

# *Cemetery and Grave Marker Survey*

*State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries*

## INSTRUCTIONS

The goal of this form is to serve as a guide by using terminology to better understand a cemetery and provide a written history.

Recording a cemetery of any size does require dedication, but with differences between cemeteries, it is unlikely that every blank space in this survey will be needed. However it is still important to do our best and complete the survey as fully as possible. Some vital information will require additional research away from the cemetery, including the utilization of the library, courthouse, and internet sources.

Many cemeteries are not what Iowa's pioneers had envisioned as their legacy; they are forgotten and abandoned. We can rescue and preserve these cemeteries from facing this fate. There are no regulations requiring the use this form, but many people wish they had a universal outline to record and prevent the loss of historical information. This form provides an outline to document important cemetery history.

For those of you who are determined to undertake this challenge, we commend you!

# State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries

## County, State of Cemetery Survey

\*-denotes when more information can be found under definitions

Legal Name and A.K.A. of Cemetery:					
Township:		Section:		Contact Person, Position, Address, Phone:	
Nearest Town:		Owner of Record*:			
Tier-Range:		5 <sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian			
Latitude: (to center)		Longitude: (to center)			
Quad Name:	UTM Zone*:	Easting:	Northing:	Elevation:	
Legal Description and Acres:					
Graves per lot, direction they are numbered, size of lots:					
Accessibility to public: <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted, explain:					
<input type="checkbox"/> By Foot <input type="checkbox"/> By Car Terrain:					
Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer (six or fewer burials past fifty years)		<input type="checkbox"/> Inactive	<input type="checkbox"/> Currently used	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Currently cared for, explain:				
Root of Title*:					
Mass Graves <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No/Unknown Buildings on property:					
Affiliations found throughout:					
History of Cemetery and any special significance (Date deeded, surveyed, platted, zoned, first burial, moving of burials, etc.):					
Burial Costs (lot sales, opening/closing of graves):			List last burials:		
Stones present (if yes, complete) Number of markers: Number of graves occupied/unoccupied:					
Markers damaged (if yes, select one or more)		<input type="checkbox"/> Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Deterioration	<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/> Custodial care
		<input type="checkbox"/> Farming operations		<input type="checkbox"/> Other means, explain:	
Restoration Efforts/Adhesives used throughout cemetery:					
Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Well maintained and preserved (if so, by whom):		<input type="checkbox"/> Poorly maintained		
	Overgrown- <input type="checkbox"/> Easily identifiable <input type="checkbox"/> Not easily identifiable <input type="checkbox"/> Not identifiable as a burial site, but known to exist through tradition or other means. Explain:				
Location of any markers no longer in place:					
Location of any additional information:					
<input type="checkbox"/> If cemetery is enclosed, specify type (wall, fence, hedge):			State condition of enclosure:		
Note any hazards imperiling the cemetery's existence:					
Estimated number of visitors to area because of cemetery (per year):					
Common tree/shrub/plant or invasive species found throughout cemetery:					
Common animal species found throughout cemetery:					
Person completing report:			Address:		
Telephone number:			E-mail address:		
Signed:			Date:		

For neglected cemeteries in Iowa, please send a copy of these forms to: [sapiciowa@yahoo.com](mailto:sapiciowa@yahoo.com) and State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, 5716 Kingman Ave. Des Moines, IA 50311

Photos of Cemetery/Topographical Map/Aerial Map/Map of Lots with dimensions, depressions, vegetation, locations of fencing, buildings, marked/unmarked graves, etc. Date of Photo or Map. Direction of Photo:

Additional research with sources:

### Individual Grave Marker Survey

It is important that you complete this section. Information recovered from headstones gives us a glimpse of the individuals whose lives are commemorated by those markers. Please provide as much detail as possible. The more information provided the easier the research will be in another 150 years.

Lot and Grave Number:	
Marker Material (marble, limestone, slate, granite, sandstone, fieldstone, zinc "white bronze", concrete, metal, wood, military marker, funeral home marker)*:	
Name:	
Birth:	Death:
Age:	Size (width, thickness, height from ground):
Motif/Design, Ornaments:	
Inscription- Individual Marker: Family Monument:	
Number of Trees/Shrubs on lot with circumference of trunk, condition (dead, pruned), proximity to grave:	
Stone type (headstone, die in socket, die on base, raised top, gov. issued civil war type, gov. issue general type, lawn-type, footstone, plaque, pulpit, die base cap, bedstead, table tomb, box tomb, obelisk, pedestal, tomb with vaulted roof, pedestal tomb with urn, crypt, ledger, mausoleum)-a page with pictures of various types can be found on <a href="http://www.chicora.org">www.chicora.org</a> . *More types*:	
Stone Cutter/Distributor:	
Condition of the marker (sinking, leaning, on ground, broken, missing, in pieces, disaggregation*, erosion, surface deposits*, cracking, vegetation, mower marks, vandalism), explain:	
Grave Orientation:	
Grave Goods/Offerings/Accessories, (independent from marker-ie. pottery, shells):	
Changes of Structure/Intentional modifications and when (probing/adhesives used/replacement of stone):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo of stone with date of photo: <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> No stone</span>	
Additional research with sources:	
Signed:	Dated:

## DEFINITIONS-

**Basal:** A horizontal tablet supported by a low solid wall base. (Resembles a platform tomb, but does not house a burial within the structure.)

**Concrete:** A hard, compact artificial composite of cement, sand, gravel and water. Most often gray, white, or colored.

**Die:** Tomb with a prominent die, or middle portion of a pedestal between a base and the surbase, also called a dado.

**Disaggregation:** Active sugaring of surfaces.

**Granite:** A hard igneous crystalline rock, consisting of small, yet visible, grains of other minerals. Variegated, grey, red.

**Limestone:** A medium to fine grained sedimentary rock consisting mainly of calcium carbonate often containing fossil remains. May be cream, tan, or dark grey.

**Marble:** A metamorphic rock, white or variously colored and sometimes streaked or mottled; can take a high polish. Usually white and crystalline.

**Markers:** Any non-tomb mortuary structure which marks a below-grade burial, but does not contain an interment and whose form is often sculptural.

**Mausoleum:** A mortuary structure enclosing an interment space or burial chamber. Single mousolea may be permanently sealed. A Christian mausoleum sometimes includes a chapel. A mausoleum encloses a burial chamber either wholly above ground or within a burial vault below the superstructure.

**Obelisk:** A monumental, four-sided stone shat, usually monolithic and tapering to a pyramidal tip.

**Owner of Record:** The person to whom the property was last transferred, and the transfer recorded, if the transfer was not recorded, the current “owner” is not the owner of record. Property taxes and other legal matters pertaining to a property are assessed or addressed to the owner of record.

**Parapet Tomb:** A single or multiple vault tomb possessing a raised parapet from concealing the roof behind.

**Pedestal:** Any combination of column, obelisk, urn or sculpture surmounting a pedestal or pedestal-base.

**Pediment Tomb:** A multiple vault tomb whose height is greater than its width and whose top is surmounted by an integrated front gable end pediment of flat, triangular or segmental design.

**Platform Tomb:** A single or multiple vault tomb whose height is equal to or less than its width.

**Root of Title:** The whole sequence of owners and transfers of a piece of property, beginning with the initial government grant (usually a patent) and continuing in an unbroken line to the present owner.

**Sandstone:** A medium to fine-grained sedimentary rock composed of consolidated sand grains, mainly quartz, oriented in superimposed layers or “beds”. Usually ranging in color from reddish brown to brown to tan.

**Sarcophagus Tomb:** A single or double platform tomb resembling a sarcophagus, usually on a raised base.

**Slate:** A dark, fine-grained metamorphic rock that cleaves naturally into thin, smooth-surfaced layers.

**Stele:** A carved or inscribed stone slab or pillar used for commemorative purposes, taller and thinner than a headstone.

**Step Tomb:** A low, single-vault semi-subterranean tomb possessing a stepped or molded top and a top slab or end tablet.

**Surface Deposits:** Surface accretions such as guano, soot, salt efflorescence and soiling.

**Tumulus:** A tomb or mausoleum surmounted by banked earth.

**UTM Coordinates:** Universal Transmercator Grid appearing on maps of the United States Geological Survey. The centermost coordinate can be determined on [www.topozone.com](http://www.topozone.com). The benefits of UTM can be found at [www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb28](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb28).

**Wall/Block Vault:** Multiple tiers of individual burial vaults of brick vault or stone slab construction, arranged to form a single block or perimeter enclosure wall.



**Pulpit**



**Footstone**



**Lot marker/  
Corner marker**



**Gothic**

**Die on Base with Cap**



**Slant**

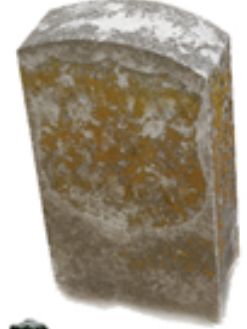


**Headstone**



**Tree Stump**

**Government Issue  
Civil War Type**



**Pillow**



**Upright**



**Double  
Column  
Arch**



**Obelisk**



**Diamond Die**



**Pedestal with  
Vaulted Roof**



**Die on Base**



**Pedestal with Urn**