

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED NOV 05 1979  
DATE ENTERED MAY 23 1980

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery  
AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Corner of Canal Street & City Park Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
New Orleans  
STATE  
Louisiana  
VICINITY OF  
2nd-Lindy Boggs  
COUNTY  
Orleans  
CODE  
022  
CODE  
071  
—NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**CLASSIFICATION**

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

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Grand Lodge of La., Independent Order of Odd Fellows  
STREET & NUMBER  
P.O. Box 908  
CITY, TOWN  
Lake Charles  
VICINITY OF  
STATE  
Louisiana

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Orleans Parish Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
New Orleans  
STATE  
Louisiana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Louisiana Historic Sites Survey

DATE  
1979  
—FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN  
Baton Rouge  
STATE  
Louisiana

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Odd Fellows Rest is laid out within an equilateral triangle of land at the corner of City Park Avenue and Canal Street in New Orleans. The stuccoed walls of the cemetery consist of lines of brick wall-vaults, with two openings for access from the outside. One of these openings lets onto the central path through the cemetery and consists of a large ceremonial gateway with battered Doric columns and a heavy lintel displaying the words "Odd Fellows Rest" and a relief carving of three links of a chain. Within this gateway hangs a pair of ornate cast iron gates, now in serious disrepair, depicting various symbols of the order, including the all-seeing eye, a widow with her child, a beehive, and a cornucopia. The other entrance to the cemetery, at the corner of the intersecting streets, displays a Spanish Baroque gable consisting of two scroll volutes surmounted by a round arch, with applied concrete plaques depicting the name of the cemetery with acanthus leaves above and a repetition of the three chain link motif.

The tombs within the cemetery are laid out about a large cross-shaped walkway centered on the ceremonial gateway, with auxiliary walks running perpendicular to the central axis. For such a small cemetery there is an astonishing array of tombs and monuments in a number of materials and styles, and it is this variety which lends distinction to this particular burial ground. There are whitewashed stone monuments which look like miniature chapels, granite tombs in the manner of Egyptian temples, and a free-standing block of wall vaults adorned with Renaissance urns. There are several cast iron vaults cast to look like small shrines made of stone, with intricate cast Acroteria along the rooflines. Two of the more interesting tombs are markers carved to look like tall stumps of trees, with placques for the deceased's name and, in one case, trophies of stone mason's tools. In addition to these and a number of more modest tombs and markers, there are two corporate tombs of note, both designed to house the remains of a particular organization. The Odd Fellows tomb is made in the image of a small Renaissance loggia, with blind arcading surrounding a rectangular vault capped with large urns and decorated with delicately carved marble plaques depicting a widow and her child, the all-seeing eye, and the three chain links. The tomb of the Howard Association, on the other hand, is a mound of dirt surmounted by an obelisk with the likeness of the English philanthropist John Howard, for whom the benevolent association was named. Interred within are the bodies of the young men who formed the society to assist the victims of the yellow fever and cholera epidemics in New Orleans.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED	MAY 23 1980

Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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7. Description

Appended April 1980

The building in the southern corner, has a long association with the Cemetery. Records indicate that it was built in about 1840 and rented to a stone cutter. Evidence further suggests that it served as a shop in which marble headstones were made. The building later served as a sexton's office for the cemetery.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input 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				

None listed

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Odd Fellows Rest cemetery is significant because of the number of artistically distinctive tombs within its grounds, because of its association the secret benevolent society which founded it, and because of its age, since it is one of the oldest extant cemeteries in New Orleans.

As in many cemeteries in the high watertable areas of Southern Louisiana, the necessity of burying the dead in vaults constructed above the ground gave rise to a remarkable variety of architectural and sculptural expressions in the construction of the tombs. Stone temples, miniature palaces, sculpted trees and cast iron vaults are sprinkled throughout this modestly-sized cemetery. Built to receive the remains of an old and active benevolent society, the cemetery contains the corporate tombs of other groups which contributed to New Orleans' development, including one comprised of young men dedicated to assisting those struck by the yellow fever and cholera epidemics.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a secret benevolent society, had its New Orleans beginnings in 1831. In 1847 the Grand Lodge of the order purchased a portion of the present cemetery site for \$700 from Henry Mitchell. This site adjoins St. Patrick Cemetery No. 2 at the intersection of Canal Street and City Park Avenue. Odd Fellows Rest was later enlarged by donations of land from the Fireman's Charitable Association, Henry Bier, and George Allan. The cemetery was dedicated in 1849 with great pomp and ceremony. There was a grand procession highlighted by an elaborately decorated "funeral car" which carried the remains of sixteen deceased members of the organization that had been gathered from other cemeteries. These remains were the first interments in the new cemetery.

Eventually the walks of the cemetery were laid out and named for Louisiana's past grand masters of the Order. By 1852 two hundred burial vaults had been erected and the tomb of the Teutonia Lodge No. 10 finished. Two sides of the cemetery were enclosed with wall vaults and by the 1930's nearly all the land in the small cemetery had been sold and built upon. By the 1960's, the traffic situation at the intersection of Canal Street and City Park Boulevard had become such a problem that the City of New Orleans made a proposal to the Odd Fellows for the transfer of the cemetery. But after months of negotiations they failed to reach agreement, and so Odd Fellows Rest, despite the neglect and vandalism it has suffered in recent years, has remained in its original location.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Huber, Leonard V., Peggy McDowell, and Mary Louise Christovich, New Orleans Architecture, Volume III: The Cemeteries (Gretna: Pelican Publishing Co., 1974), pp. 34-36.  
 Odd Fellows Archives, Lake Charles.  
 Vaughn, R.S., Research Report on Odd Fellows Cemetery, 1979, located in National Register file for Odd Fellows Cemetery, State Historic Preservation Office, Baton Rouge.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1.5 acres

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 778770 3320050  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

F \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

H \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached

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

Rayford S. Vaughn

ORGANIZATION

DATE

June 1979

STREET & NUMBER

8251 Gladwood Drive

TELEPHONE

(504) 924-2394

CITY OR TOWN

Baton Rouge

STATE

Louisiana 70806

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*[Handwritten Signature]*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/29/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

5/23/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*[Handwritten Signature]*

DATE

5/19/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



Odd Fellows Rest  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The dates of the burials in the cemetery range from 1849 until the 1970's. Many different kinds of people are buried there. Nationalities represented include people of English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian descent. Several veterans of the Confederate Army and Navy and also a number of sea captains and riverboat captains were interred at Odd Fellows Rest. Not long ago the Odd Fellows lodge in New Orleans allowed the New Orleans Public Library to microfilm the records of all burials in the cemetery from 1849 to 1958. Today there are still occasional burials in the cemetery.

