

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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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 AMHERST WEST CEMETERY

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

2. Location

street & number TRIANGLE STREET not for publication

city or town AMHERST vicinity \_\_\_\_\_

state MASSACHUSETTS code MA county HAMPSHIRE code 015 zip code 01002

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.)

Judith B. McDonough  
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

4/18/2000  
Date

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson A. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

5/26/00  
Date of Action

Amherst West Cemetery  
Name of Property

Hampshire, MA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		building
1		sites
5	1	structures
19	1	objects
26	2	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**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: Cemetery

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: Cemetery

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

n/a

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other granite slate limestone marble

zinc iron sandstone

**Narrative Description**

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

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Continuation SheetAmherst West Cemetery  
Amherst (Hampshire Co.), Mass.Section number 7 Page 1**7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION****Introduction**

Amherst's West Cemetery was founded in 1730 when voters at the Hadley town meeting decided in favor of establishing an additional burial ground in its east precinct. It was about an acre at that time and now comprised 4 acres of undulating terrain. Topography rises to its highest point approximately in the center, ten feet above the lower points at the burial ground's periphery. The earliest surviving stone in the cemetery is dated 1737, although there are likely to be earlier unmarked burials. The Town of Amherst was founded in 1786 and assumed proprietorship at that time.

Its most well-known resident is the poet Emily Dickinson (1830-1886), buried with her family near the center of the cemetery in a plot marked off from its surroundings by one of the cemetery's two cast iron fences. Other significant burials are members of families named Boltwood, Seelye, Cowles, Cutler and Kellogg, among others. These names are recognizable to Amherst residents as belonging to early settlers, prominent politicians, and influential businessmen. It is their grave markers that cement the relationship between the town's academic, economic and social structures and the cultural resource that is West Cemetery.

Markers carved from slate during the Colonial Period are located mainly in the southwestern part and number in the hundreds. Many are well preserved and demonstrate artistic conventions and motifs frequently used by period carvers, such as Puritanical language, death's heads and portal designs. Over two dozen carvers, some with as many as seven markers to their credit, have been identified by their inscriptions on various stones.

Gravestones from the Victorian period are commonly carved from limestone and brownstone with more ornate designs than earlier examples, higher levels of carved detail and distinctive forms such as the obelisk and the chest marker. Prominent citizens began at this time to be buried under significantly larger stones, which indicated their social, professional or educational status. Stones from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century are cut mainly from granite in a variety of styles, ranging from Classical obelisks to plain tablet markers to stylish Art Deco chest markers. The southeastern portion of the cemetery is the site of many African American burials dating from the same period. Most stones here are quite simple and lack the ostentation or even brief religious verse common on markers found elsewhere in the cemetery.

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Between 1833 and 1854 the cemetery, then called the "Centre Burying Ground," was upgraded with new circulation paths, a town tomb and perimeter fencing in emulation of the rural cemetery movement begun at Cambridge's Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

### Landscape

The earliest appearance of the landscape of West Cemetery was that of a field occupied by a small number of grave markers carved out of Connecticut Valley limestone. Little attempt was made in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to improve or landscape the burial ground. The town acquired additional space at the northeast edge of the parcel in 1833, establishing the current northeast-southwest oriented footprint. A fence was erected at this time and narrow alleys oriented from east to west were laid out in the newer portion of the cemetery. Additional circulation paths were built in 1854 in the current figure-eight form. The east-west alleys were later ignored and used as burial-plot space, leaving only occasional physical evidence. The figure-eight path vaguely follows the outline of the cemetery boundaries and remains in use today. It provides views upward to the central high point, around eight feet above the path.

The principal entrance to the cemetery is the Burnham Memorial Gateway, built in 1954 of cut granite on Triangle Street. The Gateway consists of two square piers, built of random-laid ashlar (square stone blocks), surmounted by molded cornices and low pyramidal capstones. The westerly pier gives way to a second pier and a short section of wall that marks the northwest corner of the cemetery. The easterly pier is joined by long section of wall with built in flowerbed, perhaps 70 yards long, laid in random ashlar pattern to a height of three feet that separates the cemetery's northern boundary from Triangle Street. Long sections of coping protect the top of the masonry structure.

Entrance from the west is through the Gaylord Gates which were built as the principal entry in 1907. These are two piers of rusticated, quarry-faced granite block with pyramidal capstones. The piers are joined by a length of chain and flank a two to four foot high stone retaining wall running along the western boundary. The Gaylord Gates became a secondary point of entry when the existing commercial building on Pleasant Street nearly blocked access to them and when the Burnham Gateway on Triangle Street was constructed.

The western boundary of the cemetery between the Gaylord and Burnham Gates is lined with a tall evergreen hedge, mostly blocking views of the immediately adjacent building. The eastern side of the cemetery is lined with a combination of chain link fencing and hedges. A low fence marks the southern edge adjacent to an apartment building.

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Plots within the cemetery are defined in a variety of ways. Lacking a circulation system that provides borders or a sense of frontage to all plots, distinction between plots, where it exists, must be achieved by those responsible for erecting markers. The Bentley and Watson families used ornamental granite curbstones to delineate the edges of their plots. Long, molded curbing laid a few inches above grade is emphasized at the corners and at the steps into the plot by low octahedral or round stones capped with finials, providing a border but not cutting off the markers from the landscape. Plot demarcation is made clear on the William A. Stearns plot in a similar way. The tall granite obelisk occupies the center of that plot and is surrounded by a constellation of individual markers belonging to family members. Six tablet markers on both the east and west edges act as an easily permeable boundary while establishing the extent of the family's domain. A more protective method of marking edges exists at the Dickinson and Cutler plots. Here, cast iron fences make a strong and clear statement concerning where the limits of the plot are located. The fences were intended to promote a sense of exclusivity and family unity. Many more fences existed at one time but were removed due to deterioration. The great majority of plots, however, contain a handful or less of small stones and are not delineated in any way.

The only mausoleum in West Cemetery is built of granite with a cast iron door and bears the inscription, "Town Tomb 1851" in the crest. Mounded earth covers the chamber which is faced with granite, divided by two integrated square piers into three bays. At the sides, wing walls step inward as they rise to meet the piers. Two stone slabs and the cast iron door form the central bay and provide support for the central crest, an ornamental capstone made of a single large block. The piers are capped with pyramidal coping stones that flank the crest and lend the structure an appearance of austere sturdiness.

