

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT COVER SHEET

Please submit completed form to: Architectural Survey Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5, Hartford, CT 06103

I D E N T I F I C A T I O N	PROPERTY NAME (Current/Historic)		
	Hillside Cemetery Association / Hillside Cemetery		
	COUNTY	TOWN/CITY	VILLAGE
	Litchfield	Torrington	
	JOB NUMBER		
Primary: 03277 Related Job Numbers: 04001, 05523, 06001, 06959, 03750, 05275, 09305, 09799, 09359			
Landscape Type			
<input type="checkbox"/> Park, Parkway, Recreation Area. Scenic Reservation <input type="checkbox"/> City/Regional Plan, Improvement Project <input type="checkbox"/> Subdivision, Suburban Community <input type="checkbox"/> College/School Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Residential Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Public Building <input type="checkbox"/> Private Estate / Homestead <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cemetery / Burial Lot / Memorial / Monument <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Commercial / Industrial Building <input type="checkbox"/> Country Club / Resort, Hotel, Club <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds of Church <input type="checkbox"/> Arboretum, Garden <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition, Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous			
DATE OF ORIGINAL PROJECT: 1907-1909			
SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS: 1909-1962			

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT COVER SHEET

Please submit completed form to: Architectural Survey Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5, Hartford, CT 06103

DESIGNER(S) (primary)

- Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.
- John Charles Olmsted
- Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
- Other firm member(s): Percival Gallagher
- Other notes:

Other Designers (prior to or following Olmsted project):

Repositories consulted with source materials

- Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Olmsted Archives (online albums)
- Library of Congress
- Olmsted Online (OlmstedOnline.org)
- National Archives and Record Administration
- Connecticut State Library
- Hartford History Center
- Other:

Observations regarding features characteristic of Olmsted firm design

The site follows the broad principles of Rural Cemetery design, but the use of rustic hardscape elements, especially for the retaining walls and pedestrian-scaled steps and other elements suggests an adaptation of Olmstedian park design principles to the cemetery context. The use of walls to highlight broader patterns of organization in the topography is also notable. The curving drives terminating in overlooks are also reminiscent of similar features found in parks that feature similar high points. While Rhododendrons are prominent in the region, the abundance of them on this site should be considered in light of Olmsted's particular enjoyment of lush plantings. The cemetery also features several individual plots designed by the Olmsted firm. Several of these exhibit an attention to the siting of the burials in relation to the broader landscape. Overall, the cemetery's current configuration and condition are largely reflective of the original design, with major deviations being adjustments to the vehicular circulation and growth of vegetation at key views.

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT COVER SHEET

Please submit completed form to: Architectural Survey Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5, Hartford, CT 06103

Surviving features resulting from the Olmsted firm's design work include:

- Arrangement of drives, overlooks, and blocks
- Stone walls, stairs, and paths
- Gate, fence, and integrated bench
- Selected burial plots and monuments

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES

Please submit completed form to: Architectural Survey Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5, Hartford, CT 06103

I D E N T I F I C A T I O N	PROPERTY NAME (Current/Historic) Hillside Cemetery (Job #03277)													
	COUNTY Litchfield	TOWN/CITY Torrington	VILLAGE											
	STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) 76 Walnut Street													
	OWNER(S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRIBAL <input type="checkbox"/> EASEMENT Hillside Cemetery Association													
	LAT/LONG COORDINATES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Center Point <input type="checkbox"/> Polygon 41.785673, -73.124857													
	PARCEL INFORMATION Acres: 64.2 PID(s): 114/001/001 MBLU(s): 114/001/001													
	USE (Present) Cemetery		(Historic) Cemetery											
	SURVEY TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> Reconnaissance-Level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intensive-Level													
	D E S C R I P T I O N	LANDSCAPE TYPE (Check all that apply) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designed <input type="checkbox"/> Vernacular <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/Ethnographic <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Linear <input type="checkbox"/> System/Multi-Site <input type="checkbox"/> Residential <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional <input type="checkbox"/> Maritime <input type="checkbox"/> Green <input type="checkbox"/> Park- Active Recreation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park-Passive Recreation or Commemorative <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify:												
		DATE OR PERIOD (Include source of date) 1907 - 1962 (Olmsted Research Guide Online)												
DESIGNERS (Entities that created, designed, constructed, or shaped the landscape) Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects														
DESIGN SCOPE (For designed landscapes, explain what work was commissioned.) Planning of cemetery, design guidelines for monuments, design of several monuments and family plots, platting of cemetery sections														
LOCATION OF DRAWINGS/IMAGES/SOURCE MATERIAL Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site; Library of Congress														
VISUAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY (Check boxes for the qualities that are key features of this landscape. If attaching descriptive narrative, consider these categories.) <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Layout & Spatial Relationships</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Water Features</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drainage</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topography</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings/Structures/Objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings/Vegetation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Space</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Views & Vistas</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Boundaries</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Design Style:</td> </tr> </table>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Layout & Spatial Relationships	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Features	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drainage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topography	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings/Structures/Objects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings/Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Space	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Views & Vistas	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Boundaries	<input type="checkbox"/> Design Style:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Layout & Spatial Relationships	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Features													
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drainage													
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topography	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buildings/Structures/Objects													
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings/Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Space													
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Views & Vistas	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:													
<input type="checkbox"/> Boundaries	<input type="checkbox"/> Design Style:													

