

Application for Historic Preservation

Prospect Hill Cemetery

**2201 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002**

1. Application cover sheet.

Government of the District of Columbia
Historic Preservation Office

HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK OR HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION

New Designation X
Amendment of a previous designation

Property Name Prospect Hill Cemetery

Address 2201 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002

Square and lot numbers Square 3505, Lot 0801

Affected Advisory Neighborhood Commission

Date of construction purchased in July 1858 by the German Evangelical Church Society

Date of major alterations:

- Lincoln Road gate house built in 1873; demolished in 1907.
- North Capitol Street extended through Cemetery beginning in 1897.
- Chapel built; permit issued July 26, 1900; demolished in 1961.
- Western portion of Cemetery sold in 1922.
- Stone house erected; permit issued July 1, 1927. Old farm house demolished.

Architect Autenrieth and Goenner (chapel); E. H. Davis (stone house)

Original use Cemetery Present use Cemetery

Property owners the Lot Owners of Prospect Hill Cemetery

Legal address of property owners 2201 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002

NAME OF APPLICANT(S) Jean B. Crabill for the Lot Owners of Prospect Hill Cemetery
 Carol Holler, President, Prospect Hill Cemetery Board of Trustees

Address/Telephone of applicant 1B Northway, Greenbelt, MD 20770; 301-982-8990 (Crabill)
 8810 Side Saddle Road, Springfield, VA 22152; 703-451-0836 (Holler)

Name and title of authorized representative Jean B. Crabill, Cemetery Historian

Signature of representative *Jean B. Crabill* Date 9-24-04

Name and telephone of author of application Jean B. Crabill, 301-982-8990

2. Statement of significance of the proposed landmark.

2. The Historic Significance of Prospect Hill Cemetery

Prospect Hill Cemetery, at North Capitol and V Streets, NE, stands in silent testimony to the lives of German immigrants who played a crucial part in meeting the needs of District of Columbia residents, especially during and immediately following the Civil War.

Prior to 1860, Washington, DC, was at best a slowly-growing Southern town. For various reasons it never became the industrial center its founders envisioned. In 1860, the population of the city of Washington was slightly over 61,122 (1); for the entire District of Columbia, 75,080 (2).

It was the Civil War that changed Washington to a true nation's capital with a strong Union Army presence and a phenomenal growth of population. By 1870, the city's population had stabilized at nearly 110,000 persons (3), an increase of about 49,000 persons in comparison with the city's 1860 population. The entire District of Columbia showed a similar increase, growing to nearly 132,000 (4). Meeting the needs arising from such rapid growth was not an easy task. Many workers were needed to help build and furnish houses, grade and pave roads, feed and clothe its citizens and provide other needed products.

Although the District of Columbia never attracted masses of immigrants, over time some German craftsmen saw that here their talents might be needed. In Washington they could open their own shops, preserve their work ethic, and remain members of the middle class rather than part of the new working class created by the Industrial Revolution. Since the minimally industrialized District of Columbia was not able to provide for its growing needs through increased local factory production, the talents of craftsmen were especially sought to help meet the needs of the city, county and its citizens. It was especially during the Civil War and its post-war era that German immigrant craftsmen made major contributions to the successful growth of our capital city.

Research based on the 1870 federal census of the District of Columbia shows that shortly after the Civil War Washington's German immigrants provided a disproportionately high number of craftsmen in relation to the District's total population. In this era of rapid growth, it was these Germans who comprised 53% of the city's bakers and confectioners; overall, of skilled workers helping meet the city's need for nourishment, 30% were German, as were 34% of those providing clothing (primarily tailors and shoemakers). Thirty-two percent of the city's cabinetmakers, 38% of its upholsterers, 86% of its brewers and 100% of its carpet weavers had come from Germany.

These immigrants also helped bring culture and beauty to the city. Four of the city's five piano makers were German, as were 45% of its watchmakers, and 38% of its jewelers. Saddle makers, gunsmiths, locksmiths, turners, scientific instrument and model makers, they all made significant contributions to the rapidly growing city. And it is important to remember that these percentages pertain to a group that made up only 7% of the District's working male population. (See appendix.)

During the decade beginning in 1870, Washington's vital statistics give details of the deaths of 691 adult German immigrants from January 1, 1870 through July 31, 1879 (5) and (6). Of those listed as

being buried in a Washington cemetery, 43% are at Prospect Hill. The next highest percentage (11 %) were buried at St. Mary's Cemetery across the street on Lincoln Road. In addition, of the 50 persons for whom no cemetery was listed, 20 (40%) appear in Prospect Hill's records. During this time period nearly 75% of those adults buried at Prospect Hill came from Germany. (It is sad to note that at Prospect Hill in the 19th century, more than half of all burials were children) (7).

The German-American Prospect Hill Cemetery, established in 1858 and chartered by Congress in 1860, is one of the very few remaining reminders of the contributions these immigrants made to the growth of Washington during and after the Civil War. They enriched the nation's capital city with their so-called "average presence" that made for a stable community. Their work and their place in the history of Washington, DC, should not be forgotten.

Footnotes

- (1) Gibson, Campbell. *US Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC*. "Population of the 100 Largest Cities and Other Urban Places in the United States: 1790 to 1990. Table 9.
- (2) District of Columbia Public Library. *Population of the District of Columbia*.
- (3) Gibson, Campbell. *US Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC*. "Population of the 100 Largest Cities and Other Urban Places in the United States: 1790 to 1990." Table 10.
- (4) District of Columbia Public Library, *op. cit.*
- (5) Pippenger, Wesley E. *District of Columbia Interments (Index to Deaths), January 1, 1855 to July 31, 1874*.
- (6) Pippenger, Wesley E. *District of Columbia Death Records, August 1, 1874 to July 31, 1879*.
- (7) Prospect Hill Cemetery. *Burial Records, 1858-present*.

**3. Description of property including
its original and present appearance**

3. Description of the Property Including Its Original and Present Appearance

Concordia Church had been in existence about a decade when, in the 1840s, the congregation established the German Lutheran Cemetery on land between H, G, 4th and 5th Streets, NE. Another ten years passed; nearly all burial plots had been used. By this time city ordinances had been passed forbidding the creation or expansion of cemeteries within city limits (south of Boundary Street, or Florida Avenue, as it is known today).

In July 1858 Concordia's German Evangelical Society (men's group), whose purpose was "primarily to assist the church in benefiting the needy, sick, and bereaved"(1), purchased from George Moore a little more than seventeen acres, at a cost of \$7,032.50, for a new cemetery (2). Located north of Boundary Street, due north of the Capitol building, and sharing a small northern boundary with Glenwood Cemetery, this property was treeless farmland. A tenant's farmhouse stood on the northern portion of the land.

Once the land was purchased grading began. A fence was erected, and about 100 trees were planted. A daily newspaper of Washington reported:

"This new and pleasantly located burial ground of the German population has, since its dedication, which took place a few months since, undergone great improvement, having been handsomely fenced in, and a portion of the ground graded and placed in a higher condition for use...First, however, a new road will have to be cut from the highway to the entrance of the new Cemetery" (3).

One year later, on Sunday, September 26, 1859, members of the German Evangelical Society, church officials and invited guests met at German Hall (11th Street between F and G Streets, NW). At 3:00 p.m. they processed, accompanied by C. Bergmann's 20-man band, to the new Cemetery, "where a large crowd of people was already waiting" (4). Speeches were given, children of the German School sang hymns, and the Rev. Samuel D. Finckel, pastor of Concordia Church, consecrated the ground for Christian burial, naming it Prospect Hill Cemetery (5). The new Cemetery was ready to serve Washington's Protestant German immigrants.

New plots at Prospect Hill were given to families who had loved ones buried in the old German Lutheran Cemetery. However, the cost of transferring a coffin was the family's responsibility. We do not know how many families were able to do this.

Nearly one hundred fifty years have passed. The Cemetery is not as large as when it was first purchased. After a paved North Capitol Street divided the property into eastern and western sectors, in 1922 the land to the west was sold (only 26 persons had been interred there, who were reinterred in the eastern part of the Cemetery). The remaining part, to the east, now consists of 10.46 acres situated between North Capitol Street, Lincoln Road, V Street and Bryant

Streets, NE, and remains a working burial ground (about a dozen persons are buried each year). Today it is officially City Square 3505, Lot 0801.

The entrance is on the service road adjacent to North Capitol Street. From this point the land rises to the north until it reaches a crest near Lincoln Road. Especially during winter when the trees are leafless, from this height a panorama of the city of Washington unfolds, the dome of the Capitol quite close by, the Washington monument, the old City Post Office and the National Cathedral farther in the distance, and many turreted rooftops in between. To the east is St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery; to the north, Glenwood Cemetery. Chimes can often be heard; on a good, clear day one can not only hear the bells of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, but possibly also from the National Cathedral.

