

Art in the Graveyard

By Mary A. Malinconico



Symbols

Meaning

Art

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Contents

04

What I learned?

05

List of Rural Cemeteries

16

Symbols

Symbols and Meaning

28

Initials & Acronyms

29

Architectural Styles

31

Types of Cemeteries

32

Types of Burial Markers

33

Types of Burial Structures

35

Types of Crosses

37

References

Welcome

What I learned ?

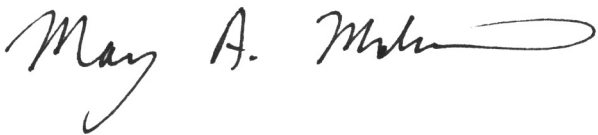
From the Art in the Graveyard Project

This project came about by accident. I did not plan to visit graveyards and photograph the art that I found there...But sometimes the best project come about by accident. While visiting a cemetery, I was struck by the similarity between the art represented in the memorial monuments and art found in art museums, architecture, or churches.

This started a multi-year adventure of me visiting graveyards far and near. Most of the cemeteries I have visited are on the east coast and the Midwest. But I am sure I will continue to travel and add to this collection.

While my friends and family were supportive, I know they were shaking their heads wondering why I was heading out to another cemetery with my camera.

It is my hope that you learn from my photos and research on the symbols and meaning of the art I have found in the graveyards. In comparing the art I found in graveyards to art in art museums, architecture, or churches, it is my expectation that you will learn to appreciate the art in graveyards.



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Educator, Photography, Artist

Meaning of Symbols

Symbol	Meaning
Acacia (plant)	Represents eternal life and the resurrection.
Acorn (nut in shell)	Represents prosperity; power; triumph; strength; independence
Acanthus (plant)	Represents the garden of Heaven. Often found on the corners of Chest Tombs or the top of columns.
Alpha and Omega	The first and last letter in the Greek alphabet. These letters represent God, the creator of the beginning and the end, and everything in between.
Anemone (plant)	This plant is red, so it represents the blood of Christ and the shortness of life.
Anchor	Represents hope; the person's service in the Navy; could also represent the person is anchored to the earth while in heaven. If the anchor is upside down, the person lost their life at sea.
Angels	Represents God's messengers and guardians; dropping flowers may signify grief, mourning; pointing to heaven may signify rejoicing
Angels holding a Book	If an angel is holding a book and perhaps a writing instrument, this may be the recording angel. Recording angels are assigned by God with the task of recording the events, actions, and prayers of each human. This includes bad sins and good deeds.
Angel that is Flying	An Angel with wings or in-flight represents a soul ascending to heaven.
Angel Crying or Weeping	An Angel that is crying or weeping represents grief, sadness, and sorrow.
Angels Hands in Prayer	An Angel with its hand together represents religious faith or a prayer for the dead.
Angels – Holding a Wreath	The angel holding a wreath represents memory and eternity. The Angel is letting us know that the person's life will not be forgotten.
Angels – Holding Flowers	If an Angel is holding flowers, this represents that life is fleeting like flowers.

Angels – Holding a Palm Frond	An angel holding a palm represents martyrdom or a symbol of victory, triumph, peace, and eternal life.
Angels – Gabriel	Gabriel is often referred to as an archangel and is the messenger of God. It was Gabriel who announced to Mary that “she will have a son who is the Spirit of God.” The Angel Gabriel often can have a horn at his side or sometimes the horn is raised as about to be blown.
Angels – Guardian	The Guardian angel will have a horn or a sword.
Ankh	Represents the resurrection of Christ; represents eternal life and the resurrection of the person.
Anvil and/or hammer	Represents a Blacksmith
Arches and gates	Indicates the passage into the next life, the arch represents the entrance into heaven.
Arms Reaching Up or Out	Often found on angels or other statues, this symbolizes asking for God’s mercy and or forgiveness.
Arms In Front or Crosses	Often found on angels or other statues, represent they are seeking a blessing. Also, can represent showing the palm of Jesus with nail wounds.
Axe	The axe represents the progress of civilization. A common symbol for the Woodman of the World.
Ball(s) or Orb	Made be a decorative element or a cannonball. Sometimes polished stone balls represent the universe or the world.
Basket	Represents Fertility; maternal bond
Basket of Flowers	If the flowers are upright, it represents Hope. If the flowers are drooping or spilling, it represents grief.
Bat	Represents death and misfortune
Bed	Represents the eternal sleep with Jesus or the eternal rest, also for resting in peace.
Beehive	Possible membership with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Benches	Represents Mourning; contemplation
Bird	Represents the flight of the soul or the resurrection of the soul.
Book(s)	Often the Bible or the book of life, If the book is open, it symbolizes the word of God being revealed to the deceased person.
Book Closed	Represents the long life that was lived to the last page.

