

SHERMAN TOWNSHIP
GRACELAND CEMETERY
BLENCOE, IOWA

INFORMATION BOOKLET
RULES AND REGULATIONS

Revised March 31, 2023

Sherman Township Cemetery known as Graceland Cemetery consisting of 11 acres of land is owned and maintained by trustees of Sherman Township.

Sherman Township
Graceland Cemetery

Trustee and Chairman.....Mike Lage
Phone: 712-420-2348

Trustee.....Randy Stanislav 712-420-5266

Trustee.....Russell Stanislav 712-420-5496

Clerk.....Sue Cutler
Phone: 712-433-1943

Website blencoecemetery.com

911 address 29812 Hemlock Ave, Blencoe, IA 51523

Where can I buy or select a space or lot in Graceland Cemetery?

Contact the Township Clerk or their appointed delegate and they will show you the sites that are available.

Purchasing cemetery spaces or lots and their deeds

The lots will be paid to the Township Clerk where deed or receipts will be given.
(Revised 2/15/2021)

Persons purchasing a Cemetery space or lots in Graceland Cemetery.

Will have the grounds they purchased secured to them, and other family and heirs for a burial place forever. Other persons admitted will be by written request.

No burial or improvements can be made in a space or lots until they are paid in full.

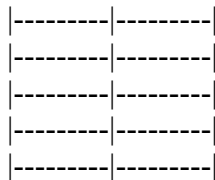
All spaces or lots shall be held for burial purposes, and no other.

No interment of any body other than that of human being will be permitted.

If and when you resell a space or lot, you must record the transaction with the Township Clerk.

The township will not buy back any space or lot.

A burial space for ashes is (2' X 2') sq. Eight ash containers can be buried on a (4 X 8') burial space.



What is a lot?

A full lot is 10 spaces. A half lot is 5 spaces.

25' wide 15' depth = $\frac{1}{2}$ lot / 5 spaces

25' wide' x 30' depth = Full lot / 10 spaces (revised 3/31/2023)

MISCELLANEOUS RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The proprietor of each space or lot has the right to erect a proper headstone, monument or footmarker, subject to the Cemetery rules and regulations.
2. Lots in Block #5 of Graceland Cemetery will have a brick corner marker.
3. Copies of deeds and quit claim deeds of space owned by lot owners shall be kept by the Township Clerk.
4. The soliciting for contracts or orders for monuments, headstones, markers, memorials or other work will not be allowed in the Cemetery.
5. Signs, notices or advertisements of monuments, contractors, stone cutters, undertakers or any other persons will not be permitted upon or within the Cemetery grounds.
6. All work in the care of lots shall be done under the supervision of Township Trustees or their appointed delegate.
7. All workmen employed in any construction in the Cemetery, shall check with the Township Clerk before any work is begun on any space or lot.
8. No top mounted burial vaults are allowed.
9. Enclosures (curbs) around burial space or lots will not be permitted.
10. No hedges, fences, trellis, enclosures of any kind will be permitted on or around any spaces or lots.
11. Wooden boxes, wreaths, glass jars, bottles, toys, cans, vases and other unsightly objects will NOT be permitted, and when used may be removed at the discretion of the Township Trustees without notice. (revised 3/31/2023)
12. There will be no planting on the graves.

13. The Township reserves the right at any time to remove the mounds upon any grave and refill and reseed the graves at the ground level of the lots.
14. The Township Trustees reserves the right for its employees, and those persons necessary for performance of normal cemetery operations to enter upon or cross over any space or lot in the Cemetery in the performance of such duties. Examples: Digging and refilling graves; removal of monuments, markers & footstones; spraying for weeds; removal of trees, shrubs, plants, etc.
15. The township of Sherman or its employees assume no liability for damages, actual or mental anguish in the performance of its normal operations or loss by vandalism or other acts beyond its reasonable control.
16. All earthwork or rubbish accumulations in any construction in the Cemetery grounds will be removed and disposed of by the contractor. If failing to conform to the rules and regulations set by the Trustees, said contractors will not be permitted afterwards to work in the Cemetery.
17. Any expenses of repairing or removing material will be borne by the contractor, space or lot owner, after being properly notified, failure to comply with the notification will result in the costs being levied upon the space or lot owner.
18. The Township of Sherman Trustees have the right to amend or change rules and regulations at any time it deems changes are necessary.
19. There will be no discriminations as to who is buried in the Graceland Cemetery, as to race, creed, color, religion, or national origin.
20. No burial of bodies will be permitted until Township Clerk has been notified. Ashes of a cremated body may be buried in the cemetery in a space owned by the cremated person or available to the cremated person after registering the burial of ashes with the township clerk. No other disposal of ashes of a cremated body shall be allowed in Graceland Cemetery.

It shall be the duty of the Clerk to enforce all rules and regulations set by the Sherman Township Trustees.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR BURIAL-SCHEDULES-BURIAL INFORMATION-FEES

1. All cremation burials shall be dug by persons appointed by Township Trustees.
(revised 3/31/2023)
2. All graves shall be dug by persons appointed by Township Trustees.

3. No burial of bodies or ashes will be permitted until the required information is provided to the Clerk. Descendant's full name, residence address, date of birth, place of death, and date of death. (revised 3/31/2023)
4. The space of the lot owner or funeral director shall designate the location of the lot to the Clerk: and any change of location made after the opening has begun shall be at the expense of the lot owner. When definite information for locating a grave is not available in time for grave preparation, to meet the time for interment, the clerk will exercise their best judgment in making location in order that the requested time for interment may be met. The Cemetery personnel or township assumes no responsibility for an error in such location, and additional charges will be made for any changes requested.
5. The interment of bodies of persons who have died of a contagious disease shall be in strict accordance with the rules of the State Board of Health.

RULES AND REGULATIONS REMOVALS – (DISINTERMENT)

1. Removal of bodies from graves in Graceland Cemetery will only be made in accordance with the requirements of the State, and the rules of the State Board of Health.
2. Lot owners or their heirs desiring graves opened shall secure the necessary disinterment permit from the State and deliver the same to the Clerk. All removals will be made under the supervision of a licensed embalmer or funeral director.
3. For sanitary reasons, graves will not be re-opened for inspection except for official investigation

RULES FOR VISITORS

1. The Cemetery gates will be closed if and when the roads or grounds are not drivable for motor vehicles.
2. The following are prohibited and not allowed in the cemetery: picnics, alcohol, fires and burning. (revised 3/31/2023)
3. Dogs will not be allowed in the Cemetery except under the supervision and control of owner and owner is responsible for removal of animal waste. (Revised 2/15/2021)
4. Firearms will not be allowed in the Cemetery only at military funerals.
5. Vehicles traveling within the Cemetery grounds will proceed at NOT MORE than (10 miles) per hour.
6. Visitors must keep to the avenues or walk ways, and shall not pluck or injure plants, shrubs or trees nor remove anything from the grounds.

7. Bicycles, motor bikes and cars will stay on the traveled roads.
8. No camping is allowed including but not limited to campers, motorhomes and tents.
(Revised 2/15/2021)
9. Cemetery is open to visitors 30 minutes prior to sunrise and closes to visitors 30 minutes after sunset. (Revised 2/15/2021)

STONE AND MONUMENT WORK

All stone and monument work shall be subject to the rules and regulations set by the Township Trustees.

Trustees require an appropriate permanent stone marker within two (2) calendar years of interment with a temporary marker until the permanent marker is installed.

1. A list of monuments, markers, stone work, and footings to be constructed in the Graceland Cemetery will be given to the Clerk and/or Sexton before any work is done.
(revised 3/31/2023)
2. The monument setters, stone cutters, vault companies or any contractor working in the Cemetery shall be bonded or insured against damage to any property.
3. All monuments, markers, footstones or headstones must be real stone, granite, marble or bronze.
4. All markers on 2' x 2' graves where ashes are buried shall be flush with the existing grade, with a footing of 12".
5. A headstone for ashes on a space will be allowed only at the head of the space.
6. Heavy trucking will not be permitted within the Cemetery grounds when in the opinion of the Clerk, such work might cause injury to driveways.
7. All memorial foundations shall be placed on solid ground, not within the actual grave space where the grave liner is a permanent type of sufficient strength to support the weight of foundations and memorials, and will not interfere with future grave openings.
8. All footings must be of adequate depth, must be of concrete and will be flush with the existing grade. (revised 3/31/2023)
9. No monuments or markers will set in wet cement except when they are flush with the existing grade.
10. Containers for cut flowers will be placed at the ends of monuments or markers flush with the ground in the pre-cast or footings.

11. Stone and Monument work once placed on its foundation shall not be removed, except by permission of the Clerk.

RESTRICTIONS REGARDING MONUMENTS AND MARKERS APPLYING TO SECTIONS OF THE CEMETERY

A. Certain portions of the older part of the Cemetery have super structures. New super structures will be place on solid ground and will not interfere with future grave openings.

Super structures that are over 5' in height above the footings are limited to certain locations.

"RESTRICTED MONUMENTS"

1. If and when the restricted monument areas have been designated for the flush type memorials only, the section memorials shall not extend above the surface of the lot.

The Cemetery reserves the right to refuse permission to erect any work in keeping with good appearance of the ground

MONUMENT AND FOOTING REGULATIONS MARKER AND BRONZE PLAQUE INSTALLATION AND FOUNDATIONS

A. A flat single marker shall be any installation that measures as follows:

Height: Less than 12" above the foundation

Horizontal: Width 8" minimum 12" maximum

Horizontal: Length 18" minimum 28" maximum

Most flat markers are 12" x 24"

Footings: With 4" pre-cast ((revised 3/31/2023)

B. A flat double marker shall be any installation that measures as follows:

Height: Not more than 12" above the foundation

Horizontal: Width 10" minimum 14" maximum

Horizontal Length 24" minimum 48" maximum

Most double flat markers are 12" x 36"

Footings: With 4" pre-cast (revised 3/31/2023)

- A. A monument shall be any installation that measures as follows:

Monuments less than 4' above the footing.

Height: 12" to 4' above the foundation
Horizontal width: 12" or more
Horizontal length: 42" or more

Monuments or super structures 5' above the foundation.

- B. For large monuments the Township Trustees reserve the right to require the construction of such material, size and design be given to them before structure is set.

Pre-Cast

- A. Pre-cast – 4" minimum with reinforcing
4" minimum apron
8" maximum apron

Benches

- A. Monument benches are permitted subject to the same rules under STONE AND MONUMENT WORK on page 6 Line number 3 and needs to fit in same area as traditional markers.

LANDSCAPING – TREES – SHRUBS – FLOWERS

All landscaping, including planting of trees and shrubs will be done under permission of Township Trustees or appointed delegate.

1. Annual plants or flowers such as peonies or roses will be limited in number and location on spaces or lots.
2. These plants or flowers will be maintained by lot or space owners. If not, they will be removed by the Cemetery grounds keeper and disposed of without liability
3. Trees will be of a non-leaf type such as a blue spruce. They will be set by the Cemetery grounds keeper to assure no interference with the care and maintenance of the Cemetery.
4. All existing trees or shrubs and permanent plants or flowers which are damaged or unsightly or inconvenient to other space or lot owners or to the Sherman Township Trustees, will be removed, trimmed or shaped by the Cemetery grounds keeper.

DECORATING OF GRAVES

- A. No planting on grave area.
- B. All flowers must be placed at end of or directly behind monuments or markers.
- C. Fresh cut flowers may be used any time and will remain until in the judgment of the Cemetery grounds keeper they become wilted or unsightly. Containers for cut flowers are to be of a type level with the ground surface and not holding water when in use, or of the type to be disposed of when the flowers are removed. (revised 3/31/2023)
- D. All artificial decorations will be removed from the grave sites during spring clean-up and/or fall-clean up. Notice of date of clean-up will be published in the Onawa papers and the Grapevine and will be posted at the cemetery rest house bulletin board. Anyone wishing to preserve decorations must be removed prior to the dates and returned according to published notice. All decorations removed by the Township at this time will be discarded. (revised 3/31/2023)
- E. Lot or space owners should feel free to consult with the clerk regarding matters pertaining to the general beautification, care and maintenance of lots in the cemetery. Their advice and assistance will be given to the best of their ability and will try to solve your problems so the cemetery will maintain a solemn and peaceful place for you and your loved ones. If at any time there are rules and regulations that are not clear or other information about cemetery matters, these information booklets will be available. (revised 3/31/2023)

GIFTS

Gifts such as money will be used to improve the appearance of the cemetery, such as improving roads, landscaping and up-keep of the Cemetery, and maintaining the flag poles and flags. (revised 3/31/2023)

