

140058351

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <i>La.</i>	
COUNTY: <i>Orleans</i>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>FEB 1</b>	<b>1972</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**LAFAYETTE CEMETERY NO. 1**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1400 Washington Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**New Orleans**

STATE: **Louisiana**      CODE: ~~70130~~      COUNTY: **Orleans**      CODE: ~~70130~~

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Cemetery</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**CITY OF NEW ORLEANS**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**City Hall, 1300 Perdido Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **New Orleans**      STATE: **Louisiana**      CODE: ~~70112~~

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Conveyance Office, Orleans Parish**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Civil Courts Building, 421 Loyola Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **New Orleans**      STATE: **Louisiana**      CODE: ~~70112~~

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Historical Sites Inventory, Regional Planning Commission Rader and Associates. Nov. 1969. p. 35. Rated: Value 2 (of major architectural or historical importance)**

DATE OF SURVEY: **November, 1969**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Regional Planning Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**9th Floor, Masonic Temple Bldg., 333 St. Charles Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **New Orleans**      STATE: **Louisiana**      CODE: ~~70130~~

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 occupies the entire square in the Garden District of New Orleans, bounded by Washington Avenue, Prytania, Coliseum and Sixth Streets. It is surrounded by a high brick wall, parts of which form the back of traditional New Orleans burial vaults, four vaults high. The vault walls are along the Washington Avenue side(s). The plan consists of central avenues crossing at the center of the square. These were originally lined with rows of tall magnolia trees, most of which have succumbed to hurricane and freeze, and have been replaced recently by new magnolia trees. The four quarter areas are subdivided by a series of walks along which are erected various family tombs for above-ground burial. Many of the tombs are of marble, many of brick covered with smooth stucco and whitewashed, and some of them are of cast iron. Many have marble slabs containing designs and inscriptions. A great many of the tombs are of architectural importance, in Greek Revival and Gothic styles. The Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, situated in this historic setting, is an outstanding example of the traditional type of New Orleans burial ground, which is unique in America. While tombs have been constructed at various periods, the cemetery's general form and design are original, and follow the plan as conceived by the founders of the cemetery.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located upriver some 2½ miles above the Vieux Carre, or original city of New Orleans, Lafayette City once boasted the fastest-growing economy on the river, being the terminus of the Texas cattle trail, and the center of the grain traffic in the Deep South of the Mississippi Valley. Once known as the de Livaudais plantation, its sugar fields were divided into streets and lots when the city was incorporated in 1833, and the square bounded by Washington Ave., Prytania, Coliseum and Sixth Streets was reserved for a cemetery. It was named Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, and immediately began to receive burials according to ordinances and resolutions of the City of Lafayette Board of Council, August 3, 1833 (see copy attached). However, according to Edward Rightor in his "Standard History of New Orleans", it had been a place designated for burials in 1824. The "New Orleans City Guide" states that it is "the oldest planned cemetery in New Orleans, the lanes being laid out in symmetrical order and provision made for driveways for funeral processions..." When Lafayette City merged with the City of New Orleans in 1852, the cemetery became the property of that city, as part of the 4th Municipal District. It is still the property of the city of New Orleans, although its tombs and plots are under private ownership. The city maintains only the walls, walks, grounds, gates, and trees.

Its historical significance, besides being a prime example of a typical New Orleans, above-ground cemetery serving a very historical area, is enhanced by its being the resting place of a great many of New Orleans' colorful and prominent citizens and their families. Here lie Samuel J. Peters, to whom much credit is due for the city's public school system as well as a developer of the city; John Turpin, the architectural partner of James Gallier, Jr., one of the great Greek Revival specialists, whose works are internationally famous; E. W. Sewell and Robert Huyghe, who built many of the great houses and mansions of the Garden District, the magnificent ante-bellum homes which surround the area in which the cemetery is located. Henry W. Allen, another educational devotee in early New Orleans and later Governor of the state was buried there, although his body was later removed to Baton Rouge. Buried there are Generals John B. Hood and Harry Hays, Confederate heroes; numerous fraternal organizations, including the famous Jefferson Volunteer Fire tomb, with its interesting marble pediment showing the hand-pump engine of the period.

(CONTINUED ON ATTACHED PAGE)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Norman, B. M., Norman's New Orleans and Environs, New Orleans, 1845.  
Ordinances and Resolutions of the City of Lafayette, The, New Orleans, 1845.  
 " " " " " " " " " Lafayette, 1852.  
 Waldo, J. Curtis, Visitors Guide to New Orleans, New Orleans, 1875.

(CONTINUED ON ATTACHED PAGE)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		29°	55'	30" N
NE	° ' "	° ' "		90°	05'	" W
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4.5 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Ray Samuel, Chairman - Historical Designation Committee

ORGANIZATION  
 Garden District Association

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 710 International Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
 New Orleans

STATE  
 Louisiana

DATE  
 February 26, 1971

CODE  
 70130

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name George M. Peak  
 Title Chairman - State Historic Preservation & Cultural Comm. / State Liaison Officer

Date 7/7/71

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Conrad A. Connolly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 1 1972

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Sydney Bradford  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date Jan. 10, 1972

10/18/71

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STATE	
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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Large community burials took place here in the great yellow fever epidemics, including numerous German and Irish settlers of the 1830's and '40's. The International Order of Jefferson Lodge No. 29 is represented by an obelisk of white marble, erected in 1849. An Italian marble tomb for Oscar Wibel was erected in 1864, during the war, for \$3,500, quite a sum in those days, the cost of a fine house. The complete record books of the Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 are on deposit in the New Orleans Public Library, and afford an interesting view of the city's storied past. The original design for the cemetery was done by Benjamin Buisson, himself an historic and colorful figure, having been one of Napoleon's engineers who fled to America after Waterloo. He settled in New Orleans and became Surveyor for Jefferson Parish, in which Lafayette City was located until 1852.

Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 is included, and has been so, for over a century, in routine sightseeing tours as one of New Orleans' interesting and historic sites. And yet, it is still used by many of the city's families of high and low estate, for family burials.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES - continued

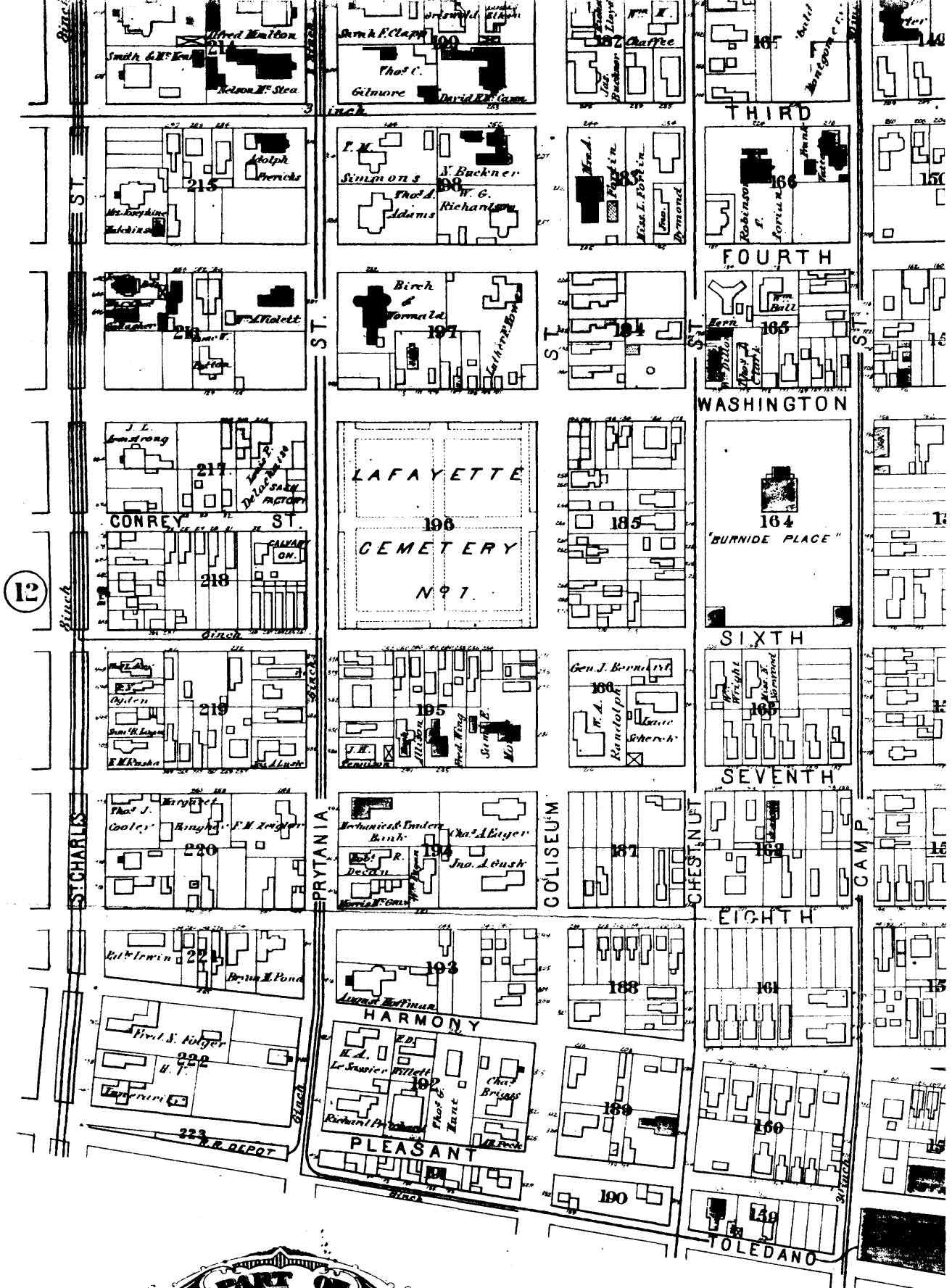
(Hearne, Lafcadio, Ed.) Historical Sketch Book and Guide to New Orleans and Environs, Will H. Coleman, New York, 1885.

Rightor, Henry, Standard History of New Orleans, The Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1900.

New Orleans City Guide, American Guide Series (W.P.A.), Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1938.

Wilson, Samuel, Jr. A Guide to the Architecture of New Orleans, 1699-1959, Reinhold Publishing Co., New York, 1959.

Samuel, Marth Ann Brett and Ray, The Great Days of the Garden District and the Old City of Lafayette, Parents League of the Louise S. McGehee School, New Orleans, 1961.



Scale 200 feet per inch

LATITUDE - 29° 55' 30" N  
 LONGITUDE - 90° 05' W