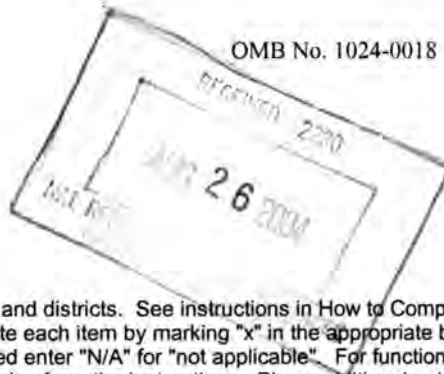


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Rocklawn Cemetery

other names/site number Chipman Cemetery

2. Location

street & number Stevens Street N/A not for publication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 8/24/04
Signature of certifying official/Title Cara H. Metz, Executive Director Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

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): _____

for
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 10/6/04

Rocklawn Cemetery
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA
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

1
2
8
11

Non contributing

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)

Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Brick
Slate

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
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rocklawn Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Section number 7 Page 1

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Rocklawn Cemetery, the fifth established in Marlborough, MA is a good example of a small, well-preserved 19th century cemetery that was created in the rural cemetery tradition. It is an evocative landscape that effectively conveys its 19th century origins. As the burial place of many of the town's notable citizens, it also retains strong historical associations. There are roughly 1,000 burials in approximately 280 family lots dating from the 19th and 20th centuries that are marked by a diverse collection of headstones and family monuments.

The five-acre cemetery is located near the downtown business district off Stevens Street one block north of East Main Street. It is surrounded by a predominantly 20th century residential neighborhood on the north, west and south, with a steep, wooded municipally-owned parcel to the east. The Marlborough Center Historic District (NRDIS 08/19/1998) lies a few blocks to the southwest.

The front of the cemetery is defined by a 3-4' tall mortared fieldstone **retaining wall** (photo #2) that was built in the mid-19th century and rebuilt in 1891. There are three **entrances**. The southern entrance is formed by a mortared boulder return that curves around and terminates in two 6' pillars. The central entrance is marked by one narrow granite post and one concrete post (presumably a replacement), both about 5' tall. The northern 40' of the wall is set back about 20' from the road and the northern entrance is framed by two wide granite posts with beveled tops. The rear and sides of the cemetery are enclosed by a dry laid fieldstone which varies in its construction and condition, ranging from fairly rough to well-built.

The general character of the cemetery is defined by its spatial organization, topography, circulation, vegetation, monuments, and receiving tomb which collectively create a dramatic landscape setting. The cemetery is in two distinct parts: Chipman, the older southern section, which is slightly less than one and one-half acres, and Rocklawn, the more recent northern section, which is about three and one-half acres. The two are collectively known today as Rocklawn Cemetery. The **receiving tomb** (photo #1) lies near Stevens Street between the two sections. It is a small well-preserved rectangular brick building about 15' by 20' with a steeply-pitched slate roof with parapet ends. The entrance, centered on the north façade, has a projecting gabled roof supported on a pair of square granite piers. There is a band of hammered copper trim at the gable ends and as a frieze below the long edge of the roof. (Note: there is a similar receiving tomb at Maplewood Cemetery.) The receiving tomb is no longer actively used.

Chipman

Chipman Cemetery (photo #3) was established in the early 19th century. It is unusually well laid out for this period, with family burial lots arranged in a neat grid that varies slightly to accommodate the topography. The southern two-thirds of Chipman is relatively level, while its northern edge rises steeply to the adjacent Rocklawn section. Entrance is via Sunnyvale Avenue, an unpaved single lane road that enters the cemetery from Stevens

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rocklawn Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Section number 7 Page 2

Street and then loops around and heads on a diagonal up the steep slope to Mountain Avenue and the receiving tomb. There is also a set of fieldstone steps cut into the hillside for pedestrians. In addition to this major slope, there is also a micro-topography created by the burial lots, most of which are slightly elevated above the surrounding paths, creating a clearly delineated pattern in the landscape. This micro-topography may be a result of earlier curbing around the lots. Three lots retain curbing, with two granite curbed lots (Howe and Whitman) and the large Samuel Boyd lot, which is surrounded by a low stone retaining wall. Several lots at the southeast corner where the natural topography drops off steeply also have retaining walls on their downhill side.

