

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 instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Sacramento City Cemetery

other names/site number Historic City Cemetery, Old City Cemetery

## 2. Location

street & number 1000 Broadway  not for publication

city or town Sacramento  vicinity

state California code CA county Sacramento code 067 zip code 95818

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

x national     \_\_\_ statewide     \_\_\_ local

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title State Historic Preservation Officer Date

California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register     \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register     \_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 5. Classification

Historic City Cemetery  
 Name of Property

Sacramento, California  
 County and State

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only **one** box.)

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
1		district
14		site
8		structure
11		object
36	2	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Funerary: cemetery, graves/burials

Agriculture/Subsistence: horticultural facility

Recreation and Culture: outdoor recreation

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social: civic

Education: research facility

Funerary: cemetery, graves/burials

Recreation and Culture: outdoor recreation

Agriculture/Subsistence: horticultural facility

Landscape: historic landscape and site plan

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Gothic Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

Stone: sandstone

roof: Concrete

other: Wrought-iron gate

Stained glass window

**Narrative Description**

See Continuation Sheet

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**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.)

- 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.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social/Economic/Political History

Community Planning & Development

Landscape Architecture

Architecture/Artistic value

**Period of Significance**

1849-1962

**Significant Dates**

1849-City Cemetery established. 1850-City officials

begin plotting the site. 1856-Site redevelopment

begins. 1880-Margaret Crocker donation of additional

land. 1893-Mortuary Chapel constructed. 1957-City

Cemetery designated a State Historic Landmark. 1962-

last sale of land that resulted in current boundaries of

cemetery.

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Multiple; see below.

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Boyd, Joseph C.

Carr, James

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period significance begins in 1849 when the City of Sacramento passed an ordinance establishing the City Cemetery and appointing a committee to lay out the site to sell family plots to the public. It ends in 1962 when the last portion of land was sold that resulted in the current boundaries of the cemetery.

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**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

Criteria Consideration B, Moved Properties: Some of the graves of historic figures and other individuals are reinterments from other gravesites, including the gravesite of John Sutter Jr., from Mexico City. The group burial of the victims of the 1850 cholera epidemic, Sacramento mayor Hardin Bigelow, and the Grand Army of the Republic cemetery plots were originally located at the New Helvetia Cemetery, a cemetery that was destroyed in 1955-1956 and replaced by a school. However, the overall number of reinterments are a small proportion of the cemetery, all took place more than fifty years ago and have achieved significance in their own right, and include the reinterment of individuals and groups for which the age and historical associations are of overriding rarity and significance.

Criteria Consideration C, Birthplaces or Graves: The individuals nominated for their association with the cemetery under Criteria Consideration C includes only individuals for whom there is no surviving building directly associated with their life and work, with the exception of Margaret Crocker, whose grave is located in the cemetery, but whose eligibility under Criterion B is based on her working life as a patron and advocate of the cemetery.

Criteria Consideration D, Cemeteries: Sacramento's Historic City Cemetery derives its primary significance from its association with this historic transformation of Sacramento from a Gold Rush-era boomtown to a well-established, political and economic hub for the region. It is also an excellent representation of a cultural cemetery landscape developed during its period of significance, with a high degree of integrity. The cemetery also contains the graves of a number of persons of outstanding importance, whose activities determined the course of events in local, state and national history, and has important historic associations from Sacramento and California's early period of settlement, and reflects important aspects of community history. Therefore, it meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration D.

**Statement of Significance**

See Continuation Sheet

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See Continuation Sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 31.8  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>630480</u> Easting	<u>4269480</u> Northing	3	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>630680</u> Easting	<u>4268980</u> Northing
2	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>630480</u> Easting	<u>4269480</u> Northing	4	<u>10</u> Zone	<u>630360</u> Easting	<u>4269110</u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Sacramento's Historic City Cemetery is bound to the north by Broadway, to the east by Riverside Boulevard, to the west by Muir Way, and to the south by the southern boundaries of various plots, including the Red Men's Plot, Hamilton Square, Veterans Affiliated Council Section, Lower Odd Fellows Section, Grand Army Plot #2 and Riverside South.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass the area which has historically been Sacramento's City Cemetery, as owned and operated by the City of Sacramento, finalized in 1962.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Heather Lavezzo Downey, Interpretive Specialist; Genevieve Entezari, Graduate Student Intern; Debbie Hollingsworth, Interpretive Specialist

organization City of Sacramento -- Center for Sacramento History and Community Development Departments

date August 03, 2012

street & number 300 Richards Boulevard, Suite 300

telephone 916-808-8259

city or town Sacramento

state CA

zip code 95811

e-mail rdeering@cityofsacramento.org

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Historic City Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Sacramento

County: Sacramento State: CA

Photographer: Roberta Deering

Date Photographed: May 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1. Terraced Plots; view to southeast
2. Terraced Plots; view to northeast
3. Sacramento Pioneer Association Plot; view to southwest
4. Hopkins Mausoleum; view to west
5. Hamilton Square; view east
6. Path in West Flat; view to east
7. Mortuary Chapel; view to southeast
8. Independent Order of Odd Fellows Section; view to northeast
9. Hitching post at the southeast corner of the Masonic Cemetery; view to the northwest
10. Masonic Cemetery; view to southwest
11. Grand Army of the Republic Plot and Monument; view to east
12. View looking toward the Grand Army of the Republic Plot; view to east
13. Volunteer Firemen's Bell; view to south
14. Volunteer Firemen's Plot; view to southeast
15. Newton Booth gravesite; view to southeast
16. Frances E. Brown Mausoleum; view to northwest

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Sacramento c/o Marcia Eymann, Center for Sacramento History  
street & number 551 Sequoia Pacific Boulevard telephone 916-808-7072  
city or town Sacramento state CA zip code 95811-0229

**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 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION<sup>1</sup>**

Established in 1849, the Sacramento’s Historic City Cemetery is a 31.8-acre site in Sacramento, California, located to the south of the city’s historic core, with its entrance from Broadway at 10<sup>th</sup> Street. With the onset of the Gold Rush in 1849, Sacramento became a rapidly-growing settlement at the low-lying confluence of two mighty, flood-prone rivers - the Sacramento and American. In 1849, City officials chose a section of high ground on Y Street (modern-day Broadway), just south of the newly-platted city, for the Sacramento City Cemetery. Since then, the site’s topography has tempered and determined the Cemetery’s growth and design. Today, the City Cemetery is characterized by this topography, as well as the site’s layout and organization of drives and pathways, terrace retaining walls, arrangement of plots, plot walls, vegetation, the Mortuary Chapel, and an array of monuments and mausoleums. As an historic cultural landscape and an outdoor museum, this historic site is a three-dimensional record of Sacramento and California history dating back to the Gold Rush. Although all its lots have been sold, the City Cemetery still sees between 15 and 30 burials each year. In total, it has had over 25,000 burials (possibly as many as 40,000). As a cultural landscape, the site has evolved over time through use by Sacramentans. Decisions to use and change the landscape as a burial ground and community gathering place have shaped the site since the Gold Rush. Sacramento’s City Cemetery continues to reflect these historic functions as much of its nineteenth-century appearance, site design, features and land-use remains intact. As such, the site exemplifies one component of early residents’ efforts to give some structure to an unruly site and develop permanent institutions in a city which owed its origins to serving a transient population.

The Historic City Cemetery is bound to the north by Broadway, to the east by Riverside Boulevard, to the west by Muir Way, and by the southern boundaries of various cemetery plots, including the Red Men’s Plot, Hamilton Square, the Veterans Affiliated Sections, Lower Odd Fellows Sections, Grand Army Plot #2, and Riverside South. These boundaries represent that area which has historically been the City Cemetery, as owned and operated by the City of Sacramento. The Masonic Cemetery is located to the south of the City Cemetery. Although included within the perimeter of a metal fence (installed in 2005) that encompasses the City Cemetery, the Masonic Cemetery is not included as part of the historic property.

Since 1849, the City Cemetery has sat atop a sandy knoll to the south of Sacramento’s city core. At its center, the City Cemetery site is roughly 12 feet higher than its edges along Muir Way and Riverside Boulevard. Furthermore, the City Cemetery’s western quarter is steep, while the southeast portion is flat. Due to the topographical variations, cemetery plots are raised in terraces, and densely arranged across the entire site with the exception of walking paths, drives and the four buildings located within the City Cemetery boundaries. In contrast with many contemporary cemeteries built elsewhere in the United States, Sacramento’s City Cemetery employs a “rational,” rather than “rural,” design. Instead of a picturesque or naturalistic landscape with winding, curvilinear pathways, Sacramento’s City Cemetery boasts straight, narrow plot lines divided by straight, angular pedestrian pathways. The site’s varied topography required that the City Cemetery’s design and land-use be adaptive. Hillsides are terraced with brick and stone retaining walls to create level burial plots. As such, cemetery plots are raised and bounded by low retaining walls or curbs of brick, stone or concrete. Where the terrain is not flat, larger walls of stone or brick are used to create level sections for the rectangular plots. Some plots have rounded corners and curbs. The City Cemetery’s circulation system is composed of asphalt-paved

<sup>1</sup> Royston, Hanamoto, Alley & Abey, *Sacramento Historic City Cemetery Master Plan* (City of Sacramento, 2007).

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drives that are roughly 12-14 feet wide, as well as pedestrian pathways that are paved with a variety of materials including turf, wood chips, brick, or concrete, in various designs, many contained within narrow curbing. Reflective of the City Cemetery’s “rational” design, the drives are straight and travel over the terrain, regardless of the topography.

The City Cemetery’s diverse vegetation and plant life helps to create its park-like atmosphere. Elms provide a canopy for much of the site, along with pines, oaks, magnolias, cypress, and other trees. Shrubbery and small plants are typically planted by plot owners. Turf is the most prevalent ground cover. The site’s three major gardens contain historic Gold-Rush era roses (located in the Historic Rose Gardens, Bruner Area, and Cadwalder Area), perennial plants (located in the Hamilton Square area), and native, more recently introduced, plants (near Veterans Sections E & F). The area now known as the Historic Rose Garden, in particular, boasts over 400 plants, representing over 200 varieties. The City Cemetery is furnished with twentieth-century benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains as well as identification and directional signage. The most evident site utilities are those related to the irrigation system and electricity poles and overhead wires are also present.

The City Cemetery possesses an array of grave markers that range in form from modest wooden slabs and simple stone markers, to elaborate monuments with stone statues and carvings, to mausoleums. These monuments memorialize city pioneers, entrepreneurs, politicians, and numerous others from the Gold Rush era through modern times. Some of these monuments include city founder John A. Sutter, Jr., pioneer politicians Albert M. Winn and Hardin Bigelow (city’s first mayor), California governors John Bigler and Newton Booth, Turn-Verein charter member, August R. Klein, and cemetery benefactor, Margaret Crocker. The collection is a remarkable survey of stone carving, architectural styles, and funerary symbols and icons.

Buildings

There are four buildings on the property, two contributors and two non-contributors. Non-contributing accessory buildings, including small temporary storage buildings and a free-standing restroom, are not included in the resource count.

**1. The Mortuary Chapel (Contributor):** Constructed in 1893. Built in rusticated Gothic Revival architectural style and designed by James Carr, the Mortuary Chapel sits atop an elevated plot that is bordered with a small, concrete wall. It is a one unit, one-story building with a square footprint and concrete foundation. The structure’s walls are brick, while its front wall is faced with sandstone. It has a gable-pitched, concrete roof with a slight, flared eave overhang. Both of the structure’s side walls are adorned with three pilasters. The Mortuary Chapel’s most prominent feature is a pointed, stone arch on its front wall which serves as the entrance to the structure. The arch’s keystone is engraved with “1893.” A wrought-iron gate covers the wooden, double doors set within the arch. Above the door, and still within the arch, a stained glass window sits in a round, unbroken pediment. The words “Mortuary Chapel” are engraved in stone above the arch. The Chapel now houses the cemetery archives and records.

**2. Office (Contributor):** Located at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street gate on Broadway, the office (adjacent to the main entry gate) serves as the maintenance staff’s office and was constructed after the 1949 removal of the historic entry gate, bell tower and lodging. It is a square brick structure with a pyramidal metal roof and



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metal casement windows. The building does not have a particular architectural style, but it is a contributor due to its role as the new entry gate of the property since its construction circa 1949 through the end of the period of significance in 1962. In 1955 the building was affixed with a marker identifying the City Cemetery as a city of Sacramento historic site.

**3. Maintenance Building (Non-Contributor):** maintenance building is a simple brick building with a flat roof and two shed additions on the building’s eastern wall. The building appears to have received multiple modifications and additions that have affected the historic integrity of the property, and it is unclear when the building was built. The maintenance building is a non-contributor to the district.

**4. Storage Building (Non-Contributor):** The storage facility, located at the cemetery’s southeastern end, is a metal building with a wooden building constructed around it. The building shows evidence of recent modification and does not represent a particular identifiable style. As such it is not a contributor to the district.

Sites (Cemetery Plots)

There are fifteen major plots within the City Cemetery that are eligible as contributing sites to the district. Each plot consists of a defined portion of the cemetery, bounded by the asphalt roads that run through the cemetery or the perimeter fence around the cemetery’s edge. Each plot is defined by its association with a group or organization, named for particularly significant individuals within the plot, or a geographic feature of the plot. Most plots are divided into smaller square sub-plots, indicated by borders of granite, concrete or brick, typically divided by pathways of grass or brick. Most of the plots have a grass surface, but some are landscaped with ornamental plants and others are covered with concrete or stone. Narrative histories about each of the organizations identified within the cemetery plots are in Section 8, under Criterion A for the significant organizations and groups, and Criterion B for significant individuals. Discussion of the property’s significance within the context of landscape architecture is included under Criterion C.

