

Australian Standard[®]

**Headstones and cemetery
monuments**

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The following interests are represented on Committee BD/71:

Australian Cemeteries and Crematoria Association
Australian Monument Federation
National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.)
NZ Master Monumental Masons Association
Office of Australian War Graves

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Cemetery Monuments, in response to a request from the cemetery industry and to a subsequent survey.

The Standard was written with the objective of enabling cemetery authorities and monumental masons to specify minimum structural design criteria, performance, installation and renovation requirements for headstones and cemetery monuments so that these may have a minimum service life of 50 years.

The committee responsible for preparation of this Standard also considered the requirements for war grave headstones and monuments and decided to include as an appendix those requirements which are performance based and in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Australian War Graves.

Due to the specialist nature of mausolea they have not been included in this Standard. The committee is currently preparing a second stage specifically on above-ground mausolea.

The term ‘informative’ has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard**Headstones and cemetery monuments**

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard specifies minimum structural design criteria, performance and renovation requirements for cemetery monuments and crematoria memorial gardens above and below the natural ground surface. The Standard also gives guidelines on installation practice and guidelines for war grave monuments. It does not set out to preclude artistic endeavour.

This Standard does not apply to pet cemeteries or to public monuments other than cemetery monuments.

NOTES:

- 1 Appendix A deals with recommended installation practice.
- 2 Appendix B sets out guidelines for war grave monuments.

1.2 APPLICATION This Standard is intended for use by cemetery authorities, monumental masons and all personnel concerned with the installation, renovation and general requirements of cemetery monuments.

1.3 REFERENCED AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

1.3.1 Referenced documents The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1170	Minimum design loads on structures (known as the SAA Loading Code)
1170.2	Part 2: Wind loads
1302	Steel reinforcing bars for concrete
1303	Steel reinforcing wire for concrete
1304	Welded wire reinforcing fabric for concrete
2738	Copper and copper alloys—Compositions and designations
2738.3	Part 3: Cast products
2837	Wrought alloy steels—Stainless steel bars and semi-finished products
2870	Residential slabs and footings
3600	Concrete structures
3700	Masonry in buildings (known as the SAA Masonry Code)
3972	Portland and blended cements

BS

5889	Specification for one-part gun grade silicone-based sealants
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1.3.2 Related documents Attention is drawn to the following related documents:

War Cabinet decision 10 March 1922

The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the conservation of places of cultural significance (The Burra Charter)

1.4 DEFINITIONS For the purpose of this Standard the definitions below apply.

NOTE: See also glossary of terms in Appendix C.

1.4.1 Ashlar—sub-kerb walling (see Figure 1.1).

1.4.2 Base—a support structure for a monument (see Figure 1.1).

1.4.3 Canopy—a roof-like covering on a monument.

1.4.4 Cemetery—an area set aside for interment.

1.4.5 Cemetery monument—an object erected in a cemetery or crematorium memorial garden in memory of a deceased person.

1.4.6 Characteristic strength—the value of the material, as assessed by standard test, which is exceeded by 95% of the material.

1.4.7 Cramp—a small bar with bent ends used to align and to prevent movement between adjacent elements of a monumental structure (see Figure 1.1).

1.4.8 Crematorium memorial garden—an area set aside for the interment of cremated remains.

1.4.9 Dowel—A pin used to align and to prevent movement between adjacent elements of a monumental structure (see Figure 1.1).

1.4.10 Footing—a part of a structure in direct contact with and transmitting load to the supporting foundation (see Figure 1.1).

1.4.11 Foundation—the soil, subsoil or rock, whether built up or natural, upon which a structure is supported.

1.4.12 Grave—a place of burial below ground level which may or may not be lined.

1.4.13 Granite—the following three definitions are appropriate:

- (a) *Granite (commercial definition)*—an igneous rock capable of taking a polish. The texture is visibly granular, and typically homogeneous, but may be gneissic or porphyritic. Granite is typically composed of quartz and feldspars, accompanied by one or more dark (mafic) minerals. Some dark granular igneous rocks, although not geologically termed granite, are included in the definition (see ‘black granite’).
- (b) *Granite (scientific definition)*—a visibly granular, crystalline, igneous rock with equiangular or inequiangular texture, normally having an essential composition of two feldspars and quartz; certain granites contain only one feldspar. Quartz may comprise 10% to 60% of the felsic (light-coloured) constituents, whilst alkali feldspars may comprise about 35% to 100% of the total feldspar content. Granite also contains a proportion of mafic minerals, commonly micas, or hornblende, or both, and more rarely, pyroxene.
- (c) *Black granite*—dark-coloured igneous rocks generally classified by geologists as anorthosite, basalt, diabase, diorite, gabbro or norite are quarried as dimension stone and used in buildings and monuments as black granite. The mineralogical and chemical compositions of these rocks are very different from those of true granites, but black granites may nevertheless be satisfactorily used as commercial granite.

1.4.14 Headstone—an inscribed stone or monument usually set at the head of a grave (see Figure 1.1).

1.4.15 Inscription—a dedication recorded on a memorial.

NOTE: For inscription information see Appendix D.

