

DR. OSSIAN SWEET MEMORIAL PLAZA



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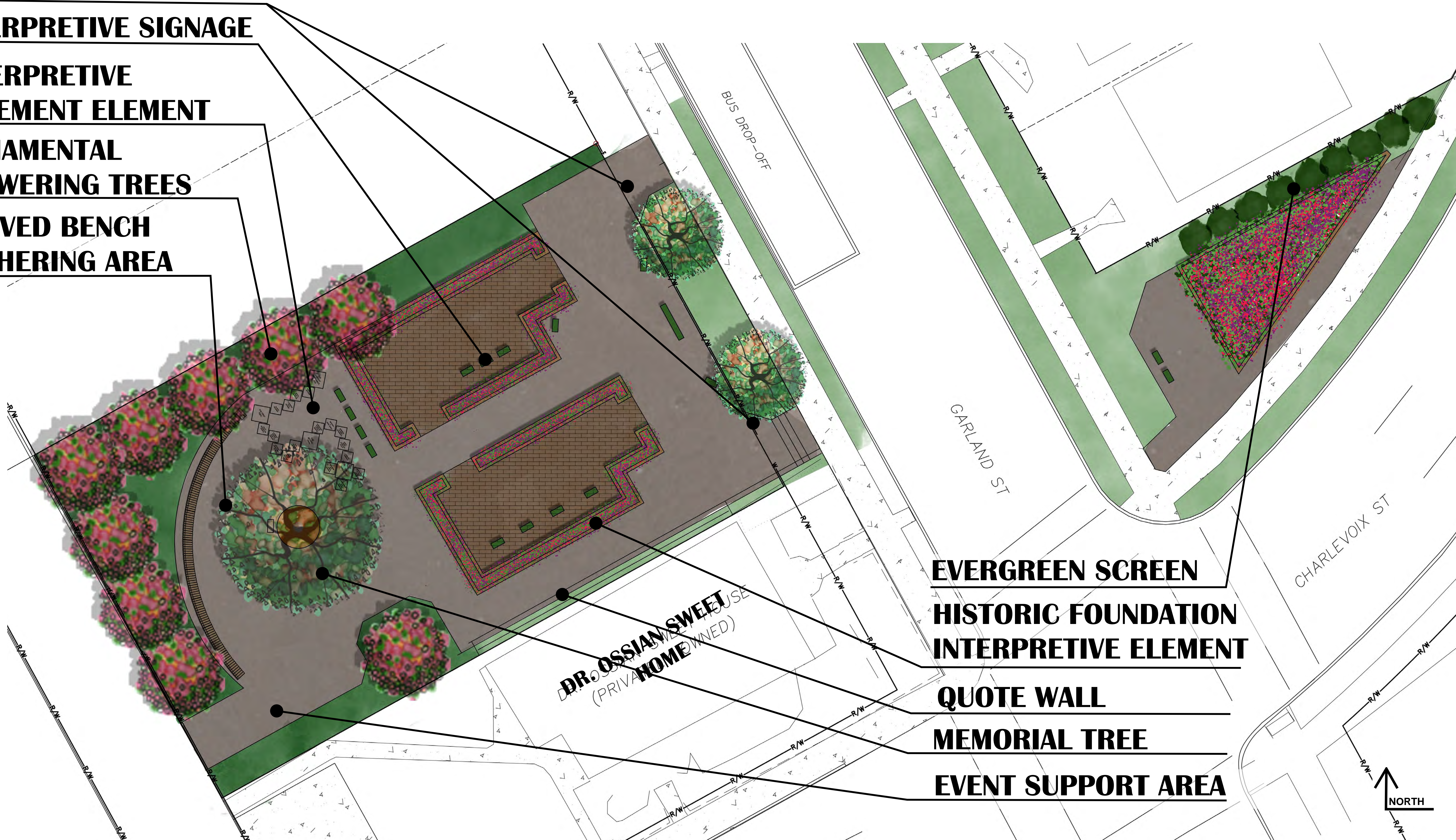
**PLAZA ENTRANCE AND
INTRO SIGNAGE**

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

**INTERPRETIVE
PAVEMENT ELEMENT**

**ORNAMENTAL
FLOWERING TREES**

**CURVED BENCH
GATHERING AREA**



EVERGREEN SCREEN

**HISTORIC FOUNDATION
INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT**

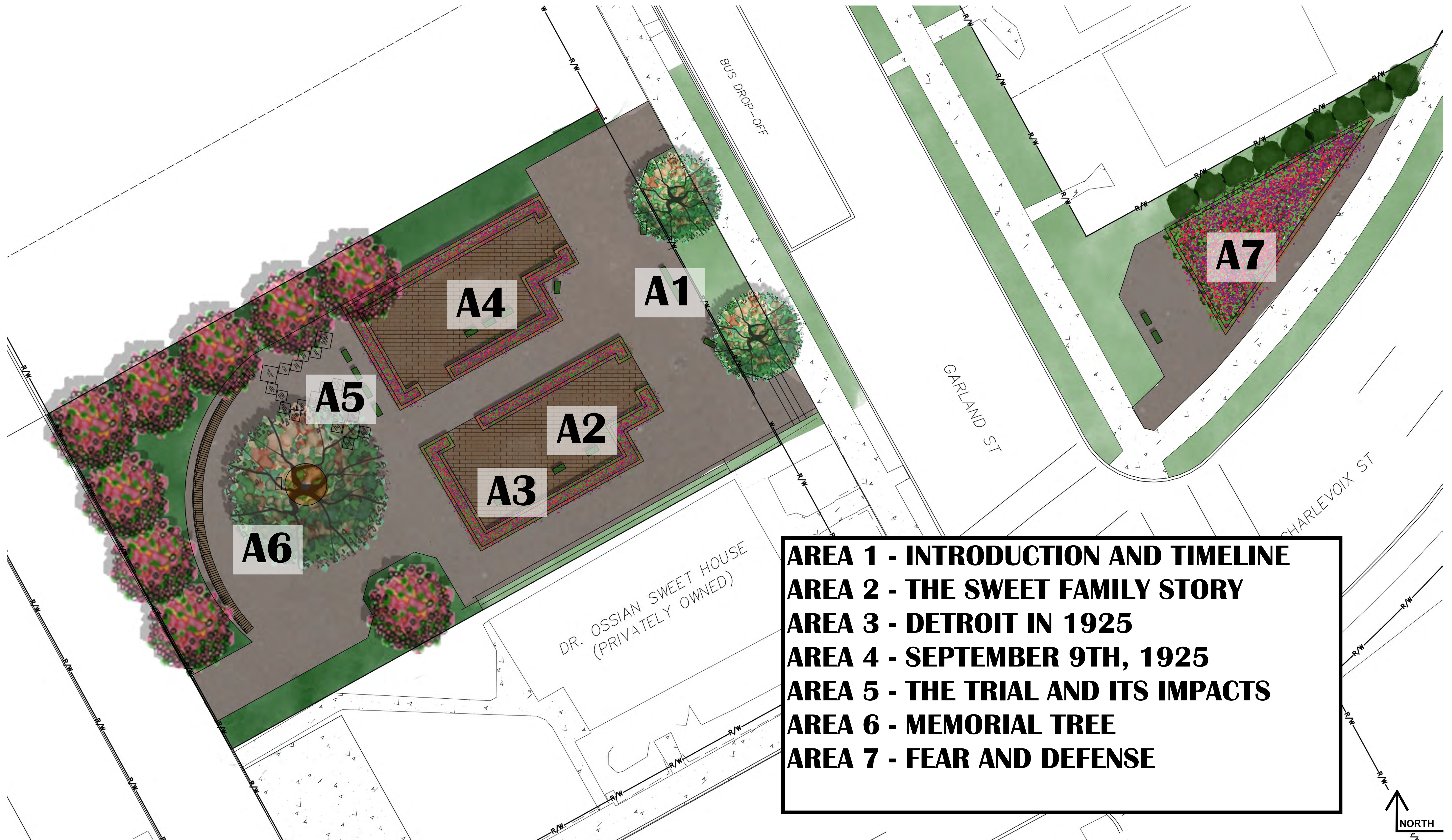
QUOTE WALL

MEMORIAL TREE

EVENT SUPPORT AREA

NORTH

INTERPRETIVE AREAS



INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE - STYLE AND DESIGN

DR. OSSIAN SWEET BLACK EXCELLENCE

Ossian Sweet was born in Florida in 1895, the second child of ten. Racial violence and discrimination were rampant in Florida during his childhood. When Ossian was just five years old, he witnessed a white mob lynch a Black teenage boy named Fred Rochelle.

Ossian's parents emphasized education and his ambition took him far.

When he was 13, he went away to Wilberforce Academy in Ohio, the first school owned and operated by Black educators. Ossian became a charter member of the Black fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi. To fund his studies, he spent summers working in Detroit, a boomtown at that time.

Ossian decided he wanted to practice medicine. He went to Washington D.C. to study medicine at Howard University, a school founded for African Americans at a time when most universities disqualified or limited Black American enrollment.

Ossian was in D.C. during "the Red Summer of 1919," when white supremacists terrorized cities all across the country. During four days of deadly riots, Ossian witnessed a Black man being brutally beaten.

Doctor Ossian Sweet began his career in Detroit.

Ossian achieved certification to become a doctor in 1921. He established a successful medical practice in Detroit's Black Bottom neighborhood, serving the growing Black community. He also worked at Dunbar Hospital, operated by Black physicians and one of the few hospitals in Detroit for Black patients at the time.

While Ossian realized his dreams in Detroit, he did not escape racial discrimination or violence.






THE ELEVEN DEFENDERS

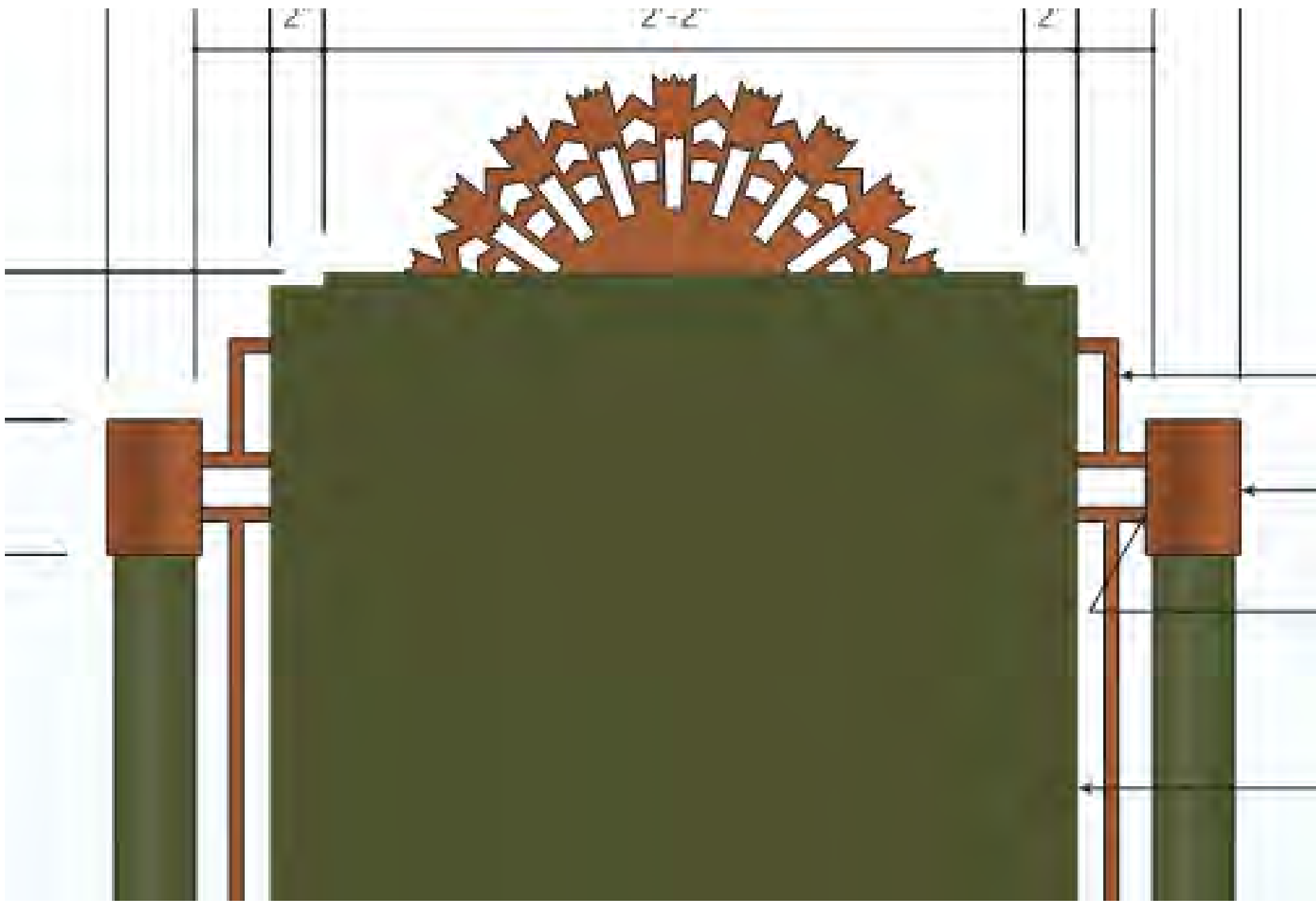
Angry white mobs had surrounded and threatened Black homeowners at least four other times in Detroit earlier in 1925. Knowing the risks of moving into a mostly white neighborhood, Dr. Ossian Sweet recruited family, friends, and acquaintances to help the family defend the house.

These are the people who were assaulted in the Sweet home on the night of September 9, 1925.

 John Latting Wilberforce University student, Henry's roommate	 Joe Mack The Sweet's hired chauffeur	 William Davis Howard University alum, WWI veteran, Federal narcotics officer	 Norris Murray A hired handyman	 Hewitt Watson Insurance agent, Ossian's patient	 Charles Washington Howard University alum, insurance agent, Ossian's patient	 Leonard Morse Insurance agent
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FILIGREE DETAIL BASED ON ELEMENTS FOUND IN DR. SWEET HOME



***NOTE: MOCK-UPS SHOWN HERE ONLY EXEMPLIFY GRAPHIC DESIGN AND DO NOT REPRESENT FINAL EDITS TO WORDING AND CONTENT**

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE - STYLE AND DESIGN (CONT.)



***NOTE: MOCK-UPS SHOWN HERE ONLY EXEMPLIFY GRAPHIC DESIGN AND DO NOT REPRESENT FINAL EDITS TO WORDING AND CONTENT**

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT - QUOTE WALL

What happens to a dream deferred?

*Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over—
like a syrupy sweet?*

*Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.*

Or does it explode?

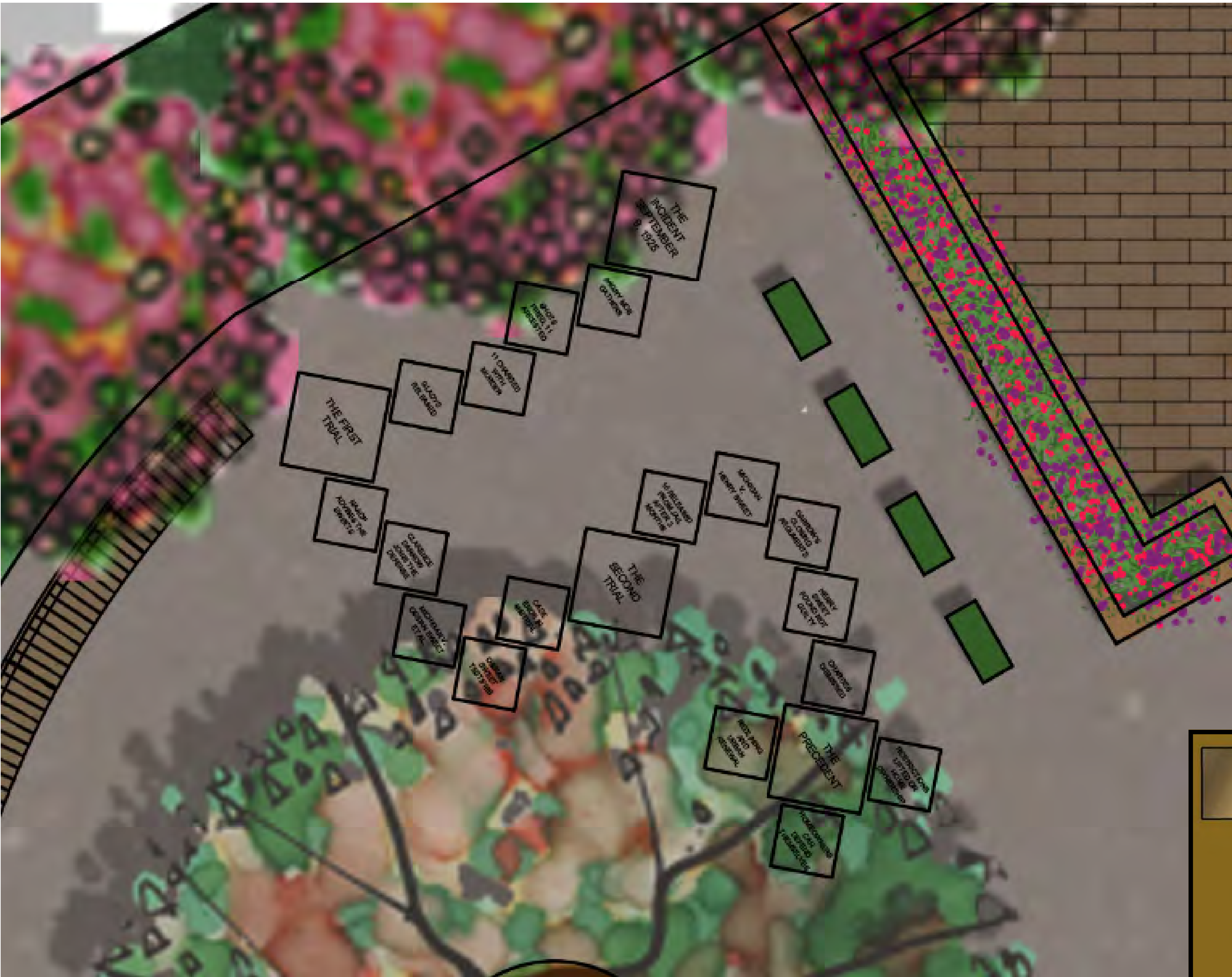
*from The Collected Works of Langston
Hughes*

Quote wall will be similar color and style as interpretive signage.

