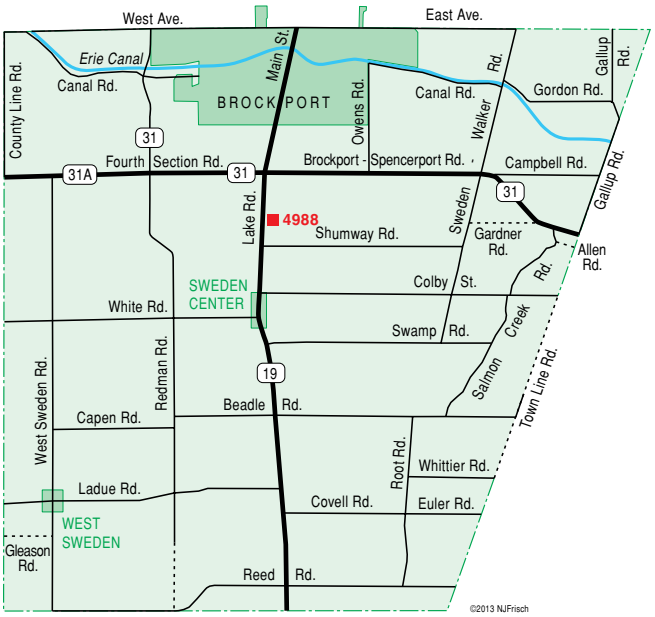
4988 Lake Road South — Town of Sweden Historic Landmark

Photo
needed

Lake View Cemetery
Proclaimed 2005.12.13



Cemetery location is indicated in red.

Lake View Cemetery [is] an intact and distinctive example of a late-nineteenth-century-designed rural cemetery, which was attached to and merged with an earlier, linear burying ground, known as Beach Ridge Cemetery [dating to the 1820s]. Situated on a hill top the rolling site was terraced and plotted, curvilinear paths and lanes were laid out, specimen trees were planted, and a miniature lake was created. The cemetery was designed by landscape architect **W.W. Parce**, who is noted for his design of other significant cemeteries, both locally and nationally. Notable examples of cemetery art and architecture are found here in several mausoleums and statuary monuments, along with the distinctive stone and brick chapel, designed by an unknown architect, and constructed near the cemetery entrance.

The merging of the Beach Ridge Cemetery with Lake View Cemetery was a long drawn-out process. At the April 6, 1896 annual meeting, the trustees reported that the Beach Ridge Cemetery association had accepted an offer by the Lake View Cemetery for acquisition of its cemetery but was Lake View was unable to come up with the required funds. Although not officially merged, the Monroe County Plat Map of 1902 for the Town of Sweden shows the Lake View Cemetery encompassing the Beach Ridge Cemetery for a total of 66.15 acres. Both the farmhouse and the chapel are shown on the map. The May 16, 1921 minutes reported that Lake View would take over the care of Beach Ridge Cemetery as soon as an endowment fund of $6,000 was raised. Evidently, payments were made to Beach Ridge over a long period until about 1974, when both cemeteries were merged.

In 2002, due to a lack of funds for the care of the cemetery, the Lake View Cemetery Association was dissolved, and the ownership of the cemetery was transferred to the Town of Sweden.

Page *Contents*

1 Introduction
2-9 Nomination documents
10 Proclamation document

Nomination documentation: David Strabel, Town of Sweden Landmarks Advisory Committee Chair scanned all at 100% of size from paper copies on file at the Town of Sweden Office and provided them as .pdf files.

Proclamation document: Karen Sweeting, Town of Sweden Clerk provided this as a .doc electronic file. Note: Proclamations are ordinarily found in the official Town minutes on file at the Town of Sweden Office.

Layout: Norm Frisch converted files to .jpg format as needed then rotated, adjusted, retouched and reduced to fit this page format. Page one summary was compiled by him primarily from nomination documents.

4988 Lake Road South — Town of Sweden Historic Landmark

Lake View Cemetery
Monroe County, New York

Lake View Cemetery meets Criterion C as an intact and distinctive example of a late-nineteenth-century-designed rural cemetery, which was attached to and merged with an earlier, linear burying ground, known as Beach Ridge Cemetery. Situated on a hill top the rolling site was terraced and plotted, curvilinear paths and lanes were laid out, specimen trees were planted, and a miniature lake was created. The cemetery was designed by landscape architect W.W. Parce, who is noted for his design of other significant cemeteries, both locally and nationally. Notable examples of cemetery art and architecture are found here in several mausoleums and statuary monuments, along with the distinctive stone and brick chapel, designed by an unknown architect, and constructed near the cemetery entrance.

The area now known as the Town of Sweden was originally part of the Triangular Tract, which lay between the Phelps and Gorham Purchase and the Holland Purchase on the west. Originally owned by Robert Morris, it was purchased in 1801 by LeRoy, Boyard and Everts of New York City and surveyed into lots that same year by Robert Stoddard. Settlement began soon after 1802, when Lake Road was opened, which allowed for the access from the village of LeRoy to Lake Ontario and the purchase of lots. In 1814 the Town of Sweden was incorporated.

The opening of the Erie Canal brought expansion and prosperity to the town and the village of Brockport, which was founded by land developers Hiel Brockway and James Seymour, who bought land on both sides of Lake Road. In 1829 the Village of Brockport was officially incorporated.

Among the earliest cemeteries, or burying grounds, established in the Town of Sweden were Brockport Cemetery, on High Street in the village, and Beach Ridge Cemetery on Lake Road, less than a mile outside the village. Both graveyards were plotted in the linear pattern, with headstones oriented in an east-west direction. Beach Ridge Cemetery, originally situated on about thirty acres, contains 310 plots on a __-acre site, which never expanded until it was incorporated in with Lake View Cemetery. Brockport Cemetery is an example of a typical linear burying ground, located in a confined urban area that was soon outgrown.

The Rural Cemetery Movement changed burial customs, gravestone design, and the appearance of graveyards, which would become known as “cemeteries.” Population growth brought over-crowded urban graveyards and a concern about sanitation as they encroached upon wells and nearby dwellings. Changing attitudes towards death brought about the establishment of a large rural setting outside the city or village that was designed as a park-like area to preserve not only the memory of individuals, but also to

create a natural place for the living suitable for recreation and contemplation. Other features included elaborate entrance gates and chapels for funeral services and receiving vaults. Benches, fountains, gazebos, were added in public areas. The planting of specimen trees, flowers, and the creation of lakes added to the picturesque settings.

Burial patterns also changed as plots were no longer laid out in an east-west, linear orientation on flat ground. Rolling hills, often terraced for the creation of family plots, were important topographical features in the design of cemeteries and were usually encircled with curvilinear paths and lanes. Families could purchase plots before they were needed, often erecting a large central monument, which were supplemented with individual headstones. This new design encouraged families to visit their own plot of real estate and to enjoy the picturesque surroundings. Often the remains of earlier ancestors located in the urban graveyards were moved to the newly established plots.

Simple headstones were replaced with larger, more elaborate stone monuments, sculpture, and mausoleums, which emphasized the status of individuals. Markers often contained complex symbolism, including religious references and allegorical figures. Symbols of fraternal orders and occupations, as well as military service, helped to memorialize the achievements of the dead.

The first cemetery of this type in the country was Mt. Auburn Cemetery, near Boston, which was dedicated in 1831. It was set up as a private, non-profit business, with the sale of lots provided for the maintenance of plots as well as improvements of the grounds. A few years later Mt. Hope Cemetery was dedicated in Rochester in 1838 as the first municipal cemetery of its type in the United States, as well as the first rural cemetery in Western New York. Throughout the 19th century, the rural cemetery form became the norm in many communities, large and small, throughout the country. Often the earlier graveyard was expanded with a rural cemetery addition. Lake View Cemetery is an example of a late-19th century rural cemetery that was added to a pre-existing graveyard, Beach Ridge Cemetery.

