



---

**KENDALL COUNTY  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
110 W. Madison Street • Court Room • Yorkville, IL • 60560  
(630) 553-4141 Fax (630) 553-4179

## **AGENDA**

---

March 17, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

### CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Eric Bernacki, Elizabeth Flowers, Kristine Heiman (Secretary), Marty Shanahan (Vice-Chair), and Jeff Wehrli (Chair)

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2025, Meeting (Pages 2-11)  
Approval of Minutes of February 19, 2025, Meeting (Pages 12-68)

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of a Proclamation Declaring May Historic Preservation Month (Page 69)
2. Review of Historic Preservation Award Applications; Commission Could Select Winner(s)
  - a. 223 S. Bridge Street, Yorkville (Pages 70-75)
  - b. Johanna Byram (Page 76)
  - c. Thomas Milschewski (Pages 77-89)

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of February 2025 Meeting with Historic Preservation Groups
  - a. Approval of Invoice for Food and Coffee in the Amount of \$95.54; Invoice to Be Paid from PBZ Department's Historical Preservation Line Item 11001902-63830 (Pgs 90-91)
  - b. Follow-Up Discussion on the Meeting
2. Discussion of Having Commission Meetings at Historic Locations in the County; Commission Could Determine Meeting Locations and Times (Pages 92-93)
3. Discussion of Historic Structure Surveys (Page 94)
4. Discussion of Native American Tribes Associated with Kendall County
5. Discussion of 13860 Fox Road
6. Discussion of Amendments to the Kendall County Code Pertaining to Commission Review of Certain Building Permit Applications; Commission Could Recommend Amendments to the Kendall County Code and/or Approve a New Policy for Review of Certain Building Permit Applications (Page 95)
7. Discussion of Landmarking Cemeteries and Funding Sources for Cemeteries (Pages 96-135)

### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. January 22, 2025, Email from Edith Farnsworth House Regarding Winter at EFH (P 136-137)
2. January 23, 2025, Email from Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. Regarding Fire Protection and Structural Impacts of Sustainable Designs and EV Technology in Parking Garages Training (Page 138-140)
3. February 16, 2025, Email from Edith Farnsworth House Regarding Experience Edith Farnsworth House This Winter (Pages 141-143)
4. February 23, 2025, Email from Edith Farnsworth House Regarding Preview Party of Edith Farnsworth House Visitors Center (Pages 144-145)
5. March 4, 2025, Email from Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. Regarding Planning for Plaza Repairs and Renovations (Pages 146-147)

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting April 21, 2025

If special accommodations or arrangements are needed to attend this County meeting, please contact the Administration Office at 630-553-4171, a minimum of 24-hours prior to the meeting time.

**KENDALL COUNTY  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Parkview Christian Academy  
201 W. Center Street  
Yorkville, IL 60560  
5:30 p.m.  
January 16, 2025-Unofficial Until Approved**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Eric Bernacki, Elizabeth Flowers, Kristine Heiman, Marty Shanahan (Arrived at 5:40 p.m.), and Jeff Wehrli (Chairman)

Absent: None

Also Present: Dr. Ray Epperson, Matt Asselmeier, and Wanda A. Rolf

**APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA**

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to approve the agenda with an amendment to move the tour of the facility until after Member Shanahan arrived. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2024, meeting. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Wehrli stated that, next month, on February 19, 2025, the Commission is having their biannual historic preservation group meeting. One (1) of the speakers, Benn Joseph, from Northwestern University Libraries, will discuss the Tribune Experimental Farm formerly located at Silver Springs State Park. Chairman Wehrli noted that the individual that use to live on the property just died.

Member Flowers asked Mr. Asselmeier to make sure the County Board was informed of the meeting. Mr. Asselmeier stated he would. Mr. Asselmeier stated that the save-the-day invitations was going out on January 17, 2025.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Discussion of 2025 Meeting with Historic Preservation Groups***

Commissioners reviewed the proposed agenda and invitee list for the February 19, 2025, event. The meeting will be held at the Community Center of the Plano Stone Church at 320 S. Center Street, Plano. Food is not allowed in the church so we will go the Community Center. We will have cookies, de-cafeinated coffee, and HPC Meeting Minutes 1.16.25

Page 1 of 5

water. A representative from the Plano Stone Church will discuss the history of the church, including a tour of the Plano Stone Church. Also, Benn Joseph, from Northwestern University Libraries, will discuss the Tribune Experimental Farm formerly located at Silver Springs State Park. Agenda items will also include the historic structure surveys of unincorporated Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships and 2025 Kendall County Historic Preservation Awards. There will also be a round table discussion amongst the attendees.

### ***Discussion of Historic Preservation Award***

Commissioners reviewed the past nominees that did not receive an award. The award application packet was provided. Mr. Asselmeier stated that he would prefer the nominations for Historic Preservation Awards to be sent via email or regular mail. If someone comes to the office there will be no one (1) at the Fox Street location. Chairman Wehrli asked Mr. Asselmeier if the mail will be forwarded to the courthouse on John Street. Mr. Asselmeier responded yes. If a nomination was received a day, late it would still be counted, due to the unique circumstances.

Member Shanahan arrived at this time (5:40 p.m.).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***Tour of Parkview Christian Academy's Center Street Campus***

Attendees toured the property.

Dr. Ray Epperson stated Yorkville School was built in 1887 and provided information on the property. The original construction estimate was Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$9,500). Clay for the bricks was dug from a farm about a quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) mile from the construction site. The project took sixty-six thousand (66,000) brick to build. The bricks were formed and dried in the sun on trays that held six (6) to ten (10) bricks. Member Bernacki asked where the farm that provided the bricks was located. Dr. Epperson stated he did not know exactly where the farm was, but believes it was along the Fox River.

Dr. Epperson stated that over the years there have been additions built. Between 1911 and 1922, the bell tower was removed. The building was used by Waubensee Community College as a satellite campus and it was also used as a public school.

In 1993, the building was purchased by Cal and Rena Pederson and the Parkview Foundation. The school was renamed Parkview Christian Academy.

In January 1995, the building was approved to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

In the fall of 1998, Parkview Christian Academy began holding classes for grades two (2) through six (6). Parkview has grown into three (3) campuses with three hundred ninety-three (393) students and fifty-four (54) staff members.

There are twelve (12) classrooms.

Commissioners viewed photos of students and faculty from the 1940's. Mr. Asselmeier noticed that the light switches were placed very high in some of the classrooms. The classrooms are all the same size. Classrooms do not have central air-conditioning; they have window units.

The windows have clear bullet resistant film for safety. The Wi-Fi is hardwired. The Foundation performs upgrades to the school.

Chairman Wehrli asked about the sprinkler system. Dr. Epperson responded that the building is up to code.

Some rooms have a dumbwaiter so that supplies can be brought to upstairs or downstairs classrooms.

Mr. Asselmeier asked, when the school was built, was it a consolidation of one (1) room schoolhouses. Dr. Epperson stated it yes it was. Dr. Epperson stated there was some pushback due to the amount of money it cost to construct the school.

In the early days, the school did not have electricity so it relied on sunlight or gas lamps.

Mr. Asselmeier asked if the school had plumbing. Dr. Epperson stated that the plumbing was installed later.

Classrooms have computers and a large monitor. Many students have tablets. The gym is not as large as most gyms. Locker rooms were downstairs.

The school was open during Covid. Students took different stairs so none of the students would pass each other to prevent infection. The pandemic brought more students to the school as opposed to having remote learning.

The original school bell from 1888 is still in the school.

There is a large table that was an original from the early days. It is used in the Science Lab.

There is a large classroom that is also used as a library.

Commissioners went into the basement to view the heating system. The basement still has the original foundation.

At the time it opened, the building was state of the art.

Parkview currently has preschool through twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grades.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***Discussion of 13860 Fox Road***

Mr. Asselmeier said that he has not received an update on the property. Mr. Asselmeier was unsure if Mr. Joseph will have knowledge of specific buildings.

### ***Discussion of Having Commission Meetings at Historic Locations in the County; Commission Could Determine Meeting Locations and Times***

Mr. Asselmeier stated that there aren't many locations left in the County that the Commission would be able to hold meetings at this time. The Commission will continue to look for places to hold meetings.

### ***Discussion of Native American Tribes Associated with Kendall County***

Mr. Asselmeier sent an email to The Edith Farnsworth House to gather information as to what the event will be about, who the target audience will be, and what the date will be. Mr. Asselmeier has not heard back from the Edith Farnsworth House.

Mr. Asselmeier also sent an email to the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. As of January 9, 2025, the Nation was researching a response. This group just acquired Shabbona Lake State Park.



***Discussion of Amendments to the Kendall County Code Pertaining to Commission Review of Certain Building Permit Applications; Commission Could Recommend Amendments to the Kendall County Code and/or Approve a New Policy for Review of Certain Building Permit Applications***

Mr. Asselmeier provided a list of incentives available to people that want to preserve historic structures and the proposed policy. When someone applies for a permit to work on exterior repairs, or demolish the structure, the Historic Preservation Commission would like to be notified so that they may review the application. The Commission would have to meet regarding the structure to be demolished or receive exterior repairs.

Chairman Wehrli was comfortable with the proposal.

Member Flowers added that it would empower the community to know they have a historic structure.

Mr. Asselmeier said the policy will be taken to the Planning, Building and Zoning Committee for approval.

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to approve the Policy for the Notification Of the Historic Preservation Commission of Permit Application for Alterations and Demolitions on Certain Properties. With a voice vote of five (5) ayes, the motion carried.

The proposal goes to the Planning, Building and Zoning Committee on February 10, 2025.

Discussion occurred regarding whether “a historic” or “an historic” was grammatically correct.

Chairman Wehrli asked Mr. Asselmeier if the historic structures that are fifty (50) years or older would be flagged. Mr. Asselmeier stated that there is a layer in GIS for the historic survey to flag for historic structures in Bristol Township or Kendall Township.

Member Heiman asked if Bristol and Kendall Townships were the only two (2) townships that would be flagged if there was a historic structure. Mr. Asselmeier stated alterations or demolitions in Bristol and Kendall Townships would require a meeting of the Commission for review. Mr. Asselmeier stated that the handout information could be given to any property owner in all the townships that are over fifty (50) years old doing an alteration or demolition.

Mr. Asselmeier stated that information would be placed on the website about historic structures and what the benefits are if someone owns this type of property, when people are looking for permits.

Discussion occurred regarding 1539 Collins Road from a historic preservation perspective.

***Discussion of Landmarking Cemeteries and Funding Sources for Cemeteries***

Commissioners reviewed an email from Ken Itle regarding the process of designating cemeteries as a landmark. Commissioners also reviewed how Little Rock Township funds cemetery maintenance. Funding sources come from taxes and the selling of plots. Member Flowers suggested asking if the community service workers could help with the clean-up of cemeteries. Mr. Asselmeier suggested having Eagle Scouts help with cleaning cemeteries. Chairman Wehrli suggested adding the cemetery clean up on the agenda for the biannual meeting in February.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

***December 17, 2024, Email from the Edith Farnsworth House Regarding 2024 Giving Campaign***

Commissioners reviewed the email.

***December 28, 2024, Email from the Edith Farnsworth House Regarding Supporting the Edith Farnsworth House***

Commissioners reviewed the email. Member Shanahan stated he was meeting with someone from the Farnsworth House and would ask them about the Native American Pow Wow they were having later this year. Mr. Asselmeier stated that there was some discussion about having a summer meeting at the Farnsworth House. The Farnsworth House had concerns about the House having too many people there at one (1) time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Asselmeier said the State hoped to announce CLG awards by the middle of February.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to adjourn. With a voice vote of five (5) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Wanda A. Rolf  
Part-Time Office Assistant

Enc.

In 1887 Yorkville School was designed by Henry Hebard and built by the contractor R. E. McKay. The original construction estimate was \$9500. Clay for the bricks was dug from a farm about a quarter mile from the construction site. They were formed and then dried in the sun on trays that could hold 6-10 bricks. The project took approximately 66,000 bricks.

In 1907 an addition was added to the east side of the building. This addition and the original construction were built on foundations that are dressed ashlar limestone.

Between 1911 and 1922 the original bell tower was removed.

In 1928 a larger addition was added to the west side of the building that included a gymnasium and stage. This foundation was a poured concrete foundation. Also in the 1920s, a wooden building was built north of the original building and housed seventh and eighth graders. This building was demolished in the 1960s. The original doors and windows were replaced in the 1960s as well.

In the 1970s there was a contest which changed the name to Parkview School.

The building at one point also housed a satellite campus for Waubensee Community College.

In 1991 the last students from Yorkville District 115 were fourth and fifth graders who moved to Circle Center.

In 1993 the building was purchased by Cal and Rena Pedersen and the Parkview Foundation.

On January 24, 1995, the building was approved to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

In the fall of 1998 Parkview Christian Academy began holding classes in the building with 35 students and four staff members. The building currently houses grades 2-6 for Parkview Christian Academy and has 142 students and 20 staff members. Parkview has grown and currently has three campuses with 393 students and 54 staff members. The building is still owned by the Pedersens and the Parkview Foundation.



The Yorkville school looked like this before an addition at the right, in 1907, and extensive additions to the left. Many students apparently

arrived by buggy each day, note the steps at the left to allow them to descend gracefully from their buggies. (Photo courtesy of Vic Smith)

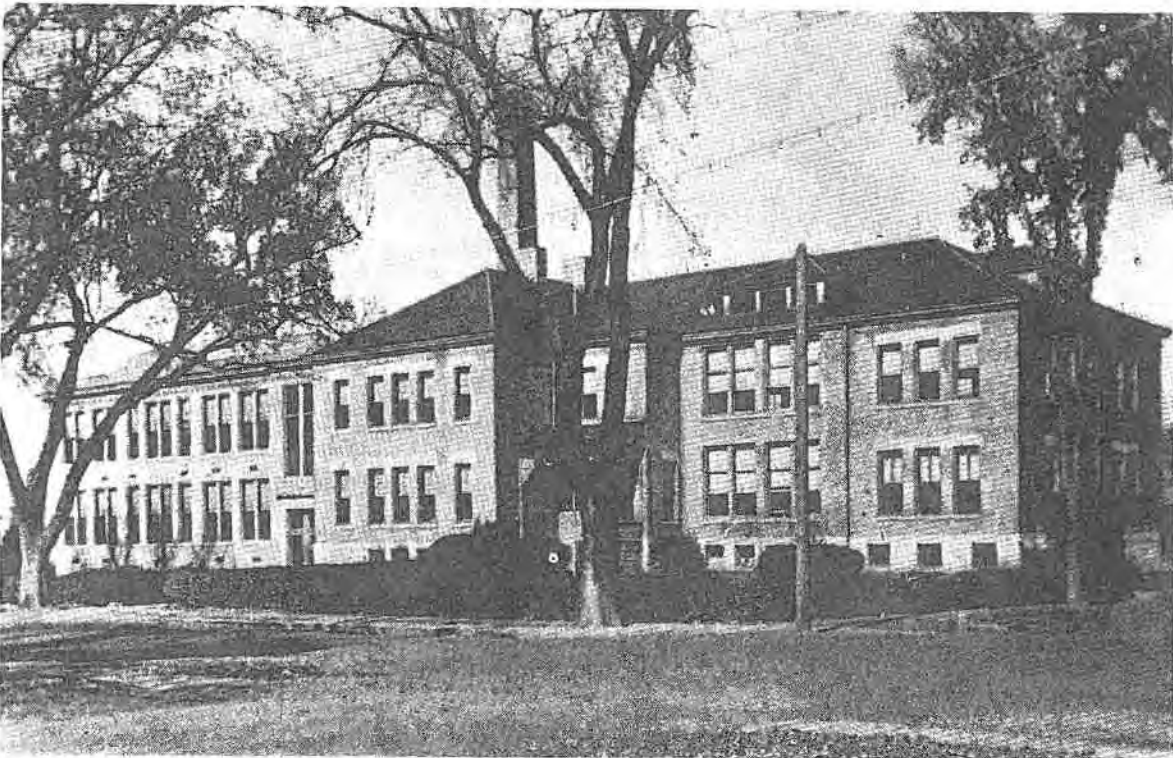


Students at the Yorkville Grade School in 1909 included, front row, third from the left Alice Tarbox, ninth Sidney Tarbox, tenth George Oakland, eleventh Roy Scofield, thirteenth Vida Lindholm; middle, first from the left, Catherine Quinsey, second Georgia Greenwalt, seventh Lester Houck,

tenth Durston Ohse, eleventh Helen Hoadley, twelfth Gladys Cain and thirteenth Gladys Williams; and, back, second from the left, Newell Voncks, third Ira Smith, fourth Ross Ruby, sixth Bertha Atkins, seventh Elsie Quiring and tenth Hilda Merkel. (Photo courtesy of Mae Houck)



One of Miss Larson's first grade classes from the 1940's. (Photo courtesy of Charlotte Larson Smythe)



By the 1940's additions to the original building made Yorkville's grade and high school look more like it does in 1986. (Photo from the 1942 YHS yearbook)

**From:** [kdonar](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Matt Assemeier](#)  
**Subject:** [External]Fwd: UPCOMING PROGRAM AT CHAPEL ON THE GREEN  
**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2025 12:54:14 PM

---

**CAUTION** - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Susan Kritzberg [REDACTED]  
**Date:** January 13, 2025 at 10:53:26 AM CST  
**To:** Susan Kritzberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** UPCOMING PROGRAM AT CHAPEL ON THE GREEN

Hello All!

This is just a reminder about the upcoming program at the Chapel on Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 2 p.m... I created this presentation because a number of people have asked me to share some of the research that I did to complete the Network to Freedom application in 2023. It is a wonderful history that I think you will find most interesting!

- Lots of fascinating information about the early Bristol Congregational church and the part that its congregation played in the Underground Railroad here in Kendall County during the 1830's - through the start of the Civil War! I will be utilizing our new 70" screen to present a number of visual aids in the form of photos, illustrations, and maps! I hope that many of you will venture out to spend the afternoon with us at the Chapel on the Green!

Susan





*Please join us at the*

## **Chapel on the Green**

107 W. Center St., Yorkville, IL

**Sunday, January 26, 2025  
2:00 p.m.**

*for an informal presentation & discussion with  
Chapel President, Susan Kritzberg*

### **“History of the Bristol Congregational Church and its involvement in the Underground Railroad”**

*In September, 2023, the Bristol Congregational Church (today's Chapel on the Green, NFP) was added to the National Park Service's National Underground Network to Freedom as a "Site," joining over 750 other national and international listings.*

Prior to achieving this distinction for the *Chapel on the Green*, Susan spent over a year compiling information needed to complete the extensive application, and fulfill the requirement that the nomination be based on verifiable historical facts.

During this informative discussion, Susan will share some of the fascinating information that she learned about the church's early connection to a strongly abolitionist church in Volney, NY, organized in 1812 with both black and white members, and will introduce you to the nine 1836 charter members of the Bristol Congregational Church, explore the church's early history and the 1855 construction of the present Chapel building, as well as explain the church's relationship with the historical Pavilion and Bristol Baptist Churches.

This presentation will also highlight early members of those Bristol congregations who served as dedicated station keepers, drivers, and helpers on the UGRR in Kendall County during the mid-1800's, and will explore routes of the UGRR statewide and locally. Susan will talk about methods of concealment, safe houses, and church members' roles - and a selection of historical photos and early maps will be included. All in attendance will be encouraged to join in the conversation with questions or comments. We hope you will spend the afternoon with us - as we "time-travel" into the *Chapel on the Green's* colorful history!

This program is **\*FREE\*** (*donations are much appreciated!*)

**KENDALL COUNTY  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Historic Preservation Organization Meeting  
Plano Stone Church  
320 S. Center Street  
Plano, IL 60545  
5:30 p.m.  
February 19, 2025-Unofficial Until Approved**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Elizabeth Flowers, Marty Shanahan (Vice-Chairman), and Jeff Wehrli (Chairman)

Eric Bernacki (arrived at 5:45 p.m.)

Absent: Kristine Heiman

Also, Present: Matt Asselmeier, Wanda A. Rolf, Scott Mehaffey, John Aman, Sarah Skilton, Tina Beaird, Kristin Lochner, Johanna Byram, Benn Joseph, Ken Wolf, Jeff Nakaerts, Sharon Lowy, Anne Sears, April Morganegg, Jeff Farren, Ken Donart, and Lisa Wolancivich.

**WELCOMING REMARKS**

Jeff Wehrli, Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission Chairman, welcomed the attendees to the semiannual Historic Preservation Meeting. Chairman Wehrli stated he liked to bring people together and talk about what they have been doing in their communities. Chairman Wehrli introduced the speakers for the evening, Pastor Tami Perryman and Benn Joseph.

**PRESENTATION AND TOUR OF THE PLANO STONE CHURCH**

Pastor Tami Perryman took the attendees to The Plano Stone Church. Pastor Perryman stated The Plano Stone Church became a historic site in 1991. Pastor Perryman spoke about the radiators breaking down last winter, which caused quite a bit damage from flooding to the basement of the church. The church is in the process of restoring the damage. The Plano Stone Church was one of the first churches in Plano built in the 1860's and it continues to provide services to Plano. The original stone sign is still in the church.

Pastor Perryman spoke about the history of the organ. Initially the organ was used at the Plano Theater. Later, it sold to the Plano Baptist Church. The organ was not reliable because in bad weather it did not play. Pastor Perryman stated the organ was sold to the church and they had the same problems with the organ. The church found someone who knew how to fix church organs and it was fixed. The church also upgraded the organ and added chimes.

The pews were hand built and the ironwork was donated to the church.

Pastor Perryman provided a history of the religion. In 1859, Joseph Smith III started the reorganization of the church. Joseph Smith III started printing newspapers with Herald House Publishing. Herald House publishes books, periodicals, and teaching materials on the beliefs of the church. Lewis Steward, a prominent businessman in the area, offered to cover ten percent (10%), for the building of the church, as he did for other churches. The church became reorganized in 1861 and was called The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS). In 2001, the name changed to Community of Christ.



The seal of the church was hand carved by Richard Young and devoted to Peace.

Post Covid, the attendance of the church decreased. The church members felt they were not able to handle the upkeep.

In 2005, the new stone above the church entryway was installed. The stone reads HOLINESS TO THE LORD. In the original stone, the letter N in Holiness was reversed. The stonecutter inscribed the new stone exactly like the stone he was given with the N reversed.

The congregation closed in August 2024 and moved to Marseilles, Illinois.

Pastor Perryman encouraged the attendees to visit the library, which had quite a bit of history on the church.

### **PRESENTATION ON THE TRIBUNE EXPERIMENTAL FARM FORMERLY LOCATED AT SILVER SPRINGS STATE PARK**

Benn Joseph, Head of Collection Services of the McCormick Library of Special Collections and University Archives at Northwestern University Libraries, stated that the Tribune experimental farm was a collection of farms owned by Robert McCormick between 1928 and 1953.

In 2020, Northwestern University Libraries acquired two thousand linear feet (2000') of archival records from Cantigny Park in Wheaton, IL. Part of the archival records included Colonel McCormick's creation of the Tribune Experimental Farm.

The Tribune Experimental Farm consisted of five (5) farms. Colonel McCormick purchased the farms and leased the land back to the original owners for one dollar (\$1) per year. The families were allowed to live on the farms free of charge. Frank Ridgeway, a writer and director, wrote many articles on the Tribune Farm, including aiding farmers and economic improvement. Schoolchildren also visited the farm. Sale of the crops was divided for Colonel McCormick to receive sixty percent (60%) and the farmers received forty percent (40%) of the sale of crops. Mr. Joseph spoke about the farmers using horses for farming and the horses had a specified amount of grain to feed on per day.

Mr. Asselmeier asked about a sign that said, "Follow the Tribune Farm signs from Yorkville" and asked if the signs were still in existence. Mr. Joseph said that he believes the signs are no longer in existence.

Some of the long-range plans that the Tribune Experimental Farm worked on in 1934 were Field Crops, Farm Management, and Methods of Improvement and How to Market Farm Products.

Colonel McCormick contracted with a milkweed company to grow milkweed on the Tribune Experimental Farm. It sold for fifty dollars (\$50) per ton.

Dr. Edith Farnsworth was interested in purchasing the property located on the Tribune Experimental Farm. The house was designed to be a weekend retreat for Dr. Farnsworth. It took two and a half (2 1/2) years to negotiate the price. Mr. Joseph has a document signed by Colonel McCormick and Dr. Farnsworth stating the land sold to Dr. Farnsworth for Four Thousand, Seven Hundred Sixty Five Dollars (\$4,765).

In 1953, Colonel McCormick decided to sell the farms. The experiment lasted about twenty (20) years. He sold them individually. Colonel McCormick passed away in 1955.

Mr. Joseph stated that there is a burned down house in Silver Springs State Park. There is a fence around it. Chairman Wehrli asked if the house was for the caretakers. The house was privately owned.

It was asked if Colonel McCormick had a business goal or a charitable goal. Colonel McCormick had a lot of money so he was able to make these kinds of ventures. Mr. Joseph stated that Colonel McCormick wanted to create more resistance against pests for the crops and animals.

Chairman Wehrli asked if farmers experimented on hybrid crops. Mr. Joseph said the farmers were working with hybrids. Soybeans were in the experimental stage that time.

### **DISCUSSION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURE SURVEY OF NA-AU-SAY AND SEWARD TOWNSHIPS**

Mr. Asselmeier stated that an application was sent to the State of Illinois to conduct an historic structure survey for Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships. There was a structure survey conducted in unincorporated Bristol and Kendall Townships a couple of years ago. The State has scored and ranked the application, but the State has not disclosed the score and rank. Mr. Asselmeier noted that the State has the funds to move forward with this project. The State did not know about funding for future projects in upcoming years. It was asked if the same methodology would be recommended as was used for the previous structure surveys. Mr. Asselmeier stated that he would recommend the same methodology as what was used for the surveys in Bristol and Kendall Townships; the results of those surveys were incorporated into the County's GIS systems.

Chairman Wehrli said that, if the survey was funded, the County would need volunteers.

It was asked what kind of format was done on the previous surveys. Mr. Asselmeier stated there was a history of the owners in chronological order. There was also a description of the property in terms of the size of buildings and noteworthy events if any.

### **DISCUSSION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS**

Mr. Asselmeier stated that the application deadline for the Historic Preservation Awards is on February 28, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. Applications should be submitted by mail to 111 W. Fox Street or to email them to Mr. Asselmeier. Applications will be reviewed in March and April. We would like to present them to the winners in May.

### **DISCUSSION OF CEMETERIES**

Chairman Wehrli stated that he would like to see some funding go toward cleaning up cemeteries, especially the older ones. Many of the cemeteries are cared for by the townships, but there are other, smaller cemeteries that have fallen to the wayside and he would like to get those cleaned up. Chairman Wehrli stated that they are looking into it and will have more information later.

### **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

Chairman Wehrli asked each guest to speak about themselves and which historical organization they represented. Each attendee introduced himself or herself and briefly spoke about their historic organization.

Ken Donart, Chapel on the Green Treasurer, wanted to share that they continue to make improvements and maintain the chapel. The chapel had four (4) chairlifts installed to make the chapel more ADA accessible. Mr. Donart stated this was made possible by a community foundation grant and chapel funds. Mr. Donart spoke about getting a historical marker for the Chapel on the Green, in connection with the Underground Railroad. The State will fund half of the cost of the historical marker. Mr. Donart says that they plan to have the unveiling of the historic marker. In January of this year, the Chapel on the Green had a very successful presentation for the Underground Railroad which was very well attended. Mr. Donart stated that the next event will be Sunday and will be on the history of Negro spirituals. Ida Ruth Allen will be making a presentation.

Lisa Wolancevich and Johanna Byram, Yorkville Historical Preservation and Kendall County Historical Society, stated they assisted the owner of the west block in downtown Yorkville identify their commercial buildings. They found an image of a hotel, which was the first commercial building in downtown Yorkville, from 1858. They found a plaque of the silhouette of the building and a picture of the hotel. Ms. Wolancevich stated that Kendall County Historical Society received a grant from the State of Illinois for One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000). She also stated there will be an electric car show in October.

Vicki Brown, Yorkville and Oswego Chambers of Commerce, said that this past Christmas, they had the businesses and other organizations decorate trees. They have grown so much they had to go into the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) building. People are starting to come back to their organization.

Jane Burke, Naperville Preservation Society, stated she is pleased with what Kendall County is doing to raise historic awareness. Naperville has buildings and subdivisions. Last year, the Beidelman Furniture building at 235–239 S. Washington Street in Naperville was designated a local landmark. It is the oldest operating business in DuPage County. Ms. Burke stated that Naperville is going to conduct an architectural survey of John Posey's midcentury modern homes, which has a very distinctive style. Ms. Burke stated that Naperville would like to survey the homes Mr. Posey built and publish the surveys in a catalog. Ms. Burke stated that Naperville is conducting a series of ten (10) lectures on how to get your house right in terms of historic character. The biggest challenge Naperville has is they do not have historic preservation incentives.

Anne Sears, the Plano Historical Society, stated they had to close the Plano Historical Museum due to heating costs. They plan to have a grand reopening in April. Ms. Sears stated they have an original 1886 reaper they are in process of restoring.

Jeff Nakaerts, Dickson-Murst Historic Farm in Montgomery, stated they have different events this year for children. These included tractor rides, a petting farm, and plowing with horses. The farm is working on a house and making it ADA compliant. The State recently conducted a survey of the Dickson-Murst Historic Farm. He stated that, once the house is ADA compliant, the Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission could have a meeting at the property. He said that they work quite a bit with the Kendall County 4H club. There is also booklet on how the farm was developed.

John Aman, Montgomery Historic Preservation Commission, discussed the restoration to the Settler's Cottage. He noted the challenges of getting children involved.

Tina Beaird, Little White School Museum, and Plainfield Library, noted that the Little White School Museum is turning one hundred (150) years old this year. The partnership they have with the Oswegoland Park District was running smoothly. Ms. Beaird stated there were some minor renovations done to the building. Roger Matile, who has been with the Little White School Museum, for over thirty (30) years, wants to retire. Ms. Beaird said that teaching local history in public schools is mandated by the State of Illinois. Bus tours keep coming to the Little White School Museum. The Genealogy Library underwent a yearlong renovation; it is online and digitized on the website. Tamarack Settlement has a cheat sheet on how to get into Kendall County historic records.

Kristin Lochner, Edith Farnsworth House, stated the House is currently open on Fridays and Saturdays. The main season opens in March. Ms. Lochner stated that this year people could have a pass that they could use for all four season. On March 30, 2025, the Edith Farnsworth House will have an exhibition with Truman Lowe, professor at the University of Wisconsin. He is the only indigenous artist with a building named after him. Ms. Lochner stated that Mr. Lowe's collection would be shown at the Edith Farnsworth House.

Scott Mehaffey, Executive Director of Edith Farnsworth House, stated that the Kendall County Historic Preservation was welcome to meet at the Edith Farnsworth House. Mr. Mehaffey stated the Edith Farnsworth House now has an exhibition person who creates videos. Information on McCormick farm history is onsite.

#### **DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETING(S)**

Chairman Wehrli spoke about future meetings; these will probably occur in July or August. Chairman Wehrli stated that the Kendall County Historic Preservation Committee has met in quite a few historic locations in the County.

