

Oregon State Asylum Research Project, June-August 2019
By Christy Van Heukelem
Lineage & Lore



Oregon Receiving Ward and Glen Oak Orphanage (est. date 1912)
Picture: Oregon State Hospital

The fall of 1880 saw many changes in Salem, one of which was the building of the Oregon Insane Asylum. Using the bricks and labor from the prison, the Oregon Insane Asylum was constructed and opened to patients in the summer of 1883.

At one point, this institution housed more than 3,500 patients and overcrowding was a huge concern. Due to the stigma of insane institutions, many patients were brought to the asylum and then forgotten. When a patient died, often no one came to claim the remains, leaving the institution with a disposal problem. Records have shown that the Asylum created their own cemetery where the forgotten dead were buried. The Asylum Cemetery was located east of the Lee Mission Cemetery and bordered the land of the Glen Oak Orphans' Home.

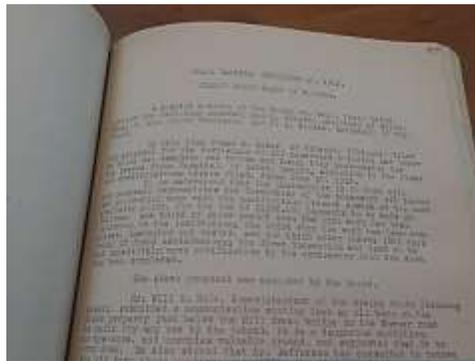
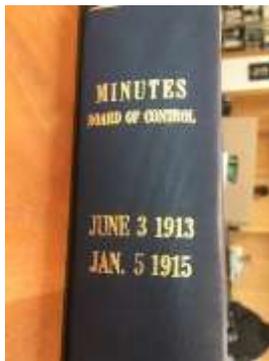
In 1913 many changes took place at the Oregon Insane Asylum, one being its name changed to The Oregon State Hospital. Also, in this year Senate Bill (SB) 109 was enacted whereby "deaths at any eleemosynary, penal, or corrective institution of the State of Oregon located at or near to the city of Salem, would be subject to cremation if unclaimed by a friend or relative." Following this directive, an incinerator was purchased in 1913 and a crematory was put into use on the State Hospital grounds (1914-1915). Those buried in the Asylum Cemetery were to be disinterred and cremated. Unfortunately, there is no proof that this actually occurred.

This research project is to review available records utilizing modern tools, search for proof of disinterment, and narrow in on the location of the Asylum Cemetery.

Goal: Review Board of Control Records for 1912-1960 to determine if payment was made to a funeral home for labor involved in disinterment of bodies, cremation process or the purchase of an incinerator.

Although Rigdon Funeral Home records prove that a few disinterments were made during this timeframe and bodies returned to families, no large number is recorded that would prove the bodies at the Asylum Cemetery were disinterred.

Records were located at the Oregon Archives that prove that an incinerator was purchased, paid for, and put into use.



Minutes, Oregon Board of Control Records, 1913 September 19, page 87

The Board of Control accepted the proposal by Frank E. Baker to build one refuse and body incinerator for the Oregon State Hospital.

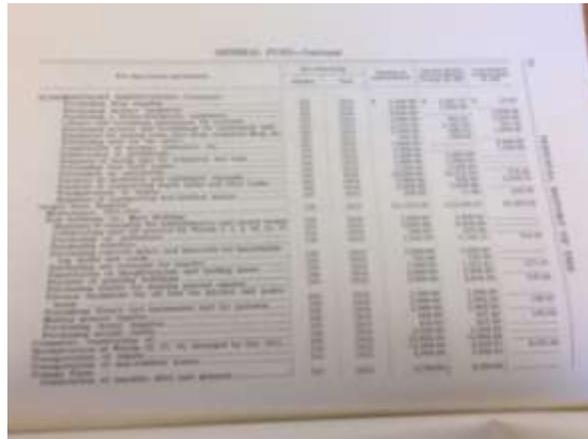
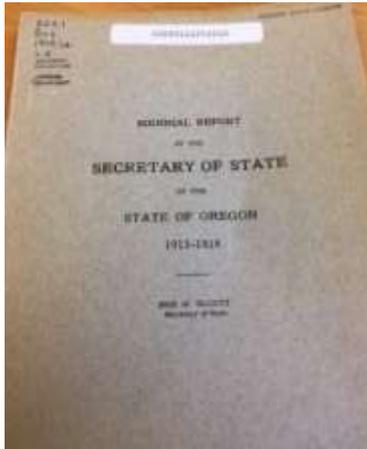


Receipts from 1913, showing 1st payment of \$500 and 2nd payment of \$1,000.

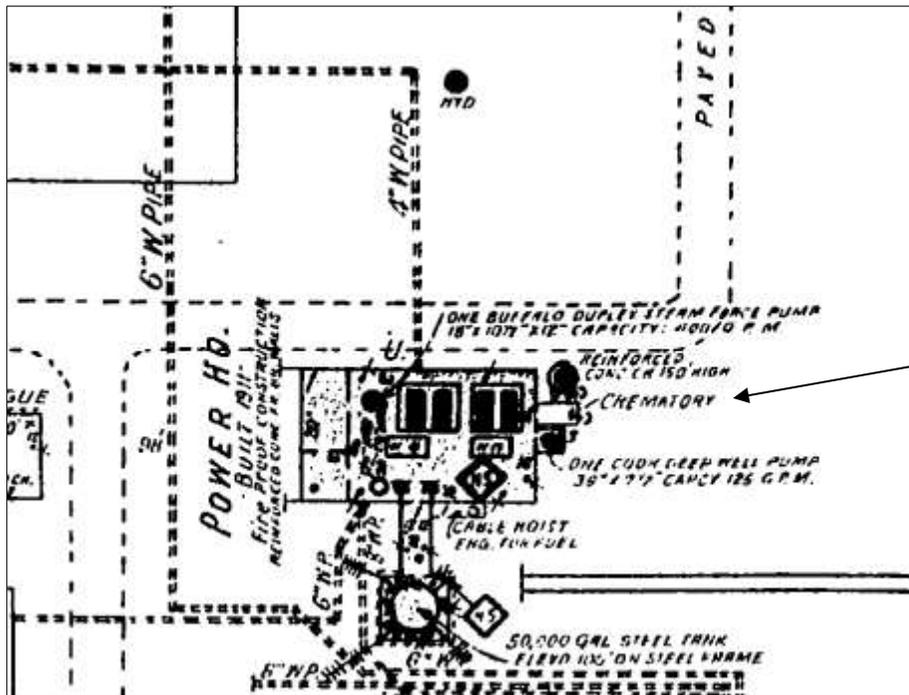


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Olcott, Ben, Secretary of State. "Biennial Report of the Secretary of State of the State of Oregon, 1913-1914" *Oregon Secretary of State Reports*



This report records the appropriation of \$1500.00 for a crematory and proves the money was expended for that purpose.



Digital Sanborn Maps, 1926-1927, Oregon, Salem (Marion County), Vol. 1, 1926, Sheet 181

"First Biennial Report of the Oregon State Board of Control" regarding Oregon State Hospital for the biennial period ending Sep.30, 1914".

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Oregon State Hospital Report, page 52

Appropriations for 1913-1914, amount expended to Sept 30, 1914

Crematory Amount of appropriation: \$1500.00 Amount expended: \$1500.00

“Second Biennial Report of the for Oregon State Board of Control,” regarding Oregon State Hospital, for the biennial period ending Sep.30, 1916”.



Oregon State Hospital Report, highlights

During this time, 341 died

(page 97) Expenses: Mar 24 1915 G. E. Terwilliger Cremation, 1 body \$5.00

(page 98) Expenses: Sep 9 1915 C. E. Terwilliger Cremating body \$5.00

(page 107) Carpenter's Report: Built 175 coffins

(page 100) Expenses: Jul 5 1916 D. Samuel \$10.72 for 67 lbs. for copper

(page 100) Expenses: Jul 5 1916 D. Samuel \$60.00 for 500 lb. for old brass

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(page 100) Expenses: Aug 31 1916 D. Samuel \$15.60 for 130 lbs. for scrap brass

(page100) Expenses: Aug 31 1916 D. Samuel \$2.40 for 160 lbs. old hose

(page 100) Expenses: Aug 31 1916 D. Samuel \$75 for 25 lbs. of rubber

Two payments were recorded for cremations by Terwilliger Funeral Home. Most likely these cremations were for individuals at the request of their families, as nothing was mentioned regarding a burial or disinterment from the Asylum Cemetery.

Note: As per 9 Feb 1916, *Capital Journal* advertisements: D. Samuel was the proprietor of the Oregon Wholesale and Retail Hide and Junk Company.

Note: The Prison earned \$4,523.46 for convict labor at State Institutions; record did not indicate where or why.

The purchase of copper and bronze could have been used for making the containers for the cremated remains. Although we have no records of anyone being paid for the disinterment process, this could be explained by it being a task assigned to employees, prison inmates or patients from the State Hospital.

Phase Two Goal: Review the Board of Control Records for 1920-1960 and possibly records of related Agencies to determine if payment was made to funeral home (or the prison) for labor involved in disinterment of bodies and cremation.

No Board of Control Records supported payment for disinterment from the Asylum Cemetery in 1920-1960. While some records discussed cremations, none were from the Asylum Cemetery.

In August 13, 1951, the Minutes of the Board of Control recorded selling of a piece of property, to the Salem General Hospital. Specifics of the land in this report show it to be the land between the Lee Mission Cemetery and the land belonging to the State Hospital. This led the search a new direction.