During the 20th century, the rural cemetery changed, largely in response to economic factors. The layout of plots became more linear to maximize space use. Plantings were limited and memorials were arranged in rows to facilitate maintenance. Monuments became less upright and smaller. With the increasing popularity in cremation, repositories for ashes were often erected.

In the late 1800s, it became apparent to the residents of the towns of Sweden, Clarkson, and the village of Brockport that other burial grounds were needed. By 1870, the Brockport Cemetery on High Street in Brockport, the principal cemetery of village residents, was full. In 1882, the Brockport Rural Cemetery was organized and incorporated as a burial ground, east of the village, primarily for veterans of the Civil War. A 52-foot-high stone tower was erected and the cemetery dedication was held in

1893. Although plots were purchased, fires and neglect caused the site to be abandoned with most internments moved to other cemeteries, including Lake View Cemetery.

The Beach Ridge Cemetery, located south of the village, was one of the oldest burying grounds in the town with internments dating to the 1820s. By the 1880s, the cemetery's two large rectangle sections were almost full. Plans were made to form a new cemetery association for the purchase of the Burroughs farm, adjacent to the Beach Ridge Cemetery. The hill-top site offered pleasant surroundings of rolling terrain for a new and now popular rural cemetery, which would include a distant view of Lake Ontario. On June 1, 1891, the Lake View Cemetery Association was officially organized for the purpose of "procuring and holding lands to be used exclusively for a cemetery, or place for the burial of the dead." A starting fund of $10,000 had been raised, of which $6,700 was to be used to purchase the Burroughs' farm of thirty acres, the remaining funds set aside for improvements. The Burroughs' early 19th-century farmhouse and barn still stand in front of Section C and are maintained by the town as a farm museum.

At the August 21, 1891 meeting of the trustees, plans were made for a chapel and receiving vault to be built. At the August 28th meeting, the trustees approved the use of "Freestone from Sweden" in the construction of the chapel. On September 12, 1891, the trustees adopted the chapel design, with the exception that the "tower be placed on s.w. corner and chimney be built in with gable and that the cost of building shall not exceed two thousand dollars ($2,000)." No architect was named in the minutes. On April 4th, 1892, the annual meeting of the Lake View Cemetery Association was held in the chapel.

Today the chapel, although now used as a receiving vault, remains a significant architectural feature of the cemetery landscape. Its gray "freestone," is likely Lockport limestone, which was quarried in Sweden in the early 19th century and used in Rochester buildings, including St. Luke's Church (1824).[1] The brick trim around the round-arched doors and windows accentuate the Romanesque Revival influence, a style that was made popular in the 1880s by Henry Hobson Richardson. Another element of this style is the square tower with its crenellated top. Also notable is the steeply pitched slate roof, which features wide bands of scalloped slates. The stained glass windows that glow inside the dark interior are geometric in design, but with circular patterns and jewel-like buttons that almost have an Art Nouveau feeling, also in vogue at the time. Surely, this building was the work of an architect.

Plans for the cemetery landscape design were solidified at the August 30, 1893 meeting, when the trustees voted that "W.W. Parce be employed to plot and mod. [modify?] grounds at a price to be agreed upon . . . ."

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[1] Fairchild, Herman LeRoy and J. Foster Warner. "Building Stones of Rochester: Nature's Contribution to Local Edifices," Centennial History of Rochester, Vol. III., p. 133-134, 146. Rochester Public Library, Rochester, NY, 1933.

4988 Lake Road South — Town of Sweden Historic Landmark

William Walter Parce (1861-1940), a native of Fairport, New York, was, perhaps, the area's first professional landscape architect. He was the son of Joseph Yale Parce, who was an early developer of residential subdivisions in the village of Fairport. His brother, Walter, also became a developer and was the founder of the village of Despatch (now East Rochester). W.W. Parce's first known major project was Riverside Cemetery, a 123-acre cemetery, located on a former tree nursery on the west side of the Genesee River in Rochester. Its plan is typical of rural cemetery designs with a rolling site, curvilinear drives that define the sections, and a variety of specimen trees. When the cemetery opened in 1892, Parce became its first superintendent. Lake View Cemetery was likely his second cemetery project.

