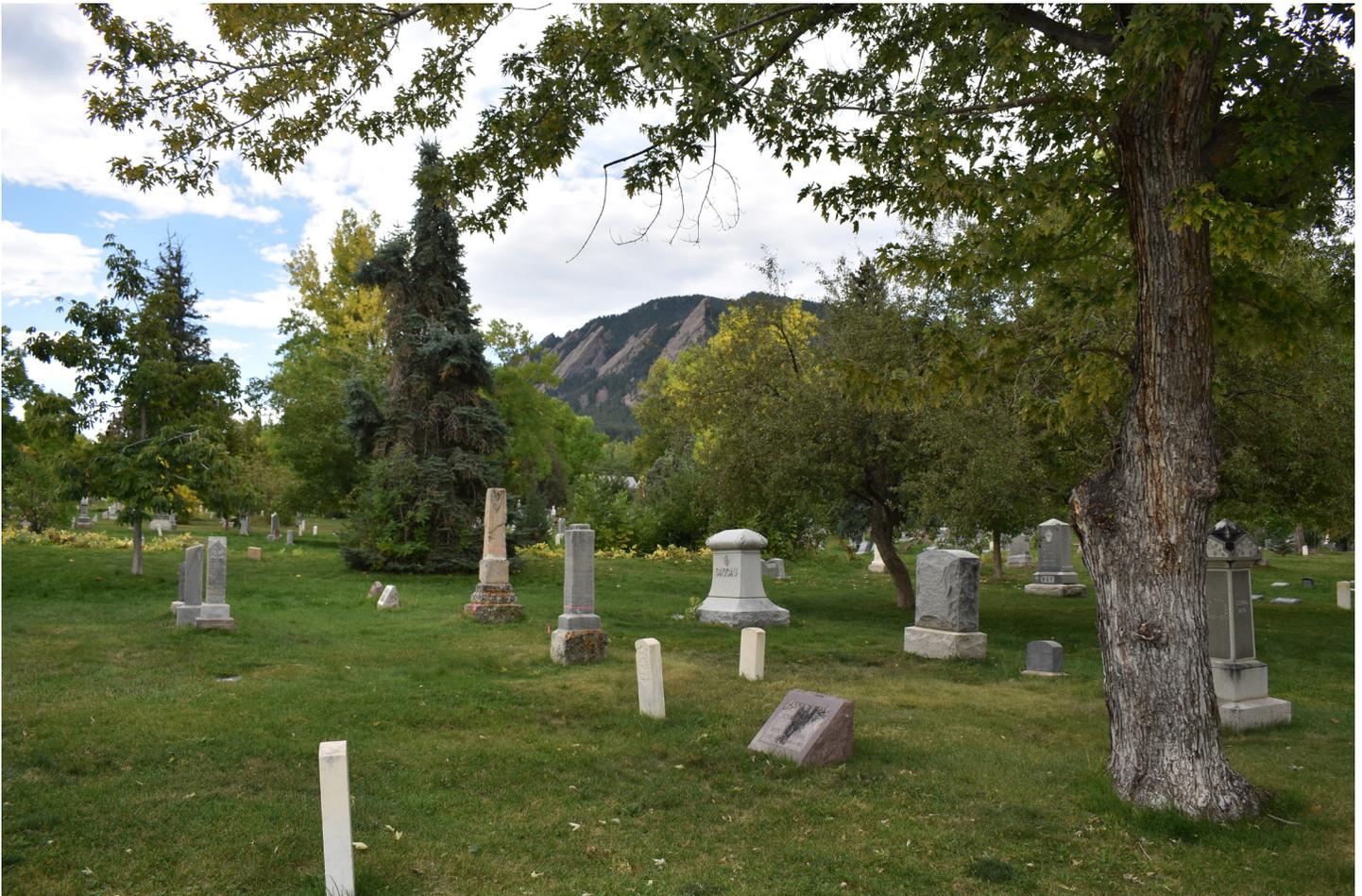




COLUMBIA CEMETERY



JULY 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GRANTOR

History Colorado, State Historical Fund*

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IMAGE CREDITS

Current-day (2022) photographs provided by Mundus Bishop and JVA. Historic photographs (pre-2020) provided by the City of Boulder or from online archives at the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History and Boulder Historical Society Collection, unless otherwise noted.

STATEMENT

The report documents the history, significance, integrity and existing condition and provides treatment guidance for the resource. It does not evaluate for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If the resource has been previously listed or evaluated it is referenced and footnoted.



*This project is / was paid for in part by a History Colorado State Historical Fund grant. The content and opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of History Colorado.

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Figure 1-1. Columbia Cemetery in Boulder, Colorado, circa 1890 (source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)

COMMON TERMINOLOGY

State/National Register Terminology^{1 2}

Area of Significance - an aspect of historic development in which a property made contributions for which it meets the National Register criteria, such as architecture, entertainment or recreation.

Character-Defining Features - the elements that account for the overall shape of the building, its materials, craftsmanship, decorative details, interior spaces and features, as well as the various aspects of its site and environment.

Compatible Feature - a prominent or distinctive aspect, quality, or characteristic of a cultural landscape that contributes significantly to its physical character. Land use patterns, vegetation, furnishings, decorative details and materials may be such features.

Contributing Resource - a building, site, structure, object, or feature adding to the significance of a property.

Designation Boundary - the boundary defined by the Landmarks Board and City Council that encompasses a historic property. This boundary represents a physical area in which any future alterations have historic preservation review associated with them.

Eligibility - ability of a property to meet the State/National Register criteria.

Evaluation Criteria - the established criteria for evaluating the eligibility of properties for inclusion in the State Register and National Register of Historic Places and its level of significance—local, state, or national.

Historic Context - information about historic properties based on a shared theme, specific time period and geographical area.

Landscape Characteristics - the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape from a historic period; these aspects individually and collectively give a space its historic character and aid in understanding its historical importance.

Local Landmark - a local area or building that has been determined to have a special character and historic, architectural, or aesthetic or value to the city.

Period of Significance - the span of time in which a property attained the significance for which it meets the State and/or National Register criteria, and/or Local Landmarks criteria.

Property Type - a grouping of properties defined by common physical and associative attributes.

Integrity³

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. It is assessed to determine if the characteristics that shaped the property during the period of significance are present as they were historically.

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property.

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.

Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

1 United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation" (Washington DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997); Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado. "How to Nominate a Property to the State Register." (Denver, CO: History Colorado, 2018).

2 Charles A. Birnbaum and Christine Capella Peters, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (Washington DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1996).

3 Ibid.

PROPERTY OVERVIEW

Property Name: Columbia Cemetery, Pioneer Cemetery
Location: 9th Street, between Pleasant Street & College Avenue
Property Address: 1201 9th Street, Boulder CO, 80302
Latitude/Longitude: 40 1 9 / 105 16 9
Legal Property Description: PT SE 1/4 SE 1/4 NE 1/4 36-1N-71W PER REC 90809606 3/11/1966 BCR
 AKA COLUMBIA CEMETERY
Parcel Tag: 146136100084
Acreage / Square Footage: 10.5 acres

Date of Construction: 1870 (cemetery) 1910 (landscape)
Designer(s): Columbia Lodge #14 (cemetery); W.A. Parce (landscape)

DESIGNATION, ELIGIBILITY, & CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

<p>Current Designation Level</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Landmark <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Register of Historic Properties (SRHP) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP) </p> <p>State & National Register Eligibility</p> <table> <tr> <td>State Register of Historic Properties</td> <td>National Register of Historic Properties</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Determined Eligible</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Determined Eligible</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Delisted</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Delisted</td> </tr> </table> <p>Recommended Period of Significance⁵</p> <p>Date Range: <u>1870</u> to <u>1947</u></p> <p>Property Types</p> <table> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> District(s)</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sites(s)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Object(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Buildings(s)</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Feature(s)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Individual Character-Defining Features of Property Types</p> <table> <tr> <td>District(s)</td> <td>Structure(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td><u>Pioneer Gateway</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td><u>Perimeter Fencing</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>Roads and Paths</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Site(s)</td> <td><u>New Anderson Ditch</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td><u>Maintenance Shed</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td><u>Grave Markers</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>Plant Materials</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Building(s)</td> <td>Object(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>Feature(s)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>Stone Retaining Wall</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>Mature Groves of Trees</u></td> </tr> </table>	State Register of Historic Properties	National Register of Historic Properties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Listed	<input type="checkbox"/> Determined Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> Determined Eligible	<input type="checkbox"/> Delisted	<input type="checkbox"/> Delisted	<input type="checkbox"/> District(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sites(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Object(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Feature(s)	District(s)	Structure(s)	_____	<u>Pioneer Gateway</u>	_____	<u>Perimeter Fencing</u>		<u>Roads and Paths</u>	Site(s)	<u>New Anderson Ditch</u>	_____	<u>Maintenance Shed</u>	_____	<u>Grave Markers</u>		<u>Plant Materials</u>	Building(s)	Object(s)	_____		_____	Feature(s)		<u>Stone Retaining Wall</u>		<u>Mature Groves of Trees</u>	<p>Ordinance & Listing Information</p> <p>City of Boulder</p> <p>Local Landmark No: <u>77-1</u></p> <p>Ordinance No: <u>4252</u></p> <p>Ordinance Date: <u>August 16, 1977</u></p> <p>State ID: <u>5BL.571</u></p> <p>Smithsonian Trinomial: <u>5BL.571</u></p> <p>National Historic Landmark No: <u>n/a</u></p> <p>Areas of Significance</p> <p><u>Social History</u></p> <p><u>Art</u></p> <p>Property Integrity: Aspects</p> <table> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workmanship</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Setting</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feeling</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Materials</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>NRHP Evaluation Criteria⁵</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criterion A: The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Criterion B: The property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criterion C: The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Criterion D: The property has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workmanship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Setting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feeling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Materials	
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4 Helen Hudson, "Columbia Cemetery," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1987).

