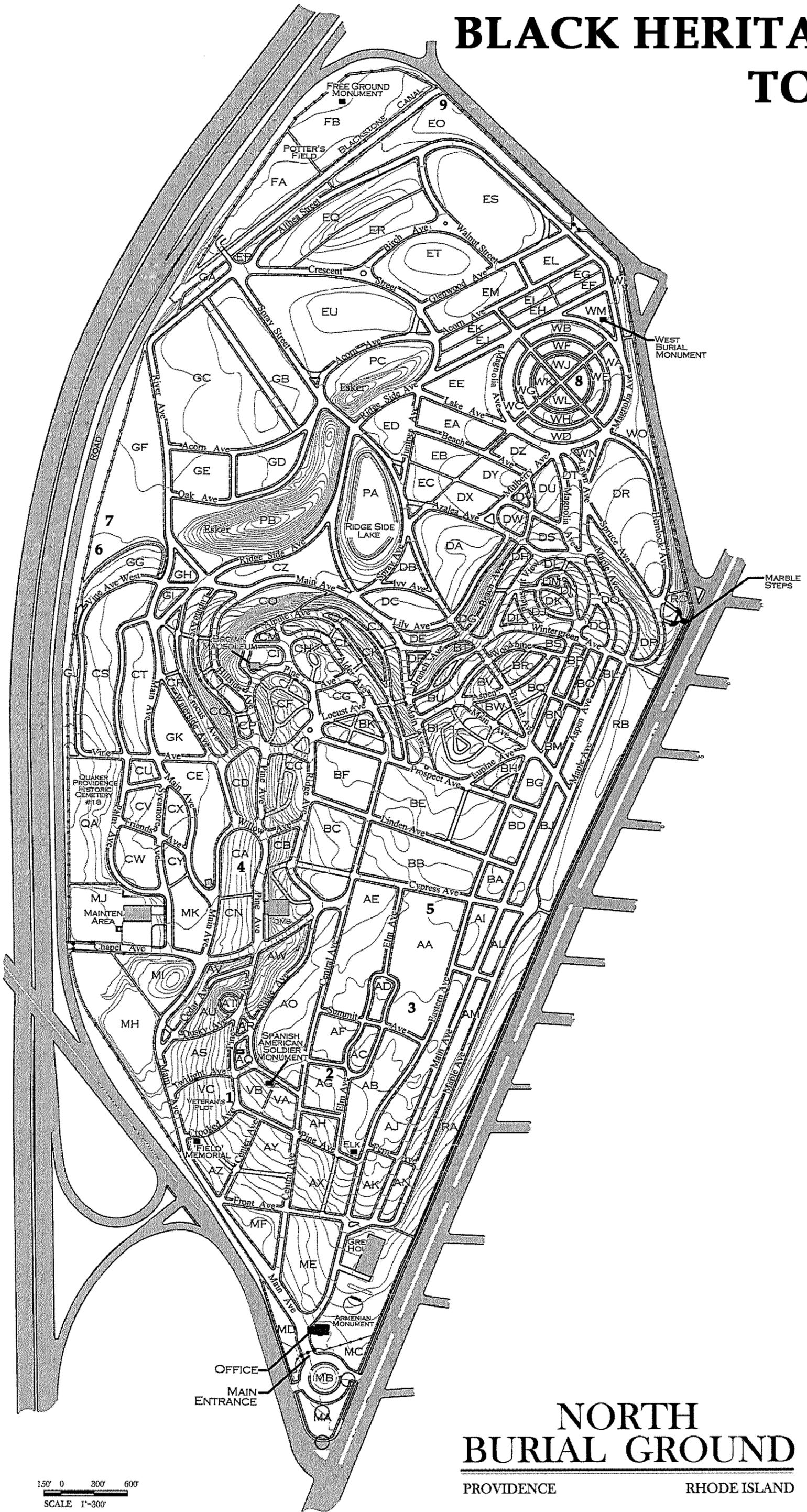


# BLACK HERITAGE TOUR



150' 0 300' 600'  
SCALE 1"=300'

## NORTH BURIAL GROUND

PROVIDENCE

RHODE ISLAND

PREPARED FOR:  
PROVIDENCE PARKS DEPARTMENT  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

PREPARED BY:  
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## Black Heritage Tour

1. Southwest portion of the yard – it was this portion of the yard where the first recorded African American section was located. In this section were both single graves and family lots. Around the year 1876, the lots were moved to Sections 9 and 13 and the single graves were removed to the new colored free ground. Formerly in this location was the Colored Orphan Shelter lot, which is now located in the new free ground. Some remnants of this section remain, with a few lots adjoining Crooked Avenue.
  - a. Edward M. Bannister (1828-1901) – one of the remaining lots in the southwest portion of the yard is that of Edward Mitchel Bannister, considered the first great African American painter. He is interred here with his wife Christiana Carteaux Bannister, and his nephew William Bannister. The headstone was designed by Bannister’s friends and fellow artists of the Providence Art Club.
2. Charles Haskell (1760-1833) - “Man of colour, A soldier of the Revolution.” For many years Haskell was a servant in the household of Col. Seth Wheaton (1759-1827), a fellow veteran. When he died, the Wheaton family erected a large marker, carved by Tingley, at his grave. “At his death all the Wheatons and their connections testified their respect for his memory by attending his funeral.” (*Providence Journal*). Most interesting is the epitaph on the gravestone of Charles’s wife Lucy, discussing her complexion becoming white upon her ascension into heaven. Also interred here are the parents and brother of Charles.
3. George McCarty (1774-1863) – Native of Montserrat, and a very accomplished citizen of color. He owned property on Meeting, Cushing, and South Court Streets, and was very involved in early education of African American children. He is interred here with his wife, daughter, and father in law.
4. William J. Brown (1814-1885) – His autobiography *The Life of William J. Brown, of Providence, R.I.* (1883) is an oft-studied narrative of life as a Black man in Rhode Island.
5. Patience Borden (1759-1811) – “A free woman of color, commonly called Sterry. She gave 230 dollars to the First Baptist Church as a fund for relief of the poor of colour of the church.” AG-2738
6. Pine Grove – this section of the cemetery contains family lots of African Americans. Originally there were single graves in this section as well, which were removed to the free ground, ca. 1880. Notable individuals interred here include:
  - a. George Waterman (1799-1882) – A “most worthy man and exemplary citizen.” Born in New Bedford, Waterman came to Providence in 1821 to work for Edward Carrington as a coachman. His wife Lucy was a notable cake maker; “a fashionable wedding could not take place” without her services. A writer in the *Providence Journal* recalled, “I have known in the last half century many, very many, noble specimens of humanity in the city of Providence, but not one of them evermore entirely commanded my respect than did Mr. Waterman. I scarcely ever met him without a handshake and a pleasant chat, and it gives me great pleasure to bear the testimony of my respect to his memory.”
  - b. Rosanna Carpenter (1785-1870) – Worked as a cook for African American writer Eleanor Eldridge.
  - c. James W. Gaines (1809-1898) – No stones mark this lot in the Northeast corner of Pine Grove. Interred here is the family of James W. Gaines, who was the longtime coachman for Thomas P. Ives.
  - d. In the Northeast Corner lies the Small Pox range, which contains individuals of all races. Standing here is a single headstone for victim Walter Collins (1852-1873), which marks the grave of over fifty individuals.
7. New Old Ground – Many of the family lots originally located in the southwest part of the ground, were moved here ca. 1876. Each family was given complimentary land from the cemetery.
  - a. George J. Smith (1785-1859) – Worked as a coachman for John Carter Brown. Also buried in this lot is Daniel N. Morse (1795-1869), a sexton for the First Congregational Church on Benefit Street.
  - b. Lewis Fegurado (1790-1867) – Born in Madras, East Indies. A “celebrated hair dresser,” according to the *Providence Journal*, who operated in Providence for over 40 years beginning in 1812.
  - c. Rev. Luke Waldron (1799-1858); buried nearby, Caesar Parker, who died February 7, 1855, aged 99.
  - d. Abraham Gibbs
8. Home for Aged Colored Women Lot – The home was located at 45 East Transit St. The first burial was Amanda Robinson (1814-1893) “of the Narragansett tribe.”
9. Colored Orphan Shelter – The shelter was originally located at 57 Wickenden Street, and in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century relocated to 20 Olive Street. Interred here, marked by a single monument, are over forty young African American children who died at the shelter. This lot was originally located in the southwest part of the ground, and was moved in 1876.