

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name MECHANIC STREET CEMETERY

other names/site number THE OLD CEMETERY, THE OLD BURIAL GROUND

2. Location

street & number MECHANIC STREET not for publication

city or town WESTFIELD vicinity

state MASSACHUSETTS code MA county HAMPDEN code 013 zip code 01085

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.)

Brona Simon
Signature of certifying official/Title

April 10, 2002
Date

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Patrick Andrus

Date of Action

6/12/2002

Mechanic Street Cemetery
Name of Property

Hampden, 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

_____ building

1 _____ sites

2 _____ structures

23 _____ 5 _____ objects

26 _____ 5 _____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

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)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other _____ stone, metal _____

Narrative Description

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Mechanic Street Cemetery
Westfield (Hampden), MA

DESCRIPTION

Westfield's Mechanic Street Cemetery is a small (3.98 acres) graveyard typical of 17th and 18th-century neighborhood burial grounds. According to a 1995 inventory, 1,127 headstones and footstones, representing 897 individuals, are visible today. (Ayers, Walter, et als. "Mechanic Street Cemetery) Stones range from 1683 to 1934. The majority are tablet headstones, with only a few monumental obelisks, pedestal markers, and table stones. Mechanic Street Cemetery is exceptional in having many intact footstones; in many cemeteries of this age, footstones have been removed or relocated. The cemetery contains at least half a dozen 17th-century stones. More than a quarter of the burials date from the 18th century, and several dozen markers commemorate war veterans from the French and Indian Wars and the American Revolution. The cemetery exhibits a wide range of carving styles, representing a continuum of gravestone carving from the settlement period to the Industrial Revolution. The stones exemplify the work of more than a dozen identified and anonymous 17th and 18th-century Connecticut Valley stonecutters working with local sandstone; 19th-century Berkshire County carvers working in the soft marbles of the Berkshire foothills; and nineteenth-century commercial New England stonecutters turning out standardized designs in marble, granite, and sandstone. The variety of materials used, illustrates changes in transportation methods brought about by the advent of canals and railroads, while the change in memorial symbols from winged death's heads to soul effigies to urn and willow motifs illustrates New Englanders' attitudes toward death and the afterlife. Laid out with an eye to practicality rather than landscape design, the graveyard is set up in irregular rows, punctuated by a few family plots bounded by ornate cast-iron fences.

The Mechanic Street Cemetery is located two blocks east of Elm Street. The core of Westfield's downtown business district, Elm Street's late-19th century streetscape still retains much of its turn-of-the-century character. Running north - south and parallel to Elm Street, Mechanic Street is separated from Elm by the railroad line that runs through the heart of the city. Residential development surrounds the cemetery. To the west, the cemetery is bounded by properties on Mechanic Street; to the north and northeast by properties on East Bartlett Street; to the east by properties on White Street; and to the south by properties on Cherry Street. Except for its iron-gated entrance, the cemetery is barely visible behind the homes around it. The graveyard itself is set back nearly two hundred feet from Mechanic Street. One enters the cemetery through a long grassy aisle that forms a corridor flanked by the abutting residential properties at 43 and 45 Mechanic Street.

On Mechanic Street, the cemetery's westernmost boundary, homes are small to medium in size, primarily wood-frame in construction, 1½ to 2½ stories tall and dating primarily from the mid-19th century. The street is densely settled. Homes range from single-family to multifamily use; several have been renovated to add more dwelling units.

East Bartlett Street runs along the cemetery's northern boundary and curves down along the cemetery's east side. Houses and house lots along East Bartlett Street are larger than those on Mechanic Street. Homes in this area are newer than those on Mechanic Street, dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. At the boundary between the cemetery and the rear property lines of Bartlett Street houses, the land slopes downward from the cemetery. The grade is quite steep in some areas, with concrete retaining walls sometimes used to hold the slope in place. The slope grows more gradual as the boundary of the cemetery travels south along the rear property lines of White Street homes. By the time the boundary

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reaches Cherry Street, which borders the cemetery to the south, the cemetery is once again level with the yards of the houses surrounding it. Development density increases near the corner of Cherry and Mechanic Streets, with some brick commercial buildings standing at the southern corner of Cherry and Mechanic Streets.

[Note: A 1995 survey divided the cemetery into twelve blocks, labeled A through L (see copy of 1995 survey map attached). The location of gravestones and landscape elements in the cemetery will be described using the 1995 block plan.]

The graveyard shows little evidence of landscaping or design efforts on the part of its creators. In keeping with common burial practices of 17th and 18th-century New Englanders, plots are arranged in irregular rows (see photo #2). Several large deciduous trees punctuate the cemetery's boundary and shade its plots. A mature arbor vitae in the center of block H is the only evergreen within the cemetery's boundaries. The cemetery has no formal paths, although two wide grass aisles run north to south through the cemetery, rutted with the tracks of the hearses and maintenance vehicles that once passed through.

