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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: _Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District _____
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing**:**
____N/A_____
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: _599 Pinehurst Avenue _____
City or town: _Vermillion ____ State: _SD_____ County: _Clay____
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

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 _X_statewide ___local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B _X_C ___D

_____

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

_____

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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	[X]
Public – Local	[ ]
Public – State	[ ]
Public – Federal	[ ]

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	[ ]
District	[X]
Site	[ ]
Structure	[ ]
Object	[ ]

DRAFT

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
4	0	structures
0	2	objects
5	**2**	**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

---

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
FUNERARY / cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
FUNERARY / cemetery

DRAFT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS / Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE
STONE / Sioux quartzite
STONE / Marble
BRICK
EARTH

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District is within the Bluff View Cemetery located at 599 Pinehurst Avenue in Vermillion, South Dakota. It is a small historic district of less than one acre consisting of four private family mausoleums built between 1897 and 1965. They were built independently over time but set in locations adjacent to each other that are banked into the hillside along the south edge of the cemetery. They overlook the wide river valley below the bluff near the confluence of the Vermillion and the Missouri Rivers.

Bluff View Cemetery is around twenty-seven acres is size at present. It is arranged in a grid layout with Pinehurst Avenue being the main in-road from the north. A brick chapel sits near the entrance south of a gate with brick piers leading off Pinehurst, and the rest of the cemetery is largely lawn, gravestones of various sizes and designs arranged in north-south lines, scattered tree/shrub plantings, and asphalt paved roads.

The mausoleums being nominated are located between the southernmost cemetery road and the fence line along the edge of the bluff on the south (the road and the fence are outside of the district). The east and west boundaries of the nominated property begin at the points where the

pathway through the district intersects with the cemetery road (north boundary), each boundary dropping south to the fence line (south boundary). Because the boundary is irregular in shape, an outline is included in the attached nomination maps and detailed in the Boundary Description section.

All four of the mausoleums are considered contributing resources in the district, and the surrounding landscape is a contributing site. Two non-contributing objects are also located within the district boundaries, a bench and a gravestone that are not related to the architectural significance of the mausoleums and were added after the period of significance. The district overall retains high integrity of design, material, and workmanship to convey their significance to funerary architecture in South Dakota, in addition to retaining integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association in its position at the southern edge of the city's cemetery.

Narrative Description

LOCATION AND SETTING

The Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District is located at the south edge of the Bluff View Cemetery in Vermillion, SD. Overall, the Bluff View Cemetery has rectilinear roads and aligned tablet-style grave markers. The main entrance from the north, off Pinehurst Avenue, extends south into a small boulevard, and a brick chapel sits near that entrance.[1] The mausoleums are situated on the hillside below the southernmost roadway through the cemetery at the top edge of the bluff overlooking the wide river valley below, where the Vermillion River meets the Missouri River.

Only the upper portions of the mausoleum walls and roofs are visible from the cemetery road; the front entrances are accessed via a pathway from that road down the hillside at the west and east ends of the grouping of mausoleums. The vaults of the structures are buried in the hillside. The mausoleums face south and are placed in a linear alignment with a uniform setback from the pathway. The easternmost structure, which includes the largest of the underground vaults as indicated by the number of interments, is further apart from the other three that are set closer to each other.

The area surrounding the structures includes the grassy hillside into which they are built, the pathway along the fronts of the structures, and the fence just south of the pathway, which marks the south boundary of the cemetery. The area outside of the fence has become overgrown with trees and shrubs along the bluff, blocking much of the view from the mausoleums to the valley below. Plantings that grow and are maintained along the fronts of the structures include shrubbery and yucca plants. A concrete sidewalk spans the area in front of the easternmost structure, as well as the area immediately adjacent to its entrance. A curvilinear, brick retaining wall and a concrete bench are located in front of the Brookman #1 Mausoleum.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

[1] Bluff View Cemetery Chapel was previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places, NRIS #06000458.

Each of the mausoleums are single-story, masonry (stone or brick, with concrete) structures. The vault portion of each is built into the hillside, while the front facades, portions of the side walls, and the roofs project from the hillside. The roofs are visible from the cemetery road to the north, but the fronts of the structures are visible only from the pathway from that road along the south edge of the district.

The entryways are centered in the front facades. The stone and metal doors are substantial, and all have been padlocked to deter vandals, three of them with metal gates. There are no windows and only small ventilation openings exist in the stone and brick walls.

The oldest and largest of the mausoleums is located at the east end of the grouping. Due to its size, it is set apart slightly from the nearest structure. The three structures west of the oldest one have partial exterior walls along the hillside that abut one another. The mausoleum on the west end of the grouping is the most recent.

There is a cohesiveness to the district with a uniform setback of the front facades, the similar size and scale of the structures, the use of masonry materials, and the simple landscape features of retaining walls and planting beds. The district is set apart from the main sections of the cemetery, which creates a quiet little neighborhood for a final resting spot for the families associated with the mausoleums.

LEWIS-THOMPSON-INMAN MAUSOLEUM
Block 5 Lot 989
Contributing

This mausoleum, constructed in 1897 for the Lewis siblings and their families, is located at the east end of the row of mausoleums. It was the first to be constructed and is the largest of the four mausoleums as indicated by the number of interments—having a total of twenty-two (22) known interments. The vault portion of the mausoleum is below ground, stretching east and west from the main entrance (although not visible, it is reportedly constructed of concrete). The visible portion of the structure includes the front façade with entryway, portions of the lower side walls, and the upper portion of the structure which extends above the sloping edge of the hillside.

The exterior walls consist of large, rusticated blocks of a purplish/gray colored Sioux quartzite, a stone quarried at East Sioux Falls. In August 1897, stone contractor William Handley shipped from there “the largest stone ever quarried in this county. It was 6 feet 6 inches square and 8 foot 4 inches thick, and weighed seven tons… for the cover to the Lewis, Thompson & Inman vault at Vermillion.”[2] The blocks are set in a running bond with a thin bead mortar joint. The foundation is concrete and stone. The roof consists of a row of large, rough-cut blocks of quartzite; the center block is thicker than the two blocks flanking it and it has a smaller flat ridge stone sitting on top of it, which gives the overall appearance of a “stepped” roof shape.

Stylistically, this mausoleum has Classical elements including two, polished stone Tuscan columns, sitting on simple stone plinths, with unadorned capitals that support the lintel stones of the recessed entryway. A pediment, constructed with several pieces of carved stone molding, is located over the entryway. This feature extends to the corners of the structure and wraps around

[2] *Dakota Republican* (Vermillion, SD), August 19, 1897.

the east and west corners as eave returns. The date "1897" is carved into the tympanum surface within the pediment. At the top edge of the wall, directly beneath the stones of the roof structure, is a simple, carved stone cornice tucked into the overhang of the roof stones.

The recessed entry includes a polished stone door centered in the entryway. A metal gate, locked to deter vandals, secures the doorway (not original to the structure, but added during the period of significance). On each side of the door is a polished stone nameplate into which the names of those interred in the vault are carved. The lowest course of the east and west walls projects southward from the entry walls with stones that are slightly larger than the wall stones. Topped with a thinner piece of stone, these projections create a space large enough to set something on or use as a small bench. Directly below these projections are smaller pieces of the same stone along the ground, cut with slight curves, to create a curbing that curves outward from the structure toward a sidewalk in front of the mausoleum. The area between the curbing, as well as the sidewalk, has been paved with concrete.

Descendants of the family recall being told that Wallace L. Dow, a prominent South Dakota architect of the late 19th and early 20th century, was involved in the design of the mausoleum. It has several elements that characterize much of Dow's architecture, including the use of heavy Sioux quartzite stone blocks. Dow had close affiliations with the family, having designed buildings to house family businesses, the family's church, and buildings at the University of South Dakota (USD).[3]

The primary landscape feature is the hillside that covers the vault of the mausoleum. It is mostly grass-covered. A number of yucca plants are growing along the curbing on the west side of the structure, with a few more on the hillside. The concrete sidewalk extends only in front of this structure, beyond it is a dirt and grass covered pathway, leading east up the hillside and west in front of the other mausoleums.

The mausoleum has had few alterations, only the addition of names on the stone plaques as additional family members have been interred in the structure.

This mausoleum is the final resting place for members of the Lewis and Thompson families. Information about them can be found in Section 8 of this document.

BROOKMAN #1 MAUSOLEUM
Block 5, Lot 988
Contributing

The next mausoleum in the grouping is located to the west of the first structure. It was constructed in c.1905. There are eleven (11) members of the Edgar D. and S. Edwin Brookman families interred

[3] Dow designed the Thompson & Lewis building on Main St. in 1889 and the First National Bank building in 1892; First Baptist Church in 1889; and University Hall/Old Main, and East Hall at USD. Darwin Inman served several terms on the USD Board of Trustees. A stone quartzite addition made to the Thompson House in 1892, after it was moved from its original location to Main Street, has also been attributed to Dow. The addition consisted of a new first floor front elevation that included the application of heavy, rusticated pink Sioux quartzite and an entryway with a rounded arch similar to Dow's use of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. Known locally as "the Pink House," the Thompson House was demolished in 2020.

here (information about these family members can be found in Section 8). Like the first mausoleum, the vault portion of the structure is located beneath the hillside and only the front portion of the structure that extends from the hillside and the upper portion with roof are visible.

This mausoleum sits on a concrete foundation and is clad with a medium colored, smooth surface brick set in a traditional running bond with a concave, colored mortar joint. The roof is a front-facing gable capped with concrete slabs and topped with a ridge piece. A two-level wall, with the upper level stepped back from the lower level, extends from the west side of the main volume. It is also constructed of the same brick and capped with concrete coping and serves as both a wall of the underground vault area and a retaining wall for the hillside.

Another wall extends from the east side of the main volume; it is shorter and curves southward in a series of five steps, creating a semi-private terrace in front of the structure. This wall appears to have replaced an earlier wall on this side of the structure (the reason for replacement is unknown at this time). A photograph taken c.2008 show a taller, straight wall on this side of the structure. The newer wall closely matches the appearance of the original structure, but the bricks are a slightly different size and color than the originals. A concrete bench, sitting on a concrete slab on grade, has been added in front of this wall; the names “LaGrave” and “Mahoney” are carved into the front edge of the bench. The exact dates of these alterations and additions are unknown, but it would have been between 2008 and 2017, according to available photographs from those years.

Stylistically, this mausoleum also has Classical elements, in a clean, stripped application. Pilasters are located at the corners of the gabled portion of the structure, each with simple capitals that include egg-and-dart molding that also extends across the front of the structure at the top of the wall surface. The entablature consists of a frieze made with two rows of smaller “rowlock” bricks and a cornice created with rows of bricks that extend to various degrees from the wall surface to create interest. The front surface of the gable end consists of bricks set in a running bond, as well as three rows of bricks laid at a diagonal to the running bond following the slope of the gable edge. At the junction of the slightly overhanging roof edge is additional egg-and-dart molding with a small strip of bead molding at the lower edge. The same configuration and moldings appear on the rear gable where it extends above the edge of the hillside.

The doorway is centered in the front façade. Double leaf metal doors and a metal gate (padlocked to deter vandals) are surrounded by a light gray stone framing, threshold, and lintel. The name “BROOKMAN” is carved into the lintel stone. A ventilation opening is set directly over the doorway and is made with clay tiles with a series of small vertical openings. Bronze plaques with the names of those interred in the mausoleum are located to the sides of the doorway.

Landscape features include the yucca plants on the hillside to the east and a large shrub in front of the wall that extends to the west. The pathway to the mausoleums passes south of the structure before connecting with the concrete sidewalk in front of the mausoleum to the east.

The mausoleum is in good condition. The primary alteration to the structure has been the replacement of the original east wall with the curved brick wall. Other alterations include the addition of names to the bronze plaques and the addition of the concrete bench nearby (see below).

DRAFT

HARRINGTON MAUSOLEUM
Block 5, Lot 987
Contributing

Immediately adjacent to the west of the Brookman #1 Mausoleum, is the Harrington Mausoleum. It was built around 1915, but the exact date of construction is not known. It did not yet exist when the family patriarch John H. Harrington died in 1895, as the newspaper death notice indicate he was buried in the Bloomingdale Cemetery.[4] However, an infant son of John T. and Ida Harrington was interred at Bluff View in 1915, and in March 1924, 11-month-old Delbert Earl Harrington, son of Earl S. and Clara Harrington (Earl being John's great-grandson), was "laid to rest in the Harrington vault at Bluff View cemetery."[5] There are a total of eight known burials in this mausoleum, including John H. Harrington, who was apparently relocated to the vault at some point in time. Information on the family is included in Section 8.

This structure, like the others, is built into the hillside and the vault space is located underground and is reportedly constructed of concrete. The portion of the mausoleum that is visible is constructed of large blocks of white marble, set in a running bond pattern. It sits on a stone and concrete foundation. The front-facing gable roof is clad with slabs of marble topped with a long marble ridge cap. A low wall, also of large marble blocks, capped with thinner slabs of marble, extends west from the main volume serving as a partial exterior wall for the vault, as well as a retaining wall for the hillside. The rear portion of the gabled roof extends above the hillside and is visible from the north side of the structure.

The mausoleum is quite austere in appearance with a gable roof reminiscent of a Classical pediment. There is little ornamentation or attention to stylistic details. Directly beneath the slight overhang of the roof edge is a simple carved molding; the placement of the marble blocks at the lowest course of the gable project slightly from the plane of the wall below. The entryway is centered on the front of the structure, recessed into the marble door surrounds. The double leaf doors are also marble; the heads of the bolts attached to the interior door hinges are visible on the outside of the doors, creating a simple element of decoration. A large, circular metal disc (with a slight convex shape and a padlock) covers the hardware to open the doors. The name "HARRINGTON" is carved into the lintel piece over the doors. There are no plaques on the structure listing the names of those interred within.

Landscape features include the large shrub in front of the Brookman #1 vault wall, which also covers part of the Harrington vault, and a number of small shrubs along the base of the vault wall that extends to the west. The grassy hillside is above, and the pathway passes in front of the structure on the south.

The Harrington Mausoleum is generally in good condition. There are a few spots where there is cracking in the marble blocks and small points where pieces of mortar have fallen out of joints. The metal plate on the door shows signs of corrosion, as do the visible bolt heads.

[4] Bloomingdale was a townsite/hamlet historically located about nine miles north of Vermillion.
[5] *Vermillion Plain Talk* (SD), May 20, 1915, March 27, 1924.

BROOKMAN #2 MAUSOLEUM
Block 5, Lot 986
Contributing

The Brookman #2 Mausoleum is the most recent of the four structures. It was constructed in 1964-65. It abuts the Harrington Mausoleum, which is located to the east. There are only three family members interred in the vault at this time, but according to descendants, at least one other will be buried here, although there is room for more. Information on the family is included in Section 8.

The mausoleum is constructed of split-face marble blocks of various shades of gray, pink, and yellow. The width of the blocks is uniform, but the lengths vary, creating a running bond pattern that is somewhat irregular. On the front elevation, the taller center volume is flanked by shorter walls that extend to the east and west, each wall set back from the plane of the center volume. These walls serve as both exterior walls for the interior vault space set into the hillside and as retaining walls. The wall on the west end wraps around the edge of the hillside where it slopes from the upper road level along the pathway. The wall on the east abuts the short wall that extends from the Harrington Mausoleum. More of this mausoleum is exposed than the other three due to the slope of the hillside, showing a bigger expanse of the stone walls on the sides. On both the east and west walls, directly below the roof edge, are tiles providing ventilation for the vault. The front of the center portion extends into a parapet wall above the flat roof behind it. The upper edge of that parapet, as well as the top edges of the shorter walls, are topped with concrete coping. The foundation is concrete and stone; the roof is covered with concrete slabs.

Stylistically, the structure illustrates the clean, straight lines and limited ornamentation of mid-century modern architectural design. The entry is center in the central volume. The door surround is the most decorative feature on the structure; it consists of two narrow, stone (also split-face marble) framing elements, parallel to each other, that project from the wall surface with a smooth stone surface between them. The name “BROOKMAN” is carved into this smooth stone in the space above the door. A double-leaf metal door is recessed slightly into the opening. A locked metal gate at the front of the opening covers these doors. A bronze plaque with the names of the family members interred in the vault has been attached to the gate since 2017.

Landscape features are limited to the grassy hillside into which the structure is built and the pathway that descends from the cemetery roads west of the structure to the area that passes in front of the mausoleums.

The structure is in excellent condition. Other than the addition of the name of the most recent family member interred in the vault, there have been no alterations since its construction.

MAUSOLEUM LANDSCAPE
Contributing

The landscape surrounding the group of mausoleums should be considered a contributing feature in the district. The grassy hillside is indeed part of the vaults but also adds to the visual ambiance of the district that is focused on the natural vista of the river valley below the bluff. The pathway is also an important element of the site. Although used by vehicle traffic only on rare occasions when a hearse would need to deliver a casket for interment, the pathway is primarily pedestrian in

nature. It is a quiet walkway along the fronts of the mausoleums, which helps to create cohesiveness of the district. With the exception of the short portion that has concrete paving in front of the Lewis-Thompson-Inman Mausoleum, it is a dirt and grass walkway near the south edge of the district and from there up the hillside, on the east and west ends, to the cemetery roadway above.

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

There are two (2) non-contributing features in the small district. Both are in association with the Brookman #1 Mausoleum.

The first is the concrete bench located in front of the curved brick wall. The date of its addition is unknown, but it was added between 2008 and 2017, according to available photographs.

The second non-contributing feature is the grave that is located above the mausoleum near the cemetery road that serves as the north boundary of the district. It is the grave of Harold Brookman and his wife, Ruth, and is marked with a granite headstone with both of their names. It is the only in-ground grave marked with a typical headstone within the district boundary. It is unknown why Harold and Ruth chose this style of grave directly above the family vault rather than being interred in the family vault. This grave does not contribute to the architectural significance of the mausoleum group.

STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

The Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District is an excellent example of funerary architecture as a group of four private mausoleums set together in a particular area of the cemetery. They exemplify the architecture of small family mausoleums constructed in the late 19th and early to mid-20th centuries in America. They are built of masonry and follow the stylistic traditions of the times.

The district retains a very high degree of historic integrity in its location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, as do each of the four contributing structures and contributing landscape site within the district. The four mausoleums, built in an aligned row over several decades, resulted from the intentional selection of this site on the edge of the cemetery that overlooked the bluff to the river valley below, providing the most desirable views from the cemetery for some of the community's most prominent families. Although the trees have grown and changed the view, they continue to create a private and serene environment for the mausoleums.

Minor alterations within the district include the reconfiguration of the east retaining wall of the Brookman #1 Mausoleum and the placement of a concrete bench in front of that wall. The addition of the only traditional in-ground grave with headstone, located above the Brookman #1 Mausoleum, is unobtrusive and is not visible from the front elevations of the mausoleums. The bench and in-ground gravestone are included as non-contributing resources within the nominated boundary.

DRAFT

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.
- [x] 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.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [x] 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

DRAFT

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
__ARCHITECTURE__

Period of Significance
__1897-1965_____

Significant Dates
__1897_____
__c.1905_____
__c.1915_____
__1964-1965_____

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
__N/A_____

Cultural Affiliation
__N/A_____

Architect/Builder
__Niels Urup (builder)_____

DRAFT

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District in Vermillion is being nominated to the National Register for listing under Criterion C at a state level of significance as an excellent example of private family mausoleums in the history of funerary architecture in South Dakota. It is an unusual grouping of four such mausoleums that were built independently of each other over the decades but built in a distinct row banked into a hillside overlooking the wide Missouri River valley below.

Cemeteries in South Dakota generally have few buildings. A few have chapels or an office, and there are two larger community mausoleums in Watertown. The most common structure found in cemeteries is a small storage building for maintenance equipment, which is often utilitarian in design. A handful of cemeteries also have single family mausoleum structures. These small but refined structures were both practical in their use of heavy masonry construction and secure doors, but also beautiful in architectural details, engravings, and position within a cemetery. While most of South Dakota's family mausoleums are above-ground, stand-alone structures, the row of four mausoleums at Bluff View Cemetery is unusual, being banked into the hillside along the bluff. The mausoleums' architectural facades and retaining walls are above ground, but the vaults themselves are underground.

This district meets Criteria Consideration D for cemeteries—which are not usually eligible for the National Register—because of its design significance for funerary architecture in South Dakota.

