

PROJECT APPLICATION FORM – 2009

Applicant: Acton Historical Commission **Submission Date:** 11-10-08

Applicant's Address, Phone Number and Email **Purpose: (Please select all that apply)**

472 Main Street, Acton MA

hc@acton-ma.gov

- Open Space
- Community Housing
- Historic Preservation
- Recreation

Town Committee (if applicable): Historical Commission (HC)

Project Name: Town Cemeteries – National Register of Historic Places Listing

Project Location/Address: Woodlawn Cem., Mt. Hope Cem., North Acton Cem.

Amount Requested: \$28,000

Project Summary: In the space below, provide a brief summary of the project.

This project is to provide funding to nominate the 3 cemeteries in town to the National Register of Historic Places. The three are North Acton Cemetery on Carlisle Road, Woodlawn Cemetery on Concord Road, and Mt. Hope Cemetery on Central Street.

Contingent upon the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) deeming the properties eligible for the National Register, monies would allow the HC to send out an RFP and hire a Historic Preservation Consultant to prepare the lengthily nomination papers to be submitted to the National Park Service. If for some reason the MHC does not agree with our eligibility statement for any of the properties, work would not proceed on that property.

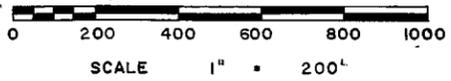
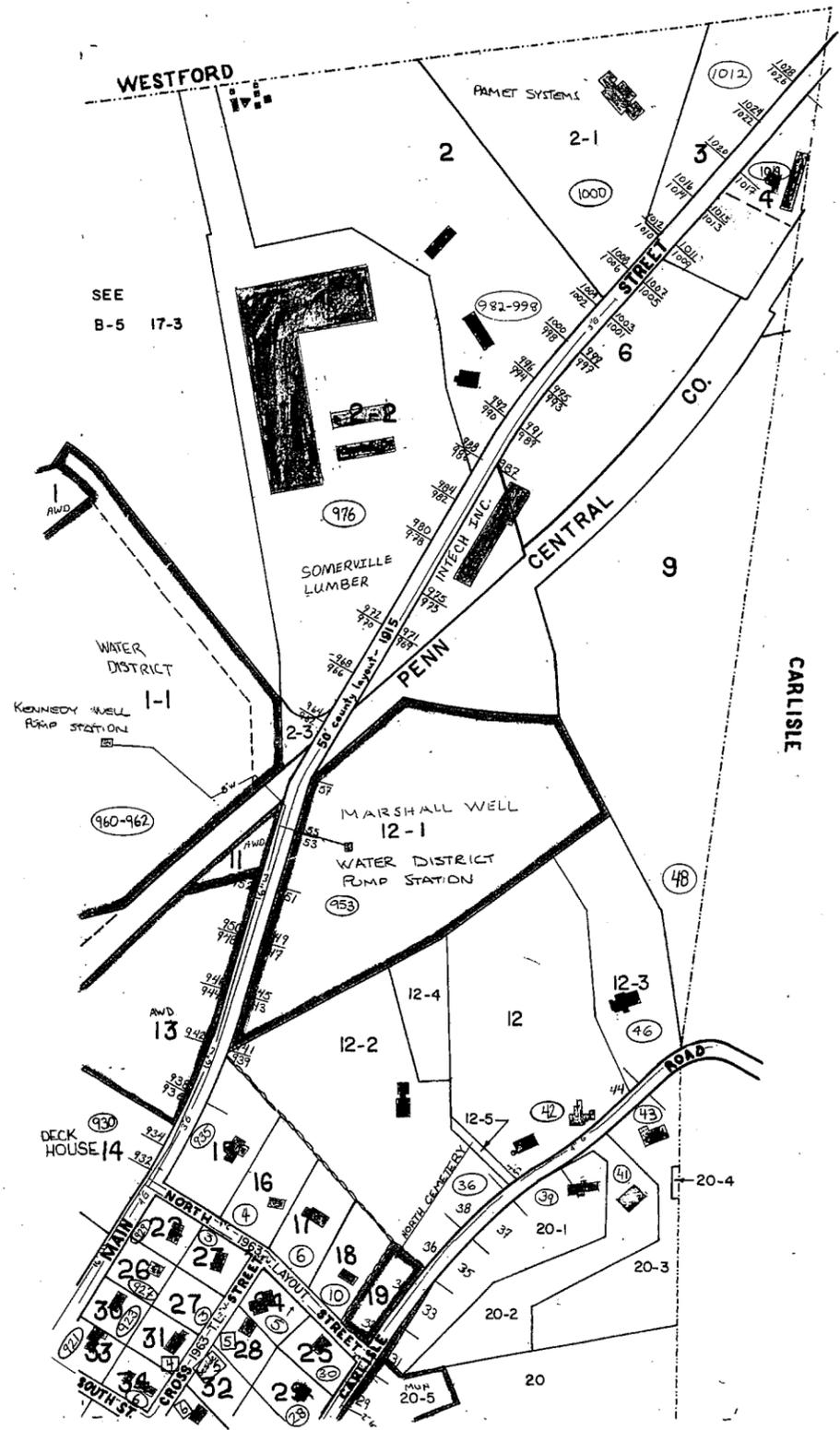
This work is entirely consistent with the Town's Master Plan Update to preserve or protect currently-owned historic resources. National Register Listing will communicate the value of the historic resource to the population, and give that resource an elevated status. Adding it to the National Register will give it the recognition it deserves, increase the protection on the property via Mass Historical review of future adjacent projects, and allow for Federal grants and tax credits for restoration of the property. While essentially an honorific designation, for municipally-owned properties the NR designation allows the Town to apply for state grants for the preservation of the historic resource as they are available. Once listed, there are no restrictions as to how an owner might change or modify the property.