Oregon State Asylum Research Project, June-August 2019

GREEN STATE HOSPITAL
Correction Deed for Salem General Hospital

The Secretary stated that in 1904 a certain block of Oregon to the Salem General Hospital, the land previously having been stated that in obtaining a deed from the General Government, the Salem General Hospital had found that an error was made in the description used in the previous deed and they request a deed their deed correcting the description. The Secretary advised that H. T. Beckwith, the engineer, had verified the error and that the new description had been drawn by the Union Title Insurance Company, the correct description being shown below:

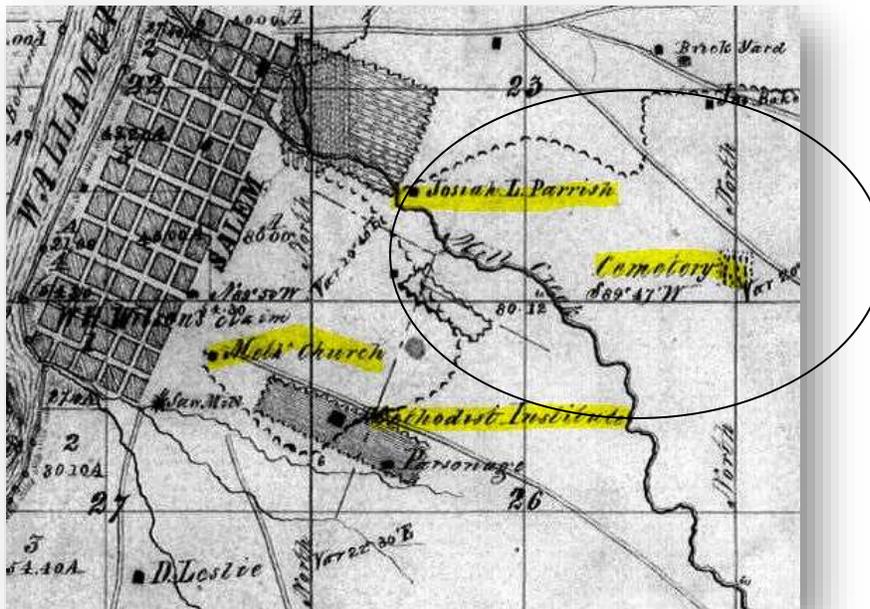
Beginning at a point in the center of 2nd Street, said point being 20.00 chains North 19° 40' West and 35.75 chains West of the east corner of the southeast corner of the 2nd 1/2nd block, Township 7 South, Range 2 West of the Willamette Meridian, Marion County, Oregon; thence West along the center of 2nd Street 254.32 feet; thence South 604.65 feet, more or less, to the North line of a tract of land described in that certain deed to Salem Hospital, a corporation, recorded August 6, 1899, in Volume 70 at Page 329, Marion County Deed Records; thence North 19° 40' West along the North line of said Salem Hospital tract 170.75 feet to the Northwest corner of said tract; thence West 43.6 feet along the North line of said Addition; thence South 55.0 feet along the North line of said Addition; thence West along the North line of said Addition 546.50 feet to the East line of the Lee Thomas Secretary; thence North 19° East 215.05 feet along the East line of said Secretary; thence North 19° 40'

1851
August 15 Minutes

GREEN STATE HOSPITAL
Correction Deed for Salem General Hospital (Continued)

feet to the South line of a tract of land deeded to H. Kurtz as recorded in Volume 247, Page 183 of the Marion County Record of Deeds; thence East 275.24 feet along the South line of the H. Kurtz property as recorded in Volume 247, Page 183 and Volume 301, Page 156 to the Southeast corner of the aforesaid described property; thence North 518.12 feet along the East line of the aforesaid property to the point of beginning.

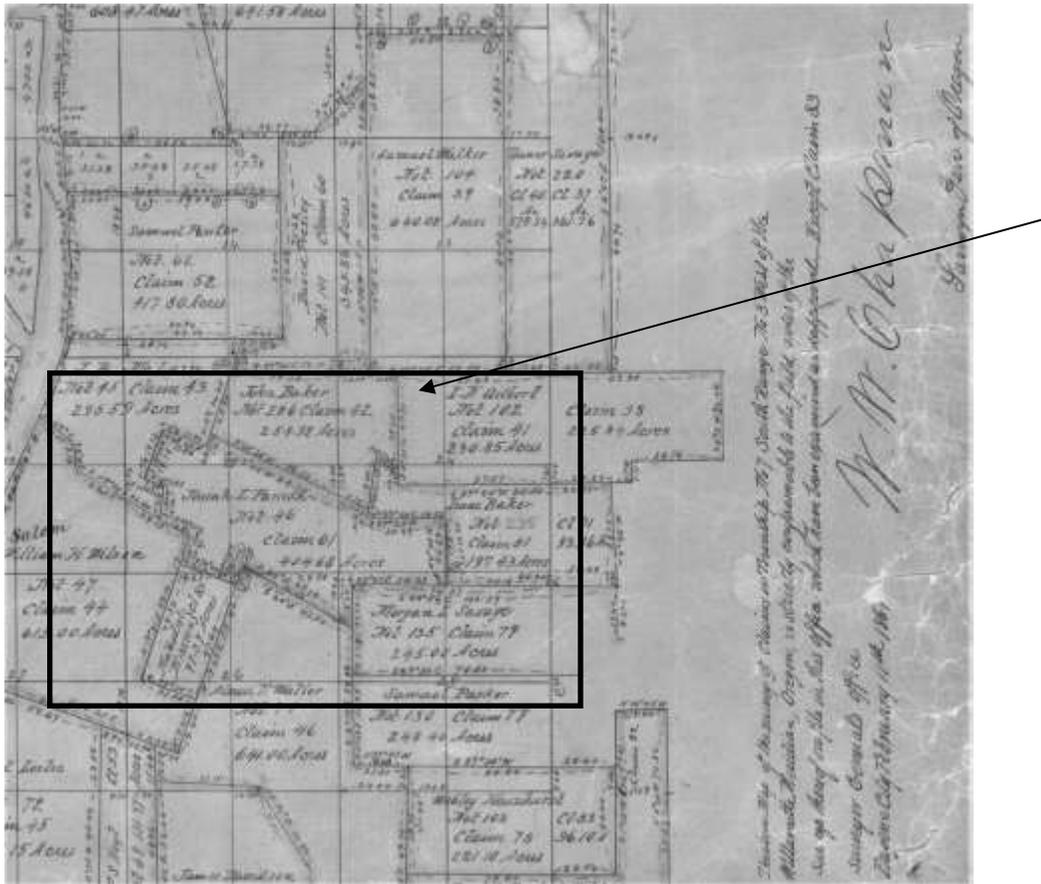
Goal: Review Land Survey records to verify what was done to the land as the area in question was developed.



General Land Office Maps: Quadrant 2: Township 7S, 3W Willamette Mer. 1852 Map

Oregon State Asylum Research Project, June-August 2019

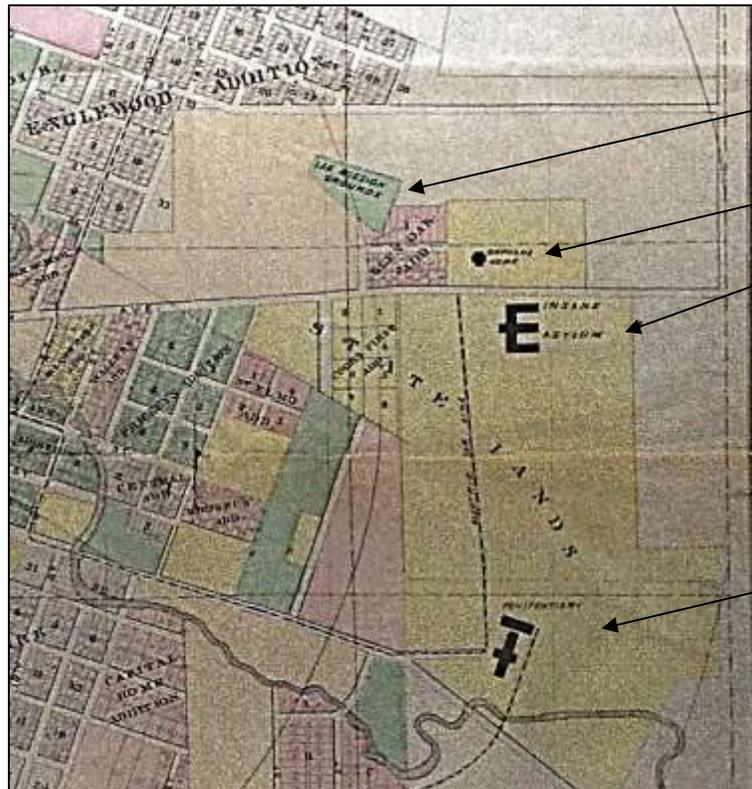
Josiah L and Elizabeth Winn Parrish donated portions of their land for use by the State of Oregon, the Orphans' Home and the Lee Mission Cemetery. Seen in map above is the general land of Josiah Parrish and the Lee Mission Cemetery. Map below shows dimensions of Josiah Parrish Donation Land Claim.



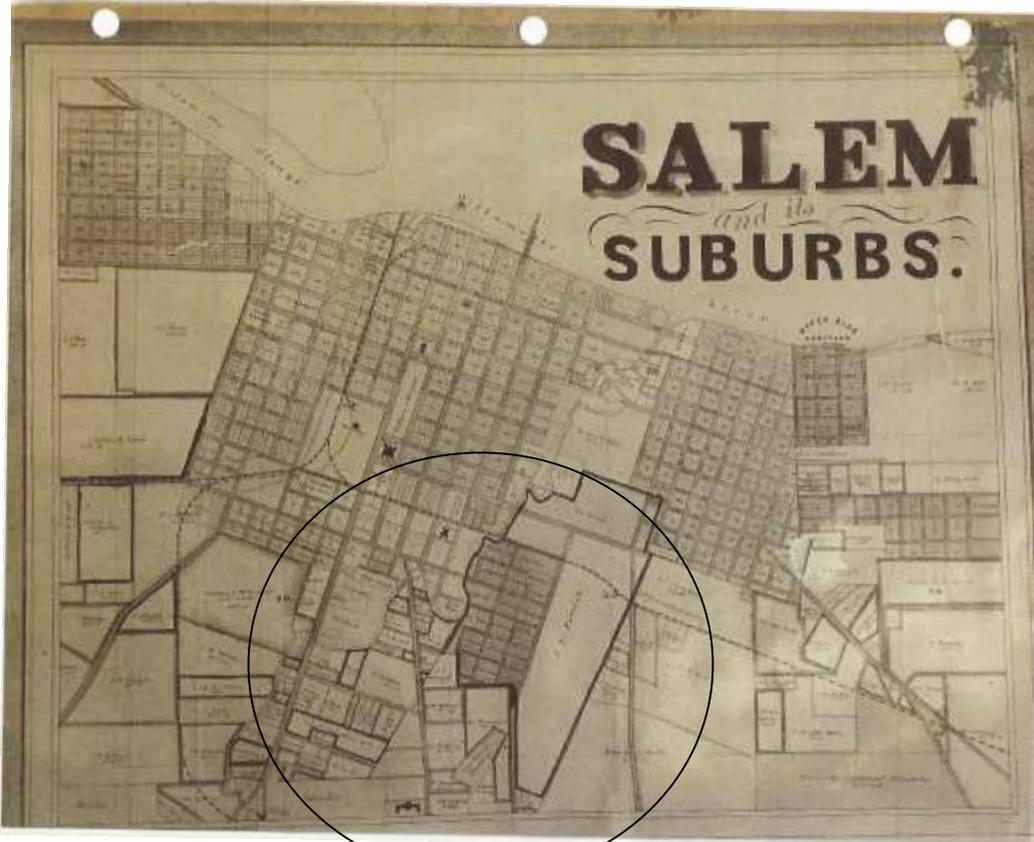
General Land Office Maps: Quadrant 2: Township 7S, 3W Willamette Mer. 1861 Map

Oregon State Asylum Research Project, June-August 2019

This 1892 Map of Salem, Oregon, published by the Union Abstract Company gives a detailed overview of the city. Different additions to the city are portrayed in pastel colors, while black outlines show important public buildings. Map accessed through Willamette Heritage Center website. <https://www.willametteheritage.org/1892-map-of-salem/>



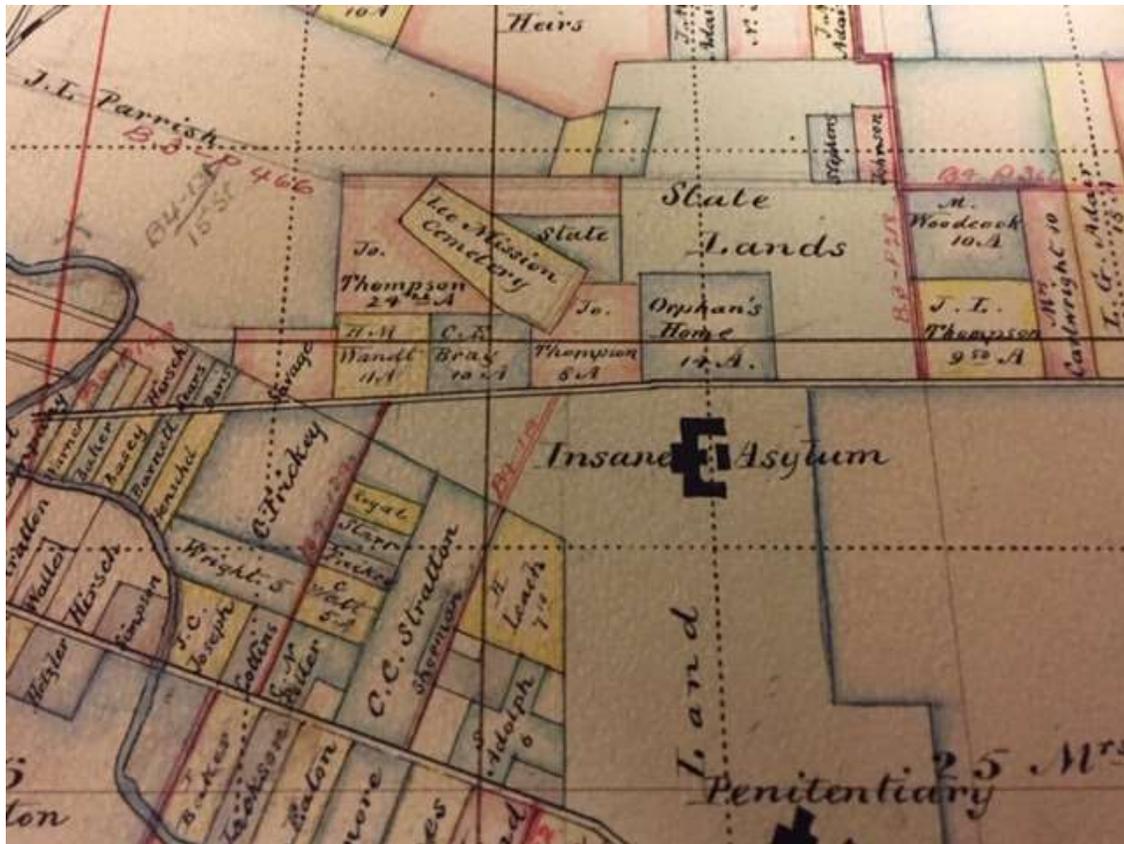
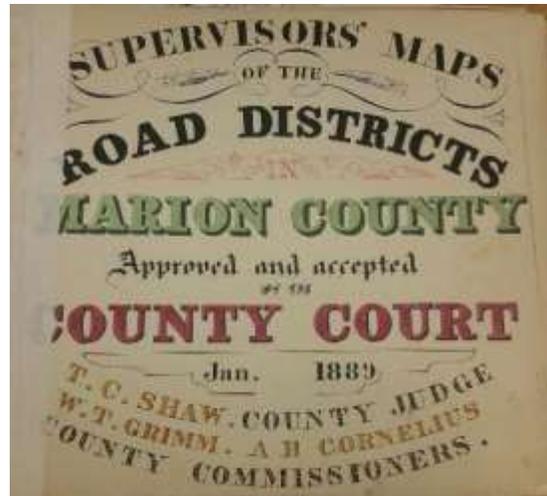
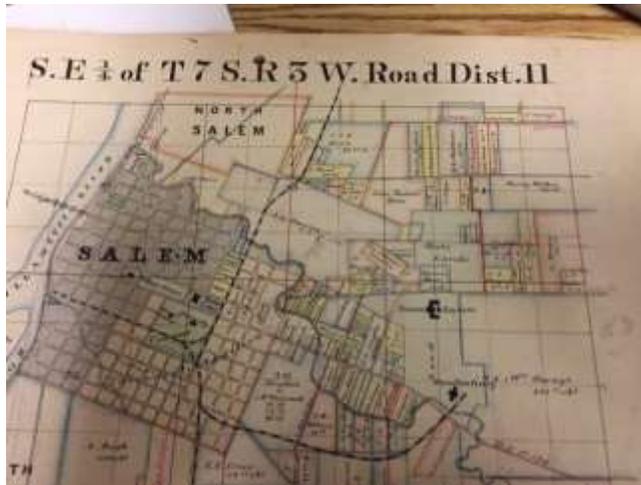
The arrows point to the Lee Mission Cemetery, the Orphans' Home, the Insane Asylum, and the Penitentiary. Note the size of Lee Mission Cemetery. Property has not yet expanded to D Street.



Close-up view of Lee Mission Cemetery, State Asylum Cemetery, Orphans' Home and Insane Asylum. Date is after 1892.

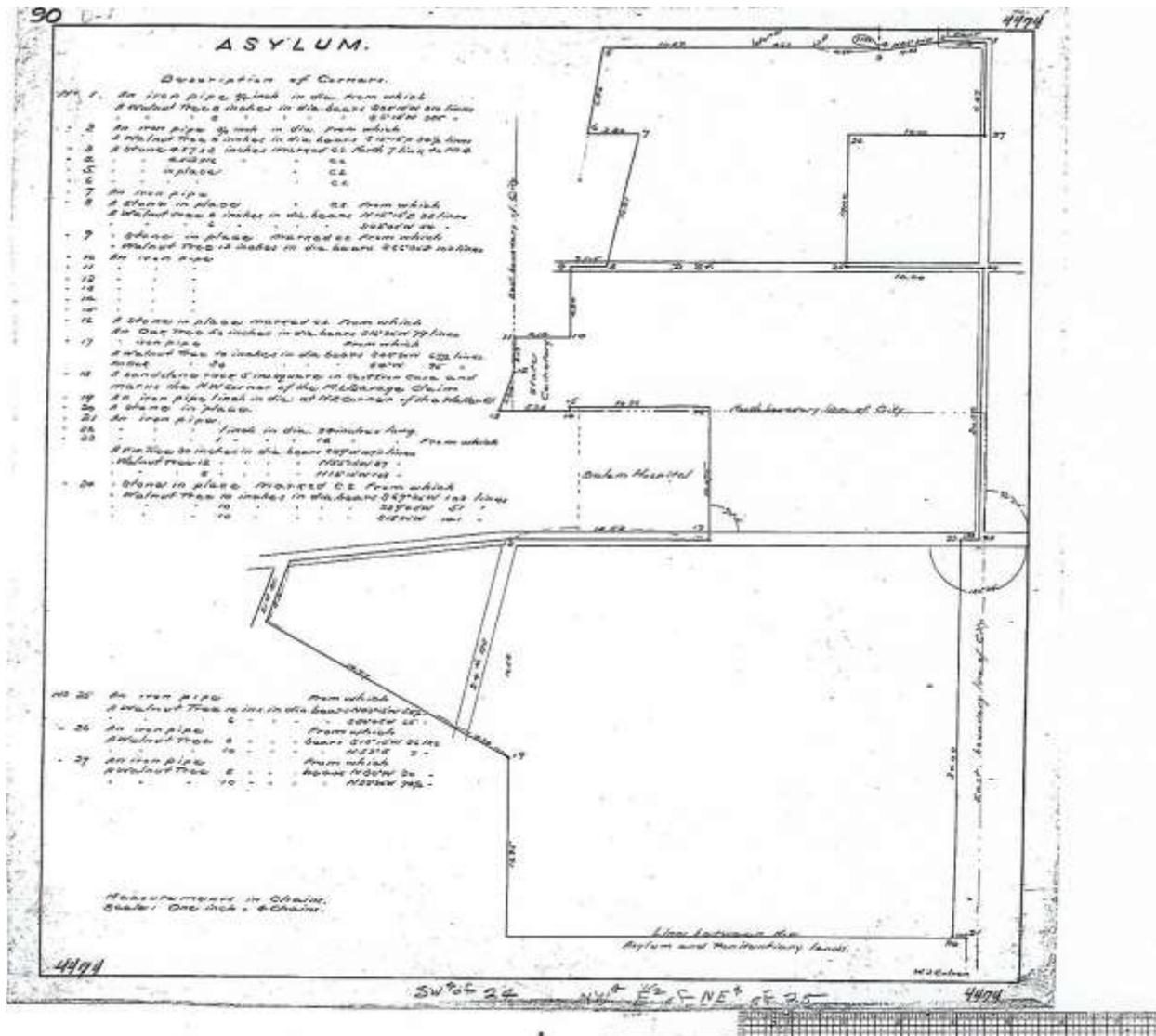
Map was found at Salem Public Library, pasted in the back of the Library's copy of Edgar Williams & Co., Illustrated Historical Atlas Map, Marion and Linn Counties, Oregon.

Map above shows the outline of the DLC of Josiah L. Parrish.



1889 Supervisor's Maps of the Road Districts in Marion County.

This map shows the extent of the State-owned lands. They reached from the penitentiary, north to Garden Street which is known today as Market Street. The "State" area closest to the Lee Mission Cemetery is where other maps have placed the State Asylum Cemetery.



