

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Vernon Cemetery

other names/site number Old Burying Ground, Beaman Cemetery

2. Location

street & number Church Street not for publication

city or town West Boylston vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Worcester code 027 zip code 01583

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 11, 2008
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register
☐ removed from the
National Register
☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

5/29/08

Mount Vernon Cemetery
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1	1	building
3		sites
3	2	structures
43	2	objects
50	5	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Victorian Eclectic: Holbrook Chapel

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: granite

walls STONE

roof STONE: slate

other STONE, WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Mount Vernon Cemetery is composed of three distinctive contiguous areas totaling 16.73 acres. These are the Beaman Cemetery (ca. 1757, section K, site plan #1), which was displaced by the Wachusett Reservoir project and moved to adjoin Mount Vernon Cemetery in 1904, the Old Burying Ground (ca. 1790, sections H, J, site plan #2) and the Mount Vernon Cemetery (1852). While the Old Burying Ground has always been a town cemetery, associations ran the Beaman and Mt. Vernon. It was not until 1914 that the Beaman Cemetery Association signed over the Beaman Fund to the Town of West Boylston, which assumed the care and management of the Beaman Cemetery. Seventeen years later, in 1931, the Mt. Vernon Cemetery Association turned over all its own burial lots and funds to the Town, thereby making Mount Vernon Cemetery a completely municipal cemetery.

Two of areas of Mount Vernon Cemetery are in active use, Old Burying Ground and Mount Vernon Cemetery. New burials can occur in these areas if the applicant owns a plot. There are only a few newer burials in Old Burying Ground in the part located closest to Church Street, none of which disturb the integrity of the cemetery landscape. In the Mount Vernon Cemetery area, a few more recent burials are interspersed in the older area, but the majority of new burials occur in the areas added in 1951. These are sections L, M, N, O, P, which are bounded by Laurel and Pear Avenues, and section I, which is divided by Hillcrest Avenue.

West Boylston's Mount Vernon Cemetery lies at the center of the town, wedged between the Town Common (to the west) and Boston & Maine railroad tracks and the Wachusett Reservoir (to the east). From the north, visitors follow MA Route 12 across the Wachusett Reservoir and railroad tracks, and ascend a moderate slope. They pass the Bigelow Tavern, now the West Boylston Historical Society building (on the east), and see the Town Common ahead. To their left is Mount Vernon's northern perimeter wall, with the cemetery extending southward from the wall. From the south, visitors approach the cemetery from MA Route 140, and arrive at the center of West Boylston with Our Lady of Good Counsel Church to their east and the Town Common ahead. Mount Vernon Cemetery forms a long, lean rectangle along the east side of the Town Common and behind Our Lady of Good Counsel Church.

Mount Vernon Cemetery is bordered by Church Street and Our Lady of Good Counsel Church to the west, the Boston & Maine railroad tracks to the east, the Bigelow Tavern, ca. 1780-1810, to the north and private residences and the heavily wooded Commonwealth of Massachusetts Conservation and Recreation Department land to the south. Within the borders, the edges of Mount Vernon Cemetery are entirely enclosed, creating a sense of intimacy and privacy from the vehicles moving along Routes 12 and 140, and Boston & Maine trains using the railroad tracks.

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Stone walls, important features of the cemetery, define many of these edges. There are recurring references to building and rebuilding stone walls in the Town Reports and, as new sections were added to the cemetery, they too were bordered by stone walls, visually linking them to the older parts. A fieldstone wall with flat coping (photo #7, 1935, site plan #7), reflecting the wall construction of the Holbrook Chapel, lines much of the western edge from the north to the Chapel, providing a strong separation between the cemetery and Town Common. Abutting this wall at the corner is a fine, 1891 random coursed ashlar stone post, finished with a pyramidal cap, and a wall (photo #7, near sections B, H, site plan #6) which acts as an embrasure to the nearby Holbrook Chapel. Built in 1891, at the same time as the Chapel, the wall construction is similar to that of the rear elevation of the Chapel. The wall is capped with a steep pitch concrete roof, added in 1987. A four-foot vinyl picket-style fence, supported by granite posts (2002, sections B, D, F, site plan #9), further defines the cemetery's western edge where it abuts the Our Lady of Good Counsel Church property. The oldest wall (ca. 1790, site plan #8) in the cemetery, a dry laid fieldstone wall, defines the north boundary, separating the Old Burying Ground and Beaman Cemetery sections from the Bigelow Tavern. A dense hedgerow of evergreens, sumac, and other bushes, interspersed with deciduous trees, extends across portions of the eastern edge, screening the Boston & Maine railroad tracks. A new low wall of fieldstones, set in concrete, outlines the south boundary.

Entrances stand at four points along the western edge and correspond to the Cemetery's context. There are three vehicular entrances and one pedestrian entrance. In addition, there is a gated service road at the rear of the cemetery adjacent to the railroad tracks. The north entrance stands near the northern end of the Town Common, and the middle entrance is at the southern end, both accessed from Church Street. The south entrance lies along Route 140 (Worcester Street) at the commencement of a tree-lined entry drive leading to the cemetery, which abuts the south side of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church property. Both the north entrance posts, flanking a break in the fieldstone and concrete wall, as well as the south entrance posts, are constructed of fieldstones set in concrete. The middle entrance, which is anchored by the Holbrook Chapel, is set off by a pair of random ashlar granite posts similar in design to the rear elevation of the Chapel. These posts are topped with concrete caps. The pedestrian entrance, marked by an arched gazebo-like wooden structure, opens behind the Our Lady of Good Counsel Church between the middle and southern entrances.

Topography within the cemetery falls from the western edge eastward, further reinforcing the sense of separation between the cemetery landscape and its surroundings. From north to south, the landform undulates across four equally sized segments. At the northern end, near the Beaman Cemetery (photo #3, section K, site plan #1), is a high point. From here, land falls into a large terraced hollow (Photo #2), ascends to another high point near the 1895 G. A. R. Civil War Memorial (photo #8, section E-130/131, site plan #23), and finally drops off to a flat plain, ending at the southern boundary. Because of this varied landform, outstanding views across the Cemetery landscape are possible from

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several spots. Most prominent are the views from the two high points, looking across the hollow and over the flat plain. Mature maple, spruce, and oak trees flourish on these higher points, creating a canopy and providing shade. By contrast, the low points contain few trees, allowing for multiple attractive vistas.

From the irregular spacing of stones in the Old Burying Ground in the north to the regularity of the modern section in the south, approximately 2,700 gravestones, monuments, and markers are located in Mount Vernon Cemetery. These range from simple slate stones to elaborate granite and marble constructions. Supplementing the wide variety of memorials are numerous flush, bevel, screen, and slant face markers, small monuments to children with lambs atop, and a striking white bronze (actually constructed of zinc) memorial.

Adding to the visual appeal of the Mt. Vernon Cemetery, each of the three major areas, the Beaman Cemetery, the Old Burying Ground, and the Mount Vernon Cemetery have their distinctive landscape, types of roadways and paths, and styles of gravestones and monuments. The Beaman Cemetery section offers a valuable example of a thoughtfully relocated cemetery while Old Burying Ground and Mount Vernon Cemetery areas correspond to the different eras of cemetery design.

Beaman Cemetery (1757, photo #3, section K, site plan #1)

The Beaman Cemetery is perhaps the most distinctive of Mount Vernon Cemetery's landscape features. This small rectangular plot, adjoining the cemetery's Old Burying Ground section and shaded by a grove of deciduous trees, holds the burials relocated in 1904 from the east side of West Boylston to make way for construction of the Wachusett Reservoir. Within the rectangle, 77 slate and marble gravestones are arranged in a horseshoe pattern on the east, west and north sides, leaving the south side open.

One of the three monuments relocated to Mount Vernon Cemetery and standing on the east side of the horseshoe, the stately Beaman monument (section K, site plan #37), a marble obelisk standing on a tall, square marble base, surmounted by a sizeable urn, commemorates the Beamans, early settlers of West Boylston. Bearing only the name "BEAMAN," it symbolizes the importance of this now 250-year old cemetery to the Beaman family. It is the largest of the monuments moved to Mt. Vernon Cemetery. On the west side is the marble monument for Betsey Beaman Newton, d. 1892, and others (section K, site plan #35), a large rectangular marble block carrying a hip roof and resting on a substantial plinth with the name "NEWTON" carved in deep relief. In a prominent position on the open south side of the horseshoe is the unusual equilateral triangle-shaped marble monument, resting on a granite base, honoring Major Joseph A. Reed, d. 1867 and his wives, Mary B. Reed, d. 1822 and Tamer Reed, d. 1846 (section K, site plan #36). The design of the monument is rigid, geometric, and angular. Its strong vertical marble triangular-shaped shaft reflects the austerity of the very dark

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Warren Monument (19th century, section F-9, site plan #27). The lines are crisply delineated, the letters of the names of the deceased are plain, and there is a complete lack of ornamentation. The stark simplicity of the Major Joseph Reed Monument reflects the tragedy of the Civil War, and at the same time looks forward to the modernism of the next century, particularly by its rare triangular shape and hard-edged lines.

Beaman Cemetery has the oldest slate gravestones in Mount Vernon Cemetery, which are of great aesthetic and historical significance. These stones represent the earliest history of West Boylston as well as having among them several excellent examples of work by noted regional gravestone carvers. (Please refer to 8. Significance.)

Old Burying Ground (ca. 1790, section H, J, site plan #2)

Located at the northern end of Mount Vernon Cemetery, from the Church Street wall and extending to the Beaman Cemetery section, the Old Burying Ground reflects a Colonial style of landscape, with simple grassy paths carved between clusters of graves. This area is dominated by loose rows of individually placed slate and marble gravestones, punctuated by occasional monuments, reflecting the tradition of Colonial-era burials. One of the obelisks, which commemorates Aaron Tilton, d. 1876, and his three wives, d. 1830, 1850 and 1887 (section H, site plan #33) is highly unusual, as it is of slate. Obelisks are generally of marble, sandstone, or granite but rarely slate. Altogether, there are about 760 monuments and gravestones in Old Burying Ground.

The Old Burying Ground also contains some gravestones by the noted gravestone carver, Paul Coburn, as well as several finely carved gravestones by unidentified carvers. (Please refer to 8. Significance).

Mount Vernon Cemetery (1852, photos #1, 2)

The original center section, established in 1852, and its various additions of new land extends all the way to the southern border where recently deceased persons (2007) are laid to rest. This is by far the largest area of the cemetery harboring some 1850 monuments and gravestones. An area, which has been referred to since 1875 as Potter's Field, was originally near the Holbrook Chapel. It was moved in 1891 (sections G, A, site plan #3) at the same time as the Temple Tomb, the pound, and the hearse house were taken down to make way for the Chapel. Intended for the less fortunate members of the West Boylston community, Potter's Field was relocated to section G at the corner of Beaman and North Avenues, in what is now a grassy expanse shaded by a large Maple tree. The new area of Potter's Field is at the back of section A, near the railroad tracks.

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The northern part displays a 19th century or Victorian style configuration, with gravel roadways rimming the hollow and emphasizing the drama of the landform. In this section, the gravestones and monuments are typically arranged in family plots, characteristic of the 19th century, and continuing to the present. The southernmost portion, sections L, M, N, O, P, a 1951 addition, is bounded by Laurel and Pear Avenues with the land sloping gently from north to south. Flowering trees, white dogwoods, and crabapples are attractively interspersed throughout, and the grid of bituminous concrete roadways, each also bearing the name of a tree, traverses this area, reflecting a 20th century or modern approach to commemoration. At the south end, just beyond the last line of plots, stands a low stone wall which runs east, then gently curves to the north, then again east, ending at the edge of the cemetery. The granite monumentation is more regular than in the older parts of the cemetery, usually a single die on a base.

Section I (1951) and the addition to section K (1974) lie at the northernmost back corner of the cemetery and manifest a similar planning approach to the southernmost section in roadways and monumentation. Section I provided the space to erect the garage/workshop as well as additional plots for burial. The appropriately named Hillcrest Avenue, the highest elevation of the northern portion, bisects the section. The last area acquired by the cemetery, a small addition to section K, permitted an extension of the handsome Beaman Avenue, at the same time opening some forty new plots ranged along the east side of the avenue.

One of the most prominent features of this area of Mount Vernon Cemetery is the 1891 Holbrook Chapel (photos #4, #5, near sections B, H, site plan #4). Due to its splendid site on high ground at the main entrance to the cemetery, the Chapel, flanked to the south by a 50-foot white metal flagpole with a stone base (1984, section B, site plan #10) displaying the American Flag, is visible from almost every viewpoint of the cemetery. Built as memorial mortuary chapel "with the receiving tomb under a part of it, the other part being used as a tool-house" (1898 Town Report), Holbrook Chapel is a charming vernacular example of a Victorian Eclectic cemetery chapel. The chapel is cottage-sized with a large encompassing slate roof of expansive planes; its south side elevation shows a projecting exterior chimney. The chapel also reflects a slight Richardsonian influence in the use of fieldstone as a wall material. These stones are loose, unfinished stones found on the ground surface and not the cyclopean ones used by the great master, H.H. Richardson, yet they integrate well in the landscape. Fieldstone construction was relatively popular in New England in the second half of the 19th century and, as in this example, usually randomly coursed. The Gothic arched entrance, with long thin fieldstones acting as voussoirs and keystone, is the only architectural element that tells the viewer he is facing a chapel. The recessed windows are square and filled with simple geometric-designed glass panes, and are balanced by the tall chimney. The only architectural exterior embellishments of this small chapel are the shaped brackets under the eaves, invisible to all but the prying camera.

The simplicity of the façade, composed of the Gothic arched entrance and flanked by two windows, belies the size of the rear elevation. It is two stories, high for the land slopes quickly. The lower floor

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is pierced with two large plain entrances capped with impressive blocks of stones, reiterating use of strong bold sills of the windows. As one walks around the south elevation towards the rear, there is the impression that we are facing an integrated short tower. The foundation of the chapel, as well as the walling of the ground floor of the rear elevation, are made of coursed random ashlar granite stones, similar and relating to the fine stone wall on either side of the Chapel. In every way, the architects have grounded their chapel to the land and have designed it to merge seamlessly with the landscape environment of the cemetery.