A cast-iron gate, constructed in 1894, provides the only access to the cemetery (see photo #1). Its massive gateposts and corner posts are decorated with abstract floral motifs and symbols representing death and the afterlife, including hourglasses crossed with scythes, and crowns encircling crucifixes. Uprights are capped with fleur-de-lis. The gate opens onto a wide grassy aisle leading into the cemetery. The graveyard itself is surrounded by a chain-link fence, installed to protect the cemetery from vandalism.

Monuments sketching the cemetery's history and commemorating Westfield's 18th-century war veterans flank the entrance. To the right of the entrance are two granite tablets. One, erected in 1976 by the General William Shepard Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, commemorates Westfield's Revolutionary War veterans. A second, smaller tablet was dedicated in 1998 to Westfield residents who died during the French and Indian War. To the left of the entry, a granite slab installed by the Western Hampden Historical Society in 1964 holds a plaque denoting the Mechanic Street Cemetery as the oldest in the city. At the time the plaque was installed, the Historical Society estimated that the cemetery contained more than 1100 gravestones and at least 500 unmarked graves.

A broad grassy aisle leads into the cemetery. A flagpole stands a little to the east of the point at which the aisle opens up into the cemetery proper. At the base of the flagpole is a plaque installed by Revolutionary War General William Shepard's descendants in 1969, in memory of the general.

One's first impression upon entering the cemetery is of a haphazard arrangement of stones. Most of the markers face east to west, or west to east, although a few in the southeast quadrant face north-south. The east-west orientation was a common practice in 17th and early 18th-century burial grounds, in accordance with a belief that the dead should face the sunrise on the Day of Judgment. The markers are not aligned in continuous rows, as might have been done in a 20th century cemetery. Some markers are clustered in small family plots, with a few ringed by cast iron fencing. The grouping of large family plots around a central monument, which became common in the mid- to late-19th century, is visible here in only a few plots, like the Colonel David Moseley plot (block D; see photo # 17).

Mechanic Street Cemetery served as a burial ground fairly early in Westfield's history. As early as

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1677, land divisions referred to a burial ground in this location (Dewey, *History of Westfield*, p. 27). Situated a little to the west of the town's first meetinghouse and fort, the burial ground stood on a slight rise overlooking a patch of land known as the "Fort Meadow," which bordered the Westfield River. A stream, known as the "Town Brook," ran along the base of the rise where the burial ground was located (see Louis Marinus Dewey's "Historical Map of the Original Settlement"), forming a rough boundary to the north and east. The brook was eventually channeled underground; by the 1910s, it no longer shows up on maps of the area.

The earliest portion of the cemetery is the eastern half, encompassing blocks A, B, C, G, H, and I, which contain nearly all of the burial ground's 17th and 18th-century markers. These early grave markers consist primarily of vertical tablets from two to five feet in height. Many of the burial plots from this time period have both headstones and footstones intact, with footstones often echoing in miniature the decorative motifs of the accompanying headstones.

The cemetery's oldest stones date from the late 17th century, with about half a dozen surviving from this period. Except for the Abigail Sackett Noble stone (d. 1683; the oldest marker remaining in the cemetery; see photo #3), which is located in block B, the surviving 17th-century markers are located in block I. All of these early stones are made of Connecticut River Valley sandstone, and are simple in design. They are generally two to three feet high, with simple arched tops and squared-off shoulders. Carving consists of large block letters noting the deceased's name and date of death. No images or epitaphs are carved on these early stones. The only decorative touch on these early stones is an incised line paralleling the edge of the stone. Besides the Abigail Sackett Noble marker, stones carved in this manner include markers for John Root (d. 1687), Edward Griswold, (d. 1688), Elizabeth Taylor (d. 1689), Cornet Thomas Dewey (d. 1690), and Abigail Sackett (d. 1690). Markers of this type are described in Allan Ludwig's study of New England gravestones as typical of what Ludwig calls "Phase I" of the Connecticut Valley ornamental style. (Ludwig, *Graven Images*, pp. 389-394)

The "Phase I" style of stone persisted into the 18th century; examples can be found in the Mechanic Street Cemetery into the 1740s. Stones from the early 18th century appear in blocks A, B, and H, as well as block I. Some of the early 18th-century examples, like the markers for David (d. 1718, block H) and Hannah Ashley (d. 1722, block H) are crudely lettered, and have no decorative outlines at all. Others, like the Sarah Phelps stone (d. 1741/2, block A) and the triple stone dedicated to the children of Dr. Israel and Margaret Ashley (block A; all three children died between December of 1742 and January of 1742/3) show additional decorative motifs. The gravestones' shoulders are rounded, and contain pinwheel-shaped rosettes. Because many similar stones have been found in the Northampton area, it is possible that the stones may have been made by Northampton carvers. (Picard interviews)

