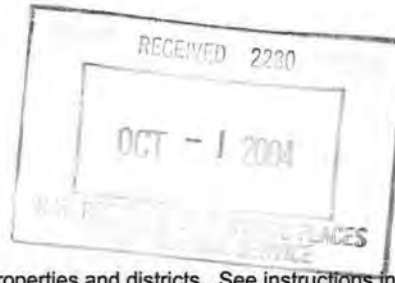


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Northfield Center Cemetery

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number west terminus of Parker Avenue ☐ not for publication

city or town Northfield ☐ vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Franklin code 011 zip code 01360

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 Freedberg National Register Director 9/28/04
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Cara H. Metz, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

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 W. Beall

11.13.04

Northfield Center Cemetery
Name of Property

Franklin, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

		building
1		sites
2		structures
33	2	objects
36	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

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)

NA

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation NA

walls NA

roof NA

other

Narrative Description

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

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Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Located two-tenths of a mile from the center of town, Northfield Center Cemetery comprises 7.64 acres and contains approximately 1,700 gravestones and monuments as well as two holding vaults (receiving tombs) that are no longer used. Among the stones are fine examples of the art of pre-industrial gravestone carving. Generally running north south along a high bluff, the oblong and irregularly shaped cemetery lies parallel to and west of the Vermont Railroad tracks at the western terminus of Parker Avenue. The cemetery is well separated from the tracks by a ditch and a low bank. A steep bluff overlooking the Great Meadow (Connecticut River flood plain) forms the west and south boundary of the cemetery. The Connecticut River lies in the distance.

Well maintained by the town, the grounds are generally covered with grass. Except for the section of the cemetery near the railroad (east), the perimeter is lined with mature maple, oak, pine, larch, and butternut trees. Four large cedar trees are within the grounds. Several large stumps bear witness to trees that have been lost, probably in the hurricane of 1938. Granite fence posts line the east and west borders of the cemetery. The wooden picket fencing that once connected the posts is no longer present.

The cemetery has four main sections known as the east section, the center section, the north section, and Moody Cemetery, which is to the south (see plan A) and is included in this nomination. The entrance to the cemetery is located at the south end of the east section, near the junction with Moody Cemetery (photo 1). There is no gate or signage marking the cemetery entrance. A narrow paved road, which roughly encircles the central section of the burying ground as an elongated oval path, measures 0.3 miles in overall length.

The central section holds an estimated 1,000 stones including 32 monuments. The earliest stones in the cemetery lie in the middle third of this section. They include 125 18th century carved tablets of sandstone, granite, schist, and slate. There is also one slate table stone. Forty-five VFW flags mark the graves of veterans going back to Colonial times. There are many gaps between stones in the middle third of the center section, suggesting the possibility of lost markers or graves that were originally unmarked. Early stones may have been removed when later generations erected monuments to record the burials of the entire family. Recently for example, the 1795 stone of Eleazar Stratton (carved by Ebenezer Janes) was discovered in a dooryard and returned to the burying ground. The stone had been pulled out when Eleazer's grandson, Dr. Charles Stratton, erected a nine-foot tall marble monument to himself before he died in 1869. The monument includes the names of Charles Stratton's parents and grandparents.

Fine examples of pre-industrial gravestone carving survive in the center section of the cemetery. Zechariah Field's schist stone dated 1746 (photo 5) displays scroll borders and the winged "soul effigy" with a round face and down-turned mouth. This carving is typical of a Merrimack Valley carver whose name remains to be discovered. The double slate headstone (photo 6) for Azariah Wright and his wife Elizabeth, both of whom died in 1772, is carved with the shallow incised winged effigies that are

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**Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA**

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characteristic of the Soule family of carvers. A pair of marble headstones (photo 7) for Rev. John Hubbard (d. 1794) and his wife Anna (d. 1795) each have portrait figures in shallow relief that were probably carved by Solomon Ashley of Deerfield. Miriam Wright's sandstone marker (photo 8) bears the earliest readable death date (1726) in the cemetery. The winged and crowned soul effigy displays the death's head, but without the teeth that would be expected on a stone carved in 1726. The Miriam Wright headstone, an example of backdating, was probably carved at the Phelps shop in Northampton in the 1750s. The lettering and the crown are similar to the stone carved for her father Eliezer Wright, who died in 1753 at the age of 85. An extraordinary baroque sandstone carving (photo 9) marks the grave of Lieut. Joshua Lyman (d. 1777). Carved in high relief by Nathaniel Phelps, it displays urns, flowers, and a winged effigy with a royal crown. The 1736 schist marker of Stephen Belding (photo 10) displays only lettering carved into an arched, rough-faced stone.

Sarah Janes (photo 11) died "in childbed" in 1766. Her husband, the famed carver Ebenezer Janes, carved her stone with graceful wings, sometimes called fishtail, attached to a simple face with a scalloped outline around the jaw. A later Ebenezer Janes' carving is represented by the 1789 slate headstone of Elisabeth Stratton (photo 12). In her stone, the wings attach at the neck, stars rise above the wings, and the border of grapevines is stylized. In the 1790s, Janes began to carve portrait stones. Among the best of these is the 1795 slate stone of Col. Phineas Wright. The portrait, carved in a shield-shaped niche, is a bust with a fine wig curled up at the sides. An elaborate grapevine forms the border. An example of a woman's portrait is the 1801 stone for Eunice Lyman. Here Janes carved a smooth oval face and a stylized cap that ties under the chin. The vine border is less elaborate than that seen on the Phineas Wright stone.

Among the 32 monuments in the central section of the cemetery are the Stratton Monument, described previously, and the Allen Family Monument, which is probably the most elegant in the cemetery (shown on the right in photo 2). Rising from a pedestal to approximately 15', the marble column is entwined with acanthus leaves and vines, and bears an urn at the top. Seven members of the Allen family are memorialized in this monument, which was probably erected by Samuel C. Allen before he died in 1860. His name holds the honored spot on the west face. Another prominent monument in the center section is that of the Belding Family (photo 3). Made of marble and rising to approximately 12', it features a pedestal supporting a tapered and fluted column surmounted by a draped urn.

The one table stone in the center section memorializes Capt. Samuel Hunt, who died in 1770. Resting on three granite piers, it is a slate slab measuring 82" long by 36" wide by nearly 7" thick. Made by the Park family of Groton, the carving includes a vine and a rather smug-looking portrait bust in a niche flanked by a coffin on the right and an hourglass on the left. An important recent stone that stands in the center section is a 1995 replica of the gravestone of Northfield's first minister, Benjamin Doolittle, who died in 1748. It is a slate tablet with 22 lines of text, a border of vines, and a winged face surmounted by the words "Memento Nem (photo 18), which appears to be a misreading of the original "Memento Mori" (photo 17).

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**Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA**

The east section, which is nearest the railroad, contains approximately 450 stones, most of which date to the 19th century. Among them are several carved slates dating to the early 1800s and twenty tall 19th century monuments. There are also a few 20th century monuments, two 18th century stones, and 22 VFW flags. The two vaults in the cemetery stand at either end of the east section – one near the cemetery entrance and the other between the east section and the north section, which was once a secondary entrance that may have led from a former railroad station. The vaults have iron doors set into a sod-roofed rock and concrete structure. A pediment over the door of the vault at the north end bears the date of 1838.

A particularly beautiful early-19th century marker in the east section is a marble headstone for William F. Dickinson, a twin who died at age 4 months and 17 days. Carved by Alpheus Longley (1785-1857) of Hatfield, MA, it features a graceful urn topped by a cross surrounded by vines and rosettes. A particularly poignant row of slate stones (photo 14) carved for the Lyman family by Samuel Chapin also stand in the east section. The stones for Aaron (d.1841) and his wife Cynthia Lyman (d. 1839) both feature fine urn and willow designs, a stippled background, and square border. Standing next to Aaron and Cynthia are the stones of their three sons, who all died in September of 1822, and a daughter who died in 1830. All four stones display the charming floral design that Chapin favored for children.

