

The New Orleans Tomb

PART V

By Leonard V. and Albert R. Huber

The Byrne tomb, the smallest New Orleans type tomb so far presented in this series of articles, is a tomb which should find a ready market. It is inexpensive, makes a good appearance and is easily cut and easily erected. It features a one-piece roof and one-piece sides. As may be seen from the drawings of the sections the receptacle may be made deep enough to have a capacity of two caskets plus the capacity of one in the upper part of the tomb. The Byrne tomb is erected in very much the same way as the other New Orleans tombs which were previously described and because of the fact that it is not as high it presents very much less structural difficulties.

It can easily be seen from the drawings that the mound on which the tomb is erected sets it off. This tomb has a swinging granite door set in bronze pivots just as the previous tombs. However, this feature may be dispensed with and the entrance closed with a tablet held in place by two tablet screws, or the lintel may be rabbetted. The door, which is usually made of polished granite, is used for inscriptions of the persons buried in the tomb.

This small tomb despite its size presents an attractive appearance because it is well proportioned. An essential in the design of a tomb is the lintel course, that course just beneath the roof which is so often slighted by designers attempting an inexpensive tomb. The lintel course is an absolute essential and attempts to

design tombs without it will result in failure. True this course adds to the cost of the tomb and is really unnecessary from a utilitarian point of view, but it adds so much to the appearance of the tomb that its omission inevitably ruins the structure. If the solid roof-stone adds too much to the cost it may be changed into a three-piece roof along the lines of the Rogers tomb described in article No. 3. On no account, however, should a tomb be erected without a lintel.

This tomb is another design suitable for erection by the dealer in a cemetery in advance of a sale. It does not require a large investment and its individuality should make it easy to sell, particularly against community vault competition at a price which will both eliminate the public vault and give the dealer a fair profit.

Most of the requests reaching us in recent months have been for a tomb of this type which shows that there is a demand for a small, inexpensive, but durable tomb. This tomb, if erected properly, will outlast any community mausoleum yet built in addition to being an individual memorial. Properly put together of good granite it has practically the durability of a monument and should last as long.

Next month's tomb will be a popular type in New Orleans—a tomb with Georgian lines and ornament which is very simply constructed and presents a dignified appearance.

