

FORM E - BURIAL GROUND

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

1544
AUG 21 1989NATIONAL
REGISTER

AREA

FORM NO.

	800
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WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, MAAddress 290 Main St.Name Grove Hill CemeteryOwnership: x PublicPrivate

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white)
Identify on back of photo.
Staple to left side of form.

DESCRIPTION

Approximate number of stones 3,500Earliest death date 1703Latest death date 1985

Landscape Architect (if known)

unknownCondition This cemetery should receivehigh marks for its well landscaped, well-maintained grounds. Its stones are ingenerally good condition.Acreage 407,585 sq.ft. 9.4 A. 62-13-2Setting Stones cover hill on east side ofBeaver Brook. This cemetery is bordered byrubble stone walls and possess a number ofmature treesRecorded by Ed GordonOrganization Waltham Historical CommissionDate July, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location
in relation to nearest cross streets and other
buildings and/or geographical features. Indicate
all buildings between inventoried property and
nearest intersection.
Indicate north.

A 19/317100 /4693880

B 19/317250 /4693830

C 19/317050 /4693510

UTM REFERENCE D 19/316980 /4693550USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON, NEWTONSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Grove Hill Cemetery is the oldest place of interment within Waltham's city limits. Since this burial ground's first interments in 1703, Grove Hill Cemetery has grown from 2-3 acres to its present 9 acres. This cemetery is the last resting place for many of Waltham's leading 18th and 19th c. families. It contains the full range of gravestones and memorials from simple early 18th c. markers to Egyptian Revival obelisks and Victorian vaults. The Grove Hill Cemetery possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF ART WORK Describe materials used, designs, motifs, symbols that are either common or unusual, known carvers.

Grove Hill Cemetery provides a comprehensive survey of Boston area grave stone craftsmanship from the early 18th c to the present day. In addition, its main entrance is marked by large square rusticated-granite posts with overhanging rockfaced granite capping stones these posts convey an Egyptian Revival sensibility. This cemetery's stones include simple early 18th c. markers, slate stones with winged skulls and is particularly strong in its collection of late 18th c. willow and iron motif stones. Interspersed throughout the cemetery are Egyptian Revival obelisks. A pair of Tuscan columns on plinths appear near the main street entrance. Here and there are earthen mounds/ vaults fronted by granite piers and pediments. Particularly intriguing are the vaults located near the Grove Hill entrance which are inscribed with the words "Town of Waltham." In general, the oldest stones are in the northwest corner of the burying ground.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain religious affiliations, major period of use and evaluate historical importance of burial ground within the community.

On October 23, 1704, land included in the present burial ground was purchased by the Middle Meetinghouse's Society. The cemetery's original 2.3 acres are said to have been part of a 4 acre lot granted to Edmund Blois before 1640. The Blois tract was on the south side of the Great Rd; on the "Hither Plain" (the Hither Plain extended from Beaver Brook to Gore St. Edmund L. Sanderson notes that "At a meeting held Jan. 1, 1702-3 the town gave liberty to the Societies of the middle and farmers' meeting-houses to choose a burying ground for each society. The town voted to pay for it on Oct. 23, 1704, but it was in use before that time." The earliest graves are said to have been those of Samuel Harrington who died Nov. 11, 1703, age 33 and Susanna, wife of John Hastings, who died Nov. 15, 1703 age 21. The northwest corner of the burial ground contains some of the oldest stones and contains an unmarked area of black interments. According to a newspaper article in the Waltham Sentinel (4/18/1856) "there are no head stones to be found and few records of the race left." Near the center of the cemetery, near the (northern?) base of the hill was Potters Field, "where strangers were buried"--and presumably indigent Waltham citizens. This cemetery was called the Old Burying Ground until it was renamed Grove Hill in the late 19th cen. This was the only burial ground within Waltham's city limits until Mt. Feake was set out in 1857. (#801)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- "Waltham Centennial" - 1864-1984
- "Waltham and Watertown: Their Representative Businessmen and Points of Interest" by George F. Bacon - 1893.
- "Waltham Sentinel" Sept. 11, 1857, Oct. 16, 1857, Feb. 16, 1856, April, 1865
- Daily Free Press Tribune, Nov. 23, 1904
- Edmund L. Sanderson Waltham--1630-1884

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Waltham MRAState Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. Fitch, Ezra, School Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Helene Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

32. Flagg, Frederick, House Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Helene Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

33. French, Daniel, School Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Helene Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

34. Fuller--Bemis House Substantive Review

Keeper Barry L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

35. Gale--Banks House Substantive Review

Keeper Barry L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

36. Gibbs, William, House Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Helene Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

37. Gilbrae Inn Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Helene Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

38. Grove Hill Cemetery Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Helene Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

39. Hagar--Smith--Livermore--Sanderson
HouseKeeper Helene Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

40. Hager--Mead House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Helene Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Grove Hill Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/05/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/21/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/05/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001549

