

# Ute Cemetery

## Landscape Improvements Report

September 2001  
bha design, inc.

bha design, inc.  
4803 innovation drive  
fort collins, colorado 80525

## CONTENTS

Background

Purpose

Site Conditions

*Environment*

*Adjacencies*

*Site Analysis*

Overall Concept

*Circulation*

*Cemetery Entrance*

*Signage and Fencing*

*Memorials*

*Interpretive Program*

*Security*

*Maintenance*

Interpretive Sign Text

Recommendation for Future Use

Opinion of Probable Cost

Drawings

*Site Analysis*

*Conceptual Site Plan*

*Conceptual Grading*

*Entry Concept*

*Entry Signs*

*Memorial and Interpretive Sign*

*Text Font*

## **BACKGROUND**

Ute Cemetery was first used for burial in 1880 when a prospector died during his journey to Aspen; and as there was no cemetery yet in Aspen, he was buried at the base of Aspen Mountain just outside of the developing town. This cemetery was primarily used for burial of the indigent and working class citizens of Aspen. With no design plan, graves were located randomly throughout the site. Ute Cemetery was not officially named a public burial place and no plan was developed for its use. The land of the cemetery was most likely clear-cut prior to use as a burial ground as development of the growing mining town needed timber to build. Clear-cutting the mountainsides was typical of the time period to provide timber for mines, railroads, and other construction in pioneer towns. Ute Cemetery was used primarily from 1880 through 1940, with two known burials after 1940. Ute Cemetery most likely began its decline shortly after that as no more burials were taking place here, and few family members remained to care for the graves and the cemetery.

## **PURPOSE**

This report suggests new features to be added to Ute Cemetery to enhance the experience of the visitor while preserving the integrity of the historic nature of the cemetery and provides a long-term maintenance plan to care for the cemetery. This report is intended to establish the theme and character for new elements and the relative location for those elements in Ute Cemetery. It suggests materials and provides an opinion of probable cost for implementation of the new features in the cemetery. This report also provides guidelines for the future maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery. New features will emphasize the historic content and natural environment of the site. The new components will help provide a cohesive framework in the preservation and conservation of Ute Cemetery.

## **SITE CONDITIONS**

### *ENVIRONMENT*

Ute Cemetery is located in a mountain environment at an elevation of nearly 8,000 feet at the base of Aspen Mountain on Ute Avenue. The terrain is hilly with existing grades varying on the site from 7% to 26%. Existing vegetation is a mix of native montane shrubland and montane forest species. Primary plant species include gamble oak, serviceberry, mountain mahogany, aspen, Wood's Rose, and a few conifer trees. Numerous native grasses and wildflowers carpet the ground beneath the overstory and obscure the gravesites. There are excellent views of the surrounding mountains from within the site.

### *ADJACENCIES*

Ute Cemetery once lay at the outskirts of Aspen, but over time, development has surrounded the cemetery. Presently, the cemetery is bordered by residential lots to the north and west and Ute Park to the east. Ute Avenue and a public bicycle trail are located to the south of the cemetery. A parking area with space for four to five cars is located off of the bicycle trail adjacent to the cemetery. The cemetery is easily accessed by the public from both Ute Park and the bicycle trail.

### *SITE ANALYSIS*

The site has been neglected for many years and as a result the cemetery is densely overgrown. There is damage to graves stones and enclosures, and deterioration to rock retaining walls and wooden grave enclosures. Neglect has brought an unkempt and wild look to the cemetery. In some areas, the dense growth of plants has obscured or damaged graves.

The vegetation is primarily native, montane ecosystem plant species with a minimal amount of introduced plant material evident. The forest appears successional with young conifer trees growing in the shade the aspen groves. Over time the conifers may dominate the aspens in the

cemetery as the climax species. The fact that the cemetery has been neglected for half a century or longer has allowed the natural progression of plant growth to occur, which has resulted in a healthy forest. The introduced plant species identified are a mature lilac shrub at the Earley grave and yellow irises which have naturalized in and around many of the graves.

There are four entry points into the cemetery from the adjacent areas: one from Ute Avenue, two from Ute Park, and one from the residential area to the north. The primary entry is from Ute Avenue near the parking area. This entry is an unmarked, narrow break in the perimeter fence; there is no signage to indicate from the road or parking area that this is a cemetery. Visibility into the cemetery from the street and bicycle trail is good as the cemetery lies on a hill above the two. The accesses from Ute Park are from breaks in the perimeter fence. These, also, have no signage or indication that a cemetery is beyond the fence. From the park, the cemetery appears as a natural area and only those familiar with the site would know that the area beyond the fence is a cemetery. The access from the residences appears little used, and is probably only used by people living in the adjacent neighborhood to access the bicycle trail or Ute Park.

A split rail perimeter fence borders the cemetery on the west, south, and east sides. The residential side on the north is unfenced. The lack of fencing on the north side makes the boundary between the cemetery and the residential lots unclear, and there is a possibility of encroachment by the residential properties. The fence is in poor repair, with some sections falling down and with broken rails. At the northwest corner of the fence, adjacent to a residence, there is a wooden sign identifying the cemetery. This is the only sign on the site. The sign is plywood painted with black letters.

UTE CEMETERY  
THIS IS  
CONSECRATED GROUND  
WALKERS WELCEME (*sic*)  
PLEASE NO HORSES  
OR WHEELED VEHICLES

Circulation within the cemetery is unplanned and there are several random footpaths. The paths are roughly one-foot wide, compacted soil “cow-paths”. The primary path connects Ute Park to the bicycle path and appears to be a short cut connecting the park and the bicycle trail on the south. Secondary paths are located near the Civil War veterans’ graves; and an overgrown path leads from the residential lots to the north. Paths are not universally accessible and do not offer opportunities for people with different levels of mobility.

*(See Site Analysis, page 27.)*

## **OVERALL CONCEPT**

The project components in this report are intended to emphasize both the historic nature of the cemetery and the mountain setting in which it is located. It is intended that the mountain setting and informal character be emphasized, and any newly constructed elements be sensitively designed and located with this environment. New features are meant to appear modern so as not to be mistaken as historic in the cemetery, but to contain references to the cemetery’s past in the use of materials. Stone, brick, and wood are suggested materials so as to be cohesive with the materials used historically in Ute Cemetery. The design intent is also to minimize the impact on the natural environment of Ute Cemetery.

The project components areas are discussed further:

- Circulation
- Cemetery Entrance
- Signage and Fencing
- Memorials
- Interpretive Program
- Security
- Maintenance

## ***CIRCULATION***

### *Intent:*

- To improve circulation in Ute Cemetery through a planned trail that provides meaningful opportunities to those visiting the cemetery.
- To provide access between Ute Park and the bicycle trail.
- To provide a trail that gives visitors a diverse view of the cemetery.
- To provide universal access to the cemetery.

### *Ideas and Elements:*

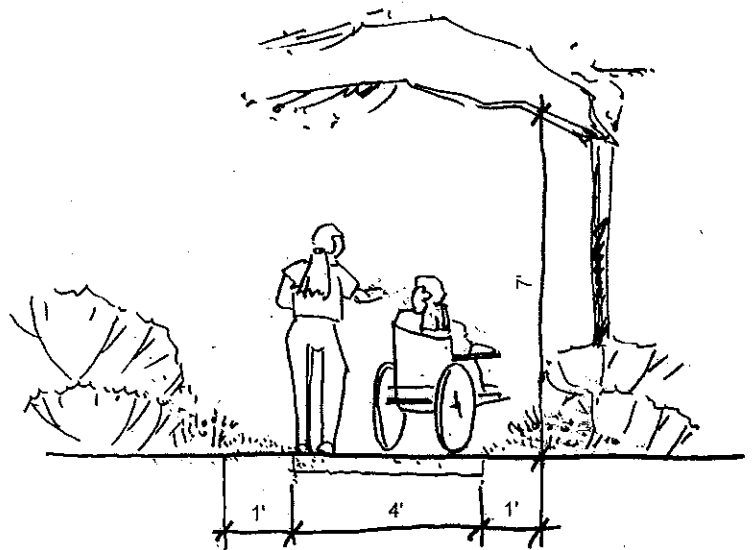
- The trail surface should fit in aesthetically with the mountain setting and rustic character of the cemetery.
- The trail surface and grades should meet the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines for accessibility.
- Some vegetation should be removed to provide better visibility to graves from the trail.
- A 5% maximum grade for the trail is ideal, but up to 8% will be permitted where grading will negatively impact a grave.
- The trail should be designed to accommodate historic or interpretive self-guided tours.
- The trail should provide an opportunity for future uses such as a plant or nature walk.

The trail will have two sections, one a connection between Ute Park and the bicycle trail on Ute Avenue, and second a loop in the western half of the cemetery where a majority of the graves are concentrated. The trail is intended to provide opportunities to view the variety of graves in Ute Cemetery with minimal impact on the graves themselves. Interpretive markers will be placed at regular intervals along the trail to offer insight into the history and natural character of the site. The trail surfacing will be handicap accessible while still remaining rustic through the use of a crusher fines surface. Location of the trail takes into consideration: slope of the trail surface, interesting features / distinct graves, views, and impact on gravesites.

### Trail Guidelines for ADA Accessibility

The Americans with Disabilities Act has standard accessibility guidelines for newly constructed trails in outdoor areas. The accessibility guidelines state that all newly designed and constructed pedestrian trails shall be accessible and comply with the guidelines set forth in section 16 of the Americans with Disabilities Act. There are exceptions to this rule, as stated in section 16.1.1 (1) *Where compliance would cause substantial harm to cultural, historic, religious, or significant natural features or characteristics.*

For this project, the survey conducted by Louis H. Buettner in 1999 was used in determining grave locations and existing slopes on the site. Site visits indicate that the survey team did not locate a number of graves due to the overgrown vegetation in the cemetery. The trail location shown in the Conceptual Site Plan (page 28) is a conceptual layout of the trail. We recommend that the trail alignment be laid out in the field by a landscape architect in order to minimize the impact to gravesites. A conceptual grading plan (page 29) shows potential grading for the trail. Grading should be finalized after the trail is staked in the field. The trails for Ute Cemetery are designed in keeping with the spirit of the ADA guidelines, but in order to not destroy graves the grades on the trail may exceed the recommended 5% maximum grade outlined by the ADA. In addition, to limit erosion on the trail, benching may be necessary in some locations to direct water runoff off of the trail surface.



*Typical trail cross-section.*



To the degree possible, trails should meet accessibility standards. The following are the minimum requirements for the Ute Cemetery trails.

- **Trail Width:** The minimum tread width shall be 48 inches wide, with an exception of 32 inches in width where construction of the trail will negatively impact a gravesite. The understory shall be cleared a distance of 1 foot on both sides of trail. Trees and shrubs shall be cut flush with the ground with no protruding stumps. Obstacles (ie. rocks) larger than 2 inches in height shall be removed from the trail surface.
- **Surface:** The trail surface shall be firm and stable. Crusher fines (finely crushed granite), solidly compacted shall be used as the trail surface.
- **Passing space** is not required on this trail, as the trail length does not exceed 1000' on either the loop trail or the trail to the Ute Park.
- **Cross Slope:** The maximum cross slope shall be 5%.
- **Running Slope:** ADA requires that trails be 5% or less grade for any length. Due to the existing slopes within the cemetery, grading the trail at this slope in all location would negatively impact gravesites. The trails for Ute Cemetery shall not exceed a slope of 8%. Resting intervals shall be provided at distances no greater than 200 feet apart where the trail is at an 8% grade. Resting areas shall be widened portions of trail that is 96 inches in width. Resting areas shall have a maximum slope of 5% in any direction.
- **Protruding Objects:** There shall be a minimum 7 foot clear head room on the trail. Tree limbs or shrub branches that protrude onto the trail shall be pruned if they are lower than 7 feet.

## TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

### Trail Layout and Flagging

Trail layout involves marking the exact trail route, on the ground, so that construction can begin. The conceptual trail route shown in on page 28 should be followed generally. Exact location of the complete trail shall be marked with brightly colored flagging. Brightly colored stakes or flag pins shall be placed frequently enough to make the route clearly visible. Place flagging every 20 to 50 feet so that the construction crew will be able to see the trail location. Once the complete trail is marked, the route should be walked from both directions to check visibility, aesthetics and all featured items. Flagging will be moved if necessary to correct the location to meet the criteria established for the location of the trail.

The following guidelines will help determine the best layout for the trail:

- **Bend the trail** around obstacles such as large trees or graves.
- **Vary direction**, with frequent gentle curves and to avoid long straight trail sections.
- **Space curves** far enough apart to discourage short-cutting between curves.
- **Blend with the surroundings** as much as possible, providing opportunities for trail users to experience the diversity of the cemetery and the mountain setting.
- **Provide resting areas** and opportunities for scenic vistas.
- **Follow contours on slopes** as much as possible; otherwise, keep trail grades less than 8%.

### Clearing and preparation

The initial preparation of the trail involves clearing trees and brush out of the trail right-of-way. Pine trees and other plants that will not sprout from stumps or roots can be cut flush with the ground line. Stumps and roots of plants that will sprout should be dug out of the ground if such excavation can be accomplished without substantially disrupting the trail surface. Remove cut

materials from the cemetery. Mechanized equipment should not be used in the cemetery because of the threat of damage to graves.

### **Surfacing the Trail**

The following is a general method of constructing a crusher fines trail. At the time of trail construction, the manufacturer of the crusher fines should be consulted for the appropriate construction method.

Crusher fines are small particles of crushed rock. To make a good trail surfacing material, they should have a range of particle size from a fine dust up to a maximum particle size of 3/8". A crusher fines trail should remain stable for many years with proper subgrade preparation and drainage. A crusher fines trail will provide the desired rustic character with a durable surface. The natural gravel-like surface will blend in to the mountain setting of Ute Cemetery. When properly constructed, crusher fines trails meet ADA standards for accessible trail surfacing.

The crushed rock must have adequate fines and some natural binders in order to cement the particles together after the fines are moistened, compacted, and allowed to dry. The fines, when laid to a depth of 4 to 5 inches, should bind to each other in a consolidated slab that is porous yet resistant to water falling on the surface. Particles sizes for crusher fines should be 3/8" or less in size.

Crusher fines for Ute Cemetery shall be gray granite. It is recommended that the City purchase extra crusher fines at the time of construction of the trails, in the event that the crusher fines surface needs to be patched in the future, so that the patching material matches the trail surface. To fulfill guidelines for accessible trails, lime or another stabilizing agent should be added to the crusher fines mix to make the surface harder and smoother.

The trail to be surfaced should have a trench excavated to a depth of 8" or depth necessary for construction of the trail. The trench should be cut slightly wider than the desired trail width.

Adequate excavated material should be placed alongside the cut edges of the trail to use later as backfill. A non-degradable geotextile fabric is laid in the trench to prevent the crusher fines from mixing with the subgrade. After the fabric is placed an aggregate base is placed and then the crusher fines. The crusher fines should be spread to a depth necessary to meet the desired compaction thickness.

