

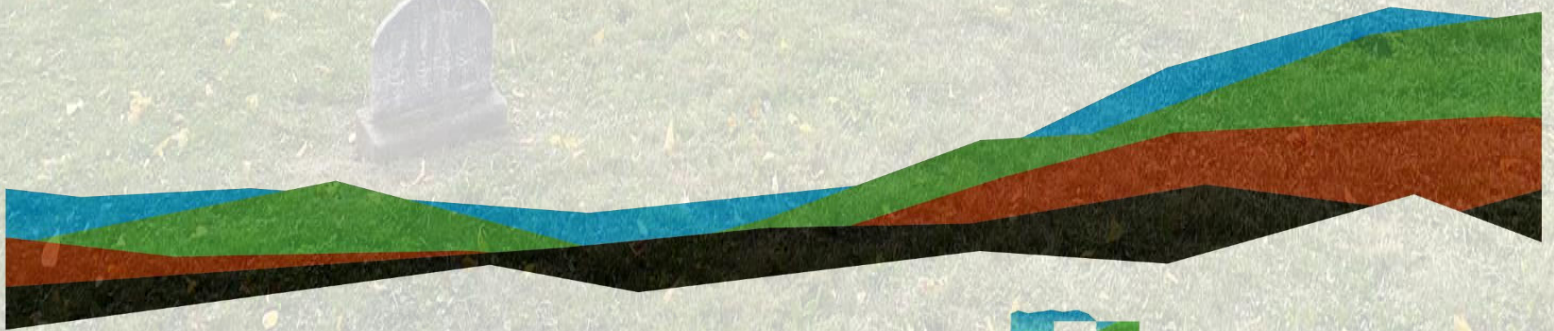
Payne Chapel AME Cemetery

Pennsylvania African American
Preservation Plan Project

March 19, 2024 | Report Number: EQ237123

Prepared for:

Preservation Pennsylvania
1230 N 3rd Street, Ste 1
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102



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- Facilities
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- Geotechnical
- Materials

Payne Chapel AME Cemetery Preservation Plan
Borough of Canonsburg
Washington County, Pennsylvania

Prepared for
Preservation Pennsylvania
1230 N 3rd Street, Suite 1
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102

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March 2024

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Executive Summary

Terracon Consultants Inc. (Terracon), of Jacksonville, Florida conducted a site conditions assessment of Payne Chapel AME Cemetery in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. The objectives of this project were to create a baseline Preservation Plan, to include recommendations for continued marker stabilization and future preservation activities. Work was intended to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) as implemented by 36 CFR 800 (Protection of Historic Properties), Pennsylvania History Code. Work also conformed to the professional guidelines set forth in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (48 FR 4416). Planning methods complied with the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission's Bureau for Historic Preservation's *Guidance for Historic Preservation Planning*.

The Payne Chapel AME Cemetery Preservation Plan introduction looks at the initiation of the Preservation Plan and provides a context for how the plan began.

Under the guidance of Rev. Marilyn Fisher and Hazel Murray, a cemetery stewards' group (cemetery committee) was formed and meets regularly, on the first Monday of each month. Terracon historic preservation staff met with the stewards on October 5, 2023, for a site visit to learn about the group's goals and successes thus far. These goals are incorporated here in, as well as an outline of preliminary plan elements.

Acknowledgements

This publication has been financed in part with historic preservation grant assistance provided by Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds (PAHG) and by Preservation Pennsylvania (Preservation PA) with support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Fund and the 1772 Foundation.

Terracon is extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with Preservation PA and PAHG to provide planning assistance for Payne Chapel Cemetery in Canonsburg, PA. We would like to thank Rev. Marilyn Fisher and Ms. Hazel Murray for their tireless efforts to organize a cemetery stewards committee, extensive background research and outreach to decendants of the interred; as well as Ms. Murray's sketch of the cemetery including extant headstones and numerous photos. (Photo rights stated throughout this document)

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Introduction

Established in 1854, Payne Chapel AME Cemetery is located in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania and is one of the earliest established African American cemeteries in the area. It serves as the final resting place for several founding members of the Payne Chapel AME Church as well as veterans from several wars including the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korea War.

Payne Chapel AME Cemetery is approximately 1.3 acres and is bordered by the northern perimeter of the Payne Chapel AME Church parcel to the north, Payne Place with residential housing to the east, a railroad (Pittsburgh and Ohio Central Railroad) to the south, and Chartiers Creek to the west (**Figure 1**). The property is owned by the AME Diocese of Pennsylvania and maintained by the stewards of the cemetery (church leadership and friends of the cemetery). In July of 2023, a grant from Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds (PAHG), in conjunction with Preservation Pennsylvania, was awarded with the purpose of producing a comprehensive preservation plan for the Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery.

The Historic Preservation staff for Terracon Consultants, Inc. (Terracon) of Jacksonville, Florida, coordinated these efforts and compiled data for final reporting purposes. The objectives of this project were to develop a plan to assist cemetery stewards with prioritizing maintenance, interpretation and preservation needs. In addition, the consultant was to assist the cemetery stewards with identifying and preparing specifications for priority tasks that address key cemetery needs.¹

To develop a successful plan for the cemetery, Terracon worked closely with the Payne Chapel AME Cemetery Committee, with members including Hazel Murray and Rev. Marilyn Fisher. The committee has adopted the following mission statement:

The mission and purpose of the Payne AME Chapel Cemetery Committee is to provide for the cemetery's preservation and maintenance, to bring recognition to its historical value by documenting its past, and to honor and pay tribute to those individuals buried there.

A preservation plan for a historic cemetery is a working document intended to be a tool for local staff to use as a guide for both everyday maintenance and future management and interpretation efforts. Additionally, a cemetery master plan provides all known information about the site in a single location. For all these reasons, a master plan is not intended to be a static document and should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

¹ <https://pahallowedgrounds.org/grants-and-funding-sources/>



Figure 1. Project location map

Methodology

Background Research

Among the initial steps of developing the preservation plan was to review the records of PA-SHARE (Pennsylvania's Historic & Archaeological Resource Exchange) for the Borough of Canonsburg and County of Washington, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (State Archives), Penn State University Libraries (including historic aerials), Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Library of Congress (including Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps), and local newspapers and libraries. Church leadership and the Payne Chapel AME Cemetery Committee provided invaluable information and records regarding the history and conditions of the Cemetery. All information collected is represented in this Preservation Plan.

Few surveys or reports have been conducted for the Borough of Canonsburg and Washington County regarding the extant historic resources. Each survey report holds valuable information relating to the development of Canonsburg, and Washington County, overall. Those reports include:

- 1995 – A Study of Agricultural/Vernacular Architecture of Central and Southwestern Pennsylvania: With a Particular Emphasis on the Barns of These Regions
- 2020 - African American Churches and Cemeteries in Pennsylvania, c. 1644-c1970 (National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form)

Terracon followed the broad requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and NPS's *Preservation Brief 48: Preserving Grave Markers in Historic Cemeteries*. The *Brief* goes over burial marker materials and the risk factors that contribute to their deterioration. It also provides guidance on condition assessment and preservation treatments and resources.

Field Investigation

The goal of this Preservation Plan was to help prioritize marker repairs and provide Best-Practice Maintenance to eliminate vandalism and loss. Another important aspect was to provide the best solution for historic tree maintenance, as some markers were found to be altered or damaged due to historic tree growth.

With coordination from stewards of the cemetery and Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds (PAHG), fieldwork was conducted in August and October of 2023. Upon arrival at Payne Chapel AME Cemetery, the consultant met with stewards of the cemetery and walked the grounds to assess the cemetery's physical condition and appearance, as well as take photographs and documentation. In addition to on-site visits, the consultant and stewards of the cemetery held phone and virtual meetings regarding pertinent information related to Payne Chapel.

Inclusion in Inventories

The Payne Chapel AME Cemetery is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), nor is it included in a local historic district. Both the cemetery and church have recently been recorded with the Pennsylvania Historic & Archaeological Resource Exchange (PA-SHARE) database, the state's GIS and online project management system for documenting and working with Pennsylvania's older and historic places. The Cemetery was assigned ID Number: 2023RE04732 and the church was assigned ID Number: 2023RE04731. Currently there are four resources in Canonsburg listed in the NRHP; none of which are historic districts. If a historic district were to be nominated in the future, Payne Chapel AME Church and Cemetery should be considered when defining district boundaries.

Cemetery History

Evolution of Cemeteries

Early burials in the United States were primarily in churchyard cemeteries or common areas near the center of a city or town. These areas were typically treated as unattractive necessities to be avoided by the living and were most often neglected. The rural cemetery movement began in New England in 1831, as the central burial grounds became overcrowded and public health hazards. Larger cemeteries were established outside the city center, and many occupants of older graveyards were reinterred in these new park-like settings. The movement redefined the public's perception and resulted in a positive image of peacefulness surrounded by nature and even led to the creation of public parks. Tombstones became an art form: elaborate markers and walls defining the grave plots were erected by families.

The following decades saw a rise in the popularity of cremation and declining demand for monuments. Due to this, by 1855 the rural cemetery movement had evolved into a lawn cemetery movement. Common open space with unbroken lawn scenery characterized cemeteries of this era.

After 1920, the landscape had changed yet again with the rise of the memorial park movement. This reflected changing opinions in American society on death and mortality and a movement away from earlier severe view on the afterlife, and mortality towards a contemplative – rather than instructional – eternal resting place. The creation of peaceful memorial parks with trees and lawns also reflected economic growth in the United States, as they were managed by professionals who cared for every lot and grave. Grave markers flush with the ground became popular around this time as well.

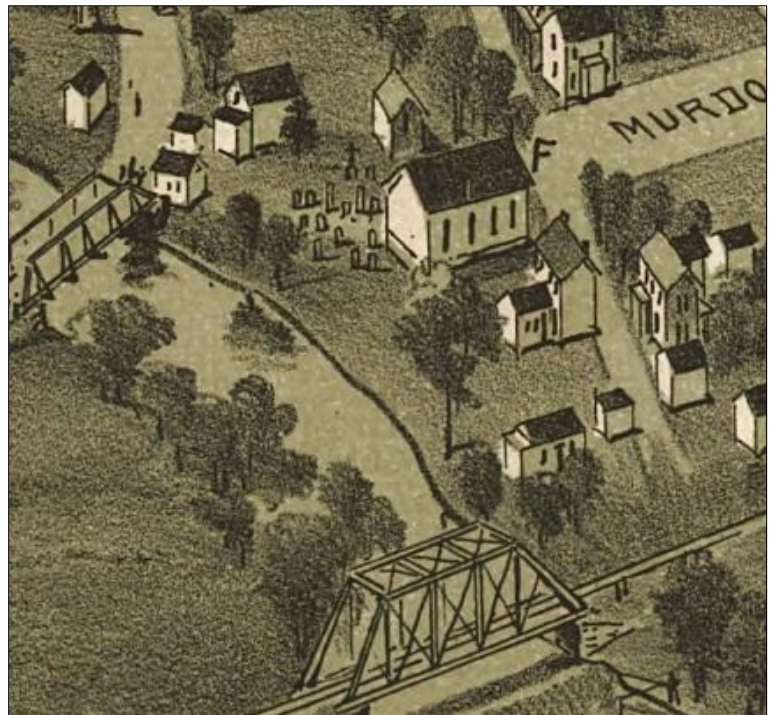


Figure 2. Excerpt of the 1897 map of Canonsburg, Washington County, Pennsylvania detailing the Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery and previous church building

AME Churches and Cemeteries in Pennsylvania

The following is a brief synopsis covering the history of African American Episcopal (AME) churches and African American cemeteries in Pennsylvania. The NRHP Multiple Property Documentation Form for African American Churches and Cemeteries in Pennsylvania, c. 1644-c.1970 by Shelby Splain offers a more robust history covering the topic.

