

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 terms on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

historic name Wilson Cemetery

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Wilson Street N/A not for publication

city or town Marlborough N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 01752

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.)

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director 7/21/04
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

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 _____ Date _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 9/10/04

Wilson Cemetery
Name of Property

Middlesex County, Massachusetts
County and State

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1
3
2
6

Non contributing

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(enter N/A if property is not part of a multiple property listing)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Section number 7 Page 1

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Wilson Cemetery is a small municipal burial ground that retains strong historical associations and a diverse collection of burial markers associated with Marlborough residents for nearly 240 years. There are 14 family monuments, approximately 202 headstones, and one tomb recording burials that occurred between 1764 and 2000, with most dating to the 19th century. It is likely that there are also additional unmarked graves.

The cemetery lies about two miles east of Marlborough Center and is surrounded on the south and east by Evergreen Cemetery, a large 20th century burial ground that now serves as the primary active cemetery for the community. The Wilson Road area, formerly known as the Farms, is now occupied primarily by late 20th century residences. A busy commercial district lies less than ½ mile to the south.

Wilson Cemetery is a trapezoidal 1.22-acre site located on the east side of Wilson Street just north of Boston Post Road (US Route 20). Along the western (street) frontage there is a 30" tall mortared **boulder wall** that extends in front of Evergreen Cemetery as well. The portion in front of Wilson is broken at the center with a wide vehicular entrance flanked on either side by narrower pedestrian entrances. However this entrance is chained and rarely used, as most visitors approach Wilson Cemetery from Evergreen Cemetery. There is also a **fieldstone wall**, consistent with the earlier agricultural use of the area, along the north and northeast portions of the cemetery. The large aluminum cemetery maintenance building located in Evergreen Cemetery off the northeast corner of Wilson Cemetery presents an incongruous juxtaposition with the historic site. The overhead power lines that run through the middle of the cemetery are also an intrusion.

There are no plantings in the central portion of the cemetery. However, the wooded northern edge, consisting mostly of white pines and other second growth vegetation, provides a backdrop for the cemetery and a buffer against adjacent modern land uses. Wilson Cemetery is screened on the south and southeast by a row of evenly-space evergreens along the boundary between the two cemeteries. These have been limbed up to about 8', creating an expansive view underneath. The central portion of the cemetery is relatively level, with a rise in the wooded northern section.

The cemetery is divided by the central east/west pathway into two distinct sections. The northern portion includes the older graves which are arranged in rough north/south rows with the woods and Eames tomb forming the northern edge. The southern section, which developed later, is more orderly with lots laid out in neatly arranged rows and a secondary path running parallel to the main path. The definition of the lots in the southern section is enhanced by the fact that many are slightly raised above the surrounding area, creating a grid that is easy to read in the landscape. Some lots also have granite corner posts. All headstones and monuments in both sections face west towards Wilson Street.

The family monuments, headstones and footstones display an unusually wide range of funerary taste for a small cemetery, illustrating styles that were popular from the late-18th century through the late 20th century and

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Section number 7 Page 2

demonstrating evolving ideas of funerary art. There are 14 family **monuments**, all are granite and date to the late 19th/early 20th century. The two largest are the 8' tapered square **columns** located in the **Hager** and **Parmenter** lots. There are several smaller upright monuments and the rest are rectangular granite blocks. Some are fairly standard designs, while others such as the Seely monument with its scroll and lily design, are more imaginative. Most of the family monuments are used in association with small granite markers that denote the graves of individual family members. The one **tomb** at Wilson Cemetery, that of Revolutionary war veteran Robert **Eames** (1738-1821), is built into the hillside at the northern edge of the cemetery. It has an uncoursed stone face and a bricked up doorway and is marked by a marble plaque.

There are 42 slate headstones that illustrate a range of styles and types. Several small late 18th century slates mark the earliest burials in the cemetery. These display the winged head motif, sometimes used in association with foliate designs along the borders. The early slates include the headstones of Dorothy How (d. 1764 of smallpox, age 35), John How (d. 1760s?), Thomas "Biglo" (Bigelow, d. 1770), and Charles Rice (d. 1781, 5 months). Other early slates include those of Stephen Morse (d. 1791) and two children of the Morse family. The stones for the children are small and simple while that for their father is 4' tall and displays a winged head. Several other early stones and stone fragments are no longer legible.

The majority of the slate headstones at Wilson Cemetery date to the early to mid 19th century and display the willow and urn motif. Early depictions of this motif are fairly simple, while later versions are more elaborately carved with architectural designs containing columns and entablatures and carefully inscribed lettering. Almost all of these have a rounded tympanum on a shouldered main block. Many of the slates include sentimental inscriptions. Several include visible signatures. The headstone of Mary Howe (d. 1848) is signed "J.O.C." and at least two of the Wilson slates, those of William Wilson (d. 1833, age 60) and Charles Freeman (d. 1833, age 13), are signed "W.W.W." Nearly half of the slate headstones also have footstones that have been relocated adjacent to the headstone to facilitate maintenance.

The 86 marble headstones display a range of 19th century styles. Most are 3-4' tall, except for those of children, which are typically smaller, and nearly all are fairly simple in shape, typically flat, with shallow-peaked tops or slightly rounded. Many feature the name of the deceased in a recessed panel with raised lettering, a style also found in other burial grounds in Marlborough. Several display Gothic motifs, sometimes in association with ferns and floral patterns, while others depict an index finger pointing towards heaven. The **headstone of Joseph Morse** (1835-1850) was carved by "A. Cary, Boston." The adjacent stone of Elizabeth Morse (1828-1851), one of the most skillfully carved in this cemetery, depicts a portrait of a woman with an urn. It is stylistically similar to Joseph's stone but there is no signature evident. A 1971-72 inventory indicated that the headstone of Leonard Wilson (d. 1846) is also signed "A. Cary."

There are also 74 flat or low granite headstones, often used with family monuments, most of which are associated with 20th century burials. Because they are small in size and low to the ground they are less visible than the older upright stones.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Wilson Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

Section number 7 Page 3

The cemetery also displays a tradition of military service. Robert Eames (1738-1821), the only Revolutionary War veteran buried here, is interred in the mound tomb at the northern edge of the cemetery. Harvey Lucas (d. 1894) served in the Civil War. Hugh Craddock (1925-1963) served in World War II.

Like Marlborough's other small neighborhood cemeteries, Wilson reveals much about the social history of the community. Dorothy How, the first documented burial, died of smallpox, so it is possible that this cemetery, like Brigham Cemetery in the western part of Marlborough, may have begun as a burial place for those who were refused interment in the town's older burial grounds. Infant and child mortality is another common theme. The tiny graves for infants such as "little Flossie" Fay (d. 1873), Lillian Fay (d. 1870, age four months) and Pamela Ann Hayden (d. 1826, 18 days old) are particularly poignant. On the other hand, many who lived past infancy survived well into old age, such as Lois Morse who was 98 when she died in 1881. Family ties are another strong theme. Several families have multiple lots in the cemetery while others have buried family members here for generations. The Morse lot contains the graves of family members buried between 1791 and 1949 and displays a remarkable variety of headstones.

The burying ground is generally well maintained, but like most municipal cemeteries, has suffered loss and deterioration of gravestones over time. The slate headstones are generally in good condition, although some exhibit biological growth. The marble headstones are generally less well-preserved; many are weathering badly, some have been toppled or broken and there is at least one stone that is missing. Wilson Cemetery is generally not considered an active cemetery except for burials in existing family lots. The most recent interment is that of Carolina M. Keyes (d. 2000).

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

N/A

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)

See continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

See continuation sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Community Planning and Development

Social History

Period of Significance 1764 - 1954

Significant Dates (see continuation sheet)

Significant Person:

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architects/Builders (see continuation sheet)

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of Repository: Library and Hist. Commission

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Wilson Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

Section number 8 Page 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Wilson Cemetery qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, with significance at the local level. The site may also have archaeological significance associated with unmarked graves and buried headstones. The documented period of significance extends from 1764 to 1954, although there may be earlier graves. The site possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The cemetery qualifies for listing under Criterion A due to its strong association with the history of Marlborough, particularly the 19th century "Farms" neighborhood in the eastern part of the community. It is was one of several neighborhood burial grounds established in the late 18th century that came under municipal jurisdiction after 1855 and is one of nine municipal cemeteries in Marlborough. It contains the graves of one Revolutionary War veteran, one Civil War veteran, and one World War II veteran. The cemetery also documents the 19th century social structure of the community, including close family ties, the high rate of infant mortality, and the influx of immigrants in the late 19th century, which is evident in the names of the Scandinavian families buried here.

Wilson Cemetery meets Criterion C as a small burial ground active over more than two centuries that reflects the evolving design of cemeteries and funerary monuments in New England. It embodies the 19th century transition from burial ground to cemetery and is an early example of the use of family lots. The monumentation illustrates the transition from slate to marble to granite headstones, and displays a range of motifs and carving styles. There are also several signed stones here, including at least one well-carved stone by "A. Cary, Boston." The epitaphs expressively convey family relationships, religious beliefs, and attitudes towards death.

