

The Pacific Hills Cemetery

"About an hour southeast of Seattle is an area of wooded hills and gravel roads. Driving along one such gravel road, your headlights shine across the "Historic Pacific Hills Cemetery" sign. The cemetery is surrounded by hills and trees, giving it feeling of seclusion, if not isolation.

Taking a right after passing the sign, you're now pulling into a dark, gravel covered parking lot in front of the cemetery. You haven't seen a street light since leaving the highway to turn onto the gravel road that lead you here, and neither the cemetery nor its parking lot has lighting of any sort. You'll need light sources to see anything out here."

One of the oldest cemeteries in the Pacific Northwest, the Pacific Hills Cemetery has the look and feel of a forgotten place. A historic marker next to the entrance notes that the cemetery is composed of 25 separate but adjacent cemetery plots all clustered across 20 acres, reflecting the diversity of early immigrant society in the area.

This cemetery contains more than 5000 graves and was used predominantly by coal and copper mining communities in its heyday and had been dormant for several decades. However, there's been a renaissance of families that go back for generations in the area that have gotten special permission to be buried here with their forefathers. *"And where you can find bodies placed within the last few months, you can find Grave Ghouls, especially during the full moon".*

Bordering the cemetery is an uneven cobbled wall standing anywhere from five to five-and-a-half feet tall in places. The corners are built like towers that stand more than six feet tall. A set of iron gates provide the front entrance.

Looking over the cobbled walls or through the iron gates you see lots of evergreens, Western Hemlocks and several other types of trees that have quietly grown tall and spread-out over the years. Wild ferns, shrubbery and tall grass grows undisturbed as well.

More cobbled walls, tombstones, mausoleums, a small chapel in the distance, and other common cemetery sights can be seen from here. A layer of mist slightly obscured it all, adding to the mysterious vibe this cemetery emanates.

Details of note about the Cemetery:

-A set of iron gates provides the front (and only) entrance to the cemetery, which are usually locked via padlock and chain unless a scheduled tour or a funeral is taking place. Contact information is provided on the wall by the front gates to schedule a tour or funeral.

-While the outer cobbled walls stand five feet or higher, the walls inside only stand about four feet or so.

-About three-hundred feet past the front entrance sits an **old chapel** on top of a short and wide sloping hill. A cobbled path of uneven stones has been laid into the ground, leading to a set of rickety set of old wooden stairs built into the hill, which themselves lead up to the chapel. The chapel itself is small, made of wood, appears to be nondenominal in design, and looks as if it's not been used in a long time and is in need of restoration, maintenance and at least one coat of paint.

-A few hundred feet to the right of the chapel, on the other side of a cobbled wall stands a series of **crypts and mausoleums** of various sizes, dotting along the entire length of the outer wall. The rest of the cemetery is made up of tombstones, giant old trees, and a few other unique aspects. All of this is divided up by various sections of cobbled walls with openings.

-An **old well** is located about 100 feet behind the **old chapel**. It looks like at one point there may have been a cover over it and a rope and pulley system for a bucket, but these were either removed, or more likely have eroded away.

There's a nearly forgotten legend about a witch being thrown into the well who drowned and now her spirit haunts it.

Note: It will take some time locating more specific details about this legend via several **Research** Skill rolls (-30% for each attempt), but the effort may be worth it as the legend may contain the answers of how to free the spirit of the witch (if it truly exists), or how to destroy it forever.

-One of the cemetery's largest trees can be found in the center. It is a leafless, shadowy and crooked tree with many sharp angled branches. It is a **Soul Tree** (from the [Rifter #28](#)).

-Unknown to most, there are several old mine tunnels under the cemetery. The supernatural have made use of them (and still do) at times, **Grave Ghouls** in particular.

-This cemetery has proven to be a good resource for **Grave Larva** (The [Rifter #57](#)) for those who go hunting for them.

-Hidden by trees and shrubbery, a pond can be spotted somewhere in the left half of the cemetery. Its not easy to describe to people how or why, but something always looks and feels "off" about it. For example, vegetation wont (or can't) grow around a foot or so around it, nor on its surface. The surface of the water is unnervingly still and when disturbed the ripples move and smooth out slower than it seems they should.

During the day the top of the water is dark green in color while just under the surface its pure black. At night the water is jet black and could be used like a black mirror if a light source is reflected upon it properly.

Note: At this time there's no specifics about this pond, or what might be in it. If the pond is ever explored in my podcast campaign, I'll go into further details.