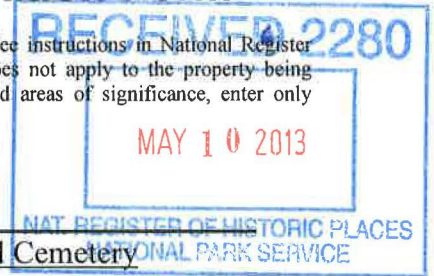


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

442

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Old Burying Ground
Other names/site number: Men of Kent Cemetery (preferred), Old Cemetery
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Meeting House Lane
City or town: Scituate State: MA County: Plymouth
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 A B C D

Brona Simon April 30, 2013
Signature of certifying official/Title: Brona Simon, SHPO, MHC Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official: _____ Date _____
Title : _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

for Eason H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

6-25-13
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

Public -- Local

Public -- State

Public -- Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

District

Site

Structure

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | buildings |
| <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> | sites |
| <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> | structures |
| <u>30</u> | <u>3</u> | objects |
| <u>33</u> | <u>4</u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NONE

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: Cemetery

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____ Other: Slate, Granite, Bronze _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Of Scituate's fifteen known public and private burial sites, the Men of Kent Cemetery is the oldest, established ca. 1693. Located near Scituate Harbor and Third Cliff, and about a mile southeast of Scituate's present town center, it once stood at the heart of Scituate's original settlement. The small, sliver-shaped site includes many distinctive gravestones, several reflecting the work of local artisans and marking the interments of people associated with the earliest history of Scituate and the first two centuries of this 17th-century coastal Massachusetts town.

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Location & Setting

The town of Scituate fronts the Atlantic Ocean approximately 25 miles south of Boston, and its shoreline consists of long stretches of beaches interspersed with four high promontories or “cliffs.” At the mid-point in this shoreline is Scituate Harbor, a kidney-shaped inlet marked on its north side by the Cedar Point (Scituate) Lighthouse (NR TRA 1987). The North River, a long and wide tributary feeding into the Atlantic, forms the town’s southern border, and a smaller tributary, First Herring Brook, feeds into the north side of the North River, near the river’s meeting with the ocean.

Located approximately one mile to the south of Scituate Harbor and one-half mile from the ocean, the Men of Kent Cemetery lies in a protected location, perched approximately 65 feet above sea level and separated from the “cliffs” by low-lying marshland. It stands along the southern edge of Meeting House Lane, a narrow, residential street running perpendicular to the town’s main shore route, Kent Street. The cemetery lies at a jog in the layout of Meeting House Lane, about 350 feet from its intersection with Kent Street.¹ Modest residences, some late 19th century but most mid-to-late 20th century, abut the cemetery on the east, south, and west sides and immediately across Meeting House Lane to the north; they are set behind fieldstone walls and shaded by deciduous trees. To the northeast, at the intersection of Meeting House Lane and Kent Street, stands a large condominium building, erected ca. 1995, on the site of the much-altered Colonial-era Anthony Anable House. On the south is a dense woodland filled with maples, oaks, and ashes, and an unpaved roadway (leading to an adjacent residence) borders the west side. Two other cemeteries, Union Cemetery and St. Mary’s Cemetery, are located approximately 750 feet to the west of Men of Kent Cemetery, separated from it by the aforementioned houses of 19th- and 20th-century construction. This combination of features creates a quiet setting for this nearly 400-year-old commemorative landscape.

Site & Layout

Boundaries & Entrances

The cemetery is long and lean in shape, and occupies three-quarters of an acre of land. It lies between five and 40 feet from the south edge of Meeting House Lane, with a dry-laid fieldstone wall making a clear separation between the street and cemetery. The fieldstone wall, ranging from 18” to 36” in height inside the cemetery, continues around the entire cemetery boundary and on the north and east sides, serves as a retaining structure (Data Sheet #2, Photo #2). The wall, viewed from outside the cemetery, stands at its highest along the east edge, where it reaches approximately 48 to 60 inches.

Visitors enter the cemetery via a break in the stone wall located at the mid-point along the western edge. A pair of 36-inch-high, six-inch square-cut granite posts flank the entryway. Iron bolts remain on the inside faces of each, suggesting they supported a chain attachment at one time (Data Sheet #3). A pair of 30-inch-high granite boulders stands behind each post. From here, visitors may proceed into the cemetery, traversing turf, as the cemetery contains no defined roads or paths. The cemetery measures approximately 340 feet in length (west to east), and ranges in width from 40 feet on the west end, to 80 feet on the east end.

¹ The Town of Scituate Assessor’s map (Sheet No. 55) shows Meeting House Lane with a wide right-of-way and the cemetery jutting out into, or part of the public right-of-way.

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Topography & Landscape Features

Topography across the landscape ranges from relatively flat to gently sloping. Given that the site has been used as a burial place since the original settlement of Scituate, most of this topography has likely remained unaltered for more than 375 years. The highest point lies at the western end, near the entrance, and proceeding eastward from this point the landform remains level for approximately 200 feet. It then drops gently downward, reaching the lowest points in the cemetery's northeast and southeast corners. Several small outcroppings of rock appear throughout the flatter section of the landscape. From the center of the cemetery, an eastward view to the Atlantic Ocean is possible throughout much of the year.

The cemetery contains three large cedar trees, located towards the eastern end, and a few deciduous trees have volunteered along the southern edge, moving in from the adjacent wooded property. Species of the volunteers include maple, ash, and birch. Most of the groundcover is turf, although some *Vinca minor* (periwinkle) and *Geranium* spp. (wild geranium) have massed along the southern edge, under the volunteer trees.

Three identification signs are located along the northern edge, near the western end (Photo #1). The first, westernmost sign, placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution, consists of a metal sign panel displaying a red and white star motif with black lettering, affixed to a black steel pole (Data Sheet #6). Moving eastward, the second, added in 2009, consists of a wood panel in the shape of a blade, hanging from an arm-shaped wooden post (Data Sheet #5). The panel is cobalt blue and the lettering is white. The third sign, even further to the east and placed during the United States Bicentennial celebration (1976), is constructed of a metal panel affixed to a steel pole (Data Sheet #4). The panel's background is white and the lettering is black. The latter two signs were placed by the town.

The remainder of the landscape remains open, with just the monuments and markers punctuating its ground plane. The graves are laid out in simple rows, with the graves facing east and inscriptions on the west side, and in many spots, members of the same family are interred adjacent to one another. Many of the rows appear incomplete, suggesting that other, unmarked graves may exist, or that families were once separated by small areas of open space.

Monuments

The Men of Kent Cemetery contains seven monuments, spaced throughout the landscape, each commemorating people and structures important in the early settlement of Scituate. Beginning on the western side, the monument to Scituate's First Church ("Meetinghouse Monument") appears just inside the entry, set towards the southern edge (Data Sheet #7). Installed ca. 1960, it is built out of a pink granite boulder, measuring approximately 48" in diameter, and cut cleanly in half. It rests on the ground with the cut side angled away from the viewer, and on the cut face is an 18" square bronze tablet containing the words, "FIRST CHURCH – SITE OF THE FIRST CHURCH IN SCITUATE," and listing the town's four first pastors serving from 1635 to 1679. Approximately 30' from the Meetinghouse Monument is the "Ministers Monument," a box-shaped granite monument commemorating Scituate's first ministers (Data Sheet #8). Installed in 1912, the monument measures approximately 48" wide by 48" deep by 30" inches high, sloping upward to 36" high on its back side. The top and front are cut smoothly, and the sides are rusticated. The top contains the etched names of the ministers, and a notation about the first meetinghouse. On the front face is a bronze plaque noting the donors of the monument, the

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Judge Cushing Chapter of the DAR. The third monument, another granite boulder, was placed in 2005 to commemorate Edward Jenkins (Data Sheet #9). This 30-inch-high, 48-inch-wide, coarsely textured stone displays a 12" x 18" bronze plaque on its western face containing information about Jenkins, his wife, and children, all of whom are believed to have been buried in the vicinity of the boulder.

The fourth monument commemorates General James Cudworth (Data Sheet #10). Placed ca. 1960, it is constructed of pink granite and shaped in the form of a tall box, and consists of three parts: a large base, smaller lower molding, and a tall shaft, topped by a four-square style crown. It measures approximately 5' in height and on it is inscribed, "A MEMORIAL TO GEN. JAMES CUDWORTH, WE HONOR HIM AS A LOVER OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, A BRAVE AND HONORABLE COMMANDER AND A TRUE PATRIOT." The fifth monument, set ca. 1900, commemorates John Otis and his descendants (Data Sheet #11, Photo #4). It is a rectangular, box-shaped granite monument built on a rusticated granite base, with a squat base containing the name "OTIS" carved in bas relief on its north face, and the names of the Otis family carved above the base on a tall, polished granite shaft. The top features a rusticated finish, and the entire structure stands approximately 48" in height.

The sixth monument, located at the cemetery's geographic center, commemorates the Men of Kent (Data Sheet #12). Installed ca. 1960, the square object stands approximately 72" high and is constructed of pink granite, sitting on a grey granite two-tiered base. Its tall central shaft is topped by a molding and rounded cap. An inscription, listing the eleven names of Scituate's original settlers, appears on the north face. The name "Men of Kent" has been applied to these eleven men and to the cemetery, although several of the original settlers emigrated from other areas of England.

The seventh and final monument, placed in 1889 to commemorate the Turner family, stands near the cemetery's northeastern corner, aside many individual Turner graves (Data Sheet #13). This 48-inch-high, rectangular, box-shaped monument is constructed of a single granite shaft resting on a granite base. The shaft features a rusticated finish, with a cut face on the west side, containing the names of eleven members of the Turner family, and honoring Humphrey Turner, an original Scituate settler.

