

THESIS ABSTRACT

Curtis, Stephen O’Ryan. “St. Louis I Cemetery, New Orleans: Transitional Composite Metalwork, (19th- C).” Masters thesis, University of Pennsylvania, August, 2002.

The St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 in New Orleans, LA has surviving metalwork associated with tombs dating from 1800 to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. This thesis identifies three types of metalwork represented in the cemetery: forged wrought iron, transitional composite metalwork and cast iron. The transitional composite metalwork is the focus of the study, approximately spanning a period from 1820 to 1860. This type of metalwork is characterized by an elaborate combination of technologies used in manufacture, metals employed and styles applied to design. The prominent use of applied and cast-on zinc ornament in conjunction with wrought iron framing is a particularly noteworthy aspect of this local nineteenth century New Orleans expression in metal. The thesis describes the transitional composite metalwork in detail and presents known information to date addressing relevant social, economic, stylistic and technological subjects to provide a historical context.

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