

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



483

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery  
other names/site number Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery; Odd Fellows Cemetery

### 2. Location

street & number 750 Ingersoll Ave  not for publication  
city or town Coos Bay  vicinity  
state Oregon code OR county Coos code 011 zip code 97420

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 6-14-12

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

[Signature] Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

8-2-12  
Date of Action

Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- Private
- public – Local
- public – State
- public – Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
1		district
		site
1		structure
3		object
5	0	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(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 instructions.)

FUNERARY: Cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FUNERARY: Cemetery  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation: N/A  
walls: N/A  
roof: N/A  
other: STONE/marble, STONE/granite,  
STONE/sandstone, METAL/zinc,  
CONCRETE

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery is located on a hillside within the city limits of Coos Bay, Oregon, approximately 0.4 miles from the city hall, on Tax Lot 2900 in Township 25 South, Range 13 West, Section 34, Willamette Meridian. The 3.86-acre district contains approximately 2,024 burials. There are approximately 1,098 headstones, reflecting late nineteenth-century Victorian and subsequent stylistic trends, and erected primarily between 1888 and 1945. Upright marble and granite headstones, with curbing around individual and family plots, predominate. The southern side of the cemetery is bounded by a contributing structure in the form of a rock retaining wall topped with arches. The cemetery also has three contributing objects. In 1915, a monument commemorating the local Civil War dead was erected on a highly visible plot near the cemetery's center. On the private family plot of the original owner of the cemetery property there is an elaborate, 15-ft. tall granite monument, with the marble statue of an angel. The third contributing object is a family mausoleum built for a wealthy local businessman, constructed of gray granite.

### Narrative Description

#### Setting

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery is located on a hillside in close proximity to the city of Coos Bay's central downtown.<sup>1</sup> The cemetery property adjoins that of Marshfield High School, the city's only public high school. The cemetery is bordered to the north and west by the high school's parking lot and gymnasium; Ingersoll Avenue and South Seventh Street define the cemetery's south and east property lines. The surrounding neighborhood is primarily single-family residential, with structures dating back to the early twentieth century. The neighborhood was platted as part of the "Railroad Addition" in 1890.<sup>2</sup>

#### Cemetery Layout

The cemetery has two perpendicular roadways aligned with the cemetery's access points on the south and west sides. The roadway was graveled, but it has not been maintained or re-graveled in recent years. West of the north-south driveway, the cemetery is generally level, with little noticeable artificial alterations to the terrain. The eastern section of the cemetery, however, is steeply sloped. When surveying this portion of the cemetery visually, the cemetery's terraced layout becomes visible. Each of the walkways is level, cut slightly into the hillside, with the cemetery plots following the contours of the hill.

Due to the steep hillside on the eastern half of the cemetery, the lower section of the east-west roadway is not accessible by motorized vehicles. Vehicular traffic within the cemetery is generally discouraged. Currently, visitors access the cemetery through the western entrance adjoining the high school parking lot. Framed by sections of the rock wall leading up into the cemetery, the second entrance, off Ingersoll Avenue, was the primary vehicular entrance during the cemetery's period of active use. In 1983, chain-link fencing was erected

<sup>1</sup> Before 1944, "Coos Bay" was used to refer to the entire region adjacent to Coos Bay, containing the incorporated towns of Empire, Marshfield, and North Bend. In 1944, a consolidation vote between all three of the towns failed as a result of North Bend's negative vote, but Empire and Marshfield decided to consolidate anyway, adopting the name of "Coos Bay" for the new municipality. In November of 1944, the City of Marshfield officially revised the city charter and changed the city's name.

<sup>2</sup> Local booster C. H. Merchant named the new development the "Railroad Addition," including streets named for prominent California businessmen involved with railroad development. The new development was platted to promote interest and bring rail connections to the area, but the optimistic plans were never fully realized. In 1916, rail connections finally came to the Coos Bay region. Streets were renamed in 1930.

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around the three sides of the cemetery not enclosed by the rock wall; the two entrances were fitted with padlocked gates of chain-link fencing, and the gates are generally kept locked.<sup>3</sup>

The usage of this property as a burial ground by the family of C. H. Merchant, the original property owner, predates the official establishment of the cemetery in 1891. This family's plot remains as the Merchant Reserve, a 40 ft. by 53 ft. area surrounded by chain-link fencing near the center of the cemetery. The remainder of the cemetery is laid out in a grid pattern with cemetery blocks separated from each other by 8 ft. wide pedestrian walkways. The earliest extant cemetery map dates from September 5, 1921. Comparisons between this map and the cemetery logbooks that began to be used in 1891 support the assertion that that cemetery was platted in three sections. The first plat consisted of Blocks 1 through 108 -- the main portion of the cemetery. The rectangular blocks contain sixteen 5 ft. by 8 ft. plots, arranged in two rows of eight plots with the exception of blocks along the northern periphery which are limited to ten plots. The eastern hillside, where the cemetery abuts S. Seventh Street, was platted at a later date, with the first burial in that section occurring in 1901. These blocks are numbered 207 through 223, similarly sized to the first plat. Some blocks in this area were removed or resized as the result of the widening of S. Seventh Avenue. The third section of the cemetery is a north-south row of blocks, numbered A through G that consists of plots 5 ft. by 10 ft. in dimension. This section divides the two previously platted sections and was probably used as a secondary roadway before being platted circa 1916. There are no indications that blocks within the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery were allocated for the burial of members of specific religious or fraternal organizations; some community organizations did purchase individual plots, and Coos County purchased a whole block as well some separate individual plots.

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery retains much of its original curbing and coping. Families surrounded their plots with marble, granite, concrete, and sandstone coping, often accented with distinctive corner posts. Two examples of curbing ornamented with mosaic tile remain in the cemetery. A single plot has iron fencing. Surrounding the Merchant Reserve is a 2 ft. high wall of sizable gray granite blocks. The top course of the three-course surround is laid with 7 ft. long blocks with 3 ft. tall posts at each junction. Two wide granite steps and 4 ft. tall granite posts with a carved "M" define the 5 ft. wide entrance.

### **Landscape**

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery has a very open landscape, with limited trees and plantings. Historically, numerous Monterey cypress trees (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) were planted within the cemetery, including nine trees in an east-west line following the main driveway, a row of trees along the cemetery's western edge, and several more trees in the southeastern corner of the cemetery. Four prominent Monterey cypress trees remain in the cemetery today -- one in the southwest corner and three along the eastern border of the cemetery. Three mature cedar trees also grow along the eastern boundary. In addition, there is a maple tree on the cemetery's western border.

In the 1960s, a Marshfield High School science teacher organized the planting of wax myrtles to replace the hedge along the cemetery's western edge.<sup>4</sup> Without proper maintenance the original hedge of wax myrtle quickly developed into a line of wax myrtle trees. Safety concerns have prompted the removal of many of these short-lived trees, but a section of the original plantings will be maintained as a hedge. More recently, three flowering plum trees were planted along the southern edge of the cemetery. During the 1950s-1960s, high school students often chose to eat their lunch in the cemetery, and a castoff apple core resulted in the cemetery's single apple tree. There is also an unusual specimen of a windmill palm tree approximately 20 ft. in height in the southwest quadrant.

<sup>3</sup> *City of Coos Bay Cemetery Management Plan* (Coos Bay, OR: City of Coos Bay, 1983).

<sup>4</sup> Email correspondence with Lois Humphrey, 1950s Marshfield High School graduate, September 2011.

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Within the cemetery are several different types of heritage roses growing on individual plots, including *Rosa gallica* "Officinalis" (Apothecary's Rose), *Rosa gallica* "Versicolor" (Rosa Mundi), *Rosa sempervirens* (Félicité et Perpétue), *Rosa spinosissima* (Scots Rose), and *Rosa rugosa*. Other flowering plants include ixia and irises. The cemetery's natural ground cover is a mix of grass interspersed with bellis perennis, vinca minor, everlasting pea, bracken fern, Queen Anne's lace, and other local native species.

### Gravemarkers

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery contains a diverse collection of headstones and monuments that reflect the Victorian and post-Victorian funerary trends fashionable in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The graves are oriented in an east-west direction, with the majority of the headstones facing east. Cemetery monuments in a variety of sizes and styles reflect individuals' wealth and status within the community. Family burial plots typically have large monuments located near of the center of the plot, with smaller headstones used to represent individual burials. There are 789 upright headstones out of the total 1,098 headstones in the cemetery. The majority of bases in the cemetery are either hand-tooled out of local sandstone or cast from concrete. Marble is the most widely used material for monuments. Prevalent among the 698 marble markers are tablets, blocks, obelisks, columns, and small pillow markers. There are also approximately 242 gray granite headstones, 69 red granite headstones, and 19 black granite headstones. Granite markers include horizontal cylinders, large blocks, and low pillow and flush-mount markers. The cemetery also contains four examples of zinc (white bronze) headstones, a few bronze plaques, and several sandstone monuments.

The allegorical funerary imagery used on the headstones includes flowers, open books, drapery, scrolls, clasped or pointing hands, crosses, ivy, trees, doves, stars, and the gates of heaven. With the preponderance of child and infant mortality during this period, there are a significant number of children's graves within the cemetery, many marked with a small headstone surmounted by a carved lamb. Membership in fraternal organizations was common during this time period, and many individuals have headstones that indicate their affiliations. Symbols representative of the Odd Fellows organization -- particularly three links of a chain inscribed with "F," "L," and "T", representing the words friendship, love, and truth -- are common motifs on the headstones. Other affiliations that can be identified by the group's imagery or symbolism include the Baker Post No. 8 of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), Blanco Lodge No. 48 of the Masonic Temple, the Knights of Pythias, Koos Tribe No. 33 of the Improved Order of Red Men, Mammoth Lodge No. 87 of the Ancient Order of United Workmen (A.O.U.W.), Marshfield Aerie No. 538 of the Eagles, and the Woodmen of the World No. 196. Both the Woodmen of the World and the associated women's auxiliary, Women of Woodcraft Circle No. 164, used a tree trunk motif on the headstones for their members. The most distinctive example of this is a 6 ft. tall marble monument sculpted to resemble an upright tree trunk with a carving of the Woodmen of the World seal prominently displayed. Symbols of organizations that promoted Scandinavian heritage such the Suomi Lodge, the Knights of Finland, and the Martha Association, are also visible on cemetery headstones.

Headstone inscriptions typically include the individual's dates of birth and death, place of birth, and important family relationships. A poem or religious inscription included either directly on the headstone or on the plinth is common on the marble monuments. Some extant headstones include inscriptions in languages other than English -- examples in Finnish, Swedish, French, and Greek have been noted. Several of the monuments within the cemetery serve as cenotaphs for individuals who drowned and whose bodies were never recovered. One unique monument notes that it was "erected by his shipmates" in memory of a young sailor "who died from injuries received on S. S. Breakwater in the performance of his duties."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> In 1908, the Breakwater, one of the steamers that made regularly scheduled runs between Coos Bay and the Columbia River, was hit by a large wave as she crossed Coos Bay bar, and the cabin boy was fatally injured by flying timbers. A monument was purchased in Portland by the captain with monies collected from the crew. "One Fatality Result of Breakwater Accident," *Coos Bay Times*, January 6, 1908 (Marshfield, OR.); "Crew's Token to Breakwater Victim," *Coos Bay Times*, April \*, 1908 (Marshfield, OR.)

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Many of the graves within the cemetery were also marked with a small footstone at the bottom of the plot. Fabricated out of marble and usually inscribed with the deceased's initials, these footstones are much smaller than the early nineteenth-century examples found in burial grounds in the eastern United States. Measuring approximately an inch thick and 6 inches in width, many excellent examples remain extant.

### Significant Features

*Sailor-Soldier Monument (contributing object):* One of the unique features in the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery is the 10 ft. tall Civil War monument located near the intersection of the two perpendicular roadways. A bronze plaque on the north-facing side of the base reads: "DEDICATED TO THE SAILOR-SOLDIER DEAD ERECTED BY THE EVENING RECORD 1915." This monument was constructed locally and consists of a 4 ft. tall base of cast concrete topped with a 4 ft. square block of gray granite. An 1861, 3 in. ordnance rifle is set vertically in the granite with five ft. of the barrel exposed.<sup>1</sup> Originally, the ordnance rifle was topped by an 8 in. seacoast Howitzer ball, and a Howitzer ball was located at each corner of the granite block; only two of the projectiles remain.

*Merchant Family Angel (contributing object):* The 15 ft. tall Merchant family monument is the most sophisticated artistic display within the cemetery. The monument consists of a gray granite base approximately 4 ft. square and 5 ft. tall, surmounted by a 4 ft. tall marble statue of a winged angel. Surrounding the angel are four red granite Corinthian columns that support an elaborate granite top embellished with arches and decorative finials. The monument was most likely erected some time before Charles H. Merchant's death in 1906; it may have been erected during the early 1880s, following the death of several of C.H. Merchant's young daughters. E. F. Dicken's U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey notebook from 1889, which notes the "Odd Fellows Cemetery" and a "monument" in the center of it, may be referencing the Merchant Family Angel.<sup>6</sup>

*Hirst Mausoleum (contributing object):* The 10 ft. by 12 ft. Hirst Mausoleum, constructed of rusticated granite blocks, was built in 1911 at the behest of Louisa Hirst. Louisa Hirst was the widow of Thomas Hirst, an early settler in the region who later became a prominent Marshfield businessman. As the structure neared completion, the local newspaper described it as follows: "The exterior walls are of the finest gray granite, with two fine red granite columns at the entrance doors. The interior is finished with the finest gray Vermont marble, brilliantly polished. Catacombs are provided for two bodies. The doors are of solid standard bronze. A fine colored art glass window arranged at the west end gives light to the interior."<sup>7</sup> The bodies of Thomas and Louisa Hirst, as well as several other family members, were interred within the mausoleum.<sup>8</sup> In 1951, as a result of cemetery vandalism, the family barricaded the entrance with cinderblocks and installed a protective grating over the window on the western end of the structure.

*Rock Wall (contributing structure):* The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery's rock retaining wall is a well-preserved example of mid-twentieth-century masonry work in the region and an important feature of the cemetery that enhances its character and appearance. The wall was constructed as a public works project during the 1930s. The wall is roughly 400 ft. in length, and between 5 ft. and 10 ft. in height, encompassing the cemetery's southern border and stretching around the western corner. A single tier of arches, with each arch approximately 60 in. in length and 20 in. high, tops the rubble masonry structure. Recently, stress from the Monterey cypress tree in the southwest corner of the cemetery has resulted in damage to two of the arch sections along this small portion of the wall; the majority of the wall remains structurally sound and in good condition.

<sup>6</sup> Living members of the Merchant family have limited information regarding the monument, and, although they believe that the angel was imported from Italy some time in the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century, there are no further records regarding its purchase and erection.

<sup>7</sup> "Mausoleum is Fine One," *Coos Bay Times*, March 27, 1911 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>8</sup> Conversation with Andy Nasburg, Hirst family relative on a visit to the cemetery, October 2005.

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## Integrity

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery successfully retains its appearance as a community cemetery, representative of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century funerary practices. The cemetery was spared from any major beautification or alteration projects, since focus shifted to other cemeteries that were subsequently established to handle the needs of a growing community. The lack of intensive maintenance over the years has also prevented the cemetery from being reinvented as a pristine lawn cemetery. The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery is unique among Oregon cemeteries in the amount of curbing/coping that it retains.<sup>9</sup> Less than four percent of the cemetery's burials took place after the cemetery ceased to be actively used in 1945, and the limited number of later headstones have not compromised the cemetery's integrity.

Vandalism, particularly problematic since the cemetery is located close to a high school, has taken its toll on the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery. Most of the major alterations to the cemetery are related to its protection. Although the cemetery was historically unfenced, the erection of chain-link fencing around the cemetery perimeter and the Merchant Reserve was a necessary response to incidents of vandalism in the 1980s. Modifications to the Hirst mausoleum were also a response to vandalism. Additionally, some of the headstones have toppled as the mortar aged; the hillside location and ground movement have exacerbated the problem. Nonetheless, the majority of headstones remain intact and undamaged, and most of the ones in need of repair are undamaged, having separated along old mortar joints.

