

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received DEC 29 1981
date entered JAN 28 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hancock Cemetery

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Hancock Street in Quincy Square ___ not for publication

city, town Quincy vicinity of congressional district 11th

state Massachusetts code 025 county Norfolk code 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: cemetery

4. Owner of Property

name City of Quincy

street & number Public Burial Places, 20 Sea Street

city, town Quincy ___ vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Suffolk County Registry of Deeds/Norfolk County Registry

street & number Pemberton Square/650 High Street

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets
of the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1971 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hancock Cemetery is a grassy, wooded plot of slightly more than two acres in the civic and commercial center of Quincy. It lies west of Hancock Street and east of the former Old Colony Railroad line. The Quincy City Hall (NR 1980) forms its northern bound while the First Parish Church Unitarian (NHL, 1970) stands across the street.

The site is trapezoidal in plan with a 225' frontage on Hancock Street which is marked by an ornamental mid-19th century cast iron fence set on a low cut granite retaining wall. This is interrupted by two-symmetrically placed entrances consisting of granite posts which support cast iron arches bearing gold leafed mottos. The southerly entrance reads "Dust Thou Art And Unto Dust Thy Shall Return" while that to the north reads "This Mortal Shall Put On Immortality."

Mature hardwood trees along with a variety of flowering shrubs are clustered throughout the ground which is crisscrossed by wandering asphalt covered paths. Stones, dating from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries are laid out at random; the earliest are generally of slate while those built dating after 1820 are usually marble or granite. Family tombs which are built into the banked sides of the cemetery, date primarily from the early 19th century.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) HISTORY

Specific dates about 1640

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hancock Cemetery possesses integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship as well as important historical associations with the seventeenth century origins of Quincy Center, with families of local, state, and national repute, and with the early development of gravestone art in New England.

The lands which now comprise the City of Quincy were first settled in the 1620's and 1630's and were incorporated as part of Braintree as early as 1640 along with portions of Holbrook and Randolph. The present Quincy center served as the focus of this larger community and the Hancock Cemetery is particularly important as its only surviving 17th century component.

It is believed that there were burials on this site from the time of the earliest settlement but there was no formal mention of this use until after 1640 when the surrounding land was acquired by Captain William Tyng, a prominent citizen, large landowner, and second commander of the local militia company. The burying ground remained on private lands until the town took official custody in 1809. From the distribution of early graves, it appears that its area was always close to its present 2 acres; the only addition was a strip at the south end in 1819 when the townhouse was built on the adjoining lot (north) and land was made available for tombs. The ornamental fence which presently fronts Hancock Street was put up under the auspices of the Ladies of the Church in 1844, the year in which the present City Hall (NR) was erected.

The oldest identified grave is that of Henry Adams, progenitor of the famous family, who died here in 1646. The monument now marking the grave was placed here by his great, great grandson, President John Adams, who similarly honored his father, grandfather, and great grandfather. These monuments have recently been restored by the family. Here, too, is the Adams family tomb in which the Presidents and their wives rested until moved across the street to the crypt beneath the church, and here today lie the other members of the presidential family.

The prominent Quincy family from early colonial days had this as their burial place. Famous members here include Josiah Quincy, the Patriot and great orator of the Revolution; and Col. John Quincy, prominent leader in the Province of Massachusetts and grandfather of Abigail Adams, for whom both John Quincy Adams and the Town of Quincy were named. In one Quincy stone is a recess from which the lead plaque bearing the family coat of arms was pried and melted into bullets after the battle of Lexington.

The oldest surviving stone is that of the Rev. William Tompson, the first minister of the town, who died in 1666. The first teacher and second minister, Henry Flynt, lies nearby. In the ministers' tomb is the Rev. John Hancock, father of the Patriot, for whom the third meeting house and the Hancock Cemetery were named. The poem inscribed on the minister's tomb was written in 1708 by Benjamin Tompson, son of the Rev. William, who is considered to have been America's first native-born poet.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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There is an impressive monument to Dr. Leonard Hoard, the colorful third President of Harvard College. The large number of Revolutionary War soldiers buried here are commemorated by a modern monument bearing their names.

While a wide range of eschatological motifs are represented on the stones in Hancock Cemetery, the most artistically significant is the Cleaverly marker of 1703. This is one of the relatively sophisticated late 17th-century and early 18th-century stones located on the south banks of the Charles River which were initialed J.N. by their carver. "J.N." appears to have used refine engravings rather than rough woodcuts as his artistic models and was creative enough to introduce a number of new devices such as peacocks (appearing on the Cleaverly stone), gadrooned urns, inhabited zoomorphic scrolls, and the Dagon and Tritons which ornament his most representative stones. Other J.N. stones are located in Marshfield, Duxbury, Roxbury, and Newton.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ludwig, Allan I. "Graven Images" Wesleyan University Press, Middletown, Connecticut, 1966.

Name Hancock Cemetery

State, County MA, Norfolk

Working Number 12-29-81/532

Fed Nom or Request-Agency _____

Federal Register Date 2-7-83

- Nomination
- Determination of Eligibility
- On Nomination Form

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

- Within:
- Multiple Resource Area
 - Thematic Group

Maps 2
Photos 2

- Nomination prepared by:
- State Staff
 - Local
 - Other

Entered in the
National Register

Action:

- ACCEPT 1/28/82
- RETURN _____
- REJECT _____

- Check if Appropriate:
- State Request for Review
 - Keeper's Decision to Review
 - 2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

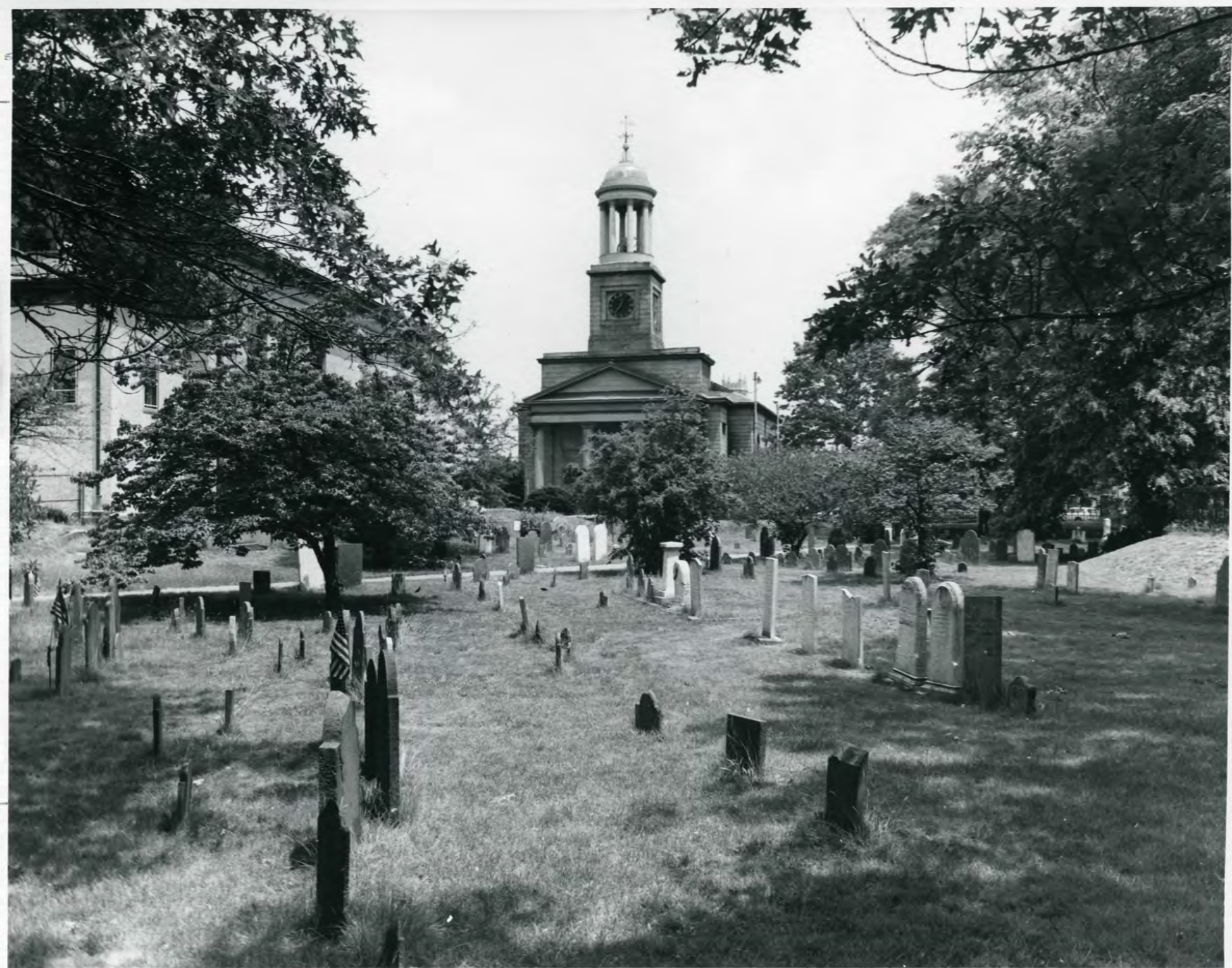
II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good			Comments
	Adequate	Poor		
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
2. Significance Statement Short Format <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
3. Concepts/Integrity				
4. Concepts/Criteria				
5. Concepts/Boundaries				
6. Contextual Evaluation				

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date _____

See Attached _____



QUINCY, MA
Hancock Cemetery

Looking northeast
Photo by N. Hobart Holly,
1981
Negative at Quincy Historical
Society
Photo 1 of 2

DEC 29 1981

JAN 28 1982



QUINCY, MA
Hancock Cemetery

Looking northwest
Photo by N. Hobart Holly,
1981

Negative at Quincy
Historical Society
Photo 2 of 2

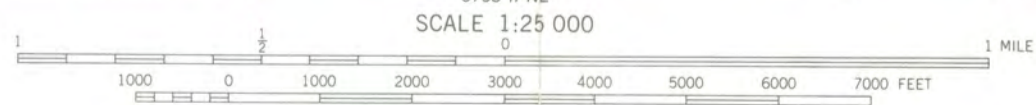
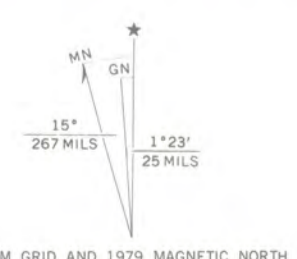
DEC 29 1981

JAN 28 1982



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

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246
and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational
purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE ON MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6788 1 SE—SERIES V814





**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

15 December 1981

Ms. Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

~~Quincy: Hancock Cemetery (national)~~
North Attleborough: Falls Fire Station (local)
Adams: Park Street Fire House (local)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins
Candace Jenkins
Registration Director

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered JAN 28 1982

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Hancock Cemetery	Quincy Norfolk County
Park Street Firehouse	Adams Berkshire County
Fire Barn	North Attleborough Bristol County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul E. Tsongas
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Brian J. Donnelly
Honorable Silvio O. Conte
Honorable Margaret M. Heckler

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Mid-Atlantic Region, NPS
North Atlantic Region, NPS

NR Eady/mc 2/10/82

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 343-6401. 272-3504