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CHURCH STREET

SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET

**CONSUMMATE MEMORY**

Time, neglect, and modernity have eroded away the presence of this extraordinary place. The discovery of the cemetery was a revelation, and solid investigative work uncovered a testament to a pivotal moment in American History. Five years we buried here, years of division by nation, creed, and race. This place is a poignant reminder of our struggles as a country and of man. The site and its surroundings have endured a beleaguered history of neglect and exploitation. This Memorial will restore a sense of dignity, respect, and meaning by honoring the 1,800 people of African descent resting here. The memorial consists of distinct and consummate elements that are interwoven across the site; Stone Capped Shafts restore identity, Freedoms Walk grants reconciliation, Awareness Pavilion offers understanding, Native Wild Flowered Pastures bestow origin, and Memorial Fence furnishes boundary and memory. Altogether the Memorial is a permanent experience.

**STONE CAPPED SHAFTS**

Excavations have revealed the burial shafts, and their locations are now well documented and preserved under a layer of compacted fill. It is jarring to see these shafts exposed; the closeness, shape, and size leave one with a compelling symbol. At the core of the memorial is the subtle treatment of these shafts. Every surveyed burial shaft will be memorialized with a quartzite slab that reflects the outline of the investigated shafts. The names of the deceased in connection to their bodies have been erased but the general size of their physical existence will be retraced by these shaft stones. It is essential to restore a conceptual symbol of permanence to the once forgotten.

**FREEDOMS WALK**

The migration of Contraband and Freedmen to the Union States was certainly a treacherous and petrifying journey. This path through the woods provides the serenity necessary to contemplate the boldness of the human spirit when faced with adversity.

**AWARENESS PAVILION**

The reclaimed slab makes a well-situated location for an interpretive center and viewing stands. The view focused eastward is meant for individual contemplation. These factors represent the essential crux of the design circumstance. The site demands a boundary that defines the cemetery from the surrounding city. A fence will adorn the perimeter and set a metaphysical limit that is important for visitors and community alike by establishing a symbol of permanence. It provides security and meaning by creating a place of importance. Chest level plaques bear the names of men, women, and children, along with the date of their burial. The fence is meant to be experienced and examined from both sides. Originally, a wooden fence was commissioned in 1864 that might have been similar to Alexandria National Cemetery's fence. Look closely at the negative shape created by the vertical rods to the pointed vaulted tops, it's meant to pay tribute to the historic model.

**NATIVE WILD FLOWERED PASTURES**

Native plant gardens are designed to take advantage of local conditions, promote biodiversity, and reduce seasonal maintenance and irrigation requirements. Wild flowers have a diverse range of colors, texture, height, and seasonal appearance. The landscaping concept is to utilize the expected growth and flowering patterns of these natural species in designated areas as noted by the Site Plan. The shallow root systems of wildflowers and grasses will not intrude into the substrata and form a protective layer from erosion.