Gravestones

According to an inventory made of the Men of Kent Cemetery in 1856, the site contained as many as 77 monuments and markers. Today the site holds 75, including the monuments placed after 1856. Each individual stone is tablet-shaped, carved in the tympanum style, out of slate and schist. Most contain elaborate carvings, created by local and regional artisans. Winged skulls, attributed to more than one gravestone carver, appear on many of the stones, including those of Hannah Otis (d. 1744, Data Sheet #27), Jeremiah Cushing (d. 1705/06, Data Sheet #25, Photo #7), Captain Stephen Otis (d. 1733, Data Sheet #14), Ephriam Little (d. 1717, Data Sheet #27, Photo #8) and Mary Little (d. 1717, Data Sheet #15). On several stones, the tablets are framed with carvings along the side edges featuring spirals, starbursts, gourds, and figs. The footstone of Capt. Anthony Collamore (d. 1693) was removed and encased in a larger granite tablet preserving the smaller coffin-shaped slate footstone tablet (Data Sheet #16). All of the stones date to the period between 1693 and 1803, and a detailed discussion of the carvers attributed to many of the stones appears in Section 8 of this nomination.

Current Condition

The Town of Scituate parks department regularly mows the cemetery and removes leaves and other debris. In general, the landscape is in very good condition. Some of the stones in the perimeter wall have

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tumbled, but the edge is, for the most part, intact. The 2007 Scituate Burial Sites Survey identified 50 markers in need of conservation treatment, including cleaning, straightening, and resetting. The cemetery has not, in recent years, experienced vandalism of any sort, suggesting that the deteriorated condition of the 50 stones is due, in large part, to the landscape's age.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient sites are currently recorded in the cemetery, it is possible that sites are present. Five ancient sites are known in the general area (within one mile), mostly along the floodplain margins of the Herring River located to the south and the Scituate Harbor estuary located to the east. Environmental characteristics of the nominated area represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The Men of Kent Cemetery is located on a level to moderately sloping till plain in close proximity to wetlands. Soils within the cemetery are well-drained sandy loam. The headwaters of the Scituate Harbor estuary are located within 1,000 feet east of the cemetery. Given the above information, the small size of the cemetery (approximately 0.75 acres), levels of historic land use, and the current state of knowledge for Native settlement in eastern Massachusetts and the Massachusetts coastal plain, a low to moderate potential exists for locating significant ancient Native American resources within the Men of Kent cemetery. Any cultural resources that were present at the cemetery were likely impacted by construction of Meetinghouse Lane, the construction of three meetinghouses, and the excavation of more than 76 known burials.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources at the Men of Kent Cemetery. Structural evidence may survive from three meetinghouses built at the cemetery. The first meetinghouse was built in 1636. The cemetery is believed to be located to the east side of the meetinghouse, placing the meetinghouse towards the western end of the cemetery. A large boulder and plaque mark the location today. In 1682, a second meetinghouse was built in the same location as the first. A third meetinghouse replaced the second in 1708 and functioned until 1737, when it was replaced again at a new location near the Scituate Common.

No evidence is known indicating the presence of physical remains related to historic land use of this area prior to the creation of the Men of Kent Cemetery ca. 1633. While settlement in the area may have occurred before 1628, it was located on the eastern side of Kent Street, where a fort or palisade was built. By 1633, the burial ground that would become the Men of Kent Cemetery and meetinghouse were laid out at the end of Meetinghouse Lane on the western side of Kent Street. Structural evidence may also survive from outbuildings or shacks associated with cemetery maintenance during its history. Further historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, can help locate unmarked graves or grave markers, and document the associations between existing gravestones and actual graves. Known and unmarked graves should represent the most common archaeological resource in the cemetery. Individual graves may include skeletal remains, in addition to clothing and other personal items interred with each individual. Funerary objects, including coffin remains and artifacts associated with the initial interment(s) and later memorials, may also be present with individuals or groups of graves. A grave shaft discernable in the soil stratigraphy should be present with individual and multiple interments. Commemorative graves may lack below-ground burial features and contain burial monuments only. These burials may lack actual skeletal remains. Post molds may also be present from older fence lines that marked the boundaries of the cemetery, groups of graves, and grazing lands. Archaeological testing may also identify complete stones and fragments of gravestones that are overgrown and presently not visible

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on the surface. Archaeological resources may be present that document aspects of the cemetery's original layout.

Structural evidence of stables, barns, and outbuildings that were associated with the different meetinghouse sites and the cemetery from the 17th through 19th centuries may survive. Archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also survive.

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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery

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- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Art
Exploration/Settlement
Landscape Architecture
Social History

Period of Significance

ca. 1693 – 1963

Significant Dates

ca. 1693 (earliest extant gravestone)
1737 (removal of meetinghouse)
1803 (date of last burial)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stone Carvers: Jacob Vinal, Sr.; Jacob Vinal, Jr.; William Mumford;
Soule shop

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Men of Kent Cemetery, Meeting House Lane, Scituate, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets National Register Criteria A and C on the local level. Associated with the broad patterns of Scituate's 17th- and 18th-century history, displaying many examples of 18th-century regional gravestone carvers, and reflecting the layout of a Colonial-era burying ground, the Men of Kent Cemetery also qualifies under Criterion Consideration D.

Under Criterion A, the Men of Kent Cemetery occupies an important place in the history of the town as the oldest known site of interment. Established ca. 1633, it contains the graves of Scituate's first settlers, landowners, ministers, and builders of this early coastal New England town, as well as those of succeeding generations of early families. Among its 76 known burials, it holds the remains of at least one veteran of King Philip's War. Its earliest remaining stone dates to 1693 (Captain Anthony Collamore) and the most recent to 1803 (Mrs. Fanna Hiland). Between 1889 and 2005, seven monuments were placed in the cemetery to commemorate individuals and families significant in the early settlement of Scituate.

Under Criterion C, the Men of Kent Cemetery is a significant historical and artistic resource that represents the distinctive characteristics of Massachusetts's earliest Colonial burial grounds. Covering just three-fourths of an acre in a long, rectangular shape, its simple landscape is enclosed by a fieldstone wall. Graves stand singly in uneven rows, and are marked with tympanum-style slate tablets. Many of the 18th-century stones display the work of well-known regional gravestone carvers, working in Boston and the Plymouth County area. Some of the stones have been included in Harriette Merrifield Forbes's publication, Gravestones of Early New England and the Men Who Made Them, 1653-1800, and have been photographed by Jessie Lie Farber as part of the Farber Gravestone Collection, maintained by the American Antiquarian Society.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Settlement Period (1623-1675)

Settlers first came to Scituate before 1628 from Plymouth, to the area known today as "Third Cliff." They were merchant adventurers originating from Kent, London, and Devonshire, England, and they arrived in Plymouth in groups, the last of which sailed on the ship *Anne*, landing in 1623. After a few years in Plymouth, the group headed northward, partly because they held liberal religious beliefs in contrast to the Puritans. They also saw that the harbor, river, marshes, and wooded uplands of the area to the north offered numerous opportunities for fishing, farming, hunting, and foresting. They named their settlement Satuit (also spelled "Seteat," "Sytiat," and "Sityate"), an Algonquian/Matakeesett word meaning "cold brook," a reference to the small stream feeding into the harbor.

The earliest known Scituate deed, dated 1628, conveyed land on Third Cliff from Henry Merritt to Nathaniel Tilden. According the deed, the land had been claimed first by Goodman Byrd, and second

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by Henry Merritt, suggesting that Europeans likely occupied the area before 1628.² It stated, “*all that land which I had of Goodman Byrd, lying within the fence at the North end of the third cliffe, unto the land of Nathaniel Tilden.*”³ The first group of settlers, known as the “Men of Kent,” included Timothy Hatherly, Nathaniel Tilden, Thomas Byrd, Edward Foster, and Henry Merritt. William Gilson, Henry Cobb, Henry Rowley, Anthony Annable, James Cudworth, and Humphrey Turner soon followed.⁴ A “Men of Kent” monument, placed by six of the settlers’ descendents and located near the cemetery’s geographic center, honors these men.

The settlers built a road from Satuit Brook southeasterly to Third Cliff, and named it Kent Street. In April of 1633, they laid out lots “*of four acres extending eight rods along the street and eighty rods (1/4 mile) up into the woods*” along the west side of Kent Street. Edward Foster claimed the northernmost lot, and Anthony Annable the lot furthest to the south. The land along the eastern side of Kent Street contained a fort or “pallisadoes.” Litchfield’s Litchfield Family in America noted that “*when Rev. John Lothrop came (Sept. 1634), he found at Scituate...nine ‘pallizado houses,’ probably structures made of logs protected by pallissades, as temporary residences, which were replaced later by more substantial homes.*” In 1635-36 Scituate had 31 houses, and by 1637 there were 51. On October 6, 1636, the General Court at Plymouth approved Scituate’s incorporation as a town, ordering “*that the town of Scituate be allowed...to make such orders in their township for their convenience and comfortable living as they shall find necessary, provided they have, in case of justice, recourse unto Plymouth, as before.*” The town boundaries included present-day Norwell (separated as South Scituate in 1849) and portions of Hanover (separated in 1727), Marshfield (consisting of “two miles” and separated in 1788), and Cohasset (separated in 1823).⁵ Between 1640 and the onset of King Philip’s War (1675-1676), many new settlers arrived at Scituate and the town erected roads and bridges. Ferries crossed the North River, and grist and saw mills operated at several locations. The economy centered on timber harvesting, boat-building (begun as early as 1646 on the North River), and farming.

Initially, the settlers worshiped at the house of James Cudworth, but in 1636 built a proper meetinghouse on a hill at the back of Kent Street, at the end of an approach road they called “Meetinghouse Lane.” Samuel Deane, in his History of Scituate Massachusetts from its First Settlement to 1831, states that “*there was a Meeting-house lot and burying ground reserved by the first settlers, before 1633.*”⁶ The Men of Kent Cemetery was believed to have been placed adjacent to the meetinghouse’s east side.⁷ The approach to the meetinghouse ran perpendicular to Kent Street and edged

² No deed to this land, in either the name of Goodman Byrd or Henry Merritt, is known to have existed before 1628.