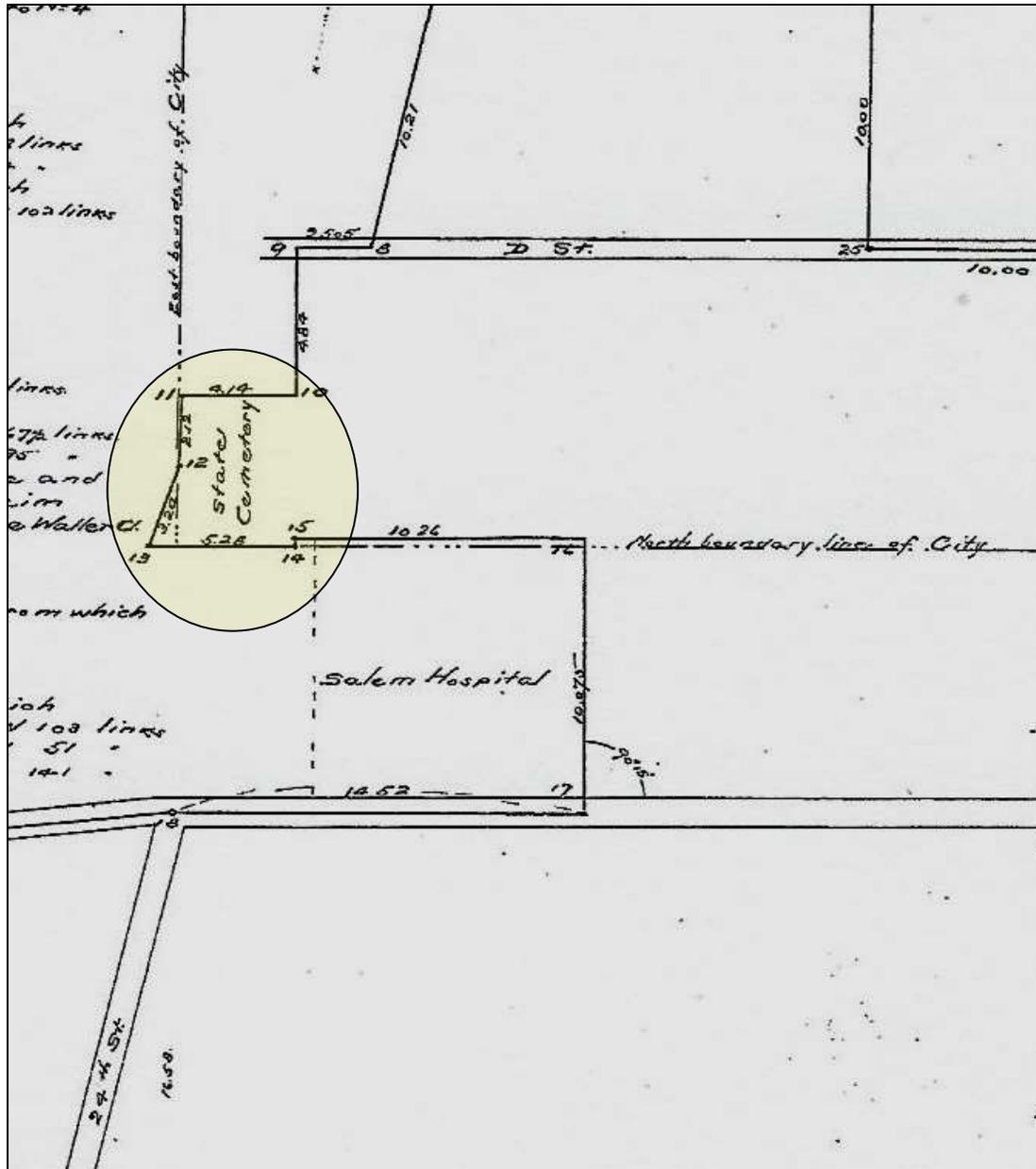
Salem Land Survey Map, No Date

Map found utilizing the Marion County Assessor’s online records. (original blurry)

We have no date for this map but estimate it being between 1900 and 1909 based on two things:

- 1.) The Salem Hospital was given the land of the Glen Oak Orphans’ Home in 1900.
- 2.) City boundaries Note: Salem Hospital land is listed as being at the north boundary line of city. The State Cemetery is just beyond the east boundary of the city. D Street is north of the State Cemetery. Unfortunately, this map does not provide the rest of the dimensions of the State Cemetery property.

Oregon State Asylum Research Project, June-August 2019



(Close-up view of the above map.)



Metsker Maps, 1929, Oregon, Marion Co., Salem, Township 7 S, Range 3 W.W. M.

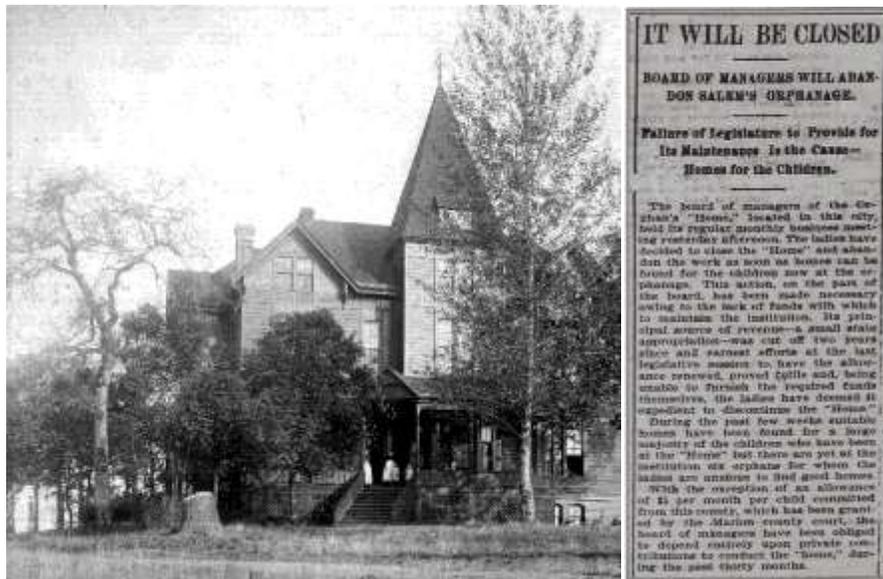
(close-up view)

In this 1929 map, one can clearly see the locations of the Lee Mission Cemetery and the State Asylum Cemetery. This map was printed 14 years after the State Cemetery was supposedly closed and bodies disinterred. Based upon the length of time since the cemetery was being used, this map is considered unreliable compared to those maps drawn when the cemetery was in use.

Phase Two Goal: Review records of Orphans' Home, City Hospital and Lee Mission to see if these records provide insight into the location of the Asylum Cemetery and the disinterment of bodies.

Children's Aid Society and Glen Oaks Orphans' Home

The Glen Oaks Orphans' Home was established in 1869 on land donated by J.L. Parrish and his wife Elizabeth Winn Parish. Due to the limited funding to continue operations, the orphanage closed in 1899 and the land was deeded to the Salem Hospital.



"It will be closed" Oregon Statesman, July 7, 1899, p.5. (Picture from Oregon St. Archives)

This property is listed on maps as owned by the Orphans' Home or Salem Hospital. It is located west of the State Hospital land, near the building known in 2019 as the Dome Building.



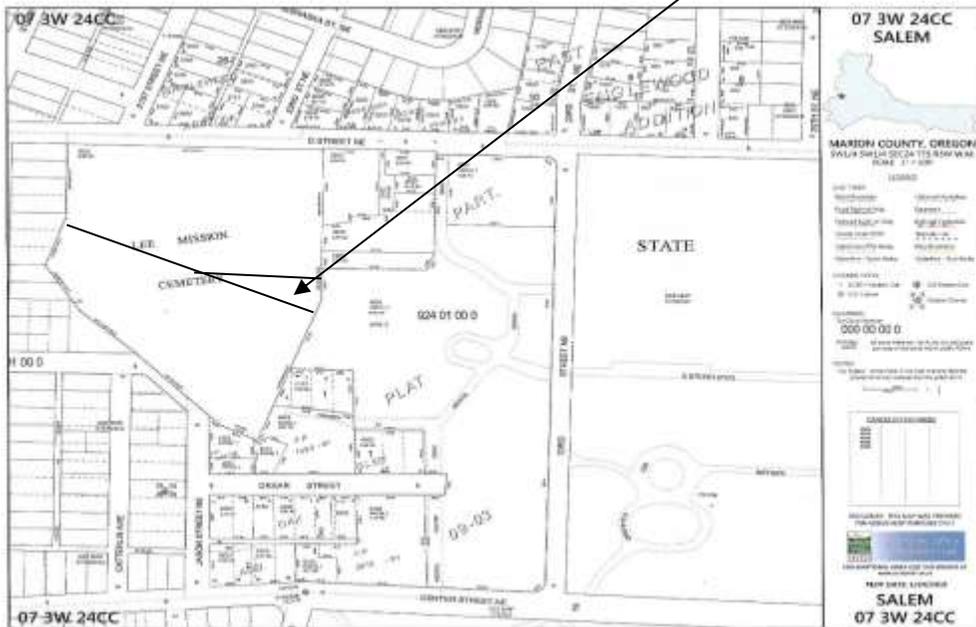
(Picture dated 1913, Courtesy of Oregon State Hospital Museum)

Lee Mission Cemetery

In January 1869, Elizabeth Winn Parrish, wife of Josiah L. Parrish, donated 4.77 acres from her half of their original donation land claim to make up the original part of Lee Mission cemetery. The cemetery was then incorporated by the state of Oregon Jan 27, 1869, the incorporators being Charles Craft, Rev. I.D. Driver, and Rev. J.L. Parrish. **An additional 6.5 acres was deeded August 29, 1887, to the cemetery from the Board of Directors of the Oregon State Insane Asylum for \$50.00.** (<http://www.leemissioncemetery.com/LeeHistory1.htm>)



In 1887, a Marion County Deed recorded in Vol. 325, page 423, states that the Board of Trustees of the State of Oregon sold a parcel of land to the Lee Mission Cemetery. This land had originally been part of the Oregon State Insane Asylum. This pie-shaped section of land bordered the Lee Mission Cemetery. Eventually the Lee Mission Cemetery was expanded north to D Street.