**Markers**

Gravestones and markers in West Cemetery appear in a variety of forms, reflective of Colonial, Victorian, military and African American tastes. The earliest types of stone are Connecticut Valley Limestone and slate which were used from the late 18<sup>th</sup> through the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Markers from this period are most commonly cut in a rectangular form with an arched top, representative of the figurative portal between life and death. The shape is also considered an abstraction of the human head and shoulders. This form of marking the passage from life is a Puritan concept brought from Boston and elsewhere during the region's first settlement. Markers with arched tops were ornamented with death's heads and cherubs on some West Cemetery examples

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such as the Reuben Ingram stone from 1791. Here, a simplified child-angel's head is surrounded by a sunburst pattern. Abstracted vegetation occupies the edge of the arched top which is flanked by smaller arches, or shoulders, ornamented with a running diamond pattern. Thankful Dickinson, deceased at the age of 61 in 1787, is remembered by a shouldered arched stone showing a death's head in its peak. The shoulders of this stone are articulated with abstract vegetation.

The most common carving on stones after the Colonial Period is the urn and willow motif. This appears on arched stones and square markers cut from slate, brownstone and marble dating from c. 1800 to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The symbolism of the-urn is based on its representation of sorrow and grief. An early well-preserved example of the urn motif exists on the 1816 slate marker belonging to Miss Nancy Ingram (1793-1816). The form of the stone is that of a shouldered arch or portal, the peak of which is filled with a sunburst surrounding an urn with Classical swag ornaments. The inscription is rendered in a very clearly carved script. As is typical of the period, vital statistics of the deceased are given above a short verse. It reads, complete with idiosyncratic punctuation: "Miss/Nancy Ingram,/Daughter of Lieut John u/Susanna/Ingram, died 23/Sept,,/crownd m day,/Thus! My soul was snatched away." Punctuation after the item Sept appears below the final letter R. This is a convention observed from the first years of settlement of New England and survives here in a later example. This stone has been stabilized with a concrete footing.

Several slate examples of the urn and willow design exist. The 1806 stone marking the grave of Nathaniel Dickinson has an arched top filled in by a weeping willow bent over an urn with Classical ornament. Carving on this stone is shallow, almost faint and lends a sense of delicacy to the inscription. Sides of the stone display Classical columns with plinth blocks and Ionic capitals, architectural elements being a common design motif on gravestones of this period. Other urn and willow carvings exist on slate and sandstone markers.

The second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the growth in popularity of the obelisk as a form of grave marker. An obelisk is a four-sided tapering shaft with a pyramidal point inspired by Classical imagery, dozens of which exist, some with variations, throughout the century. Perhaps the largest is the 1870 marker of Oliver Watson (1806-1870), rendered in pink granite and surrounded by a low granite curbing with short ornamental piers. This obelisk adheres strictly to the four-sided, pyramid-capped definition and is articulated with a beltcourse of Classical molding above the base. Other traditionally interpreted obelisks appear at the plots of the Westcott, William A. Stearns (1805-1876), Edward Hitchcock and Dr. Robert Cutler (1749-1835) families, among others. A more

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liberal interpretation of the obelisk is found at the gravesite of Dr. Timothy Gridley (1789-1852). The shaft of this monument is indeed comprised of four inward sloping sides, but the top is articulated not in a pyramid but with a course of Classical molding supporting a pair of wings, complete with sharply rendered feathers. The wing symbolizes the flight of time and temporal nature of individual human life, a concept deeply familiar to all physicians. A still more liberal interpretation of the obelisk form exists at the Martin K. Kellogg (1779-1856) plot. This has a four-sided base with molded beltcourse supporting an octagonal, tapering shaft articulated with tall, narrow panels on alternate aspects and tassels between. The octagonal shaft is surmounted by an urn hung with drapery in the Classical manner. Approximately 25 other obelisks are present in West Cemetery and lend a great deal of character to the landscape. Their frequency caused them to be represented to the exclusion of all else in the 1886 bird's eye view of the town.

In addition to obelisks and tablet markers, there are chest markers, a zinc monument and a table marker in West Cemetery. The chest marker is a rectangular stone set low to the ground. In West Cemetery, they often have pyramidal tops, are for the most part made of granite with one marble example, and mark graves of several leading families. The oldest is the Dickinson chest markers, a cenotaph (a marker for someone buried elsewhere) commemorating the deaths of Samuel and Lucretia Dickinson (1775-1838, 1775-1840), Emily Dickinson's grandparents. Built of marble with a flared capstone and a swollen top, the marker has recessed side panels bearing inscriptions, and a flared base with the Dickinson name rendered in bold capital letters. Possibly the biggest chest marker is that of Esther Cutler. The pyramidal top has an ovolo molding at the edge with dentils below. The body of the chest is marked on the sides by polished panels bearing the single inscription, "Daughter of Doctor Cutler, 1819-1886" and at the corners by stout, engaged colonnettes, capped with acanthus leaves and volutes. The name of the deceased appears on the base of the chest below the inscription. A more recent example of the chest marker appears at the George and Harriet Burnham (1817-1893, 1818-1896) family gravesite. The Burnham (donor family of the Burnham Gates) stone is simpler than its Victorian counterparts and lack their fine detail. The inscription on the west side consists of just the name "Burnham" in a plain field of polished gray granite. Names and dates of eleven family members are on the east side. Ornament consists of Art Deco style abstract fluted columns at the corners with coiled and scrolled vegetation in the caps.

The Harlow family monument is made of hollow zinc (also called white bronze). This unusual marker is the product of the Monumental Bronze Co. of Bridgeport, Connecticut which operated from the 1870s until after World War I. The five foot tall imitation stone

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is made to resemble quarry-faced granite in the form of a shortened obelisk. The top is ornamented by a rounded finial above a flared molding and hollow shaft. Below the shaft, the base flares in four peaked fascia, the northerly of which bears the family names William - 1804-1897 and Anna - 1848-1908. This is the only known zinc monument in West Cemetery, but they are documented in cemeteries across the nation.

West Cemetery's only example of a table marker covers the grave of Rev. David Parsons (1712-1781). The inscription is carved on the horizontal tablet which is elevated three feet above grade. Five legs, articulated as fluted piers with Classically molded bases and cap, are founded on a brownstone slab to support the table.

**African American graves**

The southeast corner is the location of a high concentration of African American graves. Approximately fifty stones mark graves of Black people. Most are limestone with very simple carvings and little ornament. The most ornate appears to be the tablet marker belonging to Olive and Henry Jackson which is taller than others in the area and is articulated with four narrow stringcourses about its top. Most others bear inscriptions consisting of names and dates. Exceptions are the 1910 Charles Finnemore (1838-1910) stone which relates information about his Civil War service, and the Genalvin Marse (1842-1901) stone was described being "Erected by the Boys of Chi Psi" fraternity in 1901. The stone of John D. Thompson (1824-1864), "member, Co. B, First Mass. Colored Cavalry" is inscribed. "He had joined the Army Above, Farmer From Amherst, died of disease." Many others are illegible due to erosion and weathering. A slant marker, erected in 1961, indicates the location of five unknown Civil War veterans from Amherst, who either lacked markers or whose markers were lost. Four of the five may be Jason Champlin, Jarvis W. Jackson, Sanford Jackson and Henry Thompson, according to local historian James A. Smith.

