

BUILT FROM STONE

THE WESTERLY GRANITE STORY

VOLUME
37 of 52

A GOTHIC MAUSOLEUM-BUTTRESSES AND GARGOYLES

Less than a mile from the heart of downtown Atlanta, historic Oakland Cemetery, founded in 1850, is a showplace of sculpture and architecture and is also a botanical preserve with ancient oaks and magnolias.

A focal point of the cemetery is the well-maintained Richards mausoleum designed by H.Q. French of New York City for Robert H. Richards, a London-born entrepreneur and co-founder of Atlanta National Bank. The mausoleum, cut by the Smith Granite Company from Westerly blue granite in 1899, is a fine example of a Gothic design complete with steep roof, adornments and buttresses, which for this work are more design elements than structural supports. These buttresses along with the gargoyles are reminiscent of medieval cathedrals.

The cemetery staff has used old photographs in the Babcock-Smith House Museum collection to recreate the original planting design. The tower of the mausoleum rises nearly 33 feet, about the height of a three-story building. This front-view picture shows the arched doorway and window, the tower, and the granite wall surrounding the cemetery lot. The stone does not have the characteristic blue-gray color of the blue granite because it is soiled by dust from the red Georgia dirt.

Inside the mausoleum the semi-circular bay with its five stained glass windows grabs one's attention. Below the windows is written: "I am the Resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25.

Linda Smith Chaffee



The gargoyles on the Richards mausoleum feature lion heads with bat wings and talons. They are intended to frighten away evil spirits.

BSH Museum



Stained glass windows highlight the interior of the Richards mausoleum. Wrought iron urn is in the foreground.

BSH Museum



The Richards mausoleum, gothic in style, is a focal point of the Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta, GA.

BSH Museum

TODAY IN GRANITE

Westerly Pink Granite is shown here on a new Henny Penny convenience store on Rt. 2 in Stonington, CT. The mason contractor, Thomas Fouse of Connecticut, has used the Westerly Pink Granite in a mosaic cut as a veneer for this project. The Westerly Pink granite used for this project is actually cut into what is known as "Thin Stone." The stone has been cut on special saws to be approximately 1" thick and then applied onto a mortar bed over an appropriate substrate. The joints are then finished resulting in a look of "full bed" veneer without taking up the depth or requiring the structure that full bed veneer requires. Westerly Pink Thin Stone is also being used on a new Henny Penny on Rt. 85 in Waterford, CT. near the Crystal Mall. United Builders Supply Co., Inc. has a large selection of thin stone available as well as full bed stone including Westerly Pink, Westerly Blue, Westerly Rustic, and many other colors and shapes.



PEOPLE WHO BUILT WESTERLY DOCUMENTED GRANITE WORKERS

Palm, Axal	Parnigoni, Angelo	Pascoe, Joseph
Palmer, Grafton	Parnigoni, G.	Pasetti, Columbus
Panciera, Angelo	Parnigoni, Giovanni	Pasetti, Joseph
Panciera, John	Parnigoni, Jerome	Passetti, Antoni
Parduzzi, Battisa	Parnigoni, Lenardo	Passetti, Frank
Parker, Edwin	Parsitti, Angelo	Paterson, Peter
Parker, Fred	Parson, William	Patterson, Alexander R.
Parker, Fred, Jr.	Pascoe, Andrew	Patterson, John
Parker, John T.	Pascoe, Edwin	Patton, Malcolm
Parker, John Sr.	Pascoe, Fred	Patton, Sam
Parker, John Jr.	Pascoe, Frederick	Patton Thomas
Parniconi, Leonardo	Pascoe, George	

WESTERLY GRANITE

Eureka! Unexpected Find ...

Recollections of history of the Granite used for President Coolidge & Mrs. Coolidge tombstones.

A number of years ago, a telephone call from New Bedford, MA., led to the retrieval of a granite item related with a history to Westerly, RI. The person identified himself as a person who owned a Granite Business in New Bedford which was in the process of closing down. He indicated that he found an item that might be of interest to Westerly. He went on to described a "sample" piece of granite enclosed in a box; the granite having an inscription on it which indicated that it was a piece of Westerly light pink Granite provided by the Smith Granite Co., of Westerly, R. I. He wanted to know if there was any interest — I replied in the affirmative and asked how I could get this item. He gave directions to the place of business in New Bedford and said I could have it if I wanted to drive up there for it — a time was set up to retrieve this article.

After picking up the article, and having read the

inscription on it,

which indicated

just what he had told me, we brought the article home. Viewing this article when we arrived home, it was evident that this article had not been taken care of as there was a deposit of unknown nature, which had left the article in other than 'mint' condition. My wife asked me "What are you going to do with it?" I told her that someone would be interested in it sooner or later. And, then; leave it up to a woman's natural instinct for investigation, my wife opened the velvet-lined box, looked at it and then proceeded to remove the "sample" granite from the box! She was not done, for she turned it over; here it became obvious how important this article was! Ah! For the power of a woman ... Inscribed on the rear of the piece of granite was an inscription that indicated that this piece of granite was cut from the block of Westerly Granite that had been selected for the 'simple' headstone for Calvin Coolidge, formerly President of the United States of America.

To this day the writer does not think that the donor even knew what the reverse side of the so-called 'sample block' of granite had inscribed on it, probably never having been removed from its storage box.

Dwight C. Brown



Inscription on the exposed portion of the granite sample describes Westerly's light pink granite.

Dwight C. Brown



Dwight C. Brown

The grave of Calvin Coolidge, thirtieth president of the United States, in Plymouth, VT, was cut from Westerly Granite by a company in Quincy, MA.

YOUR PART IN HISTORY

Share your stories, photos and artifacts. Earlier volumes of "Built From Stone" are now on the museum's website; www.babcocksmithhouse.org.

Please call us at 401-377-8490 or 401-322-0452 or e-mail us at builtfromstone@gmail.com.

COMING

NEXT WEEK

Sullivan Granite Company



Babcock-Smith
House Museum

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