

## New Hampshire Old Gravestone Association Monument Survey Form Instructions

- Name of cemetery* Use the most commonly known name.
- Section* Many graveyards have been assigned sections. Sometimes this is done by the person doing the survey, sometimes it is done by the cemetery itself. The section may be identified by a letter, a number, or simply “old” and “new.” If sections exist, or if you assign them to make your work easier, please provide us with a simple diagram. If not, leave this part of the form blank.
- Row, lot & stone numbers* These numbers are typically assigned by the person doing the survey. If you assign numbers, please provide us with a simple diagram that indicates the order in which these numbers were assigned.
- Orientation* Direction in which the front of the monument is facing. Sometimes it’s difficult to tell which side is the front. If there is a family name on one side of the stone, we consider this to be the front. If this rule doesn’t apply to the stone you are working on, just use your best judgement.
- Description of stone* Check off any boxes that apply.
- Vertical, is a standing tablet stone.  
Horizontal is a tablet stone designed to lay flush with the ground. This term does not apply to vertical tablet stones that have fallen.  
Fieldstone is a naturally shaped piece of stone, usually unmarked..  
Obelisk is a tall shaft usually tapered to a pyramidal point at the top.  
Military is an official stone issued by the military. They are typically modest horizontal tablets, often with metal plates.  
Columns may be broken, draped or topped with an urn.  
Table is a table-like marker with four legs supporting a horizontal slab.  
Box is similar to a table with enclosed sides—a large rectangular above ground box.  
Sculptures are carved representations of angels, animals people or things.  
Crosses refer to markers in the shape of a cross in any form.
- Material*
- Granite has a crystalline texture and dappled coloration.  
Slate is a smooth grained stone ranging in color from green to blue to purple and tends to have visible layers which are also known as bedding planes.  
Marble is white or grayish-white and usually shows signs of erosion or sugaring (sugaring is when the surface of the stone is wearing away in a granular manner).  
Metal is usually white bronze.  
Soapstone is typically greenish in color with a surface texture similar to soap. Over time, this surface texture erodes and soapstone is often mistaken for slate.
- Condition*
- Mint is when the carving is sharp and crisp and can be read easily.  
Clear but worn means the carving is easy to read, but with smooth, worn edges.  
Mostly legible means that most of the inscription can be read with only a few losses.  
Traces means that most of the inscription has been lost.  
Illegible means that the inscription cannot be read.  
Underground means that part or all of the inscription is underground.
- Additional Comments:* Please note any other unusual or interesting aspects of the stone. For instance, sometimes (but not always) the carver of the stone has “signed” his work with his initials and/or the town where he was from. This inscription is usually at the bottom of the stone at the front or the back.