**Building**

The only building in the cemetery is the small shed in the southwest corner near the Gaylord (west) Gates, built c. 1920. The shed is approximately 6 x 10', clad in novelty board with an asphalt shingle roof and a cinderblock foundation. Access is through the door on the south gable end wall.

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**Archaeological Description**

While no prehistoric sites are recorded in the West Cemetery, it is possible that sites are present. Three prehistoric sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the property also indicate some locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for several types of prehistoric sites. Soils in the cemetery are generally excessively drained, formed in glacial outwash and urban land deposits. These deposits are found in an undulating terrain of level to moderately sloping land surfaces. The cemetery is, however, located well over 1000 feet from the nearest wetlands, an important variable that adversely effects the prehistoric site potential for this area. Given the above information, the size of the cemetery (approximately 4 acres) and the deep impacts associated with the excavation of burials during the cemeteries long period of use since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a low potential exists for the recovery of significant prehistoric resources.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources within and near the boundaries of the West Cemetery. Little, if any, historic use of the property has been identified prior to the first excavation of burials possibly dating to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Further documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may help locate structural evidence from sheds or other outbuildings associated with the cemetery's operation and maintenance during its history. Archaeological evidence from a hearse house might survive in the northeast corner of the cemetery where its location can be documented in an 1886 bird's eye view of the town. Similar evidence from earlier barns, tool sheds and other small structures may also exist. Post molds related to fences and gates can also be present around boundaries for the cemetery and around subdivisions within the cemetery bounds. Stratigraphic evidence from roadways and landscape features no longer visible may also be present. Artifacts and features associated with actual graves should represent the most numerous archaeological resources present in the West Cemetery. Further historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing can help locate unmarked graves, grave markers and document associations between existing gravestones and actual graves. Individual graves, the earliest of which date to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, may include skeletal remains in addition to clothing and other personal items interred with each individual. Funerary objects including coffin remains and artifacts associated with the initial internment(s) and later memorials may also be present with individuals or groups of graves. A grave shaft discernable in the soil stratigraphy should be present with individual and multiple interments. Archaeological testing may also identify head and foot stones that are overgrown and presently not visible on the surface.

**(end)**

Amherst West Cemetery

Name of Property

Hampshire, MA

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons Significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- Previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- Designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ART

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ETHNIC HERITAGE

SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance**

1730-1950

**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:

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Amherst (Hampshire Co.), Mass.Section number 8 Page 1**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE****Introduction**

West Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level. The cemetery justifies listing under criterion A for its association with events that have made a contribution to broad patterns of history. West Cemetery has functioned as a place of burial to Amherst's residents since 1730 and was its principal cemetery until 1885. Members of the town's entire social, economic and ethnic groups are interred her. Early burials are recorded in slate and Connecticut Valley limestone, a locally popular material for gravestones.

Also, the cemetery is significant under criterion C for its embodiment of distinctive characteristics of 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century landscape and grave marker design. Well-preserved Colonial Period slate grave stones, intricately carved Victorian marbles, Art Deco style chest markers and a hollow zinc monument are present. Colonial Period stone combine with a loose interpretation of Rural cemetery grounds dating from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The surviving vestige of the meandering road constructed in the 1850s represents a simplistic version of the gracefully curving circulation paths that mark more formally designed and landscaped cemeteries. Due to the high quality of the monuments and markers and to the strong association of the cemetery with the development of the town, West Cemetery satisfies Nation Register Criterion Consideration D.

Western Massachusetts experienced a slow progression from Puritanism to more modern Congregational and Unitarian religions due to its isolated location within the state. For this reason, it and the surrounding towns retained qualities of pre-Revolution life well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Slate gravestones and death's head motifs recalling 17<sup>th</sup> century coastal New England burials remained in vogue later than in other areas, a trend that is illustrated in West Cemetery. By the Victorian period, mortality signs such as sheaves of wheat, urns and willow trees begin to be carved on limestone and marble slabs to mark peoples' passing with messages rendered in symbols.

While several nationally prominent people were influenced by their Amherst experiences and drew upon them in fashioning notable careers, many more people lived so that only their neighbors recognized the town's beneficial influence and the advantages it conferred. Hundreds of residents with more simple backgrounds and modest achievements are interred in West Cemetery such as the African American mail carrier

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Steven Hasbrook, and Charles Pettyjohn who was a roofing contractor and small businessman.

**Colonial Period – Centre Burying Ground**

West Cemetery was voted into existence by the Hadley town government in 1730 as the burying ground for their East or Third Precinct. A three-person committee was chosen, consisting of the French and Indian and Revolutionary War veteran John Ingram, storekeeper John Nash, Jr. and Samuel Boltwood, to oversee the adoption of the new one-acre and 20 rod burying ground, "joining on Nathaniel Church's West lot." The property at that time was accessed via an alley or narrow piece of land connecting North Pleasant Street and did not occupy land as far east as present-day Triangle Street. Amherst became independent of Hadley in 1786 and acquired proprietorship of the burying ground at that time. It is referred to as the "Centre Burying Ground" of Amherst and remained the principal place of interment until the establishment of the North and South Burying Grounds in 1818. Wildwood Cemetery was established in 1885, a result of the trend in rural cemetery design promoted by the Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge.

Located off North Pleasant Street in the heart of town, the Centre Burying Ground was in view of many of the town's residents on a daily basis. The oldest stone belongs to John Scott, a slave-owning schoolteacher from Palmer who died in 1737. It is a crudely carved piece of Connecticut Valley limestone with asymmetrical lettering and no extraneous inscription such as funeral verse. Its Puritan simplicity is reflective of life in Amherst during the Colonial Period. Interments were performed by pallbearers and without benefit of hearse until 1802, after which the town provided for construction of the funereal vehicle. A hearse house was a common feature of graveyards of this period to house the vehicle. The hearse house (no longer extant) was located at the northeast corner on the 1866 bird's eye view of the town.

Prior to 1832 burials took place in the southwest corner of the current burial ground, and little organization was exerted on the arrangement of the stones, which are closely spaced and not in straight rows. This corner has the highest concentration of early markers and retains the density of stones characteristic of the Colonial Period. Most stones from the period have inscriptions oriented to the west. West-facing inscriptions and east facing burials were the rule so that the deceased could face the sunrise and visitors could read stone without treading on the grave. Simple portal-shaped markers engraved with death's heads are typical in this region of New England where Puritan doctrines were slower to evolve into Unitarian or Congregational beliefs.

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After 1832, records reveal that the town acquired over two additional acres, tripling the size of the 1730 burial ground, and connecting it to Triangle Street. The additional acreage is located north and east of the original ground. Narrow paths and alleys constructed around 1833 for circulation paths are slightly visible as shallow, linear east-west oriented depressions. Many are now occupied by burials and disrupted by later 19<sup>th</sup> century curvilinear circulation paths. While some other small land acquisitions have occurred, the boundaries of the 1833 burial ground resemble quite closely those in use today.

Among the Colonial and Federal Period burials at 67 Revolutionary war veterans, identified by markers placed around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the Mary Matoon Chapter of the DAR, some of which have been stolen. Inscriptions from this time tend to be short, often carved with dates of death, age in years and a brief verse. Elisha Boltwood's stone is typical, reading "Sacred to the memory of Mr. Elisha Boltwood who died August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1804, in the 36<sup>th</sup> year of his age. Amidst of life we are in death/Stop reader & learn to die."

Some stones placed during the Federal and Victorian periods have names of carvers inscribed near their base. S. Daughterty (Dougherty) of Whately carved his name or initials on at least four stones dating to the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Other carvers' names appear in the cemetery but not at that level of frequency. Their names include J. Rillers, N. Haven Ct. on the 1839 stone of Austin Dickinson; H. Woods, Sunderland on the 1841 stone of Mrs. Rebecca Dickinson; T.L. Dorsey, Amherst on the 1854 stone of Sylvanus Church; C. Sabin, Amherst on the 1849 marker of Leonard Hills; N.A. Spencer, Ayer on the 1876 marker of Mrs. Charles Kellogg; O.S. Latham on the 1874 stone of Aaron S. Barton; Clapp (probably Amherst resident Oliver Clapp) on the 1855 stone of Julia Bentley; and Botsford & Phillips, N.H. on Deborah Shepard's 1841 stone. The variety of carver names may be attributable to the fact that the business of gravestone carving was not sufficient by itself to provide a craftsman with his living. Stone researchers such as Edmund V. Gillon Jr. have suggested they worked as skilled tradesmen in related areas such as leather-working, brazing and carpentry. Trades where carving of any sort or specialized work with hand tools was required may have allowed a variety of part time carvers to emerge. The number of carvers documented here would support such a theory as Gillon's. While several regional carvers have been described in works such as Allen Ludwig's Graven Images, and Harriette M. Forbes' Grave Stones of Early New England..., none were shown to have carved stones in West Cemetery and no correlation of names appeared on site. Some stones are inscribed with prices written both in pounds and in dollars. These bear comparison with other recorded costs of stones found in carvers' account books, probate records of the

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deceased and marked directly on stones in other cemeteries. Amounts are recorded from \$3.50 on a 1807 stone of Sabra Pomeroy to \$15 paid S. Daugherty for the 1806 Roswell Paine stone. Prices are typical of those paid to other New England carvers recorded by Ludwig.

**Victorian Period Markers at West Cemetery**

According to scholar David Stannard in his book Puritan Way of Death, funereal simplicity is based upon the stability of society and its resistance to change. Burials with little ceremony were a reflection of people's security in their beliefs in the afterlife. After having been separated from sturdy British culture for some years, that resistance was flagging in Victorian America. New social attitudes and religious perspectives were arising. The uncertainty associated with change generated increased elaborateness of burial ceremony, making way for ornate markers, lengthy inscriptions and an increasingly complex iconography of death. In combination with decreasing social stability, attention paid to Enlightenment-borne principles fostered a move away from the emotional and fear-based icons like the death's head and hourglass images to more secular ones such as sheep, sheaves, urns and willows.

It is during the Victorian Period that wealthy citizens began to arrange for more massive memorials, distinctly more ornate than their less well-off neighbors. Family plots with tall obelisks, flanked by numerous smaller stones for individual members begin to appear. Icons such as wings representing fleeting time, sheep or lambs that depict innocence became common. An increasing variety of marker types as well as icons appear in the now renamed West Cemetery in the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Wings and sheaves of wheat now decorate limestone and marble stones. Slate and the brown Connecticut Valley sandstone used heretofore begin to fall out of use, disapproved because of their lack of durability. Suggestions for gravestone design appear in catalogs as early as 1846 in the form of J. Jay Smith's publication described as "Designs for Monuments and Mural Tablets Adapted to Rural Cemeteries, Church Yards, Churches and Chapels" and by the 1890s, catalogs of prefabricated stone are available, such as Cook and Watkins' #4 design book of granite and marble monuments and memorials. These become more popular by the turn of the century, and include a novel marker type using zinc or "white bronze," one of which exists in West Cemetery. Even Sears, Roebuck & Company sold stone through the mail. Doubtless, the universal nature of 19<sup>th</sup> century grave stone iconography owes something to the dissemination of information in this way.

(continued)

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The first African American burials appear in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. While it is known that Blacks were interred prior to this time, no stone survive to indicate their locations. A stone placed in 1961 marks the location five Black Civil War veterans, possibly Jason Champlin, Jarvis and Samuel Jackson, Henry Thompson and one unidentified interment. At least two of these four soldiers, Champlin and Samuel Jackson, were members of the Massachusetts 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment of volunteers. Others were mustered into the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. The quintet may have been buried under a wooden marker or at an unmarked site which allowed them to become forgotten. The site is speculated to belong to soldiers due to the presence in 1935 of GAR markers in the area (these have since been removed by vandals). Charles Finnemore was another veteran and member of the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment who has been buried with an individual stone. Genalvin Marse, an employee of an Amherst College fraternity was buried in the southern edge of the cemetery under a stone erected by the "Boys of Chi Psi" in 1901. Dozens of other stones of a variety of types in this section describe the segregationist policy of the town's cemetery commission until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, Amherst was not the only segregated cemetery, and in fact it seems to have become racially integrated earlier than some others. Indeed, the Arlington National Cemetery was integrated in 1948, long after Blacks in Amherst had been buried in West Cemetery. Other Civil War veterans are present and other African Americans are dispersed among the cemetery's acreage. African Americans are not the only group buried in concentration. Seven Amherst College students have individual stones with dates from 1824-1884 marking their adjacent resting places.

As the Victorian period progressed maintenance and administrative procedures at West Cemetery evolved. The increasing numbers of burials and changing tastes aroused interest in updating the look and arrangement of the cemetery. Along with the growing reputation of Cambridge's Mt. Auburn Cemetery came the more common use of the word "cemetery" for what used to be called a burying ground or graveyard. Towns and cities reacted to the rural cemetery movement by landscaping, planting and beautifying their graveyards, and Amherst was no exception although it did not formalize the plan of West Cemetery to the degree that some other towns did. It remained rather simple but was upgraded between 1833 and 1854 with new fencing, a town tomb, curvilinear roads and some landscaping according to the general principles at work in Cambridge. A plan of the road built through the cemetery in 1854 depicts a gravel road between nine and sixteen feet in width connecting Triangle Street (built c. 1820) and North Pleasant Street with an intermediate loop bypassing the new Town Tomb. This evolved into the current figure 8 circulation path and superseded the east-west alleys that separated the graves into rows. Some alleys remain visible as shallow depressions in the ground, but many

(continued)

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have become the site of graves. During this period, the town undertook the expense of providing lots for burial to its residents at no cost. The town employed a sexton for around eight dollars yearly.

