



SELECTED SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE FOR CEMETERY PRESERVATION PROJECTS IN NEW YORK STATE

PRESERVATION LEAGUE OF NEW YORK STATE • 44 CENTRAL AVENUE, ALBANY, NY 12206
518-462-5658 • 518-462-5684 (FAX) . info@preservenys.org . www.preservenys.org

American Association of State and Local History (AASLH)

1717 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203-2991
615-320-3203; 615-327-9013 (fax)
membership@AASLH.org; www.aaslh.org
AASLH has publications and technical advice on cemetery documentation and preservation. They published one of the premiere resources for cemeteries: **A Graveyard Preservation Primer**, Lynette Strangstad, 1988, American Association for State and Local History. ISBN 0-7619-9130-1; AltaMira Press (www.altamirapress.com/) \$24.95

“Packed with effective methods of maintenance and repair, A Graveyard Preservation Primer will help you restore and prolong the life of the stones in your care. Numerous photos and illustrations further clarify and demonstrate different problems and remedies for the beginning preservationist. Strangstad, who is familiar with historic yards from Halifax to Savannah, provides a step-by-step guidebook that is an indispensable reference tool for anyone interested in graveyard preservation.”

Association for Gravestone Studies

The Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS) was founded in 1977 for the purpose of furthering the study and preservation of gravestones...Through its publications, conferences, workshops and exhibits, AGS promotes the study of gravestones from historical and artistic perspectives, expands public awareness of the significance of historic gravemarkers, and encourages individuals and groups to record and preserve gravestones. At every opportunity, AGS cooperates with groups that have similar interests. [Text from the web site]

Patricia Welch
Administrator
The Association for Gravestone Studies
Greenfield Corporate Center
101 Munson Street - Suite 108
Greenfield, MA 01301
(413)772-0836
Office Hours: Tues - Thurs 9am-3pm
info@gravestonestudies.org
www.gravestonestudies.org

Internet sites have information about model projects:

- A comprehensive list to sites, history and cemeteries around the U. S., including some case studies of successful projects can be found at: www.potifos.com/cemeteries.html
- A site with international project information: www.savinggraves.com/about/sitemap.htm
- New Orleans' Save Our Cemeteries, Inc. (www.saveourcemeteries.org) was founded in 1974 to save the historic cemeteries. The website has information about their programs.

National Park Service

The NPS website has an extensive list of resources including briefs on the National Register program, preservation issues, technical information on treatment of historic materials, publications and links to national resources for technical information. See www.nps.gov or www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/index.htm.

NPS programs that may also be helpful include:

- Heritage Preservation Services, www.cr.nps.gov/hps/ (Bryan Mitchell, Manager, 202-354-2078; nps_hps-info@nps.gov)
- Monument Research and Preservation Program “provides comprehensive assistance to parks and other constituents nationwide in the care of public sculpture and monuments. Typical services include assessment of preservation needs, art historical research, courses and workshops for managers and technicians, and production of publications, videotapes and other instructional materials.”

Dennis Montagna, Program Manager
Monument Research and Preservation Program
NPS, Philadelphia Support Office
200 Chestnut Street, 3rd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-597-5824; www.nps.gov/phso/monuments/

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Field Services Bureau (SHPO)

The website identifies resources and publications on cemetery preservation and treatment of historic materials. Regional staff may also be able to provide references for consultants and conservators. For information on regional staff contacts visit www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/state/map.htm or go to the main site and click on the "Territory Maps" link. New York State Historic Preservation Office Field Services Bureau; P.O. Box 189 Waterford, NY 12188-0189; 518-237-8643; www.nysparks.state.ny.us/field/techpres/ www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/technical/graveyard.htm

NYS Department of State Division of Cemeteries

Richard D. Fishman, Director
NYS Department of State, Division of Cemeteries
41 State Street
Albany, NY 12231-0001
518-474-6226, or 212-417-5713;
518-473-0876 (fax); cemeteries@dos.state.ny.us;
www.dos.state.ny.us/cmt/cemetery.html

The website has basic information about regulation of cemeteries, and there are two funds available to Not-for-profit Cemetery Corporations: "Restoration of Vandalism Damage" and "Repair or Removal of Dilapidated or Disrepaired Monuments..." For forms and more information:
www.dos.state.ny.us/cmt/forms.htm.

National Trust for Historic Preservation

The Trust has information sheets on sacred sites:
www.nationaltrust.org/help/information_sheets.html
www.nationaltrust.org/help/preserving_sacred_sites.html
Northeast Regional Office:
Seven Faneuil Hall Marketplace
Boston, MA 02109
617-523-0885; 617-523-1199 (fax)
nero@nthp.org

Some local cemetery restoration projects have been funded through a [NYS Legislative member item](#) or with the assistance of a community organization such as a veteran's group or an Eagle Scout program. When using community volunteers, it is important to plan the project carefully, establish standards for repair and supervise the work.

Preservation League of New York State

Through its *Preserve New York* grant program, the League provides funding for cultural resource surveys of cemeteries for the purpose of historic district designation, and historic landscape reports which provide guidance for the restoration of historic, designed cemeteries. Organizations must be a private, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization or a unit of local government. The program has an annual May deadline. Guidelines are available at www.preservenys.org or by contacting Erin Tobin for Eastern NY, etobin@preservenys.org or Tania Werbizky for Western NY, twerbizky@preservenys.org.

In addition to historic gravestones and buildings, the designed landscape of historic cemeteries may be another component of a preservation program. A landscape architect will be able to assist with the assessment of an historic landscape design and determine a plan for grounds maintenance.

American Society of Landscape Architects

www.asla.org/; 636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736
202-898-2444; 202-898-1185 (fax)

Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation

www.mindspring.com/~ahlp
Maintaining the grounds of a cemetery or reconstructing the layout of a historic burial ground is an important step in planning the preservation of a cemetery. The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation has information on historic landscapes and plants.

You may be able to locate conservators who can assist with the preservation of gravestones, sculpture and other structures through the NYS Office of Historic Preservation (noted above) or contact a national organization for information such as the **American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works**
1717 K Street NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20006
202-452-9545; 202-452-9328 (fax)
info@aic-faic.org; www.aic.stanford.edu