

Protestant Churchyards and Cemeteries

The four earliest Protestant burial grounds in St. Louis city and county are Baptist, Methodist, and (Southern) Presbyterian. Germans arriving in the late 1830s expanded upon this number with the proliferation of German Evangelical, Evangelical Lutheran, and Lutheran congregations.

Protestant Churchyards

The oldest protestant churchyard in St. Louis County was established by Fee Fee Baptist Church in 1814. Protestant Churchyards were common in both St. Louis City and County. Many congregations established a churchyard on the land neighboring the church building. The churchyard belonged to and was maintained by the congregation. Protestant Churchyards followed a formal, geometric pattern in landscaping and in their burials. Headstones were placed in straight north - south rows with text facing east. Any roads were straight and entered to the center and around the exterior of the yard. Churchyards did not contain family plots. Typically burials occurred one right after another - with the exception of the occasional spouse buried next to one another. Landscaping followed the simple pattern with trees specifically selected for their simplicity (mostly Oaks and Cedars). A sexton maintains the churchyard.

Rural Protestant Cemeteries

Following the St. Louis cholera epidemic of 1849, Protestant Churches adopted the practices of the rural cemetery movement when designing their burial grounds. In 1855, German Evangelicals designed the first Rural Protestant Cemetery in St. Louis County - St. Peter's Cemetery on Lucas & Hunt Rd. While established and maintained by congregations, these rural cemeteries were built in the county and abandoned the geometric simplicity of the churchyard design. The Rural Protestant Cemeteries were often designed by civil or landscape engineers and featured rolling hills, trees, and family monuments. Burial plots were sold in family lots, similar to their rural cemetery counterparts. Many of these cemeteries later established an endowment for perpetual care - and have been well maintained due to this reason.

Presbyterian

- Des Peres 2255 North Geyer Rd, Frontenac
- Franklin - Pratt Presbyterian Franklin (MLK) and Pratte (Jefferson)
- Old Bonhomme 14483 Conway Rd, Chesterfield
- Presbyterian (Old) Franklin (MLK) and Pratte (Jefferson)