

LAKE LAWN CEMETERY, EGAN FAMILY TOMB
5100 Pontchartrain Boulevard
New Orleans
Orleans Parish
Louisiana

HABS LA-1454-B
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LAKE LAWN METAIRIE CEMETERY, EGAN FAMILY TOMB

HABS No. LA-1454-B

Location: 5100 Pontchartrain Blvd, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

The coordinates for Lake Lawn Metairie Cemetery are 90.065568 W and 29.590272 N, and they were obtained through Google Earth in January 2012 with, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.

Significance: Built around 1884, the Egan Family Tomb is of interest for its location in Lake Lawn Metairie Cemetery and its Gothic Revival design. The tomb is located in the Lake Lawn Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans which entered into the National Register of Historic Places on December 6, 1991. Here, many people of great significance to our history have been buried. The cemetery also includes an impressive collection of historic tombs, monuments, and mausoleums. The Egan Family Tomb was intended to replicate the ruin of an abbey as it existed on the family's estate in Ireland. In addition to the faux aging of the tomb into a ruin, its design features Gothic Revival details such as pointed arches and stone masonry.

Description: The tomb rests upon a stone foundation and includes one room that is open to the elements replicating a ruined Gothic abbey. There are cracks that were created in the stone walls when the tomb was built, as well as faux aging to make the tomb look as old as the abbey on the family's estate. The broken tops on the two towers add to the ruin effect. The interior space has a tablet embedded in the floor in the manner of medieval abbey or church burials. A carving on the wall above displays an inscription that memorializes the family. The inscription reads as follows:

In Memory of
Bentinck Egan
Who died Dec. 27, 1881
And his brothers
Walter
Frederick
Yelverton
Henry
Augustus
The Good Sons of
Dr. J. S. Egan and
L. M. Yelverton
Mother died 1884
Father died 1891

The inscription on the pointed arch on the front of the tomb reads "Sic itur as astra". It means "thus you shall go to the stars." The phrase was used by Virgil from *Aeneid* book IX.

History:

The Egan Family Tomb was built around 1884 and replicates an abbey that existed on the Egan estate in Ireland. The family emigrated from Ireland earlier during the nineteenth century. Further inscriptions on the tomb detail the family's the Civil War involvement:

Lieutenant Colonel Henry I. Egan
Killed at Amelia Springs, Va.
While in command of
Sharpshooters, Gordon's Division,
Covering Retreat of Lee's Army
April 6, 1865, Aged 24 years.

Dr. Yelverton B. Egan
Killed at the Battle of Sharpsburg
September 17, 1863, aged 24 years.

Other inscriptions note the death or burial elsewhere of other family members:

Letitia M. Yelverton Egan
Their mother
Died in London England 1884
Mary Louisa Egan
Only daughter of
James and Letitia Egan
Died Dec. 26, 1920
Buried with them in
Fulham Cemetery, London
Cecilia Maria Egan
Died Jan. 2, 1941
Frederick Egan and his wife
Julia Wilkinson Egan

Sources:

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Project
Information: Submitted for the 2011 Holland Prize competition.



Fig. 1: Front Elevation

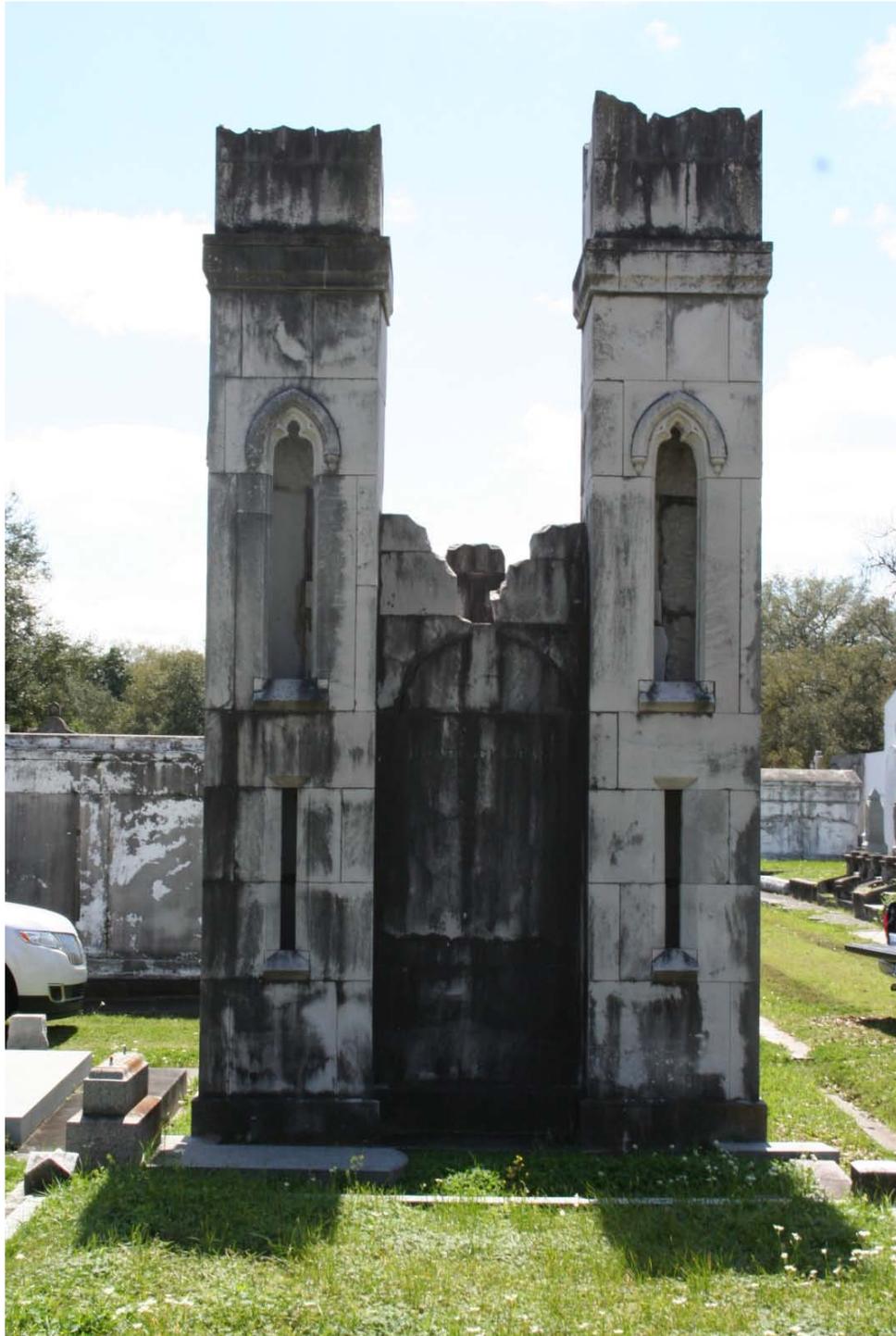


Fig. 2: Rear Elevation

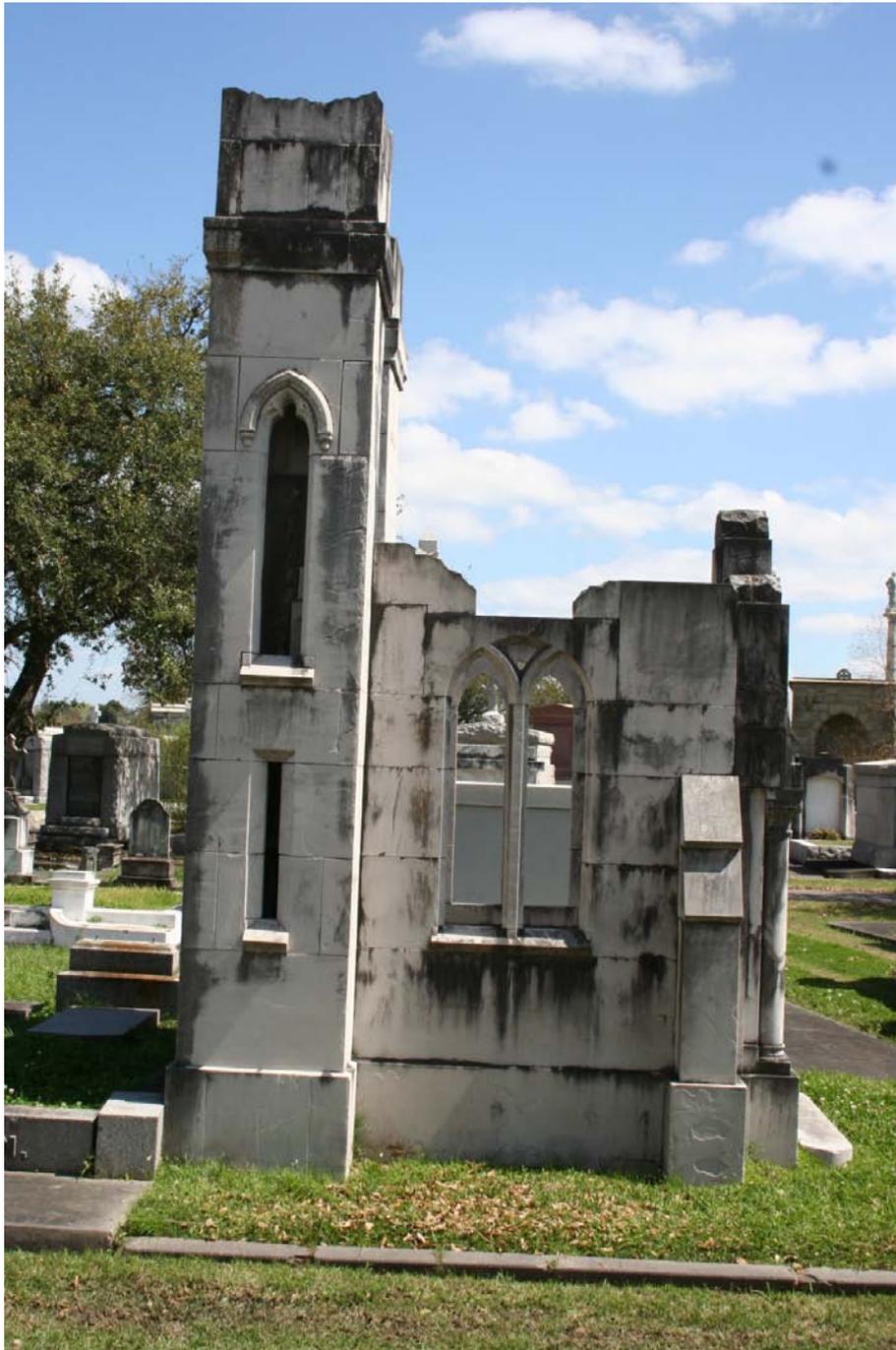


Fig. 3: Side Elevation



Fig. 4: Arch Detail



Fig. 5 Tower Detail



Fig. 6: Column Detail



Fig. 7: Window Detail



Fig. 8: Inscription Detail