After the initial smoothing and compacting, the trail edges are backfilled and dressed smooth. The trail surfaces should be re-compacted with rollers or vibratory compactors. During the compaction process, the crusher fines should have some moisture applied to help the material to cement together. Disturbed edges of the trail should be raked smooth and seeded with a native grass mix.

The existing trails in the cemetery should be revegetated and reclaimed. The areas should be reseeded with a native grass mix and small wooden signs that state "REVEGETATION, DO NOT ENTER" should be placed where people can see them.

### ***CEMETERY ENTRANCE***

#### ***Intent:***

- To create an appropriate entry experience to Ute Cemetery.
- To provide identity to the cemetery through signage.
- Accommodate universal pedestrian circulation.

#### ***Ideas and Elements:***

- Create an entry that is visible from Ute Avenue and the bicycle trail.
- Utilize a handicap accessible surface while still fitting with the rustic nature of the cemetery.
- Provide a place to sit.
- Provide trash receptacles.
- Create a welcoming impression at the entry to invite people into the cemetery.

- Accommodate the historic designation sign and cemetery regulations sign in a manner that is visible yet not obtrusive to the experience.
- Use materials appropriate to the historic context of the cemetery.
- Emphasize the mountain setting using native vegetation and stone.

The main entry into Ute Cemetery will be relocated to be more directly across from the existing parking area in order to be easily seen from the street. The entry will open into a clearing in the forest where the memorial for the unmarked graves is located. Crusher fines will be used to surface the entry space providing an accessible surface that is in character with the mountain setting. River rock cobble will outline the entry space, reminiscent of the cobble used to line some of the graves in Ute Cemetery. A bench and a trash receptacle will be located across from the memorial to accommodate visitors. Existing trees and shrubs should be maintained where possible and additional planting of native Wood's Rose and wildflowers will enhance the entry. *(See page 30 for Entry Concept drawing.)*

## ***SIGNAGE AND FENCING***

### ***Intent:***

- To provide security to the cemetery by minimizing access points.
- To reduce encroachment from neighboring residences by defining the cemetery boundary.
- To provide identity to the cemetery through distinct signage at the entries and within the cemetery.
- To create a family of signs to unify the new features within the cemetery.

### ***Ideas and Elements:***

- Materials used in the signs will be historically accurate to cohesively tie the old with the new.
- Signs will be of a scale that is appropriate to the setting and will not dominate the views.

- Fencing will be transparent to allow views into and out of the cemetery.

There are several levels of signage in the cemetery: the entry signs, regulation sign, and interpretive sign. Signage is designed as a family, with materials and finishing to tie the signs together. Stone and brick will be the materials used for the signs. The same text font will be used on all proposed signs. The interpretive signs will be discussed in a following section.



*Brick and rusticated stone blocks of the Wheeler Opera House.*

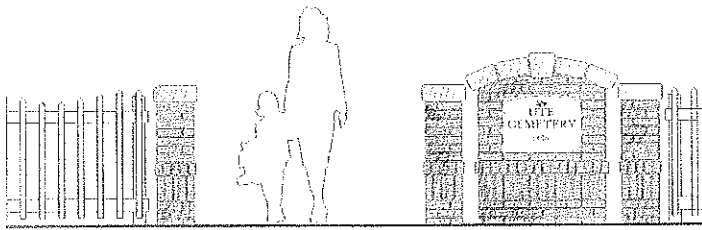


*Grave enclosure using wooden picket fencing.*

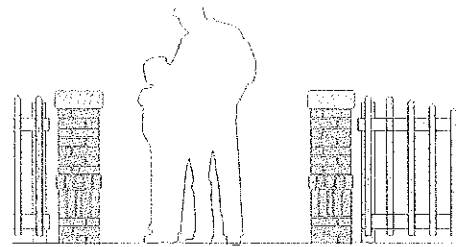
Brick and sandstone will be the primary materials in the entry signs. Columns and a sign wall will flank the main entry to the cemetery off of Ute Avenue and provide identity to Ute Cemetery. The materials are derived from the historic materials used in the cemetery and in Aspen. The red brick of the columns and sign is found in the brick caretaker's building in the northwest corner of the cemetery, and the rusticated sandstone caps of the columns and sign are derived from the stone used in the Wheeler Opera House. A simple limestone sign face will have the cemetery name and date carved into its face.

Two columns, indicating that something special lies beyond the entry, will mark the entry from Ute Park.

The fencing design is derived from the wooden enclosures found surrounding some of the graves in the cemetery. The fence will be a cedar picket fence with an undulating pattern to the pickets. (See page 31 for more detail on entry signs.)



*Primary entry into Ute Cemetery*



*Entry from Ute Park*

## **MEMORIALS**

### *Intent:*

- To provide a place to honor those buried in unmarked graves.
- To provide a place to honor the men who fought in the Civil War.

### *Ideas and Elements:*

- The two memorials will tie in with the family of signs in materials and finishing.
- Create a memorial fitting with the character of the cemetery.
- The two memorials will be similar in character.
- The memorials will be an appropriate scale to Ute Cemetery and fit unobtrusively into their surroundings.

The memorials will tie into the sign family by being constructed of stone. The surface of the memorial will have a rusticated finish, similar to the caps on the sign columns. The memorial to honor those that are buried in unmarked graves will be a large, dark-colored slab of granite lying horizontally on the ground. The memorial will be horizontal rather than vertical in order to allow those in wheel chairs to read and appreciate the memorial, as well as to not block views in

the cemetery. The memorial will have a height such that a person in a wheel chair can read the names inscribed on the top surface. The base of the memorial will be surrounded by large river cobble. The names of those buried in Ute Cemetery in an unmarked grave shall be inscribed, alphabetically, on the surface of the stone. The text font will be High Tower text with a ¾" font height. The date that the memorial is dedicated should also be inscribed on the surface, so that there is no confusion of when the memorial was placed in the cemetery. Native wildflowers are to be planted in front of the memorial as an accent.

The Civil War memorial will be similar in character, but smaller in scale, also constructed of dark-colored granite and lying horizontally. The Civil War memorial will be located along the trail near the veteran's graves. The memorial will be placed below the hill where the veterans are buried, allowing visitors to look up and see the two rows of Civil War Veterans. Names of each veteran shall be inscribed on the surface of the stone, alphabetically, in the High Tower font, ¾" in height.

*(See page 32 for detail of memorials.)*

## ***INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM***

### *Intent:*

- To provide information about the historic nature of Ute Cemetery.
- To provide information about the unique environment in which the cemetery is located.

### *Ideas and Elements:*

- The interpretive signs will be part the family of signs created for Ute Cemetery.
- To fit the signs seamlessly into the natural setting while also being visible from the trail.
- Large boulders will be used for the signs with inscriptions carved into the face.

The interpretive program will provide educational information to visitors about the history and environment of the Ute Cemetery. Six interpretive signs are proposed for the cemetery.



Conceptual locations are shown on the Conceptual Site Plan, page 27. Final locations should be field-checked at the time of implementation to verify that the interpretive sign text is relating to what is being identified. Possible sign text is provided in this report. Text should be verified for accuracy and appropriateness before implementation.

The following are the subject of the six signs proposed in this report:

1. History of the Ute Cemetery
2. Identification of Unmarked Graves
3. Types of Burial Markers in Ute Cemetery
4. Veterans of the Civil War
5. Ecosystem of the Ute Cemetery
6. Use and Significance of the Serviceberry

*Potential text for these signs is on pages 25-26.*

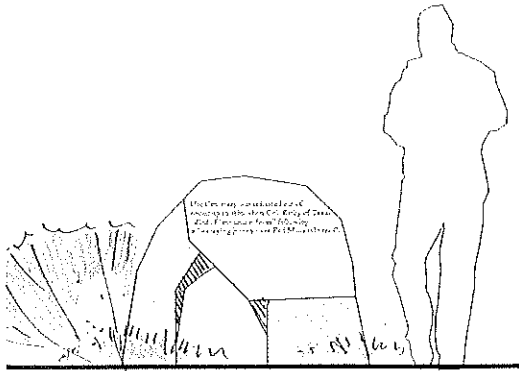


*Concept for interpretive signs. A boulder inscribed with text.*

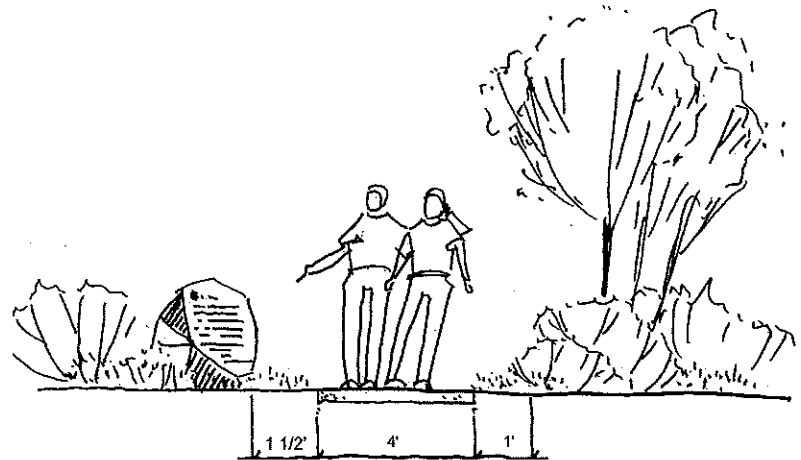
The interpretive signs are designed as large boulders with text inscribed on a flat surface of the boulder. Stone is chosen as the material for the signs because it ties in with the memorials and the signs themselves will blend into the rustic character and the natural environment. The interpretive boulders are to have an 18 to 24 inch setback from the edge of the trail. This allows them to be visible without impeding movement on the trails. The first

interpretive boulder is to be located within view of the cemetery entry. Interpretive markers should be located at intervals close enough to sustain interest, but not too close where people intrude on one another.

The height of the stones should be gauged by the ability of the text to be read by both someone standing and someone in a wheelchair. Text height for the information should be 1-inch and use both upper and lower case. The font will be High Tower text with a 1-inch height.



*Concept of Interpretive boulder.*



*Relationship of boulder to the trail.*

## ***SECURITY***

### ***Intent:***

- To protect the cultural features of the cemetery from damage and vandalism.

### ***Ideas and Elements:***

- Provide a perimeter fence to limit access points into the cemetery.
- Possible cemetery regulations.
- Visibility into the cemetery.

The discussion of security concerns two opposite interests: the advantage of keeping people out of the cemetery, and that of the advantage of encouraging people to spend time there. In the past, Ute Cemetery has been the target of vandalism and theft. A neglected site often encourages

vandals by appearing to be unimportant and forgotten, while a maintained site creates the image of being cared for. Currently, there are no security measures taking place for the cemetery.

A transparent perimeter fence will allow both views into and out of the cemetery, which can prohibit people from acting inappropriately inside if they know there is the potential they will be seen. The primary security measure we are recommending is weekly visits to the cemetery by Parks staff. A staff member should visit Ute Cemetery weekly and report any damage or vandalism immediately so that repair and / or other measures can be taken to rectify the situation.

Controlling activities in Ute Cemetery may be a benefit, and a sign outlining those activities that are acceptable and those activities that may cause damage to graves and gravestones may be desired. Curtailing activity altogether is not appropriate and may have the negative result of individuals violating the regulations to spite those in authority.

We propose that regulations be implemented only if use of the cemetery warrants such regulations. If visitors are respectful and are not violating the integrity of the cemetery or cultural features, then posted regulations may not be needed.

The following are some suggestions for regulations the City of Aspen may choose to impose on Ute Cemetery if necessary:

1. No wheeled vehicles, other than those for disabled accessibility, are permitted.
2. The City of Aspen is not responsible for injury to visitors.
3. Limit gravestone rubbing to sound stones only.
4. Do not make marks on the stone when making a stone rubbing.
5. Do not use a wire brush to clean stones. Do not remove lichens or mosses from stones.
6. Do not press hard when rubbing.

7. All tape and paper must be removed from the stones and all rubbish will be disposed of properly.
8. Report any concerns or inquiries to (*name of department*) at (*telephone number*).

The location for the regulations sign has been identified at the entrance off of Ute Avenue, next to the historic designation sign.

## **MAINTENANCE**

### *Intent:*

- The intent of the maintenance plan is not to create a pastoral, manicured cemetery, but to provide the respect the people buried in Ute Cemetery deserve and to offer an historic look at the past. Part of the historic nature of the cemetery is the natural processes of re-forestation and succession that has occurred over the years since the last grave was dug.
- To prevent further neglect and deterioration.

### *Ideas and Elements:*

- To prevent further deterioration to the grave markers and to the unmarked gravesites, while enhancing the cemetery for visitors by improving circulation, visibility, and safety.
- Good maintenance, in this instance, does not mean creating a manicured appearance. Part of the unique character of Ute Cemetery is the wild growth of grasses, wildflowers, and trees, and these should remain.
- To maintain the site with the least amount of intervention and degradation to the cemetery and its environment as possible.
- The guiding philosophies of maintaining Ute Cemetery are preservation and conservation.
- ***Preservation.*** *To maintain the site essentially as it is, neither upgrading nor permitting deterioration of the existing historic features. To protect and save existing cultural features.*

- **Conservation.** *To actively intervene to prevent further deterioration of site elements and historic or cultural features. Conservation involves the stabilization and protection from deterioration and loss of objects of historic or cultural value.*

### **Recommendations for Vegetation Removal**

Upon analysis of the site, due to the dense growth of trees and shrubs, it is difficult to write detailed recommendations for removal of specific vegetation at individual graves. We recommend vegetation that is to be removed be tagged on site by a landscape architect. Tagging trees and shrubs for removal would remove any vagaries that written guidelines would introduce into what is appropriate to remove

The following are specific guidelines for maintaining the cemetery once the initial vegetation removal has been completed. The guidelines also apply to the method of removal for the initial clearing of the cemetery.

### **Removal of Woody Vegetation**

- Naturally occurring trees and shrubs (ie. aspens, conifers, serviceberry, and oak) whose roots, branches, or trunks are growing in locations that could harm or dislodge grave markers, stone coping, fencing (wood or metal), or stone retaining walls should be removed.
- Trees whose limbs are growing low and are adjacent to a grave marker or trail shall be limbed up so that the grave is visible and people are not impeded in viewing the grave.
- Trees or shrubs growing directly in a marked grave should be removed with care, avoiding disturbance of any human remains in the grave.
- Provide 18-inch perimeter around marked graves clear of woody vegetation.
- Trees and shrubs should be manually cut flush with the ground. Avoid disturbing human remains during tree and shrub removal. Motorized equipment, such as a backhoe or bobcat, should not be used in plant removal.

- Thin shrubs which do not threaten to dislodge or damage grave markers, stone coping, fencing, or stone retaining walls to provide better pedestrian access and visibility in the cemetery.
- Remove dead trees (both fallen and standing) and remove dead branches.
- Graves which are unmarked by stone coping, river cobble edging or other markings shall be left as they are found, including trees and shrubs growing within the grave itself.
- Trees or shrubs intentionally planted shall be left intact, even when the tree or shrub lies within the 18-inch perimeter clear zone. Trees or shrubs may be pruned to prevent damage to grave markers or when they impede pedestrian movement.