The interior of the Holbrook Chapel (photo #6) is dominated by a simple groined and rib vault which, with the Gothicized entrance, evokes the chapel characteristics of the structure. It is completely sheathed in wood boards, vertical up to the half point of the lancet shaped sections. One wall contains a brick fireplace subtly decorated with a molding band composed of stylized egg and dart motif. This overwhelming abundance of wood seems a pleasant contrast to the impressive stone walling of the exterior. An "In Memoriam" marble plaque on the north wall explains the original intent of honoring Rev. William Nash, d. 1829, the "First settled minister in town" and his wife, Elizabeth Doubleday Nash. A second marble plaque, on the east wall, commemorates West Boylston industrialist Eli Holbrook, d. 1888, and his wife, Adaline Worcester Holbrook, d. 1887, and it is for them the Holbrook Chapel is named.

Of interest is the group of wooden side chairs used for religious services. They are made with flat curved spindles made famous in the 1970s by the wood carver Sam Maloof, yet were probably original to the Chapel, as their arched back and splayed legs reflect the form of a Thonet chair of the third quarter of the 19th century. The original furnishings of the Chapel are clearly significant for when the Mount Vernon Cemetery Association formerly transferred the Chapel to the town in 1894, one of the stipulations of the transfer was "that the furniture shall not be loaned or removed." (1894 Town Report). The chairs might have been manufactured in West Boylston for by 1890 the town had furniture factories. (Gazetteer of the State of Massachusetts by the Rev. Elias Nason, M.A. Boston, 1890, p. 677.)

The only other building in the cemetery is a concrete block 30 by 26 foot garage/maintenance facility (1971, section I, K, site plan #5) at the back of the cemetery near the northeast corner. It was built by was J. Colangelo & Son, Inc., of West Boylston at a cost of \$6,200.

The 1852 Mount Vernon Cemetery area contains the grandest monuments in the cemetery. The magnificent 1895 G. A. R. Civil War Memorial (photo #8, section E, lot #130/131, site plan #23), nobly sited on the highest point in Mount Vernon Cemetery to the south of the hollow, is the most impressive monument in Mount Vernon Cemetery. A Union soldier stands posed at parade rest, with his left foot forward, the most often represented stance for a Civil War soldier memorial statue. The soldier holds close to his chest, his weapon, the American made tall (usually 57") Springfield rifle,

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the most widely used shoulder firearm during the Civil War. The Confederate soldiers also used this rifle, but more often imported their arms from England. The soldier stands upon a small base which is set upon another molded base decorated with a granite cartouche framed with dark polished granite containing an eagle upon a flag with stars and stripes above a large, dark star, emblem of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic, whose membership was limited to honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army). The initials, G.A.R., are also seen in the second step of the wide base in the back. The composition of this monument is atypical for most examples in other parts of the Union country, the soldier figure is usually placed high above a tall shaft far removed from the viewer, whereas here in West Boylston, this young soldier seems accessible to the viewer as he stands on its low, wide, dark imposing base decorated only with the inscription TO HONOR THE MEN OF/WEST BOYLSTON/WHO FOUGHT TO SAVE/THE UNION. Below, a granite banner displays the dates 1861-1865.

Other handsome monuments, of marble, granite, and white bronze populate the varied landscape of this area. The prominently sited marble monument commemorating Civil War veteran Thomas H. Prescott, d. 1884, and his wife, Eunice S., d. 1891 (photo #1, section B-227, site plan #14) is one of most elaborate memorials in the Mount Vernon Cemetery. The Prescott monument's verticality reflects the influences of obelisk monuments, particularly prevalent in the first half of the 19th century period when Egyptian forms were often used due to its funerary type of architecture. However, here this obelisk, sheathed with a plethora of embellishments, is barely perceived due to its hierarchical composition. Rather than having a plain, sheer vertical surface rising to its pyramidal top, this monument is sectioned by two arches, which seem to be supported by arcades ending in robust finials. The lower finials above the raised lobed cartouche containing the inscription seem to reiterate the capped ball finials of the two freestanding corner posts. An arcade supports even the small pyramidal top. The focus of ornamentation is one of the most archetypal Christian symbols, the Latin cross, set within a crown meant to represent the sovereignty of the Lord. The marble monument is set above a dark granite plinth and is fronted by two solid square chamfered posts.

In the Beaman Memorial Public Library, a mourning picture portrays Phebe Worcester, tearfully leaning over a marble monument, which honors her husband, Sampson Worcester, d. 1824. Although the actual monument (section G, site plan #30) in Mount Vernon Cemetery is very similar to the print monument, it is even more elegant as the square marble shaft is embellished with a finely carved wreath. Thirteen years later, upon the death of Phebe Worcester in 1837, her name too was incised into the monument.

The tall square-shafted urn-topped marble monument remembering George W. Reed, d. 1915 and his wife, Emma M. Newton Reed, d. 1916 (section E-48, site plan #21), is typical of the many fine well-sited marble monuments throughout Mount Vernon Cemetery. There are also many distinguished smaller marble monuments, usually resting on granite bases.

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The three marble monuments of the family of Rev. Joseph W. Cross, d. 1906 (section D-32, site plan #20) comprise one of the most handsome lots in the cemetery. Of ascending size, the smallest monument, "Brother," is embellished with finely carved flowers. The next in size is that of Rev. Cross' wife, "Mother," Frances A. J. Cross, d. 1870, with a spray of flowers atop of the inscription panel. The largest monument is reserved for Rev. Joseph Cross himself; his tympanum is ornamented by a graceful sheaf of wheat.

Skillfully carved twin marble monuments memorialize the Bullard couple: one monument, "Husband," is for Samuel Bullard, d. 1916 (section F-9, site plan #25) and the other, "Wife," marks Abbie Neff Bullard, d. 1876 (section F-9, site plan #26). "Husband," a mysterious weathered marble monument, is dominated by a carved double-headed eagle, whose chest is emblazoned with a triangle with the inscription "3D." Rather than identifying it in terms of a national emblem, it is clear that the eagle symbolizes the deceased's role as a Mason, most probably a 3rd Degree Mason as carved in the triangle. The emblematic eagle is tightly placed under a Greek pediment with slight returns while its clawed feet grasp a branch sited above an arched molded embrasure containing the word "Husband." The monument is set on a double plinth comprised of two different colored marbles whose top white layer is embellished with a cyma reversa molding. The companion monument is of similar size but has a gothic arch recessed surface filled at the top with robustly carved leaves on a curved branch over the word "Wife." The marble base is similar in design to "Husband."

One of the most poignant smaller monuments in Mount Vernon Cemetery is to the two Warren children, E. Leighton, d. 1895 and Reno, d. 1900 (section F-9, site plan #28). The children, represented by two marble lambs, side by side on a cushion, tell the visitor that the grave is that of two children who died in their infancy. Like the biblical sacrificial lamb, their lives ended too soon. The beautiful lamb carving is set above a plain tall rectangular base composed of granulated granite with smooth polished panels with incised letters of the names and death date of the two young children. In funerary art, it is usual to see lambs on children's graves as they are meant to denote the innocence of the young victims. The lambs are often shown serenely resting.

There is also an abundance of outstanding granite monuments in Mount Vernon Cemetery. The Warren monument (section F-9, site plan #27), a 19th century granite monument, evokes the seriousness and the darkness of the American Civil War. It is constructed totally of varied granite finishes: the rough cut of the plinth, the smooth black polished surfaces of the large central rectangular body, the smooth sphere topping the monument, and the sand like surfaces of the sloping elements in between. The name "WARREN" is seen in high relief on the angled strata below the black central section. The whole is roofed with a convex like roof with a steeply pitched central gable enhanced with the initial "W." The Warren monument is an austere and appropriate monument for its period.

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The unusually intricately detailed and resplendent granite monument to William H. White, d. 1933, and his wife, Jennie V. Moore White, d. 1912 (photo #10, section C-307/309, site plan #18), offers a complete contrast to the Warren monument. Hard materials (marble, granite and other stones) of most monuments often dictate rectilinear composition lines. However, at times there are exceptions; the William M. White is one of them. Other than the rectilinear informative plaque in the front, most of the lines in this 20th century monument are curvilinear. The tripartite stepped base is composed of oval elements with gouged rough-cut granite fascias capped with a smooth molding. The transition from base to the monument is a simple, smooth cavetto molding. The monument itself is a thick short shaft capped with a very low pitch pyramidal roof, also delineated with slow curves. Each side is buttressed with a heavy half rough-cut column finished with a quarter orb. The monument exudes serenity and strength.

There are several granite monuments in the cemetery which resemble sarcophagi. An example is the impressive monument commemorating the Scarlett family, Andrew Scarlett, d. 1935, his wife, Clara B. Scarlett, d. 1930 and their sons, Clarence B. Scarlett, d. 1902 and W. Clifford Scarlett, d. 1910 (section A-39, site plan #12). Strong in its simplicity, the rectangular sarcophagus with an indented narrow band with clawed feet at the bottom of the die, rests on a larger base. There is a far more elaborate sarcophagus type granite monument to mill owner Charles Morris Harris, d. 1892, and his wife, Eula Jeanette Harris, d. 1881 (section B-228/230, site plan #15).

Mount Vernon Cemetery has a striking example of white bronze monumentation, the Walker/Herman monument (section A-234, site plan #11), honoring Charles H. Herman, d. 1888, and his wife, Elizabeth, d. 1898, among others. The Walker/Herman Monument is an unusual and outstanding canopy structure set on a single granite base consisting of a rough-cut plinth. Atop is a relatively rare white bronze columnar superstructure, set on a white bronze plinth, a smaller version of the granite one beneath. White bronze monuments and markers first appeared in 1870 when they were then manufactured in Bridgeport, Connecticut. This business thrived until 1912 when the manufactory of white bronze was discontinued. The parts of the canopy tomb were all custom made when ordered by the customer from a catalogue. The short columns, loosely reminiscent of Byzantine art, and capped with floriated Ionic capitals, are capped with rough cut abacus at the four corners; the center abacus has a recess containing a stylized flower, maybe a daisy, once an Assyrian symbol. The roof structure is composed of four slow curved gables, one of which contain a Gothicized "H," and is capped with a barely perceptible pyramidal cap. It is the most architectural monument in Mount Vernon Cemetery.

There are also several unique monuments in Mount Vernon Cemetery. One is the Tyson Monument (section A-285, site plan #13) to Ezekiel Tyson, d. 1922 and his wife, Caroline E. Tyson, d. 1919. Below the names of the deceased on the large smooth-finished granite slab is the carefully incised plan of the Tyson family neighborhood. There are also two boulders of atypical materials. One is a phyllite boulder marking the grave of Major Victor E. Edwards, d. 1931 (section E-121/122, site plan #22). Phyllite is a green, gray, or red metamorphic rock, similar to slate, but often has a wavy surface

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and a distinctive micaceous luster. The other is a recently installed boulder of chiasolite honoring Lorenz Ebern Whitcomb, d. 2002 (section C-105, site plan #17). Chiasolite is a mineral variety of andalusite with carbonaceous impurities regularly arranged along the longer axis of the crystal.

In this area of the cemetery, almost all of the gravestones are marble or granite. The tripartite marble headstone for the three infants, Clarence, Mary and Loleta Walker (section D-166, site plan #38) in this tract is particularly handsome.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known in the Mount Vernon Cemetery, it is possible that sites are present. Three ancient sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the property indicate several locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for the presence of ancient sites. Soil types in the cemetery are excessively drained, formed in glacial outwash. The cemetery contains numerous locales where level to moderately sloping stream terraces and outwash plain landforms are found in close proximity to wetlands. Gates Brook is located within 1,000 feet of the southern and central areas of the cemetery, flowing northerly to Gates Cove and Wachusett Reservoir approximately one-half mile east of the cemetery. A second, unnamed brook, located within 1,000 feet of the northern portion of the cemetery also drains to the Gates Cove area. Given the above information, the size of the cemetery (approximately 16.73 acres) and the impacts associated with the excavation of approximately 2,700 burials during the cemetery's long period of use since the 18th century, a low potential exists for the recovery of significant ancient Native American resources.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources within and near the boundaries of the Mount Vernon Cemetery. Little, if any, historic use of the property has been identified prior to the first excavation of burials dating to the late 18th century. Earlier, mid-18th century burials from the Beaman Cemetery exist; however, they were relocated to the Mount Vernon Cemetery to make way for the construction of Wachusett Reservoir. Land, presumably farmland, was purchased for the cemetery from several individuals in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries; however, no record of structures included with those purchases has been identified. Further documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may help locate historical and archaeological evidence of residences, barns, outbuildings, and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with earlier agricultural use of cemetery land. Structural evidence may also survive from sheds and other outbuildings associated with the cemetery's operation and maintenance during its history. Structural evidence from the Temple Tomb, pound, and hearse house might survive in the vicinity of Holbrook Chapel. Each of these buildings and objects were removed in 1891, prior to construction of the chapel. Complete and fragmentary evidence of unmarked graves originally associated with Potter's Field, first identified in 1875, may also exist in the chapel area. Potter's Field was relocated to a lot near the intersection of Beaman and North Avenues in 1891, prior to construction of Holbrook

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Chapel. Post molds related to fences and gates and evidence of stone walls may exist around boundaries for the cemetery, and around subdivisions within the cemetery bounds. Town reports make numerous references to the building and rebuilding of stone walls as the cemetery's boundaries changed. Stratigraphic evidence from roadways and landscape features no longer visible may also be present.

