Sims Cemetery
3605 East University Avenue

Park and Recreation Board . . . Did you know?

September 24, 2013
State Historical Records
List the cemetery as:

Harris Cemetery
Agency Burying Ground
Four Mile Cemetery
Sims Burying Ground
Now named Sims Cemetery

... located in Lot 7, Partition Plat of the L.D. Sims Estate
Established in Lee Township, outside City limits of Des Moines

Purchased on March 16, 1855 by Burying Ground Association, represented by John S Dean, James H. Finch and L.S. Case all buried in Sims

Purchased an acre of land from Pleasant W. Harris.
Acquired by the City of Des Moines
1909

"The Municipal Government of the City of Des Moines having accepted the care and maintenance of the Agency Burying Grounds, this book, together with the plat and articles of incorporation, and the funds on hand, viz $249.09 are hereby turned over to the Department of Parks and Public Property. Witness our hands this 4th day of November 1909."

L.D. Sims
President
Forgotten Cemetery

- Surrounded by the city
- Sits on a hillside east of the Iowa State Fairgrounds
- Access off of University Avenue
- Worn path up a steep slope
How Many Interments???

- Records before 1909 were lost
- Genealogical Society - 131
- Find a grave - 115
- Current records 99
First and Last Burial

According to tradition the first burial was of an unidentified man who drowned while driving a team of oxen through the Des Moines River on Vandalia Road

Grover Maplethorpe
Buried on August 26, 1967
Died at the age of 83 of natural causes
Widening of University

- 59 graves were moved
- Reinterred at Laurel Hill, Rising Sun and Brethren Cemetery
Pioneer of Des Moines
Many died young in 19th Century

- Lacking medical treatment
- No vaccinations
- Epidemics
Newton Lamb

- Cousin of Daniel Boone
- Owned three hundred acres on the bank of Des Moines River
- Neighbors were the Sac and Fox Native Americans
Des Moines Municipal Cemeteries...
Come Share the History

- Glendale
- Laurel Hill
- Woodland
- St. Ambrose
- Elm Grove
- Oak Grove
- Sims