AME Churches

The emergence of the African American Episcopal (AME) church began in the late 18th century and into the 19th century in Pennsylvania. The AME church is one of the earliest Black church denominations active during this period among Pennsylvania's early African American communities. The denomination's first church was founded by Richard Allen in 1816 in Philadelphia, which is also the birthplace of several other early and significant independent Black congregations from the late 18th century to the close of the Civil War. In 1821, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ) Church, officially formed in New York City, where it first spread southwest into the northeast and north central areas of Pennsylvania. The AME church congregations in Philadelphia quickly spread across the state, particularly into small cities and towns in the southern half of the state along the Mason-Dixon line toward Pittsburgh and into the central region. Within the first half of the 19th century, several counties in the Commonwealth all had active AME and AMEZ congregations including: Bucks, Fayette, Washington, Susquehanna, and Crawford counties.

Similar to Payne Chapel AME, many of these early churches had humble beginnings. Church services were often held in private homes before a dedicated church building was the primary setting. The earliest 19th century structures consisted of simple, vernacular churches. What little surviving examples are left feature churches which are "rectangular in plan, one-to-one-and-a-half stories tall, stone, brick, or frame construction, a gable roof oriented with the gable to the street, a central door in the gable end, and small windows along each side to light the sanctuary."² An early map of Canonsburg (**Figure 2**) depicts Payne Chapel AME Church, exhibiting some of the features mentioned above.

With the spread of AME and AMEZ denominations in the early 1800s, this meant that many of these congregations "could establish graveyards for their members adjacent to or near the church building; if land was not available, congregants were typically buried in municipal or private cemeteries in a designated church plot."³ The Bethel AME Church in Philadelphia is one of the earliest examples of a church with an established graveyard for its congregants and the community.

During the period between the late 18th century to the end of the Civil War, as Splain states, Black churches started to "define their multi-faceted role in Pennsylvania's African American culture."⁴ It was common for churches to serve as a cultural institution for the African American community, in which groups of people could gather for important activities. The most notable activities in Pennsylvania during this time were all related to drive toward freedom: anti-slavery societies, equal rights, and humanitarian aid via the Underground Railroad. For example, congregants from the Wesley African Methodist Episcopal Church in the state's capital were heavily associated with the Harrisburg Anti-Slavery Society. In 1830, the national meeting for the African American Convention Movement (later known as the Pioneer National Negro Convention), was held at Philadelphia's African American Methodist Episcopal Church to discuss the plight of African Americans as the lack of civil rights was deafening. Organizations and extensive networks (both underground and visible) continued to exist throughout the first half of the nineteenth century in various areas of Pennsylvania.

Following the Civil War and into the early Jim Crow era, AME and AMEZ churches continued to expand not only throughout the commonwealth, but into the south as well. Black denominations were becoming more diverse as African Americans from the south were migrating north in search for safety, job security, and family. This period is pivotal for the Black Church as it "solidified its role as a critical social welfare organization to meet the needs of Pennsylvania's African American communities as they changed to

² Splain 2020

³ Splain 2020

⁴ Splain 2020

accommodate Southern migrants moving north.”⁵ Around the beginning of World War I and throughout the 1920s, approximately 450,000 African Americans moved from the South into the North, including the commonwealth, in what is known as the Great Migration.⁶ The mass movement continued well after the 1920s and lasted until the 1970s. Church-sponsored social service work became a significant aid to the African American community. For example, the AME Church published special editions of its newspaper, covering topics about migration and migrant-led efforts for education and humanitarian aid.

Both in urban and rural areas in Pennsylvania, Black Church congregations continued to be a source for service and leadership throughout the struggle for civil rights. These churches were not only utilized as spiritual centers, but also as a platform for the African American community to organize or provide guidance on addressing Civil Rights issues, particularly segregation in education, recreation, in the workplace, and voting rights.

Within the last few decades of the twentieth and into the twenty-first century, Black Church congregations have declined in size due to demographic and cultural shifts. A combination of aging populations and cultural trends toward individual faith, rather than institutional worship, has resulted in the waning number of congregants. In terms of the demographic shift within Pennsylvania’s African American communities, Splain found that many Black Church congregations were faced with difficult decisions regarding their historic church buildings. In general, these congregations followed four paths⁷:

- *They remained viable and based at their historic church. (Example: Payne Chapel AME Church in Canonsburg, Washington County)*
- *They grew smaller and sold their property to consolidate with another congregation or purchase a newer, smaller church. (Example: AME church in Bedford, Bedford County)*
- *They lost their historic building to a natural disaster or through urban renewal and either rebuilt, moved to a new location, or disbanded. (Example: COGIC congregation in Mt. Union, Huntingdon County)*
- *They disbanded and their building was sold or abandoned/ (Example: Mt. Tabor AME church in Mount Holly Springs, Cumberland County)*

Each of these scenarios can be seen throughout Pennsylvania, both in large suburban cities and smaller suburban or rural areas, including Payne Chapel AME Church. More recently, a revived effort to “identify, recognize, and celebrate places associated with Pennsylvania’s African American history has led to more congregations and communities preserving their historic churches.”⁸

Cemeteries

In Pennsylvania, African American communities were often buried in certain types of cemeteries, such as a church graveyard, a family cemetery, an independent cemetery, or a segregated cemetery. As Splain puts it, these Black cemeteries are “characterized more by the treatment of burials as guided by African American agency and race relations than by their date of construction, design, or ownership.”⁹ The majority of Black cemeteries in the Commonwealth were legally segregated (or by de facto) from when they were started and did not integrate until the mid-twentieth century when the Civil Rights

⁵ Splain 2020

⁶ Splain 2020

⁷ Splain 2020, p. 34

⁸ Splain 2020, p. 34

⁹ Splain 2020

Movement established equal rights and treatment of African Americans and abolished legalized racial segregation, discrimination, and disenfranchisement. Cemeteries that are independent or segregated can fall into any time period as well as share the same characteristics of Potter's Fields or cemetery designs and styles from the Rural Cemetery, Lawn, and Memorial Park movements.¹⁰

Documented burial grounds for Africans and African Americans in Pennsylvania first appear during the early to mid-eighteenth century, with the 1740s Mohn's Farm Slave Graveyard in Elizabeth Township, Lancaster County being an example. During the same period, free African Americans who owned land in rural Pennsylvania were likely buried on their own property in a family cemetery, such as the NRHP listed Dennis Farm in Brooklyn Township, Susquehanna County.¹¹ If they did not own land in rural areas, free Africans or African Americans were buried either in a church graveyard or an independent or segregated cemetery, including Potter's Fields.¹² The same burial treatment was done for those that were free who lived in small towns and urban areas. Church graveyards were often segregated when the church had both African American and white congregants. Many churches, particularly Lutheran, Catholic, Methodist, and Baptist would either deny internment of African Americans or would relegate them to be buried in a segregated area.¹³ It was not until the establishment of Black church congregations in the early 1800s, namely AME and AMEZ denominations, did they create their own graveyards at or close to the church property.

As African American churches and their graveyards were thriving by the mid-1800s in Pennsylvania, African American-owned and -operated cemetery companies also began popping up, bolstering the Black community to exercise more authority over death rites and burials. Formed to purchase public or private land, often as a joint-stock entity, these companies sought to "serve the larger needs of the African American community that was perhaps shut out from other burial opportunities."¹⁴ The rise of the Rural Cemetery Movement was concurrent with the emergence of African American cemetery or burial companies.

As Pennsylvania's African American population was booming during the Great Migration, the segregation of cemeteries (whether informal or formal) continued to be practiced. As mentioned before, it was not until the Civil Rights era of the mid-twentieth century when the segregation (legal or by de facto) of African American burials in Pennsylvania stopped. Several court cases associated with the segregation of cemeteries occurred during this era, establishing precedent in how public and private cemeteries managed the issue of race and guaranteeing equal rights in purchasing property (such as a cemetery plot).¹⁵ In addition to the influential court cases, on July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981. The order mandated the desegregation of the US military and, by extension national cemeteries.

Payne Chapel AME Cemetery in Context

Payne Chapel African American Episcopal (AME) Church was first organized as early as 1824 in Morganza, an area northeast of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. According to historical records, the

¹⁰ Splain 2020

¹¹ Splain 2020

¹² See Woodlands Trust for Historic Preservation and Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, "Cemetery Preservation and Recordation: Preservation of Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries in Pennsylvania."

<https://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/cemetery-preservation/index.html>

¹³ Kruger-Kahloula 1994, p. 135-137

¹⁴ Splain 2020

¹⁵ Kruger-Kahloula 1994, p. 133; *Shelley v. Kraemer (1948)*; *Jones v. Mayer (1968)*

congregation was the first religious organization of African Americans in the vicinity, who would meet at private houses.¹⁶

Several decades later, the congregation petitioned the Pennsylvania Legislature “to invest a body of trustees with the title to a piece of land lying on the western edge of town, which had been owned by John Chase, a colored man who died intestate.” The General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania of 1854 passed Act 317, which stated, “...that the said lot of ground be...hereby vested in John Durham, John Sluby, William Johns, Washington Jackson, Elias Prall, trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal church of the town of Canonsburg.” The body of trustees of the AME church of Canonsburg was established as well as a lot for the placement of a church and burial ground. The lot of John Chase (deceased) became what is now the lot of Payne Chapel AME Church and Cemetery.

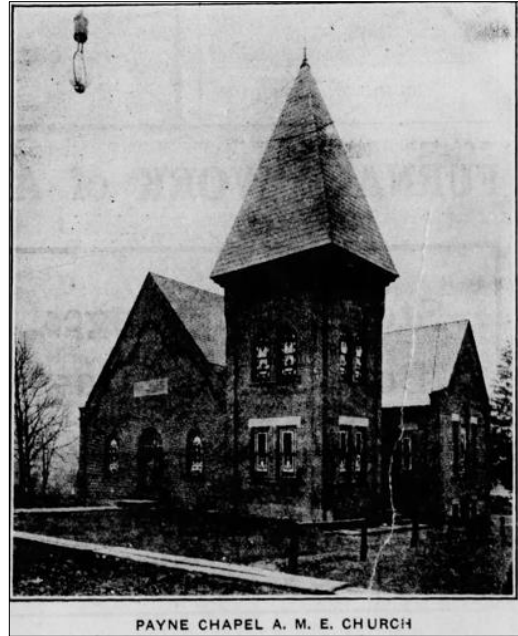


Figure 3. Payne Chapel A. M. E. Church, 1909

Construction of the first church was completed in 1856, just two years before the Cemetery’s first burial, John Durham. The next burial occurred four years later in 1861, when Samuel Cottle was interred. Samuel Cottle was a free man who lived in Canonsburg with his wife. In his will, it stated that his property were to be sold and all proceeds were to be given to his daughter, Melinda, a slave who was living in Virginia at the time. The proceeds from selling Cottle’s property were to be used for Melinda to purchase her freedom. If she could not buy her freedom within three years, the money were to be used to educated “poor colored children of Canonsburg and the vicinity.”¹⁷

Throughout the rest of the 19th century, Payne Chapel AME Cemetery continued to be used as a burial ground for the local African American community and members of the congregation. The church also continued to be used as a place of worship. In 1874, after about twenty years since it was erected, the church building was re-modeled. By the end of the century, construction began on a new church to replace the original. This was a common occurrence with many of the early churches constructed during the 19th century, as they were often demolished and replaced with more modern architecture. Concurrently, congregations were growing as were their wealth so that the demand and possibility of a newly constructed building was feasible.