Another significant development in the appearance of the cemetery occurred in 1860 when the town expanded its area by purchasing land from Salon Hastings for \$95. The town also paid \$105 for "fencing et cetera" installed by J. Ayres. In 1871 the town further improved the function of the cemetery by adding more land as well as gravel to the road built in 1854, constructing fencing, an improved drainage system and making available 156 new lots. Town employees moved the hears house (no longer extant) to the rear of the cemetery, and painted and repaired the existing five-foot high picket and plain board fence. After spending \$1098, perhaps the town felt the need to begin charging residents for the right to be buried in West Cemetery and so began charging around \$10 per plot.

Land around West Cemetery was in use mostly for residential and small industrial purposes. Maps from 1856 indicate three houses on North Pleasant Street, including that of Emily Dickinson's family, were adjacent to the cemetery. Emily Dickinson is noted for her poetic thoughts about death which may be in part attributable to her proximity to the cemetery for 15 of her formative years (1840-1855, 9-24 years of age). It is said that she could see the funerals taking place from her bedroom window. A joiner's shop and a cabinet shop are farther north on Pleasant Street. Between 1902 and 1930, the Amherst Laundry Company and an auto service and sales station were constructed near the cemetery, giving it a semi-industrial and commercial context which it retains today.

Numerous significant Victorian Period markers exist in the cemetery. The most well-known is that of Emily Dickinson (1830-1886). Grass in front of her stone is worn and devotees continually leave behind trinkets of affection. Her stone is arranged next to that of her sister Lavinia and those of her grandparents Samuel and Lucretia, and parents Edward and Emily. All are matching granite slab markers surrounded by a cast iron fence of pointed arch pattern. Samuel Fowler Dickinson, a Dartmouth College alumnus of 1795, taught school at New Salem, Massachusetts for a year and then studied law in Amherst under Judge Simeon Strong. He also began preparations for the ministry and alternately pursued both careers for the rest of his life. His success in the practice of law allowed him to build the town's first brick dwelling in 1813, the Homestead, which would be Emily's home for most of her life. Samuel Fowler Dickinson took a leading role in founding Amherst College, raising money, volunteering legal and

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Amherst (Hampshire Co.), Mass.Section number 8 Page 7

other services and finally mortgaging his house to pay off notes he owed for constructions of its buildings. Samuel Dickinson was involved in the founding of Amherst Academy, a secondary institution that his son and grandson would later attend. He was elected to the Massachusetts legislature for a dozen years in the 1820s and 1830s. He would later be forced to leave Amherst in order to make a living at the Lane Theological Seminary in Ohio with his friend Lyman Beecher. He later worked as treasurer of Western Reserve College, where he died in 1838. He was first buried there, and later re-interred at West Cemetery. Emily's uncle William had a cenotaph erected in his parents' memory before they were returned to Amherst. The limestone chest marker is a short distance to the south of the grave. Lucretia Gunn Dickinson, Emily's - grandmother, was from nearby Montague, Massachusetts.

Emily's father Edward was born in the town, attended Yale and Amherst College, and like his father, studied law. Edward Dickinson approximated his father's interest in local politics and the educational institutions. He was town moderator, treasurer for Amherst College, state legislator, major in the militia, 1852 Whig convention delegate, U.S. representative, and he was offered but declined the Massachusetts lieutenant governor nomination. He was a local social leader, hosted Gen. George McClellan, involved himself in founding the Amherst & Belchertown Railroad, and constructed telegraph networks. He died with holding political office in Boston, his death reported in newspapers across the commonwealth. Emily Norcross Dickinson, mother of the poet, was a native of Monson, Massachusetts.

Lavinia Dickinson, the poet's sister, was Emily's confidant. It was "Vinnie" who recognized her sister's talent before she died and later sought to get Emily's body of work edited and published. Emily's brother Austin is buried in Wildwood Cemetery, Amherst. Emily was active in Amherst social life, writing letters to friends, winning second prize for her bread at the fair and gaining a reputation as an excellent gardener, until around her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday when she withdrew into her upstairs bedroom to write poetry. She received few visitors, particularly from outside the family. She saw her sister, her brother Austin and occasionally her sister-in-law, Susan. Her friends included the author Helen Hunt Jackson and the writer Thomas Wentworth Higginson, among a number of other short-term visitors to social leaders of the town with whom Emily was well connected.

The Dickinson family was involved in local, state and national politics, the practice of law, social activities with leading figures, regionally important businesses and industry, arts and letters, spiritual matters, founding and operating educational institutions and creation of world-renowned artistic expression in the form of Emily's poetry. All but her brother Austin and his wife Susan are buried in a single small plot at West Cemetery.

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Dr. Timothy Gridley (1789-1852) is remembered by a brownstone obelisk with wings atop the shaft. His life and personality are also noted by several chroniclers of the town's history. He attended Yale University, class of 1818, and returned to Amherst to practice medicine, working in partnership with Isaac Cutler. Dr. Gridley was also town moderator and a member of the state legislature in the 1820s. Dr. Gridley's two wives and three children are buried here as well.

Leonard M. Hills (1803-1873) was an industrialist in Amherst, founding what some have called the largest straw hat manufactory in the world. He, his wife Amelia and three of his children are remembered by a brownstone fluted obelisk surmounted by an urn. Mr. Hills began in business in 1829, making palm leaf hats and continued to grow his business until his retirement in 1877. The business was later sold to the H.D. Fearing Company.

William A. Stearns (1805-1876) was the fourth president of Amherst College (1854-1876). This term coincides with the time he spent as minister of the Amherst College Church. He and his family are buried in a large plot marked with curb stones, corner stones and a low entry gate. The center of the plot is the site of a tall granite obelisk bearing the name "STEARNS." He attended Harvard and acted as pastor of the First Congregational Church in Cambridgeport for 23 years, after which he moved to Amherst to assume leadership of the College. Professor Stearns is credited with locating the Massachusetts Agricultural College (later the University of Massachusetts) in town, and with enlarging the Amherst College campus with four buildings: Barre, Walker and College halls, and the College Church.

William Smith Clark (1818-1886) was the third president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, serving from 1867 to 1879. Although he was primarily a scholar and college administrator, his range of accomplishments includes founding the Amherst Gas Light Company, presiding over the Amherst Water Company, serving as a Colonel in the Civil War, and later as a Massachusetts state legislator. He later taught botany and horticulture at Amherst College, and later set up and administered the Imperial University of Hokkaido, Japan. He lived in a Gothic Revival style house on Pleasant Street with an ornate garden. Clark's gravestone was planted with an ornamental Camperdown Elm tree that survived until the 1960s, when it was replaced with a Sergeant Cherry.

