

St. Louis Cemetery No. 1

Guidelines for Preservation & Restoration



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Conclusions

These guidelines have been prepared to protect and preserve the historical character of New Orleans' unique tomb architecture and tombscapes. The recommendations are based on tried and true solutions designed to repair and maintain the family tomb for many years to come.



Repair and maintenance are critical for good tomb preservation, 2002.

In general, the replacement of historic fabric is to be avoided. When structural problems demand repair, similar compatible masonry materials should be used. In those instances where faulty design or construction details have led to structural problems, design modifications should be built into the new work without altering the appearance. For instance, where severely deformed marble slabs must be replaced, a thicker slab should be substituted to avoid future deformation. Original tablets should be saved and reinstalled on the side or rear of the tomb when replacement is necessary.

As stated previously, preservation professionals should be employed for major restoration work. Such professionals should present to the tomb owners information on the condition; recommendations on cleaning, conservation and repair; and cost proposals for performing all work. They should also be willing to supply data on all products to be used. After repair, no tomb can survive without a program of cyclical maintenance.



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The preservation or restoration of a family tomb can be a very rewarding experience. The research phase will provide a great deal of information on family, neighborhood and city history. The project can involve the children of the family or neighborhood, giving them a greater understanding of local history and of their own part in that history.



*Local history programs using the cemetery and its preservation help establish a sense of place.
Joseph P. Mattera, 2001*

Proposed aesthetic, repair or structural changes to a tomb may bring out strong opinions from various family members, based on their memories and perceptions. These family interactions, combined with archival research experience and exposure to contractors and preservation professionals will make this a long-term learning

experience. By the end of the project, the family will be very proud of the tomb and a celebration is certainly in order. The many things learned throughout the project will also be of interest to others in the community and should be published in a local preservation newsletter, the newspaper or one of the many good New Orleans based magazines. Finally, remember to let all the friends and relatives no longer in New Orleans know about the successful completion of the project, and thank everyone who contributed.



St. Louis Cemetery No. 1, 2001.



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Endnotes

1. Kay D. Weeks and Anne E. Grimmer, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings*, Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1995.

2. Peter Marquis-Kyle and Meredith Walker, *The Illustrated Burra Charter: Making good decisions about the care of important places*, Sydney, Australia: Australia ICOMOS, 1992.

3. *AIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice*, aic.stanford.edu/pubs/ethics.html. (6/02).

4. Weeks. p. 1.

5. Weeks. p. 2.

6. John Pintard wrote a series of articles published in the *Daily Advertiser* April 15 to May 22, 1802, while an editor of that paper in New York City.

7. Benjamin Latrobe, March 8th 1819. Latrobe's Journals have been published by two sources. *Impressions Respecting New Orleans Diary & Sketches 1818-1820*, Edited with introduction and notes by Samuel Wilson, Jr. 1951, 82. *The Journals of Benjamin Henry Latrobe 1799-1820 From Philadelphia to New Orleans*, ed. Edward C. Carter II, John C. Van Horne, and Lee W. Formwalt, Samuel Wilson, Jr. Consulting Ed. 1980, p. 241.

8. St. Louis Cemetery No 1 in 1834, Watercolor sketch by John H.B. Latrobe. Image reproduced from cover art on *The St. Louis Cemeteries of New Orleans*, October, 1988.

9. Grace King, *New Orleans: The Place and The People* (New York: Macmillan and Co., 1895), p. 401.

10. Hydraulic limes are those achieved from certain clay-based limestone. They are set by hydration, a chemical reaction with water, and are referred to as "hydraulic" because of this fact. They also are called "hydraulic" for the fact that when hardened, hydraulic lime mortars are water-resistant. Limes are classified by their hydraulic ability as feebly hydraulic lime (<12% clay materials, sets in 15-20 days after immersion), moderately hydraulic lime (12%-18% clay materials, sets in 6-8 days after immersion) and eminently hydraulic lime (18%-25% clay materials, sets 2-4 days after immersion). Natural cements are actually eminently hydraulic limes.



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Resources



Project Website

- **University of Pennsylvania,
Graduate School of Fine Arts**
www.noladeadspace.org



Sites for New Orleans & Family Historical Documentation

- **Archdiocese of New Orleans**
Archdiocesan Archivist
1100 Chartres Street in the French Quarter,
three blocks from Jackson Square
Telephone: (504)529-2651
FAX: (504)529-3075
e-mail: archives@archdiocese-no.org

<http://www.archdiocese-no.org/archives/>

The Archdiocesan Archivist has published multiple volumes of Sacramental Records of the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. All are available for purchase and may be ordered. The reference books are also available at the New Orleans Public Library.

- **New Orleans Archdiocesan Cemeteries**
Suite 500

1000 Howard Avenue
New Orleans, La. 70113

Vox: 504.596.3050

Fax: 504.596.3055

For questions relating to specific tombs, lots, ownership, Perpetual Care, etc.

- **The Historic New Orleans Collection**

533 Royal Street

New Orleans, LA 70130

504-523-4662, 504-598-7108 (fax)

The Williams Research Center of The Historic New Orleans Collection, composed of curatorial, manuscripts, and library collections, is housed in a restored police and court building at 410 Chartres Street. <http://www.hnoc.org/>

“The Survey of Historic New Orleans Cemeteries, a project sponsored by the Collection in conjunction with Save Our Cemeteries, is housed at the Collection. This survey includes inscriptions, photographs, general descriptions, and condition reports of tombs in nine historic New Orleans cemeteries: St. Louis I & II, Lafayette I & II, St. Joseph I &



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II, Cypress Grove, Odd Fellows Rest, and Greenwood” (from on-line description). Their manuscript collections include personal and legal papers of families and organizations. Also available in microfilm are New Orleans newspapers from 1803 to the present.

- **The Louisiana State Museum**

<http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/lsm4.htm>

The original source for the George François Mugnier and Samuel T. Blessing photographs of the cemeteries.

<http://www.lsu.edu/diglib> LSU digital library – can view much of the Louisiana State Museum Photograph collection, including the George François Mugnier and Samuel T. Blessing photographs of the cemeteries.

- **New Orleans Public Library**

219 Loyola Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70112-2044
504-529-READ

<http://www.nutrias.org>

Microfilms of the Tombstone Index by the WPA in the 1930s, (New Orleans cemeteries-[GS36 266-308]. The original

index is at the Historical Center of the Louisiana State Museum, 400 Esplanade Ave.

Also available at the library is the multi-volume set of the Sacramental Records of the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Cross-references maiden and married surnames, combination names & significant surname variations. LouR 929.3 W894s [Ask at the reference desk]

- **The Preservation Resource Center**

Leeds-Davis Building
923 Tchoupitoulas Street
New Orleans, LA

<http://www.prcno.org>

The Preservation Resource Center is a private non-profit organization that promotes the preservation of New Orleans architecture and neighborhoods.

- **Save Our Cemeteries, Inc.**

P.O. Box 58105
New Orleans, Louisiana 70158-8105:
E-mail: soc@saveourcemeteries.org
Phone: 504-525-3377, 504-525-6677 (Fax)
1-888-721-7493 (Toll Free)

<http://www.saveourcemeteries.org>



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- **Fred Hatfield's searchable site:**

<http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Monitor/1248/>

A SOC volunteer. On this site, the Lafayette Cemetery tombs can be searched by name.

- **Tulane School of Architecture – Preservation Studies**

Web Address for the measured drawings of St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 tombs:

<http://www.tulane.edu/~tsahome/page1.html>

Measured drawings and research on selected tombs at St. Louis Cemetery No. 1

- **The Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane Manuscripts Department, Hogan Jazz Archives, Louisiana Collection)**

Jones Hall

Tulane University Libraries

New Orleans LA 70118 USA

ph: 504-865-5699, fx: 504-865-5761

<http://specialcollections.tulane.edu>

Architectural plans, maps, cemetery documentation and hundreds of collections of family papers within the Manuscripts Department.

- **Vieux Carre Commission**

Vieux Carré Commission, 334 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130.

(504) 528-3950; Fax: (504) 528-3945

<http://www.new-orleans.la.us/cnoweb/vcc/>



Other sites of interest

- **Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation, Office of Cultural Development**

<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/ocd/hp/ocdhp.htm>

- **Louisiana Legislature**

<http://www.legis.state.la.us/tsrs/tsrssearch.htm>

- **City of New Orleans**

<http://www.new-orleans.la.us/cnoweb/body.htm>



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- **Library of Congress**

<http://memory.loc.gov/>

Can search for New Orleans cemetery or city images from the Library of Congress

- *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings,*

<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/standguide/index.htm>

- **National Park Service**

<http://www.nps.gov>

- **National Center for Preservation Technology and Training**

<http://www.ncptt.nps.gov>

- **National Trust for Historic Preservation**

<http://www.nationaltrust.org>

- **American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC)**

1717 K Street NW, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20006

202-452-9545, 202-452-9328 (fax)

info@aic-faic.org

<http://aic.stanford.edu/>

- *Selecting a Conservator:*

<http://aic.stanford.edu/faic/refer.html>

- *Code of Ethics & Guidelines for Practice:*

<http://aic.stanford.edu/pubs/ethics.html>

- **Conservators On-Line:**

<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/>

- **Heritage Preservation**

1730 K Street, NW Suite 566

Washington, DC 20006-3836

202-634-1422 / 888-388-6789

Fax 202-634-1435

<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/>

Save Outdoor Sculpture program might be of interest.

- **The Association for Gravestone Studies**

30 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609

<http://www.gravestonestudies.org>

- **The Association for Preservation Technology (APT)**

<http://www.apti.org>