### **Herbaceous Vegetation Removal**

- Clear dead plant material from grave markers (including footstones and base stones), stone coping, fencing (wood and metal), and stone retaining walls to allow these features to be visible. Dense foliage against a grave marker can keep stone, particularly sandstone, damp which may then accelerate deterioration.
- No commercial herbicides should be used to remove plant material. Herbicides may damage the stonework of grave markers.
- Avoid mowing in the cemetery, mowers may damage or dislodge grave markers. In addition, a manicured appearance is not desired for Ute Cemetery, the natural progression of vegetation growth is a part of the historic character of the site.
- If necessary to trim grasses, a string trimmer with a nylon whip is acceptable by grave markers. Care should be used to minimize the whip hitting stones as that may cause scarring of the stones. Hand trimming is a preferable method of trimming grasses.

### **General Landscape Maintenance**

- No herbicides should be used in any part of the cemetery as they may damage stonework.
- Do not use fertilizers to maintain or enhance plant health, including on plants intentionally planted. Ingredients in fertilizers may damage stonework.

- Do not move grave markers, stone coping, fencing, or stone retaining walls to accommodate tree or shrub growth. Trees or shrubs should be pruned or removed.
- Remove dead trees, dead tree limbs, and fallen trees yearly.
- Remove invasive, non-native plant species (other than species intentionally planted at grave sites).
- Other than specified restoration work to gravestones, do not move or remove stone cobbles, stone fragments or wood posts. Cobbles that appear random may actually mark a grave and moving them removes the indication of the grave.
- Secure loose pickets of wooden enclosures to prevent further deterioration. Secure wooden enclosures only if doing so will not further harm integrity of the enclosure.
- Pickets, posts, and rails from collapsed wooden enclosures should be left on the ground where they fall, and not picked up and removed.
- Reset stones fallen from rock retaining walls. Do not mortar.

### **Trail Maintenance**

Without regular maintenance, trails may become overgrown and disappear in a few years. Maintenance efforts will be minimized if done annually. Yearly maintenance should be conducted in the late spring or early summer. Sprouting shrubs will be more easily controlled if cut in late spring or early summer, after they have leafed out and when starch reserves in the roots are at their lowest level.

This is general year-to-year maintenance to ensure that the trail remains in good condition, and is safe to visitors.

- Remove trees and shrubs from a 1-foot wide clear zone on both sides of the trail. Cut trees and shrubs flush with the ground, above ground stumps are not desirable.
- Prune trees to maintain a 7-foot high minimum clearance along the trail.
- Remove dead trees or limbs that may fall on visitors.

- As needed, remove hazardous objects and tripping obstacles larger than 2 inches from the trail.
- Pick up litter and other debris.
- Inspect trail structures (trail surfaces, signs, benches, trash receptacles) and repair as necessary.
- Replacing trail surfacing as necessary.
- Empty trash receptacles weekly.
- Clean out erosion control structures (if any).

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE USE**

Success of the preservation of Ute Cemetery depends partially on the acceptance and adoption of the cemetery by the neighbors and the public. Through education the cemetery can be integrated into the community, and the community will protect and maintain the site rather than allow deterioration and vandalism to occur.

In addition to interpretive markers located in the cemetery the following are some suggestions to offer educational opportunities to the public. Most are geared toward school-aged children, but could be done by any age group. Field trips by children reinforce the fact that cemeteries are cultural resources and should be treated as outdoor museums, to be respected and learned from, not feared or neglected. The following are a few suggestions to integrate the cemetery into the public awareness.

**A nature walk** identifying plant species found in the cemetery. Ute Cemetery offers a wide variety of native plant species and a healthy montane ecosystem. A brochure identifying plants and keyed to markers located throughout the cemetery could educate about native plants. Plants used by Native Americans or pioneers could be discussed.



**A scavenger hunt** to see who can find the oldest grave or the most recent grave; a grave with a specific poem on it; the grave with a lamb; or the grave with the youngest or oldest person buried. Or, there could be a hunt to see who can identify the most unmarked graves.

**A history lesson** in which students research individuals buried in the graveyard. What were the occupations of the people buried in Ute Cemetery? Are there any family relations of those buried still living in Aspen? Why are there so many unmarked graves in Ute Cemetery? Or, integrate the graveyard into the study of the Civil War. What regiments were the soldiers buried in Ute Cemetery a part of? What battles did they participate in?

**A sociology lesson** in which students gather data on the people buried in Ute Cemetery. Students may compare the number of deaths between given years; the median age at death; the number of deaths due to accident or disease; the representation of particular surnames; or the representation of motifs or poems found on grave markers.

**A geology lesson** studying the types of stone used as grave markers and identifying the origin of the stone. Is the stone local or from another region? Why are certain types of stone used over others?

## INTERPRETIVE SIGN TEXT

### *History of Ute Cemetery*

Ute Cemetery was initiated out of necessity in 1880 when Col. Kirby of Texas died of “mountain fever” following a “wearying journey over the Red Mountain trail”. Ute Cemetery became the final resting place for the working class and the poor of Aspen – the builders, miners, millers, mailmen, and housewives and their children.

### *Unmarked Graves*

Numerous unmarked graves are scattered throughout Ute Cemetery. Many of those are unmarried miners and Aspen’s poorest residents – those who could not pay for a grave marker. XXX unmarked graves have been identified, some are modestly marked by cobble or rock, and others are identified only by the shallow depression in the ground.

*(Verify number of unmarked graves with the report by Historian Ron Sladek.)*

### *Grave Markers*

A variety of methods were used to mark graves. The wealth of the family determined the type of marker they were able to erect. Some graves had the traditional carved stone marker, but others used wooden markers and enclosures, cobble or cut stone edging, and a few had metal or wire enclosures. The poorest often had no markers at all.

### *Civil War Veterans*

After the Civil War, some men went west to seek their fortunes. Some of those men came to the silver mines of Aspen. The 37 Civil War Veterans were buried in two lines, creating the impression that they are in battle formation at the crest of the hill.

### ***Environment***

The healthy montane forest you see today was bare ground 100 years ago. When Aspen was a young mining town, the mountains were clear-cut of trees to provide timber for the houses and shops, the new railroad, and the silver mines surrounding the town.

### ***The Serviceberry***

Serviceberries are one of the more abundant shrubs in Ute Cemetery. Some folktales say in the early summer when the serviceberry flowers bloomed foretold the right time for a funeral service. The ground was soft enough to dig for a burial and conduct the service— thus the name, *serviceberry*.

bha design, inc.  
4803 Innovation Dr.  
Ft. Collins, Co. 80525  
(970) 223-7577  
FAX: (970) 223-1827

Project **Ute Cemetery**

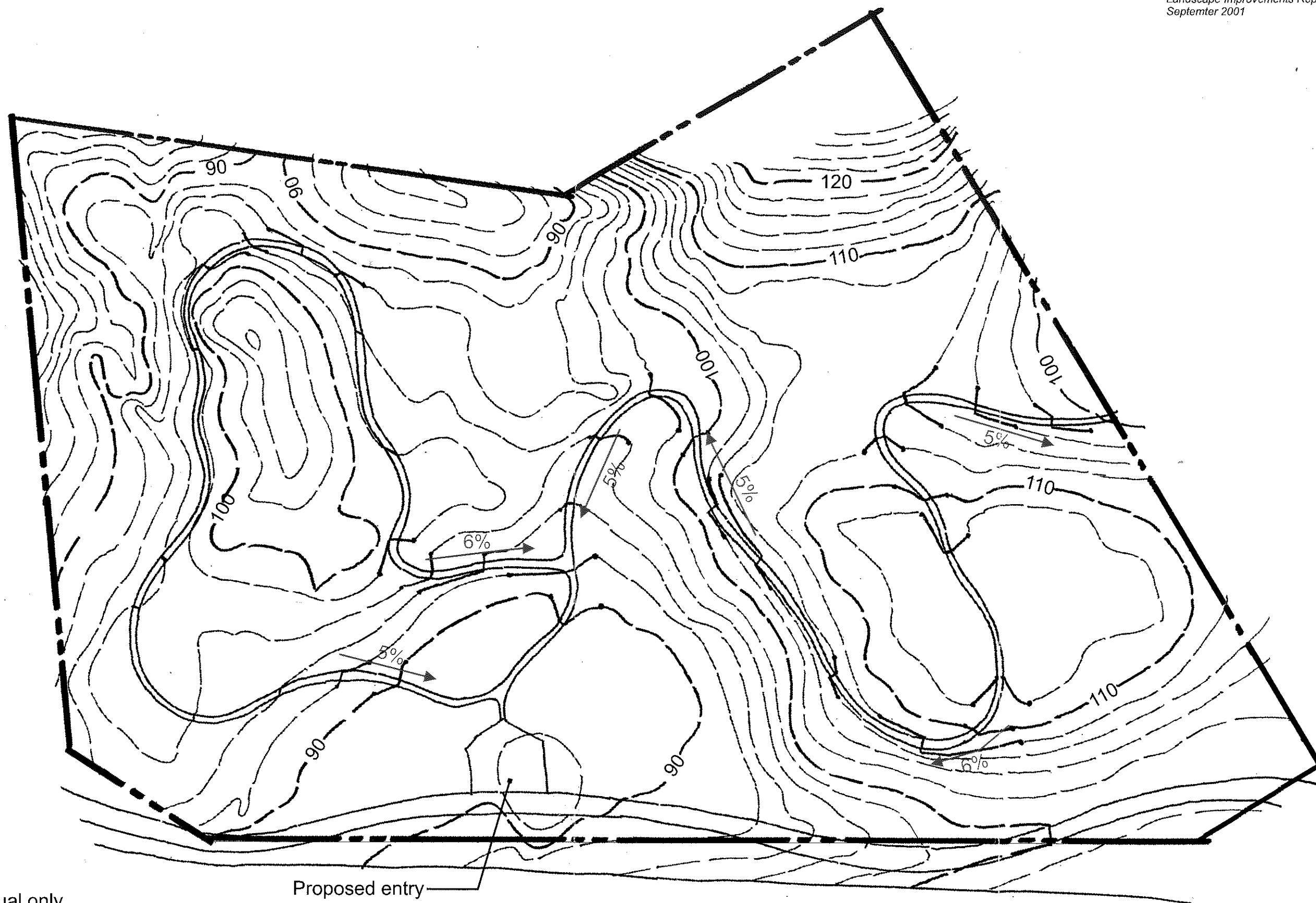
Date: September 20, 2001

By: ES

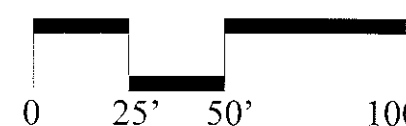
Check: RS

Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total
<b>Demolition</b>				
Site Clearing & Vegetation Removal	1	allowance	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
<b>Circulation Improvements</b>				
Grading	434	cy	\$3.00	\$1,302.00
Crusher Fines Trail	6040	sf	\$2.00	\$12,080.00
Restoration & Reseeding (Exst. Trail)	7340	sf	\$0.25	\$1,835.00
Seed (New Trail)	2620	sf	\$0.15	\$393.00
<b>Signage &amp; Fencing</b>				
Cedar Fence	1835	lf	\$30.00	\$55,050.00
Columns	5	ea	\$2,500.00	\$12,500.00
Sign Wall	1	ea	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Regulation Sign	1	ea	\$500.00	\$500.00
<b>Memorials</b>				
Unmarked Graves Memorial	1	ea	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Civil War Veterans Memorial	1	ea	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
River Rock Cobble	152	sf	\$1.00	\$152.00
<b>Interpretive Markers</b>				
Interpretive Marker	6	ea	\$1,500.00	\$9,000.00
<b>Cemetery Entrance</b>				
Bench	1	ea	\$800.00	\$800.00
Trash Receptacle	1	ea	\$600.00	\$600.00
Shrubs	6	ea	\$45.00	\$270.00
Perennials	50	ea	\$10.00	\$500.00
Crusher Fines Surface	1000	sf	\$2.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Consultant</b>				
Labor - Field Work	40	hours	\$70.00	\$2,800.00
Reimbursable Expenses (travel, food lodging)	1	allowance	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>				<b>\$173,782.00</b>
<b>CONTINGENCY</b>			20%	<b>\$34,756.40</b>
<b>TOTAL THIS SHEET</b>				<b>\$208,538.40</b>

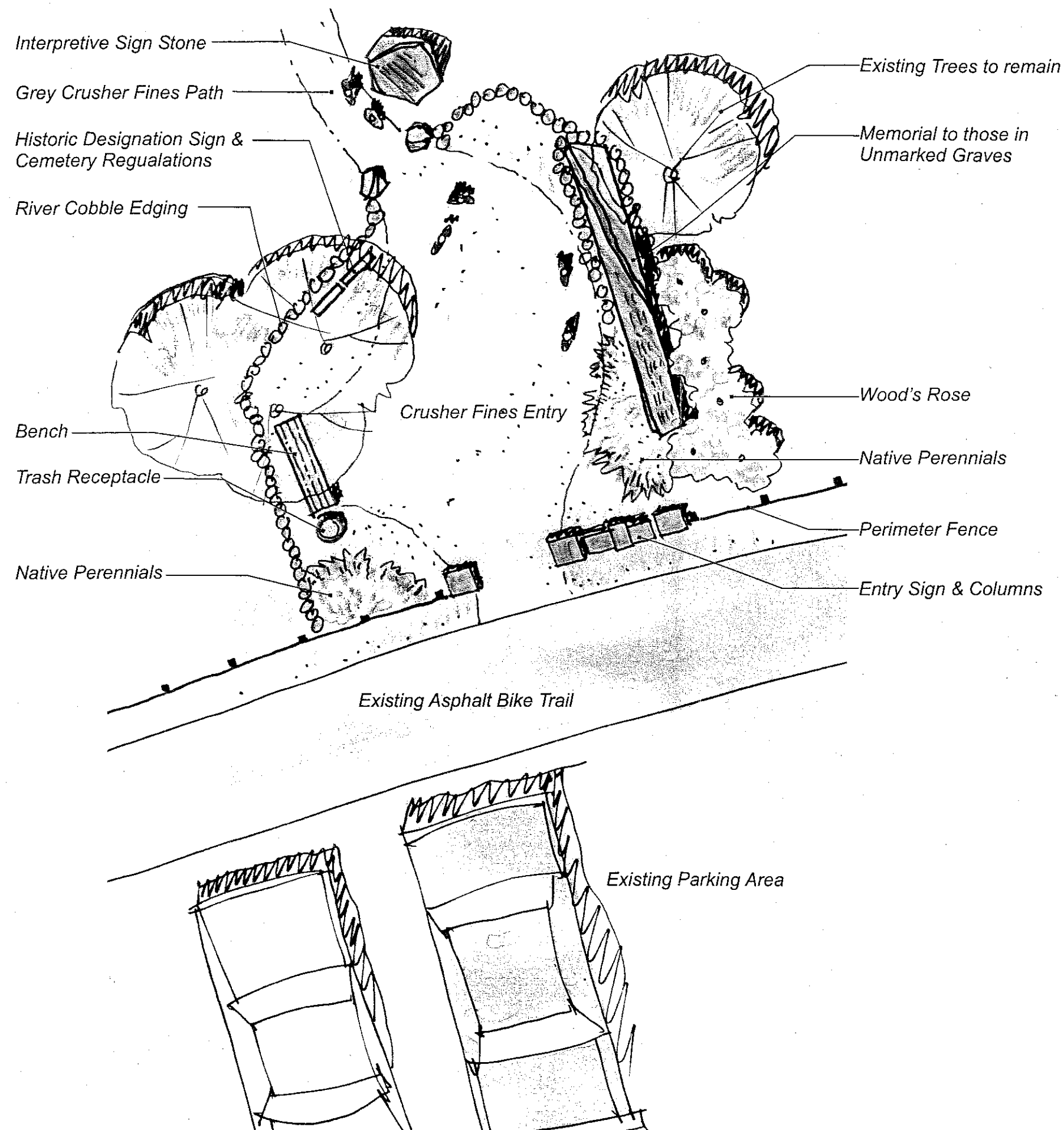
- Note:**
1. Cost of Memorials and Interpretive Markers are contingent upon type of stone used and number of names / words inscribed.
  2. Site Clearing and Vegetation Removal does not include Consultant fees to field-tag trees for removal.
  3. Site Clearing and Vegetation Removal is based upon a contractor conducting the work, cost may vary if work done by City Parks staff.
  4. Because of the sensitivity of the site, heavy equipment is not appropriate for grading, trail construction, or site clearing.
  5. Consultant fees do not include additional design work.



