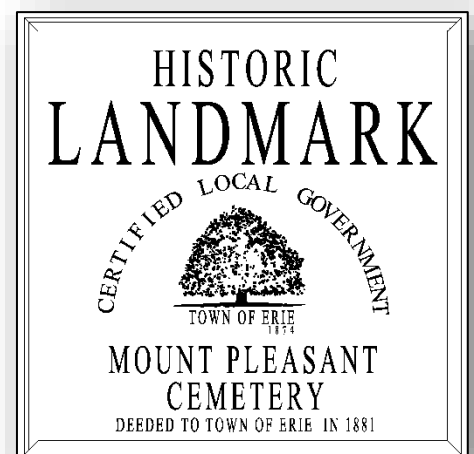




Erie, Colorado

# 520 Colliers Blvd.

Historic Landmark Properties Nomination



# HISTORIC LANDMARK



## HISTORIC LANDMARK PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

**PLEASE NOTE:** This property was included in the 2016 survey of potential historic sites for the Town of Erie by Front Range Research Associates. The information from that Survey Report is attached to this form. The Survey Report is available from the Town Clerk's Office, Erie Library or the Community Development Department.

**Owner(s) of (Site) Property:** [Town of Erie, CO](#)

(Only the owner(s) of properties can nominate the property. If there are multiple owners, list the principal owner first for contact purposes. List all owners of interest in the property and use the exact name(s) as it appears on the recorded Title.)

**Address of contact person:** [Town Clerk, Nancy Parker, 645 Holbrook St., Erie, CO 80516](#)

**Phone:** [303-926-2731](#) **Email:** [nparker@erieco.gov](mailto:nparker@erieco.gov)

**Historic Name of Property (if applicable)** [Erie-Mount Pleasant Cemetery](#)

**Address of Property:** [520 Colliers Boulevard, Erie CO 80516](#)

**Structure(s) on the Property being nominated:** [Site, Landscape, Fence and Grave Markers](#)

(List all that are applicable: i.e. house, commercial building, church, etc. Exclude structures not part of the nominated structure but are now located on the (site) property.)

Use of Property:

Historic: [Funerary Cemetery](#)

Current: [Funerary Cemetery](#)

Source(s) of information: [Front Range Research Associates](#)

Year of Construction: [Deeded to Town of Erie 1881](#)

Year(s) of Exterior Remodeling (if known): [N/A](#)

**Historical Narrative:**

See attached Survey Form.

**Description:**

See attached Survey Form.

**General Significance of the Property:**

See attached Survey Form.

**Statement of Significance:**

See attached Survey Form.

**Bibliography:**

See attached Survey Form.

**Description of Property:**

See attached Survey Form.

**Photos of Current Structure:**

See attached Survey Form.

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 1 of 5

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Determined Eligible-NR

\_\_\_\_\_ Determined Not Eligible-NR

\_\_\_\_\_ Determined Eligible-SR

\_\_\_\_\_ Determined Not Eligible-SR

\_\_\_\_\_ Need Data

\_\_\_\_\_ Contributes to Eligible NR District

\_\_\_\_\_ Noncontributing to Eligible NR District

### I. IDENTIFICATION

1. **Resource Number:** 5WL.7991
2. **Temporary Resource Number:** N/A
- Parcel Number:** 146718000011
- SHF/CLG Grant Number:** 16-M1-005
- Temp. Survey Number:** 13
3. **County:** Weld
4. **City:** Erie
5. **Historic Building Name:**  
Erie/Mount Pleasant Cemetery
6. **Current Building Name:**  
Mount Pleasant Cemetery



7. **Building Address:** 520 Colliers Boulevard, Erie
8. **Owner Name and Address:** Town of Erie, P.O. Box 9, Erie, CO 80516

### II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. **P.M.** 6th **Township** 1 N **Range** 68 W  
All 1/4 SE 1/4 SE 1/4 NE 1/4 of Section 18  
18, SE, NE, NE, NE; 18, SE, NE, NE, NW
10. **UTM Reference(s):** Zone 13, 1, 496667, 4433395; 2, 496854, 4433393; 3, 496855, 4433142; 4, 496615, 4433142; 5, 496616, 4433274; 6, 496666, 4433273
11. **USGS Quad Name:** Erie, Colo. **Year:** 1967 (PR1979) **Map Scale:** 7.5'
12. **Lot (s):** N/A **Block(s):** N/A  
**Addition:** N/A **Year of Addition:** N/A
13. **Boundary Description and Justification:**  
Boundary includes the entire area of the cemetery.

