

PABST ADDITION AT SUMMIT CEMETERY

(Town of Summit Cemetery)

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Summit Corners

Waukesha County

Wisconsin

HALS WI-15

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HALS NO. WI-15

Location: Summit Cemetery is located on Delafield Road east of the intersection of Highway 67 and Delafield Road in the Town of Summit, Waukesha County, Wisconsin (Town 7 North, Range 17 East, Section 15). The Pabst Addition of the cemetery is located on the east side of the cemetery and has its own entrance drive off of Delafield Road.

Latitude: 43.0625, Longitude -88.4631 (the entrance to the garden, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84).

Significance: The Summit Cemetery has existed at its present location since Waukesha County was first settled (Barquist and Barquist, 1989; Walling, 1859). The Pabst Addition at Summit Cemetery is a significant landscape because it has a historical association with Frederick Pabst, Jr., and it was designed by an early female landscape architect, Annette Hoyt Flanders. Frederick Pabst, Jr. was the son and namesake of Captain Frederick Pabst, the founder of Pabst Brewing Company, one of the largest brewing companies in the world in its time (“Pabst Brewery”, 2012). Frederick Pabst, Jr., his wife, and several of their children are buried in the Pabst Addition. Frederick Pabst, Jr. commissioned the garden design from Annette Hoyt Flanders in 1935 after his son died tragically in an airplane crash (Chicago Daily Tribune, Nov. 11, 1934; Filzen, 1988). Annette Hoyt Flanders has recently been recognized as one of the pioneering female landscape architects in the United States (“Annette”, *TCLF*, 2013; “ASLA”, *The Dirt*, 2013). Flanders’ primary works were designed during a transitional period for garden design, occurring between the traditional and romantic Country Place Era style and the Modern Garden movement ushered in by Thomas Church in the 1930s (Filzen, 1988; “Modernist”, *TCLF*, 2013). The design for the Pabst Addition may be considered to be transitional between these two styles of garden design.

Description: For most of its history, the cemetery was surrounded by farmland (Walling, 1859; Ogle, 1914; Thrift Press, 1930; Marathon Map Company, 1949). In 2010, a large hospital facility was built on the property to the north. The cemetery is currently surrounded by a mixture of farmland, the hospital, and subdivisions.

The original plan for the Pabst Addition (Figure 1) differs somewhat from what actually exists at the site (site visits conducted by the author on April 17 and July 5, 2013). According to an interview of a friend of the Pabst family who witnessed the construction of the gardens (Filzen, 1988), Flanders oversaw the work that was being done at the Pabst Addition. In that light, one must assume

that Flanders made the changes from the original plan intentionally as the design was being planted.

In the original plan, a pond flanked either side of the entrance drive, and was surrounded by naturalistic plantings of trees and shrubs (Figure 1). An inspection of a 1941 aerial photograph of the site (Waukesha County Land Information System, 1941) showed that the Pabst Addition was lightly wooded with oaks and cedar at the time it was built. This explains the naturalistic pattern of trees in Flanders' design. She must have intended to preserve the existing trees on the site. Some of these original oaks were still present at the April 17, 2013 site visit. The entrance drive to the Pabst Addition terminated at a 125 feet by 170 feet rectangle which was circumscribed by a carriage road (Figure 1). Two symmetrically placed sets of stairs lead up to the main garden. Woody species were planted along the inside perimeter of the rectangle, with an oval-shaped patch of lawn inside of the plantings. The cemetery plots were clustered at the north end of the oval, with two trees placed symmetrically on either side of the plots. A low hedge of evergreens lined the northern edge of the oval. A curving path ran east-west through the middle of the oval. The area outside of the oval lawn was planted with more naturalistic groupings of trees and shrubs. The notes in the plan indicated "Crabapple thorn or other flowering trees. Evergreens pine or spruce hedge, Shrubs flat junipers, lilacs" (Filzen, 1988). It is unclear whether the understory of these woody plants was lawn or part of a flower bed, because no herbaceous plant species were listed on the plan. In section view (Figure 1), the plan showed the monument markers resting beneath the shade of a lone oak tree, with the tree and shrub borders on either side of the lawn area. The overall effect of the design was a sense of natural serenity with inward-looking views.

Although the plan called for naturalistic plantings to complement the existing oaks, the plantings were arranged more symmetrically in the garden that was actually built. The curving path across the oval did not exist at the time of the site visit and it is not known if it was ever built. The twin entrance stairs were each planted with horizontal junipers and Mugo pines in mirror image to each other. Regularly spaced yew hedges ringed both the northern and the southern edges of the oval. Additional yew hedges were symmetrically placed on either side of the entrance drive. Although not exactly mirroring each other, red pines and red cedars were planted in rows just outside of the oval. Groupings of small flowering trees were placed at each corner of the plot. No lilacs were present. The monuments for Frederick Pabst, Jr. and his wife were located on either side of the north-south axis in the northern half of the oval. Twin honey locusts were planted on either side of these monuments. All plantings were embedded within a matrix of lawn. However, lily-of-the-valley plants were growing directly beneath the yew hedges, so it is possible that the shrubs were originally part of a larger planting bed of herbaceous perennials at one time. Per the aerial photographs (Waukesha County Land Information System, 1941 & 1970), the

pond that flanked the entrance drive was never built.

