



Albany Rural Cemetery

a movement in the making

Albany Rural Cemetery was founded in 1841 and is a magnificent example of the Rural Cemetery movement that evolved in the early nineteenth century. This revolutionary concept combined burial with landscaping in a rural park-like setting, and abandoned the churchyard and dense urban graveyards that lacked space for expansion. Before the development of urban parks, the rural cemetery provided a place for the general public to enjoy refined outdoor recreation amidst art and sculpture otherwise available only for the wealthy. Carriage trails and water features, indicated on the map above, were designed to maximize the opportunity for scenery for casual visitors.

The rural cemetery movement evolved from the interest in picturesque landscape design, romantic trend in literature and the theological belief of god in nature.

Before Albany's Washington Park was built, the Knox and State Street Burying Grounds was established to relieve crowding in church graveyards; an estimated 14,000 graves were reinterred at Albany Rural when Washington Park was built in 1868.

The crowded graves at Halenbeck family burial grounds located at the corner of Pearl and Hamilton Streets were relocated to Albany Rural in 1860.