Of the 110 numbered lots shown on the 1934 map (see attached copy), there were 103 original lots and some later subdivisions which are indicated by half numbers. Additional lettered rectangles are shown in the steep slope south of the receiving tomb but these were never developed as burial lots. The northeast corner of Chipman, which is blank on the 1934 map, has been laid out with burial lots in the intervening years. The lots are typically 16 – 20' square.

Chipman is one of the few Marlborough cemeteries to show evidence of deliberate plantings, with a row of arborvitae extending along the front wall of both Chipman and Rocklawn. These are now overmature and about half have already been removed. There are several large maples scattered in Chipman, which contribute substantially to the tranquil character of the cemetery. The perimeter of the cemetery is largely wooded, creating a sense of enclosure and separating it from the surrounding neighborhood.

Monuments in Chipman are predominantly marble and granite, and display a range of 19th and early 20th century styles. In most lots there is a large family monument with smaller stones (low or flush) for individual family members. There are no slate headstones and no footstones. The Samuel Boyd lot, in addition to being the largest lot in Chipman, also offers a representative range of monumentation. There is a large granite **family monument** commemorating shoemaker Samuel Boyd and his immediate family, which is surrounded by smaller headstones. These include two tiny eroded marbles marking the graves of "Little Eddie" and "Jamie". Other marble headstones include several with names in recessed panels and one with a finger pointing up toward heaven, a motif also found at several other headstones in Chipman.

The Gothic style is well represented at Chipman. Among the most elaborate monuments is that of the **Gleason family**, which is commemorated with a tiny Gothic gabled roof supported on four decorative marble pillars sitting on a marble pedestal and base. The Bucklin family has four handsome Gothic headstones with steeply curving tops, architectural motifs, and names of individual family members in recessed panels. There are also classical influences in the cemetery. The monument for **James Woods** (d. 1844) and family is a 5' marble pillar

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rocklawn Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Section number 7 Page 3

on a granite base topped by an urn. The tallest monument is that of the **Whitley family**, marked by an eight-sided granite shaft topped by a stylized urn on a granite base and pedestal. While some of the stones are well-preserved, others are so eroded that there is nothing left of the carving and the legend is no longer legible.

Rocklawn

The northern section of the cemetery (photo #4) has a distinctly different character because it is set on the summit of the hill rather than the hillside and is more open in its character. It was laid out in phases from the 1860s on and the arrangement of lots is more irregular to accommodate the topography, which drops off steeply at the edges. The 1934 map shows roughly 170 numbered lots shown in the Rocklawn section and a few have been added since that time. The oldest lots in the Rocklawn section start at the western edge (near Stevens Street) and continue along the southern edge. The newest lots are in the northeast corner.

The road system is curvilinear and more extensive than at Chipman. Mountain Avenue runs along the southern edge, Border Avenue along the northern edge; Pine Path, Pearl Path, Woodbine Avenue, and Linden Avenue run east/west in between; and Union Avenue runs north/south through the center. Only the perimeter roads and Union Avenue are paved, the others have reverted to grass. The lots here are more variable in shape, size, and orientation than at Chipman but are also spaciouly laid out, with paths between each. Some show stepped grading typical of the mid-19th century and some lots are terraced or show evidence of raised lots. There are some retaining walls on the east side where the slope drops off steeply. Trees are a distinctive presence in this portion of the cemetery, consisting of scattered mature specimens of diverse species such as beech, horse chestnut and maple in a landscape setting. There is dense woodland at the perimeter, especially at the east and south.

Monuments in the older western section of Rocklawn are generally similar to those at Chipman, with large family monuments in granite or marble in a range of styles from classical to Gothic to contemporary, usually accompanied by small headstones. In the newer eastern section, monuments are typically simpler, often with only one monument per lot and include names of Scottish and French origin, as well as those of old Marlborough families.

