1225

### **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 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.

NAT. N

SEP - 9 1997

1. Name of Property		
nistoric name Lewis Mausoleum		
other names/site number n/a		
2. Location		
street & number Memorial Cemetery, M	oncrief Road near Edgewood Aven	n/a □ not for publication
	Onemer Atous Hour Dugowood 11 one	
city or town <u>Jacksonville</u>		n/a
state <u>FLORIDA</u> code	FL county <u>Duval</u>	code031 zip code <u>32206</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
□ request for determination of eligibility meets Historic Places and meets the procedural and p □ meets □ does not meet the National Regist □ nationally □ statewide □ locally. □ See consideration of the state of certifying official/Title  Float State Historic Preservation Official of the state of the does not not be stated on the state of t	professional requirements set forth in 36 C er criteria. I recommend that this property continuation sheet for additional comments.  Date  Date  Dicer, Division of Historical Resource	FR Part 60. In my opinion, the property be considered significant )
comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
. National Park Service Certification		
hereby certify that the property is:  entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet  determined eligible for the	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action  10/24/97
National Register  See continuation sheet.	,	<i>(</i>
<ul><li>☐ determined not eligible for the</li><li>National Register</li><li>☐ See continuation sheet.</li></ul>		
removed from the National Register.		

Lewis Mausoleum Name of Property	A-41	Duval Co., FL County and State				
5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)		irces within Prope			
☐ private ☐ public-local	buildings     district     district	Contributing	Noncontribut	ing		
☐ public-State ☐ public-Federal	☐ site ☐ structure ☐ object	1	0	buildings		
Please see Continuati	on Sheet	0	0	sitesstructures		
Trease see continuati	on sheet.	0	0	objects		
		1	3	total		
Name of related multiple property listings (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register				
n	/a	0				
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instru	uctions)	···		
Funerary: Graves/Burial		Funerary: Graves/Buria	al			
7. Description						
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from	instructions)			
MODERN MOVEMENT: Art D	<u>Deco</u>	foundation <u>Stone</u> walls <u>Concrete</u>	: Marble			
		roof Concrete				
		other Metal: Wro	ought iron			

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

Lewis Mausoleum	Duval Co., FL
Name of Property	County and State
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Departure and in a second of with a second that he is used.	Ethnic Heritage: Black
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	Commerce
our history.	Architecture
☑ 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.	Period of Significance
☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield	
information important in prehistory or history.	
	Significant Dates
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	1939
	1947
Property is:	
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person Lewis, Abraham Lincloln (A.L.)
☐ B removed from its original location.	
•	Cultural Affiliation
☑ C a birthplace or grave.	n/a
☐ D a cemetery.	
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
☐ F a commemorative property.	Sheftall, Leeroy/Greig, James
☐ 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 r Previous documentation on file (NPS):	nore continuation sheets.)  Primary location of additional data:
□ 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 anstonic American Engineering Record	#

Lewis Mausoleum Name of Property		Duval Co., FL County and State
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre		
UTM References (Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)		
1 1 7 4 3 3 0 8 0 3 3 6 1 0 4 0  Zone Easting Northing 2	Zone Easting 4 See continuation	Northing Northing 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 MaVvnee Betsch and Carol J. Alexander/Barbara	E. Mattick, Historic Preserva	tionist Supervisor
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation		date August 1997
street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street	ette	lephone (904) 487-2333
city or town Tallahassee	state Florida	zip code <u>32399-0250</u>
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	s having large acreage or r	umerous resources.
Photographs		
- ,	.f.th.a. manage and a	
Representative black and white photographs of	or 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 No one accepts ownership. Memorial Cemetery below	nged to a now defunct non-pr	ofit group.
street & number	tele	phone
city or town	state	zip code

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.

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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	. ago	Jacksonville, Duval Co., FL

#### **OWNERSHIP**

The Lewis Mausoleum is located in Memorial Cemetery, which in 1992 was owned by the non-profit organization, Memorial Cemetery, Inc. Since that time, however, Memorial Cemetery, Inc. has been dissolved and no one officially holds ownership of the property. The City of Jacksonville maintains the grounds, but does not own the cemetery. Attempts to determine an owner have been unsuccessful.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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#### **SUMMARY**

The Lewis Mausoleum, located in Memorial Cemetery in north Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, was built in 1939 according to a design by prominent Jacksonville architect Leeroy Sheftall. The concrete and marble building displays Art Deco features, including elongated urns, geometric wrought iron grillwork, and streamlined concrete decoration. Interred in the mausoleum are prominent African American businessman, philanthropist and community leader Abraham Lincoln (A.L.) Lewis and five members of his family.