³ Two dates have been published for the earliest recorded deed, 1628 and 1644. The earlier date was stated in Deane’s History of Scituate, Massachusetts to 1831, and Scituate, 1636-1936 by Will Irwin, published for Scituate’s Tercentenary Celebration (1936). While these sources have interpreted this statement to mean that the land was deeded to Tilden, the “land of Nathaniel Tilden” may have been land *abutting* the land described in the deed. Tilden died in 1641.

⁴ While the name “Men of Kent” has been applied to the eleven original settlers of Scituate and to the cemetery, several of the original settlers emigrated from other areas of England in addition to Kent. Before the late 20th century, the cemetery was known as the “Old Burying Ground” and “Old Cemetery.”

⁵ New England Historic Genealogical Society, Vital Records of Scituate, Massachusetts to the Year 1850, p. 3.

⁶ While Deane stated that the burying ground was established before 1633, this fact has not been substantiated by early town records or other primary source materials, and no deed existed or does exist for the property. Therefore the date of ca. 1633 has been applied to the establishment of the cemetery.

⁷ The precise location of the meetinghouse is unknown; although a monument in the cemetery references its original site.

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the southern boundary of Anthony Annable's land. According to Harvey Hunter Pratt, in Early Planters of Scituate, the building was "*probably...built of logs, the interstices filled with clay, the light admitted through windows glazed with oil paper, the thatched roof of flags taken from the marshes and the whole without chimney or other means for heat.*" Early preachers included Rev. John Lothrop (1635-1639), who had been ordained as a minister in the Church in England and oversaw a congregation at Egerton, Kent. He came to Scituate in September 1634 from London, where he had been imprisoned for two years for rejecting several rituals of the Church of England. His release was contingent upon his emigrating out of England. Preachers at Scituate following Rev. Lothrop included Rev. Charles Chauncey (1639-1654), Rev. Henry Dunster, and Rev. Nicholas Baker between 1655 and 1679. A large boulder, erected ca. 1960 by the Chief Justice Cushing Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, stands at the western end of the cemetery and commemorates the first meetinghouse (Data Sheet #7). Its bronze plaque reads, "*First Meetinghouse erected on this lott August ye 2^d and 3^d 1636 exercised in Novemb 10 and 11 1636 Site of the First Church in Scituate.*" Adjacent to the Meetinghouse Monument is a second monument commemorating Scituate's first four ministers (Data Sheet #8), placed in 1912.

While the Men of Kent Cemetery is known to contain the grave of at least one of the original eleven settlers, it is likely that the others were interred here in unmarked graves, as it served as the town's only known place of interment until 1699, when Groveland Cemetery was established closer to the northern end of the town. The one known grave is that of Humphrey Turner (1594-1673), marked by a large granite monument erected in 1889 near the northeast corner (Data Sheet #13). Turner came to Plymouth from Devonshire, England, in 1628, and stayed five years. In 1633 he migrated to Scituate and purchased a lot on Kent Street. He built the first tannery in Plymouth Colony on the North River, and served as a constable, surveyor of highways, and juryman, sitting on the first panel in the colony that tried a white man for murder of a Native. He had eight children, several of whom have their names, along with their spouse's, inscribed on the Turner monument, and are buried in individual graves near the monument.

Another of the original eleven settlers, James Cudworth, is commemorated in the cemetery (Data Sheet #10). Cudworth was born in Somerset, England, and may have come to Scituate along with Timothy Hatherly in 1632. He removed to Barnstable for several years, but returned in 1648, purchasing a home and farm buildings. He served on the General Court, became Deputy Governor in 1681, and was Scituate's military commander during King Philip's War (1675-1676). According to Deane, in History of Scituate Massachusetts from its First Settlement to 1831, the town granted General Cudworth a small piece of land to use as a burying place. Town records state that on February 26, 1673, "*it is agreed that Mr. Cudworth has granted to him four rods and an half of land, on the south side of the meeting house, to fence in for a burying place, and for a place to set a horse, which land is to be from the stone wall northward, one rod and an halfe for the breath of it, and to be in lengthe three rods.*" While Cudworth was interred in England, Deane states that "*there are several graves on the spot, but the grave stones are rough and unlettered. These are doubtless the graves of the wife and some of the children of that venerable man.*"

The cemetery also contains descendants of several 17th-century settlers that followed the original eleven men to Scituate. John Barker (1650-1729, Data Sheet #31) was the son of John Barker, Sr., an early settler who operated the ferry over the North River from 1641 to 1652. Benjamin Stockbridge (d. 1725, Data Sheet #35) was the grandson of John Stockbridge, who came to Scituate from London in 1635. In 1650, John Stockbridge built the first water-powered grist mill in Plymouth Colony, near the Isaac Stedman saw mill (built in 1640) on First Herring Brook. Nathaniel Tilden (1649-1731, Data Sheet #36) was the grandson of Elder Nathaniel Tilden, who had served as mayor of Tenterden, Kent, England,

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and came to Scituate in 1635. He was one of the wealthiest of Scituate's early planters, owning large tracts of land along the North River, and was active in the first parish.

Colonial Period (1675-1775)

During the century leading up to the Revolutionary War, Scituate's principal industries included farming, manufacturing, and fishing. Scituate's soils were of good quality, but stoney. Nevertheless, several farmers cultivated lands in the upland areas, growing sea manure and rye. Sawmills, gristmills, fulling mills, and iron foundries were established on the brooks, and the building of wooden rowboats, pinnaces, shallops, and eventually ships took place along the North River. The wooded inland areas of the town provided white oak and ash for timber and sheathing, pine for masts and spars, and black walnut for trims. The North River featured a long estuary protected from the open ocean, where boats could be built without the threat of damaging storms. Scituate's many tributaries, including the North River and First Herring Brook, provided abundant habitat for several species of fish, including alewife, herring, and shad, as well as oysters. By the late 17th century, mackerel fishing had become a lucrative enterprise, and by 1770, 30 vessels were being fitted out of Scituate Harbor.

The meetinghouse on Meetinghouse Lane remained the active place of worship in Scituate in the beginning of the Colonial period, and in 1678 stood in a state of disrepair. In 1682, the parish erected a second meetinghouse in the same location as the first, and it remained in this location through the ministries of Rev. Jeremiah Cushing (Data Sheet #25, Photo #9) and Rev. Nathaniel Pitcher (Data Sheet #19, Photo #6). A third meetinghouse replaced the second in 1708 and functioned until 1737, when the parish relocated to a new structure near its present, more central location on the "gore of land" off First Parish Road near the Scituate Common.

Burials at the Men of Kent Cemetery continued during the Colonial period, with nearly all of today's visible gravestones dating to some time within this 100-year span. Most of the graves hold individuals and members of early Scituate clans who helped build the town into a prosperous community, including the Barker, Jacobs, Vinal, Turner, and Otis families. John Barker, Jr. (1650-1729, Data Sheet #31), served in King Phillip's War and was wounded in a scuffle at Mount Hope Bay. He also served one term in the General Court during 1706. He married three times, first to Desire (Data Sheet #32), who died in 1706, and second to Hannah (Data Sheet #33), who died in 1710. Hannah was the widow of Rev. Jeremiah Cushing. His third wife, Sarah (Data Sheet #34), outlived him by one year (d. 1730). John Barker (Jr.) is interred at the Men of Kent Cemetery along with each of his three wives.

Matthew Gannet(t)* (1618-1695) was born in England and came to Scituate in 1651 via Hingham. Buried beside him are one son, one daughter-in-law, and a grandchild. Captain David Jacob (1663-1748, Data Sheet #37) came to Scituate in 1688 from Hingham, settled near the Stockbridge mill, and served as a town schoolmaster. He married Sarah Cushing* (1671-1723), daughter of John Cushing, Esq., and the couple had eleven children, two of whom are buried with their parents at the Men of Kent Cemetery.

Stephen Otis (1661-1733, Data Sheet #14) was the son of John Otis, who settled in Scituate in 1661. Stephen was commissioned a captain of grenadiers at the age of 37, and served in the French and Indian War. He operated a tannery upon returning from war, up until the time of his death. He is interred

* The gravestone of Matthew Gannet(t) and several others (indicated by an asterisk) were listed in the 1910 inventory of the cemetery, but the stones are either illegible or missing today. Therefore, they have been omitted from the data sheet.

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in the cemetery along with his wife, Hannah (Data Sheet #27), and several other members of the Otis family.

Ignatious Vinal* (1690-1769) is descended from Anna Vinal, a widow who came to Scituate from England in 1636 with her three children and built a house in the Greenbush section of town. She was an accomplished spinner of fibers and brought with her, from England, a spinning wheel, hand loom, and a stock of woolen yarn, crafting wares for her neighbors. She saved money and made land investments in Scituate.

The Men of Kent Cemetery also contains a memorial to Captain Anthony Collamore (Data Sheet #16). Collamore was wrecked on the ledge off North Scituate on December 16, 1693, and his mishap is the first recorded shipwreck in Scituate. The site of his demise is known today as Collamore's Ledge. No other shipwrecks were recorded after Collamore's until the early 1800s.

Federal Period (1775-1830)

During the years 1775-1830, Scituate was the fourth-largest municipality in Plymouth County. In 1790, the town included 521 families and a total population of 2,856, and grew slightly to 3,305 in 1820. The 1831 map of Scituate shows most residences clustered between Meetinghouse Lane and Scituate Harbor along Front Street, and other residences, largely farms, scattered inland. Shipyards continued to operate along the North River, and in 1784 the *Columbia* was built. Commanded by Scituate skipper Captain John Kendrick, the *Columbia* sailed, with another ship, around the Horn of South America, to the west coast of North America, exploring Vancouver Island, and eventually Hawaii, opening up American trade at this Pacific outpost. Kendrick then went on to circumnavigate the globe aboard the *Columbia*, the first American to do so in an American-made vessel. By the end of the 18th century, however, the shipbuilding industry began to decline, due to the increased size of hulls and the lack of depth to accommodate them in the North River and Scituate Harbor. Men from Scituate took part in military operations during the Revolutionary War in large numbers, with more than six hundred enlisting. However, far fewer participated in the War of 1812.

