

rently configured can be used immediately to generate listings by author, date, etc. The ability to search by keyword is important enough that it should not be abandoned, but should be approached deliberately—and finished when more resources and expertise are available.

The index was shipped to the National Park Service in February 1995, and the means and schedule of publication and distribution are currently being explored.

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Overview of the Index

The database contains the information about the articles in CRM. The database is extendible—other categories of information (such as authors' biographic data, address, illustrations, etc.) can be added to the records. The layout of information in the main database file can be changed to accommodate new categories of information. For instance, the file initially contained space for only one author per article; the layout of the database was reconfigured to accommodate multiple authors. Subsequent records then had the capability to list either single or multiple authors. The layouts listed above represent different ways of configuring and displaying the data according to a given category; other configurations are also possible. The database can be used on computers supporting either the Microsoft Windows or Apple Macintosh interfaces. Data can be exported to other applications, such as other databases, word processors, or desktop publishing/page layout programs.

Ken Guzowski and Richa Wilson

The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Partnerships in Rural Cemetery Preservation



Stone grave marker showing typical problems of spalling, erosion, and invasive plant growth.

Those of us who work in cultural resource protection are becoming more dependent on cooperative relationships with other organizations, public entities, and private groups to accomplish varied historic preservation goals. Since September of 1993, the City of Eugene has been an active partner in a community effort to protect, restore, and maintain the vandalized and deteriorated Masonic Cemetery in Eugene, Oregon. This 10-acre hillside cemetery was established in 1859 and contains burial plots and markers for many of Eugene's pioneer families. A walk through the cemetery brings to light the names of past citizens which read like a street map of the city.

When the cemetery was established it was located in the outskirts of town. Following World War II and the explosive growth of that era, the slopes and flatlands of this area filled in with resi-

dential development that surrounded the cemetery. Over time local residents came to think of the cemetery as a private park where they could stroll, walk their dogs, and enjoy the ever-changing ecology of the site. Unfortunately, an unsavory element of local society also discovered the opportunity to conduct nefarious acts of vandalism. Because the cemetery never embraced perpetual care practices, which became popular in the 1940s and 1950s, vandalism was not assuaged by maintenance. For decades monuments and grave markers have been toppled, broken, and stolen. The Hope Abbey Mausoleum was particularly subject to serious abuse. Its magnificent bronze doors became torn and shredded from pry bars, while the poured concrete walls of the mausoleum took on layer after layer of paint to cover the endless graffiti (see sidebar).

In 1993, City Councilor Barbara Keller, a neighbor of the cemetery and ward representative,

It's got great
tales to tell...



Eugene's Masonic Cemetery

*Information
brochure, The
Eugene Masonic
Cemetery
Association.*

saw the pressing need to address the vandalism in the cemetery. Through her influence, the Eugene City Council adopted a resolution to provide funds for city staff assistance for one year. The staff was to help establish a citizens' committee that would spearhead the restoration and maintenance efforts at the Masonic Cemetery. Beginning in October of 1993, three city staff members worked to organize a series of monthly meetings where citizens met and voiced their concerns, goals, and plans for the cemetery's future. Representatives from the Lane County Historical Society, the University of Oregon's Historic Preservation Program, the local genealogical society, and members from the Eugene Masonic Lodge gathered to support this grassroots preservation project. Sub-committees were formed and information was gathered.

*The Gray family
monument is one
of many markers
in the Eugene
Masonic Cemetery
requiring re-attach-
ment.*

Concerned citizens petitioned their friends and neighbors to help organize a community workshop and clean-up parties. Seventy-five people gathered to firm their resolve at the first public workshop which was held in January of 1994. Media coverage of the workshop galvanized additional support from the community.

Meanwhile, city staff worked to assist the Masonic Cemetery Steering Committee with research, promotion, and grant writing. Plans were finalized for a VIP tour to pull in local and state politicians to support the goals of the organization. Historic Preservation Week activities for 1994 began with a ceremony in the cemetery. The mausoleum was opened to the public after it was swept and scrubbed by volunteers. A local florist donated elaborate bouquets of lilac and spirea for the occasion. In April, the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded the city its grant request to hire a consultant to conduct a condition analysis and develop a preservation/maintenance plan for the cemetery and mausoleum. The Eugene Masonic Lodge #11 pledged \$1,000 as part of the match for the \$2,000 grant. Citizens sponsored and began to attend regular monthly work parties at the cemetery. A second public meeting served to bring in additional donations and volunteers.

Every volunteer project is only as good as the people involved. During the organizational phase of the citizens' committee, Kay Holbo became the champion of the cemetery restoration project, applying her years of experience in fundraising, volunteer work, and cemetery restoration. Kay and other committed volunteers worked closely with the steering committee to establish a non-profit corporation, registered in Oregon as the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association.

The goals of the Association are assisted by the efforts of many agencies, organizations, indi-



Historic preservation graduate student Dave Pinyerd drills holes in a grave marker to allow insertion of nylon pins and polyester-based adhesive.



viduals, and institutions. With the funds from the National Trust and the Eugene Masonic Lodge, two representatives from the University of Oregon's Historic Preservation Program were hired to complete a preservation/maintenance plan for the cemetery and mausoleum. The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office awarded the Eugene Planning Division a \$5,000 matching grant to conduct a comprehensive survey and inventory of the burial plots and cemetery markers. This contract was awarded to a preservation consultant who entered into a creative partnership with the University of Oregon's Historic Preservation Program to teach a course in cemetery preservation during the Spring academic term of 1995. City Planner Ken Guzowski serves as the coordinator of these consulting projects, participating in meetings of the Oregon Historic Cemetery Association and representing the cemetery as a member in the Association for Gravestone Studies. The Eugene Native Plant Society, in conjunction with Salix Associates, presented the Association with an extensive list of common and rare plants located in the cemetery. A local botanist scheduled a native plant identification course at the nearby Lane Community College. The Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association contracted with the Eugene Granite and Marble Works (established in 1890) to begin repairs of vandalized grave markers. Following a supportive editorial in a local paper, donations increased to a point which allowed the Association to contract services for maintenance.

The damp climate in Oregon's Willamette Valley encourages growth of lichen and moss on grave markers.

Currently, the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association is conducting a fundraising campaign to ensure that restoration and maintenance work will continue. Numerous activities continue to cultivate support for the cemetery's preservation. These include public meetings with lot owners and families of those buried in the cemetery and mausoleum, the donation of a database recording lot owners and interment records by a local Mason, distribution of a promotional brochure designed by volunteers, and an information booth at the annual Eugene Celebration. The Association will host an "obelisk raising" at the Fielding McMurray plot to recognize the man upon whose land the cemetery was founded in 1859, and to symbolize the citizens' commitment to ending vandalism in this historic place. During the summer of 1995, the Masonic Cemetery will be featured as part of the local garden tour titled "Seven Gardens and a Cemetery." Amateur and professional horticulturalists will have the opportunity to study and better understand the landscape, which contains both wild and formal elements in its design.

With the survey currently being conducted by University of Oregon preservation students, more information is being discovered about the extant monuments and individual plots in the cemetery. In conjunction with the database and ongoing genealogical research, this allows an understanding of those interred in the cemetery and the roles they played in early Eugene history.



The City of Eugene has learned that by forming partnerships with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the University of Oregon's Historic Preservation Program, Lane Community College, the Eugene Masonic Lodge #11, the Lane County Historical Society, and a committed group of volunteers, the goal of preserving, restoring, and maintaining Eugene's oldest cemetery is rapidly being approached. With the cooperation of these

The Hope Abbey Mausoleum

An Example of Early-20th-Century Community Mausoleums

Richa Wilson and Ken Guzowski



The Hope Abbey Mausoleum is a significant resource located within the Eugene Masonic Cemetery. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 as Oregon's only example of monumental Egyptian Revival architecture, this structure represents typical problems experienced with community mausoleums built during the early-20th century. At that time, community mausoleums were promoted by entrepreneurial mausoleum companies as the most desirable interment method. Located across the United States, these companies sought to incorporate innovative crypt ventilation methods and construction techniques, even pursuing patents which were often subsequently denied or invalidated.

Typically, mausoleum companies contracted with a cemetery association to erect the structure, reimbursed themselves from the first sales of the crypts, and turned over the mausoleum to the cemetery association after their profit had been realized. These companies were blamed for constructing showy buildings to impress the community and leaving the cemetery associations with inadequate funds for maintenance and repair. Much debate occurred during this time among cemetery managers regarding the method of construction, materials, ventilation, waterproofing, and perpetual care of the community mausoleum. The managers had good reason to be concerned. Unless the mausoleum was taken over by a for-profit business, many of these buildings suffered severe deterioration due to the lack of perpetual care funds and now constitute a challenging opportunity for preservation.

In 1912, the Eugene Masonic Lodge signed a contract giving the Portland Mausoleum Company rights to build a community mausoleum in the cemetery and to sell crypts at a minimum cost of \$200. The contract also stipulated that the "right, title and interest" of the tombs would be conveyed to the Company or to the purchasers of tombs. The contract stipulated that for each crypt sold, the Company would pay the Lodge \$10 to be placed in a fund for maintenance and repair of the mau-

Numerous zinc monuments in the cemetery remain in excellent condition with the exception of missing panels.

Photos by the authors.

groups and individuals, the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association has gained the credibility and strength to raise funds and accomplish the daily tasks necessary to restore the site to its former grandeur.

Ken Guzowski, the historic preservation planner for the City of Eugene, provides staff assistance to the Eugene Masonic Cemetery Association.

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