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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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery

other names/site number Salem Pioneer Cemetery

2. Location

street & number 2201 Commercial Street SE, NW corner Hoyt and Commercial Sts not for publication

city or town Salem vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Marion code 047 zip code 97302

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide X local

Christina Curran Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date July 24, 2013

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. 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] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 9/11/13

Salem Pioneer Cemetery
 Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
 (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
1		site
2	1	structure
1	3	object
4	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: N/A
 walls: N/A

 roof: N/A
 other: STONE: Marble, Granite, Sandstone,
Basalt
METAL: Iron, Zinc, Bronze
WOOD
BRICK
CONCRETE

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The cemetery established in the capital city by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in 1854 is among the very oldest fraternal society burial grounds in Oregon. The initial plat of five acres on the east slope of a gently-ascending ridge one and a half miles south of the town center was enlarged by subsequent acquisitions of 1861 and 1890 that brought the burial ground to its full extent of 17.05 acres. The 560-foot-wide gridiron plat extends upslope from Commercial Street, historic alignment of the territorial road, approximately 1,300 feet toward the crest of the ridge. The grid is bisected by a broad, unpaved central longitudinal carriage drive from which four curving side lanes branch north and south in formal, mirror-image fashion. The plots, or blocks composed of sixteen grave lots, are predominantly grass-covered and typically enclosed by low curbs of concrete or stone. A few plot fences of cast iron or wrought iron remain in place as survivors of war-time scrap metal drives. Some full-size plots are mounded above grade with earth contained by retaining walls. Many of the plots were capped by concrete after the turn of the 20th century in the expectation of eliminating the necessity for annual grave-tending. The array of monuments is extensive enough to include examples of every common grave marker type and most of the grand obelisks and shafts that were available through catalog order by the turn of the 20th century. In the heart of the cemetery are two family mausoleums offset from one another on opposite edges of the central drive.

The qualities that identify Salem Pioneer Cemetery as the city's singular example of cemetery development in the Rural Cemetery tradition are its size and its historic separation from the city center by a rural environment that only after a half century was gradually transformed by residential subdivisions and advancing commercial development along the thoroughfare. The picturesque qualities of the site come not from expansive, rolling terrain like that of the models in the eastern United States, where winding lanes were bent to the contours of hills. Instead, the Rural Cemetery ideal was expressed here in the elevated site above the thoroughfare which affords a scenic view to the east over the city and Willamette Valley to the distant backdrop of the Cascade Range and its snow-capped peaks of Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Hood. With an awareness of high fashion as well as practical requirements, the cemetery's founders relieved the regularity of the narrow, elongated gridiron of burial plots with curvilinear carriage turn-arounds and side lanes with radiused sections that gave access to sections on either side of the central avenue. A scattered tree cover of native oaks, madrones, and conifers and thousands of monuments both stately and humble make up a funerary landscape that is among the best representations of the historic Rural Cemetery movement in Oregon's mid-Willamette Valley.

Narrative Description

Development of the Plat

The historic Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery in Salem was enlarged to its full extent of 17.05 acres in three episodes of development. The original five acres, acquired in 1854 by Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F. from the Rev. David Leslie and his wife Adelia Judson Leslie, was laid out on a gently ascending slope set back from the west side of the Territorial Road a mile and a half south of the town center. The acreage was subdivided as a grid of 210 plots, or blocks 16 x 26 feet in size containing sixteen grave lots. A broad avenue or carriage drive 33 feet wide bisected the grid east to west, and pedestrian aisles were approximately 4½ feet in width.

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An undated pen-and-ink drawing of the plat, with lot sale notations and a dated newspaper notice affixed, shows the state of development by 1860.¹ [Fig. 7] From the outset, a feature of the layout was a median strip of three elongated unnumbered plots in the central avenue. The median plots appear to have been designated for burial of public figures or others of distinction as events unfolded. Penned notations show that the town site proprietor William H. Willson, who died in 1856, was laid to rest in the uppermost median [Photo 4], and Samuel R. Thurston, Oregon Territory's first delegate to Congress whose re-interment was reported to have occurred at about the same time, was accorded a place of honor in the lower median at the spot marked "Thurston Monument." [Photo 5]

Other salient features of the initial plat were the curvilinear side lanes for carriages which branched from the central avenue to the north and south in mirror-image fashion to form a heart-shaped figure. Four circular carriage turn-arounds circumscribing Plots 33 and 38 and Plots 203 and 208 that were planned as figures above and below the heart-shaped side lanes apparently were impractical and never carried out. The Masons acquired two full plots for the use of their brethren, and last needs of the anonymous were accommodated as well. Such notations as "orphan child" (Plot 111) and "Chinaman" (Plot 191) show that from the earliest stage of development the community burial ground served the gamut of Salem society. An unidentified newspaper clipping was affixed to the plat in evidence of the fact that by 1864 the Odd Fellows, who had been sole proprietors since the Masons withdrew in 1855, were making an effort to bring burial records into conformance with the register of lot sales.

Odd Fellows' Rural Cemetery, Salem, Oregon.
Those who have relatives or friends interred in this cemetery are requested to furnish to either of the undersigned as soon as practicable the following information, viz: Name, age, sex, color, married or single, place of birth, of what family, number of days ill; died when, where, and cause; buried, when and by whom. The object of the foregoing inquiries is for the purpose of registration in a book already procured for the purpose.
I.R. Moores, C.N. Terry, S.E. May, Trustees
Salem, January 14, 1864.

After 1861, the year when the Odd Fellows acquired eleven acres surrounding the original five-acre parcel on three sides, the 560-foot-wide gridiron was extended upslope approximately 1,300 feet toward the crest of the ridge.² The number of plots was thereby enlarged to 960. The central avenue was continued to the western boundary where it met with a border lane twelve feet in width. A twelve-foot-wide cross-axial lane crossed the cemetery's mid-section approximately where the new section met the existing plat. West of the cross-axial lane, side lanes branching from the central avenue with radiused segments divided longitudinally the long sections north and south of the avenue. In the larger portion lying west of the cross-axial lane pedestrian aisles were increased in width to more than five feet.³

A finely drawn pen-and-ink enlarged plat, undated and unsigned, was made for the Odd Fellows between 1861 and 1870. It is largely free of annotations except for plot numbers and some dimensions. On fewer than a dozen lots, notations relating to lot payments were made in pencil. The east boundary lane fronting on what was by then named Commercial Street was twice as wide as the twelve-foot-wide west, north and south

¹ The initial five-acre plat drawing, c. 1854-1860, was given to the City of Salem's citizen support group, Friends of Pioneer Cemetery, by Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F after the preservationists were organized in 1985. The drawing on paper measures 22 ½ x 17 ¾ inches and bears no date or draftsman's signature. This drawing and the 76 x 28 ¾ inch companion plat embracing sixteen acres were donated by the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery in 2010 to the Oregon State Library, where they are held in the map collections.

² The plat's length and breadth, as given above, are approximate because opposing boundary measurements are not equilateral.

³ In the east portion of the cemetery the width of aisles is noted on the plats as 7 links (4.62 feet), and in the larger west portion, the width is given as 9 links (5.94 feet).

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border lanes. It was this 76 x 28 ¾ inches drawing that was the basis for the plat of Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery that was formally filed and recorded with Marion County in 1914.⁴ [Fig. 1] The drawing provides evidence in its plan view of the entrance to the central avenue on Commercial Street that the entrance had an outward-swinging double-leaf gate. The original entrance gate to the cemetery disappeared at an unknown date, possibly in war time scrap drives or in the early post-Second World War period when the grounds were no longer overseen by a sexton. A bird's-eye perspective view of Salem from the west, produced by Koppe and Fromm for the Mutual Label & Lithograph Co. about 1905, encompassed at the southern edge of town enough of the Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery to give visual evidence of a "lychgate" arch at the center of a section of high iron fence as well as the lower wrought-iron bow and picket fence about two feet in height which circumscribed the grounds.⁵ [Fig. 8]

In 1890 the Odd Fellows acquired a 0.38-acre strip extending the full length of the south boundary of the cemetery along Hoyt Street. Eventually filed with the Marion County Recorder in June, 1927, the First Addition Plat added sixty-four half-size plots and completed the cemetery's historic phase of acquisition and development.⁶ [Fig. 2]

The Rural Cemetery Ideal

In early 19th century America, the "rural" cemetery movement was inspired by romantic perceptions of nature, art, national identity, and the melancholy theme of death. The movement drew upon innovations in burial-ground design in England and France. Following the model of Mount Auburn Cemetery, founded at Cambridge, near Boston, by leaders of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1831, America's rural cemeteries were typically established on elevated view sites at the city's outskirts. They were picturesque designed landscapes enhanced by monuments of high artistic aspiration. By the end of the 1830s, Mount Auburn had been imitated in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Brooklyn, and in Rochester, New York. Many others in the spirit of Mount Auburn followed.⁷

In developing areas in the American West, sizeable acreages located where land was available at a safe distance from the center of population for both practical and aesthetic purposes imitated the high style of rural cemeteries in the East. Characteristics of the type were contoured layouts, pleasure drives for carriages, shady over-stories of stately trees, and views opening onto restful vistas beyond the bounds of the cemetery. The many humbler counterparts in western communities, the so-called "pioneer" cemeteries, were organized as a charter obligation in the public spirit by fraternal societies such as the Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Layout might be organically adapted to contours of the site in the style made fashionable by Andrew Jackson Downing, the leading American landscape designer of the early 19th century, and his successors. More usual was a straightforward gridiron plat imposed upon the chosen terrain, a simple scheme that relied upon a few curving lanes, selected stands of native trees, and monumental features to achieve the rural cemetery ideal. Such cemeteries readily took on the trimmings of fashion as ornamental trees and shrubs were introduced and decorative fences were added as plot boundary enclosures. The essential feature of the rural cemetery was the all-important prominent gateway or arch to mark departure from the workaday world and entry to surroundings more serene.

⁴ State of Oregon, Marion County Recorder, Plats Vol. 10, page 162, March 6, 1914.

⁵ "Capital City of Oregon, Salem," E. Koppe and Ch. Fromm, Mutual Label & Litho. Co., Portland, Oregon, c. 1905. Sections of the cemetery's historic wrought iron fence that was in place by the 1890s or sooner were salvaged during the period of lapsed caretaking in the mid 20th century and re-used here and there as private yard enclosures.

⁶ First Addition to Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery, Marion County Recorder, Town Plats, Book 12, page 9, June 29, 1927.

⁷ Elisabeth Walton Potter and Beth Boland, *National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places* (U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, 1992). The section of the bulletin titled "The Rural Cemetery Movement and Its Impact on American Landscape Design," page 6, is the work of the author of this nomination document. A definitive study of the American rural cemetery archetype is Blanche Linden-Ward's *Silent City on a Hill: Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery* (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State University Press, 1989).

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In Salem, the intent of Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F. to express the rural cemetery ideal is made explicit by the chosen title. Lodge-member J. Henry Brown, compiler of the *Salem City Directory for 1871*, described the attributes of Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery and named Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery as an exemplary model.⁸

The concept of perpetual-care lawn cemeteries was based on the keynotes of natural beauty and economical upkeep by a single corporate entity. It was an outgrowth of the rural cemetery ideal that emerged in the later 19th century. The lawn cemetery was comprehensively designed and managed by full-time professionals. Rolling terrain was smoothed for uniform turf. The mechanized equipment required to maintain grounds efficiently on a broad scale caused plot-defining barriers to be eliminated and markers of standard type and design to be set low or flush with the ground. City View Cemetery, the neighboring enterprise that arose after its founding in 1893 adjacent to the west boundary of Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery in Salem, evolved as a lawn cemetery which continued use of traditional upright grave markers. In the 1890s and early years of the 20th century, passage between the two cemeteries via the older cemetery's central avenue was intended. The newer development straddling the crest of the ridge and offering a grand view of the Willamette River valley to the west operated as a visual extension of the older burial ground. [Photo 2] Together, these adjoining cemeteries, though presently separated at their common boundary by a chain link fence, provide south Salem with green open space of 52 acres which attracts passive recreational use by strollers and dog-walkers much as, in the East, the early rural cemeteries attracted leisure outings and helped give rise to the movement for urban parks.⁹

Landscape Values

Natural aspects of the Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery grounds have undergone moderate change since the historic period, but the cultural landscape is essentially intact. Original ground cover of native grasses was supplanted by turf which, since the 1990s, has been irrigated by an automated underground sprinkler system and regularly mowed, but neither groomed nor treated for weeds as a perpetual-care cemetery lawn would be. The scattered over-story of firs, oaks, and madrones is representative of the original landscape after the initial phase of clearing and stump removal. Some of the firs and cedars that fill out the tree canopy are volunteers, as are the ubiquitous holly trees. Native Oregon white oaks and Pacific madrones are now and then lost to disease or diminished by storm damage. Conifers are casualties as well, and the younger volunteers are removed if they threaten the stability of monuments. Nevertheless, the abundant leafy tree cover, particularly in the south half and northeast corner of the cemetery, is a distinguishing characteristic, as is illustrated by comparison of recent aerial views of the rural cemetery and the more open grounds of neighboring City View Cemetery. [Fig 6]

Following formal transfer of the property to the City of Salem in 1986, new trees were added to the canopy. In the early 1990s, Japanese flowering cherries of the Kazan variety were planted in the median of the central avenue and as replacements for diseased cherry trees lining the avenue from mid-section to the west end. In the historic period, many of the family plots were decorated with blooming perennials and shrubs, the most common of which are bush roses, lilacs, peonies, and hydrangeas. At a later period, hardy rhododendrons and boxwood were added to the ornamental array. Among the popular memorial plants introduced for a symbolic association with everlasting devotion and remembrance, but which are now problematic in terms of their maintenance toll, are ivy and yucca, the latter sometimes termed "century plant."

⁸ J.H. Brown, "Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery," *Salem Directory for 1871*, J. Henry Brown, compiler (Salem, Oregon: Snyder and Cook publishers, 1871), 83-85. Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery was established in 1839.

⁹ A.J. Downing's erstwhile associate, Calvert Vaux, and Frederick Law Olmsted, the successor pioneers of "picturesque," or naturalistic landscape design in America, collaborated in the planning of New York City's influential Central Park. The historic relationship between cemetery and municipal park planning is documented in the early professional journal, *Park and Cemetery*.

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The cemetery's circulation system of central avenue and side lanes remains unpaved as it was in the historic period. The well-used central drive is maintained with a surface spread of gravel and side lanes are double tracks with grassy medians. A significant alteration to the circulation pattern was carried out by the City of Salem in 1961 after an *ad hoc* advisory committee recommended closing the access point on Commercial Street for traffic safety purposes. The west border lane became the new entrance from Hoyt Street, and a laurel hedge became the border feature along the primary street front. By 1990, the Commercial Street border hedge had been replaced with boxwood. A row of flowering pear trees was planted outside the hedge to reinforce a twelve-foot-wide grassy strip separating the cemetery from the heavily traveled arterial. The trees had been selected for moderate height to avoid interference with overhead utility lines.

South Commercial Street is a section of Pacific Highway East, which, in turn, is part of the federally-aided State highway system. In 1981, the segment of highway in front of the cemetery became the subject of a cultural resource analysis. Under rules authorized by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the cemetery was declared eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.¹⁰ As a consequence, the taking of property for the required highway widening project was shifted from the cemetery frontage to the opposite side of the street by a jog in the alignment. A curb and abutting five-foot-wide sidewalk extend the length of the cemetery street front.

Contributing and Non-contributing Features

Developed features which contribute to the significance of the nominated area are the platted cemetery grounds and its funerary objects counted in aggregate as a district. Also contributing are two historic family mausoleums counted as structures. The single object counted as a contributing feature is the monument erected at the direction of the Territorial legislature to mark the final resting place of Oregon's first delegate to the Congress of the United States. As the rare tangible link to a figure who helped shape events while representing the government of Oregon Territory, the Samuel Thurston monument is exceptional. It is the only grave marker in the cemetery to have been authorized and underwritten by the government of Oregon. The overall landscape design, including roadway and landscape features, is counted as one site.

Three non-historic objects and one non-historic structure are counted as not contributing to the significance of the nominated area. The features were introduced to the landscape following the City's formal receipt of title to the cemetery in 1986, by which time the citizen support group organized in 1985 as Friends of Pioneer Cemetery under the leadership of Virginia Felton had begun raising funds for improvements. A chain link security fence was installed to enclose the cemetery's perimeter. Along the Hoyt Street boundary on the south, where First Addition plots crowded the property line, it was necessary to lay a narrow concrete sidewalk in which to anchor the fence posts. On the east boundary along Commercial Street, the fence was installed against the inside face of the existing boxwood hedge. There, limited space forced a fence-line alignment across the east edge of the lowermost tier of burial plots. Mercury vapor light poles were erected along the north side of the central drive to illuminate the interior after the gate was closed for the night. The five wooden light poles are tallied as a single installation. These improvements were aimed at checking acts of vandalism which had lately reached a crisis level, and they proved effective.

The third utilitarian object counted as a non-contributing feature, an addition of 2004, is a lockable 10 x 20-foot chain-link fence-enclosed storage yard for headstones under repair as well as maintenance tools and supplies. With its footprint on the border lane, the storage enclosure stands against the west boundary fence in the northwest corner of the grounds. Several wooden pens containing stores of soil, compost, and gravel adjoin the north end of the service yard.

¹⁰ Determination of eligibility pursuant to Executive Order 11593, Jerry L. Rogers, Acting Keeper of the National Register to Dale E. Wilken, Federal Highway Administration Division Administrator, June 3, 1981; applicable criteria A and B and exception D.

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After cemetery access was diverted from Commercial Street to the head of Hoyt Street in the 1960s, the foot of the central avenue was reconfigured with the aim of eliminating a functional entrance while at the same time conveying a sense of the historic axial alignment. The street front hedge was turned at right angles to create an inset bay of about thirty feet at the old entrance site. A grassy area was established over the abandoned section of the avenue, and, west of the squared-off bay, an elongated boxwood "compartment" was extended eighty feet to meet what had become the lower terminus of the central drive. [Fig. 5] The reconfiguration eventually incorporated the cemetery's most noteworthy non-historic developed feature. A decorative gate to mark the site of the original entrance was erected in 1988 as a privately-funded project of the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery and the Willamette Christmas Association. [Photo 1] Composed as a filigreed double-leaf wrought-iron gate with segmental-arched profile supported by nine-foot-high, brick-veneered concrete piers and curvilinear wing walls, the symbolic "lychgate" is compatible with qualities contributing to the significance of the nominated area. The new gate was not a re-creation of the long-missing historic feature for which definitive evidence of form was lacking. Instead, it was inspired by a drawing of the wrought-iron gate fabricated in 1795 for Colonial-era Christ Church in Philadelphia.¹¹ Spanning thirty feet, the new gateway was set ten feet into the entrance bay where radiused low brick walls projected to connect the gate's wing walls to the front line of the chain-link security fence backing the boxwood border hedge. The fence was angled to circumscribe the inset bay. The title "Salem Pioneer Cemetery" and the date of 1841 were incorporated in the gate's arching crest. Bronze dedicatory plaques were affixed to the piers, and here too, the mistaken date of the cemetery's founding in 1841 was repeated.¹² Soon after its installation, the "lychgate" was adopted as a lynchgraph by the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery.

Minor Non-historic Features

A painted signboard between ballast-filled iron posts stands at the Commercial Street front near the intersection of Hoyt Street bearing the simple legend: "Pioneer Cemetery, Founded 1841, City of Salem." Facing the passing traffic squarely, the sign with its misinterpreted date of founding was erected some time between 1953, when the City of Salem accepted joint responsibility with Marion County for periodic cemetery care, and about 1966. Some time after 1966, a 34 x 54-inch panel of grey granite supported by four-foot-high brick piers with caps was erected in the cemetery's mid-section, on the north edge of the central drive at the crossing of the north-south lane. The interpretive panel explains to visitors the origin of the cemetery and the City's role in caretaking.¹³

In the season of Memorial Day in 1977, Salem Post No. 136 of the American Legion erected a full-scale flag pole at the lower end of the Samuel Thurston grave lot in the central avenue median. [Photo 5] Mounted in a concrete pedestal on which the dedicatory plaque is displayed, the flag pole is a fixture of Memorial Day

¹¹ The plans were produced by Settecase Smith Doss Architects of Salem, with Howard Smith as primary designer, and metal fabrication was furnished by Royal Oak Metal Craft, Inc. of Portland.

¹² 1841, it was later realized, is the earliest date of death commemorated in cemetery epitaphs, but the accepted founding date of Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery is 1854. The Rev. David Leslie's simple obelisk-style grave monument bears epitaphs for the missionary and his first wife, Mary A. Kinney Leslie, who died at the original mission site on Mission Bottom in 1841. Her remains were brought to Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery for re-interment. The text of the plaque: "Salem Pioneer Cemetery founded as Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery includes the family burial ground established by the Rev. David Leslie 1841. Land for the community cemetery acquired by Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows 1854 onward. Deeded to City of Salem 1985." The City had agreed to become legal titleholder and steward in 1985, but the bargain and sale deed was not formally executed until February 3, 1986.

¹³ The panel text, which included facts as they were understood at the time, was inscribed for the City by the Capital Monument Company, identified by the initials CM in the lower left corner. The text as follows: "Salem Pioneer Cemetery. A portion of these grounds was used for a family burial plot on the David Leslie Donation Land Claim with Mary A. Leslie recorded as the first burial in February 1841. Chemeketa Lodge No. 1 of the International [sic] Order of Odd Fellows purchased 11 acres and established a cemetery here in 1853, then known as the Odd Fellows Cemetery. Establishment of other public cemeteries in the Salem area brought about changes in cemetery operations, including the concept of perpetual care. In 1953, to establish such assurance of maintenance, the I.O.O.F. asked the City of Salem and Marion County to accept this responsibility, and the State legislature authorized the transfer. In 1966, the City of Salem assumed full responsibility for the operation."

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observances when the U.S. flag is raised there by the Legion and small-scale flags are set out upon the graves of veterans across the grounds.

A four-foot-tall, steel-cased control box mounted on a concrete base 1 ½ feet high was installed in the aisle adjacent to Plot 733 in the northwest section to regulate the irrigation system added between 1990 and 1995.

Character-defining Features of the Funerary Array

First among distinguishing characteristics of Salem Pioneer Cemetery's funerary array is the regular pattern of dispersal imposed by a gridiron plat and division of 16 x 26-foot plots lengthwise into two rows of eight grave lots. Usually, but not always, headstones of graves on the west side were set at the west edge of the plot with epitaphs facing outward; those for graves on the east side were similarly oriented to be seen from the east. The west tier, or uphill lots tended to be filled first, and where spaces were not sold or were not used by descendants of the original plot owners, open space is apparent. But gaps in monumentation also are the result of attrition. At a conservative estimate, between ten and fifteen percent of the historic burial marker collection has been lost to weathering, dislocation, disappearance underground, mishap, or vandalism.

The other predominant characteristic of the array is the density of upright objects ranging from vertically-set headstones, small footstones, and attenuated tablets to obelisks and tall compound monuments in which shafts of varied form are stacked upon bases, high podiums, and plinths, and frequently given additional height with terminal elements such as draped cinerary urns. [Photo 17]

Plot definition is an important aspect of cemeteries founded in the Victorian era. In Salem Pioneer Cemetery as elsewhere, high-style family plots of the late 19th century were graded, or mounded with earth contained by finely-tooled masonry walls three-to-four feet in height and finished with stone coping. Access to the surface of graded plots invariably is provided by a short staircase centered in the east wall. [Photo 19] The grass-covered surfaces of a number of the graded plots were capped with concrete early in the 20th century.

Some grade-level family plots of the late 19th century were defined by iron fences of varied style. One type is composed of cast-iron pipe rails with ornamental fittings such as clasped hands. Cast-iron gate posts might have shallow vase finials. [Photo 15] In a later period some gateless fences were composed of wrought-iron rails resting in joist pockets in tapered posts of basalt. [Photos 9, 16] Plot fences are thought to have been more numerous in the cemetery in the historic period. Some iron work in Salem Pioneer Cemetery may have been taken away during war-time scrap drives or to simplify access for maintenance. Today, seven full-plot iron fences in varied states of repair remain, the finest example being the E.N. Cooke family mausoleum's cast-iron forecourt balustrade.

In Salem Pioneer Cemetery, the most common form of plot definition is the curb. The finer plot curbs are of local quarry stone having taller stone blocks marking corners and section divisions. The more prevalent curb type, however, is the simple formed-in-place concrete curb that became the preferred treatment from the early 20th century onward. A significant number of grade-level plots were capped with reinforced concrete in the early 20th century, and paved sidewalks surrounding the plots were accompanying features.

Markers and Monuments

Despite years of attrition, Salem Pioneer Cemetery, with its 8,295 burials of record and seven thousand or so standing markers, contains one of the most extensive collections in the mid-Willamette Valley of grave marker forms and materials marketed by the American monument industry in the historic period.

