

DATE: November 10, 2006

TO: Historic District Commission

FROM: Community Development Department

SUBJECT: **The nomination of the Odd Fellows and the Masonic Cemeteries within the Lakeside Memorial Lawn Cemetery at 1201 Forrest Street to the Cultural Resource Inventory List**

BACKGROUND

The Cultural Resource Inventory List

When the City of Folsom Historic Preservation Master Plan was approved in November 1998, the initial list of locally significant cultural resources was incorporated with the plan. Among the listed structures and properties were the Odd Fellows and the Masonic Cemeteries within Lakeside Memorial Lawn Cemetery at 1201 Forrest Street (see Attachment 4: Historical Churches and Cemeteries).

Lakeside Memorial Lawn Cemetery

The current Lakeside Memorial Lawn Cemetery at 1201 Forrest Street includes five historic burial grounds that originally were designated to public use or purchased by private organizations. These cemeteries are:

- The Negro Bar Cemetery (later referred to as the Citizens Cemetery);
- The Cook's or American Legion Cemetery (later referred to as the Citizens Cemetery);
- The Jewish Cemetery;
- The Odd Fellows Cemetery; and
- The Masonic Cemetery

The Negro Bar Cemetery was originally associated with the Negro Bar mining camp. Burials at this cemetery started as early as 1849. References to the Citizens Cemetery appear in church records and newspaper obituaries until 1942.

NOMINATION

The Community Development Department has received a nomination package for the listing of the Odd Fellows and Masonic Cemeteries within the Lakeside Memorial Lawn Cemetery at 1201 Forrest Street as a locally significant historical site. The submitted registration form was prepared by the Heritage Preservation League of Folsom. Based on the previous listing of this property in the 'Historic Preservation Master Plan', staff has determined that the cemeteries are automatically eligible for listing and a decision by the Historic District Commission will not be required.

As a part of the information provided in the nomination package, the history of the Odd Fellows and Masonic Cemeteries has been documented. The two cemeteries were purchased jointly by the Granite Lodge of Odd Fellows and the Natoma Lodge of Masons in 1862. The property is located west of the historic Mormon Street (currently the parking area for the Lakeside Cemetery) and covers approximately 1.5-acres. Among the distinctive features of the cemeteries are the California Date Palms that surround

the Odd Fellows Cemetery and the cedar trees within the Masonic Cemetery. In addition, the eight family plots of the Masonic Cemetery are identified by raised horizontal markers within granite copings.

The families buried within the Odd Fellows and Masonic Cemeteries include some of the early business owners and residents of the Folsom area. In 1969 the two burial grounds were sold to Lakeside Memorial Lawn Cemetery. The owners of Lakeside Cemetery have installed monuments close to the Mormon Street parking lot that identify the two cemetery sites (see Attachment 2, Nomination Package).

CRITERIA FOR LISTING AND RESOURCE INTEGRITY

The Historic Preservation Master Plan specifies the following review criteria regarding the listing of a site or structure in the City's Cultural Resources Inventory:

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- Property embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or construction method, or represent the work of a creative individual; or
- Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in Folsom's prehistory or history.

In order to qualify for the Cultural Resources Inventory, a property must meet one of the four listed criteria. As previously determined by the City Council and as demonstrated by the information provided in the nomination package, the Odd Fellows and Masonic Cemeteries, meet the criterions for listing as established by the Historic Preservation Master Plan.

The Master Plan includes guidelines for the assessment of potential resources. The significance of a resource is established by answering the questions: why, where and when the property is important and the integrity of a resource can be determined by evaluating: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. In order to qualify for the Cultural Resources Inventory, a resource must have at least two types of integrity. The nominated cemetery properties incorporate all the aspects of integrity that are identified in the Historic Preservation Master Plan

STAFF COMMENTS

The Odd Fellows and Masonic Cemeteries are located at the center of the Lakeside Memorial Lawn Cemetery on the west side of the historic Mormon Street. North of the nominated cemeteries is the Citizens Cemetery and to the south is the Jewish Cemetery. The contemporary mausoleum structures that have been added by Lakeside Cemetery are located on the east side of the previous Mormon Street alignment. Mine tailings mixed with natural vegetation separates the cemetery property from the American River Parkway and Folsom Boulevard.

In addition to the historic connections to the early families and organizations of Folsom, the nominated cemeteries display the workmanship of early Folsom masons. The historic cemeteries are also surrounded by areas that were disturbed by dredging and can be considered associated with the early gold prospectors that were first laid to rest in the older parts of the cemetery.

LISTING

Based on the previous historic listings of the Odd Fellows and the Masonic Cemeteries, staff has included the property with the list of cultural resources eligible for the Cultural Resource Inventory list. Because the property owner (the Lakeside Memorial Lawn) has no objections to the actual listing, staff will include the property with the Cultural Resource Inventory and the public information binder that is available at the planning counter.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Site Plan of Lakeside Cemetery and sketch of Historic Folsom Cemeteries
2. The Nomination Package
3. Research prepared by Sue Silver in 1999 and updated in 2002
4. The Preliminary Cultural Resources Inventory

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION ACTION

No action is required by the Historic District Commission.



