

Repair of the 1851 Wrought Iron Gates and Brownstone Column



One of three gates with rusted, frozen, and broken hinges—Top and bottom hinge illustrated.

There are three wrought iron gates at the formal entrance to the Whippany Burying Yard. The gates are handcrafted—put together with iron pins, not welded; ornate finials are casted in iron.

- ▶ 1851 is engraved into the brownstone column that supports the gates.

In 1931 the NJ Department of Transportation (DOT) raised the elevation of Route 10 about 2-feet above the elevation of the Whippany Burying Yard. Extensions were added to the 1851 gate hinges to clear the ground. As traffic increased during the late twentieth century, the formal, 9-foot gated entrance to the Whippany Burying Yard is no longer a safe way to enter and exit the burying yard.

In 2016, after not being used for over half a century, it was discovered that the historic brownstone gate post was hit by a vehicle and broken at the base, one wrought iron gate was wrecked by the accident, and all gates were frozen open and inoperable from rust.

- ▶ In 2017, the gates were removed and the post was repaired.

Landmark Commissioner, Len Fariello, lifted the post with his farm tractor, and three holes were drilled into both sides of the break, 1-foot rebar steel pins were driven into the base of the post while the top of the post was lowered onto the pins and the break was sealed with epoxy.

- ▶ In 2018, former Whippany resident Pat Kruger machined and replaced the rusted hinge extensions; he also sandblasted, repaired, and powder coated the gate, and installed the refurbished gates back onto the hinge pins drilled and anchored in the brownstone columns.

Still missing are: 3 large spear finials, 10 small spears, 10 floral base finials, and 2 round rosettes. These replacements must be cast—this is another project for the future.

Len Fariello

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