

MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

TREE INVENTORY & MANAGEMENT PLAN



CHAPTER II: MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

A. CEMETERY ORIGINS

In the early 19th century, perceptions, use, and character of burial grounds shifted dramatically from small, grim graveyards to expansive, romantic cemeteries. This shift, known as the rural cemetery movement, resulted in the emergence of picturesque, Victorian-style cemeteries. Several practical factors contributed to the emergence of the rural cemetery movement. First, many of the small churchyard and family cemeteries were becoming overcrowded. Another concern was the spread of contagious diseases, particularly cholera. Fear arose that bodies could contaminate groundwater, affecting the living population. Additionally, demand for land within cities increased, making it difficult to expand existing or establish new burial grounds.¹

In Rochester, a small settlement population began to rapidly expand and by the 1830s, Rochester had a booming population. As the Rochester population grew, family plots and small cemeteries were established within the town.² In 1832, a cholera epidemic killed approximately 120 Rochester residents and filled existing cemeteries to capacity.³ At the same time, Rochester expanded into a city with a population of 10,000 by 1834.⁴ With the growing population and the outbreak of cholera, the demand for adequate burial grounds increased.

By 1836, the need for a new cemetery outside the city core heightened. As the population continued to grow, demand increased for land in downtown Rochester. In response an increased fear of the spread of cholera, the City of Rochester began to search for a suitable location for a new cemetery outside the city. Criteria for the new cemetery stipulated that the land had to be easily accessible, readily available, and had to be far enough from the city to address health concerns and allow for expansion.⁵

City officials began to identify sites for the new cemetery. The potential sites were narrowed down to two options. One was located about 5 miles northeast of the city core on the west shore of the Irondequoit Bay; the second was a 53.86-acre property 1½ miles south of downtown Rochester on the east shore of the Genesee River. Alderman David Scoville seemed

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to favor the site on the Genesee River, which was privately owned by Silas Andrus. On August 24, 1836, Scoville suggested to the City of Rochester that "a committee be formed to inquire into the expediency of purchasing Silas Andrus' lot on the east side of the river, or any other lot near the city, for a burial ground."⁶

A committee was formed and a number of members favored the Irondequoit Bay lot because of the rugged nature of the Andrus lot. The Andrus property was located in a section of Rochester with dramatic changes in topography formed centuries before through the glacial retreat process. The 58.36 acres had a wild, imposing character. The area near the public street had "a low swampy place in there filled in with a perfect mat of high alders, choke cherries, and high-bush huckleberries." The rugged site was known as an ominous place, considered a "howling wilderness – so howling with wild beasts that at night, alone and unarmed, no individual dared venture along the road there, much less to penetrate the base of the woods there."⁷ Many felt that the undulating land and wilderness would be difficult to develop and would not adequately accommodate a cemetery ground. In spite of those favoring the site along the Irondequoit Bay, the Silas Andrus property was chosen. Ironically, this land was chosen because ultimately the city committee felt the striking natural landscape better suited the picturesque vision of a rural cemetery.⁸ Following the recommendation of the committee, a public hearing was held to approve the purchase of the land, which the Common Council bought for \$5,386.⁹

Although the City approved the purchase of the Andrus property, public concern arose regarding the ability of the site to be developed as a suitable burial ground. One city resident noted "she had hoped [the new cemetery] would be a place she could visit occasionally, but the deep, unbroken woods and the inaccessible hilltops and gullies would not even do for a picnic, much less a cemetery."¹⁰ Other residents voiced concerns that the land was suitable only for hunting wild animals. Additional controversy was raised over the cost of the new cemetery land. Silas Andrus purchased the 53.86 acres in 1822 for \$287, a cost of about \$5.30 an acre whereas the Common Council paid \$100 an acre. Combined with concerns of the suitability of the site, many city residents complained of "municipal wastefulness."¹¹

In spite of the public concern, the Rochester Common Council felt confident in their decision. In the winter of 1836-1837, the sale of the Andrus property was finalized and an additional approval was granted for a 10-year city bond in the amount of \$8,000 to be used for improvements to the new cemetery.¹² In January 1837, the Common Council appointed city employee John McConnell to survey the land and devise a layout plan for the new cemetery.¹³ McConnell looked to the recently established Mount Auburn Cemetery in Boston for inspiration.¹⁴

Surviving documentation for the early planning and design work is limited; however, it seems that much of this initial work focused on layout of drives. A network of drives was created that traversed the undulating terrain. An entry drive was established that accessed the cemetery from Mount Hope Avenue. Another drive in the cemetery, called Indian Trail Avenue, utilized an

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existing Native American trail that followed a ridge line through the grounds.¹⁵ Most of the drives were constructed of compacted earth, although at least one drive leading from the entrance on Mount Hope Avenue toward the former Native American trail was laid with cobblestone to prevent the drive from eroding down the steep slope.¹⁶ It is unclear if at this point the network of drives was still in planning stages or if construction had begun.

As initial planning and work was underway, the City acquired additional land for the new cemetery grounds. Rochester resident William Hamilton sold 1.21 acres to the Mayor and Common Council of Rochester for inclusion in the developing cemetery. The exact location of this tract is unknown.¹⁷ With this purchase, the new cemetery encompassed just over 55 acres of land. As work on the layout of the cemetery progressed, the rugged, undulating landscape character that defined much of the area south of downtown Rochester was retained. This glacially formed landscape with steep topography, moraines, and bowl-like depressions was particularly well suited for a Victorian-style landscape. Many felt that the natural landscape of the new cemetery embodied the characteristics of a rural, Victorian-style cemetery even more so than the earlier Mount Auburn Cemetery, which was considered the United States model for rural cemeteries.¹⁸

Mount Hope Cemetery was established in the early years of the 19th century rural cemetery movement. Before the inception of the cemetery, the spatial relationship between the hills and valleys, existing woodlands, and distinct curve of the river defined the landscape character, creating a striking landscape with scenic views of the surrounding city. As Mount Hope Cemetery was expanded and improved, cemetery facilities were concentrated near the cemetery edges while the central landscape was dedicated to burials. The dramatic topography, shaped by the process of glacial retreat, and much of the woodland was retained as the cemetery was improved, enhancing the picturesque character. The rolling topography, tree canopy, and winding carriage paths through Mount Hope Cemetery afforded shifting views of the grounds and surrounding landscape. Prominent views to the Genesee River and nearby fields and meadows contributed to the sense of place.¹⁹

B. MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY INITIAL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION, 1838 TO 1875

Although John McConnell had provided the initial layout for the new cemetery, an overall plan was not yet developed. On June 22, 1836, McConnell appointed a five-person committee to provide an organizational plan for the cemetery. The committee members were: Rochester Mayor Elisha Johnson, Joseph Strong, Alderman Elias Pond, Isaac Marsh, and city surveyor Silas Cornell.²⁰ The committee sought the assistance of Major David Bates Douglass, army officer and civil engineering professor. Douglass had laid out previous cemetery grounds, including Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn. The committee wanted to create a design that minimally

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disturbed existing trees and topography, leaving the striking landscape character intact. Douglass, however, preferred to clear the wooded areas and create a relatively level ground plane. This conflict could not be resolved and the committee decided to move forward without Douglass's assistance. Instead, city surveyor Silas Cornell designed the overall layout of Mount Hope Cemetery.²¹

Cornell strived to work with and enhance the existing character of the glacial landscape. As a result, he was commended for his "capability as a landscape architect and for his habit of disturbing the natural contours of the grounds as little as possible."²² Although Cornell aimed to minimally disturb the existing topography and vegetation, the forest was dense and required selective woodland thinning in order to accommodate burials. Dominant species found throughout the new cemetery grounds included red oak (*Quercus rubra*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), and black oak (*Quercus velutina*). Other species included American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), basswood (*Tilia americana*), tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and white ash (*Fraxinus americana*).²³ While documentation of the actual cemetery construction is limited, it is probable that all or part of the circulation plan devised by McConnell was implemented at this point in cemetery development.

In addition to the prolific shade tree canopy, flowering shrubs and wildflowers grew throughout the cemetery grounds. Documented species found on site included trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*), hepatica (*Hepatica* species), dog-toothed violet (*Erythronium dens-canis*), marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), globeflower (*Trollius europaeus*), bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora* or *Uvularia perfoliata*), saxifrage (*Saxifraga* species), early life-everlasting (*Gnaphalium polycephalum*), shadbush (*Amelanchie canadensis*), white trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), purple trillium (*Trillium erectum*), spring beauty (*Claytonia caroliniana* or *virginica*), toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*), lousewort (*Pedicularis canadensis*), meadow rue (*Thalictrum* species), mitrewort (*Mitella diphylla*), dark blue violet, yellow violet, and white violet (*Viola* species).²⁴

Work on the cemetery progressed through the summer of 1838. Although the dedication was planned for that fall, the cemetery was ready to accommodate interments. On August 18, William Carter was the first person buried in the new cemetery, two months before the official dedication.²⁵ Carter was buried in Section A, a portion near the northwest edge of the cemetery, where the ground plane sloped toward the Genesee River to the west with open views into the surrounding landscape.

In preparation for the official dedication and opening of the new cemetery, the Rochester Common Council published an ordinance titled "To regulate the Burial of the Dead and the Protection of Public Cemeteries." The main intent of the ordinance was to regulate burial practices; specifically, to forbid human burials anywhere except in city-owned cemeteries. It also announced that a cemetery sexton would be appointed who would be responsible for overseeing maintenance and ensuring adherence to the new ordinance.²⁶

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Before the new, expansive cemetery grounds could be officially dedicated, a name had to be chosen. A number of people, including Silas Cornell, suggested that the new city cemetery be named Mount Auburn, after the Boston cemetery that served as a model for Rochester's rural cemetery. However, many felt the name did not adequately convey the unique sense of place defined by the new cemetery. While the exact process of naming the cemetery remains unclear, it is believed to have been named by a laborer working on the cemetery grounds named William Wilson. Wilson sent several bills to the City Treasurer for work performed, noting the location as Mount Hope. The name Mount Hope later appeared in a resolution to ban hunting on the cemetery grounds five months before the dedication ceremony.²⁷ However, years later, when an early Rochester citizen, Lyman B. Langworthy, died in 1880, questions arose regarding the origin of the name Mount Hope Cemetery. A newspaper article published upon his death credited Langworthy with naming Mount Hope Cemetery, stating "in 1837, before it was used as a cemetery, Mr. Langworthy had occasion to fill out a paper relating to the tract of land, and in the deed christened it by the poetic name of Mt. Hope and which it retained ever afterwards."²⁸ It remains unknown exactly how the name Mount Hope Cemetery originated or how it was officially adopted.

By October 1838, improvements to the grounds including selective tree clearing, drive construction, and minimal grading were complete and Mount Hope Cemetery was officially dedicated. The ceremony was held on October 8. A small chamber music group opened the ceremony followed by a prayer led by Reverend M. Boardman.²⁹ Reverend Pharcellus Church, pastor the First Baptist Church of Rochester, delivered the dedicatory address, noting the natural beauty of the landscape:

At few points on the surface of the globe has nature been more liberal in its provisions for giving scope to these principles than in the neighborhood of our own city. Rural scenery, ponds, undulating surface uniting features both of beauty and sublimity that may be easily cleared and made to present a smooth and shining surface expanse of molten silver, a dry and light soil peculiarly favorable alike to the opening of graves and the preservation of them from the intrusion of water, and a location retired and yet sufficiently contiguous to our city are some of the advantages which conspire to make Mount Hope one of the most inviting cemeteries in the world. Good judges who have visited both, pronounce its scenery even more bold and picturesque, than that of the celebrated Mount Auburn... In the small improvements which have been made on these grounds, how many interesting features have been developed! As we slowly wind round the mount, gradually rising to its summit like life in its advancing stages, we meet abrupt declivities, shaded valleys, natural arbors, towering heights, with their superincumbent weight of primeval forest narrow ridges, on which you seem to poise between the deep descent on either hand, while your eye searches in vain for the bottom lands below.³⁰

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After Reverend Church's address, local church choirs gathered to sing a hymn and a Dr. Dewey closed the ceremony with a benediction.³¹ With the official dedication, Mount Hope Cemetery became the first municipally-owned Victorian cemetery in the United States.³² Although other rural, Victorian-style cemeteries had been established in the United States, they were privately owned, making Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester unique.

Prior to the official dedication of Mount Hope Cemetery, improvements to the picturesque landscape were limited. As revenue was gained from burial plot sales, additional work was undertaken in the landscape. One of the first projects was the construction of a gatehouse at the cemetery entrance on Mount Hope Avenue in the late 1830s. Historical documentation of the gatehouse depicts it with a range of features, thus the specific appearance of the structure remains unknown. However, some commonalities exist, giving insight into the overall character and massing of the new cemetery feature. The wooden gatehouse was constructed in an Egyptian style with a lotus column extending from the center of the roof. A gated central opening allowed controlled entry into the cemetery grounds. To either side, the structure included enclosed rooms used for office space and a waiting area.³³ Stone piers and iron fencing extended to either side of the gatehouse, separating the cemetery landscape from Mount Hope Avenue. (See Figures II.1 and II.2.)

As improvement and use of Mount Hope Cemetery continued, new features were added to the landscape. Several granite and sandstone stairways were constructed to provide convenient routes across the dramatically sloping landscape. Stone fence posts and iron fencing was also erected throughout the cemetery, delineating individual plots. Some plots were enclosed with wooden fences as well. (See Figure II.3.) Evergreen hedges were also planted around some plots, particularly a number near the east edge of the cemetery on Mount Hope Avenue, screening the gravesites from views along the public street.³⁴ Supplementing the park-like character of the cemetery were plantings of flowers and ornamental shrubs and trees laid out alongside many of the drives. A large ornamental pond was also sculpted into the ground plane near the cemetery entrance sometime during the 1840s.³⁵ (See Figure II.4.) In addition, the cemetery boasted a natural water feature: a kettle formed during the glacial retreat. Sited at the valley of several small slopes, the large, bowl-like depression was filled with runoff from the surrounding ground plane. Stone steps provided access to the water feature, known as Sylvan Waters. A modest fountain near the center of the feature extended a single spray of water above the pond surface. Plantings around the perimeter and the overhanging tree canopy enhanced its setting in the cemetery landscape. (See Figures II.5, II.6, and II.7)

Landscape improvements were undertaken not just within the cemetery grounds, but in the surrounding neighborhood as well. In the early development of the cemetery, the surrounding neighborhood was rural and in large parcels of agriculture and woodland. The landscape near Mount Hope Cemetery was characterized by open fields, wooded areas, and farmlands. In 1840, George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry established Ellwanger & Barry Nursery, also known as

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Mount Hope Nurseries, on Mount Hope Avenue across the street from the cemetery.³⁶ The nursery grew to encompass several hundred acres that showcased plant materials and design. Together, the landscape and “variety of topography” of Mount Hope Cemetery and nearby Mount Hope Nurseries, which predated the City park system, provided park-like settings for residents to enjoy walks and picnics.³⁷

The naturalistic landscape created at Mount Hope Cemetery attracted two different user groups: those visiting graves and those strolling through the scenic setting. By the mid-1840s, problems arose with visitors taking flowers from graves and shrubs. This was considered vandalism and in response, it was suggested that a cemetery superintendent be appointed to supervise the grounds.³⁸

During these early years of development, Mount Hope Cemetery expanded as the Rochester Mayor and Common Council purchased adjoining lots. On August 22, 1839, David Stanley of the town of Brighton and Robert Furman of the city of Syracuse sold 9.39 acres to the Mayor and Common Council for \$1,878.³⁹ Less than two years later, on April 15, 1841, Moses Hall sold an additional 9.2 acres to the Mayor and Common Council for \$902.⁴⁰ With these inclusions, Mount Hope Cemetery expanded to approximately 73 acres along the scenic east bank of the Genesee River at the extreme south edge of Rochester. By 1844, over 700 burial plots had been established with a total of 1,735 people buried in the cemetery. Carriage paths and gravel walks traversed the entire landscape. The cost of improving the grounds totaled over \$8,000.⁴¹

In 1841, one of the first plots of Mount Hope Cemetery designated for specific groups was established. A knoll near the west edge of the cemetery in Section R was set aside as a burial place for revolutionary soldiers. The plot came to be known as Revolutionary Hill or alternately Patriot Hill.⁴² Shortly thereafter, the remains of Revolutionary War soldiers who died in General John Sullivan’s 1779 expedition were transferred from a burial site in Cuylerville, NY to Patriot Hill in Mount Hope Cemetery. A ceremony attended by thousands was held to mark the occasion.⁴³ Two years later, in February 1843, a small area of the cemetery was purchased for use as a Firemen’s Plot.⁴⁴ In 1846, 25 of the 73 acres of cemetery grounds were set aside as a burial spot for people lacking the resources to purchase a plot. This area was known as the “public grounds.” The cemetery allowed the burial of all denominations and classes of people.⁴⁵ This aspect made Mount Hope Cemetery different from the privately-owned rural cemeteries, which commonly restricted the types of people allowed to purchase cemetery plots. In 1859, approximately 500 burials from the Buffalo Street Cemetery in Rochester are transferred to Mount Hope.⁴⁶ The burials were reinterred in the public grounds at the west edge of the cemetery. Years later, in 1872, burials from the Monroe Street burial ground in Rochester were also transferred to the Mount Hope Cemetery public grounds.⁴⁷

Improvement projects continued through the 1840s at Mount Hope Cemetery. In May 1845, posts were erected that noted the cemetery sections. Additionally, a new, scenic 20-foot wide drive was planned to form an 80-foot by 140-foot ellipse at the high point of the cemetery,

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known as Mount Hope. Once completed, railings were installed along the drive edge to prevent accidents. The impetus of the drive was that, in part, it was expected to increase plot sales.⁴⁸

By 1846, the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape had been improved with a network of curvilinear drives and changes in vegetation to offer panoramic views over the city. The carriage and pedestrian routes traversed the scenic cemetery grounds, negotiating the steep slopes and providing access to the high knolls that afforded expansive views into the surrounding landscape, including the nearby Mount Hope Nurseries and the Genesee River. (See Figure II.8.) The dense tree canopy was selectively thinned to accommodate burials and enhance views. The remaining vegetation helped frame shifting views through the landscape, while the cemetery continued to be enhanced with ornamental shrub and flower plantings.

In 1847, Ellwanger and Barry donated 50 shade trees to be planted throughout the cemetery that further enhanced the landscape character. The improvement of the cemetery by professional horticulturalists represented a shift in the treatment of cemetery grounds as scenic, park-like landscapes.⁴⁹ Visitors enjoyed the character of the cemetery with the network of drives, native and ornamental vegetation, and architectural styles of cemetery buildings, such as the gatehouse. Additionally, nearby Mount Hope Nurseries also served as a park landscape for city residents. Together, Mount Hope Cemetery and Mount Hope Nurseries created a large parcel of land south of the city for passive recreation. This park use of the cemetery was further enhanced in 1848, when a horse-drawn streetcar company opened in Rochester that traveled between a steamboat landing at the north edge of Rochester and Mount Hope Cemetery, at the south edge.⁵⁰ With the grounds located at the terminus of the streetcar line, Mount Hope Cemetery became accessible to large groups of people, who strolled and picnicked in the picturesque landscape.

By the late 1840s and 1850s the rate of improvement slowed. In 1852, the University of Rochester purchased a 1,600 square foot area of Mount Hope Cemetery for university interments. Eight granite posts engraved with 'UR' were erected to mark the area, located in Section O, near the southern cemetery edge.⁵¹ A great deal of confusion arose regarding ownership of burial plots when, in 1857, City Comptroller John B. Robertson fled to Canada with embezzled city money and the cemetery records and endowment fund accounts.⁵²

In 1859, a substantial project was undertaken when the original, Egyptian-style gatehouse was torn down and a new stone gatehouse was constructed in its place.⁵³ The new structure cost over \$10,000 to build and was designed by John McConnell, who had been appointed to design the cemetery layout in 1837.⁵⁴ The overall massing of the stone structure was similar to the original gatehouse. The entry drive was spanned by a central opening flanked by rooms for offices and a reception area. Iron gates swung open to allow access to the cemetery and wooden picket fencing extended north and south of the new building. Two towers rose from the center of the building with a taller tower to the north. An arched opening provided pedestrian access north of the drive. (See Figure II.9.) Inside the cemetery gate, a planted

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mound was placed at the center of the entry drive, on axis with the central opening of the gatehouse. A second mound was set in the circular mown turf panel to the west. (See Figure II.10.)

Additional improvements took place during this period. Around 1860, planning was underway to construct a cemetery chapel near the main entrance. Noted Rochester architects, Henry Searle and his son Henry Robinson Searle, collaboratively designed the Gothic Revival-style stone chapel. The proposed chapel was sited at the base of a steep hillside to include an underground vault where coffins were stored during the winter months until they could be buried in the spring.⁵⁵ (See Figure II.11.) However, this low-lying section of the cemetery was an inundated, swampy area. In preparation for the chapel construction, the swampy area was drained. Local engineer George D. Stillson devised a complex plan to dig a 500-foot long tunnel from the entrance on Mount Hope Avenue through an esker along Indian Trail Avenue to the Genesee River.⁵⁶ The tunnel began 8 feet south of the planned chapel, draining the existing marsh into the river.⁵⁷ Construction on the chapel commenced in the spring of 1861 and was completed near the end of the year.⁵⁸

An observation tower known as "The Fandango" may have been constructed on a high point in Section I of Mount Hope Cemetery, near the east edge of the grounds, at this time. The structure provided open views of surrounding landscapes, including farmlands, the Ellwanger & Barry nursery, the city of Rochester, Irondequoit Bay, and Lake Ontario. A flight of stone steps provided access to the tower from Prospect Avenue, an internal cemetery drive.⁵⁹ (See Figure II.12.) While the exact construction date of this structure is unclear, it is documented as in use prior to 1864.⁶⁰ Documentation of this cemetery feature is limited, however sometime before 1885 the "Fandango" became dilapidated and was torn down. Plans were developed to construct a stone observation tower in its place.⁶¹ Details of proposed stone tower are limited and no documentation has been found of a replacement tower, indicating that it was never constructed.

