



Name of Property: Woodlawn Cemetery
City, State: New York (Bronx), New York
Significant Dates: 1863-1940
NHL Criteria: 1 and 4
NHL Exceptions: 5
NPS Theme: II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements
2. Reform movements
III. Expressing Cultural Values
1. Educational and intellectual currents
5. Architecture, landscape architecture and urban design
6. Popular and traditional culture

Previous Recognition: The New York State Review Board approved listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance

National Historic Context: Special Study

NHL Significance:

- Woodlawn Cemetery holds national significance as a superlative example of a landscape-lawn cemetery with an unparalleled collection of artistically important memorials set in a designed landscape. The landscape-lawn idea was the dominant concept driving American cemetery design during the second half of the nineteenth century and a major influence on landscape architecture overall.
- A series of gifted staff in the positions of superintendent, landscape gardener, and engineer, including R. E. K. Whiting, Henry Diering, Judson Doolittle, and Frederick Diering, worked for decades to design the overriding structure of the landscape plan and create memorial guidelines. These individuals consistently followed through with the implementation of the plot and lot design, as well as the construction of private



monuments, all of which established Woodlawn's artistic preeminence among its peers.

- Woodlawn's private lots and their corresponding memorials represent some of the finest examples of funerary art in the nation. They constitute an exceptional example of multifaceted design, including collaborative works by architects, landscape architects, sculptors, artisans, and fabricators.
- Woodlawn's historic mausolea collection comprises 1,271 structures and is likely unrivalled in this country. The examples feature over 1,000 stained-glass windows, thirty-three of which are signed by the Tiffany Studio with many by other significant artisans. The list of associated architects includes a large number of the period's renowned practitioners.

Integrity:

- The buildings, structures, objects, and overall landscape of Woodlawn Cemetery, fashioned between 1863 and 1940, are fully readable, continue to be well cared for and preserved, and retain a high degree of integrity.
- The greatest change has been the gradual urbanization of the surrounding setting and the construction of the Major Deegan Expressway, which affected the entrance at the northwest corner of the property.
- The cemetery's essential, designed spatial quality remains and is wholly recognizable, and the gently rolling topography defining the cemetery, which was carefully re-graded by Woodlawn's engineers as they prepared each plot for division into lots and sales, remains intact. The primary water features, Woodlawn Lake and Babbling Brook, are extant.
- As the principle organizing feature of the cemetery, the primary road and path system is intact and follows the same alignment as when constructed. Primary changes to this system have been in materials; the cemetery staff resurfaced the crushed stone or macadam drives with bituminous concrete.

Owner of Property: The Woodlawn Cemetery

Acreeage of Property: 400 acres

Origins of Nomination: Woodlawn Cemetery hired a consultant to prepare the NHL nomination.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation will recognize one of the best designed, executed, and preserved landscape-lawn cemeteries in the nation, and generally, will create more awareness of the history of landscape architecture in the United States.
- NHL status could help the Woodlawn Cemetery in the preservation of an extremely complex artistic endeavor, which features collaborative works by architects, landscape architects, sculptors, artisans, and fabricators.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Odo moved, Dr. Allen seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (comments received as of 10/28/10):

David Garrard Lowe, The Beaux Arts Alliance, New York
Charles E. Schumer, U.S. Senator, New York
Charles D. Warren, Charles Warren Architect P.C., AIA, New York
Ruth L. Pierpont, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation, Waterford, New York
Jay DiLorenzo, President, Preservation League of New York State
John P. Toale, Jr., President, The Woodlawn Cemetery, New York (owner)
Kirsten E. Gillibrand, U.S. Senator, New York
Eliot L. Engel, U.S. Congress, New York
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, The City of New York
Ruben Diaz, Jr., President, Bronx Borough, New York
Peg Breen, President, The New York Landmarks Conservancy, New York
Aaron Wunsch, Lecturer, Program in Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania
Vin Cipolla, President, The Municipal Art Society of New York
Mark Adams
Jeffrey Dinowitz, Member of Assembly, New York
Andrew Scott Dolkart, Director, Historic Preservation Program, James Marston Fitch Associate
Professor of Historic Preservation, Columbia University
Carole Ann Fabian, Director, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, |
New York
Ricardo R. Fernández, President, Lehman College, Bronx, New York
Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen, Anthony W. and Lulu C. Wang Curator of American Decorative
Arts, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York



James B. Garrison, AIA, Frens and Frens, L.L.C., Philadelphia
Lori Ginzberg, Professor of History and Women's Studies, College of Liberal Arts, Penn State
Paul Gunther, President, Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America, New York
Dr. Gary D. Hermalyn, Executive Director, The Bronx County Historical Society, New York
Kenneth T. Jackson, Jacques Barzun Professor of History, Director, Herbert H. Lehman Center
for American History
Mr. Jerome and Mrs. Eleanor Jerome Koffler, authors *Freeing the Angel from the Stone: A
Guide
to Piccirilli Sculpture in New York City*, Bronx, New York
Gregory Long, President, The New York Botanical Garden
Louise Mirrer, CEO and President, New-York Historical Society
Gwen Pier, National Sculpture Society, New York
Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, Foundation for Landscape Studies, New York
James G. Rogers, III, FAIA, South Norwalk, Connecticut
Frank G. Matero, Professor of Architecture, Director, The Architectural Conservation
Laboratory, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania
Ben Sherwood, Los Angeles, California
McKelden Smith, President, The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, New York,
New York
Judith B. Tankard, Landscape Historian, Waban, Massachusetts
Robert B. Tierney, Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission, New York
J. Joseph Edgette, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus and Folklorist Emeritus, Widener University
Samuel G. White, FAIA, LEED A. P., Platt Byard Dovell White, Architects LLP, New York
Received nineteen letters of support related to the burial of a particular individual in the
cemetery.

Advisory Board Recommendation: