



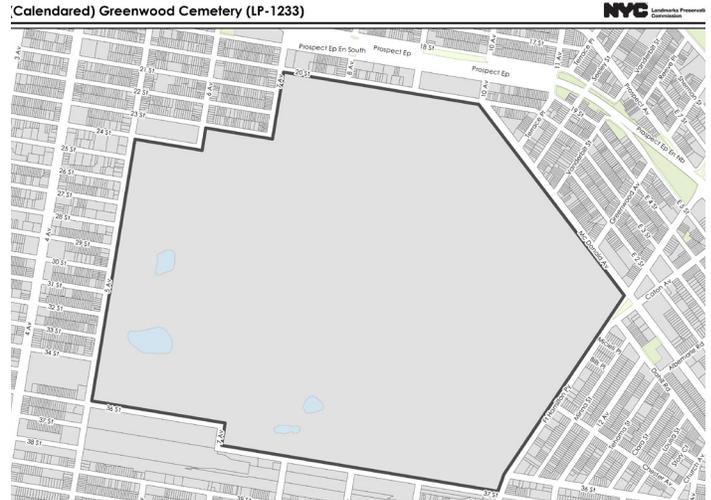
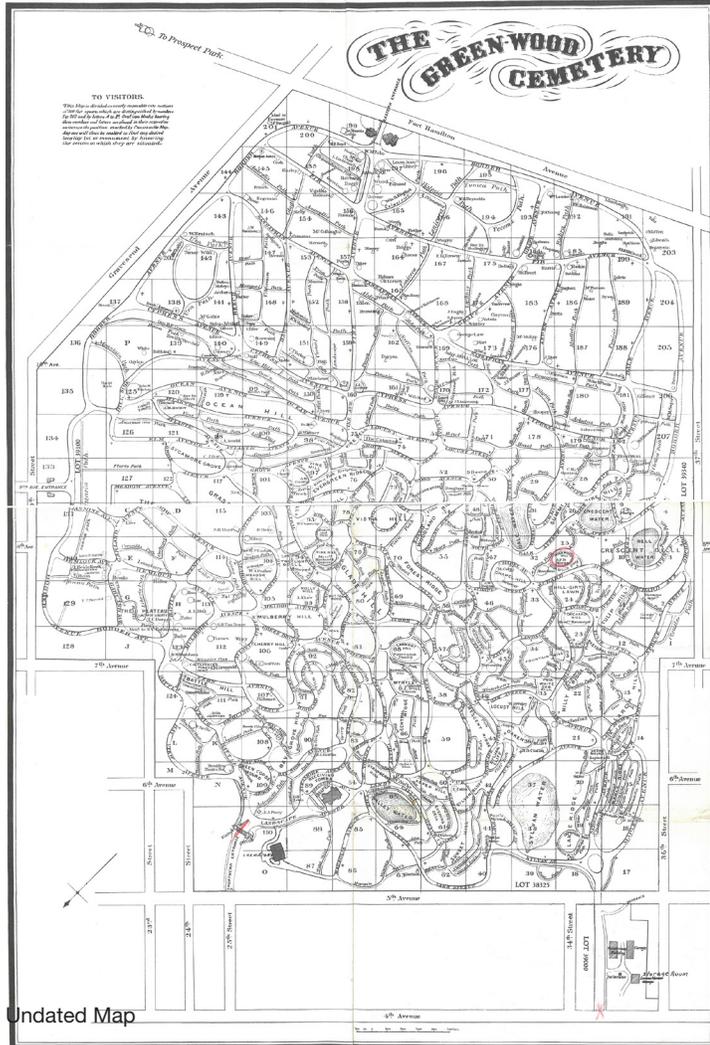
# NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

## Greenwood Cemetery

Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn  
Brooklyn Block: 00902; Lot: 0001

## Backlog Initiative: Addressing 95 Properties Brooklyn Items

Brooklyn Community Board 7  
Public Hearing Date(s): 02/10/1981; 05/19/1981;  
08/11/1981



### Special Public Hearings

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the backlog of buildings in the Borough of Brooklyn on **October 8, 2015**. Each speaker will be given three minutes to speak, and in that time may address all of the items within the Borough, specific items, or add comments to support written testimony. In order to conduct efficient hearings, we ask speakers to register in advance and submit written statements by **October 1, 2015** to [backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov](mailto:backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov). If you are unable to attend the hearing, your written submissions will be entered into the record and distributed to the Commissioners.

