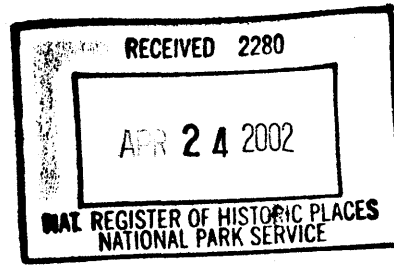


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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### 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 Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery  
other names/site number Layman's Cemetery

#### 2. Location

street & number 2925 Cedar Avenue South not for publication \_\_\_  
city or town Minneapolis vicinity N/A  
state Minnesota code MN county Hennepin code 053  
zip code 55407

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ian R. Stewart 4/17/02  
Signature of certifying official Ian R. Stewart Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Minnesota Historical Society

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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

*Edson H. Beall* 6/6/02

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the

National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

*Jace*

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

**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

Contributing Noncontributing

1        buildings

1        sites

1 1 structures

6        objects

9 1 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

N/A

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: FUNERARY Sub: cemetery

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: FUNERARY Sub: cemetery

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

roof ASPHALT SHINGLES

walls STONE

\_\_\_\_\_

other STONE

METAL

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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1925-1942  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1925, 1927, 1936, 1942  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation  N/A

Architect/Builder  N/A

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

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository:  Minneapolis City Archives

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property  27 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 1    | _____   | _____    | 3    | _____   | _____    |
| 2    | _____   | _____    | 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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title Marjorie Pearson, Ph.D.  
organization Hess, Roise and Company date July 2001  
street & number 100 North First Street telephone 612-338-1987  
city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55401

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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

name City of Minneapolis c/o Public Works Division  
street & number 309 Second Avenue South telephone 612-673-2352  
city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55401

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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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Description

The Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery/Layman's Cemetery occupies a twenty-seven-acre site in South Minneapolis. It is bounded by Cedar Avenue on the west, Lake Street on the south, Twenty-First Avenue South on the east, and the irregular line of the railroad right-of-way and the vacated edges of Nineteenth Avenue South and Twenty-ninth Street East on the north. This is the historic extent of the cemetery, which largely attained its existing plan and features between 1928 (when it was officially renamed the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery) and 1936. The district contains one contributing site, one contributing building, one contributing structure, one non-contributing structure, and six contributing objects. Approximately 5,000 grave markers, stones, and monuments have not been inventoried. Collectively, they contribute to the character of the nominated area.

The Site and Its Features

The contributing site is enclosed on Cedar Avenue and Lake Street by a fence, a contributing structure installed in 1928-1929, that is composed of posts formed by rough-cut, random limestone blocks set at twenty-foot intervals and linked by wrought-iron pickets. The posts are about seven-and-one-half feet high, and the pickets, painted green, are about six feet high. Paired wrought-iron gates, flanked by limestone posts approximately ten feet high, protect the entrances to the cemetery on these two thoroughfares. All the limestone blocks are set with rough sand mortar and the posts rest on concrete bases. Bronze plaques bearing the inscription "The Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery" are placed on the gateposts. Pedestrian entrances with their own wrought-iron gates flank the main Cedar Avenue gate. Historic accounts state that a wood archway with iron gates signaled the cemetery entrance on Cedar Avenue.<sup>1</sup> Chain-link fences supported on pipe-rail posts and crosspieces enclose the cemetery on the east and the north. These were also installed in 1928-1929. Sidewalks composed of concrete slabs and installed at the same time as the fence enclose the outer edges of the cemetery on Cedar Avenue, Lake Street, and Twenty-first Avenue South. Most of the sidewalk slabs appear to date from 1928-1929, although later concrete slabs extend the sidewalk to the curb line on Lake Street and portions of Cedar Avenue. Otherwise grass-planted boulevards extend from the sidewalk to the curb line on Cedar Avenue and Twenty-first Avenue South.

A paved driveway extends east from the Cedar Avenue gate past the cemetery office building and around a flagpole to a turnaround circle located approximately two-thirds of the way across the cemetery. The driveway and turnaround circle, even though resurfaced and somewhat altered in configuration as the driveway passes the office, are among the oldest surviving features of the site, predating the reworking of the cemetery in the 1920s and 1930s. The gate from Lake Street, which is opposite Nineteenth Avenue South and historically had its own driveway, is now marked by an allée of trees.

<sup>1</sup> Byron Harvey Timberlake, "Cemeteries," in *History of the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota*, ed., Isaac Atwater (New York: Munsell and Co., 1893), II: 956.

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The grass-covered terrain of the cemetery is relatively flat; however, it slopes downward in the northeast section towards Twenty-First Avenue South and slopes upward in the northwest section towards Cedar Avenue.<sup>2</sup> Examination of topographical maps suggest that this is the natural terrain pattern, and one late nineteenth-century description reinforces this analysis.<sup>3</sup> Historically, unpaved carriage lanes extended north-south through the cemetery. The lanes were closed and replaced by grass in the 1930s. Trees planted in north-south rows that paralleled the lanes dominate the cemetery landscape. Some appear to be nineteenth-century elms, but many of the existing trees--maple, aspen, ash, poplar, and a few evergreens--appear to date from the 1920s and 1930s, when the cemetery was partially redesigned, and later. Trees clustered near the northern edges of the cemetery also appear to date from the 1930s. Due to inadequate maintenance, many of the trees are in poor health and in need of arboreal care. Another allée of trees lines the main entrance drive into the cemetery. The only other landscape features are planting circles, outlined by stone blocks, and birdbaths with concrete and stone basins set on rough limestone-block bases. These were added sometime between 1928 and 1931.

The Building and Structure

Contributing building: The cemetery office building, constructed ca. 1871, is located in the middle of the cemetery, north of the flagpole and the driveway. The one-story building is constructed of rough-cut limestone blocks and oriented in a north-south direction. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Cornice returns on the north and south sides of the building give it a modest Greek Revival appearance. A wood and glass door leads to the office area in the south end of the building. Two doors on the east side of the building lead to a hallway and workroom and vault area in the north end. An original cast-iron stove is located in the workroom. A non-contributing, frame, gable-roofed vehicle shed is located to the north of the office.

Objects

A variety of contributing, commemorative monuments were added to the cemetery in the 1920s and 1930s, after it was acquired by the city of Minneapolis and renamed the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery. The first of these is the flagpole, installed on a base of rough, random, limestone blocks, to the south of the office. It bears a bronze plaque inscribed "In memory of the Pioneers and the Soldiers by the Auxiliary M.C.P.A., 1928." In 1936 the G.A.R. monument with a bronze plaque reading "In Memory Of The Nation's Defenders" was installed south of the office and east of the allée that leads to Lake Street, by the Soldiers' Section that was marked in the 1930s. Also in 1936, the headstone of Philander Prescott and his family was set in a tall vertical surround. The Charles W. Christmas monument in the form of a modified obelisk dates from 1942. These are located east of the G.A.R. monument. A stone boulder with a bronze plaque that reads, "In Memory Of Pioneer Mothers/Erected May 8, 1937 By Descendants And Friends/All That I Am Or Hope To Be I Owe To My Angel Mother - Abraham

<sup>2</sup> The northeast section is part of the original Minneapolis Cemetery plat (1860), while the northwest section was added to the cemetery in 1886.

<sup>3</sup> Timberlake, 956.



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Lincoln,” stands east of the office. To the west of the office and adjacent to the entrance driveway is a monument to Annie Holl with a bronze plaque reading: “In Loving Memory Of Annie M. Holl, Wife Of Dr. Peter M. Holl, Daughter Of Seymour And Ann Fillmore, Granddaughter Of Deacon James And Ann Sully, Her Untiring Efforts And Devotion To Bring About The Preservation Of This Sacred Ground As A Memorial To The Pioneers And Soldiers Was An Inspiration To All Who Were Interested In This Worthy Work. Erected By Auxiliary M.C.P.A. 1938.”

About 20,000 graves remain in the cemetery, but only about 5,000 headstones, markers, and monuments survive, although not all graves were marked. No comprehensive inventory has been made of the surviving markers, although all are contributing objects to the nomination. The markers are arranged in north-south rows, paralleling the rows of trees. The majority are late nineteenth and early twentieth century in date, in a variety of forms and styles, and in widely varied states of repair. Some of the headstones appear to be of mid-twentieth-century date, but record earlier burials. The inscriptions on the earliest headstones have been obliterated by acid rain and other forms of deterioration. Markers noting burials in the 1880s and earlier tend to have English names, while the names from burials in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are predominately Scandinavian and German, with inscriptions in those languages. Many of the graves are those of children which are often marked by headstones bearing small carved lambs or reclining angels.

