### United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# 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

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historic	Masonic Ceme	etery ar	nd Hope A	bbey Maus	oleum			<u> </u>
and/or common								
2. Loca	ation							
street & number	25th and Uni	versity	v Strees				_ not for publ	ication
city, town	Eugene		vic	inity of	congressional	district	·····	4th
state	Oregon	code	41	county	Lane		code	039
3. Clas	sificatio	n						
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisiti in process being conside	on	Status X occupio work in Accessible X yes: re yes: un no	ipied progress <del>s</del> stricted	Present Use agricultu commerce educatio entertain governm industria military	re cial nal ment ent	museum park private r religious scientifie transpor X_ other: ()	residence S C tation
4. Own	er of Pro	pert	У					
name	Eugene Lodge	No. 11	, AF & Al	М	-			
street & number	2777 Centenn	ial Bou	levard					1 Matura -
city, town	Eugene		vic	inity of		state	Oregon	97401
<u>5. Loca</u>	ation of L	ega	Desc	criptio	<u>Dn</u>			
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Lane	<u>County Co</u>	ourthouse				
street & number		124 E	. 8th St	reet				
city, town		Eugen	e			state	Oregon	97401
6. Repr	resentati	on ir	<u>n Exis</u>	sting S	Surveys			
title	Eugene Histo	ric Lan	dmark	has this pro	perty been detern	nined elegi	ble?         ye	s <u>X</u> no
date	January 28,	1980			federal	state	county	<u> </u>
depository for su	rvey records	Eugen	e City Ha	all				
city, town		Eugen	е			state	Oregon	97401

# 7. Description

fair unexposed	X_ good	Check one deteriorated _X_ unaltered ruins altered unexposed	Check one X_ original site moved date	
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#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Masonic Cemetery, Eugene's first cemetery, was originally opened in 1859. The Hope Abbey Mausoleum, in the "Egyptian" style, is the only large structure on the property and was constructed in 1913 by the Portland Mausoleum Company. Despite periods of neglect and vandalism, the cemetery grounds are now well maintained and the mausoleum is in fair condition.

Originally located on the outskirts of the city, the property's ten-acre site in southeast Eugene is presently surrounded by residential development. Beginning at the corner of 25th and University Streets, the grounds are found in Sec. 3, T18S, R3W, W.M., Lane County, Oregon. The hilly site is covered with large, mature oak and maple trees and other original plantings, through which the original, winding, 19th century carriage paths lead. The original plots were 20' square, separated by eight-foot alleys.

The cemetery's original six acres were increased to ten in the same year of purchase, and encompassed two sites of archeological significance. In the northwest corner of the expanded acreage, Eugene's first schoolhouse had been built. In the northeast corner, Eugene's first brickyard produced brick which were used to construct the first buildings at the University of Oregon. These include Deady Hall (1877) and Villard Hall (1885), both listed on the Register. Most of the grave sites are characterized by carved stone and cast iron grave markers, many of which are still surrounded by ornate cast iron fences. The oldest graves are located on the south end of the property.

The Hope Abbey Mausoleum is the only truly monumental example of the "Egyptian" style in Oregon. Located on the west slope of the cemetery, the large-scale, single-story structure was constructed in 1913. The specifications for the building--erected by the Portland Mausoleum Company--were obtained from Cecil E. Bryan, an engineer from Chicago, Illinois, and possibly came from a pattern book. The design, according to a 1912 advertisement in the <u>Eugene Daily Guard</u>, was originally Classically-derived. According to the contract, the specifications were amended before the construction began and resulted in the use of the "Egyptian" style. This amendment appears to have been caused by Ellis F. Lawrence, a Portland architect who later became a nationally known educator as Dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Lawrence is named on a construction document, and water color renderings of the mausoleum among Lawrence papers held by the University of Oregon Library suggest that he was the designer.

The building is basically rectangular and was constructed primarily in concrete. Erected on a reinforced concrete slab, the exterior walls are stuccoed. Patterned concrete block was used on the entry pylon and on the cornices. Interior walls were faced with marble above a terrazzo floor.

The west or front elevation is dominated by the entry pylon. The battered ashlar walls are interrupted by patterned string courses. The wooden doors (12x7') are covered with bronze and are below a hypaetherum (lattice window), also in bronze. Typical of the style, a gorge and roll cornice terminates the wall of the pylon, which rises several feet above the other roof lines. This cornice is embellished with an equally typical disk and wing decoration.