Book Open	Represents a person's life cut short before the last page the person's life.
Books Open book with Draped Cloth	Cloth represents the veil of death cutting a life short before the final page was written.
Book Open with someone writing	This symbolizes the book of life of the deceased.
Books – Stack	If there is a stack of books, this person may have been a teacher or scholar. The decrease could be a Mormon with the books being the bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine of Covenants.
Bone	Represents Death
Bud	Represents the start, often found on a baby or young person's gravestone.
Broken Bud	Represents how fragile life can be; often seen on a young person's gravestone.
Bugle or Trumpet	Often found on soldiers' memorials or represent Gabriel's horn.
Caduceus	Medical Symbol with two snakes with wings at the top. Often found on doctor's gravestones.
Calla Lily	The symbol stands for purity, holiness, and marriage
Candle	Represents Life
Cannons upright	The upright cannon represents peacetime. Can also have a flame which is the eternal flame.
Cannon Balls	Often seen on the graves of deceased soldiers, and military memorials from the Civil War.
Celtic Cross	The Celtic cross contains a distinctive circle called a nimbus. This represents the union of heaven and earth or the Moon and Earth.
Chain Link 3	The three-link chain represents the holy trinity (father son and holy ghost).
Chain Broke	A broken chain represents the person's death has broken the link to the earth and their family.
Chair	Represents a death of a child; could also be a object to sit on when visiting the dead.
Cherub(s)	Cherubs are winged angelic being described in biblical tradition as attending to God. Cherubs represent innocents.
Church	Represents ministry; possible pastor or minister
Cinquefoil	This symbol contains five interlocking circles. Signifies strength, power, honor, and loyalty
Clock or watch	March of time, usually stopped at the hour of death. If the deceased was a member of the Elks club, the time is set at 11 PM.

Clover (three- or four-leafed)	Christian trinity; possible Irish ancestry or affiliation with 4H Club. It may also be a Quatrefoil (see below)
Coat of Arms	Represents the family lineage.
Column and/or pillar (Broken)	Life is cut short; sudden death, sometimes indicates the loss of the head of the family.
Column and/or pillar (Unbroken)	Represents a complete life
Column and/or pillar (Broken)	Represents a life cut short or sudden death, sometimes indicating the loss of the head of the family.
Order of Architecture	<p>Styles of Architecture are called Order of Architecture which includes classical or neoclassical and defines the types of columns.</p> <p>The three main Greek column styles are Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian.</p>
Doric Column(s)	Doric Columns are the simplest of the column designs. Doric columns have squared-looking capitals or tops. The Doric order is characterized by a plain, unadorned column capital and a column that rests directly on the stylobate of the temple without a base.
Ionic Column(s)	Ionic columns have decorative spiral, scroll-like ornament on the four corners. Ionic columns has slender tapered columns with molded bases.
Corinthian Column(s)	<p>Corinthian columns are the most ornate, slender, and sleek. They are distinguished by a decorative, bell-shaped capital with volutes, two rows of acanthus leaves, and an elaborate cornice. Corinthian columns have elaborate, carved capital, which incorporates even more vegetal elements such as oak leaves.</p> <p>Often seen on buildings such as Capital Buildings and Courthouses, Corinthian Columns are often in different locations in Cemeteries.</p>
Egyptian Style Column(s)	The term Egyptian column can refer to a column from ancient Egypt or a modern column inspired by Egyptian ideas. Common features of Egyptian pillars include (1) stone shafts carved to resemble tree trunks or bundled reeds or plant stems, sometimes called papyrus columns; (2) lily, lotus, palm, or papyrus plant motifs on the capitals (tops); (3) bud-shaped or campaniform (bell-shaped) capitals; and (4) brightly painted carved relief decorations.
Composite Column(s)	Composite Columns will include a combination of elements from the above styles.

Corn	Represents farming (also frequently symbolized by wheat) and is often found in cemeteries in the heartland of America. Also symbolizes fertility and rebirth as corn is a hearty plant.
Cross(es)	See Below
Crown	Represents victory, leadership, and distinction along with faithfulness and the glory of death. The Kingdom of Heaven.
Crown with a Cross	A crown with a cross is a Christian symbol of the sovereignty of Christ or the victory of Christian values.
Crucifix	Represents the torment of Jesus on the cross.
Cube	The cube represents geometry and math. Could represent the decrease was a math teacher or mathematician.
Dog(s)	The dogs symbolize faithfulness, watchfulness, loyalty, and courage. Often a specific breed that the decrease owned.
Doves	A dove represents peace and the Holy Spirit. Also represents the soul's passage to heaven.
Dove flying down	Represents the holy spirit coming down from heaven.
Dove with a broken wing	Represents a life cut short or a young person grave or innocence.
Dropping/Drooping Stem	A wilted flower or a dropping stem refers to a life cut short.
Drapery	Sorrow and mourning, often seen draped over an urn or gravestone.
Eagle	As the most powerful bird in nature, an eagle represents fierceness and ascension. It can also represent the resurrection.
Eagle – Double Headed	Represents the double nature of mankind – physical and spiritual beings.
Easter Lily	Represents the resurrection of Jesus as well as purity.
Elk	Possible membership with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. An Elk works together in a herd and protects itself with its large antlers.
Evergreen	Represents faithfulness and remembrance
Evening Primrose	Four Petal flower represents love, youth, and eternal memory.
Eye	Represents the all-knowing eye, or the eye of God.
Feathered headdress	Possible membership with the Improved Order of Red Men or Degree of Pocahontas
Fern	Represents sincerity; humility; solitude

Fire Hat	Represents the deceased work as a firefighter.
Flame	Represents eternal life.
Fleur de Lis	Represents royal design or the Holy Trinity
Flower in Full Bloom	The flower in full bloom symbolizes a person who died in the full bloom of their life. Also, represents grief for the decrease.
Flower - Broken Stem	Represents a life cut short
Flowers - Spilled basket	Represents a life cut short or grief.
Flowers – Full Bloom	This represents the person died in the “full” bloom of adulthood.
Forefinger pointing down	God reaching down for the soul. Or it can represent a person’s life cut short.
Forefinger pointing up	Symbolizes the soul’s passage to Heaven
Fruit	Represents Eternal plenty (see individual fruits)
Grapes or Grapevines	Represents the blood of Christ.
Griffin/Gryphon	A mythical beast with the head, wings and claws of an eagle with the head and body of a lion. This represents the dual nature of Jesus being both mortal and a divine being.
Hair	Often found on angels or other statues in cemeteries, the hair represents Penance.
Half-carved tombstone	Represents the transition from life to death or a life cut short, The unfinished stone is the unfinished life.
Hands	Hands represent emotions, and gestures
Hand of God	Represented by a hand reaching out of a cloud, means God is reaching down from heaven. Ascension to heaven
Hand Resting on Chest	A hand resting on the chest or heart represents divine wisdom.
Hand Resting on Neck	Represents sacrifice
Hands Blessing	When a hand has two fingers pointing towards the sky, this represents a blessing. Often seen on statues of angels or the clergy. The hands could also be together representing prayers.
Hand with a Heart	This symbolizes charity or generosity
Hands Holding a Cross	This represents Christ’s resurrection and eternal life.
Hands Pointing Up	This means the deceased has ascended to heaven.
Hand Pointing Down	Does not mean the person is going to hell. The hand pointing down represents the person who died suddenly or in an accident.
Hands - Praying	The hands together represent prayers, the devotion to God, or the plea to God for eternal life.

