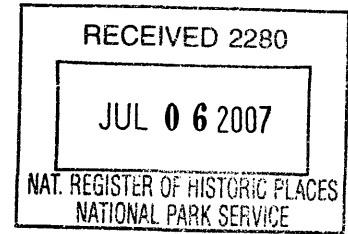


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, 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 Lone Fir Cemetery

other names/site number Mount Crawford Cemetery

## 2. Location

street & number 2115 SE Morrison St.  not for publication

city or town Portland  vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97214

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant     nationally     statewide X locally.

[Signature] 6.26.07  
Signature of certifying official/Title - Deputy SHPO Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:  
Action

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

[Signature] 9.16.07  
Signature of the Keeper Date of

Lone Fir Cemetery  
Name of Property

Multnomah Co., OR  
County and State

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property  
(check as many as apply)

- private
- public - local
- public - state
- public - Federal

Category of Property  
(check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
<u>2</u>		structures
<u>2</u>		objects
<u>5</u>		Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(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

None

**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)

Mausoleum  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: BRICK, STONE  
walls: STONE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof: METAL  
Other: STONE, CONCRETE  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

See continuation sheets.

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### SUMMARY:

The 30.5 acre Lone Fir Cemetery is located atop a prominent hill in the Buckman Neighborhood of Southeast Portland, Oregon overlooking the Willamette River and downtown Portland. Opened in 1846 Lone Fir is the city's oldest continuously-used cemetery. Approximately 25,000 people are now interred there. The cemetery is laid out in a grid pattern of fifty mostly rectangular blocks set in a park-like setting, and it is punctuated by many groupings of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century plantings. Over 500 individual trees representing sixty-seven differing species and numerous varieties of shrubs are planted throughout the property. The "lone fir," for which the cemetery was named, still stands in the northwest corner of the property. Reflecting trends in burial practices throughout its operation, the types of monuments throughout the site gradually change from marble tablet markers to more elaborately carved nineteenth-century Victorian memorials. Blocks developed in the early-twentieth century feature simple granite markers. Within the cemetery there are three notable and contributing features: the Macleay Mausoleum, the Soldiers' Memorial, and the Pioneer Rose Garden. Portland financier Donald Macleay built the Gothic Revival style Macleay Mausoleum in 1877 to commemorate his wife Martha Macleay. The structure remains a prominent feature within the cemetery. Another important monument is the Soldiers' Memorial, which was dedicated in 1903 in remembrance of the veterans of four wars. In 1943 the Pioneer Rose Association planted the "Pioneer Rose Garden" to commemorate the women of the Oregon Trail. The garden is one of the few formally arranged plantings on the property.

### SETTING:

The 30.5-acre Lone Fir Cemetery is located approximately twenty blocks east of downtown in the Buckman Neighborhood of southeast Portland. The area is a densely populated multi- and single-family residential neighborhood with pockets of commercial development. The cemetery is roughly bounded by SE 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the west, SE Morrison Street on the south, SE Stark Street on the north, and SE 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the east. The rear lot lines of single and multi-family residences and commercial businesses border the cemetery on the west boundary along SE 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This seventy-five foot strip is zoned storefront commercial (CS) and residential (R-1). See map.

The residences on the north, east, and south sides of the cemetery date from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. Central Catholic High School is directly north of Lone Fir at SE Stark and SE 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue.<sup>1</sup> Buckman Elementary School is also located in the neighborhood. Two planned neighborhoods, Ladds Addition and Laurelhurst Neighborhood/Park, are located near the cemetery.

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<sup>1</sup> Established in 1858, St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery once stood on the site of the current Central Catholic School. The cemetery was closed in the 1930s and the human remains were disinterred and reburied in other cemeteries. The high school was built in 1939.

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Platted in 1891, Ladds Addition is one of the oldest planned residential neighborhoods in Portland. Laurelhurst Neighborhood and Park were laid out in 1909-1911.

### CEMETERY LAYOUT:

The primary entrance is on the south side of the cemetery along SE Morrison Street near the southwest corner of the site near SE 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.<sup>2</sup> Originally, the main entrance was in the northwest corner of the cemetery at Base Line Road, now SE Stark Street.<sup>3</sup> On SE 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue there are two stone columns that measure approximately two-foot square and six-foot tall that mark either side of the driveway. Brass plates on each column acknowledge their donation by David Stearns. Former entrances at SE 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, SE Alder, and SE Stark Streets are marked by two-foot square and six-inch tall basalt bases and chain-link gates.

A concrete retaining wall with a chain-link fence on top borders the north boundary. The retaining wall is higher at the west end of Stark Street at SE 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and tapers down to ground level starting at about SE 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue. A stone mile marker placed in 1855 on the wall bears the inscription "P2." The marker indicates that it is two miles to downtown Portland from that point on Stark Street, originally Base Line Road, and it marks the Willamette Meridian. Another retaining wall constructed of basalt in 1912 lies along the south end of the east boundary and the east end of south boundary near the corner of SE Morrison Street and SE 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The chain-link fence extends around the entire perimeter of the cemetery with gates along the east and south sides of the cemetery. The southwest corner of the cemetery has been partially paved.

Although the total acreage of 30.5 acres was established by 1866, the cemetery was not fully platted until several decades latter. The earliest development of the cemetery is along the west side of the acreage. The cemetery plat is laid out in a grid pattern made up of mostly rectangular blocks and includes blocks numbered one through thirty-nine, Blocks A through E, and seven smaller blocks denoted as 5M through 11M are part of the Free Mason section of the cemetery. The blocks are divided into smaller lots that have multiple individual grave plots within each. Lots were generally twenty feet by ten feet and ran from north to south. Each lot contained six grave plots each, which were orientated to the east.<sup>4</sup> Additional plats added to the original cemetery include the 1874 Plat — Blocks One through Fourteen, and A and B (some blocks/lots were previously laid out but the earlier plat map from 1866, but have not been found); 1882 Plat — Blocks Fifteen through Eighteen; 1892

<sup>2</sup> In the late-nineteenth century the City and Suburban Railway built the Mount Tabor Streetcar Line along Morrison St. with a cemetery stop at 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

<sup>3</sup> An early brochure from 1900 shows a picture of a wooden arched gate at this entrance that has since been demolished.

<sup>4</sup> Blocks 17 and 18 are larger blocks measuring 43'4" by 49'. Some of the lots along the perimeter of the cemetery are irregular in shape.

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Plat — Blocks Nineteen through Twenty-Five, and Block C; 1894 Plat — Blocks Thirty through Thirty-Four, and Block D; and 1901 Plat — Blocks Thirty-Five through Thirty-Nine, and Block E.

The majority of the roads separating the various cemetery blocks are approximately twenty-feet wide with the exception of the fifteen-foot road along the west side of the cemetery. Originally graveled, the roads are now paved with asphalt. The walkways between the lots are approximately five-feet to six-feet wide. The irregular road pattern resulted from the addition of new blocks to the original plat. A revised 1944 plat map shows the removal of some roads to accommodate the additional lots.

### LANDSCAPE:

The park-like cemetery is on a fairly-flat lot that slopes gently up towards the northwest corner of the site. A well-maintained lawn covers the majority of the grounds. There are some concrete and basalt curbs that edge the roadways in order to accommodate the slope of the site. One retaining wall near Block One is made of rock and pieces of headstones stacked on top of one another. The construction date of this wall is unknown.

A prominent feature of the cemetery is its eclectic plantings of native and imported trees. For over 150 years family members of the deceased planted native and imported species of shrubs and trees creating a large green space. There are over 500 individual trees in the cemetery representing sixty-seven different species.<sup>5</sup> Douglas-fir, western red cedar, numerous species of maple (red, norway, ribbon leaf and Oregon big leaf), weeping cherries, buckeye, birch, cypress, ginkgo, chestnut, locust, Pacific weeping willows, tulip trees, oaks, hemlock, and English variegated holly are trees found in the cemetery.<sup>6</sup> Some of these trees have small plaques identifying the species. Most of the trees are planted in association with graves rather than in the larger context of a planned landscape. A row of cedar trees line the fence along SE 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and another planted before 1936 is along the east third of the north boundary. Mature maples line the southern edge of the east boundary. The "lone fir," for which the cemetery was renamed by Aurelia Barrell in 1866, still stands in the northwest section of the cemetery. On 14 February 1937 the Pioneer Rose Association marked the tree with a bronze plaque. Other landmark trees include four California redwoods planted in 1873 on each of the corners of the grave of Daniel Wright. The variety of trees is reflected in a similar diversity of shrubs and other plantings. These include traditional cemetery plants such as roses, lilacs, boxwoods, hydrangea, azaleas, rhododendrons, laurels, and tulips.

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<sup>5</sup> Peter G. Scheidman, *Tree Survey for Lone Fir Cemetery, 1978, updated in 1981.*

<sup>6</sup> See map of tree (partial coverage) in the supplemental material.

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### FEATURES:

#### *Gravemarkers and Monuments*

Lone Fir Cemetery has a wide variety of monument types and styles. A number of these markers date from the Victorian and post-Victorian periods and reveal the artistic trends of the era in their carving, shapes, and funerary imagery. The marker styles often reveal the status and wealth of the individual. Larger family monuments often are positioned in the center of a family plot and are surrounded by smaller headstones that represent individual burials.

The pre-1900 gravemarkers are generally marble headstones in the form of tablets, obelisks, crosses, scrolls, and columns that often rest on raised hand-tooled sandstone bases. Although historically some of these early markers were wooden, only one wood marker survives. The markers usually include the deceased name, the birth and death dates, and expressions about the life lived. There are also several zinc or white bronze markers in the cemetery. Popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s, these markers had removable panels that could be inscribed at later dates for other family members.

Marker styles started changing in the early 1900s as new carving techniques and machinery enabled harder stones such as granite to be used. In the cemetery these later stones are usually in the shape of rectangular blocks, cylindrical pillows, flush or slant markers and are simple in design. They are made of different colors of granite, usually pinks and grays, and have simple block lettering. These markers usually have concrete foundations, and were more durable in the Northwest climate than the earlier marble markers.

Other monuments are reflective of the practices of fraternal organizations. The Free Masons of the Willamette and Harmony Lodges, many of whom were founders of Portland, bought Blocks Seven and Eight from the cemetery in 1862. The monuments include the use of the "All Seeing Eye," a symbol of the watchfulness of God; the three pillars representing Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty; and tools used by the masons including the gavel, square, level, plumb, compass, trowel, mallet, picket, crowbar, and shovel. The monuments of the Woodsmen of the World feature the organizational tree trunk symbol.

#### *Distinct Burial Plots*

A fire fighter's section is located in Block Five, and the Masonic sections include Blocks 5M to 11M.

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### *Pioneer Rose Garden: Block 22 (Contributing Site)*

The Pioneer Rose Garden at Lone Fir Cemetery is one of three such gardens, and the only existent, created by the Pioneer Rose Association to identify the old roses carried west by pioneer women and to honor their memory. Located in Block Twenty-Two, the rectangular plan garden includes twenty-three different roses planted in rows as well as birdbaths, a flagstaff, rose markers, racks, and a wooden pergola.

### *Macleay Mausoleum and associated maintenance building (Contributing Structures)*

The McLeay Mausoleum was commissioned by successful businessman Donald Macleay in honor of his wife Martha who died at age of thirty-one on 22 November 1876. Located in Block Seventeen, Lot Three, Portland stone masons Trenavas & Ballentyne contracted to build the memorial for a cost of \$13,500, and completed it in September 1877. Designed in the high Gothic Revival style, the mausoleum has a chapel on the main floor and catacombs underneath for burials. The building is constructed of ashlar sandstone blocks. It measures twenty-by-eighteen feet, and is fifty-feet high. The building has a steeply pitched cross-gable roof covered with metal-seamed roofing, cross-shaped finials, square-corner stone pilasters set at a diagonal with truncated pinnacle caps, and pointed arched stained-glass windows with a projecting label molding finished with a decorative stop. A projecting stringcourse with a slanted cap molding extends around the perimeter below the windows and at the base of the building. "Macleay" is carved in raised letters in a scroll banner above the pointed arched door on the west façade. The wrought-iron gate on this façade opens into the burial crypt below. A mahogany door on the east facade, recessed in a pointed arched opening, leads into the chapel, which has black and white marble floor and highly polished stonewalls. A small brick shed with a medium-pitch side-gabled roof was constructed near the building to store equipment for the mausoleum's upkeep. The building has a single door on the south side and no windows.

### *Soldiers' Memorial (Contributing Object)*

Located in the center of the cemetery near Block Eight and a designated public square, the Soldiers' Memorial was constructed in 1902 and dedicated on 16 October 1903. Designed by D.D. Neer, the seventeen-foot seven-inch monument is made of granite and has a square base that measures eleven-feet by four-inches square. Three twelve-inch high tiered steps form the base. The south face of the upper-most tier has an inscription that states, "Erected by Citizens and Soldiers of the Wars, A.D. 1902." The inscription on the plinth above these steps reads, "Sacred to the memory of Veterans of the Indian Wars," "To the Memory of the Veterans of the Mexican War," "To the Memory of the Veterans of the Civil War," and "To the Memory of the Veterans of the Spanish-American War." Plaques on each face of the plinth have the badges of the veterans of these wars. The base below

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the statue is embellished with corner pilasters with decorative carved cornices. On top of the elaborate base is a six-foot four-inch statue of a skirmish line soldier holding a flag.

### *Stone Entrance Columns: (Contributing Object)*

Originally, the main entrance of the cemetery, the stone columns are located on former 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.<sup>7</sup> The two stone columns that measure approximately two-foot square and six-feet tall that mark either side of the driveway. Brass plates on each column acknowledge their donation by David Stearns. Chain link swinging gates with barb wire are now attached to the columns.

### **OWNERSHIP**

For a brief period of time the ownership of the Lone Fir Cemetery was divided. Between 1891 and 1928 over 1,131 Chinese persons were buried in Block Fourteen located in the southwest corner of the cemetery. In 1928 and again 1948 remains were disinterred and shipped in containers back to China. A total of almost 800 burials were disinterred. In 1952 the Portland City Council issued a special permit to Multnomah County that allowed the construction of a two-story concrete office building on Block Fourteen called the Morrison Building, thus effectively separating Block Fourteen from Lone Fir Cemetery.

Multnomah County transferred the Lone Fir Cemetery property to METRO in 1997 as part of the Parks and Greenspace Program, but retained Block Fourteen and the Morrison Building. In 2003, the Morrison Building was condemned and plans were made to demolish the building and sell the land. Members of the public, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA), the Buckman Neighborhood Association, and the Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery banded together to save Block Fourteen from development because of evidence that not all the remains had been removed.<sup>8</sup> An archaeological study indicated that human remains were still present, which caused the County to abandoned its plan to sell the block. The Morrison Building was demolished and Block Fourteen was deeded back to METRO as part of the cemetery on 4 January 2007, thus re-establishing the original cemetery boundaries.

### **ALTERATIONS:**

Once in a rural location, Lone Fir Cemetery is now a green space in the densely urban Buckman neighborhood of Southeast Portland. Even with its evolving setting, the Lone Fir Cemetery maintains

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<sup>7</sup> An early brochure from 1900 shows a picture of a wooden arched gate at this entrance that has since been demolished.

<sup>8</sup> Members of the Chinese community and patients from the "Insane Asylum" were most likely buried in Block 14.



Lone Fir Cemetery  
Name of Property

Multnomah Co., OR  
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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a high-degree of integrity, which was first recognized by the City of Portland when the City named Lone Fir Cemetery a Historical Landmark on 4 September 1975.