Around this same period, in the early 1860s, planning for a citywide waterworks system was underway, prompting the community to comment on the lack of water sources in Mount Hope Cemetery. By this time, cemetery visitors and plot owners had planted flowers throughout the cemetery grounds. However, without available water sources in the cemetery, visitors must carry water "half a mile or more." Initial suggestions were made to remedy the issue, including digging wells through the cemetery or using a water wheel to pump water from the nearby Genesee River. Despite recognition of this lack of readily available water, no immediate action was taken.⁶²

The need for accessible water at Mount Hope Cemetery persisted and in 1864, requests for water supply were repeated with an additional suggestion of constructing a reservoir on a high point in Section I, alongside the existing observation tower. The potential benefits were expanded with the elaboration that with a reservoir, plot owners could create small fountains.⁶³

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No action was taken for several years until, in 1869, George D. Stillson, who had been appointed cemetery superintendent in 1865, devised a solution. Stillson designed and installed a water system within the cemetery that gathered water from the natural springs that flowed on the western slope. This water was collected in a reservoir at the foot of the hill where a hydraulic ram then pumped the water to a series of smaller reservoirs along Indian Trail Avenue. Water was dispersed to nearby lots. The balance was piped along the east side of the Indian Trail Avenue ridge and across an open lawn to the cemetery gate and office to provide spring water for drinking.⁶⁴

A number of other improvement projects were accomplished during the 1860s. In May 1864, the Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery petitioned the Common Council to "grade and improve" the Revolutionary War soldier section of the cemetery. The Commissioners also wished to sell a portion of the plot. The Common Council approved both requests.⁶⁵ Under the direction of the Commissioners, cemetery Superintendent Chauncey Parsons made alterations to the grade of the Revolutionary War soldiers plot. Parsons removed the top of the high knoll, known as Patriot Hill, and formed a 40-foot wide ellipse. Following this regrading project, several prominent figures in Rochester history were buried there and the summit of the partially leveled knoll came to be known as Rochester Hill.⁶⁶

In 1867, The Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery noted that selected existing features required repairs, notably the gatehouse erected in 1859 and the chapel and vault constructed in 1861. The gatehouse was reportedly constructed on an "insecure foundation" and was in poor condition within less than 10 years of its construction. The Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery further reported that the building must "sooner or later be rebuilt." That same year the Commissioners reported to the Common Council that the chapel and vault also needed repairs and alterations, although they did not note specific issues. Although the Commissioners received a total of \$18,089.18 during the year, much of the funds were devoted to "labor, sodding and improving lots," materials, tools, removals, pasturing, and miscellaneous repairs; the funds required for other expenses prevented the Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery from repairing the gatehouse and chapel. Expenditures covered by the Commissioners included mortgages for buildings on the cemetery grounds and insurance.⁶⁷

In addition to landscape improvements, Mount Hope Cemetery was expanded several times in the 1860s with the inclusion of neighboring properties. On July 29, 1861, Ellwanger and Barry sold 4.8 acres directly north of the cemetery to the city of Rochester for \$3,000. The Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery retained an existing residence and allowed the owner, John W. Wolcott to rent the house.⁶⁸ A few years later, in June 1864, Rochester resident Caleb Pierce sold 5.3 acres to the Mayor and Common Council of the city of Rochester for \$1,440.90 on the 13th of the month and another 7.8 acres for \$1,947.79 on the 21st.⁶⁹ In 1865, three additional land purchases were made. On January 25, Eleazer Conkey sold 3.7 acres for \$3,000.⁷⁰ On May 1, A. F. and G. P. Wolcott sold 52.2 acres for \$20,864.⁷¹ This land included a large distillery and was west of the cemetery and sited on the east bank of the Genesee River.⁷²

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The final land purchase in the 1860s occurred on November 3, 1865 when B. F. and Maria Hall sold 22.7 acres for \$9,096. This brought the total acreage of the cemetery to 169.4, which the Common Council purchased for a combined total of \$47,514.69.⁷³ By 1870, a total of 24,692 burials had taken place at Mount Hope Cemetery, with a total of 4,637 lot owners.⁷⁴

As the cemetery landscape expanded, new features were added to the grounds. It is likely that when the City acquired the Wolcott property on the Genesee River, a rough stone and mortar wall was constructed at the new west cemetery edge. Carriage and pedestrian entrances were marked with tall stone piers with large capstones.⁷⁵ A number of existing buildings and structures were retained for cemetery use as new land was acquired. This included most notably residences constructed prior to inclusion in the cemetery landscape. Two wood-frame houses located at the northeast cemetery edge, along Mount Hope Avenue, were retained for the Superintendent's Residence and Assistant Superintendent's Residence.⁷⁶

With the numerous land purchases, the cemetery grounds had more than tripled from the original 53.86 acres. With the new acreage, existing cemetery infrastructure needed to be improved. In the spring of 1870, the Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery expanded the cemetery water system by extending existing pipes.⁷⁷ The water supply at Mount Hope Cemetery was further augmented with a pumping station that pumped water from the Genesee River. A water tank supported by stone masonry piers was constructed in Section G. The tank received and stored water pumped from the river. The new system likely replaced the initial system that relied on spring water and a series of reservoirs.⁷⁸

By the end of the 1870s, Mount Hope Cemetery had been improved to emphasize the natural scenery and character of the picturesque landscape. The cemetery Commissioners discouraged plot owners from constructing large, elaborately detailed mausoleums. They preferred cemetery development that allowed visitors to focus on the beauty of the landscape. The Commissioners reported to the Rochester Common Council that "the improvements at Mt. Hope have always been of a character to make it a beautiful rural burying ground. The managers have never sought to build elaborate artificial structures, or to endeavor to compete with those whose means, tastes, pride, or love of show stimulated them to expend large and useless sums in costly and inharmonious exhibitions of stone and iron, but with such limited means as a self-sustaining organization has afforded, to beautify and adorn it with the natural decorations of trees and flowers."⁷⁹

The development and improvement of Mount Hope Cemetery focused on augmenting the natural landscape character, transforming the cemetery into "a shady and refreshing resort for hot summer afternoons." As a result, use of the cemetery grounds for recreation increased and it became a popular destination for picnickers.⁸⁰ Supporting the recreational use of the scenic cemetery grounds was a new horse-drawn streetcar line constructed along State Street in Rochester in 1862. Service on the new line included ten cars that ran continuously from Lake View to Mount Hope.⁸¹

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In 1872, Mount Hope Cemetery was again expanded. On April 3, the heirs of the Hamilton estate sold 19 acres to the Mayor and Common Council for \$16,200. This brought the total acreage of the cemetery to 188.4, which the Common Council purchased for a combined total of \$63,714.69.⁸² As the cemetery grounds continued to expand, the southern half of the cemetery was developed. This area, south of Grove Avenue, conveyed a notably different character because the natural form of the landscape was much more level and open, lending itself to a lawn-type cemetery and contrasting the picturesque character of the original, northern area.⁸³

While the southern cemetery area was developed, improvements continued in the northern cemetery grounds. In circa 1872, the City built a Moorish-style gazebo near the entrance to Mount Hope Cemetery, west of the gatehouse and east of the chapel.⁸⁴ The wooden structure was ornately carved and painted and featured a wood floor. A drinking fountain was installed under the gazebo shelter. Nearby trees shaded the structure and enhanced its setting in the landscape. (See Figure II.13.)

In 1874, two years after the gazebo was constructed, the cemetery entrance was further improved when prominent Rochester architect, Andrew J. Warner, designed a north gate and gatehouse to replace the stone gatehouse constructed in 1859. The new High Victorian Gothic building included many elements typical of Warner's design style, such as a central tower, coupled and tripled windows, and iron cresting.⁸⁵ Unlike the two previous gatehouses, the Warner-designed building did not span the cemetery entrance. Instead, it was sited to the south of the entrance drive, opening views into the cemetery grounds from Mount Hope Avenue. Iron fencing with cut stone piers was erected with gated openings for vehicular and pedestrian access. (See Figures II.14 and II.15.)

While the cemetery entrance was undergoing improvements, George Ellwanger from Mount Hope Nurseries made improvements to his family plot. Ellwanger hired noted Italian sculptor Nicola Cantalamessa-Papotti to create a marble monument depicting Saint John for the Ellwanger family plot, located in Section V, south of the cemetery entrance and near Mount Hope Avenue.⁸⁶

Shortly after the new gatehouse was constructed, in circa 1875, an ornamental feature was added to the Mount Hope Cemetery entrance area. A cast iron Florentine-style fountain was constructed east of the 1861 chapel.⁸⁷ The fountain included an upper and lower basin with a figure of a maiden pouring water from an urn. Urns planted with flowers adorned the edge of the fountain pool. (See Figure II.16.) The water from the fountain was supplied by the cemetery water system that Superintendent Stillson implemented in the 1860s.⁸⁸

In 1875, issues arose with the existing cemetery water supply, which depended on the nearby Genesee River. In June of 1875, the river was unusually low and water was not available to maintain vegetation planted in the cemetery. The Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery

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requested that the City make a connection to the city waterworks to provide an adequate supply of water to the cemetery.⁸⁹

At the end of this early development period Mount Hope Cemetery had expanded from 53.86 acres to 188.4 acres. The expansive cemetery grounds had been improved into a picturesque, park-like landscape that boasted some of the most impressive views of Rochester. In addition to the carriage and pedestrian drives that wound around the steeply sloping landscape, a number of other landscape features were implemented. Ornamental and flowering trees, shrubs, and perennials were planted throughout the landscape. Unadorned buildings and mausoleums were erected in simplified Gothic Revival, Greek, and Roman styles. The unimposing architecture was set within the landscape, adding to the overall character without drawing focus from the unique setting. (See Figure II.17.) A simple wooden observatory tower afforded visitors impressive views of Rochester. Other features, such as the Moorish gazebo and Florentine fountain provided ornamentation at the cemetery entrance. (See Figure II.18.)

C. CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT & CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS,
1876 TO 1930

Overall development and improvements to the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape were largely completed by 1875. During this later period, work at the cemetery focused on improvements to individual plots and additions to existing facilities, instead of on the broader cemetery landscape. Recreational use of the cemetery landscape continued during this period, with Rochester residents visiting the cemetery to take advantage of its scenic, park-like setting.

Additional improvements were limited during the latter half of the 1870s, but, in the 1880s, several projects were undertaken to enhance individual plots. By 1880, the original plot set aside in 1843 as the Rochester Firemen's Plot had become too small and the plot was moved to a 10,000-square foot section of the cemetery, south of Grove Avenue. A 50-foot tall Firemen's Monument was erected at the new site. The monument was the tallest in the cemetery and was constructed of St. Johnsbury granite by the Rochester company H. S. Hebard's Steam Marble Works. The impressive monument cost approximately \$8,000, which included the cost of grading the monument site. The positioning of the monument near the west edge of the cemetery afforded scenic views of the Genesee River from its base.⁹⁰ (See Figure II.19.)

Administrative changes were also made during this period. In 1880, a city charter was passed that allowed the Common Council to appoint a Mount Hope Cemetery Board which was shortly carried out.⁹¹ George D. Stillson had served as the superintendent of Mount Hope Cemetery for 16 years and, as a local engineer, has provided cemetery plans before serving as superintendent. During his tenure, Stillson was celebrated for his capability both as superintendent and as an

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engineer who made numerous improvements to the cemetery landscape. In 1881, Superintendent George D. Stillson died and was succeeded by his son, George T. Stillson.⁹²

By 1885, the pleasant, scenic character of Mount Hope Cemetery was highlighted in a book by Rochester author Edward Angevine. *A Guide or Hand-Book for Mount Hope Cemetery* was written as a resource for both cemetery lot owners and public visitors. In the book, Angevine described overall character of the cemetery that brought visitors along a sequential path through the landscape.⁹³ The publication of a book that described the picturesque landscape and provided a pleasant walking route through the landscape further reveals the shift in the character and use of cemeteries that occurred with the rural cemetery movement. In addition to the visual character of the cemetery being an important feature, the cemetery became an increasingly popular greenspace for strolling and picnicking, particularly as a citywide park system had not yet been developed.

During the 1880s, Mount Hope Cemetery expanded to include additional adjacent lands. By 1890, the grounds had reached about 200 acres and included some 43,776 graves.⁹⁴ A large brick building was constructed at the north edge of the cemetery to house horses and funeral equipment in the 1890s.⁹⁵ An access road was laid out alongside the building and extending north to the public road, McLean Street. While additional improvement work slowed through the end of the 19th century, burials continued, including several re-interments from other Rochester burial grounds. Around 1892, burials from the Society of Friends Ground, a Quaker burial site, were transferred to Mount Hope Cemetery.⁹⁶ The following year, burials from the West Brighton Rural Cemetery were relocated to Mount Hope.⁹⁷

At the close of the 19th century, Mount Hope Cemetery was 370% larger than its initial 53.86 acres at some 200 acres. Expanding again in 1903, the cemetery grounds added acreage was obtained, extending the cemetery south to Elmwood Avenue and west to the Lehigh Valley railroad, bringing the total acreage to 250.⁹⁸ Plans to improve the new, southernmost area of the cemetery were not immediately developed. Instead, over the next few years, the Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery focused on changes to rules and regulations. In 1905, the Commissioners voted to forbid Sunday funerals at the cemetery, primarily to provide one day a week when those visiting graves would not be disturbed by funerals. The Commissioners also noted that Sunday was a popular day for families to visit the cemetery grounds for strolling and picnicking.⁹⁹

In 1906, the Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery adopted additional rules pertaining to posts erected to mark plots, noting that the cemetery was responsible for installing posts while individual lot owners were responsible for purchasing and paying for installation of the posts. The Commissioners further noted that all work in the cemetery between December 1st and April 1st of every year should be limited. They also set forth regulations for future construction, noting that the cemetery will build all monument foundations. The price of sodding new lots was also raised from 3 cents per square foot to 4 cents.¹⁰⁰

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The following year, in 1907, the Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery raised prices for interment, disinterment, and resodding of graves. Interment of adults was raised from \$5 to \$6 and children from \$3.75 to \$5. Disinterment of adults was raised from \$6.50 to \$9 and children from \$5.20 to \$7. Resodding of existing adult graves was raised from \$1.25 to \$1.50 and child graves from \$0.88 to \$1.¹⁰¹

By 1908, plans to improve the southern sections of Mount Hope Cemetery, purchased in 1903, were developed. One part of the plan was to grade an existing bank adjacent to the railroad tracks and plant hundreds of trees as a visual screen and windbreak. A six-foot tall iron fence was erected along the Elmwood Avenue frontage with plans to eventually extend the fence along the western boundary, separating the cemetery from the railroad tracks. Work on the new cemetery grounds began in spring 1909.¹⁰²

As part of the improvement of the southern cemetery grounds, plans were developed to construct a new entrance and chapel along Mount Hope Avenue, south of Grove Avenue. Although construction was scheduled to begin in spring 1909, the new chapel was built from 1911 to 1912.¹⁰³ Upon completion of the new chapel, it was anticipated that the original, Searle-designed chapel, located near the north cemetery entrance, would be remodeled and used as a crematory.¹⁰⁴ Plans to add a crematory to the cemetery were created as early as 1885, when a plan was proposed to build a crematory near the Genesee River, west of the Firemen's Monument.¹⁰⁵ However, for unknown reasons, the structure was never built in this portion of the cemetery. Perhaps stemming from the proposal, a crematory was designed in 1910 as an addition on the north side of the 1861 chapel, sited at the base of a steep hill near the cemetery entrance. The crematory was designed by prominent Rochester architect, J. Foster Warner, who was also the son of Andrew J. Warner, designer of the 1874 cemetery gatehouse. The new facility, completed in 1912 was somewhat controversial as the method of cremation to dispose of remains was considered inappropriate by many city residents.¹⁰⁶ In spite of the unfavorable attitudes of some people about cremation, the crematory was constructed. The new addition was designed to match the simple, Gothic Revival character of the original chapel, with a slightly lower roofline and a tall vent extending from the roof. (See Figure II.20.)

J. Foster Warner also designed the new, southern chapel. Work on the new chapel began in August 1909. The Swan & Gorsline Company of Rochester was awarded a contract of \$65,000 to build the new chapel. The chapel included a new vault that had room to store 175 bodies. Because of this feature, the Commissioners anticipated that the new vault will allow them to do away with winter burials.¹⁰⁷ The new chapel was constructed of stone with stone mullions and coping embellishing the windows and cornice, respectively. (See Figures II.21 and II.22.)

The exact date of construction for the new cemetery entrance is unknown, although it likely took place sometime between 1907 and 1909. A drive entered the cemetery grounds to the

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south of an existing residence, which was eventually adapted for use as the cemetery offices. The new chapel was located just south of the drive. Iron fencing with stone piers similar to those at the northern entrance was erected with swinging gates at vehicular and pedestrian entrances. Concrete sidewalks along Mount Hope Avenue ran parallel to the perimeter fence and extended perpendicularly into the cemetery grounds. (See Figure II.23.)

Photographic documentation from this period indicates that several small-scale and ornamental improvements were in place in the cemetery landscape by the 1910s. Ornamental plantings lined portions of cemetery drives, enhancing the scenic landscape character. (See Figure II.24.) Sylvan Waters was treated as a garden space within the broader cemetery landscape. Lily pads floated on the surface of the water and a weeping willow overhung the water edge. Ornamental plantings were installed along portions of the surrounding slopes. (See Figure II.7.) Several rustic features, notably birdbaths and houses, were erected in the cemetery landscape. Placed near gravestones and prolific plantings, these features complemented the overall landscape character and attracted wildlife. (See Figures II.25, II.26, and II.27.) To support the ornamental plantings found throughout the cemetery grounds, a greenhouse was constructed sometime between 1890 and 1914. The rectangular structure was located in Section D, near the Superintendent's Residence and the cemetery entrance.¹⁰⁸ (See Figure II.28.)

During the years surrounding the construction of the new chapel, other physical improvements to the cemetery grounds slowed and the Commissioners again began to focus on rules and regulations. In 1910, the Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery adopted a new charter that stated that $\frac{1}{10}$ of all revenue was put in a perpetual repair fund to provide money for necessary, site-wide costs, such as road building, fence repairs, and employees.¹⁰⁹

In addition to the perpetual repair fund, the Commissioners adopted a rule to charge plot owners \$1 per year to cut grass. Many felt this charge was too expensive and several complaints and criticisms were voiced against the Commissioners. Further criticism stemmed from the Commissioners decision to only cut the grass for those contributing the \$1 per year, which resulted in several instances of neatly mown plots neighbored by unmown plots with tall grass and weeds.¹¹⁰ In response to the complaints, Commission President, H. B. Hathaway noted that before 1900, the cemetery grounds were unmown entirely until the Commission decided to begin mowing the entire grounds and send bills to lot owners. However, fewer and fewer owners paid for the upkeep and thus the Commission decided to mow only the lots where owners paid the charge of \$1 per year. Other factors necessitating this decision included decreasing lot sales and rising costs of new construction, erection of fences, and employing a special police force to patrol the grounds.¹¹¹

This issue provides insight into why cemetery improvements were approached in distinct phases, with large-scale construction and improvements interspersed among several years of little to no improvement projects. Because of the municipal ownership of Mount Hope Cemetery, available funds were limited. Thus, it took the Commissioners several years to

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accumulate enough revenue to undertake construction projects. Ultimately, this contributed to the overall character of the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape. The undulating landscape with simple, unimposing architecture, curving carriage drives, and limited large-scale development highlighted the naturalistic style of the cemetery.

The same year the Commissioners adopted new cemetery rules, the Buffalo-based company, Easter Mausoleum Construction Company, developed plans for a granite mausoleum building to accommodate 1,000 crypts. The proposed building was to be constructed near Elmwood Avenue, at the southern edge of the cemetery.¹¹² While it was anticipated that this structure would be erected within a few months, it was never built, likely due to a lack of funds.

Two years later, in 1912, the Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery again turned their focus to rules and regulations when they adopted new regulations pertaining to fencing in the cemetery grounds. In the southern half of the cemetery, between the Firemen's Plot and Elmwood Avenue, iron fencing around burial plots and mounding on the graves was prohibited. The reason cited for these changes was that fences and mounds made upkeep, particularly mowing, more difficult.¹¹³

- By 1914, a total of 80,000 people had been interred at Mount Hope Cemetery and the cemetery grounds had expanded to encompass over 200 acres. Burial plots covered the majority of the cemetery landscape with only the southwest corner on Elmwood Avenue remaining open with little development. Curving walks and drives provided scenic routes through the grounds. In the southern half of the cemetery, the ground plane was naturally flatter and more open, which influenced the spatial organization and layout. Here, the cemetery landscape was more rectilinear, with straighter drives and more grid-like patterns within the burial sections. (See Figures II.29 and II.30.) Improvements to the cemetery were credited to the direction of Superintendent John W. Keller, who had a background in the plant nursery business. In particular, Keller was credited with the laying out of "floral and landscape effects" as well as the construction of several buildings such as crematory, chapel, and vault. It was noted that Keller cleared hillsides covered with underbrush and laid out vistas, flower beds, gardens, winding paths, and planted shrubs.¹¹⁴

In 1917, cemetery Superintendent Keller somewhat altered the character of the cemetery grounds when he allowed the use of automobiles for funeral services. Individual automobiles not associated with a funeral or burial were not permitted within the cemetery grounds.¹¹⁵ Within three years, the use of automobiles resulted in damage to cemetery drives, most of which were compacted dirt.¹¹⁶ Because of the surface treatment of the drives and the steep slopes, vehicular use likely caused erosion issues. The city engineer prepared plans to repair and expand the existing network of drives as well as to expand the cemetery water system for a total cost of \$350,000. Compacted dirt roads were resurfaced with a bituminous material.¹¹⁷

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In addition to the overall cemetery improvements and regulatory issues, it was also during this period that noted designers contributed to individual plots. In 1884, Italian sculptor Nicola Cantalamessa-Papotti was commissioned to create a piece known as The Weary Pilgrim for the Erickson family monument, located in Section G near the center of the cemetery.¹¹⁸ This was the second sculpture in the cemetery created by the famed Italian sculptor.

Circa 1930 Cemetery Landscape Character & Areas Overlay Plans

Between 1838 and 1930, the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape was improved based primarily on plans designed by city employees, notably city surveyor Silas Cornell and engineer and cemetery Superintendent George D. Stillson. By 1930, the cemetery had reached the height of its development as envisioned from the original inception of the picturesque, Victorian cemetery in 1838. The following narrative discusses the circa 1930 landscape character of Mount Hope Cemetery and is organized by the six defined landscape areas. The discussion is supported by the *Circa 1930 Landscape Areas Overlay Plan, OP-1930*, and *1890 Landscape Areas Overlay Plan, OP-1890*, included at the end of the chapter as 11-inch by 17-inch fold outs at a scale of 1 inch equal to 200 feet. The 1890 *Map of Mount Hope Cemetery* and a 1926 aerial served as the primary references for this discussion. The overlay of landscape areas on the aerial shows the organization of the cemetery with the Cemetery Entrance in red, the Cemetery Core in yellow, the North Cemetery Edge & Maintenance Yard in dark blue, the West Cemetery Edge & River Frontage in green, the Cemetery Public Grounds & Street Frontage in light blue, and the Western Slopes & Fields in magenta. Because the focus of this report is the northern half of the cemetery, this discussion addresses the cemetery landscape north of Grove Avenue.

Landscape Area 1: Cemetery Entrance

Landscape Area 1 defines the main entrance into Mount Hope Cemetery. Because it is the first space experienced by cemetery visitors, it greatly contributes to the character and perception of the overall cemetery landscape. Spatially, the area is organized by two large hills south of the gatehouse and northwest of the gazebo that frame the entry landscape. Curving drives and pedestrian paths help further define the space. Visually, the natural landform and layout of circulation features and buildings frames views of the scenic entry space. Area 1 provides an introduction to the broader, picturesque cemetery landscape, with views focused on the ornamental structures in this area.

The topography of Area 1 is fairly level with steep slopes at the north, west, and south edges. This area is a naturally low-lying section of the cemetery. Initially, the area was swampy with several wet areas; however, to develop the cemetery entrance, the natural systems were manipulated and the area was drained, creating a dry, flat valley framed by dramatically sloping hillsides.

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Vegetation in Area 1 includes a variety of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plant materials, although the exact species composition is unknown. Trees are clustered around the edges of the area, particularly to the northwest and west. Dominant tree species are likely oak and maple. A European fernleaf beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Asplenifolia'), planted near the end of the 19th century, is located on the open turf to the west of the fountain. Based on the trees persist, additional tree species found in the circa 1930 landscape likely also include a grouping of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), a Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), and a white oak (*Quercus alba*) north of the Florentine fountain as well as a cluster of four douglas fir, a white fir (*Abies concolor*), and white oak north of the gazebo. Ornamental plantings are also located in this area. Flowering shrubs are likely planted near the perimeter of the area. The Florentine fountain has several planted urns placed around the perimeter of the basin. A perennial bed likely surrounds the fountain as well. Large, Victorian-style planting mounds are located in the entry space, planted on the lawn panels in front of the chapel and crematory.

Circulation in Area 1 includes both vehicular and pedestrian paths. The main vehicular drive enters the cemetery landscape from Mount Hope Avenue at the east edge of the area. The drive extends west, past the gatehouse and gazebo. Past the gazebo, the entry drive connects with the northern terminus of Indian Trail Avenue. Just past this intersection, the drive loops around a lawn panel to the front of the chapel and crematory. At the south edge, the loop drive branches out into short access drives that connect with Lawn, Elwood, and Ravine Avenues. A curved pedestrian walk provides access to the gatehouse. Another walk runs roughly parallel to the entry drive, gently curving as it encircles the Moorish gazebo. A walk may have been laid out parallel to the drive that loops around the fountain, to the front of the chapel. Simple stone pieces are placed on the open turf alongside the drive and walk.

A number of water features are located in the Cemetery Entrance. The Florentine fountain is located in the circular lawn panel to the east of the chapel and crematory. The decorative fountain is constructed of cast iron and provides a strong focal point for the entry landscape. A drinking fountain is located within the gazebo, creating a shady resting place for visitors. Underground piping servicing the cemetery water system extends through Area 1.

A number of prominent structures, site furnishings, and objects are located in Area 1. At Mount Hope Avenue, stone piers and iron gates and fencing control access into the cemetery landscape. An ornate light fixture is located at the entrance, east of the stone piers and gates. The large stone gatehouse is sited inside the entrance gate at the south edge of the entry drive. Curving walks provide access to the gatehouse and a large deciduous tree provides shade alongside the building. The mown turf ground plane meets the building foundation. (See Figure II.31.) On the opposite side of the drive, the wooden Moorish gazebo stands under the shady tree canopy. The original cemetery chapel and crematory are located at the west edge of the area, at the base of a steel slope. A stone wall behind the chapel retains the grade from the adjacent ridgeline along Indian Trail Avenue. A large mausoleum, constructed for Charles Rau, is built into the sloping topography at the northwest edge of the area, north of the fountain.

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Landscape Area 2: Cemetery Core

The spatial organization, land patterns, land uses, and visual relationships of Area 2 are quite complex. The area is primarily organized by the steep slopes, rolling topography, and other landforms created by glacier activity, which have defined the network of drives, paths, and burial plot arrangements. The system of topography, circulation, and vegetation creates a visual sequence of choreographed superior and inferior views throughout the core of the cemetery. The sequence of views progresses through the woodland ramble overlooking ravines and hollows, gently sloping valleys, and convex hillsides. Overall, Area 2 reflects the design of a woodland ramble, where paths and drives unfold as a recreational landscape experience accentuated with scenic views.

The topography of Area 2 was created by glacial activity centuries ago. Valleys, rolling hills, steep slopes, ridges, and kettles all characterize the topography and natural systems of this area. A ridgeline beginning behind the 1861 chapel and running southwest naturally divides the site into two halves. To the west of the ridge is a sloping valley framed by Glen Avenue, Patriot Hill (also known as Revolutionary Hill or Rochester Hill) and a second hill with two high points. Farther west, the lands slope downward toward the Genesee River. East of the dividing ridgeline is Mount Hope, the landform which shares its name with the cemetery, and a series of other linear ridges and steep slopes. The southeast corner of Area 2 contains a series of glacially-formed natural kettles, "Sylvan Waters," along with two smaller kettles. To the west of Sylvan Waters is a large dry kettle adjacent to a series of smaller hills. The southwest corner of the area contains three ridges with broad, sweeping valleys that extend from Indian Trail Avenue to Cedar Avenue. Similarly, ridges and valleys continue throughout the north end of the area.

The exact makeup of vegetation within Area 2 in 1930 is unknown; however, assumptions can be made based upon historic accounts and the large trees found on site today. This includes several oak species, such as pin (*Quercus palustris*), northern red (*Quercus rubra*), white, and black (*Quercus velutina*), as well as eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), Norway spruce, Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*), and European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). The general species composition likely includes native woodland trees such as large oaks and more ornamental trees, such as Japanese maple and European beech, donated from Mount Hope Nurseries. The tree canopy in this area is fairly dense, creating a woodland ramble. Flowering shrubs are likely planted under the dense canopy. The ground plane at this time likely contains mixed species turf grasses, wildflowers, and memorial plantings.

Circulation features within Area 2 include a complex network of drives and paths that traverse the steep topography of Mount Hope Cemetery and circumvent valleys and hills. A hierarchy of circulation routes is present throughout Area 2 ranging from wide carriage drives, narrower drives/wide walks, and pedestrian paths. Wider drives mainly follow the curvilinear, natural

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topography of the site while narrower drives and pedestrian paths follow the spaces between burial plots.

Indian Trail Avenue follows the highpoint of the topography and divides the area into west and east halves. Indian Trail Avenue begins within Area 1, climbing the slope to the west of the chapel. At the top of the slope it turns north to link to Area 3 and south to link to Glen and Linden Avenues. Linden Avenue is straighter and more linear, creating rectangular and triangular parcels, while Glen Avenue adjoins West Avenue in a more curvilinear loop arrangement of drives that skirt the edges of hills and ridges, forming more circular parcels. Glen and Indian Trail Avenues continue toward the south edge of Area 2, and joined together by Buell Avenue. As Glen Avenue turns east at the far southwest corner of the area, it adjoins Cedar Avenue, which forms the boundary between Landscape Areas 2 and 5. Cedar Avenue winds uphill to the east to intersect with Indian Trail and Dell Avenues. From that point, Dell Avenue circles around and connects back to Indian Trail Avenue to the northwest. Indian Trail Avenue continues east to Fifth Avenue, which heads northward, connecting to Ravine, Highland, Prospect, Hillside, East, and Lawn Avenues. Ravine, Highland, and Hillside Avenues are carriage drives carved out of the steep hillside to create a terraced and scenic effect of drives and burial plots. The terraced drives intersect to the north of Sylvan Waters and array toward the north following the topography of the cemetery core. Off of Highland Avenue, a loop drive, Lake View Avenue, extends to the south and encircles the Fandango. Other drives include Hope Avenue and Elwood Avenue which connect Indian Trail Avenue with Ravine Avenue and Ravine Avenue with Lawn Avenue, respectively.

Numerous pedestrian paths are present in the core cemetery landscape in 1930. In contrast to the drives, paths are aligned to follow the arrangement of burial plots and graves as well as topography. While most pedestrian paths are located between burial plots, some specific pedestrian scale circulation features are also present. In particular, the high ground west of Sylvan Waters contains narrow walks that meander through the geometrically shaped burial plots and the adjacent kettles. Other pedestrian paths are located on Patriot Hill, the slope southwest of the Gatehouse, and other prominent landforms. Stone steps provide pedestrian routes on the sloping ground plane. In general, pedestrians and recreational visitors to the cemetery likely strolled along the carriage drives and used the paths along the hilltops for views of the city. Burial plot paths were likely used to access gravesites by family members.

Water Features in Area 2 consist of a series of natural kettles. Sylvan Waters is the main water feature of the area with calm reflective waters with burials around. Although three other kettles are located within the cemetery landscape, Sylvan Waters is the only one that contains water. The kettle is fed by runoff from the surrounding hillsides. It is likely that because of the natural placement of the other kettles, they do not retain surface runoff in the same way that Sylvan Waters does. Area 2 also likely includes water faucets and underground piping that is part of the existing cemetery water system. It is unknown if the water storage tank, constructed in 1870 in Section G, remains in place at this time.

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Area 2 includes several non-habitable structures, site furnishings and objects, notably retaining walls, large mausoleums, gravestones, small memorial objects, which include small features that visitors place at gravesites. Iron fencing is located at the east edge of the area that fronts on Mount Hope Avenue. It is likely that iron fencing is found throughout the area, enclosing numerous gravesites and burial plots. Stone retaining walls are also found throughout the area, retaining grade around gravesites and constructed mausoleums.

Landscape Area 3: North Cemetery Edge & Maintenance Yard

The spatial arrangement, land patterns, and overall landscape character for Area 3 is grid-like and rectilinear. Extending from the north property boundary to Mount Hope Avenue to the east and steep wooded slopes to the west, burial plots in this area are laid out on gently sloping topography. Along the Mount Hope Avenue frontage, the land contains the Superintendent's and Assistant Superintendent's Residences, access drive, and no graves or burial plots. To the west, a rhythmic grid pattern of plots, walkways, and carriage drives delineate the character of the landscape. A section labeled "Barn Lot" on the 1890 map is shown as part of the cemetery to the north and includes the brick storage building, functioning as the cemetery maintenance yard.

Views throughout Area 3 likely expand to the adjacent Mount Hope neighborhood to the north and east. Views to the northern neighborhood are defined by the development of Mount Hope Nurseries and the associated worker housing community. Open agricultural fields can also be viewed from this northern edge. Because of the dense cemetery vegetation, views southward into the Cemetery Core are limited, framed by the soaring tree canopy. Given the sloping ground plane, views westward toward the Genesee River are also likely prevalent.

Topographically, Area 3 differs from the rest of the cemetery with a fairly level ground plane with gradual slopes to the north and east. The topographic change in this area is roughly 18 feet of elevation. To the south, the ground slopes upward to the rolling topography of the woodland ramble of Area 3. At the west edge, the ground plane slopes down toward the Genesee River. Along Mount Hope Avenue the topography is slightly altered to accommodate the entry drive for the Superintendent's Residence.

An exact composition of vegetation within Area 3 during 1930 is not known; however, assumptions can be made regarding the species based upon historic accounts and the large trees found on site today. These include primarily evergreen trees like Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens 'glauca'*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), Norway spruce, eastern red cedar, and eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). Deciduous trees Area 3 include chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*), European beech, sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), and tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). The overall species composition likely includes native woodland trees such as large oaks and more ornamental trees donated from Ellwanger and Barry of Mount Hope Nurseries. The west

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edge of Area 3 abuts dense woodland. The ground plane at this time likely contains mixed species turf grasses and memorial plantings. The rectangular section defined by the intersection Linden and Indian Trail Avenues is lined to either side by trees, further enclosing the space within the drives. A row of trees provides a screen between the Superintendent's Residence and adjacent burial plots.

Area 3 contains a variety of carriage drives and pedestrian paths. One narrow carriage drive extends west from Mount Hope Avenue, north of the main entrance, and leads west to the interior of Area 3. The drive serves the adjacent Superintendent's Residence and connects to another narrow drive to the north and a looped cemetery carriage drive further west. The loop drive is wider and created by joining Linden Avenue and Indian Trail Avenue. A short, narrow spur drive also leads from the loop drive to the maintenance yard and brick barn. The network of pedestrian paths forms a grid-pattern between burial plots and graves. Pedestrian circulation routes are mainly over the turf ground plane.

No documented water features are present within Area 3 during this time. However, it is likely that a number of water faucets are located in the area that connect with underground piping that serviced the entire cemetery grounds.

Area 3 contains many non-habitable structures, site furnishings, and objects. These include the iron cemetery fence, cast iron fence posts, gravestones, and memorial objects. The cemetery fence likely encloses Area 3 to the east and north. It is likely that the fence does not extend to the west, as the steep westward slope likely defines the edge. Additional iron fencing separates the Superintendent's and Assistant Superintendent's Residences from the public cemetery grounds. Other structures include the barn to the north of the cemetery, and the two residences along Mount Hope Avenue.

Landscape Area 4: West Cemetery Edge & River Frontage

The overall organization for Area 4 during 1930 is spatially divided into three sections by topography, stone walls, and circulation routes. The section to the west is a low-lying sloping area with an open and fairly level ground plane. To the east is a trapezoidal area identified as the "Single Grave Section" on the 1890 map. This section is bounded by a carriage drive. North of the single grave section is an open area with sloping topography and three rows of graves at the east edge. The burial plots within this section of the cemetery are aligned in rows in roughly a north-south arrangement, aligned to the adjacent drives. Given the steep topography and cluster of vegetation to the east edge of this area, views are likely open to the west, overlooking the Genesee River.

The topography of Area 4 generally slopes to the west and northwest toward the Genesee River. The western sections of the area slope to the west before becoming relatively level with around 28 feet in elevation change. The lowest point at the edge of the cemetery property is 532 feet

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above sea level. Within the single grave section the ground plane is more level with only 18 feet of change. Retaining walls to the north of the single grave section help to adjust the grades for this more level section of land. Farther north, in the northeast corner of Area 4, the topography is steeply sloping with a highpoint of 606 feet above sea level. Topography in this northeast area exhibits roughly 38 feet of elevation with downward slopes to the north, south, east, and west. A retaining wall along Glen Avenue at this northeast corner helps maintain the sloping ground plane.

As evident on the overlay plan, the Area 4 vegetation is clustered toward the eastern edge of the area, in the single grave section. Vegetation here appears to be a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees, making a fairly dense canopy over the burial plots. Based on large, mature trees that remain in the landscape today, tree species that existed during the circa 1930 historic period likely include Norway spruce, Norway maple, sugar maple, silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), eastern red cedar, tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Austrian pine, northern red oak, white oak, and scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*). Individual trees are scattered over the ground plane toward the south and west sections. A smaller cluster of trees extends along the northwest edge of the area. Shrubs and wildflowers likely grow in this area as well. The ground plane in the single grave section is likely mown turf. It is unknown if the turf extends throughout the area or if it transitions to meadow as the area extends west toward the Genesee River.

Circulation routes within Area 4 are not well documented at this time. Glen Avenue defines the east edge of the unit, and an unnamed loop drive is located at the southeast corner of the area. Both drives provide carriage and pedestrian access to the single grave section of cemetery. Other pedestrian paths also likely exist between the burial plots and over turf. The 1926 aerial image reveals a path extending west from the southwest corner of the loop drive and curving north, along the western edge of the area.

Area 4 contains no documented water features during this time. However, it is likely that a number of water faucets are located in the area that connect with underground piping that serviced the entire cemetery grounds.

The known non-habitable structures, site furnishings and objects in Area 4 include stone retaining walls, gravestones, and small memorial objects. The stone walls of Area 4 are prominent edge features along Glen Avenue and the north segment of the loop drive that encompasses the single grave section.

Landscape Area 5: Cemetery Public Grounds & Street Frontage

The overall organization for the Area 5 is spatially complex. Varying combinations of topography, vegetation, circulation routes, and burial plots creates multiple subareas of various landscape characters. Bounded by the internal cemetery drive East Avenue and public city

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street Mount Hope Avenue to the east, Grove Avenue to the south, and Fifth Avenue to the west, and Indian Trail and Cedar Avenues to the north, Area 5 is an L-shaped parcel that serves two purposes. It is the public frontage of the cemetery along Mount Hope Avenue and transitions between the woodland ramble to the north and the lawn cemetery to the south.

At the northernmost end of the cemetery along Fifth Avenue, large, rectangular burial plots with steeply sloping topography characterize the area. Extending to the intersection of Grove and East Avenues farther south, the burial plots become more regular and square. To the west between Fifth and First Avenues are smaller rectangular burial plots on a slight diagonal, parallel to the adjacent drives. The public grounds with a small section of single graves are located farther west from First Avenue to beyond Cedar. The westernmost end of Area 5 is open with limited burial plots. Spatial organization and visual relationships are largely defined by the existing tree canopy, framing views and separating space. Views from the east edge out to Mount Hope Avenue are likely open as well as from the south edge into the southern half of the cemetery.

The topography of the area varies, but in general slopes down to Mount Hope Avenue. The western end of the area slopes up to Grove Avenue, while the eastern end slopes down to Grove Avenue. Very steep slopes are located along Cedar Avenue at the north edge of the unit, which are likely retained with stone retaining walls at this time. In general, between Fifth Avenue and East Avenue, the average topographic change is 36 feet. 32 feet of elevation change is exhibited between Grove Avenue and Indian Trail Avenue, while 30 feet of elevation change is between Grove Avenue and the loop drive of Area 4.

Vegetation within Area 5 is primarily trees planted along drives and scattered through burial plots. The exact composition of tree species at this time is unknown, although it likely included a variety of oak and evergreen trees, which were growing throughout the landscape prior to the creation of Mount Hope Cemetery. Based on the size of trees documented in the landscape today, species that persist from the circa 1930 period include sugar maple, scarlet oak, black oak, northern red oak, white oak, Norway spruce, Norway maple, tuliptree, eastern hemlock, scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), white fir (*Abies concolor*), eastern red cedar, Austrian pine, white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), Colorado blue spruce, and oriental spruce (*Picea orientalis*). Ornamental plantings including shrubs and herbaceous flowering plants are also likely planted throughout the area.

Area 5 contains multiple circulation routes for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The entire area is defined by carriage drives—East Avenue to the east, Fifth Avenue to the north and west, Grove Avenue to the south, and Indian Trail and Cedar Avenues to the north. Additional carriage drives, such as First, Second, Third, and Fourth Avenues divide the area into smaller components. A segment of Cedar Avenue also divides the unit as it traverses area between the steep slopes west of the public grounds and Grove Avenue. A grid of narrower paths and walkways provide pedestrian access to the graves throughout Unit 5.

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No documented water features exist within Area 5 during this time. However, it is likely that a number of water faucets are located in the area that connect with underground piping that serviced the entire cemetery grounds.

Area 5 contains multiple non-habitable structures, site furnishings and objects. These include iron cemetery boundary fence, stone walls, gravestones, mausoleums, and various stone and metal fences and posts that define and mark the edges of burial plots. Because of the changing topography, gravestone orientation varies throughout the area.

Landscape Area 6: Western Slopes & Fields

Limited documentation has been uncovered that addresses this area of the cemetery. However, some general features and details are known about the character of Area 6. The overall spatial organization for the Area 6 is relatively open, defined by the dense tree canopy along the east edge and the gently curving Genesee River along the west edge. Wolcott Street runs parallel to the river, providing a distinct edge for the landscape, separating it from the water edge. Visually, the area is fairly open. Because of the slope and tree canopy at the east edge, views into the cemetery core are probably limited.

The topography of the area is generally level with gentle slopes toward the Genesee River. The ground plane begins to exhibit a steeper incline at the east edge of the area, as the riverfront landscape transitions into the dramatic, picturesque cemetery grounds. Because of its proximity to the river and the steep slopes to the east, it is likely that the natural systems make this area unsuitable for establishing burial plots.

Vegetation in Area 6 is primarily trees clustered at the east and northeast edges. Given the minimal development for cemetery use, these trees probably are part of the natural woodlands that covered the landscape before the creation of the cemetery. From the 1926 aerial, it appears that much of the ground plane is open turf. A few irregularly shaped, lighter areas may be compacted earth disturbed during demolition of the Wolcott Distillery.

Area 6 contains limited circulation features. Wolcott Street runs parallel to the Genesee River at the west edge of the area, providing access from other public streets to the north and south. The Erie and Lehigh valley Railroads are also located at the west edge, between the cemetery and the Genesee River. Because this area is not improved as part of the overall cemetery landscape, formal pedestrian paths most likely do not exist. If the area is accessed by pedestrians, they likely traverse the open ground plane.

Water features in Area 6 include both natural and built elements. The Genesee River winds through the city of Rochester, passing the west edge of Area 6. The gentle curve of the river and views of it from the cemetery enhance the scenic quality of the cemetery setting. Another

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water feature is a water pump house constructed in 1870 when the cemetery water system was improved. Details of this feature are unknown, although it is likely a modest, wood-frame structure.

Area 6 has minimal non-habitable structures, site furnishings and objects. One of the only known features for this area is the water system pump house. A rough stone and mortar wall lines the west edge of this area, creating a distinct edge to the cemetery landscape along Wolcott Street. Stone piers mark entry gates. Given the unimproved character of the area, it is unknown how often the cemetery landscape is accessed from the riverfront entry. No burial sites, gravestone, or markers are placed in the area.

Circa 1930 Landscape Character Summary

By 1930, the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape had reached its height of development as originally envisioned in the 1830s. Disturbance of the natural, rolling landscape was limited as much as possible, creating a naturalistic setting for the Victorian cemetery. The dense woodland was selectively cleared to accommodate burials. The steep hills and valleys and curving drives and walks that traverse the landscape help define space. (See Figures II.32 and II.33.) Expansive views can be gained of the surrounding neighborhood from several knolls within the cemetery. Stone steps and retaining walls help negotiate the steeply sloping ground plane. The natural site vegetation is enhanced with ornamental plantings. Natural and constructed water features add to the park-like character. These include Sylvan Waters, the Florentine fountain, and the nearby Genesee River. Large, unadorned stone buildings and ornamental structures support use of the cemetery and contribute to the overall character. Thoughtful design and layout of the various cemetery features result in the unique, picturesque landscape. By 1930, Mount Hope Cemetery had become a highly valued public landscape, serving as a much-needed burial ground and a scenic, recreational parkland.

**D. CEMETERY LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS & REDUCTION,
1931 TO 1979**

Mount Hope Cemetery reached its as-built character in circa 1930. Following this, the Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery continued to make improvements to existing cemetery features, while the overall landscape character was retained. In the 1930s, the circa 1872 Moorish gazebo was repaired.¹¹⁹ This marks the first cemetery structure that was retained and repaired rather than replaced with a new feature. Exact repairs made to the structure are unknown, although it is likely that the wood became deteriorated and needed structural repairs and repainting. Another project was undertaken in 1935 when the Works Progress Administration (WPA) cleaned Sylvan Waters.¹²⁰ The exact work performed to improve the

Circa - approximately.

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natural landscape feature is unknown. However, since the pond is fed from runoff from the surrounding slopes, it is likely that the clean-up included clearing excess sediment and leaf litter.

In 1931, the setting of Mount Hope Cemetery was altered when the River Campus of the University of Rochester was laid out between the west cemetery edge and the Genesee River.¹²¹ Before the inception of the River Campus, this area was encompassed by Oak Hill Golf Course. The public use and general character of the golf course was complementary to the park-like use and character of the adjacent Mount Hope Cemetery. The development of the River Campus impacted the surrounding context of the cemetery and drew a new group of users to the site. Iron picket fencing was installed between the university and cemetery and evergreen trees planted as additional screening. (See Figure II.34.) It is unknown if the fencing and trees extended along the entire west cemetery edge or if it only lined a portion of the interface between the campus and cemetery landscapes.