The original plan for the Pabst Addition was more in keeping with cemetery designs that are characterized by rambling, curvy paths in the tradition of the Romantic garden style; whereas, the built version of the Pabst Addition has some elements that may reflect Modern garden design trends. First of all, it has a simple, geometric design, which was reinforced by the plantings. Formal, trimmed yew hedges were placed symmetrically within the design. It is also notable that the monuments were simple rectangles that were flush with the ground; especially considering the Pabst family could have afforded much more lavish monuments. Secondly, the plantings consisted mainly of green vegetation with very few flowers, with the exception of the flowering shrubs and the lily-of-the-valley. Thirdly, a well-defined space was created by placing the garden on a raised terrace and placing the monuments within the oval, creating a sense of enclosure. The inward-looking views were not typical of Modern gardens, which tended to borrow outward-looking views, although outward views would not have been appropriate for this design.

The Pabst Addition contains most of the original plant materials and design elements from when Annette Hoyt Flanders oversaw its construction in 1935. However, several of the mature trees, including the largest red oak tree in the center of the oval, recently had their tops wind-sheared during a severe storm. The views outside the cemetery were of farmland up until 2010, when a hospital was built on the parcel to the north of the cemetery. Because of the inward-focus of the design, this has had little effect on the experience of the design.

History:

In 1906, Frederick Pabst, Jr. purchased the first of what would ultimately become a 1500-acre horse farm (“Pabst Farms”, 2013). Within the next decade, the Pabst family would acquire much of the land surrounding Summit Cemetery (Plat 1914). Fred Pabst, Jr. (“Pabst Stock Farm”) owned the land to the north and east, and his brother, Gustave Pabst, owned all of the land surrounding Upper and Middle Genessee Lakes to the south (“Pabst, Gustave”, 2013). On November 11, 1934, tragedy struck the Pabst family (Chicago Tribune, Nov. 11, 1934). Frederick Pabst’s son, August Uihlein Pabst, age 32, died in a plane crash. He was survived by his wife and young son. Fred Pabst donated land from Pabst Farms to create an addition to Summit Cemetery in which to place his son’s remains and eventually, his own. He hired Annette Hoyt Flanders to design the addition and August’s cemetery plot (Filzen, 1988).

Annette Hoyt Flanders’ work as a landscape architect is significant because she was one of the first formally educated female landscape architects in the country (Filzen, 1988; “ASLA”, *The Dirt*, 2013). Flanders was born in Milwaukee in 1887 (Lacy, 2012), and often returned to the Milwaukee area during the course of her career. She received her degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois in 1918, which was years before Harvard Graduate School

of Design began accepting women into their program in 1942 (Filzen, 1988). Her main projects were residential landscapes for wealthy clients along the East Coast and in the Midwest (Filzen, 2000). Flanders was named a Fellow of the Association of Landscape Architects in 1942 (“Annette”, *TCLF*, 2013; “ASLA”, *The Dirt*, 2013).

The Country Place Era of landscape design began when Frederick Law Olmsted designed the gardens for the Biltmore Estate in 1888 (Lacy, 2012). The Country Place Era style used formal design elements reminiscent of the Beaux Arts movement found in Europe (Lacy, 2012) combined with the romanticism popularized by Olmsted when he designed Central Park (Lacy, 2012). Country Place Era gardens were used as ostentatious displays of wealth (Filzen, 2000). Large trees were brought in to these estates to give them a sense of age and permanence (Filzen, 2000). The Country Place Era came to an end with the Depression, although it persisted into the early 1930s as a smaller and more scaled-back version of itself (Filzen, 2000; Lacy, 2012).

Most of Annette Hoyt Flanders’ better known works occurred during this period (Filzen, 2000), although she is also known for creating the Classic Modern Garden exhibit at the Chicago World’s Fair in 1934 (Filzen, 1988). It is possible that some of her later works were influenced by the Modern design elements that she included in this garden, including the Pabst Addition. The Modern Garden movement was in its infancy during the 1930s and reached its peak in the 1950s (“Modernist”, 2013). Modern gardens were characterized by simple, geometric shapes, the sparing use of (primarily green) plant materials, borrowed views of distant scenery, and a focus on creating outdoor living space (Church, 1955).

The Pabst Addition, a cemetery site that has been continuously maintained since it was first built in 1935, has been well-preserved, and contains much of the original plant material from Annette Hoyt Flanders’ design.

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July 8, 2013
2013 HALS Challenge Entry: *Documenting the Cultural Landscapes of Women*

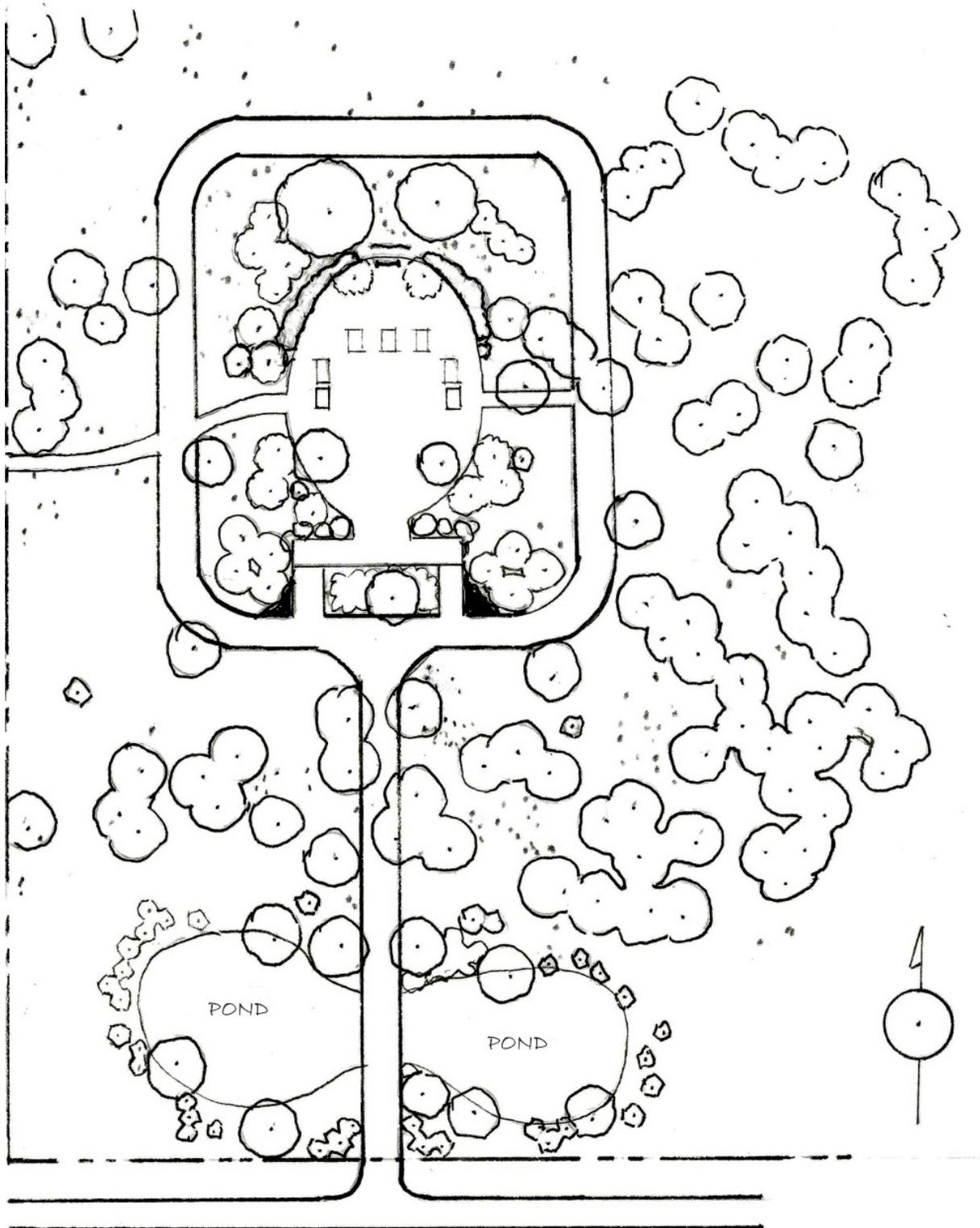


Figure 1. Reproduction of Annette Hoyt Flanders' original plan for the Pabst Addition (Trace by K. Sherfinski from Filzen, 1988).



Figure 2. Overview of the Pabst Addition from the north end of the garden. The original oak tree from the section view in Figure 1 is the one on the inside right and the twin honey locusts are in the foreground (K. Sherfinski, July 5, 2013).



Figure 3. View of the headstones from the northern side of the garden (K. Sherfinski, July 5, 2013).



Figure 4. View from the entrance to the Pabst Addition (K. Sherfinski, July 5, 2013).



Figure 5. View of the entrance drive looking back toward the road (K. Sherfinski, April 17, 2013).



Figure 6. View of the entrance to the addition from the southeast corner (K. Sherfinski, April 17, 2013).



Figure 7. View of the addition from the south end looking to the north (K. Sherfinski, July 5, 2013).



Figure 8. View of the gravestones looking north (K. Sherfinski, April 17, 2013).



Figure 9. View of the lilies-of-the-valley beneath the yew hedges (K. Sherfinski, July 5, 2013).



Figure 10. View of the carriage path on the west side of the addition (K. Sherfinski, April 17, 2013).



Figure 11. The headstone for August Uihlein Pabst (K. Sherfinski, April 17, 2013).