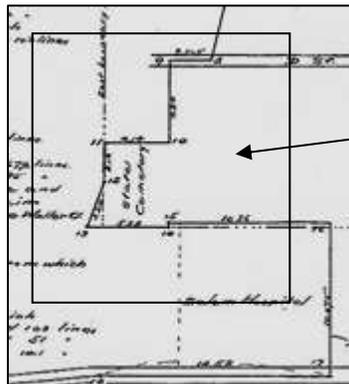
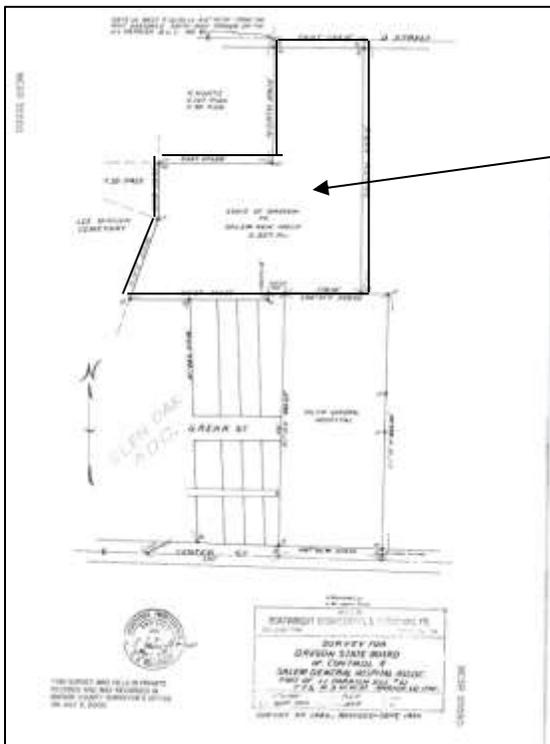
Marion County Assessor's Map

The line drawn in the middle of the map divides the original boundary of the Lee Mission Cemetery (lower section) with the size of the cemetery today. Comparing this map to the map from the early 1800's shows the cemetery's expansion.

Salem Hospital

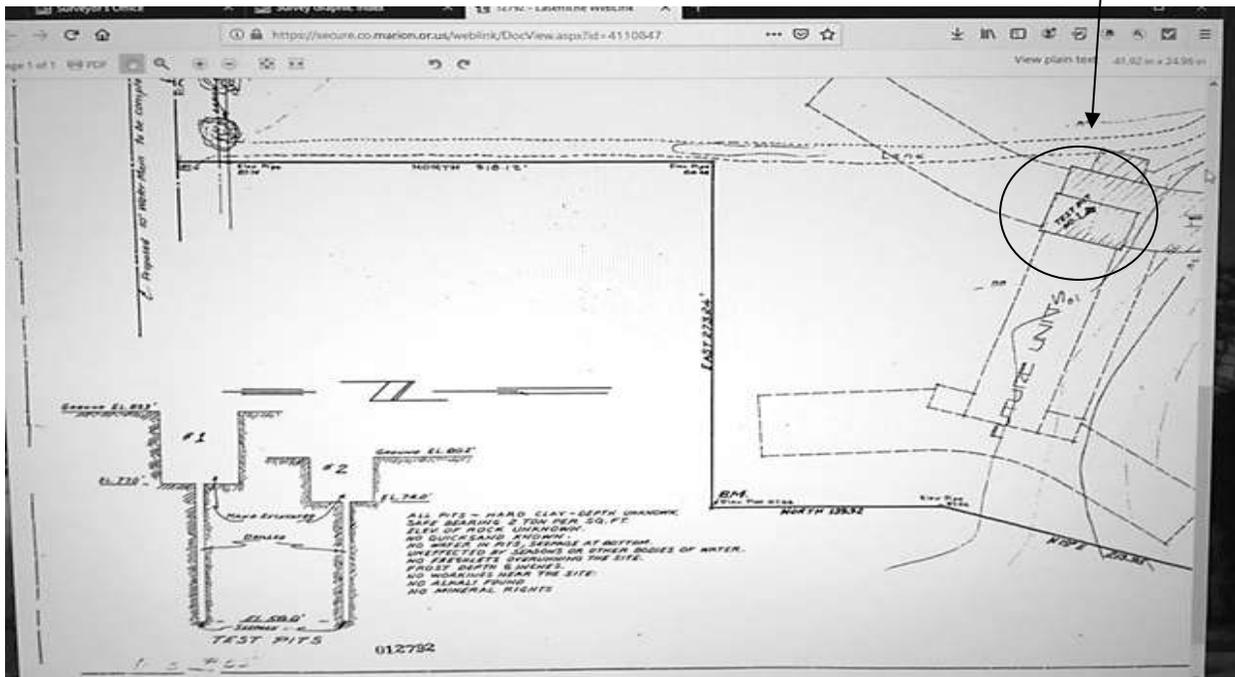
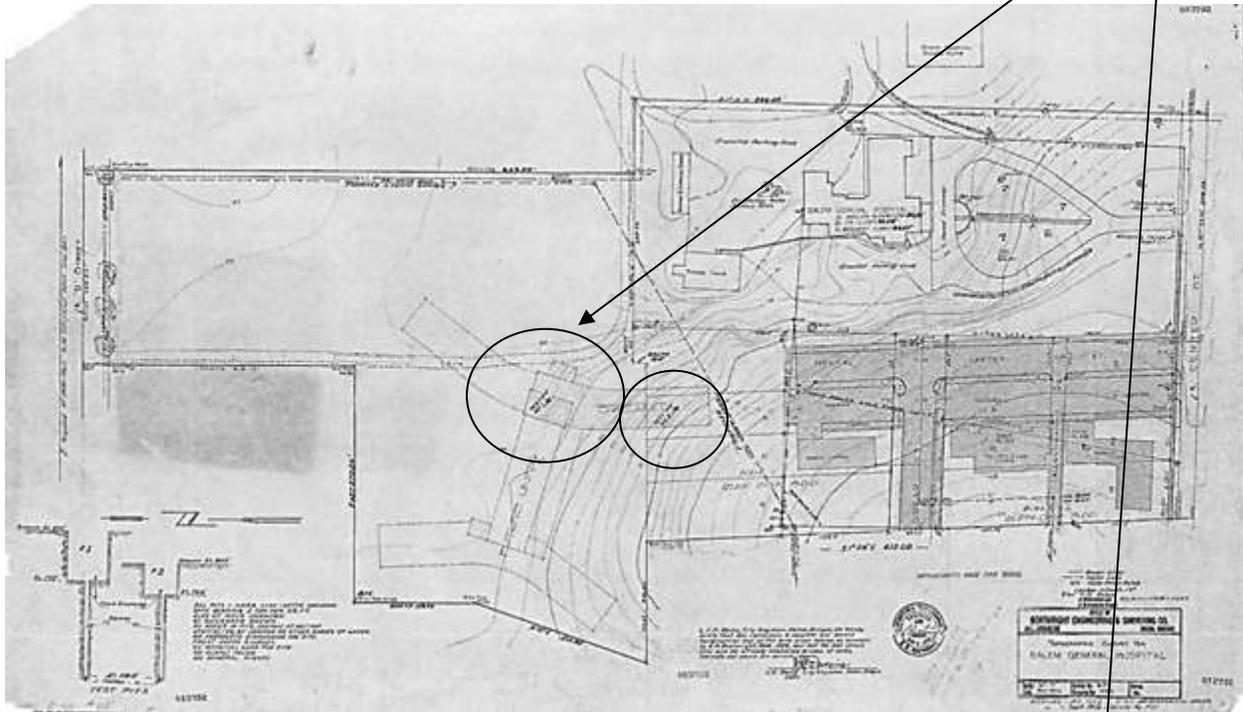
In 1948, a committee was formed to build a new facility at General Hospital. The State Hospital was contacted in hopes that they would sell a parcel of their land lying to the NW of the General Hospital for this expansion.

In 1951, Deed No. 416665 was filed with Marion County. It deeded the land outlined on the following map to the Salem General Hospital from the Oregon State Board of Control. This land had originally belonged to the Oregon State Hospital. It appears from this map and the maps from the 1880s-1900s that this land transaction contained the western boundary of the Asylum Cemetery. No records have been found that give the cemeteries full dimensions so we don't know how far east the cemetery property extended. Deed from Marion County Clerk's Office. Plat map from Marion County Survey's Office, Marion County Public Works, Salem, OR.



Oregon State Asylum Research Project, June-August 2019

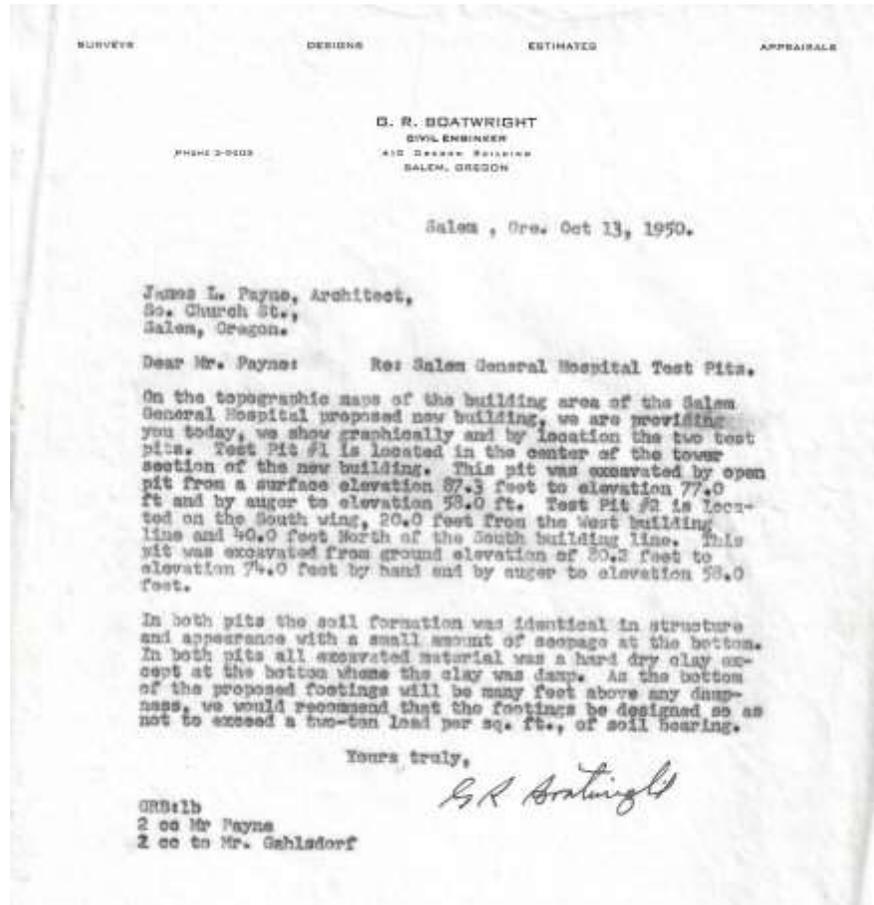
In preparation for this proposed building, two test pits were dug to evaluate the soil. The No.1 test pit was in the area that most likely was at one time the Asylum Cemetery. Drawings are courtesy of Marion County Public Works Dept, Salem, OR.



Close up view of No 1 test pit

Oregon State Asylum Research Project, June-August 2019

Notes of G. R. Boatwright, civil engineer to James L. Payne, architect, are below. Letter is courtesy of Boatwright Engineering, Inc. Salem, OR.



