

Historic Cemetery Application

Welcome to the Tennessee Historical Commission's Historic Cemetery Registry Application form



The State Historic Cemetery Register was created for the purpose of collecting digital information about Tennessee cemeteries. An application that meets specific criteria will earn the cemetery spot on the Register. This special status will serve to increase public awareness, attract funding, and encourage expanded preservation efforts. Even if a cemetery does not qualify for addition to the Register, location and other information will be added to the State Database. Only one successful application will be honored per cemetery. Any future application will still be accepted but will be used to update cemetery information. The criteria are listed on the Historic Cemetery Register Main Page. Call 615-532-0087 for any questions.

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SECTION 1: NAME & LOCATION INFORMATION

Cemetery Name(s) ▾

Historic Name

If known

Rossons Cemetery

Common Name

If known

Rosson Memorial Cemetery

Preferred Name for Cemetery Certificate



Historic



Common

Cemetery Location ▾

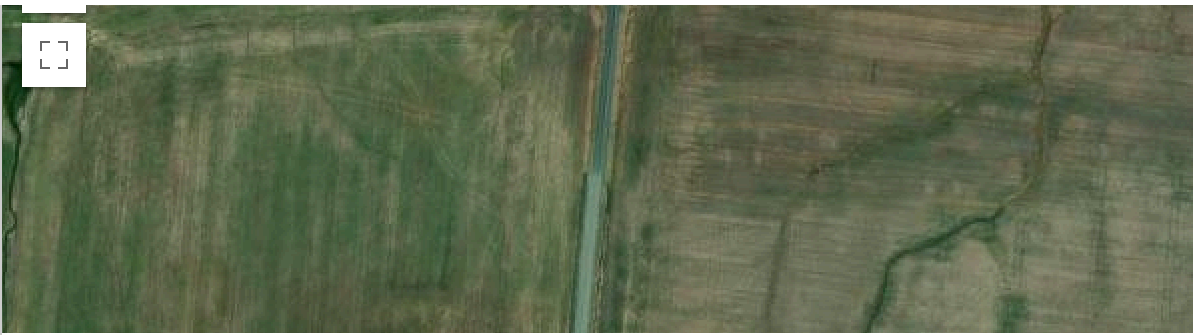
GPS Location*

Place a point on the map to represent the location of the cemetery. You can enter latitude and longitude, pan the map and click to place a point, or start typing an address to search for a location.



53 Old Rutherford Kentor





Maxar

Powered by [Esri](#)



Lat:

36.18082

°

Lon:

-89.01276

°

County

Gibson



City/Town

If known

Kenton

Within city limits



Yes



No

USGS Quadrangle

If known. Start typing to filter the list of quad names.

Kenton



Street Address

If known

53 Old Rutherford-Kenton Road

Property Tax Map

If known, provide the property tax map and parcel numbers.

Gibson County, Jurisdiction: 027, Control Map: 009, Group: Blank, Parcel: 025.01

Deed Reference

If known, provide deed book and page number of the parcel of land from which the cemetery was set aside.

Deed Book 39, Page 569

Exact Location Known?

Tennessee Historical Commission Input Only, not needed for Public Input

☐ Yes

☐ No

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SECTION 2: CEMETERY FEATURES

Burial Census ▾

Cemetery Type

Family ▾

Evidence of Segregation or Grouping by...

Select all that apply.

2 selected ▾

Family Name(s)

Atkins, Andrews, Banks, Bates, Boyd, Brooks, Burnett, Caldwell, Cason, Clay, Cole, Davis, Dickey, I

Veterans Gravestones

Select all that apply.

World War I ▾

Date of Oldest Burial

1874

Date of Most Recent Burial

1975

Number of Marked Graves

1² 44

Number of Unmarked Graves

1² 93

Does a burial listing exist?



Yes



No



Unknown

Where is the burial listing located?

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2684968/rossons-cemetery>

Area Setting ▾

Cemetery Access



Public Access



Private Property

Primary Access

☐ Walk

☒ Drive

Estimated distance from nearest road, in miles

0 - 0.25

Setting

Rural▼

Perimeter

Vegetation▼

Orientation of graves

Other▼

If other, please describe orientation

People are buried in every orientation

Landscape Features

Casual and unplanned▼

Ornamental Plantings/Historic Vegetation

Gravestone Details ▾

Marker Types

Select all that apply.

