




Middle Cemetery  
Name of Property

Worcester, MA  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

11/8/19  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>52</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>55</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Slate, marble, granite, fieldstone

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Middle Cemetery was established in 1798 as the third cemetery in the town of Lancaster, Massachusetts. It is at the southeast end of town on the east side of Main Street, with wooded land to the north and east, open fields to the west, and a senior housing development to the south. The roughly rectangular, 1.53-acre cemetery contains 1,014 stones and 1,183 burials, according to Lancaster Historical Commission records. A low stone retaining wall with granite gate posts runs along the west (Main Street) boundary, and a wood-post and wire-netting fence marks the east boundary. Mature trees line the north, south, and east boundaries. The cemetery is maintained by the Town of Lancaster but is no longer in active use. The earliest marked burials were in 1798, and the last interment was in 1989. The stones in the cemetery reflect the continuum of headstone iconography popular in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, including soul effigies and urn-and-willow images. Later stones, installed in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, are marble and granite and have little embellishment beyond names and birth and death dates. The south end of the cemetery contains at least 35 family plots, many with a central family marker and low granite curbing with sawn tops and rough-dressed sides. Some of the family plots are bounded by metal bars or chains connected to granite corner posts, and one has a decorative, wrought-iron fence. The Middle Cemetery is the burial place of descendants of the Sawyer, Houghton, Rugg, Joslyn, and Fairbank families, who were among Lancaster's first settlers. At least 37 Revolutionary War, one War of 1812, and 14 Civil War soldiers' graves have been identified.

The Middle Cemetery contains 55 contributing resources (2 structures, 1 site, and 52 objects) and one noncontributing resource. The latter is the cemetery sign, which dates to 2012, and falls outside the period of significance (1798 to 1968).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The number of contributing resources refers to the representative stones discussed in the narrative and included in the District Datasheet. The cemetery contains a total of 1,014 stones, which are all identified on the District Map.

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## Narrative Description

### Setting

The Middle Cemetery is at the southeast end of the town of Lancaster in Worcester County, Massachusetts. It is located in a rural village setting with undeveloped land to the north, east, and west, and a senior housing development to the south. The roughly rectangular, 1.53-acre cemetery occupies the south portion of the 6.94-acre town-owned parcel 038-0002 (Figure 1). The parcel is bounded on the northwest by Main Street (Route 70), on the southwest by private land, on the southeast by an active railroad right-of-way, and on the northeast by the Nashua River. The boundary of the Middle Cemetery corresponds to the parcel boundaries on the northwest, southwest, and southeast; the northeast boundary follows a straight east-west line connecting the northwest and southeast parcel lines. The cemetery is approximately 350 feet long in a northeast-southwest direction along Main Street and approximately 270 feet wide in an east-west direction from Main Street to the railroad right-of-way. The undeveloped northern portion of the town-owned parcel extends approximately 900 feet to the southeast bank of the Nashua River. Woods immediately surround the site on the north, east, and south.

### Resource Descriptions

The **Middle Cemetery (Photos 1–6)** is approximately rectangular, occupying 1.53 acres of land with approximately 350 feet along Main Street. The site slopes shallowly upward on all four sides to a central high point, with the lowest point at the southeast corner. Grass roads extending eastward from the two entrances along Main Street divide the cemetery roughly into thirds. The roads are graded lower than the burial plots and have gently sloping edges. Gravestones are arranged in rows running north-south, and informal grass paths run between the rows in a general north-south direction. The northern two-thirds of the cemetery are occupied primarily by older stones erected in the late 18<sup>th</sup> to late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The southern third and southwest portion of the central third contain primarily family plots and newer stones erected in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Some of the stones in the cemetery are broken or dislodged, and many have biological growth, such as lichen, on them. The root systems of the mature trees have caused some stones to become dislodged from the ground or shift on their bases, and some trees have grown around stones. The grounds are grass with patches of moss, and there is no formal landscaping within the cemetery. Scattered mature deciduous and coniferous trees create a shaded canopy over many of the gravestones. A row of trees along the northeast boundary was removed in 2018.

A 2½-foot-high retaining **Stone Wall (ca. 1842, Photos 7–8)** constructed of medium to large fieldstones with rough, rectangular granite capstones runs along the west boundary of the cemetery, between the sloping lawn and Main Street. Two sets of granite **Entrance Gate Posts (ca. 1842, see Photo 7)** flank curved openings in the retaining wall at the two entrance roads. The rectangular gate posts are five to six feet high and retain drill marks from when they were shaped. Wrought-iron hardware used to hold a gate (no longer extant) is affixed to the interior faces of the posts, and a metal chain attached to the top hardware prevents vehicular access to the cemetery. The **Middle Cemetery Sign (2012, Photo 9)**, erected by the Lancaster Historical Society, faces Main Street at the southwest corner of the southern entrance. The sign consists of a polished slate tablet marker with rounded top and rounded shoulders. It has a willow tree in the tympanum and a wavelike inscription border around the words “MIDDLE CEMETERY, EST. 1798, ENLARGED 1843.” The back of the sign reads “Gift of the Lancaster Historical Society, Lancaster, Ma. 2012.” In 1925, the Mary Washington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected the **Meetinghouse Site Marker (1925, No. 3848, LAN.927, Photo 10)** in

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the northeast portion of the cemetery to commemorate the site of Lancaster's first and second meetinghouses. The marker is a simple granite tablet with a rounded top, rusticated sides, and a smooth face that is engraved with the words "1925 SITE OF FIRST & SECOND MEETING HOUSES BUILT ABOUT 1657 BURNED BY INDIANS 1676 – BUILT ABOUT 1684 BURNED BY THE ENEMY 1704 – ERECTED BY MARY WASHINGTON CHAPTER, D. R. CLINTON."

According to Lancaster Historical Commission records and a 2007 land survey, the Middle Cemetery contains approximately 1,014 gravestones marking approximately 1,183 burials.<sup>2</sup> At least 27 stones mark family plots or multiple burials, while the rest mark individual graves. There is one private family tomb. The cemetery also likely contains unmarked burials, including some where the original stones have been dislodged or removed. Gravestones consist primarily of slate, marble, and granite, with the majority made of slate. Many graves are marked with footstones, and the inscriptions are generally on the west sides of the headstones, with the interments extending east. Approximately 29 markers throughout the cemetery are broken, worn, or damaged to the point of illegibility. At least two gravestones are missing based on a comparison of the 2007 data and 2018 survey of the cemetery. The earliest interments are from 1798, the year the cemetery was established.

One of the four earliest gravestones in the cemetery is that of **Capt. Ephraim Carter (1798, No. 3749, LAN.970, Photo 11)**. It is a slate tablet with rounded top and straight shoulders and has Doric columns in the side borders with a slightly rounded lintel beneath a Freemason symbol, palm, coffin, and tower in the tympanum. The stone of **Washington Litch (1798, No. 3408, LAN.950)** is another of the earliest stones in the cemetery. It is a slate tablet with rounded top and flared shoulders that has a central urn in the tympanum under an arched pine tree with two pinecones and vines in the side borders.

Approximately five stones, including the markers for **Jonathan Barnard (1799, No. 3947, LAN.978, Photo 26)**, **Sarah Ballard (1799, No. 3740, LAN.968, Photo 12)**, and **Deacon Josiah Ballard (1799, No. 3741, LAN.969, see Photo 12)**, are carved with soul effigies, which followed death's heads in the evolution of gravestone iconography (see Criterion C – Art). The soul effigy consists of a rounded face with incised facial features, sometimes flanked by wings. The two markers are slate tablets with rounded tops and shallow curved shoulders and have a central soul effigy in the tympanum. The Ballard stone has a winged soul effigy, columns in the side borders, and a lintel between the inscription and the tympanum. The Barnard stone is more simplified in style with a non-winged soul effigy, stippling in the tympanum background, and undecorated side borders.

The most common image carved on gravestones in the Middle Cemetery is the urn and willow. This image consists of an incised urn, typically under an arch created by a weeping willow. The urn and willow motif appears on over 311 slate and at least 4 marble gravestones (see Criterion C – Art). Stones with this motif are typically tablets with rounded tops and shoulders that have the urn and willow in the tympanum, either alone or on a temple form with flanking columns and urns, and other decorative elements, such as columns and garlands, in the side borders. Many of the stones' inscriptions are inside incised rectangles, squares, or ovals with borders of flowers or geometric-patterned carvings separating them from the tympanum. Slate examples of this typology are the stones for **Rebecca Leach (1810,**

<sup>2</sup> In 2007, David E. Ross and Associates, a civil engineering and land surveying firm, surveyed and mapped the Middle Cemetery and all its gravestones for the Lancaster Historical Commission. The survey produced a scaled map with the markers depicted and numbered with a corresponding list of markers (David E. Ross and Associates 2007a, 2007b).

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**No. 3930, LAN.976, Photo 13), Cyrus Fairbank (1835, No. 3493, LAN.956, Photo 27),<sup>3</sup> Jonathan Barnard (1824, No. 3944, LAN.977), Capt. Daniel Goss (1809, No. 3773, LAN.972), Capt. Daniel Goss (1841, No. 3774, LAN.973, Photo 14), Polly Goss (1856, No. 3775, LAN.974, see Photo 14), Jonathan Bruce (1832, No. 3489, LAN.955), Catherine Bruce (1824, No. 3488, LAN.954), and Capt. Elijah Houghton (1810, No. 3583, LAN.963).** Marble examples of this typology are the stones for **David Poignand (1830, No. 3470, LAN.953, Photo 15)** and **Delicia Poignand (1833, No. 3469, LAN.952, see Photo 15).**

At least 50 marble gravestones in the cemetery are carved with various motifs commonly used throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Partially bloomed roses with broken stems, typically in bas relief within a round indentation, and bloomed roses appear on at least one stone, that of **Martha Ann R. Bragg (1857, No. 3099, LAN.938)**. The intricately shaped marble tablet has chamfered sides and a pointed top with a rose centered in the tympanum. A marble tablet for **Anna Marie Cummings (1828, No. 3162, LAN.939)** has a rounded top, a beveled border, and a central dove in bas relief with its wings extended and head pointed downward. The **John H. Maynard (1876, No. 3054, Photo 16, LAN.935)** stone is a roughly cross-shaped tablet with a rounded top, a beveled border, and a central bas relief symbol of two hands shaking. The stone for **Mary Maynard (1841, No. 3053, see Photo 16, LAN.934)** is the same shape as John Maynard's but has a central depiction of a sheaf of wheat.

The cemetery also contains a few Gothic-style tablets that have pointed tops with flared shoulders and typically incorporate ivy as a decorative motif. The inscriptions are in central raised panels with molded borders, such as seen on the **Addie C. White (1877, No. 3695, LAN.966)** stone. Four markers for the Russell family are notable examples of marble tablets with pointed tops that depict religious decorative motifs. The **Mary A. Russell (1869, No. 3553, LAN.961, Photo 17)** stone has a central cross and ivy motif. The **Anna U. Russell (1891, No. 3552, LAN.960, see Photo 17)** stone has a central Chi-Rho (the first two letters of Christ in Greek) symbol. The **Ursula Wood Russell (1883, No. 3551, LAN.959, see Photo 17)** stone has a central cross with an overlaid IHS symbol. The **Jenny H. Russell (1871, No. 3554, LAN.962, see Photo 17)** stone has a central robed arm outstretched and holding a cross, with the pointer finger extended. The cemetery contains at least one example of a Gothic-style monument with a steeply pitched top, the **William Russell (1873, No. 3550, LAN.958, see Photo 17)** marker, which includes a carved Scottish cross as a decorative element.

Beginning in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, grave markers began to be more austere in design, consisting typically of rectangular polished slate and rounded or slightly pointed marble tablets, with little to no carved iconography. The Middle Cemetery has approximately 37 simple polished-slate markers and approximately 123 simple marble markers, including the stones for **Amy Fales (1849, No. 3353, LAN.949), James Pitts (1889, No. 3278, LAN.947), Capt. John Lyon (1836, No. 3758, LAN.971), Mary Wilder (1842, No. 3028, LAN.933, Photo 18), Mary Safford Stone (1831, No. 3609, LAN.965, Photo 19), and Anna Willard Goodhue (1858, No. 3597, LAN.964).** The inscriptions on these stones often include a mix of cursive and print-form text. The slate markers tend to have inscriptions of the person's name, relationship to others (i.e., daughter of ...), death date, and age. Some include epitaphs of biblical quotes at the bottom or "In memory of..." at the beginning. The marble markers tend to have raised relief or more elaborate fonts for the person's name and simple print-text or cursive fonts for the following information.

<sup>3</sup> The Cyrus Fairbanks stone tipped over between 2016 and August 2018. The stone remains in its correct location; however, it lies face down and the inscription is not visible.

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The smallest number of markers in the cemetery is granite, due to the dwindling use of the Middle Cemetery by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Burials after that time were typically added to pre-existing family markers. Most of the granite gravestones are from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries and either mark family plots or were installed by descendants of the deceased many years after their death, possibly to replace earlier damaged or missing stones. The Middle Cemetery has examples of granite tablets with bases, slant markers, ledger markers,<sup>4</sup> and larger rectangular markers with rusticated bases and inscriptions on all four sides. Many of these markers are simple in style with polished faces and rusticated sides like the stones for **Charles Thornton Fletcher (1899, No. 3268, LAN.944)** and **Isabella Frances Fletcher (1894, No. 3266, LAN.943)**. The stones for **Caleb T. Symmes (1900, No. 3272, LAN.946, see Photo 6)** and **Nancy Richardson Symmes (1886, No. 3271, LAN.945, see Photo 6)** are examples of typical late 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century granite slant markers that have rusticated, rubblestone backs and sides and polished faces shaped into a scroll containing the inscriptions. The last stone installed in the cemetery was a simple granite slant marker for **Emma R. Sargent (1968, No. 3803, LAN.975)**.

The Middle Cemetery contains at least 35 family plots, primarily in the southern third and scattered throughout the central third of the cemetery (Photos 15–19). Many of these family plots are bounded by granite curbing, while a few have granite corner posts connected by chain links or metal bars, some of which are missing. Most of the family plots contain marble or granite family markers that list multiple family members or the family surname; some also have individual markers for each person surrounding the family marker. There are at least six obelisks, nine pedestal monuments, five pedestal monuments with urns, and seven rectangular monuments marking family plots. Other family plots contain only individual tablet or slant markers for each person within boundary curbing or fencing. Some family plots contain ledger markers, more common in the mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century.

Examples of obelisks in the Middle Cemetery include the **Wilder Family Marker (1841, No. 3305, LAN.948, see Photo 3)** and **Sawyer Family Marker (1872, No. 3061, LAN.937, see Photo 5 and Photo 21)**. The Wilder marker is a short-tapered marble obelisk on a simple stepped base. The Sawyer marker is a tall tapered granite obelisk on an elaborate pedestal with a stepped capital and a wide base. It has the family name carved in bas relief on it. The pedestal's four faces are polished granite with beveled edges and contain inscriptions for the family members interred in the plot. The plot also has four granite corner posts with shallowly flared pyramidal tops.

Examples of pedestal monuments in the Middle Cemetery include the **Bennett Family Marker (1846, No. 3246, LAN.941, see Photo 22)** and the **Tuttle Monument (1847, LAN.942, No. 3262)**. Both consist of marble pedestals on wide bases with the family names carved in bas relief on them. The central panels on all four sides contain the inscriptions of family members interred in the plot. The pedestals have stepped capitals with varied decorative molding and pyramidal tops with neoclassical-inspired elements. The plots are bounded by rusticated granite curbing and include short tablets and slant markers for the individual family members.

Examples of pedestal markers topped with urns in the Middle Cemetery are the **Stearns Family Marker (1818, No. 3697, LAN.967, see Photo 20)**, **Stratton Family Marker (1877, No. 3009, LAN.930, see Photo 21)**, **Sweet Family Marker (1886, No. 3243, LAN.940, see Photo 22)**, and **Stearns Monument (1825, No. 3545, LAN.957)**. These markers all have thick bases with the family name carved in bas relief on them and inscriptions of the family members interred in the plot on each of the pedestal's central

<sup>4</sup> Slant markers are usually less than 2 feet high and sit flat on the ground with the face of the stone angled back to create a wedge shape. They often have rectangular bases of the same stone material. Ledger markers are usually less than 1 foot thick and consist of small granite slabs laid flush to the ground with inscriptions on the top face.



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panels. The pedestals have stepped capitals decorated with a variety of molded edges and topped with decorative urns. The Stearns family plot is particularly notable for its highly decorative, wrought-iron fence. The wrought-iron Corinthian fence posts have octagonal bases and finial tops and rest on granite corner stones and two granite stones in the center of the north side. The fence posts support open-work, wrought-iron panels that have a delicate woven, pointed-arch pattern with crosses at the bottom and pointed, scroll-like trim at the top. The original gate is no longer extant. The family plot contains a central granite pedestal marker with no individual gravestones. The Stratton family plot has a central marble pedestal marker with individual stones around it. The individual stones are squat, rectangular, marble tablets with rounded tops and narrow flat shoulders set on thick bases. The person's name or relationship is inscribed in a central, oval-shaped recessed panel; some have decorative motifs of a sheaf of wheat or a flower. The plot is bounded by granite fence posts with hardware for a fence and gates that are no longer extant. The Sweet family plot has a central marble pedestal, short marble tablets for the individual burials, and granite curbing.

Examples of rectangular monuments in the Middle Cemetery include the **Howe Family Marker (1911, No. 3059, LAN.936, see Photo 21)**, **Arnold Family Marker (1875, No. 3423, LAN.951, see Photo 23)**, and **Nourse Family Marker (1904, No. 3016, LAN.931, see Photo 24)**, which includes the stone for **Henry Stedman Nourse (1903, No. 3018, LAN.932, see Photo 24)**. The Howe family marker is a rectangular, granite-block monument with a flared base and a hipped top. The stone has the family name in raised-block lettering in the west panel and a complex molded cornice with a zig-zag acanthus design. The Arnold family marker is a rectangular, granite-block monument with a stepped, rusticated base and a flared-hip capstone. It has the family name raised-block lettering in the west panel and a decoratively carved "A" at the center of the capstone. The Arnold family marker is in the center of a typical family plot with granite curbing and pyramidal corner stones. Individual markers in the plot consist of squat, marble slant markers with the name or relationship of the person on the top face. Two of the markers have carvings of draped cloth over the tops, and one has a carving of a branch of oak leaves. The Nourse family monument is a granite false tomb monument.<sup>5</sup> It has a flared, rusticated granite base, a central flared false tomb, and a hipped pediment. The family name is in raised-block lettering on the north panel. The family plot includes granite tablets with pointed tops, rusticated edges, and dressed and inscribed west faces.

The Middle Cemetery contains one family tomb near the west end of the central third of the cemetery, in direct view from the road, with no burials between the west boundary and the tomb. **N. Thayer's Tomb (ca. 1840, No. 2055, LAN.929, Photo 25)** was likely built about 1840 for Reverend Nathaniel Thayer. It consists of a two-course, dressed granite-block wall and granite-block wing walls built into the west side of a low earthen mound. The wall has a single, rectangular, granite-block capstone and a central cast-iron door in the lower stone course. "N. THAYER'S" is engraved in the top stone course.

### **Statement of Integrity**

The Middle Cemetery retains integrity of design, location, workmanship, feeling, association, setting, and materials. It retains its historic landscape appearance and the majority of its gravestones, which exemplify the evolution of gravestone typology and iconography from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>5</sup> A false tomb is a type of grave marker that consists of a slab of stone or concrete covering the area of a grave and extending anywhere from a couple of inches to a couple of feet above the ground. They are most often rectangular boxes; however, some have rounded tops. The burial remains underground; hence, the name false tomb.

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### 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.)

- A. Owned by a 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Art

**Period of Significance**

1798–1968

**Significant Dates**

1798: Establishment of Middle Cemetery and first interments

1842: Enlargement of Middle Cemetery to current size

1878: Opening of Eastwood Cemetery, which became primary secular burial ground in Lancaster

1925: Installation of Meetinghouse Site Marker

1968: Last interment in cemetery with own gravestone

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Isaac Newton Stone

Isaac Hartwell

Samuel Kilburn

Cheney Kilburn

Paul Colburn

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The Middle Cemetery meets National Register Criteria A and C with a local level of significance. It meets Criterion A in the area of Social History and meets Criterion C in the area of Art. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in the area of Social History as a town-developed cemetery that served as the primary secular burial ground for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and for its interments of notable figures who played a role in Lancaster's development and its interments of veterans from three wars. Under Criterion C, the cemetery is eligible as a well-preserved, rural New England cemetery that contains examples of popular gravestone styles and iconography from the late 18<sup>th</sup> through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Middle Cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D as it derives its primary significance through its association with the history of Lancaster and its collection of gravestones.

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The period of significance for the Middle Cemetery begins in 1798, when the cemetery was established and the first known interments occurred. It ends in 1968, the date of the last interment with a corresponding gravestone. Later burials without corresponding gravestones have occurred in established family plots.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **CRITERION A –SOCIAL HISTORY**

The Middle Cemetery is significant under Criterion A at the local level in the area Social History as the third-oldest cemetery in Lancaster and the town's primary secular burial ground for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The cemetery served as Lancaster's main burial ground from 1798, when the town acquired the property for the purpose of establishing a new cemetery, to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest marked graves in the Middle Cemetery are from 1798 (Marvin 1879:675–676).

A portion of present-day Middle Cemetery was occupied in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the first and second meetinghouses in the town of Lancaster. A commemorative marker was placed on the meetinghouse site in 1925 (Photo 10). Lancaster was settled in 1643 by Europeans who came from Watertown, Massachusetts. John Prescott and others acquired 80 square miles from Sholam or Shamauw, sachem of the Nashaways or Nashawohs, in a deed sanctioned by the Massachusetts general court (Marvin 1879:37–38). Prescott, who settled in the area between 1644 and 1646, was likely the first permanent inhabitant of European descent in Lancaster, originally known as Nashaway (Marvin 1879:41). By 1647, there were at least three permanent settlers in the plantation: Prescott, Richard Linton, and Lawrence Waters, all from Watertown. In 1653, the nine families residing in the plantation by then petitioned the general court for incorporation, and the town of Lancaster was incorporated as the first town in Worcester County, Massachusetts (Marvin 1879:37–38, 41–42). The settlers originally wanted to name the town Prescott, but the general court chose the name of Lancaster. By 1654, Lancaster had a total of 20 families of permanent settlers, including John Prescott, John White, and John Houghton (Marvin 1879:50–51, 54).

As part of the town's establishment, the proprietors agreed to reserve land on the west side of the Nashua River for a meetinghouse and burying ground (Lennon 2017a; Marvin 1879:37–38, 41–42, 90). That area of the town, now South Lancaster, was originally the epicenter of settlement. In 1657, the town built the first meetinghouse on the hill where the Middle Cemetery is now located. It overlooked the town's first cemetery, the Old Settlers' Burying Ground (MHC No. LAN.801, NR pending), established ca. 1653 to the northeast. The meetinghouse and most of the buildings in town were burned to the ground by Native Americans in 1676, during King Philip's War. In 1684, the town built a second meetinghouse on the same site. The second meetinghouse was burned by Native Americans in a 1704 conflict (MHC 1984:3). After the second meetinghouse burned, the residents decided to build the third meetinghouse (not extant) on the east side of the Nashua River, essentially moving the center of town (MHC 1984:4–5). The Lancaster Old Common Burial Ground (LAN.802) was established in 1718 near the third meetinghouse location (Marvin 1879:664). Meanwhile, the site of the first and second meetinghouses remained undeveloped until 1798, when the Middle Cemetery was established (Lennon 2017a).

Lancaster's population nearly tripled between 1711 and 1790, increasing from 458 to 1,400. By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Old Settlers' Burying Ground and the Old Common Burial Ground were reaching capacity and the town needed a new cemetery (Lennon 2017a; Marvin 1879:675–676). In May of 1798,

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the town purchased an approximately one-acre parcel of land, where the former meetinghouse once stood on Meeting House Hill, from Judge John Sprague and Reverend Nathaniel Thayer for \$56, and established the Middle Cemetery (Lennon 2017a; Marvin 1879:675–676). The first four burials in the new cemetery occurred in 1798 and included those of **Capt. Ephraim Carter (1798, No. 3749, LAN.970, see Photo 11)** and **Washington Litch (1798, No. 3408, LAN.950)**. Capt. Ephraim Carter was born in 1743 and died in 1798. He married Abigail Carter (1748–1804) in 1767, and the couple had at least three children together. Carter served as a captain in the American Revolution. Washington Litch (ca. 1776–1798) was the son of John and Lydia Litch, who married in 1766 in Lancaster. The couple had eight children together and resided in Granville, Massachusetts (Findagrave.com 2008, 2010). At least nine other burials occurred before 1800 (Peach 2017).

In August 1803, the town voted to allow the construction of personal tombs in public cemeteries. **N. Thayer's Tomb (ca. 1840, No. 2055, LAN.929, see Photo 25)**, the only tomb in the Middle Cemetery, was built for Rev. Nathaniel Thayer (1769–1840). Thayer was a Harvard-educated clergyman who served the town of Lancaster from 1795 until his death in 1840 as the sixth minister of the church (now First Church of Christ Unitarian, 695 Main Street, LAN.171, NR, NHL). The church was designed by notable Boston architect Charles Bulfinch in the Adamesque-Federal style and constructed by Boston-based master builder Thomas Heasey. Thayer was the minister at the time of the church's construction in 1815. He was also influential in moving the town's church toward Christian Unitarianism in the 1830s, when the church and state were separated in Massachusetts (First Church of Christ 2018).

Between 1800 and 1839, approximately 413 interments occurred in the Middle Cemetery, and by 1840, the cemetery was approaching its capacity (Peach 2017; Marvin 1879:677). Burials included those of multiple influential figures in town politics and industry. The grave of Eli Stearns is marked by the **Stearns Monument (1825, No. 3545, LAN.957)**. Stearns (1757–1825), the son of Benjamin and Mary Stearns, served on several Lancaster town committees and was influential in the town's government in the early-19th century. He married Mary (Whitney), and the couple had nine children (Lennon 2017a). David Poignand (1759–1830), whose grave is marked by the **David Poignand (1830, No. 3470, LAN.953, see Photo 15)** stone, was an important early 19th-century manufacturer in the town, which supported several manufacturing facilities by that time alongside its primarily agricultural economy. Poignand purchased the site of the early Prescott mill in the south part of town (now part of Clinton) and established one of the earliest successful cotton factories in the state with his son-in-law, Samuel Plant. Poignand was born on the Isle of Jersey, and immigrated to Lancaster. He was married to Delicia Poignand (1761–1833), also from the Isle of Jersey, whose burial is marked by the **Delicia Poignand (1833, No. 3469, LAN.952, see Photo 15)** stone. The couple had a daughter, Delicia Mary Poignand Plant (1787–1847) (Lyon 2008, Findagrave.com 2010).

War veterans were also buried in the cemetery in the first few decades of the 19th century. Thirty-seven men interred in the Middle Cemetery, including **Capt. Daniel Goss (1809, No. 3773, LAN.972)** and **Capt. Elijah Houghton (1810, No. 3583, LAN.963)**, served in the Revolutionary War. Goss (1741–1809) was married to Eunice Wilder Goss (1745–1813), and the couple had at least two children together, Jonas (1774–1774) and Anna (1775–1779) (Findagrave.com 2009). Capt. Goss served at Dobb's Ferry and Tarrytown during the war (Nourse 1889:147–148). Capt. Houghton (1728–1810) was married to Mary Allen Houghton (d. 1818) (Findagrave.com 2010). He served in one of the companies of men from the Harvard/Lexington area of Massachusetts that answered the Lexington Alarm in the Battle of Lexington at the beginning of the American Revolution (Nourse 1889:114–115). He later served in the second regiment of militia in Worcester County (known as the Lancaster Regiment) as the quartermaster (Nourse 1889:87–89). At least one person buried in the cemetery, **Capt. John Lyon (1826, No. 3758**

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**LAN.971**, served in the War of 1812. Lyon is notable for leading an independent company of 50 to 60 men from Lancaster to Boston to fight in the war.

In November 1842, additional land was acquired to expand Middle Cemetery to the northwest. This was accomplished by a five-person committee consisting of John M. Washburn, Henry Lincoln, John G. Thurston, Ezra Sawyer, and Anthony Lane who acquired approximately half an acre of adjacent land from the Thayer family. Main Street was relocated westward, and the town pound and a hearse house were demolished to accommodate the expansion (Nourse 1890:420). The extant **Stone Wall (ca. 1842, see Photos 7–8)** and **Entrance Gate Posts (ca. 1842, see Photo 7)** were likely constructed as part of the expansion. New 10-by-20-foot burial plots were laid out and sold for an average price of \$2 (Marvin 1879:675–676; Lennon 2017a). The remaining vacant land in the cemetery, except the area directly in front of the Thayer tomb that was left open per order of the town, was also divided into burial plots and sold (Marvin 1879:677).

By the 1870s, the Middle Cemetery once again neared capacity, with approximately 540 burials occurring between 1840 and 1879 (Peach 2017). Descendants of some of the first settlers of the area, such as Thomas Sawyer, Ralph Houghton, John Rugg, Thomas Joslyn, Jonas Fairbank, and the Wilder family, were interred in the cemetery (Lennon 2017a; Peach 2017). The original settlers were buried in the nearby Old Settlers' Burying Ground, and their descendants were often buried in family plots in Middle Cemetery, such as those marked by the **Wilder Family Marker (1841, No. 3305, LAN.948, see Photo 3)** and the **Sawyer Family Marker (1872, No. 3061, LAN.937, see Photos 5 and 21)**. The Wilder and Sawyer families were established in Lancaster by 1654 (Marvin 1879:45–46).

Burials from 1840 to 1879 also included residents who made important contributions to the town's social life, historical recordkeeping, and education. **Anna Willard Goodhue (1858, No. 3597, LAN.964)** (1763–1858) was the youngest child of Col. Abijah Willard of Lancaster. She married Honorable Benjamin Goodhue of Salem, a merchant and a senator. When Hon. Goodhue died in 1814, Anna Goodhue returned to Lancaster and resided there for the remainder of her life. She was a philanthropic and prominent woman in the town (Lyon 2008). **Henry Stedman Nourse (1903, No. 3018, LAN.932, see Photo 24)** (1831–1903), one of fourteen Civil War veterans interred in the Middle Cemetery, was also a notable local historian and editor of *Birth, Marriage, and Death Register, Church Records, and Epitaphs of Lancaster, 1643–1850* (Lennon 2017a). Another notable figure buried in the Middle Cemetery is **William Russell (1873, No. 3550, LAN.958, see Photo 17)**. Russell (1798–1873) was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and graduated from the University of Glasgow. He was an educator who established the first Normal School in New Hampshire in 1853 and founded the N.E. Normal Institute in Lancaster in 1853. Russell also edited the first *Journal of Education* and authored several books on elocution (Marvin 1879:675–676; Lennon 2017a; Lyon 2008).

In 1878, the town acquired a 46-acre parcel of land in the east end of Lancaster and established Eastwood Cemetery, which became the primary town-owned cemetery. The Middle Cemetery remained active into the mid-20th century with approximately 201 interments occurring between 1880 and 1939 (Peach 2017). Only three burials occurred between 1940 and 1989, all in pre-established family plots (Lennon 2017a; Peach 2017). The last stone installed in the cemetery was for **Emma R. Sargent (1968, No. 3803 LAN.975)**, who died at the age of 102, although burials continue to occur at pre-existing family plots, where space is available.

The Mary Washington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, from the nearby town of Clinton (MA), installed the only commemorative marker in the Middle Cemetery in 1925. The

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**Meetinghouse Site Marker (1925, No. 3848, LAN.927, see Photo 10)** marks the location, construction, and destruction dates of Lancaster's first and second meetinghouses.

The cemetery is presently maintained by the Department of Public Works. Preservation concerns in the cemetery are typical of historic cemeteries and include fallen, tilted, leaning, and broken stones; footstones separated from their burial and displaced from ground; biological growth; and overgrowth of existing trees too close to stones. Some preservation work was conducted in the late 20th century to reset fallen and tilting stones and to manage biological growth. In 2003, all markers in the cemetery were documented by Lancaster resident Sara Barss, and David E. Ross Associates mapped all markers in the cemetery in 2007 with a corresponding list of stones and burials (Barss 2003; David E. Ross Associates 2007a). The cemetery remains under the ownership of the town of Lancaster, which continues to maintain it. The cemetery is overall in good condition with regular mowing done to keep the area clear of overgrown vegetation.

### CRITERION C – ART

The Middle Cemetery is significant at the local level under Criterion C, in the area of Art, as a well-preserved rural New England burial ground that contains examples of popular gravestone styles and iconography from the late-18th through the mid-20th centuries. The markers demonstrate the evolution of beliefs surrounding death from the Federal period (1775–1830) through the Early Modern period (1915–1940).

By the early 1700s, gravestone iconography followed a progression demonstrated in cemeteries across the region that responded to changing views of death and how the deceased were memorialized. Through the 18th and early-19th centuries, stones were predominantly slate and had rounded tympanums and often rounded shoulders. Abstract soul effigies, death's heads, and winged death's heads began to appear on gravestones in the 17th century. The iconography progressed from the death's head (a winged skull) to soul effigies (winged rounded faces) and ended with the urn and willow in the 19th century. Heavy horizontal guidelines, which were carved onto the face of a stone to guarantee straight lines of the inscription, also dissipated at the end of the 17th century with the growth of professional stone carvers (Tucker 1993:153–154, 199; Deetz 1977:72).

Death's heads, in use by the end of the 17th century in New England, were related primarily to the Congregationalist/Puritans and their avoidance of religious symbols such as cherubs or crosses on meetinghouses or gravestones (Deetz 1977:69; DPR 2016). Death's heads served as a visual reminder of death and resurrection without an overt religious connection (Deetz 1977:71). The death's head fell out of favor by the mid-18th century as a result of the First Great Awakening (1730–1755), although it persisted in eastern and central Massachusetts through the last quarter of the 18th century (Deetz 1977:70).

Following the First Great Awakening, the winged soul effigy came into favor for gravestones, instead of death's heads. These carvings were associated with religious practices that encouraged individuals to develop a more personal connection with their god. Inscriptions often shifted from "Here lyeth..." to "Here lies buried *the body*... [emphasis added]" to indicate clearly that the deceased's soul had departed the body and only the corporeal remains were interred (Deetz 1977:71; Keister 2004:136). Soul effigies shifted to more human-like figures by the mid-to-late 1700s and were generally popular until about 1810. At least three stones in the Middle Cemetery are carved with soul effigies, including those for **Jonathan Barnard (1799, No. 3947)**, **Sarah Ballard (1799, No. 3740, LAN.968, see Photo 12)**, and **Deacon Josiah Ballard (1799, No. 3741, LAN.969, see Photo 12)**. These stones have commemorative

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inscriptions that begin with “In memory of...” and “Erected in memory of...,” emphasizing the person’s memory rather than their corporal remains (Deetz 1977:71–72).

Puritans often used architectural elements on gravestones to represent the journey to heaven. Classical temple facades with pediments or arches topped by death’s heads were common in New England. The columns supporting the pediment represented death as a passageway or door into the unknown (Ludwig 1966:139–142). The **Capt. Ephraim Carter (1798, No. 3749, LAN.970, see Photo 11)** stone uses Doric columns in the side borders with slightly rounded lintels topped by a Freemason symbol, palm, coffin, and tower in the tympanum and the words “An Honest Man’s the noblest work of God.” The lengthy epitaph on the stone notes Carter’s various good attributes, including “Animated with public spirit, he promoted the good of society, and in his numerous private and public employments acted with strict integrity. He was a sincere Christian and his memory shall long be cherished.”

Many of the early to late 19th-century slate markers incorporated architectural motifs, often with side border columns supporting a central lintel that separates the tympanum and the inscription (Ludwig 1966:139–142). Architectural elements were often combined with other decorative motifs such as soul effigies, as on the **Deacon Josiah Ballard (1799, No. 3741, LAN.969, see Photo 12)** stone, and urns and willows, discussed below.

The transition from locational to commemorative inscriptions was accompanied by a shift in iconography from soul effigies and cherubs to the urn and willow. The urn and willow remained the dominant motif throughout New England in the late- 18th and early- 19th centuries. It consisted of a weeping willow, an ancient symbol of mourning, and an urn, used to hold ashes (DPR 2016). The willow can also suggest immortality, because the tree will continue to flourish regardless of how many branches are cut from it (Keister 2004:67). The motif represented a secular and commemorative burial in a natural setting (Linden 2007:83).

The urn and willow motif appears on more than 300 slate gravestones and at least 4 marble gravestones in the Middle Cemetery, reflecting the motif’s popularity from the cemetery’s establishment through the period of its most active use. Stones with this iconography were typically tablets with rounded tops and shoulders; the urn and willow in the tympanum; and other decorative elements, such as columns and garlands, in the side borders. Examples of the urn and willow motif on slate markers include those for **Washington Litch (1798, No. 3408, LAN.950)**, **Capt. Daniel Goss (1809, No. 3773, LAN.972)**, **Capt. Daniel Goss (1841, No. 3774, LAN.973, see Photo 14)**, **Polly Goss (1856, No. 3775, LAN.974, see Photo 14)**, **Jonathan Bruce (1832, No. 3489, LAN.955)**, and **Catherine Bruce (1824, No. 3488, LAN.954)**. These markers are typical slate tablets with rounded tops and flat shoulders and a central urn and willow in the tympanum. The Goss markers depict the urn and willow on an elaborate temple structure flanked by columns with a stippled background. An oval border with deeply carved, geometric patterns surrounds the inscriptions, which simply give the person’s name, death date, and age; and a finely carved lotus flower border separates the inscriptions from the tympanum. The Bruce markers have the urn and willow placed on top of the lintel of a classical-style arch supported by Doric columns in the side borders and commemorative inscriptions—such as “In memory of...” for Jonathan and “She was an affectionate wife, a kind mother, and a faithful friend” for Catherine—within a round border beneath the arch.

Examples of the urn and willow motif on marble tablets, with flared rounded tops and narrow rounded shoulders, are the stones of **David Poignand (1830, No. 3470, LAN.953, see Photo 15)** and **Delicia Poignand (1833, No. 3469, LAN.952, see Photo 15)**. The identical markers have a central urn with a



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willow next to it in the tympanum and a delicate, lined inscription border. The inscriptions follow the commemorative tradition, reading "Sacred to the memory of..." Variations of the urn and willow motif are scattered throughout the Middle Cemetery.

Commemorative monuments grew in popularity across America after the War of 1812, when grand monuments were erected in memory of government and military figures to bolster patriotism. By the mid-19th century, the popularity of commemorative monuments influenced gravestone typology and the way Americans chose to mourn and memorialize individuals who died by celebrating their individual merit and memory. Obelisks and pedestals with and without urns came into favor as ornamental grave markers in the 19th century as another way to emphasize the memorial, rather than locational, aspect of burial. These types of grave markers were often used for multiple burials in family plots and influenced by the Neoclassical style (Linden 2007:95, 114–115, 228). Families often demonstrated their wealth and success through the size and elaborateness of a family burial plot and its markers. The Middle Cemetery has at least 35 family plots, many marked with curbing or fencing, that contain at least six obelisks, nine pedestal monuments, five pedestal monuments with urns, and seven rectangular monuments, in addition to individual tablet, slant, or ledger grave markers. The Wilder Family Marker (1841, No. 3305, LAN.948, see Photo 3) and Sawyer Family Marker (1872, No. 3061, LAN.937, see Photo 5 and Photo 21) are examples of typical 19th-century obelisks. The Bennett Family Marker (1846, No. 3246, LAN.941, see Photo 22) and the Tuttle Monument (1847, No. 3262, LAN.942) are examples of typical pedestal-type monuments. The Stearns Family Marker (1818, No. 3697, LAN.967, see Photo 20), Stratton Family Marker (1877, No. 3009, LAN.930, see Photo 21), and Sweet Family Marker (1886, No. 3243, LAN.940, see Photo 22) are examples of typical pedestal-type monuments with decorative urns. By the early 20th century, the mass production of monuments by large companies and the ability to ship gravestones made these types of monuments relatively affordable and thus more common (Atlas Preservation n.d.; Linden 2007:95, 114–115). The Middle Cemetery includes examples of various types of monument family markers, such as the Howe Family Marker (1911, No. 3059, LAN.936, see Photo 21), Arnold Family Marker (1875, No. 3423, LAN.951, see Photo 23), and Nourse Family Marker (1904, No. 3016, LAN.931, see Photo 24).

By the mid-19th century, marble began to be used for gravestones more than slate. At least 50 marble stones carved with various common 19th-century motifs were installed in the Middle Cemetery. Roses and flower buds were popular images on gravestones for women and children. Flower buds symbolized the fragility of childhood. The stone for Martha Ann R. Bragg (1857, No. 3099, LAN.938) is an example of a rose motif. The stone for Anna Marie Cummings (1828, No. 3162, LAN.939) has a dove, with its wings extended and head pointed downward, representing the Holy Ghost (Keister 2004:142–143). The John H. Maynard (1876, No. 3054, LAN.935, see Photo 16) stone depicts two hands shaking, representing a heavenly welcome or an earthly farewell (Keister 2004:108). A sheaf of wheat, as found on the Mary Maynard (1841, No. 3053, see Photo 16) stone, is another common motif typically used to indicate a person who lived a long and successful life of more than 70 years. It also represents immortality and resurrection as a gift from God (Keister 2004:60). Five markers for the Russell family are notable examples of religious decorative motifs. The Mary A. Russell (1869, No. 3553, see Photo 17) stone has a central cross with ivy, which is associated with immortality, fidelity, friendship, attachment, and affection. Religiously, the three-leaved plant also represents the Holy Trinity (Keister 2004:57). Chi-Rho, the first two letters of Christ in Greek and one of the oldest Christian symbols, appears on the Anna U. Russell (1891, No. 3552, LAN.960, see Photo 17) stone. The letters are often overlaid, as on the Russell stone, to form a cross-like design (Keister 2004:149–150). IHS, derived from the first three letters of Jesus in the Greek alphabet, is on the Ursula Wood Russell (1883, No. 3551, LAN.959, see Photo 17) stone with the letters typically overlaid (Keister 2004:146–147). The Jenny H. Russell (1871, No. 3554,

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**LAN.962, see Photo 17** stone depicts a robed arm outstretched and holding a cross, with the pointer finger extended.

