

DAYTON HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY

ASSESSOR MAP NUMBER: 4-3-17 DD TAX LOT NUMBER: 2700
PLAT NAME: NA LOT: NA BLOCK: NA
PROPERTY ADDRESS: South end of Third Street
CURRENT OWNER: Dayton School District #28
Rt. 1 Box 4, Dayton, OR
ORIGINAL OWNER: Joel Palmer
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: NA
STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE: NA YEAR BUILT: 1846
HISTORIC NAME: Brookside Cemetery HISTORIC USE: Cemetery
CURRENT NAME: Brookside Cemetery CURRENT USE: Cemetery
CONDITION: Good ALTERATIONS: NA
PHOTOGRAPH ROLL-FRAME: 4-5 INTERVIEWEE: _____
RESOURCE NUMBER: 8 RECORDER: Rees DATE: 11-10-84

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The Brookside Cemetery is located at the south end of Third Street, near the eastern edge of the Original Town of Dayton. The cemetery is sited on level ground in a forest clearing at the edge of Palmer Creek. The creek which is engulfed with riparian vegetation borders the cemetery to the east and south. Highway 221 curves around the northern edge of the cemetery; to the west is flat pasture land.

The cemetery, which is irregular in shape, is laid out on a true east-west, north-south grid, and therefore, at an angle to the city grid which parallels the Yamhill River. There are 24 rows of plots which run east-west with most of the headstones facing south. Many of the family plots have low concrete curbs surrounding them and are planted with older ornamental shrubs, such as roses, spirea, lilac and orange eye butterfly bushes, and fruit trees. The older part of the cemetery is towards the north with many of the family plots of early settlers located there.

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HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Brookside Cemetery was first used in 1846 for the burial of Riley Smith, the son of Andrew D. and Polly Smith. His brother, Almond, was also buried there in 1849. Both of these burials precede the date of 1850 which is given as the date Joel Palmer donated the land for cemetery use. It is surmised that prior to Palmer's acquisition of part of Andrew Smith's Donation Land Claim in 1850, the Smith's had used the area as a family burying ground. Andrew Smith on whose original D.L.C. the cemetery was located, was the older brother of Riley and Almond. In 1874, Palmer officially deeded the cemetery to the Dayton School District, the only officially organized body in the community at the time. The deed specified that anyone could be buried free in the cemetery.

A number of early settlers, early Oregon noteworthies, and members of Oregon's first provisional government are buried there. The graves of Medorum Crawford (1819-1891), Francis Fletcher (1814-1871), and Pleasant Armstrong (1810-1853) have all been specially marked by the D.A.R., with the following inscription, "To honor one of those patriots who on May 2, 1843 founded the provisional government at Champoeg, Oregon". The Brookside Cemetery is also the final resting place of Joel Palmer (1810-1881), Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Oregon Territory, founder of the City of Dayton with Andrew Smith, and State Senator, (Resources #15 & 31); Stephen Coffin (1807-1882), an early promoter of Portland, (Resource #26); and Andrew D. Smith (1792-1852), a D.L.C. settler southwest of Dayton and father of Andrew Smith, the founder with Joel Palmer of the City of Dayton. Christopher Taylor, a close associate of Palmer's, the leading merchant in Dayton's early years and the first Free Mason initiated on the west coast is also buried here; his headstone reads "we part upon the square below to meet in heaven again."

SOURCES:

- .Cemetery Survey, Brookside, Dayton, Oregon.
- ."Some Chapters in the Oregon History", Dayton Reading Club. 1955, p. 16.
- ."State Of Oregon Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings: Brookside Cemetery", Yamhill County, Stephen Beckham, 1976.
- ."Yamhill County Cultural Resources Inventory: Brookside Cemetery", Yamhill County Planning Department, 1984.
- ."Dictionary of Oregon History, Edit. Howard Corning, Portland, 1956, p.57 & 191.