### III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

NOTE: For complexes, Items 14 through 22 apply only to Resource 1.

14. **Building Plan (footprint, shape):** Irregular
15. **Dimensions in Feet: Length** 826 **X Width** 790
16. **Stories:** N/A
17. **Primary External Wall Material(s) (enter no more than two):**  
N/A

**18. Roof Configuration (enter no more than one):**

N/A

**19. Primary External Roof Material (enter no more than one):** N/A**20. Special Features (enter all that apply):**

Fence

**21. General Architectural Description:**

Mount Pleasant Cemetery embraces 14.2 acres roughly in the shape of a backwards L. According to Town Clerk Nancy Parker, who administers the cemetery for the Town, Mount Pleasant Cemetery contains approximately 1,200 known burials, with space for an additional 2,400 interments.

The older, southern portion of the cemetery is most intensively developed; the newer, north part features burials along its western and southern edges with large central and eastern areas containing available burial spaces. The cemetery perimeter is enclosed by a 2014 metal post and picket fence with a gate near the south end opening onto Colliers Boulevard. Roads within the cemetery are gravel, forming a grid and defining thirty-four physical burial areas, with additional areas of graves along the western edge of the property. The burial ground contains only three large trees, two along the southern edge and one in the north section of Block 5 South. New Siberian elm trees were planted ca. 2014-15 along the north, south, and east boundaries of the cemetery.

According to Town Clerk Nancy Parker, the cemetery blocks and plots have been renumbered several times--most recently in 2009. While the grounds were expanded in three stages (1881, 1900, and 1942), the current numbering covers the entire burial ground. The northern section (consisting of the 1942 addition) contains fourteen numbered blocks (1 North through 14 North). Each block's long axis is oriented north-south and typically contains thirty-six rectangular plots (24' X 12'), each containing four gravesites (labeled A through D). Block 7 North holds fifty-four plots and Block 14 North thirty-seven. Blocks 10 and 11 North share a physical block, with the latter containing eighteen plots.

The south section in the southwest corner of the cemetery holds the 1881 portion (Blocks 10 South through 15 South) and the 1900 part (Blocks 1 South through 9 South). The eastern section of the 1881 part is laid out in four long, north-south blocks holding varying numbers of plots: 10 South, seventeen; 11 South, thirty-four; 12 South, thirty-six, and 13 South, sixty-nine. The final two blocks of the oldest area do not follow the north-south orientation: Block 14 South, oriented north-northwest/south-southeast with thirty-five plots and Block 15 South, oriented north-northeast/south-southwest with thirty-six plots. The 1900 section in the southeast corner contains nine north-south oriented blocks bisected by the east-west entrance road that terminates at a flagpole in Block 10 South. All of the blocks in this area except Block 1 South contain thirty-two plots; Block 1 South holds sixteen plots.

Many of the plots, particularly in the southern part, display raised concrete borders, and some plots are surfaced with concrete. There are some examples of wrought iron and woven wire grave fences, including at least one manufactured by the Stewart Iron Works, Cincinnati, Ohio. The cemetery displays a variety of gravestone types, materials, and symbology. Dominant materials employed for gravestones include marble, sandstone, and granite. Several examples for faux bois (concrete shaped to resemble logs or tree stumps) were noted.

Monument types observed include tablet, slant marker, pedestal, obelisk, bevel marker, flush marker, and column. The northern area has a few examples of more modern/nontraditional monuments. Military markers (representing veterans of the Civil War through Vietnam) are also present. Iconography includes lambs, praying hands, flowers (roses, morning glories), vines and ivy, shells, acorns, severed branches, clasped hands, scrolls, shrouds, and crosses. Fraternal and organizational symbols include the Oddfellows, American Legion, Masons, Woodmen of the World, Rebekah Assembly, and United Mine Workers of America.

