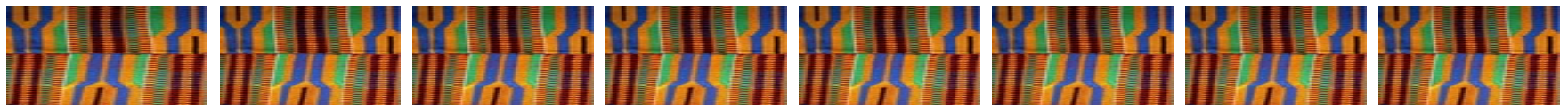


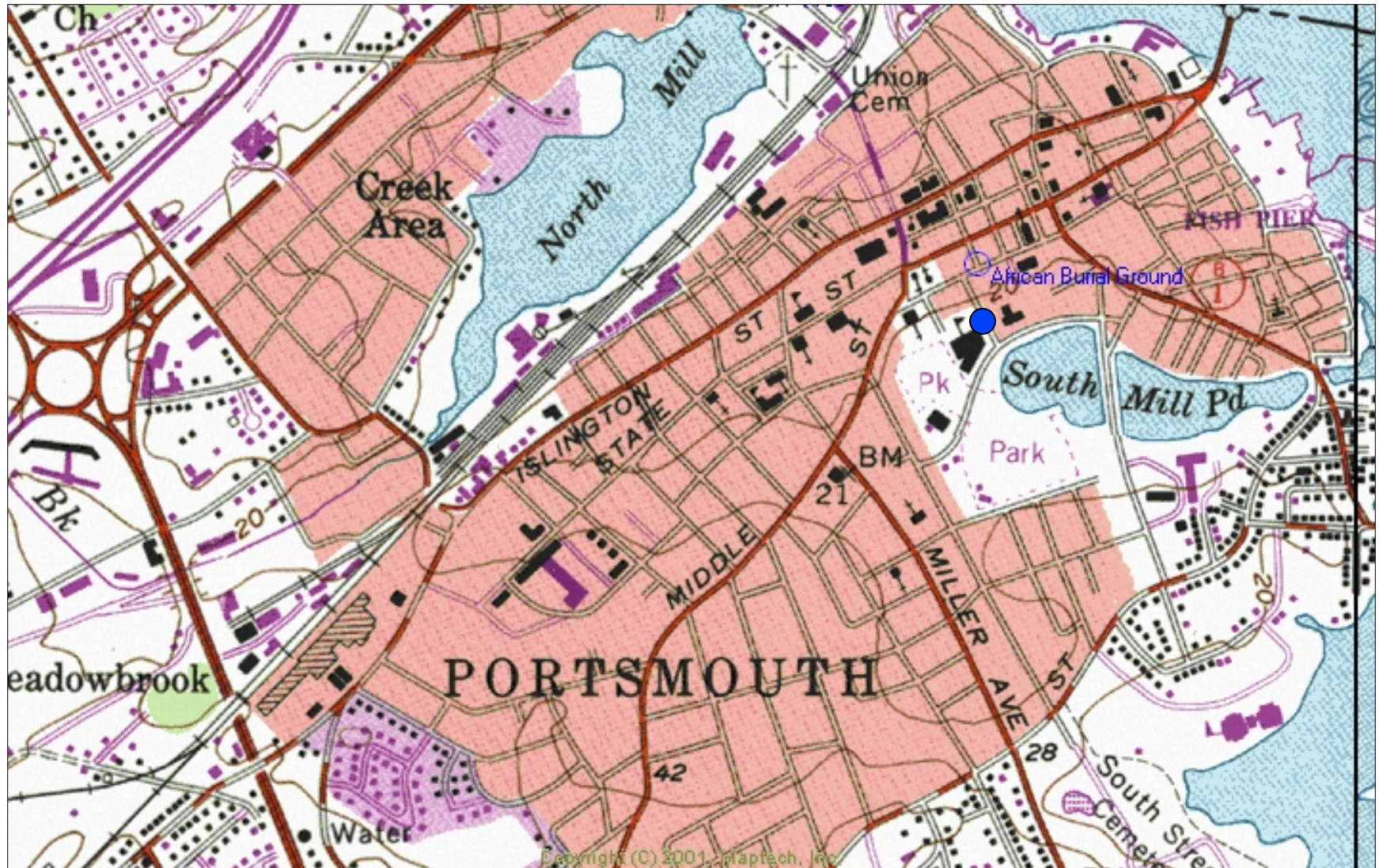
Portsmouth's African Burying Ground

We Stand in Honor of Those Forgotten

*I stand for the Ancestors Here and Beyond
I stand for those who feel anger
I stand for those who were treated unjustly
I stand for those who were taken from their loved ones
I stand for those who suffered the middle passage
I stand for those who survived upon these shores
I stand for those who pay homage to this ground
I stand for those who find dignity in these bones*