Archaeological evidence including features, artifacts, and human remains associated with over 2,700 burials represent the most numerous archaeological resources present in the Mount Vernon Cemetery. While the vast majority of these burials represent known and marked graves spanning the late 18th century to the present, relocated graves are documented, and unmarked graves may also exist. Relocated graves are found in the Beaman Cemetery (1757/1904) area, and in Potter's Field (1875/1891). The Beaman Cemetery includes some 60 remains that were excavated from their original cemetery site prior to construction of Wachusett Reservoir. The remains were reportedly boxed in coffins, then moved with related monuments and gravestones to their present site in the Mount Vernon Cemetery. It is unknown, at present, how carefully the graves were excavated. Since they date to 1757 or earlier and were moved in 1904, it can be expected that wooden coffins, skeletal remains, and material culture items were in varied states of preservation. Many coffins and artifacts were likely deteriorated and some skeletal remains were missing. The close proximity of burials might also result in mixing when moved. Accordingly, when the 60 remains from the Beaman Cemetery were placed in their new coffins, partial skeletons may have been mixed, and items originally included with the burials absent. It is also unknown whether graves at the new Beaman Cemetery were excavated to standard depths and included single or multiple coffins. Given the above information, relocated burials at the Beaman Cemetery may include burial shaft outlines of unknown horizontal extent and depths, partial and/or complete sets of human remains, and little or no material culture items associated with the deceased and original coffin.

The Potter's Field burial area may represent a similar scenario to that described above for the Beaman Cemetery. Relocated burials may include partial samples of human and funerary material culture remains as a result of preservation and the general care taken in excavating the remains. While the Potter's Field was first identified as that in 1875 and moved in 1891, its use as a burial area for paupers, indigents, and unknown persons may have begun before 1875, possibly indicating a more variable rate of preservation. Less care may have been taken excavating these remains than with the founding fathers of the community interred at the Beaman Cemetery. Unmarked burials may have been more common at Potter's Field, suggesting some remains may not have been moved at all or mixed with identified burials during excavation.

Further historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing can help locate unmarked graves, grave markers, and document associations between existing gravestones and actual graves. Individual graves, the earliest of which date to the 18th century, may include skeletal remains in

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addition to clothing and other personal items interred with each individual. Funerary objects, including coffin remains and artifacts associated with the initial interment(s) and later memorials may also be present with individuals or groups of graves. A grave shaft discernable in the soil stratigraphy should be present with individual and multiple interments. Archaeological testing may also identify head and foot stones that are overgrown and presently not visible on the surface. Unmarked graves may exist anywhere in the Mount Vernon Cemetery. Paupers, indigents, and unknown persons were often buried in peripheral areas of cemeteries. At the Mount Vernon Cemetery the periphery changed with every land purchase or sale. Unmarked graves can also exist when stones are lost or when markers are made from biodegradable materials.

(end)

Mount Vernon Cemetery

Name of Property

Worcester, MA

County and State

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.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Architecture

Community Planning & Development

Social History

Period of Significance

1757-1958

Significant Dates

1757, 1790s, 1808, 1852, 1904, 1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

West Boylston Historical Society

New England Historic Archaeological Society

Beaman Memorial Public Library

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Vernon Cemetery, West Boylston, Massachusetts, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets National Register Criteria A and C on the local level. Associated with every period of West Boylston history as well as for the fine exemplar of Late Victorian architecture for its Holbrook Chapel and the excellent representations of regional gravestone carving, Mount Vernon Cemetery qualifies under Criteria Consideration D.

Mount Vernon Cemetery (1852) now incorporates the Beaman Cemetery (1757) and Old Burying Ground (ca. 1790). The Beaman Cemetery, the town's oldest cemetery, was relocated to Mount Vernon Cemetery in 1904 before its original site was flooded for the Wachusett Reservoir. Since 1931, all three cemeteries have been gathered under the name "Mount Vernon Cemetery" and are the responsibility of the Town of West Boylston. Now the town's oldest cemetery, Mount Vernon Cemetery has played an integral role in town history and thus qualifies under Criteria A. It is in Mount Vernon Cemetery that West Boylston's earliest settlers, including its founder, Major Ezra Beaman, Esq., reside. The gravestones and monuments stand as visual evidence of the sweep of the Town's development through its early ministers, town leaders, veterans of all the nation's wars, industrialists, physicians, and ordinary citizens.

The unusual vernacular manifestation of the Victorian Eclectic style, as seen in the 1891 Holbrook Chapel (photos #4, #5, near section B, H, site plan #4), and the presence of finely cut slate gravestones, some carved by the noted regional gravestone carvers Paul Colburn and James Wilder, qualify Mount Vernon Cemetery under Criteria C.

History of West Boylston

The Town of West Boylston lies some seven miles north of the city of Worcester and forty miles west of Boston. The town is bounded on the east by Boylston, on the west by Holden; to the north is Sterling, while Shrewsbury and Worcester lie directly south. The town covers an area of approximately twenty square miles, with some 870 acres included in the Wachusett Reservoir.

The makeup of the Town of West Boylston is relatively complex but similar to many of the newer towns in Massachusetts. Prior to its incorporation in 1808, the town was made up of five segments, each a portion of the older towns that surround it. Two of the northern portions were annexed from Sterling, with one a part of the original Lancaster land grant and the second from a section of Sterling, which was formerly Shrewsbury. The western portion of the town is from Holden, originally Worcester land. A small center section came from Boylston, formerly

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Shrewsbury, and originally Lancaster. The fifth and largest section is to the south and came from Boylston land, which was originally Shrewsbury.

Although incorporation of West Boylston did not actually occur until 1808, what is now West Boylston was actually settled in the 1720s. Among the first inhabitants were Sarah (d. 1810, section H, site plan #47) and Edward Goodale (d. 1756), progenitors of the well-known Goodale family, who arrived in 1738. One of their sons, Aaron Goodale (1743-1817, section H, site plan #45), was the first of what was going to become eight generations of Aaron Goodales to reside in West Boylston. The early settlement was a farming community, particularly raising rye, corn, oats, and cultivating apple orchards; the soil in the region was rich and productive. By the turn of the 18th century, there was also a sawmill, corn mill, grist mill and a fulling mill, due to the presence of the Quinapoxet, Stillwater, and Nashua Rivers, as well as the substantial Malden Brook.

The incorporation of the Town of West Boylston in 1808 did not come easily; it took over twenty-five years to accomplish. The area that would become a portion of the Town of West Boylston was originally called the Shrewsbury North Parish. Under the prompting of Major Ezra Beaman, Esq., a resident of the North Parish and a powerful selectman, an article was placed in the warrant for the 1781 Shrewsbury town meeting asking that the North Parish be set off as a separate town. The petition was denied, but five years later on March 1, 1786, the Shrewsbury North Parish became the Town of Boylston.

The legal designation of the Town of Boylston did not put an end to the issues raised by the residents of the westerly part of Boylston. In 1792, Boylston planned to build a new church on behalf of the citizens in the western part of the town. When voted down, Major Beaman built his own church on the same spot as today's Congregational Church. A dedication was held on January 1, 1795 but an actual parish had not been established.

Following the meetinghouse's dedication, the same group which had built the church presented a petition to the General Court requesting incorporation of West Boylston as a separate town. The resistance of the towns that would lose land and inhabitants as a result of this action was extremely vigorous, and the petition was withdrawn. However, in early 1796 another lengthy petition was filed asking for the western portion of Boylston be established as a separate parish. This act of incorporation, establishing the Second Precinct of Boylston, Sterling, and Holden, was signed by Governor Samuel Adams on June 14, 1796. Still, there was a strong desire on the part of many West Boylston inhabitants for a separate town and in 1806 a petition to this effect was filed with the General Court. Despite vehement opposition from the surrounding towns, particularly Boylston, the incorporation of West Boylston was approved on January 30, 1808.

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Following incorporation, West Boylston flourished during most of the 19th century. The population grew from 600 in 1810 to 2,968 in 1895; in the same period of time the number of dwelling houses expanded from 98 to 480. The expansion of Mount Vernon Cemetery in this period reflected the growing needs of the West Boylston populace. Agriculture continued to be very important. Although the cider mills suffered due to the temperance movement, by 1880 there were 80 large active farms ranging from 30 to 200 acres in addition to about 20 farms of smaller acreage.

Industry along the rivers was also burgeoning; by 1808, in addition to the existing mills, more manufactories were established as well as two book binderies and two taverns. Manufacturing in West Boylston continued to thrive during the 19th century, and by 1895 there were many textile mills, including the Beaman Manufacturing Company, the L. M. Harris and Co., the West Boylston Manufacturing Company, the Warfield Mill, the Holbrook Mill, and the Clarendon Mills. In addition to the textile mills there were Cowee's Gristmill, Warner's Saw Mill, the boot manufacturers, Howe, Morton and Lovell, and the Brigham Basket Company.

The center of West Boylston, which had begun where it now stands, anchored by the Meetinghouse (1795), the Old Burying Ground (precursor to the present Mount Vernon Cemetery), and the Town Common, began to shift by the 1830s, drawn by the mills along the rivers to what became known as West Boylston Lower Village. This move accelerated with the burning of the meetinghouse on the Common in 1831, and with the establishment of industries associated with the mills. The population followed this exodus for the employment in the Lower Village area.

Unfortunately, the very reason that led these mills to initially take advantage of the ample waterpower afforded by the Quinapoxet, Stillwater, and Nashua Rivers led to their doom. In a totally unforeseen development, the plans for the Wachusett Reservoir, which became a reality 1895-1905, called for the complete flooding of the West Boylston Lower Village, as well as other nearby areas. As a consequence, the town center was returned to its original location.

By 1894 it was painfully clear there was no stopping the Wachusett Reservoir. Article 23 of the 1894 Town Report stated: "To see if the town will choose or appoint a committee to look after the interest of the town in connection with the proposed "Boston, or Metropolitan Water Supply." Starting in 1898, the Town Reports began publishing what was going to become the staggering amount of houses, barns, shops, mills and acreage taken from West Boylston to accommodate the Wachusett Reservoir. For example, the 1898 "Schedule of Property Acquired by the Metropolitan Water Board" included a cotton and wool cloth mill, the West Boylston Manufacturing Co., one of the few mills to successfully relocate, in this case to Easthampton. By 1905 the tally of the

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impact of the Wachusett Reservoir on West Boylston was complete: the center of town was relocated, 157 houses were moved or destroyed, all the factories and mills demolished, and 870 acres of West Boylston's land taken. The only building to survive was the Old Stone Church, built by the Baptist Church in 1890.

Despite the unimaginable impact of the Wachusett Reservoir, the Town of West Boylston, with its strong family roots, survived and went on to celebrate its centennial in grand style, first on January 30, 1908, the anniversary of the act of incorporation, and again, hoping for fine weather, on July 16, 1908. The events were planned by the Centennial Committee, chaired by Willie B. Wood (d. 1941, section G-86). The magnitude of the Centennial Celebration, which included greetings by Selectman Warren E. Gammell (1831-1918, section B-198), a discourse on "Major Ezra Beaman, the Father of West Boylston," and an Historical Address by Leon A. Goodale (1876-1941, section C-310, site plan #19) is clear from the "Proceedings in Connection with the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Town of West Boylston," published in 1910. After acknowledging the extent of the recent trauma wrought by the Wachusett Reservoir, Goodale ended on a determined note:

"Today the future is before us. What it shall be the Almighty alone knows. What it may be depends in large measure upon us. Let us be true to the spirit of those who have gone before us, and by our integrity and devotion bring honor and worth to our loved town."

Another hundred years has passed since Goodale gave his address and, as the Town of West Boylston prepares for its Bi-Centennial Celebration in 2008, it is clear this determination has been realized in a thriving town with its handsome Mount Vernon Cemetery at the relocated town center

General History of Mount Vernon Cemetery

Over the course of almost a century and a quarter Mount Vernon Cemetery attained its present size (16.73 acres) through a series of acquisitions and gifts. According to the West Boylston Historical Society, the initial land for the cemetery was simply laid out by the early settlers, as their settlement predated the church of 1795. Later additions were farmland while the newest sections, L, M, N, O, P, were reclaimed lowland.

There is no specific document stating how large the Old Burying Ground (c. 1790) was prior to 1852, but it is estimated at three to four acres. In the first known addition to what was to become Mount Vernon Cemetery, the newly formed Mt. Vernon Cemetery Association acquired approximately five acres for use as a cemetery in 1852. This land was directly contiguous to the

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south boundary of Old Burying Ground. After that first purchase, no further expansion took place until 1872 when a parcel was bought from Mrs. Spofford for \$225, but no specifics were provided regarding the size. Also in 1872 the Association purchased a parcel of land from D. C. Murdock, recorded as one acre, more or less.

Mount Vernon Cemetery suffered a reduction in land area in 1871 when the Worcester & Nashua Railroad took land in order to lay a second track. The records note that the Association discussed protesting this seizure but no mention of an action of this sort can be found.

In 1875, expansion land, purchased from Charles T. Haynes, was added to the Old Burying Ground, next to the Mount Vernon Cemetery. Some seventeen years elapsed before the 1892 Town Meeting actually voted to accept the "Haynes Addition" as part of the burying ground.

To provide a place for the markers and remains from the Beaman Cemetery, in 1891-2 the Metropolitan Water Board acquired the "Bacon Lot" abutting the north side of Old Burying Ground. The "Bacon Lot" was one third of an acre purchased from John C. Bacon. The Beaman Cemetery Association oversaw the relocated cemetery until 1913 when they dissolved the Association and turned all assets and responsibility for the Beaman Cemetery over to the Town of West Boylston. The Town then controlled two (the Old Burying Ground and the Beaman Cemetery) of the three segments of what is now Mount Vernon Cemetery.

After extensive negotiations (including the consideration of instituting eminent domain proceedings), an agreement was reached with the Boston & Maine Railroad in 1922 to purchase a parcel of land to expand the cemetery to the east.

The two cemeteries acquired no more land prior to the Mount Vernon Cemetery Association's decision to dissolve and turn over the land, assets and funds to the Town of West Boylston. This took place in 1932 and effectively created a new entity, The Mount Vernon Cemetery of the Town of West Boylston. Incorporating the Old Burying Ground and the Beaman Cemetery, Mount Vernon Cemetery became a municipal cemetery.

