

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Massachusetts

COUNTY:
Suffolk

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
MAY 15 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Phipps Street Burying Ground

AND/OR HISTORIC:
same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Phipps Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston (Charlestown)

STATE:
Massachusetts

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
8th

CITY OR TOWN:
Suffolk

CODE:
025



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☒ Other (Specify) cemetery	☐ Comments
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Boston - Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Suffolk County Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DATE OF SURVEY:
☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Massachusetts Historical Commission (617) 717-8470

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Massachusetts**

COUNTY: **Suffolk**

ENTRY NUMBER: **MAY 15 1974**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☒ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Phipps Street Burying Ground is roughly a square-shaped plot which covers a small mound in the vicinity of Rutherford Avenue, Miller Street, and Phipps Street. Originally, the cemetery overlooked to the west, an estuary of the Charles River which led up to the former Middlesex Canal. This land has since been filled, and the land uses have been radically altered. A variety of fencing including a recent post and rail wooden fence, brick with cement posts and iron gates encloses the burying ground. Brick and gravel pathways laid out originally are irregularly placed throughout the ground and are named for prominent Charlestown families. Fortunately, the pathways have not been substantially altered and are merely overgrown or covered by silt. A few mature trees are located along the borders.

The layout of the graves here is unusual and unlike any other of the 17th century burying grounds in Boston; instead of extended rows (curved or straight), graves of one family are grouped in small rectangular plots irregularly placed over the mound. Approximately at the crest of the mound is the John Harvard Monument, the most outstanding feature of the cemetery; it is a granite obelisk placed on a small pedestal and has a commemorative plaque attached. Among the gravestones, predominantly of 17th, 18th, and early 19th century date and largely slate or local stone, are several small stone tombs.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century |
| ☐ 15th Century | ☒ 17th Century | ☐ 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1630

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☒ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) _____ |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☒ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☐ Architecture | ☒ Landscape Architecture | ☒ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☒ Military | ☐ Transportation | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Phipps Street Burying Ground lies in its early establishment in the town of Charlestown in 1630, its association with John Harvard, and the numerous examples of 17th, 18th, and early 19th century funerary sculpture--gravestones and tombs. When Charlestown was founded in 1630, the nucleus of the settlement was located at City Square, and it gradually spread over Town Hill (see separate National Register of Historic Places listing) which was laid out by Thomas Graves in 1631. It is unusual that the Burying Ground was located at such a distance from the settlement; likewise the distinctive arrangement of graves in rectangular family plots is unusual.

The earliest grave marker dates from 1642 and bears the name of Maud Russell. Several more from the next two decades still exist, although the bulk of stones, some brownstone and some red sandstone, date from the last half of the 18th century. Many headstones are known to have been carved by a local Charlestown family, the Lamsons. It is most significant that the grave markers and tombstones dating prior to April 1775 are the only pre-Revolutionary artifacts remaining in Charlestown. The holocaust started by the British immediately following the Battle of Bunker Hill destroyed all buildings leaving only the Town Hill street layout and major arterial roads (present Main Street and Chelsea Street) as evidence of the colonial town. It has been determined (although not proven) that the grave marker of Charlestown's most illustrious citizen was lost during the British occupation. To commemorate the burying place of John Harvard, whose library of 300 volumes was donated to start a college at Cambridge after his death in 1638, graduates of the college erected a granite obelisk in 1828. Inscribed on the fifteen foot shaft is "In piam et perpetuam memoriam" as well as a descriptive bronze plaque. Other notable persons buried at Phipps Street include Nathaniel Gorham, a signer of the Constitution and president of the Continental Congress, Thomas Beecher, and countless other Charlestown residents. Pathways through the cemetery bear names of the more illustrious families--Frothingham, Hurd, Harvard, Phipps, Russell.

The Phipps Street Burying Ground, like other early 17th century cemeteries, has been identified as a chronical in stone. However this chronical is not only of local history, but also illustrates three centuries of funerary art. The designs and epitaphs carved in local

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Real Property Department-Engineering Division, City of Boston, Map # K 17, 1908.
2. Ellis, George E., Bacon's Dictionary of Boston, Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1886.
3. Frothingham, Richard Jr., History of Charlestown, Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1845.
4. Hunnewell, James , A Century of Town Life, Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1888.

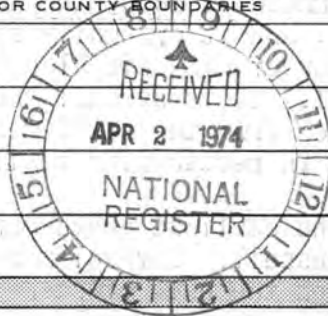
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	42	22	34.192
SE	° ' "	° ' "	71	04	05.361
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.76

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elizabeth Amadon, Survey Director by Boston Landmarks Commission

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission (617) 717-8470 DATE: February, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name: John F.X. Davoren
Honorable John F.X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Title: Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date: 3/29/74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

R. P. Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/15/74

ATTEST: *Constance*
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.8.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 15 1974

(Number all entries)

Phipps Street Burying Ground
Charlestown MA

8. Significance cont'd.

stones and slate by native craftsmen were of British origin but reflect the changing theological doctrines. Early stones are distinguished by winged death's heads, cherubs and other images which speak of the Puritan concern for salvation of the soul after a brief terrestrial life. The post-revolutionary stones tend to be more rectangular and slim in shape and have serene symbols--urns, willow boughs, lyres--of neoclassical inspiration. The artistic idioms which reflected the new nation's political relationship with the earliest democracy, Greece, carried over to funerary art, although the contemporary religions of the late 18th and early 19th century, intellectual theologies of Methodism and Unitarianism, are not neoclassical. The folk art seen in the gravestone carving is a vital and public record of New England's and, specifically, Boston's citizens and their contemporary theological and artistic attitudes.

