



Tennessee Historic Cemetery Register Criteria

The primary purpose of the Tennessee Historic Cemetery Register (THCR) is to obtain important historic information about the state's cemeteries. The THCR is intended to further the protection of cemeteries through awareness and for planning purposes.

Applications that meet specific criteria will be included on the Tennessee State Historic Register. This honorary designation serves to increase public awareness and encourage expanded preservation efforts. In addition, the status will enable the submitting party to purchase an official sign for the cemetery noting its inclusion on the THCR.

In order to be officially listed on the Historic Registry, the following criteria must be met.

1. The cemetery must be 50 years or older, proof can be as simple as the oldest grave marker.
2. The full name and contact information for the entity submitting the request.
3. The submitting party's relation to the cemetery.
4. Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates are required.
 - a. Street address where the cemetery is located & parcel number where the cemetery can be found, if known.
5. 2 or more clear and distinguishable digital photo images of the cemetery (historical or present). Please include photographer's name and the date of each photo if known.
 - a. Include any unique markers, crypts, or other grave features if applicable.
6. Thorough history of 250 words or more about the cemetery must be submitted to the best of the applicant's ability, answering the following questions:
 - a. What is the historical significance of the cemetery to the community?
 - b. Why was this cemetery founded and by whom if known?
 - c. What is the general socio-economic character of those buried here?
 - d. Who are some of the key figures buried there and what were their contributions?
 - e. Please provide at least 3 citations, including articles about the cemetery (if applicable) and/or written or transcribed oral histories.

Please note that prehistoric Native American cemeteries are not eligible for inclusion in the THCR.

To ensure that the criteria are met, it is highly advised that the applicant fill out the form as completely as possible. If a paper copy of the form is required, please email Graham Perry at graham.perry@tn.gov.