Most alterations to Lone Fir Cemetery are related to the property's ongoing maintenance. The entrances were changed due to security concerns and changing traffic patterns. Most of the original curbs around the plots have been removed or partially were removed during the historic period to ease mowing. Caretakers repaired several of the Cemetery's main features over time. For instance, the Macleay Mausoleum was the subject of repeated vandalism. In 1957 two months of work was required to repair the structure's stained glass windows and place metal mesh over the windows for protection. In 2003 a wrought iron fence was placed around the mausoleum to deter vandals. In 1990 The Soldiers' Memorial was badly damaged and moved inside the Morrison Building on the grounds. On Memorial Day 2002, the restored statue was reinstalled on the monument and rededicated.

The only section of the cemetery that has been modified is Block Fourteen, described above. The Morrison Building was removed in 2005, leaving behind a partially paved parking area above ground. Although many of the bodies have been removed in accordance with Chinese customs and the original markers are no longer present, the block still has many burials. The Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery currently plan to restore Block 14 by reestablishing the lawn, and are considering appropriate memorials to be placed in the area.

Lone Fir Cemetery  
Name of Property

Multnomah Co., OR  
County and State

**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).

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- 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.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
SOCIAL HISTORY  
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance  
1855-1952

Significant Dates  
1855, 1874, 1882, 1892, 1894, 1901,  
Dates of cemetery expansion

Criteria Considerations  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

Significant Person  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

- 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

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bibliography (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing the form on one or more continuation sheets) See continuation sheets

- Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) 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

- Primary location of additional data:
- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other

Name of repository: See bibliography, Section 10

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### SUMMARY:

Lone Fir Cemetery is locally significant for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and meets the special registration requirements for cemeteries under Criteria Consideration D because of its strong historic association with the settlement of Portland and its historic growth and development, and the representative cross section of individuals buried there. The areas of significance associated with the Lone Fir Cemetery community planning and development, social history, and exploration and settlement. The period of significance dates from 1855 to 1952. The beginning date represents when the cemetery was first platted, and the end date corresponds to the date when Multnomah County removed Block Fourteen from the cemetery boundary.

Originally known as the Mt. Crawford Cemetery, the Lone Fir Cemetery was platted in 1855 by Colburn Barrell after he buried a friend, Crawford Dobbins, who died in a steamship accident on the Willamette River. The cemetery was located on a slight knoll on the east side of the Willamette River in what would later become known as East Portland. Mt. Crawford became one of the primary burial grounds for the first settlers of Portland, especially after the City of Portland closed cemeteries in 1854 because of their marshy locations. In 1866 the cemetery was sold to a group of prominent business people who renamed the site the "Lone Fir Cemetery."

Lone Fir Cemetery has been, and continues to be, a burial ground for people from different social, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Many of the region's most prominent citizens are buried in Lone Fir including pioneers, governmental leaders, business people, as well as indigents and patients of the first mental asylum. Well-known citizens interred in the cemetery include William Chapman, the founder of *The Weekly Oregonian* (1850) as well as the first publisher, Thomas Dryer; Donald Macleay, Portland financier and investor; Asa Lovejoy, activist in establishing the Oregon Territorial government; Daniel Lownsdale, creator of the downtown Park Blocks; George L. Curry and William Thayer, Oregon governors; Dr. J.A. Chapman, Dr. Harry Lane, and Earl Riley, Portland mayors; Dr. John Hawthorne, founder of the first mental hospital; and James and Elizabeth Stephens and Seldon Murray, claimants of Donation Land Claims (DLC) where the cemetery is located. The cemetery also represents the struggles and customs of different immigrant groups from the British Isles, Germany, France, and Italy, and the many Chinese who came to the Pacific Northwest to help construct the railroads, work in the canneries, and build roads and bridges.

The expansion of the cemetery grounds to the east with the platting of the various sections from 1855 to 1901 reflect the growth of East Portland and Portland. Cemetery blocks and new roads were added to the original property as the demand for burial plots increased with the growth of the city. The land around the cemetery grounds slowly developed from farmland to dense residential development.

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The property is the oldest continuously operating cemetery in the immediate Portland area that was laid out in the initial Euro-American settlement period. Despite the transition from a rural to an urban setting, Lone Fir Cemetery retains a high degree of physical integrity and its rural feeling within the park.

### HISTORIC CONTEXT:

#### *Native Americans*

The region surrounding the confluence of the Lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers is known to have been inhabited and intensively used by Native Americans in prehistoric times. The area now known as Lone Fir Cemetery would have been near the boundary between the territories inhabited by the Multnomah and Clackamas divisions of the Chinookans, whose villages were located along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers and their tributaries. Chinookans traded extensively with Euroamericans following the 1825 establishment of Fort Vancouver on the north shore of the Columbia. By the early 1830s, Euroamerican diseases had decimated the area's native populations, particularly the Multnomah and Clackamas Chinookans. Many of the survivors intermarried with Kalapuya and Molala survivors and ultimately ended up residing on the Grand Ronde Reservation and in the towns along the Lower Willamette. When Portland was founded on the west bank of the Willamette River in the early 1840s most of the area's native population was gone, leaving it open to Euroamerican settlement."<sup>1</sup>

#### *Settlement of Portland and East Portland*

In 1804, Lewis & Clark left on their two-year expedition of the Oregon Country. After returning to Washington D.C. in 1806 reports of the mild climate, the lush green forests, fertile land, and abundance of lakes and streams generated great interest in the region. Forty years later, hundreds of immigrants traveled to the Oregon Territory. Many stopped at present-day Portland, a clearing on the west bank of the Willamette River about halfway between the territorial capital of Oregon City and Fort Vancouver.<sup>2</sup>

William Overton was one of these early emigrants who arrived in present-day Oregon in 1843. Overton recognized the commercial potential of the land, but lacked the funds required to file a land

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<sup>1</sup> Archaeological Investigations Northwest Inc. *Archaeological Exploration of Multnomah County's Morrison Property at SE 20<sup>th</sup> and Morrison, Portland, Oregon*, Report #1443, March 8, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> In 1829, John McLoughlin claimed the area around Oregon City and nearby bank of Columbia River for the Hudson Bay Company in 1829. He then surveyed and platted Oregon City. Oregon City became the capital of the Oregon Country in 1843.

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claim. He struck a bargain with his partner Asa Lovejoy of Boston, Massachusetts: for 25¢, Overton would share his claim to the 640-acres. The two men began to develop the land, but only after a few months the penniless Overton decided to move. He traded his half-interest to storeowner Francis Pettygrove, originally of Portland, Maine. Pettygrove and Lovejoy platted the new town, but when it came time to choose a name they both had the same idea: to name the new community after their hometowns. The two men flipped a coin to decide and Pettygrove won — Portland was named. By Summer 1845 the town was surveyed and lots began to sell.

By 1848, Portland had about a dozen occupied houses and a population of approximately sixty people. More importantly, a good deep-water wharf was built. Navigation of the Willamette River was the key to the growth of the new town. The wheat and timber shipped south to San Francisco during the 1849 California Gold Rush boosted the local economy and population. The enactment of the Donation Land Claim Act (DLC) of 1850 also brought hundreds of people into the Portland area. By 1851 Portland had its own territorial city charter and its own newspaper, *The Weekly Oregonian*, published by Thomas Dryer. On the other side of the river the town of East Portland developed.

### ***The Development of East Portland***

Originally held by John McLouglin of the Hudson Bay Trading Co., much of the land that would become East Portland was owned by James B. Stephens and Seldon Murray. Stephens purchased rights to the acreage from the Hudson Bay Company and in 1850 secured a DLC (#53) of 641-acres. His claim extended from present-day SE Stark to SE Division Streets, and from the Willamette River to SE 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Stephens then laid out the town of East Portland in the 1850s and established the first ferry across the Willamette River, first from Jefferson Street (1846) and later from Stark Street (1850). Stephens, known for his generous spirit, donated land for a school and hospital as a way to promote East Portland.

Seldon Murray's DLC (#54) of 641-acres was adjacent to Stephens claim along SE 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and included the land between what is now SE 20<sup>th</sup> and SE 38<sup>th</sup> Avenues and between SE Stark and SE Division streets, including part of the land that would become the Lone Fir Cemetery. The two claims were in excellent locations near two wagon roads and the river — the Road to the Sandy River and another wagon road that extended east from the river (SE Hawthorne Blvd.) The Sandy River Road was one of the major transportation routes used by early settlers traveling on the Oregon Trail.

Stephens and Murray sold some of their land to Colburn Barrell in the early 1850s. As part of the Stephen's transaction, Barrell agreed to maintain the grave of Emmor Stephens, James Stephen's father who had been buried on the property in 1846. Following the death of Barrell's business partner, Crawford Dobbins, Barrell set aside ten acres of his property in 1855 for cemetery use. He named the new cemetery Mt. Crawford after his friend.

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The founding of Mt. Crawford Cemetery coincides with the Portland City Council's decision in 1854 to close the existing graveyards within confines of the city because of health concerns. The marshy lands where the cemeteries were located were unsuitable for burials. These burial grounds included cemeteries at Ankeny and Front Streets, Washington and Stark Streets at SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Alder and Burnside Streets at SW 11th Avenue. In November 1857, the City Council provided funds to remove bodies from city graveyard. Many of these were re-interred in the Mt. Crawford Cemetery.

At the same time, the area continued to grow and develop. Farms and orchards dotted the landscape of East Portland as more people settled in the region. Farmers sold their produce to businesses and individuals on both sides of the Willamette River using Stephen's Stark Street Ferry to ship their produce and wares across the river. A year before Oregon became a state in 1859, Dr. J.C. Hawthorne arrived in Portland to care for the area's indigent patients. In 1862, James Stephens, impressed by the new doctor's abilities, donated seven acres of prime land around present-day SE 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SE Hawthorne Boulevard to build the Oregon Hospital for the Insane. Dr. Hawthorne and his son-in-law, Dr. A.M. Loryea, operated the new hospital, which employed about a fifth of the residents of East Portland by 1873.<sup>3</sup> Patients that died while in the care of the hospital were buried near the southwest corner of the cemetery in Block Fourteen. The burial records indicate that at least 132 patients were buried at Lone Fir.<sup>4</sup>

### ***The Railroad Era***

With the introduction of the railroad, East Portland grew in importance as a shipping and agricultural center. In 1868 the Oregon Central Railroad broke ground and became the first railroad on the east side of the river. As the new terminus of the railroad developed, the town limits were extended to present-day SE 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue. East Portland was officially incorporated in 1871 as a result of the development. The same time, Chinatown was established in Portland as many Chinese were employed on the railroad and on road-building projects. Portland had one of the largest Chinese populations in the Pacific Northwest. Lone Fir became one of the main burial grounds for the Chinese community.

In May 1882 east side land owners Henry Prettyman, W.W. Watson and John Campbell incorporated the East Portland Railway Company. Although no solid plans existed for the railroad's construction, the news caused a flurry of land speculations in the community. The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1883 further stimulated growth in the region.<sup>5</sup> As farmers anticipated

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<sup>3</sup> City of Portland, OR. *Historic Context-Hawthorne Boulevard from SE 20<sup>th</sup> to SE 55<sup>th</sup> Avenues*, 2003, p. 6.

<sup>4</sup> Portland, Lone Fir Cemetery Collection Number B147, Special Collections Division, University of Oregon Library, Eugene, Oregon.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p. 7.

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better routes to Portland and easier access to markets, the nature of the community began changing from rural to suburban. Nearby Mt. Tabor farmland was subdivided into small tracts and sold for housing.

The east side community changed once again when William Beck, a Portland gunsmith, agreed to manage the construction of the first bridge linking Portland with East Portland. Over the objections of ferry operators and with the support of J.C. Hawthorne and other investors, Beck helped finance and construct the Morrison Street Bridge. The bridge was completed in 1887, further connecting the two river communities. Other public projects were begun including improvements to the road and water systems.

East Portland challenged Portland in industrial development and new growth as land developers looked to the east side of the river for opportunities. The Hospital for the Insane closed in 1883 when the new state hospital opened in Salem. Asylum Avenue was renamed Hawthorne Boulevard after the doctor who started the facility. Improvements in transit-related businesses in the 1880s gave a boost to the local economy. In 1888 the Mt. Tabor Street Railway Co. built a steam-powered streetcar line on Hawthorne Boulevard between present-day SE 5th and SE 54th Avenues. Until then, the street had been a country road with a number of adjacent orchards and berry fields. The new route proved popular and was eventually extended south along SE 50th Avenue to the Lents Neighborhood. The steel bridge was completed in 1888, and the Madison Street Bridge, the predecessor of today's Hawthorne Bridge, was completed in January 1891. Streetcars now stretched from Mt. Tabor to downtown Portland. Street car service was established along SE Morrison Street in the early 1890s, including a stop at the Lone Fir Cemetery. Anticipating that better access to the Cemetery would increase business, the cemetery association platted new sections to the existing cemetery grounds in 1892 and 1894. This expansion also corresponds to deaths of many of the early developers of Portland who died during this period and were buried at Lone Fir. Others were buried at "newer" cemeteries that were platted in the 1880s, such the elaborately landscaped River View Cemetery in southwest Portland.

East Portland continued to change from a rural agricultural community to streetcar suburb. The city expanded to the east, and services such as telephones and electricity were brought to new housing developments. Ladd's Addition was platted south of SE Hawthorne Boulevard, and small specialty stores such as grocers, butchers, hardware stores, and beauty parlors opened along transit routes. East Portland and Albina were annexed into the City of Portland in 1891. By the turn of twentieth century Portland had a population of over 90,000, and new business and residential developments were constructed on both sides of the river. The 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland accelerated the city's growth. Thousands of people came into Portland for the fair, and hundreds

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decided to stay. Smaller, affordable housing continued to be developed on the east side of the river; six percent of the west side families owned their homes compared with thirty percent of the east side.<sup>6</sup> The streetcar system expanded bringing more people into the urban areas, and public facilities were improved including the road systems. Reflecting the city's ongoing growth, In 1901 Lone Fir Cemetery was platted to SE 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue in response to the expansion of transportation in the area and the growing need to accommodate the needs of a growing city.

As a growing and ambitious young city, Portland sought to make the city both more functional and beautiful. These efforts were influenced by the ideals of the City Beautiful Movement and the American middle and upper-class Progressive-Era ideals that drove it. The trend was greatly influenced by the aesthetics and philosophy of the British Garden City Movement and the work and philosophies of landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead. The City Beautiful Movement in the United States sought to remedy perceived nineteenth century urban evils such as poverty, drunkenness, violence, crowding, and general filth by manipulating the urban environment. The belief was that one's surroundings profoundly influenced individual behavior. Proponents of this idea focused on creating monuments, large classically inspired buildings, green spaces, and municipal art in order to reinvent urban space. "The aesthetic goals of the improvement societies . . . blended images of small town beauty with order, cleanliness, and moral uplift."<sup>7</sup> The trend received widespread recognition in the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 with the exhibition of the Great White City, which featured classically inspired monumental architectures, wide tree-lined boulevards, and large public spaces. The Garden City Movement also emphasized modernity, including municipal utilities such as water, sewer, and electricity, and services such as garbage collection and public transportation. This blending of attractive space and city services was termed "Beautility" and expressed the idea that modern cities should be both attractive and functional.<sup>8</sup>

In Portland, this movement manifested itself in a number of municipal projects. In 1903 the State government in cooperation with the City of Portland sponsored a parks plan, authored by Frederick Law Olmstead himself, in anticipation of the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition. Although little came of the plan initially, many aspects of it were reinvigorated by Portland Mayor Harry Lane who served from 1905 to 1909. Lane also established the annual Rose Festival and sponsored many beautification and infrastructure projects. The trend continued through the early twentieth century as city parks were established and rose gardens planted.<sup>9</sup> Beautification initiatives were undertaken in

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<sup>6</sup> Carl Abbott, *Portland: Planning, Politics, and Growth in the Twentieth Century*. (University of Nebraska Press, 1983), p. 55.

