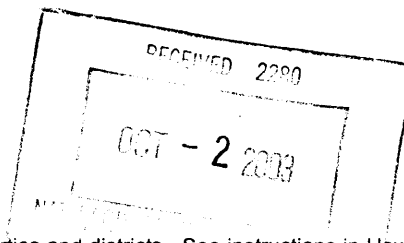


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name ROSEMARY CEMETERY

other names/site number FMSF# SO3213

2. Location

street & number 851 Central Avenue N/A  not for publication

city or town Sarasota N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Sarasota code 115 zip code 34236

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments )

Barbara C. Mattak, DSHPO for S+R 9/30/03  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Division of Historic Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet
  - determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

for \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Daniel V. Vicia 11/16/03

**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)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

**Name of related multiple property listings**

(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)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ART

**Period of Significance**

1886-1953

**Significant Dates**

1886

1903

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of Repository

# \_\_\_\_\_

Rosemary Cemetery  
Name of Property

Sarasota Co., FL  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.92

#### UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	3 4 7 3 2 0	3 0 2 5 4 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Burns, Lillian Grant, Judith C. Ball/Robert O. Jones, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date September 2003

street & number 500 S. Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### 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.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

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

name City of Sarasota, contact City Manager, Michael McNeas

street & number 1565 1<sup>st</sup> Street telephone 941-365-2200

city or town Sarasota state Florida zip code 34236

**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 amend 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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number 7 Page 1 **ROSEMARY CEMETERY, SARASOTA,  
SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SUMMARY PARAGRAPH**

The Rosemary Cemetery is located in the 800 block between Central and Florida Avenues in the City of Sarasota, Sarasota County, Florida. The cemetery is owned by the city and contains 1.92 acres. Surrounded by a chain-link fence, the cemetery contains more than 740 burials, most of them dating from 1887 to 1925, and remains active today. The cemetery was established in 1886 as part of the original plat of the Town of Sarasota. In 1903, the cemetery was laid out in a formal, symmetrical pattern with a main east/west access thoroughfare through the middle. The cemetery is divided into quadrants. Each quadrant has a center with pathways at right angles. A pergola, with a large wooden trellis is on top of four, square, concrete columns, and is located at the center of the cemetery with the thoroughfares passing through it. The cemetery contains markers of various materials and styles, the most distinctive being concrete markers with seashell decorations, and a wrought iron cross.

**SETTING**

Sarasota is a city with a population of approximately 51,000 located in western Florida about 55 miles south of Tampa. The city is situated on Sarasota Bay, an inlet to the Gulf of Mexico. The downtown area contains a mixture of historic and modern buildings, most of the latter having been constructed within the last 30 years. Much of the recent commercial development has taken place south of the downtown core, along the Tamiami Trail (U.S. Highway 41), and east and north of the early downtown commercial district. Sarasota Bay and the city's renovated Bayfront Park lie west of the original core. The streets are largely laid out on a rectangular grid. The geography is flat, and mature trees are scattered throughout the area. The north/south Central Avenue borders the cemetery on the east (Photo #1), and north/south Florida Avenue borders the cemetery on the west. Rosemary Cemetery is located immediately north of the boundaries of the Overtown Historic District (NR 2002), a historically African American commercial and residential neighborhood. The cemetery is seven blocks north of downtown's Main Street, and two blocks east of the Tamiami Trail, and major north/south thoroughfare.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Platted in 1886, Rosemary Cemetery was located on high ground in the northwest corner on the original plat of the Town of Sarasota (see plat map). The cemetery as acquired by the city in 1903 and surveyed by Edward Morrell was 300 feet by 300 feet. After modern road widening of Florida Avenue, 20 feet of green space were taken from the western edge. Metal, and chain-link fencing surround the cemetery.

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Section number 7 Page 2 **ROSEMARY CEMETERY, SARASOTA,  
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**Landscape Design**

Colonel Edward W. Morrell gave the formal design of the cemetery in 1903. A straight north/south path, and an east/west path, that crossed in the center, traversed the square acreage. The quadrants thereby formed were identified as A, B, C, and D. Burial Blocks E and F are narrow strips added at the north and south ends of the cemetery during the 1930's in what had been denoted as a 20-foot open space.<sup>1</sup> The quadrangles each had square central burial plots with circulation paths radiating north/south and east/west from the square (see cemetery map). The cemetery is accessible from the east and west via a 20' wide shell roadway with original concrete curbing. A 1911 central pergola, constructed of hand tamped concrete blocks with the popular "rock face" surface, and a wood trellis, spans the access road (Photo #2). The east entrance on Central Avenue (Photo #3), and the west entrance on Florida Avenue are marked with gate posts constructed of the same concrete blocks as the pergola. The major east/west thoroughfare supports vehicle traffic, while the north/south thoroughfare does not and is grass. Mature, large cedars, palms and live oak trees are across the cemetery, planted in the 1910s by families (Photo #4). A Sarasota County Historical Marker stands at the east entrance.

**Burials and Markers**

There are approximately 740 burials within the cemetery with over 400 marked burials dating from 1887 to the present.<sup>2</sup> There are 154 unmarked grave markers. Many charity burials dating from 1926 through 1942 remain unmarked. Burials within quadrants A-D are in the traditional east-west orientation. Within the narrower E and F blocks they are oriented north/south. Block F contains many unmarked "pauper" graves from the 1930s. Of the marked burials, 7 date prior to 1900, 138 prior to 1925 when a public cemetery opened in Oneco. There are 107 graves from 1926 to 1940; 44 from 1940 to 1950; 38 from 1950 to 1960, and 79 from 1960 to present.

Most grave markers are commercially made, and include white and gray marble, pink and gray granite, and concrete. These are typically embellished with standardized images and carvings. Marker types include obelisks, box-tombs, crosses, tablets and ledgers. Locally manufactured cast-concrete vault covers are numerous. A few white marble cradles are present. Box tombs are common, including distinctive brick-end and stucco box tombs. There is one iron cross. Several hand-lettered table stones exist and several examples of folk-art concrete slabs contain shell patterns.

*Marble*

Marble was the prevalent commercial marker material in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and some good examples of marble markers that incorporate designs and inscriptions indicative of the period are represented in the cemetery. One

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<sup>1</sup> Sarasota County Historical Resources vertical files.

<sup>2</sup> Genealogical Society of Sarasota, Cemeteries of Sarasota County Florida: A Record of Births, Deaths and Burials, (The Genealogical Society of Sarasota, Inc., 1992. Grave site survey, New College at Sarasota, 2002.

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**ROSEMARY CEMETERY, SARASOTA,  
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of the most distinctive family plots is that of the Chapline family; a large, 82.5 inches high, white marble obelisk marks the gravesite of Jacob Burnwell Chapline (Photo #5). At the peak of the obelisk, the sculptor formed a cloak with tassel, a popular theme of Confederate monuments of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries symbolic of the weary soldier and traveler at rest. Acanthus leaves adorn the supporting pedestal on the north and south faces. The marker contains the inscription "Jacob Burnwell Chapline, June 16, 1847, Apr. 3, 1918. He giveth his beloved sleep." On the north face is carved the four-leaf clover design of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

A carved marble marker with an image of a lamb on top marks the resting place of infant Carl Paul Ferguson, Jan 23, 1915 – Oct. 9, 1915 (Photo #6). Typical of infant burials, the lamb denotes Innocence, and in the Christian tradition, redemption and Jesus Christ.

A good example of a standard design military marble marker is inscribed for "Robert Irby Kennedy, CY, US Navy, SP AM WAR" (Photo #7). It is one of three Spanish American War markers in the cemetery.

A good example of a gray marble ledger marks the grave of John Bunyan Kennedy, 1844-1907 (Photo #8). He was a veteran of the Civil War and the marker is inscribed with the letters CSA, one letter on top of another, and framed by a laurel wreath (symbol of heroism) tied with flowing ribbons.

*Granite*

Granite was the most prevalent commercial marker material in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The family plot containing the gravesite of John H. Gillespie, the Scottish principal of the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company, is a prominent feature in the northwest quadrant of the cemetery. A central family marker sculpted from gray granite with a domed top and beveled edges contains raised lettering with the name "Gillespie" (Photo #9). The gray granite headstone is inscribed: "John Hamilton Gillespie, 1852-1923, Capt. C. Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Batt., K.O.S.B." Concrete urns denoting mortality form the cornerstones of the Gillespie/Swain/McDaniel family plot. A concrete coping defines the boundaries.

*Concrete*

Concrete has been a popular and affordable 20<sup>th</sup> century material for the fabrication of locally and individually made durable markers. The malleability of the material has lent itself to individual innovations of form and art. Personal expression of mourning and folk art are commonly displayed in this material.

The most common use of concrete in the cemetery is for numerous concrete ledgers and arched top slabs, or vault covers (Photo #10). Baden Concrete of the nearby city of Bradenton, and the Wilbert Products of Tampa

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supplied these.<sup>3</sup> Many of these horizontal slabs had inscribed pillow markers placed on them, or capped shallow box-tombs only several courses of brick high. The frequent use of ledgers, box-tomb variations, and vaults is indicative of the English traditions related to the earliest settlers. The brick-end vault of Elizabeth Meriweather is the most elaborate vault form (Photo # 11). It has a cast concrete, arched vault cover that rests on a low brick wall. The pointed head-end, and three-pointed foot-end is more elaborate than typical. This is located in the southwest quadrant.

Personalized concrete markers often contain hand lettering. An excellent example of hand lettering and ingenuity is the grave of Mary Alice Thompson, in the southeast quadrant (Photo #12). The neatly hand done inscription "Mary Alice Thompson, Born Feb. 14, 1924, Died Sept. 23, 1926," was executed in a rectangular slab. The slab was then cast into a headstone with an arched top, leaving the inscription slab recessed.