Several marker types are distinctive. The markers placed over the graves of Woodmen of the World lodge members and their families are of at least two types: carved vertical tree stumps and rough-cut stones with carved insignia. A number of headstones bear Masonic emblems. The tombstone of John Effert (1884-1911) is incised with the Socialist Party symbol and the slogan, “Workers of the World Unite.” A few examples of hand-crafted wrought-iron crosses survive in varying states of repair. These reflect a German-Russian immigrant folk tradition. Military markers, another major type found in the cemetery, were installed in the 1930s over pre-existing graves. These are inscribed with the names and companies of Army veterans but no death dates. A few surviving markers composed of wrought-iron anchors mark the graves of Navy veterans.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> “The Lone Tree Cemetery Survey” of Telluride, Colorado, contains a useful compilation of information on late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century gravestones. See [www.town.telluride.co.us/plan/cemmain.html](http://www.town.telluride.co.us/plan/cemmain.html). For wrought-iron crosses, see Timothy J. Kloberdanz, “German-Russian Wrought-Iron Cross Sites in Central North Dakota Multiple Property Submission,” 1988, prepared for the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office.

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Statement of Significance

Introduction

The Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery/Layman's Cemetery in South Minneapolis is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the area of Social History. It is eligible under Criteria Consideration D because it derives its primary significance from historic events that reflect important broad patterns in our history. Layman's Cemetery, established in 1858 on land owned by Minneapolis pioneer Martin Layman and adjacent to his farmstead, is the oldest surviving cemetery in the city of Minneapolis and one of the few surviving features from the city's first period of settlement. It contains the graves of some of the first settlers of the city, including those of Philander Prescott and Charles W. Christmas who made major contributions to state and local history; graves of soldiers and veterans of the War of 1812, the Civil War, and the Spanish-American War; and graves of many immigrants to Minneapolis in the late nineteenth century. The effort to preserve the cemetery, begun in 1925, which led to its renaming as the "Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery" and its partial redesign between 1928 and 1936 is part of a historic preservation movement that sought to protect sites deemed significant to local history. The cemetery reflects the historical patterns identified by the Minnesota historic context "Urban Centers, 1870-1940." It is also part of the Minneapolis contexts "Religion and Social Organization" and "South Minneapolis: An Historic Context."<sup>5</sup>

Early Minneapolis Settlement and the Founding of Layman's Cemetery

Minnesota became a territory in 1849. Hennepin County was established in 1852 with eighteen townships that included a Town of Minneapolis, which was much larger than the city that was established in 1856. That year, the southern boundary of the city was set at Franklin Avenue. Additional land was annexed as far south as Twenty-sixth Street South in 1867. The township boundaries were changed that year as well, taking in part of the original Richfield Township.<sup>6</sup>

Land in South Minneapolis, previously under military jurisdiction, was made available for claims in 1849 and 1853. Martin Layman (1811-1886) one of the first Minneapolis settlers, established a claim in 1853 in the vicinity of Cedar Avenue and Lake Street. He stated that his house at Cedar and Twenty-ninth Street East was the sixth house built on the west bank of the Mississippi. Ebenezer Hodsdon lived nearby at Bloomington and Lake; his house was supposedly the fifth frame house built west of the river. Layman, born in Catskill, New York, married

<sup>5</sup> Carole Zellie, "Context: Religion, 1850-1950," 1993, 16-17, prepared for the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission, discusses the city's nineteenth-century cemeteries, both sectarian and non-sectarian. Marjorie Pearson, "South Minneapolis: An Historic Context," 2000, 9, prepared by Hess, Roise and Company for the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission, describes the nineteenth-century cemeteries in South Minneapolis.

<sup>6</sup> George E. Warner and Charles M. Foote, eds., *History of Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis* (Minneapolis: North Star Publishing Co., 1881), 343, 378.

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Elizabeth Brown in 1831. They moved to Illinois in 1845, where they farmed, then came to Minneapolis in 1853 and continued farming. When the city of Minneapolis was legally formed in 1856, Layman's land was within the boundaries of the town of Minneapolis, but south of the city. Problems arose with the title when it was found that he claimed land that was allocated to school use, so congressional action was required for him to obtain clear title to the property.<sup>7</sup>

The beginnings of the cemetery are somewhat apocryphal. The citizens of the nascent city had tried to negotiate for a cemetery site from J. S. Johnson, adjacent to Johnson's Lake, in the fall of 1854. Prior to that time, what burials there were on the west bank took place in a grove of trees behind Hoag's Lake (long filled in). Of course, settlers associated with Fort Snelling could be buried in the graveyard there. Given the tenuous nature of the settlers' rights on the west bank, such an indeterminate state of affairs for the burial of the dead is understandable.<sup>8</sup>

When ten-month-old Carlton Keith Cressey, son of the Reverend W. E. Cressey, the first minister of the First Baptist Church, died on September 11, 1853, Layman allowed for burial on his land. George Wardwell, the father of Ebenezer Hodsdon's wife Jane, helped Layman survey the proposed cemetery site, receiving two grave lots in exchange. His wife, Jean Robbins Wardwell, was buried there in 1855. A late nineteenth-century account calls this the burial of "Uncle Wardell," a poor hired hand. Two of Layman's young grandchildren were buried there in 1858 and 1859. Supposedly Layman began to sell cemetery lots in 1858 or 1859. The location was advantageous: easily accessible from the village center and close to the major roads that led from Minneapolis to Fort Snelling.<sup>9</sup>

The eastern ten acres were platted under the name of the Minneapolis Cemetery in 1860, with an additional ten acres to the west platted in 1871. The twenty acres were organized in a rectangular plan bounded by Cedar Avenue on the west, Twenty-first Avenue on the east, Lake Street on the south, and Twenty-ninth Street on the north. The last irregularly shaped seven-acre addition to the Minneapolis Cemetery was planned in 1881, but not formally added until 1886, three years after the land was annexed to the city of Minneapolis. This section extends northward between Cedar Avenue and [vacated] Nineteenth Avenue South to the curving right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul railroad tracks.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Warner and Foote, 340-341; Beatrice Morosco, "Last Farm on a Minneapolis Lake," *Hennepin County History* 38 (Fall 1978): 19; Winifred Layman Fernstrom, "The Layman Story, 1760-1976," Minneapolis, 1976, 27; Timberlake, 955; John H. Stevens, *Personal Recollections of Minnesota and Its People and Early History of Minneapolis* (Minneapolis: Tribune Job Printing Co., 1890), 141, 149.

<sup>8</sup> Stevens, 241.

<sup>9</sup> Fernstrom, 8-9; Warner and Foote, 346. The Wardwell marker was still there in 1976, located in the southeast corner. Timberlake, 955, seems to be the first to recount the Uncle Wardell story.

<sup>10</sup> Fernstrom, 9; Timberlake, 955. The ownership and burial record book for the period 1861 through 1872 recording lots in Sections A through G indicate that this was the earlier portion of the cemetery; available at the Minneapolis Archives, Office of the City Clerk. The 1881 "Addition to Minneapolis Cemetery" is also available at the Minneapolis City Archives. G. M. Hopkins, *A Complete Set of Surveys and Plats of Properties in the City of Minneapolis* (Minneapolis: G. M. Hopkins, 1885), pl. 19, shows the twenty-acre cemetery site. The annexed portions of the city are depicted on Plate 12B in *1940 Atlas of the City of Minneapolis* (Minneapolis: Minneapolis City Planning Commission, 1941).

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Martin Layman had constructed a new house across the street from the cemetery entrance in 1876. (The house was destroyed in a fire in 1887.) Even then, the surrounding area was largely rural, although Layman had platted land for development. In an 1881 account, the Minneapolis Cemetery is described as "located south of and near the city limits. It embraces twenty acres of high, dry land, . . . This cemetery has received extra attention and shows care and taste in the arrangement of its ornamentations." At that time, two drives led into the cemetery. One extended from Cedar Avenue, past the cemetery office building and vault structure set in the middle of the cemetery, to a turnaround circle, and on to Twenty-first Avenue. The other drive extended from Lake Street, opposite Nineteenth Avenue South, to the middle of the cemetery by the office building.<sup>11</sup>

After the cemetery had reached its full extent, it was described in an 1893 account as being "laid out so as to make a large portion of the ground accessible (*sic*) for burial purposes. The main entrance is on Cedar avenue, . . . and is guarded by a large wooden archway with iron gates for both pedestrians and vehicles, which are always open to the great number of visitors who may be found strolling about the pleasant grounds in fine weather. . . . The cemetery throughout is well supplied with shade trees and is beautifully sodded and is well cared for. The monuments as a rule, are not large and expensive, yet there are a great many very pretty ones, and almost every grave is marked by a neat stone."<sup>12</sup>

Various detailed plans drawn of the cemetery in the late nineteenth century and in the 1920s and 1930s illustrate the drives and lanes that made the grave sites accessible. An east-west drive running from Cedar Avenue to Twenty-first Avenue South, now the existing main entrance drive, was called Elizabeth Street, after Martin Layman's wife. It was interrupted by turnarounds in the eastern and western sections. The eastern turnaround still exists. A north-south drive leading in from Lake Street was called Walnut Avenue. Regularly spaced lanes extended north-south. From west to east they were: Maple Avenue, Cedar Street, Evergreen Avenue, then the Walnut Avenue drive which led past the east side of the office, Monument Avenue leading from Lake Street to the eastern turnaround, and Willow Street at the eastern edge, adjacent to Twenty-first Avenue. The east-west lanes were: Rose Street along the northern edge, Vine Street, Eudocia Street, then Elizabeth Street which passed the office on the south side, Genevieve Street, and Poplar Street by the Lake Street edge. These drives and lanes defined the sections of the cemetery, each of which was assigned a letter or number. The sections, called blocks, were subdivided into numbered burial plots, although a portion of Block H in the northeast corner was used as a potters' field for the burial of indigents. The sections within and surrounding the turnaround circles and at the northern edge by the railroad right-of-way were assigned numbers.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Fernstrom, 24, describes the new house and its setting. Warner and Foote, 346, describes the cemetery. Hopkins depicts the layout.