<sup>7</sup> Jon A. Peterson, "The City Beautiful Movement: Forgotten Origins and Lost Meanings," *Journal of Urban History* 2:4 (August 1976), 416.

<sup>8</sup> Peterson, 416-417, 424, 427-429, 430; Anthony Sutcliffe, *The Rise of Modern Urban Planning* (New York: St. Martins Press, 1980), 172.

<sup>9</sup> Mansel G. Blackford, "The Lost Dream: Businessmen and City Planning in Portland, Oregon, 1903-1914," *The Western Historical Quarterly* 15:1 (January 1984), 42-43.



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Lone fir as well, and throughout the early twentieth century there were several efforts to improve the grounds.

As the Progressive Era slowly gave way to the Automobile Era, the face of Portland once again changed. More bridges were built across the Willamette River to accommodate the increase in traffic, trade, and commerce. The Interstate Bridge was completed in 1917, thus connecting Oregon and Washington. City-wide zoning ordinances were enacted in the 1920s, and still more bridges were completed up and down the river. Service and gas stations were constructed, and car dealerships proliferated. New subdivisions were built with small Bungalow-Style residences lining the streets. Because of increased development in the southeast Portland, business people started pushing for the cession of Lone Fir Cemetery. Despite their effort, the cemetery was deeded to Multnomah County in 1928 in an effort to help preserve the historical burial ground for future generations.

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF LONE FIR CEMETERY

#### *Mt. Crawford Cemetery*

Colburn Barrell officially filed the Mt. Crawford Cemetery plat on 9 August 1855. Barrell paid \$100 to Seldon and Hiantha Murray for a ten-acre parcel that was part of the Murray's original 642-acre DLC that was bounded by present-day SE 20th to SE 38<sup>th</sup> Avenues from SE Stark to SE Division Streets. After the death of his best friend Crawford Dobbins in an explosion of the steamship *Gazelle*, Barrell wanted a place to bury his friend near the 1846 grave of Emmor Stephens.<sup>10</sup> Surveyor A.B. Hallock laid out the new cemetery, and Barrell named the burial ground Mt. Crawford after this friend. A small portion of the cemetery land had been used in 1846 to bury Emmor Stephens, the father of James B. Stephens, who owned an adjacent DLC.<sup>11</sup> Colburn assured Stephens he would take care of this father's grave. He also placed the first cemetery monument on the grave of this friend, Crawford Dobbins. Barrell purchased additional land for the cemetery from Seldon and Hiantha Murray on 4 August 1855 and from George Bagby on 28 May 1856. The stipulation was that the land be used for cemetery purpose forever.

The cemetery plat was laid out in rectangular blocks with twenty-by-ten foot lots containing six individual grave plots; this acreage was in the western portion of the current cemetery grounds. Two-hundred feet above the river, the property was well-drained, fairly-level and lightly-treed, a good location for a cemetery. Barrell began to sell lots for ten dollars for half lots and twenty dollars for whole lots. He purchased Lot One in Block One for his family. Two blocks were quickly filled because of the lack of other burial grounds in the immediate area. Many Portland families ferried their family members across the Willamette River to the east side to attend funerals and to bury their loved ones

<sup>10</sup> Barrell was part owner in the steamship and felt responsible for his friend's death.

<sup>11</sup> Stephens purchased his donation land claim from John McLoughlin.

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in the Mt. Crawford Cemetery. Barrell, known for his generosity, often provided burial places for the less fortunate who had few resources or family. Many of the patients at the first "Insane Asylum" were buried in Mt. Crawford Cemetery.

Many remains were re-interred in the Mt. Crawford Cemetery in the mid-1850s after the Portland City Council passed an ordinance requiring that the early Portland burial grounds be vacated because they were built on marshy land. During the next few years many burial plots in Lone Fir were sold. In 1862 Barrell sold the Masonic Harmony and Willamette Lodges two blocks. Later the group purchased another two blocks. He donated Block Five to the City Volunteer Fire Department. The first burial in the lot was fire fighter, J.F. Dennison in 1864. In 1865 and 1866 Barrell purchased the final acres for the cemetery, now including 30.5 acres. Much of the land would not be platted until latter.

### ***Name Change: The Lone Fir Cemetery***

The cemetery was increasingly difficult to manage for Barrell because of the number of burials and the invasiveness of native plants. In the mid-1860s Barrell offered to sell the cemetery to the City of Portland. The City refused the offer because the cemetery was too far away from the developing Portland town center. After the City declined the offer, Barrell sold the property to a group of Portland business people for \$4,000. The new private group incorporated on 26 July 1866 under the new name of the Portland Lone Fir Cemetery Company, and the Cemetery became known as "Lone Fir Cemetery." The new name was suggested by Barrell's wife, Aurelia, for the lone fir that stood on the grounds. In 1867 the company included Byron Cardwell, Levi Anderson, and Robert Pittock. The group raised over \$350 to help clean up the cemetery and mark some of the graves with wooden markers. In 1874 a new section of the cemetery was platted pushing the developed portion of the property further east.

In 1877, the community once again took action to clean up the cemetery. Many people planted shrubs and trees to enhance the grounds and a lawn was planted. A wooden-plank fence was installed around the cemetery grounds, and the fire fighters erected a wrought-iron fence around their dedicated blocks. Scottish immigrant and Portland businessman Donald Macleay completed the beautiful Gothic-style mausoleum for his wife Martha who died at the age of 31 in Block Seventeen, Lot Three.

In the late 1800s, the cemetery continued to grow as the cities of Portland and East Portland expanded. Another section of the cemetery was platted in 1882 on the east side. The Portland Lone Fir Cemetery Company continued to manage the cemetery, and in 1888 the group hired Sexton Wilson Benefiel to care for the grounds. He continued as the caretaker until 1928. Benefiel not only made an effort to record all the burials, but also began a daily log of the cemetery operations. An effort was made to plant more lawn around the plots and manage the vegetation that was prevalent in

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the cemetery. A branch of the Mt. Tabor Streetcar Line of the City and Suburban Railway was constructed in the 1890s along SE Morrison Street. It provided better access to the cemetery with a stop at SE 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and SE Morrison Street. The cemetery blocks once again expanded when more acreage was platted in 1892 and 1894. The expansion may have partially been the results of the annexation of East Portland by Portland in 1891.

The need to bury a burgeoning population of Chinese laborers also spurred the growth of the Cemetery. In the late-nineteenth century Portland's Chinese community was second in size only to San Francisco's. Between 1870 and 1890, Multnomah County's Chinese population grew from 508 to 5,184 people. Young Chinese men, primarily from the Guangdong province (also known as the Kwangtung or Canton province) of southern China were recruited to work in the western United States as miners, as workers in fish canneries and textile mills, and as laborers building railroads, bridges, and tunnels. The majority of these men hoped to save money and eventually return to China to support their families. Due to the hazardous nature of industrial work and illness, many laborers passed away while in the U.S. Recognizing a need for its own workers, the Suburban Railroad Company purchased Block 14 in 1891, the southwest corner of the cemetery, for burying immigrant Chinese employees. Most of those buried there would be disinterred and sent to China for reburial according to Chinese custom.<sup>12</sup>

In the early twentieth century, Lone Fir Cemetery physically demonstrated Portland's growth and the city's self-improvement efforts. In 1901 Lone Fir Cemetery achieved its current size as it was platted to SE 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue in response to the expansion of transportation in the area and the growing need to accommodate the needs of a growing city. As the cemetery grew in size, there was a renewed effort to improve the grounds. Reflecting both an effort to raise awareness about the past and honor war veterans and the desire to make the cemetery more attractive by installing grand statuary, the Soliders' Memorial was dedicated in the cemetery in 1903. The project was began in 1901 and drew great support from the Portland area. The expected subscription was \$1; however, the sum of \$3500 was raised from 500 persons. The Sumner Women's Relief Corps raised \$100 and the largest subscription of \$200 was received from Henry W. Corbett, a leader in the business and civic affairs of Portland and one of the developers of River View Cemetery on the west side of the Willamette River. People from all neighborhoods of Portland contributed to the memorial. Due to the outpouring of public support funds for the memorial were raised in one year instead of the expected five years. The monument became a focal point of the public square, and was a source of community pride. Improvements were also suggested for Block 14, which by the 1910s had fallen into disrepair. Beautification efforts included replacing the existing markers with cement monuments placed in the

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<sup>12</sup> Archaeological Exploration of Multnomah County's Morrison Property at SE 20<sup>th</sup> and Morrison, Portland, Oregon, Report #1443, March 8, 2005.

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ground and seeding the entire area with grass.<sup>13</sup> Discontent with the condition of the cemetery eventually prompted a new group, the Lone Fir Lot Owners' Association, to take over management of the cemetery in 1912 in an attempt to "beautify" the grounds and honor the early settlers buried there. The new association, headed by community leaders S.E. Josephi and J. A. Strowbridge, realized the historical importance of the grounds and established a subscription for the perpetual care of the cemetery. The group called on the community and lot owners to help improve the grounds. In their brochure the new association stated that they wanted to maintain the cemetery in a park-like setting as "a Portland beauty spot." As part of the effort, the grounds were cleaned, roads graveled, grass and roses planted, and the entrance formally moved to the south side of the cemetery. Many of the curbs and fences were removed to make maintenance easier. Removing curbs was a common practice in the memorial park cemetery movement of the early 1900s.

In 1922, local Eastside businesspeople pushed for the cession of Lone Fir Cemetery. In a letter from the archives at the Pioneer Cemeteries Office, David Stearns wrote to State Senator Joseph Dunne on 3 February 1927 expressing his strong feelings about preserving Lone Fir Cemetery:

*I have talked with both Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Bennett, quite a while back, and believe I appreciate their views in a matter that concerns as many people as does this and in such a sacred way; it would be a physical impossibility for all to be of one mind, even though we all wish to reach the same end to preserve Lone Fir Cemetery from future desecration, not for fifty nor for one hundred years or for any lesser period, but for all time to come, has been my thought in advocating some legislative action.*

To ensure its preservation, Lone Fir Cemetery was deeded to Multnomah County on 9 April 1928. A special tax was established for the care of the cemetery and a new sexton was hired. The grounds were cleaned and some of the older markers were laid flat and curbs removed or cut down to ground level to facilitate maintenance.<sup>14</sup> This same year the remains of 526 Chinese were exhumed and, in accordance with Chinese custom, returned to their homeland. In 1934, the County hired a new sexton, N.O. Lundberg, who cared for the grounds and buildings. A second exhumation of Chinese burials occurred in 1948. The Pioneer Rose Association planted a rose garden in the cemetery in 1943, which included varieties of pioneer roses. The cemetery continued to be maintained by the County during the Depression and WWII.

In 1952 the Portland City Council issued a special permit to Multnomah County for the construction of the Morrison Building, a two-story concrete office building, to be located in the cemetery on Block 14.

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> This corresponds to the perpetual care movement in cemetery management that started in the early 1900s that promoted lawn-like grounds and reduced maintenance through low monuments and no curbs.

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This permit separated Block 14 from Lone Fir Cemetery. At this time it was believed that all the bodies had been removed from the area. Multnomah County transferred the Lone Fir Cemetery property to METRO in 1997 as part of the Parks and Greenspace Program, but retained the Morrison Building and related parking space for County use. After the demolition of the building the County deeded back Block Fourteen to the cemetery on 4 January 2007.

### LONE FIR AND THE RURAL CEMETERY MOVEMENT

#### *Rural Cemetery Movement*

In the late-seventeenth and eighteenth centuries American burials were in town centers on greens, next to meeting halls, or in churchyards. Outside towns, burials or domestic graves were on private land set aside for future family burials. These small-town graveyards were sometimes laid out in a rectangular pattern with rows of burials marked by wooden or stone markers carved with the deceased birth and death dates and imagery of death including the skull and cross bones. By the end of the eighteenth century, many of these town-burial grounds were overcrowded and in disarray as the urban population grew.

Epidemics of small pox and other contagious diseases spread through many American communities. While the cause of these epidemics was unknown, many pointed to burial grounds as a source of spreading disease through the ground, water, and air. In response Connecticut established the New Haven Burying Ground in 1796, which was the first cemetery to be set outside the town center. The cemetery was laid out in a geometric grid and divided into blocks and lots that could be purchased for family use.

The idea for the rural cemeteries gained popularity as the cities grew and the Romantic Movement in art and architecture spread throughout the country in the early to mid-1800s. Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts was one of the first large-scale rural cemetery that emphasized the landscape. The property was a beautiful place for Bostonians to commemorate the dead. The natural landscape ornamental plantings, monuments, fences, fountains, and chapels enhanced the landscape. This inspired concept was copied widely throughout the United States, giving birth to the rural cemetery movement and the tradition of garden cemeteries. Their popularity led, in turn, to the establishment of America's public parks. Other examples of this rural style are Laurel Hill in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, founded in 1836, and Spring Grove in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1844.

The concepts of the rural cemetery movement crossed the country with pioneers traveling to the Oregon Territory. Early Oregon cemeteries were usually laid out in blocks and lots and located

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outside the community center in scenic locations such as hilltops.<sup>15</sup> Although these cemeteries were not as elaborately designed landscapes like Mt. Auburn, the idea of making the grounds a place of pride and beauty was important. By the 1880s and 1890s, many of these early cemeteries that were once in the rural landscape became part of the urban landscape as communities expanded. For some of the older cemeteries, community members formed cemetery associations that often instigated enhancement and clean-up projects and established endowment funds to help maintain the grounds. Other communities abandoned the early cemeteries and started new cemeteries that were planned landscapes much like the East Coast predecessors. The first three decades of the twentieth century brought changes in cemetery management and care, ushering in the memorial park or lawn cemetery.

Extensive landscaping and use of the natural topography were still emphasized with the memorial park cemetery. Often sections of the cemeteries were developed and platted as needed, and an endowment fund was established from the sale of each plot to help offset the cost of maintenance. The roads were often planned with a central boulevard with extensions of shorter circular or linear drives. Many memorial parks included crematoriums as part of their burial services and interment in mausoleums became an option. Cemetery lot holders were more restricted than before in the use of their plots. Rules regulated planting of flowers and shrubs and the location and size of the headstones. Flush type monuments were favored as a way to simplify lawn maintenance. Many of the caretakers of the older cemeteries removed curbs and fences during this time and planted more of the grounds in lawn.

### ***Lone Fir Cemetery and the Rural Cemetery Movement***

Throughout its long history Lone Fir Cemetery maintained its original simple rectangular design, geometric road configuration, and informal landscaping. Even though the cemetery was not originally laid out like many of the rural cemeteries on the East Coast, the cemetery shares some of the same characteristics with these more highly designed landscapes. When the grounds were platted, Lone Fir was in a rural setting, far away from any settlement. Colburn Barrell, originally from Boston, sited the cemetery on a slight knoll with views and chose acreage with excellent drainage; these were similar to choices made by planners of the larger East Coast rural cemeteries.

As Portland and East Portland changed and became more settled public attitudes towards burial grounds changed. In the late 1800s, the idea that a cemetery should be more park-like grew in popularity. From the late 1870s into the early 1900s caretakers of Lone Fir improved the grounds by cleaning up the site, planting trees and shrubs, marking graves, and establishing more lawn areas. Many of the curbs and fences were removed creating a more open park-like setting as well as cutting

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<sup>15</sup> The exception were cemeteries associated with churches; however, some of the churches were in rural settings.