The cast concrete fencing, such as that surrounding the family plot of surveyor Edward W. Morrill, is a prominent feature of the cemetery (Photo #13). Located directly northwest of the central pergola, it has eight concrete posts of the same "rock face" block as the pergola. A cast handrail is supported by a series of seven interspersed cast concrete balusters. Within the plot two cement ledgers and domed marble headstones mark the graves of Edward W. and Martha L. Sanseveria Morrill.

The decoration of several concrete markers is given personal artistic expressions by the use of seashells. The best example is in the southeast quadrant; a concrete ledger adorned with shells is found at the William Barfield gravesite (Photo #14). These shells include clam, conch, scallops and small periwinkles.

*Iron*

A single 50.75-inch wrought-iron cross with scrolling filigree is found at the plot of Henry and Sophie Menig (Photo #15). The cross is imbedded in a cast cement block spanning two concrete vaults within the plot. Two individual markers are iron with gold lettering and are applied to the face of the concrete block. A painted laurel wreath adorns the center of Henry Menig's vault. A wrought iron fence outlines the plot. The wrought-iron cross is the work of a blacksmith, and the only grave marker of its kind in the cemetery.

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<sup>3</sup> Powell Helm, interview by Judith Ball, 9 March 2001.



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Section number 8 Page 1 **ROSEMARY CEMETERY, SARASOTA,  
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**SUMMARY**

Rosemary Cemetery is nominated to the National Register for its significance at the local level under Criteria A and C in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Art. The cemetery meets Criterion Consideration D for cemeteries as Rosemary was the first public cemetery in Sarasota and was included in the original 1886 plat of the town. The cemetery began its use as a burial ground the year after its 1886 designation in the town plan, and a formal layout was designed in 1903. The markers demonstrate the various styles and materials used to commemorate the dead in the central Gulf Coast region of Florida during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Of particular interest are a large wrought iron cross and a several sea-shell decorated hand-cast concrete markers

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

The Florida Mortgage and Investment Company of Edinburgh, Scotland, was one of many British companies speculating in the 1880's on the sale of real estate to immigrants seeking to establish new homes in the United States. Although poor living conditions forced many of the original settlers to abandon their claims, the settlement prevailed. In 1886 John Hamilton Gillespie, son of the president of the Company was sent to Sarasota to manage the Company's investments. Gillespie was a successful promoter, and the early town's economic base included citrus groves and commercial fishing.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

A cemetery, later to be known as Rosemary Cemetery, is prominent in the northwest corner of the original plat for Sarasota. The Company's survey team led by Richard Paulson surveyed approximately 50,000 acres beginning in 1884. A town plan was prepared for the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company from the survey the next year in Edinburgh, Scotland, and in July 1886, the Company filed a plat for a "Town of Sarasota"<sup>4</sup> (see plat map). The cemetery is a significant indicator of the early settlement, is the first public cemetery in Sarasota, and is the oldest extant man-made landscape feature in the city.

The town of Sarasota was incorporated in 1902 and John Gillespie was elected mayor, a post he was to hold until 1907. On 14 April 1903, the cemetery was deeded to the town by Gillespie and his wife Mary, principals in the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company.<sup>5</sup> The deed stated, "the said tract is hereby conveyed to be used solely for the purposes of a burial place for the inhabitants of Sarasota town and vicinity the party of the second part being by acceptance hereof to upkeep said tract in a suitable and decent manner as a burial place..." Colonel Edward W. Morrill, a civil engineer and prominent citizen, surveyed the cemetery for the Town of

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<sup>4</sup> Manatee County Deed Books, 14 April 1903, Book 8, 108.

<sup>5</sup> Manatee County Deed Books.

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Sarasota in 1903.<sup>6</sup> The town council paid him thirty-five dollars for the survey that gave the cemetery the formal internal pattern that it has today (see cemetery map). A north/south straight path, and an east/west path, that crossed in the center, traversed the nearly square area. The quadrangles thus formed each had a square central plot with circulation paths radiating from it, north/south and east/west. The formalized cemetery plan was recorded March 1, 1904, in the Manatee County Plat Book. The name "Rosemary" is attributed to Mrs. Morrill.<sup>7</sup> Located in the center of the cemetery, straddling the crossed paths, is a pergola, a gift from Mrs. Bertha Palmer in 1911.<sup>8</sup> The pergola consists of four massive, square columns of rusticated concrete blocks topped with a wooden trellis. Pairs of rusticated block columns were also placed at the central access points on Central Avenue and Florida Avenue. The mature oaks, cedars and palms were gifts from many of the prominent local families in the 1910's.<sup>9</sup>

The earliest known burial, although in an unmarked grave, is that of Tom W. Booth, who died 17 March 1887. He arrived on a ship bound to New York City with his wife on December 10, 1885. He was listed as a 34 year old clerk and citizen of England. He was a member of a group of Scottish, Irish and English people who bought land from the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company. Alex Browning, another in their group, wrote in 1932 that Booth was from Leeds, Yorkshire, England, where he "had been the head gardener on an estate."<sup>10</sup>

The oldest inscribed marker is that of Ella J. Colburn Green and her children, who were buried September 10, 1887 (Photo #16). They were the wife and children of Delos Green, who murdered them. After capture by a sheriff's deputy, Delos Green was shot on the road north of Sarasota going to Oneco, when he tried to grab the sheriff's gun while being taken to jail.<sup>11</sup> He was buried where he died. A William Pierce was paid \$7.60 for a "monument" for Ella and her children. Thacker Mortuary maintained original records of burials, and records show that lot B-25, in which the Green family was buried, was bought by a Fannie Alexander.

Rosemary Cemetery is the burial place of many of early Sarasota's prominent citizens including John H. Gillespie, the principal for the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company who founded the city, and Colonel Edward W. Morrill, the surveyor/engineer, who gave the cemetery its formal design. Also buried there is Mrs. Bertha Palmer, one of the region's largest landholders and a prominent developer; Carrie Abbe, the first postmistress from 1891-1922; the Rev. Lewis Colson, an ex-slave and member of the original town survey team, a landowner in the Black community of Overtown, and the donor of property of the Bethlehem Baptist

<sup>6</sup> Sarasota Town Council Minutes, 11 February 1903, 13.

<sup>7</sup> Alex Browning, Memoirs, 1932.

<sup>8</sup> Sarasota Times, 1 June 1911, 1:3.

<sup>9</sup> Sarasota Times, 6 May 1915.

<sup>10</sup> Alex Browning.

<sup>11</sup> Karl H. Grismer, The Story of Sarasota: The History of the City and County of Sarasota, Florida, (M.E. Russell, Sarasota, 1946), 112.

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Church<sup>12</sup> (Photo #17). Also buried there is Dr. Jack Halton, an early Sarasota physician; Harry Lee Higel, merchant and three-term Sarasota mayor who developed Siesta Key; and John B. Browning family, an original Scottish colonist, along with his family.

Following the transfer of ownership to the city in 1903, a L.H. Cunliff bought the first lot from the city on May 22, 1903 for \$15.00.<sup>13</sup> Sales were brisk into the mid-1920s. By the fall of 1926, Sarasota's land boom was over and the local economy was on the downturn. Tourism dwindled causing an even deeper recession.<sup>14</sup> During these years and during the Great Depression of the 1930s, the families of many who died could not afford to pay for headstones. In 1930, the north and south borders of the cemetery were platted for single graves and many remain unmarked. Lot purchasers' names are known, but these are not necessarily the people who are buried within the lots. There were many burials marked "charity" and "county" with the lot numbers recorded, but not the locations within the lots. Thacker and Van Gilder, early undertakers, and later Toale Brothers Funeral Home, maintained cemetery records. The Toale Brothers records show that by 1925, purchase of lots for other than charity burials had fallen to near zero.

When in 1925 Memorial Park, a public cemetery, was opened in Oneco, Rosemary was no longer the primary burial ground for the most prominent of the founding families in the area. The maintenance of the cemetery was intermittent, and its poor condition, coupled with its location adjacent to the African-American Overtown community during the era of racial segregation, led to the cemetery's neglect. Charity burials continued until 1942. Today, members of some of the original families continue to be buried in the cemetery, for example in February of 2001, Lillian Grant Burns, historian and daughter of Owen Burns, Sarasota developer and owner of the holdings of J. Hamilton Gillespie, was interred in her family plot.

In 1985 the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation undertook a program of rehabilitation. The Rosemary Committee drafted a plan that engaged Alliance members, the City Commission and the City Parks and Recreation Department, and general individual donors in a concerted effort to maintain the cemetery. The cemetery boundaries were re-surveyed, a watering system installed, the central pergola and driveway and matching entryway posts restored, trees trimmed and a regular mowing schedule established. In 1998, the Mildred F. Doyle Trust made a commitment for annual conservation funds for ongoing rehabilitation. In 2002, a joint venture between New College of Sarasota and the Rosemary Cemetery Committee of the Historical Society of Sarasota County was formed to provide a formal gravesite survey of the cemetery.

Rosemary Cemetery was an original component of the 1886 town plat for Sarasota. It began its use as a cemetery the next year. Surveyor Edward Morrill imparted the formal design of the cemetery in 1903. The

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<sup>12</sup> Annie McElroy, But Your World and My World: The Struggle for Survival: A Partial History of Blacks in Sarasota County, 1884-1986, (Black South Press, 1986), 2.

<sup>13</sup> Karl Grismer, The Story of Sarasota, 139.

<sup>14</sup> Karl Grismer, The Story of Sarasota, 216-217.

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prominent landscape features of trees, pergola, and entry columns were added in the 1910s. The cemetery is one of the best remaining historic components of the town plan, and is the oldest man-made landscape in the city. The cemetery contains a significant representation of the early community's funerary traditions, represented in its grave markers. Good examples of commercial and individually made markers of marble, granite, concrete, and iron are represented. Of particular interest are a large wrought-iron cross and a variety of hand-cast concrete markers, including ones decorated with seashells, and low box and vault tombs.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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**ROSEMARY CEMETERY, SARASOTA,  
SARASOTA COUTNTY, FLORIDA**

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Parcel number 2026-04-0058. Lots 5 & 7 Sub of Lots 1-16, Blk Q POS.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary encompasses property that has been historically associated with the Rosemary Cemetery. The boundary is less 20 feet on the western boundary of cemetery, taken by the City of Sarasota for widening Florida Avenue. The remainder of the property coincides with a warranty deed dated April 14, 1903, by John Hamilton Gillespie and his wife Mary A. Gillespie to the Town of Sarasota, recorded in Deed Book 4, page 109 of the Public Records of Manatee County.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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SATASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

1. Rosemary Cemetery, Central Ave. & 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Sarasota
2. Sarasota County, Florida
3. D.A. Dart
4. July 2002
5. Historical Society of Sarasota County, Sarasota County History Center, 701 N. Tamiami Trl., Sarasota, FL, 34236
6. Central Avenue, looking north
7. Photo #1 of 17

Items 1-5 are the same for the following photographs.

6. Central pergola, looking southwest
7. Photo #2 of 17
  
6. Entrance from Central Avenue, looking west
7. Photo #3 of 17
  
6. View of cemetery, looking northwest
7. Photo #4 of 17
  
6. Obelisk marker for Jacob B. Chapline, looking northwest
7. Photo #5 of 17
  
6. Marble marker for Carl P. Ferguson, looking northwest
7. Photo #6 of 17
  
6. Military marker for Robert I. Irby, looking west
7. Photo #7 of 17
  
6. Marble ledger for John B. Kennedy, looking west
7. Photo #8 of 17
  
6. Granite Gillespie family monument, looking west
7. Photo #9 of 17



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

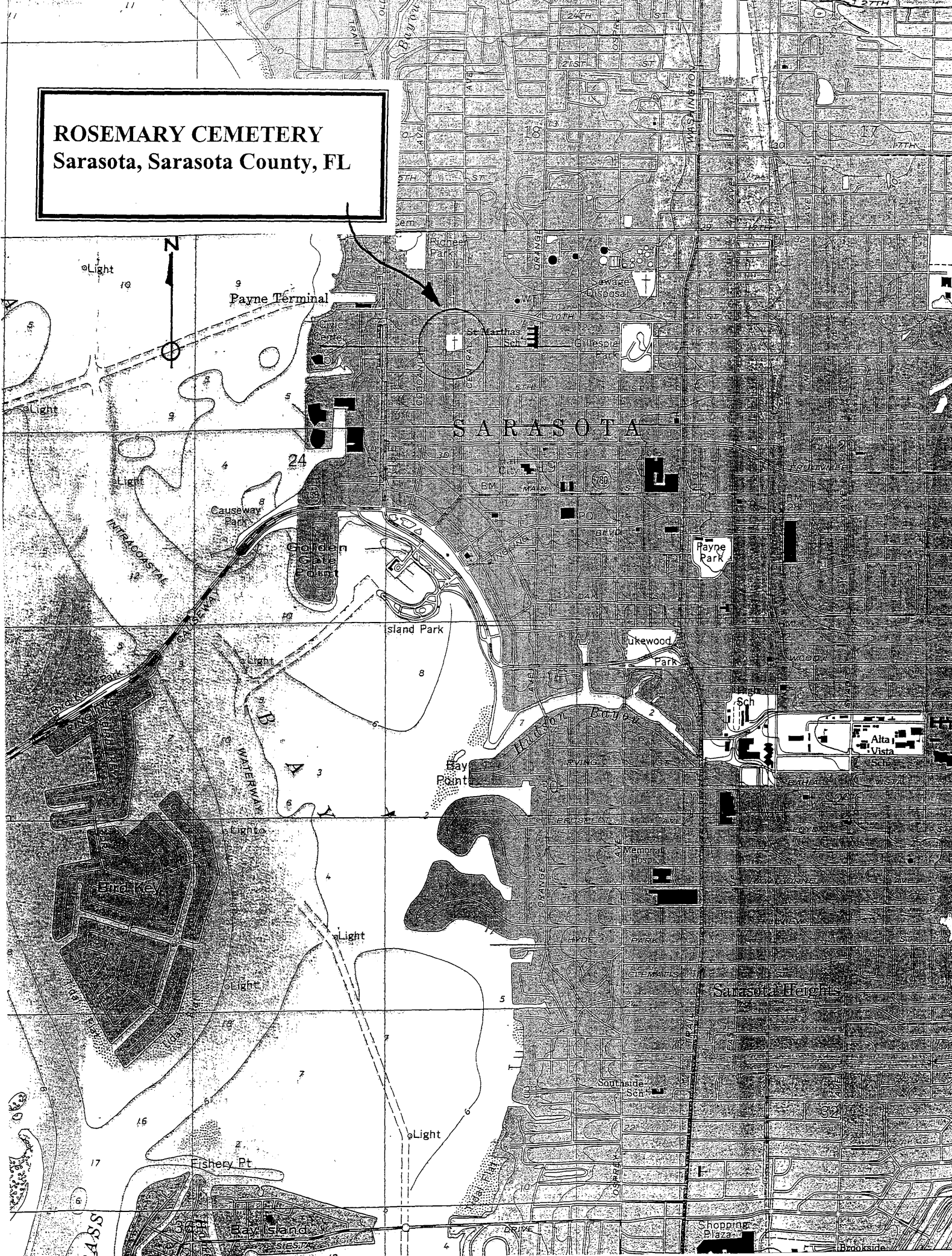
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2 **ROSEMARY CEMETERY, SARASOTA,  
SATASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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- 6. View across northern quadrants B & D, looking west
- 7. Photo #10 of 17
  
