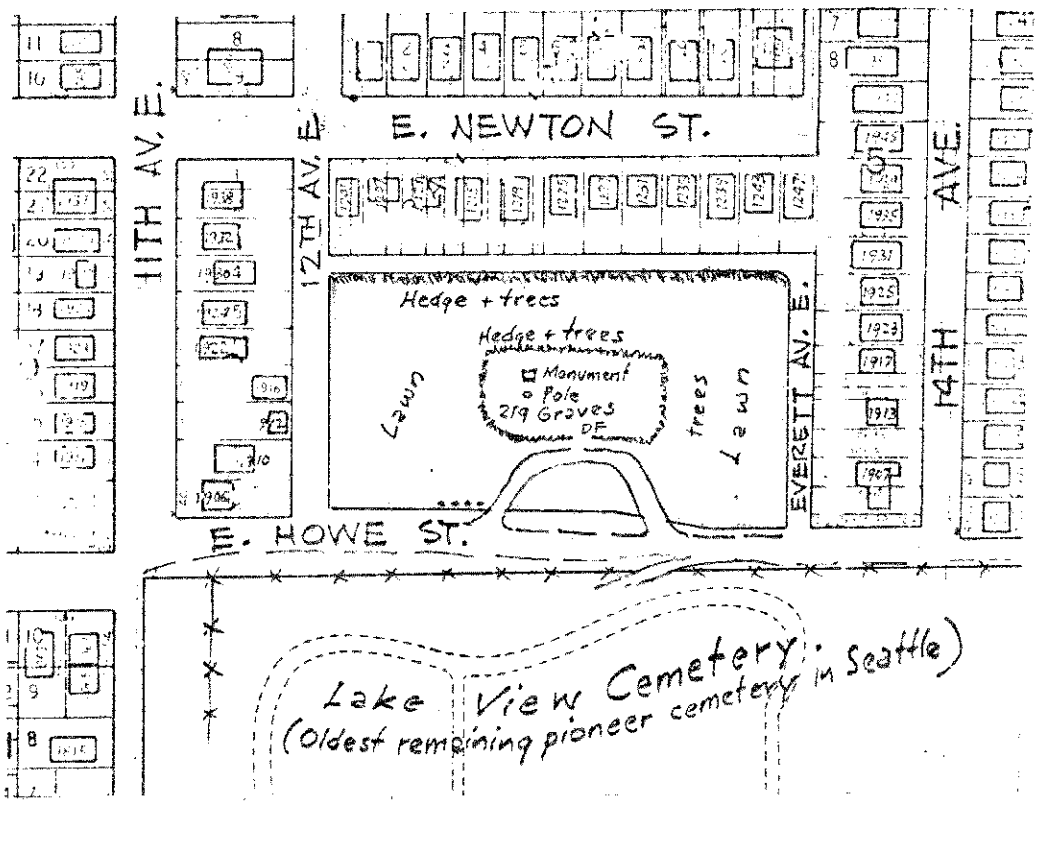


About 1895 five Grand Army Posts in Seattle established this Cemetery for the heroes of 1861-65 (the Civil War) and maintained it until 1922. Then they hired the neighboring Lake View Cemetery Assoc., Inc., to take care of the property at their expense, but the financial burden (and maintenance burden) was too great for the diminishing numbers of old veterans, so they placed their problem before City Council. By purchase and condemnation a sympathetic Council acquired the property surrounding the gravesites (which were deeded to the G.A.R., Stevens Post No. 1) and turned it over to the Department "for park purposes" together with maintenance of the entire area. The scattered gravesites were relocated to a central grouping & the upright headstones were imbedded in concrete flush with the lawn, a sprinkling system installed, trees & shrubs planted, including a hedge enclosing the gravesites. Maintenance became an increasing problem, owing to the legal complications in spending funds on property not legally owned by the city, so care taking became minimal. An attempt was made in 1939 to create a WPA Improvement project including a service building and perimeter fence, but was unsuccessful. During WWII the Coast Artillery was permitted to emplace a searchlight with power plant and crew quarters in the park.

Then came a period of abuse: dumping of refuse & garbage and the playing of ball games across the gravesites as well as "lawns": shrubs & trees were knocked down or damaged. Police and maintenance crews ineffective. So the trustees of the Stevens Post attempted a solution by hiring a firm (Martin Pick Co.) to assist in maintenance but in 1955 again sought help from Council. The request was tabled for study: including an attempt to transfer maintenance & control to the Federal Cemetery system - but the request was lost in Red Tape. In 1960 it was attempted to remove either the gravesites or the maintenance to the Fort Lawton facility. No action.



Monument is a marble shaft honoring Civil War heroes.

2.3 Acres

(+ 0.4 gravesites) deeded to GAR

Purch. + Condemn. 1922-23 \$22,500 = GF

583-2797