

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 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 Spring Hill Cemetery

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number High and Brown Sts. N/A not for publication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 8/24/04  
Signature of certifying official/Title Cara H. Metz, State Historic Preservation Officer Date  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

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

Edson H. Beall

10.6.04

Spring Hill Cemetery  
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

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

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

\_\_\_\_\_ building  
\_\_\_\_\_ sites  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ structures  
\_\_\_\_\_ objects  
\_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 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)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

walls \_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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## 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Spring Hill Cemetery, Marlborough's oldest municipal burial ground, is an evocative remnant of the early history of the community. It is an excellent example of a well-preserved municipal burying ground that retains strong historical associations and a diverse collection of skillfully carved slate burial markers. It is also the burial place of many of the town's notable early citizens. There are approximately 650 recorded burials dating from 1675 to 1977.

The 2.62-acre cemetery is located near the eastern edge of the downtown business district, off High Street one block north of Main Street. It is a landlocked triangular parcel surrounded by a predominately 20<sup>th</sup> century residential neighborhood. The entrance at the narrow southern end, located at the intersection of High and Brown Streets, is marked by four rusticated square granite posts approximately 8' tall. Just inside the entrance is a short set of rough granite stairs that lead up to the cemetery. To the east of the entrance is a rough-cut stone **retaining wall** approximately 4-5' tall with granite capstones. The largest of the capstones is inscribed "Spring Hill Cemetery 1675." A low fieldstone and cut-granite **wall** continues along the eastern edge of the cemetery. There is also a short section of fieldstone along the center of the northern wall. The entire perimeter is marked by chain link fencing of various heights and types.

The cemetery is in two parts: a steep southern section and a northern plateau where most of the burials are located. The southern section rises steeply north from the entrance through an area of exposed rock outcrop. Few burials are located here because of the difficulty of excavation. A rough asphalt and gravel road extends up the slope about 100' before petering out about halfway up. The road is used primarily by service vehicles, as Spring Hill Cemetery is no longer active and there is little public use. There are a few scattered volunteer deciduous trees in the southern section, giving it a somewhat shaded character. The northern section, which is higher in elevation and more level, is where the burials are concentrated. There is little planting in the northern section except around the east and west perimeters where trees along the edge of the property and in the adjacent woods to the east serve as a backdrop to the cemetery. There is very little planting along the northern edge, where the adjacent residences are very visible even in summer.

At the crest of the hill leading up from the entrance (and roughly separating the two sections of the cemetery) are four earth covered **tombs** (photo #1) faced with rough cut granite blocks which are built into the hillside. Three of the entrances are covered with granite slabs while that of Amos Lewis (1849) is marked with an iron door. Three of the tombs are simple and unadorned but that of David Parmenter (built 1839) lists family members buried here and is embellished with an iron fence and what appears to be a millstone. It also displays the Masonic shield.

The burial markers at Spring Hill Cemetery display a range of gravestone styles that were popular from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century through the 20<sup>th</sup> century and illustrate evolving funerary tastes. Like most Colonial burial grounds, Spring Hill is predominantly single burials marked by individual

(continued)

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headstones, with only a few tombs, monuments, and family lots. The headstones are arranged in rough rows oriented north/south with the inscriptions facing west. An early 20<sup>th</sup> century inventory recorded 646 headstones and monuments and 417 footstones. A few have undoubtedly been lost and a few added in the intervening century, leaving roughly the same number of headstones today, but somewhat fewer footstones, as some have disappeared in the intervening years. Most of the headstones are dark gray slate with a rounded tympanum on a shouldered main block. They range in size from small headstones for children to those that are over 5' tall. About half retain their footstones, which have been relocated adjacent to the headstones for ease of maintenance.

The cemetery was probably established before 1675 but that is the date of the earliest documented burial, that of Capt. Edward Hutchinson (d. 1675, age 62) who died of injuries received in an ambush during King Philip's War. His slate headstone still exists although it has been embedded into a boulder to protect it from deterioration. Several other early stones associated with the Ward family, ancestors of the Revolutionary War Gen. Artemus Ward, have also been embedded on granite or concrete slabs. Other early headstones are those of S.T. (d. 1693?) (photo #2) and W.T. (d. 1706) both commemorated by thick granite fieldstones with crude lettering displaying only the initials and death years. This type of rough early headstone is unusual in New England cemeteries.