(see continuation sheet)

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

FOR HCRS	USE ONLY		
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DATE ENTI		SEP, 1	5 1980

Masonic Cemtery and Hope	Abbey Mausoleum			
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CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	-	PAGE	

On either side of this pylon are six-foot-high urns. These stand in front of smaller battered walls which are set back from the main entry. There are no windows on this elevation. Interior illumination was originally provided by windows on the other elevations, as well as by clerestory windows on the roof. These were covered by bronze and copper grilles, many of which were stolen or vandalized. This destruction precipitated the bricking up of most of the exterior windows (1965).

The symmetrical treatment of the interior is dominated by the large entry hall. Anterooms lead off of this hall into the crypt, which has five tiers of vaults on either side of the rectangular room. The only light was provided by the clerestory windows.

The mausoleum is in fair shape today. Steps have been taken to reduce the vandalism in the area. In 1972 the Lane County Historical Society undertook to restore the appearance of the cemetery grounds which had been left to the effects of uncontrolled growth of vegetation and vandalism. This was completed in the spring of 1974, and the property is in good condition today.

# 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications		ning landscape architectur law literature mìlitary music	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1859Cemetery 1913Mausoleum	Builder/Architect	Portland Mausoleum Comp Ellis F. Lawrence, arch	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Masonic Cemetery (1859) containing Hope Abbey Mausoleum (1913) is significant to Eugene as the earliest incorporated burying place in the city and as the final resting place of the city's founder, Eugene Skinner; the first Governor of Oregon statehood, John Whiteaker; and numerous legislators and educators of surpassing importance to the state as a whole. The property is significant also as an example of late Victorian landscape planting. The ten-acre site is exceptional among Oregon cemeteries because it contains the oldes and largest example of "Egyptian" architecture--a 20th century Period style frequently used for funerary architecture elsewhere, but only rarely seen in Oregon. Further, Hope Abbey Mausoleum is associated with an architect and educator of special distinction, Ellis F. Lawrence, founder of the state School of Architecture and Allied Arts, established at the University of Oregon in Eugene in 1914.

The cemetery land was originally owned by Fielding McMurry, an Oregon pioneer who arrive in 1850 and received a Donation Land Claim of 320 acres. That year, he constructed the Point-of-the-Hills school--first school in the Eugene area--on the northwest corner of what is now the cemetery acreage. His son, James McMurry, made the brick used in the construction of the first three buildings at the University of Oregon on what is now the northeast corner of the cemetery acreage. Two of these buildings--Deady Hall (1877) and Villard Hall (1885)-are listed on the Register.

McMurry's land had been used for burials as early as 1854 and was chosen by the Masonic Lodge No. 11, AF & AM, as the best location for their cemetery. The search for an appropriate burial place for the citizens of Eugene City was precipitated by a letter, dated November 27, 1857, to the Lodge from Mr. S. Ellsworth, an attorney and resident of Eugene City. He commented on the increase in the size of the city and stated that: "...our town.. is wholly unprovided with a place of burial for the dead. It is well known to you doubtless that your respected Fraternity rarely omits to provide at a very early day, a suitable cemetery for their own use, at least."

A committee was formed to search for a suitable site and reported on April 2, 1859 that six acres on the McMurry claim could be purchased for \$200 plus a family plot in the cemetery. This was accomplished and in October of that year, four more acres were purchased, resulting in the ten acres currently nominated. The lots were laid out in twenty-foot squares with eight-foot alleys and were originally offered at \$15 each. Masons were given first choice of the lots before the property was opened for public sale.

Today, walking through the cemetery, the gravestones of many persons significant to city, county, and state history dot the hilly acreage. Although vandalism to the stones and other monuments has been a constant problem, numerous pioneer graves can still be found. Many Lane County Donation Land Claim families, early Eugene and Lane County merchants and businessmen, University of Oregon founders and faculty, and early legislators are buried there. The following are among those important to the state as a whole:

#### Eugene F. Skinner (1809-1864)

Founder of the City of Eugene, Skinner was born in Essex County, New York. He arrived with his wife and Elijah Bristow, founder of Pleasant Hill, Oregon, in 1846. He took a