The Gothic Revival style emerged during the Romantic Period (1800–1840) as a common decorative style used in cemeteries. Gothic Revival-style gravestones typically had pointed tops and incorporated elements such as the ogee, ball flower, and monuments with steeply pitched tops influenced by the Gothic Revival architectural style. Ivy is a common decorative motif on Gothic Revival-style grave markers, and many have religious symbolism (Holm n.d.; Linden 2007:217–218). The Middle Cemetery includes some Gothic Revival-style gravestones, such as the stone for **Addie C. White (1877, No. 3695, LAN.966)**, a tablet with a pointed top. The **William Russell (1873, No. 3550, LAN.958, see Photo 17)** marker is an example of a Gothic Revival style monument with a steeply pitched top and includes an engraved Scottish cross, representing Russell’s birthplace.

Throughout the 19th century, many stones had no iconography to accompany the inscriptions of the deceased’s name, birth and death dates, and sometimes a Bible passage or other verse. These stones were typically polished slate or marble and rectangular or only slightly contoured at the top. (Deetz 1977:72) The stones for **Amy Fales (1849, No. 3353, LAN.961)**, **James Pitts (1889, No. 3278, LAN.947)**, and **Mary Wilder (1842, No. 3028, LAN.933, see Photo 18)** are examples of carved stones with little to no iconography but a variety of lettering styles. By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, granite stones with no iconography, such as those for **Charles Thornton Fletcher (1899, No. 3268, LAN.944)** and **Isabella Frances Fletcher (1894, No. 3266, 943)**, began to appear. Examples of typical late- 19th- to early- 20th-century granite slant markers that have rusticated, rubblestone backs and sides and polished faces shaped into a scroll include the stones for **Caleb T. Symmes (1900, No. 3272, LAN.946)** and **Nancy Richardson Symmes (1886, No. 3271, LAN.945, see Photo 6)**.

### Gravestone Carvers

The Middle Cemetery contains five stones signed by or attributed to gravestone carvers in Massachusetts.

#### *Isaac Newton Stone (1799–1870)*

Isaac Newton Stone, born in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, was the son of Timothy and Lydia Stone. He moved to Harvard, Massachusetts, in 1827 and worked as a “maker of monumental stones” (Wengen 2012; Findagrave.com 2012). Relatively little is known of Stone’s career as a carver. He signed his gravestones, which used typical typology and iconography, with “I. N. Stone” in the lower left corner. The gravestone for **Mary Wilder (1842, No. 3028, LAN.933, see Photo 18)** is a signed marker of Stone’s with only the inscription on the west face of a simple, rectangular, marble tablet.

#### *Isaac Hartwell (1801–1883)*

Isaac Hartwell was the son of John and Elizabeth Moore Hartwell. He married Almeda Porter in 1823 in Littleton, Massachusetts. He later moved to Fitchburg, Massachusetts, where he worked as a marble worker (Findagrave.com 2009). Relatively little is known of Hartwell’s career as a carver; however, given his occupation as a marble worker, it is probable that most of his work consisted of marble tablets or monuments. The stone for **Mary Safford (1831, No. 3609, LAN.965, see Photo 19)** is a simple, rectangular, marble tablet with only the inscription on the west face. Hartwell signed his stones in the lower left corner with “I. Hartwell.”

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*Paul Colburn (1761–1825)*

Paul Colburn was a highly influential carver in the Worcester County region of Massachusetts. He was born in Hollis, New Hampshire, and moved to Sterling, Massachusetts, in 1787. At least four other carvers in the area were related to or studied under Colburn, and their work is almost indistinguishable from his. Little is known about Colburn's life in Sterling, where he married and had nine children (Chase and Gabel 1894:93–146). Colburn's work included soul effigies and urns and willows on round-top slate tablets, such as the stone for **Jonathan Barnard (1799, No. 3947, LAN.978, see Photo 26)**, which has a central soul effigy in the tympanum with a stippled background and simple round shouldered side borders.

*Samuel Kilburn (1783–1858)*

Samuel Kilburn was the son of John Kilburn. He had a stone carving shop in Sterling, Massachusetts, and was influenced by the Park family of carvers, who were crucial to the popularization of the urn and willow motif on slate tablets (Lennon 2017a; Blachowicz 2015:236, 241). Kilburn's shop was located less than 1 mile from the shop of the notable carver Paul Colburn. Kilburn designed typical slate tablets with urn and willow motifs. The stone for **Rebecca Leach (1810, No. 3930, LAN.976, see Photo 13)** is a round-top, slate tablet with an urn and willow in the tympanum on a decorative temple form flanked by columns in the side borders. Kilburn signed his stones at the bottom with "Engraved by Saml. Kilburn, at Sterling."

*Cheney Kilburn (1796–1873)*

Cheney Kilburn was Samuel Kilburn's brother and worked with him in the Sterling, Massachusetts, shop. The stone carved by Cheney for **Cyrus Fairbank (1835, No. 3493, LAN.956, see Photo 27)** is similar in many ways to the Leach stone carved by Samuel. It is a round-top, slate tablet, with a central urn and willow in the tympanum on a decorative temple form flanked by columns in the side borders. Kilburn signed his stones at the bottom right corner with "Cut by C. Kilburn, Sterling."

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: Lancaster Historical Society and Lancaster Public Library

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** LAN.800

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.53 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 42.448674

Longitude: -71.675800

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The Middle Cemetery is at the southeast end of the town of Lancaster in Worcester County, Massachusetts. The roughly rectangular, 1.53-acre cemetery occupies the south portion of the 6.94-acre town-owned parcel 038-0002 (see Figure 1). The parcel is bounded on the northwest by Main Street (Route 70), on the southwest by private land, on the southeast by an active railroad right-of-

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way, and on the northeast by the Nashua River. The boundary of the Middle Cemetery corresponds to the parcel boundaries on the northwest, southwest, and southeast; the northeast boundary follows a straight east-west line connecting the northwest and southeast parcel lines. The cemetery is approximately 350 feet long in a northeast-southwest direction along Main Street and approximately 270 feet wide in an east-west direction from Main Street to the railroad right-of-way.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Middle Cemetery corresponds to the approximately 350 feet by 270 feet rectangular cemetery within the larger town-owned Tax Parcel 038-0002 identified in the Town of Lancaster's Assessor's records.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Melissa J. Andrade/Architectural Historian and Laura J. Kline/Sr. Architectural Historian, both of the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL), with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director  
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission  
street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd.  
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125  
e-mail: betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us  
telephone: 617-727-8470  
date: July 2019

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer,

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photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Middle Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Lancaster

County: Worcester State: Massachusetts

Photographer: Melissa J. Andrade, PAL (Photos 1–25)/Heather Lennon, Town of Lancaster (Photos 26 and 27)

Date Photographed: August 8, 2018/July 18, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 27. Middle Cemetery, looking southeast.
- 2 of 27. Middle Cemetery, looking northeast.
- 3 of 27. Middle Cemetery, looking southeast, with Stone No. 3305, Wilder Family Marker (1841), at center.
- 4 of 27. Middle Cemetery, looking northeast.
- 5 of 27. Middle Cemetery, looking east, with Stone No. 3061, Sawyer Family Marker (1872), left midground.
- 6 of 27. Middle Cemetery, looking northwest, with Stone No. 3273, Caleb T. Symmes (1900), and Stone No. 3271, Nancy Richardson Symmes (1886), right foreground.
- 7 of 27. Retaining Wall (ca. 1842) and northern entrance gate posts, looking east.
- 8 of 27. Detail of Stone Wall, looking northeast at northern third of the cemetery.
- 9 of 27. Middle Cemetery Sign (2012), looking northeast.
- 10 of 27. Meetinghouse Site Marker (1925), looking southeast.
- 11 of 27. Stone No. 3749, Capt. Ephraim Carter (1798), looking east.
- 12 of 27. Stone No. 3740, Sarah Ballard (1799), and Stone No. 3741, Dea. Josiah Ballard (1799), looking southeast.
- 13 of 27. Stone No. 3930, Rebecca Leach (1810), looking southeast.
- 14 of 27. Stone No. 3774, Capt. Daniel Goss (1841), and Stone No. 3775, Polly Goss (1856), looking east.
- 15 of 27. Stone No. 3470, David Poignand (1830), and Stone No. 3469, Delicia Poignand (1833), looking southeast.
- 16 of 27. Stone No. 3053, Mary Maynard (1841), and Stone No. 3054, John H. Maynard (1876), looking southeast.
- 17 of 27. (Middle row of stones, left to right starting at second stone from left) Stone No. 3550, William Russell (1873); Stone No. 3551, Ursula Wood Russell (1883); Stone No. 3552, Anna U. Russell (1891); Stone No. 3553, Mary A. Russell (1869); and Stone No. 3554, Jenny H. Russell (1871), looking southeast.
- 18 of 27. Stone No. 3028, Mary Wilder (1842), looking south.
- 19 of 27. Stone No. 3609, Mary Safford (1831) center, looking southeast.
- 20 of 27. Stone No. 3697, Stearns Family Marker (1818) center, looking southeast.



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- 21 of 27. Stone No. 3009, Stratton Family Marker (1877), left foreground; Stone No. 3059, Howe Family Marker (1911), center midground; and Stone No. 3061, Sawyer Family Marker (1872), obelisk at right midground, looking east.
- 22 of 27. Stone No. 3243, Sweet Family Marker (1886), center foreground, and Stone No. 3246, Bennett Family Marker (1846), right midground, looking northeast.
- 23 of 27. Stone No. 3423, Arnold Family Marker (1875), looking southeast.
- 24 of 27. Stone No. 3016, Nourse Family Marker (1904), center midground, and Stone No. 3018, Henry Stedman Nourse (1903), right midground, looking southeast.
- 25 of 27. No. 2055, N. Thayer's Tomb (ca. 1840), looking east.
- 26 of 27. 2016 photograph of Stone No. 3947, Jonathan Barnard (1799), carved by Paul Colburn (Lennon 2016).
- 27 of 27. 2016 photograph of Stone No. 3493, Cyrus Fairbank (1835), carved by Cheney Kilburn, on right; the stone has since tipped over and lies face down on the ground (Lennon 2016).

**Figure List**

- Figure 1. Assessor's map showing the location of the Middle Cemetery within Lancaster Tax Parcel 038-0002.
- Figure 2. Middle Cemetery National Register Historic District Coordinate Map.
- Figure 3. Middle Cemetery National Register Historic District Map showing locations of all stones within the cemetery, including the representative examples counted as contributing resources and listed in the District Datasheet.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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**District Datasheet**  
**Middle Cemetery**

*Individual markers and tombs listed are representative of those found in the cemetery*

Stone No.**	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built***	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	C/NC****	Photo No.
N/A	LAN.800	Middle Cemetery	1798	N/A	N/A	N/A	Site	C	1-6
N/A	LAN.925	Stone Wall	Ca. 1842	Fieldstone	Dry-laid, retaining wall with large, irregular capstones	N/A	Structure	C	7-8
N/A	LAN.926	Entrance Gate Posts	Ca. 1842	Granite	Square, rough, posts with chained entry	N/A	Object	C	7
N/A	LAN.926	Entrance Gate Posts	Ca. 1842	Granite	Square, rough, posts with chained entry	N/A	Object	C	
3848	LAN.927	Meetinghouse Site Marker	1925	Granite	Tablet		Object	C	10
N/A	LAN.928	Middle Cemetery Sign	2012	Slate	Tablet		Object	NC	9
2055	LAN.929	N. Thayer's Tomb	1840	Granite	Family tomb		Structure	C	25
3009	LAN.930	Stratton Family Marker	1877	Marble	Pedestal monument with urn		Object	C	21
3016	LAN.931	Nourse Family Marker	1904	Granite	False tomb monument		Object	C	24
3018	LAN.932	Henry Stedman Nourse	1903	Granite	Pointed-top tablet with rusticated edges		Object	C	24

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Stone No.**	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built***	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	C/NC****	Photo No.
3028	LAN.933	Mary Wilder	1842	Marble	Rectangular tablet	Isaac Newton Stone	Object	C	18
3053	LAN.934	Mary Maynard	1841	Marble	Round-top tablet/Wheat sheaf		Object	C	16
3054	LAN.935	John H. Maynard	1876	Marble	Round-top tablet/Two hands shaking		Object	C	16
3059	LAN.936	Howe Family Marker	1911	Granite	Rectangular monument		Object	C	21
3061	LAN.937	Sawyer Family Marker	1872	Granite	Obelisk		Object	C	5, 21
3099	LAN.938	Martha Ann R. Bragg Carter	1844	Marble	Round-top tablet/Partially bloomed rose		Object	C	
3162	LAN.939	Anna Marie Cummings	1848	Marble	Round-top tablet/Dove		Object	C	
3243	LAN.940	Sweet Family Marker	1886	Marble	Pedestal monument with urn		Object	C	22
3246	LAN.941	Bennett Family Marker	1846	Marble	Pedestal monument		Object	C	22
3262	LAN.942	Tuttle Monument	1847	Marble	Pedestal monument		Object	C	
3266	LAN.943	Isabella Frances Fletcher	1894	Granite	Round-top tablet set in pedestal		Object	C	
3268	LAN.944	Charles Thornton Fletcher	1899	Granite	Round-top tablet set in pedestal		Object	C	

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Stone No.**	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built***	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	C/NC****	Photo No.
3271	LAN.945	Nancy (Richardson) Symmes	1886	Granite	Slant marker/Rusticated back and scroll-shaped, polished face		Object	C	6
3272	LAN.946	Caleb T. Symmes	1900	Granite	Slant marker/Rusticated back and scroll-shaped, polished face		Object	C	6
3278	LAN.947	James Pitts	1889	Marble	Rectangular tablet		Object	C	
3305	LAN.948	Wilder Family Marker	1841	Marble	Obelisk		Object	C	3
3353	LAN.949	Amy Fales	1849	Slate	Rectangular tablet		Object	C	
3408	LAN.950	Washington Litch	1798	Slate	Round-top tablet/Urn and pine tree		Object	C	
3423	LAN.951	Arnold Family Marker. James Adams Arnold (1875), Angelia Lawrence Arnold (1908), Francis James Arnold (1838), Aubrey Josiah Arnold (1851)	1875	Granite	Rectangular monument		Object	C	23
3469	LAN.952	Delicia Amiraux Poignand	1833	Marble	Round-top tablet/Urn and willow		Object	C	15
3470	LAN.953	David Poignand	1830	Marble	Round-top tablet/Urn and willow		Object	C	15

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Stone No.**	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built***	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	C/NC****	Photo No.
3488	LAN.954	Catherine Bruce	1824	Slate	Round-top tablet/Urn and willow		Object	C	
3489	LAN.955	Jonathan Bruce	1832	Slate	Round-top tablet/Urn and willow		Object	C	
3493	LAN.956	Cyrus Fairbank	1835	Slate	Round-top tablet/Urn and willow	Cheney Kilburn	Object	C	27
3545	LAN.957	Stearns Monument	1825	Granite	Pedestal monument		Object	C	
3550	LAN.958	William Russell	1873	Marble	Monument with steeply pitched top/Gothic Revival		Object	C	17
3551	LAN.959	Ursula Wood Russell	1883	Marble	Pointed-top tablet/Cross and IHS symbol		Object	C	17
3552	LAN.960	Anna U. Russell	1894	Marble	Pointed-top tablet/Chi-Rho symbol		Object	C	17
3553	LAN.961	Mary A. Russell	1869	Marble	Round-top tablet/Cross		Object	C	17
3554	LAN.962	Jenny H. Russell	1874	Marble	Pointed-top tablet/Robed arm holding a cross		Object	C	17

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Stone No.**	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built***	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	C/NC****	Photo No.
3583	LAN.963	Capt. Elijah Houghton	1810	Slate	Round-top tablet/Urn and willow		Object	C	
3597	LAN.964	Anna Goodhue	1858	Slate	Tablet		Object	C	
3609	LAN.965	Mary Safford	1831	Marble	Rectangular tablet	Isaac Hartwell	Object	C	19
3695	LAN.966	Addie C. White	1877	Marble	Pointed-top tablet/Gothic Revival		Object	C	
3697	LAN.967	Stearns Family Marker	1818	Granite	Pedestal monument with urn		Object	C	20
3740	LAN.968	Sarah Ballard	1799	Slate	Round-top tablet/Soul effigy		Object	C	12
3741	LAN.969	Deacon Josiah Ballard	1799	Slate	Round-top tablet/Soul effigy		Object	C	12
3749	LAN.970	Capt. Ephraim Carter	1798	Slate	Round-top tablet/Freemason, palm, coffin, column		Object	C	11
3758	LAN.971	Capt. John Lyon	1836	Marble	Tablet		Object	C	
3773	LAN.972	Capt. Daniel Goss	1809	Slate	Tablet		Object	C	
3774	LAN.973	Capt. Daniel Goss	1841	Slate	Round-top tablet/Urn and willow		Object	C	14
3775	LAN.974	Polly Goss	1856	Slate	Round-top tablet/Urn and willow		Object	C	14

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Stone No.**	MHC No.	Resource/Name	Year Built***	Material	Form/Style	Carver (if known)	Resource Type	C/NC****	Photo No.
3803	LAN.975	Emma Sargeant	1968	Granite	Slant Marker		Object	C	
3930	LAN.976	Rebecca Leach	1810	Slate	Round-top tablet/Urn and willow	Samuel Kilburn	Object	C	13
3944	LAN.977	Jonathan Barnard	1824	Slate	Tablet/Urn and willow		Object	C	
3947	LAN.978	Jonathan Barnard	1799	Slate	Round-top tablet/Soul effigy	Paul Colburn	Object	C	26

\*The datasheet is derived from a comprehensive list of markers in the Middle Cemetery created from the 2007 plan and list and supplemented with information from other lists of known interments in the cemetery and from photographs (Peach 2017; David E. Ross and Associates 2007a, 2007b). The 2007 plan and list do not include first names, death dates, or all persons listed on each marker. Where possible, full names and death dates have been added. The material and form/style have been identified for all representative markers discussed in Sections 7 and 8 of this nomination.

\*\*Stone No. corresponds to the number assigned by David Ross and Associates in 2007 and used to identify the marker on the district sketch map, which includes not only the representative examples in the datasheet but also the other markers identified in the 2007 comprehensive plan and list.

\*\*\*Year Built refers to the interment date on the marker and does not necessarily reflect when the stone was placed.

\*\*\*\*C/NC – Contributing or noncontributing to the National Register

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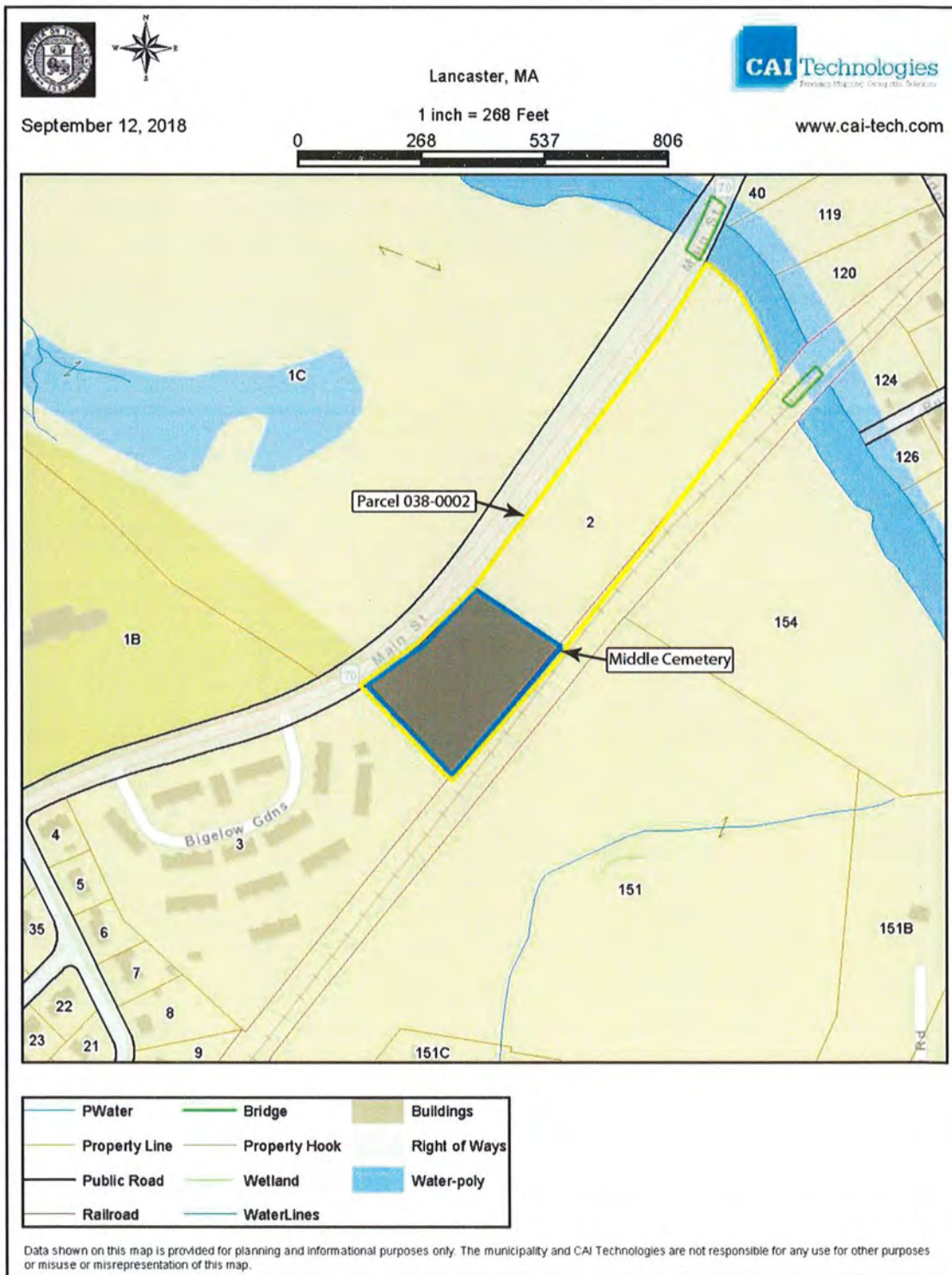


Figure 1. Assessor's map showing the location of the Middle Cemetery within Lancaster Tax Parcel 038-0002.



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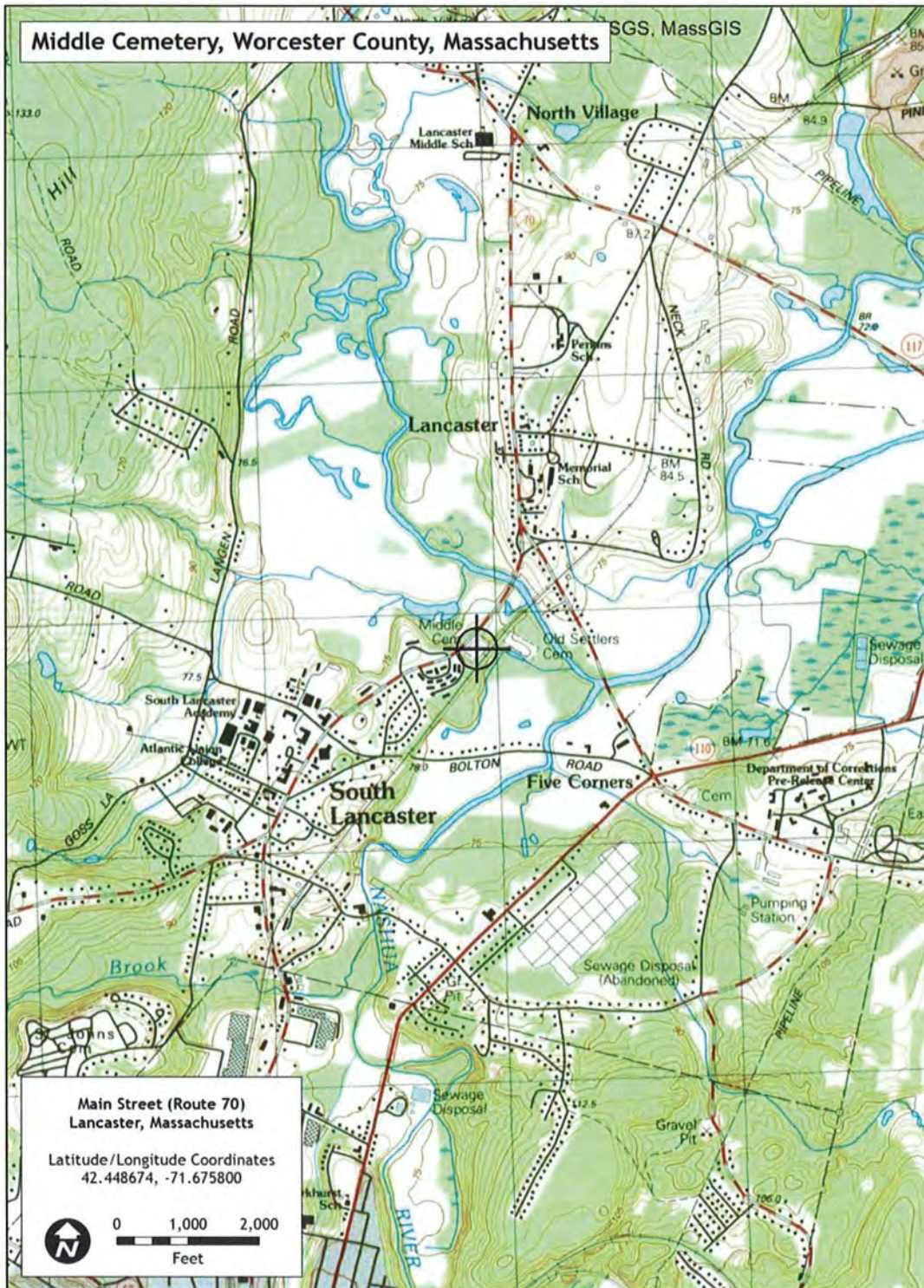


Figure 2. Middle Cemetery National Register Historic District Coordinate Map.

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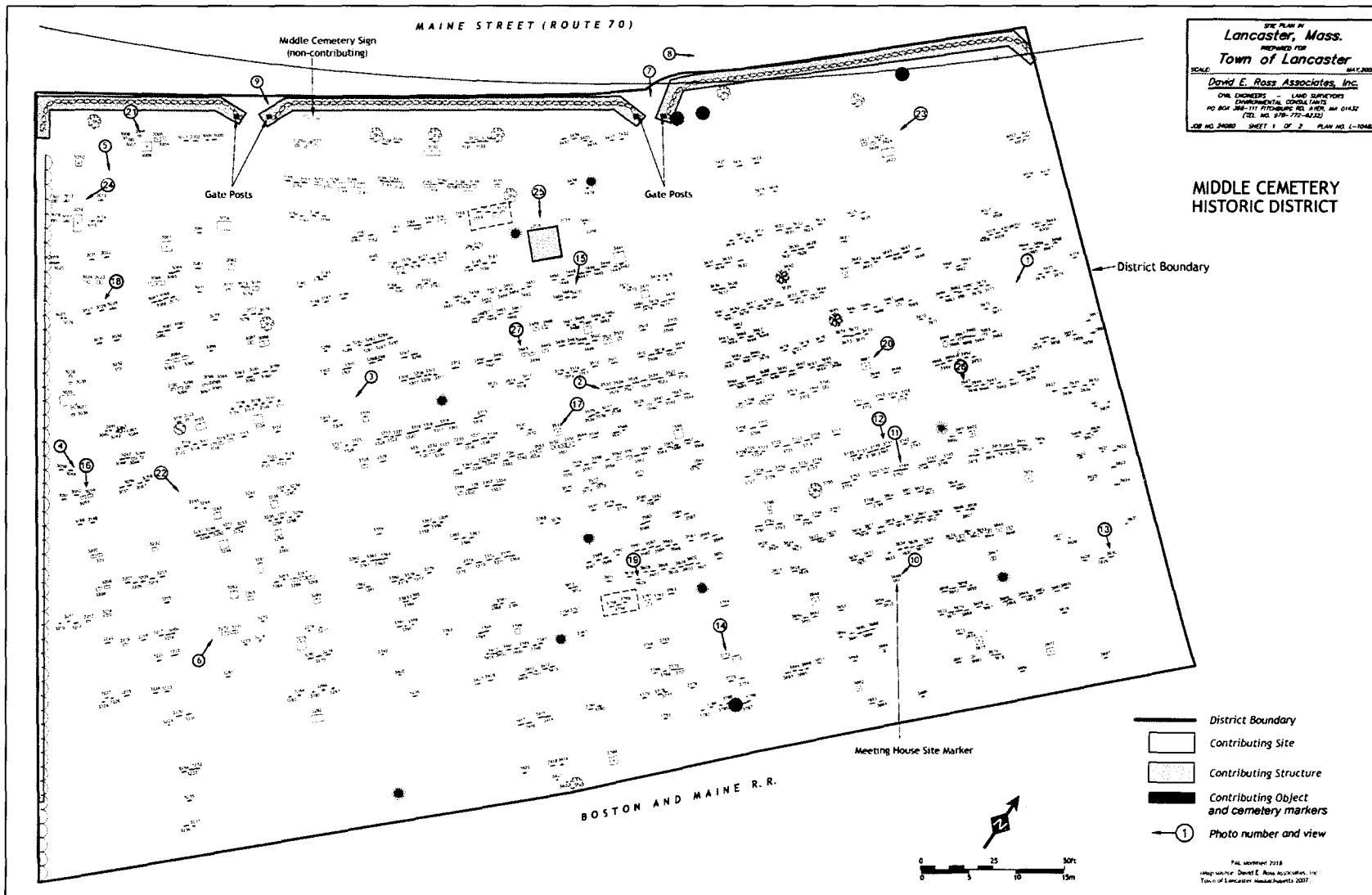


Figure 3. Middle Cemetery National Register Historic District Map showing locations of all stones within the cemetery, including the representative examples counted as contributing resources and listed in the District Datasheet





Gravestone with a decorative top, possibly a monument for a family or a specific individual.