Burials at the Men of Kent Cemetery slowed during the Federal period, with the last known burial taking place upon the death of Mrs. Fanna Hiland in 1803 (Data Sheet #8, Photo #5). Not only was the small burying ground running out of space, it was being replaced by several other larger cemeteries located throughout the town. In addition to Groveland Cemetery (established in 1699), Union Cemetery, located to the west of the Men of Kent on Meetinghouse Lane and Stockbridge Roads, had opened in 1726 on five acres, and Cudworth Cemetery, about a mile north, began ca. 1800 on 2.1 acres. Fairview Cemetery, located on Country Way behind the First Trinitarian Church, opened ca. 1825 on 6.2 acres. According to inventories created for the cemetery in 1852 and 1910, only four known interments took place at the Men of Kent Cemetery after 1775, and no graves have been added since, leaving the cemetery in an inactive state for more than 200 years.⁸

Industrial & Early Modern Periods (1830-1930)

Between the years 1830 and 1930, Scituate remained a small, relatively isolated coastal town, with the population growing by 100 or so individuals each ten years. In 1850, 2,149 people resided in the

⁸ 1852 and 1910 inventories of headstones at the Men of Kent Cemetery recorded the following post-1775 interments: John Hiland (d. 1789), Capt. Oliver Roul Hiland, Jr. (d. 1801), Mrs. Fanna Hiland (d. 1803), and Ignatius Vinal (d. 1796). A 1985 inventory identified the stones of John Hiland and Fanna Hiland only.

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town, and in 1870, that number had grown to just 2,350. By 1900, the population totaled 2,470, and by 1930 it had reached 3,118. The economy continued to be fueled by shipbuilding until the 1870s, and also included shoemaking and the harvesting of "Irish Moss," a seaweed-like plant used in the manufacture of cloth, paper, straw hats, and gelatin for eating, and for brewing. In the mid- to late-19th century, the South Shore Railroad was constructed, and in 1871 the tracks connected to Scituate. The rail line made Scituate accessible to Boston, and transformed the town first into a summer resort colony, and second into a commuter suburb. In 1850, the Town changed the name of Meetinghouse Lane to Prospect Street, but restored the original name in 1915-1916.

In 1852, an inventory of graves at the Men of Kent Cemetery was compiled by David Hamblin and included in the town's Annual Report. In the inventory, Hamblin noted that his list reflected "*all that remain[ed],*" and predicted that "*in a very few years [they] will entirely be obliterated.*" He also observed that a road had been made through the burying ground, and suggested that its placement "*undoubtedly destroyed many of the graves.*" Hamblin's inventory listed 79 burials. In 1910, a new inventory, "Men of Kent Cemetery – Remaining Headstones – Town Record of 1910," was completed by the cemetery custodian, Miss Ella Bates, and was included in the town's Annual Report, listing 77 burials. It noted that the headstone of Abbah Buck (d. 1716) had disappeared, and that the northeast corner of the "ancient wall" had fallen into the street and had been repaired. This 1910 inventory is among the earliest references to the burying ground as the Men of Kent Cemetery.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, monuments commemorating some of Scituate's prominent early citizens were placed in the cemetery. In 1889, a granite monument honoring the Turner family was placed (Data Sheet #13), and ca. 1900 the John Otis (Data Sheet #11) monument was placed to commemorate this early settler and his family. In 1912, the Chief Justice Cushing Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a large stone to commemorate Scituate's first four ministers, beyond the entrance at the cemetery's western end (Data Sheet #8). It reads, "*First Meetinghouse erected on this lott Aug. ye 2d and 3d 1636 exercised in Novemb 10 and 11 1636 Site of the First Church in Scituate – Rev. John Lothrop, Rev. Charles Chauncey; Rev. Henry Dunster; Rev. Nicholas Baker.*"

1930 to Present

Scituate's population continued to grow gradually up until 1950, when it reached 5,993. Then, in the next ten years, the population nearly doubled to 11,145. Initially, the South Shore Railroad made it possible for workers to commute to Boston, but during the 1930s to the 1960s, with the construction of Routes 3A (1930s) and 3 (a/ka Southeast Expressway—1950s) and other thoroughfares, cars were able to make the 25-mile trip, and Scituate began to grow into a bedroom community. In 1959, the railroad was suspended due to lack of funding.

Care of the Men of Kent Cemetery was the responsibility of the town, and by the 1940s, crews were mowing the landscape just once per year. In the late 1940s, the Trustees of the Union Cemetery Corporation, a non-profit entity established to oversee Union Cemetery, began expressing concern about the town's neglect of the Men of Kent Cemetery. By the 1960s, efforts were being made to honor individuals and families significant in the early settlement of Scituate by placing monuments throughout the cemetery. Included in these are the Meeting House Monument (Data Sheet #7), Gen. James Cudworth Memorial (Data Sheet #10), and Men of Kent Monument (Data Sheet #12). In 1976, as part of the United States Bicentennial celebration, an historic marker was placed at the cemetery, describing its historical importance. It reads, "*Men of Kent Cemetery, 1636 - 1976, Burial place of many of the Town's*

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Original Settlers who came from Kent Count, England in 1628. This is also the site of the First Church in Scituate built in 1634. ”

In 1985, David Tilden, a descendent of early settler Nathaniel Tilden, compiled a map of the burials at Men of Kent Cemetery. A new “diagram” of the cemetery, including the location of and name on each gravestone, was prepared by Jonathon S. Campbell as an Eagle Scout Project for Troop 90 (Boy Scouts of America). Campbell also included all of the monuments, and recorded their inscriptions.

The most recent monument to be added to the Men of Kent Cemetery was a memorial boulder placed in 2005 to commemorate Edward Jenkins (d. 1699), an early Scituate settler who was believed to have been buried, along with members of his family, in the vicinity of the boulder (Data Sheet #9).

Gravestone Carvers

The work of Jacob Vinal, Sr. (1670-1736) and his son, Jacob Vinal, Jr. (1700-1788), appears on many of the Men of Kent Cemetery stones, including the slate stones of Rev. Nathaniel Pitcher (d. 1723, Data Sheet #19, Photo #6) and John Vinal (d. 1698, Data Sheet #20), Josiah Litchfield (d. 1752, Data Sheet #21), John Merritt (d. 1740, Data Sheet #22), Elisabeth Stodder (d. 1749, Data Sheet #23), and Patience Vinal (d. 1773, Data Sheet #24). The Farber Gravestone Collection also identified the stones of Captain Samuel Turner (d. 1759, Data Sheet #29), Mary Vinal (d. 1723, Data Sheet #30), and Sara Barker (d. 1740, Data Sheet #34) as being carved by the Vinals. Natives of Scituate, Jacob Vinal and his son carved many stones for the Vinal and other early Scituate families. Characteristics of their carvings included rosettes made of sharp little triangles, and carefully ruled, sharply cut lettering. The Vinals were active as carvers in Scituate for nearly 70 years, from 1715 through the early 1780s.

William Mumford (1641-1718) created the stone of Captain John Williams (d. 1694, Data Sheet #17) and the Rev. Jeremiah Cushing (d. 1705/06, Data Sheet #25, Photo #7). Based in the North End of Boston, Mumford began as an apprentice to a brazier, engraving on brass and copper. After his mentor died, he moved on to cutting stones, creating images of smooth winged skulls with oval eyes, foliate borders, gourds, figs, and flowers, and eliminating a bottom border. A Quaker, Mumford viewed death as a foretelling of happiness in the afterlife, and as a result, much of his work exhibits calm, untroubled faces. His inscriptions always began with ‘Here lyes’ or ‘Here lyeth,’ and his ‘The’ was always written ‘ye.’ Each of these characteristics appears on the Williams and Cushing stones.

The Soule shop carved the stone of Mrs. Fanna Hiland (d. 1803, Data Sheet #18, Photo #5). The Soule family originated from Plympton (Plymouth County), but family members moved to Worcester and Hinsdale, New Hampshire, spreading their work around New England. Known carvers in the family included Ebenezer (1710/11-1772) and his sons Beza (1750-1835) and Ebenezer (1737- 1817). The Soule shop is known for its carvings that display embroidered hair, lines of noses extending above the eyes forming eyebrows, oval eyes, heavy shadows under chins, and straight, small mouths. Each of these features is depicted in the image on Fanna Hiland’s stone.

Several of the Men of Kent Cemetery’s gravestones are featured in Harriete Merrifield Forbes’ Gravestones of Early New England and the Men Who Made Them 1653-1800, and were photographed by Jessie Lie Farber as part of the Farber Gravestone Collection, maintained by the American Antiquarian Society. Included in the Farber compendium are the stones of Sarah Barker (d. 1740, Data Sheet #34), Jerimiah Cushing (d. 1705/6, Data Sheet #25, Photo #7), Matthew Gannet* (d. 1695), Josiah Leavit* (d. 1734), Ephriam Little (d. 1717, Data Sheet #26), John Meritt (d. 1740, Data Sheet #22), Hannah Otis (d.

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1729, Data Sheet #27), Rev. Nathaniel Pitcher (d. 1723, Data Sheet #19, Photo #6), Elisabeth Stodder (d. 1749, Data Sheet #23), Thomas Thompson (d. 1722, Data Sheet #28), Capt. Samuel Turner (d. 1759, Data Sheet #29), John Vinal (d. 1698, Data Sheet #20), and Mary Vinal (d. 1723, Data Sheet #30).