Many people do not know that the "Odd Fellows Rest" is actually a cemetery located in the City of New Orleans which has had since its origin a most colorful and historical background. The origin of the Odd Fellows Cemetery being about the year of 1838 and is 140 years old as of our Bi-Centennial year. The oldest Fraternal Cemetery in the City of New Orleans and the deep south.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows found its way to Louisiana in the year of 1830 with the institution of Louisiana Lodge No. 1, receiving their charter in the year 1832 and is still in existence to the present time, the oldest Odd Fellow Lodge in the state and one of the oldest in the nation, one hundred and forty six years old this year.

The Grand Lodge of Louisiana which had its origin about the year 1831, instituted by Thomas Wildey, founder of the order in America in the year 1819, received its charter in the year 1832 from the Grand Lodge of the United States domiciled in Baltimore, Maryland. The Grand Lodge of Louisiana was domiciled in the City of New Orleans from 1832 until the year of 1899.

The City of New Orleans has often been termed the 'melting pot of the world'. Many flags of many nations have flown over the City of New Orleans and Louisiana. Immigrants from these various nations found their way to the City of New Orleans, settling in their own communities speaking their native tongue, practicing the customs and usages of their native homeland. It is very apparent that the French speaking people seem to predominate over all other nationalities that settled in the Crescent City.

There was an apparent break in the records from the charter date of the Grand Lodge in 1832 up until the year 1840, there being no authentic records during this period, the theory can only be advanced of that which may have happened during these years of events relative to the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery.

The growth of Odd Fellow Lodges from 1832 until about 1839 was very noticeable, reaching a peak of some twenty three lodges, all of these lodges being established in the various communities of the City, such as English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and various others. Such Odd Fellow Lodges conducted the affairs of their lodge in their native languages of their Homeland.

These Lodges believing in the cardinal principles of the order banded together for the purpose of forming the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery. In 1839 there appears in the records a Board of Managers, or a committee to find a suitable location for the establishment of a Fraternal Cemetery to be known as the "Odd Fellows Rest".

Their Board of Managers or committee after a diligent search of about two years and about the year of 1840 made their report to the respective lodges quoted as follows; -

"Your Board of Managers have selected a parcel of ground, situated about three miles from the heart of the City on the highest ground on the "Metairie Ridge", a perfect triangle in form, which may be walled in on the angles with tiers of vaults, the ~~area~~ <sup>A E R A</sup> within can be laid out in beautiful walks and dotted here and there with lodge and family tombs, surrounded by flowered plants and shrubs placed there by the hands of the affection, would present a most pleasant aspect to the eye, and would impress the mind with no other feeling than that of Chastened and Subdued Sadness; One very favorable aspect of this parcel of ground was that the City may never reach out far enough to engulf the proposed site of the cemetery and here the City of the dead could repose in peace."

In an adjourned session of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana, this parcel of land on Metairie Ridge was approved for the establishing of a Fraternal Cemetery, by the adoption of the following resolution -

Resolved - That the most Worshipful Grand Master of Louisiana in adjourned session

November 30, 1840, that it be made known to all who may be concerned that on this date the record shall record the approval and recommendation of the Board of Managers by this most Worshipful Grand Body, be it further be made known and recorded that the several subordinate lodges shall have full authority to proceed with the lay outs and establishment of an Odd Fellow Fraternal Cemetery that shall be known and hailed as "The Odd Fellows Rest".

*Thus*

~~There~~ the Odd Fellows Rest became a reality. As it progressed through the years until the present time, has had a most turbulent career, there has been hours of joy, hours of sadness, many hours of labor, sweat and tears, trials and tribulations and in some of the darkest hours when all seemed lost, it managed to survive by the never ending work of the faithful few. Little did they know this first project of Louisiana Odd Fellowship was destined to become a historical landmark as the oldest Fraternal Cemetery in the City of New Orleans and one of the oldest in the entire nation.

The first step in the lay out of the cemetery was the removal of many undesired trees and shrubbery, and to designate which parts should be used for vaults, tombs and ground plots. Records show that only about one third of the three acres should be used for ground burial, a grave might be prepared today for a burial the next day, due to the soggy ground was almost filled with water by the time set for burial, so for this reason, more space was allotted to burial vaults, lodge and family tombs, the vaults usually being four tiers in height.

The West side of the triangle facing what is now City Park Avenue was reserved for vaults, in the exact center of the space reserved for vaults was the gate entrance to the Cemetery FACING City Park Avenue, the other side of the triangle facing what is now Canal Street was also reserved for vaults. In later years, the entrance to the Cemetery was changed from City Park Avenue to face Canal Street, the back side of the triangle facing St. Patricks Cemetery was reserved for lodge and family tombs. In the area between the triangles was laid out in ten beautiful walks, with

Lodge and family tombs and some grave sites bordering the walks, each of the ten walks were named for outstanding members of the order who had supplied much of the labor and planning of the cemetery, names appearing on these walks were Griffin, Knears<sup>S</sup>, Shields, Beir, Sherlock, Hopkins, Kennedy, Gettys, Glazier, Perkins, and Keyer. The tenth walk running directly through the center of the Cemetery was Wildey Walk named for the founder of Odd Fellowship on the North American Continent.

In the Geographical Center of the Cemetery was a round mound. In the center of this mound was planted a Southern Palm Tree, the space around the edges of the mound were reserved for distinguished members of the Order, however only one burial was made in this mound, that of Past Grand Master and Past Grand Patriarch of Louisiana Odd Fellowship, Brother Dunlap, in addition to these honors was one of the faithful few, that through his untiring and loyal efforts was responsible for the establishing and progress of the Odd Fellows Rest. In the year of 1877, Brother Dunlap had compiled and edited a concise history on Louisiana Odd Fellowship, covering the span of years from 1832 to 1877.

Past Grand Master John G. Dunlap, was serving as Grand Chaplain of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Louisiana at the time of his passing January 23, 1882 and was laid to rest in this mound with full Odd Fellow Burial Services.

Thus after many years of hard labors, sacrifices by the faithful few, yes, many heartaches, sorrows and sadness, but always being overshadowed by many joys and happiness, after every rain storm and ~~sun~~<sup>the sun</sup> has always shown, and the rainbow is always there perhaps no one has ever found the legendary "Pot of Gold" at the foot of the rainbow, yes, the rainbow is perhaps a beacon of light that always assures us of a brighter tomorrow.

End Part One

C. C. Woolfley

Grand Secretary

Grand Lodge of Louisiana

The first part of this series was designed to bring to you the events that led up to the origin of the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery. In some cases events of this series may overlap or refer back to the years of the first part in order to establish certain historical facts.

It has been previously explained that the City of New Orleans had been termed by some historians as the melting pot of the world, having been settled in various communities by immigrants from various communities by immigrants from various nationalities, these communities of a clan type nature, living to themselves alone under the same environment of their home land. Into each of the communities was established an Odd Fellow Lodge. Like their communities, they more or less lived to themselves alone, conducting their lodge affairs in their native tongue, however when it came to cardinal principles of the order, which were Friendship, Love and Truth, to visit the sick, relieve the distress, bury the dead and educate the orphan, they worked together for the common good of all.

The predominately five nationalities were English, <sup>ON</sup> French, German, Spanish and Italian. They all seemed to center their attention ~~one~~ on one phase of the cardinal principles of Odd Fellowship, "To bury the Dead" as their project in the establishment of the fraternal cemetery, which was the direct reason for the construction of the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery.

The Italian Lodges were the ones to take the forward step in the construction of a lodge tomb for burial use of their membership. Here again the customs and usages of their native land prevailed. Their tomb being patterned after the design of tombs in their native land cemeteries, and with imported building materials, such as marble, decorative wrought iron materials and various other building materials all of which were imported from Italy.

The other lodges, namely French, Spanish and German were soon to follow this custom set by the Italian lodge, with the artistic design and materials imported from their native land. The burial arrangements, even to the caskets were as set forth by their home land. In strolling through the old cemetery one might be amazed at the many beautiful designs of architect and momentarily might visualize that they are strolling through a cemetery of a foreign land, however due to the ravage of the elements of nature many of these beautiful tombs have disappeared and today there are only a few of these old tombs in existence.

The very first recorded burial date was in the year of 1845. The exact date is not known. The dedication of the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery was the highlight of the early part of the year 1849, with elaborate preparations made by the various lodges, the Grand Lodge gave its permission to the lodges to hold processions in full lodge regalia their destination being the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery. The early records reveal that each procession had one or more "Brass Bands of Music". The dedication speaker for the event was past Grand Master John J. Dunlap, an outstanding worker in the establishment of the cemetery, after which ( a rather odd place to hold it) an outdoor picnic.

The actual construction of burial vaults, lodge and family tombs was a very slow process due largely to the lack of funds. In a special session of the Grand Lodge held on January 25, 1947 the following resolution was submitted to the Right Worthy Grand Lodge -

(That the application from the Cemetery Committee of the Subordinate Lodges of this Jurisdiction, to put the title of the piece of ground, recently purchased on Metairie Ridge, be placed in the name of The Grand Lodge be

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granted; provided one delegate to the Board of Managers of said cemetery be elected annually by the Grand Lodge, of which was adopted. The Odd Fellows Rest becoming the property of the Grand Lodge.

In the election of officers held in the annual session of the Grand Lodge, Past Grand Mastger T. H. Schields was elected the Grand Lodge delegate to the Board of Managers of the Odd Fellows Rest. This office was uaually the President of the Board, a Secretary and Treasurer was elected by members of the board. The early board was known as a Board of Managers, later a Board of Directors and today as a Board of Contrcl. The board was directly responsible to the Grand Lodge for their action, submitting a report to each annual session of the Grand Lodge.

The construction of additional burial vaults and tombs began to show a sharp increase due largely to the generous donations of the Grand Lodge, the Subordinate Lodges were called upon to help ~~also~~ on these donations. The lodges within the City of New Orleans responded very generously, hoever those outside the City of New Orleans did not respond to such donations, due largely to being situated too far from the cemetery, with little or no need for the cemetery. Many of the lodges with in the City of New Orleans had from time to time made other generous donations. The Italian Lodges made a gift to the cemetery of a decorative wrought iron gate which was imported from Italy for the Canal entrance to the cemetery and arranged for the archway above the gate being the name "Odd Fellows Rest".

The point of the triangle where Canal intersects with City Park Avenue being another entrance to the cemetery; another similar type gate was donated by the Spanish lodge, imported from Spain. Two marble plaques with an iron gate, with an overhead archway.

<sup>Build</sup>  
In order to gain additional revenue for the cemetery, the Grand Lodge leased at this second entrance to the New Orleans Light and Railway Company, permission to ~~build~~ a passenger shelter for their customers, the lease was for 100 years at five dollars a year to run from 1847 to 1947, on the expiration of the lease, it was not renewed.

It was at this point that vendors began to place their stands for the sale of newspapers and the famed New Orleans porcelain and various other items. These became so numerous and on complaint from the City, they were limited to five in number, with a one dollar a month rental fee and their stands had to be outside the shelter area.

The cemetery by the year 1849 was fast winding into shape. New sections of vaults were being constructed, along with many new family and lodge tombs. The walks through out the cemetery were being paved with Schellinger Cement. No explanation was given of just what Schellinger Cement really was. The cemetery walks were identified sections of valults were constructed along with many more tombs and the walks were paved with Schellinger Cement. No mention of what it was composed of but it appears time after time in this early era. The cemetery walks were identified by the use of small blue tile on a white background. Beautification dotted the cemetery with many flowers and shrubs, an evergreen ivy was imported from England and planted which ran covering the vaults and tombs, while this was beautifying and pleased the eye, it was found that the ivy grew into small cracks in the vaults and tombs causing major damage, and had to be removed, however today small traces of the ivy is still growing.

A sexton was employed by the Board of Directors who was on duty only during the day, leaving the cemetery unprotected during the night. This was one of the major factors that all cemeteries had to cope with, thus all cemeteries were subject to many attacks by vandals. This situation was perhaps brought about by one of the customs of this early ear. In the enternment of decased persons, the various tupes of jewelry they had worn throughout their life was buried with them,

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such as gold rings, watches, pins, bracelets and many other gold items. This made vandalism a common practice. The old Girard Street cemetery and the Odd Fellows Rest cemetery seem to bear the brunt of vandalism. Though vandalism is nothing new today, in the year 1847, \$1,000.00 was appropriated to repair damage by vandals, and almost every year until the present time, such repairs were necessary.

The construction of vaults and the customs of burial is an interesting historical fact that is worthy of mention.

The construction of these early vaults cannot be compared to those of today. In the first place, construction materials were much inferior than those of today. Vaults constructed in the Odd Fellows Rest well over a 100 years old have deteriorated in many cases beyond repair, those same vaults, if constructed at the present time with today's building materials would perhaps last until eternity. There has been thirty modern day vaults constructed about 25 years ago and are still in perfect condition with no repairs at all required.

Seventy Five percent of all burials in the various cemeteries in New Orleans are above ground. The early regulations required that burial graves be at least six feet deep, due to the condition of water seepage then graves were filled with water a short time after being dug, thus the practice of above ground burial. The early era vaults were in most cases constructed four tiers in height, and were much smaller than those constructed today, designed to fit the form fitting casket, and usually constructed of cast iron or Louisiana cypress, however up until a few years ago, some funeral homes carried a few of the early type caskets or could in some cases remodel the present day casket to fit the early vaults.

The customs and use of the early vaults were of an interesting nature and were practiced by many of the cemeteries in New Orleans. The early vaults were so constructed as to make available to each vault in the tier that was termed a receiving or below ground storage vault. A family after purchasing a vault for family use and in the course of time when it became necessary for the burial in their family vault, a marble plaque was placed over the front opening with the proper inscription, which was also recorded in the cemetery records. In due course of time it became necessary for a second burial, the remains of the first burial were simply pushed back to drop in the storage vault. In many cases the casket was reused and a second inscription was placed on the marble plaque and recorded in the cemetery records. In most of these vaults anywhere from ten to fifteen burials have been recorded in the cemetery records.

Vaults could be rented for burials. The bad feature of this practice was that when monthly rentals became delinquent, the remains were simply dropped into the storage vaults, however with proper records being made and the vault was again prepared for future rentals. All cemeteries had reserves a section of storage vaults, where remains could be stored for a thirty day period at one dollar a day storage fee, until the family could decide on what type of burial they desired. However in later years, after the turn of the century, all of the above practices were discontinued.

In the sale of a vault or ground space for the construction of a family tomb or for ground burial, the purchaser was always offered a perpetual care plan for an additional fee which insured them perpetual care forever, few availed themselves of this opportunity. To date the Odd Fellows have only records two tombs and one ground space under perpetual care; titles were issued to the purchaser to be theirs to have and to hold forever. The title issued to the purchaser required that they keep in good condition that which they purchased unless under perpetual care.

At the intersection of Canal Street And St. Patricks Cemetery a building was erected which was rented for several years to a stone cutter, who supplied

many head stones and inscribed marble plaques to various cemeteries, and in later years when flower shops came into existence, it was rented from time to time to various flower shops, which did not prove to be very successful so finally this building was converted into a lounge for use of families and their visitors to the cemetery.

Another old custom practiced by the early Odd Fellows as well as other fraternal orders with reverence to their deceased members was the wearing of a "mourning badge" the following quoted from the year 1848,

" The eloquent eulogy pronounced by our most Worshipful Grand Master on our respected Brother B. D. Crowley, lately deceased, leave the committee nothing to add, they simply offer the following resolution -

That the members of the Grand Lodge in token of respect for the memory of our deceased Brother D. B. Crowley, wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days and that the charter of the Grand Lodge be draped in mourning for the same period. Be it resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to Howard Lodge # 13 under the seal of the Right Worthy Grand Lodge - In conclusion the committee respectfully submits this report in F. L. & T. and signed by R. W. Ogden, James Strawbridge and O. E. Wilcox"

There is no record of just what the Badge of Mourning may have been, however in later years this badge gave way to a black arm band worn on the right arm.

In the year 1849, Past Grand Master John G. Dunlap was elected by the Grand Lodge as their delegate to the Board of Directors to the Odd Fellows Rest. In the same year, for the first time was published in the Grand Lodge journal, the names of the directors of the Odd Fellows Rest. They were.

Past Grand Master	John G. Dunlap
Past Grand Master	Thomas Cripps
Past Grand Master	F. W. Delesderiner
Past Grand Master	R. W. Ogden
Past Grand Master	James Shawbridge

This five man board remained the same in size until after the turn of the century when it was increased to a seven man board. This board in 1849 was also changed from a Board of Managers to a Board of Directors, and at the present time to a Board of Control.

The Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery was organized strictly as a non-profit organization and has had a most turbulent career up to the present time, especially where finances were concerned and to add to their woes they performed many charitable acts. In the case of an almost destitute family and when no one else would help them, they always as a last resort came to the Odd Fellows and their deceased loved ones were always given a decent burial in the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery, however this is what Oddfellowship is all about and is ~~on~~ the cornerstone of our order. Since the founding of this order in the year 1819 and up until the present time there has been millions of dollars spent to relieve the distress and other charitable acts.

The reports of the Grand Secretary and that of the finance committee reveal many of their financial difficulties, perhaps that is one of the reasons that the various lodges petitioned the Grand Lodge to take title to the cemetery. The finance committee placed in the Grand Lodge budget a recommendation that \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 be allotted to cemetery maintenance. Many lodges in New Orleans made donations or purchased stock in the cemetery. This was perhaps another form of donation as there is no record where such stock paid any dividends.

4

Each year

one of

5/ Lodges were now being instituted outside the City of New Orleans, DeSoto Lodge # 7, Baton Rouge being one of the first, another Neith Lodge # 21, in Shreveport and whereas they were in perfect accord with the cemetery, very few contributed financially because most of them were too far from the City of New Orleans to derive any direct benefit from the cemetery. The delegate from the Grand Lodge to the Board of Directors of the Cemetery made complete annual reports to the Grand Lodge concerning the conditions of the cemetery, however there were very few and perhaps none printed in the Grand Lodge Journal. The first of these reports that there is a record was printed in the journal of an adjourned session held January 30, 1851, which was made by John G. Dunlap delegate to the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery, quoted as follows;

" The following report from P. G. Dunlap, Delegate from the Grand Lodge, to the O.F. Rest, was read and ordered to be spread on the minutes, viz;

To the R. W. Grand Lodge of Louisiana I.O.O.F. Brothers;- The undersigned delegate to the Board of Directors of "Odd Fellows Rest," respectfully submits to the R. W. Grand Lodge, a brief statement of the present condition of the "Rest", and the transactions of the past year.

In consequence of the purchase of an additional piece of ground, and the liberal donation of another piece, by the Firemen's Charitable Association, it became necessary to lay out the ground anew, and arrange a different plan. This has been done, and a large plan made for the Board of Directors, which is now in their office. An engraving of the same has been made, and copies furnished to the different Lodges.

To perfect the new plan, it was necessary to remove the vaults first erected in the "Rest" and the reception Tomb, which stood near the centre. The Reception tomb has been permanently placed on Lot 82, adjoining the main entrance on the Metairie Road, and the vaults pulled down. The bodies contained in the old vaults have been placed in vaults prepared for that purpose, on the side line of the "Rest," with the Numbers, Marks, Tablets, etc. that previously distinguished them.

During the year there has been erected, and now in the course of erection, one hundred and sixty four vaults, sixty of these have been used for the bodies removed, leaving one hundred and four for general interment, of which, sixty two were unoccupied on the 18th inst.

A contract has been made for the opening out, grading, curbing and finishing the walks. Part of this work has been done, and the remainder will be completed at an early period.

The stock holding Lodges have selected their Lots, and others have been sold to individuals, who have begun to improve them.

Much of the difficulty that impeded the progress of the "Rest" in the first instant, has been overcome, and

6  
your delegate congratulates the R. W. Grand Lodge, and the order generally, on its present favorable condition, flattering as its future prospects appear, there yet remains much to be done, requiring the active cooperation of all concerned, before we can place it in the position so much desired.

In a work like this, in which all are interested, the stock holding Lodges and members must remember that it is an undertaking peculiarly their own, and should give to the Board prompt and efficient aid in all their judicious plans, and sustain their efforts by every means in their power to bring the work to a speedy completion.

Respectfully submitted in F. L. and T.  
J. G. Dunlap

There has been very little perpetual care for the cemetery with the purchase of burial space. The purchaser has always been offered perpetual care, but few have availed themselves of this opportunity and today there are only very few tombs or other grave plots under perpetual care. Many years later about the year of 1955, the Grand Lodge erected some 36 modern burial vaults with the sale of each vault \$25.00 set aside for perpetual care of the vaults.

The purchasers of any vault, tombs or ground space was issued a title for that which he purchased. These early titles had the clause that which he purchased was his to have and to hold forever, another clause which required the purchaser to keep in repair and good condition unless it was under perpetual care, however at the present time 140 years later, the owners of various burial space cannot be located, some have passed on, many have moved and some are just not interested which leaves the Grand Lodge directly responsible for the upkeep of the Cemetery.

The establishment of the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery was the first major project of the Grand Lodge. In any major project no matter of what nature and especially one that has lasted as long as the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery, it is apparent that the first decade is of the most interesting. So was it with the Odd Fellows rest, more so than with others, due largely because the Odd Fellows Rest had its origin in a most interesting period of American history, a young nation that was feeling its way along as the years passed.

In the case of this first project of the Grand Lodge, this now 140 year old cemetery came about in an era of most historical background of American History. The origin of the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery having been brought about by at least seven different nationalities of Odd Fellows using the customs of their home land in the establishment of the rest, so perhaps this old 140 year old cemetery has perhaps the most interesting and historical background of any in New Orleans or the deep south.

There is another very interesting fact relative to the reports made to the Grand Lodge. The most beautiful choice of wording and language used in the reports, some almost of a musical tone. In some cases words so spoken were actually created which in some cases do not appear in the dictionary. All in all these reports reflected the love and interest that our early forefathers has for one another and our order, so was it with the various reports that were made to the Grand Lodge on the cemetery and the same love, respect, honor and interest was known as one early brother in closing his report said "To the beloved silent sleeping City of the Dead".

7  
The various bus tours of the New Orleans area for many years had the Odd Fellows Rest on their bus tour and was the only cemetery on their tours where they stopped allowing those on the tour to stroll through the cemetery. Literature was passed out and the tour driver gave a narration on the old cemetery.

Thus passes into history the first decade 1840-1850, the second decade from 1850 to 1860 reveals a changing era in the cemetery history, with the advance of time, many old customs were gradually dropped, being replaced with more modern customs. Many of the old members of the order responsible for the establishment of the cemetery was passing away, being replaced by members with more modern ideas.

The decade from 1850 to 1860 saw many turbulent years for the cemetery. There was first the "yellow fever epidemic" which ravished New Orleans in the 1850's and second the war clouds were constantly gathering which were eventually to engulf the nation in a civil war which was destined to all but destroy our nation and as usual left its mark on the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery.

It was in the year 1852 that the General relief Committee came into existence, although the committee was established for the purpose of relieving the distressed or burying the dead and over the years this committee in burying the dead far over shadowed the relief of the distressed. Many transit oddfellows and strangers settled in New Orleans and some became destitute and needed assistance to return to their home. Whether they were a stranger or an Oddfellow, this committee always found the means to get them safely home. In the event some may have become ill and passed away, this committee if possible sent their remains home or they always provided them with a decent burial in the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery.

This committee made annual reports of their activity to the Grand Lodge, the report of 1852 revealed receipts of \$1,385.37 and the same report under disbursements the following is quoted -

" Relief to strangers and funeral burials in Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery \$967.44" This committee operated well past the turn of the century and did more charitable work in burying than the relief of those in distress. They never had a large balance on hand. It was all used for relief or burying the dead. Lodges were still constructing lodge tombs in the cemetery in 1853 it is noted as quoted -

" Grand Secretary Shields informed the Grand Lodge that Teutonia Lodge # 10 (a German Lodge) had, at considerable expense erected a magnificent tomb in the Odd Fellows Rest, and it was the desire of the members of that lodge to dedicate the same with some degree of ceremony, and moved they be granted permission to carry out their objective, carried."  
y. m's OGDEN'S

Another quote from ~~G. Modgen's~~ report in the year 1853, in his address to the dedication of the newly constructed Grand Lodge Building -

"But this is not all that has been achieved, to prove that the true spirit of our institution is with us, in our zeal and succor and administer to the wants of the living, the fallen have not been forgotten, the last sad office imposed by our laws, "To bury the Dead" has been heeded, during the year two beautiful tombs have been erected and dedicated, both in our Odd Fellows Rest, the members of Germania and Teutonia (German Lodges) deserve much praise, to them we owe this noble example. I trust it will soon be followed by other lodges."

In the year 1853, much progress was noted in the construction of new vaults with 100 being constructed on the Metairie Ridge side of the cemetery filling out the space up to Canal Street. It was further noted that 159 burials in the Odd Fellows Rest had been made.

3  
At a meeting of the board held in October of that year, notice was given that at the next meeting of the Board, a motion would be offered to change the By-Laws to the following particulars -

*members* " To permit Odd Fellows who now own or may own tombs in the rest to bury therein any person who is not of notoriously disreputable character. That persons who are not ~~may~~ may be permitted to purchase lots in the "rest", but shall erect therein a family tomb and that such permission shall not be construed as to permit any person to bury in vaults belonging to the rest other than those in the relation here prescribed."

Thus for the first time burials were open to the public, with the hopes that an influx of sales would also broaden the revenue to discharge their obligations. This project seemed to have been successful as 100 new vaults were constructed with <sup>slightly</sup> more contracted for, a considerable number of new lots were purchased by individuals during the year with neat and ornamentals <sup>being</sup> erected, which greatly added to the appearance of the cemetery. The board had been able to meet all demands and were free from debt, further improvements were contracted for to continue the influx of revenue. *Tombs*

The Yellow Fever epidemic that occurred during this year was first noticeable in the many Bayou Areas in the vicinity of New Orleans and finally worked its way into the City which took its toll on hundreds of people. Here Oddfellowship was called upon to do their share. Many lodge halls were converted into hospitals, The general relief committee was taxed to capacity mostly in the burying of the dead and as in the past, whether the dead were members of the order or complete strangers, they all at no cost were given proper and decent burial in the Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery, with over 100 of the newly constructed vaults used for this purpose.

In the last three years of the decade there seem to be a feeling of unrest. The clouds of war seem to be increasing heavily and in the decade to follow would eventually erupt into the war between the states destined to take its toll on the land and our order.

These last few years also seemed to be progressive years for the Odd Fellows Rest enjoying its most favorable years since its founding, favorable reports from Grand Masters and regular annual reports from the Board of Directors seem to sing forth joyful notes of success and a beautiful progressive future, all of which can best be told by the annual report of 1859 the following being quoted -

"Another noble monument of fraternal effort claims a passing notice, and cannot fail to be an object of interest to all. }

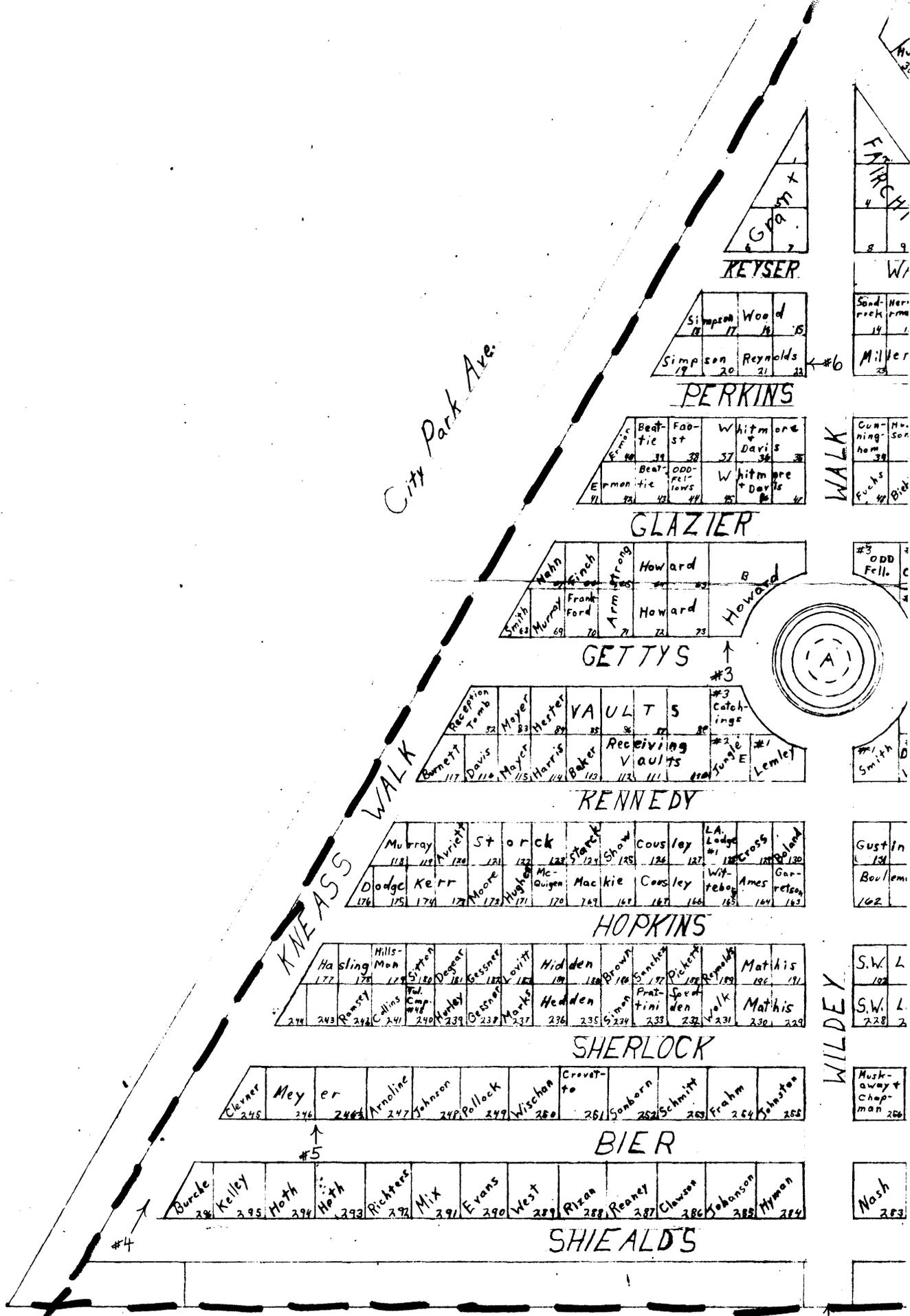
The "Odd Fellows Rest" has been gradually improved and ornamented until it has nearly reached completion, and now presents an interesting spot, made sacred to the dead and rendered cheerful to the living by the neat appearance of ground and the fragrance of flowers, planted by the hands of affection near the graves of loved ones, who are gone forever, but whose virtues still live to soothe the wounded spirit and heal the broken heart. We of Louisiana were the pioneers in preparing a last resting place for the remains of our deceased brothers and relatives; others throughout the country have subsequently imitated our example, and there are now several cemeteries established by the Order.

It is a source of gratification to learn that the "Rest"

9...  
is free of debt, has sixty odd vaults, unoccupied, paid for, and a cash balance on hand in the treasury. Various improvements are in contemplation by the Board of Directors, which, when completed, will make the "Odd Fellows Rest" the model of cemeteries in the South.

End of Part 2

C. C. Woolfley  
Grand Secretary



City Park Ave.

KNEASS WALK

WALK

WILDEY

Canal St.

BOUNDARIES

**KEYSER**

Simpson 17	Wood 15
Simpson 19	Reynolds 21

**PERKINS**

Beat-tie 39	Fao-st 38	Whitmore + Davis 37
Erman-tie 41	Beat-tie 42	Whitmore + Davis 40

**GLAZIER**

Wahn	Finch	Howard
Smith	Murray	Howard
Frank	Arm	Howard
Ford	Strong	Howard

**GETTYS**

Reception	Mayer	Meyer	Receiving
Tomb	32	33	Vaults
Bennett	Davis	Mayer	Harris
117	118	115	114
Baker	113	111	110

**RENNEY**

Murray 118	Avrieth 121	St orck 122	Shaw 123	Cousley 124	LA Lodge 125
Dodge 176	Kerr 175	Moore 174	Hughes 173	McGuire 172	Mackie 171

**HOPKINS**

Hasling 241	Hills 242	Mon 243	Stetten 244	Degeat 245	Gessner 246	ovitt 247	Hidden 248	Brown 249	Sanchez 250	Pickett 251	Renaldi 252	Mathis 253
241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253

**SHERLOCK**

Cleaver 245	Mey er 246	Arnoline 247	Johnson 248	Pollock 249	Vischan 250	Crovet-to 251	Sonborn 252	Schmitt 253	Frahm 254	Johnston 255
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**BIER**

Burcke 288	Kelley 289	Moth 290	Moth 291	Richards 292	Mix 293	Evans 294	West 295	Rizan 296	Reaney 297	Clawson 298	Johanson 299	Hyman 300
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**SHIELDS**

4	8
9	9

14	1
25	1

39	39
49	49

4	4
4	4

1	1
1	1

18	18
162	162

187	187
228	228

256	256
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283	283
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#1

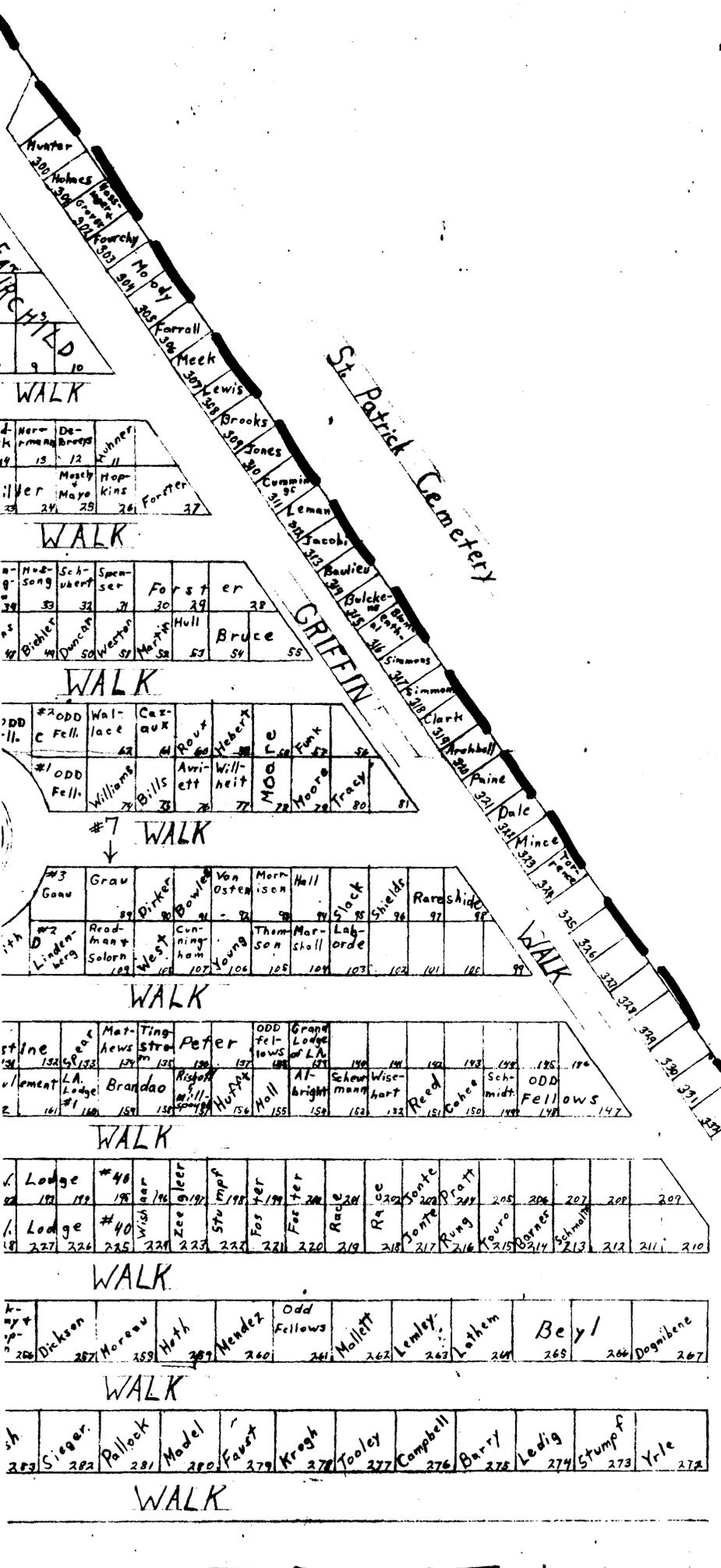
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1/2