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Huntington, Hallie "Ancient Masonic Cemetery Acquires New Look," Lane County Histori (Summer 1974), pp. 32-46. (see continuation sheet)  10. Geographical Data UTM NOT VERIFIED Acreage of nominated property 10.1 acres ACREAGE NOT VERFEED.gle scale 1:24000 MT References  A Liol [4]9;4[2;2;0] [4;8]7;5[2;8;0] B Liol [4]9;4[2;2;0] [4;8]7;5[2;8;0] C Easting Northing Cone Easting Northing C Liol [4]9;4[2;2;0] [4;8]7;5[2;8;0] C Liol [4]9;4[0;3;5] [4;8;7;5] C Liol [4]9;4[0;3;5] [4]8;7;5] C	Newsom, Fran pp. 27-	cis "The New Mas 36.	onic Cemete	ry in 1859,	" Lane Co	unty Histo	orian 19 (Summe
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In the evaluated significance of this property within the state is:		Salem			atata	Oregon	97310
he evaluated significance of this property within the state is: 			<u> </u>				
<u>national</u> <u>X</u> state <u>local</u> s the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– 65), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated ccording to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. tate Historic Preservation Officer signature <i>V</i> . the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register <u>Attest:</u> <u>Market</u> <u>date</u> <u>7/15/80</u> the Marketter <u>date</u> <u>7/15/80</u>	12. Sta	te Historic	; Prese	rvation	OTTIC	er Cei	tification
s the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– 65), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated coording to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. <u>tate Historic Preservation Officer signature v</u> the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register <i>date</i> 9/15/80 Keeper of the National Register Attest: Mathematical Register <i>date</i> 9/1/80	The evaluated sig	nificance of this proper	ty within the sta	te is:	1		
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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE 1	

Donation Land Claim in the same year at the foot of the hill that today bears his name, Skinner's Butte. In 1853, he donated a portion of his lands for county buildings. He practiced law, served as county clerk, and was the city's postmaster. He originally names the city Skinner but later changed it to Eugene City. This was shortened to Eugene in 1888.

### John W. Whiteaker (1820-1902)

First governor of Oregon statehood (1859-1862), Whiteaker was born in Dearborn County, Indiana. He traveled around the United States until 1852, when he captained a wagon train over the Oregon Trail. He began farming in Eugene City in 1853 and was elected probate judge in 1856 and represented Lane County in the territorial legislature (1857). He was state representative (1864-70), state senator (1876-77), serving as Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. He was elected Democratic congressman in 1878 and served till 1881. He gained nationwide attention in getting to Washington to begin his new post. "Whiteaker's Ride," from Oakland, California to Washington, D.C., was the fastest train trip across the continent on record at that time. The trip was initiated by the Democratic leadership who needed Whiteaker's vote to elect a favored candidate for Speaker of the House. After his tenure in Washington, Whiteaker served as the collector of internal revenue for the district of Washington.

#### Harrison R. Kincaid (1836-1920)

Journalist and statesman, Kincaid was born in Indiana and crossed the plains with his parents in 1853. Eventually settling in Lane County, he attended Columbia College (1859-60) and worked for a series of Republican newspapers until 1864. He then co-founded the <u>Oregon State Journal</u>, becoming sole owner and editor in 1865. He was a clerk in the United States Senate (1868-79) and became Oregon's Secretary of State in 1895.

### John Wesley Johnson (1836-1898)

Pioneer, educator, and first president of the University of Oregon, Johnson drove a team of oxen at age fourteen to reach Oregon in 1850. He then worked his way back east to attend Yale University and graduated in 1862. He returned to Oregon and served four years as principal of Baptist College in McMinnville, Oregon. He married Helen Elizabeth Adams, daughter of noted Oregon pioneer, author, editor, and physician William L. Adams. After serving six years as principal of Portland High School, he became the first president and professor of Latin at the University of Oregon, serving in this capacity for seventeen years.

### Thomas Condon (1822-1907)

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Scientist, clergyman and author, Condon was born in Ireland. He came to New York in 1833 and then to Oregon in 1852. He was ordained a Congregational minister and served as such till 1870. While a resident on the mid-Columbia, he discovered the fossil beds of the John Day Valley. He made many important geological discoveries and published extensively. He became

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Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum

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a professor of Geology and Natural History at the University of Oregon in 1876, a position he held until his death. He was Oregon's foremost geologist and paleontologist.