Following the establishment of the River Campus, a new entrance into the cemetery was erected along Elmwood Avenue. The entrance likely served both as a gateway into the cemetery and as a convenient route to the new university campus from the surrounding neighborhood. The entrance was built as a gift to the City from the 23rd Ward businessmen.¹²² The entrance consisted of four stone piers similar to those on Mount Hope Avenue, with iron picket fencing extending to either side. A central, double swinging vehicular gate was flanked to either side by gated pedestrian entrances. A paved cemetery drive ran parallel to the fencing and new entrance. Because of the flat, open character of the southern half of the cemetery, the recently constructed University Rush Rhees Library could be seen from the gate. (See Figure II.35.)

By 1937, Mount Hope Cemetery had accommodated 112,000 interments within its scenic grounds.¹²³ In June of that same year, the Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery adopted formal Rules and Regulations. The new Rules and Regulations forbade individuals from excavating earth, laying or removing sod, altering grade, and planting, trimming or removing trees and shrubs. Further, the Rules and Regulations specified that no plants or flowers could be removed or picked. Special permits allowed lot owners to remove plants in the fall to protect them from frost. The new rules also prohibited erecting fences and railings, bicycle riding, dog walking, refreshments or liquors, and placing non-permanent articles on graves. The cemetery Commission and Superintendent also began to more carefully oversee improvements, regulating all work done in the cemetery, including construction of vaults and monuments, benches, chairs, etc.¹²⁴

Aside from erection of individual plot features, such as monuments and mausoleums, site-wide improvements were limited through the remainder of this period. Noted American landscape architect Fletcher Steele designed several family plots at Mount Hope Cemetery. In 1941, Steele designed the site for David I. Walsh.¹²⁵ Five years later, Steele designed the site for the Drescher lot.¹²⁶ Steele's next site design in Mount Hope Cemetery did not take place until 1958, when he

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designed the Gannett Monument for Frank E. Gannett, a well-known newspaper publisher. Located near Grove Avenue, the monument was a large, flat granite square that incorporated a raised endless knot surrounded by pieces of obsidian.¹²⁷

It is also likely that during this time, small-scale cemetery features were added or altered, such as benches and fencing. Fencing erected around plots had been identified as a problem in the cemetery as early as 1912, when the Commissioners of Mount Hope Cemetery prohibited fencing in the southern half of the cemetery. The vertical posts along with the undulating topography made upkeep of the plots, particularly mowing, difficult to manage. In the 1960s, in an effort to simplify maintenance efforts, the cemetery superintendent, without the authorization of the Commissioners, sold portions of original cemetery ironwork.¹²⁸ Around 1976, the remaining iron fencing was repaired when a group of Eagle Scout candidates painted fencing throughout the cemetery.¹²⁹

Changes were made to the acreage encompassed by Mount Hope Cemetery during this period. On June 16, 1950 the City of Rochester acquired new acreage adjacent to the northwest section, near the Genesee River.¹³⁰ The final alterations to the cemetery boundary occurred in April 1965, when the University of Rochester purchased 16.29 acres of Mount Hope Cemetery for \$150,000.¹³¹ (See Figure II.36.) With the sale of land to the university, Mount Hope Cemetery encompassed approximately 196 acres.¹³² The conveyance specified that within one year, the University of Rochester must erect a fence between the university and cemetery and construction of at least one university building must begin.¹³³ As part of the agreement, the University granted the City of Rochester a permanent right of easement and access for construction and maintenance of sewer lines.¹³⁴

Mount Hope Cemetery had been substantially improved and developed by the early-mid 1900s and construction projects were minimal following the 1911 construction of the new chapel. In 1974, the first large-scale construction project in over six decades was undertaken at Mount Hope Cemetery. The original crematory, constructed in 1889 on the north façade of the old chapel, closed due to environmental concerns. In response, a new crematory was constructed next to the cemetery office at the southern entrance.¹³⁵

By the 1960s, Mount Hope Cemetery began to be recognized as a historic entity. In 1969, the historic significance of the Mount Hope Cemetery neighborhood and other areas of Rochester were locally recognized when the City adopted a preservation ordinance. The ordinance created preservation standards for historic architecture within the city. As a result, several preservation districts were created, one of which included Mount Hope Cemetery, added in 1974.¹³⁶

In January 1974, the northern area of Mount Hope Cemetery, north of Grove Avenue, and a portion of the southern area, along Mount Hope Avenue, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Mount Hope-Highland Historic District. The nomination form stated:

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"on the east side of Rochester's Genesee River the Mt. Hope-Highland Historic District stretches over 200 acres to include a number of landmark buildings set in or near two of the city's most important landscaped open spaces – Highland Park and the early section of Mt. Hope Cemetery... The Victorian aura permeates the hilly terrain of the Mt. Hope Cemetery. An imposing rough stone gatehouse...presides over the main entrance...Steep roads stone-paved curve throughout the designated section of the cemetery opening up views of secluded private lots surrounded by wrought-iron fences, and sequestered mausoleums. A huge brick gambrel roofed structure on the northern edge of the cemetery was built to house the horses and equipment for funerals and is still in use as a workshop and garage."¹³⁷

The nomination also cited the overall style of the cemetery as a contributing feature to the significance of the broader district:

Nowhere along Mt. Hope Avenue was the mystical gothic trend of the mid-nineteenth century more exploited than in the cemetery...This 'Victorian way of death' has significant bearing on the values and attitudes of the period, and this older section of the cemetery with its landscaped hilly terrain further contributing to an elaborately mournful ambience no longer emphasized in modern cemetery design is included in the district for its role in the social history of the city during the second half of the nineteenth century."¹³⁸

With recognition of the historic significance of Mount Hope Cemetery, the City began to explore enhancing use and understanding of cultural landscape. In January 1976, the Rochester Department of Parks and Recreation prepared the *Proposed Historic and Recreational Uses of Mt. Hope Cemetery*, which addressed the use of the northern area of the cemetery, north of Grove Avenue. Several factors led to the report, including increased costs of upkeep and neighborhood use of the cemetery for recreational purposes. The report noted that "the potential leisure, cultural, and educational benefits of [the cemetery] are mostly untapped" and identified specific projects that could be undertaken. Among them were establishing historical tours; installation of general signage, including an entrance sign with map of the cemetery, and gravesite signs to support tours; and special care for historical gravesites. Restoration and reuse of historic buildings was also proposed. In order to deter vandals, the report noted the old chapel and inactive mausoleums should be sealed. Repairs for existing roadways were also proposed, particularly for Indian Trail Avenue, where stabilization of the road bed and installation of guardrails was suggested. Improvements and repairs were also recommended for Sylvan Waters and water and sewer lines. The Florentine fountain area was identified as a good location for a perennial and shrub garden. Other plantings, including bulbs, wildflowers, ground covers, and rock gardens were suggested for cemetery entrances, glacial pits, and banks. Suggested recreational uses for the cemetery included biking and hiking. Installation of signage,

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benches, trash receptacles, and bike racks was suggested to support these uses. Proposed cultural uses of the cemetery included providing classroom space in the buildings and creating special programs such as musical events, dance, and exhibits. The report also noted the need for security to patrol the cemetery grounds.¹³⁹

Perhaps because of lack of funding, the recommended projects were not initiated. However, potential improvements to the historic landscape were revisited in 1979, when U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan was given a tour of Mount Hope Cemetery. Upon seeing the deteriorated Moorish gazebo, constructed in circa 1872, Moynihan urged restoration of the unique structure. Following his tour, Moynihan wrote a letter to the editor of the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, publicly urging the restoration of the gazebo.¹⁴⁰ This served, in part, as a catalyst for the formation of a citizen organization to promote and preserve the cemetery.¹⁴¹

E. RENEWED USE & PRESERVATION, 1980 TO 2008

By 1980, the City of Rochester and its residents recognized the need to address the character of the cemetery, not only to maintain its historic sense of place, but to provide rich recreational opportunities as well. Spurred on by Senator Moynihan's support of a gazebo restoration, a group of dedicated community members began to explore options. In June 1980, the non-profit organization, Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery (FOMH), formed.¹⁴² From its initiation, the mission of the group was to "restore, preserve, and encourage the public use and enjoyment of the significant cultural resource that is Mount Hope Cemetery."¹⁴³ Following the formation of the Friends group, interest renewed in recreational use of the cemetery, particularly hiking, jogging, and roller skating.¹⁴⁴

Perhaps inspired by the formation of FOMH, a project was undertaken in the summer of 1980 that highlighted the diversity of the trees found throughout the cemetery landscape. James Kelly, a plant taxonomist with the Monroe County Department of Parks, labeled 29 trees along a popular walking tour path in the cemetery. Species included white oak and black oak, black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), red hickory (*Carya ovalis*), sugar maple, tulip tree, cucumber tree (*Magnolia acuminata*), Sawara falsecypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*), European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Caucasian spruce (*Picea orientalis*), and weeping mulberry (*Morus alba pendula*).¹⁴⁵

With the renewed interest in the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape, the City of Rochester decided to rededicate the cemetery. A rededication ceremony was held on October 5, 3 days before the 142nd anniversary of the original cemetery dedication. Thomas P. Ryan, Mayor of Rochester made an address referring to Mount Hope Cemetery as a retreat "dedicated to the repose of the dead and the comfort of the living."¹⁴⁶ A University of Rochester professor, Rowland Collins, also spoke at the rededication ceremony. He noted six important elements that contribute to the unique character of the historic cemetery:

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- Continued use as a burial ground
- Natural beauty of the landscape
- Numerous graves of famous residents
- Cemetery grounds perceived as a work of art
- Cemetery landscape as an arboretum
- Attraction of wildlife to the cemetery

He further stated that the cemetery should be rededicated “for the continued use, benefit, and delight of Rochesterians and to rededicate ourselves to the preservation and enjoyment of this place.”¹⁴⁷ The rededication ceremony and in particular, the comments made by Collins, illustrate the interest in Mount Hope Cemetery. The renewed interest addressed not only continued recreational use, but a dedication to preserving the highly valued historic landscape.

Repairs and improvements to the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape were addressed following the rededication. In 1980, issues arose with maintaining wrought-iron fencing. Approximately 3-¼ miles of fencing and 8 wrought-iron gates stood along the cemetery perimeter. Issues stemmed primarily from damage from fallen trees and limbs, vandalism, and car accidents. Another issue was that portions of the original fencing were removed in the 1960s, when the cemetery superintendent sold portions of it. In order to replace damaged sections beyond repair, the City stockpiled wrought-iron fencing removed from other locations, including Highland Park Reservoir, Genesee Valley Park, Edgerton Park and Brown’s Square. However, repair work was expensive to undertake and the replacement materials were limited.¹⁴⁸

A considerable amount of the landscape improvements addressed during the 1980s were enacted by FOMH. The Friends group formed a Garden Committee, which organized efforts to install new plantings, particularly perennials, throughout the cemetery.¹⁴⁹ In 1981, the Friends initiated the Adopt-a-Plot program. The program allowed people to clean-up and plant gravesites of famous people, interesting design, or that were originally planted as gardens. (See Figure II.37.) Additional group projects addressed larger areas within the cemetery landscape.¹⁵⁰

In the summer of 1981, the Friends group pursued restoration of the Moorish gazebo, which initially impelled the formation of the group. Anticipated work included repair and replacement of missing parts, re-stenciling the roof design, and painting. Local architect John Bero estimated necessary work would total \$10,000.¹⁵¹ The Friends raised funds for the project and the restoration began in spring of 1982. Carpentry and roof repairs were finished in April while additional funding needed to be obtained before painting efforts could begin. John Bero and Roger Brainard of Bero Associates were the project architects and R-Monde Contractors, Inc. was the general contractor. Bero Associates provided work for half the normal rate.¹⁵² By October, restoration was largely completed, with the exception of a deteriorated finial that needed to be reconstructed. Work included structural repairs, roof repairs, repainting, and art work restoration. Completion of the project was celebrated with a rededication ceremony, at

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which US Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan spoke. The finial was reconstructed and added to the gazebo soon after. Total restoration cost was \$13,075.¹⁵³

Between 1981 and 1984, the City of Rochester spent approximately a half million dollars on cemetery improvements in several city-owned cemeteries, including Mount Hope.¹⁵⁴ In fall 1981, the City Forestry Division planted 60 trees in the cemetery. This was the first time in 30 years the city planted in the cemetery. Trees included magnolia planted near the Elmwood Avenue entrance and near the office. Dogwood (*Cornus* species) trees were planted on a slope behind the gazebo.¹⁵⁵ The following spring, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Soil Conservation prepared specifications for the City of Rochester to dredge and clean Sylvan Waters.¹⁵⁶ Other planned improvement projects included plantings to screen the maintenance area and removal of 200 dead and diseased trees.¹⁵⁷ Restoration plans for the 1861 chapel and nearby Florentine fountain were also initiated around this time.¹⁵⁸

Following the specifications provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Soil Conservation, Sylvan Waters was cleaned and dredged in August 1983. Nearby trees were cut back to prevent leaves from falling into the water feature.¹⁵⁹ As part of the project an inflow pipe fed by the city water supply was replaced. An electrical conduit was also installed with the notion that the pond could be lit for special events.¹⁶⁰ The plan also called for the construction of a new cobblestone access ramp leading from Ravine Avenue and curving to the east of the water feature. A simple gate constructed of two metal bollards and a removable, padlocked chain was proposed across the ramp to restrict vehicular access. (See Figure II.38.) While Sylvan Waters was cleaned according to the proposed plan, the ramp and gate were never constructed.

In the winter of 1983, the stone cemetery retaining wall along Mount Hope Avenue deteriorated and crumbled in two places. Concern was expressed for repairing the wall in a manner that was compatible with the historic character.¹⁶¹ Wrought-iron fencing that was installed in grade at the top of the wall was removed from the fallen section.¹⁶² The adjacent sidewalk on Mount Hope Avenue and the internal cemetery drive, East Avenue, were blocked off from traffic to prevent injuries and further damage.¹⁶³ That fall, plans were developed to repair the wall. Methods to repair the wall according to its original appearance were explored. Funding for the work was obtained from the federal Jobs Training Bill, utilizing an out-of-work team to perform the work.¹⁶⁴ While materials matching the historic wall were used to reconstruct the fallen portion, based on "construction advice" the height of the reconstructed portion was originally planned to be lower than the original wall.¹⁶⁵

Work on the wall was scheduled to begin in spring 1984, however because of the historic significance of the cemetery, the proposed work required a review by the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) if federal funds were used, which stalled progress.¹⁶⁶ Because the City wanted to lower the height of the wall, they opted to pay for the project themselves, to avoid the need for SHPO approval. The work included repairing a 300-foot section of the wall and rebuilding it at a height of no more than 6 ½ feet. The original wall

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varied in height between 4 and 10 feet. The lower height more closely followed the contours of the retained cemetery grade. Additionally, the City said this would allow them to use some of the stones to fix other areas of the wall. A new drainage system was also installed to prevent future damage. To avoid negative impacts from vehicular traffic on the nearby 20-foot wide cemetery drive, East Avenue, it was replaced with a 4-foot wide asphalt path for bikes and pedestrians.¹⁶⁷

Other projects completed in the 1980s included repairs to the 1912 chapel, with extensive work on the roof and stonework around the windows.¹⁶⁸ Rehabilitation of existing roadways, storm sewer and water system was undertaken in 1984. That summer, Indian Trail and Ravine Avenues were reconstructed and a new water line installed that ran from the northern maintenance area to the gatehouse and fountain.¹⁶⁹ That same year, several dead trees were removed in the northern area of the cemetery. This opened views of the nearby Genesee River.¹⁷⁰ In 1985, the Genesee Valley Finger Lakes Nurserymen's Association donated seven trees that were planted on Arbor Day. Species included Kentucky coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*), crabapple (*Malus* species), and oak.¹⁷¹ The Friends also contributed to the improvement of the landscape when they installed six Victorian-style benches.¹⁷²

Restoration of the circa 1875 Florentine fountain was undertaken by FOMH in the 1980s as well. In 1983, the Friends submitted a proposal to repair the cast-iron fountain. However, the anticipated cost for the project was beyond their resources and a joint project was needed.¹⁷³ In November 1984, Rochester attorney and former president of FOMH John C. Clark III donated \$20,000 to the Friends group for the fountain restoration. Upon donating the money, Clark stated "The fountain is the focal point of the cemetery's north entrance and a prominent example of the architectural grandeur bestowed on the cemetery." Repair work included disassembly, rust removal, repairing cracks, and recasting damaged components. The work was performed by Architectural Iron Company of Milford, Pennsylvania. In addition to the \$20,000 gift, the City of Rochester financed repairs to the fountain stone coping and pedestal, creation of a new basin, installation of the water system, and other improvements to the surrounding site.¹⁷⁴ (See Figure II.39.) That same year the fountain setting was enhanced when the FOMH planted a perennial bed around the fountain base.¹⁷⁵ With the completion of this project, the cemetery entrance better conveyed the historic character of the entry landscape.

By 1988, the Moorish gazebo restored in 1982 began to exhibit signs of deterioration, including rotting wood and an infestation of carpenter ants. Bero Associates, the firm that restored the gazebo, assessed the condition of the structure, noting considerable damage from moisture resulting from inadequate eave and finial ventilation.¹⁷⁶ Repair work was not immediately undertaken, although a new drinking fountain was installed in the gazebo.¹⁷⁷ The following year, the City of Rochester made emergency repairs to stabilize the gazebo until funds became available to adequately repair and restore the structure. During the initial stabilization, four cubic feet of rotten wood were removed.¹⁷⁸ The full restoration was not started for several years. In 1992, the project was performed by the Loftus Construction Company following

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approval by the local Preservation Board.¹⁷⁹ It may have been during the restoration that FOMH installed a replacement drinking fountain in the gazebo. This was the third or fourth fountain replacement project and only functioned for a few years. With the completion of the gazebo restoration, including the drinking fountain installation, the character of the entry landscape was enhanced.

While the gazebo was stabilized, the Friends group pursued restoration of the 1874 gatehouse designed by Andrew J. Warner. The Friends received a grant from the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act to use toward the restoration and the City matched the grants and provided additional funds for the project.¹⁸⁰ The next year the Friends met with representatives of the City to decide the specific use of the grant obtained the previous year for the gatehouse restoration. The group decided to focus on exterior and structural restoration. The City developed plans for the project and work began in November 1989.¹⁸¹

In the 1990s, additional projects were completed that addressed repairs of existing cemetery features. In 1991, an ice storm caused considerable damage at the cemetery, particularly to the trees. Monuments and gravestones were damaged by fallen trees and branches.¹⁸² Volunteer efforts were undertaken over the years to improve and enhance the condition and character of the cemetery. In 2001, FOMH organized a Day of Caring, when more than 140 Kodak employees helped clean up the cemetery and upright the fallen tombstones.¹⁸³ (See Figure II.40.) FOMH also replaced reinforced concrete posts that mark burial sections throughout the cemetery.¹⁸⁴ These improvements enhanced the character and visitor use of the cemetery landscape.

In addition to cemetery-wide improvements, projects were pursued that addressed individual plots as well. The gravesite of Susan B. Anthony was improved around 1995. A set of stone stairs connecting the area of Susan B. Anthony's grave with a lower area was reset and an iron railing installed. The work was completed with a grant from the Garden Gate Garden Club of the Seventh District of the Federated Garden Clubs. A new planting plan for the gravesite was proposed and approved by the Preservation Board.¹⁸⁵

In 1996, the City considered restoring the Mount Hope Cemetery chapel constructed in 1911 and designed by J. Foster Warner, also known as the "new" chapel. Because available space for interments and mausoleums was limited in the cemetery, plans were proposed to transform the chapel into a mausoleum. The proposed plan would allow the building to accommodate 206 crypts and 500 niches inside with an additional 800 niches on the exterior.¹⁸⁶ This plan was not executed; instead, the chapel was left vacant.

In addition to the work performed by FOMH, other volunteer projects were undertaken. In 1997, a group of 4H Club members, parents, FOMH trustees, and a member of the Cornell Cooperative Extension installed 20 bluebird houses throughout the southern section of the cemetery. The new features were mounted on existing sign posts. Volunteers continually monitored the birdhouses to ensure nuisance species did not inhabit them.¹⁸⁷ In 1999, Dick

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Miller, frequent visitor to Mount Hope Cemetery, reset and repainted reinforced concrete posts located throughout the cemetery. In addition to repainting the posts white, Miller also painted the internal street names and cemetery section letters, improving functionality of the cemetery landscape.¹⁸⁸

In 1999, repairs and stabilization efforts were made to both the new and old chapels. The new chapel, constructed in 1911, was stabilized with repairs to the roof and bell tower. Pin-hole leaks in the copper roof were repaired and heat traces installed in downspouts to avoid freezing and bursting pipes. The bell tower was disassembled and rebuilt.¹⁸⁹ The "old" chapel, constructed in 1861, also underwent stabilization efforts. The deteriorated slate roof was removed and the roof support structure stabilized and repaired. Following the repair new slate roof tiles that matched the original roof were installed. Additional damage caused by the nearby hillside and trees was also addressed. The hillside had eroded, creating a bank against the chapel wall and the root systems of nearby trees had spread, damaging the stone walls of the underground vault. Tree roots and the bank were excavated and PVC pipes installed to drain water away from the stone chapel and vault.¹⁹⁰

In 2000, support for the continued upkeep and improvement of Mount Hope Cemetery was increased with the formation of the Rochester Cemeteries Heritage Foundation forms. The non-profit group solicited donations for an endowment fund for the care of Mount Hope Cemetery and Riverside Cemetery, both located in Rochester. Initial projects the foundation hoped to fund included restoring large monuments and sculptures, improving perimeter fencing, preserving cobblestone roads, restoration of notable plots such as the Civil War plot, Spanish-American War plot, and Nathaniel Rochester plot. Another potential project included reconstructing the observatory that once stood on the high point in Section I of the cemetery.¹⁹¹

In addition to the work proposed by the Rochester Cemeteries Heritage Foundation, other projects were undertaken at Mount Hope Cemetery that same year. Notably, partial repairs were made to Ravine Avenue. Two trustees of the Friends group repaired the cobblestone drive, which had become damaged by unmaintained scuppers, or drainage ditches, causing water to flood the road. Over time sections of the cobble drive washed out into Section L, along the east side of the drive. The washed out areas were refilled and the cobbles reset and mortared in place. The scupper was cleaned out to allow for proper runoff to the drains located at the bottom of the drive.¹⁹² Following the work, hundreds of perennials were planted along the shoulder of the drive.¹⁹³ Prior to the work, appropriate methods that would result in a historically accurate repair were not determined nor were experts or State Historic Preservation Office staff consulted. Around this same time, Third Avenue, located near Grove Avenue, was removed to accommodate additional burial space. The historic pavers that surfaced the drive were salvaged for potential future use.¹⁹⁴ These projects were undertaken to enhance extant landscape features and improve ongoing use of the cemetery for active burials, respectively. While the work performed under the projects represents differing objectives, each impacted historic cemetery resources.

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In 2006, additional repairs were made to the Florentine fountain, which had been largely restored in 1984. City of Rochester employees and Mount Hope Cemetery staff installed a new nozzle, water pump, and timer and replaced the central water line with new copper piping. The interior of the pool was repainted with a waterproof paint.¹⁹⁵ The same year, a diseased European fernleaf beech planted near the end of the 19th century in the open turf between the chapel and fountain was removed. The beech tree was among several in the city that exhibited a 'bleeding canker.'¹⁹⁶ (See Figure II.41.) A European silver linden (*Tilia tomentosa*) was planted near the site of the original tree as a replacement. The linden tree was dedicated to FOMH members John (Jack) McKinney and Letitia (Tish) McKinney.¹⁹⁷ (See Figure II.42.)

