



NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY

SECOND AVENUE ABOVE EAST SECOND STREET

www.marblecemetery.org

November 2022

©New York Marble Cemetery, Inc.

NORTH WALL PROGRESS

The 250-foot-long North wall reached a major goal this fall, when the stonemasons, Kutno Restoration, finally turned the corner at the Bowery Hotel. They were able to harvest existing Tuckahoe Marble from the partially destroyed West wall in front of the hotel to complete the job.

The cemetery has spent nearly \$600,000 over the past 10 years repairing a huge gap resulting from a catastrophic collapse in the middle of a blizzard around 1980.

A tragic combination of neglect, freeze-



West wall showing Bowery Hotel gate

and-thaw expansion, vibrations from Second Avenue truck traffic and overgrowth of vines bringing moisture into the cracks probably led to the destruction.

Permits from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission allowed them to use cinder blocks on the rear side of the wall with rebar and metal horizontal ladders to strengthen construction.

There is more to be done. Creation of prefab capstones, finish pointing of the mortar joints, installation of the family name plaques and painting protective limewash on the cinder blocks are contemplated as our finances allow.

At the same time this past summer, the neighboring NYC homeless shelters operated by Project Renewal installed a fiber optic connection in a silver pipe between their two buildings and are in the process of removing their ugly Verizon wires.



Finished corner October 2022

Plans are in formation about blocking the hotel's patio bar with its 13-foot-wide gate. Our wall was deliberately destroyed in 2006 when their building was under construction.

NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY INTERMENTS

1830-1937

By Anne W. Brown

Historical background; founding legal documents;
Biographical information for 2,085 burials
organized by family vault.

Second edition, published 2020, hardbound, 411 pp., illus.

\$55 postpaid from the author

Send inquiries to AWB@chesapeake.net

OUR MISSION

To honor the contributions that the Cemetery's founders made to New York City and the nation, the trustees' mission is to maintain this resting place for vault holders and their descendants, to restore this Landmark as an open space, and to achieve financial sustainability for the future.

(Statement adopted by the Trustees April 26, 2019)



OPEN GATE DAYS

Once each month during the summer the Cemetery welcomes visitors to enjoy our garden and learn our history. Whether they come as a pre-planned tour group or individually, they experience the tranquility of our secret garden.

We also participate in Open House New York weekend in October, when nearly 300 historic or architecturally interesting sites are open to the public for free. This year we had six Owner Family reunions as a result of sending email blasts to our entire mailing list about OHNY.org.

These Open Days give us a chance to train our younger generation of Owners on the key facts and engage their interest. It is only by educating our team of guides that we will find new, willing trustees to carry on the legacy of our historic site. Please contact us if you think you might be able to help.



Friends relax during Open Gate Days

NEW YORK MARBLE CEMETERY, INC.

*A New York City Landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places
A 501(c)(13) registered charity*

CONTACT

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EVOLUTION OF SECOND AVENUE

There have been significant changes to Second Avenue since it was first laid out in the New York Commissioners' Plan of 1811. Conceived as a fashionable thoroughfare of comfortable Greek Revival brick houses for the wealthy, it descended into a hodgepodge of shabby tenements.

Noted architectural detective and social historian Christopher Gray, who died in 2017, wrote on Sunday, May 26, 2013, for the New York Times Real Estate Section, "Streetscapes" "The Avenue in its Well-Behaved Youth".

After describing the elegant mansions of prominent families lining Second Avenue he lamented:

Today, the observant may scrape up the few traces of gentility amid the falafel and fraternity crowds. ... There is also the New York Marble Cemetery, hidden away on the west side from Second to Third Street. Its interment roster is redolent of a New York so long gone, it is a foreign country: Abeel, Anthon, Devoe, Hosack, Luqueer, Vandervoort.

Once again the neighborhood is changing. Across Second Avenue from the Cemetery's gate there is a huge construction site waiting for final permits to build a 14-story condo on the former homes of the Church of the Nativity and La Salle Academy, a college prep school. The long-planned Second Avenue subway extension from 125th street to Houston Street may eventually bring more traffic to the neighborhood.



*Cemetery gate c.1934
With a bakery next door.
Upper ornamentation is in place.*



*Cemetery gate c. 2022
With a funeral home next door.
Missing ornamentation is a mystery.*

To learn more about the history of our gates go to our first newsletter dated 2001.

[www.marblecemetery.org/more about us/newsletter/2001](http://www.marblecemetery.org/more%20about%20us/newsletter/2001)

If you'd prefer to receive this newsletter by email, notify us at info@marblecemetery.org with your name and the preferred email address.



MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION A 501(c)(13) registered charity

Online via  at www.marblecemetery.org

Or send a check to:

New York Marble Cemetery, Inc.

Attn: Treasurer

P.O. Box 315

New York, NY 10159

ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME _____

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For information on gifts of appreciated stock or for a financial statement,
please email treasurer@marblecemetery.org

OWNERS MEETING

SUNDAY
MAY 7, 2023
1:30 PM



EVENT RENTALS

When the cemetery began renting its grounds in 2004, we had no idea what a success this business venture would become. All of the income helps pay for wall restoration and landscaping.

We have hosted nearly 100 events including 33 weddings, 25 garden parties, 13 TV/movie/photo shoots and seven fashion shows. There have been Shakespeare plays, product launches, farmers markets, art shows, poetry readings, birthday parties, graduations and walking tours

Not every event has gone smoothly, mostly due to bad weather, trash left behind or out of control crowds, but we have learned valuable lessons as a result. We are careful to protect the lawn (our best feature) from too many visitors, tents or loaded supply wagons.

Our basic fee is \$2,500 for a small garden party with fewer than 60 guests and climbs to \$10,000 for anything at night. Every client wants to bargain on the price and every mother-in-law is horrified at first when hearing the wedding will be in a cemetery.

The maximum crowd is 150 people due to weight limits on the underground vaults (our lawn is a roof-garden). We do not allow dancing or loud music and insist on gate guards to monitor attendance. We guarantee the renters a free day next season, if the event is cancelled due to rain.

Some of our most grateful renters are the Event Planners, Caterers and Movie Scouts, who assumed they could get permits for large events in Central Park, only to be turned down at the last minute.

They are thrilled to find the perfect party venue hiding in the East Village.



Photograph: High End Rental NY

Corporate Picnic Rental