2 rods (33 feet) square. Each block is subdivided into 4 lots measuring one rod (16.5 feet) square. Each lot contains 8 individual grave sites in 2 rows of 4 with the long axes oriented east-west. The cemetery is 12 blocks wide north to south by 22 blocks long east to west at its greatest extent. The roads in the cemetery follow the grid layout and divide it into 7 main sections, which are surrounded by the roads except the northernmost section which has no roads on its north and east sides.

The northernmost section is 17 blocks east-west by 2 blocks north-south. Continuing clockwise, the easternmost section is 2 blocks east-west by 9 blocks north-south, the northeast-central section is 7 blocks east-west by 2 blocks north-south, the southeast-central section is 7 blocks east-west by 8 blocks north-south, the southwest central section is 9 blocks east-west by 8 blocks north-south, the northwest-central section is 9 blocks east-west by 2 blocks north-south, and the westernmost section is 3-1/2 blocks east-west by 10-1/2 blocks north-south. A small 8<sup>th</sup> section of 4 blocks running east-west is located south of the perimeter road in the southwest corner of the cemetery.

The circulation system consists of asphalt-paved primary roads and grass-covered secondary pathways one-half rod (8 feet 3 inches) wide. The pathways occur between each row and column of blocks in all but the northernmost and easternmost sections of the cemetery. Red sandstone pavers are set into the grass between some of the blocks in the south central sections.

The paved width of the asphalt roads is about 18 feet, except the road between the north and south central sections of the cemetery, which is about 9 feet wide. The roads typically merge into the edge of the lawn with curbing only on the inside of the road at the four corners bordering the central sections. Most of the secondary paths between the blocks are covered with turfgrass and are almost indistinguishable from the burial plots. Split red sandstone pavers varying from 12-16 inches in width and length are set into the paths at 2-block intervals north-south and 3-block intervals east-west in the south central sections of the cemetery.

*Gravestones and Markers*

The two large south-central sections of the cemetery are the oldest, and are known as the Pioneer Section. Fillmore City Council minutes indicate the east central section was platted first. There are sandstone corner markers approximately 2 inches to 3 inches square and at least 12 inches deep set flush with the ground at the intersection of some blocks in the Pioneer Section. It is likely they were placed at the corners of all of the blocks in this section, but only a few are readily visible. It is assumed that the others have sunk or have been removed or damaged.

Fillmore City Cemetery

Name of Property

Millard, Utah

County and State

The oldest headstones marking individual gravesites in the Pioneer section are of local red sandstone in the upright rectangular tablet style. Some of these headstones are severely weathered and others have sunk into the ground. There are also markers of marble in this section, some in the simple tablet style and other more elaborate stela. These were probably carved by Peter Lorenzo Brunson, a local stone carver who sold and carved marble grave markers. Later granite gravestones in both upright and flush styles are interspersed among the older stones, some replacing earlier stones lost to weathering.

The two smaller central sections north of the Pioneer Section were developed after the larger sections, but follow the same layout with one-half rod paths between each row and column of blocks. The gravestones are similar to those in the Pioneer Section, with a mix of older and newer stones in marble and granite, both upright and flush.

The Flagpole Section directly west of the Pioneer Section was developed next and was also laid out with paths between blocks. It contains monuments and gravesites associated with World War II. The gravestones in this section are all made of granite set flush in a concrete border on grade with the lawn.

The E or East Section was laid out after the Flagpole Section. It is about half full of graves with mostly upright headstones of granite. The newest section is the area extending east-west along the north portion of the cemetery. It is known as the Flat Section and contains in-ground or flat granite monuments. The use of flat monuments has often been misconstrued and adopted as a functional innovation to make lawn maintenance easier. It was actually devised to give cemeteries designed in the memorial park style a sleeker, flowing look that fit in with the art deco and modernism movements of the early to mid-twentieth century. The blocks in these two later sections abut each other with no paths between in keeping with the simpler style.

### *Structures*

An 8-foot long by 5-foot wide open-ended wooden information kiosk with a burial directory on the north inside wall and a map of the cemetery on the south inside wall is located at the northwest corner of a 12-foot by 16-foot wooden storage shed on the north side of the road at the intersection of the diagonal entrance driveway with the road surrounding the west central sections. A 30-foot by 40-foot metal shed surrounded by a 90-foot by 140-foot asphalt pad was installed in 2000 adjacent to the north side of the road around the easternmost section of burial plots. The information kiosk and wooden shed are also recent, but their construction dates are unknown. None of the three structures are contributing features. An asphalt driveway curves westerly from the northwest corner of the asphalt pad to a soil storage area. A double-track dirt road continues west from the driveway past a 35-foot diameter water tank and tees into 325 East Street about 90 feet north of the main cemetery gate.

### *Vegetation*

The entire cemetery grounds are green and manicured. Turfgrass covers the gravesites. Rows of Colorado spruce trees border the exterior of the perimeter roads and the outsides of the roads between the center sections and the east and west sections. A number of shade and ornamental trees and shrubs are scattered among the lots, blocks, and gravesites. A piped sprinkler irrigation system provides water to the plantings.

Fillmore City Cemetery  
Name of Property

Millard, Utah  
County and State

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1852 to 1960

**Significant Dates**

1852

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance for the Fillmore City Cemetery dates from its establishment in 1852 and extends through the expansion and beautification periods of its development in 1960.