**Note:**  
Grading is conceptual only.  
Actual grading will need to be  
done following field-staking of trail  
location.

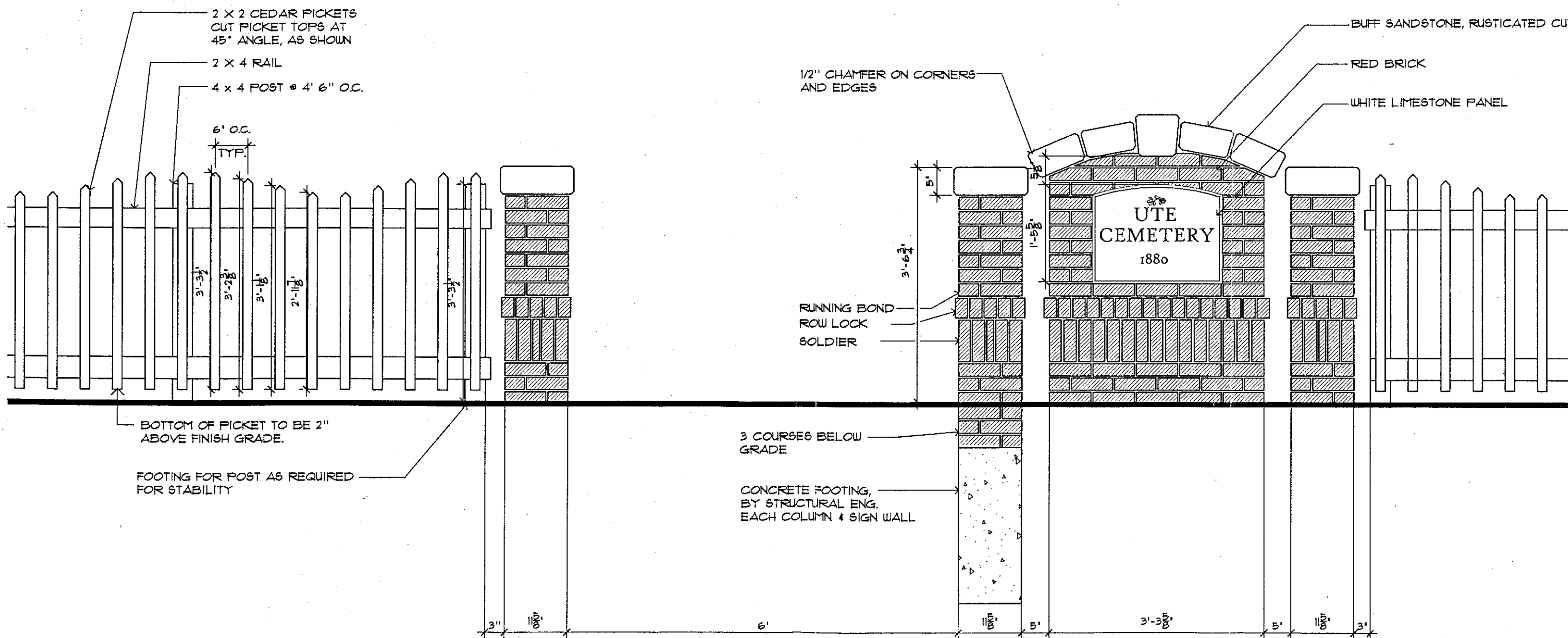
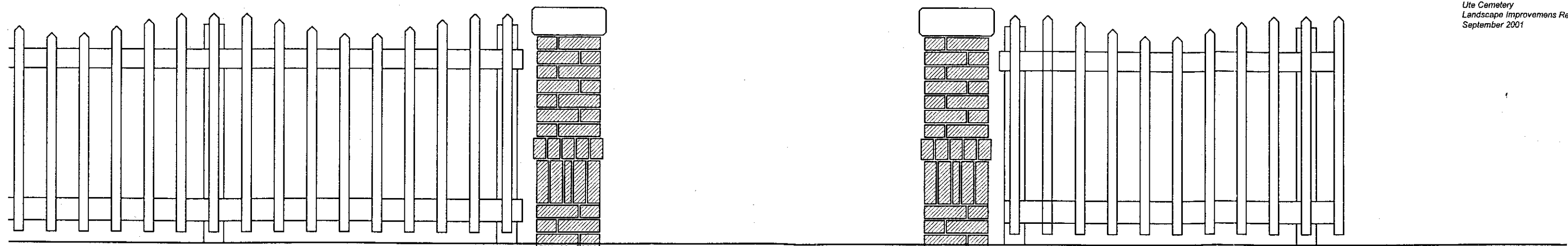


Conceptual Grading

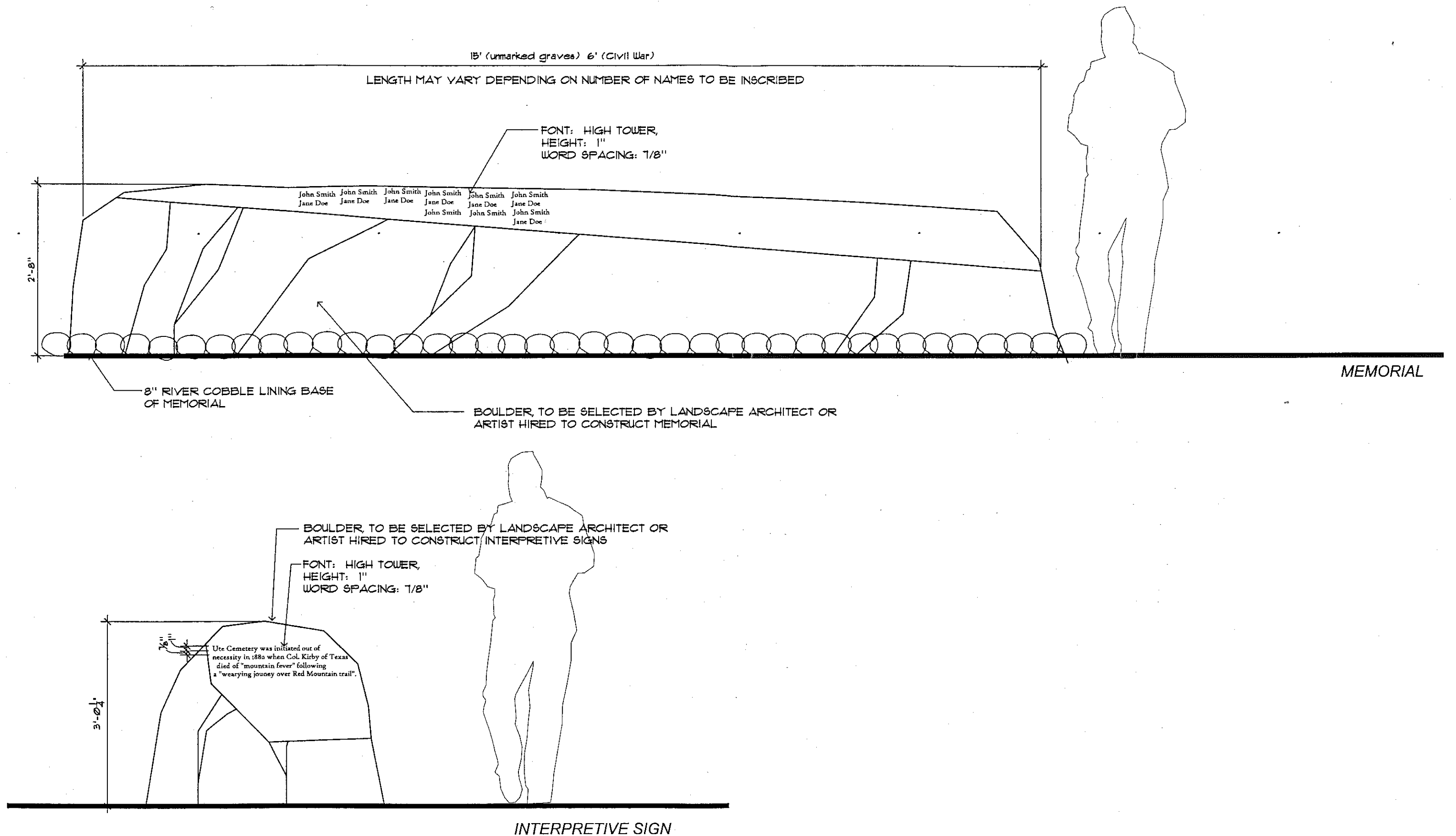


## Cemetery Entry Concept

1/8" = 1'-0"



3/4" = 1'-0" Entry Signs





Ute Cemetery

AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHh

IiJjKkLlMmNnOoPp

QqRrSsTtUuVvWw

XxYyZz

High Tower font  
shown at 1" height

## UTE CEMETERY ASPEN, CO

### MASTER LIST OF RECORDED BURIALS

**A., J.S.** (No biographical information located - grave located)

**ADAIR, ALEXANDER C.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Alexander C. Adair was living in Ursa, Illinois when he enlisted as a private in the Union Army on 5 February 1864. He was mustered into A Company of the 50th Illinois Infantry at Quincy. The company was attached to the Army of the Tennessee, the Army of West Tennessee, and finally the Department of the Tennessee through the end of the war. Adair was mustered out on 13 July 1865 at Louisville, Kentucky.

In Aspen, he was a member of the G.A.R. and Aspen Lodge No. 59 of the International Order of Odd Fellows. Adair died on 28 March 1885 in an Aspen-area avalanche. His obituary in the *Gunnison Daily Review-Press* (1 April 1885, p. 4, c.1) reads as follows:

"The remains of A.C. Adair, the Crested Butte and Aspen mail carrier, who lost his life last Friday by a snowslide on Pearl Pass near Ashcroft will be buried at Aspen, his stricken wife having gone there, via Marshall Pass and Granite to attend the funeral."

Adair was buried at the Ute Cemetery on April 3, with a ceremony provided by the G.A.R. and the local lodge of the I.O.O.F.

**AKERS, GEORGE W.** (Civil War veteran - unmarked grave)

George W. Akers was born near Greenbush in Putnam County, Iowa in 1842. He was living in Greencastle, Indiana when he enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 10 October 1861. Akers was mustered into A Company of the 59th Indiana Infantry. The company served initially with the Army of the Mississippi, and then with the Army of West Tennessee and the Department of the Tennessee through the end of the war. Akers was mustered out on 4 April 1865. Around 1877, George Akers moved to Colorado, although it is not known when he arrived in Aspen. In Aspen, Akers lived with his wife, Crissie, and worked as a laborer. He died there after a long illness on 11 May 1889 at the age of 47, succumbing to heart disease complicated by kidney problems. The following day, George Akers was buried at the Ute Cemetery.

**ALBERS** (No biographical information located - grave located)

**ALLEN, ABRAHAM** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Abraham Allen enlisted in the Union Army on 27 February 1863 and served in the Civil War as a major in the 6th Missouri Saddle Mounted Cavalry. He was mustered out on 1 January 1866. Allen died in Aspen in July 1891 and was buried in the Ute Cemetery on the 14th of that month, accompanied to his grave by the Rev. L.H. Worthington and some of his friends.

**B, G.B.** (No biographical information located - grave located)

**B., V.** (No biographical information located - grave located)

**B., L.** (No biographical information located - grave located)

**B., I.** (No biographical information located - grave located)

**BAKER, EDWARD H.** (unmarked grave)

Edward H. Baker died in Aspen on 24 January 1923 at the age of 77. According to the burial permit, the cause of death was listed as apoplexy. It appears that he was indigent and buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**BALDRIDGE, ANDREW** (grave located)

Andrew Baldridge was born in 1847 and died in Aspen on 29 September 1898.

**BALDRIDGE, ANDREW JR.** (grave located)

Andrew Baldridge Jr. was born in 1886 and died on 3 November 1888 at the age of two.

**BETEMPS, PAUL** (unmarked grave)

Paul Betemps lived in Woody Creek and was found hanging from the rafters of a barn after committing suicide on 26 February 1923 at the age of 32. It appears that he was indigent and buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**BLACK, JAMES** (unmarked grave)

James Black died in Aspen at the age of about 70 on 28 June 1927. According to the burial certificate, he died of chronic interstitial nephritis. It appears that he was indigent and buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**BRENNON, CORNELIUS** (unmarked grave)

Cornelius Brennon died in Aspen at the age of 79 on 2 August 1926. According to the burial certificate, he died of septicemia from gangrene of the foot and leg. It appears that he was indigent and buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**BURT, GRACIE F.** (unmarked grave)

Gracie F. Burt was born in 1886, the daughter of Laura Joy Burt and Joseph J. Burt. She died on 9 January 1888 at the age of 1 year, 6 months, on the same day as her older brother, Jozie.

**BURT, JOSEPH J.** (unmarked grave)

Joseph J. Burt was born in 1843 in New York and was living in Aspen by 1885 with his wife Laura and son J.J., Jr. (also known as Jozie). Another child, Gracie, was born to the couple in 1886. Joseph Burt worked as a miner and died on 17 October 1887 at the age of 44 yrs., 7 months.

**BURT, JOZIE J.** (unmarked grave)

Jozie J. Burt was born in 1883, the son of Laura Joy Burt and Joseph J. Burt. He died on 9 January 1888 at the age of 4 years, 6 months, on the same day as his sister, Gracie.

**BURT, WALTER D.** (grave located)

Walter D. Burt was born 1830 and died in Aspen on 4 February 1893 at the age of 62.