Member Bernacki asked if there were any updates on the preservation efforts for the Tribune Farms. Lisa Wolancevich answered that she went on a video tour of the house. Ms. Wolancevich will be working with Helen Monroe who lived on the Tribune farm. Ms. Monroe kept a log everyday and had letters. Ms. Wolancevich found the log but not the letters. The letters were at Cantigny. Ms. Wolancevich will try to obtain the letters.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki to adjourn. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Wanda A. Rolf  
Administrative Assistant

Encs.



**KENDALL COUNTY  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED ON FUTURE MEETINGS REGARDING THIS TOPIC, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)	EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)
Scott McHugh	Edith Farnsworth House	
Robert Shivers	K.C.B.	
JOHN AMAN	MHPC	
Marty Skanaka		
SARAH SKELIN	Oswego	
Tina Beavil	Oswego	
Kristin Lochner	Edith Farnsworth House	
Johanna Byrzn	Kendall County Historical Society	

**KENDALL COUNTY  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONTACTED ON FUTURE MEETINGS REGARDING THIS TOPIC, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR ADDRESS OR EMAIL ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)	EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL)
Ben Joseph		
Ken Wolf		
JEFF NAKAERTS	PLAINFIELD.	
Sharon Lowy	Yorkeville Chapel on the Green	
Anne Sears	Baro,	
April Morganegg	Yorkeville Chapel on the Green	
JEFF FARRER	Chapel on the Green	
Ken Donant	Chapel on the Green	

# **Community of Christ**

(Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)

## **The Early Plano Years**



## A little background...

- **1830** – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints organized in Palmyra New York by Joseph Smith, Jr.
- **1844** – Joseph and his brother Hyrum Smith killed by mob in Carthage, IL jail.
  - Many members follow Brigham Young to Salt Lake Basin
  - Several small groups remain in Midwest.



## A little background...

- **1859** - General Conference (near Sandwich) called for the printing of a monthly church paper to continue for “six months.” They didn’t want to commit to longer because they weren’t sure of the longevity of the “readership.”
  - Printed in Cincinnati, OH under editor Isaac Sheen until 1865 when Joseph Jr was appointed editor.

# A little background...

- 1860 – (April 6, 1860) conference in Amboy, IL
  - Establish RLDS Church
  - Joseph III assumes leadership of the church.



**April 21, 1861**

Plano congregation organized on in the home of James and Anna (Weeks) Horton.



- The home was on State Rt 34, but was torn down in 2004 in order to widen 34.



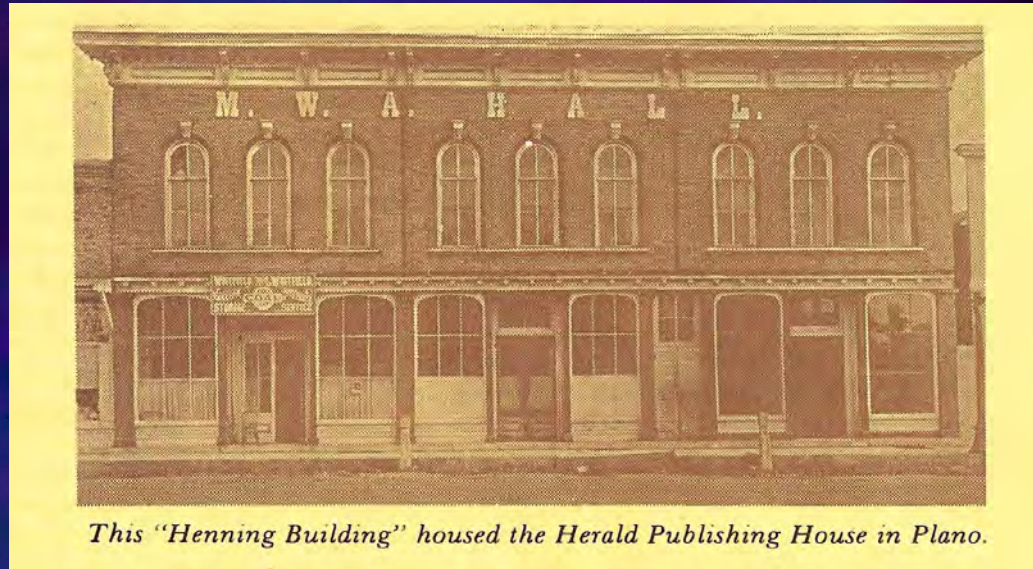
March 1863

Herald Publishing House operation moves from Cincinnati, Ohio to Plano, IL under the editorship of Isaac Sheen.

Purchase of the *DeKalb County Press*



With the help of Lewis Steward, the first home of the plant was a small 18 foot square rented room on the second floor of the Henning Block.



*This "Henning Building" housed the Herald Publishing House in Plano.*

The Herald expanded to eventually take over the entire West end of the Henning block (W John Street, next to Cielito Mexican Restaurant).



1865

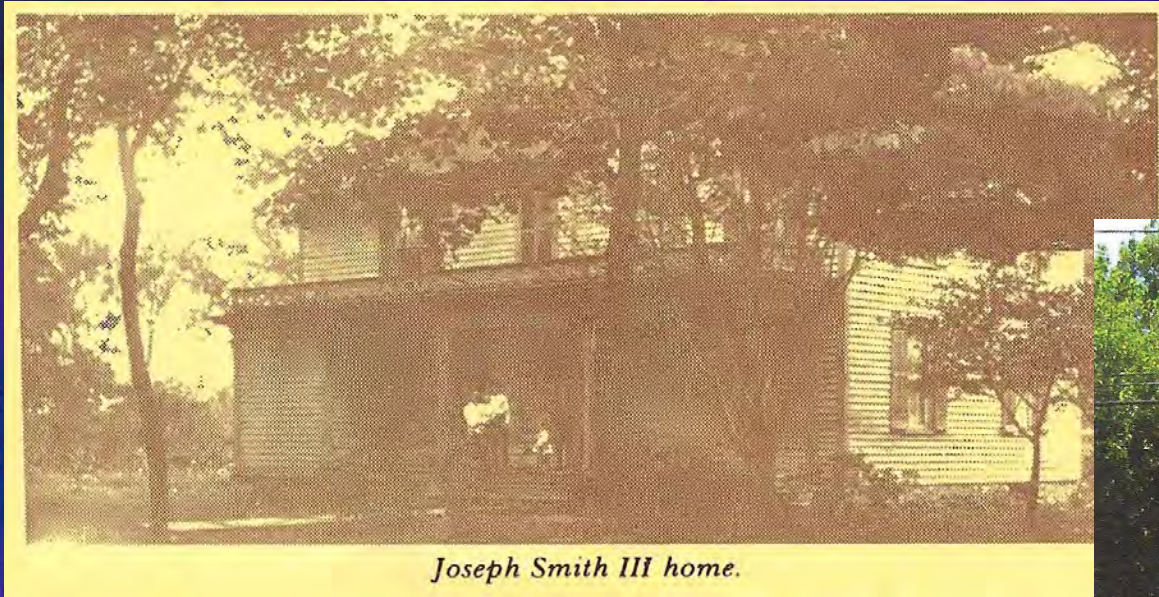
Joseph Smith III takes over as editor of *The Herald*.

1866

Joseph and his first wife, Emmeline (Griswold), and four children, moved to Plano. IL.



The Smith's lived in a house on the SE corner of Dearborn and Hale Streets which he bought for \$1,200.



Then...



and Now



1868

## **Construction of the Plano Stone Church**

Prior to the construction of the Stone Church, the congregation had been meeting in The Plano Academy.





**1868**

## **Construction of the Plano Stone Church**

- Property was donated by the [Gilbert Denslow] Henning family.
- Lumber donated by Israel Rogers



**1868**

## **Construction of the Plano Stone Church**

- Lewis Steward, son of Marcus Steward, and one of Plano's leading citizens, offered to cover 10% of building cost, just as he had done for other denominations.



1868

## Construction of the Plano Stone Church

- The stone came from the Post Quarry on the Fox River south of Plano (owned by Mr. Post) Footings, Cornerstones and plaque above the door came from Aurora.





## 1868

Work began on the church on March 18, 1868

Work halted in early fall when funds ran out.

Smith had a vision/dream that someone would offer him \$850.00 loan the next day during lunch. He told the story to workers at the Herald plant. At lunch, church member, Samuel Williams, made that very offer.

The church was completed and consecrated in November 1868



1868

First church constructed after the Reorganization of the church under the leadership of Joseph Smith, III (in Amboy, IL)

Oldest church in continuous use in Kendall County, IL



# The Pews

Church member brothers, William and Edwin Crum (iron founders) offered to make the ends and center pieces for the pews. Other church members sawed and planed the boards for the pews still in use today.



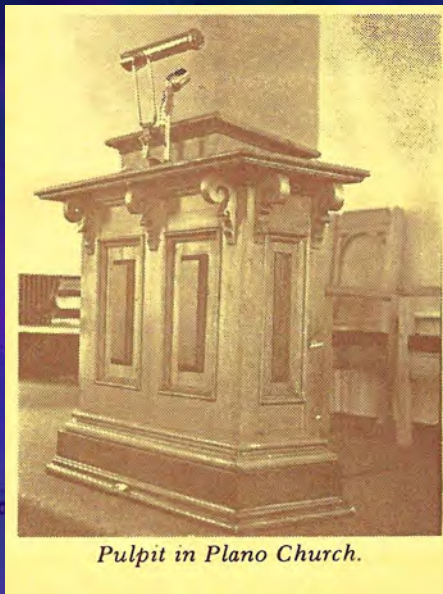


# The Podium

Podium/Pulpit was built by members in 1868

Two kinds of wood were used (cost \$10)

The pulpit was originally painted black. It was refinished in 1957-58 to match the pews and the organ.



*Pulpit in Plano Church.*





1869

Joseph Smith's first wife Emmiline "Griswold" Smith dies.

Soon after, Joseph marries Bertha Madison from  
Mission, IL.

They had 7 children, two of whom ... Frederick M. and Israel  
A. ... would also serve as presidents of the Reorganization.



# 1874

The General Conference of the church called for a committee to design a church seal. The committee was Joseph Smith, III, Jason W. Briggs, and Elijah Banta. The wooden seal in the Stone Church was carved by Richard Young.





1879

Further expansion took the Herald printing plant  
from the Henning building to a frame building  
a block north on Main Street.



1881

Joseph and family move to Lamoni, IA.  
Church headquarters and Herald Publishing  
move with him.

During Joseph's 15 years in Plano, he served as:  
President of the Church.  
Pastor of Plano church for 11 years.  
Justice of the Peace for 10 years.  
Village Trustee for 3 years.  
President of the Village Board (Mayor)



## 1881 to 1938

1930 - The stone church did not have a basement originally.

1937 - Basement excavated by a team led by Joseph M.  
Blakely.

1937 - basement floor (cement) was poured.

1938 - steps built down to the basement.



# 1938 to 2001

1945 - The pipe organ, “Geneva,” was added in.

1956 – Organ gets a “facelift” and overhaul.

1999-2001 – Organ is expanded.





## Looking Ahead

Unfortunately, the congregation officially closed in August, 2024 with most remaining members moving to the Mission congregation in Marseilles, IL.

The Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation, along with the local church leadership, is exploring ways to bring the Plano's history back to life in the church while maintaining an active presence in the Plano community.

# Site of Experimentation: The Tribune Experimental Farm, 1928-1953

Benn Joseph

Northwestern University Libraries

February 19, 2025





Deering Library, Northwestern University

<https://findingaids.library.northwestern.edu/>





Photo by Nuccio DiNuzzo



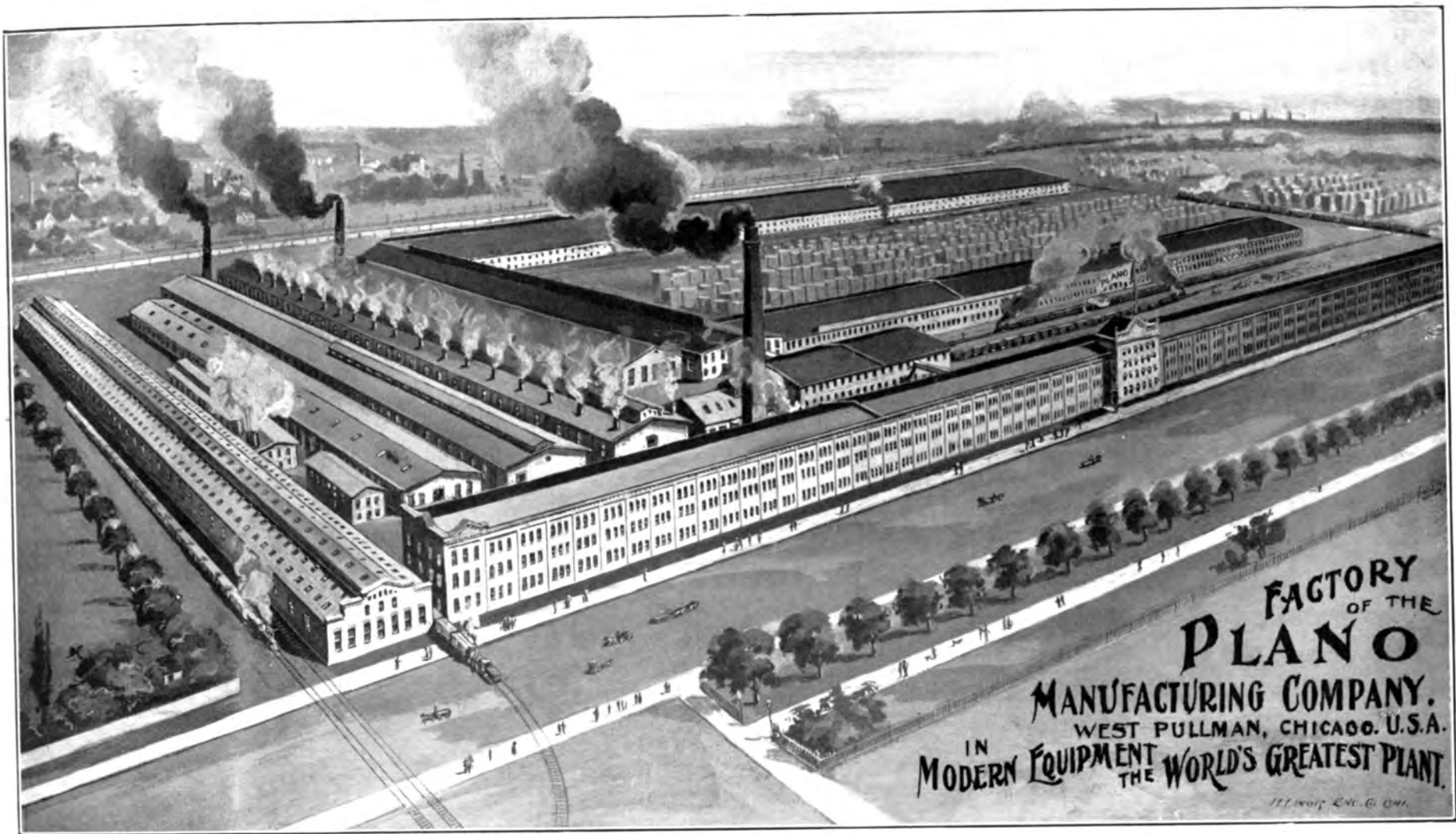
Colonel McCormick /  
Robert R. McCormick Museum, Cantigny Park



[cantigny.org](http://cantigny.org)



[en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org)

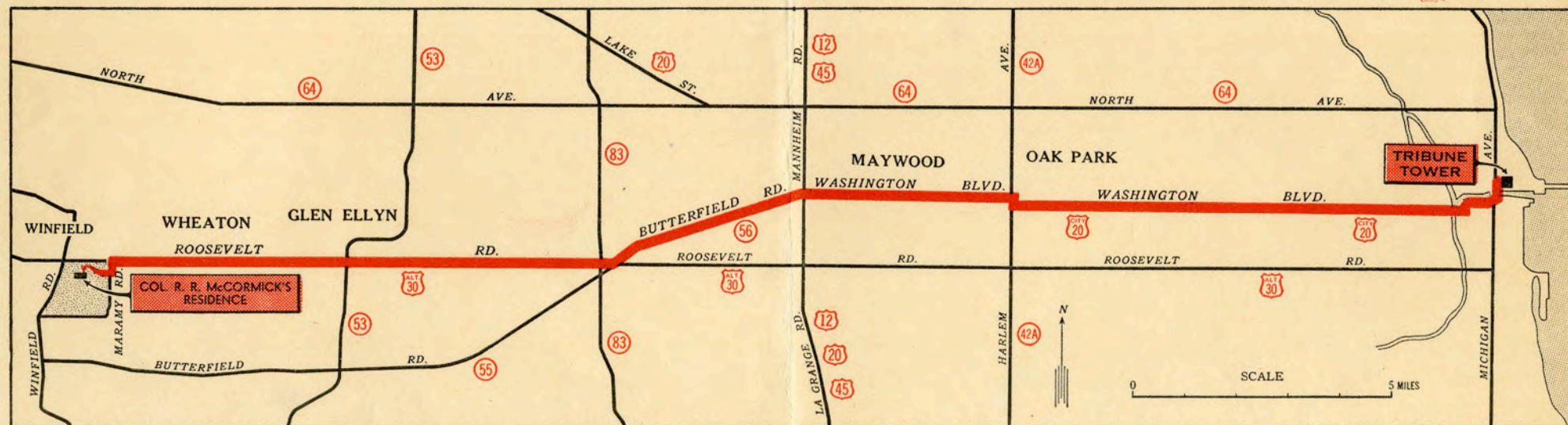


FACTORY  
OF THE  
**PULLMAN**  
MANUFACTURING COMPANY.  
WEST PULLMAN, CHICAGO, U.S.A.  
IN  
MODERN EQUIPMENT  
THE WORLD'S GREATEST PLANT.

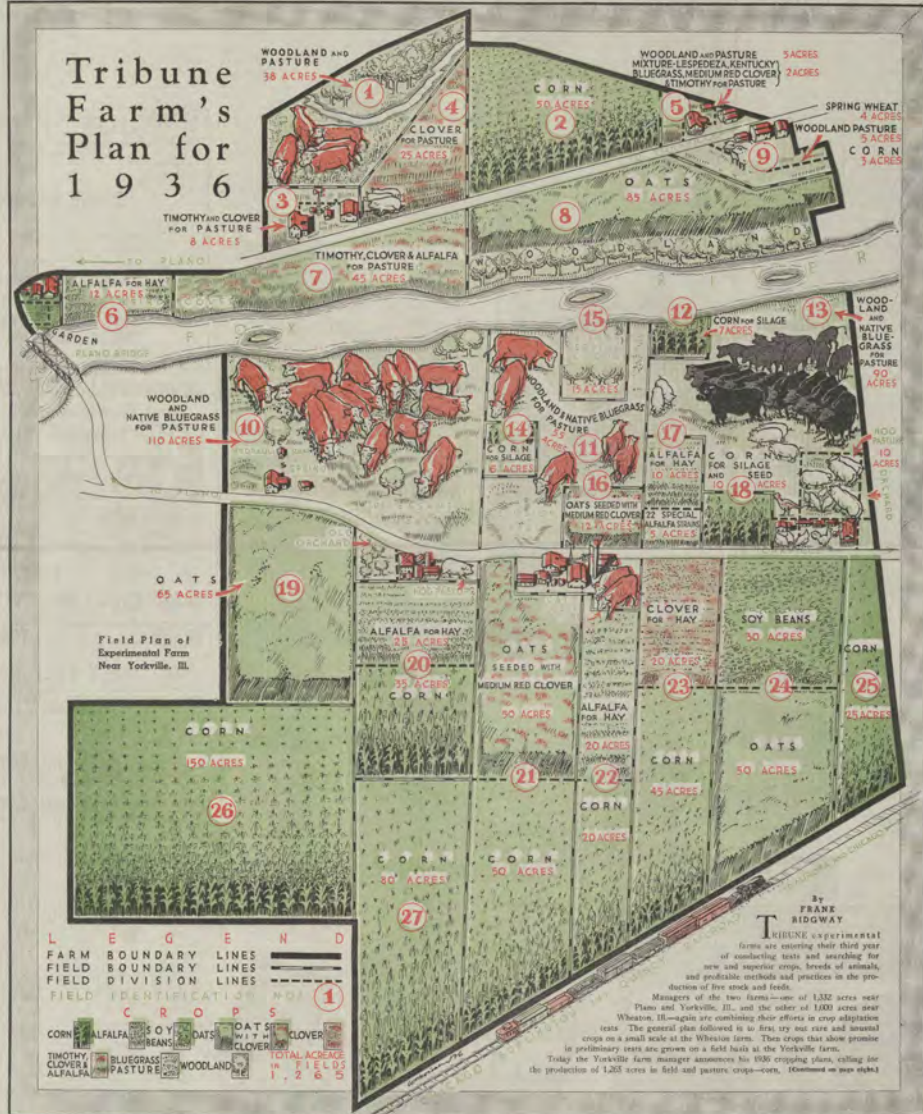
111,000 sq. ft. G. O. 1911



## Motor Route to Cantigny Farm, Wheaton, Illinois

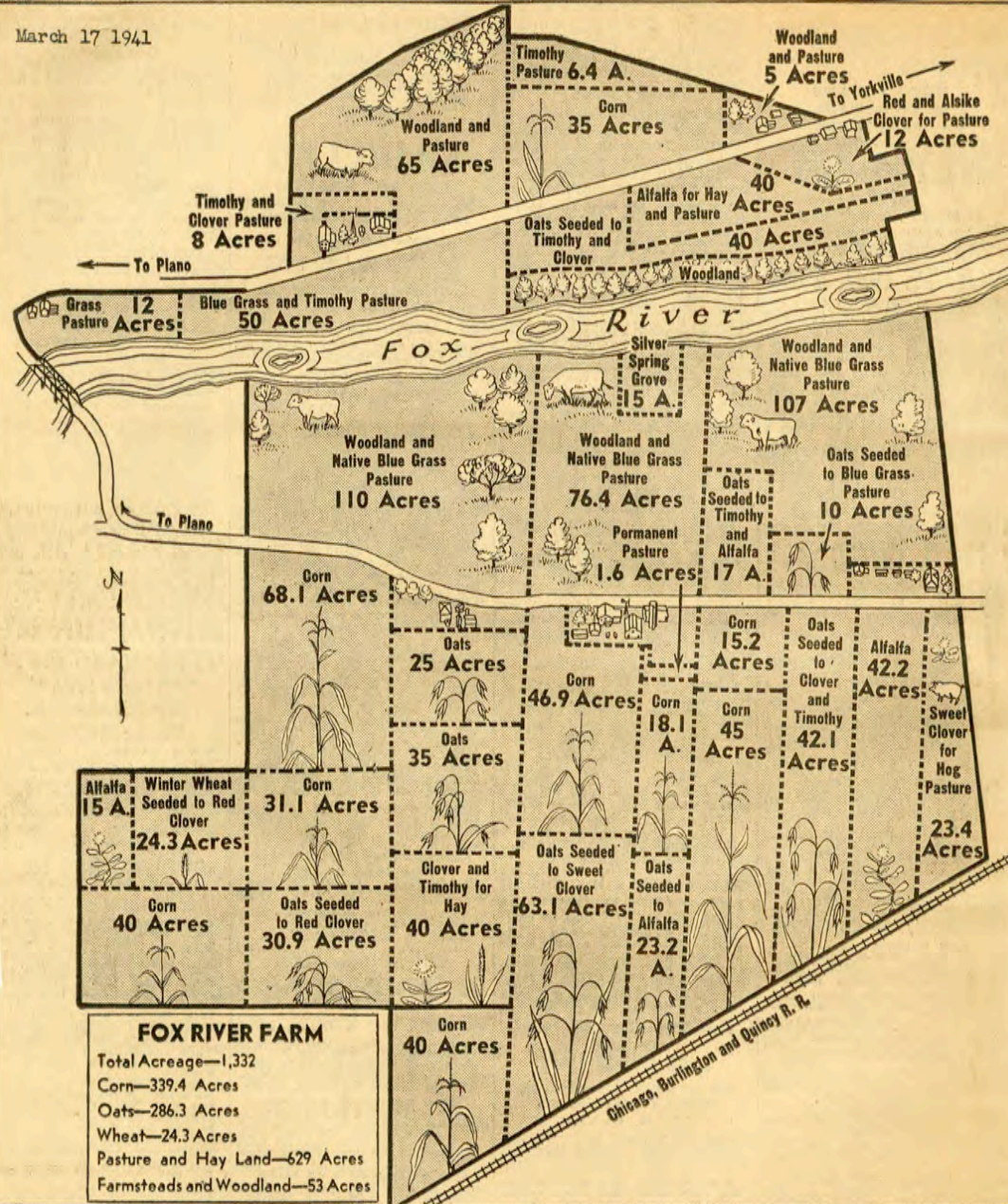


# Tribune Farm's Plan for 1936





March 17 1941



Planting plan for the Tribune Fox river farm. About half the harvest land is to be in grain crops and the other half in hay and pasture, which are needed for large Aberdeen-Angus breeding herd. Oats and wheat will be nurse crops for grasses and legumes.







**This Memorandum Witnesseth, THAT Lewis Thurow**

of Kendall County, Illinois

hereby agree to SELL, and

agree to PURCHASE, at the price of One Hundred Seven Thousand One Hundred Dollars,

the following described real estate, situated in Kendall County, Illinois: Part of Lot Three, Section Two Twp. 36 N. Range 6 E. of 3rd P.M., Part of Lot Three, Section Eleven Twp. 36 N. Range 6 E. 3rd P.M. and Lot Four and Part of Lot Three, Three Section 35, Twp. 37 N. Range 6 E. of 3rd P.M. comprising 306 Acres and being all of the land in the farm occupied by Thurow as a homestead, together with all improvements thereon and appurtenance thereto.

Section            Township            North, Range            East of the Third Principal Meridian. Subject to:(1) existing leases, expiring March 1st, 1929

the purchaser to be entitled to the rents, if any, from the time of delivery of Deed; (2) all taxes and assessments levied after the year 1927 (3) any unpaid special taxes or assessments, levied for improvements not yet made; also subject to One certain agreement assigned to Public Service Co. providing for compensation for lands overflowed by building a ten foot dam at a site known as the Post Mill

Said purchaser has paid Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollars,

as earnest money, to be applied on said purchase when consummated, and agrees to pay, within five days after the title has been examined and found good, the further sum of Fifty-five Thousand One Hundred (\$55,100.00)

Dollars, at the office of Clark and Trainer, provided a good and sufficient general Warranty Deed, conveying to said purchaser a good title to said premises with waiver and conveyance of any and all estates of homestead therein and all rights of dower, inchoate or otherwise, (subject as aforesaid), shall then be ready for delivery. The balance to be paid as follows: Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) to be payable on or before five (5) years from date

with interest        at the rate of 6% per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, to be secured by notes and mortgage, or trust deed, of even date herewith, on said premises, in the form ordinarily used by Chicago Title and Trust Co.

A certificate of title issued by the Registrar of Titles of            County or a complete merchantable abstract of title, or a merchantable copy, brought down to date, or a merchantable title guaranty policy, to be furnished within a reasonable time. In case the title, upon examination, is found materially defective, within ten days after said Abstract is furnished, then, unless the material defects be cured within sixty days after written notice thereof, the said earnest money shall be refunded and this contract is to become inoperative.

Should said purchaser fail to perform this contract promptly on his part, at the time and in the manner herein specified, the earnest money paid as above shall, at the option of the vendor, be forfeited as liquidated damages, including commissions payable by vendor, and this contract shall be and become null and void. Time is of the essence of this contract, and of all the conditions thereof.

This contract and the said earnest money be held by Clark and Trainer for the mutual benefit of the parties hereto

In testimony whereof, said parties hereto set their hands, this            day of            A.D.           

The said Lewis Thurow agrees to pay to Clark & Trainer a commission of five per cent (5%) on the purchase price of the property herein described and out of the proceeds hereof for their services in procuring this contract.

Page 2, West of the Third Principal Meridian, Range 6 E. of 3rd P.M. (1) degrees 11' 15" (2) minutes 40" (3) chains 15.41

THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, That the Grantor, JOHN STONE,

a bachelor, of the County of Cook and State of Illinois, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and other good and valuable considerations in hand paid, Conveys and Warrants to Robert R. McCormick, of the City of Chicago, County of Cook and State of Illinois, the following described real estate, to-wit:

A part of Section three (3) Township thirty-seven (37) and a part of Sections one (1), two (2), and eleven (11), Township thirty-six (36), North, Range Six (6) East of the Third Principal Meridian and bounded as follows:

Beginning at a stone on the north line of Section two (2) which stands two and seventy-seven one-hundredths (2.77) chains west of the northeast corner thereof, running thence south ten (10) degrees twenty-two (22) minutes east 15.41 chains to the east line of Section two (2); thence south nine (9) degrees twenty (20) minutes east 23.61 chains to the half Section line; thence south seven (7) degrees thirty-one (31) minutes east twenty-two (22) and thirty-one one-hundredths (23.31) chains to the north line of the Fox River Branch of the C. B. & Q. R. R. right-of-way, thence south sixty-five (65) degrees, thirty (30) minutes west along the said north line of said right-of-way forty-five and sixty-nine one-hundredths (45.69) chains, thence north three (3) degrees thirty (30) minutes east ninety-nine and nineteen one-hundredths (99.19) chains to the south meander line of Fox River. Thence north eighty-one (81) degrees thirty (30) minutes east five and fifty-eight one-hundredths (5.58) chains, thence south sixty-seven (67) degrees two (2) minutes east eight and thirty-one one-hundredths (8.31) chains, thence north eighty-seven (87) degrees four (4) minutes east one and eighty one-hundredths (1.80) chains, thence north seventy-one (71) degrees fifty-seven (57) minutes east three and thirty-nine one-hundredths (3.39) chains, thence north fifty-eight (58) degrees forty-three (43) minutes east five and ninety-four one-hundredths (5.94) chains to an osage stake on the south meander line of said river, thence south ten (10) degrees forty-three (43) minutes east twenty-two and sixty-eight one-hundredths (22.68) chains to the place of beginning containing three hundred and one one-hundredth (300.01) acres of land more or less, and being all of the land owned by the heirs of the late Joseph M. Austin in said sections and townships, together with all improvements thereon and appurtenances thereto.

all as of Kendall County and State of Illinois, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by A L S O

Commencing at a point on the quarter section line which point is 21.69 chains west from the quarter section corner on the east side of Section 35, Township 37, North,



## This Indenture,

Made this 9th day of AprilA. D. 19 28 Between JOHN STONE

party of the first part and

JOHN J. PETRIK

party of the second part.

Witnesseth, that the party of the first part has demised and leased to the party of the second part the premises,

situated in

*the residence and land owned by the party of the first part*  
and State of Illinois, known and described as follows: Commencing in the center of Fox River Road at a point 14 chains South from the center of Section 34, Township 37 North, Range 6 East of the 3rd Principal Meridian; running thence East 8.10 chains; thence North 2 Degrees 45 Minutes East 55 Links to a large stone at the center of said road; thence North 84 Degrees 24 Minutes East along the center of said road 15.06 chains; thence North 11 Degrees 30 Minutes East 50 Links; thence South 9.95 chains to the North bank of Fox River; thence Westerly along the North bank of Fox River to the center of the Plano-Milbrook Road; thence Northerly along the center of said Plano-Milbrook Road, to where same intersects the center line of said Fox River Road; thence Easterly along the center of said Fox River Road to the place of beginning;

To have and to hold the same, unto the party of the second part, from the 1stday of March A. D. 19 28 until the 28th day of FebruaryA. D. 19 29. And the party of the second part in consideration of said demise, does covenant and agree with the party of the first part as follows:

FIRST.—To pay to the party of the first part as rent for said demised premises the sum of

One (\$1.00) DOLLARS.

and other valuable considerations, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, it being understood that this lease is part of contract dated February 4, 1928 between the parties hereto and that said Petrik is to occupy the premises known as his residence without further charge until February 28, 1929.

SECOND.—That he has examined and know the condition of said premises; and has received the same in good order and repair, and that he will keep said premises in good repair during the term of this lease, at his own expense; and upon the termination of this lease will yield up said premises to said party of the first part in good condition and repair (loss by fire and ordinary wear excepted).

THIRD.—That he will not sub-let said premises, nor any part thereof, nor assign this lease without the written consent of the party of the first part first had.

FOURTH.—To pay (in addition to the rents above specified) all water rents taxed, levied or charged on said demised premises, for and during the time for which this lease is granted.

The party of the second part hereby irrevocably constitutes Walter Senne or any attorney of any Court of Record, attorney for him in his name, on default by him of any of the covenants herein, to enter appearance in any such Court of Record, waive process and service thereof, and trial by jury, and confess judgment against him in favor of said party of the first part, or his assigns for forcible detainer of said premises, with costs of said suit; and also to enter the appearance in such court of the party of the second part, waive process and service thereof, and confess judgment from time to time, for any rent which may be due to said party of the first part, or the assignees of said party by the terms of this lease, with costs, and Twenty Dollars attorney's fees, and to waive all errors and all right of appeal, from said judgment and judgments; and to file a consent in writing that a writ of restitution or other proper writ of execution may be issued immediately; said party of the second part hereby expressly waives all right to any notice or demand under any statute in this state relating to forcible entry and detainer.

In case said premises shall be rendered untenable by fire or other casualty, the lessor, may, at his option, terminate this lease, or repair said premises within thirty days, and failing so to do or upon the destruction of said premises by fire, the term hereby created shall cease and determine.

All the parties to this lease agree that the covenants and agreements herein contained shall be binding upon, apply and inure to, their respective heirs, executors, administrators and assigns.

Witness the hands and seals of the parties hereto the day and year first above written.

IN PRESENCE OF

SenneSenneSenne

11° 45' East 9.20 chains to the center of the Fox River Road; thence South 84° 45' East 55 chains along the center of said road, thence North 45° East 10.00 chains to the North bank of Fox River; thence Westerly along the North bank of Fox River to the center of the Plano-Milbrook Road; thence Northerly along the center of said Plano-Milbrook Road, to where same intersects the center line of said Fox River Road; thence Easterly along the center of said Fox River Road to the place of beginning;

THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, That the grantor, John Stone,

a bachelor, of the County of Cook and State of Illinois, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00), and other good and valuable considerations in hand paid, conveys and warrants to Robert R. McCormick, of the City of Chicago, County of Cook and State of Illinois, the following described real estate, to-wit:

Beginning at the North West corner of Section Eleven (11), Township Thirty-six (36) North, Range Six (6), East of the Third Principal Meridian, thence South on the West line of said section 2640 links to the North line of the C. B. & Q. Railway right-of-way, thence North 61° East 5051 links, thence North 1° 30' East 9877 links to the South bank of Fox River, thence South 45° West 840 links, thence South 82° West 1052 links, thence South 83° West 979 links, thence South 1° 30' West 8830 links to the North line of Section 11, thence on the North line of Section 11, 1842 links to place of beginning, containing 300 acres, more or less, and situate in the County of Kendall and State of Illinois; also,

A part of the South half of Section Thirty-four (34), Township Thirty-seven (37) North, Range Six (6), East of the Third Principal Meridian, being a part of Sub-lot Fourteen (14) and all of Sub-lot Fifteen (15), of said Section 34 and described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing in the center of the Fox River Road at a point 14 chains South from the center of said Section 34, thence East 8.10 chains, thence North 2° 45' East 55 links to a large stone in the center of the road, thence North 84° 24' East along the center of said road 15.06 chains, thence North 11° 30' East 50 links, thence South 9.95 chains to the north bank of Fox River, thence Westerly along said river bank about 33 chains to the mouth of Big Rock Creek and near the bridge across said creek, thence North 65° West 1.40 chains to the east end of said bridge, thence North 25° East 10.13 chains, thence North 50° East 3 chains, thence East 4.50 chains to the place of beginning, containing 32 acres, more or less, situate in the County of Kendall and State of Illinois; also,

A part of the East half of Section Thirty-four (34), and a part of the West half of Section Thirty-five (35), all in Township Thirty-seven (37) North, Range Six (6), East of the Third Principal Meridian, described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing on the section line between said Sections 34 and 35 on the north bank of Fox River, thence Westerly along the north bank of Fox River 18.78 chains to a stake at the mouth of Rob Roy Slough, thence North



R E L E A S E

undersigned, Mack Scharfneck, of Plano, in the County of Kendall and

State of Illinois, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, by  
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL OR MAY COME, GREETING;

Col. R. R. McCormick, the undersigned has received, released and fully  
over discharged, and by these presents does for himself, his heirs,

WHEREAS, MACK SCHARFNECK has been a trespasser and/or  
squatter on an island in the Fox River, the property of Col. R. R.  
McCormick, said property being described as follows:

An island in the Fox River, which river is bounded  
from the north by what was formerly known as the Petrik  
farm and on the south by what was formerly known as the  
Hey farm, both said farms being now owned by said Col. R. R.  
McCormick.

occurred from the beginning of the world to the date of this instrument.  
WHEREAS, the undersigned admits having trespassed on the  
said property, and admits that said property on which he was trespassing  
or causes of action in law or in equity arising out of or from  
was and is owned by Col. R. R. McCormick, and that said trespassing was  
the act of the undersigned on May 2, 1935, and that said trespassing  
without the consent or permission of Col. R. R. McCormick or his agents  
of the undersigned to release and release Col. R. R. McCormick, his  
or servants, and

Tribune Company and his and its servants, agents and attorneys as fully  
WHEREAS, the said undersigned has been arrested under a  
as may be from every claim of every nature in regard to any matter or  
warrant issued by reason and because of said trespassing, and  
thing prior to the date of this instrument.

WHEREAS, the said undersigned has agreed not to trespass  
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal  
further on the said island, or on any other property of The Tribune  
this 23rd day of May, A. D. 1935.  
Company and/or Col. R. R. McCormick, and

WHEREAS, the Hon. Mr. Skinner, Justice of the Peace, has  
agreed that on the promise of the said undersigned to discontinue his  
trespassing, said action against the undersigned shall be terminated and  
dismissed, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the undersigned to release and  
discharge any or all claims or alleged claims against The Tribune Company,  
Col. R. R. McCormick and its and his servants, agents and attorneys.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar  
(\$1.00) lawful money of the United States of America in hand paid to the

M. S.



(COPY)  
Original sent to Mr. Wallace Clark

KIRKLAND, FLEMING, GREEN & MARTIN

Chicago

September 19, 1928

Colonel Robert R. McCormick  
Tribune Square  
BY TUBE

Dear Colonel:

RE: COLONEL ROBERT R. McCORMICK  
FOX RIVER FARMS.

Your letter of September 14th, enclosing leases prepared in triplicate between yourself and Clarence Thurow and Ole A. Johnson respectively, which was addressed to the firm, was assigned to our real estate department and the leases carefully analyzed. The correspondence and leases have since been submitted to me and I have carefully examined them, together with the report prepared by the real estate department.

These leases are very general in form, as farm leases must necessarily be, but I wish to make the following comments:

(1) In accordance with your suggestion, we have added a provision to the Thurow lease provided for your right to obtain water from the well on the Hay place.

(2) Both leases provide that the horses necessary to be used for the cultivation of the land shall be fed out of undivided grain. No change has been made by us in this provision, but it has occurred to us that there perhaps should be some more definite limitation as to how many horses or how much stock are to be fed by the tenant out of this grain. Do you think that there should be any further limitation, and if so do you have in mind what it should be?

(3) The leases provide that a division shall be made at the time the crops are harvested or otherwise gathered and marketed and put in cribs or bins. This appears to leave open the question of whether the crops are to be sold immediately after threshing or whether they should be stored. It seems to us that you should have a voice in determining this, and I would like to know what you think about it.





**DAY BY DAY**  
**ON THE FARM**  
 by FRANK RIDGWAY



**M**ATERIAL and pictures in this book were selected from "Day by Day Stories of the Experimental Farms" regularly printed in *The Chicago Tribune* since the early part of 1934 when tests of rare crops, live stock breeding trials, and new farm practices were started on the Tribune's farms in northern Illinois. This column deals with year around activities on the farms—one of 1,332 acres near Yorkville and the other of 1,000 acres near Wheaton, Ill.

The farms are dedicated to:

1. Aiding farmers in developing economic improvements.
2. Focusing the attention of the middle west upon better uses of natural resources.
3. Building good will between the city and country.

### HOW TO REACH THE FARMS

Visitors are welcome at the Tribune farms any day in the week. Guides are furnished at both farms. The Wheaton farm is 30 miles west of Chicago. It may be reached from Chicago\* by taking Roosevelt road (U. S. highway 330) to Maramy road, two miles west of Wheaton, and turning left one mile. The Yorkville farm is reached from Chicago over Ogden avenue to U. S. highway 34 through Naperville and Aurora to state route 47 and left to Yorkville. Follow Tribune farm signs from Yorkville.



# News of The Tribune Experimental Farm

By  
Frank  
Ridgway

## Strange Crops

July 30, 1935.

**F**IELDS, plots, and rows all have been labeled and numbered with new signs so that visitors will have no difficulty in identifying the foreign plants now being tested at the Tribune Experimental farm two miles west and one mile south of Wheaton.

veteran northern Illinois farmers, as well as city visitors, find many strange plants, including pyrethrum, safflower, and crotalaria, at the farm. On the plots here many visitors for the first time have seen cotton growing. The cotton plants in field A at the Wheaton farm are thriving.

Safflower made a good showing for the first few weeks, but has been injured somewhat lately by the weather and insects. This crop is making a much better start this year than it did last season when it was tried out at the Tribune farm near Yorkville. Last year the crop was almost a failure because of extreme dry weather. Safflower, commonly grown in Egypt and India, is a stranger in this part of the United States. It seems to do best in the spring wheat region of Minnesota, Nebraska, Montana, and the Dakotas. The crop is grown extensively in Russia.

Experts have found that the oil obtained from safflower seed appears to have possibilities in the manufacturing of paints, varnishes, enamels, and related products. The oil may be used in paint as is oil from flaxseed. It is not intended that safflower replace flax, even if it proves profitable.

Safflower seed as a source of oil may be used to supplement flaxseed. Normally flax production in this country is about half the national consumption, which indicates that there is need for the production of more oil producing seeds.

The safflower plants growing in field B, plot No. 1, rows 1 to 18, range from 12 to 18 inches high. The buds are beginning to form. The flowers are expected to open soon. The blossoms of safflower attracted attention last fall when they were displayed in THE TRIBUNE's loop office at 1 South Dearborn street. The petals of safflower blooms contain yellow and red coloring matter. The pigment of these flowers is said to be valuable in making lipstick and rouge.

Pyrethrum plants are from 3 to 6 inches high in plot No. 3. A small quantity of pyrethrum seed from Persia and another lot from Japan were started in the greenhouse at the farm in January. These are the plants that are making a fair showing. Seeds planted in the open plots this spring failed to come up.

Crotalaria, another stranger in northern Illinois, is being tested again this year. The juncea or fiber type of crotalaria will soon be waist high—the plants already range from 18 inches up to about three feet. In contrast to this tall growing crotalaria is the incana or forage type. Incana resembles some of the other legumes commonly grown in this region. In the plots today juncea plants are about twice as tall as the incana.

# News of The Tribune Experimental Farm

By  
Frank  
Ridgway

## Turkeys Grow Fat

November 8, 1937.

**W**ITH Thanksgiving only two weeks away, families on the Tribune's Wheaton farm are making preparations for celebrating with other American farmers the bountiful crop of 1937. Sixty-eight bronze and bourbon red turkeys are being fattened on golden corn from this season's harvest. They will be used during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

The farmers' wives already are searching for their favorite Thanksgiving menus cataloged in their memories and cook books. They will be able to start off with about the finest birds they have had to cook for many years. All summer the turkeys were allowed to run wild in the woods and pastures, where they fed on great quantities of vegetation and insects. For many weeks their craws were stuffed with plump grasshoppers. They will be finished on a liberal allowance of corn.

### Live Naturally.

The system regularly followed is to keep only enough hens and gobblers to produce birds for the farm. The number produced depends somewhat upon weather and natural feed conditions, because the hens are allowed to range just as wild turkeys, building nests under brush piles or bushes. As a rule none of the birds is sold. Most of them likely will be consumed on the farm this fall and winter. Last year, however, the season was extremely favorable and the hens camp up in the fall at fattening time with approximately 100 young turkeys. After the families had eaten all they wanted during the holi-

days 16 birds, averaging 10 pounds each, were sold.

The turkeys are expected to weigh more this season than last, which will offset to some extent the smaller number produced. If the poultry keeper has good luck in keeping the 68 birds raised to maturity, there will be plenty for roasting during the holidays and enough left for the breeding flock next year.

The farmers' wives are willing to join the men in experimental work by testing out favorite Thanksgiving menus. They invite TRIBUNE readers to make suggestions. Perhaps you have a pet menu for a Thanksgiving day dinner. It may be one handed down in the family for generations. Here's your chance to pass it along to others. Send your favorite menu with recipes showing how to prepare the "fixin's." Address the Agricultural Editor, CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

### Favorite Visiting Hour.

Turkey feeding time in the late afternoon has become a favorite hour for visitors who happen to be at the farm. Cameras are clicked many times when visitors catch a favorite view of the flock running in off the range or when they are down to the serious business of bobbing heads up and down over a freshly scattered batch of corn.

The turkeys and lambs now on feed were among the things of chief interest to the 1,608 men, women, and children who visited the farm in October. Large groups of school children continue to make tours over the farm. A party of 59 from the Progressive Play club hiked over the farm on Oct. 30. Between 11,000 and 12,000 visitors have registered at the Wheaton place this year.



CHICAGO TRIBUNE EXPERIMENTAL FARM

Possible Projects for 1934.

A. Field Crops

1. Alfalfa variety trials.
2. Lespedeza variety trials.
3. Malting barley trials.
4. Rare or unusual crops.
5. Pasture improvement methods.
6. Flax tests.
7. Corn variety and breeding tests.
8. Soybeans for hay, grain and green manure.
9. Crops to check erosion.
10. Treatment for quack grass and thistles.
11. New crops for nursing clovers to replace small grains.
12. Methods of combatting chinch bugs and white grubs.

B. Live Stock

1. Use of horses vs. tractors for power.
2. Breeding poultry for major market demands.
3. Crossing long wool and meat breeds of sheep to obtain more and better wool.
4. Use of milk products in animal feeds.
5. Feeding methods for cattle and hogs.
6. Value of increasing butterfat content of dairy herd production.

C. Farm Management Practices to Reduce Production Costs.

1. Economies and advantages in using various types of paints, posts, and other products.
2. Planning crops for minimum of slack time or peak labor loads.

D. Methods of Improving Markets for Farm Products

1. Study of possible revenue from woodlots.



## A. Field Crops.

1. Alfalfa Trials. A total of 40 acres of alfalfa is being grown, to determine best varieties or strains under northern Illinois conditions. Fourteen acres of this are sown with malting barley as the nurse crop. One seven acre plot near the picnic grounds will contain at least 20 regional strains or types side by side for comparisons. The types thus far include:
 

Utah Blue Jay Grimm	Minnesota Grimm
Montana Common	Michigan Grimm
Kansas Common	Turkistan (imported from Turkistan)
Lyman Montana Grimm	Ladak (new type from Montana)
Colorado Common	Hardigan (Michigan type of Grimm)
Utah (Bee Hive) Common	Hairy Peruvian (Peru via Arizona)
Oklahoma Common	Chilean (Chile via Arizona)
Idaho Common	Canadian Variegated
Idaho Certified Grimm	Cossack (Russian type)
Dakota 12	Blackfoot Certified Grimm (Idaho)
2. Lespedeza Trials. Several selections of lespedeza being tried, some inoculated to add nitrogen to the soil, and some without. Some of the rare strains, such as Harbin's lespedeza, selling for \$1 to \$2 per ounce, being sowed in rows for seed production. The crop is now largely a southern crop, but can gradually be adapted to northern Illinois, it is believed. Strains on trial:
 

Korean lespedeza  
Harbin lespedeza (strain of Korean)  
Lespedeza sericea (a perennial)
3. Malting Barley Trials. Two of the three leading varieties of barley selected by maltsters as that on which they would pay a premium, are being tried, each on a seven acre plot with an extra one acre sowed in the soybean field. Velvet, one of the three, adapted to Minnesota and the Dakotas and Montana. Those on trial at Yorkville are Wisconsin 38 and Oderbrucker. Very little barley is being grown this year in the cornbelt, due to chinch bug menace, and very little malting barley grown anywhere, most of the barley being for animal feed.
4. Rare or Unusual Crops. Small plots are being laid out in rows in which samples of special crops will be seeded early in May. Those showing promise will be encouraged and those maturing or showing practical worth will be sown in larger amounts in 1935. A sample of each kind of seed sown on the farm will be mounted under glass, (after being treated for weevils) and placed in a case in the information booth at the farm. It has been proposed also that a drawing of each plant should be mounted with the seed as a means of identification for visitors. Some of the crops to be grown include:

field crops 2.

new and rare crops include:

mile maize	Federita
white kaffir	waconia orange cane
safflower	Mammoth Russian sunflower
buckwheat	syrup cane (early amber)
broom corn	sudan grass
Russian seed producing hemp	sesame (small tan seeds, not black)
German millet	pyrethrum (type of daisy)
Japanese millet	crotalaria (legume)
Hungarian millet	derris (woody vine, roots of value)
Proso (type of millet)	Hubam (annual sweet clover)
White Wonder millet	hemp for fiber
Reed canary grass (phalaris)	easycook beans
14 kinds of soybeans	cowpeas

5. Pasture Improvement Methods. Pasture lands now constitute about one third of all tillable farm lands in the corn belt. Mostly in rundown condition. Plot of 20 acres with gullies being used. Some is heavily manured, other lightly treated and some without fertilizer for comparison. Has been tilled on surface and sown to varying amounts of a pasture mixture of 35% Kentucky bluegrass, 30% timothy, 20% red top, 10% red clover and 5% alsike. Highest rate of seeding, 18 lbs. per acre.  
Another test will be run using pastures alternately with wastes from field crop areas. In some fields, a wide margin of grass is being left for bird cover, grazing in extreme drouth and convenience in farm tillage. In one pasture sudan grass and soybeans will be planted together, - harvesting one crop of sudan hay and pasturing remainder late in fall, balance plowed under.
6. Flax Tests. Twenty-eight acres sown to Bison flax on April 18 for seed as a crop to substitute for oats or wheat, both of which are low priced yet needed as nurse crops or in rotations. Flaxseed is bringing better prices than oats and is now on an import basis so that expansion of acreage is possible. Trying it also as a nurse crop for clover or alfalfa on 20 acres with early harvesting planned when work is slack on farm. Can be seeded early in April, since it is a cool weather crop. Seed produces linseed oil and a meal for animal feeds.
7. Corn Variety and Breeding. Planting small plot soon after May 1 to every kind of corn which might mature in this region, including high producing hybrids, those resistant to chinch bugs and others indicating resistance to corn borers and to drouth as well as diseases. Fifty-five acres also planted to varieties from various state experiment stations developed in tests and now being tried on farm scale.



Chicago Tribune  
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

Sept 21 1940



Dear Neisz

Do you think an article on the digestive processes of the different animals would be interesting?

The various stomachs of the ruminates— that a horse hasn't any bowel, and that the pig is the most nearly alike to a human— if that is so.

→ *Diaries for Sept. 25 + 26.*

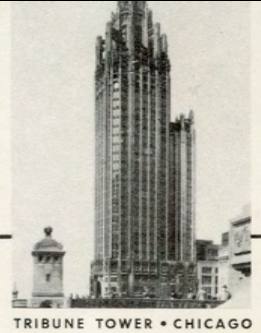
Sincerely

MR HOMER NEISZ

B

Chicago Tribune  
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

May 19 1939



Dear Neisz

There is a lot of mustard this year.  
Is it bad enough weed to make it desirable to pull it - the only way it can be gotted rid of?

→ *Story June 5.*

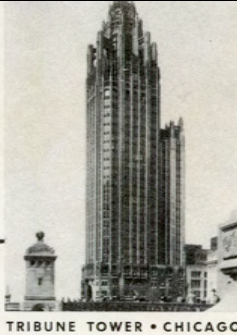
Sincerely,

Mr. Homer Neisz



Chicago Tribune  
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

May 11 1939



Dear Neisz

The cows went out on grass today. Note the change  
in the milk.

Sincerely

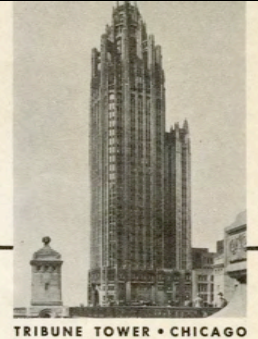
*R. M. C.*

MR HOMER NEISZ  
LOCAL ROOM

*Story for May 23*

*5/13/39*

Chicago Tribune  
THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER



August 9, 1939

Mr. J. L. Maloney

Dear Pat:

A story on the increasing use of hybrid corn since Wallace  
(has been in office.

*→ Story for  
Aug. 13.*  
mg

Sincerely,

*m.c.*



# Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER



TRIBUNE TOWER • CHICAGO

April 2, 1951

Colonel Robert R McCormick

Dear Colonel McCormick:

Clarence reports he has lost the first two litters of spring pigs (12 pigs per litter) to a disease the veterinarian has diagnosed as transmissible gastroenteritis. This is a virus infection which crops up every spring but outbreaks seem to be somewhat more wide spread this season in Illinois and Iowa. The agricultural colleges are experimenting with various anti-biotics to try to halt the disease but thus far have had no success.

I have scheduled a farm column on this subject.

Sincerely,

Richard Orr

jp

# Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER



TRIBUNE TOWER • CHICAGO

March 11, 1937.

Mr. Charles Rush,  
Kirkland, Fleming, Green,  
Martin and Ellis,  
33 N. La Salle Street,  
Chicago.

Dear Mr. Rush:

Colonel McCormick wants a contract prepared that will protect the Wheaton farm in growing milkweed for experimental purposes. I think here are all the facts:

Edmund F. Hoskins, 117 N. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, has agreed to pay to Carl Henderson, manager, Tribune Wheaton experimental farm, Wheaton, Illinois, the sum of \$50 a ton for milkweed plants, dry weight. The payment is to be made at the time the weeds are delivered. The Tribune farm is to grow the milkweeds from roots that will produce a crop for harvest this year (1937). Mr. Hoskins also agrees to pay extra for the labor in removing the pods from the milkweeds. The weeds are to be turned over to Mr. Hoskins at the farm. In other words, Mr. Hoskins is to pay whatever transportation cost there may be for moving the weeds off the farm. *one acre of*

Carl Henderson will sign the contract as the Colonel's agent. I suppose you have precedent for this.

Mr. Hoskins has agreed to furnish the farm satisfactory evidence that he will be able to pay for the weeds. Have you a suggestion to make that would guide us in securing the necessary financial reference that would protect the farm?

I would like very much to have the copies of this contract sometime between now and Saturday.

Very truly yours,

Frank Ridgway,  
Agricultural Editor.

RB.



September 15, 1952

Dear Eddie

If we have any poison on the farm,  
see that it is locked up and only one man has the  
key to it.

Sincerely

Mr. Eddie Edwards  
R.R.No 2  
West Chicago, Illinois

b

# Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

TRIBUNE SQUARE

CHICAGO

November 28, 1936

Dear Corpening:

See what you can find out about  
this man Davis .... how good he is and how much  
he knows.

Yours sincerely,

M/m

*Edwin B. Penwalt*  
*Go Am Democrat*

*Edwards Payton*  
*Edwards Sun-*  
*James Wilhelm-*

C  
O  
P  
Y

Colonel Robert R. McCormick  
Tribune Square  
Chicago, Illinois

OK

Dear Colonel McCormick:

The lady Dr. Farnsworth on the staff at Passavant hospital is very much interested in the building site North side of Fox River at the extreme western end where the road leading off the north end of bridge (River) forms the boundary of the original small Petrik farm which I believe consisted of about 30 acres.

Of this tract she desires as I understand the extreme west end of this small tract or about 7 or 8 acres or there in. Which would leave the pasture with the Rob Roy Creek between North river road and river available for a herd of cattle such as we have for use which is very essential to the pasture and year around watering for our live stock.

As a building site and is a desirable one consisting of a certain amount of acres up to 8 or 9 acres or even up to 6 or seven acres the price per acre with the buildings seems that you should have at least \$5000.00 to \$7000.00 for the 6 or seven acres. And her needs may require a few more acres.

As further comment the purchaser who I know introduces herself as Dr. Farnsworth desires the beauty in this small tract to build.

The buildings that are there now are in good shape at present.

The party also feels secure as to adjoining land would not be cause for anything other than a quiet and desirable surrounding.

Sincerely,  
(signed) Clarence Thurow

8 acres - 500.00

Sup 8809  
AL 1059

CW  
11/28/44



EDITH B. FARNSWORTH agrees to buy at the price of FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$4,765) the following described real estate, in Kendall County, Illinois: by buyer, the further sum of FOUR

That part of the South 1/2 of Section 34, Township 37 North, as Range 6, East of the Third Principal Meridian, described as follows: Commencing in the center of Fox River Road at a point 14 chains South from the center of said Section 34, running thence East along the center of said Road 236.13 feet; thence South along a line parallel with the North and South center line of said Section 34, 582.61 feet to the North bank of the Fox River; thence Westerly along the North bank of the Fox River to the center of the Plano-Milbrook Road; thence Northerly along the center of said Plano-Milbrook Road to where the same intersects the center line of said Fox River Road; thence Easterly along the center of said Fox River Road to the place of beginning, containing 9.53 acres, Illinois, as evidence

and ROBERT R. McCORMICK agrees to sell said premises at said price, and to convey to buyer good title hereto by warranty deed, with release of dower and homestead rights, subject only to: Buyer, within

- (1) Special taxes or assessments for improvements not yet completed;
- (2) Installments not due at date hereof of any special tax or assessment for improvements heretofore completed;
- (3) General taxes for the year 1945 and subsequent years;
- (4) Building lines and building and liquor restrictions of record;
- (5) Zoning and building laws or ordinances; and
- (6) Roads and highways, if any.

General taxes for the year 1945 are to be prorated from January 1, to date of delivery of deed. If the amount of such taxes is not then ascertainable, prorating shall be on the basis of the amount of the most recent ascertainable taxes.

the parties hereto, and after consummation the canceled contract may be retained by the escrowee.

This contract shall not be assigned by the buyer unless she shall have obtained written consent from the seller to such assignment.

Dated the 17th day of December, 1949.

*Conceded*  
Edith B. Farnsworth (SEAL)  
Robert R. McCormick (SEAL)

~~Check deposited in Lake Shore Bank~~

Check deposited in First Natl Bank glb

May 27, 1953

Colonel Robert R. McCormick

Dear Colonel:

Herewith is check in amount \$56,000 from Lake Shore National Bank, representing proceeds from sale of Thurow farm mortgage at par.

This is wind-up of Kendall County farms.

Sincerely,

*W A Larson*  
W A LARSON

- All properties had been sold off by 1953; McCormick died in 1955.
- Large portion of former Tribune Experimental Farm transitions to Silver Spring State Park in 1969.



- How to access this collection?
- One-on-one research consultations:  
[specialcollections@northwestern.edu](mailto:specialcollections@northwestern.edu)
- Reading room open M-F, 10am-4pm by appointment
- No big digitization plans currently but there is a high likelihood that parts of this collection will be digitized in the future

Benn Joseph  
Northwestern University Libraries  
[benn.joseph@northwestern.edu](mailto:benn.joseph@northwestern.edu)



nndb.com



**A PROCLAMATION**  
**Declaring Historic Preservation Month in Kendall County, Illinois**

---



WHEREAS, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth and sustainable development, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride and maintaining community character while enhancing livability; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation is relevant for communities across the nation, both urban and rural, and for Americans of all ages, all walks of life and all ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as a people; and

WHEREAS, “*People Saving Places*” is a theme adopted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and embraced by Kendall County as we celebrate our historic built environment and work to preserve the places that matter to the citizens of our County; and

THEREFORE, the Board of Kendall County do proclaim May as National Preservation Month, and call upon the people of Kendall County to join their fellow citizens across the United States in recognizing and participating in this special observance.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD THIS 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2025.

Attest:

---

Matt Kellogg  
County Board Chairman

---

Debbie Gillette  
County Clerk



# Annual Kendall County Historic Preservation Awards

A recognition of properties that have undergone recent exterior and/or interior preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use, or sympathetic additions as well as for people or groups that exhibit dedication to the field of historic preservation or for sites that possess importance to the history of Kendall County, State of Illinois, or the United States.

## MAIL NOMINATION FORM TO:

Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission  
111 W. Fox Street  
Yorkville, IL 60560

## EMAIL NOMINATION FORM TO:

Matt Asselmeier,  
masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov

DEADLINE: February 28, 2025-4:00 pm

Street address:

223 S Bridge Street (The West Block)

Current property owner:

Jason Pesola

Historic name and/or original owner (if known):

Current use:

Commercial

Historic use:

Commercial

Year built (if known):

1870's

Year rehabilitated, renovated, restored (if known):

2024/2025

Architectural style / form (if known):

Reason for nomination: Please provide a short description, between 50 and 500 words, explaining the project or person being nominated. The statement should clearly identify the purpose and scope of work, unusual challenges or innovative approaches, sensitive treatment of historic fabric, long-term impact and any other information that supports the nomination as being exceptional.

I have leased space in this building for 3 years. When ownership to Jason switched, it was a night & day difference in his investment to improving the West Block. He sought out the mural on the Northside of the building, painted the entire block, landscaped the building & continues to make updates. He has prioritized maintaining historic components while simultaneously breathing new life into a building that desperately needed updating.

Images: Please provide a minimum of five photographs or quality digital photographs in .jpg format on a CD ROM, flash drive, or by email highlighting the project. Before and after pictures are encouraged.

Submitted by:

Katie Ash

Phone:

Email:

Address:



## Matt Asselmeier

---

**From:** Katie Ash <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2025 5:06 PM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** Re: [External]Kendall County Historic Preservation Award  
**Attachments:** IMG\_4089.jpeg; IMG\_4088.jpeg

Hey Matt! Here's some photos of the building prior to Jason's ownership. Below, please find the list of improvements he's made in just over a year of ownership.

- Fresh paint to brighten up the downtown area
- Added Historic Downtown Yorkville mural
- Added "The West Block" signs (with the historic building photo in the background) at both Hydraulic and Van Emmon.
- Cleaned up landscaping along railroad tracks on Hydraulic
- Cleaned up landscaping along Van Emmon
- Painted & striped both parking lots
- Added gooseneck lighting to front of buildings
- Creating 2<sup>nd</sup> level apartments and offices above FRET, Juicehead & Crusade

Let me know if you need any additional information! Thank you!

Katie Ash

On Mon, Feb 24, 2025 at 8:27 AM Matt Asselmeier <[masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov](mailto:masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov)> wrote:

Thanks,

Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM

Director















---

**\*\*Nomination for Historic Preservation 2025\*\***

**\*\*Biography of Johanna Byram\*\***

Johanna Byram is a resolute historian and community leader with a passion for preserving local history and heritage. She served as the president of the Old Kendall Court House Committee from 1998 to 2002, during which time she successfully authored the application that placed the historic courthouse on the National Register of Historic Places. This project not only recognized the courthouse's architectural and historical significance but also raised over \$3 million for its restoration.

In 2018, Johanna took on the role of Historian for the Old Kendall County Jail, serving until 2019, where she contributed significantly to the understanding and appreciation of this vital piece of local history. Her leadership skills were further demonstrated when she became the president of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for the term 2024-2025.

Currently, Johanna serves as the Historian for the Amos Kendall Chapter of the daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a position she embraces with enthusiasm and dedication. She previously held the role of Regent for the same chapter from 2007 to 2011, fostering growth and engagement within the organization.

In addition to her work with the DAR, she has been an active member of the Kendall County Historical Society since 2020, currently holding the position of Director. Her ongoing commitment to her community is also reflected in her active membership with the Chapel on the Green.

Through her various roles and contributions, Johanna Byram has made a lasting impact on the preservation of history and the promotion of education within her community.



## Matt Asselmeier

---

**From:** Susan Kritzberg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11:33 AM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** [External]2025 Kendall County Historic Preservation Award Nomination: Thomas Milschewski  
**Attachments:** Nomination for KC Hist Pres Award 2025- Thomas Milschewski.pdf; IMG\_2853.pdf; IMG\_0504.pdf; IMG\_2850.pdf; IMG\_2849.pdf; IMG\_2851.pdf; IMG\_9552.pdf; IMG\_9534.pdf; IMG\_9555.pdf; RNI-Films-IMG-666EB4D9-D505-4F9F-9956-57079461227F.pdf

CAUTION - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Matt,

Enclosed, please find my nomination of Thomas Milschewski for a 2025 Kendall County Historic Preservation Award. Thomas has been actively involved in many aspects of historical preservation in the Yorkville community for over a decade, and I believe that he has earned the recognition that this award signifies. Please let me know if any of the documents or attachments don't open, or if there is anything else that I can provide to make the nomination more complete!

Best Regards,

Susan Kritzberg  
[REDACTED]

## Nomination for 2025 Kendall County Historic Preservation Award: Thomas Milschewski

Most folks become interested in history, or in their family's genealogy, when they retire. Contrary to this norm, Thomas Milschewski, a Yorkville native in his late 20's, has been actively learning about his community's rich past for well over a decade. His interests range from exploring the unique histories of individual homes and businesses to creating a fascinating form of "living history" through his own photographic techniques.

Some years ago, Thomas began taking pictures that blend the past with the present in a single photographic image. His unique approach results in snapshots that are true "windows to the past." As he visits modern-day locations, he holds up old photos taken decades ago in the exact same location - lining up the minute details of buildings, streets, or other landmarks in the photos with what remains today. The resulting images offer a fresh and fascinating vision of the history that came before. Many of the photographs he employs are over a century old, including portraits of people, photos of homes and businesses, and other local landmarks.

As a way to share his fascination with local history and feature these timeless images, Thomas created the Facebook page, "*Yorkville Then and Now*," which, over time, has engaged a new generation of Yorkville residents in the history of their community, inviting interaction and conversation through comments included in his many posts. In turn, this has resulted in a heightened sense of "ownership" for many local residents as they contributed to his stories by sharing photos and bits of insight from their own memories or experiences as well as history of their families. The responses from young and old residents continue to provide valuable pieces of the ongoing puzzle that Thomas is carefully assembling regarding the history of Yorkville.

In 2017, Thomas's "Yorkville Then and Now" was featured on *WGN Morning News*, in Shaw Media's digital and paper formats of the *Kendall County Record*, in *Glancer Magazine*, and in the *Kendall Chronicle* newspaper.

In addition to this personal project, he has been active in many other aspects of local history. In 2014, he assisted Jillian Duchnowski with the organization and production of the local history book, "*Images of America: Yorkville*," part of the popular community heritage series by Arcadia Publishing, and also provided a number of photographs contained in that publication.

In 2017, with his mother, Jackie Milschewski, Thomas began the movement to save the historic county jail from demolition, and along with others, this community activism resulted in a successful outcome with the property being purchased and restored by a private buyer.

In 2019, the local Amos Kendall Chapter of the D.A.R. recognized him for his efforts in historical preservation and, most recently in September 2024, Thomas offered a well-attended presentation at the *Yorkville Public Library* on the history of his family home and others along Heustis Street. He hopes to give additional presentations on different homes and businesses



**Nomination for 2025 Kendall County Historic Preservation Award:  
Thomas Milschewski**

around town in the future. On a regular basis, he continues to field many questions sent to him about the history of Yorkville.

With his recent revitalization of the “*Yorkville Then and Now*” page, Thomas learned that the community is still eager to hear about its rich history, and this has renewed his dedication to continue the exploration and preservation of Yorkville’s past. It is his intention to eventually compile a book that will offer a lasting collection of memories and town history that is missing from other local history books. Much of the information contained in his archives was collected directly from primary and secondary sources, allowing him to weave together the rich and colorful fabric of the people who built this community in a very authentic manner.

The importance of historic preservation is vital to a community’s individual identity, whether it be through the preservation of landmark buildings or the preservation of written and verbal histories. I believe that it is Thomas’s continued passion for both that make him a worthy recipient of a Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission **Historic Preservation Award** in 2025.

*Respectfully submitted 02/12/2025*

*Susan Kritzberg*



Photo Attachments:

1. Screenshot: Shaw Local “*Yorkville man connects city’s past with its present through photos*” 07/2017
2. Screenshot: WGN Morning News feature with Marcus Leshock, 03/2017
3. Screenshot: WGN Morning News VIDEO/still: scene from interview with WGN Marcus Leshock, 03/2017
4. Screenshot: WGN Morning News VIDEO/still: scene from interview with WGN Marcus Leshock, 03/2017
5. Kendall Chronicle article - “*For love of hometown Then and Now,*” 12/2017
6. Yorkville Public Library presentation, 09/2024
7. Yorkville Public Library presentation, 09/2024
8. Yorkville Public Library presentation, 09/2024
9. Portrait, Thomas Milschewski, 01/2025



**WGN<sup>9</sup>** 65° 5:46 AM **Marcus Leshock** @MARCUSLESHOCK

 Tomorrow  Shower Possible Early **HI: 67°**



# Video



Fullscreen

190

1.3K



**Marcus Leshock** [Follow](#)

A young man in Yorkville has found a way to bring the city's history back to life. My **WGN Morning News** story on **Yorkville Then and Now:** [Send](#)



# Yorkville man connects city's past with its present through photos

By TONY SCOTT



September 08, 2017 at 4:55 pm CDT

Expand

Autoplay

1 of 3



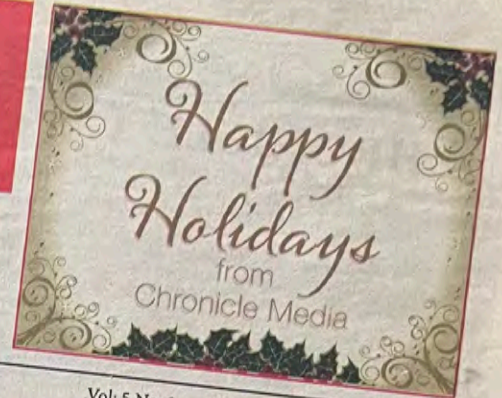
Thomas Milschewski of Yorkville poses in the city's Town Square Park showing off two of his mounted superimposed photos of old Yorkville. The photos are displayed on his Facebook page, Yorkville Then and Now. (Tony Scott)



# Kendall CHRONICLE

A Weekly Newspaper Serving Kendall County

kendallchronicle.com



Vol: 5 No: 3 Wednesday, December 20, 2017

## For love of hometown Then and Now

Popular Facebook page chronicles Yorkville history

By Erika Wurst  
For Chronicle Media

With more than 700 historical snap shots in his dossier, Thomas Milschewski has amassed quite the collection of special moments in time since he began his mission to preserve them.

The lifetime Yorkville resident, and creator of the Yorkville Then and Now Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/yorkvillehistory/>) Milschewski uses his accumulated historical photos to paint a picture of what life was like for Yorkville residents 100 years ago, compared to present day.

Milschewski takes the historic photos and seeks out their exact location throughout the city. Then, he superimposes the old photos over sections of current photos to provide contrast.

The photos, along with the stories Milschewski tells about them, have since reached an audience of tens of thousands. "I think people like it be-



This home on Heustis Street was home to the McClelland and Marshall families. It was built as a gift for Dr. R. A. McClelland's wife. He was the coroner and it was used as a funeral home. This was taken when the Marshall family lived in there. (Photos courtesy of Thomas Milschewski)

cause they can relate to it," he said. "When I post a photo, they can really see how much has changed."

And, it's not just Yorkville residents who are enjoying Milschewski's nostalgic endeavor. His page has more than 5,000 active followers from many cities, villages and towns in the area.

In April, with still a modest following, Milschewski's mission caught the eye of WGN producers who did a segment

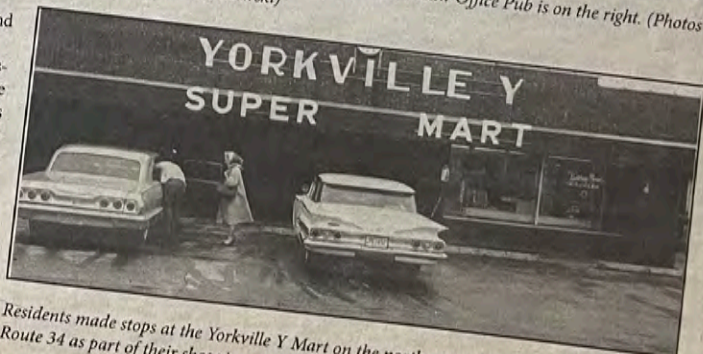
on the Yorkville Then and Now journey.

"I received so many messages and so much love," he said of the news spot. He was shocked by how well his pictures were capturing the attention of the public, just as they caught his own attention years ago when he began collecting them.

Milschewski lives in an old house on Heustis Street in



A view of downtown Yorkville from the 1870's. The Law Office Pub is on the right. (Photos courtesy of Thomas Milschewski)



Residents made stops at the Yorkville Y Mart on the north east corner of Route 47 and Route 34 as part of their shopping routine. (Photos courtesy of Thomas Milschewski)

Continued on Page 8



# Video



Fullscreen

190



**Marcus Leshock** [Follow](#)

1.3K

A young man in Yorkville has found a way to bring the city's history back to life. My **WGN Morning News** story on **Yorkville Then and Now:**

**Send**  
...









# LE HOMES

Gift from Friends of the Yorkville Public Library 2006

86











#### Past Award Nominees

1. Chapel on the Green (New Deck, Landscaping, Paint, Carpeting, and Wood Floor)
2. Naperville Preservation, Inc.
3. Dickson Building
4. Ferndell School
5. Kohlhammer Barn
6. Misner Blacksmith's Shop
7. Yorkville Historic Preservation Society



# THANKS FOR YOUR ORDER!



Order: 462488

Total: \$95.54

## ORDER PICKUP DETAILS

**ORDER READY (ESTIMATED)**

5:00 PM - 5:15 PM 02/19/2025

### CAFE LOCATION

📍 1206 North Bridge Street

Yorkville, IL 60560

☎ (630)553-2355

## ORDER SUMMARY: #462488

22 People • \$95.54 • Pickup



<b>Decaf Coffee Tote</b>	<b>\$20.59</b>
--------------------------	----------------

Qty: 1

<b>Cookie Box</b>	<b>\$22.29</b>
-------------------	----------------

4 Choc Chipper Cookie  
4 Otml Rasn Berry Cky  
4 Candy Cookie

Qty: 1

<b>Cookie Box</b>	<b>\$22.29</b>
-------------------	----------------

4 Choc Chipper Cookie  
4 Otml Rasn Berry Cky  
4 Candy Cookie

Qty: 1

<b>Cookie Box</b>	<b>\$22.29</b>
-------------------	----------------

4 Choc Chipper Cookie  
4 Otml Rasn Berry Cky  
4 Candy Cookie

Qty: 1

---

Included in your order: Napkins, utensils, and plates for 22 people.

---

Subtotal	\$87.46
----------	---------

Tax	\$8.08
-----	--------












<b>Order Total</b>	<b>\$95.54</b>
--------------------	----------------

Please consider tipping your cafe staff in appreciation of great service.











VISA ending in 0778	\$95.54
---------------------	---------

## Current listings

[\[edit\]](#)

<sup>[3]</sup>	Name on the Register	Image	Date listed <sup>[4]</sup>	Location
1	<a href="#">Bristol Congregational Church</a>	 <a href="#">More images</a>	September 6, 2016 (#16000580)	107 W. Center St.  <a href="#">41°38'51"N 88°26'50"W</a>
2	<a href="#">Chicago, Burlington &amp; Quincy Railroad Depot</a>	 <a href="#">More images</a>	November 12, 1993 (#93001238)	101 W. Main St.  <a href="#">41°39'44"N 88°32'17"W</a>
3	<a href="#">Downtown Oswego Historic District</a>		August 15, 2022 (#100007995)	Roughly bounded by one-half blk. north of Jackson St., the alleys immediately west and east of Main St., one-half block south of Washington St.  <a href="#">41°41'02"N 88°21'08"W</a>
4	<a href="#">Evelyn Site</a>	<a href="#">Upload image</a>	December 19, 1978 (#78001159)	Midway between Newark and Lisbon Center Rds of Big Grove Rd. <sup>[5]</sup>  <a href="#">41°31'49"N 88°30'26"W</a>
5	<a href="#">Farnsworth House</a>	 <a href="#">More images</a>	October 7, 2004 (#04000867)	14520 River Rd.  <a href="#">41°38'15"N 88°32'07"W</a>
6	<a href="#">Kendall County Courthouse</a>	 <a href="#">More images</a>	November 12, 1998 (#98001354)	109 W. Ridge St.  <a href="#">41°38'25"N 88°26'53"W</a>



[3]	Name on the Register	Image	Date listed <sup>[4]</sup>	Location
7	<a href="#">Plano Hotel</a>	 <a href="#">More images</a>	November 12, 1993 (#93001239)	120 W. Main St.  <a href="#">41°39'44"N 88°32'21"W</a>
8	<a href="#">Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints</a>	 <a href="#">More images</a>	November 2, 1990 (#90001724)	304 S. Center Ave.  <a href="#">41°39'33"N 88°32'09"W</a>
9	<a href="#">Albert H. Sears House</a>	 <a href="#">More images</a>	January 29, 1987 (#86003720)	603 E. North St.  <a href="#">41°39'55"N 88°31'49"W</a>
10	<a href="#">Lewis Steward House</a>	 <a href="#">More images</a>	November 28, 2003 (#03001200)	611 E. Main St.  <a href="#">41°39'54"N 88°31'47"W</a>
11	<a href="#">Yorkville School</a>	 <a href="#">More images</a>	January 24, 1995 (#94001600)	201 W. Center St.  <a href="#">41°38'52"N 88°26'53"W</a>

## Matt Asselmeier

---

**From:** Pressley, Jon L. <Jon.L.Pressley@Illinois.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2025 9:59 AM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** RE: FW: [External]RE: CLG Grant Question

I hope in the next week or two.

Jon L. Pressley, MA, RPA  
Certified Local Governments Program Coordinator  
and Historic Preservation Fund Manager  
State Historic Preservation Office, IDNR  
1 Old State Capitol Plaza  
Springfield, Illinois, 62701  
Office - 217-785-5730  
Cell – 217-299-4878

**From:** Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2025 9:57 AM  
**To:** Pressley, Jon L. <Jon.L.Pressley@Illinois.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FW: [External]RE: CLG Grant Question

Any idea when a decision will be made?

Thanks,

Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM  
Director  
Kendall County Planning, Building & Zoning  
807 West John Street  
Yorkville, IL 60560-9249  
PH: 630-553-4139  
Fax: 630-553-4179

**From:** Pressley, Jon L. <Jon.L.Pressley@Illinois.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 10, 2025 9:53 AM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: FW: [External]RE: CLG Grant Question

Hi Matt,

They are with Andrew for his Board to review the grading selections.

Jon L. Pressley, MA, RPA  
Certified Local Governments Program Coordinator  
and Historic Preservation Fund Manager  
State Historic Preservation Office, IDNR  
1 Old State Capitol Plaza





---

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, BUILDING & ZONING**

111 West Fox Street • Room 204

Yorkville, IL • 60560

(630) 553-4141

Fax (630) 553-4179

---

**POLICY FOR THE NOTIFICATION OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR ALTERATIONS AND DEMOLITIONS  
ON CERTAIN PROPERTIES**

1. Whenever a party applies for a permit for exterior alterations or demolition on properties identified as Contributing, Local Landmark Potential, or National Register Potential in an historic structure survey undertaken under the authority of Kendall County, the Planning, Building and Zoning Department shall notify the Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission of said application prior to the issuance of the applicable permit.
2. In notifying the Historic Preservation Commission, the Planning, Building and Zoning Department shall supply the Historic Preservation Commission with a description of the proposed alteration or demolition as supplied by the applicant and the contact information for the applicant.
3. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as requiring the Historic Preservation Commission to comment on the application.
4. This policy shall not supersede or amend any review requirements or procedures outlined in the Historical Preservation Chapter of the Kendall County Code.
5. Except as required by the Historical Preservation Chapter of the Kendall County Code, nothing in this policy shall be construed as requiring the Planning, Building and Zoning Department to delay the issuance of a permit due to lack of comment or requests to the applicant by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Approved by majority vote of the Planning Building and Zoning Committee on January 13, 2025.

## Matt Asselmeier

---

**From:** Itle, Ken <kitle@wje.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2024 11:29 AM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** [External]RE: Landmarking Cemeteries Question

CAUTION - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Matt:

Short answer, yes, cemeteries are often landmarked.

This National Register bulletin (while a little old) provides some useful guidance (based on National Register criteria, though local criteria will be similar):

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB41-Complete.pdf>

For cemeteries that are still active for new burials, there are a couple ways to approach it:

1. There may be a historic section that is mostly full or closed, and the landmark boundaries can be kept compact, excluding the section(s) where current and future burials typically are made.
2. The cemetery may be mostly full, in which case a few newer / future burials would not be likely to affect its historic integrity.
3. The cemetery may be mostly empty, in which case newer / future burials might overwhelm the few historic burials, in which case it may not be a candidate for landmark status. In this case, perhaps there are individual markers or mausoleums that are artistically significant and worthwhile to landmark individually.
4. Landmark commission review would not be expected for each new burial, new gravemarkers etc. Only overall design changes (e.g., a new maintenance building, new paved roadways, a new wall or fence around the cemetery, adding a flagpole and benches) would trigger any preservation review.

### Kenneth M. Itle

Associate Principal

### Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

*Engineers / Architects / Materials Scientists*

330 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062

tel 847.272.7400 | direct 847.753.6465

[www.wje.com](http://www.wje.com)

kitle@wje.com

**From:** Matt Asselmeier <masselmeier@kendallcountyil.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2024 8:27 AM

**To:** Itle, Ken <kitle@wje.com>

**Subject:** Landmarking Cemeteries Question

Ken:



# NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN

Technical information on comprehensive planning, survey of cultural resources, and registration in  
the National Register of Historic Places



U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Cultural Resources  
Interagency Resources Division

## GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING AND REGISTERING CEMETERIES AND BURIAL PLACES



**Mission:** As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally-owned public lands and natural and cultural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. Administration.

This publication is financed by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the United States Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, handicap, or age in its programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information please write: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

*(Cover Photo). The East Parish Burying Ground in Newton, Massachusetts, is an important link to the city's 17th century origins and illustrates the characteristic features of a dense concentration of tablet-type markers bearing grim epitaphs and carved imagery. (Thelma Fleishman, 1981).*



# **NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN 41**

## **GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING AND REGISTERING CEMETERIES AND BURIAL PLACES**

by  
**Elisabeth Walton Potter**  
and  
**Beth M. Boland**

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Interagency Resources Division  
National Register of Historic Places**

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Preface .....	ii
Acknowledgments .....	iii
I. Introduction .....	1
II. Burial Customs and Cemeteries in American History .....	3
Native American Burial Customs .....	3
Colonial and Early American Burial Customs .....	4
Origins of the "Rural" Cemetery Movement .....	4
The "Rural" Cemetery Movement and its Impact on American Landscape Design .....	6
Military Cemeteries .....	6
III. Types of Burial Places and Associated Features .....	8
IV. Evaluating Cemeteries and Burial Places .....	9
Applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation .....	9
Special Requirements: Criteria Considerations .....	14
Integrity .....	18
V. Documenting and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places .....	20
General Approach .....	20
Research and Field Investigation .....	22
Site Plans .....	22
Photographs .....	22
Archeology .....	23
Boundaries and Periods of Significance .....	23
Ownership .....	23
Completing the National Register Registration Form .....	24
Classification .....	24
Contributing Features .....	24
Functions .....	24
Description and Analysis of Features and Significance .....	24
Description .....	25
Significance .....	25
Boundary Description and Justification .....	25
Maps and Photographs .....	26
VI. Conclusion .....	27
VII. Glossary .....	28
VIII. Some Recommended Sources .....	30
IX. National Register Criteria for Evaluation .....	33



---

# PREFACE

---

The creation of the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 provided the first national recognition for historic properties possessing State or local significance, and uniform standards for evaluating them. The National Register's Criteria for Evaluation established the threshold for defining the qualities that would make such a property worthy of preservation, but also needed to ensure credibility through adherence to standards acceptable to relevant professional disciplines. Through the special requirements of the Criteria Considerations, the criteria both caution against subjective enthusiasm for certain types of resources, and also reinforce the importance of objective historical analysis.

In the legislative history of the 1980 Amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Congress

indicated a desire that the Secretary of the Interior review National Register Criteria for Evaluation from time to time to ensure their effectiveness in carrying out the policies of the Act. In 1986, upon the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Park Service organized such a review. In their December 17, 1986, report, those who reviewed the criteria concluded that no revision of criteria wording was warranted, but recommended several issues that could benefit from clarification through additional published guidance. The application of National Register criteria to graves and cemeteries was one such issue.

A greater appreciation has evolved in both scholarship and public perception for the important historical themes that graves, cemeteries, and other types of

burial places and features can represent. The growing emphasis on the history of ordinary individuals, grass roots movements, cultural and designed landscapes, and various cultural groups has nurtured this evolution. At the same time, the identification, maintenance, and preservation of burial places is increasingly threatened through neglect, ignorance, and vandalism. This publication is intended to focus attention on these resources and provide detailed guidance on the qualities that render burial places significant representatives of our history worthy of preservation.

Lawrence E. Aten  
Chief, Interagency Resources Division  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior

---

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

---

This bulletin was prepared by Elisabeth Walton Potter, coordinator of National Register nominations for the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, and Beth M. Boland, historian with the National Register of Historic Places. The authors greatly acknowledge the assistance of those who consulted closely on, or contributed portions of, the text: Elizabeth Crowell, Chief of Archeological Studies, Engineering-Science, and Norman Mackie, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers; Leland Gilson, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office; Kenneth J. Guzowski, City of Eugene, Oregon, Planning Department; Ellen Lipsey, Boston Landmarks Commission; Patricia L. Parker, Interagency Resources Division, National Park Service; Bruce Piatek, Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board; Carol D. Shull, Chief of Registration, National Register Branch, Interagency Resources Division, National Park Service; Tim Smith, State of Alaska Office of History and Archeology; and Daniel Spohn, Historic Preservation Office, Department of Veterans Affairs. The authors also are indebted to Ruthann Knudson, Archeological Assistance Division, National Park Service; Kathleen D. Leslie, Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Richard E.

Meyer, American Culture Association and Western Oregon State College; Dean Suagee of Hobbes, Strauss, Dean, and Wilder; and Nicole Warren, Interagency Resources Division, National Park Service, for their invaluable assistance. Other colleagues in the National Park Service who provided helpful comments or assistance include Lawrence E. Aten, Chief, Interagency Resources Division; Edwin Bearss, Chief Historian; Charles A. Birnbaum, Preservation Assistance Division; Gary J. Candelaria, Fort Laramie National Historic Site; Sue Henry, Planning Branch, Interagency Resources Division; H. Ward Jandl, Preservation Assistance Division; Cecil McKithan, Southeast Regional Office; Diane Miller, Information Management Unit, Interagency Resources Division; Douglas H. Scovill, Chief Anthropologist; and National Register archeologists, architectural historians, and historians, especially Patrick Andrus, Patty Chrisman, Antoinette Lee, Linda McClelland, Donna Seifert, and Jan Townsend. Significant contributions also were made by Dan Deibler, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; James C. Gutman, Fish and Wildlife Service; Chere Jiusto, Montana Historical Society; Glen Leiner, Government of the District of Columbia; Robert Z.

Melnick, University of Oregon; Ken P'Pool, Mississippi Department of Archives and History; Maxwell D. Ramsey, Tennessee Valley Authority; Barbara Rotundo, historic cemetery consultant, Laconia, New Hampshire; Brona Simon, Massachusetts Historical Commission; Frank W. Snell, Bureau of Land Management; Elizabeth A. Straw, Tennessee Historical Commission; Ann Swallow, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; and Jay C. Ziemann, Arizona State Parks.

This publication has been prepared pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to develop and make available information concerning historic properties. National Register Bulletin 41 was developed under the general editorship of Carol D. Shull, Chief of Registration, National Register of Historic Places. Antoinette J. Lee, historian, is responsible for publications coordination, and Patty Sackett Chrisman, historian, provides technical support. Comments on this publication may be directed to Chief of Registration, National Register of Historic Places, Interagency Resources Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.



---

# I. INTRODUCTION

---

Individual and collective burial places can reflect and represent in important ways the cultural values and practices of the past that help instruct us about who we are as a people. Yet for profoundly personal reasons, familial and cultural descendants of the interred often view graves and cemeteries with a sense of reverence and devout sentiment that can overshadow objective evaluation. Therefore, cemeteries and graves are among those properties that ordinarily are not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places unless they meet special requirements. The National Register Criteria for Evaluation include considerations by which burial places may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register. To qualify for listing under Criteria A (association with events), B (association with people), or C (design), a cemetery or grave must meet not only the basic criteria, but also the special requirements of Criteria Considerations C or D, relating to graves and cemeteries.<sup>1</sup>

Burial places evaluated under Criterion D for the importance of the information they may impart do not have to meet the requirements for the Criteria Considerations. These sites generally have been considered as archeological sites. It is important to remember that although cemeteries and other burial places may be evaluated for their potential to yield information, they also may possess great value to those who are related culturally to the people buried there.

Roughly 1,700 cemeteries and burial places in all parts of the country have been entered in the National Register since 1966, either as individual listings

or because they are part of historic districts.<sup>2</sup> These numbers reflect the essential presence of burial places in the cultural landscape. Various factors have contributed to the continuing trend of registration. Clearly important is the growing literature on funerary art and architecture, and on landscapes. With greater frequency since the 1960s, studies in American culture have treated not only the form and symbolism of gravemarkers, but also the social and spiritual values expressed in burial placements and the organization of burying grounds — including the different attitudes about death held by the various cultural groups that make up our society.

Though the tradition of cleaning up and beautifying old cemeteries is a long one, the current interest in these subjects partly owes to widespread incidents of abandonment, theft, vandalism, real estate development, and environmental hazards such as acid rain, which have pushed cemeteries to the forefront of preservation issues. National Register listing is an important step in preserving cemeteries because such recognition often sparks community interest in the importance of these sites in conveying the story of its past. Listing also gives credibility to State and local efforts to preserve these resources for their continuing contribution to the community's identity. The documentation contained in surveys and nominations of these historic burying places — especially those cemeteries that are neglected or threatened — is the key to their better protection and management. This information has a variety of uses, including public education; planning by local, State, or Federal agencies; or

publication. The purpose of this bulletin is to guide Federal agencies, State historic preservation offices, Certified Local Governments, preservation professionals, and interested groups and individuals in evaluating, documenting, and nominating cemeteries, burial places and related types of property to the National Register.

The resources or types of properties relating to mortuary customs in the United States and its associated territories vary from region to region and age to age according to prevailing spiritual beliefs and methods of caring for the dead. The burial mound of prehistoric populations in the Mississippi River Valley, the tablet-filled graveyard of the Colonial period, the park-like "rural" cemetery of the early-to-mid 19th century, and the Art Deco mausoleum and crematorium of the modern industrial age — all are distinct manifestations of the cultures and environments in which they were created. These places are capable of providing insight to the cultural values of preceding generations unless they have been looted, severely vandalized, or compromised by development or natural forces. To measure the significance of burial places in American culture, we must know something of their geographic extent, the historic events affecting their creation, the span of time in which they evolved, their ceremonial functions, their aesthetic value, the reasons for the location and orientation of graves, and the underlying meaning of their embellishments.

This bulletin defines the term "burial place" broadly as a location where the dead are prepared for burial or cremation, or where the remains of the dead are placed. A burial place may be a

---

<sup>1</sup> The discussion of the criteria begins on page 9, and the requirements of the considerations on page 14. For a list of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and the Criteria Considerations, see p. 33.

<sup>2</sup> For information on the National Register, contact the State Historic Preservation Officer in your State, or The National Register of Historic Places, Interagency Resources Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

single feature, ranging from the grandly monumented tomb of a national leader to an isolated grave expediently prepared alongside a battlefield or emigrant route. Other burial places are more complex, such as compound burial sites and cemeteries developed after deliberate selection and arrangement of the landscape. In Native American and Pacific Island cultures, certain burial places were ephemeral because they took place above ground. However, where evidence remains of cremation areas and sites traditionally used for scaffold and other encasement burials, such places would be encompassed by the general classification, burial place.

Cemeteries and burial places traditionally have been regarded as sacred and inviolate, especially by those whose ancestors are buried there. Recently, the concern of Native Americans about appropriate and respectful disposition of burial remains and objects of their

descendants has resulted in greater sensitivity toward those for whom a burial place has familial or cultural importance. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-601) sets out the rights of Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding human remains, funerary and sacred objects, and other culturally significant objects for which they can demonstrate lineal descent or cultural affiliation. One of the main purposes of the legislation is to protect Native American graves and related items, and to control their removal. The Act encourages the avoidance of archeological sites that contain burials and also makes Federal agencies responsible for consulting Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian groups when they encounter such sites, either in the course of planned excavations, or through inadvertent discovery. Consultation is required to determine

the appropriate treatment of human remains and cultural objects. Many States, also, have passed legislation that addresses the discovery and disposition of graves.

Several factors resulted in a decision to omit detailed guidance on identifying, evaluating, and documenting archeological sites that contain burials, and on appropriate methods for studying them, from this bulletin. These factors include the specialized nature of investigating these burials, ongoing debates over the appropriate treatment of such sites, and evolving policies and procedures relating to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Nevertheless, references, examples, and brief discussions of prehistoric burials appear throughout this bulletin in recognition that they may be eligible for National Register listing.



# II. BURIAL CUSTOMS AND CEMETERIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

The types of cemeteries and burial places that might qualify for National Register listing are many and varied. They include:

- town cemeteries and burial grounds whose creation and continuity reflect the broad spectrum of the community's history and culture;
- family burial plots that contribute to the significance of a farmstead;
- beautifully designed garden cemeteries that served as places of rest and recreation;
- graveyards that form an important part of the historic setting for a church or other religious building being nominated;
- formal cemeteries whose collections of tombs, sculptures, and markers possess artistic and architectural significance;
- single or grouped grave-stones that represent a distinctive folk tradition;
- graves or graveyards whose survival is a significant or the only reminder of an important person, culture, settlement, or event; and
- burial places whose location, grave markers, landscaping, or other

physical attributes tell us something important about the people who created them.

Examples of these and many other types of burial places appear throughout this bulletin, especially in the section on applying the criteria. Some types of burial places represent events, customs, or beliefs common to many cultures, locations, or time periods. Others are unique representatives of specific people or events. Background information on some of the traditions in American burials that are so common that numerous examples have been, or are likely to be, identified and nominated is discussed briefly in this section; the omission of other traditions or historical developments should not be interpreted as precluding cemeteries or graves that do not fit into the topics that are included. For example, community cemeteries that reflect early settlement or various aspects of an area's long history

may not fall into one of the traditions described in this section. Yet they frequently are nominated and listed in the National Register.

## NATIVE AMERICAN BURIAL CUSTOMS

Native American burial customs have varied widely, not only geographically, but also through time, having been shaped by differing environments, social structure, and spiritual beliefs. Prehistoric civilizations evolved methods of caring for the dead that reflected either the seasonal movements of nomadic societies or the lifeways of settled communities organized around fixed locations. As they evolved, burial practices included various forms of encasement, sub-surface interment, cremation, and exposure. Custom

*The Crawford-Dorsey House and Cemetery near Lovejoy, Clayton County, Georgia, represent a historic Southern plantation; the earliest graves are covered by seashells. (James R. Lockhart, 1983)*



usually dictated some type of purification ritual at the time of burial. Certain ceremonies called for secondary interments following incineration or exposure of the body, and in such cases, the rites might extend over some time period. Where the distinctions in social status were marked, the rites were more elaborate.

The Plains Indians and certain Indians of the Pacific Northwest commonly practiced above-ground burials using trees, scaffolds, canoes, and boxes on stilts, which decayed over time. More permanent were earthen constructions, such as the chambered mounds and crematory mounds of the Indians of the Mississippi River drainage. In some areas of the Southeast and Southwest, cemeteries for urn burials, using earthenware jars, were common.

After contact with European Americans, Native American cultures adopted other practices brought about by religious proselytizing, intermarriage, edict, and enforcement of regulations. The Hopi, Zuni, and other Pueblo peoples of Arizona and New Mexico were among the first to experience Hispanic contact in the 16th century, and subsequently, their ancestral lands were colonized. At the pueblos — stone and adobe villages — where Roman Catholic missions were established, burials within church grounds or graveyards consecrated in accordance with Christian doctrine were encouraged for those who had been converted to the faith. However, Native Americans also continued their traditional burial practices, when necessary in secret.

Throughout the period of the fur trade in the North Pacific, beginning in the late 18th century, Russian Orthodox missions were established among the native populations settled along the coastline and mainland interior of Russian-occupied Alaska. At Eklutna, a village at the head of Cook Inlet, north of Anchorage, an Athabaskan cemetery adjacent to the 19th century Church of St. Nicholas (Anchorage Borough - Census Area), illustrates continuity of a burial custom widely recorded in historic times, that of constructing gable-roofed wooden shelters over graves to house the spirit of the dead. In the cemetery at Eklutna, the spirit houses are arranged in regular rows, have brightly-painted exteriors fronted by Greek crosses, and are surmounted by comb-like ridge crests. In this particular example, variation in the size of the shelters is an indication of social status, while clan affiliations are identified by color and by the styling of the crest.

## COLONIAL AND EARLY AMERICAN BURIAL CUSTOMS

The earliest episodes of Spanish, French, and English settlement on the eastern shore of North America followed voyages of exploration in the 16th century. The original attempts at colonizing were made in Florida, the Carolinas, and Virginia. In 1565, the first lasting European community was established by the Spanish on the east coast of Florida, at St. Augustine, which survived attack from competing forces in colonization of the New World. An essential feature of the fortified settlement was the Roman Catholic mission church with its associated burial ground. Where they are uncovered in the course of modern day improvement projects, unmarked burials of the 16th and 17th centuries provide evidence for identifying the historic locations of successors to the founding church — sites that gradually disappeared in the layerings of later town development. The archeological record shows shroud-wrapped interments were customary in the city's Spanish Colonial period. Traces of coffins or coffin hardware do not appear in Colonial burials before the beginning of English immigration to the area in the 18th century. Graves of the Spanish colonists occurred in consecrated ground within or adjacent to a church. They followed a pattern of regular, compact spacing and east-facing orientation. These characteristics, together with arms crossed over the chest and the presence of brass shroud pins are a means of distinguishing Christian burials from precolonial Native American burials sometimes associated with the same site.

With the notable exception of the secular graveyards of Puritan New England, the ideal during the Colonial period in English colonies was to bury the dead in churchyards located in close proximity to churches. Churchyard burials have remained standard practice into the 20th century for European Americans and other cultures in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Early Puritans rejected churchyard burials as they rebelled against other "papist" practices, as heretical and idolatrous. Instead, many 17th century New England towns set aside land as common community burial grounds. Headstone images from this period also reflect the rejection of formal Christian

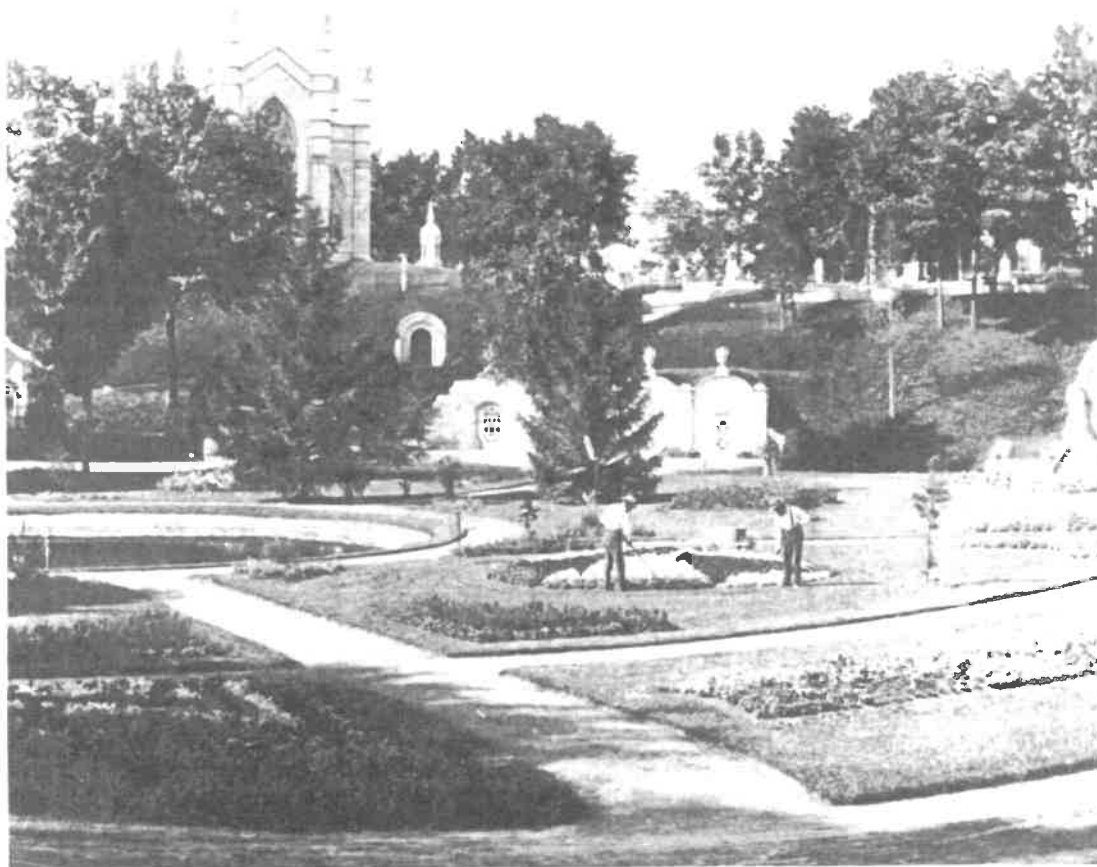
iconography in favor of more secular figures, such as skulls representing fate common to all men.

In areas such as the Middle Atlantic region and the South, settlement patterns tended to be more dispersed than in New England. Although early towns such as Jamestown established church cemeteries, eventually burial in churchyards became impractical for all but those living close to churches. As extensive plantations were established to facilitate the production of large scale cash crops, such as tobacco, several factors often made burial in a churchyard problematical: towns were located far apart, geographically large parishes were often served by only a single church, and transportation was difficult, the major mode being by ship. The distance of family plantations from churches necessitated alternative locations for cemeteries, which took the form of family cemeteries on the plantation grounds. They usually were established on a high, well-drained point of land, and often were enclosed by a fence or wall. Although initially dictated by settlement patterns, plantation burials became a tradition once the precedent was set. Along with the variety of dependencies, agricultural lands, and other features, family cemeteries help illustrate the degree of self-sufficiency sustained by many of these plantations. Pruitt Oaks, Colbert County, Alabama, is one of many National Register examples of such a plantation complex.

## ORIGINS OF THE "RURAL" CEMETERY MOVEMENT

In the young republic of the United States, the "rural" cemetery movement was inspired by romantic perceptions of nature, art, national identity, and the melancholy theme of death. It drew upon innovations in burial ground design in England and France, most particularly Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, established in 1804 and developed according to an 1815 plan. Based on the model of Mount Auburn Cemetery, founded at Cambridge, near Boston by leaders of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1831, America's "rural" cemeteries typically were established around elevated viewsites at the city outskirts. Mount Auburn was followed





*Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was a model for suburban landscaped cemeteries popular in the 19th century. Mount Auburn and other "rural" cemeteries of its kind inspired a movement for public parks. (Photographer unknown; ca. 1870. From the collection of the Mount Auburn Cemetery Archives)*

by the formation of Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia in 1836; Green Mount in Baltimore, 1838; Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn and Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, New York, in 1839; and ultimately many others.<sup>3</sup>

After the Civil War, reformers concerned about land conservation and public health agitated for revival of the practice of incineration and urn burial. The cremation movement gathered momentum rapidly around the turn of the century, particularly on the west coast, and resulted in construction of crematoriums in many major cities. Columbariums and community mausoleums were erected in cemeteries to expand the number of burials which could be accommodated with the least sacrifice of ground space.

Perpetual care lawn cemeteries or memorial parks of the 20th century

represent a transformation of the "rural" cemetery ideal that began in the last half of the 19th century. At Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati (Hamilton County), Ohio, superintendent Adolph Strauch introduced the lawn plan system, which deemphasized monuments in favor of unbroken lawn scenery, or common open space. Writing in support of this concept and the value of unified design, fellow landscape architect and cemetery engineer Jacob Weidenmann brought out *Modern Cemeteries: An Essay on the Improvement and Proper Management of Rural Cemeteries* in 1888. To illustrate his essay, Weidenmann diagrammed a variety of plot arrangements showing how areas could be reserved exclusively for landscaping for the enhancement of adjacent lots.

"Modern" cemetery planning was based on the keynotes of natural beauty

and economy. Whereas 19th century community cemeteries typically were organized and operated by voluntary associations which sold individual plots to be marked and maintained by private owners according to individual taste, the memorial park was comprehensively designed and managed by full-time professionals. Whether the sponsoring institution was a business venture or non-profit corporation, the ideal was to extend perpetual care to every lot and grave. The natural beauty of cemetery sites continued to be enhanced through landscaping, but rolling terrain was smoothed of picturesque roughness and hilly features. The mechanized equipment required to maintain grounds efficiently on a broad scale prompted standardization of markers flush with the ground level and the elimination of plot-defining barriers.

<sup>3</sup> Mount Auburn (Middlesex County), Laurel Hill (Philadelphia County), and Green Mount (Baltimore Independent City) are listed individually in the National Register. Because National Register files and published lists are organized by State and county, the name of the county is provided for each individually listed burial place cited in this bulletin. Other referenced cemeteries and burial places may be included in the National Register as part of larger historic properties, especially historic districts.

# THE "RURAL" CEMETERY MOVEMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON AMERICAN LANDSCAPE DESIGN

The "rural" cemetery movement, influenced by European trends in gardening and landscape design, in turn had a major impact on American landscape design. Early in the 19th century, the prevailing tradition was the romantic style of landscape gardening which in the previous century the English nobility and their gardeners had invented using classical landscape paintings as their models. English garden designers such as Lancelot "Capability" Brown, William Kent, Sir Uvedale Price, Humphrey Repton and John Claudius Loudon artfully improved vast country estates according to varying aesthetic theories. To achieve naturalistic effects, gracefully curving pathways and watercourses were adapted to rolling land forms. Contrast and variation were employed in the massing of trees and plants as well as the arrangement of ornamental features. The "picturesque" mode of 18th century landscaping was characterized by open meadows of irregular outline, uneven stands of trees, naturalistic lakes, accents of specimen plants and, here and there, incidental objects such as an antique statue or urn on a pedestal to lend interest and variety to the scene.

The "rural" cemeteries laid out by horticulturists in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York in the 1830s were romantic pastoral landscapes of the picturesque type. Planned as serene and spacious grounds where the combination of nature and monuments would be spiritually uplifting, they came to be looked on as public parks, places of respite and recreation acclaimed for their beauty and usefulness to society. In the early "rural" cemeteries and in those which followed their pattern, hilly, wooded sites were enhanced by grading, selective thinning of trees, and massing of plant materials which directed views opening onto broad vistas. The cemetery gateway established separation from the workaday world, and a winding drive of gradual

ascent slowed progress to a stately pace. Such settings stirred an appreciation of nature and a sense of the continuity of life. By their example, the popular new cemeteries started a movement for urban parks that was encouraged by the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing and the pioneering work of other advocates of "picturesque" landscaping, most particularly Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted, who collaborated in the design of New York City's Central Park.

With the rapid growth of urban centers later in the 19th century, landscape design and city planning merged in the work of Frederick Law Olmsted, the country's leading designer of urban parks. Olmsted and his partners were influential in reviving planning on a grand scale in the parkways they created to connect units of municipal park systems. Although Olmsted was more closely tied to the naturalistic style of landscape planning, his firm's work with Daniel H. Burnham in laying out grounds for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago conformed to the classical principles of strong axial organization and bilateral symmetry. The central unifying element of the imposing exposition building group was a lengthy concourse, a lagoon, terminated by sculptural focal points at either end. Following the Chicago World's Fair, civic planning was based for some time on a formal, monumental vision of "the City Beautiful."

The historic relationship of cemetery and municipal park planning in America is well documented in *Park and Cemetery*, one of the earliest professional journals in the field of landscape architecture. Inaugurated in Chicago in 1891 and briefly published as *The Modern Cemetery*, a title that was resumed in 1933, the journal chronicles the growth of an industry and indicates the developing professionalism within related fields. For example, the Association of American Cemetery Superintendents was organized in 1887. Cemetery superintendents and urban park officials held a common interest in matters of design as well as horticulture and practical groundskeeping.

The tradition of naturalistic landscape design that was developed by Olmsted and his followers continued into the 20th century. Widely influential was the work of John C. Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., successors of the elder Olmsted and principals of the Olmsted Brothers firm which was consulted throughout the country on

matters of civic landscape design. But after 1900, parks and cemeteries took on aspects of formal landscape planning made fashionable by the "City Beautiful" movement and renewed interest in formal gardens of the Italian style. Typically, classical formality was introduced to early 20th century cemetery landscapes in the axial alignment of principal avenues of approach centered on building fronts, and also in cross axes terminated by rostrums, exedras, and other focal features drawn from various traditions in classical architecture. By the 1930s, newer cemeteries and memorial parks showed the influence of modernism in a general preference for buildings and monuments that were stripped of excessive decoration. Greek architecture, admired for its purity and simplicity, was the approved model for monumentation in the early modern age.

## MILITARY CEMETERIES

Military cemeteries, created for the burial of war casualties, veterans, and their dependents are located in nearly every State, as well as in foreign countries, and constitute an important type of American cemetery. There are over 200 cemeteries established by the Federal government for the burial of war casualties and veterans. These include national cemeteries, post cemeteries, soldiers' lots, Confederate and Union plots, American cemeteries overseas, and other burial grounds. Many States also have established veterans cemeteries. The majority of veterans, however, likely are buried in private and community cemeteries, sometimes in separate sections reserved for veterans.

During the American Revolution, soldiers were buried in existing burial grounds near the place of battle. One of the earliest types of organized American military cemetery was the post cemetery. Commanders at frontier forts of the early-to-mid 19th century buried their dead in cemetery plots marked off within the post reservations. Post cemetery registers reveal a fairly uniform system of recording burials, sometimes even including assigned grave numbers. Management of burial grounds fell to quartermaster officers. In 1850, the U.S. Congress called for the establishment of a cemetery outside Mexico City for Americans who died in the Mexican War. This was a precedent for the creation of permanent military cemeter-



ies over a decade before the creation of a national cemetery system.

During the Civil War, there was a critical shortage of cemetery space for large concentrations of troops. At first, this need was addressed through the acquisition of lots near general hospitals, where more soldiers died than in battle. As the war continued, however, it was clear that this was not an adequate solution. In 1862, Congress passed legislation authorizing the creation of a national cemetery system. Within the year, 14 national cemeteries were established. Most were located near troop concentrations, two were former post cemeteries, one was for the burial of Confederate prisoners and guards who died in a train accident, and several were transformed battlefield burial grounds. By the end of 1864, 13 more had been added. Two of the best known of the national cemeteries from the Civil War period are Arlington National Cemetery, established in 1864, and Andersonville, established in 1865. Arlington, the home of Confederate General Robert E. Lee at the beginning of the Civil War, was confiscated by the Union army in May of 1861. In 1864, on the recommendation of Brig. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, Quartermaster General of the Army, the grounds officially became a national cemetery. Andersonville became the final resting place of almost 13,000 soldiers who died there at the Confederate prisoner of war camp.

The establishment of Civil War-era military cemeteries often resulted from decisions by local commanders or by State civil authorities in conjunction with private associations. Burial grounds were established near battlefields, military posts, hospitals, and, later, veterans homes. Before the creation of the National Cemetery System, these burial grounds were referred to variously as national cemeteries, soldiers' lots, Confederate plots, Union plots, and post cemeteries. Many later were absorbed into the National Cemetery System.

Immediately after the Civil War, an ambitious search and recovery program initiated the formidable task of locating and reburying soldiers from thousands of scattered battlefield burial sites. By 1870, over 90 percent of the Union casualties — 45 percent of whose identity were unknown — were interred in national cemeteries, private plots, and post cemeteries. In 1867, Congress directed every national cemetery to be enclosed with a stone or iron fence, each gravesite marked with a headstone, and

superintendent quarters to be constructed. Although many national cemeteries contain Confederate sections, it was not until 1906 that Congress authorized marking the graves of Confederates who had died in Federal prisons and military hospitals. The post-Civil War reburial program also removed burials from abandoned military post cemeteries, particularly those in the western frontier, for interment into newly-created national cemeteries.

Following World War I, only 13 percent of the deceased returned to the United States were placed in national cemeteries; 40 percent of those who died were buried in eight permanent American cemeteries in Europe. Similarly, after World War II, 14 permanent cemeteries were created in foreign countries. Today, there are 24 American cemeteries located outside the United States, which are administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Until 1933, the War Department administered most military cemeteries. That year an executive order transferred 11 national cemeteries near national military parks or battlefield sites already under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service to that agency. Today, the National Park Service administers 14 national cemeteries.

Originally, hospital military cemeteries associated with former National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and former Veterans Bureau (later Veterans Administration) hospital reservations were not part of the national cemetery system. In 1973, the Department of the Army transferred 82 of the 84 remaining national cemeteries to the Veterans Administration — today the Department of Veterans Affairs — which had been created in 1930 from the merging of the National Homes and Veterans Bureau. Also in 1973, the 21 existing "VA" hospital cemeteries were recognized as part of the National Cemetery System. The system has continued to expand, and there now are 114 national cemeteries managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, where more than two million Americans — including veterans from all of the country's wars and conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the Persian Gulf — are buried.

The total number of military and veterans burial places in the United States is unknown because there are numerous veterans plots in private and non-Federal public cemeteries. In 1991, 70 percent of the markers provided by the Federal government to mark new gravesites were delivered to private or State cemeteries, and the remainder to national cemeteries.



*The National Cemetery Section of Lexington Cemetery, Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky, includes burials of Union and Confederate soldiers, and veterans of the Spanish-American War. (Lexington Herald-Leader Newspaper, 1958)*

---

# III. TYPES OF BURIAL PLACES AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES

---

Distinctive mortuary features and burial places may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register as free-standing buildings and sites nominated individually. Others are eligible because they are significant in a larger context, as, for example, a mausoleum located in a cemetery or a family burial plot on a farmstead or plantation. Cemeteries have been included in the National Register as component elements of historic districts encompassing entire villages, military reservations, or industrial complexes, as well as in association with churches. When a cemetery is included in a larger historic district, it is evaluated like other resources in the district: it contributes to the district's historic significance if it dates from the historic period, relates to the district's significance, and retains integrity; or if it possesses significance independent of the district's. Cemeteries also may be historic districts in their own right.

A cemetery that is evaluated on an individual basis is treated either as a historic site or as a district made up of individual graves, their markers, and plot-defining characteristics. A cemetery that is a site may or may not possess above-ground features that convey their significant historic associations, but still must retain historic integrity. A cemetery district, like other historic districts, is more than an area composed of a collection of separate elements; it is a cohesive landscape

whose overall character is defined by the relationship of the features within it. More elaborate cemeteries may have, in addition to the basic cemetery features, ornamental plantings, boundary fences, road systems, gateways, and substantial architectural features such as mausoleums, chapels, and residences of sexton or superintendent — all requiring description and evaluation of significance.

Opposite are some of the types of properties or features that might be encountered in documenting and evaluating burial places. The list covers places for preparation and interment of the dead, commemorative objects, and a number of buildings and structures commonly associated with larger cemeteries (for definitions, see the Glossary, p. 28).

amphitheater  
bench  
burial cache  
burial mound  
burial mound complex  
burial site  
cairn  
cemetery  
chapel  
columbarium  
cremation area  
crematorium  
crypt  
fountain  
gatehouse  
grave  
gravemarker  
graveyard  
grave shelter  
greenhouse  
lych gate  
mausoleum  
memorial park  
monument  
mortuary  
office building  
ossuary  
pumphouse  
receiving tomb  
rostrum  
service building  
sexton's residence  
shelter house  
superintendent's residence  
tomb  
vault



---

# IV. EVALUATING CEMETERIES AND BURIAL PLACES

---

It is not essential that those evaluating cemeteries for potential National Register eligibility hold credentials in scholarly disciplines, but it is important that they be able to place the resource type in as broad a context as possible and to describe and analyze its components. Those not trained in the disciplines discussed below are encouraged to refer to the recommended sources listed at the end of the guidance, and to consult their local historical commission and State historic preservation office. They may wish to consult professionals who have had training or experience in archeology, anthropology, art history, architectural history, history of landscape architecture, horticulture, history American studies, cultural geography, or historic preservation. Within a number of these disciplines, the study of funerary art and custom is a specialized area. Appropriate expertise may extend to the fields of iconology, ethnology and folklore. Familiar with the terminology used to describe characteristic elements of prehistoric and historic burial sites, cemetery landscapes, buildings, and monuments, individuals in these fields may more easily be able to identify those elements in historic photographs, in plans, and upon inspection of a site.

Archeologists and anthropologists are qualified to evaluate the potential of burials to yield significant information about the past, and often are able to do so without disturbing the remains. Anthropologists and cultural geographers glean information from gravemarkers, inscriptions, and epitaphs, which reveal changing attitudes about death and afterlife, about demographics (the migration patterns of population groups), and about the prevalence of disease. The folklorist and anthropologist perceive meaning in the commonplace, traditional ways of treating graves that are untouched by the currents of high style monumentation.

Art and architectural historians are prepared to assess the visual qualities of

the resource, the elements of artistic and architectural style embodied in sculptural monument, gatehouse, and mausoleum. Landscape architectural historians can evaluate and document elements of historic landscape design. Those who specialize in the study of material culture are knowledgeable about the evolving techniques of manufacture and the icons (forms and symbols holding special meaning) used by monument makers in various historic periods. Historians are qualified to relate cemetery development to changing attitudes about death and burial, trends in community planning, aesthetic taste and choices, and historic events such as episodes of settlement and military actions.

## APPLYING THE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

To be eligible for the National Register, a cemetery or burial place must be shown to be significant under one or more of the four basic Criteria for Evaluation. Criteria A, B, C, and D indicate the several ways in which a property may be significant in American history, architecture (including the disciplines of landscape architecture and planning), archeology, engineering, and culture. Decisions about the relative significance of cemeteries and burial places can be made only with knowledge of the events, trends, and technologies that influenced practices of caring for and commemorating the dead, and with some concept of the quality and quantity of similar resources in the community, region, State, or nation. Such background provides the context for evaluating significance.

The term "context," as applied to the process of evaluation, may be described simply as the relevant social, political, economic, and environmental circumstances of the historic period in which a property was developed. By studying a burial place in its broadest possible context, and by applying the basic criteria, the researcher is able to recognize those resources which are significant in representing a given period and historic theme.

Within the broad patterns of American history, the National Register defines a number of "areas of significance." Areas of significance are equivalent to the historical or cultural themes that the property best represents. Some of the areas of significance relevant to burial places are art and architecture, landscape architecture, community planning and development, archeology, ethnic heritage, exploration and settlement, health/medicine, military history, religion, and social history. It is important when applying National Register criteria to keep in mind that, except for archeological sites and cemeteries nominated under Criterion D, burial places also must meet the special requirements of Criteria Considerations C or D, which refer to graves and cemeteries, and possibly to A (religious properties) or other Criteria Considerations.

*Criterion A: Properties can be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.*

Under Criterion A, the events or trends with which the burial place is associated must be clearly important, and the connection between the burial place and its associated context must be unmistakable. There are many ways in which a cemetery might represent an important aspect of a community's or a culture's history through association with a specific event or by representing broader patterns of attitudes or behavior. For example, our legacy of community

cemeteries began in Colonial times. In Boston, when "Brother Johnson" died in 1630, his burial was soon followed by others close by. This property then became the first burial ground for the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and was the only Colonial burial ground in Boston for 30 years. Ultimately, it assumed the name of a later church constructed there, becoming King's Chapel Burying Ground (Suffolk County). Depending on the history of an area, the age required of a cemetery to represent early exploration, settlement, and development will vary. In Colorado, the Doyle Settlement (Pueblo County), established by early pioneer Joseph Doyle in 1859, was one of the earliest non-mining communities in the State. Once a self-contained unit consisting of residences, dining facility, store, flour mill, blacksmith shop, school, and granaries, its importance in the early development of southern Colorado is now represented by only the school, the cemetery, and building foundations.

A cemetery may represent a variety of important aspects of an area's early settlement and evolving sense of community. Union Cemetery, in Redwood City (San Mateo County), California, was the subject of the State's first cemetery legislation in 1859. Early in its history, it became the focal point

for an annual Memorial Day celebration, which grew over the years into one of the town's most important communal traditions. In addition, a study of the birthplaces of those buried there found at least 17 foreign countries and 26 States, demonstrating the ethnic and cultural diversity characteristic of early northern California communities.

Cemeteries may be significant for associations with specific events as well as long-term trends. The Kuamo'o Burials, Hawaii County, Hawaii, is the burial ground for warriors killed in a major battle in Hawaiian history. The Hawaiian ruling class traditionally had exercised power through a system of sacred rules, or *kapu*. After the death of Kamehameha I in 1819, authority was divided so that Kamehameha I's son Liholiho (Kamehameha II) controlled the secular government, and his nephew Kekuaokalani maintained the *kapu* system. When the new king acted to abolish the *kapu*, Kekuaokalani led an army in rebellion to protect the sacred traditions. Liholiho's forces prevailed, and the abolition of the *kapu* system, occurring the same year as the arrival of Christian missionaries, accelerated the assimilation of western culture. In contrast, Magnolia Cemetery, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, already was a cemetery when the Battle of Baton

Rouge took place there in 1862. Although the Confederates failed to expel the Union forces occupying the city, the ferocity of their attack helped persuade Federal leaders to evacuate. As a result, the Confederates were able to secure a stronghold for transporting supplies on the Mississippi River. Much of the rest of the battlefield has succumbed to urban development, but the cemetery retains its integrity from the Civil War period.

Battles are a common, but not the only type of, event associated with cemeteries and other burial places. The Mass Grave of the Mexican Miners, within Mount Calvary Cemetery, McAlester (Pittsburg County), Oklahoma, is the only site representing a major 1929 mining disaster. Mexicans played a major role in the area's mining industry and made up almost half of the casualties from the 1929 explosion. The creation of a mass grave for 24 of the Mexican victims, dug by State prisoners and initially marked with only a single wooden cross (ten stone family markers were added later), also is evocative of a time in mining history when terms of employment did not include survivors benefits.

The evolution of burial customs and memorializations also can be an important context for understanding our history. In the 19th century, romantic appreciation of nature and changing

*One of the few reminders of the vanished Doyle Settlement near Pueblo, Colorado, this cemetery also includes one of the state's best collections of carved Spanish headstones and represents the dual cultural influences on the community. (James Munch, 1979)*





attitudes about death and memorialization led to gradual abandonment of overcrowded urban graveyards and church cemeteries in favor of spacious, landscaped burial grounds on the city outskirts. The great "rural" cemeteries outlying major cities in the eastern United States and the Midwest were founded by voluntary associations in the 1830s and 1840s. Their popularity inspired a benevolent movement, led to the development of urban parks, and was the foundation of an entire industry. Although most of the Register-listed community cemeteries across the country that were established in their image before 1900 are documented under Criterion C only — for landscape architecture, and sometimes art or architecture — many also may meet National Register Criterion A in the areas of social history or community planning.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, American mortuary practices were greatly influenced by the cremation movement spurred by advocates in the medical and scientific community and a general awareness of the world's mounting population. The first national convention leading to formation of the Cremation Association of America was held at Detroit in 1913. In areas of the world where it was not in conflict with religious doctrine, the movement was well developed by the 1920s and 1930s. Public health laws were revised to allow hygienic disposal of the dead by incineration, and cremation societies were organized to promote and maintain private facilities. Some crematories were municipally owned. Typically, crematory design incorporated, in addition to the retort, a chapel and mausoleum, or columbarium. Frequently, the combination facility was sited in a conventional cemetery or memorial park. The spread of the movement related, in part, to the ideals of economy and efficiency that marked the early 20th century. The nation's early crematories and those representing later benchmarks in the broad reform movement would be eligible, in all likelihood, under Criterion A.

