

**Brooklyn CB7 Land Use/Landmarks Committee**  
**Meeting Date: September 30, 2020**  
**(notes filed October 16, 2020)**

**Notes by: John Fontillas**

**Green-Wood Cemetery Fort Hamilton Ave Gatehouse  
Landmarks Application**

On September 30, 2020, the Land Use/Landmarks Committee conducted a Zoom call meeting to review a Landmarks application for renovations to the Green-Wood Cemetery Fort Hamilton Ave Residence and Gatehouse. Green-Wood is seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness from the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to remove and replace site fencing at the Residence and to create an exterior disabled access ramp to the Gatehouse. The Cemetery and structures are NYC Landmarks as well as a National Historic Landmark. The Board is required to review plans for exterior changes to landmark properties prior to LPC review.

Architect Josh Brandfonbrener presented a package of exhibits detailing the changes. From the onset of the Covid-19 crisis, Green-Wood has experienced a significant rise in visitation and has opened its four gates every day from 8am-6pm to accommodate the flow of visitors. As a result, there is increased demand for visitor amenities, especially restroom facilities. Currently, the Cemetery only has public restroom facilities at its Main Gate and Prospect Park West gates and none on its southern half. Although there are existing restrooms at the Fort Hamilton Gatehouse, the entrance portico of the Gatehouse is elevated up a set of steps, making the Gatehouse interior inaccessible to the disabled.

The proposed changes involve renovation of the existing restrooms to create two new individual compartment restrooms which will comply with ADA regulations. To access the restrooms, Green-Wood proposes to raise the entrance portico to align with the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor level and to provide a new curved ramp to transition up from grade. The materials of the ramp will be concrete and stone with bronze handrails. Brandfonbrener noted that the existing decorative encaustic floor tile at the portico will be demolished when the portico is rebuilt at the higher level. The tile will be replicated with new encaustic tile at the raised floor level.

At the Residence, Green-Wood is proposing to remove two existing tool sheds and a length of curved iron fence, replacing it with a new 7' high straight run steel fence located approximately 75' feet to the east of the existing. Relocation of the fence will provide additional burial space west of the Residence, while maintaining an exterior rear yard private space for the Residence directly south.

Questions from the Committee included what was the extent of the interior renovation for the restrooms and does the scope require new fresh air intake louvers for code compliance? Brandfonbrener stated that the existing restrooms are ventilated simply with double-hung windows and they are not planning to upgrade the mechanical systems to require louvers. Another question involved the amount of traffic expected through the adjacent residential district. Green-Wood stated that the numbers of people using the Fort Hamilton gate is less than the Main Gate and they do not anticipate significant amounts of vehicular or pedestrian traffic entering at this location. Lastly, the Committee Chair asked if Community Board 12 is required to be notified of this change since the project is located along its border. The District Manager stated that all of Green-Wood Cemetery lies within CB7's boundaries, therefore all land use permitting is under our purview.

The Land Use Committee voted on the proposal and it was approved unanimously. The Committee will recommend approval to the Full Board at the October 21, 2020 meeting.