

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED 2280

JUL 10 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sylvan Grove Cemetery

other names/site number Sylvan Cemetery, Travis Cemetery, Old Burial Hill

2. Location

street & number Victory Boulevard at Glen Street [] not for publication

city or town Staten Island [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Richmond code 085 zip code 10314

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ruth A. Purpura DSHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/24/15
Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
[] see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
[] see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

date of action

Edson R. Beall 8-24-15

Sylvan Grove Cemetery

Richmond County, New York

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	2	objects
1	2	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/ Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/ Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other Granite, Marble, Sandstone, Brownstone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Sylvan Grove Cemetery

Richmond County, New York

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Social History
- Settlement
- Funerary Art
-

Period of Significance:

 1781-c.1930

Significant Dates:

 1781, 1795, ca.1920s, 1924

Significant Person:

 N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

 N/A

Architect/Builder:

 N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by historic American Building Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other repository: _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Sylvan Grove Cemetery
Name of Property
Richmond County, New York
County and State

Narrative Description of Property

Sylvan Grove Cemetery is located at the northeast intersection of Victory Boulevard and Glen Street in the neighborhood of Travis in the New York City Borough of Staten Island, Richmond County, New York. The property is triangular in shape, tapering to a point at the southern end, and measures approximately 2.48 acres. It is bordered by Victory Boulevard on the east and Glen Street to the west. Immediately adjacent to the north border of the property are six residential structures that front Melvin Avenue. Immediately to the west of the property, across Glen Street, is a green median and northbound on-ramp to the West Shore Expressway; to the east of the property, across from Victory Boulevard, are commercial properties, including a large shopping plaza recessed from the road. Two streets, Roswell Avenue and Alberta Avenue, perpendicularly terminate at the section of Victory Boulevard that borders the cemetery. At the southeast intersection of Glen Street and Victory Boulevard, Glen Street continues as East Service Road. Victory Boulevard continues southwest over the West Shore Expressway. The evolving types of material, text, ornamentation, size, and placement of the grave markers that are extant in the cemetery are reflective of the evolving attitudes towards the religion, tastes, and customs of the period. Sylvan Grove is an example of an organically evolving burial ground that has not only retained but also exhibits many layers of historical significance and integrity.

The lower third of the property, known as "Independence Park" consists of a flat plain with concrete paths, several mature trees, and landscaped greenspace. The tip of the triangle is landscaped with low vegetative plants and a large statue of an eagle with its wings outstretched. Several benches are placed around the concrete paths, as well as a bike stand, and a large tri-flagpole in the center of the park. A water fountain is in the rear of the park, as well as refuse collection bins and informative signage. Natural boulders accent the concrete pathways, and a low wood fence separates the property from the sidewalk. Though there are no known burials from before or the period of significance, the open space context as an entry point into the site contributes to the overall property. The statue of the eagle and the fountain are noncontributing objects.

Sylvan Cemetery occupies the rear two-thirds of the property. It consists of a wooded lot with mature trees and landscaped earthen paths. The property slopes upward to a hill which crests at the center near the rear edge of the residential buildings on Melvin Avenue. There is one entrance to the cemetery from Glen Street, as well as another entrance from Independence Park. Two additional landscaped earthen paths, lined with loose fieldstone rocks, open onto Victory Boulevard, the northern one being flanked by two fieldstone pillars. These paths lead to clusters of memorial stones of varying material and design, mostly marble and granite headstones of medium height with small bases. The northern path leads to the crest of the hill, where the majority of grave markers are located. Some grave markers are broken and/or illegible. In between the two paths on the east side of the cemetery is a large blue and white sign denoting the cemetery as "Sylvan Grove, Ye Old Burial Hill & Travis Cemetery. Earliest known burial 1781." On the edge of the cemetery near Victory Boulevard is a small cluster of gravemarkers that had been installed at another location, and were moved to the site in 2012. A small memorial stone reads, "The Stones on this Site Memorize Persons Buried in the Original Ridgeway Family Burying Ground 1771 – 1989."