Among the 19th century monuments in the east section, perhaps the most interesting is that for the Purple Family (seen on the right in photo 1). Made of marble, it is a broken fluted column that rises to a height of ten feet four inches, and stands near the cemetery entrance. The names of husband and wife Samuel B and Jane A. Purple, who both died in 1857, are carved on a shield decorated with roses on the south face of the base. Markers of the 20th century that are found in the east section are typically long, low, wedge-shaped granite slabs with names on the polished surface. A representative example is the polished pink granite marker for husband and wife Waldo H. Stebbins (d. 1952) and Isabel N. Fiansburgh (d. 1935).

The small north section has burials dating from 1901 to 2002. Triangular in shape, it contains 123 stones that are generally granite markers similar to those described above. Twelve VFW flags commemorate Civil War veterans who died in the 20th century.

The section known as Moody Cemetery is roughly triangular in shape and dates to 1896, when Dwight Moody laid it out at the time of his mother's death. It now contains 136 stones, about two dozen of which mark the graves of the Moody family whose death dates range from 1896 to 1993. Two granite scrolls mounted on a single base mark the graves of Dwight L. Moody's parents Betsey and Edwin Moody (photo 16). Edwin died in 1841, leaving his widow and young children. His epitaph reads "Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive." Betsey Moody's epitaph reads: "She hath done what she could." Most of the remaining stones in the Moody section mark the graves of those related to the Moodys by marriage, and date from 1900 to 2002. Eight VFW flags mark the graves of World Wars I and II veterans. Bordering the Moody section, along the south on axis with the entry, is a row of east-west running lots that include two obelisks. The rather chunky Minot Family monument is a granite obelisk that stands directly left of the entrance, almost on the sod roof of the south vault. Minot burials marked by it range from 1865 to 1941.

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Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA

In general, the condition of the gravestones is good, though many are sunken or leaning and a few of the earlier markers, particularly those made of marble, have become illegible due to weathering. Many gravestones have recently been cleaned. It is hoped that funds can be made available for resetting toppled stones, and for consolidation and repair of damaged stones.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are identified in the cemetery, sites may be present. Twelve sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile), including several sites in similar locations. Environmental characteristics of the cemetery represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native American sites. The cemetery occupies a well drained, level to moderately sloping north-south-oriented bluff that overlooks the Great Meadow floodplain of the Connecticut River. The river is presently located over 2,000 feet west of the cemetery; however, in the past it may have meandered to a point immediately below the cemetery. An unnamed pond and wetland is also located within 1,000 feet of the cemetery. Given the above information, the size of the cemetery (7.64 acres), and excavation of over 1,500 graves, a moderate potential exists for locating significant ancient Native American resources in the cemetery.

A high potential exists for the recovery of historic archaeological resources in the Northfield Center Cemetery. Additional historic research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate unmarked graves throughout the cemetery. In several areas, especially near older graves, gaps between known burials suggest the presence of lost markers or unmarked graves. Instances have been documented where individual gravestones were removed in family burial areas when larger monuments were erected. Some graves may have been marked with wooden markers that have since deteriorated. Paupers, unknown persons and other indigent persons may have been buried in intentionally unmarked graves. Paupers and unknown persons may have also been buried in peripheral areas that changed through time. Unmarked and marked graves may contain stratigraphic evidence of a burial shaft, a casket, human remains, and personal/funerary related artifacts. Some graves might be commemorative and contain a gravestone only. Graves may also contain multiple interments. Gravestones, footstones, and artifacts related to memorial offerings may also be present in the cemetery. Post-holes and structural evidence from gates, walls, and other boundary markers may also exist in the cemetery.

(end)

Northfield Center Cemetery

Name of Property

Franklin, 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)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ART

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1686 to 1954

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Town of Northfield

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Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In continuous use since 1686, Center Cemetery was Northfield's first burying ground. The earliest of six extant cemeteries in Northfield, it holds associations with the history and development of the town and is the final resting place for many of its citizens. The cemetery includes many notable features, including its two vaults and a number of well-articulated examples of the carver's art displaying a variety of memorial motifs. A fine collection of stones carved by Northfield native Ebenezer Janes are among the cemetery's most significant resources. The cemetery retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A and C at the local level, and fulfills Criteria Consideration D for cemeteries with distinctive design features.

History and Notable Burials

The town of Northfield is the northernmost Massachusetts municipality in the Connecticut River Valley. The river bisects and extends the length of the town. Initial settlement occurred in 1671, but was short-lived due to King Philip's War. Colonists attempted settlement a second time in 1685, when the land for the present cemetery was set aside. According to legend, the site was selected because the bones of Sgt. Samuel Wright, a local military leader who had been killed in 1675 during King Philip's War, were discovered there and interred on the spot. This second settlement was abandoned in 1689 due to King William's War.

Permanent settlement dates from 1714 when the town was incorporated. Among the settlers were Sarah Mattoon and Zechariah Field. Field rescued Mattoon, who had been captured by Native Americans. The two were soon married, and Field, who became a prominent resident of Northfield, is buried in Center Cemetery (photo 5). Both families are well represented in the cemetery, which contains the graves of 80 Mattoons and 150 Fields. Many descendants and relatives of Samuel Wright are also buried in Center Cemetery, which contains 52 known Wright graves, ten dating to the 18th century.

Settlement of Northfield proceeded slowly. By 1718, the colonial population stood at between 26 and 30 families. It was not until the second half of the 18th century that the town showed signs of substantial growth. By 1765, Northfield had 60 dwelling houses and a population of 415. By 1776, the population stood at 580.

The first minister of the town was Rev. Benjamin Doolittle (1695-1748), who arrived in 1718, and served until his death, not only as a tireless pastor but also as a physician. He is buried in Center Cemetery, but his original stone was moved to the First Parish Church for preservation. A replica made in 1995 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of his birth stands on Doolittle's grave in Center Cemetery (photo 18). Rev. John Hubbard, who served until his death in 1794, followed Doolittle as minister. The author of a history of Northfield, he rests in Center Cemetery next to his wife Anna (photo 7).

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**Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA**

A significant 19th century Northfield family that is well represented in Center Cemetery is the Moody family for whom the south portion of the cemetery is named. The land was part of the cemetery from the beginning, but became the Moody family plot. The best-known member of the family is Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899). Born in Northfield, Moody became an evangelical lay preacher who traveled the country and abroad. He resettled in Northfield in 1875, opening Northfield Seminary for Young Ladies and Mount Hermon School for Boys (now combined as Northfield Mount Hermon School, a respected college preparatory boarding school). Moody was one of nine children born to Edwin Moody and Betsey Holton. When Dwight was four, his mother was widowed and left impoverished. It is thought that Dwight Moody purchased his family plots at the time of his mother's death in 1896, placing markers to both of his parents in the center of the space. While many Moodys are buried throughout Center Cemetery, Dwight himself is buried on the Northfield Mount Hermon campus.

The Center Cemetery is also the final resting place for the Stearns family of architect-builders, to whom the town of Northfield owes much of its appearance. The family patriarchs were the brothers, Calvin and Samuel, who were carpenters in the early 1800s. A fine example of a house built by Calvin Stearns is the General John Nevers House at 94 Main Street (1810), now a bed and breakfast. Calvin's sons, George, Charles, Albert, and Edward built many of Northfield's Greek-Revival style houses. Good examples of their work include the Lane House at 33 Main Street (1845), the Wright House at 5 Main Street (1847), and the Callender House at 4 Main Street (1846). All of these houses are included in the Main Street National Register District (1982).

