

FANNIN • LEHNER

PRESERVATION CONSULTANTS

# FOOTE SQUARE (Within Fairmount Cemetery)

## LEE, MASSACHUSETTS

### PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE AN INVENTORY and GRAVESTONE/MONUMENT CONDITION ASSESSMENT FOR FOOTE SQUARE

JANUARY 2025

#### INTRODUCTION

##### Description of Consultant

Fannin • Lehner is a firm with extensive experience in the field of Historic Preservation consulting. Established in 1984, Fannin • Lehner has served a variety of public and private clients in a wide range of services including National Register of Historic Places individual listings and districts, National Historic Landmark nominations, local historic districts, inventories/surveys of town or city historical and architectural cultural resources, and a number of other historic preservation services.

The firm also does condition assessments of a town or city's 's memorials and monuments, objects for which the town or city is responsible for their upkeep. This includes such objects as monuments, memorials, historic boulders, plaques, flagpoles, brick plazas, stone walls, milestones, memorial benches, sculptures, statues, cannons, historic signs, fountains, historic bandstands, all varieties of veteran memorials, yardarms, etc.

Over thirty years ago, the firm developed a unique subspecialty in the field of Historic Burial Ground Conservation. Since that time Fannin•Lehner has served public and private cemeteries in the Southern, Midwestern and Eastern United States. In burial ground planning, the firm provides gravestone and monument condition assessment services as well as burial ground preservation and master plans. In burial ground gravestone and monument conservation, the firm performs all types of conservation procedures including cleaning, resetting, adhesive repair, drilling and blind pinning and many other stone repair techniques.

In May 2018, Fannin Lehner Preservation Consultants received a Lifetime Achievement Preservation Award from the Massachusetts Historical Commission for outstanding commitment to the conservation of the historic cemeteries of the Commonwealth.

### Personnel

Working from the Concord, Massachusetts office, Fannin•Lehner Preservation Consultants is under the direction of Minxie Jensvold Fannin, Managing Principal. James C. Fannin, Jr., Senior Associate, heads up the section focusing on burial ground conservation.

Minxie Jensvold Fannin, Managing Principal, will oversee the Inventory and Gravestone/Monument Assessment project for Foote Square and participate directly in the completion of the work. With an MA in American Studies, Ms. Fannin has broad experience in burial ground documentation, carver research, stone cleaning and preservation planning for historic burial grounds.

James C. Fannin, Jr. has received extensive training in stone conservation and has thirty plus years of experience in the field. His understanding of the nature and properties of 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century stones and construction techniques for markers and monuments is important in the development of conservation plans and actual treatment of gravestones. He is an associate member of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) and performs all documentation and conservation in accordance with the AIC Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.

### Examples of Similar Projects

Fannin•Lehner has performed gravestone/monument condition assessment planning for numerous burial grounds and cemeteries, including as team member for a number of Preservation Plans and Master Plans. The projects listed below are

those in which the firm performed gravestone assessments similar to that proposed for Foote Square. These condition assessments set the stage and provide for a carefully planned program of gravestone/monument conservation.

CAMBRIDGE MA: Condition assessment of the oldest cemetery in Cambridge, the Old Burying Ground, on Harvard Square, for the Cambridge Historical Commission (2002). A phase of ongoing conservation of the gravestones and monuments continued into 2023.

STURBRIDGE MA: Old Burial Ground – Condition assessment of gravestones and monuments - 1996. Yearly phases of conservation completed in 2008 with additional conservation 2013 – 2024. North Cemetery – Condition assessment of gravestones and monuments – completed in 2015. Conservation continuing through 2025.

SALEM MA: Started working for the City of Salem in 1992 with many projects in Charter Street Cemetery, Howard Street Cemetery and Broad Street Cemetery. Most recent projects, 2021 – team member (gravestones/monuments) of two consecutive Preservation Master Plans, the first for Broad Street Cemetery and the second for Greenlawn Cemetery. Primary responsibility was preparing a gravestone/monument assessment for Broad Street Cemetery and specific sections of Greenlawn Cemetery.

### WHAT IS AN INVENTORY? WHAT IS A CONDITION ASSESSMENT?

In an Inventory, every stone or monument is recorded individually. The recording notes the full name, full date of death, and the material (slate, marble, etc.)

The gravestone/monument condition assessment, in the case of Foote Square, builds on the inventory and is actually done at the same time. The goal here is to list every stone or monument in Foote Square AND record its condition and proposed treatment, if necessary.

