

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
N/A	H

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
 Staple to left side of form

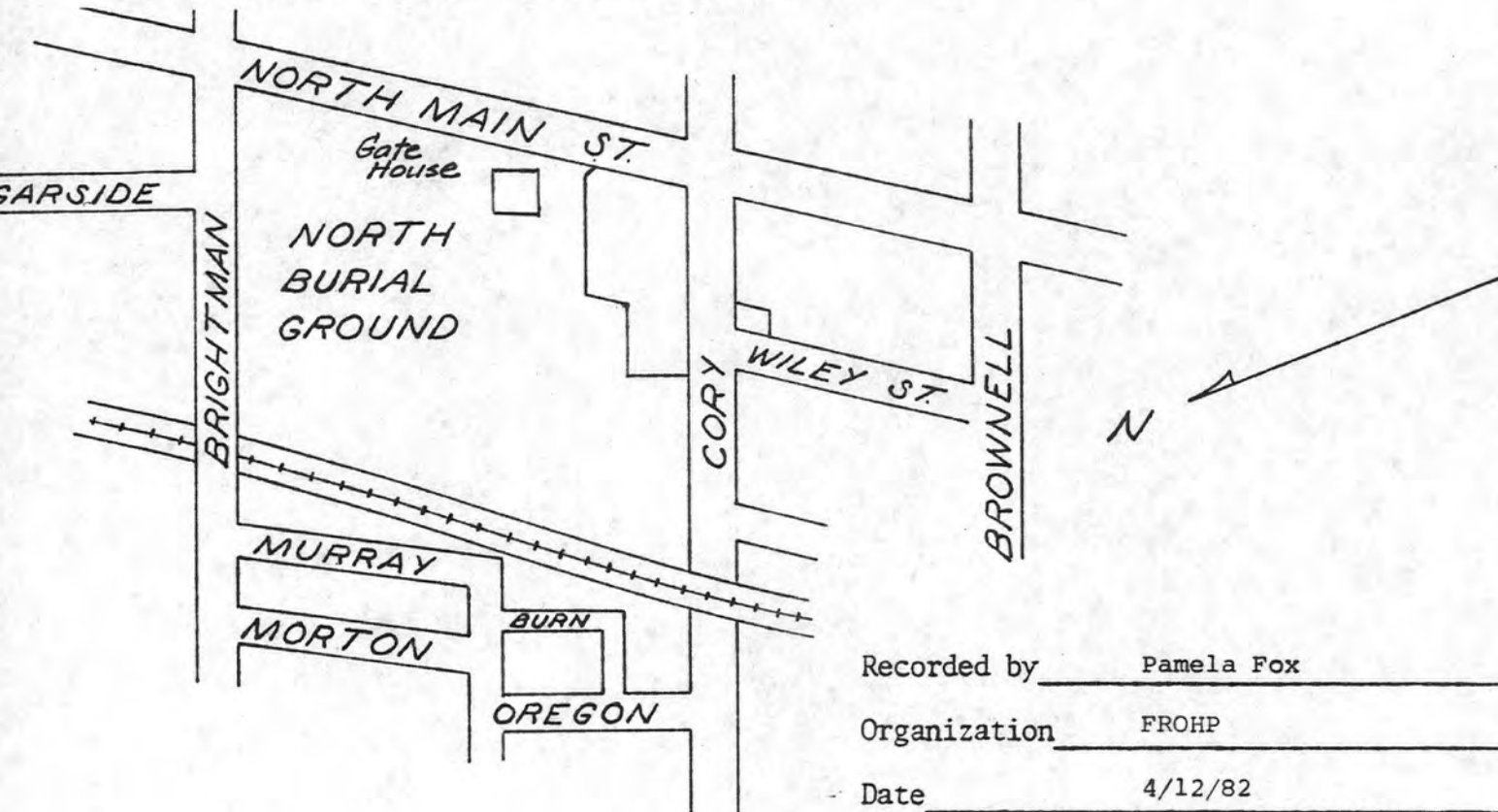
Photo number PFNR - 1-2/4/5

Town Fall River, Mass.