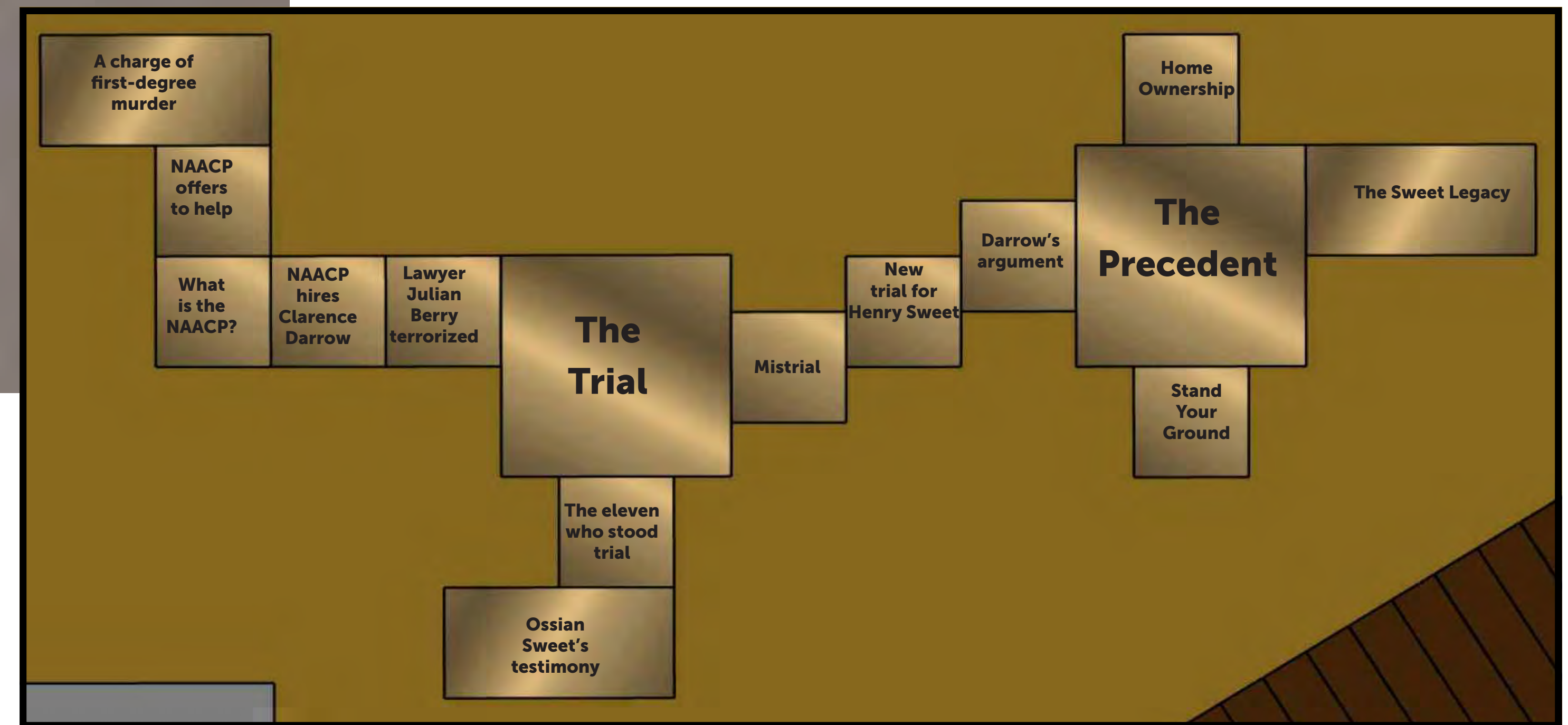


INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT - EMBEDDED TRIAL CHRONOLOGY

