

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1474

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 Mount Pleasant Cemetery (preferred)

other names/site number King Family Burying Ground

2. Location

street & number Crocker, Cohannet, and Barnum Streets not for publication

city or town Taunton vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Bristol code 005 zip code 02780

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

Oct. 9, 2002

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon
Massachusetts Historical Commission, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

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

Edward B. Beall

12/5/02

Mount Pleasant Cemetery
Name of Property

Bristol, MA
County and State

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

_____ building

_____ 1 _____ sites

_____ structures

_____ objects

_____ 1 _____ 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

_____ 0 _____

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)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other slate, granite, marble _____

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 7 Page 1

7. Narrative Description

Taunton's Mount Pleasant Cemetery is a well-preserved example of a small-scale rural cemetery, which incorporates many features associated with the development of this landscape type. Located at the former King Family Homestead, the design of Mount Pleasant incorporated the King Family burial ground. The area embraced by this nomination contains an extensive collection of funerary monuments, documenting three centuries of evolving memorial taste, set amidst curvilinear drives, trees, and varied topography. It is also the burial place of many of the city's notable citizens.

The cemetery is an approximately rhombic-shaped, ten-acre site bounded by Crocker Street to the east, Barnum Street to the south, Cohannet Street to the West and Walnut Street to the north. The site consists of several gently-rolling hills ranging in height from 76 to 30 feet in elevation. The hills within the cemetery property are part of a range of hills that traverse throughout the community in a north-south direction.

The initial development of the cemetery is reported to have been carried out beginning in 1836 when the site was granted to the "Proprietors for the Taunton Cemetery," by Samuel Crocker. The nucleus of this cemetery is the old John King Family Burying Ground that predates the establishment of Mount Pleasant. (The King family plots, with interments before 1835, are numbered 328 and 329 on the 1932 plan of the cemetery.)

The King Family Burial Ground is located near the intersection of South and Magnolia Avenue, along Aspen and Ivy Path and includes early gravestones that predate the establishment of Mount Pleasant. Slightly tapered, four-sided granite posts, three on a side, and a set of two simple metal stringers, enclose the lot on four sides. Within the enclosure, there are twelve interments. The oldest belongs to Phillip King, who died in 1710. All are marked by simple limestone markers.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 7 Page 2

Upon entering the cemetery at the Crocker Street gate the gravel drive immediately divides at a T-intersection and, following the topography of the site, winds around, defining eight distinct areas within the cemetery. With the exception of the access through the gates, it is an interior road system, flanked by burial plots on either side. This primary circulation system includes named avenues with geographic references including, North, South, Central and Point as well as botanical references, including Magnolia, Linden, Cypress, Alpine and Branch. A secondary grass path system exists primarily within the individual parcels. The paths are named for trees, shrubs and vines, as well as geographic references. The cemetery, laid out by Taunton resident and land surveyor Joseph Wilbar, initially included 260 lots. Wilbar's 1836 plan indicated an entrance on Cohannet Street (which no longer exists) and Crocker Streets. The naturalistic circulation pattern established in the original section was continued as additional small parcels were added and areas developed. Stillwater Lake was filled in the first decade of the 20th century, the Point Avenue section was laid out in 1927, bringing the total number of lots to 800.

One of the most distinctive features of the cemetery is the number of mature trees, mainly deciduous. They include at the main entrance, a Tree-of-Heaven, (*Ailanthus altissima*) and two large Beech trees, one along Cohannet Street and the other in the northwest corner. Throughout the cemetery there are many sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*) and the more unusual black maple, (*Acer nigrum*). A row of American basswoods (*Tilia americana*) border the Barnum Street edge. Also in the southwest corner is a beautiful white oak (*Quercus alba*) with English ivy covering the trunk to a height of approximately fifty feet. Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and a White cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) are also found in the cemetery. The maple trees in particular are in very poor condition.

Wilbar took advantage of the varied topography of the site in the initial design. The hillocks are named Mount Crocker, Mount Pleasant, Ridge Hill and a low area named Cypress Dell. There are a number of stone retaining walls, granite steps along pathways, and defining the boundaries of some lots, simple but decorative granite curbing.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 7 Page 3

The appearance of the cemetery today dates to the 1920s with the addition of the George E. Wilbur Mausoleum and Receiving Tomb in 1922, and The Main Entrance gates and fence added in 1926.

The George E. Wilbur Mausoleum is sited on axis with the main gate with Mount Crocker in the background. The one-story structure was a gift from Mrs. George E. Wilbur in memory of her husband who served as the cemetery's president beginning in 1898. It is constructed of cut granite block, with classically inspired details. The mausoleum is rectangular in plan with the primary façade located in the east gable end. It is comprised of a centrally placed double door with a slightly pedimented surround, flanked by attenuated recessed panels with decorative metal grills. Engaged columns rest on a plain granite entry base and are finished with a simple capital. A lintel projects from the façade, carved with: GEORGE E. WILBUR MEMORIAL. A three-part pediment finishes the top. A retaining wall, also of granite block, serves to tie the mausoleum to the site. The designer is unknown.

The King Memorial Gate, a gift from Mrs. Edward King, was added in 1926 and extends along Crocker Street from the eastern boundary to the corner of Barnum Street. It is constructed of square granite posts with a base, recessed rectangular panels on each face, and an overhanging granite capstone. The metal gates and fence consists of three stringers with two sets of alternating pales. The primary pales project above the uppermost stringer and are finished with a decorative point. The secondary set of pales terminate just above the middle stringer and are topped with a slightly smaller tip. The north gate is finished with a single anthemion-like motif. A chain-link fence encloses the remaining cemetery perimeter, approximately five feet high, together with square, rough-cut granite posts, approximately three feet high.

Throughout the cemetery there are a number of architecturally and historically significant monuments. They range from simple gravestones to highly refined classical designs. The Elizabeth Poole Memorial (lot 1), carved by Alpheus Cary of Cambridge, is a simple but elegant four-sided limestone memorial with a pyramidal cap featuring classically inspired floral elements.

