

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Old Lorimier Cemetery

other name/site number Lorimier Cemetery

#### 2. Location

street & town 500 North Fountain N/A not for publication

city or town Cape Girardeau N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Cape Girardeau code 031 zip code 63701

#### 3. State/Federal agency certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark A Miles 16 AUG 05  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Name of Property

Cape Girardeau County, MO  
County and State

**5 Classification**

**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.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	1	buildings
1	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	2	Total

**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

N/A

**6 Function (1899)**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY: cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FUNERARY: cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7 Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation N/A  
walls N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof N/A  
other STONE: marble  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Lorimier Cemetery  
Name of Property

Cape Girardeau County, MO  
County and State

**DESCRIPTION**

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**  
(enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ART

**Period of Significance**  
1808-1955

**Significant Dates**  
1808

**Significant Persons**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A

**Architect/Bulder**  
N/A

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Lorimier Cemetery  
Name of Property

Cape Girardeau County, MO  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property five acres

**UTM References**  
(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/6 27/6/6/4/0 4/1/3/2/2/6/0  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

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

Property Tax No. 16-719-00-27-02200

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Terri L. Foley, Historic Preservation Consultant, and Brenda Schloss, Senior Planning Technician  
organization Terri L. Foley Consulting & City Planning Department, City of Cape Girardeau, MO date 02/04/2005  
street & number 1615 Themis telephone 573-332-1530  
city or town Cape Girardeau state MO zip code 63701

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets**
- 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.
- Photographs:** Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional Items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

name/title City of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Mayor Jay Knudtson  
street & number 401 Independence Street telephone 573-334-1212  
city or town Cape Girardeau state MO zip code 63703

**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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

### Continued - materials

Sandstone  
Limestone  
Granite

### SUMMARY

The Old Lorimier Cemetery is located at 500 North Fountain Street in the northwest section of downtown Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. Though originally outside the city limits, it is only 1/2 block north of the National Main Street District, Old Town Cape, and approximately two blocks north of the Cape Girardeau Commercial Historic District and the Broadway and Fountain Historic District. It sits on the top of a hill overlooking the Mississippi River, with vistas to the surrounding semi-wooded area. The cemetery is divided into four large sections, with areas set aside for Catholics, Protestants, and ethnic groups. The cemetery is further divided by marked family plots and orderly rows of historic stone markers. The five acre site was donated in 1808 by Cape Girardeau founder, Louis Lorimier, for the burial of his wife Charlotte Pemanpieh Bougainville and many of the early settlers of the area are interred there. The cemetery contains 1,446 marked burials and an unknown number of unmarked graves. Of the marked graves, only 22 date outside of the historic period which spans 1808 to 1855. Grave markers represent a wide variety of styles, and contain a significant assortment of historic funerary iconography. In addition to the historic markers, the site also contains a non-contributing chain link fence, and a small modern storage building located just outside the fence line.

### ELABORATION

The Old Lorimier Cemetery is comprised of approximately five acres in the city Block 27, Lot 22 in Cape Girardeau. The cemetery is bordered by Fountain Street to the west, Park Drive to the South, Spanish Street to the east and Mill Street to the north. Adjacent to the cemetery on the south side is Missouri Park, and adjacent to the north boundary is an apartment building. The cemetery was originally comprised of five acres located outside of the city limits, though a May 1869 Plat map shows the acreage as 6.91, measuring 660.90' x 315.77', and parallelogram in shape.<sup>1</sup> The cemetery is now within the city limits of Cape Girardeau.

The cemetery contains a total of 494 marked but undated burials, and 930 burials that are marked and dated to the historic period. The undated grave markers are clearly historic in design and material and also likely date prior to 1955. Most of these undated markers include foot markers as well as head stones. Of the total of 1,446 marked burials, only 22 date from outside of the period of significance. The high percentage (98%) of historic burials provide a sense of time and place to this early community graveyard. As seen in the breakdown of burials per decade, below, the vast majority of burials occurred between 1830 and 1910. These decades correspond with the major period of growth and development of Cape Girardeau as a regional trade center.

1808 - 1809 1  
1810s - 14  
1820s - 4  
1830s - 29  
1840s - 60

<sup>1</sup> Old Lorimier Cemetery, Cape Girardeau, MO: A Documentation and Preservation Plan, Southeast Missouri State University Historic Preservation Program, 1995, p. 2-3.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

1850s - 124  
1860s - 124  
1870s - 136  
1880s - 103  
1890s - 86  
1900s - 112  
1910s - 56  
1920s - 35  
1930s - 26  
1940s - 16  
1950 - 1955 4

Non-historic burials:

1956 - 1983 22<sup>2</sup>

According to undocumented sources there are unknown total of unmarked historic burials in Old Lorimier Cemetery. Therefore, an unknown total of unmarked historic burials may exist, making the historic percentage much higher.

### Landscape Design

Old Lorimier Cemetery is situated upon a sloping hillside that overlooks the Mississippi River with the highest point being in the west section. It is surrounded by mixed development including residential housing and a small city park. Though new development borders the cemetery, it is of relatively low density. The semi-wooded site and location at the crest of a hill help it retain its original historic feeling of a rural cemetery. The cemetery is filled with numerous older trees indigenous to the area including two trees that are known to be some of the oldest of their kind in Missouri: an osage orange and a sugarberry. Other trees that are in the landscape of the cemetery are cedar, and maple trees. At one time, the cemetery was comprised of many large boxwoods, but few still remain. A non-contributing chain link fence surrounds the cemetery on the north, east, and south, with a cast iron fence on the western boundary. Entrances are located on the south side and on the west side. Just outside of the south entrance is a non-contributing modern storage building.

Old Lorimier Cemetery when established was divided into several sections according to religious affiliations and races. Sections are as follows: south, Catholics; north, Protestants; eastern lower slope, African-Americans. A sidewalk divides the south and north sections and runs west to east with an archway located in the center of the cemetery. Burials are no longer allowed in Old Lorimier Cemetery as it is considered to be filled to capacity.<sup>3</sup>

The overall setting of Old Lorimier Cemetery retains its historic feeling and association and conveys its historic character of the rural environment as it did when it was established in 1808.

### Grave Markers and Monuments

Located within Old Lorimier Cemetery are many exceptional grave markers and monuments that are

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., survey.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p.4.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

**Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

excellent representation of funerary art. There is an extensive diversity of historic markers ranging in size from very small to very large that harmonize into the landscape of Old Lorimier. Marble, granite, sandstone, limestone and bronze were utilized to create the grave markers and monuments. Most of the markers are upright and are aligned on an east-west axis. Old Lorimier is comprised of several family plots scattered throughout the cemetery. Many of the family plots are surrounded by marble, limestone, or sandstone, others are denoted by wrought iron fences. A majority of the older more historic markers and monuments display examples of funeral imagery, including: angles, birds flying, crosses, drapes, flowers, garlands, hands clasped, Virgin Mary, Jesus kneeling, lambs, willows, doves, chain, crowns, finger pointing toward heaven and urns, plus various others.

Old Lorimier Cemetery contains many exceptional examples of stone iconography that exhibit the transition of funerary art over the years. There are many excellent representations of 19<sup>th</sup> century gravestone iconography. Within the cemetery are several exceptional markers that represent the Victorian Era monuments with a large number of the markers from the Late Victorian period (1870-1910). Several of the markers and monuments are decorated with funerary art. Old Lorimier Cemetery contains many children's markers that depict the stylistic transition between the pre-Victorian Era headstones designed to be smaller versions of adult markers to the Victorian Era where children's markers became very symbolic with distinctive form and style. These children's markers are representative of the more elaborate three-dimensional sculptures that convey the sanctity of childhood, with its separateness from the adult material world of insincerity. Located within the cemetery are several markers and monuments that represent the essence of the Victorian time period when children were the embodiment of innocence. Victorian grave markers represent the atmosphere of the role children played in that time period in history and the markers represent how the death of a child solidified the prominent role of children in the Victorian Era.<sup>4</sup>

Another very prevalent style of funerary architecture located within Old Lorimier Cemetery is the Obelisk shaped monument, representing the Egyptian Revival form of cemetery art. The Egyptian Revival style was most popular from the 1840s to 1850s. Obelisks were thought to be tasteful with pure uplifting lines, and were associated with the ancient greatness, patriotism and were functional for use in small areas. Obelisk markers were less costly than larger more elaborate monuments from this time period and combined with their functionalism, it made the obelisk very popular. The majority of obelisk markers in Old Lorimier Cemetery are tall in scale and are decorated with symbols and sculptures indicative of that time period.