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down on maintenance around the graves. The dedication of the Soldiers' Memorial in 1903 occurred as memorial parks were developed with sculpture often as an important part of the grounds. In 1912, J.A. Strowbridge, secretary of the Lone Fir Lot Owners' Association contracted with Harold F. Wold, a landscape engineer, to oversee the restoration of the grounds to create a park-like area. In the period following the transfer of the cemetery to Multnomah County in 1928, many gravemarkers were set into the ground to facilitate maintenance and to increase lawn area following the trends of the lawn cemetery movement. Although Lone Fir Cemetery has maintained its original platting, it has incorporated the changing developments of cemetery design. The cemetery today is a Portland green space with a park-like setting filled with over 500 trees open to the surrounding neighborhoods.

The takeover of the cemetery by the Lone Fir Lot Owners' Association in 1912 signaled a shift toward the management policies and aesthetic sensibilities of the memorial park cemetery movement, which sought to lower maintenance costs and enhance the visual experience of cemeteries by creating open and unobstructed vistas in the park. This was accomplished by doing away with the personalized markers, gardens, fencing associated with the rural cemeteries in favor of flush-placed markers and master-planned landscaping that emphasizes wide expanses of manicured lawn. The Lone Fir Lot Owners' Association did attempt to ease maintenance by removing curbs and other obstructions and emphasized the use of lawns as a design element. The group left most of the cemetery's features intact, and thus the cemetery shows the transition period between the two practices.

### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS:

Lone Fir Cemetery is the oldest continuously operating cemetery in the immediate Portland area. It reflects the initial settlement of Portland and the subsequent growth and expansion of the city. Lone Fir has been continuously chosen by Portlanders for the burials of their family members. From the beginning families purchased lots for future use. James B. Stephens' lot in Block One has burials from 1846, the earliest in Lone Fir, to 2003. The family of Thomas Holmes, an early Portland mayor, is remembered on the marker with deaths recorded from 1867 to 1928. The Strowbridge family, active in Lone Fir restoration in 1912, has burials from 1852 to 1958. The Firemen's Block has been used since 1864 and is part of the annual Memorial Day services. Families are the core groups maintaining and continuing the history of Lone Fir.

As Portland grew out to the east and west from the Willamette River, Lone Fir remained easily accessible from within the city and continued to be chosen as the Portland cemetery. The Morrison Bridge opened in 1887, and the subsequent bridges built made travel across the river easier. The street car lines brought visitors directly to the cemetery from all parts of the city and developing suburbs.

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In the late nineteenth century, new cemeteries were established outside the Portland city limits. These cemeteries were usually smaller and served the new suburban neighborhoods. Examples are Brainard Pioneer Cemetery at NE 89<sup>th</sup> and Glisan Street with 1.1 acre, Columbia Pioneer Cemetery at NE 99<sup>th</sup> and Sandy Boulevard with 2.4 acres and Multnomah Park Pioneer Cemetery at SE 82<sup>nd</sup> and Holgate Street with 9.3 acres. These cemeteries are now managed by the METRO Pioneer Cemeteries Office.

### ***Cemeteries No Longer in Existence<sup>16</sup>***

<u>Date Est.</u>	<u>Cemetery Name</u>
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- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1847-1854 | City Cemetery #1 located at SW 4 <sup>th</sup> and W Burnside once covered 2.5 acres. Closed in 1854.  |
| 1854-1854 | City Cemetery #2 located at SW 11 <sup>th</sup> and Washington. Closed in 1854.  |
| 1854-1854 | City Cemetery #3 located at Corbett Avenue and Abernathy Street. Closed in 1854.   |
| 1858-1873 | Beth Israel Jewish Cemetery located at Hood Avenue and Hooker Street covered one acre. Closed in 1873.   |
| 1858-1937 | St. Mary's Cemetery, adjacent to Lone Fir Cemetery on the north side of SE Stark Street at 26 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, was established under Archbishop F.N. Blanchet in 1858. Timothy and Margaret Sullivan donated four acres of their land claim for the cemetery. By the 1930s the grounds were overcrowded and the church closed the cemetery. Many of the remains were re-interred in the Mt. Calvary Cemetery, a Catholic cemetery established by the archdiocese on SW Skyline Road in 1888. Central Catholic High School is presently located on this site of the old St. Mary's Cemetery. Closed in 1937. |

### ***Inner Portland Cemeteries: Pre-1900***

<u>Date Est.</u>	<u>Cemetery Name</u>
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- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1854 | Lone Fir Cemetery.  |
| 1854 | Jones Pioneer Cemetery, located at SW Hewett and Scholls Ferry Road, has 217 recorded burials. Nathan Jones established the cemetery on his Donation Land Claim |

<sup>16</sup> Note: Number of burial are based on the Oregon Burial Site Guide and are not exact numbers.



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Act after the death of his father in 1854. Jones donated the land for cemetery use to ensure the grave of his father was protected. This cemetery is 3.25 acres in size and includes Havurah Shalom, which was started in 1986.

- 1869 Ahavai Shalom located at 44 SW Alice Street also contains the B'nai B'rith Cemetery with five acres and has over 2,000 burials.
- 1872 Beth Israel Cemetery (new) located at 26 SW Taylors Ferry Road covers fourteen acres with 2,000 burials. This is the second cemetery of this name and is the oldest continuously operating Jewish cemetery in the nation.
- 1882 River View Cemetery located at 8421 SW Macadam Avenue contains covers 350 acres with 2,000 burials. Henry Corbett, William Ladd and Henry Failing, early settlers in the Willamette Valley and prominent Portland business people founded the River View Cemetery Association. An endowment fund for the perpetual care of the cemetery was set aside from thirty percent of the revenue received from the sale of the lots. The planning and landscaping of the property took three years and included curved roadways, view of the Cascade mountains, and an array of trees and shrubs. The first burial was the infant daughter, May Belle, of John Blazee in 1882. About sixty burials were removed from Lone Fir Cemetery and moved to River View after it opened.
- 1884-88 Greenwood Hills, I.O.O.F., and G.A.R. cemeteries located at 9002 SE Boones Ferry Road covers 12.5 acres with over 2,000 burials. This Greenwood Hills cemetery began with fourty acres; soon 2.35 acres were sold to the I.O.O.F (now part of Riverview Cemetery). In 1888, 2.06 acres were sold to the G.A.R. and more land was granted for use by River View Cemetery. Later, still more was sold for residential use.

### ***Outer Portland Area Cemeteries***

#### **Date Est. Cemetery Name**

- 1857 Columbian Cemetery, located at 1100 N. Columbia Boulevard in the Kenton/St. Johns area of Portland, is a ten acre cemetery with over 5,000 burials. Capt. Lewis Love, one of the first settlers of the area, founded the Columbian Cemetery as the Love Cemetery. Many of the burials are those of veterans of wars since the Civil War.
- 1867 Brainard Pioneer Cemetery located at NE 89<sup>th</sup> and Glisan streets is 1.1 acres with less than 500 burials.

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- 1877 Columbia Pioneer located at NE 99<sup>th</sup> and Sandy Boulevard covers 2.4 acres with over 2,000 burials. The cemetery was platted in 1877, but it is thought to contain older burials.
- 1888 Multnomah Park Pioneer Cemetery located SE 82<sup>nd</sup> and SE Holgate with 9.3 acres and over 2,000 burials.
- 1888 Mt. Cavalry Catholic Cemetery located at 333 SW Skyline Boulevard covers over 85 acres with over 2,000 burials. The site contains 135 acres. The first Catholic cemetery was in East Portland. The westsiders wanted a cemetery on "their" side of the river to bury their loved ones. Consequently, the Archdiocese of Portland located and purchased one-hundred acres on a site in the southwest hills of Portland. The archdiocese purchased land from Nathan B. Jones and William and Levina Naylor, who had donation land claims in the area.

### THE PEOPLE OF LONE FIR

People from different social, political, ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds were buried in Lone Fir Cemetery. Mayors, business leaders, politicians, governors, first settlers of the Oregon Territory, educators, ministers, criminals, health care professionals, and government officials and workers were all buried in the cemetery. Different ethnic groups are identified by their headstones which were sometimes inscribed in their native languages of Spanish, Hebrew, German, Japanese, Chinese, and French. Indigent, mental patients and people from some of the more colorful Portland businessmen are buried in the cemetery. In a 1928 interview with journalist Fred Lockley, sexton Wilson Benefiel, caretaker from 1888 to 1928, describes the people buried at the Lone Fir Cemetery. He states:

*There is no line of social cleavage among the dead. For forty years I have sold lots here and I never inquire as the character or lack of it of those who buy the lots. If you come to me, I will show you the graves of several men who were hanged and whose relatives or friends had them buried here. I can show you graves of prominent early day saloonkeepers and gamblers, and scores of graves of girls from the 'North End,' ... A man may consider himself of much finer clay when he is alive, but when he is dies, the general does not outrank the private, nor the judge the prisoner upon whom he has passed sentence. We all find oblivion and equality in the grave.<sup>17</sup>*

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<sup>17</sup> Fred Lockley. *History of the Columbia River Valley from The Dalles to the Sea*. (Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co, 1928), p. 649.

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The following are some of the people with strong ties to the Lone Fir Cemetery and the history of Portland:

**J. S. Backenstos (1811 – 1857): Block 8M, Lot 47**

Born in Illinois and a veteran of the Mexican War, Lt. Col. Jacob Backenstos came to Fort Vancouver with the "Mounted Rifles" calvary unit. He took out a donation land claim in what is now Northeast Portland.

**Aurelia (d. 1889) & Colburn Barrell (d. 1902): Block 1, Lot 1**

Founders of Mt. Crawford Cemetery, later renamed Lone Fir. Barrell, a partner in a Portland steamship company, buried the victims of a steamship explosion near the grave of Emmor Stephens, and set aside ten acres as the Mt. Crawford Cemetery to honor his friend Crawford Dobbins who died in a steamship explosion.

**William Beck (1817 – 1889): Block 1, Lot 47**

William Beck, born in Pennsylvania in 1817, arrived in Portland in November 1852. Beck, a gunsmith by trade, opened a gun shop, and over the years, became a successful businessperson. Beck served as one of the first Justices of the Peace in Multnomah County and helped finance and plan the construction of Morrison Street Bridge in 1887.

**Archie Brown (d. 1878) & James Johnson (na – 1878): Block 9, Lot 36**

On 23 August 1878 Brown and Johnson robbed a pawn shop, knocked out the owner, and then ran. Although they initially escaped, the two men were tried, convicted, and hung.

**Julius Ceaser: Block 19, Lot 231**

An avid baseball player who greeted people with his familiar refrain "Play Ball." This response is on his gravestone and is written up in "Ripley's Believe It or Not" column.

**J.A. Chapman, MD (1820 – 1885): Block 7M, Lot 35**

Dr. James Chapman, a native New Yorker, came to Oregon following his enlistment as a Union Army surgeon. Chapman was elected mayor for three non-consecutive terms. He gained notoriety during his last term in 1882 for buying the election and promising jobs to friends. The *Oregonian* called Chapman "The Corrupt Mayor" and called for a grand jury investigation. Chapman finished his term without any formal charges and died in a buggy accident.

**William Chapman (1800-1892): Block 7M, Lot 7**

William Chapman, born in Virginia, was appointed to U.S. Attorney for the Iowa Territory, a member of U.S. Congress in 1834 and helped write the Iowa constitution in 1844. The Colonel,

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his wife, and seven children left Iowa and journeyed by wagon train to the present-day Oregon arriving in November 1847. He was named chair of the State Committee in 1848 to protect the early land claims. Chapman opposed the extension of slavery to the Oregon Territory, calling it evil. Many turned against him and barred him from the Oregon Constitution Convention. He proposed construction of the Oregon and California Railroad and presented a set of resolutions for the railroads to the United States Congress on 25 July 1866. He also served in the State Legislature in 1868.

**Abigail Clarke (1832 – 1914) and Byron P. Cardwell (1832 - 1903): Block 6, Lot 56**

Abigail Clarke, a native of Massachusetts, arrived in Oregon in September 1852 at the age of twenty. Educated at Mount Holyoke College, she started teaching at the Portland Academy and Female Seminary and then at the first Free School. In 1855, she moved to Corvallis, married Byron Cardwell, and in 1858 they returned to Portland. Cardwell, part of the Portland Lone Fir Cemetery Company that purchased the cemetery from Colburn Barrell, served as Portland Police Commissioner, was a member of the State Legislature, and was appointed Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue in 1861.

**George Edward Cole (1826-1906)**

Cole was born in Trenton Falls, Oneida County, New York on December 23, 1826. He was a member of Oregon Territorial Legislature from 1851-53; Delegate to U.S. Congress from Washington Territory, 1863-65; and Governor of Washington Territory, 1866-67.

**George Law Curry (1820 – 1878): Block 6, Lot 75**

George Law Curry was a newspaper publisher who was involved in the early politics of the Oregon Territory. Born in Pennsylvania, Curry came West in 1846 and started working at the *Oregon Spectator* newspaper owned by George Abernethy. Because of his strong opinions he left the paper and started the Oregon Free Press in Oregon City. He later served as the Secretary of the Oregon Territory, and twice stepped in as Acting Territorial Governor. He was later appointed Governor and held the position until statehood in 1859.

**Frank Dekum (d. 1894): Block 18, Lot 2H**

The Dekum Building in downtown Portland was built by financier Frank Dekum. He was a prominent business person who helped establish the Bull Run Water System, Portland's first extensive water system.

**Crawford Dobbins (d. 1854): Block 1, Lot 1**

Crawford Dobbins was the business partner of Colburn Barrell, founder of the Mt. Crawford Cemetery. Dobbins was killed in a steamboat explosion and was one of the first to be interred in the Mt. Crawford Cemetery named for him.

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### **Thomas Jefferson Dryer (1808 – 1879): Block 3, Lot 19**

Thomas J. Dryer, a New Yorker, moved to Portland from San Francisco and started publishing the *Weekly Oregonian* on December 4, 1850. An outspoken person in both his editorials and reporting, Dryer served in the Territorial Legislature and organized the volunteer fire brigade for the city.

### **W. H. Frush (d. 1865): Block 2, Lot 16**

Frush was a saloonkeeper in a bar on 1<sup>st</sup> Street; Colburn Barrell, founder of Mt. Crawford Cemetery, owned the bar.

### **Dr. James C. Hawthorne (1806 – 1881): Block 8m, Lot 44**

John Hawthorne was born in Mercer, Pennsylvania on March 12, 1819. His early medical education was as a student in the office of Dr. Bascom in Mercer. After this study, he matriculated at the medical university at Louisville, Kentucky. In 1850, he came to the Pacific Coast and set up general practice in Auburn, California with additional hospital work. In 1859 Hawthorne came to East Portland and took charge of the County Hospital because of his experience in the study mental and nervous diseases. He founded a private hospital on the east side of the Willamette River for the insane in 1860, which was partially funded by the State of Oregon. In his contract with the state board and shelter, clothing, and medical treatment were to be provided to indigent persons sent by the county court system. Dr. Hawthorne died on 12 February 1881.

### **Thomas J. Holmes (1819 – 1867): Block X, Lot 24**

A native of Norfolk, England, Holmes' family immigrated to New York. After traveling to California during the Gold Rush Holmes moved to Portland and opened a shoemaker's shop. He served three years on the School Board. In 1866 the Mayor Henry Failing resigned and the City Council chose Thomas Holmes to fill the term. Holmes was re-elected in 1867 despite an aggressive campaign against him. The next day he returned to his office and died suddenly of a stroke at the age of forty-eight.

### **William Hume (1830 – 1902): Block 12, Lot 45**

Father of the salmon canning industry along the Columbia River.