The last lot was sold at Mount Pleasant in 1984; however, burials continue as family plots in particular are not full.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 7 Page 4

The design of Mount Pleasant Cemetery is noteworthy in a number of ways: it is one of the earliest *rural cemeteries* in the country; for the respectful manner in which the King Family Burial Ground was incorporated into the design; and the overall integrity of the design as the cemetery developed more lots. All serve to underscore the strength of the original design and the on-going commitment to stewardship, initially by the Proprietors of Mount Pleasant, and following the transfer of ownership, the City of Taunton.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery, it is possible that sites are present. Two sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the area also represent some locational characteristics (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of ancient sites. Undisturbed soils in the cemetery locale are excessively drained and located in some level to moderately sloped areas. Moderate to excessive slope characterizes other parts of the cemetery and the entire area is located well over 1,000 feet from the nearest wetlands, both characteristics that adversely effect the site potential for the cemetery. Given the above information and impacts related to three centuries of grave excavations in the area, a low potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

A moderate potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Most of the cemetery was part of the homestead farm of the John King Family established in the 17th century. The John King Family Burial Ground, located near the intersection of South and Magnolia Avenue, forms the nucleus of the present cemetery. Structural evidence of buildings and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with the John King Family Homestead may exist in the cemetery locale, however, no evidence indicating a location for these resources in the area is known. Human remains and funerary objects associated with unmarked and marked graves may be located in the vicinity of the King Family Burial Ground and larger cemetery. Unmarked graves can be the result of lost stones, wooden

(continued)

Mount Pleasant Cemetery

Name of Property

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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Bristol, MA

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Social History

Period of Significance

1710-1952

Significant Dates

1710 earliest burial

1836 Mt. Pleasant Cemetery established

1927 Point Ave. section laid out

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Joseph Wilbar, designer

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 7/8 Page 5/1

markers that no longer exist or intentionally unmarked graves possibly related to paupers or other indigent persons. Artifacts may also exist with individual graves and in family plots related to memorial services. Post molds may exist indicating the locations of boundary markers and/or fence lines around family plots or cemetery borders.

(end)

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Mount Pleasant Cemetery is a historically significant designed landscape. The ten-acre site, formally the John King Homestead, located approximately a mile from the center of Taunton, was laid out in 1836 incorporating the pre-existing King Family burial ground. The current design exhibits elements associated with the nineteenth century *rural cemetery* movement. The Mount Pleasant Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level for its historical significance and associations with the social history and community development of Taunton; as an example of an early *rural cemetery*, possibly one of the oldest in the country after Mount Auburn in Cambridge, established in 1831, (NR 6/3083), Mount Hope in Bangor, Maine established in 1834, (NR 12/04/74) and Forest Grove Cemetery in Augusta, Maine established in 1835, (NR Status undetermined); from the fine collection of structures and markers found there and as the burial place of many important members of business, government and military from the past several centuries. Criteria consideration D also applies.

The Mount Pleasant Cemetery meets Criterion A due to its association with the early settlement of Taunton as evidenced by the King Family lot and the continuous use of the current cemetery from its inception in 1836 up to the present. It is a well-preserved example of a *rural cemetery* whose design underscores the sophisticated and progressive ideals of its founders.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 8 Page 2

Mount Pleasant Cemetery meets Criterion C as an early designed landscape that incorporates many design features associated with the *rural cemetery movement*. It also illustrates evolving funerary styles while maintaining the integrity of the historic naturalistic layout. The design also skillfully incorporates the pre-existing King Family burial lot into the new design scheme. Some of the burial markers have been attributed to well-known regional and local carvers, such as Alpheus Cary of Cambridge and David Burt of Taunton.

Mount Pleasant Cemetery meets Criteria Exception D because it contains graves and memorials to persons of transcendent importance to the early settlement and development of Taunton, as well as its design as a *rural cemetery*.

Taunton was first settled in 1637 when Elizabeth Poole led a group of Englishmen to a region called Cohannet by the local Wampanoag Indians. The name of the settlement was changed to Taunton in 1640, as many of the early settlers came from the shire town of Somerset County in England. The early citizens of Taunton played an active role in the development of the southeastern region of Massachusetts region during the 17th century as many important meetings were held between the colonists and the Wampanoag Indian Federation in Taunton's early meetinghouse.

Taunton citizens joined area colonists in armed resistance to the Native Americans during the region's King Phillip's War. Taunton's First Military Company played an active role in the King William's War as the 17th century drew to a close. As unrest grew throughout the American colonies against the British crown, Tauntonians were among the first to join liberty's call as the Taunton "Sons of Liberty" raised the Liberty and Union flag on historic Taunton Green on October 21, 1774.

As the industrial age emerged in the early 19th century, Taunton became a growing center for manufacturing of textiles, stoves, locomotives, textile machinery and britannia ware. The community enjoyed a prosperous shipping industry as coal, grain, clay, tacks, brick and other products were transported along the Taunton River. Industries like Reed & Barton, Silversmiths, the Glenwood Range Company, the Mason Machine Works, the Taunton Locomotive Works, the Staples Coal Company, the Albert Field Tack Company, the Stiles and Hart

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 8 Page 3

Brick Company, the Taunton Copper Company, and the Whittenton Manufacturing Company attracted many early emigrants that were drawn to Southeastern Massachusetts for economic opportunities throughout the industrial age.

Taunton was a major railroad transportation center with most railroad lines traveling to and from Boston. The Taunton Branch Railroad was established in 1836 in an attempt to attract and increase industrial and economic opportunities for the region. The concept for the creation of a new cemetery was concurrent with the arrival of the railroad.

The concept for the creation of the new cemetery in Taunton began in 1836, as future Congressman Samuel Crocker, one of the leading industrialists in 19th century New England, served as first president of the proprietors of the Taunton Cemetery. Crocker, along with his brothers, George and William, established the Taunton Copper Company that specialized in yellow metals, copper and zinc, and also produced rollers for coins used by the United States Government. He also served as president of the Taunton Locomotive Manufacturing Company. Between 1818-1820 he served on the Massachusetts Governor's Council and in 1853 was elected to the United States House of Representatives and served for one term in the Thirty-third Congress under President Franklin Pierce. Crocker donated the ten-acre parcel, formally the John King Homestead, to the "Proprietors of the Taunton Cemetery" and served as the cemetery's first president. The King Family burial ground, located on the site, serves as the nucleus of the Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

As local citizens gathered in 1836 to support the concept for the creation of the Taunton Cemetery, the proprietors felt that a proper design was needed to plan the layout of the new cemetery so that the unique elements of the property could be preserved. Taunton resident Joseph Wilbar was chosen to draw up the design because of his abilities as a land surveyor. Like Mount Auburn Cemetery, and in keeping with the proprietors' desire to preserve the rural character of the property, Wilbar laid out a series of drives and footpaths that followed the natural contours of the site. He named the walks Chestnut, Linden, Hazel, and Walnut; paths were named Ivy, Greenbriar, Violet, Myrtle, Holly, Evergreen, Cypress and Moss. The topographic and water features were also named:

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 8 Page 4

Stillwater Lake, (later filled in to create more burial plots) with Emerald Isle at the center; Ridge Hill; Mount Crocker; Mount Pleasant and Cypress Dell. In keeping with Wilbar's design, the cemetery was set out with 260 lots that were auctioned at \$10.00 each.

Mount Pleasant Cemetery designer Joseph Wilbar was born in Easton on December 13, 1792, and was educated in local schools. His principle business was land surveying. Previously, he had worked with the Ames family in Easton and from them gained an appreciation of horticulture. Wilbar moved to Taunton in 1822 and was elected to the Board of Selectmen and was later appointed as Registrar of Deeds from 1841-73. It appears that Mount Pleasant may be the only design project Wilbar undertook. At this time, architects, civil engineers, and landscape gardeners typically laid out ornamental grounds or, as was the case at Mount Pleasant, land surveyors.