Municipal reports indicate that the town has long maintained the cemetery. The first record of fencing for the cemetery dates to 1769, and was called a "Virginia Fence." In 1884 a "post and board fence" was installed. Town records show a vote to clean up the cemetery in 1769 and again in 1884. The railroad arrived in Northfield in 1840, with its tracks laid directly east of the cemetery. For approximately 100 years there was a railroad station along the tracks near the cemetery. The station was moved to Bernardston to serve as a store in the 1940s, but the trains still whistle as they pass the Parker Avenue crossing. In 1900, a survey mapped and numbered over 500 cemetery lots that have recently been correlated with the existing stones – a challenge because of the addition of modern monuments amidst the old family plots.

The Stones and the Carvers

While the land for the cemetery was set aside in the 17th century, the earliest legible stone is that of Miriam Wright who died in 1726 at the age of thirteen (photo 8). It is unlikely, however that the stone was carved at the time of her death or that it marks the earliest burial in the cemetery. Obvious gaps between the early markers in the central section of the cemetery suggest unmarked burials or graves that once had wooden markers. In the northern outposts of the Connecticut Valley, those who died before 1770, with notable exceptions discussed below, rarely had stone markers. The cemetery contains 41

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Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA

stones with death dates earlier than 1770, but it is likely that many of these were carved and placed later. Miriam Wright's sandstone marker dated 1726 is surely backdated, since the "winged face" or "soul effigy" depicted on it did not replace the earlier "death heads" or "winged skulls" until after 1740. It is probable that Miriam Wright's stone was carved in the Phelps shop in Northampton since the gravestone of her father, Eliezer Wright, who died in 1753, is known to have been carved there.

The Phelps shop, which operated from the 1740s to the 1780s, was one of the most popular in Western Massachusetts. The patriarch, Nathaniel Phelps (1721-1789), along with his sons and apprentices, were responsible for more than a dozen grave markers, mostly sandstone, in Northfield Center Cemetery. One of their most unusual creations can be seen in the baroque carving displayed on the headstone of Joshua Lyman (photo 9). A soldier in the French and Indian War as well as a town officer, Lyman died in 1777. The early sandstones from the Phelps shop are among Center Cemetery's most significant historic resources. They reflect the fact that those who settled Northfield were prominent Connecticut River Valley families with good connections to the south and east, allowing them to procure stones from some distance away.

A likely candidate for the earliest extant stone actually carved at the time of death is that of Stephen Belding (photo 10), who died in 1736. His rather crudely lettered stone, described in section 7, is an example of the work of Joseph Nash of Hadley, MA. Nash (1664-1740) is known for his lettered but otherwise undecorated schist markers of the 1720s and 1730s, of which there are examples in nearly all early burying grounds of the Connecticut River towns.

The next grouping of stones in Northfield Center Cemetery date to the mid-18th century, and are best represented by the stone of Zechariah Field (photo 5), who died in 1746. This handsome stone is made of schist, a material that was common east of Northfield. The winged-face design reflects the carving styles seen nearer Boston, in Essex County and the Merrimac Valley.

By the 1760s, nearly all the markers in the cemetery were carved in slate that was locally quarried, and regional carvers can be identified. One of these was Ebenezer Soule (1711-1792), who moved west from Plympton to the Massachusetts town of Barre in 1766. Soule and his sons became itinerant carvers who worked throughout the Connecticut River Valley. A great many of the stones attributed to them are backdated. One example is the stone for Rev. Doolittle, who died in 1748 (see section 7). Having the Soules on hand provided an opportunity to create permanent markers for a number of significant individuals whose graves had been inadequately memorialized.

A local carver and native of Northfield is Ebenezer Janes (1736-1808), one of the most significant carvers represented in the cemetery. A direct descendant of Elder William Janes, one of Northfield 1670s settlers, Ebenezer took up gravestone carving in midlife. Northfield Center Cemetery is known for its fine collection of gravestones carved by Deacon Ebenezer Janes over a span of some forty years. His own gravestone of 1808 (carver not yet identified) is a stark, lettered, rectilinear stone that stands next to the stone he carved for his wife, Sarah, who died in childbirth in 1766 (photo 11). Her stone, one of the first

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Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA

Janes is known to have carved, displays a winged angel head is similar to those carved by Noah Cushman (1745-1818). A Plympton carver, Cushman sold stones pre-carved with winged angel heads, but otherwise blank, to Ebenezer Soule with whom Janes may have trained. Through this indirect channel, Cushman may have inspired Janes's early work. Over the years, Janes developed his own style, which can be seen in the 1789 stone of Elisabeth Stratton (photo 12) and in the stylized portraits he carved between 1790 and his death in 1808.

Another carver who worked mainly in slate is Samuel Chapin (1792-1851), who lived in neighboring Bernardston, where the slate was quarried from West Mountain. Some of Northfield Center Cemetery's earliest examples of the urn and willow design, which appeared ca. 1800, are carved by Chapin, as are the flower motifs he favored for children's stones (photo 14). Center Cemetery also includes a few rare examples of Chapin's work in marble, which can be seen in the headstones (photo 15) for Hezekiah Stratton (d. 1825) and his wife Hannah (d. 1846). Hezekiah was a third generation descendant of one of Northfield's 1715 settlers, and Hannah was a fifth generation descendant of Samuel Wright, whose bones determined the location of the cemetery.

Marble gravestones appeared at the end of the 18th century, when marble began to be quarried in many Vermont towns to the north. Among the marble markers in Northfield Center Cemetery are those by Solomon Ashley (1754-1823), the son of a Deerfield minister. Good examples of his work are the stones of Rev. John Hubbard and his wife Anna (photo 7). Standing side-by-side depicting stylized portraits of the deceased, the stones date to 1794 and 1795 respectively.

The cemetery today

While the burial ground is active, there are only one or two burials a year. This is because the cemetery serves the descendants of those who purchased plots years ago. There are no lots available for sale. One of the more recent burials (2002) is that of Seth Field, a descendant of the earlier Seth Field, who was buried here in 1792.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Northfield are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in this area may contribute important information that documents Native American subsistence and settlement adaptations to a riverine environment, a unique opportunity within the state of Massachusetts. The Connecticut Valley temperate forest riverine environment differs from more eastern parts of the state that contain extensive coastal and lake resources. Ancient sites in this area offer an opportunity to study Native American adaptations in a riverine area not influenced by the presence of these resources. The analysis of human adaptation to a riverine environment may contribute important information on a variety of topics. The close proximity of the cemetery to the Connecticut

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Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA

River may indicate the potential for recovering information related to Native fishery activities. Important runs of anadromous fish resources enabled the exploitation of significant densities of fishery resources during different seasons of the year. This analysis may contribute important information relating to the seasonal aspects of Native settlement and subsistence patterns used in the area. Ancient artifacts recovered in the cemetery may contribute important information in the study of ceramic and/or lithic technology and style, ancient patterns of local/regional exchange, and even levels of social organization during different periods of Native American history. The location of ancient sites in the cemetery locale and within the larger Connecticut River Valley riverine system may have enabled Native Americans in the area to participate within a regionally important north/south communication and exchange corridor during the ancient period. These networks may have facilitated the exchange of goods, people, and ideas indicated in cultural material such as ceramics, lithics, and features.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information relating to the evolution of the cemetery, mortuary art, and aspects of the social history and historical development of the town. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may contribute important evidence of changes related to individual and family burial patterns and changes to the overall boundaries of the cemetery. The identification of unmarked graves may alter known distributions or patterns of burials and the overall boundaries of the cemetery. Archaeological evidence of post holes, walls, gates and other boundary related objects may also refine or change commonly accepted boundaries for the cemetery and its subdivisions. The first record of fencing for the cemetery dates to 1769 indicating the lack of formal boundaries for nearly 100 years before that date. Historic and archaeological evidence may identify changes in cemetery boundaries and burial patterns as they evolved from the 17th through 20th centuries.