### **Setting**

The Lewis Mausoleum is located on Moncrief Road in Memorial Cemetery, near Edgewood Avenue in north Jacksonville. Memorial Cemetery, established in 1909, was one of the first large cemeteries available to African Americans during the era of segregation. Oaks, small trees, and three other grave sites (non-contributing) are in the area immediately around the mausoleum (Photo 1).

### **Exterior**

The Lewis Mausoleum is a concrete block, cube-shaped building resting on a marble foundation (Photo 2). Block lines are visible on the otherwise smooth exterior. It has a flat roof with a short, stepped back parapet. A single entrance with angled, fluted jambs is centrally located on the north elevation. The entrance has a wrought iron grille with geometric designs and strap hinges. A small stoop, also of marble, is flanked by cheeks on which rest marble, elongated urns. LEWIS is inscribed on the front of the threshold (Photo 3). A raised, centrally fluted panel is centered above the entrance. There are no openings or ornamental features on the side elevations. The rear (south) elevation has a single, centrally located, rectangular, stained glass window (Photo 4). A short, raised panel, corresponding to the larger panel on the main elevation, is located at the roof line, above the window.

#### **Interior**

The interior of the mausoleum has a marble finish. A marble bench extends across the rear (south) wall. Above the bench is an opalescent, figural, stained glass window which, with the inscription "He Arose," depicts Jesus' resurrection (Photo 5). There is one, small, round ventilation fixture in the ceiling. The mausoleum holds six vaults, those of A.L. Lewis (Photo 6), James H. Lewis, Elzona Lewis, J. Leonard Lewis, James L. Lewis, and G.B. Bledsoe.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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### **Alterations**

The mausoleum originally had a decorative bronze door. It was replaced with the grill in the 1960s.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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#### **SUMMARY**

The Lewis Mausoleum, built in 1939, is significant at the national, state, and local levels under Criterion B in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black and Commerce because of its association with A.L. Lewis. Abraham Lincoln (A.L.) Lewis was one of the most prominent African Americans in Jacksonville and the Southeast in the early twentieth century. He and other members of his family interred in the mausoleum made major contributions to the Afro-American Life Insurance Company and played a pivotal role in the development of Memorial Cemetery, a cemetery for blacks in Jacksonville, and in support of other African-American institutions. The mausoleum meets Criteria Consideration C as the grave of A.L. Lewis because it is the most appropriate building directly associated with Lewis' productive life. The first Afro-American Insurance building, with which he was associated, and his home in Jacksonville have been torn down.

Lewis and the Afro-American Company had a longtime association with the prominent Jacksonville architect Leeroy Sheftall, the architect who designed the mausoleum. The Lewis Mausoleum is significant under **Criterion** C as one of the few remaining examples of Sheftall's use of the Art Deco style.

#### **HISTORIC CONTEXT**

#### Abraham Lincoln (A.L.) Lewis

A.L. Lewis was born in Madison, Florida, in 1865, but moved to Jacksonville in 1880. Before finishing grade school, he went to work for one of Jacksonville's large saw mills. He worked his way up from waterboy to foreman at a lumbermill in East Jacksonville. By 1888 he had saved enough money to become part owner of a shoe store, the first in Jacksonville owned and operated by an African American. Responding to the need for health and burial insurance for blacks, Lewis joined with six others in 1901 to form the Afro-American Industrial and Benefit Association, the first "old line legal reserve insurance company" established for African Americans in the South. It provided low cost health and burial insurance. It is also said to be the first independent insurance company of any kind in the state of Florida. After surviving Jacksonville's Great Fire of 1901, the Company grew rapidly and soon had branch offices in Tampa, Fernandina Beach, and St. Augustine. By 1910, the Afro-American Industrial and Benefit Association constructed the first of its home offices at 105 East Union Street (demolished).