While Rocklawn is less ornamental than Chipman, it has its share of expressive monuments. Levi W. Baker (1827-1916) highlighted his granite monument with reference to his service in the 9th Battalion of Massachusetts Volunteers during the Civil War. Decorative features include an open book and crossed torches. The Frost/Barnes monument (1889) also takes the form of an open book and features several quotes from the Bible. Another distinctive monument is the large granite **box tomb** of Allen Grant Williams (1863-1939) and Lottie Lee Osborne (1867-1930) located near the northwest corner of the cemetery, the only one of its type found in Marlborough cemeteries.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Rocklawn Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

Section number 7 Page 4

The burying ground is generally well maintained, but like most municipal cemeteries, has suffered loss and destruction of gravestones over time. Marbles have particularly suffered, with several toppled and broken and many eroded, most of which have been preserved in place.

(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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Community Planning and Development

Social History

Period of Significance 1813 – 1954**Significant Dates** 1865**Significant Person:**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation**Architects/Builders (see continuation sheet)****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 #

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Rocklawn Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

Section number 8 Page 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Rocklawn 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 1813 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 19th century history of Marlborough. It was the fifth burial ground established in the community and contains the graves of approximately 1,000 residents from Marlborough and the surrounding area. The cemetery also has a strong tradition of military service, with 65 Civil War veterans, 3 Spanish American War veterans, and 2 World War I veterans buried there.

Rocklawn Cemetery meets Criterion C as a small municipal burial ground that reflects 19th century design of cemeteries and funerary monuments in the rural cemetery style. This new type of burial ground, initiated at Mount Auburn Cemetery (1831) (NHL) in Cambridge, provided a place where the dead could be buried in permanent family lots and the landscaped grounds would provide solace for the living. The clear spatial organization, well-defined family lots, and the diverse collection of 19th century monuments are also expressive of this style and period, while epitaphs convey family relationships, religious beliefs, and the Victorian sentimentality characteristic of this period. The brick receiving tomb is a well-preserved late 19th century structure in the Gothic style.

The cemetery meets Criteria Exception D because it has served as a neighborhood burial ground from the early 19th century to the 20th. It includes the graves of many prominent residents of Marlborough and contains information that is not readily available elsewhere. The 1813 beginning date for the period of significance corresponds with the first reported burial. 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 Marlborough

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rocklawn Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Section number 8 Page 2

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 grounds located near the center of town, Spring Hill Cemetery (1675) at the eastern edge of town and Old Common Cemetery (1706) at the western edge. 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 Cemetery.

Marlborough historian Charles Hudson, writing in 1862, summarized the status of the town's cemeteries at that time and described each.

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. . .

To the eastward of this [Spring Hill] and not far from the residence of Capt. Aaron Stevens, is another inclosure, dedicated to the same object. It is situated on a rise of ground, is laid out in good taste, and is capable of being made an attractive place. It has several handsome stones, with elegant devices, and the forest trees on its border give it a rural appearance. The lot contains about two acres; but a portion of the surface being ledge, it cannot all be used for interments. It is a great improvement upon the older yards.

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

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Rocklawn Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

Section number 8 Page 3

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 transition from unadorned burial grounds to cemeteries, with spatial organization based on family lots rather than individual graves; stones that display more sentimental imagery and iconography; and embellishments such as roads and plantings. Rocklawn Cemetery is a fuller expression of the rural cemetery style, with all burials in family lots and a well-defined system of roads and paths. Maplewood Cemetery began during the 1830s as a neighborhood cemetery but was greatly enlarged during the 1860s and illustrates the transition to the late 19th century cemetery with smaller lots, machine-made monuments, and greater ethnic diversity.

Records for Rocklawn Cemetery (or Chipman as it was initially known) are sparse for the early years. It began as one of Marlborough's many neighborhood burying grounds on land belonging to the Chipman family. Previous surveys have documented stones dating as early as 1813, although the earliest death date found during preparation of the National Register nomination was that of "Henry" who died in 1825, age 11. It was an unusually well organized burial ground for the early 19th century with its curvilinear road system and neatly laid out lots. (note: the rear section of Marlborough's Robin Hill Cemetery, which was established four years later, was organized in a similar manner.)