#### Lord Nelson Roney (1853-1944)

Oregon's greatest covered bridge builder, Roney was born in Ohio. He came to Oregon in 1856 and apprenticed as a bridge carpenter to A.S. Miller, Oregon's first large-scale bridge builder. He became his own contractor after a flood in 1881, which destroyed many bridges over the Willamette River. During his subsequent career, spanning forty years, Roney built over 100 covered bridges in Oregon and California. He is also credited as having constructed nearly every important building in the city of Eugene during the period between 1886 and 1905

The Eugene Masonic Lodge and the Portland Mausoleum Company entered into an agreement on November 12, 1912, to construct a mausoleum on the western slope of the cemetery. The Hope Abbey Mausoleum was completed in 1913 at a cost of \$40,000. "Egyptian" buildings are rare in Oregon. The examples are fewer than half a dozen, and all are mausoleums. Hope Abbey Mausoleum is distinctive among the two or three pinpointed examples because of its exceptionally grand scale and because of its early date. The genuine revival of the Egyptian style in American architecture took place between 1830 and 1850. The style, earlier used for houses and other types of buildings, was not extensively used again until the 20th century when, in the Beaux Arts tradition, it was selected as the appropriate style for specific types of buildings, particularly mausoleums. After 1920, certain decorative, or stylistic elements of the "Egyptian" style were incorporated into the Art Deco, or Moderne style. Constructed of concrete, Hope Abbey Mausoleum is an early and "pure" example of the 20th century Period style and, therefore, the foremost "Egyptian" building in Oregon.

As originally contracted, there was no architect for the structure. Rather, an engineer from Chicago, Cecil E. Bryan, supplied the specifications to the Portland Mausoleum Company. Questions have been raised as to whether or not Bryan's original design was Egyptian. A 1912 newspaper advertisement depicted a Classical design for the building. Unfortunately, there are no exterior drawings extant. However, the original contract agreement was amended on February 5, 1913, and it can be assumed that any stylistic change would have occurred at that time.

The name of Ellis F. Lawrence, Portland architect, appears at this point. There is evidence in the form of water color renderings\* among papers held by the University of Oregon Library that Lawrence was hired to redesign the specifications. As first Dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts at the University of Oregon (1914-1937), Lawrence was commissioned to develop the master plan for the University. He believed in the use of appropriate styles for the type of specific use; a condition he pursued in designing all of the major buildings on the campus between 1916 and 1939. As Egyptian monumental architecture has more connotations with death and life after death than the Classical, this apparently was the inspiration for a change in design.

The mausoleum was dedicated on June 4, 1914 with an impressive memorial ceremony. At that time, a time capsule was placed inside the building, to be opened in 1000 years. It contained newspapers, the dedication program, historical documents, statistical information on the city, and photographs.

\*and bills for services rendered to the Portland Mausoleum Company

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The mausoleum, as well as the grounds, have been vandalized over the years. The Hope Abbey Mausoleum Crypt Owners Association, chartered to return the building to its original condition, stated before 1945 that the building was in a "disgraceful condition." There had been reports that the vaults had been violated and that bodies had been strewn about on the interior. To prevent such attacks, the Eugene Lodge No. 11, AF & AM bricked up all the windows in 1965. Recently, the Lodge has undertaken a gradual restoration of the building to its original condition.

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



Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum

Berkley, Pepper. "Eugene's Past Recaptured in Old Cemetery." Eugene Register-Guard 5/29/62.

Eugene Morning Register, 5 June 1914, p.6: Eugene Register-Guard, 1 June, 1959.

Letter from S. Ellsworth to the Eugene Masonic Lodge, 27 November, 1857.

Preliminary Staff Notes, Eugene Historic Review Board, 15 November, 1979.

Corning, Howard, ed., Dictionary of Oregon History. Portland: Binfords & Mort, 1956.

Eugene Daily Guard, 20 November, 1912.

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



Masonic Cemetery and Hope Abbey Mausoleum

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Beginning at the iron rod marking the northeast corner of the Amended Plat; thence Westerly 118.10 feet along the north line of said cemetery, to a point marked by an iron rod; thence Southerly 41 degrees 8 minutes East 179.54 feet to an iron rod set on the east line of said cemetery; thence Northerly 135.22 feet to the point of beginning.

## MASONIC - CEMETERY

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## AMENDED PLAT OF MASONIC - CEMETERY in Sec. 5 T. 18 S. R. 3 W. LANE. COUNTY. OREGON.

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