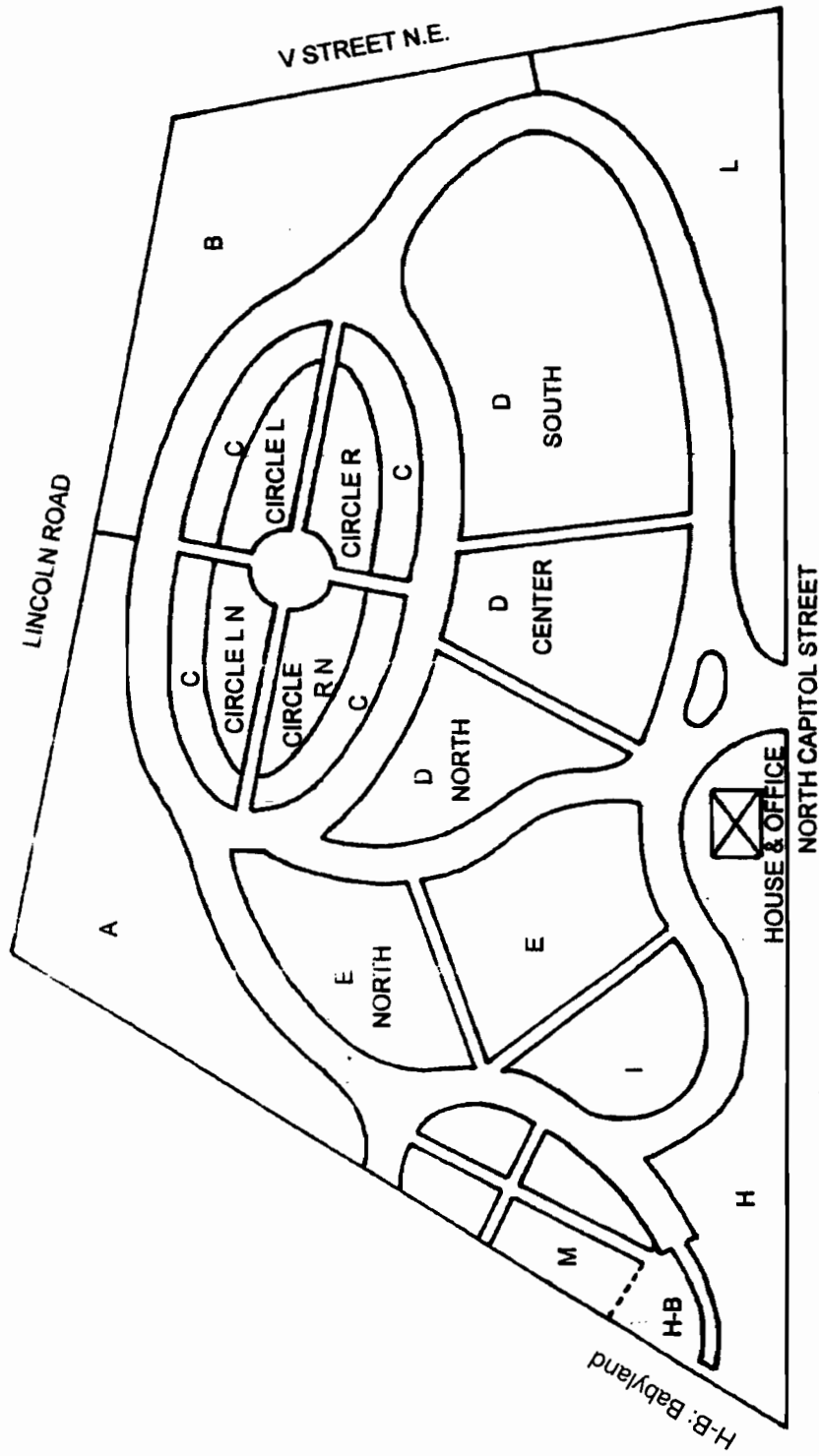
From 1900 to 1961 a chapel was located at this crest. After it was demolished a center circle was established, nestled between fir trees, cool in the summer, protected in the winter. In the inner circle there is a dedicatory plaque, established by the Cemetery, the German-American Heritage Society, and the United Church. Surrounding it are four curved cement benches inviting rest, relaxation and contemplation.

Near the iron and stone entrance gate stands the Stone House, built in 1927. It is used as both a Cemetery office and home for the Cemetery superintendent. The office, kitchen and living room are on the first floor; on the second are four bedrooms and a full bathroom. At the basement level are bathrooms for use by Cemetery visitors, and room for storage. The design of this house is strikingly similar to the Sears Fullerton kit house of the 1920s.

Throughout the Cemetery are old trees, mostly oak, maple, poplar, pine and cedar. As is to be expected in a cemetery of this age, the terrain is "bumpy" from the settling of the earth after burials. A stone wall topped with iron fencing surrounds all but the northern boundary of Prospect Hill, the stones having been carefully chosen to match the walls of Glenwood and St. Mary's Cemeteries.

The burial grounds have been laid out in sections—A, B, C, D, E, H, I, L, and M (see map on next page). The oldest, A, B, C and D, are the ones containing most of the family plots, ranging from four to sixteen burial sites in each. Sites in sections A and B are in straight rows. Section D, by far the largest in the Cemetery, has straight rows in its north and center areas, but is quite curved in the southern section, making it difficult to find a particular gravesite. The newer sections all have a straight-line layout.

There are only two mausoleums at Prospect Hill. One belongs to the family of Edward F. Abner, a partner in 19th century Abner and Drury, brewers. The other, directly across the road from the Stone House, is the final resting place of members of the Braumann family. These mausoleums, similar in appearance, have a granite exterior and marble interior. In addition, there is one crypt, also made from granite.



**SECTIONS OF
PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY**

As they were able, many other families have placed tombstones on the gravesites. In the 19th century, many were Victorian in style and made of sandstone, which looked very nice when new, but upon which Mother Nature is particularly harsh. These are the stones on which one finds most of the German inscriptions; many are now very difficult to read. Most of the newer stones are of granite or marble.

During the 19th century there were about 5,700 interments (6). For nearly 400 of them, nothing is known except, for adult males, a name, date and place of interment. During this period members of the man's family who died were recorded as "wife of ...," "child of...," or even "mother-in-law of..." Many of these persons died during the Civil War, when neither the District of Columbia nor the Cemetery kept death records. However, it is highly probable that a large proportion of these 400 persons were either from Germany or were the children of German immigrants.

Of the remaining 19th century burials, 61% were children 13 years of age or younger. Seventy per cent of adult burials were immigrants from Germany or the Germanic cultures of Switzerland and Austro-Hungary. Of those adults born in the United States whose ancestry was known, nearly half were first-generation Americans. (See chart on next page.)

Upon visiting the Cemetery one might conclude that most of the deceased have been memorialized with a stone. Not so. Although there are more than 14,000 persons buried at Prospect Hill, only 39% have marked graves (7). The graves of children who died in the 19th century usually are unmarked; it was hard enough for many new immigrants to pay for the interment. (If the family remained in Washington, often when the first adult in the family died a family plot would be established, and the children moved into it. In such cases, the children's names usually were added to the family memorial stone.)

In the 19th century occasionally an immigrant family could not afford a gravesite. It was not unusual for another immigrant family, one owning a family plot, to offer space for the burial. Today persons doing genealogical research who do not know this tradition are quite puzzled when they find a stranger buried with their ancestors.

The tradition of helping others did not stop with the end of the 19th century. One Prospect Hill lot owner remembers:

"Near our family sites, a young boy had been buried. His mother came to his grave almost every day. One day she told us that her husband had taken a job in New York and she would not be able to come to the Cemetery any more. My mother promised to put flowers on his grave. She died when I was 16, so I carried on the tradition. I've forgotten only once, about four years ago" (8).

The families with loved ones in Prospect Hill did (do) not perceive the Cemetery as gloomy or ghoulish. It was seen as park-like hallowed ground. Until the 1960s women and children often

**Prospect Hill Cemetery
Washington, DC**

19th Century Burials

	<u>1850s</u>	<u>1860s</u>	<u>1870s</u>	<u>1880s</u>	<u>1890s</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Children	91	723	900	792	723	3229
Adult immigrants, German	19	127	348	443	480	1417
Adult immigrants, other	1	3	23	31	46	104
Adult American, first generation	2	3	20	99	126	250
Adult American, second generation	0	0	0	2	6	8
Adult American, ancestry unknown	1	5	56	87	174	323
Insufficient information to classify	<u>44</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>388</u>
Totals	158	1041	1433	1504	1583	5719

came to Prospect Hill to enjoy its beautiful setting and to sit and talk with others who were also at the Cemetery.

Family plots were visited often. Decoration Day was always a very busy time, a day of remembrance for everyone who had died. On that day, one or more women would sit by the gate selling flowers for the graves. Once families owned automobiles, there were real traffic jams at the Cemetery; often cars had to be parked on streets near Prospect Hill. Today descendants speak of traditions carried out by their ancestors and passed on to their children.

“We went to the Cemetery every Decoration Day and left flowers” (9).

“[My grandmother] would take a little can of aluminum paint and a brush to paint the iron railing around the plot for Decoration Day” (10).

“I remember coming to Prospect Hill twice a week during the summer, and on Thanksgiving and Christmas if the weather permitted. We walked from 51 K Street, NW” (11).

“I can remember coming to Prospect Hill by street car with my great aunt. It was always my job to carry the bucket and the shears. I also remember her telling me that when she was no long able to tend family graves it would be my duty to carry on this family tradition” (12).

Children were usually included in Prospect Hill visits. Today some look back on their visits with fondness:

“My parents would take us children to the Cemetery to clean the gravestone and tidy the plot. My younger brother...and sister...loved to go to Prospect Hill to help” (13).

“I remember fifty years ago, as a child, going with my mother to place flowers on [family] graves...I'll always recall those peaceful trips to Prospect Hill” (14).

