

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1254

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 an 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 Kent Burying Ground  
other names/site number Kent Cemetery

2. Location

street & number Northeast corner of Fayette Corner Road and Oak Hill Road N/A not for publication  
city or town Fayette N/A vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Kennebec code 011 zip code 04349

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  
 nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 11/18/08  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 12.31.08  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Carlson M. Beall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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
- object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY / Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY / Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other Earth

STONE / Granite

STONE / Marble

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

KENT BURYPING GROUND

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

---

### DESCRIPTION

The Kent Burying Ground is a modest sized, neighborhood oriented circular cemetery located at Fayette Corners, in the Kennebec County, town of Fayette. Laid out after 1880, the cemetery is located in a rural town and is nestled in the northeast corner formed by the intersections of Fayette Corners Road and the Oak Hill Road. Although this section of town once contained numerous farms, schools and civic buildings, it is currently a crossroads featuring widely dispersed farms and residential structures. The Fayette Corner Baptist Church, which has its own burial yard, is approximately three-quarters of a mile away, and an overgrown frame, one-room schoolhouse is located about half a mile to the west. The intersection of the two roads is irregular (Fayette Corners Road makes a right angle bend, from southwest to northwest at the intersection with Oak Hill Road) and the entry way to the cemetery fronts on Fayette Corners Road and faces northwest. For ease of description in this nomination, the cemetery will be described as if the entryway is located on the west side of the site.

Although the burial plots are placed in a circular pattern, the edges of the site are rectilinear. The sides of the site measure approximately 122 feet from north to south and 123 and a half feet along the east and west edges. The cemetery is formed by raised earthen berms, retained by stacked, cut granite retaining walls that reach a height of between three and four feet above grade. The edges of this stone wall are visible along the north and east boundaries of the site; on the west and south the stones are covered with earth long seeded to grass. (The edges of the grass covered granite slabs are visible at the northwest and southeast corners.) A cast iron scalloped-picket fence, with decorative cast corner posts is set at grade less than two feet away from the west and south edges of the berm, and it intersects the retaining walls on the north and east edges. Midway along the west length of fence is the cemetery's principal entrance, marked by a pair of swinging cast iron gates and topped with an arched, cast iron banner reading "Kent Cemetery". Mature maple trees line the north and south edges of the cemetery (on the south edge the trees are located on the berm, while on the north edge only the northwestern most tree is on the berm - the others grow adjacent to, but beyond the retaining wall). Additional canopy is provided by a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees that grow in the wood lot that borders the north and east edges of the property.

The cemetery contains three sets of raised berms, separated by slightly lower-grade circular paths or promenades. Leading east from the gate is the cemetery's only axial path: it rises slightly over a granite step and ascends the outermost berm, and then levels out as it leads towards the granite monument that occupies the center of the site. The outermost berm extends to fill the squared-off corners of the cemetery and is the most prominent in its elevation. On this berm the headstones, foot stones, and family stones are positioned towards the corners of the cemetery. The middle berm contains a double set of burial plots, with stones that face both towards the outer promenade and towards the inner promenade. The center-most berm includes burial plots oriented with the stones facing the second promenade, and the Kent Family monument at the center. This marker, which simply states "Kent," serves as the pivot-point for the site rather than as a burial stone. The marker has a granite plinth topped with two stepped granite pedestals and polished granite shaft topped with a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

KENT BURYING GROUND

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

---

cap ornamented with floral patterns etched on a prominent frieze and surmounted by a pyramid shaped finial. There is no discernable circular path between the innermost ring of burial plots and the base of the monument, although an undated cemetery plan indicates that such a path existed in concept, if not in execution. (See page 7/5).