A major purchase of acreage for Mount Vernon occurred in 1951 with the acquisition of the Brigham land (size unrecorded) at the southern end of the cemetery for \$1500. This added the area now known as sections L, M, N, O, P, bracketed by Laurel and Pear Avenues, where the most recent interments are located. Another piece of land was acquired in 1951 when the record says a "strip of land" was purchased from the Shepard Family (who owned the present Bigelow Tavern land to the north); this is section I. These 1951 purchases increased the size of the total cemetery by about one-third. The final two parcels acquired by Mount Vernon Cemetery, which comprise a small part of section K, were a combination of a second portion of the Shepard land

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(7400 square feet) in 1974 and a \$2,500 parcel from the Masonic Lodge in 1975. With these purchases, the Mount Vernon Cemetery secured its current size of 16.7 acres.

Beaman Cemetery (1757)

The first burial in Beaman Cemetery was the keeper of the well-known Beaman Tavern. The death of Mr. Jabez Beaman (section K, site plan #53), who died of smallpox in 1757, occasioned the establishment of the cemetery. When Beaman Cemetery was relocated to Mount Vernon Cemetery in 1904, Mount Vernon Cemetery became the oldest cemetery in West Boylston. The other two West Boylston cemeteries are the High Plains Cemetery (1889) in Oakdale and St. Luke's Catholic Cemetery (1860s).

Beaman Cemetery is the receptacle of the early history of the Town of West Boylston. It is here that Major Ezra Beaman Esq. (d. 1811, section K, site plan #52), the great force behind the incorporation of the town, is buried. Leading what must have been an exhausting effort, from the filing of a warrant at Shrewsbury's 1781 town meeting to set the North Parish (which included the present West Boylston) off as a separate town to the Act of Incorporation in 1808, Ezra Beaman was probably the most powerful politician West Boylston has ever sired.

Ezra Beaman served ten years as selectman of the North Parish of Shrewsbury. At the first town meeting of the newly incorporated West Boylston, he was chosen selectman, treasurer, and state representative to the General Court, positions he held until his death in 1811. The wealthiest man in West Boylston, he owned the vast Beaman Manufacturing Company, the first cotton mill of the area, as well as continuously operating the famous Beaman Tavern. A fervent patriot, he also served in the Revolutionary War.

Historian Helen Maxwell Hamilton, in The History of West Boylston (1954) begins her chapter on Major Ezra Beaman with the following declaration:

"West Boylston's corporate existence today is due to the untiring persistence, the indomitable will, and the perhaps the sheer stubbornness of Ezra Beaman."

The Beaman Cemetery was located in the West Boylston Lower Village area targeted to be flooded by the Wachusett Reservoir, and the Town of West Boylston began negotiations with the Metropolitan Water Board. Article 17 at the 1898 Town Meeting queried: "To see what action the town will take in the matter of the proposed location of Beaman Cemetery." This was followed in 1901 by another Article 17: "To see if the town will allow the Metropolitan Water Board to use the lot known as the Bacon Lot adjoining the town cemetery, for burial purposes" followed by the mention on April 2, 1901: "Metropolitan water bought lots 69 and 70 for Beaman Cemetery for

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\$60 called the Haynes addition." In May 1904, Mr. Charles Cunningham Bray directed the excavation of the some sixty remains, which were then boxed in coffins and transported by Mr. William Wood, in the town hearse, to the newly prepared cemetery lot. This relocation involved not only transferring the remains but all the monuments and gravestones memorializing these graves as well. The record photographs of April 1904, which show the Beaman Cemetery in its original location, attest to the meticulousness of the move. In 1902, just before the relocation of the cemetery, the Beaman Cemetery Association, formed by the Beaman heirs, established its Articles of Association.

All that physically remains of the West Boylston Lower Village's extensive Beaman farm, the well-known Beaman Tavern and Beaman Oak Tree, owned by West Boylston's founder, Major Ezra Beaman, is the relocated Beaman Cemetery, the Beaman Watering Trough, and a flagstone from the tavern. Major Beaman placed the granite watering-trough in front of his tavern in 1808 and filled it with rum punch to celebrate the incorporation of the Town of West Boylston. The Worcester Telegram and Sun of March 26, 1901 reported that the 1901 town meeting (Article 18) concerning the gift of the watering trough "was accepted with much enthusiasm by a unanimous standing vote." The watering trough, the large flagstone and a small granite monument bearing explanatory plaques, currently sit on a small traffic island at the corner of Newton and Central Streets, in front of the Beaman Memorial Public Library (1912).

Despite the destruction of the Beaman family neighborhood, the Beaman name is still one of importance in West Boylston, most prominently in the Beaman Memorial Library, Beaman Cemetery, and Beaman Street. The 1913 Town Report in approving the name of the new library said: "... it leads us back to the founder of our town and helps us all to memorialize the name of Major EZRA BEAMAN."

Another change for the Beaman Cemetery occurred in 1913 when the Town of West Boylston accepted the responsibility of the cemetery. The citizens of West Boylston at the 1913 Annual Town Meeting "Voted to accept the proposition of the Beaman Cemetery Association, to act as trustees for the perpetual care of Beaman Cemetery, and also to assume the custody of the funds of said Beaman Cemetery, the income of which can be used for the expenses of taking care of said cemetery" (Article 25).

Old Burying Ground (ca. 1790)

The second oldest section of Mount Vernon Cemetery is the 1790s Old Burying Ground. Although the first official mention of the Old Burying Ground in the Second Precinct Reports is not until 1803 when the Committee to Lay Out the Burying Ground met "to reduce brush in the

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burying ground," the burying ground was in existence six or seven years earlier. The Lancaster League's Inscriptions From Burial Grounds of the Nashaway Towns states: "Earliest indications from gravestones in the cemetery appear to coincide with the building of the first Meeting House, its dedication on 1 January 1795 and the establishment of this area as the Second Precinct of Boylston, Sterling and Holden in June 1796." This is supported by extant gravestones in section H (located in what was earlier called Old Burying Ground) predating 1803, as for example the slate gravestones of Lydia Glazier, d. 1798 (section H, site plan #44) and Miss Elizabeth Goodale, d. 1799 (section H, site plan #46)

Further notations in the Second Precinct Reports state that Commissioners Abel Bigelow, Joseph Hinds, and Artemus Murdock were chosen on March 11, 1805 to "lay the burying ground out in rows," "to fence the burying ground adjoining the land of Abel Bigelow," and "to set out a row of Lombardy poplars on border of common." On October 6, 1807 the Commissioners "voted \$116.64 for stone wall between burying ground and common."

Mount Vernon Cemetery (1852)

When it became apparent that the Old Burying Ground would be inadequate for the thriving town, a concerned group of citizens formed the Mount Vernon Cemetery Association. The first meeting of the new Association was held on February 17, 1852, at Thomas Hall (a hall built for use by both the Congregational Church and the town) at which Cyrus Muzzy was named president and John D. Lovell, secretary. On March 9, 1852, it was voted to name the cemetery "The Mount Vernon Cemetery" and to petition the Legislature for an Act of Incorporation for the Mount Vernon Cemetery Association. Only three weeks later, on April 2, 1852, it was announced that the Acts of Incorporation had been granted on March 31, 1852. At the same meeting, both the Constitution and By-laws for the Association were adopted and progress was reported on land acquisition for the new cemetery, which was to be located adjacent to the town's Old Burying Ground. By the May 11, 1852, meeting, the five acres of land had been purchased and it was reported on June 1, 1852, that 60 persons had picked out lots; the list of these original purchasers is included with the Mount Vernon Cemetery Association minutes. The consecration of the cemetery took place approximately a week later and the cemetery officially opened on October 14, 1852.

Early features of the cemetery which are no longer extant include the hearse house, the pound, and the Temple Tomb, all three of which were removed to clear the site for the Holbrook Chapel in 1889. The Temple Tomb (a receiving tomb) was built in 1853 after the "Mt. Vernon Association voted to convey to the town the right to build a tomb in the cemetery to be used in common by the inhabitants of the town and members of the Association" (April 5, 1853) and the town voted on August 13, 1853, to approve the money to build the tomb. The Temple Tomb,

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which was removed from lots 177½ and 176½ at a cost of \$47.95 by E. W. Holbrook (1889 Town Report), was no longer needed, as the Holbrook Chapel was to include a receiving tomb in its lower floor. The hearse house, which sheltered two hearses, was built before 1876 (when it was painted). The town, however, retained the hearses past 1909. Little is known about the pound.

Although it probably is of far greater antiquity, the first reference to Potter's Field (sections A, G, site plan #3) comes in 1875. Intended for the less fortunate of the community of West Boylston, it was originally located in the 1875 addition, adjacent to the Old Burying Ground near where the Holbrook Chapel now sits. It was moved at the same time as the Temple Tomb, the pound, and the hearse house to make way for the Chapel. Potter's Field is presently in two locations, the older one is in the northwest corner of section G, at the intersection of Beaman and North Avenues; the newer locale is in section A, bordered by the railroad tracks.

In 1894 the Trustees of the Old Burying Ground proudly reported all the improvements that had been made in that year's Town Report. Their grandest achievement was the erection of the Holbrook Chapel in 1891. In their own words:

Near the entrance to the Mt. Vernon Cemetery, where the old Pound and Hearse house were, we have been enabled to erect a Mortuary Chapel with receiving tomb beneath, through the generosity of Mr. Chas Nash of Worcester, Mrs. S. C. Rawson of Newton, and Mrs. Addie H. Rice, of West Boylston, and have placed in the Chapel two memorial tablets, one to the memory of the Rev. William Nash, who was the first settled minister of this town and the other to Mr. E. W. Holbrook, and Adaline Worcester, his wife. (p. 35)

The Trustees then requested the town to accept the Chapel from the donors with several stipulations; namely that it be kept in good repair, it be free for anyone to hold a funeral service, that it be opened on Memorial Day, and the furniture not be loaned or displaced. While much is known about mill owner Eli W. Holbrook and Rev. William Nash, and his wife, Elizabeth Stone Nash, little is known about the donors, except that they were descendants. On June 23, 1896, the first meeting of the Mount Vernon Cemetery Association in the new Chapel was held.

At the same time as the building of the Holbrook Chapel in 1891, the Trustees of the Old Burying Ground approved joining the separate avenues accessing the Old Burying Ground and the newer Mount Vernon section. This was accomplished and the cemetery began to emerge as a whole rather than two disparate sections.

By 1919, the Mount Vernon Association apparently began considering turning over what was still a separate entity, Mount Vernon Cemetery, to the town. On May 6th it was "Voted that a committee of three be appointed by the chairman to investigate the matter of uniting the Mt.

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Vernon Cemetery and the town cemetery and report at a future meeting.” However, it was not until fourteen years later, on May 5, 1931, that the Mount Vernon Association voted that “the president and the treasurer of the Mt. Vernon Cemetery Association be and hereby are authorized to convey and transfer to the town of West Boylston for cemetery purposes only, and subject to all rights heretofore existing in any burial lots, the real and personal property of the Mt. Vernon Cemetery Association not subject to any trust.” This was signed into law subsequent to the Legislatures passage of Chapter 257 of the Acts of 1931. The transfer of authority to the town was completed at a special town meeting in 1951 when the trust funds were also put under the town’s supervision.

The new Mount Vernon Cemetery Trustees, appointed by the Town of West Boylston, met for the first time on May 2, 1932. Andrew J. Scarlett (d. 1935, section A-239, site plan #12) was elected the first president; the other two trustees were Wayland A. Tuttle and Edgar A. Whitcomb II (1929-2005, section A-242). They “voted to name the combined cemetery ‘The Mount Vernon Cemetery of West Boylston.’” This decision was confirmed by voters at the 1940 town meeting (Article 24).

The early settlers, ministers, veterans, industrialists, shop owners, small businesses, families, and ordinary citizens that make up the cultural, social, and economic fabric of West Boylston are all represented at Mount Vernon Cemetery. Initial residents Jabez and Ezra Beaman as well as Sarah Goodale have already been mentioned. Sarah Goodale took over her husband’s affairs upon his death in 1756. Commenting on her death in 1810, The Goodale Genealogy relates: “She was the oldest person who has died here since the settlement of the town, having been a resident here nearly eighty years.” (p. 9)

West Boylston’s first minister is buried at Mount Vernon Cemetery. The Holbrook Chapel was built “In Memoriam” to Rev. William Nash (1768-1829) and his wife, Elizabeth Doubleday Nash. According to his monument (section G-63, site plan #31), Yale College graduate Rev. Nash “was settled pastor of the First Church in this town” on October 11, 1798. His memorial plaque in the chapel relates: “He continued in the ministry until 1815 when he was dismissed at his own request but lived here until his death.” Among other clergymen, a marble and granite monument honors Rev. Joseph W. Cross, d. 1906 (section D-32, site plan #20), minister of the Congregational Church from 1840 to 1860. Although he had a stormy pastoral career and finally resigned, he later returned to West Boylston to become a respected citizen.

The gravestones and monuments of Mount Vernon Cemetery include markers commemorating hundreds of West Boylston veterans who served their country in every conflict from the Revolutionary War to the Iraq War.

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Buried in Mount Vernon Cemetery are 24 men who fought in the War for Independence. Early inhabitant Aaron Goodale, (1742-1817, section H, site plan #45) was one such patriot who participated in the struggle along with Captain Joseph Bigelow who is commemorated by a slate marker (d. 1800, section H, site plan #40).

There are recorded nine individuals who served in the war of 1812 in the cemetery. Among them are Captain Silas Newton, Jr. (d. Feb. 3, 1836) and Captain Levi Kilburn (d. Jan. 23, 1847, section A-3).

The Mexican War (1846-48) was of brief duration but four veterans of this conflict are interred in Mount Vernon Cemetery. Major Joseph Reed (d. March 3, 1867, section K, Beaman Cemetery, site plan #36), and Captain Benjamin Dyke (d. March 29, 1873, section J-7) served in this war.

It comes as no surprise that the Civil War is strongly represented in Mount Vernon Cemetery with some 81 veterans buried there. Company E, 21st Regiment, was raised in West Boylston. J. Emerson Anderson (d. 1896, section G-66, site plan #32), Lt. Albert Murdock, who is remembered with a small granite and marble monument (d. March 25, 1865, section J, site plan #34), Thomas H. Prescott (d. April 20, 1884, section B-227, site plan #14) and Major Joseph A. Reed (d. 1867, section K, site plan #36), all served the Union in the war.