In 1902, construction of the current church was completed and was dedicated in May of the same year. The building shares architectural features and characteristics that were popular during the late 19th to early 20th centuries. The early twentieth century Payne Chapel AME Church is characterized by Victorian influence including materials of contrasting colors and texture, arched windows and entryway, and a prominent tower coupled with a steep pyramidal roof.

Both the church and the cemetery continued to be used throughout the rest of the twentieth century. The last person interred in the cemetery was Kathryn E. McGant in 1995. Today, Payne Chapel AME

¹⁶ The Canonsburg Daily Notes, April 17, 1909

¹⁷ Observer-Reporter, July 12, 2023

Church remains a religious center with regular services held each Sunday under the direction of Pastor Marilyn Fisher.

Significant People & Families

Payne Chapel AME Cemetery contains the remains and memorial stones of several church founders, early trustees, veterans, and church members and their descendants. Veterans interred at the Cemetery separately fought in several wars such as the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korea War. The 26 Civil War Veterans interred at the Cemetery with memorial stones are shown in **Table 1**. Furthermore, a cemetery map depicting veteran burials and their plot locations was created by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s (**Figure 7**). This map lists soldier 'George Vactor' as being a Civil War veteran, however, according to Vactor's military record he enlisted in the 25th infantry in 1872 following the war.¹⁸

Table 1. Identified burials markers of Civil War veterans at Payne Chapel AME Cemetery

Samuel Asbury	Joseph Bryant	Jermiah Burgess
Jonathan Burgess	Eli Butcher	Samuel Dungee
George W. Derham	Daniel Johnson	Richard Kennedy
Abraham Lotterbury	John Morgan	Joseph Norman
Abraham Pool	Aron Randol	John Rutherford
J. B. Sluby	John Smith	G. W. Taylor
John Titus		

Additionally, notable names of the deceased include: Asbury, Betts, Black, Brown, Bryant, Briel, Burgess, Bush, Butcher, Caldwell, Caston, Catlin, Chambers, Cooper, Cordeek, Cottle, Denton, Davis, Dempster, Derham, Donahue, Dungee, Ferguson, Fullum, Gordon, Griffin, Drew, Chandler, Harper, Harris, Hayden, Henderson, Hill, Horton, Jackson, Johns, Johnson, Kennedy, Kisner, Lotterbury, Love, Mahan, Marks, Marshall, Martin, McGant, McCrea, McCroby, McGill, McGurdy, Mickey, Miller, Minnis, Morgan, Nix, Norman, O'Neill, Patterson, Praul, Prime, Randolf, Robinson, Rutherford, Shearrow, Skinner, Sluby, Smith, Taylor, Titus, Vactor, Walker, Wallace, Walls, Wasler, Wheeler, and Woods.

Some of the Payne Chapel AME Church founders with memorial stones include Margaret Vactor McCroby (1799-1910), Reuben Walls (1814-1886), William Wasler (1801-1877), and Boston Vactor (1809-1891).

¹⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/133009415/george-vactor>



Figure 4. 1939 aerial image depicting Payne Chapel AME Church and the Payne Chapel AME Cemetery. Image courtesy of Penn Pilot, Historical Aerial Photographs of Pennsylvania.

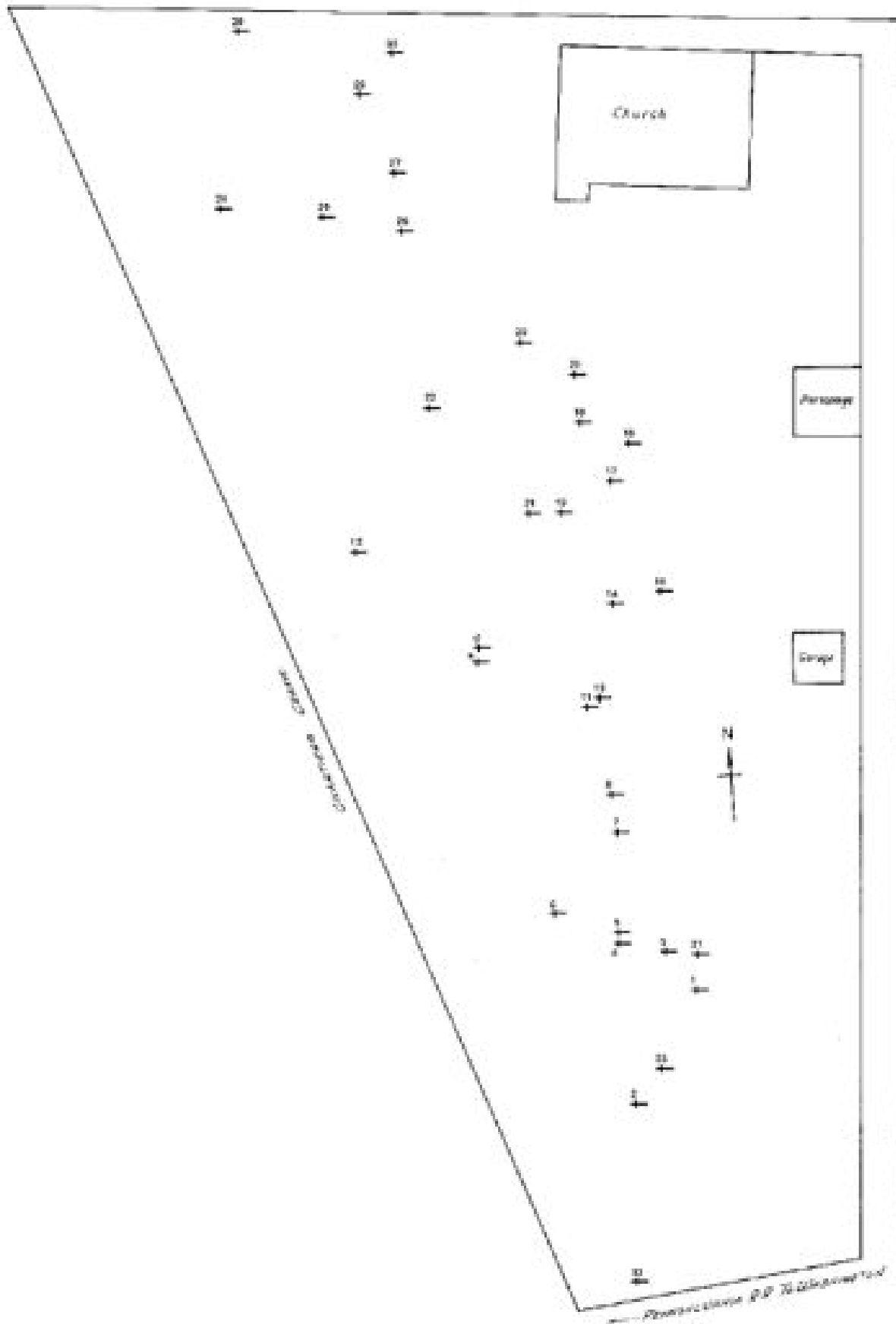


Figure 5. 1958 aerial image depicting Payne Chapel AME Church and the Payne Chapel AME Cemetery. Image courtesy of Penn Pilot, Historical Aerial Photographs of Pennsylvania.



Figure 6. 1967 aerial image depicting Payne Chapel AME Church and Payne Chapel AME Cemetery. Image courtesy of Penn Pilot, Historical Aerial Photographs of Pennsylvania.

Grave No.	Name	War	Grave No.	Name	War	Grave No.	Name	War
1	Burgess, Jerry	C	13	Pool, Abraham	C	25	No Name (W. W.)	
2	Prime, F. B.	W	14	Vactor, George	C	26	Stubby, J. B.	C
3	Caldwell, Dave	SA	15	Miller, Lloyd		27	Butcher, E. L.	C
4	Clark,		16	Rutherford, J. B.	C	28	No Name (Star)	
5	Johnson, Chas.	W	17	Hayden, P. E.	W	29	Randolf, Aaron	C
6	Smith, John	C	18	Asbury, S. D.	C	30	Durham, Geo. Wash.	C
7	Brown, Bell	C	19	Norman, J. E.	C	31	Caldwell, Jas. R.	SA
8	Dungee, Sam	C	20	Lotterbury, Abraham	C	32	McGill, James	W
9	Burgess, J.	C	21	Bryant, Joseph	C	33	Maham, Goldie	W
10	No Name Burgess Lot		22	Morgan, John	C		Taylor, C. N.	C
11	No Name By S. A. Brown		23	Kennedy, Richard	C			
12	Titus, J. W.	C	24	Taylor, G. W.	C			



PAYNE A.M.E.
 CHURCH CEMETERY
 CANONSBURG, PENNA.

29

Figure 7. Recorded veteran burial map, Works Progress Administration 1930s.

Physical Description

Payne Chapel AME Cemetery at 23 Payne Place in Canonsburg, Washington County, Pennsylvania, is a historically African American community cemetery. The 1.3-acre cemetery is on a polygon-shaped lot in an area of both residential and commercial buildings in Canonsburg. The cemetery grounds are on the eastern banks of Chartiers Creek. Its boundaries consist of the northern perimeter of the church parcel to the north; Payne Place with residential housing to the east; a railroad (Pittsburgh and Ohio Central Railroad) to the south; and Chartiers Creek to the west. The cemetery is accessed by a two-lane, dead-end street (Payne Place), but there is no vehicular or pedestrian path to navigate within the grounds.



Figure 8. Different views of Payne Chapel AME Cemetery

The cemetery's landscape is relatively level but slopes west toward Chartiers Creek at the property's western edge. A small, gravel strip on the western side of Payne Place toward the southern boundary of the property allows for parking outside the cemetery. The majority of the cemetery grounds are grassed and well-maintained by cemetery stewards. Mature trees are spaced throughout the grassy area, contributing to the overall character the cemetery. The western boundary along the creek is more densely wooded with trees and shrubs and is not as well-maintained as the remainder of the property. The environmental impact of this more wooded area can be seen in the conditions of some of the burial markers.

Upon first glance, the placement of marked graves appear to lack uniformity, given the spread out nature of many of the stones. However, after further investigation, the direction of which the marked graves are arranged, appear to be relatively linear, running from north to south and headstones oriented east, which is common in the Christian tradition. The alignment of the burial markers remains relatively uniform, to some extent, with some stones more aligned with neighboring stones than others.

Built Environment

The Payne Chapel AME Cemetery is a combination of open space and tree canopy with monuments scattered throughout the grounds (shown in **Figure 9**). Of the gravestones that remain, there is wide variety of marker types and materials. Stones may have been lost over time, and many markers would have been wood, given the time of development. Wood markers do not stand the test of time.



Figure 9. General landscape of Payne Chapel AME Cemetery

Marker Types & Materials

There are a variety of markers included in the Cemetery, primarily constructed of marble, granite, and concrete. Grave markers include but not limited to headstones, vertical stones, pillows, crosses, and vernacular stones.

Granite

A material that became extremely popular for grave markers in the 19th century, granite is an igneous rock that is extremely hard and resistant to weathering. It is made up of medium to coarse grained quarts, mica, and feldspar crystals. Granite is almost exclusively used for markers now and is an indicator of later burials in any cemetery (**Figure 10**).



Figure 10. Example of a granite headstone

Marble

Marble is a metamorphic limestone that has a wide variation in quality – the grade of stone is determined by the amount of calcite or dolomite in its composition. High grade marbles, such as Carrara marble are primarily calcite, while on the other end of the scale, poor quality marbles are composed mainly of dolomite. Dolomite contains magnesium which contributes to the breakdown of stone through weathering processes. The quality of marble, or “white stone” as it was sometimes called, also determines price, which in turn, usually denotes the socioeconomic status of the deceased. Marble for the colonies was quarried first in Europe and then, as early as the mid-1700s, in the New England region (**Figure 11**).