The cemetery meets Criteria Exception D because it has served continuously as a neighborhood burying ground in Marlborough from 1764 to the present, with most burials occurring in the 19th century. It includes the graves of over 100 residents of Marlborough and contains information that is not readily available elsewhere. The 1764 beginning date for the period of significance corresponds with the first documented burial, that of Dorothy How. The 1954 termination date reflects National Register policy that properties with ongoing significance use a 50-year cut-off date unless events of unusual significance have occurred within the past 50 years.

Marlborough, located approximately 28 miles west of Boston and 16 miles east of Worcester, was incorporated as a town in 1660. The small frontier community developed slowly at first because of conflicts associated with King Philip's War. After 1676 Marlborough grew steadily, reaching a population of 1,287 by 1765. Through the 18th century it remained primarily an agricultural community. The upland topography was particularly well-suited to raising cattle, grain and apples. Agriculture continued to be the major occupation in rural areas of town through the 19th century. However after 1830 Marlborough developed a thriving shoe industry, which transformed it into one of the manufacturing capitals of New England. The rapidly growing industry brought need for additional labor, which resulted in an influx of immigrants, initially Irish, followed by French Canadians, and later by Italians, Greeks, and Eastern European Jews. The town's population grew from 2,500 in 1836 to 13,609 in 1900.

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Wilson Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

Section number 8 Page 2

By 1890 the increasingly complex infrastructure necessitated the reorganization of the government and Marlborough became a city. In the 20th century Marlborough has continued to grow, reaching a population of 31,800 by 1990, and has become a diversified residential, high-technology, and business city.

Initially Marlborough's funerary needs were served by two burial ground located near the center of town, Spring Hill Cemetery (1675) and Old Common Cemetery (1706). As the population grew more dispersed, residents of outlying areas established informal family and neighborhood burial grounds. These included Wilson Cemetery (1764); Brigham Cemetery (1793); Chipman Cemetery (1813); Robin Hill Cemetery (1817); Weeks Cemetery (1837); and Maplewood Cemetery (1830s). After 1855 all the neighborhood cemeteries were transferred to municipal ownership and new burial areas were established at Chipman (the new section, Rocklawn Cemetery, is the name by which the area is currently known) and at Maplewood, which served as Marlborough's primary cemetery during the latter part of the 19th century. In 1956 Evergreen Cemetery was established adjacent to Wilson. It continues to serve as the city's primary burial ground today. There are also two large late 19th century Catholic cemeteries, St. Mary's and Immaculate Conception, located adjacent to Brigham Cemetery.

Marlborough historian Charles Hudson, writing in 1862, summarized the status of the town's cemeteries at that time and described each.

Cemeteries are becoming objects of attention in most of our towns; and their condition is being regarded as a sort of test of civilizations, in the best sense of that term. The gloom which has been spread over the resting-place of the departed, and the forbidding appearance of our churchyards, are giving place to a more rational feeling and a better taste. The increasing light of the Son of Righteousness has, in a good degree, dispelled the darkness of the tomb, and chased away the unearthly spectres, which were supposed to visit nightly the sepulchres of the dead. Christians of all denominations, are beginning to regard the burial-places of their friends, as peaceful shades to which they can profitably resort to muse in sweet melancholy upon the uncertainty of human life, and to call up anew the dear remembrance of departed friends. Such views and feelings have created a disposition to beautify and adorn the ground where the dead are reposing. . .

Another yard in the south-easterly part of town, near the house of Stephen Morse, Esq., contains at the present time about two acres. It was first used as a burial place about 1700, and contains several hundred graves. The people in that part of the town are beginning to ornament it with trees, so that it may become a space of pleasant resort.

(Hudson, History of the Town of Marlborough, page 236-239)

The two older municipal cemeteries (Spring Hill and Old Common) reflect their Colonial origins, with

(continued)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Wilson Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

Section number 8 Page 3

predominantly slate headstones laid out in irregular rows and a few later monuments. Although they are referred to as cemeteries today, both could best be characterized as burying grounds, with no formal design and few embellishments. The four smaller neighborhood cemeteries (Brigham, Robin Hill, Weeks, and Wilson) reflect the transition from unadorned burial grounds to cemeteries, with spatial organization based on family lots rather than individual graves; stones that display more sentimental imagery and iconography; and, in some cases, embellishments such as roads and plantings. Maplewood Cemetery began during the 1830s as a neighborhood cemetery but was greatly enlarged during the 1860s and displays the transition to the late 19th century style with smaller lots, machine-made monuments, and greater ethnic diversity. Evergreen Cemetery reflects late-20th century burial styles and ideas.