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The funerary monument trade in Oregon emerged in the mid-19th century in settlements of sufficient size to create demand and where proximity to river and coastal shipping made importation of marble stock from foreign and domestic quarries feasible. In the mid-Willamette Valley, stone cutters were at work rendering standard patterns by the early 1860s in Salem and Albany. Local directories and newspaper advertisements document the arrival and departure of craftsmen who competed closely for their share of patronage. An early Salem stone cutter who founded an enduring enterprise was A.J. Monroe, proprietor in 1864 of the Pacific Marble Company then dealing in "California, Vermont, and Italian marbles, monuments, obelisks, and tomb-, head-, and foot-stones," as well as marble mantelpieces and other fixtures. Monroe was joined in business by William Staiger about 1866 and soon thereafter commenced advertising as Monroe & Staiger. In 1873, Andrew Monroe served a term as Salem mayor. When, in 1876, Monroe died at the age of forty-four, Staiger continued the business, carrying on under his own name until selling out about 1909. To that time, no other marble works in the city had been as durable as the one founded by Monroe and sustained his brother-in-law partner as Staiger Marble & Granite Works.¹⁴

Salem Pioneer Cemetery is believed to contain a considerable number of monuments produced by the Monroe and Staiger enterprise. Both partners are interred in the cemetery in their respective family plots where the substantial polished granite monuments undoubtedly were products of the company's manufacture. [Photo 21] None of the firm's output so far has been identified by "signature" or trademark. Gradually, however, stone cutter marks on marble headstones in the cemetery are coming to light, and they reveal that the sources of finished work were as widespread as New York, San Francisco, and Portland.¹⁵ Among the cemetery's seventeen signature headstones identified to date is the tall straight-topped tablet for Felix Raymond with its "fat-faced" Roman lettering. Produced by the estimable carver Philip Miller of Albany, the Raymond stone represents the high quality work of local craftsmen in the 1860s. [Photo 12]

The leading enterprise in the monument trade in Salem of the 20th century was opened by James Courtney Jones and M.N. Lewis as Capital Monumental Works in 1914. Located directly across Commercial Street from the Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery, the plant, as rebuilt after a fire in 1916, covered the better part of a block "with space for manufacturing, storage, office, and salesroom."¹⁶ In its heyday under the management of founder J.C. Jones and his sons, Capital Monumental Works held "a virtual monopoly in on-site manufacturing of gravestones" locally and had agents working throughout the Willamette Valley and on the central Oregon coast.¹⁷ Capital Monumental Works in time relocated its operation to Hoyt Street, across from the cemetery's south side. After a long period of family ownership, the operation continued as Capital Monument Company under a succession of new owner-managers to the present day. On-site production work has been discontinued, however, and orders now are filled out-of-town by a City View Cemetery auxiliary. Over a period of ninety years, Capital Monumental Works produced and set hundreds of grave markers for interments in Salem Pioneer Cemetery. A compilation of surviving business records holds the key to identifying representative examples of the company's output on the grounds. A substantial pattern-based rock-cut tablet that is the primary monument on the J.C. Jones plot is the likely product of Capital Monumental Works. [Photo 22]

As the monument industry became increasingly mechanized around the turn of the 20th century, techniques were introduced to achieve richness in surface ornament with less hand labor than had been required of stone carvers. For primary monuments on family plots, a surname in low relief and repeating geometric and foliate patterns were achievable by covering polished granite with rubberized templates in which the designs were cut to expose areas of stone to the etching effect of sanding with water-borne grits. The new style of surface,

¹⁴ Elisabeth Walton Potter, "Spotlight on Headstones: Andrew J. Monroe and William Staiger: Pioneer Monument Makers of Salem," Friends of Pioneer Cemetery Annual Report, Dec. 31, 2008, p. 1. Available online at salempioneercemetery.org.

¹⁵ Stone cutters and dealers whose signature marks have been found on headstones in the cemetery thus far are: Roberts & Shartle, Portland, Oregon; See & Mapes, New York, New York; Philip Miller, Albany, Oregon; William Young, I. Gruber, and Harkins & Paterson, Portland, Oregon; L.R. Myers & Co., San Francisco, California; and J.A. McDonald, Salem, Oregon.

¹⁶ Susan N. Bell, compiler, "Capital Monument Records, Salem, Oregon, Vol. I, 1918-1947," Doris A. Bash for Willamette Valley Genealogical Society, Salem, Oregon, 1993; foreword, pp. i-iv.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* The company had agents in Eugene, Lebanon, Dallas, Newport, McMinnville, and Woodburn.

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though richly elaborated, was held to a single plane in contrast to the deep intaglio and high-relief motif carving of the earlier tradition. [Photo 18]

Cast zinc was an alternative material for monuments popularized through promotion in the decades before and after the turn of the 20th century. Marketed across the country as "white bronze" by the Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut, and its subsidiaries, the blue-grey cast-zinc grave markers were shown to be virtually impervious to the elements and they imitated the appearance of stone so well that it takes a close look or a practiced eye to spot a metal substitute. Highly textured surfaces imitating stone tooling and rock-faced masonry were achieved through the casting process which employed molds to create the weighty hollow forms into which custom-cast epitaph tablets were bolted. The high point of cast zinc marker use in Salem Pioneer Cemetery, between 1895 and 1905, reflects the period of active salesmanship locally. A key selling point of the zinc markers was durability. Unlike true bronze, zinc, being a pure metal, resists corrosion and biological growth, such as moss and lichen, which can mar marble and granite.¹⁸ There are twenty-four cast zinc markers of varied size on the grounds. [Photo 20]

In times of economic stress, many were obliged either to seek inexpensive means of marking the graves of family members or forego the formality. Among economical choices which may be seen in the cemetery are wooden headboards and low pillow markers of molded composite stone made of fine marble chips mixed with concrete. With their simple letter-stamped epitaphs, often rendered indistinct through weathering, the composite stone markers appear to have been introduced in the Depression era of the 1930s and 1940s. In Salem Pioneer Cemetery today there are six surviving wooden headboards. Modeled after the simplest of stone tablets, the low-cost round-topped wooden tablets were easily displaced since butt ends in the ground rotted out in the wet climate. It has been observed that a practical solution for holding a tablet in place without embedding it deeply in the turf was to enwrap the butt in a strip of galvanized tin with prong attachments which, when pushed into the turf, secured the marker and helped keep it upright longer. [Photo 25]

The Mausoleums

The cemetery's two family mausoleums are located on the central avenue in the older section of the plat, where they are offset one from the other a distance of less than 150 feet on opposite sides of the drive.

The E.N. Cooke family mausoleum was erected in the 1870s for Edwin N. Cooke, pioneer industrialist, Oregon State Treasurer, and a charter member of Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F. It occupies two 16 x 26-foot plots and intervening aisle space on the north edge of the central avenue. The vault occupies Plot 117 and adjoining it at the south end, on Plot 116 fronting the avenue, is a raised planting forecourt retained by a masonry foundation wall and enclosed by a railing that is the finest example of decorative cast-iron work in the cemetery. The forecourt railing is composed of foliated S-scroll palings making up panel sections between cast-iron posts having varied "turnings" and knob finials. On the reverse face, or hollowed side of several of the palings, a raised mark, "Crowell's Patent 1865," was produced in the casting process to identify the patent holder of the railing assembly as Sommers Crowell of Pennsylvania.¹⁹ Bearing a separate patent mark of 1862 is the railing's elaborately-patterned gate with an arched crest which is centered in the south end of the forecourt on axis with the center walk and mausoleum entrance. [Photo 13]

¹⁸ Barbara Rotundo, "19th and 20th Century Gravestones: White Bronze Markers," *AGS Quarterly*, Winter 1996, p. 8. The quarterly is published by the Association for Gravestone Studies.

¹⁹ Sommers Crowell held patents for varied iron railing assembly systems and accessories beginning in 1850, according to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office database. No record of the 1865 patent has been located to date. Insights concerning the patent records of Sommers Crowell stemmed from a survey of historic metal work in Salem Pioneer Cemetery, including iron fences and cast zinc grave markers, organized for the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery by Eagle Scout candidate Eric Nettleton, Sprague High School, September, 2009.

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The Cooke vault is a single-story structure of Willamette Valley tuffaceous sandstone.²⁰ It has a footprint of roughly 14 x 18 ½ feet and a sloping concrete roof with built-up surface which is concealed from view behind a flat cornice. The structure is blind except for the entrance in the south façade and one small opening high in either side wall for ventilation. The interior is composed as a shallow vestibule in front of a bank of fourteen marble-faced longitudinal casket niches arranged in four tiers. The vestibule is plaster-lined and has a vaulted ceiling. The floor is concrete.

The mausoleum erected on Plot 035 for prominent attorney and State legislator Tilmon Ford c. 1908-1913 is a temple-fronted structure in the Roman Classical style with a stone slab-clad double-pitched roof. It is comparable to a model advertised in *Park and Cemetery* in 1912 by the Vermont Marble Company of Proctor, Vermont, long the country's dominant supplier of architectural marble. The company was at the time maintaining branch offices on the West Coast.²¹ [Fig. 10] Whereas the advertised model erected in Elkton, Maryland, was an *aedicula* of the Roman Doric order, the Ford mausoleum is a variation of the small Classical chapel with pedimented portico which employed slender columns *in antis*, which is to say that the polished rose granite columns stand between piers projecting from the front wall plane. Further, the capitals of columns, piers, and pilasters of the Ford mausoleum are Byzantine-inspired, and the exterior masonry is rock-faced sandstone with beaded joints. In contrast to exterior walls, the piers, pilasters, entablature, and tympanum of the pediment are smooth-dressed sandstone. The marble-lined interior is composed as a center aisle with eight principal casket niches arranged lengthwise in four tiers on either side. Natural light is provided to the interior by glazed windows in the entry door and rear wall. The footprint of the structure is roughly 10 ½ x 12 feet. [Photo 14] Although no documentation specifically connecting the Vermont Marble Company with plans or materials for the Ford mausoleum has been found to date, small mausolea of the type advertised by the company in this period were erected in cemeteries across the country.

Grave Markers of Ethnic and Social Groups

Salem Pioneer Cemetery, having been founded by Odd Fellows and Masons, is replete with grave markers displaying the iconography of varied fraternal societies and their female auxiliary groups active in the historic period. Commonly seen across the newer section of grounds, for example, are the wedge and beetle (heavy mallet) icons of Woodmen of the World and the dove symbol of Women of Woodcraft. Mottos worked into the identifying insignia registered themes such as "courage, hope, remembrance" adopted by the Women of Woodcraft. Watchwords also were incorporated in emblems by acronym, such as the Odd Fellows' distinctive three chain links containing "F L T" to represent friendship, love and truth. The most elaborately modeled representations of secret society ideals to be found on the grounds are the high-relief panels of Masonic imagery on the capped marble obelisk of Captain Charles Bennett, co-discoverer of gold at Sutter's Mill in California, and the headstone of Harvey Gordon, designer of the Oregon State Seal. [Photos 10, 11] In the former, a deeply recessed rectangular niche contains sculpted icons, the all-seeing eye, truncated column and open book with square and compass, associated with the order. The latter example is a substantial headstone in which a highly modeled and keystone, flattened arch on columns signifying the separation of temporal and eternal worlds frames a sunken field in which a keystone bears a circle embellished with the order's secret acronym. In the center of the circle, under an all-seeing eye, is a customized meld of Masonic icons and the beaver and American bald eagle, believed to have been taken from Oregon Territorial and State Seals.

²⁰ Although opinions vary on the precise source of the sandstone, the consensus among experts is that the stone of the façade, a softer grade of tuffaceous sandstone, and the material of the secondary elevations, "a very clean tuff," most likely could be traced to quarries in Yamhill, Marion, or Linn counties. Clark Niewendorp, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, to Keith Keever, ASLA, City of Salem Parks Operations Project Coordinator, August 8, 2005; Kirk Clark, Pioneer Masonry Restoration, Portland, repointing-in-progress interview with Elisabeth Walton Potter, Salem, October 11, 2006.

²¹ Chambers Mausoleum, Elkton, Maryland, *Park and Cemetery*, Vol. 22, No. 7 (September 1912). The Vermont Marble Company at this time maintained branches in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington; Cleveland, Chicago, St. Louis, and Kansas City; and, on the West Coast, in the deep water port/rail head cities of San Francisco and Tacoma.

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On principle, and in order to finance the acquisition of land and hire caretakers, the founders excluded no one from their sale of lots in the cemetery. While fashionable, the grounds were accessible to Salem citizens from all walks of life. Jews were Freemasons, but Salem's pioneer Jewry was not represented in the Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery for lack of consecrated ground there. An independent Jewish cemetery was established in nearby Albany in 1877 as a project of the Willamette Valley Jewish Community Burial Society.²² Burial records and newspaper notices document interment of forty-three African-American men, women, and children of Salem from 1858 to the period of the Second World War. The pen-and-ink plat of the original five acres of Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery indicates sale of a lot in Plot 202 to "Robinson, colored" in the first years of development, but lot sales did not always lead to burials. Known burial locations of African-Americans within the cemetery are most closely distributed through the southeast and northwest quadrants of the plat, but there was no specified section. Because headstones are standing to mark only a handful of the individual graves, and because precise locations for some are unknown, an omnibus memorial was created in remembrance of all by the Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers association, and it was placed atop unoccupied space on Plot 85. Among the interred are emancipated slaves who emigrated to Oregon after the Civil War, homemakers and tradesmen, railroad employees, industrial and domestic workers, a preacher, an artist, and a nurse-midwife whose collective contributions to the community were celebrated in a public ceremony of dedication during Black Heritage Month, February 2007.

In the northern margin of the cemetery, west of the earliest-developed part of the plat, a lengthy stretch of open space bears little trace of interments which occurred there in the historic period. In this sparsely-marked field, Marion County held plots for the burial of deceased vagrants, indigents, orphans, and internees of public institutions who lacked family to claim remains and arrange for burial. Such burials were recorded but infrequently marked, and a number of the so-called "paupers plots" acquired by local government were never used.²³

The cemetery's northern margin also was the location of spaces variously described in the *Oregon Statesman* in 1909-1910 as a "little square" or "little plat" reserved for the Chinese of Salem for temporary burials in accord with the custom which called for bones of the dead to be recovered after a number of years and returned to the homeland so the chain of family funerary relics could be preserved for patrilineal ancestor veneration.²⁴ Newspaper accounts describe the processions, burning of incense upon small altars, and ritual setting out of symbolic funerary gifts at the graves. The temporary graves typically were marked with less permanent wooden headboards which were removed after exhumations were completed.

Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery in Salem was but one of nearly two dozen cemeteries in Oregon where exhumations were carried out at temporary graves of the sojourners under auspices of Chinese sponsoring organizations. While on grave markers the names of the interred were inscribed in Chinese, in cemetery ledgers and bills of lading, the generic entry, "Chinaman," was common. By 1940, Chinese burials in the Rural

²² Ellen M. Eisenberg, Professor of History, Willamette University, faculty member, to author February 18, 2010.

In the 1920s the 19th century consecrated burial ground was incorporated into Waverly Lake Masonic Cemetery with provision for the Willamette Valley Jewish Community Burial Society to maintain control over its section.

²³ A plot ownership map of Salem Pioneer Cemetery drawn January 17, 1966 for the City of Salem and Marion County and filed with the Marion County Clerk on March 22 shows twelve County-owned plots in the northeast corner of the grounds and as many as forty three County-owned plots in the center of the northernmost section lying west of the cross-axial lane.

²⁴ "Chinese Funeral is Marked by Customs," *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, October 12, 1909, 3:4; "Chinese Funeral Held Yesterday," *Daily Oregon Statesman*, August 5, 1910, 5:1. A focused examination of historic Chinese burials and grave markers in Salem Pioneer Cemetery was carried out as an Eagle Scout project organized by Peter Anderson, West Salem High School, July, 2011.

"Oregon Chinese Disinterment Documents: A Collaborative Effort to Share an Untold Story," panel presentation, Northwest Archivists/Oregon Heritage Conference, Salem, Oregon, April 27, 2012. Most of the of the Chinese who came to the Northwest Coast of America to find work in gold mining, railroad building, and commercial enterprises are thought to have come from communities in the Pearl River delta. Civil strife in mainland China in the 1940s effectively ended the systematic repatriation of Chinese funerary relics through shipping to Hong Kong. Thanks to the recent discovery of a box of unclaimed shipping documents and the subsequent translation of the papers in a cooperative project involving the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of Portland and libraries of Portland State and Oregon State universities, it has come to light how exhumation of Chinese males was systematically carried out under auspices of benevolent associations such the one organized in Portland in the 1880s for the purpose of fostering Chinese immigrants.

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Cemetery had become more permanent although in the modern period there were occasional removals at the request of Chinese-American families seeking to consolidate the relics of their forebears in cemeteries elsewhere on the West Coast, such as California. The Salem Pioneer Cemetery database contains records of fifty-four Chinese burials, the locations of which only twenty-two are known. Today, headstones with epitaphs in English and Chinese characters mark the permanent graves of ten individuals, including one Korean, in a developed area of the plat at the east end of the open field.

Several Japanese-American families acquired burial spaces in five adjacent plots in the northeast corner of the cemetery. A number of the *nikkeijin*, Japanese immigrants and their descendants, were associated with an important episode in local agriculture. The most prominent grave marker in the plot cluster is the joint headstone of Roy and Nobu Fukuda. In the early years of the 20th century, when *issei*, first generation immigrants, were prohibited by the Oregon Constitution from owning land in their own name, Roy K. Fukuda, an immigrant of the late 1880s, was invited by landowner M.L. Jones to lease recently drained land in the fertile Lake Labish area on the northern outskirts of Salem. In sub-leasing small acreages of the leasehold to Japanese tenant farmers, Fukuda gathered together a Japanese community. His pioneering work in clearing and cultivating the land, installing greenhouses, and subsequently forming farmers' cooperatives greatly strengthened productivity of a section of Willamette Valley farmland that came to be known for its top-quality celery, lettuce, and onions.²⁵ A number of the headstones are distinguished by Japanese characters inscribed in the west face that are mirrored by an epitaph in English on the east face of the stone. [Photo 24]

Salem Pioneer Cemetery is the final resting place of 286 veterans of United States military service, the greatest number of them having served Union and Confederate forces in the Civil War. Until the Grand Army of the Republic opened a commemorative circle for Union soldiers in neighboring City View Cemetery after 1893, Salem Pioneer Cemetery for a decade or more had been the focal point of public observances honoring the Civil War dead on the national day of remembrance known as Decoration Day. Interments of veteran military personnel are found across the grounds. Making up the second largest number of burials representative of the group are veterans of the First and Second World Wars. Most of the others range from Indian wars and Mexican War to the Korean and Vietnam wars. The earliest episode of military action is represented at the graves of Thomson Ward, Levin Nelson English, James Orville Davidson, and Oregon Territorial governor John Pollard Gaines, each of the four a veteran of the War of 1812. Territorial militias and State volunteer regiments are represented also, as are all branches of the United States armed forces, including associated women's nursing and service corps active in the Second World War.²⁶

A common marker type seen in every section of the cemetery is the uniform permanent marker issued for veterans' graves by the War Department from the end of the Civil War onward. The standard evolved as a marble or granite headstone four inches thick, ten inches wide, and thirty-six to forty-two inches long to expose twelve inches above ground after installation.²⁷ The face displays a sunken shield bearing in raised letters the names of the serviceman and military unit. More detail could be given by free-standing grave medals of bronze, such as the one placed at the headstone of George Frederick Smith, a veteran of the 1898 Spanish American War. It displays the date and theater of combat, namely the Philippines, as well as decorative and symbolic elements such as the clasped hands of farewell and an American bald eagle. [Photo 23] Many grave medals distributed by veterans' organizations, most notably those displaying the distinctive star-centered seal of the American Legion, have remained as permanent accessories to the headstones of veterans interred in Salem Pioneer Cemetery.

²⁵ Mako Hayashi-Mayfield, Erin Zysett, and Mark Murakami, "Japanese Voices from the Northwest," Salem Multicultural Institute Exhibit Pamphlet, Salem, Oregon World Beat Gallery, August 15 - November 4, 2009, pgs. 1-4.

²⁶ To supplement the biographical database, information on the range, dates, distribution, and condition of grave markers of U.S. military service men and women in Salem Pioneer Cemetery was provided by a survey project conducted for the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery by Eagle Scout candidate Jason Anderson, West Salem High School, August, 2007.

²⁷ Mark C. Mollan, "Honoring Our War Dead: The Evolution of the Government Policy on Headstones for Fallen Soldiers and Sailors," *Prologue*, Vol. 35, No. 1 (Spring 2003); reproduced online by the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, www.archives.gov, Wednesday, February 1, 2009. Carol Surrency, "Remembering Our Civil War Ancestors," *OHCA Ledger*, Newsletter of the Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association, Inc., Vol. 18, No. 2 (Summer 2009), pgs. 1, 3-5.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning and Development

Politics/Government

Social History

Landscape Architecture

Art

Period of Significance

1854-1961

Significant Dates

1854 - Odd Fellows/Masons initiate cemetery

1856 - Re-interment of Samuel R. Thurston

1861 - Odd Fellows enlarge plat to 16 acres

1914 - Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery plat filed

1927 - First Addition plat filed

1949 - Salem Pioneer Cemetery Assn. formed

1953 - State act for City/County stewardship

1961 - City of Salem reconfigures access

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is marked from 1854, when, in accordance with the charter obligations of their fraternal societies, Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Salem Masons cooperated in the acquisition and preliminary development of five acres of land for a community burial ground outlying the territorial capital. Benchmarks in the early years of the historic period are the first burial of an Odd Fellow in 1855 and re-interment and marking of the remains of Samuel R. Thurston, Oregon's first delegate to the Congress of the United States, under legislative mandate in 1856. Those actions were followed in the post-territorial period by acquisition and platting of additional acreage from 1861 to 1927. In the Second World War era, the heyday of stewardship of Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery by the I.O.O.F. came to a close with the death of long-time sexton James Plant in 1944.

In the post war years, the first benchmark was formation in 1949 of the Salem Pioneer Cemetery Association which sought state legislative support to assign responsibility for the cemetery's care to local government. State authorization for joint stewardship of the historic cemetery by Marion County and the City of Salem was achieved in 1953. The ending of the historic period is drawn at 1961, at which time the City of Salem reconfigured public access to the cemetery for traffic-safety purposes and began assuming a greater share of the maintenance burden. At that point, the cemetery's status as a publicly-owned property, the result of transfer of title from the I.O.O.F., lay twenty-five years in the future. But the groundwork for effective public management of the grounds with voluntary support from the community was laid in the last twelve years of the historic period. The seventeen-acre parcel now known as Salem Pioneer Cemetery remains an active burial ground wherein right of interment passes to descendants of the original grave lot deed-holders.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Salem Pioneer Cemetery meets the special requirements for National Register listing under Criterion Consideration D because its seventeen acres contain, among 8,295 burials of record, the last resting places of a significant number of figures who played key roles in the founding of Oregon government, the founding of the capital city's educational and social institutions, and the founding of the city's early commercial enterprises. The pioneers include four missionaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church who in the post-mission period helped form the provisional government of Oregon in 1843, established the Oregon Institute for educational benefit of settlers in 1842, and in 1846 cooperated in platting the Salem town site. Also included are six of Oregon Territory's sixty delegates to the constitutional convention which was convened in Salem in 1857 for purposes of drafting the constitution that was prerequisite to achievement of statehood in 1859. One of the convention delegates had been one of those commissioned to draft Oregon Territory's code of laws and subsequently was a chief justice of the Supreme Court. The graves include those of a treasurer of the provisional government, an Oregon territorial governor, and an Oregon state governor. Also among the interred are a co-discoverer of gold at Sutter's Mill in the Sacramento Valley of California in 1848, the founding editor of Oregon's early newspaper, *The Oregon Statesman*, first printed in Oregon City in 1851, founders of the mechanized woolen industry on the Pacific Coast, and more than two hundred and eighty military veterans of American wars from the War of 1812 onward.

Salem Pioneer Cemetery also meets the special requirements for National Register listing under Criterion Consideration D because it represents the intentional aspiration of the creators of the cemetery to develop a site apart from the town center in the image of fashionable landscaped rural cemeteries of the eastern United States. Established by Chemeketa Lodge No. 1 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows to accommodate the whole fabric of Salem society, from Chinese sojourners to the most prominent citizens, Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery became Salem's highest expression of the 19th century rural cemetery ideal as the array of stately monuments increased across the grounds.

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Finally, Salem Pioneer Cemetery meets the special requirements for National Register listing under Criterion Consideration D as a demonstration of the importance of fraternal and church organizations to Salem society in the 19th century. The brotherhood of Odd Fellowship led to the cemetery's becoming the final resting place of Samuel Royal Thurston, Oregon's first delegate to the Congress of the United States, who died on a steam vessel off the coast of Mexico and was hastily buried at Acapulco in the course of returning to Oregon from his term in Congress in 1851. A Methodist and an Odd Fellow, Thurston was hailed especially for his promotion of the Oregon Donation Land Law of 1850, which was of paramount importance to legalizing established claims and boosting immigration to the region. The Territorial Legislature arranged for recovery of the delegate's remains for reburial "in Oregon soil" and ordered a statesman's monument to be placed at his permanent grave in the capital city. The monument occupies a place of honor in the heart of the grounds and is exceptional as the only Oregon government-sponsored fixture in the cemetery. No other places remain that are associated with the pioneer Congressman, whose last home was in Linn City, forerunner of West Linn, on the west bank of the Willamette River, opposite Oregon City.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Salem Pioneer Cemetery is significant to the City of Salem under Criterion A in the area of community planning and development both as the last resting place of a concentration of founders and developers of the Salem town site from the time of its Methodist Mission beginnings in 1841 and as the larger of the two early community burial grounds established more or less concurrently at opposite ends of the capital city in the 1850s.