Other styles of funerary art that are represented in the cemetery are Gothic Revival, and Greek Revival. These styles depict the transition of funerary art fashion from the 1830s to 1880s. The cemetery also has more modern grave markers made of the common granite style easily found in recent burials.

The following descriptions represent prominent burials and some examples of "high style" funerary art. Though the following are highly decorative with a wealth of funerary symbols, many of the marked graves show influence of Victorian ideas surrounding death and burial.

### **The Louis Lorimier Family Plot**

The Louis Lorimier Family plot is the most prominent plot within the cemetery. With the plot is the oldest and first burial located within the cemetery, Charlotte Lorimier.

Inscribed on her marker is the following:

She lived the noblest matron of the Shawnee race and native dignity

<sup>4</sup> Meyer, Richard E. Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture. Utah: Utah State Press. 1992, p. 12-25.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

she chose nature as her guide to virtue and with nature as her leader  
spontaneously followed good as the olive, the pride of the grove,  
without the planter's care yearly brings its fruit to perfection.

In 1917, a large white pagoda was constructed to cover the family graves.

### **The Louis Houck Family Plot (see photograph 13)**

The Houck Family Plot is comprised of fifteen burials with inscriptions facing west and burials east. There are two massive obelisk style markers belonging to Houck and his wife, Mary. The other markers are small upright slab markers. Two of the markers belong to Andrew Giboney and his wife Mary. Eight of the burials are the children of Giboney, all dying in childhood. The only one of their nine children to survive childhood was Mary who later married Louis Houck. This family plot represents high infant and child mortality rates during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The plot is surrounded by a cast iron fence on three sides that sits atop a limestone border.

### **The Wathen Family Plot (see photograph 10 and 11)**

The Wathen Family Plot consists of thirteen burials, surround by sandstone blocks. A large commemorative monument stands within the plot. It topped with an urn, draped with a cloth symbolizing mourning, that sits atop column symbolizing a full life and support of heaven, with ivy surrounding the monument symbolizing abiding memory. There are several upright markers within the plot.

### **Individual Markers**

#### **Scripps Family Markers (see photograph 12)**

These individual markers are upright, curved and joined together. The inscriptions face west and are the only ones of this style within the cemetery. Although the cause of death is unknown for Grace Scripps, age 61, and the death of her 25 year old daughter Ann, within days of her own may be an indication of an epidemic or illness that swept through the area.

#### **Michael A. Heisserer (1873-1896) (see photograph 15)**

A tree stump marker, symbolizing a life cut short. Ivy is carved running up the stump, symbolizing an abiding memory. The inscription is craved on a scroll hanging from a limb stump, symbolizing wisdom and life. This is the only marker of this style within the cemetery.

#### **Charles Dillion (1859-1863)**

On the top of Dillion's marker is a child sleeping in a bed. It is very detailed, with the child laying on its side, with one leg bent in front of the other. According to Richard Meyer in his book Cemeteries & Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture, visions of children sleeping in their beds meant that they were good children and represented the innocence of their life. The bed represents the home and the bedroom of the child. The child in the sculpture has little clothing on, symbolizing purity. There is a cross about the inscription, symbolizing salvation. Scrolls are carved on the bottom of both sides, symbolizing the Scriptures. Above the scroll is a leaf, symbolizing happiness.

#### **Cora A. Burgess (1856-1859) (see photograph 6)**

Atop the marble marker is an empty bed with a rose laying across it. The empty bed symbolizes the loss of a loved one and anguish with the rose symbolizing sorrow. At the foot of the grave is a three dimensional sculpture of a dove on its back with its wings spread, symbolizing peace, innocence and a



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

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messenger of heaven carrying the soul to heaven.

### **Mary and Thomas Fox**

A tall marble obelisk marker with a cross at top that is covered in a vine of roses marks the graves of the Fox's. On the west side of the marker is Mary's name with a relief of the Virgin Mary. On the north side of the marker is Thomas's name with a relief of Jesus on the cross.

### **Conclusion**

The Old Lorimier Cemetery contains approximately 1,500 marked graves. Of these marked graves, 98%, date between 1808 to 1955, the period of significance of the cemetery. Though many of the stones have deteriorated due to age and occasional vandalism to the site, they provide a sense of time and place and contribute to the overall historic character of the cemetery. The site is well maintained and has changed little since the end of the period of significance. Changes that have occurred are primarily due to natural deterioration of soft stone monuments and maturation and/or loss of vegetation due to age, disease or weather. The site has long been closed to new burials, which has helped preserve its historic character. There are few intrusions in the cemetery, and only 22 of the marked burials have stones dating from outside the period of significance.

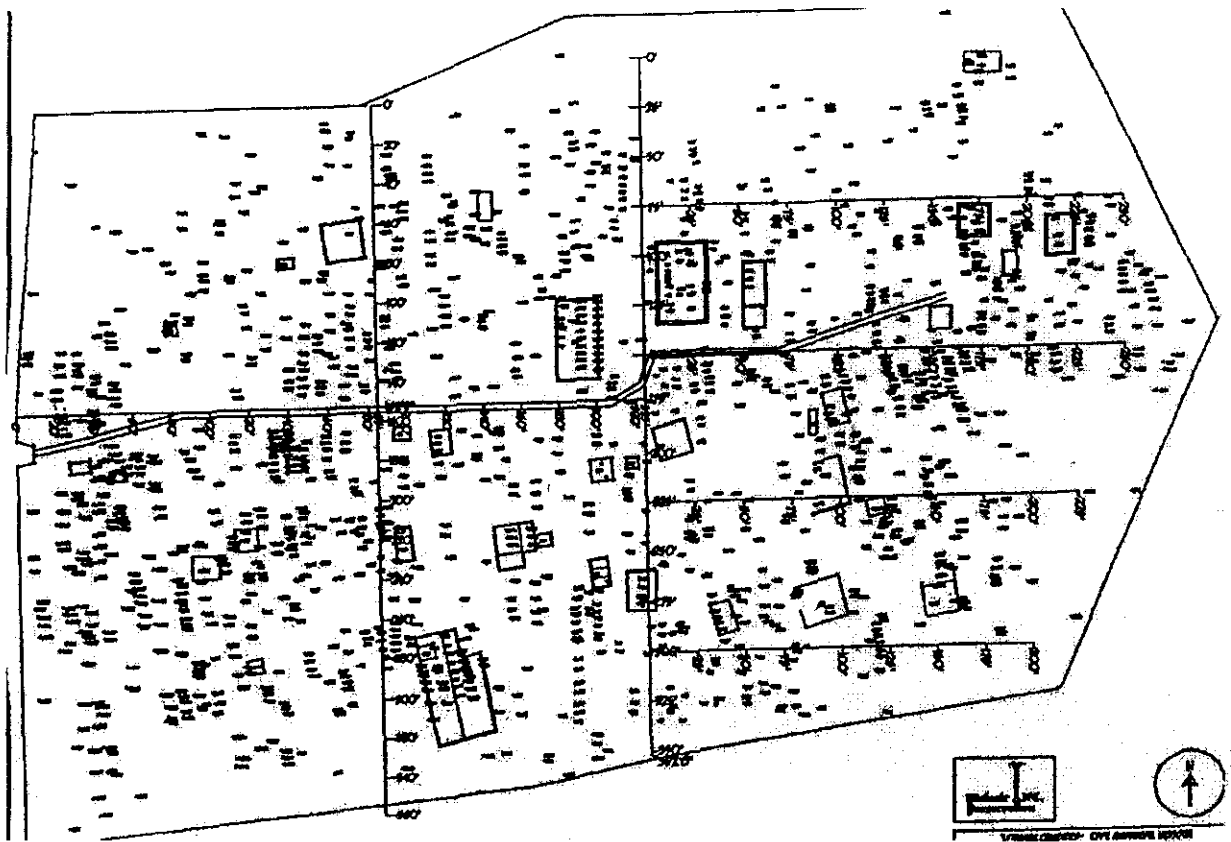
The burials in the Old Lorimier Cemetery include the town founder, early prominent settlers, politicians, and soldiers from major American wars including the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I and World War II. The cemetery also contains burials from a broad spectrum of religions, ethnicities, and occupations. The social and economic status of these citizens are often reflected in the style and size of the marker, or in some cases the lack of markers. Within the nomination's boundary, only 1.5 to 2% of the grave markers and monuments were found to be non-contributing modern burials. These markers are modest in size and do not detract from the overall character and integrity of the site.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO



Old Lorimier Cemetery, showing boundaries and grave locations.  
Source: Old Lorimier Cemetery, Cape Girardeau, MO: Documentation. Southeast Missouri State University Historic Preservation Program, 1995. Held by Division of City Planning of Cape Girardeau, City Hall, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

### SUMMARY

Old Lorimier Cemetery located in Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri is locally significant under **CRITERION A** and **CRITERION C** in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Art. It also meets **CRITERIA CONSIDERATION D** as a property that gains its primary significance from its association with the early settlement of Cape Girardeau and as an example of the changing iconography in 19<sup>th</sup> century burial cemeteries. Old Lorimier Cemetery represents the people who settled Cape Girardeau and the diversity of cultures that came together to give Cape Girardeau its heritage. It is the only place within the city that depicts the many different backgrounds of the earliest settlers as well as those who built and developed the town of Cape Girardeau. It is the first public cemetery established in the town Cape Girardeau, and may be the earliest community cemetery within within Cape Girardeau County since the county boundaries was not established until after the city was formed. The cemetery also contains a variety of funerary iconography and funerary art that represents the romanticization of death and burial during the Victorian era and is locally significant under **CRITERION C**, as an excellent representation of funerary art. The cemetery contains an extensive diversity of historic grave markers that range in size from very small to very large. The majority of the markers display examples of Victorian funerary imagery.

Old Lorimier Cemetery has many exceptional examples of stone iconography that exhibit the transition of funerary art over the period of many years. Many of the markers depict the stylist transition of pre-Victorian funerary art into the Late Victorian period. The cemetery also contains many markers of the Egyptian Revival, Gothic Revival and Greek Revival styles. The cemetery is and excellent representation how funerary art underwent stylist changes throughout the period of significance 1808 to 1955.

### ELABORATION

#### Cape Girardeau History

Cape Girardeau, Missouri is situated on the west bank of the Mississippi River south of St. Louis, Missouri. Cape Girardeau was incorporated in 1808 with the town being officially laid out in 1806. The city was part of the Cape Girardeau District which was approximately 581 square miles in size.<sup>5</sup> Originally, Cape Girardeau was a frontier trading post along the banks of the Mississippi River that grew into a thriving regional market center. French ensign Sieur Jean B. Girardot came to area and established a trading post in 1730s. He was not the founder of the town, but his name was so firmly linked with the area that the town was named for him. The founder of Cape Girardeau was Louis Lorimier, a French Canadian fur trader, who traveled with a party of Shawnee and Delaware Indians and settled in the area of New Madrid in 1778. In 1793, Lorimier received authorization from Governor Carondelet to establish a permanent settlement on the western bank of the Mississippi River. The current location of Cape Girardeau was the chosen spot for the settlement and Lorimier quickly established a trading post and his residence near the Mississippi River front. The town remained under Spanish governing authority until 1803 when the area became the official United States territory under the Louisiana Purchase. Although, the town had been under Spanish control for many years, it was the most American of the Spanish districts. The area had originally included a small settlement of French and Germans, but soon drew settlers from American states and territories. According to an article published 1906 by Power Advertising Co., of Cape Girardeau, the town of Cape "was the first purely American settlement west of the Mississippi." With the Louisiana Purchase, Cape Girardeau saw an influx of more Americans settling in the area.

The early development and settlement of Cape Girardeau was not steady and saw some ups and downs. The period following the Louisiana Purchase saw an influx of new settlers. Lorimier's trading post and

<sup>5</sup> Gammon, William J. Rev. "A Related Census of Fallest Settlers of Cape Girardeau County, Missouri." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, reprint. 1958. Washington D.C.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

**Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

settlement became more organized after Barthelimi Cousin created a plat for the town in 1806.<sup>6</sup> However, Cape Girardeau experienced a lull in development when the United States government failed to honor Spanish land grants. Since most of the property ownership came under the land grants, settlers began to avoid the area.<sup>7</sup>

The nature of the community began to change as land issues were settled. The early settlers of Cape Girardeau were fur traders who traveled the Mississippi River to conduct their trade business. As the years saw more permanent settlement, farmers settled in the county making agriculture the major commercial enterprise. Cotton, tobacco, and wheat were the major crops.<sup>8</sup>

Cape Girardeau in the early 1800s began to expand industrially with the establishment of several sawmill, flourmills, tanyards, and cotton gins that were located near the banks of the river. Lorimier built three saw mills on Hubble and LaCroix Creeks and I.R. Wathen, a prominent early settler, erected a flour mill on North German Street, now known as North Main Street. With the expansion of the Cape Girardeau, more trades people began to open business and the town had a number of blacksmiths, carpenters, gunsmiths, and distilleries.<sup>9</sup>

The overall topography of the Cape Girardeau area is comprised of several hills with sloping landscape. The area contained a plentiful supply of hardwoods, including cottonwood, poplar, and oak. These trees supplies the new saw mills, that produced building materials for local residents and for shipping down river. They also provided fuel for new settlers and businesses in the area.<sup>10</sup>

Its location on the Mississippi River made Cape Girardeau an important trade center and exports became a significant business as early as 1802. Soon after Lorimier established his trading post a large amount of goods were being shipped to New Orleans and other locations on the Mississippi River out of Cape Girardeau. With the increase in the export business, commission houses and warehouse were constructed along the riverfront on Levee Street, now known as Water Street. With the river trade, Cape Girardeau began to have steamboats arriving as early as 1810s with more actively docking in the 1830s. With the onset of the steamboat transportation, Cape Girardeau experienced a substantial commercial growth which lead to the incorporation of Cape Girardeau as a city in 1843. The continued growth of commerce, pushed Cape Girardeau to expand west. Although the Civil War was an active part in the history of the town with many battles being waged in the area, it did not hinder the growth of the town too much. After the Civil War, Cape Girardeau continued to expand and commerce grew tremendously bringing new business and industry with it. Breweries, various factories, hardwood and dry good stores, and a variety of other businesses became commonplace within the thriving town.<sup>11</sup>

Cape Girardeau by the 1870s, had a population of 3,640, and the coming of the railroads in the late 1800s pushed that population even higher. Railroad transportation represented a major change for Cape Girardeau commercially. Louis Houck organized the Cape Girardeau Railway Company which later became part of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Company. With the establishment of the railroad, Cape Girardeau experience increase in commerce and population. With the increase in business and population, Cape Girardeau became home to many very prominent entrepreneurs who helped to

<sup>6</sup> Snider, Felix Eugene and Earl Augustus Collins, *Cape Girardeau: Biography of a City*. Cape Girardeau, MO: Ramfre Press, 1956. p.16-30 and *Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri*, Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888; reprint, Ramfre Press, 1955, p. 413.

<sup>7</sup> Snider and Collins, p.31.

<sup>8</sup> Conrad, Howard L., *Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri, Vol 1*. New York: The Southern History Company, 1901, p. 488.