Most burying grounds/cemeteries have a condition assessment every 15 to 20 years. Therefore, in our view, an assessment is a serious tool in developing long range plans for the conservation of gravestones and monuments. The assessment should address not only the most threatened stones but also stones at risk in the future. In an assessment, each stone is given a priority of treatment. Using the detailed assessment plan, conservation projects can be carefully targeted at specific groups of stones.

In developing recommendations for stones to be conserved, our firm looks at every stone in a burial ground to determine its condition. While time consuming, this exhaustive and hands-on approach is vital to arriving at an accurate condition assessment, suitable to be used in bid documents.

When in Lee, we learned there probably were missing stones. The only way to verify this is to look up in the historical records if the stone is listed and check it off when it is located within Foote Square. When the assessment is complete, listed stones that are not checked off are considered missing and will be recorded on a separate list. Historical records known to Fannin/Lehner at this time are:

- Massachusetts Historical Commission's Inventory Form (1983),
  - "Inscriptions from the Cemeteries" (pre-1900?),
  - "Gravestone Inscriptions, Lee, Mass. Including All Extant of the Quarter Century 1801- 1825. By David Miller Wilcox, 1901.
  - "Gravestone Inscriptions, Lee, Mass. Including All Extant of the Quarter Century (1826 – 1850). Printed 1910.
  - "Soldiers Buried in Lee. " All wars. 1910?
  - Annotated plot map – not sure of location in Fairmount Cemetery.
- May be more helpful material in New England Historic Genealogical Society.

As a note - Many gravestones and monuments put on a conservation list may look, to the casual eye, to be perfectly fine. It is only by examining each monument individually, one discovers many of these monuments are actually loose on their pins/bases, posing a risk to the public, to whom they appear visually secure. Tilted gravestones, more than 1" out of plumb, are included as they will accelerate in their tilt over the coming years.

Fannin/Lehner has completed over 35 gravestone/monument condition assessments and almost all of these projects had little trouble securing funds to move forward into conservation.

**INVENTORY AND GRAVESTONE/MONUMENT CONDITION**  
**ASSESSMENT PROJECT:**  
**FOOTE SQUARE (WITHIN FAIRMOUNT CEMETERY)**

On December 17 and 18, 2025, Fannin•Lehner Preservation Consultants spent over five hours examining Foote Square to determine the exact number of the gravestones and monuments contained in this space as well as about how many of these gravestones and monuments required conservation. We had several meetings with the Lee Historical Commission and were joined in one meeting by Tracie Etheredge, Chair of the Cemetery Committee. These meetings gave us a better understanding of the goals of the project. We also reviewed the available documentation.

Located on the height of land in Fairmount Cemetery and ringed by the Berkshire mountains, Foote Square has a remarkable setting. It is reasonably well cared for as is the rest of Fairmount Cemetery. Being quite level, with parking nearby, it is easily accessible by the general public. Foote Square is not heavily treed and, being December, it was not possible to see other plantings in the Cemetery.

After reading an interesting article by James Parrish, "Berkshire Gravestones and their Carvers," (Berkshire History, Spring 1984 Vol IV, No. 2) we concluded that there must be recognized stones by local gravestone carvers in Foote Square. Specifically associated with Lee, Parrish mentions Abraham Collins and "the Stugies of Lee," who owned stone yards in Lee and continued in the gravestone cutting trade from roughly 1795 to 1901. Fannin/Lehner will note any signed stones as well as any especially outstanding examples of gravestone carving.

We concluded subsequent to the examination that there are a good number of stones in need. It was also evident that a plan of Foote Square with stone locations noted was a necessary prerequisite for the assessment to commence.

During the on-site review, the slate and the predominately marble gravestones and marble monuments were found to be broken, tilted, fallen, delaminating (slate stones), loose on pins and loose without pins. A substantial number of stones have been repaired and rebroken, leaving substantial previous repair material to be removed during future conservation efforts.

According to our count, there were some 568 gravestones and monuments (and possibly 10 stones plus or minus) in Foote Square. We estimate 30 to 40 percent of these require conservation to extend their life span.