Other projects completed around this time included the planting of 36 mission arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Techny') that were planted in 2004 near the Mount Hope Cemetery maintenance yard, along the iron picket fence that separates the maintenance area from the main cemetery grounds.¹⁹⁸ Restoration of other cemetery structures was also addressed within recent years. In 2007, rehabilitation of the gatehouse at the north entrance began. The project included replacement of the original slate roof. It was funded with \$150,000 obtained from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund grant program. Work is expected to be completed in 2008. The prominent Rau mausoleum, located near the cemetery entrance, was restored in 2008 through the efforts of the Friends group. The group funded the repairs, which included repairs to the steps and sidewalls of the mausoleum, replacement of the central, rooftop cross, and cleaning of the stone. After work on the structure was completed, the surrounding ground plane was regraded and seeded with turf.¹⁹⁹

During this last historical period, improvements were made throughout the cemetery landscape. The formation of FOMH had a substantial impact on the character and treatment of the cemetery landscape, serving as a catalyst for a renewed interest in the historic significance and quality and recreational use of the expansive grounds. With volunteer efforts and outside funding sources, the Friends group restored a number of character-defining structures at the cemetery, including the gazebo, fountain, old and new chapel, and gatehouse. While changes have been made to the treatment of individual plots, the overall picturesque, scenic character of Mount Hope Cemetery remains intact from its early design and implementation. The ceaseless efforts of FOMH have focused on improving the cemetery landscape and celebrating the history of Mount Hope Cemetery to increase awareness of the historic landscape as a contemporary recreation, history, and nature exploration destination.

F. SUMMARY OF MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY LANDSCAPE HISTORY

The City of Rochester has a rich and intriguing history. Mount Hope Cemetery is a unique cultural landscape and is an integral part of the broader history of the development of the city.

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Before the creation of the cemetery, the undeveloped land was known as a “howling wilderness” by city residents, who avoided entering the densely wooded, undulating terrain. With limited site disturbance, the City was able to transform the land into a picturesque landscape that provided residents with a pleasant, park-like space with impressive views of the surrounding city. The striking beauty of the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape has long attracted visitors to stroll along the winding carriage paths, under the wooded canopy.

*One of the most noble and noticeable institutions of the city of Rochester, is its cemetery, unrivaled in its picturesque and romantic scenery, diversified with plateau, hill and dale, forest trees and second growth shrubbery, and planted with exotic and native trees... its landscape is incomparable, and it may not be making too fine a point to say, it was formed by nature and placed in a position – an elective affinity – expressly for the use of the dead representatives of humanity. These grounds look down upon the city, the surrounding country, and the Genesee River as upon a map, the vast expanse of Lake Ontario is in full view, which renders its position and formation one of the extraordinary features of this region.*²⁰⁰

Today, the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape continues to convey this remarkable character to a great degree. In recent years, careful planning and advocacy for the continued upkeep and use of the cemetery had aided in the preservation of important landscape features. However, limited financial and human resources, have taken a toll. There are obvious challenges of weathering, decay and level of care that can be observed in the condition of drives, slopes, woodlands and individual monuments. The resource challenges make management of the cemetery and its distinct character difficult. A clear vision for the desired landscape character and use is required to serve as a guide so that the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape can better contribute to the quality of cultural resources in Rochester. The documentation of landscape history addressing character and evolution over time is a useful tool as it fosters understanding of the landscape which is a foundation for ongoing stewardship.

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CHAPTER II: ENDNOTES

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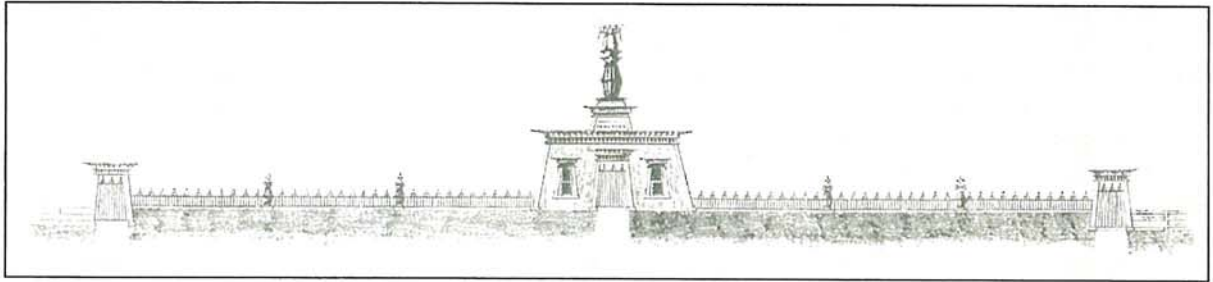


Figure II.1. The Egyptian-style structure marks the entrance into Mount Hope Cemetery. This image depicts the wooden structure as a trapezoidal form with a lotus column extending from the center of the uniform roofline. An iron gate controls entry into the cemetery from Mount Hope Avenue. Iron fencing extends to either side, connecting with pedestrian gates. Decorative piers in the fencing match the central lotus column. Courtesy Ed Olinger. (R- MTH-EO-EntrancePrint-c1840s-crop.jpg)

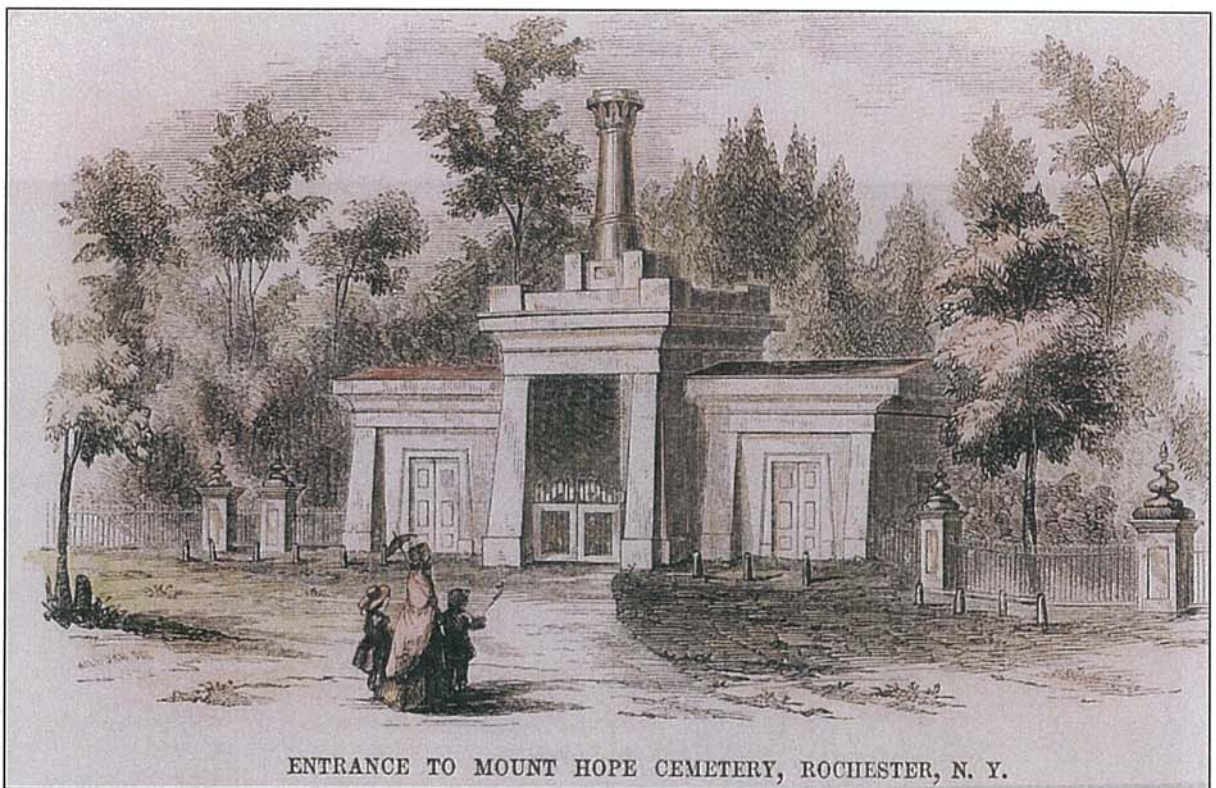


Figure II.2. This depiction of the Egyptian-style gatehouse differs from the previous image. The roofline is stepped, with the center higher than the sides. The lotus column stone piers are more streamlined with less detailing. There does not appear to be separated pedestrian gates. Simple bollards provide additional space between the public street frontage and the cemetery gatehouse and perimeter fence. Courtesy Tim O'Connell. (R- MTH-TOC-1stGateHouse-Etching-nd.jpg)

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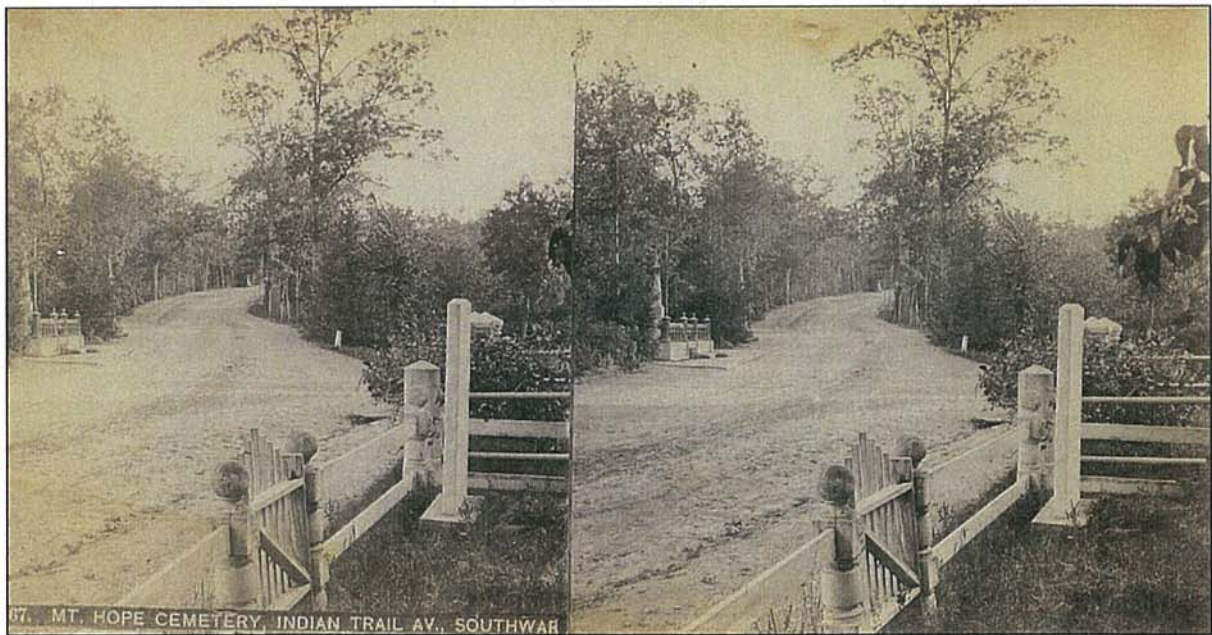


Figure II.3. This view along a former Native American trail reveals the types of enclosures erected around some of the early plots in Mount Hope Cemetery. In the foreground, a wooden picket fence and gate enclose a gravesite. In the distance, decorative iron fencing surrounds a tall stone monument. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R- MTH-FOMH-IndianTrailAve-c1840s.jpg)

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Figure II.4. A manmade, ornamental pond is visible in the foreground, sculpted into the open lawn near the cemetery entrance. Other features were later added to the entry area, including the chapel and formal plantings pictured above. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R- MTH-FOMH-EP-v23-n3-Chapel-Pond-c1860s.jpg)

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Figure II.5. A kettle, naturally formed by glacial retreat, is the only natural water feature within the cemetery grounds. The feature, known as Sylvan Waters, is located near the east cemetery edge. Simple stone steps provide access to the pond from the adjacent drive. While a few trees grow near the pond, the surrounding landscape has been minimally improved. Courtesy Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County. (R- MTH-RPL-SylvanWaters-1880.jpg)

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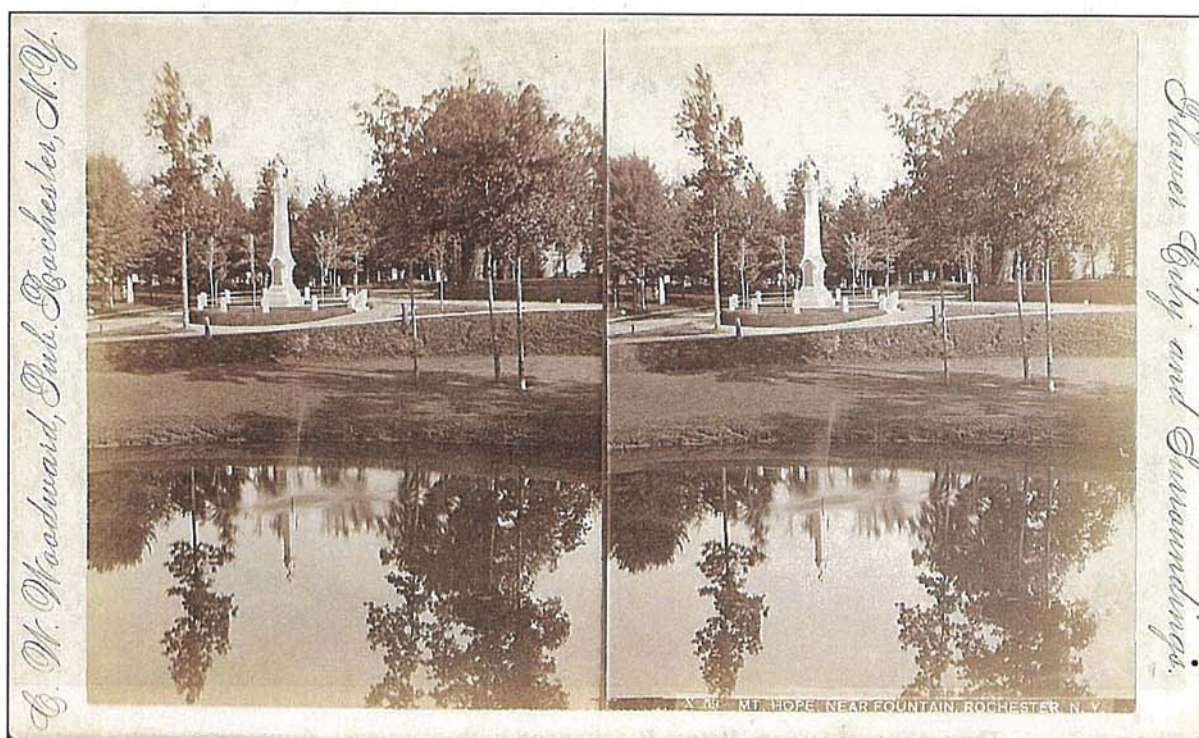


Figure II.6. A simple spray fountain shoots water from the center of Sylvan Waters. Nearby plantings and monuments contribute to the setting of the water feature within the cemetery landscape. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R-MTH-FOMH-SylvanWaters-stereo-c1890.jpg)

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Figure II.7. The setting of Sylvan Waters is enhanced with plantings. A weeping willow tree hangs over the water edge. Lily pads float on the surface. Small flowering plants line the sloping hillside in the foreground with a small birdhouse extending above the vegetation. Courtesy Rochester Museum and Science Center, Albert R. Stone Collection. (R-MTH-RMSC-SC-Sylvan-1919-6012)

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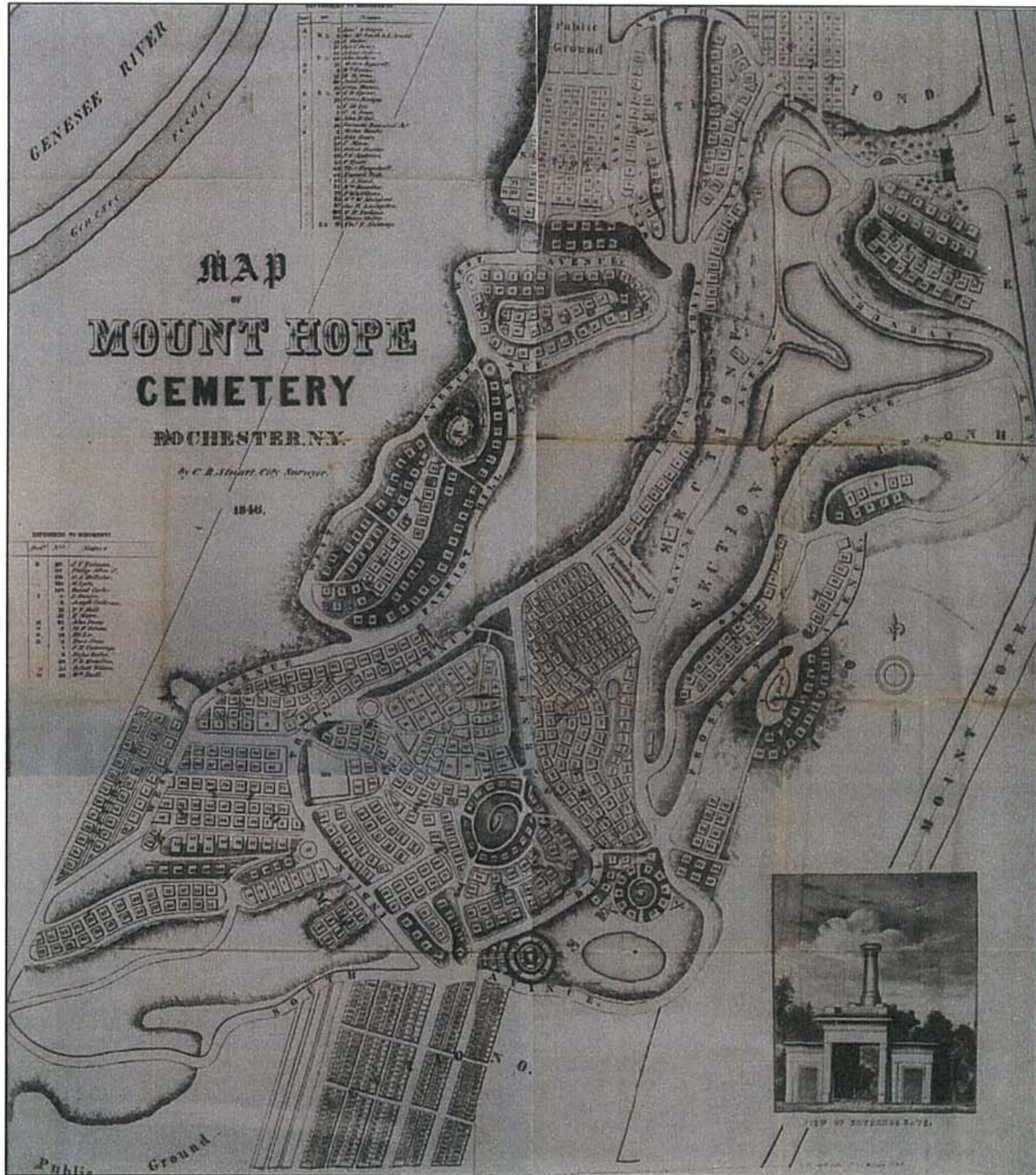


Figure II.8. 1846 Map of Mount Hope Cemetery by C.B. Stuart, City Surveyor. This map reveals the naturalistically enhanced character of Mount Hope Cemetery. Curvilinear drives wind through the landscape, negotiating the dramatic topography. Several high points provide open views throughout the cemetery and into the surrounding landscape. A small inset in the corner depicts the simple, Egyptian-style gatehouse sited at the entrance from Mount Hope Avenue. Courtesy Tim O'Connell. (R- MTH-TOC-PocketMap-1846-full.jpg)

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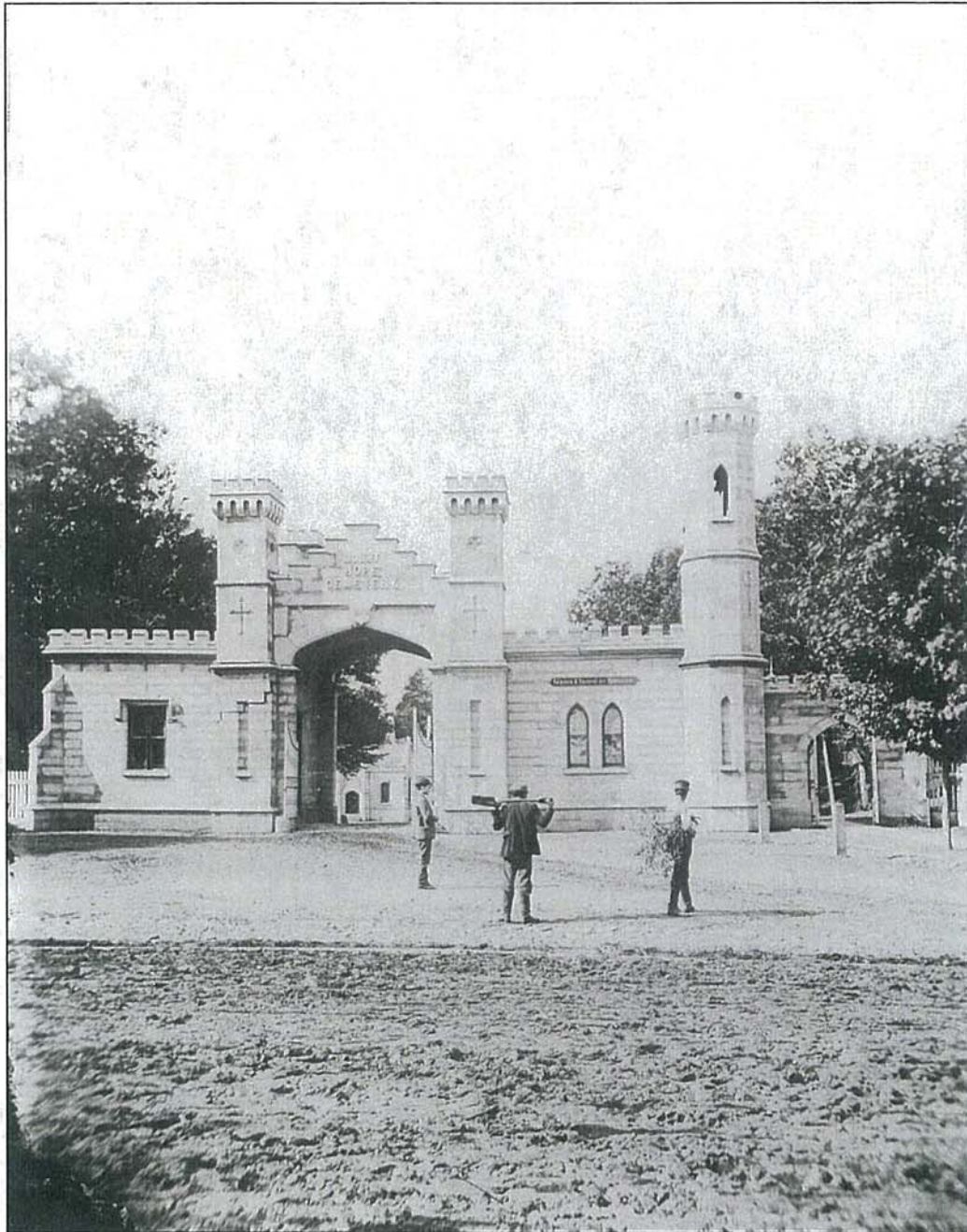


