St. Louis Cemetery No. 1
Guidelines for Preservation & Restoration

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Conclusions

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

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

As stated previously, preservation professionals should be employed for major restoration work. Such professionals should present to the tomb owners information on the condition; recommendations on cleaning, conservation and repair; and cost proposals for performing all work. They should also be willing to supply data on all products to be used. After repair, no tomb can survive without a program of cyclical maintenance.
The preservation or restoration of a family tomb can be a very rewarding experience. The research phase will provide a great deal of information on family, neighborhood and city history. The project can involve the children of the family or neighborhood, giving them a greater understanding of local history and of their own part in that history.

Proposed aesthetic, repair or structural changes to a tomb may bring out strong opinions from various family members, based on their memories and perceptions. These family interactions, combined with archival research experience and exposure to contractors and preservation professionals will make this a long-term learning experience. By the end of the project, the family will be very proud of the tomb and a celebration is certainly in order. The many things learned throughout the project will also be of interest to others in the community and should be published in a local preservation newsletter, the newspaper or one of the many good New Orleans based magazines. Finally, remember to let all the friends and relatives no longer in New Orleans know about the successful completion of the project, and thank everyone who contributed.
Endnotes


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


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


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Resources

Project Website

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

Sites for New Orleans & Family Historical Documentation

• Archdiocese of New Orleans
  Archdiocesan Archivist
  1100 Chartres Street in the French Quarter, three blocks from Jackson Square
  Telephone: (504)529-2651
  FAX: (504)529-3075
  e-mail: archives@archdiocese-no.org
  http://www.archdiocese-no.org/archives/
  The Archdiocesan Archivist has published multiple volumes of Sacramental Records of the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. All are available for purchase and may be ordered. The reference books are also available at the New Orleans Public Library.

• New Orleans Archdiocesan Cemeteries
  Suite 500
  1000 Howard Avenue
  New Orleans, La. 70113
  Vox: 504.596.3050
  Fax: 504.596.3055
  For questions relating to specific tombs, lots, ownership, Perpetual Care, etc.

• The Historic New Orleans Collection
  533 Royal Street
  New Orleans, LA 70130
  504-523-4662, 504-598-7108 (fax)
  The Williams Research Center of The Historic New Orleans Collection, composed of curatorial, manuscripts, and library collections, is housed in a restored police and court building at 410 Chartres Street. http://www.hnoc.org/
  “The Survey of Historic New Orleans Cemeteries, a project sponsored by the Collection in conjunction with Save Our Cemeteries, is housed at the Collection. This survey includes inscriptions, photographs, general descriptions, and condition reports of tombs in nine historic New Orleans cemeteries: St. Louis I & II, Lafayette I & II, St. Joseph I &
II, Cypress Grove, Odd Fellows Rest, and Greenwood” (from on-line description). Their manuscript collections include personal and legal papers of families and organizations. Also available in microfilm are New Orleans newspapers from 1803 to the present.

- **The Louisiana State Museum**
  [http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/lsm4.htm](http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/lsm4.htm)
The original source for the George François Mugnier and Samuel T. Blessing photographs of the cemeteries.
  [http://www.lsu.edu/diglib](http://www.lsu.edu/diglib) LSU digital library – can view much of the Louisiana State Museum Photograph collection, including the George François Mugnier and Samuel T. Blessing photographs of the cemeteries.

- **New Orleans Public Library**
  219 Loyola Ave.
  New Orleans, LA 70112-2044
  504-529-READ
  [http://www.nutrias.org](http://www.nutrias.org)
Microfilms of the Tombstone Index by the WPA in the 1930s, (New Orleans cemeteries-[GS36 266-308]. The original index is at the Historical Center of the Louisiana State Museum, 400 Esplanade Ave. Also available at the library is the multi-volume set of the Sacramental Records of the Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Cross-references maiden and married surnames, combination names & significant surname variations. LouR 929.3 W894s [Ask at the reference desk]

- **The Preservation Resource Center**
  Leeds-Davis Building
  923 Tchoupitoulas Street
  New Orleans, LA
  [http://www.prcno.org](http://www.prcno.org)
The Preservation Resource Center is a private non-profit organization that promotes the preservation of New Orleans architecture and neighborhoods.

- **Save Our Cemeteries, Inc.**
  P.O. Box 58105
  New Orleans, Louisiana 70158-8105:
  E-mail: soc@saveourcemeteries.org
  Phone: 504-525-3377, 504-525-6677 (Fax)
  1-888-721-7493 (Toll Free)
  [http://www.saveourcemeteries.org](http://www.saveourcemeteries.org)

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Fred Hatfield’s searchable site:
http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Monitor/1248/
A SOC volunteer. On this site, the Lafayette Cemetery tombs can be searched by name.

Tulane School of Architecture – Preservation Studies
Web Address for the measured drawings of St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 tombs:
http://www.tulane.edu/~tsahome/page1.html
Measured drawings and research on selected tombs at St. Louis Cemetery No. 1

The Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane Manuscripts Department, Hogan Jazz Archives, Louisiana Collection
Jones Hall
Tulane University Libraries
New Orleans LA 70118 USA
ph: 504-865-5699, fx: 504-865-5761
http://specialcollections.tulane.edu
Architectural plans, maps, cemetery documentation and hundreds of collections of family papers within the Manuscripts Department.

Vieux Carre Commission
Vieux Carré Commission, 334 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130.
(504) 528-3950; Fax: (504) 528-3945
http://www.new-orleans.la.us/cnoweb/vcc/

Other sites of interest

Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation, Office of Cultural Development
http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/ocd/hp/ocdhp.htm

Louisiana Legislature
http://www.legis.state.la.us/tsrs/tsrssearch.htm

City of New Orleans
http://www.new-orleans.la.us/cnoweb/body.htm
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- **Library of Congress**
  
  http://memory.loc.gov/

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

- **The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings**,  
  
  http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/standguide/index.htm

- **National Park Service**
  
  http://www.nps.gov

- **National Center for Preservation Technology and Training**
  
  http://www.ncptt.nps.gov

- **National Trust for Historic Preservation**
  
  http://www.nationaltrust.org

- **American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC)**
  
  1717 K Street NW, Suite 200

  Washington, DC 20006

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

  info@aic-faic.org

  http://aic.stanford.edu/

  **Selecting a Conservator:**

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

  **Code of Ethics & Guidelines for Practice:**

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

- **Conservators On-Line:**
  
  http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/

- **Heritage Preservation**
  
  1730 K Street, NW Suite 566

  Washington, DC 20006-3836

  202-634-1422 / 888-388-6789

  Fax 202-634-1435

  http://www.heritagepreservation.org/

  **Save Outdoor Sculpture** program might be of interest.

- **The Association for Gravestone Studies**
  
  30 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609

  http://www.gravestonestudies.org

- **The Association for Preservation Technology (APT)**
  
  http://www.apti.org

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