Unmarked graves may also identify the earliest date for burials in the cemetery. Archaeological research may help test the historical fact in local legends that say the cemetery was founded in 1685 on the basis of the discovery of the bones of Sgt. Samuel Wright, a local military leader killed at this location during King Philips War in 1675. Wright's bones were reportedly interred on the site where they were found. Wright's bones and local legend may also indicate the potential for locating other evidence of Colonial and Native American hostilities at this location. Prior to 1770, early graves were reported to lack markers, or bore only an ephemeral wooden post. As a result of oral tradition and a comparison of death dates with the stylistic attributes of stones, most early graves are reported to have backdated stones. It is unknown which stone was the earliest stone placed with a burial at the time of death or, which burial for certain is the earliest in the cemetery. Backdated stones might not be placed with the burials they represent or exactly at the head of the burial. After Sgt. Wright, the 1726 grave of Miriam Wright is the earliest death date in the cemetery. It is conjectured that the 1736 grave of Stephen Belding may contain the earliest actual contemporary stone. Archaeological research may be the only reliable source of evidence to date the earliest graves in the cemetery and determine the spatial relationship between actual burial shafts and stone placement. Since colonists were in Northfield prior to 1675, earlier burials dating to that period should not be discounted.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 6

Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA

Existing gravestones and grave markers recovered from archaeological contexts may contribute important information related to the evolution of mortuary art and stone carvers from the 17th through 20th century periods. Gravestones in the cemetery are known to be the works of several important stone masons, especially from the earlier 18th century period. Motifs and text passages carved in stones can be an important source of religious and cultural information for various socio-economic and ethnic groups who lived in the town.

Osteological studies of known and unmarked graves may contribute important information relating to the overall health and pathologies that affected the population in Northfield in over three centuries of settlement. Osteological studies may offer the most detailed insight into differences in health, stature, and sickness based on socio-economic status and ethnicity, and how these characteristics changed through time.

(end)

**United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9

Page 1

**Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA**

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(continued)

Northfield Center Cemetery

Name of Property

Franklin, MA

County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.64

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 18 707980 4729840
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. 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 Jean Kozlowski and Marie Booth Ferre with Betsy Friedberg, MHC NR Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 2004

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125-3314

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 Town of Northfield

street & number 69 Main Street telephone 413-498-2901

city or town Northfield state MA zip code 01360

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 Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9/10

Page 2/1

**Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA**

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(end)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is the entire 7.64 parcel owned by the Town of Northfield and known as the Center Cemetery. It is located at the west end of Parker Street and is shown as parcels 2 and 4 on map no. 24 block C on the Northfield Assessors Map dated January 1, 2000, which is included with this nomination. (Note: parcels 1 and 3, which abut the cemetery on the west as shown on the assessor's map, are not part of the cemetery and they do not belong to the town of Northfield. The parcels are on the slope of a bluff that descends to the Meadow Road.)

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the entire parcel of land historically associated with Northfield's Center Cemetery.

(end)

**United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number photo

Page 1

**Northfield Center Cemetery
Northfield (Franklin), MA**

PHOTOGRAPHS

Center Cemetery

Date: 2001 to 2004

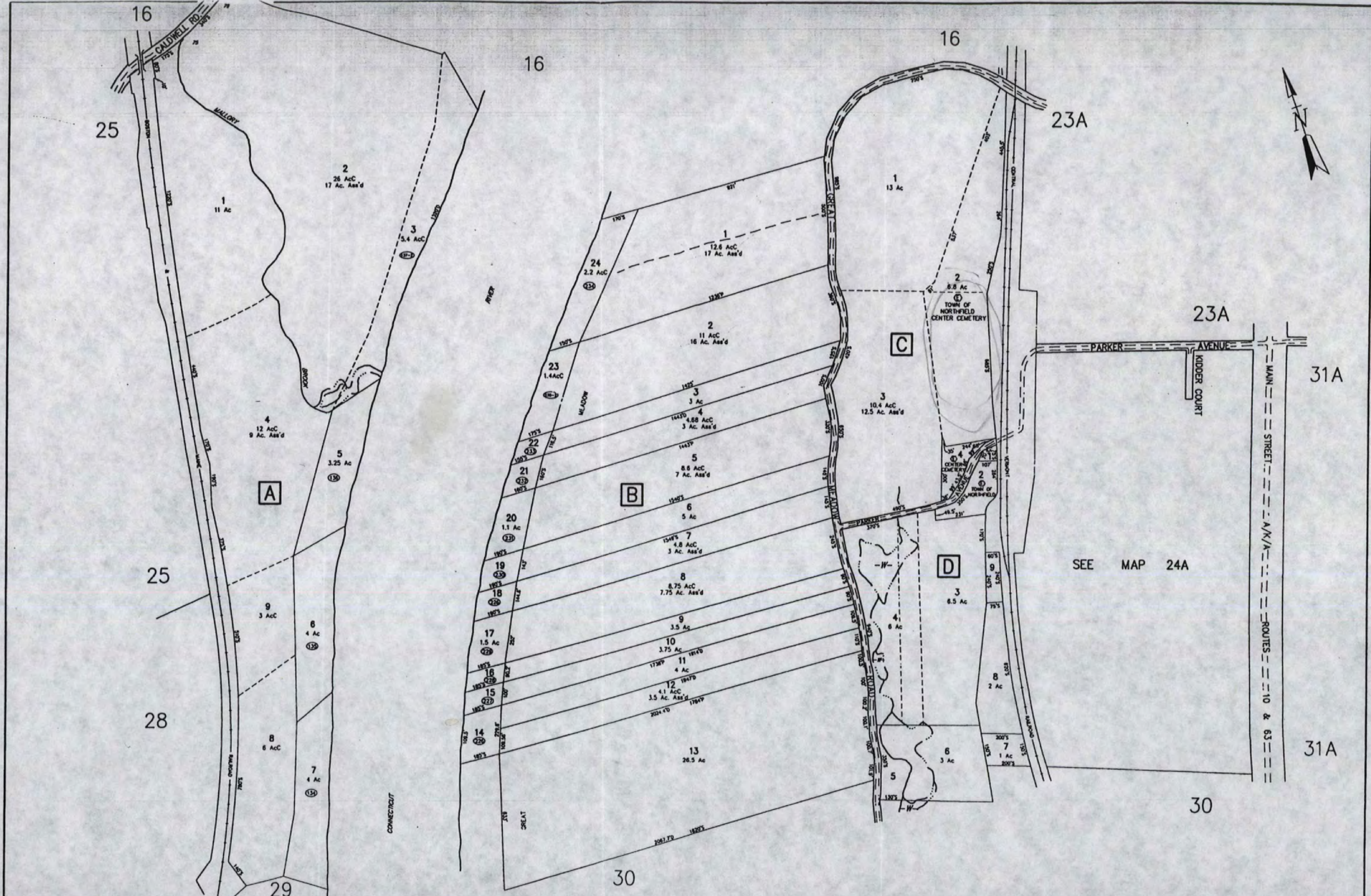
Photos 1-4 and 13 taken by Jean Kozlowski (negatives at Northfield Town Hall); photos 5-12 and 14-18 taken by Marie Ferre (negatives and digital images in possession of Ferre)

