



Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

Stonewall Jackson Memorial and Evergreen

2018 Inventory Expansion Study

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Cover Photos:

1. memorial to Stonewall Jackson
2. graves at Stonewall Jackson Memorial
3. entrance to Evergreen (photo by Faith Pinho)
4. stone for Jefferson Shields at Evergreen
(photo by Richard Williams Jr.)

INTRODUCTION

Over the last century, cemeteries have struggled to remain relevant as large parks took over their role as public spaces, small families have tended to disperse from their extended relations and hometowns, and trends toward cremation have taken hold. Older cemeteries have the responsibility to maintain the graves of hundreds of years of burials, often without the participation of family members, yet are faced with dwindling opportunities to sell plots to pay for that care.

Stonewall Jackson Memorial (est 1789) has ten to fifteen years of ground interment space remaining, while Evergreen (est. 1880) has approximately five, based on current rates of burial.* The goal of this masterplan is keep these cemeteries alive and viable as a burial option for the next generation by planning for denser options, focused on cremation.

Strategies include:

- Employing structured additions on currently unused land that would yield higher inventory numbers than ground burial.
- Finding nooks along the edges of the cemetery where columbarium walls would be appropriate and serve a double function of providing privacy.
- Taking advantage of land that would not be topographically suitable for ground burial.
- Incorporating scatter gardens within structured burial areas or creating them near specimen trees whose root systems would be adversely impacted by other burial types.

*See "Recent Burial Rates" on page 81.

DRAFT

Building for a future when cremation will be the dominant tradition, we must consider several things at once:

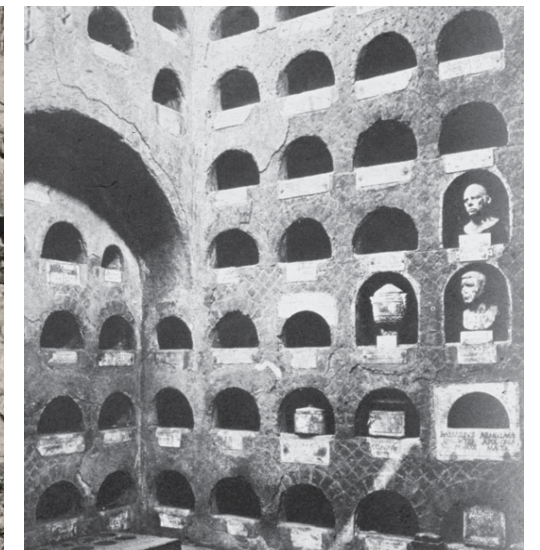
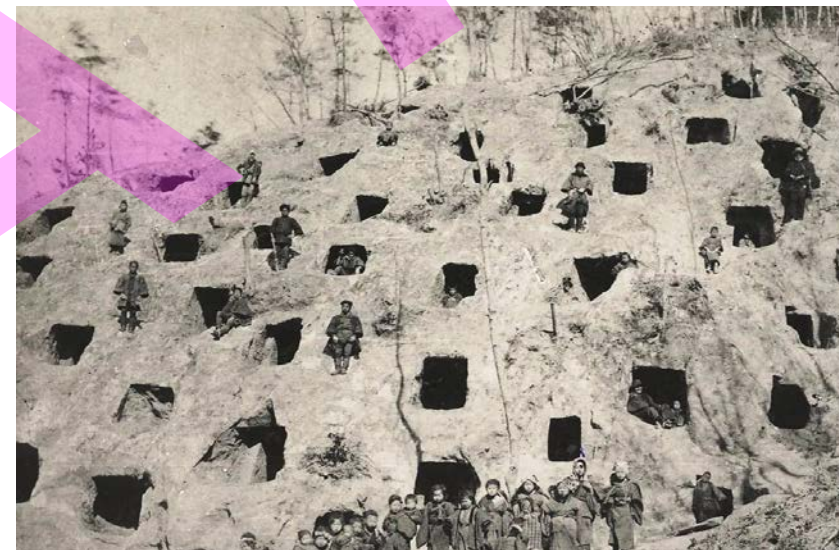
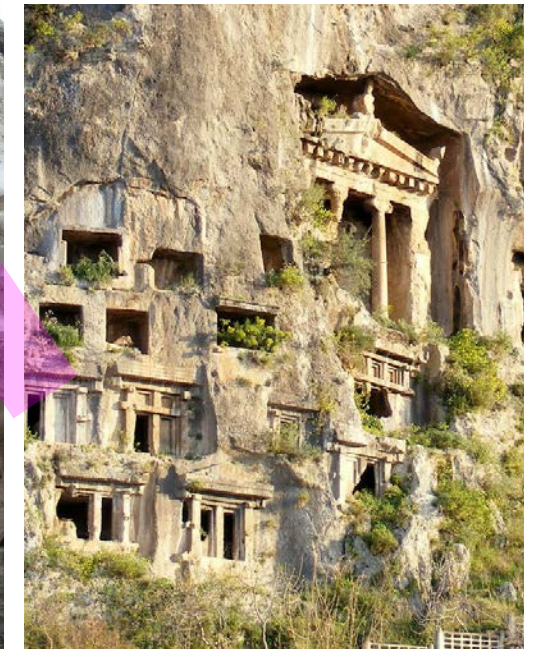
- Variety and individual character of burial options.
(scatter gardens and other communal sites, single cremain ground burial, columbarium niches, inground and wall-based crypts for caskets)
- The relationship between ritual and place in a time of cremation.
(the vertical nature of columbaria walls shape small ceremonial spaces, adding a structural layer that defines and emphasizes existing sections of the cemetery)
- Additions that feel deeply embedded within both the cemeteries and the broader regional landscape.
(connect to the specific beauty of Rockbridge County through materials and relationships to topography)

This study explores these issues by first looking at burial throughout human history and seeing what commonalities exist across time and cultures. In this timeline, the American tradition of individual plots in organized cemeteries is relatively new. As cremation becomes the most common choice in this country, we are looking to pull those threads of history and reference those universal impulses to help shape our move toward the future.

DRAFT

UNIVERSAL THEMES

Burial traditions have been called “the identifying sign of a culture.” They have been a highly predictable, stable force in communities and amazingly similar across time. Ritual, Sacred Place, Memorial are universal themes.

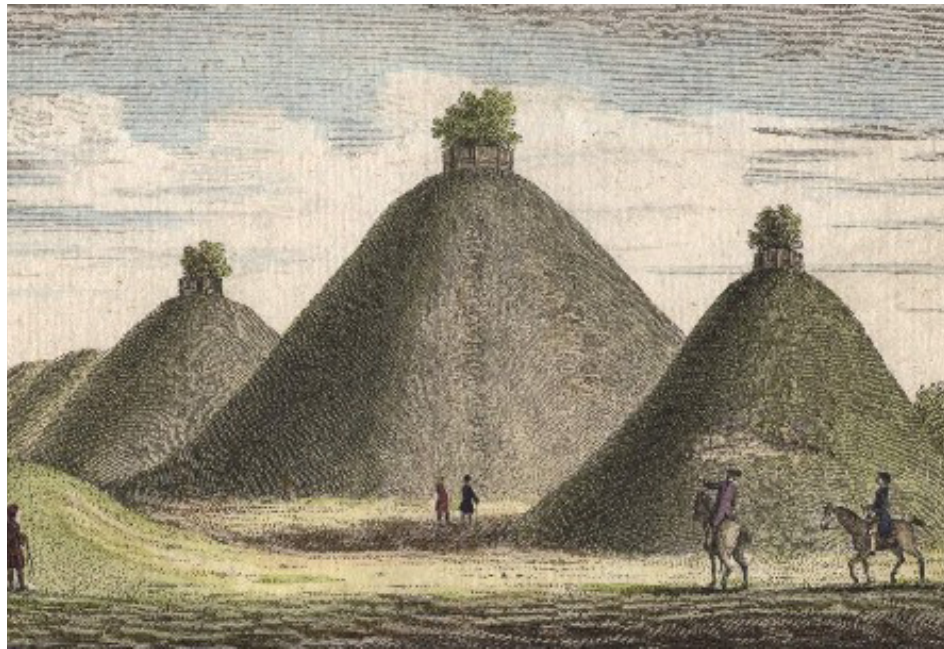


Row one:

1. Skhul Cave, modern day Israel, first known burials, 120k years ago 2. cave niches, Petra, Jordan. 200BCE - 200 CE 3. cave niches, Israel, 300 BCE
4. Lycian rock tombs, Turkey, 300 CE

Row two:

5. Lemo cliff tombs, Indonesia, 1500s CE 6. soft rock tunnel tombs, Japan, 500 CE 7. columbarium along the Appian Way, Rome, 25 BCE



Row one:

- 1. Bartlow Hills, Cambridgeshire UK, 100CE
- 2. Gyeongju Tumuli Park, South Korea, 400 CE
- 3. Etruscan necropolis, Cerveteri Italy, 300 BCE

Row two:

- 4. Bronze Age burial mounds, Bahrain, 2500 BCE
- 5. Takamatsuzuka Tomb, Japan, 600 CE
- 6. Giza necropolis, Egypt, 2500 BCE

UNIVERSAL THEMES

The burial mound is an earthwork or stone pile that is simultaneously a grave, a monument, and a sacred place for ritual. Also called a barrow, a tumulus, a tomb, a cairn.

A clearing inside a circle, like the Viking burial grounds, can be a grave, a monument and a place for ritual.

Stone and earth. These burial structures are often the only traces of an ancient culture.

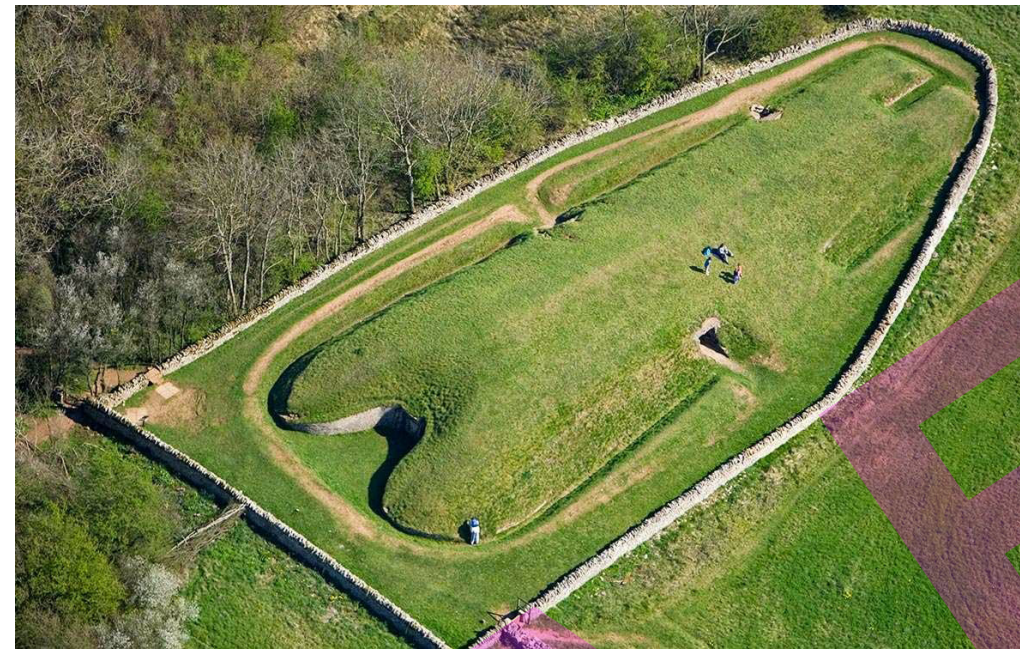


Row one:

1. Corrimony chambered cairn, Scotland, 2000 BCE 2. Loanhead of Daviot stone circle. Scotland, 3000 BCE

Row two:

3. Runnevals Gravfalt burial ground, Sweden, 500 BCE 4. Lindholm Hoje, Denmark, 1000 CE



Row one:

1. Senegambian stone burial circle, West Africa, 300 BCE - 1500 CE 2. Belas Knap long barrow, Gloucestershire UK, 3000 BCE 3. West Kennet long barrow, Wiltshire UK, 3600 BCE

Row two:

4. Soussons cairn circle, Dartmoor UK, 2000 BCE 5. Aquhorithies cairn, Scotland, 3000 BCE 6. Plain of Jars, Laos, 500 BCE

AMERICAN CEMETERIES

Between 1000 BCE and 1000 CE, Native American cultures often buried their dead within earthen mounds. They started with a grave covered with soil. Bodies were then layered over hundreds of years making the mounds into monumental works.

Thomas Jefferson was first European American to undertake a scientific mound excavation. Most native mounds in Virginia were flattened for farming.



John J. Egan, *"Huge Mound and the Manner of Opening Them"*, scene 20 from the *"Panorama of the Monumental Grandeur of the Mississippi Valley"* 1850. Depicts Jefferson's excavation.

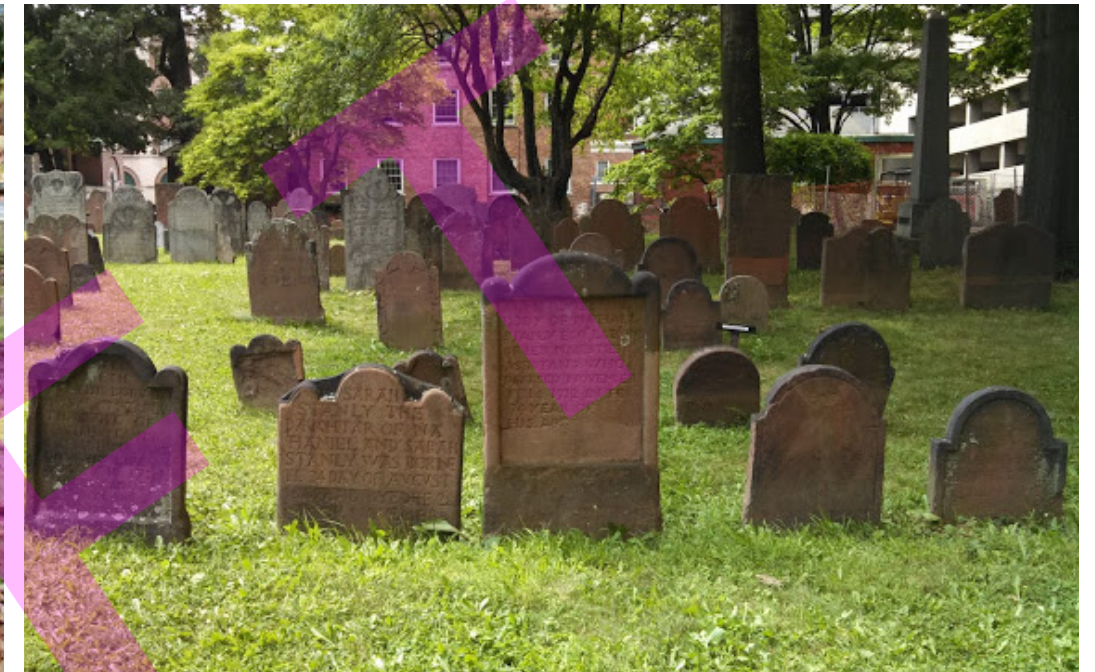


Row one:
1. John J. Egan, "Cado Parish Monument", scene 21 from "Panorama....", 1850 2. Native American mound. Ohio

Row two:
3. Native American mound, near Blue Ridge Mountains Virginia 4. Native American mound, Moundsville West Virginia 5. Native American mound, Fort Ancient, Ohio

Town Square / Churchyard

In the mid 17th century, we saw the first organized burial grounds in America, usually in walled churchyards or municipal graveyards. Before that, graves had been on private property or unmarked in town squares and grazing fields as the world went on around them.



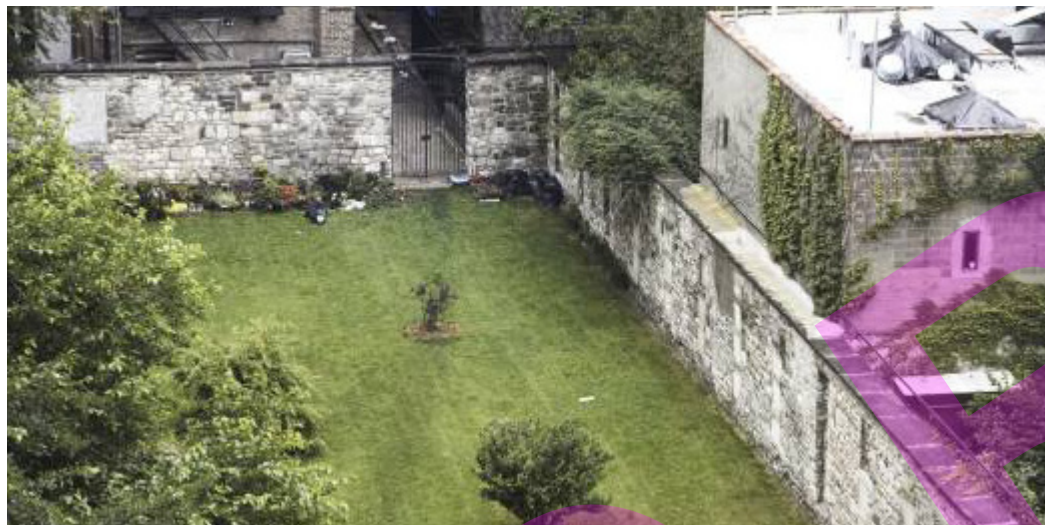
Row one:

1. Myles Standish Burying Ground, Duxbury MA, est. 1638. Includes graves of Mayflower passengers. 2. Ancient Burial Ground, Hartford CT, est. 1640

Row two:

3. Granary Burying Ground, Boston, est. 1660. Includes graves of Paul Revere, John Hancock and Samuel Adams.

4. Bruton Parish Churchyard, Williamsburg, est. 1683



Row one:

1. Trinity Church Cemetery, NYC, est. 1697 2. Christ Church Burial Ground, Philadelphia, est. 1719. Benjamin Franklin's tomb pictured. 3. Colonial Park Cemetery, Savannah, est. 1750.

Row two:

4. Marble Cemetery, NYC, 1830. 5. Marble Cemetery, NYC, 1830 6. Central Burying Ground, Boston, est. 1756. Granite tomb 1836.