The overall circular plan of the cemetery is formed by the earthen berms, the circular paths and the position of the memorial stones. This layout is most firmly established along the set of plots surrounding the Kent monument. On the innermost edges of the inner circle, and to either side of the axial path as it passes through this ring, the path is edged with long, low slabs of polished granite marked with square granite corner stones at the intersection of the paths. Approaching from the gate these granite slabs lead directly towards the central Kent monument; radiating from this path these slabs circle to the northeast and southeast approximately three quarters of the way around the diameter of the inner ring. Upon these slabs are placed the earliest, in situ, family and personal tombstones, most of which are marble upright slabs with cambered top edges. Each stone faces outward, toward the path: the remains are arranged behind the stones, towards the center of the site. (Plot numbers four and five retain the orientation of the overall scheme although the tombstones are not situated upon circular granite bases.) Additional instances where the tombstones are located on arching granite bases are located on either side of the outermost promenade, to the immediate north and south of the axial path from the gate.

The middle earthen berm contains two rows of burial plots. In general, individual memorial stones are placed either facing towards the interior on the outer edges of the inner promenade, or facing towards the exterior on the inner edge of the outer promenade. The middle berm was designed to support two sets of burial plots (inner and outer), but in several cases both sets of plots are occupied by a single family. Many of the family memorials in this section of the cemetery face inward and are positioned on an approximate center line between the inner and out plots, however, two of the family memorials (Gile, # 14 and Bushie, #18) are situated near the center of the inner plots, and face inwards.

The division of family burial plots is superimposed upon the circular plan that defines the circulation patterns and memorial stone orientation. Boundary lines radiate from the center of the cemetery and divide the plots into trapezoidal sections (except for on the outermost, corner plots). The innermost berm is divided into seven roughly equal plots, and the middle berm contains two rows of plots (inner and outer) divided into 15 roughly equal plots. Four corner plots complete the plan and fill out the forty one originally numbered divisions. Many of the family plots are marked at their corners by small granite stones inscribed with the first letter of the corresponding family name.

The dates of death recorded on the family memorials and tomb stones range from 1833 through 2006. As an open cemetery that continues to accept internments, the stones themselves range from hand scribed white marble headstones to laser cut polished marble markers. In general, the stones arranged on the innermost circle on the granite bases are fairly simple cambered marble headstones each signifying an individual burial. This pattern is repeated in the northwest corner of the site (C.H.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**KENT BURYING GROUND**

**KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE**

**Section number   7   Page   4**

---

Tobin, plot 23), and along the outer and inner edges of the outermost perimeter path in the southwest corner of the cemetery (Alden/Morrison/Tobin, plot 26 and M. H. Hubbard, plot 40). Throughout the remainder of the cemetery the memorials include a mixture of individual headstones, family memorials and foot stones. With the exception of five memorials (plots number, 10, 14, 19, 21 and 29, each of which have stones engraved on two sides) all of the headstones, family stones, and foot stones are oriented to face towards the nearest perimeter path.

