

# MAUSOLEUMS (MAUSOLEA) and COLUMBARIUM (COLUMBARIA)

## Mausoleum

A mausoleum is an above-ground structure used as a burial place or tomb. The structure may be very large, often built and owned by a cemetery or church, and have a number of spaces, niches, or enclaves for many bodies; or it may be small and privately built and owned for a single family or for an individual of substantial importance, like an emperor or a president. Most mausolea are composed of stone, marble, granite or concrete. Mausolea are often inspired by the architectural styles popular at the time they were built. The most common American architectural styles were (1) 17th century: 17th Century Colonial; (2) 18th century: Georgian through 1776, then Neoclassical through 1820; (3) 18th century: Greek or Gothic or Egyptian or Classical Revival, the Corporate Style, Italian Villa, Second Empire Baroque, High Victorian Gothic, Richardsonian Romanesque, the Shingle style, Chicago School, New York Style Skyscrapers, and Boston College's Collegiate Gothic; (4) 20th century: Prairie School, Wrightian or Organic, Historicist Skyscrapers, Setback Style Skyscrapers, Art Deco, International Style, Formalism, Brutalism, Late Modern, and Post-Modern; (5) 21st century: Today, the architectural styles are a combination of any of the above styles or are individualistic based on personal preference, creativity, location, and wealth.

The word "mausoleum" comes from King Maussolios of Helicarnasis, whose burial monument was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The pyramids, considered a type of burial mausoleum, are a second ancient world wonder. Mausolea were common in Rome prior to the rise of Christianity. Wealthy Romans lined major streets of the city with the burial structures. Other famous mausoleums are the Taj Mahal, Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Lenin's Mausoleum, and various presidential tombs in the United States including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Charles Baber Cemetery has three mausolea, built some time in the 1900s, all of which are small private family structures— Atkins, Comloquoy, and Morgan. The Atkins and Comloquoy mausolea are similar in structure in that they are squared off block designs with the family name carved into the stone at the entrance. There is no external indication of who is buried inside. The Comloquoy structure is patterned in the Egyptian Revival style. It holds a beautiful stained glass window in the rear. The Atkins mausoleum appears to be a cross between the Corporate Style and Brutalism—both engineered to be a practical and commercial or business style often described as a "style-less style". The Morgan mausoleum is unique, in that it is more like a *tumulus*, which is a mausoleum built into a hill. On the mound above the entrance are memorial markers signifying who is buried in



this family plot.



## Columbarium

Columbariums are a type of mausoleum, built to inter cremated remains. The term comes from the Latin *columba* (dove) and originally referred to compartmentalized housing for doves and pigeons called a dovecote. The word was metaphorically applied to subterranean vaults provided with rows of small niches, lying one above the other. For centuries, Buddhist temples housed columbarium. The columbarium of today are erected above ground. They can be a free standing structure, or part of a mausoleum or another building, such as a church, or an in-ground encased vault structure. The columbarium at the Charles Baber Cemetery are two in-ground encased vaults with a bronze plate covering consisting of individual niches that hold engraved plates serving as memorial markers. The columbarium is built on both sides of the entrance into the Gothic chapel, which is edged with azaleas. Tulips and hostas are planted in the empty sections of the columbarium. The columbarium, like in-ground burials, offers an all natural setting.