5 Ibid, NRHP Evaluation based on this document

Designation Boundary

Designation Boundary Description: Columbia Cemetery consists of 10.5 acres, generally bounded by 9th Street on the east, Pleasant Street to the north, and College Avenue to the south. The western edge of the property is bordered by Flatirons Elementary School and Sunshine House Montessori School. The property is enclosed by a perimeter fence and includes a grid of burial plots, markers, and vegetation.

The S.E. 1/4 S.E. 1/4 N.E. 1/4 Sec. 36 T. 1 N.R. 71W. Except a strip of land 20 ft. in width along E. side of the whole length thereof. Beginning 10 chains N. of S.E. Cor. of S.E. 1/4 N.E. 1/4 Sec.36 T. 1 N.R. 71 W. the same being N.E. Cor. of Cemetery Grounds, thence 80 ft. more or less to S. line of Pleasant Street, thence 5 chains W. 5 chains, thence S.80 ft. more or less to N. Line of Cemetery Grounds, thence E. 5 chains to beginning. Except so much of said land as will be needed and used for extending 9th St. from Smith's Addition to West Boulder. Beginning on N. line of Cemetery Grounds at a point 10 chains N. and 5 chains W. of S.E. Cor. of S.E. 1/4 N.E. 1/4 Sec 36 T. 1 N.R.71 W to N.W. thence 5 chains to N.W. Cor. of Cemetery Grounds, thence N. 80 ft. more or less to S. line of Pleasant St., thence E. 5 chains, thence S. 80ft. more or less to beginning.



Figure 1-2. Designation boundary of Columbia Cemetery, no date (source: City of Boulder).

HISTORY & SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Context

Statement of Context

Columbia Cemetery is a 10.5 acre property approximately one mile south of downtown Boulder. The cemetery is significant for its social history, collection of funerary art, and as an active cemetery. The period of significance for the property begins with the cemetery's establishment in 1870 and ends in 1947. The cemetery was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 and was designated a local landmark by the City of Boulder Landmarks Board and City of Boulder City Council in 1977. The Columbia Cemetery consists of a grid of burial plots, grave markers, Pioneer Gateway, 1860 New Anderson Ditch, Maintenance Shed, perimeter fencing, roads and paths, and vegetation.

Background History

Beginning in the late 1850s, the Front Range of Colorado's Rocky Mountains attracted miners and ranchers. As the region experienced an influx of pioneers, the town of Boulder grew and prospered. Before Columbia Cemetery was established, Boulder did not have a designated burial ground. Instead, bodies were interred in the wild or on the crests of Lover's Hill and Valmont Butte. A need for a more pleasant cemetery space resulted in the establishment of Columbia Cemetery in 1870. The land was purchased by Columbia Lodge No. 14, A.F. and A.M., a Masonic order. The cemetery was developed on a geometric grid with rectilinear paths and drives, and shrubbery and flowers at individual plots. A diverse cross section of the population was interred at the cemetery that included miners, cattle drivers, ranchers, university professors, local businessmen, war veterans, members of fraternal organizations, and victims of epidemics.⁵

From 1910 to 1965, Columbia Cemetery was owned by the Park Cemetery Association. During this time the cemetery evolved into a more formal burial ground with a park-like appearance. Burial plots had designated ownership, and the cemetery had regular maintenance. The grounds were improved with a stone gateway, perimeter metal fence, gravel roads, and tree and shrub planting in the 1920s.⁶

Since 1965, Columbia Cemetery has been under the ownership of the City of Boulder and administered as a part of the city's Parks and Recreation Department. The Columbia Cemetery Preservation Master Plan was completed in 1996 and since that time professional conservators and volunteers have performed work towards the repair and restoration of the cemetery.

Definition of the Context

Columbia Cemetery is associated with Social History within the City of Boulder and Funerary Art. The landscape maintains historic integrity and reflects both the rural and garden cemetery styles, popular during the late 19th and early 20th century in the United States. The cemetery had an impact on the community by becoming the main burial ground for Boulder's citizenry, and as the city grew, became a peaceful public park. The cemetery remains a major historic site and place of respite for the Boulder community.

Development of the Theme or Area of Significance

The creation of Columbia Cemetery was part of a national trend in the second half of the 19th century of constructing cemeteries outside of developed cities. Garden cemeteries emerged in the eastern United States starting in the 1830s as part of what is known as the rural cemetery movement. Early American proponents of cemetery design were influenced by European romanticism, especially in England and France, as it was applied to private and public gardens, parks, and other landscapes such as cemeteries. The first planned American cemetery to be developed in accordance with principles of the romanticism and the rural cemetery movement was the 1831 Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Among the concepts employed were the cemetery had to be substantial in size, located on the outskirts of town, offer visitors a good view, be laid out with a pattern of carriage roads and defined burial sections, hold a variety of funerary art, and exhibit landscaping that over time would mature into a park-like setting with an expanse of grass, trees, shrubs, and flower beds.⁷

⁵ Hudson, "Columbia Cemetery," Section 8, Page 6.

⁶ Hudson, "Columbia Cemetery," Section 8, Page 10.

⁷ Ron Sladek. "Golden Cemetery," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2011).

In contrast to this vision, throughout the western frontier, particularly during the earliest years of settlement, cemeteries started out as utilitarian burial grounds rooted in practical necessity more than lofty concepts such as beauty and solace. Often the earliest improvements were made by the families themselves or if they had the means, they hired someone.

Colorado's first garden cemetery, Riverside Cemetery, was incorporated in 1876 north of Denver. Landscape engineer Harvey C. Lowrie created a park-like setting with dense trees, lush grasses, a central rose garden, and meandering road system. Riverside Cemetery, and others that would follow in Colorado in the ensuing years, were similar to the eastern precedents in that the cemetery was located outside of the urban area and followed romantic styling.⁸

Among Colorado settlements that grew into permanent towns and cities such as Boulder, many cemeteries evolved into larger, more sophisticated planned and landscaped park-like garden cemeteries that reflected the design ideals of garden cemeteries in the eastern states. For residents of Boulder, Columbia Cemetery became their community's version of the garden cemetery. It was located on the outskirts of town and offered visitors a panoramic view of the mountains and plains. Imitating the grid pattern of western settlements, the site was laid out with a linear pattern of burial sections and carriage roads, and was landscaped over time to create a park-like setting. In contrast to eastern cemeteries that relied on manipulating views by planting vegetation in strategic places, Columbia Cemetery, with its proximity to the Rocky Mountains to the west, did not need to fabricate a sense of exceptional beauty. The design was simple and functional. Often cared for with improvements made by family members themselves, the cemetery was inspired by the national trends, yet essentially utilitarian.⁹

Associated Property Types

Columbia Cemetery's design is similar to multiple cemeteries built in the Front Range in the late nineteenth century. The design evolved throughout the period of significance and reflects a variety of American cemetery types. Its early character as a rural/homestead cemetery evolved into a garden cemetery typical of Victorian Era burial grounds characterized by a picturesque setting planned with trees, wide paths, decorative tombstones, and fences and gateways, such as seen at Mount Auburn and Riverside cemeteries.

In the late 19th century, other cemeteries were created throughout the state's growing municipalities, such as Denver's Fairmount Cemetery and Golden Cemetery, that integrated larger design trends of the garden cemetery movement and addressed the utilitarian and economic realities of local residents. Columbia Cemetery is one of the first garden cemeteries established in Colorado. It is representative of landscape architecture applied to a public cemetery that evolved over many decades.¹⁰

Physical Characteristics and Integrity

Columbia Cemetery is a public cemetery one mile southwest of downtown Boulder at the base of the Flatirons. The cemetery is organized by a rectilinear road system and a grid of grave plots. Mature trees and a wide variety of grave markers are interspersed throughout the cemetery. A stone gateway provides a formal entrance and an metal fence defines the edges of the cemetery. Two sheds are located along the cemetery's western edge, one historic and another of more recent construction. An irrigation channel traverses the cemetery from west to east. Original features remain intact and the cemetery retains historic integrity in all aspects.

Relationship to the National Register Criteria

Columbia Cemetery is significant under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criterion A and C for its collection of funerary art and association with the social history of Boulder as a final resting place for many of its citizenry. The cemetery is significant for the role it has played in the social and cultural life of Boulder since its founding. It has been the site of numerous internments, memorials, and commemorative events throughout its history. The cemetery expresses the cultural values of the City of Boulder and the citizens who developed and continue to care for this landscape.

