



*Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association*  
*May 10, 2022*

The Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association (ACHA) is respectfully requesting your help in completing a major project, the renovation and repair of the cemetery's Penn Avenue tower. In January of this year, ACHA, which was established in 1980 to provide crucial financial support for the preservation of the historic buildings and grounds of Allegheny Cemetery, embarked on this restoration project, one of the most prominent ones in its 40-year history.

The Penn Avenue Tower was designed by Philadelphia architects Dull & McComb and was constructed from 1887 to 1889. It is part of a complex that includes an ornamental gateway, a small chapel, and a security residence. Numerous restoration efforts and stone pointing work were completed at different intervals throughout the 1900's in an effort to mitigate weathering of the structure, but, after many months of engineering study and analysis, it was recently determined that the tower is again in need of repair, and the need is immediate and significant.



Because of the aging of the original building materials, degrading of the interior masonry, and the various methods of repair over the past century, the simple solution of only repointing the masonry is no longer an option. It was found that the best solution would be to totally remove and reconstruct the upper portion of the tower. In consultation with construction experts, the cemetery's Board of Directors concluded to remove the roof and open-arched section of the tower, thereby lowering it to a secondary roof level. The open area at the top of the tower has been one of the leading causes of the deterioration over the past century due to weathering and water run-off. Then, using the existing stone, the stately turrets that crown the structure would be rebuilt. With the new roof, reconstruction of the turrets, and extensive repointing of the masonry, the cemetery would preserve as much of the structure as possible, allowing it to remain a prominent fixture at the cemetery's Penn Avenue entrance for decades to come.

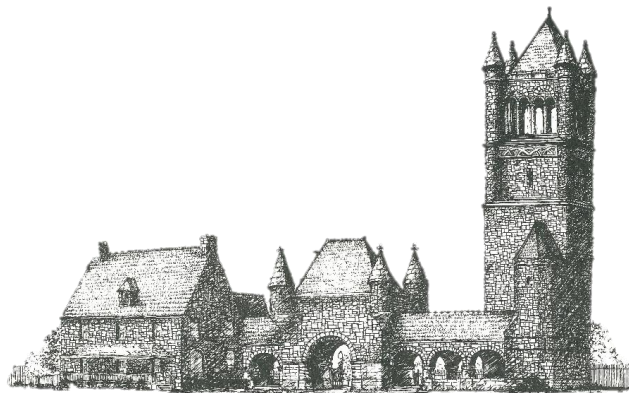


Because of the exorbitant cost of the project—in excess of \$700,000—the repair work was not an easy decision for the board, but it was made with fiscal responsibility and in keeping with the mission of the ACHA. To date, we have been able to raise almost half of the funds necessary to complete the project through the generosity of several foundations. Now we are asking for your financial support in raising the remaining \$350,000. It's not an easy task, but we believe in the generosity of our neighbors, our Corporators, and our Board Members.

Allegheny Cemetery, established more than 175 years ago, is the final resting place of not only notable figures in Pittsburgh's and our nation's history, but of thousands of veterans, factory workers, tradespeople, farmers, teachers, and health-care providers—people of all races and religions. Although some are memorialized by tall obelisks and grand monuments, others are modestly and more privately remembered with humble stones. Regardless, each of us is a beneficiary of the collective work of those who came before us, and your contribution will recognize that by being a part of the preservation of the tower that stands as the sentinel of our hallowed grounds.

The Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association and the cemetery's Board of Directors will be greatly appreciative of your generous support in meeting our goal of the \$350,000 needed to complete this project. Checks are to be made payable to the Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

*Please mail your tax deductible contribution to:  
Allegheny Cemetery Historical Association  
4734 Butler Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201*



Penn Avenue Complex