

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fairview Cemetery (Additional Documentation)
Name of Property Santa Fe, New Mexico
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 1

This short but important section regarding African American burials was missing from the text of the original significance section of the Fairview Cemetery nomination, which was listed in the National Register on January 20, 2005. These paragraphs were originally intended to be placed between the sections on "Pioneer Women" and "Lawyers." The additional documentation does not affect the original listing's National Register criteria, areas of significance, resource count, or period of significance.

African Americans Buried in Fairview Cemetery
 Prepared by Corinne Sze

Several members of Santa Fe’s small pioneer community of African-Americans are buried at Fairview. One of the first black women in Santa Fe was Mary Parsons, who lies in an unmarked grave. According to her obituary, Parsons arrived by stagecoach in 1858.¹ William H. Kerr (1855-1918) and William J. Slaughter (*q.v.*) had barber shops on the Plaza. Both are buried in Fairview’s Section D, having purchased lots before the WBT established a “colored section” at the rear of the cemetery about 1918.

W. J. Slaughter rests with his wife Mary Wilcox Slaughter (1864-1937) and several of their eight children. He had come to the Southwest about 1880. She was a graduate of Fisk University and had taught in Tennessee before her marriage. Several of their children were among the earliest graduates of Santa Fe High School. The oldest daughter Valdera Slaughter (later Roberts, 1891-1942) was the first “colored graduate” of SFHS, according the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. She “stood high in scholarship and conduct” and gave a graduation oration on the topic “Progress of the Colored Race.”²

W. H. Kerr advertised his Plaza Barber Shop as “the only first class tonsorial parlor in Santa Fe.” Born in Texas, he settled in Santa Fe in 1891 where he was respected for his knowledge of horses, dogs, and baseball as well as barbering. As a racehorse trainer, his claim to fame was having put the “world’s greatest jockey,” Tod Sloane, on his first racehorse. He trained racehorses for two of Santa Fe’s sheriffs. Also an expert hunter, he died of pneumonia following a duck-hunting trip with a Chicago banker. His funeral was held at Santa Fe’s African-American Methodist Episcopal Church of which he was a founder. He left an estate valued at \$6,000 that included horses, dogs, his barbershop and equipment, as well as improved city lots in Santa Fe and Las Cruces, New Mexico.³

¹ *Santa Fe New Mexican*, 20 May 1984.

² Marian Meyer, “If Color Had Not Set Their Destiny . . .” *Santa Fe Reporter* (23 May 1984) 17; *Santa Fe New Mexican*, 9 May 1994 and 29 May 2000.

³ *Santa Fe New Mexican*, 4 January, 1918.

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<p>_____</p> <p>Dr. Jeff Pappas, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer</p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title: Date</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of commenting official: Date</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action