

**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 terms on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Robin Hill Cemetery

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Donald Lynch Boulevard (formerly North Robin Hill Road) N/A not for publication

city or town Marlborough N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 01752

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.)

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director

8/13/2004

Signature of certifying official/Title Cara H. Metz, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

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 _____

Date _____

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

for Edson Beall

9/29/04

Robin Hill Cemetery
Name of Property

Middlesex County, Massachusetts
County and State

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Non contributing

1
2
3

buildings
sites
structures
objects
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

N/A

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)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets.

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

Robin Hill Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Section number 7 Page 1

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Robin Hill Cemetery is a tranquil oasis in the rapidly changing landscape of Marlborough, Massachusetts. An evocative remnant of the early history of the town, it is a good example of a small, well-preserved, burial ground that retains historical associations and burial markers associated with residents of the surrounding neighborhood. The 24 extant burial markers record 27 burials that occurred between 1817 and 1999, although it is likely that there are additional unmarked graves.

The cemetery lies in the northwest corner of Marlborough, near the intersection of Routes I-495 and 290. It is located on the former North Robin Hill Street, which has recently been realigned and renamed Donald Lynch Boulevard. The cemetery is bounded by a daycare center and office building on the south, highway on the east, vacant lot on the north, and street on the west, with the New England Sports Center beyond. Despite the dramatic change of the surrounding area from rural farmland to late 20th century commercial/industrial development, the cemetery retains a surprisingly strong sense of place, reinforced by the vegetation around the perimeter, which obscures much of the surrounding development even in winter. Marlborough Center lies about 2 miles southeast of the burial ground.

The cemetery is a long, narrow, 1-acre site that extends east from Donald Lynch Boulevard. In front of the cemetery, but not considered part of it, is a grassy triangle, created when the road was relocated away from the cemetery. This area also includes a paved access road that doubles as a small parking area. The cemetery is in two distinct parts. The western two-thirds is occupied by Robin Hill, which rises about 30 feet above street level. This portion of the cemetery has very few burial markers and is occupied by a number of large white pines, which give it a natural appearance. In contrast, the eastern section is more level and open, and is divided into a grid of 25 family lots. Each lot is roughly 20' x 20' and is raised slightly above the surrounding land. Between each of the lots is a narrow passageway that is slightly lower, thus the pattern is clearly visible in the landscape.

The cemetery is enclosed by a fieldstone **perimeter wall** that becomes a retaining wall along the street edge where the cemetery is several feet higher than the adjacent road. Set into this wall facing the street is the **receiving tomb**, with dressed granite block façade, wooden door and earthen top. There are two entrances to the cemetery, located at the northwest and southwest corners, which are marked by breaks in the wall and granite pillars (one pillar is missing at the north entrance). Chains across the entrances prevent unauthorized vehicular access. There are remnants of an earlier road running along the north and south edges of the cemetery. Today these are only faint tracks leading into the cemetery and around the hill.

There are no formal plantings in the cemetery but the large white pines along the western and northern edges of the hill contribute significantly to the rural character of the area. They may have been planted but most likely just seeded themselves. Planting around the perimeter of the cemetery, much of it on adjacent properties, is mixed native species, primarily pine and oaks. This scrub vegetation provides an important visual buffer from the adjacent modern land uses.

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**Robin Hill Cemetery
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The most clearly delineated burial area is the flat eastern section of the cemetery where there are 25 family lots arranged in a grid. Only seven of these lots have visible burial markers. Starting in the northwest corner is the Wright lot, occupied by a single marble headstone which commemorates Caroline H. Wright (d. May 3, 1852, age 4) daughter of J.D. and S.D. Wright. In the same row is the lot of Thomas Carr, a Civil War veteran whose simple marble marker indicates that he was in Co. 1 of the 5th Mass Infantry. No birth or death dates are provided. The Carr lot also contains three small flat granite markers. H. Howe and E. Howe share a marker, as do M.H. Frye and C.A. Frye. No further information is provided about them. Nellie A. Frye (1870-1949) is commemorated by a similar flat granite marker.

The second row of family lots includes the Holman lot which contains the marble headstone of Nathaniel Holman (d. September 29, 1880, age 67), also a Civil War veteran. His stone indicates that he was Commanding Officer of the 53rd Regiment of the Mass Volunteers. A footstone leaning against this stone does not appear to belong to it. Holman's stone, with the name of the deceased in raised letters on a recessed background, is typical of those found in several Marlborough cemeteries of the period. The adjacent marble headstone of Lucinda Holman (d. July 7, 1867, age 29) is similar in style. Her inscription indicates that she was a clairvoyant physician who has "Gone to the Summer Land." The third stone in the Holman lot is that of Amory Holman (d. August 6, 1844, age 3 years, 6 months), son of Nathaniel and Mary Holman. It is the only slate headstone in the cemetery and displays a well carved willow and urn motif with architectural and decorative borders. The inscription reads, "Loved little one, thou hast gone we trust to be happy ever more."

Also in the second row is the Rice lot which contains three marble headstones. The earliest deaths were those of Luther (d. 1817, age 6) and Willard (d. 1817, age 4), sons of Levi and Lucinda Rice who died the same day and share a headstone. The inscription reads "Lovely in life, in their death they were not separated." Their mother Lucinda Rice (d. July 17, 1850, age 58), is commemorated by a stone similar to that of her two young sons. Her inscription reads, "Our Mother is gone to the land of the blest. Why meet in sorrow, why bend we in gloom . . ." [rest obscured]. Levi Rice (d. February 6, 1860, age 70) is commemorated with the inscription "passed to a higher life." All three of the Rice stones are relatively similar in style with the name of the deceased in raised letters in a recessed panel. The memorial to the young sons may be been erected somewhat after their death or may have been relocated here, as it is unlikely that the family lots would have been laid out by 1817.

In the third row of family lots, only the easternmost has an extant stone. Francis A. Rice (d. May 22, 1851, age 3 years, 9 months) is commemorated by a small marble headstone which is lying on its side in fragments. There are a few additional fragments in the lot, which do not appear to belong to this stone.

The fourth row contains the Wood lot, which commemorates Theodore D. Wood (d. October 8, 1850 at 2 years, 7 months) son of Robert and Susan M. Wood. His grave is marked by a tiny marble obelisk only about 2 feet tall, which has a recessed circular panel near the top with lilies of the valley carved in relief.

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**Robin Hill Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

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The fifth row contains the Cooke lot, with two rectangular marble headstones with the names of the deceased in raised letters in a recessed panel similar to others of the period found throughout Marlborough. These commemorate Ananias Cooke (d. April 5, 1852, age 91), a Revolutionary War veteran, and his wife Sarah (d. March 25, 1847?, age 89). Their epitaphs are no longer legible.

Located on the east side of Robin Hill overlooking the family lots are the graves of two children of Aaron and Lydia Felton, Addison (d. 1818?, age 8) and Lydia (d. 1818?, age 6). Their graves are marked by a marble headstone and footstone that are so badly eroded that the inscriptions are virtually illegible.

On the west side of Robin Hill facing the road is an area that appears to have been terraced at some point to facilitate burials. It contains the marble headstone inscribed with U.S. shield of Benjamin A. Dutton, a Civil War veteran, which reads "16 Bty, Mass L.A." His birth and death dates are not recorded. In the same area are six post-1950 low headstones of granite and bronze in varying styles which commemorate six members of the Lee, Gregson and O'Leary families, including Robert O'Leary (1928-1999) who served in World War II.

The burying ground is generally well maintained, but like most properties of this type, has suffered loss of gravestones over time. Several fragments and at least one broken headstone have been preserved in place. The few extant footstones have been relocated adjacent to headstones.

(end)

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 that represent the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply) N/A

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)

See continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

See 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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Community Planning and Development

Social History

Period of Significance 1817 - 1954

Significant Dates (see continuation sheet)

Significant Person:

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architects/Builders (see continuation sheet)

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository: Library and Hist. Commission

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**Robin Hill Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Robin Hill Cemetery qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, with significance at the local level. The site may also have archaeological significance associated with unmarked graves and buried headstones. The period of significance extends from 1817 to 1954. The site possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The cemetery qualifies for listing under Criterion A due to its strong association with the history of Marlborough, particularly the 19th century farming neighborhood in the remote northwest corner of the community. It is was one of several neighborhood burial grounds established in the early 19th century that came under municipal jurisdiction after 1855, and is one of nine municipal cemeteries in Marlborough. It contains the graves of one Revolutionary War veteran, three Civil War veterans, and one World War II veteran. The cemetery also documents the 19th century social structure of the community, including the high rate of infant mortality. Like Weeks Cemetery it is distant from the central part of Marlborough and is one of the few older burying grounds in Marlborough to remain in active use today.

Robin Hill meets Criterion C as a small 19th century burial ground that reflects the evolving design of cemeteries and funerary monuments in New England. It embodies the 19th century transition from informal burial ground to planned cemetery and is an early example of the use of family lots. The simple receiving tomb is another expression of its 19th century character. The predominantly marble headstones, and a few footstones, illustrate unpretentious mid-19th century styles, with epitaphs that express the sentimentality of that period. There are no family monuments.

The cemetery meets Criteria Exception D because it has served continuously as a neighborhood burying ground in Marlborough from 1817 to the present, with most burials occurring in the 19th century. It includes the graves of approximately 27 residents of Marlborough and contains information that is not readily available elsewhere. The 1817 beginning date for the period of significance corresponds with the first documented burial, that of Willard and Luther Rice. The 1954 termination date reflects National Register policy that properties with ongoing significance use a 50-year cut-off date unless events of unusual significance have occurred within the past 50 years.

Marlborough, located approximately 28 miles west of Boston and 16 miles east of Worcester, was incorporated as a town in 1660. The small frontier community developed slowly at first because of conflicts associated with King Philip's War. After 1676 Marlborough grew steadily, reaching a population of 1,287 by 1765. Through the 18th century it remained primarily an agricultural community. The upland topography was particularly well-suited to raising cattle, grain and apples. Agriculture continued to be the major occupation in rural areas of town through the 19th century. However after 1830 Marlborough developed a thriving shoe industry, which transformed it into one of the manufacturing capitals of New England. The rapidly growing industry brought need for additional labor, which resulted in an influx of immigrants, initially Irish, followed by French Canadians, and later by Italians, Greeks and Eastern European Jews. The town's population grew from 2,500 in 1836 to 13,609 in 1900. By 1890 the increasingly complex infrastructure necessitated the reorganization of the government and

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Marlborough became a city. In the 20th century, Marlborough has continued to grow, reaching a population of 31,800 by 1990, and has become a diversified residential, high-technology, and business city.

Initially Marlborough's funerary needs were served by two burial ground located near the center of town. Spring Hill Cemetery (1675) and Old Common Cemetery (1706) met the needs of those living near town. As the population grew more dispersed, residents of outlying areas established informal family and neighborhood burial grounds. These included Wilson Cemetery (1764); Brigham Cemetery (1793); Chipman Cemetery (1813); Robin Hill Cemetery (1817); Weeks Cemetery (1837); and Maplewood Cemetery (1830s). After 1855 all the neighborhood cemeteries were transferred to municipal ownership and new burial areas were established at Chipman (the new section, Rocklawn Cemetery, is the name by which the area is currently known) and at Maplewood, which served as Marlborough's primary cemetery during the latter part of the 19th century. In 1956 Evergreen Cemetery was established adjacent to Wilson. It continues to serve as the city's primary burial ground today. There are also two large late 19th century Catholic cemeteries, St. Mary's and Immaculate Conception, located adjacent to Brigham.

Marlborough historian Charles Hudson, writing in 1862, summarized the status of the town's cemeteries at that time and described each. His cursory remarks about Robin Hill indicate that even then it was considered a small cemetery distant from the center of the community.

Cemeteries are becoming objects of attention in most of our towns; and their condition is being regarded as a sort of test of civilizations, in the best sense of that term. The gloom which has been spread over the resting-place of the departed, and the forbidding appearance of our churchyards, are giving place to a more rational feeling and a better taste. The increasing light of the Son of Righteousness has, in a good degree, dispelled the darkness of the tomb, and chased away the unearthly spectres, which were supposed to visit nightly the sepulchres of the dead. Christians of all denominations, are beginning to regard the burial-places of their friends, as peaceful shades to which they can profitably resort to muse in sweet melancholy upon the uncertainty of human life, and to call up anew the dear remembrance of departed friends. Such views and feelings have created a disposition to beautify and adorn the ground where the dead are reposing. . .

There is a small yard near Robin Hill school-house, where a few families have been buried.

(Hudson, History of the Town of Marlborough, page 236-239)

The two older municipal cemeteries (Spring Hill and Old Common) reflect their Colonial origins, with predominantly slate headstones laid out in irregular rows and a few later monuments. Although they are referred to as cemeteries today, both could best be characterized as burying grounds, with no formal design and few embellishments. The four smaller neighborhood cemeteries (Brigham, Robin Hill, Weeks and Wilson) reflect the 19th century transition from unadorned burial grounds to cemeteries, with spatial organization based on family lots

(continued)

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**Robin Hill Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

Section number 8 Page 3

rather than individual graves; stones that display more sentimental imagery and iconography; and embellishments such as roads and plantings. Maplewood Cemetery began during the 1830s as a neighborhood cemetery but was greatly enlarged during the 1860s and displays the transition to the late 19th century style with smaller lots, machine-made monuments, and greater ethnic diversity. Evergreen Cemetery reflects late-20th century burial styles and ideas.

Robin Hill Cemetery began as a small neighborhood burial ground that served the adjacent farming community. It is likely that the first burials occurred without thought to the arrangement of the graves and that gridded lots were added some time around the 1840s. The receiving tomb probably dates to the middle of the 19th century as well. The layout of the cemetery was documented by City Engineer Francis Granger in 1934 (see attached map) and has changed little since that time. Municipal records indicate that there were few expenditures at Robin Hill other than for an occasional mowing.

The first confirmed burial occurred in 1817-1818 when four children were buried in the cemetery but there may have been earlier burials. Then there were no additional interments until the 1840s and after that burials occurred sporadically through 1880. There are several undated burials that probably occurred in the early 20th century and then six that have occurred between 1955 and the present. A small area has been set aside for residents of the neighborhood who wish to be buried here, but Robin Hill is not generally considered an active cemetery.

Robin Hill Cemetery was the sixth of the nine municipal burial grounds to be established in Marlborough and at one acre is the second smallest. The number of confirmed burials, only 27, is the lowest for any burial ground in town. Other than the grid of lots, which are surprisingly well-planned for such a small cemetery, Robin Hill is typical of a small neighborhood cemetery with few embellishments. It retains 19th century vernacular character in its spatial organization, topography, vegetation, circulation system and monumentation. There have been no known additions or deletions of land.

While the cemetery retains a high level of integrity, the surrounding neighborhood does not. After centuries as a relatively isolated farming neighborhood, the northwest corner of the community changed dramatically in the late 20th century. Construction of Routes I-495 and I-290 in the 1970s altered the landscape around the cemetery almost beyond recognition, as fields and orchards were transformed into office parks and residential subdivisions.

Old Common Cemetery is already listed on the National Register as part of the Marlborough Center Historic District (NRDIS 08/19/1998). The seven other municipal cemeteries established before 1900 are being nominated concurrently. There are no plans to nominate Evergreen Cemetery, which was established in 1956.

(end)

Robin Hill Cemetery
Name of Property

Middlesex County, Massachusetts
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property

1 acre

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 Zone	286300 Easting	4693280 Northing	3. 19 Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 19 Zone	Easting	Northing	4. 19 Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

(Describe why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shary Page Berg, preservation consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 2004

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 City of Marlborough

street and number City Hall, 140 Main Street telephone 508-460-3715

city or town Marlborough state MA zip code 01752

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Continuation Sheet**

**Robin Hill Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

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9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Publications

Bigelow, Ella A. *Historical Reminiscences of the Early Times in Marlborough, Massachusetts*. Marlborough: Times Publishing Co., 1910.

Forbes, Anne McCarthy. *Marlborough Survey of Historic, Architectural and Cultural Resources, Narrative History*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1995.

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Marlborough, Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Press of T.R. Marvin and Son, 1862.

Marlborough Historical Society. *Cemetery Records*.

Marlborough, Massachusetts. *Annual Reports*. 1865 – 2001.