This set is a valuable representation of family-sized mausoleums as a building type for South Dakota. No other such grouped arrangement of family mausoleums has been identified in the state, and the group displays mausoleum design and materials for a range of time from the late 19th to mid-20th centuries, making it an exceptional collection for funerary architecture in the state. The period of significance for the district begins in 1897, with the construction of the oldest mausoleum, and ends in 1965, with the completion of the most recent one.

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

A BRIEF HISTORY OF VERMILLION AND BLUFF VIEW CEMETERY

Vermillion, the county seat of Clay County, is located in the southeastern corner of South Dakota. According to the 2020 census, the population was 11,695 making it the eleventh largest city in the state. It sits on a bluff overlooking the confluence of the Missouri and Vermillion Rivers.

Vermillion is located in an area inhabited by the Yankton / Ihanktonwan Dakota prior to white settlement. On April 19, 1859, Yankton leaders signed a treaty with the U.S. government, which in part relinquished 11 million acres in what became eastern South Dakota, apart from a 400,000-

acre reservation tract along the Missouri River.[6] This treaty opened the land to American settlement, and Clay County was officially opened in July 1859. The town of Vermillion was founded on the banks of the Missouri River that year, making it one of the earliest towns to be established in the area that would become the state of South Dakota. At least 75 persons were said to have resided within the county by early 1860 and the post office was established that April 17.[7] A census conducted in 1862 showed that 256 persons lived in the Vermillion area.[8]

The creation of Dakota Territory on March 2, 1862 gave stability to the new settlements. The territorial legislature authorized the University of (South) Dakota, the state's first institution of higher learning, in Vermillion in 1862, which served to bring prominence to the town over the decades. Articles of incorporation for Vermillion were filed that year, and the city was incorporated in 1873.[9] The population of Vermillion was 714 in 1880.[10]

The original townsite was located below the bluff on the banks of the Missouri River. A major flood in 1881 wiped out most of the town. More than 130 buildings were destroyed, many others were damaged, and the river channel was changed.[11] In April of that year, the residents held a meeting and approved relocating to the top of the bluff and the rebuilding of the town began.[12]

Records indicate that there were a number of cemeteries throughout Clay County during and immediately following the settlement period. Two were known to exist in the Vermillion area. The first (name unknown) was located at the top of Chandler Hill. It was started in about 1863 but was discontinued when the North Cemetery (sometimes called the Remington Cemetery) was established in 1870.[13] The North Cemetery was reported to have been near a school in Section 7 of Vermillion Township (1.5 miles north of the location where Vermillion was built after the flood), but it was supplanted by the establishment of Bluff View Cemetery closer to the new post-flood townsite.[14] It may be that any burials there were relocated to Bluff View at some stage. At least in 1883, a man named John House had a short notice about sexton work in the local newspaper that

[6] Herbert S. Schell, *Clay County: Chapters Out of the Past* (Vermillion, SD: The Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce, 1985), 1-2; Patrick Coleman, "A Rare Find: The Treaty of Washington 1858," *Minnesota History* 59(5) (Spring 2005), 197-199.
[7] "Vermillion Founded," *Heritage Notes*, Clay County Historical Society, September 3, 2013.
[8] Schell, *Clay County*, 3.
[9] "Our History," City of Vermillion. http://www.vermillion.us/about_history.aspx.
[10] U.S. Census Bureau, "Census of Population and Housing."
[11] Schell, *Clay County*, 27-28.
[12] Dan Christopherson, *The History of Vermillion, South Dakota Since the Great Flood of 1881 (*Vermillion: City of Vermillion, 2007).
[13] Find a Grave, "Bluff View Cemetery" (https://findagrave.com/cemetery/96824/bluff-view-cemetery, accessed January 29, 2026).
[14] Almost all twenty-seven Clay County cemeteries listed in the following publication were affiliated with churches or particular ethnic/faith communities in the rural areas of the county—the exceptions included nondenominational cemeteries near settlements at Lodi, Riverside/Meckling, Spirit Mound, and Wakonda. Rick D. Harnois, "A Survey of the Cemeteries and Burial Sites of Clay County, South Dakota." Prepared for the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission (May 1990), 2.

said he was prepared to move remains from the "old" cemetery (unnamed) to the new for a fee, presumably upon a family's request.[15]

Even before the flood in May 1880, in an editorial call for Vermillion to organize and establish a new cemetery, a place on the bluff with a view of the valley was already a desirable preferred location, if a site could be chosen and funds raised for the purpose.[16] A meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a new city cemetery in Vermillion occurred in August 1881, as much new building and development was happening following the flood.[17] In the spring of 1882, a ten-acre plot of land (located in the southwest quarter of Section 20, Fairview Township bordering on Section 19 of Vermillion Township) was purchased from Thomas Jordan, and local citizens began making improvements to the property in preparation for its use as the cemetery.[18] The land was located at the southeast edge of Vermillion, on the bluff overlooking the river valley below, and, fittingly, the cemetery was eventually named Bluff View Cemetery. Searching the Vermillion Public Library's digitized newspaper collections, the phrase Bluff View as the cemetery name first appears in April 1897.[19] The brick Bluff View Chapel was constructed in 1901; it was listed in the National Register in 2006.

Although there were earlier short-lived attempts at forming a cemetery association, a group of women organized the Vermillion Cemetery Improvement Association in 1891 and kept it active. Women like Mary Lathrop, Anna Lee, Harriet Jolley, Christina Fry, and Rachel Austin had leading roles over the years, and Martha Lotze was a long-serving president from 1901 until her death in 1926. Adele Inman, interred in one of the nominated mausoleums, was involved as treasurer or on a committee of the association at several points between 1897 and 1929. A 1909 account of Bluff View by Joseph Robinson asserted that the association held the view that the cemetery should represent Vermillion's "high civic character" as much as its library, park, or town hall did. With funds from the sale of lots and maintenance fees, the women hired a sexton to care for the property "and keep it in perfect order." They valued the "quietude" of the cemetery with its surrounding crop fields and views over the river valley to the trees and hills in Nebraska. In accordance with the popular trends of the era to have cemeteries resemble orderly parks, they emphasized the lawn-like grass, landscaped plantings, defined roads and alleys, and having "no monuments of gaudy height or garish display" that would overshadow others in the cemetery.[20] The hillside-banked position of the mausoleums at Bluff View was in line with that low and open aesthetic. From the mausoleums there would be a view of the valley, while also not obstructing views from other points in the cemetery.

The cemetery has been expanded at least twice. In 1917, the St. Agnes Calvary (Catholic) Cemetery was added on ten acres purchased from Carl Gunderson at the west end of Bluff View. In 1930, the cemetery acquired land in a land exchange with C.C. Christianson, which brought the number of

[15] John House was also a sales agent for a marble works in LeMars, Iowa, that produced granite and marbled grave markers. *Dakota Republican* (Vermillion SD), March 29, 1883-December 20, 1883.
[16] *Vermillion Standard* (SD), May 15, 1880.
[17] *Dakota Republican* (Vermillion SD), August 25, 1881, p.3.
[18] Find a Grave, "Bluff View Cemetery"; *Dakota Republican* (Vermillion SD), May 4, 1882, p.3.
[19] *Vermillion Plain Talk* (SD), April 30, 1897.
[20] *The Dakota Republican* (Vermillion SD), October 11, 1883-March 14, 1912; *Vermillion Plain Talk* (SD), November 22, 1893-May 20, 1926.

available cemetery lots to around 400. The North Bluff View section was also an early addition although the exact year is not known.[21] There are currently no other cemeteries in Vermillion.

Unfortunately, all of the early records for the cemetery were lost in a fire in 1920. Much of the information about the cemetery, its growth and change over time, and the early families buried here has been pieced together with the use of family records and stories, Works Progress Administration records from 1940, and newspaper articles. Still, there are gaps in information pertaining to the history of this cemetery. The cemetery is managed by the Vermillion Cemetery Association.

MAUSOLEUMS: A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Mausoleums are free-standing structures designed to house the remains of the deceased. Historically, they had ancient beginnings as large, majestic monuments to important persons (such as kings and emperors). The word "mausoleum" derives from the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus (in present-day Turkey), the grave of King Mausolus. These early monuments blended art, architecture, and spirituality and reflected social status across various cultures and civilizations.[22]

The Roman Empire embraced the concept of mausoleums. They became iconic symbols of status and power. Early examples were largely influenced architecturally by Greek designs for temples, but as Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire, mausoleum design began to diversify, reflecting the population's changing religious beliefs. The use of mausoleums declined during the Middle Ages, but a renewed interest in classical antiquity during the Renaissance resulted in a resurgence in mausoleum construction. Masonry materials were preferred for their durability and permanence, including their resistance to weather events and pests. Architecturally, they continued to be lavish monuments adorned with intricate detail, and they continued to be reserved for the wealthy and powerful.[23]

In the northern states in America, there were churches that had had burial vaults within their structures in the 18th century, but the popularity of free-standing private mausoleums began in earnest with the Rural Cemetery Movement in the 1830s to 1850s. As traditional church graveyards and burying grounds in cities became overcrowded and fostered public health concerns, municipalities or associations set up distinct cemeteries that were often larger and had design features of a naturalistic rural park, with plots spaced out and thought given to landscape factors like topography, plantings, circulation patterns, and built landmarks like statuary or gazebos. As America expanded, a town cemetery was a civic amenity worth maintaining for beauty and order, and it was also a claim of longevity, stability, and history on the landscape. Many cemeteries employed caretakers—or even horticulturalists—to maintain the grounds and landscaping, while also monitoring cemeteries for vandals. Sculptures and carved monuments served the park aesthetics but also became valued as accessible museum-quality public art. The public could even use many such cemeteries recreationally as walking parks. From the 1850s to the 1910s, the next trend for cemeteries was to reduce the built-up clutter or eccentricity of those naturalistic

[21] *The Dakota Republican* (Vermillion SD), September 4, 1930; "Bluff View Cemetery," Find a Grave.com.
[22] Provenance Mausoleum, "The Enduring Legacy of Mausoleums: A Historical Overview," (https://www.provenancemausoluems.com, accessed April 6, 2026).
[23] Provenance Mausoleum, "The Enduring Legacy.."

designs and have more a "lawn park" aesthetic with lower-height grave markers or monuments, and more open and orderly landscaping—"the pastoral would replace the picturesque." In the American West, ad-hoc "boot hill" burying grounds were followed by lawn style and often fenced "fair mount" cemeteries with orderly plots and pathways. Such cemeteries valued not only the aesthetics of their own grounds but beautiful views of the lakes, rivers, meadow valleys, and mountains of the western landscape around them.[24]

In the early eras of park cemeteries, mausoleums became popular for their presence and status on the landscape. American mausoleums were often smaller than some of the European precedents, although they continued to be associated with important persons and prominent, wealthy families who focused on the quality of design and materials like imported stone or stained glass from prominent makers like Tiffany. In locations like South Dakota where the scale of wealth was lower, even modestly sized or styled mausoleums (or other grave monuments) could communicate a family's social status or influence, or their veneration as a pioneer or founder. Stylistically, the architecture of mausoleums tended to incorporate elements and details of Classical and Gothic styles, or various revival styles like Egyptian, which had its own associations for burial monuments that only grew in popularity with news about famous tomb excavations there. However, when the lawn park ideals became ascendent for cemeteries, long avenues of tall and dense private mausoleums fell out of favor. They were still built in cemeteries that allowed them, but not at the same volume. From 1880 to 1920, Industrial Era wealth fueled some very elaborate examples in northern states in the late 19th century, but their placement in lawn-park cemeteries became more a focal feature than being one among a neighborhood of such structures.[25]

New forms of mausoleums adapted to changing cultural and religious beliefs about death in the early 20th century. New larger public mausoleums were larger structures than most family mausoleums and might house dozens or hundreds of burials. They were not controlled by a family but by the cemetery owner or the company that built it, who sold crypts within the mausoleum to individuals. In the discourse about them are found attitudes, in general, about why some people continued to choose mausoleums. They were exalted as a sanitary and "civilized" mode of burial for urban environments, in particular, in order to make efficient use of limited space. They also reflected the advances of modern building design, such as climate and moisture controls and sustainable materials. To some, public mausoleums were revolutionary, making such burials affordable to the middle classes. To others, they were seen as controversial and even exploitative because companies that built large mausoleums could collect the proceeds of selling crypts but leave their long-term management and maintenance to the cemetery association. In cases, the quality of construction caused a cemetery significant problems when faults were identified.

[24] Meg Greene, *Rest in Peace: A History of American Cemeteries* (Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 2008), 31-45; David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991), 22-24, 80, 107 (quote), 220-226; Annette Stott, *Pioneer Cemeteries: Sculpture Gardens of the Old West* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2008), 15-27.
[25] Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity*, 220-226.

Mausoleum companies were particularly disliked by competing companies who created and sold monuments and markers for in-ground graves.[26]

Between 1907 and the early 1940s, during a period sometimes referred to as "the community mausoleum movement," many large mausoleums were constructed throughout America. They continued to embrace the architectural styles associated with Classical and Revival styles, including Neoclassical, Gothic Revival, Egyptian, Mission, and Art Deco styles. The earliest known community mausoleum was the Ganges Mausoleum, constructed in Richland County, Ohio in 1907; it had crypts for 80 burials. The idea was promoted by William Hood, who started the National Mausoleum Company in Shelby, Ohio in 1907. The company would lease its design patents to smaller companies in various locations, created under required state and local laws, and using a local business name. The companies approached cemetery owners to construct the mausoleums and take their profit from sale of vaults to the public. They advertised mausoleums as affordable, civilized, and sanitary. The movement continued to spread westward through the efforts of Cecil E. Bryan, an architect for the company. He designed at least eighty community mausoleums throughout the Midwest and West into the 1940s.[27]

By 1950, the world – and America – had changed. The concept of community mausoleums was forty years old and Americans were ready for new and modern mausoleums. Mid-20th century mausoleums were larger and constructed of better materials and technology, reflecting the age of unparalleled American prosperity. The mausoleums of the mid-century set the stage for mausoleums through the remainder of the 20th century.[28]

Even with the development and spread of community mausoleums, significant persons and their families continued to choose private mausoleums for many reasons. Not unlike earlier in history, families who could afford private mausoleums valued the exclusivity afforded by them and chose them as symbols of their status in a community. They sometimes saw private mausoleums as opportunities to create structures that reflected their values, tastes, and traditions through architectural expression, whether that be through highly ornate and historicist styles or by using more austere modern aesthetics. Family mausoleums also provided for generational planning, ensuring continuity and togetherness into the future. Mausoleums not only honored the important, significant persons for whom they were built, but they created a permanent legacy for the family.[29]

MAUSOLEUMS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

In South Dakota cemeteries, modest sized gravestones with engraved names, dates, and framing designs that are set on level ground have been and remain the most common form of grave marker. Gravestones could be elaborated upon with engraved poems, symbols of affiliations with fraternal orders or military service, or embedded cameo photographs. The graves of children might have

[26] Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity*, 220-226; Emily Ford, "Community Mausoleums, Part One: Early 20th Century," https://www.oakandlaurel.com/blog/community-mausoleums-part-one-early-20th-century [Oak & Laurel Cemetery Preservation], 3/10/2019).
[27] The company was reorganized as the International Mausoleum Company of Chicago in 1910, after a brush with bankruptcy, although they continued to use the name National Mausoleum Company for some time. Ford, "Community Mausoleums."
[28] Ford, "Community Mausoleums."
[29] "Why Families Choose Private Mausoleums," (https://www.mausoleums.com, accessed April 2026).

unique iconography like a carved sleeping lamb, or cemeteries might have sections dedicated to child burials. Families and individuals of the late 19th and early 20th century who wished to and had the means to invest more resources could have sizeable pedestal type stones and markers produced, more elaborate stone-carving, small crypts for an individual (or couple), or tall obelisk type markers. It is not uncommon for older cemeteries to have several individual or family plots bordered by iron fences or that are elevated with low stone/concrete walls. European and Chinese immigrant communities used their own languages in engravings, and German and Czech communities often used iron cross style markers. Native communities' cemeteries reflect their own traditions, such as where the use of local pipestone has been incorporated for gravestones at the First Presbyterian Church north of Flandreau. There were a few unusual forms of gravestones generally, including faux-bois styles, which used shaped stone or concrete to create a tree-trunk form with bark, vine, and branch details.

Historically in South Dakota, mausoleums were rare. Compared with standard tablet style markers, the size of mausoleums indicate a more deliberate expression of either a desire to convey wealth and status, and/or to impress an enduring family legacy upon the landscape. In historical news accounts, the term "family vault" was used as well, which is indicative of that aspiration to longevity. To date, thirteen family mausoleums (listed below) have been identified across the state through research for this nomination and photograph records from the State Historic Preservation Office.

This size of private family mausoleums could hold the remains of anywhere from one to approximately twenty persons. They were usually constructed of stone in rectilinear forms with gable, flat, or parapet roofs and using architectural styles popular for funerary architecture of their time, reflecting styles found throughout the country. Classical and Romanesque designs were popular for monumental architecture of the late 19th and early 20th century to give the aesthetics of historical tradition—continuity and stable longevity—and also indicated the wealth required for the materials and details of construction. These designs might feature columns or pilasters framing the entrance, a gable parapet or pediment roof, and heavy ornamental cornices. Romanesque designs might feature more textured stone than Classical variations. Later in the 20th century, though Classical design continued to have a strong influence, architectural influences in cemeteries expanded with Art Deco design that could bring vertical, smooth aesthetics with less ornamentation or more stylized geometric detailing, which could even display influences of historical Egyptian architecture that tied to popular culture ideas of death and funerals in the years following widely publicized archaeological excavations in Egypt in the 1920s. Mid-20th century architecture, both generally and for funerary buildings, stripped much of the ornament that was popular in earlier styles and focused instead on material quality and the arrangement of wall planes and voids.

Little information has been found about who designed and constructed these mausoleums at Bluff View or other family mausoleums in South Dakota. Cemetery associations may have contracted with architects/designers and building contractors directly, although it appears more common that the families themselves contracted with designers and builders. Many companies that created funerary monuments and grave markers also offered the service of constructing mausoleums for families. For example, a newspaper article in 1898 reported that a mausoleum being constructed in memory of Emma Goss Gilruth in Watertown was being built of Kasota stone and Vermont marble

by T.H. Pritchard, the proprietor of the Watertown Marble Works, which also produced gravestones.[30] In 1916, the Clark S. West family mausoleum in Yankton was designed by the local branch of the National Monument Company and built of "pink granite" from Minnesota.[31] In 1899, Judge Bartlett Tripp had contracted with Drake Company. to construct a mausoleum for him and his family in the Yankton City Cemetery—Drake Co. was a Sioux Falls firm that ran quarries and polishing works, had workers skilled in stone cutting and carving, and also supplied several buildings in Sioux Falls.[32]

In addition to the four mausoleums located in the Bluff View Cemetery in Vermillion that are the subject of this nomination, others that have been identified include (chronologically):

1. Sage family mausoleum (1888) in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Sioux Falls
2. Emma Goss Gilruth mausoleum (1898) in Mount Hope Cemetery, Watertown
3. Judge Barlett Tripp family mausoleum (1899) in Yankton City Cemetery, Yankton
4. Clarence Bartlett family mausoleum (c.1907) in Riverside Cemetery, Pierre
5. Coats mausoleum (1915) in Woodlawn Cemetery, Sioux Falls
6. Barrette mausoleum (c.1916) in Graceland Cemetery, Henry
7. Pettigrew family mausoleum (1916) in Woodlawn Cemetery, Sioux Falls
8. Clark S. West family mausoleum (1916) in Yankton City Cemetery, Yankton
9. Matthews mausoleum (c.1917), Riverside Cemetery, Aberdeen
10. Fowler mausoleum (1920) in Mount Hope Cemetery, Watertown
11. Peter Nielsen Aggergaard (1921) in Hillcrest Cemetery, Irene[33]
12. J.C. Sherman mausoleum (1925) in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Rapid City
13. Bushfield family mausoleum (c.1948) in G.A.R. Cemetery, Miller

Several of the above were prominent families in business and government, including a newspaper publisher, State Supreme Court chief justice and ambassador, governor, senators, and land investors.