**5. Sacramento Pioneers Association (Contributor)** Located at the highest point of the cemetery near its southwestern corner, the Pioneers Association plot is approximately rectangular in shape. The plot is bisected by a concrete path with the Mark Hopkins mausoleum at its approximate center, a large mausoleum of red granite on a granite base, flanked by two red granite vases. The plot’s western half is terraced as the landscape descends, while the eastern half is flat. Albert Maver Winn’s gravesite, marked by an obelisk, is located in the eastern half of the Pioneers Association plot. The landscape is mostly open lawns, with minimal tree cover except for several shade trees around the Hopkins mausoleum, and several palm trees located around the site. These shade trees are known as the Pioneer Cemetery Grove, cared for by the descendants of the Pioneer Association.

**6. Historic Volunteer Fireman’s Plot (Contributor)** Located near the cemetery’s northern boundary, slightly east of the cemetery entrance. The Fireman’s Plot is bounded by a decorative wrought iron fence atop a short concrete wall, and is slightly elevated above the surrounding landscape. The site is entered via concrete stairs, flanked by the Firemen’s Plot gazebo and bell (described separately in Structures, below.) The gravesites are mostly indicated by small markers in five orderly rows, with a small number of more prominent markers. There are no trees within the Fireman’s Plot, but one prominent shade tree is located on the northeastern corner outside the fence and wall.

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**7. The Grand Army of the Republic Plot (Contributor)** This plot is located along the cemetery’s eastern boundary near Riverside Boulevard and is narrow and rectangular in shape, and relatively flat. Many of the square plots in this area are covered in concrete, with turf walking paths between them, and there are scattered trees and decorative plants throughout the site. The plot contains multiple smaller gravesites and square family plots, including the Turn Verein plot (a German immigrant organization) but the plot’s name derives from a relocated group of graves associated with the Grand Army of the Republic, marked by a set of closely-spaced white marble gravestones of veterans of the Civil War, with a prominent statue of a Union Army soldier, painted in color, atop a rectangular granite plinth. The G.A.R area within the larger plot is defined by a row of soldier-course brick.

**8. Grand Army of the Republic Plot #2 (Contributor)** This plot is located south of the older Grand Army of the Republic plot. It has some tree cover but is primarily open and most of the plots are turfed with grass. This long, narrow plot runs from approximately the center of the cemetery to its southern edge, near Riverside Boulevard. The entrance to this plot is indicated by a memorial to J. Holland Laidler Camp No. 5, American Legion Post 61, and dedicated primarily to veterans of the Spanish-American War. Some of the gravesites are marked by metal panels on concrete bases set horizontally in the ground, others are on vertical gravestones, generally small in scale. Located at the southern end of this plot is the Old Soldiers Plot. A memorial dedicated to the sinking of the USS Maine, featuring a small mechanism salvaged from the battleship and a plaque cast from its salvaged metal, is located in the Old Soldiers Plot. The storage building (#4) is located alongside the Old Soldiers Plot within this overall site.

**9. Veterans Affiliated Council Section (Contributor)** This plot is located near the center of the southern edge of the cemetery, located behind the maintenance building (#3). At the front of this section is a bricked area with a small granite column, marked “Veteran’s Affiliated Council Memorial, Aug. 24, 1947, In Memory Of Our Departed Comrades.” The site is flat and features no trees or other landscaping elements. Gravesites are marked by flat metal plaques on granite bases in orderly rows, and the interred are veterans from the era of World War II through the Korean War and Vietnam War. This section is also the location of the reinterred graves of the victims of Sacramento’s 1850 cholera epidemic, with associated marker (see Section 8, Criterion A.)

**10. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (Contributor)** The Odd Fellows’ section is divided into three rectangular sections separated by asphalt roads, located along a north-south axis between the Grand Army Plot #2 and the Veterans Affiliated Council section, but all three plots share the same association with the Odd Fellows organization and are geographically adjacent. The Odd Fellows section has a moderate amount of tree cover and landscaping, with headstones and monuments of varying sizes but generally small in scale, with grass paths between sub-plots. The central Odd Fellows section has a circular, tiered concrete fountain at its center, with a circular path around it, creating a distinct area that differs from most of the other corners in the cemetery. Stone benches are located at the intercardinal directions around the fountain.

**11. The Free & Accepted Masons (Contributor)** The Masonic plot is a small rectangular plot located between the IOOF plots and the Firemen’s plot. This site has no trees, and is the location of John Bigler’s gravesite.

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**12. Hamilton Square (Contributor)** Hamilton Square is a large plot located on the cemetery's southern edge, between the Veterans Affiliated Council Section and the Pioneer Association plot. The Mortuary Chapel (building #1) is located in this section. The property includes the gravesite of William Stephen Hamilton (see Section 8, Criterion B) and is the site of the Hamilton Square Garden, one of two large, restored rose gardens located within the cemetery. The square sub-plots in this area feature a large number of rare rose bushes and other ornamental plants, an organized restoration of the cemetery's Victorian garden design originally spearheaded by Margaret Crocker. There is a moderate amount of tree cover in the Hamilton Square section, and some sub-plots covered by concrete or grass, but rose bushes and Victorian garden landscaping predominate in this section.

**13. West Flat and East Flat (Contributor)** These two related areas are rectangular in shape and are located between the Center Run and the Maintenance Building. They are located on a gradual northward slope, terraced in between each sub-plot, with red brick paths and heavy use of red brick to divide sub-plots. Steps in the West and East Flat between terraced levels are of pierced brick inset with glass and stones to indicate each riser. Use of brick in this area makes the West and East Flat a visually distinct portion of the cemetery. Most of the West and East Flat consists of small gravestones. The main exception is the Frances E. Brown Mausoleum, located on the northern edge of the West Flat (in a small triangular area), a white marble structure with a flat roof, designed in a style influenced by Egyptian architecture.

**14. Crocker Section (Contributor)** Located along the southwestern corner of the cemetery, this long, narrow plot includes the primary plot of the Crocker family, including Edwin Bryant Crocker and Margaret Crocker (see Section 8, Criterion B.) At the Crocker Section's southern edge is the "Mohammedan Cemetery," several gravesites dedicated to members of Sacramento's early Moslem community. There are several other areas in the cemetery where Moslems are buried, but this portion of the Crocker Section is the earliest identified for its association with the Moslem community. The western half of the Crocker section is also called the "Upper 9<sup>th</sup>" section, located adjacent to the 9<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to the cemetery. Along the southernmost edge of this section is the Anton Menke burial plot, containing a prominent statue of a woman atop a large rectangular granite plinth with rectangular base, four pairs of granite Corinthian pillars, and a cap that resembles a Second Empire tower roof with stylized shingles. This statue is visible from outside the cemetery along Broadway and is one of the most frequently photographed funerary statues in the cemetery.

**15. Van Voorhies Section (Contributor)** This lozenge-shaped plot is located between the Crocker and Pioneer Sections, along a gradual incline descending to the west. The plot's eastern edge features a large number of trees and is dominated by the A.A. Van Voorhies mausoleum, built in 1894, a granite structure with Gothic Revival architectural elements including ashlar stone blocks and a steeply pitched roof. The square plots within this section are gradually terraced, descending to the west, with grass paths, and no trees on the terraced area.

**16. Lower 9<sup>th</sup>, Elliotts and Putnam Tiers Section (Contributor)** These plots define the western edge of the cemetery along Muir Way, and are steeply terraced with prominent walls of brick, concrete and irregular stone, varying in height from three to ten feet. The western edge of the Putnam Tiers is sloped, with smaller retaining walls and irregularly spaced gravesites, with a prominent row of shade trees along the cemetery's far western edge along the Muir Way fence. The Elliott section is dominated by the Elliot mausoleum, a granite structure of large ashlar stone blocks and an entrance featuring

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Classical Revival design elements. At the cemetery’s southwestern corner is the Red Men’s Plot, a fraternal organization. The steeply terraced retaining walls of this section, intended to fully utilize the property along the steeply sloped western edge of the original Sand Hill, is one of the most visually distinct portions of the cemetery.

**17. Center Run (Contributor)** This large plot is lozenge-shaped and runs from the cemetery main entrance along 10<sup>th</sup> Street to the geographic center of the cemetery, with its peak along one of the most prominent ridges within the district other than the Pioneer Association plot. Within the Center Run are multiple individual gravesites and smaller plots, including the gravesites of Newton Booth, Maulavi Muhammad Barakat Ullah, and General George Wright (see Section 8, Criterion B.) Also located within the Center Run is the State Plot, originally set aside within the Cemetery specifically for state elected officials. See Section A, Criterion A for information about the State Plot.

**18. Rose Garden (Contributor)** Located to the west of the 10<sup>th</sup> Street main entrance, the Rose Garden is the other site within the cemetery (other than the Hamilton Square site) featuring restored Victorian gardens including large numbers of rare and unique species of roses. The Rose Garden includes the Historic Rose Garden plot and the Bruner and Cadwalder Sections, located between the State Plot and Crocker Section. Located along the easternmost edge of the Historic Rose Garden are a series of memorial plaques and two relocated graves, including California Historical Landmark plaque #566, erected to honor the cemetery, a plaque dedicated to the doctors who died during the 1850 cholera epidemic, and the gravesites of John A. Sutter Jr. and Hardin Bigelow (see Section 8, Criterion B.)

Structures

The contributing structures listed below are primarily located within the plots described above. Additional descriptions are provided if not described within their associated site.

**19. Volunteer Firemen’s Bell and Gazebo (Contributor)** Located adjacent to the staircase of the Volunteer Firemen’s plot but outside its fence, the bell and gazebo are a free-standing structure associated with the Volunteer Firemen’s plot. The gazebo is a six-sided structure with six cylindrical concrete pillars atop a hexagonal base of concrete with low brick walls. The roof is hexagonal standing seam metal topped with a ball on a spire. The bell inside the gazebo was cast in England in 1859, traveling around Cape Horn and placed in service in a Sacramento firehouse in 1863, moved to the Old City Cemetery in 1912 to mark the entrance to the firemen’s plot.

**20. Mark Hopkins Mausoleum (Contributor)** Described in Site #5.

**21. Brown Mausoleum (Contributor)** Described in Site #13.

**22. Van Voorhies Mausoleum (Contributor)** Described in Site #15.

**23. Elliot Mausoleum (Contributor)** Described in #16.

**24. Creed Haymond Mausoleum (Contributor)** This granite mausoleum is located in site #19 and is located in a visually prominent portion of the cemetery near the main entrance. It features elements of Colonial Revival design including rectangular pilasters at the building corners and a gabled portico with

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curved underside flanked by pillars. Stylized letters C and H, superimposed over each other, are decorative elements integrated into the wrought iron mausoleum gate and on the peak of the front pediment, with a decorative terrazzo upper stair leading to the entrance.

**25. Andrew Ross Mausoleum (Contributor)** Located in Site #11, this mausoleum is of Neoclassic style. Constructed of granite, it is front-gabled and topped by a cross. The stylized letters “AR” are located within the pediment. The mausoleum is open, with a rear wall flanked by two rectangular Ionic pillars, supported in front by three similar pillars. Three cairns topped by granite slabs are located beneath the roof, with a wrought iron balustrade located between the pillars.

**26. State Plot (Contributor)** Described in #17, the State Plot includes multiple gravestones in close proximity that defines an individual sub-plot, eligible as a contributor due to the unique role of the plot as a burial site for state elected officials.

Objects

The contributing objects below are individual grave markers and memorial markers associated with significant individuals identified in Section 8, Criterion B or notable as physically prominent and artistically significant objects within the cemetery district.

**27. Newton Booth Gravesite (Contributor)** Located in the Central Plot (#17), the Newton Booth grave marker is a granite pillar with Beaux Arts details, including a stylized bell tower supported by four pilasters beneath a curved roof and topped with an urn.

**28. A.M. Winn Gravesite (Contributor)** Located in the Pioneers Association Plot (#5), the Winn grave marker is a white granite obelisk atop a square plinth, with a metal medallion containing an image of General Winn on the western side of the obelisk, four round medallions on the plinth (one on each face of the plinth) and a metal statue of a bear on the western side of the plinth, facing the entrance to the Pioneers Association plot.

**29. Grand Army of the Republic Statue (Contributor)** Located in the GAR Plot (#7) and described in that section.

**30. J. Holland Laidler Camp No. 5 Marker (Contributor)** Located in the GAR #2 Plot (#8), this black granite marker indicates the entrance to the GAR #2 plot, inscribed by American Legion Post 61 and dedicated to veterans of the Spanish-American War and the occupations of Cuba, the Philippines and Puerto Rico. The marker is named for a Sacramentan veteran who died in the Philippines in 1899.

**31. Maine Memorial Marker (Contributor)** Located on the southern end of the GAR #2 Plot (#8), the Old Soldiers plot, this marker is a roughly hewn granite block with metal plaques on its north and south faces, a Spanish American War marker (a stylized cross) on the north and a plaque cast of salvaged metal from the battleship *USS Maine* on the south, depicting a woman with a shield and the words “In Memoriam, USS Maine, Destroyed in Havana Harbor, February 15 1898.” Atop the marker is a flagpole and an unidentified piece of machinery (a gear and worm gear assembly in a metal bracket) salvaged from the *Maine*.

**32. Veteran’s Affiliated Council Memorial (Contributor)** This small pillar is the only vertical

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component of the Veteran's Affiliated Council plot, described in #9.

**33. IOOF Fountain (Contributor)** Located in the central IOOF plot, this fountain and surrounding benches are described in #10 above.

**34. Menke Gravesite (Contributor)** This elaborate and prominent grave marker with plinth and statue are described as part of the Crocker Plot (#14) above.

**35. Maulavi Muhammad Barakat Ullah Gravesite (Contributor)** This simple black granite headstone is located in the Center Run plot near the cemetery entrance, east of the Newton Booth gravesite. Maulavi Muhammad Barakat Ullah is an individual identified as a significant individual in Section 8, Criterion B.

**36. Hardin Bigelow Gravesite (Contributor)** Located west of the cemetery entrance on 10<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, this black granite grave marker indicates the gravesite of Hardin Bigelow, addressed as a significant individual in Section 8, Criterion B.

**37. John Sutter Jr. Gravesite (Contributor)** This grave marker indicates the gravesite of John Sutter Jr., addressed as a significant individual in Section 8, Criterion B. The marker is in two parts, including Sutter's original grave marker from Mexico and the new marker placed upon his reinterment in the Old City Cemetery.

Historic Integrity

Sacramento's Historic City Cemetery maintains its historic integrity of location (1), design (2), setting (3), materials (4), workmanship (5), feeling (6) and association (7). The site remains intact since 1849, with no change to its general boundaries which were finalized in 1962 (1). The Cemetery's historic site design remains intact and recognizable as a mid-nineteenth century "rationally" designed cemetery (2) with the layout of roads, paths and 19<sup>th</sup> century curbing and fencing around the rectangular plots, the terracing of the topography, all remain with a few missing or damaged individual elements. The site maintains its setting (3) in that it still sits atop a sandy knoll, above the threat of high water. While a number of iron fence elements and monuments are damaged or are missing parts, and the historic entry gate was removed in 1949, the Cemetery, as a cohesive site and cultural landscape, maintains integrity of workmanship (5). Furthermore, the removal of several feet of the cemetery and the addition of a retaining wall along the Broadway frontage to accommodate the widening of the street do not diminish the site's integrity of workmanship. The feeling (6) of the Cemetery as an historic burial ground and community gathering place remains, as does its association (7) with Sacramento's diverse Gold-Rush era population, its mid-nineteenth century city planning policies, and the rapid urban development that followed.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:<sup>1</sup>**

Sacramento's Historic City Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, B and C at the national level of significance. The property is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Community Planning & Development at the state level of significance for its association with the onset of the Gold Rush in 1848 and the subsequent, rapid settlement of Sacramento as a permanent commercial, transportation, and political hub. The site is eligible under Criterion B at the national level of significance for its association with cemetery benefactor Margaret Crocker and as the gravesite of multiple Sacramentans of transcendent importance for whom there is no other surviving property associated with their productive lives. The site is eligible under Criterion C at the state level of significance as an example of Victorian era "rational" cemetery planning, similar to other 19<sup>th</sup> century "rural" cemetery plans but following a rectilinear plan instead of an irregular one, and as an assemblage of significant examples of funerary architecture, statuary and landscape design. The property meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration B because the moved properties have achieved significance in their own right, Criteria Consideration C because the individuals nominated are persons of outstanding importance with no other extant property, and Criteria Consideration D because it draws its significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, age, distinctive design features, and association with historic events.

Beginning in 1849, the City Cemetery met an important municipal need for the young city and its diverse population. Decision-making surrounding the cemetery's location and site design reflected early Sacramento residents' continual struggle with nature. On May 5, 1957 The Sacramento City Cemetery was designated as a State Historic Landmark, No. 566, by the State Historical Landmarks Commission, under the sponsorship of the Native Sons of the Golden West and the Native Daughters of the Golden West eight years before the passage of the National Preservation Act in 1965. In 2011 it became a landmark for the City of Sacramento. It is one of the oldest and largest Victorian era cemeteries in the western United States. Furthermore, it has always been municipally-owned, helping to illuminate the role of government in Western settlement and development in the mid-nineteenth century.

**Criterion A: Social History**

Sacramento's Historic City Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register at the state level of significance in the area of Social History for its association with the Sacramento's Gold-Rush era origins and society and the city's development, including becoming the State Capitol. The Cemetery serves as the final resting place for thousands of early Californians, ranging from former California Governors, such as Newton Booth, and other notable elected officials, to prominent entrepreneurs like Mark Hopkins, one of the financiers responsible for the first transcontinental railroad. Those who died from illness, injury and natural causes populate the

<sup>1</sup> Royston, et al. *Sacramento Historic City Cemetery Master Plan*; William Holden, *Sacramento: Excursions into its History and Natural World* (Sacramento: Two Rivers Publishing, 1987), 171; *Union*, June 12, 1851. Center for Sacramento History: Eleanor McClatchy Collection (Caroline Wenzel Notebooks, Volume 6), 96-102; H.S. Crocker & Co., *Directory for Sacramento City and County* (San Francisco: F.M. Husted, 1893) Center for Sacramento History, Folsom History Museum Collection; City of Sacramento City Council Collection – Minute Records, 1893 "Reports – Specifications" Box 9 folder 11. 1974/04, Center for Sacramento History; Specifications for Receiving Vault and Chapel to be erected in the City Cemetery, Sacramento California. Adopted July 10, 1893; *Sacramento Bee*, "Report to Sacramento City Historic Landmarks Commission," April 4, 1955. Center for Sacramento History: Eleanor McClatchy Collection (Caroline Wenzel Notebooks, Volume 6), 96-102; *Union*, "State Burial Plot in Sacramento City Cemetery." May 14, 1860.

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cemetery, including hundreds from Sacramento’s early Chinese community. Entire families, including a number of children, are buried there, along with prostitutes and those who died in battle. The diversity of those buried in the City Cemetery is truly representative of the Gold-Rush experience. As the *Sacramento Bee* reported in 1955, “A tour of Sacramento’s City Cemetery... has the effect of turning back the pages of history, a solemn reminder of California’s hectic childhood.” As character-defining features of the site, the array of monuments and headstones – some modest and others elaborate – along with mass graves and mausoleums, help to demonstrate further the range of experience in Gold Rush California, both in terms of wealth and culture. The Cemetery is a reminder of life in early Sacramento – a place where thousands flocked for the promise of new beginnings, and where death by illness, violent, or sudden disaster was not uncommon. Sacramento’s Historic City Cemetery is the final resting place for thousands of individuals who shaped the history of Sacramento, California, and the West. From its beginnings, and continuing through its history, diverse populations were buried in the Cemetery, representing Sacramento’s rich and diverse cultures and their contributions to its history.

With the onset of the California Gold Rush in 1849, the site of Sacramento transformed rapidly from a seasonally-occupied floodplain at the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers, to a hub of Gold-Rush transportation and commerce. While thousands of miners passed through Sacramento on their way to the Sierra Nevada gold fields, many individuals, and eventually families, chose to settle and purchase land in the new city. Almost immediately after incorporation in 1850, the rivers overflowed their banks, flooding Sacramento. Furthermore, the city experienced a devastating cholera epidemic and a violent, deadly riot over land-rights during its first year. As Sacramento historian William Holden asserts, “To live in Sacramento in the 1850s, you had to be a glutton for punishment.” Indeed, such natural and man-made disasters plagued Sacramento throughout the 1850s. Despite this perilous beginning, Sacramentans worked quickly to stabilize their city during the Gold Rush. Led by Sacramento’s first mayor, Hardin Bigelow (who is buried at the City Cemetery,) City leaders and tax-paying residents constructed a levee system and passed ordinances to improve street conditions. Furthermore, city officials passed an ordinance requiring property owners to construct buildings with “disaster-proof” materials such as brick and granite. In 1854, the state legislature named Sacramento the permanent state capital of California. Due in part to these decisions and achievements, Sacramento matured rapidly as a commercial and political hub throughout the 1850s.

Founded in 1849 at the onset of this rapid urban development, the City Cemetery met an important municipal need for Sacramento and its burgeoning population. Early city builders recognized that a cemetery was a necessary amenity in a community burdened with sudden overpopulation, poor sanitary conditions, and illnesses. In late 1849, a committee of the Sacramento Common Council selected a tract of land on high ground just south of the city’s newly-platted grid. The site’s elevated topography made it an ideal choice for a cemetery in the flood-prone city, so the committee approached the landowners, John Augustus Sutter and Henry A. Schoolcraft. The men donated 10 acres for the cause. Sutter reportedly remarked that if “the officials would fill [the cemetery] with men who were aligned against him, he would gladly provide more ground.”

On December 3, 1849, the Sacramento City Council passed an ordinance accepting the gift and establishing a “public graveyard.” The *Sacramento Union* newspaper described the site in 1852,

The cemetery is on the highest ground in the vicinity of the city, and commands an



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unobstructed view of the Sacramento, the Coast Range, the Sierra Nevada, and the city itself. The hill is composed of sand and every portion of it is par above high-water, which circumstances render it a peculiarly favorable location for a cemetery . . .

When cholera struck Sacramento in late 1850, thousands died and citizens disposed of the bodies in a large, mass grave near Sutter’s Fort, one of the first nineteenth-century burial sites established by new arrivals. Due to flooding concerns, however, bodies buried at this cemetery were later moved to the City Cemetery. It is estimated that the City Cemetery is the final resting place for over 500 cholera victims, although their graves remain unmarked, with a marker located in the Veterans Affiliated Council section (see Section 7, #9). Between 1850 and 1855, the city did little to develop or maintain the Cemetery even though an estimated 3,000 burials took place there during that time. According to the *Sacramento Union* newspaper in June 1851, “At the present time our cemetery does not exhibit those indications of public care and lingering remembrance of surviving friends that ought to be manifested in such a community as ours.” This article explains that a Sacramento resident named Alderman J. McKenzie, at his own expense, had been taking care of the grounds, and was appealing to the City Trustees to dedicate more money to the site’s care. While city leaders did not take official action to care for the Cemetery until 1856, evidence exists that the conditions of the cemetery improved at the hands of private citizens, following McKenzie’s example. Indeed, in 1852, the *Sacramento Union* reported, “. . . The friends and relatives of many of the deceased buried in these grounds have exhibited their love and remembrance for the departed, by adorning and beautifying their graves by the planting of shrubbery, and the erection of neat and substantial palings.” In 1856, the city’s elected officials passed an ordinance to improve the condition of the City Cemetery. They appointed a Cemetery Superintendent to care for the grounds. At this time, the city also adopted a formal land-use and design plan for the Cemetery. This “redevelopment” of the City Cemetery had various components that took place over many years. In contrast with other cemeteries developed around the country at this time, Sacramento’s City Cemetery employed a “rational,” rather than “rural,” design. Instead of a picturesque or naturalistic landscape with winding, curvilinear pathways, the Cemetery had straight, narrow plot lines divided by straight carriage ways. The redevelopment also included raised plots bound by stone or brick walls, some featuring decorative iron fencing, as well as terraces, to compensate for the topography of the landscape. In 1857, the city built an entry gate at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street entrance off “Y” Street (today, Broadway), complete with a bell tower and lodge. In July 1893 the city contracted with James Carr to construct the Chapel Mortuary on the site, the last of the city’s major 19<sup>th</sup>-century improvements to the Cemetery. The total cost was \$2,269.00 and the specifications were developed by civil engineer and Sacramento City Surveyor, Joseph C. Boyd. Historically, this structure was the repository for bodies prior to burial. Sacramento philanthropist and amateur horticulturalist, Margaret Crocker, showed her support for the City Cemetery by constructing the Bell Conservatory on what is today Broadway, overlooking the Cemetery. From here, Mrs. Crocker sold flowers to Cemetery patrons, helping to establish the site’s horticultural legacy.

All of these improvements associated with the Cemetery’s “redevelopment” increased visitation and public support, and the tradition of families adding vegetation to their plots, as evidenced by this 1872 *Sacramento Union* article:

The City Cemetery has been for years and remains the popular, if the expression may be used, place for burial for the Sacramentans. A deposit of sand by nature, it has required a great outlay of money and labor so that there might thrive the flower and vines planted by the hands of the affection and grateful remembrance. To the City

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Cemetery may be well applied to quotation that “the desert has been made to blossom as the rose.”

During this period, the city began selling groups of burial plots to families and fraternal organizations such as the Masons, Odd Fellows, Pioneers Association, Improved Order of Redmen, United Ancient Order of Druids and the Sacramento Turn Verein. Local labor organizations also purchased plots, including the Printers’ and Painters’ Unions. The city donated cemetery land to honor volunteer firemen and Civil War Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The city’s continued management of the Cemetery often involved selling or acquiring land, causing its size to fluctuate. In 1866, the City purchased 10 acres from a nearby property owner to add to the Cemetery site, bringing its acreage up to 30. Beginning in 1875, the city began selling tracts of cemetery land – not plots – to local fraternal organizations, reducing its total acreage by 6. In 1880, Margaret Crocker donated land to the city for the Cemetery, increasing its size to nearly 60 acres.

Between the mid-1850s and the turn of the century, the City Cemetery was not only the community’s primary burial spot, but also a place to enjoy its pleasant park-like surroundings and partake in outdoor recreation and horticultural activities. As the *Sacramento Bee* reported in February 1860

At this season of the year, before the rough ocean winds of the summer months have commenced to blow, there is a quiet beauty about our metropolitan Cemetery which attracts many visitors. Now may be seen carriages winding among the circuitous avenues which lead to the last resting places of the dead; and here and there silent groups of relatives and friends of the departed loved ones, reviving sad memories, or coming to strew the cherished spot with flowers.

**Criterion A: Social History--The State Plot**

Located in the Center Run, the State Plot is a separately enclosed sub-plot surrounded by a wrought iron fence. Purchased in 1860 by an act of the California Legislature, the State Plot was intended as a dedicated location in the Sacramento City Cemetery for interment of legislators. Nineteen people are buried in the State Plot, including members of the Assembly, State Controller, Secretary of State, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and three doctors: Dr. Thomas Logan, co-founder of the California Medical Association, Dr. Gustave Douglas, a member of the California State Assembly, and his wife Dr. Anna Douglas, who served as Superintendent of Public Schools in Del Norte County, California. While there are other governors and California legislators buried in other parts of the cemetery, the State Plot reinforces the Sacramento City Cemetery’s significance as a site associated with early California development of Sacramento as a center of government and political administration.

*San Francisco Call – June 9, 1886 (1856-1895)*

*The Resting Place of Eight Servants of the State...*

*On a little eminence a short distance inside the main entrance to the City cemetery is what is known as the State Plot...enclosed with a neat strong iron fence...no doubt but the next Legislature will provide for the erection of monuments over the graves of those whose last resting place is now marked only*

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*with a rude piece of redwood board.*

*The first to be buried in the State Plot was the Honorable Hugh C. Murray, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of California, who died September 18, 1857.*

*On September 14, 1858, William Ferguson, State Senator of Sacramento County, died in San Francisco from a wound suffered in a duel with George Pen Johnston. The duel occurred because of a jocular remark about some lady friends of Johnston after Ferguson's refusal to apologize. His thigh bone was broken and, refusing amputation, died from infection soon after.*

*John C. Bell, a member of the assembly from El Dorado County, was shot and stabbed in the Sergeant at Arm's Room in the State Capitol on April 10, 1860 by Dr. George Stone of Georgetown. Stone had interrupted a conversation and Bell called him a liar and struck him in the face. Stone then shot him with his derringer and stabbed him four times.*

*FROM: Themis, July 7, 1889 (1889-1894)*

*The last interment was of William Irwin who died in 1886. His grave is in the middle of the plot and is unmarked save by a plain redwood board, on which is stenciled his name and date of death. It seems a reflection on the great State of California that a man who rendered distinguished public service should not receive greater consideration. Irwin served two terms in the Assembly and three in the Senate. He was an honest man, and died comparatively poor. It would seem that a state so rich as California should at least render proper homage to its deceased governors. Of the eight Governors of this State who are dead, the grave of but one is marked by monument erected by the commonwealth-that of John Bigler who died in 1871...*

### **20<sup>th</sup> Century Modifications to the Cemetery**

By the mid-twentieth century, the City Cemetery had fallen into disrepair. In 1940, construction of the Helvetia Housing Project on Muir Way took land from the Cemetery. In 1949, construction associated with the widening of Broadway led to the removal of the historic entry gate, lodging, and bell tower. The California State Historic Landmarks Commission designated the City Cemetery as a State Historic Landmark in 1957. Five years later, in 1962, the city sold a large parcel of the Cemetery to the Masonic Lawn Association, which resulted in its current boundaries and reduced its site to the current 44 acres. (source: SHCC Master Plan, p. 26) By the 1980s, concerned citizens organized the Old City Cemetery Committee (OCCC) to address the Cemetery's then relatively poor condition. In 2002, OCCC became an independent nonprofit organization.

Today, Sacramento's Historic City Cemetery is enjoying a revival and new life as a cultural attraction, having successfully transitioned from its' 1980s neglect to a vibrant community resource. Tours and other interpretive events are popular public attractions, as is the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden – the site's collection of old, antique roses, with some dating from the Gold-Rush era. Conceived and established by Fred Boutin – an internationally-recognized rosarian – and Jean Travis, the Historic Rose Garden represents those roses popular from the Gold Rush through the Victorian era, a period lasting from 1849-1915. Found throughout the Cemetery, the roses that compose the Historic Rose Garden represent a late-twentieth century representation of the global inundation of the Gold Rush, building upon the tradition of plantings being introduced into the cemetery plots, which started in the

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19<sup>th</sup> century. Many plants in bloom today at the City Cemetery were planted in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, originating from such far-off places as China and France, while others were carefully carried westward by overland migrants, then planted in California.

**Criterion A: Community Planning & Development**

Sacramento's Historic City Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register at the state level of significance in the area of Community Planning & Development for its association with Sacramento's Gold Rush-era development and the creation of a city. The City Cemetery is one of the oldest planned cemeteries in California. Furthermore, as one of the city's first publically-mandated and managed urban amenities, the City Cemetery sheds light on the city-building objectives brought by new arrivals to Sacramento and the role government played in the process. During the Gold Rush, land owners and city officials in Sacramento, eager to take advantage of the area's access to river transportation, chose to take advantage of the natural environment to stabilize and grow their city. Even still, the site's natural tendency to flood led Sacramentans to adopt various public works projects which permanently altered the landscape. Led by the local government, citizens willingly taxed themselves to construct a levee system, re-route the flood-prone American River, and finance a massive street-raising project. These projects helped to stabilize and protect the city from challenges posed by the original natural landscape. Because Sacramento possessed such an "uncooperative" landscape, city officials strategically chose the sandy knoll outside the city as the site for a cemetery in 1849. After the city began to design the Cemetery's site for use, they adapted to the site's topography in order to preserve the benefit of high ground. The result is a significant cultural landscape that physically demonstrates how the City Cemetery was designed with flood-protection in mind. As such, the City Cemetery's planning and development represents the substantial role, with intervals of neglect, that the local government played in the planning and growth of Sacramento, while also providing an example for how that growth was achieved – by negotiating the natural landscape to achieve urban development.

**Fraternal Organizations Sections:**

The Cemetery includes a number of fraternal sections. This started in 1859 with the Masons, in what is known as the "Old Masonic Cemetery." The trend continued with the Odd Fellows in 1861 and the Sacramento Pioneers Association in 1862. The groups to which these individuals belonged significantly improved the lives of people living in a city trying to cope with the simultaneous issues of extreme growth and calamitous disasters. The fraternal sections of the cemetery contribute to the architectural elements of the cemetery and are significant as expressions of cemetery design and function. Sacramento pioneers, volunteer firemen, and fraternal organizations settled the city, saved it from destruction, and tended to the needs of thousands of sick and helpless people who lived in Sacramento during the stressful period of development. Starting in 1875, part of the City Cemetery acreage was sold to the Masons and Odd Fellows, who created their own cemeteries on the land. The individual plots are outlined

**The Free & Accepted Masons** were another group well-represented in Sacramento during this early period. A December 1849 issue of the *Placer Times* reported that the Masons joined the Odd Fellows in their "work of benevolence." The Odd Fellows purchased the southeast corner of Sutter's Fort for the purpose of operating a hospital. Along with the Masons, they formed a joint Board and retained

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“exclusive control over the affairs of the hospital.”<sup>2</sup> The hospital tended not only to the sick and dying as they arrived in Sacramento after their long journey, but also throughout the cholera epidemic that killed more than thousands in October 1850. The Masons and Odd Fellow provided care and comfort to new residents when Sacramento lacked the proper infrastructure to support the influx of gold seekers at the start of the Gold Rush. The men buried here lack individual distinction

**The Independent Order of Odd Fellows** (I.O.O.F.) formed in Sacramento on August 20, 1849 under the leadership of City Councilman, A.M. Winn to relieve the distressed and bury the dead.

At least half of the gold rush miners who came to California in 1849 traveled the overland route across the continent. They followed the California Trail and arrived in Sacramento during the autumn months of August, September, and October. The arduous journey depleted the travelers of their strength, health, and finances. The new City Council seemed unwilling or unable to cope with the mounting crisis. So many people arrived in a weakened, sick or dying condition that the newspapers cried out for humanitarian care. Obviously frustrated with the city government’s lack of response, the *Placer Times*’ editors implored, “Where is the City Council?”<sup>3</sup>

There were many Odd Fellows in Sacramento at the time, but there was not an officially sanctioned lodge in the city. On September 29, 1849 the *Placer Times* noted that the Odd Fellows organized as an Association for the “special purpose of relieving the sick or distressed of the Order.” Dr. John F. Morse wrote in his “History of Sacramento” that the “first and most effective relief” came from the Fraternity of Odd Fellows. “Like a band of pure Samaritans,” he continued, they “devoted themselves with untiring zeal to the wants and necessities of suffering humanity.”<sup>4</sup> He reported that the Odd Fellows spent thousands of dollars on coffins alone in order to provide the unfortunate with the dignity of proper burials. The men buried here lack individual distinction.

**The Sacramento Pioneers Association** was a fraternal organization restricted to those men who came to Sacramento during the early stages of the Gold Rush. Membership was restricted to the men who arrived in Sacramento no later than December 31, 1849. Some of the Association’s original members included prominent and influential early Sacramentans such as James W. Marshall, James McClatchy, Mark Hopkins, C. P. Huntington, and former California governors Newton Booth and John Bigler.

The Sacramento Pioneer Association’s objective was to collect and preserve the beginnings of the city and state. They saved over one thousand artifacts and archival records which are today housed at the Center for Sacramento History in the Pioneers’ collection. The Pioneers were also instrumental in saving Sutter’s Fort from ruin. They have participated in a wide variety of events, celebrations, and excursions in Sacramento and throughout California.

The Sacramento organization was the second pioneer association founded in California. The first Society of California Pioneers was organized in San Francisco in August 1850. In 1891 the Sons and Daughters of the Pioneers became an auxiliary organization to the original, and in 1908 they included

<sup>2</sup> “A.M. Winn: Father of City Government in Sacramento.” *Golden Notes* 35, no. 3 (Fall, 1989), 7.

<sup>3</sup> “A.M. Winn: Father of City Government in Sacramento.” *Golden Notes* 35, no. 3 (Fall, 1989), 4.

<sup>4</sup> John F. Morse, “History of Sacramento.” In Samuel Colville’s *Sacramento Directory For the Year 1853-1854*. California State Library Foundation, 1997, 46.

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two classes of members: pioneers and descendants.

**Historic Volunteer Firemen's Plot and Bell**

In 1858, the city donated sections of the Cemetery to honor its volunteer firemen. Twenty years later, in 1878, the city also devoted another area to honor the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Fire was an ever-present danger in Sacramento's early stages of development. In the initial frenzy of the Gold Rush, structures were hastily constructed of highly flammable materials like wood and canvas. With open flame as the source of heat and light for these buildings, the possibility of catastrophe remained high.

The Sacramento City Council understood the extreme risk of fire and supported the formation of fire companies for the city as early as 1850. Sacramento was the first in the state to organize a volunteer fire fighting unit. The Mutual Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 was formed on February 5, 1850.

A serious fire in March 1851 renewed the public demand for more fire protection, and by the end of the month, Sacramento's first three fire companies were in place. The city provided basic equipment and an engine house. The volunteer system remained in place until 1872 when the city established a paid fire department.

Each of the original three engine companies had its own bell. Bells alerted volunteers of the break-out of fires; they were also used to ring in celebrations of big events.

The bells of Engine Companies Numbers 1 and 2 remain in existence today. Engine Company No. 1's bell rests behind Fire Station 8 on "H" Street in Sacramento. Engine Company No. 2's bell marks the Firemen's Plot in the Old City Cemetery. Installed in 1857, it is the largest of the three bells. The whereabouts of the bell from Engine Company No. 3 is unknown.

On June 23, 1858, a grateful city donated this plot of ground to its volunteer fire department for the interment of its deceased members. The plot honors the volunteer firemen who helped save the city from fire, but they lack individual distinction.

**The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)** was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army who served in the American Civil War. Thompson and West describe it as an organization of honorably discharged members of the Army and Navy. Its goals were to "perpetuate a friendly feeling among its members, aid and assist those in distress, and to provide for the widows and orphans of their deceased comrades."<sup>5</sup> A statue of a soldier guards the GAR plot.

<sup>5</sup> Thompson and West, *History of Sacramento County*. Oakland, California, 1880, 174-175.

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**Criterion B: Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.**

Sacramento's Historic City Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B at the National level of significance through its association with the lives of persons significant in Sacramento's past. Many of these individuals came to Sacramento during the Gold Rush and made significant contributions to the building and permanence of the city of Sacramento, including establishment of Sacramento as the capital of California, during the era when Sacramento was second only to San Francisco as the largest city in California. The gravesites are eligible under Criteria Consideration C because there are no other surviving sites associated with these city pioneers, philanthropists, and politicians except their graves in the City Cemetery.

The cemetery serves as the final resting place of Sacramento's city founder, John A. Sutter, Jr., Sacramento's first elected mayor, Hardin Bigelow, and several California Governors, including John Bigler, and Newton Booth. It also includes numerous state and local political, civic, and business leaders. These include Albert M. Winn, who was elected to Sacramento's first City Council in 1849, Mark Hopkins, one of the "Big Four" builders of the Central Pacific Railroad, as well as pioneers and members of fraternal organizations. Also, the cemetery serves as the final resting place of amateur horticulturalist, Margaret Crocker, who constructed a conservatory outside the cemetery gates, and helped establish the site's historic horticultural legacy. In 1880, she also donated more land for the cemetery and increased its size to nearly 60 acres. The cemetery includes a wide range of Sacramentans who helped shape the city, the state, and the west.

**Hardin Bigelow**

Hardin Bigelow was Sacramento's first elected mayor. He only held office for 7 months, but was instrumental in establishing the city's levee system for flood protection. He died as an indirect result of a riot that became one of the city's most pivotal historic events.

In January 1850, the Sacramento River overflowed its banks and flooded the new city. Historian Mark Eifler observes that this took city residents by surprise. "Despite the city's low elevation, the long rainfall, and the increasing rise in the Sacramento and American rivers for days before the flood," he writes, "most residents had believed in the claims of the city's founders that the site was not subject to flooding."<sup>6</sup> The flood struck the city hard and the waters remained high for over a week. By January 18th, the waters finally receded to their pre-flood level. The flood killed hundreds of livestock, and destroyed lives and businesses in the process. The city council, however, refused to take steps to protect the city from future flooding.

By spring, frustrated residents met in opposition to the city council's lack of action. They advocated for the building of a new levee to protect the city. Hardin Bigelow, a businessman and landholder, led the effort to build the levee. While the council reluctantly agreed with the levee committee's findings, it delayed taking action to build the levee. By the end of March, spring rain and the melting Sierra snow-pack caused the river to swell again to flood stage. Hardin Bigelow hired his own work crew. He and other volunteers worked through the night to build a makeshift levee. Their plan worked, and

<sup>6</sup> Mark A. Eifler, *Gold Rush Capitalists: Greed and Growth in Sacramento*. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002), 95; Thor Severson, *Sacramento An Illustrated History: 1839 to 1874, From Sutter's Fort to Capital City*. California Historical Society, 1973

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Sacramentans credited Bigelow with saving the town from a second flood. In April, grateful city residents overwhelmingly elected Bigelow their first mayor.

