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 oddslot opportunity for scenery for casual visitors.