

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Salem Pioneer Cemetery

Name of Property

Marion Co., OR

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Amendment Page 1

**Salem Pioneer Cemetery**

**NRIS # 13000707**

**Date Listed: September 11, 2013**

The purpose of this continuation sheet is to correct a typographical error for the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Salem Pioneer Cemetery. In Section 7, page 3, paragraph 3, the text incorrectly states that the expansion of 1861 surrounded the original five-acre plat on three sides. This is incorrect. The 1861 expansion surrounds the original plan on all four sides, as is shown in Figure 1 under Additional Documentation, page 50.

  
Ian P. Johnson

Associate Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

10/30/2017  
Date

**National Register of Historic Places**

**Date Listed** 12/26/2017

**NRIS No.** AD13000707

**Oregon SHPO** (Additional Documentation)

Odd Fellows Rural Cemetery

Name of Property

Marion Co., OR

County and State

An undated pen-and-ink drawing of the plat, with lot sale notations and a dated newspaper notice affixed, shows the state of development by 1860.<sup>1</sup> [Fig. 7] From the outset, a feature of the layout was a median strip of three elongated unnumbered plots in the central avenue. The median plots appear to have been designated for burial of public figures or others of distinction as events unfolded. Penned notations show that the town site proprietor William H. Willson, who died in 1856, was laid to rest in the uppermost median [Photo 4], and Samuel R. Thurston, Oregon Territory's first delegate to Congress whose re-interment was reported to have occurred at about the same time, was accorded a place of honor in the lower median at the spot marked "Thurston Monument." [Photo 5]

Other salient features of the initial plat were the curvilinear side lanes for carriages which branched from the central avenue to the north and south in mirror-image fashion to form a heart-shaped figure. Four circular carriage turn-arounds circumscribing Plots 33 and 38 and Plots 203 and 208 that were planned as figures above and below the heart-shaped side lanes apparently were impractical and never carried out. The Masons acquired two full plots for the use of their brethren, and last needs of the anonymous were accommodated as well. Such notations as "orphan child" (Plot 111) and "Chinaman" (Plot 191) show that from the earliest stage of development the community burial ground served the gamut of Salem society. An unidentified newspaper clipping was affixed to the plat in evidence of the fact that by 1864 the Odd Fellows, who had been sole proprietors since the Masons withdrew in 1855, were making an effort to bring burial records into conformance with the register of lot sales.

Odd Fellows' Rural Cemetery, Salem, Oregon.  
Those who have relatives or friends interred in this cemetery are requested to furnish to either of the undersigned as soon as practicable the following information, viz: Name, age, sex, color, married or single, place of birth, of what family, number of days ill; died when, where, and cause; buried, when and by whom. The object of the foregoing inquiries is for the purpose of registration in a book already procured for the purpose.  
I.R. Moores, C.N. Terry, S.E. May, Trustees  
Salem, January 14, 1864.

After 1861, the year when the Odd Fellows acquired eleven acres surrounding the original five-acre parcel on four sides, the 560-foot-wide gridiron was extended upslope approximately 1,300 feet toward the crest of the ridge.<sup>2</sup> The number of plots was thereby enlarged to 960. The central avenue was continued to the western boundary where it met with a border lane twelve feet in width. A twelve-foot-wide cross-axial lane crossed the cemetery's mid-section approximately where the new section met the existing plat. West of the cross-axial lane, side lanes branching from the central avenue with radiused segments divided longitudinally the long sections north and south of the avenue. In the larger portion lying west of the cross-axial lane pedestrian aisles were increased in width to more than five feet.<sup>3</sup>

A finely drawn pen-and-ink enlarged plat, undated and unsigned, was made for the Odd Fellows between 1861 and 1870. It is largely free of annotations except for plot numbers and some dimensions. On fewer than a dozen lots, notations relating to lot payments were made in pencil. The east boundary lane fronting on what

<sup>1</sup> The initial five-acre plat drawing, c. 1854-1860, was given to the City of Salem's citizen support group, Friends of Pioneer Cemetery, by Chemeketa Lodge No. 1, I.O.O.F after the preservationists were organized in 1985. The drawing on paper measures 22 ½ x 17 ¾ inches and bears no date or draftsman's signature. This drawing and the 76 x 28 ¾ inch companion plat embracing sixteen acres were donated by the Friends of Pioneer Cemetery in 2010 to the Oregon State Library, where they are held in the map collections.

<sup>2</sup> The plat's length and breadth, as given above, are approximate because opposing boundary measurements are not equilateral.

<sup>3</sup> In the east portion of the cemetery the width of aisles is noted on the plats as 7 links (4.62 feet), and in the larger west portion, the width is given as 9 links (5.94 feet).