Slate headstones from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century that depict the winged death's head are typical of that era. Some of the stones are fairly simple while others are embellished with floral and figurative motifs, some displaying distinctive styles that are probably the work of individual carvers. Later 18<sup>th</sup> century slates illustrate the transition to winged cherubs or spirits that express a more optimistic view of death. These later stones are typically more elaborate and skillfully carved. Slates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century (photo #4) which comprise roughly half of the headstones found at Spring Hill, are usually illustrated with the willow and urn motif, often in association with sentimental epitaphs and in some cases skillfully carved architectural forms.

Prominent early citizens buried at Spring Hill include William Brimsmead (1660-1701), first pastor of the church in Marlborough, whose graves is marked by a table tomb (which has recently collapsed). The brownstone table tomb of his successor Rev. Robert Breck (1682-1731) has the most eloquent epitaph of any found at Spring Hill. It was written in Latin and is no longer legible but was transcribed by Franklin P. Rice early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It reads in part:

*"Beneath this mound are preserved the earthy remains of that truly venerable theologian, Robert Breck. His celestial part has gone to the myriads of angels in heaven, and to the spirits of the just made perfect. He was of a discriminating genius, and by nature a man of enlarged mind and sound judgment, unified to common courage of spirit. As to his acquired parts, he was in the learned tongues exceedingly skillful, and he was furnished with no common measure of polite literature. What to others was difficult, he easily mastered by the force of his genius and close application ....Even prophets do not live forever."*

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There are roughly 60 marble headstones, most dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which display a range of styles and motifs. Most are fairly simple in shape and are 3-4' tall. Many of these are seriously eroded so that little of the inscription is still legible. A few feature the name of the deceased in a recessed panel with raised lettering, a style also found in other burial grounds in Marlborough.

By mid-19<sup>th</sup> century classical forms such as obelisks and pillars were also popular. There are six obelisks at Spring Hill, some as simple shafts and others mounted on granite bases. Some of these, such as the Hildreth obelisk near the tombs, mark family lots, which were more common by the second third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, while others mark individual graves. There are also three marble pillars (photo #3). The only curbed lot in the cemetery is that of the Goodale family (photo #5), and L-shaped raised lot enclosed by granite curbing, where many generations of the family were buried between 1752 and 1977.

Epitaphs create an expressive record of life in Marlborough, documenting everyday events as well as the accomplishments of well-known residents. There was a high rate of infant mortality, but many of those who made it past infancy lived to a surprisingly old age. Elizabeth Harrington, believed to be the oldest person buried at Spring Hill, was 101 when she died in 1771. Accidents were also a fact of life. Brothers William and Aaron Barnes "were awfully Drowned in the River June 18, 1773." The close relationship of William Bruce (d. 1803, age 89) and his wife Abigail (d. 1763, age 41) is expressed in their well-carved double headstone with the inscription,

*"A holy quiet reigns around  
A calm which nothing can destroy  
Nothing can disturb, that peace profound  
Which their unfettered souls enjoy."*

The burying ground is generally well maintained, but like most municipal cemeteries, has suffered loss and destruction of gravestones over time. Marbles have particularly suffered, with several toppled and broken and many eroded, most of which have been preserved in place.

(end)

Spring Hill Cemetery  
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA  
County and State

## 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Community Planning And Development

Social History

### Period of Significance

1675-1954

### Significant Dates

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Marlborough Library and Historical Commission

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**Spring Hill Cemetery  
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

Spring Hill 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 period of significance extends from 1675 to 1954. 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 early history of Marlborough. It was the first burial ground established in the community and contains the graves of approximately 650 residents from Marlborough and the surrounding area. The cemetery also has a strong tradition of military service. The 1934 map by City Engineer Francis Granger indicates that there are 40 Revolutionary War veterans and five Civil War veterans buried here.