Bigelow worked hard on behalf of the city. In addition to the construction of a permanent levee, Bigelow advocated for the improvements the city needed: establishment of fire companies, improved city sanitation, construction of a city hospital and prison, street grading, and construction of bridges and sidewalks. The only way to accomplish the work was by raising taxes. The council agreed and authorized the use of property taxes; city improvements proceeded rapidly thereafter.

Sacramento had another issue that boiled over during the summer of 1850. It concerned property owners and the price of land. Land speculation drove the price of property to exorbitant levels. New residents questioned Sutter's legal ownership of the land and complained about the inflated prices; in protest, they squatted on the land and claimed proprietorship. In August, the hostility between property owners and squatters erupted into violence that would be known as the "Squatter's Riot".

In the melee of the riot, Mayor Bigelow was wounded four times. Infection set in and doctors amputated his arm. Three months later, while recovering from his wounds in San Francisco, Bigelow contracted cholera and died. The short time Bigelow spent in Sacramento had a profound effect on the permanent establishment of the city, but there are now no sites, buildings, or other direct manifestations of Bigelow's life other than his gravesite in the Old City Cemetery.

**John Bigler**

John Bigler was the third governor of California. He came to California for the Gold Rush. Instead of gold, he found his calling in politics. The state's new residents elected Bigler to the State Assembly in October 1849. The following year, he served as speaker.

In the summer of 1851, the Democratic Party nominated Bigler for governor and he became California's 3<sup>rd</sup> governor. He was re-elected by a small margin two years later, but in 1855 J. Neely Johnson ran on the "Know Nothing" ticket and defeated Bigler in his bid for a third term.

Bigler's accomplishments during his tenure in office included revising the state hospital and prison systems, making Sacramento the permanent state capital, and the establishment of 221 schools in California.

After Bigler participated in an expedition to save a group of snow-bound emigrants trapped in the Sierra, the 1854 State Legislature honored him by naming Bigler Lake after him. When his pro-Southern sympathies were revealed during the Civil War, many supported re-naming Bigler Lake. They chose the Indian name of "Tahoe," but the legislature did not officially re-name the lake until 1945.

President James Buchanan appointed Bigler as the United States minister to Chile in 1857. Ten years later, he was appointed to the Federal Railroad Commission. Bigler was one of the founders of the *State Capitol Reporter*, where he served as the paper's editor until his death. Bigler was ill for several months before he died of dropsy in 1871 at age of 66. There are no other extant direct manifestations of Bigler's life except his grave in the Historic Old City Cemetery.

**Newton Booth**



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Newton Booth was a lawyer, writer, businessman, and politician. Throughout his career as State Senator (1863), Governor of California (1871-1875), and United States Senator (1875-1881), Newton Booth exerted substantial influence in California and the country.

From 1865-1893, his firm, Booth and Co., owned structures located at 1013-1021 Front Street. Booth operated one of the largest interstate grocery firms on the Pacific Coast, Booth and Co., from this location.

Booth maintained his residence at numbers 1015 and 1017 Front Street. His elaborately furnished home served as the Governor’s mansion during his administration and was the scene of elaborate receptions and social events attended by notable actors, artists, and authors. General William T. Sherman, General Ulysses S. Grant, President Rutherford B. Hayes, and President William H. Harrison were among the many guests Booth entertained. Newspapers stated that Booth’s Front Street mansion featured a ballroom large enough for 1,000 people to dance. Newton Booth lived there from 1866 until his death in 1892.

The residence burned down before World War II. The buildings that remain on the site are restored and reconstructed. With the absence of the grand residence that served as Governor’s Mansion, the only extant direct manifestation of Newton Booth’s life is the partially reconstructed Front Street building and his grave in the Old City Cemetery.

**Margaret Crocker**

Margaret Crocker was a leading community figure and generous philanthropist, supporting numerous charitable causes in Sacramento. Margaret bestowed the Crocker family art collection and gallery to the nascent California Museum Association (CMA) and the city of Sacramento, the first museum (and oldest surviving museum) in the western United States. She also built a conservatory devoted to horticulture for the city cemetery and donated 23 acres of land to the city for the expansion of the city cemetery.

Margaret came to Sacramento with her husband, Edwin, in 1852. Edwin Crocker served as legal counsel for the Central Pacific Railroad and was a California Supreme Court Justice. Margaret and Edwin were known for their European travels and the collecting of art along the way. Margaret was also known for her gardens at their home. After her husband’s death in 1875, Margaret managed the family estate. She donated much of the family fortune to people in need by giving to schools, churches, and orphanages.

Besides the donation of the art gallery, Margaret Crocker’s donation of 23 acres of land to the City for “cemetery purposes” is one of her most enduring contributions to the city of Sacramento. This 1880 gift greatly enhanced the cemetery and brought the total acreage to 60 acres. She cared deeply for the cemetery and its atmosphere. Two years prior to the land gift, Margaret commissioned the construction of the Bell Conservatory to encourage growth and experimentation with exotic plants and flowers. She wanted the conservatory to enhance the cemetery’s landscaping and to provide free flowers for the city’s poor to set on the graves of their loved ones. On May 6, 1885, the city showed its appreciation to Margaret Crocker by arranging a grand floral festival to pay tribute to her generosity. The event drew

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more than 15,000 visitors. Unfortunately, the city razed the conservatory in the 1950s, but her contribution demonstrates the extent of her care for the City Cemetery.

Margaret Crocker died in New York in 1901, but her family interred her ashes in the city to which she gave so much. The enhanced cemetery is her lasting legacy.

**Mark Hopkins**

Mark Hopkins was one of the “Associates,” later better known as the “Big Four” who founded and built the Central Pacific Railroad, the western half of America’s first transcontinental railroad.

Hopkins came to California in 1849 for the Gold Rush. He was in his late thirties and older than many of the men who made the same journey in search of gold. Hopkins quickly became disillusioned with mining. The gold was not easy to access and the task of extracting it was strenuous and back-breaking. “It is outright folly,” he complained in an 1850 letter to his brother, Moses, “for merchants, clerks—mere indoor men—to think of working with their hands in the mines—The daily tasks of the Irish laborer on your canals and Rail Roads is VERY easy work compared to it.”<sup>7</sup>

Hopkins established a small grocery business with Edward H. Miller in Sacramento, but when the fire of 1852 destroyed their business, Hopkins partnered with Collis P. Huntington. The men opened the Huntington Hopkins Hardware Business in 1855. Their hardware business quickly grew into one of the largest on the west coast.

Hopkins handled the books, and his attention to business matters was flawless. “I never thought anything finished until Hopkins had seen it,” Huntington said. “He had general supervision of the books and the papers, contracts, etc. When he said they were right, I never cared to look at them.”<sup>8</sup>

Mark Hopkins and Collis P. Huntington founded the Central Pacific Railroad in 1861 along with Leland Stanford and Charles Crocker. Today, they are collectively known as the “Big Four.” Thoughtful, quiet, and frugal, Hopkins served as the railroad’s treasurer. The great venture to build the nation’s first transcontinental railroad kicked off to a ceremonial start in January 1863 with a ground-breaking ceremony in Sacramento. Hopkins’ renowned attention to detail helped make the project a success. On May 10, 1869, the Central Pacific Railroad joined with the Union Pacific Railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah, thus completing the nation’s first transcontinental railroad.

Mark Hopkins left no permanent structures or buildings in Sacramento. There is a reconstruction of the Huntington-Hopkins Hardware store in a different location within the Old Sacramento Historic District. The original building was destroyed with the construction of the I-5 freeway through Sacramento in the mid-1960s, thus the reconstructed building no longer retains a direct connection with Hopkins. Aside from the railroad alignments developed by the Central Pacific Railroad, his grave in the Historic Old City Cemetery is the only surviving manifestation of Mark Hopkins’ life. Hopkins was a bookkeeper, not a builder, but his frugality and attention to detail were as fundamental to the Transcontinental Railroad,

<sup>7</sup> Eifler, Mark, *Gold Rush Capitalists: Greed and Growth in Sacramento*. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002), 169.

<sup>8</sup> American Experience, “Transcontinental Railroad, Biography: Collis P. Huntington.” Accessed 27 August 2013. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/biography/tcrr-huntington/>.

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the greatest American engineering feat of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as Charles Crocker's skill as builder and construction boss, Leland Stanford's political acumen and leadership, or Collis P. Huntington's business skill and deal-making ability. Hopkins' influence is national in scope, thus making his gravesite a property of transcendent importance and national significance.

**John Augustus Sutter Jr.**

Sacramento owes its name and location to the Gold Rush and John A. Sutter Jr.

John Augustus Sutter, Jr., the twenty-two year old son of Sutter's Fort founder, John Sutter, arrived in California from Switzerland in September 1848. Upon the young Sutter's arrival to California, however, he discovered that the father he had not seen in over ten years was mired in debt with no way of meeting his obligations. In order to escape his creditors, the senior Sutter signed his property over to his son. This included two large land grants issued to him by the Mexican government in 1839. One of the grants included the land at the junction of the Sacramento and American Rivers. After signing over his property, John Sutter left for the gold fields of Coloma leaving his son in charge of his land, finances, and financial burdens.

Soon after the transfer of ownership some merchants approached John Sutter Jr. and suggested he plat out a new city at the Sacramento River's riverfront, just south of its' confluence with the American River. They wanted to build their businesses at the trade routes established at the river and the point at which new arrivals disembarked before leaving for the gold fields. They convinced the young Sutter that if he built a city at that location, he could make enough money to pay off his father's debts. The river location went against the earlier plans that John Sutter Sr. had made for building a city. He had long planned on building a city away from the flood plain, a few miles south and west from Sutter's Fort, and naming it "Sutterville." The Gold Rush changed those plans.

In his father's absence, John Sutter Jr. hired a team of engineers to survey and plat the land located at the riverfront. The team consisted of Captain William H. Warner, Lieutenant William T. Sherman (future Civil War general), and Lieutenant Edward O.C. Ord (future Civil War general and California's Fort Ord is named for him). The resulting plan produced a traditional American city street grid with numbered north-south streets and lettered east-west streets. The city started at Front Street and extended nearly three miles east from the Sacramento River. By December 1848, Sutter hired land agent, Peter H. Burnett, to take charge of selling the lots. Burnett was an attorney who was familiar with frontier land sales; he was also destined to be California's first elected governor.

With the sale of the first lot, the city of Sacramento was founded. John Sutter Jr. called the new town "Sacramento City" for its location on the Sacramento River. By April 1849, Burnett sold enough property to pay off all of John Sutter Jr's father's debt. The merchants were pleased with their business locations and Sutter Jr. was satisfied that he rescued his father's finances. The elder Sutter, however, was furious with his son's enterprise. He still favored his original plan for Sutterville, and believed it would have flourished if the merchants had not convinced his son to start a rival city. "Had I not been snow-bound at Coloma that winter," Sutter grouched, "Sac[ramento] never would have been built."<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Albert L. Hurtado, *John Sutter: A Life on the North American Frontier*. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006), 244; Eifler, Mark A. *Gold Rush Capitalists: Greed and Growth in Sacramento*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002; Thor Severson, *Sacramento An Illustrated History: 1839-1874 From Sutter's Fort to*

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John Sutter never forgave his son for building the city at the river. John Sutter Jr. left Sacramento in 1850. He moved to Acapulco, Mexico, where he lived the rest of his life passing away September 21, 1897. With the permission of his only child, Anna Sutter Young, his remains were reinterred March 11, 1964 in Sacramento. Because he never settled in the city he founded, with the exception of the central city's street grid whose initial survey he commissioned, the only structure or site relating to the life of John Augustus Sutter Jr. is his grave in the Historic Old City Cemetery.

**Maulavi Muhammad Barakat Ullah**

Maulavi Muhammad Barakat Ullah, also known as Abdul Hafiz Mohamed Barakatullah or Maulavi Barkatullah, was born circa 1854, was an anti-British Indian revolutionary, born in Bhopal, India. Traveling to Bombay and London for his education, he mastered seven languages and became the Quondam Professor of the Urdu language at Tokyo University, Japan. He became associated with the Muslim Patriotic League and was a public advocate for Indian independence from England and the economic development of south Asia. His pursuit of Indian independence made Barakatullah a political refugee, unwelcome in his home country for the last 35 years of his life. His travels took him throughout Asia, Europe and the United States, with his first trip to New York in 1899, then visiting California for the first time in 1914, visiting Indian immigrant communities on the west coast. He died on September 20, 1927, and his body was taken from San Francisco to a Moslem cemetery in Marysville, California, later transferred to the Sacramento city cemetery with the intent of eventually relocating his body to Bhopal, India. This individual is significant within American history due to his speaking tours within the United States to immigrants from India, and his role as an advocate for Indian independence, but there are no sites within the United States directly associated with his working life and advocacy, so this gravesite meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration C.<sup>10</sup>

**Albert M. Winn**

Albert Maver Winn worked to establish a new city government for Sacramento and was founder of the fraternal service organization, Native Sons of the Golden West.

The establishment of law and order became one of the city's most pressing issues at the onset of the Gold Rush. California was not yet a state, nor even a territory. The alcalde system that had been in place while California was under Mexican rule did not offer the strong authority the rapidly growing city required. Sacramento needed a functioning government.

In July 1849, city residents elected nine men to a new city council, and they elected A.M. Winn president. Winn was a general land agent and political leader who worked to establish a new city government for Sacramento; he was the first president of the first city council. The council's first task was to draft a city charter and submit it for voter approval. Under his leadership, residents approved a city charter in October of that year.

When the gold seekers who traveled the overland route to California started arriving in 1849, many arrived too sick or weak to pursue gold mining. A.M. Winn noted that "hundreds are lying sick, rolled in

*Capital City*. California Historical Society, 1973.