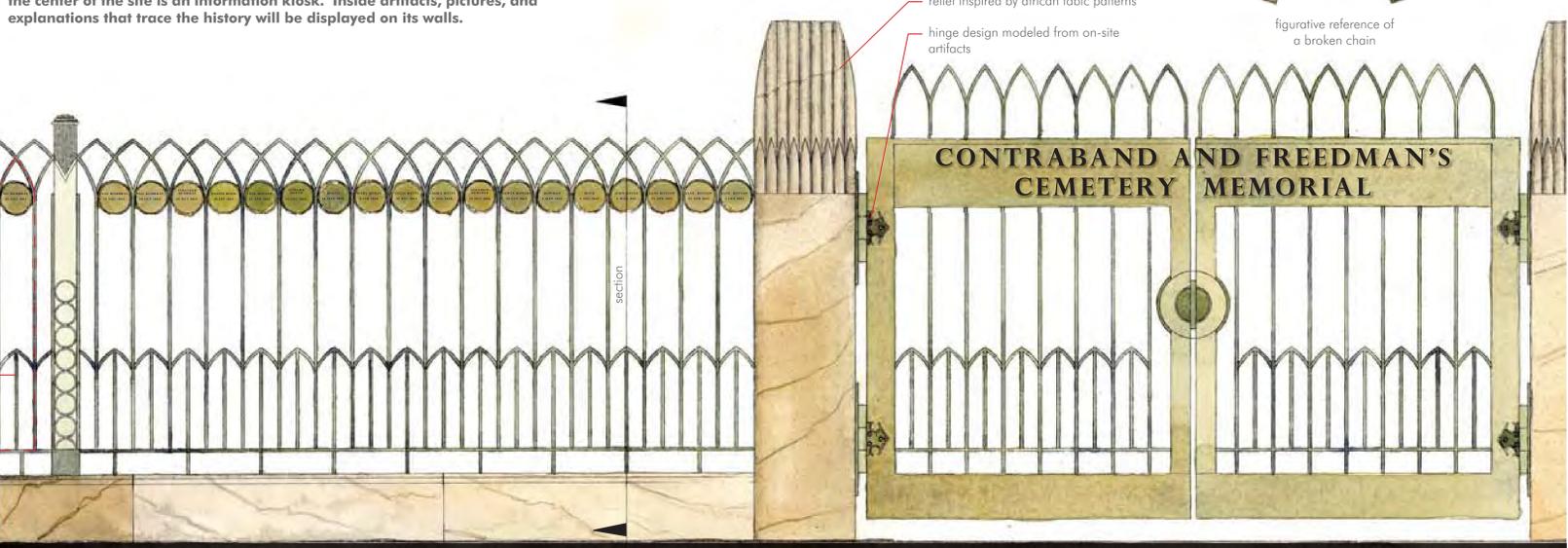
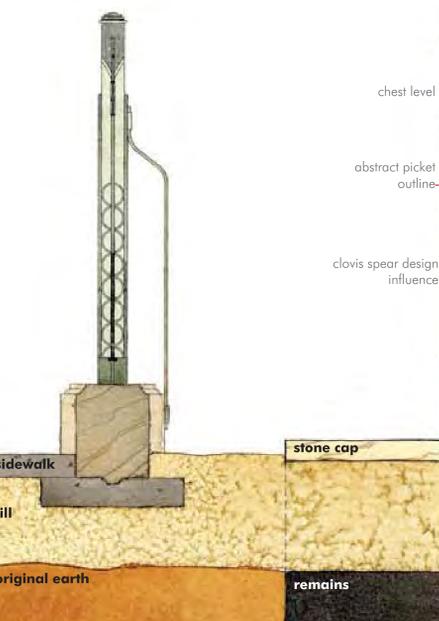
**EXHIBITION PLATFORM**

The Re-dedication Luminaries were a sublime and influential gesture. It's critical to breathe life into this memorial and displays like the luminaries are captivating and important ways of expression that bridge time and restore a sense of identity and connection to the past. This area will remain open for seasonal art installations.

**COST**

By working with the existing topography, incorporating a memorial into the design of the fence, fusing storage space fused with Memorial Pavilion, planning an efficient layout, and choosing cost effective materials, the resources will be well distributed across the entire site.

actual scale of bronze embossed plaque



Excavations have revealed the density and general areas of hallowed ground that establish only rough boundaries. It is believed that the actual cemetery boundaries could have stretched beyond modern designations. Limited documentation and the disappearance of grave markers make it impractical if not impossible to identify anyone buried here. Historical record states there are 1,800 people buried, but a majority of the burial sites are unaccounted for and indeterminate. These factors represent the essential crux of the design circumstance. The site demands a boundary that defines the cemetery from the surrounding city. A fence will adorn the perimeter and set a metaphysical limit that is important for visitors and community alike by establishing a symbol of permanence. It provides security and meaning by creating a place of importance. Chest level plaques bear the names of men, women, and children, along with the date of their burial. The fence is meant to be experienced and examined from both sides. Originally, a wooden fence was commissioned in 1864 that might have been similar to Alexandria National Cemetery's fence. Look closely at the negative shape created by the vertical rods to the pointed vaulted tops, it's meant to pay tribute to the historic model.

VISION STATEMENT