The cemetery is significant to the State of Oregon in the areas of government and social history as the final resting place of a significant number of founders and officers of Oregon government before and after statehood as well as Oregon Territory's first delegate to the Congress of the United States 1849-1851. The town site that became the seat of county, territorial, and state government was less than ten years old when burials began on the ridge slope a mile and a half south of the town center. Notables and citizens of every kind are represented in the permanent interments, including Chinese and Japanese-Americans, emancipated African-American slaves, churchmen, architects, inventors, industrialists, farmers, merchants and tradesmen; explorers, educators, nurses, woman suffrage leaders, and newspapermen, to name a few. The cemetery also is the resting place of the indigent and virtually anonymous whose burials in county-owned lots in the historic period, though recorded, often went unmarked. Historical patterns such as periods of war, epidemic, economic depression, and prevalence of childbirth mortality, can be discerned from thoughtful study of headstone epitaphs.

The cemetery is significant to the City of Salem under Criterion C in the areas of landscape architecture and art as the city's highest expression of a community cemetery intentionally developed in the style of picturesque landscaped cemeteries on elevated view sites in the eastern United States that were the models of the Rural Cemetery movement. The cemetery contains a wide array of funerary objects that includes most of the common grave marker types, from marble tablets, wooden headboards, and cast zinc grave markers to lofty shafts on pedestals and family mausoleums. The objects are significant individually and in aggregate as illustrations of high-quality hand craftsmanship and as a demonstration of the transition to more mechanized production and new modes of supply and distribution in the monument industry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Salem's Founding and Emergence as Territorial Capital

Salem, the capital city of Oregon, is situated predominantly on the east bank of the Willamette River in a broad and fertile alluvial plain bounded by the Cascade Range on the east and the Coast Range on the west. Snow-capped peaks of the Cascades are a distant backdrop to timbered areas which, here and there, border Salem at closer range. The outlying countryside is generally level, particularly to the north and east, and is ideal for cultivation and settlement, both of which developed steadily from the time the town was founded by disbanded Methodist missionaries in the 1840s.²⁸

In the fall of 1834, the small band of Methodist missionaries under the Rev. Jason Lee established on Willamette River bottom land about ten miles north of Salem the first mission to Indians in the Pacific Northwest. From the original central station in the homeland of the Kalapuya, the missionaries established satellite stations around the region: at Nisqually on Puget Sound, on Clatsop Plains at the mouth of the Columbia, at the Falls of the Willamette, and at The Dalles of the Columbia. Since 1818, the Oregon Country had been jointly occupied under treaty between the United States and Great Britain, and the established authority in the Columbia District was the British-backed Hudson's Bay Company.²⁹ The district's chief factor, Dr. John McLoughlin, received newcomers from the United States charitably while at the same time directing the missionaries into the valley south of the Columbia River, one area of which, around Champoege on French Prairie, was already under cultivation by retired fur trappers. There, the beaver had been well trapped out.

Jason Lee returned to the United States in 1838-1839 to tour the western border states and the eastern conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church to raise support for the mission and encourage emigration to Oregon. The mission had been attracted to a new purpose due in part to lack of success where smallpox and other diseases introduced in the heyday of the fur trade had drastically reduced the native populations. In addition to Christianizing the native people, the Methodist missionaries sought to prepare the way for serving a thriving Euro-American settler community.

The mission was bolstered by two successive reinforcements of funds and personnel and, in the spring of 1841, mission superintendent Lee directed a shift of the mission headquarters to Chemeketa prairie, the future site of Salem, where a stream offered a sufficient fall of water to operate a sawmill and gristmill. Here it was that the mission's first frame buildings were erected, the most imposing of which was the three-story Indian Manual Labor Training School. When dissension over development of the secular program came to a head, the New York-based Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church ordered reorganization of what had become an elaborate enterprise and sent agents to phase out the mission, dispose of assets, and form the Methodist conferences and preaching circuits on the Pacific Coast. In the transition carried out between 1844 and 1849, a number of the missionaries chose to remain at Chemeketa and take up adjoining claims from which portions were held in trust for the benefit of the Oregon Institute, the academic enterprise for settlers' children which the school's trustees moved into the vacant Indian School they acquired in 1844. The Oregon Institute, chartered as Willamette University by the Territorial Legislature in 1853, became the leading cultural institution of the community.

²⁸ This paragraph is taken directly from text for Section 8 of the National Register nomination for the Oregon State Capitol, dated April 12, 1988, written by the preparer of this nomination, one and the same author.

²⁹ The Oregon Country, a vast Pacific Northwest region between the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Ocean lying north of California, was claimed by both Great Britain and the United States on the basis of exploration, commercial enterprise (the fur trade), and settlement. The competing claims were settled by a treaty agreement of 1818 which provided for joint occupancy of the area. Jurisdiction over the Oregon Country continued to be disputed, however, and emerged as an issue in the successful presidential campaign of James K. Polk in 1844. The "Oregon question" was largely resolved by a treaty of 1846 which terminated the joint occupancy agreement and set the boundary between territory claimed by the two nations at the 49th parallel, the present border between the United States and Canada west of the Rocky Mountains.

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The original plat of Salem was laid out in 1846 by William H. Willson, a former lay member of the Methodist mission. The gridiron plat was placed in parallel alignment with the Willamette River. At its center was a five-block corridor known as Willson Avenue which was reserved for public buildings befitting a future capital and seat of county government. At a perpendicular axis to the river, the mall, or open space corridor was so arranged that the capitol building would occupy the slightly higher ground at the head, where it would be opposed by the county courthouse at the foot. The Methodist Church and Willamette University's old Oregon Institute building (succeeded by University Hall) closely bordered Willson Avenue on the south. The core of Willson's town site reflected the fundamental part that the Methodist missionaries played in the founding and development of Salem.

The Methodists and supporters of their school were equally important figures in the organization of government in Oregon. A series of gatherings of male members of the Willamette Valley settlements had culminated in a pivotal meeting at Champoege on May 2, 1843, during which the French Canadians and American settlers and missionaries considered whether to organize for the protection of property through the enforcement of law and order. With a narrow majority, about fifty-two of those present voted for civil organization to provide for an orderly transition to the time when the United States would extend its jurisdiction over the Oregon Country. The provisional government of Oregon was organized at Oregon City at the Falls of the Willamette and was managed by executive committee and then by a governor through February 1849, by which time Oregon had been declared a Territory of the United States by act of Congress on August 14, 1848. The territorial government was organized upon the arrival of President Polk's appointed governor, General Joseph Lane, in Oregon City in March 1849. Marion County, before it was renamed by the Territorial Legislature in 1849 and subsequently subdivided, had been one of the vast original political districts (Champoege) delineated by the provisional government in 1843. The Territorial Legislature designated Salem the seat of county government.

Locating the seat of territorial government, on the other hand, proved controversial. Vying for status with the Methodist town site was Oregon City, which had been the seat of the provisional government. Even after Congress confirmed Salem as capital of the Territory of Oregon in 1852, there had been an attempt to relocate the government to Corvallis. While designation of the capital was disputed by supporters of the contending Willamette Valley settlements, the Territorial Legislature met in Salem, generally, from 1851 onward.³⁰ The *Oregon Statesman*, one of the early newspapers of the territory which was started in Oregon City in 1851, moved to Salem in 1853. The Territorial Legislature authorized construction of a capitol building on Block 84 at the head of Willson Avenue. The wood frame building stood for barely a year before it was destroyed by fire in 1855. A signal event of transition to statehood was the convention held at Salem in 1857 for the purpose of drafting the constitution, which was a prerequisite for Congress's admitting Oregon to the union of states. Sixty delegates representing each of the territory's county subdivisions participated in the deliberations.

For twenty years after the territorial capitol burned, the period which included achievement of statehood by act of Congress on February 14, 1859, the Oregon legislature was convened in rented rooms in commercial buildings near the Salem riverfront. Throughout this time, until the Oregon & California Railroad connected the city to the Columbia River and the developing transcontinental rail network beginning in 1870, Salem's competitive standing in commerce and manufacturing was assured by shipping on the Willamette River.

³⁰ Oregon achieved statehood by act of Congress on February 14, 1859. The State constitution fixed the location of the capital at Salem, but the controversy was not settled until Salem received a majority in a decisive vote of the people in June 1864.

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Salem's Early Community Burial Grounds

A map of the survey of claims in Township 7S, Range 3W of the Willamette Meridian, Oregon Territory filed with the Surveyor General's Office on February 5, 1852, shows the relationship of land claims surrounding the 65-block Willson plat of Salem. On the south edge of the town site was the claim of the Rev. David Leslie, who had been deputy superintendent of the Methodist mission under Jason Lee, and his wife Adelia.³¹ It was within the southwestern edge of Leslie's claim that the initial five acres would be purchased by Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Salem Freemasons for a community cemetery in 1854. In time, Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery became the final resting place of a significant number of the town founders, shapers of government, and builders of commercial and industrial enterprise.

The jurisdiction of Oregon Territory encompassed the present states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and portions of Montana and Wyoming west of the Rocky Mountains. The United States census for 1850 shows that the population of Oregon Territory was mostly concentrated in the lower Willamette Valley and areas on the north side of the Columbia River. The total enumeration was 12,093 individuals, of whom 11,873 were living in settlements south of the Columbia.³²

Salem in the territorial decade 1849-1859 was a churchly, interdependent community. Not until 1870 did the population of the capital exceed one thousand, and by that time the city of Portland at the mouth of the Willamette River had achieved its supremacy as Oregon's metropolis.³³ In Salem, much of what was accomplished for the public good before organization of state social institutions was the work of churches and the groups described as "secret and benevolent societies." Strongly associated with cemetery development in 19th century America as the nation pushed westward into territories open to new settlement, the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (Freemasons) and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) were organized in Salem at an early date. It was a charter obligation of such societies to provide for the last needs of their members, and it was often they who established the earliest community burial grounds.³⁴ They were not exclusive. To finance the acquisition of suitable land and support of a caretaker, lots were sold to any who cared to pay.

Odd Fellowship arose in 18th century England and was loosely patterned after medieval guilds which were organized for common support and advancement of their craftsmen. The American branch was founded in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1819 and spread throughout the country. The mother lodge of Odd Fellowship in Oregon was formed at Salem as Chemeketa Lodge No. 1 on December 6, 1852.³⁵

In accord with its charter obligation to bury the dead, Chemeketa Lodge No. 1 formed a committee to pursue acquisition of land suitable for a burial ground in April 1854, and a five-acre parcel on the west edge of the claim of David and Adelia Leslie was acquired on July 10 in partnership with the Salem Masonic Lodge. The lodges divided equally responsibility for the purchase price of \$125.00 and in the fall commenced clearing the ground for a survey that would be the basis for drawing a plat. When the Masons decided to withdraw from the partnership in May 1855, the Odd Fellows purchased their partners' interest and pressed forward independently. The first burial of a member of the I.O.O.F. was recorded in 1855.³⁶ Initially, burial lots were reserved for members of the founding societies, but sale of burial lots to the public was opened late in 1859

³¹ Donovan and Associates, *Salem Pioneer Cemetery Maintenance and Restoration Master Plan*, City of Salem Parks Operations Division, Department of Community Services, July 2004, pg. 3. David and Adelia Leslie's claim of 437.15 acres was filed in 1851 on a portion of the former Methodist mission claim.

³² William G. Robbins, *Landscapes of Promise: The Oregon Story 1800-1940* (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1997), 76. Other sources cite the Territorial enumeration for 1850 as 12,038.

³³ Decennial census of 1870. Salem city population given as 1,139.

³⁴ Donovan and Associates, *op. cit.*, p. 3. Odd Fellows charter obligations in the public spirit were to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphans.

³⁵ Larry Roby, "Odd Fellows marking 150 years," *Salem Statesman Journal*, May 22, 2002.

³⁶ Donovan and Associates, *op. cit.*, pgs. 3-4. The first Odd Fellow to be buried in the cemetery was David C. Raymond (b. 1832; d. July 18, 1855), Plot 006. His repaired marker still stands.

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after formal dedication of Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery had been celebrated on May 5 of that year.³⁷ The Odd Fellows kept accounts of their plot and individual grave lot transactions, and the deeds were recorded by Marion County.

Expansion of the cemetery followed in 1861 with the \$300.00 acquisition from E.M. Barnum of an additional eleven acres surrounding three sides of the original 210 plots and extending upslope to the west. The Lodge cleared oaks, firs, and underbrush to lay out the large new section and began employing a caretaker. The number of plots was now 960. Marion County commenced purchasing burial lots along the north edge of the grounds for infants, indigents, anonymous strangers, and inmates of state and local institutions who died without family to claim remains and arrange for interments.³⁸ With the introduction of additional carriage lanes having curved sections, the plat was taking on the aspects of a fashionable landscaped cemetery.

In the *Salem Directory for 1871*, the first directory published for the capital city, the compiler J. Henry Brown, a member of Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, described the aspiration of the Odd Fellows to pattern their cemetery after the models of the Rural Cemetery movement in the eastern United States, where the rural cemetery ideal was a park-like setting well apart from the town center, filled with stately monuments and situated to afford pleasing views of surrounding countryside. With the additional acreage on the ridge slope under development, Brown was confident in stating: "The Cemetery is being beautifully improved by the Order who have it in charge. In after times, we hope it will be to Salem as Greenwood Cemetery is to New York – a sweet resting place for her citizens after the toils and cares of life are over."³⁹

By the 1870s, the early-established societies had several chapters, or lodges, and many men of fraternal orders maintained memberships in more than one society. According to the "Societies" section of the *Salem Directory for 1874*, for example, there were at that time two bodies of Masons active in Salem, as well as five lodges of the I.O.O.F. including one, the Rebekahs, for women. There were also the Good Templars and men's and women's bodies of Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.⁴⁰ In the Odd Fellows cemetery a number of the monuments and substantial granite grave markers of fraternal men erected in the late 19th and early 20th centuries incorporated dual insignias of Masons and Odd Fellows, the common Masonic emblem being the square and compass with an all-seeing eye and the symbol of the I.O.O.F. being composed of three links of a chain representing the interlocking ideals of Friendship, Love, and Truth.⁴¹ [Photo 19]

Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery became the city's first focal point for observances of the national day of remembrance that had been proclaimed by General John A. Logan, commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in 1868 for fallen Union soldiers of the Civil War. In time, Decoration, or Memorial Day, May 30, came to honor all the nation's war dead. The *Daily Statesman* for Sunday, June 1, 1884, described the procession which formed at the town center before making its way south on Commercial Street. A detailed account was given of the proceedings, including prayers and addresses by Grand Army of the Republic Post officers and chaplain, musical selections from band and chorus, and scattering of flowers upon a symbolic grave.

Memorial Day was observed in Salem Friday with the usual parade and splendor.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ J.H. Brown, "Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery," *Salem Directory for 1871*, J. Henry Brown, compiler (Salem, Oregon: Snyder and Cook, publishers, 1871), 85. Green-Wood Cemetery, established in Brooklyn in 1839, was one of the model cemeteries that gave rise to the "rural" cemetery movement in 19th century America. Upon his death in 1898, Brown would be interred in Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery Plot 485. In his essay on Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery, pages 83-85, the compiler gave the date of purchase of the first five acres as 1853 and described the sixteen acres under I.O.O.F. ownership in 1871 as "enclosed by a substantial fence."

⁴⁰ *Salem Directory for 1874* (Salem, Oregon: E.M. Waite, Book and Job Printer, for E.M. Waite and W.P. Keady, Publishers, 1874), 56-59.

⁴¹ Douglas Keister, *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography* (Layton, Utah: Gibbs smith Publisher, 2004), p. 197.

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Promptly at the hour of one o'clock, the various societies assembled in their respective halls, and, after due preparation, began to assemble upon the streets. By the hour of two the column was formed on Commercial street, in front of Marion Square, in the following order:

Band,
Capital Guards,
Fire Department,
I.O.O.F. Lodges,
A.O.U.W. Lodge [Ancient Order of United Workmen],
Knights of Pythias,
Sedgwick Post No. 10, G.A.R.,
Thirteen girls in Liberty car,
Ladies Relief Corps in carriages,
State, County and City officers,
Citizens in carriages.

The procession then moved promptly up Commercial street to the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, where the exercises were held.⁴²

Ten years later, by which time the Capital City street car line on Commercial Street provided public transportation to the cemetery, it was noted by the *Weekly Oregon Statesman* that on Memorial Day "each urn upon the post of the iron fence bordering the front of Rural cemetery contained a bouquet."⁴³ In 1890, Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F. purchased a 0.38-acre strip of land along Hoyt Street from M.S. and Frances Matthews for \$138.00. The acquisition added sixty-four half-size plots described as the First Addition to the 16-acre plat of 1914 and brought the cemetery's total area to 17.05 acres. A plat of the First Addition was not filed until 1927.⁴⁴

In May of 1893, E.C. Cross, W.H. Holmes, and J.P. Frizzell, incorporators of City View Cemetery, purchased land adjoining the west boundary of Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery to lay out a neighboring burial ground which in its earliest-developed section continued the style of the older grounds but developed as a perpetual-care lawn cemetery in the 20th century. City View Cemetery claimed a generous acreage at the top of the ridge, which afforded views both east over the city and west over the Willamette River and foothills of the Coast Range beyond. A prominent feature of the new cemetery was the Grand Army of the Republic Circle laid out in three concentric circular "rows" for the burial of Civil War veterans of the Union Army. Patterned after the archetype at Gettysburg, the circle was placed on axis with the Rural Cemetery's central avenue. By the end of the decade, Memorial Day processions were making their way from Commercial Street up the central avenue of the older cemetery toward the ridge top to observances at the new focal point. By c. 1904, the G.A.R. circle was provided with its centerpiece, a cast-zinc statue of a Union soldier standing sentry on a high pedestal embellished with badges of the G.A.R. and its auxiliary, the Woman's Relief Corps.⁴⁵ Burial records show that several Union veterans interred in a plot in the Rural Cemetery purchased by Sedgwick Post No. 10 of the G.A.R. were re-interred after the commemorative circle was opened for use in City View Cemetery.⁴⁶

⁴² *Salem Daily Statesman*, June 1, 1884.

⁴³ *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, June 1, 1894.

⁴⁴ Donovan and Associates, *op. cit.*, p. 5. The filing date of the First Addition plat is given as 1926 in *Salem Pioneer Cemetery Maintenance and Restoration Master Plan*, but the surveyor's certificate was filed June 6, 1927 and recorded by the County Recorder on page 9, Book 12 of the Records of Town Plats on June 29, 1927.

⁴⁵ David C. Duniway, "Memorial Day Founded After Civil War," *South Salem Past: Illustrated Historical Essays* (Salem: Marion County Historical Society, 1987), 44.

⁴⁶ Plot No. 757 was purchased by Sedgwick Post No. 10, G.A.R. in or before the year 1891. After recovery of the remains of the six Union veterans buried there, the re-interments were carried out in the G.A.R. Circle at City View Cemetery and the vacated plot was deeded back to the I.O.O.F.

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Two other cemeteries were established in Salem in the 19th century. The first of these had origins contemporaneous with the founding of Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery but was not formally organized until fifteen years after the fraternal lodges started their enterprise on the southern outskirts of town. Meeting criteria considerations as the final resting place of a sizable concentration of missionaries, clergymen, educators, and lay leaders of the Methodist Episcopal Church on the West Coast, Lee Mission Cemetery at 2104 D Street NE in north Salem was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. The Reverend Josiah Parrish and his wife, Elizabeth Winn Parrish, acquired the easterly half of one of the Methodist missionaries' trust claims from which a parcel of 4.77 acres was deeded for a cemetery. The parcel is thought to have been in use informally as a burial ground as early as 1852 or 1853, but it was not constituted as a community cemetery before the Parrishes' donation and incorporation by a board of trustees acting under authority of the local conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in January 1869.⁴⁷

Lee Mission Cemetery was enlarged by addition of deeded and donated parcels until the cemetery reached its full extent of 15.67 acres in 1890. It occupies partially open, mostly level ground on which the oldest section is shaded by stately conifers and deciduous trees. The number of burials in the still-active cemetery is estimated to be 3,200. The distinctive feature of the otherwise conventional gridiron plat is the "Diamond Square," a square precinct turned on point, enclosed by a cast-iron railing and containing the graves of key members of the Methodist mission family, including founding mission superintendent Jason Lee, his first and second wives and his daughter, the first mission school teacher, Cyrus Shepard, and Gustavus Hines, preacher in charge of the mission's Willamette station at Chemeketa and director of the Indian Manual Labor Training School, as well as the initial cemetery donors Josiah and Elizabeth Parrish. Notable among the many Methodist pioneer figures interred elsewhere on the grounds are William Roberts, the last mission superintendent and organizer of the Oregon and California Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and James H. Wilbur, organizer of Methodist churches and academies in Oregon City, Portland, and the Umpqua region.

St. Barbara's Cemetery at the junction of Liberty Road SE and Missouri Street in south Salem, maintained by the Roman Catholic Parish of St. Joseph, was established between 1863 and 1867. It occupies a mostly open parcel of 3.34 acres bounded on its street fronts by a low brick wall that is augmented by boxwood hedges. The compact grounds, now filled to capacity, are covered with the varied grave markers of perhaps as many as 2,000 interments.

By the turn of the 20th century, I.O.O.F. lodges had established one or more cemeteries in thirty-three of the state's thirty-six counties.⁴⁸ An informal tally of I.O.O.F. cemeteries statewide shows that the I.O.O.F. was associated with some stage of development of as many as ninety-seven community burial grounds. Making allowances for those cemeteries for which the date of first burial is offered when the date of formal organization is unknown, it is plausible that where settlements had been established in the Willamette Valley and in southern Oregon at an early date, the Odd Fellows were the sponsors or co-sponsors of a number, perhaps as many as eight or ten community burial grounds opened for use in the 1850s. What the state's burial guides show without a doubt is that the I.O.O.F. "established more cemeteries in Oregon than any other fraternal society" and that the Masonic Order, of which the I.O.O.F. was an offshoot, was the next most industrious in that sphere.⁴⁹ Salem's Odd Fellows, having organized the region's mother lodge of Odd

⁴⁷ Charles Craft, Joseph Holman, Josiah L. Parrish, Isaac D. Driver, Luther F. Woodward, Charles Adams, M.L. Savage, Joseph Waldo, and A.F. Waller incorporated as "Lee Mission Cemetery" on January 5, 1869. Articles of incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State January 27, 1869. Corporation Records File 2806, Oregon State Archives.

⁴⁸ The present number of thirty-six Oregon political subdivisions was not reached until final subdividing created Jefferson County in 1914 and Deschutes County in 1917. Dorothy O. Johansen, "The Role of Land Laws in the Settlement of Oregon," *Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims Abstracted from Applications*, Vol. 1, Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon, 1957.

⁴⁹ Jeanne Gentry Robinson, compiler, *Visitors' Guide to Oregon Historic Cemeteries*, Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association, 1999. Dean H. Byrd, compiler; Stanley R. Clarke and Janice M. Healy, co-compilers, *Oregon Burial Site Guide* (Portland: Binford & Mort Publishing for Ruth C. Bishop and authors, 2001), xiii. The earliest I.O.O.F. cemeteries are found in Benton, Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, Lane, Polk, Wasco, Washington, and Yamhill counties as well as Marion County.

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Fellowship as early as 1852 and having launched their public enterprise in cooperation with the Masons in 1854, unquestionably were in the vanguard of community cemetery founders in Oregon.

The Movement for Public Oversight of Salem Pioneer Cemetery

Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows engaged a caretaker for the Rural Cemetery as early as 1868, but the longest-serving steward was James Plant, cemetery sexton for thirty-five years, from about 1909 to the time of his death and burial in the cemetery in 1944.⁵⁰ Although rare historic views of the cemetery show that there were caretaker's maintenance sheds on the grounds north of the central carriage drive, the sextons are believed to have lived off premises "nearby." *Polk's Salem City and Marion County Directory*, for example, listed James Plant and his wife Mary Ann as residents of 1548 Saginaw Street in 1924.

During the Second World War, the Odd Fellows found themselves strained in their cemetery care-taking efforts, particularly after the loss of their long-time sexton. The grounds slipped into a disordered state. Since 1900, the Salem Odd Fellows had occupied rooms in the Richardsonian Romanesque-style multi-use building erected by the mother lodge in the heyday of fraternal societies at High and Court streets across from the Marion County Courthouse. By 1946, in the same year the Rural Cemetery came into the city limits of Salem by annexation, Chemeketa Lodge No. 1 was compelled to explain its withdrawal from active part in keeping up the cemetery. In an open letter to the public published in the *Oregon Statesman*, the lodge pointed out that the cemetery was no longer a rural one, but now within the city limits and that the modern concept of perpetual care was never envisioned by the founders who had simply wished to respond to the settlers' urgent need for a dedicated place of burial.

...In those days the cemetery maintenance was simple; they set aside one day each year and the entire community with horses, wagons, picnic lunches and the children would go to the cemetery and spend the day in cleaning and beautifying the graves of relatives and friends and the cemetery in general... The actual cost in those days was nothing as they did the work themselves...

At the beginning all roadways and alleys... were immediately dedicated to the public. All through the past ninety years the Odd Fellows Lodge of Salem, without assistance from any other source, has endeavored to maintain these many miles of roadways and alleys. But nature's constant growth together with the accumulations caused by visitors create an increasing and never ending problem...

Records show that all lots in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, comprising sixteen grave spaces, were sold by the Lodge at an average price of \$20.00 per lot, or \$1.25 per grave. This project had been developed as a public spirited one with no thought of profit or remuneration for services rendered for anyone and the selling price of the property was determined to cover actual costs of that time. The records further show that by the year 1900 the Lodge had very little of its own property left for sale...