**22. Architectural Style/Building Type:** No Style**23. Landscaping or Special Setting Features:**

Mount Pleasant Cemetery lies a half-mile east-northeast of downtown Erie on a promontory overlooking the town and the Coal Creek Valley. The burial ground, at an elevation of 5,110', is surrounded by newer residential subdivisions to the south and southeast and agricultural lands to the north and northeast. Local historian James B. Stull describes the grounds as "a natural prairie cemetery, one of the relatively few remaining in the United States. The grounds have not been covered with grass nor have they been irrigated. Moisture is provided by nature or plot owners, who care for some graves. Tulip, iris and other bulbs provide floral beauty in the springtime." (See Architectural Description for further elaboration)

**24. Associated Buildings, Features, or Objects:**

None.

**IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

NOTE: For complexes, Items 25 through 30 apply only to Resource 1.

**25. Date of Construction:** Estimate 1871 Actual**Source of Information:** Earliest known burial per Town Clerk**26. Architect:** Unknown**Source of Information:****27. Builder/Contractor:** Unknown**Source of Information:****28. Original Owner:** St. Louis & Denver Land & Mining Co., Colorado Coal Company**Source of Information:** Warranty Deed, 1881**29. Construction History (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions):**

The property was in use as a cemetery at the time the southwest four-acre section was deeded to the town in 1881. The earliest known burial dates to 1871. The burial ground expanded eastward with four additional acres in 1900, followed by 6.2 acres to the north in 1942. The cemetery parcel now covers 14.2 acres. Vandalism of graves was reported in 1989 and 2010. Nearby land developers installed the current fence and gate in 2014.

**30. Original Location:** Yes **Date of Moves:** N/A**V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS****31. Original Use(s):** Funerary/Cemetery**32. Intermediate Use(s):** Funerary/Cemetery**33. Current Use(s):** Funerary/Cemetery**34. Site Type(s):** Town cemetery**35. Historical Background:**

The Erie Cemetery dates to ca. 1871, the date of the earliest known burial, following the town's platting that year. Located on higher ground east of the community, the land occupied by the burial ground was originally owned by the St. Louis and Denver Land and Coal Company and the Colorado Coal Company. In 1881, the companies transferred to Erie Town Trustees four acres (the southeast portion of today's cemetery) encompassing the present site "being used as a Burying Yard or cemetery for the residents of Erie and vicinity." The consideration paid by the town was \$5, with the companies reserving subsurface mineral rights to the tract. In 1900 an additional four acres east of the original tract were sold to the town for \$40 by the Union Pacific Coal Company. Mineral rights were again reserved. The town acquired the final northern portion of the cemetery in 1942 from the Union Pacific Coal Company for \$51. According to historian Anne Quinby Dyni, the location was known as Cemetery Hill.

After the town acquired the southeastern four acres in 1900, it had a plat prepared showing roads and plots in that area. The burial ground was known as the Erie Cemetery until at least the 1940s. A sign dating to the 1940s bore the present Mount Pleasant Cemetery name. The cemetery has served as the last resting place for the residents of Erie and vicinity since its creation. Interments include seven past mayors of Erie, prominent businessmen and coal mine owners, local clergymen, and many coal miners. The United Mine Workers of America purchased several plots for burials of its members; some mineworker burials may not be marked. The ethnic breakdown in the cemetery reflects the diversity of the town, including Scotland, England, France, Wales, Germany, Sweden, Yugoslavia, Russia, and Mexico. Veterans of the nation's wars from the Civil War through Vietnam are buried here.

The Town Clerk administers the cemetery for the Town of Erie. Current Town Clerk Nancy Parker has taken an active interest in the cemetery and collected and organized relevant town records and other materials, including deeds and deed receipts, burial transit permits, newspaper clippings, plot maps, genealogical data, death and cremation certificates, authorization for final disposition, and family inquiries. In 2009 the town acquired database and mapping software to track interments and available burial plots. Blocks and plots were renumbered at that time. The software permits searches by name or burial location and includes images of monuments. In addition, an index to burials based on a survey of gravestones was completed in 2004.

The cemetery currently receives eight to ten burials yearly. The Parks Department maintains the cemetery, with the town charging \$300 per grave opening/closing for burials. The cemetery is not irrigated and the town does not permit plantings. Town employees built a set of cemetery gates in 1993. These were replaced with a manufactured gate and perimeter fence in 2014 funded by local developers.

