

Historic Landscape Preservation Plan

for the

Ancient Burying Ground Hartford, Connecticut



Elmore Design Collaborative, LLC
Historical Landscape Architects
Suffield, CT 06078

with

Mega Estimating Services

April 26, 2023

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for the

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Prepared for the

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by

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Ms. Christine Jewell, Project Coordinator

Mr. Ty Tryon, President, Ancient Burying Ground Association

Ms. Anne Holcombe, Secretary, Ancient Burying Ground Association

Mr. Francis Miller, Directing Conservator, Conserve Art, LLC

Ms. Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, Founder of the Connecticut Gravestone Network and Historian and Consultant to ABGA



Department of Economic and
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Ancient Burying Ground lies in the heart of downtown Hartford at the corner of Main, Gold and Pearl Streets. It began in 1640 and was the main graveyard into the early 1800s. The Town of Hartford appropriated parcels of land to establish a 4-acre burying ground. Today, only 1.3-acres remain. In 1807 the First Church of Christ was built in the southeast corner and over time other pieces were taken for urban growth. Since inception, this burying ground has always been municipally owned – initially by the Town of Hartford and presently by the City of Hartford.¹



On December 5, 1972, the First Church of Christ and the Ancient Burying Ground were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Research suggests that as many as 6,000 people were interred “regardless of age, gender, race, ethnic background, economic status or religious faith.” Many of these burials never had a headstone owing to the cost. Today, there are approximately 415 stones still standing.² It is the oldest historic site in Hartford and continues to be a historically and cultural significant landscape in Hartford and the State of Connecticut.

Preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and conservation efforts began in 1804 and continue to the present. The following is a brief summary of the ongoing work that has helped to preserve this historic landscape:³

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1812-1839 | At various intervals repairs and improvements were made. ⁴ |
| 1836 | Daniel Wadsworth of Hartford, whose father, Jeremiah Wadsworth, was one of the last people to be buried here in 1804, led the effort to build and install the “Founders Monument” in 1837. The concrete obelisk was faced with brownstone into which were carved the names of Hartford’s first settlers. ⁵ |

¹ Source, Ancient Burying Ground website <https://ancientburyingground.com/>

² Brochure “A Walking Tour of the Ancient Burying Ground of Hartford, Connecticut, written by The Ancient Burying Ground Association, Inc., no date.

³ Source, Ancient Burying Ground website <https://ancientburyingground.com/>

⁴ Shapleigh-Brown, Ruth. Email to Thomas Elmore, January 22, 2023.

⁵ Tryon, Ty. Email to Thomas Elmore, January 20, 2023. Daniel Wadsworth, s grandfather, Rev. Daniel Wadsworth, also is buried in ABG.

- 1836 “A number of inhabitants of town have formed an association in 1836 for the purpose of doing repairs and making improvements” at ABG. They expended a large sum of money to re-erect old monumnets, lay out graveled walks and erect a monument to the memory of the first settlers.⁶ (*Note: the layout and location of the graveled walks is unknown at this time – Feb. 2023.*)
- 1896 The Ruth Wyllys Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution...conserved about 90 of the deteriorating stones...[and] arranged to have the Ancient Burying Ground enclosed with a wrought-iron fence designed by the renowned architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White. Emily Seymour Goodwin Holcombe led the process, which included clearing away deteriorating buildings along Gold Street that were adjacent to the Ancient Burying Ground. “The Gold Street Lady,” as Mrs. Holcombe came to be known, was honored with the rare privilege of being laid to rest, along with her husband and daughter, in the Ancient Burying Ground.
- Early 20th-century Stone preservation was undertaken with good intentions but with varying degrees of success in the early decades of the 20th-century.
- Connecticut chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) continue their involvement and support to the present day.
- 1931 The Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford (SDFH) formed an Ancient Burying Ground Committee to address some of the needs.
- 1986 One of the SDFH’s most prominent projects was the replacement of the Founders Monument, which had deteriorated severely, with a new obelisk of solid pink granite from Stony Creek, Connecticut, to commemorate Hartford’s 350th anniversary.
- 1987 to the present The Ancient Burying Ground Association, Inc., a non-profit group, is created in order to move forward with the on-going conservation, preservation, and maintenance program that has cost more than \$1 million to date. They have incorporated cutting-edge knowledge and techniques to clean, preserve, or replicate more than 100 gravestones.
- 2014 The City undertakes a major rehabilitation project within the burying ground. Improvements include plantings, walks, drainage, seating, and fencing.⁷

⁶ Shapleigh-Brown, Ruth. Email to Thomas Elmore, January 22, 2023.

⁷ “Site Improvements, Ancient Burying Ground”, by Richter & Cegan, Landscape Architects, prepared construction drawings, dated August 13, 2013.

Recently New signage installed, stone conservation continues, and several large trees were removed.

Background

The Ancient Burying Ground Association (ABGA) is leading the development of this preservation plan. The ABGA has “a public/private partnership with the City of Hartford, the site’s owner, to maintain and restore the site and provide educational experiences for the public.”⁸ The ABGA has maintained this role since 1987 and strives to continue to improve and maintain this historic landscape into the future. Stone preservation and restoration is an ongoing endeavor and will coincide with improvements to the landscape, but through the guidance of a separate and different consultant.⁹

A 2022 matching grant from the Connecticut Community Investment Act, CT State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Economic and Community Development, State of Connecticut funded this Historic Landscape Preservation Plan and the separate but parallel conservation work on the table stones. Two separate Requests for Proposals were prepared to engage experts in their respective fields of Historical Landscape Architecture and a conservator of outdoor sculpture, specifically historic table stones within ABG.

The purpose of this Preservation Plan is to assess and understand the existing condition of the landscape’s features with a priority on drainage and network of crushed stone walking paths.

Goal, Objectives and Requirements

The goal for this Historic Landscape Preservation Plan is to create a preservation, rehabilitation and management tool for the ABGA and the City of Hartford, Parks Department so they can “better care for and be responsible stewards of the ABG.”¹⁰ The Plan’s objectives and requirements for meeting this goal include:

1. Assess (inventory, analyze and evaluate) the character-defining landscape features according to *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards* at ABG to provide the necessary information for responsibly dealing with existing issues and concerns about the burying ground with prioritized focus on the drainage and walkway issues, which were listed in the RFP. The plantings, fencing and signage will be assessed as discussed during project kick-off meeting
2. Prepare a prioritized list of written recommendations for preserving, rehabilitating and managing the ABG

⁸ RFP for the Ancient Burying Ground, Hartford, Connecticut, Historic Landscape Preservation Plan, Issued by: Ancient Burying Ground Association, Inc., Date: Responses due October 21, 2022., p. 2.

⁹ Francis Miller, Conservator, PA AIC of Conserve ART, LLC located in Hamden, CT will restore, reset and stabilize the tablestones under a separate RFP but the same State funding source.

¹⁰ Ibid.

3. Prepare construction cost estimates for the recommendations
4. Plan for its future maintenance and management;
5. Guide implementation of the plan's recommendations; and
6. The Preservation Plan should act as a reference source

II. LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT



December 1, 2022

Introduction

The following summarizes the findings of the landscape assessment for the Ancient Burying Ground. Historic maps are used for visual comparison to existing conditions. All field work was conducted on December 1 and 2, 2022.

Ancient Burying Ground is located in downtown Hartford, CT at the intersection of Main, Gold and Pearl Streets. Historically, the site was approximately 4-acres in size. However, today it is significantly smaller and measures about 1.3-acres in size. In 1640, the Town of Hartford appropriated several parcels of land to establish the first burial ground in Hartford. Along the way, property was taken for commercial buildings and urban development. Between 1640 and 1803, nearly 6,000 people were interred here. The last official burial was 1836, though an exception was made in 1896 for Emily Seymour Goodwin Holcombe, her husband and daughter to be buried in ABG. In 1807, the extant First Church of Christ was built, over bodies, in the southeast corner. Today, this historic site is owned by the City of Hartford, but maintained by the ABGA.

Historic burying grounds are unique to most other landscapes in that they exhibit outdoor artwork in the carvings of the stone monuments. Each carver had a style all their own and no two were the same. An example would be that no two people sign their name the same way. They are all different. The ABG contains many examples by well-known carvers on varying types, sizes and shapes of stone. Unfortunately, time is taking its toll and many of the oldest and/or the poorer quality stones are lost or are failing. Some have been restored and others have been replicated. While this Preservation Plan is not focusing on the stones, they are a dominant landscape feature worthy of a quick reference.

Several other historic landscape features exist including the extant site (let's not forget this), the 1900 ornamental iron fence and gate designed by McKim, Meade and White, the renowned architectural firm from New York City, and a couple of the older and/or larger trees. The iron fence along Gold Street and the stairs into the burying ground vary from highly ornate to understated, respectively. Another and much smaller section of fence with an ornamental gate stands at the Main Street entrance. However, research indicates that this feature has been moved around and relocated several times.¹¹ There is a bronze statue of Reverend Samuel Stone near the Main Street entrance and a pink granite obelisk, known as the "Founders Monument" that stands in the northwest quadrant. However, this was installed in 1986 and replaced the 1837 original monument, which was a concrete obelisk faced with brownstone.

Modern features were installed in 2014 and included drainage improvements, plantings, a crushed stone network of paths, seating, fencing and a retaining wall immediately north of the First Church of Christ. Several large mature trees were recently removed and stone conservation is ongoing. Signage from several different periods, styles, colors, materials and condition adorn the site. Some recently installed and less permanent informational and educational signs highlight the burials and stones of significant people.

While many changes have occurred over the years, the "sense of place" that is ABG survives owing to ongoing stewardship by the City of Hartford and the ABGA. This historic landscape has extant and modern features. But, the dominant features are the burial markers on the relatively level site and the historic iron fences and gates. The contextual changes are significant with the tall modern buildings looming next door and the adjacent busy city streets. The early conservation and subsequent preservation of the burying ground and many of its features exemplify the outstanding efforts of volunteers to mobilize to save this historic site. Today, the Ancient Burying Ground survives and "is the oldest historic site in Hartford, and the only one surviving from the 1600s."¹²

Physical Description

The physical description of each feature is based on field observations. Photographs accompany the description of each feature. It should be noted that, at times, general references are made to many materials including stone and metals. While there are numerous categories of each material, it is often impossible to determine the type without laboratory investigations.

Condition Assessment

Conditions are defined as good, fair, or poor based on the criteria developed by the National Historic Landmark Evaluation Program.¹³

¹¹ Personal conversation with Ty Tryon and Anne Holcombe of ABGA, December 1, 2022 at our project kick-off meeting.

¹² Source: Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, <https://www.foundersofhartford.org/historic-sites/>

¹³ Georgia Tech for the National Park Service's National Historic Landmark Evaluation Program developed this program during the 1980s as a method of evaluating the physical condition and repair needs of endangered

A feature is evaluated as “Good” when:

- The feature is intact, structurally sound, and performing its intended purpose;
- There are few or no cosmetic imperfections; and
- The feature needs no repair and only minor or routine maintenance.

A feature is evaluated as “Fair” when:

- There are early signs of wear, failure, or deterioration, though the feature is generally structurally sound and performing its intended purpose;
- There is failure of a sub-component of the feature; and
- Replacement of up to twenty-five percent of the feature or replacement of a defective sub-component is required.

A feature is evaluated as “Poor” when:

- The feature is no longer performing its intended purpose;
- The feature is missing;
- Deterioration or damage affects more than twenty-five percent of the element and it cannot be repaired;
- The feature shows signs of imminent failure or breakdown; and
- The feature requires major repairs or replacement.

Recommendations

When repairs or alterations are made to the landscape and its structures, special attention should be paid to character-defining features. These features are details that give this landscape its history and unique character. An issue that must be considered when making alterations or repairs is the safety of all visitors and workers. The best practice is to preserve original features. Changes made to the original fabric must be reversible and thoroughly documented.

To protect the significant features at ABG while any work is done the following standards and guidelines should be utilized: *The Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, edited by Charles A. Birnbaum with Christine Capella Peters, published by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1996 and *The Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties With Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings (Standards)* by Kay D. Weeks and Anne E. Grimmer, published by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1995. These guidelines recognize that historic materials and details have proven records for durability and compatibility, and that routine maintenance avoids costly repairs. The careful consideration of materials, finishes, proportions, and design elements, consistent with the style of the feature or structure will maintain or add value to the property and enhance its character. Inappropriate replacement and the inappropriate introduction of materials detract from

landmarks. The program currently is in use by regional offices. The Heritage Preservation Services division of the National Park Service during the 1990s administered a similar program.

the site's character. If new materials are incorporated, care must be taken to assure that their physical properties do not conflict with the physical properties of the surrounding materials. If materials are improperly applied, it may cause or accelerate physical deterioration of historic fabric.

The National Park Service has identified four broad philosophical approaches that can be applied to a historic property. Often referred to as “treatments” for historic resources, they include preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. The decision to follow these treatments is based on the period of significance, which in this case is a continuum that extends from 1640 to 1900 (the beginning of the burial ground through the installation of the 1900 ornamental iron fence). Recommendations for the landscape in particular are based on the design philosophy of the period of significance and suggested materials are appropriate to the period, but do not necessarily replicate all materials that once existed. This philosophy takes into account the need for modern conveniences and maintenance considerations, while maintaining the historic significance through landscape features appropriate to the period. Preservation and rehabilitation are usually the most appropriate treatments for cultural landscapes, as accurate restoration to an earlier period is rare and reconstruction may not be appropriate. The implications of each treatment are summarized below:

Preservation is defined by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* as “the process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property” through the maintenance and repair of historic materials rather than extensive replacement and new construction. Preservation requires the retention of the greatest amount of historic fabric and may be appropriate if distinctive materials and features are intact. The goal of a preservation project is to stop deterioration. Preservation is the least intrusive approach to repairing a landscape feature or structure, and is generally reserved for features and buildings that will function as examples of their period.

Rehabilitation is defined by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* “as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions, while preserving those portions or features that convey its historic, cultural, or architectural values.” Features can be repaired or altered to make their use compatible with the site's historic value and program, while preserving those features that are important in defining its significance.

Restoration is defined by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* “as the process of returning a building or landscape to a particular period of time, which is chosen for historic or architectural reasons.” Restoration allows for the depiction of a building or landscape at a particular time by preserving materials from the significant period and removing materials from other periods. Due to the expense involved, restoration is often limited to buildings and sites with irreplaceable historic and architectural significance.

Reconstruction is defined by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* “as the recreation or reproduction of a vanished building with new materials following the exact form and detail of the building as it appeared at a specific period of time and in its historic location.” Reconstruction of a building or landscape is used primarily for interpretive purposes.

