



Ethics and Philosophy Of Cemetery Conservation

Principles & Criteria for Conservation is based on:

- The American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC)
Code of Ethics and Guidelines of Practice
<http://aic.stanford.edu/>
- The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/standguide/index.htm
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/index.htm>

Summary of Standards and Guidelines

1. **First and foremost: Do no harm.**
2. **Respect & Retain**
 - Respect the historic fabric and retain as much of original material and construction as is appropriate.
3. **Minimize Impact:**
 - Choose the gentlest and least invasive method.
 - Use methods and materials that do not adversely affect the cultural property or impede future examination, scientific investigation, treatment or function.
 - Choose a treatment that is *undo*-able (i.e. "reversible") or re-treatable.
4. **Understand chemicals used**
 - Do not use chemicals without thorough understanding of how those chemicals react to the materials of the artifact and any material that may have been applied later.
5. **Be authentic**
 - Do not falsify the historic artifact by using designs or materials that imply the artifact is older than it is.
6. **Identify:**
 - Restoration, replication, and repairs should be identifiable as modern so that the future generations are not deceived by the restoration
7. **Document:**
 - Document all conservation activities including examination, scientific investigation, and treatment.
8. **Maintain and Protect:**
 - Use preventive conservation measures whenever possible to avoid or forestall a more invasive conservation treatment in the future.