Figure 11. Example of a marble headstone

Concrete

Concrete is a man-made stone-like material composed of fine and coarse aggregates, cement, historically lime, and water which is poured or cast while wet and allowed to cure. It is generally identifiable by its material uniformity and typically has visible inclusions (including but not limited to sand, gravel, rock, smoothed stone, pebble, shell, or other crushed aggregate). Concrete ranges in color

depending on the materials used in the mix but typically is a gray-white or gray-tan color. It also ranges in strength and porosity based on the reinforcing members and mixture of materials.

Vernacular grave markers made of concrete were identified in the Cemetery (**Figure 12**). Repair or construction of cast concrete markers can usually be achieved by present-day masons who are familiar with the construction methods of the various types of grave coverings. As with any other marker restoration, reconstructed markers must be made as close to the original as possible, including size, shape and scale, materials, ornamental detailing, etc. If reconstruction is done for markers requiring armature, it is highly recommended that stainless steel is used in place of iron or other easily weathered metals that will eventually cause the same deterioration problems (316 Stainless Steel Alloy is marine grade alloy and holds up well). However, vernacular markers hold significance beyond historical reference to the burial; many vernacular markers hold cultural significance as well and simply refashioning a new marker with like material will not have the same significance as a historic marker.



Figure 12. Example of a concrete headstone

Sandstone

One of the earliest materials used as burial markers for early settlers in the region included sandstone. Depending on the region, the rock exists in a variety of colors and textures. Sandstone is attractive to use for burial markers, in that the rock can be cut easily into a flat, muted surface that is ideal for inscription. Native red sandstone was predominantly used for gravestones in the Pennsylvania region during the 18th century, eventually becoming less used as marble and granite became the prevalent materials. Sandstone was hand quarried, shaped into the desired style, and incised with the interred's relevant information and sometimes decorative detailing. The incisions were hand carved using hammers and chisels, making it a relatively expensive commodity (**Figure 13**).¹⁹

¹⁹ Bowman 2022



Figure 13. Example of a sandstone headstone

General Cemetery Information

Local Setting

Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery is located between the southern end of Payne Place and east of Chartiers Creek in Canonsburg, in a suburban landscape edged by a church (Payne Chapel AME), a residential building, and an active railroad (Pittsburgh and Ohio Central Railroad).

Zoning & Future Land Use

The current zoning of the cemetery property is in R-2 Medium Density Residential in the Canonsburg Borough of Washington County, Pennsylvania. It would be beneficial for the Borough to designate specific zoning for the site and cemeteries in general, so that the zoning is conducive to cemetery preservation.

City/County Plans, Ordinances, Resolutions, Etc.

The County of Washington's Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Washington County Board of Commissioners in September of 2023. Cemeteries or historic preservation is not mentioned at all in the plan. The plan briefly touches on the county's historic sites under Industry Highlight: Tourism section, but it does not go into detail or provide any insight in preserving historic sites or cultural heritage. Although the Borough or county does not own Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery, it would be beneficial to have the Comprehensive Plan address historic preservation, including cemetery preservation.

State Statutes

Statutory references related to cemeteries include:

- Cemeteries and Graveyards Protected Act of April 5, 1849 (P.L. 397, No. 296)
- Concerning Removal of Dead Bodies from Burial Grounds Act of June 16, 1891 (P.L. 310, No. 238)
- Burial Grounds Conveyance Act of June 25, 1913 (P.L. 551, No. 354)
- Burial Grounds, Municipal Control Act of May 10, 1923 (P.L. 198, No. 144)
- Supplementing County Water Supply Authority Act of July 18, 1957 (P.L. 1006, No. 446)
- Historic Burial Places Preservation Act of April 29, 1994 (P.L. 141, No. 22)

Documentation

There are few original documents such as burial records and plat maps related to Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery. However, in 2000 Brian Yankosky created an inventory and identified 164 grave markers. In 2004, Gina Nestor listed 26 Civil War Veteran monuments interred at the cemetery. A map of the cemetery with labeled burial markers was created in 2023 by Hazel Murray.

Infrastructure

The Cemetery does not have any internal infrastructure. No roadways, irrigation, or other modern infrastructure is within the burial ground. The Cemetery is, however, located on the banks of the Chartiers Creek.

Security

Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery is subject to vandalism and poor maintenance. The grounds do not have a fence or locked gate and can be accessed openly.

Development

The Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery sits in a suburban area of the Borough of Canonsburg adjacent to Chartiers Creek and Payne Chapel AME Church. Although it is unlikely the parcel would be identified for development, it is not unheard of for cemeteries to be developed and remains relocated. Properly aligning the land use and zoning with the cemetery use would help ensure long-term preservation.

Disaster Preparedness & Resiliency

Cemeteries present unique problems in disaster preparation. Stewards of the cemetery should undertake a disaster preparedness plan for the Cemetery and ensure any post-disaster planning is included. Resource like "Cemetery Disaster Planning" from the Chicora Foundation should be used in preparing a disaster preparation plan for the Payne Chapel AME Cemetery and other cemeteries under the steward's care. The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) also has resources for preparing and responding to disasters in relation to cemeteries.

Cultural Landscape Information

Past Survey Efforts

A formal comprehensive survey or GPR reconnaissance of Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery has not been conducted, however, a pedestrian survey in 2000 produced an inventory of the burial markers. Created by Brian Yankosky, the inventory included 164 identified burial markers within the cemetery. Furthermore, in 2004, Gina Nestor compiled a list of 26 Civil War veteran monuments that were identified at Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery.²⁰

²⁰ Listed in PowerPoint provided by steward of Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery

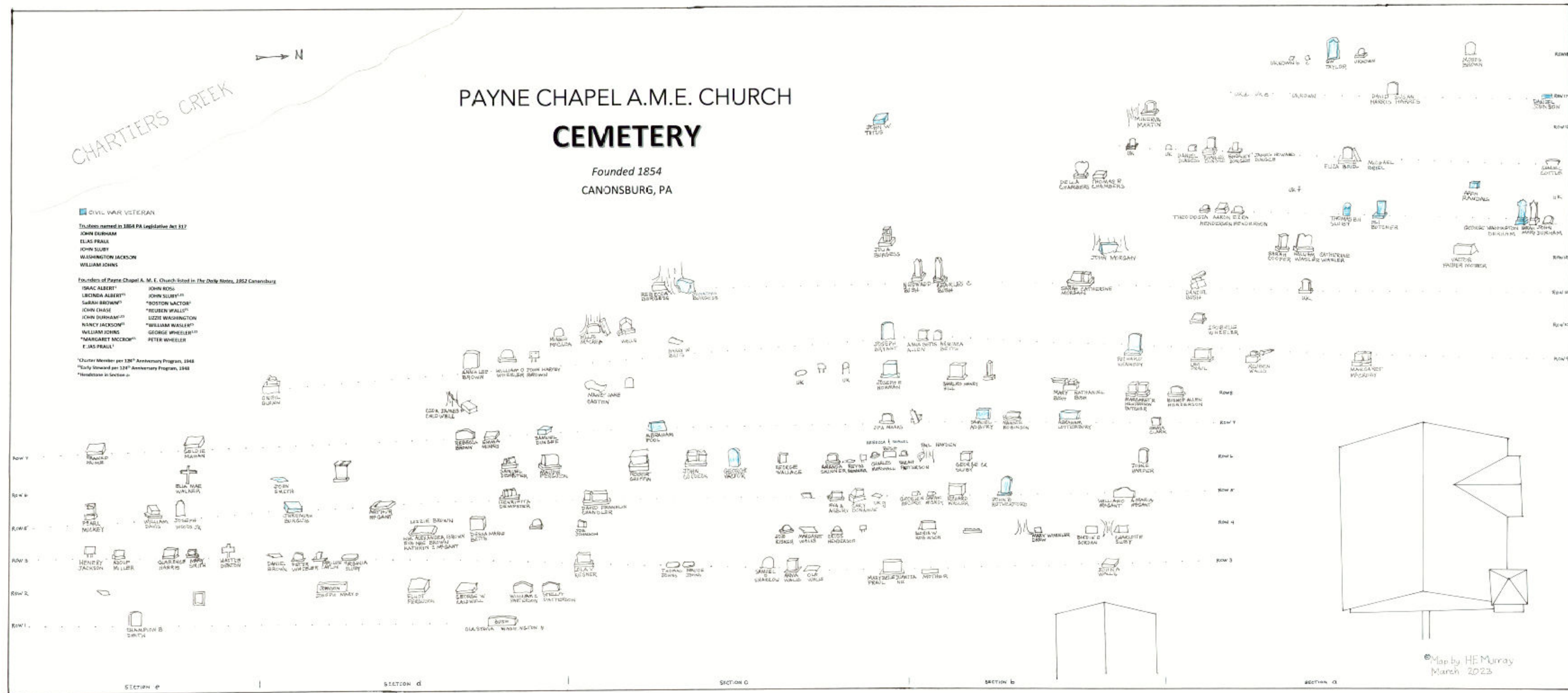


Figure 14. 2023 Hand-drafted map of Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery, courtesy of Hazel Murray

Overall Assessment and Preservation Concerns

The following conditions were noted in initial surveys: headstones were detached from their bases, fractured, with faded inscriptions, sunken, or encroached by trees. These include the memorial stones of Nathaniel Bush (April 4, 1820-September 8, 1908), which is detached from its base and lying on the ground, and the stone of Margaret R. Henderson Butcher (April 28, 1836-December 25, 1905), which has fractured.

Other detached stones include Daniel Bush, James R. Caldwell, Rev. G. G. Skinner, and Reuben Walls, a founder of Payne AME.

Other fractures can be observed in Mrs. Lue Catlin, with a piece missing, John Cordeek, Henrietta Demster, David Franklin Handler, Theodosia Henderson, Aunt Margaret McCroby, a founder of Payne AME, Sarah Catherine Morgan, Levi Praul, and Walls, who is missing a first name.

Stones with fading inscriptions include Eli Butcher (1835-1923), a Civil War Veteran, George W. Durham, CWV, Joseph Norman, CWV, George W. Taylor, CWV, Moses Brown, Sarah Cooper, Sara Mary Derham, James Howard Dungee, David Franklin Handler, Champion Smith, Catherine Ann Wasler, and William Wasler, a founder of Payne AME.

Stones that require rebedding include Abraham Lotterbury (1827-1913), a Civil War Veteran, Samuel D. Asbury, CWV, Jonathan Burgess, CWV, Moses Brown, Samuel Cottle, Daniel Dungee, James Howard Dungee, John E. Harper, Paul E. Hayden, UK Kisner, Samuel Shearro [sic], Mary Smith, and Richard Wasler.

Stones in danger or damaged by tree encroachment include Jonathan Burgess (1828-1901), a Civil War Veteran, Rebecca Burgess (1838-1908), Paul Hayden, WWI Veteran, and John Morgan, a Civil War Veteran. Additionally, the uprooting of interior trees at the property line threaten the integrity of the stones, in which stones can fracture or become damaged.

Signage

Payne Chapel AME Cemetery lacks (directional/wayfinding) signage along the main road, Payne Place. Furthermore, the cemetery is located between Payne Chapel AME on Payne Pl and the Chartiers Creek. Continuous visitation fosters knowledge of the resource and in-turn preserves its permanence and importance for future generations. Minutes from the January 8, 2023, Cemetery Committee Meeting highlight efforts to construct interpretive signage. "Work will begin on creating a tri-fold pamphlet and signs for the church and cemetery per our \$5000 grant from the Washington County Community Foundation." Committee members will investigate the company that made the trolley tour signs as a recommendation for design and construction.

Pedestrian path

No clear pedestrian path is marked and is unrecognizable to the visitor. Potential graves and grave markers have been identified throughout the cemetery and should be protected from potential damage due to equipment or heavy vehicular activity. This effort could be accomplished by designated paths. Any activity should be monitored, and Terracon recommends using weight distribution pads such as DuraDeck Ground Protection Mats when using heavy machinery.

Fallen or sunken grave markers

Many markers have fallen or have sunk into the soil. These markers are in danger of being lost as a resource as they are unidentifiable unless found by special probing or other more technical investigative practices.

Broken markers

Broken markers such as headstones and bases are in danger of being removed from the site altogether if they are visible on the surface. They can also pose a significant safety hazard as well as deterioration of the resource.

Natural Environment

Water and Stormwater

The Cemetery is on relatively mid to low ground and adjacent to a flowing body of water, Chartiers Creek, to its west. A lower portion of the burial ground that is closest to the creek is in Flood Zone AE, an Effective Flood Hazard Zone, the Regulatory Floodway. The area on higher has a ground elevation of approximately 950 feet and is in Flood Zone X, which poses minimal flood hazard.



Figure 15. PA Flood Risk - Flood Hazard Map of Payne Chapel AME Church and Cemetery

Trees & Landscape

Locusts and evergreens make up the bulk of trees in the Cemetery. The majority of the burial ground is out in the open, so to speak, without any tree coverage. A mature tree canopy does exist along the western border and Chartiers Creek. The canopy is composed solely of locusts, leaving the coverage vulnerable to pests or disease. There is also the consideration of diversification by age: to maintain

canopy coverage, it is important to have an age variety so as old trees die there are mature and young trees to take their place. Determining where to plant new trees will be a challenge, as the older trees often conflict with stones and markers. It would not be recommended to simply replace an existing tree in the same location in these cases.

The rule of thumb for diversity is 10/20/30. No more than 10% of the forest should be composed of one species, no more than 20% of one genus and no more than 30% of one family. Future plantings should be selected to increase diversity. With a varied tree cover, the canopy, setting and overall feeling can remain intact even if an entire species is wiped out.

A third consideration is the use of native plants. There is a growing movement to use native plants in design. They help maintain the integrity of local ecosystems and are well adapted to the environment. They are also critical habitat for fauna, as many creatures have developed relationships with specific species. Natives should require no irrigation beyond establishment.

Stewards of the cemetery should consider environmental, cultural, and economic impacts when replanting and maintaining trees and these aspects should be a part of any landscape planning. In the Cemetery, it is essential to be mindful of what grows, how root systems expand, and the impact this may have on stones. A landscape professional should assist with a tree and landscape plan for the Cemetery, which will serve as an important planning step for the future. It is also worth consulting the Washington County – Penn State Extension Office, who can provide tips on planting and landscape care.

General tree recommendations include:

- Failing trees or limbs should be thinned and removed as possible
- Replacement trees should be native and slow growing
- New trees should not be planted in the same spot as the old ones but placed in nearby more open areas and be no larger than 4" in diameter breast height
- Planting a variety of species, as well as species with good groundcover is encouraged
- Non-hardwood trees, such as crepe myrtle or bottlebrush

Wildlife

There is a trend in cemetery management to recognize and embrace wildlife. There are opportunities for birds and other pollinators like bees to thrive in cemeteries and help plant life. As an example, the Dorset Wildlife Trust in the UK has a "Living Churchyards" program that encourages the planting of natural plants to attract pollinators, and the use of bird houses and bat boxes to support wildlife. Cemeteries can provide a relatively natural area that can also serve as wildlife corridors. Bird watchers and outdoor photographers can visit cemeteries to glimpse area wildlife.

Gophers are prevalent in this part of Pennsylvania and frequently dig tunnels in and around cemeteries that are not frequented with visitors. While some environments surrounding cemeteries are conducive to enjoying wildlife; some wildlife can be a nuisance to the landscape and cause safety issues for visitors. Preservation Plans should consider these issues and address them properly insuring all local and state regulations are followed.

Iconography of Existing Markers

The Payne Chapel AME Cemetery is home to varied stones, where they still exist, and some stones display traditional cemetery symbolism and iconography (shown in **Figure 16**). *Stories in Stone: A Field*

Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography by Douglas Keister is a valuable resource in discerning historic tombstone images (information in this section is derived from *Stories in Stone*).

Plant iconography is quite common on tombstones. Plants represent and remind the living of the beauty and brevity of life and are symbols of remembrance. Flower symbolism is prevalent on historic tombstones, especially during the Victorian era, and usually the flowers chosen were intended to represent a virtue or attribute.

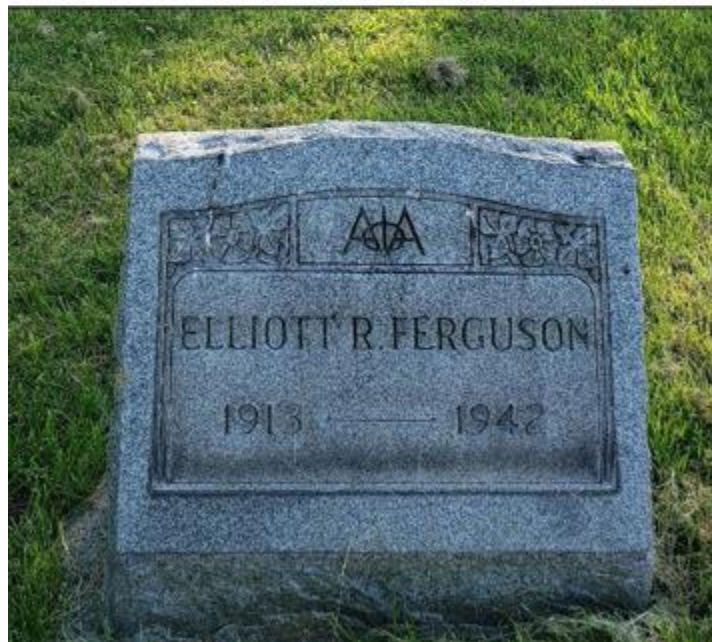


Figure 16. Examples of gravestone iconography at Payne Chapel AME Cemetery

Management & Operations

Typically, cemeteries are owned by public entities such as a city or county, including those from the early 18th or 19th centuries that are no longer in use. However, Payne Chapel AME Cemetery is privately owned by the AME Diocese of Pennsylvania. The burial ground is maintained by stewards of the cemetery including church leadership and friends of the cemetery. Some of the earliest burials include descendants of Trustees named in the 1854 PA Legislative Act 317 such as John and George Durham, Levi Prall son of Trustee Elias Prall, and Thomas Sluby son of John Sluby. Additionally, there are founding members of Payne Chapel AME Church as well as Civil War veterans that are interred at the cemetery. Although the cemetery is not the oldest burial ground in the Canonsburg, it is one of the earliest to inter the area's African American residents for their final resting place.

The Payne Chapel AME Cemetery is no longer used for burials and is functionally a historic site, however, the site's church (Payne Chapel AME) is still in use and functions as a religious center.

Cemetery Funding and Existing Maintenance

Currently, there is no funding provided for the cemetery for basic maintenance such as mowing and vegetation removal. However, the church does participate in a Furlough Into Service Program (FISP), in which criminal defendants are able to perform community service to pay off their fines and court-related fees. Because maintenance through the FISP is conducted by temporary workers, often with a high turnover rate, guidance on proper cemetery groundskeeping is essential. FISP began maintenance on the cemetery in 2019.

Gina Nestor and Mayor Rhome organized and sponsored a cemetery clean-up in 2015. In 2023, Payne Chapel AME, along with twelve additional sites, received funding through grants issued from Preservation Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds to aid in preservation efforts as part of the African American Cemetery Stewardship Program. This funding is from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund which comes from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, with support from the JPB Foundation and The 1772 Foundation.²¹

Markers & Monument Preservation

At Payne Chapel AME Cemetery, there are a handful of headstones, monuments, and enclosures that have fallen into a state of disrepair. A general lack of proper headstone conservation has led to tilted, broken, and damaged headstones. All care should be taken to prevent the deterioration and destruction of funeral markers, but if they are damaged, it is important to clear the ground of hazards. This may include putting stakes and tape around the gravesite to warn visitors of the danger.

Notes on repairing and caring for markers and monuments:

- Stabilize structures first for safety – consider “topple test” to determine stability (*this is a debatable practice*)
- Prioritize rankings based on the following
- Safety – Can this structure hurt someone? Is the site visited frequently?
- Stability – Is the structure at risk of being lost or damaged without immediate attention?
- Aesthetics – What is the appearance of the stone and marker?

²¹ Walt Frank, “Revitalizing history—Historic Black cemetery to receive state funds,” *Altoona Mirror*, July 5, 2023, <https://www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2023/07/revitalizing-history-historic-black-cemetery-to-receive-state-grant/>.

(See Preservation Brief #48 in Additional Resources)

General notes on marker and monument conservation follow, but it is strongly *advised* to have a professional undertake stone and marker restoration. (See Preservation Briefs #2, #36, #48 in Additional Resources)

- Leaning stones – lift from ground; stabilize the ground under the stone to avoid the stones from breaking or loss then, replace stone
- Broken stones – Route out to provide smooth surface, measure for rods, drill, and insert rods (if needed), epoxy and let set then, use material sensitive mortar to fill gaps and avoid further weathering or deterioration (These processes should be conducted by professional conservators ONLY.)

Rubbing Stones

It is NOT recommended that rubbings be done on old headstones and markers. Rubbing can cause deterioration and harm a stone over time. Savannah, Georgia municipal code disallows headstone rubbing in its historic cemeteries. This is something the stewards of the cemetery may also wish to consider.

Cleaning Stones

Stewards of the cemetery should consider participating in a training workshop similar to Florida's Cemetery Resource Protection Training (CRPT) Part of the CRPT training is a hands-on workshop to teach the proper method for cleaning stones, as follows:

- Utilize a soft brush to wipe the stone to loosen dirt and debris
- Use a spray bottle with water to clean the stone. This may be enough, and no further cleaning warranted
(See Preservation Briefs #6 and #48 in Additional Resources)
- For tougher cases, use a mild surfactant such as Orvus paste to remove dirt and environmental soiling (rinse thoroughly) or diluted D2 Solution in a spray bottle and a soft brush; it can be left for some time or immediately washed off with water (it will both clean and prevent future bio-growth on the marker)

For additional information, the National Park Service Technical Preservation Briefs are provided in **Additional Resources**.

Recommendations & Implementation

Recommendations are consistent with practices outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Documentation, and the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works.

It is recommended that this cemetery plan be re-evaluated at least every five years. A Historic Cemetery Plot and Marker Survey Form is provided in Appendix B. Additionally, it is also suggested the recommendations be prioritized (1-2 years, 3-5 years, 5-7+ years) for projects and phasing, as well as identifying who the responsible entities are for carrying out the recommended actions. The following recommendations could potentially be applicable to other historic cemeteries owned by the AME Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Improve Documentation

- Have georeferenced coordinates for known plots/headstone and GPR anomalies incorporated into City/County GIS
- Create a proper delineation on the boundaries of the cemetery
- Consider nomination to National Register of Historic Places
- *A Historic Cemetery Plot and Marker Survey* form is located in **Appendix A**.
- Ensure the caretakers or stewards of the cemetery are aware of the presence of Civil War veteran monuments within the Cemetery; and to coordinate efforts to record veteran markers and submit those records to the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War National Grave Registration Database.²²

Coordinate with the Borough of Canonsburg

- Address cemeteries and historic preservation in Borough of Canonsburg Comprehensive Plan
- Change future land use and zoning to better align with current and future use and preservation.
- Implement cemetery rules and regulations and include in City Code.
- Work with Borough of Canonsburg Police Department to ensure regular patrols.