9. Bibliography con'd.

5. Parks & Recreation Department, City of Boston, unpublished ms., n.d., authored by Carol Bratley.



PROPERTY

Phipps Street Burial Ground STATE Mass.

WORKING NUMBER

4.2.74.507

TECH REVIEW

PHOTOS

3

MAPS

2

Suffolk

74000907

CONTROL REVIEW

Carbon typed photo form

cm

44

74

HISTORIAN

I am much more reluctant about this one than the other 2 they submitted. Agree with Ward. Stones are important, but....

otherwise

OK

conference
W.R. Luce
4/8/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

I like the "occupied" status - does this qualify for inclusion in NR? Harvard seems to be only famous personage.

Conference Harvard
4/4/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Qualifies for age.

Accept
Cole
4-2-74

BRANCH CHIEF

What a disconcerting setting, but makes qualify an exception.

Accept
Houghton
4-3-74

KEEPER

W
5/8/74

National Register Write-up

5/74

Send-back

Federal Register entry

June 4, 1974

Re-submit

Entered

MAY 15 1974

NAME OF PROPERTY Phipps Street Burying Ground, Mass.

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

- ____ 1. Name. _____
- ____ 2. Location. _____
- ____ 3. Classification. _____
- ____ 4. Owner of Property. _____
- ____ 5. Location of Legal Description. _____
- ____ 6. Representation in Existing Surveys. _____
- ____ 7. Description. _____
- ____ 8. Statement of Significance. _____
- ____ 9. Bibliography. _____
- ____ 10. Geographical Data.
 - a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. _____
 - b. Acreage. _____
- ____ 11. Form Prepared By. _____
- ____ 12. Certification. _____
- ☒ Photographic Coverage. Please send an original typed photo form. Please, no carbon typed.
- ____ Map Coverage. Please use a map bearing an identified system of coordinates, preferably an original USGS, which allows us to check latitude-longitude.
- ____ Other. _____

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy the National Register criteria in full.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked. *Thanks,*

SIGNED: _____



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 5-15/74
Title: Phelps St. Burying Ground
Suffolk Co. Mass
Loc. View of Burying Ground from
SE (Miller St) looking
NW.



NPS Number

5-115-178

Title:

Phipps St. Burying Ground
Suffolk Co., Mass.

Loc.

General view of burying
ground from SW

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Here Lies Buried
the Body of Mrs
Rebecca Jenner Reibel
the wife of
Capt Thomas
Jenner who died
April 23 1732
aged 66 years 4 7 10

HARVARD

REBECCA JENNER REIBEL
WIFE OF CAPT THOMAS JENNER
DIED APRIL 23 1732
AGED 66 YEARS 4 7 10

NPS Number 5/15/74
Title: Shipp's Pt. Burying Ground
Suffolk Co, Mass.
Loc. Vicinity of Harvard
Monument

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#1

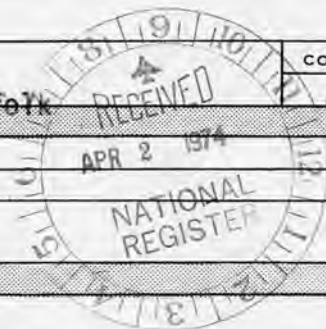
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 15 1974	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME		
COMMON: Phipps Street Burying Ground		
AND/OR HISTORIC: Same		
2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:		
STATE: Boston (Charlestown)	CODE	COUNTY:
Massachusetts	025	Suffolk
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: Boston Redevelopment Authority		
DATE OF PHOTO: 1974		
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		
Boston Redevelopment Authority		
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
View of Burying Ground from South East (miller Street) looking north west.		