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 9/28/89 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ applicable criteria
☐ justification of areas checked
☐ relating significance to the resource
☐ context
☐ relationship of integrity to significance
☐ justification of exception
☐ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTMs ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



Grove Hill Cemetery
291 Main St Waltham, Ma.
MKP



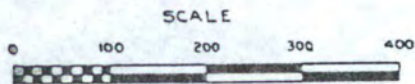
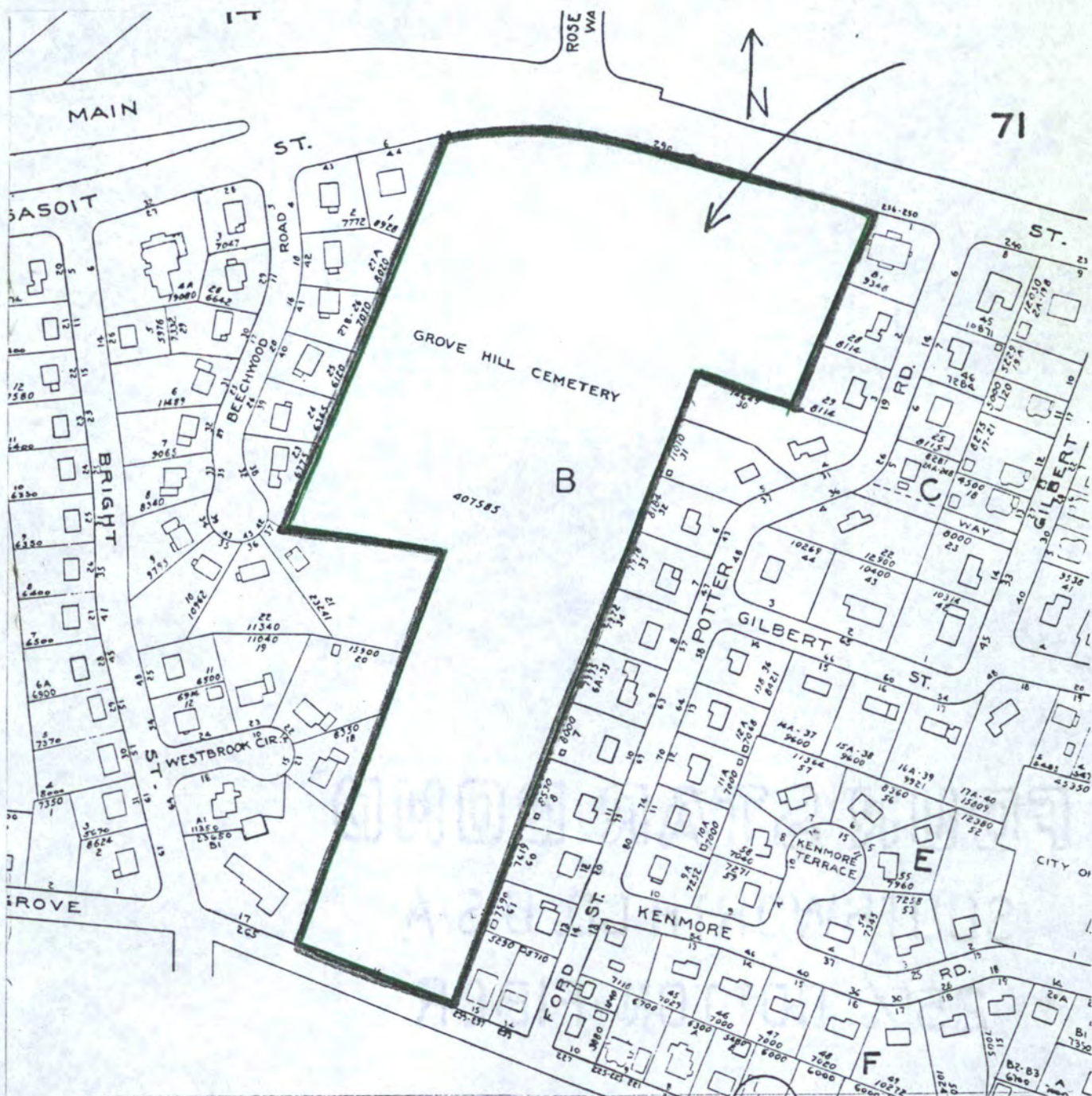
Grove Hill Cemetery #800
290 Main St.
Waltham, MA MA



Grove Hill Cemetery # 800
Waltham, Ma. MRA



Grove Hill Cemetery #800
291 Main St. Waltham Ma
MICA



Buildings to - January 1970

1970 Atlas, City of Waltham
Compiled by the Waltham
Engineering Division
Scale: 1 inch = 140 ft.

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA
290 Main Street
Grove Hill Cemetery
12-B-16



MASSASOIT ST.

ROSE

RD.

GILBE

* 2
City of Waltham
Grove Hill Cemetery

13

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Grove Hill Cemetery #800
290 Main Street
1" = 100'
1975; updated to 1987
Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #68-13-2



Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301