

# The Designed Environment | Central City Cemeteries

CDES 430B | Spring 2019

**Alex Dirksen**

# Central City/ Blackhawk

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## Site Description

Central City and Blackhawk are now home to some to one of the most popular casino sites within a reasonable distance from the Denver-Metro area. It is a historic mining town that was founded in 1859 during the gold rush. It was an extremely prolific town until the early 1900's when the mining industry started to decline. I wanted to potentially focus on the cemeteries, as there are four in very close proximity to each other but I could also focus on the history of the town.

## Audience

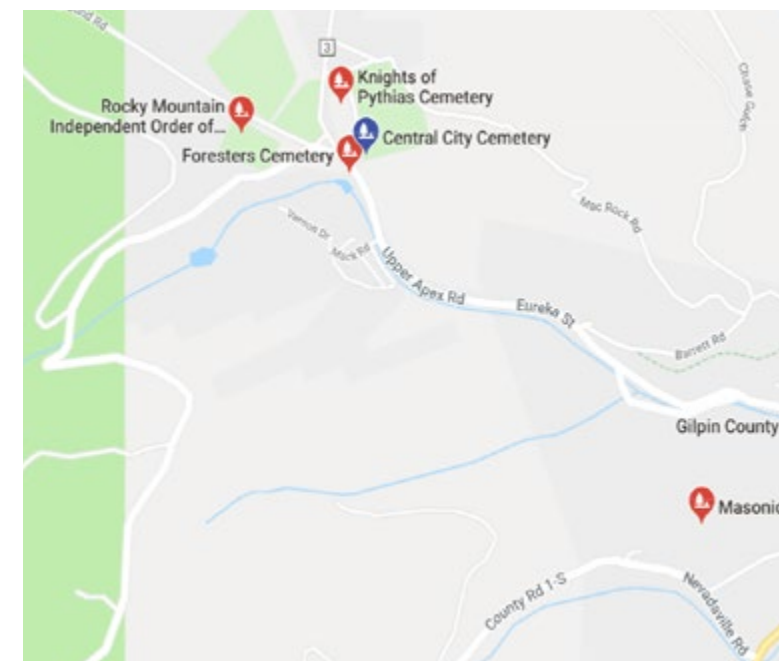
The majority of the people that come to central city/ blackhawk are adults, as it is now a gambling town.



# Design Problem



This town is highly trafficked but the majority of the visitors are people who are there to gamble, not explore the town or dwell in the cemeteries. This could be where the history aspect could come in, it could encourage the visitors to explore outside of the casinos and learn about the history of Colorado. There are many opportunities within the city, as an historical site, to find information about the town and its history, this would be in addition to those resources.



# Design Brief

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## Title

Central City Cemetery Circle

## Participants

Myself, Art Director, Design Fabricators  
City Officials, Archdioces

## Introduction

Create an interactive exhibition and installation in and around the Central City cemeteries in order to provide information for an historical tourist location.

## Problem Identification

The city has lost a lot of the tourism that kept it running, it's very seasonal and the big attractions are the casinos that have taken over the historic buildings. Blackhawk is much more popular so Central City has been falling into disrepair over the last couple decades. There is a niche group of people that enjoy finding and exploring the creepy and odd sites around the country, especially cemeteries. This wouldn't completely make up for the issue but any amount of people taking interest in the city could be beneficial.

## Client Service Analysis

This project aims to educate tourists and attempt to attract visitors, to learn about the city and the cemeteries. Each of the cemeteries has its own story, the fact that they're so close to each other is just convenient. I want to do brief background information on the few that it would make sense, as well as an interactive aspect of some kind that provokes people to want to explore further. There will be a timeline, and maybe a directory if applicable.