By the 1860s when all of the older neighborhood cemeteries in Marlborough had come under municipal jurisdiction, there were frequent references to burial grounds in the town's annual reports but it is not always clear which one is referred to. In 1862 Chipman was described as being only two acres. The 1865 annual report records purchase of land from Rufus Howe for \$400, which was presumably the parcel of land to the north which later became known as Rocklawn. (Note: the headstone of William Miller buried in Rocklawn near Stevens Street is dated 1853, but it likely that he was reinterred here at a later date.)

In 1868 work at the cemetery "near John Chipman's" involved building a stone wall, furnishing a gate, stone posts, painting etc, at a cost of \$493.99. In 1873 E.T. Slocum was paid \$100 for a plan and staking out lots in Chipman Cemetery. This probably refers to laying out a portion of the northern section. Other projects that year were: building 20 rods of road, mowing brush, stone for covering tomb, repairing tomb, whitewashing, and painting gates. There were frequent references to other work at Chipman through the 1870s and 1880s. In 1886 the Report of the Committee on Chipman Cemetery indicated, "There are 142 lots sold in the cemetery and about 70 remaining that are available for burials. Early in the spring the committee sent to all lot owners an invitation to contribute for the care and improvement of the grounds. 61 have contributed, and the improved appearance of the grounds has well repaid the outlay." In 1887 a water system was installed and 71 lot owners contributed to the care of the cemetery.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Rocklawn Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

Section number 8 Page 4

In 1891 the newly appointed cemetery department superintendent reported that the wall in front of Chipman Cemetery had been rebuilt and that there were 40 lots that could be sold as is and 20 more that needed to be improved. An earlier receiving tomb was apparently inadequate as, "The petition of Geo. E. Stevens and others to remove the tomb to the inside of the cemetery enclosure is hardly practical, as there is no good place for a tomb partly under ground, and it is already too small. There is a good place for a receiving tomb above ground, and the stones in the present tomb can be used for foundation for a new one." In 1895 the annual report for Chipman indicated, "There has been sold since Jan 1895, 11 lots and there remain unsold 58 lots; but several of them are unfit for use because of the ledge . . . it is evident that we shall soon need an enlargement or another cemetery." Records for the 20th century indicate financial expenditures for cemeteries but contain little description. By 1934 when a plan of the cemetery was drawn by city engineer Francis Granger, it was known as Rocklawn rather than Chipman.

Rocklawn Cemetery is a good example of a small, well preserved municipal cemetery that conveys the character of the rural cemetery movement in its spatial organization, topography, vegetation, circulation system and monumentation. Burials have continued in existing lots through the 20th century, but Rocklawn is not generally considered an active cemetery.

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

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rocklawn Cemetery
Marlborough (Middlesex), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

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 Commission. *Cemetery Records*.

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

Maps

Granger, J. Francis. *Plan of Rocklawn Cemetery, Marlborough, Mass., Showing Location of Veterans Graves*. City of Marlborough, 1934.

Marlborough, Massachusetts. Assessor's Map 57.

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

(end)

Rocklawn Cemetery
Name of Property

Middlesex County, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

5 acres

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 Zone	290720 Easting	4691980 Northing	3. 19 Zone	290760 Easting	4691760 Northing
2. 19 Zone	290820 Easting	4691920 Northing	4. 19 Zone	290620 Easting	4691860 Northing

p 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 August 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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Rocklawn Cemetery
Marlborough (Middlesex), MA**Section number 10 Page 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**Verbal Boundary Description**

Rocklawn Cemetery is located on the east side of Stevens just north of Main Street near the center of Marlborough. It also incorporates a smaller burial ground formerly known as Chipman Cemetery, which is now considered part of Rocklawn Cemetery. The boundary does not include a wooded city-owned 2.93 acre parcel (map 57, parcel 369) that lies immediately to the east of the cemetery. Other than this wooded parcel and Stevens Street, the cemetery is surrounded on all sides by residential development.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses a single parcel (map 57, parcel 1368) that includes the entire 5-acre cemetery.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Date: May 2002