“My mother...was a very caring person who never forgot her deceased relatives. Regularly she visited Prospect Hill with flowers, and I remember clearly, when I was five or six, accompanying her with my little brother. While she tended the graves, we played nearby. Then she would walk us to all the other gravesites of those dear to her, both family and friends” (15).

“I am 86 years old now, but I distinctly remember, when I was a little girl, my grandmother would take my hand and we would walk to the Cemetery from 6th Street, NW” (16).

Some of these memories are quite light-hearted:

“I remember going to the grave site many times with my parents. When I was eight or ten years old, while my mother would be caring for the grave, I would play with the water hydrant, getting myself all wet” (17).

“When I was young my family used to visit Prospect Hill Cemetery every Sunday after church. One thing I remember was my picking up the heavy iron flower holder at my grandparents’ grave only to have a garden snake scamper out and away” (18).

“The best part of visiting the Cemetery in my teen years was being allowed to sit behind the wheel of our 1950 Ford and coast from my grandparents' grave site at the top of the hill to my father's grave site down the hill a little way. As my experience progressed I was actually allowed to drive from one site to the other prior to obtaining my license. I was thrilled. I guess you can say I learned to drive in Prospect Hill Cemetery” (19).

Today some remember stories about their ancestors’ viewpoint:

“My father...bought lots in section D, his brother in section A. They both wanted to be near the main entrance of the Cemetery, but disagreed as to which of the gates would eventually be the ‘main gate’” (20).

“My grandfather...wanted to be buried near the wall of section L so that he could hear the streetcars pass by on North Capitol Street” (21).

During the last half of the 20th century life at the Cemetery slowly changed. Most families no longer lived within walking distance of Prospect Hill. By 1970, many had left Washington for the suburbs or for new jobs far away. The elderly began moving to the warmer climate of Florida. The Cemetery was quiet, but not forgotten.

Once people moved away from the city, the number of burials declined and the Cemetery began operating at a loss. By the early 1990s it was in a desperate situation; the few interments each year were not cover operating costs.

Prospect Hill never has had financial support from any institution. Since the 1880s it had been owned by its lot owners, many of whom have become so through inheritance. These descendants of the German immigrants of long ago were not willing to lose the Cemetery that meant so much to their families and that stands in silent testimony of contributions they made to the growth of their capital city. Today nearly 350 families have joined together to make annual or semi-annual gifts to Prospect Hill Cemetery. Their voluntary donations keep the Cemetery alive.

Professor Paul Gleis has stated:

“Stand on the hill of Prospect Hill Cemetery on a sunny, glorious day in spring or autumn and absorb the panorama of the city of Washington... This magnificent little cemetery built by the loving care of Germans and people of German descent speaks a powerful sermon...of life to everyone who has it in him to hear and a heart to understand. Sit on one of the green benches nearby under the trees and remember the sorrows and trials of all resting here, but also the joys and glories and miracles and hopes in their lives. Prospect Hill Cemetery is a hallowed shrine established in loving memory of those that have preceded us [and] an inspiration and reminder...for those coming after us” (22).

Footnotes

- (1) Gleis, Paul G., *History of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Society of Washington, D. C., 1858-1950*, pg. 6.
- (2) Gleis, Paul G., *op. cit.*, pg. 9.
- (3) *Ibid.*, pg. 11.
- (4) *Ibid.*, pg. 10.
- (5) *Ibid.*, pg. 10.
- (6) Prospect Hill Cemetery, *Burial Records*.
- (7) Holler, Carol M. and Jean B. Crabill, *Adult Burial List, Prospect Hill Cemetery, Washington, DC*
- (8) Crabill, Jean B., *The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: the Story of Prospect Hill*, pg. 95.
- (9) Crabill, Jean B., *op. cit.*, pg. 89.
- (10) *Ibid.*, pg. 161.
- (11) *Ibid.*, pg. 95.
- (12) *Ibid.*, pg. 177.
- (13) *Ibid.*, pg. 90.
- (14) *Ibid.*, pg. 107.
- (15) *Ibid.*, pg. 132.
- (16) *Ibid.*, pg. 161.
- (17) *Ibid.*, pg. 141.
- (18) *Ibid.*, pg. 125.
- (19) *Ibid.*, pg. 125.
- (20) *Ibid.*, pg. 95.
- (21) *Ibid.*, pg. 99.
- (22) Gleis, Paul G., *op. cit.* pg. 4.

4. Statement of history of the property.

4. Property History, with Major Changes, of Prospect Hill Cemetery

It was in July 1858 that the men's group of Concordia Church, purchased land from George Moore for a new cemetery. Containing 17.58 acres, the land was a farm with rolling terrain and a modest tenant farmhouse. It was a treeless property. [For Prospect Hill Cemetery in the 19th Century, see map on page 2.) (1)]

The first acts of the men's group were grading and surveying the land, building fences, and planting numerous trees. Their first major addition to the property was the gatehouse on Lincoln Road.

The Lincoln Road Gatehouse

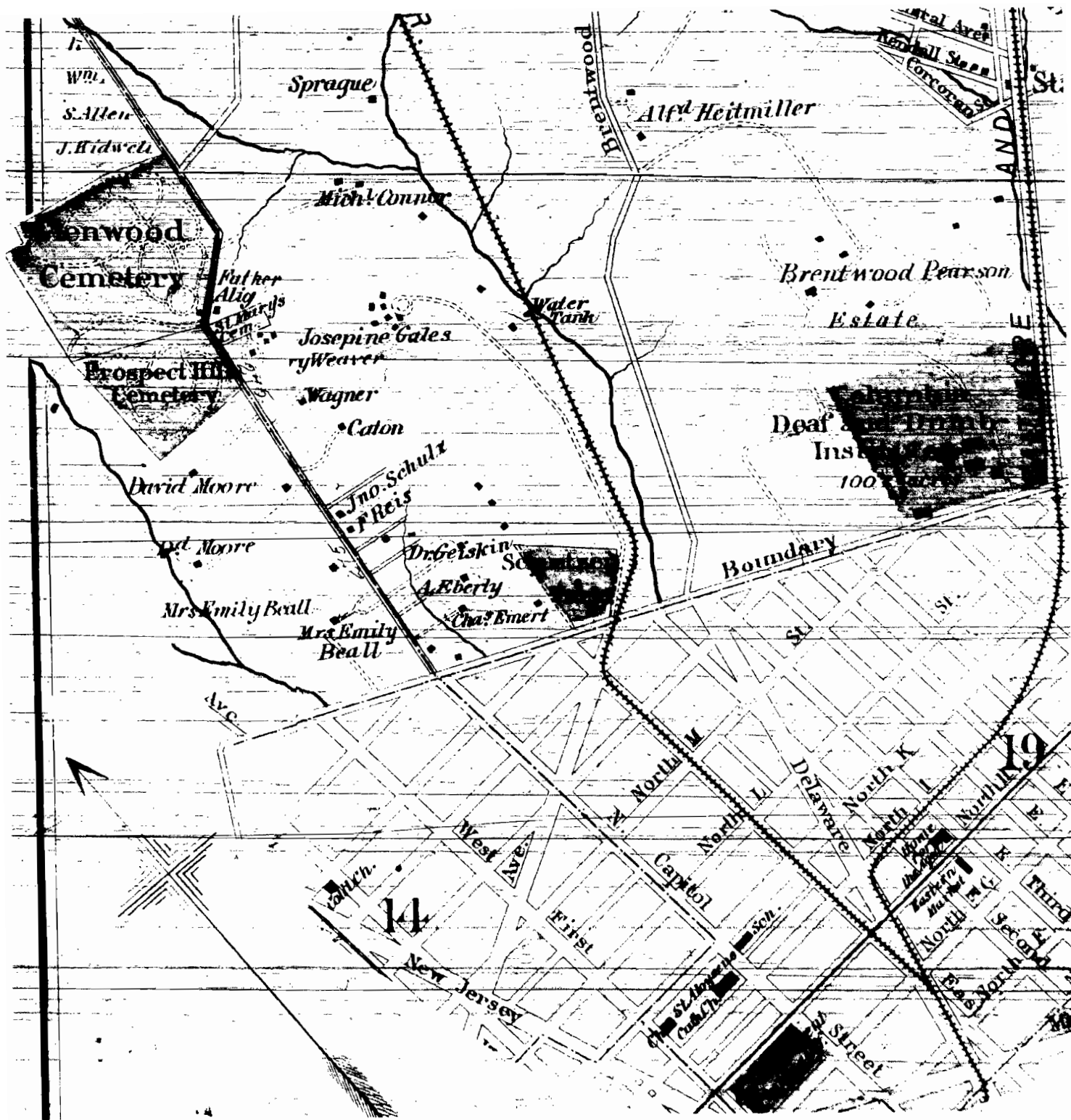
The original entrance to Prospect Hill Cemetery was on Lincoln Road. In 1871, August Schoenborn (designer of the interior structure of our Capitol's dome) submitted to the Board blueprints for a gatehouse. The Board took no action on this matter until 1873, at which time they decided to have the gatehouse built and, at the same time, install a "permanent and solid fence... on the side facing the street (Lincoln Road) consisting of a low wall with an iron rail on top of it" (2). Quite Victorian in style, this gatehouse consisted of a small, shuttered room on each side of the entrance road; these rooms were connected by a large arch with steeple. The total cost of the entire project was \$5,117 (3). In 1899 a second entrance to the Cemetery was opened up on the North Capitol Street side of the property. Eight years later the old gatehouse on Lincoln Avenue was taken down and the entrance closed because Lincoln Avenue had been made lower by 4.5', making that entrance unusable.

North Capitol Street Extension through Prospect Hill Cemetery

In 1897 extension of North Capitol Street through Cemetery grounds began. This unpaved road split Prospect Hill into two portions, a larger portion to the east of the road, a lesser amount of land to the west. Along the eastern portion a fence was constructed along North Capitol Street.

It took eleven years for this action to come about. Controversies involved several groups claiming ownership of Prospect Hill Cemetery, the District of Columbia Commissioners, the D. C. equity, appeals, and supreme courts, Congress, and the President of the United States.

It was in January 1886 that Prospect Hill received from Capital Cable Company a request to cede approximately five acres of ground in order that tracks from the southern border of the Cemetery could be extended northward toward Soldiers' Home. Later that year, in December, A. L. Barber and Co. presented a similar request to build a road through the Cemetery to extend North Capitol Street northward. Both requests were denied. U. S. Senate Bill 385 (First Session



1878

Thirty-Sixth Congress) passed on April 17, 1860, and approved by Congress on June 13 of the same year, specifically declared “no streets, lanes, alleys, roads, or canals of any sort shall be opened through the property of said corporation exclusively used and appropriated to the purpose of a cemetery” (4). Thus the trustees could not legally sell any portion of the Cemetery for non-cemetery use.

At this time there was a splinter group attempting to declare rightful ownership of the property. In Fall 1887 this group, wishing to sell the land, illegally gave permission to city commissioners to begin work on the North Capitol Street extension. On December 14, the commissioners sent laborers to the property to tear down a fence and remove some trees. The Cemetery’s superintendent chased them away.

In a mass meeting three weeks later (January 4, 1888), lot owners condemned the splinter group’s and city commissioners’ actions. A committee of three trustees was appointed to take the problem to court and to present the matter to President Cleveland. The committee acted quickly and got an injunction against the splinter group and city commissioners. President Grover Cleveland “promised careful consideration and investigation” (5). The following year, on March 19, 1889, this injunction against the splinter group and the commissioners was upheld in the Court of Appeals.

By April 23, 1890, the problem of the Cemetery’s charter and the allowing of the extension of North Capitol Street through Cemetery land reached the Senate District Committee. Senators Sherman and Faulkner debated an amendment to the Cemetery’s original charter (Senate Bill 3636). Two days later "Mr. Faulkner, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3636) to amend the charter of the Prospect Hill Cemetery, reported it without amendment" (6). It was not until August 25 of that year that Congress voted to permit this extension through Prospect Hill Cemetery (7).

In 1892 Congress asked the D. C. Commissioners to provide an estimate of the cost of extending North Capitol Street. Captain Rossel, District Commission Engineer, felt that 254,189 square feet of land would be needed: 127,400 square feet belonging to the Barbour family, and 126,789 square feet belonging to the Cemetery. Stating that a jury of condemnation would probably award 30 cents per square foot, he then said he felt the land should be given to the city cost-free (8).

By this time the Board of Trustees realized the extension was inevitable, yet they were loathe to part with their land. They notified Senator James McMillan they would yield the land only when they were compelled to do so by due process of law, and that they wanted no less than 50 cents per square foot, plus money to erect two solid walls along the road and to move 26 or more bodies. In turn, Senator McMillan demanded in Congress condemnation of this ground for street purposes, and compensation of one cent per square foot. He also wanted the Cemetery to pay one-half of the expenses for improvement of this street (9).

In the meantime the District of Columbia Appeals Court, on November 21, 1892, upheld the lower court's ruling that the Cemetery belonged to the lot owners, not the splinter group. Therefore any actions of the splinter group in connection with the extension were void (10).

Shortly before Christmas 1893, Congress, in both houses, adopted House Bill 146 giving approval for the North Capitol Street extension (11). Early the following year the Board of Trustees repeated their position that anything less than 50 cents per square foot was unacceptable.

On March 16, 1894, D. C. Supreme Court's Judge Cole appointed three appraisers to estimate the value of the land to be taken from Prospect Hill. They reported back that the three acres needed for the extension was worth \$45,724; an additional \$5,962 would be due for damages to the Cemetery. This report was confirmed in this Court on June 22, 1894, and filed in the court clerk's office on March 4, 1895. Upon the report of the appraisers Judge Morris decided in the name of the Appellate Court that the government must pay \$5,962 damages at once and the entire estimated price for the land if it took the land for the street (12).

The District's Commissioners were not pleased with this ruling. On March 7, 1895, they had a bill introduced in Congress that would have given them almost dictatorial power over "public health measures and health administration," including buildings, streetcars, boats, bakeries, and cemeteries. Known as the Heard Bill, the bill was defeated (13).

In May 1895 the Commissioners offered the Board of Trustees \$25,000, which the Board did not accept. In October, once again the Board went to court, this time to force the Commissioners to pay the full appraised value. The Commissioners entered an appeal. Judge Morris ruled in favor of the Commissioners.

At this point the Board of Trustees, through attorney John Hempfill, petitioned Congress concerning this matter. On February 20, 1897, the resulting Senate Bill (which had already been accepted in the House of Representatives) was passed:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia are hereby authorized and directed to proceed with the opening of North Capitol Street northward through the property of the Prospect Hill Cemetery, and to pay the owners of the land necessary to be taken for public use in the extension of said North Capitol Street according to the report of the appraisers appointed by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, March sixteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-four, to appraise the land necessary for the extension of said North Capitol Street, as said report was confirmed by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, March fourth, eighteen hundred and ninety-five, so far as the same relates to the land of said Prospect Hill Cemetery.

That the following sum is hereby appropriated, out of the revenues of the District of Columbia, for the purposes following, namely: Fifty-one thousand six hundred and eighty-six dollars to pay the award of said appraisers, confirmed and adjudged as aforesaid (14).

The map on page six shows the split of Prospect Hill Cemetery's property resulting from the extension of North Capitol Street (15).

The Chapel

The building of a mortuary chapel, at a cost of about \$2,500, was first proposed at a meeting of the Board of Trustees April 2, 1886 (16). It was to be located at the crest of the hill, immediately behind the middle portion of Section D, and in front of the Lincoln Road entrance.

However, it was not until 1900 that work on this edifice began. The firm of Autenrieth and Goenner was chosen to design the chapel. Their plan was a one-story building 38' x 26' in the front, 19' x 25' in the rear, and 46' deep, with a height of 29' from the sidewalk to the highest point of the flat roof. To be built on a concrete foundation, the chapel would have a brick front with sandstone trim. Four bids on the construction were received, ranging from \$5,700 to \$6,086, all of which the Board considered too high. F. A. Blundon was finally awarded the contract as lowest bidder when he was willing to accept the work for \$4,450 and after the building plan had been modified (17).

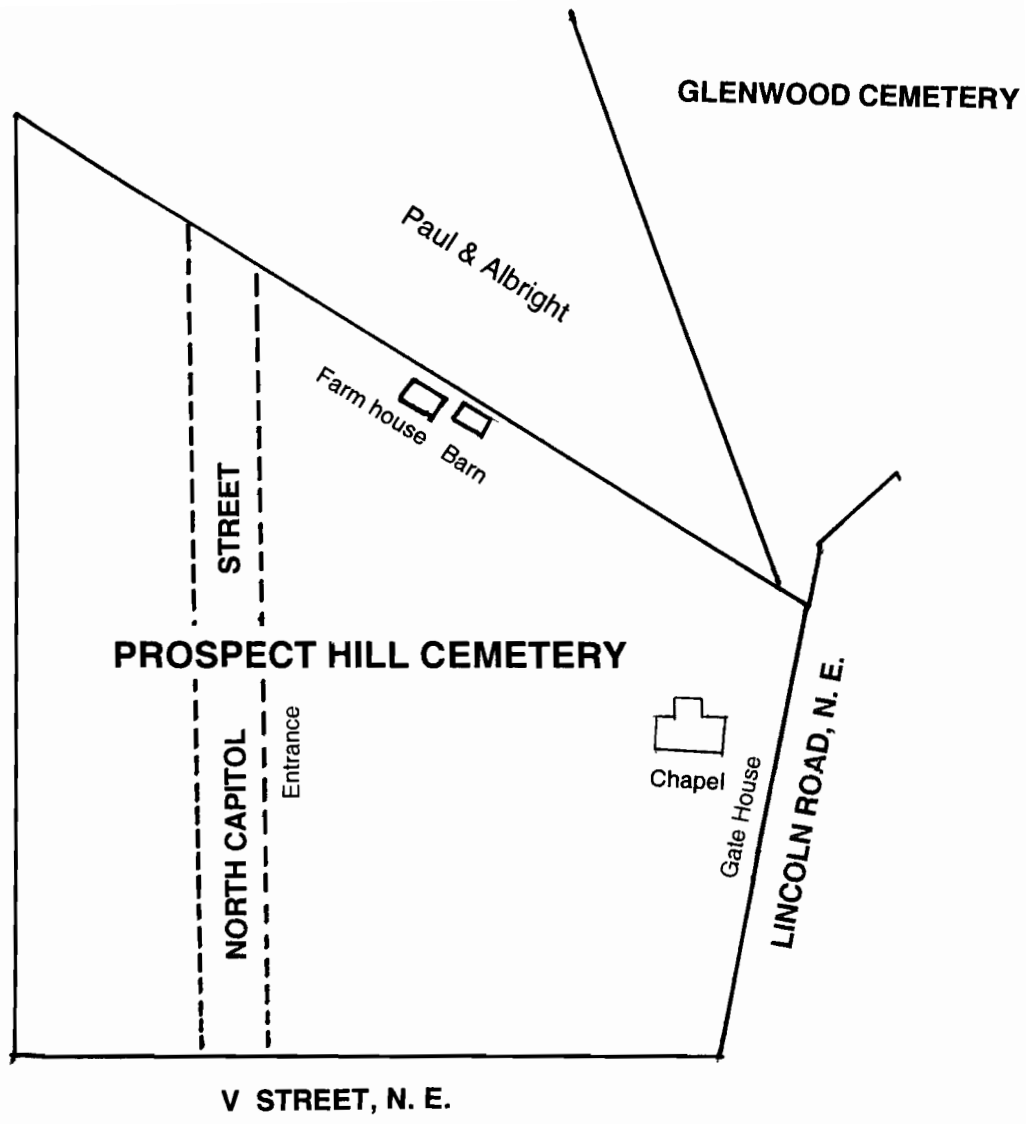
An Application for Permit to Build, No. 132, was granted to Prospect Hill Cemetery on July 26, 1900. (At this time, there was no square and lot number for the property) (18). Two weeks later, on August 7, 1900, the cornerstone was laid. On November 4, 1900, at 3:00 p.m., the Reverends Menzel, Fazius, Horminghouse and Brodhagen, German singing societies, a large number of people and guests, the entire Board and their friends gathered at Prospect Hill for the consecration of the new building.