For a good many years the Odd Fellows Lodge of Salem has

⁵⁰ Donovan and Associates, *Salem Pioneer Cemetery Maintenance and Restoration Master Plan for the City of Salem Parks Operations Division* (July 2004), "Historic Context," page 5. Plant's long-missing journal, or burial register, was identified and donated to the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery in 2007. James and Mary Ann Plant are interred in NW¼ Plot 924 in Salem Pioneer Cemetery.

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returned back to the Cemetery all funds received from it and in addition have made many appropriations from their own funds for cemetery use. It is very disheartening, to say the least, to our organization which has fostered the cemetery for the public welfare for nearly a century, at no additional cost to the property owners and no contributions from any other source, to receive only condemnation and criticism...

Is there any other organization which has done as much for the Salem community and received so little credit?

We want it distinctly understood that there is no unfilled obligation on the part of the Odd Fellows Lodge to the community of Salem to continue to assume the maintaining of that rural cemetery originated ninety years ago by the public spirited men who started it and which was quite adequate to meet the needs of their time...⁵¹

The Lodge members' eloquent defense bordering on rebuke for ingratitude concerning the public spirit of their founding brethren did not satisfy the public's expectations for long, but it did make the point that descendants of the pioneers and the community at large had "a distinct obligation" to shoulder some responsibility. The Odd Fellows' open letter may have been a spur to formation of the Salem Pioneer Cemetery Association in December 1949. Among remedies advocated by the association was public ownership of the cemetery.⁵² The first step toward assignment of responsibility to local government was taken when a bill authorizing Marion County to take over the stewardship role was passed by the Oregon State Legislature.

Senator Fred Lamport of Salem, representing District 1, Marion County, introduced S.B. 225 to the Forty-sixth Legislative Assembly in February during the 1951 regular session.⁵³ The bill's purpose was to authorize Marion County "to acquire ownership and control of the Odd Fellows Cemetery" and to provide "for the care and preservation of said cemetery and the graves therein." The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Local Government and was reported back with a recommendation that it do pass.

S.B. 225 was read for the first time in the House of Representatives in March and referred to the House Committee on Local Government, where it was explained by Representative Roy L. Houck of Salem. The bill was reported back to the full body with a "do pass" recommendation which was adopted. The bill was signed into law by Governor Douglas McKay on March 17, 1951.⁵⁴

The county's response to the authority bestowed by the state legislature was largely ineffective for lack of funds. New legislation, S.B. 148, was introduced in 1953 to authorize the City of Salem to share in the responsibility.

When the Legislative Assembly was convened in regular session in 1953, Senator Lamport was joined in sponsorship of the new bill by his Senate colleague from District 1, Marion County, Douglas Yeater; and by Representatives W.W. Chadwick, Robert L. Elfstrom, Mark O. Hatfield, and Lee V. Ohmart, who constituted

⁵¹ An Open Letter to the Public Concerning the Odd Fellows Cemetery from Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Corner Court and High Streets, Salem, Oregon. *Oregon Statesman*, June 16, 1946.

⁵² Donovan and Associates, *Salem Pioneer Cemetery Maintenance and Restoration Master Plan for the City of Salem Parks Operations Division* (July 2004), "Historic Context," page 6.

⁵³ Senator Lamport was graduated from Willamette University with a law degree and became an officer of U.S. National Bank, Salem. His parents, Edward S. Lamport, a Civil War veteran and pioneer Salem harness & saddlery dealer, and Lillian Stevens Lamport, were interred in Pioneer Cemetery in 1912 and 1928, respectively, in Plot 888.

⁵⁴ State of Oregon Journals of the Senate and House, Forty-sixth Legislative Assembly, 1951 Regular Session. Minutes of the House Local Government Committee, March 12, 1951.

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the entire group of representatives of House District 12, all Salem men. This bill authorized Marion County and the City of Salem to jointly "acquire, own, control, operate, and maintain the Odd Fellows' Cemetery."

Upon the bill's being referred to the Senate Committee on Local Government, Senator Lamport, according to minutes of the meeting on February 9, explained: "Many outstanding pioneers of Oregon are buried in this cemetery which has become a neglected and unsightly property within the city." S.B. 148 was reported out with a "do pass" recommendation.⁵⁵

Representative W.W. Chadwick, chairman of the House Committee on Local Government, explained the background of S.B. 148 to his committee during a meeting on February 17.

...in 1951 Marion County was given authority to acquire the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Salem and to operate and maintain it. Since then the city and county want to go together on the project and in order to do this it is necessary to repeal the 1951 section and substitute the section contained in this bill.

The committee was made aware of the fact that in 1951 an enabling act allowing cities to control and operate cemeteries had been passed. It was decided to ask the Salem city attorney to appear at the next meeting.⁵⁶ When the House Committee on Local Government was reconvened on February 19, Salem City Attorney Chris J. Kowitz explained that, although there was enabling legislation allowing cities to operate cemeteries, there was no comparable enabling legislation allowing counties to do so. The county courts objected to having such authority in the belief that "every small cemetery association would then quit operating and the counties would have to take them over." In the case of the Odd Fellows Cemetery, he said, the Marion County Court had been willing to operate "this one cemetery" in cooperation with the City of Salem.⁵⁷ S.B. 148 was reported back with a "do pass" recommendation, and the bill was signed into law by Governor Paul Patterson on March 5, 1953.⁵⁸

Thereafter, until its repeal twenty-eight years later, ORS 226.480 pertaining to Parks, Memorials and Cemeteries, provided as follows:

Odd Fellows' Cemetery in Salem. Marion County and the City of Salem, acting by and through their respective governing bodies, hereby are vested with authority to jointly, in such manner as they shall agree upon, acquire, own, or to control, and to operate, maintain, care for, preserve and protect the Odd Fellows' Cemetery in Salem, Oregon, and to provide for the restoration of the grounds and the graves therein; and in case the county and city acquire the ownership of said cemetery, to sell unsold lots therein for cemetery purposes; and to appropriate and expend funds for any such uses.

As had been the case in 1951, the joint authority conferred on county and city by the 1953 legislative assembly was non-funded. At one point, a practical approach to ridding the grounds of a stubborn undergrowth of brambles and weeds and bringing the grass under control had been attempted. Sheep were pastured in fenced enclosures within the cemetery.⁵⁹ The experiment offended the I.O.O.F. and was derided in the press as an insensitive practice in a burial ground. It was given up, and the stewards thereafter relied upon inmate labor crews to clean up and maintain the grounds.⁶⁰

⁵⁵ State of Oregon Journals of the Senate and House, Forty-seventh Legislative Assembly, 1953 Regular Session. Minutes of the Senate Local Government Committee, February 9, 1953.

⁵⁶ Minutes of the House Local Government Committee, February 17, 1953.

⁵⁷ Minutes of the House Local Government Committee, February 19, 1953.

⁵⁸ State of Oregon Journals of the Senate and House, Forty-seventh Legislative Assembly, 1953 Regular Session.

⁵⁹ Donovan and Associates, *Salem Pioneer Cemetery Maintenance and Restoration Master Plan for the City of Salem Parks Operations Division* (July 2004), "Historic Context," page 6.

⁶⁰ Gladys Turley, "Pioneers' Sleep Disturbed by Sheep: Century-old cemetery at Salem became center of civic attention when woolly

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Meanwhile, during its annual meeting on May 18, 1953, held in the Salem City Council chambers with Roy V. Ohmart as recording secretary, the Salem Pioneer Cemetery Association voted to change the name of the cemetery from Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery to Salem Pioneer Cemetery and also to establish "some sort of an endowment trust fund" to attract donations and provide for "perpetual care" of the cemetery.⁶¹ Since the Pioneer Trust Company of Salem had consented to act as trustee, the association resolved to ask the Marion County Court and Salem City Council to pursue a trust agreement with Pioneer Trust Company accordingly.⁶²

Having effectively achieved its aims, the Salem Pioneer Cemetery Association dissolved in 1954.⁶³ On November 8, 1954, the Salem City Council passed Resolution No. 6546 which accorded with Oregon statute concerning caretaking authority. The resolution authorized creation of a trust fund for operation and maintenance of the cemetery. Rules governing management of the Salem Pioneer Cemetery Trust Fund were passed as Ordinance No. 4693 and thereby codified in the City Code of Salem.

A radical but necessary alteration of vehicle access to the cemetery was carried out in 1961 after the City Council charged an *ad hoc* committee with recommending a solution to traffic issues on South Commercial Street where the traditional entrance to the cemetery's central carriage drive was located. The Commercial Street entrance was closed, and traffic was routed up Hoyt Street to enter at the south end of the upper boundary lane.⁶⁴

Through the 1960s, the City of Salem, through the Regional Park and Recreation Agency, was essentially acting on its own in efforts to maintain the cemetery. The concluding sentence in text engraved by the Capital Monument Company for a granite interpretive sign supported by brick piers that has stood in the center of the cemetery for forty years or more asserts: "In 1966, the City of Salem assumed full responsibility for the operation."

In a memorandum to Acting City Manager Robert S. Moore on June 19, 1968, Charles Gale, Director of the Regional Park and Recreation Agency, provided an update for Mr. Moore's forthcoming report to the City Club. "In the coming year," Mr. Gale said, "we are budgeting approximately \$7,400 for maintenance of the cemetery." He described an initiative which the agency had undertaken to reduce maintenance costs.

For many years we have had a program of removing the old style raised curbing around each grave, which work is aimed at reducing mowing and edging costs. This of course, we can only do with the owner's written permission. Much of this work as well as other cemetery maintenance is performed by welfare crews and city prisoners.⁶⁵

flocks were turned loose this spring to graze among the ancient tombstones," *The Sunday Oregonian Magazine*, August 23, 1953, 2-3.

⁶¹ Roy V. Ohmart was the son of Adam and Velleda Smith Ohmart, who were interred in Salem Pioneer Cemetery Plot 033 in 1929 and 1943, respectively. On his mother's side, he was descended from Fabritus Smith and Virgilia Pringle, great granddaughter of Tabitha Brown, the "Pioneer Mother" figure of Oregon. Mr. Ohmart operated family farms south of Salem and was proprietor of a general store at Liberty before becoming office manager for the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill. Mr. Ohmart was interred in his parents' plot on his death in 1969. His son, Lee V. Ohmart, was among the four House members of the 1953 Legislative Assembly who co-sponsored S.B. 148.

⁶² Minutes, Annual Meeting of Salem Pioneer Cemetery Association, May 18, 1953, filed with City Recorder, May 27, 1953. The Trust Account of the 1950s is not to be confused with a subsequent endowment. The Pioneer Cemetery Endowed Fund of The Salem Foundation Charitable Trust, Pioneer Trust Bank, N.A., Trustee was established in 1999 under a three-party agreement between the City, Pioneer Trust Bank, and the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery. The present citizen support group regularly promotes contributions to the fund, the sizeable corpus of which provides the City with an annual distribution of proceeds.

⁶³ Donovan and Associates, *Salem Pioneer Cemetery Maintenance and Restoration Master Plan for the City of Salem Parks Operations Division* (July 2004), "Historic Context," page 6.

⁶⁴ Donovan and Associates, *Salem Pioneer Cemetery Maintenance and Restoration Master Plan for the City of Salem Parks Operations Division* (July 2004), "Historic Context," page 6.

⁶⁵ The practice was stopped eventually when it was recognized that removing plot-defining features made it difficult to identify burial lot locations, especially where grave markers also were missing.

⁶⁶ Donovan and Associates, *Salem Pioneer Cemetery Maintenance and Restoration Master Plan for the City of Salem Parks Operations Division* (July 2004), "Historic Context," page 7.

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Cemetery maintenance fell off again in the 1970s until, in 1977, the Marion County Board of Commissioners and the City of Salem obtained grant assistance to undertake a comprehensive clean-up operation.⁶⁶ But cemetery care continued to fluctuate thereafter.

Legislative authorization for local government involvement in caretaking at Salem Pioneer Cemetery remained in Oregon Revised Statutes until H.B. 2101 was introduced to the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly in the 1981 Regular Session. The Subcommittee on County Law Revision of the House Interim Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs recommended repeal of more than thirty statutes regulating matters of county concern. Enabling legislation of 1973 had given counties authority to pass their own ordinances regulating such matters. The Senate Committee on Local Government, Urban Affairs and Housing favored the argument for revision, and the bill was passed with its provision for repeal of thirty-eight statutes, including ORS 226.480, to take effect July 1, 1982.⁶⁷

Public concern over the level of cemetery care, together with rising incidents of vandalism, impelled a coalition of Salem Parks agency officials, owners of neighboring City View Cemetery, and citizen activists to organize in support of the city stewards in 1985. The Friends of Pioneer Cemetery had two main objectives: to firmly establish public ownership of the cemetery and to raise money to supplement the city's budgeted funds for cemetery care. On June 5, 1985, Marion County formally withdrew from the 1954 agreement it had entered into with the City of Salem to jointly maintain and operate Pioneer Cemetery in accord with ORS 226.480. The action was recognized by the city council during its meeting on July 22, 1985.⁶⁸

On approval of the city council and in fulfillment of the request of Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F., the City of Salem became owner of the cemetery in fee when title was transferred from the Odd Fellows to the city on February 3, 1986.⁶⁹ Salem's Parks and Recreation agency and the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery were thereby empowered to embark on a public-private partnership to ensure a more consistent and enduring program of managing and caring for the historic cemetery.

⁶⁷ Engrossed House Bill 2101, Oregon Legislative Assembly, 1981 Regular Session from House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs Exhibits. Chapter 48, Oregon Laws 1981.

⁶⁸ Staff Report on Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Robert L. Maxey, Director, Regional Park and Recreation Agency, through Russ Abolt, City Manager, to Mayor and City Council, for meeting of October 21, 1985. Report prepared by Gloria Lewton, Administrative Assistant III.

⁶⁹ Bargain and Sale Deed [conveying historic Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery, as described, to City of Salem], Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Salem, Oregon, grantor, executed February 3, 1986. Marion County Deed Records, Reel 446, Page 233.

⁷⁰ Harvey W. Scott, *History of the Oregon Country*, Leslie M. Scott, compiler, Six Vols. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Riverside Press, 1924), Vol. II, compiler's appendix, pg. 242. The year of Thurston's birth is cited in this and other histories as 1816 on the basis of Hubert Howe Bancroft's *History of Oregon*, Vol. II, 1848-1888 (San Francisco: The History Company, Publishers, 1888), 114. Bancroft based his date on a biographical manuscript provided to him by Thurston's widow. The date of birth given in Thurston's grave monument epitaph, however, is April 17, 1815. The difficulty in reconciling the discrepancy is that there appears to have been no vital record entered at his birthplace, Monmouth, Kennebec County, Maine. It is known that Samuel was the sixth of eight children born to Trueworthy Thurston (1778-1849) and Priscilla Royal Thurston (1779-1865). While in Congress, Thurston was enumerated *in absentia* in the U.S. Census of 1850 for the Territory of Oregon as head of a household in Linn City. He was listed as a lawyer, age 32, a record further at variance with reported birth years. Included in the Congressman's household were Thurston's wife, the former Elizabeth F. McLench (variant spelling is McClench), age 32, and children George H., age 4, born in Iowa, and Elizabeth, age 1 ½, born in Oregon Territory. Also in the household were Mrs. Thurston's brother, B.F. McLench, age 23, a machinist, and Robert Moore, 69, a farmer.

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A Statesman's *Eulogium*: The Territorial Legislature's Monument to Samuel R. Thurston

Samuel Royal Thurston, Oregon's first delegate to the Congress of the United States, was an overland pioneer of 1847 who established himself in legal practice, first at Oregon City, seat of the provisional government of the Oregon Country at the Falls of the Willamette River. He was a native of Monmouth, Maine, born April 17, 1815 or 1816, and had been educated at Maine Wesleyan Seminary and Bowdoin College, from which he had graduated in 1843.⁷⁰ After being admitted to the bar in Maine and thereafter removing to Iowa in 1845, he spent two years editing the Burlington *Gazette* before emigrating to Oregon. A momentous event shortly after his arrival in 1847 was the November massacre of Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and a dozen men and boys of their American Board of Foreign Missions station on the Walla Walla River in the present state of Washington. A force of militia from the Willamette Valley was dispatched by the Provisional Legislature to quell the Cayuse uprising.

Thurston, the new arrival, was elected to the last Provisional Legislature in 1848, the year gold was discovered at Sutter's sawmill on the east edge of California's Sacramento Valley. Special elections were called to fill vacancies created in the exodus to the California mine fields. Taking his seat in December, Thurston represented the district of Tuality (Washington County), west of the Willamette River, where he was then living. When the United States extended its jurisdiction to the Pacific Northwest by act of Congress on August 14, 1848, Oregon Territory was formed to embrace Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming west of the Rocky Mountains. The Provisional Legislature's final adjournment was two weeks before General Joseph Lane, President Polk's appointee as governor of Oregon Territory, arrived at Oregon City on March 2, 1849, to set up the new government.⁷¹

Upon his election as Oregon Territory's delegate to the Congress of the United States on June 6, 1849, Thurston was obliged to part from his wife in August and embark for Washington, D.C. Thurston had married the former Elizabeth F. McLench of Fayette, Maine, in 1844 or 1845 (sources vary). Their son George, as an infant, had accompanied his parents on the Oregon Trail.⁷² Thurston was about thirty-four years of age when he took his seat in the Thirty-first Congress on December 1, 1849, and he was an experienced exhorter from his early days at Wesleyan (Methodist) Seminary in Maine.⁷³ A Democrat, he was in tune with expansionist party leaders exemplified by Senators Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri and Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois and he had the advantage of their groundwork in developing policy concerning homestead grants for settlers. Though a non-voting member, Thurston became known for his shrewd and persevering advocacy for the Oregon Donation Land Act of 1850, which spurred immigration to the Territory dramatically before its provisions expired in 1855.⁷⁴

For early settlers in the Willamette Valley, securing title to the land for which they claimed right of ownership was crucial. In 1843, the provisional government sought to formalize settler land claims by means of Article 3 of the Organic Code which acknowledged claims of 640 acres and stipulated that no individual could hold more than one claim at the same time. The boundary treaty with Great Britain in 1846, which settled the dividing line between British and United States territory in the Pacific Northwest, recognized the right of native Indians to certain common lands used for subsistence and barred settlers from occupying such lands in Oregon unless they were ceded to the United States by treaty. In turn, the Oregon Territorial Act of 1848 also

⁷¹ Scott, *op. cit.* Vol. II, pgs. 24-25. George H. Himes, Introduction, "Diary of Samuel Royal Thurston," *Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, Vol. XV, No. 2 (June 1914), 153. Joseph Lane, a Democrat, was elected to succeed Thurston in Congress in 1851.

⁷² Himes, *op. cit.*; Comins, Howard McKinley, ed., *Dictionary of Oregon History* (Portland: Binford & Mort, 1956), 244.

⁷³ Montagu Colmer and Charles Erskine Scott Wood, *History of the Bench and Bar of Oregon* (Portland, Oregon: Historical Publishing Company, 1910), p. 279.

⁷⁴ William G. Robbins, *Landscapes of Promise: The Oregon Story 1800-1940* (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1997), 83. The author states that, at an estimate, between 25,000 and 30,000 immigrants, mostly of Euro-American descent, entered the territory in that five-year period, thus representing a population increase of nearly 300 percent.

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acknowledged that native people had right of title to traditional lands by virtue of prior occupancy unless that right had been "extinguished" by treaty.⁷⁵

When the territory sent its delegate to Congress in 1849, it was with the expectation that obstacles to the settlers' ability to claim land in Oregon Territory would be overcome. Accordingly, Thurston proceeded to secure passage of a bill considered the "first prerequisite step." The Indian Treaty Act addressed constitutional requirements for the transfer of Indian land titles by providing for the appointment of commissioners to negotiate treaties and, where possible, remove to reservations small tribes from public land west of the Cascade Mountains considered desirable for settlement.⁷⁶

Essential measures for Oregon which Thurston pressed through Congress included those authorizing establishment of post offices, mail routes, ports of entry, and lighthouses. Thurston secured an appropriation of \$100,000 for repayment of the territory's expense in waging the Cayuse war and passage of a bill establishing a pension agency for U.S. military veterans of the War of 1812.⁷⁷ But it was the Oregon Donation Land Act, passed in September 1850, that was the signal achievement. The act validated established settler land claims of 640 acres and stipulated that man and wife were entitled to equal shares of 320 acres each. For citizens arriving after 1850, the act provided for grants of 320 acres if the claim could be shown to have been occupied and improved through cultivation over four consecutive years. The act created the office of surveyor-general for the Territory of Oregon, under whose direction the necessary survey of public lands between the summit of the Cascades and the Pacific Ocean, and north and south of the Columbia River would be conducted.⁷⁸

In 1851, less than four years after the massacre of Marcus Whitman and his mission family at Wailatpu, Samuel Thurston left the national capital once Congress adjourned in early March to embark on his return to Oregon. The sea voyage entailed a crossing of the Isthmus of Panama that ultimately would make him too the object of solemn commemoration. Through arrangements made by William Slade, a former governor of Vermont and agent of the National Board of Popular Education, the Honorable S.R. Thurston was to accompany five young female teachers recruited for placement in schools in the lower Willamette Valley on a steamship departing from New York harbor on March 13. A memoir of the voyage written by one of the teachers, Miss Mary Gray, fifty years after the event gives a picture of Thurston's attention to the teachers' welfare as the travelers progressed across the isthmus by flatboat and donkey in tropical heat. At Panama, on the west coast, the first complaint of illness was noted by his traveling party. Thurston was noticed taking "minute doses of quinine" several times a day to no avail. Cholera and fevers were commonplace diseases in the region. But the diary Thurston kept while in Washington suggests that his health already had begun to break down under the relentless exertions of the previous year. The sea voyage aboard the steamer *California* was resumed on the Pacific on April 2. His condition worsening, the Congressman was assisted to the captain's stateroom on deck and died there at one o'clock on morning of April 9.⁷⁹

⁷⁵ Robbins, *Landscapes of Promise*, *op. cit.*, 84.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.* The author cites as the source of Thurston's quoted phrase, *Congressional Globe*, 31st Cong., 1st session (1850), 41D.

⁷⁷ Bancroft, *History of Oregon*, Vol. II, 1848-1888, *op. cit.*, 133, 134.

⁷⁸ The Donation Land Act contained a provision which appropriated property at Oregon City as a means of financing the Methodists' academic enterprise in Salem, namely, the Oregon Institute, which subsequently was chartered by the Territorial Legislature as Willamette University. The property had been claimed by Dr. John McLoughlin, Chief Factor of the British-backed Hudson's Bay Company Columbia District, who left Fort Vancouver for retirement at the Falls of the Willamette in 1846. McLoughlin was respected by many for having charitably received the arrival of missionaries and settlers into his fur-trading domain. He had become a citizen of the United States in 1849, but Section 11 of the act caused him to forfeit much of what he claimed. After McLoughlin's death in 1857, the state returned a portion of his claim to his heirs. *Dictionary of Oregon History*, *op. cit.*, 162. Harvey W. Scott, *op. cit.* pg. 242. The compiler, Leslie M. Scott, quotes the appraisal of F.V. Holman in *Dr. John McLoughlin: The Father of Oregon* (A.H. Clark Co., 1907), pp. 144-145: "Thurston was a man of ability, a fluent speaker, a profuse writer of letters, of untiring energy, but inclined to be vindictive, and was not careful about the truth of his statements concerning a person he opposed or disliked. He made quite a reputation during the short time he was in Congress. He was quite popular in Oregon, until his actions against Dr. McLoughlin became known. But for his actions against Dr. McLoughlin, his memory would, even now, be highly regarded in Oregon. The passage of the donation land law was largely due to his efforts." Author, lawyer and president of the Oregon Historical Society 1907-1910, Frederick Van Voorhies Holman was the son of J.D. Holman, postmaster at Oregon City at the time Thurston served in Congress.

⁷⁹ Mary A. Gray McLench, a statement dated March 7, 1901, and published as "Early Day Teachers" in *Ladd & Bush Quarterly*, Vol. III,

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Because he was a public figure, Thurston had not been buried at sea, explained Mary Gray McLench, but was instead "enshrined" in a United States flag and taken ashore at Acapulco the following day. His body was placed in a coffin that had been prepared on shipboard and was laid to rest in a burial ground about a mile from shore with the Oregon-bound men bearing witness.⁸⁰ During a voyage in August 1852, Portland mercantilist William H. Barnhart, while his steamer was stopped at Acapulco to take on coal, troubled to seek out Thurston's burial place with the help of the only informant who could be found at the place who had witnessed the burial the year before and therefore could point out the unmarked grave. Barnhart enlisted help in marking the grave with a stone and, in a letter dated August 9, he appealed to authorities in Oregon for removal and re-interment of the Congressional delegate's remains while the location of the grave could be confidently identified.⁸¹ When the movement for return and re-interment of Oregon's fallen public servant came into focus, it was Thurston's brother in law, B.F. McLench, who would dutifully carry out the challenging task of the removal from Acapulco.⁸²

The Territorial Legislature had passed a bill on January 16, 1852 that provided for the re-interment of Thurston's remains "in Oregon soil" and appropriated \$1,500 to cover the expense. Commissioners appointed to direct the process were Adam Van Dusen, Astoria; William M. King, Portland; and William H. Willson, Salem. The remains arrived at Portland on March 3, 1853, and funeral observances were conducted at Salem's original Classical Revival-style Methodist Episcopal Church building at Church and State streets under auspices of the Territorial Legislature on April 12.⁸³ The *Weekly Oregon Statesman* reported "a large concourse of people in attendance," including a procession of territorial officers headed by Governor John P. Gaines, territorial commissioners for the return and re-interment, the committee for funeral arrangements, the Odd Fellows Society, Sons of Temperance, family, friends, and the public.⁸⁴ The Hon. Delazon Smith delivered the funeral oration, and the coffin was deposited in ground behind the church. Because official observances had taken place on this occasion, the final reburial in Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery in 1856 "was done without public ceremony."⁸⁵

In an appreciation published in *Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association* for 1894, Mrs. W.H. Odell, the former widow of Hon. Samuel R. Thurston, expressed a naturally appreciative view of the Congressman's actions during his fifteen months in Washington that had been widely shared forty years earlier by the generation of settlers who laid the foundation for a prosperous state. "His remains now repose in the Odd Fellows cemetery at Salem, the capital city," she said, "beneath a monument erected by the people whom he served. His death was a painful bereavement to his family and a great loss to Oregon. He was cut down in early manhood while his well deserved laurels were yet green, but his noble services for the land to which he gave his life have erected for him a monument more enduring than marble."⁸⁶

No. 2 (January 1916), 2-10. In Oregon, Miss Gray was befriended by Thurston's widow, the former Elizabeth F. McLench, and married Thurston's brother-in-law, B.F. McLench, c. 1852. "Diary of Samuel Royal Thurston," *Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, Vol. XV, No. 2 (June 1914), 196 ff.

⁸⁰ Mary A. Gray McLench, *op. cit.*, pg. 5.

⁸¹ W.H. Barnhart, a letter addressed to unnamed authority in Oregon at Acapulco, Mexico, August 9, 1852, published in *Ladd & Bush Quarterly*, Vol. III, No. 2 (January 1916), 22.

⁸² Mary A. Gray McLench, *op. cit.*, p. 9.

⁸³ George H. Himes, Introduction, "Diary of Samuel Royal Thurston," *Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, *op. cit.*, p. 154.

⁸⁴ *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, April 16, 1853, 2:3. The funeral procession formed "at Boon's building" on North Mill Creek "at 10 o'clock." John D. Boon, a Methodist minister, was one of the six members of the committee of arrangements. In 1855 he was elected Territorial Treasurer. The opening prayer of the exercises was given by the Rev. Francis S. Hoyt, principal of the Methodists' Oregon Institute. A benediction at the grave was delivered by "the Rev. Father Leslie," the former missionary figure and a founding trustee of the Institute. Upon David Leslie's claim in south Salem the Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery was soon to emerge. Thurston was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His Washington diary entry for March 30, 1850, noted: after "preparing some law for a speech in support of the Oregon Land bill," in the evening "I went to the lodge and took three degrees in Odd Fellowship." "Diary of Samuel Royal Thurston," *op. cit.*, p. 193.

⁸⁵ Mary A. Gray McLench, *op. cit.*, p. 9. The joint resolution respecting the final re-interment of the remains of Hon. Samuel R. Thurston was passed January 9, 1858. *Oregon Statesman*, January 19, 1858, 1:4.

⁸⁶ Mrs. W.H. Odell, "Hon. Samuel R. Thurston," *Transactions of the Twenty-Second annual Reunion of the Oregon Pioneer Association for 1894* (Portland, Oregon: Geo. H. Himes and Company, 1895), 73. In her memoir, Mary A. Gray McLench, *op. cit.*, 9-10, remarked that Elizabeth McLench Thurston received an appointment as preceptress at the Methodist Oregon Institute in Salem in

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Leading the actions taken to honor the memory of Oregon Territory's first delegate to Congress had been the naming of Thurston County, a political subdivision created on January 12, 1852, and for which Olympia (Washington) would be the government seat.⁸⁷ But in consideration of the delegate's sacrificial service, erecting a statesman's monument was held fitting by the public and Thurston's colleagues in the Democrat-dominated legislature. The enabling act was passed on January 30, 1855.⁸⁸

AN ACT for the erection of a monumental stone to be placed at the head of the grave of the late Hon. Sam'l R. Thurston.

Whereas, the people of Oregon feel deeply grateful for the valuable and most successful services of the late Hon. Samuel R. Thurston whilst representing them as their delegate in the Congress of the United States.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oregon, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Territorial Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of eight hundred dollars, to be applied to the purchase of a slab or slabs of suitable stone or other monumental material, and the chiseling, cutting or tracing such monumental inscription and device as may be deemed suitable upon such monumental stone, and the erection of the same at the head of the grave of the Hon. Samuel R. Thurston.

Section 2. That L.F. Grover, Joseph G. Wilson, of Marion county, and Delazon Smith, of Linn county, be and they are hereby appointed a board of commissioners whose duty it shall be, and they are hereby authorized and required to select suitable material for, and to superintend and direct the completion and erection of the monumental stone, as hereinbefore provided – Provided that the cost of said monumental stone when completed and erected, shall not exceed the sum of eight hundred dollars.

Section 3. That the commissioners, by this act created, shall report their proceedings at the next Legislative Assembly.

Section 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Passed January 30, 1855.

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original act.

Victor Trevitt, Clerk

The legislative board of commissioners appointed to oversee selection of suitable material and completion of a grave monument was composed of Lafayette Grover and Joseph G. Wilson of Marion County and Delazon Smith of Linn County. J.G. Wilson had married one of the teachers whom Thurston had been escorting to Oregon in 1851. Grover, another native of Maine, and Smith were fellow Democrats. Smith eventually founded the *Albany Democrat*, an accomplishment that had its parallel in Thurston's recruiting Asahel Bush of Massachusetts in 1850 to establish the Democratic-leaning *Oregon Statesman* at Oregon City.

The Thurston monument board of commissioners was engaged in its task for about a year and a half, and by the time the monument was completed, arrangements had been made with Chemeketa Lodge No. 1 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for a select grave lot at the foot of the median of the central carriage drive of the newly-platted Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery overlooking the distant town and surrounding valley. The

1853 and served in that capacity for two years before resigning to become the wife of W.H. Odell. The Thurstons' daughter, Elizabeth, became the wife of A.W. Stowell.

⁸⁷ Harvey W. Scott, *op. cit.* Vol. II, p. 183.

⁸⁸ The full text of the act was published on page 1 of the *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, Vol. 5, No. 1, March 20, 1855.

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appropriation was not to exceed \$800.00 to cover purchase and working of the monumental material and installation of the finished piece.

On March 4, 1856, the *Oregon Statesman* printed the full text of the monument board of commissioners' detailed report to the legislative assembly. The report revealed a sensible consultation with Thurston's widow, who stated a preference for Oregon monumental stone if possible. The commissioners pursued the proposal submitted by stone cutters Roberts & Shartle of Portland. Joseph Wilson visited the shop to review examples of the partners' craft and noted there a work in progress that was of similar scale and quality to what was envisioned for the Thurston monument. An agreement was signed on August 6, 1855, which was predicated on the expectation that a stone of good quality could be found locally. Roberts had examined quarries near Portland and in Marion and Polk counties. The selected site in the Santiam hills proved to be insufficient in extent. The agreement was abandoned; general specifications were agreed upon verbally, and the firm was instructed to order stone from Vermont, the country's dominant source for fine building and monumental marble.

In its 1856 report, the board of commissioners described a monument on which to display epitaph and devices that was "ten feet two inches" in height, but it was to be set upon a base of local stone that would increase the overall height to "between eleven and twelve feet." The component parts of the marble assembly consisted of a base one foot thick and three feet square. Atop this was to be a pedestal 20 inches square and three and a half feet high. The pedestal would carry "the national shield" and a scroll for carvings and inscriptions to be selected. The pedestal would bear an eight-inch-thick cap "with heavy mouldings on the edge," and standing on it "a column 16 inches in diameter and five feet high."⁸⁹ The commissioners' report shows that the general outlines of the monument and its scale were well in mind for purposes of ordering the marble. The essential differences in execution were the substitution of a tapered shaft in place of a column, and addition of a standardized terminal feature, a cinerary urn draped with pall which added a foot or more to the overall height. The white Vermont marble (subsequently reported to have been Italian marble) was of fine quality and the iconographic program on pedestal and shaft was coherent and well executed. The east side of the beveled top face of the marble base was signed "Roberts & Shartle, Portland" in discreet, open-face lettering in the shallow incising technique known in the trade as skin carving. The cinerary urn has long been missing, but an early 20th-century photograph showing the grave lot set off by a low post-and-chain enclosure documents the stately presence of the completed work.⁹⁰ [Fig. 9]

The Congressman's final re-interment appears to have been carried out by May 20, 1856, on which date the *Weekly Oregon Statesman* described the finished monument and reported its having been "erected in the Rural Cemetery." The work of Roberts & Shartle in the "Gothic style" was credited for bearing "evidence of taste and skill." The monument had been delivered to Salem about three weeks earlier, complete except for the "inscription," or epitaph, which the board of commissioners, perhaps, was at the time still involved in composing.⁹¹ In the matter of payment for their work, the stone cutters, it appears, were obliged to wait for some time. The *Weekly Oregon Statesman* informed readers that in January 1857, Delazon Smith submitted a report of the board of commissioners for the Thurston monument which was referred for consideration along with a bill for remuneration for "the builders," Roberts & Shartle. Compensation for the stone cutters was once more presented as an appeal for relief to the successor legislative assembly in January 1858.⁹²

In the years following the final re-interment of Samuel Thurston, the territorial monument was surpassed by grander and more elaborate monuments across the Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery grounds. Even though it lacks its crowning element to retain the loft of "between eleven and twelve feet," the monument remains

⁸⁹ Memorial of Commissioners to superintend the erection of a Monument over the grave of Hon. Samuel R. Thurston. To the Honorable Legislative Assembly of Oregon Territory. Reproduced in full, page 1, *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, Salem, March 4, 1856.

⁹⁰ The best documentary photograph of the Thurston Monument accompanies Mary A. Gray's memoir in *Ladd & Bush Quarterly*, Vol. III, No. 2 (January 1916), p. 5.

⁹¹ *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, April 1, 1856, 2:4. *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, May 20, 1856, 2:1.

⁹² *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, January 27, 1857, p. 1. *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, January 26, 1858, p. 2.

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arresting in its situation at the prow of the central drive median as a feature set apart and yet close in the midst of graves of those whose lives had intersected with Thurston's. The marble is handsomely worked in the Classical style with a few Gothic ornamental motifs. The pedestal is embellished with corner pilasters with caps and a frieze of rosettes. Atop its cap or cornice rests an ogee cushion block which effects the transition to the tapered shaft that once carried the pall-draped cinerary urn. Each face of the shaft is a sunken panel, and centered in the south panel is a winged hour glass in low relief. [Photo 6]

The east face of the pedestal is embellished with a pair of Gothic trefoil arches between the pilaster caps and frieze. The field between the corner pilasters displays relief carving of the scroll described in the proposal and upon the scroll is carved the legend: "THURSTON. Erected by the People of Oregon." The iconographic devices ultimately chosen to accompany the scroll are a finely-detailed great seal of Oregon Territory and a broken column representing the earthly life interrupted. Thurston's epitaph appears on north and south faces of the pedestal. On the north are inscribed the words: "Hon. Sam'l R. THURSTON. Born in Maine, April 17, 1815. Died Off Acapulco, Apr. 9, 1851." On the south, the epitaph is completed as follows: "Here rests Oregon's first Delegate, a man of genius and learning, a Lawyer and Statesman. His christian [sic] values equaled his wide philanthropy, his public acts are his best eulogium." [Photo 7]

In advance of Memorial Day season, on May 11, 1991, a delegation from the state of Washington representing the Thurston County Historic Commission, the Thurston County Board of Commissioners, and Evergreen State College arrived at the grave site to dedicate a low bevel marker of marble commemorating the naming of Thurston County in the Congressional delegate's honor in 1852. [Photo 5] During the ceremony, it was noted that Thurston's work in Congress secured two significant developments for the county in Washington, namely, a post office at Nisqually in 1850 and designation of Olympia as a port of entry in 1851.⁹³

Representative Noteworthy Figures Interred

Mission Period and Provisional Government Era 1834-1849

David Leslie (b. New Hampshire 1797; d. 1869), Plot 135.

Methodist minister, educated at Wilbraham Academy in Massachusetts. Arrived in Oregon in 1837 in the second contingent of initial reinforcements for the Methodist mission founded in 1834 on the Willamette River ten miles north of Salem by the Rev. Jason Lee. Leslie was deputy superintendent under Lee and, beginning in 1841, took a leading role in meetings of settlers that led to formation of the provisional government of Oregon in 1843. He served as chaplain of the first provisional legislative assembly while pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church in Oregon City. After the mission headquarters had been removed to Chemeketa (Salem) in 1841, the mission was reorganized and subsequently disbanded. He claimed land at the south edge of the town site developed by former missionaries and settled there. He was a founding trustee of the Methodists' academic enterprise, the Oregon Institute, later chartered as Willamette University, and headed the school's governing board to the time of his death. Notable accompanying interments are those of his missionary wives: **Mary A. Kinney Leslie** (b. 1804) of Massachusetts who died at the original mission site on Mission Bottom in 1841 and was later re-interred at Salem, and **Adelia Judson Olley Leslie** (1812-1890) of New York, a widowed member of the Methodist mission's great reinforcement of 1840. Rev. Leslie and his second wife had two daughters who died in childhood in 1853 and 1854. Seemingly, the children's were among the earliest burials in the cemetery established on the southwestern corner of the Leslies' claim.

Lewis Hubbel Judson (b. New York 1809; d. 1880), Plot 306.

Millwright for the Methodist mission and participant in formation of the Provisional government. Arrived in Oregon with the mission's great reinforcement of 1840. Judson was active in the organization of the Oregon

⁹³ Samuel Thurston gravestone dedication program, Pioneer Cemetery, Salem, Oregon, 2:00 p.m., May 11, 1991.

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Institute in 1842 and voted at the settler's convention of May 2, 1843, at Champoeg during which it was decided to form a provisional government. He was elected one of the government magistrates. When the mission was reorganized in 1844, Judson bought the mission sawmill and associated grist mill at Chemeketa (Salem) and operated them for a time as a commercial enterprise. He created the diversion ditch from the Santiam River that provided Salem with a raceway for water-powered industrial development. He surveyed and staked the tracts of land that were held in his name and those of three other mission members so that land required for the mission would be protected as incoming settlers arrived to take up claims. He served several years as a circuit rider for the Oregon Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Notable accompanying interment: **Elmira Roberts Judson** (1811-1844), Lewis Judson's first wife, member of the Methodist mission and mother of four children, the youngest of whom had been born at the mission and after his mother's death was raised by his aunt, Adelia Judson Leslie.

William H. Willson (b. New Hampshire 1805; d. 1856), median plot between Plots 015 and 016. Lay missionary recruited for the Methodist mission as a carpenter. Arrived with the initial reinforcing party's first contingent in 1837. Studied medicine during the voyage to Oregon with the party's leader, Dr. Elijah White, and thereby gained an informal title of address as doctor. After being sent to preach at a satellite station at Nisqually in the Puget Sound region, he returned to the Willamette Valley. He was active in forming the provisional government of Oregon in 1843 and was elected first treasurer. After the mission's reorganization, he platted the town site of Salem. The plat of 1846 included tracts reserved for the placement of government buildings on a mall known as Willson Avenue. Willson Park, making up the west grounds of the capitol building site, was named in honor of the town site proprietor's aspiration and foresight. A notable accompanying interment is that of **Chloe Aurelia Clark Willson** (1818-1874), a native of Illinois educated at Wilbraham Academy in Massachusetts, who was the missionary teacher whom Willson married in 1840. She became the first instructor of the Oregon Institute which was founded by the Methodists for settler children and re-opened in 1844 in the mission's former Indian Manual Labor Training School at Chemeketa (Salem). She continued her service as preceptress after the Institute was chartered as Willamette University in 1853.

Joseph Holman (b. Devonshire, England 1815; d. 1880), Plot 094. English émigré at the age of nineteen. Inspired by a lecture delivered by the Rev. Jason Lee during the missionary's promotional tour of Methodist conferences in the East, Holman arrived in Oregon overland in 1840 and became a lay worker and carpenter at the original Methodist mission station on Mission Bottom. He and missionary teacher Almira Phelps were married in 1841, the year mission headquarters was relocated to Chemeketa (Salem). In the post-mission period Holman raised purebred sheep and was an organizer of two important early Salem industries: the Willamette Woolen Manufacturing Company, which introduced the mechanized woolen industry to the Pacific Coast, and the Pioneer Oil Works, which produced linseed oil from flax seed. He was a trustee of Willamette University, commissioner of the new state penitentiary, and the builder of the Holman block at Ferry and Commercial Streets where State legislative assemblies met from 1860 to 1874, before construction of a capitol was authorized and the state house was opened for use. A notable accompanying interment is that of **Almira Phelps Holman** (1814-1874) of Massachusetts, who was educated at Wilbraham Academy. The first wife of Joseph Holman was a member of the Methodist mission's great reinforcing party of 1840. In the post-mission period she was active in support of Salem's Methodist Episcopal Church, Willamette University, and the Orphans' Home.

Territorial Period 1849-1858

Samuel R. Thurston (b. Maine 1815/1816; d. 1851), median plot between Plots 085 and 086. Lawyer Samuel Royal Thurston was educated at Maine Wesleyan Seminary and graduated in law from Bowdoin College in 1843. He married Elizabeth F. McLench of Maine and removed to Iowa in 1845. He arrived in Oregon overland with wife and infant son in 1847, settling first in Oregon City. He was elected to the last provisional government legislature in 1848. After the territorial government was established in 1849, he was elected Oregon's first delegate to the Congress of the United States. His term of fifteen months in the Thirty-first Congress was marked by vigorous promotion of Oregon interests, ranging from designation of mail

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routes and ports of entry to passage of a bill to repay the territory's cost in prosecuting the Cayuse Indian war. His primary achievement was maneuvering for passage of the Oregon Donation Land Act of 1850, which spurred immigration to the territory dramatically. Returning from Washington, D.C. in 1851, Thurston died at the age of thirty-five aboard the steamer *California* bound from Panama to Oregon. He was buried at Acapulco on the west coast of Mexico. The Territorial Legislature authorized recovery of his remains for re-interment in Oregon and, subsequently, erected a monument to mark his final resting place in Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery in the capital city.

Asahel Bush (b. Massachusetts 1824; d. 1913), Plot 066.

Newspaper publisher influential in partisan politics. At the age of twenty-six, Asahel Bush II arrived in Oregon Territory by sea via the Isthmus of Panama in 1850 by arrangement with Samuel Thurston, Congressman from Oregon, who aimed to have a Democrat-leaning newspaper established in the territory as a counterbalance to Whig papers. From his youth as a printer's apprentice, Bush gained experience in writing for and editing newspapers. He also read law and had been admitted to the bar in Massachusetts. Bush printed the first edition of the *Oregon Statesman* at Oregon City on March 28, 1851. After the territorial government relocated to Salem, and despite lingering controversy over fixing the seat, Bush moved the paper to Salem in 1853. There, in 1854, he married **Eugenia Zieber**, daughter of his printer. He served eight years as territorial printer and was the first public printer under Oregon state government. His outspokenness and unsparingly pointed exchanges with editors of Whig papers such as the Portland *Oregonian* characterized editorial journalism of the period which came to be known as the "Oregon style." On the issue of whether to admit prospective new states such as Oregon to the Union as free states or slave states, Bush sided with the anti-slavery faction that split the Democratic Party. Although not a delegate, Bush exerted influence as a member of the so-called "Salem Clique" on the convention of 1857 in Salem, which produced a constitution for approval of the electorate that banned slavery and at the same time excluded free African Americans. Bush sold his paper the year of his wife's death in 1863 and engaged in commerce and finance. In 1869, the city's leading financial institution was formed by Bush and William S. Ladd of Portland as Ladd & Bush Bank. He served a four-year term, half without pay, as Superintendent of the State Penitentiary after being appointed in 1878 and remained active in Democratic Party politics into the 1890s.

John Pollard Gaines (b. Virginia 1795, d. 1857), Plot 056.

John Pollard Gaines was appointed by President Zachary Taylor as governor of Oregon Territory to succeed Joseph Lane. A Whig appointee in a predominantly Democratic jurisdiction, Gaines bucked partisan antipathy and was drawn into the controversy over designating the territorial capital at Salem, which he opposed. Gaines had been a seventeen-year-old volunteer in the War of 1812, and in 1846, during the Mexican-American War, he held the rank of major in the Kentucky Cavalry. Having studied law, he had represented Boone County in the Kentucky Legislature before being elected to the Thirtieth U.S. Congress of 1847-1849. Gaines was still in Washington, D.C. when Samuel Thurston, Oregon's first delegate to Congress, arrived for the first session of the Thirty-first Congress and therefore was able to meet the freshman representative and accompany him to relevant appointments. The territory was headed by an acting governor for two months while Gaines and his family completed their voyage to the Pacific coast around the tip of South America. The governor and his lady, the former **Elizabeth Kinkead** (1800-1851) of Kentucky, whom he married in 1819, arrived in Oregon on August 18, 1850. A year later, Mrs. Gaines died of injuries from a horse-riding accident on Clatsop Plains. Her associated box tomb in the cemetery is covered by a fine marble ledger. At the end of his term in 1853, the governor remarried and settled into developing his claim on the southern outskirts of Salem where he raised the purebred Durham cattle that he introduced to the territory.

Reuben P. Boise (b. Massachusetts 1818; d. 1907), Plot 099.

Long-serving justice of the Supreme Court of Oregon and circuit court judge, Reuben Patrick Boise was an 1843 graduate of Williams College and studied law in the office of his uncle, Patrick Boise, in Westfield, Massachusetts, at the same time Asahel Bush was reading there. The two law students eventually became allies in the partisan politics of Oregon Territory. Boise was admitted to the bar in his native state in 1848. In 1850 he emigrated to Oregon via the Isthmus of Panama route. He established a legal practice in Portland

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and settled a land claim in Polk County which he continuously maintained. In 1853 Boise was elected one of three commissioners to compile Oregon's first code of laws. In 1854 he was elected to his first of two terms in the territorial legislature and moved to the capital, Salem, in 1857. In the same year he served as Polk County delegate to the convention called to frame a state constitution. He headed the Constitutional Convention's committee on legislation. With the transition to statehood underway in 1858, Boise was appointed to the Supreme Court of Oregon, which body he served from 1858-1870 and 1876-1880, presiding as chief justice 1862-1864 and 1867-1870. On his retirement as circuit judge of the third judicial district at the age of eighty-six in 1904, Boise pursued his varied commercial interests. An early advocate of local industry, he had organized the Ellendale Mill Company, the woolen manufacturing enterprise which operated in Polk County 1866-1871. He was a supporter and trustee of numerous educational institutions, including Willamette University. Boise was twice married and raised three sons by first wife **Ellen F. Lyon** of Boston and two daughters by second wife **Emily A. Pratt** of Webster, Massachusetts.

John D. Boon (b. Ohio 1817; d. 1864), Plot 040.

Territorial and State Treasurer of Oregon, John Daniel Boon was a native of Athens County, Ohio, who emigrated overland to Oregon with his wife, the former **Martha Hawkins**, and seven children in 1845. Experienced as a Wesleyan Methodist preacher, he sought work with the Methodist mission, then undergoing reorganization. Boon became a hand at the sawmill and grist mill property on Mill Creek in Salem which had passed from the mission into private ownership. In the owner's absence, Boon had charge of the property, including the "mill house" once occupied by missionaries, and operated there a general store. Since Boon acted as a private banker for those who entrusted their money to him, his reputation for integrity commended him for election as treasurer by the Territorial Legislature, which began meeting in Salem in December 1851. Boon served from December 16, 1851, to March 1, 1855; was re-elected by the legislature after an intervening appointment, and served from January 10, 1856, to March 3, 1859. His role seamlessly spanned the transition to statehood after he won the office in general election in 1858. He served as State Treasurer to September 8, 1862. As reported by the *Oregon Statesman* on April 16, 1853, the funeral procession for the Hon. Samuel R. Thurston, Oregon Territory's Congressional delegate, formed at "Boon's Building" and proceeded to the Methodist Church with John D. Boon as one of six active pall bearers. In 1856, Boon donated the island tract in Mill Creek for construction of a plant for the Willamette Woolen Manufacturing Company, for which he was the organizing treasurer. In 1860, the merchant-treasurer erected on Liberty Street nearby a two-story brick building in which he conducted the state's business along with his commercial enterprise. Boon's brick store at 888 Liberty Street NE (NRIS 75001590) is the rare building associated with Oregon Territorial government standing in Salem.

Harvey Gordon (b. Indiana 1828; d. 1862), Plot 098.

Artistic designer of the seal of the State of Oregon, Harvey Gordon, was a native of Vernon, Indiana. After gaining experience as a surveyor, he arrived in Oregon with his father Hugh and family in 1846 at the age of eighteen, having followed the southern immigrant route into the Willamette Valley established by pathfinders Levi Scott and Jesse Applegate. Gordon settled in Molalla, in Clackamas County, and worked in surveying until he was lured to California after gold was discovered on the south fork of the American River in January of 1848. On returning from a profitable sojourn in the gold fields, he resumed his customary work and was attached to the Oregon land survey in 1853-1855. He married the former Sarah Victoria Stratton in 1855, and the couple settled in Salem, where they lived near the territorial capitol, which burned shortly before its completion the night of December 29 of that year. Gordon, having assisted the Librarian of the Territory in labeling books and hanging maps in the library room on the afternoon of the fire, gave sworn testimony concerning conditions at the building as he had observed them. Delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1857 authorized a committee to seek a device for the seal of the prospective State of Oregon. The emblem that Gordon proposed was accepted, embellished slightly, and officially adopted by the legislature after Oregon was admitted to the union of states on February 14, 1859. Harvey Gordon acquired a part interest in Asahel Bush's capital city paper, the *Oregon Statesman*, and acted for a time in the capacity of editor. In June 1862, Gordon was elected State Printer but died in July at the age of thirty-four before he was scheduled to

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take office. He was buried in the Rural Cemetery with Masonic rites. His headstone is distinguished by elaborately carved Masonic iconography.

Tabitha Moffatt Brown (b. Massachusetts 1780, d. 1858), Plot 044.

Co-founder of an Oregon boarding school for orphaned immigrant children, Tabitha Brown had turned to teaching as a means of support when the father of her small children, the Reverend Clark Brown, an Episcopal minister, died in 1817. Years later, in 1846, at the age of sixty-six, Tabitha accompanied her grown children on the Oregon Trail with elder son Orus leading the wagon train. At Fort Hall on the Snake River in Idaho, the party was persuaded to follow a less-tested southern route into the Willamette Valley, which caused severe hardship. Her married children settled at various places. At West Tualatin (present day Forest Grove), where Orus was living, Tabitha gathered together a group of orphans of overland immigrants and commenced to teach them in the church pastored by the Reverend Harvey Clark, a Congregational minister who, with his wife, had been an early arrival of 1840. Having participated in the settlers' convention at Champoeg in 1843, Clark was named chaplain of the first provisional government legislature. From their improvised beginning, Brown and Clark established in 1849 the boarding school known as Tualatin Academy, which Tabitha continued to supervise and which she supported by sewing and selling buckskin gloves and other resourceful enterprise. Rev. Clark donated 200 acres of land for the academy, the forerunner of Pacific University, a companion educational venture sanctioned by territorial charter amendment in 1854. A patriotic gesture attributed to Tabitha and the girls of the academy was the needlework project that resulted in what is thought to have been the first United States Flag made in Oregon. The teacher's charitable, fostering role was recognized by the Oregon legislative assembly in 1987 with a resolution proclaiming Tabitha Moffatt Brown the symbolic "Mother figure of Oregon." A bronze plaque acknowledging the tribute was affixed to her headstone. The public and her numerous descendants make hers one of the most visited graves in the Rural Cemetery.

Charles Bennett (b. Pennsylvania 1811; d. 1855), Plot 106.

Co-discoverer of gold with James Marshall at Sutter's sawmill on the south fork of the American River in California, the enterprising and adventuresome "Captain" Charles H. Bennett arrived in Oregon in 1844. He had been attached to Company A, 1st U.S. Dragoons at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, under General Joseph Kearney, where he made the acquaintance of Stephen Staats, fort sutler. Bennett, Staats, and Marshall joined the passing Oregon-bound immigrant wagon train led by Nathaniel Ford in 1844. During the first winter in Oregon, Bennett, who was experienced in carpentry, worked at the sawmill of former Methodist missionaries in Oregon City. In 1847, he and Staats and Marshall left to seek opportunities in California. They were contracted by John A. Sutter, leader of the New Helvetia agricultural and trading colony at present-day Sacramento, to build a sawmill east of the colony in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. According to Staats' account of events, in January 1848, flecks of gold in nuggets exposed in the mill's raceway were noticed by Bennett, who pointed them out to Marshall. Marshall, in turn, took a sample of the findings to Sutter to be assayed. Commonly credited to Marshall, and despite efforts to keep it quiet, the discovery precipitated the rush for gold and California's admittance to statehood in 1850.

After returning to Oregon in 1849, Bennett joined partners in constructing the side-wheel river steamer *Canemah*, which was launched in 1851 to operate as a postal vessel and grain transport for communities on the upper Willamette River. In Salem, where he had settled with his wife, he built and opened in 1852 Bennett House, the capital's main hotel during the territorial period. It was the lodging place of legislators and housed the U.S. Surveyor's Office in Oregon. When the Yakima Indian War broke out in 1855, Bennett was commissioned to raise a company of volunteers to strengthen forces sent east of the Cascades to put down the unrest. In command of Company F, Oregon Mounted Volunteers, Bennett and his regiment engaged the Walla Walla in southeastern Washington in a "four days' fight," which cost him and several other officers and men their lives. In the aftermath, the regiment built a new redoubt on the Walla Walla River in the general vicinity of the Whitman mission site and named it Fort Bennett in honor of their fallen commander. Bennett was forty-four years of age at the time of his death. He had been the first master of a Masonic lodge in Salem and was accorded Masonic rites at his burial in Rural Cemetery. His widow, **Mary Ann Bennett** of Kentucky (1816-1873), who later married John Hendershot, arranged for a fine marble shaft monument, the west face of

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which was provided with a pocket recess for the display of a daguerreotype portrait of Bennett which, after many years, was dislodged and disappeared. On the site at the northwest corner of the intersection of State and High streets once occupied by Bennett House stands the high-rise Masonic Building of 1912.

Robert C. Kinney (b. Illinois 1813; d. 1875), Plot 588.

Territorial legislator, manufacturer, and patron of McMinnville College, Robert Crouch Kinney was a native of Illinois, where he married **Eliza Lee Bigelow** (1813-1890) in 1833. Five years later, the couple moved to Muscatine, Iowa, a settlement he is credited for helping to establish. In the 1840s he participated in the constitutional convention process by which Iowa became a state. In 1847, the Kinneys emigrated overland to Oregon and settled a claim in Yamhill County, which district he represented in the first Territorial Legislative Assembly in 1849 and again in the session of 1851. Kinney was elected a delegate from Yamhill County to the constitutional convention of 1857 in the capital city, where his knowledge of Iowa's draft constitution for statehood was helpful to the sixty delegates deliberating a governing doctrine for the future state of Oregon. In 1860, Kinney turned from farming to manufacturing with acquisition of a flour mill in McMinnville and subsequently another in Portland. In 1868 he relocated to Salem and there acquired part interest in the Willamette Woolen Manufacture Company mill and took charge of the associated flour mill. As president and manager of Salem Flouring Mills Company, Kinney was a major processor and exporter of Oregon flour and grain. A Baptist, he was a patron of the Baptist Church and of its educational enterprise chartered by the Territorial Legislature as McMinnville College (later named Linfield College) in 1858. The Kinneys raised eight children to maturity, seven of whom were born in Oregon.

Early Statehood Era 1859-1909

Stephen F. Chadwick (b. Connecticut 1825; d. 1895), Plot 843.

Fifth governor of the State of Oregon, Stephen Fowler Chadwick was educated in his native state of Connecticut, read law, and was admitted to the bar of New York in 1850. On his arrival in Oregon in 1851 via San Francisco, he opened a legal practice in Scottsburg, then a rising settlement at the head of navigation on the Umpqua River where he served as first postmaster. He relocated to Roseburg, the Douglas County seat, and there served as the first judge of Douglas County. He subsequently became assistant U.S. district attorney for southern Oregon. He was elected to represent Douglas County at the constitutional convention of 1857 in Salem which drafted the requisite state constitution for approval by Congress. Chadwick's Democratic politics were aligned with the majority. The constitution was drawn for an anti-slavery state. He was elected secretary of state in 1870 and re-elected in 1874. On February 1, 1877, he succeeded to the office of chief executive upon Governor Lafayette Grover's resignation to enter the U.S. Senate. Chadwick not only finished his predecessor's unexpired term, he concurrently completed his term as secretary of state. As had his predecessor, Governor Chadwick presided at a time of conflict between white settlers and Indian tribes whose traditional lands lay in eastern Oregon and adjoining states. Chadwick was noted for traveling to the front in northeastern Oregon during the Bannock war in 1878 to consult with Oliver O. Howard as the general suppressed the region's last major Native American uprising. When his terms of office ended in September 1878, Chadwick resumed the practice of law in Salem. In 1855, he had married **Jane A. Smith**, a native of Virginia who had settled with her parents in Douglas County in 1853. The former governor was a prominent Free Mason. At his death in 1895, his rites were organized by the Masonic Grand Lodge with overtones of a state funeral, including elaborate processions to the Methodist Church and Rural Cemetery.

J. Henry Brown (b. Illinois 1837; d. Portland 1898), Plot 485.

Historian J. Henry Brown came with his parents overland to Oregon in 1847 at the age of ten, settling in Salem, where he was apprenticed in the printer's trade and was employed by various job offices and newspapers, including *The Oregon Statesman*. In 1861 he enlisted in the First Oregon Volunteer Cavalry. He served for a time as a clerk in the state legislature and was a correspondent for the *Portland Oregonian*. Brown compiled Salem's first two city directories, those for 1871 and 1872, which contained historical notes, maps, and statistical information. The first volume of his major work in compilation, *Brown's Political History of*

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Oregon, was published in Portland by Lewis & Dryden in 1892. A member of Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F., Brown included a descriptive essay on the Rural Cemetery in his Salem City Directory for 1871.

John Minto (b. Wylam, Northumberland, England 1822; died 1915), Plot 123.

State legislator, prominent sheep breeder, and writer, John Minto had elementary education and worked in coal mines at a young age in his native England. After emigrating to America in 1840, he worked in the mines in Pennsylvania for a few years before heading overland to Oregon in 1844. He purchased the site of the original Methodist mission station on the Willamette River in 1845, sold it the following year and took up a claim south of the Salem town site where he established an orchard and specialized in raising purebred sheep. He subsequently expanded hops and sheep operations onto the north end of an island in the Willamette that bears his name. Minto volunteered for service in the Cayuse war of 1847 and joined the exodus to California during the gold rush. He wrote articles for periodicals, was debut editor of the *Willamette Farmer* 1869-1870, and was a leader of the State Agricultural Society, which organized Oregon's first state fair in 1861. He was secretary and subsequently a member of the state board of horticulture. Minto served four terms as a representative in the state legislature, 1862-1864, 1868-1870, 1880-1882, and 1890-1892. He had been an investor in the pioneer enterprise of its kind in the region, Salem's Willamette Woolen Manufacturing Company. As one known for promoting the region's agricultural and commercial potential, Minto was commissioned by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture in 1892 to prepare a report on the sheep industry in Pacific Coast states of California, Oregon, and Washington that became an authoritative source of its day. In the 1870s, by appointment of the Marion County court, he led the survey of a transportation pass over the Cascade Mountains via the North Santiam River canyon which Minto advocated. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In 1847 Minto married **Martha Ann Morrison** (1831-1904) of Missouri, with whom he raised eight children. Martha's father was Captain R. W. Morrison, organizer of the emigrant wagon train that crossed the plains in 1844 and for which the venturesome Minto had been a driver.

Thomas Lister Kay (b. Yorkshire, England, 1837/1838; d. 1900), Plot 421.

The mechanized woolen textile industry on the Pacific Coast was pioneered in Salem, the initiative having been taken by Joseph Watt, who with his family drove four hundred head of purebred sheep across the plains from Missouri in 1848. When the wool clips exceeded what was needed to supply domestic use for hand spinning and weaving, Watt and other investors formed the Willamette Woolen Manufacturing Company and operated a factory on Mill Creek near the old Methodist mission sawmill and grist mill site from 1858 to 1875, when the plant was destroyed by fire. Meanwhile, "wool fever" had spread to other communities such as Brownsville, Oregon City, Ellendale, Ashland, and The Dalles. Into this early period of industrialization the English émigré Thomas Kay entered to become a leading figure in 19th century Oregon textile manufacturing.

Thomas L. Kay arrived in America in 1859 at the age of about twenty-two. Having worked in the woolen trade in his native Yorkshire, he found employment in the mills of Trenton, New Jersey, and from there was recruited to Oregon in 1863 to be the loom boss in the first woolen mill at Brownsville, in Linn County. The early mills were vulnerable to fire and financial stress. With the first mill's destruction in 1865 and temporary closure of the successor Eagle Woolen Mill, Kay helped set up mills in Ellendale and Ashland before returning to Brownsville to lease and manage the mill there as superintendent from 1875 to 1888, during which time the plant prospered. When the mill changed hands, Kay relocated his family to Salem and there organized with C.P. Bishop and Squire Farrar the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill Company, which built its plant in 1889 adjacent to Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way on Twelfth Street at the east edge of the downtown. The site had once been part of the tract held by the Methodist mission for its Indian Manual Labor Training School but had since been developed for industrial purposes. The wood frame factory building was sturdily constructed and fitted for the latest manufacturing techniques examined by Kay on a reconnaissance trip to Massachusetts and England. The mill operated efficiently until its destruction by fire in 1895. The factory had been of such importance to the community as a base industry that the funds for reconstruction were readily subscribed and the replacement mill of fire-resistant brick and heavy timber frame construction was opened the following year.

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Salem's Thomas Kay Woolen Mill processed Oregon-grown wool stock and produced finished suitings, flannels, tweeds, and blankets. Goods were distributed to jobbers for fashioning and then to retailers for marketing in Portland and San Francisco. The Klondike gold rush and steady mining activity elsewhere in the Northwest ensured demand for mackinaws, flannels, and knitted socks. Thomas Kay's oldest son, Thomas B. Kay, who had served as assistant manager, became manager upon his father's death in 1900 and kept the company running profitably until his own death in 1931 even as he fulfilled the office of Oregon State Treasurer from 1911 to 1919. By the turn of the twentieth century, the scope of the company's operations was second only to that of the Oregon City Woolen Mill, but the Pendleton Woolen Mills Company founded by C.P. Bishop was rising and eventually eclipsed all that had gone before. Management of the Kay mill descended to Kay's heirs until, in 1964, the last remaining aspect of operations, the finishing process, was closed and the property of four-and-a-half acres was sold to the Mission and Mill Museum Corporation, a non-profit historical organization, for adaptation as a museum and community education/social center. The mill is a rare, intact survivor of its industrial type capable of demonstrating direct-drive water power derived from a diversion ditch from Mill Creek. Including its wood frame accessory structures, it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 (NRIS 73001579).

Thomas Kay married the former **Ann Slingsby** (1837-1915) in Yorkshire in 1856. They had ten children. Kay was an Odd Fellow, a Mason, and Knight Templar. The etched insignia of the Knights Templar is prominent on the granite monument in Rural Cemetery that bears the couple's epitaphs.

Edwin N. Cooke (b. New York 1810; d. 1879), Plot 117.

Entrepreneur, promoter of Willamette River steam navigation, and State Treasurer, Edwin Cooke was a native of New York who in his youth moved with his parents to Ohio in 1817. There, in 1835 he married **Eliza Vandercook** (1816-1900), to whom a daughter, **Frances Mary**, was born in 1837. The family emigrated overland to Oregon in 1851 and settled in Salem, where Cooke entered into the mercantile business with George H. Jones as Jones, Cooke & Co. through 1856. For a time he ran a hotel bearing his name. Edwin Cooke was one of the incorporators and a continuous director of the People's Transportation Company which, from 1863 to the early 1870s, operated a steamboat line on the Willamette in direct competition with the Oregon Steam Navigation Company until a compromise on operational territory was reached. The People's Transportation Co. expanded its line and prospered before selling out to railroad interests poised to dominate passenger and freight transportation. Cooke was mayor of Salem in 1862. In the same year, as a Republican, he was elected State Treasurer, which office he held through re-election in 1866 for a total tenure of eight years. He was a partner in the Oswego Iron Works and a member of the board of trustees of Willamette University. In 1872, he built one of the city's finest houses in the fashionable residential area on the north side of the capitol. The Second Empire Baroque-style residence and many of its neighbors were cleared in the capitol reconstruction project which followed destruction of the first statehouse by fire in 1935. Edwin Cooke was a charter member of Chemeketa Lodge No. 1 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was given fraternal honors at the time of his death in 1879 at the age of sixty-nine. The Odd Fellows of Salem and the surrounding area marched in full regalia to escort their brother to the Methodist Episcopal church and from the church to the Rural Cemetery, where the casket was ceremoniously placed in the family vault.

Other family members at rest in the E.N. Cooke mausoleum beside the vault-builder's wife and daughter include his son-in-law, **Thomas McFadden Patton** (1829-1892), who had been a member of the 1851 emigrant wagon train led by his future father-in-law. T.M. Patton studied law, had been a county judge in southern Oregon, and in 1872 was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives, where he worked for legislation authorizing construction of the first state capitol. In his capacity as grand master of Oregon Masons in 1873, he laid the cornerstone for the capitol that was opened for use in 1876. In 1884, T.M. Patton was appointed U.S. consul to Hjogo, Japan. Following the family's return to Salem and Frances' death in 1886, he entered a new venture in book selling and stationery goods. In 1893, Thomas McFadden Patton's sons, **Edwin Cooke Patton** and **Hal D. Patton** continued as partners in the stationery business their father started in the Patton Block. Hal Patton (1872-1934) served in the state legislature, first winning a seat in the House of

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Representatives in 1908, then in the Senate for the sessions of 1911 and 1913. He continued an active figure in Republican politics and civic affairs thereafter.

Tilmon Ford (b. Missouri/Oregon 1843/1845/1849; d. 1908), Plot 035.

Prominent Salem attorney and state legislator Tilmon C.L. Ford comes close to being the rare example in this selection of figures representing the Oregon-born generation. Sources differ as to Ford's birthplace and year, but based upon his enumeration in the 1860 Oregon census, it is plausible that he was born, as is claimed in one record, on the immigrant trail in 1843. It was in that year that his parents, John and Beda Anne Ford, emigrated from Missouri. Tilmon's eight brothers and sisters were born in Oregon, where the Fords settled a claim north of Salem. After finishing a common school education, Tilmon went to work in the Idaho mines and earned his tuition to Willamette University, of which he was an 1870 graduate and a benefactor in later life. Ford then read law, was admitted to the Oregon bar in 1872, and developed a prosperous legal practice. A Republican, he was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives for two consecutive terms, 1880-1884. In the first session, Ford authored the bill to relocate the State Insane Asylum (Oregon State Hospital), from Portland and erect a suitable facility in the capital city. In the second session, he pressed for State control and completion of the institution which, as carried out, was based on the influential segregated-ward model of its day established early in the 19th century by Dr. Thomas Kirkbride of Philadelphia. He was a member of the House Judiciary committee in both sessions. He did not marry. He was a charter member of Anniversary Lodge, I.O.O.F and was accorded ritual honors upon his death in 1908 at the age of sixty-five. Participating in the exercises was a distinguished group of honorary pall bearers designated by the Marion County Bar Association. Whether the Ford vault was standing at the time of Tilmon's death is not clear. No mention is made of it in newspaper accounts of the funeral rites. Further research may show that Ford made provision in his will for construction of a vault on the family plot. In any case, the structure was in place by December 20, 1913, when it received the casket of his youngest brother, Charles D. Ford.

Obed Dickinson (b. Massachusetts 1818; d. 1892), Plot 064.

Congregational minister, abolitionist, nurseryman and seed dealer, the Reverend Obed Dickinson was a native of Massachusetts who, early in life, assumed family responsibility upon the death of his father. In 1852, at the age of thirty-four, he was graduated from Andover Theological Seminary and, in Michigan, married **Charlotte Dryer Humphrey** (1817-1893) of New York, a school teacher. The new minister and his wife sailed from New York for Oregon via the Cape Horn route, arriving in the territory in 1853. They settled in Salem, where Dickinson organized for the American Missionary Society the town's first Congregational church. Dickinson became known as a principled pastor who received Salem's black residents into his congregation and officiated the marriage rite for them. Charlotte Dickinson completed her husband's liberality by providing educational instruction to young black females. With the onset of the Civil War, the controversy over slavery grew increasingly heated. Public opinion gathered against Dickinson's abolitionist preaching, and by 1867, he was compelled to resign his pastorate and return to once-familiar work in the horticultural field. He developed a nursery on a twenty-acre tract and marketed seeds widely from a store at the northwest corner of the intersection of Commercial and Chemeketa streets. In 1879, Dickinson's conviction concerning assignment of the Sabbath to the seventh day of the week instead of the first, caused him to break with the Congregational Association, and he supported the Seventh Day Adventist Church, preaching occasionally for a small congregation organized in Salem. Dickinson was a trustee of Willamette and Pacific universities. Only one of the Dickinsons' four children, a daughter, lived to maturity. The couple's graves in the Rural Cemetery are marked by a common, finely-wrought headstone.

Plutarch S. Knight (b. Massachusetts, 1836; d. 1914), Plot 873.

Congregational minister, businessman, and educator who superintended the Oregon School for the Deaf, the Reverend Plutarch Knight was a native of Boston who in 1853, at the age of seventeen, accompanied his parents to Oregon Territory, where a claim was settled in the vicinity of Vancouver. The young immigrant found work as a carpenter and, once able to afford his tuition, he came to Salem in 1857 to enroll in Willamette University. He was a graduate of 1860. The following year he married the former **Clara Eleanor Smith** (1839-1911) of Salem. Knight was a reporter and editor for the *Weekly Oregon Statesman* 1862-1864.

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During the same time, Knight filled an appointment as State Librarian, read law, and was admitted to the bar. It was in 1866 that he was ordained a Congregational minister at Oregon City. He served congregations there and in Corvallis, Eugene, and Macleay, but his longest tenure was in Salem, where he succeeded Obed Dickinson as pastor, 1867-1883. In the 1870s, the industrious minister served as superintendent of schools for Marion County for two years and superintended the newly-founded Oregon School for the Deaf, 1871-1892. In the 1880s and '90s, Knight's business interests included platting and developing residential subdivisions 1888-1891 and promoting the Capital City Electric Railway Company which, beginning in 1890, operated street car lines that included extended service on Commercial Street to the Rural Cemetery. Until his death in 1914 at the age of seventy-seven, Knight continued to conduct marriage and burial offices and compiled a notable record performing such services. He was an accomplished lecturer and writer. In recognition of his achievements, his *alma mater*, Willamette University, conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1890. The graves of Dr. Knight and his wife are among the few examples in the cemetery of box tombs covered by marble ledgers.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Selected Published Works - Books

Corning, Howard McKinley, editor, *Dictionary of Oregon History* (Portland, Oregon: Binford & Mort, 1956).

Byrd, Dean H., compiler; Stanley R. Clarke and Janice M. Healy, co-compilers, *Oregon Burial Site Guide* (Portland: Binford & Mort Publishing for Ruth C. Bishop and compilers, 2001).

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Scott, Harvey W., *History of the Oregon Country*, Leslie M. Scott, compiler, Six Vols. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Riverside Press, 1924), Vol. II.

Selected Published Works – Articles

Brown, J.H., compiler, "Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery," *Salem Directory for 1871* (Salem, Oregon: Snyder and Cook, 1871), 83-85.

Green, Virginia, "Hidden Citizens: Blacks in Salem Through the Years," *Historic Marion*, Vol. 40, No. 1 (Spring 2002), 1-5.

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Hayashi-Mayfield, Mako, with Erin Zysett, and Mark Murakami, "Japanese Voices from the Northwest," Salem Multicultural Institute Exhibit Pamphlet, Salem, Oregon World Beat Gallery, Aug. 15 – Nov. 4, 2009.

Mahoney, Barbara, "Oregon Democracy: Asahel Bush, Slavery, and the Statehood Debate," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 110, No. 2 (Summer 2009), 202-227.

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McLench, Mary A. Gray, "Early Day Teachers [including an account of the 1851 voyage of Samuel R. Thurston]," *Ladd & Bush Quarterly*, Vol. III, No. 2 (January 1916), 2-10. In the same volume, the letter of W.H. Barnhart from Acapulco dated August 9, 1852, p. 22.

Newspapers and Directories of the Historic Period

Salem *Oregon Statesman* 1853-1980
Salem *Capital Journal* 1888-1980
Albany *Oregon Democrat*,
Oregon State Democrat 1859-1864
Salem City Directories 1871 onward
Portland City Directories 1863 onward

Planning Documents

Donovan and Associates, "Historic Context," *Salem Pioneer Cemetery Maintenance and Restoration Master Plan for the City of Salem Parks Operations Division* (July 2004).

Records and Manuscripts

Chemeketa Lodge No. 1 minute books, lot sales transactions ledger, sexton's register of burials.

Original pen and ink drawings for plats of Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery ca. 1854-1855 and 1861-1862, Oregon State Library.

State of Oregon Legislative Records, Journals and Minutes of the Senate and House, Oregon State Archives.

City of Salem Parks Operations Division file records pertaining to Salem Pioneer Cemetery.

Online Resources

Salem Pioneer Cemetery biographical database compiled and maintained by Friends of Pioneer Cemetery genealogists Adeline Dyal Rickey, the late Ferne Hellie, and Tracey Saucy, Web site manager:
<http://www.salempioneercemetery.org>.

"Salem's Chinese Americans," Salem Online History, Salem Public Library:
http://www.salemhistory.net/people/chinese_americans.htm.

Oregon Chinese Disinterment Documents, Oregon State University Archives (Oregon Multicultural Archives):
<http://archives.library.oregonstate.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/oregondisintermentdocuments>.

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 # _____

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Parks & Transportation Services, City of Salem
Oregon State Library
Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F.
Name of repository: Friends of Pioneer Cemetery Archive

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 17.05
 (Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

(Provide a digital location map on a continuation sheet in the appendixes)
 (Place additional Latitude/Longitude coordinates on a continuation sheet.)

1	44.9206498	-123.0503697	3	44.9192117	-123.0449836
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	44.9205981	-123.0449340	4	44.9193445	-123.0503305
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	10	496026	4974137	3	10	496454	4974129
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	10	496454	4973972	4	10	496023	4973991
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated area is located in SW 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 34, Township 7S, Range 3W, Willamette Meridian, in Marion County, Oregon. It is the entire property deeded to the City of Salem by Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows on February 3, 1986 and recorded in County Plats Vol. 10, p. 162. The area is succinctly described as Marion County Assessor's Tax Lot 8200 in said quarter section. A metes and bounds description of the nominated area is given in Fig. 4, the bargain and sale deed executed on February 3, 1986.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The bargain and sale deed relating to Salem Pioneer Cemetery that was executed on February 3, 1986 for purposes of transferring title to the City of Salem included all of the area then under ownership by the cemetery's founding organization, Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The nominated area is the entire area encompassed by the deed. On this parcel, a slope and landscaping easement 12 feet wide and 312 feet in length at the easternmost end of the north boundary had been granted to Dr. Gordon A. Miller, owner of the adjacent Eye Surgery Clinic, in September, 1985 and was recorded October 9, 1985 in Reel 420, page 155 of the Records of Marion County. It was believed the strip easement did not impinge on grave sites in the cemetery plat. The chain-link security fence subsequently erected by the City to circumscribe the cemetery boundaries was indented at the northeast corner of the grounds to indicate the bounds of the easement granted to Dr. Miller.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elisabeth Walton Potter
organization Friends of Pioneer Cemetery c/o Pioneer Trust Bank date February 28, 2013
street & number PO Box 2305 telephone 503-581-3668
city or town Salem state OR zip code 97308
e-mail ewpwords@hotmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Salem Pioneer Cemetery; historic name: Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Salem

County: Marion **State:** Oregon

Photographer: Elisabeth Walton Potter, photos 2 - 25

Date Photographed: 1988, 2004-2012, as noted

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- Photo 1 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0001.tif
Symbolic gateway of 1988 marking place of historic entrance on Commercial Street;
looking west, c. 1988.
- Photo 2 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0002.tif
Central avenue and grounds from west boundary; looking east, April 2012
- Photo 3 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0003.tif
View from main cross-axial lane near center; looking east, March 2004

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- Photo 4 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0004.tif
William H. Willson/Chloe Clark Willson grave marker, upper median, central avenue;
looking east, April 2008
- Photo 5 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0005.tif
Samuel R. Thurston monument, lower median, central avenue, looking east, May 2008
- Photo 6 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0006.tif
Samuel R. Thurston monument, south face; looking north, May 2012
- Photo 7 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0007.tif
Samuel R. Thurston monument, detail view of east face; looking west, May 2012
- Photo 8 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0008.tif
David Leslie/Mary A. Kinney Leslie grave marker; looking southeast, October 2005
- Photo 9 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0009.tif
Asahel Bush family plot; looking northwest, May 2009
- Photo 10 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0010.tif
Captain Charles Bennett grave marker; looking north, May 2009
- Photo 11 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0011.tif
Harvey Gordon headstone; looking east, April 2012
- Photo 12 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0012.tif
Felix L. Raymond headstone; looking east, September 2006
- Photo 13 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0013.tif
E.N. Cooke family mausoleum; looking northwest, August 2006
- Photo 14 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0014.tif
Ford family mausoleum; looking southwest, May 2007
- Photo 15 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0015.tif
James I. Thompson family plot; looking northwest, February 2010
- Photo 16 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0016.tif
Robert C. Kinney family plot; looking northeast, March 2004
- Photo 17 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0017.tif
Franklin Herrling family plot; looking north, March 2004
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Thomas L. Kay family plot; looking northeast, May 2007
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Jonathan Waldo Smith graded plot, detail view of east entrance; looking west, March
2010

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- Photo 20 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0020.tif
Delia H. Downing cast zinc grave marker; looking west, February 2010
- Photo 21 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0021.tif
A.J. Monroe/Sophia Staiger Monroe grave marker; looking northwest, May 2008
- Photo 22 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0022.tif
James Courtney Jones family plot prime monument; looking southeast, May 2007
- Photo 23 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0023.tif
George F. Smith U.S. War Department veteran's headstone; looking west, June 2011
- Photo 24 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0024.tif
Headstones in adjacent plots of Japanese-American families; looking east, May 2009
- Photo 25 of 25** (OR_MarionCounty_SalemPioneerCemetery_0025.tif
Wooden head board of Bertram Clarence Woodcock; looking west, May 2009

Property Owner: (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name City of Salem Division of Parks and Transportation Services, Department of Transportation

street & number 1460 20th Street SE, Building 14 telephone 503-588-6336

city or town Salem state OR zip code 97302

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Antelope Creek Covered Bridge
Name of Property Jackson County, OR
County and State Oregon Covered Bridges Thematic MPS
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Additional documentation _____ Page 49

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- Figure 3** Tax Lot 8200, Marion County, Oregon Assessor's Map, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34, T7S, R3W, Willamette Meridian, 2004.
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- Figure 7** Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery, pen-and-ink drawing, layout of initial five acres, Plots 1 through 210, c. 1854-1860.
- Figure 8** "Capital City of Oregon," Bird's-eye View of Salem, E. Koppe & Ch. Fromm, Mutual Label and Lithograph Co., 1905. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Digital collections. Enlargement of the detail in the lower right corner of the lithograph shows the northeast corner of Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery, including the historic bow and picket perimeter fence and an arched entrance gate on Commercial Street.
- Figure 9** Early 20th century view, south face, grave monument of Samuel R. Thurston erected by the Oregon Territorial legislature. Illustration, *Ladd & Bush Quarterly*, Vol. III, No. 2 (January 1916), page 5.
- Figure 10** Vermont Marble Company advertisement for a model Classical temple-fronted mausoleum in *Park and Cemetery*, Vol. 22, No. 7 (September 1912).

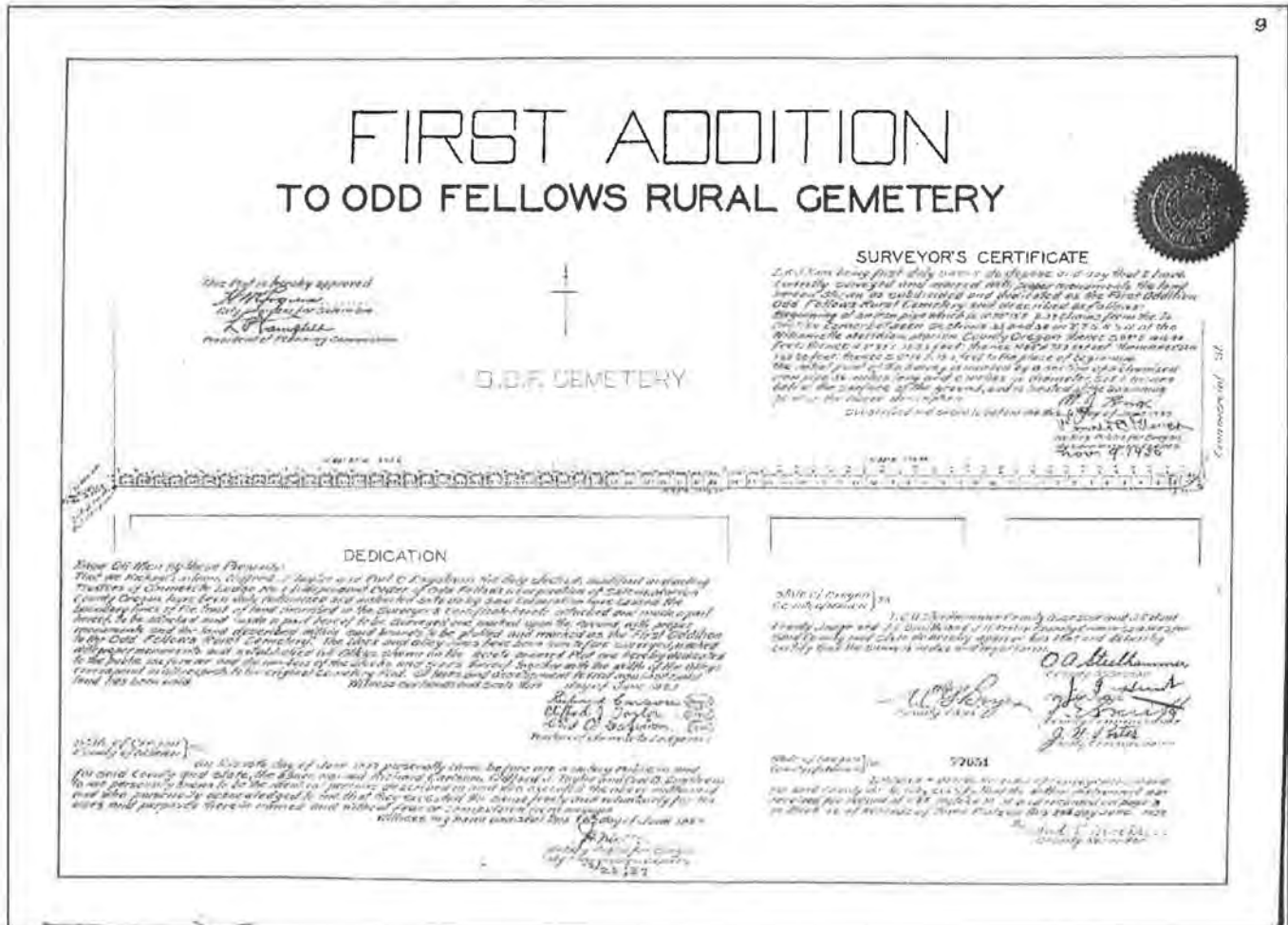
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional documentation Page 51

Figure 2 Plat of First Addition to Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery, Marion County, Oregon, 1927.



9

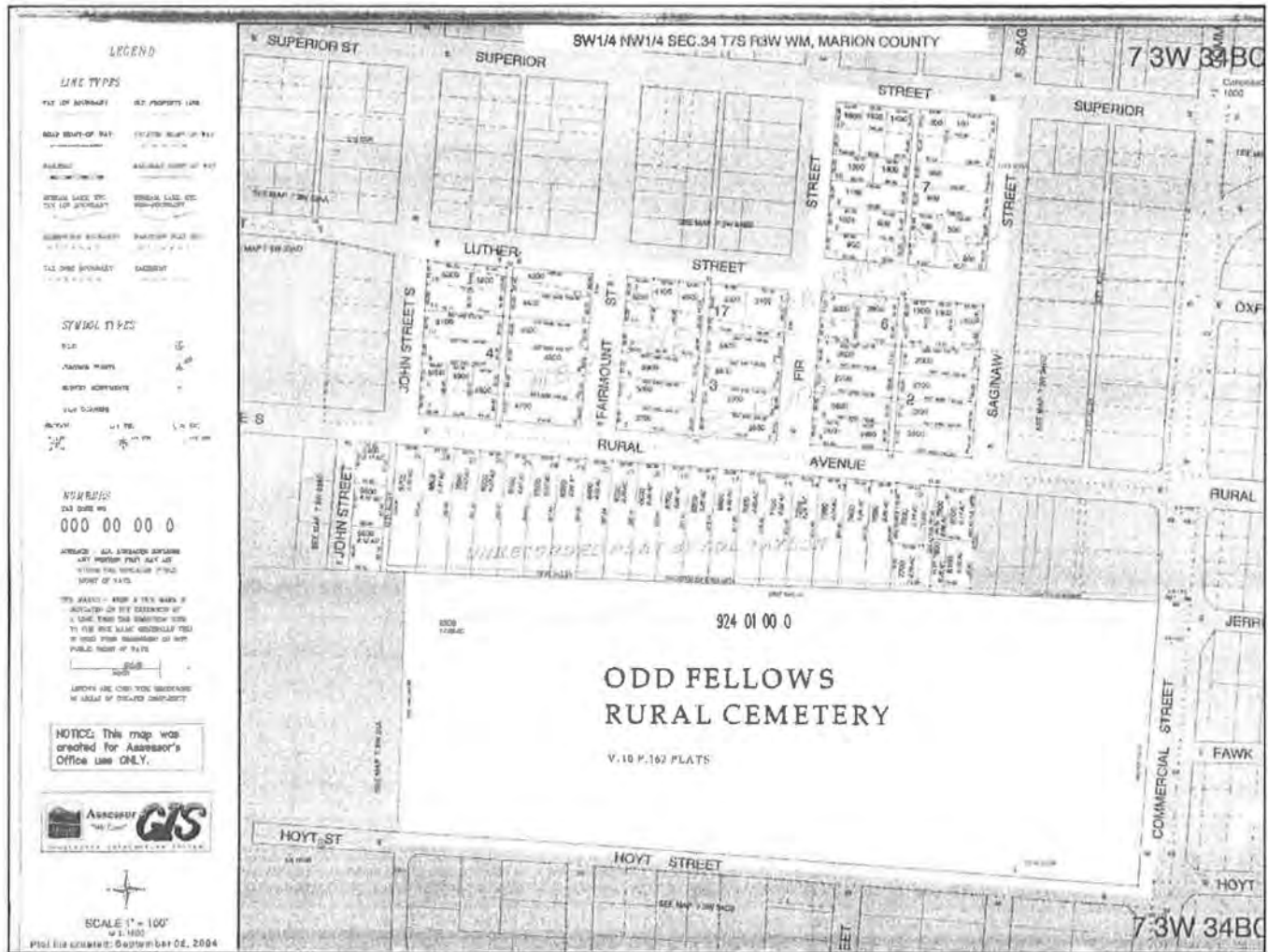
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Salem Pioneer Cemetery
Name of Property
Marion County, OR
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional documentation Page 52

99999Figure 3 Tax Lot 8200, Marion County, Oregon Assessor's Map, 2004.



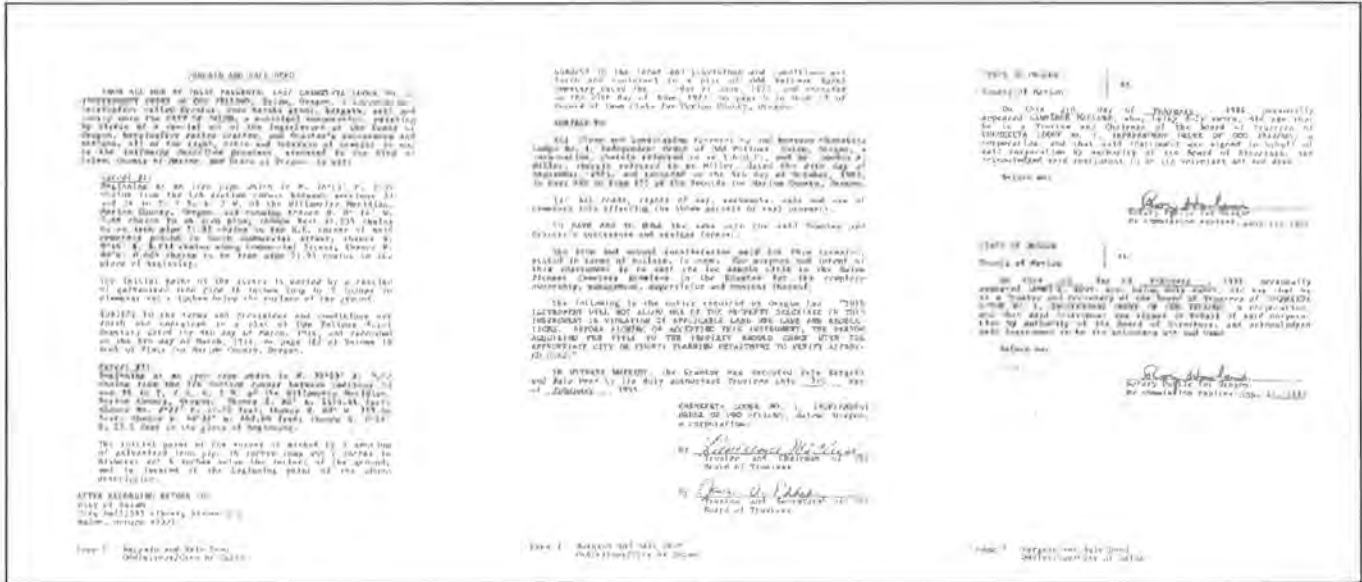
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Figure 4 Metes and bounds description of property granted to the City of Salem by Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, bargain and sale deed, February 3, 1886.



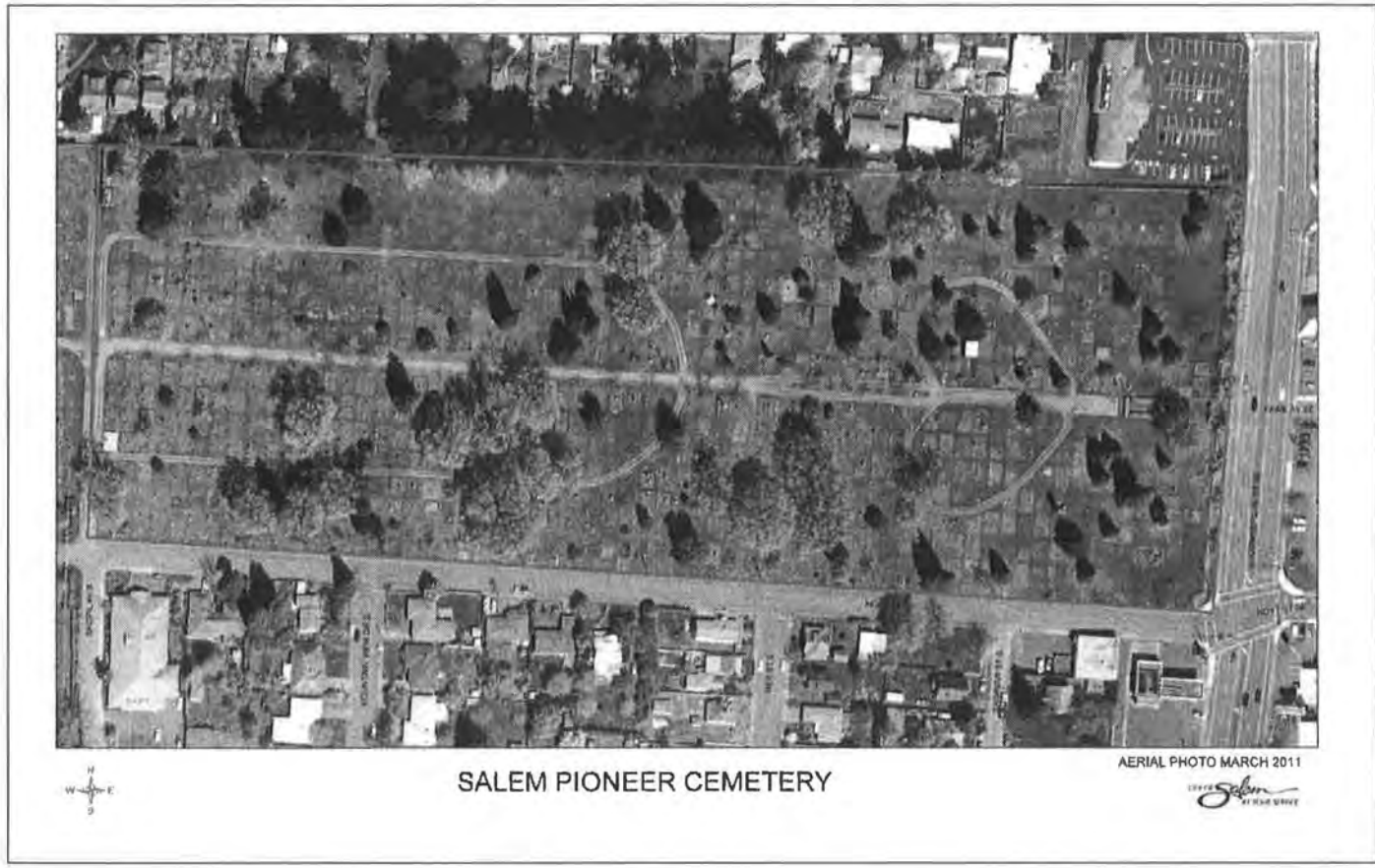
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Figure 5 Aerial Photograph of Salem Pioneer Cemetery, City of Salem, March 2011.
Bounds of the cemetery outlined in green.



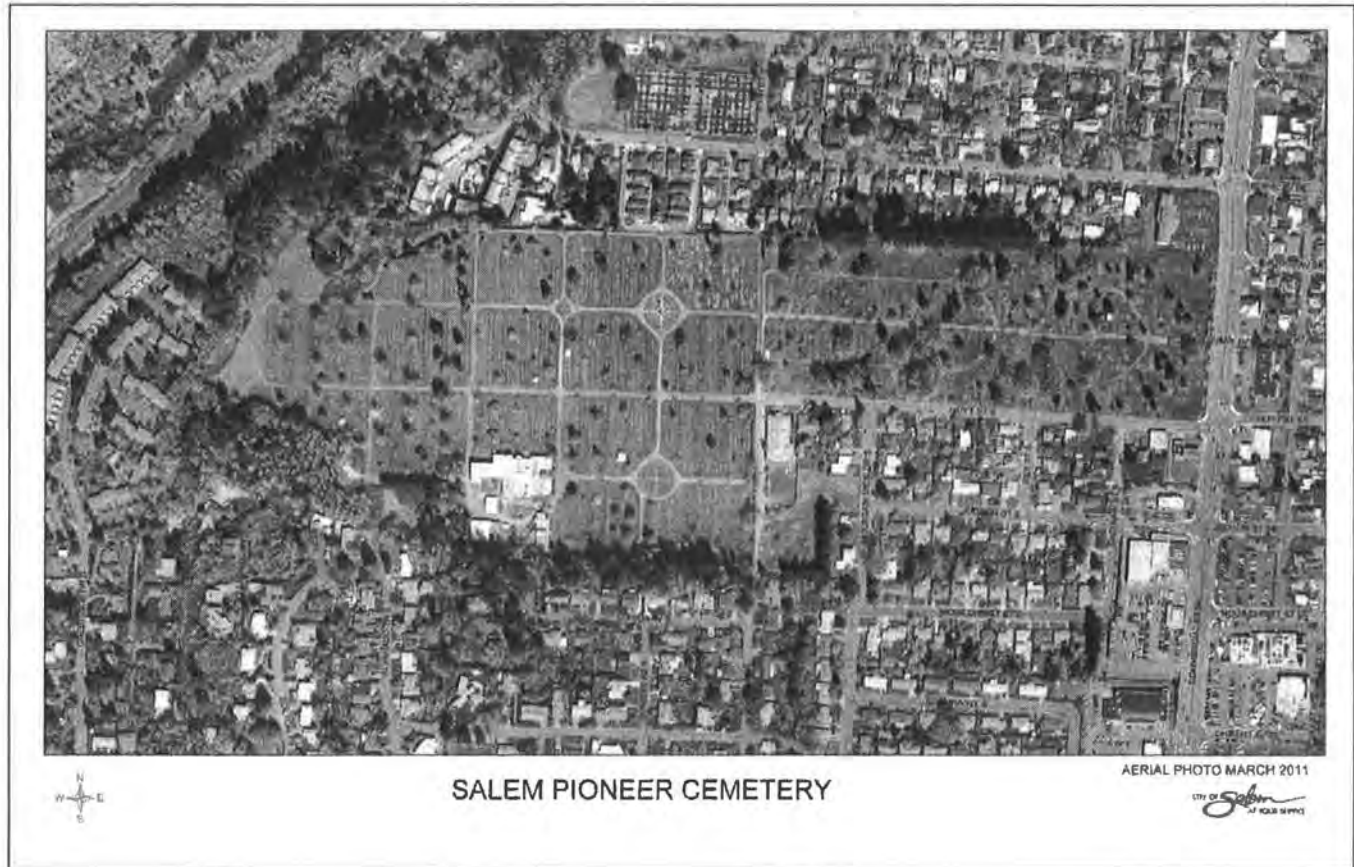
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Figure 6 Aerial Photograph of Salem Pioneer Cemetery and City View Cemetery adjoining on the west, City of Salem, March 2011.



