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# Saint Louis Cemetery

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Coordinates: 29°57′25″N 90°4′34″W﻿ / ﻿﻿ / ﻿

***Saint Louis Cemetery*** is the name of three **Roman Catholic cemeteries** in **New Orleans, Louisiana**. All of these graves are above ground vaults; most were constructed in the 18th century and 19th century.

Doug Keister, author/photographer of *Going Out in Style: The Architecture of Eternity* states that

The custom of above-ground burial in New Orleans is a mixture of folklore and fact.<sup>[1]</sup>

The vaults are in fact more due to French and Spanish tradition than they are to water table problems.<sup>[2]</sup>

Cemeteries #1 and #2 are included on the **Louisiana African American Heritage Trail**.

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## Saint Louis #1

[edit]

St. Louis Cemetery #1 is the oldest and most famous. It was opened in 1789, replacing the city's older St. Peter Cemetery (no longer in existence) as the main burial ground when the city was redesigned after a fire in 1788.

It is 8 blocks from the **Mississippi River**, on the north side of **Basin Street**, one block beyond the inland border of the **French Quarter**. It borders the Iberville **housing project**. It has been in continuous use since its foundation. The nonprofit group **Save Our Cemeteries** and commercial businesses offer tours for a fee.

Famous New Orleanians buried in St. Louis #1 include **Etienne de Boré**, wealthy pioneer of the sugar industry and the first mayor of New Orleans; **Homer Plessy**, the plaintiff from the landmark 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision on civil rights; and **Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial**, the first African-American mayor of New Orleans.

The renowned Voodoo priestess **Marie Laveau** is believed to be interred in the Glapion family crypt. Other notable New Orleanians here include **Bernard de Marigny**, the French-Creole playboy who brought the game of **craps** to the United States; **Barthelemy Lafon**, the architect and surveyor who allegedly became one of **Jean Lafitte's pirates**; and **Paul Morphy**, one of the earliest **world champions of chess**. **Delphine LaLaurie** is also believed to lay in rest here. Architect and engineer **Benjamin Latrobe** was buried there after dying from yellow fever in 1820 while doing engineering for the New Orleans water works.



Saint Louis Cemetery #1 with newly renovated vaults

The cemetery spans just one square block but is the resting place of many thousands. A Protestant section (generally not vaulted) lies in the north-west section.



Wikimedia Commons has media related to: ***St Louis Cemetery 1***

## Saint Louis #2

[edit]

St. Louis #2 is located some 3 blocks back from St. Louis #1, bordering **Claiborne Avenue**. It was consecrated in 1823. A number of notable **jazz** and **rhythm & blues** musicians

are buried here, including **Danny Barker** and **Ernie K. Doe**. Also entombed here is **Dominique You**, a notorious **pirate Jean Lafitte** who assisted in the defense of the city against the British in the **Battle of New Orleans**. **Andre Cailloux**, African-American hero of the **American Civil War** is also buried here.

The cemetery received minor flooding during the aftermath of **Hurricane Katrina**, and its tombs seemed virtually untouched by the storm when the water went down, aside from the brownish waterline visible on all structures that were flooded.

There are many notable citizens of 19th and 20th century New Orleans laid to rest here. For example the tomb of Venerable Mother **Henriette DeLille**, who is a candidate for **sainthood** by the Catholic Church, Jean Baptiste Dupeire (1795–1874) prominent citizen of New Orleans, among others.

It was listed in **National Register of Historic Places** in 1975.

Politicians interred or entombed here:

- Pierre Soulé** (1801–1870) of New Orleans, Orleans Parish, La. Born in France, August 28, 1801. Member of Louisiana state senate, 1845; U.S. Senator from Louisiana, 1847, 1849–53; U.S. Minister to Spain, 1853–55; general in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Died in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, La., March 26, 1870.
- Charles Genois** (c.1793-1866) of New Orleans, Orleans Parish, La. Whig Mayor of New Orleans, La., 1838-40. Died August 30, 1866.
- Robert Brown Elliott** (1842–1884), also known as R. B. Elliott, of South Carolina. Born in Massachusetts, 1842. Republican. Delegate to Republican National Convention from South Carolina, 1868 (alternate), 1880; member of South Carolina state legislature; U.S. Representative from South Carolina 3rd District, 1871-75. Black. Died in 1884.
- Paul Capdevielle** (1844–1922) of New Orleans, Orleans Parish, La. Born in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, La., 1842. Mayor of New Orleans, La., 1900-04. Died in Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, Miss., 1922.
- Carleton Hunt** (1836–1921) of Louisiana. Born in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, La., January 1, 1836. Nephew of Theodore Gaillard Hunt. Democrat. Served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War; U.S. Representative from Louisiana 1st District, 1883-85. Died August 14, 1921.
- Ignacy Szymański** (1806–1874) was a Polish and American soldier. Born in New Orleans. He served in the Confederate States Army during the American Civil War. He was appointed to colonel of Chalmette Regiment, mainly made of Scandinavian immigrants from the Louisiana State Militia.
- Dominique You: Privateer.

## Saint Louis #3

[edit]

St. Louis #3 is located some 2 miles (3.2 km) back from the French Quarter, some 30 blocks from the Mississippi, fronting **Esplanade Avenue** near **Bayou St. John**. It opened in 1854. The **crypts** on average are more elaborate than at the other St. Louis cemeteries, including a number of fine 19th century **marble** tombs. Those entombed include **ragtime** composer **Paul Sarebresole**, photographer **E. J. Bellocq** and painter **Ralston Crawford**.

St. Louis #3 also includes a **Greek Orthodox** section. The cemetery was heavily flooded during the aftermath of **Hurricane Katrina** in 2005, but its tombs escaped relatively unscathed. There was some plaster damage from debris.

## See also

[edit]

- List of United States cemeteries

## References

[edit]

- ↑ http://www.experienceneworleans.com/deadcity1.html
- ↑ http://www.tripsmarter.com/neworleans/archives/cemeteries.htm
- ↑ ***a*** ***b*** "National Register Information System". *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service. 2009-03-13.

## External links

[edit]

- Clickable map of St. Louis #1

<span><span></span></span>	<b>U.S. National Register of Historic Places</b> <span>[hide]</span>
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