<sup>10</sup> South Asian American Digital Archive, accessed July 8, 2014.

<http://www.saadigitalarchive.org/item/20111212-544>

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their filthy blankets, without wife, children or friends to nurse them while sick or bury them when dead.”<sup>11</sup> They needed time to recover and convalesce, but the city lacked enough drinking water and sanitation services to care for them. Fearing a public health crisis, A.M. Winn organized the first Odd Fellows Lodge on the West Coast and established Grace Church, the first Episcopal Church in Sacramento to help deal with the crisis.

In 1875, Winn founded the Native Sons of the Golden West. Throughout the last century the Native Sons were instrumental in protecting historical sites in California, beginning with the preservation of Sutter’s Fort in 1890. Today, the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West devote themselves to educational and charitable endeavors.

Albert M. Winn contributed to the civil and military beginnings of Sacramento, but no sites or buildings now exist as a direct testament to his contribution to Sacramento’s history. A.M. Winn died on August 23, 1883. The Native Sons erected a twenty-five-foot-high monument on his grave in 1888.

<sup>11</sup> Mark A. Eifler, *Gold Rush Capitalists: Greed and Growth in Sacramento*.(Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press,2002), 87

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**Criterion C: Landscape Architecture**

Sacramento’s City Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because of the overall design of the cemetery as a designed landscape of the “rational” cemetery style, including its overall design and individual plots that are significant as examples of cemetery landscape architecture that possess high artistic values and represent significant and distinguishable entities within the cemetery district.

**The Sacramento City Cemetery in Historical Context of American Cemeteries**

When placed in the context of America’s earliest planned cemeteries, the significance of Historic City Cemetery’s particular site design, development and function as a Western cemetery are made clear. In early American towns and cities, church yards and town greens served as the primary places of burial. As these burial grounds reached capacity, concerns about health risks surfaced throughout the country, leading communities to develop planned cemeteries with specified burial plots. The first of these was in New Haven, Connecticut in 1796. By the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century, sentimentality, hope, and benevolence shaped Americans’ views on death and mortality. As such, cemeteries were places to visit and gain inspiration, as well as places to mourn. They were characterized by pleasant landscapes, curving pathways, and emotionally-expressive architecture.

By 1849, when Sacramento established its City Cemetery, roughly 10 planned cemeteries existed across the country, making that in Sacramento among the oldest planned cemeteries in the nation. Even still, Sacramento’s City Cemetery was not typical for its time. The more prevalent “rural” cemeteries gained popularity across the nation, fast becoming recreational attractions. In places outside the West that were already highly urbanized and densely populated, “rural” cemeteries were privately-developed, money-making enterprises, marketed to city-dwellers as an escape from the stresses of urban living and as an opportunity to enjoy a more “natural” environment. Conversely, Sacramento’s City Cemetery was designed to ensure control over many aspects of nature, and has always been a publicly-owned, municipally-operated cemetery. Early arrivals to the city were faced with a natural landscape that often interfered with their efforts to establish a permanent settlement.

A “rural” setting was of no interest to early city leaders in Sacramento. Unlike its predecessors, Sacramento’s City Cemetery was designed in the “rational,” rather than “rural” style. Much like the newly-established and rapidly-growing city of Sacramento, the City Cemetery was designed on a grid, with straight roads, pathways and rectangular plots. Such a design choice suggested that city leaders desired to impose order on the frontier’s “unruly” or “untamed” wilderness – a guiding theme in American Western history. Sacramento’s City Cemetery was more than an entrepreneurial endeavor meant to provide an escape for its patrons: it was a young city’s attempt to develop a growth-inducing and community-stabilizing amenity.

The earliest planned cemeteries in the United States were established in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries, beginning with The New Burying Ground in New Haven, Connecticut. During the nineteenth century, Americans began to view death in a more sentimental manner, which led to an increase in “rural” cemetery design. The first cemetery of this type was Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It was designed with pleasant landscapes, architecture that evoked sentiment, and winding paths. Rural cemeteries gained popularity throughout the mid-nineteenth century, becoming park-like attractions in addition to places of mourning.

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The rural style of cemetery design was popular throughout the eastern United States. Most cemeteries that predate Sacramento’s City Cemetery were designed in the rural style, with the notable exception of the New Burying Ground in New Haven. Despite prevailing trends, Sacramento’s City Cemetery was designed in the rational style. Plots are arranged in neat rows and divided by paths, which are framed by carriageways.

**The Sacramento City Cemetery in Historical Context of American Cemeteries**

(Note: The section below is reproduced from *Sacramento Historic City Cemetery Master Plan*, December 2007, prepared for the City of Sacramento Convention, Culture and Leisure Department, prepared by Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abbey Landscape Architects and Planners.)

In early American towns and cities, church yards and town greens were the only locations for burials. Over time, these burial grounds reached capacity and concerns over them causing health problems increased. Yellow fever epidemics in 1794 and 1795 caused a crisis in New Haven, Connecticut where the New Haven Green overflowed with the dead. In 1796, the city planned a new cemetery on the edge of town. This land, The New Burying Ground (now known as the Grove Street Cemetery), was the first planned cemetery landscape in the United States. Rather than the arbitrary burial layout that was common practice at the time, the New Burying Ground was divided into plots for families. Areas were also set aside for parishioners of churches, Yale College, the indigent, and persons of color.

The motives for creating The New Burying Ground in New Haven, overcrowded urban burial grounds and health concerns, led to the creation of other pioneering cemeteries across America. While health concerns may have some validity, this concern arose from the common, but incorrect, fear of disease-causing “miasmas” created from rotting corpses. During the early Nineteenth Century, America’s views on death and mortality changed. The severe views on death and mortality of Puritanism and Calvinism were being replaced with sentimentality, hope, and benevolence. This led to the idea that cemeteries were places to visit loved ones, mourn, and gain inspiration. Where old burial grounds were crowded with simple markers, new cemeteries were pleasant landscapes with architectural expressions of sentimentality. These cemeteries demonstrated a range of emotions from melancholy to whimsy and humor.

Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts is the first example of this new type of cemetery. Established in 1831 by the public-spirited Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the goal was to create a well-designed cemetery to sooth the bereaved and to inspire future generations. The cemetery was created in a picturesque landscape of forested hills and wetlands with winding roads and paths. The design concept was modeled after the Père-Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, which was created in 1804 on a former estate. While Mount Auburn was the first of America’s “rural” cemeteries, over time, Mount Auburn evolved from a picturesque, forested landscape to a gardenesque landscape with an emphasis on horticultural plantings. Rural cemeteries quickly gained popularity across America. Other early examples include Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia (1836), Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn (1838), Holly-Wood Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia (1848), and Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo (1849). Within a short time, these cemeteries became extremely popular places for people to visit, whether they were mourning loved ones or not. There was an undeniable attraction to stroll through these pleasant landscapes, which had previously only been available on private estates. The rural cemetery phenomenon quickly led to the creation of New York’s Central Park in 1858, and the

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American parks movement.

**The City Cemetery in Context: A Timeline of Other Early Cemeteries**

1789 St. Louis Cemetery, New Orleans, LA. Burials in above ground vaults due to high ground water.

1796 New Burying Ground (later Grove Street Cemetery), New Haven, CT. First chartered burial ground in United States.

1804 Père-Lachaise Cemetery, Paris, France. Model for Mt. Auburn.

1831 Mount Auburn Cemetery – Cambridge, MA. First large designed landscape open to the public in US. 175 acres.

1832 Kensal Green Cemetery – London, England.

1836 Laurel Hill Cemetery – Philadelphia, PA.

1838 Green-Wood Cemetery – Brooklyn, New York.

1839 Highgate Cemetery – London, England.

1845 Spring Grove Cemetery – Cincinnati, OH.

1848 Holly-Wood Cemetery – Richmond, VA.

1849 City Cemetery – Sacramento, CA.

1849 Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

1849 Forest Lawn Cemetery – Buffalo, New York. 269 acres. 152,000 graves.

1850 Oakland Cemetery – Atlanta, GA. 88 acres.

1860 Graceland Cemetery – Chicago, IL.

1863 Mountain View Cemetery – Oakland, CA. 226 acres. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

1877 Evergreen Cemetery – Los Angeles. Oldest existing cemetery in Los Angeles. Very large – 300,000 grave sites.



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**A Cemetery for Sacramento**

The need for a proper cemetery in Sacramento began in 1849 with a committee of the Sacramento Common Council, tasked with finding a site for the cemetery. In a settlement mostly within the river floodplain, a good site for a cemetery would be one that was high and dry. They found such a site on a sandy knoll, well above the flood plain, at the south edge of the recently mapped city. The committee approached the land owners, John Augustus Sutter and H.A. Schoolcraft, who generously agreed to donate 10 acres for the cemetery. Previously, most burials were done at a burial ground at Sutter's Fort, but this site was less than ideal due to its susceptibility to flooding. Other burials had been done at a sandy mound known as Buckeye Knoll, two blocks north of City Cemetery. This site, which was commonly used as a source of sand for city builders, was less than ideal because it was within the city street grid and was thought not large enough for future needs.

At the time, Sacramento was in rapid transformation from an agricultural settlement to the second largest city on the West Coast in the wake of the discovery of gold. In December of 1848, William Warner and William Tecumseh Sherman, surveyed and established Sacramento's grid of streets. In 1849, Sacramento's city government was formed with the adoption of the second City Charter. The public and civic needs of the city included a new burial ground. The city trustees established "the public graveyard" on December 3, 1849 when it passed an ordinance accepting John Sutter's gift of land. In 1850 a cholera epidemic hit Sacramento, killing almost a thousand people in about three weeks. Many of the victims were buried in mass graves in Sacramento's original burial ground near Sutter's Fort, but were later transferred to the City Cemetery due to flooding. During its early years the cemetery had minimal development. The graves were simple, often marked only with carved wooden grave markers. Plots were commonly enclosed with small picket fences. An engraving and description of the cemetery in its early years was published in the Sacramento Union on May 1, 1852;

*The cemetery is on the highest ground in the vicinity of the city, and commands an unobstructed view of the Sacramento, the Coast Range, the Sierra Nevada, and the city itself. The hill is composed of sand and every portion of it is pure above high-water mark, which circumstances render it a peculiarly favorable location for a cemetery. The friends and relatives of many of the deceased buried in these grounds, have exhibited their love and remembrance for the departed, by adorning and beautifying their graves by the planting of shrubbery, and the erection of neat and substantial palings.*

Formal development of the cemetery was delayed until the hiring of a superintendent in 1856. This was reportedly prompted by complaints of the poor condition of the cemetery. A formal design of lots and tiers was established and sections were acquired by families and groups including the Freemasons, the Odd Fellows, Volunteer Firemen and the Pioneers Society. Carriage Ways divided the cemetery into sections. A gate house with bell tower and lodge were constructed circa 1857 at the 10th Street entry. The hillsides were terraced with brick and stone walls to create level burial plots. The cemetery expanded to 60 acres in 1880 with the donation of additional land by Margaret Crocker. In 1893, the city constructed a stone mortuary chapel. The city designed its cemetery in a rational way, with neat rows of plots divided by paths and framed by carriage ways. This was quite different from the trend of other cemeteries in the East. Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts started the "rural" cemetery movement, characterized by a picturesque or naturalistic landscape setting with winding pathways. Most of the other major cemeteries that predate the City Cemetery were created in this fashion. The notable exception is the New Burying Ground in New Haven, Connecticut (1796), the first purpose-built cemetery in the United States. Like the City Cemetery, it was organized in a rational form,

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with plots in straight rows. New Burying Ground and the City Cemetery are also unique in that they are both municipal-owned cemeteries. Almost all of the other significant cemeteries were privately developed and owned.

Currently, we do not have records explaining why City Cemetery took this form. We can only speculate the reasons, including that the western frontier ethic called for a more rational design. At the time of City Cemetery’s creation, Sacramento was a newly established town in a riparian setting, so the need and desire for a “rural” experience likely did not exist. All of the cities with “rural” cemeteries were much larger than Sacramento, which in 1850, had a population of only about 10,000 (compared to Cincinnati, population 115,000, and Richmond, Virginia, population 28,000). Another factor is that the “rural” cemeteries, being privately developed, were a speculative business model that relied on marketing to attract potential buyers of plots. The park-like setting proved very popular and was successful in selling plots. City Cemetery, like the other cemeteries around the country, attracted visitors, particularly on Sundays. In these days before urban parks, people visited cemeteries, not just to visit their departed loved ones, but to walk and ride in the pleasant surroundings the cemeteries provided. The Sacramento Bee of February 10, 1860 noted this phenomenon:

*At this season of the year, before the rough ocean winds of the Summer months have commenced to blow, there is a quiet beauty about our metropolitan Cemetery which attracts many visitors. Now may be seen carriages winding among the circuitous avenues which lead to the last resting places of the dead; and here and there silent groups of relatives and friends of the departed loved ones, reviving sad memories, or coming to strew the cherished spot with flowers.*

The horticultural importance at the City Cemetery began in 1878 when “Mrs. Margaret Crocker built the Bell Conservatory at a cost of \$38,000. This structure overlooked the cemetery along what is now Broadway and was used to grow flowers for use in the cemetery. Mrs. Crocker’s plan was to sell flowers to those who could afford them and give them to those who could not so that all could decorate the graves of relatives in the City Cemetery across the street. Colored glass, which once made the Bell Conservatory a thing to behold, was ordered through Tiffany’s in New York and shipped from Belgium. The spot was later bought by Safeway and is now a parking lot.”<sup>12</sup>

The cemetery includes a number of fraternal sections. This started in 1859 with the Masons, in what is now known as the “Old Masonic Cemetery.” The trend continued with the Odd Fellows in 1861, and the Sacramento Pioneers Association in 1862. Other fraternal organizations represented include the Improved Order of Redmen, the United Ancient Order of Druids, and the Sacramento Turn Verein. The city also donated sections to honor volunteer firemen (1858) and Civil War veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic (1878). Labor organizations with plots for burial of members include the Printers’ Union and the Painters’ Union. Between 1850 and 1855 there were approximately 3,000 burials in the new cemetery in what was later known as the “old tier grounds”. In 1856 the cemetery was redesigned with a new layout, carriage ways, and plots for sale. Most of the area of the “old tier grounds” was resold as plots. It is not clear whether the earlier burials were removed as part of the reorganization, or if they were left in place. Starting in 1875, parts of the City Cemetery were sold to the Masons and Odd Fellows, who created their own cemeteries on the land. These cemeteries are classic examples of the later “lawn-park” cemeteries, which are characterized by large expanses of lawn. The “lawn-park” cemeteries reflected a growing professionalization of cemetery management, where there was greater

<sup>12</sup> Source: [http://www.oldcitycemetery.com/bell\\_consv.htm](http://www.oldcitycemetery.com/bell_consv.htm)

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control over the landscape. In addition, lawns were easier to maintain than the complex picturesque and gardenesque landscapes of the “rural” cemeteries.