Provide Better Information Management

- Identify any Borough resolutions and ordinances related to Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery.
- Identify long-term document and record management strategy and who the formal record keeper will be.

Implement Operations/Maintenance & Preservation Plans

The maintenance program for an historic cemetery is much different than that for a modern cemetery. To avoid damaging funerary materials, a historic cemetery requires that much of the maintenance work is done by hand. This, in turn, involves longer hours and higher costs. However, if proper maintenance

²² The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) National Graves Registration Project was established in 1996. The volunteer project seeks to record, verify, research, and enter the final resting places of all Union Civil War veterans.

of a cemetery is neglected, and the special requirements of funerary artifacts are disregarded, the time and money invested to restore the site will, essentially, have been wasted. Proper maintenance of historic cemeteries should be performed at best monthly; however, a quarterly schedule is acceptable. Routine maintenance allows for more projects during the year and cuts down on expenses.

- Implement preservation and cleaning techniques in accordance with The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC); a conservator governed by the AIC Code of Ethics and familiar with common cemetery and funerary materials.
- Focus on preservation/restoration of remaining stones.
- Possible reconstruction/restoration of cemetery fencing around boundary.
- Provide appropriate staffing levels to maintain the cemetery.
- Implement standard operating procedures for any maintenance conducted.
- Provide appropriate training for cemetery staff/volunteers.
- Prohibit gravestone rubbing.

Evaluate Funding

- Identify grant opportunities and/or potential funding sources for projects within the Cemetery.
- Consider annual fundraiser or other fundraising/capital campaigns for improvements.

Implement Wayfinding System

- Look at other cemeteries for examples of signage and wayfinding.
- Implement wayfinding signs pertaining to history of the cemetery, including number of burials
- Create brochures with information on the interred and/or a walking tour (heritage trail, tree trail, etc.).
- Explore placement of kiosk near entry that helps explain how to navigate the Cemetery.

Ground Penetrating Radar Survey

It is generally assumed that there are multiple unmarked graves in Payne Chapel AME Cemetery. A Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey is a common way to identify possible historic graves, although it does not provide any information about who it may be. The survey area is divided into a grid and then scanned in approximate 5' intervals in both north-south and east-west transects. Returning wave mark anomalies, which can be indicative of unmarked burials or excavated soil.

Involving local colleges or universities to conduct GPR services of the Cemetery would be a great resource to survey the grounds. The work could be performed as a workshop opportunity with future grant dollars. Schools nearby could include Waynesburg University, University of Pittsburgh, Washington & Jefferson College.

Security

- Consider installing trail cameras in the cemetery grounds to deter vandalism

Protect Landscaping, Tree Canopy, & the Environment

Mowing

Mowers to cut grass and trim around grave markers can cause a great deal of damage in a cemetery. Any mower, whether the hand-pushed or riding type, is difficult to control around grave markers. Gravestones are particularly vulnerable to damage. Once the face of a stone is scraped or chipped, moisture can move through its layers and eventually cause delamination of the marker. Scrapes and chips also weaken gravestones and can cause them to eventually break and fall. Riding mowers should not be used in small cemeteries, or in any area where markers and other funerary materials are spaced closely together.

Hand pushed mowers should be used in areas where there are markers and other items associated with graves; and should be equipped with rubber bumpers to prevent accidental damage of funerary items. Trimming around gravestones should be done with a hand-held trimmer that uses a monofilament line. The line should not have a wire core. If individual stones or bases are fragile, trimming should be done with a hand clipper.

Tree Trimming and Removal

Tree and shrub branches that might fall and damage gravestones and other materials should be trimmed. Periodic inspections should be made of the grounds, particularly after storms, to make sure that any threats are immediately removed. A tree health assessment should be performed at least every two years and local foresters, or a certified arborist should be employed to perform these tasks. The committee can source a certified arborist from the International Society of Arboriculture website, <https://www.isa-arbor.com/For-the-Public>. A quick records search on this site will provide a list of names, business, location, and credentials.

Groundcovers

To reduce maintenance and lower the risk of mower damage to stones, groundcovers other than grass should be considered. Groundcovers that are small-leaved and low-growing are an alternative to the labor-intensive care required by a grass lawn. Selected groundcovers should grow well without fertilizer because chemicals can be harmful to stones, especially marble, causing discoloration and streaking.

No Chemicals

Herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers should not be used near gravestones, nor should they be used near above-ground structures. Chemicals can cause discoloration of stone (especially marble) and masonry work. The location of Payne Chapel Cemetery is fairly protected from salt used to melt ice on roadways, however, if road maintenance crews use salt on neighboring streets, this could cause long term damage to stones from salt/snow drifts.

Maintenance Training

All persons involved with the maintenance of historic cemeteries, whether professional or volunteers, should be trained regarding the proper care of the markers and landscaping elements. If firms are hired to care for a historic cemetery site, specifications regarding both the routine cemetery maintenance and marker care should be included in contract requirements. Preservation does not happen in a vacuum –

and dissemination information regarding proper care is highly recommended. Work that is performed in private without proper documentation for file retention is discouraged.

Historic Landscape Preservation

Retaining historical plantings is an integral part of cemetery preservation. Plant materials are sometimes the only markers that remain at a gravesite. Flowering bulbs and perennials, shrubs, and trees were often placed by grounds crews in response to landscape plans intended to beautify the cemetery. Many plants symbolize religious beliefs that are associated with death and resurrection. Future GPR survey would serve as a good foundation for future archaeological investigations; to provide data for potential landscape restoration projects if desired. However, evergreen, or common perennials can also be used to identify potential burials. These plantings can be useful during restoration and landscape improvement projects. During the October 5, 2023, site visit the consultant noted a variety of plantings along the western boundary at the ledge of Chartiers Creek, including lirioppe, lambs ear, and native vines.

Grave Plot Plantings

All bushes and shrubs, perennial and bulb flowers, and trees that have been planted at grave plots should be retained. Each plant should be given the care it requires on a seasonal basis (such as trimming or cutting back during the appropriate time of growth cycle).

Retention Canopies

Canopies of oak and evergreens should be maintained and preserved for as long as possible, both because they are part of the funerary material of a specific burial site, and because they greatly contribute to the setting and character of the site.

Historical Vegetation vs. Grave Markers

The roots of trees and shrubs can greatly disturb gravestones. Whether to preserve the funerary artifact or the plant is something that must be decided on a case-by-case basis, particularly if the plant has some historical significance. However, the priority is to keep a grave marker in its original position. When possible, vegetation can be moved to a place where it will not interfere with funerary materials. Moving either plant or a marker involves evaluating the historical significance of both the vegetation and marker and determining how the landscape will look if physical changes are made to the grave plot. (Note: The author does not advocate for moving markers; however, when resetting a headstone, it may be necessary to adjust the placement of the stone by a few (2-4") inches to avoid intersecting with natural growth.

Drainage

It is recommended that any cemetery that has been repeatedly impacted by highwater tables, and/or inundation of flood waters, should be investigated by a qualified Civil Engineer. Recommendations to improve drainage must comply with the Secretary of Interior's Standards, have the least possible visual impact on the cemetery, and do no damage to historic features. It is also recommended that any drainage study be conducted and required changes to the subsurface of a cemetery be made, prior to any historic landscape restoration or other improvements being initiated.

- Have a landscape plan created for the entire Cemetery by a landscape professional
- Install measure to prevent further ponding and an improved stormwater system
- Create pre-disaster and post-disaster plan for the Cemetery
- Identify rising flood water mitigation options

- Establish partnerships with local environmental and tree advocacy groups

Create Programming & Outreach

- Increased community outreach through educational sessions
- Consider regularly scheduled events that help encourage community stewardship
- Identify partnerships with community organizations and schools for help in maintenance and care of the cemetery
 - Pennsylvania Western University (History and Parks and Recreation Management Programs)
 - Washington & Jefferson College (Art Conservation and Public Service and Community Service Programs)
 - Veteran related groups (Team Rubicon)
 - Local High Schools (Horticulture groups)
- Consider establishment of volunteer/conservancy/friends group
- Consider having a community survey in which respondents could indicate whether or not they have an interest in seeing unmarked graves be marked or remembered in some capacity. Different examples of markers could be utilized to remember those buried in Payne Chapel AME Church Cemetery, or people affiliated with the Church history but not buried there. Two possibilities (as described in an Indiana Division of Natural Resource cemetery glossary) include:
 - **Cenotaph** – a grave where the body is not present; a memorial erected as over a grave, but at a place where the body has not been interred. A cenotaph may look exactly like any other grave in terms of marker and inscription. Cenotaphs often commemorate the deaths of those lost at sea, in war, or by some other means where recovery or transportation of a body would be difficult.
 - **Centerpiece** – a sculpture or other monument, usually in the middle of a cemetery, commemorating no one in particular, but for the benefit of all buried there. Centerpieces usually are religious and are quite prominent in many Catholic traditions, as with the ornate crucifixion scenes of French-Canadian cemeteries and the large crosses of Mexican cemeteries.
- Donations/fundraising – for example, a memorial bench or tree program
- Establish Day of Service and Memorial Day celebrations
- Explore partnerships with neighbors, master gardeners/naturalists, churches, Boy/Girl Scouts, 4H, local landscapers, etc.
- Implement an Adopt to Plot program
- Conduct oral histories
- Encourage use of the cemetery for passive activities like photography, bird watching, history or nature walks, etc. A watched cemetery is a protected cemetery!

Additional Resources

- Pennsylvania Cemeteries, Crematories and Funeral Homes Association
 - <https://pccfa.com/>
- Pennsylvania Hallowed Grounds
 - <https://pahallowedgrounds.org/>
- Pennsylvania Cemetery Preservation and Recordation
 - <https://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/cemetery-preservation/documentation/index.html>
- How to Find a Conservator (American Institute for Conservation)
 - <https://www.culturalheritage.org/about-conservation/find-a-conservator>
- National Park Service - Preservation Briefs
 - <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/preservation-briefs.htm>
 - Please see:
 - *Brief #2: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings*
 - *Brief #6: Dangers of Abrasive Cleaning to Historic Buildings*
 - *Brief #36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment, and Management of Historic Landscapes*
 - *Brief #48: Preserving Grave Markers in Historic Cemeteries*

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Appendices

Appendix A

Cemetery Stewards Meeting Notes & Photographs

Payne Chapel AME Cemetery Committee Notes & Photographs

August 14, 2023

My Notes from the Cemetery Group's meeting via ZOOM on August 14, 2023 at 7:30 PM.

Present at the meeting were Dean Brown, Ardella Bryant, Rev. Marilyn Fisher, Terri Laird, Hazel Murray, Nila Thomas, and Trillian Hodgson.

Agenda items for this meeting were carried over from the technologically unsuccessful meeting a week ago on August 7, 2023.

Goodman from Oak Spring Cemetery was contacted and he is on board with doing headstone repairs. Fisher and Murray discussed the type of repairs that could be done noting that each stone is unique. Sandstone headstones are best leveled and set back in place as adhesives do not last very long. Aunt (Margaret Vactor) McCroby's stone is an example. Stones that have sunk into the ground can be raised and reset. Samuel Cottle's stone is the example he used. There are a number of stones that have the upper section dislodged and lying on the ground. Stones like this, such as Reuben Walls' obelisk, can be reset. Goodman will be ready to go as soon as we get approval from the PA Hallowed Grounds consultant.

