

# **“Old Chicago Firm Changes Hands”**

**(J. H. Anderson Granite Company of Chicago, Illinois,  
& the Stotzer Granite Co., of Wisconsin)**

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This article begins:

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This article, which begins on the next page,  
is presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

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VIEW IN SHOW ROOM OF J. H. ANDERSON MONUMENT CO.



STOCK YARD OF J. H. ANDERSON MONUMENT CO.

## Old Chicago Firm Changes Hands

By the recent change in ownership of the J. H. Anderson Granite Co., of Chicago, one of the oldest and best known firms in the West passes into new hands. The change marks the retirement of T. M. Avery, for many years the head of this firm, and a man of high standing in the monument craft, and signalizes the progress and expansion of the largest firm in Wisconsin, the Stotzer Granite Co., whose owners are the new proprietors of this modern monument plant.

The Stotzers have bought the entire interests of Mr. Avery and the Anderson estate, and the name of the firm has been changed to the J. H. Anderson Monument Co. The business will be entirely separate from that of the Stotzer Granite Co., of Milwaukee and Portage, Wis. The officers of the new firm are:

Oscar F. Stotzer, president.  
 L. O. Mueller, vice-president.  
 R. G. Stotzer, treasurer,  
 F. C. Frederickson, secretary.

Mr. Frederickson is manager of the Chicago firm. He has been associated with the Stotzer Granite Co. for the past twelve years as one of its leading salesmen and was selected for this position

because of his ability as an organizer and general executive.

William Dunbar, who has been associated with Mr. Avery in the business for many years, remains with the new firm as manager of the manufacturing plant.

The new firm employs a sales force of six men, working under the direction of Mr. Frederickson. The salesmen are: Harry MacLeod, Wm. C. Richter, Fred Rampson, W. B. George, A. W. Faerber, and A. M. Potyten.

The new firm also takes over the ownership of the R. Hanson Monument Co., which was the property of the J. H. Anderson Granite Co.

The substantial building that this business occupies at the entrance to Rose Hill Cemetery, houses the finest monument show room in Chicago, and one of the finest and most efficiently planned display rooms for monuments in the country.

Their large stock shows an unusually high average of good design, and in fact, will compare in quality of design for ordinary types of monuments with any place of business in the country.

The building is built of stone and faces on two streets, giving a decidedly good view of the show windows from any angle. The manufacturing plant is just behind the show rooms, and including the yard for their rough stock the lot measures 450 by 200 feet. The office is 20 by 15 feet including two floors; the show room is 90 by 90 feet, the stock yard is 75 by 125 feet, the cutting shed 125 by 30 feet, and the engine room 25 by 15 feet.

The show room is finished in plastered walls with different tints, the lower part being a dark warm green which offers a nice contrast with the gray granite. Running through the center of this large room, is a row of square pillars which have been admirably utilized for purposes other than for braces to the ceiling. The column near the office is reserved for numerous photographs illustrating the working of monuments and the many methods used in quarrying and granite manufacturing. Another column bears blue prints showing the different size lots in the many sections of Roschill cemetery. They are so arranged that a customer at once knows what size his lot is



OSCAR F. STOTZER  
 President J. H. Anderson Monument Co.



F. C. FREDERICKSON  
 Secretary and Manager J. H. Anderson Monument Co.



R. G. STOTZER  
 Treasurer J. H. Anderson Monument Co.

(photo captions) "View in show room of J. H. Anderson Monument Co.," "Stock yard of J. H. Anderson Monument Co.," "Oscar F. Stotzer, President J. H. Anderson Monument Co.," "F. C. Frederickson, Secretary and Manager J. H. Anderson Monument Co.," & "R. G. Stotzer, J. H. Anderson Monument Co."



FRONT OF J. H. ANDERSON MONUMENT CO. SHOW ROOM

and what size monument may be erected. These blue prints save much time in inquiring from cemetery officials about what is proper size and style of monument for the lot.

This is a unique and useful idea that ought to be worked out for every monumental show room, especially in the larger cities where cemeteries usually specify the percentage of lot area that may be occupied by a monument. Another column has behind the glass frame on different shelves square pieces of granite on which are cut the most popular emblems and monograms. On another column are arranged all kinds of sunken and raised letters shown plainly on small pieces of granite. Another has drawings of different sizes and styles of letters. Across the top of these columns and running from the front of the room to the back has been constructed a handsome pergola effect covered with ivy that adds much to the appearance of the room. This show room covers 10,000 square feet of floor space. At different points are also placed artistic pedestals on which are vases of ferns and other growing plants. The whole place has an atmosphere of dignity and beauty, so much so, that most visitors take off their hats on entering. There is always in waiting a 5-passenger electric automobile for the accommodation of the customers in going through the cemetery.

In the manufacturing plant is a full outfit of the latest machinery devices, including two air compressors, electric driven, two polishing wheels, and one traveling crane. The blacksmith shop and drafting room adjoining the cutting shed contain every modern contrivance.

The Stotzer Granite Co., from which the new owners have drawn their experience, is one of the oldest firms in Wisconsin, and has had a steady and progressive growth.

The founder of the present Stotzer Granite Company was Samuel Stotzer,

who established himself in business in a small way in Portage, Wis., in the year of 1876. He was contented to continue the business in a small way in this town of then two or three thousand inhabitants and always held the reputation for integrity and honesty, which reflected itself in his business. In 1902 Samuel Stotzer's health failed and Rudolph G. Stotzer, the oldest of two sons, then attending the University of Wisconsin, discontinued his studies as a civil engineer and entered the business with his father. Two years later, at Samuel Stotzer's death, Oscar F. Stotzer, then a student of law in the same University, discontinued in like manner and entered the business with his brother, forming a partnership January 1, 1905. From this time on Rudolph G. Stotzer assumed general management of the business, while Oscar F. Stotzer devoted his time to building up a sales organization throughout the state.

In 1912 the firm of Mueller Bros. of Portage, Wis., was taken over and a cor-

poration, Stotzer Granite Co., was formed, R. G. Stotzer, president; C. J. Mueller, vice-president; O. F. Stotzer, secretary, and L. O. Mueller, treasurer.

In 1913 the Stotzer Granite Co. opened up a salesroom in the heart of the retail shopping district in the city of Milwaukee under the personal management of O. F. Stotzer, later moving to 723-727 Grand Ave., where they are now located with sixty feet of frontage on Milwaukee's principal business street.

In 1916 they purchased the old firm of Turner & Blumenthal of Columbus, Wis., the life-long partners retiring from active management. In 1917, shortly after the death of Mr. Edward Boyle, they purchased the stock and entire holdings of the Boyle Granite Co., of Milwaukee, and Mr. F. J. McDonough, grandson of Mr. Boyle, is still connected with the Stotzer Granite, as one of its valuable salesmen.

In 1919 they purchased the Oconomowoc Monument Co., but discontinued this location because of its proximity to Milwaukee.

#### THE COVER ILLUSTRATION.

The illustration on the front cover of this issue shows a picture of the British National Soldiers Cenotaph in London.

This memorial was erected by the British government in memory of the soldiers who fell in France, and was designed by a distinguished British architect.

Our picture shows the impressive ceremony of dedication.

The design is one of the most successful types of the simple architectural memorial that we have seen. It is graceful in line, carefully studied in proportion, and could be readily adapted to the uses of a memorial of almost any dimensions.



VIEW IN SHOW ROOM OF J. H. ANDERSON MONUMENT CO.

(photo captions) "Front of J. H. Anderson Monument Co. show room" & "View in show room of J. H. Anderson Monument Co."