The integrity of the cemetery has also been affected by the removal of most of the original Monterey cypress trees along the main driveway and in other locations, leaving the stumps along the driveway. Four prominent Monterey cypress trees remain in the cemetery today. While the removal of the line of trees is unfortunate, as has been discussed, the landscaping, including trees and plantings, is not the most significant aspects of this resource, with its dramatic topography and monuments.

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<sup>9</sup> "I.O.O.F. Cemetery to be maintained by the City," City of Coos Bay City Council Minutes, March 19, 1945 (Coos Bay, OR.)

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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or grave.
- D A cemetery.
- E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

#### Period of Significance

1888-1945

#### Significant Dates

1888: Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation formed

1891: official dedication of I.O.O.F. Cemetery

1915: erection of Sailor-Soldier Monument

1921: unsold properties deeded to city

1938: rock wall constructed as WPA project

1944: city acquires cemetery by Marshal's deed

1945: state cemetery legislation passed

#### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

N/A

#### Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance begins on July 14, 1888, when the cemetery property passed from the private ownership of C. H. and Mary Merchant to the newly formed Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation, establishing the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery as the community burying ground for the citizens of Marshfield, North Bend, and Empire, Oregon. The cemetery's period of active use and Period of Significance ended in 1945, after the City of Coos Bay, which had become the nominal property owners of the cemetery the year previously, orchestrated the passage of several bills in the Oregon State Legislature that allowed municipalities to allocate public funds for the maintenance and care of cemeteries. With the passage of the legislation, the city was



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essentially able to treat the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery as a public park or green space and it ceased to be used as an active cemetery. Only 82 people have been buried in the cemetery since 1945.

#### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery meets the special requirements for National Register listing under Criterion Consideration D because of its important historic associations with the growth and development of the Coos Bay region in the late nineteenth century. At this time, the Coos Bay region was a flourishing community of individuals from around the world, connected internationally by a complex maritime network. A limited number of sites, primarily private houses, have survived from this period and are representative of only a small portion of the people who lived and worked in the region. The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery is the final resting place for people from twenty-seven countries, representing all socio-economic classes, who collectively succeeded in making Coos Bay the principal port between San Francisco, California and Portland, Oregon, establishing strong maritime and cultural ties worldwide.

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery, located in Coos Bay, Oregon, is locally significant for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, Community Planning and Development and Social History, and meets the special registration requirements for cemeteries under Criteria Consideration D, because of its connections with the settlement and development of the City of Marshfield, and the larger Coos Bay region, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The purchase of the cemetery property by the newly formed Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation in 1888 corresponded with the region's development from a rural outpost into an urban center with international connections. Although Coos Bay was discovered as early as 1852, the bay's isolation precluded the region's economic expansion until the late nineteenth century. Immigrants, disillusioned gold seekers, displaced Civil War veterans, and other entrepreneurs found opportunities in the Coos Bay region during the last decades of the nineteenth century. The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery served as the community cemetery for the residents in the Coos Bay region, regardless of their ethnicity or socioeconomic status. The period of significance begins in 1888 with the establishment of the cemetery by the Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation and ends in 1945 when the City of Coos Bay took active possession of the cemetery following the passage of state legislation that assured city officials that they would be able to use public funds for the cemetery's upkeep, just as if it was a city park.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### Community Planning and Development

Although the Coos Bay region developed later than other port cities along the Pacific coast, its prime location between San Francisco, California, and Portland, Oregon, as well as its bountiful natural resources, facilitated its rapid development and success. With Marshfield's incorporation as the first city in the county in 1874, and the granting of charters for several local fraternal organizations including the I.O.O.F. Sunset Lodge No. 51 on March 24, 1875, it was evident that the Coos Bay region was no longer an isolated frontier settlement.<sup>10</sup> In 1888, not long before the I.O.O.F. members authorized the construction of their own lodge hall in downtown Marshfield, they formed a subsidiary corporation. Led by a board of directors of prominent businessmen and with a respected Marshfield lawyer as president, the corporation was charged with establishing and operating a community cemetery.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> "Celebrate Anniversary: Sunset Lodge of Odd Fellows Observe Important Event of Its Life," *Coos Bay Times*, April 27, 1907 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>11</sup> Alice Ernst, *Trouping in the Oregon country: a history of frontier theatre* (Portland, OR: Oregon Historical Society, 1961), 80. "Local News" *Coast Mail*, June 12, 1890 (Marshfield, OR.)

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The development of the cemetery over time mirrored the increasing need for social services in the community and corresponded with the rise of fraternal organizations and associated population growth in the surrounding community. The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery's establishment under the Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation signaled a change in local attitudes towards death and the increasing urbanism and international connections of the region. Situated on eight acres of prime real estate within the new development of South Marshfield in what was known as the "Railroad Addition," the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery was a highly visible symbol of the region's development. Predating the shift towards sterile lawn cemeteries that developed in the early-twentieth century, the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery had its antecedents in the rural cemetery movement of the mid-nineteenth century. Although not executed on the same scale as such exemplars of the rural cemetery movement as Mount Auburn Cemetery outside of Boston, Massachusetts, or Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, California, the founders of the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery drew on the same precedents. Initially wooded, the entire plot of cemetery was cleared of timber and the sloping eastern hillside was terraced. Monterey cypress trees, traditionally associated with cemeteries and funerary rites, were also planted to provide a stately border for the cemetery.

### **Social History**

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery is the final resting place for people from a diverse range of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. One group is representative of the region's Native American inhabitants and the earliest Euro-American pioneers of the area. Some native women intermarried with Euro-American men and, although many of the local Native Americans were displaced and removed to the Siletz Reservation, some chose to return to the region when the reservation was terminated. Favorable reports generated by the earliest settlers highlighted the region's mild climate and substantial resources, creating a boom-town atmosphere that attracted entrepreneurs, adventurers, unsuccessful gold miners, failed businessmen, and others in search of opportunities. In the aftermath of the Civil War, the region also lured disabled and displaced veterans. Capitalizing on the region's maritime connections and ready availability of jobs, immigrants arrived in Coos Bay with the necessary skills to find employment in the region's primary industries of shipbuilding, logging, farming, and coal mining. Because of the inherent nature of a port city, there were also a number of itinerant workers, travelers, and other transients who are buried in the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

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### **Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

*The people named in italics are representative of the people buried in the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery associated with the developmental patterns of the Coos Bay region's history. Short biographical sketches can be found at the end of this section.*

### **Early Euro-American Settlement in the Coos Bay Region**

In 1853, Euro-Americans established a permanent settlement along the Oregon Coast in the region now known as "Coos Bay," roughly 110 miles north of the Oregon-California border. The unique layout of the bay, and the treacherous bar, had precluded the region's discovery until several chance encounters during 1852.<sup>12</sup> With glowing initial reports, a joint-stock company -- the Coos Bay Commercial Company -- quickly formed and made plans for settlement. By autumn of 1853, over fifty Euro-Americans, including three women (*Esther Lockhart*) and a number of children, had settled on the bay in a small community named "Empire City."<sup>13</sup>

As the Euro-American population of the region expanded (*Emma O. Saunders*), two more towns, Marshfield and North Bend, were incorporated on the bay. Although Marshfield was identified as a prime spot for future

<sup>12</sup> Stephen Dow Beckham, *Coos Bay; The Pioneer Period, 1851-1890* (Coos Bay, OR: Arago Books, 1973), 1-3.

<sup>13</sup> Beckham, 11. Agnes Ruth Lockhart, *Destination, West! A pioneer woman on the Oregon Trail*. (Portland, OR: Binfords & Mort, 1972).

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settlement as early as 1853, Congressional changes in the Donation Land Claim Act and conflict over property ownership forestalled development. These issues were resolved, and in 1867, John Pershbaker arrived in Marshfield and quickly established a sawmill, shipyard, and a store. In 1874, Marshfield became the first community in Coos or Curry County to become an incorporated city. (*Edmund A. Anderson*)

Through these early years of settlement on Coos Bay, the majority of residents were native-born Americans (*Jake Evans*) or naturalized citizens. The discovery of gold in California in 1848 had lured many easterners, particularly young men, to the west coast; failing to find their fortune in the gold fields of California, settling on the Oregon coast began to look like a more attractive prospect. (*Wentworth V. Baker*) Other early residents reached the Coos Bay region after a long journey from the east coast around Cape Horn. (*John Nasburg*) Oregonians from other parts of the state, particularly the Willamette Valley and southern Oregon, were drawn to the region by the Coos Bay Commercial Company's avid promotion. For many of these people, the move to the Coos Bay region was the last stage of a long journey that had started in the 1840s or 1850s in the Midwest.

### Growth and Development in the Region

Early boosters of the Coos Bay region touted the region's rich resources, particularly the old-growth forests, coal deposits, and prime agricultural land in the river valleys that drained into the bay. From the region's first settlement in 1853 until approximately the 1880s, residents utilized all of these natural resources in order to create a diverse, mixed economy. Local entrepreneurs started logging camps and small-scale coal mining operations, often recruiting laborers from the growing immigrant population attracted to the region. Other residents purchased property upriver from Marshfield and established successful farms and agricultural ventures. (*Charles D. McFarlin*) The isolation imposed by the lack of transportation forced many families to develop creative solutions. A number of women were left alone with their children to manage the family homestead while their husbands pursued employment in the logging and shipbuilding industries. (*Elizabeth Schapers Ott Tyberg*)

By 1860, the first federal census conducted of the area's population revealed that out of the total population of 445 people, 139 were born outside of the United States. With more than 31 percent of the population born outside the U.S., the percentage of foreign-born residents in Coos County was nearly three times that of the state average.<sup>14</sup> Scandinavians accounted for the largest percentage of the foreign-born population, typically numbering between 42-45 percent of the overall foreign-born population from 1890 to 1940. Although Swedish-speaking Finns were in the majority, Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes were also well represented in the community. Many of the immigrants who arrived in Coos Bay brought with them skills and experience in the region's prevailing industries. After extensive deforestation virtually ended logging operations in the east, Scandinavian loggers from the woodland Great Lakes region moved west and eventually reached Coos Bay. (*Alexander Matson*) Other Scandinavians arrived directly from Europe on the ships that frequented the port of Coos Bay. As the region became recognized as a center of shipbuilding, skilled shipbuilders, primarily Scandinavians who had learned their trade in Europe, immigrated to the region.<sup>15</sup> Many of these men had first been employed in San Francisco shipyards before being encouraged to move north to run the developing Coos Bay shipbuilding industry. With their expertise and San Francisco's ready demand for ships, more ships were constructed in the Coos Bay region than in any other area of Oregon during the nineteenth century.<sup>16</sup> (*Emil Heuckendorff; John Kruse; Hans Reed*)

The second-most prominent foreign-born group in the region, as represented in federal census records, consisted of English-speaking people from Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.<sup>17</sup> Many of these

<sup>14</sup> Jean Sandine Monsebroten, "The Swedish-Finn Settlement in Coos Bay," (unpublished manuscript, 1974), 13-14.

<sup>15</sup> Hans Reed, *Overland Monthly* (San Francisco, CA: Overland Monthly Publishing Company, 1895), 295-296.

<sup>16</sup> Jim Gibbs, *West Coast Windjammers in Story and Pictures* (Seattle: Superior Pub. Co, 1968).

<sup>17</sup> Nathan Douthit, *The Coos Bay Region, 1890-1944: Life on a Coastal Frontier* (Coos Bay, OR: River West Books, 1981).

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people established themselves as farmers or businessmen in the growing towns of Empire City, Marshfield, and North Bend. (*Joseph W. Bennett*) Other emigrants from the British Isles arrived in Coos Bay with mining experience, and joined miners from Italy and France in the local coalmines. Many of those who found jobs in the coal mines of Coos County in the 1880s and 1890s had come to the region after working their way across the United States, moving from mining community to mining community. (*Philip Brynn*) Coal mining was a dangerous occupation, and many miners were killed in mine accidents or died as a result of the hazardous conditions under which they worked.

German-speaking peoples from continental western Europe were the third largest foreign-born population group in the Coos Bay region. Like other emigrants arriving in the region, these people typically found jobs suited to their skills and experiences; several early German residents in Marshfield were involved in starting the city's first businesses. (*Henry Sengstacken*) Other European countries were also well represented among the diverse citizens of Marshfield. In particular, the region had a sizeable population of Greeks, most of whom immigrated before the resumption of hostilities between Greece and the Ottoman Empire in 1897.

Beginning in the mid-1860s, the towns of Empire City, Marshfield, and North Bend expanded rapidly, developing commercial districts offering a range of goods and services. Marshfield quickly outstripped the other towns as the region's commercial and civic center; by 1880, Marshfield boasted two hotels, (*James Ferrey*) a post office, a weekly newspaper, (*Thomas G. Owen; Jacob M. Siglin*) and an academy offering high-school level instruction. Many of the men who became involved in local business ventures were first enticed to the region by the prospect of easy opportunities for success in an area with such a flourishing economy.

As a major port, the Coos Bay region had a substantial transient population consisting of unskilled laborers and crewmembers from the ships that plied the local waters. In 1912, an article on "Coos Bay Commerce," with data based on the *Report of the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army*, appeared in the local newspaper. The previous year, 6,074 passengers arrived by sea, while 5,801 were outbound. This number is significant when considering the total population for Empire City, Marshfield, and North Bend was less than 5,000 residents at the time.<sup>18</sup> The region's flourishing economy made it relatively easy to find employment in the local coal mines, logging camps, or shipyards, but the work was dangerous and the pay was low. Population turnover in the logging camps and hardscrabble settlements around the bay was common as workers died or left in search of brighter opportunities. (*William Borland*) Short-term residents as well as locals frequented the numerous saloons and drinking establishments and sought out other entertainments. (*George Kerwin*) Marshfield was also the home of the region's notorious red-light district. (*Ti Ti*)

Residents of Coos Bay actively promoted the region, and following the Civil War, there were a number of displaced or disabled veterans who eventually found their way to the West Coast. Many veterans came for health reasons, while others were in search of fortune or adventure. (*Charles W. Tower; Morton Tower*) As a result of the area's relatively late development, newcomers still had the opportunity to become key participants in the cities' continuing growth. Civil War veterans founded the first successful local newspaper, opened businesses and hotels, and served in local government positions, such as sheriff and customs clerk. Some veterans also adapted the skills developed while serving in the military to civilian trades. (*Thomas Wyman*)

The region's growth and development in the 1870s corresponded with the formation of many local chapters of fraternal and social organizations. These organizations served differing roles in the community, offering opportunities for fellowship and gathering, undertaking projects for the good of the community, and giving members a chance to maintain cultural ties. Freemasonry was introduced to the region in 1870, with the chartering of the Blanco Lodge No. 48 of the Masonic Lodge. (*Andrew Nasburg*) In 1875, both the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias established a presence in the region with the creation of the Sunset Lodge No. 51 of the I.O.O.F. and the Myrtle Lodge No. 3 of the Knights of Pythias. By

<sup>18</sup> "Coos Bay Commerce," *Coos Bay Times*, March 23, 1912 (Marshfield, OR).