At the same time he donated the land for the City Cemetery in 1849, John Sutter also donated an additional 10 acres of land at Alhambra and J Street which was known as the Sutter’s Fort Burial Ground. This land became the New Helvetia Cemetery. It operated until the 1950s when all remains were removed, some of which were reinterred in City Cemetery [and some in East Lawn Cemetery, located in East Sacramento.] The site is now Sutter Junior High School. Over the course of the 20th Century, the care and maintenance of City Cemetery diminished to the point of near-abandonment. In 1949, the 10th Street gate and entry were torn down to make way for the widening of Broadway. In 1986, concerned citizens organized the Old City Cemetery Committee in reaction to the deteriorating condition of the cemetery and growing vandalism. Over the recent years, the group has begun repairs and transformed and greened the cemetery. The primary map of the cemetery that is in use today dates from 1902. There would likely have been a number of earlier maps, which were particularly needed as the cemetery acquired new land, but the 1902 map is the only map that is known to be extant.

**Cemetery Timeline Including Notes on City Acquisition of Cemetery Properties**

(The following information was taken, in part, from a timeline prepared in May1970 by Solon “Doc” Wisham, Jr., Director, Recreation and Parks.)

December 1848 – A grid of streets for Sacramento is surveyed and established by William Warner and William Tecumseh Sherman.

November 28, 1849 – John A. Sutter and H.A. Schoolcraft donated ten acres of land to the City of Sacramento, located south of “Y” Street, between 9th and 11th Streets, for the development of a cemetery.

December 3, 1849 – The City of Sacramento passed an ordinance establishing the City Cemetery and appointed a committee to layout the site and to sell family plots to the public.

Circa 1850 – The City Cemetery site was laid out by officials of the City of Sacramento, about the same time as the great cholera epidemic. The City Cemetery was referred to as “The Sand Hill Cemetery of our City.”

June 12, 1851 – The Sacramento Union, in an editorial, complained about the maintenance standards of the City Cemetery and called on the City officials for corrections.

July 9, 1851 – The City acted to correct maintenance standards and purchased ten additional acres from John Claybrook for \$1,500.

December 24, 1855 – The City officially adopted the name “Evergreen Cemetery.” The popular usage, however, continued to be “City Cemetery,” as it is now used.

1856 – A cemetery superintendent is hired. A formal design of lots and tiers is established.

Circa 1857 – Gate house and chapel constructed at the 10th Street entry.

Circa 1858 – Several society and family plots had been established by this date. These plots were enclosed with brick and stone copings and retaining walls, all under private ownership.

April 26, 1866 – The City purchased another ten acres of land from Israel Luce for \$100.00, bringing the cemetery acreage to 30.

Circa 1875 – The City sold approximately 5.5 acres to the Masons, establishing the present Masonic Lawn Cemetery.

1878 – Bell Conservatory is built by Margaret Crocker across Y Street (Broadway) from the cemetery.

June 30, 1880 – Mrs. Margaret E. Crocker, widow of E.B. Crocker, donated 23 acres to the City for

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cemetery purposes, bringing the total to over 50 acres.

1893 – Stone mortuary chapel is constructed.

February 27, 1911 – The City purchased the Southside Cemetery for \$100.00 from the Tehama Lodge of the Masonic Order. This parcel of 2.07 acres was not contiguous to the existing cemetery and was used primarily for pauper burials.

Circa 1940 – The construction of the New Helvetia Housing Project and the development of Muir Way detached additional land from the City Cemetery.

1949 – Broadway is widened resulting in the demolition of the gatehouse and chapel.

October 12, 1955 to March 27, 1956 – All remains at the New Helvetia Cemetery were removed and distributed to other cemeteries. Remains with name markers, but unclaimed by heirs, were reinterred at City Cemetery.

May 5, 1957 – The Sacramento City Cemetery was designated as State Historic Landmark, No. 566, by the State Historical Landmarks Commission, under the sponsorship of the Native Sons of the Golden West and the Native Daughters of the Golden West.

February 9, 1962 – The City sold a 4' x 720' parcel to the Masonic Lawn Association. This sale enabled the Masons to enlarge their present holding capacity. This sale reduced the City's holdings to the existing 44 acres.

1986 – Concerned citizens organize the Old City Cemetery Committee (OCCC) to address the cemetery's poor condition and vandalism. 1987 – OCCC becomes a standing committee of the Sacramento County Historical Society.

January 2002 – OCCC becomes an independent nonprofit organization.

Circa 2002 – By City ordinance the official name is "Historic City Cemetery of the City of Sacramento."

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- 1. Terraced Plots; view to southeast



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2. Terraced Plots; view to northeast



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3. Sacramento Pioneer Association Plot; view to southwest



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- 4. Mark Hopkins Mausoleum, located in the Sacramento Pioneers Association section; view to west





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5. Hamilton Square; view to east



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6. Path in West Flat; view to east



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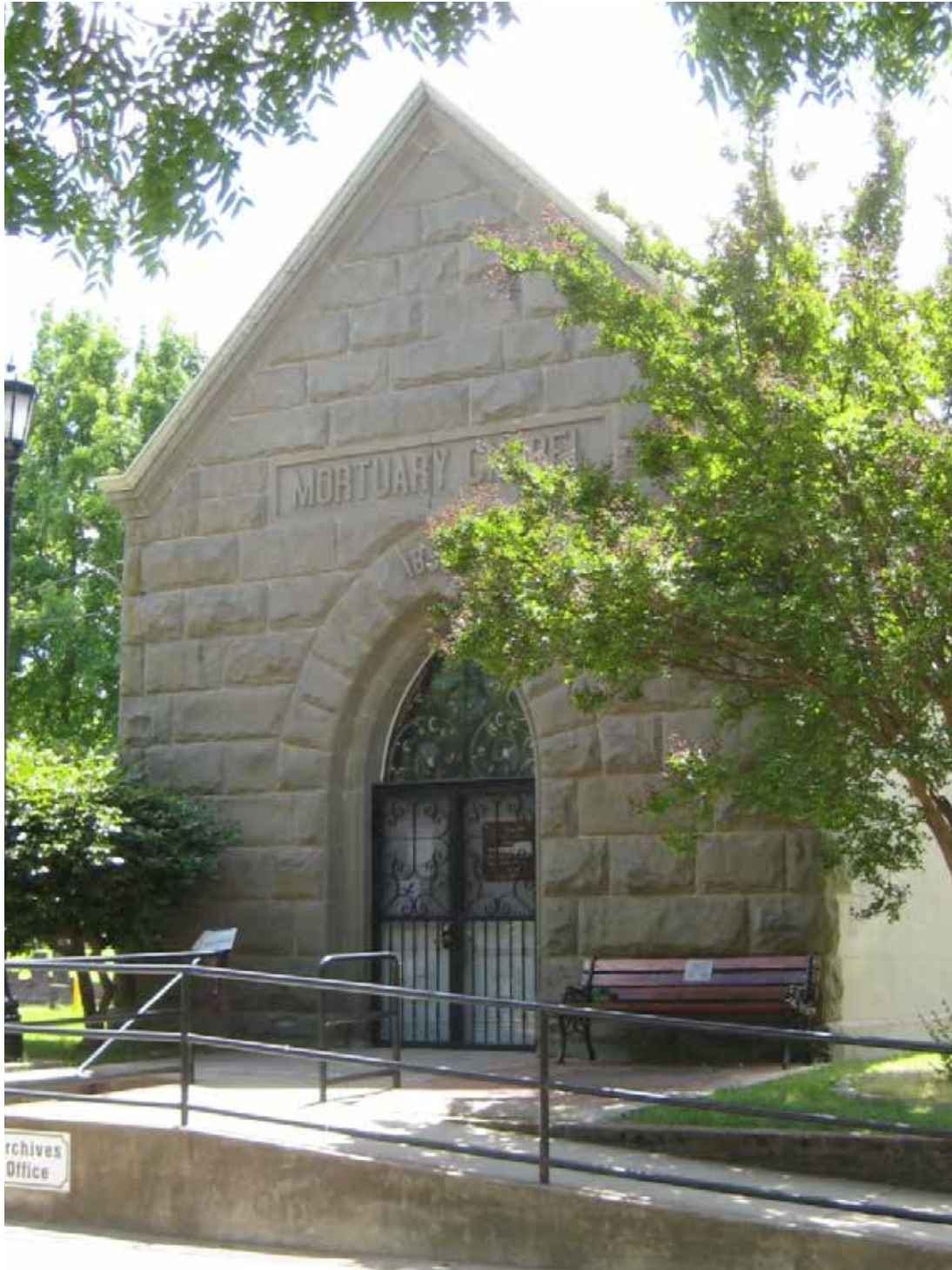
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7. Mortuary Chapel; view to southeast



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8. Independent Order of Odd Fellows Section; view to northeast



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9. Hitching post at the southeast corner of the Masonic Cemetery; view to northwest



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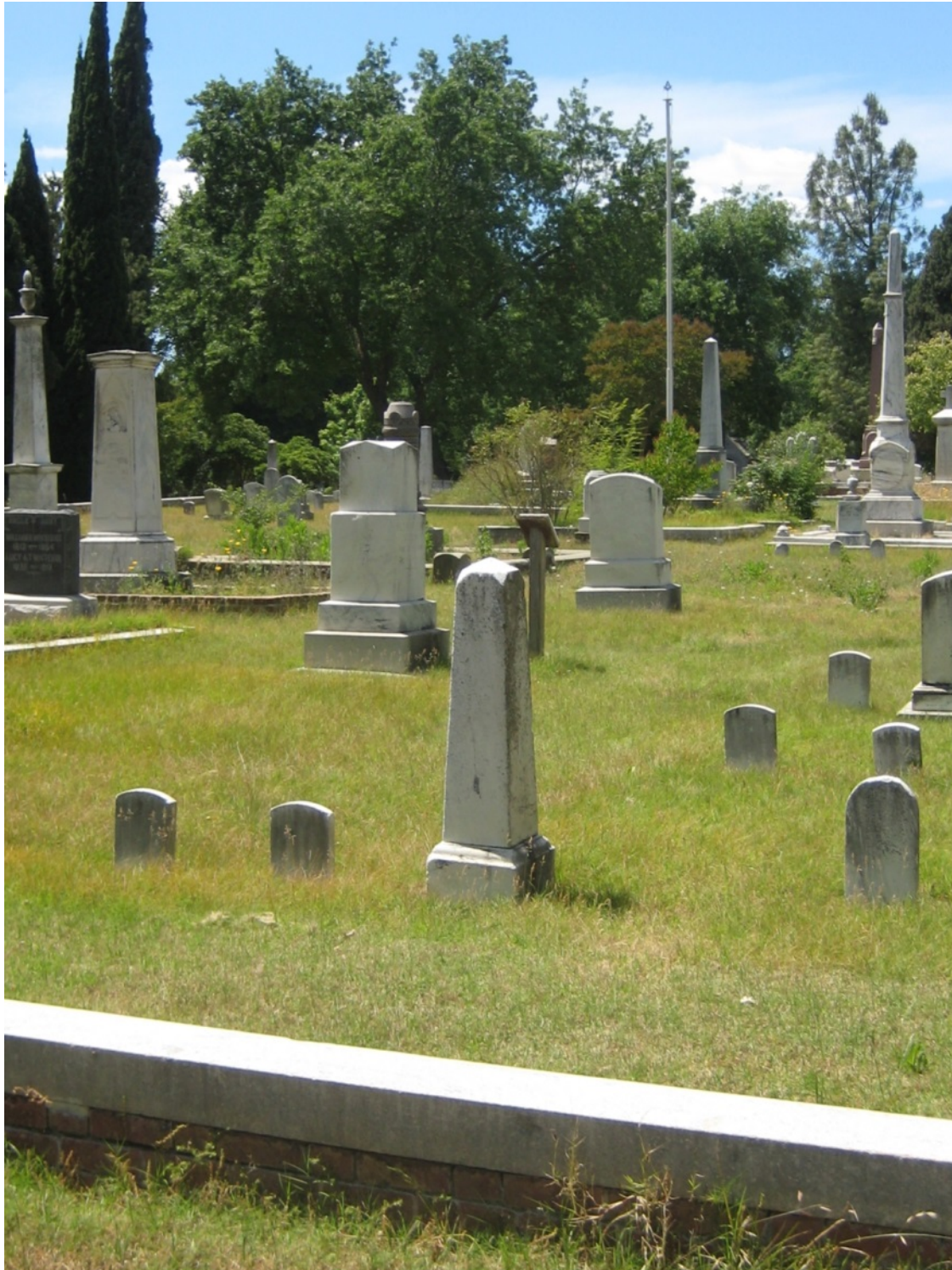
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10. Masonic Plot; view to southwest



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11. Grand Army of the Republic Plot and Monument; view to east



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12. View toward the Grand Army of the Republic Plot; facing east





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13. Volunteer Fireman's Bell; view to south