Please refer to attachments for draft eligibility statements that we will submit to the MHC, preliminary scope of work and estimates of cost as prepared by our current preservation consultant.

Concurrent with this application, the HC will review this with the Cemetery Commissioners, and forward the draft statements of eligibility to the MHC for approval to proceed.

Estimated Date for Commencement of Project: Summer 2009 or Fall 2009

Estimated Date for Completion of Project: Spring or Summer 2010



A-5	A-6
B-5	B-6
C-5	C-6

PHOTO: AERO SERVICE, 12-1-63

TOWN of ACTON



AREA

	801
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FORM NO.

ACTON

Address Carlisle Street

Location North Acton Cemetery / Forest Cemetery

Ownership: Public

Private

DESCRIPTION

Approximate number of stones 100

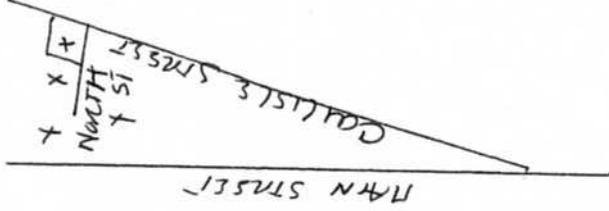
Oldest death date 1750

Newest death date 1948

Landscape Architect (if known) none

Condition good

Buildings and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Acres

Setting North part of town in rural setting with residential area behind. Northwest corner of Carlisle and North Streets.

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Acton Historical Commission

Date June 1990

UTM REFERENCE

SGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF ART WORK Describe materials used, designs, motifs, symbols that are either common or unusual, known carvers.

The North Acton Cemetery, now called the Forest Cemetery, is a small rectangular lot on the corner of North Street and Carlisle Street. It is defined by a stone wall and has pine trees and some deciduous trees scattered across the parcel. Much of the ground surface is moss covered. Stones are made of slate and granite and most are simple rectangles or roundheaded in shape. There are a few monument type stones, an obelisk, and a couple of terraced areas with stones of Hapgoods, Temples, and Andersons.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain religious affiliations, major period of use and evaluate historical importance of burial ground within the community.

The North Acton Cemetery is one of three cemeteries in Acton and the only one in the northern section of town. It was established in 1750 and was used as a burial ground until 1948 with the last recorded burial being that of a Richardson. Some of the names found in this rural peaceful cemetery include Davies, Flint, Conant, Wheeler, Heald, Hapgood and Temple.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Fletcher, Acton In History, 1890.
Phalen, History of the Town of Acton, 1954.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible only in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by: Dianne L. Stergiej

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

North Acton Cemetery/Forest Cemetery, is the oldest of three burial grounds in the Town of Acton. Operation was taken over by the community in 1750. Located in the north part of Acton on the border of the Town of Carlisle, it was enlarged slightly in 1811 with the approval of both communities and a donation of land from Jonathan Davis, the adjacent property owner to the west. The cemetery retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and is architecturally and historically significant on a local level. The cemetery meets National Register Criteria A and C with Criterion Consideration D for its strong associations with the early settlement and history of Acton and as a well-preserved example of a rural, New England burial ground that illustrates evolving concepts of funerary from the Colonial period through the middle of the twentieth century. Markers include slate, marble and stone memorials characteristic of its various periods.

By the early eighteenth century, residents already recognized that this burial ground was too small and too remote for general use. As a result, land was purchased for one pound from Nathan Robbins on February 9, 1737. That property supplanted this burial ground as the principal place for local interments and became the oldest part of Woodlawn Cemetery on Concord Road.

**NORTH ACTON/FOREST CEMETERY
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION
SCOPE OF WORK**

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the project is to complete a National Register nomination for North Acton Cemetery/Forest Cemetery in Acton, Massachusetts

METHODOLOGY:

The National Register nomination project must use NR criteria and MHC methodology. The project will complete a registration form according to instructions in NPS NR Bulletin: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form. The project will develop a nomination that identifies the appropriate criteria and develops the areas of significance under which the resource is important.

Contractor is an independent contractor and not an employee of the department. Department shall not be obligated under any contract, subcontract or other commitment made by Contractor.

The National Register program recognizes ethnic and cultural diversity within communities, and seeks to identify cultural resources associated with the history of minority social and cultural groups and individuals who have played a role in the history of those communities.

It is the opinion of the MHC that the North Acton Cemetery/Forest Cemetery retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and fulfills National Register Criterion A for its associations with the development of the town of Acton under Criterion C, embodying distinctive characteristics of a type and period and for its examples of gravestone art, and consideration D, as a cemetery deriving its primary significance from the graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, and/or from association with historic events. North Acton Cemetery/Forest Cemetery is significant at the local level.

Note: An assessment of archaeological potential and significance will be added to the nomination by MHC staff archaeologist.

The project will begin (*date*), and will end (*date*)

WORK ITEMS:

I. Part 7 (Description)

Part 7 (Description) describes the property (properties) in a complete and well-organized manner, moving from the general to the specific, as discussed in NPS NR Bulletin series. See especially Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places. A site visit of the property may be necessary.

A. Part 7 must discuss:

1. the topography and setting of the cemetery, monuments, and buildings within the landscape;
2. significant landscape features, manmade and otherwise, including significant plantings, trees, water features, stone walls and gates;
3. key and representative monuments and gravestones, with examples from all periods and with examples of all types.

II. Part 8 (Significance)

Part 8 (Statement of Significance) will support and justify appropriate National Register Criteria for Significance and Considerations, will support and justify all significant areas or themes, will place the property into a communitywide context, and will document the period of significance for which the property meets NR criteria. See NPS NR Bulletins: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, and Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places.

III. Supporting technical documentation

A. Photographs.

There are two options for documenting the property.

1. Contractor may submit true black and white photographs, 4x6" size preferred, in duplicate. Photos must be printed on true black and white paper with true black and white inks. C41 or other color processing is not acceptable. Two sets of photos must be submitted. All photos must be labeled appropriately, according to National Register guidelines, with name and address of property, identification, number, and direction of view, date, name of photographer and location of negative, indicated in pencil (grease pencil, nonbleeding marking pen, or photo marker may be used).
2. Contractor may submit digital photos. Please see **MHC Guidelines for Submitting Digital Photos with National Register Nominations, Attachment C-1 of this Scope of Services**. In summary, digital images

must be submitted with the following elements: the original, uncompressed data file captured by the digital camera; prints of the images (2 copies of each image) using specified printer/ink/paper requirements (see Attachment C); and a photo submission form and photo log. Digital images must be taken with a 3 megapixel or greater camera. If submitting digital images, you may include all label information on the front margin of the photos (please check with MHC NR staff first).

Other photographic documentation: For presentation to the State Review Board, MHC requires images showing the property in detail and from all elevations, and in the broader context of its setting. Images may be either slides or as a PowerPoint presentation (preferred), on disk. If slides are submitted, they will become the property of the MHC. A written presentation for the SRB must accompany the submission, in both paper and electronic format.

B. Maps

1. Two sets of USGS maps (with UTM coordinates calculated). USGS maps must have property boundaries outlined in pencil. Label USGS map in pencil in margin area closest to property or district. Include property name, address, town, county, Mass., USGS quad name, scale, & UTM coordinates.
2. Assessors map/s. Make sure boundaries are clearly indicated, in pencil. Indicate north arrow. Label map in pencil with indication of property and address, town, MA, date and source of map, scale.
3. Sketch maps and historic maps may also be included in nomination.

C. Bibliography. Style bibliography as consistently as possible. You may wish to consult Chicago Manual of Style or Strunk and White. Check with NR Director if have any questions. N.B., if town or regional reports or inventory forms are used during nomination preparation, please add same to bibliography.

D. Data Sheet. A data sheet will be prepared that includes key features in the cemetery, including any buildings within the cemetery boundaries, significant monuments and markers (including all monuments and markers specifically discussed in the text), defined family plots, historic walls and fences, and designed landscape areas. See sample cemetery nomination.

WORK PRODUCTS:

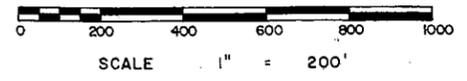
**Complete National Register registration form, in both hard copy and electronic format (in Microsoft Word) and including all supporting technical documentation, as specified above.

**Presentation outline for presentation of the nomination to the State Review Board, according to MHC guidelines, on diskette as well as hard copy.



- DONELANS (210)
- EAST INSURANCE (212)
- CANDLEWOOD (214)
- TOWN CLEANERS (215)
- JERRY'S BARBER SHOP (216)