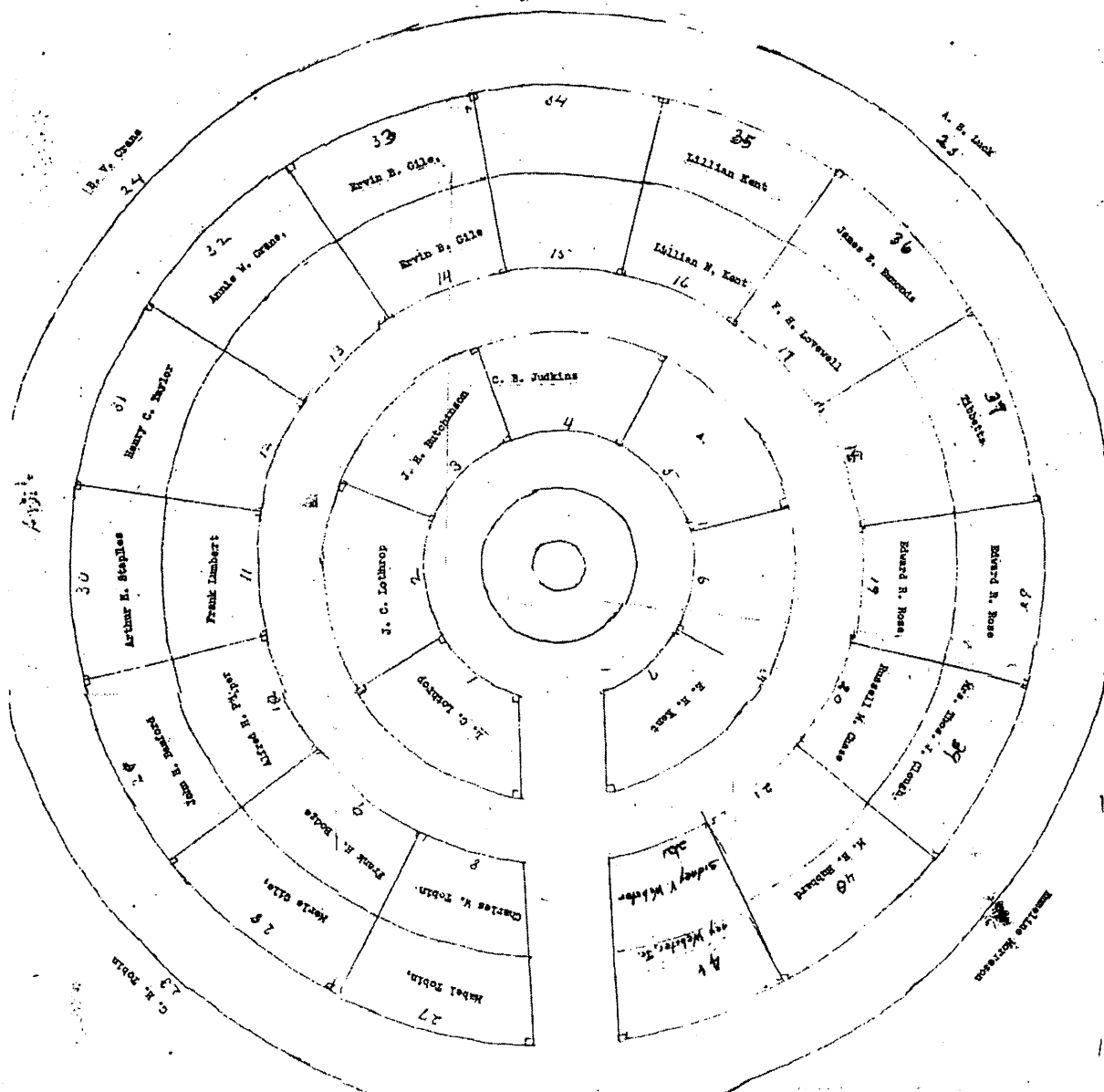
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

KENT BURYING GROUND

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 5



"Map of the 'Kent Burying Ground.' 1919. Original on file at the Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Augusta, Maine.

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1880 - 1892

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or a grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Dates

1880 - 1892

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Kent, Elias H.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

KENT BURYING GROUND

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

---

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Developed shortly after 1880 by Elias H. Kent, a successful local farmer, the Kent Burying Ground is among the most unusual rural burying grounds in the State of Maine. The site is located in the Kennebec County town of Fayette, in a small settlement known as Fayette Corners. Occupying just .35 of an acre, the raised burial ground is notable for its design in which concentric rings of burial plots are organized around a central monument. This unusual configuration is accompanied by an intact boundary fence, gate, mature maple trees along its border, raised earthen berms, and granite retaining walls. Because of its notable landscape design characteristics, the cemetery is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C and criteria consideration D.