<sup>12</sup> Timberlake, 956

<sup>13</sup> These detailed layouts are depicted in: "Addition to Minneapolis Cemetery"; "Layman's Cemetery, now officially known as the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery by authority of the City Council, Feb. 10, 1928," available at cemetery office; and "Plan Showing the Approximate Location of Soldiers Graves at Layman's Cemetery," prepared by the City Engineers Office, Minneapolis, June 1931, reproduced in "The Historic Layman's Cemetery," *Hennepin County History* 28 (Spring 1969): 11.

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Nineteenth-century cemeteries in Minneapolis and elsewhere

While Layman's (Minneapolis) Cemetery is the oldest to survive in the city, it was preceded, at least officially, by Maple Hill Cemetery on the east bank, located on Broadway between Polk and Fillmore Streets Northeast. This ten-acre site was opened in 1857, but closed after burials were prohibited in 1890 for health reasons. Many of the bodies were removed and the site converted to parkland in about 1910, which was renamed Beltrami Park in 1947.<sup>14</sup>

While Layman's and Maple Hill were non-sectarian and at least, in theory, open to all, both the Catholics and the Jews felt it desirable to establish their own cemeteries. Saint Anthony Cemetery (extant) at Central Avenue and Twenty-eighth Avenue Northeast opened in the early 1860s. Saint Mary's Cemetery (extant), also called the Cemetery of the Immaculate Conception, was established at Chicago Avenue and Forty-sixth Street East in 1867. Montefiore Cemetery (extant) at Third Avenue South and Forty-second Street was established in 1876 by the Reform Jewish congregation of Minneapolis, while the Adath Yeshurun Association established a small cemetery (extant) at France Avenue South and Fifty-seventh Street, now part of Edina, in 1888 for the burial of Orthodox Jews. An 1893 account describes the layouts, features, and monuments of these cemeteries.<sup>15</sup>

As Minneapolis grew, more cemetery space was needed. In 1871 Layman expanded his cemetery to the west, increasing its size from ten to twenty acres. In so doing, he may have been trying to counteract the establishment of Lakewood Cemetery that year by some of the city's most prominent citizens. This group, headed by Colonel William S. King, acquired a 128-acre tract to the east of Lake Calhoun and north of Lake Harriet. Initially platted according to a plan drawn by C. W. Falsom, superintendent of the Mount Auburn (Mass.) Cemetery, it was dedicated in 1872. Soon thereafter the plan of Lakewood was revised to reflect the more popular, "lawn park" cemetery type that had been introduced by Adolph Strauch at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati. Lakewood soon offered major competition to Layman's and other cemeteries, as many bodies were removed from the earlier cemeteries and moved there.<sup>16</sup>

The comparison between Layman's and Lakewood reflects changing patterns in cemetery design in nineteenth-century urban America. Unlike East Coast cities and rural communities in both the East and the Midwest, Minneapolis did not have burials in churchyards. The picturesque, rural cemetery close to an urban setting had been

<sup>14</sup> Timberlake, 956-957; Theodore Wirth, *Minneapolis Park System 1883-1944* (Minneapolis: Board of Park Commissioners, 1945), appendix, 1912 map of parkland shows Maple Hill; information from Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board.

<sup>15</sup> Warner and Foote, 345; Timberlake, 960-962; Albert G. Minda, *The Story of Temple Israel* (Minneapolis: Lund Press, 1971), 4. The licensed cemeteries of the city are listed in *Hudson's Dictionary of Minneapolis: A Guide and Handbook* (Minneapolis: Hudson Company, 1925), 33.

<sup>16</sup> Timberlake, 951-955; David Charles Sloane, *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991), 107-109.

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introduced at Mount Auburn in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1831. This type of cemetery planning, with its emphasis on family monuments, planned landscapes, picturesque vistas, and rolling roadways spread throughout the eastern United States in the 1840s. When Adolph Strauch took over Spring Grove in 1855, he introduced changes in landscaping patterns, de-emphasizing the picturesque and family monuments, in favor of a more direct, pastoral landscape interspersed with monuments. The rise of the "lawn park" cemetery was concurrent with the rise of the urban park movement in the United States, and the patrons of both were often the same. This was certainly the case with Lakewood Cemetery. However, Layman's Cemetery preceded both the establishment of Lakewood and the movement for the establishment of a Minneapolis park system.<sup>17</sup>

When Martin Layman laid out, and subsequently expanded his cemetery, he seems to have looked more to the churchyard pattern of closely set, regularly spaced graves than to either the picturesque rural cemetery or the lawn park plan. In addition, the layout follows the lines of his claim (governed by the township-section-range system), as well as what came to be the grid pattern of the local street system. Regularity, symmetry, and accessibility through lanes lined by rows of trees were the hallmarks of Layman's Cemetery. The earlier sections of the cemetery (Blocks A through D) were sold with large family plots, and family monuments were encouraged. With a relatively flat site, there was little impetus to create picturesque landscape effects, although the emphasis on grass and trees may owe something to Strauch. In any case, Layman was providing a public necessity to those who initially had no other choice. After the initial expansion, the management and general maintenance of the cemetery was turned over to the Minneapolis Cemetery Association in 1873, although plot owners were still responsible for the care of their own grave sites, as no perpetual maintenance fund was ever established. The first association members were Martin Layman, Judge Charles F. Vanderburgh, Judge Henry G. Hicks, R. E. Grimshaw, and D. M. Gilmore.<sup>18</sup>

Nineteenth-century burials

The earliest surviving plot ownership and burial records date from 1861. An early famous burial was that of Colonel John Stevens's teenage daughter, the first child born in Minneapolis, who died in 1867 (her remains were reburied in Lakewood Cemetery once it opened). A number of soldiers from Minnesota regiments who were killed in the Civil War were also buried in Layman's.<sup>19</sup>

Layman's Cemetery contains the remains of two of Minneapolis's most prominent early settlers and members of their families.

Philander Prescott (1801-1862) was one of Minnesota's earliest pioneers who played a role in the events that influenced the settlement of the Northwest frontier. After the demolition of his house that stood at 4458-4460 Snelling Avenue South in 1980, his grave is the last tangible link to this historic Minnesota figure. Prescott came to

<sup>17</sup> Sloane, 66, 104, 116-119.

<sup>18</sup> Fernstrom, 9.

<sup>19</sup> Stevens, 105, states that Mary was born in 1851 and died when she was 16.

