# Installation of the *National Registry of Historic Places* Designation Sign

## in the Female Union Band Society Cemetery

## located at 2501 Mill Road NW, Georgetown, Washington DC 20007

Placement of the NRHP Designation Sign in the Female Union Band Society Cemetery private property:

- Conveys to the public the NRHP recognition given to the Mt. Zion-Female Union Band Cemeteries
- Informs visitors that the "park-like" and wooded grounds before them are in fact a sacred historic burial ground for more than 2,600 individuals
- Provides visitors valuable information about the history of the cemetery, the lives and contributions made
  by the interred to the establishment of Georgetown and to the transition of the United States to a postslavery era

The NRHP Sign supports the Mt Zion - Female Union Band Society Cemeteries Foundation's goal of the burial grounds serving as a living historic memorial.

The NRHP Recognition Sign is to be placed in the private property Female Union Band Society burial ground; setback not less than 12 feet from the closest 27<sup>th</sup> Street NW and Mill Road NW rights of way.



#### The NRHP Recognition Sign dimensions are:

Height 54" tall (post height)

Width 47.25" (inclusive of posts, plus plaque, and plaque framing elements)

Depth 5" (the posts being 5" by 5")

Concrete 'floating footer' foundations 20" wide by 48" long by 6" tall (two, each)

The NRHP Designation Sign will be comprised of:

- The 30" wide, 24" high, and 1" deep cast bronze plaque noting the NRHP designation and providing information about the Mt. Zion Female Union Band Society Cemeteries (Exhibit E image of plaque)
- Two, 54" tall by 5" square, salvaged and repurposed Victorian era cast iron posts recovered from the same abandoned property as were the existing bollards at the entrance to the cemeteries (Exhibit F)
- A supporting frame for the bronze plaque crafted from square iron tube and flat metal bar stock
- All metal work to be finished with black paint

The constructed sign will be affixed to two concrete floating pad foundations placed on the existing surface of the burial ground (Cast concrete 'floating pads' provide needed foundation, without sinking typical 24" tall 'footers' into burial plots residing just below the surface, while facilitating potential relocation of the sign should cemetery grounds plans evolve over time). Screened topsoil, seeded with grass, will build up the ground immediately around the sign to hide the concrete pads.

The NRHP designation sign design and materials conform with both historic Georgetown esthetic and other existing cemetery ironwork. The position of the NRHP sign in the cemetery grounds and upright presentation of the NRHP plaque will contribute to visitor recognition of the cemeteries as a historic memorial park.

#### **Included Exhibits:**

**Exhibit A - representative view of the NRHP sign**, viewed from the street, at junction of 27<sup>th</sup> St and Mill Road NW, and a view of the sign as viewed within the cemetery.

Exhibit B - a street map of Georgetown, with the cemetery location in the eastern side clearly identified

**Exhibit C - a 'zoomed-in' street map of Georgetown, with cemeteries location**, relative to the neighborhood streets that border the property.

**Exhibit D - the highest resolution survey plat available, with sign location in the south-west area of the cemetery annotated in green.** 

**Exhibit E - a photograph of the bronze plaque held within the ironwork sign**. The plaque was produced and presented in a ceremony held several years ago at the cemeteries - recognizing inclusion in the *National Registry* of *Historic Places*.

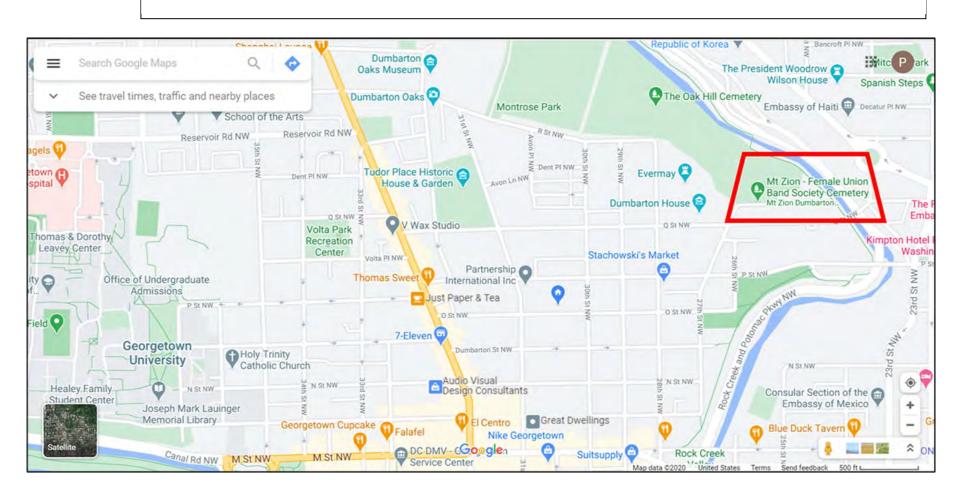
**Exhibit F - Photos of the salvaged historic cast iron posts incorporated into the NRHP sign** (the signposts are a taller variation of the same salvaged/preserved 'bollards' used to keep trash collection trucks from driving onto burial grounds).

Exhibit A -Representative view of the NRHP sign from street junction of 27<sup>th</sup> Street NW and Mill Road NW, and viewed within the private property grounds





Exhibit B - Street Map of Georgetown - with the location of the Mount Zion - Female Union Band Society Cemeteries identified (relative to Georgetown streets and other features)



### Exhibit C - Zoom-in Street Map of the Eastern Portion of Georgetown, Identifying the Cemeteries Location

The Mount Zion - Female Union Band Society Cemeteries are bounded by 27<sup>th</sup> Street NW and Mill Road NW, Rock Creek Park, and the unimproved old Lyon Mill Road running from 27<sup>th</sup> Street NW down to Rock Creek)

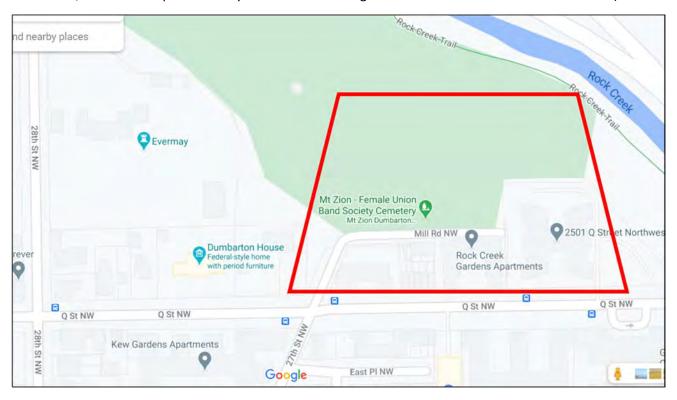
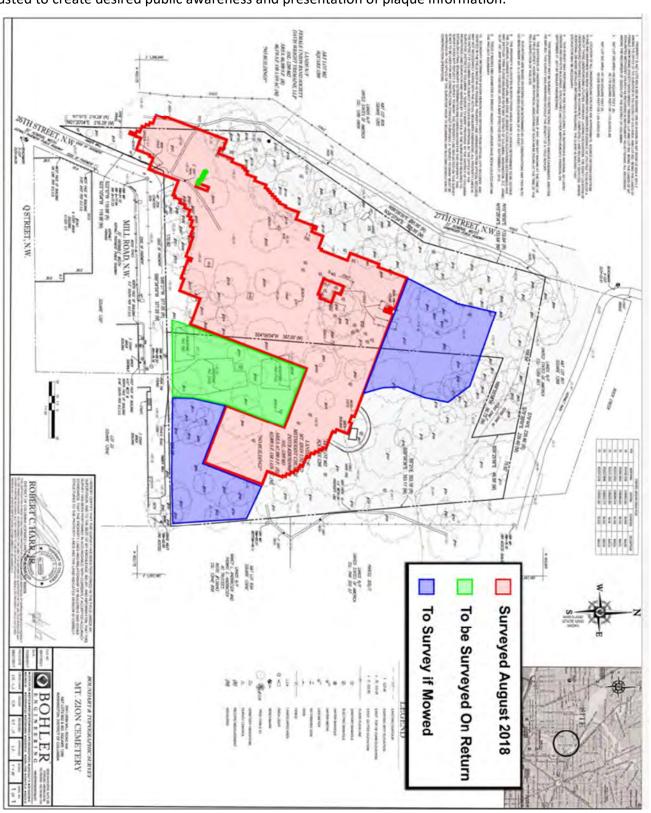


Exhibit D - The National Register of Historic Places Sign will be placed in the south-west area of the Female Union Band Society Cemetery, just beyond the existing "Mount Zion - Female Union Band Society Cemetery" property entrance sign. The sign location is designated by the green bar annotation in the red bordered section on the following 2018 survey plat. The sign will be mounted on 'floating concrete footers' - a recognition of this being a burial ground, and to allow the sign's exact location and orientation to be adjusted to create desired public awareness and presentation of plaque information.



#### Exhibit E - Image of actual National Registry of Historic Places Plaque

The 30" wide, 24" high, and 1" deep cast bronze plaque recognizes the National Registry of Historic Places designation given to the Mt. Zion - Female Union Band Society Cemeteries on August 6, 1975. The plaque provides visitors valuable information about the cemeteries and their unique place in the history of Georgetown.

Mt. Zion Cemetery (Old Methodist Burial Ground) 1809-1950s Female Union Band Society
Cemetery
1842-1950s

HAVE BEEN LISTED IN THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
BY THE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

as the Old Methodist Burial Ground and adjacent Female Union Band Society Cemetery, are two of the oldest remaining African American cemeteries in Georgetown and greater Washington, D.C. area.

The Joint Committee on

greater Washington, D.C. area.
The Joint Committee on
Landmarks designated the
cemeteries as Category II
Landmarks of importance
that contribute to the cultural
and visual beauty of the District.
They were officially listed in the
National Register on August 6,
1975, in the Archeology-Historic
and Social/Humanitarian categories

with an 1809-1950 period of significance.

The Mount Zion Cemetery, formerly known Although located within the Georgetown Historic as the Old Methodist Burial Ground, and adjacent Female Union Band Society is sufficiently different to merit individual listings. The two sites' historical importance

date to the pre- and post-Civil
War eras, including a connection
with the Underground Railroad,
as a physical reminder of the
city's African-descended
culture. This aspect of the
cemeteries' significance is also
revealed through their association
with local African American

religious activism and the cooperative

role of benevolent societies, both

of which continue through the Mount Zion United Methodist Church and the trustees of the Female Union Band Society Cemetery.

**Exhibit F - Photos of the salvaged historic cast iron posts incorporated into the NRHP sign** (the signposts are a taller version of the salvaged/preserved 'bollards' already in use, to keep trash collection trucks from driving onto burial grounds).