### **Harry Lane (1855 – 1917): Block 9, Lot 51**

Born in Corvallis on 28 August 1855, Harry Lane was the grandson of Joseph Lane, Oregon's first territorial governor from 1848 to 1851. Harry Lane graduated from Willamette University in 1876 and received a medical degree in 1878. Oregon Governor Sylvester Pennoyer appointed him as superintendent of the state asylum in Salem. By 1905 corruption in Portland was so

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pervasive that reformers decided that Harry Lane was the possible "cleansing agent" for the city. As mayor from 1905 to 1909 Lane fought shoddy construction work on city projects, such as sidewalks and curbs, and forced the police to raid gambling and prostitution houses. He ran for US Senate in 1912 and won. Senator Lane died on his way home to Oregon in San Francisco on May 23, 1917.

### **Asa Lovejoy (1808 – 1882): Block 8M, Lot 50**

Asa Lovejoy, a native of Massachusetts, graduated from Amherst College where he studied law. In 1843, Lovejoy came west for the third time and on the wagon train met his wife Elizabeth. Lovejoy established a joint 640-acre land claim and laid-out the new town site on the west banks of the Willamette River. Asa flipped a coin with partner F. W. Pettygrove, a native of Portland, Maine, to name the city. Lovejoy lost and the city was named Portland instead of Boston. He served as the first speaker of the Provisional Legislature in 1846 and 1848 and continued to serve in the Territorial legislature until 1856.

### **Daniel H. Lownsdale (1803 – 1862): Block 1, Lot 24**

Daniel Lownsdale, born in Kentucky in 1803, arrived in Portland in 1845. Lownsdale, William Chapman and Stephen Coffin constructed a plank road that connected the Portland waterfront with the rich agricultural lands of the Tualatin Valley. Lownsdale added 100 additional blocks to the city plat map, with two public squares between Third and Fourth Streets and eleven park blocks at the western edge of the city. The idea for the park blocks came from his visits to the capitals of Europe; however, since ownership of the city property was in question the park blocks were contested. The Park Blocks that survived the legal battles are an integral part of downtown Portland today.

### **Eloisa McLoughlin Rae Harvey (1818 – 1884): Block 8, Lot 3**

Eloisa, favorite daughter of John McLoughlin, known as the "Father of Oregon", was part of the expansion of the Hudson Bay Company moving with her family to establish trading posts in Alaska and San Francisco. She moved with her parents from Fort Vancouver to Oregon City in 1846 to establish American citizenship with her family.

### **John Marshall (1837 – 1924): Block 10M, Lot 6**

John Marshall was born in London, England on 6 May 1837. His widowed mother brought her family to Chicago. She married again and the family came west to Oregon by ox team. In the winter of 1852, John Marshall arrived in Oregon City and worked at Smith and Moffett's Machine Shop. After two years, John became chief engineer on the streamships of the Willamette Transportation Company. He also was employed by Jacob Kamm and J. C. Ainsworth, both active in Portland transportation on the Willamette and the Columbia

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Rivers. He spent forty-seven continuous years engineering steamships on the Willamette. He retired in 1903 but continued his interest with a steamship in Newport, Oregon.

**Michael Mitchell: Block West, Lot 64**

He was a jig dancer who was thrown out of his rooming house. He was found the next morning, frozen. Friends erected the grave marker that states, "Here lies one who has taken steps that won the applause of men."

**Seldon Murray (d. 1883): Block 22, Lot 42**

Seldon came overland to the Oregon Country in 1844 and married Hiantha Caples in 1851. The couple claimed 641-acres on the east side of the Willamette River bounded today by SE 20<sup>th</sup>, SE 38<sup>th</sup>, SE Stark, and SE Division streets. The Murrays were the original owners of the cemetery land.

**Robert "Earl" Riley (d. 1965): Block 8, Lot 47**

Robert Riley was Multnomah County Commissioner from 1930 to 1940 and served as Mayor of Portland from 1940 to 1948.

**Henry S. Rowe (1851 – 1914): Block 8M, Lot 69**

Henry Rowe arrived in Portland in 1880 to continue his work on the railroads as superintendent for the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company. Once in Portland, he invested in real estate. He served on the Board of Fire Commissioners and the Water Committee. After being elected mayor in 1900, Rowe wanted to control the cost of running the city. In his address in 1902, he reported that the city government had spent less money, down twenty-three percent from previous councils.

**Samuel L. Simpson (1846 – 1899): Block 13, Lot 21**

The Simpson Family arrived in Oregon in 1846. Benjamin Simpson, Sam's father, was a successful business person. At fifteen, Sam worked as a bartender in his father's store at Fort Yamhill. He attended Willamette University in Salem and then became a journalist in 1870. He wrote for the *Salem Oregon Statesman*, *Corvallis Gazette*, *Oregon Statesman* and *Eugene City Oregon State Journal*. Following his death in 1899, his collected works were published; into the 1920s, schoolchildren memorized his "Beautiful Willamette."

**Emmor Stephens (1777 – 1846): Block 1, Lot 18**

Father to James B. Stephens, Emmor died in 1846 and was buried on his son's DCL. The land later became the Mt. Crawford Cemetery and he was the first burial.

**James B. (1807 – 1889) & Elizabeth Stephens (1805-1887): Block 1, Lot 18, Photos 1 & 2**

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James B. and Elizabeth Stephens were one of the first settlers on what would become East Portland. James started the first ferry across the Willamette River, donated land for a hospital and school, incorporated East Portland in 1871, and served on the City Council. The Stephens' house was a landmark on the east side of the Willamette River.

### **William Wallace Thayer (1827 – 1899): Block 22, Lot 47**

William Thayer, an attorney, was voted in as the sixth governor of Oregon in 1878 to 1882 and served as Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court from 1888 to 1889.

### **Ralph Wilcox (1818 – 1877): Block 7M, Lot 18**

Ralph Wilcox, born in New York on 9 July 1818, became a physician. In 1845, Ralph arrived in Linnton, Oregon. On 15 November 1845, Ralph Wilcox claimed land in Yamhill County west of the Willamette River. He tried farming, but the land was difficult to work. Deciding to go back east, the departing family stopped in Portland at Francis Pettygrove's store where Mrs. Pettygrove was ill. Her husband asked for Dr. Wilcox's medical help. Pettygrove persuaded Wilcox to stay in Portland offering him a job at the store. Wilcox built a cabin and became the first physician in the settlement. When money was appropriated for the first school, he also was appointed the first teacher. In 1865, Wilcox was clerk of the U.S. State Custom House and of the State Legislature.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Laid out during the initial Anglo-settlement period, the Lone Fir Cemetery is the oldest continuously operating cemetery in the immediate Portland area. Originally known as the Mt. Crawford Cemetery, Lone Fir was platted in 1855 on a slight knoll on the east side of the Willamette River in what would later become known as East Portland. Mt. Crawford became one of the primary burial grounds for the first settlers of Portland, especially after the City of Portland closed its cemeteries in 1854. During its operation people from different social, economic, and ethnic backgrounds were buried in the cemetery, and many of the region's prominent citizens are buried there. The cemetery also represents the struggles and customs of different immigrant groups from Europe, especially the Chinese, who contributed to the development of the region. The expansion of the cemetery grounds and the continuously developing setting and landscape elements reflect the growth of Portland and changing burial practices between 1855 and 1952.

The Lone Fir Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a locally significant resource under Criterion A because of its strong historic association with broad local development patterns and the representative cross section of individuals buried there. The property



Lone Fir Cemetery  
Name of Property

Multnomah Co., OR  
County and State

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successfully meets the requirements under Criteria Consideration D because of its significance in the areas of social history, community planning and development, and settlement. Lone Fir Cemetery retains a high degree of physical integrity and its rural feeling within the park.

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Lone Fir Cemetery  
Name of Property

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Walsh, Christina. President, Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery. Portland, Oregon. Personal interview, March-June 2005.

Lone Fir Cemetery  
Name of Property

Multnomah Co., OR  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 30.5 Acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>10</u>	<u>527813</u>	<u>5040492</u>	3	<u>10</u>	<u>528277</u>	<u>5040249</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>10</u>	<u>528276</u>	<u>5040493</u>	4	<u>10</u>	<u>527790</u>	<u>5040259</u>

#### 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 Mary Glenn, Treasurer  
Assisted by Sally Donovan, Donovan and Associates

organization Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery date June 2006

street & number 3317 SE Morrison St. telephone (503) 236-5057

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97215

### 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

name METRO Pioneer Cemeteries

street & number 600 NE Grand Ave. telephone (503) 979-1709

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97232

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



Lone Fir Cemetery  
Name of Property

Multnomah Co., OR  
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

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### Verbal Boundary Description:

Lone Fir Cemetery is located in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, Township 1 South, Range 1 East, Sections 1 and 2, Willamette Meridian. Encompassing Tax Lot 1997-197, the cemetery is bounded by the south side of SE Stark Street on the north, the west side of SE 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the east, the north side of SE Morrison Street on the south, and the east line of the row of tax lots that border SE 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The total acreage is 30.5 acres (map attached).

### Boundary Justification:

The proposed boundary includes all 30.5 acres purchased by Colburn Barrett for cemetery between 1855 and 1866; including Block Fourteen, which was temporarily separated from the property from 1952 to 2005.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

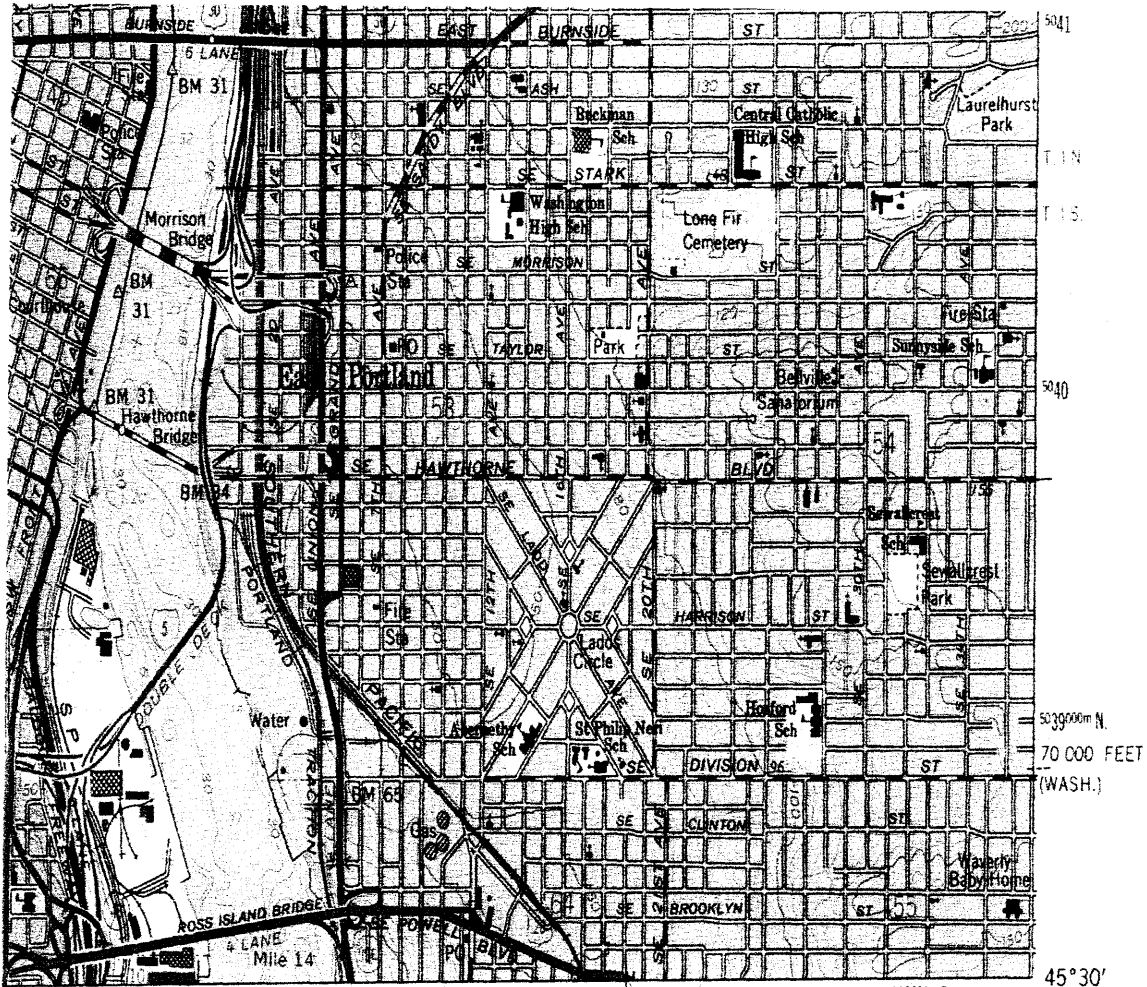
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Maps Page 1

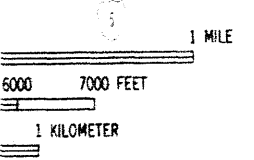
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## SUPPLEMENTAL MAPS

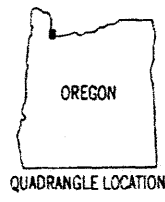
1. Portland, OR USGS 7.5 Series
2. Portland, OR Lone Fir Cemetery Tax Map
3. Lone Fir Cemetery Site Plan
4. Lone Fir Cemetery Plat Maps
  - 1874 Blocks 1 -13, A & B
  - 1882 Blocks 15 - 18
  - 1892 Blocks 19 - 29
  - 1894 Blocks 30 - 34
  - 1901 Blocks 35 - 39
  - 1944 Blocks 1 - 39, A & B
  - 1958 Blocks 1 – 13, 15 - 39, A & B, Block 14 to Multnomah County
5. Arboretum
  - Aerial Map
  - Tree Site Map, Blocks A-1,6 & 7
6. Historic Maps
  - GLO Map-1852
  - GIO Map-1860
  - Metsker's Atlas of Mulnomah County, 19237



40' INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1974 1 450 000 FEET (WASH.) 529000m E. 122°37'30" 45°30' 70 000 FEET (WASH.)



R DATUM  
WATER



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
- Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- Interstate Route ○ U. S. Route ○ State Route

(GLADSTONE)  
1274 1 NE

PORTLAND, OREG.—WASH.

