



Rogers Masoleum

History

In 1805, Zadock Rogers bought 247 acres of land in Lowell. He died in 1844. His surviving children were Emily and Elizabeth who sold a portion of the land in 1883 to developers on the condition they dedicate 30 acres as a public park which became Fort Hill Park. Elizabeth Rogers' home was established as Rogers Hall School for Girls in 1892 and remained a private girls' high school accepting both day and boarding students until it closed in 1973.

Restrictions Elizabeth placed on her cemetery plot:

1. Maintain grass and fence "as now is."
2. Grass to be mowed only with scythe and sickle, at least three times a year.
3. Keep stones and steps "clear of weeds, hay and dirt."
4. No "lawn mower" to be used, nor water sprinkled except in "extreme drought."
5. Keep away "all vermin such as squirrels and mice as far as possible."
6. Only "pure water" to be used to clean the stones, walks or marble: "let nature take its course."
7. Fence to be "forever kept as is, with gate locked and keyhole covered."
8. Fence to be thoroughly painted every third year with linseed oil black paint and in years not painted it must be oiled with boiled linseed oil.
9. The grass or ground "must be lowered down when it gets too near the bottom of the fence."
10. The tomb is never to be opened after Elizabeth Rogers is buried there.

"The tomb is never to be opened again" is the only restriction still followed.

Art and Architecture

This early mausoleum is constructed of large flat blocks of granite. Compared to the Cemetery's other mausoleums, this is not decorative and may seem plain. Despite its compact size, the façade is still imposing because of the blankness of its walls. Its aura comes from its location, half-buried in the landscape.

The most striking feature of the memorial is the obelisk, a tall, rectangular pillar with a tapered, pyramid-like top that ends in a point. In Egypt, obelisks were usually found in pairs near temples. Part of Egyptian Revival architecture, obelisks were used for funeral and memorial structures. Its meaning is rooted in rebirth, functioning as a connection between heaven and earth. There are many obelisks in the Lowell Cemetery. The shape also appears in downtown Lowell's Ladd and Whitney Monument dedicated to the city's and the nation's first Civil War casualties.