Figure II.9. The second cemetery gatehouse was constructed in place of the Egyptian-style, wooden gatehouse. The new stone structure has a double swinging gate that controls carriage access into the cemetery landscape. A pedestrian gateway is sited to the north, with the cemetery offices and a tall tower separating the carriage and pedestrian gates. The name "Mount Hope Cemetery" is prominent on the front of the gatehouse, under the stepped central roofline. Courtesy George Eastman House. (R-MTH-TOC-2ndGateHouse-nd-CREDIT EASTMAN.jpg)

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Figure II.10. A mounded planting circle is set on axis with the new cemetery gatehouse, creating a turnaround at the entrance. Another mound is located in the center of the circular lawn panel, west of the entry and gatehouse. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R-MTH-FOMH-Entrance-c1860.jpg)

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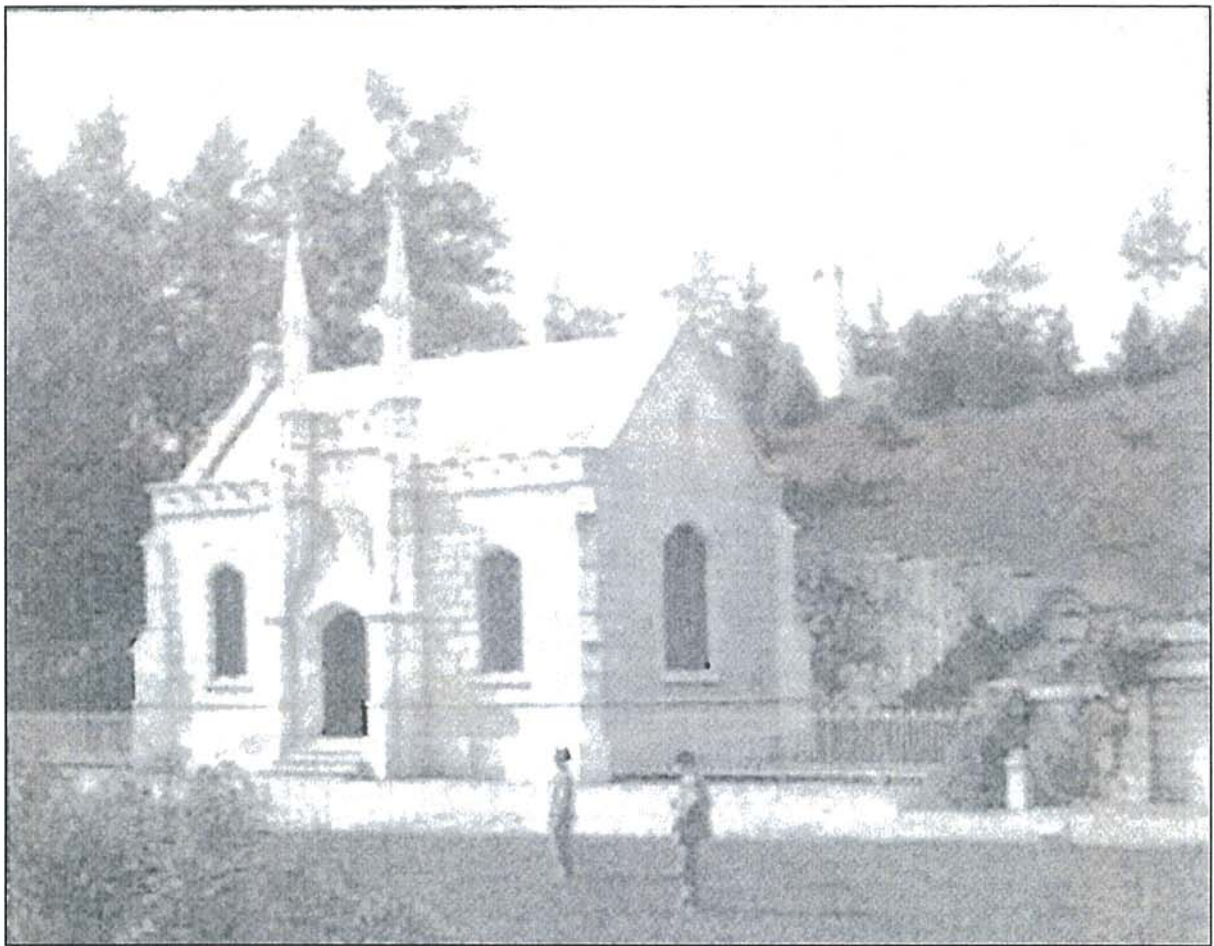


Figure II.11. The stone chapel, constructed in 1861, is sited at the base of a steep hillside with an underground vault extending below grade. The tall spire visible at the top of the slope behind the chapel is a vent for the vault. A stone retaining wall curves behind the chapel with simple fencing extending north and south. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R-MTH-FOMH-EP-v23-n2-OldChapel-c1860s.jpg)

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Figure II.12. Sometime prior to 1864, a wooden observation tower, known as “The Fandango,” was constructed on a high point near the east cemetery edge. The structure was painted in such a way as to resemble a stone building. “The Fandango” became a popular destination for cemetery visitors, providing open views of the expanding Rochester and the surrounding area. By 1885, it had become deteriorated and was demolished. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R- MTH-FOMH-EP-v23-n3-Observatory-Summer2004.jpg)

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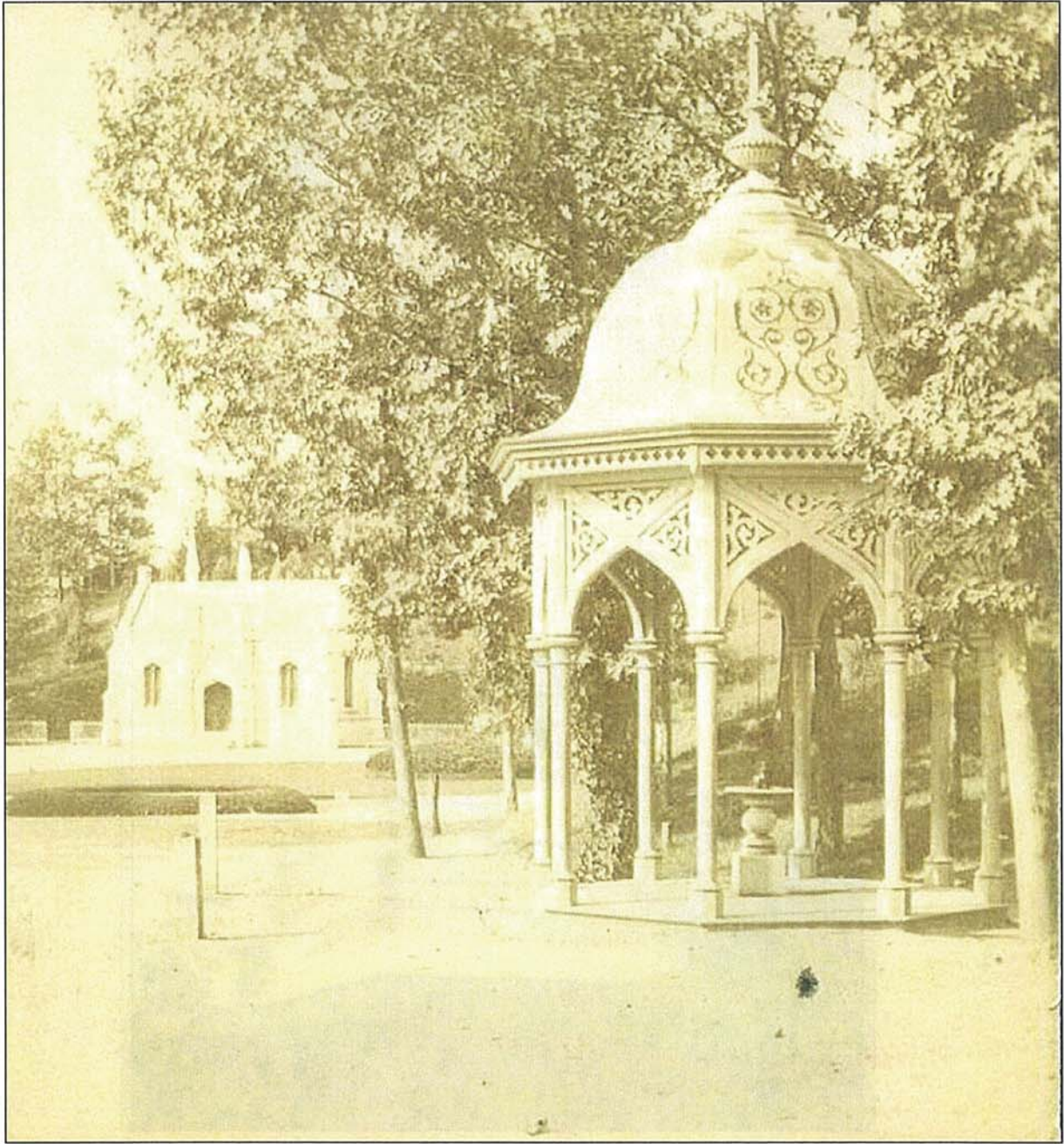


Figure II.13. Around 1872, the Moorish-style gazebo was constructed near the cemetery entrance. The wooden structure has an ornately carved, domed roof with decorative painted designs. A drinking fountain placed in the structure provides visitors with a cool, shady respite. The feature enhances the cemetery entrance area, which also includes the stone chapel and large, Victorian-style planted mounds. Courtesy Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County. (R- MTH-RPL-GazeboChapel-1872.jpg)

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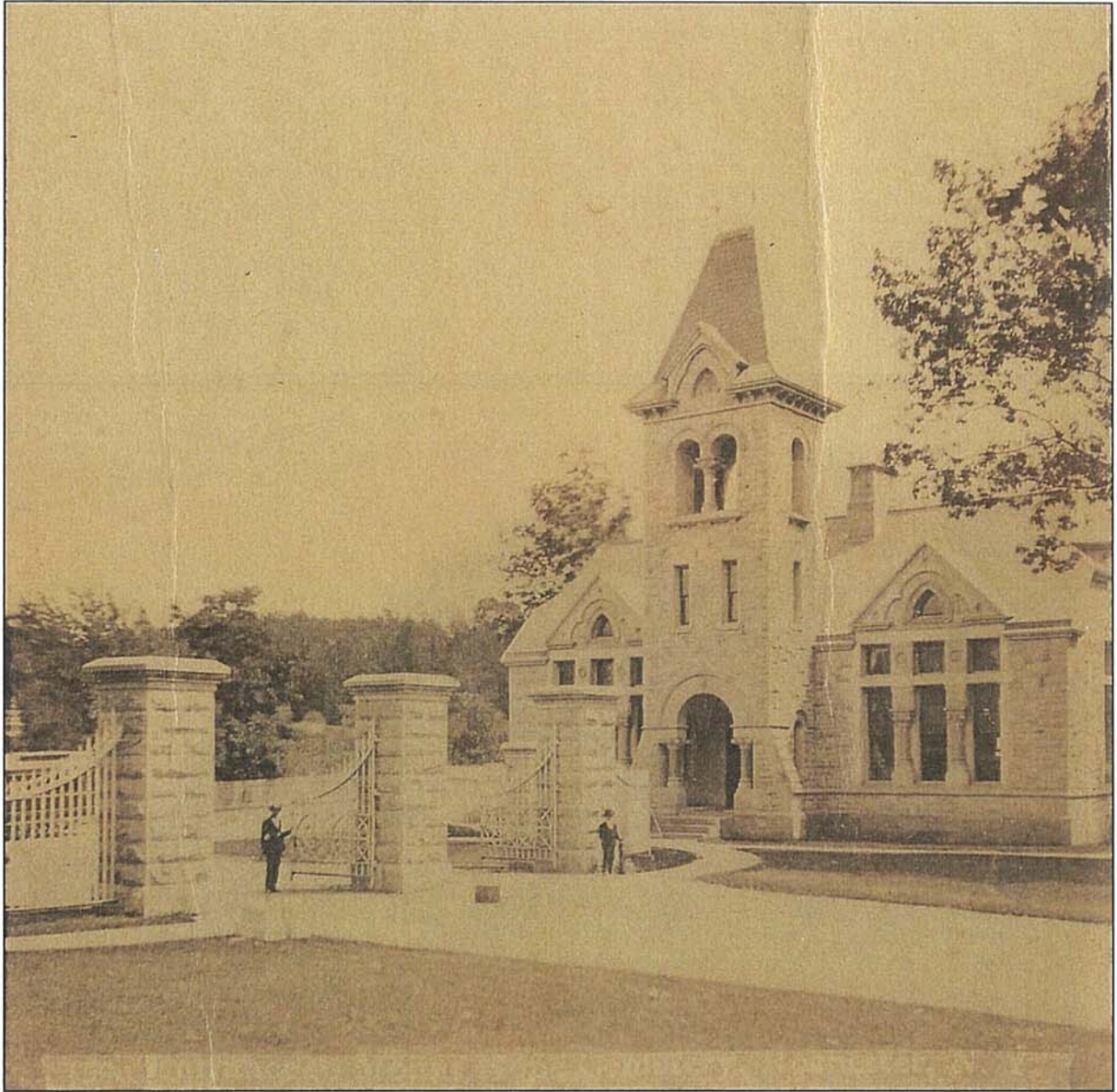


Figure II.14. This image depicts the third and last gatehouse constructed at the Mount Hope Cemetery entrance. The High Victorian building is sited southwest of the entry drive. Stone piers that complement the simple, unadorned character of the gatehouse, mark the entry drive with iron gates and fencing control access from Mount Hope Avenue. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R- MTH-FOMH-Gatehouse-Entrance-BrethenDonation.jpg)

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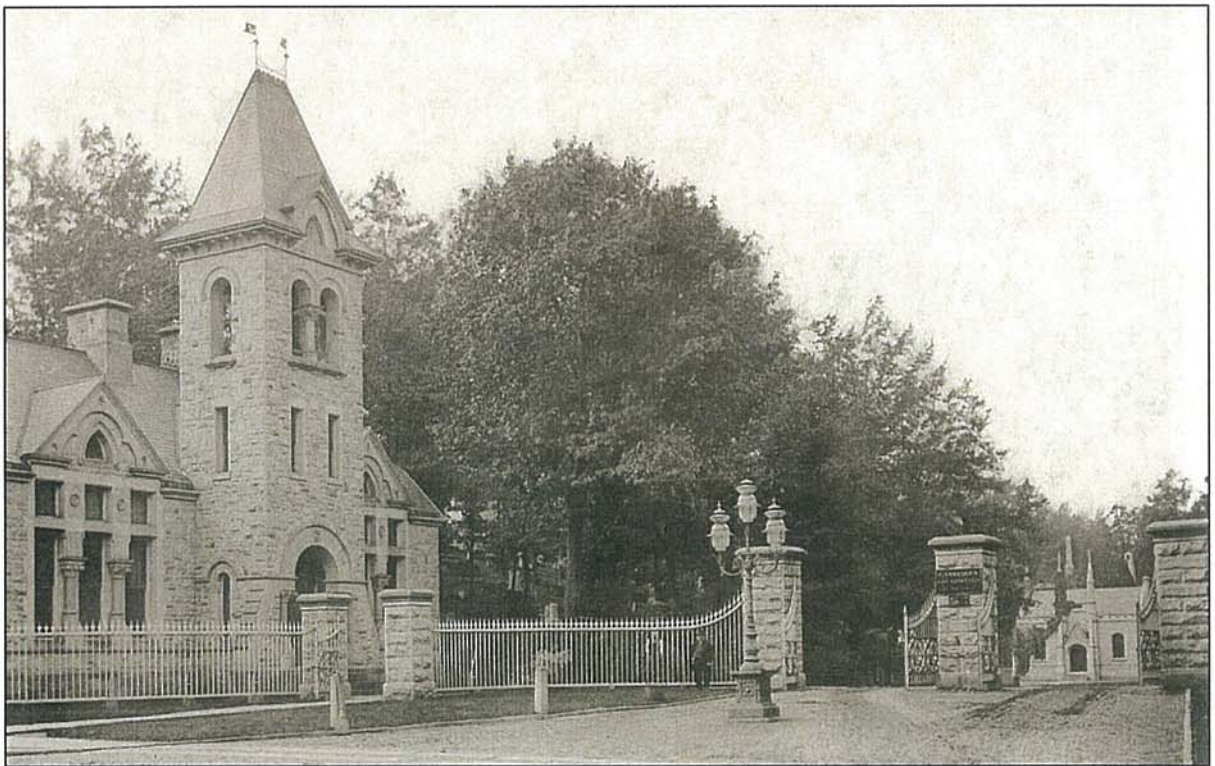


Figure II.15. This view looks into the cemetery entry landscape from Mount Hope Avenue. The siting of the new gatehouse to the south of the entry drive opens views into the cemetery grounds. The 1861 chapel is visible beyond the stone piers. The dense tree canopy and sloping ground plane is also evident, providing a sense of the overall landscape character. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R-MTH-FOMH-Gatehouse-Piers-c1900.jpg)

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Figure II.16. The fountain, constructed in circa 1875, enhances the character and setting of the cemetery entry landscape. The ornamental fountain was designed with a Florentine style. An elegant maiden supports an urn at the top of the fountain, which pours water into the upper and lower basin and eventually the basin pool. The fountain is set on open turf and simple planted urns extend from the edge of the basin. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R- MTH-FOMH-Fountain-Chapel-nd-c1900.jpg)

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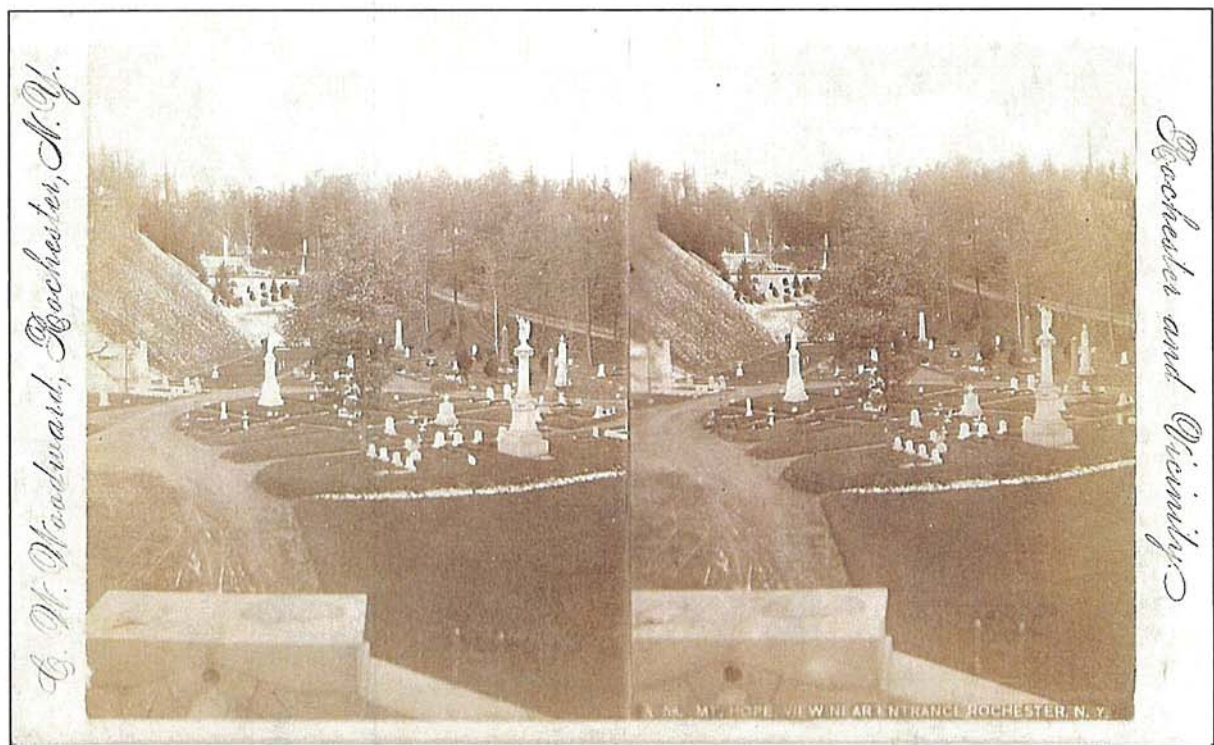


Figure II.17. This view taken from the roof of the Pitkin mausoleum south of the gatehouse depicts the overall, picturesque character of Mount Hope Cemetery. Curving drives wind scenically around the dramatically sloping ground plane. Deciduous and evergreen plantings enhance the naturalistic quality and the overall modest style of monuments allows visitors to focus on the beauty of the landscape. Meadow planting covers the steep hillside evident at the left edge of the image. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R-MTH-FOMH-ElwoodAve-stereo-nd.jpg)

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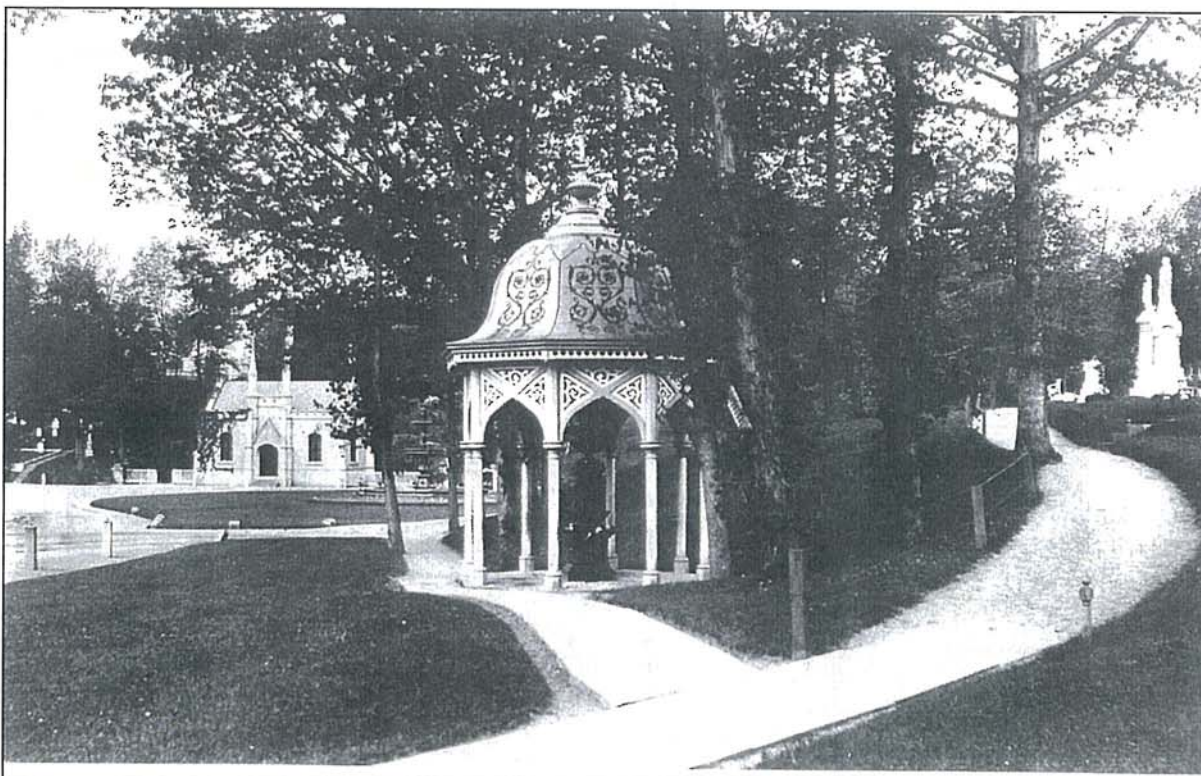


Figure II.18. This circa 1880 view depicts the character of the Mount Hope Cemetery entry landscape. Features, such as the Moorish gazebo and Florentine fountain, visible behind the gazebo and trees, and the Searle chapel, provide ornamentation at the entrance. Simple walks and markers help visitors move through the entry area and into the core cemetery landscape. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R-MTH-FOMH-Gazebo-Paths-c1880.jpg)

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Figure II.19. The Firemen's Monument is 50 feet tall, extending above other cemetery monuments and acting as a focal point. The monument is sited near Grove Avenue, where the cemetery landscape becomes flat, allowing for open views of the surrounding landscape and the Genesee River. Courtesy Rochester Museum and Science Center, Albert R. Stone Collection. (R-MTH-RMSC-SC-Firemens Monument-c1906-8395.jpg)

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Figure II.20. The crematory addition to the original cemetery chapel is visible beyond the crowd of Memorial Day visitors. Overall, the character of the addition matches the Gothic Revival chapel, although the chimney for the crematory is visually prominent, extending above the tree canopy. Courtesy Rochester Museum and Science Center, Albert R. Stone Collection. (R-MTH-RMSC-SC-MemorialDayFountain-c1916-3337)

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Figure II.21. This view depicts the north façade of the new cemetery chapel and its surroundings shortly after construction. The stone building was constructed in an unadorned style similar to other structures built in Mount Hope Cemetery. The cast-stone coping provides some simple embellishment for the building. The chapel is set on open turf on the gently sloping ground plane. Courtesy Rochester Museum and Science Center, Albert R. Stone Collection. (R-MTH-RMSC-SC-NewChapel-c1912-8531.jpg)

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Figure II.22. The image shows the front, or west, façade of the new cemetery chapel, approximately ten years after construction. The stone mullions on the large central window and stone cross above provide a decorative element. Courtesy Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County. (R- MTH-RPL-NewChapelPostcard-c1920.jpg)

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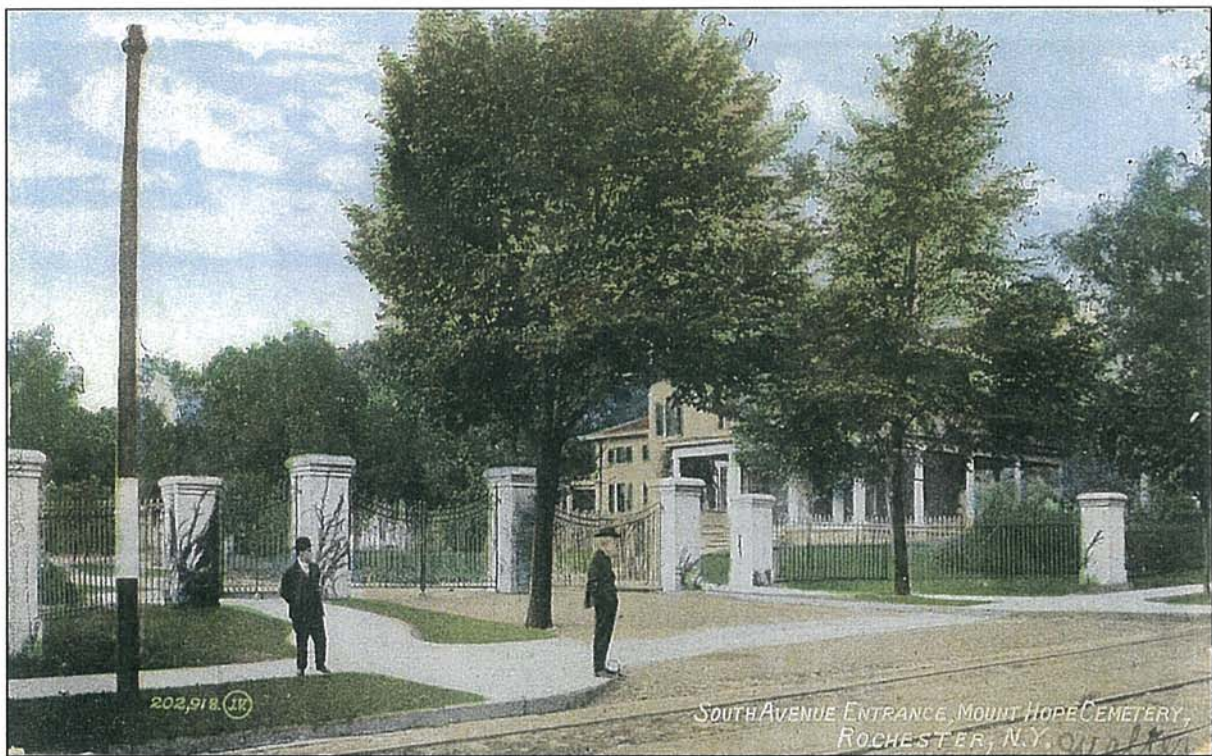


Figure II.23. This view looks toward the new, southern cemetery entrance from Mount Hope Avenue. The stone piers and iron fencing are similar in character to the original, northern entrance. Concrete sidewalks provide public pedestrian access into the cemetery. The building visible within the cemetery grounds was originally a farmhouse that was adapted for cemetery offices. Courtesy Richard Reisem. (R-MTH-RR-SouthEntrance-postcard-c1907.jpg)

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Figure II.24. This view was taken along a compacted earth cemetery drive. Small massings of ornamental shrubs and flowers line either side of the drive, augmenting the natural character of the cemetery landscape. The natural tree canopy shades the drive. Courtesy Rochester Museum and Science Center, Albert R. Stone Collection. (R-MTH-RMSC-SC-DrivePlantings-c1910s-6619.jpg)

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Figure II.25. A wood post birdnesting site or birdbath is located in a shady area within Mount Hope Cemetery. With nearby plantings, open turf, and modest gravestone and monuments, the birdbath complements the Victorian-style cemetery landscape. Courtesy Rochester Museum and Science Center, Albert R. Stone Collection. (R-MTH-RMSC-SC-BirdbathFence-c1919-6010.jpg)

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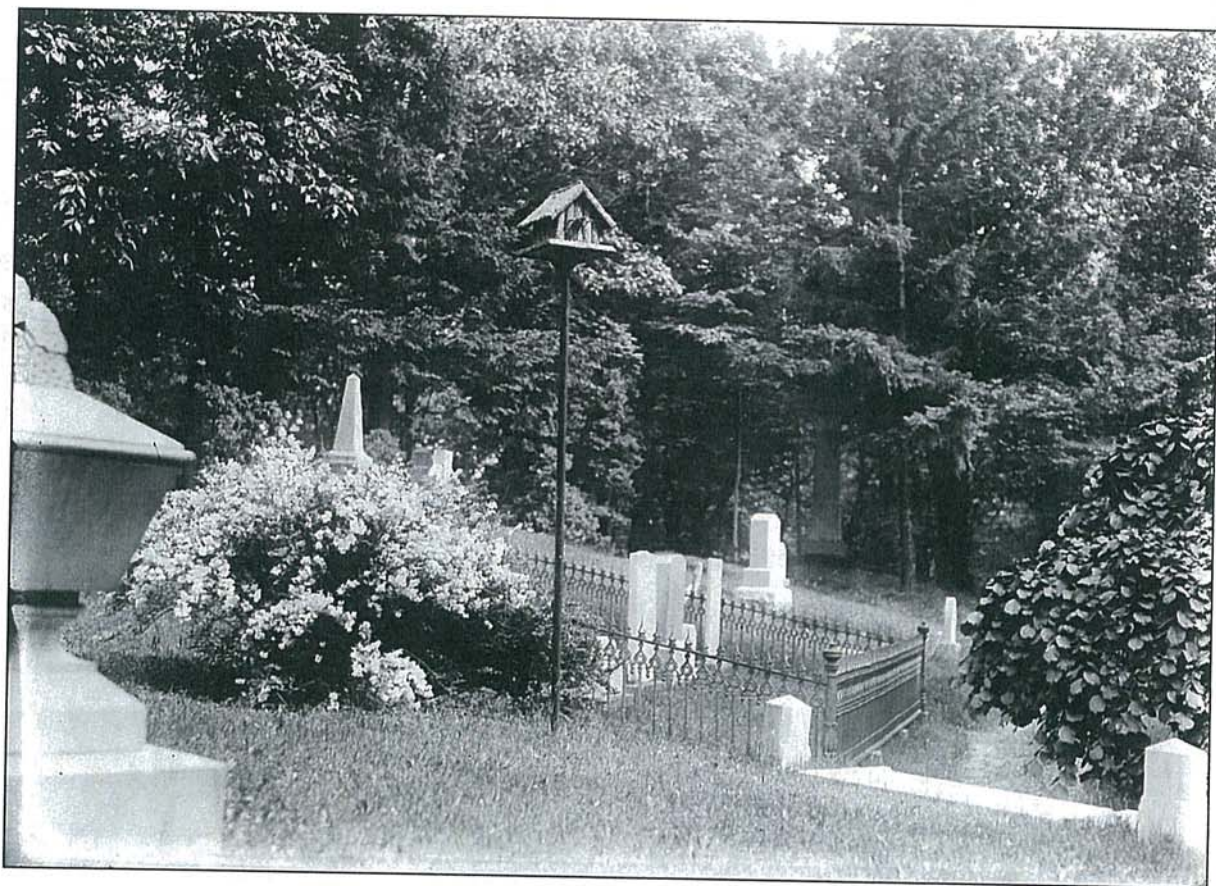


Figure II.26. A wooden birdhouse is placed in the cemetery landscape alongside a planted, flowering shrub. The rustic character of the feature emphasizes the overall, naturalistic character of Mount Hope Cemetery. Courtesy Rochester Museum and Science Center, Albert R. Stone Collection. (R-MTH-RMSC-SC-BirdhouseFence-c1919-6008.jpg)

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Figure II.27. A birdbath in Mount Hope Cemetery appears to be placed in a relatively remote area, with no visible gravestones. Prolific plantings of trees, shrubs, and perennials define a naturalistic setting for the rustic feature. Courtesy Rochester Museum and Science Center, Albert R. Stone Collection. (R-MTH-RMSC-SC-Birdbath-c1919-6009.jpg)

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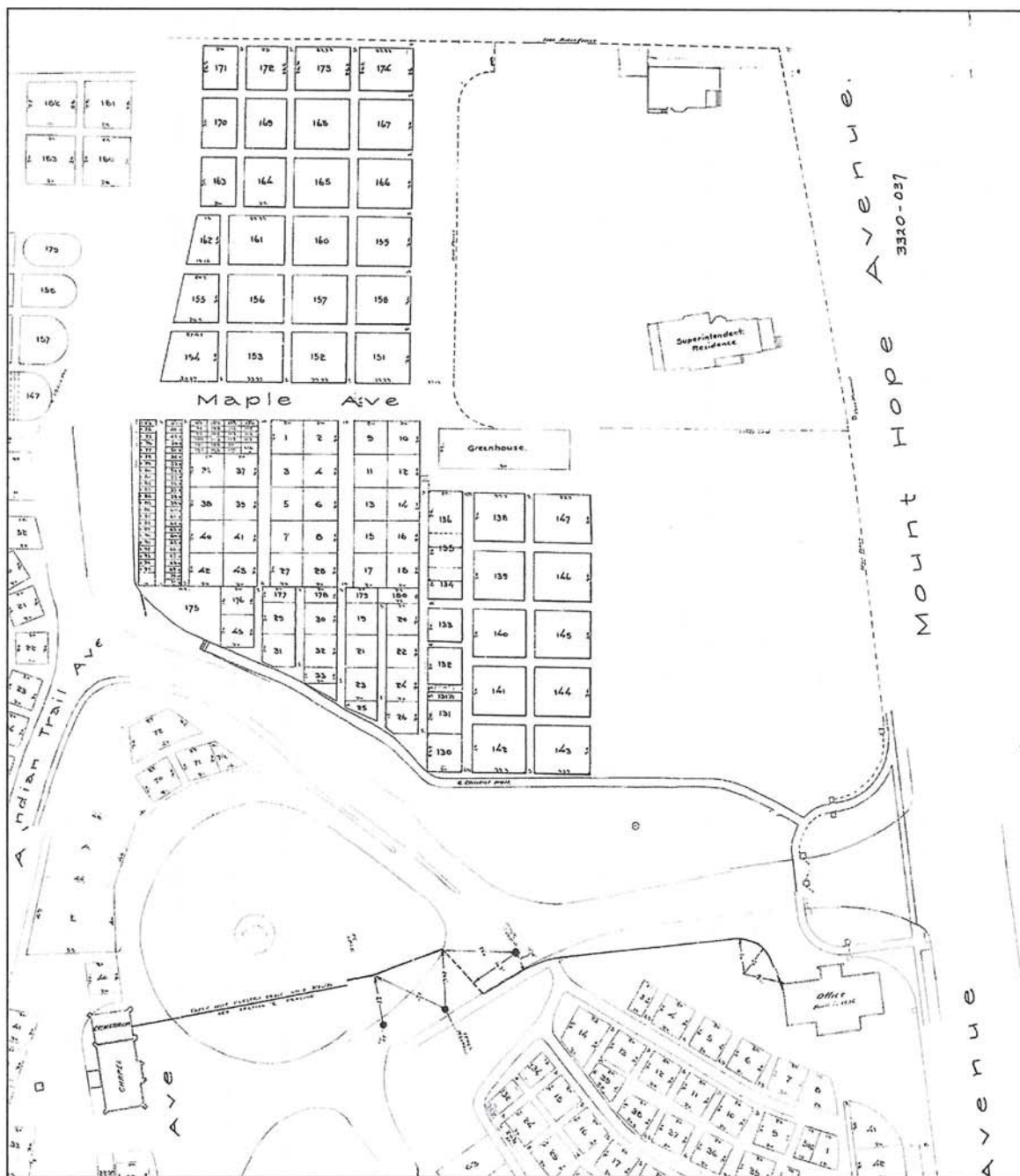


Figure II.28. This detail from a 1914 atlas of Mount Hope Cemetery reveals the character of the northeast corner of the cemetery in context with the entrance. An iron fence separates the Superintendent's and Assistant Superintendent's Residences from the public landscape. A long, rectangular greenhouse is sited alongside burial plots in Section D. A simple walkway connects the greenhouse with the entry landscape. Courtesy Rochester Department of Maps and Surveys. (R-MTH-RMS-Atlas-1914-Greenhouse.jpg)

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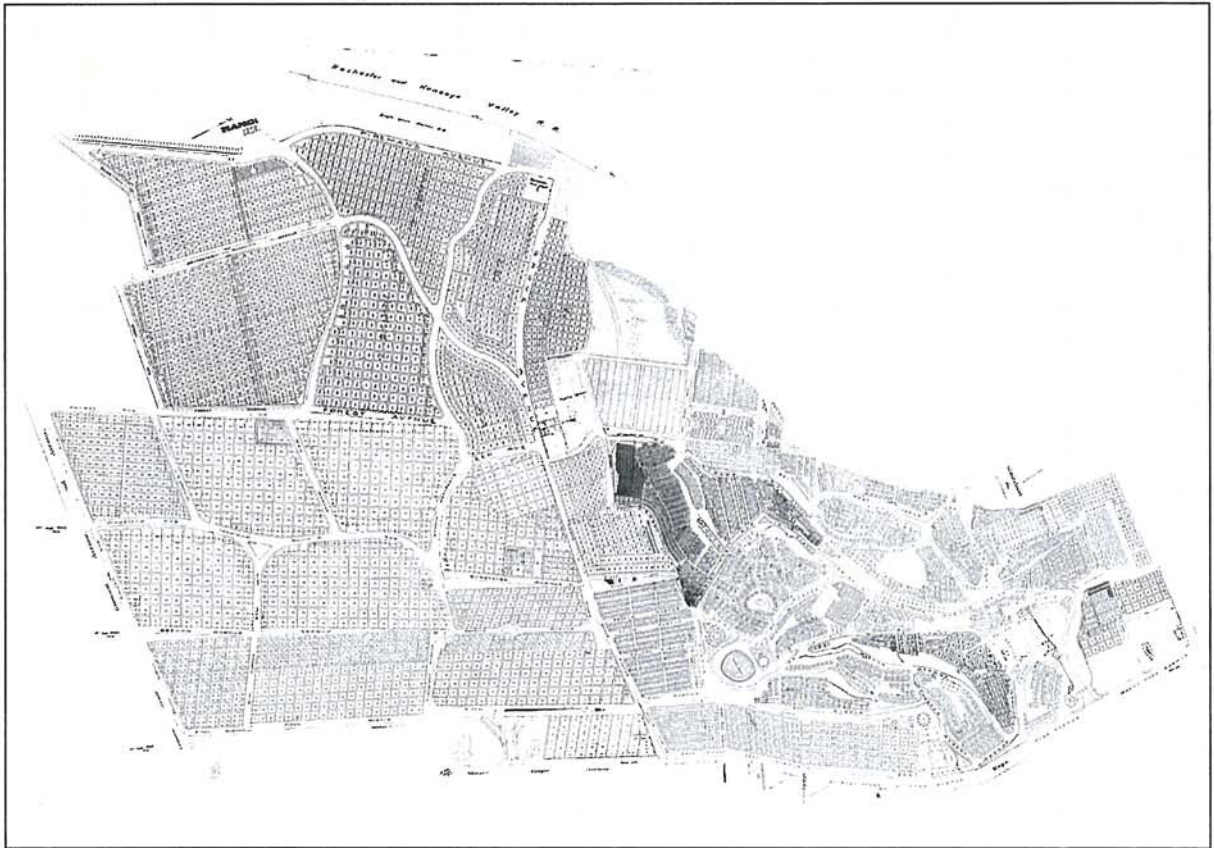


Figure II.29 1914 Atlas of Mount Hope Cemetery reveals the improvements that had taken place at Mount Hope Cemetery during the first 76 years since the cemetery dedication, notably the layout of drives and arrangement of burial plots. The differing characters between the original, northern landscape and the newer southern portion are evident. The southern half is laid out with more geometric forms, influenced by the more open topography. Courtesy Rochester Department of Maps and Surveys. (R-MTH-RMS-Atlas-1914.jpg)

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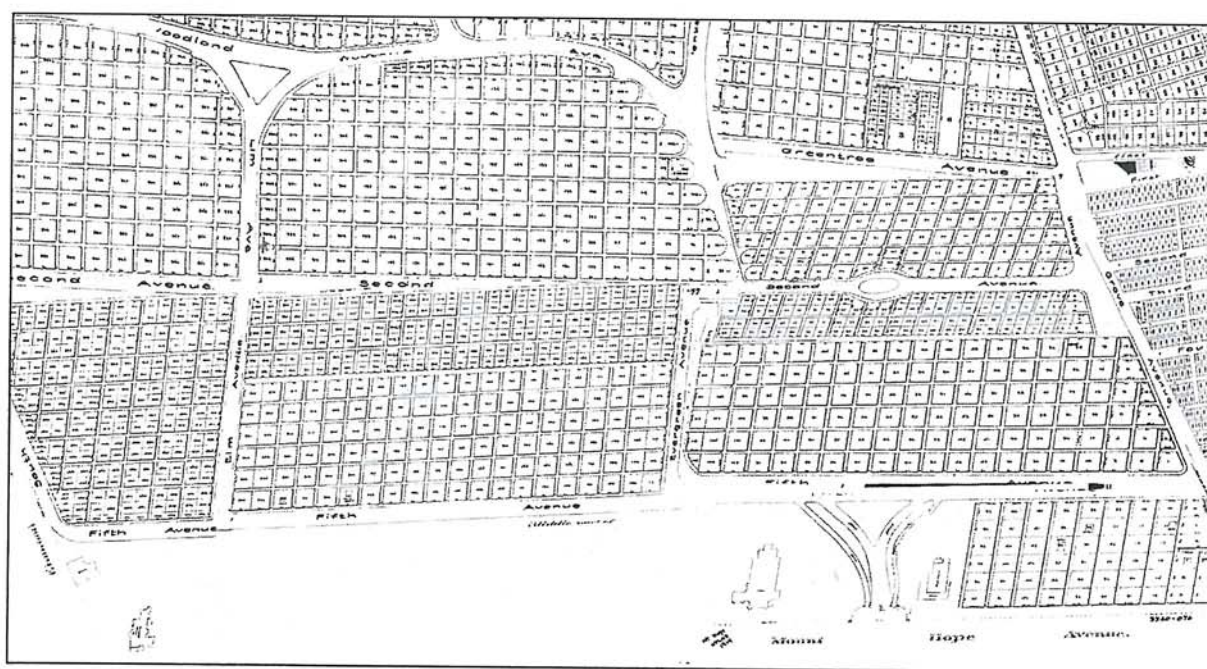


Figure II.30 A detail of an area within the southern portion of Mount Hope Cemetery from the 1914 Atlas reveals the rectilinear character of the cemetery landscape south of Grove Avenue. This area conveys a more geometric spatial arrangement, evidenced through the layout of the drives and burial plots. Courtesy Rochester Department of Maps and Surveys. (R-MTH-RMS-Atlas-1914-SouthDetail.jpg)