Spring Hill Cemetery meets Criterion C as a small burial ground established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and active into the 20<sup>th</sup>. It reflects the evolving design of cemeteries and funerary monuments in New England for nearly 300 years but is most expressive of Colonial and Federal period New England burial grounds. The large number of slate headstones and their associated footstones illustrate a range of early carving styles, inscriptions, and iconography; while the later marble headstones and monuments express 19<sup>th</sup> century ideals and philosophy. The epitaphs convey family relationships, religious beliefs, and attitudes towards death.

Franklin P. Rice, who documented Marlborough's older cemeteries in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, identified the work of a number of stone carvers at Spring Hill. While there are few visible signatures today, subsequent research may be able to confirm his findings. Carvers cited include: Sam'l Farnsworth, Harvard; W. Farnsworth, Groton; Harris; N. Hastings, Stone-Cutter, Newton; Sam'l Kilburn, Sterling; J. Lewis & Co., Worcester; D.N.; D. Nichols, Lowell; M. Nichols, Lowell; J. O'C; N. Piper; I. Reed Jr, Harvard; Runnels, Waltham; Shine; I.N. Stone; Tateum, Westboro; Tateum & Horgan, Worcester; and T. Warren, Lowell.

The cemetery meets Criteria Exception D because it has served continuously as a neighborhood burying ground in Marlborough from 1675 to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with most burials occurring in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It includes the graves of many early residents of Marlborough and contains information that is not readily available elsewhere. The 1675 beginning date for the period of significance corresponds with the first documented burial, that of Captain Edward Hutchinson. 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

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population of 1,287 by 1765. Through the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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. By 1890 the increasingly complex infrastructure necessitated the reorganization of the government and Marlborough became a city. In the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 grounds located near the center of town, Spring Hill Cemetery (1675) at the eastern edge of town and Old Common Cemetery (1706) at the western edge. 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Subsequent research has revealed that Spring Hill was Marlborough's first burial ground, not its second.

*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*

**(continued)**

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**Spring Hill Cemetery  
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*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. . .*

*The next oldest burial-place is what was formerly know as the "Burying Hill" situated some 80 rods easterly of Spring-Hill Meeting-house. It contains about two acres, is situated on a rise of ground, and is nearly filled up. It has several handsome lots, with stones of a neat and tasteful character; though as a whole the yard is neglected and briars are suffered to grow up amid the graves. Like most of the old yards, the grounds were not laid out with any system; so that we have not only "uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture" but great irregularity in the location of the graves. The ground being ledgy, it not well adapted to burial purposes.*

*(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 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 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 19<sup>th</sup> century style with smaller lots, machine-made monuments, and greater ethnic diversity.

Spring Hill Cemetery began as a public burial ground in 1675 with the burial of Captain Edward Hutchinson. There are a few other recorded burials during the 17<sup>th</sup> century and a greater number in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but over half of the burials occurred in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the cemetery was largely full and no longer active. However, because of its antiquity, it was the focus of considerable interest by a group of local residents. In 1879 Stephen Morse and other civic-minded citizens raised about \$800 to make improvements, with additional funds raised in subsequent years from families with ties to the burial ground. Their ambitious program included: rebuilding the perimeter fence and walls; constructing an entrance gate and roadway into the burial ground; resetting headstones; smoothing and reseeding the rough ground; and trimming the trees and grass. Since that effort, municipal records indicate that there has been little more in the way of expenses than an occasional mowing.

According to Franklin P. Rice, Spring Hill Cemetery was surveyed by Abraham Williams in 1737, at which time it was 4 acres and 46 rods. However, by 1934 when the layout of the cemetery was documented by City Engineer Francis Granger (see attached map), it was only 2.62 acres which is also its current acreage.

(continued)

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**Spring Hill Cemetery  
Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA**

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Spring Hill is Marlborough's oldest cemetery. It retains 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular character in its spatial organization, topography, vegetation, circulation system and monumentation. A few residents of the neighborhood have been buried here in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, primarily in existing family lots, but Spring Hill 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**

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National Park Service

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8. 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, Archaeological 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 Commission. *Cemetery Records*.