<sup>9</sup> Snider and Collins, p. 218-220.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 211-213.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p.220-250.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

**Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

make Cape Girardeau the town it is now. As roads and highways developed, the town grew and expanded even more and today it continues to be a major regional marketing, industrial and educational center.

Though much of the towns late-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century development is represented in its National Register listed historic districts, buildings and houses, only one site spans the entire history of its early settlement and development into a regional trade center. The Old Lorimier Cemetery represents the earliest settlement period, and the growth of Cape Girardeau. It is the final resting-place of the town founder, and many of the movers and shakers and entrepreneurs that cultivated the growth of the city. The cemetery represents these citizens, their cultural diversity, and the ideas and ideals of the period in which the lived and died.<sup>12</sup>

### Cemetery History

Old Lorimier Cemetery was established when in 1808, Charlotte Pemanpieh Bougainville, the wife of Louis Lorimier, died. Upon her death, Lorimier set aside the five acres of land for the establishment of Old Lorimier Cemetery, the first public cemetery in Cape Girardeau. At the time, the cemetery was located outside the Cape Girardeau city boundaries as part of Outlot 32, just north of the city limits. Prior to the establishment of the cemetery, people were buried in family cemeteries, or on private land in the surrounding area.<sup>13</sup>

When the first burial took place in 1808 the only entrance into the cemetery was on the east boundary coming up from the Mississippi River. In order for Lorimier to have his wife interred at the cemetery, her funeral procession took place on the Mississippi River with her casket carried on a boat. She was then carried up the cliff around Bellevue Street and into the cemetery. Lorimier died in 1812 and was buried in the family plot next to his wife.<sup>14</sup>

The cemetery contains 1,446 marked burials and an unknown number of unmarked and unrecorded graves. At this point, there is no accurate means by which to do an estimated number of these unmarked graves. Several of the unmarked graves could have been the result of epidemics that swept through the Cape Girardeau area in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It has been said and written that mass burials occurred due to the epidemics, but there is no documented proof to substantiate these reported mass burials. It is likely, however, that mass burials occurred because at least two major epidemics hit the community. In the 1830s a cholera epidemic claimed the lives of many living in the area. There is a monument located within the cemetery that honors the lives of seventeen of those who succumbed to the illness. In 1918, Cape Girardeau was one of many towns across the United States that fell victim to an influenza epidemic that was so severe that there was a shortage of medical professionals to help take care of the sick, resulting in some dying from lack of medical care. Cape Girardeau experience many other epidemics, such as smallpox, yellow fever and black plague. Because Old Lorimier was the only community cemetery in the town for many years, most of those who fell sick and succumbed to the epidemics would have been buried in Old Lorimier Cemetery.<sup>15</sup>

Old Lorimier Cemetery is laid out into sections reserved for different religious and ethnic backgrounds, including a small African-American section. Protestants were buried in the north section while Catholics were buried in the south section. The northeast section was reserved for African-Americans and also was

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, p.256-264.

<sup>13</sup> Goodspeed's p. 260-269.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> Old Lorimier Cemetery. P. 3-4

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

the paupers section. Many of the markers and monuments depict the cultural diversity of Cape Girardeau. The cemetery is cultural depiction with different languages inscribed on the markers, including Latin, German, French, Hebrew and English. Although Cape Girardeau was under Spanish control when first settled, it was the most American of the Missouri regions under Spanish rule.<sup>16</sup> This lack of Spanish cultural influence is seen in the markers of the cemetery, since not one of the 1,446 markers is inscribed in Spanish.<sup>17</sup>

Old Lorimier Cemetery was the first community cemetery to be established in Cape Girardeau and continued as the only community cemetery for nearly 70 years. Though it was nearing capacity in the late 1800s, the cemetery was actively used from 1808 to 1983 when it was officially closed to burial. The cemetery was managed for several years by a cemetery association, but is now maintained by the city. As the cemetery neared capacity in the late 1800s, a new cemetery was established on 15 acres of land on Caruthers Avenue. The new cemetery was known as The Lorimier Cemetery Association of the City of Cape Girardeau, Missouri and a portion of it was set up for perpetual care. It was deeded to the City in 1945 and is located across town to the west of Old Lorimier Cemetery. This new cemetery now contains 8,670 burials with 9 family mausoleums and a handful of minority burials. With the establishment of the new Lorimier Cemetery, the name of the original cemetery was changed to Old Lorimier to distinguish between the two. A third cemetery, Fairmount, was established around 1882, and is located adjacent to the New Lorimier Cemetery. Like the original cemetery, the Fairmount Cemetery had an African-American and pauper section, but the number of burials in the cemetery is uncertain because no records were kept until 1967. Both Fairmount and New Lorimier Cemetery are still open for burial, and neither represent the early history of the town and its development into a significant outpost and trade center.

Old Lorimier Cemetery is the final resting place for the earliest settlers, movers, and shakers of Cape Girardeau and Cape Girardeau County and is significant to the history of Cape Girardeau and Cape Girardeau County. Persons interred at Old Lorimier Cemetery included the founder of Cape Girardeau, mayors, politicians, judges, prominent businessmen, African-Americans, entrepreneurs, farmers, and soldiers who participated in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Spanish American War, and World War I and II. It was the combination of these diverse individuals that helped to establish and create a viable and sustainable community in Cape Girardeau. In Appendix A, Section 8 are several biographical sketches that depict the importance of the early pioneers/settlers and the significant role they played in the exploration/settlement of Cape Girardeau.

The cemetery had very few burials from 1808 into the 1820s, which could be directly related to the population of the time period. Although the exact population of the town is not documented, the population of the Cape Girardeau District in 1805 was 1,470 with an increase in population occurring after 1810.<sup>18</sup> As the population grew over the years, the number of burials in the cemetery began to increase until the 1900s. The majority of burials occurred from the 1830s to 1910s when Cape Girardeau was expanding. After the 1900s, the cemetery was near full capacity and two new cemeteries on the west side of town were established in 1877 and 1882, providing another location for people to be buried.<sup>19</sup>

Old Lorimier Cemetery contains a total of marked 1,446 burials, of which 1,424 date to the period of

<sup>16</sup> Shoemaker, Folyd C. Missouri Historical Review, "Cape Girardeau, Most American of Missouri's Original Five Counties." Volume L, Number One, October 1995, pg. 49.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, p.4

<sup>18</sup> Houck, Louis. A History of Missouri: From the Earliest Explorations and Settlements until the Admission of the State Into the Union, Volume III. Chicago: R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company, 1908.

<sup>19</sup> Old Lorimier Cemetery, p. 2-3.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

significance. Therefore, 98% of the burials date to the period of significance. Within the nomination's boundary, only 1.5% of the grave markers and monuments were found to be less than 50 years old.

### Significance

Old Lorimier Cemetery is locally significant under **CRITERION A** for its association with the early settlement of Cape Girardeau. It is a representation of the early exploration and settlement of the Cape Girardeau area by many settlers who came to the area from foreign countries and from various states. Old Lorimier Cemetery depicts with its many burials of community members, the evolving sense of community that Cape Girardeau experience throughout the early 1800s into the mid-1900s. The cemetery is significant in illustrating the cultural diversity characteristics of the early settlement of Cape Girardeau. It is an excellent representation of the evolution of burial traditions from the pre-Victorian era, the transition into the Victorian era, into the more modern day burial traditions.

Old Lorimier Cemetery is locally significant under **CRITERION C** for its funerary art, with its excellent representation of the distinctive characteristics of a stylist type of a historic period. It possesses high artistic qualities and common artistic values of the transition of the different historic time periods. The cemetery illustrates the philosophy of an aesthetic movement or tradition of design through its grave markers and funerary art. The grave markers are a historic document that provides insight to the transition of American burial practices from the early nineteenth century into the mid-twentieth century and demonstrates the diverse cultural background of early settlers of the community. Within the cemetery are several family plots in addition to the many individual graves, depicting the social background of burial practices of the wealthy and of the common person. Family plots were normally purchased by people of wealth or of social significance within the community, but the average person or family could not afford to purchase a plot and instead would purchase single lots. The Houck, Wathen, and Rodney families were all well known in the region and each has a family plot in the cemetery. These plots are distinguished by a stone or fence border and contain highly artistic markers. However, individual markers throughout the cemetery could also be as or even more artistic than those found in socially prominent family plots.

