

FIREMEN'S MONUMENT

Greenwood Cemetery, City Park Ave. & Canal St.
Cemeteries or West End Street Cars.

Control: Fireman's Charitable and Benevolent Association,

Approach: The monument stands at the entrance of Greenwood Cemetery, and is plainly visible from City Park Avenue, framed by the gateway of the cemetery.

History:

Up until 1887, the year this monument was erected, the New Orleans fire department was wholly volunteer, a fact which caused it to be famed throughout the country.

One of the most prominent of civic institutions at that time, as it was also one of the wealthiest, was the Fireman's Charitable Association, and when Dennis McCarthy, of the Irad Ferry No. 12 Company, instigated the movement to erect a monument commemorating both the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Volunteer Fire Department and members who had lost their lives in service, the Fireman's Charitable Association not only approved but agreed to furnish the entire \$14,000 required.

Although the dedication ceremonies occurred on a Sunday, October 23, 1887, the procession of red shirted firemen, with their glistening trumpets, passed, amid the music from numerous bands, along a Canal Street that had all the appearance of a fete day, with banners and flags decorating the buildings, and thronged with spectators.

The day being a fine one, a large crowd also gathered at Greenwood Cemetery, one of the three cemeteries owned by the Volunteer Fire Department as the result of a bequest from Stephen Henderson, and where the monument had been erected.

Charles A. Orleans, designer of the monument, presented it to Col. I. N. Marks, president of the association and chairman of the monument committee. 2 Larry O'Donnell, Esq. was the orator for the occasion, and recalled to his hearers the days when there was a standing offer of \$2.00 to the citizen who first reached the fire engine, provided he also brought along a horse, contrasting this with modern conditions that existed in 1887, when the city owned twenty-five "steam fire engines." 3

The old Fireman's Charitable Association has continued down to the present day, serving now merely to provide for the surviving members of the Volunteer Fire Department and their families. 4

Monument

The monument represents a six-foot fireman on duty, dressed in the uniform of those days and with fire hose in hand. He stands beneath a group of Gothic arches, on a five-foot granite pedestal, the height of the entire monument being forty-six feet.

The statue of the fireman is of marble and was designed by Alexander Doyle and executed in Italy by Nicoli. The pedestal and arches/are of white Maine granite, the work of

Charles Orleans. General Allison Owen recalls that he was allowed, when little more than a school boy, to draw the design for the arches, and received the munificent sum of \$1.00 for his trouble. ₆