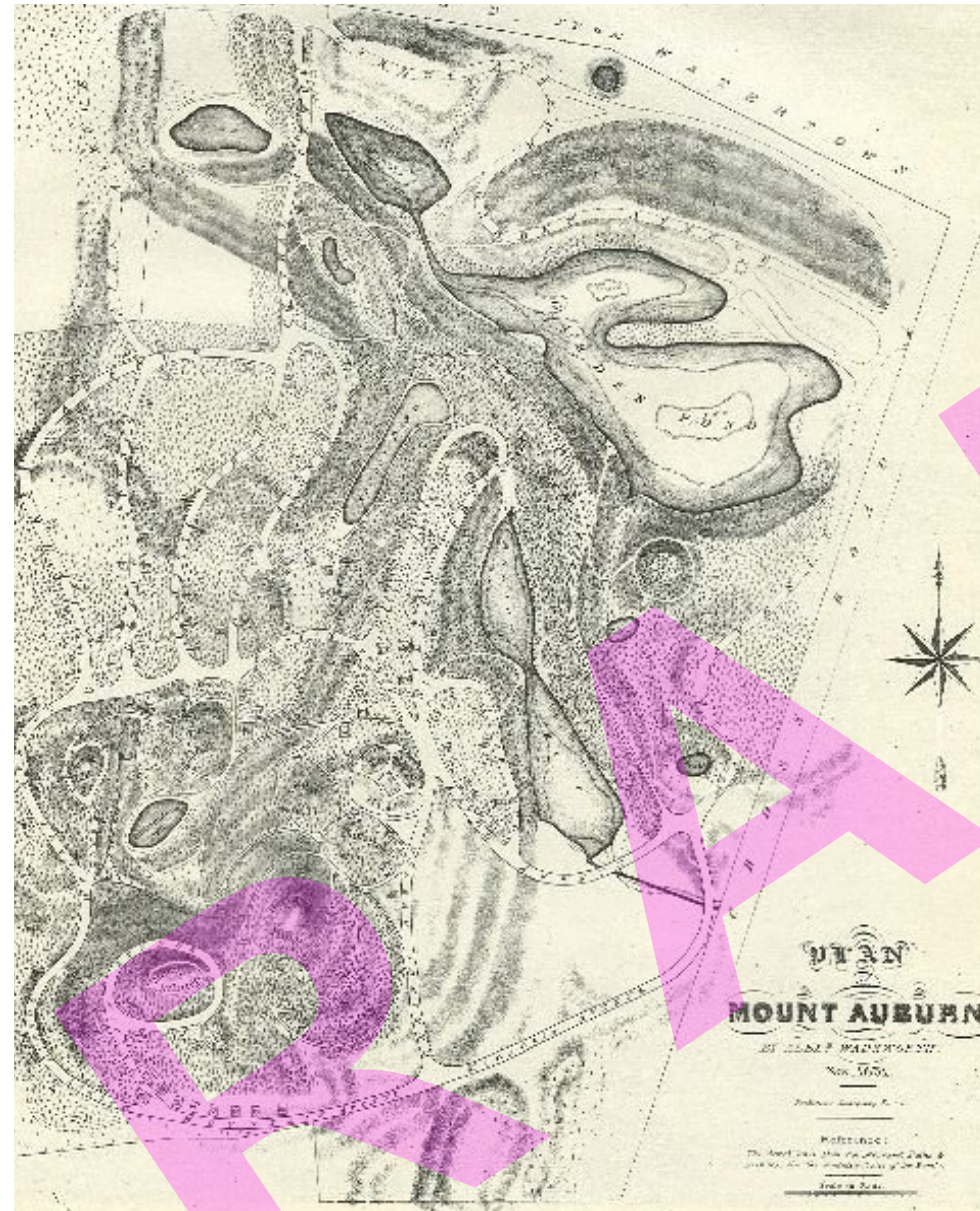
The Rural Cemetery

In the early 19th century, America invented the rural cemetery. Fear of cholera and yellow fever meant getting the bodies out of the city center. Sometimes sited on Revolutionary War battlefields to reinforce ideas of the sacred, these cemeteries became important recreational grounds, tourist attractions, cultural institutions, and showcases for horticulture before the time of great parks and museums.

Mount Auburn was the first to “incorporate human bodies into the cycles of nature, creating winding, lush, picturesque strolling grounds, solemn yet uplifting, morbid yet undeniably lovely, that would become the precursors to landscapes like New York’s Central Park. Mortality and regeneration, nature’s primal realities, were woven into everyday life.” *

Rural cemeteries were designed to have a variety of experiences. “The forest crowned height. The abrupt acclivity; the sheltered valley; the deep glen; the grassy glade; and the silent grove.” They were also intended to be democratic by giving all classes an opportunity to experience nature in a way that had been reserved previously for private gardens.

*quotes from *Arcadian America*



This page
1 Mount Auburn, Cambridge MA, est. 1831.

Facing page
Row one:
Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn NY, est. 1838

Row Two:
1. visitors, Greenwood 2. picnic, Bonaventure Cemetery, Savannah, est. 1846
3. Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, est. 1836



GW
GREENWOOD
A NATIONAL
HISTORIC
LANDMARK
Est. 1838



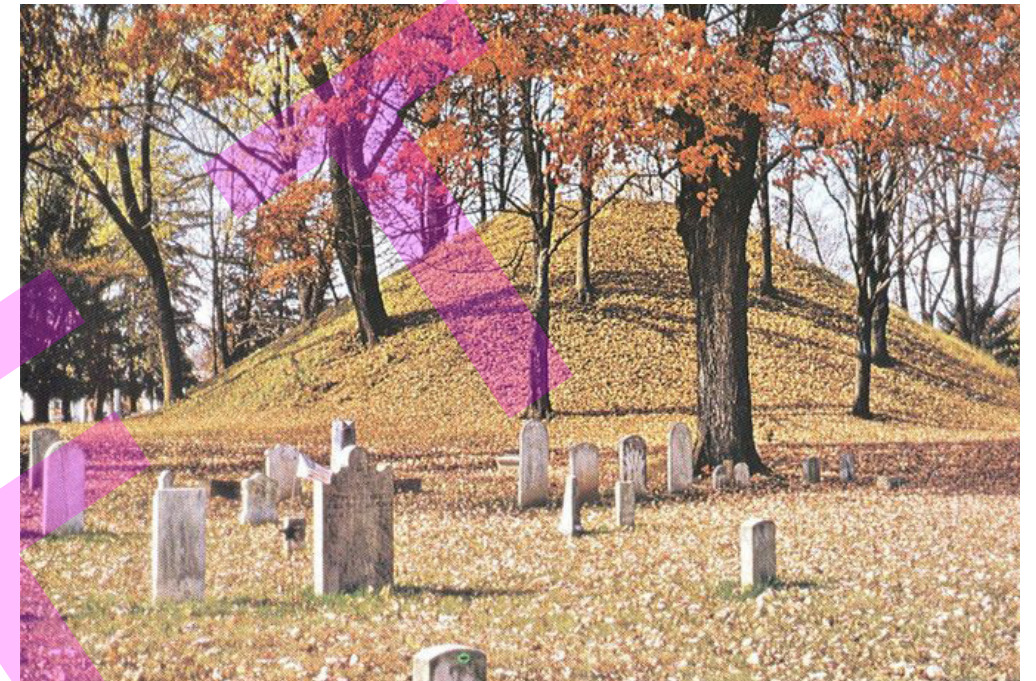
Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

The Rural Cemetery

These rural cemeteries were built during the era of Indian Removal. Until then, Natives had come back regularly to have ceremonies at their burial mounds. Meanwhile, educated white men had become intensely interested in the mounds. Their fascination with the simplicity and monumentality made them think they could be invoked in the creation of a new national culture- that America didn't have to imitate Europe any longer, nor solely rely on the distinctive features of the virgin American Wilderness.

One antiquarian said "foreign travelers complain that America presents nothing like ruins within her boundaries....But what are moldering castles, falling turrets, or crumbling abbeys, in comparison with those ancient and artificial aboriginal hills, which have outlived generations and even all tradition."* The mounds had a paradoxical status as an enduring testament to impermanence, and many were used as centerpieces in new American cemeteries.

Similar in the form of the native mounds, the Etruscan tombs and Neolithic barrows of Europe found their way into the rural cemetery. This universal form has echoed through American cemeteries even when built from scratch.



*quote from *Arcadian America*

This page
1. Mount Auburn, Cambridge MA, est. 1831.

Facing page
Row one:
Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn NY, est. 1838

Row Two:
1. visitors, Greenwood 2. picnic, Bonaventure Cemetery, Savannah, est. 1846 3. Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, est. 1836



“The rural cemetery of the 19th c. cultivated a spectrum of emotions and it was large enough to accommodate expressions of both joy and grief, but most people seemed to experience a reverent, satisfying mixture of the two.”*

With the opening of Central Park in 1858, the great parks began taking over civic functions, making cemeteries less important in everyday public life. Still they were considered the “last great necessity” of a modern civilized society. Then the Civil War happened.



* quote from *Arcadian America*

Row one:

1. Greenwood Cemetery, Metairie LA, est 1852
2. Neolithic barrow, 3000 BCE
3. Etruscan Tomb, 700 BCE

Row two:

- 1 & 2. Greenwood Cemetery, Metairie LA, est 1852

Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

The Civil War

The trauma of the Civil War and the staggering number of people (600k) to be buried in a short time changed the physical nature of American cemeteries. The Battle of the Wilderness in central Virginia, taking place in a dense forest, lingered in the psyche of Americans, remaking the woods into a place of foreboding.

This was the first time that American death wasn't primarily handled at home in the hands of family. Embalming became common due to the realities of time and transportation. These men now became part of the collective identity of the Confederate or Union Dead, packed together in long rows with identical headstones in newly established military cemeteries.

Herman Melville said on the loss of dignifying rituals: "Glory, plumes, sashes, banners have become irrelevant; men are but operatives, cogs in a machinery of destruction, for war itself has been modernized and industrialized."*



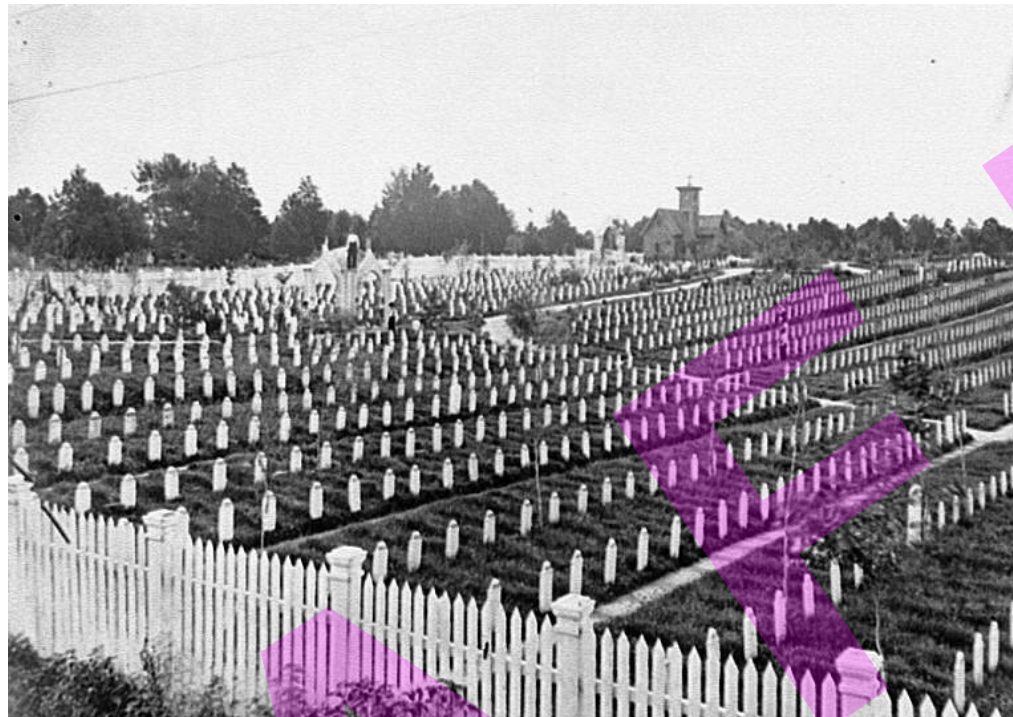
* quote from *This Republic of Suffering*

Row one:

1. *Battle of the Wilderness*, Kurz and Allison print
2. *The Burning Woods*, engraving by Alfred Waud, 1864

Row Two:

1. *Battle of The Wilderness Confederate Entrenchments on Orange Plank Road*, photographer unknown, 1864
2. *Wounded Escaping From the Burning Woods at the Wilderness*, engraving by Alfred Waud, 1864



Row one:
1. hospital at City Point VA, photo by Matthew Brady, 1864 2. Soldier's Home National Cemetery, Washington DC

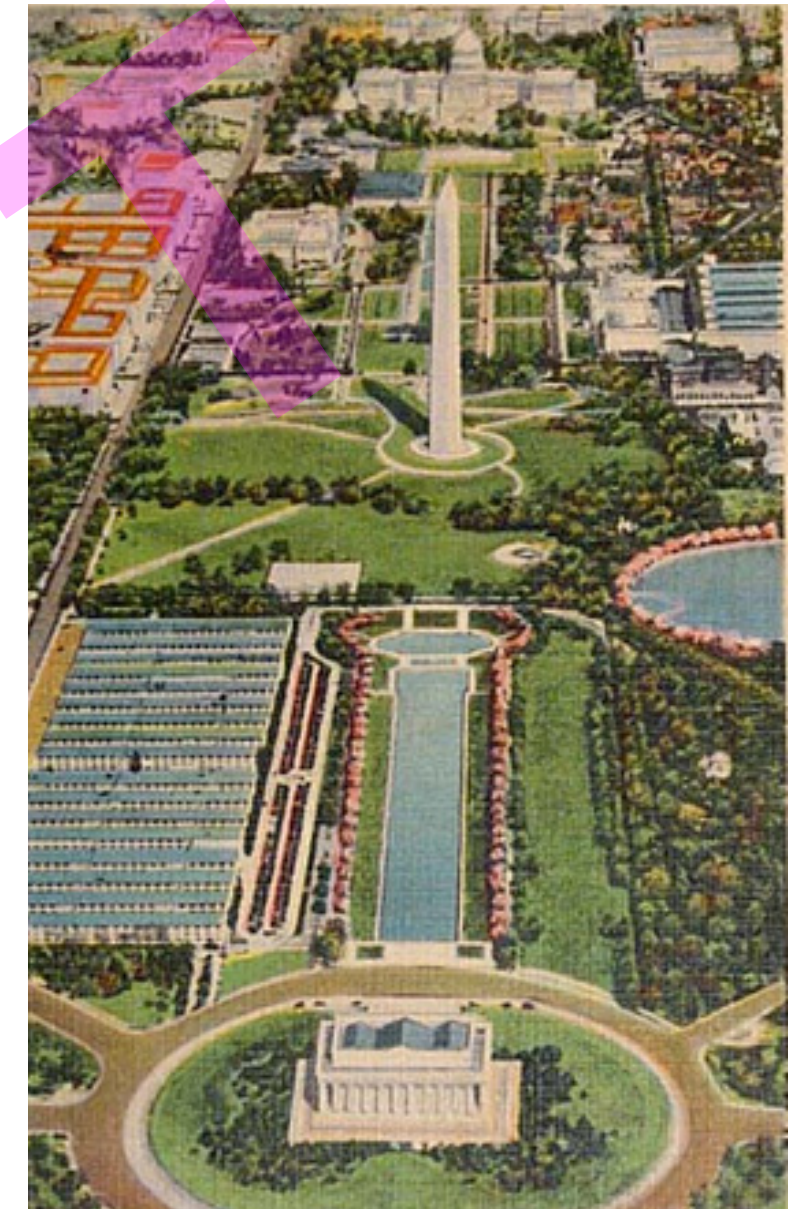
Row two:
1 National Cemetery, Winchester VA 2. Dr. Richard Burr, embalming surgeon

The Memorial Park / Lawn Cemetery

The Civil War, two major economic depressions and the rise of the City Beautiful movement were the end of the rural cemetery. The grand monument, with its classical order & symmetry was back in vogue and mysterious, natural landscapes were not.

Forest Lawn, established in Glendale CA in 1906, was the first example of the modern lawn memorial park, built in the mold of the City Beautiful movement. It enforced one sweeping landscape, with large curated classical sculptures and motifs. It was meant to be uniform and comforting, without the clutter of small sculptures or individual headstones.

This paralleled the rise of the assembly line and the general mechanization of society. Death became a commodity for funeral directors, cemetery corporations, and gift shops. A sales force now focused on preneed sales, magazine ads and billboards.



Top & bottom left:
World Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893.

Right:
monumental core, Washington DC



IT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Average prices for services in a traditional funeral (not including casket or plot)

	Independently owned funeral homes	Service Corporation International
Basic staff services	\$1,840	\$2,763
Embalming	\$662	\$952
Dressing and casketing	\$217	\$296
Facility for visitation	\$431	\$447
Facility for services	\$491	\$592
Transfer vehicle	\$289	\$542
Hearse	\$298	\$374
Utility/flower vehicle	\$128	\$231
Lead car	\$49	\$59
Total average service	\$4,405	\$6,256

Overall average percentage difference: 42 percent

Caskets offered by SCI affiliates

\$2,495 Autumn Oak	\$5,495 Tapestry Rose
\$9,995 Classic Gold	\$25,295 700 Masterpiece
\$40,295 The Promethean	\$175,000 Pharaoh Sarcophagus

Row one:

1. Forest Lawn, Glendale CA, est 1903 2. roadside billboard

Row two:

1. roadside billboard 2. magazine ad

The Memorial Park / Lawn Cemetery

The design of the memorial park denied the melancholy nature of grief and mourning. There was a distinct lack of picturesque features. Flat, smooth topography. No woods. No streams. There was little sense of the individual or the changing seasons of nature.

Today we predominately have memorial parks that have lost their poignancy and power to move, and cemeteries that are landlocked and running out of room. This brings us back around to cremation.



T. F. SMITH HOMESTEAD TRACT CEMETERY
Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Beaumont, Texas



Row one:
1 Forest Lawn, Texas 2. Forest Lawn, Georgia 3. Forest Lawn, Louisiana

Row two:
1 & 2. Forest Lawn, California

Facing page:
Washington Cemetery, Brooklyn NY



Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

CREMATION

With few exceptions cremation was the standard practice of the ancients. Greeks believed it separated the soul from the body and allowed it to ascend to the heavens, and Romans thought of it as an honorific act. Cremation was dominant until the rise of early Christianity, when Christians cited Jewish burial tradition.

In the late 19th century when medical experts denounced burial as unhygienic, the first modern cremations in America started in earnest, but the boom started in 1963 when The Pope relaxed the ban.

Over time, the argument for cremation became more economic, and religious resistance slowly waned. People began to come around to the idea that cremation led to same end as burial.

Today, for many people it's about conserving space, or humble ideas of not needing eternal memorialization. Many Americans, including Protestants, Catholics and Jews now think "I have a body, but I am a soul." – that the true self is spiritual rather than material.

Yet, as cremation becomes most common, the connection to the body and its dimensions are lost. If memorialization is desired, it presents a challenge of connecting to the grave in the way we have over the last few centuries.

Aside from economic realities, the cremation movement can also be seen as an attempt to remake the experience of mourning, taking back control from professionals through improvisational rites reinvested with meaning and purpose. The American way of cremation is not yet as settled as the way of burial. Customization and personalization are the emerging traditions.

Statistics from 2016 Cremation and Burial Report (National Funeral Directors Association)

In 20 years, cremation rate is projected to be 78.3 %.
U.S. deaths will increase 34% by 2035, yet number of burials will decrease by 54%

2016:
38% of cremated remains were returned to families
35.8% were buried at a cemetery
2.1% were scattered at a cemetery
20.2% were scattered at non-cemetery locations
7.4% were placed in a columbarium.