### 36. Sources of Information:

Anne Quinby Dyni, Erie, Colorado: A Coal Town Revisited (Erie, Colorado: Town of Erie, 2001), 17; Nancy Parker, interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 27 April 2016; Nancy Parker, Mount Pleasant Cemetery, PowerPoint presentation, 15 October 2015; Cemetery History, Town of Erie website, [www.erieco.gov](http://www.erieco.gov) (accessed 29 January 2016); Erie Cemetery, Weld County, Colorado, Gravestone Index, June 2004, USGenWeb, <http://files.usgwarchives.net> (accessed 16 December 2009); Erie Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Index of Burials, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) (accessed 29 January 2016); James B. Stull, A Brief History of Erie, Colorado (Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2015), 41-42; Muriel Sibell Wolle, photographs, X-4755, et al, ca. 1930-70, Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library, Denver, Colorado.

## VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local Landmark Designation: No

Date of Designation: N/A

Designating Authority: N/A

### Applicable State Register of Historic Properties Criteria:

- ☒ A. The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history.
- ☐ B. The property is connected with persons significant in history.
- ☒ C. The property has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan.
- ☐ D. The property has geographic importance.
- ☐ E. The property contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history.
- ☐ Does not meet any of the above State Register criteria.

State Register Field Eligibility Assessment Eligible

### 38. Applicable National Register Criteria:

- ☒ A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction
- ☐ D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to history or prehistory.
- ☒ Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G, as specified: D
- ☐ Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria.

### National Register Significance: Area, Period, and Level:

39. Area(s) of Significance:	40. Period(s) of Significance:	41. Level(s) of Significance:
Exploration/Settlement	1871-1966	Local
Art	1871-1966	Local
Landscape Architecture	1871-1900	Local

### 42. Statement of Significance:

The 1871 Erie/Mount Pleasant Cemetery has served as the community's burial ground since that date. The burial ground is significant under Criterion A in the area of settlement, containing the graves of Erie's pioneer political, civic, business, industrial, and working class residents, including a large number of coal miners who formed the basis of the area's economy for many decades. The cemetery is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Art for its representation of a diverse range of gravestone monuments and metal grave enclosure fences and in the area of Landscape Architecture as an example of a western vernacular cemetery, as reflected in its hilltop location and formal platting into blocks and plots with a grid of internal roads. Given the relatively undeveloped nature of the northern part of the burial ground, only the southern 1881 and 1900 portions are assessed as eligible.

### 43. Assessment of Historic Physical Integrity Related to Significance:

The southern portion of the cemetery (corresponding to the 1881 and 1900 parts of the burial ground) displays the highest level of integrity, containing the earliest burials, most diverse range of monuments, and grid and plot pattern

and is evaluated as eligible to the National and State Registers. The northern portion, while possessing a grid of roads and platted into grave plots has relatively few burials, with most on the west and south edges. The existing fence and gate date to 2014.

## VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

**44. National Register Field Eligibility Assessment:** Eligible

**45. Is there National Register district potential? Discuss.** Unknown

This cemetery was documented as part of a selective intensive survey. No other resources in the immediate area share the cemetery's historical associations.

**If there is NRHP district potential, indicate contributing status:** N/A

**46. If the building is in an existing NRHP district, indicate contributing status:** N/A

## VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

**47. Digital Image Reference(s):** WL7991-01 to -21

**Digital Images Filed At:** Erie Town Clerk

**Photographer:** T.H. Simmons

**48. Report Title:** Erie, Colorado, Historic Buildings Survey, 2016

**49. Date(s):** Jan. 2016

**50. Recorder(s):** R.L. Simmons/T.H. Simmons

**51. Organization:** Front Range Research Associates, Inc.

**52. Address:** 3635 W. 46th Ave., Denver, CO 80211

**53. Phone Number(s):** (303) 477-7597

NOTE: Please attach a sketch map, a photocopy of the USGS quad map indicating the resource's location, and photographs.

**History Colorado-Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
1200 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80203 (303) 866-3395**



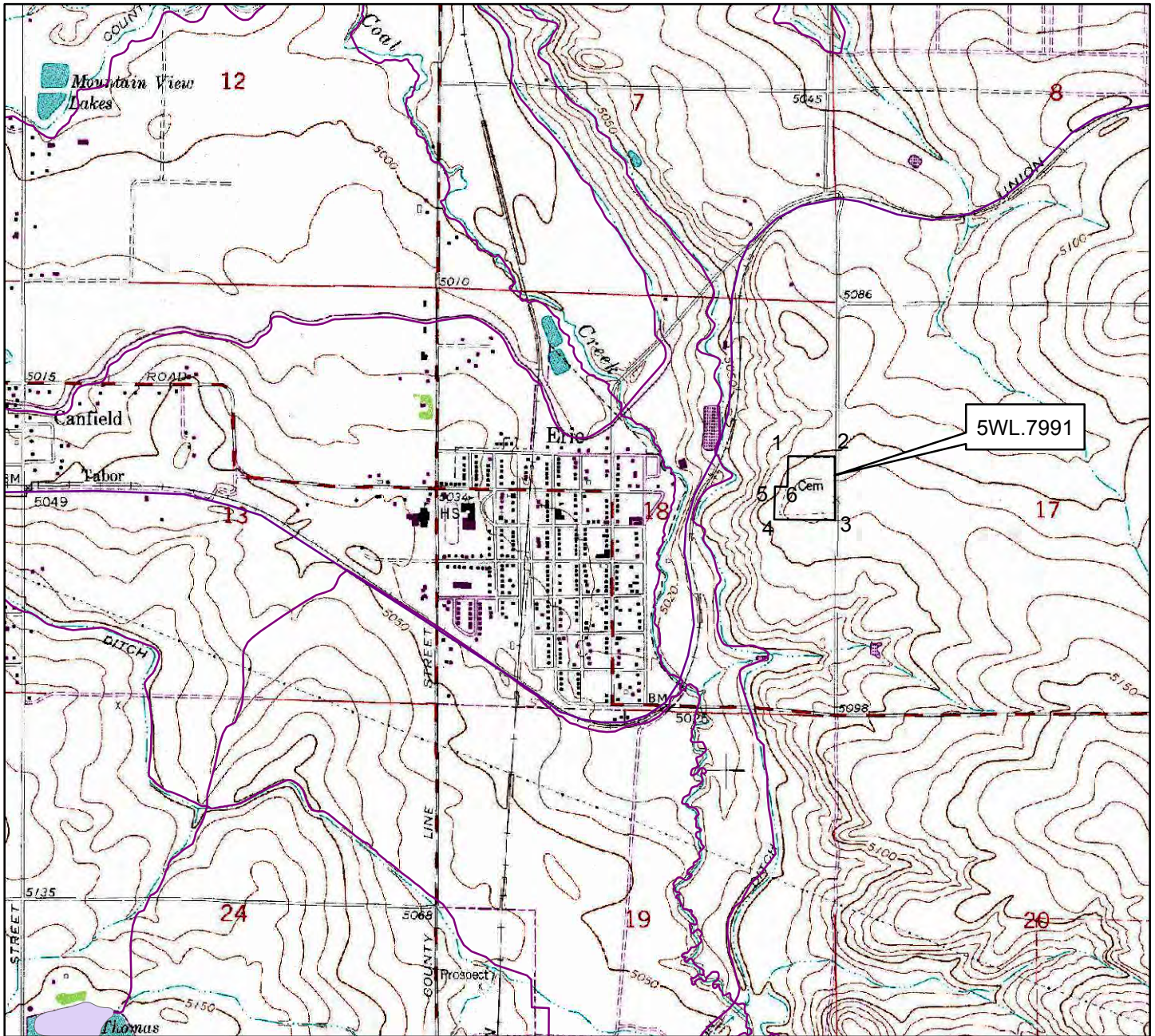
Erie/Mount Pleasant Cemetery, 520 Colliers Boulevard



1 inch equals  
approximately  
138 feet

Resource Number: 5WL.7991  
Temporary Resource Number: N/A

Architectural Inventory Form  
USGS Location Map



Mount Pleasant Cemetery, 520 Colliers Boulevard, Erie, Colorado



0 2,000 Feet

SOURCE: Extract of Erie, Colo.,  
USGS map, 1967 (PR 1979). Crosshair  
shows location of surveyed resource.



WL7991-01-520ColliersBlvd



WL7991-02-520ColliersBlvd



WL7991-03-520ColliersBlvd



WL7991-04-520ColliersBlvd



WL7991-05-520ColliersBlvd



WL7991-06-520ColliersBlvd



WL7991-07-520ColliersBlvd



WL7991-08-520ColliersBlvd



WL7991-09-520ColliersBlvd



WL7991-10-520ColliersBlvd



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WL7991-21-520ColliersBlvd