In the nineteenth century the perspective toward death and commemoration experienced a dramatic transformation. Prior to the Victorian Era, people had stern viewpoint of death, accentuated by fear and finality. Attitudes toward death began changing during the Victorian Era toward a more melancholy and sentimental feeling about death, the change in outlook is represented in the funerary art on gravestones. Within the cemetery are several exceptional markers that represent the Victorian Era monuments with an extensive number of the markers from the Late Victorian period (1870-1910). Several of the markers and monuments are decorated with funerary art. Old Lorimier cemetery contains many children's markers that depict the stylistic transition between the pre-Victorian Era headstones designed to be smaller versions of adult markers to the Victorian Era where children's markers became very symbolic with distinctive form and style. Prior to the Victorian Era, gravestones tended to be very plain and stark, especially in children's markers. Through the transition of the attitudes toward death and commemoration, children's markers began to be representative of the more elaborate three-dimensional sculptures that convey the sanctity of childhood, depicting its separateness from the adult material world of insincerity. The Victorian children's markers are examples of the atmosphere of the role children played in the Victorian time period and how a child's death solidified the prominent role of children in the Victorian Era.

Adult markers also experienced a transition, becoming more ornate with various flowers, rings, hands, angels, crosses, and other iconography. Gravemarkers became a means of expressions of the emotions of death through funerary art. Other prevalent styles of funerary architecture located within the cemetery

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

**Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

are the Obelisk, a form of the Egyptian Revival form of cemetery art that was popular from the 1840s to 1850s, and markers showing the design motifs of the Gothic Revival and Greek Revival styles. Old Lorimier Cemetery is important historic site due to the exceptional artistic design depicting the transition of funerary art from the period of significance of 1808 to 1955. Examples and descriptions of some of these significant examples of funerary art can be found in Section 7.

The cemetery is locally significant under **CRITERIA CONSIDERATION D** for cemeteries. Old Lorimier Cemetery is significant as the final resting place for the early settlers of Cape Girardeau for its demonstration of the important facet of community history; for its age of early burials in relationship to the early settlement of Cape Girardeau; and funerary art. Old Lorimier Cemetery is the only place within Cape Girardeau that depicts the diversity of the early settlers and their diverse burial rituals. The cemetery contains a significant number of persons of outstanding importance within the community that played a major role in the course of events in the local, Missouri, and national history. Old Lorimier Cemetery is a "historic document" that provides information of the settlement of the community through the many early settlers buried within its boundaries and it gives insight into the transition of burial practices and attitudes of the community while it retains its overall setting of environment. It depicts the aesthetic movement of tradition of design throughout the period of significance 1808 to 1955.

### Appendix A

#### **Prominent Early Settlers and Other Prominent People :**

(Unless noted, source for biographies is: Burials in Old Lorimier Cemetery, Cape Girardeau, MO: 1808-1983, Cape Girardeau County Genealogical Society, 1994. Held at Cape Girardeau County Archives, Jackson, MO).

#### **Sebastian Albert (1828-1895)**

Albert immigrated from France with his parents. He lived in Louisville, KY and then moved to Jackson, MO with his brother John. Sebastian then followed the gold rush to California in 1850. Upon his return to Cape Girardeau, he married Rosa Louise Miles in 1865. Sebastian was also known as "Bass". He owned and operated S. Albert Grocery Co., was an agent for the steamboat lines and later a county judge.

#### **Henry Adolph Astholtz (1840-1923)**

Astholtz was a Civil War color bearer Sergeant in Co. D, 4<sup>th</sup> Mo. Calvary. He was employed in the tanning business and served as deputy clerk of the Common Pleas Court.

#### **Frederick Phillip Bender (1822-1866)**

Bender served in the Hessian army in Germany and received an early discharge in order to immigrate to the United States. He was a saddlemaker for the Union during the Civil War and died from anthrax contracted from cowhides that had been imported from Mexico.

#### **Abraham Z. Block (1837-1850)**

Block was the proprietor of the St. Charles Hotel on Main Street and was reportedly the first person of the Jewish faith to reside in Cape Girardeau.

#### **Uriah Brock (1759-1845)**

Brock was a Revolutionary War soldier, serving from 1775 to 1783. Tradition holds that he resided in the



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

**Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

Judith Ann Crow House, located at 323 Themis Street, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Alexander Buckner (1785-1833)**

Buckner was the President of the Convention and First Grand Master of Masons of the State of Indiana. He was elected and installed as the United States Senator from Missouri on January 12, 1818. Buckner and his wife both died of cholera and were originally buried on their farm. In September of 1897 his remains were interred in Old Lorimier Cemetery and his gravestone erected by the Grand Lodge F & A Masons of the State of Indiana. His efforts helped establish the Unity Masonic Lodge.

### **Andrew Casebolt (1810-1882)**

Casebolt served as a US Marshall of the South District Illinois from 1861 -1864.  
Published *Marble City News* from 1866 through 1878 (name changed to *Cape Girardeau News*.)  
(Goodspeed's)

### **Lucius H. Cheney (1831-1876)**

Cheney was a professor of pedagogics (education) and was named the first president of the Third District Normal School (now Southeast Missouri State University). Cheney remained president of the school until he was accidentally killed in Kentucky. (Goodspeed's)

### **John Dillard Cook (1789-1852)**

Cook graduated with a law degree in Kentucky. He moved to Missouri in 1817 and practiced law in Ste. Genevieve, MO. He was a member of the first Missouri Constitutional convention of 1817 along with his brother, Gen. Nathaniel Cook. Cook was a candidate for Missouri Lt. Governor in 1820. He served as a member of the Missouri Supreme Court in 1822 and resigned to become the Circuit Judge of Cape Girardeau County where he served for 24 years. Cook practiced law in St. Louis until his retirement 1849.

### **Michael Dittlinger (1818-1897)**

His father was a surgeon in the Austrian Army under Napoleon I and the mayor of Palzem from 1812-1848. Dittlinger emigrated from Germany in 1853 with his wife and 2 children. They owned a farm and lime quarry where Kent Library and Houck Field House of Southeast Missouri State University are now located. During the Civil War, Dittlinger's property became Fort B and his house was occupied by Union Forces. Dittlinger served in the Union Army as Captain in Co. C of the Home Guard and later served as the Senior First Lieutenant of Company F of the Second Illinois Light Artillery in Powell's Battalion, fighting both in Corinth and Shiloh among other battles. After the Civil War, Dittlinger served as the County Judge from 1871-1877.(Goodspeed's)

### **Leo Napoleon Doyle (1832-1900)**

Between 1850-1860, Doyle and his brother operated a wood yard that supplied fuel to the riverboats. During the Civil War, Doyle moved to Cape Girardeau and went into the mercantile business. Doyle later became the director of Houck's Missouri and Arkansas Railroad for over 30 years. Doyle contributed stock to make Bloomfield Gravel Road a free public road. In a ledger/diary, Doyle kept a daily weather record as well as principal events occurring in the community.

### **Julia Kleman Gill (1845-1917)**

Gill, born in Ireland, served as a nurse during the Civil War from 1861-1865 in the federal hospital at Mound City, Il. She received a US pension as long as she lived.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

### George Greene (1832-1873)

Greene was a judge of the Court of the Common Pleas and was regarded as the founder of the Cape Girardeau public schools.

### Anton Haas Sr. (1842-1918)

In 1900 he constructed the granitoid steps up the east terraces to the Common Pleas Courthouse using Portland cement that had been brought from England as ballast when ships came to New Orleans for cotton.

### Elvira W. Harris (1818-1908)

Harris started Doyle's Hat Shop located at 118 Themis. Elvira made regular trips via steamboat to Cincinnati, Chicago and New York to buy materials to make the hats. Elvira was said to have gotten into a scrape with "Yankee" soldiers when they came through the city during the Civil War. She was said to have proudly stepped out of her shop and wave the Rebel flag in front of them. The soldiers retaliated by throwing her merchandise into the street and then taking her to Cincinnati where she was jailed for a short time. Doyle's Hat Shop operated until 1960 and reputedly had the distinction of being the oldest retail millinery store in the United States and the oldest retail store in Cape Girardeau.

### George Henderson (1781-1836)

From 1807-1813, Henderson served as judge of the Probate Court, Recorder, auditor and upon the organization of Cape Girardeau County, was appointed treasurer and served several terms as the judge of the County Court. From 1817 to 1834, Henderson served as judge of the Court of Common Pleas. In addition, Henderson was a trustee to erect the Lutheran School located at the corner of Fountain and Meriwether streets. George Henderson was one of the earliest settlers in the Cape Girardeau District and considered a man of "considerable prominence."

### Louis Houck (1840-1925)

He was known as a "Lawyer, Author and Builder." Houck worked in his father's print shop. In 1860 he started a German-language newspaper in Belleville, IL. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1862. Houck moved to St. Louis, Missouri and served as Assistant United States District Attorney. Moving to Cape Girardeau in 1869, Houck was appointed President of the Board of Regents of the State Normal School (now Southeast Missouri State University) and built the first railroad into Cape Girardeau. Houck built railroads south of Cape Girardeau to the Arkansas line and to St. Francois County on the north. His contributions to the transportation system of Southeast Missouri is immeasurable. (pg.263, C.G. Biography of a City). Houck was also the author of two major books, The History of Missouri and the Spanish Regime in Missouri.

### Joseph Lansmon (1812-1895)

Lansmon was born in Alsace-Lorraine under the name Joseph Hoch. Lansmon was a skilled stonemason who fled to America under the Lansmon name to avoid service in the German army. He operated the first brick and lime kiln in Cape County. Among the structures credited to Lansmon: St. Vincent's College (now the River Campus), St. Charles Hotel, the Riverview Hotel, St. Mary's Cathedral Church, the Cape Girardeau County Courthouse in Jackson Mo., St. Mary's Seminary in Perryville, Mo., the Common Pleas Courthouse, the first Academic Hall at Southeast Missouri State University, the Burfordville Mill and bridge and many homes in the area.

### George H. Lewis (1801-1874)

Lewis was a second cousin, three times removed, to George Washington. Soon after the Civil War

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

**Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

ended, the government decided to erect permanent buildings at Jefferson Barracks, in St. Louis. Lewis was hired to procure the lumber and came to Southeast Missouri to get cypress logs. He built a house on top of cypress stumps in the swamps to live in, but also had a room in the St. Charles Hotel for when his family visited. He died in the hotel.

### **Levi Luther Lightner (1793-1867)**

He was the second postmaster of Cape Girardeau and operated a still house in Cape in 1826. In 1830, Lightner was one of the trustees to purchase a lot and construct a school at the corner of Fountain and Merriwether Streets. He also ran a store downtown from 1831-1836, after which he moved to Illinois and donated land for the Courthouse at Thebes. Lightner served as the First County Judge of Alexander County, IL. He was said to have entertained Abraham Lincoln when he was in court in Thebes. Lightner was married three times, but was brought back to Cape Girardeau to be buried by his first wife.

**Charlotte Lorimier** – Born in Canada around 1758, died in 1808. Charlotte Lorimier, a Shawnee, was the wife of Commandant Louis Lorimier, founder of Cape Girardeau. Lorimier established the cemetery when Charlotte died. Hers was the first burial in the cemetery.

### **Louis Lorimier (1749-1812)**

Lorimier was born in Canada, and was a private merchant during the Revolutionary War, who repeatedly demonstrated his loyalty to the Crown. There have been two Revolutionary incidents reported involving Lorimier. One took place in 1778 when Lorimier and another Frenchman accompanied a Shawnee War party that surprised and captured Daniel Boone and 26 other Kentucky salt makers. The second occurred in the last Revolutionary War battle in the Ohio Valley, when in 1782, Kentucky militias led by George Rogers Clark (brother of William Clark) attacked Shawnee towns on the Great Miami but also plundered and burned Lorimier's trading post. Following the destruction of his store, Lorimier moved to Cape Girardeau where he established his second trading post, and upon receiving land grants from the Spanish government, platted out the town of Cape Girardeau. (C.G. Biography of a City)

### **William Scripps (1749-1823)**

Scripps immigrated from London in 1791, came to Virginia in 1801, and then Cape Girardeau in 1808. The first Protestant sermon preached by Samuel Parker, elder of the Methodist Church, was at Scripps' home. A tanner by trade, Scripps was also the great great grandfather of Robert Payne Scripps, head of Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers.

**Hiram Love Sloan** – Died 1855. Sloan was a locally wealthy land owner who migrated from Iredell County North Carolina. His property included many slaves that were auctioned off with the rest of his property after his death to settle his estate.

### **Samuel Robert Sloan (1832-1862)**

Son of Hiram Sloan, Sloan raised the first company of Confederate Soldiers in Cape Girardeau, known as the Marble City Guards. He married Mary Aletha Brown, daughter of Lt. Governor Wilson Brown. The wedding took place at Governor Brown's mansion, west of Good Hope Street in Cape Girardeau.

### **Robert Sturdivant (1817-1915)**

Sturdivant was the founder of Sturdivant Bank. He rode across the country on horseback to Cape Girardeau in 1835. Sturdivant was a merchant, teacher and publisher of the Cape Girardeau *Patriot*, a Whig newspaper. "For half a century he has been one of the foremost citizens of Cape Girardeau, and no man has done more to advance the interests of the town." (Goodspeed).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

### Col. George Thilenius (1829-1910)

He immigrated to the United States from Germany with his parents following the failed German revolution of 1848. They settled in St. Louis, MO. After being in business with his father in St. Louis, Thilenius went to Matarzas, Cuba, where he worked in the Belcher sugar refinery for three years. He then returned to the States in 1857 settling in Cape Girardeau. Thilenius organized the Home Guards for the Union and recruited 110 civilians to construct Forts A, B, C and D during the Civil War. He was a delegate to the Drake Convention and signed the ordinance abolishing slavery in Missouri. Thilenius served as Mayor of Cape Girardeau and also Representative of the Missouri General Assembly. He ran a flour mill and his flour took the first premium at both the Vienna Exposition and the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia. His home, Longview, is on the National Register of Historic Places and was constructed in the middle of his vineyard and winery.

### Margarethe Fromann Thilenius (1828-1909)

Margarethe Thilenius was the wife of Col. George Thilenius. Before immigrating to the United States, she served as the Lady in waiting to the Duchess of Coburg.

### Capt. John C. Watson (1796-1866)

Watson was a river pilot on the Mississippi River for 24 years.

### Nicholas Wichterich (1827-1900)

Wichterich immigrated to Cape Girardeau around 1848. Prior to this immigration, he attended the University of Bonn and was a classmate of Carl Schurz. Wichterich participated in the Rebellion of 1848. After coming to Cape, Wichterich became the Cape Girardeau City Treasurer for 32 years. He was also in the milling business and served as a Lt. in the Home Guard during the Civil War.

### African-American

#### Emmaline Brown (1839-1924)

Emmaline was born into slavery and was owned and raised by the families of Lt. Gov. Wilson Brown and later Robert Giboney. She was reputed to have nursed among the white families and assisted bringing into this world many of Cape Girardeau's citizens.