Elmore Design Collaborative, LLC. visited ABG on December 1 and 2, 2022 to conduct a landscape assessment and to document existing conditions. Owing to the significance of ABG's property, this assessment examines each natural and manmade feature as it relates to the landscape's historic integrity and the various periods when the features were built or installed. No buildings or stone burial markers were assessed as part of this landscape assessment in great detail other than recognizing their importance and contribution to the overall character and visual aesthetic. The entire site is comprised of the landscape features and the 1807 First Church of Christ.

The purpose of this assessment is to document and record the landscape and its existing character-defining features. This assessment inventories, analyses, and evaluates each feature through the continuum of the landscape's history.

An assessment involves three steps:

- Step 1 – an inventory of natural and manmade features, based on field observations;
- Step 2 – an analysis of the inventory that defines the site's opportunities and constraints;
and
- Step 3 – an evaluation of the inventory and analysis, resulting in a series of recommendations for treatment as defined by *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards* as noted above.

This assessment of existing conditions documents and describes each natural and manmade feature within this landscape and provides general recommendations for treatment, where appropriate. Site assessment categories include:

- A. Spatial Organization, Land Pattern, and Context
- B. Topography and Erosion
- C. Vegetation
- D. Views and Viewsheds
- E. Circulation and Accessibility
- F. Drainage
- G. Site Features, Furnishings and Objects

Photographs of each feature are embedded with their description to support the text and illustrate its condition. Landscape Assessment maps are located at the end of each category to illustrate the location of each feature.

A. Spatial Organization, Land Patterns and Context

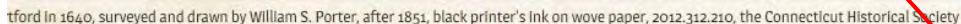
The Ancient Burying Ground is approximately 1.3-acres in size and is located between Main, Gold and Pearl Streets in downtown Hartford, Connecticut. It is an excellent example of a “Component Landscape” located within a larger historic designed landscape, which in this case is downtown Hartford. A component landscape is a discrete portion of a larger landscape that can be further subdivided into individual “character-defining landscape features.” While relatively recent changes and improvements have occurred in the ABG, relationship of the extant individual features remains intact. The site’s spatial organization within the property has survived, albeit at a smaller scale. The greatest change pertains to the surrounding land uses, which have encroached both physically and visually over the years.

The ABG began in 1640 and was the main burial ground until early 1800s. The Town of Hartford appropriated parcels of land to create the burial ground. The 1640 map¹⁴ of Hartford shows the layout and arrangement of the streets and parcels prior to the creation of ABG, which also was known as the Old Center Cemetery.

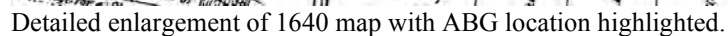
Tracking the physical changes of such an old landscape is difficult because it predates photography and mapping was sporadic. However, several historic maps are included to illustrate the ABG over time, followed by more recent Google Earth aerial photographs. In June 2012, a detailed survey was prepared for the Phase I Site Improvements by Richter & Cegan, Landscape Architects & Planners. This appears to be the first detailed survey of the ABG and documents all visible features at that time. The last map was created by Thomas J. Elmore, Founder of Elmore Design Collaborative, LLC with the firm’s hand-held mobile LiDAR scanner and drawn with AutoCAD-based software. This information was updated by field verification on December 1 and 2, 2022. This last map is used herein for all Landscape Assessment maps, except as noted.

Using these maps as collective visual aids, we can see how the spatial organization, land patterns and context have changed and/or stayed the same over time. Each map is different, but documents its features accordingly. Like photographs, maps capture the landscape as it existed when it was prepared and the level of detail varies by who created it and its purpose.

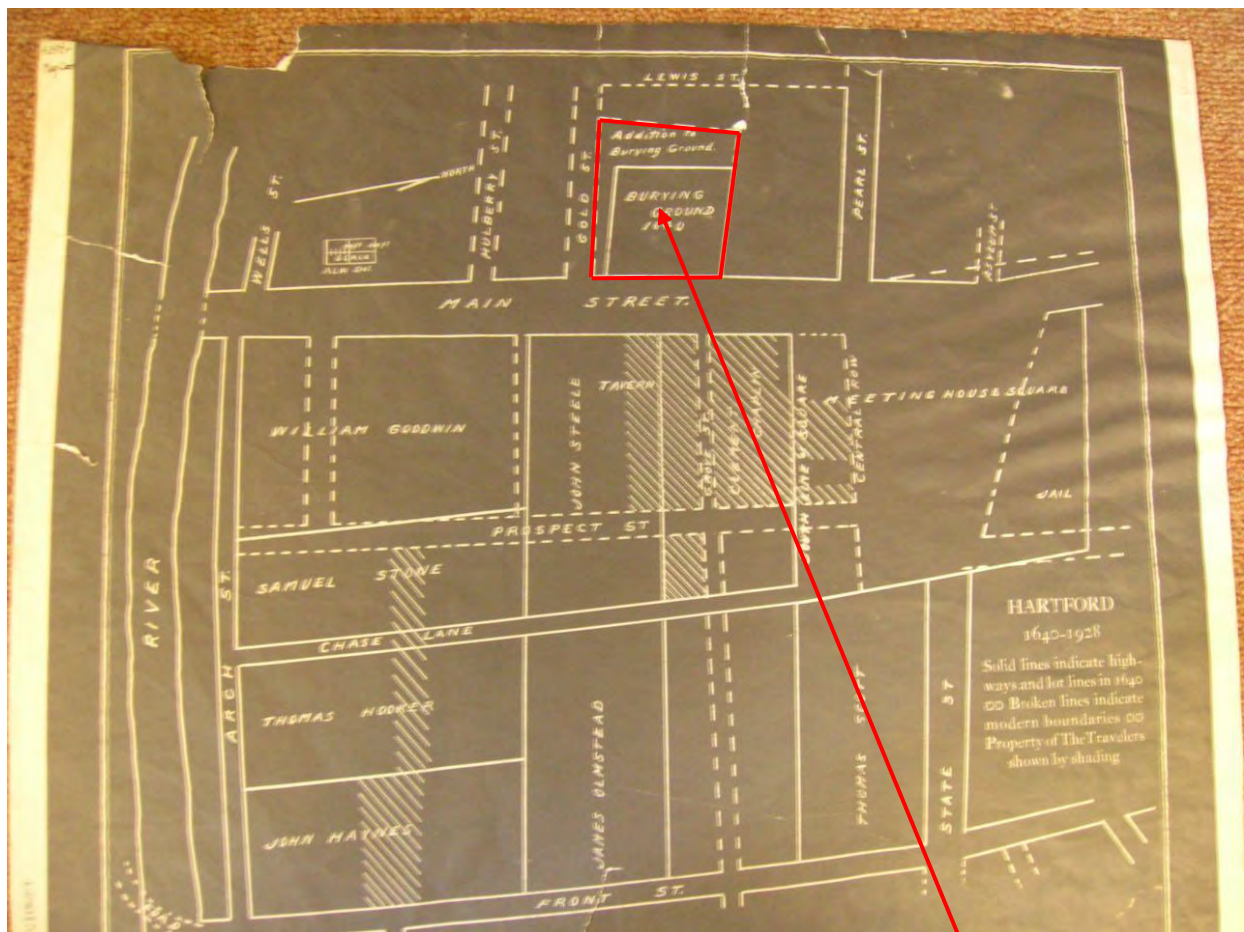
¹⁴ According to the text on the map, it was “Prepared from the Original Records by Vote of the Town and Drawn by William S. Porter, Surveyor & Antiquarian in 1838.”



• Ancient Burying Ground

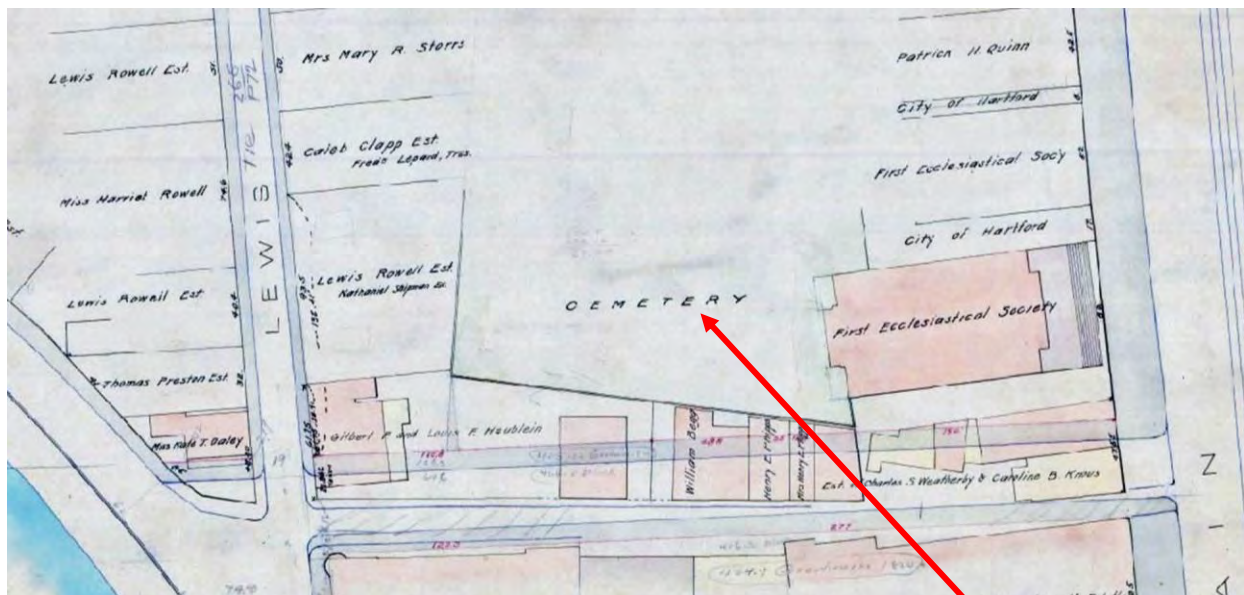


~~227~~ Ancient Burying Ground



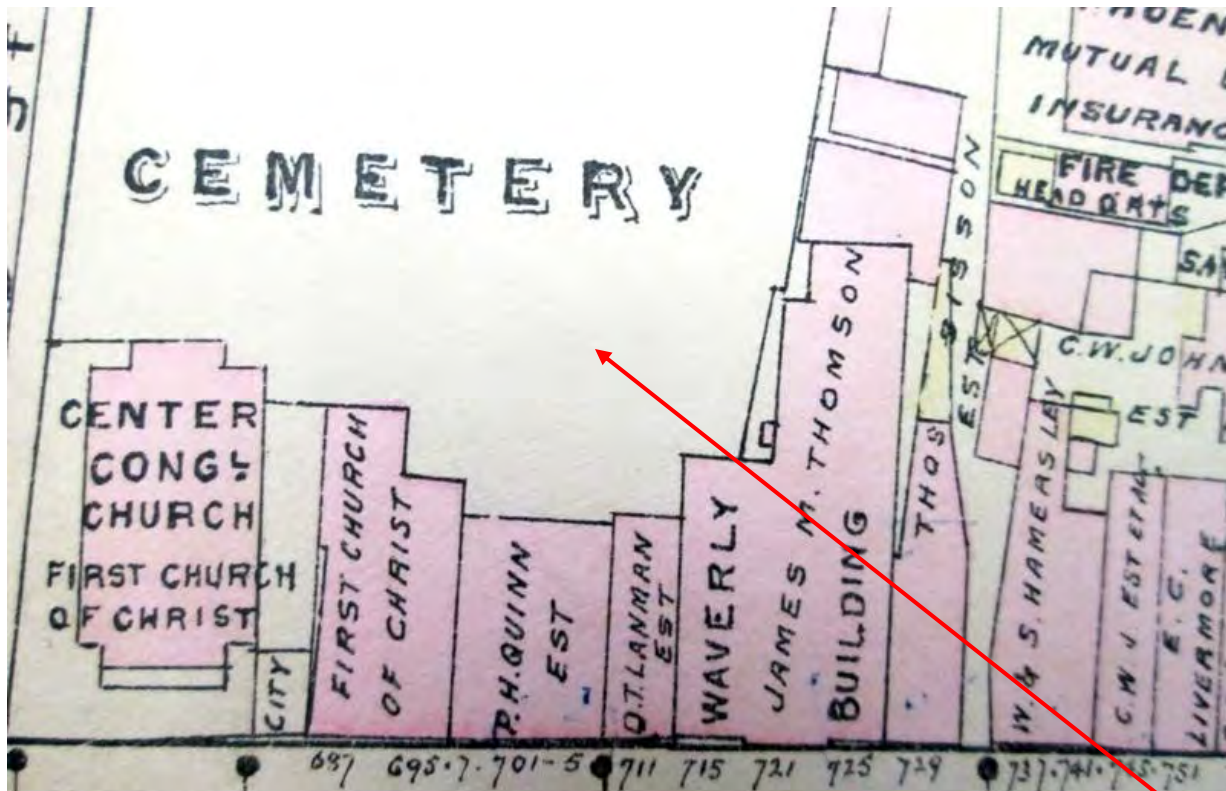
1650 map, provided by Ruth Shapleigh-Brown.

Ancient Burring Ground



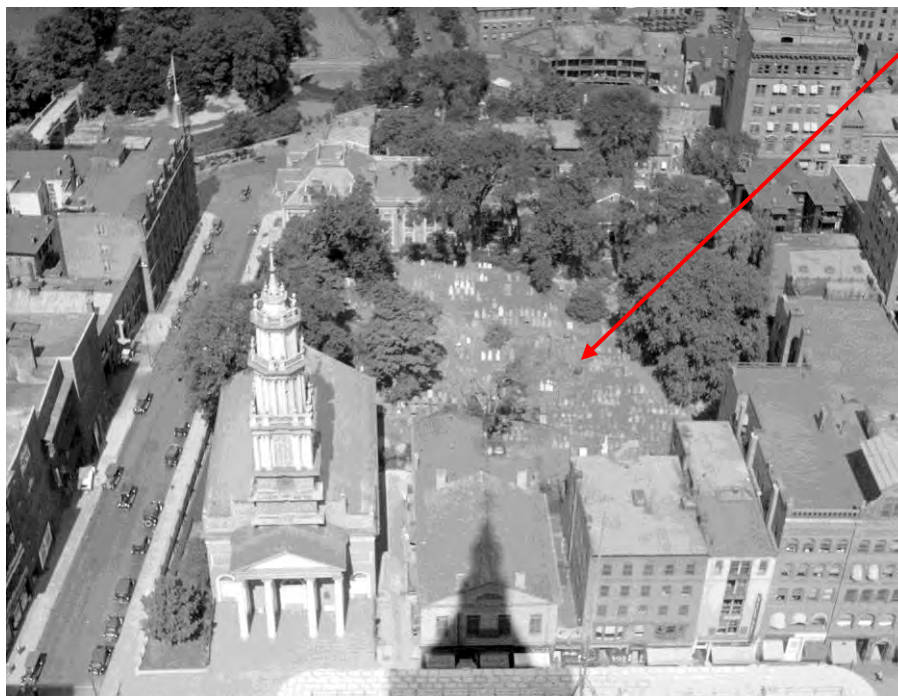
1896 map from B. Kegan and provided by Ruth Shapleigh--Brown.

