

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 15 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUL 30 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC St. Louis Cemetery No. I

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Square bounded by Basin, St. Louis, Conti, Tremé Streets

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2 - Lindy Boggs

STATE

Louisiana

CODE
22COUNTY
OrleansCODE
071**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Cemetery

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Archdiocese of New Orleans, Roman Catholic Church

STREET & NUMBER 7887 Walmsley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City Hall

STREET & NUMBER Loyola Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic Sites Survey for City Planning, Regional Planning Survey
B. Lemann

DATE

1969

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Regional Planning and City Planning Offices

CITY, TOWN

Masonic Building, 300 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana

STATE

Louisiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Louis Cemetery No. I is the square bounded by Basin, St. Louis, Conti, and Treme Streets. The original boundaries were somewhat larger: Basin Street was cut through by 1834 and then widened around the turn of the 20th century and Treme Street did not exist behind the cemetery until it was extended in 1822.

In 1819 Benjamin H. Latrobe noted that the Catholic and Protestant sections of the cemetery (the Protestants in this heavily Catholic community were relegated to the back) were adjacent to each other and approximately 300 feet square each. To the rear of the Protestant section was the graveyard for Negroes. When Treme Street was extended the Protestants were moved to the Girod Street Cemetery; most such graves had been moved by 1838. The portion of land on the west side of Treme (outside the present cemetery) was later sold for building lots.

The cemetery block is surrounded by brick walls with wall vaults. Underground burial was quickly found to be impractical in New Orleans because of the swampy ground; however, in times of epidemics, mass burial in the ground was necessarily revived.

The earliest above ground tombs were of brick. In the early 19th century marble became more popular as a local building material. Neither brick nor marble weather well in New Orleans: the brick is usually plastered and whitewashed for better protection of the locally made soft bricks. The effect of the wind and weather is especially seen with the thin plaques that often cover crypt openings, as they have often warped and broken.

Both brick and stone tombs continued to be constructed in the 19th century. The marble tombs often show the influence of Romantic revival styles and design, yet the neo-classical style dominated.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES established 1789

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Louis Cemetery No. I is the oldest cemetery in New Orleans. As such it contains the oldest examples of above ground burial in the city. It was established by royal decree from Spain in 1789.

Although some early burials took place under ground, this practice was early replaced by above ground burial in brick tombs. Interment in the ground was impractical because of the swampy conditions of the soil, and Benjamin H. Latrobe aptly called New Orleans the "City of Wat Graves." The unusual character of the tombs, the legends surrounding the historical figures who occupy them, and the aura of the romantic Louisiana past, have been the basis of much literature on the New Orleans cemeteries.

The architectural development of the tombs is also of importance. St. Louis No. I reveals a large variety of brick tombs in styles that were functional, practical, and although modest, esthetically pleasing. These brick structures usually plastered and whitewashed, were treated with flat, barreled, or gabled roofs. They were usually designed with one or more crypts. It became common practice for family owners to use the same tombs for several generations of burials, thus recycling the valuable and scarce burial property. Brick tombs continued to be built throughout the 19th century. Beginning in the 3rd and 4th decades of the 19th century, elegant marble tombs were locally designed and built along with the more modest brick monuments. In St. Louis I the neo-classical style dominates.

These tombs are often enhanced with marble sculpture both free standing in the form of figures and urns, and in relief details such as those found on inscription plaques. The cemetery offers numerous examples of local stonecutters' artistic skill and abilities. Among the most important sculptors represented here are Franzoni, who also worked on the nation's Capitol; Florville Foy, a local builder-carver trained in France; and P. H. Monsseaux, a local carver and builder. Many of the tombs were designed and built by American craftsmen whose names were never recorded. However, among the most notable architects who designed tombs in St. Louis I are Benjamin Latrobe, 3rd architect of the U. S. Capitol; J. N. B. dePouilly, a French-born and Paris educated architect who made New Orleans his home; and Pietro Gualdi who designed the elegant New Orleans Italian Mutual Benevolent Society tomb. Of architectural significance are many notable tombs including those of the LeBaron, Mioton, Chiapella, Millaudon, Soniat-DuDossat and McCall-Jones families.

The two monuments of the wives of William Claiborne, first American Governor of Louisiana, the tomb of Henry Dick and the large society tombs of the New Orleans

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New Orleans Architecture: The Cemeteries, Huber, McDowell & Christovich: Pelican Publishing Co., New Orleans, 1974.
The St. Louis Cemeteries of New Orleans, Samuel Wilson & Leonard Huber; St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans, 1968.
New Orleans: The Glamour Period, 1800-1840, Albert Fossier: Pelican Publishing Co., New Orleans, 1957.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

less than 1 acre

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Louise Christovich, Acting Director

ORGANIZATION

Save Our Cemeteries

DATE

April, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

900 Amethyst Street

TELEPHONE

(504) 282-0215

CITY OR TOWN

New Orleans

STATE

Louisiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



Jay R. Broussard

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

Director, Dept. of Art, Historical & Cultural Preservation

DATE

July 11, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

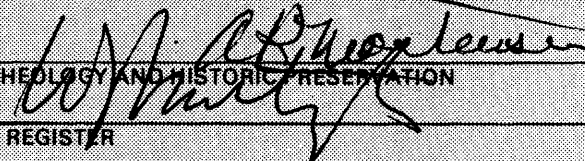
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7/30/75

ATTEST:



DATE

JUL 29 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

St. Louis Cemetery No. I

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

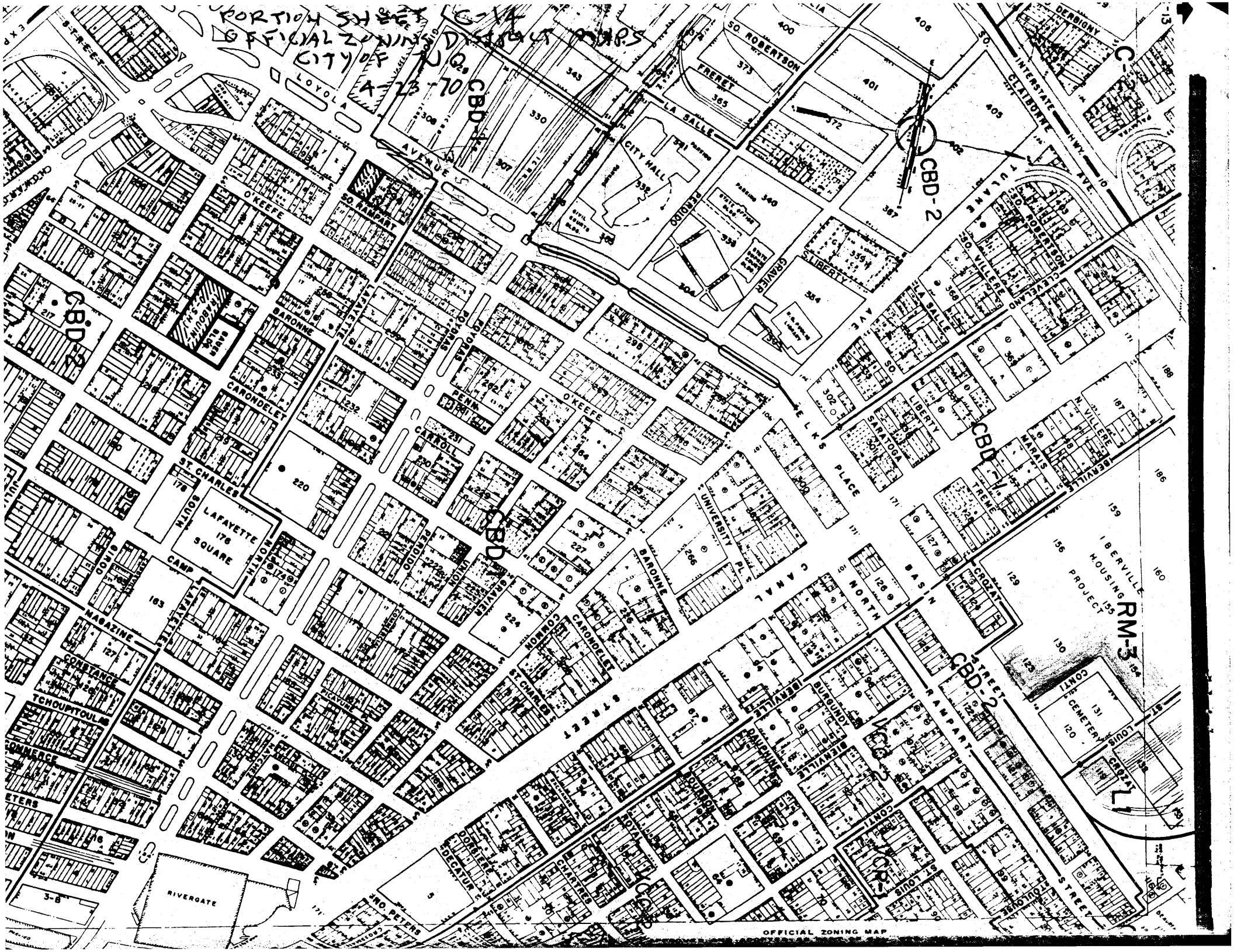
Battalion of Artillery, the Cervantes Mutual Benevolent Society, the Italian Society and the French Society are also impressive. The grandeur of these tombs is often enhanced by cast and wrought iron fences, gates and crosses. New Orleans cemetery ironwork, both wrought and cast, reflects a continuous and varied sequence of decorative patterns favored by the city's 19th century citizens.

Remembered by these architecturally important monuments are many people important to the historical development of New Orleans, the Louisiana territory, and to the United States. Buried here and in companion St. Louis Cemetery II are soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War, the war against the British in 1814, the Civil War and in military campaigns through the Viet Nam conflict. Housed in St. Louis I tombs are remains of artists, poets, historians, aristocrats, politicians, and statesmen and their descendants. Notable and colorful people buried in St. Louis I include: Etienne deBoré, first mayor of New Orleans; Charles Gayarre, the historian; Daniel Clark, American consul in New Orleans during the last days of the Spanish regime and later territorial delegate to Congress; Paul Morphy, in his time the world's greatest chess player; Colonel Michel Fortier, royal amorer and soldier who fought with the Spanish under Governor Galvez to help capture Manchac and Baton Rouge from the British; Moreau Lislet and Pierre Derbigny, jurists, who worked together to draw up the Civil Code of Louisiana (Derbigny was also Governor of Louisiana); Marie Laveua, one of New Orleans most notorious voodoo queens whose remains reputedly rest in a tomb marked for good luck by chalked X's; and Judge Victor Burthe, political figure and poet.

Item No. 10

Works Progress Administration Guide to New Orleans, Lyle Saxon: 1935.
Archives of St. Louis Cathedral and the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

PORTION SHOWN
OFFICIAL ZONING
CITY OF
A-13-70



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. Louis Cemetery No. I

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

New Orleans

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Orleans

STATE

Louisiana

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Portion sheet C-14 Official zoning District Map - New Orleans 4/23/70

SCALE

DATE 4/23/70

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES