

INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Paris (Partial Inventory: Architecture)

SITE NAME: Paris Cemetery SITE # 47

LOCATION: South boundary Paris Village limits

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: L.D.S. Church, Bear Lake Stake, Paris, Idaho 83261

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Paris, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: approximately ten acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Nomination includes the Paris Cemetery at the west end of cemetery road west of Highway 89, in section 10.

UTM(S): See continuation sheet #1 (bottom of page)

DATE OR PERIOD: 1870's - 1920's EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: landscape architecture, craft, local history

DESCRIPTION: Good condition Unaltered Original site

The Paris Cemetery is a ten-acre plot on high ground southwest of Paris, on the southern village limits. The well-tended grounds are bordered to the west by a wooded area and to the north, east and south by open fields. Monuments observed range in face date from the early 1870's to the present. Materials range from soft white stone for the early markers to a variety of harder stones, predominantly dark in color, from the 1880's onward. A relatively small but significant number of turn-of-the-century monuments are cast metal. Images are predominantly abstract or floral, with significant classical devices as urns or columns, particularly on the cast metal monuments, about the only representational sculptural motifs. Quality of workmanship is consistently high.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Paris Cemetery is significant in the areas of landscape architecture and craft for its range of very well-worked and distinctive funerary monuments, in the area of social and humanitarian movements for its icons and arrangements illustrative of Mormon beliefs and customs, and, secondarily, in the area of local history for its commemoration of persons important to the settlement and subsequent development of Paris.

The primary significances of the site in an architectural inventory are those of landscape architecture and craft. The cemetery occupies a handsome site somewhat removed from the townsite and possessing a commanding view of the town and the rest of the valley. This siting, on church-owned land, makes quite clear the importance and solemnity of the rituals associated with death and burial in a close-knit theocratic community. The monuments themselves, which date from the first full decade of settlement to the present, are of consistently high quality, with a range of materials reflecting something of the community's development: from the soft, easily-worked white stone of the 1870's and 1880's to the harder materials of the age of resident masons, from the mid-1880's on. Also present are a number of cast-metal monuments dated to the decades on either side of the turn of the century; these "stones" are not

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Paris Cemetery

SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

only unusually handsome and rare in Idaho cemeteries thus far inventoried, but document the availability of imported goods available to Parisians after the arrival of the railroad and possibly more acceptable to them with the diffusion of the cooperative movement.

The iconography of the monuments, particularly the locally-produced ones, suggests a general taste for abstract or floral motifs—in one atypically modish example, this taste is expressed in an art nouveau manner—or, occasionally for motifs specific to Mormondom: i.e. the Salt Lake or Logan temples, where many of these couples would have traveled to be married. The relative simplicity together with their craftsmanship of the monuments produces a compelling impression of quality and austerity.

The arrangements within the cemetery reflect a number of things about the social history of Paris. Some of these are non-specific to the town, such as the arrangement of graves by social standing: the Rich family plot, for example, lies prominently in the center of the cemetery grounds, and bustles with large and imposing stones; the small and flat Grunder headstone is in the lower north-east corner, outside the service drive, in about the same relation to the grounds as the Grunder cabin (site #4) was to the rest of the town. More specific to a Mormon community of the late nineteenth-century are the polygamous groups: the Rich and Price groups are among those which show an arrangement of father and plural mothers, with children and extended families clustered nearby.

Finally, the cemetery has secondary importance as a site commemorative of the founders and builders of Paris from the most prominent, such as chief colonizer and Apostle Charles C. Rich, to the most humble, such as the Grunders. Most of the names associated with structures included in this inventory are represented in family plots at Paris Cemetery.

- UTMS: A. 12/4, 66, 430/46, 73, 405
B. 12/4, 66, 510/46, 73, 290
C. 12/4, 66, 350/46, 73, 290
D. 12/4, 66, 350/46, 73, 405