**Modern Period**

20<sup>th</sup> century developments at the cemetery consist primarily of the construction of the Triangle Street Gates and adjoining wall in 1955. Built of cut granite, the gates provide

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a more formal appearance to the northeast and principal entrance. Money for the gates was donated by Alice Burnham, who is remembered with other members of her family by an Art Deco style chest marker in the eastern side of the West Cemetery. Many other significant persons are buried in the West Cemetery. Educators, industrialists, business people and others who contributed to the development of the town for 260 years are present in a cemetery that resembles its appearance in 1832. Burials at West Cemetery continue to the present.

An effort is currently under way by the town to document the existing physical-conditions in West Cemetery in order to create and implement a preservation plan. Vandalism and natural forces of deterioration have damaged stones, plantings and the landscape of the cemetery. Consultants Denig Design Associates have been retain to perform this work.

**Archaeological Significance**

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the social, cultural and economic characteristics representative of a wide range of Amherst's population from the 18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The West Cemetery includes hundreds of burials ranging from residents with simple backgrounds and modest achievements to more noteworthy residents such as poet Emily Dickinson. Community members belonging to all of the town's social, economic and ethnic groups are interred at the West Cemetery. Additional historical research together with archaeological survey and testing can be used to document the land use of the cemetery prior to the founding of the town and its assumed proprietorship in 1786. Historic records, post molds indicating fence lines, unmarked burials and grave stones dating as early as 1737 may indicate evidence for the existence of a communal or family burial ground that predates the incorporation of the town and actual founding of the West Cemetery. Earlier stones that predate 1786 might also represent commemorative markers for individuals or groups of individuals that died elsewhere or whose actual burial locations have been lost. Unmarked graves and commemorative markers may represent an important and common type of funerary feature at the West Cemetery. The presence of unmarked graves has been speculated for potential burials that predate 1737. Any burials located from this period would be highly significant through their potential to contribute information on the town's earliest inhabitants including Yankee farmers, African Americans and slaves. Many early graves may be concentrated in the southwest corner of the current burial ground where most burials took place prior to 1832. However, early graves might also be located in other areas of the cemetery

**(continued)**

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based on earlier burial patterns and racial or ethnic segregation. Archaeological investigations might also produce evidence of commemorative markers or gravestones lacking actual burial pits or, representing one or more unknown burials. Early gravestones may actually represent individuals who died elsewhere and were commemorated after their death by family or friends at the West Cemetery. This mortuary custom has been observed at other cemeteries in Massachusetts and the region. Archaeological evidence can also document the extent to which a slant marker erected in 1961 represents the actual sites of graves for 5 African American Civil War Veterans known to be interred at the West Cemetery. This group may have originally been buried at an unmarked site or with a wooden marker. Archaeological research can help identify these graves as well as later unmarked graves resulting from stolen, damaged, and overgrown stones. Eighteenth and nineteenth century unmarked graves may also be present representing paupers and other unknown persons. Archaeological research can also help test the accuracy of the existing boundaries at the cemetery. These bounds may not accurately represent the actual cemetery boundaries. Some burials, possibly those of unknown persons, paupers or other indigent persons, may have intentionally been buried outside the cemetery boundary. Artifact distributions may also be present associated with funerary or memorial services for specific individuals at their time of death or individuals and groupings of individuals (possibly the entire burial ground) at later dates. This information can be highly significant by providing documentation of burial customs and practices for specific racial and ethnic groups living in the Amherst area. Information may be present indicating the extent to which burial customs and practices might be related to an individual or groups home of origin prior to immigration to the Amherst area.

Much of the above information can be obtained through unobtrusive archaeological research. That is, information can be obtained by mapping artifact concentrations and the locations of features such as grave shafts and post molds without disturbing actual skeletal remains. Remote sensing techniques of investigation might also prove useful. Social, cultural and economic information relating to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Amherst settlement can be obtained in this manner, however, more detailed studies can be implemented through the actual excavation of burials and their analysis. Osteological studies of individuals interred at the burial ground have the potential to offer a wealth of information relating to the overall physical appearance of the town's inhabitants, their occupations, nutrition, pathologies and cause of death. This information can be used to determine the actual number of individuals interred at the burial ground. The same information can also provide important information relating to specific social groups in the town including African Americans and the practice of slavery in the early history of

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the settlement. The overall context of the grave, including material culture remains can provide information on burial practices, religious beliefs, economic status, family structure and numerous other topics relating to the individual, the overall settlement and, the Congregational society.

(end)

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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Amherst (Hampshire Co.), Mass.Section number 9 Page 1**9. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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(end)

Amherst West Cemetery  
Name of Property

Amherst, MA  
County, State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 4

### UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 18	704300	4694660	3.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2.			4.		
Zone	Easting	Northing	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 Sanford Johnson, preservation consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 2000

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8430

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Amherst

street & number 4 Boltwood Avenue telephone 413-256-4001

city or town Amherst state MA zip code 01002

**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 ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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Amherst (Hampshire Co.), Mass.Section number 10 Page 1**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA****UTM References (clockwise from the northeast corner)**

Zone	Easting	Northing
18	704380	4694720
18	704370	4694620
18	704280	4694550
18	704190	4694550
18	704190	4694590

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The West Cemetery comprises all of the land within the bounds of the cemetery. It is bounded by Triangle Street on the northeast and by properties on Kellogg, Pleasant and Pray Streets. The area encompasses approximately four acres within the central business district, described by the assessor's office as Plot 279, map 11C.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the nomination were determined by staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and by the Amherst Historical Commission. The boundaries include all gravestones, burial-related buildings, structures, circulation paths and ornamental plantings. The clarity of the boundaries is marked by the fence that surrounds the cemetery on all sides.

(end)

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Amherst (Hampshire Co.), Mass.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Taken by: Sanford Johnson

Date: June 1999

Negatives on file at: Amherst Planning Department

1. Triangle Street entrance, Burnham gates. View looking NW
2. Dickinson family plot looking E. Emily Dickinson stone, second from left
3. David Parker table marker, 1781. View looking S.
4. Wooden maintenance building, looking W
5. Timothy Gridley marker, looking NE
6. Harlow marker, looking SE
7. Town tomb, looking N
8. Ella Brooks family marker, looking SW