The Spanish-American War (1898) also was brief, but seven veterans of this conflict are buried in Mount Vernon Cemetery. Daniel Stoliker (d. October 19, 1936) and Charles H. Conway (military stone, no death date), Battery D, U. S. Artillery, were veterans of this war.

The First World War is well represented in the cemetery with some 65 veterans of this "war to end all wars" interred. Major Victor E. Edwards (d. 1931, section E-121/22, site plan #22) is commemorated by a phyllite boulder. Edwards was a talented engineer and inventor who held over 100 patents. He gave the land where the Major Edwards School was erected, and became a benefactor of the Beaman Memorial Public Library. Captain Harry R. Howe (d. 1927) assigned to the Quartermaster Corps and Archie S. Thompson (d. April 12, 1937, section G-81), who served in the 638th Aero Squadron, are two others who participated in this great conflict.

Mount Vernon Cemetery's most heavily represented veterans group is from the Second World War. Due to the effect of the draft, some 233 veterans of this cataclysmic event rest in the cemetery including 1st Lieutenant Simon Surabian (d. 1945, section G-99/100, site plan #39) who served in the Med. Adm. Corps of the U. S. Army.

Buried in Mount Vernon Cemetery are veterans from three relatively recent wars, Korea - 28, Vietnam - 9, and Iraq - 1 (as of 2007).

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Three memorials commemorate the service and sacrifice of the numerous veterans in Mount Vernon Cemetery. The first of these is the Soldiers' Monument (also known as the G.A.R. monument). Erected by the Ladies' Relief Corps, the women's auxiliary of the G.A.R., it was intended "To honor the Men of West Boylston who fought to save the Union" and is a granite memorial with a Union Soldier atop a tall base. The lots where the monument stands (section E, Lot 130/131, site plan #23) were donated for that purpose by the Mount Vernon Cemetery Association (MVA) "for the burial of deceased soldiers."

The second memorial commemorates veterans of all wars; it is known as the Veteran's Memorial (1966, section C, site plan #16) and stands in a lot provided for this purpose by a vote of the Town Meeting of 1965. Approval of Article 22 authorized the establishment of a veteran's lot. The Cemetery Trustees Report in the 1966 Town Report noted: "In accordance with the request of the American Legion we are assigning space in the southeast corner of section C for a veteran's memorial." The Memorial is a large granite boulder with a bronze plaque. It is dedicated "To God and Country / Those men and women who served our country in time of war so that liberty, justice and Democracy might prevail." The boulder for the Veteran's Memorial came from the Surabian Farm.

The third memorial dedicated to veterans is the flagpole standing just south of the Holbrook Chapel (1984, section B, site plan #10). Erected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6907, in cooperation with the American Legion Post #204, the plaque at the base of the flagpole reads: "Dedicated to the Memory of Veterans of All Wars, May 27, 1984." The 1984 Cemetery Trustees report noted that the base for the flagpole was "erected with stone to match the chapel and stone wall...."

Many of the great industrialists of West Boylston as well as small business owners and professionals had a deep sense of public service, benefiting the town as well as representing West Boylston in the General Court. A good number of these men are buried at Mount Vernon Cemetery. Major Ezra Beaman is a prime example. Owner of several enterprises, including the Beaman Manufacturing Co., he found time to be a selectman, treasurer, and state representative to the General Court.

A granite monument to Eli W. Holbrook, d. 1888 and his wife, Adaline Worcester Holbrook, d. 1887, stands in section J (site plan #29). One of West Boylston's most notable manufacturers, he did not seek public office. Concentrating on business, he owned the Holbrook weaving mill by the time he was 34 years of age. The Holbrook Mill, as well as the Holbrook House and Holbrook Street, all were removed for the Wachusett Reservoir. As a mark of his importance, the Holbrook Chapel was built as a memorial to the family.

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The Harris family were also eminent industrialists. There is a granite monument to Charles Morris Harris, 1892, and his wife, Eula Jeanette Harris, d. 1881 (section B-228/230, site plan #15). Charles Harris and his brother, Linus M., started their textile manufacturing careers in 1845 when they bought a cotton yarn plant and immediately added the weaving of cloth to the yarn production. By 1900 a small mill village, known as Harrisville, had evolved, consisting of two mills and twenty-five houses. In addition to overseeing Harrisville, Charles and Linus M. Harris (1814-1893, section E-85) formed the L. M. Harris Co. in association with their brother-in-law, Alfred Whiting, who owned the Whiting Mill, which manufactured light sheeting and shoe drills. Linus M., in spite of his large business commitments, served as a selectman for twenty-three years, 1853-1876.

One of the more unusual factories in West Boylston was owned by George W. Reed. A marble and granite monument in Mount Vernon Cemetery memorializes Reed, d. 1915, and his wife, Emmy M. Newton Reed, d. 1916 as well as Reuben G. Reed, d. 1884 and Charles W. Reed, d. 1918 (section E-48, site plan #21). An organ manufacturer, George Reed was one of the few industrialists to successfully relocate his factory before the coming of the Wachusett Reservoir and carry on his organ production. He built the organ for the 1890 Old Stone Church, which survived the Wachusett Reservoir flooding, but lost its congregation; the organ was transferred to the new Baptist Church of 1902.

Ruel G. Cowee (d. 1882, section D-179) built Cowee's Grist Mill ca. 1850; in 1896 the mill was run by his grandson, Mr. Edward Cowee (d. 1912, section B-194). Edward A. Cowee, representative to the General Court, almost single-handedly accomplished the passing of the 1896 Act to compensate employees for losing their jobs due to the closing of mills and businesses associated with the coming of the Wachusett Reservoir.

George F. Howe (1825-1899, section B-195), part owner of Howe, Morton and Lovell, the boot manufactory, (established in 1856), which became an important contributor to the West Boylston's economy up until its destruction by the Wachusett Reservoir project. Devoted to local public service, Howe served on occasion as selectman but his most startling accomplishment was serving as both town treasurer and town moderator, the terms of each office amounting to 32 years.

Many of the owners of the small businesses who helped compose the local economy of West Boylston are buried at Mount Vernon Cemetery. A good example of the smaller firms is the enterprises of Aaron Goodale III (1823-1898), "Dealer and Cutter of Ice" as well as a "Manufacturer of Excelsior." Hamilton relates in her The History of West Boylston: "Aaron constructed a dam on Malden Brook and harvested ice from the pond thus created." (p. 69)

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The local general store was always a valuable component of a small town. Oliver Barrett Sawyer (1815-1862, section C-84) was the proprietor of the well-known "Sawyer's Store." Henry O. Sawyer (1844-1909, section C-66) bought the general store from his father. After the establishment passed in and out of the Sawyer family, it eventually became H. O. Sawyer & Co., partially owned by Oliver Barrett's grandnephew, Henry L. Sawyer (1868-1941). Oliver Barrett Sawyer had served as the town's representative in the General Court; Henry L. Sawyer carried on the family tradition of public service to West Boylston; in different periods he held the offices of town selectman, treasurer, assessor and overseer of the poor. All three Sawyers reside in Mount Vernon Cemetery.

Andrew J. Scarlett (1849-1935, section A-239, site plan #12), a large landowner in West Boylston, performed the most demanding public service since Ezra Beaman had accomplished the incorporation of West Boylston in 1808. Andrew J. Scarlett was Chairman of the Board of Selectmen from 1896 to 1903 (with the exception of 1897), the period the town and its citizens were negotiating with the Metropolitan Water Board over the land and buildings to be flooded for the Wachusett Reservoir project. He was widely credited for the decent price the town received for its holdings, and supported the successful effort to build a new school and town hall with the funds. He also facilitated the relocation of the town center and took steps to have land available at a fair price to encourage displaced Lower West Boylston Village residents to remain in the town.

The selectman who extended greetings to the 1908 Centennial celebrants, Warren E. Gammell (1831-1918, section B-198) was another faithful public servant buried in Mount Vernon Cemetery. He was a selectman 1904-1910 and district (which included West Boylston) representative to the General Court 1905-1907.

At least three of West Boylston's early physicians are buried in Mount Vernon Cemetery. They included the young Dr. Jacob Moore, M.D., who began practicing in West Boylston in 1828 and died at age 30 in 1831; Dr. Ephraim Lovell, born in West Boylston in 1811, who started his practice in 1841 and died in 1869 (section D-170), and Dr. George W. Warren, who came to West Boylston to practice in about 1846, and was buried in Mount Vernon Cemetery in 1900 (section F-9).

Town historian Benjamin F. Keyes (d. 1870, section F-33), author of the invaluable Historical Memorandum and Genealogical Register of the Town of West Boylston (1861) is buried at Mount Vernon Cemetery as well as the later Town historian and first president of the West Boylston Historical Society, Edgar A. Whitcomb II (1929-2005, section A-242).

There are several families that were early settlers who remained in West Boylston, and over the decades contributed much to the town; they also are buried in Mount Vernon Cemetery. The

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Goodales, for example, are one of the oldest and most prominent families in West Boylston and still active in the town. Although the 1903 Goodale Street School was demolished in 1982, the expansive 1908 Goodale Park, the gift of Aaron Goodale IV (1851-1911), is a vibrant reminder of the Goodale family.

Gravestones and monuments honoring the Goodales dot Mount Vernon Cemetery. There has been an Aaron Goodale in every generation since the 18th century, the finely carved urn-and-willow slate gravestone of the first "Mr. Aaron Goodale," (1743-1817) stands in section H (site plan #45). All five succeeding generations of Aaron Goodales are in the cemetery; there are two living generations, father and son. Side by side by the first Aaron Goodale is the slate gravestone, also well wrought, of his mother, Mrs. Sarah (Temple) Goodale, d. 1810 (section H, site plan #47). The gravestone, of Miss Elizabeth Goodale, d. 1799, (section H, site plan #46), carved by Paul Coburn, stands nearby. Among the Goodale monuments scattered throughout Mount Vernon Cemetery is the granite monument to Leon A. Goodale, 1876-1941, and his wife, Elsie M. Phelps Goodale, d. 1943 (section C-310, site plan #19). Leon A. Goodale was the author of The Goodale Genealogy and delivered the Historical Address of the 1908 Centennial Celebration.

Lastly, many of the cemetery trustees, superintendents, and caretakers alike are buried in the cemetery to which they gave so much service. Succeeding generations of Aaron Goodale trustees were particularly devoted to the cemetery. At the 1899 Annual Meeting of the Mount Vernon Cemetery Association, a moving testimonial to Aaron Goodale (d.1898), who had served as a trustee as well as superintendent was read acknowledging his many contributions to the well-being of the cemetery. Similarly, a later Aaron Goodale, (1889-1978), Mt. Vernon Cemetery Trustee from 1939 to 1978, was honored at the Annual Meeting of 1978: "He enjoyed working and improving the appearance of the cemetery where for 200 years his ancestors have been buried." (Report of the Cemetery Trustees, 1977-1978) His grandson, Aaron Goodale, was appointed to take his place as trustee.

A granite marker identifies the grave of Abraham T. Hennessey (1848-1922 section F-3, site plan #24), Mount Vernon Cemetery caretaker for over 25 years and who was said to have dug over 600 graves. At the time of his death he was the only black person in West Boylston. He is quoted in a 1921 newspaper as saying: "I have the promises ... of the Trustees of Mount Vernon Cemetery that I may lie in Mount Vernon Cemetery when my time comes." The trustees of Mount Vernon Cemetery honored his wish in 1922.

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Artistic Significance

The Holbrook Chapel (photo #4, #5, #6, near section B, H, site plan #4) is a fine vernacular example of Victorian Eclectic architecture. The qualities of fine scale and proportion, and the use of fieldstone walls pierced with plain geometric forms for windows and doors, marks the structure with architectural integrity. It might have been considered unusual and plain in 1891, yet its simplicity of forms and use of strong textures foreshadow some of the movements of architectural modernism of the 20th century.

It seems likely that the 1891 Holbrook Chapel was designed by the Worcester architectural firm of Delano (d. 1915) and Fuller (1836-1901), although there is no known documentary evidence, as the plans submitted May 19, 1891, to the Mount Vernon Cemetery Association have disappeared. The firm was responsible for many fine public buildings in Worcester, amongst them the YMCA, the Armory and Old South Church. This fieldstone building might well have influenced two similar structures in nearby Boylston: the 1903 Municipal Light Department Building and the 1904 Sawyer Memorial Library, both walled with fieldstone.

Mount Vernon Cemetery is also of artistic significance as it contains excellent examples of the works of two well-known regional gravestone carvers, James Wilder and Paul Colburn. The gravestones described below have been identified by Laurel K. Gabel, noted gravestone carver scholar and co-author of Gravestone Chronicles, Vol. 1, 2 (Boston, New England Genealogical Society, 2002). There are likely more gravestones in Mount Vernon Cemetery than the ones cited that could be attributed to both stonecutters.

James Wilder (1741-1794), the son of "gentleman" James Wilder (d. 1790), a Major in the French and Indian wars, resided in Lancaster, MA his entire life. It seems fairly certain James Wilder, the son, served as a private in the Revolutionary War. It is clear from James Wilder's (1741-1794) position as secretary and charter member and of the Trinity Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons that he was an educated man and stonecutter by choice. In 1773 father James Wilder deeded his son the "homeplace," a large farm on Chace Hill Road, which now lies partly in Lancaster and partly in Sterling.

The location of this "homeplace" was critical due to its "its proximity to a rich vein of a distinctive slate which James usually employed for his gravestones" (Chase and Gabel, Gravestone Chronicles I, p. 182). This quarry yielded the dark slate with iron inclusions so emblematic of Wilder's gravestones. Unlike many gravestones, which are literally rusting away, the Wilder stones are remarkably stable.