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 15 1974	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

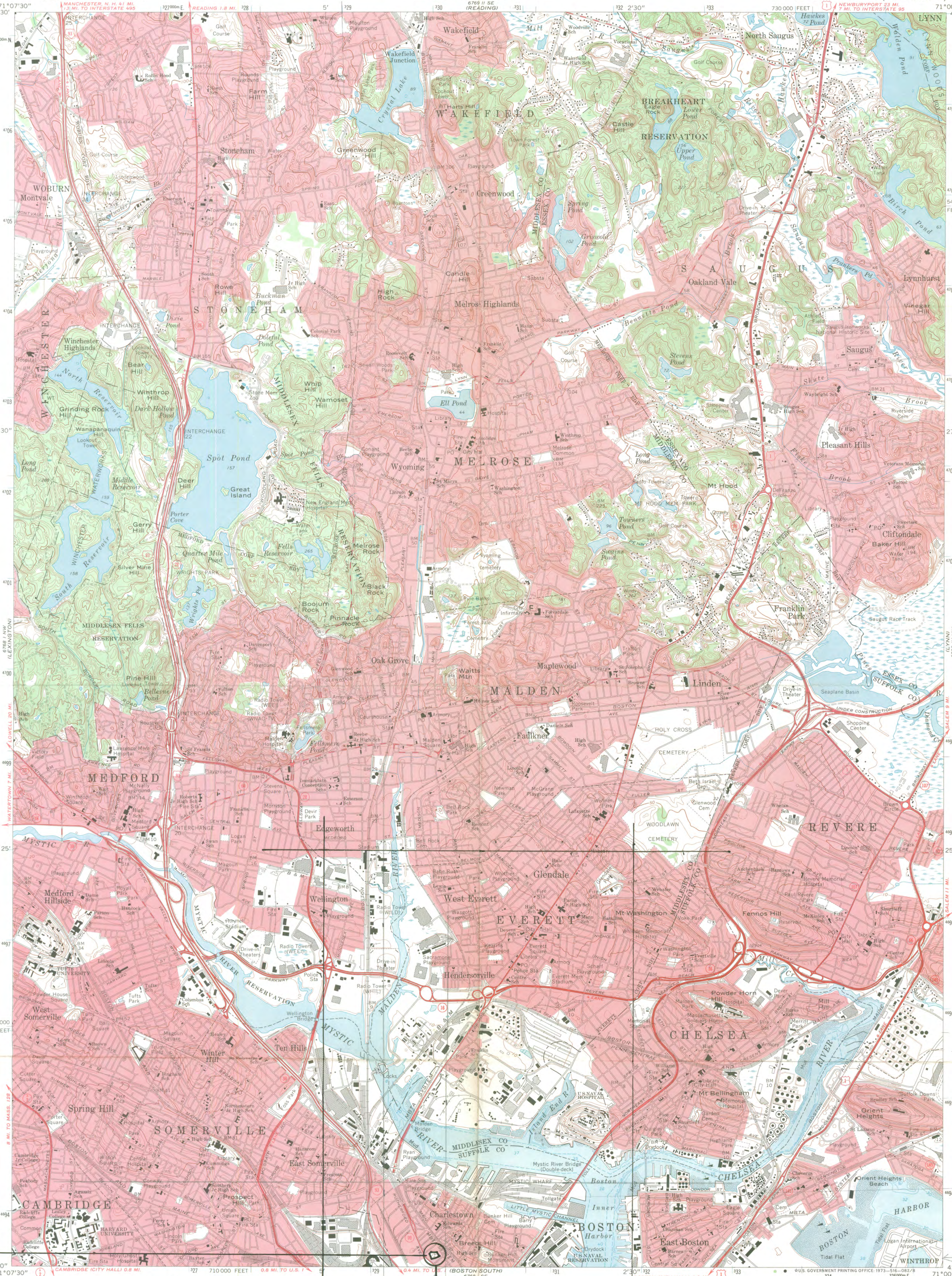
1. NAME			
COMMON: Phipps Street Burying Ground			
AND/OR HISTORIC: same			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Phipps Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston (Charlestown)			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Suffolk	CODE 025
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series Boston ^{North} South Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1" = 24,000'			
DATE: 1971			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



PHIPPS STREET BURYING
GROUND

Charlestown Mass
LAT: 42° 22' 34.192"
LONG: 71° 04' 05.361"

PHIPPS STREET BURYING
GROUND, Boston
Latitude 42° 21' 34.192"
Longitude 71° 04' 05.361"



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

MASS.
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.
N4222.5—W7100.7.5
1971
AMS 6768 1 NE—SERIES V814



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 15 1974	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Phipps Street Burying Ground			
AND/OR HISTORIC: same			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Phipps Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston (Charlestown)			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Suffolk	CODE 025
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Boston Redevelopment Authority			
SCALE: 1"=100'			
DATE: 1962			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

40 Beacon Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

March 28, 1974

National Register
National Park Service
18th and C Streets
Washington, D.C. 20240



special notice

Attention: Charles Herrington, Chief of Register

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Charles:

Enclosed are three National Register submissions for the following properties:

1. Boston, Suffolk County, King's Chapel Burying Ground
2. " " , Phipp's Street Burying Ground
3. " " , Dorchester North Burying Ground

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and have been signed by Secretary of the Commonwealth John F.X. Davoren, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated the State Liason Officer.

Please note that the properties covered by these submissions are to be included in our 1975 apportionment warrant. Therefore, we would appreciate your processing these nominations promptly. Please let us know if any other information is needed.

Sincerely,

Betty

Elizabeth Amadon
State Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

ERA/ma
enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **MAY 15 1974**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Phipps Street Burying Ground	Boston (Charlestown) Suffolk County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
**Regional Director, North Atlantic
Region**

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F.X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
**Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission**
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

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