Maps

Granger, Francis J. *Plan of Robin Hill Cemetery Showing Veterans Graves*. City of Marlborough, 1934.

Marlborough, Massachusetts. *Assessor's Map 26 and 27*.

United State Geological Survey. *Marlborough, Massachusetts, Topographic Map, 1:25,000*. 1983.

(end)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Robin Hill Cemetery is a rectangular parcel bounded on the west by Donald Lynch Boulevard (formerly North Robin Hill Road); on the north by undeveloped land; on the east by access ramps between Routes 290 and 495; and on the south by an office building and day care center.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses a single parcel (assessors map 26, parcel 8) that includes the entire 1-acre cemetery established in the early 19th century.

(end)

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**Robin Hill Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

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12. LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

<i>NR Photo #</i>	<i>Location/Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Photo by</i>
1	View from street showing western portion of cemetery with perimeter wall, receiving tomb, hill and white pines. Dutton headstone and post-1950 headstones are faintly visible on hillside. Southern entrance is at far right.	2/2002	Shary Berg
2	View from hill looking east towards system of gridded lots, seven of which have visible headstones. Felton headstone and footstones are visible in the foreground.	2/2002	Shary Berg
3	Headstones of the Rice family. Willard and Luther Rice were the first recorded burials in this cemetery. This style of headstone, with name in recessed panel, is commonly found throughout Marlborough's 19 th century cemeteries.	2/2002	Shary Berg

Robin Hill Cemetery

Marlborough (Middlesex County), Massachusetts National Register District Data Sheet

2004

MHC #	Photo#	Map#	HistoricName	Description/Materials	Date	Status	Type
Robin Hill Cemetery					1817-	Contrib	1 Site
		1	Perimeter Wall	Fieldstone	19 th cent	Contrib	1 Structure
		2	Receiving Tomb	Earthen, granite face	mid-19 th cent	Contrib	1 Structure

TOTALS: 1 contributing site, 2 contributing structures

**ROBIN HILL CEMETERY
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS
BURIAL DATA SHEET
April 1, 2002**

Family Lots East Side of Cemetery

• Carr Lot	1 small marble headstone <i>Thomas Carr, Co. 1, 5th Mass Infantry.</i>	N.D./19 th cent.
	4 flat granite markers <i>H. Howe</i>	N.D./20 th cent.
	<i>E. Howe</i>	N.D./20 th cent.
	<i>M.H. Frye/E. Frye</i>	N.D./20 th cent.
	<i>Nellie A. Frye (1870 – 1949)</i>	1949
• Cooke Lot	2 marble headstones <i>Mrs. Sarah Cooke (d. 1847?, age 89)</i>	1847
	<i>Ananias Cooke (d.1852, age 91)</i>	1852
• Holman Lot	2 marble headstones/3 marble footstones <i>Nathaniel Holman (d. 1880, age 67)</i>	1880
	<i>Lucinda Holman (d. 1867, age 29)</i>	1867
	1 slate headstone/1 slate footstone <i>Amory Holman (d. 1844, age 3 yrs. 6 mos.)</i>	1844
• Rice Lot	3 marble headstones <i>Luther (d. 1817, age 6) and</i>	
	<i>Willard (d. 1817, age 4) Rice</i>	1817
	<i>Mrs. Lucinda Rice (d.1850, age 58)</i>	1850
	<i>Levi Rice (d. 1860, age 70)</i>	1860
• Rich Lot	1 toppled and broken marble headstone <i>Francis A. (d. 1851, age 3 yrs. 9 mos.)</i>	1851
• Wood Lot	1 2' marble obelisk <i>Theodore D. Wood (d. 1850, age 2 yrs. 7 mos.)</i>	1850
• Wright Lot	1 marble headstone <i>Caroline H. Wright (d. 1852, age 4)</i>	1852