Wilson Cemetery, named for the Wilson family who owned the farm nearby, began as a small neighborhood burial ground in the "Farms" section of town. Its early history is not well-documented. It is likely that the first burials occurred without much thought to the arrangement of the graves and that lots were added over time as they were needed. The layout of the cemetery was documented by City Engineer Francis Granger in 1934 (see attached map) and has changed little since that time. Municipal records indicate that there were few expenditures at Wilson other than for an occasional mowing.

Wilson Cemetery was the third of the nine municipal burial grounds to be established in Marlborough and at 1.22 acre, it is one of the smallest of Marlborough's municipal cemeteries, and one of the simplest in design. The northern section reflects the 18th century development of the cemetery while the more ordered southern section reflects the 19th century evolution. Wilson Cemetery retains its vernacular character in its spatial organization, topography, vegetation, circulation system and monumentation. There have been no known additions or deletions of land. A few residents of the neighborhood have been buried here since the 1950s, primarily in existing family lots, but Wilson is not generally considered an active cemetery.

Old Common Cemetery is already listed on the National Register as part of the Marlborough Center Historic District (NRDIS 08/19/1998). The six other municipal cemeteries established before 1900 are being nominated concurrently. There are no plans to nominate Evergreen Cemetery, which was established in 1956.

(end)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Wilson Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

Section number 9,10,12 **Page** 1

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Publications

Bigelow, Ella A. *Historical Reminiscences of the Early Times in Marlborough, Massachusetts*. Marlborough: Times Publishing Co., 1910.

Forbes, Anne McCarthy. *Marlborough Survey of Historic, Architectural and Cultural Resources, Narrative History*. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1995.

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Marlborough, Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Press of T.R. Marvin and Son, 1862.

Marlborough Historical Society. "Cemetery Records for the Weeks, Wilson and Robin Hill Cemeteries." Unpublished manuscript, 1971-1972.

Marlborough, Massachusetts. *Annual Reports*. 1865 – 2001.

Maps

Granger, J. Francis. *Plan of Wilson Cemetery, Marlborough, Mass., Showing Location of Veterans Graves*. City of Marlborough, 1934.

Marlborough, Massachusetts. Assessor's Map 60.

United State Geological Survey. Marlborough, Massachusetts, Topographic Map, 1:25,000. 1983.

(end)

Wilson Cemetery
Name of Property

Middlesex County, Massachusetts
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

1.22 acre

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 Zone	293420 Easting	4619700 Northing	3. 19 Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 19 Zone	Easting	Northing	4. 19 Zone	Easting	Northing

p See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

(Describe why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shary Page Berg, preservation consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 2004

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 Marlborough

street and number City Hall, 140 Main Street telephone 508-460-3715

city or town Marlborough state MA zip code 01752

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wilson Cemetery
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Section number 9,10,12 Page 2

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Wilson Cemetery is a rectangular parcel on the east side of Wilson Street a short distance north of Boston Post Road. It is surrounded on the south and east by Evergreen Cemetery.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses a single parcel (assessors map 60, parcel 35) that includes the entire 1.22-acre cemetery established in the late 18th century.

(end)

12. LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

<i>NR Photo #</i>	<i>Location/Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Photo by</i>
1	View of cemetery looking southeast from Wilson Street. Wilson Cemetery is in the foreground with Evergreen cemetery beyond.	2/2002	Shary Berg
2	View looking northeast with Wilson family lot in the foreground and Eames tomb behind.	2/2002	Shary Berg
3	View looking southeast with Thomas Bigelow (Biglo) headstone in the foreground.	2/2002	Shary Berg
4	View looking east along southern section of cemetery showing some of the 19 th century lots with Selly monument in foreground.	2/2002	Shary Berg

Wilson Cemetery

Marlborough (Middlesex County), Massachusetts
National Register District Data Sheet

2004

MHC #	Photo#	Map#	HistoricName	Description/Materials	Date	Status	Type
			Wilson Cemetery		1764	SI	C
			Front Wall	Mortared fieldstone	20 th C.	ST	C
			Robert Eames tomb	Mound tomb with stone front	1821	ST	C
			Hager monument	Granite	19 th C.	O	C
			Parmenter monument	Granite	19 th C.	O	C
			Morse headstone (Cary carver)	Marble	1850	O	C

N
C
B

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wilson Cemetery

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 7/27/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/26/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/10/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/09/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000958

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 9/10/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



04000958

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Wilson Cemetery
Marlborough (Middlesex) MA

Section number 10 Page 1

The coordinates originally provided for Wilson Cemetery were 19 293420 4619700. The correct location is 45 miles due North of this point at **19 293420 4691700** (North American Datum 1927).

Corrected March 2009

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wilson Cemetery

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 10/28/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/13/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000958

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:

Additional Documentation Approved

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

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

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



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

October 20, 2011

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Re: Additional Documentation (Technical corrections of UTM's)

In the process of mapping National Register nominations for our GIS database, we have identified errors in UTM coordinates for 23 properties. The errors vary from a few hundred feet to hundreds of miles, often due to transposition of numbers.

As recommended by Edson Beall, we are enclosing a continuation sheet for each of the nominations. Please let me know if you need more information in order to correct your records.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosures



Wilson Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex Co, MA

Photo #1





Wilson Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex Co, MA

Photo #2





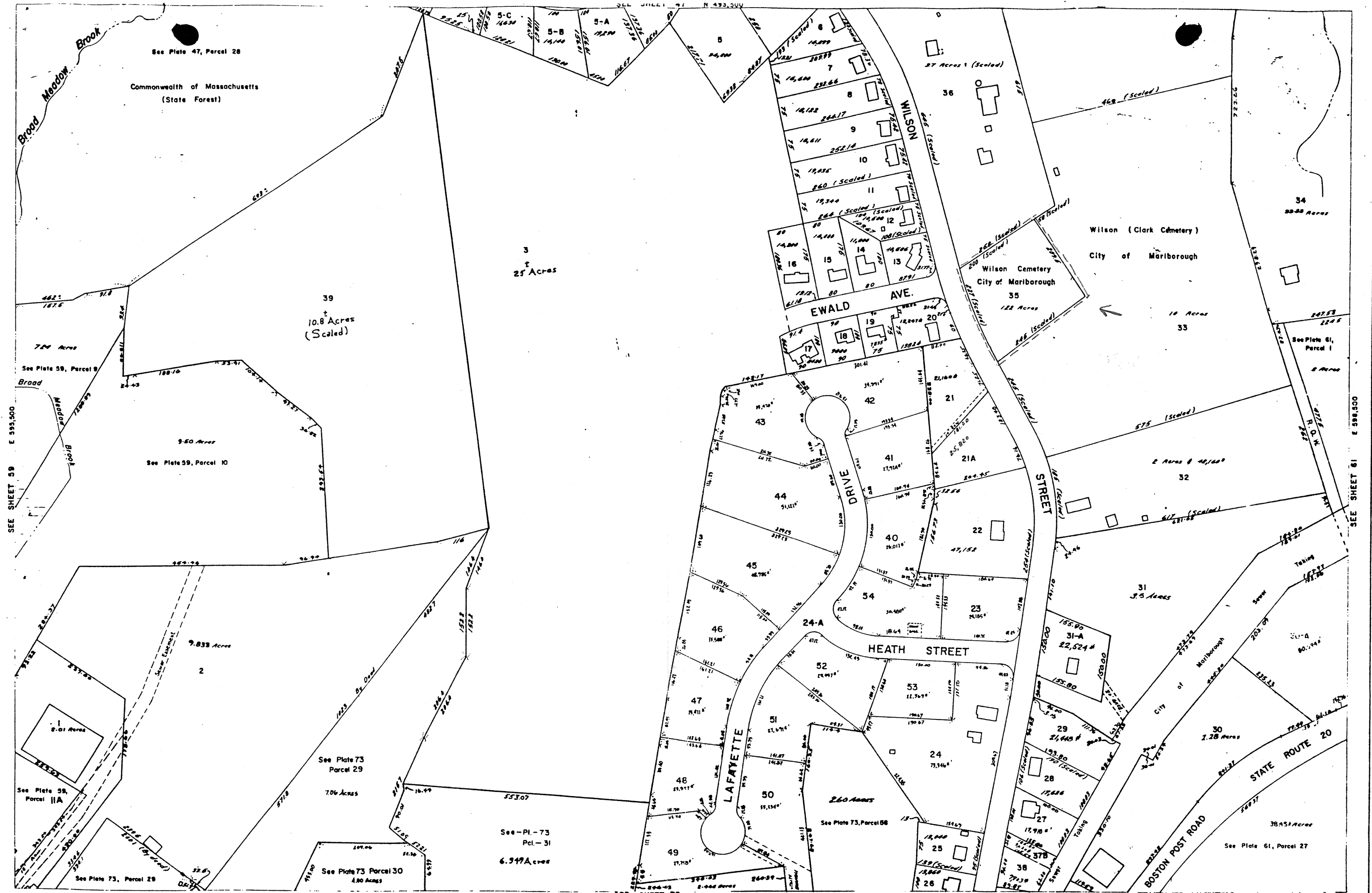
Wilson Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex Co, MA

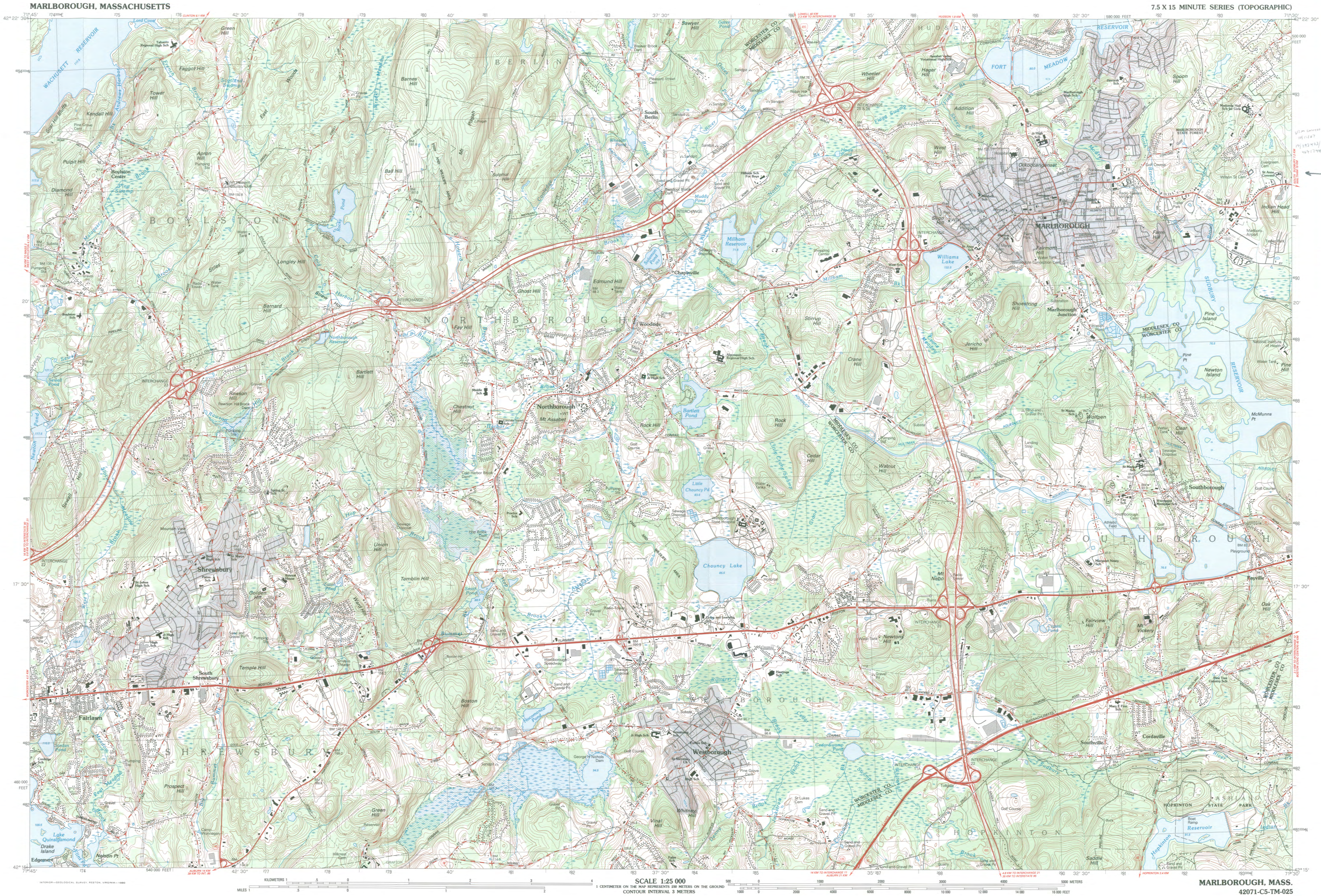
Photo #3



Wilson Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex Co., MA

Plots # 4





WILSON CEMETERY 42071-C5-TM-025
MARLBOROUGH (MIDDLESEX) MA

Marlborough

MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1983

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with Massachusetts Department
of Public Works

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1980. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1983

Supersedes Shrewsbury and Marlborough 1:25,000-scale
maps dated 1969

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 40 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
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet		1	2	3
1	3.2808		1	2	3
2	6.5617		4	5	
3	9.8425		6	7	8
4	13.1234				
5	16.4042				
6	19.6850				
7	22.9659				
8	26.2467				
9	29.5276				
10	32.8084				

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

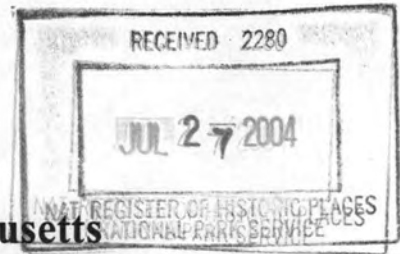
UTM grid convergence
(GN and 1983 metric
declination) (MM)
Diagram is approximate

ISBN 0-107-23425-3
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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 gauge; narrow gauge	.....
Bridge: drawbridge	.....
Footbridge; overpass; underpass	.....
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown	.....
House; barn; church; school; large structure	.....
Boundary:	.....
National, with monument	.....
State	.....
County, parish	.....
Civil township, precinct, district	.....
Incorporated city, village, town	.....
National or State reservation; small park	.....
Land grant with monument; bound 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	.....
Windmill; water well; spring; bound section corner	.....
Mine shaft; prospect; shaft or cave	.....
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation	.....
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression	.....
Distorted surface: very steep, steep, moderate	.....
Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate	.....
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream	.....
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small	.....
Saline marsh; marsh, swamp	.....
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland	.....
Scrub; mangrove	.....
Orchard; vineyard	.....

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 23, 2004

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:

Wilson Cemetery, Marlborough (Middlesex), 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.

Five letters of support have been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Shary Page Berg, consultant
Gary Brown, Lynn Faust, Marlborough Historical Commission
Dennis Hunt, Mayor, City of Marlborough
Alfred Lima, Marlborough Planning Director



CITY OF MARLBOROUGH

MAYOR DENNIS C. HUNT

140 Main Street
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752
Tel. (508) 460-3770 Facsimile (508) 460-3698 TDD (508) 460-3610

May 7, 2004

Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

The City of Marlborough participated in the Cemetery Initiative that the Department of Environmental Management conducted. Because of that project, the City next pursued a grant to have these cemeteries listed in the National Register. I have received notice that at its June 9, 2004 meeting, the Massachusetts Historical Commission will be reviewing the City of Marlborough's Request to have seven (7) historic cemeteries included in the National Register Listing. I would like to express my support for this project.

Cemeteries have always served as one of the community's most valuable resources. It would seem in this day and age that cemeteries have lost much of their significance. But further exploration would dispute that. From the people who come from all over the country to research their family trees, realizing that their ancestors settled this community and helped it to grow and prosper and while some stayed and continued their role in this community, others moved on to settle throughout the rest of the country; to the schoolchildren who learn a respect and awareness of history from their tours and research in these cemeteries; to the veterans who visit frequently to pay their respects to the country's heroes; to the neighborhood residents and the community at large who walk through the cemeteries pausing to reflect at various headstones, sometimes cleaning around a site, but taking the few moments to reflect on the peace and stillness that gives them a brief respite from the hustle and stress of their lives, these cemeteries have an impact.

The City of Marlborough has begun a pro-active role in the preservation of its cultural and historical assets through acquiring open space parcels and developing preservation and maintenance plans for its resources.

Several Boy Scouts have done or will be doing a status inventory of individual cemeteries for their Eagle Scout projects. Each Boy Scout chooses a cemetery and they inventory each headstone – inscriptions, condition of stone, composition of stone – and also make general notes on the cemetery grounds. Since time can have such a devastating effect on the headstones, the City and its Cemetery Division will be able to take this inventory and use it to address the most urgent needs.

The cemeteries in Marlborough reach out to many people – those who come to trace their roots and learn about their families, the schoolchildren, the veterans and the community at large. They provide a real sense of history in Marlborough.

Betsy Friedberg

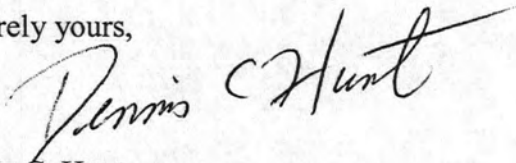
May 7, 2004

Page 2

The City of Marlborough takes great pride in its cemeteries and the history reflected there. Listing these cemeteries is another way of expressing our pride while providing a part that is often required for grants that we might seek to help in the special maintenance and repairs at the cemeteries.

I thank you for this opportunity and hope that you will approve this project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis C. Hunt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dennis C. Hunt
Mayor



CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 11, 2004

Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

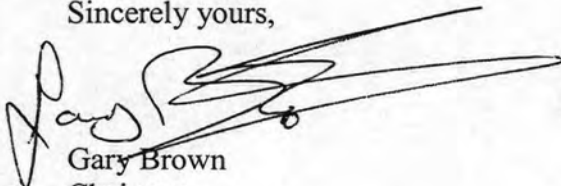
We in Marlborough are fortunate to have our historic cemeteries and burial grounds in a wonderful state of preservation. Some of the stones date from the late 1600s and early 1700s and look as if they had been carved recently.

The grave markers bear the names of many of our founding fathers and veterans of the Revolutionary, Civil and all other wars. They are a written history of this community.