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the 1930s, the Coos Bay lodge of the Knights of Pythias was recognized as the oldest lodge in Oregon.<sup>19</sup> The growing presence of Civil War veterans in the area resulted in the formation of Baker Post No. 8 of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) in Marshfield in 1882, followed two years later by the establishment of Leeland Post No. 30 in Empire City. Membership in fraternal and social organizations continued to grow during the first decades of the twentieth century, leading to one local newspaper's claim: "upon Coos Bay one may find practically every organization that charters branches throughout the nation."<sup>20</sup> Many of lodges maintained their own halls, ranging from the modest, wood-framed building used first by the Knights of Finland and later by the Order of Runeberg, to the elegant buildings constructed for the I.O.O.F. lodges in both Marshfield and North Bend. In 1889, the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Lodge, "acutely conscious of civic need, built an aspiring structure with an opera house on its second floor" that was used for plays and theatrical presentations, community dances, and political gatherings until it burned in 1920.<sup>21</sup>

### Maritime Connections

The Coos Bay region was dependent on a complex system of marine transportation and developed in some unique ways. This maritime dependency persisted until 1916, long past the time when most other communities had efficient land transportation, as situation the press noted, "Coos Bay is the largest community in the United States without railway connections to the outside world."<sup>22</sup> A railroad finally connected the region with the Willamette Valley in 1916. The Roosevelt Highway (U.S. 101), connecting coastal communities, was not completed until 1936.

As early as 1873, several vessels were plying the bay, offering transport for both passengers and supplies. (*Eugene O'Connell*) By the turn of the century, Coos Bay's "Mosquito Fleet" of steam and gasoline powered vessels, primarily built at local shipyards, was an established and necessary part of life in the region. (*A. J. M. Campbell, A. Clifton Campbell*) Regularly scheduled milk boats traversed the Coos River watershed twice daily in order to pick up milk from the upriver dairies and deliver it to the creamery. (*H.E. Bessey*) Local citizens used the network of boats to visit friends, attend social events, and shop at Marshfield businesses. Schoolchildren also rode the boat to and from school each day. Although several riverboats continued to offer service through 1948, most of the Mosquito Fleet ceased operation in the 1930s.<sup>23</sup>

The Coos Bay region's connection with the West Coast lumber trade and shipbuilding also made it one of the segments in the "triangle trade" that developed between the Pacific Northwest, Australia, and Hawaii. Ships departed from the region with a cargo of lumber bound for Australia, picked up a load of coal or other supplies in Australia, exchanged the supplies for Hawaiian sugar, and delivered the sugar cargo to San Francisco on the return trip.<sup>24</sup> Several local residents captained ships that were part of this network, establishing close connections with Australia. The opportunities for travel between the Coos Bay region and Australia also resulted in a small but steady pattern of immigration both to and from Australia. (*Thomas Hirst*)

### Economic and Social Links to San Francisco

Although initial commercial enterprises in the Coos Bay region, particularly logging and coal mining, often lacked the capital to operate successfully on a large scale, by the 1890s, California businessmen were promoting the development of area industries and providing the capital to establish true industrial operations.

<sup>19</sup> "Fraternal Organization," *New Era Edition of Coos Bay Times*, December 31, 1937 (Marshfield, OR), 41.

<sup>20</sup> "Fraternal Organization," *New Era Edition of Coos Bay Times*, December 31, 1937 (Marshfield, OR), 49.

<sup>21</sup> Ernst, 80.

<sup>22</sup> "Coos Bay Commerce," *Coos Bay Times*, March 23, 1912 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>23</sup> Gordon R. Newell, ed., *H.W. McCurdy Marine History of the Pacific Northwest* (Seattle, WA: Superior Publishing, 1966),

119. Victor West, *Southern Oregon mosquito fleet: Stories about Coos County boats, 1853 to 1948* (North Bend, OR: Victor West, 1986.)

<sup>24</sup> Hewitt R. Jackson, "West Coast lumber vessels were a radical departure from the New England built ships," *48 degrees North* (November 2001.)

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Coos Bay shipped the majority of its exports directly to San Francisco: Coos Bay coal heated San Francisco homes, Coos Bay lumber rebuilt the city after the 1906 earthquake, and Coos Bay shipyards produced sailing vessels and other ships that were later outfitted in San Francisco and were utilized in the international maritime trade.<sup>25</sup> By 1890, Coos Bay had four commercial sawmills; lumber production in the region dramatically increased in 1908 with the opening of C.A. Smith Lumber Co.'s "Big Mill," which could produce 500,000 board feet of lumber per day. In addition, the Coos Bay region's twelve significant coal mines were shipping out an average of 40,000 tons of coal annually to San Francisco.<sup>26</sup> Facilitated by the construction of sheltering jetties on either side of the harbor mouth, Coos Bay became the principal port between San Francisco, California, and Portland, Oregon.

The region was also socially and culturally connected to San Francisco, leading one historian of the area to classify the Coos Bay region as a suburb of "The City."<sup>27</sup> Regularly scheduled service between Marshfield and San Francisco allowed Coos Bay residents to visit San Francisco more frequently and with greater ease than cities in Oregon. As a result, Coos Bay developed into a remarkably cultured and worldly, cosmopolitan community. For middle and upper class residents of Coos Bay, San Francisco was seen as the center for shopping and education; Coos Bay residents saw nothing out of the ordinary in taking a three-day trip down to the San Francisco "shopping center."<sup>28</sup> Coos Bay's emulation of cultured San Francisco was also evident in the development of many local clubs and associations. The Coos Bay Literary Society discussed such topics as "Is capital punishment ever justifiable?" and "Should women exercise the elective franchise?" at their weekly meetings, while the Empire City Amateur Drama Society produced full-scale theatrical productions, including a 1879 production of a French play complete with silk and velvet costumes trimmed in gold lace.<sup>29</sup> (*Agnes Sengstacken*) In addition, before the development of quality schooling in Coos Bay, children might be sent away to San Francisco, or possibly Portland, to receive a more complete education. Many residents also had family members living in San Francisco, as evidenced by Marshfield's concerned response to the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

### Early Burying Grounds

As the original Euro-American settlement at Empire City grew in the 1850s, burials were conducted on the bluffs overlooking the bay, in what was commonly known as the "Empire Pioneer Cemetery." The cemetery was primarily accessible by water, which limited its usage. The last known burial occurred in January of 1908.<sup>30</sup> As the region's population expanded in the 1870s and 1880s, the need for a more accessible burial site became pressing. Marshfield's central location and undeveloped hillsides made it the prime location for a new cemetery for the three main communities on the bay. Although burials were conducted on several undeveloped parcels within the city of Marshfield, in 1883, the Knowles family ceded property southwest of what is now Park Avenue and Fifth Street to the city of Marshfield by for use as a public burying ground.<sup>31</sup> This site, the Old Marshfield Cemetery, quickly fell into disuse with the establishment of a cemetery by the local Odd Fellows lodge in 1888.

### Independent Order of Odd Fellows

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) began in England in the late eighteenth century, as a working-class alternative to Freemasonry. Membership in the I.O.O.F. provided support and structure for urban industrial workers, particularly those without families, who were moving from job to job and city to city. In

<sup>25</sup> William G. Robbins, *Hard Times in Paradise: Coos Bay, Oregon, 1850-1986* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1988), 19.

<sup>26</sup> Robbins, 15 and 21.

<sup>27</sup> Ernst, 35.

<sup>28</sup> Robbins, 38-39.

<sup>29</sup> Beckham, 57-59. See also Coos Historical and Maritime Museum textile collection (North Bend, OR.)

<sup>30</sup> "Funeral Held Saturday," *Coos Bay Times*, January 17, 1908 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>31</sup> "City Rights Are Contested," *Coos Bay Times*, December 1, 1909 (Marshfield, OR.)

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1809, the many independent lodges across England were consolidated with the formation of the Manchester Unity of the I.O.O.F. At this time, the Odd Fellows adopted a constitution, articulated the duties of membership, and chose friendship, love, and truth as the three symbolic links of the I.O.O.F. The four central duties of membership were to "move modestly, quietly and without ostentation, obeying the injunction of the ritual to visit the sick, to relieve the distressed, to bury the dead and to educate the orphan."<sup>32</sup>

Washington Lodge No. 1, the first I.O.O.F. lodge in the United States, was organized on April 26, 1819. Over the subsequent decades, the I.O.O.F. spread out across the United States, forming lodges in most large cities and becoming one of the most successful of the fraternal orders introduced to America in the nineteenth century. In 1852, Chemeketa Lodge 1, of Salem, Oregon, became the first lodge chartered in the Pacific Northwest. By 1899, there were 125 lodges in Oregon with a membership of approximately 5,781 men. The first Odd Fellows lodge in the Coos Bay region was chartered in Empire City as Arago Lodge No. 28. Sunset Lodge No. 51 of Marshfield was granted dispensation for its charter by I.O.O.F. Grand Master Henry G. Streve on March 24, 1875.<sup>33</sup> The ten charter members of the lodge were Isaac Hacker, Thomas Hirst, R.M. Hutcheson, John Kenyon, A. Lobree, Thomas G. Owen, William Saunders, L. Simpkins, F.S. Webber, and W.S. Wheeler -- all prominent citizens of Marshfield, six of whom are buried in the I. O. O. F. cemetery. By 1907, the lodge had over 180 members in good standing as well as a women's auxiliary, Western Star Rebekah Lodge No. 27.

In order to finance their charitable services, the I.O.O.F. often leased space in their buildings for commercial purposes or established cemeteries that could bring in revenue. Cemeteries served the dual purpose of providing a place for the burial of members as well as generating modest funds for the lodge by the sale of plots to non-members. The Odd Fellows quickly became synonymous with establishment of local cemeteries in the late 1800s: "The 'duty' most apparent to non-members was the building of cemeteries, and, as soon as they were able, almost every Odd Fellows lodge obtained property and established a cemetery so that members and their families could have decent burial."<sup>34</sup> For members in good standing, local lodges covered the costs of burial and provided for the deceased members' widows and orphans.

### **Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation**

On June 8, 1888, the Sunset Lodge No. 51 of the I.O.O.F. formed a private corporation, the Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation, for the purposes of establishing and operating a cemetery in the Coos Bay region. A board of directors, consisting of a president, secretary/treasurer, and three other board members, was elected annually from the lodge's membership to run the corporation. John F. Hall, a respected Marshfield attorney and prominent member of the I.O.O.F., served as the secretary/treasurer for a number of years and was responsible for much of the corporation's bookkeeping.<sup>35</sup> Hall was elected to the position in 1890 and served until health problems forced him to retire some twenty years later.<sup>36</sup> (*John F. Hall*)

The Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation's first act was to acquire suitable property for the establishment of the cemetery. Much of downtown Marshfield was built on marshland where the water table was quite high -- not a suitable place for burying the dead. In the years since the property on Knob Hill had been used as a burying ground, numerous residences had been erected on neighboring lots, making this site also unsuitable for continued use as a cemetery. Instead, the corporation turned to a prominent hillside in the largely undeveloped "Railroad Addition" of South Marshfield. The wooded property was at the time removed from the development of Marshfield's downtown area, while still in close enough proximity that to be easily accessed by residents. The decision to site the cemetery on a prominent hillside also reflected the influences of the rural cemetery

<sup>32</sup> "Early Oregon Odd Fellowship," *Pacific Odd Fellow*, No. 4, Vol. 10 (April 1901), 8.

<sup>33</sup> "Celebrate Anniversary: Sunset Lodge of Odd Fellows Observe Important Event of Its Life," *Coos Bay Times*, April 27, 1907 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>34</sup> Correspondence with James A. Eddy, Grand Secretary of the Oregon Grant Lodge of the I.O.O.F., May 2, 1988.

<sup>35</sup> "Notice to Contractors," *Coos Bay Times*, August 16, 1909 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>36</sup> "Local News" *Coast Mail*, June 12, 1890 (Marshfield, OR.)

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movement and a growing emphasis on the remembrance of the dead.

The property selected by the corporation was part of the 560 acres of South Marshfield owned by the wealthy Marshfield businessman and landowner, Charles H. Merchant and his wife, Mary. (*Charles H. Merchant*) A factor in the corporation's decision to purchase this property may have been that Merchant had used a portion of the property as a family burying ground for several of his daughters who had died young. On July 14, 1888, in the presence of A.M. Crawford and Fred Bischoff, Charles H. and Mary L. Merchant deeded approximately eight acres of the hillside property to the Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation for the sum of \$350.<sup>37</sup> Merchant exempted from the sale the eight hundredths of an acre in the center of the property where his daughters were buried, retaining it for his family's use as "C.H. Merchant's Reserve."

The corporation proceeded with their plans and had approximately four acres of the wooded property cleared. Predating the shift towards sterile lawn cemeteries that developed in the early-twentieth century, the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery had its antecedents in the rural cemetery movement of the mid-nineteenth century. Although not executed on the same scale as such exemplars of the rural cemetery movement as Mount Auburn Cemetery outside of Boston, Massachusetts, or Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, California, the founders of the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery drew on the same precedents in their quest to create a peaceful resting place for the dead that was also welcoming to the living. The rise of the rural cemetery movement in the nineteenth century corresponded with the widespread replacement of the traditional term of a "burying ground" with the new term of "cemetery," derived from the Greek "put to sleep." Unlike earlier burying grounds, which were often affiliated with specific religious denominations and squeezed into small churchyards, the founders of rural cemeteries purchased extensive properties removed from cities' central downtowns where the dead could be "put to sleep." The small burial plots and overcrowding that had plagued churchyard burying grounds was no longer an issue with such large parcels of undeveloped land. Cemetery founders, often fraternal or civic groups, also placed equal focus on making rural cemeteries welcoming places to the living, accomplishing this task by platting the property and laying out ordered graves that could be easily located by grieving relatives, planting trees and shrubbery associated with death, mourning, and remembrance, and encouraging the erection of monuments and markers to commemorate the dead and educate the living.<sup>38</sup>

In the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery, the eastern hillside was altered to create artificial terraces, producing a sculpted environment that would be more easily traversed by visitors. Numerous Monterey cypress trees, likely imported by local ship captains from their native location on the central coast of California, were planted in the cemetery. The cypress tree was strongly associated with death and mourning in classical antiquity, and, during the Victorian era, it was frequently planted in cemeteries because of its connections with funerary traditions. Also reflecting the rural cemetery movement's focus on honoring and memorializing the dead and educating and enlightening the living, is the Sailor-Soldier Monument erected within the cemetery, as well as the numerous examples of outstanding individual grave markers and headstones.

### Organization of the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery

Initially, each member of the I.O.O.F. lodge was given one lot, with the price of lots for other community members set at \$5.00 each.<sup>39</sup> In January of 1890, the first deed of sale by the Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation was recorded at the Coos County Courthouse. By the end of 1890, the cemetery was already in active use, although it was not officially dedicated until 1891. With the official dedication in 1891, the Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation began their practice of recording burial information in two logbooks kept by the corporation's secretary; the first burial entry was on August 16, 1891.<sup>40</sup> Families at this time also began to

<sup>37</sup> "Oddfellows Cemetery Association," Deeds of Coos County, Oregon, Coos County Public Records (Coquille, OR.)

<sup>38</sup> Blanche M.G. Linden, *Silent City on a Hill: Picturesque Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery* (Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 2007).

<sup>39</sup> Gail A. Anderson, "Pioneer Cemetery," *The Bay News Weekly*, October 9, 1985 (Coos Bay, OR.)