Restoration Plans

The neglect of several of the town's cemeteries became a concern to many members of the Scituate community, and in 2005, they launched an effort to address the problems. In 2005, the town commissioned a survey of the Men of Kent Cemetery, along with Scituate's fourteen other burial sites. The Scituate Burial Site Survey, completed in 2007, researched, inventoried, and assessed the condition of the cemetery, including each of its head and foot stones. In 2008, the cemetery was added to the state's cultural resource inventory. Today, the town's parks department regularly mows the cemetery, trims around the stones, and manages the infiltration of invasive plant growth. While many stones remain in need of professional conservation treatment, the landscape and its features have been stabilized. In 2009, the Scituate Historical Society placed an additional historic marker along the cemetery's northern edge, bringing further attention to this valuable historic site.

By nominating the Men of Kent Cemetery to the National Register of Historic Places, the Town of Scituate, through its historical commission, hopes to promote a broader appreciation of the historic and artistic significance of this important resource. As the value of the cemetery becomes more widely known, the town intends to seek additional funding for continued restoration and care, including professional conservation treatment of the remaining grave markers.

Archaeological Significance

While several ancient Native American sites have been identified within the coastal zone of Scituate, patterns of Native occupation in the town as a whole remain poorly documented. In coastal areas, few sites have been systematically studied, leaving researchers with mostly locational information for subsistence and settlement studies. Only studies of artifact collections have gone beyond these limitations to produce regional, local, and intrasite studies that indicate the temporal and functional range of sites in the area. Given the above information, any ancient resources that survive on the Men of Kent Cemetery property could be significant. Native American resources on the nominated property can be significant by providing systematically studied examples of local ancient resources. This information can be used to help interpret extensive surface collections assembled over the past 75 years or more from ancient sites in the area. These studies can help us better understand the full range of site types and functions present in the coastal zone area, and their relationship to more interior areas of the town and region. Information might also be present on ancient sites that facilitates understanding of the importance of the area to early Colonial inhabitants and the reasons why they settled in this locale.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information related to the early settlement of Scituate and the location, form, and architectural details of the town's first three meetinghouses. Important information may also survive related to the burial patterns and the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the town's 17th-, 18th-, and early 19th-century population.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic patterns that reflect much of Scituate's community history from the 17th through the 19th centuries. Archaeological resources at the cemetery can be especially important by

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providing information on Scituate's early settlement history in the 17th and 18th centuries. As the location of the town's earliest known site of interment, the cemetery contains the graves of Scituate's early settlers, landowners, ministers, war veterans, and succeeding generations of early families. The cemetery retains the characteristics of Massachusetts' earliest Colonial burial grounds whose period of significance ended before 19th-century changes in cemetery design took hold. The Men of Kent Cemetery, including its monuments and graves, represents an intact example of a small settlement- period burial ground, and one of the few surviving landscape features associated with Scituate's founders and their families. The Men of Kent Cemetery served as the town's only place of interment until 1699. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing within and around the current boundary of the cemetery, can identify the full range of graves present at the cemetery. Unmarked graves may exist, and the current pattern of the gravestones may not, in every instance, represent their actual placement. Gravestones were frequently removed from their original positions, then later replaced, at times in different locations. Gravestones were also erected as commemorative markers by descendants of individuals after their deaths. This scenario has been observed at other burying grounds in Massachusetts. Archaeological research can help identify these graves, as well as later unmarked graves resulting from stolen, damaged, and overgrown stones. Unmarked graves from the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries may also be present, representing paupers and unknown persons. Archaeological research can also help test the accuracy of the existing boundaries at the cemetery. The present bounds may not accurately represent the actual cemetery boundaries. Some burials—possibly those of unknown persons, paupers, or indigents—may have intentionally been buried outside the cemetery boundary. Artifact distributions may also be present associated with funerary or memorial services for specific individuals at their time of death, or individuals and groupings of individuals (possibly families) at later dates.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Maps

1831. Scituate, Mass., Surveyed by A. Robbins and S. A. Turner, Pendleton's Lithography, Boston.

ca. 1856. Scituate Harbor, 80 Rods to the Inch. Author unknown.

1879. Village of Scituate Harbor, Mass.

1903. Town of Scituate, Plymouth County, Detail of the Village of Scituate.

Town of Scituate Assessor's Map # 55.

Scituate Historical Society Files:

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“Diagram, Men of Kent Cemetery,” Jonathon S. Campbell.

“Men of Kent Cemetery – Remaining Headstones, Town Record of 1910.” gravestone and monument inscriptions of Men of Kent Cemetery.

“Men of Kent Cemetery” from the Scituate Historical Society Bulletin, January 1969.

Irwin, Will. Scituate 1636-1969, An Illustrated Historical Account of an Old New England Town.
Scituate: Scituate Historical Society Tercentenary Committee, 1936.

Other Sources

American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA, Manuscript Collections. Scituate, Massachusetts Records, 1817-1905.

Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC, Scituate Burial Sites Survey, 2007.

Massachusetts Historical Commission Area Form A—Area, “Meetinghouse Lane, Area I.” Recorded by Miriam D. Chesley for the Scituate Historical Society, 1972.

Massachusetts Historical Commission Form E—Burial Grounds, “Men of Kent Cemetery.” Recorded by Kathleen Laidlaw for the Scituate Historical Society, June 1973 and September, 1985.

Public Archaeology Laboratory. Cultural Resource Above-Ground Historic Resources, Volume VI, Scituate Report, Greenbush Line Final EIR, Old Colony Railroad Rehabilitation Project, March 2000.

Town of Scituate Annual Report, 1910.

United States Census Records, 1790-1960.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency

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- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Scituate Town Archives; Scituate Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MHC # SCI.800

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1.0 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42.188734 | Longitude: -70.728692 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 357255 | Northing: 4672178 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is the parcel of land known as the Men of Kent Cemetery, and historically as the Old Burying Ground and Old Cemetery. It is shown on the attached "Sketch Map," and is included on Town of Scituate Assessor's Map #55. The boundary is continuous and is delineated by a dry-laid fieldstone wall.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the nominated property includes the approximately .75 acre historically associated with the Men of Kent Cemetery (Old Burying Ground; Old Cemetery), established ca. 1633. Resources associated with the Men of Cemetery include a perimeter wall, entry posts, seven monuments, and many 17th, 18th, and early 19th-century grave markers.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Martha H. Lyon, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission
street & number: 220 Morrissey Boulevard
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125
e-mail _____
telephone: 617-727-8470
date: April 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

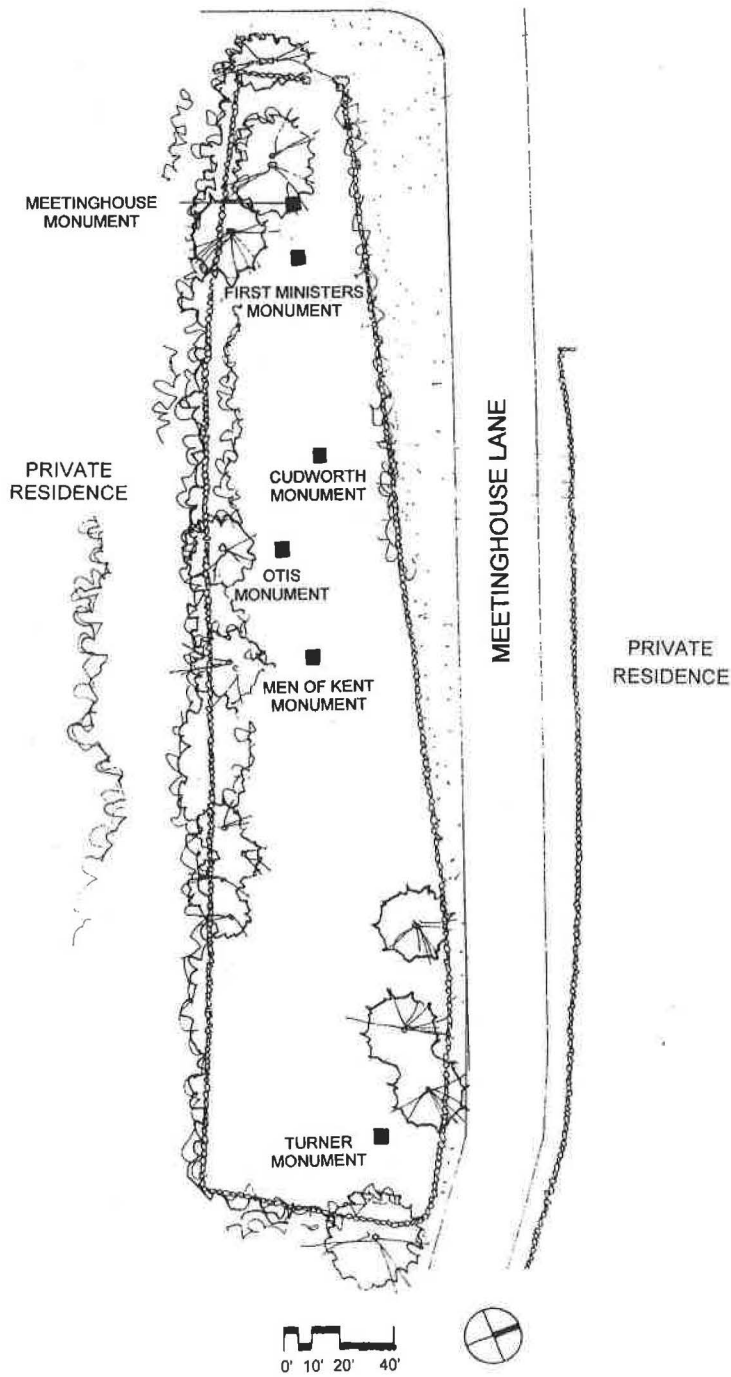
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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SKETCH MAP

