

DEAD SPACE II

DEFINING THE NEW ORLEANS CREOLE CEMETERY

New Orleans, Louisiana
2010-2012

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The early cemeteries of New Orleans have long fascinated visitors to the city since in the early 19th century. Today, after 200 years as the city's earliest surviving burial grounds, St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 (1789) and the slightly later and larger St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 (1823) remain popular historic sites to increasing numbers of visitors to the French Quarter.



Above: St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 (L. Hannah)



Above: St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 After Katrina (L. Hannah)

Despite this interest, a lack of funds, deferred repairs and maintenance, and increasing threats from climate change and vandalism all pose serious risks to these nationally significant cultural landscapes.

The current project, DeadSpace II, will survey over 1,180 tombs and wall vaults in the three squares of St. Louis Cemetery No. 2. Central to the project will be the use of digital technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as a descriptive, analytical, and communication tool to better map and analyze a broad range of research questions from the evolution of the site and its distinctive tomb types over time, to a survey of condition and risk assessment. With such a spatial and relational database, the opportunities for new research and effective site management will be greatly enhanced.

The new project will also examine the development of the blocks around these two cemeteries to better understand the evolving urban context that witnessed the simultaneous development of the Faubourg Tremé and later Storyville and Iberville Housing Project. This relationship is critical as plans unfold for the revitalization of Canal and Rampart Streets, Mid City's new hospital complex, and the proposed demolition of Interstate 10 and the creation of Lafitte Greenway, a linear park to the northeast on the former railroad right of way.

Partners for the current program include Penn Design, Save Our Cemeteries, Tulane University, and the Historic New Orleans Collection. The results of all phases of the project may be accessed through the project's website at www.conlab.org.



Penn Design