Handshake	The handshake represents the welcoming of a soul into Heaven. Or it could represent the bond between spouses if hands are feminine and masculine.
Harp	Represents Worship; heavenly music to God, could also represent he decrease was Irish.
Heart	A very widely used symbol in cemeteries. Represents Love, mortality, love of God, courage, and intelligence.
Heart – Bleeding	This symbol is the heart appears to be bleeding. It symbolizes the suffering of Jesus for our sins. Also, could mean a sincere emotional outpouring for the loss of a loved one. Christ's suffering for our sins
Heart - Flaming	Signifies extreme religious fervor; rays of god's love and glory.
Heart Held in Hands	The Heart in Hand or Heart-in-Hand is a symbol of a heart in an open palm and is symbolic of charity, given from the heart
Heart Covered with Ivy	Ivy carved with a heart into a tombstone is said to represent friendship, fidelity, and immortality. The hardy, evergreen leaf of the ivy denotes immortality and rebirth or regeneration.
Heart - Two hearts joined	Two hearts represent hearts joined in marriage or love.
Heart with Thorns	Represents the suffering of Christ, like the crown of thorns he has worn.
Heart pierced by a Sword	The Virgin Mary, harkening to Simone's prophecy to Mary at the birth of Christ, "Yea, a sword shall pierce through the own soul." It can also be used to represent the charity.
The Holy Family	This statue will have Joseph, Mary, and a young Jesus.
Holly (Plant)	Represents everlasting life and foresight.
Horses	Courage or generosity; possible membership with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen, and Helpers of America (especially if two-headed)
Hourglass or clock	Represents the passage of time or could be the time the person passed away. Sysmbolizes limited time on earth.
Iris	Symbolizes hope and the sorrows of the Virgin Mary.
Ivy	Ivy symbolizes immortality, friendship, and fidelity. Ivy is often seen on overgrown gravestones in unkept cemeteries.
Key	Knowledge; entrance to heaven

Lamb	The lamb is a symbol of purity, gentleness, innocence (popular on children's graves), the lamb of God. If the lamb is standing next to a male statue, this is Jesus and the lamb is his flock.
Lamp with Flame	Represents knowledge; spiritual immortality, the light displaces the darkness.
Laurel Leaves	Represents everlasting life, victory, and chastity.
Lily	Represents innocence and purity; resurrection; marriage and
Lily - Calla	Calla Lilies represent purity and holiness; also marriage.
Lily- Easter	Represent purity and the resurrection
Lily – of the Valley	Lily of the Valley represents purity, virginity, rebirth, innocence, and renewal.
Lion	A lion symbolizes courage and guards the Tomb. God's strength to fight evil and power. If two lions are guarding a tomb, this represents the wealth of the family.
Lotus Flower	Also known as the water lily. The Lotus blooms during the day and closes at night, to reopen the next morning. This symbolizes the rebirth or as Christians believe the resurrection.
Mary or Mother or Virgin Mary	Most times, the Mother Mary or Virgin Mary will have her hands pressed together representing prayer or being pious.
Masonic Compass	Members of the Masonic Organization believe in God and in serving their communities. Masons act following high moral standards, thus the compass.
Mortar and pestle	Represents the medical profession (pharmacist or doctor)
Oak and Oakleaf	Represents strength; stability; endurance. Oak trees are often found in cemeteries providing shade for the visitors.
Obelisks	<p>An Obelisk is a stone pillar, typically having a square or rectangular cross-section and a pyramidal top. The founding fathers in the USA believed the Obelisk was the connection between heaven and earth. Also, it represented power, strength, and fatherhood.</p> <p>The Washington Monument in Washington, DC is a good representation of an Obelisk.</p>
Obelisk (Broken)	Signify the cutting short of someone's life, particularly the head of a family.
Obelisks (Variations)	Can be in different styles, flat, topped with urns, orbs, or other objects.