The Kent Burying Ground, or Kent Cemetery as it is called currently, was originally located on property owned by Elias H. and Amanda Kent, and the development of the cemetery is attributed to them. Elias H. Kent was born in 1826, the second of the five sons of Barker and Eliza Kent. Barker Kent, a farmer, was the son of Charles Kent, an early settler of Readfield, and the namesake of Kents Hill, (both the village in Readfield and the school of that name in the same town). Whether Elias H. Kent was a full time resident of Fayette after he finished with his education is not known; the profile of Kent in the History of Kennebec County is at odds with census information and recorded land deeds. According to Kingsbury and Deyo, authors of The History of Kennebec County, Kent “gave his attention to agriculture until 1849, when he went to Rocky Point, in the town of Warwick, Rhode Island, where he had charge of a popular summer resort until 1881. In 1880 he was chosen to represent his district in the Rhode Island state legislature.” (Page 968.) However, Elias was listed in the 1850 United States Decennial Census, working as a farmer in his father's household. Ten years later he was enumerated in Fayette as a farmer living on the South Road homestead that he purchased in 1857, a year after marrying his wife, Amanda Judkins. Although neither Elias or Amanda can be located in the 1870 Decennial Population Census, additional deeds recorded at the Kennebec County Registry of Deeds indicate that both Kents were purchasing land and farms in Fayette, and occasionally in nearby Wayne, through the 1860s and 1870s, and each deed references them as “of Fayette.” However, when Kent purchased 200 acres at the Corner from Stillman H. J. Berry in 1879 the deed stated that Kent was “of Warwick in the County of Kent in the State of Rhode Island,” and the 1880 census also places the Kents in Warwick, where Elias was identified as a ‘hotel keeper.’<sup>1</sup>

Shortly after 1880 the family returned to Maine, and they built their primary residence on the property

---

<sup>1</sup>A 1868 photograph of the Rocky Point Hotel from the Robert W. Martin Collection and posted on the Town of Warwick website at <http://www.warwickri.gov/heritage/historygraphics/rockypoint1868.jpg> depicts a 17 bay long, 3 ½ story wooden structure with a full length porch and annex. Rocky Point was a coastal site that started offering entertainment and dinners in the 1840s and eventually developed into a full scale amusement destination with boardwalk and rides. It closed in 1995.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetKENT BURYING GROUNDKENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINESection number 8 Page 3

at the Corner that Kent purchased in 1879. The authors of the History of Kennebec County, published in 1892, were so impressed with the new residence, a 2 ½ story Italianate frame house with large attached carriage house and a separate enclosed barn yard consisting of a New England barn with two attached dependancies, that they included an illustration of the complex. Of the property they wrote: "in 1880 he bought the Colonel Lewis Chase farm at Fayette Corner, and in that and the following year he erected the substantial farm buildings shown in the accompanying illustration. On returning to his native town he resumed the vocation of his early manhood and is now classed with the most thorough and successful farmers of this picturesque locality." (Page. 968).<sup>2</sup> While today Fayette Corners contains only a handful of homes, one church, and an old schoolhouse, well into the nineteenth century Fayette Corners functioned as the civic and commercial center for the town. "In early days and for many years the Corner was the business center - the "hub" of all the town. At one time there were three meeting houses - Baptist, Free Baptist and Methodist - three taverns and five stores in the place...The main thoroughfare leading through this place was thronged with teams of horses and oxen, drawing clapboards and shingles from town in Franklin and Oxford counties to Hallowell and bringing back merchandise for the country trade...The only post office in town was maintained here for many years. This, too, brought the townspeople together once a week, on Saturday afternoons, to get their mail and glean the news...[But] when the Underwood road (sic) was built it changed the current of travel through the town, and the glory of Fayette Corner departed." (History of Kennebec County, pages 955-956.) Although diminished in importance by 1880, Fayette Corners still retained two churches, a post office, school and a population denser than most other parts of town.

Elias and Amanda Kent had only one child, a daughter who was born in 1857 and died in 1863, and her original burial site is unknown. If the family was living in Fayette at that time they could have buried her in one of the four established cemeteries (there were two associated with the Baptist Church at the Corner, one in the northern part of town above Tilton Pond on the East Road, and one west of Lovjoy Pond Road near the town line with Wayne), or in any number of small family plots. However, in 1880, while Kent was building his new home, he also purchased a small plot of land from his neighbor, Augustus F. Jones. The parcel was nine rods square (about one half an acre), and located at the corner of the Chase Road and the County Road (now called the Fayette Corner Road and Oak Hill Road, respectively). This parcel, which was undeveloped at the time of the sale, corresponds with the location and size of the present Kent Cemetery.