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES

Please submit completed form to: Architectural Survey Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5, Hartford, CT 06103

C O N D I T I O N	EXISTING CONDITION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recognizable <input type="checkbox"/> Not Extant/Not Recognizable Changes: Some sections of roadway have been straightened. A new rectilinear plot not conforming to the character of the original design was installed in the southeastern portion of the cemetery. One overlook is currently not open and nearby circulation to access it has been altered			
	POTENTIAL THREATS <input type="checkbox"/> None Known <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Improvements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onsite Development <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent Development <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism <input type="checkbox"/> Overuse <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred Maintenance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invasive Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental – specify: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify: _____			
E N V I R O N M E N T	SETTING (One sentence description) This rural cemetery is edged to the north by residential streets, to the east by industrial areas, and to the south and west by undeveloped woods.			
	VEGETATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maintained Open Land <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Open Land <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodland/Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plantings <input type="checkbox"/> Other – specify: _____			
	SLOPE <input type="checkbox"/> Level/Nearly Level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Steep Slope Elevation (ASML): 700'			
	CONNECTICUT PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE (Eco-Region) <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Highlands <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western Uplands <input type="checkbox"/> Western Coastal Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Coastal Slope <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Uplands			
	Soil Description: Site dominated by Canton and Charlton and Charlton-Chatfield soils, variously fine sandy loam and rocky soils, generally well drained.			
H I S T O R Y	SUMMARY (Provide a brief overview in this space. More detailed narrative can be attached.) Planning for the cemetery began in 1907, and construction was underway by 1909. A chapel was built in 1913. Further planning of cemetery sections and individual plots by the Olmsted firm continued from the 1910s to 1960s.			
	NATIONAL REGISTER RECOMMENDATION Entered by: <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended Eligible (Criterion <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D) <input type="checkbox"/> Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/> Not Evaluated Explanation: Cemetery is currently in process of being listed NR Listed: <input type="checkbox"/> District-Contributing <input type="checkbox"/> District-Non-Contributing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Documentation			
R E P O R T E D B Y	NAME Kevan Klosterwill and Carolyn Brackett		ORGANIZATION Red Bridge Group	
	ADDRESS 2100 Green Street, San Francisco, California 94123			
	PHOTOGRAPHER Kevan Klosterwill		DATE 9/13/21	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permission to use photographs
	SURVEY METHOD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Visit/In-Person Walkover <input type="checkbox"/> Drive-through/Windshield <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Review Only			

ATTACHMENTS (Include the following items in the PDF)

- Location Map Site Map Photographs with captions Historic Images (if applicable)
 Narrative Description of Property Historical Narrative of Property References

DESCRIPTION (Visual Assessment Summary)

Layout & Spatial Relationships: Site is organized into curvilinear blocks conforming to the site's rolling topography, with overlooks sited on the site's major high points.

Circulation: Asphalt drives are the site's major circulation system, with a curvilinear arrangement. Some roadways are lined with boulders. Intersections are sometimes marked by triangular islands. Gravel walks and stone stairs lead through some of the blocks. Steps lead from drives to some plots.

Topography: The site features a rolling topography, marked by major draws and high points. Cul-de-sacs are sited on the high points. Retaining walls and steps are incorporated into the major valleys. Many burial plots are arranged in response to the contours of the landscape. Major outcroppings of stone punctuate the landscape and incorporated into the design as focal points for directed views.