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

Rice, Franklin P. *Marlborough, Massachusetts, Burial Ground Inscriptions: Old Common, Spring Hill and Brigham Cemeteries*. Worcester: published by author, 1908.

**Maps**

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

Marlborough, Massachusetts. Assessors maps 57 and 70.

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

(end)

Spring Hill Cemetery  
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA  
County, State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.62

### UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|       |         |          |
|-------|---------|----------|
| 1. 19 | 290400  | 4619460  |
| Zone  | Easting | Northing |
| 2. 19 | 290580  | 4691520  |
| Zone  | Easting | Northing |

|       |         |          |
|-------|---------|----------|
| 3. 19 | 290520  | 4691380  |
| Zone  | Easting | Northing |
| 4.    |         |          |
| 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 Shary Page Berg, consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date August 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 & number City Hall 140 Main Street telephone 508-460-3715

city or town Marlborough state MA zip code 01752

**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  
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Marlborough (Middlesex), MA**Section number 10 Page 1**9. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA****Verbal Boundary Description**

Spring Hill Cemetery is located near the center of Marlborough between Bolton, High, East Main, and Francis Streets. Its only street access is a narrow strip onto High Street at its eastern edge near the intersection with Brown Street. Other than this access point, the cemetery is surrounded on all sides by residential properties.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses a single parcel (maps 57, 70, parcel 118) that includes the entire 2.62 acre cemetery.

(end)

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographer: Shary Berg

Date: May 2002

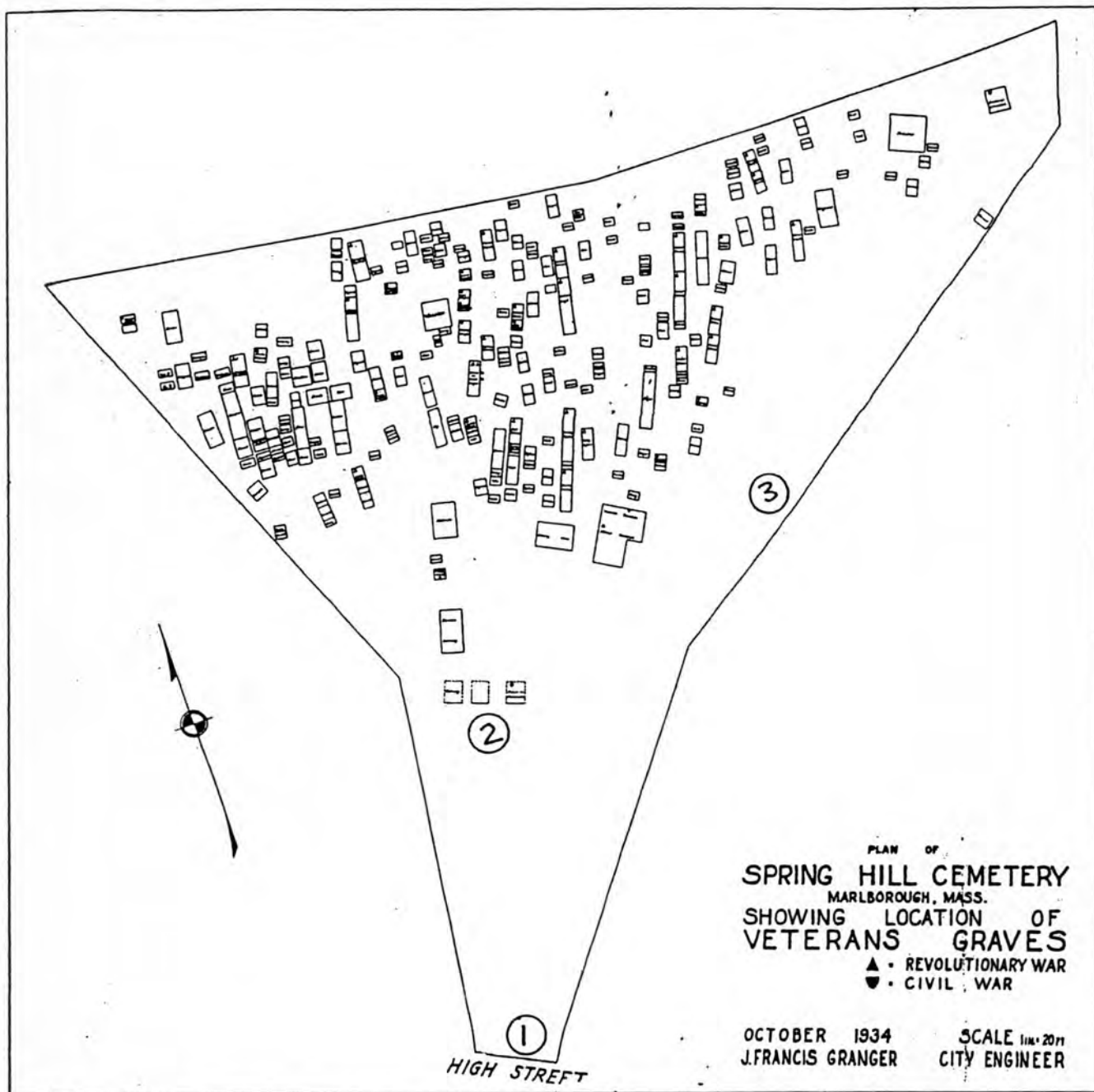
1. View of four tombs at southern end of cemetery, view looking northwest
2. Headstone of S.T. located at western edge of cemetery, looking east
3. Slate headstones and marble monuments with Weeks monument at far right, looking northeast
4. Marble headstones, view looking east from western edge of cemetery
5. Goodale lot in eastern section of cemetery, looking northeast.