Obelisks (Vaulted)	Obelisks have four sides shaped like a ceiling of a church
Orb or Ball(s)	Made be a decorative element or a cannonball. Sometimes polished stone balls represent the universe or the world. Could also mean Christ's ruling over the earth.
Olive tree	Symbolizes Peace; reconciliation between God and man
Palm	Represents life conquering death, triumph over adversity, and resurrection. Often found in the hand of a statue, represents the reward of eternal peace.
Phoenix	A symbol of the Resurrection, rebirth and transformation.
Pineapple	Symbolizes prosperity; hospitality; perfection
Pyramids	An Egyptian symbol that is found in many cemeteries. Crypts are often built in the shape of a pyramid. Christians believe that the sharp point repels Satan. The pointed top also beams sunlight (God's Light) from the heavens to the earth.
Quatrefoil	This symbol contains four lobes that represent the four Christian evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Often mistaken for a clover
Rings	Represent wedding band of a married couple.
Rose	Represents love; beauty; virtue; motherhood; strong bond (intertwined); youthful death (rosebud); if the rose has three leaves this represents the holy trinity (father, son, and Holy Spirit)
Saint Joseph	A bearded man who is holding a baby Jesus or standing with young Jesus.
Saint Francis of Assisi	As the patron saint of animals, the monk figure will have two or more animals with him.
Saint Michael	Saint Michael is often wearing armor and wheedling a sword. Many times, he has his foot on a figure that represents Satan, which he is defecting.
Saint Patrick	Saint Patrick will be holding a staff and have his other hand raised sometimes holding a clover.
Scales	Represents Justice: law, equality, often found with Archangel Michael.
Scarab	A beetle symbolizes spiritual transformation and a renewed life.
Scrolls	Represent Laws or scriptures, could also be the story of the deceased life. Could also represent the Torah in the Jewish faith.

Seats or Benches	Made popular in the Victorian period, for people to come to sit and visit. Cemeteries often were park-like settings.
Seven Virtues	The seven virtues are traits that people aspire.
Faith	Faith is represented by a woman leading on a cross.
Hope	Hope is represented by a woman with an anchor beside her.
Charity	Charity is represented by a woman nursing a child. Sometimes the woman is pointing to her breast rather than a bare breast.
Justice	Justice is represented by a woman holding scales, as in the scales of justice. Sometimes the woman is blindfolded. Or the woman is holding a double-sided sword for reason and justice.
Fortitude	Fortitude is represented by a female warrior figure.
Temperance	Temperance is represented by a female with a sword in her sheath to symbolize restraint.
Prudence	Prudence is represented by a female with a mirror to symbolize the quest for self-knowledge.
Severed Stem	A severed stem, with or without a flower, represents a life cut short.
Sheep	This represents that Jesus was a shepherd.
Shield	Protection, faith, defense of the spirit
Shoes	An empty shoe or that is one overturned, represents the loss of a child
Skull	Symbolizes death and mortal remains
Skull and Crossbones	Skull and crossbones is your classic death head symbol that represents the fleetness of life, The skull, and crossbones death head depicted on headstones were commonly used as 'Memento Mori' symbols in the 16th to 17th centuries. They were a warning to us all that we cannot avoid death and no matter what our status is in life, we are all the same.
Skull with Crown	A skull wearing a crown represents that the soul has triumphed over death.
Skull with Crown of Thorns	A skull wearing a crown represents that the soul has triumphed over death as Jesus did.
Skull with Wings	A skull with wings represents the soul's flight to heaven.