Unfortunately, the frugal Board of Trustees cut costs too deeply. In addition to having problems with the locks and doors, they had on their hands a building which quickly needed a new roof. Only ten years had passed when the chapel's tin roof had to be replaced. August Getz was selected to replace the tin with slate, at a cost of \$1,075 (19).

The last Memorial Day service held in the chapel was in 1950. That year the chapel was sprayed with Spracrete, which changed its color to white. Termites moved into the structure. Two Board members were given the responsibility of ridding the chapel of these insects, but there is no record of their success. The last recorded funeral service held in the chapel was in early 1956 (20).

By 1960 the chapel was in quite poor condition and needed major renovation (estimated at \$5,000) to bring it back to a usable state. Alternate solutions discussed by the Board were razing

DOBBIN'S ADDITION



NORTH CAPITOL STREET EXTENDED THROUGH CEMETERY

1903

the chapel and building a new one, or demolishing the chapel and subdividing the land into burial sites. At the March 8, 1960, Annual Meeting of Lot Owners, an overwhelming majority of those present indicated they wished to chapel to be removed; the matter was referred back to the trustees.

At the following year's meeting trustees displayed a blueprint portraying a center area which could be used as a garden spot, with the remaining land being divided into 150 burial sites. The Board president stated that the trustees were in unanimous agreement that the chapel should be taken down. A motion was made from the floor that the chapel be removed. This motion was duly seconded and carried. In April 1961, the trustees accepted F. B. Williams' \$3,470 bid to remove the building. By September 1961 the chapel was gone.

Sale of Cemetery Property West of North Capitol Street

The western section of Prospect Hill Cemetery, created by the North Capitol Street extension, remained unimproved land. Nevertheless, it was recognized as being a part of the Cemetery. Since the population of Washington, DC, was increasing rapidly, this unused land interested numerous developers.

On February 28, 1907, Congress passed a bill authorizing the extension of W and Adams Streets, NW, through the Cemetery's western property. Although the Board of Trustees hoped to receive \$5,000 for the land taken, only \$4,000 was granted by Congress. The Board accepted this offer (21).

The following year District Commissioners insisted that the Cemetery contribute to the costs of improving the adjoining streets and be taxed accordingly. That year Prospect Hill paid \$130 in taxes.

By 1910 the tax due had risen to \$1,335. When North Capitol Street was paved in 1918, the western land became even more inaccessible for cemetery use. Offers to buy the land continued to be received. The Board of Trustees began giving serious thought to selling this land.

Did the Board of Trustees need Congressional approval to sell the land? Attorneys disagreed on this matter. The Board decided that the final word in this matter was up to Congress. The original charter demanded that at least seventeen of the original eighteen acres be forever used as a cemetery; therefore only Congress could change the law.

On September 23, 1919, lot owners of the Cemetery voted upon an amendment to the charter so that the land could be sold. In December 1919 Congressman Reed of West Virginia introduced Bill H. R. 7601, which was referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia. This bill provided that wherever in the charter the words "members of the German Evangelical Society" occur

they were to be interpreted and construed to mean the proprietors of lots in the Cemetery and that said Society was empowered to sell the western section (22). What happened to the Bill at this time we do not know. It was reintroduced in the House District Committee of the 67th Congress by Mr. Reed on July 7, 1921, remaining there until December 12, 1921, when the House finally passed it. The Senate accepted the amendment on January 20, 1922 (23).

Very shortly thereafter three bids came in at once, the highest being from Mr. C. P. Knapp for \$66,000. This bid was accepted by the Board and was approved in the Annual Meeting of Lot Owners on March 14, 1922 (24). This sale involved all land owned by the Cemetery west of North Capitol Street and between V and Bryant Streets, NW. From this point on, Prospect Hill Cemetery existed completely in northeast Washington, DC. [See map on the next page (25).]

The Stone House (Cemetery Office/Superintendent's Home)

The land originally purchased by the Evangelical Society of Concordia Church included an old farmhouse (26). Once the Cemetery came into being, this house became the residence of the "grave-digger." By the early 1900s it was in need of costly repairs. In 1915 its ancient "summer kitchen" was torn down and rebuilt; however at that time it was noted that "the whole house is decaying" (27).

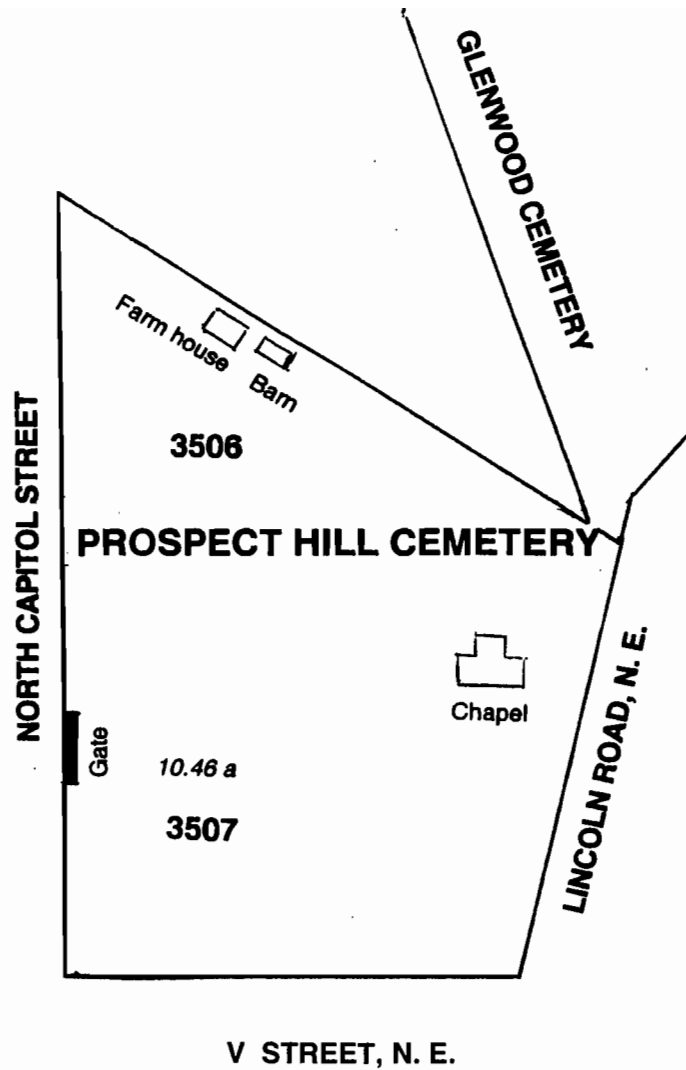
After another decade had passed, the lot owners, at their annual meeting on March 9, 1927, approved the building of a new superintendent's residence which was to include an office for the Cemetery. For this new building they appropriated \$15,000.

Architect E. H. Davis was chosen to design the new edifice to be built on lot 119/2, square 3506. The final blueprints were for a 34' x 34' eight-room two-story house with a tile pitched roof and dormer window. To be heated by hot water, the house would be wired for electric lights but not electric power. Although at first a brick house had been contemplated, it was later changed to a blue granite stone dwelling, the exterior walls to be 16" thick (28).

Thomas F. Jones, 924 5th Street, NE, was given the contract to erect the building. On July 1, 1927, Building Permit #3 was issued. Although this permit shows the estimated cost to be \$12,000, the actual total cost was "about \$17,743" (29).

The cornerstone was laid on July 24, 1927. Once this building was completed the old farmhouse was demolished.

The kitchen was remodeled sometime in the 1950s. In 1960 there was extensive renovation to the house. The living and dining room ceilings were replaced, the partition between the living and dining room torn down, and the antique wall bracket lights removed from the office. Now known as



**AFTER WESTERN PORTION
OF CEMETERY WAS SOLD**

1922

the Stone House, the dwelling is in excellent condition and is still being used, serving its original purpose.

