The Cemetery

Established in 1860 and designed by landscape architects, O.C. Simonds and H.W.S. Cleveland, Graceland Cemetery is truly a haven in the city. Massive oaks, elms and maples stand in testament to the architecturally signficant monuments and markers that cover 119 acres of land.

Walk through the Cemetery and pay your respects to pioneers like Dexter Graves and John Kinzie, early settlers in Chicago, and to business leaders such as developer Potter Palmer, railroad car manufacturer George Pullman and Cyrus Hall McCormick, who revolutionized American agriculture with the invention of the mechanized reaper and other farm machinery.

Other Chicago "giants" buried here include civic planners and builders Daniel Burnham and Charles Wacker; Marshall Field, the retailing genius; Martin Ryerson, lumber merchant and developer; newspaper publisher Victor Lawson; meatpacker Phillip D. Armour; and Carter H. Harrison, Sr., five-term mayor of Chicago.

World-famous Chicago architects such as John Root, William Holabird, Louis Sullivan, Howard Van Doren Shaw, William LeBaron Jenney and Ludwig Mies Van der Rohe are also buried here. The monuments and buildings designed by Sullivan, Holabird & Roche and McKim, Mead & White, among others, are still viewed as primary examples of their work.

As part of its ongoing restoration, Graceland recently completed construction of a new columbarium which is designed to reflect the enduring nineteenth century style of the Cemetery.

Open to all, Chicagoans and tourists can relax amid the quiet beauty of Graceland's curving tree-lined lanes. We welcome your visits and inquiries and ask only in return that your conduct, while our guest, demonstrates a respect for those who are buried here.

O. C. Simonds is the person responsible for the beauty of Graceland Cemetery as we know it today. Simonds served as the Cemetery's superintendent and chief landscape architect from 1881 until 1898. He continued working at the Cemetery until his death in 1931. During his tenure, Simonds transformed Graceland into a masterpiece of midwestern landscape architecture for which the Cemetery was awarded a medal of excellence at the Paris Exposition of 1900. Graceland was also honored by acceptance on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.



O.C. Simonds 1855-1931

Simonds' vision for Graceland was of a beautifully landscaped park created by an abundance of plantings with carefully planned vistas and natural topographical and water features. The park reflects a celebration of life. Simonds' landscape design represents the classical integration of building and landscape, involving a number of distinctive monuments. This is the design that Simonds created, developed, and finally perfected in his long tenure as cemetery landscape architect.

Because of Simonds vision and dedication, landscape historians regard Graceland Cemetery as "one of the most remarkable park-like cemeteries of the Western world."



Watel Design

GUIDE OF GRACELAND CEMETERY

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Potter Palmer
1826-1902
Chicago developer and merchant

1902 McKim, Mead & White



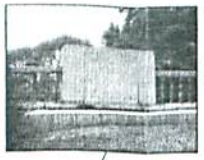
Henry H. Getty
1837-1920
Lumber merchant

1890 Louis Sullivan



Henry H. Honoré
1823-1916
Developer

1906 McKim, Mead & White



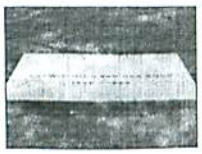
William O. Goodman
1848-1936
Lumber magnate

1928 Howard Van Doren Shaw

Willliam W. Kimball
1828-1904
Piano manufacturer

1905 McKim, Mead & White





L. Mies van der Rohe
1886-1969
Architect

1969 Dirk Lohan



Marshall Field
1835-1906
Founder of retailing empire

1906 Henry Bacon, Daniel Chester French



William J. Chalmers
1852-1938
Business leader

1924 Graham, Anderson, Probst & White



James Y. Sanger
1814-1867
Early member Illinois militia and businessman

1905 Dean & Dean



Howard Van Doren Shaw
1868-1926
Architect

1906 Howard Van Doren Shaw



Chapel & Crematorium
1888 Holabird & Roche

Columbarium
1995 Eifler & Assoc., Wolff Assoc.



Dexter Graves
1789-1845
Hotelier

1909 Lorado Taft



John W. Root
1850-1891
Architect

1894 Burnham & Root, Atwood, Wegman

Victor F. Lawson
1850-1925
Newspaper publisher

1931 Lorado Taft





Louis H. Sullivan
1856-1924
Architect

1924
Tallmadge, Watson



Martin A. Ryerson
1818-1887
Lumber merchant and developer

1889 Louis Sullivan



George M. Pullman
1831-1897
Railroad car manufacturer

1897 Solon Bemen



Peter Schoenhofen
1827-1893
Brewer

1891 Richard Schmidt