<sup>40</sup> Becky Soules, *Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery Database: Record of Known Burials* (Coos Bay, OR: Marshfield Pioneer



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disinter relatives from the Empire Pioneer Cemetery and Old Marshfield Cemetery on Knob Hill, reburying the deceased on family plots within the I.O.O.F Cemetery. (*Frederick Schetter*)

Although the cemetery was operated by the I.O.O.F. for the benefit of its membership, it was also intended to serve as the community burying ground for all local citizens. Membership in fraternal and social organizations was common among Coos Bay region residents, and local lodges such as the Knights of Pythias, Suomi Lodge, Foresters of America, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and Longshoreman's Union frequently oversaw the purchase of a plot for a deceased member, coordinated the funeral, and ensured that a headstone was later erected on the plot. There are no indications that blocks within the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery were allocated for the burial of members of specific religious or fraternal organizations. Several local companies -- including the Beaver Hill Coal Co., C. A. Smith Lumber & Manufacturing Co., and Simpson Lumber Co. (*Daloose Jackson*) -- did purchase portions of blocks where company employees were buried, particularly in the case of fatal accidents incurred while on the job. Block 13, "Owned and paid by Coos County," was the sole block within the cemetery purchased by a single entity.<sup>41</sup> The county used the block as a "potter's field" for the burial of indigents and others without relatives to claim their bodies -- Block 13 is also the only block in the cemetery without any headstones or grave markers. (*Czarina, victims of the shipwreck*)

Despite the cemetery's relative proximity to central Marshfield, a visit to the cemetery in the early years of its operation could be a challenging process. Typically, visitors on foot accessed the cemetery either by climbing up the eastern hillside or walking in from the wooded area behind the cemetery where the high school now stands.<sup>42</sup> The difficult conditions faced in getting to the hillside location, especially in a region where people were accustomed to water transport, were exacerbated during wet winters: "If you have any idea of dying, the Mail suggests that you put it off until Spring, when your friends can get out to the cemetery without wading 300 yards of muddy road."<sup>43</sup> By 1903, rock was being obtained from an upriver quarry by Abe Tenbrook, brother-in-law of the cemetery association's secretary, and C. W. Paterson, stonecutter and monument proprietor, in order to construct a wall along the cemetery's southern border and create a designated entrance for vehicles.<sup>44</sup>

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery quickly became a point of pride for local Marshfield citizens, especially in light of the fact that Marshfield was the only one of the three communities that had an active cemetery. By 1908, the burial of so many residents of Empire and North Bend within the cemetery led to concerns that all of the plots would soon be filled. These concerns prompted the Marshfield City Council to discuss whether a local ordinance should be enacted that would require non-residents to pay a \$2.00 burial permit on corpses to be buried within the cemetery.<sup>45</sup> Ultimately, this proposal was never adopted, and people from all over the Coos Bay region continued to be buried within the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery. The cemetery's prominence also meant that many residents of upriver communities chose to be buried in Marshfield rather than in the smaller burial grounds of the Coos River and Allegany cemeteries.

### **Cemetery Monuments and Gravemarkers**

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery contains a diverse collection of monuments and gravemarkers that attest to the region's economic prosperity and the region's trading connections with other cities across the United States as well as the skillful craftsmen who produced headstones locally. By the turn of the century, numerous varieties of marble and granite headstones, as well headstones of various metal alloys, were available to the

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Cemetery, 2009).

<sup>41</sup> Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery logbooks, Block 13 (Coos Bay City Hall: Coos Bay, OR).

<sup>42</sup> Conversation with Elinor Jorgensen, lifetime resident of Coos Bay, who remembers visiting relatives in the cemetery as a child, December 9, 2010.

<sup>43</sup> "Local News," *Coast Mail*, October 8, 1903 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>44</sup> Charlotte L. Mahaffy, *Coos River Echoes: A Story of the Coos River Valley* (Portland, Or: Interstate Press, 1965), 26-27.

<sup>45</sup> "Will Charge for Burial Permits Here," *Coos Bay Times*, July 10, 1908 (Marshfield, OR.)

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residents of the Coos Bay region. The region's prosperity ensured that most residents of the area were able to afford some kind of memorial -- membership in local fraternal or social organizations, particularly the Woodmen of the World or their women's auxiliary, would also ensure that one's grave would be marked with a monument.

Thus far, no markings or insignia have been found on cemetery headstones that would allow a definitive determination of how much of the stone carving was done locally. In 1888, C. W. Paterson, a Massachusetts-trained marble and stone worker, incorporated the Coos Bay Stone & Marble Company.<sup>46</sup> (*Charles W. Paterson*) Paterson worked in Marshfield until his death in 1903, at which time he was buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery. Other local companies providing headstones were the Coos Bay Monumental Works, which advertised "all kinds of cemetery work," and the Pacific Monumental Works, which had in its "employ the only practical marble and granite cutter in Coos county."<sup>47</sup>

For those who did not purchase a headstone from one of the local stonecutters, the beginning of mass-produced headstones available for purchase through mail-order catalogues or branch agents offered another option. The strong similarity between certain headstones in the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery and those pictured in the Vermont Marble Co.'s 1899 catalogue indicate that some local residents may have ordered their headstones from this company. The Vermont Marble Co. had a branch office in San Francisco, California, with which Coos Bay had close business and leisure ties.<sup>48</sup> Frederick Schetter, of Empire City, also worked as the region's agent for "white bronze" monuments. Cast out of zinc, these monuments were touted as the new, indestructible, scientific alternative to traditional headstones. Although these monuments were never widely adopted as an alternative to marble or granite, there are several well-preserved examples in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, including one inscribed with "Detroit Bronze Co." The presence of these headstones -- coming from as far away as Vermont or Michigan -- in the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery attests to the Coos Bay region's strong water connections that allowed residents access to objects that would reach Coos Bay only after a long journey around Cape Horn or across the Panama Isthmus and up the Pacific Coast.

### Memorial Day Exercises at the Cemetery

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery also served as the community focal point for the annual Memorial Day exercises held in Marshfield. Until membership began to decline in the 1920s, Marshfield's active Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) post held services each May; they were joined by the local Owen Sumners' Camp No. 7 of Spanish War Veterans and the area's other fraternal and social organizations. The Memorial Day exercises were an important annual event -- businesses closed and the entire community gathered for speeches and music, typically at the Marshfield I.O.O.F. or Masonic Hall, before everyone marched in procession up to the I.O.O.F. Cemetery. At the cemetery, the G.A.R. read their "ritualistic ceremonies" and honored their deceased members with a floral tribute and firing salute. By 1906, these ceremonies were held at the "Monument to the Unknown Dead," located on what are now blocks 224 and 225.<sup>49</sup>

In 1915, as the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Civil War approached, both the G.A.R. and Spanish War Veterans decided that the cemetery needed a new veterans monument. The "Monument to the Unknown Dead" "was a shame and disgrace to civilization" that was quite unacceptable as the focus for the upcoming exercises to be held at the cemetery.<sup>50</sup> By this time, declining membership in the G.A.R. -- Baker Post had only fifteen members still living -- prompted the Spanish War Veterans to take over the task of

<sup>46</sup> Mahaffy, 26-27.

<sup>47</sup> "Coos Bay Monumental Works," *Coos Bay Harbor*, July 4, 1903 (Marshfield, OR.) "Pacific Monumental Works," *Coos Bay News*, October 28, 1891 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>48</sup> Peggy B. Perazzo, "Stone Quarries and Beyond" < <http://quarriesandbeyond.org/> >.

<sup>49</sup> "Memorial Day Program is Fine," *Coos Bay Times*, May 31, 1911 (Marshfield, OR.) "Memorial Day Observances," *Coos Bay Times*, May 28, 1906 (Marshfield, OR.) "Stores Will Close Monday," *Coos Bay Times*, May 28, 1910 (Marshfield, OR.) "Large Crowd at Exercises," *Coos Bay Times*, May 31, 1910 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>50</sup> "War Veterans Hold Elections," *Coos Bay Times*, January 23, 1914 (Marshfield, OR.)

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organizing the Memorial Day exercises and coordinating the erection of a new monument. At a January 1914 meeting, the Spanish War Veterans first began to plan for a new monument, discussing the potential of raising funds by popular subscription. Ultimately, *The Evening Record*, a short-lived evening edition of a local newspaper, provided most of the necessary funds. The time constraints of finishing the project by May of 1915, as well as the desire to do all of the work locally in Marshfield, resulted in a unique monument. The region prided itself on its self-sufficiency, and the monument's construction attest to that. "Coos county is an empire in itself. That observation has been made before, and it is profoundly true," was a statement professed several years earlier in a special edition the *Coos Bay Times* designed to promote the area.<sup>51</sup>

Unlike many other Civil War monuments, where the central feature might be the statue of an archetypal soldier, the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery's monument features a Civil War-era artillery piece donated by the state of Oregon. The 1861 3 in. ordnance rifle arrived without a field carriage -- the veterans solved the issue of how to mount it by setting it vertically in a concrete base. The bronze plaque set into the base, noting the sponsorship of *The Evening Record* and dedicating the monument to all of the "Sailor-Soldier Dead," was cast locally, probably at the Coos Bay Ironworks. A closer examination of the plaque reveals certain hand-made characteristics. The letters are straight-sided with variations in size and form, such as the prominence of serifs, indicative of letters cut individually by hand from wood. Also, the background does not show the stippling that would be more typical of a commercially produced item. Although the number of Army veterans outnumbered the Navy veterans buried in the cemetery, it is interesting that "Sailor" precedes "Soldier," perhaps as a nod to the area's maritime connections. Despite the advance planning, finishing the monument before Memorial Day was difficult as the ordnance rifle only arrived the Wednesday before the dedication was to take place. The hurriedly completed monument was unveiled on May 30, 1915, serving as the centerpiece of Marshfield's Memorial Day exercises.<sup>52</sup>

While the local newspapers reported many details of the Sailor-Soldier monument, records regarding the monument located on the Merchant Reserve are sparse. The refined style of the Merchant monument is also in direct contrast to the veterans' monument. The Vermont Marble Co., which was the likely provider of many headstones within the Merchant Reserve, also sold monuments, including ones with imported features. Similar elements can be found in the catalogue, but this monument appears to be unique both in its size and composition.<sup>53</sup> Merchant family members recalled that elements of the monument were imported from Italy.<sup>54</sup> They have also recounted the legend that if one stares at the angel long enough, the names that she is recording in the book will become visible. The monument was erected before C. H. Merchant's death in 1906.

### Sale to School District

The Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation's choice of prime property for situating the cemetery became especially apparent in 1908. At that time, the Coos Bay School District began looking for a suitable site for the construction of a new school building, quickly determining that the four undeveloped acres owned by the cemetery corporation was the optimal location. These four acres of land were part of the original parcel bought in 1888, and the corporation had originally planned to clear and plat these acres, as needed, to expand the cemetery. By 1908, residential development around the cemetery had grown extensively, and roads facilitating travel to outlying areas were being developed. The cemetery corporation decided to sell the four acres to the school district in order to generate enough funds to purchase property outside of the city limits that could later be developed as a new cemetery.<sup>55</sup> On January 4, 1909, the Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation relinquished

<sup>51</sup> "Great Chances for Newcomers," *Coos Bay Times*, March 23, 1912 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>52</sup> "Remember G.A.R.: All Coos Bay to Join in Decoration Day Service," *Coos Bay Times*, May 26, 1915 (Marshfield, OR).

<sup>53</sup> *1899 Price List: Rutland, Sutherland Falls, and Mountain Dark Marble* (Rutland, VT: Vermont Marble Co., 1899), courtesy of Peggy B. Perazzo.

<sup>54</sup> Conversation with Maxine Merchant, Merchant family relative on a visit to the cemetery, May 2006.

<sup>55</sup> "New School for Marshfield is Now a Certainty," *Coos Bay Times*, February 20, 1908 (Marshfield, OR.)

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the four acres adjoining the cemetery to the Coos Bay School District 9, for \$12,000.<sup>56</sup> The school district began construction of the city's first public high school on the property in 1909.

With the funds received from the school district, the cemetery corporation paid \$16,000 for approximately five acres of property belonging to the Lobree family, and located along Beaver Slough about three miles from Marshfield's downtown.<sup>57</sup> Marshfield's population had continued to grow rapidly; the population for Marshfield, as reported in the U. S. Census, increased 110 percent from 1900 to 1910. In 1913, "it was decided to fence and plat five acres of the new cemetery southeast of town as the old cemetery is pretty well filled or rather sold."<sup>58</sup> In 1914, the new Sunset Memorial Park was dedicated by the I.O.O.F. lodge and began to sell burial lots. By this time, advances in transportation had eliminated the difficulties that had plagued early visitors to the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery, and the Sunset Memorial Park's distance from downtown Marshfield was not a problem. Funerary practices had also changed. Cemeteries were moving away from the deliberate "naturalness" of the rural cemetery movement in favor of immaculately kept lawns of grass. In addition, new technology and machinery was quickly replacing the tradition of hand-carved marble headstones and funerary monuments. Durable, granite stones set flush with the ground reinforced new notions about cemeteries as pristine, park-like areas. Perpetual care -- where the cemetery management took responsibility for maintaining the graves -- also began to eliminate community involvement in caring for family plots or gathering for annual remembrances at cemeteries.

### **Cemetery Corporation Relinquishes Ownership**

By the early 1920s, the majority of plots in the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery had been sold. Since the opening of the Sunset Memorial Park, sale of new plots in the older cemetery had slowly declined as new residents in the Coos Bay region chose to purchase plots in the more modern lawn cemetery. Families did continue to bury deceased relatives on already-purchased family plots; no restriction was placed on the site's continuing use as a burying ground. On November 8, 1921, the Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation deeded all of the unsold plots, as well as the public walkways and driveways, of the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery to the City of Marshfield. Neither the corporation -- still the nominal property owner -- nor the City of Marshfield, devoted resources to the cemetery's upkeep.

Throughout the 1930s, plans for improving the cemetery, including the potential of converting it into a memorial park sans headstones, were discussed, but projects stalled due to a lack of funds and confusion over the property's ownership. The only major project completed at the cemetery during the 1930s was the construction of a new wall along the cemetery's southern border with Ingersoll Street. In January of 1938, the city of Marshfield received over \$9,000 in federal funding through the Works Project Administration (WPA) to improve and widen Ingersoll Avenue.<sup>59</sup> Funds were also allocated to replace the cemetery's 1903 wall, and in February, the project received final approval and the wall construction began.<sup>60</sup>

New Deal funds from the federal government also provided for the construction of a complex of new buildings, including a gymnasium and auditorium, on the school district site adjoining the cemetery. The expansion of the school resulted in several major changes to the cemetery. The trees along the cemetery's western edge were cut down in 1939 after School District 9 petitioned to the Marshfield City Council -- suggesting that removing the trees and establishing a new hedge "could conceal the cemetery from the High School, and would also provide a wider roadway along the High School grounds."<sup>61</sup> In place of the Monterey cypress trees a hedge of cedar trees was planted; the sole mature cedar tree in that section of the cemetery is likely a remnant. In the 1950s, the nine Monterey cypress trees growing in an east-west line along the driveway were also cut down,

<sup>56</sup> Oddfellows Cemetery Association, D-52, 561 Deeds of Coos County, Oregon, Coos County Public Records (Coquille, OR.)

<sup>57</sup> "Real Estate Transfers," *Coos Bay Times*, December 22, 1908 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>58</sup> "Cemetery Plans Talked Over," *Coos Bay Times*, June 11, 1913 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>59</sup> "Ingersoll Avenue Improvement to commence," *City of Coos Bay City Council Minutes*, February 12, 1938 (Coos Bay, OR.)

<sup>60</sup> "Ingersoll Avenue is Approved for \$9000 Improvement by WPA," *Coos Bay Times*, January 13, 1938 (Marshfield, OR.)

<sup>61</sup> *City of Coos Bay City Council Minutes*, October 2, 1939 (Coos Bay, OR.)

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when their presence blocked the light available through the windows of the newly constructed gymnasium. The windows have since been boarded up; a prominent row of large stumps still clearly delineates where the trees once stood.

Concerned citizens began to push for complete ownership of the cemetery by the city, noting that with the Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation in steady decline and only limited municipal ownership, no entity would take responsibility for the cemetery's upkeep. During this period, both the City of Coos Bay and local cemetery supporters were optimistic about the cemetery's future, not as an active burying ground, however, but as a "memorial park" and public green. As early as 1939, when the City of Marshfield first discussed the acquisition of the cemetery for public purposes, it was proposed "that it would probably be necessary to have the Legislature enact a law or the cemetery to become a memorial park. Thereupon, said matter was discussed, and motion was duly made, seconded and carried that the City Attorney be and he is hereby directed to investigate and report on the method and advisability of securing said cemetery for a park."<sup>62</sup> Several well intentioned, although short-lived community groups, such as the "Pioneer Memorial Park Association," supported this move, even raising funds to donate towards to cemetery.