Parce had a close working relationship with Alling DeForest (1875-1957), considered one of Rochester's most important landscape architects in the early 20th century. In the years 1896 and 1897, the younger DeForest worked as a draftsman for Parce during and after his drafting studies at Rochester Athenaeum & Mechanics Institute (now Rochester Institute of Technology). In 1897, DeForest left for Brookline, Massachusetts, to work with the Olmsted Brothers, but returned to Rochester in 1898 to become a partner in the firm Parce & DeForest, Landscape Architects. DeForest went back to the Olmsted firm in 1899, but returned to the Parce firm in 1901. The partnership was terminated in 1902. One of the most notable projects of Parce & DeForest was the General Electric Realty Plot, in Schenectady, New York, designed in 1899. The residential plan for large executive houses shows curving streets showing the influence of picturesque cemetery designs. The firm also was responsible for the design of Park View Cemetery in Schenectady, which opened in 1901.

W.W. Parce is also listed as the landscape architect for the planned community of Despatch, founded by his brother, Walter Parce in 1896. Walter was president of the Vanderbilt Improvement Company, which was instrumental in developing Riverside Cemetery. The company was responsible for advertising the sale and development of lots, which were laid out by W.C. Gray, engineer. W.W. Parce may have orchestrated the planting of a tree on the corner of each lot, alternating a fast-growing poplar with an elm.

W.W. Parce was also involved in private residential landscapes. In 1896, he collaborated with the prominent Rochester architect, Claude Bragdon (1866-1946), in the design of the estate of Campbell Johnston in Pasadena, California. He also drew a landscape plan in 1897 for another Bragdon residence, "Shingleside", owned by Nathan Stein, which was built in 1898-99 and overlooks Lake Ontario at 473 Beach Avenue, Rochester (National Register, 1983). One of the most important residences in the village of Brockport was that of the widow of Dayton S. Morgan, Susan M. Joselyn Morgan, for whom he drew up a landscape scheme in 1897. Today the Morgan–Manning House (National Register, 1991) is now a museum and headquarters of the Western Monroe Historical Society. The Parce-designed landscape does not exist.

4988 Lake Road South — Town of Sweden Historic Landmark

In January, 1902, Parce moved to Colorado. In 1904 he was hired to develop a subdivision and planting plan for Green Mountain Cemetery, in Boulder, where he would later become superintendent. He remained in Boulder, where he married and started a family, and continued to be involved in local cemetery improvements, including Columbia Cemetery (1912; National Register, 1997), and other projects. Later, he moved to Baltimore and formed a new partnership known as Parce and Maxwell.

The career of W.W. Parce exemplifies the emergence of the landscape architect profession. It appears that he was self-taught and was probably influenced by the suburban developments of his father and brother. The 1893 Rochester Directory lists him as a "landscape gardener." By 1897, he is listed as a "landscape architect." The 1899 Directory shows an ad for the firm of Parce & DeForest, landscape architects and "designers of home grounds, parks, cemeteries, and suburban tracts." While many of his projects are still unknown, he seems to have concentrated on the design of cemeteries, as well as serving as superintendent of several cemeteries. Alling DeForest, in contrast, became prominent as a designer of individual estates, including those of George Eastman in Rochester (1902) and Harvey Firestone, in Akron Ohio (1911)

The minutes of the Lake View Cemetery Association trustees during the 1890s describe some of the progress being made on the cemetery. September 25, 1893: "Excavation be made for Lake and water system including piping and fixing springs." March 9, 1894: ". . . voted that trees and shrubs be purchased to improve the grounds. . ." May 9, 1899: ". . . voted to consult with Mr. Parce on plotting the grounds north of terrace . . ."