- 6. Brick-end vault for Elizabeth Meriweather, looking southwest
- 7. Photo #11 of 17
  
- 6. Concrete marker for Mary A. Thompson, looking east
- 7. Photo #12 of 17
  
- 6. Concrete fencing for the Morrill family plot, looking southwest
- 7. Photo #13 of 17
  
- 6. Concrete ledger with sea shell decoration for William Barfield, looking west
- 7. Photo #14 of 17
  
- 6. Iron cross marking graves for the Menig family, looking west
- 7. Photo #15 of 17
  
- 6. Marker for Ella J. Colburn Green and children, looking west
- 7. Photo #16 of 17
  
- 6. Marker for Rev. Lewis Colson, looking west
- 7. Photo #17 of 17

**ROSEMARY CEMETERY**  
Sarasota, Sarasota County, FL



SARASOTA

Payne Park

Lukewood Park

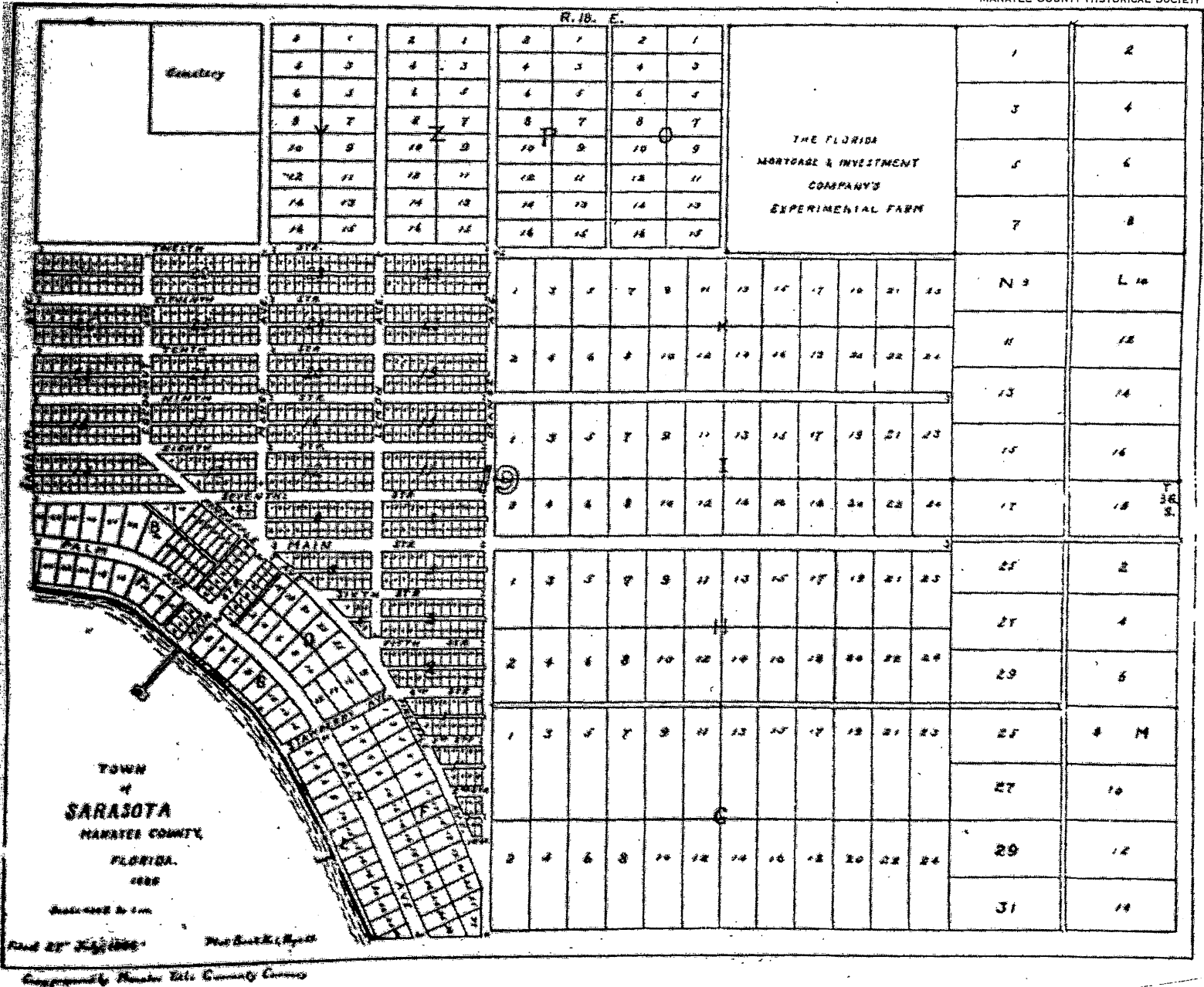
Alta Vista

Sarasota Heights

Shopping Plaza

**ROSEMARY CEMETERY**  
**Sarasota, Sarasota County, FL**  
 1886 Plat of the "Town of Sarasota"

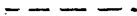

MANATEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

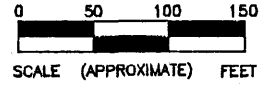


# ROSEMARY CEMETARY

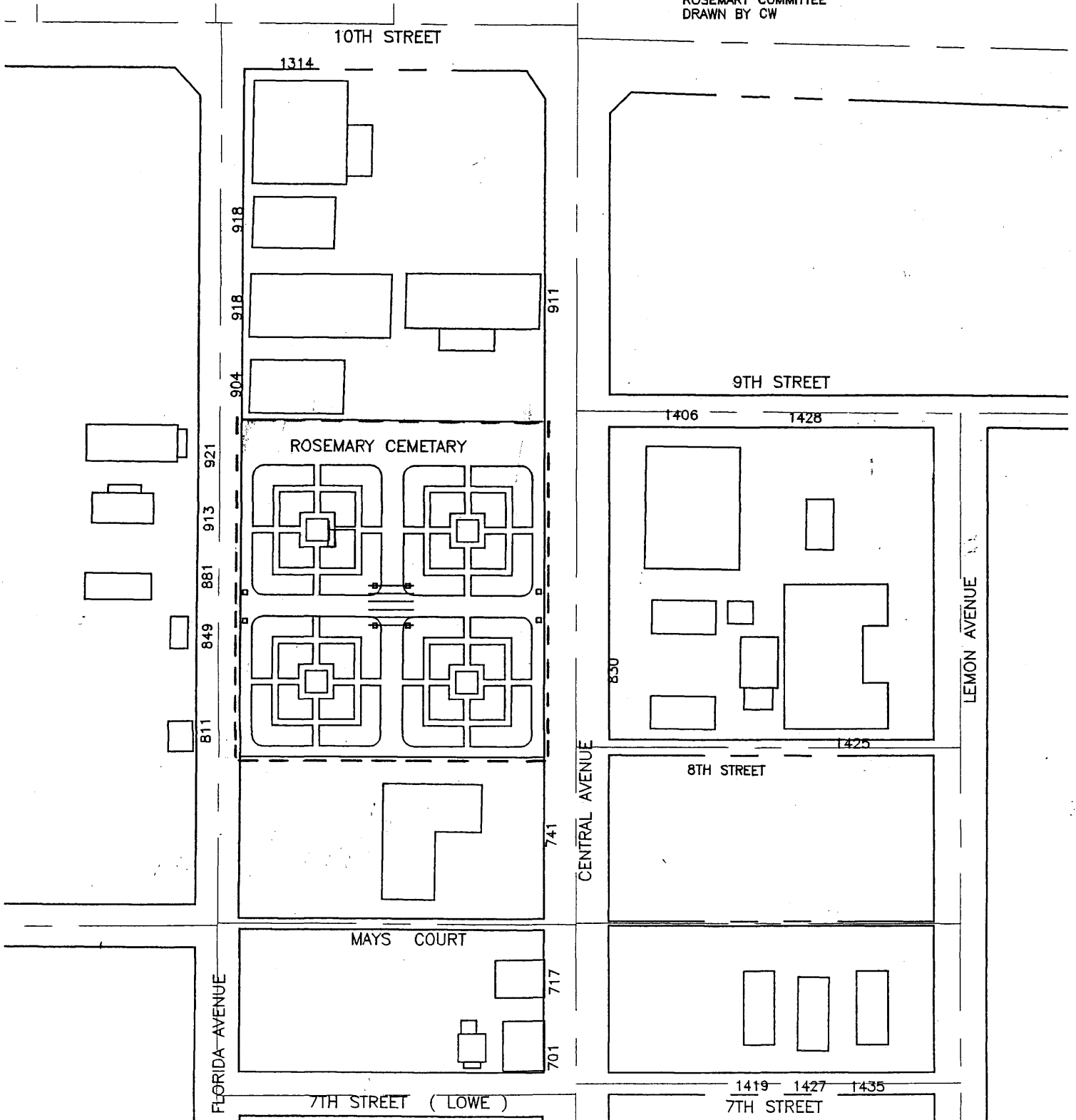
CITY OF SARASOTA, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

