

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



OMB No. 1024-0018

129

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Prospect Hill Cemetery (preferred)

other names/site number Bare Hill Burying Ground; Old Churchyard Cemetery

2. Location

street & number Auburn Road

☐ not for publication

city or town Millis

☐ vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Norfolk code 021 zip code 02054

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon

Jan. 4, 2005
Date

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
- ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
- ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register
- ☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

3-15-06

Prospect Hill Cemetery**Millis (Norfolk County), MA****5. Classification****Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

0	1	building
1	0	sites
9	2	structures
15	5	objects
25	8	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)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Narrative Description

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

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7. Narrative Description

Prospect Hill Cemetery was established ca. 1714 when present-day Millis was part of Medway and has remained in active use for nearly 300 years. It is the only cemetery in Millis and is intimately linked with the history of the community. The well-preserved municipal burial ground retains strong historical associations, distinctive landscape features, and monuments dating from the early 18th century to the present. It is the burial place of many of the town's notable citizens and also provides important documentation of the social history of the community. The cemetery's landscape reflects multiple periods of burial ground design and also contains a wide range of headstones and burial monuments that represent many different styles and social traditions, making it a microcosm of the history of American cemetery design and funerary art.

Millis is a suburban industrial community located about 25 miles southwest of Boston with a population of approximately 8,000. It is bordered by Medway to the west, Holliston and Sherborn to the north, and Medfield to the east. The cemetery is a few blocks west of the town center and just south of the intersection of Ridge Street and Auburn Road, which runs along its eastern side. Tracks of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad run along the south side of the cemetery. On the west, the GAF materials plant, a busy mid-20th century industrial complex, borders the cemetery. There is also a wireless transmission tower adjacent to the northwestern corner of the cemetery. Both the industrial plant and the transmission tower are fairly well-screened by vegetation and by changes in topography. The northern edge of the cemetery is wooded with a steep drop-off. To the east and northeast lie modest mid-20th century houses on wooded lots.

The 18.26-acre cemetery is in two distinct parts: the Old Cemetery laid out in the 18th and 19th centuries and the New Cemetery laid out beginning in the 1930s. Both areas are included in this nomination although much of the New Cemetery is non-contributing because it was laid out less than 50 years ago. Cemetery records indicate that there are roughly 2,850 graves represented by nearly 2,000 headstones and monuments, although this number should be considered approximate as early records are incomplete. The reason for the discrepancy between the two numbers is that some early graves are no longer marked by headstones and some graves are marked by family monuments or shared headstones.

The cemetery is characterized by steep wooded slopes, with the highest point at Prospect Hill in the Old Cemetery and the lowest point in Section F at the western edge of the New Cemetery, with a total difference in elevation of approximately 40'. Many of the steeper slopes have been terraced to provide level burial areas. Much of the cemetery, especially the perimeter, is heavily wooded with primarily native species of deciduous shade trees such as oak, maple, ash, and beech, as well as native evergreens such as white pine and hemlock. Ornamental species of trees, flowering shrubs, and small evergreens are found in smaller numbers, particularly in newer burial areas. The new areas are generally fairly open with few trees and large areas of grass while older burial areas are more heavily wooded, with mature trees and fewer ornamental plantings.

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The entrance to the cemetery is via a paved road known as Cemetery Road at its northern end and Veterans Way at its southern end. It extends south from the intersection of Ridge Street and Auburn Road between the Old Cemetery, which lies to the east, and the New Cemetery to the west. It is a well maintained roadway with irregular stone curbing along some sections. The cemetery's road system, which has evolved over time, is winding in response to the topography and includes both paved areas, at the entrance and in the Old Cemetery, and unpaved areas in the New Cemetery. The roads in the Old Cemetery are generally 8-9' wide while Cemetery Road/Veterans Way and the roads in the New Cemetery are up to 15' wide. In older sections there are few remaining paths, although some appear to have existed in the past, and those that do remain are turfed. In some cases path remnants are represented by stone steps. The only paved path is in Section E, the newly developed Hebrew section.

Throughout the cemetery there is also an extensive system of stone walls (photo 4) that were constructed at various times and represent various types of stone wall construction from rough fieldstone walls built in the 19th century to tall, skillfully built dry laid boulder retaining walls constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s. The system of fences, consisting of 8' granite posts and double wooden rails set on the diagonal, is also found in various locations throughout the cemetery, including along Auburn Road and Cemetery Road. Features associated with individual burial areas are discussed in more detail below.

At the south end of Veterans Way, just west of Section 1 is the maintenance building, a 1975 shed-roofed building approximately 24' x 24' on a concrete slab with metal and fiber glass panels and a metal roof. It is used for storing maintenance equipment.

Old Cemetery

The Old Cemetery, which is about eight acres, includes Sections 1-7 (the numbering system is a 20th century convention to keep track of burials within the cemetery). Sections are described below in the order in which they were developed rather than in numerical order. The Old Cemetery probably contains about half of the 2,850 burials at Prospect Hill.

Sections 2 and 3

Sections 2 and 3 on Prospect Hill are the oldest part of the cemetery. Burials took place here as early as 1714 and have continued on a limited basis to the present, although most occurred by late-19th century. The top of the hill is relatively level with subtle undulations of topography indicating the location of single graves in the very oldest sections and family burial lots in 19th century sections. There is a steep drop-off of roughly 20' to the west and a larger drop-off to the east where the steep slope is heavily wooded. Handsome well-built retaining walls, which were probably constructed by the WPA in the 1930s support the steep grade on both the east and west. Circulation through Sections 2 and 3 is via a narrow asphalt paved roadway in a rough U shape with the open ends towards the south. The vegetation is a mix of scattered mature deciduous and evergreen trees and lawn areas, with a small number of flowering shrubs.

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The oldest structure in the cemetery may be the meetinghouse steps. A set of 14 dry laid fieldstone steps, believed to be associated with the earliest years of the cemetery, leads from Veterans Way to the top of Prospect Hill where the original meetinghouse was located. It was built in 1714, when the East Precinct of Medway (now Millis) was established as a separate parish. The meetinghouse boulder inscribed "1714 SITE OF FIRST CHURCH MEDWAY" commemorates the site of the meetinghouse. Slightly further south along Veterans Way, built into the hillside is the mid-19th century receiving tomb (photo 1), with granite block face, metal door, and fieldstone abutments.

The spatial organization of Sections 2 and 3 is generally linear with graves arranged in rough rows oriented north/south. Headstones and monuments face both east and west. There are also some extant footstones. The oldest headstones are rough fieldstones with no legible inscriptions. The oldest documented stone in the cemetery is the David Richardson headstone (d. 1724) located in Section 2 near the flagpole. It is a slate fragment that has been embedded in a rectangular concrete upright marker. Adjacent to it are the Josiah Rockholder (?) headstone (d. 1727) and the Mrs. Abigail Hill headstone (d. 1769), both also small slates with simple inscriptions and no embellishments.

This part of the burying ground contains a collection of several hundred dark slate burial markers of various sizes reflecting diverse 18th and 19th century styles. Most of the slates have rounded tympanums on a shouldered main block and many display skilled carvings. There are a large number of winged heads, known as soul effigies, that reflect the 18th century attitude towards death, indicating the possibility of redemption.

Twenty slate headstones, including those of Elihue (d. 1796) and Lydia (d. 1795) Harding, have been attributed to stonemason Joseph Barbur Jr. of West Medway by Michael Cornish. Cornish indicates that Prospect Hill Cemetery had a total of 20 headstones carved by Barbur when the article was written in 1982 but does not list them all. Other stones that are stylistically similar and were likely carved by Barbur include: Job Harding (d. 1754, although it is likely that the stone was carved in the 1790s), Captain Amos Turner (d. 1780), Mrs. Doraty Clark (d. 1796), Elijah Clark (d. 1801), Enoch Hill (d. 1798), Hannah Daneill (d. 1792), Tainer Clark (d. 1795), Margaret Clark (d. 1798) and Joseph Curtis (d. 1791).

