

Early Colma (shown in 1929, left) was a tranquil farming community. Southern Pacific Railroad's funeral car, "El Descanso," (right) at Cypress Lawn photographed during the 1890's.

5.08.100 HISTORIC RESOURCES

5.08.110 HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF COLMA

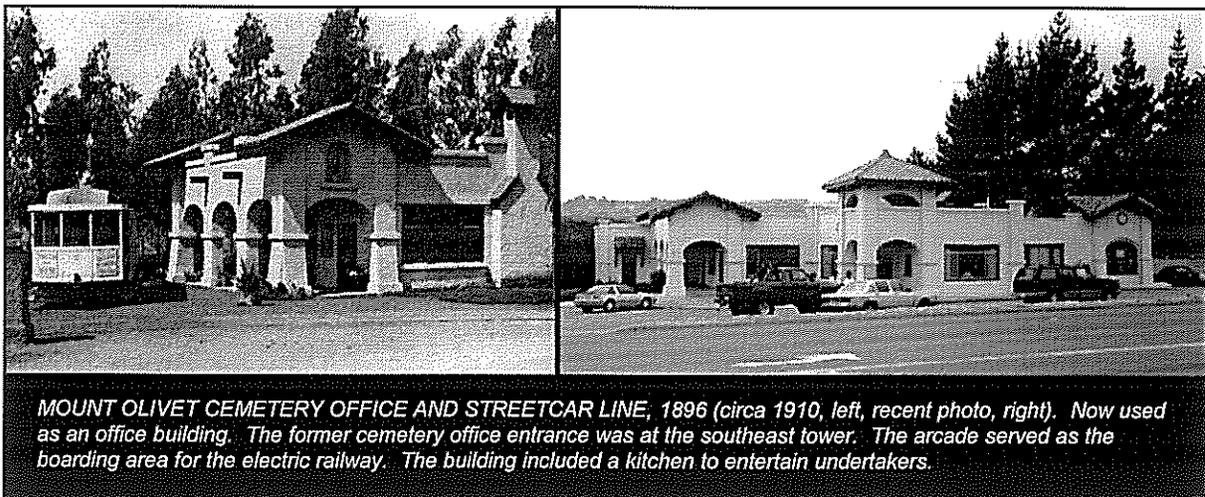
In the 1850's a large area in northern San Mateo County was called Colma. This early district extended from the San Francisco County line to parts of today's Daly City and South San Francisco and from San Bruno Mountain to Pacifica. Immigrant settlers started farming in the area in the mid-1850's growing potatoes, vegetables and grain for the San Francisco market. Later floricultural, hog ranches, and dairies were significant business in the area.

In the late 1880's several cemeteries purchased land in the Colma area as an outcome to their mounting concerns about a movement in San

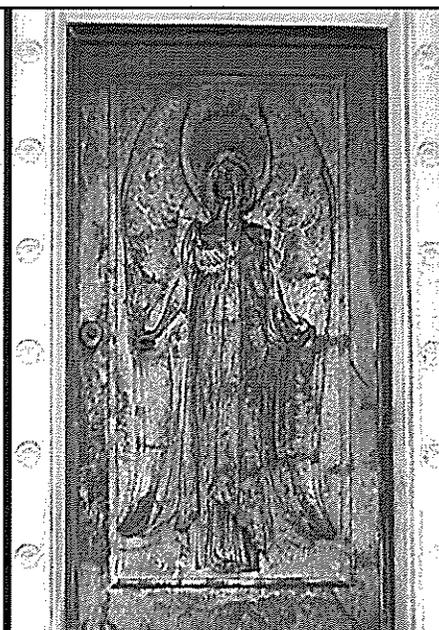
Francisco to stop burials within the City. These early cemeteries include:

- Holy Cross, 1887
- Cypress Lawn, 1892
- Hills of Eternity, 1889
- Mount Olivet, 1896
- Home of Peace, 1889
- Italian Cemetery, 1899
- Salem Memorial Park, 1891

The first internment in the Colma area was in 1887 at Holy Cross Cemetery. The pace of cemetery development accelerated when the City of San Francisco, in 1901, passed an ordinance prohibiting burials in the city. The cemeteries which were established in Colma during this period include: Japanese Cemetery,



MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY OFFICE AND STREETCAR LINE, 1896 (circa 1910, left, recent photo, right). Now used as an office building. The former cemetery office entrance was at the southeast tower. The arcade served as the boarding area for the electric railway. The building included a kitchen to entertain undertakers.



