United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking “x” in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter “N/A” for “not applicable.” For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property
   historic name: Old Guide Cemetery
   other names/site number: (C-28)

2. Location
   street & number: Mammoth Cave National Park
   city, town: Mammoth Cave
   state: Kentucky
   code: KY
   county: Edmonson
   code: 061
   zip code: 42259

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property
   □ private
   □ public-local
   □ public-State
   □ public-Federal
   Category of Property
   □ building(s)
   □ district
   □ site
   □ structure
   □ object
   Number of Resources within Property
   Contributing Noncontributing
   __ _______ buildings
   __ sites
   ___ structures
   ____ objects
   ______ Total
   Name of related multiple property listing:
   Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave Nat'l Park
   Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination □ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. □ See continuation sheet.
   Signature of certifying official:
   ________________________________
   [Signature]
   State or Federal agency and bureau:
   ________________________________
   [Agency]
   Date: 2/20/91

   In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. □ See continuation sheet.
   Signature of commenting or other official:
   ________________________________
   [Signature]
   State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council
   State or Federal agency and bureau:
   ________________________________
   [Agency]
   Date: Jan. 8, 1991

5. National Park Service Certification
   I, hereby, certify that this property is:
   □ entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
   □ determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
   □ determined not eligible for the National Register.
   □ removed from the National Register.
   □ other, (explain:)
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   [Signature]
   Date of Action: 5/8/91
### 6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funerary: cemetery</td>
<td>Funerary: cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recreation and culture:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NPS interpretive site</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(enter categories from instructions)  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>foundation</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walls</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roof</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.  

See continuation sheet
7. Description of present and historic physical appearance.

The Old Guide Cemetery is located on a ridge 300 meters west of the Mammoth Cave Hotel along the Sunset Point Trail, just south of the historic entrance to Mammoth Cave. The cemetery, which is approximately 100 feet by 85 feet, is composed of twenty-one graves with various types of markers. Included are 1 rock walled grave with an inscribed marker, 2 rock walled graves without inscriptions, 5 inscribed stones, and 13 graves designated with uninscribed head and foot markers. A semi-circular gravel path runs through the cemetery. It is clear of underbrush and is surrounded by hardwood trees. A large interpretive marker about Stephen Bishop, one of the most famous early Mammoth Cave guides buried in the cemetery, is located just east of the property along the trail.

The property is in good condition. Though the trail was built along the cemetery’s north side, integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association are intact.
8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

- [ ] nationally
- [X] statewide
- [ ] locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: 

- [X] A
- [ ] B
- [ ] C
- [ ] D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):

- [ ] A
- [ ] B
- [ ] C
- [X] D
- [ ] E
- [ ] F
- [ ] G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Period of Significance</th>
<th>Significant Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment/recreation</td>
<td>1857</td>
<td>1857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health/medicine</td>
<td>1842-1843</td>
<td>1842</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet
9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
  Survey # ________________________
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
  Record # ________________________

X See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
☐ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property ________________________

UTM References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

X See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

X See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kelly A. Lally, consultant
organization Kentucky Heritage Council
date June 1989
street & number 701 D Daniels St.
telephone 919-828-9123
state NC
zip code 27605
The Old Guide Cemetery is historically significant under the contexts entitled Discovery and Early Uses of Mammoth Cave, 1798-1849 and Commercial Cave Development and the Growth of Tourism in the Mammoth Cave Area, 1849-1926 (see contexts B and C in Section III of the Historic Resource Study).

The periods of significance (1857; 1842-1843) both refer to the years during which this cemetery represents the search for uses of Mammoth Cave (in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Health/Medicine, respectively). The year 1857 marks the death of Stephen Bishop, Mammoth Cave’s most celebrated early guide, who is buried in the Old Guide Cemetery. In 1842-1843, Dr. John Croghan operated an experimental hospital for patients with consumption within Mammoth Cave. Three of the patients who entered the hospital and died in the cave are buried in this cemetery. This site was also likely used as the burial ground for other slave guides and employees of the Mammoth Cave estate. The Old Guide Cemetery is the only above ground resource representing the period of discovery and early uses of Mammoth Cave, and thus warrants exceptional status.