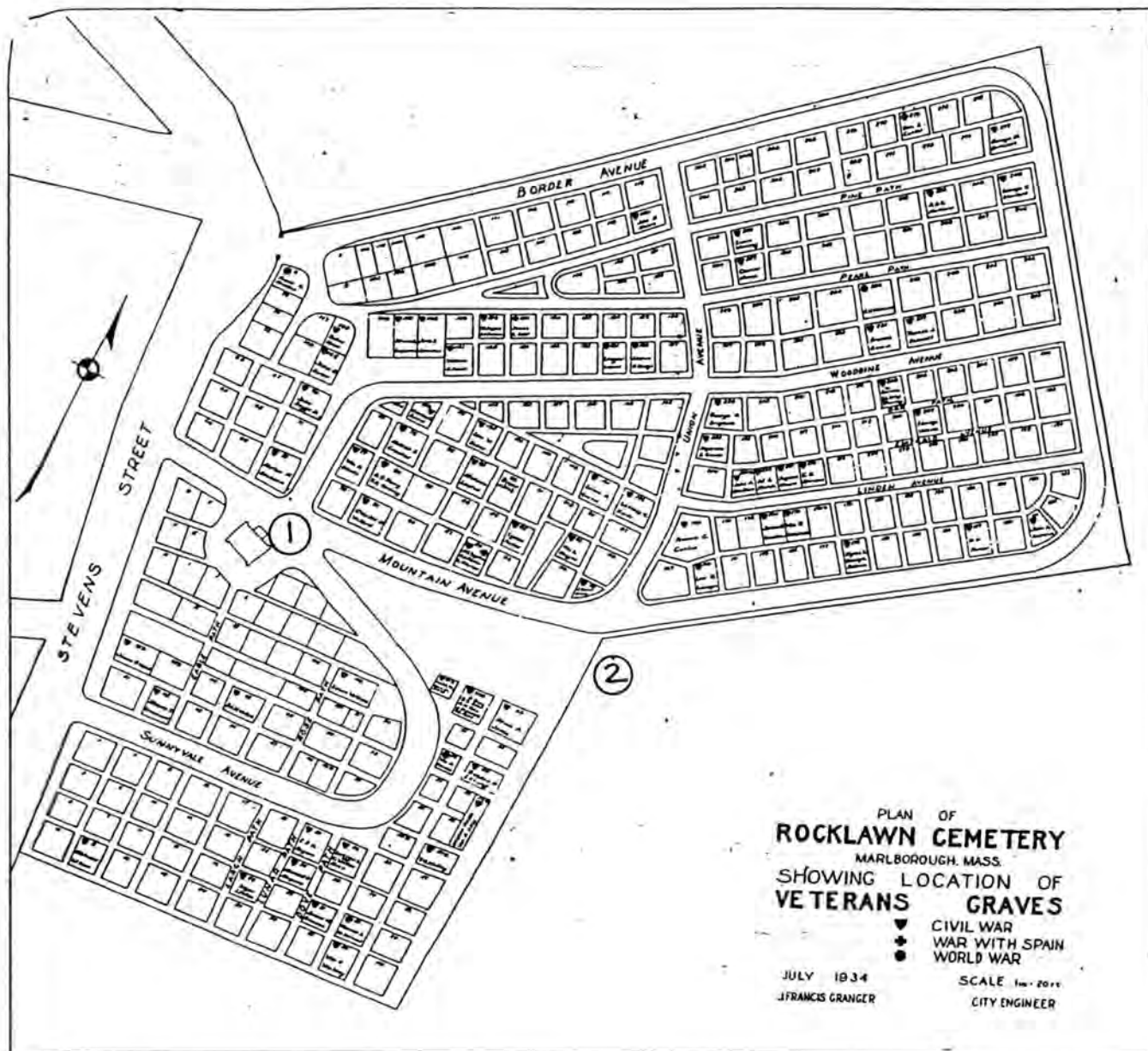
Photographer: Shary Berg

1. Receiving tomb, looking SW
2. Retaining wall in front of Chipman Cemetery, looking NE
3. View of Chipman Cemetery, looking SW from near receiving tomb
4. View of monuments in Rocklawn section, looking NE