An email dated August 5, 2019 from Jeanne Boatwright further explains the content of the letter.

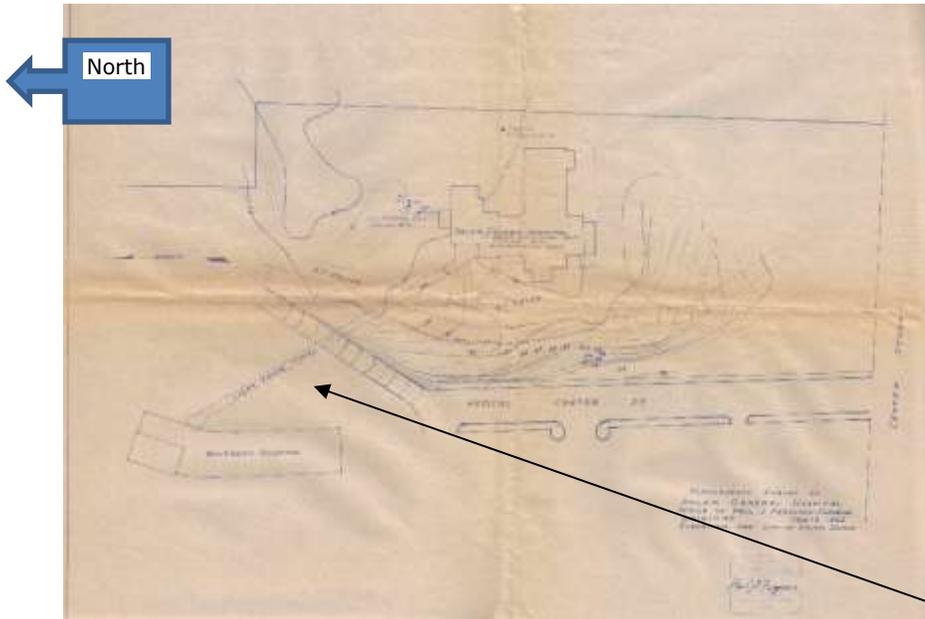
“The test pits are shown on Marion County Survey Record 012792. Test Pit No. 1 is located under the north end of the area labeled "FIRST UNIT" on the survey map and Test Pit No. 2 is towards the south end of the "FIRST UNIT" area. Cross sections of the two pits are shown in the bottom left corner of the survey map.

Test Pit No.1 was open pit excavated from ground surface to a depth of 10.3 feet. From that point it was augered, at a lesser diameter, another 19.0 feet, for a total depth of 29.3 feet.

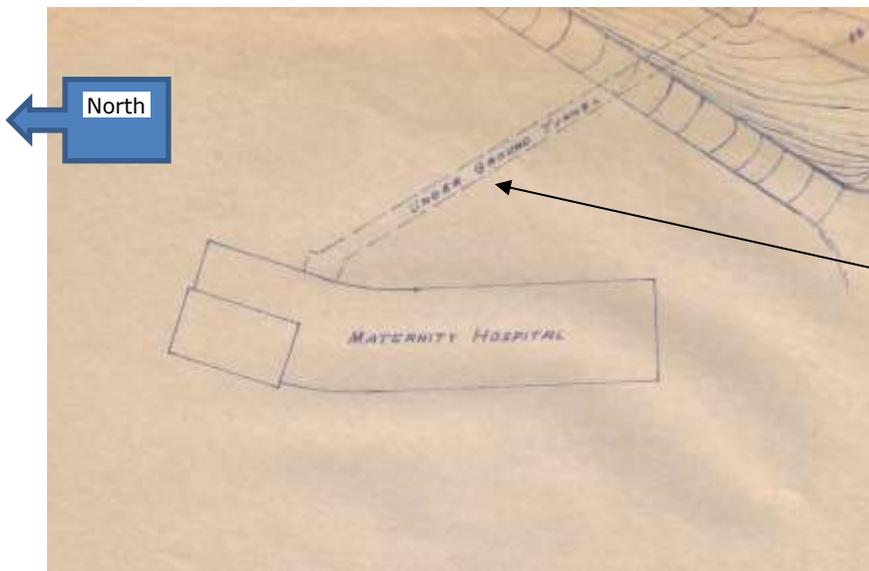
Test Pit No. 2 was open pit excavated from ground surface to a depth of 6.2 feet. From that point it was augered, at a lesser diameter, another 16.0 feet, for a total depth of 22.2 feet. Both pits ended at the same elevation which would be expected to evaluate the level foundation and basement that was to be constructed. The different depths reflect the surface topography which rises from south to north.”

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Based upon this information, plans progressed to build. Bids for work were accepted and excavation work began. Included in the plans was building a tunnel from the main General Hospital building to the new “maternity building,” later named the Morse Building. James L. Payne, the architect, said plans were progressing well, and construction should start in the Spring of 1950. Although this drawing is difficult to read, a tunnel is clearly marked.

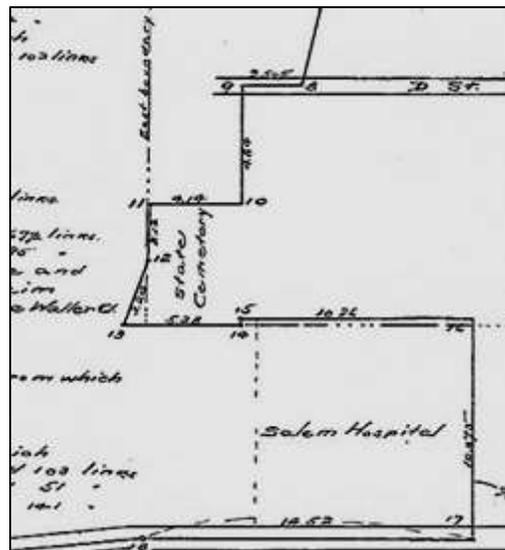


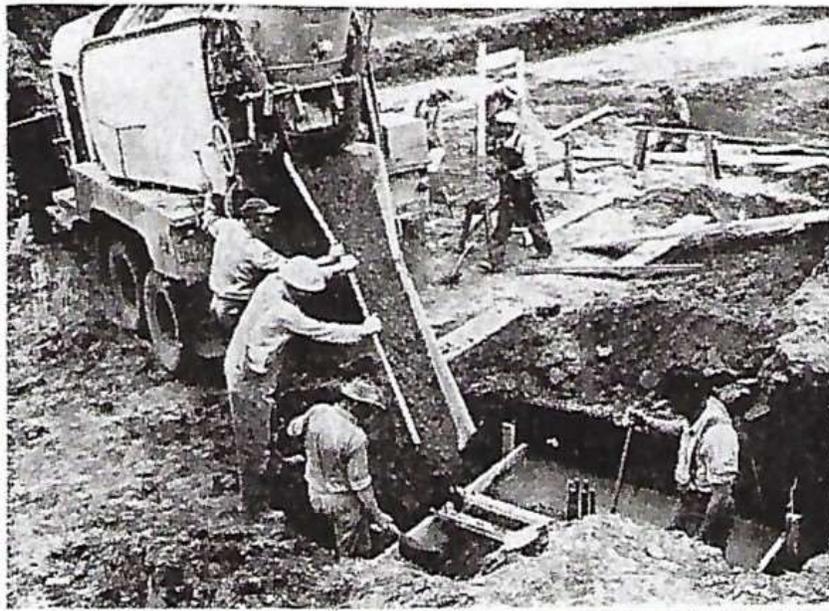
Drawing shows General Hospital in the center with the new Maternity Hospital, later called the Morse Building, to the left. Please note a tunnel connects the two buildings. Drawings are courtesy of Boatwright Engineering, Inc. Salem, OR.



Oregon State Asylum Research Project, June-August 2019

This Google Earth Map shows the General Hospital buildings prior to their destruction. The north building is the maternity wing, AKA Morse Building, and the south building is the General Hospital. The tunnel between the General Hospital building and the maternity wing would have passed through the area that most likely had been the Asylum Cemetery.





Progress On Hospital Construction — Above, foundation forms being laid in construction of new Salem General hospital. Below, excavation for tunnel that will connect the new building with the old one. The building over the excavation is an old nurses' home, now being used for contractor's offices. It will later be torn down.

Inspection of
Filberts Starts

On October 10, 1952, The Capital Journal covered the progress of the construction of the new Salem General Hospital. While the top picture shows foundation forms being laid, the bottom picture shows the tunnel excavation. The building in the lower picture is the nurses' home which was demolished during this process.

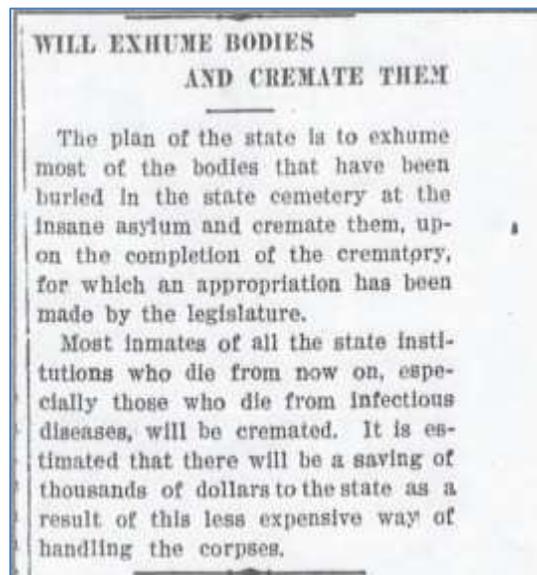
In spite of excavation and a tunnel being built in the Asylum Cemetery area, nothing was mentioned regarding the discovery of an old cemetery.

Goal: Research local newspapers for any articles that discuss the Asylum Cemetery, disinterment process and/or possible cremation.

“To establish a crematory at the Asylum” (1912 May 3, page 1) *Capital Journal Newspaper*.

“Senate Appropriation Bills” (1913 Feb 9, page 3) *Oregon Statesman Newspaper*
Article lists SB 109 which funded the Insane Asylum Crematory.

“West still hangs on like bull dog” (1913 Feb 20, page 1) *Capital Journal*.
\$1500.00 appropriation was passed to build a crematory at the Insane Asylum. The bill provides that all persons who die in various institutions should be cremated.



Capital Journal, 3 Mar 1913, page 6

“City News” (1913 April 17, pg. 8) *Capital Journal*

Within this long article is a small section that alerts readers to the fact that they can move the bodies of their family members prior to the planned cremations.

Cremation Provided—
After June 3, when the provisions of a bill passed by the 1913 legislature will have gone into effect, bodies of unclaimed persons who died at the insane asylum will be cremated. It is planned to exhume all unclaimed bodies from the institution graveyard and dispose of them by cremation.

