



The cemeteries at this location were not the first in Phoenix. During the 1870's, when Phoenix was still a small settlement, burials took place in the 'old' city cemetery which was located approximately between Fifth and Seventh Avenues and Jackson and Madison Streets, near the downtown train station.

After Phoenix incorporated as a city on February 25, 1881, citizens and community leaders became concerned that train passengers' first glimpse of Phoenix was a cemetery "right at the door of our beautiful city and in the most irregular, dilapidated, and disgraceful condition...a disgrace to the town" [*Daily Herald*, 27 May 1884].

To remedy the problem, the fraternal orders of the city purchased Block 32, Neahr's Addition, keeping the east half to establish their own cemeteries and selling the west half to others for cemetery use. Families moved their loved ones from the old cemetery to the new one, and the City reburied the unclaimed bodies in a common grave.

The Pioneer & Military Memorial Park is comprised of seven historic cemeteries which were in use between 1884 and 1914. They are:

- [Ancient Order of United Workmen \(AOUW\)](#)
- [Independent Order of Odd Fellows \(IOOF\)](#)
- [Knights of Pythias \(K of P\)](#)
- [City/Loosley](#)
- [Masons](#)
- [Porter](#)
- [Rosedale](#)

Historic Smurthwaite House, built in 1897, is a Queen Anne single style home. The house, which was originally located at 602 N. 7th Street, was intended to be used as a boarding house. It currently serves as the office of the historic "Pioneer and Military Cemetery".

These historic cemeteries have about 600 markers left for the 3,700 named burials. Many of these stones are in various states of disrepair and in great need of preservative measures. Your event fee, which includes a tour of the Smurthwaite House & the 7 cemeteries, will be donated to the Gravestone Preservation Fund.

If you would like to join us for lunch after the event, we will be eating at Cibo, located @ 603 N 5th Ave Phx 85003

Event hosts can be contacted at: [PMMP@ComputerComprehension.com](mailto:PMMP@ComputerComprehension.com) or 602-708-9691 (text only)