SW/4 PORTLAND 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4530—W12237.5/7.5

369

LONE FIR CEMETERY

1585

8083

CHINESE CEMETERY

E. MORRISON

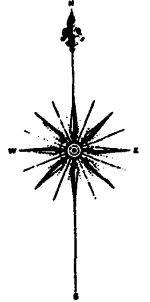
1588

BELMONT

E. YAMHILL

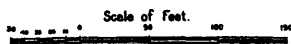
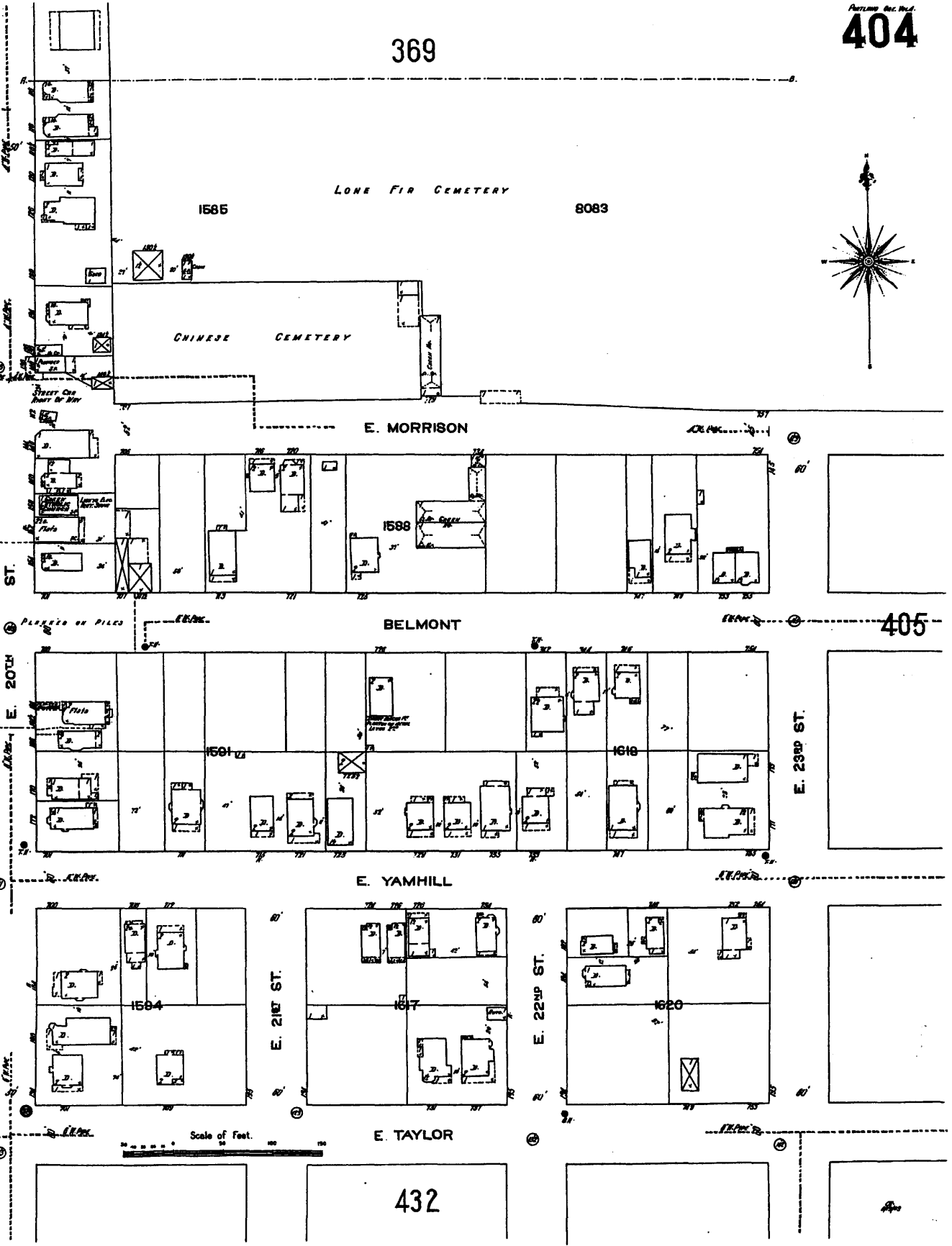
E. TAYLOR

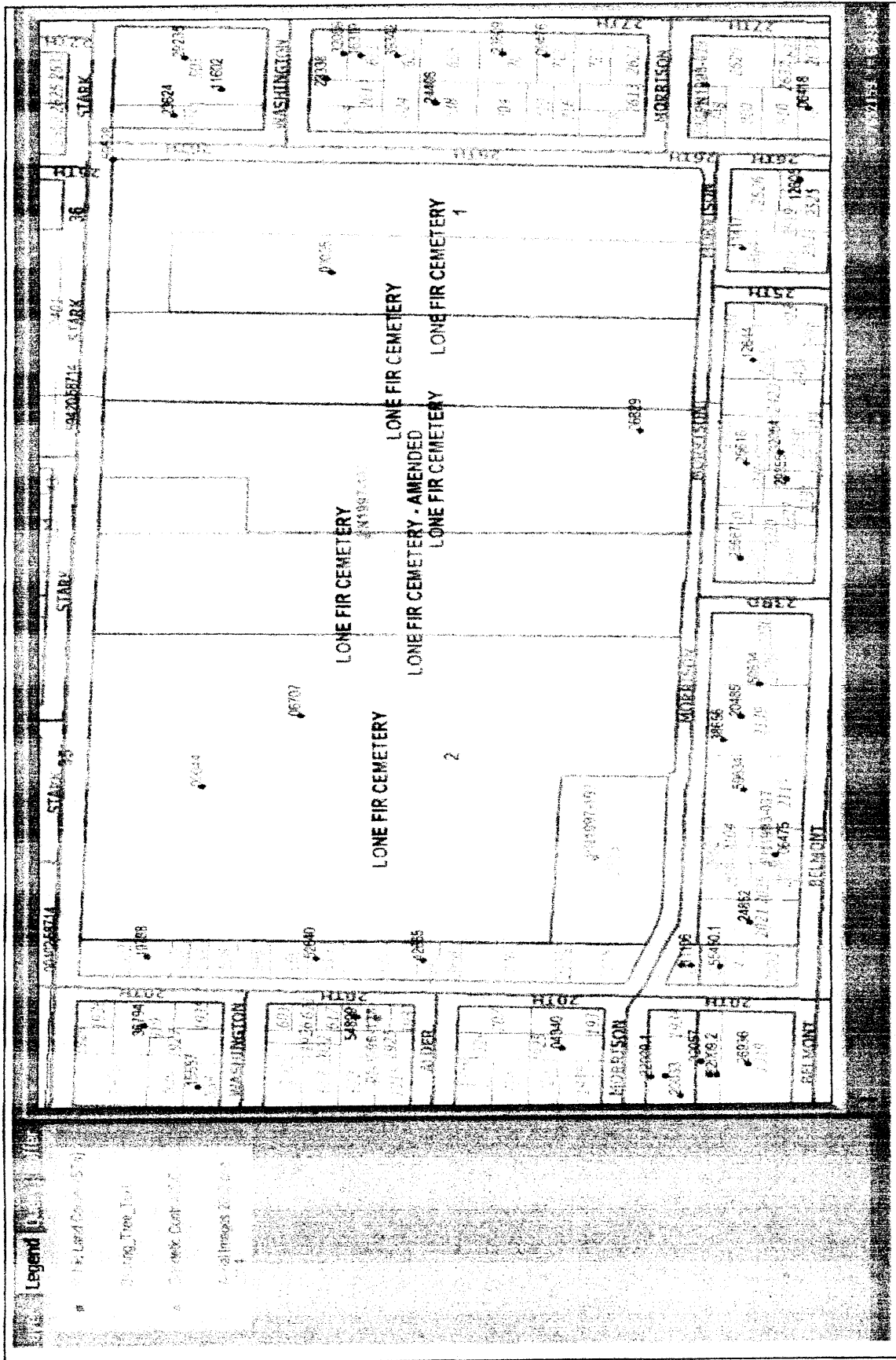
432



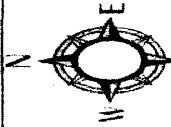
403

405

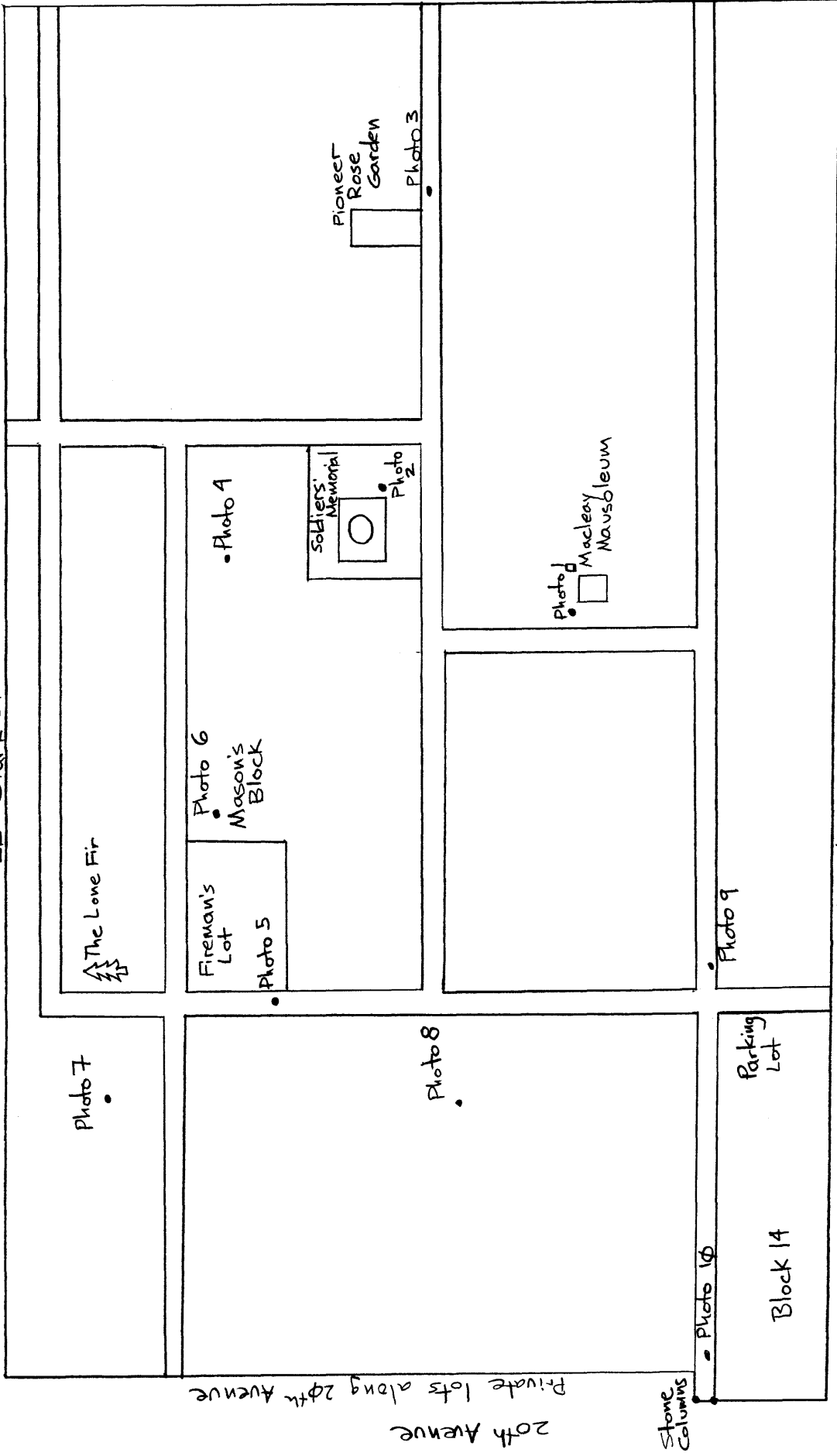




LOCATION MAP



**LONE FIR CEMETERY\***  
SE Stark St



Current Entrance SE Morrison St

\* Not field measured









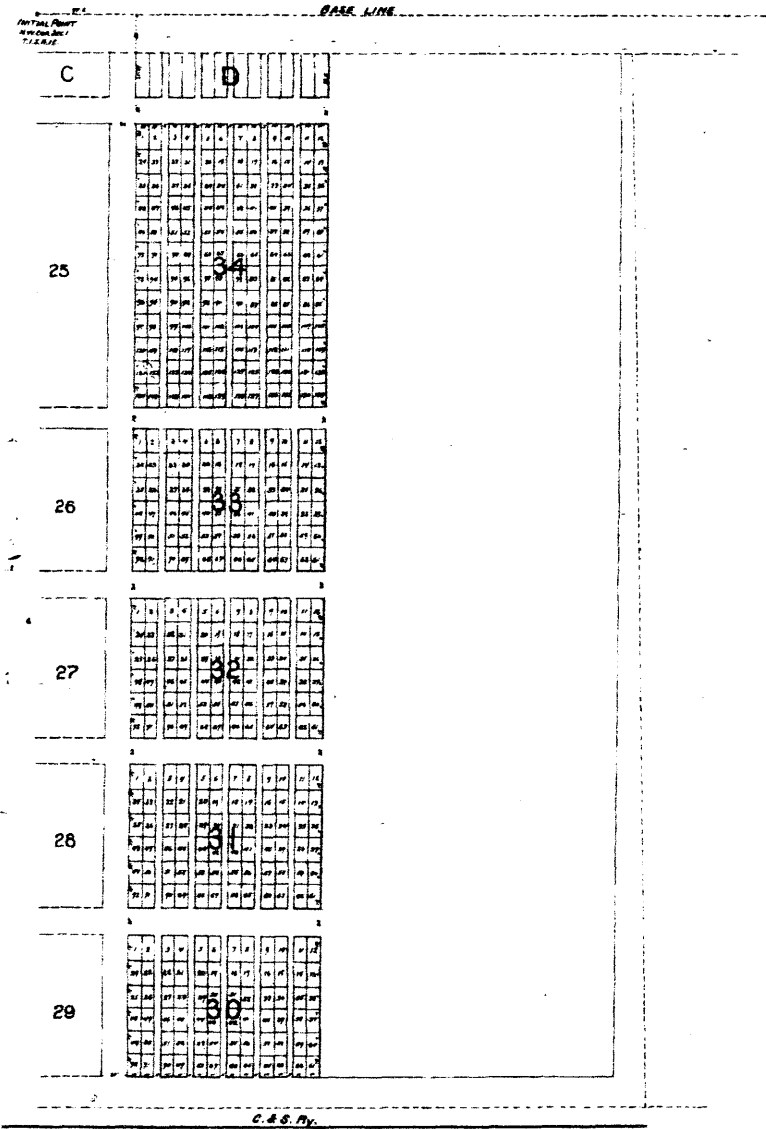
Plat of Blocks D. 30, 31, 32, 33 & 34 in LONE FIR CEMETERY

For amended Plat see back of this page

SCALE 1/4 INCH = 50 FT.

SEC. 17, T. 1 S., R. 1 E.

A. E. HAMMOND, C. E.



Dedication on Page 30

PLAT MAP 1894

Know all men by these presents, that we B. P. Cardwell, President, and Emma H. Anderson, Secretary of the Portland Lone Fir Cemetery Company, a company organized and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Oregon, do hereby declare the accompanying map to be the true map showing Block D and Blocks 30 to 34, both inclusive, in Lone Fir Cemetery, the same being a second addition to the original tract as laid out by said Portland Lone Fir Cemetery Company. This addition is situated in section one (1) township one (1) south range one (1) east of the Willamette Meridian. And we do hereby dedicate to the use of the public all roadways and alleyways as shown on said map. In witness whereof we have hereunto affixed our signatures and the corporate seal of the company this 19th day of November A.D. 1894.

In presence of: H. F. Borden - H. K. Hinmeyer  
 { Corporate Seal } B. P. Cardwell President  
 { Corporate Seal } Emma H. Anderson Secretary

State of Oregon }  
 County of Multnomah } ss. Be it remembered that on this 21st day of November A.D. 1894 before me, the undersigned a Notary Public in and for said County and State personally appeared the within named B. P. Cardwell, President and Emma H. Anderson, Secretary of the Portland Lone Fir Cemetery Company, a corporation, who are known to me to be the identical individuals described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same freely and voluntarily and for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and as the President and Secretary of and for and on behalf of, said corporation, and caused the seal of said corporation to be affixed thereto by virtue of authority in them vested, so to do. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and notarial seal the day and year last above written.

State of Oregon }  
 County of Multnomah } ss. J. B. Thompson  
 { Notarial Seal } Notary Public for Oregon

State of Oregon }  
 County of Multnomah } ss. C. A. E. Hammond being first duly sworn depose and say, that I have accurately surveyed and marked with proper monuments the land as represented on the accompanying plat of Block D and Blocks 30 to 34, both inclusive, of Lone Fir Cemetery, said blocks are situated in section one township one south and range one east of the Willamette Meridian, using as my initial point the northwest corner of said section one, at which point there was already a stone monument about 10 inches square, on top of which is a small marble slab said slab see cor. is 75.6 feet west, and 30 feet north of the N.W. cor. of Block D.

State of Oregon }  
 County of Multnomah } ss. C. A. E. Hammond  
 Approved Nov 26th 1894 } { Notarial Seal } H. K. Hinmeyer  
 J. M. Hurlburt City Surveyor } Notary Public  
 H. D. Grason Ass't of Streets

Filed for record Nov 26th 1894 at 1:30 o'clock P.M.