Update on the consultant: Fisher and Murray had a ZOOM with consultant Patricia Davenport-Jacobs on August 3, 2023. She requested documents and photos. Murray emailed the photos of 153 headstones, a copy of the powerpoint about the history of the cemetery, and a copy of her rendering (map) of the cemetery on August 4, 2023. The consultant plans to make a site visit the week of August 21st.

Community outreach was discussed. Fisher reported that emails had been sent to all 14 school districts in Washington County; Murray has contacted Boy Scout Troop 1305 in Canonsburg. Terri suggested we contact local garden clubs such as the Martha Washington Garden Club, 4H clubs, and school NHS.

A discussion followed about a Community Clean-up Day at the Cemetery. The event will be a way to engage the community and to do some much needed cleanup of overgrown brush across the back of the cemetery.

The date was set for October 7th. The raindate is October 14th (Changed to Oct 21st after the meeting).

Brown, who has ancestors interred at Payne, and Terri will be there.

We agreed to meet again by ZOOM in two weeks – August 28, 2023 at 7:30 PM to report and plan.

Let me know of additions/corrections that you would like to see for these notes.

Hazel Murray

Payne Chapel AME Cemetery Committee Notes & Photographs

October 16, 2023

My Notes from the Cemetery Committee meeting via ZOOM on October 16, 2023 at 7:30 PM.

Present at the meeting were Rev. Marilyn Fisher, Trillian Hodgson, Sam Kline (VFW Post 191), Terri Laird, Teresa Matuska, Hazel Murray, Andrea O'Daniel, Jake Orend (Peters Twp High School Horticulture Club), Bob SeCaur, Charlotte Stone (Project Coordinator African American Cemetery Project/PA Hallowed Grounds & Preservation PA Hallowed Grounds), and Tammy Thompson.

Agenda: Plans for Oct 21, Street Plaque, Consultant's visit, Research, and Next meetings

Mission Statement of the Cemetery Committee: *The Committee's purpose is to provide for the preservation and maintenance of the cemetery, to bring recognition to its historical role by documenting its past, and to honor and pay tribute to those buried there.*

Preservation Project 2023 Oct 21, 2023 9 AM to 3 PM: Committee members should be at the cemetery no later than 8:45 AM. Rev. Fisher will be at the church at 8 AM. The committee welcomed Mr. Jake Orend, the Horticulture Club advisor who gave an overview of what the club does and said he hopes to see 5 – 10 members come on Saturday. He will bring a truck, wheel barrow, shovels and hand tools for weeding. Everyone is advised to dress appropriately for outdoor landscape work: sturdy work shoes, work gloves, long sleeved shirts and pants. In addition to debris/brush removal and weeding of the cemetery, the club will be asked if they are interested in helping to design, install, and maintain the beds around the front of the church. Sam Kline from VFW Post 191 has invited members to come help on Saturday. He will cut up the large tree trunks lying at the edge of the cemetery that need to be removed. It is this Post that places flags on the graves of veterans every Memorial Day. Thank you. A tentative schedule for the day: Signin, coffee and donuts, instructions, MG plant ID activity (snake root and Lincoln's mother), assignment of work teams, work, lunch @ 1 PM, design discussion, work, wrap up/group photo. Overflow parking is available in Saint Patricks lot at the corner of Murdock and Payne Place.

Street Plaque: Murray ask everyone to think about the best place for the placement of a street plaque that identifies the church and cemetery. Secaur suggested on the edge of church property across from Murdock Street. Secaur will get an estimate for the cost and installment of a plaque.

PAHallowed Grounds Consultant Visit: Three representatives (Patricia Davenport-Jacobs, Mindy Crawford, and Jennifer Mihal) were at the cemetery all day Thursday, October 5, 2023 along with committee members Fisher, Thomas, O'Daniel, DeGrechie, Stutts, and Murray. The Plan should be ready by the end of the month. We were pleased to have Charlotte Stone, as a guest at this meeting.

Research: Matuska is doing research on our Civil War Veterans. Murray suggested looking at references at PAHallowedgrounds.org under the History tab. Car continues to add information to FindAGrave. SeCaur and Murray will set up Google Drive for sharing information. Stone will see

that the name we decide on for the cemetery is listed correctly on the PAHallowedGrounds site of African American Cemeteries and USCT Cemeteries.

Let me know of additions/corrections that you would like to see for these notes.

Next meetings will be monthly beginning with Monday, November 6, 2023 at 7:30 PM via ZOOM.

Hazel Murray

Payne Chapel AME Cemetery Committee Notes & Photographs

October 21, 2023



Briefing of assignments prior to work



Peters Township High School Horticulture Club works with VFW 191 to clear branches and debris and load truck for disposal.



Group effort in dislodging a tree branch.



Horticulture Club transporting soil and filling holes made by groundhogs.



Cleaning debris and branches around stones that were recently reset.



A surprise visitor found by Mr. Jacob Orend, teacher at Peters Township High School.



Mr. Jacob Orend tackling some low hanging branches.



Various youth loading the truck with debris.



Youth filling a wheelbarrow bucket with debris and branches.



Cleaning out near the tree line to uncover a stone long hidden.



More low hanging branches to be tackled. There is enough for everyone!



Veteran Mike Stutts was diligent in his work the entire day.



Transporting debris was a group effort.



PTHS Horticulture Club Cleaning debris by the tree line.



Pieces of Military Flag Markers were uncovered by the PTHS Horticulture Club.



More pieces of Military Flag Markers Found.



And yet more found.....



Working to uncover a well-hidden stone.



Lunch inside Payne Chapel AME Church.



Sandwiches, hot soups, beef stew, rigatoni, cookies, and carrot cake. We have the best cooks in Canonsburg!



All generations came together for this event.



A job well done!



Fruits of our labor!

Payne Chapel AME Cemetery Committee Notes & Photographs

November 6, 2023

My Notes from the Cemetery Committee meeting via ZOOM on November 6, 2023 at 7:30 PM.

Present at the meeting were Rev. Marilyn Fisher, Terri Laird, Teresa Matuska, Hazel Murray, and Tammy Thompson

Rev.,. Fisher gave an overview of the October 21, 2023 Preservation Day project noting that it went really well with about 25 people in attendance. There were young people in attendance: 8 young people from the Peters Township Horticulture Club and her two grand children. Photos from the event were sent to Mr. Orends and the hand injury was reported. The club does want to continue working with this project.

The placement of a proposed street sign that identifies the Church and Cemetery was discussed. Suggested placement was on church property where Payne Place and Murdock Street intersect.

In a conversation with the church's tenant, it is likely that there is at least one burial in the area of the property that is now being used as a parking lot. More information might be obtained from Leonard Bennett or Butch McGant per Rev. Fisher.

Hazel suggested that research topics be identified and specific areas be assigned to a lead person.
THE SCHOOL: Tammy agreed to look at the School. Hazel will send her the information collected so far.

DESCENDANTS: Another area of research could be on what could be called The Descendant Community. This would be those people still alive today, that have family (ancestors) buried at Payne. Teresa suggested that a notice be sent out asking descendants to contact us. Hazel would like to concentrate on those descendants that have pre-Civil War ancestors such those with the following surnames: Vactor, Burgess, Praul, and Butcher (Note: add Cottle to this list). Rev. Fisher has been in contact with Jasmine Vactor and Rev. Adams-Young who may be descendants and two sisters who married two brothers.

ALL VETERANS: Research, or at least list, all veterans, not just the Civil War Veterans

A discussion ensued about how to keep the Horticultural Club involved. It was decided that the advisor would be contacted to find out what they want to do. Now that they have seen the cemetery, they might have areas of interest that they want to pursue or we might list some of our needs and see if they are interested.

A drop box for sharing research will be opened. There was a discussion about meeting dates noting that the first Monday in January 2024 is a Holiday.

Let me know of additions/corrections that you would like to see for these notes.
Next will be Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7:30 PM via ZOOM.

Hazel Murray

Payne Chapel AME Cemetery Committee Notes & Photographs

January 8, 2023

My Notes from the CEMETERY COMMITTEE ZOOM JAN 8, 2024 AT 7:30 PM

Present at the meeting: Rev. Fisher, T Laird, T Matuska, H Murray, T Necciai, A O'Daniel, J Sams, B SeCaur, C Stone, and T Thompson

There will be a Spring Clean-up Event on a Saturday in April. The specific date will take into account the availability of the Peters Twp High School Horticultural Club as well as efforts to involve other Canonsburg groups such as other schools, religious, and civic groups.

The boundaries of the church and cemetery property have been determined using GIS and legal descriptions and, while not survey quality, the property lines can be used to push back the mowable west tree line of the cemetery to include Civil War Veteran John Titus and other head stones along that line. The map is available on our Google Drive sharing space. Thanks to Jim Sams for producing the map.

This map can also be used to come up with the draft of a landscape design that defines the borders of the cemetery and provides some screening for the cemetery from the street and parsonage. Look for an invitation from T Laird to get started on this project.

Work will begin on creating a tri-fold pamphlet and signs for the church and cemetery per our \$5000 grant from the Washington County Community Foundation. T Matuska will check with the company that did the signs for the Trolley Museum, and also get ideas for the pamphlet to compare with the quotes listed in the grant.

T Matuska reported on her research of veterans buried at Payne. Her visit with the local VFW resulted in a commitment for us to place the markers on grave sites on May 18th. Then, they, VFW, will know where to place the flags for Memorial Day. T Matuska is using the PAHG website to populate data on veterans. (Note: I have placed a document on our Google Drive with some of the info I have on Civil War Veterans.)

T Thompson reported on research on the School. So far, she has that the school was established for 'colored children' in 1863, that in 1877 a new school was erected, and that the school was in operation as a school until 1881. Check the School Folder in our Google Drive for documentation and maps.

An effort is being made to get more research done on burials that are unmarked. GPR is used to determine disturbances underground that may indicate a human burial. One approach is to get a graduate student to take this on as a research project. M Sams, Jim's wife, has made such a request at IUP.

Rev. Fisher announced that the 200th Anniversary of the founding of Payne Chapel AME Church will be celebrated the weekend of June 1 and 2, 2024. She will give an update at our next meeting but reported that for starters, the bishop of the 3rd Episcopal District will be here. The cemetery will be recognized as an integral part of the history of the church. A discussion ensued about celebrations of veterans, in general, noting that there may be a bell in the church bell tower.

It was agreed that the committee would use the Google Drive cloud space to share information about the committee's work. A Folder will be created to hold information about the Descendant Community, basically a genealogical tree of people buried at Payne. Murray would like to see a webpage developed to share information about the cemetery and church with the general public. Information is to be gathered about website building, hosting, and maintenance.

J Sams suggested our meetings include Action Items and Matuska drew everyone's attention to the Jan/Feb 2024 edition of the Smithsonian which features African American Civil War Veterans.

Moving forward, meetings of the Committee will be on the 2nd Monday of the month. The next meeting will be Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:30 PM.