There are approximately 129 grave markers composed of marble, brownstone, and granite that are extant on the site. The general orientation of the stones face east towards Victory Boulevard, keeping in the traditional

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Sylvan Grove Cemetery
Name of Property
Richmond County, New York
County and State

practice of Christian colonial burial, where the deceased would be laid to rest facing the rising sun and the second coming of Christ. The earliest markers are directly in front of Victory Boulevard. There are approximately five sandstone markers, none of which are complete. There are also two small incomplete markers that appear to be made of a local fieldstone, either gneiss, schist or a composite of the two. The inscribed faces of the markers are also oriented east. The graves farther away from the crest of the hill tend to curve around the slope of the hill. Many stones are illegible, due to a combination of damage from natural occurrences and vandalism. The majority of graves are clustered in family plots between narrow paths, most of which are no longer extant. As such, each plot contains examples of markers from several generations of funerary art and style. The David Decker plot exemplifies this inter-generational space. The plot posts display the name of the plot holder, David Decker, and the date 1870. The posts are composed of a dark granite, as are the bases of four large grave markers. However, each of these markers is of a different design, and are composed of both marble and granite. The dates of death range from the 1540s to the 1890s, showcasing generations of funerary art. However, most markers, regardless of age, are simple in design and style. Sandstone markers, none of which appear to be intact, were composed of a single piece of stone laid perpendicular into the ground. Marble markers dating from the middle of the 19th century, such as the one belonging to Mary Housman, consist of a single squared slab of marble with dates of birth and death. Other marble markers, such as Jennie L. Decker's, consist of a rounded slab inserted into a marble base. The inscriptions note the name of the deceased, as well as the dates of birth and death. Many of these types of markers also contain small poems near the base of the marker. Later marble markers of this type also contain a carved edge or small funerary imagery near the top of the marker. The grave of Helen McGregor Joy, erected in memory of a young child, features a child's figure in a reclining pose. Other marble markers include a matching footstone, evidenced by Margaret A. Wood Decker's grave. Later markers dating to the late 19th and early 20th century were composed mainly of granite. The size and design of the granite markers are often reflective of the social and financial standing the deceased held in the community. The grave of Annie Virginia Price is relatively small, and consists of a granite stone placed on a small granite base. The inscription is minimal and contains a small funerary ornament near the top of the stone. Conversely, the marker for Jacob P. Decker is composed of three large granite sections, approximately 3' to 4' wide, and stands over 5' tall with a pediment and carved ornamental façade. The larger markers also serve as headstones for multiple internments, rather than the smaller marble slabs created for individuals.

There are several family plots that are demarcated with stone pillars and round metal railings. The David Decker plot, dated 1870 on its granite pillars, contains two sets of metal railings. Other plots are denoted with smaller posts and a single railing, while others are marked with ornamental scroll markers. The entire area where grave markers are located is thickly wooded with tall trees ranging from approximately 25' to 55' tall. The paths that begin at the edge of the property on Victory Boulevard lead to the crest of the hill, then down to exit at a single exit on the west side of the cemetery at Glen Street. Both the west and east sides of the cemetery are bordered by the same low wooden fence as the front southern third of the property. The northern edge of the cemetery is bordered by various fences erected by the residential property owners bordering Melvin Avenue.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Sylvan Grove Cemetery
Name of Property
Richmond County, New York
County and State

Statement of Significance

Sylvan Grove Cemetery is significant under National Register criteria A and C as a site associated with the early development of Staten Island, and is the final resting place of many prominent families who not only helped to develop the neighborhood of Travis, but Staten Island as a whole. The cemetery is also representative of the evolution of funerary art in the northeastern United States, from the late 18th to the early 20th century. Several prominent plots in the cemetery emphasize the influence of the French Huguenot family the Cannons, who helped to develop the neighborhood of Travis on the western edge of Staten Island, followed by intermarriage into English families including Decker and Wood. Later 19th and early 20th century burials note the change of the neighborhood's population and change from family cemetery to commercially purchased plots. Extant markers are exemplary of American funerary art of the 19th century and early 20th century, and denote the changes in both material and design. A period of significance for the has been established from 1781, when the cemetery was conveyed to the family that established the land as a cemetery, to c1930, when burials cease at the site.