In 1839, Dr. John Croghan of Louisville, Kentucky purchased the Mammoth Cave estate from Franklin Gorin for $10,000. Until that date, Mammoth Cave had been utilized as a source for salt-petre, a major ingredient in gunpowder (1805-1814), and had been promoted on a small scale as a tourist attraction. Dr. Croghan is credited with much of the earliest success in the advancement of Mammoth Cave as a multi-purpose attraction. He enlarged and refurnished the Mammoth Cave Hotel, constructed roads to facilitate travel to the cave area, published travel accounts and guidebooks, encouraged exploration of new passages in the cave, and constructed a hospital inside the cave for treatment of people with tuberculosis.

The cemetery includes the grave of Stephen Bishop, the most famous of the early guides and explorers of Mammoth Cave. Bishop discovered Echo River and was the first to cross Bottomless Pit, a feat which led to his investigation of miles of previously unknown cave passages. His discoveries brought increased public interest in and consequent development to the cave area. In addition to his fame as a cave explorer, Stephen Bishop was a renowned tour guide. He was described favorably in many of the early travel accounts and, despite his slave status, impressed cave visitors with his poise, skill, and knowledge. Finally, Bishop is known for the map he drew of the explored passages of Mammoth Cave, the map that appears in the front of
Alexander Clark Bullitt's famous travel account, *Rambles in the Mammoth Cave in the Year 1844, by a Visitor*, when Bishop died in 1857, eight years after his master, he was buried in the small cemetery on the hillside overlooking the historic entrance to Mammoth Cave. His gravestone, which reads, "Stephen Bishop, First Guide and Explorer of the Mammoth Cave," was added more than a decade after his death by a Pennsylvania businessman who wished to keep Bishop's memory alive.

Dr. Croghan, Stephen Bishop's last owner, believed, as did others in the medical field of the day, that a constant temperature and humidity, such as that within Mammoth Cave, would prove helpful in the treatment of people with tuberculosis. In 1842-1843 up to eleven tuberculin patients and some of their family members resided in huts located in the main avenues of the cave. The experiment ended in 1843 after several patients died. At least three of the tuberculin patients who died in Mammoth Cave, including Charles Marshall, of Oswego County New York, Margaret Barnes, of Pennsylvania, and Oliver Blair of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, are buried in the Old Guide Cemetery. Though considered a failure at the time, Croghan's experiment added much to the medical profession's understanding of tuberculosis and helped clear the way for a cure of the disease.

Though the graves other persons, probably guides and employees of the park, are present in the Old Guide Cemetery, the graves of Stephen Bishop and the tuberculin patients are the most noteworthy representatives of the discovery and early uses of Mammoth Cave.
9. Major Bibliographical References


10. Geographical Data
Acreage of property: less than one acre

UTM References
A 16 4115760 579400

Verbal Boundary Description
Beginning at a point 10' west of the site's large, permanent interpretive marker on the south side of the Sunset Point Trail, proceed west 100'. Then proceed south 85' along the woodline on the western edge of the cemetery. Then proceed east 80' along the wooded southern edge of the cemetery. Then proceed 85' to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification
The boundary includes all visible graves historically associated with the cemetery.
OLD GUIDE CEMETERY (C. 28)

LEGEND

--- = SLOPE, LINE AT TOP OF SLOPE

--- --- = BOUNDARY OF CEMETERY

SCALE: 1 inch = 22 FEET

0 16' 32'

2 photos

--- Z

WOODLINE

SLOPE

INTERPRETIVE MARKER

KENNELS

TO MAMMOTH CAVE HOTEL.
1. Old Guides' Cemetery (C-28)  
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky
Old Guide: Cemetery (c-28)
Mammoth Cave Nat'l Park
Mammoth Cave, Ky

Kelly Lally
November 1987
Mammoth Cave Nat'l Park Library
northeast view
2. Stephen Bishop's Grave, Old Guides' Cemetery (c-1858)
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky
Stephen Bishop's Grave,
Old Guide Cemetery (C-28)
Mammoth Cave Nat'l Park
Mammoth Cave, Ky
November 1987
Mammoth Cave Nat'l Park Library
north view