Sources: Town of Scituate Assessor's Map #55
Field investigation by Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC

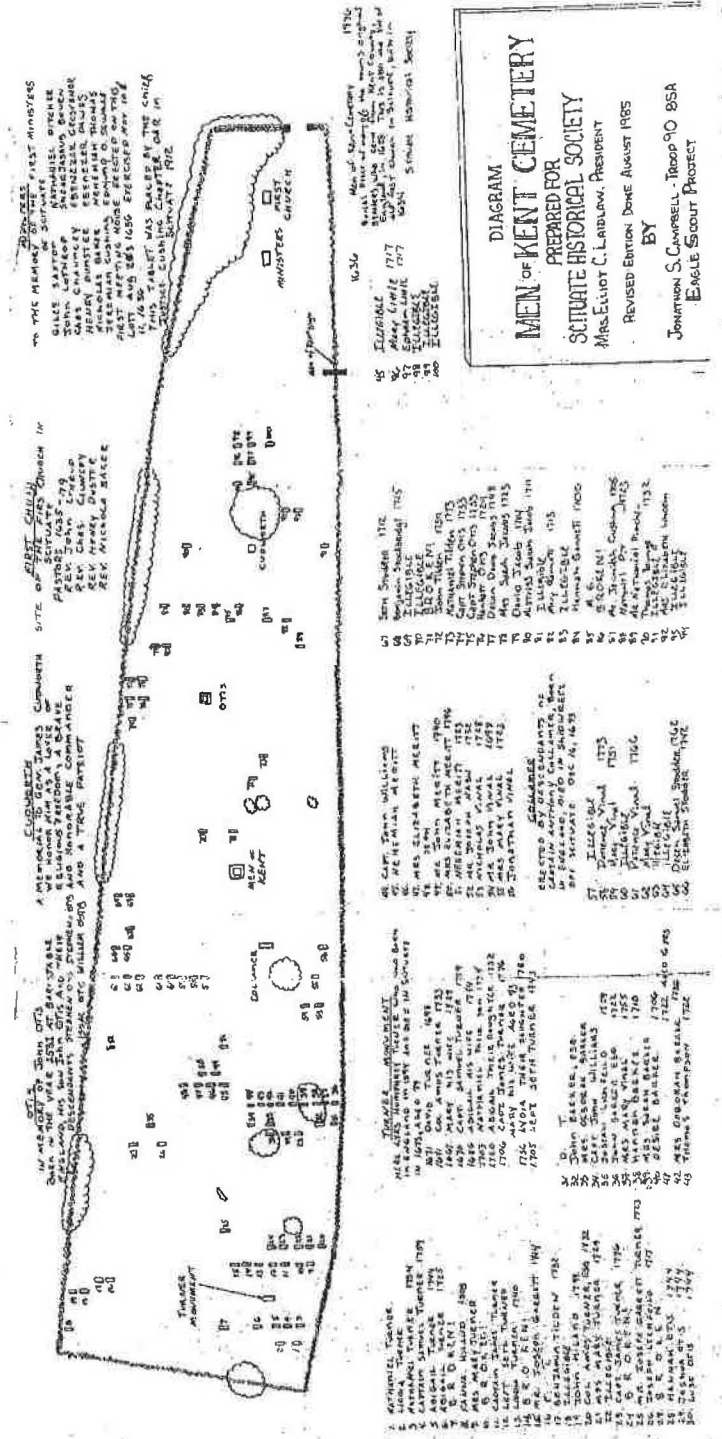


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1985 DIAGRAM OF THE MEN OF KENT CEMETERY

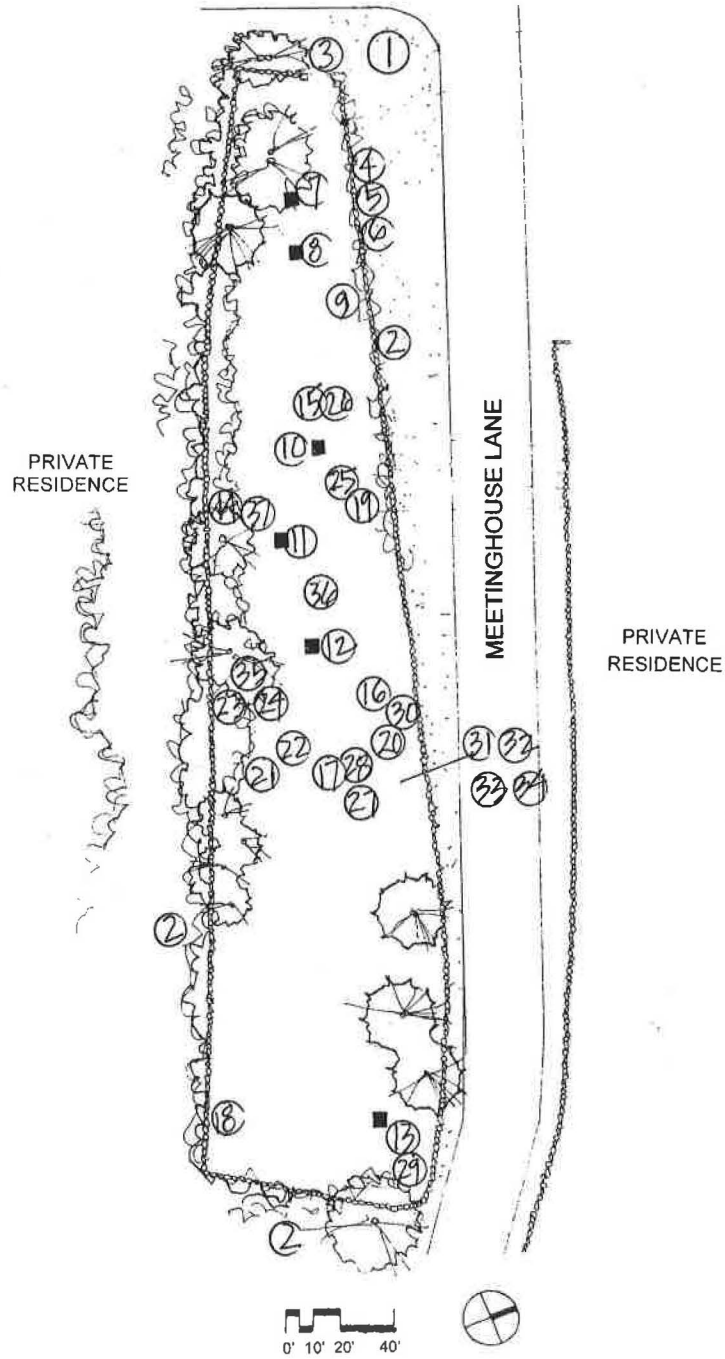
Prepared by Jonathon S. Campbell for the Scituate Historical Society
(Collection of the Scituate Historical Society)



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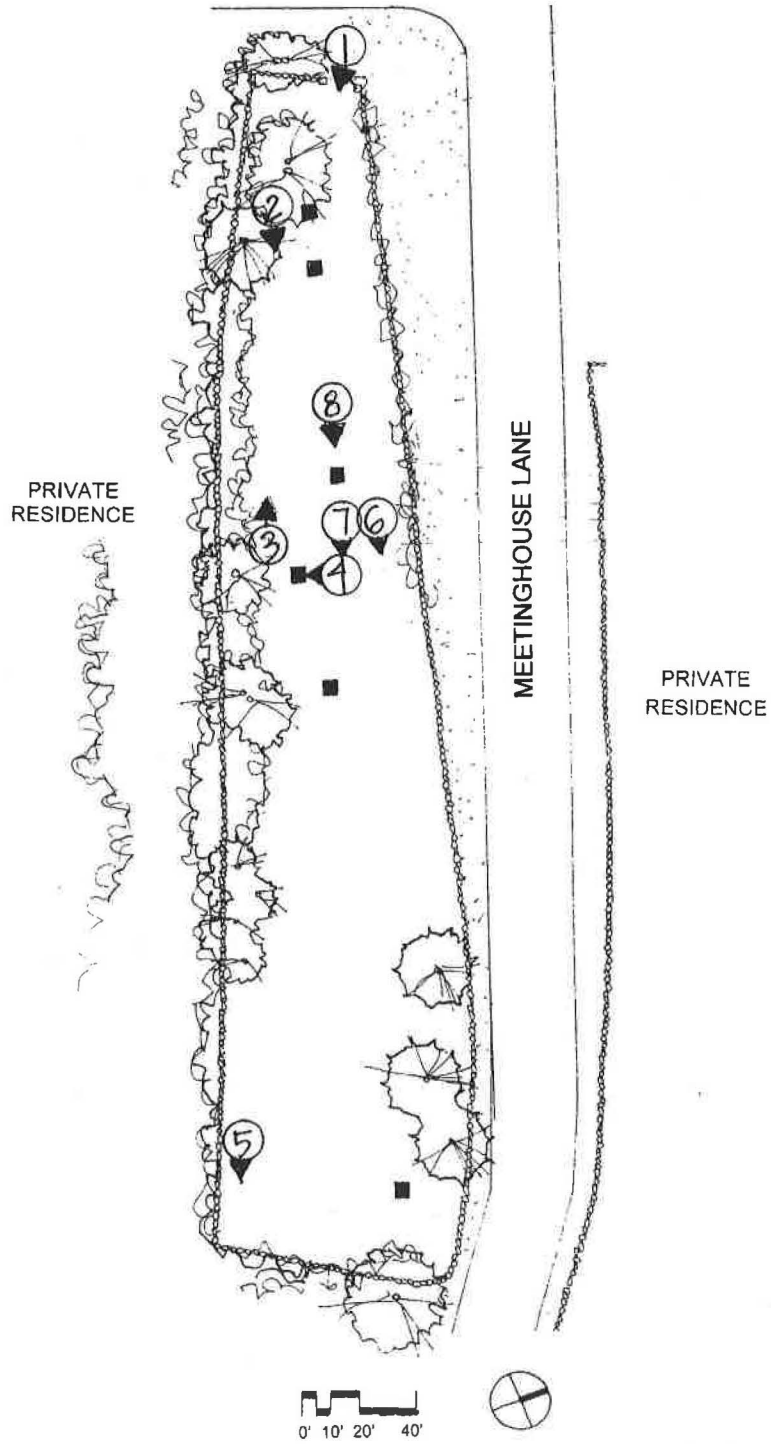
DATA LOCATIONS



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PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS



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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Men of Kent Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Scituate

County: Plymouth

State: Massachusetts

Photographer: Martha H. Lyon

Date Photographed: 11/2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 8 View across the Men of Kent Cemetery landscape, taken from the western end, looking east.
- 2 of 8 View across the Men of Kent Cemetery landscape, taken from the western end, looking east.
- 3 of 8 The southern perimeter wall, taken from the east side of the cemetery, looking west.
- 4 of 8 The granite John Otis monument, taken from the north side, looking south.
- 5 of 8 The slate tablet marker of Fanna Hiland, taken from the west side, looking east.
- 6 of 8 The slate tablet marker of Rev. Nathaniel Pitcher, taken from the west side, looking east.
- 7 of 8 The slate tablet marker of Jeremiah Cushing, taken from the west side, looking east.
- 8 of 8 The slate tablet marker of Ephriam Little, taken from the west side, looking east.