From Hazel Murray, Jan 12, 2024

Appendix B

Historic Cemetery Plot and Marker Survey

HISTORIC CEMETERY PLOT AND MARKER SURVEY

CEMETERY PLOT & MONUMENT FEATURE SURVEY

Site:	Surveyor(s):	Date:
Weather: Temperature:_____ Humidity:_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Sunny <input type="checkbox"/> Rain/snow/fog <input type="checkbox"/> Overcast <input type="checkbox"/> Sunny & windy <input type="checkbox"/> Rain/snow/fog & windy <input type="checkbox"/> Overcast & windy		

I. IDENTIFICATION (*Fill in blanks as instructed*)

CEM_ID:	Monument Plot ID#:
FeatureID: <input type="checkbox"/> Pri. Monument_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Base_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Footstone_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Fragments_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosure_____ <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture_____	
Associated Monument Plot ID#	Comment:
Representation: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Family <input type="checkbox"/> Society <input type="checkbox"/> Undeterminable	
Name: (blank, hidden, illegible, inscription)	Footstone (blank, hidden, illegible, inscription) / Other:
First Death Date:	Last Death Date: No. of Insc:
Military Marker:	
Comments:	

II. ENVIRONMENT (*Check appropriate fields.*)

Orientation: <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> NE <input type="checkbox"/> NW <input type="checkbox"/> SE <input type="checkbox"/> SW <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Context: <input type="checkbox"/> Isolated (4+ ft) <input type="checkbox"/> Contiguous (0-4 ft) Precinct: <input type="checkbox"/> Paved <input type="checkbox"/> Unpaved
Plot Placement: <input type="checkbox"/> In rows <input type="checkbox"/> By Topography <input type="checkbox"/> Along designed path <input type="checkbox"/> Random
Grade Slope: <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-slope <input type="checkbox"/> None
Exposure: <input type="checkbox"/> Open <input type="checkbox"/> Encroaching Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Overhang <input type="checkbox"/> EncVeg+TreeOH
Plot Accessories: <input type="checkbox"/> Bench <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Container/Vase <input type="checkbox"/> Plaque <input type="checkbox"/> Votives <input type="checkbox"/> None
Enclosure: <input type="checkbox"/> Curb <input type="checkbox"/> Wall <input type="checkbox"/> Railing <input type="checkbox"/> Chain/Pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Boundary Blocks <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments:

III. DESCRIPTION (*Check appropriate fields.*)

Primary Monument: <input type="checkbox"/> Complete >75% <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <75% <input type="checkbox"/> Total Loss (broken at grade)	
Choose <u>one</u> type below to describe the mortuary feature. If Marker, indicate Form as well:	
Marker Type:	Marker Form: <input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Double <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple
	Simple: <input type="checkbox"/> Headstone w/o Footstone <input type="checkbox"/> Headstone with Footstone <input type="checkbox"/> Footstone only <input type="checkbox"/> Block <input type="checkbox"/> Stele <input type="checkbox"/> Slab over Crypt
	Compound: <input type="checkbox"/> Headstone/Base <input type="checkbox"/> Headstone/Base w/ Footstone <input type="checkbox"/> Stele/Base <input type="checkbox"/> Table <input type="checkbox"/> Block on Base <input type="checkbox"/> Platform <input type="checkbox"/> Bedstead <input type="checkbox"/> Pyramid <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestal <input type="checkbox"/> Ped w/Obelisk <input type="checkbox"/> Ped w/Column <input type="checkbox"/> Ped w/Cross <input type="checkbox"/> Ped w/Other <input type="checkbox"/> Obelisk on base <input type="checkbox"/> Column on base <input type="checkbox"/> Cross on base <input type="checkbox"/> Other on base
Cenotaph	<input type="checkbox"/> Simple <input type="checkbox"/> Compound Fragments: <input type="checkbox"/> Fragments Only
Tomb:	<input type="checkbox"/> Wall Vault <input type="checkbox"/> Mausoleum <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Shaping: <input type="checkbox"/> Shaped <input type="checkbox"/> Partly Shaped <input type="checkbox"/> Unshaped	Dressed: <input type="checkbox"/> Finished F/B <input type="checkbox"/> Finished F Only
Architect/Carver:	Info from: <input type="checkbox"/> Surveyed <input type="checkbox"/> Welch <input type="checkbox"/> G. Stone
Add'l Marks:	Primary: Width_____Height_____Depth_____
Comments:	Base: Width_____Height_____Depth_____
	Footstone: Width_____Height_____Depth_____
	Other:

HISTORIC CEMETERY PLOT AND MARKER SURVEY

IV. MATERIALS (*Check or circle appropriate fields.*)

	Primary Element	Base	Assoc. Footstone	Other	Ornament
MonID#					
Argillite					
Brick					
Bronze					
Cast Stone					
Concrete					
Fieldstone					
Granite-Black					
Granite-Gray					
Granite-Pink					
Greenstone					
Iron-Cast					
Iron-Galvanized					
Iron-Wrought/Rolled					
Lead					
Limestone					
Marble					
Sandstone-Blue/Gray					
Sandstone-Brown					
Sandstone-Red/Orange					
Sandstone-Tan					
Slate-Black					
Slate-Gray/Blue					
Slate-Green					
Slate-Purple/Red					
Wood					
Zinc					
Other					
Comments:					

HISTORIC CEMETERY PLOT AND MARKER SURVEY

V. CONDITION (Rate each occurrence 1 to 4, with 1 being just slightly evident, or 0 if not relevant or evident)

	Primary Element	Base	Assoc. Footstone	Other	Ornament
MonID#					
Bedding Cracks					
Biogrowth					
Bowed					
Buried/Sunken					
Corrosion (metal)					
Cracked					
Detachment					
Detachment-Loss					
Disaggregation					
Dissassembled					
Dissassembled-Loss					
Erosion					
Exposed Foundation					
Failed Repair					
Flaking					
Fragmentation – No Loss					
Fragmentation - Loss					
Graffiti					
Loose					
Mower Abrasion					
Open Joint					
Soiling/Staining					
Spalling					
Tilted/Fallen					
Vegetation					
Other					
Note: Mandatory to fill in Legibility					
Legibility-Design					
Legibility-Inscription					
Condition Comments:					

HISTORIC CEMETERY PLOT AND MARKER SURVEY

VI. Repairs (Check to indicate known or good evidence of existence)

	Primary Element	Base	Assoc. Footstone	Other	Ornament
MonID#					
Abrasive Cleaning					
Apparent Soft Cleaning					
Basal Resetting					
Coatings					
Dutchman					
Mortar Fills					
Pinning					
Recarving					
Repair – Adhesive, Epoxy					
Repair – Hard Cement					
Repair – Soft Lime Based					
Repointing					
Other					
Comments:					

VII. Alterations (Check to indicate known or good evidence of existence)

	Primary Element	Base	Assoc. Footstone	Other	Ornament
MonID#					
Alterations					
Replacement					
Enframements					
Mounting					
New Carving					
Relocation					
Shelters					
Removal					
Other					
Comments					

VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS (*Document inscription, add additional comments or sketches.*)

References:

HISTORIC CEMETERY PLOT AND MARKER SURVEY

COMPLEX GROUP & FAMILY PLOT SURVEY

Site:	Surveyor(s):	Date:
Weather: Temperature: _____ Humidity: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Sunny <input type="checkbox"/> Rain/snow/fog <input type="checkbox"/> Overcast <input type="checkbox"/> Sunny & windy <input type="checkbox"/> Rain/snow/fog & windy <input type="checkbox"/> Overcast & windy		

I. IDENTIFICATION *(Fill in blanks as instructed)*

CEM_ID:	Group Plot ID#: GP_____ <i>(Incorporate predominant CemPlotID)</i>		
<i>(List all features in the group plot, using the numbers given to each as documented on their individual Survey Forms. A simple sketch will help you later identify the photographs.)</i>			
CemPlotID	Name	Death Date	Sketch
Associated Monument Plot ID#		Comment:	
Representation: <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Family <input type="checkbox"/> Society <input type="checkbox"/> Undeterminable			
First Death Year:		Last Death Year:	
Comments:			

II. ENVIRONMENT *(Check appropriate fields.)*

Orientation: <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> NE <input type="checkbox"/> NW <input type="checkbox"/> SE <input type="checkbox"/> SW <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
Context: <input type="checkbox"/> Isolated (3+ ft) <input type="checkbox"/> Contiguous (0-3 ft)	Precinct: <input type="checkbox"/> Paved <input type="checkbox"/> Unpaved
Plot Placement: <input type="checkbox"/> In rows <input type="checkbox"/> By Topography <input type="checkbox"/> Along designed path <input type="checkbox"/> Random	
Grade Slope: <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-slope <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> None	
Exposure: <input type="checkbox"/> Open <input type="checkbox"/> Encroaching Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Overhang <input type="checkbox"/> EncVeg+TreeOH	
Plot Accessories: <input type="checkbox"/> Bench <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> Container/Vase <input type="checkbox"/> Plaque <input type="checkbox"/> Votives <input type="checkbox"/> None	
Enclosure: <input type="checkbox"/> Curb <input type="checkbox"/> Wall <input type="checkbox"/> Railing <input type="checkbox"/> Chain/Pipe <input type="checkbox"/> Boundary Blocks <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> None	
Enclosure Material: <i>(Choose from material list on the Plot Survey Form)</i> Material 1: _____ Material 2: _____	Enclosure Condition: <i>(Rate each occurrence 1 to 4, with 1 being just slightly evident, or 0 if not relevant or evident)</i> Rating: _____
Landscape Issues: <i>(Comment on landscape issues, overgrown trees, brush, ground erosion)</i>	
Comments:	

HISTORIC CEMETERY PLOT AND MARKER SURVEY

FRAGMENT AND REMOVAL SURVEY

Site:	Surveyor(s):	Date:

SURVEY DETAILS *(Fill in blanks as instructed)*

CEM_ID:	Monument Plot ID#:	Fragment ID#:
Fragment Origin:	<input type="checkbox"/> Primary Monument	<input type="checkbox"/> Footstone <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Origin Comments:		
Cause of detachment, if discernable:		
Dimension of fragment (inches):		
Material:	Conditions evident on the fragment:	
Visible Inscription:	Visible Design:	
Storage Box:	Storage Location:	
Comments:		

Sketch if appropriate:

HISTORIC CEMETERY PLOT AND MARKER SURVEY

FRAGMENT AND REMOVAL SURVEY

Site, Surveyor(s), CEM_ID, Monument Plot ID# and Grid:

Use the Definitions and Methods described in the Monument Survey Manual.

Fragment ID#:

Definition: A unique number that identifies each fragment associated with a Monument Plot ID#.

Method: Transfer the sequential numbers indicated on the Monument Plot Survey form.

Fragment origin:

Definition: The monument feature to which the fragment belongs, if discernable.

Method: Check those that apply:

Origin comments:

Definition: Further clarification of the origin of the fragment.

Method: Check which monument feature the fragment most likely came from, if discernable.

Cause of detachment, if discernible:

Definition: The known or attributed cause of damage.

Method: If discernible, note the cause.

Dimension of fragment (in):

Definition: The maximum height, width and depth of the fragment.

Method: Note the dimensions in inches.

Material and Conditions:

Use the definitions and methods from the Survey Manual. List major conditions only.

Visible Inscription:

Definition: Any original lettering still visible on the fragment.

Method: Note each letter (in the given language) visible on the fragment. Use brackets to indicate any letters that are not certain.

Visible Design:

Definition: Original decoration still visible on the fragment

Method: Briefly describe visible decoration.

Storage Box & Location:

Definition: Fragment storage boxes are usually lined with closed cell, inert polyethylene foam.

Method: Note the box number used for storage.

Method: Note the off-site location.

Comments:

Definition: Record comments regarding any condition or storage issues not otherwise accounted for within the survey. Provide a sketch if appropriate.

Method: Write concise and clear comments in recognized terminology for cemetery architecture and conditions. Use the space below for sketches, if appropriate.

Appendix C

Sample Cemetery Work Plan