Ancient Burring Ground

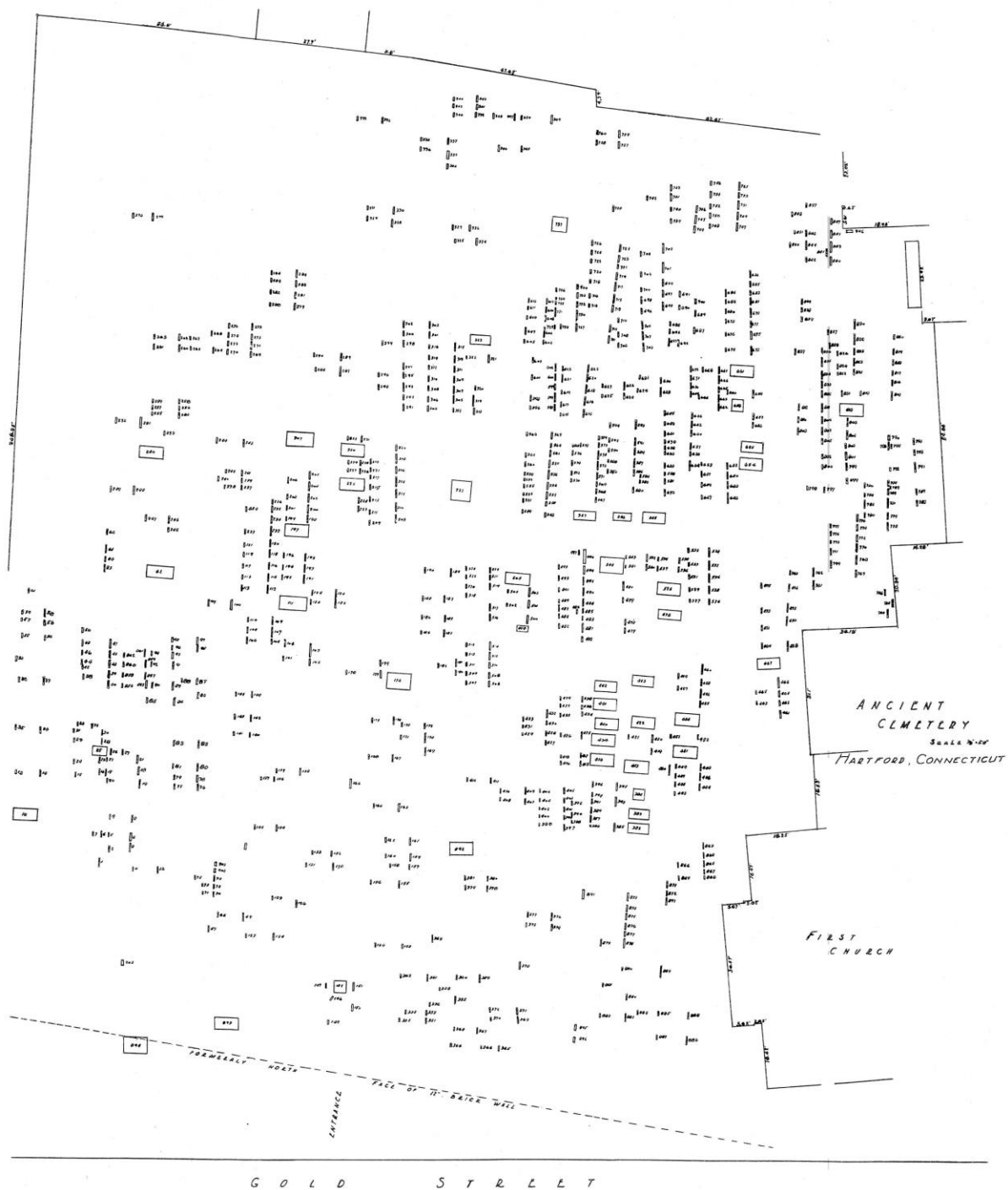


1909 map provided by Ruth Shapleigh—Brown (the pink represents existing buildings.)

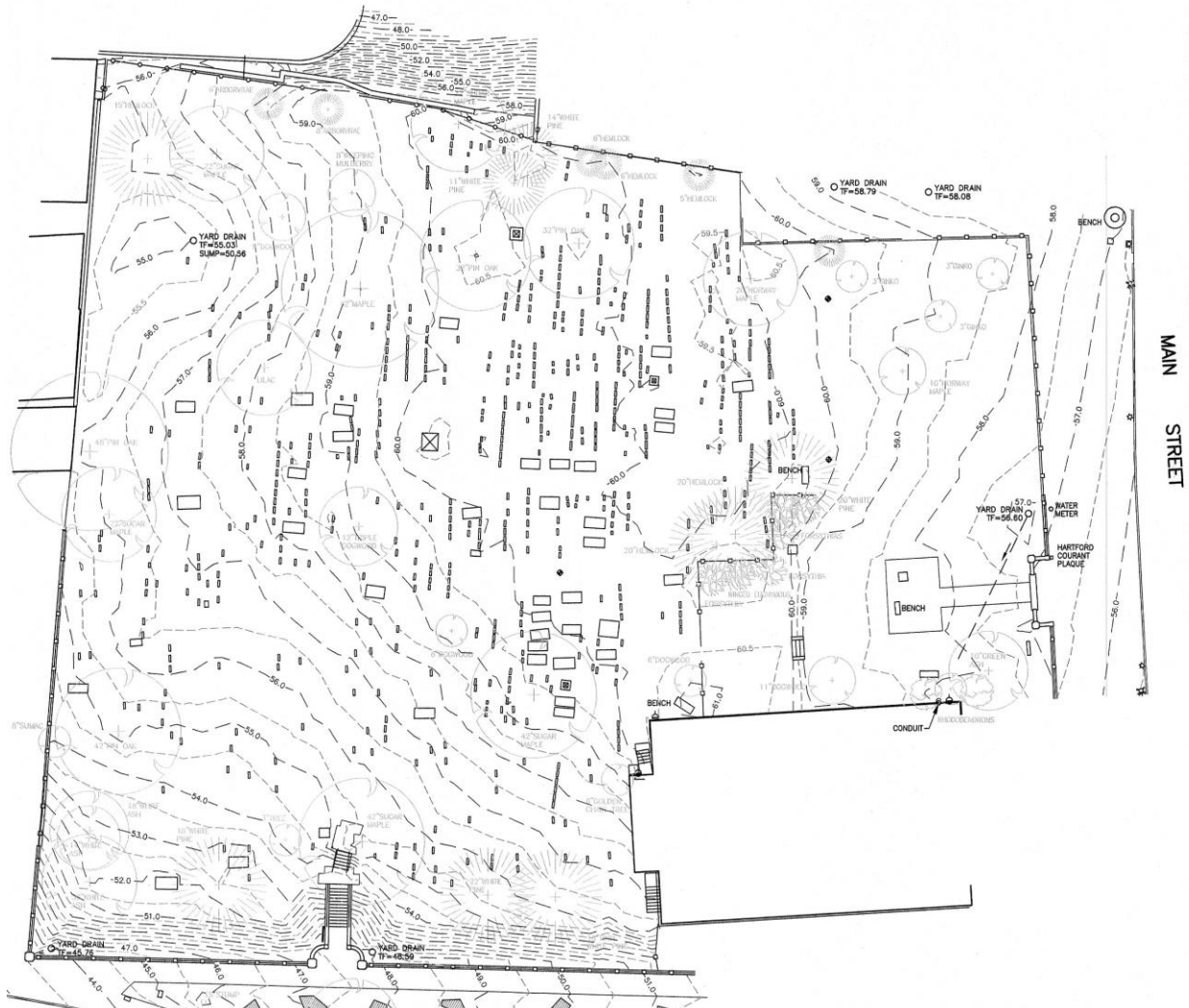
ABG



1924 photo taken from the Travlers Tower, provided by Ruth Shapleigh-Brown



1986 Map of the headstone and table stones by Thomas & Jean Jenner, Wheaton, IL and provided by ABGA.



Survey by Close, Jensen & Miller, PC, ca. 2012 and provided by ABGA.



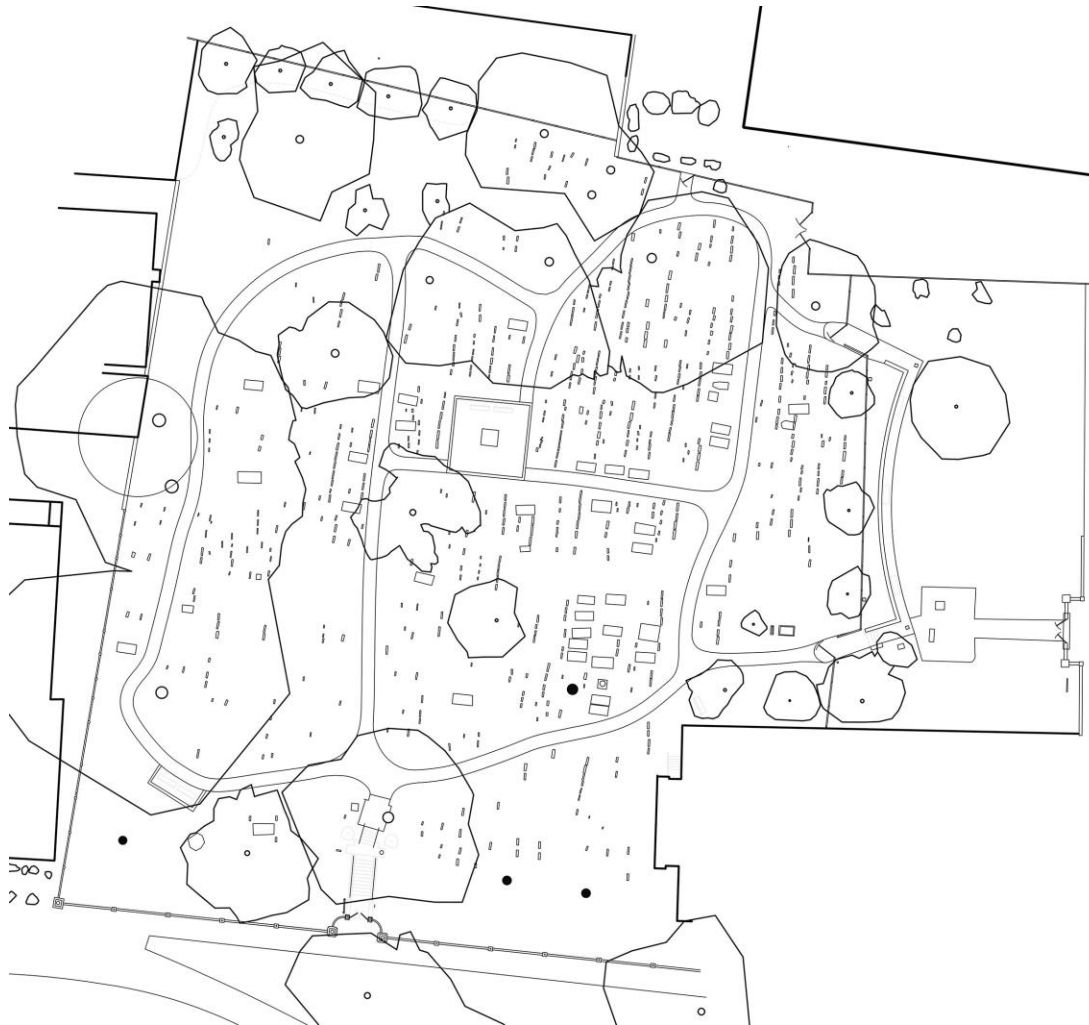
Google Earth screenshot

Ancient Burying Ground



Google Earth screenshot

Ancient Burying Ground



Base map by Elmore Design Collaborative, LLC, December 2022

The greatest changes to ABG's spatial organization and land patterns pertains to the arrangement and location of the headstones. More recent changes are directly related to the improvements from 2014 noted above and the ongoing conservation of the stones and the removal of trees.

Recommendations: Proceed slowly and carefully to maintain and improve this historic landscape while retaining its character and sense of place.

B. Topography

The 2012 Close, Jensen & Miller survey of the ABG provides the best and most recent information relating to topography. However, this survey was completed before the Phase I Site Improvements were implemented. Minor changes were made to install the network of walking paths and drainage around the headstones inside the fence. Major changes were made to the greensward along the east side and close to Main Street.

The site gently slopes away from the high point ridge in every direction. The western half of the site slopes to the west and the southwest. The eastern portion of the site slopes east toward Main Street. The steepest slopes are found immediately north of the fence along Gold Street, which slopes west away from Main Street. The high point, which appears to be a ridge, is north of center and is approximately 60.5+/- feet in elevation. The low point at the southwest corner inlet measures 45.76 elevation. Grades along Main Street slope south from a high of 56.5 to a low point of 55.5 feet in elevation. Retaining walls on all 4 sides of the property help to maintain and retain the site's historic topography.

Drainage, poor soils and low rainwater infiltration are issues at ABG. The heavy clay soils prevent or severely restrict rainwater infiltrating into the ground. As a result, all low areas or depressions create ponding situations if they are not connected to the 2014 drainage system. This condition causes problems with the headstones and with growing healthy trees, shrubs and grass. The soils conditions have always been an issue.