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. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

MEN OF KENT CEMETERY

Scituate

Plymouth County, Massachusetts

DATA SHEET

Note: The following list represents a representative sample of grave markers at the Men of Kent Cemetery. All resources contained in the data sheet can be found on the sketch map included as additional material in the nomination.

| NUMBER | RESOURCE | YEAR | MATERIAL | CARVERS | FORM/STYLE/NOTES | TYPE | STATUS |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|---------|--|------|--------|
| 1 | Men of Kent Cemetery | ca. 1638 | N/A | | Cemetery | SI | C |
| 2 | Perimeter Wall | Unknown | Field Stone | | Dry-laid Stone Wall | ST | C |
| 3 | Stone Posts | Unknown | Cut Stone | | 30" High Cut Stone Posts | ST | C |
| 4 | Identification Sign | 1976 | Metal (Aluminum/Steel) | | Aluminum Sign Panel Appended to Steel Pole | ST | NC |
| 5 | Identification Sign | 2009 | Wood | | Wood Blade Sign Appended to Wood Pole | O | NC |
| 6 | DAR Sign | ca. 1976 | Metal (Aluminum/Steel) | | Aluminum Sign Panel Appended to Steel Pole | O | NC |
| MONUMENTS & GRAVESTONES | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Meetinghouse Monument | ca. 1960 | Granite Boulder/Bronze Plaque | | Boulder Monument | O | C |
| 8 | Ministers Monument | 1912 | Granite Monument/ Bronze Plaque | | Monument | O | C |
| 9 | Edward Jenkins Monument | 2005 | Granite Boulder/Bronze Plaque | | Boulder Monument | O | NC |
| 10 | Gen. James Cudworth Memorial | ca. 1960 | Pink Granite | | Monument | O | C |
| 11 | John Otis Monument | ca. 1900 | Granite | | Monument | O | C |
| 12 | Men of Kent Monument | ca. 1960 | Cut Granite | | Monument | O | C |
| 13 | Humphrey Turner Monument | 1889 | Granite | | Monument | O | C |

MEN OF KENT CEMETERY
 Scituate
 Plymouth County, Massachusetts

DATA SHEET

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---------|---------------|-----------------|--|---|---|
| 14 | Capt. Stephen Otis | d. 1733 | Slate | | Tablet | O | C |
| 15 | Mary Little | d. 1717 | Slate | | Tablet | O | C |
| 16 | Capt. Anthony Collamore | d. 1693 | Slate/Granite | | Footstone Encased in Granite Tablet Oldest Remaining Stone | O | C |
| 17 | Captain John Williams | d. 1694 | Slate | William Mumford | Tablet Carved by William Mumford | O | C |
| 18 | Fanna Hiland | d. 1803 | Slate | Soule shop | Tablet Most Recent Known Burial Carved by the Soule Shop | O | C |
| 19 | Rev. Nathaniel Pitcher | d. 1723 | Slate | Jacob Vinal Sr. | Tablet Carved by Jacob Vinal, Sr. Farber Gravestone Collection | O | C |
| 20 | John Vinal | d. 1698 | Slate | Jacob Vinal Sr. | Tablet Carved by Jacob Vinal, Sr. Farber Gravestone Collection | O | C |
| 21 | Josiah Litchfield | d. 1752 | Slate | Jacob Vinal Jr. | Tablet Carved by Jacob Vinal, Jr. | O | C |
| 22 | John Merritt | d. 1740 | Slate | Jacob Vinal Jr. | Tablet Carved by Jacob Vinal, Jr. Farber Gravestone Collection | O | C |
| 23 | Elisabeth Stodder | d. 1749 | Slate | Jacob Vinal Jr. | Tablet Carved by Jacob Vinal, Jr. Farber Gravestone Collection | O | C |

MEN OF KENT CEMETERY
 Scituate
 Plymouth County, Massachusetts

DATA SHEET

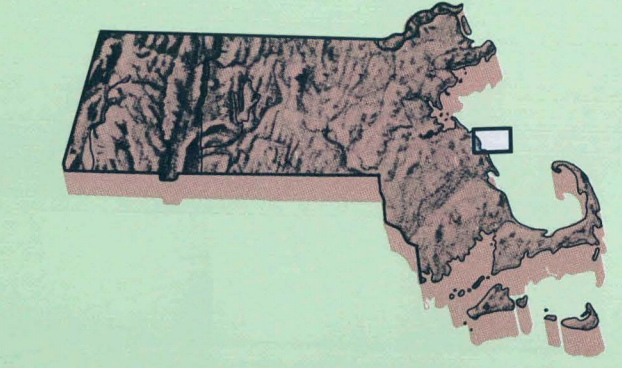
| | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|-----------|-------|-----------------------|--|---|---|
| 24 | Patience Vinal | d. 1773 | Slate | Vinal family | Tablet Carved by Jacob Vinal, Jr. | O | C |
| 25 | Jeremiah Cushing | d. 1705/6 | Slate | William Mumford? | Tablet Farber Gravestone Collection | O | C |
| 26 | Ephriam Little | d. 1717 | Slate | no carver identified | Tablet Farber Gravestone Collection | O | C |
| 27 | Hannah Otis | d. 1729 | Slate | North River Carver? | Tablet Farber Gravestone Collection | O | C |
| 28 | Thomas Thompson | d. 1722 | Slate | carver name illegible | Tablet Farber Gravestone Collection | O | C |
| 29 | Capt. Samuel Turner | d. 1759 | Slate | Jacob Vinal, Jr. | Tablet Farber Gravestone Collection | O | C |
| 30 | Mary Vinal | d. 1723 | Slate | Vinal family | Tablet Farber Gravestone Collection | O | C |
| 31 | John Barker | d. 1729 | Slate | | Tablet | O | C |
| 32 | Desire Barker | d. 1706 | Slate | | Tablet | O | C |
| 33 | Hannah Barker | d. 1710 | Slate | | Tablet | O | C |
| 34 | Sarah Barker | d. 1740 | Slate | Vinal family | Tablet Farber Gravestone Collection | O | C |
| 35 | Benjamin Stockbridge | d. 1725 | Slate | | Tablet | O | C |
| 36 | Nathaniel Tilden | d. 1731 | Slate | | Tablet | O | C |
| 37 | Capt. David Jacob | d. 1748 | Slate | | Tablet | O | C |

MEN OF KENT CEMETERY
 Scituate
 Plymouth County, Massachusetts

DATA SHEET

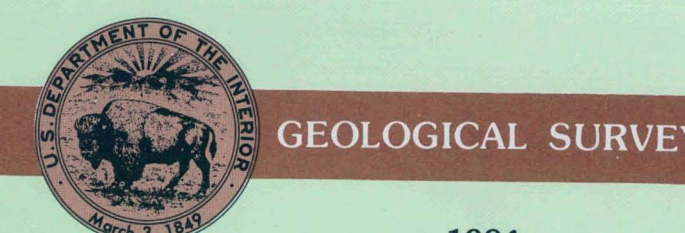
| SUMMARY | CONTRIBUTING | NON-CONTRIBUTING | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Buildings | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sites | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Structures | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Objects | 30 | 3 | 33 |
| TOTAL RESOURCE COUNT | 33 | 4 | 37 |

Scituate 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



1984

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
 Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1978. Map revised 1984.
 Supersedes Scituate 1:25,000-scale map dated 1974.
 Selected hydrographic data compiled from NGS charts 13267 (1981) and 13269 (1980). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.
 Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19; Universal Transverse Mercator.
 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, unadjusted zone.
 1927 North American Datum.
 To place on the projected North American Datum 1983 43 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks.
 There may be private subdivisions 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
 DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
 SHREINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.7 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

| Meters | Feet |
|--------|---------|
| 1 | 3.2808 |
| 2 | 6.5617 |
| 3 | 9.8425 |
| 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 (GM) and magnetic declination (MD) at center of map
 Diagram is approximate

| ADJOINING MAPS | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| 1 Hull | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 Weymouth | | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 Whitman | | | |
| 7 Duxbury | | | |
| 8 | | | |

