GRAVESITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

HEADSTONE/MARKER CLEANLINESS
HEADSTONE/MARKER HEIGHT AND ALIGNMENT
SUNKEN GRAVES

Headstone/Marker Cleanliness

- The headstone or marker contains NO environmental deposits, such as mold, mildew, moss, algae, lichen, dirt/mud, grass clippings, grass marks, thatch, accumulation of dried bird droppings, or tire marks and scuffs as a result of cemetery operations.
    - **NOTE: Headstones that have undergone a raise/realignment project may present a soiled appearance due to mineral absorption into that part of the headstone previously below grade. In some cases, this discoloration is permanent and cannot be removed by cleaning the headstone. In these situations a permanent discoloration is considered a natural occurrence and will not result in the standard not being met.**
- The inscription is not obscured by any of the conditions above.
- The natural surface has been retained. The headstone or marker has not been painted, whitewashed, calcimined or polished.
- The surface of the headstone/marker presents a uniform appearance.

Headstone/Marker Height and Alignment

Upright Headstones

- Set at a nominal height of 24 inches from the finished grade to the top of the arc. A range of 24 – 26 inches in height is acceptable.
    - **NOTE**: **Where headstones have been previously set at other heights above grade, but in general are at a uniform height throughout an area and otherwise present an overall appearance with the inscription visible.**
- Old Boys, Civil War, Spanish/American War and Civil War Unknown (6 x 6) Headstones/Markers.
    - Upright type (35 inches x 10 inches x 2 inches); set 16 -18 inches out of ground.
    - Unknown type (30 inches x 6 inches x 6 inches); set 12 inches out of ground.
- Minor deviations are permissible to provide a fair and pleasing top line and to compensate for slight ground rises or depressions within a burial section.
- The headstone is in vertical and horizontal alignment and plumb – the headstone does not appear to be sunken, tilted or fallen.
- The headstone is aligned laterally, transversely and diagonally with other headstones in the section.
- The entire inscription is visible.

Flat Markers

- Markers are parallel with the ground and no more than one inch above ground level.
- The marker is aligned laterally, transversely and diagonally with other markers in the section.
- The entire inscription is visible.
- Bronze plaques installed on the top of a flat base are horizontally and vertically aligned.

Sunken Graves

- The grade of the gravesite is level and blends with the grade level of adjacent gravesites.