Presbyterian Cemetery -- Ellettsville

In 1840, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, also known as Pleasant Hill Church, organized near Ellettsville. The church property, near the western edge of Ellettsville, was said to have an adjoining cemetery. A current marker at the site reads: "Established 1930." However, at least two-thirds of the stones in this cemetery bear death dates earlier than 1930; many date to the 1800s. While some believe that the marking recognizes the 1930 formation of the cemetery’s Board of Directors, a local historian, Don Matson, believes the date should read "1830." There is no evidence that the cemetery moved, even though the church building was razed in 1890 to build a new church at Vine and Sale Streets.

In 1982, Boy Scouts completed an inventoried the cemetery. The earliest death dates listed were: "Martin V. McNeely, Died 4/25/1820," and "Amy Boyden, Died 12/15/1823," but Mr. Matson does not know of the existence of these graves. If they existed previously, perhaps the land was used as for burials even before the church was established. The inventory also notes a very early veteran’s grave: the grave of George Parks (1759-1837) who served in the Revolutionary War. The cemetery also contains the graves of Mexican War and Civil War veterans.

Additionally, the Ellettsville Presbyterian Cemetery contains several large and impressive monuments—especially for a small town cemetery. The largest of these monuments memorializes the Matthews family, Monroe County residents known for their limestone quarry business.

This Presbyterian cemetery is well-maintained, and contains few broken stones. Although the Presbyterian Church in this area did not survive, the cemetery remains in excellent condition.