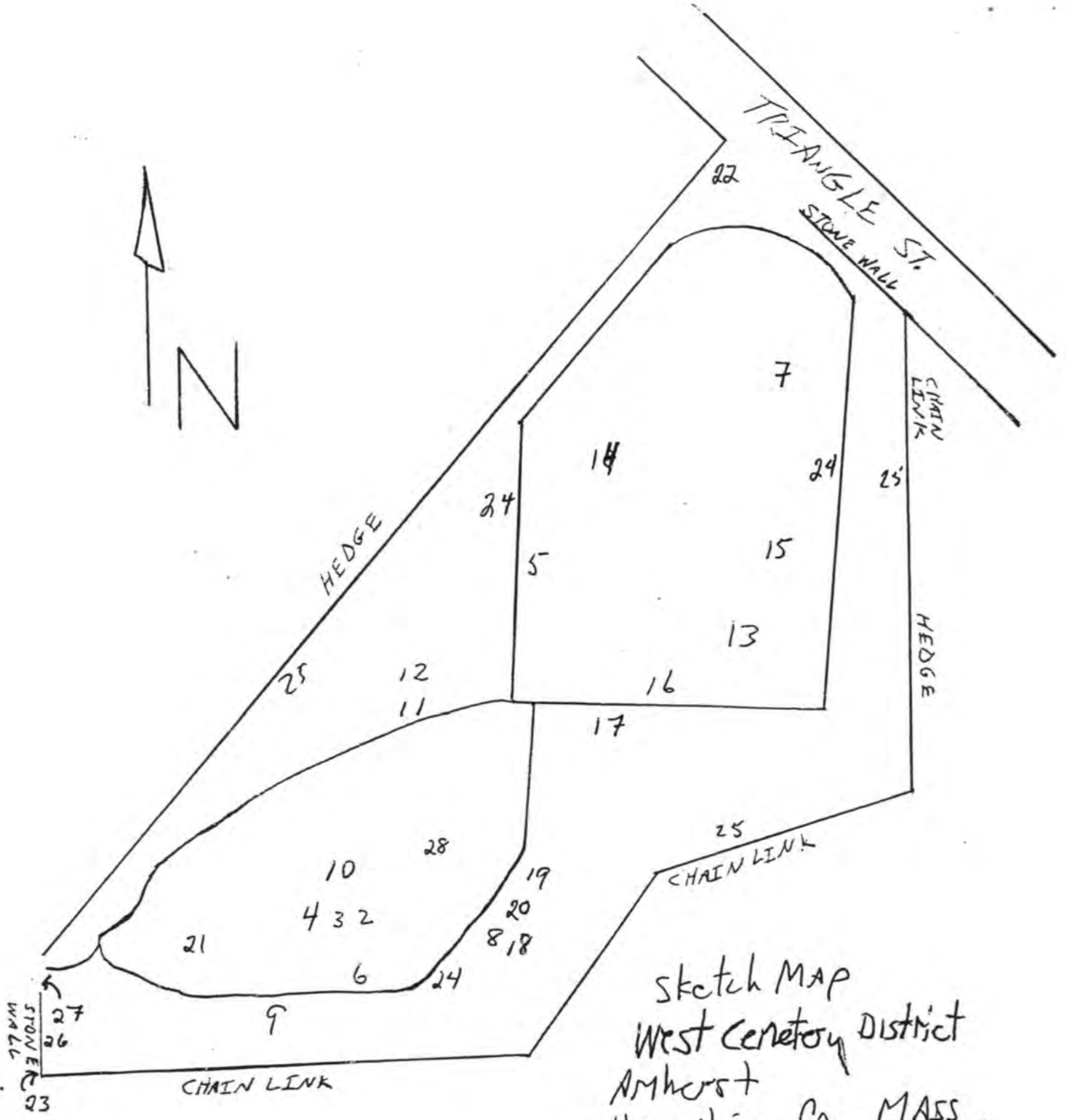
**(end)**

Amherst West Cemetery  
Amherst (Hampshire County)  
Massachusetts  
District Data Sheet

Map#	Name	Resource Type	Dates	Material	Status
1	West Cemetery	Cemetery	1730	Earth, stone	Si/C
2	Dickinson, Emily	Limestone marker	1830- 1886	Limestone	O/C
3	Dickinson, Lavinia	Limestone marker	1833-1899	Limestone	O/C
4	Dickinson, Edward; Dickinson, Emily Norcross	Limestone marker	1803-1874; 1804-1882	Limestone	O/C
5	Gridley, Dr. Timothy	Brownstone marker	1789-1852	Brownstone	O/C
6	Stearns, William	Granite Obelisk	1805-1876	Granite	O/C
7	Clark, William S.	Granite chest marker	1826-1886	Granite	O/C
8	Finnemore, Charles,	Limestone marker	1838-1910	Limestone	O/C
9	Parker, Capt. Eli	Slate marker	1763-1840	Slate	O/C
10	Parsons, David	Brownstone table marker	1781	Brownstone	O/C
11	Town Tomb	Granite tomb	1851	Granite	St/C
12	Cutler, Esther	Granite chest marker	1886	Granite	O/C
13	Hills, Leonard	Brownstone obelisk	1872	Brownstone	O/C
14	Watson, O	Pink granite obelisk	1803-1870	Pink Granite	O/C
15	Kingman, Cyrus	Marble Obelisk	1794-1854	Marble	O/C

Amherst West Cemetery  
Amherst (Hampshire County)  
Massachusetts  
District Data Sheet

Map #	Name	Resource Type	Dates	Material	Status
16	Boltwood, Lucius	Granite marker	1792-1872	Granite	O/C
17	Kellogg, Martin K.	Brownstone obelisk	1854	Brownstone	O/C
18	African American Civil War Soldiers	Granite marker	1961	Granite	O/NC
19	Finnemore, Sarah	Limestone marker	1842	Limestone	O/C
20	Joy, Levi	Limestone marker	1785-1849	Limestone	O/C
21	John Scott	Connecticut Limestone	1737	Limestone	O/C
22	Burnham Memorial Gate	Wall and entrance	1954	Stone	St/NC
23	West stone wall	Wall	19th Century	Granite	St/C
24	Circulation system	Roads	1854	Earth, asphalt, gravel	St/C
25	Fence	Fence	19th C. - 20 <sup>th</sup> C.	Metal, wood	St/C
26	Maintenance Building	Wood Framed Building	ca. 1920	Wood	B/C
27	Gaylord Gates	Stone Piers	1907	Granite	St/C
28	Dickinson, Samuel; Dickinson, Lucretia	Chest marker, limestone marker	1775-1838; 1775-1840	Marble, Limestone	O/C



Sketch Map  
 West Cemetery District  
 Amherst  
 Hampshire Co, MASS.  
 Numbers are Photo Locations

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Amherst West Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Hampshire

DATE RECEIVED: 4/24/00      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/10/00  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/26/00      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/08/00  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000534

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    5/26/00 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



West cemetery District

Amyherst Hampshire Co. Mass

Sanford Johnson 6/99

Triangle St Burnham gate West

map at planning Dept



West Cemetery District 2  
Amherst Hampshire Co. MASS  
Sanford Johnson 6/99  
Emily Dickinson Family Plot East  
Mass at Planning Dept



west cemetery district 3  
Amherst, Hampshire Co, MASS  
Stanford Johnson 6/59  
Parsons marker south  
negs @ planning dept



West Cemetery District <sup>4</sup>  
Amherst, Hampshire Co. MASS

Sanford Johnson - 6/99

once north

was at planning dept



West Cemetery District

Amherst Hampshire Co. Mass

Sanford Johnson 6/99

Gridley marker East

ness at Planning Dept



WILLIAM  
FRANKLIN  
HARLOW  
1840 - 1907

ANNA  
BURKHART  
WIFE OF  
WILLIAM  
FRANKLIN  
HARLOW  
1848 - 1908

HARLOW

West Cemetery District <sup>6</sup>  
Southeast Hampshire Co. MASS  
Sanford Johnson 6/99  
Zinc Harlow marker south  
logs at planning dept



West Cemetery, District 7  
Amherst Hampshire Co, MASS  
Sanford Johnson 6/99  
Town Tomb. North  
Mass at Planning Dept

W. B. ROBERTS  
PERRY ROBERTS

APR 2 1886  
MAR 9 1932

Their Sons

HARRY B.