1. Cemetery entrance
2. Row of Mattoon tablets in foreground; Allen Monument on the right
3. Belding Monument as viewed from cemetery entrance
4. Center Section of cemetery, looking northeast
5. Zechariah Field Stone
6. Azariah & Elizabeth Wright double headstone
7. John & Anna Hubbard headstones
8. Miriam Wright headstone
9. Joshua Lyman headstone
10. Stephen Belding headstone
11. Ebenezer & Sarah Janes headstones
12. Elisabeth Stratton headstone
13. Southern half of the center section, looking southwest
14. Center part of east section, looking east. Lyman family slates in foreground
15. Center section, looking east. Hezekiah and Hannah Stratton stones in foreground
16. Betsey and Edwin Moody double stone in Moody Cemetery
17. Replica of Rev. Benjamin Doolittle headstone
18. Rubbing of Doolittle's original headstone

Northfield Center Cemetery, Northfield (Franklin Co.) MA
District Data Sheet

<u>Plan B</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Photo</u>
	Center Cemetery	Cemetery	N/A	Si	1686	C	
	Circulation System	Roadway		St	c.1767	C	
	Fence posts		Granite	St	c.1884	C	
	Vault (north)	Vault	Rock, iron	O	1838	C	
	Vault (south)	Vault	Rock, iron	O	1838	C	
	Allen Family	Monument	Marble	O	c.1860	C	2
	Belding Family	Monument	Marble	O	c.1862	C	3
11	Belding, Stephen	Headstone	Schist	O	1736	C	10
18	Dickinson, William	Headstone	Marble	O	1806	C	
8	Doolittle, Benjamin	Headstone	Slate	O	1995	NC	17
10	Field, Seth	Headstone	Slate	O	1792	C	
	Field, Seth	Headstone	Granite	O	2002	NC	
	Field, Zechariah	Headstone	Schist	O	1746	C	5
6	Hubbard, Anna	Headstone	Marble	O	1795	C	7
6	Hubbard, John	Headstone	Marble	O	1794	C	7
7	Hunt, Samuel	Tablestone	Granite/Slate	O	c.1770	C	
8	Janes, Ebenezer	Headstone	Slate	O	1808	C	11
8	Janes, Sarah	Headstone	Slate	O	1766	C	11
17	Lyman, Cynthia	Headstone	Slate	O	1839	C	14
17	Lyman, Cynthia (dau)	Headstone	Slate	O	1830	C	14
	Lyman, Eunice	Headstone	Slate	O	1801	C	
14	Lyman, Joshua	Headstone	Sandstone	O	1777	C	9
	Minot Family	Obelisk	Granite	O	1865-1941	C	
	Moody, Betsey & Edwin	Headstone	Granite	O	1896	C	16
	Nevers, John	Headstone	Marble	O	1847	C	
	Pomeroy, Mehitable	Headstone	Slate	O	1770	C	
	Purple Family	Monument	Marble	O	1857	C	
	Stebbins, Isabel	Monument	Granite	O	1935	C	
	Stratton, Charles	Monument	Marble	O	c.1869	C	
5	Stratton, Eleazar	Headstone	Slate	O	1789	C	
	Stratton, Elisabeth	Headstone	Slate	O	1789	C	12
	Stratton, Hannah	Headstone	Marble	O	1846	C	15
	Stratton, Hezekiah	Headstone	Marble	O	1825	C	15
	Stearns, Calvin	Monument	???	O	c.1857	C	
12	Wright, Azariah and Eliza	Headstone	Slate	O	1772	C	6
13	Wright, Eliezer	Headstone	Sandstone	O	1753	C	
13	Wright, Miriam	Headstone	Sandstone	O	c. 1750s	C	8
	Wright, Phineas	Headstone	Slate	O	1795	C	

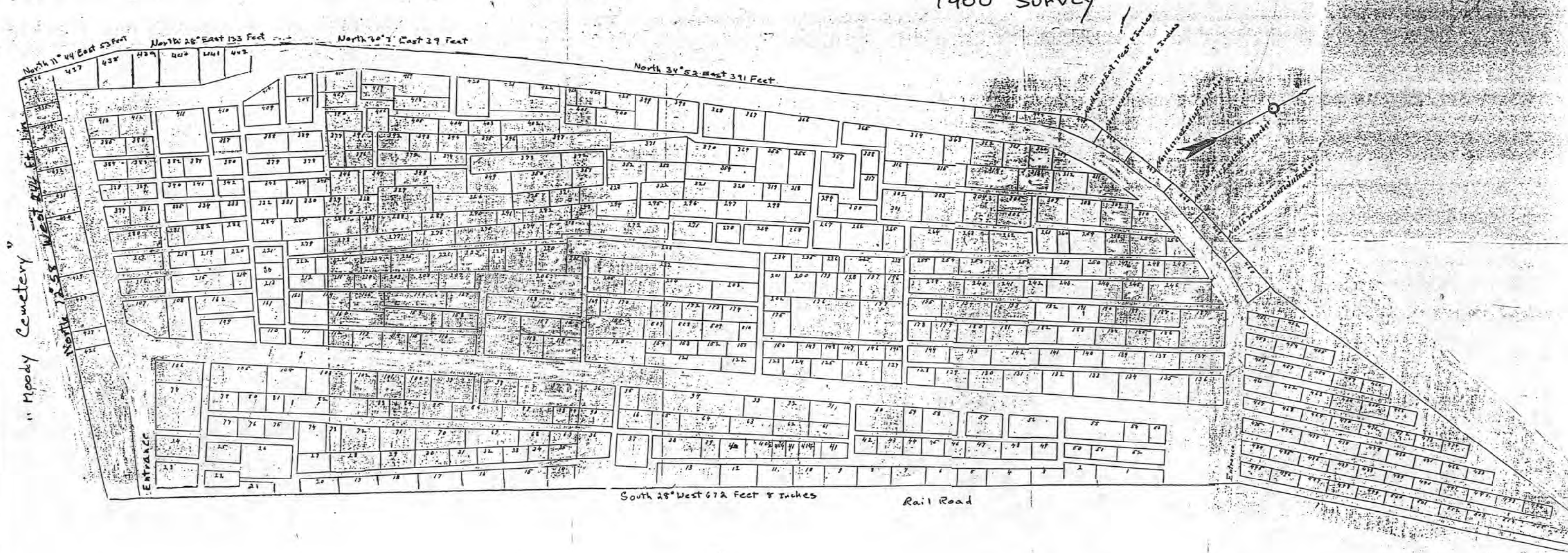
Objects are representative of cemetery population



ORIGINAL PROPERTY MAPS WERE PREPARED USING PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS BY GENERAL MAPPING, INC. COMPLETION DATE: 5/4/1973 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: 4/29/1972 THE MAPS ARE REVISED AND REPRINTED BY CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC. THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.	DIGITIZED IN 1999 BY CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOC. INC. PROFESSIONAL GIS CONSULTANTS MUNICIPAL MAPPING - GIS - PUBLIC WORKS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT 11 PLEASANT STREET, P.O. BOX 267, UTTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03081 (603)444-6768 - 1(800)322-6540 - FAX (603)444-1366 - WWW.CA-NH.COM	LEGEND <table border="0"><tr><td>AREA SURVEYED</td><td>Ac</td></tr><tr><td>AREA CALCULATED</td><td>Ac</td></tr><tr><td>RECORD DIVISION</td><td>100'</td></tr><tr><td>SCALED DIVISION</td><td>100'</td></tr><tr><td>BLOCK NUMBER</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>MATCH LINE</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>WATER</td><td></td></tr></table>	AREA SURVEYED	Ac	AREA CALCULATED	Ac	RECORD DIVISION	100'	SCALED DIVISION	100'	BLOCK NUMBER		MATCH LINE		WATER		REMOVED PROPERTY SUBDIVISION LOT NO. BUILDING, BUILDING NUMBER RIGHT OF WAY/ACCESS COMMON OWNERSHIP WETLANDS	SCALE 1" = 200' FEET 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 METERS 0 50 100 150 REVISED TO: January 1, 2000	PROPERTY MAPS NORTHFIELD MASSACHUSETTS MAP NO. 24 RECEIVED FEB 15 2003 MASS. HIST. COMM
AREA SURVEYED	Ac																		
AREA CALCULATED	Ac																		
RECORD DIVISION	100'																		
SCALED DIVISION	100'																		
BLOCK NUMBER																			
MATCH LINE																			
WATER																			

