

MAY 22 1989

F	801
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658

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

(Winchester, Mass. M.R.A.)

Town WINCHESTER

Address Palmer & Wildwood Streets

Name Wildwood Cemetery

Ownership:  X  Public  
  Private

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white)  
Identify on back of photo.  
Staple to left side of form.

DESCRIPTION

Approximate number of stones 5,000

Earliest death date 1805

Latest death date 1988

Landscape Architect (if known)

Amasa Farrier

Condition Excellent

Acreage 70.5 acres

Setting Suburban; rolling hillside  
on western side of Wedge Pond.

Recorded by Bettina Cooper

Organization Winchester Historical Comm.

Date 7/78; revised by H. White 10/87

Sketch  
in  
but  
all  
near  
Inc



(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

1" = 800'

- A 19.323290. 47 02430
- B 19.323590. 47 02500
- C 19.323660. 47 02220
- D 19.323460. 47 02000

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE Lexington, Mass.

SCALE 1:25000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Wildwood Cemetery is a notable example of a small mid-nineteenth century rural garden cemetery. Its winding footpaths and carriage roads following the contours of the rolling terrain on which it is situated exemplify the artistic and picturesque ideals favored by early landscape designers. Wildwood Cemetery is also significant as the earliest planned public space in the newly-incorporated town of Winchester. Therefore Wildwood Cemetery meets Criteria C of the National Register of Historic Places.

**GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF ART WORK** Describe materials used, designs, motifs, symbols that are either common or unusual, known carvers.

Wildwood Cemetery (1853, #801, Area F) is a mid-nineteenth century rural garden cemetery inspired by, and patterned after the famous Mount Auburn Cemetery in nearby Cambridge, Massachusetts. During the 1830s Mount Auburn Cemetery introduced the idea of picturesque garden cemeteries. Mount Auburn's secluded groves, meandering paths, sculpted memorials and ornamental plantings epitomized the mid nineteenth century taste for a romanticized landscape. It set the style for countless other suburban burying grounds, including Wildwood Cemetery in Winchester.

The plan for Wildwood Cemetery was a modest variant on the highly innovative "garden cemetery" concept introduced with great success by Dr. Jacob Bigelow at Mount Auburn in 1831. Bigelow was a Bostonian with

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain religious affiliations, major period of use and evaluate historical importance of burial ground within the community.

The beginnings of Wildwood Cemetery closely coincided with the incorporation of the Town of Winchester in 1850. Land for the cemetery was purchased with a three thousand dollar bequest to the town by its namesake, Colonel William Winchester. The small graveyard behind the First Congregational Church, owned partly by the church and partly by the town, was small and could not be expanded due to lack of space. It was thought that if a proper piece of land could be secured, enough money would soon be raised by the sale of lots to restore the money taken from the Winchester Fund.

The town voted on September 15, 1851 to use the Winchester money for that purpose. The land had already been selected from a list of six parcels offered to the town. In April of 1851, a committee of ten, headed by John Bolles, chose a ten acre lot owned by Gardner Symmes on the western side of Wedge Pond. It contained a large gravelled hill covered with a low growth of pine. This would be the nucleus for the future cemetery. Other members of the committee were Gardner Symmes, Charles Kimball, Marshall Wyman, Harrison Parker, Charles Russell, Loring Emerson, Nathan Johnson, Charles Goddard, and Aaron Wells.

Two thousand dollars went toward the purchase of the land, and one thousand dollars was allotted for preparation of the grounds. The site was much admired. It was both quiet and secluded, and the soil was well-suited for the purpose. The site also had extended vistas on all

continued

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Winchester Town Records, Volume I, p.106, 92.
- History of Winchester, H. Chapman, 1936, p. 172-73.
- 1854 Walling Map of Winchester



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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Winchester	Form No: 801
Property Name: Wildwood Cemetery	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE continued,

sides. Its hills and dales were easily adapted to the landscape and planting plans favored by landscape designers of the period.

Amasa Farrier of the neighboring town of Stoneham was hired to prepare a design for the layout of the cemetery. At the time it was laid out, under Farrier's supervision, Wildwood Cemetery was the only planned public space in the town. It was artistically designed by Farrier, who was the Town Surveyor of Stoneham, and was responsible for the design of two picturesque garden cemeteries in that community: the William Street Cemetery (1844) and Lindenwood Cemetery (1861).