8 "Riverside Cemetery Listing," Colorado Preservation Inc, accessed October 7, 2022, <http://coloradopreservation.org/programs/endangered-places/endangered-places-archives/riverside-cemetery>.

9 Hudson, "Columbia Cemetery," Section 8, Page 9.

10 Sladek, "Golden Cemetery."

Statement of Significance

Columbia Cemetery is significant for its association with Boulder's early social history and for its collection of significant funerary art. The cemetery is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under both Criteria A and B, and meets Criteria Consideration D for its importance as Boulder's oldest cemetery and the burial place of numerous persons important in Boulder's history. The cemetery began operation in 1870 and is one of 18 historic cemeteries listed in the NRHP within Colorado. In addition, the cemetery is significant for its collection of funerary art exhibiting the artistry, craftsmanship, and symbolic values associated with late 19th and early 20th century burial practices.

The social history associated with Columbia Cemetery dates to the late 1850s as Boulder grew and prospered. Before 1870 Boulder did not have a designated burial ground and a desperate need existed for a pleasant cemetery space. Columbia Cemetery was established in 1870 by the Masons. Boulder's early history is evident on the inscriptions on the grave markers that depict a wide and diverse cross section of people buried in the cemetery.

Columbia Cemetery's collection of funeral art is significant for the insight it provides into cultural and sociological aspects of Boulder's history. The wide variety of styles, materials, and degree of craftsmanship illustrate evolving late 19th and early 20th century popular and personal tastes. In many cases the markers indicate the socioeconomic status of those commemorated. Some of the markers were fabricated locally, while others were ordered from distant suppliers. In particular, those of white bronze are representative of a gravestone material and fabrication technique popular in the late 19th and early 20th century. Most were produced between 1886 and 1908 at a Des Moines, Iowa, subsidiary of the Monumental Bronze Company. Located throughout the cemetery, some monuments are fairly simple while others are intricately shaped and detailed.¹¹

Somewhat concentrated in the southern end of the cemetery are plain marble markers of Civil War Veterans, some that simply read, "Union Soldier." Nearby, in the southwest corner, is a "Potter's Field" (a portion of the cemetery set aside for those who could not afford a grave marker) with markers ranging from rough slabs of concrete to local sandstone, carefully lettered and crafted. One concrete marker has colored marbles pressed into the cement, spelling out the name of a woman. Other examples of vernacular artistry include markers fashioned from plumbing pipe and sheet metal. A few markers were created out of half-carved stones. Other markers of note are two poured concrete markers in the shape of tree trunks, "Woodmen of the World" markers made of stone, and a child's marker that includes a small porcelain portrait of the child.¹²

Period of Significance

The period of significance for Columbia Cemetery is 1870 to 1947. The period begins with use of the site for funerary and cemetery purposes and ends fifty years prior to its listing in the NRHP.¹³

11 Hudson, "Columbia Cemetery," Section 8, Page 6.

12 Hudson, "Columbia Cemetery," Section 8, Page 8.

13 Hudson, "Columbia Cemetery."

Summary of Current and Historic Use

Columbia Cemetery was established for use as a burial and funerary location for Boulder's residents. Historically the burial ground did not function as publicly-owned land and was held by Columbia Lodge #14 and the International Order of the Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) Lodge No. 9. The City of Boulder took ownership of Columbia Cemetery in 1965, adding the cemetery to the city's Parks and Recreation Department. The land use for the site did not vary during the period of significance (1870 to 1947).

Columbia Cemetery's use after the period of significance and into the present continues as a site for burial and funerary memorial.

Date	Event/Use
1870 to present	Funerary/memorial cemetery; landscape/park
1870	Single ownership by Columbia Lodge #14
late-1870 to 1910	Dual ownership by Columbia Lodge #14 and International Order of the Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) Lodge No. 9
1870s to 1930s	Boulder Memorial Day Celebrations held annually at the cemetery
1910 to 1965	Ownership by the Park Cemetery Association
1965	The City of Boulder took ownership of Columbia Cemetery

INTEGRITY

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. Columbia Cemetery has been assessed to determine if the characteristics that shaped the site during the period of significance are present today. Integrity is evaluated according to seven aspects or qualities: location, setting, feeling, design, materials, workmanship, and association. The cemetery's cultural landscape retains integrity in all seven aspects.

Location

Columbia Cemetery retains integrity of location. It remains in its original location, set at the base of the Flatirons south of downtown Boulder.

Setting

Columbia Cemetery retains integrity of setting as a final resting place with serene surroundings. The natural setting of nearby mountains and forests remains, as does the designed setting of a formal burial ground with orderly rows of graves and paths, and lush plantings.

Design

The cemetery retains integrity of design. The property's linear arrangement of roads and paths divide the cemetery into different sections and burial lots. Mature trees and lawns create a park-like space. The Pioneer Gateway and the fence and gates into the cemetery complete the design that is orderly, picturesque, and formal. This design is extant from the cemetery's period of significance. A few alterations added after the period of significance impact the integrity of design, including the addition of iris beds along the cemetery's edge (1970s), addition of boulders just east of Pioneer Gateway, and addition of the Volunteer Shed along the cemetery's western side within a former road bed (2011). Over time, the arrangement of planted trees has become difficult to distinguish. The pattern of trees appears more random than was the design intent during the period of significance.

Materials

The cemetery's grave markers, fencing, and gateways retain integrity of materials. The grave markers represent a lens into national and local geology, masonry, and stone carving. The variety of local materials used, including stones from several towns in Colorado including Salida and Marble, limestone from Golden, and sandstone from Lyons and Two-mile Canyon, reflect the location of active quarries at the time.¹⁴ Historic materials are extant in the metal fence and stone Pioneer Gateway. The Maintenance Shed has been restored with some replacement of original materials.

Workmanship

Workmanship is evident in the details of extant features and retains integrity. Many of the grave markers were carved locally by Boulder Marble Works. Other markers were purchased from distant manufacturers in the eastern United States and display detailed stone carving techniques. Integrity of workmanship is evident also in the stone walls, and the fence and gates that have details common in Victorian-Era iron work.

Feeling

The cemetery retains integrity of feeling through the collection of extant features and the lack of major alterations to the property. The mature trees and perimeter fencing provide a buffer from the surrounding neighborhood and streets that makes the cemetery feel peaceful and serene.

Association

Columbia Cemetery retains its association with families, individuals, and the general citizenry of Boulder. The cemetery continues to be the final resting ground for many of Boulder's founding citizens and retains connections to the greater community.

¹⁴ Winter & Company and Blackwood & Company, Columbia Cemetery Preservation Master Plan (Boulder, CO: The City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department, 1997), 1-5.



Figure 1-3. Columbia Cemetery, in the background, and New Anderson Ditch at right, c. 1880 (source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)



Figure 1-4. Pioneer Gateway at the northeast entrance to Columbia Cemetery, post-1913 (source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)

Construction & Alteration History

Date	Event	Source
1860	Anderson Ditch dug for irrigation of Marinus G. Smith's land.	NRHP Columbia Cemetery, 7. 4
1870, April 28	Marinus G. Smith, a member of the Masons, sold 10.5 acres of his land for \$200 to Columbia Lodge #14 A.F. & A.M. for future use as a cemetery.	City of Boulder, "Columbia Cemetery History"
1870, May	First person buried in the cemetery, Anna Eggleston, who died on May 16, 1870.	City of Boulder, "Columbia Cemetery History"
1870, December	The Masons sold one-fourth of the cemetery (all of Section A; Section E, Lots 1-9, 87-102; Section F, Lots 1-8, 29-37) to Boulder Lodge No.9 Independent Order of Odd Fellows (chartered July 10, 1869).	City of Boulder, "Columbia Cemetery History"
1870 to 1900	Columbia Cemetery had little to no budget for maintenance. Early photographs show cattle among tombstones using New Anderson Ditch. Individuals erected fencing around some burials and family plots to keep the cattle out.	Boulder Carnegie Library Historic Images, Figure 1-3
1870s to 1945	Individual and family grave markers added. Individual wooden and metal fences erected by family plot owners around individual and family grave sites. Some plots lined with stone coping or low stone walls.	Boulder Carnegie Library Historic Images
1882	Historic Maintenance Shed was likely constructed with an outhouse to the west of the shed.	NRHP Columbia Cemetery, 7. 4
1886	A caretaker appointed by the Masons planted shrubbery and flowers, and maintained the lawn. It may have been around this time a wire fence was added around the cemetery.	NRHP Columbia Cemetery, 8.9
1904	Park Cemetery Association developed a new cemetery named Green Mountain in south Boulder. One-hundred forty-eight bodies eventually disinterred from Columbia Cemetery and reburied in Green Mountain Cemetery.	1997 Cemetery Preservation Master Plan
1912	A small stile was constructed at the northeast corner of the cemetery (date unknown).	April 1912, Boulder Daily Camera
1912	Spruce and western cedar planted.	NRHP Columbia Cemetery, 7. 5
1913	Pioneer Gateway was built of twin piers of coursed rustic stone. The south pier was stamped with "Pioneer Gateway" and the north side with "Columbia Cemetery." A metal gate secured the entrance and an metal fence was constructed around the cemetery's perimeter. Gravel roads were constructed in 1915.	NRHP Columbia Cemetery, 7. 3
1927	It appears likely that the Park Cemetery Association had a planting effort that included ash trees and other deciduous trees planted in a linear pattern.	NRHP Columbia Cemetery, 7. 5
1930s to 1950s	Original rose bushes were removed by cemetery management likely between the 1930s and 1950s.	City of Boulder
1956	Metal fence along the western edge of the cemetery bordering Flatirons Elementary was removed when the elementary school was built. The fence was replaced with a chainlink fence.	NRHP Columbia Cemetery, 7. 3
1965	City of Boulder took ownership of the cemetery and the property was administered as part of the Parks and Recreation Department.	City of Boulder, "Columbia Cemetery History"
1970s	Additional plants added including lilac, spirea, roses, and juniper. Iris beds added along 9th Street, Pleasant Street, and College Avenue.	City of Boulder