Recommendations: *Work to retain the historic topography while maintaining and improving this historic landscape.*



Panoramic view looking east



Panoramic view looking south



Panoramic view looking west (Gold Street to the left)



Looking north toward the Gold Building



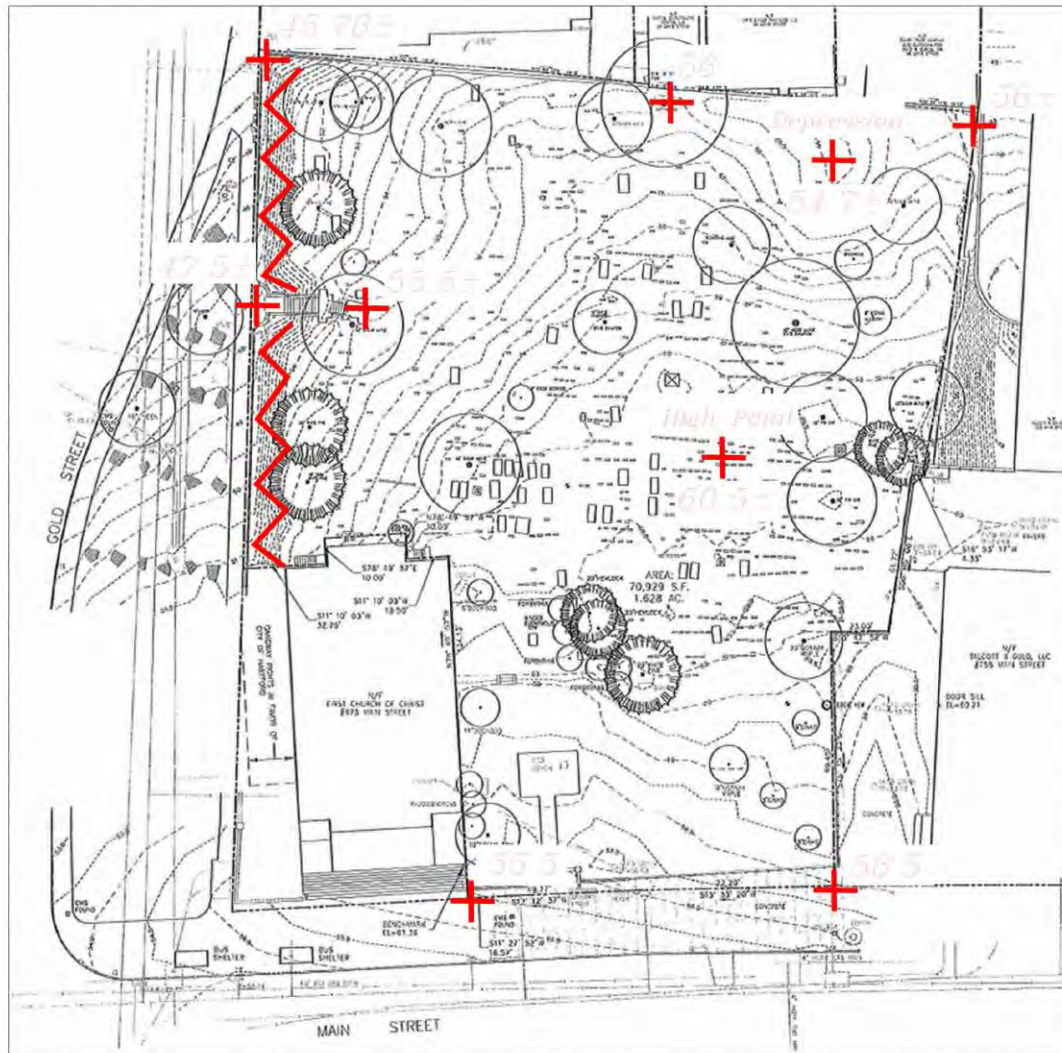
Looking north toward the Gold Building



Looking northeast toward the Gold Building and the Founder's Monument



Looking northwest from the entry stairs at the 1900 gate



 Steep Slope
 Spot Grade

Source: 2012 Site Survey by
 Close, Jensen & Miller, PC
 (pre-2014 site improvements)



TOPOGRAPHY LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

C. VEGETATION

This character-defining feature probably represents the largest amount of change, except for the decreasing number and location of headstone and reduction in overall size, because of time, growing patterns, plant life expectancy and maintenance. In July 1986, the Olmsted Family Association provided a plaque and a Norway maple tree in memory of Olmsted family members that were part of the original founders of the City of Hartford in June 1636.¹⁵ Research shows that many trees have been removed in the last 10-years or so, seemingly for poor health and physical condition, maturity, and location of the table stones. Many new plantings were added in 2014, but few have survived and those that have survived are along the perimeter.

In 2012, two state champion trees were noted: a 12” triple-leader, pink-flowering Dogwood southwest of the Founders Monument and a 42” Hedge Maple to the northwest of the Founders Monument. Within the last year three White ash trees were removed from the southwest corner, two White pines immediately west of the First Church of Christ were removed and one large 42” Sugar maple was removed from near the table stones, just west of the church. Other existing trees and shrubs include Sugar maple, Japanese maple, dogwood, yew, oak and Scotch pine. Ginkgo trees are located in the lawn area between the Rev. Samuel Stone sculpture and the Gold Building.

The existing trees vary in condition owing to age, maintenance and soil conditions. The root systems of many of the older trees are high and exposed because of the poor soil conditions. Plantings from the Phase I Site Improvements along the walls at the northwest corner and along the northern property line appear to be in good condition. But many of the original plantings from this improvement no longer exist. The three maple trees along the eastern fence were planted too deep and are struggling. Two small volunteer trees on either side of the bluestone landing at the top of the stairs from Gold Street are sprouting from their cut trunks.

The ABGA supports and is sensitive to the City of Hartford’s Urban Canopy commitment while balancing their concerns for plantings that will not grow too tall and become conservation hazards years from now. In the Summer of 2022, Elmore Design Collaborative, LLC prepared a small planting design for various locations around ABG, fulling the needs to both the City and ABG. This design was based on a site visit and meeting with representatives of ABG. As of the time this report was prepared, this design had not been implemented.

Recommendations: Assess the condition of all of the trees and prune, fertilize and treat as needed. Consider propagating the mature specimen trees and plant them in the future to continue their germplasm. Lower the grade around the maples along the east fence as these trees were planted too deep, i.e., their root flare is buried. Let the stumps rot carefully away while making sure the soil in the vicinity of the headstone does not collapse as the roots disintegrate. Fill in all low areas with soil and then seed and fertilize accordingly. Install the Planting Design prepared by Elmore Design Collaborative, LLC to enhance the grounds.

¹⁵ Norway maple trees are hardy street trees that were commonly planted in the last half of the 20th-century, but have been categorized since then as an invasive species and are discouraged from being planted.

Develop a realistic and achievable maintenance plan for properly caring for all trees and shrubs.



Weeds growing out of a crack in the mortar on a wall.



Volunteer suckers at the bluestone stairs



Sugar maple tree is moving the bluestone paving





White pine stumps west of the church



Sugar maple stump near the table stones



Dogwood in poor condition



Largest Hedge maple tree in CT is in poor condition



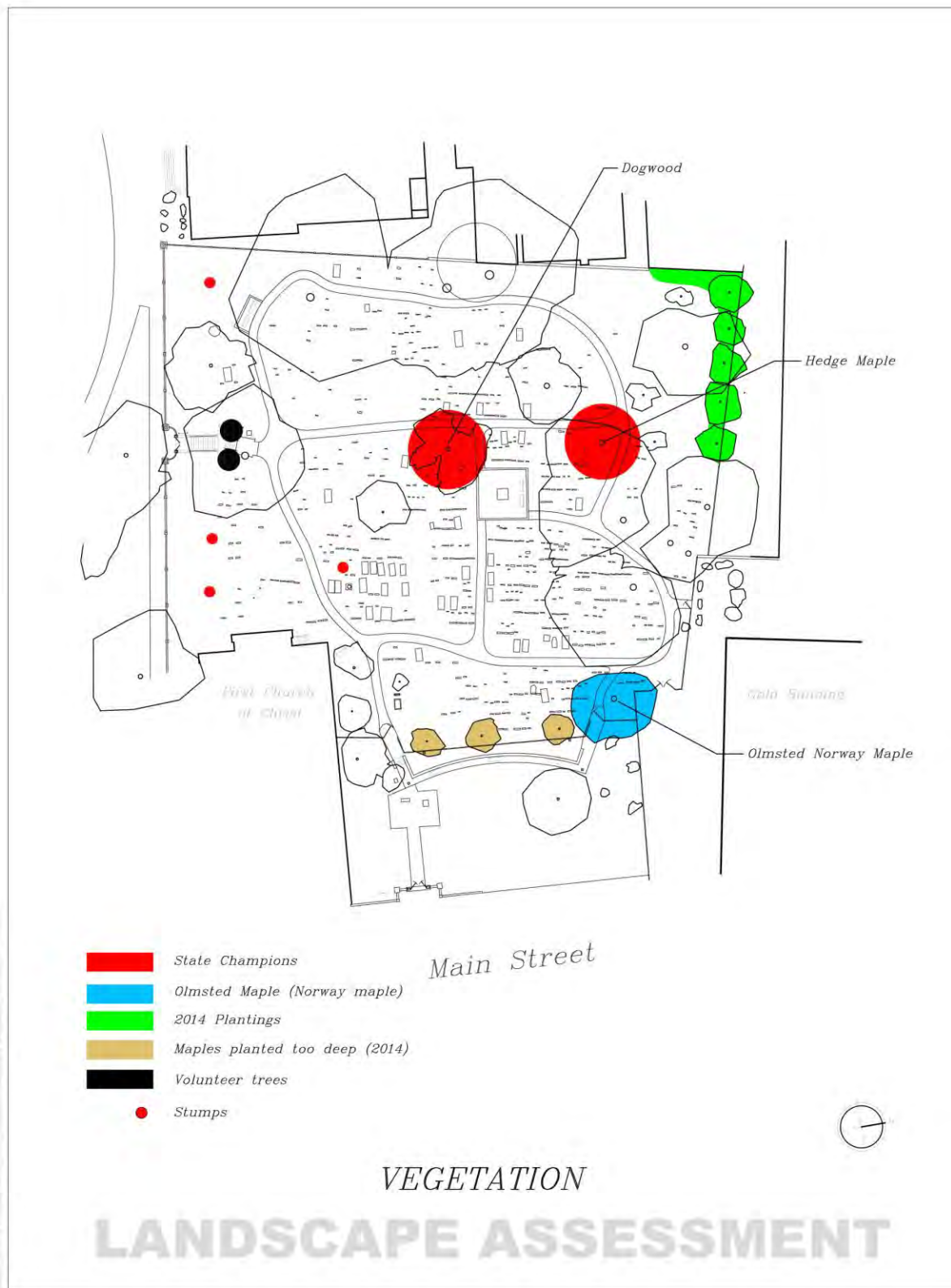
Sugar maple trees planted too deep



Mature oak and maple trees along western boundary



Misc. trees, shrubs and herbaceous materials planted in 2014 at the northwest corner (left) and north side (right)



D. VIEWS and VIEWSHEDS

The opportunity for views and viewsheds within a landscape is enhanced by the opportunity to see across the landscape from within, for distant views into barrowed landscapes (to see beyond the immediate property into adjacent and distant property) and views from off-site into a site. ABG has two of the three opportunities. Opportunities for views and vistas are enhanced where topographical variations exist and where sight-lines restrictions are limited and offer open or framed views.

Views and viewsheds are categorized as either desirable or compromised. Desirable views in historic landscape settings are typically scenic, have historical context, highlight major design themes and opportunities, and generally are pleasing to the viewer in the immediate context. Compromised views are not always the opposite because sometimes they are blocked by objects, focus on modern conveniences, or are focused on a distraction or missing feature in the immediate context.

ABG is overwhelmingly filled with desirable views from within and across the burial ground owing to the beauty and historic nature of the headstones and table stones. The view from Gold Street through the historic ornamental iron fence from 1900 into the burial ground is compromised because of the large boulders and the large Linden trees that restrict views along this corridor. Distant views into barrowed landscapes are almost non-existent because of the tall adjacent buildings.

Recommendations: Maintain views into and across the ABG for aesthetic and safety purposes.



Looking north into ABG through the 1900 gate



Looking south out of ABG through the 1900 gate



Looking west into ABG through the Day Gate



Looking east toward Main Street through the Day Gate



Panoramic view looking east



Panoramic view looking south



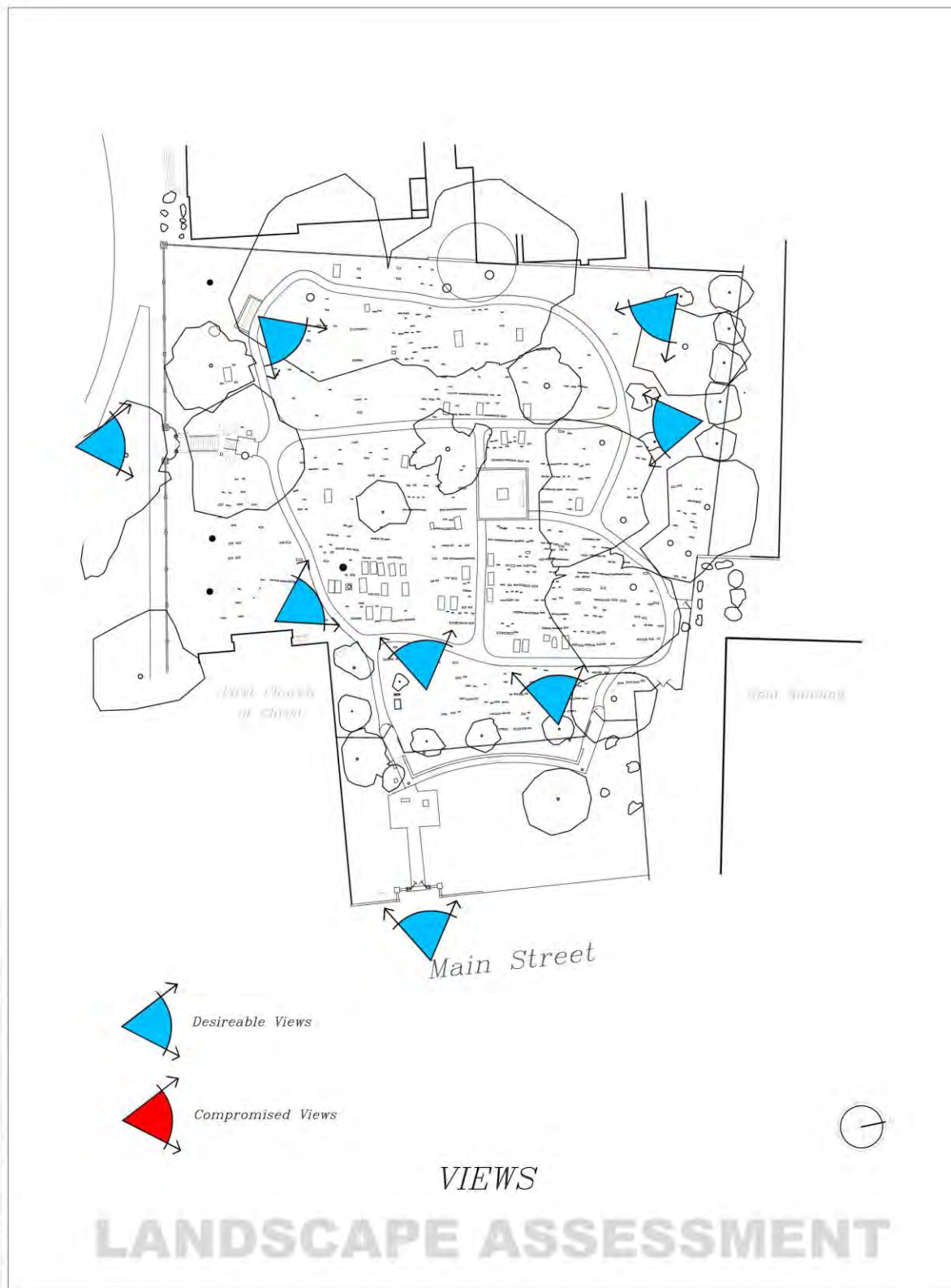
Looking north toward the Founder's Monument



Looking southeast toward Gold Street and Main Street beyond



Looking north toward the Gold Building from the Sugar maple stump



E. CIRCULATION and ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Pedestrian circulation routes exist within ABG. However, there is no ADA or universal access considerations from either Main or Gold Streets. There is no on-site vehicular circulation. The pedestrian routes include stairs and several different types of paths and walks including crushed stone, bluestone, concrete and brick.

Vehicular Circulation - No vehicular circulation exists within ABG on paths or drives laid out for vehicles. On-street parking is provided and metered. A bus stop exists on Main Street, directly in front of the Day Gate. Double gates each measuring 5'-8" wide provide vehicular access into ABG from the concrete paving immediately south of the Gold Building. However, there are no improved paths or routes wide enough for vehicles or large maintenance equipment within ABG. As a result, vehicles need to drive along the 4'+ wide paths that are not designed for them, causing damage to the walking surface and the aluminum edge restraints.

Recommendation: Make all future vehicular access into and through ABG lay down a material to prevent damage of the walking paths and edge restraints.

Pedestrian Circulation – Pedestrian access into ABG is provided by stairs from Gold and Main Streets and a walkway/driveway at the northeast corner. No historic paths survive in and around the head stones and burial markers.

Access from Gold Street

Access from Gold Street is through the historic Haynes Memorial Gateway, a gift from the Stokes sisters of NY, who were descendants of Gov. Haynes. This gateway is commonly referred to the Gold Street Gate¹⁶ and is part of the 1900 historic fence. The stairs from Gold Street up to the burying ground are historic and were presumably installed when the fence and gate were built.¹⁷ The concrete apron at the base of the stairs is in good condition. Two 13" wide x 5' long low retaining or cheek walls exist on either side of the interior portion of the stone apron. The northern wall has moved south, is rolling over and generally in poor condition. The southern wall is in fair condition. The coping on both walls is cracked where the iron railing was cored through them and installed. Water infiltrated the opening and the freeze-thaw action broke the copings. The brick mortar on both walls is in fair to poor condition and should be repointed. The grade of the dirt behind both walls should be lowered below the depth of the copings. This change should help limit future damage to these walls.

Recommendations: Clean, wash and repair both walls. Lower the grade on the outside of both low retaining/cheek walls to at least 6" below the top of the copings. Remove and rebuild the northern wall using salvaged materials from the original and replace damaged materials with those that match.

¹⁶ Holcombe, Anne. Email to Thomas Elmore, Dec. 21, 2022.

¹⁷ Additional research is needed to confirm when these stairs were built and if they are original to when the fence and gates were installed.

The lower and longer set of stone stairs are 6' wide and have 11 steps with 13.5" wide treads and 5.5" high risers. The top tread measures 19.75" wide. One stone step is cracked. In general, these steps are in good condition. Both cheek walls are cracked and thus are in poor condition. The rusty metal iron handrail has chipped and peeling black paint and thus is in fair condition. The pickets are 1/2" square and set 6 1/8" on center. The top rail measures 1.75" wide x 1/2" thick. The bottom rail is 1" wide x 3/8" thick.

Recommendations: Clean, wash and repair these stairs. The dirt on the outside of both cheek walls should be lowered to at least 6" below the top of the copings. The cheek walls should be replaced with materials that match. Remove, restore and reinstall black painted handrails.



North view from the walk along Gold Street.



High soil/grade and cracked cheek walls.



View looking up the lowest set of stairs.



View looking down toward Gold Street.



Damaged retaining wall just inside the gate.



Notice how the wall has moved out of position and no longer lines up with the fence panel



Looking down at the damaged low wall



Notice how high the soil is on both retaining walls.



Cracked coping



Cracked cheek wall caused by water infiltration and rusting an expanding handrail post.

Mid-level Bluestone Landing

A bluestone landing measuring approximate 43 sf consists of different sized stones. This landing separates the upper from the lower sets of stairs. These stones are in good condition, though they need to be reset.

Recommendations: Clean, wash and reset the bluestone. Document the design and layout of the bluestone with photographs and a numbering system before removing the stones. Salvage the bluestone for reuse. Adjust the base material as needed and make sure there is at least 6" of compacted gravel base in place. Add more gravel as needed. Reset the bluestone to ensure the surface is smooth and even with positive drainage to either side. Install edge restraint.



Looking west at the bluestone landing



Close-up view of the landing



Another view of the landing shows the layout pattern of the bluestone

Bluestone Stairs

The upper set of stairs are built with 5' long bluestone treads. Each step is 12" wide and has 5.5" high risers. These stairs are in good condition. The handrails match the style, design and condition of the handrails on the lower stairs and are in the same condition. In general, these stairs are in good condition.

Recommendations: Clean and wash these stairs. *Remove, restore and reinstall black painted handrails.*



Two views of the bluestone stairs.



Two more views of the bluestone stairs and handrail. Notice how the top landing is no longer flush with top stair tread.

Top Bluestone Landing

A bluestone landing at the top of the stairs is approximately 80 sf in size and is comprised of different sized stones. This landing is in fair to poor condition, mostly because the roots of the Sugar maple tree are causing the stones to shift and move out of position. These stones are in good condition, though they need to be reset. Erosion and loss of soil is found on the southern edge of the landing. A 6"x6" pressure treated timber edging was installed on the west side to try to retain the grade and maintain the bluestone paving.

Recommendations: Clean, wash and reset the bluestone. Document the design and layout of the bluestone with photographs and a numbering system before removing the stones. Salvage the bluestone for reuse. Assess the condition and location of the Sugar maple tree and the damage it is causing to the paving. Adjust the gravel base material as needed and make sure there is at least 6" of compacted gravel base in place. Add more gravel as needed. Reset the bluestone to ensure the surface is smooth and even with positive drainage to either side. Install edge restraint.



Erosion and timber edging



Sugar maple growing into and moving the stones



Two views looking south showing stone arrangement, timber edging and movement caused by the tree.

Access from Main Street



Undated images of the Gangway aka the Approach provide by Ty Tryon, ca. pre-1923. Notice the iron gates in the foreground on either side of the photograph on the left. These gates appear to be the same gates as seen in the image on the right, taken on Dec. 1, 2022.

Historical access into ABG, based on the archival map evidence provided herein, was from Main Street, or from the east. This observation is based solely on these existing maps, which were made nearly 256 years after the burying ground was established in 1640. Presumably there were other points of access, but these maps do not show them. In time, buildings were built along Main Street and research suggests they were built over existing burials. Based on the 1896 map, the City of Hartford maintained ownership of two narrow strips of land between Main Street and the now smaller ABG. The undated historical image above shows the southern access known as the Gangway or the Approach with the church on the left and their office and education building on the right. The large iron gates in the foreground appear to be the same iron gates, known as the Day Gate on Main Street, in the picture on the right. The iron gate and fence in the background of the historic image no longer exist.

Today, access into ABG from Main Street is through the Day Gate. According to emailed notes the “Day Gate...was originally given around 1903 by a church member to mark the entryway to the 'gangway' between the church and its office and education building, whose main door was in the alleyway [, also known as the Gangway or the The Approach]. When the church built 60 Gold St and leased the office building, they moved the gate, in 1923, to be a formal entrance for ABG at the west end of the gangway. When they tore down that building (and I think gave the land to the city), the gate was moved to its current location, and the additional walls and fencing added.”¹⁸

Research indicates that the existing Day Gate with its walls and fences were built in the present location in 1952. Pedestrian circulation in this area includes a brick walk, steps and a narrow concrete walkway. Currently, there is no ADA or universal access into the Burying Ground through the Day Gate. However, Phase II of the Plans for the 2014 improvements did include a plaza in this area, which would have provided an ADA and universal access into ABG through the 6’ wide gate in the northeast corner.

Access through the Day Gate includes a single 7” step up onto a 24” wide granite threshold that leads guests through two iron gates and to the bronze sculpture of Rev. Samuel Stone beyond. A 6’ wide and about a 28’ long brick walk connects the gate to brick-paved plaza. This walk has a single brick soldier course along both sides and a running bond pattern in the walking path. It leads to the 17’ x 24’ brick-paved plaza around the Stone sculpture and a pink granite bench. Visitors proceed west to the concrete walk that leads in two directions. Straight ahead is an historic, but relocated, set of 5’ wide brownstone steps with black painted handrails and brick walls on either side. A concrete walk at the top of the stairs widens to 6’-10” wide and continues west through a 6’ tall x 6’ wide black steel gate and the burying ground beyond. The concrete walk by the brick plaza also diverges to the right/north and runs along the semi-circular brick wall. This walk is 42” wide and provides access to a 6’ wide x 6’ tall black steel gate at the northeast corner of the burying ground. However, three 6’-2” long black benches sit on this walk, rendering it nearly useless for pedestrian purposes.

All of the walks, stairs and railings are in good condition.

Recommendations: Consider creating an ADA and universal accessible route from Main Street into ABG, as no such route presently exists.

¹⁸ Holcombe, Anne. Email to Thomas Elmore, January 19, 2022.



Day Gate from Main Street, looking west



Close-up view of the 7” step leading toward the brick walk and plaza beyond



Detail view of materials and transition at the Day Gate



Brick plaza, Rev. Samuel Stone sculpture and ABG beyond



Diverging concrete walk at the brick wall



Historic, but relocated, brownstone steps



Detail view of steps, walks, railings and walls



Looking east toward Main Street, the concrete walk changes to crushed stone inside ABG



The curved brick wall, narrow walk and benches that restrict pedestrian use of the walk



The northern gates and walks leading into ABG is the ADA entrance. But there is no accessible route leading to this gate.

Crushed Stone Walk

A network of +/-4' wide crushed stone walks provide pedestrian access through the ABG. This entire path network and its aluminum edge restraints are in poor condition. The walks were designed as a porous pavement with an underdrain system to collect stormwater. The Gravel-Lok paving system, if installed and maintained correctly, is supposed to provide a durable and rigid walking surface using 3/8" crushed stone, through which water can drain. Unfortunately, the system failed and the walkway surface cracked and broke apart, nearly everywhere. As a result, the surface is uneven and difficult to traverse. Many of the walks have weeds. And, owing to the introduction of heavy equipment on the walks most of the aluminum edge restraints are broken or bent.

Recommendations: Evaluate the usefulness of the existing walks for their original intended purpose and consider replacing with a different accessible and porous walking system. Inspect the drainage system to make sure it is working or to see if it is clogged. Develop a usable maintenance plan that can and will be implemented.



Weeds are prevalent



Walk to the pedestrian gate at the Gold Building plaza



Broken, cracked and riddled with weeds



Broken, cracked, weeds and damaged aluminum edging



Detail view of existing conditions



More holes in the damaged walking surface



Aluminum edging is crushed and rolled over



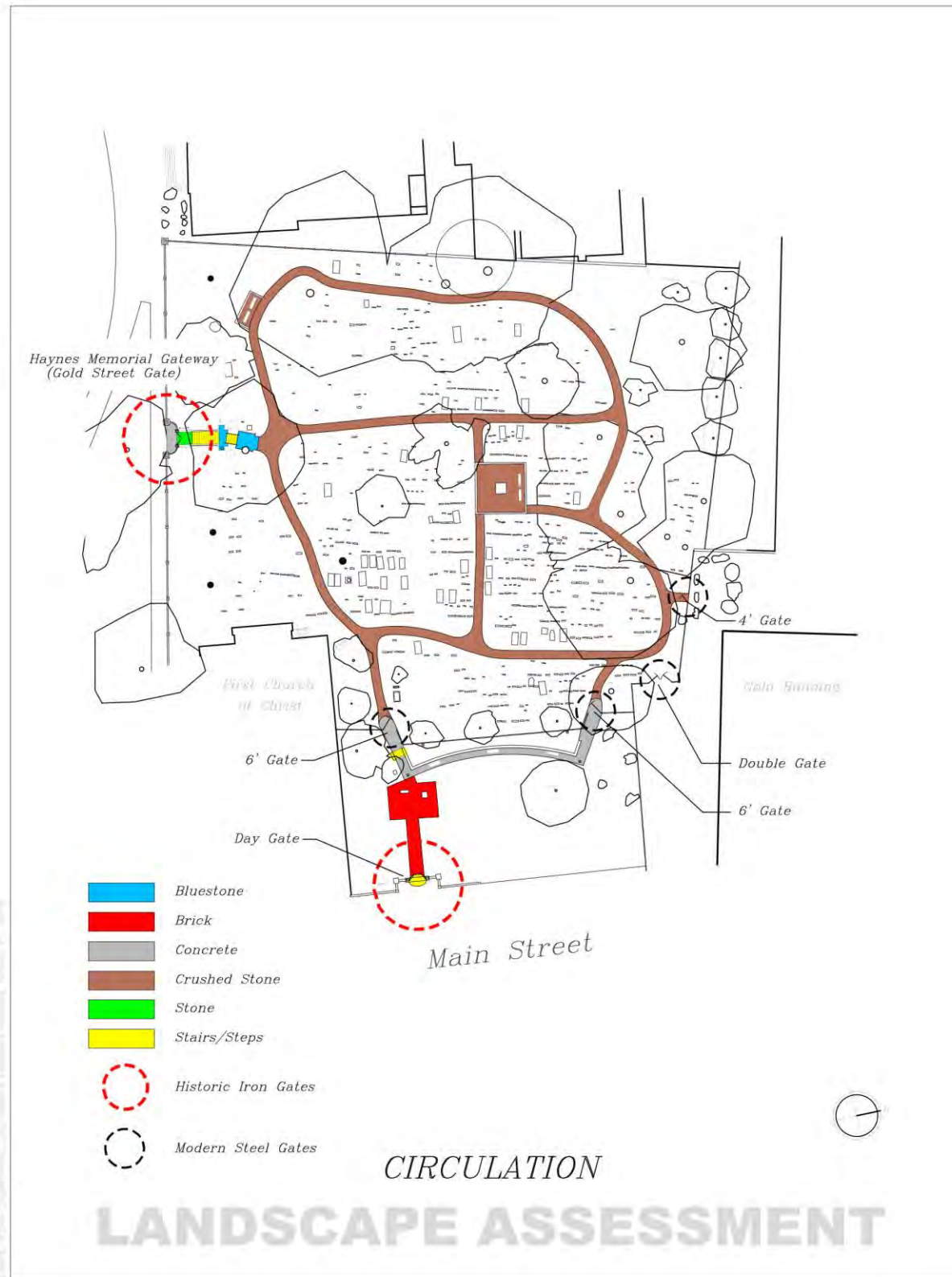
Looking south at the western-most walkway



Looking northeast toward the Founders Monument



Another view with weeds everywhere



F. DRAINAGE

Topography, soil types and conditions, and surface treatment (permeable and porous), all directly influence drainage. Historically, pre-2014, the existing clay soils and low areas created drainage issues across the burying ground in the gently sloping areas with depressions. Some existing inlets and drainage pipes existed before the site improvements were installed in 2014. However, drainage improvements were a major component of the 2014 improvements and included:

1. Under drains with 4" perforated pipes in the lawn areas
2. Under drains with 4" perforated pipes under the porous pavement in the paths
3. Catch basins and drain inlets
4. Drainage collection chambers under the semi-circular walk, and
5. Connections to existing onsite pipes which connected to the City's stormwater collection system.

Today, some drainage issues exist and seems to be related to the existing infrastructure low areas created around the table stones and areas where additional under drains in the lawn do not exist. Also, the under drains with 4" perforated pipes and the drainage structures may be clogged and not performing as intended.

Recommendations: Make sure that the CT State Archaeologist is on-site for any and all digging activities. Carefully open and inspect the existing drainage infrastructure in several areas to establish a good understanding of their condition...are they open and working or are they clogged and not working. Then plan next steps based on the inspection results. Review the low areas during a heavy rain event to establish where and why they exist and develop a remediation plan accordingly.



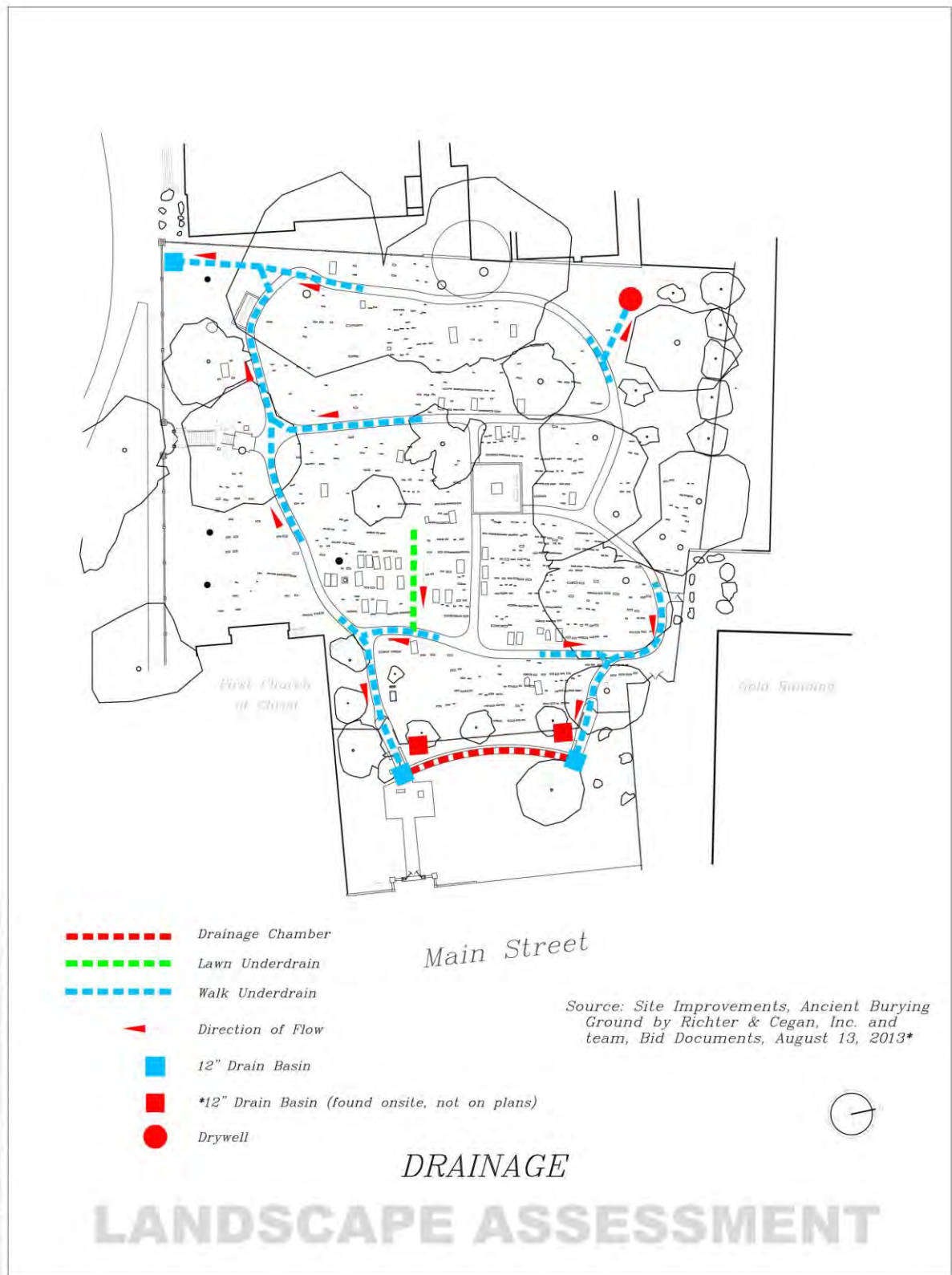
One of two 12" drain basins in concrete walk



One of two yard drains in plant bed above curved brick wall



The leaves highlight the shallow swale under which lies the under drain.



G. STRUCTURES, FURNISHINGS and OBJECTS

Several structures, furnishings and objects ornament the ABG. Most, but not all, are more recent additions.

The oldest structures, not including the headstone and table stones, are the walls, fences and gates relating to the Gold Street Gate and the Day Gate.

Gold Street Gate with wall and fence

The Gold Street Gate and perimeter fence are iconic structures along Gold Street and demarcate the separation between the public sidewalk and the Ancient Burial Ground. This Preservation Plan focuses on the section of the wall, fence and gate along the Burying Ground. However, the wall and fence continue east along the First Church of Christ and north along the western edge of the ABG. The historic iron fence along the west boundary is approximately 34.5' long. Modern steel fence is used along the rest of the distance along the western boundary. (See below for a discussion on the modern steel fence.) The design, materials and conditions seem to be consistent over the length of the historic wall and fence associated with the Gold Street Gate.

The wall and fence step up or down with the sloping grade of Gold Street. The wall varies in height between 8 and 9 bricks high and has a 13" wide x 4 ¾" high coping. Each step in the wall is the height of the coping plus one brick. In general, the wall is in good shape though some of the bricks are in poor condition and some repointing and the removal of weeds and other volunteer growth is needed. The iron fence on top of the wall is made with solid 7/8" square pickets. The spacing between the pickets in the upper and lower sections varies between 3¾" (3.75") apart on top and 1.44" on the lower section. Spearhead-shaped finials adorn the shorter pickets while the longer pickets have pointed tops that extend 8" above the top rail. The bottom rail measures 2" wide x 1" thick and sits directly on top of the coping. The middle rail is 19" above the bottom rail and measures 2" wide x 5/8" thick. The top rail is 57.5" above the middle rail and measures 2" wide x 5/8" thick. Ornamental ironwork scrolls are centered on top of each section of fence. In general, the fence on top of the walls is in fair to good condition.

The wall and fence terminate at each corner and at the Gold Street Gate with large ornate posts. The post bases have a lower section made with brick and limestone and an upper section of cut limestone. The central portion is brick and measures approximate 27" square. Ornately detailed limestone is used on the upper section of the post with an urn on top. The weathered bricks in the posts at the gate are in fair to poor condition and some joints have been repointed. The semi-circular gateway feature includes two large posts, semi-circular walls with fences on top, and two heavy gates with ornamental ironwork above. The walls and fences match the other walls and fences. The iron gates are approximately 35" wide x 2" thick. The ornamental ironwork above the gates was too high to measure or to assess its condition. Oxidized bronze plaques measuring 19 5/8" wide x 24 3/4" tall hang on the south side of both large ornate posts. The staining seen beneath each plaque suggests that cleaning and waxing is needed. The iron fence and gates are in fair to poor condition depending upon location. The bottom rails and lower sections of the pickets are badly deteriorated because of urine. The condition of the upper sections matches the fence along the street.

Recommendations: Clean, wash and repair all brick and stone features. Assess the condition of the bricks and coping, replace material with matching material and repoint as needed. The plaques need to be cleaned and waxed periodically to retard corrosion and to provide a protective barrier to moisture. Assess the condition of the deteriorated iron components and replace as needed. Clean, restore and repaint the entire fence and ironwork as needed.



Looking north at the Gold Street Gate



Looking south and down at the Gold Street Gate



Detail view of the west brick post



Looking west at the gate posts and the fence beyond



Corner post at the southwest corner of ABG



Looking north at the outside face of the west wall
with fence above



Looking east along the backside of the fence



Detail view the brick wall and coping



Ornate fence panel at each step in the wall



Detail view of the ornate ironwork and wall



Looking southwest at the gate



Looking southeast at the gate



The gateway and ironwork are impressive



Detail view the medallion's ironwork on the gates



The low walls in the alcove at the gate need work – bricks need replacing and repointing





Examples of the deteriorated ironwork in the alcove due to years of urination

Day Gate with wall and fence

During the kick-off meeting with members of the ABGA, it was mentioned that the Day Gate has been moved several times. The existing sections of wall with fence and the gates are nearly 64' long. The southern wall is 22'-4" long and its fence is 23' long. The central section has two 4' long walls and a pair of iron gates that are 3'-9" wide. The northern wall is 19'-6" long and its fence is 19'-8" long. The two sections of wall vary in height because of the sloping grade along Main Street. The southern end of the wall is approximately 15" tall while the northern end is approximately 10" tall. The coping is in poor condition and each is broken where the fence post was set into them. Some of the bricks are in fair to poor condition and spotted repointing is needed. The black painted fence is rusted and peeling, but generally in fair to good condition. The fence posts are 3" square and have a 3" diameter ball-shaped finial on top. The bottom rail is 2" wide x $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. The middle rail, which is 25" above the bottom rail, is 2" wide x $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. The top rail is 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " above the middle rail and also is 2" wide x $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick. The solid pickets are $\frac{1}{2}$ " square and maintain a gap of 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ " between each picket. The picket bottoms extend 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " beneath the lower rail and the tops of the pickets extend 5" above the top rail. The picket tops have been ground down and made rounded.

The central gate area is highlighted by two short posts that are aligned with the previously described walls and fence and two taller posts that are set back and are aligned with the gates. The posts and walls have a brownstone base and limestone upper with ornate brickwork above, all capped with limestone. The larger posts have ornately designed caps and finials on top. The bricks are worn and weathered, and many are in poor condition. The low walls have inset brick panels, which provide an ornate relief detail to each wall. A 3'-3" long wall connects the small posts to the large posts and a 4' long wall x 3'-9" tall wall connects the large posts to the ironwork standards at each side of the gates. All of the ironwork is in good condition, though the black paint is peeling and some rust exists. The two heavy gates sit upon a 7" high step of granite that is 24" wide and approximately 11'-6" long.

Recommendations: Clean and wash all of brick and stone features. Use matching brick to replace the badly damaged brick and repair and repoint as needed. Replace the damaged copings with materials that match. Seal the opening between the fence posts and the copings

with a modern and flexible sealer to keep moisture out. Clean, restore and repaint the fence and ironwork as needed.



Looking west at the Day Gate



Looking east at the Day Gate and Main Street beyond



Another view of the Day Gate and brick walls



Detail view of the northern wing wall



Looking north along the fence and wall



Looking south along the fence and wall



Ornate ironwork



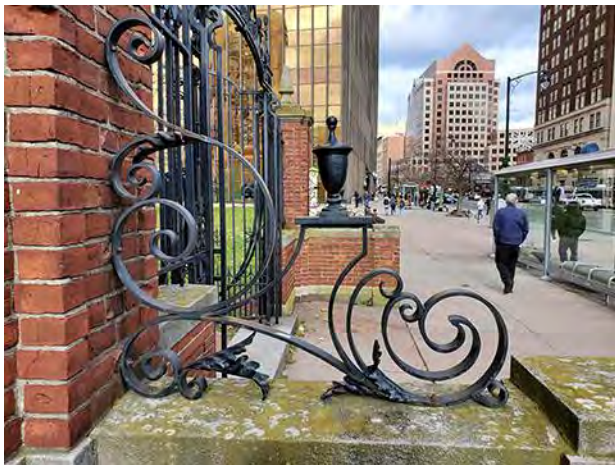
Picture of the walls, posts and ironwork



Cracked and broken coping at all fence posts



Detail view of rusted fence with ball-finial and rounded picket tops



Ornate ironwork



Detail view of the different materials at the gate



Detail view the gate



Detail view of the latch on the gate

Modern Steel Fence

All of the other fences and gates are black, modern and steel, and were installed in 2014 when the other site work was done. These fences and gates are 6' tall. The gates vary in width depending upon their location. The two pedestrian gates on either side of the Day Gate are 6' wide, the double vehicular gate immediately south of the Gold Building are 5'-8" wide and the pedestrian gate on the north property line is 4'-2" wide. These sections of fence and the gates are in good condition, except for the one picket along the section of fence facing Main Street that is bent and now provides access into the ABG when the gates are closed and locked.

Recommendations: Carefully assess the entire length of the steel fence. Straighten the bent picket if possible or replace the entire panel of fence if needed.



Steel fence along east edge of ABG



Steel fence above and just west of the curved brick wall



Bent picket in Main Street side of fence



Detail of the latch and lock



Double pedestrian gate at northeast corner of ABG



Looking east along fence by the Gold Building



Looking west at the fence and the 2014 plantings



The historic fence changes to the 2014 fence near the southwest corner of the ABG

Modern Brick Retaining Wall

The 2014 curved brick retaining wall with concrete coping that faces Main Street. This wall is in good condition. Its semi-circular layout was part of a larger plan for improvements in this area that were never built.

Recommendations: Clean, wash and repair the wall as needed to keep appearance up.



