



CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, 2nd Fl., Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Telephone: 617 349 4683 TTY: 617 349 6112

E-mail: histcomm@cambridgema.gov URL: www.cambridgema.gov/Historic

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE

1. The undersigned hereby applies to the Cambridge Historical Commission for a Certificate of **(check one box)**: ☒ Appropriateness, ☐ Nonapplicability, or ☐ Hardship, in accordance with Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws and/or Chapter 2.78 of the Municipal Code.

2. Address of property: 580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, Massachusetts

3. Describe the proposed alteration(s), construction or demolition in the space provided below:
(An additional page can be attached, if necessary).

See attached narrative description

I certify that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. The undersigned also attests that he/she has read the statements printed on the reverse.

Name of Property Owner of Record: <u>Mount Auburn Cemetery</u>	
Mailing Address: <u>580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge MA 02138</u>	
Telephone/Fax: <u>617-547-7105</u>	E-mail: _____
Signature of Property Owner of Record: <u><i>Gus Fraser</i></u> (Required field; application will not be considered complete without property owner's signature)	
Name of proponent, if not record owner: <u>Gus Fraser, VP of Preservation & Facilities, Mount Auburn Cemetery</u>	
Mailing Address: <u>580 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge MA 02138</u>	
Telephone/Fax: <u>617-756-8959</u>	E-mail: <u>gfraser@mountauburn.org</u>

<u>(for office use only):</u>		
Date Application Received: _____	Case Number: <u>5356</u>	Hearing Date: <u>11/6/25</u>
Type of Certificate Issued: _____	Date Issued: _____	

Project Narrative

Landscape Improvements

Mount Auburn Cemetery is proposing landscape improvements at its Egyptian Revival Gateway at 580 Mt. Auburn St, a designated Cambridge City Landmark. Changes include replacing existing deteriorating bluestone walkway, turf, and asphalt with an expanded bluestone plaza that matches the current bluestone in color, and texture. The project is designed to create an accessible, pedestrian-only plaza area with space for visitors to gather for tours, get information from our Visitor Services staff and docents, or simply sit with friends on benches around the periphery. Our Visitor Services staff will utilize the protected alcove on east side of the gatehouse as an outdoor welcome center during 3 seasons and when weather allows. During inclement weather staff will utilize the east gatehouse and interact with visitors through a dutch door. A small gift shop will occupy the west alcove.

In order to create the pedestrian space, a small section of road south of the West Gatehouse will be closed to vehicles, the asphalt removed and incorporated into the bluestone plaza. Crosswalks and a pedestrian lane will be painted on the nearby roadways to identify the pedestrian path of travel from existing walkways and pedestrian entrances. The plaza and pedestrian path of travel will be protected from vehicles by a combination of stone seating boulders and stanchions.

Mount Auburn is working with Parterre Garden Services to create the design for the plaza and complete the construction. The expanded bluestone plaza will be made with irregularly shaped bluestone pavers, similar to the existing walkway (see attached photos of the existing conditions). The base proposal includes resetting the existing steppingstones from the central pedestrian entrance to the city sidewalk, eliminating tripping hazards and making this entrance handicapped accessible. There is also an alternate included with the project drawings to redesign this short section of walkway, that we request also be reviewed by the historical commission.

Inlaid in the plaza are bluestone ellipses to introduce a formal design element and create additional, subtle, interest. The ellipses merge with the planting beds to the south, reflecting the merging of art and nature that is prevalent through the Cemetery landscape. New plantings around the plaza area will serve to tie the entrance area to the surrounding landscape.

Heating and air conditioning

The East and West Gatehouses (Lodges) are currently air conditioned with window air conditioning units and heated by electric wall heaters. The window air conditioners detract from the historic façade, are inefficient and loud in the space.