Major Renovation of Cemetery Grounds

In the mid-1900s much work was done to change the Cemetery into a well-landscaped haven in the midst of an increasingly busy city. In the late 1940s the Board began having the Cemetery re-graded, section by section; this work was not finished until June 1956.

Between 1950 and 1960 the Cemetery changed from an ordinary burial site to an exquisite garden-like setting. Granite and marble corner posts were taken out of the ground, sawed off to ground level, and then replaced. Copings were removed. Trees beyond their prime were removed, replaced by a well-balanced assortment of flowering, hardwood, and ornamental trees. Firethorn bushes and azaleas were planted. Each year about 3,000 to 5,000 tulip, crocus, grape hyacinth, and daffodil bulbs were planted throughout the Cemetery. In addition at least 9,000 other small plants were added to the grounds. Growing and maintaining a beautiful lawn was a high priority. New graves were graded and seeded. Old sunken graves were filled in and either sodded or seeded. Other depressions or holes were filled with top soil.

Anything permanently situated on Cemetery grounds was looked at in terms of improving its appearance. Benches, baskets, and sprinklers were painted or varnished. The back fence received new coat of paint. Monuments were straightened. New lights were installed in the front and rear of the Stone House. A new American flag was purchased, and the trustees voted to spend \$35 to get the flagpole painted. Toward the end of the decade, the painting of garage doors, roof, gutters, and downspouts was approved (30).

Later Changes

In 1958 the Board learned the city was planning to widen North Capitol Street. At the 1959 Annual Meeting the trustees reported it was pretty certain that the Cemetery wall along North Capitol Street would have to be moved back. By fall, the Board received blueprints for the North Capitol Street project showing a service road running parallel to the North Capitol Street underpass. This road would have to be used to enter the Cemetery. Some of the shrubs on the terrace would have to be moved (31).

In late 1960, a landscape architect was retained to draw a preliminary sketch of the proposed area where the chapel once stood. By September 1961, with the chapel gone, the entire area was graded and seeded with rye grass. Sites were laid out. The following year, four circular concrete benches were installed in the circle of this new area.

Since that time, there has been little change in Prospect Hill Cemetery. Remnants of the mid-20th-century grandeur can still be seen but time taken its toll. Nevertheless Prospect Hill remains a witness to the lives of the German immigrants now buried there.

Footnotes

- (1) Hopkins, Griffith Morgan. *Atlas of 15 Miles around Washington, including the County of Prince George, Maryland*, 1878.
- (2) Gleis, P. G., *History of the Prospect Hill Cemetery Society of Washington, D. C., 1858-1950*, p. 22.
- (3) Gleis, P. G., *ibid.*, p. 22.
- (4) US Cong. Senate, S.385, *An Act to Incorporate the Properties of Prospect Hill Cemetery*, June 13, 1860.
- (5) Gleis, P. G., *op. cit.*, pg. 40.
- (6) US Cong., *Congressional Record*, April 25, 1890, p. 3807.
- (7) US Cong., *U. S. Statutes*, Vol. 26, August 25, 1890, p. 299.
- (8) Gleis, P. G., *op cit.*, pp. 48-49.
- (9) Gleis, P. G., *ibid.*, pp. 49-50.
- (10) Gleis, P. G., *ibid.*, p. 52.
- (11) Gleis, P. G., *ibid.*, p. 57.
- (12) Gleis, P. G., *ibid.*, p. 60.
- (13) Gleis, P. G., *ibid.*, p. 60.
- (14) Gleis, P. G., *ibid.*, pp. 61-62.
- (15) Baist, George William. *Baist's Real Estate Atlas of Washington, District of Columbia*, 1903.
- (16) Gleis, P. G., *op. cit.*, p. 66.
- (17) DC Government, *Building Permit No. 132*, July 26, 1900.
- (18) DC Government, *ibid.*
- (19) Prospect Hill Cemetery, *Minutes of the Board of Trustees*, unpublished.
- (20) Gleis, P. G., *op cit.*, p. 73.
- (21) Gleis, P. G., *ibid.*, pp. 76-77.
- (22) Gleis, P. G., *ibid.*, p. 77.
- (23) Gleis, P. G., *ibid.*, p. 77.
- (24) Gleis, P. G., *ibid.*, p. 11.
- (25) Baist, George William. *Baist's Real Estate Atlas of Washington, District of Columbia*, Volumes 3 and 4. 1919-21.
- (26) Gleis, P. G., *op. cit.*, p. 80.
- (27) Gleis, P. G., *ibid.*, p. 77.
- (28) DC Government, *Building Permit No. 3*, July 1, 1927.
- (29) Gleis, P. G., *op. cit.*, p. 80.
- (30) Crabill, Jean B., *The Immigrants and Their Cemetery: the Story of Prospect Hill*, p. 112.
- (31) Crabill, Jean B., *ibid.*, p. 121.

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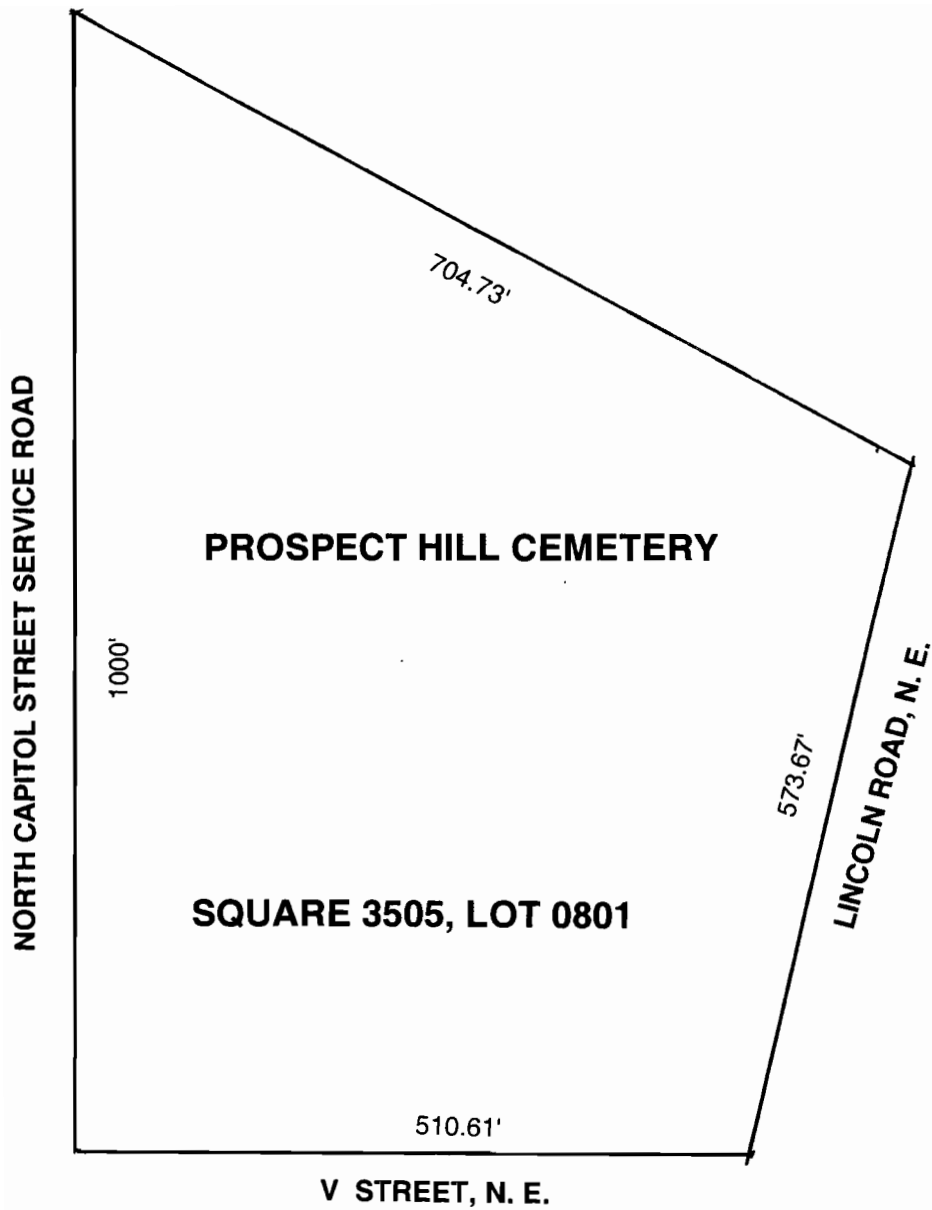
6. Verbal boundary description and map.

6. Verbal Boundary Description and Map Showing Exact Boundaries of the Site

Today Prospect Hill Cemetery, located in northeast Washington, DC, immediately east of North Capitol Street, consists of 10.46 acres bounded by the North Capitol Street Service Road on the west, V Street, NE, on the south, and Lincoln Road, NE, on the east. Its northern boundary runs diagonally from Glenwood Cemetery at Lincoln Road for 35.17 feet, then along the Bryant Street Alley to the North Capitol Street Service Road.

Along the V Street boundary there is a stone wall which rises in height to about 20 feet at Lincoln Road. Along Lincoln Road there is a stone wall topped by an iron fence; the same is true of the North Capitol Street Service Road boundary.

Between Prospect Hill Cemetery and Glenwood Cemetery there is a fence but no gate. Once the two cemeteries no longer share a boundary, Prospect Hill's land abuts the Bryant Street alley. Along this part of the northern boundary, Prospect Hill's property (which is undeveloped) declines sharply until it is at street level.