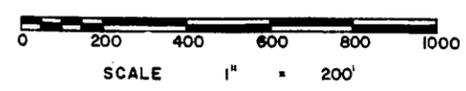
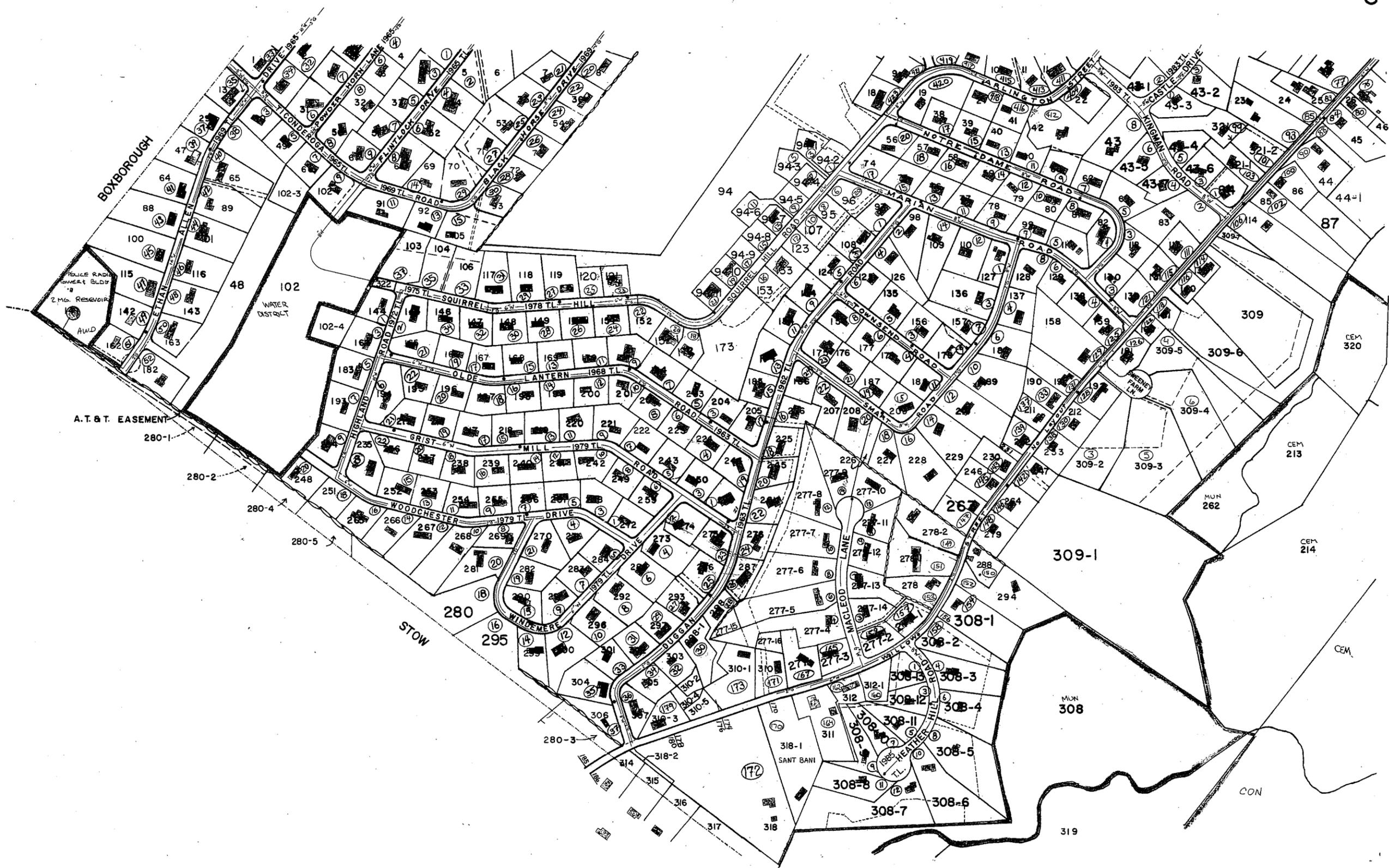
G-2A



F-1	F-2A	F-2	F-3
G-1	G-2	G-2A	G-3
H-1	H-2	H-3	

PHOTO AERO SERVICE, 12-1-63

TOWN of ACTON



	F-1	F-2A	F-2
	G-1	G-2	
	H-1	H-2	

TOWN of ACTON

AREA

FORM NO.

803 903



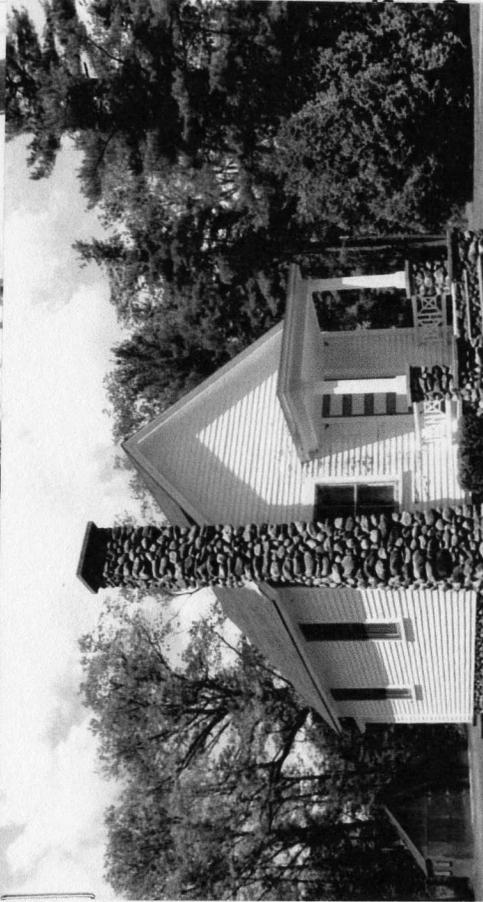
Acton

160-174 Central Street

Mount Hope Cemetery

Ownership: Public

Private



DESCRIPTION

Approximate number of stones 500

Oldest death date February 18, 1848

Most recent death date ongoing

Landscape Architect (if known)

unknown

Condition Good

acreage over 10 acres

Setting On a residential street just

outside West Acton village.

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

Recorded by Schuler and Johnson

Organization Acton Historical Commission

Date May 1990

GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF ART WORK Describe materials used, designs, motifs, symbols that are either common or unusual, known carvers.

Mount Hope Cemetery is a simple Victorian burial ground with a variety of granite markers and monuments typical of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These range from simple headstones, simply decorated with fleur-de-lis, chaffs of wheat, lillies, and other floral motifs, to elaborate Civil War era monuments and early twentieth century obelisks. Family plots are common. The graves are sited within a grid of paths transversing the gently undulating landscape. A stone wall and simple iron gates run across the Central Street side of the site. The property is planted with scattered evergreens and maples. Near the back of the site is small clapboard-clad chapel built in 1908.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain religious affiliations, major period of use and evaluate historical importance of burial ground within the community.

Mount Hope is a town property associated with the history of West Acton. It is Acton's third oldest burying ground.(see Woodlawn and Forest Cemeteries). At Town Meeting in November of 1847, a committee was established for the purpose of finding a satisfactory location for a cemetery convenient to West Acton village. Committee members included: Benjamin Hapgood, Bradley Stone, and Phineas Harrington. In 1848 two acres were purchased from John Hapgood, and the balance of the land from Daniel Wetherbee. The first burial was Roxa K. Howard, d.Feb. 18, 1848, aged 36. The stone cutter was Peter Tenny Saxton. Many prominent members of the West Acton community are buried here, including the Meads, Hallis, and Davises.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Phalen, History of the Town of Acton; Fletcher, Acton in History.

P

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible only in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

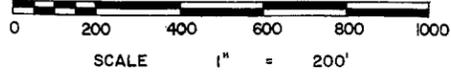
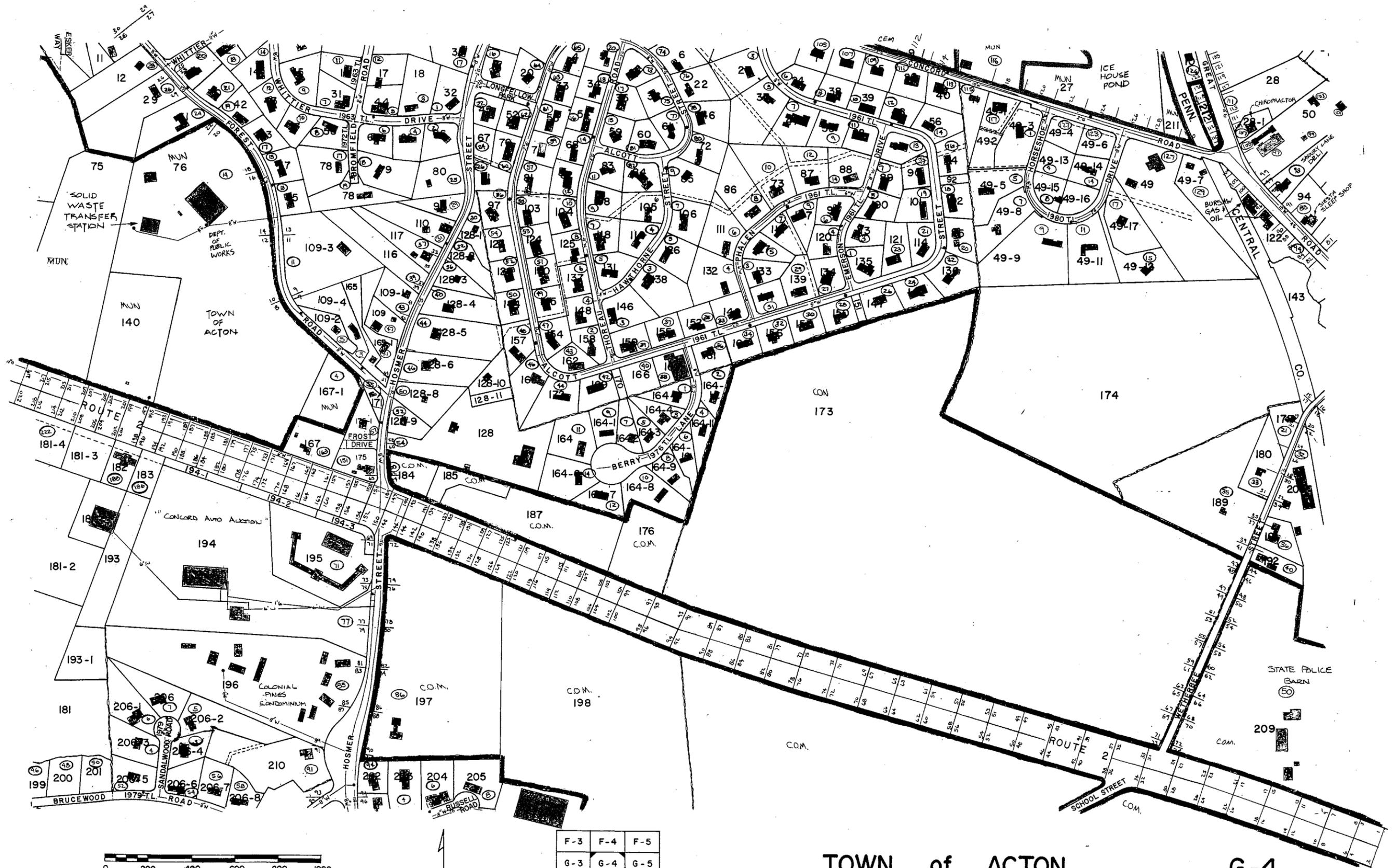
Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by: Dianne L. Siergiej

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

Mount Hope Cemetery, the newest of three municipally-owned cemeteries in Acton, is a well-preserved example of a simple, Victorian burial ground that illustrates evolving concepts of funerary from the middle of the nineteenth through the beginning of the twenty-first century. It retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The cemetery is architecturally and historically significant on a local level and meets National Register Criteria A and C with Criterion Consideration D for its strong associations with the history and development of West Acton Village and as a well-preserved Victorian New England burial ground with a variety of marble and granite markers and monuments, including curbed family plots, elaborate Civil War era monuments, obelisks, and a receiving tomb, characteristic of its periods. Also on site is a small, frame, gable-roofed building with fieldstone foundation, chimney and porch base. Constructed by the town in 1908 at the behest and expense of George C. Wright of West Acton who intended to provide a chapel, it was apparently used as an office and storehouse.

Mount Hope Cemetery is the place of interment for many prominent residents of West Acton including members of the Mead Family, which operated a produce business and erected elaborate houses in West Acton and the Hall Family which ran a saw mill and wood product factory that produced pails, butter molds, churns and other implements and owned houses on Windsor Avenue.



F-3	F-4	F-5
G-3	G-4	G-5
H-3	H-4	H-5

PHOTO AERO SERVICE, 12-1-63

TOWN of ACTON

FORM E - BURIAL GROUND

Assessor's Number		USGS Quad		Area(s)	Form Number
		Maynard			802

Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Photograph

Digital Image Numbers 994.jpg - 1014 .jpg
 2369.JPG - 2417.JPG

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating showing the property's location in relation to geographic features and nearby cross streets. Indicate all buildings or features within and surrounding the inventoried property. Indicate North.

Town Acton

Place (*neighborhood or village*)

Address Concord Road

Name Woodlawn Cemetery

Ownership: Public Private

Approximate Number of Stones Approximately 4468 known burials; more are considered to exist that are unrecorded.

Earliest Death Date William Cutting
 (dod August 3, 1740)

Latest Death Date 2008 (Active)

Landscape Architect

Condition Good to Excellent

Acreage Approximately 70.5 Acres

Setting Isolated Road by both formal and dry laid stone walls from Concord, a major, inter-community connector and the principal route between Acton Center and East Acton.

Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej

Organization: Acton Historical Commission

Date: October 2008

See Attached

BURIAL GROUND FORM

Woodlawn Cemetery
Concord Road

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT *see continuation sheet.*

Describe landscape features, gravestone material designs, motifs and symbols that are either common or unusual. Note any known carvers.

Woodlawn Cemetery is a well-preserved and well-maintained, New England burial ground located almost midway between Acton Center and East Acton. Its perimeter is variously defined along Concord Road by both formally-dressed and dry laid stone walls (which variously also function as retaining wall depending on the terrain) set back from right of way. These stone walls are interrupted by several, vehicular entrances, at least two of which are formally defined with stone posts, decorative ornamentation, pedestrian side entries and wrought iron gates. Another has a modest, wooden-plank gate. Two receiving tombs are built into the stone wall. One stands near a single-bay, 1 ½-story, frame hearse house, whose facade also interrupts the continuity of the wall. Both are located just east of the intersection of Concord Road and Hosmer Street. Informal, stacked, field stone walls also denote various other parts of the perimeter boundary.

Circulation within the cemetery follows a curvilinear pattern of paved pathways. The natural grade of the cemetery undulates but generally descends from the west to east. Landscaping is largely casual limited to grass cover and mature plantings including deciduous and a few evergreen trees and limited shrubbery.

The oldest burials are largely in the section between the two stone gates. In this area are found slate markers with typical eighteenth and early nineteenth-century motifs in central and border carvings including winged heads, soul effigies, sun bursts, rosettes, neoclassical urn and willows and other architectural patterns. Conditions range from good to excellent. Few of the oldest stones require resetting. A number of curbed and/or fenced, family plots, nineteenth and twentieth-century obelisks, figured memorials, stone monuments in granite and other stone are also present including a remarkable oversized granite orb.

Generally, the age of gravestones and monuments decreases with the decline of the slope west to east. The newest, active sections are in the lowland of the easternmost section.

Also on site are a picturesque, granite, Gothic Revival Memorial Chapel, a utilitarian service and office building and a simple, gable-roofed, frame, hearse house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE X *see continuation sheet*

Explain religious affiliations, major period of use, and evaluate historical association of this burial ground with the community.

Founded in 1738, Woodlawn Cemetery, a municipally owned and operated cemetery, is a well-preserved example of a rural to suburban New England burial ground that illustrates evolving concepts of funerary from the Colonial period through the twentieth century. It was established in the early eighteenth century when it became clear that the North Acton Cemetery was too small and too remote for general utility to the community. The original deed for the oldest part of the cemetery, dated January 16, 1737, conveyed one-half acre to the town from Nathan Robbins. On December 11, 1769, a second deed conveyed a small tract adjoining the southeast corner from Joseph Robbins. Third (dated November 2, 1812), fourth (dated January 1, 1844) and fifth (dated August 22, 1862) deeds added to the holding so that it equaled approximately 12 acres by 1890.

At a special town meeting on January 17, 1774, called to discuss matters relating the shipment of tea and the duties to be laid upon it, the town also voted to fence the burial ground. The cost was to be met by an assessment of all residents except those living the northeast part of town as they had already erected the stone wall around the North Acton Cemetery. Lt. Billing was exempted from the assessment on the condition that he build a "good gate". A committee comprised of Ensing Joseph Robbins, Simon Hunt and Joseph Barker was established to complete the fence by the last day of September 1775 and deliver the bill to the assessors so they could charge it to the town.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

The earliest grave marker dates to 1743, but it is presumed earlier burials occurred at unmarked mounds or denoted only with un-inscribed field stones. Among those buried here are Josiah Hayward (dod May 6, 1783, age 76) who held several town offices and represented the town in the General Assembly, Reverend John Swift, (dod November 7, 1775, age 62) first pastor of the Congregational Church of Acton (ordained November 8, 1738 and served to his death); Major Daniel Fletcher (dod December 15, 1776, age 59) Deacon Joseph Fletcher (dod March 6, 1791, age 61, Reverend Moses Adams.

The first superintendent of burials was hired in April 1863 when Francis Dwight was chosen as grave digger with a stipend of \$2.00 per burial. Before 1870, it was the practice of the town to hire space in the Robbins family tomb, which was built into the cemetery wall, at the price of \$1 per year. It was used as a repository when the ground was too frozen for burials. A larger, town-owned tomb was erected in 1870 near the hearse house, later tool shop. Most of the granite for the tomb was quarried on the farm of William Reed on Arlington Street.

It is unclear when the name "Woodlawn" was assigned to the cemetery, but it first appears in town records at the town meeting on November 2, 1875 when a warrant was considered to extend a new fence at the cemetery. This fence is considered by Phalen to be the stone wall extending from the west gate to the tomb.

In 1931, the town benefitted from bequest of \$80,000 in the will of Susan Noyes Hosmer (b. Acton, 1832; d. Auburndale, Massachusetts, 1930), daughter of Jeremiah and Hannah Noyes Hosmer. The money established the Jeremiah and Susan Noyes Hosmer Woodlawn Cemetery Fund. Susan Hosmer had lived with her brother Jeremiah (b. Acton, 1825; d. Boston, 1906) and was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Among the buildings on the cemetery is the Memorial Chapel erected in memory of Varnum Tuttle and Walter H. Whitney. On August 17, 1936, the town voted at special town meeting to accept the offer of conveyance of the woodlot north of the cemetery which had remained forest from Sarah Albertine Watson. The stipulation was that it be added to the cemetery grounds and the site of a mortuary chapel to be constructed in pursuance of the will of her sister Georgia E. Whitney. Both women were children of Varnum Tuttle (b. Acton, 1823; d. 1904), a partner in Tuttle, Jones and Wetherbee in South Acton and Sarah L. Keith (b. Acton). Sarah Albertine Tuttle (b. March 6, 1849), the younger sister, married Oliver Watson (d. 1931, buried at Woodlawn) and lived in Somerville. Georgia Tuttle (b. December 9, 1854; d. June 17, 1925) married Walter H. Whitney (b. 1849; d. 1906). The chapel, designed by architect H. Thaxter Underwood, was built of Chelmsford granite by D. F. and W. G. Burns and formally dedicated on June 19, 1938.

Other benefactors of Woodlawn Cemetery are brothers Roland and Ernest Wetherbee. Born in East Acton, they joined their uncle in business in Putney Georgia, but remembered their home town with earnings from their success. Roland Wetherbee established a trust fund for the improvement of the cemetery and Ernest Wetherbee funded the memorial gate dedicated to his wife, Harriet Pickard Wetherbee, (b. Littleton) who is buried at Woodlawn.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES __ See continuation sheet.

Phalen, Harold D. History of the Town of Acton. Cambridge, MA: Middlesex Printing, Inc., pp. 35, 37, 63, 64, 114, 181, 194, 195, 205-206, 210, 221, 222, 286 and 289.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.*

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible
 Contributing to a potential historic district
 Eligible only in a historic district
 Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by: Dianne L. Siergiej

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

Located almost midway between Acton Center and East Acton, Woodlawn Cemetery is the second oldest and largest of three municipally-owned and operated cemeteries in Acton. It is a well-preserved example of a New England burial ground that illustrates evolving concepts of funerary from the Colonial period through the present. It is the principal place of local interment and has proven consistently attractive to non-residents who have also chosen it as a final resting place. The graves of many prominent local citizens are located here. Other prominent Acton natives have been major benefactors to the cemetery. The cemetery retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and is architecturally and historically significant on a local level. It meets National Register Criteria A and C with Criterion Consideration D for its strong associations with the history and development of Acton and as a well-preserved burial ground with a variety of slate, marble, granite and other stone markers, monuments and memorials including obelisks, curbed family plots with wrought iron fences, figured memorials and a modern stone orb.

Also part of the cemetery is a finely-detailed, Gothic Revival memorial chapel dating to 1938 and a relatively-modest, stone memorial gate dating to 1950, several other stone gates, formal and loosely-laid stone walls, a receiving tomb and frame hearse house.

KnowHow #3

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

What You Need to Know about Listing on the National Register

The National Register is the nation's official list of buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects important in American history, culture, architecture, or archaeology. The National Register program is administered through the Massachusetts Historical Commission on behalf of the National Park Service.

Nominations are based on comprehensive local inventories of cultural resources. Inventories are generally compiled on a communitywide basis by local historical commissions and record basic information about the historic, architectural, and archaeological significance of individual properties and districts in a community. The completed inventory allows preservation decisions to be made within a consistent context, and identifies properties that are eligible for listing in the National Register.

1. How do I get my property listed in the National Register?

Contact your local historical commission or the MHC to determine whether an inventory form has been prepared for your property or if any additional information is required; ask your local historical commission to forward their recommendation to the MHC regarding your property's eligibility for the National Register. The MHC staff will then evaluate your property to determine whether it meets the criteria for listing in the National Register either individually or as part of a National Register District.

Criteria for Listing

The criteria for listing in the National Register are:

- a) association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- b) association with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- c) embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- d) likelihood of yielding information significant in history or prehistory.

Properties must meet at least one of the above criteria to be eligible for listing in the National Register.

The MHC staff evaluation team meets regularly to evaluate properties for the National Register. The object of the evaluation is to determine whether the property meets the criteria for listing. Decisions are based on MHC's knowledge of the resource and its integrity, and an understanding of the significance of the resource within its context. The inventory serves as the basis for all evaluation decisions. When the evaluation team does not have sufficient information to render a decision, additional information may be requested. When National Register districts are being evaluated, MHC staff may make a site visit prior to completing the evaluation.

If your property is eligible, the MHC will send you a nomination form and an instruction manual. You may wish to work with the local historical commission in completing the nomination or seek the assistance of a professional preservation consultant.

MHC staff will review your nomination submission for completeness and may request additional information. When complete, the nomination will be edited and processed by MHC staff, who will present it to the State Review Board of the Massachusetts Historical Commission at one of its quarterly National Register meetings.

The State Review Board will review the nomination and vote whether or not to nominate the property to the National Register of Historic Places. After being voted eligible, the nomination will then be forwarded to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

2. What are the benefits of being listed in the National Register?

Recognition: The National Register recognizes the significance of a property to the community, state, and/or nation.

Tax Incentives: National Register listing allows the owners of income-producing properties certain federal tax incentives for substantial rehabilitation according to standards set by the Department of Interior.

Protection: National Register properties are afforded limited protection from adverse effects of federally assisted projects; and, through automatic inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places, limited protection from state actions.

KnowHow #3

Grants: Inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places, which comes automatically with National Register listing, provides eligibility for matching state grants for restoration of properties owned by private nonprofit organizations and municipalities, when such grants are available.

3. Will National Register listing restrict the use of my property?

Listing in the National Register in no way interferes with a property owner's right to alter, manage, or sell the property when using private funds, unless some other regional and/or local ordinance or policy is in effect. If you use state or federal funds to alter your property, or need state or federal permits, the alteration will be reviewed by the MHC staff. Local funding and permitting do not trigger MHC review.

4. What is a National Register District?

Properties may be nominated to the National Register either individually or, if they are located within areas containing other significant properties, as districts. A National Register District may include any number of properties. The benefits and protections afforded by listing are the same.

5. Can my property be listed in the National Register if my community's inventory is not comprehensive?

Yes, in some cases. There are three exceptions to MHC's policy not to consider properties for the National Register in communities without comprehensive inventory.

If you can demonstrate that:

- 1) you, as the owner of income-producing property, are planning to do certified rehabilitation work and need National Register status in order to use the federal investment tax credits;
- 2) your property is in imminent danger of destruction; or
- 3) your property is of demonstrated state or national significance,

you may then submit a letter to MHC requesting a National Register evaluation for your property, stating why you want to have the property listed. However, you should note that without comprehensive inventory information, the eligibility of properties is difficult to establish. You will probably need to conduct supplemental inventory work to provide a context for evaluating the significance of your property.

6. If my house is listed in the National Register, are grant monies available for rehabilitation work?

Unfortunately, at present, the MHC does not administer federal or state rehabilitation funds for private homeowners. State grant monies, when available, are awarded only to properties owned by municipalities and non-profit organizations. Federal tax credits are available for substantial rehabilitation of income-producing and commercial properties.

7. Can I object to having my property listed in the National Register?

Yes. Once you receive notice that your property is being considered for listing in the National Register by the State Review Board, you may submit a notarized letter of objection to MHC. If your property is within a proposed National Register district, you will be invited to a public meeting in your community, prior to the State Review Board meeting, at which MHC staff will be available to answer questions about the listing. If your property is within a proposed National Register district, a majority of property owners (more than 50%) must submit notarized objections in order to prevent listing. If a majority of property owners do not object, the nomination may move forward and the properties for which there are objections will remain in the nominated district. If a majority of owners do object, the National Park Service may still formally determine the property(ies) eligible for listing, although actual listing will *not* occur.

8. Where do I go for assistance in preparing a National Register application?

Your local historical commission, local historical society, and library can provide useful resource material. Professional preservation consultants can assist you or your local historical commission with completion of the National Register nomination form. Also, when funds are available, matching Survey and Planning grants are awarded annually through MHC to fund professional National Register work. For more information, contact the MHC.

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Phone: (617) 727-8470 Fax: (617) 727-5128
Website: www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

Peter R. Grover

From: CommonColl@aol.com
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2008 9:16 PM
To: Peter R. Grover
Subject: Materials for Proposed NR Nominations for Acton Cemeteries
Attachments: Acton-N Acton Cem Form E 074.pdf; Acton-N Acton Cem NR Elig Stm 076.pdf

Peter:

North Acton Cemetery/Forest Cemetery on Carlisle Street and Mount Hope Cemetery on Central Street were inventoried in 1990, but National Register Eligibility Statements were not completed for either. I have prepared one for each of these burial grounds. Although the inventory Form E's are available at the Planning Office, I have scanned them. I will e-mail each of them as well as the NR Eligibility Statements I prepared as pdf files. That should give you the historical information and justification you need to present to the Board of Selectmen and CPC.

I have also prepared an NR Eligibility Statement for Woodlawn Cemetery and am at work on the Inventory Form E for Woodlawn Cemetery which I hope to finish it by the end of the day or tomorrow. I shall e-mail the NR Eligibility Statement today and the Inventory Form E for Woodlawn Cemetery tomorrow.

I have also modified a sample scope of services for the preparation of a NR Nomination for North Acton Cemetery/Forest Cemetery on Carlisle Road. The same scope of services can be used for Mount Hope Cemetery on Central Street and Woodlawn Cemetery on Concord Road. Format for that file is MS Word.

The cost estimates for the preparation of the NR Nominations are:

North Acton Cemetery \$4,000

Mount Hope Cemetery \$10,000

Woodlawn Cemetery \$14,000

I shall forward the materials referenced in separate, attached files to e-mail. I have been finding that large zip files have been returned by recipients servers.

Attached here are the pdf files of the Inventory Form E for North Acton/Forest Cemetery and the NR Eligibility Statement.

Other e-mails will immediately follow.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Dianne

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