Those citizens who visit our historic burial grounds for the first time are invariably impressed. It is fun to take groups through them and point out who, what, where and why they are important. You can see the various motifs of the carvers. We who appreciate our history are very proud of these cemeteries. We who take the time to honor our fallen veterans are pleased that our City government throughout our history has cared for these hallowed grounds.

I fully support the efforts to have our historic cemeteries placed on the National Register. This will help many others to be grateful for their existence.

Sincerely yours,



Gary Brown
Chairman



**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

140 Main Street
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752
Tel (508) 460-3799 Facsimile (508) 460-3698 TDD (508) 460-3610

RECEIVED

JUN 03 2004

MASS. HIST. COMM
ALFRED J. LIMA,
Director

May 13, 2004

Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

I wish to convey my strong support for the nomination of seven historic cemeteries in the City of Marlborough to the National Register of Historic Places. The elevation of these cemeteries to the Register will assist in implementing the city's planning objectives.

One of the action items in the 2002 Marlborough Master Plan is to advance the preservation of the city's historic cemeteries through the development of preservation plans and the pursuing of National Register designation. The City was awarded a technical assistance grant from the Department of Environmental Management to develop a framework for the preservation of these sites, and this initiative has assisted in guiding the City's maintenance of these cemeteries.

Clearly, the preservation of Marlborough's historic cemeteries will advance other goals of the master plan, including the preservation of the community's character and its quality of life. The nomination of these sites to the National Register will advance the preservation of these important historic resources.

Sincerely,

Alfred J. Lima,
Director of Planning and Community Development

Marlborough Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 513

Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752-0513



Peter Rice Homestead - 377 Elm Street

May 20, 2004

RECEIVED

MAY 25 2004

MASS. HIST. COMM

Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

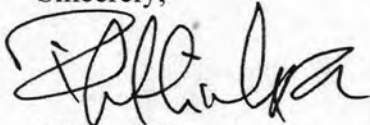
On behalf of the Marlborough Historical Society I would like to express my support for the listing on the National Register of Historic Places the seven historically significant cemeteries in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

Marlborough being among this nation's earliest incorporated townships (1660), its rich history was built by the very men and women who lay to rest in our honored cemeteries. The recognition they deserve warrants such a listing in our National Registry.

Not only for the expressed purpose of recognition of the cemeteries and those who are buried there, however, do I support such an effort. Rather, I feel that a listing on the National Register of Historic Places fosters within a given town or city a greater awareness of and appreciation for other historic preservation efforts and projects. To me, it is an often-needed catalyst to better, more thoughtful decision making.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Wilcox
Curator

C: Gary Brown, Chairman, Marlborough Historical Commission



CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
Department of Public Works
Office of the Commissioner
135 Neil Street
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752
(508) 624-6910 Ext. 7200
Facsimile (508) 624-7699 TDD (508) 460-3610

May 25, 2004

Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg,

I am pleased to offer my support to the City of Marlborough request to have its 7 cemeteries listed on the National Register.

As the Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, it is my responsibility to see that these historic resources are properly maintained. With the ever-increasing demands on municipal budgets, it is a challenge to meet this standard with the limited funds we are annually given to do so. I am extremely proud of the fact that these cemeteries are in remarkable condition in spite of our limited maintenance resources and we hope to continue meeting our charge in that regard.

Listing in the National Register symbolizes the City of Marlborough's commitment to its historic resources. As part of this commitment the City continually researches ways to gain additional funding for special projects for these cemeteries. As an example, funds from the grant used to prepare this application, also allowed us to prepare mini-preservation and maintenance plans for the cemeteries. The purpose of these plans is to provide efficient cost-effective guidance to the community for the care of its historic cemeteries.

There are few greater opportunities for reflection than a walk through an historic burial ground as you ponder the names, dates and inscriptions on the stones and what life was like when these people lived in our community.

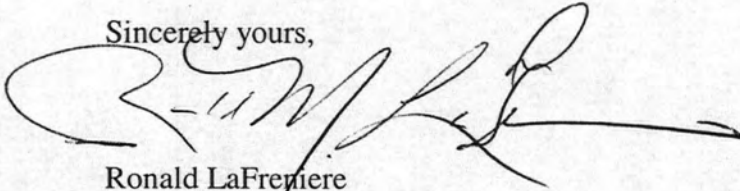
Betsy Friedberg
Massachusetts Historical Commission
May 25, 2004

Page 2

As the custodian of these sites, I have a great responsibility to not only the current residents but also to those people who lived here helping our community grow and prosper and are now buried in our cemeteries. What better way to show honor and respect than to have these cemeteries listed on the National Register

I appreciate this opportunity to offer my support to this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald LaFreniere", written over the typed name.

Ronald LaFreniere
Commissioner