**Criterion B: Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.**

Under Criterion B, the person or group of persons with which the burial place is associated must be of *outstanding* importance to the community, State, or nation, as required by Criteria Consideration C (see page 16). As an

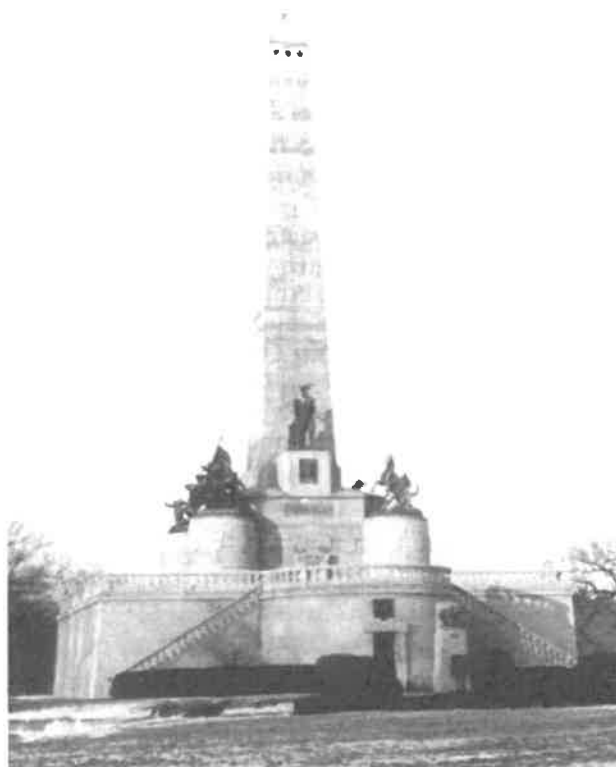
example, Abraham Lincoln's tomb in Springfield (Sangamon County), Illinois is significant as the final resting place of the martyred figure who, as the nation's 16th president, successfully defended the Union of States in the Civil War and drafted the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862-1863. While not all other properties directly associated with President Lincoln's productive life are lost, the tomb also is important, in part, under Criterion A as the focal point of a broad-based commemorative effort begun shortly after he was slain in 1865.

Graves of persons significant to a particular State, region of the country, or cultural group also may qualify for listing. The Free Frank McWorter Grave Site, also in Illinois (Pike County), is listed in the National Register for its significance in representing the accomplishments of a former slave. Free Frank McWorter purchased his own freedom and that of his wife with the profits of his business before moving to Illinois in 1830. In Illinois, he established a farm, engaged in land speculation, founded a prosperous frontier community, and secured the freedom of 13 additional family members. The gravesite is the only property that survives to represent his achievements

and his impact on this area of the State. In Utah, the Martin Harris Gravesite (Cache County) is listed as the State's only property associated with Martin Harris, one of three witnesses to the Book of Mormon, who also served as the first scribe to Mormon prophet Joseph Smith.

Cemeteries, as well as graves, may be eligible under Criterion B. Forestvale Cemetery, on the outskirts of Helena (Lewis and Clark County), Montana, is one of many National Register cemeteries that contain the graves of numerous persons who made outstanding contributions to the history of the State or area in which their graves are located. Among those buried in Forestvale are James Fergus, first commissioner of the territory, also credited with spearheading the formation of Fergus County; Cornelius Hedges, who played a prominent role in the development of the State's public education system and in the formation of Yellowstone National Park; J. Scott Harrison, the chief geological engineer who mapped all of Montana, including boundaries, mountains, principal rivers and streams, and some county borders; Albert Kleinschmidt, credited with the construction of the three largest irrigation

*The Lincoln Tomb, Springfield, Illinois, is the final resting place for Abraham Lincoln, his wife Mary Todd Lincoln, and three of his sons. Built between 1869 and 1874, it was the culmination of a broad-based community effort to memorialize the slain president. (Stephen Lissandrello, 1975)*



canals in the State; and W. A. Chessman, who constructed the Chessman Reservoir, ensuring a stable water supply for the city of Helena.<sup>4</sup>

**Criterion C:** *Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*

Under Criterion C, funerary monuments and their associated art works, buildings, and landscapes associated with burial places must be good representatives of their stylistic type or period and methods of construction or fabrication. Alternatively, such property types may represent the work of master artists, designers and craftsmen, or the highest artistic values of the period. Appropriate areas of significance would be architecture, art, or landscape architecture.

In the Colonial period, tablet-style gravemarkers typically were inscribed and embellished in low relief with the imagery first of death, and later also of resurrection, with various decorative symbols. Much of the work was done by stone carvers whose craftsmanship was of outstanding quality, recognizable in one burial ground after another by distinguishing motifs, craft techniques, or other signature marks. A 17th or 18th century graveyard containing a good representation of gravemarkers of the period and region would be eligible under Criterion C if the body of work is documented sufficiently to provide a basis for comparison. Attribution of particular works to a specific master carver, family, or group of artisans would be helpful, but is not essential to the documentation. Quality craftsmanship or distinctive folk art may be eligible even if the identity of the artisan is unknown. For example, the Hebron Church, Cemetery, and Academy, Banks County, Georgia, is eligible, in part, because of an unusual form of folk art found in northern Georgia. Early 19th century discoid markers there are believed to be made of hand-carved

rock from a nearby outcropping by an early settler who learned the craft from ancestors in the British Isles.

In the closing years of the 19th century, the arts in America achieved a high point of integration based on the ideals of Renaissance classicism. The nation's leading architects and sculptors, most notably Richard Morris Hunt, Stanford White, Daniel Chester French, and Augustus Saint-Gaudens, collaborated in the design of important civic and cemetery monuments. There are many examples of high artistic achievement in funerary monumentation of the period eligible under Criterion C in urban centers. Among the best-known

gravemarkers and monuments representing the common artistic values of a historic period. For example, the elaborate monumentation characteristic of cemeteries of the Victorian era was derived from the influence of the romantic movement in literature and art, which revered nature and sentiment. Grief and devotion could be expressed nobly in artistic terms by means of code-like imagery. Pyramid-capped mausoleums and tapering shafts on pedestals were among the popular monument forms drawn from the ancient world. Because of their association with Egyptian sepulchral monuments signifying eternal life beyond the



*The Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Newark, Essex County, New Jersey, illustrates characteristic features and attitudes toward death in the Victorian period in the profusion of attenuated, vertical forms, such as columns and obelisks, imagery expressing confidence in spiritual after-life. (Anna Sanchez, 1985)*

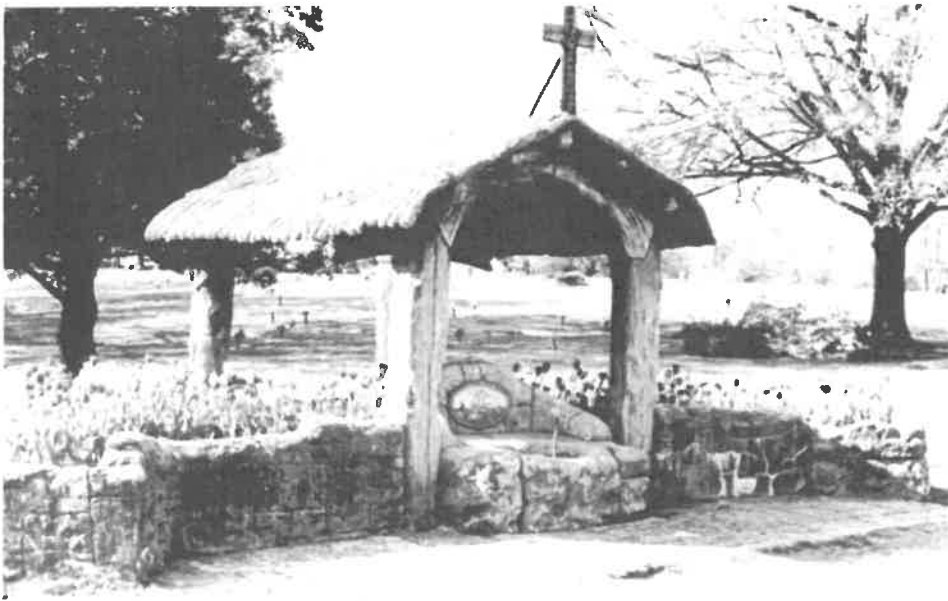
of these is the Adams Memorial in Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, D.C., where Stanford White provided an architectural setting for the sublime bronze figure of transcendent peace completed by Saint-Gaudens in 1891. Historian-writer Henry Brooks Adams commissioned the monument in memory of his wife, the former Marian Hooper.

A cemetery that does not contain "high style" master works of funerary art nonetheless may be eligible under Criterion C as a distinguishable entity made up of a significant array of

earthly realm, the pyramid and obelisk became symbols for Christian belief in the eternity of the spirit. Indeed, obelisks were so widely used as gravemarkers that they, along with classical columns, account for much of the bristling quality of cemetery landscapes of the period. Some of the imagery was figural, encompassing effigies and idealized figures as well as lambs, cherubs, and other orders of angels. Among the many cemeteries listed for their notable collection of Victorian funerary art are Oakwood Cemetery, Onondaga County, New

<sup>4</sup> Refer to *National Register Bulletin 32: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons* for additional guidance on applying Criterion B.





*The Sculptures of Dionicio Rodriguez at Memorial Park Cemetery in Memphis, Tennessee, illustrate the work of a master artist. (Tennessee Historical Commission, 1990)*

*Four of the dozens of individually designed styles found in the German-Russian Wrought Iron Cross Sites in Central North Dakota represent an Old World folk tradition, which enjoyed its greatest period of popularity in this region from the 1880s until about 1925. (Timothy J. Klobardanz, 1988)*

York; Oakland Cemetery, Fulton County, Georgia; Elmwood Cemetery, Jackson County, Missouri; and Cave Hill Cemetery, Jefferson County, Kentucky. Not surprisingly, all are significant in the area of landscape architecture as well.

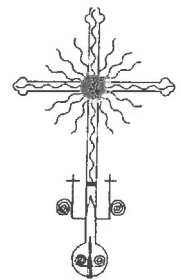
In part, the richness and variety of monuments in Victorian cemeteries was derived from the introduction of mechanized manufacturing processes. A broad range of patterns was available to monument makers in printed handbooks, a notable example of which was *Palliser's Memorials and Headstones*, published in 1851 by Palliser, Palliser, and Company, New York architects and designers. A great many markers were mass marketed through marble works and manufacturers' catalogs. Monuments of cast zinc marketed as "white bronze" were popular throughout the country after a fabrication process was developed in the 1870s. Metal gravemarkers generally were cheaper than marble and granite markers and, depending on the number and variety of casting molds used, could surpass in elaboration the carved stone monuments they emulated. City Cemetery, Washington County, Georgia, contains a significant collection of mass-produced designs. Cast iron fences, also readily available at this time, became extremely popular for fencing of both individual plots and entire cemeteries. The cast iron fences in Rapides Cemetery, Rapides Parish, Louisiana, are among the most important examples of Victorian ornamental cast iron in the State outside of New Orleans.

Less commonplace, but highly distinctive, examples of funerary art or

*The rural setting and these six crosses, the only objects remaining from the old Mt. Carmel settlement in Pierce County, North Dakota, are evocative of the State's early period of German-Russian immigration. (Timothy J. Klobardanz, 1988)*



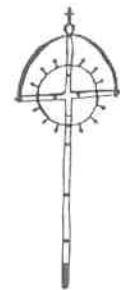
*Wrought iron with scrollwork*



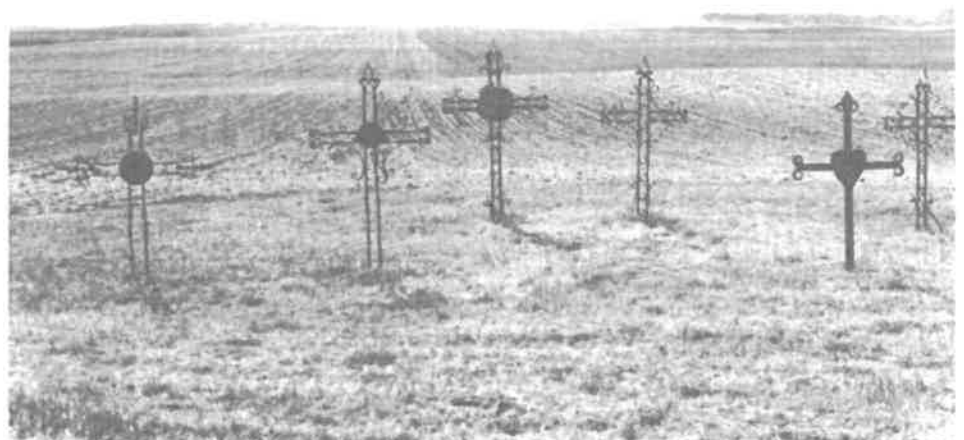
*Wrought iron with pattern*



*Wrought iron with heart*



*Wrought iron with circular design*



craftsmanship also may qualify for National Register listing. The Sculptures of Dionicio Rodriguez at Memorial Park Cemetery, Shelby County, Tennessee, constitute one of the finest collections of sculptures executed by this Mexican artist. His rustic works in tinted reinforced concrete imitate natural forms such as trees and stone masses. Mountain View Cemetery, Stillwater County, Montana, is known for its concentration of hand-carved sandstone tree stump and log tombstones, most believed to be the work of two local Italian carvers. In central North Dakota, German-Russian Wrought Iron Cross Sites contain a dazzling array of intricately embellished hand-crafted iron grave crosses, a long-established Old World folk tradition brought to the United States by German-Russian immigrants. The crosses, some by highly-skilled blacksmiths whose names are known, and others by unknown artisans, display a balance of cultural tradition and individual creativity.

*Criterion D: Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.*

Burial places may be eligible for their potential to yield information about cultural and ethnic groups. Under Criterion D, the common requirements are that the property have information to contribute and the information is considered important. The importance of the information to be yielded usually is determined by considering a research design or a set of questions that could be resolved by controlled investigation of the site. While commonly understood to apply to archeological research, Criterion D also encompasses information important in the study of material culture and social history. Except for the graves of significant historic individuals, burial places nominated under Criterion D need not meet the special requirements of the Criteria Considerations.

Information collected on Native Americans in all parts of the country reveals a great range and variation of burial ritual. The placement and orientation of burial remains and the objects associated with burials, such as implements, vessels for food offerings and personal adornment, reveal a people's spiritual beliefs, their view of afterlife, and distinctions in social, economic, and political status. Some aspects of burials, such as the lining or

closing of graves with stones and the plugging of burial chambers with debris, indicate methods of protecting the remains. The similarity of burial practices in different regions could indicate links through trade and migration.

Present Federal, State, and local laws protecting Native American burial remains, burial goods, and sacred objects may constrain physical anthropological studies. However, where disturbance of burials is accidental or unavoidable, legally authorized scientific analysis of skeletal remains can disclose important information about environmental conditions of prehistoric times, including the prevalence of disease and trauma inflicted in combat. Sometimes these properties may be eligible without having been excavated; Hodgen's Cemetery Mound in Ohio, revealed as a burial mound by erosion, has never been excavated and was seeded to prevent further erosion; its significance is enhanced by its relatively undisturbed integrity. Also, it is not uncommon to find burying places associated with other archeological features, and such burial places may be eligible for National Register listing as part of a larger area of occupation for which testing or partial excavation has been carried out. Whether burial places are identified individually, or as part of a larger site, one should always consult representatives of any group for whom the burials or site have historic or cultural meaning, and also the State historic preservation office.

Anthropologists and historical archeologists can gain information significant in American culture from burial places. For example, West Africans carried in the slave trade to the east coast of America, and their descendants, adapted traditional burial rites to plantation and community life. Studies of African American cemeteries in the South reveal a variety of gravesite treatments based on a view of the spirit world that can be traced to the Bakongo culture of West Africa. Light-reflecting objects and personal possessions used to define and decorate graves are intended to attract and contain the spirit. The spiralled conch shell seen on graves in the coastal areas is an emblem of the eternal cycle of life and death, and inverted objects are oriented to the spirit world, which in traditional culture is a shimmering mirror of the living world beneath the earthly plane. Cemeteries having the potential to illustrate the practice of such beliefs may be eligible under Criterion D.<sup>16</sup>

In cases where written documentation is not available, studies of a cemetery may reveal important information about an area. The site of Old Greenville is the location of a frontier town and county seat important in the early settlement of the Missouri Ozarks. Because a series of courthouse fires destroyed early records, information that can be obtained from cemetery features can enlighten various aspects of the area's past. Features documented as having information potential include location and grouping of graves; use and quantity of commercial markers, fieldstone, impermanent markers, or no markers; funerary art; and inscriptions indicating identity, cultural affiliation, birth and death dates, and cause of death.

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS

Certain types of properties, including cemeteries and graves, do not qualify for the National Register unless they meet certain special conditions. This category also includes birthplaces of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years. However, cemeteries and graves may qualify under Criteria A, B, or C if they are integral parts of larger properties that do meet the criteria, or if they meet the conditions known as Criteria Considerations. In some instances, a burial place nomination will need to be justified under more than one of the special conditions in addition to the basic criteria. Except for the graves of historical figures, burial places nominated under Criterion D are exempt from the Criteria Consideration requirements.

In the discussion below, examples that must be justified under the Criteria Considerations are those for which an explicit justification must be included in the nomination documentation. Following these are examples of properties likely to be accepted for National Register listing if the nomination documentation included an adequate explanation. Each discussion also includes at least one example of a type of cemetery or burial place that may be nominated, or included



in a larger nominated property, without the necessity of checking a Criteria Consideration blank on the form or providing a special justification in the nomination.

**Criteria Consideration A: A religious property is eligible if it derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.**

Examples of religious burial places that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration A requirements:

- A graveyard maintained as property of a church or synagogue.
- A crypt or crypts of a historic church or synagogue.
- A cemetery containing burials of members of a religious order or group, if the religious affiliation is a major part of the cemetery's significance.

Examples of religious burial grounds that likely would meet Criteria Consideration A requirements with adequate documentation:

- A graveyard of a church or synagogue distinguished by the artistic quality of its gravemarkers or by relatively early historical associations.
- A crypt significant for its artistic embellishment or associations with a person of outstanding importance.

Example of religious burial places that *do not* need to be justified under Criteria Consideration A:

- A graveyard or cemetery that is nominated along with the church or synagogue with which it is associated when the church or synagogue is the main resource nominated.

**Criteria Consideration B: A property removed from its original or historically significant location can be eligible if it is significant primarily for architectural value or if it is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event.**

Examples of relocated burial places that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration B requirements:

- A grave of a historic figure that has been moved from its original or earlier historic location to a place that became the focus of commemorative monumentation.

- A mausoleum, columbarium, or other building that has been relocated.

- A cemetery or section of a cemetery that became the location of reinterments of a group of historic figures.

- A graveyard or cemetery relocated in its entirety.

Examples of relocated burial places that likely would meet Criteria Consideration B requirements with adequate documentation:

- A mausoleum or other building relocated within the bounds of its historic setting without loss to its significant architectural character and without destroying the character of a historic district.

- A cemetery or section of a cemetery where a group of historic persons of outstanding importance were reinterred fifty or more years ago.

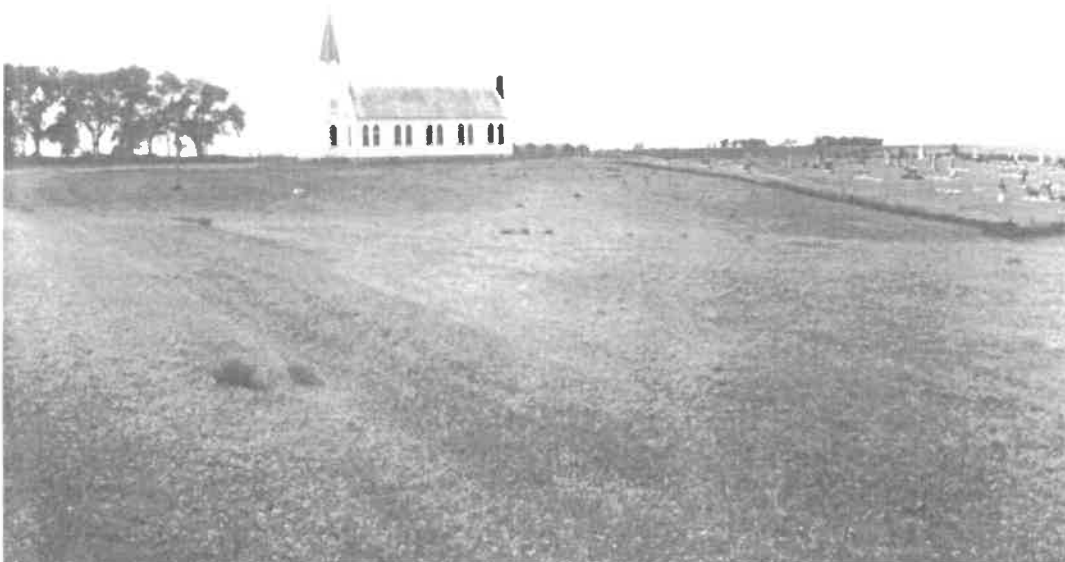
- A graveyard moved in its entirety if it represents a historic relocation and the artistic qualities and social significance of its historic gravemarkers are preserved.

- An ossuary or other burial place that represents reinterment as a traditional cultural practice.

Example of relocated burial places that *do not* need to be justified under Criteria Consideration B:

- A graveyard or cemetery in which a few reinterments have taken place; in which a small number of gravemarkers original to the grounds are missing or separated from their historic positions; or for which the age or historical associations are of overriding rarity and significance.

*As part of a church nomination, the cemetery next to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Colfax County, Nebraska, need not meet the requirements of Criteria Considerations A or D. (D. Murphy, 1980)*



**Criteria Consideration C: A birthplace or grave of a historical figure is eligible if the person is of outstanding importance and if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life.**

Historical figures of outstanding importance in local, State or national history usually are more vividly associated with the places relating to their productive lives than with their graves. Gravesites may be far removed, geographically, from the setting of the individual's momentous activities. But if residences and business or professional headquarters are not preserved, the final resting place sometimes may be significant as the most substantial link to that person. A historical figure of outstanding importance is one whose contributions to local, State or national history were truly extraordinary. The accomplishments of such a person must stand out in kind and degree from those of others active at a comparable level in the same field and during the same period of time.

Prehistoric graves do not fall under this Criteria Consideration.

Examples of graves that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration C requirements:

- A grave nominated for its associations with the person buried there.
- The grave of a historical figure that is nominated for its potential to yield information significant in local, State or national history.

Examples of graves that likely would meet Criteria Consideration C requirements if adequately documented:

- A grave that is the only substantial intact link to a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- The grave of a historical figure nominated under Criterion D for significant information about the past that is not available from other sources.

Example of graves that *do not* need to be justified under Criteria Consideration C:

- A grave located on the grounds of the house, farm, ranch, or plantation where the outstanding historical figure spent his or her productive years, and the property is being nominated as a whole.

**Criteria Consideration D: A cemetery is eligible if it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.**

As collective burial places, cemeteries are the focus of many individual expressions commemorating family members and spiritual beliefs. In and of itself, this characteristic does not qualify a burial place for listing in the National Register. However, when a burying ground is of sufficient age and scope to represent more, such as patterns of early

*The St. Matthew's Church cemetery contributes to the significance of East Plymouth Historic District in Plymouth, Litchfield County, Connecticut, a community that was settled by a historically significant religious minority, and which developed as a center for surrounding farm families. (Connecticut Historical Commission, 1984)*



settlement or the values of a society generally, National Register Criteria Consideration D provides for its eligibility. Cemeteries nominated for the importance of the information they may impart may be eligible for listing without application of Criteria Consideration D.

To be considered a person of transcendent importance, an individual would have to meet the same test as that for a grave. To qualify for its age, a cemetery must date from an early period within its geographic and cultural context. The age of a burial place might be considered early relative to the period for which we have information about human activity, or relative to the exploration, settlement, and

development of an area by a particular group. As with any other type of property, a cemetery may be eligible for the quality of design represented in its funerary art, construction or engineering techniques, landscape architecture, or other values recognized under National Register Criterion C. Likewise, under Criterion A, a cemetery may possess significant associations with historic events, including general events that reflect important broad patterns in our history.

Examples of cemeteries that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration D requirements:

- Any cemetery nominated individually under National Register Criteria A, B, or C.
- A cemetery that constitutes a substantial or pivotal portion of a historic district nominated under Criteria A, B, or C.

Examples of cemeteries that likely would meet Criteria Consideration D requirements if adequately documented:

- A historic cemetery containing the graves of a number of persons of outstanding importance — those whose activities determined the course of events in local, State, or national history; or those whose



activities were especially important in reflecting significant cultural currents of the time.

- A cemetery possessing important historic associations from a community's early period of settlement, or which reflects important aspects of community history.
- A cemetery that embodies the principles of an aesthetic movement or tradition of design and monumentation through its overall plan and landscaping, its gravemarkers and funerary sculpture, or its buildings and structures.
- A cemetery that is associated through its burials with a single important historical event such as a pivotal military battle.
- A cemetery that embodies the folkways, burial customs, or artistic traditions of an ethnic or cultural group whose impact on the community or region was significant but is not well documented in other resources.

Examples of cemeteries that *do not* need to be justified under Criteria Consideration D:

- A cemetery associated with a distinguishable cultural group that has the potential to yield important information such as migration patterns, subsistence levels, and prevalence of disease in historic or prehistoric times.
- A cemetery that is nominated along with the church or synagogue with which it is associated when the church or synagogue is the main resource nominated.
- A cemetery that is nominated as part of a historic district but is not the focal point of the district.

**Criteria Consideration E: A reconstructed property is eligible when it is accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived.**

Examples of reconstructed burial places that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration E requirements:

- A burial mound or other surface burial place reconstructed largely of fabric that is not original.
- A cemetery in which a significant number of character-defining features, such as mausoleums and gravemarkers, are reconstructed of fabric that is not original.

Example of reconstructed burial places that likely would meet Criteria Consideration E requirements if adequately documented:

- A cemetery in which landscape plantings, road systems, mausoleums, and/or gravemarkers have been repaired and restored largely with original fabric in accordance with a well documented preservation plan.

**Criteria Consideration F: A property primarily commemorative in intent can be eligible if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance.**

Most burial places, ranging from gravemarkers and grave shelters to substantial mausoleums and cemeteries as a whole, are commemorative in intent. Unlike many commemorative properties, however, the significance of a burial place often includes direct association with events that occurred on or near the site, or with the person or persons buried there. Other burial places may be significant for their artistic quality or their capacity to evoke widely-shared emotions.

Gettysburg National Cemetery, which now contains approximately 6,000 burials from the Civil War through the Viet Nam conflict, was established as a cemetery for the Union casualties from one of the decisive battles of the Civil War. The number of killed, wounded, and captured in the fighting of July 1-3, 1863, reached 51,000 and was unsurpassed in any other engagement of the Civil War. In addition to its direct association with the battlefield, the cemetery shares significance with the adjacent battlefield because of their long history as a place where the pathos of a nation was expressed, beginning with President Abraham Lincoln's immortal address at the cemetery's dedication little more than four and half months after the battle ended.

In general, national cemeteries meet Criteria Consideration F because they have been designated by Congress as primary memorials to the country's military history. Many of these also are directly associated with the battles in which the interred lost their lives.

Examples of commemorative burial places that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration F requirements:

- A funerary monument of a heroic or martyred figure, or a tribal or national leader, if it is the commemorative function that is of primary significance.

Example of commemorative burial places that likely would meet Criteria Consideration F requirements if adequately justified:

- A national cemetery.

Examples of commemorative burial places that *do not* need to be justified under Criteria Consideration F:

- A gravemarker or monument significant primarily for its age or its distinction as an example of craftsmanship or architecture of a historic period or school.
- A gravemarker significant primarily as a document of the traditions of an ethnic or cultural group.
- A cemetery significant chiefly because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a historic period or school of landscape design or of an important tradition of vernacular or folk design.

**Criteria Consideration G: A property achieving significance within the last fifty years is eligible if it is of exceptional importance.**

National cemeteries, collectively, possess inherent exceptional significance from associations with important events in our history. Because the cemeteries include the graves of military personnel associated with every war and branch of service, and draw their essential significance from the presence of the remains of those who have served their country throughout its history, the age of each cemetery is not necessarily the determining factor. To qualify, however, each cemetery must be used or prepared for the burials of veterans and their dependents, and must possess historic integrity.

Examples of burial places less than fifty years old that *must* be justified under Criteria Consideration G requirements:

- A grave that is less than fifty years old.
- A cemetery established less than fifty years ago.

- A new national cemetery or tracts of recently acquired land not yet developed for cemetery purposes, even if added to existing cemeteries.

- A mausoleum, mortuary, or crematorium that is less than fifty years old.

Examples of burial places less than fifty years old that likely would meet Criteria Consideration G requirements if adequately documented:

- A grave of a national or tribal leader that is exceptionally important because the leader's death had a galvanic effect on broad social movements and the gravesite is the focal point of reverence for the leader's achievements.

- A mausoleum, mortuary, or crematorium that is exceptionally significant as a pivotal design in the development of new technologies for care of the dead.

- A developed national cemetery that contains interments of veterans and their dependents, or one that has been clearly prepared for that purpose.

Examples of burial places less than fifty years old that *do not* need to be justified under Criteria Consideration G:

- A historic cemetery established more than fifty years ago, where the vast majority of burials, markers, and monuments are over fifty years old, but which is still active, and in which a number of burials occurred less than fifty years ago. (The period of significance in such a case would end either at the end of the cemetery's period of historical importance, or fifty years prior to the evaluation and documentation if the continuing use is perceived as significant but not exceptionally significant.)

- A cemetery significant for its plan or design which, although commenced over fifty years ago, was fully executed at a date that overlaps the most recent fifty year period by a few years.

## INTEGRITY

To qualify for National Register listing, properties must retain historic integrity. The Criteria for Evaluation recognize seven factors which define historic integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. All must be considered in determining whether a burial place retains enough of its characteristic features to represent the associations, function, and appearance it had during its period of significance. The natural

and developed landscape features that are associated with complex burial places such as cemeteries must be considered as part of the evaluation of integrity.

In essence, the researcher should ask the following questions in evaluating integrity: 1) To what degree does the burial place and its overall setting convey the most important period(s) of use? 2) To what degree have the original design and materials of construction, decoration, and landscaping been retained? 3) Has the property's potential to yield significant information in American culture been compromised by ground-disturbance or previous investigation?

To assess the completeness and condition of a burial place, it is helpful to begin by identifying the characteristic features of the type of property under study, especially those that give the property significance. For a cemetery, such features would include gravesites, gravemarkers, boundary enclosures, walkways, gateways, road systems, natural and planted vegetation, buildings, structures, and the spatial relationship among all of these. By their constant exposure, certain gravemarker materials, such as wood and marble, are especially vulnerable to natural cycles of weathering and deterioration, just as vegetation is subject to growth and decay. Damage to, or modification and loss of, characteristic features do not necessarily render a burial place ineligible. It is a question of degree. A burial place which meets National Register standards for integrity should retain enough of its significant features from its period of significance to make clear its distinction as an important representative of its physical type, or of its historic associations.

Since the 19th century, American cemeteries commonly have been planned as "eternal" resting places of the dead. Even so, occasionally they are moved, obliterated, or adapted for new uses. Frequently, they are enlarged and their landscape altered or "improved" in keeping with changing tastes. It is important, therefore, both to distinguish nonhistoric development from that which reflects the historic period(s) of significance, and also to discern which changes occurred historically and may have acquired significance, and which help maintain the significant historic appearance — landscape restoration, for example. Nevertheless, to meet National Register standards for integrity, development of the historic period should predominate. The National Register defines as "historic" those elements, qualities, and associations that are at least fifty years old.

*The Common Burying Ground & Island Cemetery in Newport County, Rhode Island, retains historic integrity. (Edwin W. Connelly, 1974)*





The amount, distribution, and kind of nonhistoric features should all be considered in evaluating integrity. In some cases, an entire cemetery may not qualify for the National Register. If the original area has remained essentially intact while modern expansion occurred beyond or around it, then the historic portion likely will qualify because it is easy to draw boundaries that exclude the nonhistoric areas. For example, Providence Cemetery is a two-acre rural cemetery located about 11 miles from the county seat, and has been used for burials from the 1840s until the present. The northeast 3/4-acre, which contains inscribed tombstones from 1840 to 1870, was nominated and listed in the National Register for its associations with the earliest period of white settlement (1830s-1870) in what is now Grenada County, Mississippi. This portion of Providence Cemetery is one of the few identifiable properties to survive from that period.

When a large historic cemetery with scattered gravesites has had modern infill, the entire cemetery still may be eligible if the proportional number, size, and scale of new features are not so imposing as to overwhelm the overall historic appearance. Once the nonhistoric features begin to dominate, and one's impression is of a modern cemetery with isolated historic burials or clusters of historic gravesites, then the overall historic character of the cemetery has been lost, and it would not meet National Register standards.

"Improvements" also can affect historic integrity. Replacing a simple post and wire fence with a brick wall, modest slate headstones with elaborate monuments, and natural growth with nursery plantings all reduce integrity, however well-intentioned. Although beautification efforts may make a cemetery more attractive, replacing the original features diminishes the cemetery's authentic historic character. Changes that occurred during the historic period, however, may reflect cultural beliefs and practices and contribute to a cemetery's significance. In order to appropriately evaluate the impact of changes, one must determine not only which features are crucial components of historic character, but also why they are important. For example, is a fence or wall important because it provides a sense of solid enclosure, or because of its materials and design, or both? The answer will help determine the physical attributes a cemetery must retain to possess historic integrity.

In some cases, age or the rarity of resources representing a person, events, or historic period, may allow a greater tolerance for change, damage, or loss of historic features. The Vermillion Creek Crossing (Pottawatomie County, Kansas) was one of the early major crossings, and a well-known campsite for travellers along the Oregon Trail. Here Louis Vieux, a Pottawatomie chief for whom the town of Louisville is named, built a cabin and operated a toll bridge, blacksmith shop, stable, and general store. In 1849, approximately 50 people died of Asiatic cholera and were buried here. Louis Vieux, who served in many important capacities for his tribe and became quite wealthy, also was buried here in 1872, along with some of his family. The crossing site and the two cemeteries are important as the only remaining signs of this once-busy crossing, and retain integrity despite some vandalism and the loss of most of the stones that once marked each of the graves of the cholera victims. In New England, at least two major campaigns to move headstones within 17th and 18th century burying grounds have resulted in the arrangement of gravemarkers in neat rows, which were not present in the original layouts: one in the mid-1800s related to the Victorian aesthetic and the introduction of the lawnmower, and one during the era of Works Progress Administration projects of the 1930s. Yet, the major legacy of these cemeteries remains, in that the early markers, with their inscriptions and funerary designs, still remain to convey their important age, associations, and information.

Removal of graves may or may not diminish historic integrity. Many Chinese who were active in the settlement and development of Hawaii and the Mainland in the late 19th century observed Confucian doctrine which called for properly placed graves in their homeland. As the burial remains of these sojourners were returned to China, whole sections of American cemeteries were disinterred. Sometimes the emptied gravesites were reused on a cyclical basis. If evidence of the historic use of a disinterred cemetery subdivision remains in the form of gravemarkers, monuments, or depressions in the ground, the subdivision need not be excluded from the nominated area on the basis of integrity if it is culturally significant. Such areas were not intended to be permanent, and removal of burials is part of the cultural story; if visible traces make it distinguishable, the subdivision's relative

position and function in the overall cemetery landscape still can be appreciated. A cemetery that has been *substantially* disinterred, and where removal of graves is not an authentic part of the cemetery's history, however, would not meet the standards of integrity, nor would most disinterred gravesites outside the cemetery setting.

Vistas external to a cemetery's grounds may have contributed to the feeling of the place in the historic period. If view corridors within the cemetery were purposely developed to incorporate broad vistas, and if the broad vistas have been eliminated or obscured by incompatible development on adjacent property, the cemetery has lost an important aspect of its character. If the grounds have remained intact internally, however, the cemetery would likely meet the essential requirement of integrity.

Isolated gravesites and small burying grounds occasionally are found in remote locations where they may have been established in the course of overland trail migration or in the aftermath of a massacre or military engagement. While it was not uncommon for survivors to have erected permanent gravemarkers in later years, the initial marking of such graves usually was ephemeral. Over time, the precise locations of many burial places of this kind have been lost. Oral tradition may be all that remains to mark the general vicinity of a gravesite. In assessing sites such as these, the standards of integrity require that the gravesite be verifiable by archeological testing or by visual traces, even if the traces are natural markers, such as a solitary stand of trees preserved in a cultivated field.

The eligibility of an isolated grave depends upon the grave's unmistakable relationship to the associated context or theme significant in local, State, or national history or culture. Few such graves would be eligible as individual sites, since they must be the only remaining property associated with a person of outstanding importance. More commonly, they would be evaluated as sites contributing to the significance of a historic district encompassing a larger cultural landscape, such as a homestead area or an intact segment of the Oregon Trail. A single gravesite or small group of graves that has been disinterred normally would not meet the standards of integrity. If a historic gravemarker remains at an empty grave, the marker could be evaluated as an object of artistic merit, but the associative significance of the grave is lost.

---

# V. DOCUMENTING AND REGISTERING CEMETERIES AND BURIAL PLACES

---

## GENERAL APPROACH

Determining the significance of a burial place requires a systematic investigation of the property and its historic context. Once assembled, the information is used to establish whether or not the burial place is a significant representative of its type, reflecting an important aspect of American history or prehistory.

Documentation begins with compiling information on the background of the site and its development over time. Such information would include the date the burial place was established, the period in which it was active, the circumstances under which it was established and maintained, and the cultural groups, individuals, organizations, agencies, or corporations responsible for initial and subsequent development. For a burial place with design distinction, such as a large, comprehensively designed cemetery, information should be provided about those who designed the overall landscape and its architectural features, and those who carved or fabricated individual monuments and grave markers. An analysis of components of the burial place would include identification of methods of construction and manufacturing techniques, as described in stone cutters' handbooks, fabricators' catalogs, and professional publications. Characteristic plant materials, layout of burial plots and circulation features, acreage encompassed, and the purpose or function of areas and features within the site boundaries also are important. The researcher should determine when

newer tracts were added to the site and describe the site in relation to its surrounding landscape.<sup>5</sup>

Siting of burial places normally was carefully considered in both historic and prehistoric times. Chinese workers who came to Hawaii at the turn of the century founded fraternal societies that enabled them to maintain strong cultural, political, religious, and family ties with China. One of the chief concerns of these societies was care of the elderly and disabled and burial of the dead. It was important that the

society's building and the adjacent cemetery be located in a beautiful, spacious area, on sloping ground, with a good view, so that spirits could roam freely. The Chee Ying Society, Hawaii County, Hawaii, is an example of such a society building, dependencies, and affiliated cemeteries.

Researchers should study the immediate setting; while the growth of a town, changing agricultural patterns, or other factors may have altered the surrounding landscape over time, often the basis for burial site selection is evident in local



*Cultural and environmental factors can be important in understanding cemeteries. In southern Louisiana, cemeteries such as the Metairie Cemetery in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, reflect high-style French funerary architecture. At the same time, the tradition of building burial vaults above ground was well-suited to the high water table of the delta region. (Donna Fricker, 1991)*

---

<sup>5</sup> Refer to *National Register Bulletin 18: How To Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes*, and *National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* for additional information on historic landscape issues.



landforms — in the relationship of site to topographic features or traditional routes of travel. Researchers also should consult records of land use for verification of the reason a burial place developed at a particular location, and not make assumptions. For example, in the communities of Colonial New England settled by Puritans, graveyards were perceived as secular, in conformance with Calvinist doctrine. In that region, the mere proximity of an early graveyard to a church property does not necessarily signify a historical relationship between church and burying place.

The arrangement of graves within a burial ground is a significant aspect of character also. In vernacular burial grounds, the relation of one grave to another may be irregular — not in compact rows. Such informal placement may be a sign of haphazard development over time, but it could also relate to the customs of a particular cultural group. The Christian belief in resurrection of the body after death prescribed earth burials for the faithful. Lot arrangement frequently was influenced by the scripturally-based tradition of orienting the foot of the grave toward the east to place the dead in appropriate position for arising at the day of final judgement.

The researcher should learn as much as possible about the character of the site as it was first developed or appropriated for burial purposes based on

documentary views, photographs, plats, plans and specifications, business and organization records, local histories, and oral tradition. The researcher then is prepared to describe the present condition of the site and determine how well it reflects the period in which it was developed.

The landscape and developed features of a burial place should be described in narrative form and represented graphically by means of a site plan or map. When it is known that significant historic features are missing or modified, as for example in the realignment of road or driveway, such missing features should be described and their former placement indicated graphically in dashed or dotted outline. Not all of the features listed below will appear in all burial places; however, the narrative description and site plan would include, but not necessarily be limited to the following, where applicable:

- general topography, including indication of the gradient (or slope) and elevation of the site in relation to the larger setting in which it is located;
- natural features such as streams, gullies, hills, and indigenous trees; naturalistic developed features such as ponds, lakes, or landforms;

- plat, or layout of cemetery plots, whether a rigid gridiron imposed on the site or an organization of plots conforming to natural contours;

- circulation system of roads, driveways, pathways, noting whether such features have axial alignment or are winding or curving; structural features of the system, such as bridges and drainage systems; and distinctive materials, such as cobble gutters or stone paths;

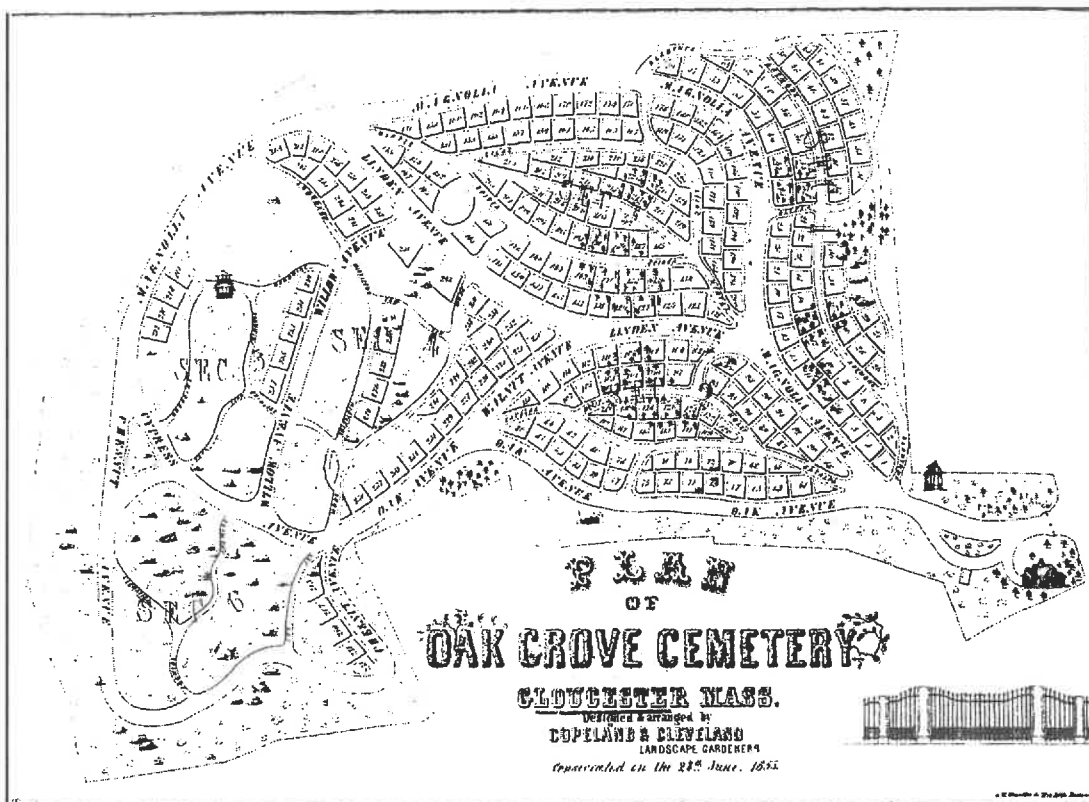
- views and vistas within the site from principal access points; views and vistas external to the site;

- characteristic vegetation, including the overstory of trees, understory of shrubs and grasses, exotic plant materials used as filler in burial plots, ornamental flower beds, and specimen plantings;

- gateways, fences, and hedges used for boundary and spatial definition;

- typical plot defining features such as wooden palings, iron fencing, and concrete curbing;

- prevalence of individual plot mausoleums, vaults, or above-surface tombs, and indication of the range and variety of individual grave markers;



*The 1855 plan of the Oak Grove Cemetery in Gloucester, Essex County, Massachusetts, is an important source of cemetery documentation. (James O'Gorman, 1975)*

- entrance signs, directional markers, outdoor lighting fixtures, and small-scale site furnishings such as benches, planters, ornamental sculpture, and fountains;

- maintenance and service features such as soil disposal and waste storage areas, greenhouses, tool sheds, and pumphouses; and

- buildings such as churches, memorial chapels, gatehouses, offices, residences, crematories, mausoleums, and columbariums.

## RESEARCH AND FIELD INVESTIGATION

The object of the research phase is twofold: 1) to establish the contexts, or historical and cultural themes for documenting the property's significance, and 2) to determine the property's physical character and appearance during the important period(s) of its use or development.

Toward the first end, general reference works on American burial customs, historical development of cemeteries and mortuary art and architecture; professional and trade journals, community histories, and ethnographic studies may be consulted to place the property in an overall cultural and historical framework.

Next, all available primary source material on the property under study should be assembled from church and municipal records, fraternal organizations, and cemetery corporations, as may be appropriate. Land records, maps and plats, census records, court documents, local histories, family and business papers, genealogies, newspapers, and other sources can provide information on settlement patterns, community development, and the lives of important people. Detailed information on the development of a particular burial place will be found in cemetery plats, architectural plans and drawings, landscape plans and planting keys, manufacturers' catalog orders, monument makers' statements of account, and gardeners' and sextons' diary

entries. Library collections may provide documentary views and descriptions in the form of prints, early photographs, newspaper accounts, and advertisements. Interviews with church sextons, cemetery superintendents, and descendants of original owners of family plots may be useful. Archeologists also will review reports and other documentation on related or comparable sites to frame appropriate research questions that could be illuminated by a burial site investigation. It also is important to consult with any cultural group with which a burial place or cemetery is affiliated or for which it has special meaning.<sup>6</sup>

The object of field work is to analyze the property's present physical character in comparison with the property's appearance during the period of significance as documented through research. Field investigation may help establish the period of significance; in any case, it produces a record of the characteristic features remaining from the period of significance, and changes through time. It establishes the present extent and integrity of the property.

## SITE PLANS

The essential aid to conducting field work is a site plan on which the distribution of physical elements is recorded graphically. A cemetery plat may be used effectively as a complement to a site plan, but it is not interchangeable. If a base map of the site is not available from the local planning agency, the cemetery plat may become the model from which to produce a sketch plan of the site. Planning base maps showing contour intervals as well as building ground plans are most useful because they portray with precision the siting of particular features on level ground and at prominent elevations. If a complex burial place underwent distinct episodes of development over a long period of use, a series of maps of comparable scale overlaying a base map may be useful in recording the evolutionary changes, either for the sake of analysis or as an exhibit to accompany the nomination. Whenever possible, all graphic information should be reduced to 8 1/2" x 11" format, or folded to that size, when submitted to the National Register.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs are indispensable as records of the present condition of the burial place and its characteristic features. When compared with historic views — which are not required, but which can be helpful when available — contemporary photographs assist the researcher in gaining an understanding of the phases of surface development over time. For purposes of preparing the National Register nomination for a graveyard or cemetery, it may not be practical in every case to photograph each gravemarker. It is important, however, to provide a number of general views to illustrate the overall character of the landform and its developed features. These should be supplemented by a variety of close views of individual monuments and markers to convey the range and quality of materials and workmanship. Care should be taken to photograph gravemarkers from near surface level and at times and under conditions when the high contrast of light and shadow will give sharpness and clarity to inscriptions and sculptural relief. In addition to the form, embellishment, and position of gravemarkers in relationship to other markers, epitaphs and vital inscriptions are an important aspect of the cultural content of cemeteries. If landscape design is significant, photographs of plantings, circulation patterns, and other features may be necessary to adequately represent the site.

As a practical matter, good photographic and transcription records for a historic graveyard or cemetery are highly desirable. Such records, keyed to a plat, produce scholarly archives and preserve some information should the cemetery suffer loss as a result of theft, vandalism, or damage from natural causes. Moreover, comprehensive documentation may form the basis of a cemetery maintenance and conservation master plan. Such work is labor intensive, but genealogical societies and other volunteers may be enlisted to a duly authorized and properly supervised effort.

## ARCHEOLOGY

Archeological field work and documentation involves scientific techniques

<sup>6</sup> Refer to *National Register Bulletin 38: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties*, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 for additional guidance.



that invariably call for qualified professional supervision. Legal clearances normally are required. Where archeological investigations have been authorized in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws; aerial infrared photography; ground-penetrating radar, and proton magnetometers are among the remote sensing techniques and devices that may be used to locate below-grade ground disturbances and gauge the density and state of preservation of burial deposits without invading the site. Dense materials, such as stone, metal, and ceramic are revealed in sharp contrast against the background of soils. Bone and other organic matter also register in these sensing techniques, to varying degrees. These techniques can be expensive.

Surface investigation to determine the extent of a burial site is most effective when combined with carefully controlled testing which allow skeletal remains to be preserved intact, and minimizes impact to the site generally. Site plans, stratigraphic profiles, scale drawings, and photographs make up the graphic record of an archeological site. They illustrate the geographic bounds of the area investigated, the depth of testing, and the concentration and relative position of the artifacts and site features. Documentation also includes a report describing the range and variety of burial objects; their age as determined by laboratory radiocarbon dating or other means, as appropriate and comparative analysis of other dated materials. The functions of the artifacts, inferred from form and placement, the identification of the cultural group that performed the burial, and architectural and associated features of the site — such as vaults, chambers, cairns, and landscaping — are essential parts of the archeological record accumulated for analysis and evaluation.

## BOUNDARIES AND PERIODS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Using the information collected from research and systematic investigation of the site, the researcher should begin to establish the scope and extent of the area to be proposed for nomination and the period of time during which the nominated area was significant in American prehistory, history, or culture. Only after determining the geographical bounds of the nominated area and that



*The traditional gravehouses, Christian crosses, and other features at LaPointe Indian Cemetery in Ashland County, Wisconsin, possess important associations with the Chippewa Indians in northern Wisconsin. (Michael M. Weburg, 1976)*

period of time in which the property achieved the qualities which make it eligible for the National Register, is it possible to enumerate the features which contribute to the significance of the property.

## OWNERSHIP

Determining ownership of burial places sometimes is complex. In some cases, family cemeteries on private land have been exempted from deeds and do not belong to the property owner on whose land they are located, but to the descendants of the family. When small private cemeteries in rural areas have been abandoned and are no longer maintained, they become the domain of the current landowner. For the volunteer group or family descendants trying to establish clear title and access to an abandoned cemetery, legal research and negotiation may be required. For documentation and assessment purposes, however, researchers may refer to deed records to establish the most likely owner. Sometimes the corporate body or trust fund that once provided care for a country cemetery, though

inactive for many years, was never legally dissolved. The rights of Indian tribes, Native Hawaiians, or other groups — as established by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, other Federal laws, and State legislation — also must be considered in determining ownership.

Typically, in early community cemeteries founded by voluntary associations, the cemetery land remained under ownership of the founding organization while the individual plots were separately held by the original proprietors and their heirs. In the West, where the earliest established community cemeteries often were founded by fraternal societies such as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, burial grounds today are being deeded to local governments whose agencies — commonly parks and recreation departments — are looked to for stable long-term stewardship of the community's "pioneer" cemeteries. In such cases, when it comes time to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, "public-local" or both "public-local" and "private," whichever is appropriate, should be checked.

# COMPLETING THE NATIONAL REGISTER REGISTRATION FORM

Nominations are processed according to the regulations set forth in 36 CFR 60, and are submitted to the National Park Service by the appropriate State or Federal Historic Preservation Officer. The following guidance supplements the instructions found in *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*.

## CLASSIFICATION

A burial place may be classified as a "site," "district," "building," "structure," or "object." A single or compound burial of limited scope, such as trailside graves or small family plots, would be classified appropriately as a "site." Also, when a cemetery is nominated as a significant or "contributing" feature within a larger historic district, such as a village or company town, it is counted as a "site."

A complex burial site, such as a cemetery encompassing a multitude of burials, developed landscape features, and buildings, is a "district." Its component parts are enumerated and described, and those which contribute to the significance of the nominated area are distinguished from nonhistoric features which are unrelated to the period of significance. Individual monumental tombs may be classified as "structures," and gravemarkers having artistic merit or cultural significance may be counted as significant "objects." The overall landscape design — including roadways, ponds, and plantings — may be counted as a "site" within the district if the design is a significant feature.

Because the term "burial place" is broadly interpreted in this guidance to encompass individual buildings, such as crematory and mausoleum facilities, the category of "building" would be an appropriate classification when such buildings are nominated individually or when counting the number of contributing features in a cemetery district. Also, since a property consisting of two or more resource types should be classified under the major resource, if there is one,



*A principal contributing feature of the Masonic Cemetery in Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, is the Hope Abbey Mausoleum, which meets Criterion C as the State's only truly monumental example of the Egyptian style. (Richard Roblyer, 1980)*

a property consisting of, for example, a significant church and an associated graveyard would be nominated as a "building."

## CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

The number and combination of features counted as contributing to the significance of the property will vary according to property type and will depend on the criteria under which the burial place is proposed for nomination. It is not expected that individual gravesites or markers in a cemetery would be counted as separately contributing or noncontributing features in most cases. However, buildings, structures, and objects of substantial size and scale, and those specifically discussed in the nomination text for their importance in understanding the burial place — including gravemarkers, should be counted. Plantings and other natural features should not be counted separately, but are included as part of a counted site.

In a cemetery district, individual gravemarkers would be counted as separately contributing features in those cases where gravemarkers have been comprehensively inventoried and

evaluated and those of outstanding rank can be identified. When a cemetery is significant primarily because of the examples it contains of the distinctive work of regional stone carvers and other craftsmen, the important markers should be enumerated by an inventory and each one counted as a separately contributing feature. Others may be counted collectively as a contributing object. Taking the example of a national cemetery, markers by regulation usually do not vary; the amassed number of, say, stone crosses of uniform size spreading across the landscape is one of the distinguishing characteristics of a national cemetery. The gravemarkers in such a case may be counted in the aggregate as a single undifferentiated object contributing to the character of the nominated area.

## FUNCTIONS

The funerary functions of all contributing resources of the burial place, must be identified, and both historic and current functions classified on the form using the instructions provided in *National Register Bulletin 16A*.

## DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF FEATURES AND SIGNIFICANCE

The purpose of the narrative portions of the National Register form is twofold: 1) to describe and analyze the characteristic features of the burial place, and 2) to present a coherent argument that explains why the property meets the Criteria for Evaluation, including the Criteria Considerations for graves, cemeteries, and other kinds of properties marked for special conditions.

### Description

To prepare the descriptive narrative, the researcher needs to determine the characteristic features the burial place must have to be a good representative of its period, style or design, and method of construction or fabrication. Through systematic description, the researcher will show that the property possesses those characteristics. The features that date from the period of significance should be identified and described in Section 7 of the registration form, along with a discussion of any changes that might affect historic integrity. The completed description will provide an accurate image of the current appearance and condition of the cemetery, within which both significant historic



features and nonhistoric changes and additions can be ascertained easily. It is especially important in cases where individual features within a cemetery are not inventoried and described that the description, in conjunction with maps and photographs, provide clear information on the general topography and the distribution of developed features that give the cemetery its historic character.

Consider the original cemetery in a community settled in the period of westward expansion, 1840-1890. The researcher may expect to find that it was established by a fraternal organization, platted around the nucleus of an earlier burial plot, and situated on high ground affording good drainage above the flood plain or on marginal land unsuitable for cultivation. Moreover, the gravemarkers, whether grand or modest, would reflect the vertical density and the variegation and embellishment of material characteristic of Victorian design. A community cemetery of this era that lacked well defined plots and an array of monuments ornamented in high relief likely would not be a good representative of the type; therefore, it likely would not be individually eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. This same cemetery, however, could be a contributing site in a historic district, or it might possess significant associations with the community's historic development that would make it individually eligible under Criterion A. For example, the cemetery might be the only remaining evidence of an extremely important trading, communication, and outfitting settlement along a westward migration route. In this case, the researcher would have to reconsider what physical characteristics were important in conveying the cemetery's important historic associations.

### Significance

The first step in preparing the statement of significance is to identify the National Register criteria, considerations, and "areas of significance" in which the property should be evaluated. A cemetery could be evaluated in the areas of social history, ethnic heritage, art, architecture, landscape architecture, community planning, archeology, and

others areas. In order to understand the property within an appropriate historic context, the researcher will have consulted reference works for information on the events, trends, and technologies which influenced development of resource types included in the area proposed for nomination. Based on information gathered in the statewide historic preservation planning process, the State historic preservation office may be able to provide data for a comparative analysis so the researcher can determine the appropriate level of significance — whether the property proposed for nomination is distinctive locally or in the State or nation. Guidebooks, conference proceedings, exhibits, and exhibit catalogs also may help the researcher place the nominated property into a larger perspective.

Periods of significance also must be specified. The period of significance cannot predate the extant features that compose the burial place. For example, the period of significance for the grave of a significant person would not include that individual's lifetime, but would be the year of burial. There may be several distinct periods of significance if the burial place remained active over a long span of time. If this is the case, all periods of significance should be noted. Ordinarily, the period of significance would not extend to the most recent period of 50 years unless specially justified under Criteria Consideration G on the basis of exceptional artistic values, historical associations, or potential to yield information.

It is desirable to keep the statement of significance as concise as possible while at the same time covering adequately the property's development and use during the period of significance. Those who shaped the burial place and its setting should be identified by name, if such information is available, or by cultural affiliation, if the property is a traditional cultural site or prehistoric burial place. It is important to focus on those aspects of the property's development and use which illustrate the property's significance under National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D.

Certain burial places may have potential for designation as a National Historic Landmark. If the property appears to have national significance and has been evaluated in a national context,

the supportive argument should be presented in the nomination. Designation as a National Historic Landmark may be dependent upon the National Park Service evaluating the property in the course of a theme study. A well-documented National Register nomination for a burial place of potential National Historic Landmark quality will facilitate the property's review by National Park Service professionals.<sup>7</sup>

## BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

Determining and justifying the boundaries of a burial place are important steps in completing the registration form. Boundaries should be drawn to encompass, but not to exceed, the full extent of resources which contribute to the significance of the property. External vistas from a suburban landscaped cemetery or a vernacular cemetery spectacularly sited in the countryside may be important to the overall feeling of the place. Nevertheless, boundaries should not be drawn to include scenic buffer areas or other acreage not directly related to the property's historical development. Encompassing a broad vista in the bounds of a nominated area normally is impractical. The bounds of burial sites should be based on the extent of the features associated with the burials. In some cases, site limits for archeological sites may be determined by remote sensing techniques or surface examination combined with controlled sub-surface testing.

Boundary definition is simplified when the current legal property description of a graveyard or cemetery is the same as the property's historic boundaries. However, if portions of the burial place under investigation have been irreversibly altered or eroded, it may be necessary to deviate from the current legal description in drawing the boundary in order to exclude areas which are plainly lacking in integrity and no longer contribute to the significance of the property. Similarly, large tracts of fallow acreage known as "reserve ground" within the bounds of a cemetery plat should not be included in the nominated area unless they contain development such as road systems or service buildings relating to the historic period. In any

<sup>7</sup> Further information concerning the National Historic Landmark Program may be obtained by writing to the Chief Historian, Ifistory Division, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013—7127.

case, the boundary must be justified in a short narrative statement which explains why the boundaries were selected.

The delineation of boundaries may be documented in various ways. If appropriate, the current legal property description may be used. Where historic and current boundaries differ, the documentation may describe the area to be included from point to point, such as "from the northeast intersection of Rte. 5 and Cemetery Drive, north approximately 200 feet, . . . , then west fifty feet to the point of beginning." Although a fence may be located along the boundary, it should not be cited as defining the boundary because it may not be permanent. Features that are permanent, such as contour lines may be used to define boundaries when they constitute appropriate edges. Site plans, also called "sketch maps," may be used to indicate boundaries, if the map includes a scale indicator. For some large areas without obvious features to cite as edges, such as a rural site or a large cemetery, UTM points may define the boundaries, if the lines connecting the cited UTM points constitute the actual boundary lines of the area nominated.

Under the authorization of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, the National Park Service will restrict information on the location or character of a historic resource if revealing this information would expose the property to vandalism, destruction, or other harm. The information must be included on the National Register Registration Form, but checking the "Not for Publication" box on the form ensures that sensitive information will not be reproduced or distributed.<sup>8</sup>

## MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Each registration form must be accompanied by a United States Geological Survey (USGS) map with marked Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) reference points for the purposes of locating the property geographically and illustrating its position in relation to prominent topographic features. In addition, for complex burial sites and cemetery districts, the nomination should include at least one site plan



*Photographs should capture the essence of a cemetery's character. The Laurel Grove - North Cemetery in Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia, is significant, in part, for its large number of Victorian statues and monuments. (James R. Lockhart, 1982)*

(sketch map). The site plan should locate the bounds of the property; give contour intervals, if relevant; and show the placement of major features, including nonconforming, nonhistoric development. Each feature identified as contributing or noncontributing in the form should be numbered on the site plan to correspond to a numbered inventory in the narrative discussion. Although, as stated above, it is not necessary to count and describe every gravemarker and other feature, all those specifically identified and counted must be shown on the map accompanying the nomination, either individually or collectively by area.

Copies of historic plats and building plans, if they are available, are helpful in documenting the original design intent and the integrity of some burial place property types.

A number of unmounted black and white photographs of high quality must accompany each nomination. There is no requisite number of photographs to be submitted. Requirements are that there should be as many photographs as necessary to depict the property clearly. Representative views of all characteristic features, as well as altered features and development outside the period of significance, should be included. Each photograph must identify the photographer, date, subject, and direction of the view. Prints of historic photographs are recommended as a means of documenting the integrity of the property. Photographs should be keyed to the inventory of contributing features in the narrative discussion, where appropriate. Numbered directional arrows may be placed on the site plan to indicate the direction of views shown in the photographs.