2004

7. Black and white photographs of the property.

Black and White Photographs of Prospect Hill Cemetery

The Buchholz family tombstone located at the circle.

View of Cemetery from Section C.

Tombstone of Henry and Elizabeth Koons, Section D.

Tombstone of Frederick and Anna Marie Westermayer, Section B.

Looking toward the Stone House from Section E.

View of Washington, DC, from Section C.

View of Section D near the Stone House.

The entrance to Prospect Hill Cemetery at the North Capitol Street service road.

Grave of the August Schoenborn family. Schoenborn was the designer of the interior structure of the dome of the U. S. Capitol; his gravestone is an example of his work.

Just inside the Cemetery entrance looking into the middle portion of Section D. The Abner mausoleum is on the left.

Gravestone of Civil War soldier Charles E. Shambaugh in Section B.

Gravestone of the William Pedersen family, Section B. It was in Pedersen's house that President Lincoln died.

8. Appendix

**Independent research to determine the significant contribution
German immigrant skilled craftsmen made
to the growth of the District of Columbia.**

APPENDIX

Independent Research to Determine the Significant Contribution German Immigrant Skilled Craftsmen Made to the Growth of the District of Columbia

The Industrial Revolution and the Skilled Craftsman

For many centuries man's material means quite often were met through the work of craftsmen. These workers possessed skills resulting from years of practical experience they gained as they passed through the ranks of apprentice and journeyman to become masters in their trades.

To create satisfactory products they needed skill and dexterity in making products by hand, as well as knowledge of materials, design, and salesmanship. Traditionally the craftsman possessed a very strong work ethic enabling him to give his very best to his work. He had control over how the product looked, how it was made, and what quantity to make. He developed justifiable pride in his workmanship and a sense of ownership of the product he created. Through his work he achieved self-fulfillment and purpose. He felt in control of his life, knowing that hard work assured him of some measure of prosperity.

An economic-social phenomenon, the Industrial Revolution, beginning in Great Britain around 1750 (1), eventually changed the way most goods were produced. Beginning with textile factories, machinery was used to do what man had formerly done by hand. No longer did a worker produce a product, but rather performed just one step in the product's assembly. Since very little training was needed, an employee could be put to work quickly. The need for skill and experience disappeared. For most factory workers, quality of life deteriorated. Unlike craftsmen, factory workers, bored by performing simple repetitive tasks, felt no pride of workmanship, self-fulfillment or control of the product. Hours were long; working conditions were unpleasant and dangerous. Wages were so low that often wives and children of male factory workers had to work also. There was a strong tendency for factory owners to regard their workers as commodities rather than as human beings.

In America, this revolution began with Samuel Slater's 1790 textile mill located in Pawtucket, Rhode Island (2); however, until at least 1850 most American manufacturing was still done in homes and workshops.

After mid-century hand-craftsmanship was increasingly replaced by mass production in factories. The Civil War, with its need for armaments, cloth for uniforms, and machines to replace young farm workers who had been called for military service, speeded its development in the United States. Although for much of the 19th century America needed both unskilled and skilled

workers, during the latter part of the century the need increasingly became one for unskilled workers in the fast-growing number of factories (3).

Throughout North America and Europe effects of this revolution were profound. Instead of fostering a work ethic, a philosophy of materialism came into being that urged people to consume as much as possible in order to foster a strong economy. What had been an agricultural society became a world controlled by industry and manufacturing. The source of power used by this industry was steam, which could not be conveyed over long distances. Thus workers had to live close to the factory, creating a rapidly-growing urban society. In America this led to the growth of such cities as New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Boston.

By creating a new working class the Industrial Revolution widened the distance between those who “had” and those who “had not.” Upper- and upper-middle classes included factory owners, large land owners, capitalists and those who handled finances. The middle class included lawyers, other professionals, merchants, factory managers and skilled craftsmen. The lower class now included factory workers and agricultural laborers.

Around the middle of the 1800s America, the land of opportunity, had a relatively high standard of living that attracted immigrants. What many émigrés did not know or understand was that with the spreading Industrial Revolution there was also evolving a working class of unskilled workers who were poorly paid, many of whom were immigrants. By the later 1800s emigrants had shifted from northern Europe to the eastern and southern sectors, where most potential immigrants had very little property or education. Dreaming of a better life in America, they took advantage of bargain steerage rates and crossed the ocean. Here they provided a large supply of laborers who could become factory workers.

In the last half of the 19th century skilled craftsmen began to see their way of life disappear. At first their knowledge had been welcomed and needed, but as time passed many were ultimately down-graded to routine laborers. What they treasured highly—a sense of purpose and self-fulfillment, a pride of workmanship, a feeling of ownership of their product, control of their working lives and the promise of economic reward based on quality and production—no longer held true. Their principles had been replaced by emptiness, lack of intellectual stimulation, materialism and ultimately a lowered social class. Many of these craftsmen and artisans had emigrated from Germany.

Reasons for leaving Germany were individual and numerous. The devastation of many wars in which people’s homes and livelihoods were destroyed, consequences of political events, lack of religious freedom, periodic crop failures, the demise of cottage industries, the threat of having to serve in the Prussian army, overpopulation and scarcity of land are but a few of the factors that made moving to America seem attractive. Most emigrated seeking an improved standard of living. By 1900 about five million Germans had come to America (4).

In the 19th century European emigrants typically had little property or education. The Germans were an exception. They came from all areas of Germany and represented all regional origins, educational levels, economic standing, and religious and political orientations. A sizable number were craftsmen who hoped to preserve their method of earning a living. Some chose Washington, DC, as their new home.

Washington, DC, before the Civil War

Among other reasons, Washington was unique because it was a planned capital city. George Washington and other planners envisioned the city not only as a seat of government but also as a thriving industrial metropolis. It was a magnificent dream that did not begin to approach realization until the Civil War.

From 1800, when the city of Washington “opened for business”, and for the next six decades, our nation’s capital city grew slowly. European and American visitors were often amused (or shocked) by the grandiose, wide avenues that “seemed to lead nowhere and were void of houses, public buildings and people” (5).

Surrounding the city itself lived owners of large farms or plantations. These gentlemen and their families formed the upper levels of society, occasionally allowing their daughters to marry members of the new official and diplomatic strata.

The District of Columbia never gained the industrial base George Washington envisioned. The major employer was the federal government, whose Navy Yard did become a reliable source of work. Other than that, large industries as such were very scarce. Georgetown had several flour mills. Foggy Bottom was the site of a large brewery and several lime kilns. At one time there was a glass factory in the northwest sector of the District of Columbia. The Washington Gas Light Company, chartered by Congress in 1848, provided some employment. But a very large majority of businesses were small, serving their immediate communities. The lack of substantial industrial businesses was one factor that kept the District from growing.

In an attempt to widen the District’s industrial base and capture the farm trade from Ohio, in 1828 the 185-mile-long C and O Canal between Washington and Cumberland was begun. After 22 years, it was completed in 1850. However, by that time the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was in operation, and Baltimore had become the recipient of Ohio’s produce. Therefore this canal did not provide the economic boost the District of Columbia needed.

Before the Civil War transportation within the city and county was scarce. Although there was an irregular system of hacks, carriages and omnibuses (mostly for members of Congress) most people got where they needed to go by using their own two feet. But even this very basic mode of transportation had its problems. Because streets in the entire west end of Washington turned to impassable mud in spring and fall, residents often had to walk many blocks out of their way to

cross a road. There was only one surfaced thoroughfare, the cobble-stoned Pennsylvania Avenue up to Rock Creek. Since the surfacing went no further, mud from higher ground often washed down on this road.

Thus, until the Civil War began, Washington, DC, remained a small Southern city surrounded by large estates and occasional farms that covered most of the rest of the District of Columbia. In 1860, the population of the District of Columbia was 75,080 (6).

Washington, DC, during the Civil War

It has been said that more than any other event it was the Civil War that changed our nation's capital city. As the need for increased government grew, so did the city grow and prosper. As masses of new government workers, Union soldiers and officers, merchants seeking government contracts, and freed and runaway slaves from the South flocked to the city, Washington evolved from a Southern town to a true nation's capital with a strong Union Army presence and a phenomenal growth of population. Many new businesses sought to meet the needs and desires of this rapidly growing population. In all sectors of the city there were building booms to help provide needed housing.

Transportation in Washington improved with the outbreak of the war. Private investors created systems such as horse-drawn streetcar lines to help people move around the city. However, because of the thousands of army carts and wagons, omnibuses, and innovations such as the streetcar line, the state of Washington's unpaved streets deteriorated. Congress still refused to pay for paving, and the city didn't have the money to do so.

Washington, DC, after the Civil War (around 1870)

By 1870, the transients who came to Washington during the war had either become permanent residents or had gone back home. The District's population had stabilized at nearly 132,000 persons, an increase of about 57,000 people in comparison with its 1860 population (7). Because of the city's wartime prosperity, investors were at last showing interest in Washington.

Meeting the needs of such rapid growth was not an easy task. Many workers were needed to help build and furnish houses, grade and pave roads, fill in the Washington Canal, feed and clothe its citizens and provide other needed items. From where did these workers come?

Although Washington was never a city that attracted masses of immigrants, over time some German craftsmen saw that here their talents might be needed. The shipping line North German Lloyd, running between Bremen and Baltimore, was owned by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company; for many years Baltimore became second only to New York in number of immigrants received in its port (8). Some German immigrants settled first in this industrialized city and then moved on to Washington, DC, to seek a better way of life. Here they could open their own

shops, preserve their work ethic, and remain members of the middle class rather than part of the new working class created by the Industrial Revolution. Since Washington was not an industrial city able to provide for its growing needs through increased local factory production during and shortly after the Civil War the talents of craftsmen were especially needed to help meet the needs of its citizens. It was especially during this period that German immigrant craftsmen made major contributions to the successful growth of the District of Columbia. The purpose of this research is to show more specifically the contributions they made.

Research Design

The 1870 Federal District of Columbia census was used to demonstrate that shortly after the Civil War Washington's German immigrants provided a disproportionately high number of craftsmen in relation to their population. In this study, the entire 1870 Federal Census of the District of Columbia was used. There were a few unreadable pages or lines, but not enough to compromise the findings, particularly since the District's German immigrants were scattered throughout the area.

Data on each working male twenty years of age or older were recorded. These data included age, race, occupation, and place of birth. The beginning age of twenty years was used to allow those who would have completed apprenticeships and professional education to be included in the statistics. Race ("black" and "mulatto," as denoted in the 1870 census) was recorded for non-immigrants because the types of positions they held differed vastly in comparison to jobs of native-born Caucasians. Tallies were recorded for each of the following categories: black, mulatto, native-born Caucasians, immigrants from Great Britain, immigrants from Ireland, immigrants from Germany, and all other immigrants.

First an overall total number of persons in this study was determined. Then totals were obtained for each of the above categories: native-born Americans by race, immigrants by native land. Once this was completed, the percentage of each category, in comparison to the total population, was calculated. Then the occupations were classified and sorted, with one classification being "skilled craftsmen."

The total number of craftsmen overall, as well as in each of the above categories, was determined. Then within each category the total number of craftsmen was compared to the total number of persons in that category and a percentage calculated. Finally, occupations of German immigrants buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery who were included in the above research population was compared with the overall findings.

Findings

Total population

Information about 29,975 working males in the District of Columbia who met the above criteria was recorded and analyzed. The American-born majority numbered 23,545, or 79%. Of this group, 7,994 were black, 1,284 were mulatto, and 14,267 were Caucasian.

Immigrant population

In this study the District of Columbia had a working male immigrant population of 6,430 (21% of all working males). Of this population, 2,846 were from Ireland; 2,244 were from Germany; and 568 were from England. The other 772 came from many other countries, none of which accounted for more than 1% of Washington's total population of employed males. Thus of the total male working population 9% were from Ireland, 7% from Germany, 2% from England, and 3% from all other countries.

Skilled craftsmen in the total population

In the 1870 District of Columbia census, 7,996 men were skilled craftsmen; they comprised 27% of the total male work force.

Numbers varied considerably. Only 10% of the blacks and 20% of the mulattos worked in skilled occupations, along with native-born Caucasians, of whom 33% were in skilled crafts. The overall percentage of native-born Americans in skilled crafts was 25%. Among the immigrants only 20% of the Irish were craftsmen. Among others born in Europe, the percentage was higher, with 39% of those from Great Britain and 36% from all other countries except those previously mentioned. The percentage for German immigrants was the highest, at 49%. Thus about half of all employed German immigrant males were in skilled crafts. (See Chart 1, end of this document.)

The types of crafts also varied among these groups. Skills needed in creating the many new buildings needed because of the rapidly increasing population were met primarily by native-born American workers, particularly Caucasians, who made up 68% of skilled workers in construction. A very large percentage (93%) of skilled workers in various aspects of printing were Caucasian and English-speaking, with many employed by the Government Printing Office which opened in 1861.

As the city grew so rapidly, it was the Germans who disproportionately helped meet the everyday needs of its citizens. Fifty-three per cent of the city's bakers and confectioners were of German birth, as were 86% of its brewers. Overall, of skilled workers helping to meet the city's need for nourishment, 30% were German, as were 34% of those providing clothing (primarily tailors and shoemakers). Thirty-two percent of the city's cabinetmakers, 38% of its upholsterers,

and 100% of its carpet weavers had come from Germany. Those who were printers, blacksmiths and other metal workers usually were not employed by the federal government but had little shops and smithies which served Washington's citizens. It is important to remember that these percentages pertain to a group that made up only 7% of the city's working male population.

These immigrants also helped bring culture and beauty to the city. Four of the city's five piano makers were German, as were 45% of its watchmakers, and 38% of its jewelers. Saddle makers, gunsmiths, locksmiths, turners, instrument makers and model makers, they all made significant contributions to the rapidly-expanding nation's capital city that never attained George Washington's vision of having a solid industrial base.

Prospect Hill Cemetery

To determine if the German-American men buried at Prospect Hill were from the same research population as were those in the total District of Columbia population when the 1870 census was taken, all those who were in the District of Columbia in 1870, who were at least 20 years of age, and who were born in Germany were placed in the Prospect Hill population for this study.

A total of 618 persons met the above criteria. In 1870, 376 (61%) of these men were working as skilled craftsmen. Therefore, they not only reflect the total 1870 German immigrant percentage of skilled craftsmen (nearly 50%), they exceeded it (9). (See Chart 2, end of this document.)

Conclusion

Between 1860 and 1870, the population of the District of Columbia expanded from 75,080 to 132,000. A relatively small Southern city with almost no industrial base at the beginning of the decade, by 1870 Washington had evolved into a true nation's capital. The rapid population growth resulted in needs of many types, often met through the work of skilled craftsmen. A disproportionately large percentage (as compared to total District of Columbia population) of these men were German immigrants, scattered throughout the District, who worked to meet needs in their own communities.

District of Columbia death records from January 1, 1870 through July 31, 1879, show that substantially more adult German immigrants were interred in Prospect Hill than in any other cemetery in the District of Columbia (10, 11). (See Chart 3, end of this document.) Thus it is the German-American Prospect Hill Cemetery which now stands in testimony to those immigrants who helped their new capital city develop.

Footnotes

- (1) BBC. *History Timelines*. "The Beginning of the Industrial Revolution."
- (2) WGBH Educational Foundation. *A Biography of America*. The Industrial Revolution: Samuel Slater and the Factory System."
- (3) Shannon, Brooks. "The American Industrial Revolution."
- (4) Adams, Willi Paul. *The German Americans: An Ethnic Experience*.
- (5) World Facts, Inc. *World Facts Index*. "History of Washington, DC." p. 3.
- (6) District of Columbia Public Library. *Population of the District of Columbia*.
- (7) District of Columbia Public Library. *op. cit.*
- (8) Keith, Robert C. *Baltimore Harbor: A Picture History*, p. 74.
- (9) Prospect Hill Cemetery. *Burial Records 1859-Present*.
- (10) Pippenger, Wesley E. *District of Columbia Death Records, August 1, 1874 to July 31, 1879*.
- (11) Pippenger, Wesley E. *District of Columbia Interments (Index to Deaths), January 1, 1855 to July 31, 1874*.

CHART 1

**Male Workers, District of Columbia, 1870
Total Populations and Skilled Craftsmen**

	Native-born		Great Britain		Immigrants		Overall Total
	Black	Mulatto	Caucasians	Britain	Ireland	Germany	
Totals by race (Americans) or native country	7,994	1,284	14,267	568	2,846	2,244	772
Percentage by race or native country compared to overall total	27%	4%	48%	2%	9%	7%	3%
Skilled craftsmen by race (Americans) or native country	816	258	4,760	220	569	1,094	279
Percentage of skilled craftsmen in each category compared to that category's total	10%	20%	33%	39%	20%	49%	36%

Note: The categories are:

Native-born Black

Native-born Mulatto

Native-born Caucasian

Immigrants born in Great Britain

Immigrants born in Ireland

Immigrants born in Germany

Immigrants born in any other foreign country

CHART 2

Occupational Categories German Immigrant Male Workers Living in DC in the 1870s and Ultimately Interred at Prospect Hill Cemetery

<u>Occupational Category</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Agriculture	26	4.21%
Arts	2	0.03%
Clerical	30	4.85%
Skilled craftsmen	376	60.84%
Manufacturers	2	0.03%
Merchants	102	16.50%
Military	2	0.03%
Professional	10	1.62%
Service	6	0.97%
Unskilled	<u>62</u>	10.03%
Total	618	

CHART 3

**Adult German Immigrant Interments
in District of Columbia Cemeteries**

January 1, 1870 to July 31, 1879

<u>Cemetery</u>	<u>Number Interred</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Interments</u>
Prospect Hill	277	43.21%
St. Mary's	70	10.92%
Congressional	59	9.20%
Glenwood	46	7.18%
Mt. Olivet	34	5.30%
Hospital	28	4.37%
Washington Hebrew	22	3.43%
Soldier's Home	17	2.65%
Washington Asylum	16	2.50%
Potter's Field	15	2.34%
Oak Hill	14	2.18%
Presbyterian	7	1.09%
German Catholic	7	1.09%
German	6	0.94%
Holy Rood	6	0.94%
Jewish	5	0.78%
Adas Israel	3	0.47%
Graceland	2	0.31%
Small Pox	2	0.31%
Ebenezer	1	0.16%
Holmead	1	0.16%
Methodist	1	0.16%
Orthodox Hebrew	1	0.16%
Tenallytown	1	0.16%
Total	641	

APPENDIX.

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