



The Roswell Historical Society, Inc.

Need More Information?

Additional information, about these three historic cemeteries and the graves therein, is available at the Roswell Historical Society/City of Roswell Research Library and Archives. This facility is open on Monday and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.. Their archivist can be reached at 770-594-6405 or edeniro@roswellgov.com.

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Parking is available in nearby lots along Woodstock Street, Oak Street, Pleasant Hill Street and Sloan Street.

Cemetery Etiquette

- ➔ Please report anyone engaged in vandalism by calling 911.
- ➔ Do not take rubbings of markers as this can cause severe damage to older stones.
- ➔ Only individuals with advance training should attempt to clean lichen, moss, or dirt from cemetery markers. If you wish to find out how to safely clean a cemetery marker, please contact the Roswell Historical Society at 770-992-1665.

Roswell's Historic District Cemeteries



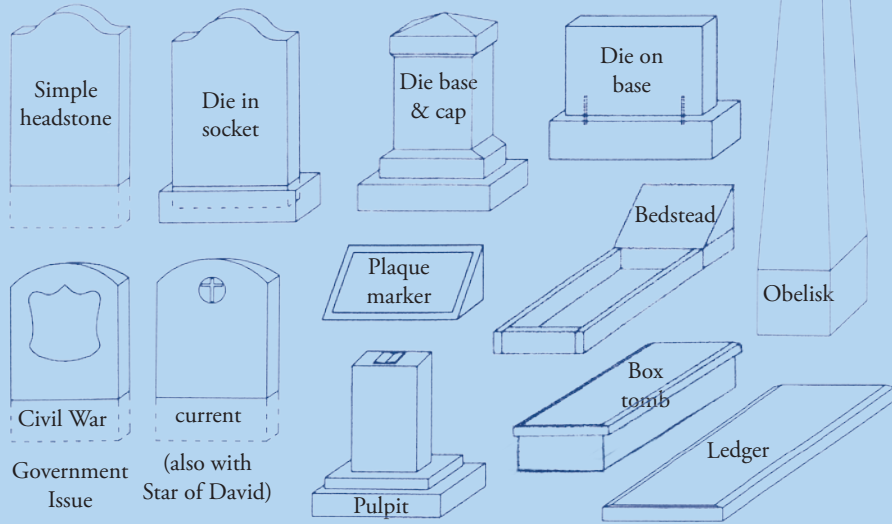
Roswell's Historic District contains three circa 1840 cemeteries. In Founders' Cemetery, Roswell's first public cemetery, lie the graves of city founder, Roswell King and Major James Stephens Bulloch, grandfather of President Theodore Roosevelt and builder of Bulloch Hall.

In the Roswell Presbyterian Cemetery, many of Roswell's other town founders were laid to rest, including members of the King, Smith, and Pratt families. Once known as the Methodist Cemetery, Old Roswell Cemetery holds more than 2,000 graves amidst wandering paths and native plants. Presbyterian and Old Roswell are still active cemeteries.

At each cemetery you will find interpretive panels to enhance your visit. We hope you will enjoy these peaceful resting grounds and learn a bit of Roswell history along your way.

Gravestone Types and Materials

Roswell's three historic cemeteries hold a variety of tombstones and monuments. See how many of these different types you can find.



GRANITE - visible grain and speckled appearance with sparkly mica and dull black flecks - extremely hard - wide range of grays and pinks.
LIMESTONE - soft - fossils often recognizable - tan, buff or gray colored - matte surface, almost never polished - no mica or veining like marble.
MARBLE - hard, dense, and crystalline - white when new or in new breaks, yellows with age - capable of taking a high polish - some color variations - predominant stone for gravestones in the 19th century.
SANDSTONE - composed of fine cemented sand grains - variety of colors including red, brown (Brownstone), gray, tan, or blue (Bluestone) - often flakes and delaminates.
SLATE - hard and brittle - usually black, gray or blue - extremely smooth, fine-grained stone - holds carving very well, inscriptions usually very clear - stones tend to be thin and simple in shape, generally not more than six inches thick.
SOAPSTONE - easily carved and darkens over age - smooth to the touch - used in 19th century, commonly for "die in socket" stones in Georgia - white, gray, greenish gray, pale green - commonly discolored in reddish or brownish hues and mottled.



Called tablet stones, these thin markers are common in the oldest sections of Roswell's cemeteries. Either simple or die-in-socket, they are fragile and easily broken.

This one in Presbyterian Cemetery marks the grave of U.S. Senator John Elliott and Martha Elliott Bulloch's son Stuart, who died of tuberculosis. Due to poor communications during the Civil War, Martha did not learn of her son's death for almost a year, as she was living in New York with her daughter Mittie Roosevelt.

Cemeteries and their Cultural History

Did you know that in most early burying grounds, the graves were positioned east/west? Feet pointed toward the east and the head of the coffin toward the west, so the body would be ready to rise up and face the new day (the sun) or when *the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised* according to the Christian Bible. Early cemeteries were seldom laid out in the neat rows with burials being more haphazard. Families rarely owned plots, and burial spaces were often reused, one on top of another. A cemetery's north side was considered less desirable, was often the last part used, and may have been set aside for slaves, servants, suicides, and unknowns, a practice begun with the Roman Catholic church.

With the coming of the *Rural Cemetery Movement* in the 1830s, an entirely new style of burial became popular inspired by romantic perceptions of nature, art, national identity, and the melancholy theme of death. An ideal of winding roads and irregular terrain dictated the orientation of the monuments, with many rural cemeteries established around scenic elevated sites at the city outskirts. Sometimes a hilly site would have stones facing all four directions. Wandering paths, natural plantings, and elaborate monuments created a romantic image of death that could be enjoyed by visitors. All three of Roswell's historic district cemeteries developed during this period. Look for elements of the movement as you visit these gravesites.



Symbols and Inscriptions

Gravestones themselves are symbolic; yet the images engraved and carved thereupon tell an additional story. Gravestone symbols can be simple to understand such as the Christian cross, hands clasped in prayer, the dove of peace, the lamb of God, and the angel. The menorah and Star of David often appear on Jewish grave markers.

Still, other gravestone symbols are more difficult to decipher. Arrows, lances, and swords often adorn graves of military men and women. A broken column tells of a life cut short. Numerous different Masonic symbols signify the brotherhood of Freemasons. Its sisterhood, the Order of the Eastern Star, uses the five-pointed star with the tip pointed down. Symbols for many other societies, clubs, and fraternal organizations can be found on tombstones.

As messengers between God and man, angels may be the most common graveyard symbol. Draped in grief, standing vigil, or kneeling in prayer, they are ever present in the cemetery landscape. Cherubim abound on children's graves.

Stone inscriptions may be a Bible verse, part of a poem, or word about the person buried therein or how they died. In Presbyterian Cemetery, Amelia Pruitte's gravestone tells us "She done what she could." Stones of military men and women often provide their service record, especially if they died serving our nation.