4 selected



Marker Designs

Select all that apply.

Masonic



Grave Articles

Select all that apply.

-Please Select-



Cemetery Conditions ▾

Threats to Cemetery

List any apparent threats to the cemetery, such as development, cattle grazing, etc.

Vandalism and Vegetation

Is the cemetery still active?



Yes



No

Conditions

Select all that apply.

3 selected



Size

1 to 10 acres



Additional Information

Use this space to provide any additional information on features of the cemetery.

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SECTION 3: HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The cemetery derives its importance from...

Select all that apply.

6 selected



In a narrative statement, provide a brief history of the cemetery.

Include any biographical/genealogical information about persons buried there or any relevant history on a church, community, etc. nearby. Attach additional sheets/documents if necessary, but still provide at least a narrative paragraph summary below. Burial listings will be accepted as supplemental information, but not as a substitute for the historical narrative.

Rosson Memorial Cemetery, located on Old Rutherford-Kenton Road in Kenton, Gibson County, Tennessee, was originally established in 1874 as a burial ground for the Rosson family, who played a prominent role in the area's early history. Among the first to be interred were Samuel M. Rosson (1814-1885), a Confederate soldier, along with his sisters Elizabeth Rosson Graham (1848-1874) and Mary Robinson Rosson (1816-1880). For many years, the cemetery was primarily used by the members of the Rosson family.

However, the cemetery's rich history took a significant turn with the involvement of African American families before the end of the Reconstruction era. One of the most prominent African American families connected to Rosson Memorial Cemetery is the Cole family. William Carter Cole (1879-1975) and his wife, Sophia Brown Cole (1889-1965), were the last individuals buried there. Their family's deep ties to the community began a new chapter in the cemetery's history, reflecting the evolving racial landscape of the area. William Carter Cole, a lifelong resident of Kenton, served many roles, including working at Shatz Produce House and preparing bodies for burial before undertakers were widely available. His leadership in the community and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, along with his legacy as a father of seven, left a lasting mark.

In 1965, when Sophia Brown Cole passed away, her burial was complicated by the lack of access to the cemetery due to unpaved roads. This difficulty led to the founding of the Rosson Cemetery Improvement Organization by Mrs. Kizzie Crawford Cole, which worked to maintain and improve the cemetery. Since 1966, the organization has held annual Memorial Day programs at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Kenton to fund the upkeep and ensure the cemetery remains a site of remembrance and respect. Today, the Cole family's descendants, numbering over one hundred, continue to support the organization's mission.

It was only in recent years, as the surrounding farmland was being prepared for sale, that the Cole family and the church became aware of the "white" portion of the cemetery. Dense brush and overgrown vegetation had concealed the headstones for decades. Among the graves discovered was that of Barbara H. Sheffield McCrory (1823-1895), a significant figure in the White community. McCrory was married to Nathan Alexander Forrest Jr. (1821-1847), brother of William Bedford Forrest (1801-1837), and the uncle and namesake of the infamous Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Rosson Memorial Cemetery now stands as a testament to the area's diverse history, representing both White and Black families. Through the efforts of the Cole family and the Rosson Cemetery Improvement Organization, this historic site continues to hold cultural significance and serve as a reminder of the community's shared heritage.

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Bibliographical Sources

Tennessee State Marriages, 1780-2002. Nashville, TN, USA: Tennessee State Library and Archives. Microfilm.

Index to Will Book, 1835-1935. Marshall County (Tennessee). County Clerk. Probate Place: Marshall, Tennessee.

Norton, Dorothea O., and The Kenton Jaycettes. Kenton: Folklore and Fact: The History of Kenton, Tennessee, in Words and Pictures. Published by The Kenton Jaycettes, 1972.

National Park Service. U.S., Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007. Original data: National Park Service, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System. Accessed 2007. <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>.

Rosson Cemetery Improvement Committee. 1991 Program, May 26, 1991, St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. <https://edwards-moore-family.net/testbrown/showmedia.php?medialD=1823>.

Rosson Cemetery Improvement Committee. 40th Anniversary Rosson Cemetery Memorial, May 2006, St. Paul Baptist Church, Kenton, Tennessee. <https://edwards-moore-family.net/testbrown/showmedia.php?medialD=4971>.