CHARLES CROCKER MAUSOLEUM, 1895-98 (left), Cypress Lawn Memorial Park. The sculpted bronze doors of the Mausoleum are one of the earliest works of Robert I. Aiken, one of only a few Californians to become a major American sculptor. The hovering angel, with closed eyes, holding a single flower, is called "The Gate of Silence."

DE LA MONTANYA MAUSOLEUM, 1909, Cypress Lawn Memorial Park (right). The Mausoleum with its Spanish Gothic three-stage towers is one of the more elaborate mausoleums at Cypress Lawn.

1901; Eternal Home Cemetery, 1901; Serbian Cemetery, 1901; Greenlawn, 1903; and Woodlawn, 1904.

During the period when the cemeteries were being evacuated from San Francisco, a group of cemeteries in the Colma area organized themselves as the Associated Cemeteries. The Associated Cemeteries realized that the only way to avoid recurring eviction and other stringent regulations and controls was to incorporate themselves. So the Town of Lawndale (renamed Colma in 1941) was incorporated on August 5, 1924 through the efforts of the Associated Cemeteries. When the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, in 1937, voted to evacuate all of the cemeteries within

their city limits, additional cemetery growth and development occurred in Colma.

Cemeteries which relocated brought historically significant monuments, mausoleums, and the remains of California's pioneers and prominent figures to the Town of Colma. Many of the monuments and mausoleums that are found in local cemeteries are outstanding examples of the stonecutters' art such as the ornate Italian Renaissance Fugaze family vault and the granite Fontana Chapel found at the Italian Cemetery. People are also attracted to Colma to visit the gravesite of famous persons, such as Wyatt Earp, or to enjoy a walk through time to see the sites of California's famous and not so famous citizens who contributed to the making of the State.



THOMAS O. LARKIN MONUMENT, 1859, Cypress Lawn Memorial Park (top). The monument was moved to Colma from San Francisco. Thomas Larkin was California's first and last American Consul to Mexican California.

MATTRUP JENSEN'S RESIDENCE, 1930 (bottom). Mattrup Jensen, who is considered the "Father of Colma", designed and built this house.

The presence of cemeteries brought stonecutters, gardeners, florists, morticians and laborers to the area. Their work and crafts have contributed to the aesthetics of the Town. Agriculture and flower nurseries also had a presence in the Town. Evidence of these later uses still remain. However land clearing has resulted in the removal of almost all of the farmstead buildings.

Numerous individuals were key in the development of Colma. One notable individual was Mattrup Jensen, a trained engineer and landscape architect who as the superintendent of the Mount Olivet Cemetery completely redesigned the cemetery grounds. He is considered the "Father of Colma" and was Colma's first mayor. Mattrup Jensen's home on F Street is eligible for listing on the National

Register as a landmark representing his accomplishments in the community both as a civic leader and a businessman.

5.08.120 HISTORIC RESOURCES -- SITES AND DISTRICTS

Colma has a number of individual buildings and sites which are historically significant. There are also several concentrations of buildings, monuments and structures which are better identified as historic districts. Table HR-1 (following pages) comprises the official list of historic resources in the Town of Colma. These are mapped on Figure HR-1. The criteria for determining whether an historic resource merits national, state or local recognition are discussed in Section 5.08.130.

TABLE HR-1: Colma Historical Resources

1st of 2 TABLES	LOCATION	STREET ADDRESS	NAT'L REG STATUS	DESIGNATION	SIGNIFICANCE
	Filipini Residence	7701 Mission Street	5S1	HR	Arch
	E Street Historic District	464 E Street 466 E Street 467 E Street 469 E Street 471 E Street	5S1 5S1 5S1 5S1 5S1	HR/C HR/C HR/C HR/C HR/C	Arch Arch Arch Arch Arch
	Woodlawn Entry	1000 El Camino Real	3S	L	Arch
	Salem Memorial Park Office/Chapel	1171 El Camino Real	5S1	HR	Arch
	City Hall	1198 El Camino Real	3S	L	Arch/Hist
	Home of Peace Historic District	1299 El Camino Real	5S1	HR(5)	Arch/Hist
	Hills of Eternity	1301 El Camino Real	5S1	HR	Arch
	Cypress Lawn Historic District	1370 El Camino Real	3S	L(21)	Arch/Hist
	Ottononi Residence	417 F Street	3S	L	Arch/Hist
	Pelton "Cheap Building"	437 F Street	5S2	HR	Arch
	Italian Cemetery Historic District	540 F Street	3S	L(7)	Arch/Hist
TABLE CONTINUED NEXT PAGE					