### Civil War Soldiers

Christian Allers, Company I 1st MO Eng., Born 1832, Died, 1884  
Adolph Astholtz, Color bearer, Sergeant, Company D, 4th MO Cavalry, b.1840, d. 1923  
Hortance Bartman, Corporal, Company D, MO Home Guards, b. 1827, d. 1906  
Joseph Bena, Company B, 1st MO Cavalry, b`1837, d. 1885  
Dr. August Bierwirth, Company H, 30 MO Infantry, bd. 1868  
L.E. Bierwirth, Company H, 30 MO Infantry  
William Blank, Company D, MO Home Guards  
Charles A. Bock, Company F, 2nd IL. Light Artillery, B. 1815, d. 1892  
Friedrich Bock, Company A, Cape Battalion MO Home Guard, b. 1814, d. 1889  
Henry Bode, 1 C.A. Cape Battalion, MO Home Guard  
Lambert Bolk, Company F, 2nd IL Light Artillery, b. 1820, d. 1880  
Joseph Bover, Company L, 1st MO Engineers  
Barnard Breaker, Company L, 1st MO Engineers

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

J.M. Brown, Company A, IL Cavalry and Company F, 15th IL Cavalry  
 Mathias Bruederle, Company B, 5th MO Cavalry  
 Louis Bruenig, Company I, 1st MO Engineers d 1878  
 Henry Brune, Company B, 2nd IL Artillery, d. 1874  
 William Buchanan, Sgt. Company F 2nd IL Artillery, d.1877  
 August Birk, Company F. 2nd IL Artillery  
 George Butterwick, Company R, 2nd MO Infantry  
 Michael Dittlinger, Captain Company C of Home Guard and Sr. 1st Lt. Company F, 2nd IL Artillery Light  
 James Elliss, Company L, 2nd Regiment USM  
 Rolla Gertel, Company F, b. 1829  
 Julia Gill, Nurse, Federal Hospital Mound City, IL b. 1845, d. 1918  
 Henry Guenther, Sergant Company K, 5th MO SM Cavalry  
 Fred Habeck, Company A, 15th IL Cavalry  
 Edward Hanf, Company A, 1st MO Cavalry  
 Michael Herbst, Corporal Company I, 1st MO Engineers, d. 1899  
 Valentine Herold, Company F, 2nd IL Artillery, d 1883  
 Hillman, Company F, 2nd IL Artillery  
 Henry Hinze, 1st MO Engineers, b. 1823, d. 1873  
 Henry Holt, Illinois Cavalry  
 Henry Horn, Company F, 2nd IL Cavalry, b. 1832, d. 1900  
 Ernest Hundertmark, Company F, 2nd IL Artillery  
 Charles F. Hunze, Company A, 1st IL Cavalry and PVT A 15th IL Cavalry, b. 1838, d. 1909  
 John Johnson, Company E, 16th Iowa Infantry  
 Anton Ketterer, Company C, Cape First Battalion, N. MO Home Guards, b. 1841, d. 1899  
 Conrad Klages, Company K, 8th MO Infantry  
 Capt. Ferd Koch, Company F, 56th Regiment EMM, b. 1839, d 1889  
 Henry Krull, Company I, 1st MO Engineers, b. 1820-23 d. 1877  
 Henry Kurre, Company A, 15th IL Cavalry  
 Jacob Lutman, Company I, 1st MO Engineers, b. 1834, d. 1904  
 Bernard Marion, Company B 30th IL Infantry  
 John Mainz, Private, Company L, 10th MO Cavalry, b. 1826, d. 1900  
 JJ Moore, Company D, Cape Girardeau Battallion MO Home Guard  
 J.W. Nailer, Company A, 1st MO Engineers  
 Wm.Oberheide, Lieut.Company O, b. 1839, d. 1870  
 Christ. Oelkers, Company B 5th MO Cavalry  
 Michael Ourth, Company K 2nd MO Cavalry, d. 1905  
 Henry Rabich, Sgt., Company I, 1st MO Engineers, b. 1827, d. 1906  
 Louis Reiner, Corporal Company C 1st MO Engineers d. 1900  
 Frederick Ringe, Company K, 5th MO S M Cavalry  
 Louis Lorimier Rodney, Confederate Veteran of the Civil War, b. 1842, d. 1907  
 John Roling, Company B, Cape Girardeau MO Home Guards  
 Fred K. Russler, Company B, 2nd MO Infantry, b. 1837, d. 1919  
 Christian Saesemann, Company K, 5th MO S. M. Cavalry,  
 John Sander, Company E, 2nd IL , b. 1828, d. 1898  
 Frek Schiefelbein, Company K, 5th MO SM Cavalry, d. 1877  
 F.A. Schindler, Sgt. Company K, 5th MO SM Cavalry  
 Franz Schmidt, Company A, Cape Girardeau Battallion, MO Home Guard d. 1912

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

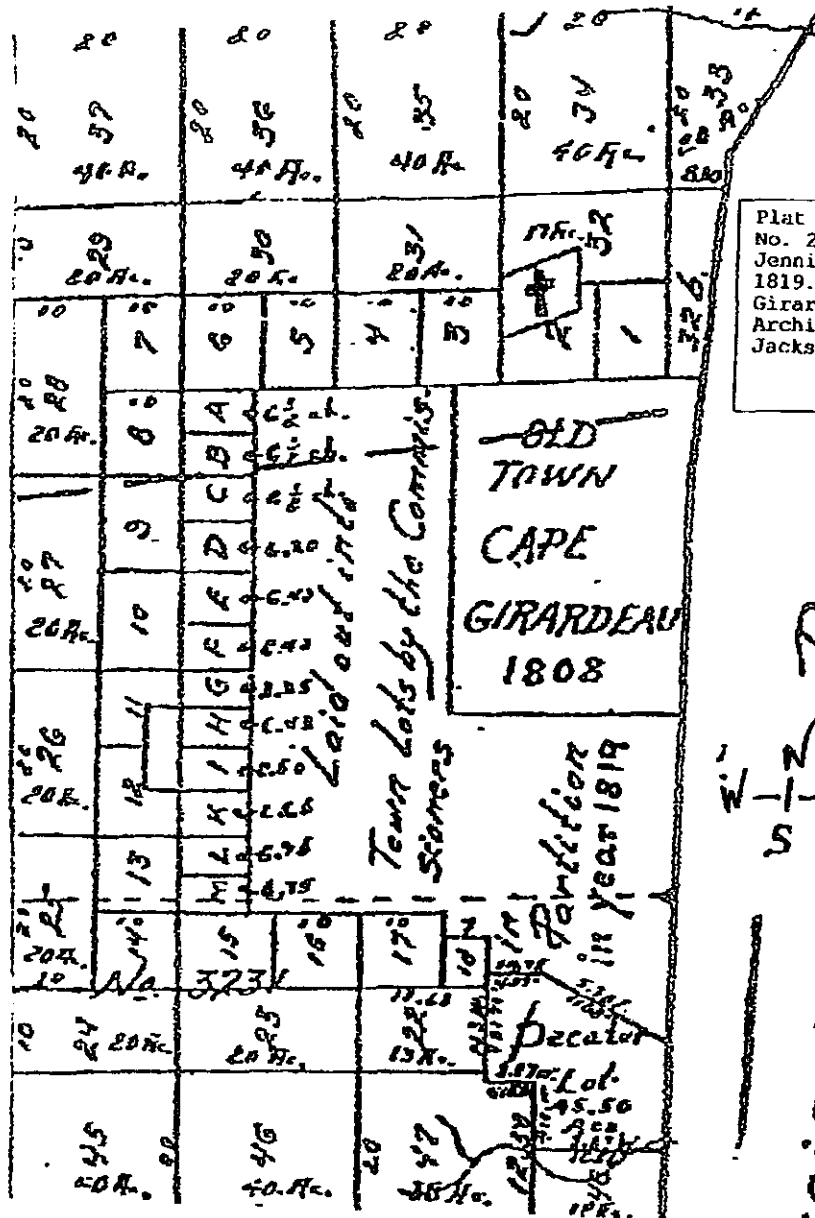
John Schneider, Company G Drummer, 15 MO Infantry, d. 1927  
 Christian Schuette, Company F, 2nd IL Artillery, b. 1828, d. 1870  
 Otto Selle, Company F, 2nd IL Artillery  
 Samuel R. Sloan, raised first company of Confederate soldiers, Marble City Guards  
 David Small, 11 Cavalry MO Volunteers Company G., d. 1864  
 Phillip Smith, Company F 2nd IL Artillery, b. 1811, d. 1886  
 Frank Steck, Company D Cape Girardeau Battallion MO Home Guards, b. 1826 d. 1870- 1876  
 Frank Strack, Company G 2nd MO Infantry, b. 1837, d. 1890  
 John Stubenraugh, Company C. Scott County MO Home Guards, d. 1900  
 Silvester Sweat, Company A 51st MO Infantry, b. 1846, d. 1865  
 W.M. Theuerkauf, Company A MO Home Guards, b. 1829, d. 1889  
 George Thilenius, Lieut. Company A, MO Home Guards, b. 1829, d. 1910  
 Julius Toellner, Company B, 1st MO Engineers, d. 1887  
 August Traupe, Company C, 2nd MO Infantry  
 George Vogt, Company K, 24th IL Infantry, d. 1891  
 Frank Volkert, Corporal, Company C, MO Home Guards, B. 1826, d. 1911  
 Thomas Franklin Wheeler, MO State Guards, Confederacy, b. 1843, d. 1891  
 George Henderson Whiteaker, Company D. 47th MO Infantry, b. 1820, d. 1883  
 Nicholas Wichterich, Lieut. in MO Home Guard, b. 1827, d. 1900  
 George Wiegand, Company B 5th MO Cavalry, d. 1872  
 Elijah Wilkes, Company A, 1st MO Engineers, b. 1817, d. 1867  
 Francis Willeke, Company A, Cape Girardeau Battallion, MO Home Guards, d. 1867  
 John Whitmar, Company B, 3rd MO SM Cavalry  
 F.O. Wittenborn, Company C, MO Home Guards  
 Christian Wolff, Company K, 8th MO Infantry, b. 1830, d. 1872  
 Louis Wolter, Company B, MO Home Guards  
 Joseph Wray, Company A 15th IL Cavalry, Company B, Cape Girardeau Home Guards, b. 1807, d. 1871  
 Ford Yaeger, Capt. Company G, 7th IL Infantry