Burials in the cemetery, which had been steadily declining as a result of both the sale of most of the plots as well as the popularity of the newer Sunset Memorial Park, dropped even further in the 1940s. In November of 1944, the City of Coos Bay, renamed from Marshfield at that time, acquired complete cemetery ownership by filing a Marshal's deed. Unsure of the legality of utilizing city funds for the cemetery, the City Attorney was subsequently directed to draft a bill to be presented at the 1945 state legislative session that would enable cities to use public funds for the maintenance and upkeep of cemeteries. With the advocacy of the local state legislators, both SB 150 and SB 181 were signed into law; Oregon cities were now legally able to expend city funds on municipally owned cemeteries.<sup>63</sup> The city was essentially able to treat the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery as a public park or green space, and it ceased to be used as an active cemetery. Future burials would be allowed only in plots already owned by community members.

In 1945, the city also discussed the idea of removing "all curbs, obstructions, shrubs, trees, brush and debris" from the cemetery, but nothing ever came of the proposal to completely reinvent the old I.O.O.F. Cemetery as the "Marshfield Pioneer Memorial Park." The City of Marshfield's grand plans for the cemetery quickly faltered as funds failed to be allocated for its maintenance, let alone its transformation into the "Marshfield Pioneer Memorial Park." When the \$3000 donated by the "Pioneer Memorial Park Association" was exhausted, the cemetery was virtually ignored by the city. Only eighty-two people, generally spouses or other relatives buried in already established family plots, have been interred there since the acquisition by the city; this represents only four percent of the total number of people buried in the cemetery. The cemetery has virtually been preserved in stasis.

By the late 1940s, despite the economic boost that World War II brought to the area, the Coos Bay region could not longer compete socially and economically with San Francisco, California, and Portland, Oregon. Times had changed significantly since the Odd Fellows had first envisioned a community cemetery for the region in 1888. The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery represented a high point in the Coos Bay region's cultural development and economic prosperity. A more mobile population, changing funerary traditions, and the decline of strong social and fraternal organizations within the community signaled an end to the rural cemetery movement and establishment of community cemeteries.

<sup>62</sup> City of Coos Bay City Council Minutes, February 27, 1939 (Coos Bay, OR.)

<sup>63</sup> City of Coos Bay City Council Minutes, November 13, 1944 and March 14, 1945 (Coos Bay, OR.)

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### Representative People Buried in the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery

The following are some of the people associated with the history of the Coos Bay region and the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery:

**Edmund A. Anderson** (b. Canada, 1842; d. 1924)

Row G, Block 78, Plot 5

E. A. Anderson arrived in Marshfield in 1868, after a long journey across Panama Isthmus. He was first employed at the Simpson shipyard as a shipbuilder, a trade he had learned from his father while living on Prince Edward Island in Canada. In 1878, he opened a livery stable that became very successful. He was a member of all the prominent fraternal organizations in Marshfield, serving as a delegate to many of their statewide conventions. In addition to holding many other political positions, he served as the first mayor of Marshfield.

**Joseph W. Bennett** (b. Ireland, 1855; d. 1916)

Row D, Block 53, Plot 3

J. W. Bennett came to the Coos Bay region in 1873, where he first pursued ranching, and later offered private banking services and studied law. Admitted to the state bar in 1880, he continued to practice law and serve as a private banker until the two careers became too demanding. To ease his workload, he partnered with Patrick Flanagan in 1889 to found the first commercial bank in Coos and Curry counties. The *Coos Bay Times*, on March 23, 1912, noted the importance of the bank: "There has been no more important factor in the upbuilding of Coos Bay and Coos County, than the development of the country surrounding the Flanagan & Bennett Bank." He also helped to establish the Coos County Bar Association and was honored as "the Nestor of the Coos County Bar," a reference to the wise counselor in Homer's Iliad. In 1910, two years after its founding, he served as president of the association. The law firm that he started continues to this day and is one of the oldest in Oregon.

**Wentworth V. Baker** (b. Maine, 1830; d. 1912)

Row K, Block 99, Plot 10

W. V. Baker traveled from his birthplace in Maine to California, perhaps in search of gold. He mustered into service in October 1861, with the 4th California Infantry, Company D, organized at Auburn, Placer County, California. Although members of his unit might have aspired to serve their country on the eastern Civil War battlefields, they were instead ordered to garrison duty at Fort Vancouver, Washington and Fort Yamhill, Oregon. The company was charged with "maintaining peace" with the natives. A particularly unfortunate aspect of their duties was to remove Coos Indians from their homeland and relocate them to the Siletz Reservation. Reference is made to Baker as he pursued Indians in the Coos Bay area in the spring of 1864. In 1868, after mustering out of the army, he chose to marry a native Tutuni woman, an illegal act at that time in the State of Oregon. Accompanied by another couple and a Justice of the Peace, he rowed beyond the three-mile limit and was married in international waters.<sup>64</sup>

**Hansard E. Bessey** (b. Massachusetts, 1860; d. 1923)

Row JJ, Block 21, Plot 14

H. E. Bessey arrived in the Coos Bay region in 1885, after a stint working in the sawmills of California. He purchased 420 acres of land on the Coos River and ran a farm and dairy for approximately thirteen years. In 1892, he organized the Coos Bay Creamery Company and was made the general manager. The cheeses produced at the creamery were extremely popular in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

<sup>64</sup> Bensell, Royal A.; Barth, Gunther, ed. All Quiet on the Yamhill: The Civil War in Oregon. Eugene: University of Oregon Books, 1959.

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**William Borland** (b. Scotland; d. 1907)

Row N, Block 13, Plot 13

There is no better example of the international nature of the port of Coos Bay, than the story of William (Milliam) Borland, a Scottish sailor. In 1907, he was aboard the four-masted barkentine *Echo*, built in 1896 at the Simpson shipyard, that had just returned from a trip to Australia by way of the Hawaiian Islands. The ship had stopped at the port of Coos Bay to load lumber for California. Borland, who ran the ship's donkey engine, went ashore to go drinking with a Dutch shipmate and the Finnish crew of a steam schooner docked nearby. He never returned to the *Echo*. After several more days of loading lumber, the ship was moved, and Borland's body was found floating near the dock. The coroner decided that Borland, inebriated, had fallen off the gangplank, drowned, and had been pressed into the mud by the ship, surfacing only after the ship moved. His wages due were insufficient to cover funeral expenses, so his clothing and personal effects were sold to his shipmates. Assisting his sister-in-law in the Netherlands with the publication of her grandfather's memoir, Coos Bay resident, Wim de Vriend, was able to share details of Borland's demise revealed in the journal of his Dutch friend nearly 100 years after his death.

**Philip P. Brynn** (b. Wales, 1842; d. 1887)

Row D, Block 84, Plot 10

Philip Brynn emigrated from Wales in 1880 and worked as a mining engineer in Illinois. Worried that Brynn would move on and that his expertise would be lost, his boss conspired to retain his services. Jailed on charges of unpaid debt, Brynn plotted his escape. Naked and greased well, Brynn squeezed through the bars of the jail window, making his escape. Nearby, his wife waited with their loaded wagon. The Brynns traveled on to Arizona where Philip found work in the mines. Still fearful of the ramifications of the Illinois escape, the family then proceeded to British Columbia, Canada. After a few months work there, the family moved again, with Philip finding work in the local mines in the Coos Bay area.

**Campbell, James Madison Campbell** (b. New York City, 1815; d. 1889)

Row DD, Block 29, Plot 11

**Campbell, Abraham Clifton** (b. New York City, 1845; d. 1902)

Row C, Block 212, Plot 1

Arriving at Coos Bay in 1869, A. J. Campbell and his sons built the steamers Juno, Comet, and Fawn and were owner of the Mink, and part owner of the steamer Coos. These boats were part of the so-called "Mosquito Fleet" and made regular runs throughout the bay and up Coos River, picking up the daily milk production, school children, and passengers. His son, "Cliff," often served as the engineer of these family-operated boats as well as other boats in the fleet.

**Czarina, Victims of the shipwreck** (d. 1910)

Row O, Block 14

On January 12, 1910, the steamship *Czarina*, loaded with a cargo of cement, coal and 40,000 feet of lumber worth over \$100,000, left Marshfield with a crew of 23 and a single passenger. Heavy surf and bad weather, and perhaps poor judgment, forced the ship towards the North Spit, out of reach of any rescue attempt by the Life Saving Service, but within view of area residents. For more than 24 hours, people on shore watched helplessly as the stranded men clung to the rigging -- each one eventually dropping off, exhausted. There was only a single survivor. Bodies of the victims continued to wash ashore for over a week. The event is still denoted as one of the most tragic shipwrecks of the Pacific coast. Six *Czarina* crewmembers, not all positively identified, are buried in the unmarked southwest corner of the cemetery.

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**Jacob Evans** (b. Ohio, 1833; d. 1912)

Row N, Block 16, Plot 3

It is not known how Jake Evans made his way to Oregon, but he is often noted as an early pioneer of the area. As early as 1854, he was engaged in black sand gold mining south of Coos Bay. Stories mention his skirmishes with Indians and the mule pack trains that he operated. He lived with a native wife on acreage along the coast. In 1905, Evans sold 320 acres of his wife's allotment to Louis J. Simpson, who would establish his Shore Acres Estate, constructing a mansion, formal gardens, and tennis courts on the site. Evans accumulated a substantial amount of money, but was quite eccentric in his later years. He was murdered, and the Grand Jury conducted an extensive investigation of the incident.

**James L. Ferrey** (b. Pennsylvania, 1841; d. 1913)

Row D, Block 56, Plot 14

As a young man, J. L. Ferrey began to work as a carpenter. Serving his country during the Civil War, he enlisted in Company A, 136th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and fought in several major battles. He was eventually transferred to the construction corps of the Western Army. After the war, he continued his trade as a carpenter back East. His brother, who had already been to the West Coast, convinced James to go to Oregon in 1871. They initially prospected for gold, unsuccessfully. He resumed work as a carpenter, and two years later, he began his long career as a noted hotel proprietor in the Coos Bay region. Always known to be industrious, he started in hotel business by leasing a small, two-room building and eventually becoming a major landowner in the county.

**John F. Hall** (b. Oregon, 1856; d. 1923)

Row I, Block 76, Plot 13

As a young man, John F. Hall tried his hand at several professions – farming, sawmilling, seafaring, and surveying. Whenever he was able, he studied law and was finally admitted in the bar in 1887. He was civically and politically active, serving in many appointed and elected positions, including District Attorney, District Judge, and State Representative. Hall was also the long-time secretary/treasurer of the Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation.

**Emil Heuckendorff** (b. Denmark, 1851; d. 1908)

Row G, Block 5, Plot 13

Emil Heuckendorff emigrated from Denmark in 1880, and at the turn of the century, established a shipyard in Prosper, Oregon, on the Coquille River. Heuckendorff then worked at the Simpson shipyard in the drafting loft, designing many of the ships that John Kruse built. In 1895, after the death of Kruse, Heuckendorff took over as the master of the yard. He finished Kruse's last ship, the *Addenda*, and built five more ships at the Simpson shipyards. In 1903, after a disagreement with Simpson, he left his employ and returned to running his own shipyard, first in North Bend, and later in Prosper. Before his death, he built 11 more ships, including schooners, both sail and steam, and barkentines, several that represented the first of their kind.

**Thomas Hirst** (b. England, 1835; d. 1903)

Row H, Block 77, Plot 1

Thomas Hirst arrived in Coos County, Oregon, in January of 1859. Before coming to Oregon, he resided for five years in Australia, where he met and married his wife, Louisa. Upon moving to Marshfield, he purchased agricultural land for stock raising and lumbering pursuits. He also invested in Andrew Nasburg's mercantile business. In 1875, the newly constructed 40' x 60' two-story building was a prominent store on Front Street with ads proclaiming "New goods with every steamer." Hirst is credited with the naming of Sunset Beach as well as Golden and Silver Falls. Following his death, his wife arranged to have a mausoleum erected as a memorial to "one of Coos county's oldest and most esteemed citizens."



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**Daloose Jackson** (b. Oregon, c. 1827; d. 1907)

Row M, Block 66, Plot 12

Daloose Jackson was a member of the branch of the Coos Indians who spoke the Hanis dialect and whose ancestral home was the Coos Bay region. As a chief of the peaceful Coos, he signed a treaty proffered by Indian agent Joel Palmer in 1855. In response to fear induced by the Rogue Indian War, however, the Coos were forcibly removed to the Siletz Indian Reservation. After attempts to return to his homeland brought complaints from the local whites, he resettled along the Siuslaw for a time. Eventually, his family returned to the Coos Bay area and lived in a float house on the bay just south of the Simpson sawmill, near what is now downtown North Bend. Despite his experiences, he maintained an agreeable disposition and was well thought of by other residents of the area. His burial plot was purchased for him by the Simpson Lumber Co.

**George D. Kerwin** (b. unknown; d. 1909)

Row M Block 40 Plot 12

George Kerwin was a well liked North Bend phrenologist and fortuneteller who met a sudden and peculiar death. Returning home to North Bend, he was laughing with friends while seated on the deck of the launch *Eagle* following his initiation into the Owls social club in Marshfield. The launch lurched, and he fell overboard and drowned. After his burial, it was determined that Kerwin was actually J. Hobart Deane -- who also used the alias Jack Coker while posing as a retired lumber dealer and U. S. Secret Service agent -- and who had been asked by the authorities to leave San Francisco. A year before his death, Deane/Kerwin made headlines in the San Francisco newspapers that detailed his psychic endeavors including his use of a specially-built desk that he used to deceive unsuspecting "clients." He duped many "believers" and prominent society members, enticing them to buy worthless stock.

**John Kruse** (b. Denmark, 1835; d. 1896)

Row DD, Block 55, Plot 2

Serving as a cabin boy on a German schooner, John Kruse arrived at San Francisco in 1854. Moving first to Gardiner, Oregon, and then North Bend, he was the master shipbuilder for the Simpson shipyards. Kruse oversaw the building of 32 ships. His most notable ship was the *Western Shore*, which set numerous speed records. Rigged as a clipper-style ship, it was the only one of its kind built on the West Coast and, at the time of its construction, was the largest and fastest clipper ship in the world.

**Esther M. Lockhart** (b. New York, 1825; d. 1916)

Row G, Block 59, Plot 11

The story of Esther Lockhart's arrival and her earliest adventures in the Coos Bay area is chronicled in the book, *Destination West!*, written by her daughter, Agnes Sengstacken. The family came to Oregon in 1851, traveling by wagon train from Thompkins County, New York. One of the first three Euro-American women to settle in the Coos Bay area in 1853, she came with her husband, Freeman Lockhart, an original member of the Coos Bay Commercial Company. The following fall, she started the first school in Coos County.

**Alexander Matson** (b. Finland, 1845; d. 1922)

Row J, Block 100, Plot 5

Alexander Matson grew up in a Swedish-speaking town in Finland, as did many other immigrants who later settled in the Coos Bay region, and immigrated to the United States in 1872. After arriving in New York City, he moved to the Great Lakes region where he worked as a logger for two years in Michigan. He then moved to the Coos Bay region, finding work as a ship's carpenter. He saved his earnings, and in about 1890, he was finally able to purchase a 500-acre farm on Coos River.

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The Matson family specialized in dairying, employing "the most progressive and scientific method in his dairy and also in the cultivation of crops."

**Charles Dexter McFarlin** (b. Massachusetts, 1835; d. 1908)

Row O, Block 43, Plot 1

After failing in his attempt to strike it rich mining gold in California, C. D. McFarlin settled in the Coos Bay area and experimented with the "red gold" that his family had cultivated back east. He requested his brother to pack and send cranberry vines from their family's bogs in Massachusetts. Planting the vines near what is now Hauser, McFarlin began the first commercial cranberry bogs on the west coast. The McFarlin cranberry is still one of the most widely planted varieties and has been used to develop a large number of crosses.

