

4558

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Old Settlers' Burying Ground
Other names/site number: Old Settlers' Burial Field
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Main Street (Route 70)
City or town: Lancaster State: Massachusetts County: Worcester
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 A B C D

<u>Brona Suron</u>		<u>September 12, 2019</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	SHPO	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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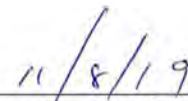
4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>53</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>54</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Granite and slate

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Old Settlers' Burying Ground, also known as Old Settlers' Burial Field, was established in 1653 and is the oldest cemetery in the town of Lancaster, Massachusetts. The cemetery is at the southeast end of town, east of Main Street and south of the Nashua River. Heavily wooded land bounds the cemetery to the north, east, and south, and a railroad right-of-way established in 1849 runs to the northwest. According to Lancaster Historical Commission records, the Old Settlers' Burying Ground contains approximately 196 stones and approximately 230 burials. The cemetery is maintained by the Town of Lancaster but is no longer in active use. The earliest marked burial is dated 1674, and the last interment was in 1851. The stones in the cemetery reflect the continuum of headstone iconography popular from the 17th through 19th centuries, including death's head, winged death's head, soul effigy, heart, hourglass, skeleton, coffin, cherub, flower and garland of victory, architectural element (column and entablature), six-pointed rosette, coil and whirl, cloud, and urn and willow images. The Old Settlers' Burying Ground is the burial place of numerous members of Lancaster's founding families, including the Prescotts, Athertons, Fairbanks, Houghtons, Joselyns, Ruggs, Sawyers, Whites, Whitcombs, Wilders, and Willards. The cemetery contains the graves of at least three French and Indian War soldiers and at least three Revolutionary War soldiers. The Old Settlers' Burying Ground contains 54 contributing resources (1 site and 53 objects). There are no non-contributing resources.¹

Narrative Description

Setting

The Old Settlers' Burying Ground is at the southeast end of the town of Lancaster in Worcester County, Massachusetts. The 1.5-acre cemetery is in the west portion of a 10.6-acre town-owned parcel. The parcel is bounded by an active railroad right-of-way on the northwest; the Nashua River on the northeast; and private property on the south, southwest, and southeast. The 10.6-acre parcel consists mostly of wooded

¹ The number of contributing resources refers to the representative stones discussed in the narrative and included in the district data sheet. The cemetery contains a total of 196 stones, which are all identified on the district map.

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land that slopes generally north and south, toward the Nashua River and wetlands, from a central high point. The Old Settlers' Burying Ground is on the high ground approximately 50 feet southeast of the railroad right-of-way at the bottom of the embankment and approximately 50 feet northeast of the southern lot line of the 10.6-acre parcel. A separate burial site, the Thayer Family Burial Plot, is immediately southeast of the Old Settlers' Burying Ground, approximately in the center of the 10.6-acre parcel. It is not included within the boundaries of the Old Settlers' Burying Ground because, although it was deeded to the town in 1937, it was historically and continues to be in use as the Thayer families' burial ground and was never used for non-familial interments (Lennon 2017a).

The Old Settlers' Burying Ground is within a wooded area on a raised, elongated hill surrounded by low wetlands to the north, east, and south. It is only accessible by foot, either from the Middle Cemetery (NR pending), which is west of the Old Settlers' Burying Ground across the railroad right-of-way, or from a dirt off-road path on parcel 038-0154 and parcel 038-0002 that leads to a parking area on Main Street north of the Middle Cemetery.

Resource Descriptions

The **Old Settlers' Burying Ground (1653, MHC No. LAN.801, Photos 1–6)** is approximately rectangular, occupying 1.5 acres of land south of the Nashua River in South Lancaster. The roughly rectangular cemetery is approximately 412 feet long by 100 feet wide at its middle. The site slopes upward from all sides, except at the southwest corner where it is level with Meeting House Hill, the former site of the town's first and second meeting houses. A wide, somewhat irregular aisle, possibly an overgrown former pathway, runs in a general southeast-northwest direction through the center of the cemetery. The grounds are grass with patches of moss; there is no formal landscaping within the cemetery. The central portion of the cemetery is occupied primarily by the oldest stones, erected in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, while the north and south ends contain primarily 18th-century stones. A concentration of early to mid-19th-century stones is at the south end of the cemetery. Stones are arranged in irregular rows running north-south with families often clustered together; however, no regular family lots are laid out.

While the condition of the cemetery is good, a small number of stones throughout the cemetery are broken, some stones are missing, and some of the footstones have been removed from their original location and placed against the backs of the corresponding headstones. Some engravings have worn over time and are in varying states of legibility. Many of the stones have biological growth, such as lichen, on them.

The cemetery was historically bounded by a wood fence that is no longer extant. It is currently roughly bounded by mature, successional-growth trees. The entrance to the cemetery from the railroad right-of-way is at the northwest corner. A secondary entrance is at the southeast end, where the cemetery connects to the Thayer Family Burial Plot and an off-road trail on town-owned land. The **Entrance Marker (1924, No. D, LAN.983, Photo 7)**, erected in 1924, is at the northwest corner, facing the entrance from the railroad right-of-way. The marker consists of a polished, tripartite slate tablet with rounded tops on the tympanum and wings. The front of the sign reads "1653, Old Settlers Burial Field, Erected 1924" and has decorative scroll engravings in the side borders and a double-lined inscription border.

The date of the earliest interment in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground is unknown, although the cemetery was likely organized and in use soon after the town was incorporated in 1653 (see Criterion A –

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Exploration/Settlement). According to the Marvin inventory² and Lancaster Historical Commission records, the Old Settlers' Burying Ground contains 196 gravestones marking approximately 230 burials. A small number of stones mark multiple burials, while the rest mark individual graves. The cemetery also likely contains unmarked burials, including those of individuals who died between 1653 and 1674, the date of the earliest marked gravestone. Approximately 18 gravestones, scattered throughout the cemetery, are broken or have faces that are worn or damaged to the point of illegibility.

The majority of the stones in the cemetery are unpolished or polished slate, with a smaller number of the earliest stones consisting of rough-cut granite. Many of the graves are marked with footstones, and the inscriptions are generally on the west sides of the headstones, with the interments extending east.

The earliest marked gravestone in the cemetery is that of **Dorothy Prescott (1674, No. 189, LAN.9026, Photo 8)**. It is a rough-cut, irregular-shaped granite marker with a crudely carved inscription that extends from the front of the headstone to the back and splits words between lines. It reads "Here lieth the body of Dorothy, the wife of Jonathan Prescott. Who deceased [on front]... 1674 [on back]." This type of gravestone was commonly used in rural New England throughout the 17th and into the early 18th centuries. Approximately 19 other stones in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground are rough-cut, irregular or roughly rectangular, granite gravestones with crude carving, including those for **Thomas Sawyer (1706, No. 179, LAN.9022)**, **Jonathan and Grace Fairbank (1697, No. 157, LAN.9015)**, **Mary Fairbank (1718, No. 138, LAN.9010)**, **Jonas Fairbank (1697, No. 158, LAN.9016)**, **Hasadiah Houghton (1711, No. 49, LAN.995, Photo 9)**, **Abigail Houghton (1711, No. 50, LAN.996, see Photo 9)**, **John Houghton (1684, No. 60, LAN.998)**, **A son of Henry and Abigail Houghton (1708, No. 59, LAN.997)**, **Henry Houghton (son) (1702, No. 48, LAN.994)**, and **Abigail Houghton (daughter) (n.d., No. 61, LAN.999)**. Many of these stones mark the burials of some of Lancaster's earliest settlers (see Criterion A – Exploration and Settlement). Some markers in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground represent a more simplified ornamentation that was used in the early and mid-18th century in rural cemeteries. The stones of **John Prescott (1749, No. 164, LAN.9017)** and **Dorothy Prescott (1749, No. 165, LAN.9018)** are examples of this typology, with typical rounded tripartite slate stones that have scrollwork only on the tympanums and wings.

Markers with early interpretations of soul effigies can be found in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground on simple rectangular or round-top tablets. These have a teardrop-shaped abstract face centered in the tympanum with deeply carved round eyes, a straight nose, and a straight mouth, an image that often predated the use of a death's head. The edges of the stone are carved with flowers in the curves of the shoulders and corners of the tympanum and spirals and whirls along the sides and bottom. The Old Settlers' Burying Ground contains at least 20 markers of this type, many of which retain matching footstones. Stones that exemplify this typology are those for **John Beaman (1739, No. 185, LAN.9025, Photos 10 and 11)**, **Rebekah Rugg (1747, No. 201, LAN.9029)**, **Rev. John Prentice (1747, No. 67, LAN.9002, Photo 12)**, and **Samuel Bennit (1742, No. 22, LAN.991)**. Most of these stones have no apparent carver's name on them, but their style is similar to that of Jonathan and Moses Worster from Harvard, Massachusetts (see Criterion C – Art).

At least 30 markers in the cemetery are carved with a death's head image, consisting of an incised skull with or without flanking wings. The icon is typically centered in a rounded tympanum flanked by rounded shoulders. The words "Memento Mori" (Latin for "Remember Death") are often carved above the winged

² In 1877, Harold Parker (1859–1939), a civil engineer from Lancaster, was hired to draw a plan of the cemetery, marking all burials with gravestones (Figure 1). Rev. Abijah Marvin made a corresponding list of all the markers and their engravings, which was subsequently published in his 1879 history of the town of Lancaster (Marvin 1879).

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skull. The side borders of the marker are incised with flowers, scrollwork, and garlands (see Criterion C – Art). Examples of this stone typology include the Sarah Sawyer (1718, No. 183, LAN.9023, see Photo 11), Mary Prentice (1718, No. 68, LAN.9003), Jonathan Phillips (1780, No. 8, LAN.985), Rev. Andrew Gardner (1704, No. 65, LAN.9001, see Photo 12), and Priscilla Beaman (1729, No. 184, LAN.984, see Photos 10 and 11) stones. Some stones in the cemetery mark the burial of more than one person and include more than one death's head to represent each person buried in the location, such as the stone for Jonas and Anna Goss (1774/1779, No. 102, LAN.9006, Photo 13), which has two death's heads. The Dr. John, Eunice, Olive, and John Dunsmoor stone (1747, No. 149, LAN.9011 Photo 14) is a unique stone in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground for its highly decorative qualities, including four death's heads, one for each of the people buried, as well as hearts and cherubs.

Other common motifs used in the 18th century that are exemplified in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground are hourglasses, coffins, and architectural elements. The Elizabeth Willard (1751, No. 171, LAN.9021, Photo 15) stone has a central hourglass instead of a death's head or soul effigy in the tympanum. At least five 18th-century stones in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground incorporate architectural elements. The most commonly used architectural element is the classical temple form with columns. The stones of John Prescott (1791, No. 166, LAN.9019, Photo 16), Mary Prescott (1788, No. 167, LAN.9020, see Photo 16), Rev. Timothy Harrington (1795, No. 47, LAN.993), and Samuel Locke (1775, No. 35, LAN.992, Photo 17) showcase the use of columns and lintels in their iconography.

At least 60 stones, such as the markers for Nathaniel Wyman (1776, No. 15, LAN.988, Photo 18), Mary Whitney (1778, No. 14, LAN.987, see Photo 18), Deborah Wilder (1778, No. 190, LAN.9027), Dr. Phinehas Phelps (1770, No. 154, LAN.9014, Photo 19), Sarah Allen (1755, No. 152, LAN.9013, Photo 20), Ephraim Wyman (1780, No. 12, LAN.986), Dr. Stanton Prentice (1769, No. 63, LAN.9000, Photo 21), Martha Joselyn (1768, No. 195, LAN.9028), Isaac Rugg (1758, No. 131, LAN.9009), Capt. John Bennit (1761, No. 21, LAN.990), Col. John Carter (1766, No. 87, LAN.9004), and Capt. Ephraim Wilder Jr. (1770, No. 105, LAN.9007) are carved with soul effigies and corresponding side border decorative motifs of rosettes, scrollwork, flowers, and garlands, which followed death's heads in the evolution of gravestone iconography (see Criterion C – Art). The soul effigy motif consists of a rounded face with incised facial features, often flanked by wings. Markers in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground that incorporate soul effigies are typically rectangular stones with a rounded tympanum flanked by shallow curved shoulders and often have "Memento Mori" carved below the soul effigy. The stones for Andrew, Andrew II, Joseph, Ruth, and Deborah Wilder (1741, 1753, 1755, 1764, No. 1, LAN.984, Photo 22) and John and John Ballard (1792, 1794, No. 99, LAN.9005) depict soul effigies but mark the burial of more than one person.

The least common image carved on gravestones in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground is the urn and willow. This image consists of an incised urn, typically under an arch created by a weeping willow. Approximately ten stones in the cemetery are carved with an urn, a willow tree, or an urn and willow together. The rectangular stones have curved tympanums and straight shoulders, with the urn and willow images centered in the tympanum above ornamental triangular incisions. Three examples of this type of marker are the stones for Honorable John Sprague (1800, No. 205, LAN.9031, Photo 23), Dea. Cyrus Fairbank (1801, No. 128, LAN.9008), Submit Wyman (1804, No. 17, LAN.989), and Ebenezer Allen (1770, No. 151, 9012). The last interment to occur in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground was Peter Thatcher Vose, which is marked by the Peter Thatcher Vose (1851, No. 202a, LAN.9030) stone, a simple round-top slate tablet with no decorative motifs.

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The Old Settlers' Burying Ground contains four commemorative markers from the late 19th and early 20th centuries placed in honor of notable early settlers of Lancaster (see Criterion A – Exploration and Settlement). The **Rev. John Whiting Memorial Marker (1878, No. 57, LAN.979, see Photo 12)**, installed by the town in 1878 to replace Whiting's earlier damaged gravestone, is a polished slate tablet marker with a simple engraving. The **Prescott Memorial Marker (1903, No. A, LAN.980, see Photos 6 and 8)**, installed in 1903 by descendants of the Prescott family, is a large polished slate tablet decorated with an urn, floral garland, and scrolls. The **John and Joane White Memorial Marker (1907, No. B, LAN.981, see Photo 3 and Photo 24)**, erected in 1907 by descendants of the Whites, is a granite tablet with a tympanum decorated with scrolls and fan-like motifs. The **John Houghton Memorial Marker (1913, No. C, LAN.982, see Photos 3 and 21, and Photo 25)**, erected in 1913 by a descendant of Houghton's, is a large polished slate tablet with a simple engraving on the front and the 1701 deed for additional land for the town of Lancaster, which Houghton helped to negotiate, on the back.

Statement of Integrity

The Old Settlers' Burying Ground retains its original layout and landscape and most of its gravestones. It has an excellent collection of gravestones from the late 18th to mid-19th centuries, including early rough-cut granite markers with crude carvings and slate markers with soul effigies and death's heads. The Old Settlers' Burying Ground retains integrity of design, location, workmanship, feeling, association, setting, and materials.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Exploration/Settlement

Art

Period of Significance

Ca.1653–1924

Significant Dates

1653: Incorporation of the town and likely establishment of Old Settlers' Burying Ground

1674: First known interment in Old Settlers' Burying Ground

1851: Last interment in Old Settlers' Burying Ground

1878: Installment of Rev. John Whiting Memorial Stone

1903: Installment of Prescott Memorial Stone

1907: Installment of John and Joane White Memorial Stone

1913: Installment of John Houghton Memorial Stone

1924: Installment of Old Settlers' Burying Ground Entrance Marker

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Codner, William

Dwight, John

Lamson family

New, John

Park, William

Wilder, James

Worster (Worcester), Jonathan

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Old Settlers' Burying Ground is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement and under Criterion C in the area of Art. It is eligible in the area of Exploration/Settlement as the earliest cemetery in Lancaster, serving as the first town-established cemetery and remaining an active town cemetery into the mid-19th century. Under Criterion C, the cemetery is eligible as a well-preserved, rural New England cemetery that contains examples of popular gravestone styles and iconography from the late 17th through the mid-19th centuries.

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The Old Settlers' Burying Ground meets Criteria Consideration D as it derives its primary significance through its association with the early history of Lancaster and its collection of gravestones.

The period of significance for the Old Settlers' Burying Ground begins ca. 1653, when the town was incorporated and likely established the Old Settlers' Burying Ground. The period of significance ends in 1924, the date of the last installment of a commemorative marker in the cemetery.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

CRITERION A – EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

The Old Settlers' Burying Ground is significant under Criterion A at the local level in the area of Exploration/Settlement as the oldest cemetery in Lancaster. The cemetery was likely established soon after the town's incorporation, and was the first town-established burying ground. It served as the primary town burial ground into the early 19th century. The earliest marked grave in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground is from 1674 (Marvin 1879:633–634).

Lancaster was first settled in 1643 by Europeans who came from Watertown, Massachusetts. John Prescott and others acquired 80 square miles from Sholam or Shaumauw, sachem of the Nashaways or Nashawohs, in a deed sanctioned by the Massachusetts general court (Marvin 1879:37–38). Prescott, who settled in the area between 1644 and 1646, was likely the first permanent inhabitant of European descent in Lancaster, originally known as Nashaway (Marvin 1879:41). By 1647, there were at least three permanent settlers in the plantation: Prescott, Richard Linton, and Lawrence Waters, all from Watertown. In 1653, the nine families residing in the plantation by then petitioned the general court for incorporation, and the town of Lancaster was incorporated as the first town in Worcester County, Massachusetts (Marvin 1879:37–38, 41–42). The settlers originally wanted to name the town Prescott, but the general court chose the name of Lancaster. By 1654, Lancaster had a total of 20 families of permanent settlers, including John Prescott, John White, and John Houghton (Marvin 1879:50–51, 54).

As part of the town's establishment, the proprietors agreed to reserve land on the west side of the Nashua River for a meeting house and burying ground, creating the **Old Settlers' Burying Ground (1653, LAN.801, see Photos 1–6)** (Lennon 2017a; Marvin 1879: 37–38, 41–42, 90). This area of the town, now South Lancaster, was originally the epicenter of settlement. In 1657, the town had the first meeting house built on the hill where the Middle Cemetery (LAN.800) is now located on Main Street, overlooking the Old Settlers' Burying Ground to the northeast. This meeting house and the majority of the buildings in town were burned to the ground by Native Americans in 1676, during King Philip's War. In 1684, the town built a second meeting house on the same site. It too was burned to the ground by Native Americans in a 1704 conflict (MHC 1984:3). After the meeting house burned the second time, the residents decided to build the third meeting house on the east side of the Nashua River, essentially moving the center of town away from the Old Settlers' Burying Ground (MHC 1984:4–5). A second burying ground--the Lancaster Old Common Burial Ground (LAN.802)--was established in 1718 near the third meeting house (not extant) (Marvin 1879:664).

Early records on the establishment of and burials in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground do not exist (Marvin 1879:633). No stones or markers of other types remain to indicate where burials prior to 1674 are located. It is possible that markers from pre-1674, if they existed, were destroyed or removed following

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the 1676 massacre and burning of the town. It is also possible that the bodies of those killed in the massacre were buried in unmarked graves in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground. The first known burial in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground was that of **Dorothy Prescott (1674, No. 189, LAN.9026, see Photo 8)**. It is marked by a rough granite gravestone.

The Old Settlers' Burying Ground contains seven stones for burials that occurred in the 17th century and approximately thirty from 1700 to 1739. Other members of the Prescott family were some of the first people to be buried in the cemetery, including the first settler of Lancaster, John Prescott, whose grave is marked with the **John Prescott (1681, No. 164, LAN.9017)** stone. Ten members of the Prescott family have gravestones in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground, and the cemetery likely contains additional unmarked Prescott graves. In addition to John and Dorothy Prescott, the Old Settlers' Burying Ground contains the burials of other notable early settlers of Lancaster. Members of the Atherton, Fairbank, Houghton, Joselyn, Rugg, Sawyer, White, Wilder, and Willard families are interred in the cemetery (Lennon 2017a). Prescott, Houghton, Sawyer, and White were families established in Lancaster by 1654 (Marvin 1879:45–46). One member of the Atherton family, sixteen members of the Fairbank family, seven members of the Houghton family, five members of the Joselyn family, two members of the Rugg family, twelve members of the Sawyer family, one member of the White family, twelve members of the Wilder family, and nine members of the Willard family have gravestones in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground, and the cemetery likely contains additional unmarked graves of these families. The burials of Thomas Sawyer (1616–1706), John Houghton (d. 1684), and John White (d. 1673), three of the original settlers with John Prescott in 1654, are marked with the **Thomas Sawyer (1706, No. 179, LAN.9022)**, **John Houghton (1684, No. 60, LAN.998)**, and **John and Joane White Memorial Stone (1907, No. B, LAN.981, see Photos 3 and 24)** stones (Marvin 1879:45–46; Lennon 2017a, 2017c).

Lancaster's second, third, fourth, and fifth ministers are buried in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground, marked by the **Rev. John Whiting (1878, No. 57, LAN.979, see Photo 12)**, **Rev. Andrew Gardner (1704, No. 65, LAN.9001, see Photo 12)**, **Rev. John Prentice (1747, No. 67, LAN.9002, see Photo 12)**, and **Rev. Timothy Harrington (1795, No. 47, LAN.993)** stones. John Whiting (1664–1697), the town's second minister, served from 1690 to 1697, when he died in a Native American attack. Andrew Gardner (1674–1704), the third minister, served from 1701 to 1704, when he was killed by friendly fire during a Native American attack in 1704. John Prentice (1682–1748) was the fourth minister, serving from 1708 to 1748. Timothy Harrington (1715–1795) was the fifth minister, serving from 1748 to 1795 (First Church of Christ 2018; Lennon 2017c). The cemetery also contains the burials of several veterans of the French and Indian War and three veterans of the Revolutionary War: **Dea. Cyrus Fairbank (1801, No. 128, LAN.9008)**, **Jonathan Phillips (1780, No. 8, LAN.985)**, and **Ephraim Wyman (1780, No. 12, LAN.986)** (Lennon 2017a, 2017c; Marvin 1879:291–292).