Portsmouth, New Hampshire



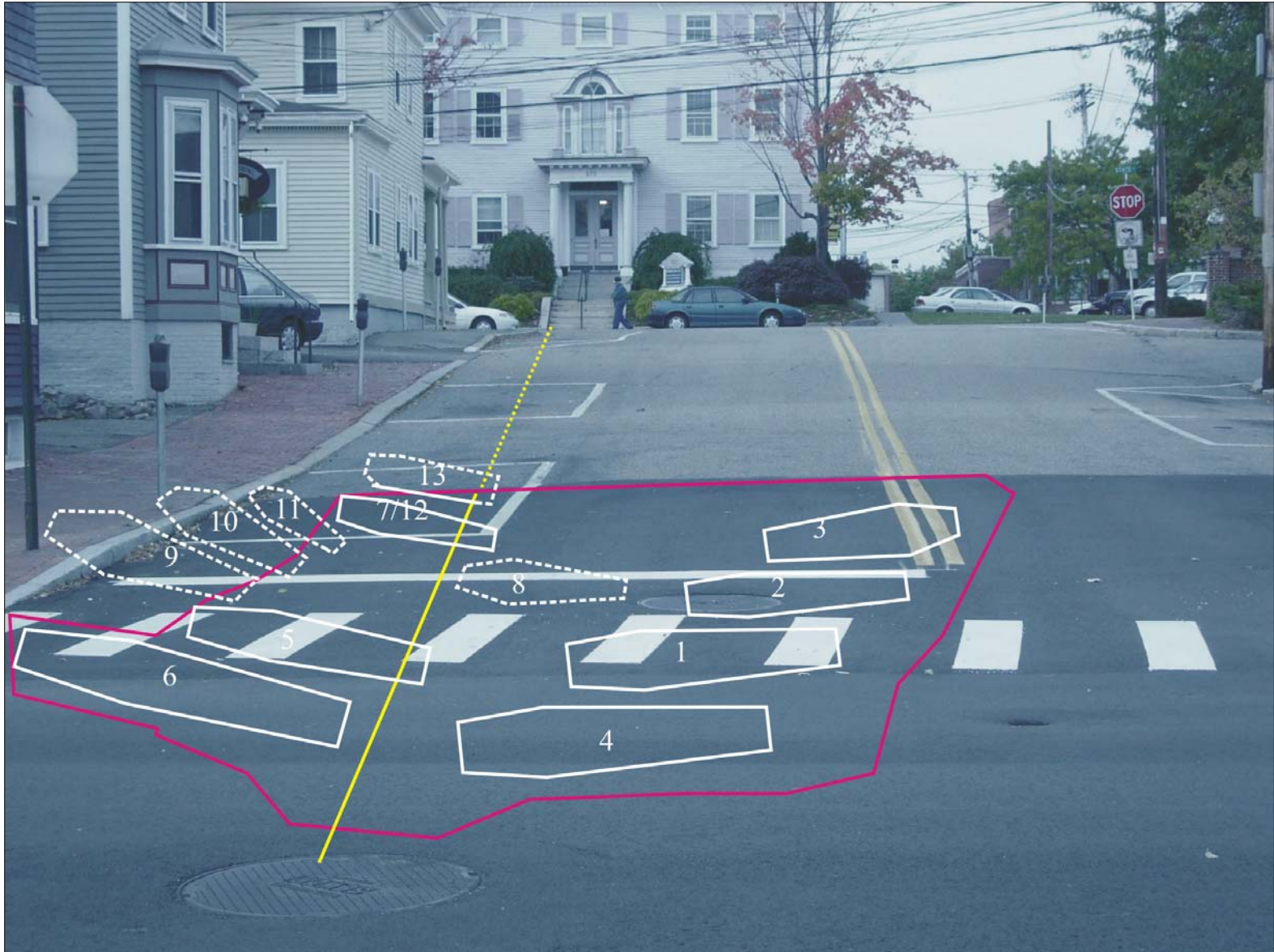
Burying Ground Location