Elected president in 1919, A.L. Lewis directed the insurance company until his death in 1947. Under his leadership, the company expanded its service to the African-American community by establishing a

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savings department, pension bureau, as well as an investment department in 1936. In 1937, with assets in excess of one million dollars, the name of the company was changed to the Afro-American Life Insurance Company. The company expanded into other Florida cities, as well as into Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas. By 1956, when a new headquarters was constructed, the company had assets of eight million dollars. At the time of its dissolution in the 1980s, the Afro-American Insurance Company was Florida's only million dollar black business.

A.L. Lewis was also very active in numerous civic and social organizations, such as the Masons and Odd Fellows. Working with Booker T. Washington, he helped found the Negro Business League in 1904, as well as the National Negro Insurance Association, serving as its president for two years. A long-time member of the Mount Olive A.M.E. Church, Lewis served as Sunday school superintendent for fifty-four years. He was involved in the establishment of Lincoln Golf and Country Club, and was a trustee and treasurer of Edward Waters College in Jacksonville. Lewis also was a very generous benefactor of Edward Waters College as well as other African American institutions of higher leaning in Florida, including Bethune-Cookman College, Florida Memorial College, and Florida A & M University. For his numerous accomplishments and support of education, A.L. Lewis was awarded an honorary doctorate by Wilberforce University in Ohio, in 1936. In 1937, he went to Haiti on a mission for the U.S. government.

#### HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

A.L. Lewis and the Afro Company, as it was also known, were instrumental in the development of Memorial Cemetery. The cemetery was part of a twenty-one acre tract transferred to the Memorial Cemetery Association in 1911. Because of segregation, burial options for African Americans were limited. To meet this need, the Memorial Cemetery Association was formed, with A.L. Lewis as the first president. Memorial was one of the first large cemeteries established specifically for Jacksonville's African-American community. Before that time, African Americans had been buried in the Old City Cemetery. Memorial was the first Jacksonville cemetery for African Americans that was not associated with a church. The Association purchased the original grounds and expanded them to meet the growing needs of Jacksonville's African-American community. In July of 1916, an additional nine acres were added, and the First Addition was platted in 1928. The filed plat listed A.L. Lewis as President and his son, James L. Lewis, as Secretary of Memorial Cemetery Association. In 1936, the Association was dissolved. At that time, Directors of the Association included A.L. Lewis, James H. Lewis, J. Leonard Lewis, Elzona Lewis, and G.B. Bledsoe.

In 1939, A.L. Lewis had a mausoleum for himself and his family constructed at Memorial Cemetery. He hired Leeroy Sheftall as the architect. A.L. Lewis, who died in 1947, and the above named officers of the

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Memorial Cemetery Association are interred in the mausoleum. The mausoleum and plot remained under the ownership of the Lewis family until the 1980s, when ownership was assumed by the Memorial Cemetery Association. That organization dissolved in the early 1990s, leaving it having no clear owner.

#### ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

#### **Leeroy Shefstall**

Leeroy Sheftall was born in Savannah, Georgia, in 1887. He moved with his family to Jacksonville around the turn of the century. In 1907 he began apprenticing in the office of Henry Klutho, the most prominent architect in Jacksonville, who led the reconstruction of the city's downtown area after the Great Fire of 1901. Sheftall met his future partner, Victor Earl Mark, when they both served as apprentices in the Klutho office. In 1911 the two young architects started their own firm, Mark and Sheftall. They were highly successful during their twenty-two year partnership. In addition to some fine Prairie style buildings, designed with skills acquired during their training under Klutho, Mark and Sheftall designed a wide range of other types of buildings, including over fifty schools around the state of Florida. Sheftall was an aggressive businessman, while Mark, more retiring, was the partnership's chief designer.

The first major commission for the new firm was the headquarters for the African American chapter of Masons in Jacksonville. This project was commissioned within a year after the 1901 fire. Various affiliated organizations, such as the Ladies of the Eastern Star; the Royal Arch Masons; the Heroines of Jericho; and the Knights Templar; as well as the National Negro Businessman's League, founded by Booker T. Washington and A.L. Lewis, participated in the ten year fund drive for the Masonic Lodge. The massive building, constructed from 1912 through 1916, is reminiscent of Louis Sullivan's famous Wainwright Building in St. Louis. Each of its horizontal levels is embellished with a different series of abstract ornaments, including a row of Masonic symbols below the fifth floor windows. The decorations are variously made of brick, terra cotta, and pressed metal. An ornamental metal cornice caps the composition.

The building was designed as a multi-use structure: the first floor contains retail space; the second and third floors are offices; and the two upper floors were occupied by the Masonic organization. Black dentists, physicians, insurance agents, and other professionals were among is early occupants. Jacksonville's first black owned bank, the Anderson Bank, was located here. The Most Worshipful Grand Union Lodge continuously maintained its headquarters in this building, which has long been a source of pride among black citizens. The 1926 Negro Blue Book described it as "one of the finest

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buildings owned by Negroes in the world." It is also an important example of the designs that placed Jacksonville at the forefront of American architectural theory during the decade before World War II.

Launched by the Masonic Temple, Mark and Sheftall went on to make an impressive contribution to architectural history in Jacksonville and Florida. Their numerous achievements, which demonstrate mastery of a wide array of architectural styles over a twenty-two year period, include the following: South Jacksonville Grammar School (1917), one of the final tributes of Mark and Sheftall to the fading Prairie style; the Delgado Building (1919), a mixed use Prairie style building with an overall symmetry that recalls the better known Klutho buildings, Springfield Apartments and the St. James Building; Riverside Presbyterian Sunday School Building (1922-23), which displays influences of the Jacobethan Revival style; the Gothic Revival sanctuary for the Riverside Presbyterian Church (1927); the "Marble House" (1926-27), a variation of the Mediterranean Revival style; the Mediterranean Revival style Royal Court Apartments (1926); the Claude Sims House (1925), a Tudor Revival style residence on St. Johns Avenue in Jacksonville's Riverside District; the Mediterranean Revival style Nicholas Van Glahn House (1926); and the Tudor Revival style Oxford Hall Apartments (1929).

After the partnership of Mark and Sheftall came to an end in 1933, Sheftall, thirteen years younger than Mark, continued to work. During this period, in which he was influenced by the Art Deco style, he drew up the plans for the Lewis mausoleum. The family continued a professional relationship with Sheftall after A.L. Lewis died in 1947. A.L. Lewis was the first family member interred in the mausoleum. In the mid 1950s, Sheftall and another architect, M.R. Aruta, were contracted to design the offices of the Afro-American Life Insurance Company at 101 East Union Street in Jacksonville. This was the residence of the Afro until it ceased business in the 1980s. Sheftall died in Jacksonville in 1963, leaving an impressive legacy in the architectural history of the city.

### **Art Deco Style**

Inspired by the Exposition des Decoratifs in Paris in 1925, Art Deco was a movement toward modernism that encompassed jewelry, art, clothing, as well as architecture. Breaking with revivalist traditions and embodying the motifs of the machine age, Art Deco architecture is essentially a style ornamentation. Its details are highly stylized, largely angular and geometric, including zigzags, chevrons, and foliate forms sculpted with hard edges. Art Moderne was an outgrowth of the Art Deco style, with emphasis on streamlined and gently curving surfaces. Geometric forms still predominate the ornamentation, but without the hard edged cubism of the earlier phases of Art Deco. Curved walls and window panels, glass bricks, and stylized towers are often integral parts of the composition. In many buildings, the Art Deco

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and Moderne traits are combined, resulting in the common usage of the term "Art Deco." This style remained popular from the 1920s into the 1940s.

### **Architectural Significance**

The Lewis Mausoleum is significant as one of the relatively rare examples of Leeroy Sheftall's use of the Art Deco style. Its Art Deco features include: smooth exterior surface, elongated urns, geometric wrought iron grillwork, and streamlined concrete decoration rising above the main entrance.

University of North Florida Press, 1989.

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Section number	9	_ Page _	1	LEWIS MAUSOLEUM Jacksonville, Duval Co., FL
BIBLIOGRAPHY				
			_	From Cornerstone Laying (of the Afro-American Insurance Open House, April 22, 1956.
Afro-American Life In	surance	Company. F	Program fi	rom the 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Jacksonville, Florida, 1976.
"A.L. Lewis helped the	ose in ne	ed," <i>Jackso</i>	nville Jou	arnal, January 31, 1983.
"Jacksonville's First C	itizen,"	The Crisis,	January 1	942, pg. 24.
				gnation Application for Landmark or Land Site for Memorial morial Cemetery, July 31, 1992.
Stuart, M.S. An Econ Malliet and Co			story of In	surance in the Lives of American Negroes. N.Y.: Wendell

Wood, Wayne W. Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage: Landmarks for the Future. Jacksonville, Florida:

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#### **BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

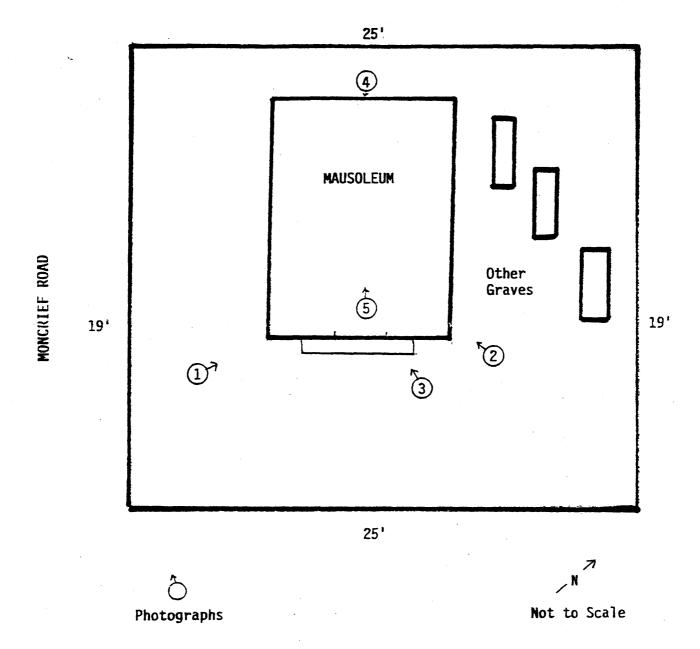
The Lewis Mausoleum is located on the Lewis plot in Memorial Cemetery which is located northwest of the intersection of Moncrief Road and Edgewood Avenue in north Jacksonville. From the north corner of the intersection of Moncrief Road and Edgewood Avenue proceed NW 335 feet to the S corner of the Lewis Family plot, designated as the Point of Beginning. Proceed NE 25 feet along the SE edge of the plot, then proceed NW 19 feet to the N corner of the plot, then proceed SW 25 feet to the W corner of the plot, then proceed SE 19 feet to the Point of Beginning.

#### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary encompasses the area immediately surrounding the mausoleum that has historically been associated with the property.

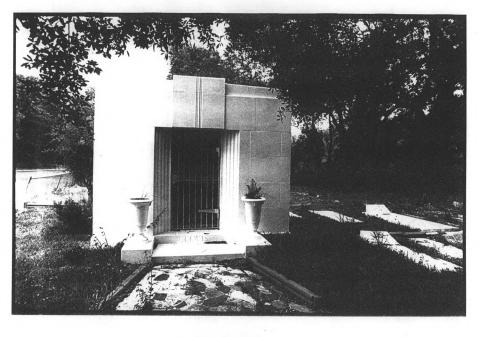
# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	n number Photos Page 1 LEWIS MAUSOLEUM  Jacksonville, Duval Co., FL
1	1) Lewis Mausoleum 2) Memorial Cemetery, Jacksonville, Duval Co., FL 3) Carol J. Alexander 4) December 31, 1996 5) Photographer's residence 6) Main (SE) and SW elevations, camera facing N 7) 1 of 6
Items 1	-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.
2	6) Main and NE elevations; camera facing W 7) 2 of 6
3	6) Main elevation; camera facing NW 7) 3 of 6
4	6) Rear elevation; camera facing SE 7) 4 of 6
5	<ul> <li>6) Interior, rear wall, showing two vaults, ventilator, stained glass window, and marble bench; camera facing NW</li> <li>7) 5 of 6</li> </ul>
6	6) Detail of A.L. Lewis' vault 7) 6 of 6



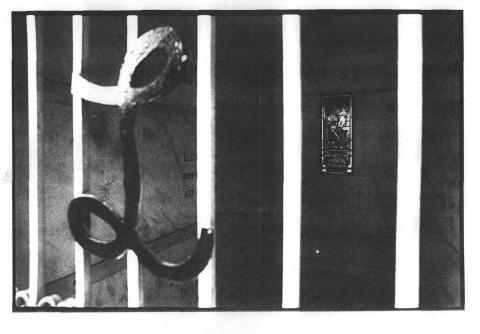
LEWIS MAUSOLEUM

Jacksonville, Florida



LEWIS MAUSOLEUM

Jacksonville, Duval Co., FL



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