<sup>8</sup> Refer to *National Register Bulletin 29: Guidelines for Restricting Information about Historic and Prehistoric Resources* for additional information.



---

# VI. CONCLUSION

---

Discussion of burial practices in this bulletin is general rather than comprehensive in scope. Its purpose is to suggest the broad range of burial places from various periods that hold potential for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In selecting examples for sake of illustration, it was not possible to touch on all regions of the

United States and its associated territories, nor all cultural groups and traditions. No value judgement is implied in these omissions. Neither should it be inferred that there is greater value in the high style cemetery than in vernacular examples. Users of this guidance should be encouraged that the criteria for evaluating significance and integrity

are applicable equally to urban graveyards, folk cemeteries, and small burial grounds in a rural setting. Above all, those wishing to pursue the registration process should know from this guidance that their efforts will be supported by ample precedent, a growing volume of reference literature, and organizations ready to assist.

---

# VII. GLOSSARY

---

**Altar tomb** — A solid, rectangular, raised tomb or gravemarker resembling ceremonial altars of classical antiquity and Judeo-Christian ritual.

**Bevel marker** — A rectangular gravemarker, set low to the ground, having straight sides and uppermost, inscribed surface raked at a low angle.

**Burial ground** — Also "burying ground;" same as "graveyard" (see below).

**Burial cache** — A place of concealment for burial remains and objects.

**Burial mound** — A mass of earth, and sometimes stone or timber, erected to protect burial chambers for the dead.

**Burial site** — A place for disposal of burial remains, including various forms of encasement and platform burials that are not excavated in the ground or enclosed by mounded earth.

**Cairn** — A mound of stones marking a burial place.

**Cemetery** — An area set aside for burial of the dead; in Latin American culture known as "campo santo," or holy field.

**Cenotaph** — A monument, usually of imposing scale, erected to commemorate one whose burial remains are at a separate location; literally "empty tomb."

**Chapel** — A place of worship or meditation in a cemetery or mausoleum, either a freestanding building or a room set apart for commemorative services.

**Chest marker** — A solid, rectangular, raised gravemarker resembling a chest or box-like sarcophagus.

**Cinerary urn** — A receptacle for cremation remains, or ashes, in the shape of a vase.

**Columbarium** — A vault or structure for storage of cinerary urns.

**Crematorium** — A furnace for incineration of the dead; also crematory.

**Cremation area** — An area where ashes of the cremated dead are scattered or contained.

**Crypt** — An enclosure for a casket in a mausoleum or underground chamber, as beneath a church.

**Epitaph** — An inscription on a gravemarker identifying and/or commemorating the dead.

**Exedra** — A permanent open air masonry bench with high back, usually semicircular in plan, patterned after the porches or alcoves of classical antiquity where philosophical discussions were held; in cemeteries, used as an element of landscape design and as a type of tomb monument.

**Family cemetery** — A small, private burial place for members of the immediate or extended family; typically found in rural areas, and often, but not always, near a residence; different from a family plot, which is an area reserved for family members within a larger cemetery.

**Flush marker** — A flat, rectangular gravemarker set flush with the lawn or surface of the ground.

**Gatehouse** — A building at the main entrance to a cemetery that is controlled by a gate; a shelter or habitation for the gate keeper.

**Grave** — A place or receptacle for burial.

**Gravemarker** — A sign or marker of a burial place, variously inscribed and decorated in commemoration of the dead.

**Graveyard** — An area set aside for burial of the dead; a common burying ground of a church or community.

**Grave shelter** — A rectangular, roofed structure usually of wood, covering a gravesite, enclosed by boards or slats or supported by poles; in tribal custom used to contain burial offerings and shelter the spirit of the dead; also grave house.

**Headstone** — An upright stone marker placed at the head of the deceased; usually inscribed with demographic information, epitaphs, or both; sometimes decorated with a carved motif.

**Interment** — A burial; the act of committing the dead to a grave.

**Ledger** — A large rectangular gravemarker usually of stone, set parallel with the ground to cover the grave opening or grave surface.

**Lych gate** — Traditionally, a roofed gateway to a church graveyard under which a funeral casket was placed before burial; also lich gate; commonly, an ornamental cemetery gateway.

**Mausoleum** — A monumental building or structure for burial of the dead above ground; a "community" mausoleum is one that accommodates a great number of burials.

**Memorial park** — A cemetery of the 20th century cared for in perpetuity by a business or nonprofit corporation; generally characterized by open expanses of greensward with either flush or other regulated gravemarkers; in the last half of the 19th century, those with flush markers were called "lawn" cemeteries.



**Military cemetery** — A burial ground established for war casualties, veterans, and eligible dependents. Those established by the Federal government include national cemeteries, post cemeteries, soldiers' lots, Confederate and Union plots, and American cemeteries in foreign countries. Many States also have established cemeteries for veterans.

**Monument** — A structure or substantial gravemarker erected as a memorial at a place of burial.

**Monolith** — A large, vertical stone gravemarker having no base or cap.

**Mortuary** — A place for preparation of the dead prior to burial or cremation.

**National cemetery** — One of 130 burial grounds established by the Congress of the United States since 1862 for interment of armed forces servicemen and women whose last service ended honorably. Presently, the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains 114, the National Park Service (Department of the Interior) administers 14, and the Department of the Army has responsibility for two.

**Obelisk** — A four-sided, tapering shaft having a pyramidal point; a gravemarker type popularized by romantic taste for classical imagery.

**Ossuary** — A receptacle for the bones of the dead.

**Peristyle** — A colonnade surrounding the exterior of a building, such as a mausoleum, or a range of columns supporting an entablature (a beam) that stands free to define an outdoor alcove or open space.

**Pet cemetery** — An area set aside for burial of cherished animals.

**Potter's field** — A place for the burial of indigent or anonymous persons. The term comes from a Biblical reference: Matthew 27.7.

**Receiving tomb** — A vault where the dead may be held until a final burial place is prepared; also receiving vault.

**Rostrum** — A permanent open air masonry stage used for memorial services in cemeteries of the modern period, patterned after the platform for public orators used in ancient Rome.

**"Rural" cemetery** — A burial place characterized by spacious landscaped grounds and romantic commemorative monuments established in a rural setting in the period of the young republic and at the dawn of the Victoria era; so called for the movement inspired by the American model, Mount Auburn Cemetery (1831) in the environs of Boston; a cemetery developed in this tradition. The term is used with quotation marks throughout the guidance to distinguish this distinctive landscaped type from other kinds of burying grounds occurring in the countryside.

**Sarcophagus** — A stone coffin or monumental chamber for a casket.

**Screen memorial** — A vertically-set gravemarker consisting of a tablet with wing elements resting on a continuous base.

**Sepulcher** — A burial vault or crypt.

**Sexton** — Traditionally, a digger of graves and supervisor of burials in the churchyard; commonly, a cemetery superintendent.

**Shelter house** — A pavilion or roofed structure, frequently open at the sides, containing seats or benches for the convenience of those seeking a place to rest; erected in rustic and classical styles to beautify a cemetery landscape.

**Slant marker** — A rectangular gravemarker having straight sides and inscribed surface raked at an acute angle.

**Stele** — An upright stone or commemorative slab, commonly inscribed or embellished on one of the broader vertical surfaces; a gravemarker type revived from classical antiquity.

**Table marker** — A rectangular grave covering consisting of a horizontal stone slab raised on legs, which sometimes are highly elaborate; also "table stone."

**Tablet** — A rectangular gravemarker set at a right angle to the ground, having inscriptions, raised lettering or carved decoration predominantly on vertical planes, and top surface finished in straight, pedimented, round, oval, or serpentine fashion.

**Tomb** — A burial place for the dead.

**Tomb recess** — A niche or hollow in a wall that shelters a tomb.

**Tumulus** — A mound of earth protecting a tomb chamber; in the ancient world, important tumuli were encircled by drum-like constructions of stone.

**Vault** — A burial chamber, commonly underground.

---

# VIII. SOME RECOMMENDED SOURCES

---

Cemetery researchers will be aided by innumerable regional studies, cemetery guidebooks, conference proceedings, exhibit catalogs, and even a growing body of videotaped material. Current publications of the cemetery and monuments industries also can be helpful. *American Cemetery, Stone in America*, and *MB News* (trade journal of the Monument Builders of North America), for example, frequently contain articles on historic cemeteries and the manufacture of traditional gravemarkers.

Bibliographic searches in the local library are recommended, as is consultation with State cemetery associations, genealogical societies, and the State historic preservation office. Many States have published guides to research and legislation affecting cemeteries and burial places. An extensive bibliography for the general study of cemeteries and gravemarkers compiled along disciplinary lines is found in *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture*, edited by Richard E. Meyer, one of the recommended sources listed below.

The Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS), a non-profit organization, publishes an annual journal, *Markers*, as well as a quarterly newsletter, and serves as an information network for cemetery scholars and preservationists nationwide. AGS maintains an archive and a limited mail-order lending library service for members. AGS can be reached at the following address: 30 Elm Street, Worcester MA 01609.

In 1985 the City of Boston, steward of as many as 16 historic cemeteries ranging in date from 1630 to 1841, launched its "Historic Burying Ground Initiative," an ambitious, long-term program encompassing comprehensive inventories and treatment of gravemarkers, landscape rehabilitation, and improved maintenance and security procedures. The Boston initiative involves a number of city

agencies and community groups and is believed to be the largest cemetery recordation and restoration project undertaken by local government in the country. Further information may be obtained from the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, 1010 Massachusetts Ave., Boston MA 02118.

The following is a list of some of the sources available, and is designed to lead the researcher to more sources. Many of these works contain extensive bibliographies.

## DOCUMENTATION, CONSERVATION, AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Baker, F. Joanne, and Farber, Daniel, with Anne G. Giesecke. "Recording Cemetery Data," *Markers: The Annual Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies*, 1: 99-117, 1980.

Boston Parks and Recreation Department. *The Boston Experience: A Manual for Historic Burying Grounds Preservation*, 1989.

Coney, William B. *Preservation of Historic Concrete: Problems and General Approaches*. Preservation Brief 15. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Preservation Assistance Division, 1987.

Grimmer, Anne E. *A Glossary of Historic Masonry Deterioration Problems and Treatments*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Preservation Assistance Division, 1984.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Keeping it Clean: Removing Exterior Dirt, Paint, Stains and Graffiti from Historic Masonry Buildings*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Preservation Assistance Division, 1988.

"How to Search a Cemetery." Salt Lake City, Utah: Publications Division, The Genealogical Institute, 1974.

Lyons, Thomas R. and Thomas Eugene Avery. *Remote Sensing, A Handbook for Archeologists and Cultural Resource Managers*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Anthropology Division, 1977.

Lyons, Thomas R., and James I Ebert, eds. *Remote Sensing and Non-Destructive Archeology*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Anthropology Division, 1978.

Lyons, Thomas, ed. *Remote Sensing: Supplements No. 1 to 10 to Remote Sensing, A Handbook for Archeologists and Cultural Resource Managers*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Anthropology Division, 1977-1985.

Mayer, Lance R. "The Care of Old Cemeteries and Gravestones," *Markers: The Annual Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies*, 1: 119-141, 1980.

Meier, Lauren, and Betsy Chittenden. *Preserving Historic Landscapes*. National Park Service Reading List series. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Preservation Assistance Division, 1990.

Naudé, Virginia Norton, ed. *Sculptural Monuments in an Outdoor Environment: A Conference Held at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, November 2, 1983*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 1985.

Newman, John J. *Cemetery Transcribing: Preparation and Procedures*. The



- American Association for State and Local History. Technical Leaflet 9. *History News*, 26, 1971.
- Sherwood, Susan I., Mary C. Daum, Michael W. Panhorst, et. al. *Acidic Deposition: Distribution of Materials Potentially at Risk from Acidic Deposition*. State of Science and Technology Report 21. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program, 1990.
- Strangstad, Lynette. *A Graveyard Preservation Primer*. Nashville, Tennessee: The American Association for State and Local History in cooperation with the Association for Gravestone Studies, 1988.
- Taylor, Veronica. *Caring for Your Local Cemetery*. Illinois Preservation Series. Number 9. Springfield, Illinois: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 1988.
- Thompson, Sharyn. *Florida's Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook*. Tallahassee, Florida: Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board, 1989.
- Warnock, Robert A., Lia Frederick, Barbara E. Hightower, and Terry Denise Tatum. *Vegetative Threats to Historic Sites and Structures*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Park Historic Architecture Division, 1983.
- Zielinski, A. K. *Conservation of Cemeteries: The Treatment, Repair and Maintenance of Cemetery Objects and Their Environment*. Mississauga, Ontario: Roberts Seymour and Associates, Ltd., 1988.
- ## CULTURAL STUDIES
- Ariès, Philippe. *The Hour of Our Death*. Translated from the French by Helen Weaver. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1981.
- Bell, Edward L. "The Historical Archeology of Mortuary Behavior: Coffin Hardware from Uxbridge, Massachusetts," *Historical Archeology*, 24: 54-78, 1990.
- Brown, Daniel A. "National Cemeteries: Unique Cultural Resources of the National Park Service," *CRM Bulletin*. 7:3: 7,9, October, 1984.
- Chase, Theodore, ed. *Markers: The Annual Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies*, VII, 1990.
- Christovich, Mary Louis, ed. *New Orleans Architecture. Volume II: The Cemeteries*. Gretna, Louisiana: Pelican Publishing Co., 1974.
- Coffin, Margaret M. *Death in Early America: The History and Folklore of Customs and Superstitions of Early Medicine, Funerals, Burials, and Mourning*. Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1976.
- Colvin, Howard. *Architecture and the After-life*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1991.
- Coombs, Diane Williams. *Early Grave-stone Art in Georgia and South Carolina*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1986.
- Cozzens, Arthur B. "A Cherokee Graveyard," *Pioneer America: The Journal of Historic American Material Culture*, IV:1, January, 1972.
- Curl, James Stevens. *A Celebration of Death: An Introduction to Some of the Buildings, Monuments, and Settings of Funerary Architecture in the Western European Tradition*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1980.
- Darnall, Margaretta J., "The American Cemetery as Picturesque Landscape: Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis," *Winterthur Portfolio*, 18: 249-269, Winter 1983.
- Deetz, J. F., and E. S. Dethlefsen. "Death's Head, Cherub, Urn, and Willow," *Natural History*, 76: 29-37, 1967.
- Driver, Harold E. *Indians of North America*. Second Edition, revised. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 1969.
- Duval, Francis Y., and Ivan B. Rigby. *Early American Grave Stone Art in Photograph*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1978.
- Ellis, Nancy, and Hayden Parker. *Here Lies America*. New York: Hawthorne Books, Inc., 1978.
- Etlin, Richard A. *The Architecture of Death: The Transformation of the Cemetery in Eighteenth-Century Paris*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1984.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Landscapes of Eternity: Funerary Architecture and the Cemetery, 1793-1881," *Oppositions*, 8: 14-31, Spring, 1977.
- Federal Agencies Task Force (Cecil D. Andrus, Department of the Interior, Chairman). *American Indian Religious Freedom Act Report*; P. L. 95-341. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, August, 1979.
- Forbes, Harriette M. *Gravestones of Early New England and the Men Who Made Them*. Boston, Massachusetts: Riverside Press, 1927. New York: DaCapo reprint, 1967.
- French, Stanley. "The Cemetery as Cultural Institution: The Establishment of Mount Auburn and the 'Rural Cemetery' Movement," *American Quarterly*, 26: 37-59, March, 1974.
- Gillon, Edmund V., Jr. *Victorian Cemetery Art*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1972.
- Jackson, Kenneth T., and Camilo José Vergara. *Silent Cities: The Evolution of the American Cemetery*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1989.
- Jordan, Terry G. *Texas Graveyards: A Cultural Legacy*. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1982.
- Kelly, Susan H. and Anne C. Williams. *A Grave Business: New England Gravestone Rubbings*. New Haven, Connecticut: The S. Z. Field Co., 1979.
- Linden-Ward, Blanche. *Silent City on a Hill: Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery*. Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State University Press, 1989.
- Loomis, Ormond H. *Cultural Conservation: The Protection of Cultural Heritage in the United States*. Publications of the American Folklife Center No. 10. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1983.
- Ludwig, Allan I. *Graven Images*. Middletown, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press, 1966.
- MacCloskey, Monro. *Hallowed Ground: Our National Cemeteries*. New York: Richards Rosen Press, Inc., 1968.
- McDowell, Peggy, and Richard E.

- Meyer. *The Revival Styles in American Memorial Art*. Bowling Green, Ohio: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1993.
- Meyer, Richard E., ed. *Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: UMI Research Press, 1989.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Ethnicity and the American Cemetery*. Bowling Green, Ohio: Bowling Green University Popular Press, 1992.
- Newton, Norman T. *Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University, 1971.
- Nichols, Elaine, ed. *The Last Miles of the Way: African-American Homegoing Traditions 1890-Present*. Columbia, South Carolina: South Carolina State Museum, 1989.
- Parker, Patricia L. *Keepers of the Treasures: Protecting Historic Properties and Cultural Traditions on Indian Lands*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, May 1990.
- Pike, Martha V., and Janice Gray Armstrong. *A Time to Mourn: Expressions of Grief in Nineteenth Century America*. Stony Brook, New York: The Museums at Stony Brook, 1980.
- Price, H. Marcus, III. *Disputing the Dead: U.S. Law on Aboriginal Remains and Grave Goods*. Columbia, Missouri: University of Missouri Press, 1991.
- Ragon, Michel. *The Space of Death: A Study of Funerary Architecture, Decoration, and Urbanism*. Translated from the French by Alan Sheridan. Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1983.
- Roberts, Warren E. "Investigating the Treestump Tombstone in Indiana," *American Culture and Folklife: A Prologue and a Dialogue*. Simon J. Bronner, ed. Ann Arbor, Michigan: UMI Research Press, 1985, pp. 135-153.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Traditional Tools as Symbols: Some Examples from Indiana Tombstones," *Pioneer America: The Journal of Historic American Material Culture*, 12:1: 54-63, February, 1980.
- Sellars, Richard West. "Vigil of Silence: The Civil War Memorials," *History News*, Vol. 41:19-23, July-August, 1986.
- Sloane, David Charles. *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.
- Spencer, Robert F., Jesse D. Jennings, et.al. *The Native Americans: Prehistory and Ethnology of the North American Indians*. New York, Evanston, and London: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1965.
- Stannard, David E. *The Puritan Way of Death: A Study in Religion, Culture, and Social Change*. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc., 1977.
- Steere, Edward. "Genesis of American Graves Registration, 1861-1870," *Military Affairs*, 12: 149-161: Fall 1948.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Shrines of the Honored Dead: A Study of the National Cemetery System*. Reprinted with permission of *The Quartermaster Review* (1953, 1954). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Army, Office of the Quartermaster General, no date.
- Stilgoe, John R. "Folklore and Graveyard Design," *Landscape*, 22:3: 22-28, Summer, 1978.
- Sturtevant, William C., gen. ed. *Handbook of North American Indians*. Vol. 1-8 (of 20 planned volumes). Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1978-1991.
- Tatum, George B. "The Emergence of an American School of Landscape Design," *Historic Preservation*, Vol. 25: 34-41, April-June, 1973.
- Tishler, William H., ed. *American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places*. Washington, DC: The Preservation Press, 1989.
- Tuan, Yi-Fu. *Landscapes of Fear*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1979.
- Weland, Gerald. *Last Post*. Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1990.
- Zelinsky, Wilbur. "Unearthly Delights: Cemetery Names and the Map of the Changing American Afterworld," *Geographies of the Mind*. David Lowenthal and Martyn J. Bowden, eds. New York: Oxford University Press, 1976, pp. 171-195.

## NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETINS

National Register bulletins may be obtained by writing to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

No. 15 *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*

No. 16A *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*

No. 16B *How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form*

No. 18 *How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes*

No. 22 *Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that have Achieved Significance Within the Last Fifty Years*

No. 24 *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning*

No. 29 *Guidelines for Restricting Information about Historic and Prehistoric Resources*

No. 30 *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*

No. 32 *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons*

No. 36 *Evaluating and Registering Historic Archeological Sites and Districts (in draft)*

No. 38 *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties*

No. 39 *Researching a Historic Property*

No. 40 *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields*



---

# IX. NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

---

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS

Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a. a religious property deriving significance from architectural or historical importance; or
- b. a building or structure removed from its original location, but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a particular person or event; or

c. a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or

d. a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or

e. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or

f. a property commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or

g. a property achieving significance within the past fifty years if it is of exceptional importance.

**Matt Asselmeier**

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

Edith Farnsworth House <farnsworthhouse@savingplaces.org>  
Wednesday, January 22, 2025 6:00 PM  
Matt Asselmeier  
[External] Winter at EFH

**CAUTION** - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

EDITH  
FARNSWORTH  HOUSE



### Quiet Season Tours

Fridays & Saturdays | 11:30 am to 3:30 pm

Enjoy a winter stroll of the Edith Farnsworth House Historic Site. Grounds passes or house tour tickets available.

[Tickets](#)



### Winter Webinar

January 26 | 1 pm

Join Dietrich Neumann and Michelangelo Sabatino for an insightful discussion on how scholars are reassessing Mies' legacy.

[Register](#)



### Four Season Pass

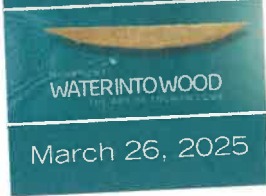
January to November | 10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm

Purchase a discounted bundle of tickets to visit Edith Farnsworth House all four seasons in 2025.

[Purchase](#)



Opening Day



## Opening Day

March 26 | 9:30 am to 4 pm

Information

The 2025 regular season begins March 26, with tours at 10 AM, 12 PM, and 2 PM, Wednesday through Sunday. Tickets available soon! The exhibition *Movement: Water Into Wood – The Art of Truman Lowe* also debuts that day for all ticket holders.



Edith Farnsworth House | 14520 River Rd | Plano, IL 60545 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!

**Matt Asselmeier**

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. <webinars@wje.com>  
Thursday, January 23, 2025 9:21 AM  
Matt Asselmeier  
[External] You're Invited to a WJE Webinar

**CAUTION** - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

## WJE WEBINARS

**YOU'RE INVITED**

# Fire Protection and Structural Impacts of Sustainable Designs and EV Technology in Parking Garages



Electric vehicles (EV) and charging stations, green walls, occupied roofs, and even art installations can have serious impacts on the fire protection and structural integrity



of parking structures. Implementation of these sustainable designs introduce potential hazards and fire risks that have prompted designers and building code and fire officials to reevaluate safety requirements

In this complimentary, one-hour webinar, fire protection engineers **Justin Fletcher** and **Nicholas Ozog**, along with structural engineer **Tim Gregor**, will present case studies illustrating the implementation of EV technology and sustainable design in parking structures, explore the hazards they may pose, and consider potential solutions to address these challenges.

By the end of the webinar, you will be able to:

- Explain new code requirements and changes for open and closed parking garages
- Describe the associated hazards that are not yet covered by current codes and standards
- Analyze how EV technologies impact different types of parking garage structures, including underground, podium buildings, and garages beneath high-rise buildings
- Evaluate changing detection and suppression requirements for parking garages, including for automatic sprinkler protection in open parking garages over a certain size threshold, as recognized by the 2021 edition of the International Building and Fire Code

There will be plenty of time for your questions during the presentation. Attendees are eligible for one American Institute of Architects (AIA) HSW Learning Unit.

## DETAILS

**Thursday, February 6, 2025**

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Eastern Time

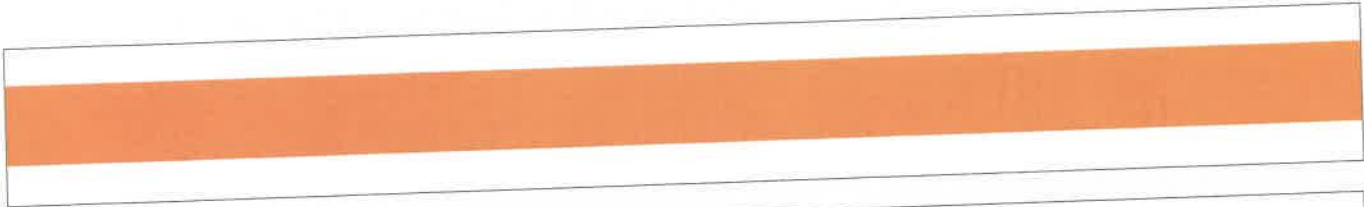
**REGISTER**

## ABOUT WJE

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), is a global firm of engineers, architects, and materials scientists committed to helping clients solve, repair, and avoid problems in the built world.

- **Learn about WJE Services**
- **Explore WJE Projects**
- **Contact WJE**





Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. | 330 Pfingsten Road | Northbrook, IL 60062 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!



**Matt Asselmeier**

**From:** Edith Farnsworth House <farnsworthhouse@savingplaces.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 16, 2025 7:00 AM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** [External]Experience Edith Farnsworth House this winter

**CAUTION** - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



## Quarterly News & Updates

Winter | 2025

### Winter Webinars: February 16 and March 16

Discover the hidden histories of the Edith Farnsworth House in our annual Winter Webinar Series.



Join us today, February 16, and Sunday, March 16 for these engaging conversations that delve into the lesser-known aspects of this iconic site.

[Register Here](#)



### Quiet Season and Opening Day

Join us for **guided tours** Fridays and Saturdays at 12 PM & 2 PM through March 22. Then, mark your calendars—our 2025 season kicks off on March 26, with expanded tour times Wednesday–Sunday at 10 AM, 12 PM & 2 PM!

Plus, be among the first to explore *Movement: Water Into Wood – The Art of Truman*

## Celebrating Black History Month

This February, our Museum Store is featuring a selection of books that highlight Black heritage in Chicago architecture. Discover the impact of Black architects and homeowners in shaping the midcentury modern era and beyond. Receive 10% off these titles during February.

We are also excited to partner with **Hood Century Modern** for a pre-order of their photographic collage *Summertime, No AC*.

Museum Store



Lowe, debuting the same day for all ticket holders. Stay tuned—tickets available soon!

Read More

## Educational Group Tours

Step beyond the classroom and into a world where architecture and nature come together! Our educational group tours offer students of all ages an unforgettable, hands-on experience that sparks curiosity and deepens understanding.

Customize your visit to fit your curriculum, explore the connections between design and the environment, and see how our programs align with ISBE standards.

Contact Us

## Expand Your Library

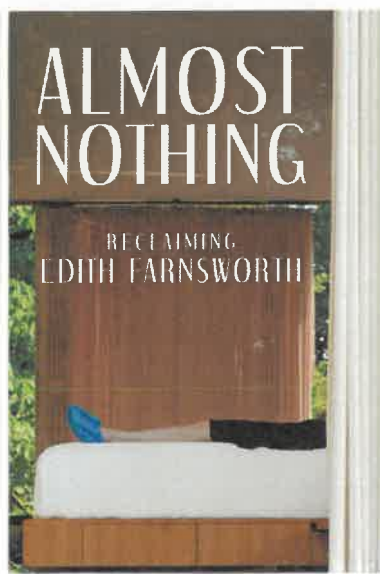
Looking to dive deeper into the world of Mies van der Rohe and modernist architecture? Check out these must-reads from our Museum Store:



- **Mies In His Own Words: Complete Writings, Speeches, and Interviews: 1922-1969**
- **Mies van der Rohe: An Architect In His Time**
- **Modern Beyond Style and the Pursuit of Beauty**

**New publication coming May 2025!**





NORA WENDL

## Reclaiming Edith Farnsworth

The Edith Farnsworth House is an architectural icon, but its history often sidelines Edith Farnsworth herself—reducing her to a one-dimensional figure in Mies van der Rohe's story. In *Almost Nothing*, Nora Wendl flips the script.

Through Farnsworth's own letters, memoirs, and photos, Wendl brings her voice back to life, revealing a brilliant woman who was both Mies's collaborator and challenger. Blending creative nonfiction with sharp insights on ambition, misogyny, and art, this book reclaims Farnsworth's legacy and redefines the story behind the legendary glass house.

On the evening of June 4, Nora Wendl will discuss the book at The Newberry Library in Chicago. This event is open to the public. More information and free registration [HERE](#).

Pre Order



Edith Farnsworth House | 14520 River Rd | Plano, IL 60545 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!

## Matt Asselmeier

**From:** Edith Farnsworth House <farnsworthhouse@savingplaces.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 23, 2025 8:30 AM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** [External]A special invitation from Edith Farnsworth House

**CAUTION** - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

# NATURE & CULTURE



Now through December 2025

**You are invited to a Preview Party!**  
**Edith Farnsworth House Visitor Center**  
**Sunday, March 23**  
**1 pm to 3 pm**

Please join us for a special Preview Party to celebrate our Nature & Culture interpretive focus at Edith Farnsworth House! Be among the first to experience exciting updates that highlight the rich natural and cultural significance of this historic site:

- Preview our new 15-minute introductory video, generously funded by **The Driehaus Foundation** and produced by **Wonderkind Studios**.
- Explore a new interpretive wall and experience guide funded by the **Illinois Arts Council** and designed by **Span Studio**, offering fresh insights into the site's history



Nature & Culture focuses on the multilayered history of the land surrounding the Edith Farnsworth House, cultivating new understanding and appreciation for the natural and cultural significance of the site. This interpretive focus coincides with the ongoing installation of a new native landscape surrounding the house, based on a Cultural Landscape Report and funded by the **G. Carl Ball Family Foundation**.

In addition, all attendees will get a sneak preview of our new exhibition, *Movement: Water Into Wood – The Art of Truman Lowe*, which opens to the public on March 30.

**Please RSVP**



Edith Farnsworth House | 14520 River Rd | Plano, IL 60545 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!

**From:** Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. <webinars@wje.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 4, 2025 8:08 AM  
**To:** Matt Asselmeier  
**Subject:** [External]You're Invited to a WJE Webinar

**CAUTION** - This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



## YOU'RE INVITED

# Planning for Plaza Repairs and Renovations



Plazas come in all shapes and sizes: public squares, amenity decks, and building entrances; constructed at ground level or built over occupied spaces. Regardless of plaza type, both appearance and functionality are crucial, so careful planning is essential for design, maintenance, repair, and restoration.

In this complimentary, one-hour webinar, **Jason Aspin** and **Paul Gaudette** will provide an overview of practical approaches to various issues related to the design of new plazas and the repair and restoration of existing ones. Topics will include plaza design, water management, temporary protection, surface preparation, expansion joint concepts, waterproofing testing, and finish options.

By the end of the webinar, you will be able to:

- Describe the various plaza types, components, and their functions
- Identify various types of plaza finishes, selection criteria, and laboratory tests that can be used to evaluate plaza finishes
- Explain how plazas manage water, including redirecting it, draining it, and preventing it from entering occupied spaces
- Plan for an existing plaza investigation, repair, or renovation



There will be plenty of time for your questions during the presentation. Attendees are eligible for one American Institute of Architects (AIA) HSW Learning Unit.

## DETAILS

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

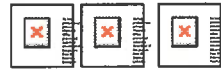
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Eastern Time

**REGISTER**

### ABOUT WJE

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), is a global firm of engineers, architects, and materials scientists committed to helping clients solve, repair, and avoid problems in the built world.

- **Learn about WJE Services**
- **Explore WJE Projects**
- **Contact WJE**



Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. | 330 Pfingsten Road | Northbrook, IL 60062 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