"Cremation Provided" *Oregon Statesman*, (1913 April 10, page 5)

**MANY BODIES TAKEN UP
TO AVERT CREMATION**

(Salem Bureau of The Journal.)
Salem, Or., April 18.—Many bodies are being removed from the state insane asylum cemetery at the request of relatives or friends of the deceased in anticipation of the removal of the entire cemetery. The last legislature appropriated \$1500 for establishing a crematory at the asylum and all the bodies which are not removed before will be incinerated as soon as the crematory is finished. The present cemetery site is to be put to agricultural use.

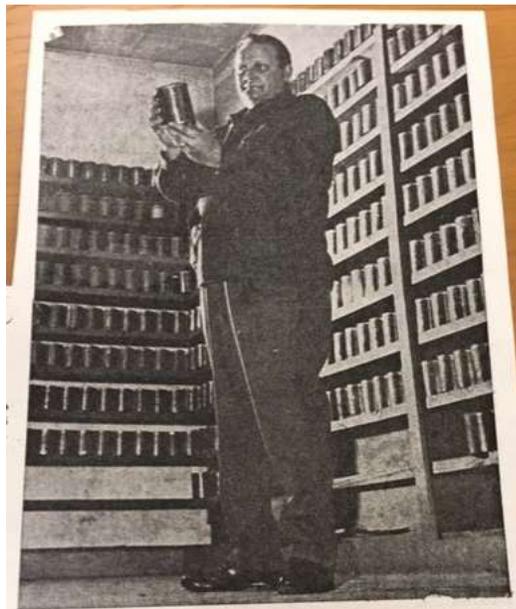
"Many bodies taken up to avert cremation," *Oregon Daily Journal* April 18, 1913

Between the years of 1913-1916, nothing is mentioned in the newspapers regarding the mass disinterment of bodies from the Asylum Cemetery. This seems odd since the newspaper covered many unremarkable events in great detail.

A bill for establishment of a crematorium at the asylum had consideration by state authorities who pointed out that the cemetery there with 1500 inmates already buried was filling up rapidly at a rate of 150 interments yearly.

"Salem 44 Yrs Ago" *Capital Journal*, May 3 1956, page 4

MacArthur, Scott. "Ashes of 3,000 Repose at Hospital" *Capital Journal*, (1964 April 29, page 1)



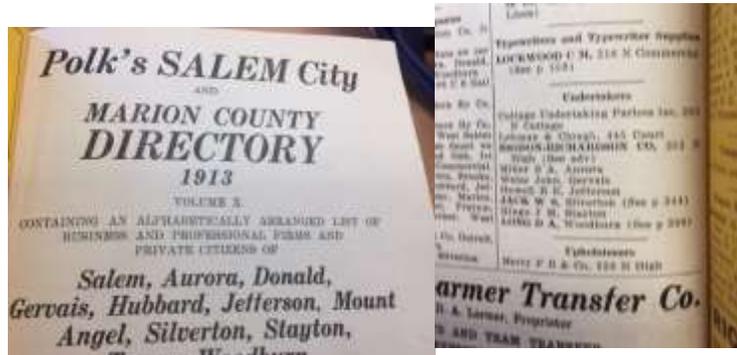
IN 3,000 CANS are the ashes of persons whose deaths went all but unnoticed, for they had no relatives and no mourners. Vern Billings, a mortician who has charge of the cremations for state institutions, said every effort is made to find a relative to claim the ashes, but sometimes it isn't possible. (Capital Journal Photo)

This article discusses the history of the unclaimed dead in Oregon and their remains at the Oregon State Hospital.

Goal: Contact local funeral homes to determine if coroner records exist that apply to this issue.

FUNERAL HOMES AND CEMETERY ORGANIZATIONS

Attaining names from the 1913 Marion County City Directory, the records of these long-time Salem funeral homes and cemetery organizations were tracked.

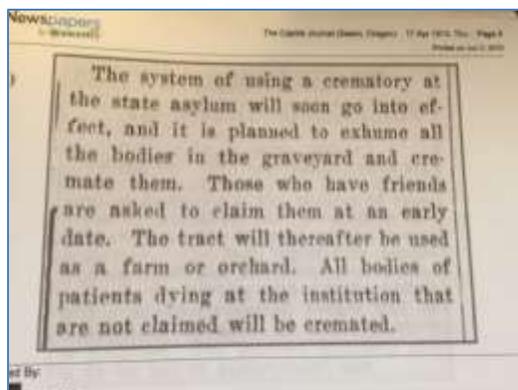


Virgil T. Golden Funeral Home

Although established in 1949, they have great knowledge of funeral home history in Salem. One of the oldest funeral homes, Barrick Funeral Home, closed recently and all of their records went to Weddle Funeral Service in Stayton.

Howell, Edwards, Doerksen with Rigdon-Ransom Funeral Directors

This facility has the records from Rigdon-Richardson and Terwilliger-Edwards, two Salem funeral homes that were in operation in 1913-1915. Staff at Howell Edwards went through their old books and found four records of disinterment from the Asylum Cemetery, timeframe 1914-1915. In each case, the person was disinterred years after the original burial. All of these exhumations were dated after the 1913 newspaper articles that stated that if bodies were not claimed by family friends or others, they would be cremated.



Capital Journal, April 17, 1913

The book *Asylum Cemetery, 1883-1913* claims that an employee of W.T. Rigdon, Charles Claggett, personally oversaw the exhumations at the State Insane Asylum. This could not be validated by the funeral home and employment records proved Claggett didn't work there until 1929.

No records were found at this facility that supported a massive disinterment of the Asylum Cemetery.

Terwilliger-Edwards Funeral Home

Searched Terwilliger Funeral Records for 1913-1915 that were located in the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society Collection.

Found: Surname Crawford; no date of death given; form dated 22 Sep 1914

Body charged to S. S. McCavney, Amity, Oregon

Comparing this surname against the listing of those located in the Asylum Cemetery as documented in Sue Bell's book, *The Asylum Cemetery*, I found a listing for Robert Crawford of Multnomah Co., who died 9 Aug 1897.

Found two records of receipts for cremations for Terwilliger in Board of Control Records for 1915:

Page 97: Mar. 27, 1915; G. E. Terwilliger, cremation, 1 body \$5.00

Page 98: Sep. 9, 1915; C. E. Terwilliger, cremating body \$5.00

Disinterments were happening but at the request of individuals, not as a mandate.

Weddle Funeral Service

- 1) On my initial call to ask about Barrick Funeral Home burial/disinterment records for the Asylum Cemetery, I was told that Barrick's records only go back to the 1930's.
- 2) I later spoke with Greg Barrick, former manager of Barrick Funeral Home, who shared that they had older books and described where they were located. With this new information, Weddle's staff were able to locate the ledger books. Unfortunately, nothing was noted as a disinterment.

City View Cemetery [Opened in 1893 and Abbey Mausoleum opened in 1914]

Rick Hilts, manager, verified that disinterments were not noted in their records.

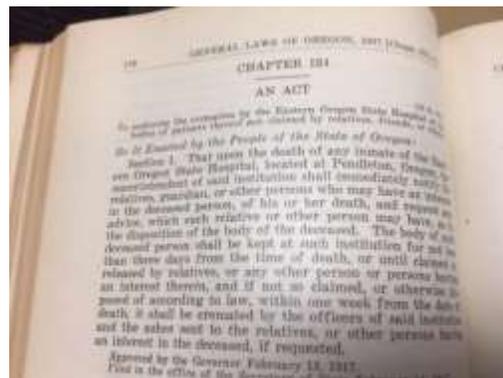
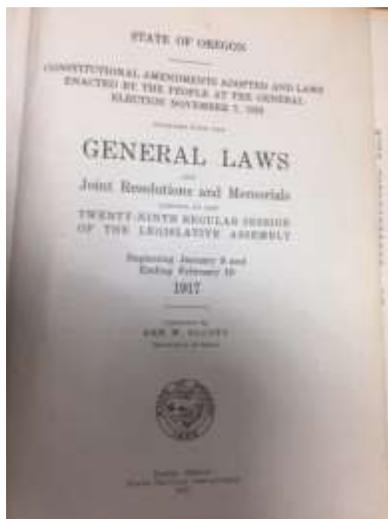
Goal: Research Oregon laws to see what documentation was needed in the 1913-1914 timeframe for disinterment and cremation.

Currently the disposition of human remains is regulated under ORS 432.158. Disinterment requires authorization by the State Registrar for the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board. A Certificate of Removal is required. Information needed for this certificate includes what remains are being disinterred, if they will be cremated, and where they will be transported to. The removal can only be performed by a funeral service practitioner, and a written notice of removal serves as the permit for transporting these remains.

Dealing with patient death at the State Hospital was challenging as many remains were not claimed by family. The Asylum Cemetery was used for burial of these bodies, but room was so limited that a long-term solution was needed.

On February 25, 1913, the name of the Oregon State Insane Asylum was changed to the Oregon State Hospital. Another 1913 Legislative decision created Senate Bill 109, which authorized the erection and maintenance of a crematory or incinerator for the disposition of dead and unclaimed bodies of patients who died in State institutions.

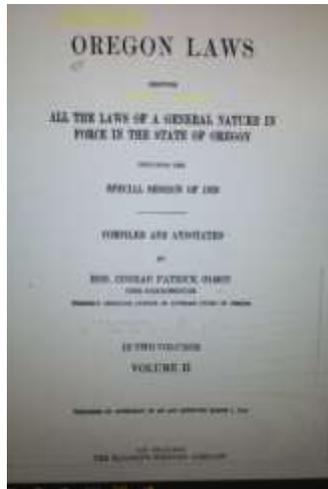
In 1917 a law was put into place for Eastern Oregon State Hospital regarding the disposal of patient bodies not claimed by relatives, friends or others. Although this specifically discusses the Eastern Oregon State Hospital, it is assumed that the Salem State Hospital followed this same procedure. Laws at this time were written to benefit the State Institutions and not focused on the legal records required in the care of the dead, burial, disinterment or supportive record keeping.



Oregon General Laws (1917, Chapter 124, pg 156)

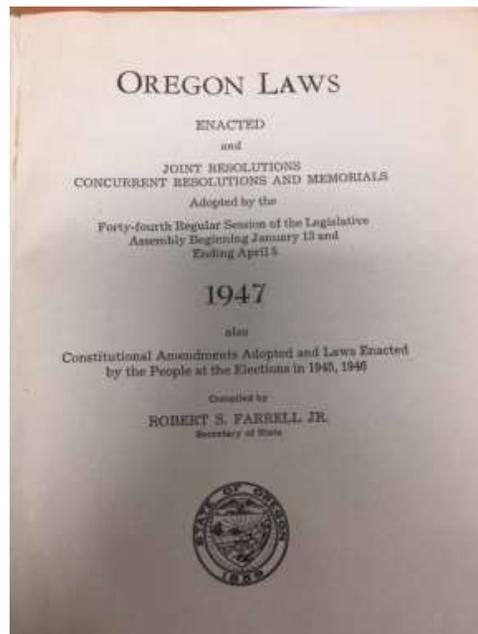
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The first official record for how a State institution should handle deaths in their facilities was recorded in the special session of the *Oregon Laws of 1920*.



Oregon Laws (1920, Title 24, #2904-2907, pg 1490)

In 1947 laws were created to control disinterment, burial and cremation of bodies and specified how these processes were to be done and what paperwork needed to be filed. Pages 1060-1063 of *Oregon Laws, 1947* provide specifics.



Oregon Laws (1947 Chapter 565, pages: 1060-1063)

Phase Two Goal: Develop a chain of title for the Asylum Cemetery property (per Exhibit A-Map). Look through Land Survey records to verify whether the cemetery or burials were described or noted as the area in question was developed.

EXHIBIT A

Taxlots Property Report
Report created on 7/8/2019





Site Address:
2600 CENTER ST NE

Owner Information:
STATE OF OREGON

1225 FERRY ST SE
SALEM
OR 97302

Assessment Information:

Taxlot: 073W24C00100	Deed#: 02080112RD	Subdivision: HENDERSON ADDITION
Prop ID: R76562	L/U Code:	Block: 0
Land Value: \$8,511,680.00	Prop Class: C40	Lot: 0
Improvement \$: \$6,445,590.00	Last Sale Price: \$3,952.00	Acres: 47.37
Total Value: \$14,957,270.00	Sale Type: 15	Sq. Feet: 6,799.00
Assessed Value: \$0.00	Last Sale Date: 01/22/1930	Year Built: 1947
<i>*Note: A value of "0" likely indicates a NULL value; not a value of zero.</i>		Stat Class: Q30

Site Characteristics:

Comp Plan: Multi-Family Residential Neighborhood: State Hospital and Penitentiary (Not a neighborhood) Overlay: N/A Zoning Type: Multiple Family Residential 2 <i>*Note: Does not currently report multi/split-zone values.</i> Building Type: State Government Facility National Register Eligibility Code: EC Historic name: Building 33; Yaquina Hall Year built: 1947 National Register Eligibility Code: EC Historic name: Building 36 Dome Building (Oregon State Hospital Campus) Year built: 1947 National Register Eligibility Code: EC Historic name: Building 85; N Water Service	In City Boundary?: Yes County: Marion In UGB?: Yes Ward: 2 Police District: 4 Zip Code: 97301 URA: N/A
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Taxlots Property Report

Report created on 7/8/2019

Year built: 1946
National Register Eligibility Code: NC
Historic name: Building 91; North Pump Station
Year built: 1992
National Register Eligibility Code: EC
Historic name: Entry Gate #3
Year built: 1912
National Register Eligibility Code: EC
Historic name: North Park Grounds
Year built: 1912

The Title Report, (Number 138170) is on file with the Department of Administrative Services, State of Oregon.

Nothing in this report described a cemetery, a burial or questioned the area as being a place of historical significance.

Goal: Contact State Institutions, Oregon Historical Society, and other repositories of historical documents for any supporting assistance.

AmeriTitle

Requested title report for 2600 Center Street

Boatwright Engineering Company

Reviewed architectural drawings, surveys and notes associated with State Hospital, General Hospital and Lee Mission Cemetery.

Marion County Clerk's Office

Researched land records for 2600 Center Street and neighboring properties. Printed out original deeds whereby Josiah Parish and wife gave land to the Oregon State Asylum, Lee Mission and the Children's Aid Society.

Marion County Planning Department

Contacted the Marion County Planning Department and was referred to the City of Salem.

Marion County Historical Society

Looked through maps and files for Marion County Cemeteries. Found a few references to burials in the "prison cemetery". Checked these names against the list in the Asylum Cemetery book and they were not listed. This discovery supported the belief that another cemetery was on the State prison grounds.

Read *The Asylum Cemetery, 1882-1913*, Marion County, Oregon by Sue Bell.

Reviewed W.T. Rigdon and Lee Mission files.

Searched through architectural drawings by James R. Payne, who prepared drawings for the Salem General Hospital expansion.

Marion County Law Library

Researched laws that existed during the 1900-1940 timeframe concerning burial law. Backtracked current laws for disinterment and cremation.

Marion County Surveyor's Dept.

Received pertinent surveys plus instruction on using the online database.

Received page from 1889 Supervisor's Maps of the Road Districts in Marion County

Oregon Archives

Reviewed Superintendent's Reports, Board of Control Records

Read through Oregon State Hospital Death Record Ledger

Located 1951 update in Board of Control Records which states State Hospital sold land the General Hospital.

Oregon State Asylum Research Project, June-August 2019

Oregon Arts Commission

Received an email stating the information they have concerns the cremated remains from 1914 forward. Also received information regarding the discovery at the Cottage Farm of old headstones that once were matched to Asylum Cemetery graves.

Oregon Historical Society

Contacted Reference Librarian via email.

Received an 1890 poster of Salem with inlaid pictures of notable buildings in Salem; one was the State Insane Asylum.

Oregon State Hospital

Visited the former and current location of the cremated remains from 1915-1971

Met with Meagan Lallier-Barron, curator of the Museum of Mental Health at the Oregon State Hospital and discovered a 1912 photograph showing the Dome Building and the Orphans' Home

Oregon State Library

Reviewed maps and Board of Control Records

Reviewed Secretary of State and Treasurer's Reports

Reviewed *Oregon Historical Quarterlies*

Reviewed vertical files on the State Asylum Cemetery, Cemeteries in Marion County and State Asylum records

Salem Public Library

Looked through *Polk's SALEM City and Marion County Directories* for 1913-1915

Read through *Oregon Burial Site Guide*, compiled by Dean H. Byrd

Read through *Historic Salem: An inventory of Historic Places*

Reviewed ads in the 1913-1915 city directories; noted funeral homes and coroners listed.

Located Salem and its Suburbs map inside Edgar Williams & Co., "Illustrated Historical Map, Marion and Linn Counties, Oregon," 1878.

Salem City Planning Department

Met with Kimberli Fitzgerald and Kirsten Straus to discuss similar research.

Met with Brandon Pike and requested tax lot, street address search for Lee Mission property and State Asylum property. Attained Lee Mission Cemetery Plat Map from 1900 and an undated Asylum property map on which is noted the State Cemetery. This map is promising in identifying the location of the Asylum cemetery

Salem Hospital

Spoke with hospital librarian but they no longer have records on the history of the hospital.

Willamette University

Emailed Mary McRobinson at Willamette University Archives about this project.

Searched Willamette University online database for photographs and documents on topic.

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Materials researched:

- Architectural drawings
- Books written on topic
- City of Salem Maps
- Marion County Land Patents and Deeds
- Marion County Surveys
- Oregon State Maps
- Oregon Board of Control Records
- Oregon Laws
- Oregon Revised Statutes
- Oregon Secretary of State Reports
- Oregon Treasury Reports
- Oregon Senate Bills
- Oregon Treasurer's Reports
- Photographs
- US Federal Land Grants
- US Federal Maps

Online Resources

- Biographies
- Genealogical and Historical Newspaper Databases
 - Ancestry.com
 - Newspapers.com
 - FamilySearch.org
- Online historical databases
 - Digital Sanborn Maps
 - BLM Glo records
 - Marion County Survey Records
- Online historical photograph databases
- Marion County Deeds and their Indexes
- Marion County Surveys

In summary:

In spite of extensive research, questions remain:

- 1.) Were those buried in the Asylum Cemetery disinterred?

Research has proven that some individuals buried in the Asylum Cemetery were disinterred in the 1913-1915 timeframe but only if family members requested it be done. Funeral records, newspaper articles and updates to the legislature do not discuss fulfilling this disinterment directive. Without legal requirements for disinterment, and by using labor forces under the authority of the State, it could have been accomplished and simply not noted. Locating the area of the cemetery has provided substantial proof that the bodies were disinterred, but the absence of any record to support the disinterment of over 1500 bodies seems odd.

- 2.) If disinterment occurred, where are the remains?

This question continues to be a mystery. After 1914, the dead from the Asylum were cremated and the remains put in copper canisters that are housed in the Cremains Memorial at the Oregon State Hospital. Cremains dated prior to 1914 are not in that memorial and no records exist to share what happened to those remains.

- 3.) Where exactly was the Asylum Cemetery?

Maps have allowed us to narrow down the location to a general area, east of the Lee Mission Cemetery, north of the land belonging to the Orphans' Home, and south of D Street. Maps seem to indicate the location is now on property owned by Salem Health. Unlike the Lee Mission Cemetery, no specific burial plat maps have been found. Although ledgers were kept at the State Hospital that documented the deaths of those buried in the Asylum Cemetery and numbered their burials, no record of a plat map has been found. Although we have been successful in locating the western boundary of the Asylum Cemetery, the other boundaries are unknown.

Discoveries within land records and old maps led the search grid west. The land of interest was sold to Salem General Hospital by the State of Oregon and is now owned by Salem Health. Focusing the search in that area provided proof that this area has been disturbed by excavation, construction and a tunnel system. No mention of bodies or cemetery ornaments has been found during these excavations. This information supports the belief that the bodies in the Asylum Cemetery were disinterred and cremated. The mystery still remains as to what happened to the remains.

Oregon State Asylum Research Project, June-August 2019

Researching a mystery of such significance requires utilizing knowledge from informational specialists. This summary could not have been written without the help of the following people. I am extremely grateful for their assistance and their expertise.

AmeriTitle

Carlee Novak and Krista Iverson

Boatwright Engineering Company

Jeanne and Corbey Boatwright

Howell-Edwards-Doerksen with Rigdon-Ransom

Kristine Batra

Marion County Historical Society

Kylie Pine, and Kaylyn Mabey

Marion County Law Library

Jon Brenner

Marion County Surveyor's Dept.

David F. Loudon Jr., Survey Records Manager

Oregon Archives

Layne Sawyer

Oregon State Hospital

Meagan Lallier-Barron, curator of the Museum of Mental Health

Oregon State Library

Jey Wann, Sarah Cunningham, and Dave Hegeman

Salem Public Library

Rebecca Gabert, Kari Rolston

Salem City Planning Department

Kimberli Fitzgerald, Kirsten Straus and Brandon Pike

Writer's Resource

Debra Lea Meaghers

Oregon State Asylum Research Project, June-August 2019