Soul effigy or Effigies	Winged faces on the stone; Immortality of the soul; passage to the afterlife (especially if winged). The soul effigy represents the flight of the soul from one realm to the other—from Earth to Heaven and symbolizes the transition the soul makes on that journey.
Snake or Serpent	Many times found under the foot of the statue, such as Saint Patrick. Also can be killed with a sword by St. Michael. Snakes also represent evil as in the snake in the garden of Eden.
Spartan helmet	The Spartans were great warriors so the helmet represents fearlessness and endurance.
Sphinx	The mythical character from Egyptian mythology; Often found guarding a crypt or mausoleum. Meaning of courage; honor; power. A sphinx has a body of a lion and the head of a human. If the sphinx is male, this comes from Egyptian culture. If the sphinx is female, this comes from the Greek culture.
Stars	The five-pointed star represents the star of Bethlehem.
Star of David	This star has six points and symbolizes the bond between God and humankind. Found in Jewish Cemeteries.
Sword	Symbolizes courage, warfare, military person
Sword – Female Figure	If a female figure is holding a sword above her head, this represents Lady Justice.
Sword – Male Figure	If a male figure is holding a sword, he may be St. Paul or St. Michael.
Thistle	Represents sorrow and remembrance; potential Scottish ancestry
Tree of Life	Represents the Tree of Life, knowledge, the circle of life.
Tree-shaped Stone	Possible membership with the Modern Woodmen of America or Woodmen of the World or symbolized the tree of life.
Tree stump	Often represents a life cut short; sudden death
Triquetra	This symbol is created by three interlocking circles or triangles. Often found on Celtic crosses, which represent the Holy Trinity.
Torch (See Flame)	Symbolizes the eternal flame of the soul or the soul continues to burn in the afterlife.
Torch - upside down	Represents death or life being extinguished.
Urn	Death of the flesh, the soul has left the body or eternal remembrance. The urn can also be a physical item holding the ashes from cremation.

Urn Draped	An urn with a cloth draped over it represents the veil between life and death or the living and the dead. Also symbolized the shedding of the garments as the deceased moves on to the afterlife.
Virgin Mary	Most times, the Mother Mary or Virgin Mary will have her hands pressed together representing prayer or being pious.
Vulture Wings	In Egyptian culture, the vulture represents motherhood. Vulture wings are often found with circles in the center, which represents the god of the sun, Ra. Many times, vulture wings are paired with snakes on either side of the circle. The snakes, sometimes Cobras, symbolize death.
Wheat Stalks	Represents farming; divine harvest; prosperity; full life, death of an elderly person. May also be decreased is Ukrainian.
Wheat in a Bundle	Represents the person who lived a full life and/or a full life. Mostly found a gravestone of older persons who have reaped the harvest of one's life.
Winged death's head	Mortal remains of the deceased (see Soul effigy or Effigies)
Willow - Weeping	The weeping willow tree represents mourning/grief and earthly sorrow
Wreaths	The circular shape of the wreath stands for eternal memory or immortality. Also represents the victory of redemption.
Wreaths – Laurel	Represents triumph over death, if circular it represents eternal memory and immortality.

Meaning of Headstone Initials & Acronyms

Initials	Meaning/Affiliation
AAONMS	Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles and the Mystic Shrine (Masonic)
AASR	Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (Masonic)
BPOE	Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
FOE	Fraternal Order of Eagles
IHC/HIS	Christian; the first three letters of Jesus' name in Greek
IOOF	Independent Order of Odd Fellows
K of C	Knights of Columbus (Catholic)