1.4.16 Kerbing—grave edging (see Figure 1.1).

1.4.17 Ledger—a slab covering a grave or part thereof (see Figure 1.1).

- 1.4.18 Memorial**—something designed to commemorate a person or an event.
- 1.4.19 Memorial plaque**—a plate bearing an inscription.
- 1.4.20 Military grave**—a grave reserved for an eligible war veteran.
- 1.4.21 Monumental work**—construction and renovation of monuments in cemeteries by monumental masons or other appropriately trained personnel.
- 1.4.22 Natural stone**—a naturally occurring, consolidated aggregation of one or more minerals constituting the crust of the earth.
- 1.4.23 Opening**—an aperture in a monument to receive a coffin.
- 1.4.24 Ornament**—a decoration on a monument.
- 1.4.25 Pillar or column**—a vertical structure, slender in proportion to height and used as a support or ornament (see Figure 1.1).
- 1.4.26 Plot**—the land to which is attached the right to inter human remains therein.
- 1.4.27 Sandstone**—sedimentary rock composed of mineral and rock fragments with the sand particle size range 0.06 mm to 2.0 mm, often displaying distinct bedding features, which fractures around (not through) the constituent grains. The grains are bonded by various materials including silica, clay, carbonates and iron oxides, from which the varietal classifications get their names.

NOTE: Varieties of sandstone designated by the kind of interstitial or bonding materials include siliceous sandstone (silica as bonding material), argillaceous sandstone (clay), calcareous sandstone (calcium carbonate) and ferruginous sandstone (iron oxides).

1.5 OPENING DIMENSIONS The recommended minimum clear width between the inside face of kerbs and footings for new monuments for an adult grave is 790 mm. The recommended minimum length for an adult grave is 2160 mm.

1.6 PLOT IDENTIFICATION Each monument shall be indelibly and legibly identified in accordance with the requirement of the cemetery authority.

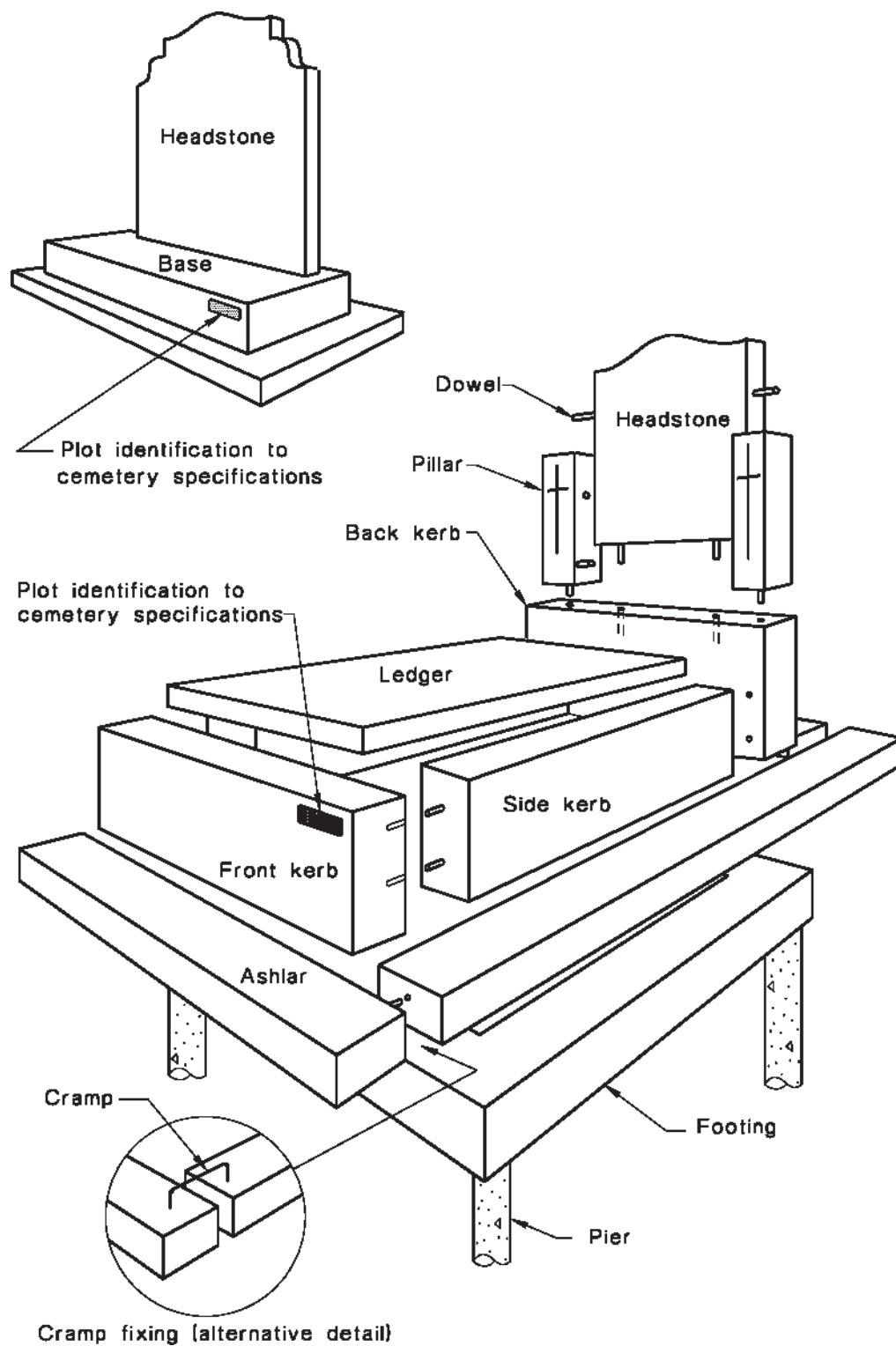


FIGURE 1.1 MONUMENTAL COMPONENTS