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14. Historic Volunteer Firemen's Plot; view to southeast



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15. Newton Booth gravesite, located in the Center Run; view to southeast



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16. Frances E. Brown Mausoleum, located in West Flat; view to northwest



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**Figure Log**

- Figure 1. Sketch map showing photo locations.
- Figure 2. Sketch map showing contributors/non-contributors (numbered to Section 7)
- Figure 3. Cemetery map showing plots.
- Figure 4. Historic photo from cemetery facing north towards cemetery entrance, circa 1870
- Figure 5. Historic photo facing south towards cemetery entrance from Y Street, circa 1938
- Figure 6. Memorial plaque to 1850 cholera victims, erected 1852. Photo circa 1938.
- Figure 7. Tomb of William Irwin, State Plot, circa 1938
- Figure 8. Tomb of Newton Booth, circa 1938
- Figure 9. Tomb of John Bigler, circa 1938
- Figure 10. Tomb of Mark Hopkins, circa 1938

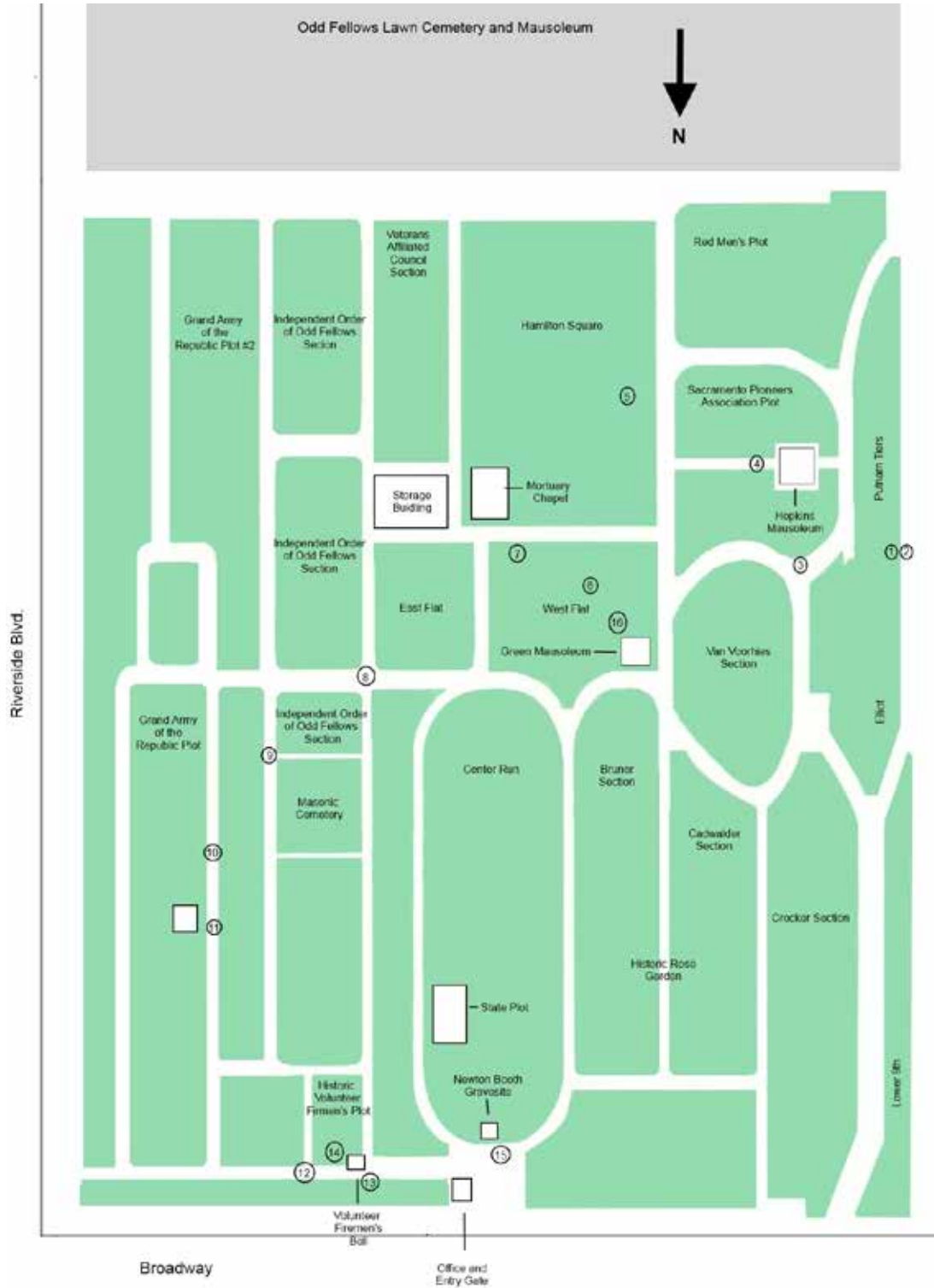
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Figure 1. Sketch map of photo locations



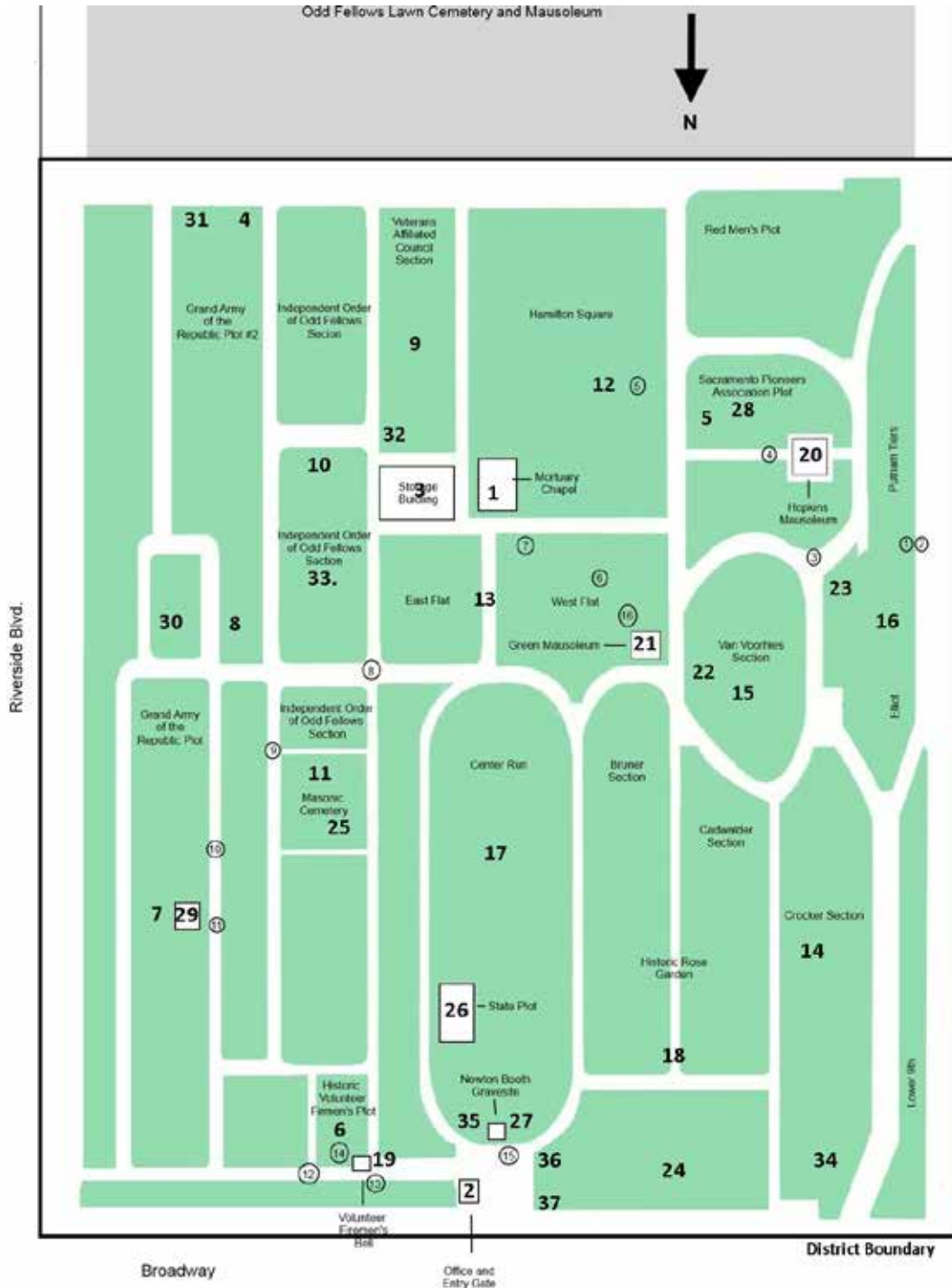
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Figure 2. Sketch map of district properties with boundary.



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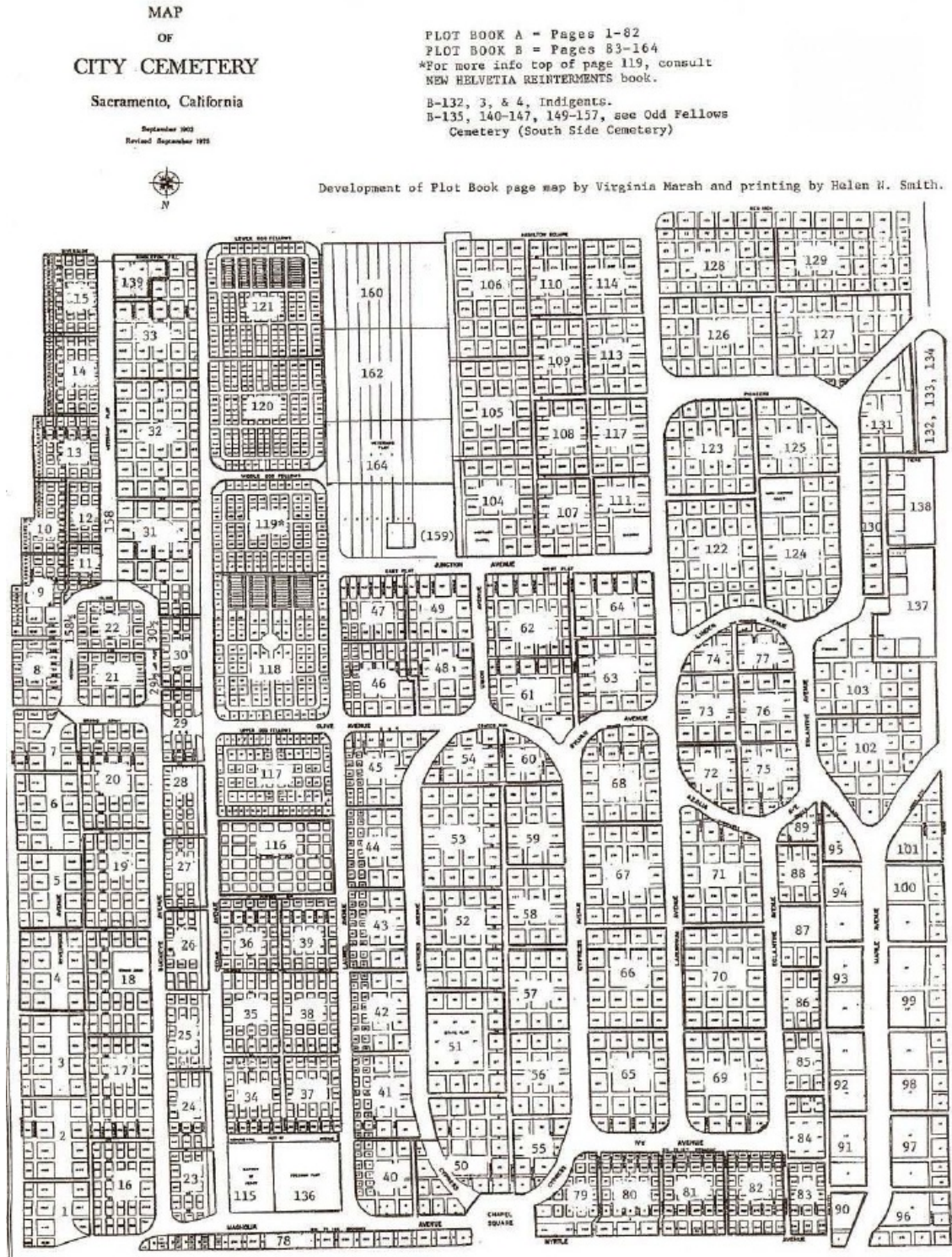
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Figure 3. Plot map of city cemetery showing plot and sub-plot locations.





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Figure 4. Historic photo of cemetery, facing north from cemetery towards entrance  
 (Photo source: Center for Sacramento History)



*"There are remarkably few historic photographs of City Cemetery, but this is the best one that has been found. This view, published as a stereograph by Lawrence & Houseworth, shows the 10th Street entry area sometime between 1860 and 1870. It shows the entry structure burial plots, monuments, low fencing, and young trees and shrubs. In the distance, just to the right of the clock tower, is the new state capitol building under construction (Library of Congress, Society of California Pioneers)." (from the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery Master Plan, December 2007 – by ROYSTON HANAMOTO ALLEY & ABEY Landscape Architects and Planners )*

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Figure 5. Historic photo of city cemetery entrance from Y Street (Broadway) facing south, circa 1938.  
(Photo source: California State Library)



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Figure 6. Memorial plaque to 1850 cholera victims, erected 1852. Photo circa 1938.  
(Photo source: California State Library)



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Figure 7. Tomb of William Irwin, State Plot, circa 1938  
(Photo source: California State Library)



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Figure 8. Tomb of Newton Booth, circa 1938  
(Photo source: California State Library)



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Figure 9. Tomb of John Bigler, circa 1938  
(Photo source: California State Library)



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Figure 10. Tomb of Mark Hopkins, circa 1938  
(Photo source: California State Library)