## LEGEND

-  NR BOUNDARY
-  ADJACENT BUILDINGS
- 1385 STREET ADDRESS

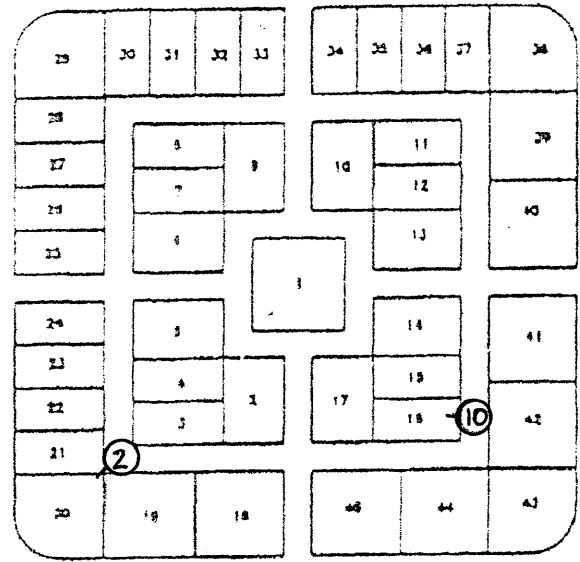
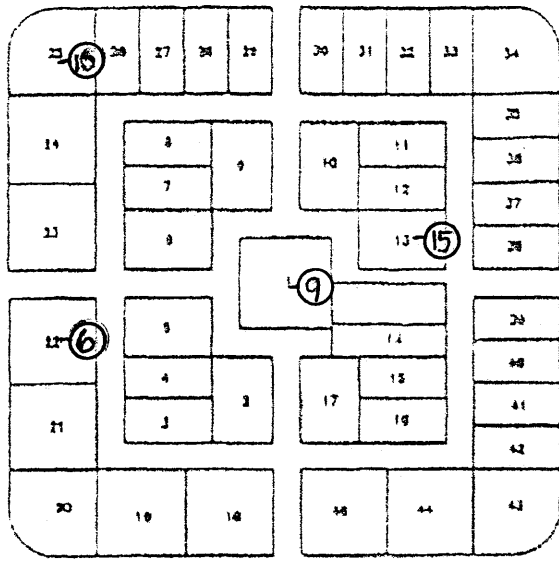


4-02-02  
ROSEMARY COMMITTEE  
DRAWN BY CW

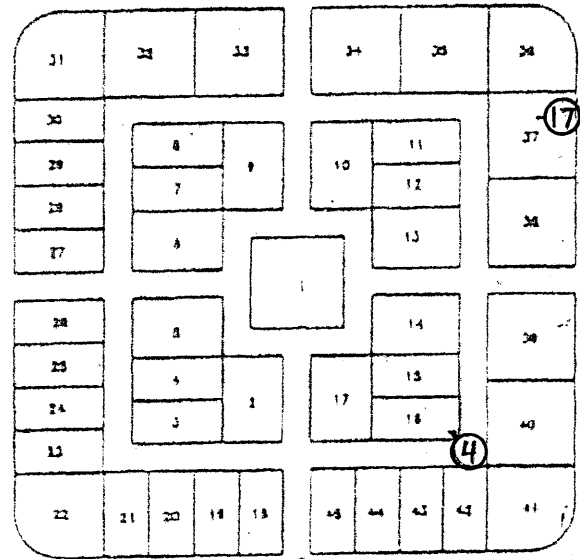
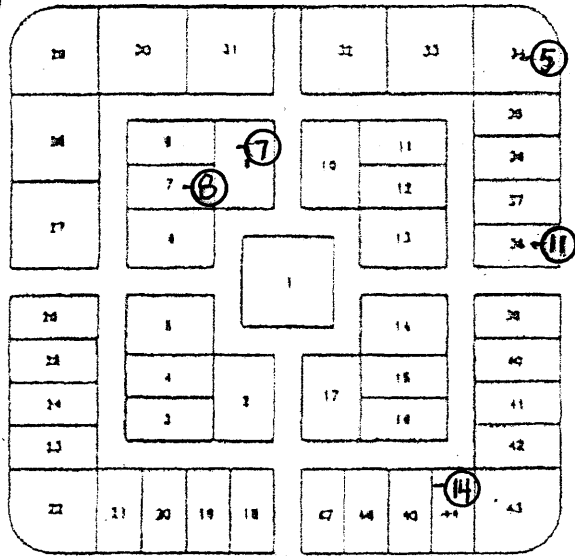


Block F

FLORIDA AVE 300'



ROSEMARY CEMETERY  
PB A PAGE 55



CENTRAL AVENUE

Block E

**ROSEMARY CEMETERY**  
Sarasota, Sarasota County, FL

Site Map & Photo Diagram

N