Modern brick wall (2014) beyond the sculpture



Detail view of the brick wall's construction



Looking west at the brick walls and stairs that emphasize the entrance from Main Street



Looking east at the tops of the walls



The curved brick wall along the east side of the ABG



Seating

Seating is provided at strategic locations and consists of modern benches with and without backs, a wood-slat bench and a pink granite bench. The modern benches include three 6'-2" long black steel benches with backs, located at the curved brick wall, and four 6'-2" long black steel benches without backs, located at the Founders Monument and the seating area in the southwest corner. These modern benches, which are in good condition, were added in 2014. The seating area at the Founders Monument and in the southwest corner are contained by 6" wide granite edging, which is in good condition.

The 6' long pressure treated wood board bench is located near the northwest corner of the Church. The bench seat is made with four 2x4's and the back with three 2x4's. The ornamental concrete legs appear to be older and are 3" wide and set 4'-10 1/4" apart. This bench is in fair to good condition.

A pink granite bench, measuring 18" wide x 4' long and 16.5" high is located adjacent to the Rev. Samuel Stone sculpture, in the brick plaza. The seat is 4.5" thick and has a rock-face finish. The two legs are 4" thick. This bench is in good condition.



3 modern benches with backs facing Main Street



Wooden bench adjacent to the church



Modern benches at seating area near SW corner

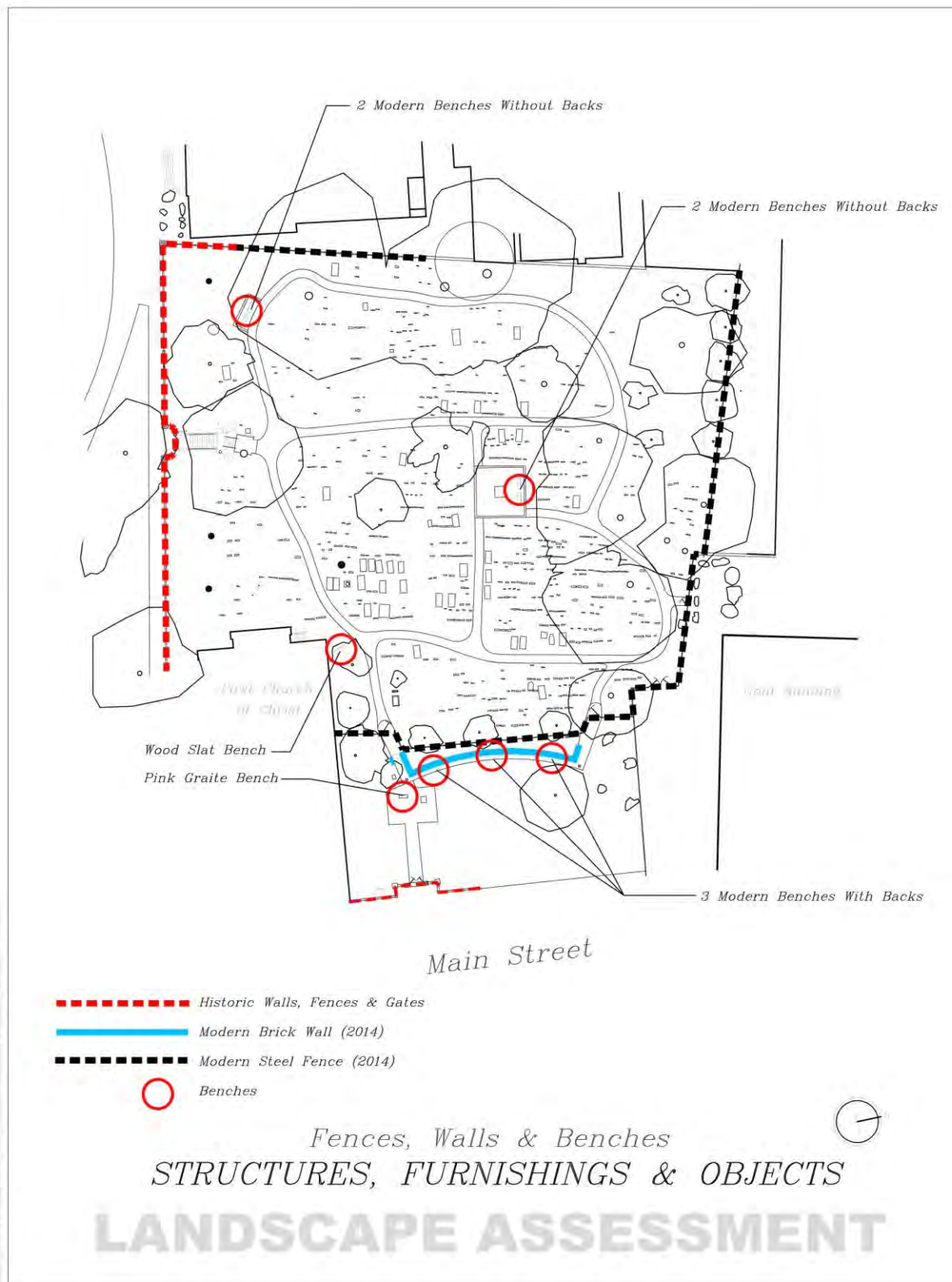


Modern benches at Founders Monument



Pink granite bench near Rev. Samuel Stone sculpture

Recommendations: The locations and quantity of seating appear sufficient. Consider replacing the pressure treated boards with cedar boards or a modern, durable material that is difficult to burn and carve. Consider filling the depression below the wooden bench and add some bluestone for feet to rest on, which will eliminate the depression.



G. Signs

Numerous signs exist, each with a different purpose including identification, history/interpretive, safety, rules and memorial. Several different materials, colors, ages and condition exist across all of the signs, creating a sense of visual chaos. Materials vary from bronze and/or copper plaques to paper, plastic and other modern materials. These variations create visual clutter that should be simplified and organized into a unified design and palette (colors and materials).

Identification

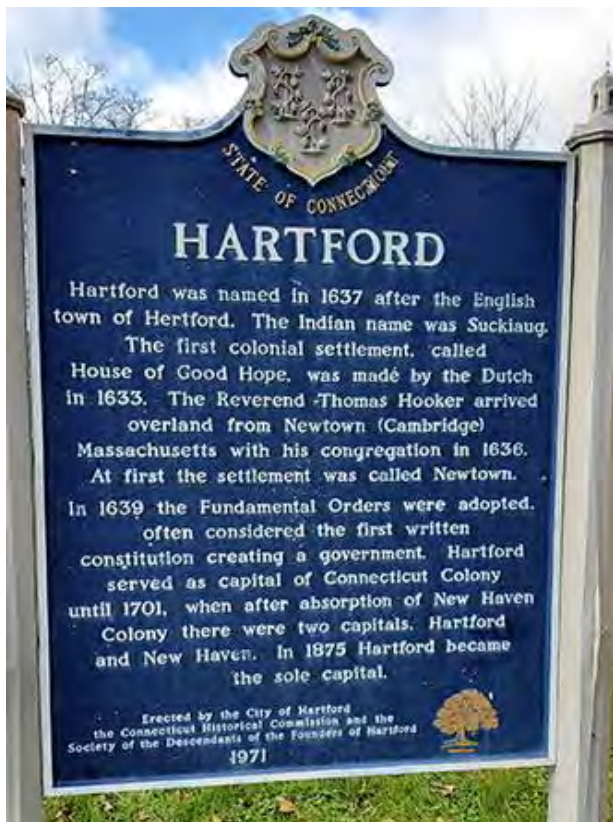
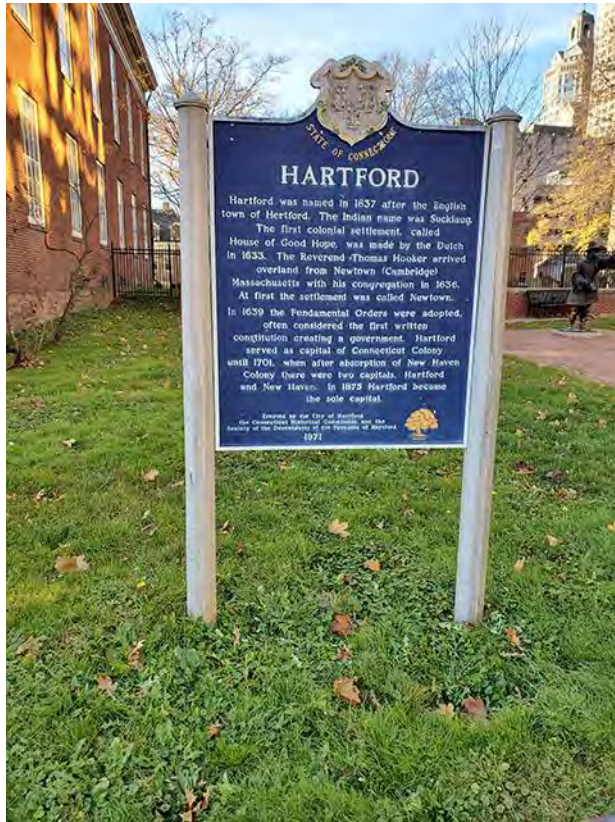


The City of Hartford recently installed this welcoming and informational sign as part of a city-wide wayfinding program. It is located near the stairs at the Gold Street Gate.

History



This sign shows the locations and names of the headstones. It is hidden behind the Gold Street Gate and is in poor condition.



This sign was erected by the City of Hartford in 1971. It is located near the Day Gate and is in fair condition.



Two historic plaques are mounted on either side of the Gold Street Gate. These are in good condition, but need to be cleaned, waxed and maintained to prevent future staining.

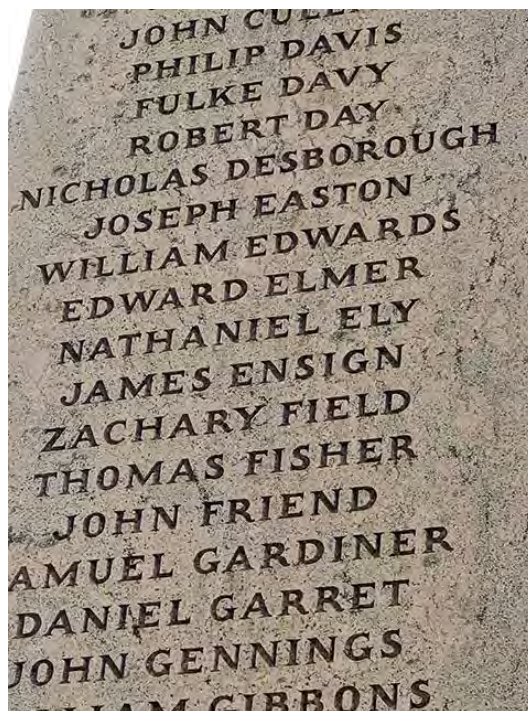


This plaque, which is in fair to good condition is set into the concrete walk at the Day Gate. "It was placed in 1960 by a joint effort of the CT Historical Society, The City of Hartford, and the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford."¹⁹



This plaque, which is in good condition acknowledges the location of the original approach into the ABG. Please note that a smaller plaque on the face of the base is now missing.

¹⁹ Shapleigh-Brown, Ruth. Email to Thomas Elmore, December 17, 2022.



The existing Founders Monument (2022) is a pink granite replacement of the original monument. Its in good condition. Additionl names were added to this monument and the order of the names was made alphabetical.²⁰

Rules



New rule signs have differing mounts depending upon location. The left sign is at the Gold Street Gate and the right sign is attached to the black metal gates near the Main Street entrance.

²⁰ Holcombe, Anne. Email to Thomas Elmore, January 20, 2023.

History/Historical Markers/Plaques



Memorial plaque over the Day Gate appears to be in good condition.



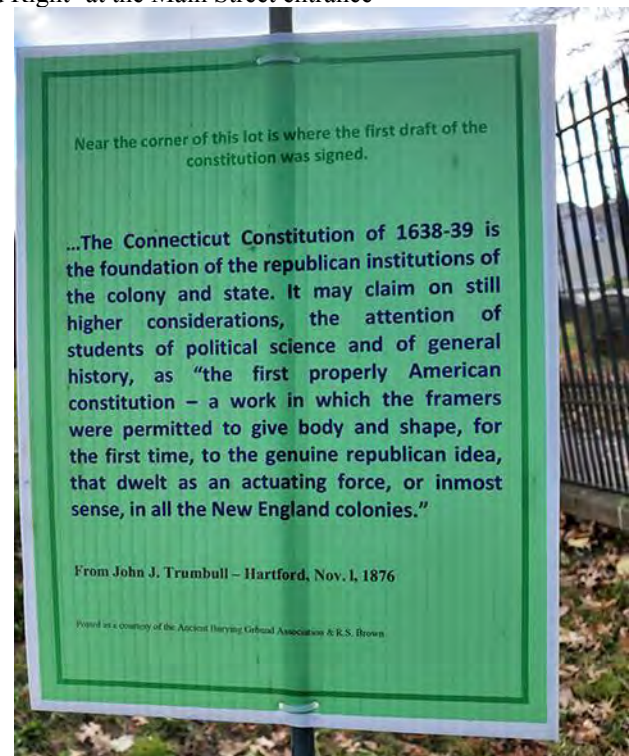
The Olmsted Family Association provided this plaque and the Norway maple in July 1986 in memory of Olmsted family members that were part of the original founders of the City of Hartford in June 1636.²¹

²¹ Norway maple trees are hardy street trees that were commonly planted in the last half of the 20th-century, but have been categorized since then as an invasive species and are discouraged from being planted.

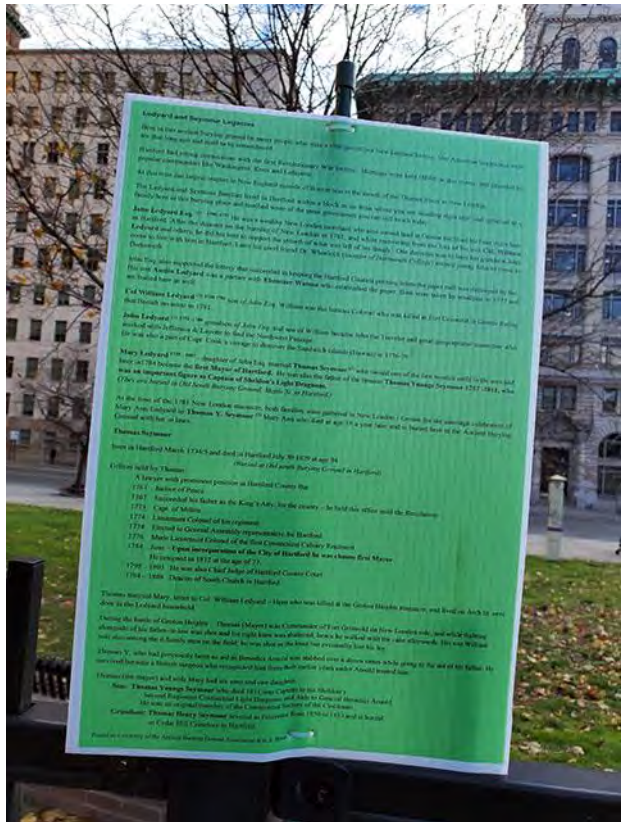
Interpretive



Clear plastic boxes with covers are located at each entry and provide interpretive brochures about the ABG.
Left – at the Gold Street Gate and Right- at the Main Street entrance



Interpretive signs provide pieces of history and relate to the brochures.