Fillmore City Cemetery  
Name of Property

Millard, Utah  
County and State

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

The Fillmore City Cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D as a cemetery that is significant under Criterion A for association with events and Criterion B association with historical figures important to the settlement, politics/government, and religious and social history of the state of Utah and the city of Fillmore. It is significant under Criterion C as a vernacular landscape exemplifying the evolution and adaptation of general cemetery design trends and ornamentation by Mormon colonial villagers as well as for the variety of design in the head stones.

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Fillmore City Cemetery, established in 1852, is an active burial ground that links the city to its founders and its founding as Utah's territorial capital in 1851. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for its period of significance from 1852 to 1960. The signature grid layout and use of local sandstone that distinguish the cemetery were established in the first phase of development and carried through the expansion and beautification phases in some form.

The cemetery retains its integrity for the period of significance and meets National Register Criteria A, and C, and Criteria Consideration D (for a cemetery) at the local level. Under Criterion A, the Fillmore City Cemetery is significant for its association with events related to the founding, settlement and early history of Fillmore. The cemetery was established at a time when construction of the Territorial Statehouse was underway and early sessions of the Territorial Legislature were held in Fillmore. It is the only cemetery in Fillmore, and is therefore the final resting place of a number of the city's founders and early leaders. Other burials in the cemetery are linked to several controversial events in the early history of Fillmore. The cemetery contains the graves of Captain John Gunnison, who was killed in the Gunnison Massacre, and of 14-year-old Proctor Robison whose death was cited as a catalyst for the Mountain Meadows Massacre by rumors of a spring supposedly poisoned by members of the Fancher Wagon Train.

Under Criterion C, the Fillmore City Cemetery is significant as a typical Mormon colonial cemetery from the early period of settlement in Utah as well as for the variety and craftsmanship in headstone design. The location of the cemetery beyond the original town center, cardinal grid layout, and plantings of lawns and evergreen trees is consistent with that of early cemeteries in thirty-five other Mormon villages settled between 1847 and 1851 that were examined for comparison. The design and development of these cemeteries reflect the adoption of cemetery design trends of Western Europe and the U.S. from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and their adaptation and simplification by Mormon colonists living in a high desert environment with scarce resources. The Fillmore City Cemetery is a vernacular landscape that was expanded as more burial plots were needed in an orderly manner following its initial cardinal grid layout. Individual graves are oriented east-west according to Christian custom. They are simple plots of grass marked only by headstones, with no curbing, fencing or tombs. A few larger monuments mark the graves of more prominent citizens. The earliest gravestones of local sandstone showcase the skill of local stone masons who worked on the Territorial Statehouse. Marble and granite headstones adorn later graves. Landscape plantings are simple, consisting of lawns, evergreen trees (primarily along roads), scattered deciduous trees, and a few shrubs. The Fillmore City Cemetery retains a high degree of integrity, making it an excellent example of an early cemetery in a Plat of Zion Mormon colonial village.

Fillmore City Cemetery  
Name of Property

Millard, Utah  
County and State

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **History of the Fillmore City Cemetery**

The settlement of Fillmore began on 28 October 1851. On 20 March 1852 Leroy King, the nineteen-month-old son of Thomas and Matilda King, died of scarlet fever. Narrative histories indicate his grave marked the beginning of the community's cemetery, located southeast of the settlement (Lyman, p.49).

One of the curiosities of cemetery development in Mormon villages is that there is no evidence of their having been planned as part of the Plat of Zion town layout.<sup>1</sup> Rather, they seem to have been established almost as after-thoughts on the outskirts of town as dictated by necessity. What might at first appear to be an oversight in town planning might be explained by briefly reviewing the history of cemetery planning and design from the time of the founding of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the western migration of its members.

Locating the cemetery on a site outside of town is consistent with 19<sup>th</sup>-century burial practices in parts of New England, England and Europe that were influenced by both Calvinist religious reforms and the romantic landscape movement. In the communities of Colonial New England settled by Puritans, graveyards were perceived as secular. Early Puritans rejected churchyard burials as they rebelled against other "papist" practices. Instead, many 17<sup>th</sup> century New England towns set aside land as common community burial grounds. The rural cemetery movement that saw park-like cemeteries developed outside of towns got underway in the United State in 1831 with the founding of Mount Auburn Cemetery, at Cambridge, near Boston by leaders of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) was founded a year earlier in upstate New York. In addition to Calvinist burial grounds, early converts from New England, England and Europe would likely have been aware of the rural cemetery movement, which started at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the Old World, particularly with the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, established in 1804.

Placing the Fillmore City Cemetery on a dry hillside above Chalk Creek made sense from a practical standpoint as well. Public health concerns in the 19<sup>th</sup> century dictated that bodies, especially of those who died of communicable diseases, be buried away from cities and water sources. It also made sense to locate the cemetery away from irrigable land needed for agriculture in a self-sustaining village with scarce resources.

Burial plots were laid out on a cardinal grid, mirroring the layout of the city, albeit with much smaller lots and blocks than the Plat of Zion survey of Fillmore mandated by Brigham Young. Fillmore was surveyed with an eye to growth into a major city as the capital of the Utah Territory, another practical reason to place the cemetery away from land close to the city center that might one day be needed for city lots.