Preferences of people over 40: 20% would prefer burial

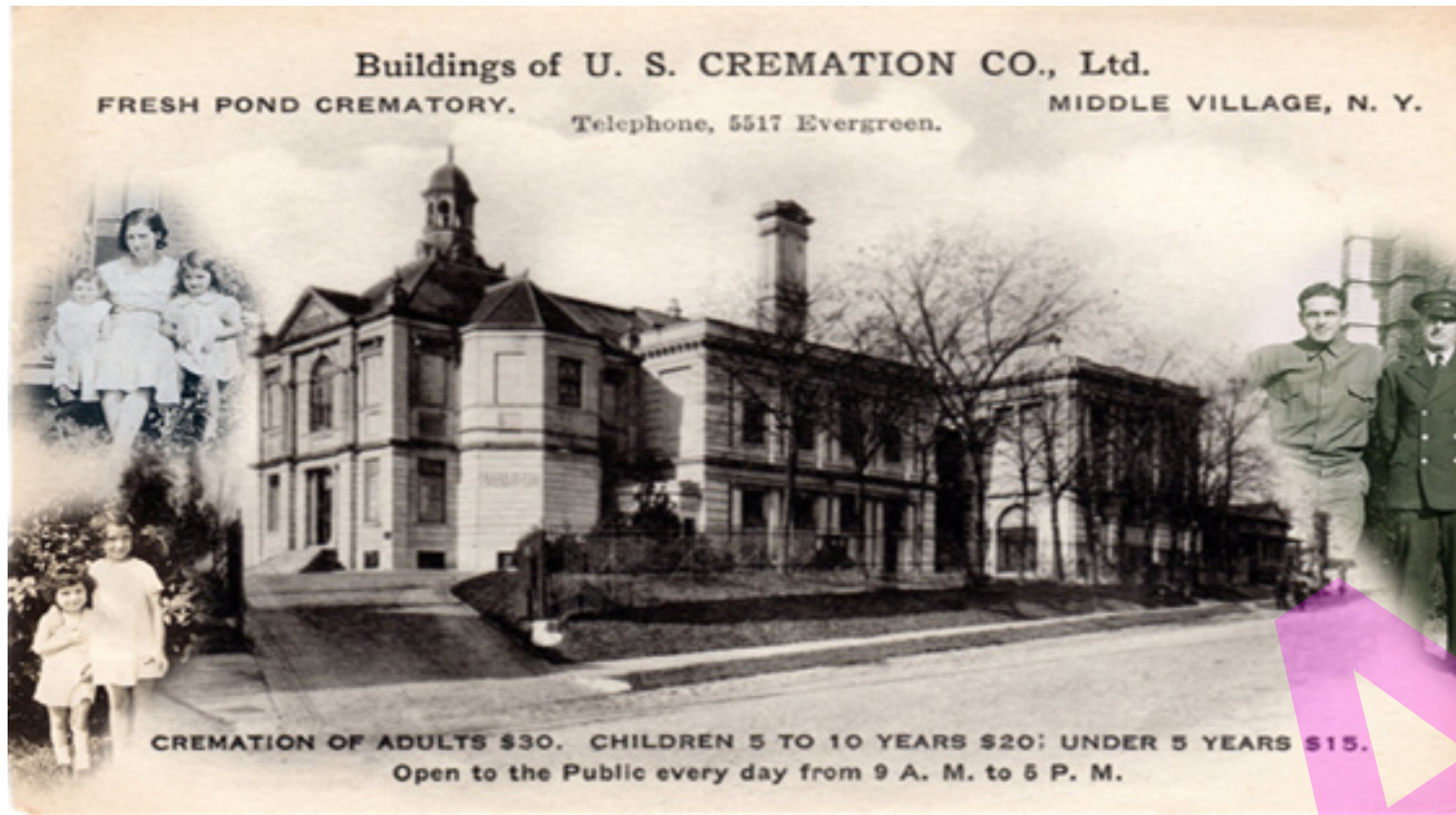
In 2015, 59% said there was a permanent memorial for a cremated loved one, down from 67 % in 2010.

Over 1/3 have attended a funeral at a non-traditional location, (outdoor setting, cemetery, personal residence or public venue)
Almost half have attended a funeral in which non-clergy presided

Direct cremation (no formal viewing, visitation or ceremony with the body present) is most common for the economics of this choice, as it costs about a third of a typical funeral with burial.

There is a growing trend to follow direct cremations with some type of memorialization event with family and friends, and it's frequently without the services of a funeral home.

DRR



Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

RESURGENCE

Interestingly, this rise in cremation has coincided with a resurgence of interest in cemeteries as public spaces. Despite declining burial rates, cemeteries are public venues again. Architectural and historical tours, horticultural walks, ghost walks, fitness walks, concerts, picnics & brunches are taking place there. Yet, for the first time in a thousand years, most people have no idea where they will lie after death.

The challenge of cemetery design is finding ways to accommodate new forms of burial and ritual while conserving space, and to create places that bring back a sense of meaning for burial in whatever form.



Row one:

1. cemetery wedding 2. Day of the Dead themed cemetery wedding

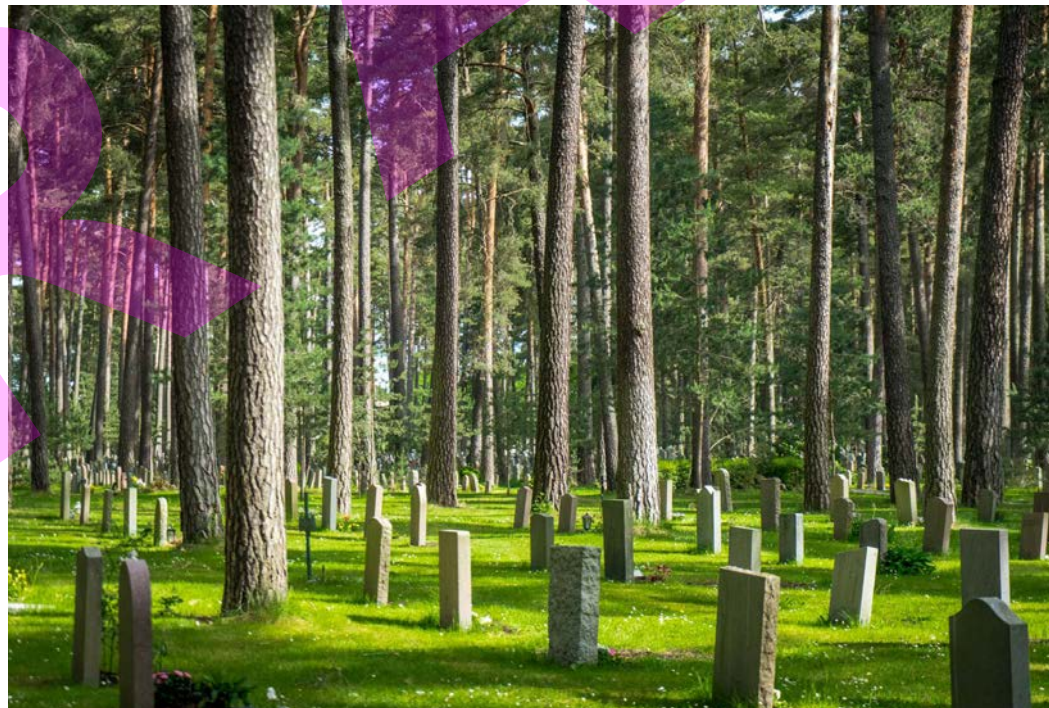
Row two:

1. historical tour 2. ghost tour 3. cemetery as summer entertainment venue



Throughout the 20th century there was very little focus on cemetery design. But there have always been a few renegades here and there working to create sacred places. Perhaps the most revered cemetery of the 20th century is the Woodland Cemetery in Sweden (1920).

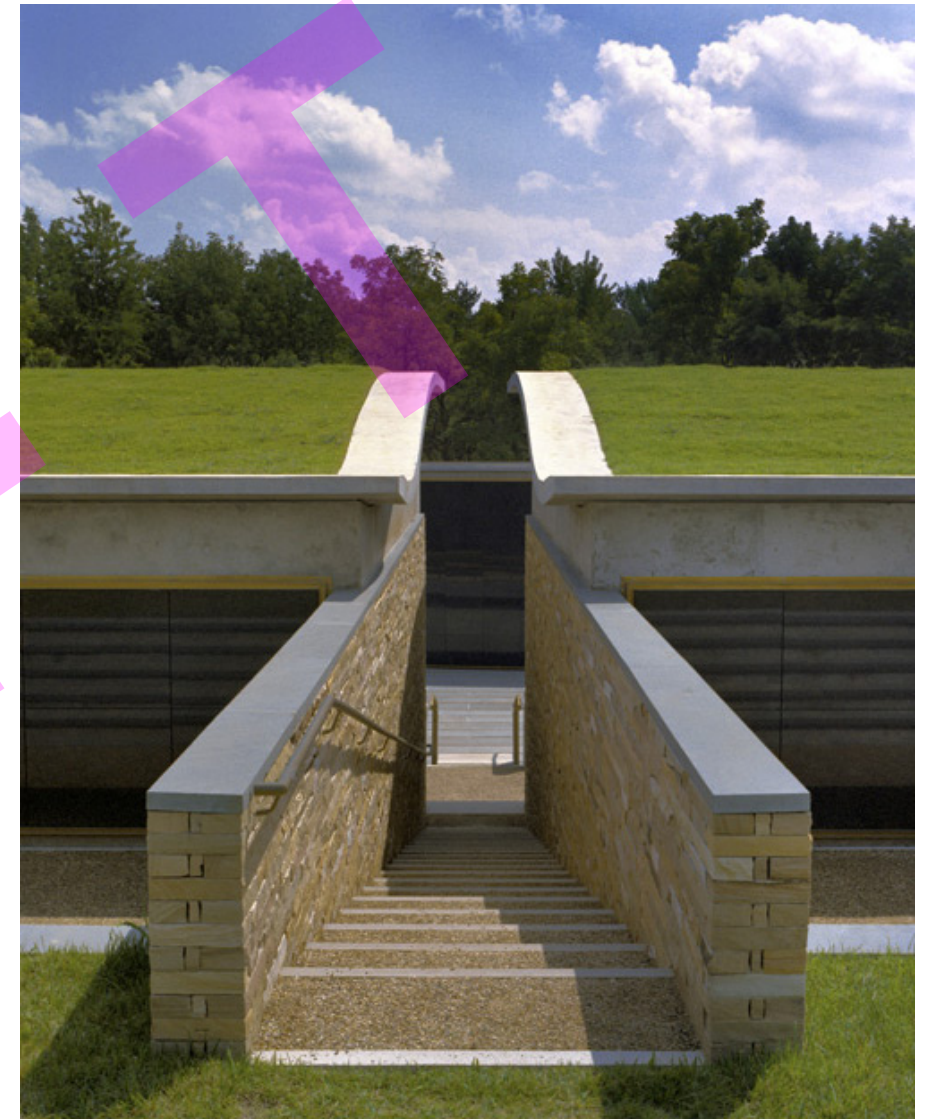
The simple, iconic mound and grove echo those universal burial features that have spanned millennia. In this example, the mound is intended for meditation, and the burials occur in the grove, which has been long understood as the "sacred abode of spirits."



Design: Gunnar Asplund and Sigur Lewerentz

RESURGENCE

Belvedere Gardens in Salem, Virginia (2004), is a 21st century example of accommodating several forms of burial together (the lawn crypt, the mausoleum, and the columbarium). It provides a processional landscape, a gathering place for ritual and uses topography to create a sheltered feeling. It's partially banked in the earth; it's a walled garden and a grove.

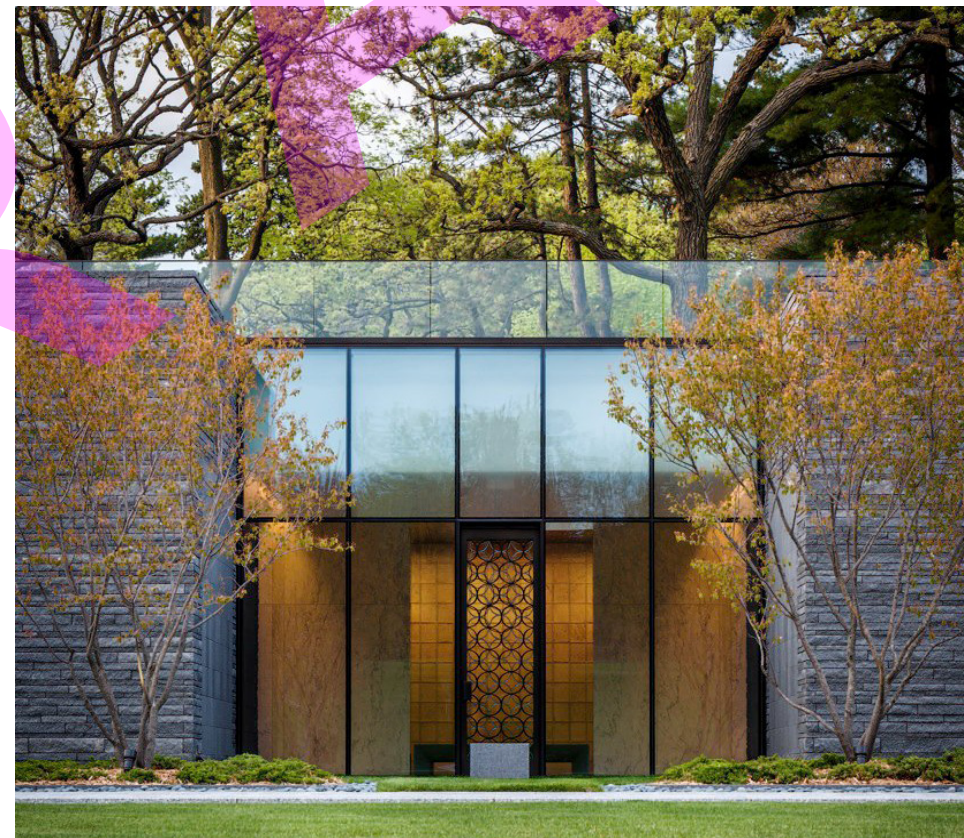


Design: SMBW Architects





Lakewood Mausoleum in Minneapolis (2012) is a mausoleum and columbarium complex, with crypts and niches accessible from both indoors and out. It's an elegant use of material and form, partially banked into the earth with a large garden landscape.

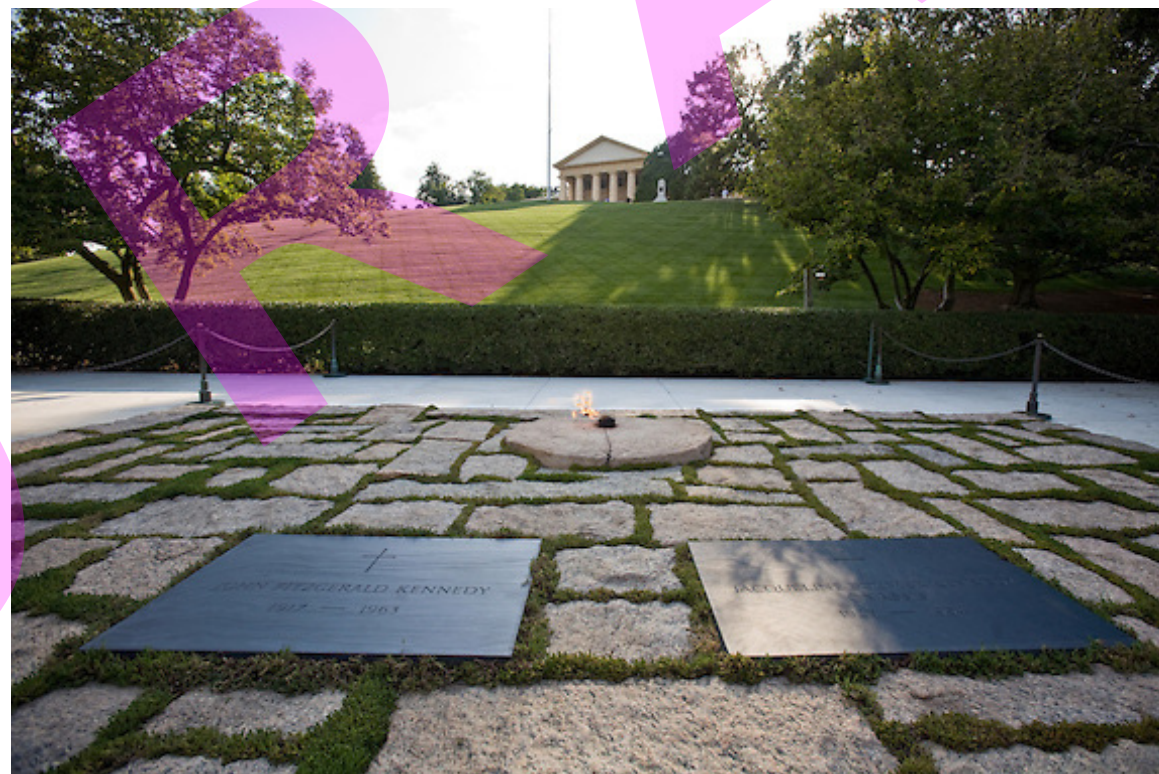


Design: HGA Architects and Engineers

Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

RESURGENCE

John F. Kennedy's grave at Arlington National Cemetery (1967) is elemental. Eternal in its simplicity and contrast, made of stone and fire. It is rough and smooth. An elegant and dignified walled garden.



Design: Carl Warnecke





One of the most moving memorial landscapes of the 20th century is the Vietnam War Memorial (1982). It's a slow descent along walls banked into the earth. It's intimate and simple. The sparseness of it is almost too much to bear. Your reflection feels like the thin veil to the other side.