## Audience Considerations

*Demographics:*

Anyone, generally ages 18-50

*Phychographics*

People interested in history

People interested in cemeteries

People in the area for gambling in Central City or Blackhawk

*Geographics*

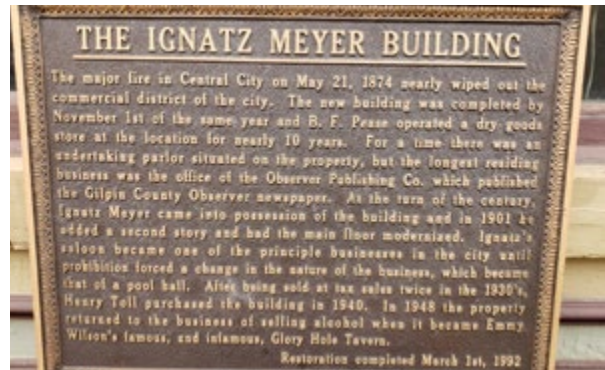
Colorado residents

Colorado Tourists

Central City/ Blackhawk Residents and tourists



# Observations



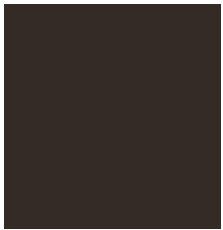




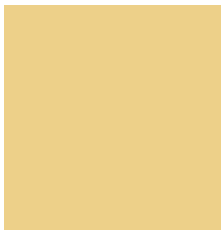


# Color Studies

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Y:68 B:38  
K:66

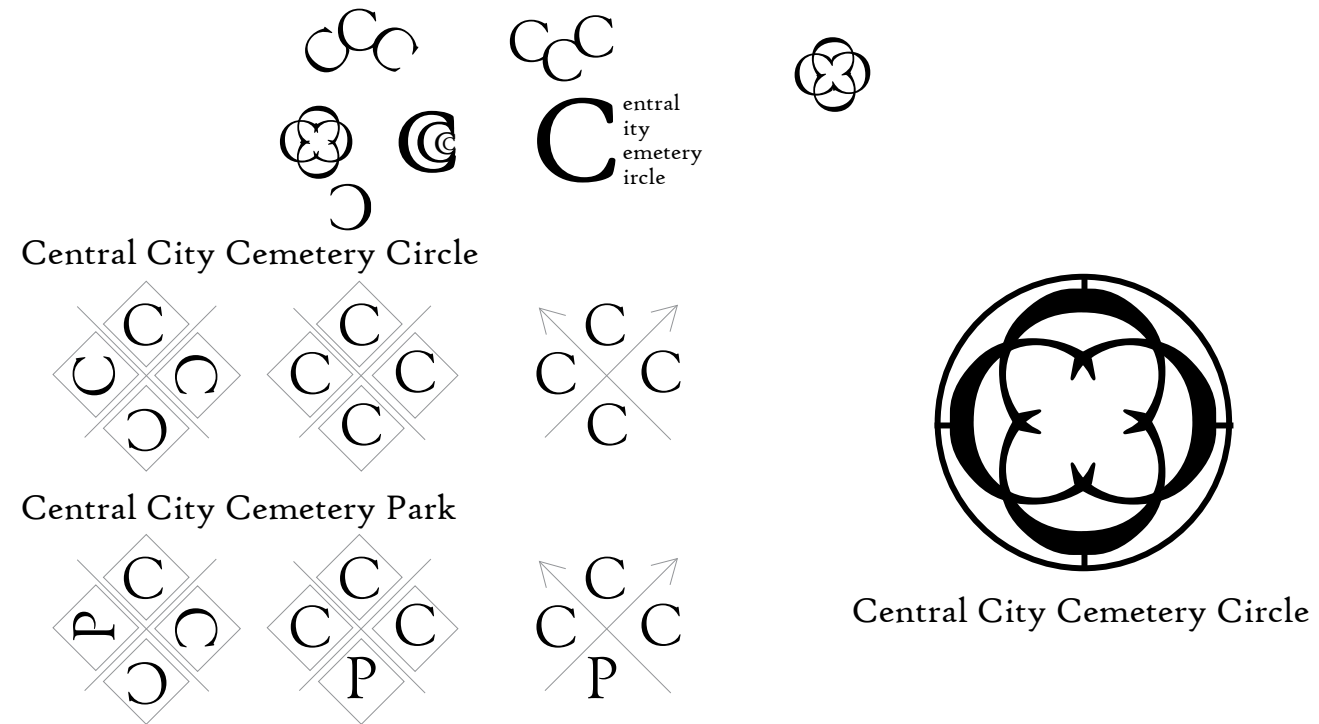


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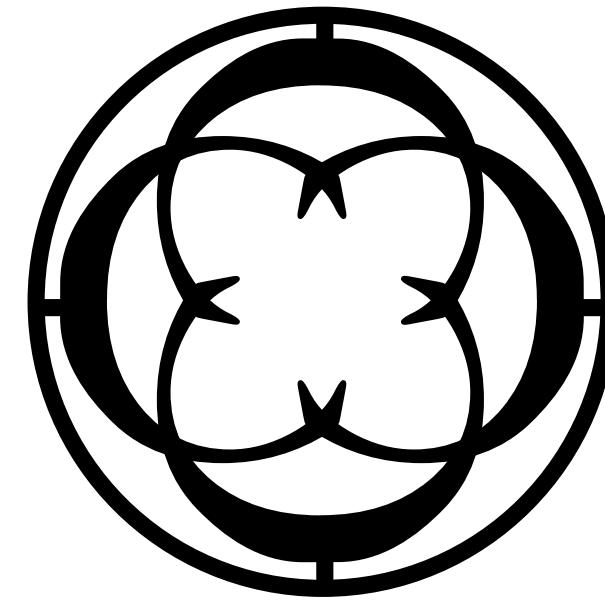
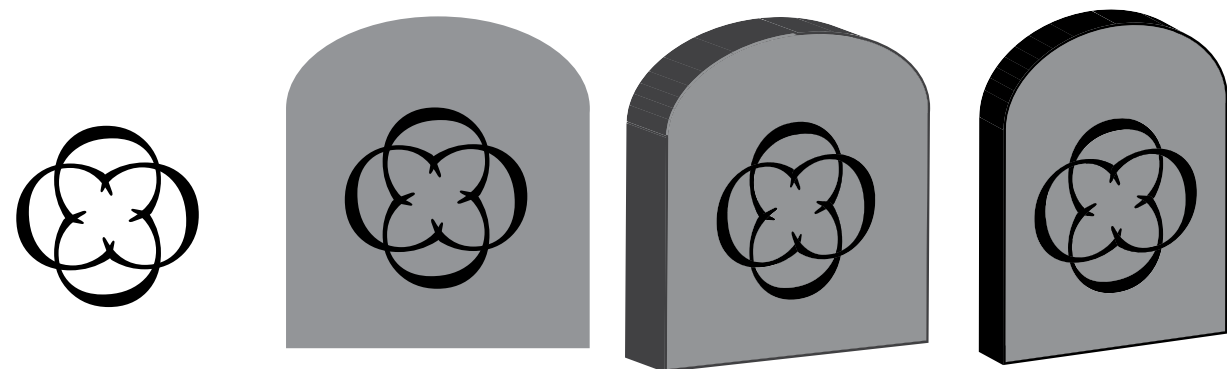


# Logo Development

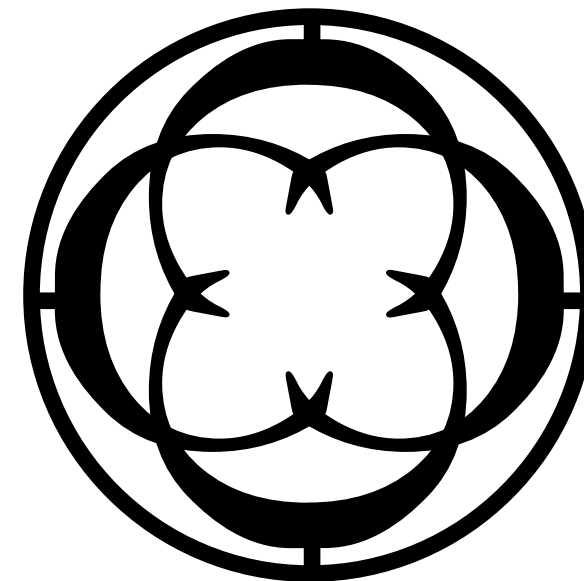
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Central City Cemetery Circle



Central City Cemetery Circle





# Site Map

## Map key

- 1. Independent Order of Odd Fellows Cemetery
- 2. Central City Cemetery
- 3. Knights of Pythias Cemetery
- 4. Red Men Lodge Cemetery
- 5. Catholic Cemetery
- 6. Interactive Display
- Historical Information
- Interactive Display/ Map



# Sign Inventory

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Name	Number	Type	Size	Location	Materials
Independent Order of Odd Fellows Cemetery	1	free standing	1.5 ft x3.5 ft	IIOF South Gate Entrance	Wrought Iron, Bronze
Central City Cemetery	2	free standing	1.5 ft x3.5 ft	CCC Gate Entrance	Wrought Iron, Bronze
Kights of Pythias Cemetery	3	free standing	1.5 ft x3.5 ft	KOP Gate Entrance	Wrought Iron, Bronze
Red Men Lodge Cemetery	4	free standing	1.5 ft x3.5 ft	North Gate Entrance	Wrought Iron, Bronze
Catholic Cemetery	5	free standing	1.5 ft x3.5 ft	South Gate Entrance	Wrought Iron, Bronze
Center Monolith	6	Ground Mounted	3 ft x 6ft	Upper Apex RD and Columbine RD	Mate Black Sheet Metal, Wireless Computer Deivce

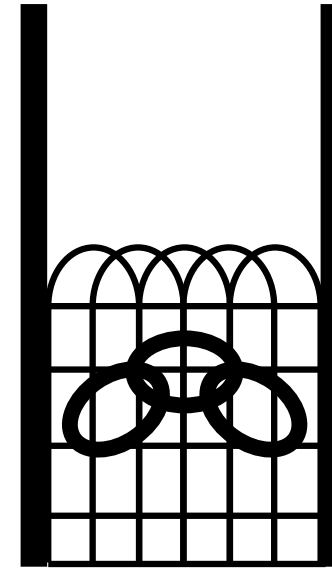
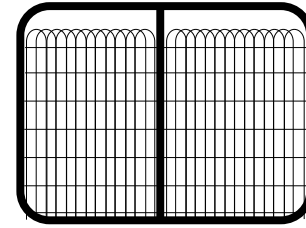


# Design Inspiration

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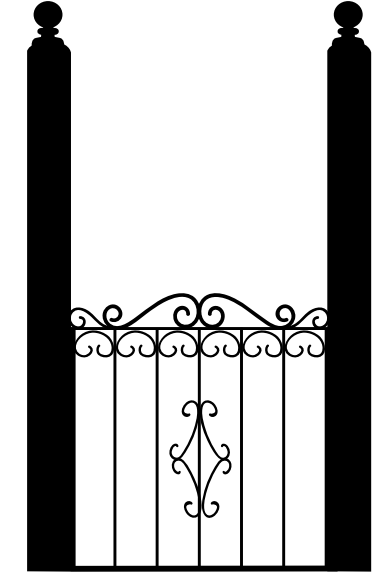
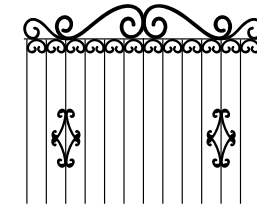
1

Independent Order of Odd Fellows



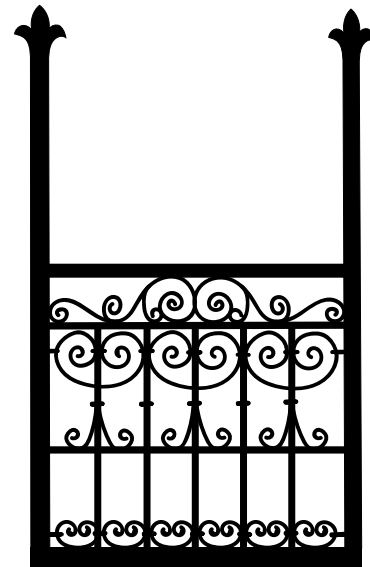
2

Central City Cemetery



3

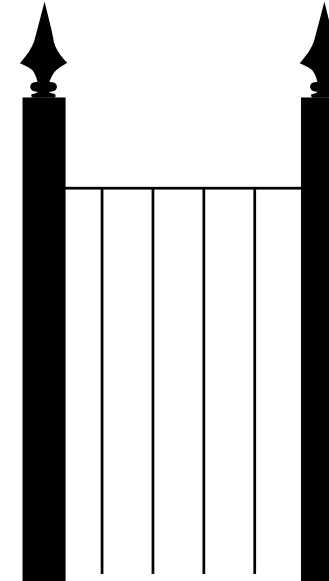
Knights of Pythias



4

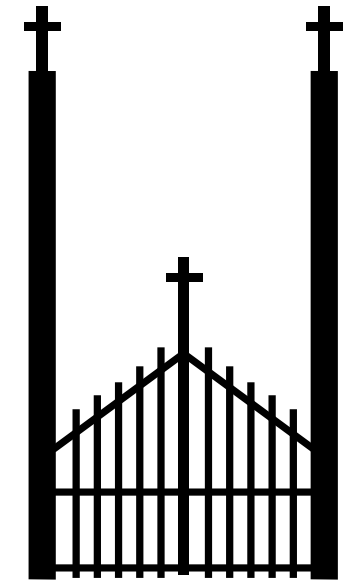
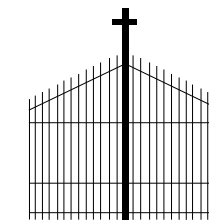
Red Men Lodge Cemetery

N/A



5

Catholic Cemeteries



# Sign Content

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## INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS CEMETERY

The Order of the Odd Fellows was a fraternity that originated in England in the eighteenth century but eventually spread throughout the world. They were a universal brotherhood, bound with the chain of the triple links, Friendship, Love, Truth. A brotherhood that aspired to care for each other when there wasn't any structure in place for the welfare of the people. They wanted to establish a way for men to be able to take care of their families and provide for them in the event of the man's death, like having insurance before insurance was available. The organization still exists in different forms.

Learn more through the Gilpin County Historical Society.

## CENTRAL CITY CEMETERY

This historic cemetery is the resting place of many of miners and journeymen that aspired to strike it rich in the gold rush as well as those who continued mining when the Gold Mills ran dry, who turned to hard rock mining. This site is not the original location of this cemetery, it was moved during the early 1900's, unwittingly leaving behind some bodies and bringing about the realization that a number of the bodies that had been buried were not dead when they were buried. Scratches and other damage were discovered inside the caskets of a number of plague victims that were assumed dead.

Learn more through the Gilpin County Historical Society.

## KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS CEMETERY

The Knights of Pythias was founded in Washington, D.C. on Feb 19, 1864 by Justus H. Rathbone. The organization was inspired by a play written by the Irish poet John Banim about the legend of Damon and Pythias, of which, the main themes are loyalty and friendship. In their Declaration of Principles, they state that these themes are what the fraternity based their core values on: brotherhood, friendship, charity and benevolence. Over the last century and a half, their message spread across the continent as more people moved west in search of the American dream, striking it rich with gold on the frontier.

Learn More through the Gilpin County Historical Society.

## RED MEN LODGE CEMETERY

The Improved Order of Red Men's roots can be traced back to the 1760s, when it was one of several secret groups such as the Sons of Liberty that formed in the years before the American Revolution. After a meeting at Fort Mifflin near Philadelphia in 1813, several of the still-functioning patriotic groups came together as the Society of Red Men. The name was changed at an 1834 meeting in Baltimore to the Improved Order of Red Men, the name still used today. The Red Men drew many of its rituals and terms from the Iroquois Tribe as a sign of respect, not ridicule.

Learn more through the Gilpin County Historical Society.

## CATHOLIC CEMETERY

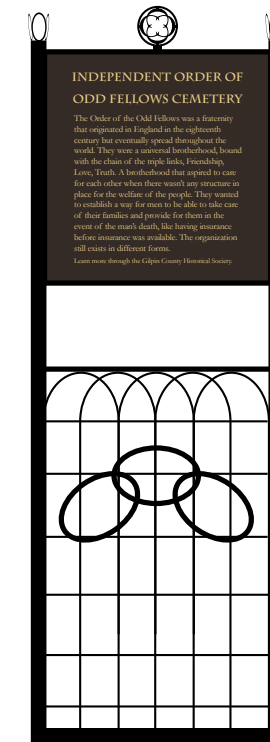
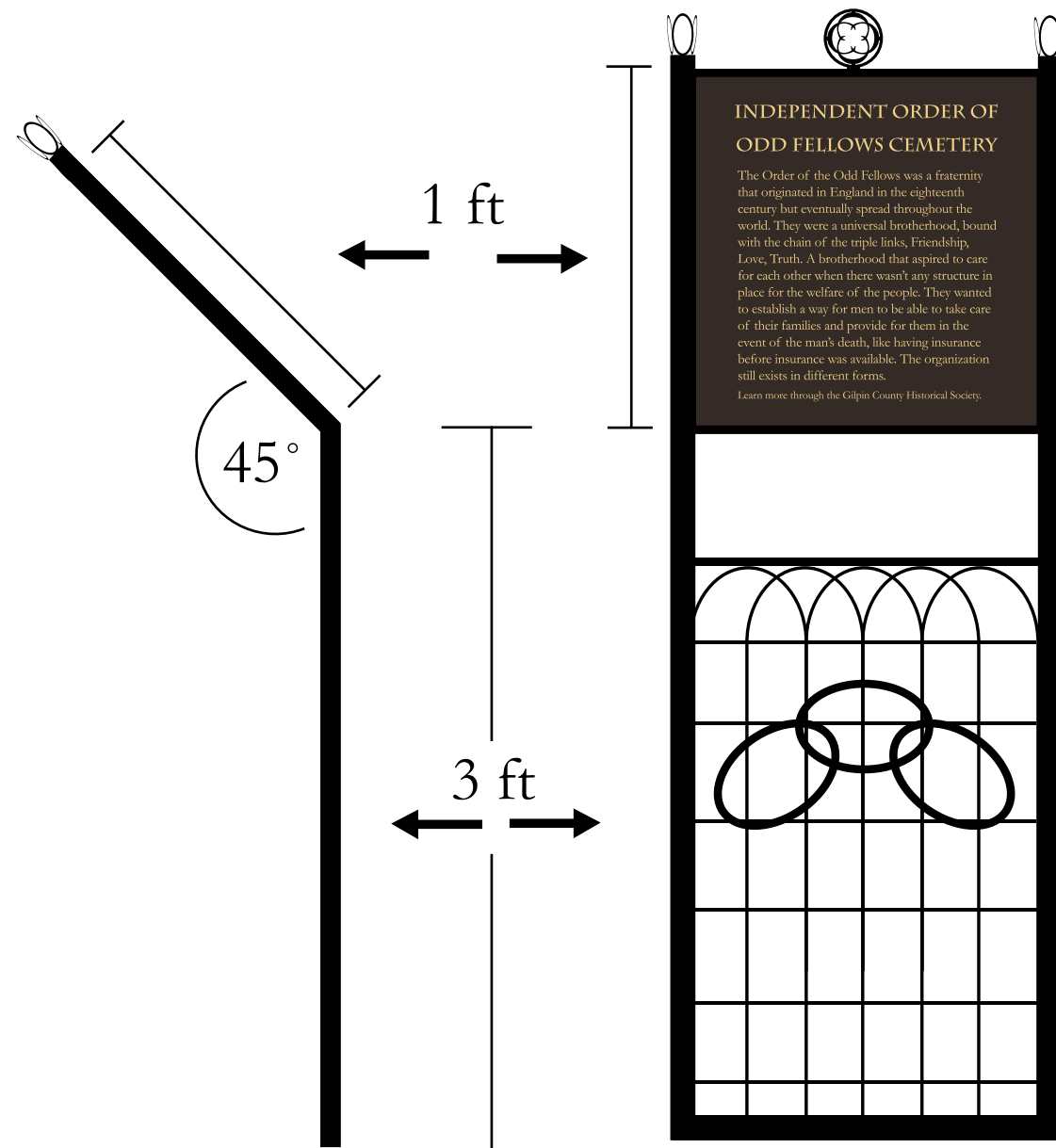
The pioneers of the 19th century and early 20th were predominantly religious, and most of the inhabitants of Central City were as well. This catholic cemetery is almost exclusively the resting place for the town parishioners. The Central City Catholic Cemetery Records, 1879-1928 are kept in the archives of the archdiocese. These records reflect life and death in the mining town.

Learn more through the Gilpin County Historical Society.

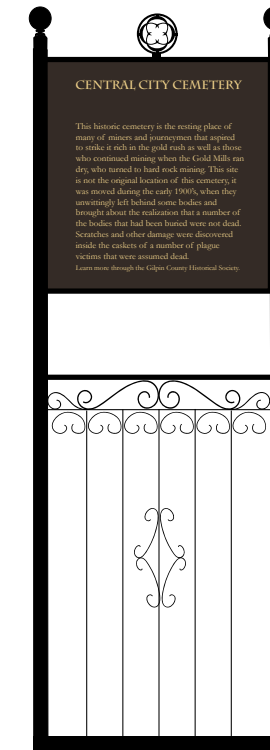
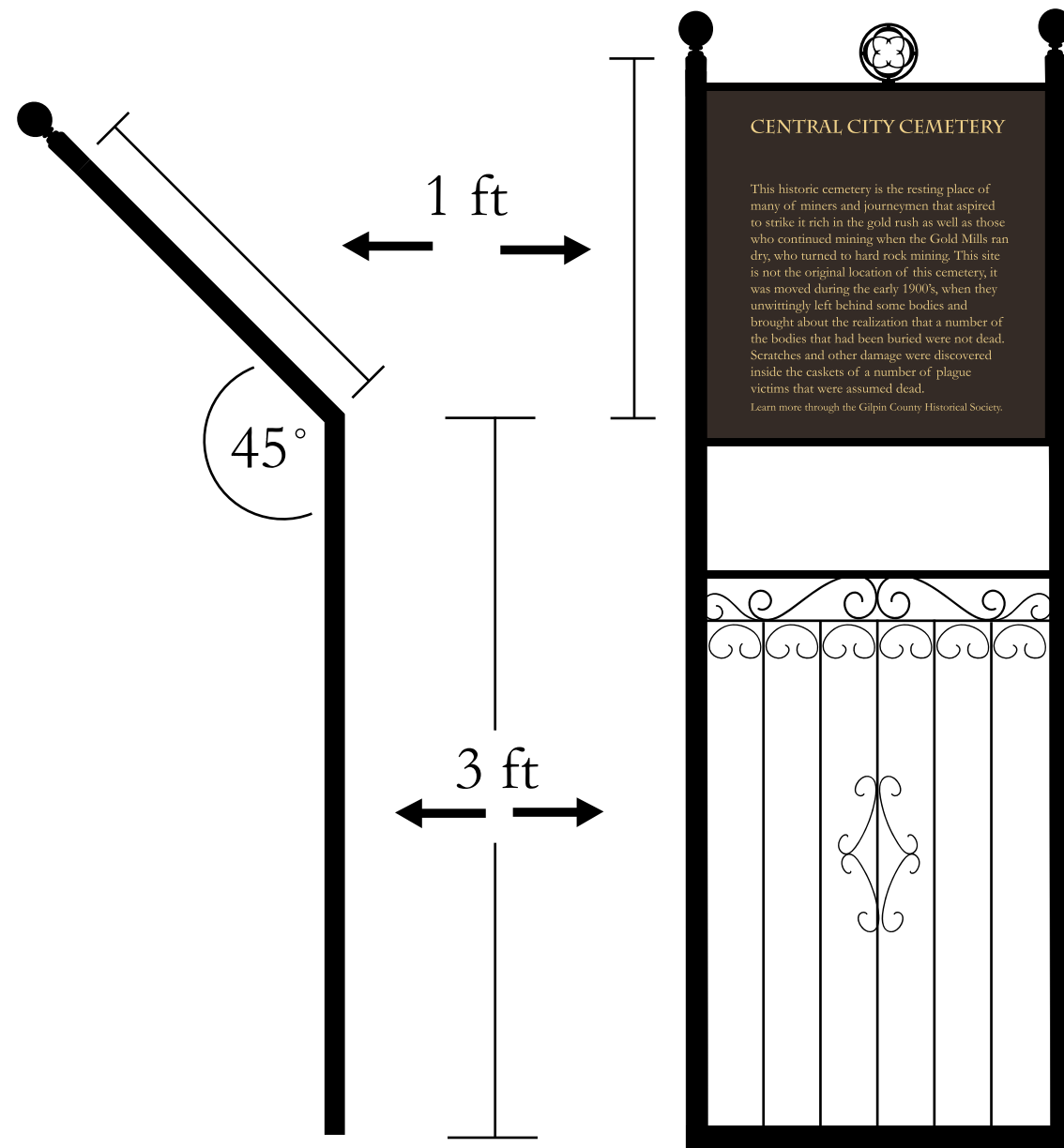


# Independent Order of Odd Fellows

All of these signs would have brief information regarding the site, the history, and would send people to learn more through the historical society

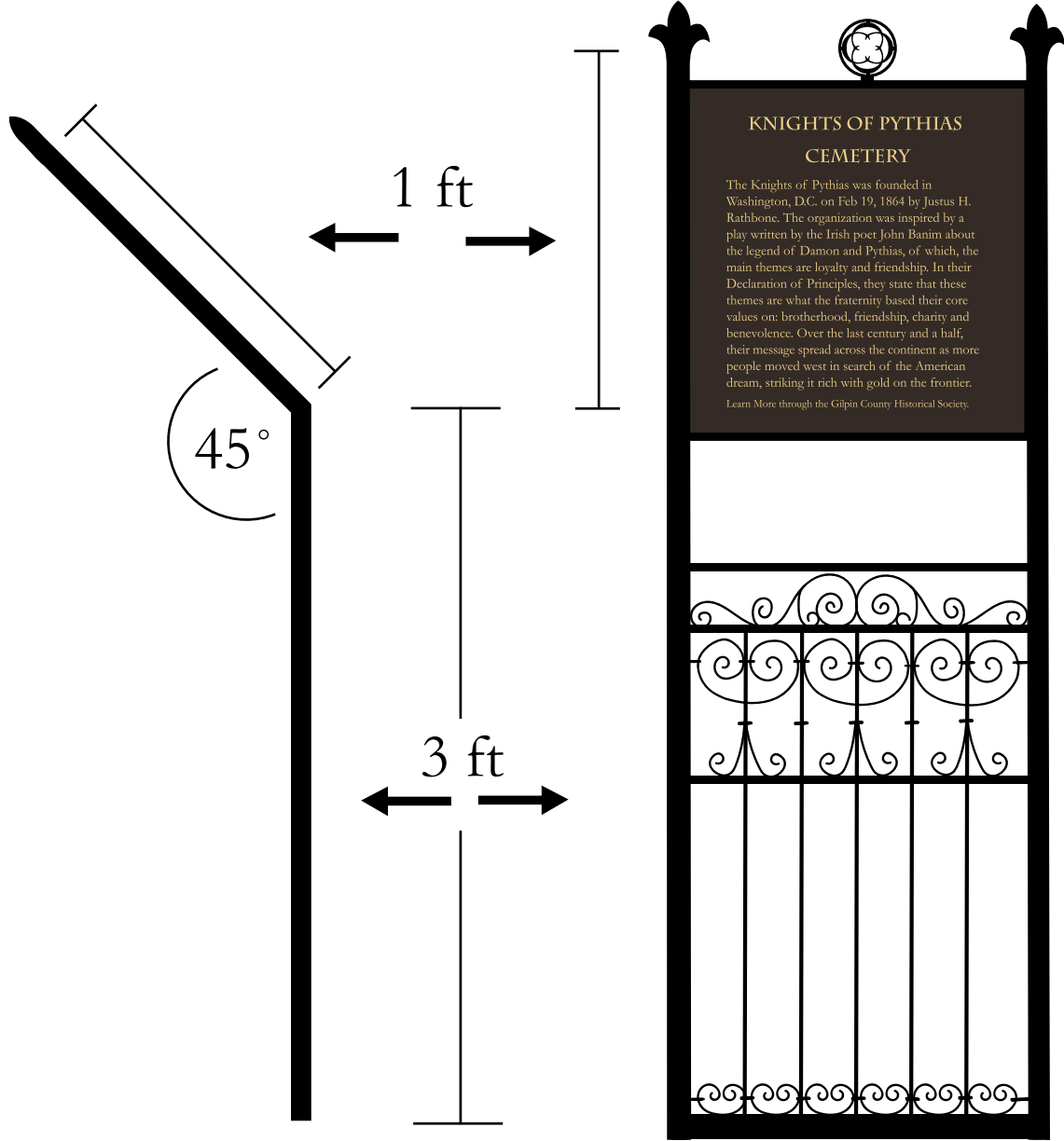


# Central City

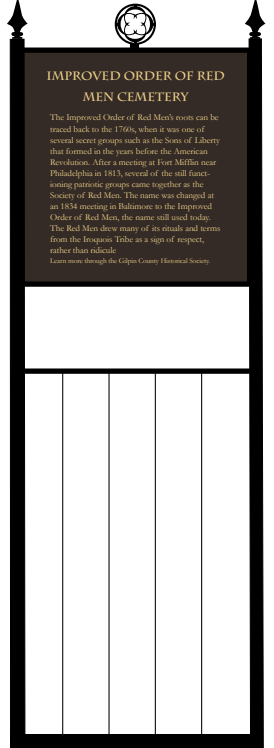
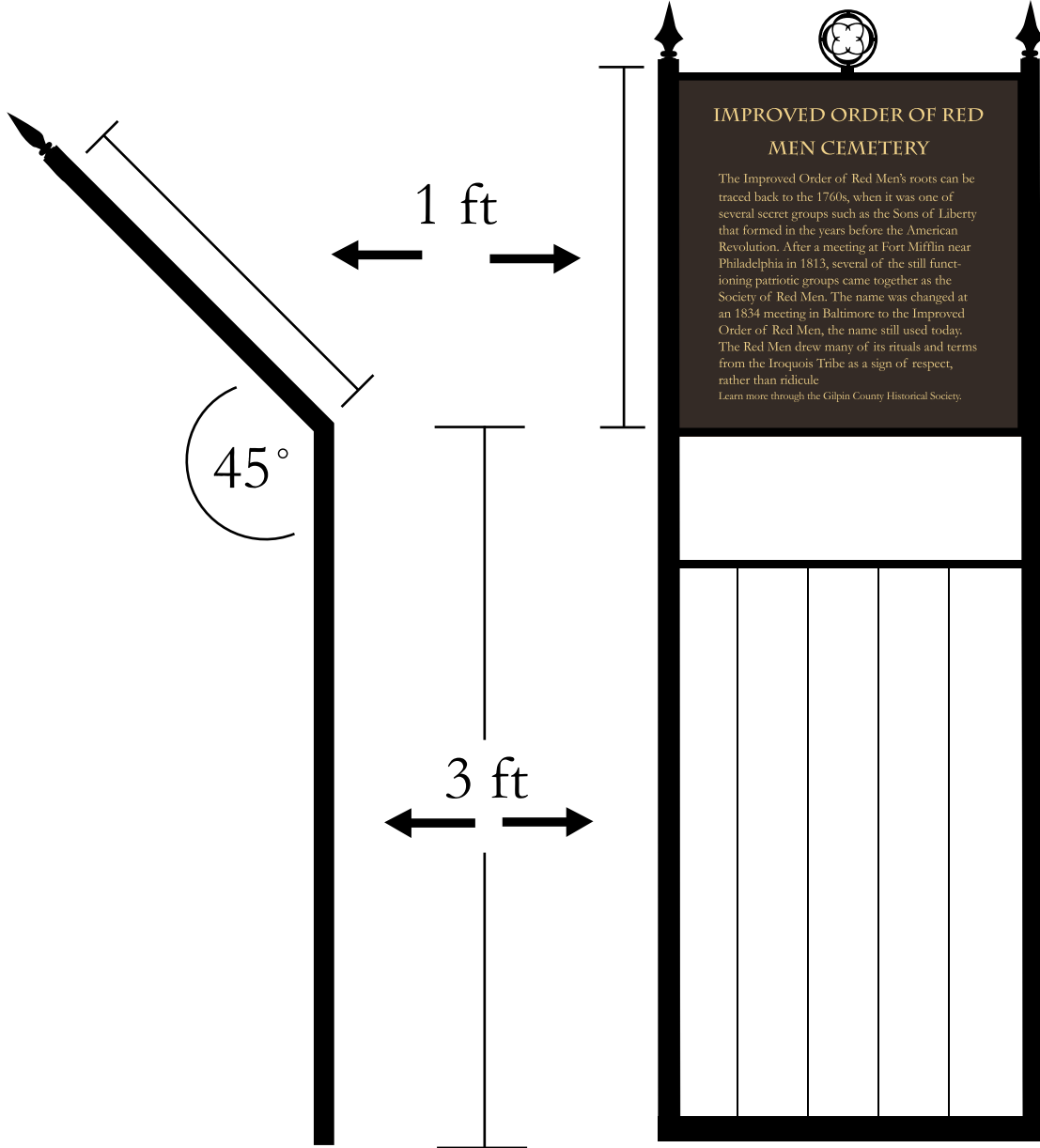




# Knights of Pythias

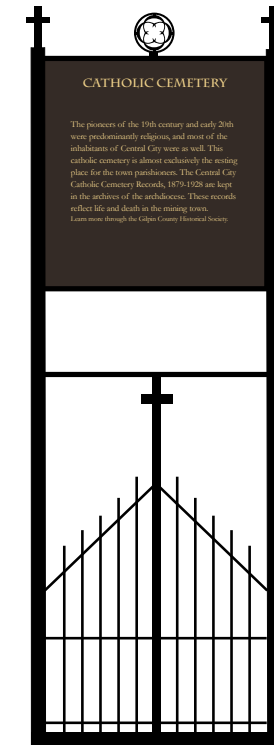
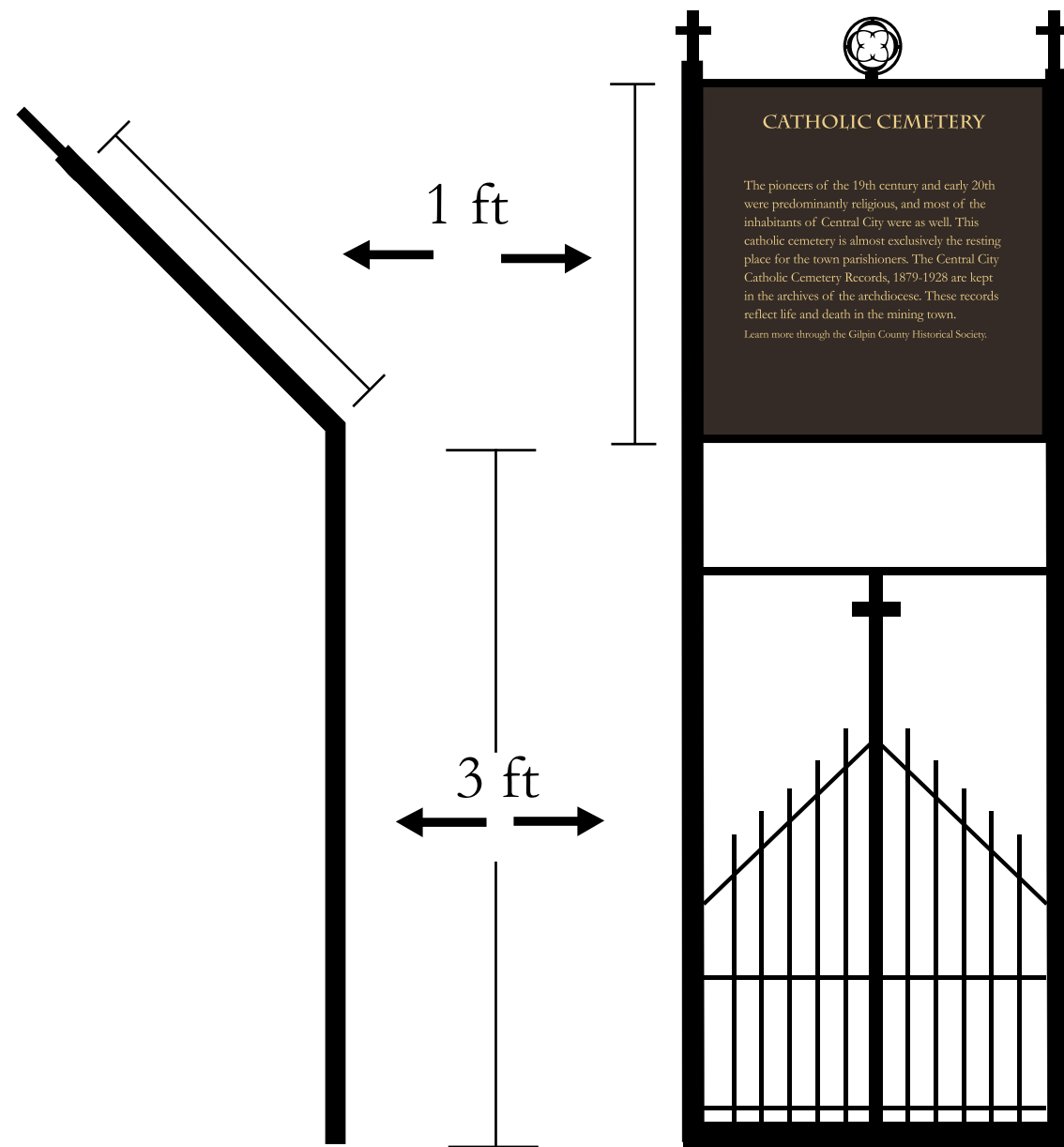


# Improved Order of Red Men

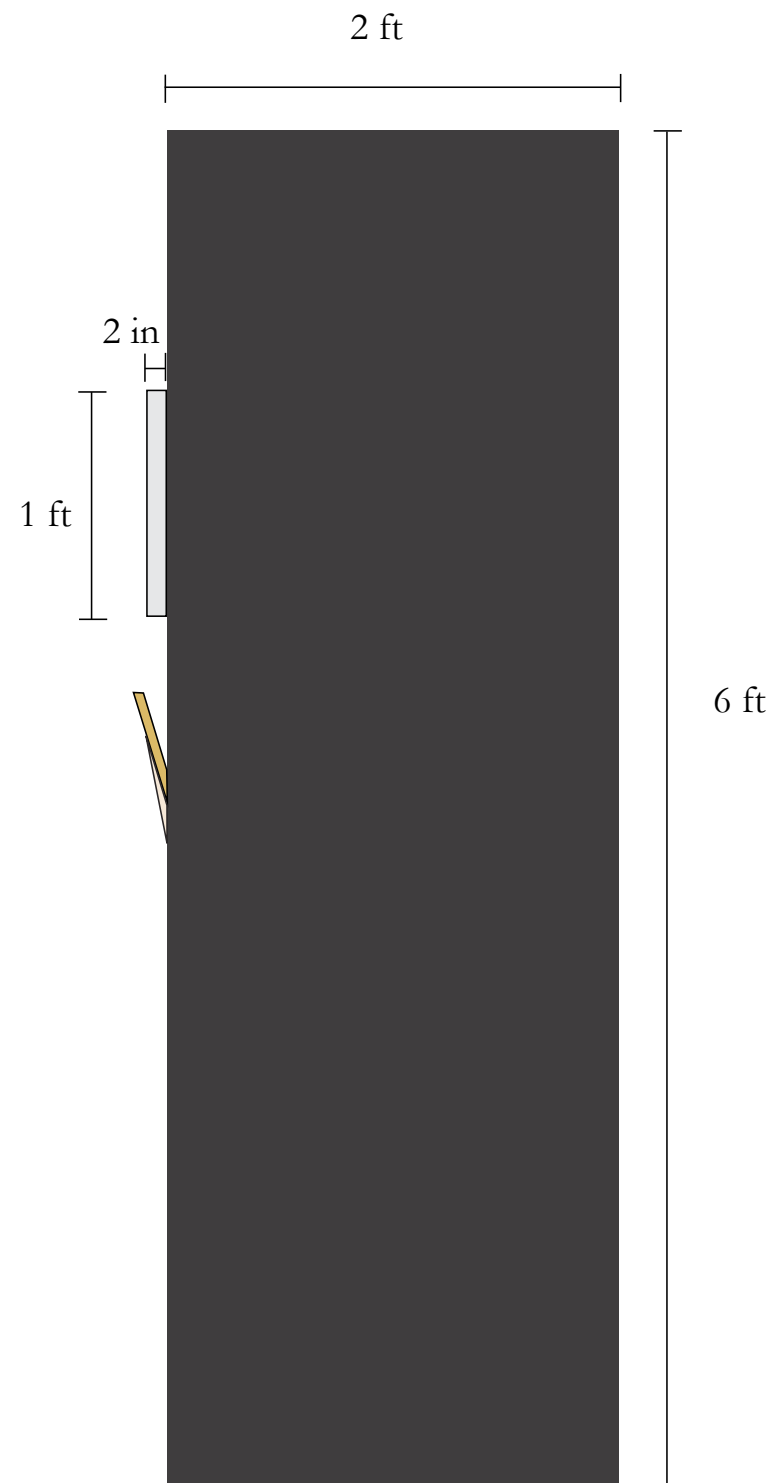




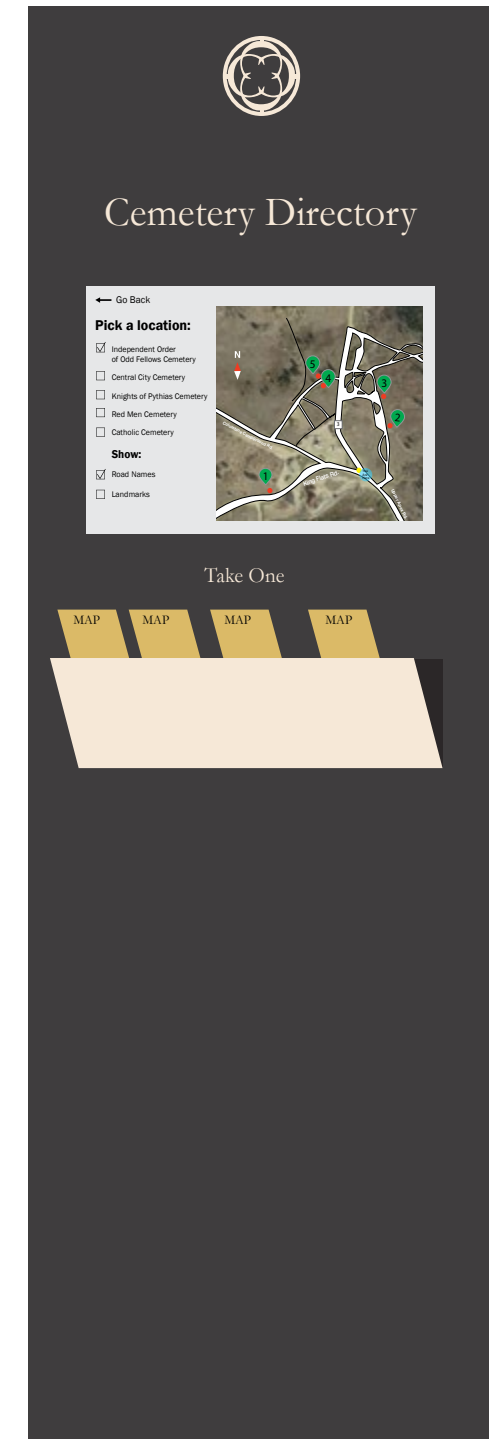
# Catholic Cemetery



# Interactive Display

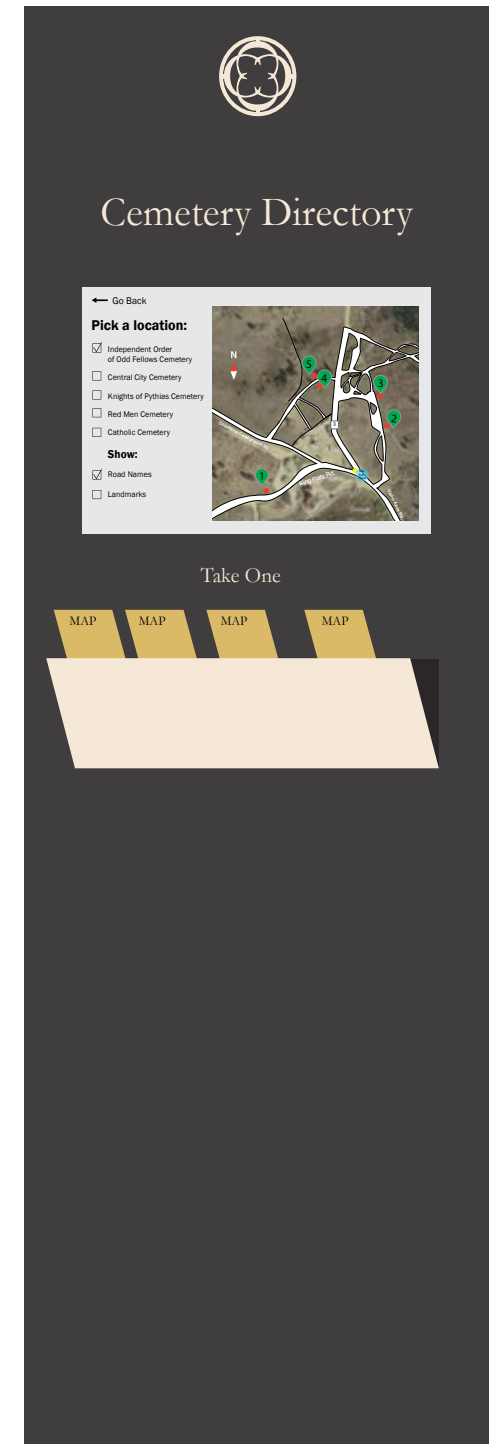
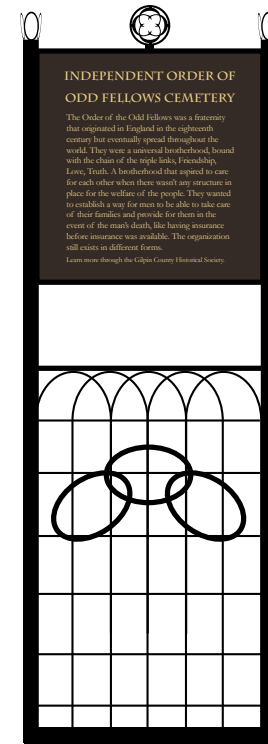
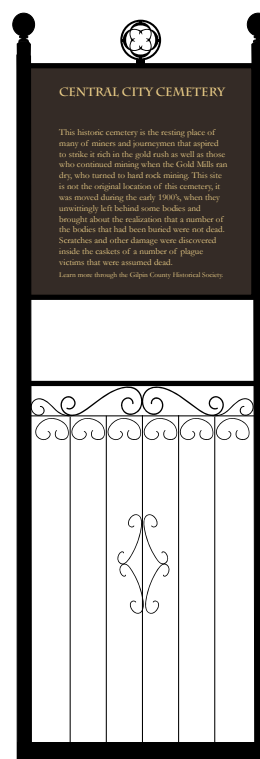
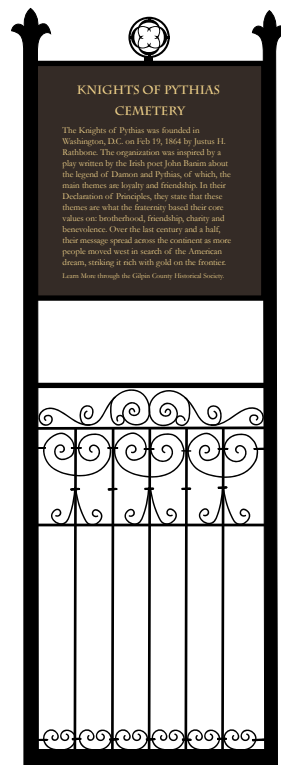
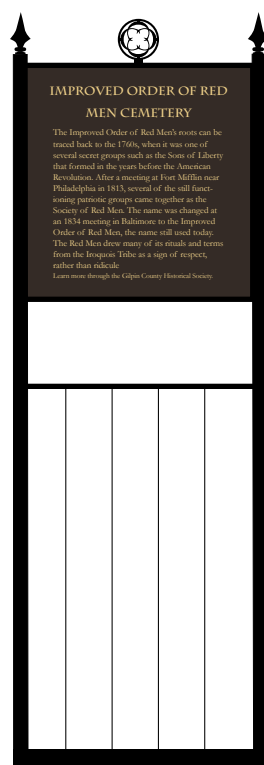
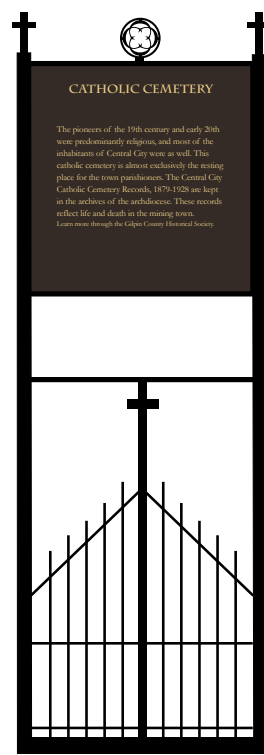


This would be an interactive monolith that would tell visitors where to find specific people, a map of the site, and take away maps that can help them orient themselves once they leave this monolith.





# Sign System







**KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS  
CEMETERY**

The Knights of Pythias was founded in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 19, 1844 by James H. Matthews. The organization was inspired by a play written by the French poet John Racine about the legend of Exuper and Pythias, of which the name derives its name and identity. In their Declaration of Principles, they state that their purpose is that the members should have no regard for birth, color, race, religion, or political opinions. They are to be true to each other and to the world, and to be true to the principles of the American Republic. The first meeting of the organization was held on the 19th of February, 1844, at the residence of James H. Matthews.









**INDEPENDENT ORDER OF  
ODD FELLOWS CEMETERY**

The Order of the Odd Fellows was a fraternal  
organization in England in the mid-nineteenth  
century that eventually spread throughout the  
world. The order was composed of three degrees:  
Lodge, Chapter, and Temple. The members  
of the order were known as Odd Fellows  
because they were not members of any other  
fraternal organization. They were  
dedicated to the service of the community  
and provided for their members in the  
event of their death. The Independent  
Order of the Odd Fellows was established  
in 1819 in New York City.



# Bibliography

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<http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/tabbert5.html>

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## Central City

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[https://www.google.com/search?q=central+city+history&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enUS721US721&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewjspMr5sN-](https://www.google.com/search?q=central+city+history&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS721US721&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewjspMr5sN-rgAhVK3IMKHTkhCzgQ_AUIDygC&biw=1330&bih=603)

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## Red Men

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Improved\\_Order\\_of\\_Red\\_Men](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Improved_Order_of_Red_Men)

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