**Charles Henry Merchant** (b. New York, 1838; d. 1906)

Merchant Reserve

C. H. Merchant is often referred to as the "Father of Marshfield." He started out independently at the age of fourteen as a clerk in a hardware store in New York City. He moved to California and spent a short time working with a mining company. He then moved to Oregon where he again worked in the hardware business. In 1860, Merchant was recruited to manage the store for the Simpson shipyard in North Bend. Upon his arrival, he was dismayed to notice that liquor was being sold at the company store. He immediately demanded that the sale of liquor be banned. His demand was met, and the policy was enacted at North Bend. The positive results were so encouraging that a similar policy was instituted at all other Simpson company operations. Merchant eventually handled all business aspects for the shipyard, serving as superintendent for 13 years. Following his tenure with Simpson, he served as the business manager of the E. B. Dean Lumber Co. He later retired but returned to active management of the company when it experienced a financial crisis; he is credited with resolving the situation with his outstanding management acumen. His obituary indicates that he laid out the original town of Marshfield. He also owned 360 acres in the Railroad Addition and platted both South and West Marshfield.

**Andrew Nasburg** (b. Sweden, 1839; d. 1891)

Row F, Block 79, Plot 3

At the age of ten, Andrew Nasburg came to the United States with his widowed mother, living in Illinois for ten years. In 1859, he joined his brother in southern Oregon where he was employed at a sawmill for several years, yet still attending school during the winter. He was eventually able to stock and operate his own store in the area. Moving to Marshfield, he purchased a farm. He is, however, most noted for the very successful store he operated for many years in partnership with Thomas Hirst. Nasburg served as the first postmaster of Marshfield with a salary of \$12 per month. He was the first person initiated as a Mason in Coos County and served as the Grand Master of the state of Oregon in the 1880s.

**John Nasburg** (b. Sweden, 1840; d. 1891)

Row G, Block 87, Plot 11

Scholars have identified John Nasburg as one of the first two Swedish-born settlers in Oregon. Nasburg made his way to the United States in 1850, first residing in Illinois. Two years later, he journeyed cross-country, working as a boatman on the Columbia for another two years until drawn to southern Oregon by the excitement and potential of gold mining. Arriving in Coos county in 1872, he worked for many years in the coal mining industry. He also convinced his brother Andrew to go west, and together they traveled to Oregon across the Panama Isthmus.

**Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery**

**Coos Co., OR**

Name of Property

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**Charles W. Paterson** (b. Canada, 1854; d. 1903)

Row C, Block 212, Plot 8

At the age of fifteen, C. W. Paterson left his home in Ingersoll, Ontario, and went to Massachusetts to learn the trade of marble and stone cutting. He came to the Pacific coast in 1878 and tried his hand at many different occupations, living in a number of areas. He finally settled in Marshfield in 1888, and operated the Coos Bay Monument Works until his death. In addition to grave markers, he fabricated much of the other marble work, such as thresholds, sills, and mantles, used in prominent residences and civic buildings of the area. He also served as chief of the Marshfield Fire Department.

**Eugene O'Connell** (b. Ireland, 1844, d. 1908)

Row E, Block 85, Plot 15

Leaving Ireland at the age of 17, Eugene O'Connell arrived at Empire City eight years after first coming to the United States. He initially ran a "butcher boat" that made tri-weekly calls at the mining settlements around the bay; he is credited with starting the first meat market in 1869 in Marshfield. In 1875, he started the first hardware store west of Roseburg, Oregon, which he ran for 33 years. He also constructed the first modern apartment building in Coos Bay. A long-time member of the I.O.O.F., he served as the Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation's first president in 1888.

**Thomas G. Owen** (b. Missouri, 1845; d. 1891)

Row E, Block 80, Plot 2

Born in Missouri, T. G. Owen reported on the *1890 Veterans & Widows Enumeration* that he served as a lieutenant in the 8th Missouri Cavalry for the Confederate States. Following the Civil War, he moved with many family members to Jacksonville, Oregon, and served as a deputy sheriff there. He moved to Marshfield in 1873, and started the *Coos Bay News*, the first weekly newspaper published in Coos County. The following year he also filled the position of Coos County sheriff. His main occupation was that of a lawyer, and he is described by Orville Dodge as "a brilliant attorney of Marshfield;" he was involved with many landmark legal cases of the area. He was also the assistant Adjutant General of the Oregon National Guard.

**Hans R. Reed** (b. Denmark, 1840; d. 1923)

Row CC, Block E, Plot 1

Hans Reed was a Scandinavian shipbuilder who eventually established an operation on Coos Bay. Reed built one ship for the Simpson shipyards and also worked for E. B. Dean and Co. for a period, but primarily ran his own yard. He built approximately 15 ships while living in Marshfield and also spent time working in Bandon and Prosper, Oregon. Because Reed did not build ships exclusively for the San Francisco lumber trade, many of his vessels were unique and have interesting histories. One of the most famous was the *Silver Wave*, an Arctic steam schooner built by Reed in 1889. In 1921, the Stefansson expedition chartered the *Silver Wave* to transport the expedition members to Wrangel Island off the coast of Russia.

**Emma O. (Noble) Saunders** (b. Oregon, 1854; d. 1929)

Row H, Block 224, Plot 1

Emma's parents, Curtis and Margaret Ann Noble, came to the area as part of the Coos Bay Commercial Company in 1853. Born on April 26, 1854, Emma has the distinction of being the first white child born in Coos County. She grew up in the region and later married William Saunders, a Civil War veteran who had moved to the area in 1873 and worked as a tinsmith for the Pioneer Hardware Store.

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**Frederick Schetter** (b. Maryland, 1831; d. 1902)

Row F, Block 58, Plot 5

Frederick Schetter lived for a number of years in San Francisco, and then, in the late 1860s, he and his wife moved to Oregon to take charge of the store at the Eastport coal mine. In 1876, he began operating the Western Union telegraph service in Empire City, and continued to do so until his death. Utilizing a subscription service and his own funds, he was able to keep the service available until it became self-supporting. He also served as an agent for the O. C. & N. Co. line that regularly handled freight and passengers from Coos Bay to San Francisco. Prior to the establishment of a bank in the Coos Bay area, he offered financial services. He was a member of the Arago I.O.O.F. Lodge and served as Coos County treasurer for two years.

**Agnes Ruth (Lockhart) Sengstacken** (b. Oregon, 1859; d. 1948)

Row G, Block 59, Plot 12

Agnes Sengstacken was one of the six children of Freeman and Esther Lockhart, early settlers of the Coos Bay region and members of the Coos Bay Commercial Company. Growing up in Empire City, she and her sisters were active members of the local amateur drama society and other social clubs. In 1891, she became the second wife of Henry Sengstacken; her sister Lillias, his first wife, died in childbirth the previous year. According to historian Stephen Dow Beckham, Agnes Sengstacken, "embraced progress and used it as a lever to improve the quality of life on Oregon's southwest coast." A noted lecturer and author, she devoted substantial time and effort to forming a public library in Marshfield. In 1910, she succeeded in establishing a public library housed in her husband's office building until more permanent arrangements could be made. In 1915, after Sengstacken was successful in securing funds from the Carnegie Foundation, a dedicated library building was finally constructed. Sengstacken was also one of the founding members of the Progress Club, "a literary society and civic betterment organization" that still exists in Coos Bay today. In 1942, Sengstacken wrote and published *Destination West!*, an account of her mother's journey to Oregon and life in a frontier settlement.

**Henry Sengstacken** (b. Germany, 1851; d. 1922)

Row G, Block 59, Plot 13

Arriving from Germany in San Francisco at the age of fifteen, Henry Sengstacken studied at Heald's Business College. In 1874, he moved to Coos county and established himself in the general merchandising business, which included the Sengstacken Drug Store and Pharmacy, with stores in both Empire and Marshfield. Sengstacken also served as the local Wells Fargo Express Company agent for many years. Around 1905, he sold his businesses and turned his interest to real estate and insurance, opening an office in Marshfield. At one time, he owned over 6,000 acres of property in Coos County. He also served as mayor of Marshfield and was an active member of the port commission of Coos Bay.

**Jacob M. Siglin** (b. Pennsylvania, 1840; d. 1896)

Row DD, Block 29, Plot 14

At the age of twelve, J. M. Siglin moved to Illinois with his parents. Following his meritorious service as a young lieutenant with the Illinois cavalry during the Civil War, he studied law. He moved west, settling briefly in both Nebraska and Missouri where he practiced law. In 1872, he arrived in Marshfield where he co-founded the *Coos Bay News* with T. G. Owen and served as the editor for eight years. In 1880, he was elected to the Oregon Senate, representing both Coos and Curry counties. In 1886, he is credited with introducing Senate Bill 50, landmark legislation that would permit women to practice law in the courts of the State of Oregon. In 1886, the governor appointed him Brigadier General to head the Oregon National Guard. Again in 1890, he became involved in the newspaper business, founding the *Marshfield Sun* with his law partner, William Luse.

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**Ti Ti (b. California, 1865; d. 1913)**

Row O, Block 95, Plot 9

Little is known about the majority of Chinese who came to the area to work at the logging camps or in the mines, or of more permanent residents who served as cooks, provided laundry services, or performed other manual labor. From the time Ti Ti (also Ti Ty) arrived in Marshfield in 1884, however, she became the focus of several sensational news stories. Supposedly fleeing San Francisco where her parents had arranged a marriage, she planned instead to marry a local Chinese man, Quong. Because of her young age, the two most prominent attorneys in town, Owen & Siglin, whose services may have been procured by her father, sought to forestall the marriage. There was potential financial gain for all of the parties involved. A court case ensued, but she eventually was allowed to marry Quong. Three years later, Quong shot and killed "Billy," a Chinese cook at the Blanco Hotel. Again, there was talk of a substantial amount of money being exchanged. Her obituary lists her as "a rather notorious character."

**Charles W. Tower (b. Massachusetts, 1842; d. 1920)**

Row DD, Block 55, Plot 12

C. W. Tower, the younger brother of Morton Tower, served with the 4th Massachusetts Volunteers during the Civil War. Following the war, he attended Harvard College and then went on to study at the Harvard Medical School, graduating in 1867. Health problems resulting from his service in the war prompted his move to a more temperate climate, and in 1868, he settled in Empire City. Dr. Tower served as the company doctor at the Newport coalmines, and he also practiced in Marshfield for many years. In 1874, he married Miss Minnie Burrell, an aspiring opera singer from San Francisco who possessed "extraordinary vocal talents." Dr. Tower was actively involved in civic affairs and served as the first president of the Chamber of Commerce.

**Morton Tower (b. Massachusetts, 1840; d. 1914)**

Row E, Block 52, Plot 13

While serving with the 13<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteers during the Civil War, Morton Tower was wounded in the battles of Bull Run and Fredericksburg before being captured by Confederate forces during the battle of Gettysburg. With other Union officers, he was taken to Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. The imprisoned officers devised a plan to construct a tunnel for escape. After nine months of imprisonment and diligent work on the tunnel, over one hundred prisoners escaped through the tunnel, but Tower was one of only 53 that succeeded in reaching the safety of a Union camp. He then travelled by ship to Washington where he was unable to receive his back pay until Walt Whitman intervened. Moving west to Oregon in 1874 for health reasons, he became a prominent citizen of Empire City and stalwart member of the local G.A.R. posts. Tower also served as the collector of customs for Coos Bay.

**Elizabeth Schapers Ott Tyberg (b. Missouri, 1864; d. 1939)**

Row CC, Block D, Plot 3

"Lizzie" Tyberg was the driving force behind the Tyberg homestead along the Allegany River. Married in Missouri, with sons Samuel and Jesse born in 1881 and 1886 respectively, she divorced her husband in the Dalles and moved to Allegany in 1890. Her second marriage was to Alfred Tyberg, who was so crippled with rheumatism that he could hardly walk. With her efficient management, they produced nearly all their own food, a necessity since basic, inexpensive transportation to town was not an option. In addition, they also produced a cash crop by separating their milk and hauling the cream to Allegany once a week where it would be delivered by boat to the Marshfield creamery.

**Thomas C. Wyman (b. Maine, 1844; d. 1916)**

Row A, Block 215, Plot 7

Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery

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Thomas Wyman enlisted in the 2nd Maine Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. To complete his term, he was forced to transfer to the 20th Maine, serving with it when the regiment so courageously defended Little Round Top with bayonets when it ran short of ammunition at the Battle of Gettysburg. He also served in the Navy during the Civil War as a substitute for his married brother who had been drafted. After moving west to Oregon, he worked at the Cape Arago Lighthouse as the assistant lighthouse keeper for many years.

Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery

Coos Co., OR

Name of Property

County and State

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*Coast Mail* (Marshfield, OR) 187?-1902

*Coos Bay Harbor* (North Bend, OR) 1905-1950

*Coos Bay News* (Marshfield, OR) 1906-1957

*Coos Bay times* (Marshfield, OR) 1906-1957

*Daily Coast Mail* (Marshfield, OR) 1902-1906

Some editions were also accessed through the Oregon Digital Newspaper Program (ODNP)  
<http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery Archives  
Coos Historical and Maritime Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A



Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery  
Name of Property

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.86  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

1	<u>10N</u> Zone	<u>401150</u> Easting	<u>4801527</u> Northing	3	<u></u> Zone	<u></u> Easting	<u></u> Northing
2	<u></u> Zone	<u></u> Easting	<u></u> Northing	4	<u></u> Zone	<u></u> Easting	<u></u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery is situated on Tax Lot 2900 as part of the Railroad Addition to Marshfield within Section 34, Township 25 South, Range 13 West, Willamette Meridian.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the land purchased by the Odd Fellows Cemetery Corporation in 1888 and platted for development as a cemetery according to the 1921 map of the cemetery.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Becky Soules  
organization Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery Coordinator date December 2010  
street & number 62170 Ross Inlet Rd telephone (541) 269-7832  
city or town Coos Bay state Oregon zip code 97420  
e-mail cbcemetery@gmail.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

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

Marshfield IOOF Cemetery

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Coos Bay, Coos Co., OR

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Section number 10 Page 2

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

(Follow similar guidelines for entering the lat/long coordinates as describe on page 55, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* for entering UTM references. For properties less than 10 acres, enter the lat/long coordinates for a point corresponding to the center of the property. For properties of 10 or more acres, enter three or more points that correspond to the vertices of a polygon drawn on the map. The polygon should approximately encompass the area to be registered. Add additional points below, if necessary.)