Plantings/Vegetation: White oak, white pine, and varied specimen trees are major canopy trees. Rhododendrons planted prominently throughout the site. Owner is currently working to restore site plantings, including new shrubs and perennials. Some areas overgrown, and some views have grown in.

Views & Vistas: Views to the southeast are highlighted from the major overlooks and valleys. More localized vistas along the roadways include views of the chapel and major outcrops.

Drainage: Site generally drains to the southeast, with a valley leading through the site. No perennial streams or major drainage structures observed. Some drop inlets were noted along the roadways.

Buildings/Structures/Objects: Buildings include a gothic chapel and brick office structure. Stone gate and fencing with integral bench is located at entrance. Rustic retaining walls and steps are found throughout the site. Many stone monuments are found throughout the cemetery, and generally conform to cemetery's design guidelines.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Rapid growth in Torrington in the late 1800s resulted in the town's Center Cemetery selling all of its lots by the turn of the century. In response to this crisis, local leaders began working to build a new cemetery for the town in 1906. In September of 1906, Elizabeth Migeon offered to buy and donate the Hine tract, south of the town, a 67-acre parcel whose owner wished that it be used for a public purpose. With land in hand, the group, organized in early 1907 as the Hillside Cemetery Association, contacted the Olmsted Brothers firm about developing a plan for the property. The association initially corresponded with Percival Gallagher, recently promoted to a role as one of the firm's associate partners, on the design. Gallagher made an initial visit and reported on the property that spring, noting the site's fine views. He recommended integrating the community's desires for a park into the cemetery, yielding a seamless passive recreational and memorial landscape. Gallagher also encouraged the association to hire a superintendent to manage the cemetery's construction, recommending Walter B. Hatch, assistant superintendent of parks in nearby Hartford.¹

The firm completed a general plan by 1909, which featured an array of curving drives spilling out across the rolling landscape. A chapel was proposed near the entrance to the cemetery, and two knolls were to be given terminal overlooks. The plan also called for development of the eastern hillside portion of the property to be developed into a winding drive laced with walking paths. Construction soon began, with several sections opened, roads constructed, and gates and other features installed. In 1913, a Gothic Revival chapel, designed by architect Max H. Westhoff, was constructed. In the following years, monuments for several

¹ Tod Bryant and Peter Viteretto, "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Hillside Cemetery," November 2021.

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT

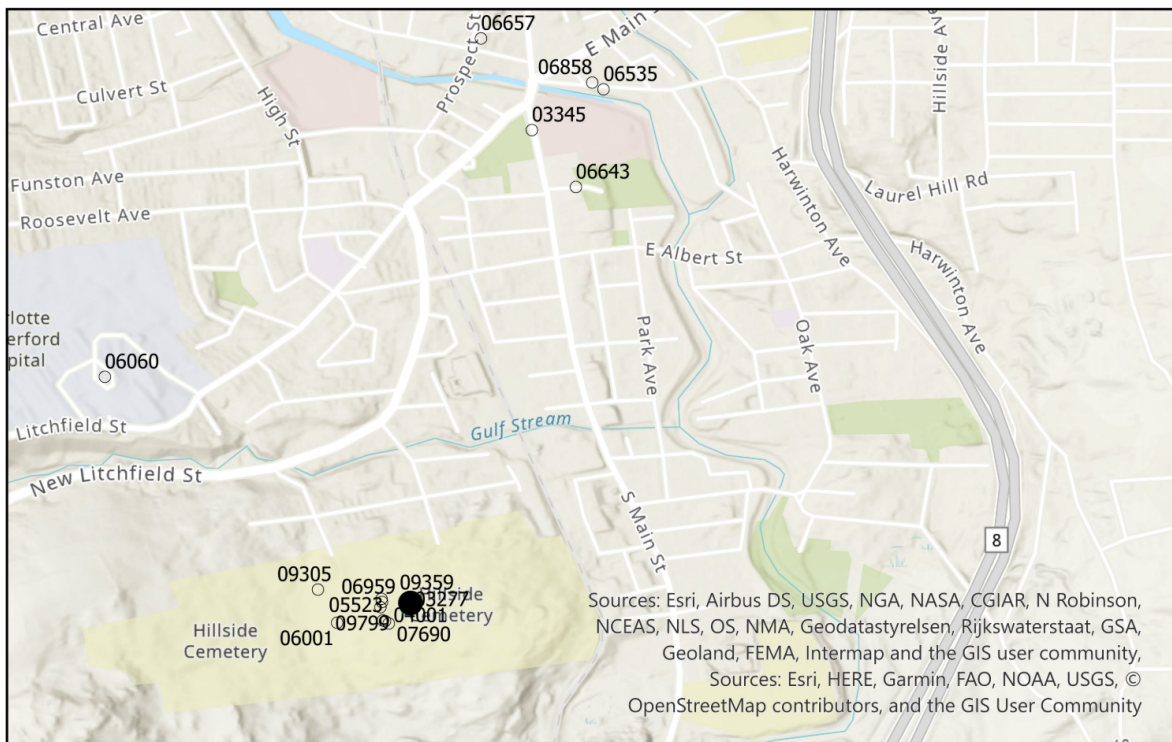
CONTINUATION SHEET Hillside Cemetery (#03277) / 76 Walnut Street, Torrington