Many of the 19th century slates are larger and more elaborately carved, depicting classical motifs such as the willow and urn that is associated with more optimistic ideas about death, as well as architectural decorative motifs. Some of the older headstones are arranged in surprisingly neat rows, which is unusual for headstones of this age, indicating that they may have been relocated or reset at some point, possibly in association with WPA work in the 1930s.

Sections 2 and 3 also include a number of marble headstones and monuments dating from the mid to late 19th century. The marbles include a mix of styles and motifs, some of which are fairly elaborate as the soft marble was easier to carve into complex forms than slate. There is a scattering of obelisks, reflecting the classical influence of the mid 19th century. There are also two tombs in this section, both simple mound tombs with a three-tiered granite block lintel. One is inscribed "BUCKNAM & LOVELL 1795, RICHARDSON 1845" while the other says "ABIJAH RICHARDSON 1797." Sections 2 and 3 also contain some 20th century polished granite headstones and family monuments, especially at the northern edge and the perimeter.

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Sections 2 and 3 include a mix of single graves (generally in the oldest areas represented by slate headstones) and family lots (usually represented by slate or granite headstones or monuments). Many of the family lots are slightly mounded, indicating that at one time there may have been granite curbing surrounding the lot, as was typical in the latter part of the 19th century. Opposite the earliest graves, is the World War I memorial platform, a rectangular platform supported by a low retaining wall with an adjacent flagpole, that was erected to honor the veterans of World War I. It was used for Veterans Day ceremonies for many years. Along the western edge of Prospect Hill is a small section set aside specifically for infant graves. There are several dozen graves, most dating to the 20th century, which are marked by tiny headstones or metal markers, many adorned by flowers or other small mementos.

Section 1

Section 1 is located immediately south of Section 3. The western edge of this section is formed by a low stone block retaining wall about 3' tall that is more finished than other walls in the cemetery. The southern and eastern edges are wooded. Section 1 was reportedly laid out about 1816, although the monuments date from the mid to late 19th century. This area represents a distinctly different style of burial ground than Sections 2 and 3, with a sunken circular four-tiered bowl (photo 3) with monuments arranged around it. It is the largest of the three bowls located in the cemetery and the earliest. Burial markers are generally typical of those found in the mid to late 19th century and include a mix of upright slate headstones, marble headstones and family monuments, including five marble obelisks. The Adams and Bickford monuments dating to the 1890s are of zinc, which was relatively rare in New England.

Also in Section 1, but outside the bowl is the Holbrook monument, erected in 1830 to honor George H. Holbrook, founder, musician and distinguished engineer in the Massachusetts militia, as well as members of his family. It is located on the eastern edge of the section overlooking the bowl. The marble obelisk on granite base and marble pedestal rises 12'. It is surrounded by nine small marble markers bearing the initials of individual family members.

At the southwestern corner of Section 1 is the Bucknam memorial commemorating Reverend Nathan Bucknam. It is a large boulder with a small rectangular marble plaque cut into its face. The plaque reads (commas added): "REVEREND NATHAN BUCKNAM, 1703-1795, MINISTER, FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, MEDWAY, 1724-1795, SOLDIER, FRENCH, INDIAN REVOLUTIONARY WARS, MAN OF GOD, CITIZEN, PATRIOT."

Sections 4 and 5

Sections 4 and 5, which were laid out after 1855, extend along the northeastern slope of Prospect Hill. The steep terraced topography with a canopy of mature trees and varied monuments give this area the particularly picturesque quality associated with the 19th century rural cemetery movement.

The focal point of Section 4 is a horseshoe-shaped bowl cut into the hillside just north of Section 3. It is smaller and less symmetrical than the bowl in Section 1 and more dramatic because of its sloping setting. Monuments in the bowl include

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three marble obelisks, one marble pillar topped by a small urn and several marble headstones. Below the bowl, a series of terraced family lots extend along the heavily wooded hillside. There is a narrow paved road running along the eastern edge of Prospect Hill. The high boulder retaining wall running along the hillside between Sections 2 and 4 is noteworthy for its excellent construction, which probably dates to the WPA work of the 1930s.

Section 5 (photo 2) is a promontory located north of Section 3 known as Emerson's Hill in honor of Charles Wesley Emerson (d. 1908), founder of Emerson College. His grave is marked by a rectangular granite column with "Emerson" carved in relief on the base and an anthemion resting atop its capital. Another prominent monument in this area is the Foster monument, a large prominently sited obelisk topped by an urn.

Sections 6 and 7

Sections 6 and 7 located at the northern end of the Old Cemetery date to the late 19th and early 20th century. Like other parts of the Old Cemetery, they are in the rural cemetery style with terraced topography, curvilinear roads, scattered mature trees, and varied burial monuments providing a picturesque character. These two sections include frontage along Auburn Road which is marked by the granite post and rail fence described above, which continues into the cemetery along Cemetery Road. There is a secondary exit off Auburn Road which is marked by two urns on taller posts and lined with trees on either side. Section 6 also includes the Richardson tomb with granite face and three marble panels as well as the adjacent William Adams monument, a carved marble pillar commemorating the death of a Civil War soldier killed in battle. Also noteworthy in Section 6 is the Thompson memorial with a sculpture of a weeping female figure.

New Cemetery

Until the 1930s, Prospect Hill Cemetery consisted of only the eight acres that comprise the Old Cemetery, while the area to the west remained farmland. Land for the New Cemetery was donated to the town of Millis for cemetery purposes in 1932 by Geneive and Evan Richardson. The Richardson land grant marker which stands in a central location in the New Cemetery is a large boulder with the following incised inscription: "IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF GENEIVE AND EVAN RICHARDSON WHO GAVE THIS LAND TO THE TOWN OF MILLIS, 1932." The New Cemetery includes about eleven acres which have been divided into Sections A through F with some forested areas around the perimeter. Only the road system, the stone walls and Section A are considered contributing resources to this nomination as other burial areas have been laid out within the past 50 years.

The topography of the New Cemetery is varied, with terracing in some areas to facilitate burial use. Developed areas of the New Cemetery are generally less heavily forested and contain more ornamental plantings than the Old Cemetery. Monumentation, which dates from the mid-20th century to the present, is more uniform in size and design, and is almost entirely polished granite. A unique feature of the New Cemetery is the stone and concrete entry gate in the form of an Italian pergola located along Veterans Way near the entry to the New Cemetery. It was reportedly made by a cemetery employee to serve as an entrance into the new section.

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Section A (Veterans Section)

Section A is located in the northeastern part of the New Cemetery immediately west of Cemetery Road. Begun in the 1940s, it was the first part of the New Cemetery to be laid out and was specifically intended to provide a burial place for veterans. The front (south) portion of Section A consists of several rows of graves marked by low polished granite headstones or flush bronze markers. There is a low fieldstone retaining wall with central steps leading to a rear (north) section that includes more graves, marked by either slate or metal markers, as well as a flagpole and urn. There is a backdrop of deciduous trees at the northern end of Section A. Burials range from the 1940s to the present and include veterans of many wars, as well as some family members.

Section B

Section B in the north central portion of the New Cemetery was begun in the 1950s. About half of it is laid out in rows with polished granite headstones, while the rest remains wooded. Section B is noteworthy for its relatively high elevation within the cemetery and its largely wooded character, with a predominance of mature white pines. A distinctive feature is the handsome stone retaining wall located along the drive between Sections B and E. It is a skillfully built dry laid boulder wall roughly 4-5' tall that is in excellent condition that probably dates to the WPA work of the 1930s. Burial markers found in this section are largely polished granite and are typical of late 20th century ones found elsewhere in the cemetery. The most noteworthy grave in Section B is that of Christian Herter (d. 1966), governor of Massachusetts and U.S. Secretary of State. The Herter gravesite is located in a remote area at the western end of Section B, with access via a series of rustic stone steps that lead to a heavily wooded area with remnant ornamental shrubs. The Herter headstone is a simple light gray slate marker that is a surprisingly humble monument for such a prominent person, but the grave and its setting convey a strong sense of dignity and simplicity.

Section D

Section D, which was laid out in the 1960s, is a low hill in the central portion of the New Cemetery rising about 15' above the surrounding roads. It is higher than Section C to the east and Section F to the west and is roughly oval with burial lots laid out concentrically. There is a flagpole at the center and scattered trees including white pine and oaks, as well as small evergreens associated with lot plantings. Headstones are primarily of polished granite and reflect an ethnically diverse population with English, Scottish, Irish, Italian, Portuguese and Russian names. Many World War II veterans and a few veterans of the Korean War are buried in this section, with graves marked by flush bronze markers. There is also a small area adjacent to Section D set aside for infant burials.

Section E (Niles Rosenfeld Hebrew Section)

This section, located in the north central portion of the New Cemetery, was established in 1969 to provide consecrated

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space for Millis residents of Jewish descent. It was named in honor of Niles Rosenfeld (1953-1969). The eastern portion of Section E is laid out with late 20th century graves, most marked with polished granite headstones with inscriptions in English and Hebrew (photo 6). Six-pointed Stars of David and menorahs are used as motifs on many of the monuments. The western half of Section E is still undeveloped, with a backdrop of white pines to the north and west. There is a granite sign at the southeast corner of the section and a concrete path leading towards a flagpole. Many of the monuments in this section have small pebbles on top of them, reflecting the Jewish tradition of visitors leaving a memento of their visit.

Section C

Section C, which lies between Veterans Way and Section D, is visible from both the old and new sections. It is a low gently sloping bowl (photo 5) that is more open than other sections of the cemetery and lower, functioning as a focal point of the entire cemetery. It is also one of the most recent sections, begun in the 1980s with headstones found on less than half of the area. There are scattered mature evergreens along the northern and western edges of Section C, a weeping willow in the central portion, several ornamental trees, and evergreens on either side of many of the monuments.

Section F

Section F, which runs along the entire western boundary of the cemetery, is a long narrow section that has been used for burial only since the late 1990s. There is a dirt roadway running along the eastern edge of the section and a wooded backdrop to the west. Sound from the adjacent industrial site intrudes at times. Section F contains roughly 100 graves, laid out in rows, and is currently the most active burial area in the cemetery. Headstones are primarily granite but are surprisingly diverse and personal. As the burials are so recent, many display mementos have been left by friends and family members. While these are ephemeral, they illustrate the importance of the cemetery as a place of commemoration and solace for the living as well as a burial place for the dead.

Prospect Hill Cemetery is managed by the Cemetery Review Committee with maintenance staffing provided by the Millis Department of Public Works. It is generally well-maintained despite limited funding. The Old Cemetery was included in the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management's (now Department of Conservation and Recreation) 2002 Historic Cemeteries Initiative, which provided technical assistance and a conceptual master plan. Key issues identified at that time were need of funds and skilled expertise in historic gravestone conservation, as well as other long term maintenance such as repair of stone walls and care of trees.

The burial markers in the Old Cemetery display a wide range of carving styles and techniques but have not been studied in detail. While 20 have been attributed to Joseph Barbur Jr., it is likely that with further study additional stone carvers could be identified. A stone by stone inventory of the Old Cemetery should be made to document the funerary art and inscriptions.

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Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known in the cemetery, sites may be present. One site is recorded in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the area represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The cemetery includes several areas where excessively drained soils formed in glacial outwash are found on level to moderately sloping terraces and hilltop areas in close proximity to wetlands. Several tributary streams, including Bogastow Brook, and swamplands that drain to the Charles River are located within 1,000 feet of the cemetery in every compass direction. Given the presence of steep slopes and excavation of more than 2,850 graves in the 18.26-acre cemetery, a low to moderate potential exists for locating significant ancient Native American resources.

A high potential exists to locate historic archaeological resources within the cemetery. Structural evidence may survive from the 1714 meetinghouse or the First Church of Medway. A boulder and dry-laid fieldstone steps mark the meetinghouse site on the top of Prospect Hill. Structural evidence may also exist from renovations made to a 1715 tomb built in the cemetery. The tomb was filled in 1815 and human remains relocated to an iron box buried in the center of the cemetery. The tomb was later repaired and reused. Stratigraphic evidence of landscape changes may also exist from extensive terracing excavated to create burial areas. Unmarked graves may represent the most common archaeological resource in the cemetery. Over 2,850 burials are reported, however; only 2,000 headstones and monuments can be identified. It has also been reported that early graves were not always marked. Marked and unmarked graves may contain stratigraphic evidence of a burial shaft, a casket, human remains, personal items of the deceased, and memorial offerings.

(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 represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☒ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ART

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1714 to 1956

Significant Dates

1714

1855

1932

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation**Architect/Builder**

Joseph Barbur, Jr. (stone carver)

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Millis Public Library

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8. Statement of Significance

Overview

Prospect Hill Cemetery qualifies for listing in 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 ca. 1714, when the meetinghouse was erected and the burial ground established, to 1956. The end date for the period of significance 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. 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 Millis (formerly East Medway). It is the only burial ground in Millis and has served the community for nearly 300 years. It contains the graves of 73 Revolutionary War veterans as well as veterans of many later wars. The cemetery also documents the social history of the community, which became more ethnically diverse in the late 19th century as immigrants came to Millis to work in the mills.

The property meets Criterion C as a well-preserved municipal cemetery that reflects the evolving design of burial grounds and funerary monuments in New England during this period. Prospect Hill Cemetery's earliest monuments reflect the colonial era with their simple slate headstones. By mid-19th century burial monuments reflect more sentimentality in their expression of natural and classical forms, choice of marble as a primary material, flowery epitaphs, and family lots. Twentieth century burials with their more uniform granite monuments reflect changing technology and the more impersonal times associated with the machine age.

The cemetery meets Criteria Exception D because it contains graves of persons of importance to the settlement and development of Millis, as well as its age and the skilled carving of many of the gravestones representing several hundred years of New England funerary art. It includes the graves of approximately 2,850 residents of Millis dating from circa 1714 to the present and contains information that is not readily available elsewhere.

Physical Evolution

The area known today as Millis was initially part of the Old Grant (1649) to Medfield from Dedham. It became part of the town of Medway in 1713, with a population of about 30 families. In 1714, shortly after Medway was established, the first meetinghouse was built on Bare Hill (now Prospect Hill) in the eastern part of the community, with an adjacent burial ground. A set of stone steps leading up the west side of the hill is generally referred to as the meetinghouse steps, although it is not certain that these are the original steps. The site of the meetinghouse is marked by a commemorative boulder.

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The land may have been used as a burying ground by the Town of Medfield as early as 1700, but little is known about burials before 1714 in part because the early graves were either not marked or the markers have not survived. According to Medway historian E. O. Jameson, the first confirmed burials date to 1714 when Captain George Fairbanks (first settler), Zackari Partridge, and John Richardson were laid to rest. The exact location of their graves is unknown. The oldest legible headstone is that of David Richardson (d. 1724). The earliest burials were in Sections 2 and 3 on Prospect Hill which retains the character of a colonial burial ground. The next area to be developed was the dell immediately to the south (Section 1), which was reportedly laid out in 1816 by Captain Sylvanus Adams (1769-1838) and others, some of whom who received burial lots in exchange for their labor. The circular geometric four-tiered bowl would have been very unusual for that period, when most burial grounds were still rough and unembellished.

The creation of Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge and Watertown in 1831 established a precedent for a new type of burial place, known as a rural cemetery, that was consciously laid out to provide a pleasant and serene resting place for the dead and offer solace to the living. This was in reaction to the earlier burial grounds that were often bleak and unattractive with no assurance that they would provide a permanent resting place. In 1855 a group of citizens established the East Medway Cemetery Association to hold land to the north of Prospect Hill (Sections 4 through 7) which was donated in part by Henry Richardson. At that time additional lots and paths were laid out and shade trees were planted.

In 1885 East and West Medway separated, with the West Precinct becoming the town of Medway and the East Precinct becoming the town of Millis, sparking a minor economic boom that brought more foreign residents to the town to work in the mills. Irish were initially the largest foreign born group, followed by Russians after 1915. In 1890 the cemetery was surveyed and was brought under the jurisdiction of the cemetery commissioners rather than the Cemetery Association, apparently because there was a perceived need to regulate who could be buried in the cemetery and charge a fee for the privilege. In 1905, a cemetery department was established and the cemetery commissioners assumed more of an advisory role. That same year the Millis Committee on Markers located the graves of 73 Revolutionary War soldiers as well as soldiers from later wars and obtained bronze markers and name plates from the federal government to mark the veterans graves.

In 1932 the cemetery reached its present size when Evan and Genieve Richardson donated 11½ acres of former farmland west of the Old Cemetery to the town, establishing what became known the New Cemetery. Evan Richardson (1867-1951), a respected Millis public official, served as treasurer of the town for 30 years and also as a member of the school board. He was a representative in the Massachusetts General Court in 1904 and a Norfolk County Commissioner for 22 years (1907-1928).

Many of the carefully crafted dry laid boulder retaining walls found throughout the cemetery (old and new parts), particularly in steeper sections, were built by the WPA during the 1930s, although burial areas in the New Cemetery were not laid out until later. Most of the walls remain in excellent condition. In 1935 Millis held its 50th anniversary celebration at the cemetery, an event attended by over 2,500 people. The cemetery suffered a major setback with the 1938 hurricane, which damaged many trees and burial monuments. In 1955 Ridge Road, which had previously extended

(continued)

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Continuation Sheet

**Prospect Hill Cemetery
Millis (Norfolk Co.), Massachusetts**

Section number 8

Page 3

south through the cemetery, was discontinued, uniting the two sections of the cemetery. The northern portion is now called Cemetery Road and the southern portion Veterans Way.

In 1936, the first Catholic Church was established in Millis and the first Catholic burial in Prospect Hill Cemetery occurred in 1939. Prior to 1939, most Catholics had been buried in Saint Mary's Cemetery in Holliston or St. Joseph's Cemetery in Medway. Catholics have been buried throughout Prospect Hill Cemetery since that time. In 1969, Section E was consecrated to serve the Jewish community. It is known as the Niles Rosenfeld Hebrew section.

Burial Monuments and Cemetery Design

The cemetery contains a diverse collection of slate headstones ranging from small crudely carved early stones to later examples displaying a variety of motifs. Some of the earliest stones retain footstones. Almost all of the slates are in the Old Cemetery, primarily Sections 2 and 3. There are a large number of well preserved 18th century slate headstones with winged heads which indicate a range of skilled carvers. Twenty stones, including those of Elihue and Lydia Harding, have been attributed to Joseph Barbur Jr. (1731-1812). A stonecutter from West Medway, who also served in the Revolutionary War, Barbur is known for a very personalized style that included fronds and other abstract vegetative forms. Later slate headstones display the willow and urn motif associated with the mid-19th century when ideas of death were shifting towards the more romantic notions of the rural cemetery movement. This period emphasized natural and classical motifs.

There are three tombs, two located in Section 3 and one in Section 6. The first was erected in 1795 by the Reverend Nathan Bucknam and Captain Joseph Lovell, a Revolutionary War veteran (1741-1827). The second tomb, which is very similar to the first, was built in 1797 by Captain Nathan Jones and Abijah Richardson (1752-1822) a prominent physician who served as a surgeon on George Washington's staff during the Revolutionary War. The third tomb, located in Section 6 and also associated with the Richardson family, is built into the steep hillside. It has a granite face with three inscribed marble panels commemorating family members who were buried there. There is also a mid-19th century receiving tomb along Veterans Way where bodies were stored temporarily during the winter months until they could be buried.

Marble headstones are also numerous at Prospect Hill, especially Sections 2 and 3. Most are fairly simple, and many are now eroded but some show evidence of intricate carving and the sentimental motifs that were characteristic of the Victorian era. There are also marble obelisks and pillars that punctuate the landscape in older sections of the cemetery. The William Adams (1840-1862) monument next to the Richardson tomb in Section 6 powerfully evokes the impact of the Civil War on Millis. It consists of a short marble pillar on a granite base with the symbol of a broken column carved into the side of the pillar, denoting life cut short at a young age. Adams was wounded in the battle of Cedar Mountain Georgia and died about a month later in Washington, DC. His epitaph reads, "He made his country's cause his own." The Thompson monument in Section 6 includes a bench and a carved life size figure of a weeping woman with a cross and an adjacent bench that is integral to the sculpture and the inscription, "Youth – gladness, whom God loves best he taketh soonest."

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**Prospect Hill Cemetery
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For the past 100 years, almost all burial markers are of polished granite which is more durable but not as easy to carve into elaborate motifs. Newer sections have regulations limiting the size and type of headstones.

Notable People

As the only burial ground in Millis for nearly three centuries, Prospect Hill Cemetery contains approximately 2,850 graves representing all aspects of the community's history. One of the early luminaries of the community was the Reverend Nathan Bucknam (1703-1795) who was minister of the East Precinct of Medway (now Millis) from 1724 until his death in 1795, a period of 71 years. Bucknam is commemorated by a large boulder in Section 1 but is buried in the Bucknam/Lovell/Richardson Tomb in Section 3.

Another prominent family were the Holbrooks who were significant in the history of Millis for manufacturing bells, clocks, and organs and who are commemorated by the Holbrook monument in Section 1. The patriarch was Major George Holbrook (1767-1846) who served as an apprentice to Paul Revere and founded the Holbrook Bell Foundry, casting his first bell in 1813 for the East Medway (now Millis) meetinghouse. His son, Col. George Handel Holbrook (1798-1875) took over the bell foundry in 1820. Col. Holbrook also manufactured pipe organs at the corner of present day Main Street and Auburn Road. He was succeeded in the business by his son Edwin L. Holbrook. The Holbrook family monument, a large marble obelisk, is located in Section 1.

Michael Henry Collins, Esq. (1822-1891) is another Millis notable buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery. Born in England, Collins was known for a variety of inventions including the process for manufacturing granulated sugar, designing a quartz-cutting machine for the mining industry, and a musical instrument similar to the violin called the echolin. His most notable contribution was a lamp burner that revolutionized kerosene illumination. Patented in 1865, his "sun burner" allowed good illumination without overheating the glass chimney of the kerosene lamp. His grave is located in Section 1.

Another important person buried at Prospect Hill Cemetery was Millis resident Charles Wesley Emerson (1837-1908) an author, minister and orator who was the founder and first president of Emerson College in Boston and served as president of the college from 1880 to 1903. Before establishing the college, Emerson was a minister, preaching in both Congregational and Unitarian churches. His imposing monument is located on Emerson Hill in Section 5.

Christian Herter (1895-1966), a distinguished public official, is also buried at Prospect Hill. A Massachusetts state representative and Speaker of the House (1931-1943), he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and would later serve a term as Massachusetts governor (1953-1957). At the request of President Eisenhower, he moved to Washington to become U.S. Under Secretary of State, and succeeded John Foster Dulles as full secretary during the last two years of the Eisenhower administration. His political reputation as an internationalist contrasted with his strong ties to his home town.

(continued)

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**Prospect Hill Cemetery
Millis (Norfolk Co.), Massachusetts**

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Page 5

Veterans

Records compiled in 1905 indicate that 73 Millis residents served in the Revolutionary War. The names on the list are a record of the early families in town including Adams, Daniels, Fairbanks, Hill, Lovell, and Richardson. Other veterans buried in the cemetery include two from the War of 1812, one from the Mexican War, 40 from the Civil War, four from the Spanish American War, 28 from World War I, and approximately 270 from World War II. Two of the men, Capt. Jeremiah Daniels (1754-1830) and Silas Fairbanks (1753-1823), fought in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Men killed in action include W. Daniels (Sec. 5) who fought in the Civil War, and J. Tamuleviz (Sec. 6), V. Yarish (Sec. 7), and H. Hall (Sec. 3) all of whom were killed in World War II. Two Congressional Medal of Honor recipients are buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery, William Davenport Newland (1841-1914) and Charles Church Roberts (1882-1957).

Millis clearly places great value on the role that its veterans have played in serving their community and the nation. The names of the community's veterans were carefully researched in 1905. The World War I Veterans Platform in Section 2 was the site of the annual Memorial Day celebration for many years until it was moved to a larger area. A special veterans section was set aside in the 1940s, the first portion of the New Cemetery to be laid out. Many veterans graves are marked by bronze military plaques (although some have been stolen over the years) and all veterans graves are marked by American flags. The graves of many Millis veterans are marked by military issue flush bronze markers that include brief descriptions of their military service. Millis also honors its police officers and firefighters with special flags at each of their graves.

Conclusion

The burial ground, along with the first meetinghouse, was one of the first improvements to be made when East Medway was established in 1714. It records the mundane details of births, deaths, marriages and public service as well as the stories of lives cut short by disease, war or childbirth, as well as those extended that into old age. In a town that has seen many changes, the cemetery represents a remarkable continuity of use. Prospect Hill Cemetery is a well-preserved civic institution that has been valued by the community for centuries. It retains a powerful association with the history of the community and continues to reflect a strong sense of civic pride.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Millis are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in this area may contribute important information relating to Native settlement and subsistence activities and patterns in the Charles River drainage, especially the least documented interior portion of that drainage. Native American sites along tributary streams of the Charles River may include smaller sites related on a functional and/or seasonal basis with larger sites and core areas along the main drainage of the Charles River. Ancient sites in this area may represent a specialized adaptation to specific resources and environmental characteristics located in the general area.

(continued)

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Continuation Sheet

**Prospect Hill Cemetery
Millis (Norfolk Co.), Massachusetts**

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Page 6

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information relating to the boundaries, growth, and internal configuration of the Prospect Hill Cemetery, the location of one of Millis's or Medway's earliest institutional structures, and the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the town's population over three centuries. Archaeological survey and testing can be used to locate all burials within and around the limits of the cemetery. Detailed analysis of the contents from these graves may contribute important information that documents whether Medfield used the cemetery between 1700 and 1714 during a period when little documentation exists. Careful mapping of marked and unmarked graves may also help reconstruct burial patterns for the town's diverse social, ethnic, and religious groupings and during different periods of cemetery growth. Osteological studies can contribute information relating to the health and pathologies that affected various social and economic groupings in the Millis settlement and how these patterns changed through time. This information combined with associated artifacts and gravestone carvings can contribute additional social, cultural, and economic information about the town's population.

Additional historic research combined with archaeological survey and testing may also locate structural evidence and the exact site of the 1714 meetinghouse. Archaeological investigations at the stone steps leading up the west side of Bare Hill (now Prospect Hill) can help document whether these are the original steps and lead to the meetinghouse. Artifacts and structural evidence may contribute important archaeological details relating to the meetinghouse structure and its contents.

Archaeological research can also help document architectural details of the 1715 tomb and the extent its structure was repaired and reused after it was filled and abandoned in 1815.

(end)

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

**Prospect Hill Cemetery
Millis (Norfolk Co.), Massachusetts**

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

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(end)

Prospect Hill Cemetery**Millis (Norfolk County), MA**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18.26 acres**UTM References** See continuation sheet. (Medfield Quad Map)

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 304440 4670900
Zone Easting Northing2. 19 304580 4670660
Zone Easting Northing3. 19 304440 4670660
Zone Easting Northing4. 19 304200 4670700
Zone Easting Northing☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary includes the entire 18.26 acres included in Millis assessors map, sheet 23, parcel 26 (copy attached).

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the original burying ground set off in 1714 and additional land acquired in 1855 and 1932, which expanded the cemetery to its present size.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shary Page Berg, preservation consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, MHC NR Directororganization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 2006street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone (617) 727-8470city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125-3314

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Town of Millisstreet & number 900 Main Street telephone 508-376-7040city or town Millis state MA zip code 02054

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

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Continuation Sheet

**Prospect Hill Cemetery
Millis (Norfolk Co.) Massachusetts**

Section number Photo Page 1

Photographs

<i>Photo #</i>	<i>Location/Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Photo by</i>
1	Receiving tomb with Section 3 in the background, view from Veterans Way looking northeast (Old Cemetery)	7/2005	Shary Page Berg
2	Terraced hillside and monuments in Section 5, view looking southwest (Old Cemetery)	7/2005	Shary Page Berg
3	View of bowl in Section 1 looking south from Section 3 (Old Cemetery)	7/2005	Shary Page Berg
4	WPA stone walls between Sections B and E, view looking northwest (New Cemetery)	7/2005	Shary Page Berg
5	View of Section C looking northwest from near Veterans Way. Section D is at far upper left. (New Cemetery)	7/2005	Shary Page Berg
6	View of Section E (Niles Rosenfeld Section) looking west with WPA stone wall in foreground	7/2005	Shary Page Berg

(end)

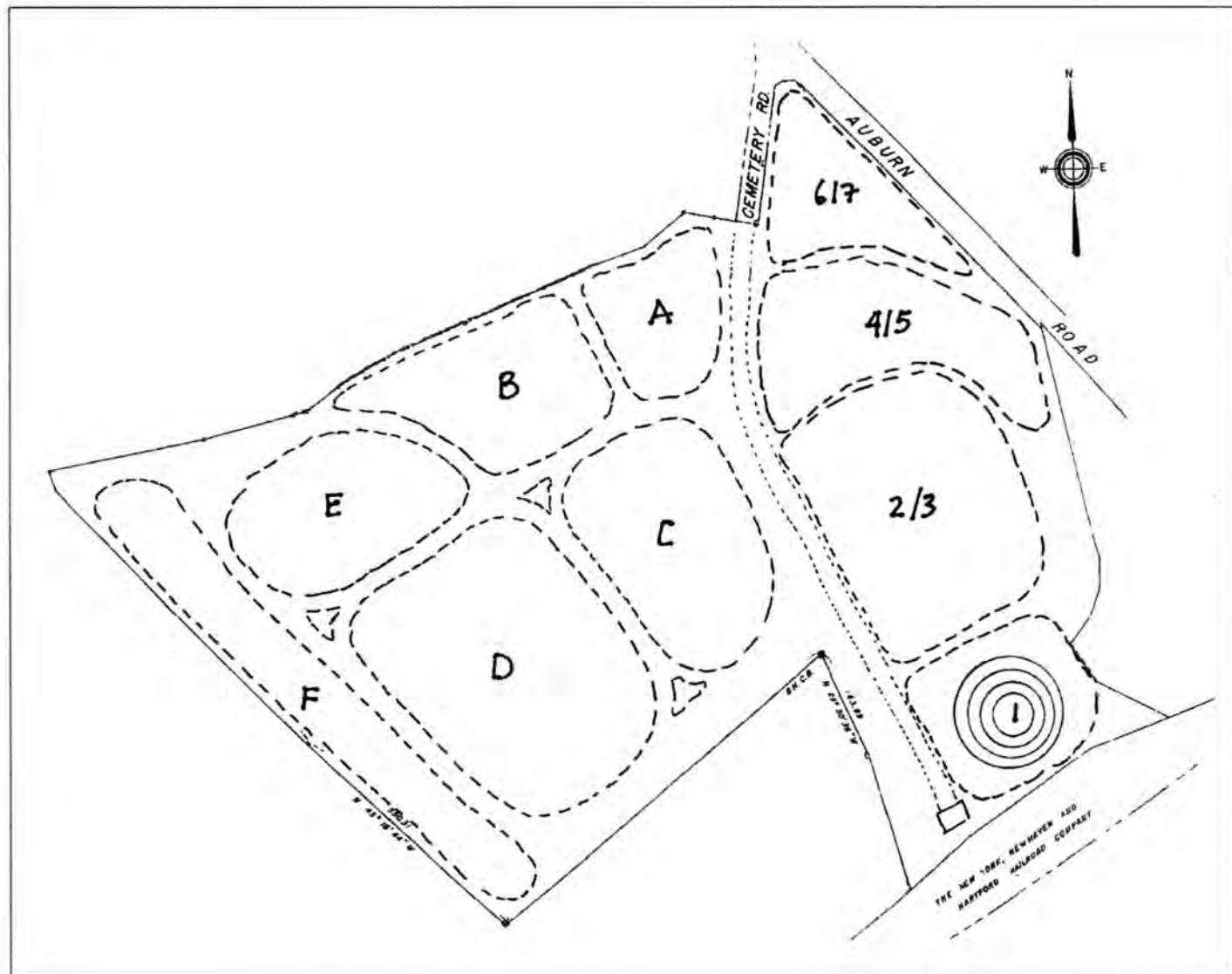
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Prospect Hill Cemetery
Millis (Norfolk Co.) Massachusetts

Section number Photo Page 2



PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY SHOWING CEMETERY SECTIONS

Numbered sections to the right comprise the old cemetery.

