

Pioneer Park, just off East Monroe Street, (in Province Park) is one of earliest cemeteries in Johnson County. The one-half acre ground was purchased from George and Eleanor King in 1826 for the sum of \$12.50. Pioneer Park Cemetery was the only burial ground in Franklin for about 25 years until Greenlawn opened in 1845. The land for Greenlawn Cemetery, a plot of ground of two and one-half acres, was purchased from Peter A. Banta after the rejection of George King to sell a piece of ground about one-half mile south of the courthouse. It turned out to be more desirable for people traveling the highway into Franklin. To date the cemetery remains a historic focal point and spans 40 acres beyond the original tract with its cemetery art of stone markers and a mausoleum constructed in 1909.



The mausoleum under construction in 1909. (above)
A current view of the mausoleum. (below)

The brick chapel, which now houses the cemetery office dates back to around 1885 serving as a chapel and a morgue during the 1918 influenza epidemic. Today it is the hub of all activity within the cemetery with a replica of a Civil War cannon that many may recall playing on as children. Greenlawn walking trails have become portions of Franklin's Historic Greenway Trails system linking Province Park and Blue Herron Park. It is an ideal place for visitors to take a quiet stroll or bike ride.



Grounds are maintained by a dedicated staff of caretakers skilled to handle the needs of families, funeral directors and visitors. With a state of the art CIMS database, Greenlawn also provides assistance in genealogical research.



The Cemetery Chapel.

RESTORATION PROJECT — INDIANA LANDMARKS

In 2011, Greenlawn launched its Chapel restoration project. The cemetery is working with Indiana Landmarks to gain a place on the National Register of Historic Places. As work progresses, "Friends of the Cemetery" are contributing to the cause with construction material or financial contribution.

*Help Restore a Piece of
Franklin's Heritage!*