prominent families were also constructed to plans developed by the Olmsted firm. While much of the firm’s concept for the western portion of the cemetery was realized, concepts for drives and trails along the eastern side of the cemetery appear to have gone unrealized. The Olmsted firm remained as consultants into the 1960s, preparing studies for the opening of new sections. These were largely reflective of the spirit of the cemetery’s original plan, though they revised the forms of the sections and vehicular circulation.²

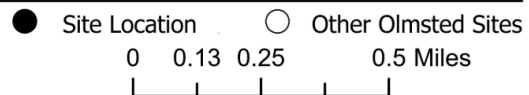
REFERENCES

Bryant, Tod and Peter Viteretto. “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Hillside Cemetery,” November 2021.

GRAPHICS



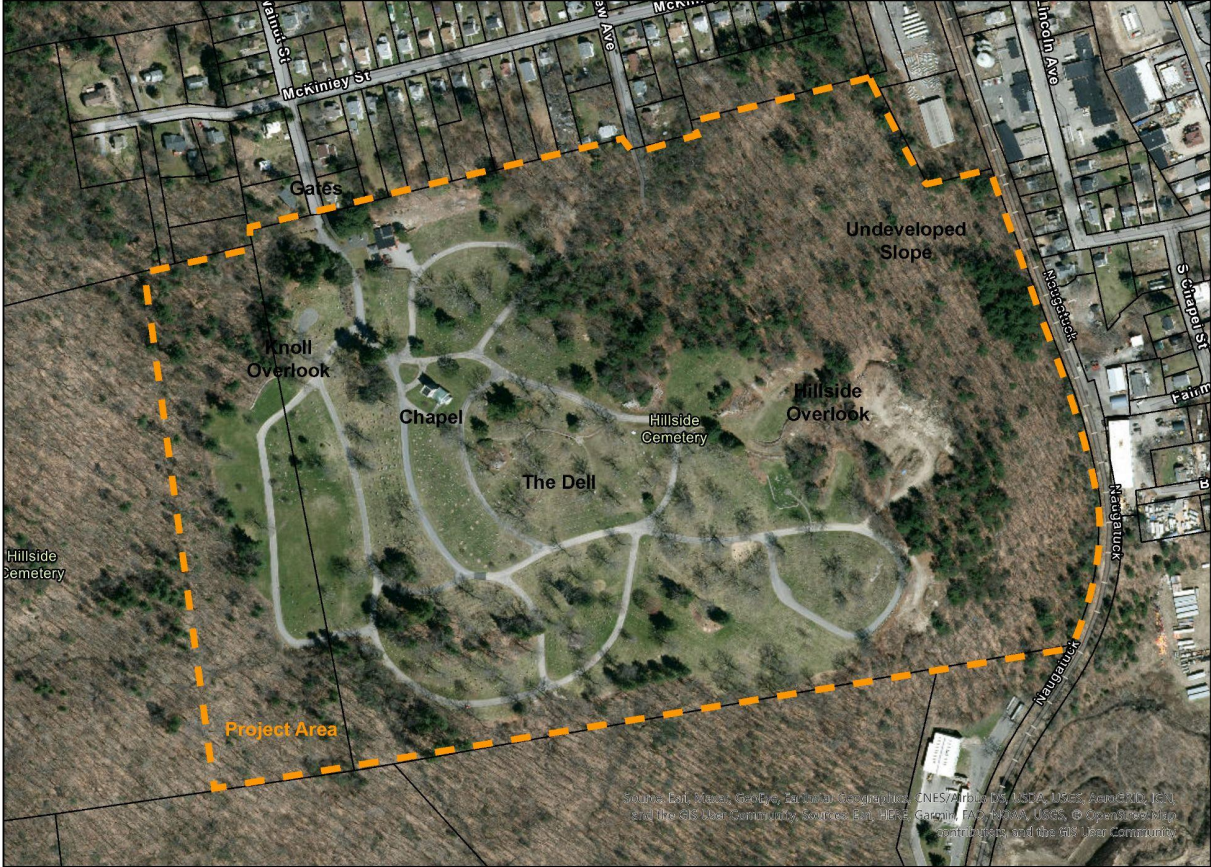
JOB: 03277 LOCATION: Hillside Cemetery



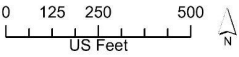
² See for instance, “Hillside Cemetery, Torrington, Conn, Rough Study for Additional Lots Near Overlook,” May 24, 1961, accessed December 9, 2021, https://www.flickr.com/photos/olmsted_archives/43211400944/in/album-72157680252542230/.

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT

CONTINUATION SHEET Hillside Cemetery (#03277) / 76 Walnut Street, Torrington



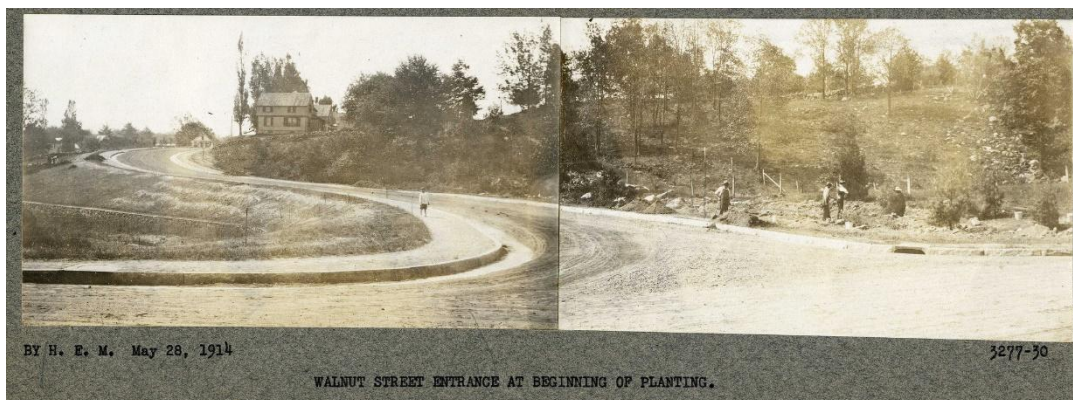
JOB: 03277 LOCATION: Torrington PROJECT: Hillside Cemetery



CONTINUATION SHEET Hillside Cemetery (#03277) / 76 Walnut Street, Torrington



General Plan of Hillside Cemetery, Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)



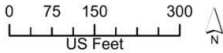
Photographs, 1914, view of Walnut Street Entrance at Beginning of Planting, Olmsted Brothers. (Source: courtesy Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY – LANDSCAPES * OLMSTED PROJECT

CONTINUATION SHEET Hillside Cemetery (#03277) / 76 Walnut Street, Torrington



JOB: 03277 LOCATION: Torrington PROJECT: Hillside Cemetery



Aerial photograph overlaid with Olmsted firm plan. (Source: Kevan Klosterwill)



View of wall, fence, and gate from east. (All photographs taken by authors in 2021 unless otherwise noted)



View southeast toward chapel along drive.



View southeast from above retaining wall looking down valley.



View north to rustic steps incorporated into retaining wall with turf landing, part of wall wrapping valley.



Overgrown staircase and walls near overlook.



View of boulder edging and steps along drive.



Alvord monument (Job #09305).



Fyler monument (Job #06959).



Migeon monument (Job #05523) with steps and boulder edging in foreground.



Reid plot and bench (Job #09799) adjacent to outcrop and vegetation (overgrown).