Staten Island - Seventeenth Century and Eighteenth Century Settlement

Although Staten Island had been host to several small settlements of Europeans from the 1630s to the 1650s, it was not until 1661 that Peter Stuyvesant, Governor of the Dutch Colony of New Netherland, imparted land grants to a small group of settlers that included Dutch, Belgians, and French Huguenots seeking religious freedom. In 1664, The British gained control of the island, but let the small settlement continue as it had under Dutch rule. A small group of English settlers joined the Dutch, Belgians and Huguenots, but their homesteads were spread apart from one another, and they lacked a religious leader. In 1690, all claims by the native population to the island were denied by an edict written by English Governor Lovelace, ending a contentious period that had begun in 1630, when Dutchman Michael Pauw received a land grant from the Dutch West India Company, which included the entirety of Staten Island. Although Pauw technically owned the island, it essentially remained in control of the indigenous peoples.

The neighborhood known as Travis is located on the west side of the island, on a peninsula known as Long Neck, which is bordered by Neck Creek on the north and Fresh Kills to the south. On December 23, 1686, a land grant was given to a French Huguenot immigrant, Andrew(Andre) Cannon. A subsequent land grant was bestowed on March 17, 1698. Cannon's grant included 160 acres that lay on both sides of present-day Victory Boulevard and was twice the normal amount of land granted to a single individual. Cannon built a homestead on Arthur Kill, at the end of the avenue which was to bear his name. It is probably during this period that the Cannon family began to inter their deceased in the area that would become Sylvan Grove Cemetery. In an essay chronicling the history of Sylvan Grove, Marjorie Decker Johnson, a local genealogist who wrote numerous histories of the cemeteries on Staten Island, wrote that she believed, "the Cannon family used this land for their homestead graves...the Cannon plot is at the crest of the hill and the families near it were related to them [the] Woods, Deckers, etc." Homestead cemeteries were not uncommon on the disparate settlements of 17th century Staten Island. The small population of settlers did not warrant a central church or graveyard, and many early families laid their dead to rest in selected locations on their homesteads. In one of his many writing on the cemeteries of the island, historian William T. Davis narrates his discovery of small, abandoned cemeteries across the island, "He is quite unsuspecting, stopped by a stranger in the woods and asked concerning graves.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Sylvan Grove Cemetery
Name of Property
Richmond County, New York
County and State

"Does he know of any?" "There are some on the hill..." In this way I have heard several times over of every little graveyard mentioned, though there is no doubt that there are others to be found." The cemetery's location, within the original land grants bestowed to Andre Cannon, coupled with the Cannon's plot being on the crest of the hill, the most prominent and visible location, makes it likely that the Cannons had used the hill to bury their dead long before the earliest extant gravestone was laid. The Cannons expanded their family by intermarrying into several other early families, including the Woods and the Deckers. In 1781, the cemetery, as part of a 23 acre plot, was conveyed from Charles and Ann Decker to James Wood, Sr., presumably a relative. Shortly after this, in 1795, the earliest stone extant today, belonging to Mary Boaman, was installed in the cemetery.

Nineteenth Century Development

The cemetery continued to be used primarily by members of the Cannon family and their extended relatives, including the the Woods and the Deckers. As with many early families in the northeastern United States, pieces of original land grants were subsequently bequeathed to relatives, sometimes formally recorded in conveyance records and sometimes informally in family histories, unfilled wills, and by traditions. Davis et al summarize the land transfers between family members in the nineteenth century. The cemetery, as part of a 13 acre parcel, was passed from James Wood Sr. to his son, James Wood Jr., prior to 1826. That year, Wood Jr. died, and his estate was divided amongst his heirs. The cemetery and thirteen surrounding acres was passed to Wood's son-in-law, Edward J. Decker. Just eight years later, Decker died, and his will, made the same year, indicated that after his wife's death, which occurred the same year, the land should be sold and the profits divided amongst his heirs. By 1834, the majority of grave markers belonged to members of the Cannon, Decker, and Wood families, which had been placed in family plots at the crest of the hill of the cemetery, even though a topographical map from 1844 neglects to mark the site as a cemetery. The buyer of the land in 1835 was John Wood, second son of James Wood Sr., who had purchased the parcel in 1781. While this assured that family plots would remain in the Decker-Wood family, the addition of other names, such as Blake, Cox, and Price, to the cemetery strongly indicate that Wood had begun selling off plots to local Travis residents.

The prestige of the Wood-Decker family was felt in almost all aspects of the Travis community, but especially in terms of religious worship and funerary practices. In addition to owning the community cemetery, John Wood was also the host of many, if not most, religious services in Travis, the community not having a house of worship until the Long Neck Church, a small Episcopal chapel, was constructed in 1842, on land donated by Abraham Decker. In 1864, John Wood died, and ownership of the cemetery passed to his son, Edward J. Wood. According to historical maps of the 1850s, the cemetery has still yet to be labeled as a distinct entity, but by the 1870s, the plot of land has been labeled "Sylvan Cemetery," and ownership is attributed to "E. Wood." The name, "Sylvan," is unique for a family cemetery during the nineteenth century, as most are named after the family. However, as the word "sylvan" refers to being of the woods, or made of wood, Marjorie Decker Johnson proposes that the name may be referring back to the family name without explicitly stating it. Upon Edward J. Wood's death in 1887, ownership of the cemetery passed to his daughter, Mary A. Leonard, who continued to sell plots for burial to local Travis residents and their descendants. One such plot was sold to Thomas Snow in 1891, which provided a 16 x 16 foot plot for \$35.00.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Sylvan Grove Cemetery
Name of Property
Richmond County, New York
County and State

Early Twentieth Century Development

By the first decade of the 20th century, the cemetery began a period of decline. In 1909, a blight killed most of the chestnut trees throughout Staten Island, including in the cemetery. Mary A. Leonard sold the residual wood, as well as all growing trees on the property. In 1922, Mary Leonard sold the lower triangular portion of the property (today lot 22) to George (Geza) Nagyvathy, and bequeathed the remainder of the property (today lot 9) to Dickinson Methodist Church, immediately adjacent to the north of the cemetery property. Although the church maintained the property, they never actively used Sylvan Grove for burials. In 1931, the new Reverend of the church, Carl C. Mellberg, led a restoration effort to clean and maintain the cemetery following a decade of exploitation by local developer James Kelly. The cemetery became the possession of the City of New York in 1953, and has remained a city park and gateway into the cemetery ever since.

Eighteenth Century Funerary Art and Practices

The evolution of Sylvan Grove's funerary art and practices reflects the organic evolution of colonial burial grounds of the eighteenth century. Death was an everyday part of life in the wilderness of New Amsterdam and necessitated consecrated ground. The Cannon burial ground would have been originally for family members only, with the most prominent members of the family placed in the center, usually at the highest point. The site that Sylvan Grove occupies was probably chosen due to having a gently sloping hill, the crest of which would be occupied by the immediate Cannon family, and the slopes reserved for the extended branches of their family tree. The orientation of the headstones facing east coincides with the early Christian belief of the body rising to meet Christ in the Second Coming.

The lack of stones earlier than 1795 can be attributed to a combination of environmental factors and vandalism. It has been suggested that early grave markers in colonial New England and mid-Atlantic states were made of wood, set perpendicular to the ground and painted with dates of birth and death. These markers would have disintegrated within the first few decades of their installation. Davis offers a more local explanation as to why many early markers were not found at the end of the 19th century,

"There are no very old tomb stones on Staten Island, for the graves of the first settlers were marked by un-inscribed slabs, such as could be found in the adjacent fields. The present owners of the land, or neighbors, are occasionally seized with that desire for "reform and change," extending it even to these lichen covered stones, which they think no doubt, have been erected "in memory" quite long enough. So those that have toppled over and those that are standing are gathered together in a neat pile and sometimes the front door is improved by having a smooth flat slab laid in front of it. The giant box plant by the door, or the old pear tree in the garden, may become a more enduring monument than the grave yard stone."

