

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310



County Linn
Ranking _____
Name
(Common) Pioneer Cemetery/Old Methodist Cemetery
(Historic) Lebanon Cemetery
Address 200 Dodge Street
Present Owner City of Lebanon
Address 925 Main Street
Original Use Cemetery
Date of Construction 1850
Map Reference Number 12

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Lebanon Cemetery occupies approximately one city block with streets on two sides. There are a few oak trees in the west end and two tall Cedar of Lebanon trees placed in the 1930's at the east entrance. The cedars were obtained from the OSU nursery by Mrs. J. C. Mayer, wife of Joel C. Mayer, a former mayor and bank president. The first birth date recorded here is that of Jacob Kees in 1783. The first burial of record is of Gideon M. Backus on January 19, 1850, only three years after pioneers arrived in the area. The oldest person buried in this cemetery is Marcy Simons, wife of Daniel Simons, who was born October 20, 1794 and died February 1, 1899, at age 105 years and 11 days.

(continued)

Recorded by Heritage Investment Corporation, 813 SW Alder, Portland, OR 97204 (228-0272)
Allen, McMath-Hawkins, Architects, 213 SW Ash, Portland, OR 97204 (228-5154)

Initials _____ Date _____

Sources consulted: see attached.

Continuation Sheet 1 of 1
Pioneer Cemetery/Old Methodist Cemetery
200 Dodge Street
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History

The cemetery was donated by Jeremiah Ralston from his original Donation Land Claim. Born in 1797, Ralston learned the trade of carpenter in Cincinnati, and later engaged in general merchandising in Burlington, Iowa until 1847 when he set out for Oregon with his family, arriving that September. After taking up the Donation Land Claim he opened up a store, the first in the county, and laid out the town of Lebanon. After eight years of running the store Ralston turned his attention to his stock and land interests.

He was active in the Methodist Church, donating land, with the Kees family, to the Methodist Church and the Santiam Academy which they supervised. Ralston donated 2-1/2 acres for cemetery purposes to the church and set up an endowment fund.

Around 1912 the cemetery was discontinued as an active burial ground though there was one burial occurring in 1934, of Adda C. Howard. In April of 1958 the cemetery was deeded by the Methodist Church to the City of Lebanon.

Sources Consulted:

- 1 "C. H. Ralston, Sr., is Called to Great Beyond." Lebanon Express, August 7, 1929.
- 2 "Neglected Lebanon Graveyard Marks Resting Place of Pioneer Founders." Albany Democrat, May 30, 1955.
- 3 Haskin, Leslie L., Lebanon (Old) Cemetery, Linn County, Oregon, Cemetery Survey. June 1939.