Date	Event	Source
1977	The cemetery was closed to vehicular traffic due to increased vandalism. Approximately six feet of the fence was removed.	City of Boulder, "Columbia Cemetery History"
1960s to 2010s	There was an increase in the quantity of grave markers removed and/or damaged from theft and vandalism.	City of Boulder
1994 to 1996	Inventory and evaluation of all standing grave markers completed by Historic Boulder and Boulder Genealogical Society volunteers.	City of Boulder
1998	Perimeter fence repaired and restored, including reconstruction of missing pieces and the previously stolen southeast gate.	City of Boulder
1999 to 2019	The professionally-trained Columbia Cemetery Conservation Corps (CCCC) volunteer group was established in 1999 and performed conservation work on hundreds of grave markers. Multiple grants from the State Historical Fund provided money to reset and clean grave markers, many of which had been overturned and half buried by the 1990s.	Boulder Daily Camera, "Cemetery Project Brings Life to Dead" 3/7/1999
2000s	The existing pedestrian pathways were added and re-defined at the SW and SE entry points. A chain link fence was replaced along western edge of cemetery with in-kind materials.	City of Boulder
2006 to 2012	Two benches made of Lyons, Colorado sandstone were installed.	City of Boulder
2011	Design and construction of the Volunteer Shed by CU's Environmental Design students.	
2013	New Anderson Ditch reinforced with below-ground sheet piling to keep ditch water from leaking into the cemetery.	Boulder Daily Camera, "Leaky Ditch Gets Shored Up By City" 8/7/2013
2013	Electrical lines added to the southwest section of the cemetery to the new Volunteer Shed and Maintenance Shed. Installation of an irrigation system including underground lateral lines and above ground sprinkler heads and control valves.	City of Boulder
2014	White bronze (cast zinc) grave markers refurbished by McKay Lodge Conservation Laboratory in Ohio. The markers were originally manufactured by the Monumental Bronze Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut between 1874 and 1912.	Boulder Daily Camera, "White Bronze Markers Restored" 3/22/2014.
2014	Steel black fence installed to replace chain link fence along western edge of cemetery.	City of Boulder
2015	Restoration of the Maintenance Shed.	
2017 to 2019	Volunteers with the City of Boulder's assistance added approximately 30 trees each year.	City of Boulder
2022	Restoration of historic perimeter fence, one piece (8 linear feet), along 9th Street and partial restoration/reconstruction to one piece of the same length along College Avenue at Grant Place.	City of Boulder

EXISTING CONDITION

Landscape Condition

Landscape Characteristics

Columbia Cemetery's original setting, features, and spatial relationships remain largely intact. The cemetery is set on a hill one mile southwest of downtown Boulder at the base of the Flatirons. The setting is characterized by orderly paths and mature trees with grave markers interspersed. A stone gateway provides a formal entrance at the northeast corner and a metal fence defines the edges of the cemetery. Two sheds are located along the cemetery's western edge, one historic and another of more recent construction. An irrigation channel traverses the cemetery from west to east. Mature trees line the roadways and create a park-like setting, similar to the Cemetery Association's plans in the 1920s. Concrete paved sidewalks surround the property on two sides, providing connections to the surrounding city. Numerous small-scale features include gates, signs, and grave markers.

Topography

The cemetery's topography, including the natural terrain that slopes downhill to the north, and topographical fluctuations due to burials, contribute to the significance of the cemetery. As a burial ground, the topography was altered with regular ground disturbance. These disturbances are noted today in slight rises and depressions in the earth. The topography descends at the edges of the New Anderson Ditch, which has been altered since the period of significance with sheet piling and rocks along its edge. Despite this change, the topography along the ditch retains integrity. A narrow trench, of unknown date, follows the western fenceline and follows the alignment of a sewer pipeline that runs below-grade. The trench alters the topography with a drainage depression and captures seasonal run-off. It is uneven and collapsing in some locations with no hard edge.

Vegetation

Mature deciduous and evergreen trees are throughout the cemetery. Deciduous trees include cottonwood, elm, catalpa, linden, crabapple, Kentucky coffee tree, oak, and ash. Coniferous trees include Colorado spruce, douglas fir, juniper, and cedar. Many of the mature trees are reaching the end of their life span and likely date to the 1920s and 1930s when the Park Cemetery Association added vegetation to the property. In 2014, numerous ash trees were removed due to Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Approximately 90 trees were planted between 2017 and 2019.

At Pioneer Gateway, mature trees define the entrance and a perennial bed is located in front of the gateway. Irises are planted in beds between the sidewalk and fence along 9th Street and the north and south sides of the cemetery. Some iris have spread outwards from the beds and into the cemetery.

Shrubs and perennials are located at individual grave sites. Lilac, roses, spirea, and viburnum are common shrubs within the cemetery, however, many of these are in need of pruning or replacement. These individual plants likely date from the 1970s or later, however, they are consistent with the cemetery's historic appearance. A lawn covers most of the cemetery's open space and is in fair condition. Overgrown vegetation occurs along the narrow trench at the cemetery's western edge.

Vegetation is consistent with the cemetery's historic appearance, with evergreen and deciduous trees planted throughout the cemetery to create a park-like feeling. Individual shrubs and perennials at gravesites are consistent with the historic design, as photographs from the 1900s reveal that families planted blooming shrubs and perennials around graves. Irises were donated by Long's Gardens and beds were planted around 1970. Since these post-date the period of significance they are not contributing to the historic landscape, but are compatible.

Spatial Organization

The historic setting and spatial organization of Columbia Cemetery has remained intact since the end of the period significance. The cemetery's spatial organization is a result of the establishment of a grid-like burial plot arrangement and linear roadway system. The cemetery is arranged in a grid and separated into four main sections (A,B,C, and D). Additional sections fill out the cemetery's edge (sections E and F). Each section is then divided into individual lots. A central circular area in the middle of the cemetery was originally left open; after approximately 1935, this area was filled in with graves.

The north-south and east-west oriented roads reinforce the spatial organization. Shade trees are typically planted along this same grid pattern following the roads and paths. Views to the Flatirons connect the cemetery to its context.

Circulation

Columbia Cemetery's circulation system is composed of a grid of soft-surface roads and informal pedestrian paths. The roads are approximately 12 feet wide and surfaced with gravel. They were originally designed and established in 1915 for vehicular traffic but are used primarily today as pedestrian paths. Informal pedestrian paths were established early during the period of significance, although it is unconfirmed if today's informal paths follow the same alignments as the historic routes.

Accessibility

The cemetery does not meet ADA standards. The gravel and dirt surfacing of the roads and paths are not ADA-compliant, and have ponding and drainage issues. The entry points at the southern and north gates are narrow and the widths do not meet ADA standards. Parking along the roadway does not meet ADA standards for the quantity of daily visitors and the acreage and function of the site. One non-ADA-compliant port-o-let is located near the Maintenance Shed.

Structures

Pioneer Gateway – This structure is comprised of two stone columns that flank the main vehicular entry. Two swinging entry gates secure the cemetery's entrance. The two stone columns are carved with lettering and are the cemetery's original signage. The south column reads 'Columbia Cemetery' and the north reads 'Pioneer Gateway.' Two large granite boulders are located just inside the cemetery near the gateway.

Stone Wall - A low stone wall extends south and west of Pioneer Gateway and retains the street grade along 9th Street. It extends in the opposite direction along Pleasant Street for approximately 30 feet. This wall is in fair condition, with some repair, resetting, and repointing of stones needed. In some places, vegetation threatens the structural integrity of the wall.

Maintenance Shed - This shed is a white, rectangular (15'x20'), wood vertical board and batten structure with an asphalt roof. It was originally built circa 1882 and rehabilitated in 2015. Material storage is on its west and north sides. Stone boulders extend from the west side to the north and end at a mature tree. There is overgrown vegetation at the west side along the narrow trench. A low wall is near the east side access.

Volunteer Shed – This shed is a rectangular wood and corrugated metal structure with a central breezeway. The shed was built in 2012. It has a small landscaped area and concrete sidewalk at the east side. There is a concrete retaining



Figure 1-5. Fence and gate at the southwest corner of the property, 2022 (source: Mundus Bishop)
8-16



Figure 1-6. Pioneer Gateway with perennial bed in foreground, 2022 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-7. Soft-surface roads are the primary circulation routes through the cemetery, 2022 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-8. New Anderson Ditch with culverts at rear of photograph, 2022 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-9. Aerial photograph of Columbia Cemetery, 1936 (source: CU Aerial Photographs of Colorado)



Figure 1-10. Columbia Cemetery, c. 1899 (source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)

wall at the south and west sides with corrugated metal siding and a concrete landing at the west end. The building is in good condition but the Chronology plaque is broken and needs to be replaced in-kind.

New Anderson Ditch - The ditch runs east to west across the northern half of the cemetery. It is approximately 6 feet wide and is lined with rubble boulder walls. Some stones have been displaced and the wall is in fair condition but in need of repair and resetting of stones.

Culverts - Four concrete culverts are located along New Anderson Ditch. The culverts are covered with sandstone blocks, which are in good condition. Some repair, resetting, and repointing of the sandstone is needed. Two of the culverts were repaired in the early 2000s.

Narrow Trench - A narrow trench is located along the western edge of the cemetery. The trench is in poor condition; it is uneven and collapsing in places, with no hard edge and is overgrown with vegetation. Some headstones are in close proximity to the trench and are threatened by undercutting and erosion.

Small-Scale Features

Metal Fence and Gates - A metal picket fence with a top rail surrounds the cemetery on three sides. The fence varies in condition but overall is in need of sanding and painting, and portions should be replaced in-kind. There

is a section on the southwest that appears to have been a recent restoration. Areas of rust, peeling, and damage from vehicles is apparent along 9th Street. The attachment plates and concrete footings are mostly secure and functioning well. Three decorative small metal gates occur along the fenceline, at the southwest, southeast, and north side of the cemetery. They are in need of some sanding, painting, and replacement of parts in-kind.

Grave Markers - Approximately 6,500 persons are buried in the cemetery. Many graves are unmarked, although it is believed that these burials follow the established section/lot layout and are regularly placed with the cemetery grounds. In other cases many individuals are marked by a single family marker. Some markers have multiple names.

The cemetery includes more than 3,200 extant grave markers. These include ornate monuments, simple tablets, and homemade folk markers. They are composed of a wide variety of materials: white bronze (cast zinc), marble, granite, sandstone, rhyolite, wood, concrete, and found materials. The styles vary as well, from formal columns and tablets to intricately carved stone to simple rocks with metal markers. Some family plots are surrounded by a low stone or concrete coping, of which many have sunk below grade and are not visible. Around 100 fragmented markers are documented and stored in or near the Maintenance Shed. The condition of the extant markers varies. Some are leaning or in need of cleaning, and others are at risk of falling into the New Anderson Ditch or the narrow trench at the west side of the cemetery.



Figure 1-11. Maintenance Shed, 2022
(source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-12. Stone wall and iron fence, 2022
(source: Mundus Bishop)

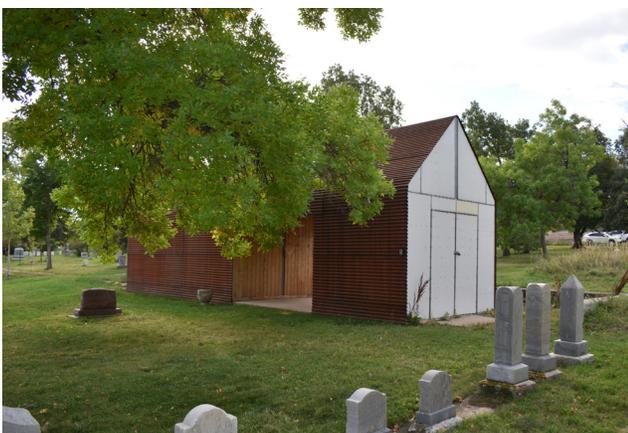


Figure 1-13. Volunteer Shed, 2022
(source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-14. Mature deciduous and coniferous trees, 2022
(source: Mundus Bishop)

Many iron flag holders have been unearthed since the late 1990s. These are stored in the Maintenance Shed and represent veteran organizations and local Masonic and voluntary organizations (e.g. Order of the Eastern Star, Women of Woodcraft). Additional flag holders and grave markers may be extant below grade.

Informational Sign - A kiosk is located near Pioneer Gateway that displays maps, rules, and cemetery history. It is metal, constructed in the 2000s, and in good condition. Information signs attached to the iron fence that list rules/regulations are near each gate.

Contemporary Fence - A contemporary fence is located along the cemetery's west side adjacent to the school. It is made of metal, steps with the grade, and has a gate near the Maintenance Shed.

Benches - Two Lyons sandstone benches are present within the cemetery, one at the Pioneer Gateway that is dedicated to volunteers and another north of Anderson Ditch and northeast of the Maintenance Shed. These were added between 2006 and 2012.

Trash Receptacles - There are trash receptacles located at the cemetery's entrance gates. They are bear-proof steel bins with plastic siding. Dog waste bag dispensers are located near the trash receptacles at all four entry points.

Spigots / Utility Access - Utility access panels are located along internal roads. Irrigation boxes are covered and hidden by imitation rock.

Views and Viewsheds

Views to the Flatirons are present throughout the cemetery. These views are blocked in some places by mature trees. A prominent view to the mountains is along the northern gravel road, and is framed by trees.



LEGEND

Columbia Cemetery Landmark	Primary Circulation	Structure	Pioneer Gateway
Burial Lot	Stone Wall with Metal Fence	Metal Fence	Perennial Bed*
Metal Gate	Contemporary Fence	Culvert	Sandstone Bench*
Contributing Vegetation	View	Informational Sign*	New Anderson Ditch
		Narrow Trench*	Maintenance Shed and boulders
		Volunteer Shed and retaining wall*	Potters Field
		War Veterans Grave Markers	Iris Beds*

* Denotes non-contributing feature

Figure 1-15. Columbia Cemetery Existing Condition, 2022 (source: SDS, Mundus Bishop)

Contributing and Non-Contributing Features

Table 1-1: Contributing and Non-Contributing Features

Feature	Condition	Contributing/ Non-Contributing
Topography		
Pattern of raised and modified topography due to burials	Good	Contributing
Vegetation		
Spruce and Cedar Trees (mature) (c. 1912)	Good to Fair	Contributing
Deciduous Trees (mature) (c. 1927)	Good to Fair	Contributing
Ornamental shrubs (lilac, spirea, viburnum, rose, juniper) at individual grave sites	Fair	Contributing
Iris beds (1970s)	Fair	Non-Contributing
Perennial bed at Pioneer Gateway	Good	Non-Contributing
Turf grass (1912)	Fair	Contributing
Overgrown vegetation along narrow trench	Poor	Non-Contributing
Circulation		
Internal Vehicular roads	Fair	Contributing
Pedestrian Pathways	Fair	Contributing
Structures		
Pioneer Gateway	Good	Contributing
Stone Walls	Good to Fair	Contributing
Culverts	Fair	Contributing
Maintenance Shed	Good	Contributing
Volunteer Shed and Concrete Retaining Wall	Good	Non-Contributing
New Anderson Ditch	Good	Contributing
Narrow Trench	Poor	Non-Contributing
Small-Scale Features		
Iron Fence and Gates	Good to Fair	Contributing
Contemporary Fence	Good	Non-Contributing
Benches (2 Sandstone)	Good	Non-Contributing
Informational Sign	Good	Non-Contributing
Regulatory/Interpretive signage	Good	Non-Contributing
Grave Markers	Varies	Contributing
Views and Viewsheds		
View of Boulder Flatirons	Good	Contributing

Structural Condition

Pioneer Gateway

Pioneer Gateway is constructed of mortared stone masonry. The south pier is approximately 9'-8" wide by 6'-8" tall and 2'-8" thick. The north pier is approximately 9'-5" wide by 6'-8" tall and 2'-4" thick. The stones used to construct the piers are a mix of local red sandstone and granite. The stones are set in a hard mortar applied in different campaigns, one of which included large aggregate. It is unknown how deep below grade the piers extend.

Generally Pioneer Gateway is in good structural condition. The piers appear to be plumb and no evidence of cracking of the masonry units or mortar. Some of the sandstone units are slightly eroded, however, none to the point of significant structural section loss. The most major threat to the structural stability of the Gateway is how close the vegetation is growing to the masonry (in some cases it is growing on the masonry structure). Not only can the vegetation harbor excess moisture against the structure and cause the sandstone units to weather quicker, but the root systems can also grow and extend into the structure and cause damage in the future.



Figure 1-16. Pioneer Gateway at the northeast corner of the Columbia Cemetery, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-17. Note the close proximity of vegetation to the stone structure, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-18. Some of the sandstone units are slightly eroding as evidenced by their rounded edges on the Pioneer Gateway, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-19. Stone masonry wall around the east and north sides of the Columbia Cemetery, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-20. Fencing and stone masonry site wall along the east side of the Columbia Cemetery, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-21. Typical fence at a post. Note the decorative finial and the diagonal brace, 2022 (source: JVA)

Stone Walls and Metal Fence

The walls around the perimeter of Columbia Cemetery are constructed of multi-wythe stone masonry and are typically about 18" thick. The stones used to construct the walls are a mix of local red sandstone and granite. The stones are set in a hard mortar applied in different campaigns, one of which included large aggregate. It is unknown how deep below grade the walls extend.

Along the north elevation, only the east portion of the wall is retaining approximately 16" to 20" of soil on the north side of the wall. At the west portion of the north wall, the grade is about equal on both sides. Along the east elevation, the north portion of the wall is retaining 15" to 20" of soil on the east (or street) side of the wall. The south portion of the wall is retaining 0" to 15" of soil on the east (or street) side of the wall.

Generally the walls appear to be in good structural condition with no signs of major displacement or failure. However, there are several deferred maintenance items that could cause structural issues in the future if not addressed. These include the close proximity of vegetation to the wall (particularly along the north wall) and routine maintenance of the mortar joints of the masonry (especially the top face of the wall since there is no parge coat or coping stones).

The perimeter fence along the north, east, south, and a portion of the west sides of Columbia Cemetery is constructed of iron and is approximately 42" tall from the top of foundation to the top of the top rail. The posts are constructed of 1 1/4" x 1/4" bars with a decorative finial at the top and a metal post base connection at the foundation. The pickets are constructed of 1/2" square rods turned on the diagonal. The top, bottom, and middle rails are constructed of 1 1/4" by 3/8" deep channels that open downwards. The top rail is rounded over the decorative finials of the posts. Each post is mounted either on a 16" diameter concrete pier with a diagonal brace down to the pier, or directly to the stone masonry wall. The depth of the piers is unknown, but the distance from the top of the foundation to grade varies along the length of the fence; in some places it is buried, in others it is even with grade, and in some places it extends several inches above grade.

In most places, the fence is coated with an older layer of paint that has faded to a blueish hue. There are several bays of fencing that have been coated with a glossy, black paint.

Generally the fence seems to be in good to fair condition. Although there are no major signs of failure and all elements of the fence seem to be intact, there are several areas of damage that need to be addressed. The older paint is peeling in many places and seems to no longer be protecting the metal elements. The areas painted with the newer glossy black paint appear to be in better condition. Corrosion in the form of rust is visible in some areas. Although the rust has not extended enough to cause section loss, it is possible that it could in the future if not addressed. The other main issue is related to impact damage, primarily along 9th street. Pickets, posts, and rails are bent in some locations where they were likely hit by vehicles.

Culverts

There are two ellipse-shaped culverts located at Columbia Cemetery, both of which are constructed of reinforced concrete. The west culvert is 4" thick and has inside dimensions of 60" wide by 36" tall. The east culvert is 5 ½" thick and has inside dimensions of 72" wide by 42 ½" tall (it may be taller as quite a bit of sediment has collected at the base of the culvert). These two culverts are replacements that were installed in the 1990s.

From a surficial perspective, the culverts are in fair condition. Although they appear to be performing their function, there is one area where concrete has spalled and exposed rebar. There is also some scour of the cement paste exposing the aggregate of the concrete. These culverts were not reviewed by a civil engineer as part of this assessment and they will need to be in the future to determine if they are adequate for the flow of water and loads of the walkway surface.



Figure 1-22. East side of the easternmost culvert, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-23. East side of the westernmost culvert, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-24. Concrete spalling on one of the concrete culverts, 2022 (source: JVA)

Maintenance Shed

This structure is constructed of wood roof and wall framing on an integral concrete foundation and floor. It was rehabilitated in 2015 with structural input from JVA. Since the building was not accessible for the assessment, all interior observations are based on our previous design and construction administration experience with the building.

Foundation and Floor

The shed is constructed on a 5" thick reinforced concrete slab-on-grade with a turned down slab edge that extends a minimum of 18" below grade.

The foundation is in good condition showing no signs of subsidence or other displacement.

Roof Framing

The gable roof is framed with 2x4 rafters spaced at approximately 24" on center at an 8 on 12 slope. Original and new collar ties installed in 2014 span across each rafter pair at the top of wall elevation. The roof is sheathed with a layer of 1x variable width skip sheathing and a layer of plywood sheathing.

The roof framing is in good structural condition since the overall system is performing well and there are no indications of failures or displacement from the exterior.

Wall Framing

The walls are framed with flat 2x4 studs aligned with the bearing of each rafter pair. A 2x4 plate tops the walls and 2x4 girts at the third points of the wall height span around the perimeter of the building. At the base, the flat studs bear on 2x6 upright plates around the perimeter of the building that are braced by inset flat 2x6 plates anchored into the foundations. Holdowns from the wall framing into the foundation are located at each corner and on either side of the south door. A double 2x10 header spans over the door opening. The studs are sheathed with 1x variable width vertical siding.

The wall framing is in good structural condition from the exterior showing no signs of failure or displacement. There are some minor issues located in isolated locations.

There are a few locations where there is some impact damage to the wood siding that have created holes in the envelope. Other areas of the trim and siding are deteriorating due to decay fungi infestation, typically close to grade or where vegetation is close to the building. The trim at the west jamb of the south door is broken at the base.



Figure 1-25. Southeast corner of the North or Historic Shed at the Columbia Cemetery, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-26. Vegetation adjacent to the building along the north elevation, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-27. Impact damage on a panel in the wood door of the building, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-28. Broken trim at the west jamb of the south door, 2022 (source: JVA)

Lateral Force Resisting System (LFRS)

The lateral force resisting system (LFRS) of the building consists of the roof diaphragm of the roof sheathing and the exterior wall siding. Timberlock screws tie the roof framing to the wall framing and holdowns tie the wall framing to the foundation.

The LFRS is in good condition with all necessary elements in place to resist lateral forces.

Volunteer Shed

The volunteer shed in Columbia Cemetery is in good condition. It is constructed of wood and steel rod roof truss framing, with wood and steel rod walls on a concrete floor and foundation.

Foundation & Floor

The configuration of the shed's foundation is unknown; however, based on the date and type of construction, it is likely reinforced concrete slab-on-grade with a turned down slab edge.

The foundation below grade was not visible at the time of the site observations and drawings were not made available to the team at the time of this report. However, where exposed, the foundation and floor are performing adequately from a structural standpoint. There are no signs of differential settlement or other forms of displacement or major cracking.

Roof Framing

The roof of the shed is framed with trusses spaced at 4'-0". The trusses are constructed of fitch-plate top chords made of two 1 3/4" by 7 1/4" LVLs with a center 1/4" thick steel plate. The vertical and diagonal webs are 1/2" diameter rods that meet in the center of the truss at a 5 1/2" diameter plate ring constructed of 1/4" steel. The roof is sheathed with 1/2" panel sheathing with a 40/20 span rating. The decking visible on the underside of the breezeway does not serve a structural function, rather, it is aesthetic in nature.

The roof framing is in good to fair condition. The framing is adequate for the snow load associated with the site, however, panel sheathing is not adequate to span between the roof trusses.

Wall Framing

The walls of the shed are framed with fitch plate studs aligned with each truss at 4'-0" on center. The fitch plate studs are composed of two 1 3/4" by 7 1/4" LVL members with a steel plate in the center. The sizes could not be confirmed since the interiors of the buildings were not accessible during site observations. All observations were made via visual observation through a vertical strip of metal mesh in the walls of the breezeway.

At the interior spaces, the roof trusses connect to the wall studs with a custom steel saddle and steel plate attached to the wall stud fitch plate. The tops of the wall studs are braced laterally with a let in 7 1/4" LVL beam on the exterior face of the wall.

At the breezeway, the trusses bear on a header composed of two 1 3/4" x 7 1/4" LVLs and a center steel WT member with the flange on the top side of the header.

The gable walls are constructed of dimensional lumber framing.

The wall framing is in good structural condition showing no signs of failure or widespread displacement.



Figure 1-29. Southwest corner of Volunteer Shed at Columbia Cemetery, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-30. Concrete floor of Volunteer Shed as seen from the breezeway, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-31. Typical roof framing of Volunteer Shed, 2022 (source: JVA)



Figure 1-32. Interior of the east portion of Volunteer Shed. Note the roof and wall framing., 2022 (source: JVA)

Lateral Force Resisting System (LFRS)

The lateral force resisting system is composed of the plywood roof diaphragm, steel rod x-braces in the north and south walls of the interior portions of the shed, and diagonal wood braces in the east wall.

The LFRS is in good to fair condition. Although there are no signs of displacement caused by a previous lateral event such as a windstorm or earthquake, it appears there are no visible diaphragm elements in the west gable end wall and possibly in the gable walls of the breezeway. Therefore, there are only minimal elements in place to resist lateral loads in the north-south direction. If there is plywood or x-braces hidden by the vertical siding of the breezeway walls, the system may be adequate.

Table 1-2: Condition Assessment of Pioneer Gateway, Stone Walls and Iron Fence, and Culverts

Primary Features	Description of Primary Materials	Condition
Pioneer Gateway	Stone masonry piers	Good
Stone Walls	Multi-wythe stone masonry	Good to Fair
Metal Fence	Painted metal	Good to Fair
Culverts	Reinforced concrete	Fair

Table 1-3: Condition Assessment of Maintenance Shed

Primary Features	Description of Primary Materials	Condition
Foundation and Floor	Reinforced concrete	Good
Roof Framing	Dimensional lumber	Good
Wall Framing	Dimensional lumber	Good
Lateral Force Resisting System	Roof sheathing; Wall siding	Good

Table 1-4: Condition Assessment of Volunteer Shed

Primary Features	Description of Primary Materials	Condition
Foundation and Floor	Concrete slab	Good
Roof Framing	Dimensional lumber; Roof sheathing	Good to Fair
Wall Framing	Dimensional lumber	Good
Lateral Force Resisting System	Roof sheathing; Steel rod x-braces; Diagonal lumber wall bracing	Good to Fair

ADDITIONAL IMAGES



Figure 1-33. Pioneer Gateway, stone wall, iron fence and gate, 2022 (source: Mundus Bishop)

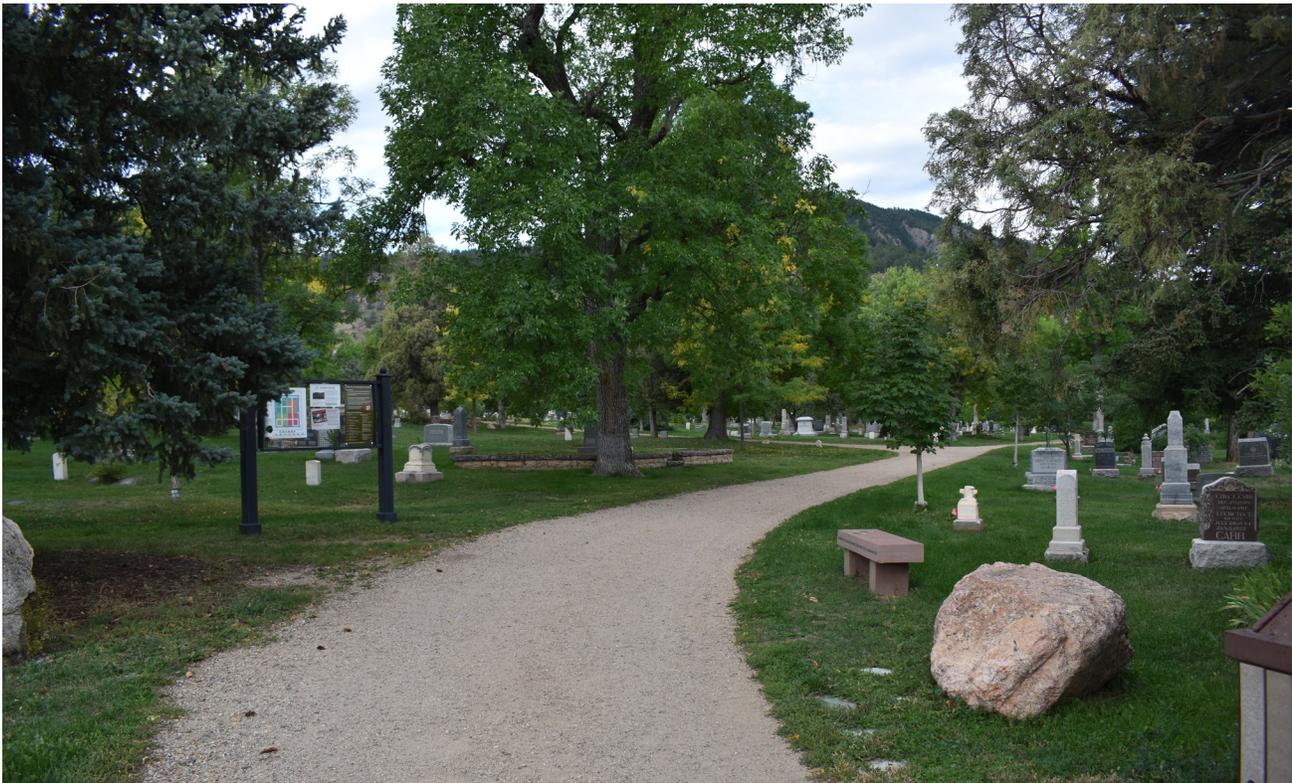


Figure 1-34. Main cemetery entrance, 2022 (source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-35. Maintenance Shed with boulder wall, 2022
(source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-36. North entrance gate, 2022 (source: Mundus Bishop)

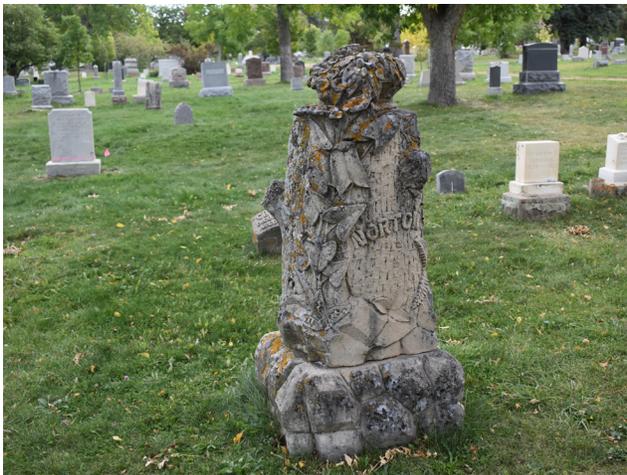


Figure 1-37. Grave marker, 2022
(source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-38. Marble grave markers for Civil War soldiers, 2022
(source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-39. Culvert at New Anderson Ditch, 2022
(source: Mundus Bishop)



Figure 1-40. Narrow trench along western boundary, 2022 (source: Mundus Bishop)

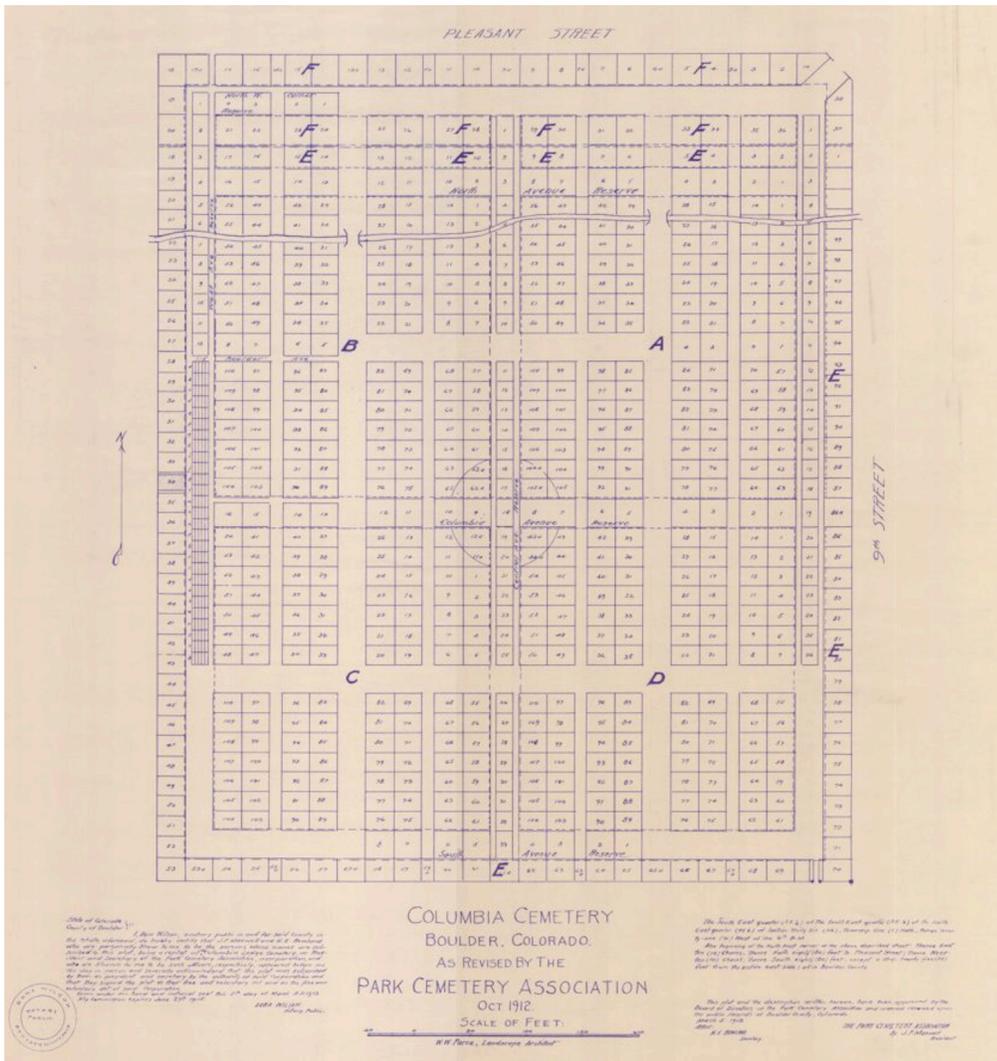


Figure 1-41. Columbia Cemetery Map, 1911 (source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)

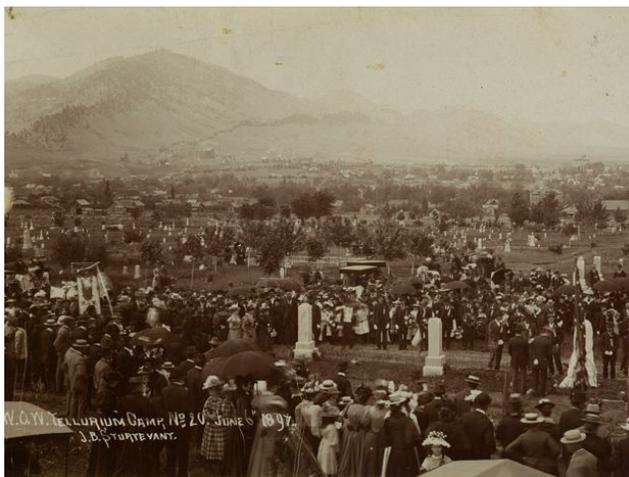


Figure 1-42. Woodmen of the World grave marker unveiling ceremony, 1897 (source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)



Figure 1-43. Markers at Columbia Cemetery and planted trees behind, 1885-1905 (source: Carnegie Branch Library for Local History)

TREATMENT

Introduction and Overview

Rehabilitation is the selected treatment approach for Columbia Cemetery, emphasizing its preservation and repair, and allowing for the addition of compatible improvements, where appropriate. Treatment guidance, presented in this section, informs current and future planning and design for Columbia Cemetery based upon this rehabilitation approach.

This treatment guidance provides actions and recommendations to guide the holistic stewardship of Columbia Cemetery to ensure its continued use as one of City of Boulder's significant historic resources and as a burial and funerary location.

Treatment guidance is based upon review of historic documentation, assessment of condition and integrity, and in support of current and planned future uses. This section provides actions to protect significant cultural resources, and repair contributing features. Treatment recommendations identify where repair is needed to reveal historic features, retain character, and maintain integrity. Future work planned for Columbia Cemetery shall be guided by The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, and accomplished by using accepted preservation methods detailed by the National Park Service, and Chapter 9-11 (Historic Preservation) of the Boulder Revised Municipal Code.

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, or additions if those portions or features that convey its historic, cultural, or architectural values are preserved. Rehabilitation allows for new additions to be integrated within the study area in a manner that preserves established patterns and features. Additional actions include those that preserve, repair, and retain contributing features and qualities that contribute to the historic character.

Guiding Principles

Columbia Cemetery is one of Boulder's earliest cemeteries and the burial place of many persons important to Boulder's history. The historically significant property is a pastoral landscape organized on a geometric grid with rectilinear paths and drives, characterized by mature trees and a wide variety of funerary art that exhibits the artistry associated with the late nineteenth and early-twentieth century. A diverse cross section of the city's population was buried in Columbia Cemetery beginning in the 1870s. The grounds represent the national trend of the rural-garden cemetery movement of the Victorian Era.

Guiding Principles

- Protect Columbia Cemetery as a distinct composition of spaces, grave markers, plantings and features that create its distinctive historic character.
- Preserve, protect, and repair Columbia Cemetery's contributing features and those characteristics that contribute to its historic character, including its park-like setting, grave markers, structures, and ditches.
- Continue city-led efforts to document burials and features and share this information with the public.
- Continue to maintain and restore grave markers with a qualified conservator.

Treatment Guidance

Treatment guidance provides recommendations for the preservation and repair of Columbia Cemetery. This guidance should be followed when undertaking design and planning for Columbia Cemetery or when proposing modifications to contributing features. Treatment guidance is presented according to six landscape characteristics – spatial organization and topography, circulation, structures, small-scale features, vegetation.

Spatial Organization and Topography

Columbia Cemetery's historic setting and spatial organization reflects its development along a grid-like burial plot arrangement and linear roadway system, separating the cemetery into four main sections (A,B,C, and D), and sections on the cemetery's edge (sections E and F). The cemetery road system and topography reinforces its arrangement. The Cemetery's natural terrain and topographic fluctuations due to burials is important to its character.

- Protect Columbia Cemetery's composition by preserving and repairing its characteristic topography, vegetation patterns, and setting.

Circulation

Columbia Cemetery's circulation system is composed of this grid of soft-surface roads and informal pedestrian paths were originally designed and established in 1915 for vehicular traffic but are now primarily used today as pedestrian paths.

- Protect Columbia Cemetery's soft surface roads.
 - Preserve the characteristic north-south and east-west oriented roads.
 - Repair and replace missing or damaged surface material with in-kind materials that match the original in color, texture, and pattern.
- Continue the current practice of the soft-surface roads serving as pedestrian routes.
- Provide accessible routes within Columbia Cemetery for an equitable experience for all users. Create designated accessible routes and seating areas, where appropriate and compatible with contributing features.

Structures

Original structures associated with Columbia Cemetery include Pioneer Gateway, stone wall, culverts, the Maintenance Shed, and New Anderson Ditch.

- Protect contributing structures in original locations.
 - Preserve and repair extant features in-place.

Small-Scale Features

Original features that remain include fences and gates and grave markers (more than 3,200).

- Protect and repair fences and gates in their original locations.
- Allow new small-scale features where appropriate, such as benches.
- Maintain contributing small-scale features through regular maintenance.
- Continue to maintain and restore grave markers with a qualified conservator and with qualified volunteers.

Vegetation

Linear rows and groupings of mature deciduous and evergreen trees define spaces, entrances, roads, and views.

- Protect contributing tree patterns and mature vegetation.
 - Repair and replace missing or damaged trees and patterns of trees using in-kind species or those similar to the original in form and texture.
 - Follow a successional approach to preserve contributing trees and to facilitate infill and new tree plantings. Ensure future plantings do not interfere with grave marker or grave integrity.

Structural Treatment Guidance

Volunteer Shed - Retain the existing structure as a non-contributing structure.

Maintenance Shed

Preserve and repair extant structural features including foundations, floor, roof framing, and walls.

- Wall Framing: Repair or replace damaged trim and siding.

Pioneer Gateway

Preserve and repair extant structural features including the masonry piers.

- Monitor the sandstone units for further erosion. If too much section loss occurs, it may be necessary to replace the more eroded units.
- Periodically maintain the mortar joints by raking out deteriorated mortar that is easily removed and repointing with a compatible mortar as determined by a mortar analysis of a sample of the original mortar.
- Remove vegetation growing out of the masonry structures. Keep adjacent vegetation trimmed back and away from the masonry structures as much as possible.

Culverts

Coordinate with other agencies to preserve and repair existing culverts.

- Remove the rust from any exposed rebar and coat with a galvanic paint.
- Patch the spalls and scoured surfaces with a repair mortar that will withstand the constant exposure to flowing water. Maintain periodically as necessary.
- Consult with civil engineer to evaluate the condition of the culverts to determine if they are adequate for the flow of water and to support the loads of the walkway surface.

Site Walls & Fence

Preserve and repair extant contributing site features including the site walls and fence.

- Site Walls
 - Keep adjacent vegetation trimmed away from masonry walls as much as possible.
 - Periodically maintain mortar joints, including upward facing joints in the tops of the wall. Raking out deteriorated mortar that is easily removed and repoint with a compatible mortar. Determine compatible mortar by conducting a mortar analysis of the original mortar.
- Fence
 - Remove peeling paint and rust with a wire brush and coat all metal elements with a protective coating. Choose a proper coating by performing coating trials of different products to determine the most compatible product.
 - If any areas of section loss due to corrosion are found, remove the element and replace in-kind.
 - Straighten elements affected by impact damage where possible. If not, remove those elements and replace in-kind.
- Grave markers

Top Priorities

The following actions to improve or repair physical features or landscape characteristics are the top recommended priorities. These actions meet the following criteria: impact for safety / stabilization; threat of loss of integrity; poor condition; potential impact due to enhancement; critical path / adjacency to other planned work; relevancy to other current plans.

1 - Conduct repairs for safety and stabilization of contributing features and those that contribute to the historic character of Columbia Cemetery.

- *Culverts* - Consult with civil engineer to evaluate the culverts and their capacity to accommodate flows and uses. Coordinate repairs of concrete culverts with appropriate agencies.
- Repair and replace damaged masonry.

2 - Conduct repairs to improve the condition of contributing features and those that contribute to the historic character of Columbia Cemetery.

- *Maintenance Shed* - Repair or replace deteriorated or damaged siding and trim.
- *The Pioneer Gateway* - Repair Pioneer Gateway. Remove vegetation growing in masonry structure and keep adjacent vegetation trimmed back.
- *Headstones* - Continue restoration of damaged or missing headstones.
- *Site Walls & Fence* - Repair perimeter walls and repaint the fence. Straighten or replace damaged metal fence elements.

3 - Programming

- Engage volunteers to assist with regular maintenance of Columbia Cemetery.
- Complete the geo-referenced site map.

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