There is little in the documentary record to shed light on the early history of the graveyard. For instance, it is unknown as to why the concentric pattern was adopted, nor when the first burial plots were sold. It is clear, however, that from early on the Kent Burying Ground was neither associated with any of the churches in town, nor was it a private family cemetery. As Kingsbury and Deyo described the

---

<sup>2</sup>The 1879 Map of Fayette depicts E.H. Kent at his old homestead on South Road, and S. M. Berry on the Fayette Corner Road, in the location that Kent established his new household in 1880/1. There is no Chase family in the immediate vicinity, although several Chases lived north of the Baptist Church, and near where Kent purchased another farm in 1877.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

KENT BURYING GROUND

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

---

cemeteries in Fayette in 1892, they wrote the following: "Mr. E. H. Kent has a neatly graded and finely located ground. In it he has allowed others to bury when preferring to do so." (Page, 958.) The earliest date of death recorded on a stone in the cemetery is 1833; and several others predate 1880, including those for Lillian F. Kent (1863) and Daniel (1862) and Sally (1865) Judkins, Amanda's parents; clearly these bodies were re-interred after the cemetery was established. The earliest deed for a burial plot recorded in the Kennebec County Registry of Deeds dates to 1892 (plot # 39, on the outer ring). However, close scrutiny of the tombstone placement, design, and dates lead to the following general theories: first that a basic design scheme seems to have been followed when the earliest set of graves were installed; and second that this scheme was in place by 1884, if not earlier.

Sixteen gravestones on the innermost ring are set on continuous granite bases which gently curve as they span five of the seven plots (plots numbered 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7). Of these, eight of the stones are nearly identical marble upright slabs with cambered top edges.<sup>3</sup> (Four additional matching stones are also positioned on the inner circle, but not set on granite slab bases.) Three additional plots, numbers 23 and 26 (in the southwest and northwest corners, respectively), and number 40 (on the outside edge of the middle berm, across from # 23), also have their 18 stones positioned upon granite base slabs. Eleven of these stone are marble upright slabs with cambered tops. (Four adjacent stones, in plot 26 are marble upright slabs with gabled tops, and appear to represent slightly earlier markers moved along with re-interred bodies, two of whom died in the 1840s and two in the 1860s.) The use of the granite slab bases not only unifies the individual stones within family plots, but they form the edges of the circulation paths and define visually and strongly the circular nature of the cemetery's layout. The numerous matching tombstones associated with the granite bases also either represent a preferred design aesthetic for the cemetery, or they indicate that only a limited supply of marker styles were available within the local area.

Each of the plots that contain the granite base stones and cambered markers were labeled on the "Map of the "Kent Burying Ground" situated near Fayette Corner in the town of Fayette, formerly owned by Elias H. Kent," which was filed at the Registry of Deeds, March 19, 1919. Of these, a recorded deed exists only for the Hubbard family, plot 40 (1894). Yet both the earliest dates of death in the cemetery (1833), and the earliest dates of death post 1880, when Kent purchased the land, are recorded either on gravestones within one of these burial plots, or on a cambered marker located in the inner ring. This suggests that not only were plots 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 23, 26, and 40 laid out within a relatively consistent design scheme, they were also among the earliest to be established within the new cemetery. Although no deeds have been found for plots 1, 2, 3, or 6 on the inner ring (#7 was the Kent plot), the earliest, date of death occurring after Kent purchased the property is for Minnie Judkins, in lot 4 in 1881. The next year George M. Tobin was interred in plot 23, and in 1884 William Morrison was buried in lot 26 and James Hutchinson was laid to rest in lot 3 - all three of which are marked on cambered stones set on granite

---

<sup>3</sup>Four of the other stones positioned on the inner circle granite bases, all in the Lathrop plots 1 and 2, are of polished, bi-color granite, with arched tops. The Kent family stone, in plot 7, is the only "family" memorial on the inner circle, and it matches the Lathrop stones in color and material.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

KENT BURYING GROUND

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 5

---

bases. (Minnie Judkin's cambered stone is not set on a granite base stone.) These dates suggest that the overall design of the cemetery was planned either when the land was purchased, or very shortly thereafter.