Barring this "adaptive reuse," Only graves that were marked by more expensive sandstone markers should have lasted longer, but their inconsistent quality, their bedding perpendicular to the soil, and, most notably, vandalism, has led to their disappearance from Sylvan Grove. Johnson notes in her essay that while Davis recorded three sandstone markers upon his first visit to Sylvan Grove in 1888, he only saw one broken piece upon his return in 1923.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Sylvan Grove Cemetery
Name of Property
Richmond County, New York
County and State

Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Funerary Art and Practices

The nineteenth century saw the evolution of funerary style, and a change in material. Marble became the material of choice for a lasting funerary monument, but the general design remained the same through the first quarter of the 19th century. The inscriptions remained minimal, with the name, dates of birth and death, and a small poem or scripture verse the extent of the carving. Early marble monuments remained single slabs. As the century progressed, however, marble slabs acquired marble bases, and decorative funerary art began to top the slabs. Johnson notes the large number of children's monuments in Sylvan Grove, many of which use the imagery of a flower blossom to symbolize a life cut short. The inscription on the grave of Ephraim Decker, who died as an infant reads, "Opend and shut, "referring both to the carved flower which decorates the top of his grave, and himself, who "bloomed briefly and then closed and died." Inscriptions became more creative and expressive, exemplified by a quartet of Decker children's stones, each of which is set within the same long marble base and contains one couplet of the same poem:

Mary E.
daughter of
John H. &
Martha Decker,
died
Sept. 10, 1854,
Æ. 3 y'rs & 5 mo's.
Why should our tears in sorrow flow
when God recalls his own

Caroline,
daughter of
John H. &
Martha Decker,
died
July 20, 1840,
Æ. 5 y'rs. 8 mo's.
& 6 d's.
And bids them leave a world of woe
For an immortal Crown.

Hannah E.
daughter of
John H. &
Martha Decker,
died
Sept. 11, 1839,
Æ. 1 year & 2 mo's.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Sylvan Grove Cemetery
Name of Property
Richmond County, New York
County and State

Then let our sorrows cease to flow
God has recall'd his own

William H.
son of
John H. &
Martha Decker,
died
April 22, 1848,
Æ. 8 mo's. & 22 ds.
But let our hearts in ev'ry woe
Still say thy will be done.

Other epitaphs are unique, expressing the deceased's religious beliefs and, as in the case of Catharine Decker, even their worshipping habits:

Catharine
wife of
David Decker
died July 21st 1863
aged 69 yrs.

It was her daily practice
to read the Bible 3 times
on her knees.

She was remarkable
for her deeds of charity.
She was a peacemaker.
She was a good Christian.

“For me to live is Christ,
And to die is gain.”

Despite the progression of funerary art, some traditions remained in Sylvan Grove. The 1906 grave of Margaret A. Wood contains a marble footstone, harkening back to the 18th century practice of having the dead rest in a "bed" with a headboard and footboard.

The late 19th century saw again a major shift, both in material and in design. Granite became the dominant material in funerary art, and design shifted from thin headstones on bases to large, ornate monuments, often representing more than one family member. The original family plots are marked by these large monuments, and

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 6

Sylvan Grove Cemetery
Name of Property
Richmond County, New York
County and State

demarcated through the use of a fence. These fences usually consisted of decorative granite pillars and metal railings. Also indicative of the changing attitudes is the orientation of headstones. While the majority of headstones are oriented east, later stones that sit on the slope of the hill are oriented toward the hill itself, up to the Cannon plot which rests at the top. These large monuments were reserved for those that could afford them. The monument of Jacob P. Decker, presumably a direct descendant of the original landowners, towers over more modest granite markers, like that of Annie Virginia Price. The disparity in size not only exemplified the type of monuments available during this period, but also is represents the diversity of the community of Travis and Staten Island in general in the early 20th century.

Conclusion

Sylvan Grove Cemetery, whose earliest extant stone dates to 1795, contains the remains of some of Staten Island's earliest settlers and their descendants. Their funerary ornaments and practices embody the evolution of mourning and remembering in the northeastern United States. Although it was presumably founded originally as a private homestead burial ground for the French-Huguenot family Cannon, its transition into a public, nondenominational burial ground reflects the significance the cemetery holds as a physical symbol of Staten Island's founding and evolution as a community. Similarly, the types of funerary monuments and practices exhibited in Sylvan Grove are physical representations of the art in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries. The evolving types of material, text, ornamentation, size, and placement of the grave markers are reflective of the evolving attitudes towards, religion, tastes, and customs of the community. Sylvan Grove is a rare example of an organically evolving burial ground that has not only retained but also exhibits many layers of historical significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Sylvan Grove Cemetery
Name of Property
Richmond County, New York
County and State

Bibliography:

Kathryn Carse. "A Deep-Rooted Loyalty to Staten Island Graveyard, Once Forgotten." *SILive*, 16 Oct. 2008.

Jasper Dankers and Peter Sluyter. *Journal of Voyage to New York and a Tour in Several of the American Colonies in 1670-1680*. Brooklyn: Long Island Historical Society, 1867.

William T. Davis, "Homestead Graves." *Proceedings of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island*. Special No. 9, December, 1889.

William T. Davis, Charles W. Long and Royden W. Vosburgh. *Staten Island Gravestone inscriptions from Sylvan Grove, Merrell and Hillside Cemeteries in the former town of Northfield and the Church of the Ascension, Staten Island and Fountain Cemeteries in the former town of Castleton, Now in the Borough of Richmond, City of New York*. Transcribed and edited by Royden Woodward Vosburgh, New York: Natural Science Association of Staten Island, 1924.

Christine E. Flaherty and Sara Mascia. *Summary Report of Archaeological Monitoring: Sylvan Grove Cemetery*. Historical Perspectives, Inc., Westport, Connecticut, May, 2011.

Alexander C. Flick. *History of the State of New York, Vol. I*. The New York State Historical Association, 1933.

Julie Abell Horn. *Phase IA Archaeological Documentary Study: Sylvan Grove Cemetery*. Historical Perspectives, Inc., Westport, Connecticut, 2010.

Marjorie Decker Johnson. "Sylvan Cemetery." *Staten Island Historian*. Volume 19, New series, No. 1. Summer-Fall 2001. Pages 13.

Leng, Charles W. and Edward C. Delavan, Jr. *A Condensed History of Staten Island (Borough of Richmond, New York City)*. The Staten Island Edison Corporation, Staten Island, New York, 1924. On microfilm at New York Historical Society.

Charles W. Leng and William T. Davis, *Staten Island and It's People: A History 1609-1929, Vol. I*. New York: Lewis Historical Publication Co., 1930.

New York City Bureau of Engineering. *1924 Sectional aerial maps of the City of New York*. On file at the New York Public Library.

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). n.d. *Sylvan Grove Cemetery*.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 2

Sylvan Grove Cemetery
Name of Property
Richmond County, New York
County and State

Andy Newman. "Restoring Life To a Land of the Dead." *New York Times (1923-Current file)* [New York, N.Y] 15 Aug 2006: B2.

Lynn Rogers. Personal Correspondence. *Friends of Abandoned Cemeteries of Staten Island Inc.*

Patricia M. Salmon. *Realms of History: The Cemeteries of Staten Island*. Staten Island: Staten Island Museum, 2006.

Frederick Skene. *Map of Staten Island, Richmond, Co. N.Y. showing the Colonial Land Patents from 1668-1712*. Prepared under the Direction of Frederick Skene, State Engineer and Surveyor. C. D. Burns, Draftsman, 1907. Staten Island Historical Society.

Zachary Studenroth. "Quogue Cemetery." *National Register of Historic Places Nomination Report*. Southampton, NY, April 14, 2013.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Sylvan Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Richmond County, New York

