

Milk Row Cemetery

Grave Markers and Civil War Monument Rehabilitation and Conservation

FY'16 Community Preservation Act (CPA) Applicant
Somerville Historic Preservation Commission
J. Brandon Wilson, Executive Director



Milk Row Cemetery

- Significance
 - Established in 1804
 - Contains what is thought to be the oldest Civil War soldiers' monument in the United States (1863)
 - Historic designation on the local, state, and national level
 - Only dedicated open space in Union Square proper
- Current Use
 - Passive Recreation
 - Educational Instruction



Preservation Master Plan Summary

- Restore Perimeter Fencing and Gates
- Open up & Improve Cemetery Landscaping & Furniture
- Improve Internal Circulation for Pedestrians & Vehicles
- Provide Universal Access within and into Burial Ground
- Enhance & Facilitate Public Entry and Use
- Maintain Health of Large American Elm Tree
- Stabilize, Clean, and Treat Civil War Monument
- Rehabilitate 8 Tomb Facades, Vault and Wall
- Reset and Conserve All Deteriorated Grave Markers

Project Progress

- **Phase One:** Prepare Preservation Master Plan
 - DEM State grant (\$34,000) and Federal funding from CDBG
 - May - Sept. 2002 (Total Project: \$50,000)
- **Phase Two:** Monument and grave marker conservation, tomb reconstruction (2), accessibility, and landscaping
 - Mass. Historical Commission (MHC) State grant (\$55,205)
 - 2005-2006 (Total Project: \$140,037)
- **Phase Three:** Perimeter improvements to fencing, ADA accessibility, more historic landscaping, and addition of on-site water source, benches, trash cans, & bicycle rack
 - Mix of private and public (state/local/federal) funding
 - 2009-2012, with additional landscaping still in progress

Project Progress (cont.)

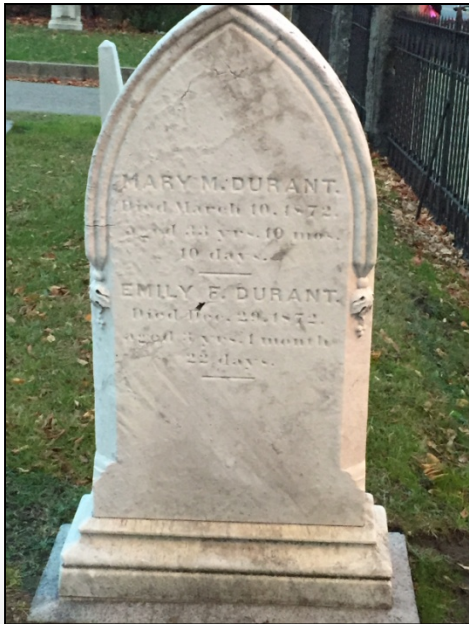
- **Phase Four:** Greater public access and use through public programming
 - Annual events, docent-led tours, and school trips
 - Ongoing
- **Phase Five:** Rehabilitation of tomb facades
 - Remaining six tombs to be rehabilitated in the late spring and early summer of 2016
 - FY'15 CPA grant (\$48,360); Total Project: \$114,360
 - TOTAL COSTS:
 - * to Preserve & Restore MRC to date: \$441,962
 - * GRANTS received to date: \$137,565 (~1/3 of total!)

Preservation Master Plan Update

- Restore Perimeter Fencing and Gates ✓
- Open up & Improve Cemetery Landscaping & Furniture ✓
- Improve Internal Circulation for Pedestrians & Vehicles ✓
- Provide Universal Access within and into Burial Ground ✓
- Enhance & Facilitate Public Entry and Use ✓
- Maintain Health of Large American Elm Tree ✓
- Stabilize, Clean, and Treat Civil War Monument ✓
- Rehabilitate 8 Tomb Facades, Vault and Wall (Started 2005-06, completing June 2016)
- **Reset and Conserve All Deteriorated Grave Markers**

Phase Six – Current Project

- Civil War Monument Conservation
 - Cleaning, repair, and selective re-pointing
- Grave markers
 - 42 grave markers
 - 6 footstones
 - Rehabilitation
 - Cleaning
 - Repairing
 - Resetting
 - Documenting



Budget

- Grave markers: \$12,355
- Civil War Monument: \$6,131
- Footstones: \$910
- Materials and oversight: \$4,025
- **Total: \$26,808**