Assessor's
maps.
+
Prenault

Northfield Center Cemetery 1900 Survey

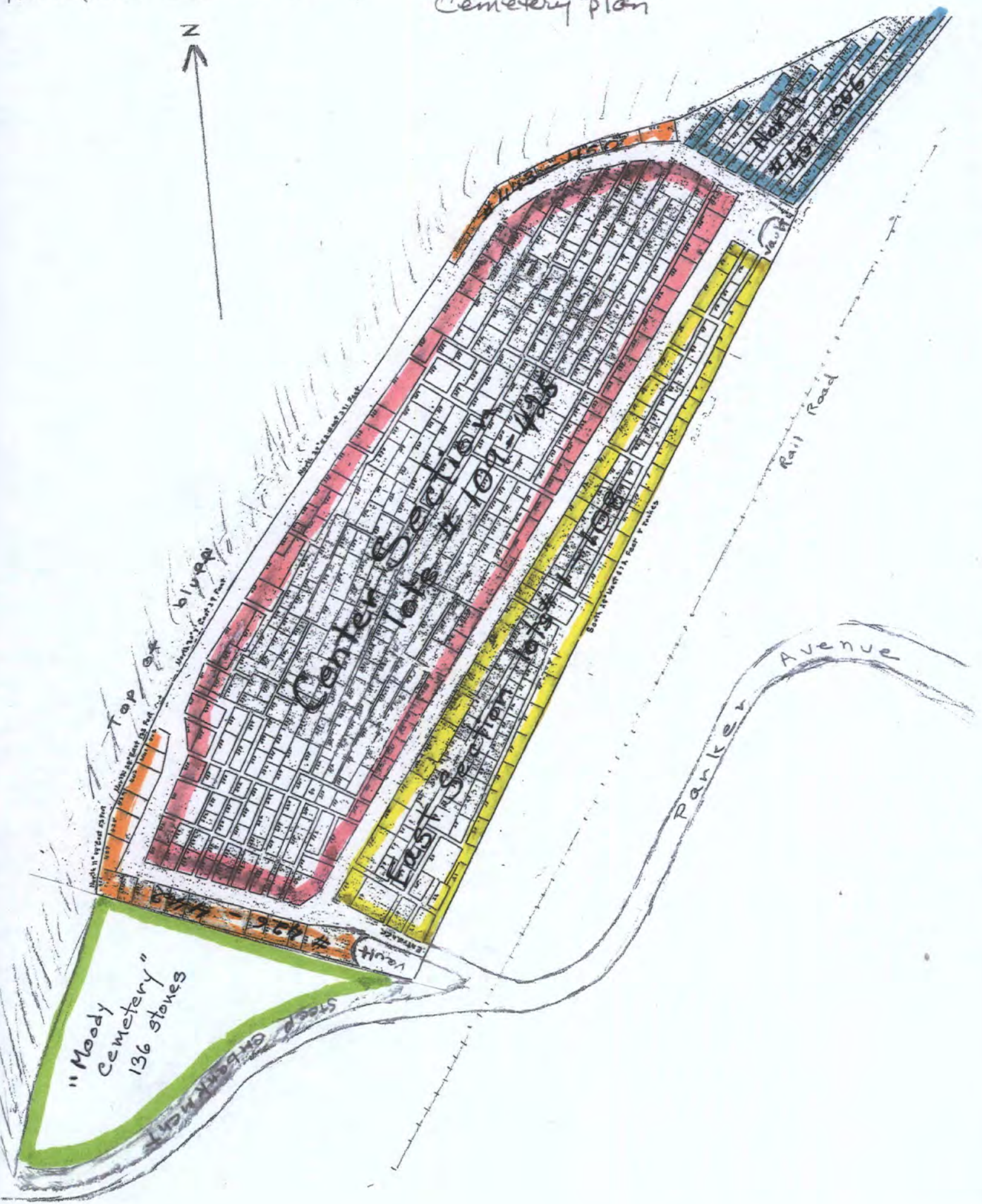


(Original, 18" x 48", in Northfield Town Hall)

Attachment 2
1900 Plot Survey
map

Northfield Center Cemetery

Attachment #2
Cemetery Plan



Nathaniel Fuller
1687-1750
Plympton

Nathan Hayward
1720-94
Bridgewater

Ebenezer Soule
1711-1792
Plympton/Barre/
Hinsdale NH

Coomer (1747-77)
and Beza Soule
(1750-1835)
Plympton/Barre/etc.

John Locke
1752-1837
Deerfield to VT

Solomon Ashley
1754-1823
Deerfield

Samuel W. Chapin
1792-1851
Bernardston



Essex Co. carvers: Wm. Mumford (1641-1718),
Lansons, Stancilffs, John Hartshorn (1650-c.1738)
James Foster (1698-1763)

Thomas Johnson I
1690-1761
Middletown

Joseph Johnson
1698-1770
Middletown

George Griswold
1633-1704
Windsor CT

Joseph Nash
1664-1740
Hadley



Noah Cushman
1745-1818
Plympton

Gideon Hale
1712-1776
Middletown/Northampton

Thomas Johnson II
1718-1774

Nathaniel Phelps
1721-1789
Northampton

Ebenezer Janes
1736-1808
Northfield



1770's



1780's



1790's
(Images used by
Ebenezer Janes)



after 1800

Alpheus Langley
1785-1857
Hatfield

"Pelham Carver",
fl. 1780's + 90's
Pelham

William Park
1705-1787
fr. Scotland to Groton



(Images of
Phelps Shop
1740's-1770's)

Wm. Holland
fl. 1748-67
Longmeadow

Joseph Williston
1732-1768
Springfield

Aaron Bliss
1730-1810
Wilbraham

Ezra Stebbins
1760-1819
Longmeadow



(Longmeadow shop
fl. 1760's + 70's
Sol Drinkwater
Kevin Sweeney)

note: lines denote possible, probable, or known connections

Sources:

Peter Benes
Bob Drinkwater
Kevin Sweeney

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Northfield Center Cemetery
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Franklin

DATE RECEIVED: 10/01/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/29/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/13/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/14/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04001220

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 11.13.04 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.



NORTHFIELD CTR CEMETERY
JEAN KOZLOWSKI photo
Roadway entering cem.
NE6. © NORTHFIELD TOWN
HALL

photo #1



NORTHFIELD CTR. CEMETERY

Large ALLEN monument

Row of MATTOON tablets

photo #2

JEAN KOZLOWSKI photo



NORTHFIELD CTR. CEM.
JEAN KOZLOWSKI photo

OBEISK MONUMENT (BUILDING)

LOOKING NW

photo #3



NORTHFIELD CTR CEMETERY
JEAN KOZLOWSKI PHOTO 12/01

LOOKING NE THRU CENTER SECT.

photo # 4



Here Lies Interred
The Body of cap
ZECHARIAH FIELD
Who Departed
This Life AUGS^t
15th 1746

AGED 61 Year.

NORTHFIELD CTR. CEM.

ZECHARIAH FIELD Stone
photo # 5

MARIE FERRE photo

5474 20011101 Mystic Color Lab

46392

002

Memento



Memento



Here Lies Buried
M^r AZARIAH WRIGHT

Who Died oct^r 17th

1772 Aged 75 years

M^{rs} ELISABETH WRIGHT wife

of M^r Azariah Wright Died oct^r
1st 1772 Aged 77 years

Cum hitherto mortals cast an eye
When so thy way prepair to die
Thy time is cum & die thou must
Like me be doomed to lie

NORTHFIELD CTR CEMETERY

AZARIAH/EUSABETH WRIGHT double stone

MAIRIE FERRE PHOTO

6

2666 20011207 Mystic Color Lab

005

65758



REV. JOHN HUBBARD A.M.
second minister in this Town.

Died Nov 28th 1794
In the 69^y of his Age,
and 45th of his ministry.

Aman he was, to all his people dear,
And passing rich with eighty pounds a year,
Remot from towns he ran his godly race,
Nor ever changed, nor wished to change his place,
He duty faithful, prompt at every call,
He watchful and wept, he prayed and felt for all,
He tried each ear, removed each dull delay,
He led the soul to God, and led the way.



MADAM ANNA HUBBARD

Relict of the late Rev. J. Hubbard
And Dau^g of the late Cap. St. John.

Died March 11 1793
In the 39th year of her age.

And in the 10th year of her widowhood,
She was a true and faithful friend,
And a true and faithful friend,
And a true and faithful friend,
And a true and faithful friend,
And a true and faithful friend,
And a true and faithful friend,
And a true and faithful friend.

ABIGAIL, Wife of
Elijah Stratten,
died 10 July
1791.

NORTHFIELD CTR. CEMETERY

JOHN / ANNA HUBBARD marble stones

MARIE FERRE photo #7

5968 20011128 Mystic Color Lab

002

61078



Mrs MIRAIM
WRIGHT Dau
of L. Eliezer
& Mrs Mary
Wright Died
June 3 1720
Aged 13 years

NORTHFIELD CTR. CEMETERY

MIRIAM WRIGHT stone

MARIE FERRE photo

8

001

5474 20011101 Mystic Color Lab

46391



In Memory of
Lieut JOSHUA LYMAN
who Departed this
life Sep^r. 7th. A.D.
1777. Aged 73
Years & 6 Months.

Whist living men
my Tomb do view
Remember well
here's room for you.



NORTHFIELD CTR. CEMETERY

JOSUA LYMAN sandstone

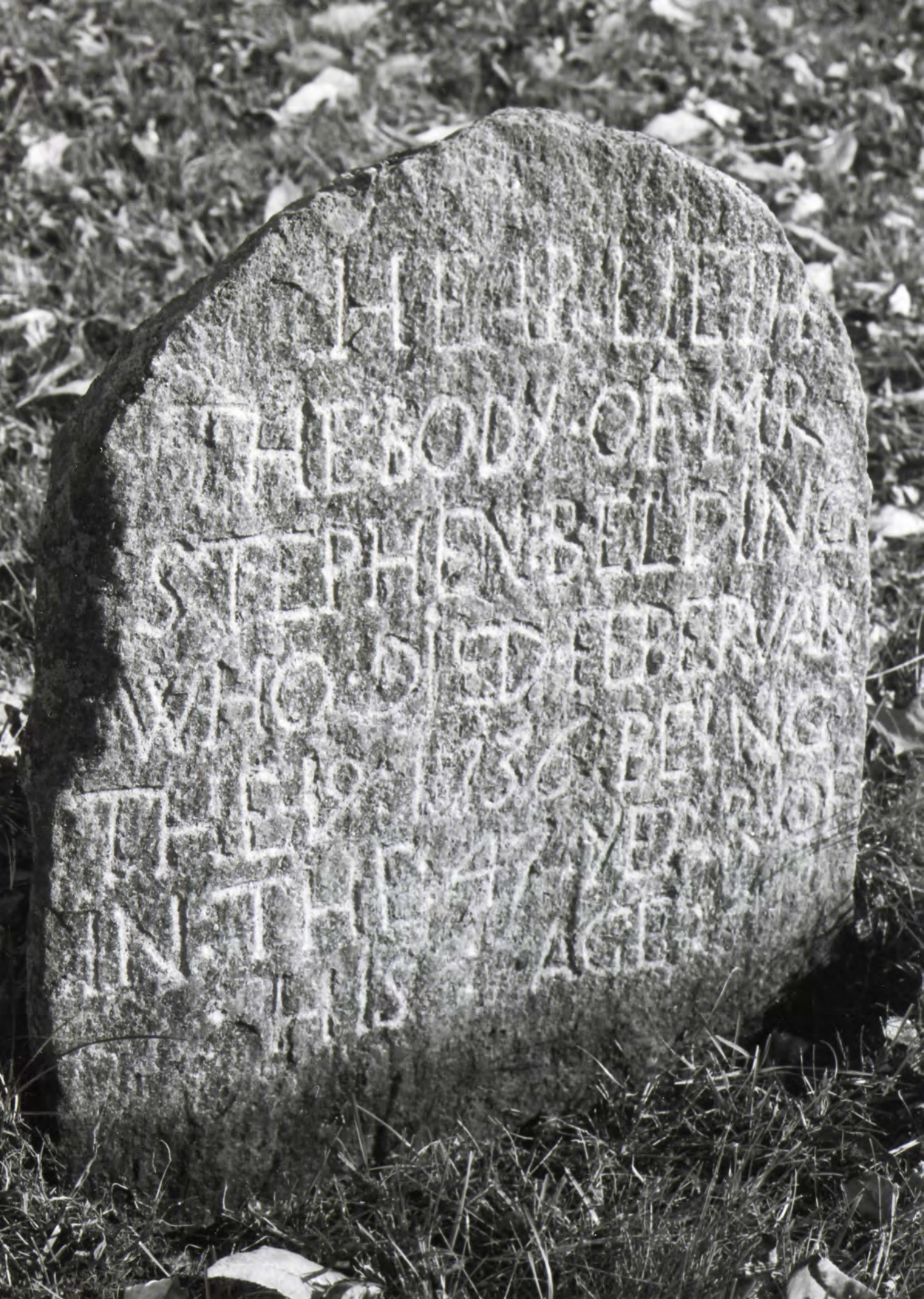
MARIE FERRE photo

9

5968 20011128 Mystic Color Lab

005

61081



HARVEY

THE BODY OF MR

STEPHEN BELDING

WHO DIED FEBRUARY

19-1873 BEING

THE 47 YEARS

IN THIS AGE

THIS

NORTHFIELD CTR. CEMETERY

STEPHEN BELDING stone

MARIE FERRE photo

photo #10

5474 20011101 Mystic Color Lab

46393

003

Dec:
EBENEZER JAMES
died
22 Jun. 1808, A.
72.



In Memory of Sarah James Wife
to Ebenezer James Who Died in
Child bed, March 7th day 1780
Aged 28 years and 9 months
and 29 days.