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Minnesota in 1819 as a sutler's assistant at Cantonment New Hope, prior to the construction of Fort Snelling. As an Indian trader, he learned the language and formed close associations with the Dakota Indians. Under Major Lawrence Taliaferro, he initiated farming activities at Eatonville on the shores of Lake Calhoun in 1829. About this time, he married the daughter of the Dakota chief, who took the Christian name of Mary. In 1843, he was appointed government interpreter for Colonel McLean and moved to Fort Snelling. Prescott was the interpreter for Henry M. Rice when the latter was negotiating a treaty with the Dakota tribes that would open most of southern Minnesota, parts of Iowa, and South Dakota to white settlement. After the treaty was signed in 1851, Prescott was able to exercise a claim for land near Minnehaha Creek, which is where he built the house that survived until 1980. In 1860 Governor Alexander Ramsey asked Prescott to write about his personal experiences while participating in the development of the state between 1819 and 1852. These records were given to the Minnesota Historical Society by his daughter, Mrs. Eli Pettijohn, in 1893. During the Sioux Uprising, Prescott was killed on August 18, 1862, while serving as the government interpreter at the Lower Sioux Agency. His body was recovered and returned to Minneapolis, where it was buried in Layman's Cemetery. His wife Mary, who died in 1867 in Shakopee at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, lies beside him.<sup>20</sup>

Charles W. Christmas (1796-1884) was the first to survey land in Hennepin County for Colonel John Stevens, thus forming the basis for the city of Minneapolis. He came to the area in 1850 from Wooster, Ohio. Previously he had surveyed public lands in Michigan and been the first register of the United States land office in Sauk Rapids. When Hennepin County was formed, he was elected county surveyor, and he laid out the territorial roads to and from Saint Anthony and Minneapolis. In 1851, he laid claim to land on what became Broadway near the Mississippi River. Stevens asked him to do the survey for a town that covered more than two-thirds of Stevens's claim in 1854. As with Prescott, the monument that marks Christmas's grave is the only tangible link to a notable, historic figure. Christmas's wife Mary Ann and two children, all of whom died before him, are buried next to him.<sup>21</sup>

Despite the desertion of Layman's Cemetery by many prominent Minneapolitans, it fared well enough for an addition to be planned in 1881, that was officially filed in 1886. This last addition encompassed Blocks S, T, V, and W. Many of these lots, being smaller in size and less expensive, were sold to the rapidly expanding immigrant population on the south side of Minneapolis, especially those of German and Scandinavian origin. Because of the high incidence of infant and child mortality, many of these grave sites were sold for the burial of children. The cemetery also gained in popularity with the members of fraternal organizations, especially the Woodmen of the World. A significant number of Civil War veterans, including members of "Colored Regiments," as well as two veterans of the War of 1812 and veterans of the Spanish-American War, were buried throughout the cemetery. One

<sup>20</sup> This brief account of Philander Prescott has been adapted from John J. Hackett, "Prescott House," 1974, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, prepared by Minnesota Historical Society. Further information about Mary Prescott can be found in Stevens, 43-44, and A. J. Russell, *One of Our First Families* (Minneapolis: Leonard H. Wells, 1925), 24-26.

<sup>21</sup> Marion Daniel Shutter, *History of Minneapolis, Gateway to the Northwest* (Chicago and Minneapolis: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1923) I: 100; Warner and Foote, 366, 374-375; Stevens, 118. According to the card file records at Layman's Cemetery, the members of the Christmas family are buried in Block A, lot 37.

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of Layman's granddaughters recalled the Memorial Day celebrations in the cemetery: "I remember every Memorial Day the school children met and arched their flags and bunting dresses in a parade to the soldiers' lot in my grandfather's cemetery where a program was held and a gun salute was fired over the graves. It seemed to be a real Memorial Day, and also, a gala day for the crowds that came. . . . When I was old enough I sold plants from the cemetery vault to people who wanted to decorate their graves."<sup>22</sup>

The majority of the surviving markers and monuments in the cemetery date from the period between 1885 and 1915. Many bear inscriptions in Swedish, Norwegian, or German. Remnants of wrought-iron crosses evoke the German-Russian immigrant tradition. Small headstones bearing small carved lambs or reclining angels mark many of the children's graves. The Woodmen of the World had especially distinctive monuments. It is likely that many graves were marked with wooden crosses, which disintegrated or were removed. Iron fences and railings also surrounded various plots.<sup>23</sup>

Early twentieth-century downturn

By 1900, Layman's Cemetery was facing further competition from newer, more fashionable cemeteries in the city, especially Crystal Lake in north Minneapolis and Hillside in northeast Minneapolis. Burials continued, but the heirs and descendants of long-time lot holders chose other alternatives for family burials, moved away, or just ceased tending family gravesites. The cemetery lots were becoming increasingly neglected, as there was no perpetual maintenance fund for lot upkeep. The city council was petitioned in 1917 to close the cemetery to further burials, a move that was opposed by the Minneapolis Cemetery Association because new burials provided the only cemetery income. Nonetheless, the council passed an ordinance prohibiting burials after August 1, 1919. This in turn led to a great debate over its future. At the time the cemetery closed, approximately 24,000 to 27,000 burials had occurred. Given such uncertainty over the fate of the cemetery, many families began to move bodies to other locations. Local business interests began to urge removal of the cemetery altogether and the sale of the property for commercial uses. One suggestion was that a new Milwaukee Road Depot be constructed on the site, although that idea was quickly rejected. Conversion of the cemetery to parkland, as had been done with Maple Hill was another popular proposal. The state legislature enacted a law in 1925 to allow the city of Minneapolis to acquire the property for park purposes under the Elwell Act. Martin G. Layman urged the city to remove the cemetery as a whole to a new location.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> The increasing urbanization of the surrounding area, as well as the expansion of the nearby railroad lines with car shops and the International Harvester Works, were also factors making the cemetery less attractive to long-time residents. "Addition to Minneapolis Cemetery"; "Soldiers' Graves at Layman's Cemetery"; "Reminiscences of Edna E. (Layman) Paul," 26, in Fernstrom.

<sup>23</sup> In 1908, Archbishop John Ireland ordered that "unsightly wooden grave markers" be removed from Saint Mary's Cemetery in Minneapolis and Calvary Cemetery in Saint Paul in order to make the grounds more park-like. *Minneapolis Journal*, May 24, 1908. This move followed the trends espoused by Strauch and the rise of the professionalism of cemetery maintenance. Sloane, 109-112. Such an iron fence is illustrated in *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*, July 24, 1921.

<sup>24</sup> A newspaper account in 1921 used the figure of 27,000 burials. *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*, July 24, 1921. Martin G. Layman, cemetery superintendent and grandson of Martin Layman, stated in 1925 that 6,500 bodies had been removed and 17,410 graves remained



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The movement to save the cemetery

*Minneapolis Journal* columnist A. J. Russell evoked the sad state of Layman's Cemetery:

On the prairie "where the quiet end of evening" smiled, and not far beyond the sound made by the Falls of St. Anthony, the pioneers of the region laid out one of the first "graveyards" beyond the Mississippi. It was thought that this level and flowery prairie cemetery would always be a quiet and peaceful spot. Abandoned today, and surrounded by a city, Layman's Cemetery gathers up the roar of urban traffic and knows no peace. One of the great transcontinental railroads has considered the possibility of locating a monstrous passenger station upon the site, excavating the soil far below the bottom of the lowest grave, and piling thousands of tons of steel, stone and concrete far above its loftiest monument. Hundreds of pioneers and "empire builders" who had helped to make the state and city great—and thousands of other pioneers and empire-destroyers who had done nothing of the sort—it has gathered to its sandy bosom. Every working and resting day, tens of thousands of hard working men and women hurry past this once hallowed spot. Some of us—but we are the negligible minority—look out upon the place with interest and even with quickened hearts, because it holds, or did hold, before they had been resolved to their native dust, the mortal bodies of Philander Prescott and of Mary Kee-ehe-ie, his wife.<sup>25</sup>

In the spring of 1925, a group began to organize to save Layman's Cemetery as an important artifact of the early history of Minneapolis.

The effort to save the cemetery may be seen as part of a local, early, historic preservation movement that began in 1896 with the move of the John Stevens House (1850), the first house constructed on the west bank of Minneapolis for the first white settler, to its fourth location in Minnehaha Park. At that time the house was purchased by the *Minneapolis Journal*, moved to the park with the assistance of Minneapolis school children working in relays, and placed under the jurisdiction of the Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners. (The house was subsequently relocated again in the park in 1983 and restored under the jurisdiction of the Junior League of Minneapolis.)<sup>26</sup>

A few years later the Ard Godfrey House (1849), the first house constructed for the first white settler on the east bank of Minneapolis, in what was then the community of Saint Anthony, was threatened. A group that called itself the Hennepin County Territorial Pioneer's Association was formed in 1905 to purchase the house, again with the

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occupied. *Minneapolis Journal*, June 4, 1925. Layman family members who had been buried there were removed on September 19, 1919, to Crystal Lake Cemetery, and the family monument re-erected. Fernstrom, 9.

<sup>25</sup> Russell, *One of Our First Families*, 9-10.

<sup>26</sup> "The John H. Stevens House Restoration Project," 1983, Junior League of Minneapolis, Inc., typescript available at Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office.

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editorial support of the *Minneapolis Journal*. The group held the property for four years until the Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners purchased the land for Richard Chute Square, moved the house there, and restored it for use as a museum operated by the Territorial Pioneers. (The house was restored again by architect Brooks Cavin for the Minneapolis Women's Club.)<sup>27</sup>

A third example involved the preservation and restoration of the Henry Sibley House (1836) in Mendota, Minnesota, under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.), which formed the Sibley House Association to purchase the property in 1910. Henry Sibley, one of Minnesota's first settlers, was elected the first governor of the state in 1858 and achieved heroic status as the leader of the volunteer militia that had subdued the Dakota Indians in 1862. (The D.A.R. retained the site until 1996, when it was transferred to the Minnesota Historical Society.)<sup>28</sup>

The movement to save these three houses were local manifestations of a larger national movement, begun in the nineteenth century, to save sites important to the nation's colonial past, then translated in a broader national context to sites important to local history and settlement. Much of this work was fostered by such patriotic organizations as the Sons of the Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the National Society of Colonial Dames. One of the goals in saving such sites was to educate children and immigrants in the traditions of American history. Saving the artifact for its associations with historic figures or events, even if it meant moving it or restoring it in a less than accurate manner, was the paramount value. Such was the case with the three Minnesota houses.<sup>29</sup>

Many of those who organized to save Layman's Cemetery were lot holders or the descendants of those buried in the cemetery. They rallied the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.), and the American Legion—all groups concerned with early local history and the heroic efforts of soldiers—to the cause. The group was officially incorporated as the Minneapolis Cemetery Protective Association (M.C.P.A.) that summer with Marion P. Satterlee as president, Mrs. Jacob Knapp as vice-president, and Dr. Peter M. Holl as secretary-treasurer. Backed by editorial support from the *Minneapolis Journal*, the group began to lobby for the city to take over the cemetery as a memorial to the pioneers and soldiers of Minneapolis. One of the Protective Association's first tasks was to clean up a portion of the cemetery so that Memorial Day could be properly observed. Mrs. Knapp organized a group of housewives and Boy Scout troops to assist in the task. In May 1927 the Minneapolis City Council voted to issue \$50,000 in bonds to purchase Layman's Cemetery from the heirs and to implement improvements. To complement this effort the Protective Association began to raise funds to

<sup>27</sup> Norene Roberts, "St. Anthony Falls Historic District, Ard Godfrey House," 1991, National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet, prepared by Historical Research, Inc., available at Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office.

<sup>28</sup> "The Henry H. Sibley House, Mendota, Minnesota, Historic Structures Report," 1997, prepared by Landscape Research for the Minnesota Historical Society, 15, 40-44.

<sup>29</sup> William J. Murtagh, *Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America* (New York: Preservation Press/J. H. Wiley, 1997), 28-34, provides a concise synopsis of the nineteenth-century movement. Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., *Presence of the Past: A History of the Preservation Movement in the United States Before Williamsburg* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1965), chap. 7, discusses the local efforts of national patriotic and preservation organizations.

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assist with the maintenance of the grave sites. The city acquired the cemetery that August, and renamed it the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery on February 10, 1928, after being petitioned by the Minneapolis Cemetery Protective Association.<sup>30</sup>

Cemetery redesign and new memorials and monuments

Even before the city took title to Layman's Cemetery, the city engineer, N. W. Elsberg, was authorized to prepare plans for site improvements. The first task was to install sidewalks and fences with gates around the cemetery. The plans specified a six-foot chain-link fence on Twenty-first Avenue and the northern edges of the cemetery, and fences of limestone-block posts and wrought-iron pickets with wrought-iron gates on Cedar Avenue and Lake Street. The ironwork was fabricated by the W. Olson Manufacturing Company of Minneapolis. The proposal originally called for the paired limestone gate posts to be linked by stone arches. The arches were not installed, but otherwise the fence surrounding the cemetery remains as it was designed in 1927. Construction work took place between 1928 and 1929. Elsberg's office also designed the flagpole that was placed in front of the cemetery office. This was dedicated in 1928 and a plaque installed reading "In memory of the Pioneers and the Soldiers by the Auxiliary M.C.P.A., 1928." Veterans' organizations arranged for the installation of cannons and mortars near the flagpole.<sup>31</sup>

When A. J. Russell made a return visit to the cemetery in June 1929, he commented:

Layman's Cemetery . . . shows signs now of a growing appreciation of its importance in the early life of this community and of the care that has at last been given to it. An artistic iron and stone fence surrounds it and the grounds show evidence of the work expended on them.<sup>32</sup>

The City Engineer's Office was also charged with the ongoing maintenance of the cemetery, and to simplify that task, a project was begun to grade, fill in, and level off the site, as "some graves have sunken, there are mounds over others, and some burials have been removed and holes left." The lanes were also closed to automobile traffic, leaving only the main east-west driveway, the north-south driveway from Lake Street, and the eastern turnaround.

<sup>30</sup> *Minneapolis Memorial Cemetery* (Minneapolis: Minneapolis Cemetery Protective Association, 1928), 7-9; Minnesota Historical Society photographs MH5.9 MP4.4 r1, neg. 41553, and MH5.9 MP4.4 r2, neg. 80063; Minneapolis City Council, *Proceedings* 53 (1928-1929): 153, 299, 304, 880. Satterlee, the group's president, had been the editor of the *Annandale Advocate* and spent almost twenty years compiling and updating lists of those killed in the Dakota Uprising. William Watts Folwell, *A History of Minnesota* (Saint Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1924), 2: 392. The role of the *Minneapolis Journal* in rallying support for the cause of local history is one that deserves further investigation.

<sup>31</sup> Original plans and drawings for the sidewalks, fences, and flagpoles are in the Minneapolis City Archives. [N. W. Elsberg], "Report to the City Council, Committee on Public Grounds and Buildings on Facts and Problems of the Minneapolis Pioneers' and Soldiers' Cemetery (Layman's Cemetery)," [1931], available at Minneapolis City Archives. The driveway from Lake Street had been closed by 1940 as indicated in *The 1940 Atlas of the City of Minneapolis*, pl 44A.

<sup>32</sup> A. J. Russell, "Philander Prescott's Grave Visited," *Minneapolis Journal*, June 19, 1929

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The state legislature appropriated funds to improve and maintain soldiers' graves in the cemetery, and Elsberg proposed that a "Soldiers' Section" be created with monuments erected in that section over pre-existing graves. At the same time he proposed a new landscaping plan that would remove most of the existing trees and replant trees to leave views to the flagpole from the entrances on Cedar Avenue and Lake Street, Cedar Avenue and Lake Street themselves, and the corner of Twenty-first Avenue South and Lake Street. Background trees and shrubs were proposed to hide the railroad tracks and car barns to the north. Lists of soldiers buried in the cemetery were supplied to Adjutant General E. A. Walsh in 1932, to enable the U.S. Army to provide official markers listing names and Army company. These were installed by 1936, along with a separate G.A.R. monument with a bronze plaque reading "In Memory Of The Nation's Defenders." According to cemetery records, there were 173 known soldiers' graves.<sup>33</sup>

The Minneapolis Cemetery Protective Association and its Women's Auxiliary continued to be concerned with the pioneers and recognizing them in the cemetery. Picking up the call that A. J. Russell had issued in 1929 for the preservation of the Prescott headstone and the installation of a suitable memorial, a new monument that encompassed the original marker was unveiled on December 13, 1936. A memorial to the Pioneer Mothers, a stone boulder with a bronze plaque reading "In Memory Of Pioneer Mothers, Erected May 8, 1937 By Descendants And Friends/All That I Am Or Hope To Be I Owe To My Angel Mother - Abraham Lincoln" was installed. Annie Holl, the wife of M.C.P.A. founder, Dr. Peter Holl, was remembered with a monument that proclaims "In Loving Memory Of Annie M. Holl, Wife Of Dr. Peter M. Holl, Daughter Of Seymour And Ann Fillmore, Granddaughter Of Deacon James And Ann Sully, Her Untiring Efforts And Devotion To Bring About The Preservation Of This Sacred Ground As A Memorial To The Pioneers And Soldiers Was An Inspiration To All Who Were Interested In This Worthy Work. Erected By Auxiliary M.C.P.A. 1938." The newly organized Hennepin County Historical Society erected the Charles W. Christmas monument in 1942. This was the last significant addition to the cemetery.<sup>34</sup>

Caroline Faulkner, state chairman of genealogical records of the Minnesota D.A.R., prepared a study of tombstone inscriptions with notes from the files of the custodian in 1938. The history of the cemetery was also recognized by the efforts of the Minnesota Works Projects Administration which resulted in a major reorganization of the cemetery records, including the creation of card files and the reconditioning and rebinding of various cemetery record books.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Elsberg report; N. W. Elsberg, Letter to Adjutant General E. A. Walsh listing the soldiers in Layman's Cemetery, February 19, 1932, available at Minneapolis City Archives.

<sup>34</sup> *Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery* (Minneapolis: Minneapolis Protective Cemetery Association, 1936), 9-15; "The Historic Layman's Cemetery," 9-10; "Layman's Cemetery," *Hennepin County History* 30 (Winter 1971): 23.