After the death of Elias in 1906 and Amanda Kent in 1910, the cemetery was bequeathed to a family friend from Rhode Island, Ellen J. Tetlow. Between then and her death in 1943 Tetlow continued to manage the cemetery, periodically selling plots.<sup>4</sup> In 1919, when she recorded the Kent Burial Ground plan at the Kennebec County Registry of deeds sixteen of the plots were labeled with family names. The plan is undated, and the first reference to it in the extant cemetery deeds occurred in 1908 when A. S. Tuck purchased lot 25 from Amanda Kent. According to this deed, the plan had been "drawn by Charles Sturtevant formerly of Fayette, Me." (Book 494, p. 239, Kennebec County Registry of Deeds.) It is worth noting, however, that the earliest extant deed, to Mrs. Thomas J. Clough in 1892 was for lot 39, suggesting that the lots had been numbered by this time.<sup>5</sup>

It is unfortunate that no documentary record has been discovered that provides a clue as to how and why Elias H. Kent chose to adopt this design. However, in light of the presence of the Wing Family Cemetery in Wayne, less than five miles south by road, it cannot be considered a mere chance event. The Wing Family Cemetery (NR:91001514) was laid out in 1867 by descendants of the seven Wing brothers who settled in Wayne in the 1780s, and it appears to have been designed by Alonzo Wing, a descendant who was also a surveyor and civil engineer. The Wing Family Cemetery is almost identical to the Kent Burying Ground in plan: three concentric circles of graves separated by circular paths surround a central monument, with corner plots filling out the overall square cemetery parcel. The numbering system used for plots at both sites is similar, as is the overall size of the cemeteries.<sup>6</sup> As the Wing Family Cemetery is the only other known circular graveyard in the state, it is highly likely that the design of the Kent Burying Ground was based on this example, if not also laid out by Alonzo Wing.

Contextual evidence indicates that the scheme of both burying grounds are clearly based upon contemporary trends in cemetery design as had been carried out in major urban settings. In Maine, Bangor's Mount Hope Cemetery (1834-34, NR: 74000127) - the state's first "rural" or "garden cemetery" - employed a number of circular burying areas in the naturalistic design. Likewise, when Portland's Evergreen Cemetery (NR: 92000791) was planned in 1852 it also incorporated a circular feature. The

---

<sup>4</sup>Deeds for five plots, sold by Tetlow between 1918 and 1934 are recorded in Kennebec County. Only one of these five are represented by a family name on the Kent Burying Ground plan; the rest post date 1919. The Cemetery is now owned by the Town of Fayette, and although all the family plots are sold, it continues to be accept new burials, the most recent having occurred in 2006.

<sup>5</sup>Clough's plot contains only one small marker, that of a Civil War Veteran by the name of Fitch, with neither date of birth or death recorded.

<sup>6</sup>The Wing Cemetery is 104 feet square, versus 122/123 feet along each side of the example in Fayette. The corner lots at the Wing Cemetery are less deep than those in the Kent Burying Ground.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

KENT BURYING GROUND

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 6

---

design of both Mount Hope Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery, as well as the precepts on which they were founded, are closely associated with the concepts which characterize the nineteenth century 'Rural Cemetery' (also known as a 'Garden Cemetery'). David Charles Sloan, writing in his history of American cemeteries entitled The Last Great Necessity, states that the elements of a Rural Cemetery were "the family monument, planned landscape, picturesque vistas, rolling roadways, and location outside the city" (p. 66). The elevation of graves, use of granite curbing and steps, and installation of fencing are additional characteristics of the Rural Cemetery. Above and beyond the design characteristics, these planned burial yards often had a social as opposed to a religious emphasis. Rather than providing the burial grounds for a particular religious denomination, such cemeteries were open to all who could and wished to purchase lots. A further illustration of this point is the large number of re-internments made at in these cemeteries from older existing burial grounds.

In its own small way the Kent Burying Ground embodies the general principles of the otherwise urban phenomenon of the "rural cemetery". The Kent Burying Ground was not associated with a church, nor was it designed to serve only one family. (The vast majority of the names inscribed on the stones are families who lived within a three mile radius as depicted on the 1879 map of Fayette.) Numerous earlier graves were relocated to the site. And while the horticultural elements of the Kent Cemetery appear to have been limited to a border of maple trees, the carefully constructed berms, retaining walls, and circulation paths, as well as the use of granite base slabs, repetitive tombstone design and central monument, represent a concentrated effort at re-designing the pre-existing landscape and creating a picturesque, if focused, effect. It is ironic, however, that the term 'rural cemetery' is generally applied to burying yards located outside of urban centers that are manipulated to appear 'naturalistic,' while the Kent Cemetery, located in a rural area adopted some of the same concepts to impose a sense of design order on an already natural environment.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

KENT BURYING GROUND

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

---

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ault, Eloise R. "Wayne's "Wing Ring": Unraveling a Historic Puzzle" in Eloise R. Ault and Edward L. Kallop, Jr. A Happy Abundance: Tales, Memories and More, Past and Present in Wayne, Maine. (Wayne, Maine: Wayne Historical Society), 2008. Pages 82-96.

Deeds, various years. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Kennebec County Courthouse Annex, Augusta, Maine.

Fayette Cemeteries. Maine D.A.R., Georgiana Lilly, State Chairman Genealogical R cords. (Hallowell, Maine). 1935.

Kingsbury, Henry D. and Simeon L. Deyo, editors. Illustrated History of Kennebec County Maine. (New York: H.W. Blake and Company), 1892.

"Llewellyn Wing Collection." Town of Wayne Historical Collection, Cary Memorial Library, Wayne, Maine.

Chase, J. Jr., "Map of Kennebec Co. Maine, from actual surveys by Baker & Co." (Philadelphia and Augusta: J. Chase Jr.), 1856. An original copy of this wall map is in possession of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.

Mohney, Kirk F. "Wing Family Cemetery." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, July 1991.

Sloan, David Charles. The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History. (Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press), 1991.

The Old Maps of Kennebec County, Maine in 1879. (Fryeburg, Maine: Saco Valley Printing), 1986.

Underwood, Joseph H. History of Fayette. Edited and completed by Russell C. Tuck. (Augusta, Maine: C.E. Nash Printers), 1956.

Bibliographic Note: Copies of *The Owl*, the genealogical publication of the Wing Family, were consulted by author Eloise R. Ault at the Farmington Public Library, Farmington, Maine. Bibliographic citations for the Owl were not provided in the Ault paper.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately .35 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>19</u>	<u>414655</u>	<u>4918868</u>	3	<u>19</u>		
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>19</u>			4	<u>19</u>		

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 CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 21 July 2008

street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town AUGUSTA state ME zip code 04333 -0065

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 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 demarcate

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

KENT BURYING GROUND

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

---

### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundaries of this property are defined by the Fayette Corner Road on the northwest, the Oak Hill Road on the southwest, and the property owned by Leda Sturtevant and demarcated on the Town of Fayette tax map R-4 as lot 33.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot historically associated with cemetery as deeded to Elias H. Kent by Augustus F. Jones in 1880 and recorded in the Kennebec County Registry Deeds in book 326 on page 507.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

KENT BURYING GROUND

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

---

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

ME\_KENNEBEC COUNTY\_KENT BURYING GROUND\_001.TIF

Photograph 1 of 4

Andrew D. Sell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

13 July 2008

West edge of cemetery, along Fayette Corners Road; facing east.

ME\_KENNEBEC COUNTY\_KENT BURYING GROUND\_002.TIF

Photograph 2 of 4

Andrew D. Sell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

13 July 2008

Entrance gate and main aisle; facing east.

ME\_KENNEBEC COUNTY\_KENT BURYING GROUND\_003.TIF

Photograph 3 of 4

Andrew D. Sell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

13 July 2008

Inner ring and monument; facing south.

ME\_KENNEBEC COUNTY\_KENT BURYING GROUND\_004.TIF

Photograph 4 of 4

Andrew D. Sell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

13 July 2008

Inner ring; facing north northwest.