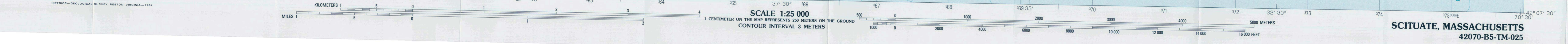
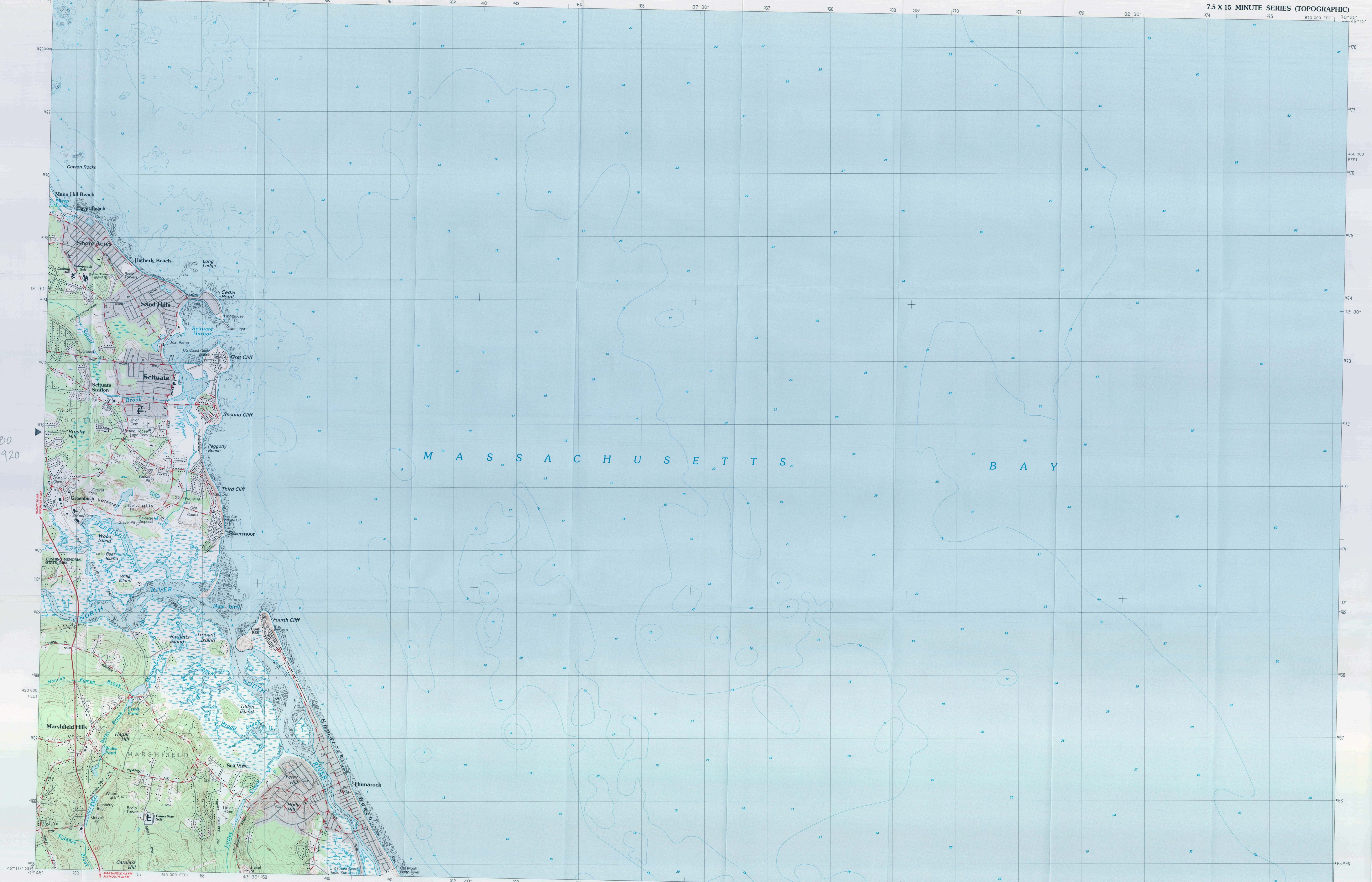


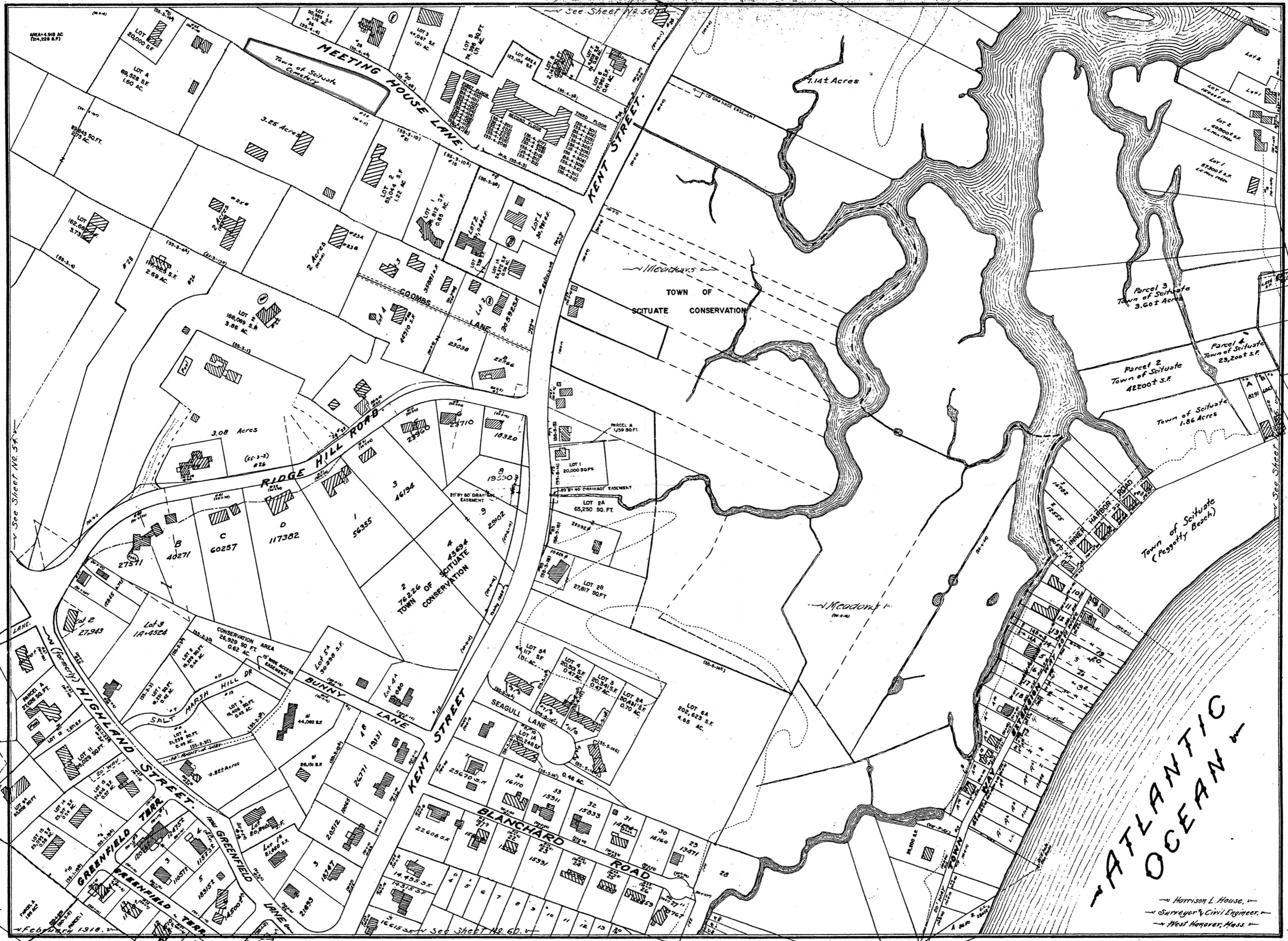
Topographic Map Symbols

- 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
- Cemetery; picnic area; U. S. historical monument
- Windmill; water well; spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Disturbed surface: strip mine, levee, sand
- Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
- Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Rapids; large and small; falls; large and small
- Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
- Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
- Scrub; mangrove
- Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

E: 957180
N: 4671920





Men of Kent Cemetery
Scituate, Plymouth County, Massachusetts



The Mass of Kearsy
Cemetery
1636

MASS OF KEARSY
CEMETERY
1636





IN MEMORY OF
JOHN OTIS
BORN IN THE YEAR 1581 AT BARNSTAPLE ENGLAND
HIS SON
JOHN OTIS
AND THEIR DESCENDANTS
STEPHEN OTIS
ISAAC OTIS
STEPHEN OTIS
WILLIAM OTIS

OTIS





In Memory of
Miss Fanna Fieland
She Died Sep 7
1803 Aged 29 Years

*Death is a debt to nature due
Which I have paid as follows*



HERE LYES A BODY
OF A REVEREND
NATHANIEL PITCHER
CHURCH PASTOR OF THE
NORTH CHURCH OF
CHRIST IN SEITUADE
WHO DYED SEPTEMBER
27 1783 AT THE
AGE OF 73 YEARS



HERE LIES THE BODY OF
MR. JEREMIAH CUSHING
PASTOR OF A CHURCH OF
METHODISTS AT THE NORTHERLY
PART OF SCITUATE WHO
DEPARTED THIS LIFE
MARCH 9 22ND 1705
IN HIS 42ND YEAR OF HIS AGE



HERE LIES THE BODY OF
MR. EPHRAIM LITTLE
OF MARSHFIELD WHO
DIED IN THIS TOWN NOV
24TH 1717 IN THE 68TH
YEAR OF HIS AGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Men of Kent Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Plymouth

DATE RECEIVED: 5/10/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/07/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/24/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/26/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000442

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 6.25.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

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

April 30, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Men of Kent Cemetery, Meeting House Lane, Scituate (Plymouth), 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 properties in the district were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Doug Smith, Scituate Historical Commission
Martha Lyon, consultant
Joseph Noonan, Scituate Board of Selectmen
William Limbacher, Scituate Planning Board