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 43.360102 Longitude: -124.219902

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery

Coos Co., OR

Name of Property

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:** Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery  
**City or Vicinity:** Coos Bay  
**County:** Coos **State:** Oregon  
**Photographer:** Becky Soules  
**Date Photographed:** August 2011

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

**Photo 1 of 9** (OR\_CoosCounty\_MarshfieldCemetery\_0001.tif)  
From cemetery entrance; looking east

**Photo 2 of 9:** (OR\_CoosCounty\_MarshfieldCemetery\_0002.tif)  
From cemetery entrance; looking southeast

**Photo 3 of 9:** (OR\_CoosCounty\_MarshfieldCemetery\_0003.tif)  
From Sailor-Solider monument; looking southwest

**Photo 4 of 9:** (OR\_CoosCounty\_MarshfieldCemetery\_0004.tif)  
View of cemetery showing downtown Coos Bay; looking northeast

**Photo 5 of 9** (OR\_CoosCounty\_MarshfieldCemetery\_0005.tif)  
Cemetery rock wall from Ingersoll Avenue; looking east

**Photo 6 of 9:** (OR\_CoosCounty\_MarshfieldCemetery\_0006.tif)  
Hirst mausoleum; looking northwest

**Photo 7 of 9:** (OR\_CoosCounty\_MarshfieldCemetery\_0007.tif)  
Aerial view of cemetery from high school roof; looking southeast

**Photo 8 of 9** (OR\_CoosCounty\_MarshfieldCemetery\_0008.tif)  
Sailor-Soldier monument; looking southeast

**Photo 9 of 9** (OR\_CoosCounty\_MarshfieldCemetery\_0009.tif)  
Close-up of Merchant family angel monument; looking west

Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery  
Name of Property

Coos Co., OR  
County and State

**Property Owner:** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Coos Bay  
street & number 500 Central Ave telephone (541) 269-8912  
city or town Coos Bay state Oregon zip code 97420

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, D

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery

Name of Property

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County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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### Documents

- Figure 1:** General Location Map
- Figure 2:** Tax Assessor Map 25 13 34AD, Coos Bay, for the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery
- Figure 3:** Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery Map, 1921 (original), 1983, (redrawn)
- Figure 4:** Aerial photo of Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery, September 3, 1947
- Figure 5:** Aerial photo of Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery, 1955
- Figure 6:** Photo of the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery looking northwest, taken by John Bacher, post-1939 (University of Oregon, Digital Archives, #pna\_21859.jpg)
- Figure 7:** Photo of the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery looking west, taken by John Bacher, post-1939 (University of Oregon, Digital Archives, #pna\_01077.jpg)
- Figure 8:** Photo of the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery looking west, taken by John Bacher, post-1939 (University of Oregon, Digital Archives, #pna\_01078.jpg)
- Figure 9:** E. F. Dicken's notebook map of Marsh Station, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1889
- Figure 10:** Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery logbook (Sunset Memorial Park volume), Page 2, Block 2
- Figure 11:** Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery logbook (Sunset Memorial Park volume), Page 13, Block 13
- Figure 12:** Photo of seven oldest Civil War veterans at the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery, G.A.R. State Convention, 1926 (Coos Historical & Maritime Museum #988-P312, #988-P135)

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Figure 1: General Location Map, Site of Marshfield I.O.O.F Cemetery marked with arrow.



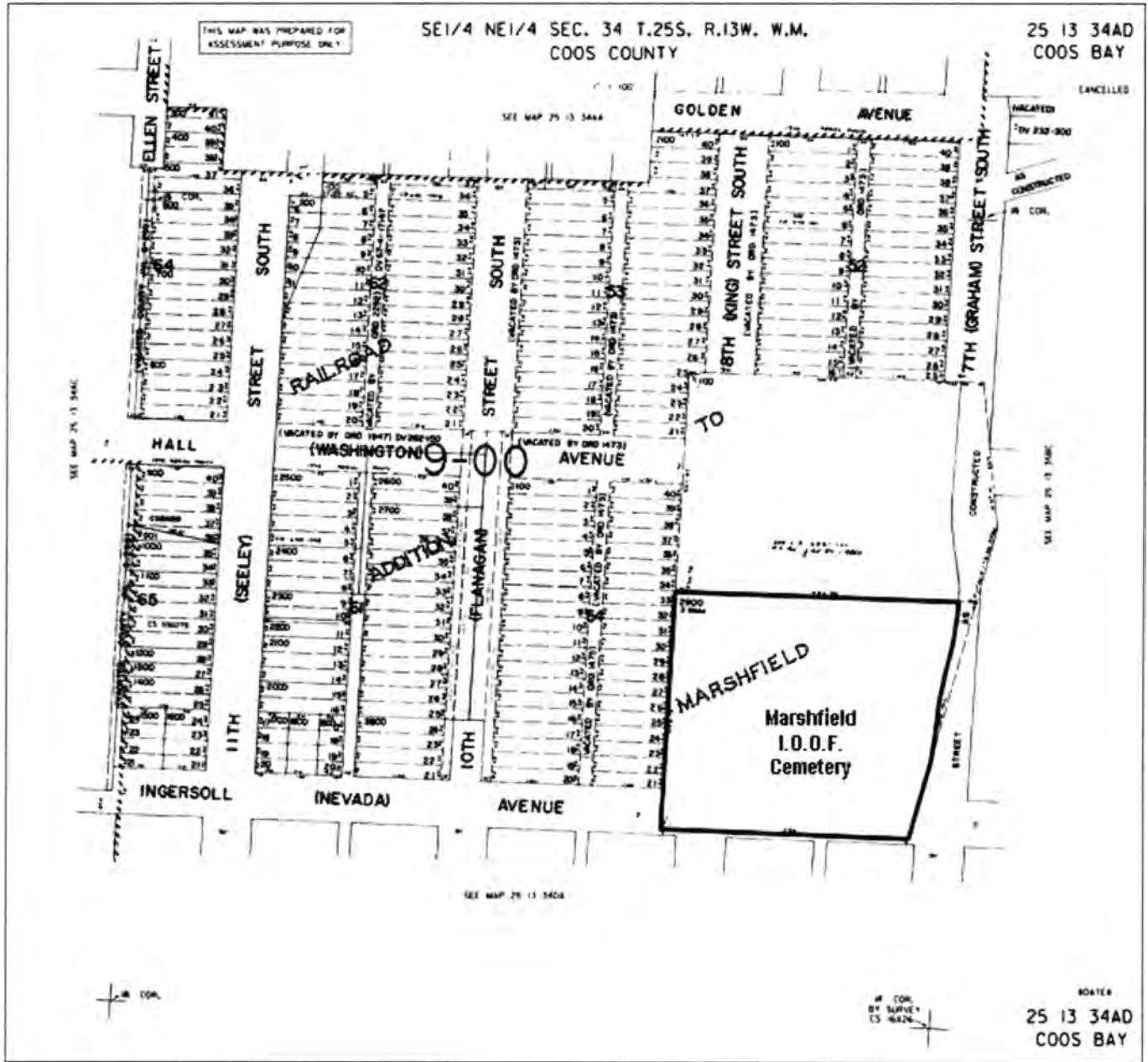
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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N/A
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**Figure 2:** Tax Assessor Map 25 13 34AD, Coos Bay, for the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery Boundary of nominated property marked with black line.



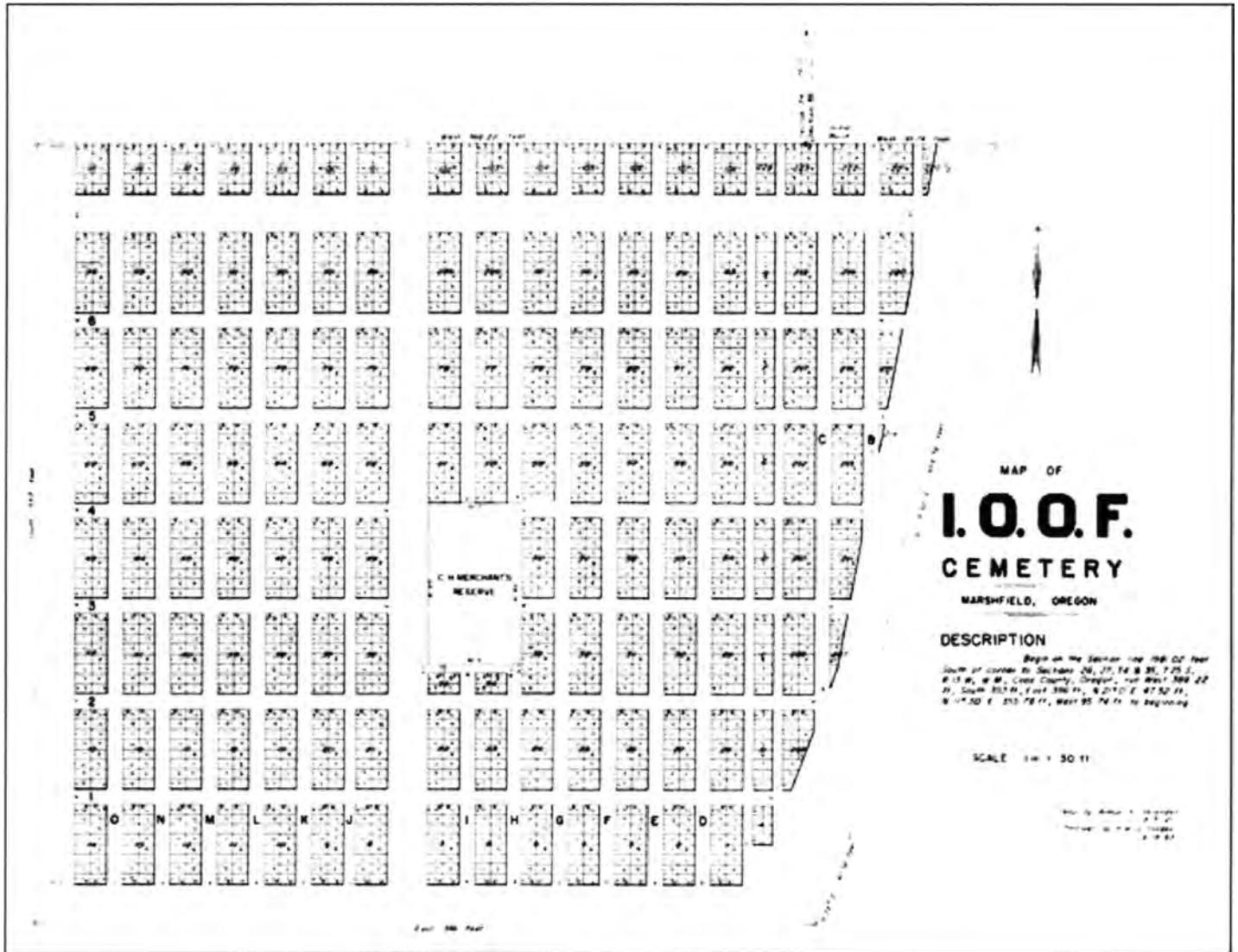
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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N/A
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Figure 3: Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery Map, 1921 (original), 1983, (redrawn)





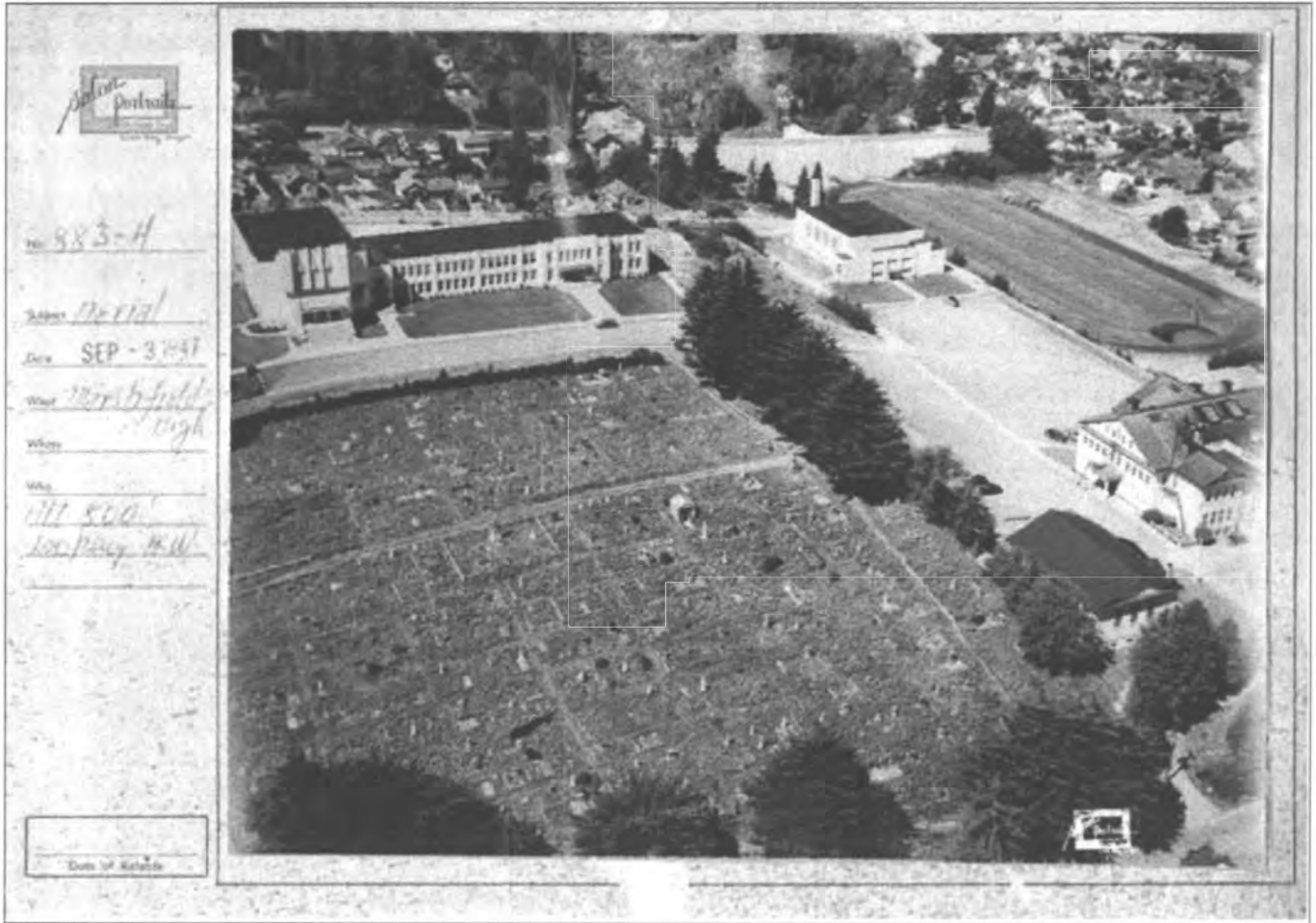
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery
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N/A
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**Figure 4:** Aerial photo of Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery, September 3, 1947



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**Figure 5:** Aerial photo of Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery, 1955



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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N/A
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**Figure 6:** Photo of the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery looking northwest, taken by John Bacher, post-1939 (University of Oregon, Digital Archives, #pna\_21859.jpg)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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**Figure 7:** Photo of the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery looking west, taken by John Bacher, post-1939 (University of Oregon, Digital Archives, #pna\_01077.jpg)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Marshfield I.O.O.F Cemetery
Name of Property
Coos Co., OR
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents Page 44

**Figure 8:** Photo of the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery looking west, taken by John Bacher, post-1939 (University of Oregon, Digital Archives, #pna\_01078.jpg)