Types of Architectural Styles

Art Deco	<p>This modern style is known for fine craftsmanship and rich materials. During its heyday, it represented luxury, glamour, exuberance, and faith in social and technological progress.</p> <p>Characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sleek, • linear appearance with stylized • often geometric ornamentation
Art Nouveau	<p>This style is highly decorative, with a sense of dynamism and movement. Often this style has an ornate face and intricate scrollwork. In cemeteries, Art Nouveau can be found on doors to mausoleums and corners or crypts.</p>
Byzantine Revival	<p>This style is most frequently seen in religious, institutional, and public buildings. Mostly associated with Eastern and Orthodox Christian architecture dating from the 5th through 11th centuries. Many times, this style of architecture is found in buildings within cemeteries. The style uses round structures or arches on top with cascading round structures underneath.</p>
Classical	<p>Classical architecture originated in ancient Greece and Rome and is characterized by symmetry, columns, rectangular windows, and marble, to name a few. For centuries, architects have drawn influence from these civilizations and incorporated traditional ideals into subsequent styles of architecture.</p> <p>Characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symmetry and proportions. Classical buildings are usually symmetrical and have elements like columns and windows that are evenly spaced out. • Columns in a specific style (or order). • The front porch topped with a pediment • Durable building materials • Classical design motifs. • Rectangular windows

Gothic Revival	<p>The Gothic Revival style is part of the mid 19th century picturesque and romantic movement in architecture, reflecting the public's taste for buildings inspired by medieval design. The gothic style is marked by the tower. This style is often found in elaborate monuments in cemeteries or the design of the gatehouse.</p> <p>Gothic Revival style Characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the pointed arch, used for windows, doors, and decorative elements like porches, dormers, or roof gables • steeply pitched roofs and front facing gables with delicate wooden trim
Rustic Style	<p>Mostly from the late 1800s and early 1900s, cemeteries have very old gravestones. Wooden crosses and unpolished stones represent the Rustic Style.</p>

Types of Cemeteries

Church	A cemetery or graveyard is located next to a church. The land is owned by the church.
Public	A public cemetery is owned by the city, town, or county in which the cemetery is located in. These cemeteries are not affiliated with a church.
Private	A private cemetery is owned by a corporation and is for-profit organization.
Family	A family cemetery is on land owned by a family.
Military	Government Operated cemeteries for veterans.

Types of Burial Markers

Field Stones or Cairns	A large stone or a pile of stone marking the burial location.
Wooden	Simple Wooden markers, many in the shape of the cross using two pieces of wood.
Stones	<p>Different types of stones are used including Slate, sandstone, Marble, and Granite. Stones can be engraved with simple or elaborate information.</p> <p>Granite is the most widely used stone due to its durability and Mohs hardness scale of 7 (out of 10)</p>
"White Bronze"	Created by the Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport Connecticut, these custom-made monuments were made out of Zinc. The company called the monuments "White Bronze" to make them sound fancy. The company operated between 1874 and 1914 and people could order their monuments from a catalog.

Types of Burial Structures

Different types of monuments and other structures found in Cemeteries.

Altar Tomb	Similar to a chest or box tomb, an Altar tomb has more details and decorative elements.
Barrel or Bale Tomb	This tomb has a rounded top made of brick.
Bolster	A stone in the shape of a cylinder, something that looks like a log.
Cemetery Gates	From simple to elaborate, cemetery gates welcome visitors and burial processions alike. Gates range from simple iron gates to elaborate gothic architectural style gates.
Chest or Box Tomb	A variation of a sarcophagus, a chest or box tomb is a rectangle with four sides of the stone.
Coffin Stones	Large flat coffin-shaped stones lying flat on the ground.
Columbarium	A building or structure that holds the remains of many. These could contain urns of cremated people or coffins. These buildings can be simple or elaborate.
Death Head Gravestones	Gravestones with skull or faces with wings. Also called a Soul Effigy.
Exedra	A bench on which mourners can visit the deceased. The bench can be straight or curved and often is found with other elements.
False Crypt	Looks like a chest tomb, but the coffin is in the ground under the crypt.
Flat Stones	Found in modern cemeteries, makes grass cutting easy. Sometimes called a Pillow marker.
Flower Boxes or Cradles	A stone with a rectangle area for planting flowers. Often called cradles if the decrease was a child.
Garden Crypts	Aboveground crypts for coffins or urns, often for families or members of the community.
Hip Tomb	A tomb that has a hip roof (four sides slant upward). A hip roof can be added to a Chest Box tomb or just be in the ground. Often the roof is in the shape of a cross.
Ledger Stones	Large flat rectangle stones lying flat on the ground.
Mausoleum	A mausoleum is an external free-standing building constructed as a monument enclosing the interment space or burial chamber of a deceased person or people.

Obelisks	Popular in the United States, is a large stone with pointed tips. Represents how a soul reunites with God. Often found in the center or front of a family plot.
Pedestal Tombs	Looks like a sarcophagus that has been placed on pedestal to make it look grander.
Plot Gates	A gate and fence around a family burial plot.
Sarcophagus	A sarcophagus is a box-like funeral receptacle for a corpse, most carved in stone, and usually displayed above ground, though it may also be buried.
Scattering and Cremation Gardens	Newer economical and environmentally friendly, these are areas of landscapes where the ashes of the deceased can be scattered.
Table Tombs	Tombs that look like tables. A rectangle stone is supported by four or six legs.
Tablet	Most common grave marker, comes in different shapes and sizes.
Treestones	Looks like a Tree or Tree stump, from the Victorian era. Popular with members of the Woodmen of the world.
Tumulus	A mound of ground with deceased buried underneath. This burial mound is found in cemeteries or in Indian burial grounds. In more modern cemeteries, the Tumulus can have a stone or rock assemblage at the entrance.

Types of Crosses

Cross	Represents Jesus' death on the cross; the holiest symbol in the Christian faith.
Agony Cross	Each of the three arms of the Agony Cross comes to a sharp point like the point of a nail. The Agony Cross is symbolic of the suffering of Jesus Christ, who was nailed to a wooden cross.
Botonee Cross	The Botonee Cross has a cluster of three balls, knobs, or buttons at the end of each arm. The three objects represent the Holy Trinity.
Calvary Cross	Calvary Crosses are mounted on a platform of three steps. The ascent represents the climb Christ made to Calvary. The three steps are a reminder of the three principles of faith, hope, and charity or the three members of the Godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Celtic Cross	The Celtic cross has a ring or nimbus that connects the four arms. Representation of faith.
Coptic Cross	The Egyptian symbol Ankh symbolizes life or eternal life.
Crucifix Cross	A crucifix is different from other crosses since it always has a figure of the suffering Christ on the cross.
Eastern Cross	The Eastern Orthodox cross has three crossbars. Two are horizontal and one is slanted. The largest horizontal cross represents Jesus. The other two bars stand for the thieves who were crucified on either side of Jesus.
Glory Cross (rayed cross)	A Glory Cross has light rays shining out from the center of the cross, symbolic of the light Christ brought to the world through his atonement.
Greek Cross	A Greek Cross has an upright shaft and a horizontal bar intersecting in the middle with the arms being of equal length.
IHS Cross	IHS stands for the first three letters (iota-eta-sigma) of the name Jesus in Greek:

IHS Irish Cross	This cross from Ireland combines the Greek letters IHS, for Jesus' name with the Celtic cross.
Ionic Cross	Each of the four's arms flare out at the ends.
Labarum Cross (Chi Ro)	The Chi Rho is one of the earliest forms of Christogram, formed by superimposing the first two (capital) letters—chi and rho of the Greek word
Latin Cross	A Latin cross is a type of cross in which the vertical beam sticks above the crossbeam, with the three upper arms either equally long or with the vertical topmost arm shorter than the two horizontal arms, and always with a much longer bottom arm.
Saint Peter's Cross	This is an inverted Latin cross. While many believe this to be the symbol of Satan, it represents St Peter.
Tree Cross	A tree cross also has limbs that have been cut off, symbolic of a life cut short.

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