Fannin • Lehner will carry out the program to develop the Inventory and Gravestone/Monument Condition Assessment in the following manner:

1. Review of historical documents.
2. Take representative photographs illustrating conservation problems present in the Foote Square section of Fairmount Cemetery. Also, take representative photographs of stones of aesthetic significance and stones executed by known gravestone carvers (if they can be identified).
3. Fannin • Lehner Preservation Consultants will use the relevant maps or plans, to plot all the stones in Foote Square as well as designating those in need of conservation.
4. An Excel listing of all markers in Foote Square. This will include stones requiring conservation and their proposed treatment. Each list will include:

- I. Map/Plan Location
- II. Full name on gravestone
- III. Date of death
- IV. Material (marble, slate, etc.)
- V. Type of stone (headstone, footstone, monument, etc.)
- VI. Notes: Stone Condition/Gravestone carver  
(if possible, to identify)
- VII. Recommended treatment
- VIII. Priority of repair

### Work Product

The work product from this project will be a report entitled "Foote Square" (within Fairmount Cemetery), Lee MA: Inventory and Gravestone/Monument Condition/Assessment." The Report will consist of the following:

- Table of Contents
- Guide to Inventory/Gravestone/Monument Assessment
- List, by location, of all Gravestones/Monuments in Foote Square, noting which ones require conservation

- Location on approved map/plan of all the gravestones and monuments with a special designation for those that require treatment
- List of missing gravestones and monuments
- List of discovered gravestone carvers, with some photographic examples of their work
- Representative photographs of conservation problems
- Estimate of Cost of Gravestone/Monument Conservation for approximately 200 gravestones and monuments, and suggestions for phased conservation.
- Causes of Stone Deterioration
- Conservation Procedures: Technical Recommendations
- Bibliographical references for Foote Square (within Fairmount Cemetery).

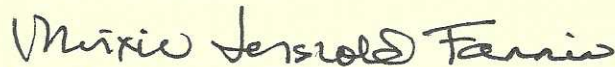
The second product is a workshop on gravestone cleaning and possibly resetting. Because of the nature of the cleaning and resetting, and the equipment each participant will need, class size would be limited to 15-20 participants.

**Fee:**

Professional Fee and all expenses for the above-described work: **\$12,200**  
Including full report.

Included with this proposal is an Excel page from the Cross Street Cemetery, Medford MA : Gravestone/Monument Condition Assessment (December 2024).

Respectfully submitted,



Minxie Jensvold Fannin  
Managing Principal

Attachment

**CROSS STREET CEMETERY  
MEDFORD MA**

**GRAVESTONE/MONUMENT  
ASSESSMENT LIST**

**1/3/25  
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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ROW/ROW #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	D. OF DEATH	TYPE	MATERIAL	TREATMENT	NOTES	PR
335								
336	EMERY	EVERETT	N/A	MON	MARBLE	SET DIE ASIDE. EXCAVATE AND BRING BASES TO LEVEL.	DIE FALLEN/ BASES TILTED/	1
337						CLEAN. REPAIR MIDDLE BASE.	MIDDLE BASE	
338						PIN DIE TO MIDDLE BASE.	BROKEN	
339								
340								
341	WHITE	SUSAN	AUG. 24, 1848	HEAD	MARBLE	EXCAVATE AND CLEAN ALL THREE FRAGMENTS. DRILL AND PIN MIDDLE TO BOTTOM	FALLEN/ BROKEN	1
342								
343								
344						FRAGMENT (IN CONCRETE)		
345						DRILL AND PIN TOP TO MIDDLE FRAGMENTS. INFILLS.		
346								
347								
348	CARLTON	NATHAN E.	DEC. 26, 1843	HEAD	MARBLE	CLEAN BOTH FRAGMENTS. (BOTTOM FRAGMENT IN CONCRETE) DRILL AND PIN TOP TO BOTTOM FRAGMENT. INFILL.	FALLEN/ BROKEN	1
349								
350								
351								
352								
353								
354	DYER	ROSWELL	N/A	HEAD	MARBLE	(APPEARS TO HAVE FOUR FRAGMENTS- BOTTOM FRAGMENT IN CONCRETE)	FALLEN/ BROKEN	1
355								
356						VISIBLE. EXCAVATE AND CLEAN ALL FRAGMENTS.		
357						DRILL AND PIN ALL FRAGMENTS. INFILL.		
358								
359								
360								
361								
362	N/A	"MOTHER"	1876	SMALL MON	MARBLE/ SAND- STONE	EXCAVATE. CLEAN. RESET.	RAISED/ TILTED (ELEMENTS FIRMLY JOINED)	1
363								
364								
365								