**Spring Hill Cemetery  
Marlborough (Middlesex), MA  
2004**

**Data Sheet**

|                                   |                                          |                          |        |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|---|
| Spring Hill Cemetery              |                                          | 1675                     | SI     | C |
| Stone wall, front of cemetery     | Mortared fieldstone                      | 19 <sup>th</sup> century | ST     | C |
| Perimeter walls, east/north sides | Dry laid fieldstone                      | 19 <sup>th</sup> century | ST     | C |
| Tombs                             | Earthen tombs (4) with<br>Granite fronts | 19 <sup>th</sup> century | ST (4) | C |

Totals: 6 contributing structures, one contributing site



**1934 Map by City Engineer J. Francis Granger.**

Graves are laid out in rough north/south rows facing west. Only three of the four tombs (southern most rectangles) are shown. The only access point is at the very bottom of the map at the intersection of High Street and Brown Street.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Spring Hill Cemetery  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/26/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/16/04  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/01/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/09/04  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04001114

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 10/6/04 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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



04001114  
OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

Spring Hill Cemetery  
Marlborough (Middlesex) MA

Section number 10 Page 1

The coordinates originally provided for Spring Hill Cemetery were 19 290400 4619460. The correct location is 45 miles due North of this point at **19 290400 4691460** (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 Spring Hill Cemetery  
NAME:

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: 04001114

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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



Spring Hill Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

photo 1 - Four Tombs



Spring Hill Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Photo 2 - Headstone of S.T.



Spring Hill Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Photo 3 - Slate headstones and Weets monument



Spring Hill Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex County, MA

Photo 4 - Slate headstones



Spring Hill Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex, County, MA

Photo 5 - Goodale lot



COMPILED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS  
MOORE SURVEY & MAPPING CORPORATION

SCALE 1:1,200

SHT 57  
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS  
ASSESSORS MAP

Spring Hill Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex Co, MA  
National Register Nomination  
Assessors Sheet 70 1a/2  
6/2002



Spring Hill Cemetery, Marlborough, Middlesex Co., MA  
National Register Nomination  
Assessors Sheet 57 2 of 2  
6/2002



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

August 13, 2004

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Spring Hill Cemetery, High Street, 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*