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James Wilder's span of greatest carving activity bracketed the years 1760 to 1791 although his production was already falling off in the 1780s. His handsomely executed gravestones fall into four tympanum styles: skull (Style I), a young smiling face with tightly wound curls (Style II), an older, more elongated face with straighter hair (Style III), and finally an aging, stern face with a stylized wig (Style IV) (Gravestone Chronicles I, p. 193). All three identified Wilder gravestones in Mt. Vernon Cemetery are located in the Beaman Cemetery section. The gravestones for both Zoath Johnson, d. 1765 (section K, site plan #55) and Mr. Jonathan Beaman, d. 1771 (photo #9, section K, site plan #54), with their pleasant faces, crowned with fetching curls, are clear examples of Wilder's Style II. The Mrs. Dinah Beaman, d. 1774 (section K, site plan #50) gravestone, with its older face, manifests the characteristics of Style III.

The gravestone scholars, Theodore Chase and Laurel K. Gabel, remark "Paul Coburn appeared to have taken on the mantle of James Wilder" (Gravestone Chronicles I, p. 211). The younger carver, Paul Colburn (1761-1825), lived in Sterling, MA from 1784 to 1808, the period of his greatest carving activity. Relocating from his birthplace, Hollis, NH, in 1784, his Sterling house on the Old Princeton Road was still extant in 1997. Colburn moved back to New Hampshire in 1808, settling in Hebron. Seven years later, in 1815, Colburn and his extended family embarked on a remarkable journey west, traveling by wagon. Colburn died in 1825 near the present Laomi Township in Sangamon County, Illinois.

The main body of Colburn's work is focused in the region west and north of Sterling with many fewer examples to the east and south. It is not surprising that West Boylston, lying just four miles south of Sterling, would have Colburn gravestones. Like his brother-in-law, fellow carver John Ball (1759-1840), Colburn apparently obtained the especially fine-grained slate for his gravestones from the well-known Pin Hill Quarry in Harvard, MA. His work, or gravestone motifs, falls into three major design groups, the pre-1800 "face within an arch" and "face with wings" followed by his later designs of urn-and-willow (Gravestone Chronicles I, pp. 216-218).

All of the four gravestones in Mount Vernon Cemetery that have been identified as carved by Paul Coburn date from before 1800; they have the smooth, highly polished look, characteristic of Colburn's work. Ephraim Beaman, d. 1790 (section K, site plan #51), in Beaman Cemetery, and Miss Elizabeth Goodale, d. 1799 (section H, site plan #46) in Old Burying Ground are both representative of Colburn's "face with wings" style. This style is usually reserved for men; it appears Colburn made an exception with Elizabeth Goodale. The "face within an arch," on the other hand, was most often used for women as seen in the two gravestones in the Old Burying Ground, Sally M. White, d. 1798 (section H, site plan #49) and Lydia Glazier, d. 1798 (section H, site plan #44).

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There are also many handsome gravestones in Mount Vernon Cemetery, which are challenging due to their fine carving, but their gravestone carvers are unidentified. In the Beaman Cemetery, the historically significant Major Ezra Beaman, Esq., d. 1811 (section K, site plan #52) and Mr. Jabez Beaman, d. 1757 (section K, site plan #53) are both exceptional examples of urn-and-willow designs. In the Old Burying Ground section, there is a gravestone that Laurel Gabel calls "unique;" it is for Anna Holt, d. 1808 (section H, site plan #48) whose tympanum reveals an intensive decorative patterning of willow branches and encircled flower petals. Two other gravestones, Abigail B. Davis, d. 1807 (section K, site plan #41) and Abigail B. Davis, d. 1810 (section K, site plan #42) display a simplified version of the same patterning. There are also a few small but engaging double slates, of which the stone memorializing the Flagg children, Samuel L., d. 1828, and Leander, d. 1826 (section H, site plan #43), with the unusual design of a willow tree flanked by two encircled flowers, is an example. All of these interesting gravestones could form the basis of further gravestone carver research.

It is widely recognized that when the Beaman Cemetery was saved from Wachusett Reservoir flooding and relocated to Mount Vernon Cemetery in 1904, the physical evidence of the early history of West Boylston was preserved. What was not previously known is that Beaman Cemetery, as well as Old Burying Ground, are of artistic significance as they contain fine examples of the regional gravestone carvers, James Wilder and Paul Coburn.

West Boylston is justifiably proud of its well-kept Mount Vernon Cemetery, located in the heart of the town. With its Holbrook Chapel, outstanding monuments, and gravestone carving craftsmanship, it is a public art repository, accessible to all. With its rolling landscape, each period of cemetery design, from the Colonial (the Beaman Cemetery, Old Burial Ground) to the Rural (older sections of Mount Vernon) to the 20th Century (newer sections of Mount Vernon) blends harmoniously into one another.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic characteristics representative of West Boylston's population from the 18th through 20th centuries. The Mount Vernon Cemetery includes thousands of burials ranging from residents with simple backgrounds and modest achievements to more noteworthy residents and war veterans. Community members belonging to the town's entire social, economic, and ethnic groups are interred at the Mount Vernon Cemetery. Additional historical research together with archaeological survey and testing can be used to

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document the land use of the cemetery prior to the founding of the town and its first use in ca. 1790. Historic records, post molds indicating fence lines, unmarked burials, and grave stones may indicate evidence for the existence of a neighborhood or family burial ground that predates the actual founding of the Old Burial Ground. Earlier stones that predate ca. 1790 represent relocated graves and markers for individuals or groups of individuals who were originally buried in the Beaman Cemetery, now beneath the waters of Wachusett Reservoir.

Archaeological research can help identify the graves identified above as well as later unmarked graves resulting from stolen, damaged, and overgrown stones. Eighteenth and 19th century unmarked graves may also be present representing paupers and other unknown persons. Archaeological research can also help test the accuracy of the existing boundaries at the cemetery. These bounds may not accurately represent the actual cemetery boundaries. Some burials, possibly those of unknown persons, paupers, or other indigent persons, may have intentionally been buried outside the cemetery boundary. Artifact distributions may also be present associated with funerary or memorial services for specific individuals at their time of death or individuals and groupings of individuals (possibly the entire burial ground) at later dates. This information can be highly significant by providing documentation of burial customs and practices for specific racial and ethnic groups living in the West Boylston area.

Much of the above information can be obtained through unobtrusive archaeological research. That is, information can be obtained by mapping artifact concentrations and the locations of features such as grave shafts and post molds without disturbing actual skeletal remains. Remote sensing techniques of investigation might also prove useful. Social, cultural, and economic information relating to the 18th and 19th century West Boylston settlement can be obtained in this manner; however, more detailed studies can be implemented through the actual excavation of burials and their analysis. Osteological studies of individuals interred at the burial ground have the potential to offer a wealth of information relating to the overall physical appearance of the town's inhabitants, their occupations, nutrition, pathologies, and cause of death. This information can be used to determine the actual number of individuals interred in the cemetery and its subdivisions. The same information can also provide important information relating to specific social groups in the town. The overall context of the graves, including material culture remains, can provide information on burial practices, religious beliefs, economic status, family structure, and numerous other topics relating to the individual, the overall settlement, and the religious society.

Historical and archaeological studies at the Mount Vernon Cemetery may contribute important information relating to late 19th and early 20th century patterns of burial relocation in cemeteries and burial grounds. Documentary and archaeological studies may identify to what extent the osteological and material culture components of burials were relocated. Important information

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may also exist that indicates the extent that burial relocation was influenced by preservation, the socio/economic class of the deceased, and overall training, methods, and techniques of the excavators. Relocated burials might include skeletal remains, only leaving coffin hardware, clothing, and other material culture items of the deceased. Relocated burials might also include single individuals or multiple individuals as a result of poor excavation techniques in areas of densely grouped burials and the limited knowledge of the excavators. The amount of care, control, and extent of the relocation burial excavations and reburial might also have been influenced by the socio/economic class of the deceased. More care might have been taken to excavate the remains of the original settlers and founding fathers of the community than unknown paupers and indigents. Excavation of the relocated remains of individuals buried in the Beaman Cemetery and Potter's Field presents a rare opportunity to test many of these hypotheses through the comparative study of paupers, indigents, and unknown persons buries at Potter's Field and early settlers and founding fathers of West Boylston interred at the Beaman Cemetery.

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United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt Vernon Cemetery
West Boylston (Worcester), MA

Section number 9 Page 2

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Town of West Boylston

Town of West Boylston Assessors Maps #148, 149, 152, 153.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt Vernon Cemetery
West Boylston (Worcester), MA

Section number 9 Page 3

Town of West Boylston, Cemetery Department.
Records of the Mt. Vernon Cemetery Association
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Mount Vernon Cemetery Records

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt Vernon Cemetery
West Boylston (Worcester), MA

Section number 9 Page 4

1970: Topographical Map of West Boylston

1983: U. S. Quad Map: "Worcester North, Massachusetts." 1:25, 000-scale metric.

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(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Mt Vernon Cemetery
West Boylston (Worcester), MA

Section number 9 Page 5

West Boylston Historical Society. "The Story of Bigelow Tavern," n.d.

West Boylston Historical Society Archives

(end)

Mount Vernon Cemetery
Name of Property

Worcester, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 16.73 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 270920 4693820
Zone Easting Northing

3. 19 271160 4693540
Zone Easting Northing

2. 19 271040 4693880
Zone Easting Northing

4. 19 271060 4693400
Zone Easting Northing

— See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Minxie and James Fannin, Monique Lehner, consultants, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 2008

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of West Boylston, MA

street & number 120 Prescott Street telephone 508-835-3490

city or town West Boylston state MA zip code 01583

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt Vernon Cemetery
West Boylston (Worcester), MA

Section number 10 Page 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Description

The boundary of the cemetery is delineated on the accompanying Town of West Boylston Assessor's Maps 148, 149, 152, 153. This is the boundary dating to 1975; the last year land was acquired for the cemetery.

Boundary Justification

The present boundary of Mount Vernon Cemetery has been established since 1975 and contains its entire 16.73-acre parcel with the historic areas and newer sections. The complete cemetery is included and a map entitled "Site Plan Showing Sections Referred To On The Data Sheet" accompanies this submittal. The newer, southern sections, acquired in 1951, include L, M, N, O, and P. These begin at Laurel Avenue and extend through Pear Avenue and are generally bounded by Cypress Avenue to the west and Cedar Avenue to the east. These most recently developed sections flow smoothly down the last rise from the Rural Cemetery area making a seamless transition to the 20th century cemetery. Over the decades, the Trustees of Mount Vernon Cemetery designed each new section they developed to be sympathetic with the older, historic portions of the cemetery. The serene vistas, trees, plantings, large boulders and monumentation incorporated in new areas strengthen their link to the historic areas.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt Vernon Cemetery
West Boylston (Worcester), MA

Section number photos Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. General view of Mount Vernon Cemetery with T. H. Prescott monument (1831-1891, Section B, Lot #277) in middle ground. Looking east.
2. General view of Mount Vernon Cemetery. Looking northeast.
3. General view of Beaman Cemetery (1757) moved to Mount Vernon Cemetery in 1904. Looking southwest.
4. Holbrook Chapel (1891) and Chapel stone walls (1891). Looking northeast.
5. Holbrook Chapel (1891), detail of entrance. Looking east.
6. Holbrook Chapel (1891), detail of upper walls and ribbed ceiling. Looking north.
7. Mount Vernon Cemetery stone walls. Detail of junction of Chapel wall (1891) to the right and WPA walls around Cemetery (1935) to the left. Looking northeast.
8. G. A. R. Civil War Memorial (1895, Section E, Lot #130/131). Looking south.
9. Gravestone of Mr. Jonathan Beaman (d. April 10, 1771, Beaman Cemetery). Gravestone carver: James Wilder. Looking west.
10. William H. /Jennie V. Moore White monument (d. 1938/1912, Section C, Lot #309). Looking southeast.

(end)

Number	Section/Lot	Historic Name	Type	Material	Resource	Date	Status
		MOUNT VERNON CEMETERY	LANDSCAPE	N/A	SITE	1852	C
1	K	BEAMAN CEMETERY	LANDSCAPE	N/A	SITE	1757 1904	C
2	H, J	OLD BURYING GROUND TOWN CEMETERY BURYING GROUND	LANDSCAPE	N/A	SITE	ca. 1790	C
3	A, G	POTTER'S FIELD	LANDSCAPE	N/A	SITE	ca. 1875	C
4	NEAR B, H	HOLBROOK CHAPEL	CHAPEL	FIELDSTONE/GRANITE	BUILDING	1891	C
5	K, I	GARAGE/ MAINTENANCE BUILDING	STORAGE BUILDING	CONCRETE BLOCK/ VINYL SIDING	BUILDING	1971	NC
6	NEAR B, H	CHAPEL STONE WALLS	WALL	RANDOM ASHLAR GRANITE/ CAST CONCRETE CAP	STRUCTURE	1891 1987	C
7		EXTERIOR BOUNDARY STONE WALL	WALL	FIELDSTONE/ CONCRETE	STRUCTURE	1935	C
8	J, K	STONE WALL BETWEEN BEAMAN CEMETERY AND BIGELOW TAVERN	WALL	FIELDSTONE	STRUCTURE	ca. 1790	C
9	B, D, F	FENCE BETWEEN FRONT AVE. AND OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CHURCH	FENCE	GRANITE POSTS/ VINYL PICKETS	STRUCTURE	2002	NC
10	B	FLAG POLE	FLAG POLE	METAL/RANDOM ASHLAR GRANITE BASE	STRUCTURE	1984	NC

