St. Joseph Hospital Baby Cemetery
Inquire and please, ask permission to enter private property.

Quadrant Map:
>   Boonville
General Location:
>   Boonville
Congressional Township:
>   Township 47-N; Range 18-W
Section:
>   Northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 36
Longitude & Latitude:
>   38° 58' 46"N, 92° 43' 55"W
Map Link:
>   Google map link for St. Joseph Hospital Baby Cemetery.
Directions:

Entrance to the Baby Cemetery Before Clearing
[Photograph Courtesy of Larry Long]

Entrance to the Baby Cemetery After Partial Clearing
[Photograph Courtesy of Larry Long]

Stones Number One and Two
[Photograph Courtesy of Larry Long]

Stones Number Three and Four
[Photograph Courtesy of Larry Long]

Stone Number Five
[Photograph Courtesy of Larry Long]

All Stones After Cemetery Clean Up
[Photographs Courtesy of Larry Long]

From Main Street in Boonville Missouri: Turn east on High Street (the last street on Main Street before you cross the Missouri river bridge). Continue east to Bell Street and turn north to Rural Street. Turn east on Rural Street and continue to the corner of Rural and Washington Streets. If you continue east on Rural Street, you will enter the Harvest House homeless shelter property. Drive through this property and as you left the fenced-in area, you will see the Baby Cemetery on your right.

From Main Street in Boonville Missouri: Turn east on Morgan Street (the last street light on Main Street before you cross the Missouri river bridge). Continue east on Morgan until you see a large vacant lot on the north side. This is the site of the old St. Joseph Hospital. There is an old unmarked asphalt road that leads into the lot. Take this road until you get just to the entrance of the Harvest House homeless shelter. The Baby Cemetery is located on your left.

Atlas Survey:

This cemetery is not marked on any atlas or platbook.

History:

Larry Long besides being an avid volunteer in the Boonville area. Among other activities he is on the board of the Harvest House. Harvest House is located in the old "nurse house" southwest of where St. Joseph Hospital once sat.

In late summer of 2012 he was cleaning out the fence row on the east edge of the Harvest House property and found an old chain link fenced area with a gate opening located on the north side. The fenced-in area is fairly small and approximately 20′ x 44′. Inside were found a number of matching buried and partially buried concrete slabs that were 16″ x 30″. In total five slabs have so far been uncovered. Larry's first inclination was that this was an area in which the Nuns buried some babies who were not claimed by their parents. Of course I, Jim Thoma, found multiple reasons why this could not possibly be true.

Larry accepted my explanations until in October of 2012 while visiting an elderly couple who live in the area, discovered that the wife had been a long-term employee of Cooper County Hospital and began her

employment career at the old St. Joseph Hospital in Boonville. When asked about the fenced-in area in front of the former Nurses House, she recollected being told by the then Director of Nursing that it was a plot for "stillborn babies." She was told that the hospital janitor (she was able to give his name, but he is now deceased) would wrap up these children and bury them in this plot if the parents didn't want to deal with the bodies. Later the same story was recalled by Muriel Brewer of Pilot Grove, Missouri.

A search of Missouri Online Death records database by both Long and Thoma have led to a couple of possibilities of who might be buried in this cemetery. However, without supporting evidence it is not judicious to provide that information.

Currently Larry is looking for an owner of this cemetery for further exploration and maintenance.

Updated:

January 15, 2013 with 5 entries for this cemetery.

Unknown	Infant located under Stone Number One
Unknown	Infant located under Stone Number Two
Unknown	Infant located under Stone Number Three
Unknown	Infant located under Stone Number Four
Unknown	Infant located under Stone Number Five
Unknown	Infant located under Stone Number Six
Unknown	Infant located under Stone Number Seven
Unknown	Infant located under Stone Number Eight
Unknown	Infant located under Stone Number Nine
Unknown	Infant located under Stone Number Ten