More interpretive signs, which are informative but are not made of durable materials.



Freedom Trail sign post (6" sq. granite post standing 4'-6 1/2" tall and set in concrete) and 6" square plaque located on the left side of the Main Street entrance.



Multiple signs and a brochure box adorn the fence at the Main Street entrance, creating a sense of visual clutter.

Safety

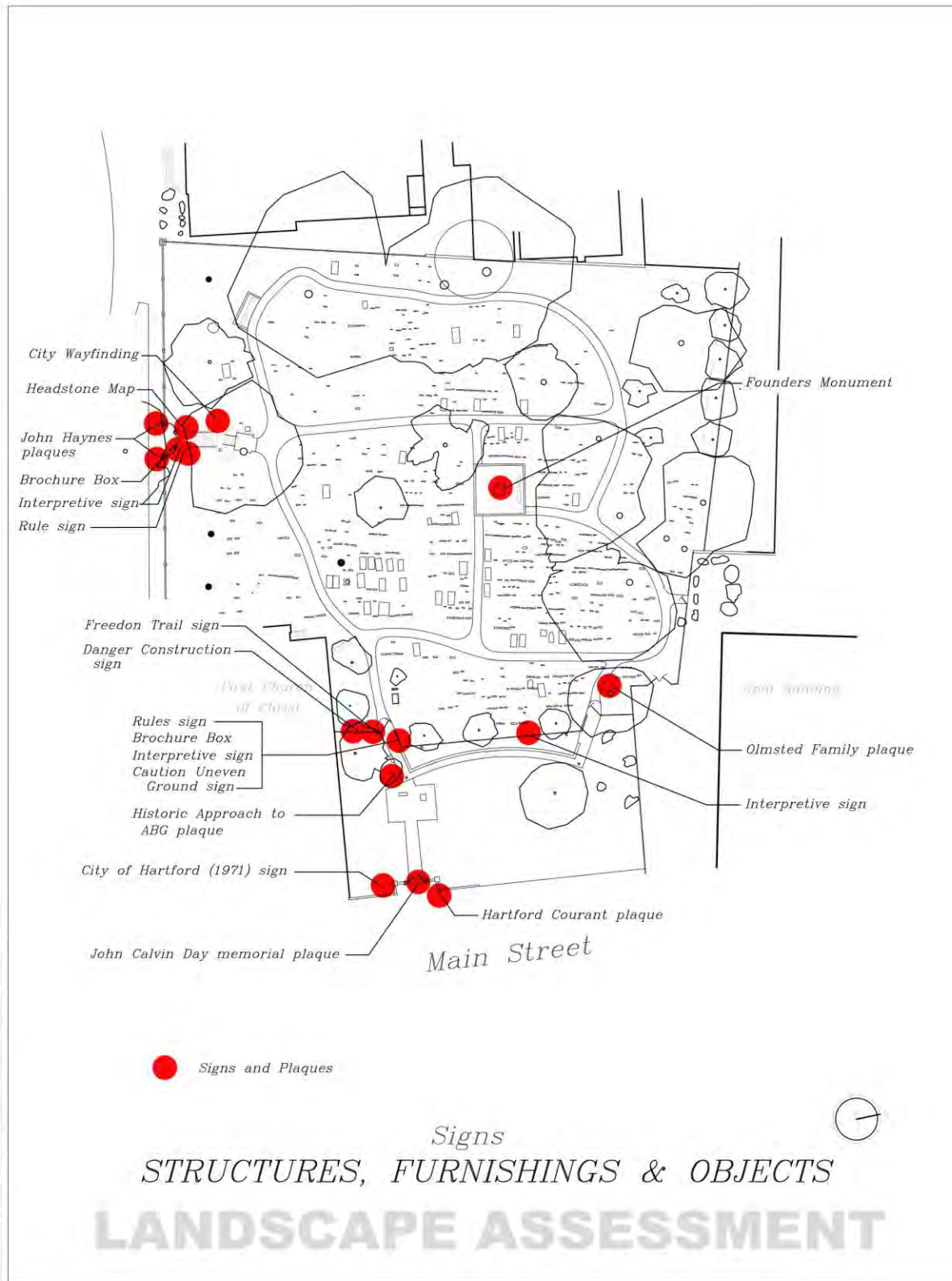


This sign warns visitors of the potentially hazardous walking paths within the ABG.



The construction warning sign is no longer needed

***Recommendations:** Develop a cohesive signage program with consistent materials, colors, fonts, etc. Eliminate all signs that are no longer needed. Consider installing a sign with the existing headstone layout and names at each of the entrances in prominent, but not visually intrusive, locations. Review the purpose of the temporary signs that are informative and consider making them permanent additions to the site. Care must be taken not to clutter this historic landscape with too many signs. Eliminate the color purple from all existing and future signs. Develop sign programs for specialty tours that can easily be installed and then removed after the special event or tours are completed.*



III. RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: *Make sure that the CT State Archaeologist is on-site for any and all digging activities.*

A. Spatial Organization, Land Pattern, and Context

Proceed slowly and carefully to maintain and improve this historic landscape while retaining its character and sense of place.

B. Topography and Erosion

Work to retain the historic topography while maintaining and improving this historic landscape.

C. Vegetation

Assess the condition of all of the trees and prune, fertilize and treat as needed. Consider propagating the mature specimen trees and plant them in the future to continue their germplasm. Lower the grade around the maples along the east fence as these trees were planted too deep, i.e., their root flare is buried. Let the stumps rot carefully away while making sure the soil in the vicinity of the headstone does not collapse as the roots disintegrate. Fill in all low areas with soil and then seed and fertilize accordingly. Install the Planting Design prepared by Elmore Design Collaborative, LLC to enhance the grounds. Develop a realistic and achievable maintenance plan for properly caring for all trees and shrubs.

D. Views and Viewsheds

Maintain views into and across the ABG for aesthetic and safety purposes.

E. Circulation and Accessibility

Vehicular Circulation

Make all future vehicular access into and through ABG lay down a material to prevent damage of the walking paths and edge restraints.

Pedestrian Circulation

Access from Gold Street

1. Area below the stairs

Clean, wash and repair both walls. Lower the grade on the outside of both low retaining/cheek walls to at least 6" below the top of the copings. Remove and rebuild the northern wall using salvaged materials from the original and replace damaged materials with those that match.

2. Lower Set of Stairs

Clean, wash and repair these stairs. The dirt on the outside of both cheek walls should be lowered to at least 6" below the top of the copings. The cheek walls should be replaced with materials that match. Remove, restore and reinstall black painted handrails.

3. Mid-level Bluestone Landing

Clean, wash and reset the bluestone. Document the design and layout of the bluestone with photographs and a numbering system before removing the stones. Salvage the bluestone for reuse. Adjust the base material as needed and make sure there is at least 6" of compacted gravel base in place. Add more gravel as needed. Reset the bluestone to ensure the surface is smooth and even with positive drainage to either side. Install edge restraint.

4. Bluestone Stairs

Clean and wash these stairs. Remove, restore and reinstall black painted handrails.

5. Top Bluestone Landing

Clean, wash and reset the bluestone. Document the design and layout of the bluestone with photographs and a numbering system before removing the stones. Salvage the bluestone for reuse. Assess the condition and location of the Sugar maple tree and the damage it is causing to the paving. Adjust the gravel base material as needed and make sure there is at least 6" of compacted gravel base in place. Add more gravel as needed. Reset the bluestone to ensure the surface is smooth and even with positive drainage to either side. Install edge restraint.

Access from Main Street

1. From the Day Gate to ABG

Consider creating an ADA and universal accessible route from Main Street into ABG, as no such route presently exists.

2. Crushed Stone Walks within ABG

Evaluate the usefulness of the existing walks for their original intended purpose and consider replacing with a different accessible and porous walking system. Inspect the drainage system to make sure it is working or to see if it is clogged. Develop a usable maintenance plan that can and will be implemented.

F. Drainage

Make sure that the CT State Archaeologist is on-site for any and all digging activities. Carefully open and inspect the existing drainage infrastructure in several areas to establish a good understanding of their condition...are they open and working or are they clogged and not working. Then plan next steps based on the inspection results. Review the low areas during a heavy rain event to establish where and why they exist and develop a remediation plan accordingly.

G. Site Features, Furnishings and Objects

1. Gold Street Gate with wall and fence

Clean, wash and repair all brick and stone features. Assess the condition of the bricks and coping, replace material with matching material and repoint as needed. The plaques need to be cleaned and waxed periodically to retard corrosion and to provide a protective barrier to moisture. Assess the condition of the deteriorated iron components and replace as needed. Clean, restore and repaint the entire fence and ironwork as needed.

2. Day Gate with wall and fence

Clean and wash all of brick and stone features. Use matching brick to replace the badly damaged brick and repair and repoint as needed. Replace the damaged copings with materials that match. Seal the opening between the fence posts and the copings with a modern and flexible sealer to keep moisture out. Clean, restore and repaint the fence and ironwork as needed.

3. Modern Steel Fence

Carefully assess the entire length of the steel fence. Straighten the bent picket if possible or replace the entire panel of fence if needed.

4. Modern Brick Retaining Wall

Clean, wash and repair the wall as needed to keep appearance up.

5. Seating

The locations and quantity of seating appear sufficient. Consider replacing the pressure treated boards with cedar boards or a modern, durable material that is difficult to burn and carve. Consider filling the depression below the wooden bench and add some bluestone for feet to rest on, which will eliminate the depression.

6. Sign

Develop a cohesive signage program with consistent materials, colors, fonts, etc. Eliminate all signs that are no longer needed. Consider installing a sign with the existing headstone layout and names at each of the entrances in prominent, but not visually intrusive, locations. Review the purpose of the temporary signs that are informative and consider making them permanent additions to the site. Care must be taken not to clutter this historic landscape with too many signs. Eliminate the color purple from all existing and future signs. Develop sign programs for specialty tours that can easily be installed and then removed after the special event or tours are completed.

Prioritized List of Recommendations

This prioritized list of recommendations was prepared with the help of Christine Jewell, Project Coordinator, Ty Tryon, President, Ancient Burying Ground Association, and Anne Holcombe, Secretary, Ancient Burying Ground Association.

- 1 & 2 Drainage and interior pedestrian circulation. Work to include:
 - A. Prepare site/land survey of the topography to confirm existing grades, to see what changes have occurred since 2012 and to field locate all of the walks and the stairs leading to the Gold Street gate.
 - B. Field verify if the existing drainage system is working as planned by open all grates as well as several area of the 4" perforated drainage.
 - C. Remove and replace the existing crushed stone paths and aluminum edging and replaced with another porous walkway system that is reinforced to support future equipment that is used within the ABG.
 - D. Repair, restore, rebuild, and rehabilitate the stairs, check walls, walks, landings and handrails leading in from the Gold Street Gate. Lower the soil grades as noted herein.
 - E. Repair all disturbed lawn areas as needed – fine grade, seed, fertilize and gently water.
 - F. Properly disposed of all excess materials as needed.
3. Repair bent picket in fence fencing Main Street
4. Gold Street Gate and Fence Restoration
5. Signage and wayfinding design
- 6 and up Everything else

IV. BUDGET PROJECTIONS / COST ESTIMATES

COST ESTIMATE												
Project Ancient Burying Ground												
Location Hartford, Connecticut												
Sr #	ERE	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	WASTE	TOTAL QTY	UNIT	COST/UNIT	MATERIAL TOTAL	UNIT LABOR	TOTAL LABOR	TOTAL COST	TRADE COST
CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE												
1		SITE SURVEY	1.0	0%	1.0	LS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500	\$ -	\$ 4,500
		Site Survey										
		REPAIRING: REMOVAL										
2		Install protection pad between gates and walkway										
3		Remove & Dispose Of 4" Thick Existing Crushed Stone Path	5155.1	5%	5412.9	SF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.50	\$ 46,009	\$ 46,009	\$ 2,500
4		Remove & Dispose Of Aluminum Edging	1288.8	5%	1353.2	LF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3.25	\$ 4,398	\$ 4,398	\$ 4,398
		Repair, Rebuild, Re-surface The stairs and check wall										
5		Remove two Bivalve Stone Landings	123.2	5%	129.3	SF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15.00	\$ 1,940	\$ 1,940	\$ 1,940
6		Repair The Hard PA's	48.4	5%	50.8	LF	\$ 48.00	\$ 2,437	\$ 19.00	\$ 965	\$ 3,402	\$ 3,402
7		Clean and wash both check walls									\$ 500	\$ 500
8		Remove & rebuild northern check wall and base of stairs									\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750
9		Clean and Wash all stairs									\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
		Earthwork										
10		Lower grade along both sides of stairs and check walls									\$ 1,850	\$ 1,850
11		Minor grading along both sides of walkway (ave. 1.5' each side)									\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
		DRAINAGE										
12		Open and inspect existing drainage (inlets & 4" perf pipe)									\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
13		Repair opened 4" perf pipe									\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
		FENCE and WALKWAYS										
14		Straighten bent p/sect in 6" tall steel fence (replace panel if needed)									\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
15		Prepare Base for porous paving									\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
16		Add 1"-2" Thickness of 3/8" Crushed Stones & Hand Rake and Roll Surface (4'-0" Wide)	5044.0	5%	5296.2	SF	\$ 6.20	\$ 32,836	\$ 9.25	\$ 48,990	\$ 81,826	\$ 81,826
17		Install Non-Woven Geotextile On Prepared Base (Min. 160) On Prepared Base	5044.0	5%	5296.2	SF	\$ 2.20	\$ 11,652	\$ 2.45	\$ 12,976	\$ 24,627	\$ 24,627
18		Install Geopave With U-Clips	5044.0	15%	5800.6	SF	\$ 4.58	\$ 26,567	\$ 3.50	\$ 20,302	\$ 46,869	\$ 46,869
19		Install Organic-Lock porous paving									\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000
20		Install loam and sod in remaining Geopave for lawn surface									\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
21		Reset two Blue Stone Landings with edge restraint									\$ 6,250	\$ 6,250
SUB TOTAL											\$329,922	\$329,922
OVERHEAD											\$32,992	\$32,992
PROFIT											\$39,591	\$39,591
INSURANCE											\$3,299	\$3,299
CONTINGENCY											\$82,481	\$82,481
NET TOTAL											\$485,285	\$485,285