County and State

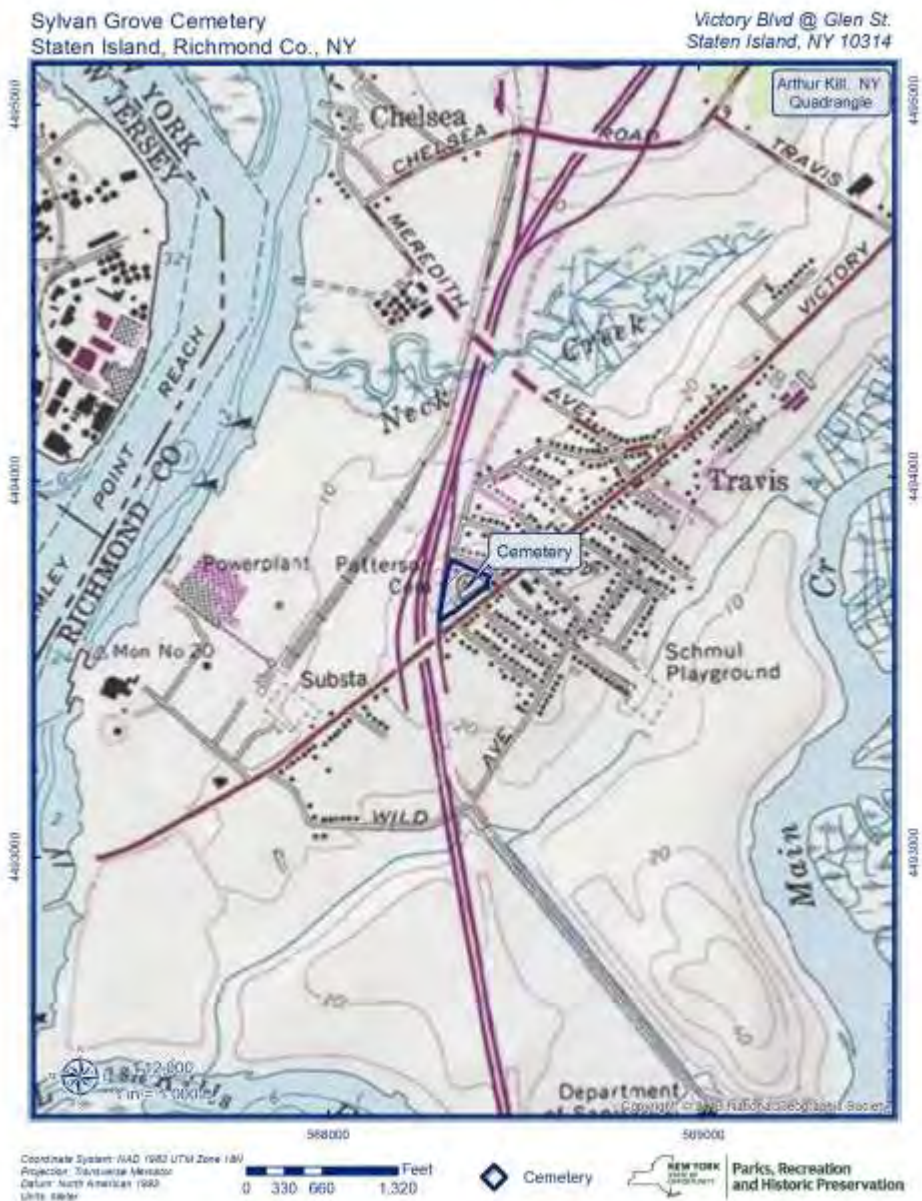
Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The Sylvan Grove Cemetery is sited on a triangular parcel located Glen Street & Victory Boulevard in Staten Island, NY. See attached map.

Boundary Justification

The cemetery is located on the lands associated with its 1781 – 1930 period of significance.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Sylvan Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Richmond County, New York

County and State

Section 10 Page 2

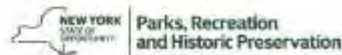
Sylvan Grove Cemetery
Staten Island, Richmond Co., NY

Victory Blvd @ Glen St.
Staten Island, NY 10314



566000

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Sylvan Grove Cemetery

Name of Property

Richmond County, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 1

Additional Information

Name of Property: Sylvan Grove Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Staten Island

County: Richmond

State: New York

Photographer: Marena Wisniewski

Date Photographed: March 9, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 10 Sylvan Grove Cemetery, view looking north from entrance to Independence Park.
- 2 of 10 North eastern entrance to Sylvan Grove Cemetery, view looking west from Victory Boulevard.
- 3 of 10 Sylvan Grove Cemetery, view looking southwest from Victory Boulevard.
- 4 of 10 John F, Denker Plot, lot 45, view looking west from Victory Boulevard, Sylvan Grove Cemetery.
- 5 of 10 The monument of Ann Jones, a typical example of 19th century marble monuments in Sylvan Grove Cemetery.
- 6 of 10 Decker Family plot, viewed form Victory Boulevard, looking northwest.
- 7 of 10 Monument to Fritz Huttscher, inscribed in German. Example of late 19th century granite monuments, Sylvan Grove Cemetery.
- 8 of 10 David Decker plot, dated 1870. Example of generations of funerary art, and evolution in materials. View looking west, Sylvan Grove Cemetery.
- 9 of 10 Monument to Helen McGregor Joy, aged 2. Example of funerary art for children found in Sylvan Grove Cemetery.
- 10 of 10 Monument to Juliette Blanche. Example of evolution of funerary art and materials and an example of funerary art for children, Sylvan Grove Cemetery.





DENKER



DENKER
JOHN F. DENKER
SEPT. 2, 1820. — JAN. 27, 1889.
SOPHIE MEYER
HIS WIFE
JAN. 23, 1821. — OCT. 10, 1907.
WILLIAM DENKER
JULY 29, 1851. — FEB. 26, 1886.

LOT

45



ANN,

widow of

Abraham Jones,

died

Sept. 12. 1881.

A. 83 yrs. & 5 mos.

*Affliction sore long time she bore
Physicians aid was vain
Till God did please to take her home
And free her from her pain*



BECKER

MARY A.
WIFE OF
CHAS. W. BECKER
BORN
MAY 20 1861
DIED
AUG 10 1941

IN MEMORY
OF
CHAS. W. BECKER
BORN
MAY 20 1861
DIED
AUG 10 1941

MARGARET BECKER
BORN
MAY 20 1861
DIED
AUG 10 1941

HIER RUHT
MEIN EINZIGES KIND
FRITZ HÜTTSCHER
GEB. IN HAMBURG
DEN 1. NOV. 1875.
GEST. DEN 14. JULI
1889.



DAVID
DECKER

1870

MARY



SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
HELEN M^{RS} GREGOR
JOY.
BORN OCT 21 1846
DIED OCT 22 1848

ESTABLISHED
JULIETTE BLANCHE
Daughter of Louis G.
Henrietta B. Wood
born Sept. 11, 1881,
died July 9, 1890.
There is my only child
All that was left to me
What her father called her
I am to be.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Sylvan Grove Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Richmond

DATE RECEIVED: 7/10/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/04/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/19/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/25/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000540

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8.24.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places


RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

232 East 11th Street New York NY 10003
tel 212-614-9107 fax 212-614-9127 e-mail hdc@hdc.org

May 19, 2015

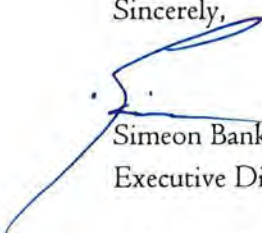
Daniel McEneny, Community Preservation Services Bureau – National Register & Outreach
NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Dan:

The Historic Districts Council is thrilled to support the Sylvan Grove Cemetery nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This proposed nomination is the result of Friends of Abandoned Cemeteries of Staten Island's (FACSI) dedication to the preservation of historic grave yards found in Richmond County. What began as a part of a colonial homestead, Sylvan Grove Cemetery expanded and evolved to become a New York City park in 1953. The multitude of interments and their respective stones reflect a diverse collection of funerary art over multiple centuries, all of which reflect the settlement patterns of Staten Island.

This National Register nomination form is a continued phase of HDC's work with FACSI as one of our priority community groups. In 2014, HDC chose historic Staten Island cemeteries as one of our Six to Celebrate, an initiative that guides communities in New York City to achieve successful neighborhood and community-based preservation campaigns.

Sincerely,



Simeon Bankoff
Executive Director

CC: Lynn Rogers, Executive Director, Friends of Abandoned Cemeteries of Staten Island

MAY 21 2015



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

RECEIVED 2280

JUL 10 2015

**Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service**

1 July 2015

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following three nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Holley Village Historic District, Orleans County
Park Avenue and State Street Historic District, Monroe County
Sylvan Grove Cemetery, Richmond County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office