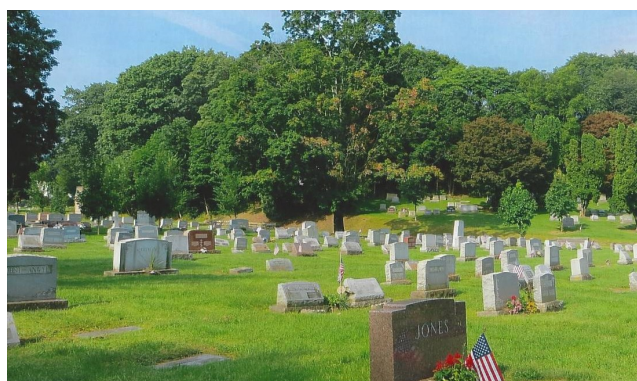


Standard Marker

The Trinity Episcopal Church owned cemetery (formerly called Mt. Laurel-1845) and the Charles Baber Cemetery (1855) is filled with many types of memorial markers of the early and mid 1800s called slabs and tablets. They were made of slate (prevalent from 1650 to 1900) and sandstone (prevalent from 1650 to 1890). The tablets and slabs were square or rectangular, and were very thin and not very tall. They were simple markers with a name and date of death. They were void of motifs and engraved adornment. By the late 1800s and early 1900s, the memorial stones were made of marble, which was soft and workable. Then brownstone was used, and later granite. Granite, which comes in many colors and hues, is the preferred stone used today. During the late 1800s and through the 1900s, steam power from the Industrial Revolution (1760 to roughly 1840), allowed more malleability to the surface of the stone to add angles, recessed and incised lettering, designs, and shapes. Also the unprecedented demand for gravestones during the Civil War (1861-1865) caused the monument-producing industry to grow and to offer more elaborate products.

While there are many styles of memorial markers found at the cemetery, a large percentage are of the **standard marker** style. For the purposes of this article and to describe the marker that is most commonly found at the cemetery, and is not covered under the other types such as a column, pedestal, block, obelisk, eclectic, or the older styles of a hip, cradle, box, or chest, the standard marker was a modification and improvement upon the slabs and tablets. It is a fatter and taller version of the slab and tablets.



The standard marker can sit flush on the ground, or on a base, or into a base. Some are fatter at the bottom and tapering at the top. Many are rounded at the top or pillow shaped. Others are a large thick square that can have a rounded top, or a flat top, or a rough top and sides and a polished front and back. One variation, called a slant marker, has a wide base that angles up (generally at a 45 degree angle) to a tapered top. Another variation is a bevel or pillow marker, which is not as steep as the slant marker, with the back being raised 2-4 inches higher than the front and appearing to curl or scroll backward. Another variation is a thick tablet stone with a round or dome-shaped top. Or the marker can be a shouldered tablet (tripartite) with an intricate angled top. The standard stones of today usually are polished granite. They may have colored etching and portraits, or they may be slanted markers with bronze name plates.