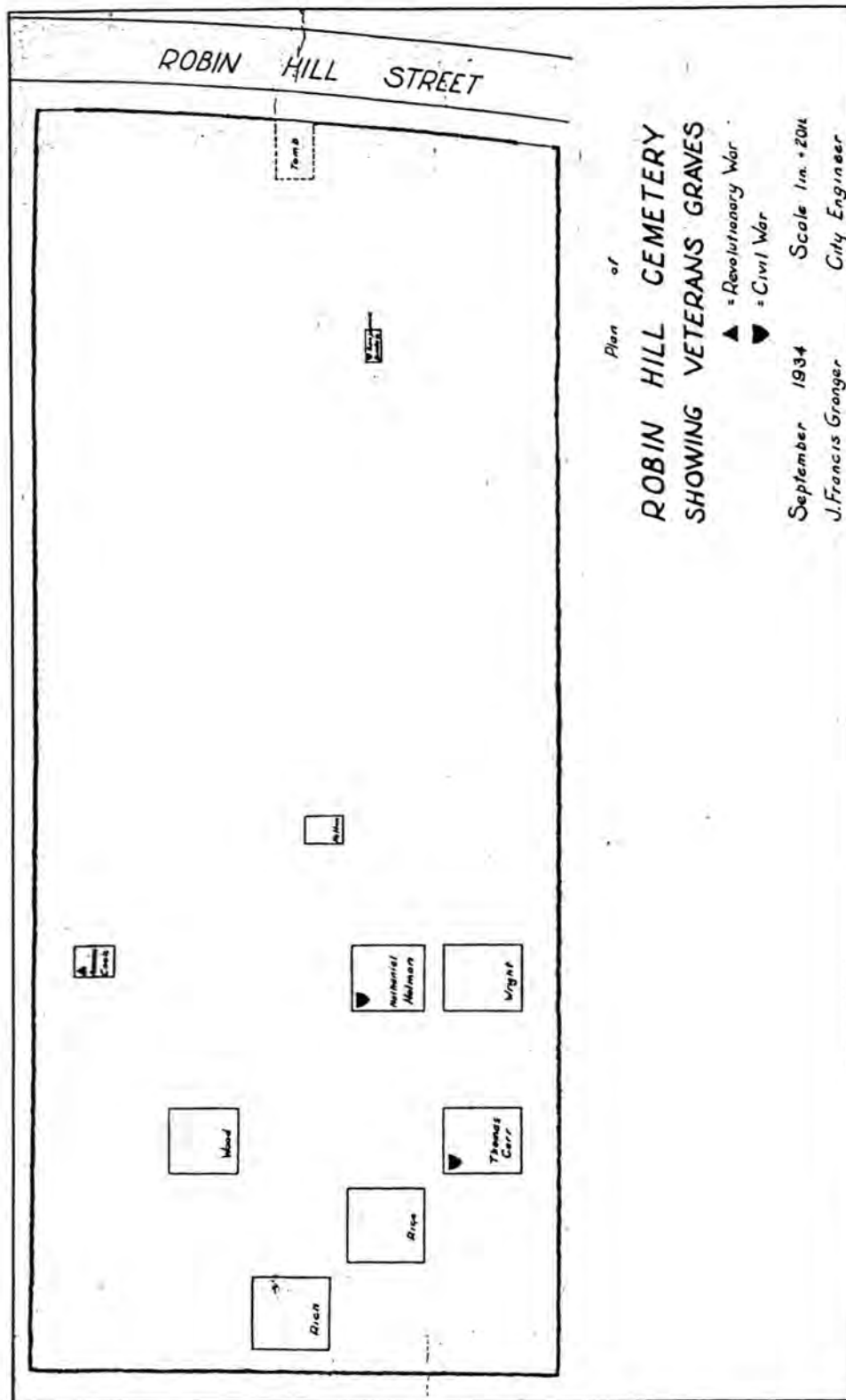
Individual Burials East Side of Robin Hill

• Felton	1 marble headstone & footstone (eroded) <i>Addison (d. 1818?, age 8) &</i> <i>Lydia Felton (d. 1818?, age 6)</i>	1818?
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Individual Burials West Side of Robin Hill

• Dutton	1 marble headstone (military insignia) <i>Benjamin A. Dutton</i>	N.D./19 th cent
• Recent burials	6 low granite and bronze, various styles 6 members of Gregson, Lee, O'Leary families including <i>Robert F. O'Leary, Tech 5 US Army</i> <i>World War II (1928-1999)</i>	1955-1999

Total: 24 headstones, 5 footstones, 27 identified burials



1934 Map of Robin Hill Cemetery by City Engineer J. Francis Granger.

North is to the right. The gridded lots are at the bottom, but only those with monuments are shown. The Felton monument is just above the gridded lots; Benjamin Dutton's grave is above that; and the receiving tomb is located at the top, adjacent to the street. All monuments extant in 1934 still exist today. The only change has been the addition of 6 post-1955 headstones to the left (south) of the Benjamin Dutton monument and the realignment of the road further away from the cemetery.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Robin Hill Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/16/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/16/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/01/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/29/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04001083

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9/29/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

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.



ROBIN HILL
CEMETERY

Robin Hill Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex Co, MA

Photo #1



Robin Hill Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex Co., MA

Photo #2

LUCREIA

died Dec. 27, 1817.

Et. 6 yrs.

WILLIARD

died Dec. 27, 1817.

Et. 1 yrs. 2 mos.

Sons of Levi &

Lucinda Rice.

MRS. LUCINDA

wife of

LEVI RICE,

died July 17, 1850.

Et. 58.

LEVI RICE

born at the age of 7 yrs.