Gravestone for the family of  
MRS. MARY  
Died Nov. 1852

Gravestone for the family of  
MRS. MARY  
Died Nov. 24, 1852

Gravestone for the family of  
MRS. MARY  
Died Nov. 1852

Gravestone for the family of  
MRS. MARY  
Died Nov. 1852

Gravestone for the family of  
MRS. MARY  
Died Nov. 1852

Gravestone for the family of  
MRS. MARY  
Died Nov. 1852



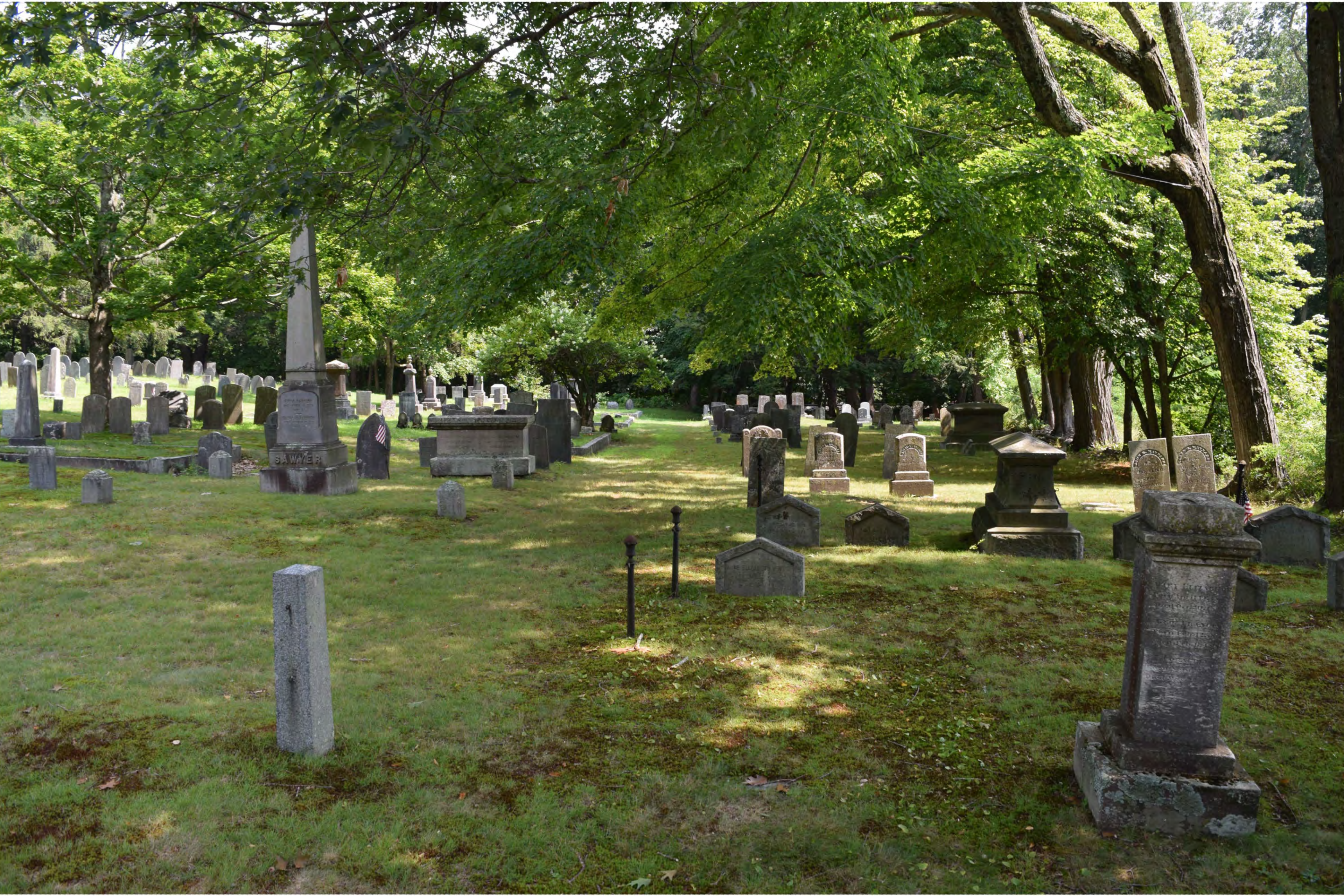
IN  
MEMORY OF  
MRS.  
MARY BURTON  
BORN  
JAN. 10, 1820  
DIED  
MAY 11, 1892  
AGED 72

MICHAEL THOMAS  
BORN  
MAY 10, 1820  
DIED  
AUG. 10, 1892  
AGED 72

MARK WILSON  
DIED  
MAY 11, 1892  
AGED 72

AMERICAN  
DIED  
MAY 11, 1892  
AGED 72











NOTICE  
NO TRESPASSING  
ON OLD SETTLERS  
BURIAL GROUNDS  
WITHOUT PERMISSION  
FROM THE STATE OF NEW





MIDDLE CEMETERY

EST. 1798

ENLARGED 1843

1925

SITE OF FIRST & SECOND  
MEETING HOUSES

BUILT ABOUT 1657  
BURNED BY INDIANS 1676

---

BUILT ABOUT 1684  
BURNED BY THE ENEMY  
1704

---

ERECTED BY  
MARY WASHINGTON  
CHAPTER D. R.  
CLINTON

IN  
Memory of  
CAPTAIN HER TOWER  
Died Aug. 1877  
Aged 72

The noblest work of God

CAPTAIN EPHRAIM CARTER  
died May 19. 1798 age 55  
He was a comfort & staff to aged  
Parents, a guide to Children,  
a faithful & affectionate Consort,  
a Patron & Lover of Free Masonry,  
& a constant Benefactor to the Poor.  
Animated with public Spirit,  
he promoted the good of society  
and in his numerous private and  
public employments, acted with  
strict integrity.  
He was a sincere Christian & his  
memory shall long be cherished.

ERECTED  
in memory of  
Dea<sup>n</sup> Jofiah Ballard,  
who died Aug 6<sup>th</sup>  
1799, in the 78<sup>th</sup>  
Year of his age.

*Let worms devour my wasting flesh,  
And crumble all my bones to dust;  
For God shall raise my frame anew  
In the revival of the just.*

ERECTED  
in memory of Mrs.  
Sarah Ballard,  
Wife of Dea<sup>n</sup> Jofiah Ballard,  
who died March 31<sup>st</sup>  
1799, in the 74<sup>th</sup>  
Year of her age.

*Deaths the last point of many lingering  
We live in sadness, and we part in tears.*

To the  
memory of  
MRS REBECCA LEA-  
CH the wife of Mr  
Joseph Leach who  
departed this life  
April 28<sup>th</sup> 1810  
A. 39

If Christian piety and conjugal affection  
could have created all the good that  
she would here will find on earth, and  
Alas! No woman more mercifulous but  
As yet her husband's life more than  
Gave the world a more valuable tomb  
Take the great treasure that she  
And give the world a more valuable  
In the land of the living  
But can't give her name  
There let it fall some day at the  
beneath the altar of the tomb



CAPT.  
DANIEL GOSS JR  
died June 11, 1841,  
Æt. 51 ys. & 11 ms.



POLLY,  
*widow of*  
Capt. Daniel Goss.  
died  
Jan. 24, 1856.  
Æt. 80 ys. 6 ms.



SACRED  
to the memory of  
DAVID POIGNAND,  
Born in the Island  
of Jersey,  
Jan. 12, 1759.  
Died in Lancaster,  
Nov. 10, 1830.

SACRED  
to the memory of  
DELICIA AMIRAUX  
POIGNAND,  
Born in the Island  
of Jersey,  
Dec. 17, 1764.  
Died in Lancaster,  
Sept. 30, 1853.



GRAVESTONE FOR JOHN H. MAYNARD  
DIED  
MAY 25 1861  
AUG 15 1895

GRAVESTONE FOR BRAD SAVAGE  
DIED  
MAY 25 1861  
AUG 15 1895

GRAVESTONE FOR BRAD SAVAGE  
DIED  
MAY 25 1861  
AUG 15 1895

GRAVESTONE FOR THOMAS SAWYER  
DIED  
FEB. 2. 1861  
B. 22.

GRAVESTONE FOR THOMAS SAWYER  
DIED  
NOV. 22 1851  
B. 22.

GRAVESTONE FOR THOMAS SAWYER  
DIED  
NOV. 22 1851  
B. 22.

GRAVESTONE FOR THOMAS SAWYER  
DIED  
NOV. 22 1851  
B. 22.

GRAVESTONE FOR THOMAS SAWYER  
DIED  
NOV. 22 1851  
B. 22.



IN MEMORY OF  
MR. J. W. LINCOLN  
who died  
Dec. 30, 1884  
A. 1884

In memory of  
MARTIN ANGLER  
who died  
Nov. 11, 1882

J. W. RUSSELL  
Born [illegible]  
Died [illegible]  
Aged [illegible] years

Entered [illegible]  
March 27, 1884  
MRS. J. W. RUSSELL  
Aged 82 yrs.

TRINITY BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
MY HUSBAND  
GEORGE ENDICOTT  
WILDER  
OCTOBER 7 1841  
FEBRUARY 17 1894

MRS. MARY M.  
wife of  
Daniel K. Wilder  
died Nov. 24, 1842  
Aged 39.

MRS. ANNIS

WIFE OF  
GEORGE SAFFORD  
DIED  
FEB. 10. 1831.  
A. 36.





MONUMENT

HOWE

SAWYER











ANNE ELIZABETH MORSE  
SEPTEMBER 1858  
JUNE 25 1900

STEPHEN MORSE  
AUGUST 27 1798  
AUGUST 1848

[Large, multi-tiered monument with illegible text]

[Gravestone with an American flag placed next to it]



In memory of  
Mr. Joseph Emerson  
who died

In memory of  
Mr.  
Elias Emerson

JOSEPH EMERSON



In memory of  
Jonath<sup>n</sup>. Barnard.  
Son of Mr. Jonathan &  
Mrs. Annas Barnard.  
who died Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>  
1799, Aged 3 years  
2 months & 20 days.

Mrs.  
MARY FAIRBANK  
wife of Mr. Cyrus Fairbank,  
who died  
Dec. 13, 1827,  
aged 63 years.  
*An affectionate wife and  
a tender friend.*

MR.  
CYRUS FAIRBANK  
died  
April 30, 1835,  
aged 68.

MEMORIAL OF  
MRS. THAYER  
who died  
April 18, 1835,  
aged 68.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Middle Cemetery

Multiple Name:

State & County: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

Date Received: 9/24/2019      Date of Pending List: 10/16/2019      Date of 16th Day: 10/31/2019      Date of 45th Day: 11/8/2019      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004560

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      11/8/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary      NR Criteria A & C  
Comments:

Recommendation/      AOS: Social History, Art; POS: 1798-1968; LOS: local  
Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 11/8/19

DOCUMENTATION:      see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



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



September 12, 2019

Kathryn Smith  
Deputy Keeper  
Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW, Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Smith:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Middle Cemetery, Lancaster (Worcester County), Massachusetts

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owner of the property was notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 75 days before the meeting and was afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Dept. of Public Works, Cemetery Division  
Orlando Pacheco, Town Administrator  
Stanley B. Starr, Jr., Chair, Lancaster Board of Selectmen  
Philip F. Lawler, Chair, Lancaster Planning Board  
Heather Lennon, Chair, Lancaster Historical Commission  
Laura Kline, PAL, preservation consultant