11	A-234	WALKER/HERMAN	MONUMENT	WHITE BRONZE/ GRANITE	OBJECT	1898	C
		CHARLES H. HERMAN				1888	
		ELIZABETH HERMAN				1898	
12	A-239	ANDREW J. SCARLETT	MONUMENT	GRANITE	OBJECT	1935	C
		CLARA B SCARLETT				1930	
		CLARENCE B. SCARLETT				1902	
		W. CLIFFORD SCARLETT				1910	
13	A-285	EZEKIEL TYSON	MONUMENT	GRANITE	OBJECT	1922	C
		CAROLINE E TYSON				1919	
		SAMUEL H. TYSON				1940	
		MERCY A WILMER				1917	
14	B-227	THOMAS H. PRESCOTT	OBELISK	MARBLE/GRANITE	OBJECT	1884	C
		EUNICE S. PRESCOTT				1891	
15	B-228/230	CHARLES MORRIS HARRIS	MONUMENT	GRANITE	OBJECT	1892	C
		EULA JEANNETTE HARRIS				1881	
16	C	VETERANS MEMORIAL	BOULDER	BOULDER/ BRONZE PLAQUE	OBJECT	1966	NC
17	C-105	LORENZ EBERN WHITCOMB	BOULDER	CHIASOLITE	OBJECT	2002	NC
18	C-307,309	WILLIAM H. WHITE	MONUMENT	GRANITE	OBJECT	1933	C
		JENNIE V. MOORE WHITE				1912	
19	C-310	LEON A. GOODALE	MONUMENT	GRANITE	OBJECT	1941	C
		ELSIE M. PHELPS GOODALE				1943	
20	D-32	REV. JOSEPH W. CROSS	MONUMENT	MARBLE/GRANITE	OBJECT	1906	C

21	E-48	GEORGE W. REED EMMA M. NEWTON REED REUBEN G. REED CHARLES W. REED	MONUMENT	MARBLE/ GRANITE	OBJECT	1915 1916 1884 1918	C
22	E-121/122	MAJOR VICTOR E. EDWARDS	BOULDER	PHYLLITE	OBJECT	1931	C
23	E-130/131	G.A.R. CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL	STATUE/MONUMENT	MARBLE/GRANITE	OBJECT	1895	C
24	F-3	ABRAHAM T. HENNESSEY	MONUMENT	GRANITE	OBJECT	1922	C
25	F-9	SAMUEL BULLARD "HUSBAND"	MONUMENT	MARBLE	OBJECT	1916	C
26	F-9	ABBIE NEFF BULLARD "WIFE"	MONUMENT	MARBLE	OBJECT	1876	C
27	F-9	WARREN	MONUMENT	GRANITE	OBJECT	19TH CENT.	C
28	F-9	E. LEIGHTON WARREN RENO WARREN	MONUMENT (TWO LAMBS)	MARBLE/GRANITE	OBJECT	1895 1900	C
29	G	ELI W. HOLBROOK ADALINE WORCESTER HOLBROOK	MONUMENT	GRANITE	OBJECT	1888 1887	C
30	G	SAMPSON WORCESTER PHEBE WORCESTER	MONUMENT	MARBLE/ GRANITE	OBJECT	1824 1837	C
31	G-63	REV. WILLIAM NASH	MONUMENT	GRANITE	OBJECT	1829	C
32	G-66	J. EMERSON ANDERSON	MONUMENT	GRANITE	OBJECT	1896	C

33	H	AARON TILTON POLLY D. TILTON (WIFE #1) HARRIET F. TILTON (WIFE #2) PHEBE WORCESTER TILTON (WIFE #3)	OBELISK	SLATE	OBJECT	1876 1830 1850 1887	C
34	J	LIEUT ALBERT M. MURDOCK	MONUMENT	MARBLE/GRANITE	OBJECT	1865	C
35	K - BEAMAN	BETSEY BEAMAN NEWTON ANNA NEWTON FORBUSH WILLIAM EAMES MARY R EAMES	MONUMENT	MARBLE	OBJECT	1892 1922 1873 1898	C
36	K - BEAMAN	MAJOR JOSEPH A. REED MARY B. REED TAMER REED	MONUMENT	MARBLE/ GRANITE	OBJECT	1867 1822 1846	C
37	K - BEAMAN	BEAMAN	MONUMENT	MARBLE	OBJECT	19TH CENT	C
38	D-166	WALKER - INFANT CHILDREN CLARENCE, MARY, LOLETA	GRAVESTONE (TRIPARTITE)	MARBLE	OBJECT	19TH CENT.	C
39	G-99/100	1ST LIEUT. SIMON SURABIAN	FLAT MARKER	GRANITE	OBJECT	1945	C
40	H	CAPT. JOSEPH BIGELOW	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1800	C
41	H	ABIGAIL B. DAVIS	GRAVESTONE (TREE)	SLATE	OBJECT	1807	C
42	H	ABIGAIL B. DAVIS	GRAVESTONE (DECORATIVE PATTERN)	SLATE	OBJECT	1810	C
43	H	SAMUEL L. FLAGG LEANDER FLAGG	GRAVESTONE	DOUBLE SLATE	OBJECT	1828 1826	C

44	H	LYDIA GLAZIER CARVER: PAUL COLBURN	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1798	C
45	H	MR. AARON GOODALE	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1817	C
46	H	MISS ELIZABETH GOODALE CARVER: PAUL COLBURN	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1799	C
47	H	MRS. SARAH GOODALE	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1810	C
48	H	ANNA HOLT	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1808	C
49	H	SALLY M. WHITE CARVER: PAUL COLBURN	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1798	C
50	K - BEAMAN	MRS. DINAH BEAMAN CARVER: JAMES WILDER	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1774	C
51	K - BEAMAN	EPHRAIM BEAMAN CARVER: PAUL COLBURN	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1790	C
52	K - BEAMAN	MAJOR EZRA BEAMAN, ESQ.	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1811	C
53	K - BEAMAN	MR. JABEZ BEAMAN	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1757	C
54	K - BEAMAN	MR. JONATHAN BEAMAN CARVER: JAMES WILDER	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1771	C
55	K - BEAMAN	ZOATH JOHNSON CARVER: JAMES WILDER	GRAVESTONE	SLATE	OBJECT	1765	C

Mount Vernon Cemetery
West Boylston (Worcester Co.), MA

DATA SHEET

TOTAL RESOURCES: 50 Contributing, 5 Non-Contributing

1 Contributing Building	1 Non-Contributing Building
3 Contributing Sites	
3 Contributing Structures	2 Non-Contributing Structures
43 Contributing Objects	2 Non-Contributing Objects

KEY

C: Contributing Resources
NC: Non-Contributing Resources

Note: With an estimated 2700+ gravestones, markers and monuments in Mount Vernon Cemetery, it is impossible to identify all resources. Therefore the Data Sheet only provides a representative sample of the resources to be found in the Cemetery.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Mount Vernon Cemetery
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 4/16/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/05/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/20/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/30/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000465

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 5.29.08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



1. Mt. Vernon Cemetery
Church Street, West Boylston
2. Worcester County, MA
3. James C. Fannin, Jr.
4. July 2007
5. 271 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742
6. General view of Mt. Vernon Cemetery
with W. H. Prescott monument
(1831-1891, Section B, Lot #277) in
middle ground. Looking east.
7. #1



1. Mt. Vernon Cemetery
Church Street, West Boylston
2. Worcester County, MA
3. James C. Fannin, Jr.
4. August 2007
5. 271 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742
6. General view of Mt. Vernon Cemetery,
Looking northeast,
7. # 2



1. Mt. Vernon Cemetery
Church Street, West Boylston
2. Worcester County, MA
3. James C. Fannin, Jr.
4. August 2007
5. 271 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742
6. General view of Beaman Cemetery (1757)
moved to Mt. Vernon Cemetery in
1904. Looking Southwest,
7. #3



1. Mt. Vernon Cemetery
Church Street, West Boylston
2. Worcester County, MA
3. Monique B. Lehner
4. November 2005
5. 271 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742
6. Holbrook Chapel (1891) and Chapel
Stone walls (1891). Looking northeast,
7. #4



1. Mt. Vernon Cemetery
Church Street, West Boylston
2. Worcester County, MA
3. Monique B. Lehner
4. November 2005
5. 271. Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742
6. Holbrook Chapel (1891), detail of
entrance. Looking east,
7. #5



1. Mt. Vernon Cemetery
Church Street, West Baylston
2. Worcester County, MA
3. Monique B. Lehner
4. November 2005
5. 271 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742
6. Holbrook Chapel (1891), detail of
upper walls and ribbed ceiling.
Looking north.
7. #6



1. Mt. Vernon Cemetery
Church Street, West Baylston
2. Worcester County, MA
3. Monique B. Lehner
4. November 2005
5. 271 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742
6. Mount Vernon Cemetery Stone walls.
Detail of junction of Chapel walls
(1891) to the right and WPA walls
around Cemetery (1935) to the left.
Looking northeast.
7. #7



1. Mount Vernon Cemetery
Church Street, West Boylston
2. Worcester County, MA
3. James C. Fannin, Jr.
4. July 2007
5. 271 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742
6. G.A.R. Civil War Memorial
(1895, Section E, Lot[#]130/131),
Looking South.
7. #8



In Memory of M^r
Jonathan Beaman,
who died April
10th A.D. 1771
Aged 78 Years
8 Months & 3 Days
This is the Place appointed for all

1. Mount Vernon Cemetery
Church Street, West Boylston
2. Worcester County, MA
3. James C. Fannin, Jr.
4. July 2007
5. 271 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742
6. Gravestone of Mr. Jonathan Beaman
(d. April 10, 1771, Beaman Cemetery),
Gravestone carver: James Wilder.
Looking west.
7. #9

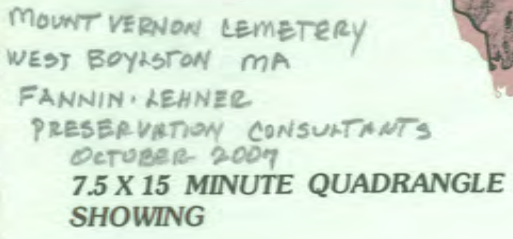


WILLIAM M. WHITE
BORN IN
WINCHENDON SPRINGS, MASS. APR. 7 1849
DIED IN
WEST BOWLSTON, MASS. MAY 18 1930
HIS WIFE — JENNE V. MOORE
BORN IN
SOUTHBRIDGE, MASS. JUNE 18 1852
DIED IN
WORCESTER, MASS. FEB. 24 1917
THEIR SON
WILLIAM DEXTER WHITE 1878-1891
HIS WIFE
EDITH G. BLISS 1873-1877

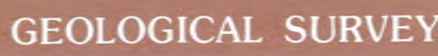
WHITE

1. Mount Vernon Cemetery
Church Street, West Boylston
2. Worcester County, MA
3. James C. Fannin, Jr.
4. August 2007
5. 271 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742
6. William H. / Jennie V. Moore White
monument (d. 1938 / 1912, Section C,
Lot 309). Looking Southeast.
7. #10

1:25 000-scale *metric*
topographic map



- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



1983

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with Massachusetts Department
of Public Works
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1980. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1983
Supersedes Paxton and Worcester North 1:25,000-scale
maps dated 1965 and 1974

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the projected North American Datum 1983 move the predicted line 1 meter east and 40 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS	
Meters	Feet			1	2
1	3.2808	UTM grid convergence (EN and 1983 magnetic declination) (MN) at center of map Diagram is approximate		4	5
2	6.5617			1	2
3	9.8426			6	7
4	13.1234				
5	16.4042				
6	19.6850				
7	22.9659				
8	26.2467				
9	29.5275				
10	32.8084				

		1	2	3
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		1	2	3
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048		4	5	6

	1	2	3
1	Beerle	3	Steele
2	Steepling	4	North Brookfield
3	Hudson	5	Worcester
4	Warren	6	Warren South
5	Millard	7	Millard

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbols

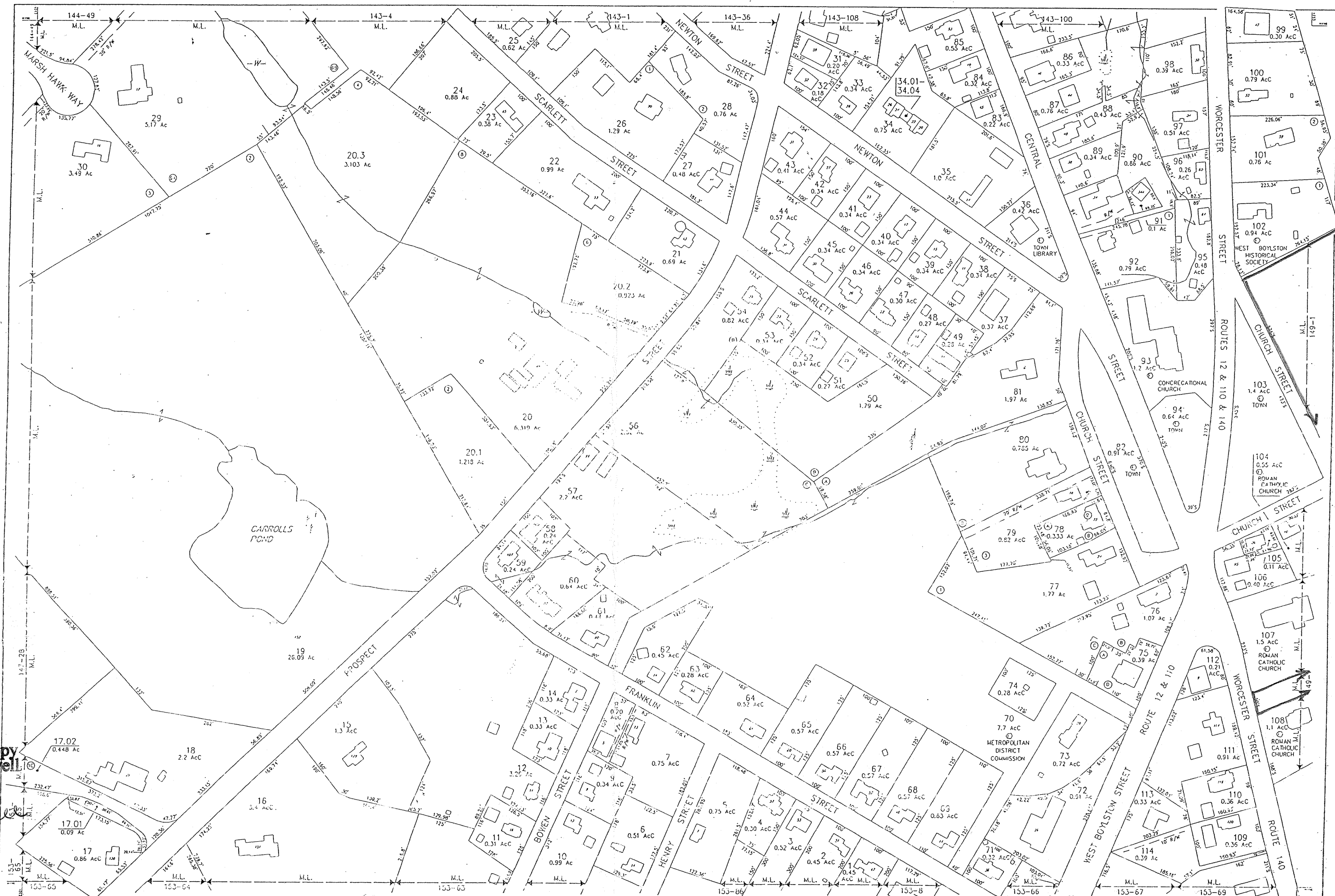
Primary highway, hard surface	
Secondary highway, hard surface	
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	
Unimproved road, trail	
Route marker: Interstate, U.S. State	
Railroad: standard gage, narrow gage	
Bridge: drawbridge	
Footbridge, overpass, underpass	
Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	
House, barn, church, school, large structure	
Boundary:	
National, with monument	
State	
County, parish	
Civil township, precinct, district	
Incorporated city, village, town	
National or State reservation, small park	
Land grant with monument, found section corner	
U.S. public lands survey: range, township, section	
Range, township, section line: location approximate	
Fence or fence line	
Power transmission line, located tower	
Dam, with lock	
Canalway: grave	
Campground; picnic area; U.S. location monument	
Windmill, water well; spring	
Mine shaft; prospect; pit or cave	
Control: lake station; water station; spot elevation	
Control: inlet; intermediate; supplementary; depression	
Distorted surface: strip mine, fills, sand	
Bathymetric contours: inlet, intermediate	
Personal lake and stream: intermediate lake and stream	
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	
Submerged marsh; swamp	
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland	
Strut, mangrove	
Orchard; vineyard	

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request.

