

106 COMING BAR ADVOCACY

JULY 8, 2026

TALKING POINTS

Referencing the BAR ordinance ([Sec. 54-240](#)):

- The Board is responsible for evaluating the character and appropriateness of proposed designs and their relationship with their immediate surroundings.
 - **Talking point:** The proposed development is fundamentally inappropriate within the context of an historic burial ground and fails to respect its immediate and sensitive surroundings.
- The Board can prevent designs that are incongruous or inharmonious with the prevailing character of Charleston.
 - **Talking point:** The design is incongruous and inharmonious not only with the solemn character of the burial ground, but also with Charleston’s prevailing character that is defined by a longstanding tradition of honoring and preserving its cultural heritage.
- The Board can defer or deny designs that are not in keeping with the dignity and prevailing character of the immediate surroundings.
 - **Talking point:** The proposal fails to uphold the dignity and reverence inherent to this historic site and is incompatible with its sacred character.

Referencing the [Secretary of the Interior’s Standards](#):

- The *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation* state that the historic character of a property should be retained and preserved.
 - **Talking point:** The proposed site plan and design would adversely alter and diminish the historic character of the property, contrary to preservation standards that prioritize its protection.

Referencing the [Charleston Standards Policy Statement](#):

- “New construction should be sympathetic to the historic features that characterize its setting and context.”
 - **Talking point:** New construction within a historic burial ground cannot achieve true compatibility or sensitivity, given the site’s defining purpose as a place of remembrance and cultural heritage.

Referencing the [BAR Principles](#):

- “Charleston is a city of international acclaim... particularly because of the steadfast commitment of its citizens and leaders to maintain and promote architectural principles that document its history, culture and heritage and encourage new construction that is compatible with that culture and heritage.”
 - **Talking point:** The proposal neither meaningfully acknowledges the site’s history nor aligns with Charleston’s cultural and architectural heritage, rendering it incompatible with the principles the Board is charged to uphold.