Design: Maya Lin

RESURGENCE

Recent examples of note:

single columbarium wall is slipped into existing walkway (Westminster)

quarry is repurposed for burial complex (Igalada)

new sections built within established cemetery to offer new typologies (Nieuwe Ooster)

walled garden is created by a series of columbaria (St. Michaels & Arlington)

topography is used to maximize burial space (Montjuic)

indigenous materials evoke a connection to the earth (Mona)



This page

Row one:

1 & 2. cremain graves, Nieuwe Ooster Cemetery, Amsterdam, 2008

Row two:

1. Igalada Cemetery, near Barcelona, 1994

Facing page

Row one:

1. Westminster Presbyterian columbarium, Minneapolis, 2009

2. Arlington National Cemetery columbarium, 2013

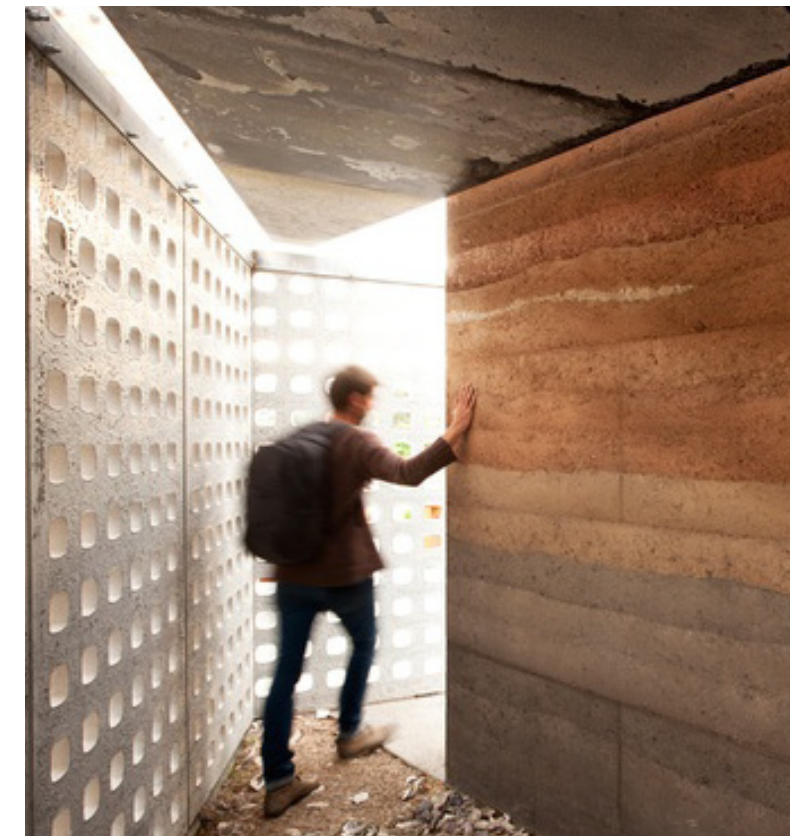
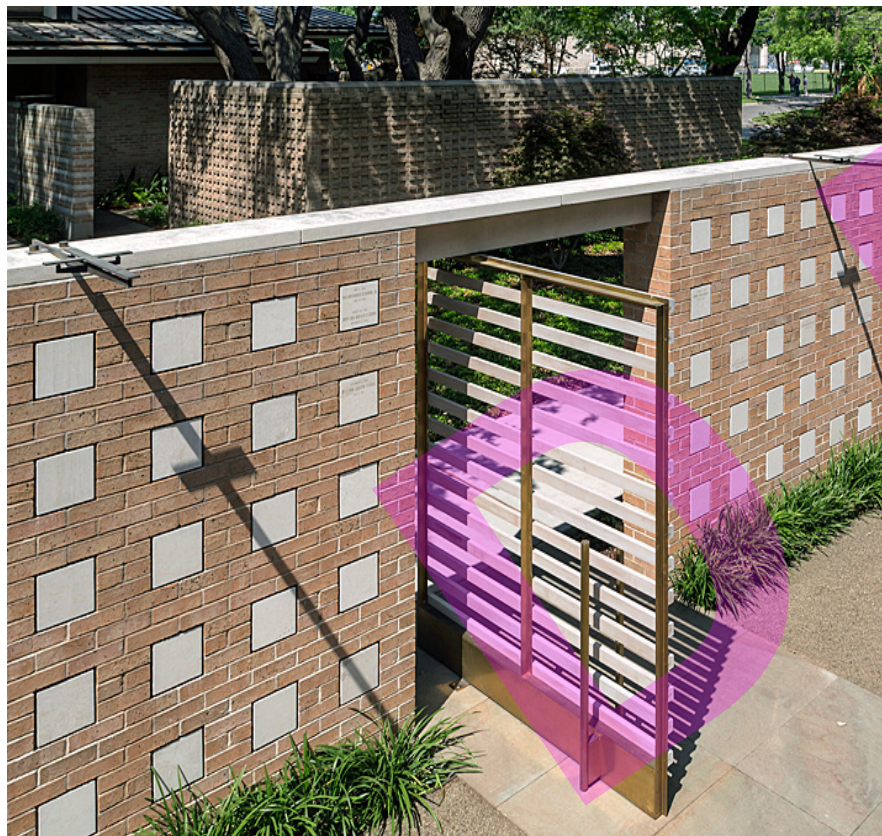
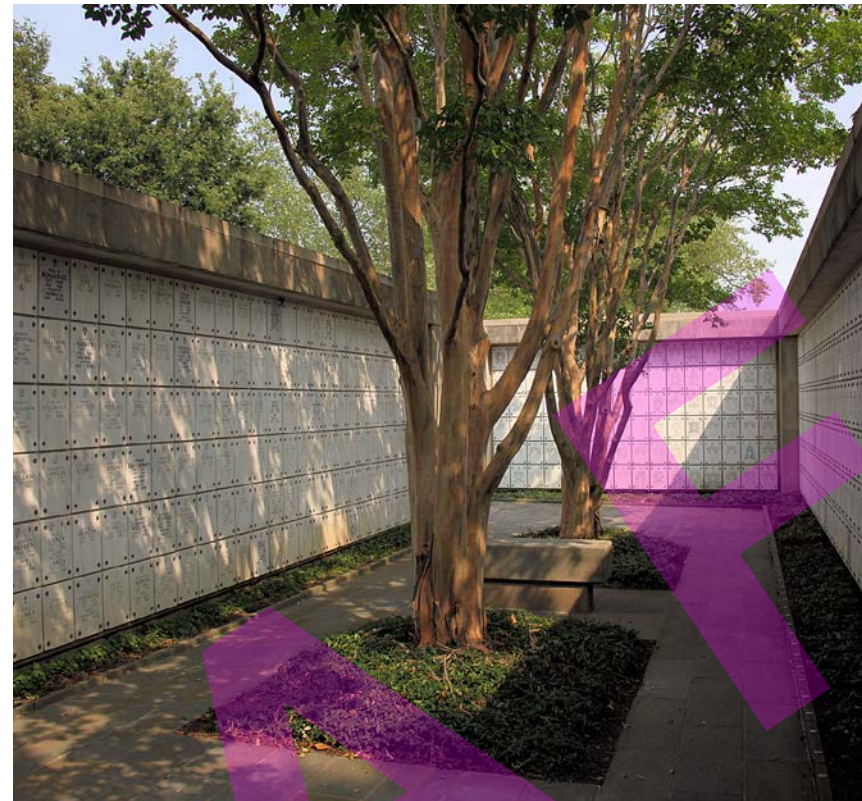
3. Montjuic, Barcelona, developed incrementally since 1883

Row two:

1 & 2. St. Michaels All Angels columbarium complex, Dallas, 2015

3. MONA rammed earth mausoleum, Tasmania, 2014





Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

RESURGENCE

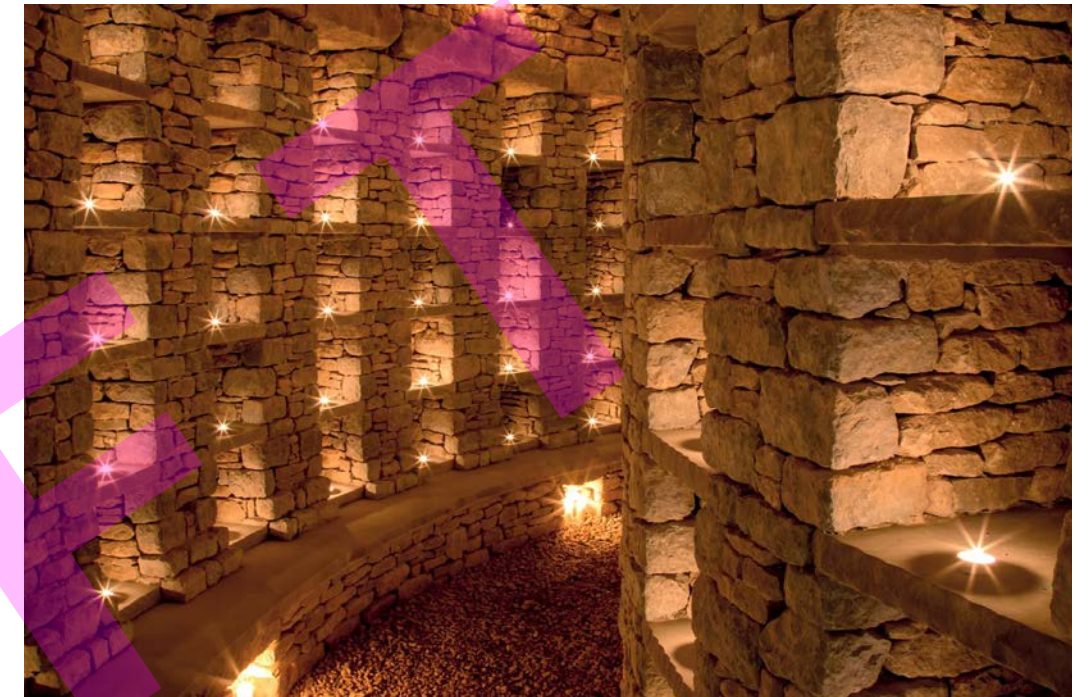
Reclaiming Old Traditions

In England, a man has built the first new barrow in five thousand years. He said: "We cremated my poor aunt, and it was the absolutely typical affair, blue nylon carpet, Luther Vandross. Twenty minutes later the next family is hanging around looking embarrassed waiting to get in, and everyone shuffles out to look at the flowers. It's become the norm, and it's absolutely dreadful."

His business partner spoke to one young mother with terminal cancer, who wanted cremation but didn't want her ashes scattered: she felt that her children would need a place where they could come and rage with anger against her for abandoning them.

The natural burial, long popular in England & Scandinavia, avoids embalming, metal caskets, concrete vaults, permanent stone memorials, cut flowers, and even paved roads. It marks a return to what had once been standard practice. Ramsey Creek Preserve in South Carolina was the first official natural cemetery to open in the US in 1998.

Natural burials are sometimes a catalyst for creating a new forest from scratch. At Woodlands of Remembrance in the UK, a tree planted with each person's ashes contributes to a new landscape.





Facing page:
Sacred Stones Willow Row Barrow, Cambridgeshire UK, 2016

This page
Row one:
1 & 2. Ramsey Creek Preserve, South Carolina, 1998

Row two:
1 & 2. Woodlands of Remembrance, Wrabness UK, 1996

RESURGENCE

Scattering Gardens vary from quite refined to natural woodlands, some with markers available and some without.





Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

Ancient burial sites have many characteristics in common with the rugged and rolling landscape of Rockbridge County. The topography reveals the rock within the terrain, creating an atmosphere that emphasizes the eternal and sublime. These qualities amplify the poignancy of the cemetery mission, placing the burial within both geological and cultural timelines.

This page

Row one:

1. traditional cairn, Scotland
2. Devil's Marbleyard, Rockbridge County

(photo by nicolewashere94)

Row two:

1. Viking burial circle
2. Rockbridge County

(photo by MicheleFletcherPhotography)

Facing page

Row one:

1. Viking longhouse ruin
2. Maury river, Rockbridge County

(photo by eccles)

Row two:

1. Viking stone circle
2. Foamhenge, Rockbridge County
3. ruins of Liberty Hall, Rockbridge County

(photo by robertdkoch)





Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

This page

Row one:

1. Runnevals Gravfalt, Sweden
2. House mountain, Rockbridge County
(photo by royalrobertsoniv)

Row two:

1. Mausoleum of Augustus, Rome
2. Maury river, Rockbridge County
(photo by royalrobertsoniv)

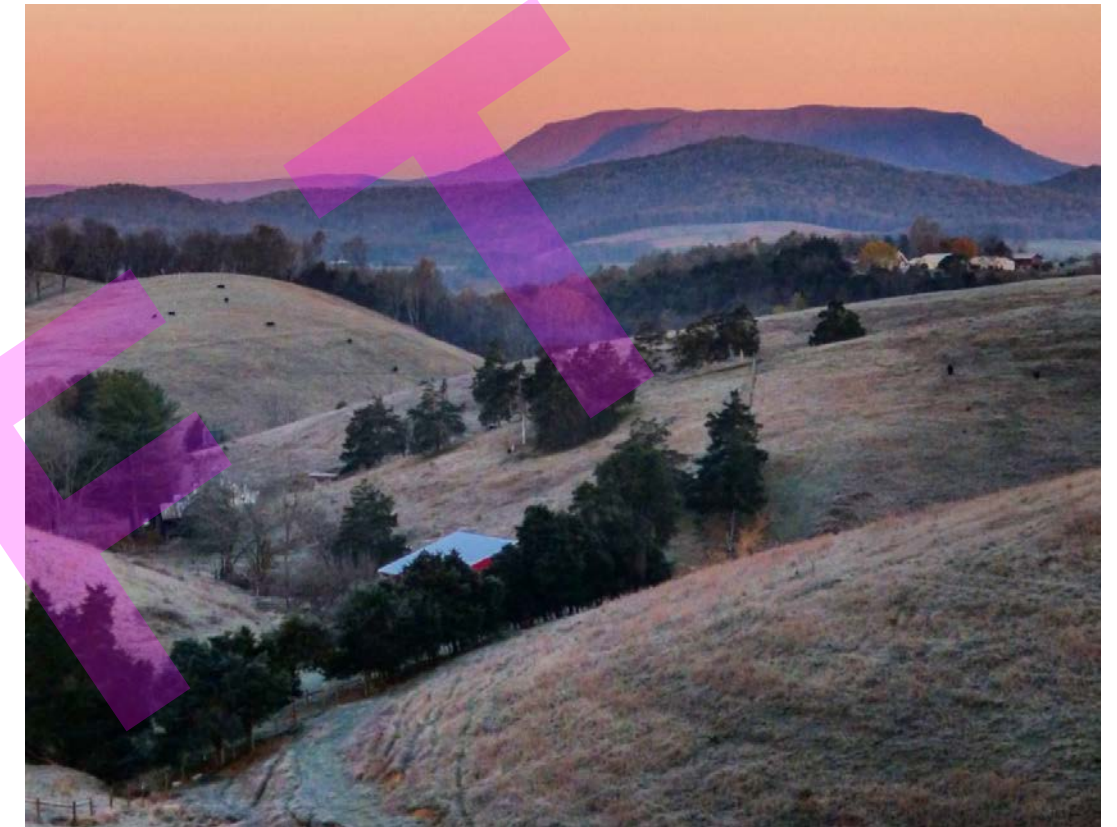
Facing page

Row one:

1. Beit Guvrin burial cave, Israel
2. Natural Bridge, Rockbridge County
(photo by nbofva)

Row two:

1. burial cairn, Finland
2. Goshen Pass, Rockbridge County
(photo by catesby67)





Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

FORM & MATERIAL

These designed landscapes are not specifically related to burial and are not located in Rockbridge County, yet speak to form and materials that evoke qualities of this place and purpose.

A goal in future design phases would be to choose materials that feel as though they have been excavated from the place they sit, configured to create a sacred place. One stone slab evokes a larger scale landscape that references the sublime.

Three main guidelines of this approach:

- use topography to our advantage
- employ simple, universal forms,
the mound, the grove, the wall.
- use materials that feel indigenous to Rockbridge County.

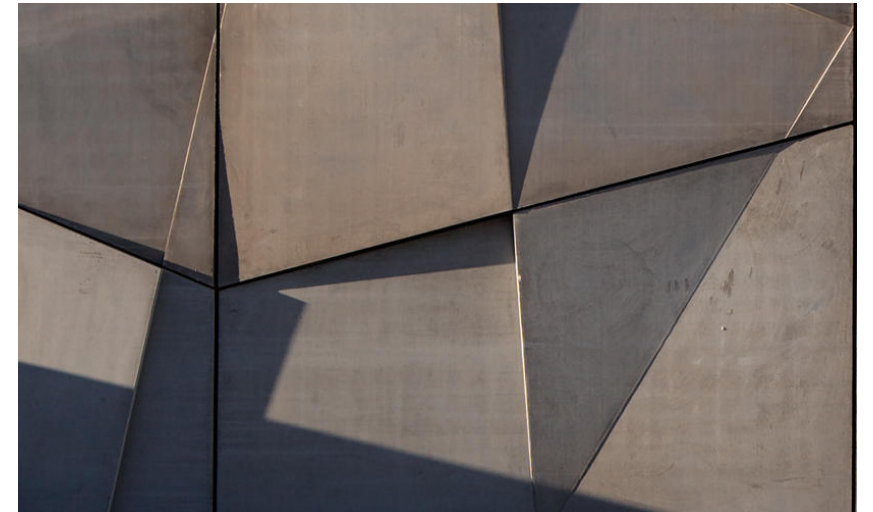
These principles work toward the larger goal of creating opportunities for ceremony and ritual that reclaim the cemetery as central to the grieving process.



smbw TILLAGE

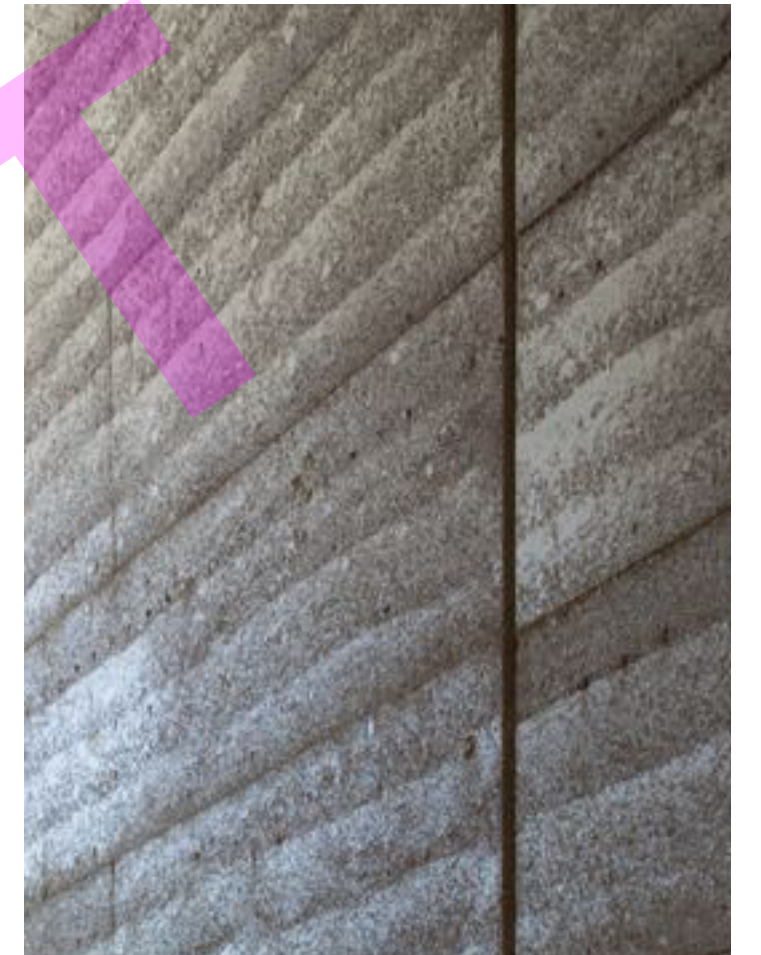


Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries



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smbw TILLAGE



Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

DRAFT

Part Two_Cemetery Additions

Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

EVERGREEN

African American Traditions

It's important to point out that this history of cemeteries excluded African Americans. During slavery they were often buried in unmarked graves, not allowed in churchyards or municipal cemeteries. Many of these burial grounds now exist unknown, under parking lots or buildings, or in woods where the only trace is a patch of periwinkle or an oral tradition that passes on the location. After Emancipation they were often buried on the grounds the new black churches. In the early 20th century, blacks were generally allowed in municipal cemeteries, but in segregated areas until the 1960s.

The first marked African American graves in central Virginia date to the 1830s and by that time blacks were several generations removed from their African roots, so in contrast to burial tradition in South Carolina or other coastal regions where shells were commonly placed on graves, in central Virginia motifs and markers were influenced by what was fashionable in white cemeteries. The main differences in expression were based in economics.