F. B. R. 1860.

E. 70.

Robin Hill Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex Co, MA

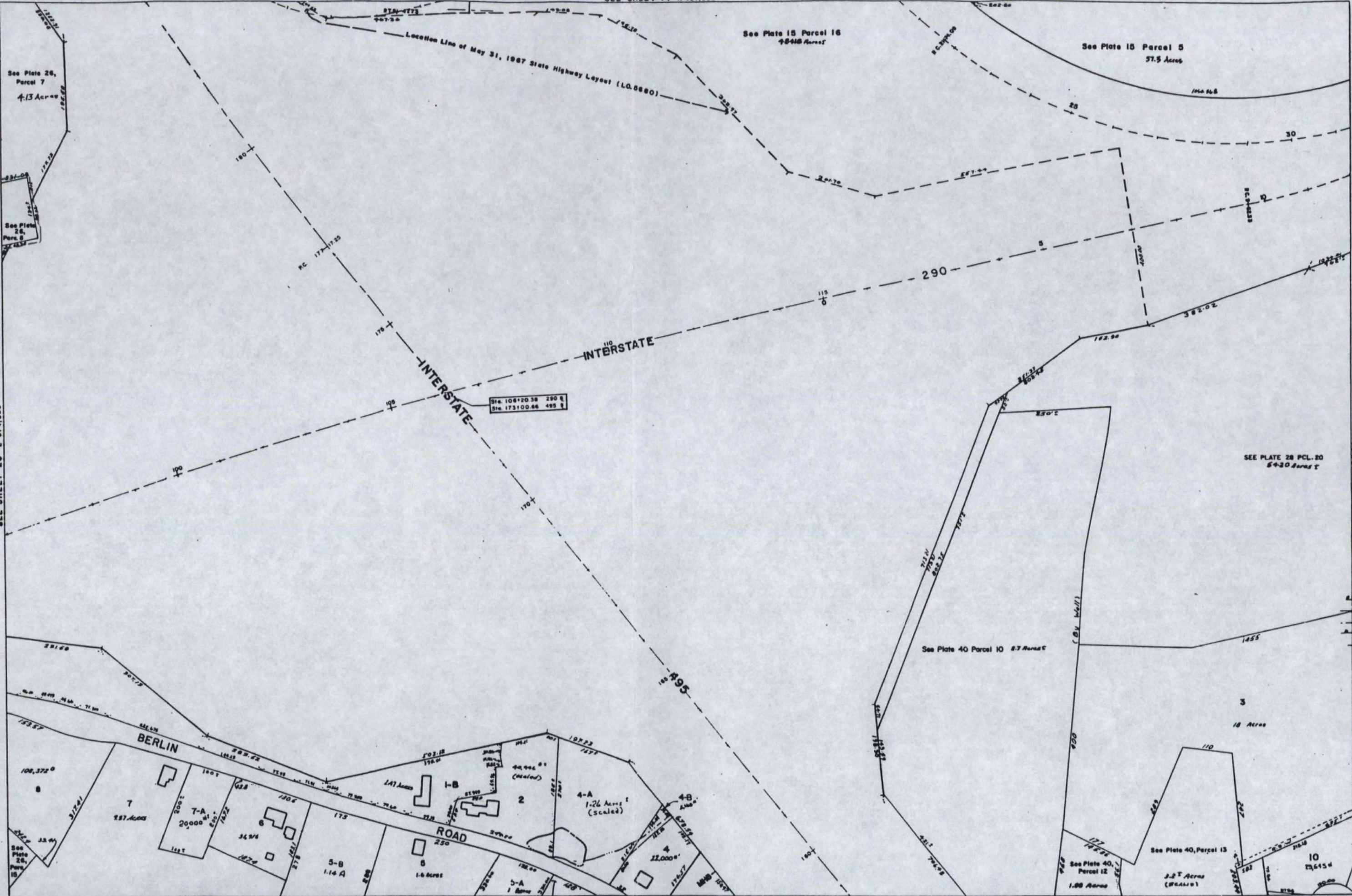
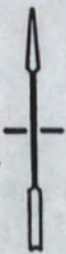
Photo #3



SEE SHEET 25 E 371,500

SEE SHEET 27 E 374,500

Robin Hill Cemetery NR Nomination
Marlborough, Middlesex Co, MA 1 of 2



SEE SHEET 26 E 874,500

SEE SHEET 26 E 877,500

Robin Hill Cemetery NR Nomination
Marlborough, Middlesex Co, MA 2 of 2

Marlborough MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

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



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 Shrewsbury and Marlborough 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1969

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 predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south 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

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

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet	UTM grid convergence (GM) at center of map		1	2	3
1	3.2808	18' 11"		1	2	3
2	6.5617	18' 11"		4	5	
3	9.8425	18' 11"		6	7	8
4	13.1234	18' 11"				
5	16.4042	18' 11"				
6	19.6850	18' 11"				
7	22.9659	18' 11"				
8	26.2467	18' 11"				
9	29.5275	18' 11"				
10	32.8084	18' 11"				

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
 To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (GM) at center of map
 Declination (MD)
 Diagram is approximate

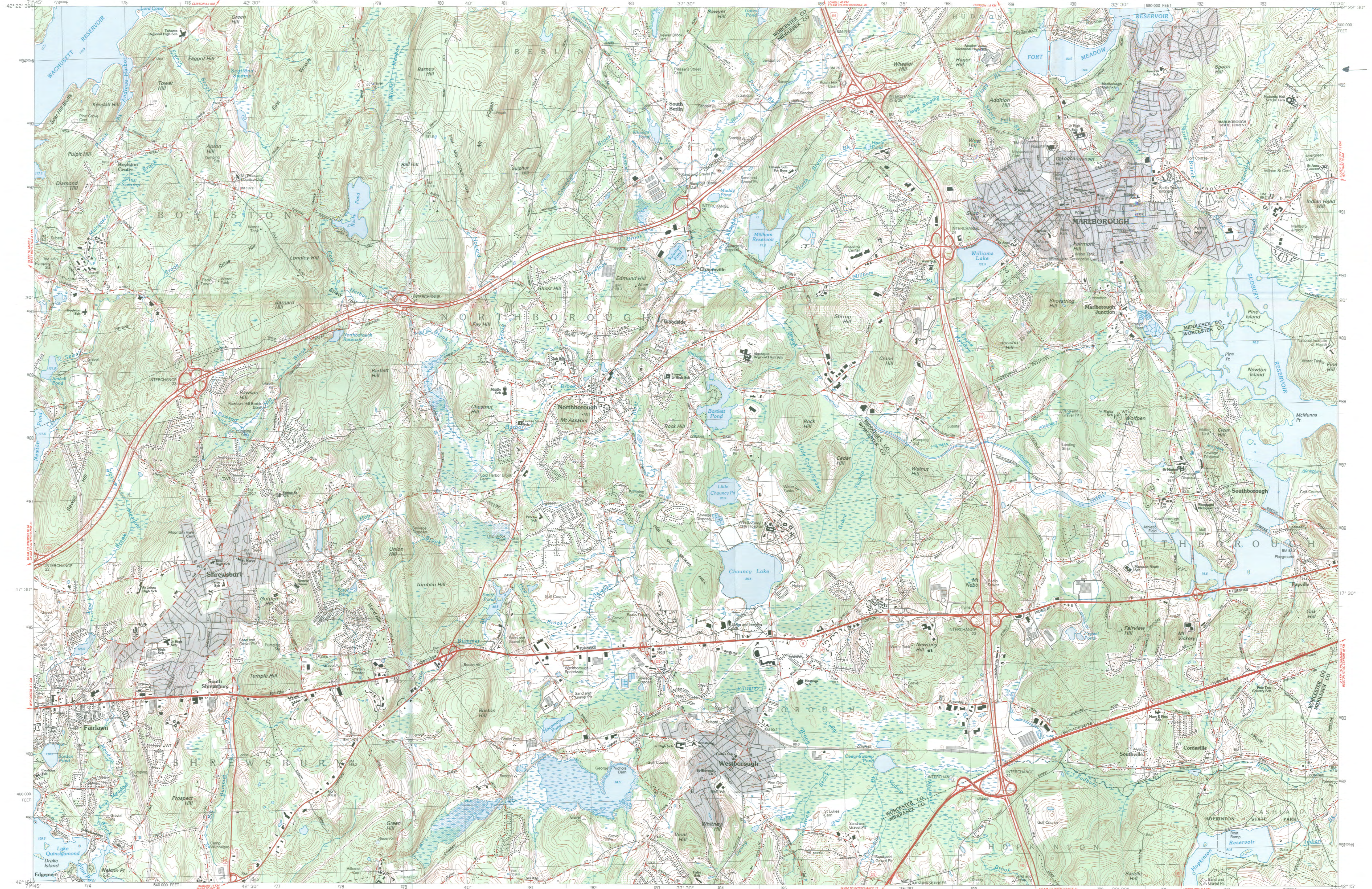
1	Shrewsbury
2	Marlborough
3	Northborough
4	Southborough
5	Westborough
6	Shrewsbury North
7	Shrewsbury South
8	Middlesex
9	Worcester
10	Playground

