

CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

Greenwood Cemetery, City Park Ave. & Canal St.
Cemeteries or West End street car.

CONTROL: Ladies Confederate Memorial Association of Louisiana are the custodians. The statue is cleaned and kept in shape by Greenwood Cemetery.

APPROACH: The monument is situated in the front left-hand corner of Greenwood Cemetery, plainly visible from City Park Avenue.

History:

The Confederate Statue should be one of the most loved and honored of all New Orleans monuments, for it probably represents the most self-sacrifice and unalloyed patriotism on the part of the little group that caused its erection, and the statue itself appeals for its beauty and pathos.

During the Civil War, a ladies aid society, under the leadership of Mrs. W. H. McLellan, had been formed in New Orleans to provide clothing and uniforms for the state troup^s.² With the capture of New Orleans, they disbanded temporarily, but 1866 found them again organized, as the Ladies Confederate Memorial Association. Among their stated purposes was that of providing suitable graves for Confederate soldiers who had died in the war. Officers were Mrs. H. T. Bartlett, president, Mrs. George A. Pritchard, Miss C. Hubbard, Mrs. E. M. Lacey, Mrs. Risdon D. Gribble.³

They were soon deprived of their name by General Sheridan, Federal occupan^t,⁴ who expressed himself as in sympathy with their work but would permit no flaunting

of the word "Confederate", and were forced to designate themselves merely as the Ladies Benevolent Association of Louisiana.

Contributions came in slowly; in the eight years from 1866 to 1874, \$29,907 was received, the most generous contributor being Mr. Paul H. Tulane. Of this amount \$18,522 had to be spent on caring for the living soldiers and their families, but the association decided that it could spare the remaining \$11,385 for a mausoleum and monument. A site was donated by the Fireman's Charitable and Benevolent Association in Greenwood Cemetery.⁴

Dedication ceremonies were held on April 10, 1874, the ninth anniversary of the surrender of Lee at Appomattox.⁵ There was no fanfare, no prominent visitors, no nationally eminent orators. The little crowd of subdued patriots assembled shortly before sunset, each bearing a simple floral offering; and each, the young, the old, and even "the old family servant, with ebon visage and quiet demeanor" sought to trace in the face of the young marble soldier some resemblance to a relative or friend lately lost in the war.

But, contrary to many grander occasions in New Orleans, it was a lovely day. "The skies were bright, the air was bracing, the sun shone brilliantly", and the words of the speaker, Hon. H. N. Ogden, bore comfort and inspiration. "It is a proud thought," he told them, "that these monuments which we are raising in our weakness

to commemorate the deeds of a fallen cause are to become at no distant date centres of universal attraction -- that this sacred spot will be never less loved, less faithfully tended than it is this evening." Mary Ashley Townsend was the poet for the occasion, and a band played softly at intervals during the exercises.

The newspapers next day reported: "It was simple enough, and for that reason the more appropriate and the more touching."⁶

MONUMENT

The mausoleum, in which over six hundred soldiers are buried, consists of a large mound of turf in the shape of a pyramid, buttressed with granite on the edges. Steps in front lead up to a granite slab, about eight feet square, and in the center rises a marble shaft, nine feet in height. On the shaft is a life-sized statue of a Confederate outpost guard, body bent and bayonet pointed, the expression of dogged watchfulness triumphing over the heavy lines of fatigue and care etched on his face. Life-sized busts of Stonewall Jackson, Robert E. Lee, Leonidas Polk and Albert Sidney Johnston adorn the four faces of the shaft. On the south side of the shaft is engraved "Erected in memory of the heroic virtues of the Confederate soldier, by the Ladies Benevolent Association".

The design selected for the monument was that of a local man, Mr. B. M. Harrod, and it was executed in Italy of the finest Carrara marble. Mr. George Stroud was in charge of the erection of the monument.⁷