However, African American cemeteries were consistent for generations in their orientation, regardless of region. There was a distinct effort to bury with feet facing east. In Christian thinking, this meant being able to face your maker on Judgment day, but also it was a way of pointing home toward Africa.

Plants often associated with African American burials are periwinkle, juniper, daffodils and yucca (to prevent the devil from sitting on the grave).



Row one:

1. Evergreen Cemetery, Richmond, VA 2. Brown-Carr burial ground diagram, Albemarle County, VA. (by Rivanna Archaeological Services)

Row two:

1 African American grave. 2. Segregated cemetery.

Facing page:

Orange dot: Lexington City Hall. A: Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery B: original burial ground for African Americans. C: Evergreen Cemetery





During the years of slavery and Reconstruction, there was a burial ground for blacks within the town limits of Lexington, bordered by North Lewis Street, Washington Street and Marble Lane- the block east of City Hall. By 1880, as it was rapidly filling and many white residents had petitioned to have it moved, a judge made a land swap that traded the burial ground for acreage outside the town limits. That is now Evergreen.

There has always been doubt as to whether the remains from the original burial ground were actually moved to Evergreen. But we do know that Evergreen does have many unmarked graves.

DK

EVERGREEN

When we visited Evergreen with the city team, there had already been a site identified for a burial structure. This is the northern slope bordering the school playground, shown in yellow. This is a great choice for several reasons.

It allows for a structure to be embedded in the topography, making it feel integral to the site, and does not use space that could otherwise be saved for ground burials. It avoids disturbing unmarked graves and the rock veins that would make excavation costly and impractical.

We then thicken the planted edge between the school and the cemetery to reinforce its solemn nature, and connect the cemetery to the adjacent neighborhood with a path leading to the new burial structure.



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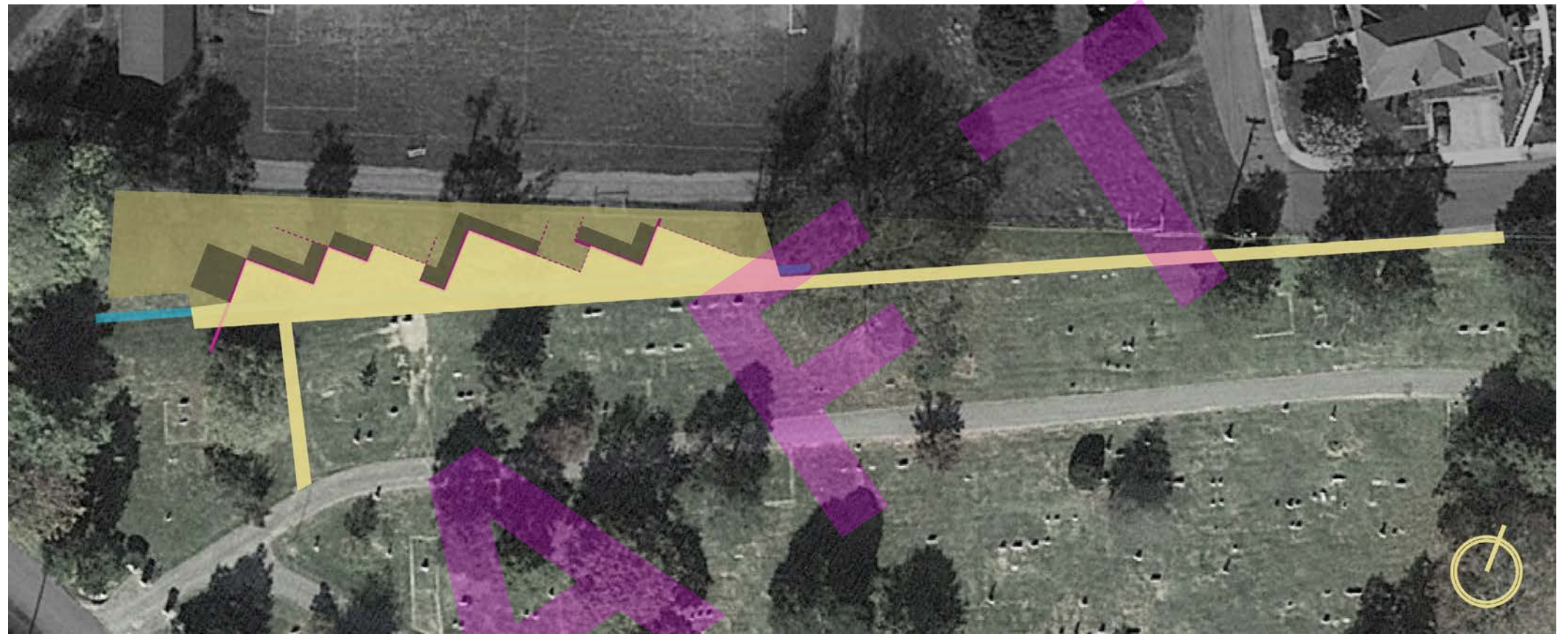


Row one:
1. looking north toward slope

Row two:
1. facing west 2. facing east

EVERGREEN

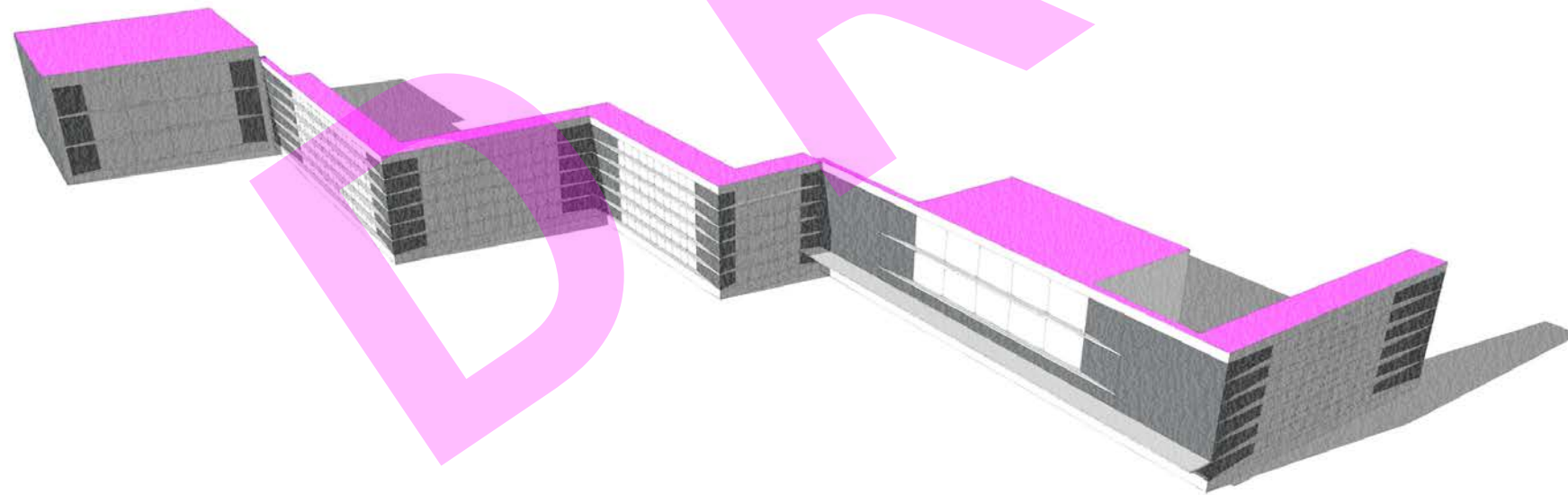
When the cemetery was moved and laid out by engineers, the plots did not follow the tradition that was prevalent in African American cemeteries of feet facing east. This is an aspect that we would like to reintroduce.



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This plan offers 34 crypts and 312 niches. Based on the rates of burial of the last two years, this inventory could last 17 years for crypts and 156 years for niches. This assumes ¼ of burials choose crypts and ½ of cremations choose niches. These numbers do not figure in expectation of increased death rates.

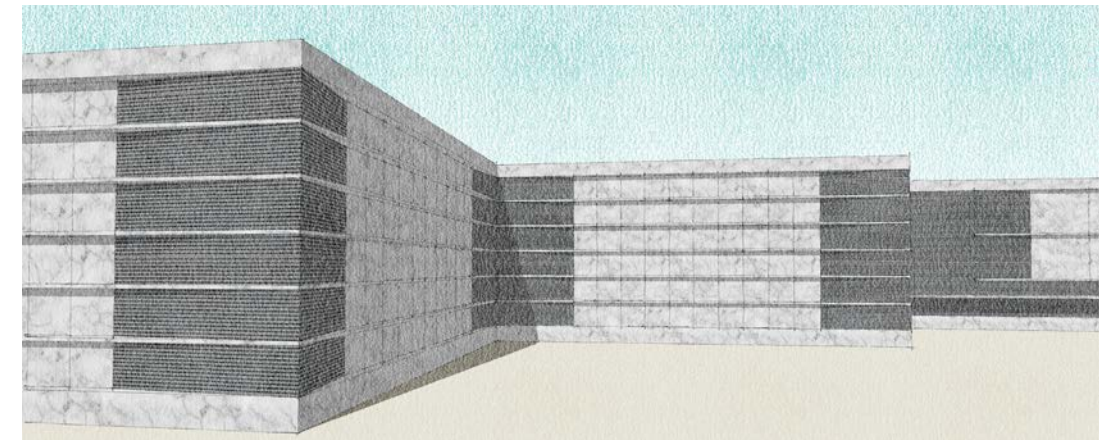
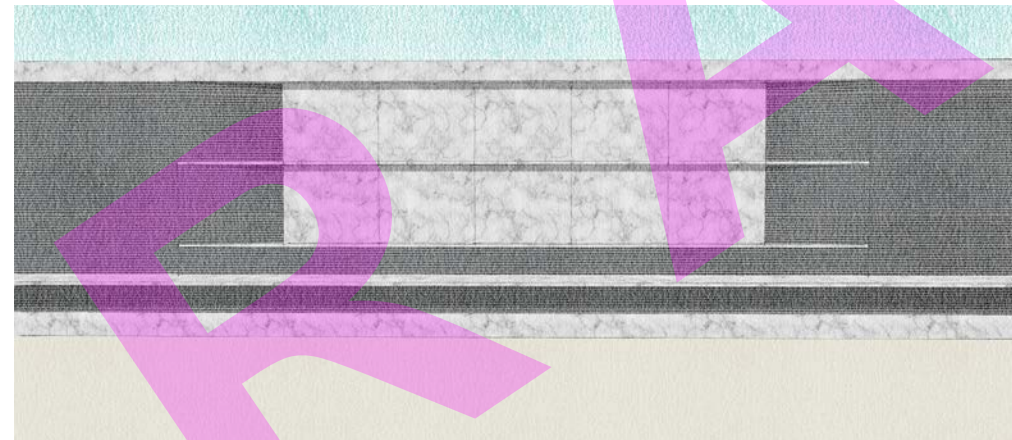
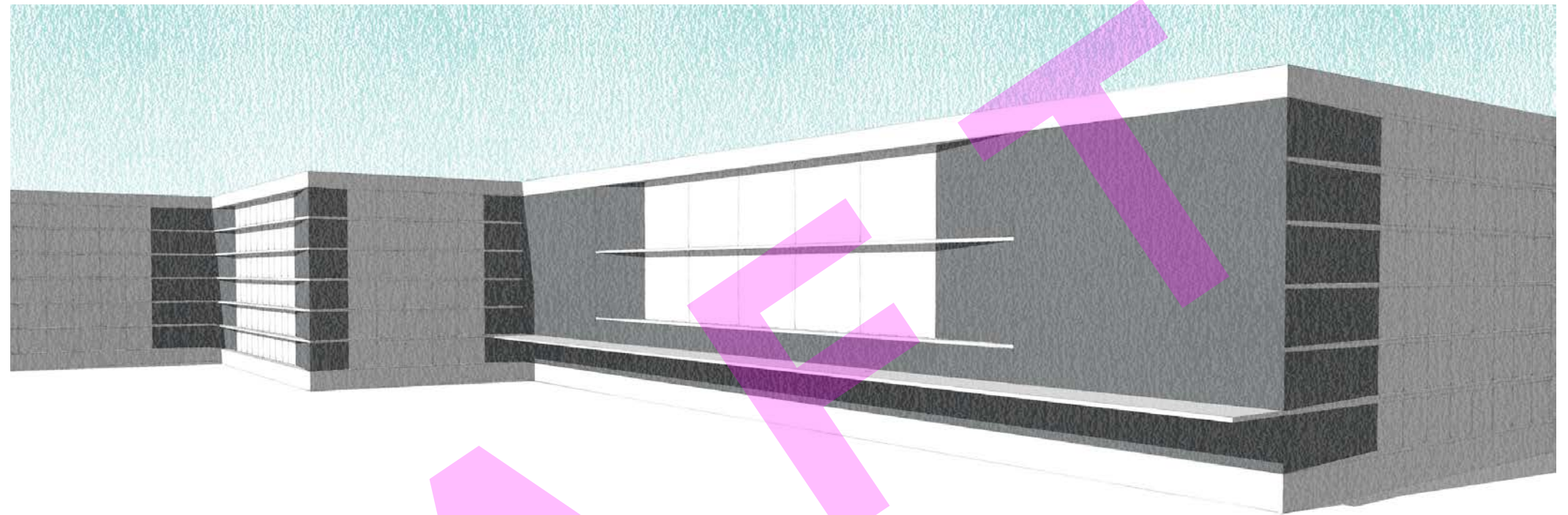


EVERGREEN

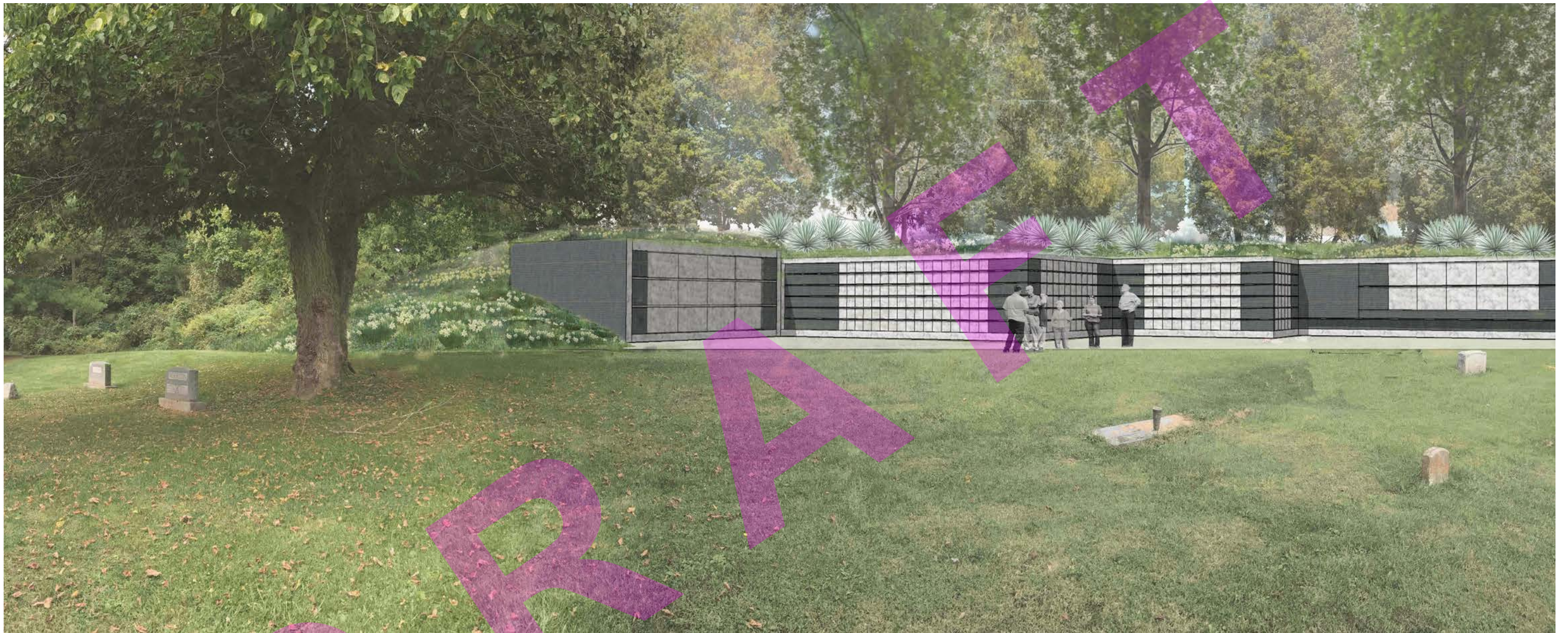
The eastern set of crypts provides a deep ledge for seating. Looking out over the cemetery, this could be a spot for memorial gatherings. The ribs across the front walls create shallow shelves for leaving mementos in front of the shutters, as the shutters are recessed from the front plane.

Facing page:

Creating an edge to the cemetery, this complex has a sense of heft and permanence. The scatter garden above the walls includes traditional plants associated with African American cemeteries: yucca, juniper and daffodils, accentuating seasonal change and ephemeral beauty. This is accessible by stone stairs gently let into the hillside behind the western set of crypts.



