



TERMINOLOGY

GLOSSARY

COMMON TERMINOLOGY USED WHEN DESIGNING AND SETTING MONUMENTS

ABRASIVE	PRODUCT THAT DOES THE CUTTING IN THE SANDBLASTING PROCESS (THE SAND). ABRASIVES COME IN A VARIETY OF FORMS, SUCH AS ZIRCONIA ALUNDUM "STONEBLAST" AND CALCINED BAUXITE "SINTERBALL."
APEX	THE HIGHEST POINT OF A MONUMENT WHERE THE FOUR SIDES ARE TAPERED TOGETHER. THIS WORD STEMS FROM THE LATIN FOR "TOP" OR "SUMMIT."
BASE	THE FLAT, TOP PORTION OF ANY MONUMENT BASE WHICH IS CUT TO FIT THE BOTTOM (JOINT) OF THE TABLET, OR MAIN PART OF THE MONUMENT.
BELTS/SLINGS	NYLON STRAPS USED FOR THE LIFTING OF MEMORIALS.
BEVEL MARKER	A RECTANGULAR, ANGLED OR SLOPED-TOP MARKER.
BLUED	A TERM THAT DESCRIBES THE DEEPENED COLOR GIVEN TO A MONUMENT BY AN ABRASIVE USED IN SANDBLASTING.
BUFFING	APPLYING THE FINAL TOUCH TO THE STONE'S POLISHED SURFACE.
CAD PROGRAM	THIS IS GENERALLY DEFINED AS A "COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN" PROGRAM. THEY ARE AVAILABLE FROM A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SOFTWARE PACKAGES.
CAP	THE UPPERMOST PORTION OF A MONUMENT SET ON TOP OF A TABLET. THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE PIECE TO A CAP.
CARVING	THE PROCESS OF SHAPING STONE TO THE DESIRED EFFECT; INCLUDES SANDBLAST, SCULPTURAL, SHAPE, LINE AND HAND CARVING.
CEMETERY	ANY AREA SET ASIDE FOR THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD; ALSO STEMS FROM THE LATIN MEANING OF "SLEEPING PLACE."
CHAMFER	A BEVELED OR TAPERED EDGE MADE BY CUTTING AWAY OF SQUARE EDGE ON A MONUMENT.
CHECK	A CUT OR RECESS IN THE STONE, NORMALLY ON THE TOP OR ENDS; A RABBET-SHAPED CUTTING.
CHIPPED	MEANS EXACTLY WHAT IT SAYS – SMALL CHIPS MAR THE EDGE OF A STONE.
COLUMBARIUM	A VAULT WITH NICHEs FOR URNS CONTAINING ASHES OF THE DEAD.
COLUMNAR	AN ORDERLY ARRANGEMENT OF SINGLE OR DOUBLE COLUMNS ON A MONUMENT.
COLUMN	ANY PILLAR CONSISTING OF A BASE, A CYLINDRICAL SHAFT AND A CAPITAL OR CROWN. THERE ARE FIVE TYPES OF COLUMNS – SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS THE FIVE ORDERS OF ARCHITECTURE. THE FIVE ORDERS DIFFER IN THE PROPORTIONS OF THEIR COLUMNS AND IN RICHNESS OF THEIR ORNAMENTATION. THESE ORDERS HAVE LONG BEEN CALLED THE TUSCAN ORDER, DORIC ORDER, IONIC ORDER, CORINTHIAN ORDER AND THE COMPOSITE ORDER. THE DORIC, IONIC AND CORINTHIAN ORDERS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT SINCE THEY ARE IN MORE GENERAL USE.

DORIC – THE MOST SIMPLE AND THE OLDEST OF ALL COLUMN DESIGNS. NAMED FOR THE DORIANS, WHO CREATED IT ON THE AEGEAN ISLANDS, THE DORIC ORDER ORIGINALLY HAD HEAVY, FLUTED COLUMNS WITH NO BASE AND PLAIN, SAUCER-LIKE CAPITALS. THE CORNICE WAS BOLD AND SIMPLE. THE ROMANS EVENTUALLY MODIFIED THIS TO AS WE KNOW IT TODAY.