The 20th century movement for community mausoleums also touched South Dakota briefly, and the companies formed for such projects may also have constructed family-scaled mausoleums. In 1910, the South Dakota Mausoleum Company was established in Watertown with the purpose of building community mausoleums. Plans came to fruition for two mausoleums in Watertown – a large, 200-crypt structure in the Mount Hope Cemetery (owned by the city) and a smaller, 100-crypt structure at St. Mary's Catholic cemetery.[34] The designs were a standard of the National Mausoleum Company and nearly identical except for their size. The South Dakota Mausoleum

[30] *Yankton Daily Gazette* (SD), July 11, 1898.
[31] "The Gilruth Mausoleum," *Reporter & Farmer* (Webster SD), July 7, 1898; *Yankton Press and Dakotan* (SD), August 7, 1916-October 23, 1916.
[32] *Dakota Herald* (Yankton, SD), February 11, 1899; "Building His Own Tomb," *Mitchell Capital* (SD), March 3, 1899; Dana R. Bailey, *History of Minnehaha County, South Dakota* (Sioux Falls, SD: Brown and Saenger, 1899), 573.
[33] *Yankton Press and Dakotan* (SD), November 5, 1921.
[34] The Mount Hope Mausoleum in Watertown was listed on the National Register in 1986.

Company promised they would be built with the best building technology and materials available and sell places within the mausoleum at a price that was affordable to all ($150 in 1910).[35]

In 1912, a second company specializing in mausoleums was incorporated as the Yankton Mausoleum Company.[36] There is no evidence that this company was associated with the National Mausoleum Company or focused only on building community mausoleums, but as the local historical society have no business records for this company, it is not known how long this company was actually in business, or what mausoleums they may have built.

Although no additional companies specializing in mausoleums in South Dakota have been found in research, several businesses throughout the state created and sold funerary monuments and grave markers. It is likely that some of them offered the services of building small family mausoleums, whether they designed and built them themselves or worked with architects and contractors to have them constructed. It would have been a logical extension of their services, since they were already in the funerary business and they had access to the stone and other materials primarily used in mausoleum construction. Today, it is these companies who advertise the construction of mausoleums in the state.

BLUFF VIEW MAUSOLEUMS

The Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District in Vermillion is an excellent example of funerary architecture for family-sized mausoleums from the late 19th Century through the mid-20th Century. This district is unique in South Dakota as the only cemetery where there are four mausoleums that were built in an adjoining row together in a hillside area of the cemetery, creating their own private neighborhood. They are also unusual in their design. Rather than above-ground free-standing structures like they majority of known examples of this type in South Dakota, they are a combination of above-ground structures fronting underground vaults, built into the hillside, where the family members are interred. They are constructed adjacent to one another, much like row houses on a city street, creating a cohesiveness in the district.

They were built for prominent families in Vermillion's history as symbols of status in the community. Not only was a family mausoleum a symbol of status but locating the district on the edge of the bluff provided the best view from the cemetery that overlooked the river valley below, further exemplifying the significance of these families.

Architecturally, the structures are excellent examples of the styles and materials associated with family mausoleums during this time period. All are masonry construction (three are stone, one is brick, with concrete elements) lending to the notion of permanence of these families and their legacies. Sioux quartzite was likely obtained from quarry sources within South Dakota, but the

[35] In the summer of 1911, although the company held meetings in at least Madison, Brookings, and Yankton (perhaps also north to Fargo and Grand Forks) in hopes of securing contracts for building additional community mausoleums, they do not appear to have been successful in convincing other communities to invest in such structures. "Mausoleum Company Opens Offices; Is Closing Contracts for Crypts," *Saturday News* (Watertown SD), April 8, 1910; *Yankton Press and Dakotan* (SD), March 16, 1910; *Madison Daily Leader* (SD), August 9, 1911; and *Brookings Register* (SD), August 17, 1911.

[36] The company's partners were Robert Ferris, J.A. Danforth, D.B. Gurney, and others. *Yankton Press and Dakotan* (SD), August 17, 1912; *Vermillion Plain Talk* (SD), August 22, 1912.

marble used on two of the mausoleums would have needed to be imported. The two oldest mausoleums use Classical elements in their design, the newest illustrates a mid-century modern appearance. The fourth, although not clearly an architectural style, has the gabled form of its preceding neighbor and is austere in the simplicity of the marble exterior that creates an elegant appearance of the absolute, irreversible finality of death.

The district's overall ambience is completed through its landscape features. One of the main features of the landscape is the hillside into which the vaults of the mausoleums are buried. It is covered with grass (and a few yucca) and visually creates a separation from the rest of the cemetery, which cannot be seen from the front elevations of the mausoleums. Another feature that adds to the cohesiveness of the district is the pathway along the fronts of the mausoleums. For most of its length it is a grass and dirt footpath for visitors (although it has also been used by hearses to transport caskets for burial in the mausoleums), with the exception of a span of concrete pavement along the front of the Lewis-Thompson-Inman Mausoleum. Although the siting of these structures intended to provide an unobstructed view of the river valley below, the growth of trees, shrubs and other plants outside of the cemetery fence (just outside of the district boundary) on the edge of the bluff now mostly obstructs that view. Regardless, the overgrowth has created a sense of a forested park along the south edge of the district, which has further enclosed the district as its own "neighborhood." It creates a sense of serenity and of privacy.

What follows are additional details about each of the individual mausoleums and the families associated with each. Information came from a variety of sources including newspaper articles, other National Register nominations (including that of the S.E. and Anna Brookman House), FindAGrave.com, the Clay County Historical Society, and conversations with family descendants including Cyndy Chaney and Chris Johnson. Select citations are also included, and more information can be found in the bibliography.

Lewis-Thompson-Inman Mausoleum

The Lewis-Thompson-Inman Mausoleum, located at Block 5, Lot 989 of the cemetery, was built in 1897 for the three families and their descendants. It exemplifies family mausoleums of the late 19th Century in the use of stone for the visible portion of the mausoleum and its Classical style elements. As noted above in Section 7, family descendants attribute its design to South Dakota architect Wallace L. Dow and at least its largest stone came from a quarry in East Sioux Falls.

The earliest burial in the family vault was Eliza Ann Martin Lewis in 1898, the matriarch of the family. Her husband, William Lot Lewis was also interred in the vault after his death in 1907.[37] This couple, originally from Clarendon, New York, and later living in Columbus, Wisconsin, eventually moved to Vermillion to be near their children who had settled there. William and Eliza Lewis had six children: Martin J., Adele, Anna Elizabeth, Lillian, Jennie, and Shubael.

Martin J. Lewis was born in Clarendon, New York and moved with his family to Columbus, Wisconsin when he was about 10 years old. When he was in his early twenties, he headed west and settled in Vermillion in 1869. He became a partner in a banking endeavor with his soon-to-be brothers-in-law, Darwin M. Inman and Myron D. Thompson. The private bank was originally known

[37] *Dakota Republican* (Vermillion, SD), May 12, 1898; *Vermillion Plain Talk* (SD), September 12, 1907.

as D.H. Inman & Company, until it was later chartered as the First National Bank of Vermillion. It played a major role in financing the settlement of Dakota Territory. The three men also owned the firm of Thompson & Lewis, which operated the large grain elevator in Vermillion, and were dealers in agricultural implements. Lewis died in 1896 in New York after falling ill on a trip to Europe. His brother-in-law Myron D. Thompson traveled out and escorted his body back to Vermillion. He was initially buried in a grave at the cemetery but was relocated to the family mausoleum after its completion.[38] He had no wife or children.

Darwin M. Inman, who was also from Clarendon, New York, was a very prominent citizen of Vermillion, He served as the president of the First National Bank of Vermillion for 38 years. As mentioned, the bank played a major role in financing settlement of the area. He was elected as a member of the Territorial Legislature for three terms. He was also a member of the first State Legislature and served for six years as chairman of the Democratic state central committee. He was a strong advocate for education and was involved in assuring that Vermillion became the home of the university; he served several terms as a trustee of the university, including terms when Wallace Dow was hired as the architect of the first university buildings. Inman married Adele Lewis, one of Martin's sisters, in 1874. She too became a prominent member of the community—being active in the Baptist church and donating to the university's athletic facilities. They had no children. Darwin died in 1913 and Adele in 1935; both are interred in the family mausoleum.[39]

Myron Davison Thompson was born in Saratoga County, New York. At the age of 19, he moved to Columbus, Wisconsin, the town where he undoubtedly became acquainted with the Lewis family, who were living there at the time. He moved to Vermillion in 1867 and soon established a business venture. When Martin Lewis moved to Vermillion two years later, the business became known as the Thompson-Lewis Company. It grew into one of the most important grain, livestock, farm machinery and implement, and lumber businesses in southeast Dakota Territory. Together with Lewis and Darwin Inman, he also became involved in the banking business and after Inman's death in 1913, he served as the president of the bank, a position he held until his death in 1929, when he was interred at Bluff View Cemetery. In 1870, he had married Anna Elizabeth Lewis , another of Martin's sisters. Anna was interred in the family vault upon her death in 1930.[40] They had two sons, Orville William and Martin Lewis.

An account of Myron D. Thompson's funeral in the *Vermillion Plain Talk* on February 21, 1929:

> "The throngs of friends and neighbors, officials of the city and acquaintances moved slowly from the church and soon the funeral cortege moved toward Bluff View cemetery where his last journey soon was ended. There in front of the ponderous family vault where repose the remains of the late Mr. Inman and Mr. Lewis, the casket bearing Mr. Thompson was gently placed upon the ground.
>
> Under a gray winter sky, with the open door of the vault and banks of flowers as a background, with close friends and loved ones crowding the edges of the terrace and

[38] *Dakota Republican* (Vermillion, SD), June 26, 1896.
[39] *Vermillion Plain Talk* (SD), January 23, 1913.
[40] *Vermillion Plain Talk* (SD), February 21, 1929-November 20, 1930.

> with the sweeping view of the rugged strength of the Vermillion river valley sweeping away for miles to the west and to the east, the last words of mortal man were said, the last prayer was evoked and the last tribute paid to one of the city's best loved and admired citizens, father, husband, leader and organizer…
>
> … then the shuffle of moving feet, the crunch of snow under foot and only the pallbearers remained to place the casket bearing the member of the inseparable 'trio' in the vault alongside of the friends of his yesteryear to be finally reunited in death."

These three men were prominent in Vermillion's early history, contributing to the growth and success of the community in business, government, and education. Having achieved a high level of status and wealth, as well as a close friendship and family ties, it is not surprising that they chose to have a family mausoleum constructed in the city's cemetery.

They also had built houses on adjacent lots on the 400-block of Main Street in Vermillion. The Lewis House and Inman House are extant and listed in the National Register of Historic Places; the former being part of the University Historic District, and the latter being individually listed and then included within the Jolley Historic District. The Thompson House, which was west of the Inman House, was demolished in 2020.