Lettered sections to the left comprise the new cemetery.

PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY
Millis (Norfolk County), Massachusetts

DATA SHEET 8/15/05

<i>Photo #</i>	<i>Historic Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Status</i>
Features Found in Old and New Cemetery							
	Prospect Hill Cemetery	Cemetery	NA	Circa 1714	N/A	Si	C
Photo 1	Fencing	Post and rail	Granite & wood	20 th century	Various	N/A	C
Photo 4	Road System	Cemetery roads	NA	18 th , 19 th , 20 th century	Various	N/A	C
Photo 4	Stone Wall System	Various types	Stone	19 th , 20 th century	Various	N/A	C
	Flagpoles (4)		Aluminum	Late 20 th century	Various	O	NC
	Maintenance Building	Shed Roof	Prefab Metal	1975	Adjacent to Section 1	B	NC
Old Cemetery							
Photo 3	Bowl	Circular	Earthen	1815	Section 1	N/A	C
	Holbrook Family Monument	Obelisk	Granite & Marble	1830	Section 1	O	C
	Bucknam Memorial Marker	Boulder	Stone	Circa 1800	Section 1	O	C
	Adams Monument	Monument	Zinc	1890s	Section 1	O	C
	Bickford Monument	Monument	Zinc	1890s	Section 1	O	C
	David Richardson Headstone	Headstone	Slate	1724	Section 2	O	C
	Josiah Rockholder (?) Headstone	Headstone	Slate	1729	Section 2	O	C
	Mrs Abigail Hill Headstone	Headstone	Slate	1769	Section 2	O	C

<i>Photo #</i>	<i>Historic Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Status</i>
	Elihue Harding Headstone	By Joseph Barbur	Slate	Late 18 th century	Section 2	O	C
	Lydia Harding Stone	By Joseph Barbur	Slate	Late 18 th century	Section 2	O	C
	Meetinghouse Steps	Steps	Granite	18 th century	Section 3	St	C
	Meetinghouse Marker	Boulder	Stone	20 th century?	Section 3	O	C
Photo 1	Receiving Tomb	Hillside Tomb	Granite face	19 th century	Section 3	St	C
	WWI Memorial Platform	Low retaining wall	Fieldstone	20 th century	Section 3	St	C
	Bowl	Horseshoe-shaped	Earthen	Late 19 th century	Section 4	NA	C
Photo 2	Emerson Monument	Monument	Granite	1908	Section 5	O	C
	Foster Monument	Obelisk/Urn	Marble	19 th century	Section 5	O	C
	Richardson Tomb	Tomb	Granite/ Marble	1853	Section 6	St	C
	William Adams Monument	Pillar with base	Granite/ Marble	1862	Section 6	O	C
	Thompson Monument	Sculpture/Bench	Granite	Early 20 th century?	Section 6	O	C
New Cemetery							
	Richardson Land Grant Marker	Boulder	Fieldstone	1932	Adjacent to Section B	O	C
	Herter Headstone	Headstone	Granite	1966	Section B	O	NC
	Steps to Herter Headstone	Rustic steps	Fieldstone	1960s	Section B	St	NC
	Entry Gate	Pergola	Stone and concrete	Late 20 th century	Adjacent to Section C	St	NC

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Prospect Hill Cemetery
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk

DATE RECEIVED: 1/30/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/17/06
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/04/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/15/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06000129

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 3-15-06 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.



Prospect Hill Cemetery
Mills (Norfolk County) MA
Photo by Shary Berg August 2005
Photo 1 Receiving Tomb



Prospect Hill Cemetery
Millis (Norfolk County) MA
Photo by Shary Berg August 2005
Photo 2 - Section 5



Prospect Hill Cemetery
Mills (Norfolk County) MA
Photo by Shary Berg August 2005
Photo 3 - Section 1



Prospect Hill Cemetery
Mills (Norfolk County) MA
Photo by Shary Berg August 2005
photo 4 - Stone walls

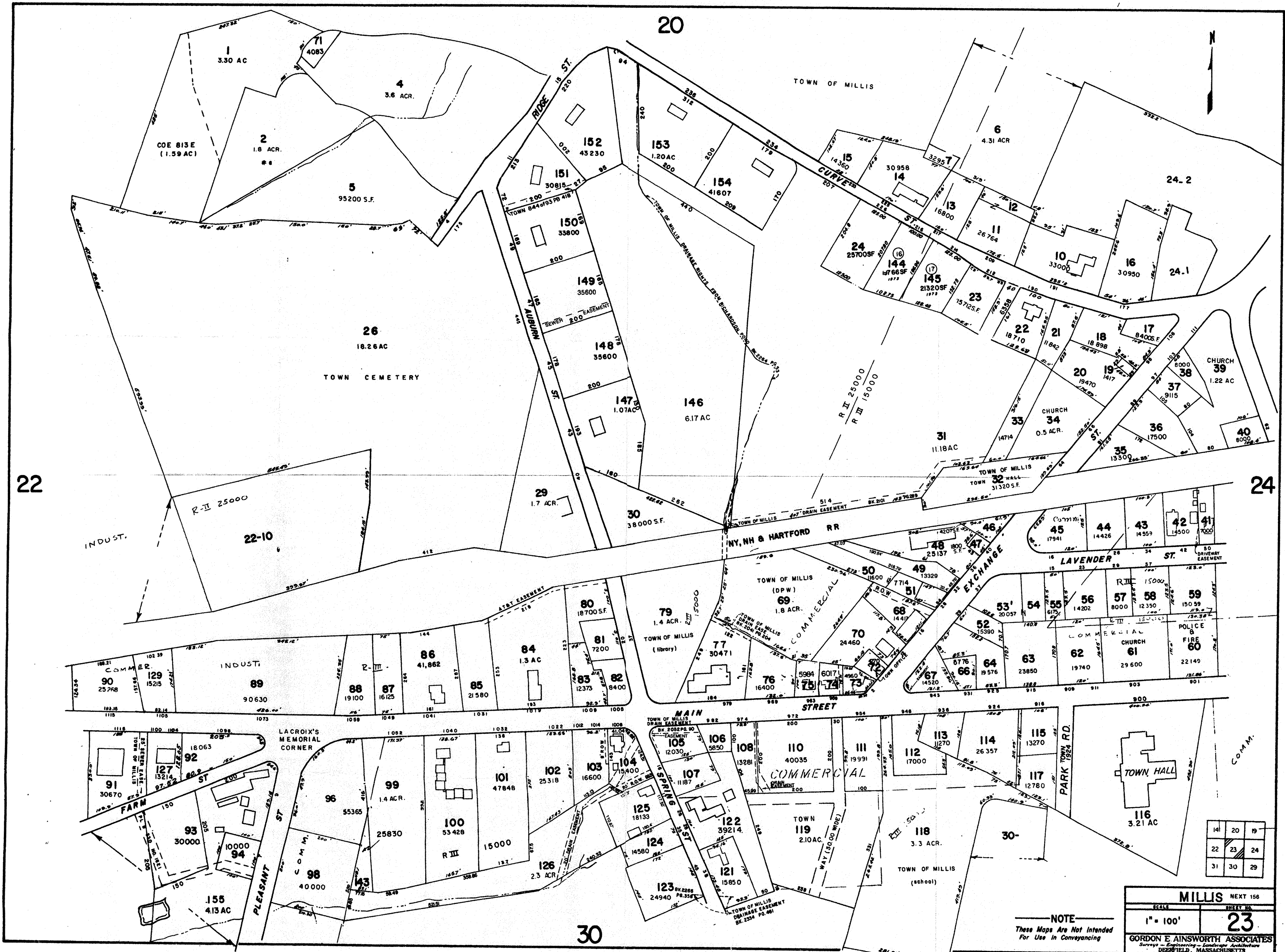


Prospect Hill Cemetery
Millis (Norfolk County) MA
Photo by Shary Berg August 2005
Photo 5 - Section C



