GRAVESTONES AND SIGNAGE

Hand Carved by Andrew Carr

A DYING ART FORM

Since the beginning of civilization, humans have chiseled words into stone, immortalizing each letter with life and vitality. Today, this ancient craft is sadly being replaced by machines. As you can see below, sandblasting technology cannot match the beauty of a letter cut by hand.

This booklet will introduce you to various ways in which we can keep this endangered art form alive. Prices are included with a works dimensions to give you a rough sense of the costs involved.

Sandblasted letters (top) seem flat and sterile compared to hand drawn/cut letters (bottom).

16 x 16, $3,000

A rose quartz boulder harmonizes beautifully with a slate inscription.

24x24, $3,000

Instead of using numerals, I chose to record the birth and death date visually. Note the subtle use of gold leaf within the black paint.

GRAVESTONES

A custom memorial is a special way to mark the passing of a loved one. I design each grave to be as unique as the person who has died. The stone, letter forms, and imagery all reflect the spirit of the deceased. With a bespoke hand carved memorial, death becomes art. In this way, a person's memory lives on for generations to come.

Most people will never see their own grave, as it is typically designed after they have died. I am very interested in changing this funerary practice by designing a gravestone with someone while they are alive. Designing your own grave would be a very personal experience. On the day of your funeral, it would be unveiled as a final message to your loved ones.

Most gravestones today typically use stencils for imagery and cookie cutter layouts. The ones above cost $5,000.

PET GRAVES

The loss of a pet can feel just as painful as the loss of a human. A pet grave is a touching reminder of all the good memories made during the pet's life.

Bespoke pet graves are typically placed in a home garden or back yard. Because of this domestic setting, there are no design limitations whatsoever. The size, shape, imagery, and letter forms can be as playful and experimental as desired.

18.5x6.25, $700

25x7.25, $1,200

21x9.25, $1,000

11x7.25, $400

SIGNAGE & ANNIVERSARY STONES

A house number, shop sign, or datestone makes a striking addition to any building. Anniversary stones (opposite) are lasting reminders of a promise taken and life shared.

4x8, $650

Red paint was added to match the restaurant's decor.

6x18, $500

6x8, $500

6x7, $700

8x8, $800

COMMISSION PROCESS

Whether for a gravestone or sign, I work according to the client's budget to design and carve a meaningful work in stone. Since each project is unique, so too are the costs involved, but the following factors must be considered:

- Overall Design
- Stone Material/Shipping from Quarry
- Transferring Design to Stone
- Cutting Shape of Stone
- Cutting Letters/Imagery
- Gold Leaf/Paint
- Installation or Shipping

Every commission begins with an initial consultation to learn about the project. If a memorial is desired, it is very important to know a cemetery's design restrictions first. The following four steps will help guide you through the process.

1. TYPE OF STONE

One must first select a stone appropriate to the project at hand.

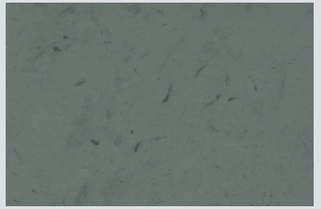
Slate comes in a variety of colors. It is both durable and soft, making it ideal for carving letters. New England's earliest graves were all carved in slate.

Marble was typically used for Victorian headstones in the mid 1800's. When freshly carved, it sparkles in the sunlight like a heavenly cloud.

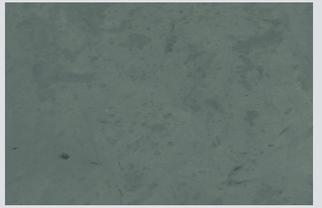
Rose quartz symbolizes love and gained popularity during the early 1900's in garden cemeteries. It is as hard as granite, yet appears transluscent in the sun.

Rose Quartz, 90 lb's, $450

Prices vary depending on the quarry, color, and material. The figures below are all for a 24x26 inch slab.



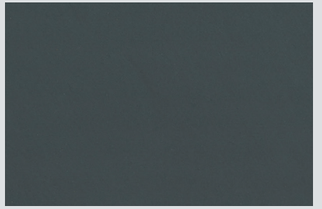
Green Slate, $648



Dark Green Slate, $648

Mottled Green & Purple Slate, $648

Purple Slate, $1,224



Black Slate, $936

Marble, $1,200

2. DESIGN

Once the stone has been selected, the shape, imagery, text, and letter forms are discussed. This page highlights a variety of stone shapes and letter forms that can be achieved.

Once an aesthetic direction and budget is established, I will mock up multiple drafts and provide a quote. This quote covers all materials, execution, and installation fees. Revisions to the design continue until the client is fully satisfied.

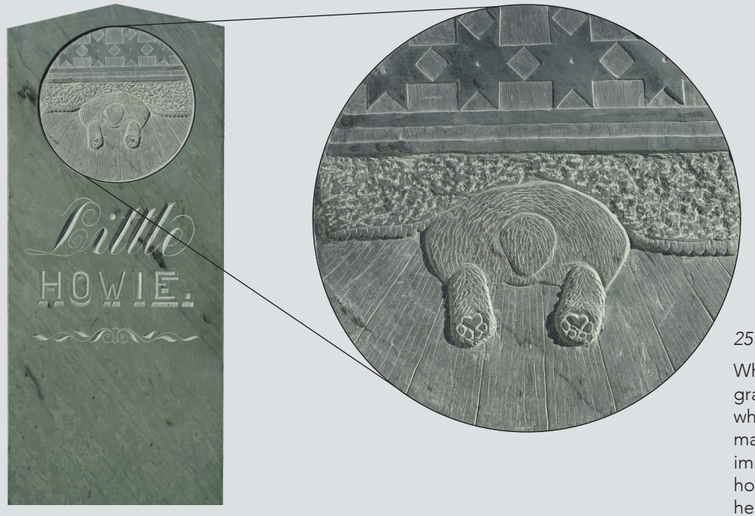
SERIF

GOTHIC

Textura

Script

FAT FACE



25x10, $1,200

When designing Howie's grave, I asked the family what imagery would make them smile. They immediately thought of how their dog would sleep headfirst under the bed.

3. EXECUTION

Once the design and quote is approved, the stone is ordered from the quarry. Depending on the size, this may take several weeks to arrive.

The design is then transferred to the stone and cut using a mallet and chisel. The process is time consuming (about 45 minutes for each letter), but the results are timeless.

Upon completion, gold leaf or paint can be added to highlight certain sections. Finally, the entire stone is polished to a smooth finish.

4. INSTALLATION

For gravestones, a setting date must be scheduled with the cemetery. Generally speaking, 25% of the stone is placed in the ground and made level. Some cemeteries, however, require a base to be made. Installation typically takes two or three hours. Some clients like to be present during this process; others prefer to visit the stone in solitude once complete.

Smaller memorials can be shipped across the country, with installation instructions included.

Andrew Carr (right) is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. His upbringing in Salem, Massachusetts exposed him to New England's rich heritage of gravestones from an early age. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out:

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