

NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE

MEMORIAL COLUMBARIUM AND COURTYARD RENOVATION PROJECT

INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT



Welcome to the New Jersey State Police Memorial Columbarium and Courtyard Renovation Project Information Supplement. The information contained in these pages and referenced link attachments offer a complete overview of the project, the established Policies and Procedures for its administration, and the process for filing Application for Interment in the Memorial Columbarium.

The history of this undertaking dates back over a decade when it was first learned that settlement of the pavers surrounding the Memorial Garden had occurred causing standing water at various locations, and on occasions of heavy rainfall, infiltration into the Log Cabin. In an effort to address the drainage concerns, the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, Inc. (FTA), formed a committee consisting of Major Joseph J. Craparotta, #1631 (*Ret*), Captain Kenneth Wondrack, #2363 (*Ret*), and Major Joseph A. Cannatella, #2852 (*Ret*) to consult with professional services to identify the problem and obtain solutions to correct same. As such, the FTA contracted a pipe inspection services firm to scope the drainage piping to ascertain if the cause of the drainage problem was due to the drainage piping. That inspection revealed that the drainage piping was in good condition and in working order. The next step was to secure the services of an engineering firm to inspect the site, identify the problem, and advise how to best correct the problem.

After several years of consulting with professional services, and an initial investment of \$30,000, the FTA compiled the data accumulated and determined that the only way to correct the problems was to install additional drainage around the Memorial Garden and regrade and repave the area. Follow-up inspections of the area revealed that the Memorial Garden itself was also settling. Unfortunately, the Memorial Garden was constructed with no weepholes to allow water drainage from within the structure to drain. The repeated build-up of hydrostatic pressure created unseen cracks in the masonry retaining wall foundation allowing additional water onto paver courtyard. Damaged gutters on the Log Cabin and Memorial Walkway added to the volume of rainwater on the courtyard pavers, thus creating areas of

settlement in the masonry foundation and the pavers surrounding the Memorial Garden, but that was only part of the problem. The paver courtyard was initially designed to drain through the sand filled joints, alleviating the need for additional drainage outlets. Unfortunately, the steep berm hill that bordered the Courtyard leached silt onto the pavers which over time along with growing moss, choked the sand paver joints adding to the standing water, and eventually water infiltration into the Log Cabin.

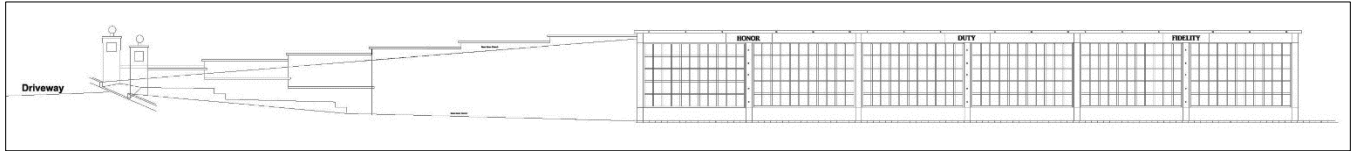
Initially, corrective measures were considered to remove the paver Courtyard and install additional drainage in the affected areas. But that would only be a temporary fix. Knowing full well that the integrity of the masonry retaining walls of the Memorial Garden had been compromised, it was determined that an above ground columbarium structure be constructed as an extension of the Memorial Garden and that all future interments be interred therein. By 2019, initial estimates to complete the work were over \$200,000.



Realizing the importance of raising the funds to complete the vital work, then FTA President, Captain Nicholas C. Soranno, Jr., #3065 (*Ret*), and then N.J. Former New Jersey State Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc., Chairman, Lt. George J. Wren, Jr., #3680 (*Ret*) began soliciting donors, contractors, and materials suppliers for the project. Most were very eager and wanted specifics of what the project would entail. As such, as Nick Soranno with the help of SFC Steven J. Parisi, #4328 (*Ret*), and John Post of County Concrete Corp., and longstanding State Police Friend & Donor, Karl Meier of Meier Stone Company, concentrated on establishing a consortium of donors, contractors, and material suppliers. George Wren on the other hand analyzed the historical construction records of the Museum and Learning Center & Memorial Garden and the information gleaned to date and began designing the project. Over the course of several months, the team quickly realized that the initial designs of a single above ground columbarium severely limited the future ability in offering Jersey Troopers and their Spouses a final resting place even remotely compared to the capacity originally estimated in the Memorial Garden.

The effects of COVID 19 restrictions certainly kept the impending work at bay throughout 2020, however the FTA and Heritage Foundation Boards, along with Colonel Callahan, his staff, and the corporate consortium worked behind the scenes to finalize a plan to revitalize the Museum and Learning Center Courtyard and the Memorial Garden. Thanks to these concerted efforts during the pandemic, much of the materials, equipment, and labor costs were donated, however, there would still be miscellaneous expenses. As such, the Heritage Foundation Building Fund Committee with Nick Soranno as Chairman embarked on a drive to meet a goal of \$150,000 to cover the anticipated expenses was initiated.

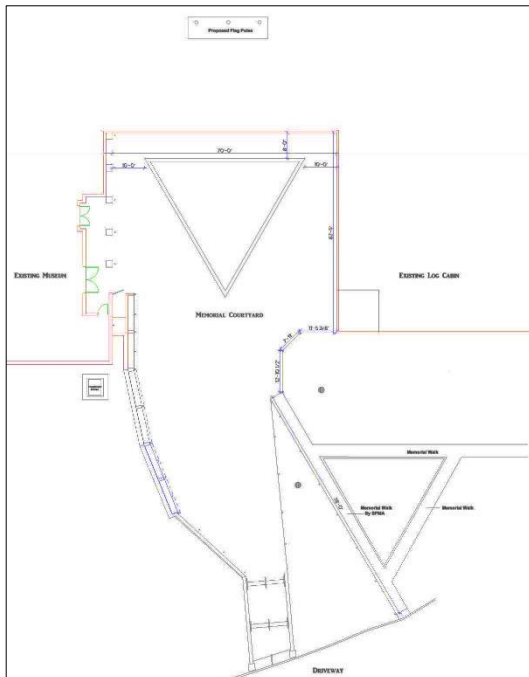
While the original project focused on adding additional drainage around the Memorial Garden and restoration of the surrounding courtyard pavers and the installation of an above-ground columbarium unit, the team quickly realized that it was just a quick fix at best. With an already compromised Memorial Garden foundation, no one knew how long it would be before the garden would have to be removed. Facing the inevitable, George and Nick took on a different approach with a renewed vision, “We either go big, or we go home!” No longer was the goal to just repair the failed systems. This project would be a new, revitalization of this hallowed ground, respectful in every way.



As renewed planning progressed the focus grew to include additional, larger columbarium units that had the capacity to honorably house the ashes of some 2,640 individuals, Jersey Troopers, and their Spouses! A grand entrance walkway was created to access the now approximate 8,000 square foot Memorial Courtyard, an underground drainage system would be installed, not to mention the many utility relocations. Granite recycled from the Memorial Garden would also be a prominent part of the project, accented by granite stonework, and extensive landscape lighting. Belgian Block curbing was added, street reconfiguration and repaving, not to mention an extensive landscape that would proudly enrich the look of the property.

Over the month of March 2021, then Captain Sean Kilcomons, #5721 led a squad of Troopers to locate, identify and exhume the ashen remains of every Trooper and/or Spouse previously interred in the Memorial Garden. Those remains were labeled and secured within the Log Cabin pending their re-interment in the soon to be constructed Memorial Columbarium.

After years of inspections, consultations, reviews, design, planning, and preparation for the realization of ultimately respecting this hallowed ground and developing it into being a focal point of the Division Headquarters Complex, Nicholas Soranno and George Wren finally set their plan in motion. With Nick



handling fundraising, purchasing, and scheduling, and George handling the design, planning and construction supervision, they quietly broke ground in late April with Colonel Callahan’s blessing and Captain Kilcomons as the Project Commander.

To say that the project got off to a smooth start was wishful thinking. An underground electrical service was deemed in a hazardous condition during excavation of the berm and all work was stopped by the electric company. After weeks of consultation, electrical engineers decided that the entire electric service would have to be replaced and re-routed around the perimeter of the project. Material shortages occurred occasionally, along with scheduling conflicts, it was a typical construction project, but one that incurred additional costs and time, due mostly to the constraints of supply and demand, exacerbated by the waning pandemic.



While much of the work was performed by skilled tradesmen, by July George Wren took on handling various ancillary work to assist and supplement the various tradesmen. There were underground conduits and perimeter drainage that needed to be installed, and miscellaneous concrete footings and masonry work that needed to be done. Fortunately, Karl Meier stepped up to lend a hand and together they handled the incidental work and finishing touches right through to the end of the project. A truly generous gentleman, Karl Meier graciously donated his time, expertise, and a good bit of materials to get the job done! In a pinch, about dozen retired and active Jersey Troopers also stepped-up to help-out when the need arose. Thank you all very much!



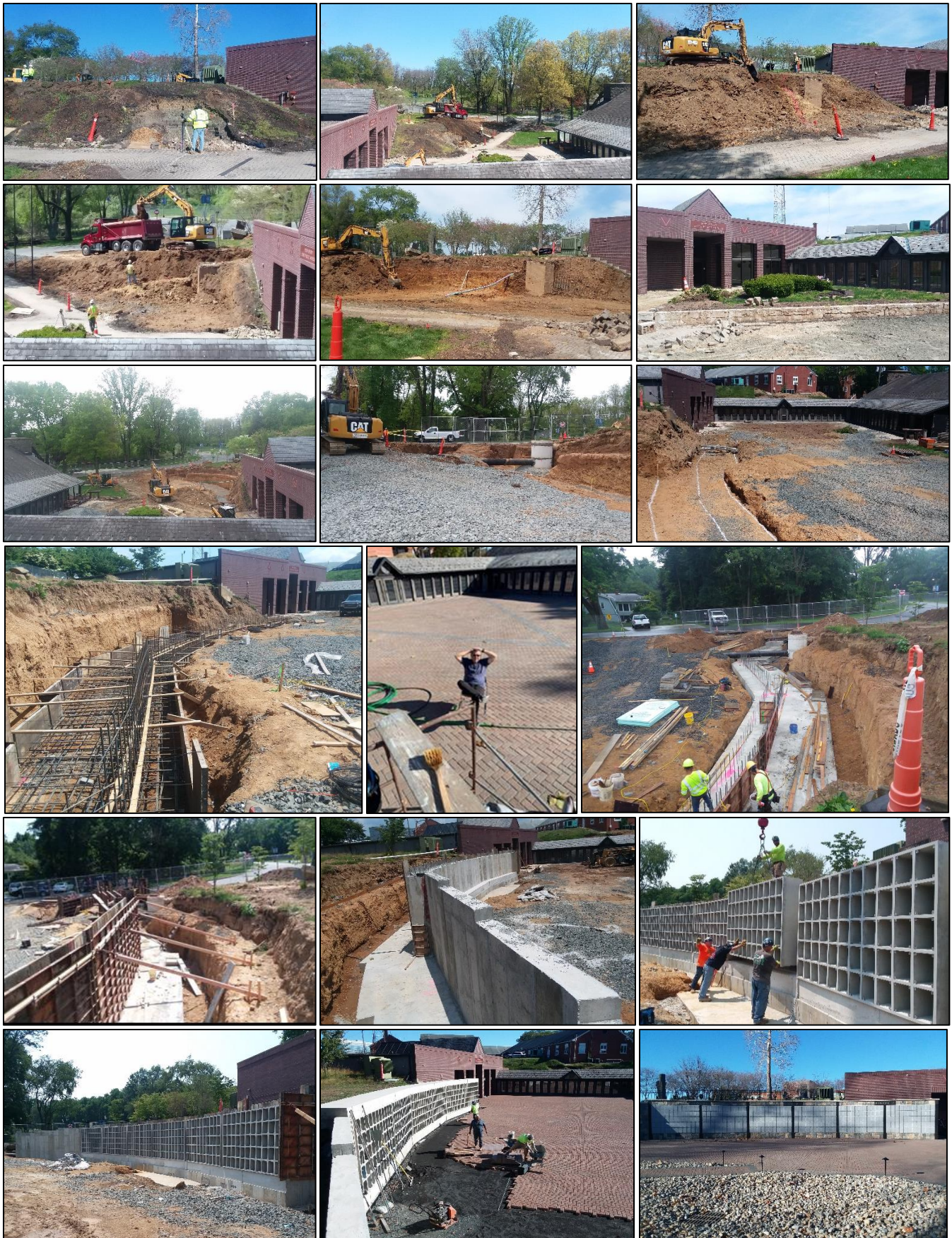
By late fall, the project had taken on the look that few visualized would be the finished product. The sketches and revised drawings had finally taken shape and the once small courtyard flanked by a huge earthen berm was now a vast open courtyard bordered by an immense wall consisting of three sections of columbarium units appropriately named *Honor*, *Duty*, and *Fidelity*, truly respectful of their intended use, as it was when the Memorial Garden was first constructed. While the Belgian Block curbing, reconfigured street repaving, sod and landscape plantings were finalized, the freezing weather of winter halted the finishing touches which took place in the spring.

On a misty May 4th Wednesday morning, Major Michael H. Zimmerman, #5235, Captain Soranno and Lieutenant Wren had the honor and privilege of quietly and respectfully reinterring the ashen remains of every Jersey Trooper and Spouse previously interred in the former Memorial Garden, into the new Memorial Columbarium. Three days later, on a rain-soaked May 7th Saturday, immediately following the FTA General Meeting, Colonel Callahan presided over a Reinterment Service for the families of those reinterrred. No one attending the standing room only Log Cabin ceremony needed to say, "Thank you," as their broad smiles and tearful gestures said it all. Yet, as happy, and emotional as the Service was, everyone in attendance repeatedly offered their gratitude many times over before departing!

On a bright, fall Friday morning of October 21, 2022, Colonel Callahan presided over an Official Dedication of the New Jersey State Police Memorial Columbarium and Courtyard Renovation Project. Gathered by personal invitation from the Colonel were State Dignitaries, Members of the State Police Clergy, State Police Staff Officers, The Pipes and Drums of the Blue and Gold, Officers, Directors and family members of the Association of Former New Jersey State Troopers, Inc., and the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc., the NJSP Survivors of the Triangle C.O.P.S. Chapter, and the State Police Memorial Association, as well as and especially the many donors, contractors, materials suppliers, and craftsmen that made this project such a great success! Those donors, contractors, materials suppliers, and craftsmen are memorialized in the pavers found in the grand entryway and Trooper Statue paver walkway. Colonel Callahan's, confidence and support throughout the entire project was unwavering, as were those who volunteered and donated their craftsmanship and materials.

As one would expect, this project is by far the largest undertaking ever entered into by our Former Troopers Association and Heritage Foundation! Estimated at over \$1.5 million, 90% of the materials, contractors, and professional craftsmen were graciously donated by New Jersey area suppliers, contractors, and craftsmen. This was truly a phenomenal undertaking by all concerned, unparalleled in generosity and pride, just to be a part of such a worthy venture. We are forever thankful for their generosity and service towards this fantastic, and hopefully future projects!

Realizing the history of the former Memorial Garden and Courtyard and the resulting decades of neglect, our Heritage Foundation stepped forward and offered the State Police to administer and maintain the Memorial Columbarium, Courtyard, and surrounding landscape via a perpetual care fund, funded from a nominal donation from those being interred therein, Jersey Troopers and their Spouses! Under a cooperative working agreement, an application process has been established and is now available for any Active, Deceased, or Retired Jersey Trooper who departed State Police Service in Good Standing. Application and additional information can be found on the following pages and also on the Former Troopers Association Web Site under the Memorial Columbarium Section at: <https://www.ftanjsp.org/columbarium/index.php>, or on the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation Web Site also under the Memorial Columbarium Section at: <https://www.njftheritagefoundation.org/columbarium/columbarium.php>.



To view additional photographs of the project visit: <https://www.ftanjsp.org/columbarium/index.php>

APPLICATION FOR INTERMENT

NJSP MEMORIAL COLUMBARIUM:

A. PURPOSE OF THE APPLICATION

1. To facilitate an opportunity for Active, Former and Deceased New Jersey State Troopers to reserve a final resting place for themselves and their spouse prior to or upon their passing. Should an Active or Former New Jersey State Trooper pass away prior to making Application for Interment in the NJSP Memorial Columbarium, an application may be made by the next of kin or authorized individual. Only Active and Former Jersey Troopers who retired in good standing with the New Jersey State Police, and their Spouse are eligible for interment in the NJSP Memorial Columbarium. The Superintendent of State Police shall review every Application for Interment in the NJSP Memorial Columbarium and shall be the final approval.
2. To facilitate a secure, permanent interment facility for the ashen remains of Jersey Troopers and their Spouse.
3. To facilitate an open-air Memorial Courtyard and Columbarium for anyone wishing to pay respect to those Jersey Troopers and their Spouses who have passed.

B. APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Application for Interment NJSP Memorial Columbarium shall be completed by the applicant, the applicant's spouse or next of kin, and/or authorized individual.
2. The Application for Interment NJSP Memorial Columbarium shall be accompanied by a non-refundable donation of not less than \$500 per person (Trooper = \$500 + Spouse = \$500, totaling \$1,000 if applicable), payable to the N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc., for the perpetual care of the facility.
3. A completed Application and an accompanied donation check should be mailed to the:

N.J. Former Troopers Heritage Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 128

Blairstown, N.J. 07825

4. Upon receipt of a completed application and requisite donation, a letter of approval of an Application for Interment NJSP Memorial Columbarium will be mailed to the individual making application, along with further instructions upon approval by the Superintendent.

APPLICATION FOR INTERMENT NJSP MEMORIAL COLUMBARIUM

1. Rank	2. First Name	3. MI	4. Last Name		5. Badge #
6. Military Service/Branch	7. SP Class #	8. Age	9. DOB	10. Email Address	
11. Address			12. Telephone #		13. DOD
14. Surviving Spouse Full Name		15. Phone #		16. Will Spouse be interred with Member?	17. Columbarium Niche (To be determined) Section / Row / Column (Honor, Duty, or Fidelity / A - E / 1 - 22)
18. Point of Contact Full Name		19. Relationship	20. Email Address		
21. Address			22. Telephone #		
23. Funeral Home			24. Address		
25. Telephone #			26. Interment Date & Time (To be determined)		
27. Names of Surviving Children					
28. Name of Individual Making Application			29. Applicant's Mailing Address (If Different than Above)		
30. Relationship to Individual being interred			31. Applicant's Telephone #		
32. Applicant's Signature			33. Date of Application	34. Donation Received Date	
35. Interment/Perpetual Care Donation By			36. Number to be Interred	37. Donation Amount	
38. Second Point of Contact Full Name			39. Second Point of Contact Mailing Address		
40. Second Point of Contact Signature			41. Telephone #	42. Email	
43. Division Remarks:					
44. Special Instructions:					
45. Approval by Colonel <div style="text-align: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied </div>			46. Approval/Denial Date		47. Data Entry Date

Revised Dec. 2022