"Rossons Cemetery, Tennessee, USA." Find a Grave. Accessed October 10, 2024. https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/search?cemetery-name=Rossons+Cemetery&cemetery-loc=Tennessee%2C+USA&only-with-cemeteries=cemOnly&locationId=state_45.

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SECTION 4: APPLICANT / OWNER INFORMATION

Owner of Property ▾

Name of Property Owner

If known

Property Owner Address

If known

Property Owner City

If known

Property Owner State

If known

Property Owner Zip Code

If known


Caretaker of Property ▾

Name of Caretaker or Organization

If known

Caretaker Address

If known

255 

Caretaker City

If known

Caretaker State

If known

Caretaker Zip Code

If known

12³

Person Applying for Historic Register Designation ▾

Name of Applicant*

John G. Moore, Sr.

Applicant Address*

3961 Guilford Avenue

Applicant City*

Indianapolis

Applicant State*

Indiana

Applicant Zip Code*

1² 46205

Applicant Phone Number*

(317) 384-9946

Applicant Email Address*

john@mhpcorp.org

NOTICE: Notification will be sent to the local governing body (city council or county commission) and county historical/genealogical

societies.

If you DO NOT want the THC to send this notification, please sign below:

eSignature

Date

 m/d/yyyy

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

























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


























SECTION 5: REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Images of the cemetery are critical to the review process. (1) ▼
Submit current, good quality digital images.



Add an Image

	Rosson Memorial Cemetery Sign.jpeg	106.2KB		
	Rosson Memorial Cemetery Sign2.jpg	131.6KB		
	William C. Cole.jpg	23.7KB		
	Sophie Brown Cole.jpg	22.4KB		
	Samuel Rosson.jpeg	52.6KB		
	Mary Robinson Rosson.jpeg	58.7KB		
	Barbara H. Sheffield McCrory.jpeg	40.7KB		
	Catherine Brooks.jpeg	56.5KB		
	James Cason.jpg	54.1KB		

	Ann Dillard.jpeg	38.8KB		
	Sgt. Maynor Hunt.jpg	38.2KB		
	Elenora Jackson.jpeg	58.0KB		
	Ellouise Constance Mayberry.jpg	27.4KB		
	Katie Phillips Polk.jpeg	61.6KB		
	W. T. Sanders.jpeg	42.8KB		
	Mary C. Sharp.jpeg	42.6KB		
	Frank Watson.jpg	45.1KB		
	Allie Worts.jpg	39.0KB		
19			<div>Select image file</div> 	

Rosson Memorial Cemetery – Kenton, Tennessee, Burial Listing

#	Name	Date
1	Dunk Adkins	15 Oct 1879 – 19 Feb 1958
2	Hughey Andrews	15 May 1913 – 18 Feb 1915
3	Vernon Andrews	1883 – 29 Oct 1916
4	Finis Atkins	10 Dec 1910 – 28 Dec 1928
5	Synovia Atkins	11 Dec 1906 – 10 Aug 1923
6	Georgia Ann Banks	28 Nov 1956 – 23 Jan 1957
7	Hannah Campbell Henderson Banks	21 Sep 1882 – 20 Jan 1946
8	Irene Banks	28 Feb 1917 – 31 Aug 1917
9	Mack F Banks Jr.	15 May 1878 – 22 May 1954
10	Ray Lee Banks	6 Jun 1918 – 15 Apr 1919
11	Army Bates	18 Dec 1899 – 11 May 1957
12	Mary Thompson Bates	1868 – 9 Feb 1929
13	Charlie Edward Boyd	29 Jan 1923 – 5 Nov 1939
14	Elva Boyd	15 May 1900 – 24 Mar 1916
15	Catharine Brooks	1 Jan 1825 – 24 Aug 1888
16	Robert Brooks	3 May 1918 – 7 Jan 1919
17	Robert Lee Brooks Jr.	9 Oct 1916 – 27 Apr 1965
18	Thomas Brooks	24 Sep 1816 – 10 Jun 1884
19	Robert Burnett	1871 – 25 Aug 1936
20	Cledus Caldwell	31 May 1905 – 15 Apr 1959
21	Edward “Ed” Calhoun	12 Sep 1871 – 14 May 1922
22	Eanon Cason	17 Sep 1892 – 5 Dec 1894
23	Francis Davis Cason	May 1868 – 2 Jan 1940
24	James Cason	4 Aug 1889 – 2 Oct 1919
25	Lizzie Clay	1832 – 4 May 1934
26	Ann Cole	1868 – 3 Jul 1928
	Sophie Brown “Mama Sophie” Brown	
27	Cole	6 Dec 1889 – 26 May 1965
28	William Carter Cole	21 Oct 1879 – 28 Dec 1975
29	WILLIAM LAJOY “BUBBA” COLE	6 Feb 1915 – 4 May 1935
30	Malissa Jackson Davis	Apr 1874 – 8 Jul 1932
31	Milton Davis	25 Dec 1867 – 9 Apr 1948
32	Mary Freeman Dickey	8 May 1895 – 3 Dec 1922
33	Tennie Dickson	1869 – 26 Apr 1917
34	Ann Dillard	May 1835 – Feb 1880
35	Ellen Elrod Elam	1877 – 19 Apr 1917
36	Martha Louise Celia Elam	7 Mar 1915 – 20 Jun 1916
37	Brown Eskew	28 Feb 1873 – 23 Jul 1932
38	Joseph Eskew Jr.	1924 – 20 May 1938
39	Margaret Jackson Eskew	3 Aug 1896 – 13 Dec 1947
40	Mary Nell Eskew	1 Jul 1929 – 4 Oct 1929
41	Bob Gardner	1863 – 10 Nov 1931

42	Rachael Ghant	1870 – 31 Mar 1934
43	Henrietta Gooden	1875 – 12 Oct 1933
44	Dan Gordon	1871 – 30 May 1932
45	Lizzie Rosson Graham	1848 – 5 May 1874
46	Mary Grice	6 Jul 1908 – 29 Apr 1958
47	Fannie Griffin	1863 – 1920
48	Asa Green Hall	28 Feb 1930 – 28 Jul 1930
49	Gilbert Wayne Hall	11 Jan 1943 – 21 Mar 1943
50	Henry Hill	1852 – 24 Jan 1927
51	Winnie Hill	1850 – 5 Mar 1940
52	Dora Sevier Hodge	1885 – 3 Dec 1922
53	Maynor Hunt	5 Jun 1896 – 27 Jun 1972
54	Robert H Hunt	6 May 1869 – 16 Jun 1925
55	Elenora Jackson	15 Jul 1903 – 19 Mar 1922
56	Emmitt Jackson	25 Dec 1879 – 16 Feb 1956
57	John Jackson	Apr 1862 – Feb 1934
58	Julie Thompson Jackson	5 Jul 1879 – 11 Jul 1955
59	Susie Horn Jackson	1866 – Feb 1916
60	Thomas Jenkins	1 Sep 1916 – 2 Sep 1916
61	James Henry Johns	12 Apr 1926 – 10 Feb 1927
62	Mattie Ruth Johns	4 Feb 1922 – 9 Feb 1922
63	Nugene Johnson	15 Jun 1883 – 28 Mar 1954
64	Frank Jones	1857 – 11 Jun 1937
65	Sallie A Jones	4 May 1880 – 15 Sep 1884
66	Harry Harrison Lane	1855 – 5 Feb 1915
67	Jacob Thomas "Tom" Lane	1853 – 14 Dec 1914
68	J D Langster	10 Feb 1944 – 15 Jun 1952
69	Alex Lett	9 Jan 1861 – 21 Dec 1923
70	Laura Williams "Mammy Laura" Lett	7 Aug 1864 – 30 Jan 1939
71	Henry Lewis	unknown – Jan 1959
72	Christell Cook Lovelace	23 Mar 1903 – 21 Dec 1964
73	Will Mamon	2 Apr 1892 – 27 Feb 1948 Birth and death dates
74	William Mason	unknown.
75	Constance Mayberry	17 Jul 1932 – 23 Jul 1933
76	Ellouise Mayberry	18 Jun 1931 – 25 Jun 1931
77	Harrison Mayberry	30 Aug 1913 – 25 Dec 1934
78	Deen Crater Mays	1868 – 5 Mar 1938
79	George Mays	12 May 1876 – 6 Aug 1954
80	Barbara H Sheffield McCrory	7 Dec 1823 – 20 Dec 1895
81	Bill McDearmon	1878 – 31 Jan 1933
82	Woodrow Wilson McDearmon	7 Nov 1912 – 7 Apr 1915
83	Willie Mae McGee	5 Mar 1902 – 11 Dec 1955
84	Charles Leo Milner	1878 – 1884
85	Willie Milner	9 Jun 1880 – 9 Jun 1880

86	HAYWOOD MITCHELL	1908 – 1966
87	Margarette Mitchell	16 Aug 1905 – 26 Oct 1914
88	Tessa Crittendon Mitchell	16 Apr 1874 – 16 Dec 1943
89	Eva Lee Moseley	2 Feb 1922 – 8 Feb 1922
90	Harry Moseley	17 Mar 1887 – 21 Feb 1921
91	Jake Moseley	1845 – 28 Dec 1935
92	Ed M “Eddie” Phillips	10 Mar 1867 – 23 Apr 1897
93	RD M Phillips	10 Mar 1897 – 23 Apr 1897
94	Katie Phillips Polk	21 Feb 1869 – Jul 1889
95	GLENN ROACH	29 Jun 1948 – 30 Aug 1964
96	Pearley Jackson Robinson	4 Jul 1900 – 13 Apr 1928
97	A Holder Rosson	10 Mar 1842 – 15 May 1880
98	Jefferson Rosson	22 ??? 1864 – 10 Jan 1882
99	Mary Robinson Rosson	18 May 1816 – 27 May 1880
100	S M Rosson	12 Dec 1814 – 18 Aug 1885
101	William T Sanders	9 Dec 1834 – 25 Sep 1911
102	Sireda T. Seever	13jan 1842 - 30dec1897
103	Sireld Zerelda T Nolan Seever	13 Jan 1843 – 30 Dec 1897
104	Mary C Sharp	18 Jul 1837 – 11 Nov 1889
105	Lena Eskew Shelby	unknown – 16 Mar 1918
106	Lucy Sherfield	Jul 1850 – 12 Jul 1916
		Birth and death dates
107	ALICE SINCLAIR	unknown.
108	GILBERT SINCLAIR	unknown – 1935
109	Bertha Smith	21 Feb 1918 – 21 Feb 1918
110	Flossie Jones Smith	12 Jun 1882 – 11 Mar 1919
111	Henry Smith	1910 – 23 May 1927
112	Hobert Smith	23 Nov 1918 – 15 Dec 1918
113	Mozeal Wilson Tailor	1892 – 20 Jun 1932
114	ALMA FAYE TAYLOR	1932 – unknown
115	Jannetta Taylor	Dec 1925 – 3 Jan 1929
116	L. TAYLOR	1899 – 1925
117	LEE TAYLOR	unknown – 1935
118	LILLIAN RAYE TAYLOR	1932 – unknown
119	Hannah Thompson	1863 – 11 Jan 1929
120	Julia Thompson	1873 – 3 Jun 1931
121	Louis Thompson	1867 – 5 Feb 1928
122	Richard Thompson	Oct 1833 – 15 Feb 1922
123	Sol Trice	1852 – 16 Jan 1915
124	Laura Venable	23 Apr – 30 Oct
125	Jossie Vonford	1897 – 19 Jun 1936
126	Callie G Watson	Jan 1939 – 5 Jul 1939
127	Even Gene Watson	Nov 1936 – 1 Feb 1939
128	FRANK WATSON	1880 – 6 Aug 1936
129	Mattie Eskew Ghant Watson	10 Mar 1887 – 16 Sep 1941

130	Harrison Webb	20 May 1850 – 26 May 1947
131	Lewis White	1849 – 23 Dec 1932
132	Mary White	1848 – 23 Jul 1923
133	Guy Williams	8 Dec 1890 – 24 Mar 1954
134	Isiah Williams	3 Jan 1892 – 17 Sep 1961
135	ALLIE WORTS	29 Apr 1875 – 1 Nov 1896
136	Charlotte Young	1862 – 21 Aug 1922
137	Pearl Sinclair Young	23 Apr 1886 – 10 Sep 1960

Historic Cemetery Application



Your submission was received. You will receive an email response upon completion of our review. Call 615-532-0087 to check the status of your submission.

Press [here](#) to submit another survey.