The winding paths and ornamental plantings he chose for Wildwood Cemetery were inspired by the widely available works of English horticulturist John Claudius Loudon, and American landscape designer, Andrew Jackson Downing. Farrier, who had previously been both a school teacher and storekeeper, probably discovered the work of Loudon and Downing through patternbooks and publications, as did countless other nineteenth century rural surveyors. Farrier is also known to have laid out a small park for a residential enclave and the grounds for several private homes, all in Stoneham.

By 1852 the cemetery in Winchester was ready for burials. Paths and roadways had been built, and a street constructed from Church Street to the cemetery gates. The cemetery was consecrated on September 15, 1852. The ceremony was conducted by Reverend Mr. Robinson of the First Congregational Church, and Reverend Dr. Rollin Neale, of the Baptist Church in Boston.

The ten-member committee recommended the formation of a permanent Cemetery Commission, with three-year terms, which would have general charge of the cemetery, and the power to sell burial lots. The committee then evolved into the first official Cemetery Commission, and reported to the town on March 1, 1852 that they had carried out the task conferred upon them. In September of 1852 lots were sold at a public sale which took place on Mount Hope in the cemetery. Prices for plots ranged from five dollars to fifty dollars.

In 1853, arrangements were made with the First Congregational Church and the owners of plots in the old church graveyard, for the removal of bodies buried there, and their transferral to Wildwood Cemetery.

The years from 1857 until 1877 were a period of inactivity in the development of the cemetery. But in 1877 money was appropriated for grading new plots, and the dell at the entrance was partially constructed. The Soldiers' Lot, the small park on Mount Hope and the pond in the dell were completed in 1879. In 1884 a new receiving tomb was built, but later that year the town voted that the cemetery commission cease further improvements until further action by the Board of Selectmen.

Many prominent local figures are buried in Wildwood Cemetery; the tombstones reveal a wealth of historical and genealogical information.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Winchester	Form No: 801
Property Name: Wildwood Cemetery	

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GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF ART WORK continued,

diverse interests. He became the moving spirit behind the development of Mount Auburn when, as a physician, he recognized the unhealthy conditions of over-crowded city cemeteries, at a time when city dwellers still obtained drinking water from individual wells. This led Bigelow to advocate spacious rural burying grounds.

Like Mount Auburn, Wildwood Cemetery exhibits park-like qualities and contains many winding footpaths and carriage roads with romantic names such as Halcyon Lake, Heliotrope Way and Lilac Road. The roadways are laid out following the contours of the hillside and surrounding, rolling terrain. Wildwood Cemetery contains numerous luxuriant shade trees and manicured lawns.

A notable feature of Wildwood Cemetery is the later landscaped entrance gateway designed by the firm of Olmsted & Associates of Boston in 1937.

Among the notable citizens of Winchester buried at the Wildwood Cemetery are members of the community's earliest families: the Locke, Richardson, Symmes and Johnson families. All of these families had landholdings in Winchester beginning in the seventeenth century. Also interred at Wildwood Cemetery are Handel Pond, an owner of the Ivers & Pond Piano Company of Boston; Edwin Ginn, the philanthropist and owner of Ginn & Company, the textbook publishers; Samuel Elder, a representative to the State Legislature; David Skillings, a Maine lumber entrepreneur who developed the Rangeley Estates area of Winchester; Harrison Parker, owner of a large local mill which cut mahogany and rosewood veneers; and Stephen Swan Langley, a wealthy businessman descended from the Swan family, early local settlers.

Among the headstones with the earliest death dates are those of Samuel Carter, d. 1805, Lydia Buckman, d. 1805, Capt. John Cutter, d. 1846, and Abigail Symmes, d. 1831. All four of these graves have slate headstones with the motif of a weeping willow tree and urn.