Approximately 160 gravestones in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground date to the 18th century, with the largest number of interments occurring in the mid-18th century (Lennon 2017c). Vegetation in the cemetery has generally consisted of grass and a handful of mature deciduous trees. Town records indicate that in 1718, two brothers with the last name Harris were ordered by the town to clear and manage the vegetation in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground (Marvin 1879:182). In 1800, a rail fence (no longer extant) was erected around the perimeter of the cemetery for the cost of \$30 (Marvin 1879:374, 634–635).

By the late 18th century, interments in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground slowed, due to the establishment and use of three other town-owned cemeteries in Lancaster: the Lancaster Old Common Burial Ground (established about 1718, LAN.802), Middle Cemetery (established 1798, LAN.800), and North Burial Field (established about 1800, LAN.805) (Marvin 1879:633, 664, 674–675; Lennon 2017b). In the 19th

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century, only 11 people were interred in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground. The 1851 burial of Peter Thatcher Vose, marked with the **Peter Thatcher Vose (1851, No. 202a, LAN.9030)** stone, was the last known interment in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground (Lennon 2017c).

Beginning in the late 19th century, commemorative markers were installed in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground for notable early settlers of the town who are buried there. The **Rev. John Whiting Memorial Marker (1878, No. 57, LAN.979, see Photo 16)** was installed by the town in 1878 to replace Whiting's earlier, damaged gravestone. The **Prescott Memorial Stone (1903, No. A, LAN.980, see Photos 6 and 8)** was commissioned by Mrs. Rogers Wolcott, a descendant of town founder John Prescott's, and installed in the cemetery in 1903, during the town's 250th anniversary. The lengthy inscription was written by George Frisbie Hoar, a Massachusetts senator and descendant of Prescott's (Lennon 2017a). Descendants of John White, another incorporator of the town, erected the **John and Joane White Memorial Stone (1907, No. B, LAN.981, see Photo 17)**. L. T. Houghton, a descendant of early settler John Houghton, installed the **John Houghton Memorial Stone (1913, No. C, LAN.982, see Photos 3, 21, and 25)**, which has an inscription of the 1701 deed for additional town land that Houghton helped negotiate between Native Americans in the area and representatives of Lancaster (Lennon 2017a). In 1924, the **Entrance Marker (1924, No. D, LAN.983, see Photo 7)** was installed at the entrance to the cemetery by a donation, the town, or an organization interested in the preservation of the cemetery (Lennon 2017a). The installation of the marker was the last major work to occur in the cemetery and marks the end of the period of significance.

Since the mid-19th century, the cemetery has remained inactive, with no additional interments occurring. In 1937, the town of Lancaster acquired the land to the southeast, which included the Thayer Family Burial Plot (see Figure 1), from the estate of Nathaniel Thayer as the family no longer wished to maintain a family burial ground. Several members of the Thayer family are interred there.³ The last family interment was in 2006, although burial spots remain open for living Thayer family members (Lennon 2017a). The family plot is not considered a part of the Old Settlers' Burying Ground, since it dates primarily to the 19th century and was used only for Thayer family burials. Separated from the nominated burying ground by dense vegetation, it is located in a secluded area that is just downhill from the Old Settlers' Burying Ground.

By the late 20th century, the Lancaster Historical Society was working to preserve the Old Settlers' Burying Ground. In 1989, the group commissioned Fannin and Lehner, Preservation Consultants, to create a conservation project plan for the cemetery. Preservation concerns at that time were typical of historic cemeteries and included fallen, tilted, leaning, and broken stones; biological growth; and overgrowth of existing trees too close to stones (Fannin and Lehner 1989). Some preservation work was conducted in the late 20th century to reset fallen and tilting stones and to manage biological growth (Lennon 2017a). The cemetery remains under the ownership of the town of Lancaster, which continues to maintain it. The cemetery is overall in good condition with regular mowing to keep the area clear of overgrown vegetation.

CRITERION C – ART

The Old Settlers' Burying Ground is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Art as a well-preserved rural New England burial ground that contains examples of popular gravestone styles and

³ Nathaniel Thayer is buried in Middle Cemetery (NR pending).

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iconography from the late 17th through the mid-19th centuries. The markers demonstrate the evolution of beliefs surrounding death from the Colonial period through the Early Industrial period (1830–1870).

The earliest gravestones in New England were simple boulders or slabs, rarely with lettering or ornamentation. If lettering was used, it often consisted simply of initials and date. The earliest surviving example of this type of stone in Massachusetts is in Ipswich and dated 1647. By the 1650s, simple boulders and upright slabs with plain lettering, often crudely carved, were used to mark burials (Tucker 1993:153–154). These stones were typically produced from local material and dressed on one side to make inscriptions easier to carve. In more rural towns, such as Lancaster, undressed stones with roughly carved inscriptions and guidelines were used into the early 1700s (Ludwig 1966:283–287). At least 20 stones of this typology can be found in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground, including the stones of Dorothy Prescott (1674, No. 189, LAN.9026, see Photo 8), Thomas Sawyer (1706, No. 179, LAN.9022), Jonathan and Grace Fairbank (1697, No. 157, LAN.9015), Mary Fairbank (1718, No. 138, LAN.9010), Jonas Fairbank (1697, No. 158, LAN.9016), Hasadiah Houghton (1711, No. 49, LAN.995, see Photo 9), Abigail Houghton (1711, No. 50, LAN.996, see Photo 9), John Houghton (1684, No. 60, LAN.998), A son of Henry and Abigail Houghton (1708, No. 59, LAN.997), Henry Houghton (son) (1702, No. 48, LAN.994), and Abigail Houghton (daughter) (n.d., No. 61, LAN.999).

This is a substantial number of early gravestones; for comparison, only four or five of such early rough carved stones have been identified in cemeteries in Newton, Massachusetts (Lennon 2017a). Some of these granite markers are rough cut in an irregular or semi-rectangular form with a semi-dressed face, while others show the transition to a more uniform, rectangular, dressed slab with crudely carved lettering. Many of the inscriptions continue onto the backs of the headstones or the corresponding footstones. Most of the inscriptions consist only of the person's name and death date, such as "JOHN HOUGHTON DECEASED 1684." Others include more formal inscriptions, such as "HERE LYETH THE BODY OF ABIGAIL THE WIFE OF HENRY HOUGHTON [on headstone]... AGE 31 1711 [on footstone]."

By the 1660s in less rural regions and the early 1700s in more rural regions, fully dressed slate markers with the traditional tripartite division into a central panel and flanking slender wings with flat or rounded tops became commonly used. These early stones often had deeply cut horizontal guidelines carved onto the face of the stone as guides for the carver's inscription to guarantee straight lines of text. In colonial New England, prior to 1700, relatively few stonecutters carved more than lettering on gravestones. Simple ornamentation, such as scrollwork in the tympanums and wings, preceded the use of more elaborate decorative motifs (Tucker 1993:151). Stones of this style, including those for John Prescott (1749, No. 164, LAN.9017) and Dorothy Prescott (1749, No. 189, LAN.9026, see Photo 8), can be found in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground from the early to mid-1700s.

By the early 1700s, gravestone iconography followed a progression demonstrated in cemeteries across the region that responded to changing views of death and how the deceased were memorialized in the United States. Through the 18th and early 19th centuries, stones were predominantly slate and had rounded tympanums and often rounded shoulders. Abstract soul effigies, death's heads, and winged death's heads began to appear on gravestones. The death's head (a winged skull) later transitioned to soul effigies (winged rounded faces) and ended with the urn and willow. Heavy guidelines also began to dissipate at this time with the growth of professional stone carvers (Tucker 1993:153–154, 199; Deetz 1977:72).

In northeastern and central Massachusetts, abstract soul effigies, such as those found on the gravestones for John Beaman (1739, No. 185, LAN.9025, see Photo 10) and Rebekah Rugg (1747, No. 201, LAN.9029), predated the death's head. Many of the stones of this typology are in clusters of the same

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families, such as the Prentice family, Carter family, Bennit family, and Buss family. Markers with abstract faces found in Middlesex and Worcester counties are frequently attributed to Jonathan Worster and his son Moses. These stones typically incorporated an abstract soul effigy with a round-topped head, a pointed chin with round eye sockets, and a thin line for a nose that extends from between the eyes to a rectangular mouth. Some of the effigies had abstract curled hair above the heads, and others had no hair depicted. Other decorative elements on these early stones included six-pointed rosettes, coils, and whirls in the tympanums. Many of these stones also had visible guidelines (Deetz 1977:72).

Death's heads, in use by the end of the 17th century in New England, were related primarily to the Congregationalist Puritans and their avoidance of religious symbols such as cherubs or crosses on meeting houses or gravestones (Deetz 1977:69; DPR 2018). Death's heads served as a visual reminder of death and resurrection without an overt religious connection (Deetz 1977:71). Inscriptions paired with death's head icons frequently began with the phrase "Here lyeth..." or "Here lies buried..." stressing the brevity of life (Deetz 1977:71). The death's head fell out of favor by the mid-18th century as a result of the First Great Awakening (1730–1755), although it persisted in eastern and central Massachusetts through the last quarter of the 18th century (Deetz 1977:70). The Old Settlers' Burying Ground contains at least 30 examples of variations of death's heads, including winged and without wings, and varying interpretations of skulls. Stones of this type include those for **Mary Prentice (1718, No. 68, LAN.9003)** and **Priscilla Beaman (1729, No. 184, LAN.9024, see Photos 10 and 11)**. Many stones that incorporated the death's-head iconography often had additional decorative motifs on both the tympanum and side borders. Symbols of death, such as coffins and hourglasses that convey the brevity of human life, were commonly used (Keister 2004:132–134; Ludwig 1966). Side borders simply decorated with scrollwork were also common, as well as more elaborate side borders filled with garlands of leaves, flowers, grapes, pears, and gourds. Gourds, considered symbols of both life and death, were particularly popular in the 17th and early 18th centuries (Ludwig 1966:142–154). Stones in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground include numerous examples of the variation in decorative elements included with death's heads. A notable example is the stone for **Sarah Sawyer (1718, No. 183, LAN.9023, see Photo 11)**, which incorporates a central winged death's head on the tympanum with two coffins separated by an hourglass beneath the death's head, a simple double-lined inscription border, and garlands with gourds in the side borders.

Throughout the 1700s, some stone carvers used decorative elements other than death's heads and soul effigies. Hourglasses represented the brevity of human life and the association of time with death, a traditional European concept for gravestone motifs (Keister 2004:132; Ludwig 1966:88–89). The stone for **Elizabeth Willard (1751, No. 171, LAN.9021, see Photo 15)** is an example of this type of stone in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground. It is a typical slate tablet with a central hourglass flanked by six-point rosettes in the tympanum and scrollwork in the side borders. The use of architectural elements representing the journey to heaven was often implemented in gravestones by Puritans. Classical temple façades with pediments or arches topped by death's heads were common in New England. The columns that support the pediment represented death as a passageway or door into the unknown (Ludwig 1966:139–142). The **John Prescott (1791, No. 166, LAN.9019, see Photo 16)** and **Mary Prescott (1788, No. 167, LAN.9020, see Photo 16)** stones use Doric columns in the side borders and have slightly rounded lintels topped with winged soul effigies and a scroll reading "Memento mori." The **Rev. Timothy Harrington (1795, No. 47, LAN.993)** stone is similar to the Prescott stones, with Doric columns in the side borders and a slightly rounded lintel, but is instead topped with an hourglass. The stone for **Samuel Locke (1775, No. 35, LAN.992, see Photo 17)** is a unique stone with a central Doric column in the tympanum flanked by profile-view, winged soul effigies that are anatomically incorrect with enlarged ears and foreheads.

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Following the First Great Awakening, the winged soul effigy came into favor for gravestones instead of death's heads. These carvings were associated with religious practices that encouraged individuals to develop a more personal connection with their god. Inscriptions shifted from "Here lyeth..." to "Here lies buried *the body*..." [emphasis added] to indicate clearly that the deceased's soul had departed the body and only the corporeal remains were interred (Deetz 1977:71; Keister 2004:136). Soul effigies shifted to more human-like figures by the mid- to late 1700s and were generally popular until about 1810. At least 60 stones in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground are carved with soul effigies and corresponding side border decorative motifs such as rosettes, scrollwork, flowers, and garlands: the stones for **Nathaniel Wyman (1776, No. 15, LAN.988, see Photo 18)**, **Mary Whitney (1778, No. 14, LAN.987, see Photo 18)**, **Deborah Wilder (1778, No. 190, LAN.9027)**, **Dr. Phineas Phelps (1770, No. 154, LAN.9014, see Photo 19)**, and **Sarah Allen (1755, No. 152, LAN.9013, see Photo 20)**. Many of these stones have inscriptions that refer only to the corporeal body remaining on earth with inscriptions beginning "Here lies interred (or buried) the body of..." and "Sacred to the memory of..." Some of the inscriptions mark the precise location of a body, while others reflect a more commemorative intent. Many stones from this period also incorporate phrases regarding the human condition and rising to heaven, such as "The stroke of death hath laid my head down in this dark and silent bed: The trump shall sound, I hope to rise and meet my SAVIOUR in the skies" or "My flesh shall slumber in the Ground, till ye last trumpets joyful sound; then shall awake in sweet surprise, and in my SAVIOURS image rise" (stone inscriptions recorded in Deetz 1977:71–72).

The transition from locational to commemorative inscriptions was accompanied by the shift in iconography from soul effigies and cherubs to the urn and willow. The urn and willow remained the dominant motif throughout New England in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It consisted of a weeping willow, an ancient symbol of mourning, and an urn, used to hold ashes (DPR 2018). The willow can also suggest immortality, because the tree will continue to flourish regardless of how many branches are cut from it (Keister 2004:67). The urn and willow motif appears on relatively few of the stones in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground, since its popularity began toward the end of interments in the cemetery. A notable stone with the urn and willow motif and columns and a rounded lintel in the side borders is that for **Honorable John Sprague (1800, No. 205, LAN.9031, see Photo 23)**. A stone with a central urn in the tympanum beneath an arched palm and columns in the side borders is that of **Submit Wyman (1804, No. 17, LAN.909)**. The stone for **Ebenezer Allen (1770, No. 151, LAN.9012)** is a simple stepped, rectangular tablet with a round top that has a central urn under an arched willow branch in the tympanum.

Some stones in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground mark shared graves for children, often buried with their parents. These stones vary in their level of decorative motifs and often follow the designs popular at the time they were carved. The **Dr. John, Eunice, Olive, and John Dunsmoor (1747, No. 149, LAN.9011, see Photo 14)** stone is a shared stone for the doctor and his three children, Eunice, Olive, and John, who died in 1745. Unlike typical simple children's stones, this highly decorative stone is carved with winged death's heads, hearts, winged cherubs, and floral motifs. The heart motif with winged cherubs carrying it is an eros symbol that represents the soul lofting toward heaven (Ludwig 1966:160–161). The **Andrew, Andrew II, Joseph, Ruth, and Deborah Wilder (1741, 1753, 1755, 1764, No. 1, LAN.984, see Photo 22)** stone has a winged soul effigy with floral side borders and simple inscription borders to separate the five inscriptions. The **Jonas and Anna Goss (1774/1779, No. 102, LAN.9006, see Photo 13)** stone has two small headstones incised on a larger slate stone with winged death's heads for each child and simple scrollwork in the side borders. The inscription reads "In Memory of two children of Capt. Daniel & Mrs. Eunice Goss. Jonas Goss, died May 27th, Anno D. 1774. Aged 3 days. Anna Goss died January 17th, 1779. Aged 3 years, 8 months, and 19 days." The stone for **John and John Ballard (1792/1794, No. 99, LAN.9005)** is simple in design with no decorative elements, except two soul effigies above the

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inscription for each child. The top of the stone reads "In memory of two sons of Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Abigail Ballard...."

Gravestone Carvers (in alphabetical order)

The Old Settlers' Burying Ground contains multiple stones attributed to well-known gravestone carvers in Massachusetts. 17th- and 18th-century grave markers were almost never signed or initialed by their makers, who only began to sporadically mark or initial stones by the mid-18th century (Chase and Gabel 1990:29). Although the majority of the markers in the cemetery do not exhibit readily visible maker's marks, they are attributed to a particular carver based on hallmark stylistic qualities or existing scholarship.

Gravestone carving was a local business in most of New England, with carvers originally located in major cities such as Boston, and relocating to more rural towns as settlers moved further inland. From the 17th to the mid-19th century, carvers most frequently used locally sourced stone, such as fieldstone, granite, and slate. Often, carvers would open workshops in areas with active quarries, such as in the towns of Harvard and Lancaster, Massachusetts (Forbes 1955:7–10). Between the mid-17th and the early-19th centuries, gravestones ranged in price from a few pounds for a simple stone to over 40 pounds for an elaborate tomb. Outside urban centers, it was common to pay between 3 and 10 pounds for a grave marker. It was common practice for the estate of the deceased to pay for the gravestone. However, in many cases a person or a close relative would pay in advance. Similar to the purchase of a gravestone today, customers typically selected a pre-carved stone that required only the addition of an inscription or the name and date of the deceased. Stones were also sometimes commissioned to be a specific design based on the deceased's wishes (Forbes 1955:12–15).

Puritan death rituals were elaborate and often costly, with elaborate attire worn by mourners, and horses pulling the coffins draped in cloth decorated with religious iconography. Funeral processions would move from the meetinghouse to the burial ground with orations and prayers read at both locations. At the conclusion of the service, the deceased was buried. The symbols of death and rituals surrounding it were of utmost importance to the Puritans, who viewed them as important acts of faith (Ludwig 1966:58–64). The symbols used on gravestones were "believed to be an acceptable means of realizing the fruits of an eschatological vision of eternity" (Ludwig 1966:63). Gravestones were sometimes present at the burial, while other times they were set in place later. Depending on the carver's location, customers may have visited the workshop to select the stone or purchased it through written correspondence without viewing it until delivery (Forbes 1955:12–15; Ludwig 1966:58–64).

William Codner (1709–1769)

William Codner was the son of James, a Boston cooper, and a student of Nathaniel Emmes, a Boston carver. Between 1731 and 1764, Codner carved at least 75 gravestones, most after 1743. His stones are typical of the era, including detailed side borders and winged soul effigies in the tympanum. Codner was probably the first person in New England to carve portraits of the deceased on stones (Ludwig 1966:313–316). In the Old Settlers' Burying Ground, Codner likely carved the gravestone for **Sarah Allen (1755, No. 152, LAN.9013, see Photo 20)**, which has a winged soul effigy in the tympanum with leaf-like drapery in the side borders and above the winged figure (Lennon 2017a).

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John Dwight (1740–1816)

John Dwight was born in Boston, son of Captain John Dwight, and likely spent time at the Foster family carver's workshop in Dorchester, Massachusetts, based on examples of his work in Boston's Old North Burying Ground and Dorchester cemeteries that are in the Foster style. He moved to Shirley, Massachusetts, sometime before 1771 and opened his own workshop. Dwight used a quarry in Harvard that was known for its fine-quality, dark-blue slate. His stones are typically 1¼ to 1¾ inches thick and often appear delicate but are sturdy. The backs of Dwight's stones tend to have a vertical, grainy texture like tree bark. His stones are shaped with a central curved tympanum and lower rounded shoulders above narrow side borders. Iconography on his stones typically included central winged soul effigies on the tympanum with ribbing on the wings, double borders, and teardrop borders on the top of the tympanum. The effigies often had rope-like hair with a long and narrow chin and small mouth (West 1989:1–7). Dwight's stones can be found in Middlesex and Worcester counties from as early as 1764 into the early 1800s. He signed many of them with a diagonal, almond-shaped gouge in the corner. The stone for **Dr. Phineas Phelps (1770, No. 154, LAN.9014, see Photo 19)** is a good example of Dwight's work in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground. The stone displays what appears to be Dwight's almond-shaped gouge mark in the bottom corner (Lennon 2017a), and it features typical design elements used by Dwight, including the teardrop trim and winged soul effigy with rope-like hair, a long and narrow chin, and a small mouth.

Lamson Family

Stonecutters from the Lamson family were some of the earliest and most important stone carvers in colonial Massachusetts. Lamson stones are considered to have some of the most interesting and beautiful carvings in New England from colonial times. The Lamson family lived in the Malden and Charlestown, Massachusetts, area. Stones by the family can be found along the eastern seaboard from Nova Scotia to Charleston, South Carolina. The family began carving gravestones about 1677 and continued into the 1800s with fourth-generation members working in the trade. The Lamsons often signed their gravestones with their initials at the bottom. The Old Settlers' Burying Ground likely has at least a few stones marked with the Lamson family initials, although the two examples discussed here do not appear to be signed.

