

- 1870 When the Phoenix town site was created October 20, 1870, it consisted of a rectangular plat measuring 14 blocks wide by 7 blocks deep. Boundary roads on the north and south were named Van Buren and Harrison, with Yavapai and Apache on the west and east. Survey filed, in 1871, by William A. Hancock, County Surveyor. *Phoenix incorporated February 25, 1881.*
- 1871 The first City Cemetery was located near the SW corner of the 1871 original Phoenix town site, at Blocks 57 & 58 between Jackson and Madison Streets and Cocopah and Yavapai Streets (ca. 1892 renamed Fifth and Seventh Avenues). *The area contained the remains of people who died in Phoenix between 1871 and 1884. In 1884, city fathers deemed the first City Cemetery unsightly and ordered it closed. All known remains were removed by mid 1880s\*, when the cemeteries at French St. (later 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue) and Madison St., Phoenix, officially opened.*
- 1877 First burial in Williams (aka Crosscut) Cemetery, at NW corner of 48th St. & Van Buren St.
- March 1880 Neahr Addition, City of Phoenix, filed for record March 6, 1880.
- 1881 ***“A.D. Lemon spoke of the necessity of a suitable and decent place of interment, and of the shameful place of depositing the dead of this city at present” March 4, 1881 editorial.***
- May 1884 Citizens and community leaders complain about the first City Cemetery ***“right at the door of our beautiful city and in the most irregular, dilapidated, and disgraceful condition...a disgrace to the town” Phoenix Daily Herald May 27, 1884.***
- July 1884 **Fraternal Cemeteries:** Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F), Knights of Pythias (K of P), Ancient Order of United Workmen (A.O.U.W.) - *E ½ Block 32, Neahr Addition, surveyed by Capt. William Hancock and filed for recording July 19, 1884.*
- July 1884 Jerry Millay, attorney, moved bodies\* from potter's field of first city cemetery to W ½ Block 32, Neahr Addition. *Contract entered into July 17, 1884 and paid off on October 6, 1884 by common council.*
- Sept 1884 The fraternal orders of the city bought Block 32, Neahr Addition. Keeping the east half of the Block to establish their cemeteries, they sold the west half to others for use as the City Cemetery. The new “City Cemetery” was surveyed by Thomas W. Hine and recorded September 3, 1884. *These five cemeteries lie south of Madison Street comprising four acres of fraternal grounds and four acres dedicated to public and City burials.*
- Oct 1884 Jerry Millay deeded to John R. Loosley, a City Councilman, some of W ½ of Block 32, Neahr Addition. *Referred to here as “Loosley Cemetery”.*
- 1884 Families moved their burials from the first City Cemetery (aka "old Phoenix" cemetery) to one of the newly established cemeteries.\* *City officials contracted to move unclaimed remains to the new City Cemetery (aka Loosley).\**
- 1885 John R. Loosley moved more remains circa 1885.\* First burials were in north part near Madison Street. *A great many remains were beyond identification so they were buried in two large common graves at the north end of City Cemetery; sites unknown due to lost records.*
- Oct. 3, 1887 *There having been no burials there for two years, blocks 57 & 58, the "old Phoenix cemetery" of original town site, ordered to other uses.*
- Nov 1887 Porter Cemetery established. Lulu G. (Cotton) Porter received quit claim deed from J.M. Evans for S ½ Block 22, Neahr Addition, including lots 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in November of 1887. *Surveyed by William M. Breakenridge and presented for recording March 24, 1891.*

- 1888 Blocks 57 & 58 of old Phoenix town site deeded to School District No. 1 on April 26, 1888. West End School built on Block 58. *During the construction of foundation trenches, graves were found. These remains were reinterred at the new City Cemetery.\**
- 1888 Double Butte Cemetery established in Tempe, AZ.
- 1889/1896 Loosley filed June 5, 1889 and February 12, 1896 for further subdivision of City Cemetery W ½ Block 32, Neahr Addition.
- 1890 Maricopa County bought 10 acres at 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. north of the Salt River. First burial at Salt River Cemetery took place in 1891. The beloved neighborhood cemetery with over 8000 burials closed in 1951. In 1961, it was deeded to Phoenix and renamed Cementerio Lindo, “pretty cemetery”.
- 1891 Mesa Cemetery established in Mesa AZ.
- ca. 1890-1895 North and southbound City streets, previously named for Native American tribes or local citizens, are numbered; Centre Street is renamed Central Avenue. “Avenues” are west of Central and “Streets” are east, beginning with First, Second, and so on.
- 1894 W.S. Allbright filed September 28, 1894 for a subdivision of W ½ Block 32 Neahr Addition.
- 1895 Glendale Cemetery established in Glendale, AZ.
- 1898 St. Francis Cemetery established in Phoenix, AZ.
- 1898 Rosedale Cemetery laid out by J.W. Walker at Lots 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of S ½ Block 21, Neahr Addition; plat recorded April 30, 1898. *Surveyed by C. (Jim) Dobbins. The N ½ of Block 21 also used for burials but no plat filing has been found.*
- 1906 Greenwood Memorial Park opened by Masonic Lodge No. 2. *From 1906 –1920s as many as 190 total removals from these seven cemeteries occurred with the majority going to Greenwood.*
- 1909, 1914 The seven cemeteries at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Madison/Jefferson were declared abandoned in 1909. *By 1914 new burials were barred and prohibited there.*
- 1930s-WWII Preservation, restoration, and research was begun in the late 1930s by the original Pioneers' Cemetery Association but was interrupted on Dec. 23, 1940, by the sudden death of lead researcher Thomas A. Hayden and then, World War II.
- 1947 Memory Lawn Memorial Park opened by Shumway family.
- 1983 The present Pioneers' Cemetery Association (PCA) was formed and created a working relationship with the City of Phoenix to further work at these seven cemeteries.
- May 1988 The seven historic cemeteries were officially designated as the Pioneer & Military Memorial Park (PMMP).
- 1989 Greenwood & Memory Lawn Memorial Parks merged into one cemetery.
- 1993 The PMMP received “Historic District” status by the City of Phoenix.
- 1994 The historic Smurthwaite House, designed by James M. Creighton and built in 1897, made a landmark journey of 26 city blocks from its original site at 602 N. 7th Street, NW corner of 7th & Fillmore, to its current location at PMMP.
- May 2001 On May 17, 2001, Smurthwaite House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. *It now serves as the Visitors Center and an Archival Library for the State’s burial records.*
- 2007 The Pioneer & Military Memorial Park (PMMP) was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on February 1, 2007.
- May 2012 Historic remains found at site of first City Cemetery, curated by State Repatriation Coordinator.
- June 2013 These remains interred\* at City Cemetery section of Pioneer & Military Memorial Park.

*\*Note: this Timeline identifies six different periods of burials being removed from first City Cemetery to the new City/Loosley cemeteries. Most of these became unmarked and unknown grave locations. The mission of the Pioneers’ Cemetery Association (PCA) is to research, preserve, and protect the history and physical remains of Arizona pioneers as exemplified in the early, historic period cemeteries of the state.*