Boundary Justification The boundaries chosen for the Wildwood Cemetery Historic District are the legal boundaries of the cemetery property. The eastern edge of the cemetery is roughly parallel to Middlesex Street; the southern edge of the cemetery follows the line of Palmer Street and overlooks Wedge Pond; the western boundary of the cemetery runs parallel to Wildwood Street; and the northern boundary of the cemetery faces Winter Pond and several residential streets radiating from Woodside Avenue.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

MAY 22 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Winchester MRA  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
51. Symmes, Deacon John, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
52. Symmes, Marshall, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
53. Symmes, Marshall, Tenant House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
54. Thompson, Abijah, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
55. Trowbridge--Badger House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
56. Vinton, Alfred, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
57. Wedgemere (H.D.) Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
58. White, S.B., House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____
59. Wildwood Cemetery Substantive Review	Keeper <u>Boyd Savage 7-5-89</u> Attest _____
60. Wyman, George, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 7/5/89</u> Attest _____





Wildwood Cemetery  
33 Palmer St.  
Winchester, Ma MRA

12/87

Area F  
MHC Inv. #801



Wildwood Cemetery 12/87  
33 Palmer St.  
Winchester, Ma. MRA

Area F  
MHC Inv. # 801



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Winchester, Ma. MRA

12/87

Area F

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Area F

MHC Inv. #801



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33 Palmer St.  
Winchester, Ma. MRA.

Area F  
MHC Inv. #801



Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000303

# National Register of Historic Places

## Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2014

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Wildwood Cemetery  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Winchester MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 11/19/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/05/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000658

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Accept*

**Additional Documentation Approved**

RECOM./CRITERIA *Accept*

REVIEWER *Edson Beall*

DISCIPLINE *History*

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE *1-3-14*

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



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

September 10, 2013

J. Paul Loether  
National Park Service 2280, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 I (eye) Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Re: Address changes for properties listed on the NRHP

As we digitize our inventory of historic resources, we are discovering discrepancies in property addresses due to renumbering, changing the address to a side street that abuts the parcel, or assigning a precise address where none had existed. In some cases, property owners have notified us of an incorrect address. We are, therefore, writing to request technical corrections in the National Register records for the following properties in

**Winchester (Middlesex County)**

- Sanborn House (Aigremont) (NRIND 12/14/1981)—new address is **21 High Street** (formerly 15 High Street) 81000286 ✓
- Winchester Town Hall (NRIND 3/31/1983; NRDIS 11/21/1986)—new address is **71 Mount Vernon Street** (formerly 71 Mount Auburn Street, which was a typo) 83000837 ✓

**The following were listed on 7/5/1989 as NRIND in the Winchester MRA**

- Ayer, Thomas Prentiss House—new address is **10 Grove Street** (formerly 8-10 Grove Street) 84000630 ✓
- Childs, Webster House—new address is **9 Meadowcroft Road** (formerly 16A Ginn Road) 89000644 ✓
- Gardner, Edward House—new address is **0 Gardner Place** (formerly 89 Cambridge Street) 89000605 ✓
- Mason, John C. House—new address is **10 Hillside Avenue** (formerly 8-10 Hillside Avenue) 89000634 ✓
- Oak Knoll—new address is **17 Brooks Street** (formerly 39 Oak Knoll) 89000648 ✓

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128  
[www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc](http://www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc)



- Simonds, William House—new address is **418-420 Main Street** (formerly 420 Main Street) 89 000640 ✓
- Symmes, Dea. John House—new address is **212 Main Street** (formerly 212-214 Main Street) 89000606 ✓
- Wildwood Cemetery— new address is 34 Palmer Street (formerly Wildwood Street). In addition to being individually listed in 1989 as part of the MRA, the cemetery was included in the Middlesex Canal Historic and Archaeological District, listed on 11/19/2009 89000658 ✓

Sincerely,

*Betsy Friedberg*

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

XC: Winchester Historical Commission

National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Wildwood Cemetery  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Winchester MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/22/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/06/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000658

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 7/5/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C  
REVIEWER Savage  
DISCIPLINE Architectural History  
DATE 7/5/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached (SLR) Y/N

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

historic       current

---

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

---

SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph  
 completeness  
 clarity  
 applicable criteria  
 justification of areas checked  
 relating significance to the resource  
 context  
 relationship of integrity to significance  
 justification of exception  
 other

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_