EMBEDDED BRASS LETTERING EXAMPLES



ORIGINAL CONCEPTUAL PLAN



INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT - MEMORIAL TREE

MEMORIAL ELM TREE DEDICATED TO IVA WITH GLADYS SWEET QUOTE

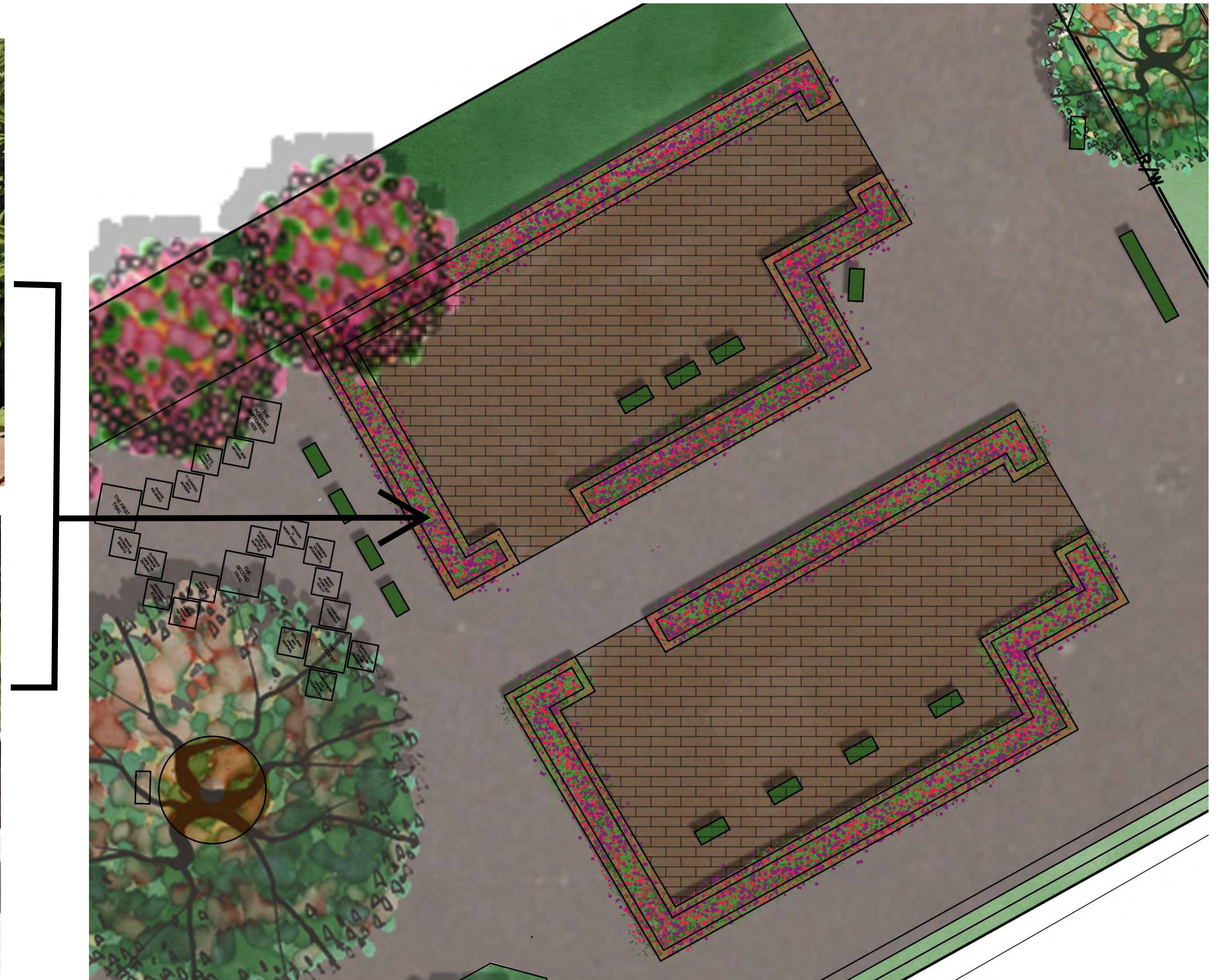
"Though I suffer and am torn loose from my fourteen-month-old baby, I feel it is my duty to the womanhood of the race. If I am freed I shall return and live at my home on Garland Avenue."

– Gladys Sweet
(*Arc of Justice*, p220)



INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT - FOUNDATION PLANTERS

WOOD CONSTRUCTION PLANTER BOXES OUTLINING THE FOUNDATIONS OF PAST NEIGHBORING HOMES TO EVOKE NEIGHBORHOOD DENSITY AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT. PLANTED WITH ANNUAL FLOWERS REPRESENTING THE FLOURISHING LIFE A HOME USUALLY REPRESENTS.



PROJECT MATERIALS BOARD



**FLOWERING
DOGWOODS HONORING
THE 11**

Mocha Brown

**DECORATIVE COLORED
CONCRETE**

U14

Pewter

**WOOD PLANTER
FOUNDATION WALLS
WITH ANNUALS**

Soapstone

SITE FURNISHINGS

U51

Clary Sage

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

MEMORIAL ELM

**EMBEDDED BRASS
LETTERING**

**WOOD STYLE
PERMEABLE PAVERS**