



Maryland Department of Planning
Maryland Historical Trust

Martin O'Malley
Governor
Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

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Secretary
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Cemetery Preservation Resources
October 2009

On-line Resources:

State of Maryland human remains regulations:

- For **crimes relating to human remains**, see [Criminal Law Article, Title 10-401: Crimes Against Public Health, Conduct, and Sensibilities; Subtitle 4](#)
- [Real Property Article, Title 14-121 and 14-122](#), provide a framework for persons of interest to gain **access to burial sites** while protecting the landowner from liability.
- [Article 66B Land Use, Subdivision Controls, Title 5.03, \(d\)](#), requires an **easement be provided for burial sites** located on land that is to be subdivided.

Maryland Historical Trust

Historic Cemetery Preservation: <http://mht.maryland.gov/cemeteries.html>

Preservation Consultants directory: http://mht.maryland.gov/consultant_directory.html

NCPTT National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

Website: [http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/\(S\(ju24gay3ykozym45ykvxhdyb\)\)/default.aspx?m=2](http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/(S(ju24gay3ykozym45ykvxhdyb))/default.aspx?m=2)

Glossary: http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/pdf/Rapid_Cemetery_Assessment_Definitions.pdf

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standguide/>

“The Standards are neither technical nor prescriptive, but are intended to promote responsible preservation practices that help protect our Nation's irreplaceable cultural resources.”

Association for Gravestone Studies

<http://www.gravestonestudies.org/>

278 Main Street, Suite 207

Greenfield, MA 01301

Phone: 413-772-0836

A resource for the study of the history of cemeteries and gravestones and their preservation. The AGS annual meeting usually includes a conservation/treatment workshop.

Chicora Foundation

A public, non-profit heritage preservation organization located in Columbia, SC. Work includes archaeological and historical research throughout the Southeastern United States, public education (primarily in South

Carolina), and work in conservation and preservation with museums, libraries, archives, historic organizations, and private citizens. Chicora offers an extensive online cemetery preservation section:

<http://www.chicora.org/conservation.html>

Chicora's lawn maintenance section has general guidelines for best practices in cemetery lawn maintenance, with useful links at the end of the page:

<http://www.chicora.org/lawn-maintenance.html>

<http://www.chicora.org/pdfs/Lawn%20Maintenance.pdf>

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works

<http://aic.stanford.edu/>

1717 K Street NW, Suite 200

Washington, D.C. 20006

Phone: 202-452-9545

Maintains a referral list of professional conservators for treatment of monuments and sculpture.

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/cemetery.htm> (cemetery preservation)

<http://www.state.sc.us/scdah/hstcm.pdf> (**preservation handbook**)

Archives & History Center

8301 Parklane Road

Columbia, SC 29223

Phone: 803-896-6100

Fax: 803-896-6167

Texas Historical Commission

<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/>

P.O. Box 12276

Austin, TX 78711-2276

Phone: 512/463-6100

Home of the Texas cemetery preservation program. The website contains information on the preservation of threatened cemeteries and a **printable booklet** on cemetery preservation guidelines. Click on "cemeteries" and "preserving cemeteries."

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries

[Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept.: Heritage Programs: Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries](#)

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Heritage Conservation Division

725 Summer St NE, Suite C

Salem OR 97301

mirra.meyer@state.or.us

Phone: 503-986-0685

Fax: 503-986-0793

Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mdcpmb/coalition01.htm>

P.O. Box 1533

Ellicott City, MD 21041

The Coalition was formed in 1991 as a non-profit advocacy organization and is committed to the protection of human burial sites from unauthorized and unwarranted disturbance, by man or nature. The membership includes historians, genealogists, archaeologists, cultural preservationists, Native Americans, legislative members, and citizens of Maryland who care about their heritage and ancestors. The Coalition holds an annual conference in April of each year.

Office of Cemetery Oversight
Advisory Council on Cemetery Operations
500 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3651
(410) 230-6229
Toll free: 1-888-218-5925

<http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/occprof/cemetery.htm>

e-mail: cemet@dllr.state.md.us

Contact: David Goodman

The Office of Cemetery Oversight was created during the 1997 Maryland Legislative session, and was placed under the regulatory authority of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation in August of 1997. The primary objective for the establishment of this Office was to license and monitor individuals, partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies operating cemeteries or providing burial goods and services to consumers in the State of Maryland. Additionally, the Office of Cemetery Oversight is also responsible for investigating and mediating consumer complaints involving registrants or permittees. The Office also determines and enforces the ethical standards related to the operation of cemeteries and the providing of burial goods and services within the State, in order to protect the citizens of Maryland from unfair and unscrupulous practices.

Howard County Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board
George Beyzer, 410-313-4399

The Neighborhood Design Center

Baltimore Office:

2645 N. Howard St.

Baltimore, MD 21218

(410) 366-3223

Prince George's County Office:

3718 Rhode Island Ave., Suite 201

Mt. Rainier, MD 20712

(301) 779-6010

This group offers pro bono design services to community groups and non-profit organizations. For a small fee, a historic landscape architect can give on-site assistance in identification of plants in an overgrown cemetery so historic plantings may be retained and nourished while invasives and weeds may be eliminated. Design assistance may also be obtained in the planning of appropriate embellishments to the cemetery.

National Park Service

A preservation brief from the National Park Service on protecting cultural landscapes:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/brief36.htm>

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

National Park Service

99 Warren St.

Brookline, MA 021467

Phone: 617-566-1689

<http://www.nps.gov/oclp/index.htm>

Promotes the stewardship of significant landscapes through research, planning, and sustainable preservation maintenance.

Comprehensive pdf booklet; see the charts at the end for recording conditions and treatment of individual plants:

<http://www.nps.gov/oclp/Guide%20to%20Developing%20a%20Preservation%20Maintenance%20Plan%20for%20an%20Historic%20Landscape.pdf>

Potifos

A site with links to resources on cemetery history and preservation organizations, publications, educational programs, discussion groups, and cemeteries: www.potifos.com/cemeteries.html

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Bell, Edward L. *Vestiges of Mortality and Remembrance: A Bibliography on the Historical Archaeology of Cemeteries*. Metuchen, NJ, and London: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1994.

The Boston Experience: A Manual for Historic Burying Grounds Preservation. Boston Parks and Recreation Department, City of Boston, 1989.

Brown, John Gary. *Soul in the Stone: Cemetery Art from America's Heartland*. University Press of Kansas, 1994.

Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. *Your Guide to Cemetery Research*. Betterway Books, 2002.

Chappell, Helen. *The Chesapeake Book of the Dead: Tombstones, Epitaphs, Histories, Reflection, and Oddments of the Region*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999.

Curry, Dennis C. *Feast of the Dead: Aboriginal Ossuaries in Maryland*. Maryland Historical Trust Press, 1999. Maryland Historical Trust archeologist Dennis C. Curry details the excavated data from each of Maryland's ossuaries, and takes a look at what these unique mortuary features may mean. Clearly reflective of Native American spiritual beliefs, ossuaries also appear to evince native social, political, and status concepts which evolved during the period from roughly A.D. 1400 to the time of European contact.

Directory of Maryland Burial Grounds. This 1996 publication with locational information on cemeteries in Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Carroll, and Montgomery Counties provides a description of condition, date range of burials, and location of additional information. (Location descriptions can be vague; ADC map used is out of date and map numbers and grids have since changed.)

Gayle, Margo and David W. Look, AIA. *Metals in America's Historic Buildings: Uses and Preservation Treatments*. Washington D.C.: U. S. Department of the Interior. 1980; Revised reprint 1992. To order a copy, write: Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402-9325. 202-783-3238. <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/index.html>.

Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places. National Register Bulletin #41. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1992.
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/cem.htm>

Keister, Douglas. *Stories in Stone: A Field Guide to Cemetery Symbolism and Iconography*. Gibbs Smith, 2004.

Little, M. Ruth. *Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Gravemarkers*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

Llewellyn, John F. *A Cemetery Should Be Forever*. Tropico Press, 1999.

London, Mark. *Masonry, How to Care for Old and Historic Brick and Stone*. Washington D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1986.

Ludwig, Allen. [*Graven Images: New England Stonecarving and its Symbols, 1650-1815*](#). Wesleyan University Press, 1966.

McGahee, Susan H. and Mary W. Edmonds. *South Carolina's Historic Cemeteries: A Preservation Handbook*. Columbia: S.C. Department of Archives and History, 1997.

Metcalf, Peter and Huntington, Richard. [*Celebrations of Death: The Anthropology of Mortuary Ritual*](#). Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Meyer, Richard. [*Cemeteries and Gravemarkers*](#). Utah State University Press, 1992.

Preservation of Historic Burial Grounds. Information Series No. 76, 1993. National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1995. This booklet authored by Lynette Strangstad is a good overview of methods for preservation of historic graveyards, including care of landscape, tombstones and other features and techniques for recording/documenting sites. Contains a sample survey form. Available through the National Trust for Historic Preservation website and Association for Gravestone Studies website.

Sloane, David Charles. *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.

Strangstad, Lynette. *A Graveyard Preservation Primer*. Nashville: The American Association for State and Local History. 1988. A comprehensive book on the preservation of graveyards, featuring topics found in the booklet above, plus information on cemetery documentation and instructions on the resetting of stones. Available through the Association for Gravestone Studies website.

Thompson, Sharyn and Lynette Strangstad. *Florida's Historic Cemeteries, A Preservation Handbook*. Tallahassee: Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board. 1989.

Wright, Robert Hughes and Wilber B. Hughes III. *Lay Down Body: Living History in African American Cemeteries*. Detroit: Visible Ink Press, 1996.