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,

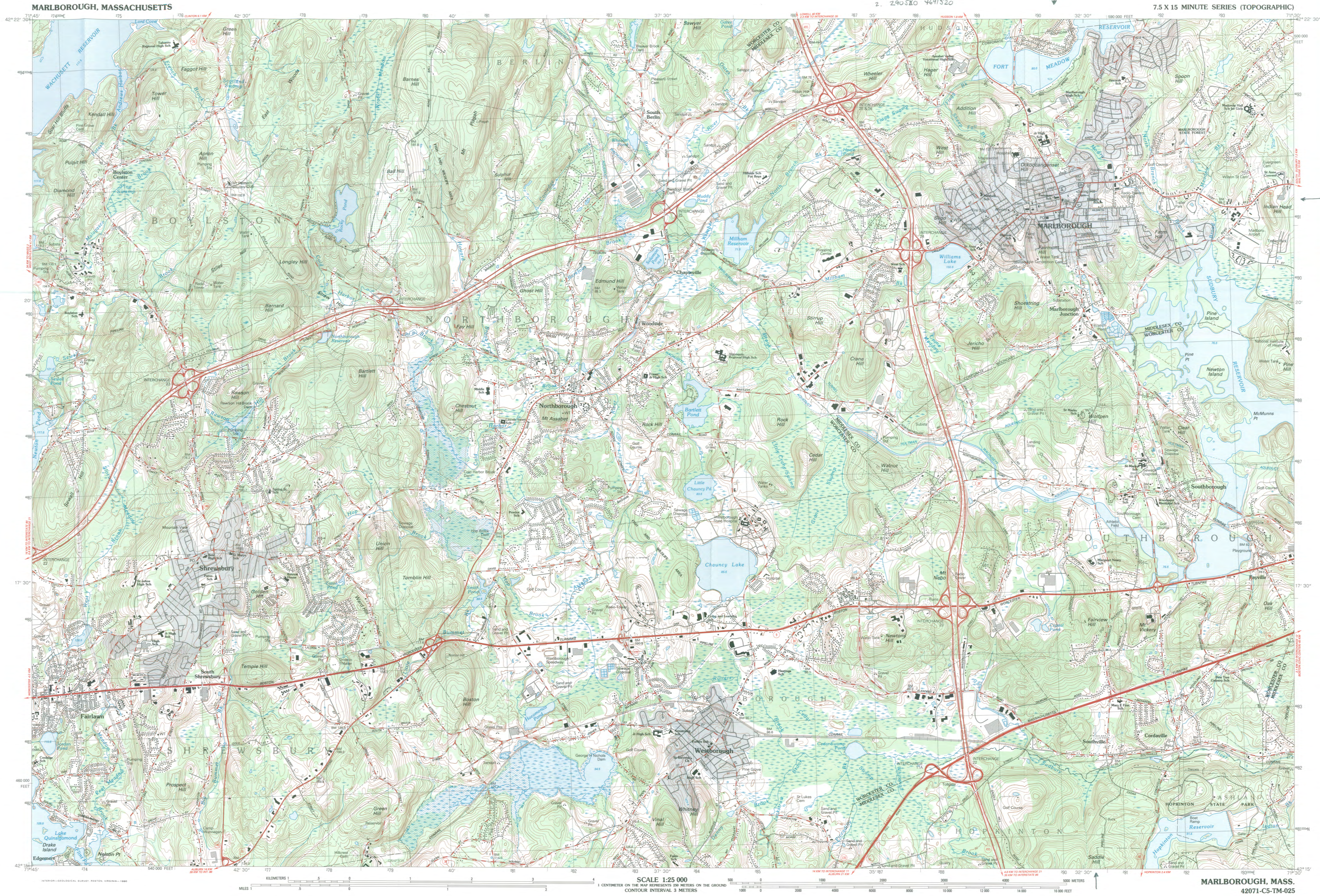
The City of Marlborough participated in the Cemetery Initiative that the Department of Environmental Management conducted. Because of that project, the City next pursued a grant to have these cemeteries listed in the National Register. I have received notice that at its June 9, 2004 meeting, the Massachusetts 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.