During the summer of 1868 a new section of the cemetery, Plat A, was surveyed, just west of the first cemetery. The lots were one rod (16.5 feet) square and four lots to the block with walks 8 feet 3 inches wide running north and south as well as east and west between the blocks, and a road two rods (33 feet) wide all around the cemetery. The plat map also shows a road running north-south between the fourth and fifth columns of blocks. Pioneer burials dating to 1853 were recorded at this time, but earlier burials do not appear in the sexton's records. George Finlinson, who came from England, was appointed first sexton in 1864. The second sexton was Jesse Millgate who held the job for many years. John Davies, Murray Davies, and Orlo Bartholomew were sextons in succeeding years. (Day pp. 31, 190-191)

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<sup>1</sup> Mormon town plans were based in varying degree on the Plat of the City of Zion envisioned by the Prophet Joseph Smith. The city was to be one mile square with ten-acre blocks each forty rods square. Streets were to be 132 feet wide. Farm fields were to be laid off around the platted town. While Smith's ideal plan was never implemented, Brigham Young used it as a general model for Mormon settlements across the west. (Peterson, p. 68)

Fillmore City Cemetery

Name of Property

Millard, Utah

County and State

Most of the marble gravestones dating from 1906 to the 1930s are probably the work of Peter Lorenzo Brunson (1866 to 1842), who had the only marble yard and monument company in Fillmore during that period (Warrum, p. 731). His stone carving tools are displayed in the Territorial Statehouse Museum, a donation from his grandson Dennis Brunson, also a Fillmore monument dealer. According to Dennis, the marble his grandfather used for gravestones came from the Left Hand Fork of Chalk Creek, a few miles east of Fillmore (Carling).

The early 1900s was a period of expansion for the cemetery. Willard Rogers was hired to make a map of the cemetery on 24 March 1906, which the city council accepted on 7 May 1906 for the contract price of \$50. He was paid \$20 for another cemetery map delivered 13 May 1913. The council requested estimates for Theodore Rodgers to draw a new map on 17 September 1926. The sexton requested an updated cemetery map on 2 March 1932 showing the lots added in the previous six years. (Fillmore City)

Fillmore City Council records show that a number of cemetery improvements were also undertaken in the early 1900s, continuing into the mid-1900s. On 3 March 1906 Sexton John Davies asked the Fillmore City Council to buy tools for the cemetery and to repair the fence. The materials and construction methods of the fence in place at that time are not known, but if later entries are an indication, it is likely the cemetery was fenced with the same wire used for field fencing, probably supported by posts of native cedar (juniper). In December 1906 the city council instructed the sexton to "Ascertain the cost of making a rabbit tight fence around cemetery and other improvements in and around cemetery and report next regular session." Records do not show whether the rabbit tight fence or other improvements were completed, but in 1909 a water settling tank was constructed at a cost of \$565.50. A proposal to build outhouses at the cemetery was put forth on 11 May 1911, but if they were built, it was not recorded. Records do show that the city agreed to a WPA proposal on 4 December 1935 to install two sanitary toilets at the cemetery

On 6 March 1916 the sexton reported to the council that monuments were encroaching on the alley ways, presumably the one-half rod walkways platted between the blocks. On 1 March 1924 the council acted on a report submitted by a cemetery review committee. After discussing the matter and getting acquainted with conditions a motion was approved that bids be received for moving of the east fence about four rods east to the section line, and that the north fence be taken down and re-built on the west and east lines, running about eight rods north. The council gave specifications for the fence in a meeting on 7 March 1924: "The fence is to be constructed of five foot net wire with one strand of barbed wire on top. Posts to be set 8 foot apart, 30 inches in the ground, well braced at corners, to be stapled every other wire, and to change wires at every post. Posts to be sawed off at the top about six inches above wire. City to furnish all material." Another improvement completed in 1924 was the graveling of the roads inside the cemetery. The road to the cemetery had been hand graded and repaired with help from the community in 1915.

In 1936 with the help of the WPA, the city of Fillmore built a new water storage reservoir and laid a water line to the city cemetery that enabled the planting of trees and shrubbery there (Lyman, p. 291). City Council Member Oscar Anderson suggested a major improvement to the cemetery in 1936 that his son Ronald recalled years later in an oral history interview.

Dad was on the town council in Fillmore and James A. Kelly was mayor then. They had started building the new City Building. Dad went to town council one night and asked Mr. Kelly, and the other council members if they would like to fix the cemetery and plant pine trees there. They said the city couldn't afford it. Dad asked if they would mind if he did it. They said if he did it, paid for it, and took care of the trees, that it was okay. (Stringham, P. 86)

Anderson took on the challenge and planted 10-year-old pine trees (Colorado spruce) around the perimeter of the cemetery; he hand-watered the trees for many years to keep them alive.

Fillmore City Cemetery

Name of Property

Millard, Utah

County and State

On 23 February 1937 the city council held a special meeting to accept bids for a cemetery improvement project to construct water line tops for the present reservoirs. The following year a cattle guard was constructed at the cemetery entrance. No other improvements are recorded until 1951, when Orlo Bartholomew was advised to plant grass on half of the new cemetery plot. The exact date that the piped sprinkler system was installed for irrigating lawns and plantings at the cemetery was not found, but presumably it was at about this time, or grass would not have been planted. A 1949 ordinance to remove fences from cemetery lots could have been to expedite lawn mowing. Beautification of the cemetery was noted with pride in the centennial history of Millard County published in 1951.