L = Landmark HR = Historic Resource C = Building Contributing to a Historic District.
 (5) Indicates the number of individual resources associated with this property.
 A "3S" means the property may be eligible for the National Register

TABLE HR-1: Colma Historical Resources

2nd of 2 TABLES	LOCATION	STREET ADDRESS	NAT'L REG STATUS	DESIGNATION	SIGNIFICANCE
	Mattrup Jensen Residence	649 F Street	3S	L	Hist
	Japanese Cemtery	1300 Hillside Blvd	7	L	Hist
	Olivet Office	1500 Hillside Blvd	3S	L	Arch/Hist
	Olivet Memorial Park Historic District	1601 Hillside Blvd	4S8	HR(3)	Arch/Hist
	Pet's Rest Office	1905 Hillside Blvd	5S1	HR	Arch
	Old Mission Road Historic District (Lagomarsino Farm)	1431 Mission Road 1433 Mission Road 1439 Mission Road 1445 Mission Road 1451 Mission Road 1457 Mission Road	3S 3S 3S 3S 3S 3S	HR/C HR/C HR/C HR/C HR/C HR/C	Arch/Hist Arch/Hist Arch/Hist Arch/Hist Arch/Hist Arch/Hist
	Holy Cross Historical District	1595 Mission Road	3S; 4	HR(2)	Arch/Hist
	Molloy's	1655 Mission Road	3S	L	Hist
	Bocci Monuments	7778 Mission Street	3S	L	Hist
	Old Colma Railroad Station	480 Serramonte Blvd (temporary location)	3S	L	Arch/Hist

L = Landmark HR = Historic Resource C = Building Contributing to a Historic District.
 (5) Indicates the number of individual resources associated with this property.
 A "3S" means the property may be eligible for the National Register

5.08.121 Sites and Districts Eligible for National Register

Buildings eligible for National Register listing are shown below:

PLACE	ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE	SIGNIFICANCE*
Woodlawn Office	1000 El Camino Real	1904	Romanesque	C(a), (c)
City Hall	1198 El Camino Real	1937	Spanish Eclectic	A, C(c)
Ottoboni House	417 F Street	1904	Craftsman	A, B
Mattrup Jensen House	649 F Street	1903	Vernacular	A, B
Olivet Office	1500 Hillside Blvd	1896	Mission Revival	A, C(c)
Molloy's	1655 Mission Road	1872	Vernacular	A
Bocci Monuments	7778 Mission Street	1934	Vernacular	A, B
Colma RR Station	480 Serramonte Blvd (Temporary Location)	1881	RR Depot	A, C(a)

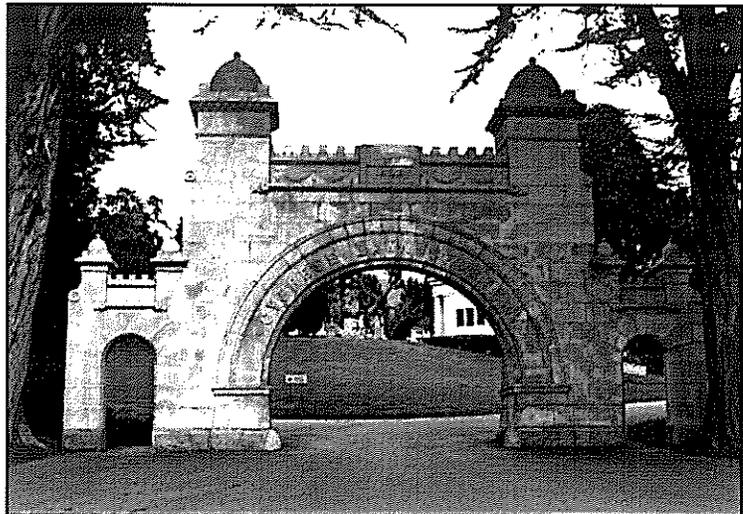
- * National Register Significance Criteria:
 A = Representative of Events of Broad Pattern of History
 B = Associated with Important Persons
 C = Architectural Significance
 (a) Significant Type, Period, or Method of Construction
 (b) Work of a Master