Name of area (if any) North Burial Ground
North Main Street

General date or period 1810-Present

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)



Recorded by Pamela Fox

Organization FROHP

Date 4/12/82

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

As an early 19th century cemetery, developed before the era of the cemetery-park with its more elaborate Victorian funerary sculpture, North Burial Ground is simple but dignified in layout and appearance. The flat rectangular piece of land is located on one of the city's main thoroughfares and is largely surrounded by a granite retaining wall and chain link fencing. Plots are arranged in straight rows and the property is not notable for its topographical or landscape features. Most of the markers are simple versions of prevailing styles, dating from about 1800 to the present, executed in marble or granite. The setting off of family plots with fencing or curbing is rare, with the notable exception of the Hyland grave site, which is surrounded by an exuberant late 19th century cast iron fence.

Of particular architectural interest are the fieldstone gatehouse and Egyptian Revival receiving tomb. The gatehouse on North Main Street appears to date from about 1890 and was clearly intended to give the cemetery an appropriately picturesque entrance in keeping with Victorian Romantic traditions. The asymmetrical massing and use of a "natural" material such as fieldstone is typical of the late 19th century, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, (CONTINUE and how it affected community; be specific).

North Burial Ground is historically significant as the oldest city-owned cemetery in Fall River and for many years the principal place of internment for all citizens. The property was purchased by the city in 1825 but the earliest stones date back to about 1800 and were presumably moved here from other sites. As was typical of early cemeteries, North Burial Ground is located on the main road just outside the early settlement area. Perhaps the most prominent person buried here is Col. Joseph Durfee, the zealous Revolutionary War patriot who, with a few others, erected the very first cotton manufactory in Fall River in 1811. Also buried here are Revolutionary War figures Thomas Durfee and Robert Irving. After Oak Grove Cemetery was opened in 1855, the remains of many were transferred there from North Burial Ground. Since that time Oak Grove has been the more fashionable resting place, but the North Burial Ground has continued in active use to the present day.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Fall River and Its Industries, p. 158
Phillips' History of Fall River, Fascicle II, p. 99

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Fall River, Mass.

Form No:

N/A

Property Name: North Burial Ground

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continuation)

as is the use of brownstone trim, rampant arches with Romanesque colonettes (a characteristic Richardsonian motif), cantilevered brackets, a black slate roof and copper finials. The large gateposts are of the same fieldstone, with brownstone caps.

In contrast to the whimsical quality of the gatehouse, the 1849 receiving tomb is severe in style. The splayed jambs and cove cornice are typical of the Egyptian Revival, an exotic offshoot of the Greek Revival used during the 1830's and 1840's. The cornice is surmounted by a five-sided pediment inscribed with the date. Part of the effectiveness of the receiving tomb lies in the contrast between the smooth granite surfaces used for the jambs, cornice and pediment and the fieldstone used for the side walls where the tomb is built out from a mound of earth.

North Burial Ground is significant historically as Fall River's oldest public cemetery, containing the graves of many prominent early citizens; it also contains notable examples of 19th century funerary art. The property meets criteria A, B, and C of the National Register.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 11/5/67
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 6 of 10

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Fall River Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

51. Kennedy Park

Substantive Review

Keeper

2/16/83 Bruce M. Doyl

Attest

52. Kerr Thread Mill

Substantive Review

Determined Eligible

Keeper

2/16/83 Bruce M. Doyl

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

53. King Philip Mills

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

54. Laurel Lake Mills

Substantive Review

Determined Eligible

Keeper

2/16/83 Bruce M. Doyl

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

55. Lindsey, William, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

56. Massasoit Fire House #5

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

57. Mechanics Mill

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

58. Narragansett Mills

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

59. North Burial Ground

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

60. North Christian Congregational
Church

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

2/16/83 Delores Byers

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

North Burial Ground (Fall River MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 115/83-15
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 2/3/83 - 2/19/83
Action: ACCEPT 2/16/83
 RETURN
Entered in the National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



PFNR-1-4

North Burial Ground

General View



PFNR - 1 - 2
North Burial Ground
Receiving Tomb



PFNR-1-4
North Burial Ground
Gate-house

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000279