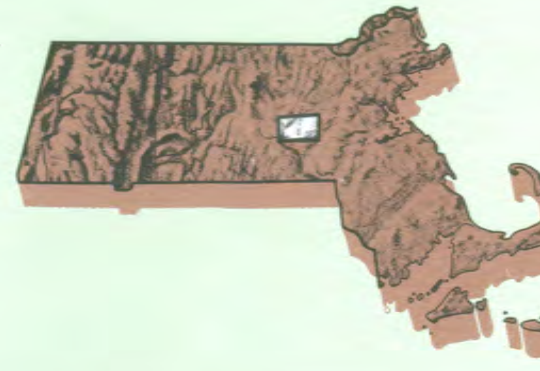
The City of Marlborough has begun a pro-active role in the preservation of its cultural and historical assets through acquiring open space parcels and developing preservation and maintenance plans for its resources.

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.



SPRING HILL  
CENTENARY  
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



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 1960. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1983  
Supersedes Shrewsbury and Marlborough 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1969

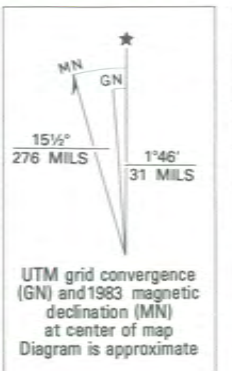
Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal Transverse Mercator. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 40 meters west as shown by 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  |  | 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 |                                                                                       |                |   |   |
| 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 vs 1983 magnetic declination) (MM) at center of map  
Diagram is approximate

1 Sterling  
2 Hallowell  
3 Maynard  
4 Worcester North  
5 Framingham  
6 Worcester South  
7 Milford  
8 Needham

ISBN 0-607-23425-3  
9 780607 234251

**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; found section corner                | ..... |
| U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section           | ..... |
| Range, township, section line; location approximate           | ..... |
| Fence or field line                                           | ..... |
| Power transmission line, located tower                        | ..... |
| Dam; dam with lock                                            | ..... |
| Cemetery; grave                                               | ..... |
| Campground; picnic areas; U. S. location monument             | ..... |
| Wellhead; water well; spring                                  | ..... |
| Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave                            | ..... |
| Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation | ..... |
| Contour: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression       | ..... |
| Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand                     | ..... |
| Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate                     | ..... |
| Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream       | ..... |
| Rapids, large and small; lake, large and small                | ..... |
| Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp                                 | ..... |
| Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland               | ..... |
| Scrub; mangrove                                               | ..... |
| Orchard; vineyard                                             | ..... |

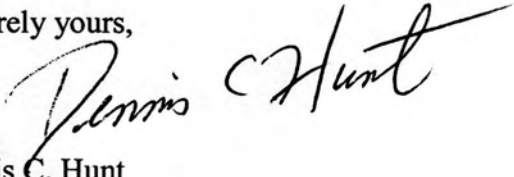
A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

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 black ink, reading "Dennis C. Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "H" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

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,

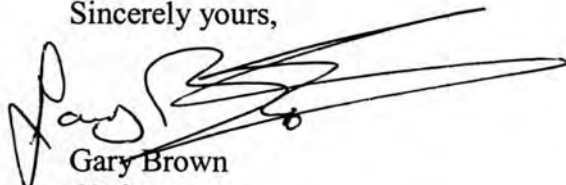
We in Marlborough are fortunate to have our historic cemeteries and burial grounds in a wonderful state of preservation. Some of the stones date from the late 1600s and early 1700s and look as if they had been carved recently.

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 08 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

NR file

*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.

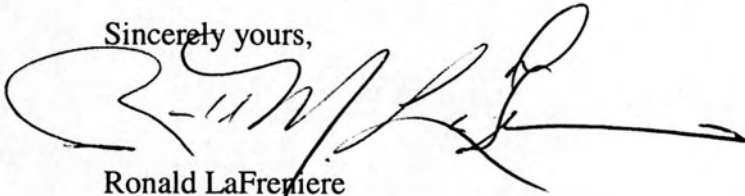
Betsy Friedberg  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
May 25, 2004

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', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ronald LaFreniere  
Commissioner