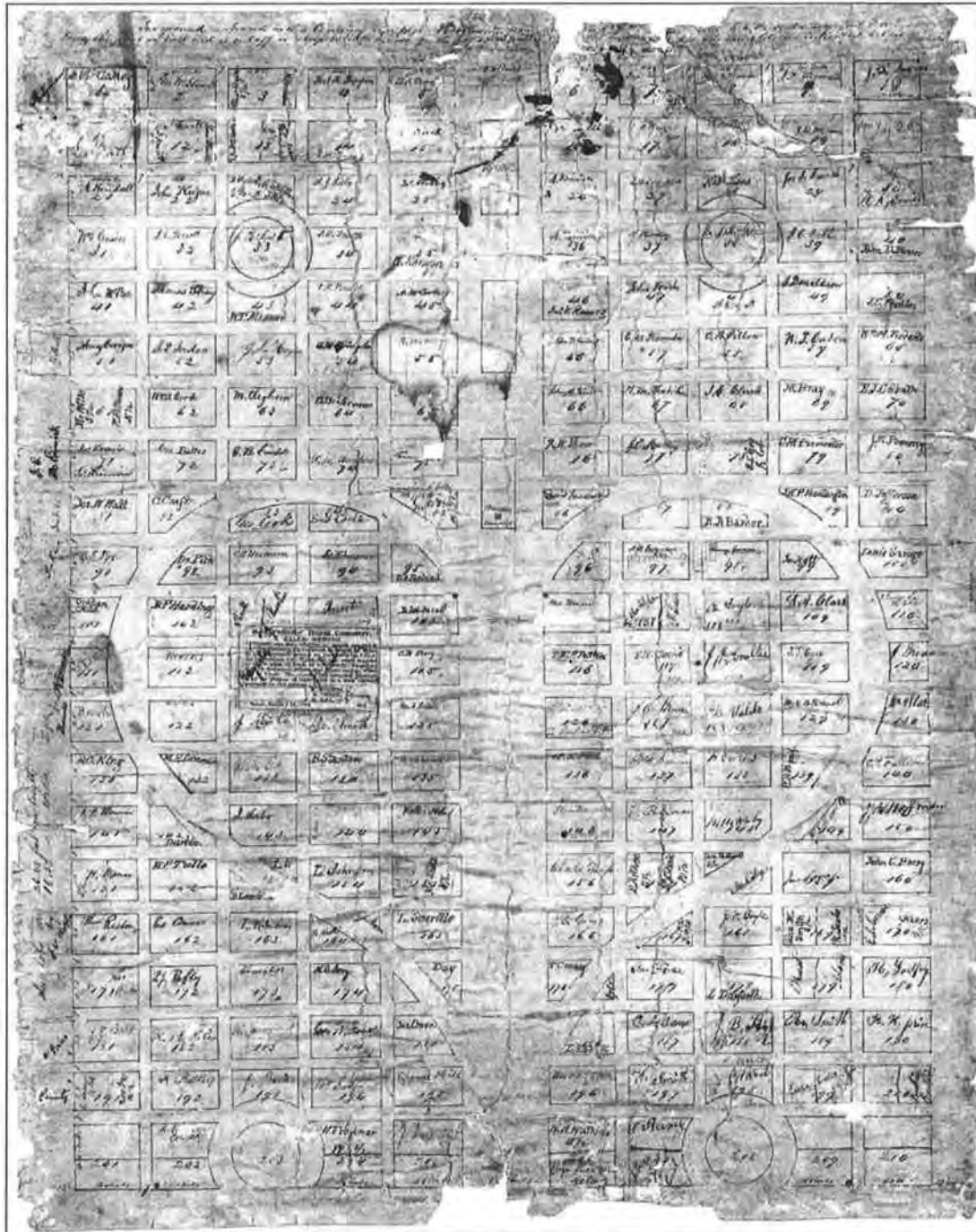
United States Department of the Interior
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Figure 7 Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery, pen and ink drawing, layout of initial five acres, Plots 1 through 210, c. 1854-1860.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

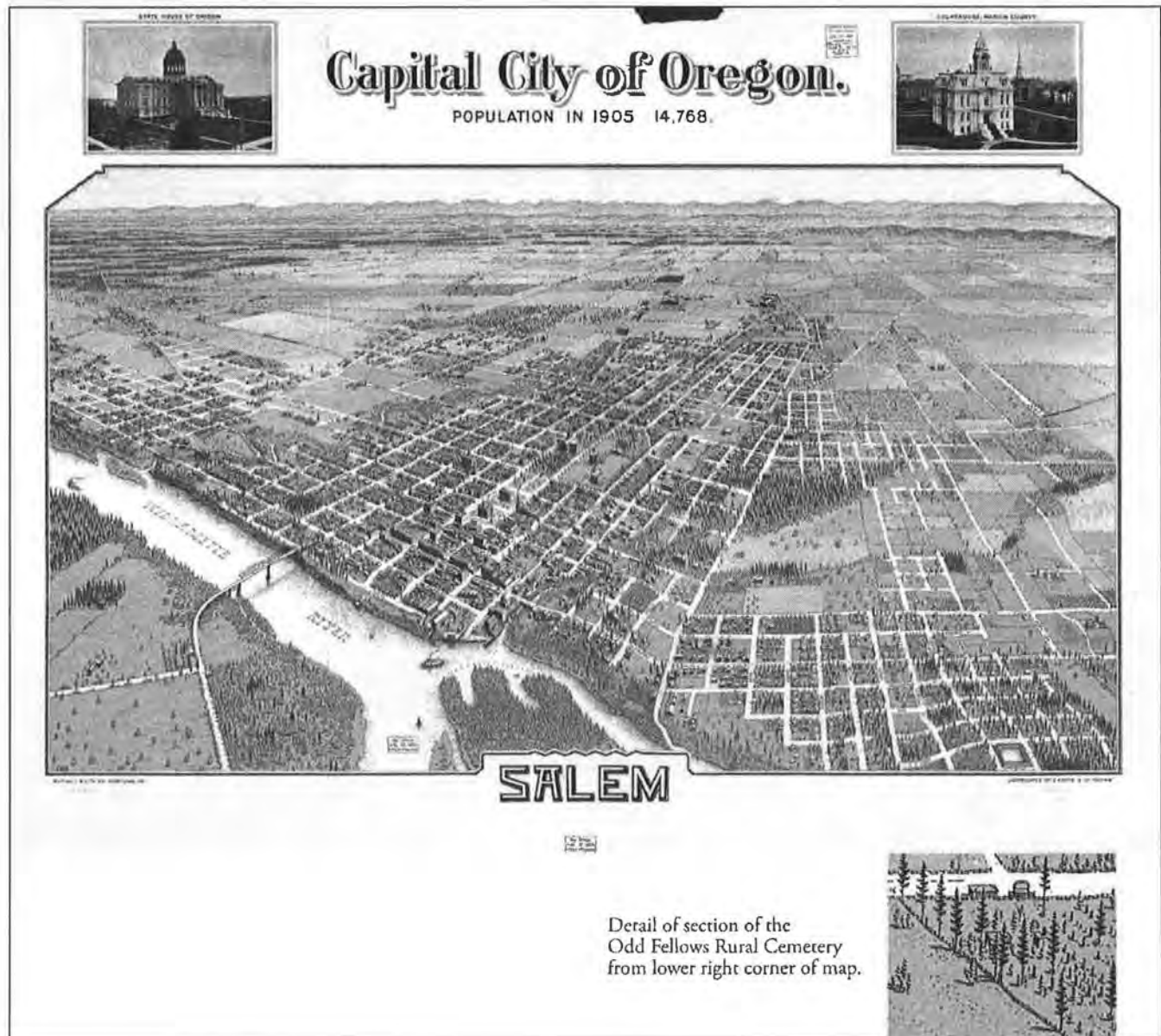
Salem Pioneer Cemetery
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Figure 8 "Capital City of Oregon," Bird's-eye View of Salem, E. Koppe & Ch. Fromm, Mutual Label and Lithograph Co., 1905.

Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Digital collections.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

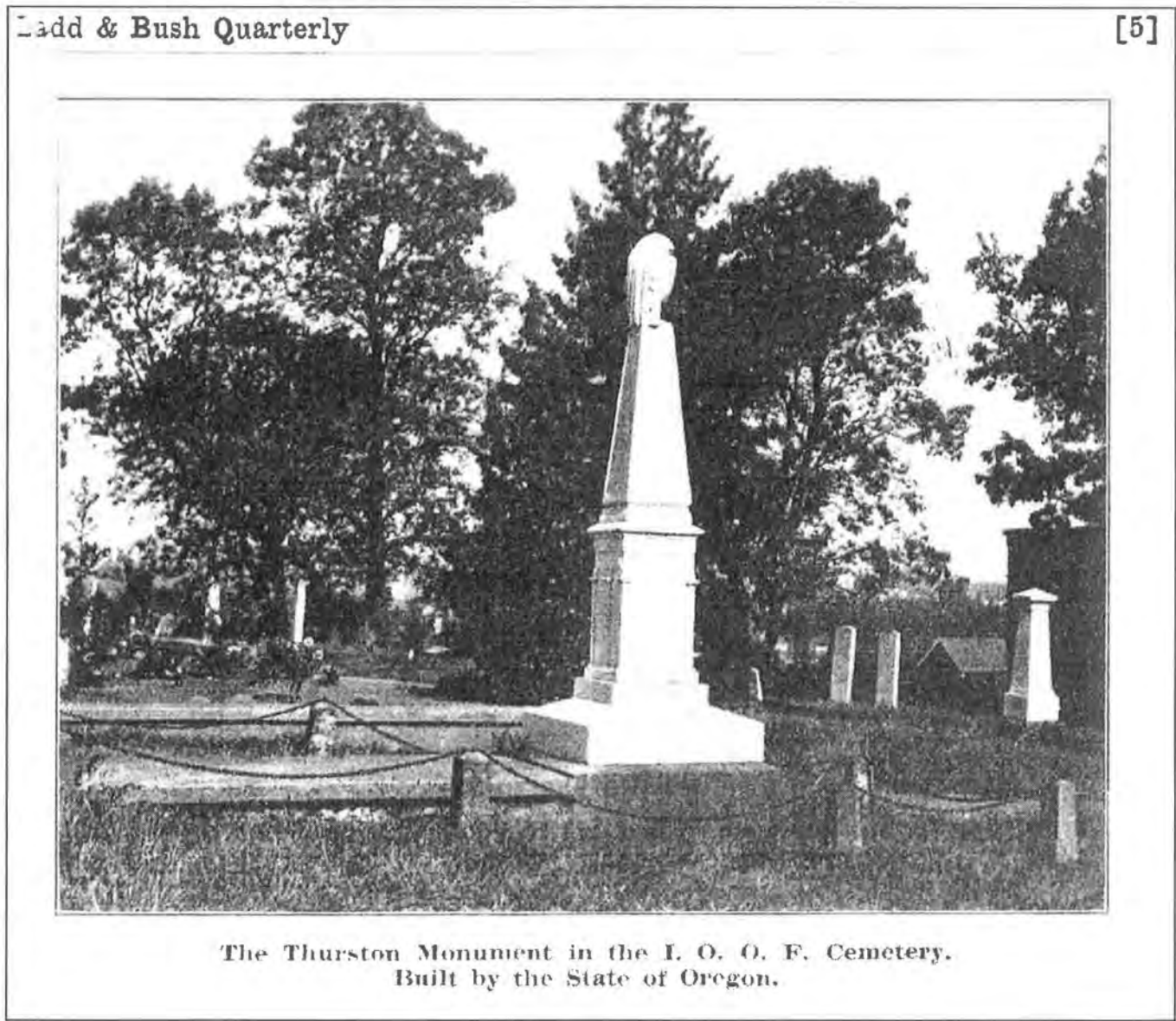
**National Register of Historic Places
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Salem Pioneer Cemetery
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Figure 9 Early 20th century view, south face, grave monument of Samuel R. Thurston erected by the Oregon Territorial legislature.

Ladd & Bush Quarterly, Vol. III, No. 2 (January 1916), page 5.



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Figure 10 Vermont Marble Company advertisement for a model Classical temple-fronted mausoleum in *Park and Cemetery*, Vol. 22, No. 7 (September 1912).

The First Mausoleum

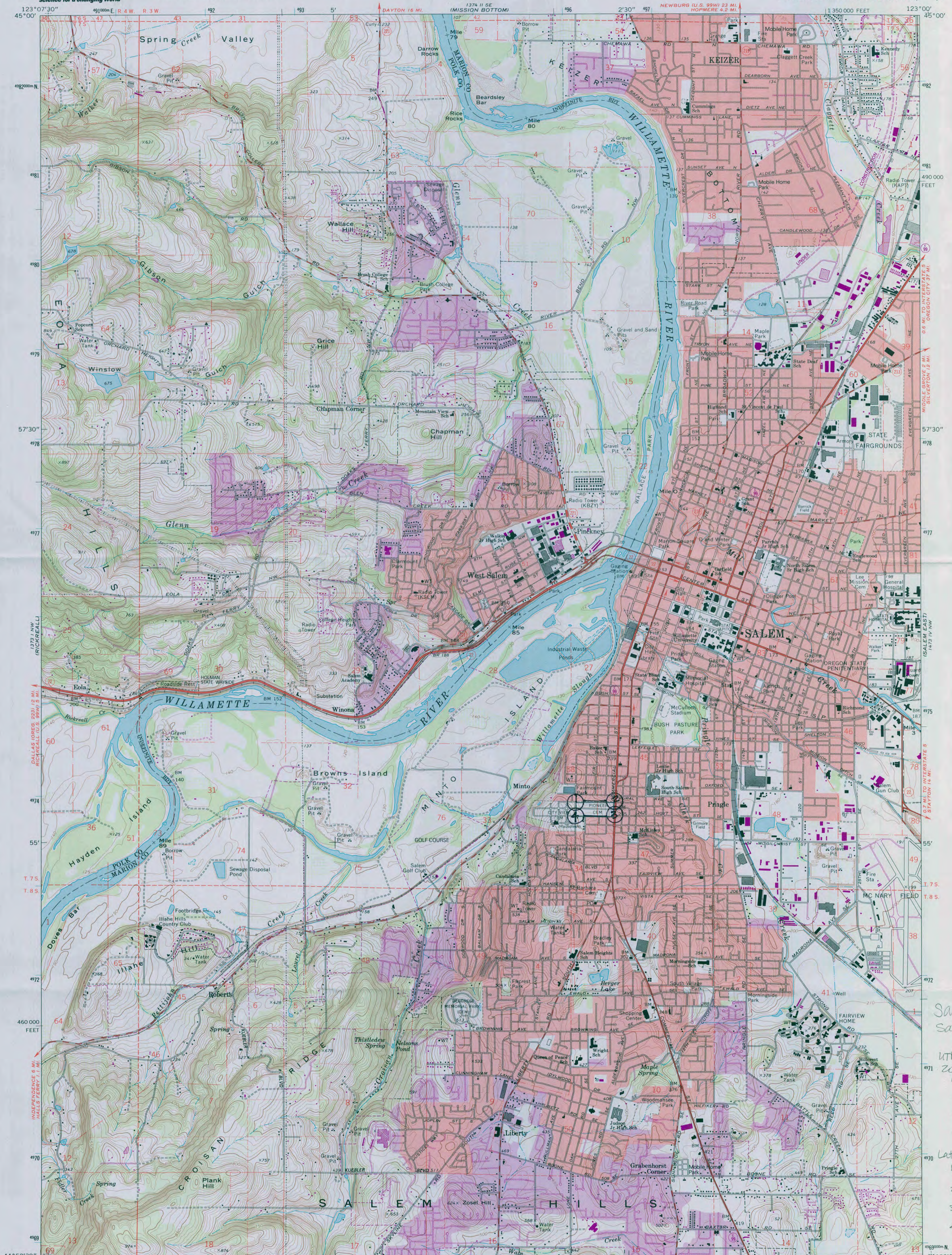
was reared in 353 B. C. as a tribute to the memory of King Mausolus of Caria. Its columns were fashioned out of the finest marble obtainable--its sculptural work was executed by masters of the craft. Some of the marble statues which once formed a part of it are now numbered among the treasures of the British Museum.

The precedent established nearly twenty-three hundred years ago has never been cast aside. They used marble then--they are using it now--more and more of it every year. The above photograph gives you the outlines of the Chambers Mausoleum. The superbly blended veining of the FLORENCE MARBLE, however, cannot be reproduced. Light grey in color, and undeniably rich in cloud effects, it possesses that distinct individuality for which marble is noted.

Vermont Marble Company

Proctor, Vt.

Branches: BOSTON, NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, WASHINGTON, SAN FRANCISCO, CLEVELAND, CHICAGO, KANSAS CITY, ST. LOUIS, JACOMA

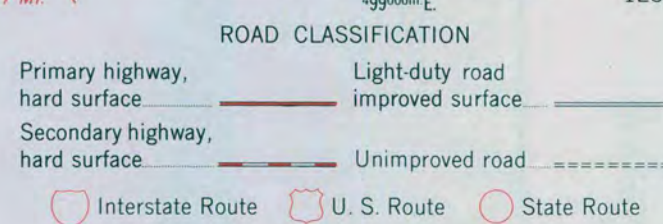
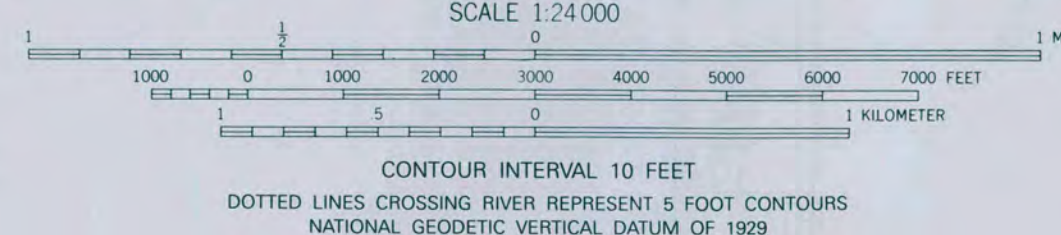
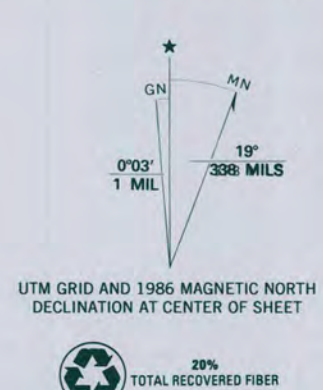


Salem Pioneer Cemetery
Salem, Marion County
OR

UTM references: Nad 83
Zone 10:
1- 496020E
4974137N
2- 496454E
4973972N
3- 496454E
4974129N
4- 496023E
4973991N

Lat/Long Coordinates
1- 44.9206498 lat
-123.0503697 long
2- 44.9205781 lat
-123.0443340 long
3- 44.9192117 lat
-123.0449826 long
4- 44.9193445 lat
-123.0503305 long

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and State of Oregon
Compiled from aerial photographs taken 1967
Field checked 1969. Limited revision 2001
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and
10,000-foot ticks. Oregon Coordinate System, north zone
(Lambert Conformal Conic)
Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 10
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83
for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic
Survey NADCON software
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



SALEM WEST, OR
44123-H1-TF-024

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1982 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1986
Purple tint indicates areas of urban extensions

1986
PHOTOREPRODUCED
DMA 1373 1 NE-SERIES V892





1841
SALEM PIONEER CEMETERY

LION-GATE
PRESENTED TO THE
CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF SALEM
BY THE
WILLAMETTE CHRISTMAS ASSOCIATION

CAPITAL SERVICES CLUB
THE WEST GARDEN CLUB
THE BEACON GARDEN CLUB
SEASIDE AND GARDEN GARDEN CLUB
LITTLE GARDEN CLUB OF TACOMA GARDENS
NORTH GARDEN CLUB
THE GARDEN SOCIETY
SALMON BAY GARDEN
WILSON PARK GARDEN CLUB
1917-1918













THURSTON

Erected by the

People of

OREGON.



ASAHEL BUSH

Born
At Westfield
Massachusetts.
June 4, 1824
Died
At Salem, Oregon
December 23, 1913.

EUGENIA,
Wife of
ASAHEL BUSH.
Born
At Peppers Cove,
Maryland.
January 13, 1833.
Died
At Salem, Oregon
September 11, 1863.

DES. M.
E OF
UTMAN
BERPHOT
ED
3. 1807
8 YEARS



CAPT. CHAS. BENNETT.

*Was the discoverer of gold in Cal.
And fell in defence of his
Country at Waila Waila.*





HARVEY GORDON

BORN

May 14, 1828:

DIED

July 3, 1862.



FELIX L. RAYMUND

DIED

Aug. 26, 1862.

Age 52 yrs.

9 ms. 23 ds.

*And though after my share
worms destroy this body, yet
in my flesh shall I see God.*





FORD





ALFRED HANDEL
BORN [illegible]
DIED [illegible]



HANNAH
BORN
1867
DIED
1935

HERRLING







DELIA H. DOWNING
BORN AUGUST 20, 1868
DIED
FEBRUARY 17, 1900.

ANDREW MONROE
1825 — 1884
SOPHIA STAIGER MONROE
1842 — 1917

MONROE





JONES



GEORGE F. SMITH
CO. B
2 ORE. INF.
SP. AM. WAR



福留縣人

三世長太郎達之

寺川眞一

RIE

BERTRAM

CLARENCE

WOODCOCK

BORN 1868

DIED 1949

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2013

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Salem Pioneer Cemetery
Name of Property Marion Co., OR
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Amendment Page 1

Salem Pioneer Cemetery
NRIS # 13000707
Date Listed: September 11, 2013

The purpose of this continuation sheet is to correct a typographical error for the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Salem Pioneer Cemetery. In Section 7, page 3, paragraph 3, the text incorrectly states that the expansion of 1861 surrounded the original five-acre plat on three sides. This is incorrect. The 1861 expansion surrounds the original plan on all four sides, as is shown in Figure 1 under Additional Documentation, page 50.



Ian P. Johnson
Associate Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

10/30/2017
Date

Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery

Name of Property

Marion Co., OR

County and State

An undated pen-and-ink drawing of the plat, with lot sale notations and a dated newspaper notice affixed, shows the state of development by 1860.¹ [Fig. 7] From the outset, a feature of the layout was a median strip of three elongated unnumbered plots in the central avenue. The median plots appear to have been designated for burial of public figures or others of distinction as events unfolded. Penned notations show that the town site proprietor William H. Willson, who died in 1856, was laid to rest in the uppermost median [Photo 4], and Samuel R. Thurston, Oregon Territory's first delegate to Congress whose re-interment was reported to have occurred at about the same time, was accorded a place of honor in the lower median at the spot marked "Thurston Monument." [Photo 5]

Other salient features of the initial plat were the curvilinear side lanes for carriages which branched from the central avenue to the north and south in mirror-image fashion to form a heart-shaped figure. Four circular carriage turn-arounds circumscribing Plots 33 and 38 and Plots 203 and 208 that were planned as figures above and below the heart-shaped side lanes apparently were impractical and never carried out. The Masons acquired two full plots for the use of their brethren, and last needs of the anonymous were accommodated as well. Such notations as "orphan child" (Plot 111) and "Chinaman" (Plot 191) show that from the earliest stage of development the community burial ground served the gamut of Salem society. An unidentified newspaper clipping was affixed to the plat in evidence of the fact that by 1864 the Odd Fellows, who had been sole proprietors since the Masons withdrew in 1855, were making an effort to bring burial records into conformance with the register of lot sales.

Odd Fellows' Rural Cemetery, Salem, Oregon.
Those who have relatives or friends interred in
this cemetery are requested to furnish to either
of the undersigned as soon as practicable the following
information, viz: Name, age, sex, color, married
or single, place of birth, of what family, number of
days ill; died when, where, and cause; buried, when
and by whom. The object of the foregoing inquiries
is for the purpose of registration in a book already
procured for the purpose.
I.R. Moores, C.N. Terry, S.E. May, Trustees
Salem, January 14, 1864.

After 1861, the year when the Odd Fellows acquired eleven acres surrounding the original five-acre parcel on four sides, the 560-foot-wide gridiron was extended upslope approximately 1,300 feet toward the crest of the ridge.² The number of plots was thereby enlarged to 960. The central avenue was continued to the western boundary where it met with a border lane twelve feet in width. A twelve-foot-wide cross-axial lane crossed the cemetery's mid-section approximately where the new section met the existing plat. West of the cross-axial lane, side lanes branching from the central avenue with radiused segments divided longitudinally the long sections north and south of the avenue. In the larger portion lying west of the cross-axial lane pedestrian aisles were increased in width to more than five feet.³

A finely drawn pen-and-ink enlarged plat, undated and unsigned, was made for the Odd Fellows between 1861 and 1870. It is largely free of annotations except for plot numbers and some dimensions. On fewer than a dozen lots, notations relating to lot payments were made in pencil. The east boundary lane fronting on what

¹ The initial five-acre plat drawing, c. 1854-1860, was given to the City of Salem's citizen support group, Friends of Pioneer Cemetery, by Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F after the preservationists were organized in 1985. The drawing on paper measures 22 ½ x 17 ¾ inches and bears no date or draftsman's signature. This drawing and the 76 x 28 ¾ inch companion plat embracing sixteen acres were donated by the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery in 2010 to the Oregon State Library, where they are held in the map collections.

² The plat's length and breadth, as given above, are approximate because opposing boundary measurements are not equilateral.

³ In the east portion of the cemetery the width of aisles is noted on the plats as 7 links (4.62 feet), and in the larger west portion, the width is given as 9 links (5.94 feet).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Additional Documentation

Property Name: Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: OREGON, Marion

Date Received: 11/8/2017 Date of Pending List: 12/5/2017 Date of 16th Day: 12/20/2017 Date of 45th Day: 12/26/2017 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: AD13000707

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 12/26/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 12/26/17

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Marion

DATE RECEIVED: 7/26/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/16/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/03/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/11/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000707

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9/11/13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Acc

REVIEWER W. D. [Signature]

DISCIPLINE [Signature]

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 9/11/13

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer St NE, Ste C

Salem, OR 97301-1266

(503) 986-0690

Fax (503) 986-0793

www.oregonheritage.org



July 24, 2013

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
USDOI National Park Service - Cultural Resources
1201 "Eye" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Shull:

At the recommendation of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, I hereby nominate the following historic property to the National Register of Historic Places:

**SALEM PIONEER CEMETERY
2100 COMMERCIAL ST SE
SALEM, MARION COUNTY**

We appreciate your consideration of this nomination. If questions arise, please contact Diana Painter, Architectural Historian, at (503) 986-0668.

Sincerely,

for

Roger Roper
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Encl.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

AD 13000707

Parks and Recreation Department

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer St NE Ste C

Salem, OR 97301-1266

Phone (503) 986-0690

Fax (503) 986-0793

www.oregonheritage.org

October 30, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Keeper
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C St NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, D.C. 20240



RE: Additional Documentation for the Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Marion Co., OR
NRIS No. 13000707

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find a disk containing the true and correct copy of continuation sheet and corrected nomination page addressing a typographical error in the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Salem Pioneer Cemetery, Marion County, Oregon, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 11, 2013.

I appreciate your consideration of this request. If questions arise, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Ian P. Johnson
Associate Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Encl.