ISBN 0-607-23425-3
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Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Roads, metes: Interstate, U. S. State
- Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
- Bridge; drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Radio area: only selected buildings shown
- Houses: barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary:
 - National, with monument
 - State
 - County, parish
 - Civil township, precinct, district
 - Incorporated city, village, town
 - National or State reservation; wild park
 - Land grant with monument; found section corner
 - U. S. public lands survey; range, township; section
 - Range, township; section line; location approximate
 - Fence or field line
 - Power transmission line, located tower
 - Dam; dam with lock
 - Cemetery; grave
 - Commemorative; joint area; U. S. location monument
 - Windmill; water well; spring
 - Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
 - Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
 - Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
 - Distorted surface: steep slope; level; sand
 - Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
 - Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
 - Islands, large and small; bays, large and small
 - Submerged marsh; marsh; swamps
 - Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
 - Sand; mangrove
 - Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request





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

August 13, 2004

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Robin Hill Cemetery, Donald Lynch Blvd., Marlborough (Middlesex), 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.

Five letters of support have been received.

Sincerely,

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

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Shary Page Berg, consultant
Gary Brown, Lynn Faust, Marlborough Historical Commission
Dennis Hunt, Mayor, City of Marlborough
Alfred Lima, Marlborough Planning Director



CITY OF MARLBOROUGH

MAYOR DENNIS C. HUNT

140 Main Street
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752
Tel. (508) 460-3770 Facsimile (508) 460-3698 TDD (508) 460-3610

May 7, 2004

Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

The City of Marlborough participated in the Cemetery Initiative that the Department of Environmental Management conducted. Because of that project, the City next pursued a grant to have these cemeteries listed in the National Register. I have received notice that at its June 9, 2004 meeting, the Massachusetts Historical Commission will be reviewing the City of Marlborough's Request to have seven (7) historic cemeteries included in the National Register Listing. I would like to express my support for this project.

Cemeteries have always served as one of the community's most valuable resources. It would seem in this day and age that cemeteries have lost much of their significance. But further exploration would dispute that. From the people who come from all over the country to research their family trees, realizing that their ancestors settled this community and helped it to grow and prosper and while some stayed and continued their role in this community, others moved on to settle throughout the rest of the country; to the schoolchildren who learn a respect and awareness of history from their tours and research in these cemeteries; to the veterans who visit frequently to pay their respects to the country's heroes; to the neighborhood residents and the community at large who walk through the cemeteries pausing to reflect at various headstones, sometimes cleaning around a site, but taking the few moments to reflect on the peace and stillness that gives them a brief respite from the hustle and stress of their lives, these cemeteries have an impact.

The City of Marlborough has begun a pro-active role in the preservation of its cultural and historical assets through acquiring open space parcels and developing preservation and maintenance plans for its resources.

Several Boy Scouts have done or will be doing a status inventory of individual cemeteries for their Eagle Scout projects. Each Boy Scout chooses a cemetery and they inventory each headstone – inscriptions, condition of stone, composition of stone – and also make general notes on the cemetery grounds. Since time can have such a devastating effect on the headstones, the City and its Cemetery Division will be able to take this inventory and use it to address the most urgent needs.

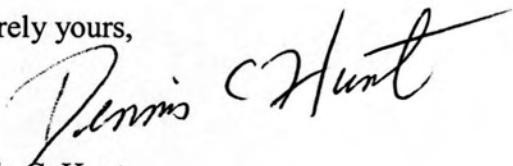
The cemeteries in Marlborough reach out to many people – those who come to trace their roots and learn about their families, the schoolchildren, the veterans and the community at large. They provide a real sense of history in Marlborough.