הרב נחמן נחמני
NEVA NACHMAN
1888 - 1958
PROFESSOR OF HEBREW
AND ARABIC
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

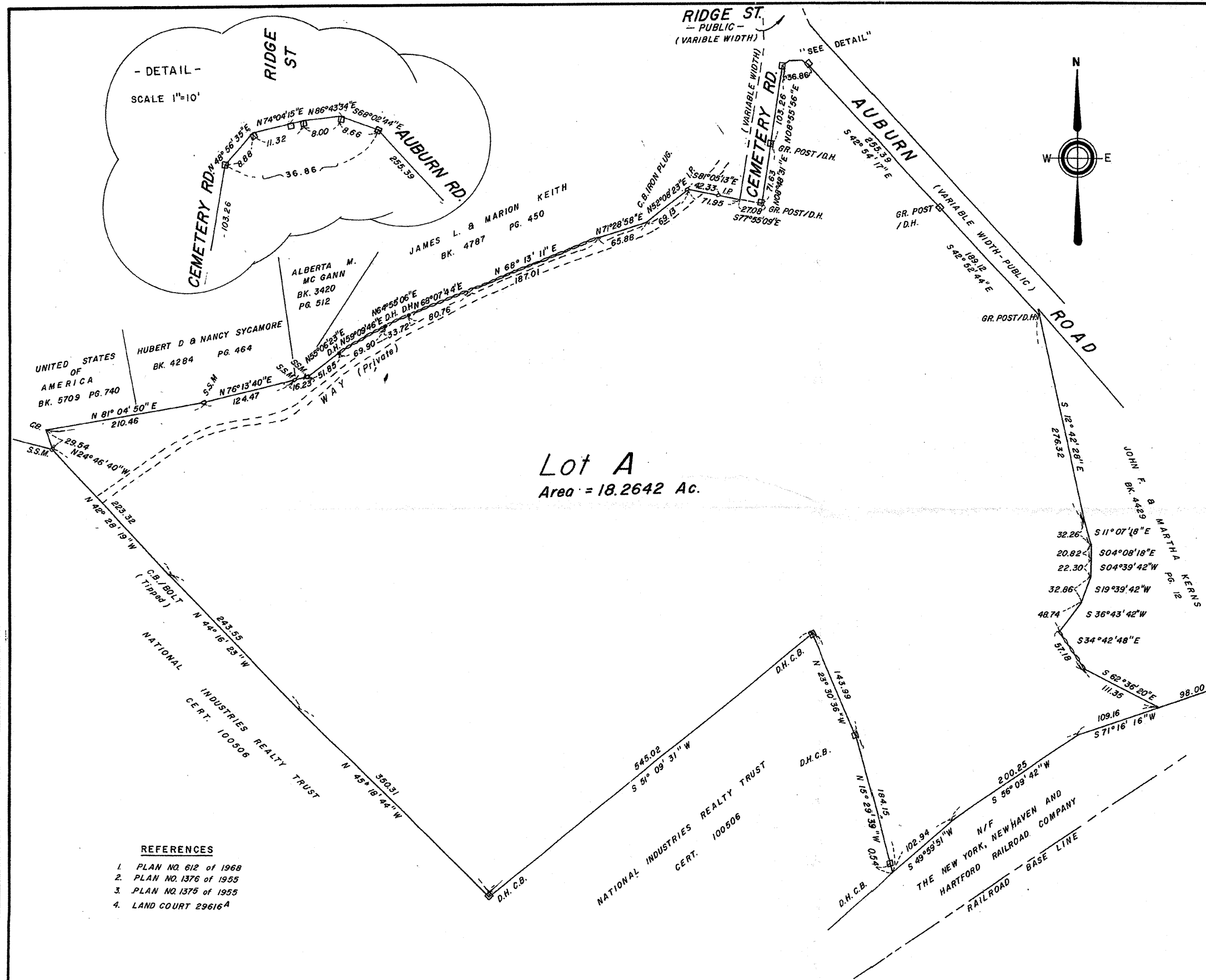
Prospect Hill Cemetery
Millis (Norfolk County) MA
Photo by Shary Berg August 2005
Photo 6 - Section E



14	20	19
22	23	24
31	30	29

NOTE
These Maps Are Not Intended
For Use In Conveyancing

Norfolk Registry of Deeds
Dedham, Mass.
Received Nov. 13, 1981
With _____
Filed as No. 1015-1981
Pl. Bk. 292
Attest _____
Register



CHAPTER 380 OF THE ACTS OF 1966

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PROPERTY LINES SHOWN ON THIS PLAN ARE THE LINES DIVIDING EXISTING OWNERSHIPS AND THE LINES OF THE STREETS AND WAYS SHOWN ARE THOSE OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE STREETS OR WAYS ALREADY ESTABLISHED, AND THAT NO NEW LINES FOR DIVISION OF EXISTING OWNERSHIP OR FOR NEW WAYS ARE SHOWN

Wayne S. Carlson
REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR

15 July 1981
DATE

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS

Wayne S. Carlson
Registered Land Surveyor

15 July 1981
Date



COMPILED PLAN OF LAND
IN

MILLIS

PREPARED FOR
MILLIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

SCALE: 60 FEET TO AN INCH

DATED 15 JULY 1981

by
CARLSON & COMPANY
261 UNION STREET, MILLIS, MA.

NOTES:

1. PLAN REFERS TO MILLIS ASSESSORS
MAP 23, PARCELS 26, 27 & 28

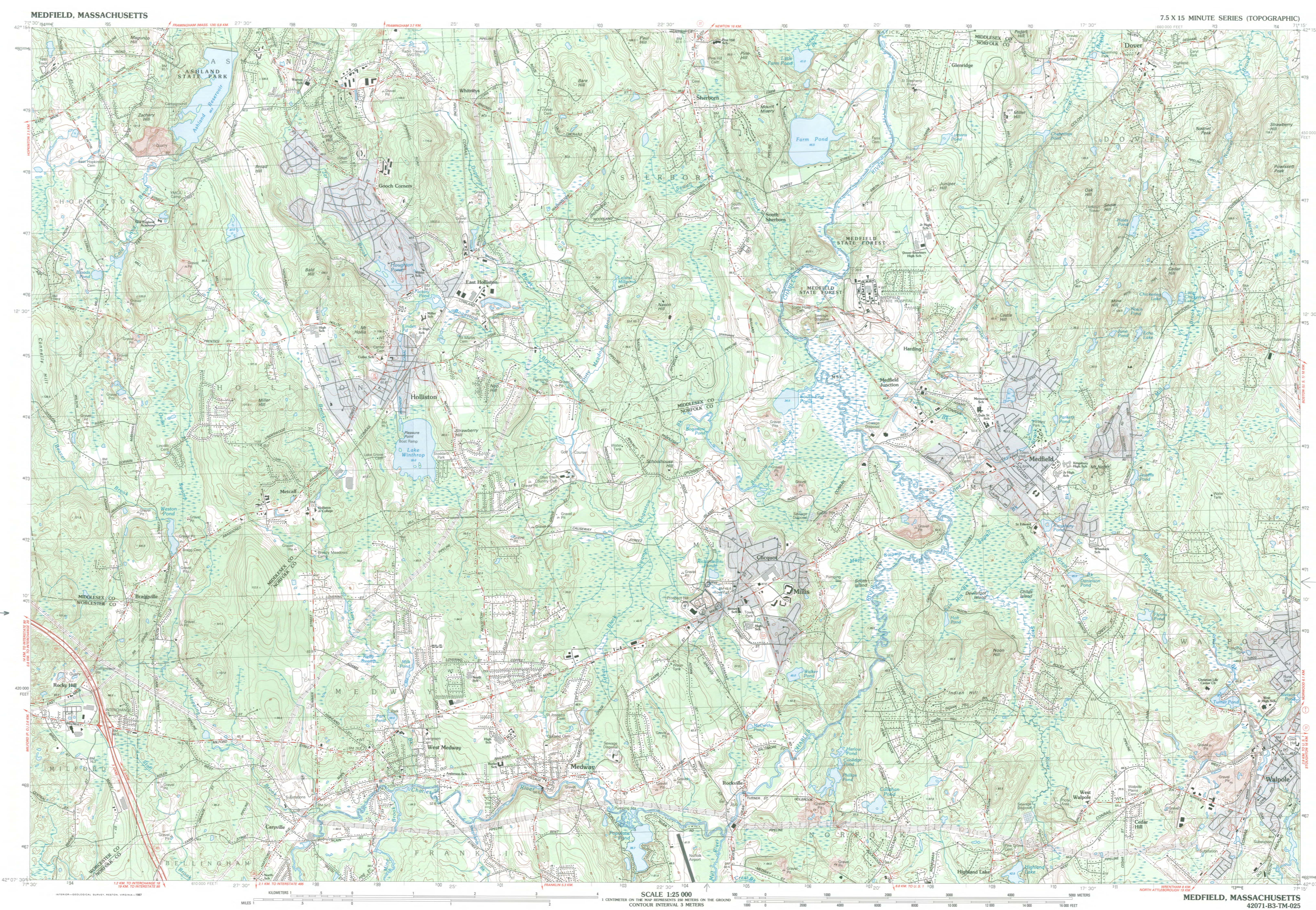
RECEIVED

FEB 5 2003

MASS HIST COMM

REFERENCES

1. PLAN NO. 612 of 1968
2. PLAN NO. 1376 of 1955
3. PLAN NO. 1375 of 1955
4. LAND COURT 296164



Prospect Hill Cemetery
Zone 19
1. 304440 4670900
2. 304580 4670660
3. 304440 4670600
4. 304200 4670700

PROSPECT HILL
CENETERY
Medfield
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

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1981. Field checked 1981 and 1982. Map edited 1987
Supersedes Holliston 1969 and Medfield 1970
1:25,000-scale maps
Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19
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 41 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 1983
CONTOUR 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 (GTM and 1983 magnetic declination (MM) at center of map. Diagram is approximate)		1	2	3	4
1	3.2808			4	5	6	7
2	6.5617			8			
3	9.8425						
4	13.1234						
5	16.4042						
6	19.6850						
7	22.9658						
8	26.2467						
9	29.5275						
10	32.8084						

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

ISBN 0-607-23462-6
9 780607 234626

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface	Secondary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	Unimproved road, trail	Route marker: Interstate, U.S., State	Railroad: standard gage, narrow gage	Bridge, drawbridge	Footbridge, overpass, underpass	Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	House, barn; church; school; large structure	Boundary	National, with monument	State	County, parish	Old township, precinct, district	Incorporated city, village, town	National or State reservation; small park	Land grant with monument; round 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	Campground; picnic area; U.S. location monument	Wellhead; water well; spring	Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	Contours: index, intermediate; supplementary, depression	Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand	Bathymetric contours: index, intermediate	Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	Submerged marsh, marsh, swamp	Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland	Scrub; mangrove	Orchard; vineyard
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A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



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

January 4, 2006

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



Dear Mr. Roberts:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Prospect Hill Cemetery, Auburn Road, Millis (Norfolk), 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.

Four 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
Elizabeth Krimmel, Robert Russo, Millis Historical Commission
Paul Jacobsen, Chair, Millis Board of Selectmen
Catherine MacInnes, Millis Planning Board
Congressman Barney Frank
State Senator Scott Brown



TOWN OF MILLIS
900 MAIN STREET
MILLIS, MASSACHUSETTS 02054

Office of Town Clerk

Telephone: (508) 376-7046

October 20, 2000

Robert W. Russo
Cemetery Review Committee
201 Village Street
Millis, MA 02054

Dear Mr. Russo,

The Millis Historical Commission recommends and does support your Committee's efforts to have a portion of Bare Hill-Prospect Hill Cemetery to have an historic designation.

The Town of Millis is fortunate to have this beautiful cemetery. Your application for grants will certainly enhance the beauty of the cemetery.

This cemetery is the site of the First Meeting House as well as the site of graves of those who fought in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. Also buried here are two Medal of Honor heroes. Charles Wesley Emerson, Emerson College, and members of the Holbrook family, bell and organ factory, are buried at this cemetery.

Again, The Millis Historical Commission applauds your efforts.

Very truly yours,

George G. Ford, Town Clerk
and Vice Chairman, Millis
Historical Commission



TOWN OF MILLIS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 13, 2003

Ms. Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Re: Prospect Hill Cemetery

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

This is to advise you that the Board of Selectmen is aware and supports the efforts of the Millis Historical Commission and the Millis Cemetery Committee to list the Prospect Hill Cemetery in the National Register.

We recognize the time and effort of the Millis Cemetery Committee and the Historical Commission in preparing the documents for your consideration and are confident you will find our cemetery to be worthy of National Register status.

Thank you for your assistance in this process.

Sincerely,

MILLIS BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Paul R. Jacobsen, Chairman


Jeffrey M. Hardin, Vice Chairman


Charles V. Vecchi, Clerk



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

NR file
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MAR 19 2003

MASS. SEN. COMM.

SENATOR CHERYL A. JACQUES

NORFOLK, BRISTOL
AND MIDDLESEX DISTRICT

ROOM 312-B

TEL. (617) 722-1555

FAX (617) 722-1054

E-Mail: CJacques@senate.state.ma.us

COMMITTEES:

SENATE POST AUDIT AND
OVERSIGHT (CHAIR)

STEERING AND POLICY (VICE-CHAIR)

WAYS AND MEANS

PUBLIC SAFETY

JUDICIARY

March 10, 2003

Ms. Betsy Friedberg
National Register Division
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

I am writing on behalf of the Millis Cemetery Committee and the Millis Historical Commission to support their request that the Prospect Hill Cemetery be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Prospect Hill Cemetery has been used as a burial ground since 1700 and was formally designated as a cemetery with plots in 1714 and 1715. Eighty-three Revolutionary War Soldiers are buried in the cemetery. It is a prime example of early nineteenth century landscape and the magnificent architecture includes steep slopes, and circular and horseshoe dells with beautiful bushes and trees planted. Prospect Hill Cemetery was also the site of the first town meeting house, for what was then the town of Medway, built in 1715.

I strongly urge you to grant the town's request to have the Prospect Hill Cemetery placed on the National Register. The Prospect Hill Cemetery is clearly a cherished landmark and it would be greatly appreciated if this important landmark could be properly recognized.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please feel free to call my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Jacques

CAJ/agm/mag

Cc: Robert W. Russo, Millis Historical Commission
Beth Krimmel, Millis Historical Commission
Charles Aspinwall, Millis Town Administrator

BARNEY FRANK
4TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

2252 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2104
(202) 225-5931

29 CRAFTS STREET
SUITE 375
NEWTON, MA 02458
(617) 332-3920

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

M. J. L.
558 PLEASANT STREET
ROOM 309
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740
(508) 999-6462
222 MILLIKEN PLACE
THIRD FLOOR
FALL RIVER, MA 02721
(508) 674-3551
89 MAIN STREET
BRIDGEWATER, MA 02324
(508) 697-9403

April 22, 2003

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APR 23 2003

MASS. HIST. COMM

Ms. Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

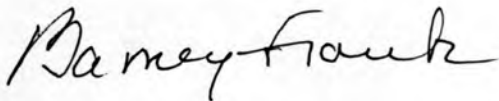
Dear Ms. Friedberg:

I am writing to support the Millis Historical Commission and its request that the Prospect Hill Cemetery be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The cemetery is a unique testament to the region's early history and the contributions of past citizens.

The history of Prospect Hill Cemetery extends over a period of more than 300 years. In the early 1700's the property was the site of a burying ground and the area's first town meeting house. Prospect Hill was later designated a formal cemetery, and proudly serves as the resting place for 83 Revolutionary War soldiers amid its beautiful nineteenth century landscape and architecture

As a treasured reminder of significant events of both local and national history, the Prospect Hill Cemetery is worthy of recognition and preservation. Thus, I urge you to give the Millis Cemetery Commission's request your every consideration.

Sincerely,



Barney Frank
Member of Congress

BF/sd