OCT 12 1890  
JULY 9 1937

PERRY E.

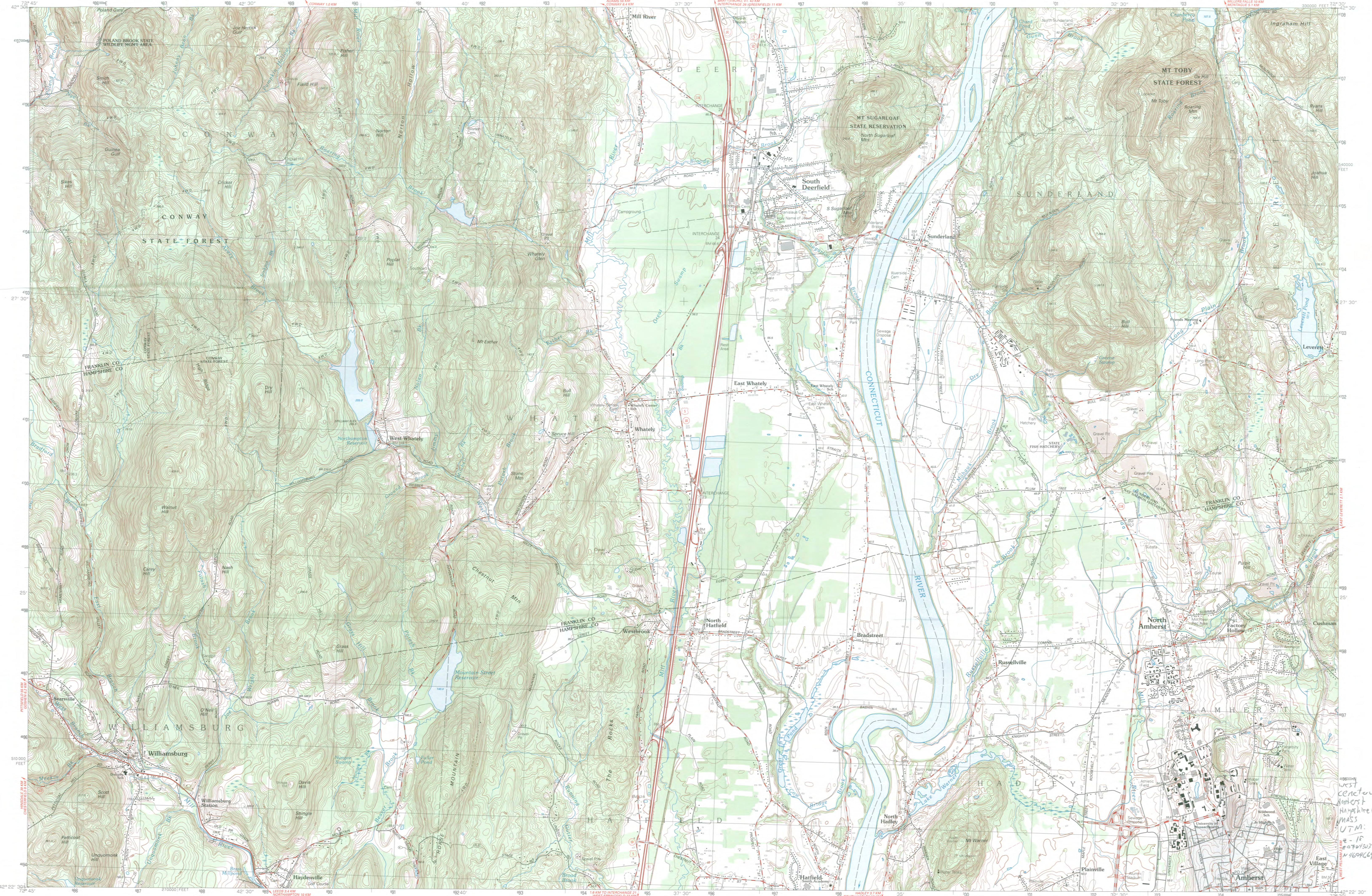
FEB 22 1889  
AUG 5 1933

West Cemetery District 8

Amherst Hampshire Co. MASS

Sanford Johnson 6/99

African American stone south  
west of planning dept



# Williamsburg MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



- 7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING**
- Contours and elevations in meters
  - Highways, roads and other manmade structures
  - Water features
  - Woodland areas
  - Geographic names



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1990

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies  
 Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1981. Field checked 1984. Map edited 1990  
 Supersedes Williamsburg 1964 and Mt. Toby 1971  
 1:25 000-scale maps  
 Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 18, Universal Transverse Mercator  
 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum  
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 5 meters south and 38 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTOUR ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER  
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS				
Meters	Feet	Diagram		1	2	3	4	
1	3.2808			1	2	3	4	
2	6.5616			5	6	7	8	
3	9.8424							
4	13.1232							
5	16.4040							
6	19.6848							
7	22.9656							
8	26.2464							
9	29.5272							
10	32.8080							

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

UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1983 magnetic declination (MD) at center of map  
 Diagram is approximate

1 Ashfield  
 2 Greenfield  
 3 Cheshire  
 4 Groton  
 5 Shutesbury  
 6 Chester  
 7 Easthampton  
 8 Windsor Dam

ISBN 0-607-23486-5  
 9 780607 234862

### Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State
- Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Footbridge: overpass; arched; small park
- Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary: National, with monument; State; County, parish; Civil township, precinct, district; Incorporated city, village, town; National or State reservation, small park; Land grant with monument; found section corner; U. S. public lands survey; range, township; section; Range, township; section line; location approximate
- Range or field line
- Power transmission line, located tower
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery: grave
- Well: water well; spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contour: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand
- Sounding: depth curve
- Parametral lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Rapids, large and small; falls; large and small
- Swamp; marsh
- Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation
- Woodland: scattered trees
- Salt; mangrove
- Orchard; vineyard



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 19, 2000

Ms. Carol Shull  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

West Cemetery, Amherst (Hampshire) 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg  
National Register Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Donald Frizzle, Chair, Amherst Historical Commission  
Sanford Johnson, Preservation Consultant  
Bryan Harvey, Amherst Board of Selectmen  
William O'Neill, Chair, Planning Board