**BUZZARD, GEORGE F.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

George F. Buzzard was born in Pennsylvania and was living in Knoxville, Iowa when he enlisted with the Union Army as a private on 5 January 1864 at the age of 31. On 24 January 1864, he was mustered into G Company of the 40 Iowa Infantry. After serving

with the VII Corps, Department of Arkansas, he was mustered out of service on 2 August 1865. Buzzard died on 6 March 1897, the victim of an avalanche in Conundrum Gulch. His funeral at Ute Cemetery on March 10 was conducted by the local G.A.R. post, together with the Ladies Circle and the Woman's Relief Corps.

**CALLICOTTE, ELSIE** (grave located)

Elsie Calicotte was born in 1885 and died in 1886.

**CHATFIELD, IDA** (grave located)

Ida Chatfield was born in Illinois on 19 November 1866, the oldest of seven children. By 1885, she was living in Aspen with her parents and siblings. Her father was a ranchman and mother a housekeeper, and all seven of the children attended school. On 12 June 1886, the *Aspen Times* reported that her hat had been found floating in the Roaring Fork River, a few days after she mysteriously disappeared. Much speculation was made regarding her fate, and in early July armed men were posted on the bridges along the roads leading out of Aspen. On July 19, the newspaper stated that an unidentified man had informed the sheriff's office that he had seen Miss Chatfield at a nearby cabin. He offered to take the sheriff to that cabin for a fee of \$500. The money was raised and a delegation consisting of the sheriff and other citizens was taken to the Red Mountain ranch of John T. Peck. Peck was located, insisting that Chatfield had never been there and that the last time he had seen her was at a store in which they both worked in Aspen. The cabin was thoroughly searched, but no evidence of Ida Chatfield found. Finally, on 6 August 1886, two months after she was reported missing, the body of Ida Chatfield was found floating in the Roaring Fork River about a hundred yards below its confluence with Maroon Creek. It is not known if anyone was ever held responsible for her death.

**CHURCHILL, SAMUEL** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Samuel Churchill was born in New York and enlisted as a private in the Union Army on 19 September 1861 at Avon. He was mustered into B Company of the 8th New York Cavalry in Rochester. Throughout the course of the war, the company was attached to the Army of the Potomac, the Department of Shenandoah, the Middle Department, and the Army of the Shenandoah. Churchill was discharged for disability on 3 July 1863 at Baltimore, Maryland. In 1885, at the age of 62, he was a widower living in Aspen and working as a carpenter. Churchill died in Aspen on 18 February 1897 and was buried at the Ute Cemetery.

**CLARK, MR.** (No biographical information located - unmarked grave)

**CONNORS, MARY** (No biographical information located - unmarked grave)

**COOK, J.B.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

J.B. Cook was born on 7 February 1830 and enlisted in the Union Army on 5 August 1861 to serve in the Civil War as a sergeant in Company G of the 4th U.S. Artillery. He was mustered out on 20 May 1865. Cook died in Aspen of heart problems at the age of 70, on 28 February 1900. His funeral at the Ute Cemetery took place on March 4.

**DAVIS, AARON** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Aaron Davis was born in Ohio and was living in Harrison County, Iowa when he enlisted as a private in the Union Army at the age of 39 on 5 November 1864. He served in the 13th Iowa Infantry, attached to the XVII Corps of the Department of the Tennessee, and was likely to have participated in Sherman's epic march from Atlanta to the sea later that month. Davis was probably mustered out of service on 21 July 1865 at Louisville, KY along with the rest of the 13th Iowa Infantry.

**DUNN, JAMES** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

James Dunn was born in Canada and was living in DeWitt, Iowa when he enlisted in the Union Army on 22 August 1862 as a private. He was mustered into D Company of the 26th Iowa Infantry at Camp Kirkwood in Clinton. The company was initially attached to the Army of West Tennessee, and then the Department of Missouri, W.T. Sherman's Yazoo Expedition, and finally the Department of the Tennessee through the end of the war. Dunn was mustered out on 6 June 1865 at Washington, DC. He died in Aspen on 8 April 1888 and was buried at the Ute Cemetery.

**E., J.** (No biographical information located - grave located)

**EARLEY, JAMES WILLIAM** (grave located)

James William Earley was born around 1878 to John and Alice Earley. He died in Aspen on 9 May 1889 at the age of eleven.

**EARLEY, JOHN** (grave located)

John Earley was born around 1848 and died in Aspen on 22 November 1898 at the age of fifty.

**ELDRIDGE, MRS. J.C.** (first name unknown - unmarked grave)

Mrs. J.C. Eldridge was born in New York and moved to Colorado around 1880. In Aspen, she worked as a housewife. She died there on 18 November 1891 at the age of 44 of pneumonia complicated by heart problems and was buried at the Ute Cemetery.

**ELLIOTT, ISRAEL M.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Israel M. Elliott was living in Hartland, Maine when he enlisted in the Union Army as a musician on 29 August 1862 at the age of 42. He was mustered into F Company of the 20th Maine Infantry at Portland, which was assigned to the V Corps of the Army of the Potomac. Elliott was listed as sick at Antietam, Maryland on 1 October 1862 and fell ill again in June of 1863. He was later transferred out to the Veteran Reserve Corps on 5 January 1864. The Veteran Reserve Corps, previously known as the Invalid Corps, was established for soldiers who were unfit for active service due to injuries or diseases contracted in the line of duty. These men were assigned to participate in appropriate military or semi-military activities, such as garrison and light duty work, after being declared deserving of such duty by their commanding officers. Israel Elliott died in Aspen on 20 March 1895 and was buried in the Ute Cemetery.

**EUSTACE, JOHN** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

John Eustace was born in Indiana on 8 February 1832. He enlisted in the Union Army on 22 November 1862 and served with the 5th Indiana Light Artillery. Eustace was mustered out on 26 November 1865. He died in Aspen in March 1902 and was buried in the Ute Cemetery.

**EVERETT, CHARLES MORRIS** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Charles Morris Everett was born in New York on 20 December 1837 and was evidently living in Ohio when he enlisted in the Union Army as a sergeant on 2 May 1864. He was mustered into E Company of the 130th Ohio Infantry at Johnson's Island, Ohio. The company was attached to the X Corps of the Army of the James. The unit saw only 100 days of service and Everett was mustered out on 22 September 1864 at Toledo, Ohio. By 1885, Charles Everett was living in Aspen with his Ohio-born wife Martha and their four children. He died in Aspen on 22 April 1887 and was buried in the Ute Cemetery.

**FISH, WARREN K.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Warren K. Fish was living in Appleton, Wisconsin when he enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 28 June 1861. He was mustered into E Company of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry at Camp Randall in Madison. The company was attached to the Army of the Potomac throughout most of its three years of service. Fish was wounded on 28 August 1862 at Gainesville, Virginia while participating in the Second Bull Run campaign (the unit served for several months as part of the Army of Virginia). He was finally discharged for disability on 15 August 1863. Fish died in Aspen in November 1889 and was buried in the Ute Cemetery.

**FITZGERALD, ROBERT** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Robert Fitzgerald was born in Canada and was living in Grafton, Illinois when he enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 3 September 1864. On 7 September he was mustered into B Company of the 144th Illinois Infantry at Alton. The company was assigned to the District of St. Louis and Fitzgerald was promoted to sergeant during his short service. The unit saw just one year of service, during which the only losses were due to disease and accidents. Fitzgerald was mustered out on 14 July 1865, along with the rest of B Company. He was living in Emma, Colorado by the early 1890s, where he was single and working as a laborer. Fitzgerald died on 14 January 1891 of pneumonia at the age of 60 and was buried at the Ute Cemetery two days later.

**FOGG, WILLIAM H.** (Civil War veteran - unmarked grave)

William H. Fogg was living in Greenville, Maine (at the age of 22 years) when he enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 21 December 1861. He was mustered into the Maine 4th Light Artillery Battery. The company served initially with the Military District of Washington, and then with the Army of Virginia, Army of the Potomac, Middle Department, and finally with the Army of the Potomac. Fogg was discharged on 23 March 1863 for unknown reasons. He died in an Aspen-area avalanche on 17 February 1897 and was buried at the Ute Cemetery after his body was recovered on May 9.

**FREDDIE** (grave located)

Freddie was a child who died on 20 March 1886.

**GIBSON, JOHN G.** (grave located)

John G. Gibson was born in 1857 and died in 1888.

**GLASSER, ARTHUR BENNETT** (grave located)

Arthur Bennett Glasser was born in 1885 and died in 1888.

**GOLDIE, THOMAS** (unmarked grave)

Thomas Goldie was born around 1885 and died on 29 August 1886 at the age of 8 months.

**GREEN, THOMAS** (No biographical information located - unmarked grave)

**HADLEY, SAMUEL S.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Samuel S. Hadley was born in Ohio on 25 January 1845 and was living in Richmond, Indiana when he enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 7 September 1864. He was mustered into H Company of the 140th Indiana Infantry. During his ten months of active service, Hadley received a promotion to Quarter Master Sergeant before being mustered out on 11 July 1865 at Greensboro, North Carolina. Company H initially served with the Military Division of the Mississippi guarding the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad (a vital Confederate supply line that had been captured by Union forces one year

earlier), and then served with the Army of Ohio and the Department of North Carolina through the war's end. By 1885, Hadley was living in Aspen with his wife and son (both born in Indiana), and working as a real estate broker. He died on 26 August 1890 and was buried at the Ute Cemetery.

**HEALY, JOHN** (unmarked grave)

John Healy died in Aspen at the age of 83 on 4 April 1926. According to the burial certificate, he died of chronic interstitial nephritis. It appears that he was indigent and was buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**HIATT, FANNIE B.** (grave located - buried with the Morgan family)

Fannie B. Hiatt was born in 1876 and died in 1919.

**HUTCHINSON, CHARLES** (unmarked grave)

Charles Hutchinson was born in Pennsylvania around 1850. He lived as a single man, working as a farmer in the Aspen area by the early 1900s. Hutchinson died of pneumonia at the Citizens Hospital in Aspen at the age of approximately 55 on 13 September 1906. Five days later he was buried at the Ute Cemetery.

**JAMISON, JACQUELINE** (grave located)

Jacqueline Jamison was born in late 1887 or early 1888 to Thomas and Lizzie Jamison. Her parents were married in 1885 (probably in Aspen) and her father, Thomas, worked as a miner. Lizzie, who was born in Scotland, worked as a laundress. Jacqueline died in 1892 at the age of 4 and was buried in the Ute Cemetery.

**JONES, FRANCIS DEACON** (Civil War veteran - unmarked grave)

Francis Deacon Jones was born in July 1843 in Georgia. He enlisted in the Union Army on 15 July 1864 and served in the Civil War as a cook in Company A of the 109th U.S. Colored Infantry. He was mustered out on 6 February 1866. In 1881, an *Aspen Times* article (28 May) mentioned that "Brother Jones" would be leading a prayer meeting for all of the colored people in Aspen. This is likely to have been the same "Deacon" Jones that is buried in the cemetery. By 1900, Jones was single, living in Aspen, and working in a restaurant. He died on 5 January 1919 and is the only African-American known to be buried in the Ute Cemetery.

**JORDAN, JOHN** (grave located)

John Jordan was born in Ireland in 1850. He worked in Aspen as a miner and died there in 1910.

**JORDAN, MARY C.** (grave located)

Mary C. Jordan was born in Ireland in 1859 and died in Aspen in 1928.

**JORDAN, WILLIAM** (grave located)

William Jordan was born in Ireland in 1806. By 1885, he was widowed, retired and living in Aspen with four of his adult children. He died in Aspen the following year.

**JORDAN, WILLIAM** (grave located)

William Jordan was born in Ireland in 1848. He worked in Aspen as a miner and died there in 1908.

**JORDAN, ANNA** (grave located)

Anna Jordan was born in Ireland in 1864. She worked as a housewife and died in Aspen in 1887.

**KIRBY, COLONEL** (unmarked grave - exhumed)

"Colonel" Kirby was the first person buried at Ute Cemetery after crossing over Red Mountain trail into Aspen and dying there in June 1880 of what was termed "Mountain Fever." (This vague diagnosis could have meant tick fever or altitude sickness.) His body was exhumed on 31 July 1881 and sent to Hempstead, Texas, his boyhood home, for reburial. (see attached Kirby Family History)

**KRUSE, GOTTFRIED** (grave located)

Gottfried Kruse was born in Germany in 1845 and was living in Aspen by 1885 with his wife Rosean (also known as Rosa) and their daughter Rosa, who was a student (she was born in Illinois). While Gottfried worked as a blacksmith, Rosean was employed as a housewife. Gottfried died in 1936 and was buried in Ute Cemetery next to his wife, who had died fifty years earlier.

**KRUSE, ROSEAN** (grave located)

Rosean (also known as Rosa) Kruse was born in Illinois in 1849 and was living in Aspen by 1885 with her husband Gottfried and their daughter Rosa, who was a student (also born in Illinois). While Gottfried worked as a blacksmith, Rosean was employed as a housewife. She died in Aspen in 1886 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**LAUGHLIN, LAURENCE** (No biographical information located - grave located - buried with the Walsh family)

**LAYTON, MILBY** (unmarked grave)

Milby Layton was born in Kansas in 1889. It is not known when he arrived in Aspen. Layton died of scarlet fever at the age of 4 on 14 June 1894 and was buried at the Ute Cemetery.

**LEE, JASON B.** (Civil War veteran - unmarked grave)

Jason B. Lee was born in Canada and enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 28 September 1864. He was mustered into H Company of the 8th Iowa Infantry. The company served initially with the Army of West Tennessee, and then with the District of St. Louis, the Department of the Tennessee, and finally the Army of the Gulf. Lee was mustered out on 21 July 1865 at Montgomery, Alabama. By 1885, he was single, living in the Aspen area, and working as a ranchman. Lee died in Aspen on 22 November 1891.

**MARSHALL, GEORGE** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

George Marshall enlisted in the Union Army on 1 November 1862 and was mustered into the 3rd Michigan Infantry. Marshall was mustered out on 1 November 1863. He arrived in Aspen around 1880 and worked there as a miner. Marshall died on 11 March 1884 at the age of about 40 in an avalanche that buried the Vallejo Mine on Aspen Mountain.

**MATTISON, HENRY K.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Henry K. Mattison enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 11 March 1865 at Syracuse, New York at the age of 30. He was mustered into E Company of the 193rd New York Infantry at Albany. During the unit's ten months of service, Mattison received two promotions to 1st Sergeant and Captain, before being mustered out on 18 January 1866 at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. Mattison died in Aspen on 10 March 1885 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.



**MCCAUGAN** (No biographical information located - baby - unmarked grave)

**McFADDEN, JOHN** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

John McFadden enlisted in the Union Army as a 2nd Lieutenant on 23 November 1862, and was commissioned into K Company of the 178th Pennsylvania Infantry at Camp Curtin in Harrisburg. During his less than one year of active service, McFadden received a promotion to 1st Lieutenant before being mustered out on 27 August 1863 at Harrisburg. Company K initially served with the Department of Virginia, and then with the Army of the Potomac. John McFadden died on 4 February 1894 and was buried in the Ute Cemetery.