Four proposed historic districts eligible for National Register listing are shown below:

PLACE	ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE
Cypress Lawn	1370 El Camino Real	1892	Elite Garden Cemetery, Memorial Park; 21 resources
Italian Cemetery	540 F Street	1899	Traditional European Cemetery; 7 resources
Old Mission Road	1431-1457 Mission Road	1908-1918	Neoclassical Houses; 6 resources
Holy Cross Cemetery	1595 Mission Road	1886	Rural Cemetery; 2 resources

5.08.121.1 Cypress Lawn Historic District

Cypress Lawn comprises a museum, visually chronicling the American cemetery movement from the end of the 19th century to the present. The older an smaller section of Cypress Lawn, on the east side of El Camino Real, is considered one of the last grand rural garden cemeteries built in the west. Many ornate monuments and family crypts are evident. In the 19th century rural cemeteries were considered pleasure gardens and not just a place for the dead. The west side of Cypress Lawn represents the cemetery design period of memorial parks. It has an open appearance due primarily to the predominance of memorial tablets that are flush to the ground.



GRANITE ARCHWAY, 1892, Cypress Lawn Memorial Park. Cypress Lawn's grand archway is setback from El Camino Real and has become the symbol of Cypress Lawn.

The original 1892 granite archway and the 1893 Columbarium at Cypress Lawn are among the earliest examples of Mission style architecture to be found. Many of the monuments and mausoleums were designed by prominent architects of the time.

Claus Spreckles; James C. Flood; Lillie Hitchcock Coit; Gertrude Atherton; Col. Charles Crocker; Charles DeYoung and William Ralston. The twenty-one resources identified for inclusion in this Historic District are shown on Figure HR-1.

More of California's pioneers and prominent figures are buried at Cypress Lawn than anywhere else. Some familiar names include Andrew Jackson Pope; Senator George Hearst;

5.08.121.2 Italian Cemetery Historic District

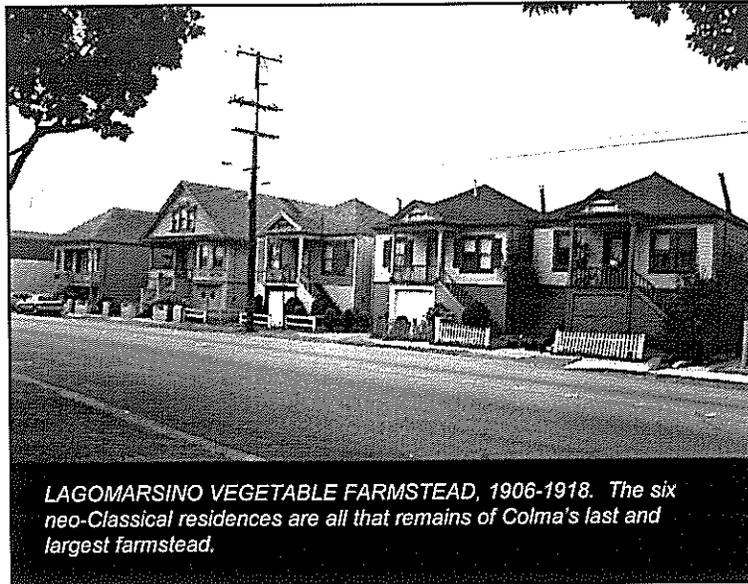
Italian Cemetery is a traditional European cemetery and a showcase of old world stonemason's art. Most of the historic chapels and mausoleums and funerary art are the products of ethnic Italians living in the area. The cemetery has continued to maintain its old world quality and characteristics. Street trees bordering the cemetery have been pruned using traditional methods found in the Italian cemeteries in Florence and Genoa. Its gardens follow the same geometric layout as a traditional European cemetery. At the time of its establishment the Italian Cemetery in Colma was the only Italian cemetery in the United States. The seven resources identified for inclusion in this Historic District are shown on Figure HR-1.



FUGAZI FAMILY MAUSOLEUM, 1916, Italian Cemetery. The mausoleum is an important visual terminus of one of the principal streets of the cemetery.

**5.08.121.3 Old Mission Road
(Lagomarsino Farm)
Historic District**

Old Mission Road has six Neoclassical houses which were built for Frank Lagomarsino between 1908 and 1918. These buildings are the single largest group of early 20th century residences in Colma, and are one of the last remaining examples of the family farmsteads that occupied most of Colma in the early 1900's. These six buildings are shown on Figure HR-1.

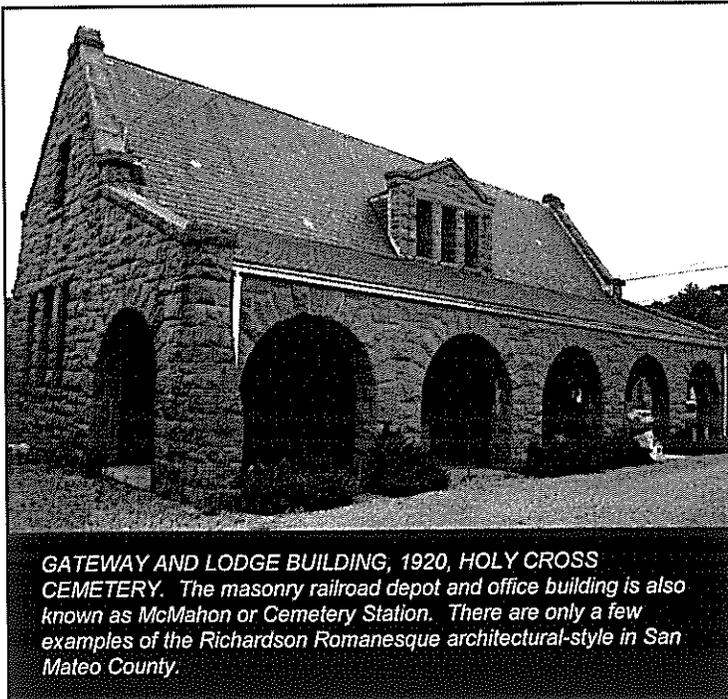


LAGOMARSINO VEGETABLE FARMSTEAD, 1906-1918. The six neo-Classical residences are all that remains of Colma's last and largest farmstead.

**5.08.121.4 Holy Cross Historic
District**

Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, 1886, was the first established cemetery in Colma. It is Colma's oldest and largest cemetery. The Roman Catholic Church purchased the original 176 acres after the church's attempts to purchase new cemetery land in San Francisco failed. The first official burials at Holy Cross were in June 1887. The cemetery may be eligible to the National Register for its design, buildings, mausoleums and monuments as well as the people who are buried there. Some of the prominent names are: Governor Downey, A. P. Giannini, and Senators J. Phelan and J. Fair.

The Holy Cross Mausoleum was designed by John McQuarrie in 1921. The Mausoleum originally covered four acres and had 15,000 crypts, it now occupies nine acres and has approximately 40,000 crypts. In the Mausoleum's rotunda are crypts for the Church's archbishops of San Francisco. Archbishop Joseph Alemany's remains lie here. Alemany played an important role in the development of California's religious community, education of children, and secular life.



GATEWAY AND LODGE BUILDING, 1920, HOLY CROSS CEMETERY. The masonry railroad depot and office building is also known as McMahon or Cemetery Station. There are only a few examples of the Richardson Romanesque architectural-style in San Mateo County.

The remains of other notable figures in the Mausoleum include Faxon Atherton (prosperous land owner, gold rush merchant, and namesake of the Town of Atherton); Angelo Rossi (San Francisco's twenty-eighth mayor) and Michael Gerald (former owner of the Grotto at Fisherman's Wharf). There are numerous family mausoleums and monuments and cemetery buildings which contribute to the beauty of this rural cemetery.

Trains stopped at Holy Cross' McMahon or Cemetery Station which is also known as the Gateway and Lodge Building. This stone masonry railroad depot and office building is the oldest remaining building ensemble of Holy Cross. These two resources are shown on Figure HR-1.