PLAT MAP 1894

MAP 271 no 12  
 PORTLAND LONE FIR CEMETERY

Scale 20 ft to 1 inch  
 D. 1074 D. 3000 ft

BLK'S 2, 3, 36, 37

For amended Plat, see  
 back of this page

PLAT 190

PLAT 190 FILE 117

Know all men by these presents that we B.P. Chaswell, President and Emma H. Anderson, Secretary of the Portland Lone Fir Cemetery Company a Company organized and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Oregon, do hereby declare the accompanying map to be the true map showing Block 2, 3, 36, 37 and 39 in Lone Fir Cemetery, the same being a final addition to the original tract owned by said Portland Lone Fir Cemetery Company, said addition is situated in Section one (1) Township (C) South Range one (1) East of the Willamette Meridian, and we do hereby dedicate to the use of the public all the roads and alleys as shown on said map. In witness whereof we have hereunto affixed our signatures and corporate seal of the Company this 16th day of March, A.D. 1901.

In Presence of  
 GEORGE C. STOUT  
 J. J. SCHULZMAN

B.P. Chaswell, President  
 Emma H. Anderson, Secretary

State of Oregon } ss  
 County of Multnomah }  
 Be it remembered that on this 16th day of March, A.D. 1901, before me the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State personally appeared the within named B.P. Chaswell, President, and Emma H. Anderson, Secretary of the Portland Lone Fir Cemetery Company, a corporation, who are known to me to be the identical individuals described in said who executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same freely and voluntarily, and for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and as the President and Secretary of and for and on behalf of said corporation, and caused the Seal of said corporation to be affixed thereto by virtue of authority in them vested to do.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day and year last above mentioned.

H. J. SCHULZMAN  
 Notary Public for Oregon

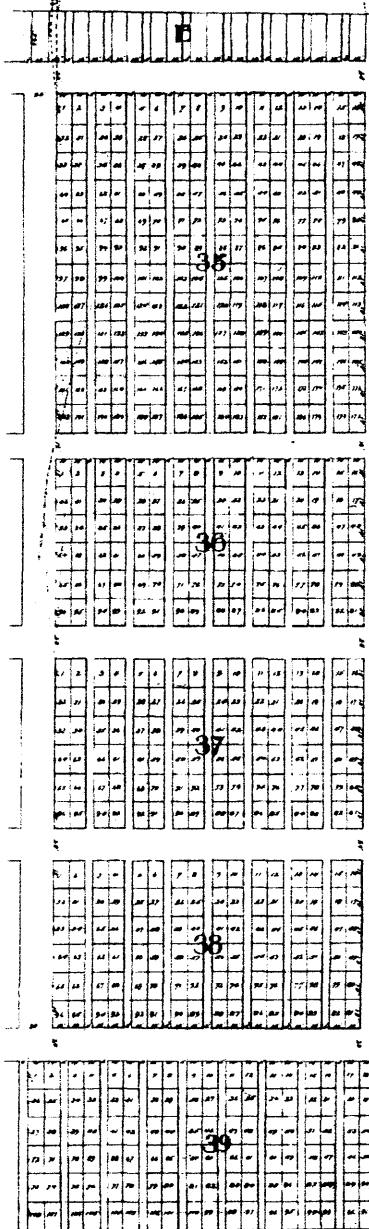
State of Oregon } ss  
 County of Multnomah }  
 I, Wm. C. Elliott, being first duly sworn, depose and say that I have accurately surveyed and marked with proper monuments the land so represented on the accompanying map of Blocks 2, 3, 36, 37 and 39 of Lone Fir Cemetery, said Blocks are situated in Section (1) Township (C) South Range (1) East of Willamette Meridian, using as initial point the Northwest Corner of Section (1) T. 1, S. 7 E. at which point was a stone monument 10 inches square, said Section Corner is 260.6 feet West, and 82.6 feet North of the Northwest Corner of Block 35.

Wm. C. Elliott

State of Oregon } ss  
 County of Multnomah }  
 Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of March, 1901.

T. H. WARD  
 Notary Public for Oregon

Filed for Record  
 March 21, 1901, at P.M.



PLAT MAP 1901

AMENDED

OF

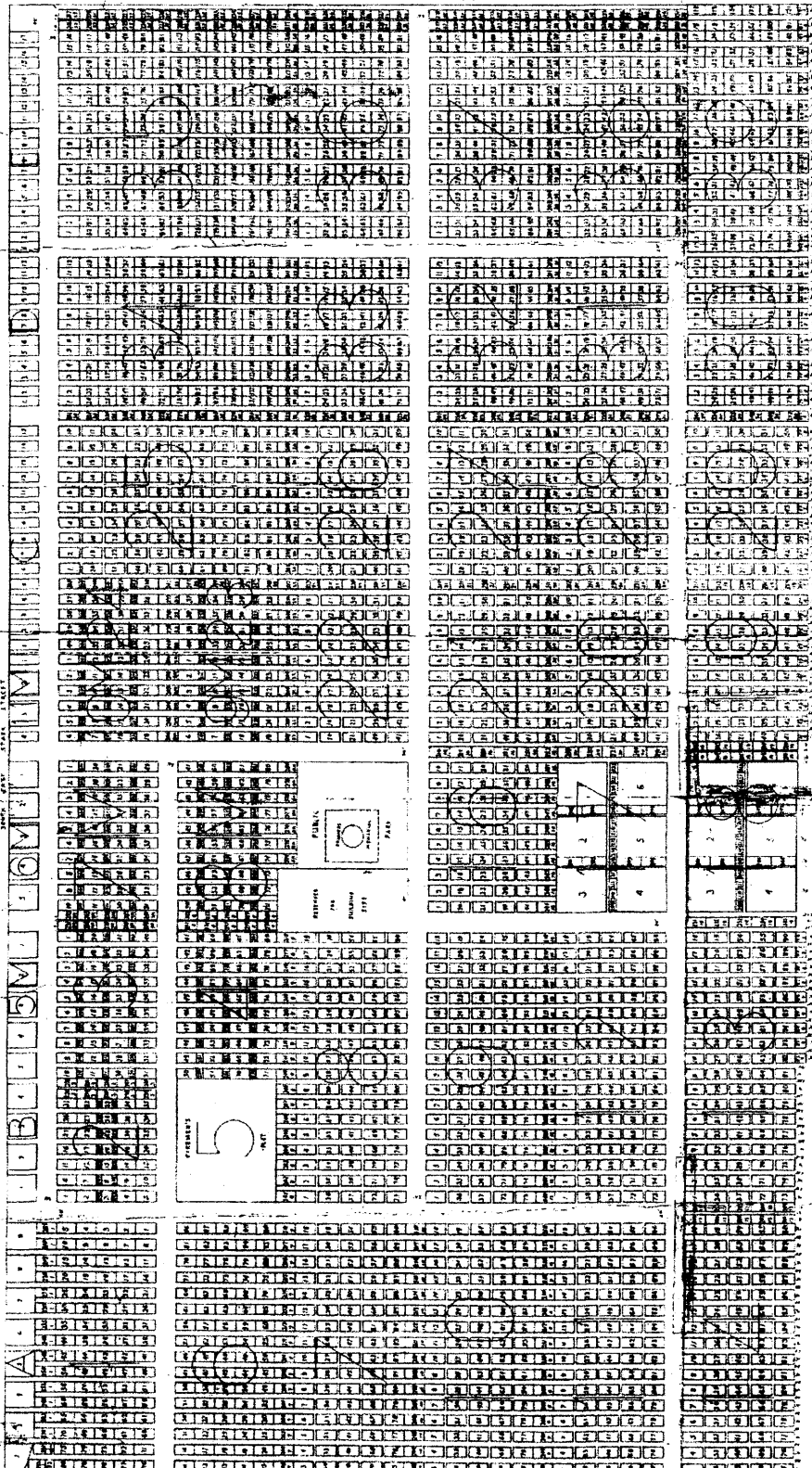
LOUISIANA

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PLAT MAP

327247 1172 1172

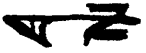
APPROVED  
PLAT MAP  
RECORDS



Plat Map 1944

S.E. STARK ST

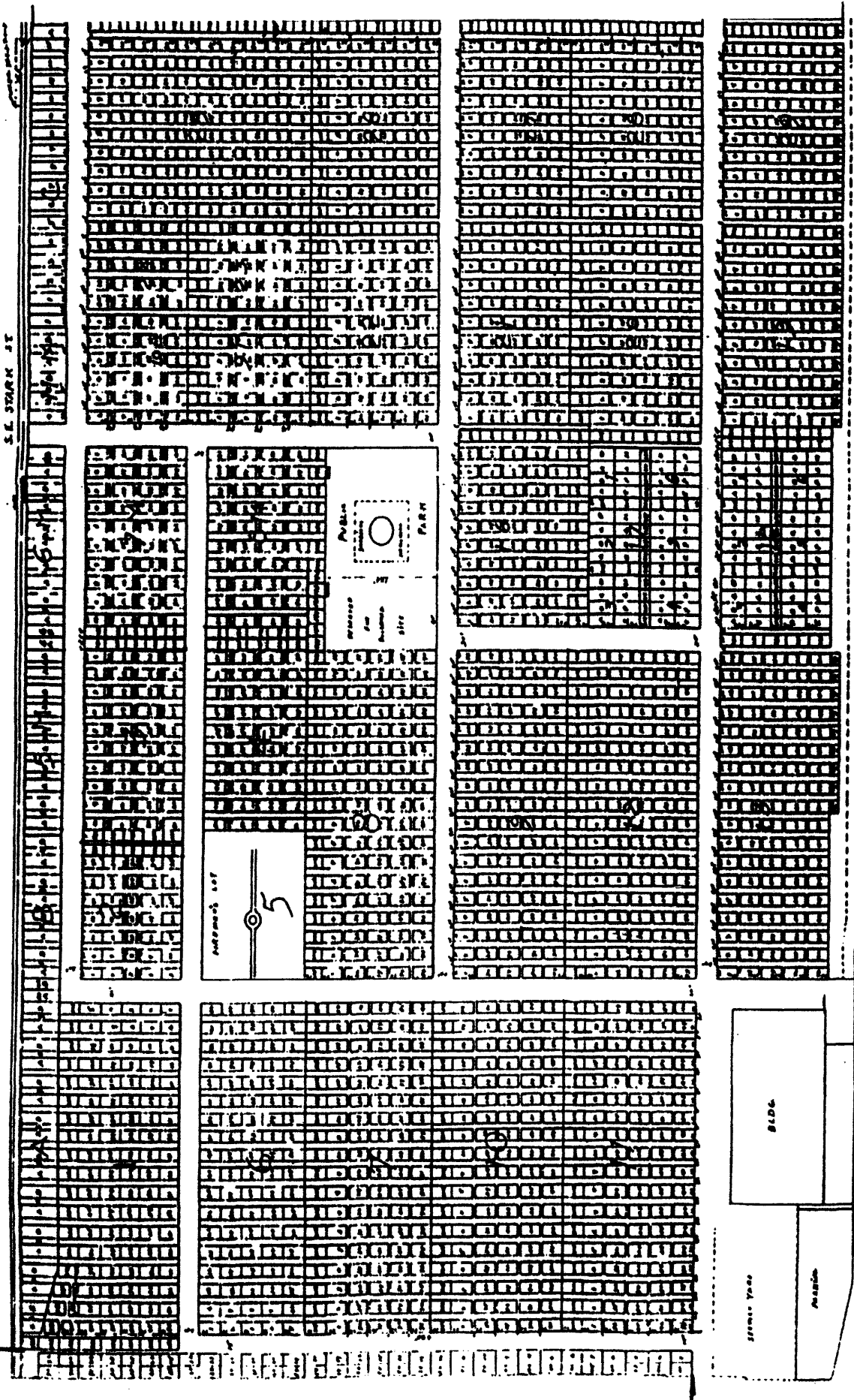
S.E. FORESTWAY ST

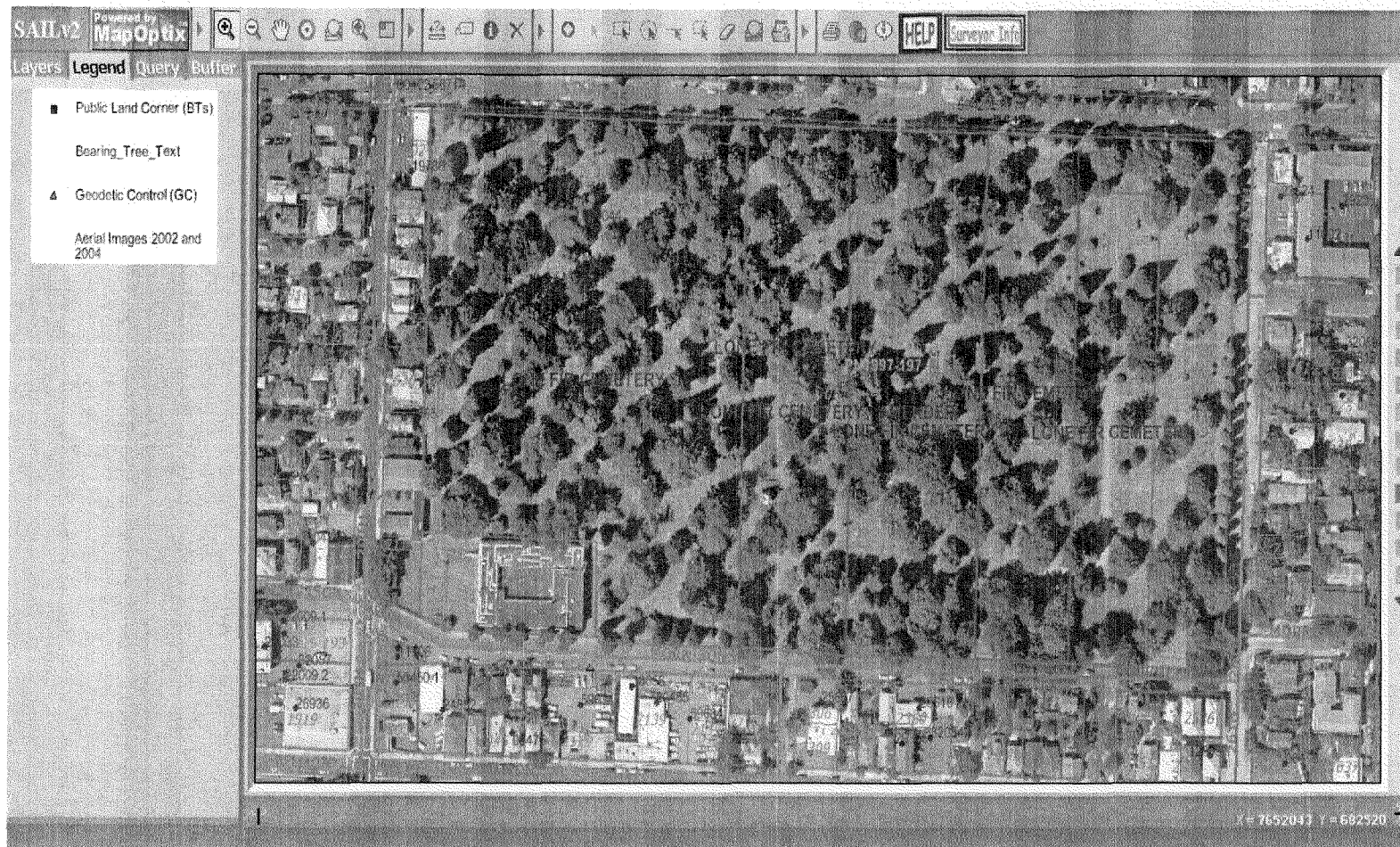


# LONE FIR CEMETERY

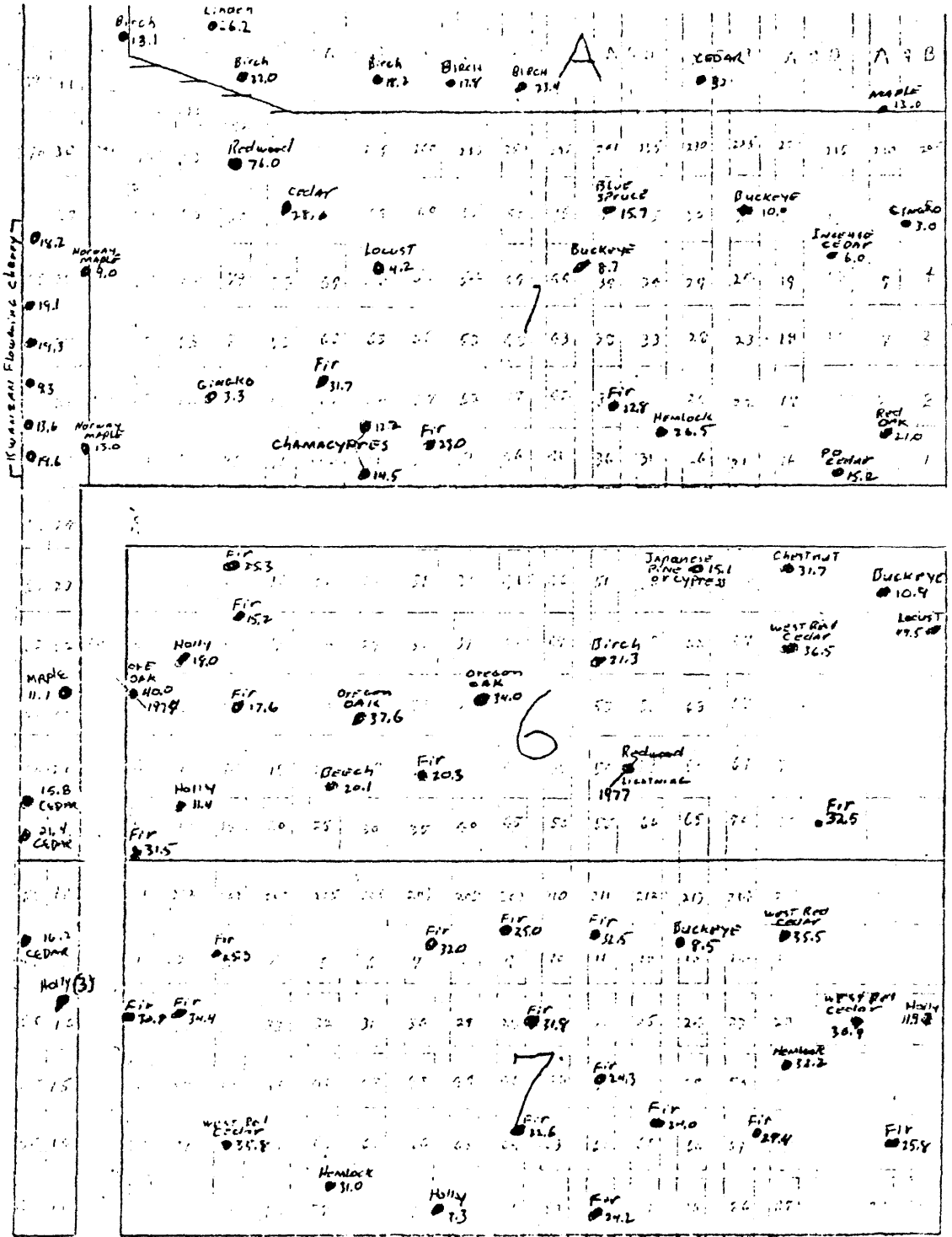
REVISED PLAT 1859-1880

SCALE 1/4" = 10'  
NO. 15 18 19 12





**ARBORETUM  
LONE FIR CEMETERY**



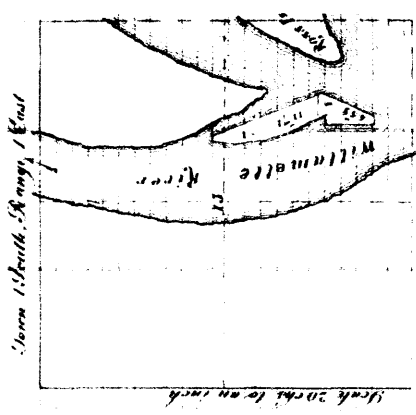
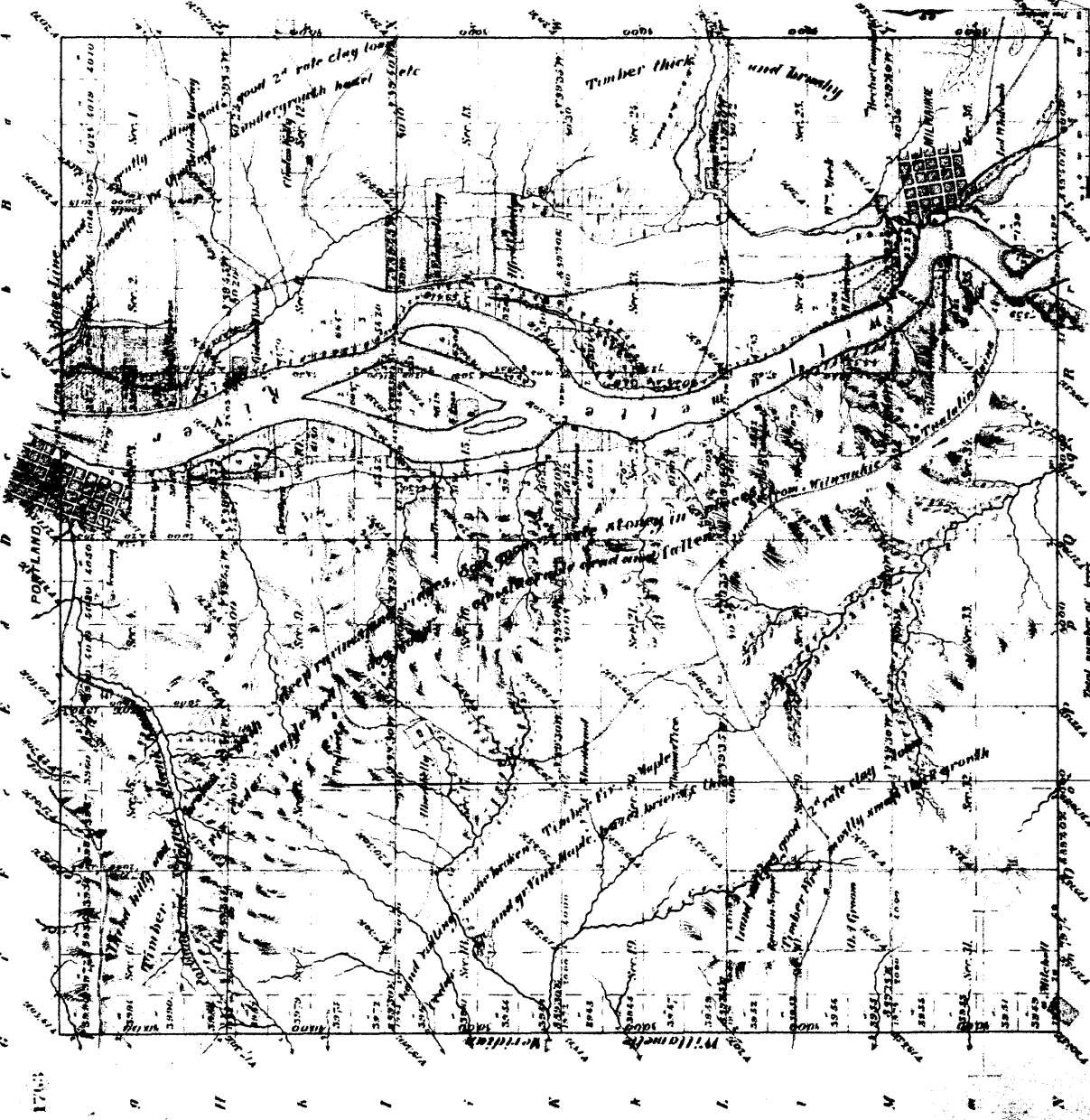
ARBORETUM  
BLOCKS A, 1, 6 AND 7





Township No 1 South Range No 1 East of the Willamette Meridian, Oregon.

Meridian of  
Base Course 1811' Base Course 1811' Dist. Course 1811'



The above Special Map of the Survey of Secs. 1 to 36, Twp. 1 S., R. 1 E., is a copy of the original map made by the surveyor in the field, and is subject to the same conditions as the original map. It is not to be used as a basis for any other survey, and is not to be used as a basis for any other purpose.

The above Special Map of the Survey of Secs. 1 to 36, Twp. 1 S., R. 1 E., is a copy of the original map made by the surveyor in the field, and is subject to the same conditions as the original map. It is not to be used as a basis for any other survey, and is not to be used as a basis for any other purpose.

Range	Section	Acres	Survey	Date
1	1	36	1852	1852
1	2	36	1852	1852
1	3	36	1852	1852
1	4	36	1852	1852
1	5	36	1852	1852
1	6	36	1852	1852
1	7	36	1852	1852
1	8	36	1852	1852
1	9	36	1852	1852
1	10	36	1852	1852
1	11	36	1852	1852
1	12	36	1852	1852
1	13	36	1852	1852
1	14	36	1852	1852
1	15	36	1852	1852
1	16	36	1852	1852
1	17	36	1852	1852
1	18	36	1852	1852
1	19	36	1852	1852
1	20	36	1852	1852
1	21	36	1852	1852
1	22	36	1852	1852
1	23	36	1852	1852
1	24	36	1852	1852
1	25	36	1852	1852
1	26	36	1852	1852
1	27	36	1852	1852
1	28	36	1852	1852
1	29	36	1852	1852
1	30	36	1852	1852
1	31	36	1852	1852
1	32	36	1852	1852
1	33	36	1852	1852
1	34	36	1852	1852
1	35	36	1852	1852
1	36	36	1852	1852

The above Map of Township 1 S., Range 1 E., of the Willamette Meridian, is a copy of the original map made by the surveyor in the field, and is subject to the same conditions as the original map. It is not to be used as a basis for any other survey, and is not to be used as a basis for any other purpose.

Surveyor General's Office  
Oregon City, Oregon, May 20 - 1852



1927

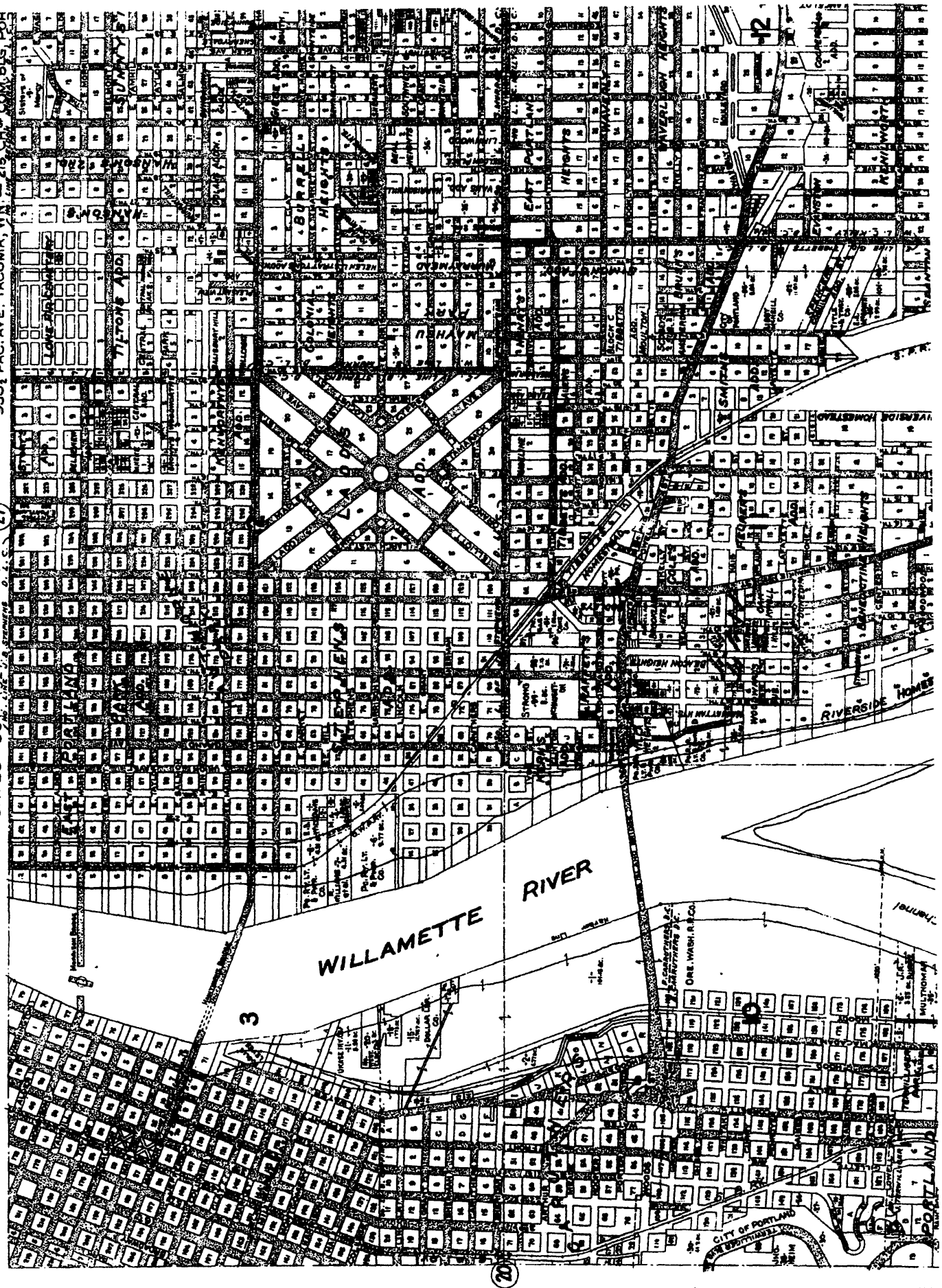
# METSKER'S ATLAS OF MULTNOMAH CO. ORE.

## T. I. S. R. I. E.

SCALE 1 IN. = 1000 FT.  
DATED OCT. 1927.

(17)

"METSKER THE MAP MAN"  
930 1/2 PAC. AVE. TACOMA, WASH. — 215 CH. COM. BLDG. PORTLAND



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 1

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### Photograph information:

Location: 2115 SE Morrison St, Portland, OR.  
District Name: Lone Fir Cemetery  
Photographer: Ian P. Johnson, Oregon SHPO staff  
Date of Photographs: 8 June 2007  
Printing Materials  
Paper: Epson Premium Glossy  
Ink: Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink

### Photo log:

- 1 of 10 Macleay Mausoleum and brick maintenance shed (background), looking SW at north and east facades
- 2 of 10 Soilders' Memorial, looking NW
- 3 of 10 Pioneer Rose Garden, looking NE
- 4 of 10 Overview of park grounds, looking S
- 5 of 10 Fireman's block, looking NE
- 6 of 10 Fraternal Order of Masons block, looking SE
- 7 of 10 Lone Fir Cemetery's namesake lone fir, looking E
- 8 of 10 Block 14 (background) looking S through the cemetery
- 9 of 10 Overview of park grounds and circulation, looking NE
- 10 of 10 Stone entrance Pillars off original Stark Street entrance, looking W (structure to right of frame is outside the boundary described in Section 10)