**McFARLANE, MALCOLM** (unmarked grave)

Malcolm McFarlane died in Aspen at the age of 81 on 18 January 1923. According to the burial certificate, he died of internal injuries caused by a fall from the roof of a building. It appears that he was indigent and buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**MEGINITY, JOHN B.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

John Meginity enlisted in the Union Army on 16 August 1862 during the Kentucky-Tennessee Campaign. He was mustered into A Company of the 7th Kentucky Cavalry. He was mustered out on 10 July 1865. Meginity worked in Aspen as a miner. He died on 11 March 1884 in an avalanche that buried the Vallejo Mine on Aspen Mountain, leaving behind a wife and children.

**MILLS, JOHN A.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

John A. Mills was living in Dawson, Illinois when he enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 25 July 1862. On 18 September he was mustered into I Company of the 114th Illinois Infantry at Camp Butler in Springfield. The company was attached to the Army of West Tennessee and then the Army of the Tennessee throughout the period from 1862 to 1864, after which it was attached to the Department of the Cumberland and then the Army of the Gulf until the end of the war. Mills was mustered out on 3 August 1865 at Vicksburg, Mississippi. John Mills died in Aspen on 17 November 1895 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**MITCHELL, HUGH L.** (grave located)

Hugh L. Mitchell was born in 1848 and died on 14 December 1882 in Aspen at the age of 34. His is the oldest identified grave in the Ute Cemetery, marked by one of the finest examples of late 1800s cemetery stonework found there.

**MOONEY, THOMAS** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Thomas Mooney was living in Brodhead, Wisconsin when he enlisted in the Union Army as a corporal on 27 November 1861. He was mustered into B Company of the 18th Wisconsin Infantry at Camp Trowbridge in Milwaukee. The company was attached to the Army of West Tennessee and then the Army of the Tennessee for most of its service through the end of the war. Mooney was mustered out on 18 July 1865 at Louisville, Kentucky. It is not known what he was doing in Aspen or when he died.

**MORGAN, GEORGE B.** (No biographical information located - grave located)

**MORGAN, JOSEPH CHARLTON** (unmarked grave)

Joseph Charlton Morgan was born in Aspen in 1889. He died of diphtheria at the age of 3 on 31 October 1892 and was buried that same day at the Ute Cemetery.

**MORGAN, MALISA A.** (No biographical information located - grave located)

**MORGAN, WILLIAM J.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

William J. Morgan enlisted in the Union Army on 11 June 1861. He was mustered into Company E of the 1st Tennessee Infantry. Morgan was mustered out on 15 January 1865. He died in Aspen on 23 November 1900 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**NEVITT** (baby, first name unknown - unmarked grave)

Baby Nevitt was born on 13 August 1905 in Aspen to Edward W. and Mabel (Nurenberg) Nevitt. She died of icterus (jaundice) complicated by an umbilical hemorrhage on 3 September 1905 at the age of 21 days.

**NEVITT, LETTIE** (grave located)

Lettie Nevitt was born around 1851 to S.L. and C.G. Nevitt. She died in Aspen on 7 March 1884 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**O'CONNELL, STEPHEN ALEXANDER** (No biographical information located - unmarked grave)

**O'KANE, FRANK** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Frank O'Kane was living in Highgate, Vermont when he enlisted in the Union Army as a musician on 4 January 1862. On 12 February he was mustered into F Company of the 7th Vermont Infantry at Rutland. The company was assigned to the Army of the Gulf throughout the war, participating in the capture and defense of New Orleans, and serving from its base in Pensacola, Florida throughout the conflict. O'Kane was mustered out on 14 March 1866 at Brownsville, Texas. By 1885, O'Kane was living alone in Aspen and working as a miner. He died there on 25 December 1885 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**OSTERHOUT, FRANK A.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Frank A. Osterhout enlisted in the Union Army on 8 July 1864 and was mustered into Company H of the 1st U.S. Veteran Engineers. He was mustered out on 26 September 1865. Osterhout died in Aspen on 9 April 1885 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**PENZ, JACQUELINE** (grave located)

Jacqueline Penz was born in Aspen on 22 March 1897. She died of cholera at the age of 5 months on 8 September and was buried at the Ute Cemetery.

**PHELPS** (baby, first name unknown - unmarked grave)

Baby Phelps was born on 11 November 1907 in Aspen to Clarence and Clara Phelps. He died of complications resulting from premature birth after living just three hours and was buried at the Ute Cemetery the following day.

**RATHBURN, STEVE F.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Steve Rathburn enlisted in the Union Army as a sergeant on 19 November 1861 and was mustered into E Company of the 96th New York Infantry. He was mustered out on 1 July 1865. Rathburn died in Aspen on 22 July 1898 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**ROBINS, FLORENCE** (unmarked grave)

Florence Robins died in Aspen at the age of 93 on 25 January 1923. It appears that she was indigent and buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**RODDY, JOHN** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

John Roddy was born in Vermont in 1841 and was living in Duxbury when he enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 9 June 1861. He was mustered into D Company of the 2nd Vermont Infantry at Burlington. The company was initially attached to the Department of Northeastern Virginia, and then the Army of the Potomac and Army of the Shenandoah through the end of the war. Roddy was injured during the heat of battle at Fredericksburg, Virginia on 13 December 1862. Yet he continued to fight on until being mustered out on 29 June 1864. John Roddy was in Aspen by 1885, where he lived alone and worked as a barber. By the late 1890s, he was widowed and working as a prospector. Roddy died on 6 March 1899, at the age of 59, of what was reported to be paralysis.

**ROOT, CHARLES** (unmarked grave)

Charles Root died in Aspen at the age of 65 on 19 June 1926. According to the burial certificate, he died of carcinoma of the right ear. It appears that he was indigent and buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**ROSA, LINDO** (unmarked grave)

Lindo Rosa was born on 19 September 1906 to parents Santo and Emma, both of them immigrants from Italy. He died in Aspen on 25 September 1907 at the age of 1 year as a result of gastroenteritis, and was buried at the Ute Cemetery the following day.

**ROSE, JOHN** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

John Rose was born in Iowa and enlisted in the Union Army on 17 September 1863. It is not known what unit he served with. He was mustered out on 10 December 1866. John Rose died in Aspen, probably on 19 January 1886, and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**SHAW, JOSEPH A.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Joseph A. Shaw was born in Canada in 1829. He enlisted in the Union Army as a sergeant on 15 August 1861 and was mustered into Company B of the 3rd Colorado Cavalry. It is very likely that Shaw participated in the Battle of Glorieta Pass in New Mexico and in the brutal Sand Creek Massacre, during which scores of Indians were ambushed and killed on the eastern plains of Colorado on 29 November 1864. Shaw was mustered out one month later on 28 December 1864. He died in Aspen on 25 October 1885 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**SHEDAKER, MIGNON** (grave located)

Mignon Shedaker was born in the spring of 1887 to A. and F.D. Shedaker and died on 9 July 1888.

**SHUSTERICH, PETER** (unmarked grave)

Peter Shusterich died in Aspen at the age of about 60 on 28 November 1926. According to the burial certificate, he perished in a burning building. It appears that he was indigent and buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**SIMPSON, THOMAS A.** (grave located)

Thomas A. Simpson was born on 22 August 1935 and died in Aspen on 16 March 1971 at the age of thirty five.

**SLOAN, JOHN** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

John Sloan was living in Paola, Kansas when he enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 9 December 1861. He was mustered into G Company of the 2nd Kansas Cavalry at

Fort Leavenworth. The cavalry unit was assigned to various armies during its more than four years of service, including the Department of Kansas, Army of the Frontier, Department of Missouri, District of the Frontier, and the Department of Arkansas. Sloan was mustered out on 13 January 1865 at Leavenworth. John Sloan died in Aspen on 16 July 1892 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**STARNE, MCLANE** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

McLane Starne was born in Indiana in 1840. He enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 18 August 1862 and was mustered into Company M of the 6th Indiana Cavalry. Starne was discharged on 15 September 1865. He died in Aspen on 2 June 1896 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**STEALY, JOHN** (No biographical information located - unmarked grave)

**STIGA, WILLIAM** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

William Stiga was born in Germany and was living in Galena, Illinois when he enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 5 April 1862. He was mustered into G Company of the 65th Illinois Infantry at Camp Douglas in Chicago. The company was assigned to various armies during the course of the war, including the Mountain Department, Middle Department (captured at Harper's Ferry), Army of Ohio, and Department of North Carolina. Stiga was discharged for disability on 6 May 1865, two months before the company was mustered out of service. He was in Aspen by 1885, living as a single man and working as a prospector. Stiga died in Aspen on 26 November 1888 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**STROMBECK, AXEL** (unmarked grave)

Axel Strombeck died in Aspen at the age of about 50 on 22 March 1923. According to the burial certificate, he was burned to death in his cabin. It appears that he was indigent and buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**TANFIELD, JAMES W.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

James W. Tanfield was born in England and enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 21 March 1863. He was mustered into K Company of the 1st California Cavalry. After more than two years with this unit, he was discharged for promotion on 19 July 1865. Tanfield was then commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant in the Field & Staff unit (Company B) of the 1st New Mexico Cavalry that same day. He was mustered out on 5 January 1870. Tanfield died in Aspen on 22 June 1888 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**THOMAS, JOHN** (grave located)

John Thomas was born in Castle Swansea, South Wales. He appears to have been in the Aspen area by 1885, where he owned and worked a ranch outside of town. Thomas died on 20 August 1888 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**TONEFF, GEORGE** (unmarked grave)

George Toneff, a resident of Denver, died in Aspen at the age of about 40 on 10 September 1922. According to the burial certificate, he was stabbed to death by Joe Miller at the road camp at Callicotte's Lake. It appears that he was indigent and buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**TROWBRIDGE, SAMUEL** (unmarked grave)

Samuel Trowbridge died in Aspen at the age of 74 on 2 August 1925. According to the burial certificate, he died of chronic interstitial nephritis. It appears that he was indigent and buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**VANDERGRIFF, CHARLES** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Charles Vandergriff was born in Pennsylvania and was evidently living in Wisconsin when he enlisted in the Union Army on 29 June 1861. He was mustered into I Company of the 3rd Wisconsin Infantry. He was mustered out on 15 July 1864. Vandergriff was married and in Aspen by 1884, where he worked as a miner. He died of pneumonia in Aspen on 23 June 1885 and was buried at Ute Cemetery.

**VOGEL, GEORGE** (grave located)

George Vogel was born in Germany on 13 October 1853. By 1885, he was living in Aspen, where he resided with several single roommates working in the mining industry. Vogel died on 23 April 1887 and was buried in Ute Cemetery.

**WALSH, JAMES F.** (grave located)

James F. Walsh was born in Aspen in 1890 to Irish-immigrant parents William and Kate. James died in 1915 and was buried in the family plot in Ute Cemetery.

**WALSH, JOSEPH P.** (grave located)

Joseph P. Walsh was born in Aspen in 1890 to Irish-immigrant parents William and Kate. Joseph died in 1904 and was buried in the family plot in Ute Cemetery.

**WALSH, KATE** (grave located)

Kate Walsh was born in Ireland in 1861. She married William Walsh around 1883, and by 1885 the two had settled in Aspen with their young children Katie and William, both of whom had been born in Colorado. They went on to have eight more children, including Laurence, Joseph, James and Mary, all of whom were born in Aspen and buried in the same family plot with their parents. In 1885, her husband worked as a miner and Kate was employed as a housewife. She died in 1955 and was buried in the family plot. Kate Walsh was one of the last people buried in Ute Cemetery.

**WALSH, LAURENCE** (grave located)

Laurence Walsh was born in Aspen in 1886 to Irish-immigrant parents William and Kate. He died that same year and was buried in the family plot in Ute Cemetery.

**WALSH, MARY C.** (grave located)

Mary C. Walsh was born in Aspen in 1892 to Irish-immigrant parents William and Kate. She died in 1912 and was buried in the family plot in Ute Cemetery.

**WALSH, WILLIAM** (grave located)

William Walsh was born in Ireland in 1854 and immigrated to the U.S. in 1879. He married his wife Kate around 1883, and by 1885 the two had settled in Aspen with their young children Katie and William, both of whom had been born in Colorado. They went on to have eight more children, including Laurence, Joseph, James and Mary, all of whom were born in Aspen and buried in the same family plot with their parents. In 1885, he worked as a miner and Kate was employed as a housewife. By 1890, William Walsh was no longer working in the mines and had become a town marshal. He died in Aspen in 1920 and was buried in the family plot in Ute Cemetery.

**WALSH-MARTIN, KATIE E.** (grave located)

Katie E. Walsh-Martin was born in Aspen in 1883 to Irish-immigrant parents William and Kate. She died in 1914 and was buried in the family plot in Ute Cemetery.

**WARNER, WILLIAM A.** (grave located)

William Warner was born on 4 July 1869 and died on 18 September 1889.

**WEBB, JOHN** (unmarked grave)

John Webb died in Aspen on 30 June 1925 at the age of about 75. According to the burial permit, the cause of death was listed as myocardia and acute dilatation. It appears that he was indigent and buried in Ute Cemetery at community expense.

**WEST, CALVIN D.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Calvin D. West was born in Illinois and was living in Aspen by 1885, where he was single and working as a harness maker. He died in Aspen on 26 January 1887 and was buried at Ute Cemetery.

**WIGGINS, MARVIN H.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

Marvin H. Wiggins was living in Baraboo, Wisconsin when he enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 14 August 1862. He was mustered into F Company of the 23rd Wisconsin Infantry at Camp Randall in Madison. During Wiggins' service, the company was assigned to various armies, including the Army of Ohio, the Army of West Tennessee, Sherman's Yazoo Expedition, and the Department of the Tennessee. Wiggins was discharged for disability on 8 August 1863. He died in Aspen on 12 October 1895 at the age of 62 as a result of a tumor.

**WOODRUFF, J.G.** (Civil War veteran - grave located)

James G. Woodruff was living in Ohio City, Kansas when he enlisted in the Union Army as a private on 31 July 1861. He was mustered into I Company of the 10th Kansas Infantry at Paola. The company was initially attached to the Department of Kansas, and then the Army of the Frontier, the District of Rolla, Missouri, the District of St. Louis, the Department of Cumberland, and finally the Army of the Gulf through the end of the war. Woodruff was mustered out on 19 August 1864. Nothing is known of his time in Aspen.

**YEBRO, FORENZO** (No biographical information located - unmarked grave)

## **KIRBY FAMILY HISTORY**

In June 1880, a Colonel Kirby was reported to have died in Aspen, Colorado and was the first person buried in Ute Cemetery. The following year, in July 1881, his body was exhumed and transported to Hempstead, Texas for reburial among his family and boyhood friends. Although much was found about the parents and family of Colonel Kirby, little was located about him as the primary subject of this inquiry. The following information summarizes the information located about this prominent pioneer family in Texas. Additional research beyond the limitations of this project is likely to reveal more about the first person buried in Ute Cemetery.

JARED E. KIRBY was born in Georgia in 1809 to parents Henry and Sarah Kirby. Around 1847, he married Indiana Eugenia Tate and the couple gave birth to a daughter. During the winter of 1848-49, Jared Kirby moved to Texas with his wife and daughter, along with his parents. They settled on about two square miles of land in the area of Hempstead, Austin County (now Waller County), east of the Brazos River. The couple is believed to have had a son (Jared Jr.) and then another child, a daughter (Indiana) who died in 1852 at the age of seventeen months. The county tax rolls from 1850 show that Kirby owned 55 slaves and had an estate worth an estimated \$28,000. He became involved in politics, serving as a delegate to the Whig Party convention in 1852.

Indiana died in 1854 and Kirby was married again the following year to Caroline E. Holt (Helt). The couple had a daughter (Caroline) in June 1857, but their marriage did not last long as Caroline died of apparent complications related to childbirth (their infant daughter also died eight months later). Kirby was living as a wealthy plantation owner and widower when he met and then married his third wife, Helen Marr Swearingen, on 18 April 1858. HELEN MARR SWEARINGEN was born in 1837 in Mobile, Alabama to Dr. Richard and Margaret Swearingen. She received her B.A. and M.A. from Wesleyan Female College in Macon, Georgia. In addition to his surviving daughter, Jared Kirby had two sons with his previous wives, one of them named Jared Kirby Jr. Together with Helen, the newlywed couple had three more sons and raised the surviving sons and daughter born to Kirby's previous wives.

The family lived on their plantation, Alta Vista, which had increased in size since Dr. Swearingen had gifted the couple additional acreage in honor of their wedding. By 1860, Jared Kirby appears to have become the wealthiest resident of Waller County, where he owned more than 8,000 acres of land worth \$285,000, personal property valued at \$175,000, and 139 slaves. That same year, the Alta Vista plantation produced 10,000 bushels of corn and 700 bales of cotton.

In early 1861, following the outbreak of the Civil War, Jared Kirby was asked to organize a system of defense for Austin County. This appears to be the time during which he became known as "Colonel" Kirby, although he apparently never served in the military. While the Kirby family's fortune had been rising prior to 1861, the Civil War turned out to be a time of great loss. By the close of the war, with their slaves freed and the southern economy in ruins, much of their estate was lost and their youngest son had died.

Jared Kirby was shot and killed in 1865 in the Hutchins Hotel in Houston. The details that led to this crime are not known. After losing her husband, Helen held on to the family home and in 1867 turned it into a boarding school for girls known as the Alta Vista Institute. In 1876, her

stepson Jared Kirby Jr. was visiting his sister in Hempstead, where he confronted and killed his father's assassin following a church service (Kirby was tried and acquitted). Eager to get away from the threat of a blood feud in Hempstead, Helen took her sons and moved to Austin, where she reestablished the Alta Vista Institute. She sold the family plantation near Hempstead to the State of Texas, and the property was turned into Prairie View A & M College.

In 1880, Helen's eldest son and her stepson (it is not known which of the two) died within several months of one another. One of these young men, known only as "Colonel" Kirby, died upon arriving in Aspen, Colorado in June of that year. Evidently known as "Colonel" because of his prominent father's title, it appears likely that this was Jared Kirby Jr., who would have been about thirty years old at the time and may have headed into Colorado to escape retribution for killing his father's assassin in Hempstead just a few years earlier. The young "Colonel" Kirby was the first to be buried in Ute Cemetery, but his body was exhumed a year later and transported to the family burial ground near Hempstead, Texas.

The Kirby family is buried in two cemeteries in the Hempstead area. Jared Kirby's first two wives, and the deceased infants born to them, are buried at Salem Cemetery. Six miles east of Hempstead and two miles north of Alta Vista is another burial place known as the Kirby Chapel Cemetery. This cemetery is found on land dedicated by Jared and Helen Kirby, probably following the death of their youngest son during the Civil War. The land was set aside for use as a community burial ground, and for the construction of a non-denominational church and a school (both of which were constructed and used for decades). The Kirby Chapel Cemetery was expanded through the acquisition of additional acreage during the late 1800s and is still in use today. It is not known which of these two cemeteries contains the body of Colonel Kirby from Aspen, but further archival research may reveal its exact location.

In 1884, Helen Kirby accepted an offer to become the first dean of women students at the recently-established University of Texas at Austin. She held this office until her retirement in 1919 and then died in October 1921. A dormitory at the university, Kirby Hall, was named in her honor. Her surviving son, R.H. Kirby, gained notoriety when he served as president of the Texas Anti-Saloon League during the World War I era.



United States Department of the Interior  
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 location or by entering the information requested. If any 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 UTE CEMETERY

other names / site number EVERGREEN CEMETERY; SPT.122

## 2. Location

street & number UTE AVENUE N/A not for publication

city or town ASPEN N/A vicinity

state COLORADO code CO county PITKIN code 097 zip code 81611

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
[ X ] 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 set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property [ X ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property  
be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [ X ] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ X ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] See continuation sheet.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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

UTE CEMETERY  
Name of Property

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO  
County and State

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**

(Check as many as apply)

☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one)

☐ building(s)  
☐ district  
☒ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
1	0	sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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)

NO STYLE

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A  
walls N/A  
roof N/A  
other N/A

**Narrative Description**

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

UTE CEMETERY

Name of Property

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

- ☒ A Property is 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 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 locations that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B removed from its original location
- ☐ C a birthplace or a 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)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance**

1880 - 1930

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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 Buildings 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

**Name of repository:**

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASPEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

UTE CEMETERY  
Name of Property

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 4.67 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>13</u>	<u>343500</u>	<u>4338400</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
						see continuation sheet	

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title RON SLADEK, PRESIDENT  
organization TATANKA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATES, INC. date 28 JUNE 2001  
street & number P.O. BOX 1909 telephone 970 / 229-9704  
city or town FORT COLLINS state CO zip code 80522

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name CITY OF ASPEN  
street and number 130 S. GALENA ST. telephone 970 / 920-5096  
city or town ASPEN state CO zip code 81611

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

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**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY**

Ute Cemetery is located on the north side of Ute Ave., 1/4 mile southeast of the downtown Aspen commercial district at the foot of Aspen Mountain. The northern and western edges of the property abut a modern residential subdivision, the southern edge borders a hiking/biking trail that parallels Ute Ave., and the eastern edge runs adjacent to the city's Ute Park. At the present time, the property boundaries are marked by a modern split rail wood fence that runs along the southern, eastern and western perimeters of the site, while the northern edge is open to the adjacent residential neighborhood.

Ute Cemetery's terrain is rolling, with high points located in the west-central area, and the northeast and southeast corners of the property. During the cemetery's early years, before it became filled with vegetation and the adjacent properties developed with large homes, it would have been possible to view the town of Aspen from these locations. The site is now overgrown with a variety of plants, including aspen trees, gambel oak, serviceberry bushes, sagebrush, a small number of mature evergreens, and a diversity of native grasses and flowers. Dense foliage makes it difficult to traverse the property and to find many of the graves located there, particularly during the summer months. The only established path is a very narrow, unimproved, winding dirt trail that runs generally on an east-west axis from Ute Park on the east to the hiking/bike trail near the southwest corner of the site. The entrances to this trail, which is used by hikers and mountain bike riders, are marked by openings in the split rail fence.

Most burials in the cemetery are laid out in a random fashion, with no evidence of a grid pattern or other elements of planning common to town cemeteries dating from the late 1800s. Graves are scattered throughout the site, and no signs of historic roadways or walking paths are present. The most heavily utilized area appears to be the western half of the cemetery, where at least 125 burials are known to exist. The eastern half contains a minimum of 50 graves, most of which are those of Civil War veterans buried in two long rows marked with government-issue monuments. These two rows of soldiers' graves represent the only feature at Ute Cemetery that exhibits evidence of planning. Laid out on the crest of a ridge, one row above the other, the Civil War veterans appear to have been buried in battle formation, as if even in death they were prepared to defend their position from attack.

The only evidence of a building on the site is a deteriorated brick foundation located in the northwest corner of the property. This 12' x 20' structure of unknown original height was likely used as a caretaker's shed, and an early photo of the town shows what appears to be a shed-like building at this location. The historic entrance to the cemetery is unknown, although it could have been along Ute Avenue or by way of a city street shown terminating at the site from the north in an 1893 bird's eye illustration of Aspen.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

Of the approximately 175 to 200 graves found at Ute Cemetery, 78 are marked with monuments that provide information about whose remains were placed there. All but two of the markers date from the early 1880s through the 1920s, and most were erected between 1882 and 1900. These monuments consist predominantly of granite or marble headstones resting on sandstone bases. The many other burials on the site are marked only by grave-sized depressions, flagstone or cobblestone borders, wooden or iron fence enclosures, or base stones from which the monuments are missing. River cobble grave borders were widely used at Ute Cemetery, and are often the only clue to an otherwise unmarked grave. These unmarked graves are found scattered throughout the site, although many are hidden by vegetation and the buildup of soils. It is likely that additional graves are present that are no longer visible. Also characteristic of Ute Cemetery is the presence of many wooden fence enclosures surrounding single and multiple grave sites. While several of these remain standing, many others have deteriorated and collapsed.

Ute Cemetery has been unmaintained for the past seventy years, and no original plan for the site has ever been found. It appears that some of the headstones were stolen or have fallen over and been covered by dirt and plant material. Further investigation of the site may reveal a small number of missing markers that could identify the occupants of some of the unmarked graves, many of whose names have been collected through documentary sources. A 1999 ground penetrating radar study completed at the site indicates that buried headstones may be found at a few of these unmarked graves. However, because of the cemetery's history of use, it appears likely that many graves were never marked (or were marked with simple wooden monuments that have decayed) and that no correlation with their exact occupants will ever be completed.

Even with the aging and decay that has taken place, Ute Cemetery exhibits an excellent degree of historic integrity through its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. As Aspen's oldest cemetery, initiated out of necessity by the original pioneers, the property was never planned as a landscaped site established on a grid or any other pattern, resulting in the rustic, random, disorganized, overgrown appearance it exhibits today.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 3

Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Ute Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the early settlement of Aspen. The land upon which the cemetery is found was initiated as a burial ground out of necessity when one of the first prospectors to arrive in the valley of the Roaring Fork perished. Beginning with his burial in the summer of 1880, Ute Cemetery became the final resting place for numerous working-class settlers who came to Aspen during its formative years and lost their lives there. The occupants of this cemetery were the laborers who erected Aspen's first buildings, excavated its mines, maintained its mills, worked the ranches, delivered the mail, kept house and raised children. Others were their offspring, children who died in childbirth or succumbed to illness or injury during their early months and years.

Aspen's two other cemeteries, Aspen Grove and Red Butte, are different from Ute Cemetery in that they were both designed to follow a grid pattern and contain the graves of those citizens who achieved wealth and status during their lives. These two cemeteries are filled with the names of mine owners, mayors, attorneys, engineers, and prominent business owners. By comparison, Ute Cemetery was clearly used as a burial ground for those early residents who lived without fame or fortune, served in modest roles during the early days of Aspen's history, and ended their lives at this location. Many were single men who lived and died in this high altitude setting while working to develop one of the country's newest mining districts.

A clear indication of the site's use as a cemetery for the working class and indigent is the lack of a plan that would have allowed visitors to visit the property in carriages or wagons, the random scattering of graves throughout the property, the modest nature of the headstones and wood enclosures, and the numerous unmarked graves filled with the remains of unmarried miners and the town's poorest residents. Even into the 20th century, most of the individuals known to be buried at Ute Cemetery appear to have received funerals at public expense.

Ute Cemetery is thus a testament to the numerous working-class people who settled in Aspen during its early years and upon whose labor the town thrived as a leading silver-producing center. The site provides the modern visitor and historian with information about who these pioneers were, how they lived their lives, and in what way they met their deaths. The characteristics of Ute Cemetery also speak about the social history of a nascent silver-mining community and how it handled the inevitable deaths and necessities of burial. Ute Cemetery meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration D, due to its use as Aspen's first burial ground and its association with the settlement of the town and the surrounding mining district.

The cemetery's period of significance begins in 1880 when the first burial took place, and ends in 1930 at the termination of its period of intensive use.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 4

Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

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**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The town of Aspen, located in the Roaring Fork Valley of east-central Pitkin County, was settled in 1879 and 1880 by prospectors migrating over the Continental Divide from Leadville in search of silver. In Leadville, miners began to hear tales of rich lodes of silver ore available for the claiming in the mountains to the west. Although the distance from there to Aspen is only 27 miles as the crow flies, the difficulty of crossing the Continental Divide over 12,095' Independence Pass was substantial at the time. During the winter, the pass was virtually impossible to navigate due to the steep terrain, heavy snowpack and bitter cold conditions. In the milder months, travelers were often troubled by spring avalanches, freak snow storms, heavy downpours charged with lightning, challenging terrain, and the high altitude. Yet, through the pass the prospectors poured with their pack mules, seeking opportunity and wealth in the valley below. Within months, rich veins of silver were discovered on Aspen Mountain and Smuggler Mountain, and the newly-formed town of Aspen began to rise from the valley floor below.

The opportunity to make a fortune in this latest of many mineral strikes attracted not only miners but also Eastern capital that arrived in the form of financiers such as Cincinnati attorney and business leader David Hyman and the president and part-owner of Macy's Department Store, Jerome B. Wheeler. These well-heeled men and others purchased mining claims on the mountainsides, and in the spirit of speculation acquired additional townsite land astride the Roaring Fork River. With the area teeming with miners and excavation well underway, they launched into a building frenzy that resulted in the rapid development of Aspen into one of the state's finest pioneer towns and mining districts. Mills were soon erected to process the tons of ore emerging from the mines daily and the town became a mecca for those seeking to enter the lottery that was life in a Colorado mining town during the late 1800s.

By 1880, just one year after the first miners arrived in the area, as many as 800 to 1000 residents were found in Aspen, and more were arriving daily. Mining enterprises were already thriving and expanding their facilities. One of these was the Durant Mine, whose shaft was located above the town on the north-facing slope of Aspen Mountain. Soon the owners of the mine carved out a horizontal drift known as the Durant Tunnel, which was excavated some 3,500 feet into Aspen Mountain from its mouth across Ute Avenue just southwest of the Ute Cemetery.

Accompanying the many miners and other immigrants to the Roaring Fork Valley was the certainty that some would die there, and it did not take long for that to happen. In June of 1880, a Colonel Kirby of Texas died in Aspen of "mountain fever" following a "wearying journey over the Red Mountain trail." The Colonel was the first person buried in what was to become Evergreen (and later Ute) Cemetery at the base of Aspen Mountain. However Kirby did not stay



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEETSection number 8 Page 5Property UTE CEMETERYPITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

long, for his body was exhumed on 31 July 1881 for reburial in the family cemetery in Texas. Prior to Colonel Kirby's sudden need for a final resting place, no cemetery existed in Aspen. The town had grown quickly, with hundreds of residents present and more on the way. Aspen was flourishing overnight, and the city's leaders recognized that the town would need a designated burial ground.