In addition to these family members, there are at least another fifteen family descendants interred in the mausoleum for a total of twenty-two. (They are listed in full at the end of Section 8.)

Brookman #1 Mausoleum

The first of the Brookman family mausoleums is located in Block 5, Lot 988. The exact date of its construction is unknown, but it probably was built soon after the death of Frances Anne Brookman, the 11-year-old daughter of Edgar D. and Mary Frances Brookman in June 1904. Newspaper accounts of her death indicate that her remains were placed in the Lewis-Thompson-Inman Mausoleum until her place of burial could be completed.[41] The family built their mausoleum before March 1908 when Clark M. Young (a dean at the university) died, and his body was placed in the Brookman vault temporarily.[42]

No information has been found about the designer or builder of the mausoleum. Its architectural style is in keeping with family mausoleums in the early 20th century, with its use of Classical elements. It is a bit unusual in the use of brick rather than stone for the exterior wall surfaces.

The Brookman family was prominent in Vermillion's early history and the choice of a mausoleum for family burials is fitting for the family's status in the community. A total of eleven family members are interred in the vault.

Edgar D. Brookman and his twin brother, St. Claire Edwin (S.E., also sometimes called Edwin or S.Edwin), were born in New York in 1855. They arrived in Vermillion in the mid-1880s. The twins were millers, and in the spring of 1890, they established the Vermillion Pearl Roller Flour Mill. The

[41] *Dakota Republican* (Vermillion SD), June 9, 1904.
[42] Phrasing was "were placed in the E.D. Brookman vault at Bluff View Cemetery for the present." *Dakota Republican* (Vermillion SD), March 12, 1908.

name of the mill changed to the Vermillion Milling Company in 1893.[43] In 1895, the Brookmans and their Vermillion Milling Company were granted a 20-year franchise to operate a steam-powered light plant, which provided the first electric lights in Vermillion. In June 1915, when the franchise ended, the City took over ownership of the light plant.[44]

Edgar married Mary Frances Hunter in 1889. They had two daughters, Laura Lou and Frances Anne. Young Frances died at age 11 and was the first interment in the family vault. The Brookmans also took four orphaned children into their home and raised them; they were Mabel, Maude, Merle and Murray McLaughlin, and a fifth child, Cecil Haxton, lived with them until graduating from high school. Both Edgar, who died in 1927, and his wife Mary Frances, who died in 1951, are interred in the mausoleum (Mary Frances is listed as Frances Hunter Brookman on the name plaque of the mausoleum). Both Edgar and Frances were well respected in the community for their contributions. For example, from 1898 to 1918, Frances was an active supporter of the women's suffrage movement at both local and state levels.[45]

S. Edwin married Anna M. Collisi on August 25, 1885 in Topeka, Kansas. Both were active and outstanding citizens in the community. Both are interred in the mausoleum. Edwin died in 1919 and Anna died in 1948. They were the parents of four sons: Harold Edwin (born 1886), Murray Edwin Edgar (born 1890), and twins Lowell Collisi and Lawrence J. (born 1891). Each of the sons was successful in his own right and contributed to the community of Vermillion. The S. Edwin and Anna Brookman House in Vermillion has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Harold, born in 1886 in Vermillion, became an engineer and architect. He married Mabel Ruth Timmerman in 1914, and they lived in Trenton, New Jersey for a number of years. They had two children: Bruce Terrance (born in 1915) and Janice Marie (born in 1919).[46] In 1921, they relocated to Vermillion where he became a faculty member of the USD School of Engineering. When the School of Engineering ended in 1933, Brookman developed the program in Applied Science and was a professor and chair of the program until his retirement in 1959. He also served as the university's chief engineer during his years at the university.[47] Harold (who died in 1967) and Ruth (who died in 1971) are not interred in the family mausoleum but rather in a grave located above the vault of the mausoleum. Their grave is marked with a granite stone. The grave is located within the Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District boundaries but is considered a non-contributing resource.

Harold's brother, Murray Brookman (born in 1890), also studied engineering, first at USD and then at Harvard. After he completed his degree in 1909, he took a position in Indianapolis and later moved to Minneapolis.[48] Although he made his home elsewhere, newspaper accounts show that

[43] Clay County Historical Society & the W.H. Over Museum Joint Newsletter, Fall/Winter 2019/2020, p. 12.
[44] "The History of Electricity in Vermilion, SD," Clay County Historical Society & the W.H. Over Museum Joint Newsletter, Summer 2018, p. 1.
[45] *Vermillion Plain Talk* (SD), August 12, 1898- April 11, 1918; *Dakota Republican* (Vermillion SD), October 13, 1898-July 13, 1916; *Argus-Leader* (Sioux Falls, SD), November 4-5, 1909; *Philip Weekly Review* (SD), April 28, 1910; *Black Hills Union and Western Stock Review* (Rapid City SD), April 29-May 6, 1910; *The Woman Citizen* 2 (May 25, 1918), 510.
[46] "Family Search (https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/L6T3-924/murray-edwin-edgar-brookman-1890-1981), accessed April 2023.
[47] Evelyn Schlenker, "Harold Edwin Brookman: A Beloved Engineering Professor," University Archives 2022.
[48] *Vermillion Plain Talk*, various issues from 1906 to 1909.

Murray visited friends and family in Vermillion often. He eventually settled in California and is buried there.

In 1891, S.E. and Anna had twin boys, Lawrence and Lowell. Lawrence became a doctor, having graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and interned at Wesley Hospital in Chicago. He married Flo C, Metz in 1917 in Chicago, after which they returned to Vermillion. He initially practiced with his uncle, Anna's brother, until opening his own practice. He also served as the University's physician for a few years. He retired in 1947. He was a member of several community organizations and was a well-respected citizen. Lawrence and Flo had two daughters: Shirley Ann and Barbara Helen. Both Lawrence and Flo are interred in the family mausoleum; Lawrence died in 1977 and Flo died in 1987. Both of their daughters and their spouses are also interred in the vault. Shirley married Charles Edward LaGrave, Jr; she died in 2004 and her husband died in 1997. Barbara married Loren Haskins Mahoney; she died in 2020 and her husband died in 2008.

Lawrence's twin brother, Lowell and his family, are the subject of the Brookman #2 Mausoleum. Information pertaining to this mausoleum is found following the information on the Harrington family.

Harrington Family Mausoleum

The Harrington Family Mausoleum (Block 5, Lot 987) was constructed for the John H. and Jane Davison Coats Harrington family. The exact date of construction is unknown – it did not exist when John died in 1895 (a newspaper article stated he was buried in the Bloomingdale Cemetery[49]), but it had been constructed at least by the time his infant great-grandson, Delbert died in early 1924 and the newspaper account specified the vault as his burial place. An infant son of John T. Harrington, who died earlier in 1915, was also recorded as being interred at Bluff View upon his death and at Lot 987 in later records.[50] An approximate construction date of 1915 is used in this nomination. No information was found about who designed or constructed the structure. Architecturally, it has a broadly Classical form but little ornamentation. It is austere in its clean lines and white marble walls.

There are nine family members interred in the vault. They include John H. and his wife, Jane Davison Coats Harrington. John was born in England and emigrated to America in 1858. He first settled near Portland, Maine and eventually made his way west, working as a farmer along the way. In September 1867, he took up a homestead in Clay County and he and his family endured hardships associated with farming. John held various township offices, served on the school board, and was justice of the peace. Although the family mausoleum had not yet been constructed at his passing in 1895, his remains were eventually moved to the family vault at an unknown date.

John H. and Jane had six children. Isabelle married A.S. Wright and they settled in Kansas, where they are buried. Jane married A.H McDonald, who was also a farmer in Clay County; they were buried in the Spirit Mound Cemetery north of Vermillion. Cyrus "Bill" was a mining engineer in Alaska, where he was buried. Samuel Mathew became a farmer in Clay County, as did three of his

[49] Bloomingdale was a townsite/hamlet historically located about nine miles north of Vermillion, and its cemetery's plat was recorded with the county in 1885. *Dakota Republican* (Vermillion, SD), May 14, 1885.
[50] *Vermillion Plain Talk* (SD), May 20, 1915, March 27, 1924; WPA Cemetery Project Index, SD State Archives.

brothers – John Thomas, Edwin James, and Walter Scott. All four of these brothers are interred in the Harrington Family Mausoleum. Eleven-month-old Delbert Earl Harrington (the son of Earl S. and Clara Harrington, and Samuel M. Harrington's grandson) was laid to rest there upon his death in March 1924.[51] In addition, Nellie Spowage, the wife of Samuel, and Blanche Fairbanks, the wife of Edwin, are also interred in the family vault.

The Harringtons were known for raising excellent crops and high-grade stock. They were successful farmers. Samuel, the eldest son, also invested in real estate and had amassed some ranch land in the western part of the state. He was said to have become wealthy from his investments. Samuel committed suicide in March 1924 and was laid to rest in the family's mausoleum.[52] His aged mother died that November and was also interred there. It may have been at that time that her husband's remains were moved to the mausoleum.

Brookman #2 Mausoleum

This second Brookman mausoleum is located in Block 5, Lot 986 of the cemetery, adjacent to the Harrington Mausoleum to the east. According to family descendants, it was built in 1964-65, at the same time that a new home was built for Lowell and Olive Brookman in Vermillion. According to the family, the mausoleum was designed and constructed by a local contractor/builder named Niels Urup at the same time he built their house. Little was found about this builder other than he was born in Denmark, and a passing mention that he built a number of houses in Vermillion and was a member of the Vermillion Civil Air Patrol.[53]

As the other mausoleums in the district, this is a small private family mausoleum, built specifically for members of the Lowell Collisi Brookman family. It exemplifies architecture of the mid-20th century with its clean lines and lack of ornamentation. Its beauty comes from the use of rough-faced marble stones in shades of pink, gray and yellow. Only the door surround, where the name "BROOKMAN" is carved, provides a change in texture and relief from the wall face. At this time, there are only three family members interred in the vault, although reportedly there is space for others.

Lowell Collisi Brookman was the son of S.E. (Edwin) and Anna Collisi Brookman, and brother to Harold, Murray, and Lawrence (his twin). He was the chief electrician for the City of Vermillion for more than 45 years, where he oversaw the operation of the city's power plant that was originally developed by his father and his father's twin brother, Edgar. Lowell married Olive Bowie in 1914. Both are interred in this family vault: Olive died in 1970 and Lowell died in 1975. They had one daughter, Robin Jean. She attended the School of Art and Design in Minneapolis and got her nursing (RN) degree from St. Vincent's Hospital in Sioux City, Iowa. She worked as a nurse in California and Hawaii, as well as Sioux City. She married Warren B. Johnson in Vermillion in 1951 and they eventually settled in Arizona where she pursued her interests in art. She moved back to South Dakota in 2010. She died in 2011, at age 93, and was interred in the family mausoleum. Her son, Christopher, plans to also be interred there upon his death.

[51] *Vermillion Plain Talk* (SD), March 27, 1924.
[52] *Vermillion Plain Talk* (SD), April 3, 1924.
[53] Email conversations with Chris Johnson (grandson), by the author.

As members of the Brookman family, Lowell and his wife contributed to the legacy of the family and achieved the local status that afforded them the construction of their own mausoleum. No information was found about why Lowell chose to have a separate mausoleum constructed for his family rather than being interred in the original Brookman Mausoleum. It is possible that space in the original vault had become limited and Lowell wanted sufficient space for his family.

SUMMARY OF BURIALS IN EACH MAUSOLEUM

(Dates in parentheses indicate dates of death)

Lewis-Thompson-Inman Mausoleum

William Lot Lewis (1907) (married to Eliza)
Eliza Ann Martin Lewis (1898) (married to William Lot Lewis)

Martin J. Lewis (1890) (William & Eliza's son)

Adele Lewis Inman (1935) (William & Eliza's daughter; married to Darwin M. Inman)
Darwin M. Inman (1913) (Adele's husband)

Anna Elizabeth Lewis Thompson (1930) (William & Eliza's daughter, married to Myron Davison Thompson)
Myron D. Thompson (1929) (Anna's husband)

Orville W. Thompson (1948) (Anna & Myron's son)
Blanche G. Thompson (1953) (Orville's wife)

Martin Lewis Thompson (1947) (Anna & Myron's son)
Julia B. Thompson (1953) (Martin's wife)

Lucille T. Ferris (1977) (Martin & Julia's daughter)
Stephen H. Ferris (1959) (Lucille's 2nd husband)

Nancy Mattox (1937) (Lucille's daughter with first husband Robert Mattox)

George M. Ferris (2005) (Lucille & Stephen's son)

Corey Stephen Caldwell (1963) (son of Mary Ellen Haller, grandson of Lucille & Stephen)

Kevin Haller (2013) (son of Mary Ellen Haller, grandson of Lucille & Stephen)

O'Dell Charlotte Thompson Poe (1985) (Martin & Julia's daughter; Lucille's sister)
Thomas Poe, Jr. (1988) (O'Dell's husband)

Lillian Lewis Morgan (1934) (William & Eliza's daughter; Martin, Adele and Anna's sister)
Rufus A. Morgan (1931) (Lillian's husband)

Annadell Morgan (1947)(Lillian & Rufus's daughter)

Brookman #1 Mausoleum

Edgar D. Brookman (1927) (Edwin's twin)
Frances Hunter Brookman (1951) (Edgar's wife)

Frances Anne Brookman (1904) (Edgar & Frances' daughter)

S. Edwin Brookman (1919) (Edgar's twin)
Anna Collisi Brookman (1948) (Edwin's wife)

Lawrence J. Brookman (1977) (Edwin and Anna's son)
Florence C, Brookman (1987) (Lawrence's wife)

Shirley Brookman LaGrave (2004) (Lawrence & Flo's daughter)
Charles Edward LaGrave Jr. (1997) (Shirley's husband)

Barbara Brookman Mahoney (2020) (Lawrence & Flo's daughter)
Loren Haskins Mahoney (2008) (Barbara's husband)

Harrington Mausoleum

John Harrington (1895) (Jane's husband)
Jane Davison Coates Harrington (1924) (John's wife)

Samuel Mathew Harrington (1924) (John & Jane's son)
Nellie Spowage Harrington (1963) (Samuel's' wife)

Ray Harrington (1925) (Samuel and Nellie's son)[54]

William T. Harrington (1940) (Samuel and Nellie's son)

Delbert Earl Harrington (1924) (Earl & Clara Harrington's son, Samuel's grandson)

John Thomas Harrington (1926) (John & Jane's son)

J. Harrington (1915) (John T. and Ida Harrington's son)

Edwin James Harrington (1943) (John & Jane's son)
Blanche A. Fairbank Harrington (1941) (Edwin's wife)

Walter Scott Harrington (1941) (John & Jane's son)

Brookman #2 Mausoleum

Lowell Collisi Brookman (1975)(Edwin and Anna's son; Lawrence's twin brother)
Olive Blanche Bowie Brookman (1970) (Lowell's wife)

Robin Jean Brookman (2011) (Lowell & Olive's daughter)

[54] Ray Harrington in WPA Cemetery Project Index as 1925. Likely Raymond W. Harrington (Samuel and Nellie's son), although perhaps the date is wrong, Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Harrington were mentioned in local newspapers through 1931. Or, it was an infant son, like J. Harrington (1915).

DRAFT

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

In South Dakota cemeteries, straight-line rows of gravestones are the typical layout, and a few have graves in raised and/or fenced family plots. It is not uncommon to have gates and perimeter fencing around cemeteries, or to have non-grave memorial markers, obelisks, grottos, or statues of religious figures, veterans, or community leaders. However, buildings of historic ages are rare. The most common buildings are utilitarian storage buildings for maintenance equipment. A few cemeteries have offices like Mount Hope Cemetery in Watertown, or chapels as at Bluff View Cemetery, Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Sioux Falls, and St. Mary's Cemetery in Aberdeen. To the knowledge of the State Historic Preservation Office the only community mausoleums are in two cemeteries in Watertown, as noted above. As mentioned, there has been no comprehensive survey of family mausoleums in South Dakota so far. During the research for this nomination, thirteen small private family mausoleums were identified that were likely built over fifty years ago, although there are likely others yet to be identified.

In comparing the four mausoleums in the Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District to the thirteen that were identified during this nomination effort (as listed earlier), there are architectural similarities. All of them are similar sizes with central doorways and are constructed of solid masonry. Most are built of stone (granite, marble, and Sioux quartzite being the most common), in keeping with the building traditions for mausoleums throughout the country. Styles used for the mausoleum structures, however, included a range of Classical Revival, Gothic Revival, Egyptian Revival, Mission Revival, Art Deco, or Mid-Century Modern architectural styles depending on popular styles of the era and the tastes of the owner. Roof styles range from parapet, gable, to flat shapes. Windows are few, but there are often ventilation openings near the roof peaks. Many of those identified were at either central or high-ground points within their respective cemeteries. One outlier in terms of style is the Barrette mausoleum in Henry. It is a more vernacular design of uncoursed stone parged with a flat concrete (deteriorated in sections), a utilitarian metal door, and only having ornamentation in small carved blocks on the raised corners of the parapet roof.[55]

The Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District differs in two major ways. First, it is an adjacent grouping of small family mausoleums that were all built facing the same direction toward a common viewshed and are aligned with a common setback, much like row houses on a city street, creating a cohesiveness to the small district group. There have been no other such groupings of historic mausoleums in the state identified to date.

Second, these mausoleums are of an unusual situational design for South Dakota. Twelve of the other thirteen identified family mausoleums are stand-alone, above-ground structures. The banked Bluff View mausoleums are a combination of above-ground facades fronting underground vaults built into the hillside where the family members are interred. The only other mausoleum that is similarly banked is the Judge Bartlett Tripp family mausoleum in the Yankton City Cemetery. In 1899, Judge Tripp got the design from Sioux Falls architect Wallace Dow and contracted with the Drake Company, a stone company also from Sioux Falls, to construct a mausoleum for him and his family. The dimensions of the structure were to be 23x36 feet, and it would contain twelve crypts. A

[55] At least one of those blocks is carved with a symbol associated with the Odd Fellows fraternal organization. Graceland Cemetery (1986), 2014-08-07-345 and 2014-08-07-344, SD State Historic Preservation Office collection, SD State Archives, Pierre.

large vestibule lined with marble would hold twelve marble columns, each topped with busts of the family members. The structure was built into a hillside with the crypts underground. The front of Tripp's mausoleum was built of heavy stone blocks with a rough-cut surface. Rounded partial arches over the doorway and at the parapet edge of the roof over the entrance are Romanesque in design; smooth columns inset into the entryway flank the doorway. A portion of the side wall of the structure is visible in the hillside and a short stone wall extending from the corner of the structure serves as a retaining wall for the hillside. The cost of the mausoleum was $3000.[56] The Tripp mausoleum has several hallmarks of Dow's designs in its Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture constructed of heavy blocks of stone, and its similarity to the Lewis-Thompson-Inman Mausoleum in Vermillion is notable.

CONCLUSION

The Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of funerary architecture for the state of South Dakota. Mausoleums are a rare and architecturally elaborate type of grave marker for South Dakota cemeteries. These four mausoleums that are set together at the southern edge of Bluff View Cemetery exemplify the architecture of small private family mausoleums constructed in the late 19th and early to mid-20th centuries in America. They are built of masonry and use architectural style traditions popular to their era of construction; their range of ages and designs illustrating the trends for such structures' design over time. Over a period of about seventy years, the construction of each mausoleum, aligned in a row, created a distinct grouping that overlooks the bluff to the river valley below for several of the community's most prominent families.

The district retains a very high degree of historic integrity in its location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, as do each of the individual contributing resources within the district. The bench and tablet-style grave marker that are non-contributing objects in the district are not visually intrusive and blend well with the landscape of the district.

DRAFT

[56] *Dakota Herald* (Yankton, SD), February 11, 1899; "Building His Own Tomb," *Mitchell Capital* (SD), March 3, 1899.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Argus-Leader (Sioux Falls, SD), November 4-5, 1909.

Bailey, Dana R. *History of Minnehaha County, South Dakota*. Sioux Falls, SD: Brown and Saenger, 1899.

Black Hills Union and Western Stock Review (Rapid City SD), April 29-May 6, 1910.

"Bluff View Cemetery" Find a Grave. (https://findagrave.com/cemetery/96824/bluff-view-cemetery)

Brookings Register (SD), August 17, 1911.

Chaney, Cyndy. Email conversations with the author regarding the Lewis-Thompson-Inman Mausoleum, the Thompson (Pink) House, and the family connection to Wallace L. Dow.

