

# 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.