On 4 June 1881, Aspen's Board of Trustees ordered the Committee on Health to select and prepare a burial ground for public use. The burial place of Colonel Kirby on the southeast edge of town had been initiated, but was located on private land owned by Charles A. Hallam, part-owner and superintendent of the Smuggler Mine on the mountainside across the valley. In addition, it was perceived to be too close to the center of Aspen and the town board wanted a more outlying site. Evidently nothing better was found and no action taken, for the rolling ground at the eastern end of Ute Ave. near the Ute Spring continued to be used. The new cemetery was not managed by the city Board of Trustees thereafter, and the town's public ordinances dating from 1881 through 1895 include not one mention of any burial place at all.

By 1882, Aspen was still being reached primarily by miners traveling with pack mules. To get there, the train could be taken from Denver or Pueblo to Leadville, from where the traveler was forced to embark by foot, on horseback or by wagon via the rough road over Independence Pass that had just been completed that summer. With the population of the Aspen mining district booming throughout the early to mid-1880s, the rate of deaths began to increase. Richard Wheatley, a miner in the Ironsides Mine, was killed by an explosion of blasting powder. John P. Mason, also a miner, was killed by an avalanche in Ophir Gulch. Many of Aspen's residents during these early years were single men or poor families who relied upon the assistance of their fraternal lodges in times of need. Following John Mason's death, for example, the Aspen Masonic Lodge took possession of his remains until his family in Kansas could be reached. Providing a form of life insurance to their members, the lodges offered support to the widows and children left behind by those who perished.

Aspen gained a reputation for being relatively peaceable when compared to other mining camps, but the weather occasionally unleashed its fury upon the town's residents. On 11 March 1884, with heavy late winter storms blanketing the landscape with deep snow, an avalanche suddenly rushed down Aspen Mountain, burying the operating Vallejo Mine shafthouse. Men from the town hurried up the steep slopes to the site, hoping to rescue anyone they could. A small number of survivors began to emerge, all of them men who were working below ground when the disaster struck and were forced to climb up the vertical shaft and then dig their way out through the deep snow. Of the workers in the shafthouse, all were killed, among them George Marshall and John Meginnity, both of whom were buried in the nearby Ute Cemetery. Avalanches took the lives

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEETSection number 8 Page 6Property UTE CEMETERYPITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

of numerous Aspen residents, including Alexander C. Adair, the mail carrier between Aspen and Crested Butte, who in April 1885 was buried by an avalanche near Ashcroft.

Other early Aspen residents were killed in the mines by falling boulders and timbers, in the Roaring Fork River by drowning, and through various other accidents. Jack Lewis, a "sporting man" said to be well known in Denver and Leadville, arrived in Aspen in 1885 only to be fatally shot there. Major events in the new town soon reached the point that Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* offered its readers the amusing comment that "Aspen is becoming metropolitan. Two disappointed people attempted suicide." (3/21/1885) While these two attempted, others succeeded and found themselves resting peacefully in the local cemetery.

Always quick to follow the growth of any pioneer town, particularly those with a propensity for accidental deaths, undertaking businesses began to spring up in Aspen. The first undertaker was E.C. Morse, who opened shop in 1885, followed by H.P. Orndorff (1889), and Allen & Wilson (1890s). Another local undertaker, J.C. Johnsen, advertised his specialty of embalming bodies for shipment. These morticians prepared their clients for burial and made a number of trips to Evergreen Cemetery each year with their horse-drawn hearses (available in black or white) carrying the earthly remains of pioneer Aspen's most unfortunate working-class miners, mechanics, ranchers, housewives, gamblers, carpenters, retirees and children. Funeral processions traveled through the unpaved streets toward the southeast edge of town, entering the cemetery along an unnamed road that terminated at the site's northern edge. Business must have been good, for the undertakers were among the first commercial enterprises in Aspen to list telephone numbers in their advertising. Families or friends without the financial means to hire an undertaker would take the body to the cemetery themselves in a wagon and perform their own burial, erecting a modest monument in memory of the deceased.

Decoration Day celebrations were heavily attended in most American towns of the late 1800s, with many Civil War veterans still living and the carnage of battle unhealed. In Aspen, Evergreen Cemetery was the locus of these events throughout the 1880s. The ceremonies on 30 May 1885 began with a march to the cemetery, where the crowd gathered to recite prayers, sing songs and decorate the graves. Following these activities, they marched back through the streets of Aspen to the opera house, where the closing ceremonies took place. The following year, local members of the G.A.R. organization cleaned the cemetery before the crowd arrived. Pleased with the result, the *Aspen Times* on 30 May 1886 requested that future generations of Aspenites "should see to it that hereafter the place is kept halfway respectable."

In 1887, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad reached Aspen, providing the mines with an affordable and efficient method of shipping ore, and the town with a convenient mode of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 7

Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

transport for both people and supplies. The following year, Aspen saw the arrival of a competing railroad, the Colorado Midland. Within this short period, Aspen's isolation subsided as it became connected to the rest of the state and the nation through rail transportation. Access to fine carved stone markers was limited before the railroads arrived, and only a handful of the earliest burials at Ute Cemetery were identified with small carved markers brought over Independence Pass on wagons. Most of the stone monuments present at Ute Cemetery today date from the late 1880s to 1900, after the railroads connected the town with outside sources of cut stone such as the Pueblo Marble Company in Pueblo, Colorado.

Other methods commonly used to mark graves at the cemetery included the erection of wooden markers or fence enclosures (a few of which are still standing) and the placement of cobblestones or flagstones to create rectangular boundaries around the grave sites (many of these can still be seen throughout the property). In a smaller number of cases, graves (mostly family plots) were marked with durable wrought iron, cast iron, or pipe iron fencing. With the harsh winter weather conditions, the wood markers and fence enclosures deteriorated over the years, although they continued to be used by the poor because of their low cost. Cobblestone and flagstone coping does not deteriorate rapidly, but in many cases these have been covered by the buildup of soils and growth of vegetation at the cemetery over the years. Even with all of these options, the cemetery is filled with unmarked, shallow depressions that alone identify the locations of early graves.

In 1889, a second cemetery by the name of Aspen Grove was started by the local fraternal societies on the eastern edge of town. This site, laid out in a formal grid pattern of intersecting paths, rectangular burial plots and a central carriage turnaround, was used for years by many of Aspen's prominent pioneer families. The garden-like layout of Aspen Grove Cemetery, established under a canopy of pre-existing Aspen trees, apparently appealed to the town's emerging middle class and upper crust more than the random, haphazard and evidently unmaintained Evergreen Cemetery. Designed to promote the area and make no mention of negatives, the 1889 *Aspen City Directory* stated that

"Aspen has two prospectively fine cemeteries. The comparative newness of the city and its unusual healthfulness have made the demand for extensive and fine cemeteries less emphatic than is usual in cities of its size. Evergreen Cemetery is beautifully located east of and just beyond the city limits, east of Ute Avenue."

Even with the more attractive layout of Aspen Grove Cemetery (located on a rise along the south flank of Smuggler Mountain, it was not necessarily easier to access), it appears that Aspen's working class, its single miners with no family nearby, and its poor continued to use what was known throughout the 1890s as either Evergreen Cemetery or the "old cemetery."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 8

Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

In April of 1890, a train arrived in Aspen carrying fifteen white marble, government-issue headstones, sent to mark the graves of Evergreen Cemetery's Union veterans. One of these men, George Marshall, had been prospecting in the Aspen area for three to four years. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having served in the 3rd Michigan Infantry. As already mentioned, Marshall was killed at the age of about 40 in the avalanche that buried the Vallejo Mine shafthouse in March 1884. All of the veterans buried at the cemetery served with the Union army.

Typical of many early Aspen residents, Ute Cemetery's Civil War veterans were mostly single men who died with no local family to coordinate and pay for a proper funeral and a carved headstone. According to the *Aspen Daily Times*,

"These graves of our dead heroes are scattered all over the cemetery grounds. It is the intention of the Grand Army here to take up the remains of their comrades and bury them all in one lot around the cenotaph [this monument was evidently never built]. This work will require some time and will be finished just in time for the new graves to be decorated with flowers on the coming Memorial Day, May 30, 1890." (23 April 1890)

The G.A.R. group succeeded in reburying their brothers-in-arms in the two lines of graves identified by the military markers still found there. (A ground-penetrating radar study completed on the site in 1999 confirmed that graves are in fact present below each of these markers.) Others of the cemetery's 37 Civil War veterans were placed in line with them over the next thirty years, creating the impression today that they were lined up in battle formation on the crest of the hill. One of these later additions, John Roddy, served for three years in D Company of the Vermont 2nd Infantry. He was attached to the Army of the Potomac and on 13 December 1862 was wounded at Fredericksburg. Roddy came to Aspen as a prospector, only to die of paralysis there in 1899, widowed and alone at the age of 59.

By 1891, Aspen's mines were outpacing those in Leadville and the town, with 8,000 residents, had become the single largest source of silver in the United States. Two years later, Aspen was occupied by around 12,000 townsfolk residing in extensive neighborhoods that surrounded the downtown commercial district, which was filled with retail stores, banks, theaters, schools and a small but well-attended red light district. The town also prided itself upon its modern power plants, which by the mid-1880s began to provide the mines, businesses and residences with electricity. With all of its promise for the future, Aspen was devastated by the federal government's 1893 decision to return to the gold standard, which severely undermined the town's economic base. This monumental change in the town's fortunes forced Aspen into what became known as its "quiet years," the period from 1893 through the early 1940s, when it served as a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEETSection number 8 Page 9Property UTE CEMETERYPITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

county seat and market center for the surrounding farms and ranches. Although limited silver mining continued during these decades, the area was best known for its potato crop.

Sometime around 1900, and certainly by 1905, Evergreen Cemetery became known as Ute Cemetery, possibly connecting it to the nearby Ute Spring, Ute Avenue, or the town of Aspen's short-lived but original name, Ute City. Although the population of Aspen began to decline following 1893, the Ute Cemetery continued to be used. Death certificates located at the Pitkin County Courthouse indicate that at least twelve people were buried there between 1891 and 1907, among them a laborer, a farmer, a prospector, a housewife, a ranch hand, and several children who succumbed to scarlet fever, cholera, diphtheria or complications at birth. In March of 1897, another Civil War veteran was buried there. George F. Buzzard served with Company G of the 40th Iowa Infantry, and perished in an avalanche in Conundrum Gulch at the age of 66. Buzzard was buried in a funeral conducted by the G.A.R. Post, the Ladies Circle and the Woman's Relief Corps.

Also in 1900, a third cemetery was started by Aspen's Masons, Woodmen of the World, Elks and other fraternal lodges, this one located on the west edge of town on an easily-accessed, flat site near the river. Red Butte is a planned cemetery containing driving paths, irrigated grassed areas, and rows of shade trees, all features of modern cemeteries. Its location and groomed appearance, along with the relative ease of finding grave sites, evidently appealed to some Aspen residents. With the new grounds open to the public, the bodies of various loved ones were reportedly moved to Red Butte Cemetery from Aspen Grove Cemetery, accounting for the monuments found there that pre-date the cemetery's founding.

Although it was to have been replaced by two successor cemeteries, Ute Cemetery continued to be used by the town's working class and poor. Burial permits dating from 1922 through 1927 indicate that at least thirteen people were buried there during these years, most of them old timers in their 60s to 80s. One had committed suicide, another died of injuries sustained from a fall, two deaths were due to fires, one individual was stabbed to death, and others fell to age-related illnesses. All of these appear to have been indigent cases, buried at community expense, and none of their graves were marked with headstones.

By 1935, only 700 people remained in Aspen and the town looked as if it was bound for obscurity. The Depression ended the period of intensive use of the cemetery, and in the decades since 1930 only two burials are known to have taken place there. Aspen's emergence as a ski resort began in the years just preceeding World War II, as skiing enthusiasts and entrepreneurs began to develop the world-class resort on Aspen Mountain that would soon breath new life into

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 10

Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

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the sleepy town that had for decades longed for a return to its earlier boom times. With a new class of outdoor enthusiasts beginning to visit and populate the town, the Ute Cemetery fell not only into disuse but also disrepair. With no living family left in the Roaring Fork Valley to tend their graves, the estimated 175 to 200 people buried in the Ute Cemetery were abandoned and the site began its long slide into decay.

Over the years, Ute Cemetery has become overgrown with native grasses and trees. During the 1960s and 1970s, possibly due to its abandoned state, some of the headstones disappeared (occasionally turning up in local antique shops) and others were broken by vandals. Wood fencing deteriorated and collapsed to the ground. Although suffering from years of neglect, Ute Cemetery has managed to retain a significant amount of its historic integrity as Aspen's oldest and original burial ground, exhibiting the unrestrained growth of natural vegetation expected to occur at a pioneer alpine cemetery that was unplanned and largely unmaintained from the very beginning. Finally, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, with historic preservation a high priority in Aspen, the city has initiated a process of studying the cemetery and working to preserve its historic integrity both out of respect for the town's history and those who are buried there, and for the education of future generations.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 11

Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 12

Property UTE CEMETERY

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 13

Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 14

Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

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Wommack, Linda. *From the Grave: A Roadside Guide to Colorado's Pioneer Cemeteries*. Caldwell, ID: Caxton Press, 1998.

United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 15

Property UTE CEMETERY

PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property is limited to the tract of land known as Ute Cemetery, City of Aspen, Pitkin County, Colorado. The legal description for this site is as follows:

Lot 6, Hoag Subdivision as recorded in Plat Book 4 at page 218 of the Pitkin County Clerk & Recorder's Office. This description is found on the document recorded in the Pitkin County official records in Book 260 at page 572. Also a parcel of land being part of Lots 6 & 7, Section 18, Township 10 South, Range 84 West of the 6th Principal Meridian. Said parcel is more fully described as follows: Beginning at a point whence corner 9 of Tract 41, East Aspen Addition bears south 00°21' west 299.50 feet; thence north 00°21' east 150 .00 feet; thence west 183.86 feet; thence south 50°39' east 236.57 feet to the point of beginning.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nomination boundary includes all the land known to be historically associated with the cemetery during the period of significance and which retains its historic integrity.

TEN TEN UTE SUBDIVISION

SET 5/8" STEEL ROD WITH  
YELLOW PLASTIC CAP MARKED  
BUETTNER 13166

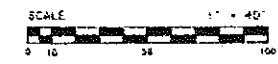
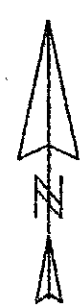
FOUND 5'8" STEEL  
YELLOW PLASTIC C  
UNABLE TO READ

FOUND 2 1/2" STEEL  
CONCRETE. NO CAP

RAIL FENCE

FIGURE 3 1/2" BRASS  
MARKED CQR 9 TR B  
R 84 W

UTE AVENUE



- POSSIBLE GRAVE SITES, GROUPING SWARMEN
- GRAVE HEADSTONES
- ▽