

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100001668


Date Listed: 9/25/2017

Property Name: Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries Historic District

County: Hillsborough

State: FL

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

9-25-2017  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

#### Section 8: Areas of Significance

“Early Settlement” is not an area of significance; the proper category found in the National Register Bulletin “How to Complete the National Register Registration Form” is “EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT.” The nomination is hereby amended to reflect this change.

#### Section 8: Cultural Affiliation

The “Cultural Affiliation box is to be used only when Criterion D is cited. Criterion D is not checked; references to cultural affiliation are hereby deleted.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Florida SHPO was notified of this amendment.

#### **DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file**

**Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

56-1668



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries Historic District

other names/site number Tampa Burial Ground; HI05595

2. Location

street & number 606 East Harriston Street  not for publication

city or town Tampa  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Hillsborough code 057 zip code 33602

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Missa Torane, Deputy SHPO 8/7/17  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

9-25-2017

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
2	0	sites
4	0	structures
7	0	objects
15	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Narrative Description

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

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ART

**Period of Significance**

1850-1957

**Significant Dates**

1850

1874

1957

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

African American, Cuban, Italian

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

# \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 apprx

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1][7] [3][5][6][6][4][1] [3][0][9][3][0][3][2]  
Zone Easting Northing  
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis Fernandez; Dr. W. Carl Shiver; Ruben A. Acosta

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date May 2016

street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Tampa and Diocese of St. Petersburg

street & number ATTN: Real Estate Division 306 E. Jackson St telephone

city or town Tampa state FL zip code 33602

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

OAKLAWN AND ST. LOUIS CEMETERIES HISTORIC  
DISTRICT  
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DESCRIPTION

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**SUMMARY**

Located in the city limits north of downtown Tampa, Oaklawn Cemetery consists of two adjacent burial grounds: Oaklawn Cemetery, established in 1850 and the oldest public cemetery in Tampa, and St. Louis Cemetery, a Catholic cemetery established in 1874. Both cemeteries are now known under the single name Oaklawn, despite retaining separate ownership. The two cemeteries jointly occupy approximately three acres of land at 606 East Harrison Street. The historic district is bounded by Harrison Street on the south, Jefferson Street on the east, Laurel Street on the north, and Morgan Street on the west. U.S Interstate Highway 275 is located one block north of the cemetery. Oaklawn Cemetery and St. Louis Catholic Cemetery now operate as one cemetery with a common main entrance (Photos 1-2) surrounded by a single masonry boundary wall that encloses both cemeteries. Today, the cemetery consists of approximately three acres with approximately 1,561 graves<sup>1</sup> that share the same development history. Many of Tampa's pioneer families are interred in the cemetery, including thirteen mayors of the city, one Florida governor, two Florida Supreme Court justices, and the framers of five state constitutions. A large number of Hispanic (mainly Cuban) and Italian families are buried in the Catholic portion of the cemetery. The historic district also has the graves of Union and Confederate veterans, and a portion of the cemetery was set aside for slaves and "marginal" persons. The two cemeteries exhibit a wide variety of grave markers, including tombstones, columns, obelisks, vaults, statues, and grouped elements in family burial sites. The monuments exhibit characteristic Victorian-era symbols and decorations associated with various social and fraternal organizations.

**SETTING**

The Tampa Bay metropolitan area, which includes the cities of Tampa, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, and their extensive suburban areas, has a population of over 2,000,000 permanent residents. Located in the western part of central Florida, Tampa is situated at the mouth of the Hillsborough River on Tampa Bay—an inlet of the Gulf of Mexico. The city is the seat of Hillsborough County and is a major financial center. With its nearby beaches and other attractions, sporting facilities, and climate, many thousands of tourists each year add substantially to the economic vitality of the area. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Tampa was a city of 335,709 residents in a county of about 1,229,226. Originally considered part of the outskirts of town in a residential area, Oaklawn Cemetery is now part of the downtown area surrounded by churches, businesses, governmental offices, and residential condominiums.

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<sup>1</sup> Find-A-Grave.Com, Oaklawn Cemetery, Tampa, Florida.

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OAKLAWN AND ST. LOUIS CEMETERIES HISTORIC  
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**Narrative Description**

The cemetery is characterized by generally flat terrain and brick paved lanes dividing manicured, irregularly-shaped sections. The cemetery's main entrance is located on its southern boundary, with secondary entrances on the east, west, and north boundaries. The cemetery is enclosed by a rusticated block and concrete wall, most of which is original. The original rock-faced concrete block wall forms the southern boundary and most of the eastern and western boundaries. The blocks are set in a regular pattern topped by a concrete ledge divided by piers set at regular intervals. The northernmost portion of the east and west wall as well as the northern wall is formed by a rusticated concrete block walls, most likely constructed during the early to mid-1950s. This newer wall is similar in style, massing, and height to the original wall. The cemetery is accessible by both vehicular and foot traffic.

The southwest, south, and east entrances provide breaks in the original boundary wall. The southwest and south entrances feature concrete piers and cast iron gates (photo 1). The south entrance is topped by a cast iron arch over the entrance advertising the name of the cemetery. The east entrance retains the original concrete block piers with the same cast iron gates as the other entrances. The two other entrances, one on the north and one on the northwest, are set in the portion of the wall constructed c. 1955 but have the same type of cast iron gates and dimensions as the other entrances.

**Cemetery Plan**

Oaklawn and St. Louis cemeteries are divided into irregularly-shaped sections, and each cemetery is considered a separate contributing site to the district. The original portion of the Oaklawn cemetery was evenly partitioned into four large square sections divided by brick paved roads lined by concrete curbs (photo 2-3). In 1880, Oaklawn was expanded to the east by enlarging the eastern squares. The addition of the St. Louis Catholic Cemetery on the north enlarged the two northern squares of the original plat of Oaklawn, with the grid extended to the boundary between the two cemeteries.<sup>2</sup> At the center of the boundary, a secondary entrance road extends west to Monroe Street, and the north-south road from Oaklawn curves slightly before continuing north. These two segments of road which extend through the sections of St. Louis Catholic Cemetery are not paved with brick, although the path is clearly identifiable by granite and concrete curbs (photo 4). A brick and concrete boundary marker designates the border between the two cemeteries (photo 5). The current Oaklawn cemetery consists of approximately three acres with approximately 1,561 identified burials dating from 1850 to the present.

The northeast portion of the original Oaklawn cemetery (now located roughly in the center of the present cemetery) was set aside for African-American burials, although none of the original markers, which were made

<sup>2</sup> The St. Louis Catholic Cemetery remains a separate cemetery from Oaklawn and is operated by the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

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DESCRIPTION

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of wood, remain. An early plat indicated their location; the Tampa Historical Society has now placed a historic marker on this location. In 1858, the City and County agreed bury those individuals who lacked sufficient funds; however, it is unknown in which part of the cemetery those burials occurred. Additionally, based upon an 1866 resolution adopted by the County Commissioners, it appears that at one time in the 1850s and 1860s, individuals were being buried throughout the city burial ground, even under the streets, without the purchase of private lots. Although no grave depressions were evident, it is likely that unmarked graves exist throughout the cemetery. Archaeological investigations are ongoing to find lost burials.

The 1878 map showing plot ownership in Oaklawn Cemetery revealed that the majority of plots were owned by white Americans. The northern part of the current cemetery, which comprises St. Louis Catholic Cemetery, features a large number of Hispanic and Italian names as well as Spanish and Latin epitaphs. Although the majority of burials are placed on an east-west axis, some are positioned on a north-south axis. Some of the more ornate markers and obelisks were used to memorialize two or three individuals of the same family with a different name on each side of the marker. East-west positioning is indicative of Christian burial practices. It appears the placement of graves on a north-south axis was done in order to conform to the limited amount of space available in some family plots and to use one marker for two or more individuals. The majority of the monuments date from 1850 to 1930. The oldest surviving marker commemorates Reverend Alexander Martin (1799-1850) and dates from 1850. Located in Section 2A, the marker consists of a flat, streaked marble panel containing the name and birth and death dates of the deceased and a laudatory inscription.

### **Types of Burial Markers**

The oldest tablets and monuments are located in the southern and western portions of the cemetery. A few white metal monuments (cast zinc) are scattered through the western sections. Monuments and tablets are composed of concrete, marble, and granite. The majority of the stone and concrete markers are small and rectangular, containing just the name and birth and death dates of the person buried there, like the small granite one for Mayor Henry C. Ferris (1848-1902) (photo 6). Some of the original headstones which were missing or damaged have been replaced by granite. Reportedly, some of the graves along the cemetery's western edge were moved to other locations in Oaklawn as well as to other cemeteries when Morgan Street was widened.<sup>3</sup> A few new interments, which are found primarily in the eastern sections of the cemetery, feature granite headstones.

There appear to be clear differences in marker types and styles between Oaklawn and the later St. Louis Cemetery, most likely a direct result of the religious (catholic vs protestant), social affiliations, and burial customs of those interred in the two cemeteries. A majority of the above-ground tombs are located within the

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<sup>3</sup> Theodore Lesley, "The History of Tampa's Oaklawn Cemetery," Journal of the Tampa Historical Society, Vol. XVII, November, pp. 67-69. Reprint from "Pioneer Florida Page," Tampa Tribune, March 9, 1958.



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boundaries of St. Louis Cemetery, while a majority of the most monumental interments are located within the older Oaklawn cemetery, including all the obelisks within the boundaries of the district. Many of the locally prepared folk markers are located in the western half of the cemetery and the sections which were formerly part of St. Louis Catholic Cemetery. These include white and green tiled concrete graves (photo 7). Tiled graves in Tampa were primarily built by Francesco Constantino and his monument company.<sup>4</sup> Constantino immigrated to Tampa from Italy and produced numerous tiled graves in all of the city's ethnic cemeteries. Individual mausoleums, obelisks, above ground box tombs, and coping slabs are present throughout the cemetery.

Grave markers from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries depict mortuary iconography reflecting Victorian era sentimentality. Crosses (photo 8-9), lambs (photo 10), draped cloths and urns (photo 11-12), angels (photo 13), the "weeping willow" (photo 14), clasped or pointing hands (photo 15), doves, books and scrolls that embody attitudes towards life, death, and the afterlife. Some markers depict associations with social organizations such as the Masonic Lodge (photo 16). Within St. Louis Cemetery, a number of monuments incorporate ceramic cameo portraits of the deceased (photo 17).

Oaklawn Cemetery contains a substantial number of burial monuments associated with various woodmen organizations, including the Woodmen of the World. World Life Insurance Society is a fraternal benefit society based in Omaha, Nebraska, United States, that operates a large privately held insurance company for its members.<sup>5</sup> The history of this and associated organizations included the erection of numerous distinctive tombstones depicting tree stumps (photo 18) across the country before 1930. This was an early benefit of Woodmen of the World membership, and they are found in cemeteries nationwide. This program was abandoned in the late 1920s as it was too costly. The majority of the grave markers are engraved with the vital statistics of the deceased and simple epitaphs. Typically, the headstones would include a depiction of the WOW relics and symbols of the organization. These include most notably a stump or felled tree (inscribed into a more generic monument in some cases, rather than the more noticeable instances of the entire monument being in the shape of the log or tree-stump); the maul and wedge; an axe; and often a Dove of Peace with an olive branch. As Woodmen "do not lie," a common inscription was "Here rests a Woodman of the World". A significant example of this type of monument is the plot for the W. C. Hubner Family, which contains four monuments with a horizontal log set on top of the head stones (photo 19).

Cradle graves are also found in the cemetery, usually as part of larger family plots containing multiple interments (photo 20). These crib-like stone or masonry forms contained seasonal flower beds. Despite their

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<sup>4</sup> Gregory P. Ferrara, "Tampa's Centro Asturiano Cemetery" *Tampa Bay History* (Fall/Winter 1996), p. 70-71. Accessed July 3, 2017. Available online via University of South Florida, Scholar Commons [http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/flstud\\_pub/2545](http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/flstud_pub/2545). According to Ferrara, Constantino was also responsible for much of the tile pavement found in Ybor City.

<sup>5</sup> Alvin J. Schmidt, *Fraternal Organizations* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1980) p. 355

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name, they were not limited to marking the burials of only children; these graves were used for the burials of individuals of any age.

Memorial plantings were common in rural cemeteries and often decorated fenced family plots. Popular trees and plants such as cedar, oak, ivy, and myrtle were installed at gravesites by survivors; some endure to the present day. Decorative enclosures are a charming feature of Oaklawn and were very common in the 19th and 20th centuries. Made of ironwork, zinc, bronze, or masonry, these enclosed a single grave or, more commonly, a family plot (photos 21-24).<sup>6</sup> Fences vary in complexity and design, from simple two-rail loop top fences to elaborate gothic or neoclassical style fences with spear tops, darts, or fleur-de-lis elements.

### Cemetery Buildings

Two buildings are located within the boundaries of the cemetery. One, a masonry building, the Coffin Storage Building or Receiving vault (photo 25) is located in the northeast corner of the cemetery along the eastern boundary wall in the section which was formerly the St. Louis Catholic Cemetery. Constructed c. 1894, the building was used as a coffin storage site prior to the interment of new bodies. This small building has a concrete slab foundation and is in the plan of a west-facing Latin cross. The red brick building is set in common bond, which is broken only by a concrete course at the same level as the window sill. Two windows located in the center of the north and south arms of the cross have been enclosed with brick, but the original concrete sills and brick segmental arches remain visible over the original window openings. The entrance, which is located on the west facade, retains its segmental arch. The building was restored as part of the cemetery beautification project in the Spring of 2015.<sup>7</sup>

The other building, the Sexton's House (photo 26) is a wood frame building built c. 1910 and is used for equipment storage and maintenance activities. It historically was used as a covered area under which memorial services could be held during inclement weather, for storage, and, possibly, as an office for the superintendent of the cemetery.<sup>8</sup> The building is located on the north side of the east-west brick paved road in the northeast section of the cemetery. Oriented to face south, it is in need of repair. Set on a concrete pier foundation with wood and screen infill, the wood frame building features weatherboard siding. The building has a deep porch which features board and batten siding. The porch is supported by wood piers topped by half-size Tuscan columns with a simple wood balustrade connecting the piers. One entrance, with a replacement metal door, is located off-center on the south elevation under the porch. Another entrance with a replacement panel door is located on the west elevation. The windows, located one each on the east, north, and south elevations, are

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<sup>6</sup> "Vaults, Cradle Graves, Memorial Plantings, And Decorative Enclosure," <http://www.tampagov.net/parks-and-recreation/programs/info/cemeteries/oaklawn-walking-touroaklawn-walking-tour-cradles>

<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth Behrman, "Parishioners Rededicate 'Coffin Storage Building' at Old Tampa Cemetery," Tampa Bay Tribune, May 16, 2015.

<sup>8</sup> Rodney Kite Powell, "History & Heritage: Oakland Cemetery Deserves to Be Preserved," Tampa Bay Tribune, June 17, 2016.

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largely boarded over, although the east window appears to be a 2/1-light double-hung sash window. The hip roof has flared eaves and is clad in sheet metal topped with a ventilator. Brackets, rounded pendants, and knee braces around the porch and exposed rafters around the entire building provide decoration.

**Tombs, Monuments and Obelisks**

Several prominent tombs and obelisks punctuate the landscape of Oaklawn Cemetery and contrast against the more common concrete or marble headstones and monuments. The most prominent tombs and sculptural monuments are located within the boundaries of St. Louis Cemetery (except for the Kirkpatrick Tomb), while the other monuments and all of the obelisks are found within the boundaries of the earlier Oaklawn Cemetery. Four tombs are counted as contributing structures, and seven monuments or obelisks are counted as objects.

Ybor Tomb

One of the most prominent tombs is the burial place of Vicente Martinez Ybor, the founder of Ybor City, who was buried in St. Louis Catholic Cemetery after his death in 1896 (photo 27). The Ybor Tomb consists of two stacked, above-ground, stuccoed burial vaults constructed of concrete and painted white. A large cross is located on the west side. The bottom vault, which houses Ybor's remains, is larger than the upper vault, which holds Ybor's grandson, who died at under three years of age ten years later in 1906. The tomb reflects the common design for many above-ground tombs found along the Gulf Coast and in the Caribbean.

Chavez Tomb

A pair of low barrel-vaulted tombs are located near the burial site of Barron Philips, but the largest above ground tomb is located at the north end of St. Louis Cemetery. The Chavez family vault is an above ground, barrel vaulted brick tomb finished with stucco (photo 28). Two bricked and stuccoed doorways would allow access to the burial chambers. A plaque with the Chavez family name is located above the doorways. Very little is known about the Chavez family or their history in Tampa.

Kirkpatrick Tomb

The Kirkpatrick Tomb, located next to the east boundary wall of the cemetery, is one of two large, triple barrel vaulted tombs in the cemetery (photo 29). Its simple design consists of three attached barrel vaults fronted by arched walls across the ends. A marble marker placed in front of the tomb identifies the internments within. The second tomb is of a similar design, but features a smaller arched end wall.

Ghira Monument, "Mourning Woman"

The Ghira monument consists of a veiled woman with a bowed head holding a large cross and a wreath (photo 30-31). The Italian marble sculpture is placed atop a large marble pedestal with the inscription marking Ghira's birth and death dates, and is located in the center of the fenced-in Ghira family plot. The monument is one of

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only two sculptural figures of women within the cemetery, and is the only one that is undamaged due to vandalism.

Kneeling Woman and the Valeria Butzloff Tomb Plot

The second figural sculpture within the cemetery is a marble kneeling woman holding a wreath in one hand located over the grave of Anna Butzloff Schenk (photo 32) Unlike the Ghira monument, this one was damaged by vandalism, and is missing her head and right forearm. Adjacent to Anna Butzloff's grave is the tomb of her sister Valeria Butzloff (photo 33). Her tomb features classical revival styling that creates the appearance of a small temple with a triangular pediment. Bas relief ivy surrounds the inscription on the west side of the tomb, which also features a prominent ceramic cameo in the center showing Valeria.

Lesley Monument

The Lesley monument is the largest of several arched monuments or markers within the cemetery. Sculpted from granite and standing on a granite base, the monument consists of a large arch inscribed with the name "Lesley" supported by two pillars, which are engraved with the name, birth, and death dates of four members of the family (photo 34). While not the tallest monument in the cemetery, it appears to be the most massive and is prominently located off the central brick street leading from the cemetery entrance.

William and Emilia Spencer Obelisk

In addition to tombs and other monuments, several obelisks, both large and small, are found in Oaklawn Cemetery. One of the best examples of the smaller obelisks marks the grave of William Samuel Spencer and his wife Emilia. Spencer was Hillsboro County Sheriff during the Civil War. The white marble obelisk stands atop a multi-part base with stylized pediments and bas-relief arched name and date panels for Spencer and his family members. The obelisk itself is decorated with chamfered corners and a stylized ribbon (photo 35).

Brown Family Obelisk

Among the most highly decorated obelisks is the Brown Family Obelisk (photo 36), which marks the family of former city councilman William T. Brown (1810-1868) and his son William H. Brown (1842-1870), who served as a private in 5th Florida Infantry of the Confederate States Army<sup>9</sup> This obelisk is also about six feet in height and is made of granite. The tapered sides of the marker have decorative borders. The base has a bas-relief inscription honoring William Brown. The inscription on the base reads "To know him was to love him, though taken from us, let us not forget that he has crossed over the roiling restless tide of death and awaits us on the other side." The obelisk is located in a family burial ground in which the graves of the remainder of the family are marked with ordinary flat headstones.

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<sup>9</sup> "William T. Brown," Tampa City Council, Members January 1849–June 1904, <http://www.tampagov.net/city-clerk/info/archives/previous-city-council-members/tampa-city-council-members-january-1849--june-1904>.

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DESCRIPTION

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Perry G. Wall Obelisk

One of the two tallest obelisks in the cemetery marks the grave of Perry G. Wall, Jr. (1867-1944) and his family, which is located along the west boundary of Oaklawn. The granite monument (photo 37) stands in a plot surrounded by a cast iron fence. The unadorned obelisk stands over seven feet tall and is on a large base with a name and date inscription. The monument is made of grey granite. Perry G. Wall was a probate judge and postmaster of Tampa. His son William W. Wall was a veteran of the Civil War and a prominent local merchant, and his grandson Perry G. Wall, II was mayor (1923-28) and founder of the Knight and Wall Company.<sup>10</sup> Like other family cemetery plots, the obelisk is surrounded by other family burials marked by small headstones.

Henderson Family Obelisk

The tallest obelisk in Oaklawn Cemetery, at over seven feet tall, is the Henderson Obelisk (photo 38). Carved from granite and placed upon a tall base featuring an inscription with W. B. Henderson's name, birth and death dates, family name, and bas relief gothic black letter "H", the plain obelisk is the centerpiece of the Henderson family plot, which is set off by a simple iron fence and includes another short obelisk. The plot is located in the western portion of the cemetery next to the main east-west brick street.

**Modern commemorative markers**

Due to the cemetery's long association with significant people and events in Tampa, the cemetery has a large number of non-historic commemorative markers and modern replacement gravestones. These include markers for graves whose location is unknown (such as the grave of Adam, a lynched slave, or the lost graves of slaves, pirates, and criminals; photo 39-40) and markers commemorating mass graves (photo 41). The Archdiocese of St. Petersburg has also installed commemorative markers for the early pioneering priests (photo 42) and for C. Cecilia Morse, a significant individual who played a key role in the early catholic settlement of San Antonio and the establishment of Catholic education in this region of Florida (photo 43).

**Integrity**

As a whole, the two cemeteries have a high level of historic integrity. They preserve the significant elements of their design, materials, workmanship, location and setting. Despite vandalism, many of the markers and monuments are in good condition and reflect the burial practices of their time and culture. The only significant changes to the cemetery since 1957, after the loss of the boundary wall between St. Louis and Oaklawn Cemetery, are some changes to the boundary walls along the perimeter of the cemetery in response to road widening projects and the addition of non-historic commemorative markers, historic plaques, and replacement headstones.

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<sup>10</sup> "Knight and Wall Company," <http://www.tampapix.com/knightwall.htm>.

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SIGNIFICANCE

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**SUMMARY**

Oaklawn Cemetery is significant at the local level under Criteria A and C the areas of **Exploration/Settlement, Community Planning and Development, Art, and Architecture**. Although earlier cemeteries existed at Fort Brooke and on private land, Oaklawn Cemetery was the first public cemetery in Tampa. As such, it reflects both the city's early settlement pattern and its effort to plan for growth. Originally two separate cemeteries called the Tampa Burial Ground and St. Louis Catholic Cemetery, Oaklawn Cemetery displays Tampa's early social history and development, which is reflected in the people interred in the cemetery and the organization of the cemetery. Oaklawn and St. Louis cemeteries are also important for understanding the burial practices of various ethnic groups, including Tampa's African-American, Hispanic, and Italian communities. It is also notable for its mortuary art forms and architecture, which exhibit the sensibilities of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The cemetery retains a high degree of integrity, preserving most of the original markers, materials, and layout of the cemetery. The period of significance extends from 1850 to 1957, when the cemetery's configuration was last changed with the removal of the boundary fence between St. Louis and Oaklawn Cemeteries.<sup>11</sup> The committee remedied much of the neglect by matching blocks to replace the broken and missing ones and repairing, straightening, and rehangng the iron gates. Dead and dying trees, brush, weeds, and trash were removed.<sup>12</sup>

Oaklawn cemetery derives its primary significance from its association with the early settlement and development of the city of Tampa, and from its significant collection of funerary monuments that speak to mainstream Victorian burial practices and those of ethnic groups including Hispanics and Italians. It also has a significant collection of graves of persons significant in early Tampa and Florida history Therefore, the cemetery meets Criteria Consideration A and D and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

Early Burial Grounds

The Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners established Oaklawn Cemetery, originally known as the Tampa Burial Ground, on April 1, 1850. The Tampa area was settled soon after the federal government established Cantonment (later Fort) Brooke in 1824. Fort Brooke served as the headquarters for the Army of the South and was the main garrison during the Second Seminole War, which ended in 1842. Many settlers who had fled to the security of the fort during the war remained at the end of the hostilities. The community which developed north of the fort adopted the name of Tampa. The first businesses established during 1843. Burials in

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<sup>11</sup> Lesley 1991: 69.

<sup>12</sup> Baxley et al. 1991: 7-9.

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Tampa during this period generally in private family plots or in the Fort Brooke cemetery. A small, informal burial plot existed on Spanish Town Creek, which flowed along Magnolia Avenue in Hyde Park. However, this small plot did not meet the growing community's needs, and in 1850 a new cemetery was established north of what would become downtown Tampa.

Oaklawn Cemetery

Oaklawn Cemetery was established in 1850 as the first public cemetery in Tampa, although it was nameless when first set apart.<sup>13</sup> The Hillsborough County Commission "Ordered that all that part of the County's land lying North of Harrison Street and East of Morgan Street be set a part for a public graveyard."<sup>14</sup> The cemetery was later "enlarged to the east and north by the purchase of land by the Ladies Memorial Society. The tract was then outside the town limits."<sup>15</sup> Many of the earliest graves were marked by simple cypress slabs, as only a few of the wealthy could afford to have marble shipped from the north. Periodic fires and storms swept the area resulting in the loss of many early markers along with the record of individuals interred in the cemetery.<sup>16</sup>

The cemetery was included in the February 1853 plat of Tampa drawn by John Jackson. Designated simply as "Burying Ground," the cemetery occupied block one in the northeast corner of the map. It was considered in "the scrub," an area which developed into Tampa's first African American neighborhood. The northeast section of the cemetery was originally reserved for the burial of African American slaves.<sup>17</sup> The markers for these graves were wood, none of which remain. This section is now located in the center of the present cemetery.

On December 7, 1855, the county commissioners appointed William S. Spencer as Sexton and Superintendent of the cemetery. The commission authorized him to charge \$5 for each body that he buried. Initially, the county sold burial lots at 2.5 cents per square foot with each lot approximately 400 feet square. The funds raised as such were to be designated as the Graveyard Funds and were to be used entirely to fence and repair the graveyard. Doctor J.W. Brookbank, who died without family in May 1854, left a \$50 bequest to be used for fencing the cemetery. Many of the pioneer families in Tampa purchased plots in the cemetery.<sup>18</sup>

When Tampa was reincorporated in December 1855, supervision of the cemetery was transferred to the city. On April 6, 1858, the county commission, in conjunction with the mayor of Tampa, adopted a resolution to

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<sup>13</sup> Baxley et al. 1991: 4; Karl H. Grismer, *Tampa: A History of the City of Tampa and the Tampa Bay Region of Florida* (St. Petersburg: St. Petersburg Printing Company 1950), p. 121; Janus Research/Piper Archaeology Research, Inc. "Archaeological Excavations at Quad Block Site (HI998), City of Tampa 1982), p. 36.; *Tampa Daily Times* 1913 in Janus Research 1932, p. 35.

<sup>14</sup> Hillsborough County Commission 1850:30 in Janus Research 1982:35.

<sup>15</sup> McKay 1955 in Janus Research 1982: 35.

<sup>16</sup> Baxley et al. 1991: 26.

<sup>17</sup> Baxley et al. 1991: 4; Janus Research 1995: 26.

<sup>18</sup> Baxley et al, 1991: 5.

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charge \$10 to bury those individuals who lacked funeral expenses. The city would have responsibility for burying those that died within the city limits and the county for those who died outside the city limits.<sup>19</sup>

The cemetery remained in continuous use throughout the Civil War period. However, the city failed to maintain proper internment records. Internments ceased to follow any set plan. Bodies were interred wherever there was space within the boundaries of the cemetery, including under the set paths within the cemetery. This led the county to pass a resolution to re-regulate burials within Oaklawn. The resolution stated:

Resolve: That, Whereas, graves have been dug and persons buried in the streets and avenues of the city burial ground, and Whereas, the said practice is improper and ought to be prevented: therefore resolved, that no person shall be buried in burial grounds of the city of Tampa except upon private lots, without permission of the Sheriff. Resolve 2. That persons desiring to bury a body in said burial ground, or to purchase a lot in said ground, shall apply to the sheriff, who will point out the place for the grave to be dug, and for this service that applicant shall pay the sheriff \$1, or the sheriff may sell a lot for that purpose not less than 10 feet square at 4 cents per square foot, in accordance with map or survey of same. Resolve 3. That any person violating this order or disregarding the same will be indicted before the grand jury for trespassing.<sup>20</sup>

Despite the resolution, the cemetery suffered from a lack of maintenance during the post-war period. The original plan also appears to have been lost during this period. As a result, W.C. Brown resurveyed the cemetery in the spring of 1878 in order to return order to burials within Oaklawn.

Various accounts mention several organizations which formed during the 1870s to maintain the cemetery (although the accounts could be speaking of one organization with several different names). In 1873, the women of Tampa created the Town Improvement Society which undertook the beautification of Oaklawn Cemetery. By holding lawn fetes and raffles, the women raised enough money to employ a caretaker and to remove the undergrowth which had taken over the cemetery.<sup>21</sup> During the 1870s, the Nickel Club raised funds to maintain the cemetery through the nickels collected at musical programs sponsored by the group. The Ladies Memorial Society of Tampa later organized to maintain the cemetery and continued in their work until 1923.<sup>22</sup> In 1880, when all of the original lots had been sold, the cemetery was enlarged through a donation of land on

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<sup>19</sup> Baxey et al, 1991: 5-6;

<sup>20</sup> Baxley et al. 1991: 6.

<sup>21</sup> Grismer 1950: 1-62.

<sup>22</sup> Lesley 1991: 69.



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the east side of the cemetery by James T. Magbee.<sup>23</sup> These lots sold quickly, with most graves in the eastern portion of the cemetery dating between 1880 and 1940. By 1913, the name of the burial ground changed from Oak Lawn to Oak Lawn Cemetery.<sup>24</sup> At a later date the name was further shortened to the modern “Oaklawn”.

With the onset of the Great Depression of the 1930s, Tampa lacked the funds to maintain the cemetery. In 1939, the Federal Writers’ Project of the Work Projects Administration included a description of the cemetery:

Oak Lawn Cemetery, a four-block area with an entrance on Harrison St. between Morgan and Pierces Sts., is enclosed by a brick and concrete wall, and the grounds are shaded by ancient oaks and cedars. During the yellow-fever epidemic in 1873, Tampa citizens died in such numbers that there was no time to dig graves, and bodies were buried in hastily dug trenches, now blank spaces surrounded by gravestones.<sup>25</sup>

With the Depression, Oaklawn entered a period of neglect which lasted roughly 25 years. Finally, as a result of urban renewal and efforts to beautify the area in the 1950s, Tampa Mayor Nick Nuccio appointed a committee to survey the cemetery and make recommendations in 1957. In their survey, the committee noted that two sections of the stone wall had been crushed in automobile accidents several years prior. In the intervening period, many of the stones had been removed. The iron gates had been rammed by cars, bent, and, in one case, torn from its hinges and thrown to the side. Even the metal arch over the south entrance was in serious need of repair. According to Theodore Lesley in a 1958 article in the Tampa Tribune, “A fence with a double gate long divided [St. Louis] Catholic Cemetery from its neighbor to the south. But it, too, has long suffered ravages of time and recently had to be disposed of as junk.”<sup>26</sup> The committee remedied much of the neglect by matching blocks to replace the broken and missing ones and repairing, straightening, and rehangng the iron gates. Dead and dying trees, brush, weeds, and trash were removed.<sup>27</sup>

St. Louis Cemetery

By the 1870s, the growing population of Hispanic and Italian immigrants in Tampa created the demand for a separate cemetery. Early Catholic residents did not want to be buried in the largely Protestant cemetery, because Catholics had to be buried in sanctified land. Thus, on March 26, 1874, B.C. and Mary A. Leonardi conveyed to the Bishop of St. Augustine, Augustin Verot, one acre north of Tampa as a burial ground for a Catholic

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<sup>23</sup> Baxley et al 1991: 6-7.

<sup>24</sup> Lesley 1991:69; Tampa Daily Times 1913 in Janus Research 1982:35.

<sup>25</sup> Federal Writers’Project 1939, p. 290.

<sup>26</sup> Lesley 1991:69.

<sup>27</sup> Baxley et al. 1991:7-9.

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cemetery.<sup>28</sup> This cemetery, which adjoined the Tampa Burial Ground on the north, was named after St. Louis Catholic Church (now Sacred Heart Church). The Church was established in 1859 and served the Tampa area as the only Catholic church until ca. 1890, when Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church was founded in Ybor City.<sup>29</sup>

St. Louis Catholic Church served many of the earliest residents of Tampa and initially gained a number of members when Vicente Martinez Ybor established Ybor City. Ybor founded the community when he purchased land in October of 1885 as the Ybor City Land and Development Company. He opened the first cigar factory the following year. Interestingly, he didn't plan to move here at all. Having made cigars in Cuba and Key West, Ybor wanted to move his operation to Galveston, Texas. But his friend Gavino Gutierrez talked him into checking out Tampa. Ybor liked what he saw - especially the tax subsidy the city offered. When John Thomas Lesley agreed to sell him 40 acres northeast of downtown, the deal was set. Ybor offered land, buildings, and other incentives to the cigar makers in Key West and Havana if they would relocate to Ybor City. Many cigar manufacturers did relocate, mainly from the island of Key West, thereby drawing a multitude of workers of Hispanic and Italian descent. This dramatically changed the demographic character of Tampa, establishing what was at the time a unique cultural mix in the state of Florida. As a result, Tampa boomed during the late 1800s. Ybor was buried in St. Louis Catholic Cemetery after his death on December 14, 1896.<sup>30</sup> The family had planned that his interment in Tampa be only temporary and that the body would be transferred to the family vault in Colon Cemetery in Havana, Cuba, but the transfer was never made.<sup>31</sup>

St. Louis Cemetery served as the principle burial place for Catholics in Tampa until the establishment of separate cemeteries for primarily Catholic immigrants, such as L'Unione Italiana Cemetery in 1900, Old Centro Español Cemetery in 1904, and Old Centro Asturiano Cemetery in 1909. Burials continued within the cemetery until the Diocese of St. Petersburg opened Calvary Cemetery in 1960.

Conclusion

Oaklawn is unique in Tampa as it is associated with the city's earliest period of settlement and development, and with the city's social development. Within its walls soldiers, politicians, immigrants, businessmen, slaves, Protestants and Catholics are buried in close proximity to one another, and the divisions between these groups blur. The cemetery contrasts with the later, larger Woodlawn Cemetery, home to a larger proportion of the city's Civil War veteran interments, which are separated into the customary Union and Confederate sections. Oaklawn contrasts as well with Tampa's significant ethnic cemeteries such as Old Centro Asturiano Cemetery

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<sup>28</sup> Mary Alla Fuentes (obituary) Tampa Bay Times, August 26, 2012.

<sup>29</sup> Floyd n.d.:2-10; Baxley et al. 1991:6.

<sup>30</sup> Tampa Tribune, December 17, 1896.

<sup>31</sup> Baxley et al. 1991:6; Westfall 1978: 16.

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(1904) or L'Unione Italiana Cemetery (1900). However, it set the model for placing cemeteries of differing communities adjacent to one another, as with Woodlawn and its later Jewish cemeteries.<sup>32</sup>

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Early Settlement**

The historic district is significant in the area of **Early Settlement**. The Tampa area was first settled in 1824 with the establishment of Fort Brooke by the U.S. Army at the mouth of the Hillsborough River in what is now downtown Tampa. The trading post and small civilian community that sprang up next to the fort was officially named Tampa in 1843. Burials in Tampa during this period generally in private family plots or in the Fort Brooke cemetery. After the end of the war, a number of settlers remained in the area of the abandoned fort and built homes and established businesses that depended on Tampa Bay and the Hillsborough River to provide access to the outside world. The Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners established Oaklawn Cemetery, originally known as the Tampa Burial Ground, on April 1, 1850. By 1858 Tampa had approximately 1000 inhabitants. By the end of the Civil War in 1865, Fort Brooke had been deactivated, and the population of Tampa began to decline, dwindling to 720 by 1880.<sup>33</sup> In 1883, the old Fort Brooke military reservation was decommissioned and opened to civilian development, causing a brief flurry of real estate speculation.<sup>34</sup> The same year saw the completion of the South Florida Railroad linking Tampa with Jacksonville and the discovery of phosphate in Hillsborough County and the surrounding region. The discovery of the essential ingredient of commercial fertilizer would prompt the construction of major port facilities at nearby Port Tampa to ship phosphate to world markets and spark a new wave of settlement in the burgeoning community.<sup>35</sup> Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries contain the graves of numerous early settlers, city officials, veterans, slaves, Catholic priests, immigrants from Spain, Italy, and Germany, and figures significant in early Tampa folklore. Oaklawn is also the site of two mass graves associated with early Tampa history which contain the remains of soldiers formerly interred at Fort Brooke and victims from Tampa's yellow fever epidemics.

Early Settlers, Significant City Fathers, Politicians and Civil War Veterans

Oaklawn Cemetery contains the graves of some of the earliest pioneering families, city founders, politicians, and veterans, within the city of Tampa. This is especially the case following the closure and relocation of internments from the Ft. Brooke Burial Ground. Examples include the Kennedy Family (photo 13), which

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<sup>32</sup> Shelby J. R. Bender and Elizabeth L. Dunham, *Tampa's Historic Cemeteries* (Mt. Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2013) 7-8.

<sup>33</sup> Durwood Long, "The Historical Beginnings of Ybor City and Modern Tampa," *Florida Historical Quarterly*, (XLV July, 1966), p. 32; Historic Tampa/Hillsborough County Preservation Board, "Seminole Heights Expansion-Hampton Terrace Survey and Registration Report," 1977, p. 9.

<sup>34</sup> Karl H. Grismer, *A History of the City of Tampa and the Tampa Bay Region of Florida*, St. Petersburg, FL: St. Petersburg Publishing Company, Inc., 1950), p. 169.

<sup>35</sup> Hampton Dunn, *Yesterday's Tampa* (Miami: E.A. Seemann Publishing, Inc., 1977), p. 18.

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settled in the Tampa area starting in 1840, traded with the Seminoles, and befriended one of their chiefs; and the Coller Family, whose original homestead site became the location of Fort Brooke due to Levi Coller's failure to properly file his paperwork to acquire the land (Levi and Nancy's grave is now marked by a modern granite marker, photo 44).<sup>36</sup> The first mayor of the City of Tampa, Judge Joseph B. Lancaster (Photo 45), is buried at Oaklawn Cemetery. His headstone is a modern upright marble slab that is arched at the top and bears an image of the great seal of the City of Tampa.

The most significant burials are of politicians and civil war veterans—oftentimes one in the same. Other important burials include the gravesites of Florida Governor Henry Laurens Mitchell, whose tenure was 1893–1897 and who died October 14, 1903. His grave has a modern marble headstone that stands over his family cradle graves. The inscription reads “Capt Henry L. Mitchell CO K 4 FLA INF CSA.” This tenure as governor is not mentioned. Captain John T. Lesley (photo 34), who helped Confederate Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin escape to England following the collapse of the Confederacy, is buried at Oaklawn. Lesley raised both a company of infantry and cavalry during the war before becoming Hillsborough County's first Reconstruction-era sheriff and tax collector.<sup>37</sup> The site is a family plot and is marked by an arched monument bearing the names of several of the family members. The plot is surrounded by a cast iron fence and contains the headstones of several other family members.

Hillsborough County's Civil War sheriff, William Samuel Spencer, is also buried at Oaklawn in a large family plot marked by a prominent obelisk (Photo 35). Spencer was born in Savanna, Georgia in 1811 and died in Tampa in 1871. Spencer served as Sheriff from 1858 to 1865. His son, Thomas Kennedy Spencer, would also serve as sheriff 1893 to 1901. Spencer's children are also buried in the family plot, including: Mrs. Eliza Jane (Rev. Henry) Breaker. William James, who died in service of the Civil War; John Edward, who died from the effects of hardships in service in the war; and Mrs. Caroline Elizabeth (W. B.) Henderson.<sup>38</sup>

James T. Magbee (Photo 46) was a prominent early Florida politician who had an illustrious career. He was born in Butts County, Georgia, in 1820, the son of Hiram and Susan (Wooten) Magbee. After receiving a “frontier education” in rural Georgia, he studied law, probably under the supervision of a practicing attorney, which was the standard of the time. He was an attorney (one of the first in Tampa), a Florida State Constitutional Convention delegate, a Florida State Senator, an early newspaper publisher, and a judge of the Circuit Court. He was also a “scalawag,” or a southerner that supported Reconstruction following the Civil

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<sup>36</sup> Hillsborough County, FL Tampa Pioneers, 1914 Text transcribed from Pauline Brown Hazen, The Blue Book and History of Pioneers Tampa Florida, 1914 by Mary Triplett. Available online at <http://genealogytrails.com/fla/hillsborough/records/pioneers1914.html>

<sup>37</sup> Hillsborough County, FL Tampa Pioneers, 1914

<sup>38</sup> Hillsborough County, FL Tampa Pioneers, 1914

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War.<sup>39</sup> The grave style is a short stele bearing an inscription with a draped funeral urn on top. The cloth draping the urn symbolically guarded the ashes or was sometimes the shroud-draped urn is believed by some to mean that the soul has departed the shrouded body for its trip to heaven. Others say that the drape signifies the last partition between life and death.<sup>40</sup>

African-American Internments at Oaklawn

The lack of clear segregation between white and black burials at Oaklawn reinforces Tampa's early frontier character that extended almost to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. While a section was reserved for black burials, enforcement of segregation or even the formal use of burial plots appears to have been lax, as an 1866 county resolution sought to address the unregulated burial of individuals across the cemetery in disregard to the existing plat. In addition, there is at least one significant burial where an unusual marker commemorates the love shared between a master and slave: the plot of William and Nancy Ashley. William, the city's first clerk of the circuit court, owned Nancy, a slave. Unable to proclaim their love while alive, they vowed to do it in death. They left instructions to friend John Jackson (a former Tampa mayor also buried in Oaklawn) that they wanted to be buried together. William died first, followed by Nancy in 1872. Nancy left \$99 in her will to buy a tombstone (Photo 47), which, 135 years later, still stands over their grave with this inscription: The tablet states:

Here lies  
W<sup>m</sup> Ashley and Nancy Ashley.  
Master, and Servant.  
Faithful to each other in that relation  
in life, in death they are not separated.

Stranger consider and be wiser.  
In the Grave all human distinction  
of race or caste, mingle together  
in one common dust

To commemorate their fidelity to each other  
this stone was erected by their Executor  
John Jackson  
1873

The presence of this marker documents their apparently well-known relationship and the high degree of tolerance for it in local society. Continued research might shed new light on early racial relationships and the

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<sup>39</sup> Kyle S. Vanlandingham, "James T. Magbee Union Man," Sunland Tribune, November 1, 1994, p. 7.

<sup>40</sup> "Draped Urn," Photo Gallery of Cemetery Symbolism, available online  
[http://genealogy.about.com/od/cemetery\\_records/ig/tombstone\\_symbols/draped\\_urn.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/cemetery_records/ig/tombstone_symbols/draped_urn.htm)

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sometimes blurred boundaries between the two. Further investigation could reveal the belief systems and social patterns of early African American settlers and slaves. The gravestone also exhibits the traditional image of the “weeping willow.”

The cemetery also holds burials associated with the darker aspects of racial segregation and slavery. For example, a simple modern granite marker commemorates Adam, a lynched slave who was lynched December 16, 1859 (Photo 39). It was Sept. 8, 1859, when the body of Luke Moore, a white landowner, was discovered at his house about four miles east of Tampa. The cause of death was a hatchet blow to his head. A black slave named Adam belonging to J. C. Green had been hired out to Moore. Circumstantial evidence pointed toward Adam as the guilty party, and he was tried that fall in circuit court. It was a “long and acrimonious” four-day trial, and the white male jury convicted Adam in spite of defense lawyer Ossian. B. Hart’s<sup>41</sup> cross-examination of witnesses and his eloquent appeal to the jury. Adam was sentenced to be hanged. Hart was so convinced that his client was innocent, he filed an expedited appeal to the Florida Supreme Court. The court was so impressed with Hart’s argument about errors in the trial that it ordered a new trial. But on December 16, 1859, a vigilante group violently seized Adam from the sheriff’s custody, dragged him to the “scrub section” (Tampa’s segregated African-American community) and lynched him.<sup>42</sup>

St. Louis Cemetery and Early Catholic Settlement in Tampa

The area which constitutes the former St. Louis Catholic Cemetery contains numerous graves of Hispanic and Italian origin represented by a number of concrete folk markers. Dates indicated on the hand-crafted headstones range from the 1880s through the 1930s. These markers display a variety of styles and sizes although epitaphs consist of names and vital statistics pressed uniformly on the surfaces. Often the epitaphs are in Spanish or Latin and have phrases in Spanish or Latin beneath the vital statistics. Many display cameos (Photo 17), while more elaborate designs incorporate shells and tiles pressed into the concrete (photo 7). Some of the graves of the wealthier individuals display more elaborate crosses and statuary of the Virgin Mary. This group of work suggests how strong Christian belief systems were within this segment of Tampa’s Hispanic and Italian communities.

Pioneering Catholic priests were among the earlier burials at St. Louis Cemetery. These priests were buried next to one another in the western half of the cemetery, north of the access road leading to Monroe St. A modern bronze plaque commemorates the otherwise unmarked graves five Catholic Priests (Photo 42), the oldest known priests' graves on the West Coast of Florida. While little is known of Fr. Bayard who died in 1882, the Polish born Fr. Emil Stenzel was a priest of the Archdiocese of New York who served as Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua in San Antonio, Florida, from May-September 1884. Fr. Charles Peterson, a priest of the Diocese of St.

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<sup>41</sup> Hart would later be elected governor of Florida and served for one year, from 1873 to 1874, before dying in office.

<sup>42</sup> “Remembering Tampa’s Own “Atticus Finch:” Ossian B. Hart,” Tampa Bay Times, July 29, 2016.

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Augustine and much beloved Tampa pastor, contracted yellow fever in October 1887 and died 3 days later. Fr. Felix Swenberg quickly arrived from Orlando to provide assistance only to succumb to the disease himself within 4 days. Less than a year later, Fr. Dennis O'Sullivan, an Irish priest and former African missionary came to Tampa as pastor. Twelve days later he too died of yellow fever.<sup>43</sup>

Another pioneering Catholic buried in St. Louis Cemetery is C. Cecilia Morse. Morse was an early member of the San Antonio community, a Catholic colony located in nearby Pasco County to the north of Tampa. Morse moved to San Antonio in 1883 and established the town's first school soon thereafter to provide an education to her six children and those of other residents. The school evolved into St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School, one of the first Catholic Schools in the area and the oldest within the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Morse taught at the school for six years, after which Benedictine nuns took over teaching responsibilities and Morse moved to Tampa. Morse's grave is within a family plot, surrounded by five of her children, and commemorated by a historic marker erected by the Diocese of St. Petersburg (photo 43).<sup>44</sup>

As mentioned earlier, the most prominent Hispanic-American buried in St. Louis Cemetery is Vicente Martinez Ybor, the founder of Ybor City, who was buried here after his death in 1896. Ybor facilitated the development of the cigar industry in Tampa, and is the namesake of Ybor City, a planned company town to the east of downtown Tampa constructed to house workers for his cigar factories. Ybor achieved such prominence that many businesses closed during his funeral in 1896.<sup>45</sup>

Among the Italians buried at St. Louis Cemetery is Captain Dominic Ghira (b. 1816-d. 1897), who was for a time a sailor, but in 1870 became a saloon keeper. Like many Italian immigrants to Tampa, he prospered in the merchant trades. Dominic Ghira and wife Domenica Masters both had mercantile and shipping interests. Dominic came to this area in the 1840s, when he was in his early 20s, and the family was very instrumental in founding the St. Louis parish in 1860 (he is commemorated with the St. Dominic window in the church, which was dedicated to him by his children). Ghira was also a city council member from August 13, 1879 to August 14, 1880. Among their six children was daughter Josephine, who wed prominent architect Alfred H. Parslow. Their magnificent "Mourning Woman" (Photos 30-31) statue is one of the treasures of the St. Louis Catholic Cemetery. The lady in mourning is carved from marble and was imported from Italy.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> "Pioneer Priests Graves," The Historical Marker Database, available online <http://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=37548>.

<sup>44</sup> "C. Cecilia Morse" The Historical Marker Database. available online <https://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=37795>

<sup>45</sup> "Vicente Martinez-Ybor" *The Tampa Riverwalk*, <http://www.thetampariverwalk.com/historical-monument-trail/honorees/vicente-martinez-ybor.aspx>

<sup>46</sup> "Ghira Burial Plot," <https://www.flickr.com/photos/7941988@N07/529594886>.

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Tampa's German Immigrants

Among the earliest burials is that of Samuel Friebele, a German immigrant and merchant who was originally buried at Fort Brooke's civilian ground and was one of the first interments at Oakland Cemetery.<sup>47</sup> The grave marker is a flat piece of marble, somewhat damaged at the top that reads in part "To the Memory of Samuel Frieble who departed this life August 9, 1849." He was originally buried at Fort Brooke's civilian burying ground and was later one of the first interments at downtown Tampa's Oaklawn Cemetery. His epitaph states: "Now, as no better we can do, we love each other for sake of you, and trust in God to meet you again, in Heaven together to remain." Frieble raised cattle and was one of the area's biggest landowners.<sup>48</sup>

Paul Butzloff (b. 1859-d. 1918) immigrated to America in 1880 and married Anna Schneck (b. 1863-d. 1930) in 1885. He co-owned the Tampa Steamway Bakery. Paul Butzloff was a member of Woodmen of the World, which is reflected in the design of his tombstone. The Butzloff family grave (photos 32-33) contains German immigrants Paul and Anna Butzloff and their daughter Valeria (b. 1886-d. 1907). She died Oct. 12, 1907, in Denver of tuberculosis, when she was just 21. Devastated by their loss, the Butzloffs brought their daughter home for burial in the St. Louis Catholic Cemetery. A picture of Valeria (Photo 32) adorns the tomb, her face fixed in a Mona Lisa-type slight smile. Her father and mother are buried there, as well. The statue of a woman on Anna's grave was the victim of one of Oaklawn's most notorious cases of vandalism - someone broke off part of the statue's head and one hand in the 1970s.<sup>49</sup>

Among other distinctive family burial plots is that of John Henry Krause (photo 20). He was born September 17, 1833 in Germany and died June 8, 1900 in Tampa, Florida. Records show he served in the 7th Florida Infantry (CSA). Krause was a significant businessman as well, owning a wagon factory, blacksmith's shop, and general store. He would later establish an iron foundry which would be one of the primary suppliers of decorative ironwork in Tampa.<sup>50</sup> He was married to Mary E. Dagenhart who was born at Palatka, Fla., in 1845, and died on May 28, 1881 in Tampa at the age of 36; her name appears on the obelisk.<sup>51</sup> The monument bears the compass and square symbol showing that he was a mason. Another decorative feature is the series of low relief acanthus leaves that surround the top of the monument. The cast iron fence encloses the burials of members of his large family, marked by cradle graves with tombstones.

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<sup>47</sup> "Self-Guided Walking Tour of Oaklawn Cemetery," <http://www.tampagov.net/parks-and-recreation/programs/info/cemeteries/oaklawn-walking-tour>.

<sup>48</sup> Kevin Walker, "Notable People Buried at Oaklawn Cemetery," *Tampa Bay Tribune*, June 1, 2013.

<sup>49</sup> Kevin Walker, *Tampa Tribune*, June 1, 2013.

<sup>50</sup> *Hillsborough County, FL Tampa Pioneers, 1914*; "Self-Guided Walking Tour of Oaklawn Cemetery," <http://www.tampagov.net/parks-and-recreation/programs/info/cemeteries/oaklawn-walking-tour>.

<sup>51</sup> John Henry Krause, <http://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/krause/915/>.



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Early Tampa Folklore

Several granite markers in the center of the cemetery commemorate individuals significant to local folklore and history (photo 40). These markers do not correspond to specific graves. One of these makers commemorates Jose "El Indio" Perfino. On December 4, 1849, a soldier was found shot in the back outside Antonio Castillo's oysterhouse in Tampa. Perfino, was arrested and, in April 1850, a jury found him guilty of murder. Six days before the scheduled hanging, however, he escaped. A military posse captured him and Perfino was shot, supposedly while trying to escape. Private Michael Daly delivered the corpse to the Hillsborough County sheriff on May 20, 1850, and collected the \$100 bounty. Another grave marks the final resting place for a Captain Hubbard, who met a more anonymous, if not glorious, end. His body, according to the modern headstone, was found in the woods on June 18, 1850. Both Perfino and Hubbard are identified as "Cuban pirates."<sup>52</sup>

Mass Graves at Oaklawn Cemetery

In addition to the burials of significant individuals important in the history of Tampa, significant mass graves are located within the cemetery. The most significant is of yellow fever victims from five outbreaks, the largest dating to 1887-1888. Approximately ninety-five deaths associated with the outbreak were recorded, but the number is probably undercounted. Overall, about one thousand people were probably infected with yellow fever.<sup>53</sup> An unknown number of the dead are buried in Oaklawn as part of the yellow fever mass grave.

A second mass grave dating to after the period of significance consists of 102 soldiers and settlers that were relocated to Oaklawn cemetery from the site of the Old Ft. Brooke burial ground in 1981. The site of the burial ground had been lost since the closure of Ft. Brooke in the 1880s. The construction of a new parking garage in downtown Tampa uncovered the original cemetery. The burials were relocated as part of the construction process.<sup>54</sup>

**Community Planning and Development**

Oaklawn Cemetery is significant in the area of **Community Planning and Development**. The establishment of the cemetery was based upon the early Puritan tradition practiced in many seventeenth century New England towns in which land was set aside as common community burial grounds. The district was open not only to free white men and women but also to African American slaves. The cemetery also drew upon the popularization of

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<sup>52</sup> Rodney Kite-Powell, "History and Heritage: Oaklawn Cemetery Deserves to Be Preserved," *Tampa Bay Times*, June 17, 2016. "History and Heritage: Oaklawn Cemetery Deserves to be Preserve," *Tampa Bay Times*, July 29, 2016.

<sup>53</sup> Eirlys Barker, "'A Sneaky, Cowardly Enemy': Tampa's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1887-1888." *Tampa Bay History* 8 no. 2 (Fall/Winter 1986): 16, 19. Accessed July 3, 2017. Available online <http://www.hillsborough.communityatlas.usf.edu/upload/documents/SneakyCowardlyEnemy.pdf>

<sup>54</sup> "Tampa Bay History Center Examines Fort Brooke Cemetery Find" *Tampa News 13*, April 15, 2016. Accessed July 3, 2017. Available online [http://www.mynews13.com//content/news/cfnews13/on-the-town/article.html/content/news/articles/bn9/2016/4/15/history\\_center\\_exhib.html](http://www.mynews13.com//content/news/cfnews13/on-the-town/article.html/content/news/articles/bn9/2016/4/15/history_center_exhib.html).

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the “rural” cemetery in the United States. This movement was inspired by romantic perceptions of nature, art, national identity, and the melancholy theme of death. Often these cemeteries were established around elevated view sites at the edge of the city. Reflecting this movement and the concern for public hygiene and sanitation, Hillsborough County leaders located the public burying ground north of the city of Tampa in “the scrub.” Further, Oaklawn was intentionally placed out of the city and away from the mainstream of everyday consciousness. This trend also demonstrated the extent to which nineteenth century America grew increasingly divorced from the observance of death in their cities.

The establishment of St. Louis Catholic Cemetery reflected the Catholic tradition of interring the dead in sanctified land which was set aside and blessed by the church. Animosity between Protestants and Catholics, which grew out of the increasing influx of Catholic immigrants from central and southern Europe, also factored into the provision of two cemeteries. However, this did not prevent the placement of the cemeteries adjacent to one another, and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the distinction between the two once separate cemeteries disappeared. The establishment of St. Louis Cemetery is also directly associated with Tampa’s transformation into a cosmopolitan port and manufacturing city—primarily as a result of the establishment of Ybor city and the arrival of hundreds of Hispanic and European immigrants, many of whom were Catholic. The cemetery is directly associated with the earliest development of this community, and provided a space for burial until the establishment of separate ethnic cemeteries managed by mutual benefit associations.

### Art and Architecture

The historic district is also significant under **Criterion C for Art and Architecture**. Many of the mortuary art forms displayed in the historic are fine examples from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries which are rarely found in Florida. The cemetery contains a number of marble tablets, obelisks, and pedestals that depict an array of funerary iconography emblematic of grief, devotion characteristic of the mid- to late-Victorian era. For example, the double burial marker of Reverend John J. Wells (1796-1866) and his wife, Rebecca (1803-1872), has a sculpted clasped hands in the middle of the marker (photo 16). The handshake or representation of clasped hands dates back to the Victorian-era and represents a farewell to earthly existence and God's welcome into heaven. The handshake, or clasped hands, may symbolize the eternal unity of a husband or wife.<sup>55</sup> The gravesite was established after the death of Rebecca in 1872, but it is not known if her husband was buried on this plot and the tombstone added after the death of his wife. Other prominent symbols are draped cloths, doves, lambs, and felled trees.

The best examples of funerary art consist of the Ghira Monument (Photo 30-31), with its imported Italian Marble sculpture of the mourning virgin and cross, the kneeling virgin marking Anna Butzloff-Shenck’s grave (unfortunately vandalized, Photo 32) and the several prominent obelisks located across the cemetery, such as

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<sup>55</sup> “Cemetery Symbolism: Clasped Hands and Pointing Fingers,” <http://genealogy.about.com/cs/symbolism/p/hands.htm>

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the one marking the burial site of William T. Brown (Photo 36). The monuments for members of Woodmen of the World are also significant for their number and quality at Oaklawn Cemetery. Examples include both full tree stumps and markers with horizontal logs, such as those marking the four graves of the Hubner family.

The cemetery is also locally significant for its large and diverse collection of surviving iron and white metal fencing. While also found in other cemeteries in Tampa, including the later Woodlawn cemetery, the collection of historic ironwork in Oaklawn cemetery is substantial. Examples range from simple loop topped fences to Gothic Revival fences with a variety of spear points, darts, or fleur-de-lis finials, to robust Classical Revival fences of iron bars in truss-like patterns. Much of the ironwork within the cemetery may be attributed to the iron foundry of Henry Krause, who is buried in Oaklawn and was an early blacksmith in Tampa.<sup>56</sup> While many of the fences are suffering from a lack of maintenance, they still retain enough of their original design, materials and workmanship to make them good representative examples of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century funerary metalwork.

**Criteria Consideration A and D**

While the half of the cemetery that was known as St. Louis Cemetery is owned by the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg, the cemetery's primary significance derives from its age, direct association with the early settlement of Tampa as evidenced by the burials of significant persons in local history, association with the planning and development of Tampa, and from its significance in art and architecture at the local level. This also meets the requirement that cemeteries must have significance beyond their simple purpose of housing and commemorating the dead. The cemetery's location reflects early efforts in the planning of Tampa, while its expansion reflects the growth of the community. The variety of internments also speaks to the development of a multi-cultural city with the influx of Hispanic, Italian, and German immigrants in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Archeology**

While not currently significant under Criterion D: Archeology, there are current archaeological investigations at the cemetery with the goal of identifying lost burials. As stated above, burials during the cemetery's earliest period were nearly unregulated and did not follow any standard plan. Additionally, the section reserved for slave internments has not been clearly identified. Investigations utilizing ground penetrating radar are ongoing. These may result in sufficient information about early Tampa residents and burial practices to merit the amending of this nomination to add significance under archeology in the future.

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<sup>56</sup> "Oaklawn Cemetery Walking Tour," City of Tampa, accessed July 27, 2017, available online: <https://www.tampagov.net/parks-and-recreation/cemeteries/oaklawn-walking-tour-krause-family>

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary consists of and includes the concrete and brick wall that encloses Oaklawn Cemetery, formerly the Tampa Burial Ground and St. Louis Catholic Cemetery. There are three parcels in the area proposed for listing. Parcels #193256-0000 and 193124-0000 are owned by the City of Tampa. Parcel #193122-0000 is owned by the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Excluded is the parking lot on parcel 193123.0000.

**Boundary Justification**

The above boundary encompasses all aspects which are known to be historically associated with Oaklawn Cemetery and St. Louis Catholic Cemetery.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Name of Property: Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries		
City or Vicinity: Tampa	County: Hillsborough	State: Florida
Photographer: Ruben A. Acosta	Date Photographed: April 26, 2017	

Description of Photograph(s) and number; include description of view indicating direction of camera.

1. South entrance gate to Oaklawn Cemetery, view north.
2. Central north-south brick street, Oaklawn Cemetery, view north.
3. Brick street intersection, Oaklawn Cemetery, view north.
4. Central dirt street with Vicente Ybor Tomb on the right, St. Louis Cemetery, view north.
5. Boundary marker, Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries, view west.
6. Basic flat stone marker, Mayor Henry C. Ferris Grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
7. Concrete marker and grave lid with hexagonal tile and green wreath motif, Mary E. Smith Grave, St. Louis Cemetery, view west.
8. Cross motif gravestone, Afthimos Sampson Grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
9. Celtic Cross gravestone, Miles Orton Grave, St. Louis Cemetery, view east.
10. Lamb motif gravestone, Virginia and W. H. Webb grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
11. Shrouded urn motif monument, George Cline grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view east.
12. Shrouded urn motif monument, James Edgar Wall grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view southwest.
13. Angels and willow motif gravestones, Kennedy family plot, Oaklawn Cemetery, view east.
14. Willow motif gravestone, Mary Carrie grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
15. Masonic and fraternal motifs, James T. McAbee grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
16. Clasped hands motif, Rev. J. J. Wells and R. A. Wells grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view east.
17. Cameos, Francisca G. Torres and Narcisa D. Saravia graves, St. Louis Cemetery, view west.
18. Tree Stump motif, Arla Christine Noble grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
19. Cut log motifs, Hubner, Morales, Davis, and Connor Graves, Oaklawn Cemetery, view east.
20. Gothic Revival three rail iron fence, with gothic arched corner posts, Krause family plot, Oaklawn Cemetery, view southwest.
21. Gothic Revival iron fence with fleur-de-lis decoration and gothic finial corner posts, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.



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22. White metal fence with spear points, Kennedy family plot, Oaklawn cemetery, view northeast.
23. Gothic Revival iron fence with arches and spear points, Macbee family plot, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
24. Gothic Revival iron fence gate with fleur-de-lis, Nunez plot, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
25. Coffin Storage Building (a.k.a. Receiving Vault), St. Louis Cemetery, view northeast.
26. Sexton's House, Oaklawn Cemetery, view northwest.
27. Vicente Martinez Ybor tomb, St. Louis Cemetery, view east.
28. Chavez family tomb, St. Louis Cemetery, view east.
29. Kirkpatrick family tomb, Oaklawn Cemetery, view east.
30. Ghira family plot with "Mourning Woman" statue, St. Louis Cemetery, view north.
31. "Mourning Woman" statue, Dominic Ghira grave, St. Louis Cemetery, view north.
32. "Kneeling Woman" statue, Anna Butzloff Shenck grave, St. Louis Cemetery, view southeast.
33. Valeria Butzloff tomb, St. Louis Cemetery, view east.
34. Lesly monument, Lesley family plot, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
35. William and Emily Spencer Obelisk, Oaklawn Cemetery, view southwest.
36. William H. Brown Obelisk, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
37. Perry G. Wall Obelisk, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
38. W. H. Henderson Obelisk, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
39. Modern commemorative stone marker, vicinity of unmarked Adam gravesite, Oaklawn Cemetery, view north.
40. Modern commemorative stone markers, vicinity of unmarked Jose Perfino and Mr. Hubbard gravesites, Oaklawn Cemetery, view north.
41. Modern commemorative stone markers, mass graves yellow fever victims, Oaklawn Cemetery, view east.
42. Modern bronze plaque, vicinity of unmarked pioneer priest gravesites, St. Louis Cemetery, view west.
43. Charcila Cecilia Moore grave, St. Louis cemetery, view west.
44. Modern granite headstone, Levi and Nancy D. Coller grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
45. Modern marble headstone, Judge Joseph B. Lancaster grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view east.
46. J. T. Macbee grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.
47. "Master and Servant" headstone, William and Nancy Ashley grave, Oaklawn Cemetery, view west.

# Oaklawn Cemetery

606 E. Harrison St.  
Tampa, Hillsborough County  
Florida

UTM:  
17R 356640 3093031

Lat/Long:  
27.954676 -82.457395

USGS Quad: Tampa

Datum: WGS84

## Legend

 Proposed National Register Site

Date: 2/6/2017

N

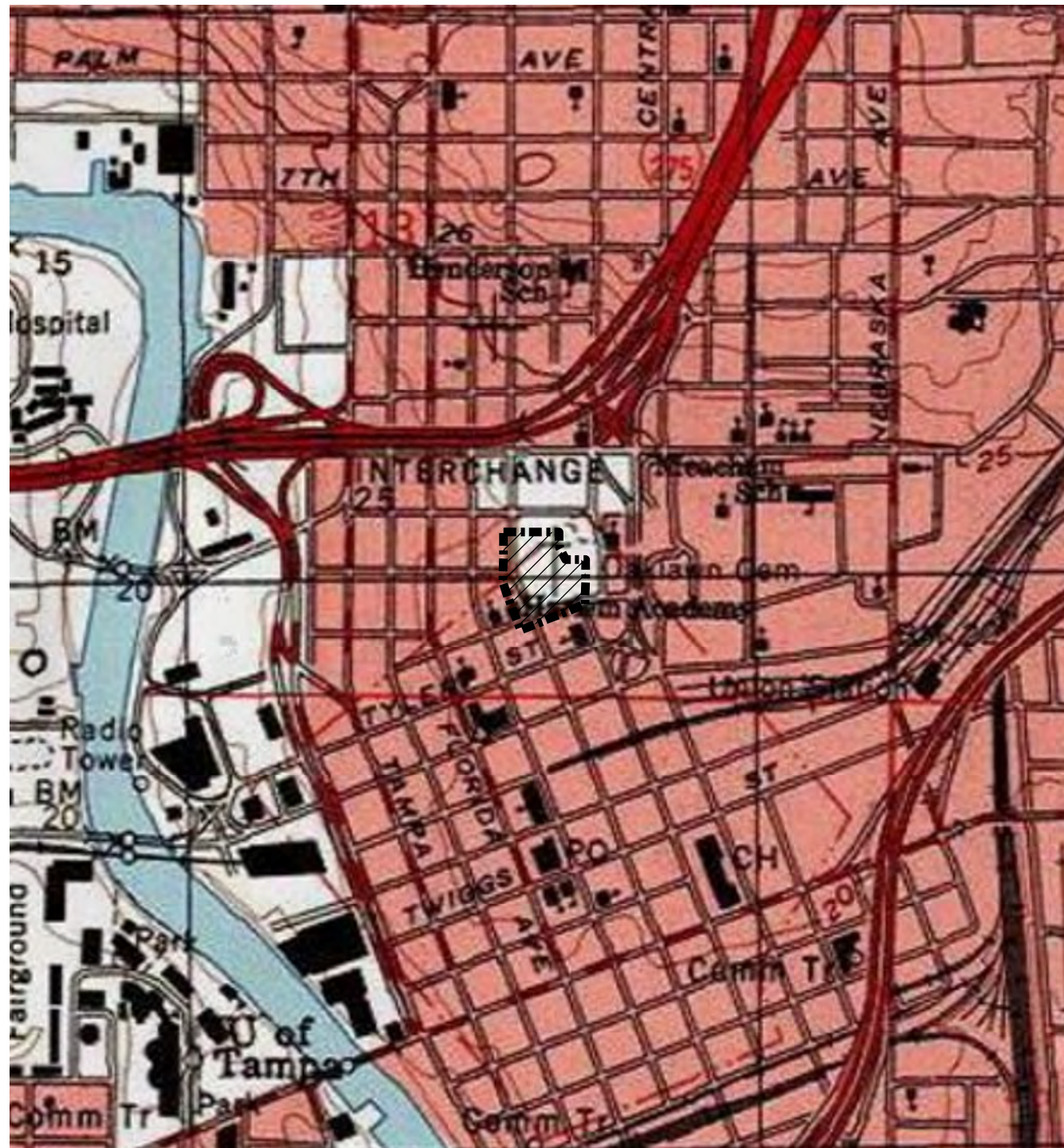


1:12,000

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

0 125 250 500 Meters

Basemap Source: 2013 National  
Geographic Society, i-cubed



# Oaklawn Cemetery

606 E. Harrison St.  
Tampa, Hillsborough County  
Florida

UTM:  
17R 356641 3093032

Lat/Long:  
27.955224, -82.457828

Datum: WGS84

## Legend

 Proposed National Register Boundary

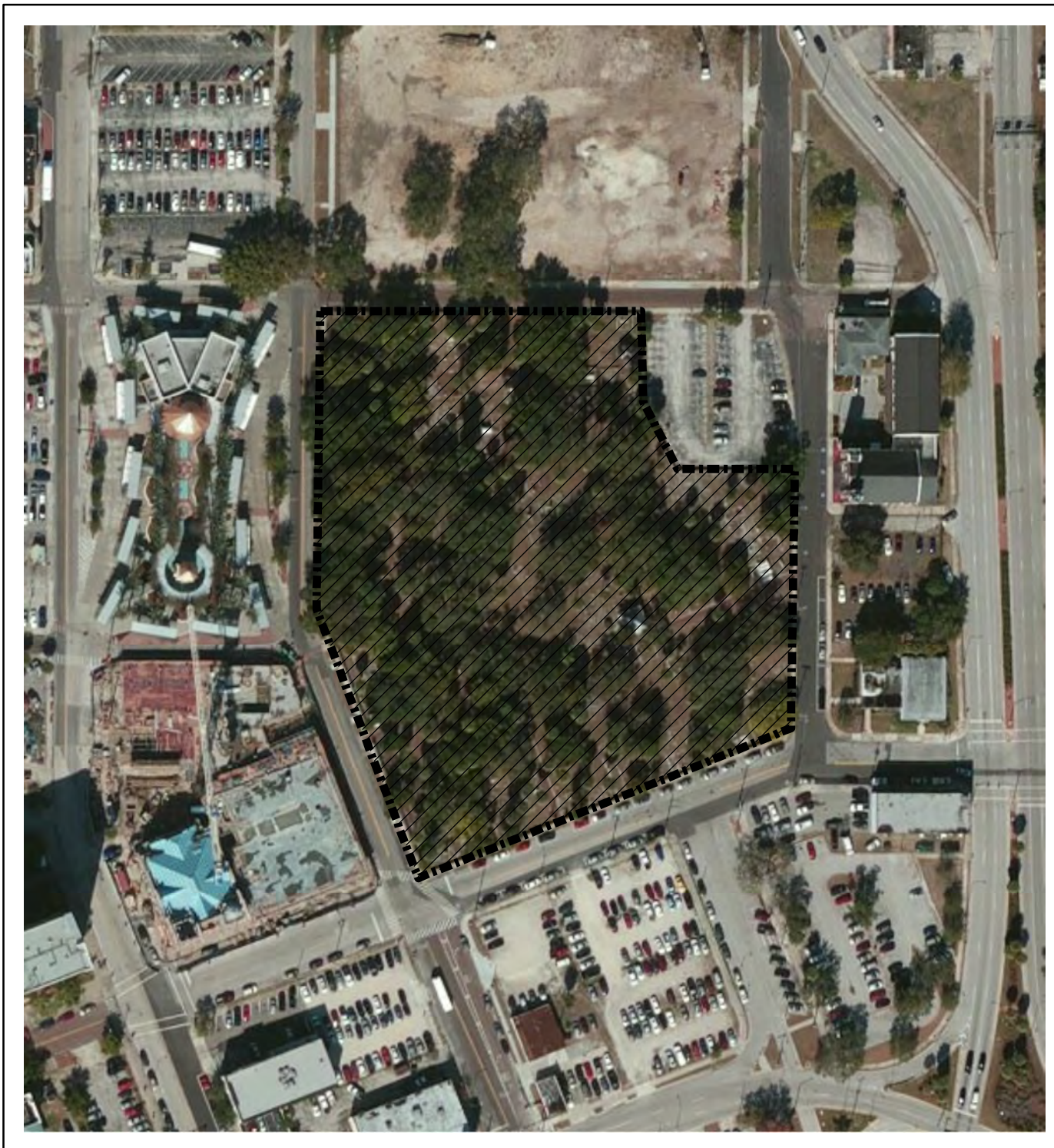
Date: 2/6/2017

1:2,000

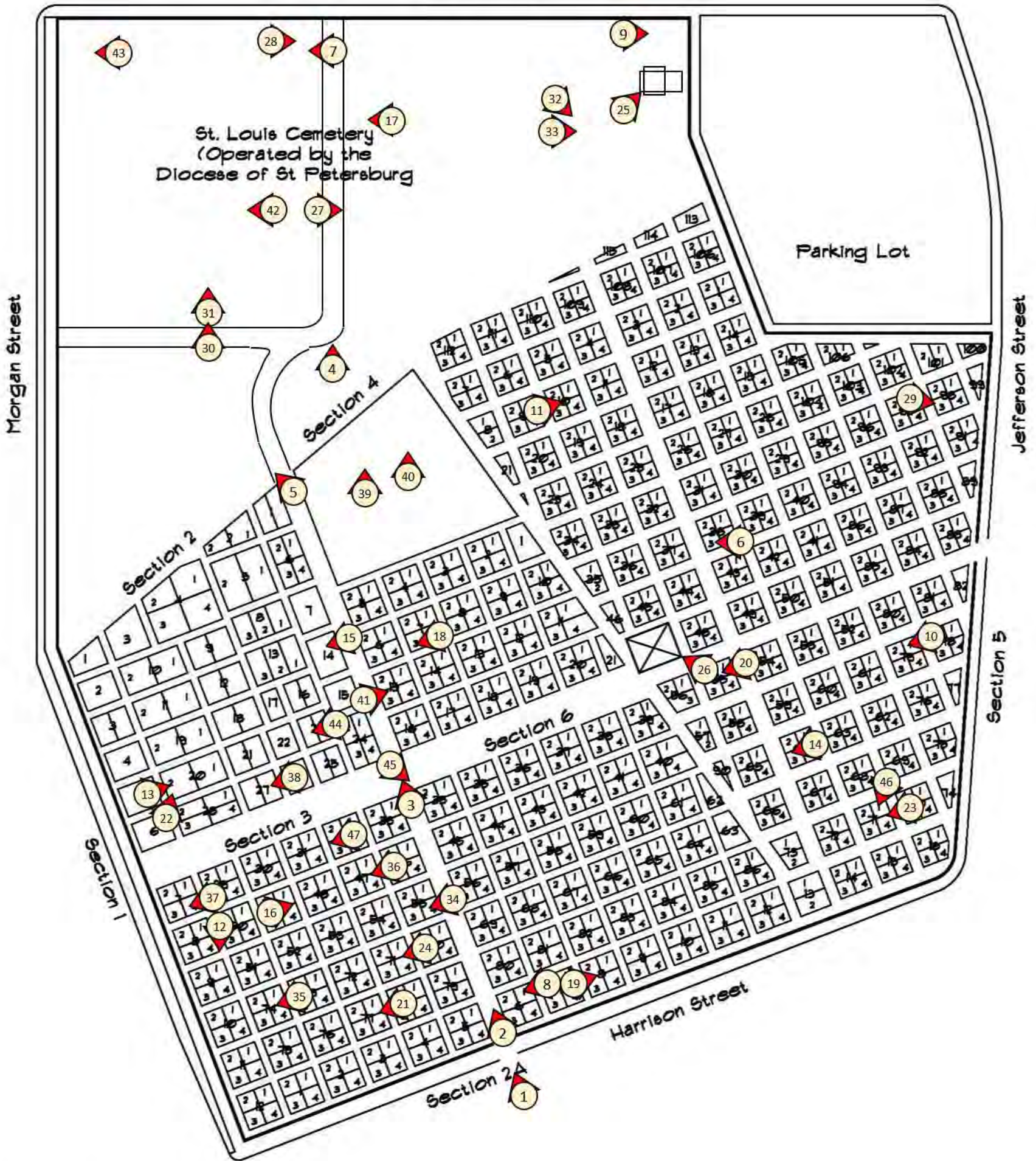
0 80 160 320 Feet

0 15 30 60 Meters

Basemap Source: Source: Esri,  
DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar  
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,  
USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping,  
Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo,  
and the GIS User Community



Laurel Street



### Photo Site Key, Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries

Note: Locations of Receiving Vault and paths in St. Louis Cemetery are approximate and not to scale.

Base Map Source: City of Tampa, [https://www.tampagov.net/sites/default/files/parks-and-recreation/files/oaklawn\\_cemetery\\_black\\_layout\\_11x17.pdf](https://www.tampagov.net/sites/default/files/parks-and-recreation/files/oaklawn_cemetery_black_layout_11x17.pdf)

# OAKLAWN CEMETERY

606 E. HARRISON STREET



# OAKLAWN CEMETERY

OAKLAWN CEMETERY  
OPERATED BY  
CITY OF TAMPA PARKS DEPT  
FOR INFORMATION 930-2323  
OPEN 8AM-6PM  
NO PETS ALLOWED  
NO DRUGS/ALCOHOL  
SECURITY-PROBLED

SECTION 2A

SECTION 2A  
Oaklawn  
Cemeter



SECTION 2A

SECTION 2A

Oaklawn  
Cemetery

100 East Hammond Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

General Admission  
and Burial  
Permits  
Available  
at the Office  
of the  
Cemetery  
Commissioner











ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC

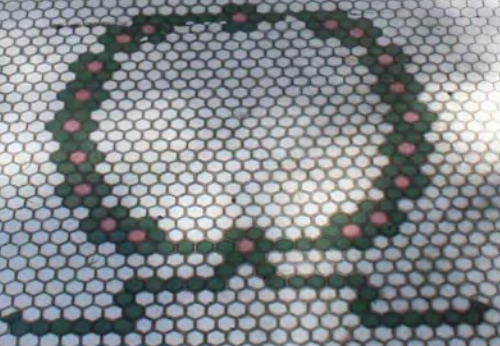
HENRY C. FERRIS

MAYOR

1848 — 1902



MARY E. SMITH DIED NOV 17  
1926





ΕΙΣ ΑΝΑΜΝΗΣΙΝ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥ  
 ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΟΥ ΓΕΝΟΥΣ ΕΝ ΑΚΟΙΝΑ. ΤΗ  
 ΕΝ ΤΑΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΤΑΜΠΑ ΤΗ  
 ΕΤΕΡΕΥΤΗΡΕΝ ΕΙΝ ΤΑΜΠΑ ΤΗ  
 ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΖ ΤΗ  
 12 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ 1901  
 IN MEMORY OF  
 OF THIMEOS SAMPSON  
 BORN SCOPELON GREESE  
 MAY 1, 1859.  
 DIED APRIL 1, 1901  
 IN TAMPA FLA.

**SAMPSON**



MILES, ORTON  
BORN  
NOV. 10, 1937  
DIED  
DEC. 23, 1993

AGE 56 YEARS  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU  
WE LOVE YOU AND MISS YOU  
MAY YOU BE ALWAYS WITH US



CHILDREN  
OF  
W. H. & VIRGINIA WEBB

VIRGINIA

BORN & DIED  
OCT. 19. 1874.

W. H. WEBB

BORN & DIED  
OCT. 19. 1874.



GEO. W. CLINE  
BORN  
JULY 31, 1823  
DIED  
MAR. 3, 1910.

CLINE



JAMES E.  
WALL, JR.







IN MEMORY OF  
MARY CARRIE

wife of  
FRED CUMMINGS,  
and daughter of  
MRS. A. B. MCKENZIE.

Born Dec. 31. 1854.

Died April 12. 1885.

*Farewell Darling wife, if my  
heart was a fountain of tears I  
would weep it away for thee.*

FRED.

*Dearest Mamma your little daugh-  
ter is near and will ever remember  
her loving Mamma.*

MARY



LOVED BY ALL

FAREWELL

LOVED ONES

JAMES T. MCABEE  
BORN JAN. 6, 1849  
DIED AUG. 12, 1904

JOHN H. MCABEE  
BORN JAN. 5, 1877  
DIED DEC. 24, 1903

MCABEE

OUR  
FATHER

OUR  
MOTHER



REV. J. J. WELLS

B. J. WELLS

BORN  
AUG. 18, 1796.  
DIED  
JUNE 6, 1866.

BORN  
APR. 10, 1893.  
DIED  
JULY 6, 1872.

*Rest in peace, the souls of the  
departed are in the hands of  
the Lord. He will comfort the  
grieving and reward the  
righteous.*

*Gravestone set by the family of the deceased.*

FRANCISCA



G. TORRES

OCT. 19, 1873

NOV. 1, 1944

REC. DE SUS HIJOS



ERD  
NARCISA D.  
SARAVIA  
NACIO

NOV. 4, 1868

FALLECIÓ

ABRIL 21, 1933

RECUERDO DE SU  
HIJOS.



ARLA CHRISTINE  
NOBLE  
JULY 6, 1908  
MAY 11, 1926



WURNER

[Illegible stone inscription]

[Illegible stone inscription]

[Illegible stone inscription]



JULIA M.  
WIFE OF  
J. H. & M. E. KRAUSE  
BORN AUG. 7, 1876  
DIED APR. 14, 1971  
INFANT  
D.A. OF  
J. H. & M. E. KRAUSE  
BORN AUG. 7, 1876  
MAY 25, 1881  
WILHELMINA KRAUSE  
DIED DEC. 10, 1899  
OCT. 5, 1918

UCV













NINEZ

WILLIAM J. NINEZ  
MAY 10 1911  
JAN 10 1988

WILLIAM J. NINEZ  
MAY 10 1911  
JAN 10 1988





SECTION 5

NO  
PASSING



R.I.P.

INTE... 18...  
MARRI... 18...  
...  
... 18...

+

CHAVEZ FAMILY

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN PEACE







KIRKPATRICK

HELLEN ANNE ELLEN  
MAY 10 1841 - 1871

Jefferson St

ROAD CLOSED



M. SETH

GHIRA



D. GHIRA  
BORN MAR. 19, 1816  
DIED MAY 22, 1837  
*REQUIESCAT IN PACE*

GHIRA

IN THE MEMORY  
OF  
HANNA BUTZLOFF  
SHENCK  
MAR 26, 1863  
NOV 15, 1930



MEMORIAL  
OF  
ANNA BUTZLOFF  
SHENCK  
MAR. 26, 1863  
NOV. 15, 1930



PAUL BUTZLOFF  
APR. 30, 1859  
FEB. 2, 1910

# WESLEY

JOHN THOMAS  
MAY 15, 1835  
JULY 15, 1910

MARGARET W. WILSON  
BORN 1838  
SEPT. 22, 1893

LEROY GILLILAND  
MAY 11  
OCT. 31, 1878

INDIANA CHILDS  
APR. 22, 1809  
APR. 30, 1860





**BROWN**

IN MEMORY OF  
**WILLIAM H. BROWN,**  
BORN SEP. 17, 1842.  
DIED MAY 31, 1870.

TO KNOW HIM WAS TO LOVE HIM,  
THOUGH TAKEN FROM US, LET US NOT  
FORGET THAT HE HAS CROSSED OVER  
THE BOLLING, RESTLESS TIDE OF DEATH,  
AND AWAITS US ON THE OTHER SIDE.



PERRY G. WALL JR.  
SON OF  
WM. W. & MINNIE E. WALL  
BORN  
NOV. 22, 1867  
DIED  
JAN. 25, 1944  
A MAN AMONG MEN



W. HENDERSON  
BORN SEPT. 17 1839  
DIED MAY 7 1909

HENDERSON

HEALEY

DOYLE



ADAM  
A BLACK SLAVE  
LYNCHED  
DEC 16 1859

JOSE PERLINO  
ET INDIO  
A CUBAN PIRATE  
KILLED 1850

MR HUBBARD  
A CUBAN PIRATE  
FOUND DEAD IN WOODS  
JUNE 18. 1850

IN MEMORY OF THE  
VICTIMS OF THE YELLOW  
FEVER EPIDEMICS OF  
1853, 1858, 1867, 1871  
AND 1887-88 WHO ARE  
BURIED IN OAKLAWN

TAMPA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 1997



DEDICATED TO THE  
MEMORY OF THE  
29 SEA CAPTAINS AND  
MARINERS WHOSE  
VISION AND COURAGE  
CHARTED A COURSE  
OF DEVELOPMENT  
FOR TAMPA BAY

TAMPA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 1997



## PIONEER PRIESTS' GRAVES



HERE LIE THE REMAINS OF FIVE FLORIDA PIONEER PRIESTS, THE OLDEST KNOWN PRIESTS' GRAVES ON THE WEST COAST OF FLORIDA. WHILE LITTLE IS KNOWN OF FR. BAYARD WHO DIED IN 1882, THE POLISH BORN FR. EMIL STENZEL WAS A PRIEST OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK WHO SERVED AS PASTOR OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA IN SAN ANTONIO, FL FROM MAY-SEPTEMBER 1884.

FR. CHARLES PETERSON, A PRIEST OF THE DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE AND MUCH BELOVED TAMPA PASTOR, CONTRACTED YELLOW FEVER IN OCTOBER 1887 AND DIED 3 DAYS LATER. FR. FELIX SWEMBERG QUICKLY ARRIVED FROM ORLANDO TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE ONLY TO SUCCEED TO THE DISEASE HIMSELF WITHIN 4 DAYS. LESS THAN A YEAR LATER, FR. DENNIS O'SULLIVAN, AN IRISH PRIEST AND FORMER AFRICAN MISSIONARY CAME TO TAMPA AS PASTOR. 12 DAYS LATER HE TOO DIED OF YELLOW FEVER.

THE LOSS OF A QUARTER OF HIS PRIESTS TO YELLOW FEVER WITHIN A YEAR PROMPTED BISHOP MOORE TO BRING THE JESUITS BACK TO FLORIDA AFTER AN ABSENCE OF OVER 300 YEARS.



**C. CECILIA MORSE**  
 JUNE 3, 1838 - JUNE 15, 1926

**FOUNDRESS OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
 IN SAN ANTONIO, FLORIDA.**

IN 1869, AS A YOUNG WIDOW WITH FIFTEEN CHILDREN, SHE CAME TO TAMPA, FLORIDA, TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN  
 FL. IN PASCO COUNTY. SHE HAD HEARD THAT THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TAMPA WOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND SHE  
 WANTED TO BE A PART OF IT. SHE FOUND THAT THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TAMPA HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN  
 1867 AND THAT THE ARCHBISHOP OF TAMPA, MOST REVEREND JOHN BENEDICT NEUMANN, HAD BEEN  
 NAMED. SHE WROTE TO HIM AND OFFERED HIM HER SERVICES AS A TEACHER IN HIS ARCHDIOCESE.  
 SHE WAS APPOINTED AS A TEACHER IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TAMPA AND SHE BECAME ONE OF THE  
 FOUNDERS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TAMPA. SHE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST WOMEN TO BE APPOINTED  
 AS A TEACHER IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TAMPA. SHE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST WOMEN TO BE  
 APPOINTED AS A TEACHER IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TAMPA. SHE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST  
 WOMEN TO BE APPOINTED AS A TEACHER IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TAMPA. SHE WAS ONE  
 OF THE FIRST WOMEN TO BE APPOINTED AS A TEACHER IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TAMPA.



COLLER

LEVI

22. MAR. 1791  
9. JULY 1855

NANCY DIXON

22. NOV. 1796  
29. SEPT. 1880

THE EARLIEST PIONEER FAMILY TO SETTLE  
IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NEAR FT. BROOKE IN 1823





JUDGE  
JOSEPH B.  
LANCASTER  
FIRST MAYOR  
CITY OF TAMPA  
1856



J. T. MACBEE.  
DIED  
Dec. 12, 1885.  
AGED  
65 Years.

J. A. MACBEE.  
DIED  
Jan. 27, 1885.  
AGED 39 YEARS.

TAMPA'S 1ST  
LAWYER - 1846  
FLA. LEGISLATOR  
1848 - 1854  
1ST CONST.  
CONF. OF FLA.  
1865  
CIRCUIT JUDGE  
1868 - 1875  
EDITOR AND  
PROPRIETOR  
TAMPA GUARDIAN



HERE LIES

W<sup>m</sup> ASHLEY and NANCY ASHLEY

MASTER AND SERVANT.

Faithful to each other in that relation  
in life, in death they are not separated.

Stranger consider and be wiser:  
In the Grave all human distinction,  
of race or caste, mingle together  
in one common dust.

*To commemorate their fidelity to each other  
this stone was erected by their Executors*

JOHN JACKSON,

1873.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 8/9/2017      Date of Pending List: 9/19/2017      Date of 16th Day: 10/4/2017      Date of 45th Day: 9/25/2017      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept       Return       Reject      9/25/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : **Yes**

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



## DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Office of the Bishop

*Mailing Address:*  
Post Office Box 40200  
St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0200  
[www.dosp.org](http://www.dosp.org)

*Office:*  
6363 Ninth Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710  
727-341-6830  
Fax: 722-345-3086

April 3, 2017

Florida National Register Review Board  
Division of Historical Resources  
Attn: Ruben Acosta, Survey and Registration Supervisor  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

RE: *Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries National Register Nomination, Tampa, Florida*

To Whom It May Concern,

On May 11, 2017, you will be reviewing the application of *Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries* to be included on the National Register of Historic Places. As the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg which includes the entire Tampa Bay area as well as the owner of St. Louis Catholic Cemetery, I wish to add my voice of support to this endeavor.

I will specifically limit my comments to St. Louis Cemetery though obviously I am also supportive of Oaklawn's inclusion.

St. Louis Cemetery is without a doubt one of the most important Catholic historical sites on the West Coast of Florida. There is but one single Catholic institution (namely, Sacred Heart Church [formerly, St. Louis Church]) that predates St. Louis Cemetery; however, Sacred Heart Church itself was constructed well after St. Louis Cemetery was established, therefore, one can rightly say that St. Louis Cemetery contains the oldest Catholic monuments on Florida's West Coast. Not only is it the final resting place for many pioneer Catholic families, such as Vincent Martinez-Ybor, the founder of Ybor City and Tampa's cigar industry, but it includes many graves of historical importance.

This includes the graves of five priests, the oldest known priests' graves on Florida's West Coast and certainly within the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Among the graves are three priests who died during the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1886-87. This tragic event ultimately resulted in the return of the Jesuits to Florida after over 300 years, the subsequent building of the spectacular Sacred Heart Church by the Jesuits (as well as other churches throughout the state) and the establishment of Tampa's Jesuit High School.


Also, of note is the grave of Mrs. Cecilia Morse who established St. Anthony of Padua School in 1884 in Pasco County. St. Anthony's School is the oldest school of any kind in Pasco County and one of the oldest schools in the entire Tampa Bay area as well as in the State of Florida. It is interesting to note that she is buried in St. Louis Cemetery with five of her six children who were among the fourteen first parochial school students of St. Anthony's School. She is recognized as the local foundress of Catholic parochial education (something quite unusual as members of the clergy or nuns founded most Catholic schools in the United States).

About ten years ago, St. Louis Cemetery was included as one of twenty-five sites of special religious and historical significance within the Diocese of St. Petersburg and were incorporated into a special publication that invited people to visit and learn about the historical patronage in the Tampa Bay area. This has helped to bring greater awareness to the importance of this cemetery and a number of projects were begun by local initiative to better preserve this historic gem.

Today, both Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries provide a peaceful and reflective environment amidst the busyness of a major Florida city. The markers and monuments there are tangible reminders not just of the important historical figures buried there, but even more importantly the legacy of those who have gone before us and the significant contributions they have made of which we are all their heirs.

I want you to know that this effort to have St. Louis Catholic Cemetery included on the National Register of Historic Places has my complete and total support. I urge you to approve this application. We here in the Diocese of St. Petersburg are excited about the possibility of St. Louis Cemetery being added to National Register of Historic Places so as to formally acknowledge not only its importance, but the need to protect and preserve this sacred ground for years to come.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Gregory Parkes", with a small cross symbol to the left.

Most Reverend Gregory Parkes  
Bishop of St. Petersburg



# CITY OF TAMPA

Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

Planning & Development Department

Architectural Review & Historic Preservation

April 24, 2017

Ruben A. Acosta  
Survey and Registration Supervisor  
Division of Historical Resources  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Re: Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries

Dear Mr. Acosta:

The City of Tampa's Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the above-referenced nomination at its February 14, 2017, public hearing and found that this nomination satisfies the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, with the condition that the application is amended to address the following comments:

- The name of the property should reflect both the Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries and be consistent throughout the report;
- The report should discuss the two mass graves in Oaklawn Cemetery;
- All of the contributing resources should be itemized within the Narrative Description, and current photos of these resources should be provided;
- Further information should be added to the St. Louis Cemetery related to significant gravesite within. There should be a reference to C. Cecilia Morse who founded St. Anthony School, the oldest school in Pasco County and one of the oldest schools in the entire Tampa Bay region. She should certainly be acknowledged as a local pioneer of Catholic Education in the state. See <http://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=37795> for more information on C. Cecilia Morse. There are also five pioneer priests interred that succumbed to yellow fever and are worthy of recognition. See <http://www.hmdb.org/Marker.asp?Marker=37548> for more information.

The Oaklawn Cemetery, established 1850, and the St. Louis Cemetery, established 1874, are an important part of the history of the early settlement and community planning of the City of Tampa, and as such, they received Local Historic Landmark designation in 2011. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places will bring additional recognition to this significant historic resource and promote its continued preservation. The distinction is well-deserved.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this nomination for the Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries.

Sincerely,

Dennis Fernandez, Manager  
Architectural Review & Historic Preservation

KATHY CASTOR  
14TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
VICE RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND POWER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0914**

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2052 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3376

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
4144 NORTH ARMENIA AVENUE  
SUITE 300  
TAMPA, FL 33607  
(813) 871-2817



June 20, 2017

Dear Mr. Fernandez,

On behalf of the 14<sup>th</sup> District of Florida, I am pleased to recommend Oaklawn Cemetery to be listed in the National Register for Historic Places. It is of utmost importance to commemorate this location that holds the resting place for a plethora of Tampa's founding fathers and government officials. With this nomination, we are remembering the achievements of Tampa's pioneers that have advanced our city since its inception.

I have viewed the nomination given by the Florida National Register Review Board, and once again urge you to give it every consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact Dewayne Mallory at 813-871-2817 or [dewayne.mallory@mail.house.gov](mailto:dewayne.mallory@mail.house.gov)

Sincerely,

*Kathy Castor*

Kathy Castor  
United States Representative  
Florida, District 14





# CITY OF TAMPA

100001668

Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

Planning & Development Department

Architectural Review & Historic Preservation

July 10, 2017

National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C Street, NW (2280)  
Washington, DC 20240



Re: Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries, Hillsborough County – Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Sir or Madam,

Enclosed is a letter, which was sent to my office, from U.S. Representative Kathy Castor in support of the listing of the Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries in the National Register of Historic Places. I am forwarding this letter to you to ensure that it is received by the Keeper of the National Register.

Sincerely,

Dennis Fernandez, Manager  
Architectural Review & Historic Preservation



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

**RICK SCOTT**  
Governor



**KEN DETZNER**  
Secretary of State

August 4, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Oaklawn and St. Louis Cemeteries Historic District, Tampa, Hillsborough County (FMSF# HI05595)**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Ruben A. Acosta  
Supervisor, Survey & Registration  
Bureau of Historic Preservation

RAA/raa

Enclosures