Landscape Architecture as a specialized profession did not exist until the latter part of the 19th century. *Rural Cemeteries* are among the few early designed landscape types found in this country. Their multi-purpose function, that is, burial place and recreation, was a critical link between private estates laid out in a naturalistic manner and the establishment of designed public open space. The evolution and refinement of the public park ideal continued and was greatly influenced by the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852) and the realization of Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) and Calvert Vaux's (1824-95) design for New York's Central Park beginning in 1858.

The design of Mount Pleasant Cemetery, as well as the precepts on which it was founded, are closely associated with the concepts that characterize the 19th century *rural cemetery movement*. Cambridge's Mount Auburn Cemetery, established in 1831, became the paradigm for the design and management of the *rural cemetery*. Planned with the intent to create a picturesque atmosphere, *rural cemeteries* typically would include serpentine walks, which followed the varied topography, water features, and naturalistic plantings. They were located outside developed areas, rural in feeling, although close to a city center. Monuments were often three-dimensional, and of durable stone with sculptural aspects. Generally, these cemeteries were structured as not-for-profit corporations managed by trustees, with the day-to-day affairs handled by a

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 8 Page 5

superintendent. A number of *rural cemeteries* also had a horticultural function. Both Mount Auburn and Mount Hope, in Bangor Maine initially had a direct affiliation with local horticultural societies. Mount Pleasant shares many similarities with Forest Grove Cemetery in Augusta, Maine. Forest Grove, like Mount Pleasant, incorporated an existing burial ground, laid out lots and walks in a naturalistic manner, and planted trees. The two are also a similar size, each about ten acres.

Additionally, one of the most important concepts distinguishing these designs is the fact that such cemeteries, beginning with Mount Auburn, have a social, as opposed to religious, emphasis. Rather than a burial ground dedicated to a specific religious denomination, these cemeteries were open to all that wished to purchase lots.

An equally significant characteristic of the *rural cemetery* concept is the planned recreational aspect. By the second quarter of the 19th century, many cities and towns were faced with a critical shortage of space in their burying grounds. Add to this the growing need to provide a naturalistic retreat from the rigors of urban life and an opportunity for residents to reconnect to their rural roots and one finds, in the *rural cemetery*, a significant multi-purpose landscape. The establishment of Mount Pleasant Cemetery coincided with the arrival of the railroad in Taunton and heralded the Town's transformation from a shire town to an industrial city. Between 1800 and 1840, Taunton's population grew from 3,860 to 7,645 people, and would double again between 1840 and the Civil War.

One aspect of the *rural cemetery* that Mount Pleasant did not share with its predecessors was the horticultural function. Although the beauty of Mount Pleasant is due in part to extensive plantings, it did not include the "experimental garden" aspect that characterized many other *rural cemeteries*.

There are two parallels between Mount Pleasant and Mount Auburn that are worth noting. First, Section 5 of The Act to Incorporate the Proprietors of the Taunton Cemetery specifically references "... All of the provisions contained in the seventh, eighth and ninth sections of the Act to Incorporate Mount Auburn... shall apply and have effect as to the Taunton Cemetery." These sections refer

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 8 Page 6

respectively to damage to monuments and plant material, inheritance issues, and bequests to the corporation. Additionally, the erection of the first monument at Mount Pleasant shared similar aspects with the first monument erected at Mount Auburn. The first burial at Mount Auburn was Hannah Adams. The white marble column was erected by her female friends and inscribed: "To Hannah Adams, Historian of the Jews and Reviewer of the Christian Sects..." The first monument erected at Mount Pleasant was to the memory of Elizabeth Poole, the foundress of Taunton, by the Ladies of Taunton in 1837. Although Elizabeth Poole is not buried in this cemetery, the local citizens chose to recognize this brave woman, as she is believed to be the only woman in the country that is credited with founding a community. Coincidentally, Alpheus Cary carved both monuments. Cary, an original lot owner at Mount Auburn, taught sculptor Horatio Greenough to carve as a young boy, and authored a book entitled, " Epitaphs for Monumental Inscriptions" (1865). Cary signed hundreds of gravestones at Mount Auburn. He died in 1869 at the age of eighty.

Mount Pleasant Cemetery is the final resting place for a number of individuals whose activities influenced the course of military and industrial history, government leaders, and those who made contributions to the arts and sciences.

The oldest stone in the cemetery dates from 1710 and serves as the eternal marker for both Phillip and John King, both members of the 'Taunton First Military Company'. The Taunton First Military Company, established in 1639, serves as one of the oldest military Companies still in existence as it evolved throughout the centuries with various name changes into the present day 772nd Military Police Company (that was proudly called to action in Operation Desert Storm, in the Persian Gulf).

Due to the nucleus of the John King Family Burial Ground that came with the acquisition of the property, the Mount Pleasant Cemetery has four centuries of heroes buried there who fought for the freedom of their fellow citizens. The Mount Pleasant Cemetery proudly serves as the resting place for veterans of the King William's War (1689-1697), Queen Anne's War (1702-1713), the American War for Independence, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the American Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 8 Page 7

Among the most notable military heroes are General Darius Couch, who was one of President Lincoln's most trusted generals during the Civil War, and Rear Admiral A. Loring Swazey, who was noted for his design of submarine chasers and patrol boats as America entered World War II. These two fine soldiers serve as the highest-ranking military officers resting at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Also resting at this cemetery is the noted local minister, historian and civic leader Samuel Hopkins Emery. Emery came to Taunton from Quincy, Illinois, where he became concerned for the soldiers on America's battlefields. President Lincoln recognized the talent and concern of Samuel Hopkins Emery by providing a pass that would allow the minister to care for the sick and wounded soldiers. The pass read: -'S.H. Emery, of Quincy [Illinois], for transportation for himself and any who might be in company with him, with stores and nurses for the sick and wounded Union Soldiers.' It was in part due to the efforts of Mr. Emery that the United States Congress passed a bill authorizing the appointment of chaplains for Army hospitals. On March 23, 1863, Samuel Hopkins Emery was the first chaplain appointed under this bill.

The Mount Pleasant cemetery serves as their final resting spot for talented pioneers in the fields of industry, business, transportation, the arts, government, and the sciences. William Mason, a nationally recognized industrialist, was the owner of the famed Mason Machine Works. Mason was the holder of several United States patents as his company was the recognized leader in the production of textile machinery and locomotives as well as guns used by the Union troops during the Civil War. Henry Reed and Charles Barton established the world renowned Reed and Barton Silversmiths in 1824, and although both pioneers rest at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, the twentieth century artisans of Reed and Barton manufactory still perform their craft today.