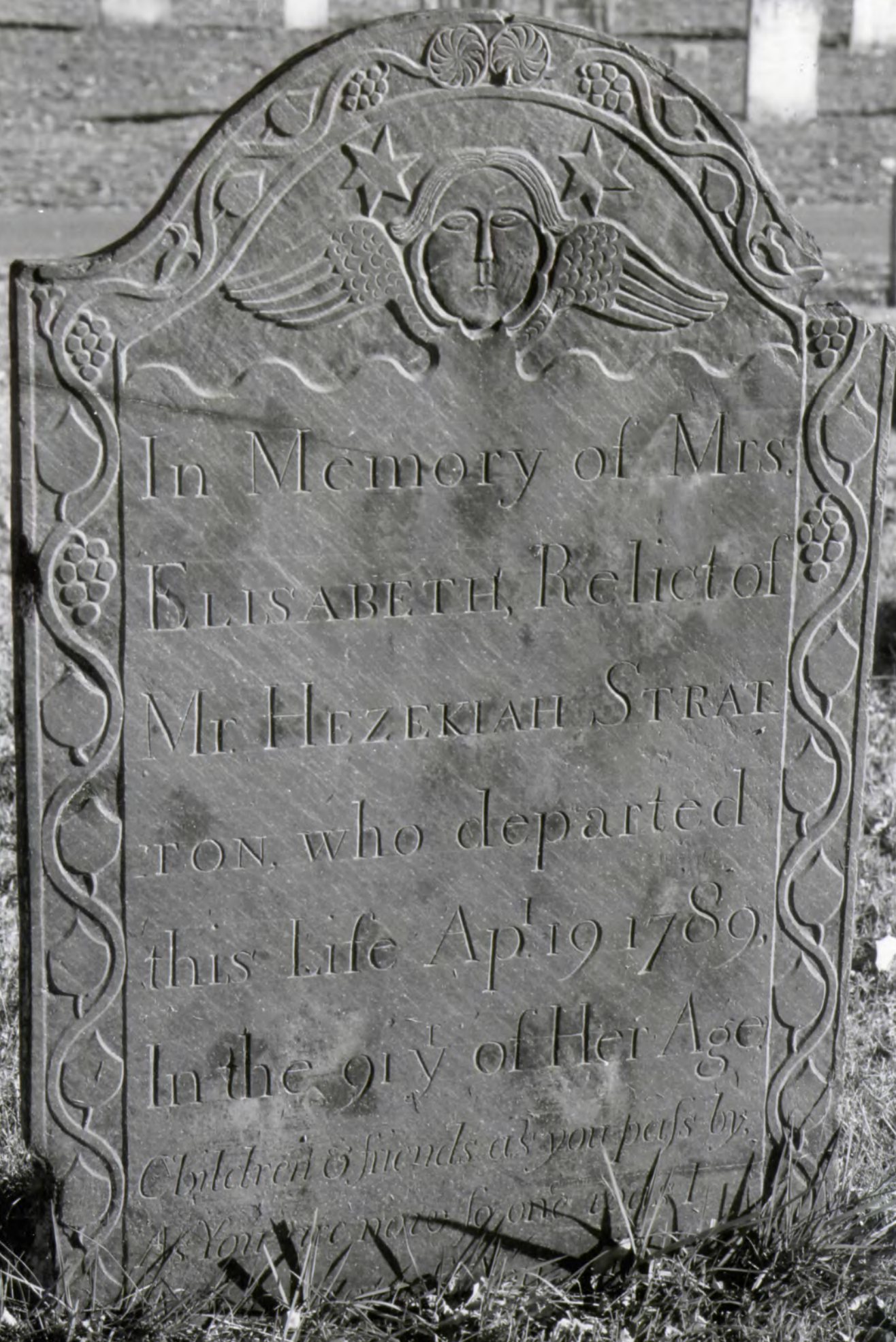
This is nature's melancholy Vault —
When Christ to Judgment shall Descend
His Voice my Grave shall open
But till that day Waile

NORTHFIELD CTR. CEMETERY

EBENEZER + SARAH JANE STONES

MADE FERRE photo

photo #11

An ornate, dark-colored gravestone with a curved top. The top features a central carved face with a serene expression, flanked by two five-pointed stars. The face is surrounded by decorative scrollwork and clusters of grapes. The main body of the stone is inscribed with text in a serif font. The sides of the stone are decorated with a repeating pattern of grapes and leaves. The stone is set in a grassy field with other gravestones visible in the background.

In Memory of Mrs.
ELISABETH, Relict of
MR. HEZEKIAH STRAT-
TON, who departed
this Life Ap^l 19 1789.
In the 91^y of Her Age.

*Children & friends as you pass by,
As You are near so one will tell*

NORTHFIELD CTR CEMETERY

ELISABETH STRATTON stone
by EBENEZER JAMES
MARIE FERRE photo
#12

5968 20011128 Mystic Color Lab

004

61080



13 Northfield Center Cemetery

View looking SW

Shows southern half of center section

Photo by Jean Kozłowski



CYNTHIA
wife of
Aaron G. Lyman
died
Dec 2 1879
A. 28

GEORGE B. Son of
Aaron G. &
Cynthia Lyman
died 3
Sept 1882, A. 11

SETH J. Son of
Aaron G. &
Cynthia Lyman
died 11
Sept 1882, A. 13

Edward W. Son of
Aaron G. &
Cynthia Lyman
died 12
Sept 1882, A. 2

Cynthia dau of
Aaron G. &
Cynthia Lyman
died 27
July 1880, A. 14

14 Northfield Center Cemetery

View looking east - a center part of east section
Shows line of Lyman family slates
all carved by Samuel Chapin from 1822 to 1841

Photo by Marie Ferre'





Mr.
HEZEKIAH STRATTON
Died
Oct. 21 1846

HANNAH.
wife of
Hezekiah Stratton
died
Jan. 5, 1846.
A.E. St.

DIED
JULY 21 1846

HEZEKIAH
DIED
JULY 21 1846

HEZEKIAH
DIED
JULY 21 1846

#15 Northfield Center Cemetery

Looking east from Stratton lot (#418)
through center section

Stratton marbles probably from Samuel Chapin shop

Hezekiah is 3rd generation from settler of 1715

Hannah is 5th generation from Samuel Wright whose
bones determined location of cemetery in 1686

Photo by Marie Ferré



16 Northfield Center Cemetery

Parents of Dwight L. Moody
in "Moody Cemetery" section

Photo by Marie Ferré



In memory of Rev. Mr Benjamin
Doolittle First Pastor of the Church
of Christ in Northfield Who Died
Jan'y 9th 1748 in the 54th
Year of his Age & 30th Year of
his Ministry.

Blessed with good intellectual parts
Well skilled in two important arts
Nobly he filled the double station
Both of a preacher & physician
To cure men's sicknesses & sins
He took unwearied care & pains
And strove to make his patient whole
Throughout in body & soul
He lov'd his God lov'd to do good
To all his friends vast Kindness shov'd
Nor could his enemies exclaim
And say he was not kind to them
His labors met a sudden close
Now he enjoys a sweet repose
And when the just to life shall rise
Among the first he'll mount the skies.

JANES

MAR 5 1856
LORING 1856

NORTHFIELD GTR. CEMETERY

Replacement stone Rev.

BENJAMIN DOOLITTLE, 1995

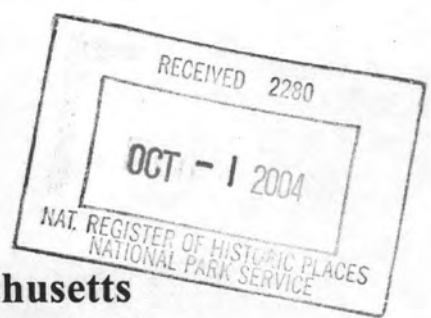
MARIE FERNE photo

#17



DETAIL of rubbing of Benj. Doolittle's
original stone (1748); at First Parish
Church. Possibly by either Beza or
Coomer Soule, ca. 1767

photo #18



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

September 28, 2004

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Northfield Center Cemetery, Northfield (Franklin), 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.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Marie B. Ferre, Northfield Historical Commission
Chad Glover, Board of Selectmen
David Balk, Planning Board
Jean Kozlowski