IONIC – ANOTHER CLASSICAL GREEK COLUMN THAT WAS MODIFIED BY THE ROMANS, THE IONIC ORDER ORIGINALLY WAS TOPPED BY TWO OPPOSING VOLUTES OR SCROLL-LIKE ORNAMENTS ON THE CAPITAL OR CROWN. IONIC FLUTES DIFFER FROM DORIC FLUTES IN THAT THEY ARE BEVELED.

CORINTHIAN – THE MOST ORNATE OF THE THREE GRECO-ROMAN ORDERS. AS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED BY THE GREEKS, IT HAD A SLENDER, FLUTED COLUMN WITH A HIGHLY ORNATE BELL-SHAPED CAPITAL DECORATED WITH ACANTHUS LEAVES. THE ROMANS ALTERED THIS DESIGN SLIGHTLY AS WELL.

COMPOSITE – THE COMPOSITE CAPITAL IS A MIXTURE OF ELEMENTS OF THE IONIC AND CORINTHIAN CAPITALS. ITS FORMS AND GENERAL PROPORTIONS ARE LIKE THOSE OF THE CORINTHIAN ORDER. THERE ARE TWO BANKS OF LEAVES PLACED AS IN THE CORINTHIAN, BUT THE UPPER PART USES IONIC CAPITAL VOLUTES PLACED AT AN ANGLE.

TUSCAN – THE MOST SIMPLE OF THE FIVE ORDERS. COMPARATIVELY FEW LINES ARE REQUIRED TO EXPRESS ITS COMPONENT PARTS.

THE FIVE ORDERS HAVE ONE PROPORTION IN COMMON, VIZ. VIZ IS THE RELATION OF THE HEIGHT OF THE COLUMN TO THE HEIGHT OF THE ENTABLATURE. THE ENTABLATURE IN ALL FIVE ORDERS IS ONE QUARTER THE COLUMN HEIGHT. THE HEIGHT OF THE COLUMN IN ANY ORDER IS, THEREFORE, THE HEIGHT OF FOUR ENTABLATURES, AND THE HEIGHT OF THE ENTABLATURE, ALTHOUGH A VARIABLE QUANTITY WILL ALWAYS BEAR A CERTAIN RELATION TO THE GENERAL HEIGHT OF THE ORDER.

CONCAVE	A CURVE MATCHING THE INNER SURFACE OF A SPHERE.
CONVEX	THE OPPOSITE OF CONCAVE; ANY CUT MATCHING THE OUTER SURFACE OF A SPHERE.
CREMATION OR CINERARY URN	A DELICATE URN USED TO HOLD THE REMAINS OF A CREMATED BODY. CINERARY IS FROM THE LATIN , MEANING “DUST” OR “ASHES.” THE PLACE WHERE SUCH URNS ARE KEPT IS CALLED A CINERARIA .
CRYPT	AN ENCLOSURE FOR A CASKET IN A MAUSOLEUM OR IN AN AREA ENTIRELY OR PARTLY UNDERGROUND; FROM THE LATIN WORD MEANING “HIDDEN.” IN EUROPE THE WORD REFERS PRIMARILY TO BURIAL PLACES IN OR UNDER CHURCHES.
DESIGN	A SKETCH OR PICTURE OF AN ARTIST’S CONCEPT OF A SPECIALLY DESIGNED MONUMENT.
DIE	THE PRIMARY BODY PORTION OF ANY MONUMENT WHETHER LARGE OR SMALL. THIS TERM IS BEING REPLACED BY THE WORDS “TABLET” OR “SCREEN.”
DOWEL	A PIN DESIGNED TO HOLD TWO JOINTS OF STONE TOGETHER. THEY ARE USUALLY MADE OF A STRONG NONCORROSIVE METAL, SUCH AS STAINLESS STEEL OR ALUMINUM.
DRAINAGE HOLES	OPENINGS DRILLED IN ANY SECTION OF A MONUMENT OR VASE WHERE IT IS NECESSARY TO CARRY OFF WATER.
DROP	THE AMOUNT OF SPACE BETWEEN THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST POINT OF THE BEVEL OR OTHER PARTS OF A MONUMENT.
EPITAPH	ANY INSCRIPTION OR TEXT ON A MONUMENT IN MEMORY OF THE PERSON OR PERSONS INTERRED THERE. FROM THE LATIN MEANING “FUNERAL ORATION,” AN EPITAPH SHOULD STATE SOMETHING ABOUT THE DECEASED.
EPOXY	A THERMOSETTING RESIN USED AS A STRONG ADHESIVE TO PERMANENTLY ATTACH TWO ITEMS TOGETHER.
ETCHING	MOST COMMONLY REFERRED TO WHEN DRAWING PORTRAITS OR SCENES ON MEMORIALS. ALSO KNOWN AS DIAMOND ETCHING LASER ETCHING OR COLOR ETCHING WHEN VARIOUS COLORS ARE ADDED TO THE SCENE OR PORTRAIT.
FACE	THE FRONT OF ANY MONUMENT OR THE FORWARD PORTION OF A SLANT-FACE MARKER.
FLAT CARVING	ANY LINE CARVING ON THE SURFACE OF STONE; ALSO CALLED “SKIN CARVING.”
FROST	TO REMOVE THE POLISH AND LEAVE A MATTE FINISH; ALSO CALLED “DUST” OR “SKIN.”
GRASS MARKER	A SMALL, FLAT PIECE OF STONE OR METAL SET WITH OR APPROXIMATELY WITH THE LEVEL OF THE GROUND. ALSO CALLED A LAWN-LEVEL MARKER – AN OUTDATED TERM IS FLUSH MARKER .
HAMMER	REFERS TO THE HAND OR PNEUMATIC TOOL WITH A MULTI-POINTED HEAD. THESE CHISELS ARE USED TO AXE, DRESS OR HAMMER THE SURFACE OF A STONE.
KEystone	THE IMPORTANT, WEDGE-SHAPED STONE SET AT THE APEX OF AN ARCH TO HOLD ALL OTHER STONES IN PLACE.
LITHICHROME	A LIQUID THAT CAN BE SPRAYED ONTO PANELS OR CARVINGS OR INTO LETTERS TO ENHANCE OR CHANGE THE NATURAL CONTRAST OR COLOR. A VARIETY OF SHADES AND COLORS ARE AVAILABLE.
MARGIN	THE EXTREME OUTER PORTION OF ANY STONE PIECE, WHICH IS GIVEN A CONTRASTING FINISH FOR EFFECT. CAN BE SAWN, STEELED, HAMMERED OR POLISHED
MARKER	A HEADSTONE, USUALLY SMALL, USED TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS.
MAUSOLEUM	A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE FOR ABOVE-GROUND BURIAL. IT WAS ALSO NAMED FOR MAUSOLOS , A KING IN ANCIENT ASIA MINOR WHOSE WIFE, ARTEMISIS , HAD AN ELABORATE, ABOVE-GROUND TOMB ERECTED TO HIS MEMORY IN 350 B.C. AT HALICARNASSUS .
MEMORIAL	A STRUCTURE DESIGNED TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF A PERSON OR EVENT; FROM THE LATIN WORD “TO REMEMBER.” “MEMORIAL” IS COMMONLY USED TO REFER TO A GRAVESTONE OR MONUMENT.
MONUMENT	A STRUCTURE ERRECTED AS A MEMORIAL; FROM THE LATIN WORD “MONERE,” MEANING “TO REMIND.” TECHNICALLY, THE MONUMENT SERVES AS THE MEMORIAL.
NOSINGS	USED IN TWO WAYS: ON MONUMENTS, IT REFERS TO ANY CUT OR ADDITIONAL STONE PROJECTING OUT BEYOND THE MAIN SURFACE LINE. ON SLANT MARKERS, IT CAN REFER TO EITHER THE TOP OR FRONT.
OBELISK	FROM THE GREEK , MEANING A POINTED PILLAR. ANY TALL, FOUR-SIDED SPIRE THAT TAPERS TO A PYRAMIDAL POINT.
OUTLINE FROSTED	DESCRIBES LETTERS FORMED BY LINES SANDBLASTED ON A FINISHED SURFACE. THE LETTERS ARE FROSTED AND OUTLINED WITH A RECESSED LINE AROUND THE LETTER.
OVAl TOP	ANY MONUMENT OR MARKER WITH THE TOP ARCHED AS A SEGMENT OF A CIRCLE.



PANEL	A FLAT SECTION OF ANY MONUMENT THAT IS SET APART BY RAISING, RECESSING OR FRAMING THAT IS USUALLY USED TO CONTAIN A NAME OR INSCRIPTION.
PEDESTAL	FROM THE LATIN WORD MEANING "FOOT;" THE BASE OF ANY URN, STATUE, ETC.
PILLAR	A COLUMN TO SUPPORT A STRUCTURE OR TO SERVE AS A MONUMENT; SEE COLUMN.
PITCHING (BALANCED ROCK-PITCHING)	THE CUTTING OR CHIPPING AWAY OF ROUGH STONE TO A PREDETERMINED AND MARKED LINE.
PLINTH	FROM THE GREEK MEANING "STONE BLOCK." A STONE SLAB OR BLOCK, USUALLY SQUARE OR RECTANGULAR, UPON WHICH A PEDESTAL, COLUMN, TABLET, SCREEN OR STATUE IS PLACED.
POLISHED	TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE HIGH GLOSS FINISH ON A MONUMENT.
PROPORTION	THAT VITAL ALLOCATION OF SPACE ON A MONUMENT WHICH DETERMINES ITS FINAL APPEARANCE; A HARMONIZING OF SPACES, LETTERING AND ORNAMENTS.
RAISED LETTERS	A PARTICULAR STYLE OF LETTER THAT IS ACCOMPLISHED BY REMOVING THE AREA AROUND THE LETTER AND MAKING IT RAISED FROM THE SURFACE.
RELIEF	THE PROJECTION OF CARVED FIGURES, FLORAL DECOR, SYMBOLS, ETC., FROM THE FLAT SURFACE OF A MONUMENT.
ROUND RAISED LETTERS	A PARTICULAR STYLE OF LETTERING THAT IS SIMILAR TO THE RAISED LETTERS EXCEPT THAT ALL EDGES ARE CARVED TO LEAVE A SEMI-CIRCLE (HALF-ROUND) ON THE LETTER. IT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN A PANEL OR JUST RAISED FROM THE BALANCE OF THE MEMORIAL.
RUBBING	THE PROCESS OF TRACING THE LETTERING AND DESIGN ON THE FACE OF A MONUMENT BY RUBBING CRAYON OR THE LIKE OVER PAPER.
SANDBLAST	IN GENERAL TERMS, A MACHINE THAT MIXES ABRASIVE AND AIR PRESSURE IN A CONTROLLED MANNER. IT IS THE MOST COMMON PROCESS USED TO CARVE AND LETTER MEMORIALS.
SCANNER	A TOOL THAT CAN ENTER TEXT, PHOTOS OR IMAGES OF OBJECTS IN THE COMPUTER SYSTEM TO CREATE DESIGNS FOR MEMORIALS AND OTHER PROJECTS.
SCROLL	AN ORNAMENTAL DESIGN THAT RESEMBLES A PARTIALLY ROLLED SCROLL; ALSO A TERM USED FOR THE INSCRIPTION PLATE ON A BRONZE MARKER.
SCULPTURE	FROM THE LATIN WORD MEANING "TO CARVE;" SHAPING STONE TO ANY PREDETERMINED FORM.
SETTING COMPOUND	USED TO FORM THE SEAL BETWEEN THE TABLET AND BASE OR OTHER JOINTS OF THE MONUMENT THAT MUST BE SEALED TO KEEP WATER OUT. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT AN ADHESIVE.
SETTING CUSHIONS	USED AS SPACERS BETWEEN JOINTS WHEN SETTING; MOST COMMONLY MADE OF PLASTIC.
SHELL ROCK	ROCK PITCHING BY REMOVING LARGE PIECES OF STONE AND LEAVING A SHELL-LIKE APPEARANCE; REQUIRES THE SKILL OF A STONECUTTER FAMILIAR WITH THE GRAIN OF THE STONE.
SKIN CARVING	ANY SHALLOW CARVING ON THE SKIN OR SURFACE OF A MONUMENT THAT IS EXECUTED BY REMOVING THE POLISH; HAS NO DEPTH.
SLANT	NAME FOR A MARKER WITH AN EXTREME SLANT FACE AND USUALLY WITH A NOSING AT EITHER THE TOP OR BOTTOM, OR BOTH
STEELED	THE SURFACE OF ANY STONE THAT IS GROUND WITH STEEL SHOT, RESULTING IN A SMOOTH, UNPOLISHED AND MATTE FINISH; ALSO REFERRED TO AS "DUSTING."
STENCIL	A SHEET OF RUBBER MATERIAL AFFIXED TO THE STONE ONTO WHICH THE DESIGN HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED AND THEN CUT OUT TO EXPOSE PORTIONS OF THE STONE FOR SANDBLASTING.
STOCK	ANY PIECE OF ROUGH, QUARRIED STONE FROM WHICH A MARKER OR MONUMENT IS MADE; ALSO THE INVENTORY OF MONUMENTS HELD BY A MEMORIALIST.
STRAIGHT EDGE	A LONG, NARROW TOOL MADE OF EITHER WOOD OR METAL, WITH A STRAIGHT EDGE FOR TESTING OR DRAWING STRAIGHT LINES.
TAPER	THE GRADUAL DECREASE IN THICKNESS OR WIDTH OF A MONUMENT OR MARKER. THE TAPER IS NORMALLY TOWARD THE TOP ALTHOUGH REVERSE TAPER IS NOT UNUSUAL
TOMB	ANOTHER TERM FOR A BURIAL PLACE; FROM THE GREEK WORD MEANING "TO REMEMBER."

TURNED WORK

ANY CIRCULAR-SHAPED MEMORIAL PIECE SUCH AS COLUMN, VASE, BALL, ETC.

VAULT

A BURIAL CHAMBER USUALLY FOUND UNDERGROUND.

V-SUNK LETTERS

A PARTICULAR STYLE OF LETTER THAT USES A CARVER'S CHISEL TO CREATE THE LETTER BY CUTTING INTO A "V" SHAPE IN THE STONE.

WASH OR DROP WASH

A BEVELED SURFACE MAKING UP THE EXPOSED PORTION OF THE UPPER EDGE OF A MONUMENT BASE. THAT IS DESIGNED TO ASSURE WATER RUN-OFF.

ABBREVIATIONS AND FINISHES

THESE ARE THE MOST COMMON MONUMENT ABBREVIATIONS AND FINISHES

BRP

BALANCED
ROCK PITCH

P1

POLISHED 1
SURFACE ONLY

P2, BRP

(USED FOR DIES)
POLISHED FRONT AND
BACK, TOP AND ENDS
ARE ROCK PITCH.

P3, BRP

(USED FOR DIES)
POLISHED FRONT,
BACK, AND TOP WITH
ROCK PITCH ENDS.

P5 (OR AP)

ALL 5 EXPOSED
SURFACES ARE
POLISHED. AP STANDS
FOR "ALL POLISHED"

PFT, BRP

(USED FOR BASES
AND GRASS
MARKERS)
POLISHED FLAT TOP
WITH REMAINING EX-
POSED SIDES BEING
ROCK PITCHED.

PFT, SS

(USED FOR GRASS
MARKERS)
POLISHED FLAT TOP
WITH REMAINING
EXPOSED SIDES
BEING SAWN.

PSF

(USED FOR SLANTS)
THE FRONT SLANT
FACE IS POLISHED.

MONUMENTS CAN BE FINISHED IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. LIKE ANY INDUSTRY, THE MONUMENT INDUSTRY HAS ITS OWN LINGO USED TO DESCRIBE ITS PRODUCTS. LET US HELP YOU PICK THE PERFECT FINISH FOR YOUR LOVED ONE'S EVERLASTING MEMORY.



GRANITE FINISHES

FINISHES SHOWN IN JET BLACK