From Albert Field, who created one of the largest Tack works in the country, to William Walker, the creator of the famous Glenwood Range Company, a leading manufactory of stoves, the Mount Pleasant Cemetery has a distinguished list of luminaries resting there. Daniel and Eugene Brownell, in 1906 and William Crocker, Parley Perrin, William Lovering along with William Mason all led the effort to introduce rail service to the region.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 8 Page 8

Also resting at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery is an impressive roster of government leaders led by Massachusetts Governor Marcus Morton, American Diplomat Francis Baylies along with five United States Congressmen, Lieutenant-Governors, State Legislators, State Senators, United States Postmasters, and judges.

These accomplished citizens are joined in rest at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery by A. Cleveland Bent, PhD, known throughout the world for his work in the field of ornithology. Bent was a recipient of the John Burroughs Medal, the William Brewster Medal, and the Daniel Girard Elliot Medal, and was recognized by the National Academy of Sciences for his efforts in zoology. Bent was actively involved with the Smithsonian Institution and was compared to John James Audubon as a leader in his field.

There are many fine examples of work by local monument carvers. Daniel A. Burt, who owned and operated the Taunton Monument Works, designed many of the older stones. Anthony Hathaway and John B. Sullivan of Myricksville carved many of the stones at Mount Pleasant.

The Board of Directors of the Mount Pleasant Cemetery Corporation relied on the income from the sale of lots to subsidize their operation and maintain the cemetery. However, it was insufficient to meet the maintenance needs of the cemetery and on August 6, 1984, the Directors of the corporation asked the city to accept ownership of the cemetery. In April 1985, the Taunton Municipal Council voted to draft legislation to accept the Mount Pleasant Cemetery and, upon passage of Chapter 352 of the Acts of 1985 by the Massachusetts State Legislature, the deed transferring the cemetery to the City of Taunton was

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 8 Page 9

signed on January 24, 1986. The last lots were sold in 1984. Previously, these had been considered "too small". However, changing burial practices and the increased number of cremations has made these lots useable. Interments continue in family plots, most sold years ago.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute detailed information relating to Taunton's early settlement and the evolution of the Mount Pleasant Cemetery from a family burial ground to a 19th century rural cemetery. Any archaeological evidence of structures and/or occupational related features associated with the homestead farm of the John King Family may contribute important information relating to Taunton's first settlement period and the social, cultural and economic lives of the town's early settlers. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing within and around the current boundaries of the cemetery can identify the complete pattern of burials present at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Unmarked graves are probably present and the current pattern of gravestones may not, in every instance, represent their actual placement. Gravestones were frequently removed from older cemeteries then later replaced, at times at different locations. Commemorative stones might also exist, erected by descendants of individuals after their deaths. Archaeological research can help identify these graves as well as later unmarked graves resulting from stolen, damaged and overgrown stones. Unmarked graves may also be present representing paupers and unknown persons. Archaeological research can also help locate evidence of fences and walls to help reconstruct boundaries of family plots and overall cemetery boundaries through time. Some burials, possibly those of unknown persons, paupers or other indigent persons, may have intentionally been buried outside the cemetery boundary. Artifact distributions may also be present associated with memorial services for specific individuals at their time of death or individuals and groups of individuals (possibly the entire burial ground) at later dates.

Much of the above information can be obtained through unobtrusive

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 8 Page 10

archaeological research. That is, information can be obtained by mapping artifact concentrations and the locations of features such as grave shafts and post molds without disturbing actual skeletal remains. Social, cultural and economic information relating to the 18th and 19th century Taunton settlement can be obtained in this manner, however, more detailed studies can be implemented through the actual excavation of burials and their analysis. Osteological studies of individuals interred at the burial ground have the potential to offer a wealth of information relating to the overall physical appearance of the town's inhabitants, their occupations, nutrition, pathologies and cause of death. This information can also be used to determine the actual number of individuals interred at the burial ground. The overall context of the grave, including material culture remains can provide information on burial practices, religious beliefs, economic status, family structure and numerous other topics relating to the individual, the overall settlement and, various religious societies.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographic References

Cutter, William R. *New England Families 'Genealogical and Memorial'*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1915.

Emery, Samuel Hopkins, D.D. *History of Taunton, Massachusetts*. Syracuse, N.Y: D. Mason & Co., 1893.

Fall River News, Taunton Daily Gazette, Hon. Alanson Borden. *Descriptive and Biographical Record of Bristol County, Massachusetts*. Boston History Company, 1899.

Linden-Ward, Blanche. *Silent City on a Hill: Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery*. Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State University Press, 1989.

North, James W. facsimile of the 1870 ed. with a new forward Churchill, Edwin A. *The History of Augusta, Maine*. Somersworth, NH: New England History Press, 1981.

Sloane, David Charles. *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991.

Numerous Authors. *Representative Men and Old Families of Southern Massachusetts*. Chicago: J.H. Beer Co, 1912

Taunton Cemetery Records, City of Taunton, (MA), Cemetery Departments, Taunton City Hall, Summer Street, Taunton, MA

Taunton Vital Records, New England Historical and Genealogical Society, Boston: 1928.

Library and Archives Records, The Old Colony Historical Society and Museum, 66 Church Street, Taunton, MA.

(continued)

Mount Pleasant Cemetery
Name of Property

Bristol, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10.1 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 19	325740	4640130
Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 19	325980	4640160
Zone	Easting	Northing

3. 19	325910	4639960
Zone	Easting	Northing
4. 19	325640	4639900
Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Crowley, Taunton Hist Comm., Eliz. Igleheart, consultant, Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October 2002

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name City of Taunton

street & number City Hall, 15 Summer Street telephone

city or town Taunton state MA zip code 02780

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number 9/10 Page 2/1

Library Records, Taunton Public Library, Pleasant Street, Taunton, MA.

Newspaper Records, *Taunton Daily Gazette*, Cohannet Street, Taunton, MA.

Leslie Spousta, Graves Registration Officer-Taunton Veteran Affairs Office,
City of Taunton, City Hall, Summer Street, Taunton, MA.

(end)

10. Geographical Data

Boundary Description

The Mount Pleasant Cemetery property is bounded beginning on the westerly side of Crocker Street at a corner of land now or formerly of Robert Juranty et ux: thence southerly along Crocker Street to the northerly line of Barnum Street, 710' more or less; thence by the northerly line of Barnum Street westerly by two courses to its intersection with Cohannet Street; thence northerly 50' more or less to the southerly line of Cohannet Street; thence easterly by the southerly line of Cohannet Street to a corner of land now or formerly of Marilyn Tedeschi, Trustee of Hidden Valley Trust; thence southerly by land of Tedeschi et al to a corner; thence to the westerly line of Crocker Street, the same being the point of beginning. Containing ten acres more or less.

Boundary Justification

The boundary has been drawn to embrace the entire area of the cemetery property. All of the burial area within the boundary was, with the possible exception of the triangular section at the intersection of Barnum and Cohannet Streets, designed in the nineteenth century.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton (Bristol), MA

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Charles Crowley

1. Main Gate looking west
2. South Avenue, looking south
3. Frothingham Monument, Linden Avenue looking west
4. Metcalf Monument, looking south
5. Oldest stone, King lot, looking east
6. North Avenue, looking northwest
7. King lot, looking east
8. View from King lot, looking south
9. Walter Smith tomb, looking north
10. Mason monument, looking north
11. Wilbur mausoleum, looking west

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Mount Pleasant Cemetery
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 10/24/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/08/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/24/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/08/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02001474

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 12/5/02 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



TAUNTON, MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY

CHARLES CROWLEY PHOTOGRAPH.

MAIN GATE looking W

photo #1



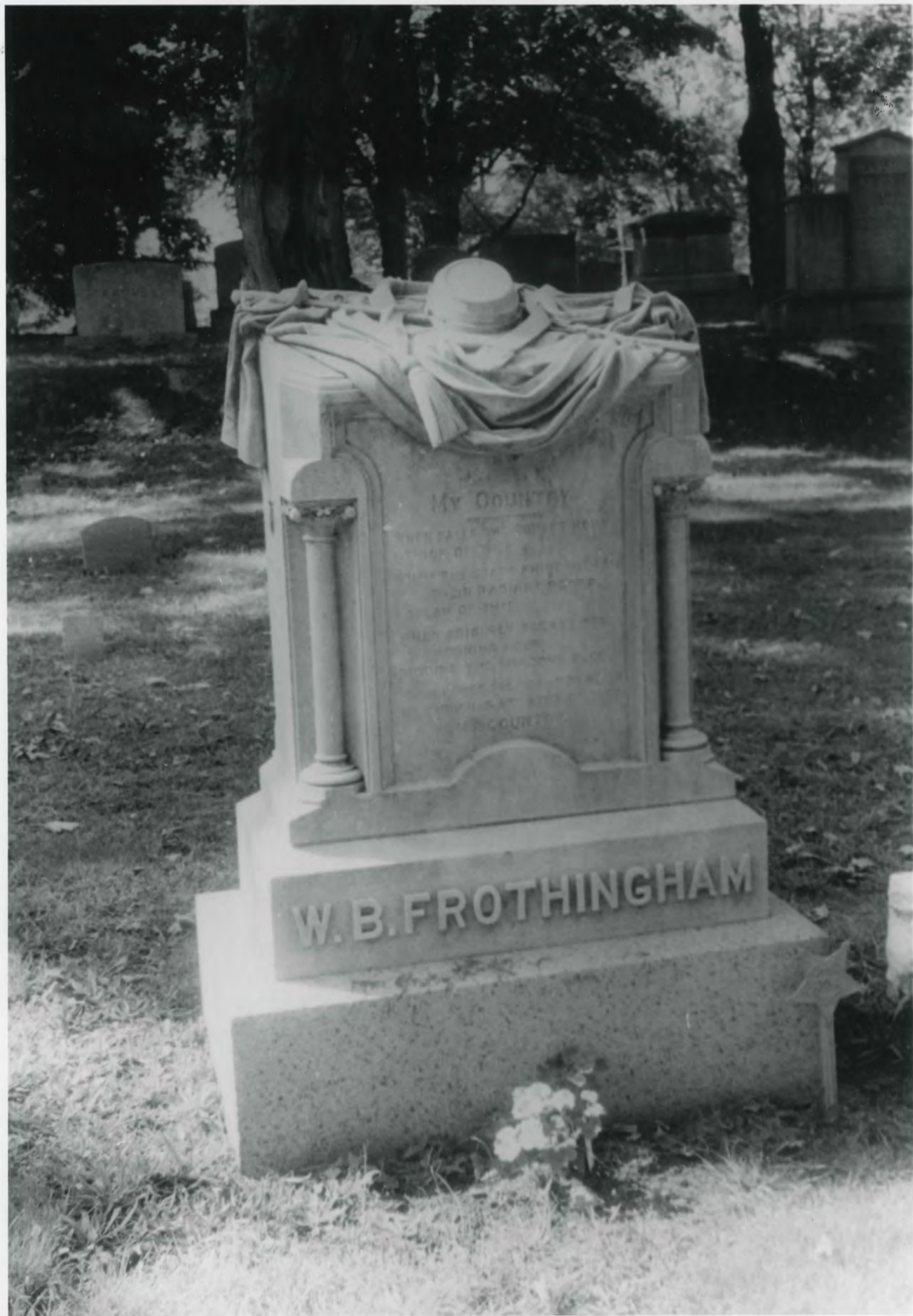
MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY

TAUNTON, MA

CHARLES CROWLEY photographer

SOUTH AVE. looking S

photo 2



TAUNTON, MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY

CHARLES CROWLEY photo.

FROTHINGHAM MONUMENT

LINDEN AVE. looking W

photo 3



TAUNTON, MA

MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY

METCALF MONUMENT

looking SW

photo 4

In memoriam

PHILIP KING

An active useful and esteemed Citizen
Died in Taunton December 26th 1710

JOHN KING

the son of Philip King

Distinguished as an early Promoter of
important branches of American Industry

An intelligent and public spirited Citizen

In every good work he was prompt

liberal and munificent

Died October 6th 1844 aged 74 years

DAVID KING

son of John King

born 1812 died 1844

TAUNTON MA

MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY

CHARLES CROWLEY photo

OLDEST STONE

KING LOT looking E

photo 5



TAUNTON, MA

MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY

NORTH AVE looking NW

photo 6



TAUNTON MA

MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY

KING LOT
looking E

photo 7



TAUNTON MA

MT. PLEASANT CEM.

CHARLES CROWLEY photo

VIEW FROM KING LOT, looking S

photo 8



MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY

TAUNTON, MA

CHARLES CROWLEY photo

WALTER SMITH tomb

looking N

photo 9



Harriet Augusta
Sept. 1826
Oct. 28, 1880
Jan. 6, 1844
Harriet Augusta
Mason

William Mason
September 2, 1804
May 31, 1885

Harriet Augusta Mason
Wife of William Mason
Jan. 28, 1826
December 31, 1880

MASON

TAUNTON MA

MT. PLEASANT CEM.