Joseph Lamson (1658–1722) was from Ipswich, Massachusetts, and began carving gravestones about 1677. He was one of the most prolific pre-1700 stone carvers, and is notable for adding more than lettering to gravestones. His early stones lacked side border decoration, inscription framing, or any other embellishments besides stern winged death's heads (almost always with eyebrows). By the early 1700s, he added side borders, friezes, finial decorations, and death-related items such as coffins, hourglasses, and crossbones (Tucker 1993:151–152). Joseph Lamson is also considered the first to codify the use of soul effigies in border panels. Between about 1711 and 1716, Joseph's sons Nathaniel (1692–1755) and Caleb (1697–1767) took over the stone carving business (Ludwig 1966:300–313). The **Mary Prentice (1718, No. 68, LAN.9003)** and **Priscilla Beaman (1729, No. 184, LAN.9024, see Photos 10 and 11)** stones in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground are attributed to the Lamson family, likely Nathaniel or Caleb, who were the primary carvers in the family in 1718. The stone includes elements indicative of a Lamson stone, such as a winged skull with eyebrows that have hooked ends, leaf-like drapery in the tympanum and side border, circular disks in the finials, and framing for the inscription (Tucker 1993:183–186).

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John New (1722–1811)

John New was born in 1722 to James New and Mary Shuttleworth New in Wrentham, Massachusetts. He worked as a laborer, farmer, and stone carver and lived in Weymouth and later North Attleboro, Massachusetts. New likely began carving gravestones by 1745, but stones attributed to him did not appear in large numbers until the early 1750s. Between 1753 and 1755, he carved about 60 stones in Massachusetts towns including Wrentham, Medfield, Sherborn, and Holliston. His later work is notable for its rich red slate and often large and thick stones. In the Old Settlers' Burying Ground, the stone of **Dr. John, Eunice, Olive, and John Dunsmoor (1747, No. 149, LAN.9011, see Photo 14)** is attributed to New (Lennon 2017a). It incorporates hearts and winged death's heads, which he was known to use in other stones. It also includes winged full-body cherubs. New's death's heads are unique in that they are simple, with no relief modeling, and feature round or pointed jaws with serrated teeth and squinty eye sockets. The skulls typically have rolled V collars. The Dunsmoor stone incorporates these types of skulls. The **Dorothy Prescott (1749, No. 165, LAN.9018)** stone is also attributed to John New. It is a thick slate stone with decorative scrollwork and wings in the tympanum (Farber and Farber 2011).

William Park (1702–1788)

William Park was born in Scotland and arrived in the colonies in 1756. He came from a family of builders and stone masons and became a well-known stone carver in New England. The stone he used came from the Pin Hill Quarry in Harvard, which was a popular slate quarry for stone carvers. Park's stones are notable for portraying not only the "terrible fact of death" but also the "promise of resurrection" (Gradwohl 1980:79). His work from the mid-1750s to mid-1780s typically had a superb architectural quality, high-relief and bas-relief carving, deeply cut anthropomorphic and floral ornamentation, and unique death symbols. Scrolled plant motifs and flowers and garlands with decorative borders were also commonly employed by him (Gradwohl 1980:79–85). The stone of **Dr. Stanton Prentice (1769, No. 63, LAN.9000, see Photo 21)** in the Old Settlers' Burying Ground is attributed to Park and includes elements typical of his technique and style, such as delicate flowers and garlands and a winged soul effigy (Lennon 2017a).

James Wilder (1741–1794)

James Wilder was a descendant of an early Lancaster settler, Thomas Wilder, and his work spanned three decades. He carved a small body of stones in the Lancaster–Sterling area of Massachusetts, where his workshop was located. During his time as a carver, he produced about 100 stones. His work typically consisted of dark, iron-stained slate from quarries in Lancaster and Harvard. It depicts death's heads and winged soul effigies with bold faces, detailed hair, and open startling eyes. The lettering he used is also distinct and high quality. He often used double-eight knots and six-petal rosettes as filler decorations (Lennon 2017a; Gabel and Chase 1982/3:6–7). Carvings typical of Wilder are found throughout the Old Settlers' Burying Ground, with many stones attributed to him through prior research and probate records. Stones attributed to Wilder include, the **Martha Joselyn (1768, No. 195, LAN.9028)**, **Isaac Rugg (1758, No. 131, LAN.9009)**, **Capt. John Bennit (1761, No. 21, LAN.990)**, and **Col. John Carter (1766, No. 87, LAN.9004)** stones. Each is a rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border depicting a winged soul effigy at the top with an inscription of crisp neat lettering, in cursive and print, flanked by six-pointed rosettes or rounded-petal flowers and scrollwork, all of which are indicative of Wilder's work (Chase and Gabel 1990:180–183). At least 16 members of the Wilder family are buried in the cemetery, all of whom died within the time frame of James Wilder's career as a carver. It is likely that he carved most of these stones, which consist of carvings and types typical of Wilder's work, such as the **Capt.**

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Ephraim Wilder Jr. (1770, No. 105, LAN.9007) and Andrew, Andrew II, Joseph, Ruth, and Deborah Wilder (1741, 1753, 1755, 1764, No. 1, LAN.984, see Photo 22) stones (Chase and Gabel 1982). The Farber Gravestone Collection attributes 15 gravestones in the town of Lancaster to Wilder, including the Samuel Locke (1775, No. 35, LAN.992, see Photo 17), Elizabeth Willard (1751, No. 171, LAN.9021, see Photo 15), and Deborah Wilder (1778, No. 190, LAN.9027) stones (Farber and Farber 2011).

Jonathan Worster (1707–1754)

Jonathan Worster was born in Bradford, Massachusetts. He is often credited with introducing the ornamental style of carving that emphasized geometric rosettes, a linear conception of abstract forms, and variants of abstract effigies (ornimorphic), with or without banded chain ornament, to the Worcester County area in the 1730s. In the Old Settlers' Burying Ground, the stone for **Samuel Bennit (1742, No.22, LAN.991)** is attributed as an example of Worster's typical iconography. Other stones in the cemetery that display the ornamental style of Jonathan Worster, and are potentially attributed to him, are the **John Beaman (1739, No. 185, LAN.9025, Photo 10)**, **Rebekah Rugg (1747, No. 201, LAN.9029)**, and **Rev. John Prentice (1747, No. 67, LAN.9002, Photo 16)** stones. Examples of this type of stone from after 1754 were often carved by Jonathan's son Moses (1739–1789). Moses Worster continued to carve in this style until about 1772, when he began to carve stones in more European-inspired styles (Ludwig 1966:371–376). More than 400 gravestones have been attributed to the Worsters (Ludwig 1966:373; Tucker 1994).

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First Church of Christ

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Lancaster Historical Society and Lancaster Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): LAN.801

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 42.448948

Longitude: -71.673483

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Old Settlers' Burying Ground is at the southeast end of the town of Lancaster in Worcester County, Massachusetts. The roughly rectangular, 1.5-acre cemetery is in the west portion of a 10.6-acre town-owned parcel 038-0154 (see attached and annotated assessor's map). The 10.6-acre parcel is bounded by an active railroad right-of-way on the northwest; the Nashua River on the northeast; and private property on the south, southwest, and southeast. The Old Settlers' Burying Ground is approximately 50 feet southeast of the railroad right-of-way, at the bottom of an embankment, and approximately 50 feet northeast of the southern lot line of the 10.6-acre parcel. The cemetery measures approximately 412 feet long by 100 feet wide from its center. The Thayer Family Burial Plot immediately southeast of the Old Settlers' Burying Ground, approximately in the center of the 10.6-acre parcel, is not included within the district boundaries.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Old Settlers' Burying Ground corresponds to the approximately 412-foot-by-100-foot rectangular shape of the cemetery within the larger town-owned Tax Parcel 038-0154 identified in the town of Lancaster's assessor's records and included in this nomination as Figure 1.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Melissa J. Andrade/Architectural Historian; Laura J. Kline/Sr. Architectural Historian, both of the Public Archaeology Lab (PAL), with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director

organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission

street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd.

city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125

e-mail: betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us

telephone: (617) 727-8470

date: July 2019

Old Settlers' Burying Ground
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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Old Settlers' Burying Ground
City or Vicinity: Lancaster
County: Worcester State: Massachusetts

Photographer: Melissa J. Andrade, PAL

Date Photographed: August 8, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 25. Old Settlers' Burying Ground, looking southeast.
- 2 of 25. Old Settlers' Burying Ground, looking south.
- 3 of 25. Old Settlers' Burying Ground, looking south, with the John and Joane White Memorial Marker (Stone No. B) on the left and John Houghton Memorial Marker (Stone No. C) on the right.
- 4 of 25. Old Settlers' Burying Ground, looking east.
- 5 of 25. Old Settlers' Burying Ground, looking southeast.

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- 6 of 25. Old Settlers' Burying Ground, looking southeast, with the John Prescott Memorial Marker (Stone No. A) at center.
- 7 of 25. Entrance Marker (Stone No. D), looking southeast.
- 8 of 25. Carved granite markers: (L-R) the John Prescott Memorial Marker (Stone No. A) and Stone No. 189, Dorothy Prescott (1674), looking south.
- 9 of 25. (L-R) Stone No. 49, Hasadiah Houghton (1711), and Stone No. 50, Abigail Houghton (1711), looking southeast.
- 10 of 25. (L-R) Stone No. 184, Priscilla Beaman (1729), and Stone No. 185, John Beaman (1739), looking southeast.
- 11 of 25. (L-R) Stone No. 183, Sarah Sawyer (1718), Stone No. 184, Priscilla Beaman (1729), and Stone No. 185, John Beaman (1739), looking south.
- 12 of 25. (L-R) Stone No. 65, Rev. Andrew Gardner (1704), Stone No. 57, Rev. John Whiting Memorial Marker (1878), and Stone No. 67, Rev. John Prentice (1747), looking southeast.
- 13 of 25. Stone No. 102, Jonas Goss and Anna Goss (1774, 1779), looking southeast.
- 14 of 25. Stone No. 149, Dr. John, Eunice, Olive, and John Dunsmoor (1747), looking southeast.
- 15 of 25. Stone No. 171, Elizabeth Willard (1751), looking east.
- 16 of 25. (L-R) Stone No. 166, John Prescott (1791), and Stone No. 167, Mary Prescott (1788), looking southeast.
- 17 of 25. Stone No. 35, Samuel Locke (1775), looking south.
- 18 of 25. (L-R) Stone No. 14, Mary Whitney (1778), and Stone No. 15, Nathaniel Wyman (1776), looking southeast.
- 19 of 25. Stone No. 154, Dr. Phinehas Phelps (1770), looking southeast.
- 20 of 25. Stone No. 152, Sarah Allen (1755), looking east.
- 21 of 25. (L-R) Stone No. C, John Houghton Memorial Marker (1913), Stone No. 63, Dr. Stanton Prentice (1769), and Stone No. 69, Mercy Prentice (1756), looking south.
- 22 of 25. Stone No. 1, Andrew, Andrew II, Joseph, Ruth, and Deborah Wilder (1741, 1753, 1755, 1764), looking southeast.
- 23 of 25. (L-R) Stone No. 204, Katherine Sprague (1787), Stone No. 205, Honorable John Sprague (1800), and Stone No. 206, Samuel John Sprague, A.M. (1805), looking southeast.
- 24 of 25. Stone No. B, John and Joane White Memorial Marker (1907), looking southeast.
- 25 of 25. Stone No. C, John Houghton Memorial Marker (1913), looking southeast.

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Figure List

- Figure 1. Assessor's map showing the locations of the Old Settlers' Burying Ground and Thayer Family Burial Plot within Lancaster Tax Parcel 038-0154.
- Figure 2. Old Settlers' Burying Ground Coordinate Map.
- Figure 3. Old Settlers' Burying Ground Map, showing locations of all stones within the cemetery, including the representative examples counted as contributing resources and listed in the district data sheet.
- Figure 4. Map of the Old Settlers' Burying Ground created in 1877 to show burial locations marked with numbers in a general bottom-to-top and left-to-right order. Letters denote where stones were placed to measure out 25-foot-by-25-foot square grids, which are marked on the map with a number in a circle. This grid system was used to map the burials (Marvin 1879).

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Historic District Data Sheet
Old Settlers' Burying Ground

Individual markers and tombs listed are representative of those found in the cemetery.

Stone No.*	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built**	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	Photo No.
N/A	LAN.801	Old Settlers' Burying Ground	1653	N/A	N/A	N/A	Site	1-6
Memorial Stones and Markers								
57	LAN.979	Rev. John Whiting Memorial Stone	d. 1697, stone erected 1878	Polished slate	Round top tablet		Object	12
A	LAN.980	Prescott Memorial Stone	1903	Polished slate	Rectangular tablet with arched tympanum supported by scrolls, with urn and floral motifs		Object	6, 8
B	LAN.981	John and Joane White Memorial Stone	1907	Granite	Rectangular tablet with scrollwork tympanum		Object	3, 24
C	LAN.982	John Houghton Memorial Stone	1913	Polished slate	Round top tablet with shallow shoulders		Object	3, 21, 25
D	LAN.983	Entrance Marker	1924	Polished slate	Tablet with round tympanum and shoulders		Object	7
Individual Markers								
1	LAN.984	Andrew, Andrew II, Joseph, Ruth, and Deborah Wilder	1741, 1753, 1755, 1764	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigies and side border motifs	James Wilder	Object	22

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Stone No.*	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built**	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	Photo No.
8	LAN.985	Jonathan Phillips	1780	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side borders with death's head		Object	
12	LAN.986	Ephraim Wyman	1780	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigy and side border motifs		Object	
14	LAN.987	Mary Whitney	1778	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigy and side border motifs		Object	18
15	LAN.988	Nathaniel Wyman	1776	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigy and side border motifs		Object	18
17	LAN.989	Submit Wyman	1804	Slate	Tablet with urn and willow tree motif		Object	
21	LAN.990	Capt. John Bennitt	1761	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigy and side border motifs	James Wilder	Object	
22	LAN.991	Samuel Bennit	1742	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side borders, and early soul effigy	Jonathan Worster	Object	

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Stone No.*	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built**	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	Photo No.
35	LAN.992	Samuel Locke	1775	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and architectural elements		Object	17
47	LAN.993	Reverend Timothy Harrington	1795	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and architectural elements		Object	
48	LAN.994	Henry Houghton (son)	1702	Granite	Rough-cut, crude marker		Object	
49	LAN.995	Hasadiah Houghton	1711	Granite	Rough-cut, crude marker		Object	9
50	LAN.996	Abigail Houghton	1711	Granite	Rough-cut, crude marker		Object	9
59	LAN.997	A son of Henry and Abigail Houghton	1708	Granite	Rough-cut, crude marker		Object	
60	LAN.998	John Houghton	1684	Granite	Rough-cut, crude marker		Object	
61	LAN.999	Abigail Houghton (daughter)	n.d.	Granite	Rough-cut, crude marker		Object	
63	LAN.9000	Dr. Stanton Prentice	1769	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigy and side border motifs	William Park	Object	21
65	LAN.9001	Andrew Gardner	1704	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side borders with early soul effigy		Object	12
67	LAN.9002	Rev. John Prentice	1747	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side borders with soul effigy	Jonathan Worster	Object	12

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Stone No.*	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built**	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	Photo No.
68	LAN.9003	Mary Prentice	1718	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side borders with death's head	Joseph Lamson	Object	
87	LAN.9004	Col. John Carter	1766	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigy and side border motifs	James Wilder	Object	
99	LAN.9005	John Ballard and John Ballard	1792, 1794	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigies and side border motifs		Object	
102	LAN.9006	Jonas Goss and Anna Goss	1774, 1779	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side borders with death's heads		Object	13
105	LAN.9007	Capt. Ephraim Wilder Jr.	1770	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigy and side border motifs	James Wilder	Object	
128	LAN.9008	Dea. Cyrus Fairbank	1801	Slate	Tablet with urn and willow tree motif		Object	
131	LAN.9009	Isaac Rugg	1758	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigy and side border motifs	James Wilder	Object	
138	LAN.9010	Mary Fairbank	1718	Granite	Rough-cut, crude marker		Object	

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Stone No.*	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built**	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	Photo No.
149	LAN.9011	Dr. John, Eunice, Olive, and John Dunsmoor	1745, 1745, 1745, 1746	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side borders with death's heads	John New	Object	14
151	LAN.9012	Ebenezer Allen	1770	Slate	Tablet with urn and willow tree motif		Object	
152	LAN.9013	Sarah Allen	1755	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigy and side border motifs	William Codner	Object	20
154	LAN.9014	Dr. Phinehas Phelps	1770	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigy and side border motifs	John Dwight	Object	19
157	LAN.9015	Jonathan and Grace Fairbanks	1697	Granite	Rough-cut, crude marker		Object	
158	LAN.9016	Jonas Fairbanks	1697	Granite	Rough-cut, crude marker		Object	
164	LAN.9017	John Prescott	1749	Slate	Round tablet with narrow shoulders and simple scroll carvings in side borders and tympanum		Object	
165	LAN.9018	Dorothy Prescott	1749	Slate	Round tablet with narrow shoulders and simple scroll carvings in side borders and tympanum	John New	Object	
166	LAN.9019	John Prescott	1791	Slate	Round tablet with shoulders, architectural elements, soul effigy and banner with Memento mori		Object	16

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Stone No.*	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built**	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	Photo No.
167	LAN.9020	Mary Prescott	1788	Slate	Round tablet with shoulders, architectural elements, soul effigy and banner with Memento mori		Object	16
171	LAN.9021	Elizabeth Willard	1751	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and architectural elements		Object	15
179	LAN.9022	Thomas Sawyer	1706	Granite	Rough-cut, crude marker		Object	
183	LAN.9023	Sarah Sawyer	1718	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side borders with death's head		Object	11
184	LAN.9024	Priscilla Beaman	1729	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side borders with death's head	Joseph Lamson	Object	10-11
185	LAN.9025	John Beaman	1739	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side borders with early soul effigy	Jonathan Worster	Object	10-11
189	LAN.9026	Dorothy Prescott	1674	Granite	Rough-cut, crude marker		Object	8
190	LAN.9027	Deborah Wilder	1778	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigy and side border motifs	James Wilder	Object	

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Stone No.*	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built**	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	Photo No.
195	LAN.9028	Martha Joselyn	1768	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side border, and soul effigy and side border motifs	James Wilder	Object	
201	LAN.9029	Rebekah Rugg	1747	Slate	Rectangular tablet with rounded tympanum and side borders, and soul effigy and side border motifs	Jonathan Worster	Object	
202a	LAN.9030	Peter Thatcher Vose (in location of 203 – a mound with no stone according to Marvin 1879)	1851	Slate	Round top tablet		Object	
205	LAN.9031	Hon'ble John Sprague	1800	Slate	Tablet with urn and willow tree motif		Object	23

* Stone No. refers to the number assigned by Abijah Marvin in 1879 (except Stone Nos. A–D, which were added after 1879) and corresponds to the marker's placement on the district sketch map, which includes all markers, not only the representative examples above.

** Year Built refers to the interment date on the marker and does not necessarily reflect when the stone was placed

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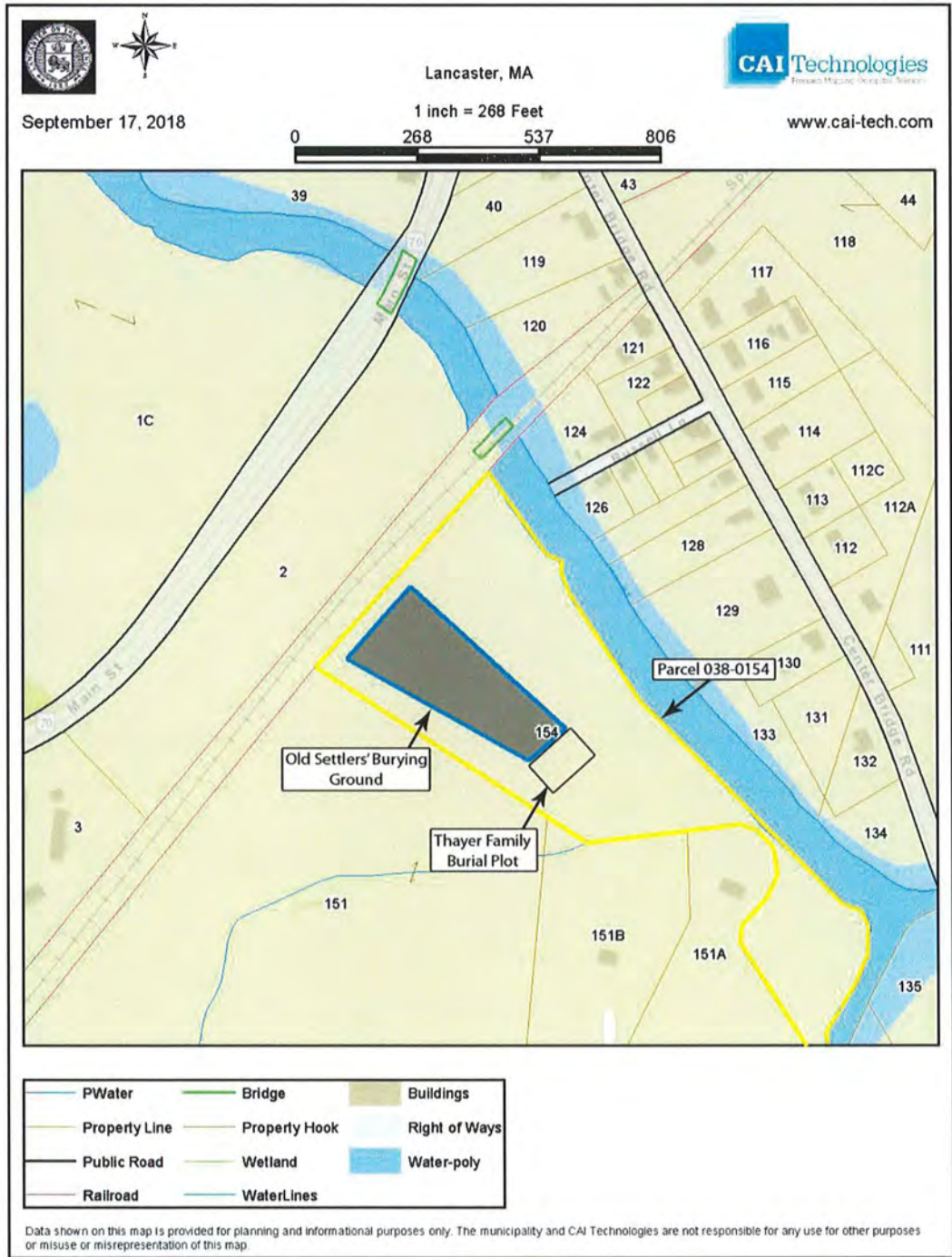


Figure 1. Assessor's map showing the locations of the Old Settlers' Burying Ground and Thayer Family Burial Plot within Lancaster Tax Parcel 038-0154.

