**Metairie Cemetery and Lake Lawn Park Mausoleum**

Metairie Cemetery has a long history, beginning with the conversion of a bankrupt race track to a burial ground in the mid-19th century. As the map shows, the designers followed the track in laying out the original cemetery. The remains of Bayou Metairie form the northern boundary of the racetrack section. Over the years, the cemetery expanded, merging in the 1970s with the neighboring Lake Lawn Cemetery. In December 1991 the grounds were placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Wonderful examples of stained glass as well as sculpture are found throughout the cemetery, and. the map documents marks tombs with stained glass. Peer into the tombs that seem bathed in light, and you will discover these windowsand maybe more! The glass ranges from flowers to traditional New Testament subjects. Others house non-iconic windows of bright or peaceful colors.

One of the first community mausoleums in Louisiana, Lake Lawn Park Mausoleum dates to 1949. The windows here serve a practical functionproviding fresh, cooling air for the large and sprawling building.

Most of the windows in the Lake Lawn Park Mausoleum are unsigned, but the Wippell and Willet studios signed a few. A third company, the Reinarts Studio of Winona, Minnesota, has created all the post-1980 windows, which were installed by Claude Lips of Metairie. The windows feature New Testament scenes or familiar saints. All are composed of a central scene surrounded by translucent glass, permitting more light to enter than would a window completely occupied by stained glass. Despite the general uniformity of layout and of type font, however, the distinct styles allow us to attribute most of the windows to these three studios.

The J. Wippell Company of Exeter, England, was established in 1789. Not surprisingly, the style of its windows here is the most traditional, with the most detailed shading. The Willet Studio of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has produced stained glass for over a hundred years. Now merged with the Hauser Studio, also of Winona, Minnesota, it is one of the largest makers of stained glass in the world. At Lake Lawn Park, its windows date to the 1970s and are less detailed than those from Wippell.

The Reinarts Studio has been creating stained glass since 1960 and is the newest company represented here. Its spare style could be considered either modern or as hearkening back to the more primitive style of medieval glass. Many of the windows are dedicated to the memory of loved ones. Donors, in consultation with the cemetery staff, select a theme for the window, and the studio then designs and executes the scene.

A variety of other statuary and artwork in the mausoleum help lift visitors spirits. Two large copper enamel pieces were created by Ruth Goliwas, a New Orleans artist whose stained glass and other art can be seen at St. Peter Claver Church and St. Angela Merici Church.

**Stained Glass of Lake Lawn Park Mausoleum**

*Numbers refer to floor plan*

1. He grew in stature and wisdom (1967, Wippell, Great Britain)

2. And all that heard Him were astonished (Wippell, Great Britain)

3. Ye shall be witnesses

4. Filled with the Holy Ghost

5. I say unto thee, Arise

6. Ye are the branches

7. Jesus rose and calmed the winds and the sea (1973, Willet)

8. Be not afraid. I go before you.

9. I am the good shepherd

10 Truly this was the Son of God

11. I have found my sheep that was lost

12. Unto what is the Kingdom of God like?

13. Lords Prayer (Willet)

14. Peace I give to you

15. They all did eat and were filled

16. No fault in this man

17. Shed for you

18. Lazarus, come forth

19. Blessed be the king

20. Not as I will but as thou wilt

21. A well of water springing up into everlasting life

22. My Lord and my God

23. It is I; be not afraid (1970, Willet)

24. This is my beloved son

25. Blessed art they that mourn

26. He was lost and is found (1975, Willet)

27. Of such is the kingdom of heaven

28. They crucified him

29. This beginning of miracles did Jesus at Cana

30. He is not here but is risen

31. Mother and Child *(dalle de verre)*

Other Art

32. Mosaic doorway

33. Joseph and Mary with newborn Christ (mosaic)

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