CHARLES CROWLEY photo

MASON MONUMENT

looking N

photo 10

GEORGE E. WILBUR MEMORIAL



TAUNTON MA

MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY

CHARLES CROWLEY photo

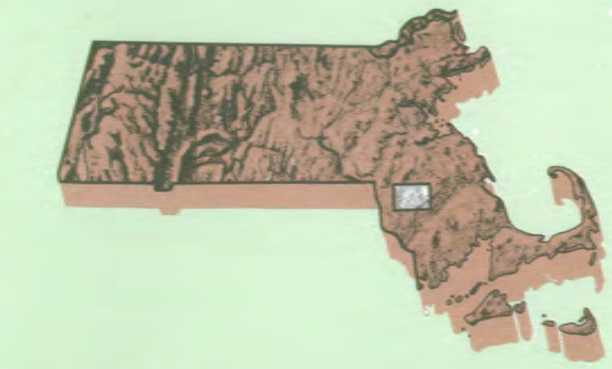
WILBUR MAUSOLEUM

looking W

photo 11

Taunton

MASSACHUSETTS
MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY
TAUNTON (BRISTOL) MA
1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



- 7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING
- Contours and elevations in meters
 - Highways, roads and other manmade structures
 - Water features
 - Woodland areas
 - Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1987
Supersedes Norton and Taunton 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1979 and 1978
Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19
Universal Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
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

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS			
Meters	Feet			1	2	3	
1	3.2808			4	5		
2	6.5617						
3	9.8425						
4	13.1234						
5	16.4042						
6	19.6850						
7	22.9659						
8	26.2467						
9	29.5275						
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergency (GV) and 1987 magnetic declination (MD) at center of map Diagram is approximate					
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048							



Topographic Map Symbols

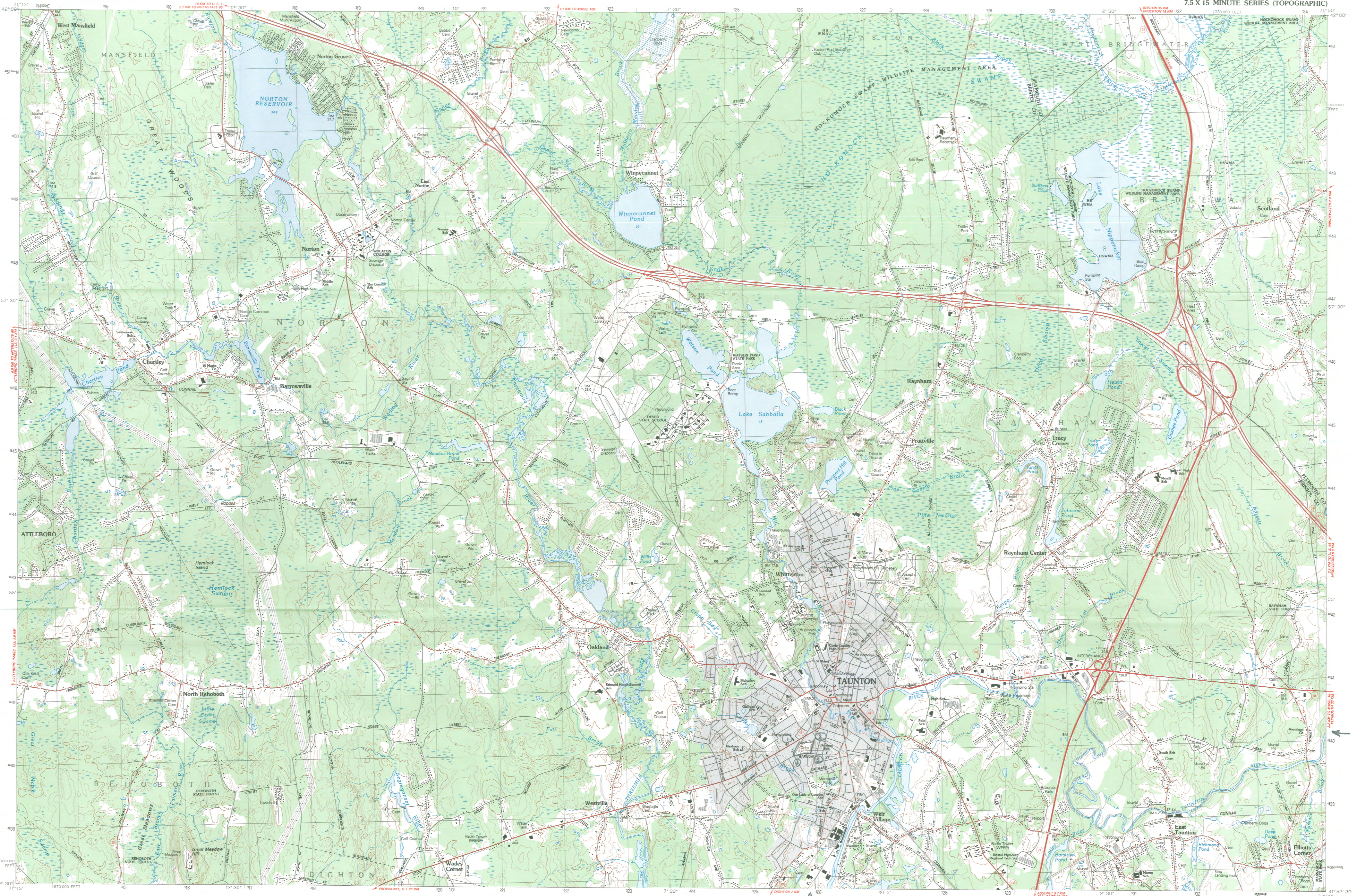
- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road; trail
- Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State
- Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Build-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary
- National, with monument
- State
- County, parish
- Civil township, precinct, district
- Incorporated city, village, town
- National or State reservation; small park
- Land grant with monument; forest section corner
- U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section
- Range, township, section line: location approximate
- Fence or field line
- Power transmission line, isolated tower
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery: grave
- Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
- Well; water well; spring
- Mine shaft: prospect; adit or cave
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Disturbed surface: strip mine, bog, and
- 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
- Obstruction; viewpoint