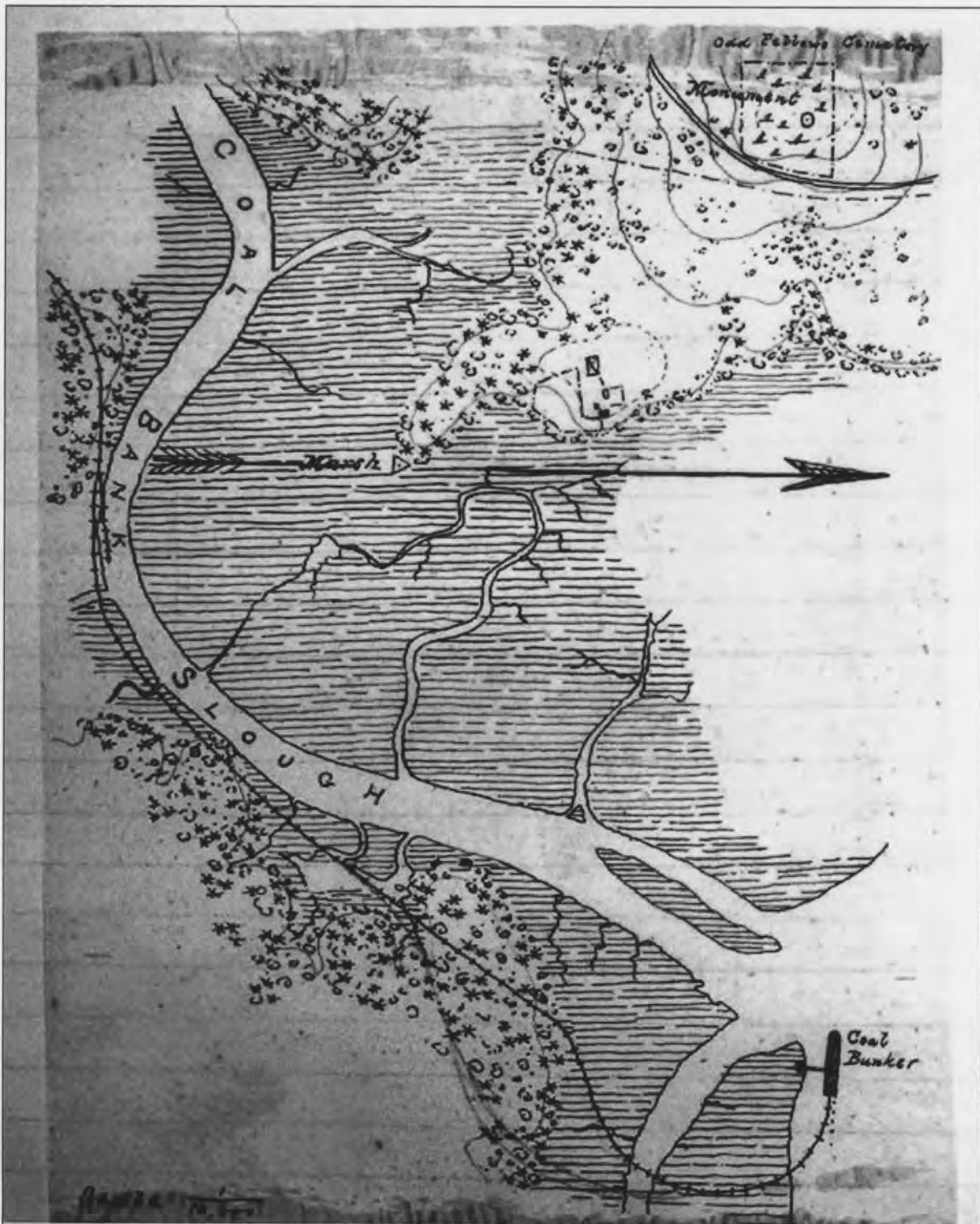
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Marshfield I.O.O.F Cemetery
Name of Property
Coos Co., OR
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Documents Page 45

Figure 9: E. F. Dicken's notebook map of Marsh Station, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1889



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Marshfield I.O.O.F Cemetery
Name of Property
Coos Co., OR
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents Page 46

Figure 10: Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery logbook (Sunset Memorial Park volume), Page 2, Block 2

Block 2 I. O. O. F. Cemetery, Marshfield, Oregon.

Lot No.	NAME	Date of Burial		
		Year	Month	Day
1	Carl Weber	1907	1907	March
2	(B. Barnett) F. E. Wilson	1882	1907	May 24
3	Hermitta Robinson	1815	1907	June 10
4	Marshfield Acric No. 538 F.O.E.	1818	1919	July 27
5	Hermitta Robinson	1815	1907	June 10
6	John T. Smith	1828	1907	June 10
7	Miss John Dolan	1891	1907	December 24
8	"	1891	1907	Jan 24
9	" (B. Barnett)	1860	1907	June 10

DIAGRAM OF BLOCK

16	13	12	9	8	5	4	1
15	14	11	10	7	6	3	2

Lots 538 Ft.

Lot No.	NAME	NATIVITY	AGE	CAUSE OF DEATH	Date of Burial
1	Ernest Johnson	Oregon	29	Phlegm of Omit	Mar 28 1907
2	EDWARD T. B. 1864	Wash	43	Tuberculosis	Feb 10 1907
3	KATE WEBER	Germany	36	Complications	Feb 10 1907
4	Ernest B. A. Johnson	Oregon			Mar 10 1907
5	CHARLES ESTABROOK	Ireland	66	Complications	Sept 9 1907
6	M. U. Johnson			Complications	Sept 20 1907
7	Reuben B. B. B.	Canada	78	Heart failure	Jan 20 1907
8	James L. Robinson		65	Consumption	Nov 25 1907
9	THOMAS M. BARRON	Ireland	76	Wagon in stomach	Jan 10 1907
10	Hattie Thomas	England	46	Cancer	Mar 19 1907
11	Ernest Robinson	Oregon	29	Phlegm of Omit	Mar 28 1907
12	Miss H. H. H.	Illinois	75	Stroke	Jan 20 1907
13	Laura H. Smith		79		Feb 10 1907
14	John Dolan	Canada	47	Drowned	Jan 20 1907
15	William B. B. B.		86	Miscible	July 10 1907

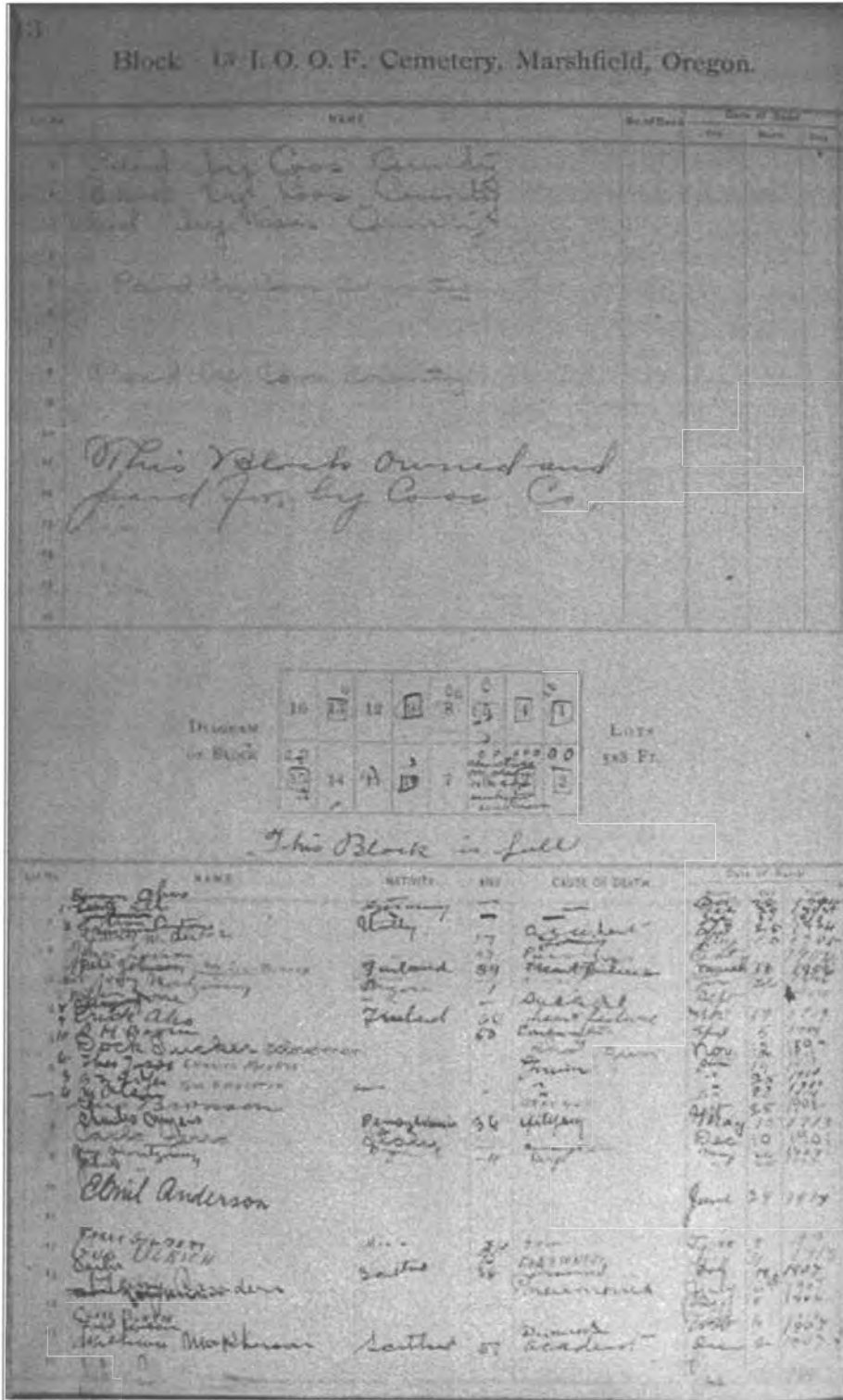
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Marshfield I.O.O.F Cemetery
Name of Property
Coos Co., OR
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents Page 47

Figure 11: Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery logbook (Sunset Memorial Park volume), Page 13, Block 13





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Marshfield I.O.O.F Cemetery
Name of Property
Coos Co., OR
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Documents Page 48

**Figure 12** Photo of seven oldest Civil War veterans at the Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery, G.A.R. State Convention, 1926 (Coos Historical & Maritime Museum #988-P312, #988-P135)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Marshfield I.O.O.F. Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Coos

DATE RECEIVED: 6/22/12      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/24/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/07/12      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/08/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000483

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    8.7.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Photograph 1 of 9  
Marshfield 100F Cemetery  
Coos County, OR

7 9 00E 030 MARIA 336



Photograph 2 of 9  
Marshfield 100F Cemetery  
Coos County, OR

F 9 001 030 KMA 336



Photograph 3 of 9  
Marshfield 100F Cemetery  
Coos County, OR

5 9 091 899 0707 956





Photograph 4 of 9  
Marshfield 100F Cemetery  
Coos County, OR

8 0 00E 030 DNRA 936



Photograph 5 of 9  
Marshfield IOOF Cemetery  
Coos County, OR

10 0 001 030 9912A 336



Photograph 6 of 9  
Marshfield 100F Cemetery  
Coos County, OR

12 5 001 030 03NA 336



Photograph 7 of 9  
Marshfield IOOF Cemetery  
Coos County, OR

080 0000 836





Photograph 8 of 9

Marshfield 100F Cemetery

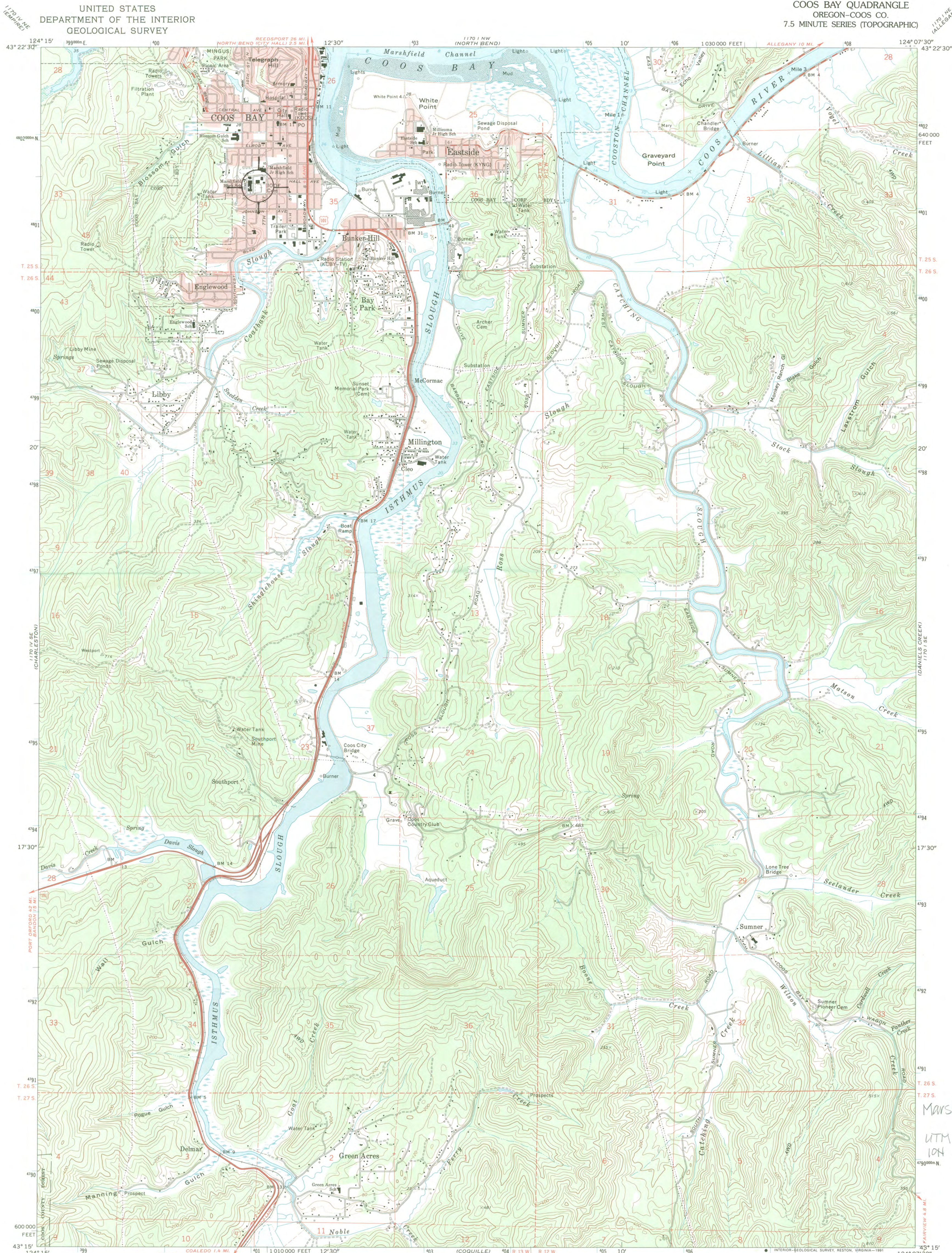
Coos County, OR

16 0 001 030 577A 330



Photograph 9 of 9  
Marshfield 100F Cemetery  
Coos County, OR

18 3 1992 939 CHNA 336



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1969-70. Field checked 1971

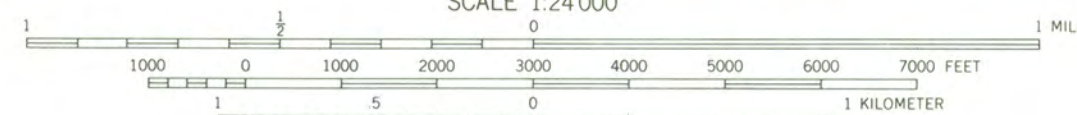
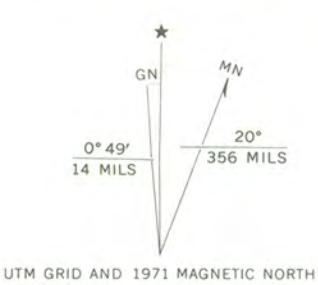
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS/NOAA Chart 18587 (1972). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Oregon coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic). 1927 North American Datum 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 10 shown in blue. The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5 minute intersections is given in USGS Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled inundation



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 20-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 6 FEET



OREGON  
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

COOS BAY, OREG.  
43124-C2-TF-024

1971  
PHOTOINSPECTED 1975  
DMA 1170 I SW-SERIES V892

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Map photoinspected 1975  
No major culture or drainage changes observed

Marshfield 100F canopy  
UTM Reference:  
104 401150 4801627



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Parks and Recreation Department

State Historic Preservation Office

725 Summer St NE, Ste C

Salem, OR 97301-1266

(503) 986-0671

Fax (503) 986-0793

[www.oregonheritage.org](http://www.oregonheritage.org)



June 14, 2012



Ms. Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
USDOI National Park Service - Cultural Resources  
1201 "Eye" Street NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Shull:

At the recommendation of the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, I hereby nominate the following historic property to the National Register of Historic Places:

**HARDMAN IOOF HALL**  
51186 MAIN ST  
HARDMAN, MORROW COUNTY

**MARSHFIELD IOOF CEMETERY**  
750 7TH ST  
COOS BAY, COOS COUNTY

We appreciate your consideration of this nomination. If questions arise, please contact Diana Painter, National Register & Survey Coordinator, at (503) 986-0668.

Sincerely,

Roger Roper  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Encl.