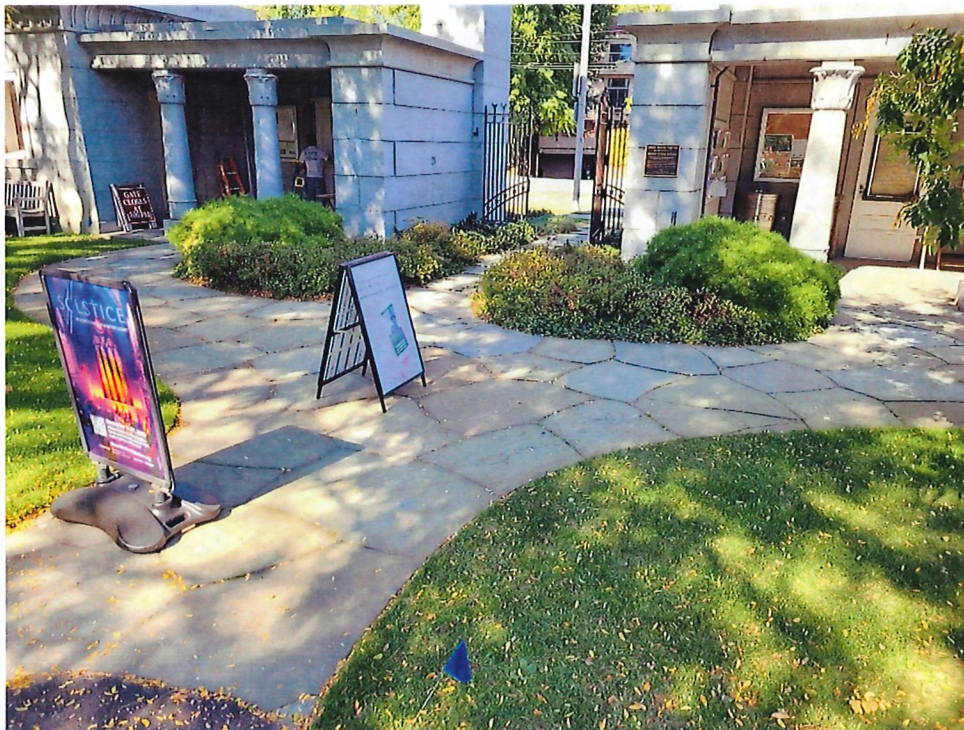
Project Narrative

The electric wall heaters are also inefficient and the fans are loud. Mount Auburn proposes installing minisplit heatpumps to heat and cool both spaces to improve efficiency, provide better temperature control and reduce noise inside the spaces. The outside condenser units will be located on the east and west sides of the granite gateway. Power will be brought underground to the outside units, and the minisplit linesets will penetrate the walls discreetly behind the outside units.

Images



Walk-in gate from Mt. Auburn St.



Existing bluestone walkway

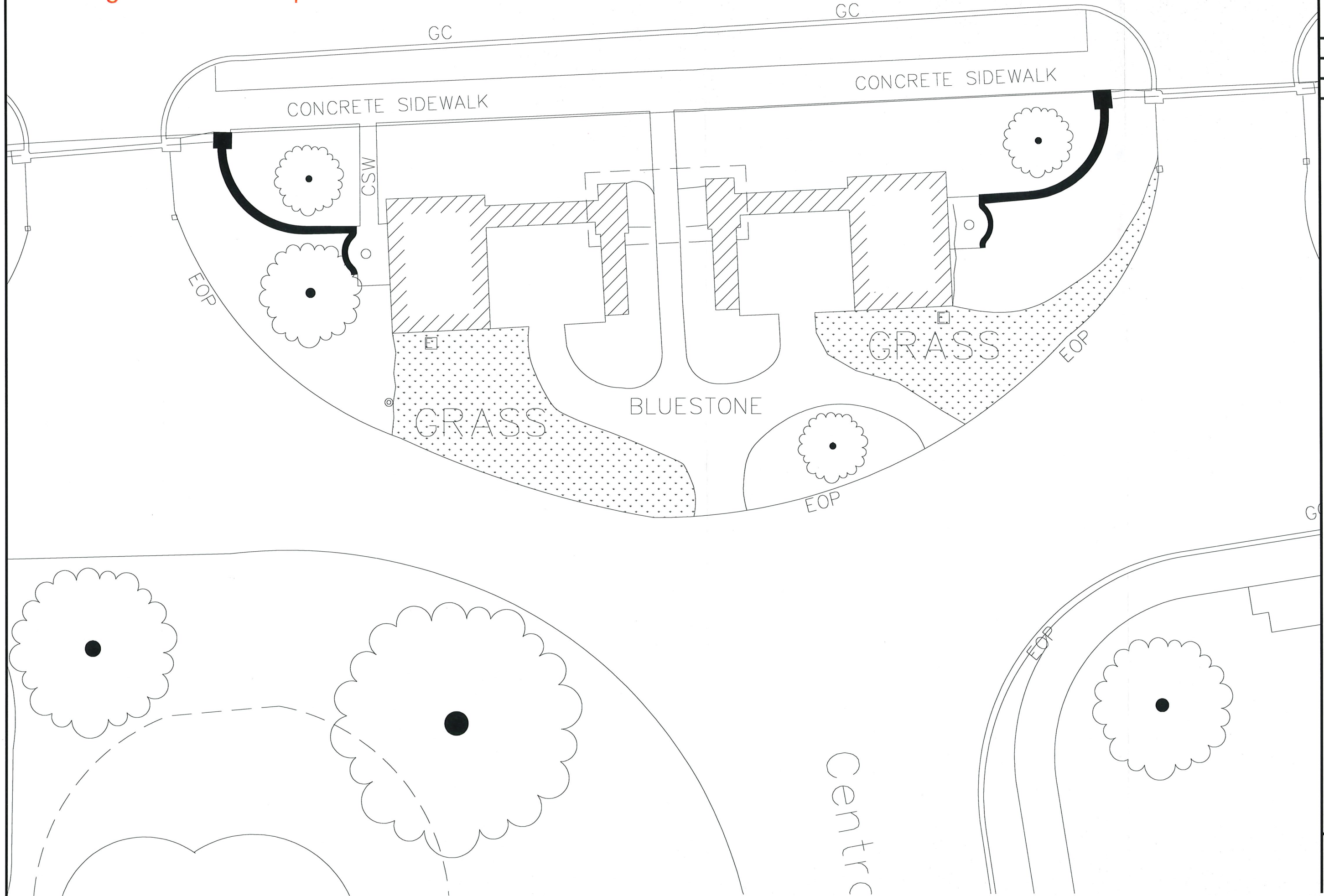


Gatehouse from southeast



Gatehouse from southwest

Existing Condition Siteplan



PRESERVATION AND FACILITIES - MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

EGYPTIAN GATEHOUSE SITE PLAN
580 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA. 02138

DRAWING NUMBER

C1

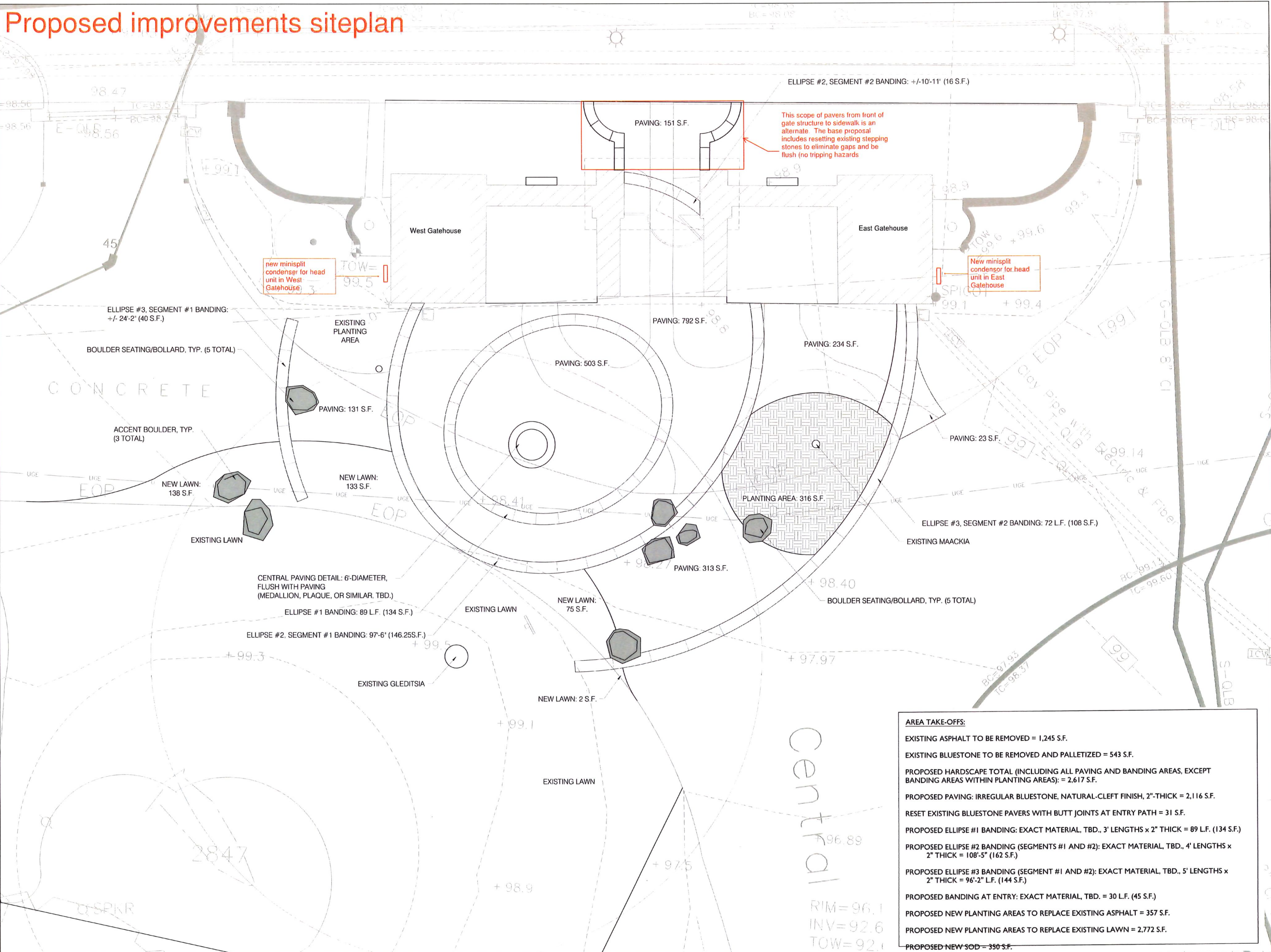
PLAN
NORTH

DATE:
10.06.25

SCALE:
1"=5'-0"

DRAWN BY:

Proposed improvements siteplan





PARTERRE
GARDEN SERVICES

2 Republic Road
N. Billerica, MA 01862
617-492-2230
www.parterregarden.com

Mount Auburn Cemetery

580 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA.

Welcome Center Plaza

NOTES

DRAWN BY: JP
CHECKED BY: VT, VJ

REVISIONS		
#	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1	10/8/25	Entry paving modification, remove central ellipse planting area, remove boulders, remove plantings along sidewalk
2	10/9/25	Include full scope of work

SCALE: 1"=1'-0" DATE: Oct. 9, 2025



SHEET TITLE

Revised Landscape Plan
WITH AREA TAKEOFFS

SHEET NUMBER

DD-I

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION