

LOWER GWYNEDD - PENLLYN SCHOOL MEMORIAL

Conceptual Design | 2026-03-24





AGENDA

- 01** Existing School House
- 02** Site Plan Concept Goals & Considerations
- 03** Preliminary Concept Renderings
- 04** Memorial Signage Renderings
- 05** Next Steps - Community Input









MAP KEY

- MEMORIAL PARK
- HISTORICAL MARKERS
- PEDESTRIAN PATH
- 50'X 70' BATTING CAGES
- PICNIC AREA
- PROPOSED PARKING



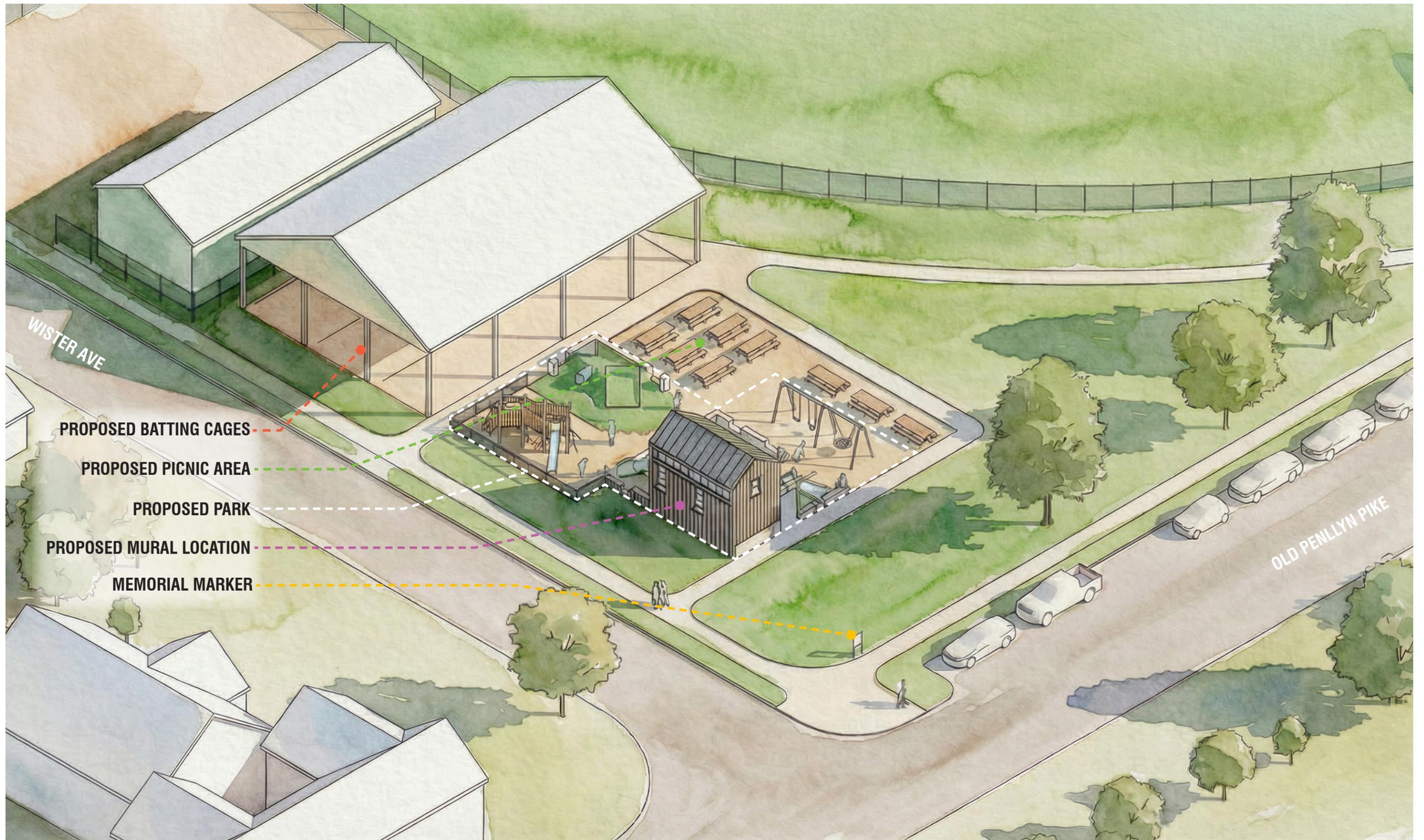
THE PARK



MAP KEY

- MEMORIAL PARK
- HISTORICAL MARKERS
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- 50' X 70' BATTING CAGES
- PICNIC AREA
- PROPOSED PARKING





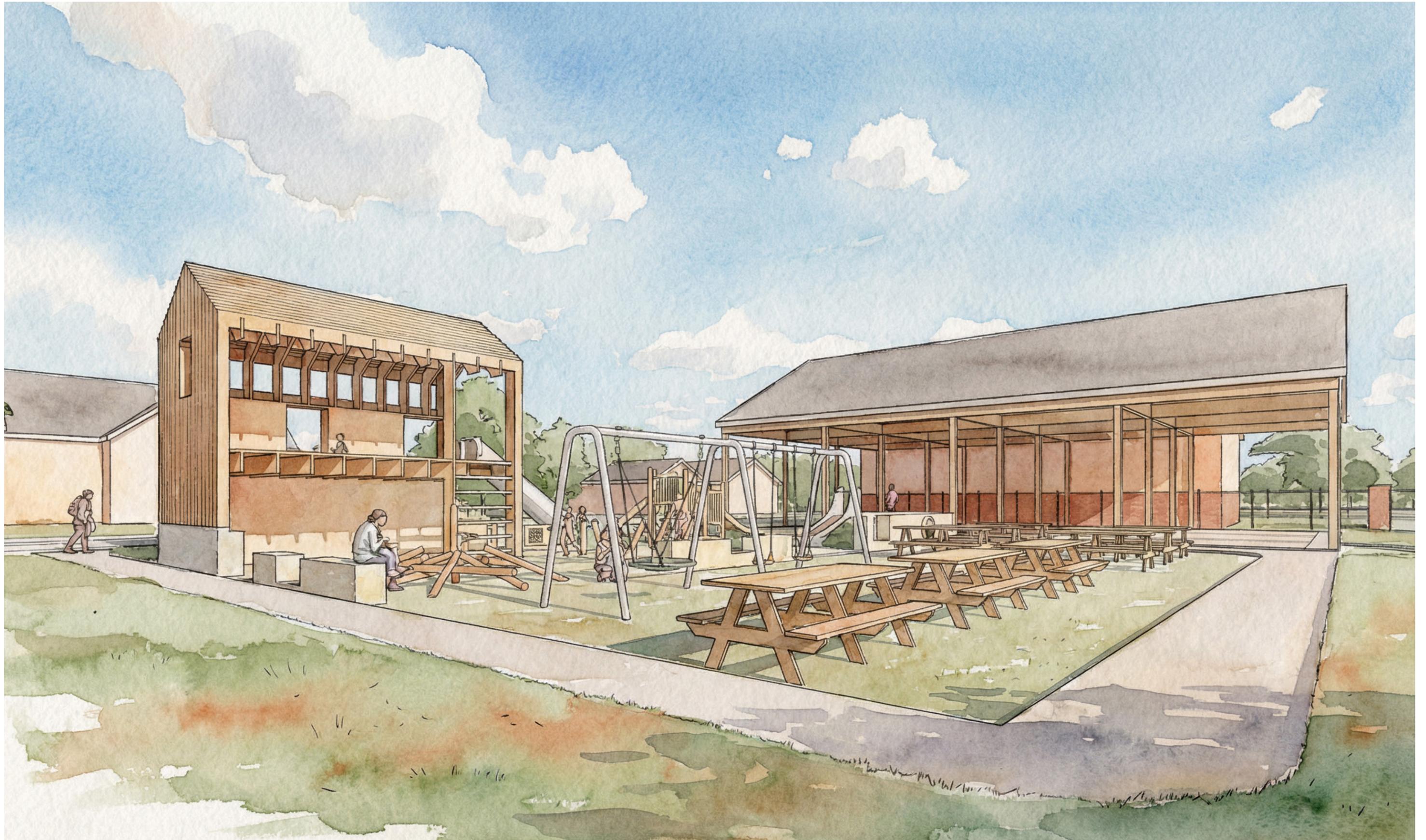




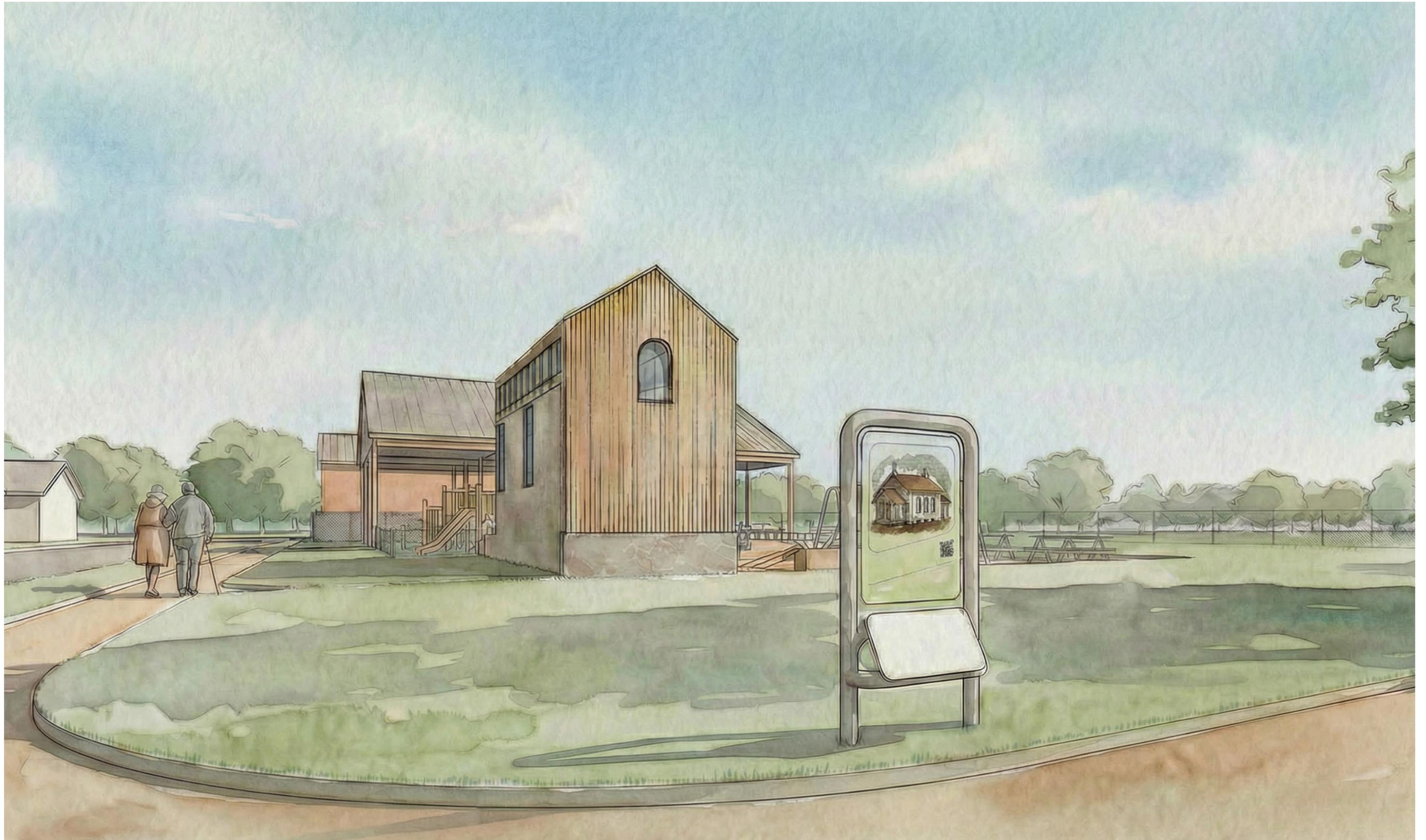




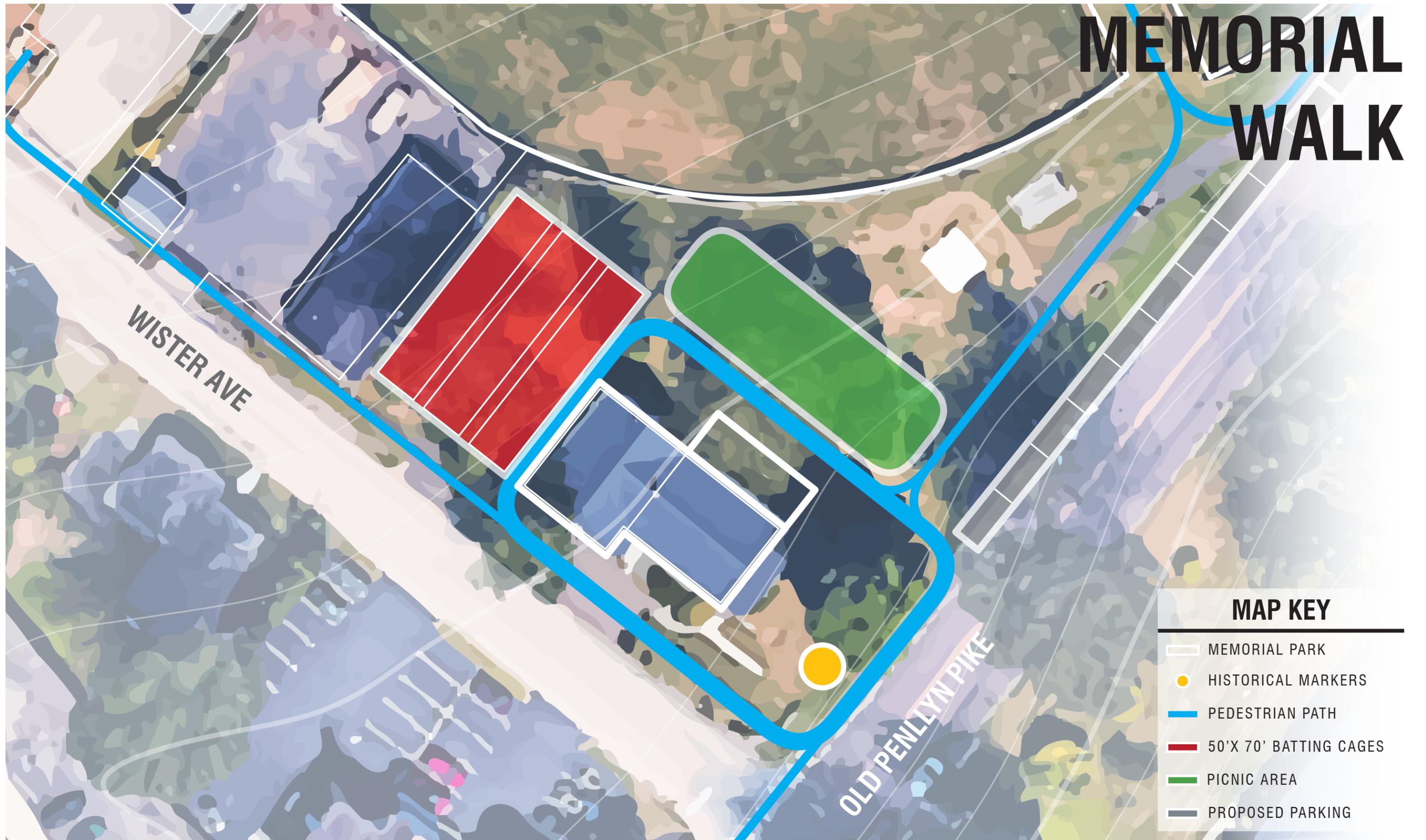








MEMORIAL WALK



MAP KEY

- MEMORIAL PARK
- HISTORICAL MARKERS
- PEDESTRIAN PATH
- 50' X 70' BATTING CAGES
- PICNIC AREA
- PROPOSED PARKING

MEMORIALIZATION METHOD



Memorial Markers:

- Each marker will provide a short description of the history and stories of the community.
- Looking glass markers will be oriented so that in perspective the viewer can line up the context to see what used to exist in the past.
- Common markers will be placed to extend the history along a walking trail.
- QR codes will be provided at each so viewers can read further.



HISTORICAL LOOKING GLASS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (c. 1935)

2



The original Elyria **First Baptist Church** was a Greek Revival style structure built on the southeast corner of Middle Avenue (known as Cheapside) and Second Street in 1838-39, on land donated by Elyria's founder, Heman Ely, Sr. In 1883, this church was replaced by the second Baptist Church, a large building designed in the Gothic style of architecture, shown here. To the right of this church stood the six-story Elyria Masonic Temple, built 1905-06, but destroyed by fire in 1956. This is now the site of the Lorain County Administration Building.