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 20

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 21

**Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO**

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Old Lorimier Cemetery is comprised of approximately five acres in the city Block 27, Lot 22 in Cape Girardeau. The cemetery is bounded by Fountain Street to the west, Park Drive to the south, Spanish Street to east, and by Mill Street to the north. Boundaries are also shown on the attached map

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

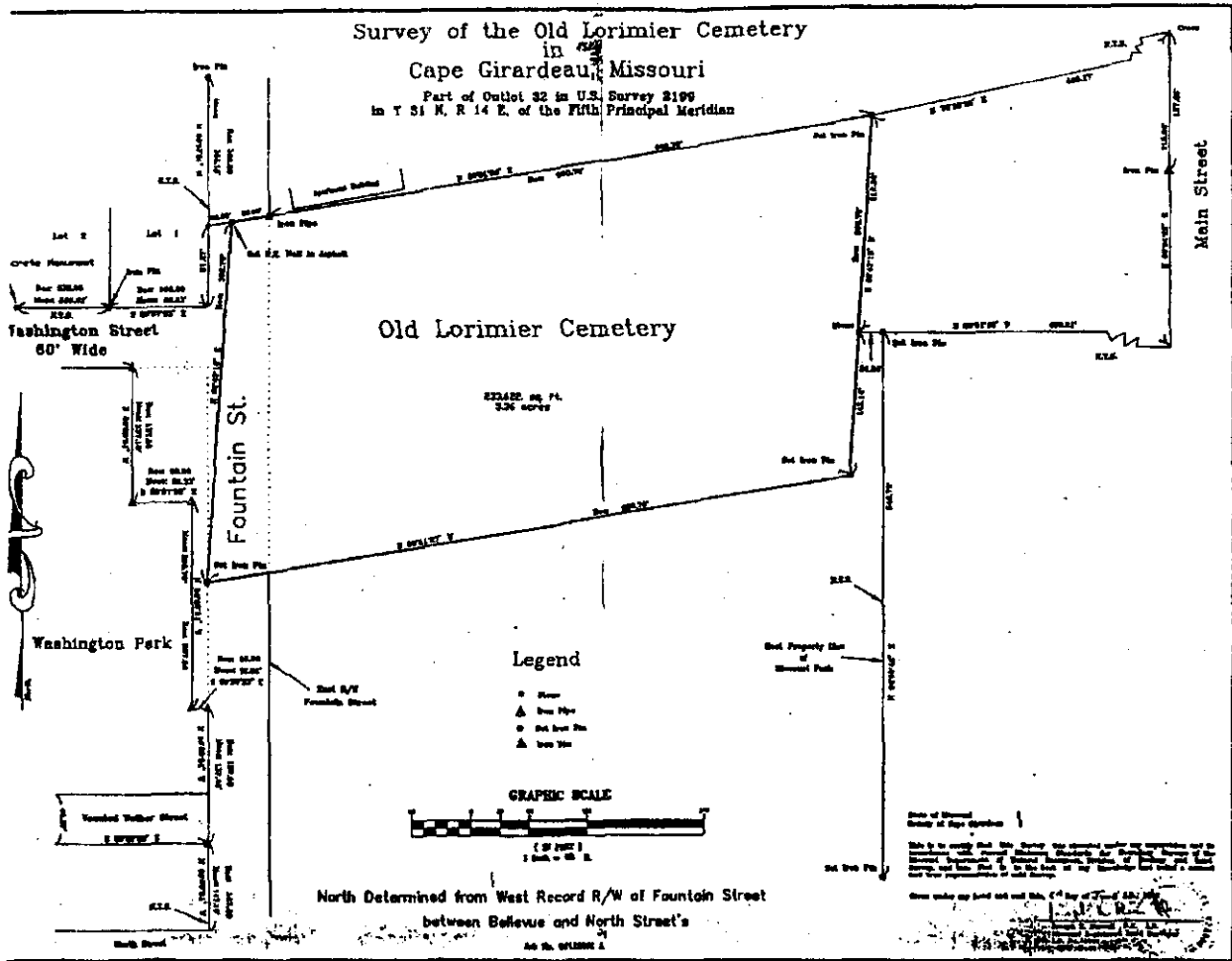
The selected boundary includes all the property historically associated with the Old Lorimier Cemetery.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 22

Old Lorimier Cemetery  
Cape Girardeau County, MO



Source: Survey of the Old Lorimier Cemetery, Division of Planning Services, Cape Girardeau, City Hall, Cape Girardeau, MO.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 23

**Old Lorimier Cemetery**  
**Cape Girardeau County, MO**

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### Photograph Log

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Old Lorimier Cemetery

Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

Photographer: Terri Foley

January 2005

Negatives in possession of Terri Foley, 1615 Themis, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Photo No. 1: View from southwest, looking southeast.

Photo No. 2: View from west (center), looking east (center).

Photo No. 3: View from northwest, looking east.

Photo No. 4: View from east, looking west.

Photo No. 5: View from east, looking south.

Photo No. 6: Cora A. Burgess gravemarker

Photo No. 7: View from northeast, looking southwest.

Photo No. 8: View from east, looking up center.

Photo No. 9: Child gravemarker located in west section.

Photo No. 10: Wathen Family Plot

Photo No. 11: Wathen Family Plot

Photo No. 12: Scribbs gravemarker

Photo No. 13: Louis Houck Family Plot

Photo No. 14: Mamie Lee Lilly gravemarker, located southwest section.

Photo No. 15: Michael A. Heisserer gravemarker.

Photo No. 16: Grouping of Obelisk markers located in center east section, looking west.

Photo No. 17: Obelisk marker located in center section.

Photo No. 18: Gravemarker in southeast section, looking southwest with Lorimier Family Plot in background.

Photo No. 19: Roth gravemarker located in northwest section.



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Case 508 20 10

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4135

20' 00"

4134

TELEPHONE COURSE

28

1 Mile  
3/4 Mile  
CAPE GIRARDEAU CO  
ALEXANDER CO

Athletic Club

Sloop

Borner Cem

Espino Park

Athletic Field

ARENAS PARK