Christopherson, Dan. *The History of Vermillion, South Dakota Since the Great Flood of 1881*. Vermillion: City of Vermillion, 2007.

City of Vermillion. "Our History." http://www.vermillion.us/about_history.aspx.

Clay County Historical Society. "Vermillion Founded." *Heritage Notes*, September 3, 2013.

Clay County Historical Society and W.H. Over Museum joint newsletters. Summer 2018; Fall/Winter 2019/2020.

Coleman, Patrick. "A Rare Find: The Treaty of Washington 1858." *Minnesota History* 59(5) (Spring 2005), 197-199.

Dakota Herald (Yankton, SD), February 11, 1899.

Dakota Republican (Vermillion SD), October 11, 1883-September 4, 1930.

Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken the Year of 1910. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1913.

Family Search. Dr. Harold E. Brookman (https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/L6T3-924/murray-edwin-edgar-brookman-1890-1981), accessed April 2023.

Ford, Emily. "Community Mausoleums, Part One: Early 20th Century." (https://oakandlaurel.com/blog/community-mausoleums-part-one [Oak & Laurel Cemetery Preservation], 3/10/2019).

Greene, Meg. Rest in Peace: A History of American Cemeteries. Minneapolis, MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 2008.

Harnois, Rick D. "A Survey of the Cemeteries and Burial Sites of Clay County, South Dakota." Prepared for the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission, May 1990.

Johnson, Chris. Email conversations with the author about the Brookman #2 Mausoleum and Niels Urup, builder.

Madison Daily Leader (SD), August 9, 1911.

Mitchell Capital (SD), March 3, 1899.

Philip Weekly Review (SD), April 28, 1910.

Provenance Mausoleum. "The Enduring Legacy of Mausoleums: A Historical Overview." (https://www.provenancemausoluems.com).

Reporter and Farmer (Webster SD), July 7, 1898.

Saturday News (Watertown SD), April 8, 1910.

Schell, Herbert S. *Clay County: Chapters Out of the Past*. Vermillion, SD: The Vermillion Area Chamber of Commerce, 1985.

Schlenker, Evelyn. "Harold Edwin Brookman: A Beloved Engineering Professor." University Archives, 2022.

Sloane, David Charles. *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.

Stott, Annette. *Pioneer Cemeteries: Sculpture Gardens of the Old West*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2008.

U.S. Census Bureau. "Census of Population and Housing."

Vermillion Plain Talk (SD), November 22, 1893-November 20, 1930.

Vermillion Standard (SD), May 15, 1880.

Wilson, Jim. *Vermillion Architects and Contractors 1870 to Present*. Clay County Historic Preservation Commission, 2013.

The Woman Citizen 2 (May 25, 1918), 510.

Yankton Daily Gazette (SD), July 11, 1898.

Yankton Press and Dakotan (SD), March 16, 1910-November 5, 1921.

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:

DRAFT

_X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
_X__ Other
Name of repository: ___Clay County Historical Society _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): __CL00000732 and ____
_____CL02600001-CL02600005__

---

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _less than one acre____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: Longitude:
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [X] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 14	Easting: 671320	Northing: 4737470
2. Zone: 14	Easting: 671371	Northing: 4737472
3. Zone: 14	Easting: 671371	Northing: 4737453
4. Zone: 14	Easting: 671338	Northing: 4737451
5. Zone: 14	Easting: 671320	Northing: 4737461

DRAFT

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

The nominated district is located within Bluff View Cemetery in the City of Vermillion, Clay County, South Dakota. It includes Lots 986, 987, 988, and 989 in Block 5 of the cemetery plat, as well as the surrounding area located between the southernmost cemetery road (north district boundary) and the fence line at the southern edge of the cemetery property (south boundary); the east and west boundaries extend from the points where the district pathway connects to the cemetery road south to the fence line.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the area within the cemetery that was designated for the location of the four private family mausoleums and the immediately adjacent area associated with the mausoleums.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michelle L. Dennis
organization: M.L. Dennis Consulting
street & number: 513 Meade St.
city or town: Rapid City state: SD zip code: 57701
e-mail: michdenn513@gmail.com
telephone: 605-342-6825
date: May 2026

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

DRAFT

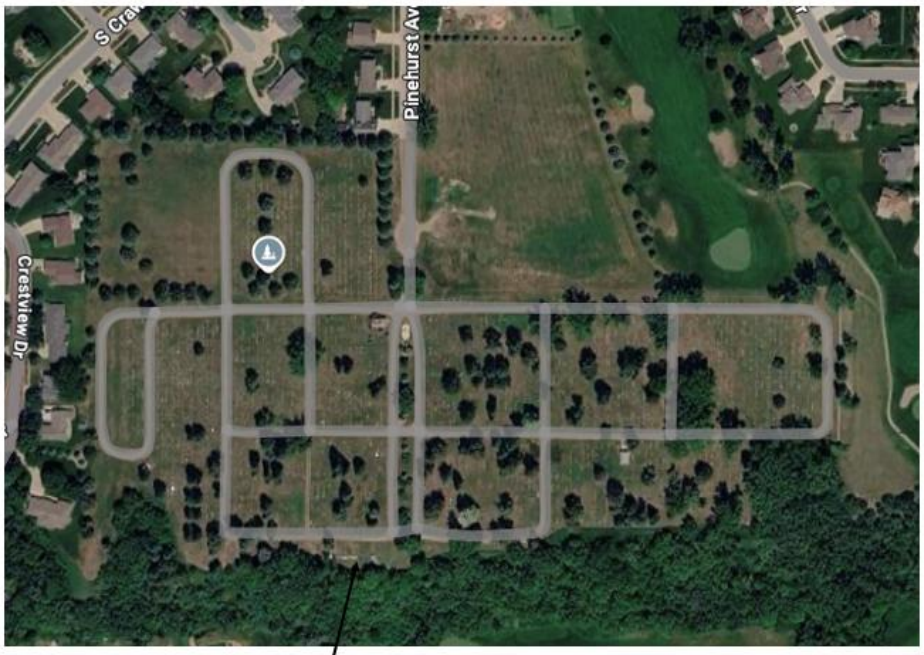
USGS MAP OF VERMILLION

Arrow points to location of Bluff View Cemetery in Vermillion



BLUFF VIEW CEMETERY

Aerial View of Bluff View Cemetery

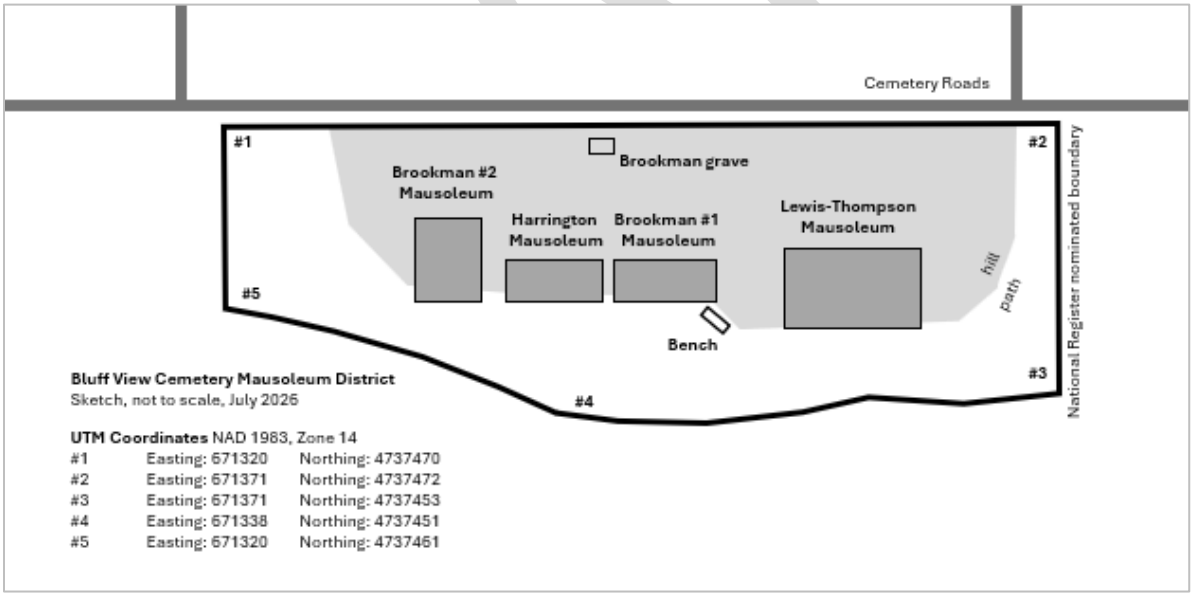


Location of mausoleum district in the cemetery

Aerial View Close-Up of Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District

District boundary outline in white





Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District
Sketch, not to scale, July 2026

UTM Coordinates NAD 1983, Zone 14

#1	Easting: 671320	Northing: 4737470
#2	Easting: 671371	Northing: 4737472
#3	Easting: 671371	Northing: 4737453
#4	Easting: 671338	Northing: 4737451
#5	Easting: 671320	Northing: 4737461

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to

the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District

City or Vicinity: Vermillion

County: Clay State: SD

Photographer: Michelle Dennis

Date Photographed: October 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0001
View from west looking east, along the pathway.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0002
View from east looking west, along the pathway.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0003
District from west end, showing rear elevations and roofs of the mausoleums; roadway on left is the north boundary, south boundary is along the tree line on right; pathway down hillside slope to fronts of mausoleums far right; Harold & Ruth Brookman headstone in distance near the roadway.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0004
Lewis-Thompson-Inman Mausoleum, front, from south looking north.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0005
Lewis-Thompson-Inman Mausoleum, east and rear walls and roof, looking southwest.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0006
Brookman #1 Mausoleum, front elevation, curved wall on right, from south looking north.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0007
Rear and roofs of Brookman #1 Mausoleum (left) and Harrington Mausoleum (right), looking southwest.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0008
Harrington Mausoleum, front, looking north.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0009
Brookman #2 Mausoleum, front and west side, looking northeast.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0010
Brookman #2 Mausoleum, rear showing east wall and roof, looking southwest.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0011
View to the river valley from between the Lewis-Thompson-Inman and Brookman #1 mausoleums, looking south.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0012
Bench in front of Brookman #1 Mausoleum, from west, looking east.



SD_Clay County_Bluff View Cemetery Mausoleum District_0013
Headstone for Harold and Ruth Brookman, from west looking east.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

DRAFT