If you have any questions about this property or the hearing process, please contact [backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov](mailto:backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov) or call (212) 669-7817. If you would like more information about this property, please see the research file summary (over) and go to our website (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/backlog95>) and click on the link for this building's research file.



**Landmarks Preservation  
Commission**

**Greenwood Cemetery Description**

Landmark Type: Individual

Built: Founded 1838

Architect: Various

Style: Various

**Research Staff Hearing Statement (1981) page 1 of 2**

Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn

The 478 acre Greenwood Cemetery was one of the first rural cemeteries in America and is thought to be the finest American landscape in the English picturesque garden tradition designed prior to the urban parks of Frederick Law Olmsted. Planned in the 1830's, the cemetery contains a great variety of landscape features and a treasure of architectural and sculptural monuments. Greenwood was a popular site for weekend outings during the 19th century and its popularity as a rural retreat was used by Andrew Jackson Downing as an argument for the creation of public parks.

The original 178 acres of Greenwood were laid out and designed by landscape architect David Bates Douglass (1790-1849) in keeping with the picturesque landscape theory that called for variety in the use of natural features. Great contrast is found in the landscape forms used within the limited space of the cemetery. These include forests, open lawns, lakes, hills, valleys, dells, etc. Accentuating the picturesque effect of the landscaping are the names given to these areas. These names which add to the naturalistic feel of the cemetery, are not reminiscent of death and mourning. Typical names for landscaped elements are Vista Hill, Halcyon Lake, Camellia Path, Sylvan Cliff, and Oaken Bluff. Most of Douglass' layout is intact and much of the original planting has reached its maturity and is considered to give added grandeur to the cemetery. The original circulation system with its curving roads and paths still exists, although the main roads have been paved. Many of the ornate cast-iron signs denoting the street and path names also remain in place, as does the large cast-iron fence that surrounds the entire cemetery. The size of the cemetery expanded during the 19th century and the new areas were laid out and landscaped in a manner compatible with the original.

The tombs, monuments, and mausoleums of Greenwood were designed in many forms and styles with Classical, Egyptian, Gothic, and Romanesque mausoleums freely juxtaposed. Some of the monuments can be attributed to prominent architects including Richard Upjohn, James Renwick, Minard Lafever, Griffith Thomas, and William Potter, and many contain extremely fine stained glass and ironwork. Particularly notable structures are the Landmark gates designed by R.M. Upjohn and the large neo-Gothic mortuary chapel designed in 1911 by Warren & Wetmore. Besides the mausoleums, the cemetery has many tombs adorned with sculpture, some designed by notable contemporary artists such as Henry Kirke Brown, who designed the DeWitt Clinton tomb.



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**Research Staff Hearing Statement (1981) page 2 of 2**

Greenwood is the final resting place of many of New York's most illustrious personages of the 19th century. The list of those buried here includes Samuel F.B. Morse, Richard Upjohn, James Renwick, Asher B. Durand, Eastman Johnson, George Catlin, Louis Comfort Tiffany,

Nathaniel Currier, James Ives, Peter Cooper, Lola Montez, "Boss" Tweed, Henry Ward Beecher, Seth Low, Pierre Lorillard and members of prominent New York families such as Pierrepont, Schermerhorn, Lispenard and Niblo.

The cemetery retains the form of its 19th-century landscaping and is a monument to the development of the picturesque in America. It contains a wealth of architecture, sculpture, and stained glass designed by prominent as well as anonymous artisans, and is considered one of the most beautiful urban open spaces in America.