<sup>35</sup> Caroline W. Faulkner, "Layman's Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minnesota: Tombstone Inscriptions and Notes from Files of the Custodian," typescript, 1938, available at Hennepin County Historical Society. The card files and record books are available at the Minneapolis Archives. Each book carries the following label on the inside cover: "Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery (formerly known as Layman's Cemetery). This cemetery is a property of the city of Minneapolis and is under director supervision of the City Engineering Department. This book is an original record as kept by the cemetery owners and was delivered to the city of Minneapolis

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Subsequent history

The city of Minneapolis retains ownership of Layman's Cemetery under the name of Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery. Maintenance is carried out by the Division of Public Works, Street Department, Street Maintenance and Repair, although tree maintenance is the responsibility of the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board.

The configuration and size of the cemetery date from its last expansion in 1886, while the overall plan and arrangement that characterize it as the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery has been in place for over sixty-five years. The military ordnance that was installed in the late 1920s has been removed. The headstones and markers that are made of more vulnerable materials such as marble and limestone have continued to weather and deteriorate. An occasional replacement marker has been installed.

Nonetheless, the cemetery and its history have continued to exert its fascination on those who are involved with it. Albert Nelson, who was named caretaker in 1927, compiled histories of many of those buried there. Joseph Zalusky, a member of the Minneapolis Planning Department, an associate of the M.C.P.A., and founder of the Hennepin County Historical Society, championed the cause of the cemetery in *Hennepin County History*. Various of Nelson's successors including Robert O'Reilly, Phil Fries, Allen Smith, and Dennis Bergquist have continued to promote the cemetery's history. Every so often, the local press runs a story on the cemetery, bringing it to wider public attention once again.<sup>36</sup>

The city council was petitioned to reopen the cemetery for burials to existing holders of cemetery lots in 1935 after the death of Ann Maria Lynde. Her descendants wished to bury her beside her "pioneer and soldier husband." The city council granted the request, recognizing that this woman had "endured the hardships of pioneering in Minnesota." An occasional burial still takes place.<sup>37</sup>

More recently, the cemetery has been recognized as a rich resource for studying the immigrant history of Minneapolis. Susan Hunter-Weir has been systematically going through the names and death records in the

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when the cemetery was purchased by the city on August 11, 1927. This book was reconditioned and rebound by W. P. A. Project 9100-40 in 1941, in order to preserve a valuable and historical record. Minnesota Work Projects Administration, O. P. 165-1-71-455(0) Proj. No. 9100-46, March 1942."

<sup>36</sup> John Chapman, "Caretaker Learns All About City Pioneers," *Minneapolis Star*, June 11, 1951; Jane Nelson, "Nobody Cares About Old Layman's Cemetery Anymore," *The Paper*, October 27, 1971; Peg Meier, "The City's Oldest Cemetery," *Minneapolis Tribune*, Picture Section, January 6, 1974; Laura Valenty, "Oldest Cemetery in Minneapolis Not Always Peaceful Resting Place," *Minnesota Daily*, February 9, 1977; Mike Kaszuba, "Cemetery Rich in History But Has Low Priority in Minneapolis Bureaucracy," *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, June 9, 1988. Joseph Zalusky was among the school children who helped move the Stevens House to Minnehaha Park in 1896. "The First House," *Hennepin County History* 21 (Winter 1962): 18.

<sup>37</sup> Abe Altowitz, "Cemetery Has First Burial in One-and-one-half Years," *Minneapolis Star*, February 18, 1961.

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cemetery card files and searching for corroborating information in local newspapers and city directories to compile a comprehensive database that will be accessible through the World Wide Web.<sup>38</sup>

In 2000 a Friends of the Cemetery group was launched under the auspices of the Corcoran Neighborhood Association in Minneapolis to promote the appreciation and revitalization of the cemetery.

Conclusion

The Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, established in 1858 on land owned by Minneapolis pioneer Martin Layman, is a rare survivor of the early period of settlement in the city of Minneapolis and the city's oldest surviving cemetery. As Martin Layman's original farmstead was platted for development and the area around it was built up with houses and industry in the late nineteenth century, the cemetery remained within its enlarged 1886 boundaries. The stone and wrought-iron fence and gates that were installed in 1928-29 help to reinforce the sense of the cemetery as a protected enclave, set apart from the surrounding urban area. The campaign to save Layman's Cemetery, begun in 1925, is part of a historic preservation movement that sought to recognize and protect sites deemed significant to local history. This recognition was strengthened by its renaming as the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery in 1928. The work of the City Engineer's Office closed off the lanes between the sections to vehicular traffic and replaced them with lawn, while retaining the main driveway and eastern turnaround and emphasizing the placement of the trees in relation to the headstones and monuments. A large majority of the surviving markers and monuments date from the nineteenth century. The flagpole and monuments added in 1928 and the 1930s reinforce the history of the cemetery as the burial place of pioneers and soldiers. For these reasons the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery/Layman's Cemetery Historic District in South Minneapolis is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the area of Social History. It is eligible under Criteria Consideration D because it derives its primary significance from historic events that reflect important broad patterns in our history.

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<sup>38</sup> See Friends of the Cemetery, Meeting Agenda, February 24, 2001.

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**UTM References**

- 1 15.480890.4977230
- 2 15.480890.4977060
- 3 15.480510.4977060
4. 15.480510.4977270
5. 15.480700.4977390
6. 15.480700.4977230

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is identified by the Hennepin County Property Identification Number 36-029-24 33 0001, which is described as the southwest 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 south of the Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul Railway right of way excluding Layman's Addition to Minneapolis and excluding the streets. The boundary is depicted on the attached map, adapted from *The 1940 Atlas of the City of Minneapolis*.

**Boundary Justification**

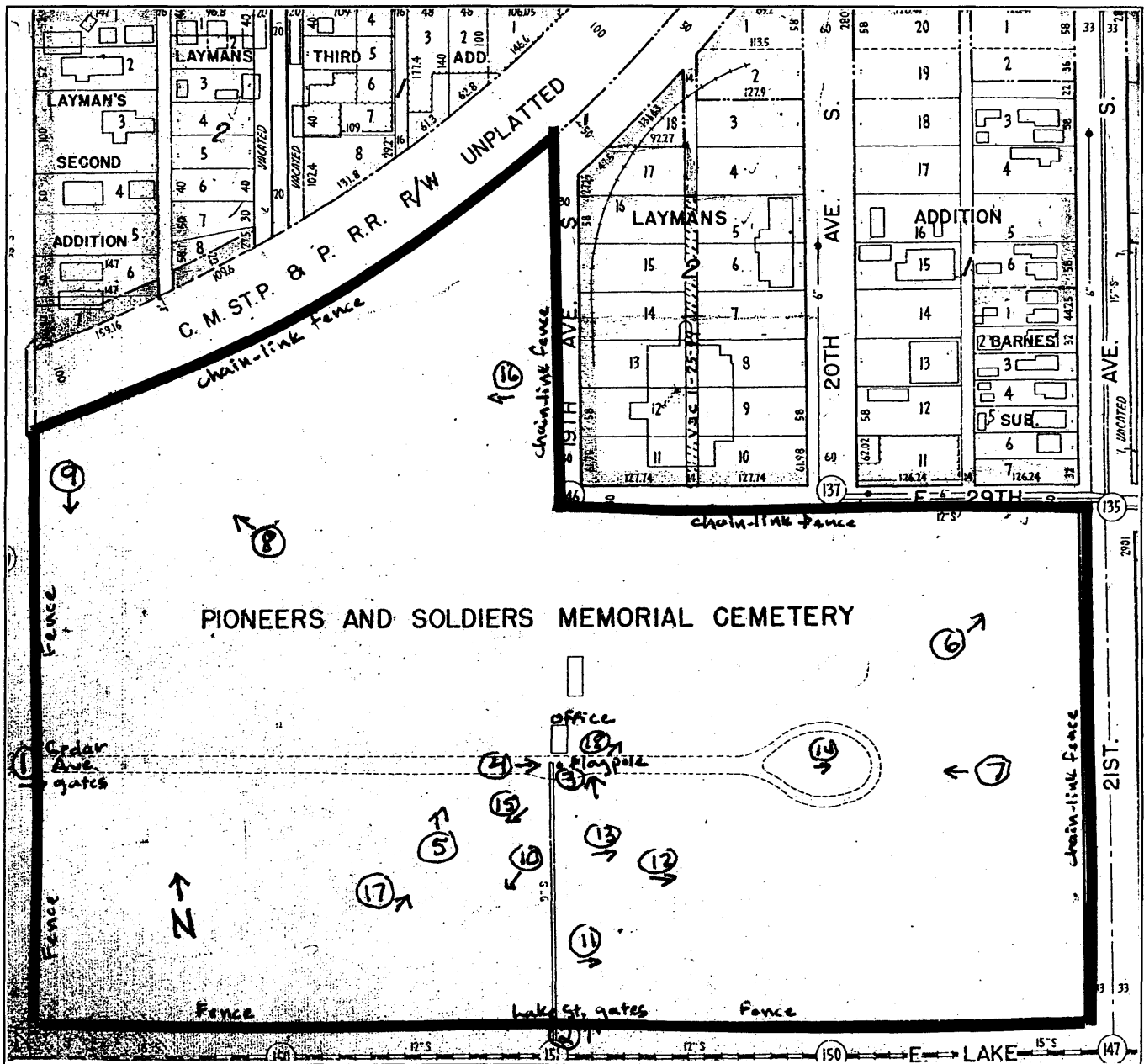
The proposed boundary encompasses the historic extent of Layman's Cemetery, as it was originally platted in 1860 and subsequently enlarged in 1871 and 1886. This is the parcel that was acquired by the city of Minneapolis in 1927 and subsequently renamed the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery in 1928. It was enclosed by the existing historic fence and sidewalks, installed in 1928-1929.