The cemetery which used to be a desolate spot, is now becoming a thing of beauty, due to the efforts of Mayor Howard Johns and the city council. Evergreen trees have been planted all around the enclosure forming a beautiful background. An addition has been made to the cemetery, the whole of which has been enclosed in a new, attractive, weather-proofed iron fence. Ornamental shade trees and lawns have been planted, adding greatly to its beauty. Water has been piped from a spring and a settling tank built, which now supplies adequate water for maintaining growing things in the cemetery. The Fillmore Rose Club have a project of planting hybrid iris all around the enclosure. Up to date, they have planted over four hundred iris. (Day, p. 191)

The more recent sections added to the east and north sides of the cemetery follow the grid layout in a simplified version of the original plan without the paths between blocks. While the change may have been to gain more burial space and reduce maintenance costs, it also follows the general trend in cemetery design toward simplification, especially in municipal cemeteries with limited resources. Maintenance workers and the public often assume that flat markers like those in the northern section were an innovation to make mowing easier. Sextons whose crews mow over flat markers soon discover to their dismay that they are more easily damaged than upright markers. In reality, they came into popular use as a result of early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Modernist memorial park design where the intent was to create vistas across expanses of lawn uninterrupted by upright monuments. Future expansions of the Fillmore City Cemetery may again allow upright markers if they continue to follow national trends.

*Burials in the Fillmore City Cemetery*

Burials in the Fillmore City Cemetery include several of Fillmore's founders and leaders, the namesake of Holden, Utah, and Captain John C. Fremont, an Army surveyor and explorer of national importance. Several of the people buried in the Fillmore City Cemetery are associated with controversies in the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Josiah Call (12 August 1821 – 5 October 1858) was a brother to Anson Call and head of one of the 12 original families that founded Fillmore. Josiah was elected sheriff in the fall of 1852, a position he held until his death on 5 October 1858 when he and Samuel Brown were killed by hostile Indians while looking for an easier trail to move their cattle downstream through Leamington Canyon). The remains of both men were buried in the Fillmore City Cemetery (Lyman, pp. 56, 81).

William Felshaw (3 February 1800 – 24 September 1867) was a contractor and builder who worked as a carpenter on the Kirtland, Ohio, Nauvoo, Illinois, and Salt Lake City temples of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He was appointed superintendent over the construction of the territorial capitol building in 1851 and served in the territorial legislature in 1854. He and others traveled to Wyoming in 1856 to rescue the stranded Willie and Martin handcart companies (BYU). Fillmore residents elected him mayor in 1859 (Lyman, p.96).

Chandler Holbrook (16 September 1807 – 8 September 1869), one of the founders of Fillmore, was a surveyor who assisted Jesse Fox with the original survey of the city. He was a school trustee who also held the elected offices of notary

Fillmore City Cemetery

Name of Property

Millard, Utah

County and State

public and surveyor. On 4 March 1869 he was chosen as one of five directors of the Fillmore branch of Zions Cooperative Mercantile Institution (ZCMI) with Thomas Callister as president (Lyman, p. 49-50, 140).

Elijah Edward Holden (27 March 1826 – 7 September 1858) was a former Mormon Battalion member who settled with his family in Cedar Springs, a small village about 12 miles north of Fillmore. While returning from delivering a load of wool to Salt Creek (now Nephi) he and his young helper Thomas Bailey were caught in a blizzard that forced them to abandon their wagon. Holden attempted to carry Bailey to safety, but soon tired and left the boy by the side of the trail wrapped in his own jacket while he went for help. A rescue party found the frozen bodies of Holden and the boy on 8 September 1858. Cedar Springs was renamed Holden in his honor. Elijah Holden was buried in an unmarked grave in the Fillmore City Cemetery next to his first wife and their daughter, both of whom died during the baby's birth in the spring of 1856. (Lyman p. 87)

Captain John Gunnison (11 November 1812 – 24 October 1853), a West Point graduate and nationally known surveyor and explorer, was laid to rest in the Fillmore City Cemetery after he and seven members of his survey party were killed by Pahvant Ute Indians in what became known as the Gunnison Massacre. Gunnison was assigned to lead a team of Army Corps of Topographical Engineers surveying along the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth parallels for a possible transcontinental railroad route. He had some familiarity with the Great Basin from having been a member of Captain Howard Stansbury's expedition to survey the Great Salt Lake and its vicinity in 1849-50. His arrival coincided with a period of tension between Indians and white settlers and emigrants that had resulted in several killings. He consulted with Anson Call in Fillmore about the situation. Despite the unrest, Gunnison remained confident in his relationship with the Indians and the Mormon settlers. He continued his survey, dividing his party into two groups. His smaller group was attacked just after sunrise on the morning of 24 October 1853 as the camp was preparing breakfast. Several men survived and made their way to the camp of the military detachment accompanying the expedition. A relief party was quickly organized and hurried to the massacre site to search for more survivors, but found none. The bodies of Gunnison and his Mormon guide William Washington Potter were carried back to Fillmore where Gunnison was buried. Potter's body was taken home to his family in Manti for burial. The rest of the victims were buried at the massacre site. (Lyman, pp. 68-70)