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Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

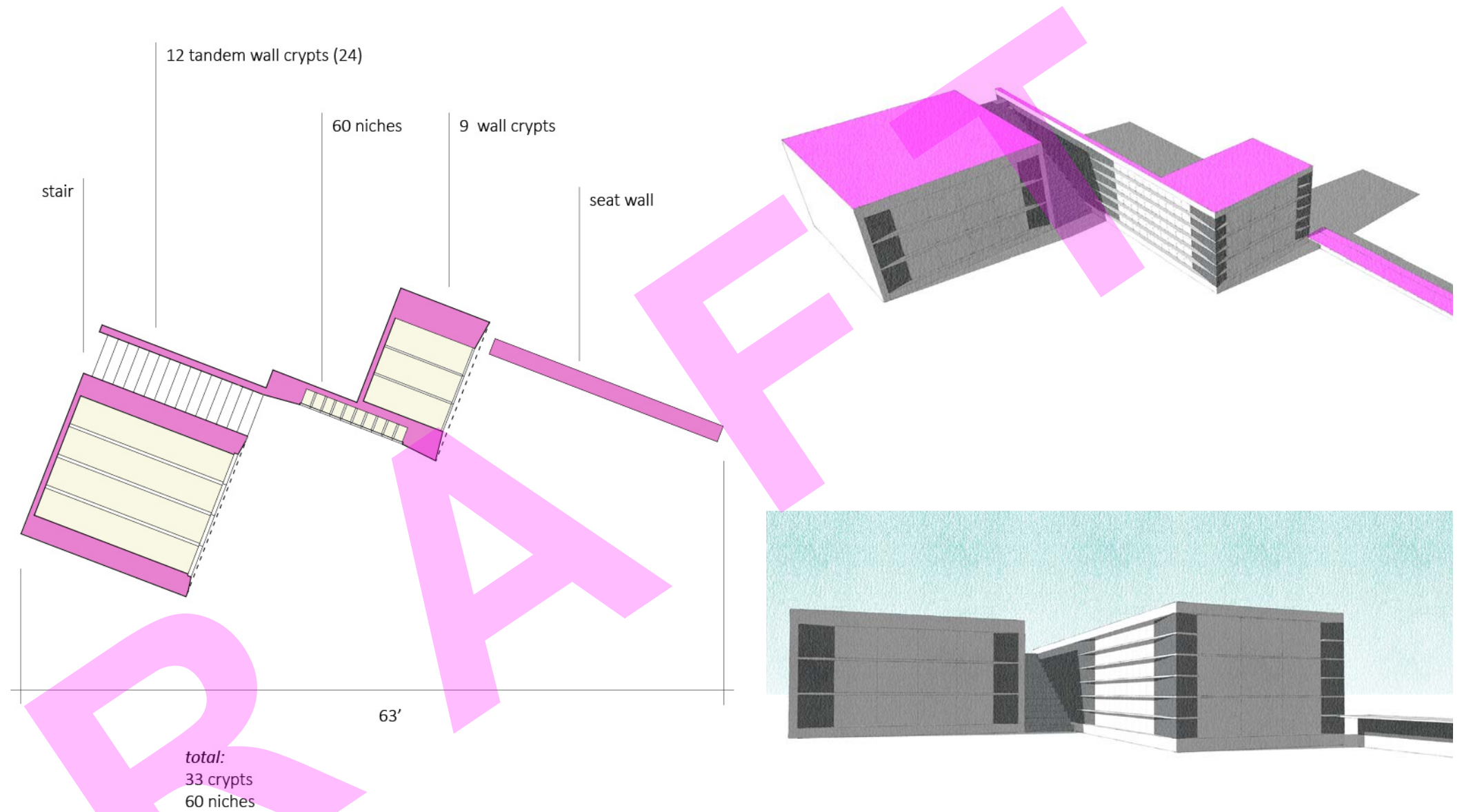
EVERGREEN

We also explored an scenario that could represent either a permanently smaller structure, or simply a first phase of inventory. This illustrates that the basic concept is easily reconfigured to meet exact numbers and proportion of options to fit Evergreen's needs.

This version offers essentially the same number of crypts as the longer version, but a dramatically reduced number of niches. Here the seat wall is a stand alone element rather than a built in feature of a crypt wall. This option also offers a staircase to the scatter garden rather than the landscape stair we mentioned in the last view.

This could last roughly 17 years for crypts and 30 years for niches at the rate of two crypts and two niches filled annually.

Facing page:
A revised rendering shows how this version also embeds nicely into the hillside and still creates a focal point and a generous memorial gathering spot.







At Stonewall we looked at opportunities for varied compositions, interesting relationships to topography, and combinations of burial types. By maximizing inventory on the available open ground and finding nooks where new pieces could fit within the established fabric, this dispersal takes advantage of strolling and enjoying the views.

Over time as new insertions are made, they will help define an internal circulation when combined with graves of public interest. Lexington's plan to attain an arboretum designation for Stonewall will also help the cemetery's draw as a tourism highlight.

Throughout this group of new structures there are echoes of the universal topographic, ceremonial and burial traditions discussed in Part One.

- 1. A Columbarium
- 2. Stonewall Jackson's grave
- 3. Burial Mound / Cairn
- 4. Cliff Wall
- 5. Pet Scatter Garden
- 6. Walled Garden
- 7. Shaded Walk
- 8. Sunken Garden

Materials, specific form and detailing would come in a later phase. What is shown here is purely conceptual, meant to convey general archetypes and spatial relationships. This is a study of inventory possibilities and relationships to topography.

Some features, like the Cliff Wall, make references to the Rockbridge County landscape by appearing to be revealed rock faces. The intention is to be topographically specific and local, referencing Lexington's exposed limestone, while reaching out to the burial tradition through the ages, like the rock tombs of earlier civilizations.

STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL

Area 1_Columbarium

A simple columbarium tucked against the fence, at the end of a generous aisle, could provide approximately 120 niches.

It provides a layer of privacy from the adjacent private home and could be one of the last additions, as space gets really tight.





Area 2_ Stonewall Jackson's grave
As the centerpiece of the cemetery, Stonewall's grave would benefit from enhanced planting and seating along the outer edges of the circle.



STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL

Area 3_Burial Mound / Cairn

The city team identified this traffic island as a potential spot for a communal burial site and we agree. It could also be a magnificent focal point along the walk, absolutely distinct from its neighboring focal point, the Stonewall statue. In the spirit of the iconic stone cairns and earthen burial mounds we saw in Part One, this could take many directions. For this scheme, we are suggesting urns of ashes inside an earthen mound with an optional communal ossuary in the center of the floor.





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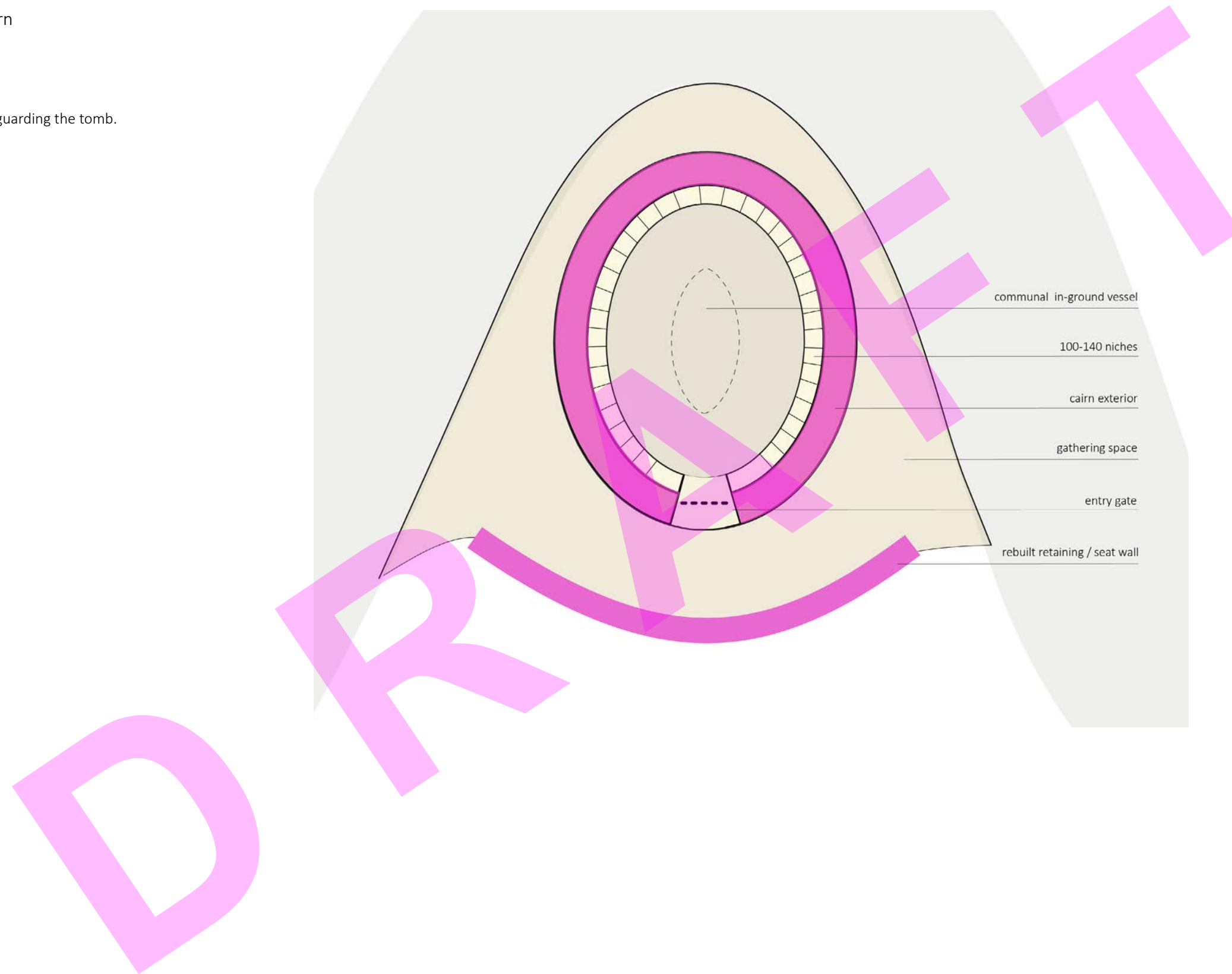
Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL

Area 3_Burial Mound / Cairn

Plan diagram.

Facing page:
The south face of the mound with a lion guarding the tomb.





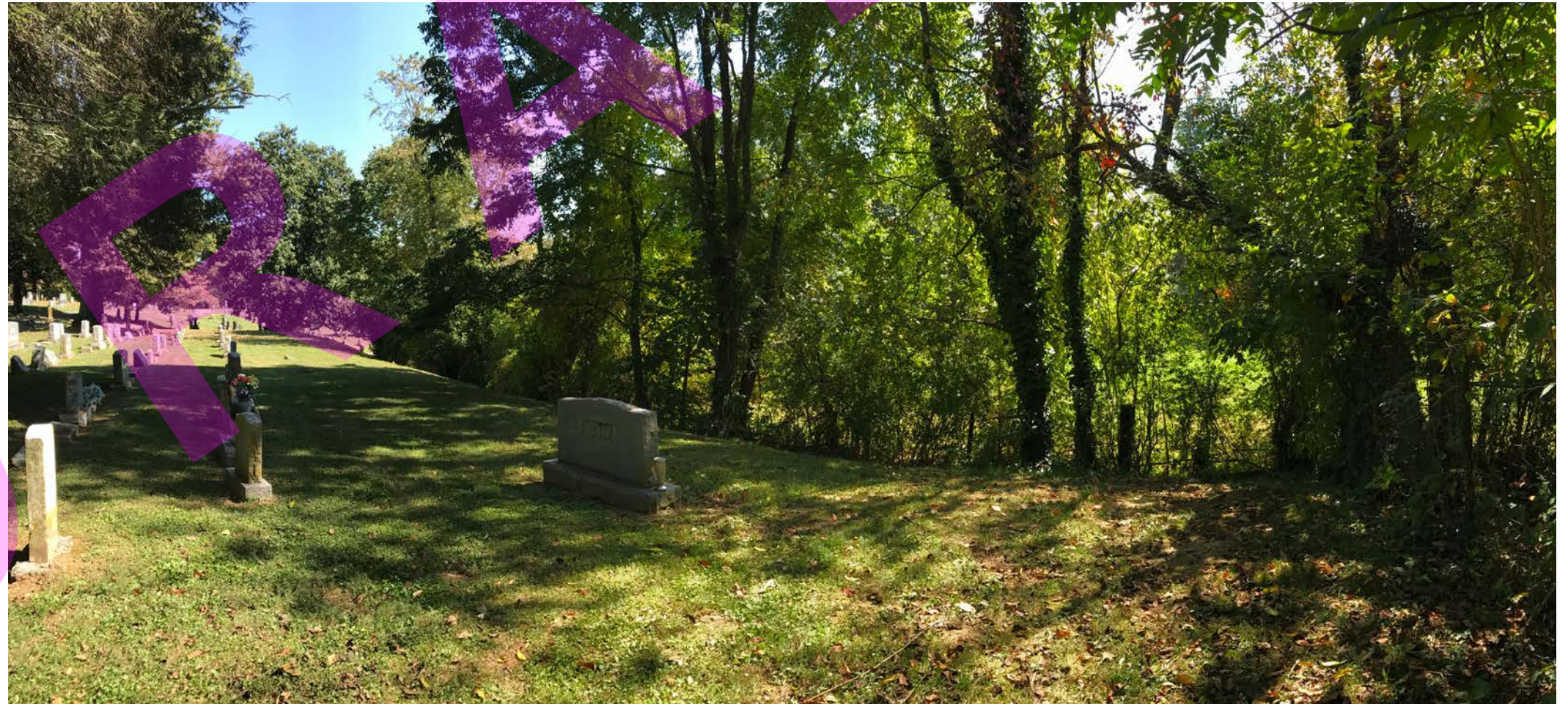
Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL

Area 4_Cliff Wall

The Cliff Wall is a combination of crypts and niches embedded in a low slope overlooking a grassy field. The niches near the drive lane have an L configuration to nimbly wrap the corner and give the smaller scale shutters more prominence. The wall crypts run along the face of the slope.

A cleaning and thinning of the hedgerow allows a dappled light across the crypt shutters and provides a pastoral view for visitors taking advantage of the built in seat ledges.





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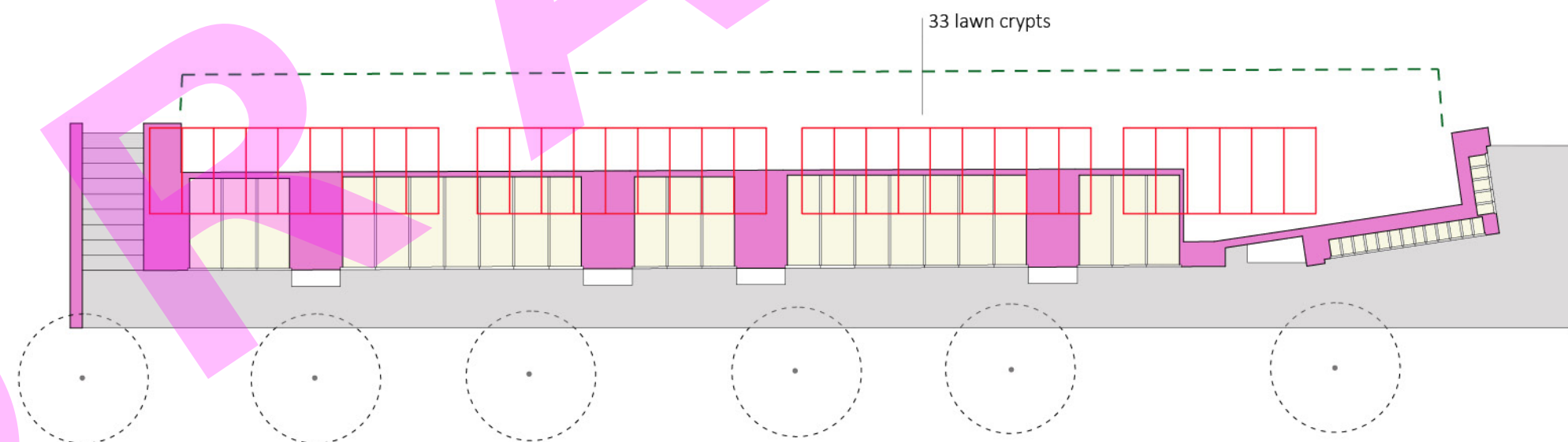
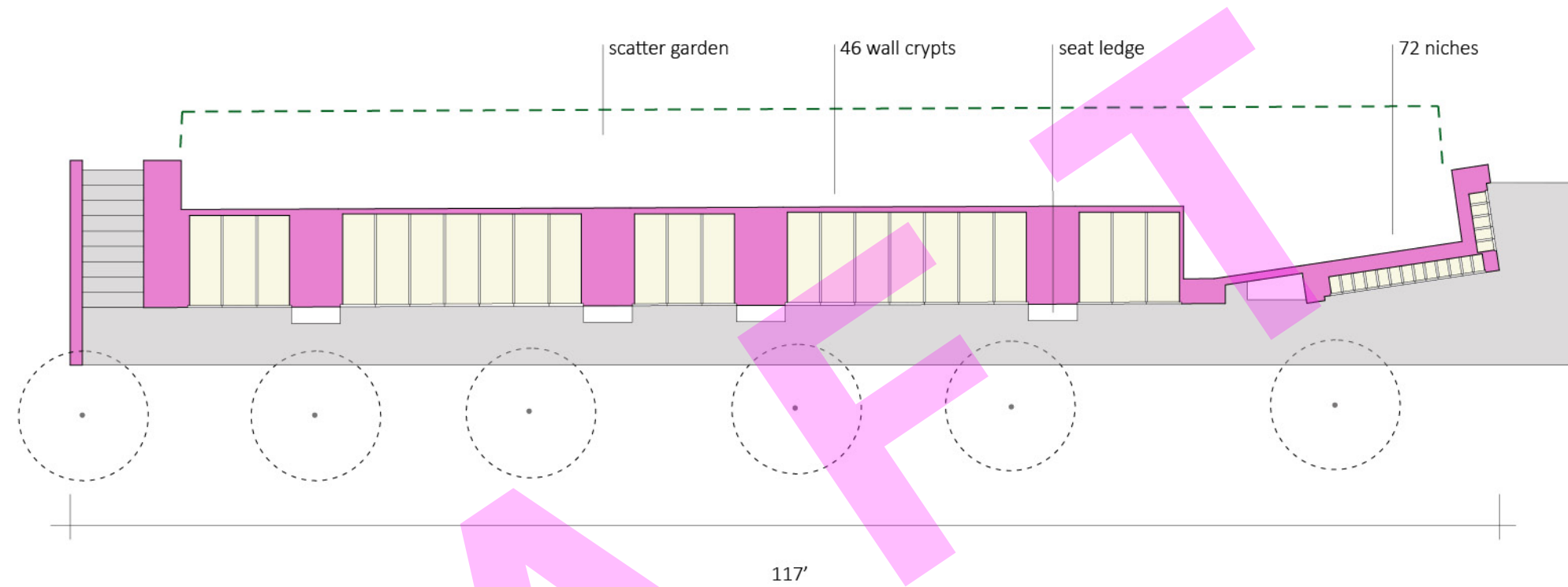
STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL

Area 4_Cliff Wall

This plan would allow for 7 years of crypts and 6 years of niches at an annual rate of 6 crypts and 12 niches.

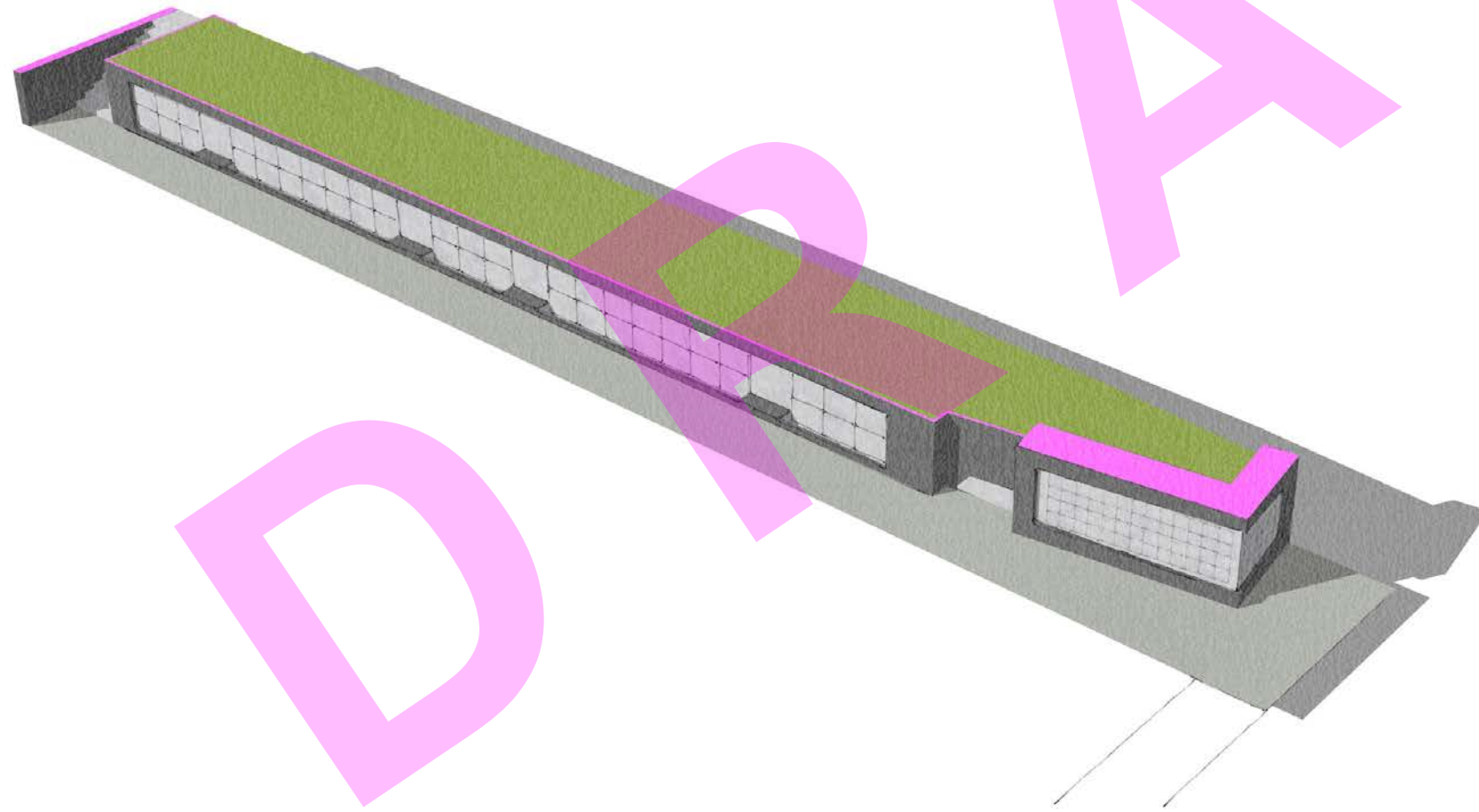
In contrast, lawn crypts would yield 33 single depth burials, lasting a year and half if all ground burials were concentrated here.

(Note that it's not an exact comparison, as our structured burial numbers work on the assumption that ground plots elsewhere are also being used.)



Area 4_Cliff Wall

These model views show how the complex slides into the topography, maintaining the existing elevation of the ground behind the wall.



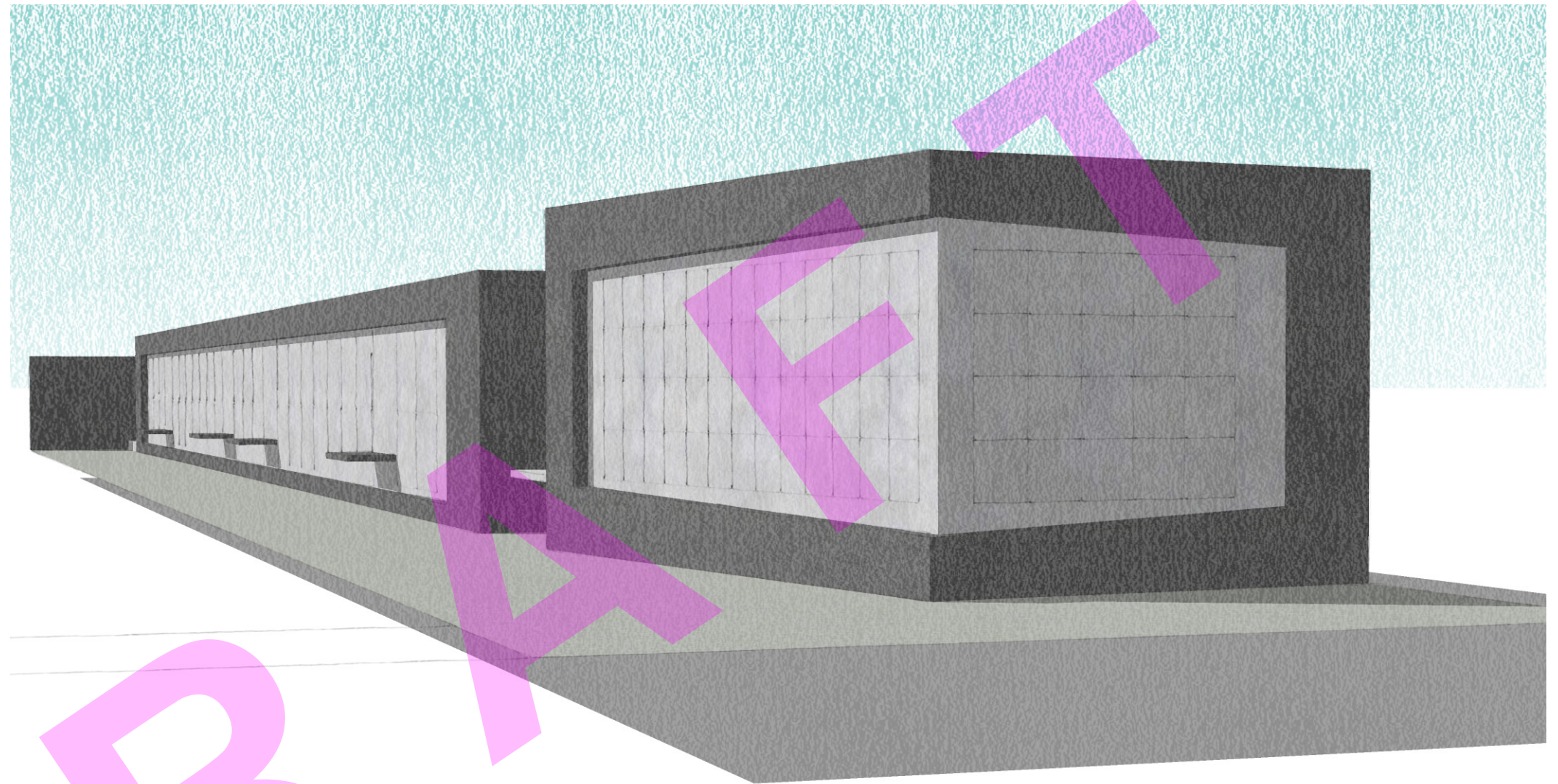
STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL

Area 4_Cliff Wall

A sketch from the drive lane.

Facing page:

A rendered view from the rear corner near the property line, looking back toward the drive lane. Above the wall is a scatter garden.



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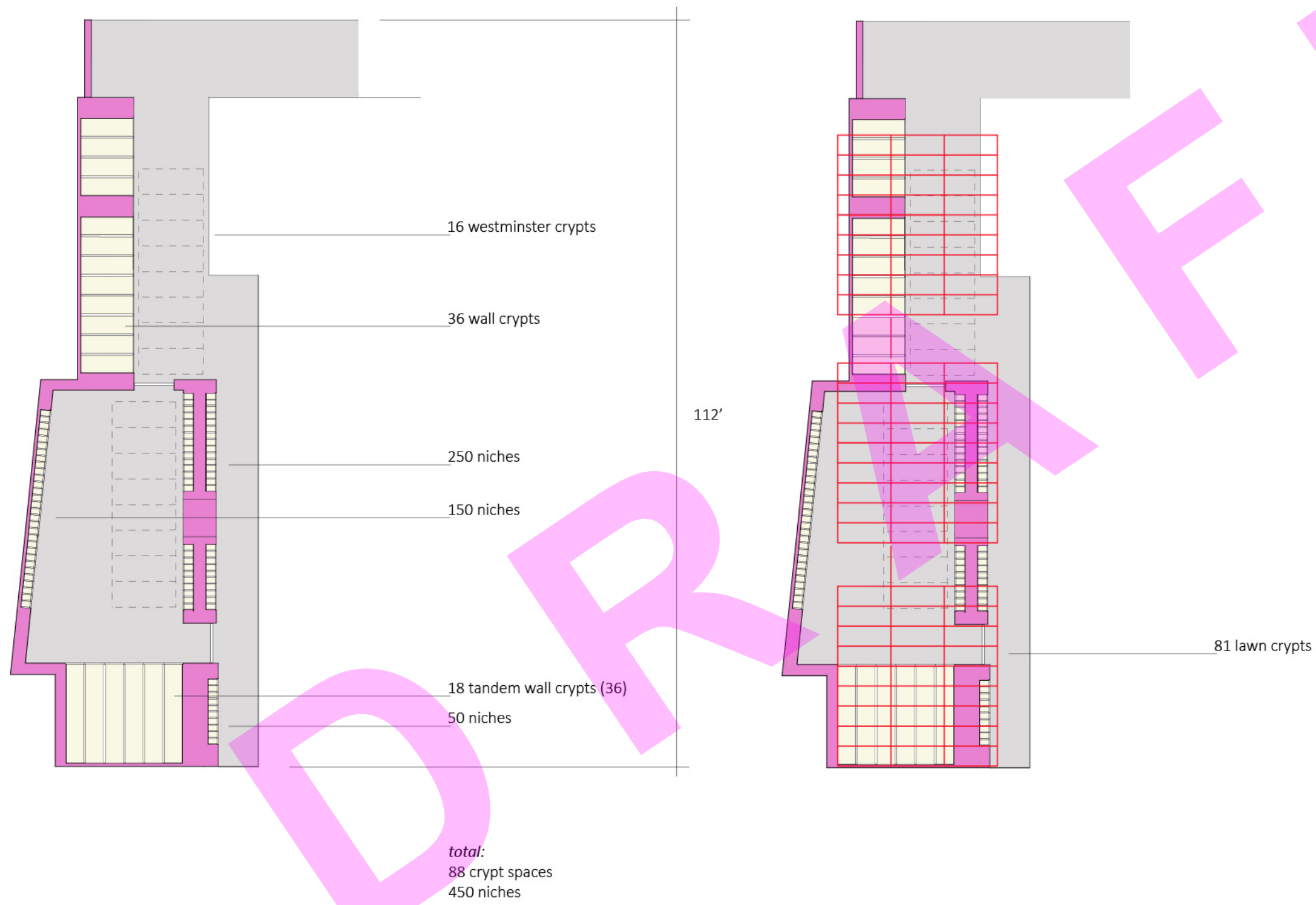
STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL

Area 6_Walled Garden

Walking toward Area 6, there is a beautiful, mature oak tree that sits between the grassy field and the drive lane. We think this would be a lovely centerpiece for a pet scatter garden.

At the southern entrance to Stonewall, along Spotswood Drive, is a long and level site, perfect for a walled garden complex- a mix of crypts and niches surrounding a ceremonial space for memorial services.





Area 6_Walled Garden

In this diagram we show 88 crypts and 450 niches. Crypts would last 14 years and niches 37 years based on an estimated 6 crypts and 12 niches annually.

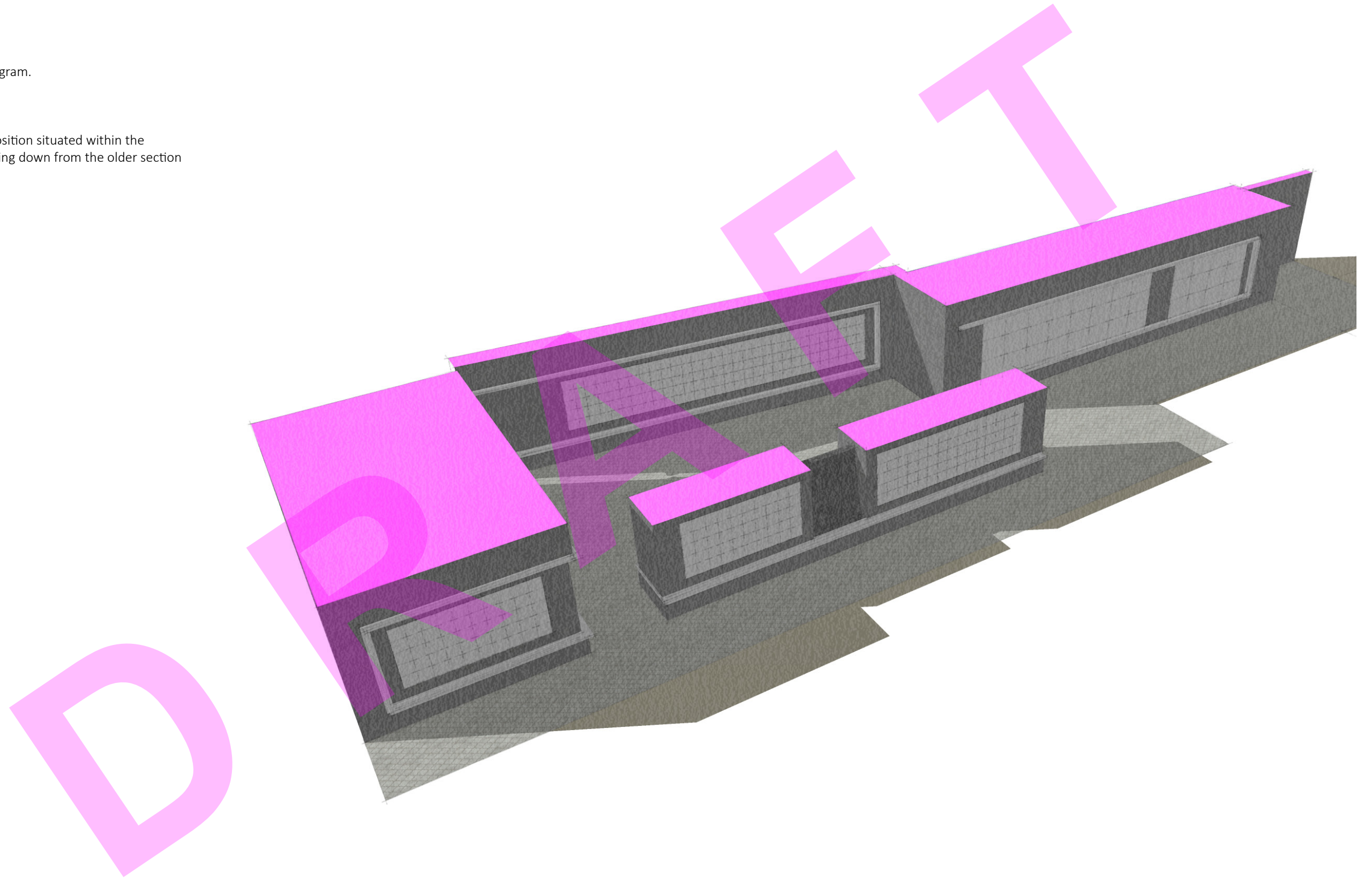
A comparison of lawn crypts in the same basic footprint yields 81 burials as opposed to 538 options. 81 ground burials concentrated here would take 3 ¼ years.

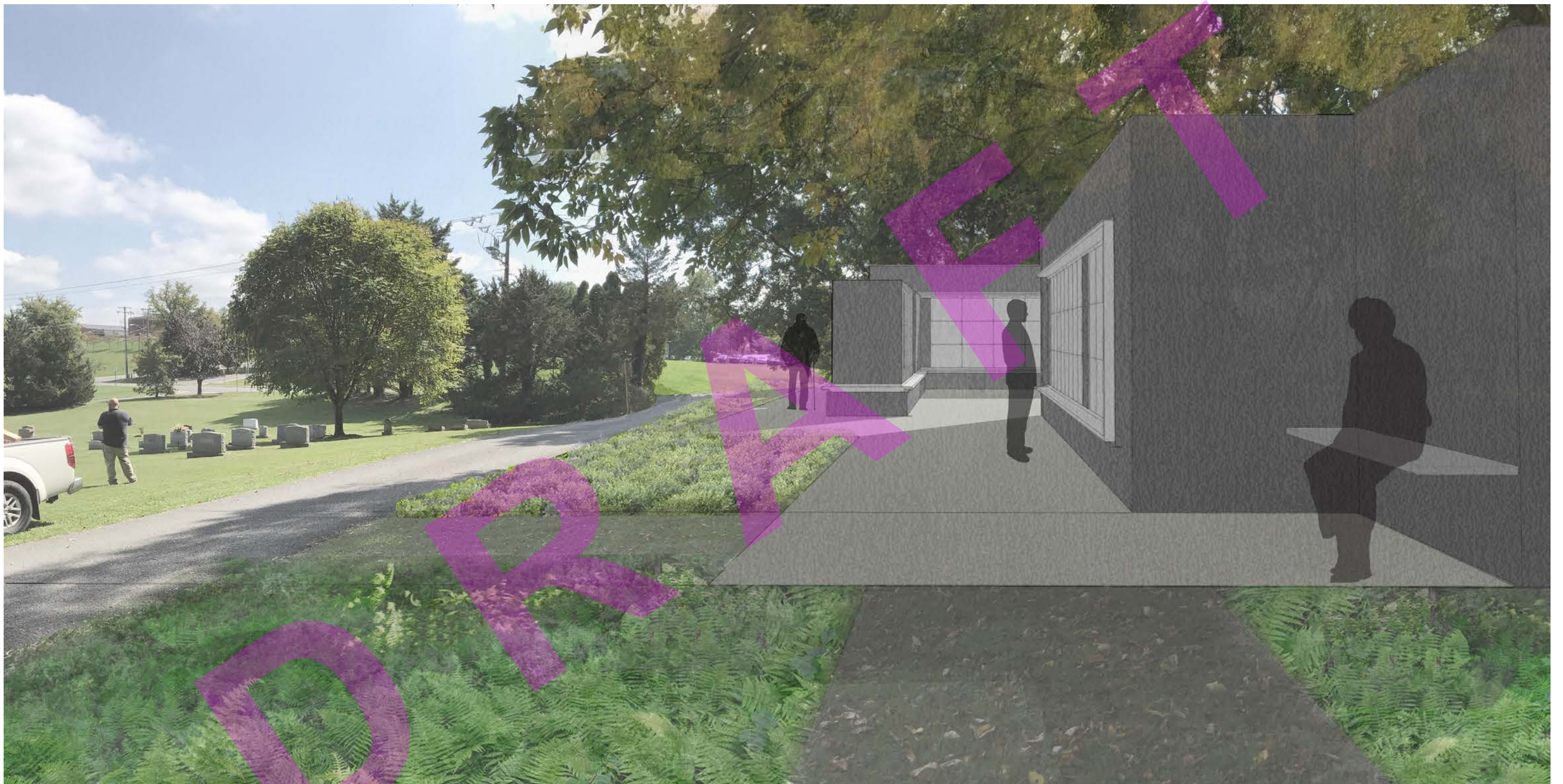
STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL

Area 6_Walled Garden

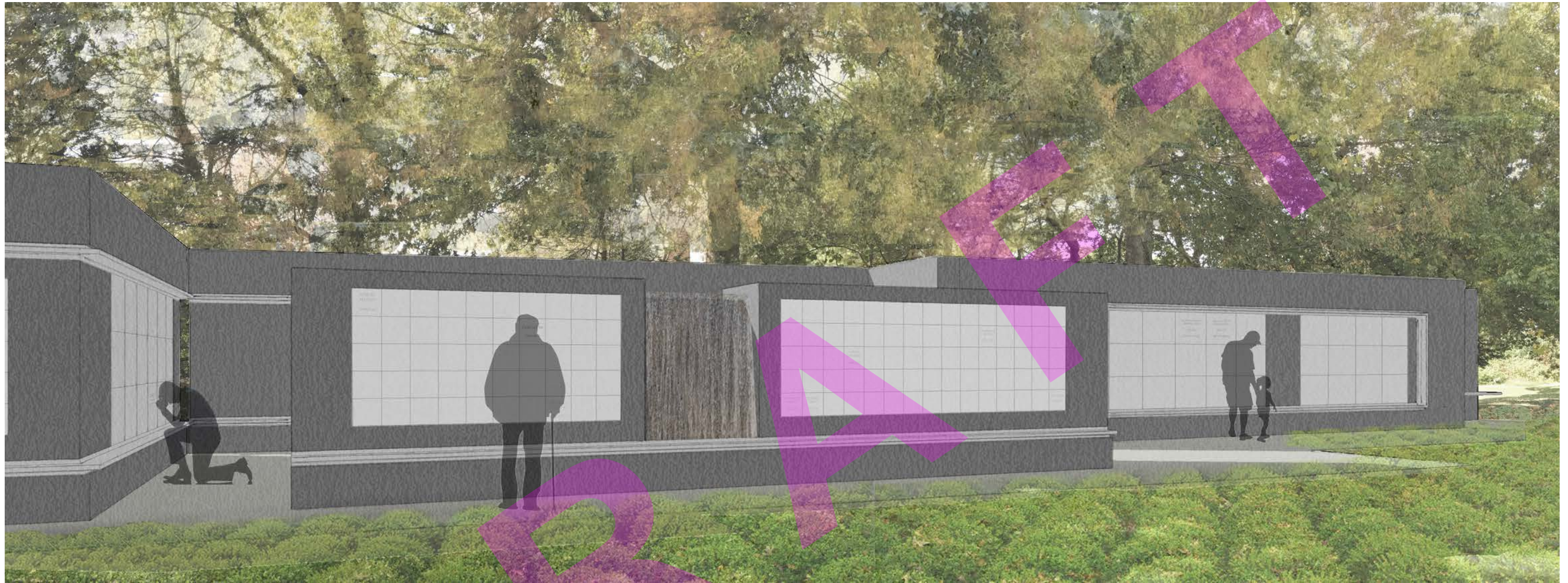
Three dimensional version of the plan diagram.