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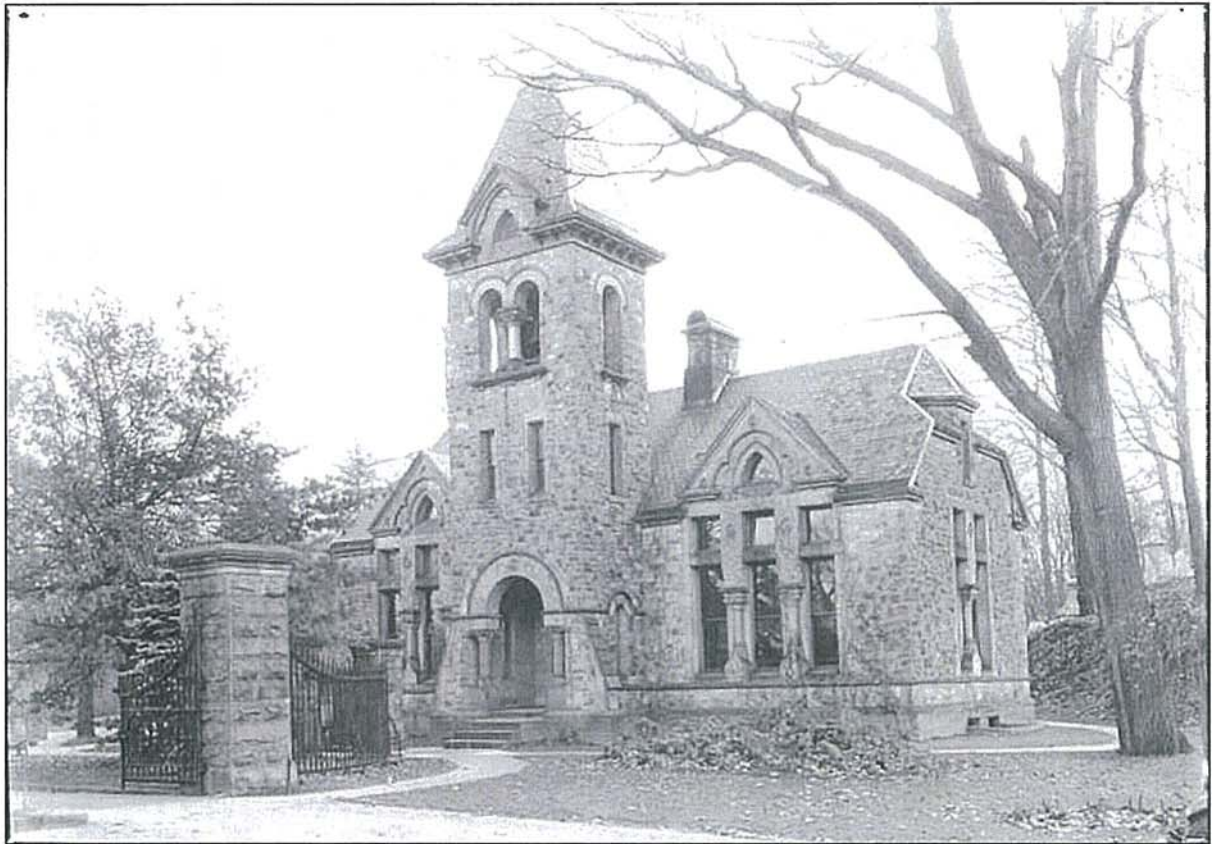


Figure II.31. The large stone gatehouse is a prominent structure in Landscape Area 1. Simple walkways provide access to the building from the nearby entry drive. A large deciduous tree grows at the west side of the building. Mown turf covers the ground plane, meeting the building foundation. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R-MTH-FOMH-Gatehouse-1935.jpg)

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Figure II.32. This circa 1920s plan of Mount Hope Cemetery reveals the character of the landscape when the cemetery reached its height of development around 1930. The curving drives and steep topography define sections within the landscape. The limited disturbance to the natural character created a picturesque landscape for cemetery visitors. Courtesy Rochester Department of Maps and Surveys. (R-MTH-RMS-SitePlan-c1920s.jpg)

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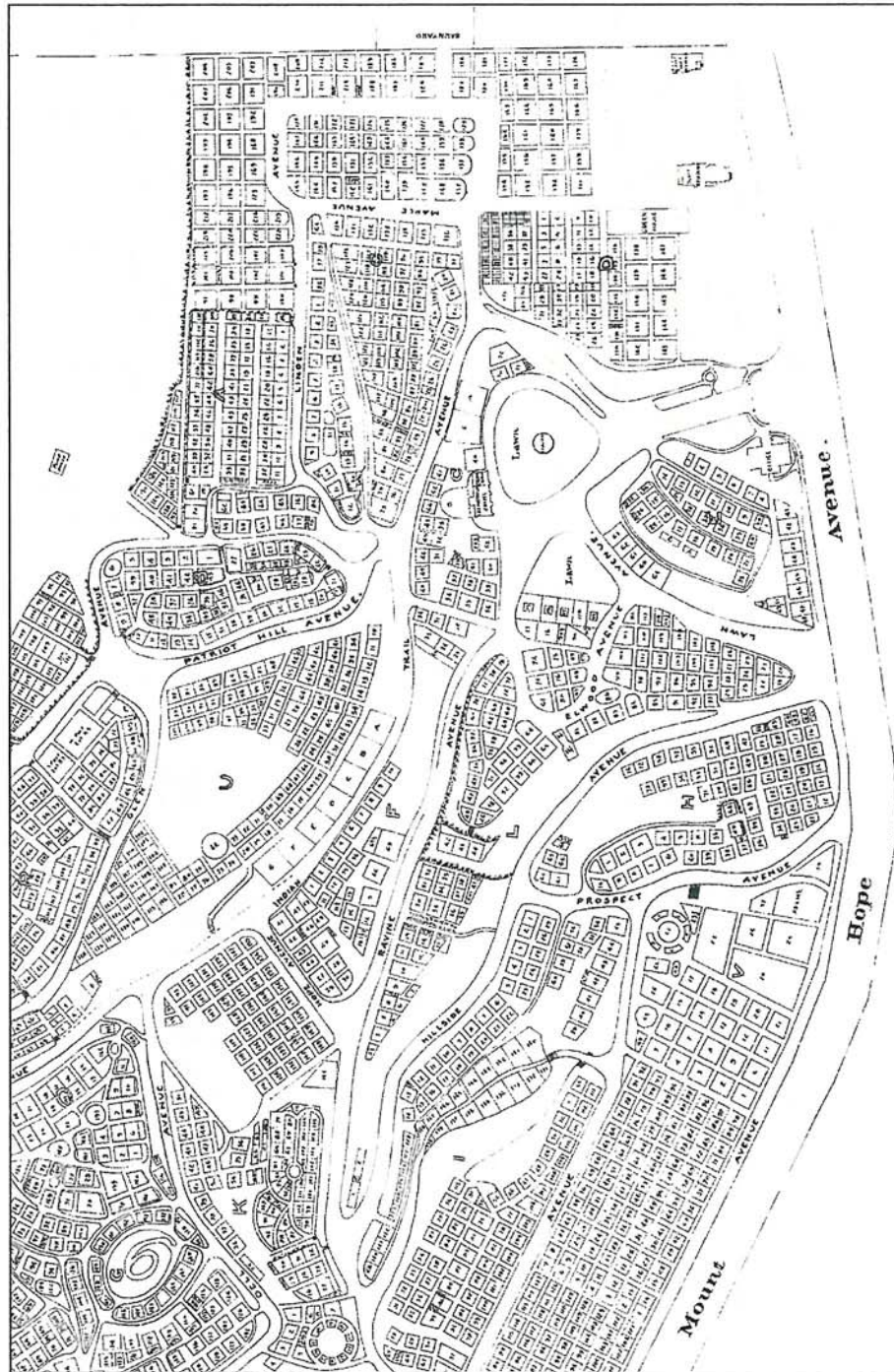


Figure II.33. A detail of the circa 1920s plan of Mount Hope Cemetery conveys the influence of the undulating topography on the layout and arrangement of the curvilinear drive network, burial plots, and overall spatial organization. Courtesy Rochester Department of Maps and Surveys. (R-MTH-RMS-SitePlan-c1920s-Detail.jpg)

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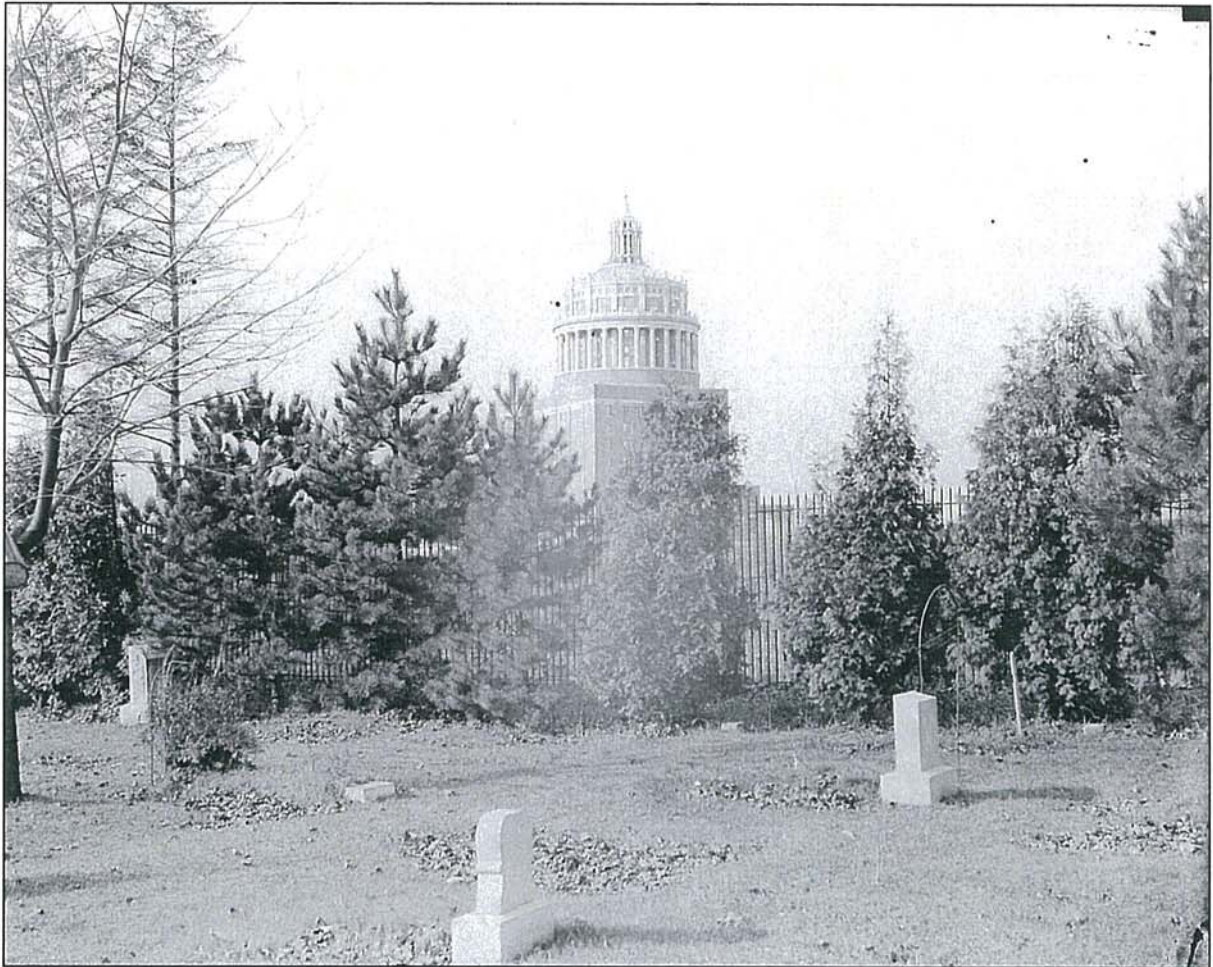


Figure II.34. The Rush Rhees Library of the University of Rochester River Campus is visible beyond the cemetery landscape. Iron fencing separates the cemetery and campus landscapes, controlling access between the two adjacent sites. Evergreen trees planted along the fence line provide additional screening. Courtesy Rochester Museum and Science Center, Albert R. Stone Collection. (R-MTH-RMSC-SC-GravesFence-UofR-c1931-529.jpg)

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Figure II.35. This view from Elmwood Avenue shows a recently constructed gate into the southern half of Mount Hope Cemetery. Four stone piers mark the vehicular and pedestrian entrances with iron gates controlling access. Iron fencing extends along the public street frontage, running parallel to the concrete sidewalk and interior cemetery drive. Courtesy Rochester Museum and Science Center, Albert R. Stone Collection. (R-MTH-RMSC-SC-Gate-c1931-710.jpg)

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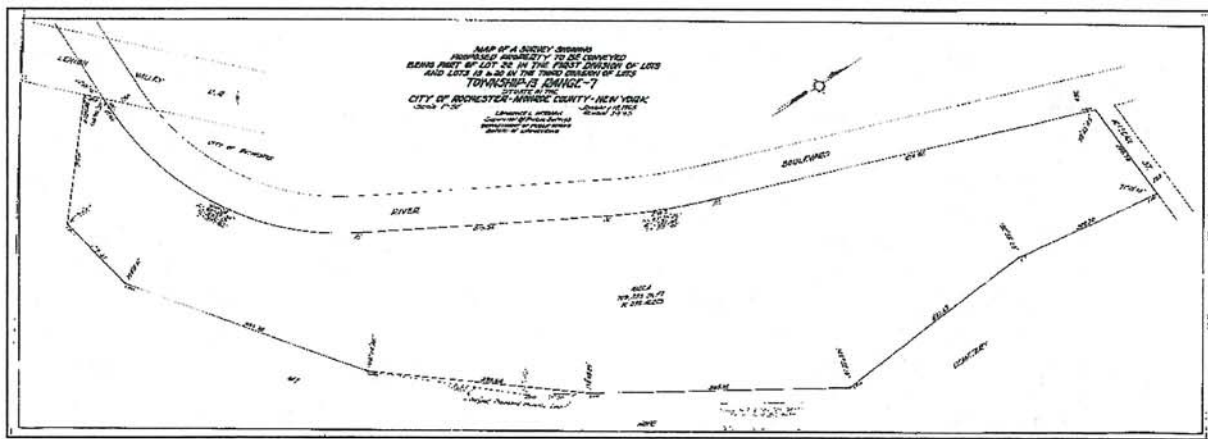


Figure II.36. 1965 “Map of a Survey Showing Proposed Property to be Conveyed” outlines the 16.29 acres to be transferred from Mount Hope Cemetery to the University of Rochester for inclusion in the River Campus. This section is adjacent to the northwest corner of the cemetery and was never developed as part of the cemetery landscape. Courtesy Rochester Department of Maps and Surveys. (R-MTH-RMS-URTransfer-1965.jpg)

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Figure II.37. The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery have established several committees and programs to retain the unique character of Mount Hope Cemetery. One program is the Adopt-a-Plot program that allows groups or individuals to care for particular gravesites in the cemetery with ornamental plantings. Courtesy Richard Reisem. (R-MTH-RR-AdoptPlot-nd.jpg)

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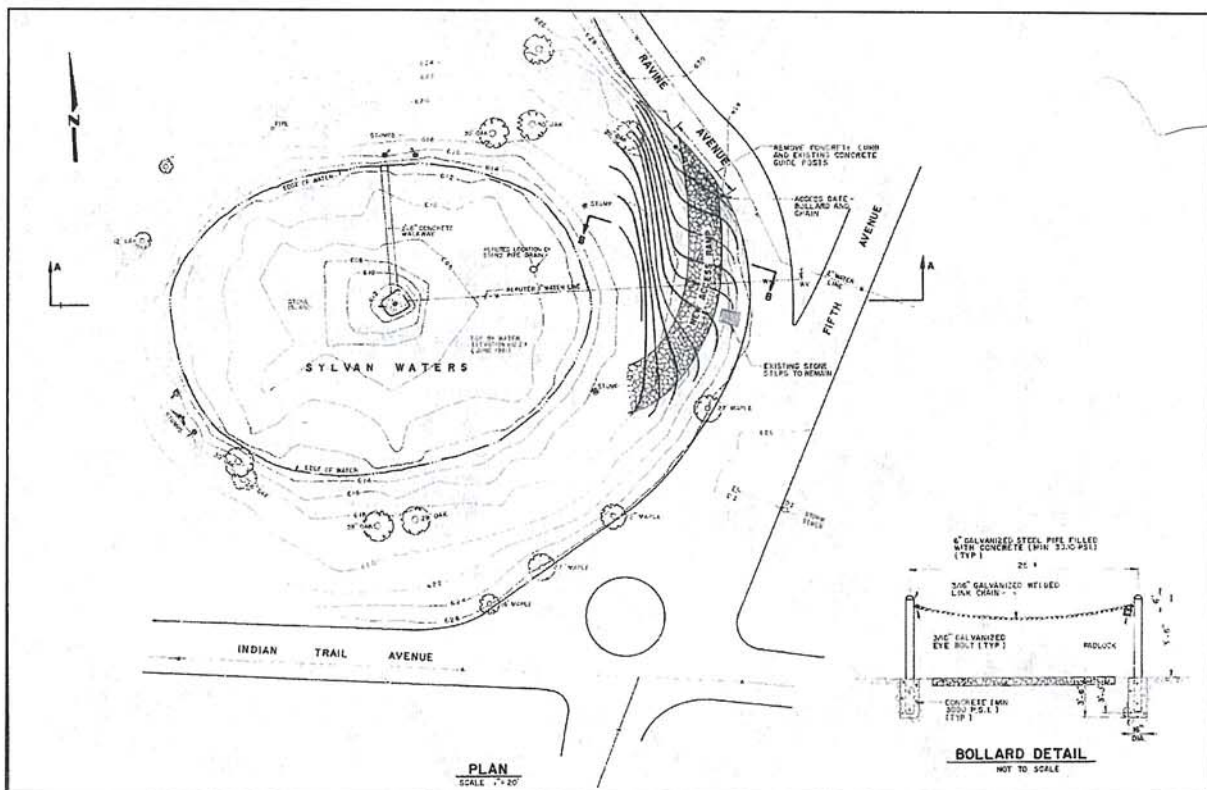


Figure II.38. This portion of the 1983 “Sylvan Waters Clean-up Plan and Details” shows a proposed cobblestone ramp that curves along the east side of the water feature. The detail to the right illustrates the proposed bollard and chain gate that would restrict vehicular access to the ramp. Neither feature was constructed. Courtesy Rochester Department of Maps and Surveys. (R-MTH-RMS-SylvanWatersPlan-1983-crop.jpg)

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Figure II.39. In 1984, the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery restored the Florentine fountain. A private donation paid for disassembly, rust removal, repairing cracks, and recasting damaged components. Additional funds provided by the City covered the cost of repairs to the stone coping and pedestal, creation of a new basin, and installation of the water system. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R- MTH-FOMH-FountainRepair-nd.jpg)

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Figure II.40. With the help of Kodak employees, the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery address issues in the cemetery landscape, notably the many fallen tombstones. Volunteers use a variety of methods, including using large construction equipment to properly prepare the ground and lift the fallen stones. Courtesy Richard Reisem. (R- MTH-RR-fallenstone.jpg)

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Figure II.41. A large European beech tree was planted in the cemetery entry landscape in 1848 between the old chapel and Florentine fountain. The tree became diseased with a "bleeding canker" and is pictured here shortly before removal in 2006. Removal of the massive tree impacts the character and setting of the entry landscape. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R- MTH-CN-BeechTree-Nov2006.jpg)

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Figure II.42. A silver linden tree was planted to replace the removed European beech tree. A dirt depression in the open turf, right of the young tree, marks the location of the original tree. As the linden tree matures, it will help recapture the character defined by the large beech tree. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R- MTH-15Jul08-0113.jpg)

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Mount Hope Cemetery

Cultural Landscape Report

Rochester, New York

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City of Rochester, NY
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Rochester, NY 14614

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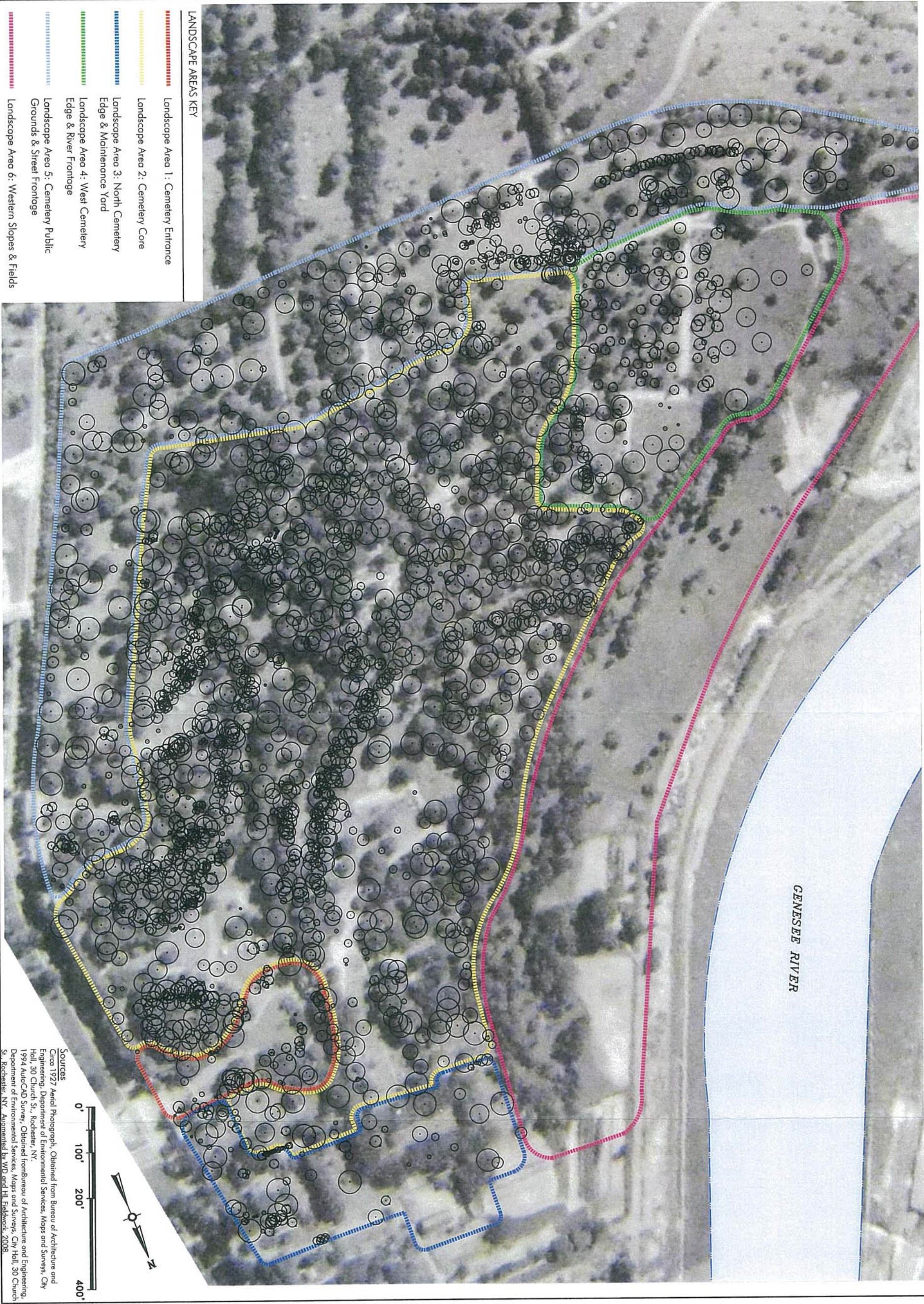
Drawing Title:

Circa 1930 Tree
Canopy Overlay
Plan

Date:
May 2009

Drawing Number:

TOP-1930





Mount Hope Cemetery

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This report is a preliminary study for the purpose of identifying and documenting the cultural landscape resources of the Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, New York. It is not intended to be a final report and should not be used for any other purpose without the written consent of the authors.

Drawing Title:

1890

Circulation
Overlay Plan

May 2009

Drawing Number:

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