In 1950, the Baptist congregation moved to Washington Avenue and sold this building to the Northern Savings & Loan Company, which demolished the church and built a bank on this land by 1953. Northern Savings & Loan underwent a series of name changes until it closed for good in 2021, after purchase by Huntington Bank.



MEMORIAL SIGNAGE 01: THE LOOKING GLASS



LOOKING GLASS TO THE PAST

Penllyn School



The new Penllyn School, built in 1923, operated for nearly 30 years near the intersection of Old Penllyn Pike and Wister Avenue. The building's memory tells an interesting story of education in Lower Gwynedd Township and community members' efforts to integrate.

In the mid-19th century, the first Penllyn School was established as one of four common schools in Gwynedd, alongside Cedar Hill, Dager and Maple Grove. While its exact location is unknown, Penllyn was notable for educating both black and white students.

By 1928, Lower Gwynedd had only two schools, the new Penllyn School and Spring House School. Children began to attend school not based on where they lived, but based on their race. There were inequities in the buildings, grounds, amenities and supplies of the two schools, a pattern that was reflected across the nation.





MEMORIAL SIGNAGE CONCEPT 01: THE LOOKING GLASS



LOOKING GLASS TO THE PAST

Penllyn School



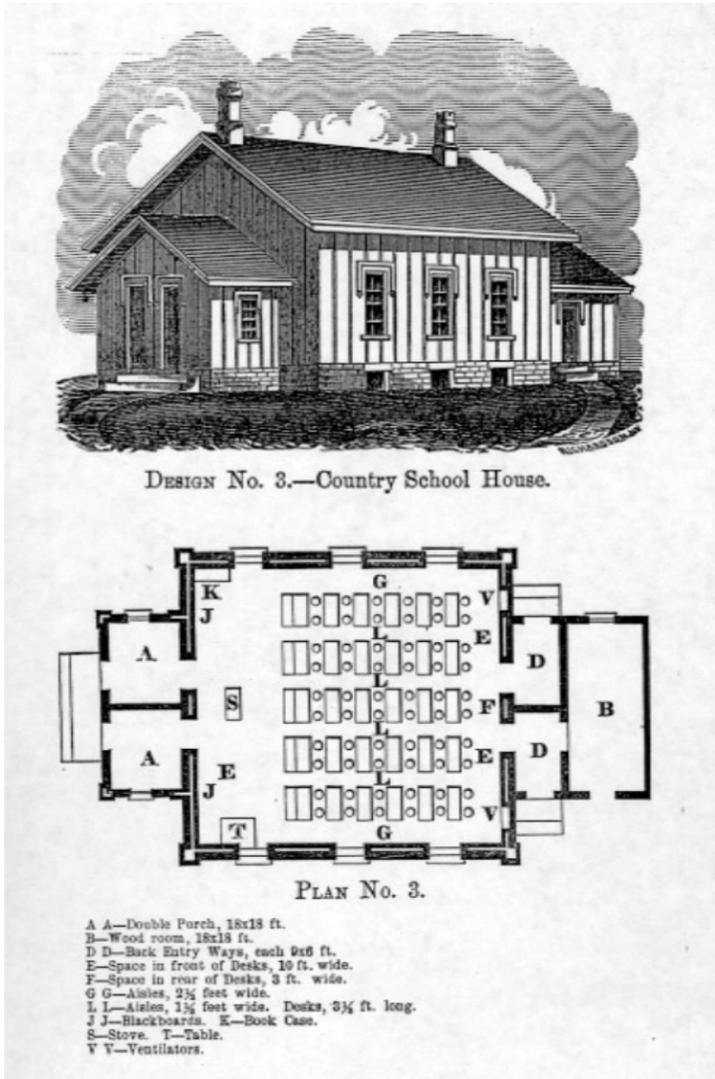
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MEMORIAL SIGNAGE CONCEPT 02: LOOK & LEARN





WE NEED YOUR HELP FINDING:

- 01** Photos
- 02** Artifacts
- 03** Documents
- 04** Stories / History
- 05** Transcripts