**Rocklawn Cemetery
Marlborough (Middlesex) MA
Data Sheet
2004**

Rocklawn Cemetery		1813-	SI	C
Receiving Tomb	Brick, slate roof	1890s	ST	C
Perimeter Walls	mortared fieldstone	1891	ST	C
Entrances	granite, concrete		O (3)	C
Boyd Monument	granite	19 th century	O	C
Gleason family monument	marble	19 th century	O	C
Woods family pillar	marble, granite	19 th century	O	C
Whitley family monument	granite	19 th century	O	C
Williams/Osborne box tomb	granite	20 th century	O	C

Totals: 8 contributing objects, 2 contributing structures, 1 contributing site



1934 Map by City Engineer J. Francis Granger.

Chipman Cemetery, established in the early 19th century, is at the bottom of the map (south of Mountain Avenue). Rocklawn Cemetery, established in the 1860s, is at the top. Both sections were laid out with well-defined avenues and paths and a system of family lots. The receiving tomb is on Mountain Avenue between the two sections of the cemetery.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Rocklawn Cemetery

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/26/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/16/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/01/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/09/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04001115

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 10/6/04 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.



Rocklawn Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Photo 1 - Receiving Tom



Rocklawn Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Photo 2 - Retaining wall in front of Chipman Section



Rocklawn Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

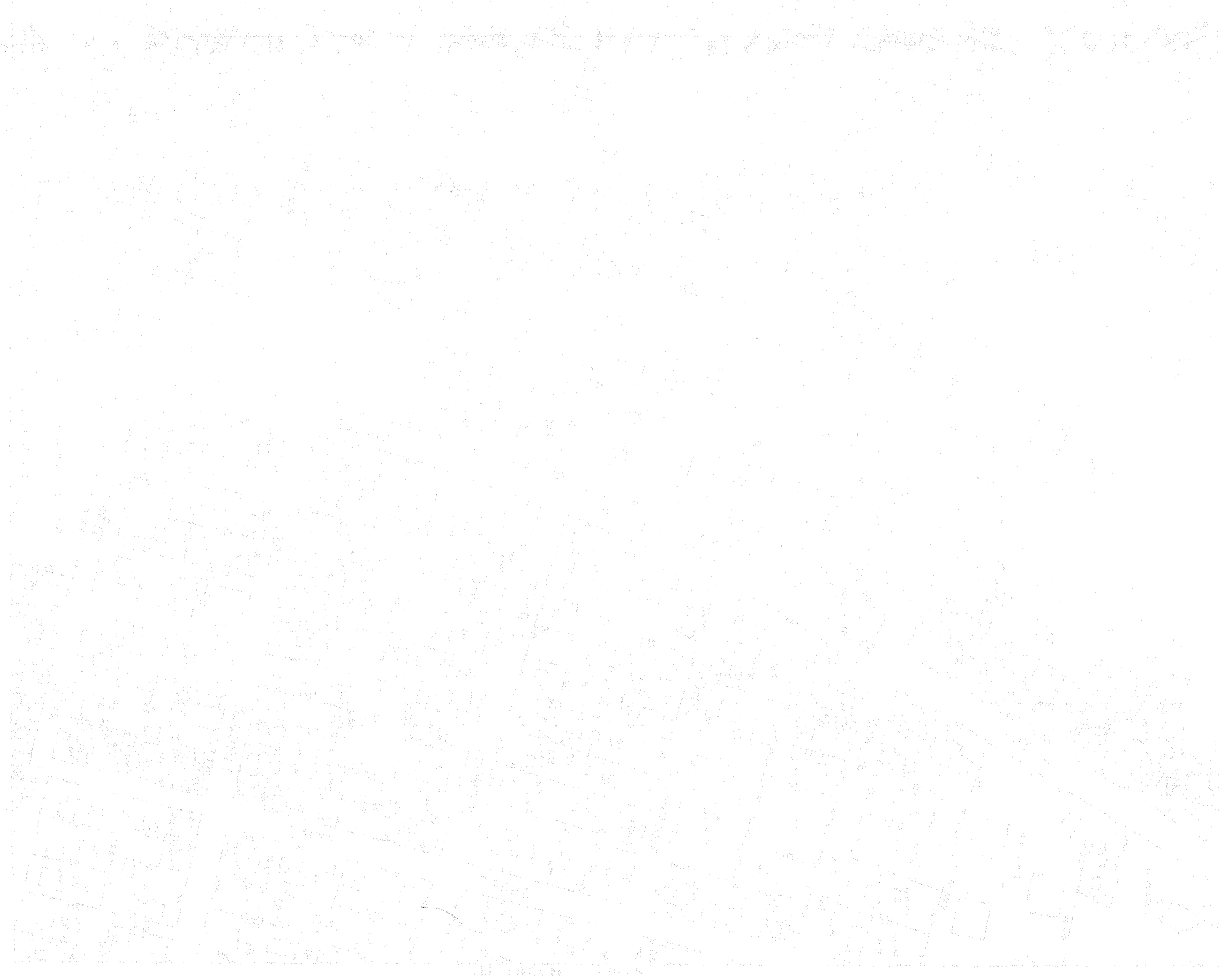
Photo 3 - View of Chipman Section



Rocklawn Cemetery, Middlesex County, Marlborough, MA

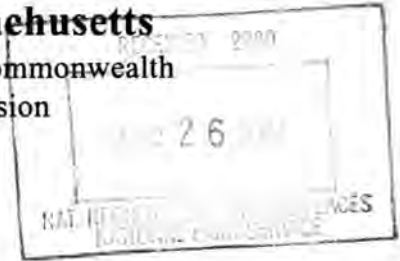
Photo 4 - Monuments in Rocklawn Section.

Rocklawn Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex Co, MA
National Register Nomination
Assessors Map 57 1 of 1
6/2002





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



August 26, 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:

Rocklawn Cemetery, Stevens Street, 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.

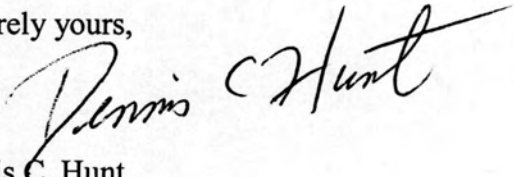
The cemeteries in Marlborough reach out to many people – those who come to trace their roots and learn about their families, the schoolchildren, the veterans and the community at large. They provide a real sense of history in Marlborough.

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, reading "Dennis C. Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "H".

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,

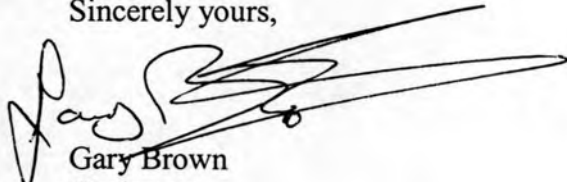
We in Marlborough are fortunate to have our historic cemeteries and burial grounds in a wonderful state of preservation. Some of the stones date from the late 1600s and early 1700s and look as if they had been carved recently.

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.

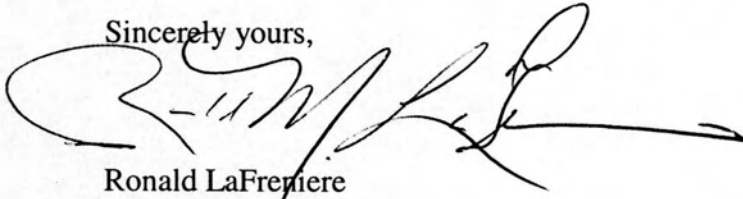
Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
May 25, 2004

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', written over a horizontal line.

Ronald LaFreniere
Commissioner