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available, on request

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

1987

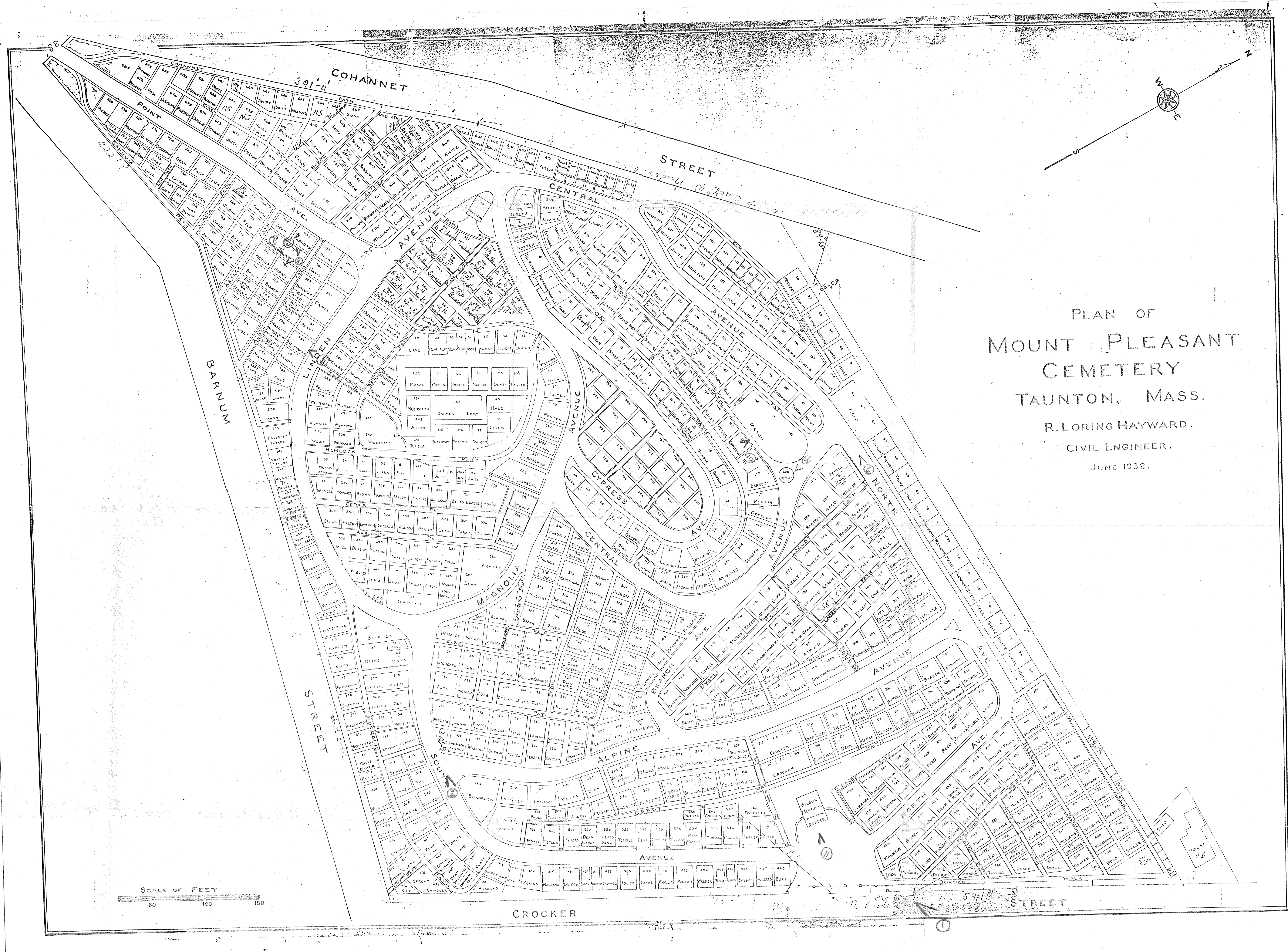
TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS



INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA - 1987

SCALE 1:25 000
1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS
41071-H1-TM-025



PLAN OF
MOUNT PLEASANT
CEMETERY
TAUNTON, MASS.

R. LORING HAYWARD.
CIVIL ENGINEER.

JUNE 1932.

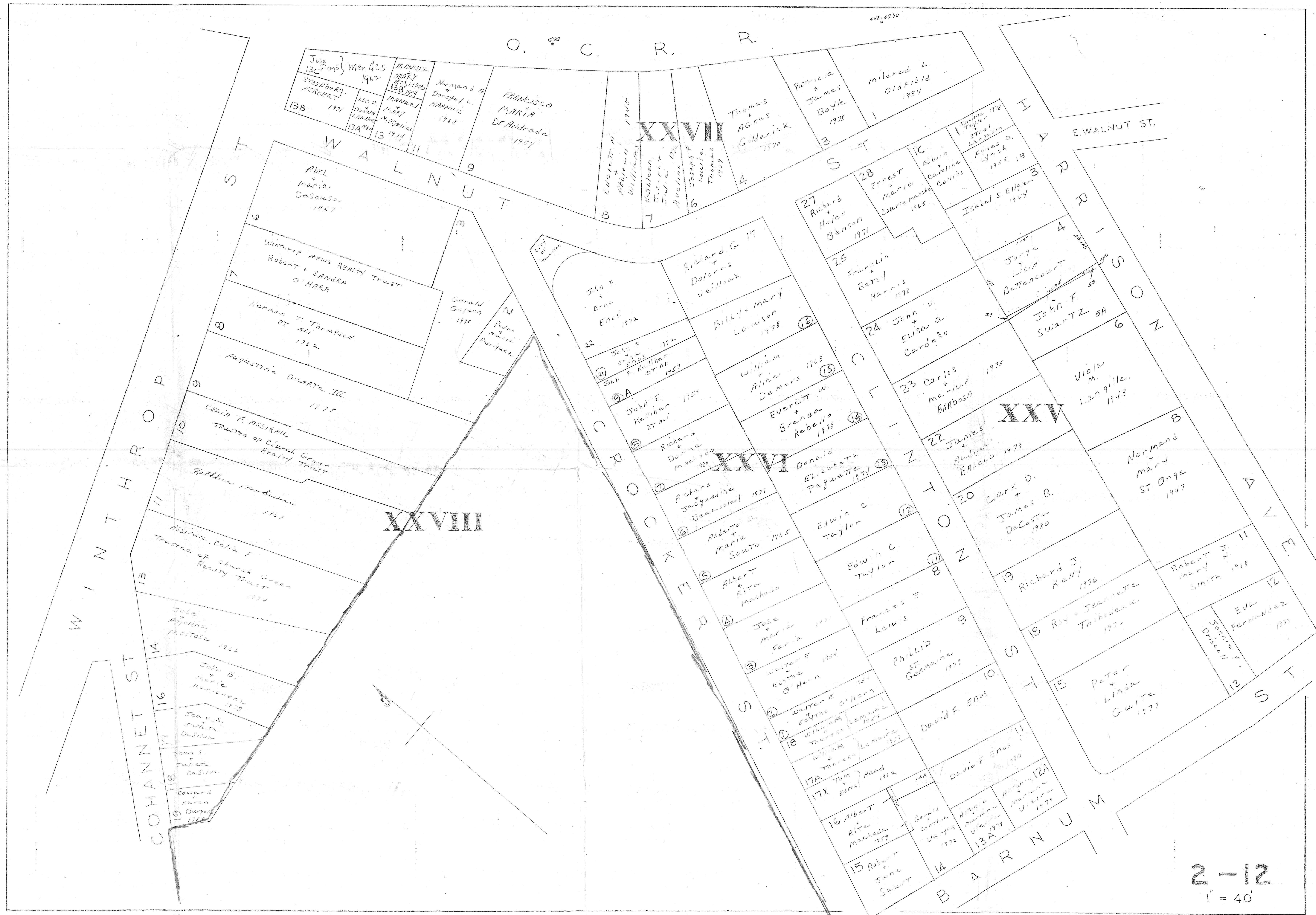
Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Crocker Street
Tunnicliffe, Massachusetts
Road & Pathway Layout and Detailed Lot Plan
by R. Loring Hayward, Civil Engineer
June 1932

Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Crocker Street
Tunnicliffe, Massachusetts
Road and Pathway Layout and Detailed Lot Plan
by R. Loring Hayward, Civil Engineer
June 1932



Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Crocker Street
Taunton, Massachusetts
City of Taunton, Mass. Assessor's Map
Ward 1, Page 85- Copy One

Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Crocker Street
Taunton, Massachusetts
City of Taunton, Mass. Assessor's Map
Ward 1, Page 85- Copy One



2-12
1" = 40'

11-2

1-5

1-5

1-6
2-5

Charles
Crowley

Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Crocker Street
Taanos, Massachusetts
City of Taanos, (Ma) Assessor's Map
Ward 2, Page 12- Copy One

Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Crocker Street
Taanos, Massachusetts
City of Taanos, (Ma) Assessor's Map
Ward 2, Page 12- Copy One



Old Colony Historical Society

66 Church Green
Taunton, Massachusetts 02780-3445
(508) 822-1622

NR h6
RECEIVED

OCT 10 2001

MASS. HIST. COMM

David F. Gouveia, M.D.
President

Jane M. Hennedy
Director

October 4, 2001

Ms. Cara Metz, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Metz:

I am writing on behalf of the Old Colony Historical Society to give enthusiastic support for the National Register nomination of Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Taunton. Incorporated in 1836, the cemetery is one of the first picturesque landscapes in the country, has many monuments of historical and architectural interest, and memorializes many fascinating and significant personages.

In addition, the Old Colony Historical Society's archives contain a wealth of supporting documentation, including the order of exercises at the burying grounds' consecration, the booklet for the 1926 dedication of the entrance gates and fence, lot deeds, 19th and 20th century burial records, maps, and the designer's original plan.

In summary, the Society gives its full support to the addition of the Mount Pleasant Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Hennedy
Director

NR 10/4 CM
LB

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

CITY OF TAUNTON
MASSACHUSETTS



ROOM 15 - CITY HALL
(508) 821-1035
FAX (508) 821-1338

COUNCILLORS

DEBRA ANN BOTELLIO
PETER H. CORR
CHARLES CROWLEY
JORDAN H. FIORE
JOHN C. GONSALVES
LOUIS C. LOURA
KEVIN C. MARTIN
DAVID M. SIMAS
ROBERT W. STUDLEY

DAVID M. SIMAS
President of Council

CHESTER R. MARTIN
Clerk of Council

JEANNE M. SPEARIN-TAYLOR
Clerk of Council Committees

CAROL A. SOUZA
Assistant Clerk of Council
Committees

RECEIVED

October 9, 2001

OCT 12 2001

MASS. HIST. COMM

Cara Metz
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historic Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02133

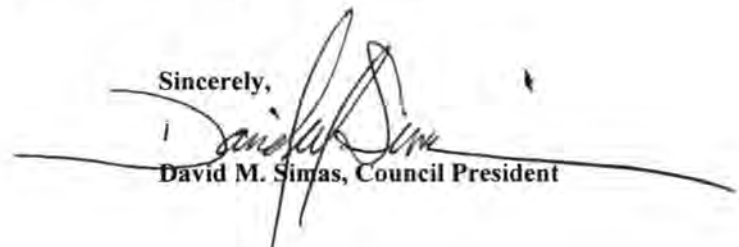
Dear Ms. Metz,

The Massachusetts Historic Commission has recently informed us that the application for nomination of the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Taunton for recognition on the National Register of Historic Places is before the State Review Board for consideration on December 12, 2001. I understand that favorable support of this application by your commission could lead to final federal recognition of this property in the early spring.

On behalf of the Taunton Municipal Council, I would like to convey our enthusiastic support for the nomination of the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Taunton to the National Register of Historic Places. This historic cemetery serves as the final resting place for hundreds of brave veterans from colonial conflicts to the major wars that helped shape the historic development of our nation. The pioneers of business, industry, the environment, transportation, government and the arts rest peacefully in this precious setting that continues to provide the qualities unique to the "garden style" concept advanced by the cemetery's original planners.

We feel that the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Taunton is most worthy of recognition on the National Register of Historic Places so future generations can enjoy and appreciate this special property.

Sincerely,


David M. Simas, Council President



Taunton Conservation Commission

11/16 dph BF
RECEIVED

OCT 22 2001

MASS. HIST. COMM.

P. O. Box 247

Taunton, MA 02780-0247

TEL. 508-821-1095

FAX: 508-821-1665

October 19, 2001

Ms. Cara Metz
Executive Director
Mass. Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Re: Mount Pleasant Cemetery
Taunton, MA

Dear Ms. Metz:

This letter is in support of the Mount Pleasant Cemetery being nominated as a National Historic Site. This cemetery is built on a hill that is one of the highest points in the Cobb Brook watershed. At the time when this cemetery was most active, the area between the hill and the brook was an undeveloped greenbelt. Only one lot was developed; the former Taunton Locomotive Manufacturing Company's facility on General Cobb Street. Currently, the only site in this area that still reflects the former greenbelt is the cemetery, unchanged as when you could see the brook from the hill. Also, the style of tree plantings within the cemetery is in keeping with the classical style of the mid to late 1800's, when the majority of the plots were filled. The variety of trees chosen for the the design are also unique. Especially important are the Black Maple specimens, a native species of special concern in the state of Massachusetts. Attached, there is a ten page narrative produced by the former Director of Conservation Services, David Pancoast, in August of 1999. That document itself is convincing evidence of why the Mount Pleasant Cemetery is worthy of National Historic site nomination.

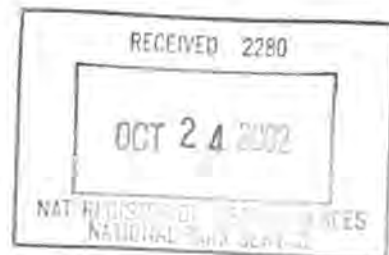
Thank you for your interest in conservation.

Very truly yours,

Cathal O'Brien
Director of Conservation Services

cc: W.G. Sanborn, TCC Chairman
Charles Crowley, City Councilor

Enclosure



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

October 9, 2002

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Crocker Street, Taunton (Bristol), 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.

Three letters of support have been received.

An expedited review of this nomination is requested.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Elizabeth Igleheart, consultant
Thomas Conway, Taunton Historical Commission
Thaddeus Strojny, Mayor, City of Taunton
Jane Henedy, Director, Old Colony Historical Society
Kevin Scanlon, Taunton Planning Director
Charles Crowley, Chairman, Municipal Council
Cathal O'Brien, Taunton Conservation Commission