Facing page:
This rendering gives a sense of the composition situated within the existing conditions and atmosphere, walking down from the older section toward Spotswood Drive.





Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries



Above:
Straight on view of Walled Garden from drive lane.

Facing page:
View from south entrance along Spotswood Drive.



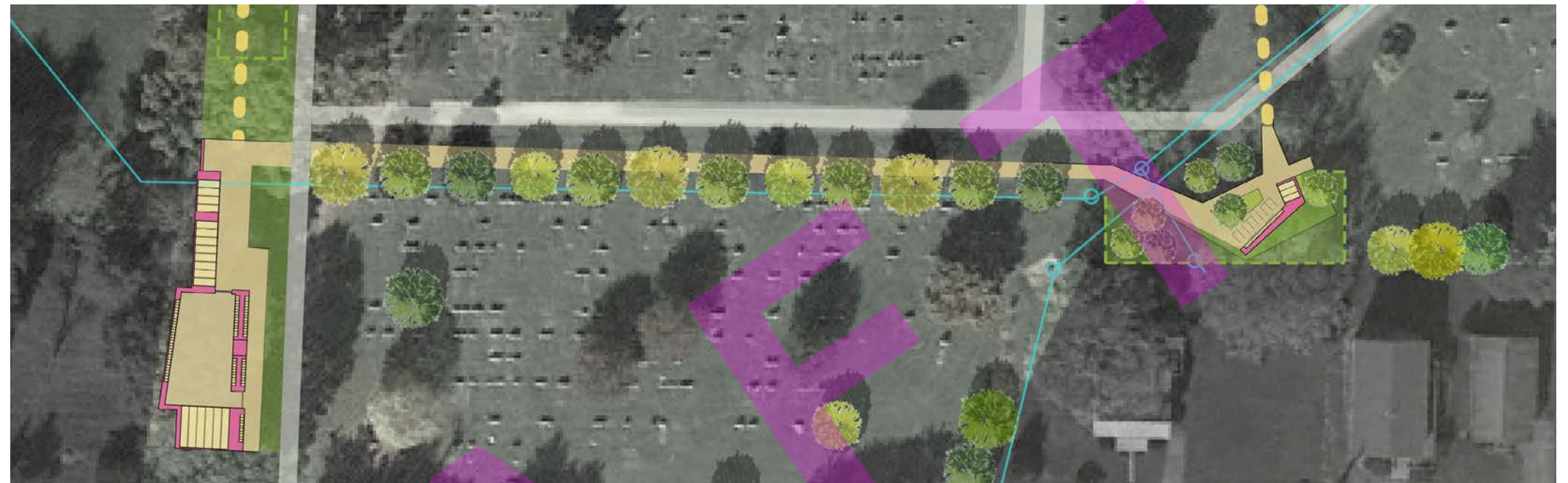
Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL

Area 7_Shaded Walk

Along the walk from the Walled Garden to the Sunken Garden, we recommend filling in the tree planting along the southern edge of the drive lane and reinforcing it as a pedestrian way.

Taking parking into account, we maintain a grass strip adjacent to the pavement. Next to that, a hardscape walkway flanked by shade trees with benches placed every so often for relaxing along the way.





Area 8_Sunken Garden

The topography at the end of the shaded walk naturally dips down to Area 8. Amplifying this by pressing it down a bit further and banking a niche and crypt configuration into the topography would frame another ceremonial space, and point toward the walk back to the north end of the site.



STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL

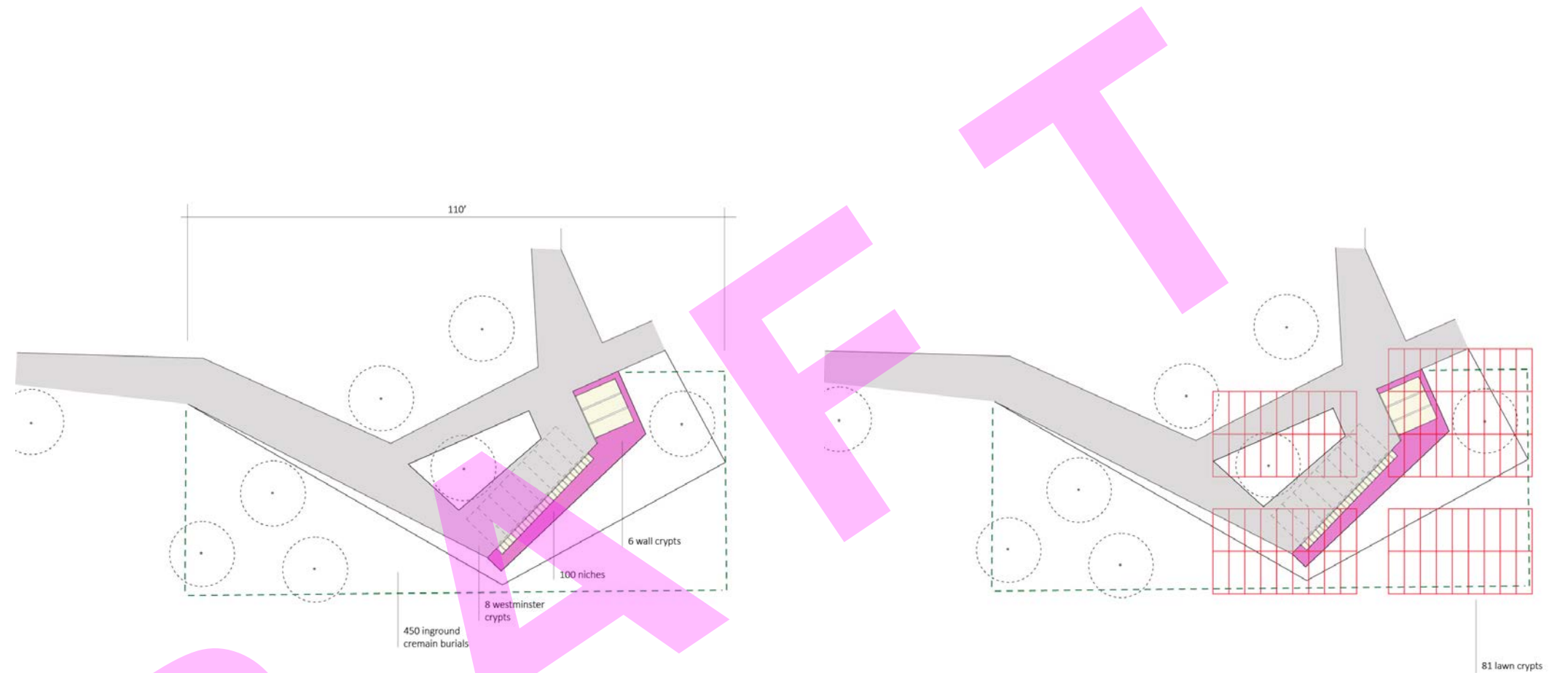
Area 8_Sunken Garden

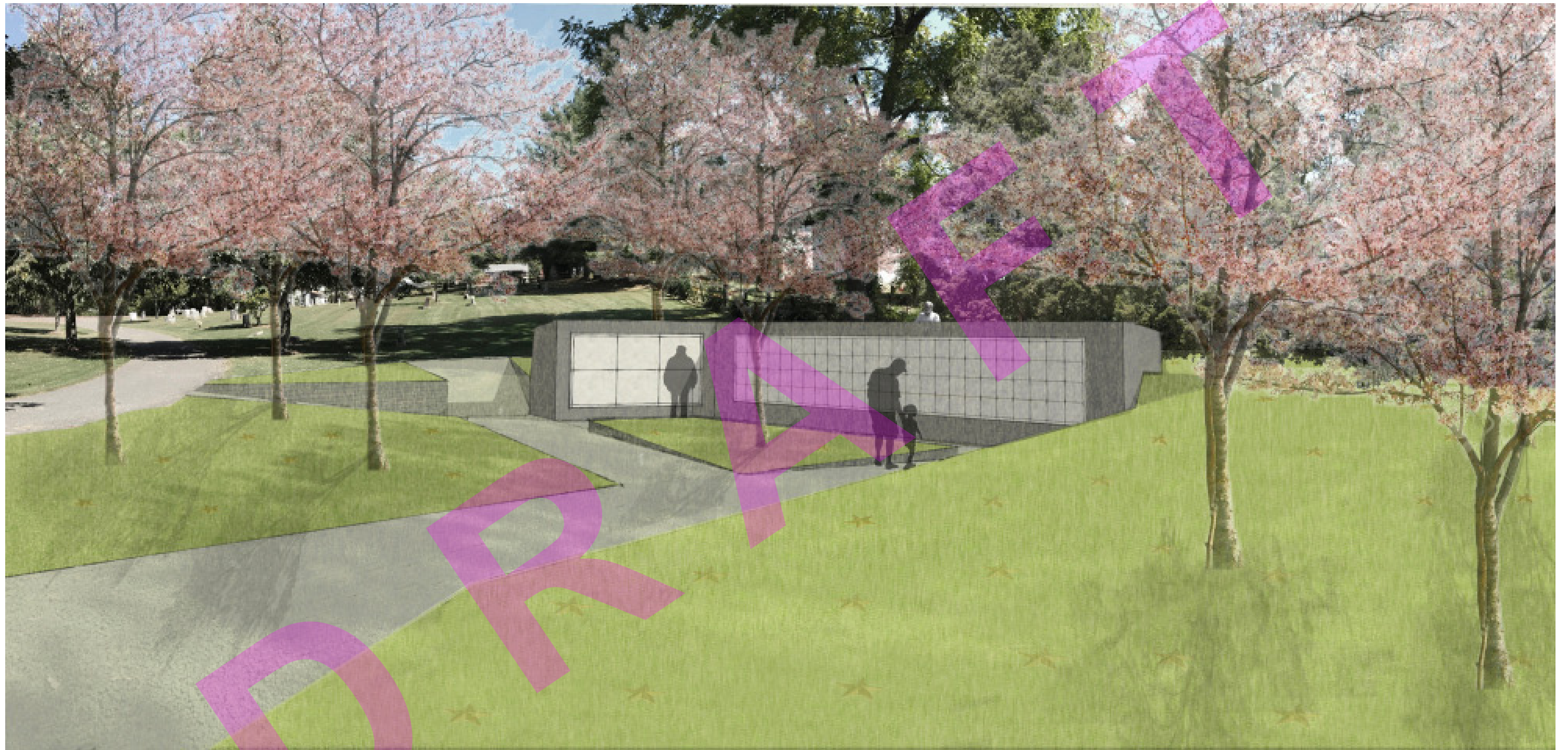
This scheme offers a total of 14 crypts (8 in-ground, 6 wall crypts) and 100 niches. The landscape immediately surrounding the sunken garden accommodates approximately 450 in-ground single cremain burials at a rate of 1 per 5 sq ft.

For crypts, this would last a bit over 2 years and niches a bit over 8 years, and if we count the cremain ground burials at a rate of 12 annually, 37.5 yrs.

Lawn crypts on the same footprint would yield approximately 81 burials, in contrast to 564 options. The 81 number in both this and the walled garden schemes are single casket burials. That number would vary if the graves were used for instead for multiple cremation burials.

Facing page:
A quiet, intimate spot set within a grove of flowering trees.





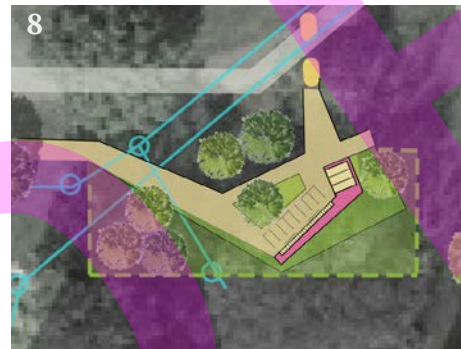
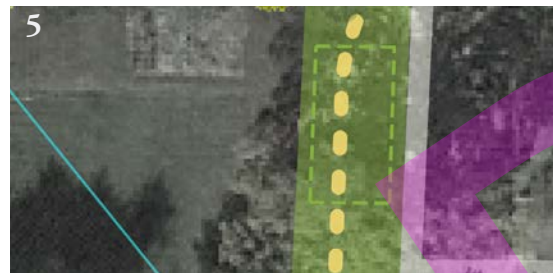
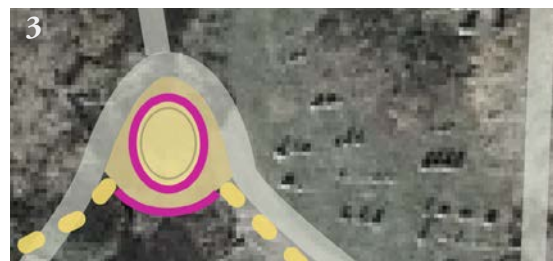
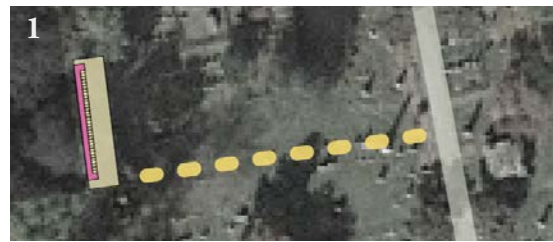
Historic Lexington Municipal Cemeteries

STONEWALL JACKSON MEMORIAL

We have also identified areas, mainly in the southern half of the cemetery, where the tree canopy can be enhanced to add a bit of shade in the open areas.

The yellow dashed line represents the beginning of an orchestrated walk that would include notable graves, spots for framed views across the cemetery, and existing specimen trees tied into the intended arboretum certification.





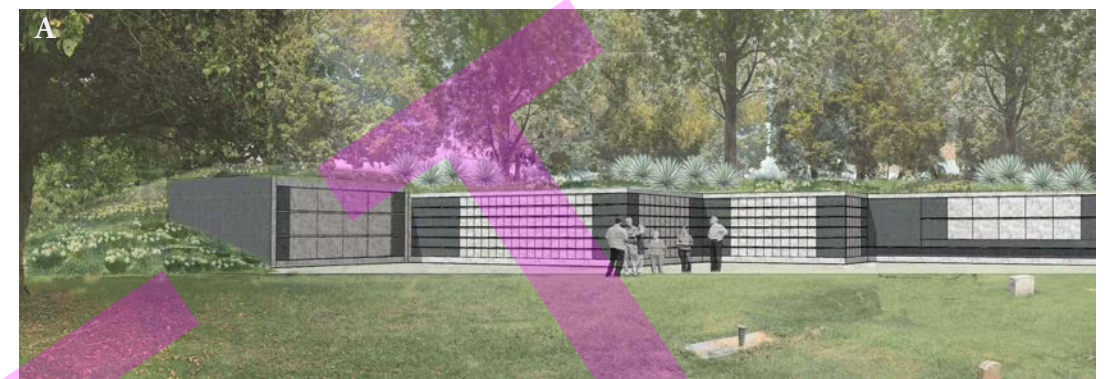
Proposed Inventory Totals

Stonewall Jackson Memorial

- 1. A Columbarium
120 niches
- 2. Stonewall Jackson's grave
enhanced seating & planting
- 3. Burial Mound / Cairn
120 niches
ceremonial space
new seatwall
- 4. Cliff Wall
46 wall crypts
72 niches
built in seating ledges
scatter garden
- 5. Pet Scatter Garden
- 6. Walled Garden
88 crypts (16 in-ground, 72 wall)
450 niches
ceremonial space
built in seating ledge
- 7. Shaded Walk
seating on new benches
- 8. Sunken Garden
14 crypts (8 in-ground, 6 wall)
100 niches
450 in-ground single cremain burials
ceremonial space
seating opportunities

Recent Burial Rates

Stonewall Jackson	'16	'17
full burial	26	24
cremation	24	26
Evergreen	'16	'17
full burial	1	7
cremation	2	4



Evergreen

Option A (full build out)
34 wall crypts
312 niches
scatter garden
ceremonial space
seatwall

Option B (smaller version or first phase)
33 crypts
60 niches
scatter garden
ceremonial space
seatwall

Note:

These numbers could be adjusted for each individual option during design development, and as a whole by a phased approach based on cost and inventory needs. The designs shown are merely conceptual and would change in response to detailed land surveys, material choices and stakeholder input.

READING LIST

Arcadian America: The Death and Life of an Environmental Tradition by Aaron Sachs

The Work of the Dead: A Cultural History of Mortal Remains by Thomas W. Laquerur

The American Resting Place: Four Hundred Years of History Through Our Cemeteries and Burial Grounds by Marilyn Yalom

The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History by David Charles Sloane

Last Landscapes: The Architecture of Cemeteries in the West by Ken Worpole

Cemeteries by Keith Eggener

This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War by Drew Gilpin Faust

Lexington, Virginia and the Civil War by Richard G. Williams Jr.

Hidden History: African American Cemeteries in Central Virginia by Lynn Rainville

Purified by Fire: A History of Cremation in America by Stephen Prothero