

AUG 04 1989

1301

FORM E - BURIAL GROUND

AREA

FORM NO.

800

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white)
Identify on back of photo.
Staple to left side of form.

Town Somerville
Address Somerville Ave. at School St.
Name The Old Cemetery

Ownership: X Public
 Private

DESCRIPTION

Approximate number of stones 100

Earliest death date 1804

Latest death date unknown

Landscape Architect (if known)

n/a

Condition fair/good

Acreage less than one acre

Setting South side of Somerville Ave.

near commercial and industrial property

main thoroughfare, heavily travelled

route

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date September, 1988

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location
in relation to nearest cross streets and other
buildings and/or geographical features. Indicate
all buildings between inventoried property and
nearest intersection.
Indicate north.

See Attached Assessor's Map

UTM REFERENCE Z E N
19 - 326/550 - 4694/070

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Old Cemetery is the only pre-20th century cemetery in Somerville. It retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association with the 19th century development of Somerville. The Cemetery fulfills Criteria A and C and Exception D of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

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

There are many early-19th century gravestones with some ornamentation, however, most are not distinguished examples of the early-19th century stone cutters art. Of note is the Civil War monument erected in 1863 and reported to be the earliest in the country. The ornate cast iron fencing that surrounds the lot is well maintained and is one of the few extant examples of 19th century iron work in Somerville.

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

The Old Cemetery is the first and only pre-20th century burial ground located in Somerville. The Cemetery was built on farm land donated by Samuel Tufts in 1804. The Cemetery was used by a number of early Somerville families, however, the numbers were small because most used the nearby Phipps Street-Charlestown Burying Yard. Also the 1832 Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge was used by many Somerville residents. Thus, the Old Cemetery is relatively small.

Somerville Avenue was known as Milk Row in the 19th century. The Milk Row School (1796-1849) stood on the east corner of the cemetery lot. Nearby on Milk Row was the Middlesex Bleachery a large industrial complex of the 19th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Cemetery Records, Somerville Historical Society.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

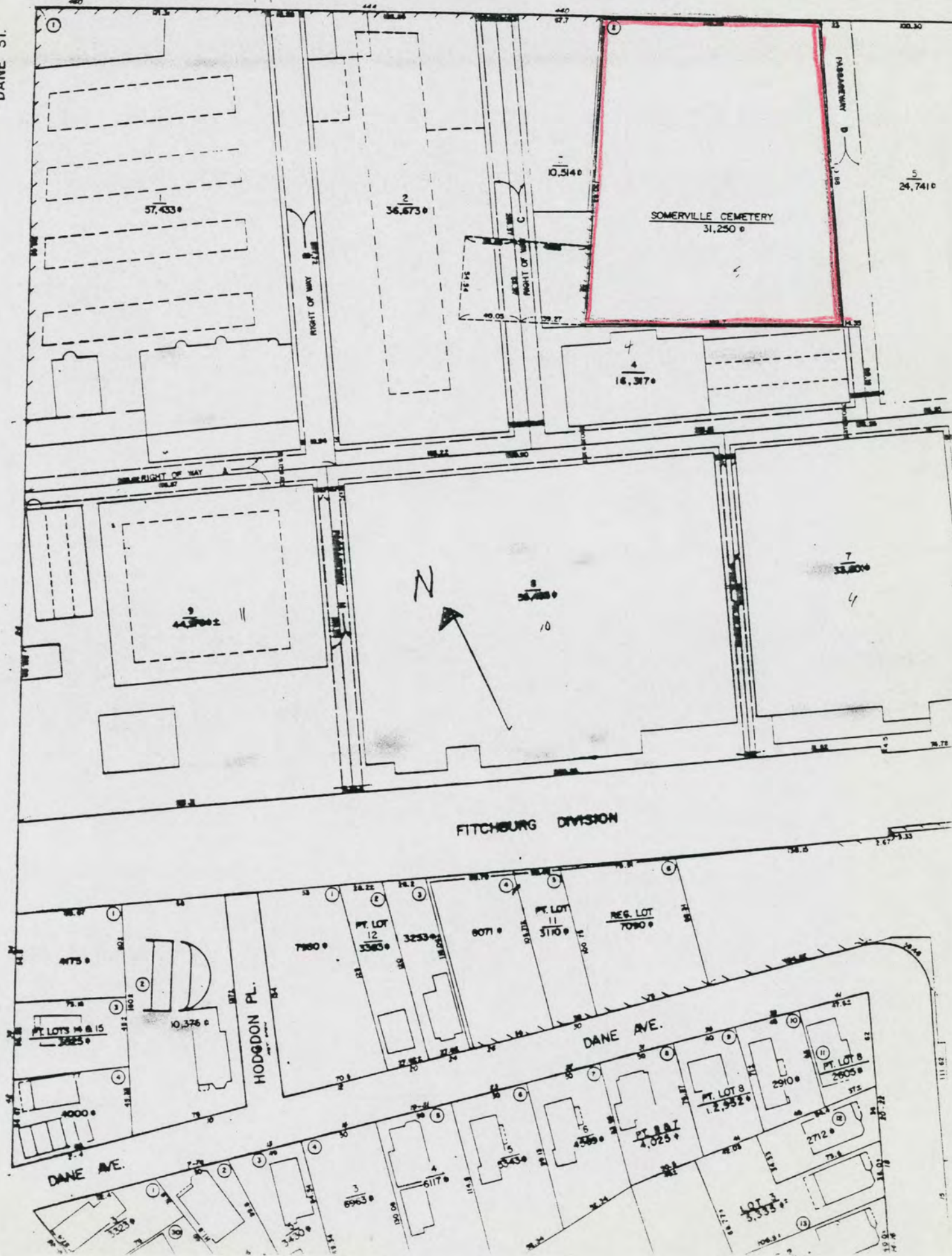
Community: Somerville, MA	Form No: 800
Property Name: Somerville Ave . "The Old Cemetery"	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

SOMERVILLE AVENUE #800

DANE ST.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 4 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Somerville MPS
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 61. Old Cemetery | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper <u><i>Albion Byers</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 62. Otis--Wyman House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper <u><i>Albion Byers</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 63. Parker--Burnett House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper <u><i>Albion Byers</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 64. Prescott, Gustavus G., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper <u><i>Albion Byers</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 65. Russell, Philemon, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper <u><i>Albion Byers</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 66. Russell, Susan, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper <u><i>Albion Byers</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 67. Schuebeler, Charles, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper <u><i>Albion Byers</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 68. Snow, Lemuel, Jr., House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper <u><i>Albion Byers</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 69. Somerville High School | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper <u><i>Albion Byers</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ |
| 70. Somerville Journal Building | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper <u><i>Albion Byers</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> |
| | | Attest _____ |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Old Cemetery
NAME:

MULTIPLE Somerville MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/04/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/15/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/31/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/18/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001301

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/18/89 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period ☐ Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates ☐ Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ applicable criteria
☐ justification of areas checked
☐ relating significance to the resource
☐ context
☐ relationship of integrity to significance
☐ justification of exception
☐ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



Somerville Cemetery Somerville Ave

1. Old Cemetery - Somerville Ave
2. Somerville ^{MA} MA
3. C. Zelle
4. 1985
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking southeast
7. #800



THOMAS GARD
died May 12 1859
aged 38 years

Somerville Cemetery

1. Old Cemetery, Somerville Ave
2. Somerville, ^{NRA} MA
3. C. Zelle
4. 1985
5. Somerville City Hall
6. ~~to~~ view of stones - detour
7. \$800



Somersville Cemetery

1. Old Cemetery, Somersville Ave
2. Somersville ^{not} DTA
3. C. Zelle
4. 1985
5. Somersville City Hall
6. view of stone - detail
7. # 800



Somerville Cemetery Somerville Ave

1. Old Cemetery Somerville Ave
2. Somerville MA *MA*
3. C. Zelle
4. 1985
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking north
7. #800

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253