Betsy Friedberg
May 7, 2004
Page 2

The City of Marlborough takes great pride in its cemeteries and the history reflected there. Listing these cemeteries is another way of expressing our pride while providing a part that is often required for grants that we might seek to help in the special maintenance and repairs at the cemeteries.

I thank you for this opportunity and hope that you will approve this project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis C. Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dennis C. Hunt
Mayor



CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 11, 2004

Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

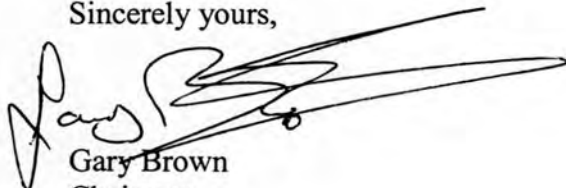
We in Marlborough are fortunate to have our historic cemeteries and burial grounds in a wonderful state of preservation. Some of the stones date from the late 1600s and early 1700s and look as if they had been carved recently.

The grave markers bear the names of many of our founding fathers and veterans of the Revolutionary, Civil and all other wars. They are a written history of this community.

Those citizens who visit our historic burial grounds for the first time are invariably impressed. It is fun to take groups through them and point out who, what, where and why they are important. You can see the various motifs of the carvers. We who appreciate our history are very proud of these cemeteries. We who take the time to honor our fallen veterans are pleased that our City government throughout our history has cared for these hallowed grounds.

I fully support the efforts to have our historic cemeteries placed on the National Register. This will help many others to be grateful for their existence.

Sincerely yours,



Gary Brown
Chairman



**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

140 Main Street
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752
Tel (508) 460-3799 Facsimile (508) 460-3698 TDD (508) 460-3610

RECEIVED

JUN 08 2004

MASS. HIST. COMM.
ALFRED J. LIMA,
Director

May 13, 2004

Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

I wish to convey my strong support for the nomination of seven historic cemeteries in the City of Marlborough to the National Register of Historic Places. The elevation of these cemeteries to the Register will assist in implementing the city's planning objectives.

One of the action items in the 2002 Marlborough Master Plan is to advance the preservation of the city's historic cemeteries through the development of preservation plans and the pursuing of National Register designation. The City was awarded a technical assistance grant from the Department of Environmental Management to develop a framework for the preservation of these sites, and this initiative has assisted in guiding the City's maintenance of these cemeteries.

Clearly, the preservation of Marlborough's historic cemeteries will advance other goals of the master plan, including the preservation of the community's character and its quality of life. The nomination of these sites to the National Register will advance the preservation of these important historic resources.

Sincerely,

Alfred J. Lima,
Director of Planning and Community Development

NR file

Marlborough Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 513
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752-0513



Peter Rice Homestead - 377 Elm Street

May 20, 2004

RECEIVED

MAY 25 2004

MASS. HIST. COMM

Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

On behalf of the Marlborough Historical Society I would like to express my support for the listing on the National Register of Historic Places the seven historically significant cemeteries in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

Marlborough being among this nation's earliest incorporated townships (1660), its rich history was built by the very men and women who lay to rest in our honored cemeteries. The recognition they deserve warrants such a listing in our National Registry.

Not only for the expressed purpose of recognition of the cemeteries and those who are buried there, however, do I support such an effort. Rather, I feel that a listing on the National Register of Historic Places fosters within a given town or city a greater awareness of and appreciation for other historic preservation efforts and projects. To me, it is an often-needed catalyst to better, more thoughtful decision making.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Wilcox
Curator

C: Gary Brown, Chairman, Marlborough Historical Commission



CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
Department of Public Works
Office of the Commissioner
135 Neil Street
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752
(508) 624-6910 Ext. 7200
Facsimile (508) 624-7699 TDD (508) 460-3610

May 25, 2004

Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

I am pleased to offer my support to the City of Marlborough request to have its 7 cemeteries listed on the National Register.

As the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, it is my responsibility to see that these historic resources are properly maintained. With the ever-increasing demands on municipal budgets, it is a challenge to meet this standard with the limited funds we are annually given to do so. I am extremely proud of the fact that these cemeteries are in remarkable condition in spite of our limited maintenance resources and we hope to continue meeting our charge in that regard.

Listing in the National Register symbolizes the City of Marlborough's commitment to its historic resources. As part of this commitment the City continually researches ways to gain additional funding for special projects for these cemeteries. As an example, funds from the grant used to prepare this application, also allowed us to prepare mini-preservation and maintenance plans for the cemeteries. The purpose of these plans is to provide efficient cost-effective guidance to the community for the care of its historic cemeteries.

There are few greater opportunities for reflection than a walk through an historic burial ground as you ponder the names, dates and inscriptions on the stones and what life was like when these people lived in our community.

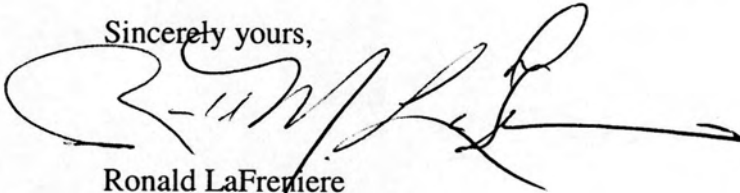
Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
May 25, 2004

Page 2

As the custodian of these sites, I have a great responsibility to not only the current residents but also to those people who lived here helping our community grow and prosper and are now buried in our cemeteries. What better way to show honor and respect than to have these cemeteries listed on the National Register

I appreciate this opportunity to offer my support to this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald LaFreniere', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ronald LaFreniere
Commissioner