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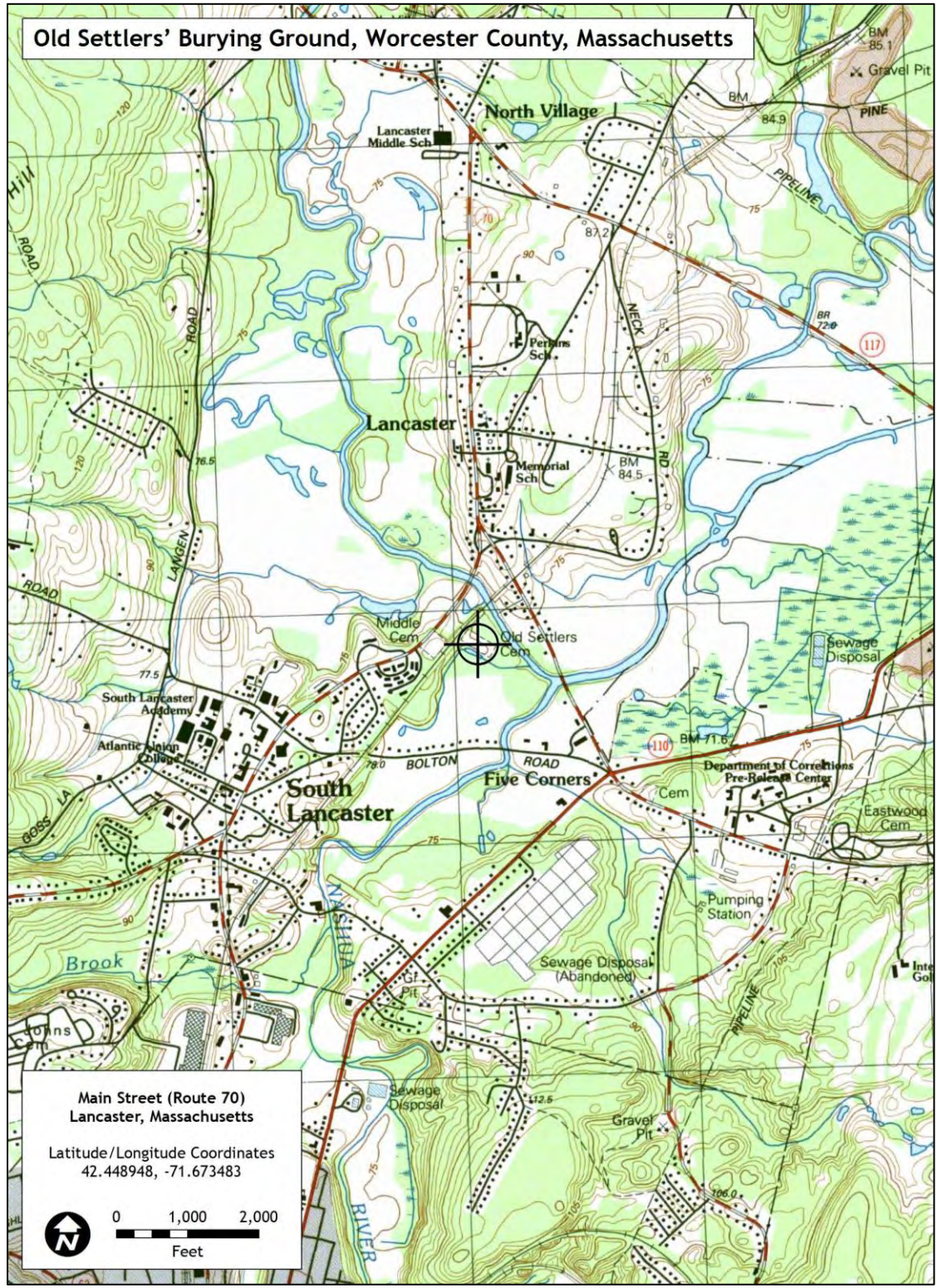


Figure 2. Old Settlers' Burying Ground Coordinate Map.

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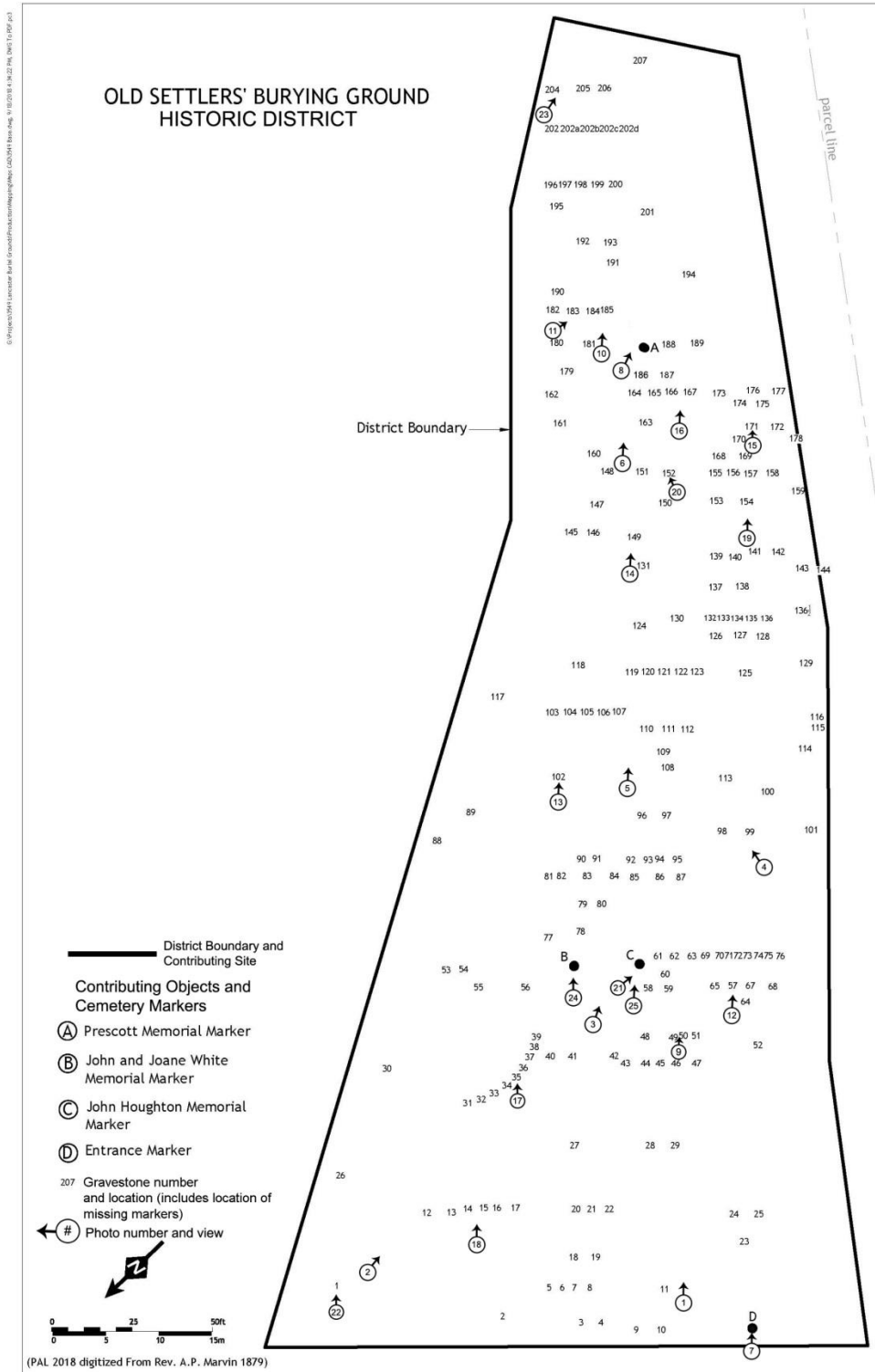


Figure 3. Old Settlers' Burying Ground Map, showing locations of all stones within the cemetery, including the representative examples counted as contributing resources and listed in the district data sheet.

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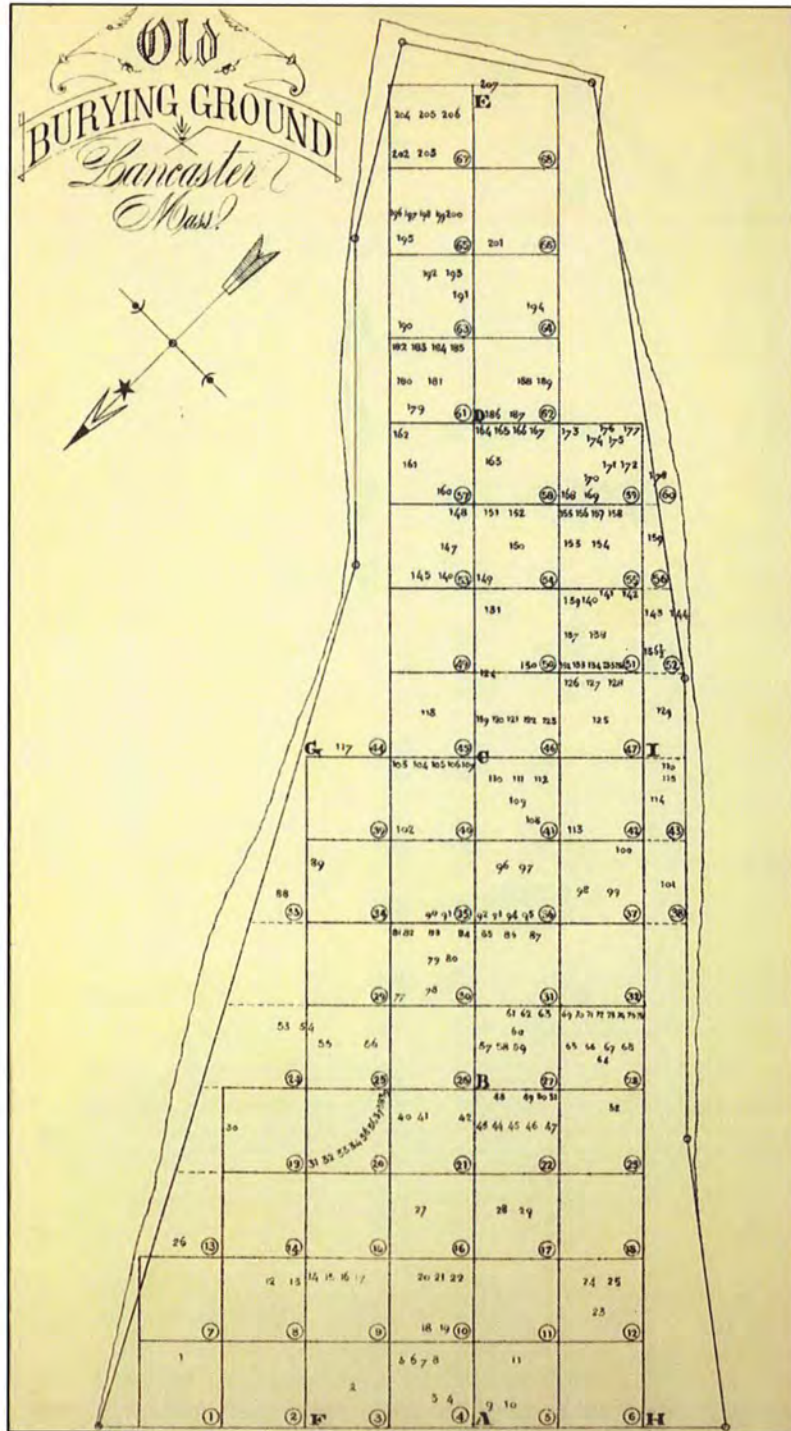


Figure 4. Map of the Old Settlers' Burying Ground created in 1877 to show burial locations marked with numbers in a general bottom-to-top and left-to-right order. Letters denote where stones were placed to measure out 25-foot-by-25-foot square grids, which are marked on the map with a number in a circle. This grid system was used to map the burials (Marvin 1879).







JOHN WHITE
1700
1750

AGE 1702

HEARL
BHTER
DEAR
BENNY
1700







1655

Y

OLD SETTLERS
BURIAL FIELD

Erected
1924



WITH HIS CHILDREN ABOUT HIM LIES
JOHN PRESCOTT
FOUNDER OF THE TOWN OF ...
BORN ...
DIED ...



DEPT. OF
THE
DECEASED



GRAVESTONE

GRAVESTONE

GRAVESTONE

GRAVESTONE

GRAVESTONE

GRAVESTONE

OF THIS MOUNTAIN...
Erected 1912 by L.T. HAUGHTON
A lineal descendant of JOHN

HEAR-LE
ETH THE BODY
OF ABIGAIL
THE WIFE OF
HENRY HO
UGH-ON

HASADIAH
THE DAUGHTER
OF HENRY AND
ABIGAIL HO
UGHTON



Here lies interred the
Body of Mrs. ANNE
DELOREAN, the long
Cousin of the Hon.
JOSEPH WILDER Esq.
who departed this Life
on the 20th of April
1780 of 84th or thereabouts

Here Lyes the
Body of Mrs. Prilla
Beman Wife to
John Beman
who Decd Aug.
6th 1790
Year of her Age

HERE LIES BURIED
THE BODY OF M^r
JOHN BEAMAN
WHO DEPARTED
THIS LIFE JANUARY
15th 1739
IN THE 41st YEAR
OF HIS AGE



Here Lyes
Body of
Sarah Sawyer
Wife to Joseph
Sawyer Aged
71 Years Died
March 18 1841

Gravestone with decorative arch and weathered surface.

Gravestone with decorative arch and weathered surface.

In memory of
The Reverend John Whiting
Pastor of the Church of
Christ in
Lancaster
Killed by the Indians
September 18th 1704
Aged 40 years

HEU MEMORIE
PASTOR OF THE CHURCH
OF CHRIST IN
DIED JAN 6 AD
1704 IN HIS 40TH YEAR
HE WAS EARNEST
PLAIN SEASONED
IN HIS CONVERSATION
SOBER TEMPERED
WATCHFUL IN
PRUDENCY AND BE
IN HIS HOUSE HONOR
GRAVITY & TENDER
A GOOD FATHER
GIVEN TO HOSPIT
IN HIS PUBLIC CHARGE
A TRUE GOSPEL BISHOP
IN HIS PRIVATE CAPACIT
A GENT & AN ACCOMPLI
CHRISTIAN HIS MEMORY BEING
TO PRAISE IN Y CHURCHES

Memorial of two Children
of Cap^t Daniel & Mrs Eunice Goff
Jonas Goff & Anna Goff
Died May 17th 1774 Aged 3 Years & 3 Days
Died January 17th 1779 Aged 8 Months & 19 Days





In Memory of a Father & 3 Children

Doc: JOHN
DUNSMOOR
Departed this
Life Dec^{br} 7th
1747. in y. 45th
Year of his
Age.

Eunice Died
Sep. 9th 1745
in y. 3rd Year
of her
Age.

Olive Died
Sep. 19th 1745
in y. 8th Year
of her
Age.

John Died
Sep. 20th 1745
in y. 1st Year
of his
Age.



Here lies interred y Body
of M^{rs} *ELISABETH*
y Wife of Cap.
ABIJAH WILLARD
who died December
y 6th Mon: 17 31
in y 29th year of
her Age.

Memento mori


ERECTED
In memory of
MR John Prescott
who departed this life
April 1st 1791;
In the 79th year
of his age.

*Death like an overflowing flood,
Doth sweep us all away,
The young the old the young and old,
To death become a prey.*

Memento mori

ERECTED
In Memory of
M^{rs} Mary Prescott
Confort of
MR John Prescott
who departed this life
Oct^r 20th 1788.
In the 66th year
of her age.

*Forbear my friends to weep
Since death to me is gain
Those Christians who in life
Shall with the Lord remain*



Here lies interred
the
Body of MR
SAMUEL LOCKE
who died April 13th
Day 5 in the 73rd
Year of his Age.

*The stroke of death has laid me down
Down in this cold and silent bed
The Trump shall sound I hope to see
And meet my Saviour in the Sky*

Here lies interred
the Body of Mrs
MARY WHITNE
Wife of Mr
JONATHAN WHIT-
NEY who deceased
July 12th AD. 1778.
in y^e 34th Year
of her Age.

Sacred -
To the Memory of MR
NATHANIEL WYMAN
who died June 5th AD.
1776. in y^e 58th Year
of his Age.
The stroke of Death hath laid my Head,
Down in this dark and silent Bed,
The Trump shall sound, hope to the
And meet my Saviour in the Sky.



In Memory of
Dr Phineas Phelps
who Departed this
Life Aug 7 1877

at the age of
37 Year
of his age.

A rectangular, light-colored stone gravestone with a decorative top featuring a carved face. The stone is set in a grassy area with some pine needles and small plants. The text is engraved in a serif font.

HERE LIES BURIED

THE BODY OF M^{RS}

SARAH ALLEN

WIFE OF M^R

EBENEZER ALLEN

DIED JUNE 15th 1755

IN Y⁷th YEAR

OF HER

In memory of
JOHN HOUGHTON
Born Dec. 24, 1624.
Died Apr. 23, 1684.
One of the founders of Lancaster
JOHN HOUGHTON his son
One of the three men who purchased
the land per the deed on which sits
this memorial tablet
Erected 1912 by L. T. HOUGHTON
A great descendant of JOHN

HOUGHTON
BORN
DIED

1671
1688

1624
1684
HOUGHTON

HEAR LV
IN THE SOU

IN Memory of A
Father & 4 Children

M^r Andrew Wilder died Dec
y 28th A^d 1764. in y 36th
Year of his Age.

Death is a Debt to Nature due.
Whic I have paid: & so must You.

Andre, Son of M^r An
drew & M^{rs} Elizabeth
Wilder was Still Born
Sept: y 4th 1741.

Joseph, Son of M^r A.
M^{rs} E. Wilder, died
Aug: y 15th 1755. in y 3
Year of his Age.

Ruth, Dau^g of M. A. &
M^{rs} E. Wilder, died Jan:
y 19th 1753. in y 8th
Year of her Age.

Deborah, Dau^g of M^r A. &
M^{rs} E. Wilder, died Aug
y 22nd 1755. Aged
in Days.

THE REMAINS OF
MRS. HARRIET
WIFE OF
MR. JOHN SPRACUE
A Daughter of
RICHARD FOSTER
Died
1850

THE REMAINS OF
MRS. JOSEPH
WIFE OF
MR. JOHN SPRACUE
A Daughter of
RICHARD FOSTER
Died
1850

THE REMAINS OF
MRS. JOSEPH
WIFE OF
MR. JOHN SPRACUE
A Daughter of
RICHARD FOSTER
Died
1850

In Memory of
JOHN WHITE

Native of England.

*Settled first in
Salem (Wenham) 1638.*

*An Incorporator of the
Town of Lancaster. 1653*

DIED 1673.

And of his beloved wife.

JOANE

DIED 1654.

Erected by their descendants 1907

In memory of
JOHN HOUGHTON
Born Dec. 24, 1624.
Died Apr. 29, 1684.

One of the founders of Lancaster

JOHN HOUGHTON his son

One of the three men who purchased
the Land per the deed on other side

Of this memorial tablet

Erected 1913 by L.T. HOUGHTON

A lineal descendant of JOHN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination
Property Name: Old Settlers' Burying Ground
Multiple Name: _____
State & County: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

Date Received: 9/24/2019 Date of Pending List: 10/16/2019 Date of 16th Day: 10/31/2019 Date of 45th Day: 11/8/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100004558
Nominator: SHPO
Reason For Review: _____

X Accept Return Reject 11/8/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: NR Criteria: A & C

Recommendation/ Criteria: POS: c. 1653-1924; AOS: Exploration/Settlement, Art; LOS: local

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian
Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 11/8/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 12, 2019

Kathryn Smith
Deputy Keeper
Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Smith:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Old Settlers' Burying Ground, Lancaster (Worcester County), Massachusetts

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owner of the property was notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 75 days before the meeting and was afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Dept. of Public Works, Cemetery Division, Town of Lancaster
Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator
Stanley B. Starr, Jr., Chair, Lancaster Board of Selectmen
Philip F. Lawler, Chair, Lancaster Planning Board
Heather Lennon, Chair, Lancaster Historical Commission
Laura Kline, PAL, preservation consultant