

WAYFINDING AND INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE GUIDELINES

Placement of signage in historic cemeteries can serve many useful purposes, from increasing the safety of visitors to enhancing their experience and understanding of a sacred space.

The AACGF provides funding for two types of cemetery signage:

- **Wayfinding:** signage designed to assist visitors in navigating through the cemetery and locating individual gravesites or other points of interest, and to provide directions for both pedestrian and vehicular visitation.
- **Interpretive:** signage designed to provide visitors with information about the history and significance of the cemetery as well as specific elements within the cemetery.

An application for funding to support signage meeting these criteria should include the proposed number of signs, how they will be fabricated and by whom, and where/how they will be installed. DHR does not specify the size, composition, or content of signs that may be funded through the AACGF. We do offer the following recommendations and are glad to discuss signage plans with applicants at any time.

- To avoid inadvertent damage to graves, consider installing signage on existing fences, trees, maintenance buildings, or other nonfunerary structures.
- If posts must be used, use the smallest diameter possible, place them in or immediately adjacent to existing roads/parking areas whenever you can, and try not to sink them any more than 8 – 10 inches below the ground surface.
- Do not attach signs to gravestones, curbing, or other grave furniture. If signage specific to individual graves is desired, consider using movable structures that rest on the ground surface.

Funding Eligibility

Property owners and other qualified entities that have received a Basic Maintenance Grant (BMG) from DHR may apply for additional funding to support wayfinding and interpretive signage projects. All work should be carried out by qualified professionals in accordance with accepted preservation standards. Funding is provided for advance planning purposes only and is not available for work completed prior to approval.