The merging of the Beach Ridge Cemetery with Lake View Cemetery was a long drawn-out process. At the April 6, 1896 annual meeting, the trustees reported that the Beach Ridge Cemetery association had accepted an offer by the Lake View Cemetery for acquisition of its cemetery but was Lake View was unable to come up with the required funds. Although not officially merged, the Monroe County Plat Map of 1902 for the Town of Sweden shows the Lake View Cemetery encompassing the Beach Ridge Cemetery for a total of 66.15 acres. Both the farmhouse and the chapel are shown on the map. The May 16, 1921 minutes reported that Lake View would take over the care of Beach Ridge Cemetery as soon as an endowment fund of $6,000 was raised. Evidently, payments were made to Beach Ridge over a long period until about 1974, when both cemeteries were merged.

In 2002, due to a lack of funds for the care of the cemetery, the Lake View Cemetery Association was dissolved, and the ownership of the cemetery was transferred to the Town of Sweden.

4988 Lake Road South — Town of Sweden Historic Landmark

The original design of the cemetery has essentially been maintained throughout its 100 year-plus history. Pasted on the inside front cover of the Lake View Cemetery Association book of the minutes is a 1906 description of the cemetery from an unknown source, which speaks of the beauty and extent of the cemetery landscape:

> *Whoever has seen Lake View in the summer time with its beautiful vistas of well kept lawns, its ornamental trees and shrubbery, whose beauty of form and foliage increases year by year, its winding drives, its miniature lake, and above all whoever has stood upon its terraces and noted the wonderful panorama spread out before him as far as the eye can reach, of forest and field with the blue waters of Ontario sparkling in the distance, will not need to be told that here is indeed an ideal place, where all that is mortal of our loved ones, and we ourselves, when summoned by the grim messenger, may be laid to rest.*

Today, the cemetery landscape retains the essence of the 1906 description with irregularly shaped, rounded "Sections," defined by narrow winding roads. The two central sections, Section C and D, are terraced and contain the most notable examples of cemetery art. The miniature lake is located at the northern lower sloped edge of Section B. Landscaping consists mainly of mature trees, including a huge and notable beech tree at the up-hill side of Section B. Both deciduous and conifer trees are scattered throughout the cemetery, although the modern sections (E, F, G) are more open. Vistas of forest and field have been largely obscured by woods on the north side, with commercial development beyond along Rt. 31. A view of Lake Ontario is possible from the entrance on a clear day.

The most significant examples of cemetery art and architecture are located in Sections C and D. Two fine mausoleums are located in Section C, one of the terraced hillsides. The Henion mausoleum is constructed principally of local Medina sandstone, with polished granite ionic columns flanking a doorway with an iron gate, and a gable roof of stone that is topped by a cross. The Greenough Shannon mausoleum is made of rusticated stone with a polished granite entrance composed of tall, square bases on which sit short columns with anthemia-like capitals. Bronze doors contain the initial "S" and "G". Two stained glass windows, depicting lilies and a cross, are set in a curved walk flanking the entrance. The flat roof features a castellated edge.

The cemetery contains notable examples of cemetery art, the most significant of which is the Winslow monument (Section C), erected in 1932 by William N. Winslow (1857-1953) in memory of his wives, Carrie T. Van Eps Winslow (1861-1892) and Elizabeth Conde Winslow (1876-1931). The monument was designed by Winslow and his two sons, Leon L. Winslow and William V. Winslow. The monument depicts a life size bronze figure of a woman in meditation with a closed book under one arm. The figure is sitting on and leaning against a polished granite block. Above the head of the statue, set in the granite, is the Winslow coat of arms, which was carved by Leon

Winslow, who was director of art in the Baltimore public schools. The statue was sculpted by Hans Schuler (1874-1951), a native of Germany, who lived in Maryland for most of his life. Known as the monument maker, Schuler created monuments, reliefs, and sculptures that adorned public buildings, universities, streets, and cemeteries, primarily in the Baltimore and the Washington DC area. Among his most important works are the James Buchanan Memorial in Washington, DC and the John Hopkins Memorial in Baltimore.

Other fine examples of cemetery art feature Victorian symbols and decorative motifs that helped define the rural cemetery. The W.H. Moore monument (Section D) depicts a sculpture of an angel, a popular motif signifying a messenger between God and man. The tall obelisk monument of the Morgan plot (Section D) symbolizes the Egyptian sun god, Ra, who held the power to recreate as well as God, creator, and Lord over all. The Johnston monument (Section D) contains two flowers: a rose branch, symbol of unfailing love, beauty, hope, heavenly joy and happiness; and a lily, motif for purity, innocence, and resurrection. The P. Blossom monument (Section D) features a column with a vine of ivy, symbol of friendship, faithfulness, and undying affection, growing around it. The Parks monument (Section C) contains one of the most popular Victorian symbols: an urn, the Greek symbol of mourning and death.

Prominent citizens of the towns of Sweden and Clarkson, as well as the village of Brockport are buried in the cemetery. Several of the major monuments described above belong to upstanding citizens. Richard Cutts Shannon (1839-1920) was a Civil War veteran, a member of Congress, president of an American railroad company in Brazil, and ambassador to Nicaragua, Salvador and Costa Rica. He and his wife, Martha Greenough gave generously to their community, especially to St. Luke's Episcopal and the First Baptist Church. William N. Winslow was engaged in many business ventures, including insurance, and was superintendent of the water works. Wilson H. Moore (1859-1907) was a partner in the Moore-Shafer Shoe Company, which manufactured ladies' shoes that were shipped throughout the world. Dayton S. Morgan (1819-1890) with his partner William Seymour (Globe Iron Works), manufactured the first 100 of Cyrus McCormick's reaper for the harvest of 1846. William. H. Parks (1845-1924) was one of the early trustees of the Lake View Cemetery. Foster Udell (died 1909), whose large monument lies in Section B, was known as the "Apple King" because of his large apple farm on nearby Redman Road. His orchards produced 40,000 barrels in the height of the apple grown season.

The Beach Ridge Cemetery (Sections I and II) contains the headstones of some of the town's earliest notable citizens. The Reed-Rowe monuments recall the first supervisor of the town of Sweden, John Reed, and the first nurseryman in the area, Asa Rowe, who also served as town supervisor in 1850. The Staples-Stickney monuments memorialize Reuben Stickney, whose house, which still stands, was the site of the first town meeting of Sweden in 1814. The White-F.P. Root monuments are reminders of F.P.

4988 Lake Road South — Town of Sweden Historic Landmark

Root, a supervisor of Sweden, trustee of the Collegiate Institute, and owner of 700 acres on Root Road, where the first successful grain reaper was tested. The White family was among the town's early settlers and White Road was named for them. Henry L. White was the first president of the Lake View Cemetery Association, with Charles J. White and Alfred M. White among the first trustees.

4988 Lake Road South — Town of Sweden Historic Landmark

RESOLUTION NO. 179

Designating 4988 Lake Road South
As an Historic Landmark

WHEREAS, a public hearing, duly advertised as required by law, was held on December 13, 2005 to hear all interested parties on the petition by Councilperson Danielle Windus-Cook of the Town of Sweden to designate 4988 Lake Road South as an historic landmark under the Historic Preservation Local Law No. 1 of 1993; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board heard all parties and testimony and documentary evidence presented have been made part of a record regarding the historic, architectural or cultural importance of the proposed landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Sweden Landmarks Advisory Committee has submitted a letter of recommendation supporting the evidence regarding the historical importance of 4988 Lake Road South.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden hereby designates 4988 Lake Road South as an historic landmark under the Historic Preservation Local Law No. 1 of 1993 this 13th day of December 2005.

Sec. 2. That the Official Map of the Town shall be updated to include the designation of 4988 Lake Road South as an historic landmark and will indicate the portions of land embracing the landmark.

Sec. 3. That this shall take effect immediately.

MOTION for adoption of this resolution by Councilperson Connors
Seconded by Councilperson Carges

Discussion:

VOTE BY ROLL CALL AND RECORD:

Councilperson Carges	Aye
Councilperson Connors	Aye
Councilperson Ferris	Aye
Councilperson Windus-Cook	Aye
Supervisor Lester	Aye

Submitted – December 13, 2005 Adopted