

Definitions for Rapid Cemetery Assessment Form

Structures

Marker - sign or indication of a burial placed at the head of the body.

Footstone - sign or indication of a burial placed at the foot of the body, usually smaller.

Box tomb/basal - box shaped monument built above ground; burial usually takes place below ground, usually about 3' by 6' and 2'-3' high.

Vault - burial chamber commonly below ground.

Mausoleum - large structure or building built above ground for burials.

Bedstead - resembles the framework of a bed with side pieces and end pieces in addition to marker.

Obelisk - stone pillar with a rectangular cross section tapering towards a point (Example Washington Monument).

Materials

Marble - A hard usually white rock with visible crystals that fizzes with a drop of vinegar. This metamorphic rock contains calcium and is usually polished.

Limestone - This medium to soft rock consists mainly of calcium, and is white to buff color. It also fizzes with vinegar or other acids.

Granite - This igneous rock has visible medium to large crystals, usually grey in color but commonly found in pink, red, or black.

Slate - A fine-grained metamorphic rock, with naturally smooth finish that tends to separate along bedding planes, commonly a grayish color.

Sandstone - (also known as brownstone), a sedimentary rock consisting of sand consolidated with binder, porous and easily worked, and susceptible to separating.

Schist - metamorphic rock with banded layer and medium crystals, color is streaky, silver, black, white, and green.

Brick - used in foundations for markers and construction of monuments, historically pointed with lime-based mortar although if it was repointed a Portland based mortar possibly (and incorrectly) used.

Wood - Produced from trees, this material is used commonly in fences and markers, deteriorates much more quickly than stone.

Cast Iron - An iron-based metal that is fabricated in sections and bolted together, cast in a mold allowing for greater detail. Sections are usually bolted together.

Wrought Iron - An iron based metal that is shaped by forging allowing for more delicate pieces, lighter than cast iron.

Bronze - A copper and tin metal alloy that usually forms a brown or possibly green patina.

Lead - A soft malleable metal with several historical uses including to hold fence pieces together or in place, to shim stones, and cast in sculpture.

Zinc (White Bronze) - cast metal that has a bluish color and is very durable.

Concrete - lime or Portland cement based used in construction and markers themselves, concrete markers often with a less refined appearance.

Glass - commonly found as windows in mausoleums, may be leaded or stained glass.

Coatings

Limewash - finish made from lime and water used to protect surfaces.

Cement Wash - more modern wash with a cement additive.

Stucco - finish made from sand, water, and lime to coat exterior, also concrete stucco.

Paint - pigment suspended in liquid used to coat a surface.

Types of Damage

Collapse - loss of structural integrity.

Fallen - monument is not in its original position.

Broken - forcibly separated into pieces.

Missing Pieces - parts of the stone are no longer there.

Stained - surface shows signs of stains that can not be removed with water alone.

Biological Growth - lichen, mold, or mildew found on the surface.

Erosion - areas have been removed by wind or water.