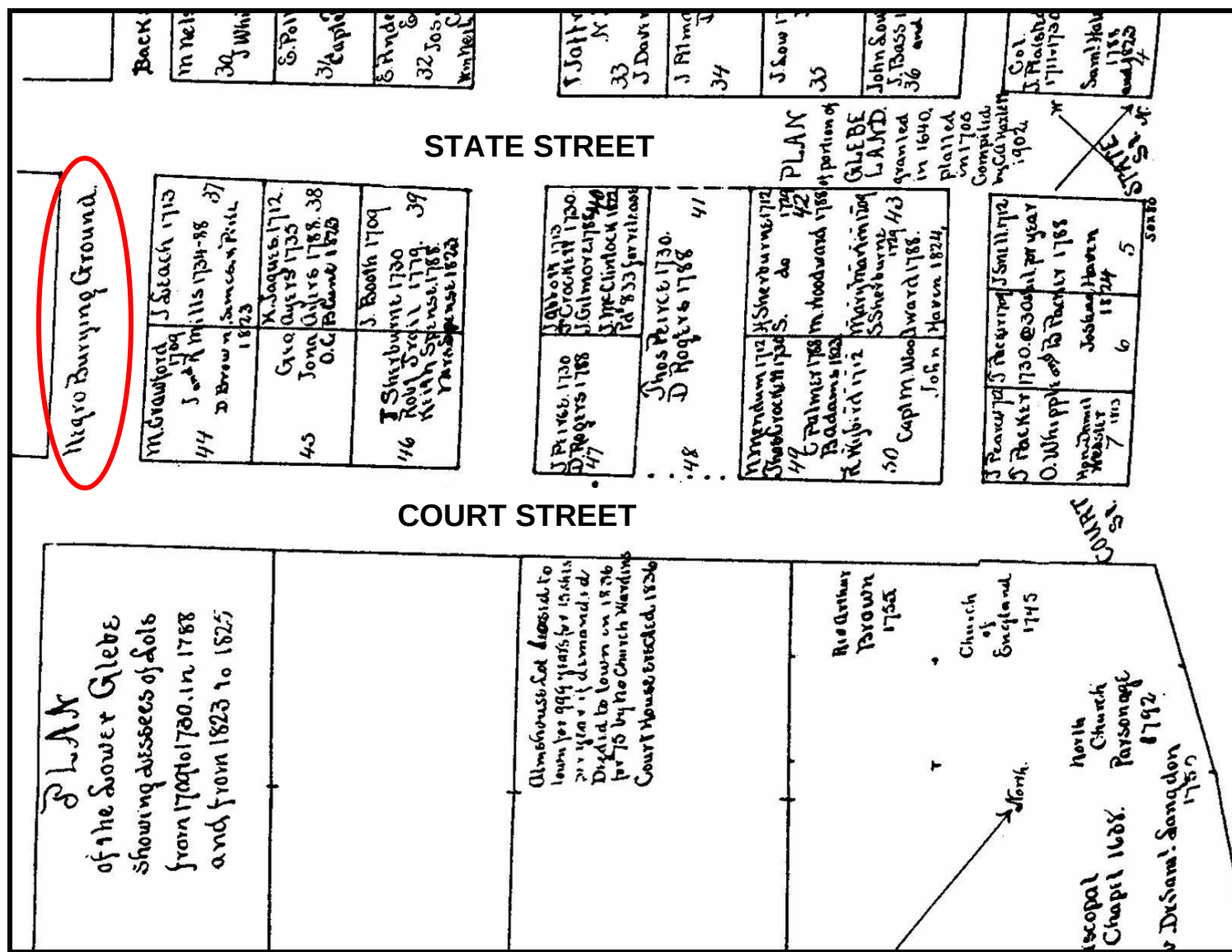
Chestnut Street at Court Street



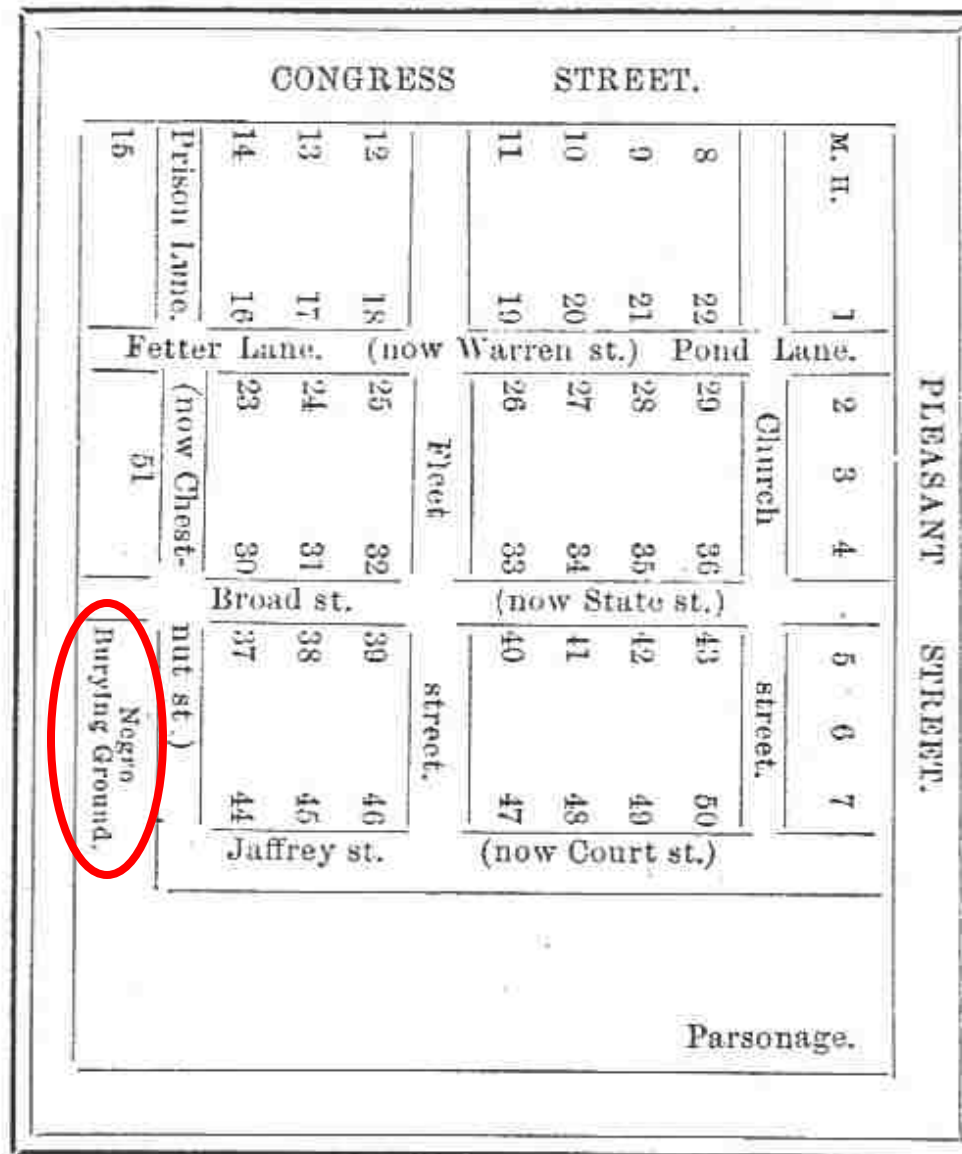
Chestnut Street with 13 Burials Superimposed



1902 Map Showing “Negro Burying Ground”



1859 Map Showing “Negro Burying Ground”



Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on the African Burying Ground



- Created in 2003
- Charged with determining the best way to honor those buried at Chestnut Street
- Re-inter remains at Burying Ground and create a memorial

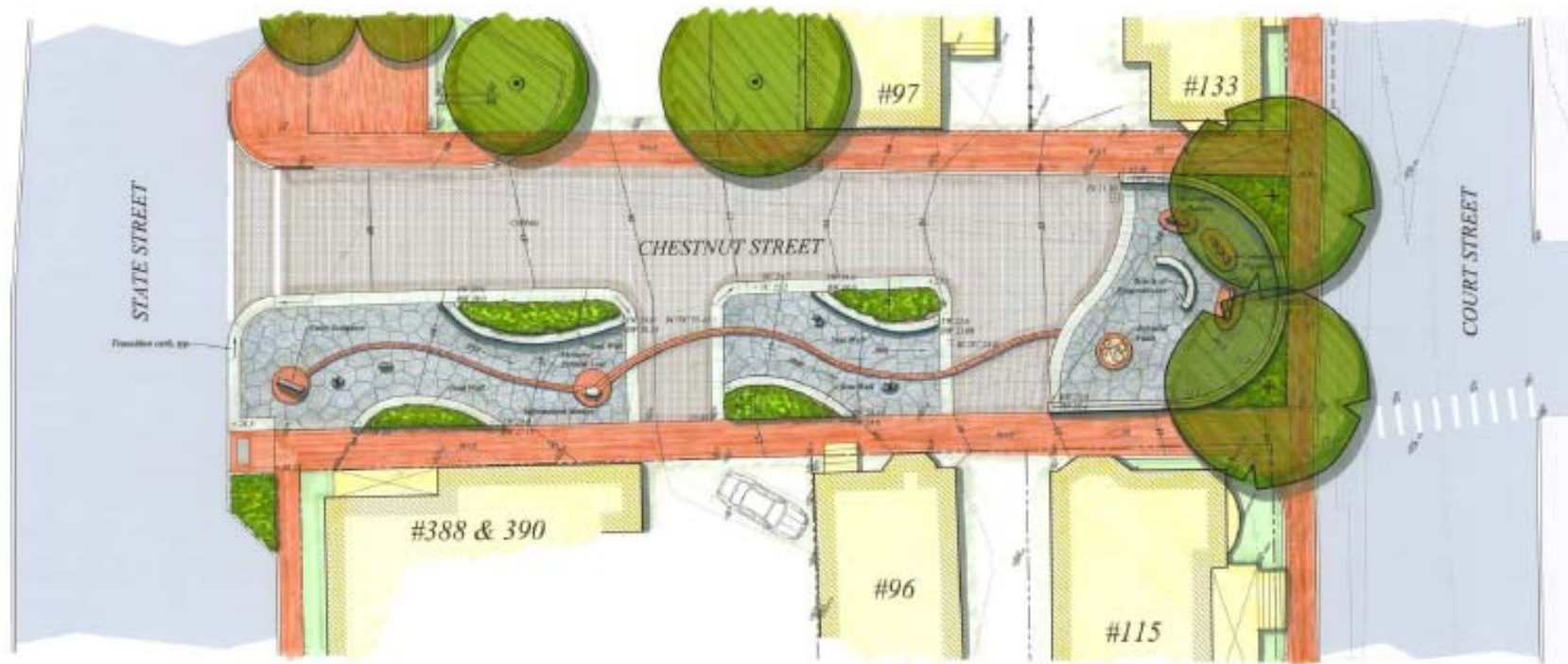


Design Team and Process

- Landscape Architect, Roberta Woodburn
- Artist Sculptor, Jerome Meadows
- Close Coordination with NH Division of Historical Resources
- Public Forums
- City Council Approval



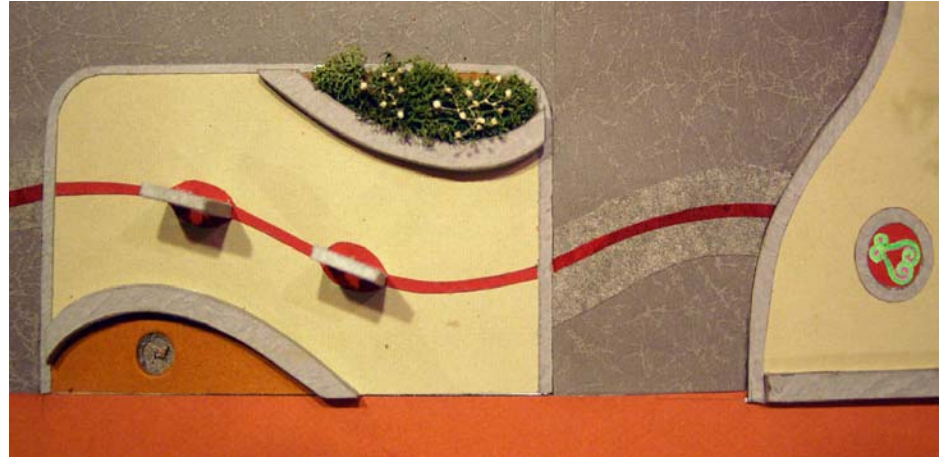
Final Site Plan





Entry Piece - This sculptural component serves as a formal entry piece into the Memorial. Fabricated in cast bronze and local granite, the work stands 7 feet, 6 inches tall. It is located at State Street and is comprised of two life-size bronze casts depicting a man and a woman positioned towards the edge and on either side of the granite slab. The male figure alludes to the first enslaved African recorded in Portsmouth - as the text conveys - and all those who arrived afterwards. The female figure, suggestive of Mother Africa, stands on the side of the slab bearing the name of the Memorial. Together, with each figure reaching around the edge of the slab towards the other, they speak to the various levels of separation, uncertainty, difficulty and perseverance experienced by those individuals brought to this country as captives. The space between their hands, close but not touching, is both a reminder of past injustice as well as a call to action.

...very are alike detestable to minds conscious of the equal dignity of hu.



The Petition Line - is an artistic design element serving as a visual thread linking all aspects of the Memorial. Fabricated in cast colored concrete, this paving level feature will contain a series of phrases from the noteworthy Petition of 1779 when twenty slaves from Portsmouth petitioned the legislature for their freedom. Coursing from the location of the State Street Entry Sculpture, the flow of the Line continues, unbroken, to the Memorial Plaza, crossing two driveways in the form of similarly colored granite cobblestones. At the Memorial Plaza, the Line disappears underneath the burial vault drawing attention to the reality of what lies beneath the surface.



Information Marker - This sculptural form, standing approximately 3 feet tall, provides on-site information pertaining to the Portsmouth African Burying Ground. Fabricated in welded bronze sheets with granite slabs, the form is topped by two etched plates conveying written information. The height and angle of the top makes it accessible to all visitors. This sculpture is located at a juncture along the Memory/ Petition Line, fifty feet in from the State Street entrance.



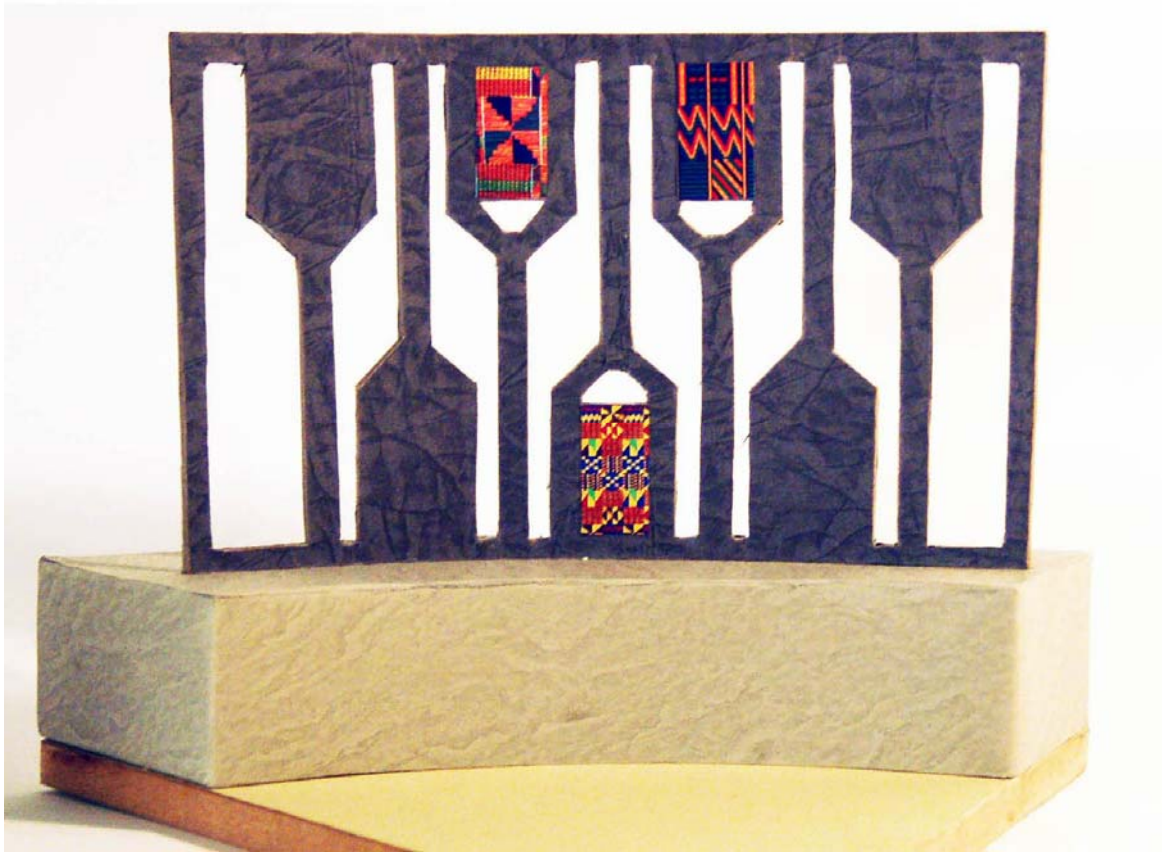
Ceremonial Burial Cover- “Return and Get It – Learn from the Past” - This phrase denotes the meaning of this West African Adinkra symbol, utilized to commemorate the re-interment of the eight remains removed from the burying ground at the time of their rediscovery. This 6’ diameter circular lid, located within the memorial plaza, will seal the underground vault where the remains will be reinterred. This functional artistic component is to be fabricated in granite (outer rim) and mosaic tiles for the Sankofa symbol.



Community Figures - Eight life size figures represent the collective community of Portsmouth coming together to acknowledge, protect and pay homage to this Burying Ground. Up lighting from the paving level will showcase these figures at night. Positioned as a prominent artistic feature within the Memorial Plaza, they are fabricated in bronze sheet and will range in height from 4' to 6', depicting both adults and children, as well as men and women. The surface of each figure facing into the Memorial will be etched with one of the following phrases:

We Stand in Honor of Those Forgotten

I stand for the Ancestors Here and Beyond
I stand for those who feel anger
I stand for those who were treated unjustly
I stand for those were taken from their loved ones
I stand for those who suffered the middle passage
I stand for those who survived upon these shores
I stand for those who pay homage to this ground
I stand for those who find dignity in these bones



Decorative Railing - A curved railing will be located atop the granite at the Court Street end of the Memorial Plaza. The railing is to be fabricated in metal; the design is based on a Kinte cloth motif (see inset above). The colored Kinte panels incorporated into the railing are representative of ceramic tiles that are proposed to be created by students during hands-on workshops in Portsmouth's schools. These workshops will provide an opportunity to inform students and teachers about the Burying Ground as well as the history, culture and legacy of Africans in Portsmouth.