ODD FELLOWS  
REST CEMETERY  
Drawn By JEK III

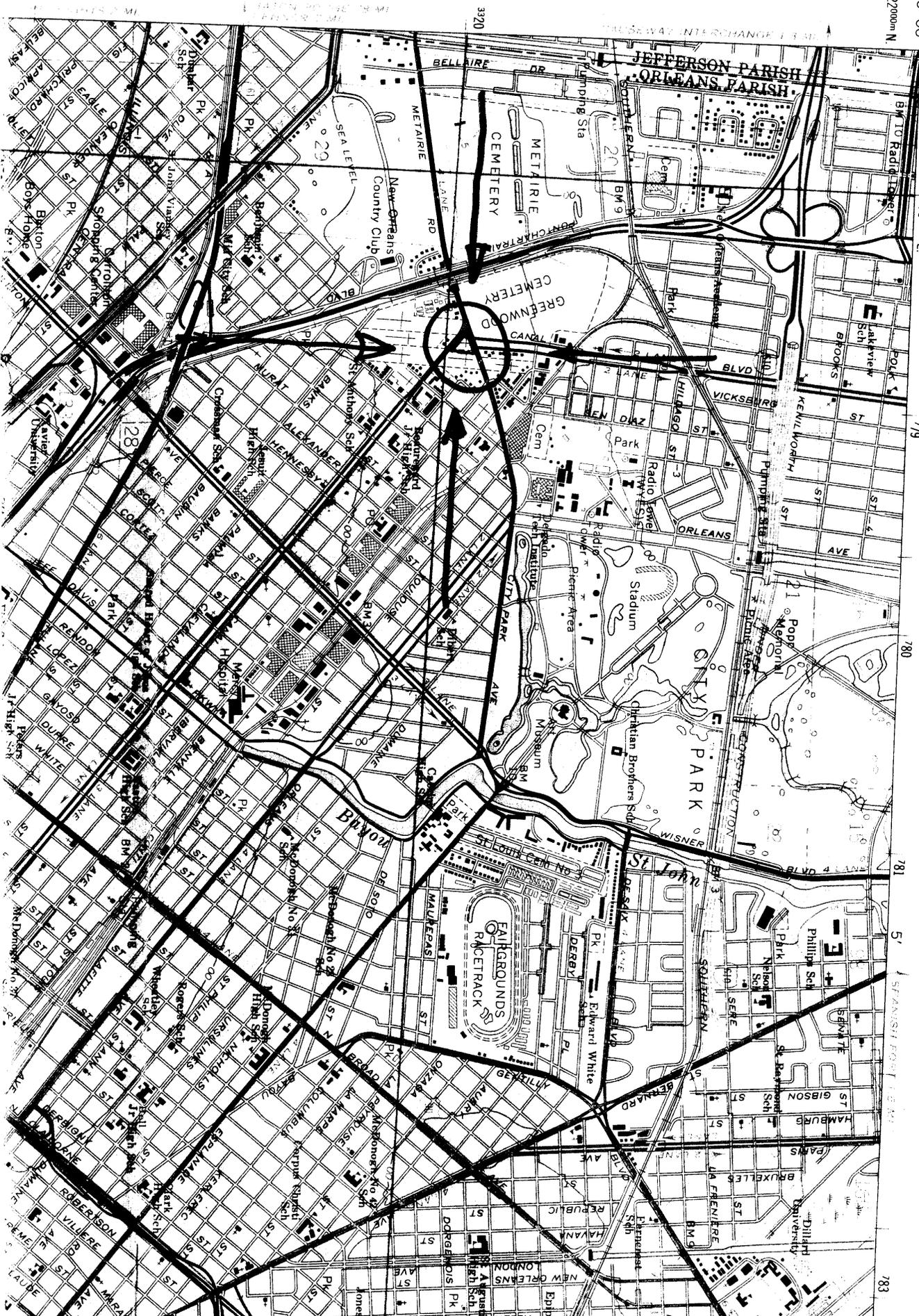
Odd Fellows Rest

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



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1780000m E

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SPANISH POINT U.S.M.

BM 10 Radio Tower

BM 9

BM 8

BM 7

BM 6

BM 5

BM 4

BM 3

BM 2

BM 1

BM 0

BM -1

BM -2

BM -3

BM -4

BM -5

BM -6

BM -7

BM 10 Radio Tower

BM 9

BM 8

BM 7

BM 6

BM 5

BM 4

BM 3

BM 2

BM 1

BM 0

BM -1

BM -2

BM -3

BM -4

BM -5

BM -6

BM -7

BM 10 Radio Tower

BM 9

BM 8

BM 7

BM 6

BM 5

BM 4

BM 3

BM 2

BM 1

BM 0

BM -1

BM -2

BM -3

BM -4

BM -5

BM -6

BM -7

BM 10 Radio Tower

BM 9

BM 8

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BM 6

BM 5

BM 4

BM 3

BM 2

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BM 10 Radio Tower

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BM 10 Radio Tower

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