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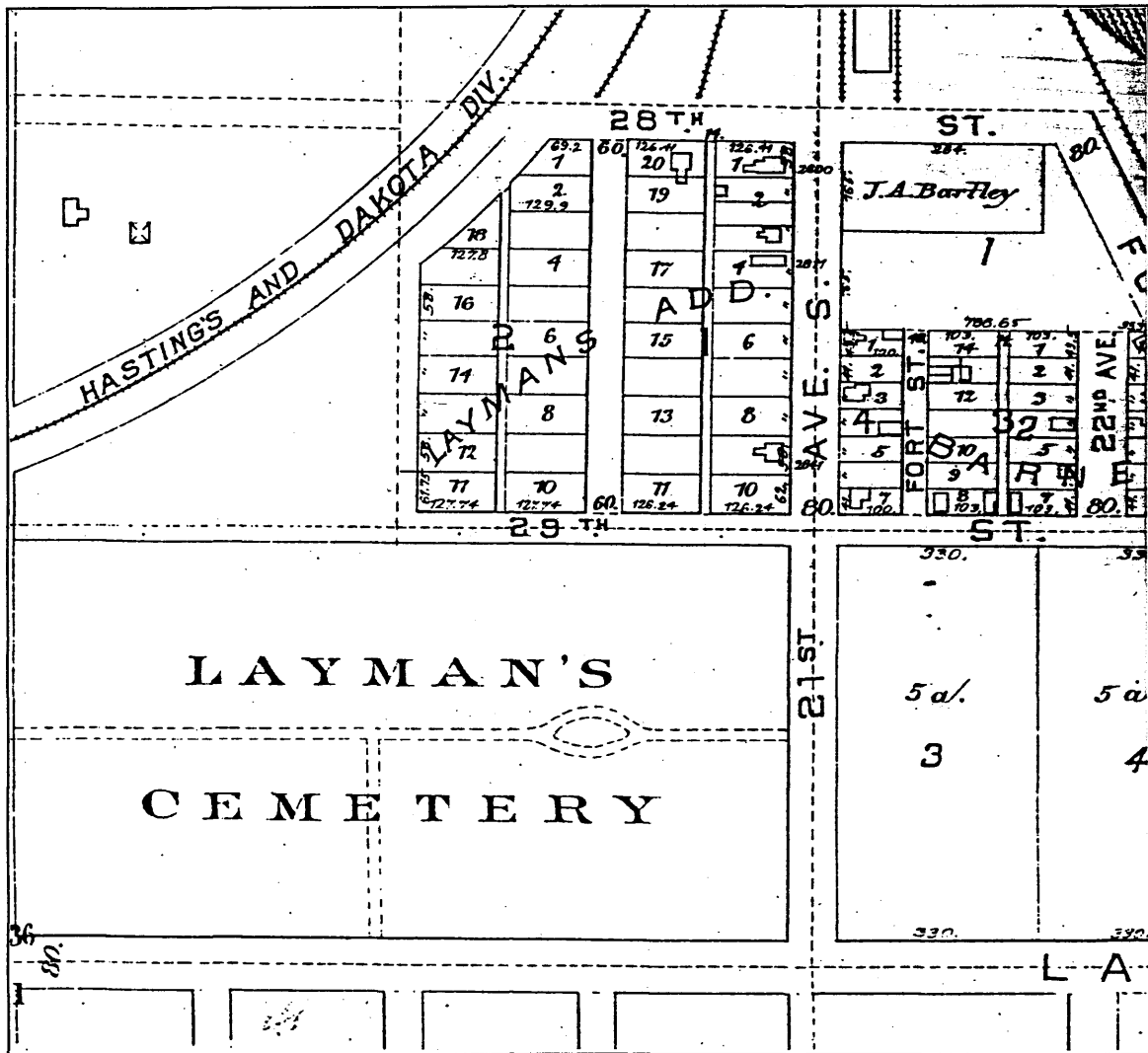
Site Map of Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery/Layman's Cemetery,  
adapted from 1940 Atlas of the City of Minneapolis.  
Numbers correspond to photographs.

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Layman's Cemetery in 1885.

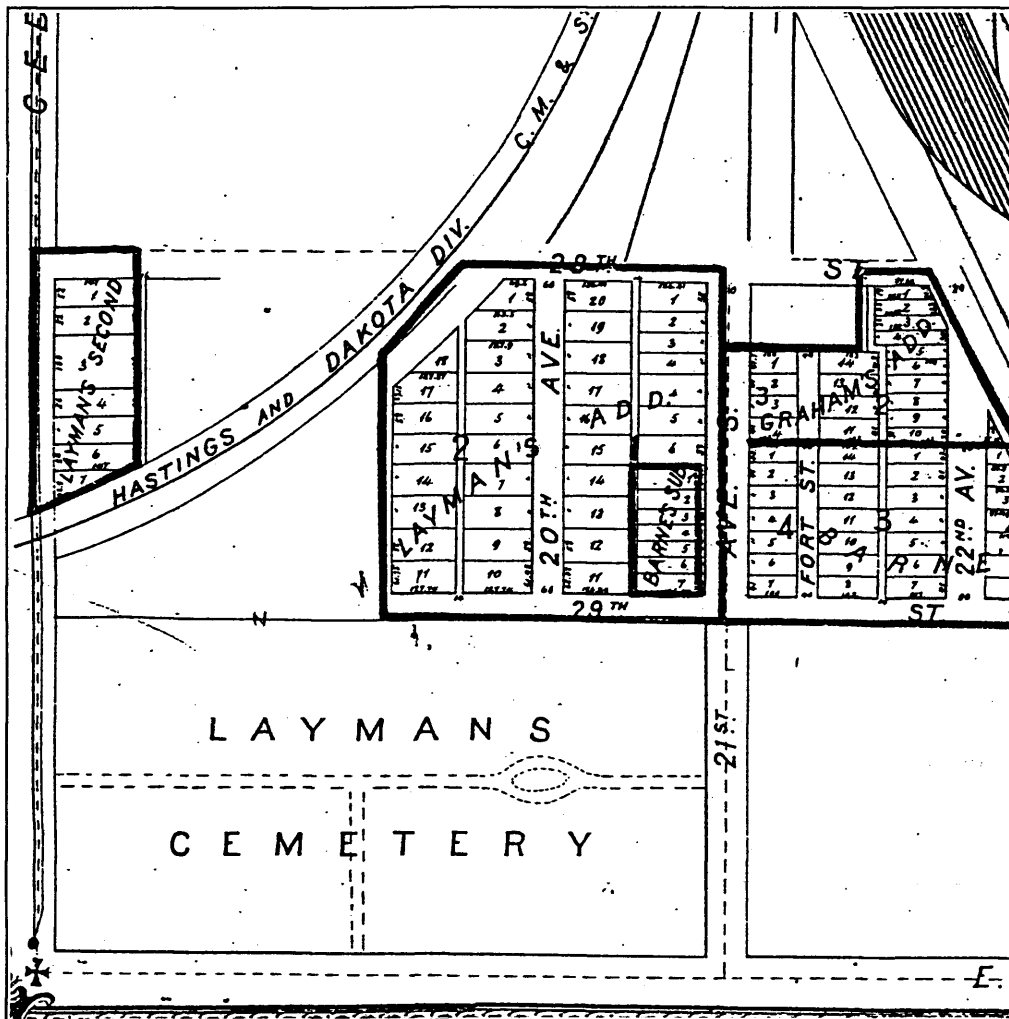
From A Complete Set of Surveys and Plats of Properties in the City of Minneapolis.

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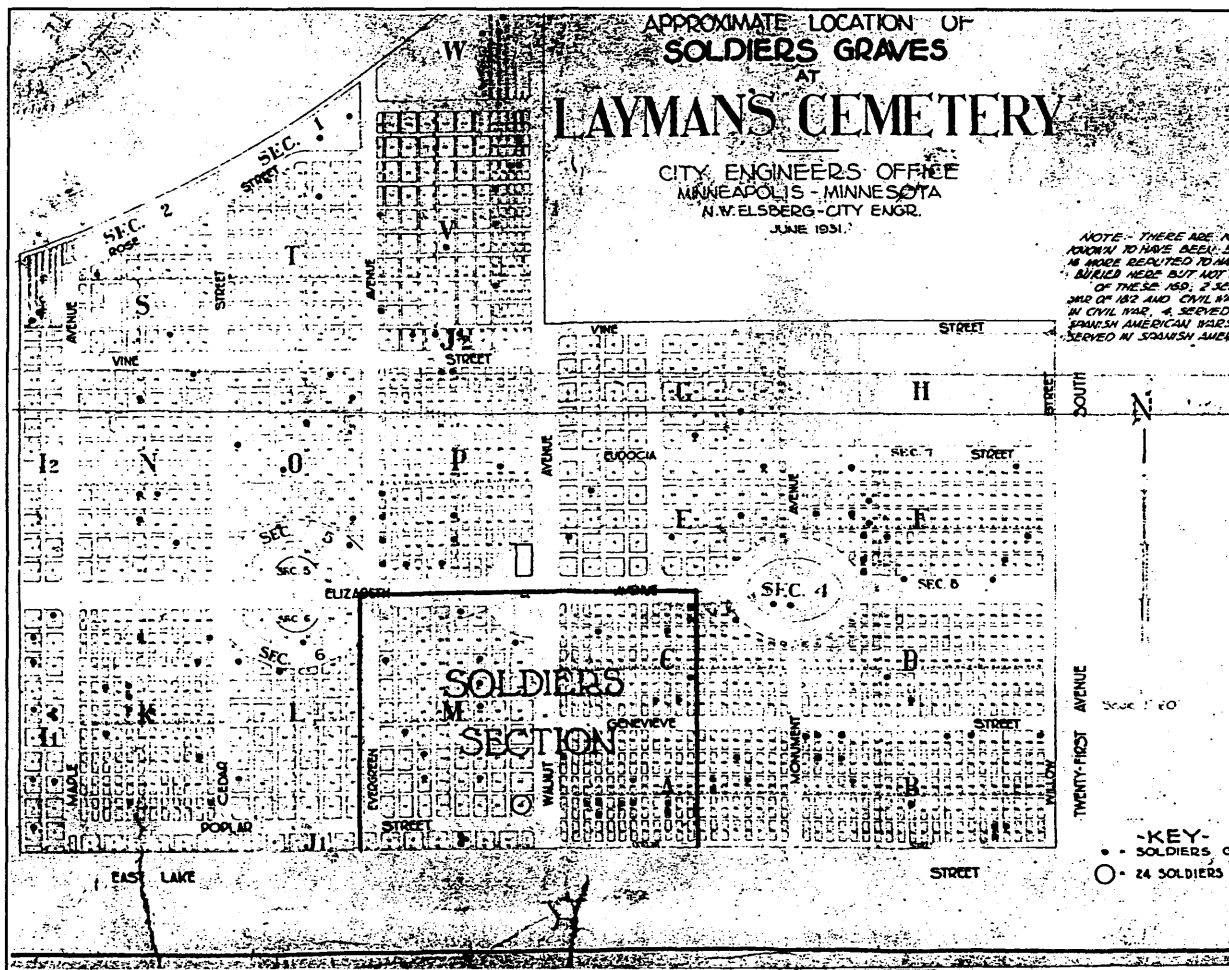
Layman's Cemetery in 1887 showing full historic extent of site.  
From *Davison's Atlas of the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota.*

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Map of Layman's Cemetery drawn by City Engineers Office in 1931.

Underlying configuration shows original nineteenth-century cemetery layout with blocks and lanes.

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Layman's Cemetery in 1925. View to the north.  
From Minnesota Historical Society Photograph Collection.



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Members of the Women's Auxiliary of the Minneapolis Cemetery Protective Association  
cleaning up Layman's Cemetery in 1926.

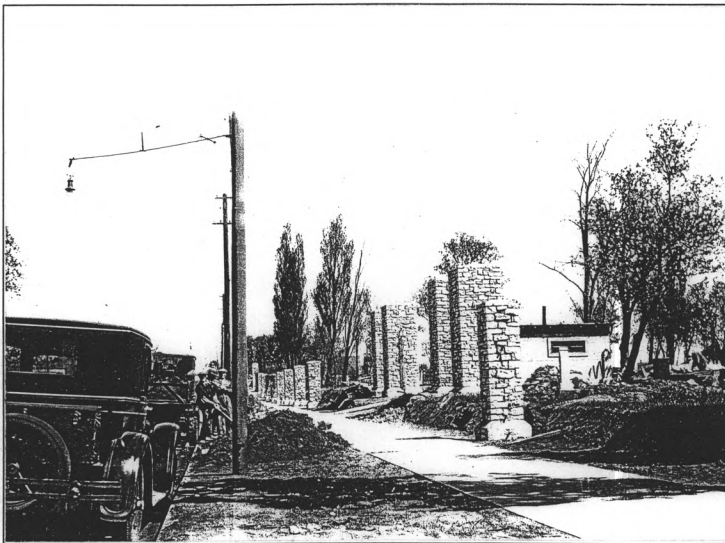
From Minnesota Historical Society Photograph Collection.

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Constructing the fence of the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery  
along Cedar Avenue in 1928.

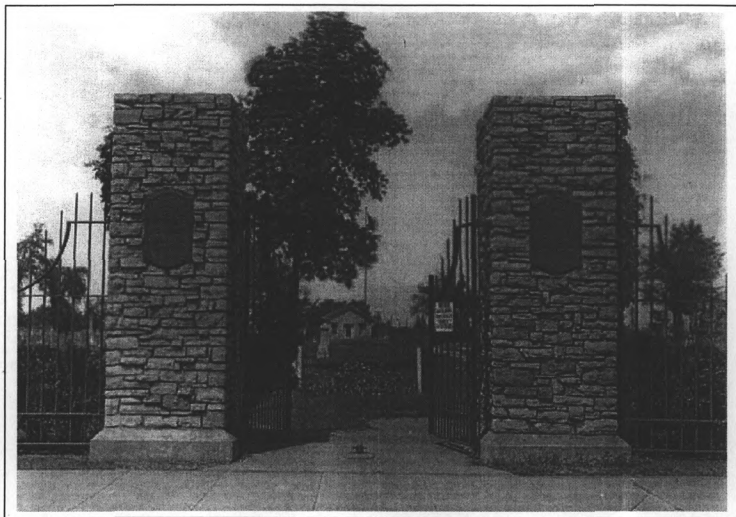
From City Engineer, "Report to the City Council," 1931.

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Lake Street gates into the Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery in 1936.  
From Minnesota Historical Society Photograph Collection, Photograph A. F. Raymond.

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**Index to Photographs**

Photographer: Marjorie Pearson, Hess, Roise and Company  
Date: May 16 and 18, 2001  
Negatives: Hess, Roise and Company, Minneapolis

Numbers are keyed to locations on the site map.

1. Cedar Avenue entrance gates, fence, and sidewalk. (Part of contributing structure.) View to east.
2. Lake Street entrance gates, fence, and sidewalk. (Part of contributing structure.) View to north.
3. Cemetery office, to left, and base of flagpole, to right. (Contributing building and contributing object.) View to north.
4. Cemetery office, to left, and flagpole, to right, approached by entrance drive. (Contributing building, contributing object, and part of contributing site.) View to east.
5. Western portion of the cemetery. (Part of contributing site.) View to north.
6. Northeast portion of the cemetery including section used as a potter's field. (Part of contributing site.) View to northeast.
7. Eastern portion of the cemetery including the turnaround. (Part of contributing site.) View to west.
8. Northwestern portion of the cemetery. (Part of contributing site.) View to northwest.
9. Western portion of the cemetery along the Cedar Avenue fence. (Part of contributing site and contributing structure.) View to south.
10. Soldiers' section, near Lake Street, with markers installed in 1936. (Uncounted contributing objects in part of contributing site.) View to southwest.
11. Philander Prescott monument. (Contributing object.) View to east.
12. Charles Christmas monument. (Contributing object.) View to east.
13. Gravestones of Anna and D. L. Wallace, with Woodmen of the World insignia. (Uncounted contributing objects.) View to east.
14. Adolph Ast monument with Woodmen of the World insignia to left and Lina Quam monument to right. (Uncounted contributing objects.) View to east.
15. Wrought-iron cross marker. (Uncounted contributing object.) View to southwest.
16. Woodford Annison marker. He was a member of Company D, 17th U.S. Colored Infantry, in the Civil War. (Uncounted contributing object.) View to west.
17. Russell monument. (Uncounted contributing object.) View to northeast.
18. Monument to the Pioneer Mothers. (Contributing object.) View to northeast.