MASS. HIST. COMM



JANUARY 2008 FANNIN • LEHNER PRESERVATION CONSULTANTS



Attest True Copy
Kim D. Hopewell
Town Clerk

Kim D. Hopewell

THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.

THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, NAD27 FEET.

PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: MARCH 28, 1990

COMPLETION DATE: MAY 31, 1991

PRODUCED BY
CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC.

MUNICIPAL MAPPING CONSULTANTS
P.O. BOX 267 LITTLETON, CO 80120

AREA CALCULATED
AREA SURVEYED
COMMON OWNERSHIP
EXEMPT PROPERTY
MATCH LINE
WATER

LEGEND

ACC
AC
M.L.

RECORD DIMENSION
SCALED DIMENSION
RIGHT OF WAY
SUBDIVISION LOT NO.

WETLANDS

SCALE 1" = 100'

FEET 0 100 200 300
METERS 30.48 60.96 91.44

REVISED TO: JANUARY 1, 2005

PROPERTY MAPS

WEST BOYLSTON

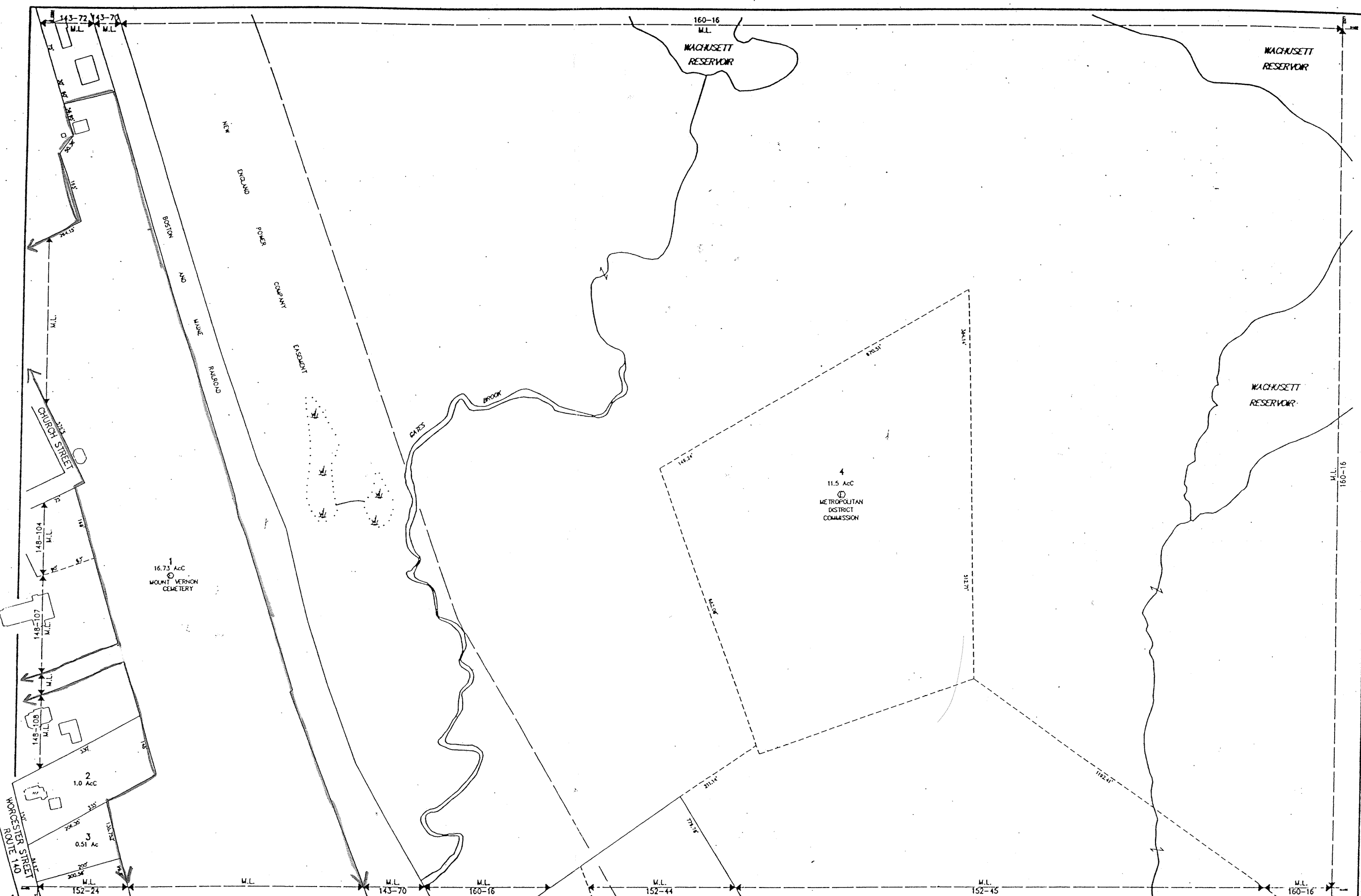
MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX DIAGRAM

144	143	142
147	146	149
154	153	152

MAP NO.

148



Attest True Copy
Kim D. Hopewell
Town Clerk

Kim D. Hopewell

THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.
THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM.
PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: MARCH 26, 1990
COMPLETION DATE: MAY 31, 1991

PRODUCED BY
CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC.
MUNICIPAL MAPPING CONSULTANTS
P.O. BOX 267 LITTLETON, NH 03561

AREA CALCULATED
AREA SURVEYED
COMMON OWNERSHIP
EXEMPT PROPERTY
MATCH LINE
WATER

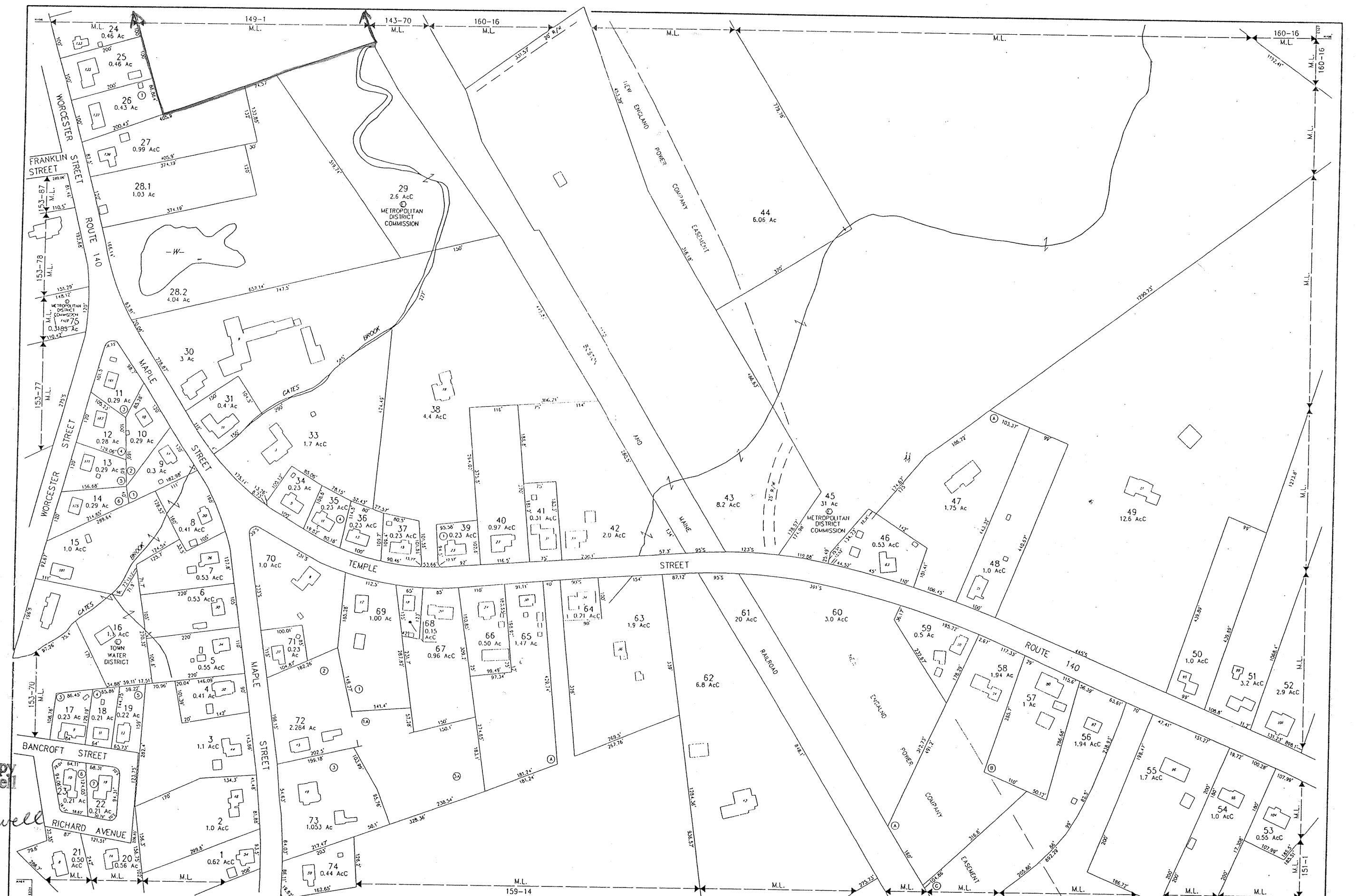
LEGEND
RECORD DIMENSION
SCALED DIMENSION
RIGHT OF WAY
SUBDIVISION LOT NO.
WETLANDS

SCALE 1" = 100'
FEET 0 100 200 300
METERS 0 30.48 60.96 91.44
REVISED TO January 1, 1998

PROPERTY MAPS
WEST BOYLSTON
MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX DIAGRAM
143 142 141
146 150
153 152 151

MAP NO.
149



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.

THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, NAD27 FEET.

PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: MARCH 28, 1990

COMPLETION DATE: MAY 31, 1991

PRODUCED BY
CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC.

MUNICIPAL MAPPING CONSULTANTS
P.O. BOX 267 LITTLETON, NH 03561

AREA CALCULATED
AREA SURVEYED
COMMON OWNERSHIP
EXEMPT PROPERTY
MATCH LINE
WATER

LEGEND

100' SCALE 1" = 100'

RECORD DIMENSION
SCALED DIMENSION
RIGHT OF WAY
SUBDIVISION LOT NO.

WETLANDS

REVISOR TO: JANUARY 1, 2005

PROPERTY MAPS
WEST BOYLSTON
MASSACHUSETTS

INDEX DIAGRAM

MAP NO.
152

KEVIN M. McCORMICK, CHAIRMAN
ALLEN R. PHILLIPS, VICE CHAIRMAN
VALMORE H. PRUNEAU, CLERK
JOHN B. DiPIETRO, SR., SELECTMAN
CHRISTOPHER A. RUCHO, SELECTMAN



NR ple
PHONE: (508) 835-3490

FAX: (508) 835-4102

EMAIL: SELECTBOARD@WESTBOYLSTON-MA.GOV

WWW.WESTBOYLSTON-MA.GOV/SELECTMEN

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON
120 PRESCOTT STREET
WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01583

November 23, 2007

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

I am writing on behalf of the West Boylston Board of Selectmen in regards to the nomination of the National Register designation for the Mount Vernon Cemetery.

The Town of West Boylston discussed this item at the time that funds were being sought for the addition of the Mount Vernon Chapel to the National Register. The Board of Selectmen had supported placing this item on the Town Meeting Warrant and supported this item at the Town Meeting. At Town Meeting, this request passed with a large majority. Subsequently, the West Boylston Board of Selectmen met on November 17, 2007 to discuss your request for a letter for your file. This letter is being written upon unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen.

If you have any further questions on this matter, you may contact me or our Town Administrator. Leon A. Gaumond Jr., at 508-835-3490.

With regards,

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

KEVIN McCORMICK
Chairman



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 11, 2008

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Mt. Vernon Cemetery, West Boylston (Worcester), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

One letter of support has been received.

We request expedited review of this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Kevin McCormick, Chair, Board of Selectmen
Beverly Goodale, West Boylston Historical Commission
Fannin - Lechner, Consultants
Patricia Halpin, West Boylston Planning Board