The controversy that swirled around the death of Proctor Robison who was buried in the Fillmore Cemetery after his death on 21 September 1857 continued through the 20<sup>th</sup> century and has still not been put to rest in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Local stories had suggested that the slaying of the Fancher party near Mountain Meadows in Washington County by Mormons masquerading as Indians was in retaliation for the supposed poisoning of a spring near Corn Creek in Millard County. After the Fancher wagon train passed by through in the summer of 1857 there were a number of deaths attributed to fouled water at the spring: several Indians, some cattle, and a 14-year-old boy named Proctor Robison, who skinned some of the dead cattle. One researcher concluded that Robison's symptoms were consistent with anthrax, which is easily transmitted to humans who come in contact with stricken animals. (Lyman, p. 89)

The continuing controversy over the death of Robison led to the exhumation of his remains from his grave in the Fillmore City Cemetery in 2008 to check for evidence of anthrax. A summary of the exhumation report released by Robison's great-nephew Raymon Carling in November 2011, concluded with the following:

The results of approximately one hundred soil samples taken from Proctor's grave were benign meaning that anthrax spores were not present. Neither was it detected in the analysis of bone samples taken from Proctor's body. There was an interval of 150 years between the time Proctor died and the time the soil samples were taken for analysis. However, some scientists are of the opinion that this interval of time is too great, given the environmental condition in the Fillmore Cemetery, for anthrax to remain in this soil and that if it ever was present it could not be detected today.

So, our efforts to try and determine if anthrax was responsible for Proctor's death were inconclusive.

Fillmore City Cemetery

Name of Property

Millard, Utah

County and State

Amasa Lyman is another controversial person buried in the Fillmore City Cemetery. He was an early apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints who had a falling out with church authorities and was later excommunicated. He was a founder of the Mormon settlement of San Bernardino, California, before moving to Fillmore where he operated several sawmills and a gristmill. Not only did he disagree with church authorities, but actively organized against theocratic rule by becoming a leader of the Liberal party in Millard County in the 1870s. (Lyman, pp. 134, 151)

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

**Founding of Fillmore as Utah's Territorial Capital**

On 4 October 1851 the Utah territorial legislature passed a joint resolution creating Millard County from a portion of Iron County known as "Pahvant Valley," and they named its county seat Fillmore City. This resolution also relocated the territorial capital to the new community and appropriated \$20,000 toward that effort. The city was named for U.S. President Millard Fillmore in recognition of his courage in appointing Brigham Young Utah's first territorial governor despite tensions over the practice of polygamy by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons).

On 21 October two companies set out from Salt Lake City for the Pahvant Valley. Brigham Young headed a delegation of lawmakers making the site selection of the territorial capital. The other company, a group of thirty families under the direction of Anson Call, was chosen to start the settlement. On 28 October territorial lawmakers selected a spot for Fillmore City along Chalk Creek on the hunting grounds of the Pahvant Indians, 150 miles south of Salt Lake City (Utah History Encyclopedia). The following day, after first marking the four wings of the statehouse, Jesse Fox began to lay off the town with the streets on a cardinal grid. Each ten-acre block had eight lots of one and a quarter acres with streets eight rods (132 feet) wide. The territorial legislature met in Salt Lake City in February 1852 and approved a bill to incorporate the city of Fillmore. The act, signed by Governor Brigham Young on 13 February designated the city's extent: beginning at the southeast corner of the public square at Main and Center Streets, it stretched three miles in each direction, a very large city, indeed, unless Governor Young really did intend to relocate much of Salt Lake City's population to Fillmore. (Lyman, pp. 45, 49).

A monumental statehouse was planned to be built to house the territorial government. Local red sandstone and native hand-hewn timbers hauled from Parowan were to be used in its construction. The first wing was completed for the fifth annual session of the Utah territorial legislature which convened in Fillmore on 10 December 1855. The sixth legislative session also met at Fillmore, but soon adjourned to reconvene in Salt Lake City. Because the development of southern Utah was slow and accommodations in Fillmore were inadequate, the capital was moved to Salt Lake City. The statehouse was never completed, but the first wing remains Utah's oldest governmental building and now serves as a state museum. (Utah History Encyclopedia)

Fillmore City Cemetery  
Name of Property

Millard, Utah  
County and State

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

BYU Biographical Registers: William Felshaw. <http://byustudies2.byu.edu/Indexes/BioAlpha/MBRegisterF.aspx>

Carling, Ramon W. "Proctor Hancock Robison: Report on the Exhumation of His Body," November 11, 2011.  
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<http://books.google.com/books?pg=PA731&lpg=PA731&dq=peter+l+brunson,+fillmore+utah&sig=v5EFTUUR T4aT1n5UlpdY9JkOkIU&ei=NsDXTtnWO8HZiQLCqqWkCg&ct=result&id=nvQJwgSmTVIC&ots=LPIHoWs nQj#v=onepage&q=peter%20l%20brunson%20c%20fillmore%20utah&f=false>

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

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Fillmore City Cemetery  
Name of Property

Millard, Utah  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** 12.6 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM at main gate:

1	<u>12 S</u> Zone	<u>386113.22 m E</u> Easting	<u>4312629.40 m N</u> Northing	3	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing
2	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing	4	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing

#### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Fillmore City Cemetery is bounded by 325 East Street on the west and 700 South Street on the south. The east boundary is at approximately 550 East and the north boundary at approximately 650 South.

#### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the developed portion of the cemetery, including the oldest sections that are still in active use.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Shalae A. Larsen  
organization IO Design Collaborative, LLC date 8/30/2011  
street & number 614 24<sup>th</sup> Street telephone 801-390-9925  
city or town Ogden state Utah zip code 84401-2501  
e-mail [shalae@iodesigncollaborative.com](mailto:shalae@iodesigncollaborative.com)

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Fillmore City Cemetery

Name of Property

Millard, Utah

County and State

---

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Fillmore City Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Fillmore

County: Millard

State: Utah

Photographer: Shalae Larsen

Date Photographed: 3/31/2011 and 8/21/2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Representative Examples

1 of 34: View from outside the northwest corner of the cemetery looking southeast towards main entry gates.



Fillmore City Cemetery

Name of Property

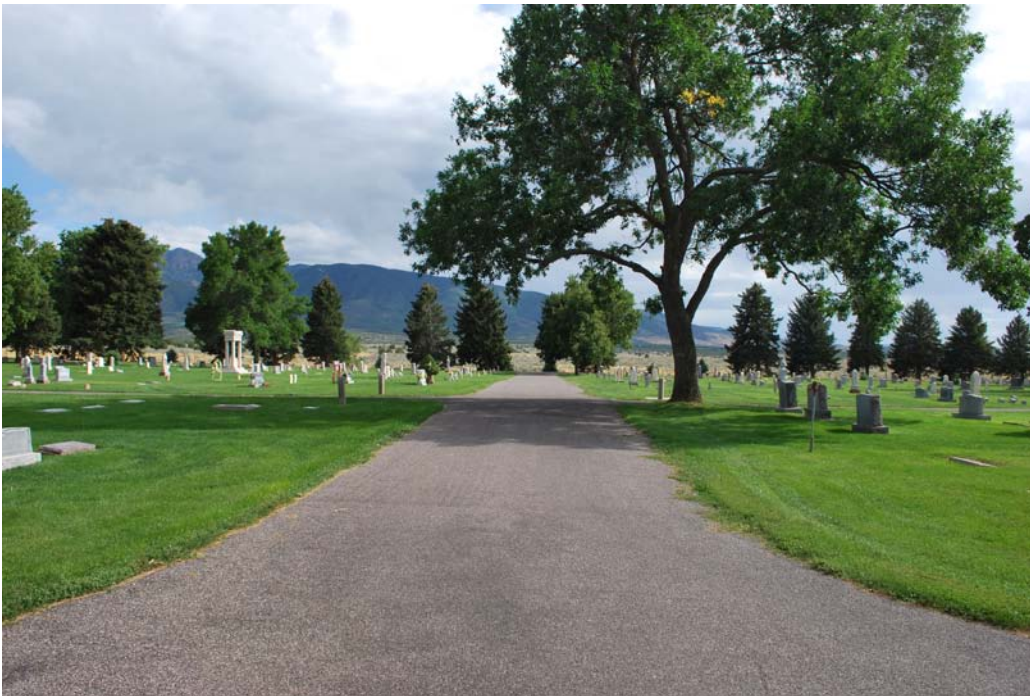
Millard, Utah

County and State

2 of 34: View from the intersection of the northern and second-from-western-most internal cemetery drives, looking southeast across cemetery.



3 of 34: View from the northern-most (East-West oriented) internal cemetery drive looking south along the middle (North-South oriented) cemetery drive.



Fillmore City Cemetery  
Name of Property

Millard, Utah  
County and State

5 of 34: View from second-from-eastern-most (North-South oriented) looking west along the middle (East-West oriented) internal cemetery drive.



7 of 34: View from second-from-eastern-most (North-South oriented) internal cemetery drive, looking West along the middle (East-West Oriented) sandstone cart path.



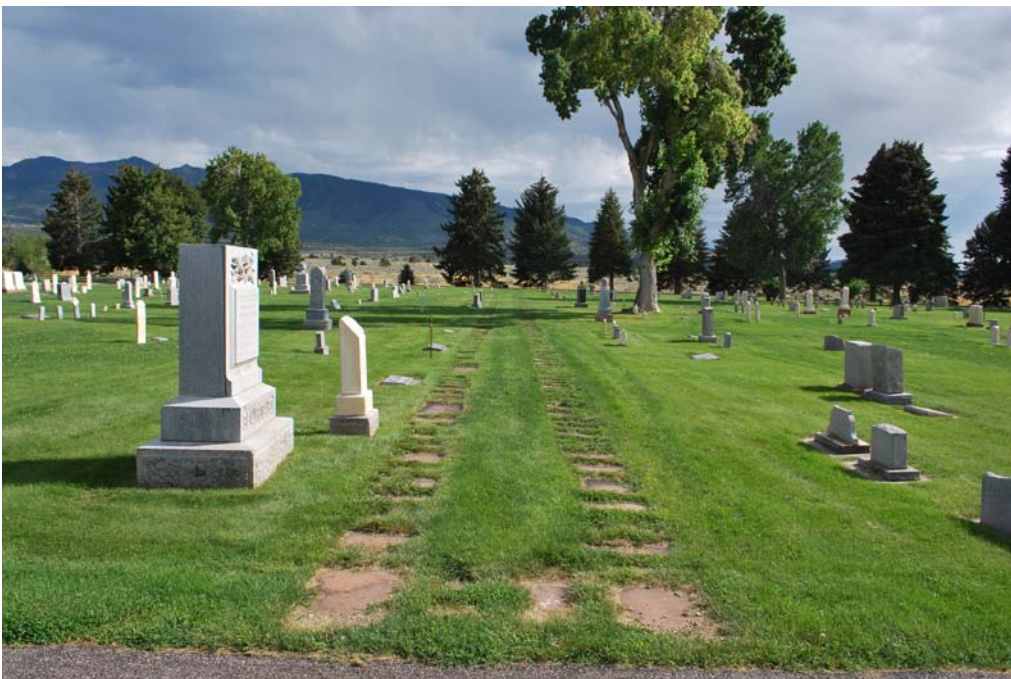
Fillmore City Cemetery  
Name of Property

Millard, Utah  
County and State

12 of 34: View from the southern (East-West oriented) internal cemetery drive, looking north along the middle (North-South oriented) sandstone cart path.



20 of 34: View from the middle (East-West oriented) internal cemetery drive, looking south along the middle (North-South oriented) sandstone cart path.



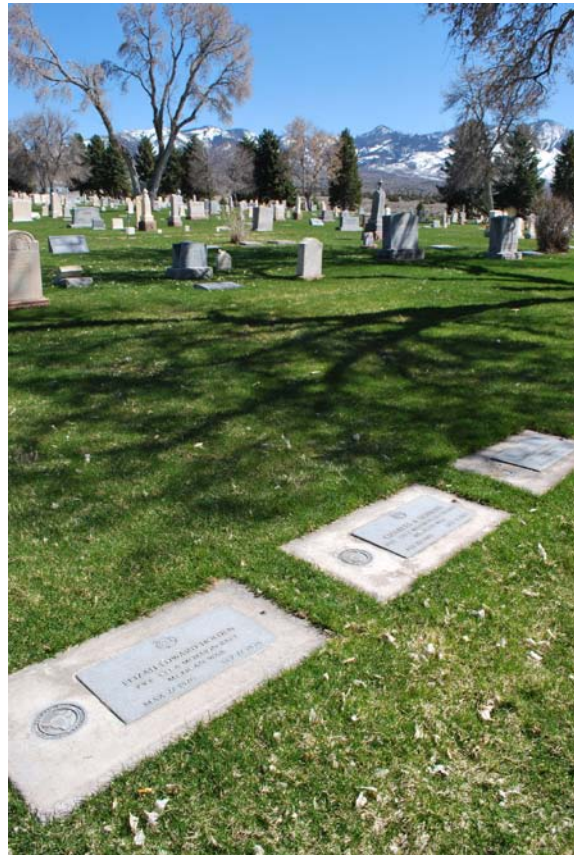
Fillmore City Cemetery  
Name of Property

Millard, Utah  
County and State

27 of 34: View of monument marking the burial site of Captain John W. Gunnison.



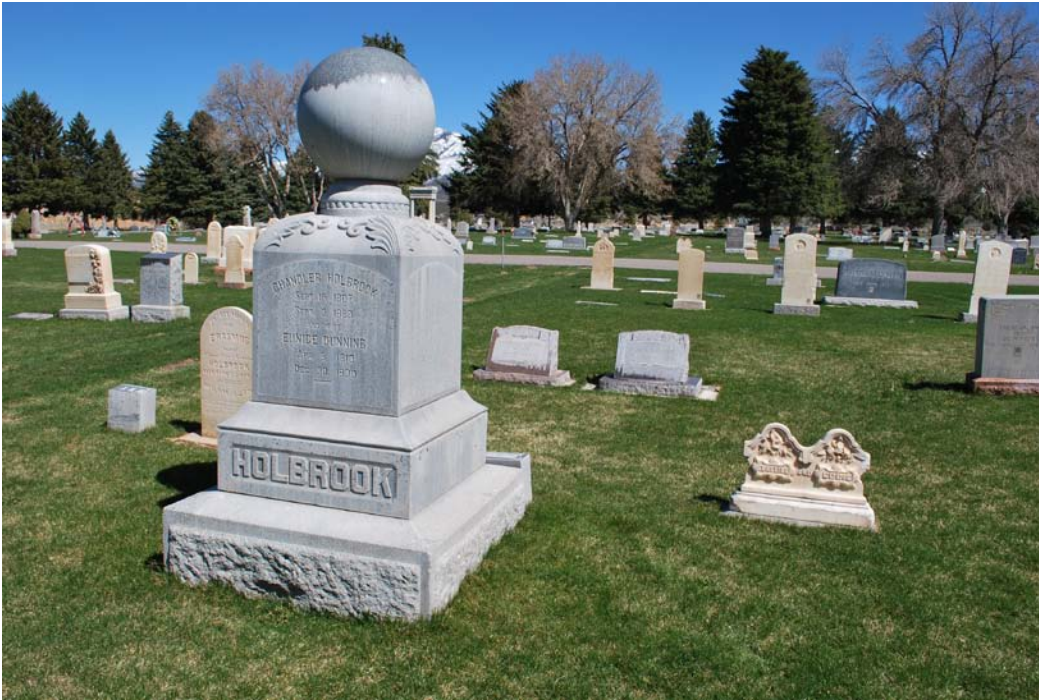
28 of 34: View of monument for Elijah Holden, who is buried in an unmarked location somewhere in the cemetery.



Fillmore City Cemetery  
Name of Property

Millard, Utah  
County and State

34 of 34: View of monument marking the burial site of Chandler Holbrook.



35 of 37: Typical condition of cemetery block marker, showing sandstone exposed at the surface of the ground.



Fillmore City Cemetery  
Name of Property

Millard, Utah  
County and State

36 of 37: Typical condition of sandstone cart paths. Locations are noted on the existing conditions plans



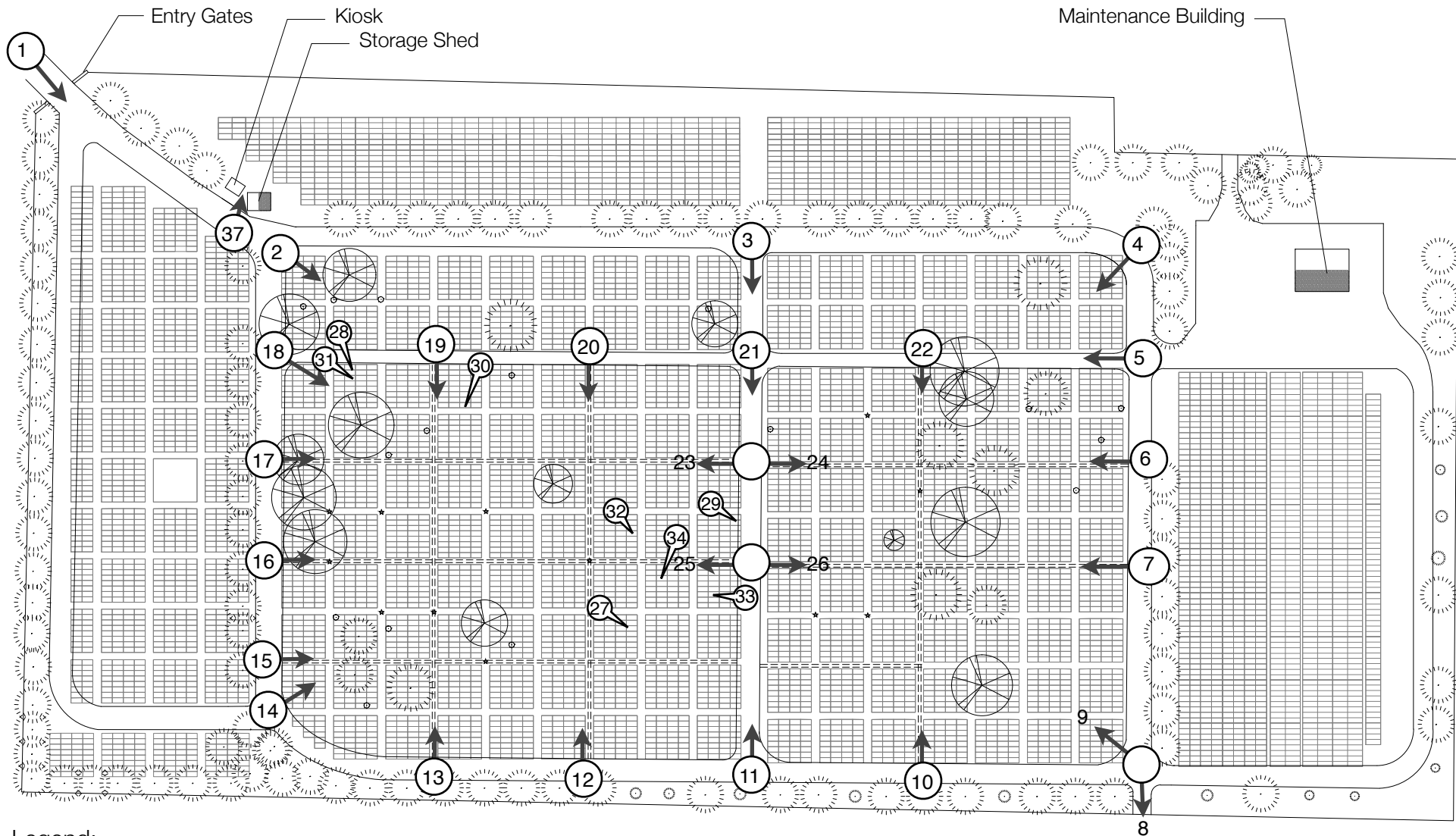
---

**Property Owner:**  
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

---

name Lisa Crosland, Fillmore City Corporation  
street & number 75 West Center Street telephone 435-743-5233  
city or town Fillmore state UT zip code 84631

**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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).  
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Legend:

- |  |                         |  |   |
|--|-------------------------|--|---|
|  | Evergreen Tree          |  | Image Location                            |
|  | Deciduous Tree          |  | Direction of View                         |
|  | Deciduous Shrub         |  | Photo Number                              |
|  | Sandstone Block Markers |  | Significant Burial Site with Photo Number |
|  | Sandstone Cart Paths    |  |   |



# Fillmore City Cemetery Existing Conditions