These early stones must once have been set in rather rustic surroundings. Among the earliest town records discussing cemetery maintenance is an order dating from the early 18th century for clearance of brush from the site. (Dewey, *Ancient Westfield*, p. 104) It is not clear whether the order was meant to create room for new burials, or whether the existing burial yard had become overgrown. In 1703, John Bancroft was allowed use of the burying place for thirty years, on the condition that he clear one acre that year, and the rest within two to three years. Bancroft was to keep swine from damaging the graveyard, and was to allow men liberty to repair their fences. (Dewey, *Ancient Westfield*, p. 104) It is unclear whether Bancroft was to use the burial ground as a wood lot, pasture, or hay field. It is also unclear whether the fences

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surrounded family plots or bordered fields adjacent to the graveyard. In 1759, the town appropriated funds to enclose the graveyard with a five-rail wooden fence. (Dewey, *Ancient Westfield*, p. 123)

The most intricately carved stones in the Mechanic Street cemetery date from the 18th century. While a few stones from this early period are carved from gray and greenish schist and quartzite, most are made of Connecticut River Valley sandstone quarried from Longmeadow, Granby, Northampton, Belchertown, and other communities along the river. The range of color and texture of sandstone, from soft pinks to a series of bright and dark reds, to browns and tans, indicates that the stones were drawn from a number of different quarries along the Connecticut River. These early stones display motifs symbolizing death and the afterlife. Scrollwork, vines, abstract floral motifs, hourglasses, winged skulls, and soul effigies or cherubim reflect period attitudes toward death. The variety of motifs reflects the hand of a number of identifiable and anonymous carvers.

Symbolic carvings began to displace the simple lettered stones during the 1710s. Winged skulls or death's heads provided grim reminders of mortality. Two of the earliest examples of the death's head motif are the Nathaniel Williams stone (d. 1711, block I), which has peculiar bat-like wings, and the Benjamin Madsly (a.k.a. Moseley; d. 1719, block I) stone, in which the wings are more detailed and birdlike. Small stones of pinkish sandstone less than two feet high, they are crowned with a winged skull in the tympanum. Lettering on these stones is recessed in a central inscription panel surrounded by panels decorated with swirls and pinwheel rosettes resembling stylized vines or flowers. These stones appear to have been made in imitation of motifs popular in eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island at the time (Ludwig, p. 394; Picard interviews). The strong similarity in borders and lettering indicates that the skull stones may have been made by the same carver. The style persists into the 1730s. Later examples include the Noah Madsly stone (a.k.a. Moseley; d. 1735, block A) and the Elizabeth Ashley stone (d. 1737, block A). Inscriptions on the death's-head stones are simple, and include no epitaphs.

By the late 1720s and early 1730s, the plain lettering and death's head motifs were joined by more positive images of the afterlife. Stones begin to exhibit a winged, sometimes crowned figure usually interpreted as a "soul effigy"—a symbolic representation of the soul of the deceased ascending into heaven. The soul effigy is often accompanied by other symbols of mortality and resurrection, such as hourglasses, vines, flowers, and trees of life. More than a dozen variations on the motif occur throughout the cemetery, representing the work of several Connecticut Valley stonecutters. The large number of 18th-century stones in the Mechanic Street cemetery not only provides examples of the work of many carvers, but also allows visitors to trace the development of an individual carver's style. While the following description does not discuss every single variation of the soul effigy motif, it highlights several of notable examples.

Among the earliest soul effigies visible are those on the headstones of Edward Taylor (d. 1729) and his family. The Taylor stones mark the graves of Reverend Edward Taylor, Westfield's first permanent minister, his second wife, Ruth Wyllys Taylor (1660-1730), and his daughter-in-law Rhoda Dewey Taylor (d. 1740).

The three Taylor stones stand in a row at the north end of block I. Round-faced soul effigies with well-defined wings and crowns symbolize the glorification of the soul in the afterlife, when the dead would share in the Resurrection of Christ. Ferny scrollwork borders the inscription tablet of these stones, while

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vines lace the bottom edge. These stones are among the earliest to contain more than a simple factual inscription. Reverend Taylor's marker eulogizes the minister as the "Aged Venerable, Learned & Pious Pastor of ye Church of Christ, in this Town, who ...served God and his Generation Faithfully for Many Years." On Ruth Taylor's stone is an epitaph which contains words of hope and of warning, which are echoed by the image of the soul effigy at the top of the gravestone.

The gravestones of Richard Falley, Sr. (d. 1756) and his wife Ann (d. 1758) were carved by the same hand as the Taylor stones (block I, southern end; see photo #14--Richard's stone is on the right; Ann's is in the center). The Taylor and Falley plots include intact footstones, which echo in miniature the motifs on the headstones. Providing that the Taylor stones were not back-dated, stones made by the carver of the Taylor and Falley stones or by a successor from the same workshop continued to appear in the Mechanic Street cemetery for more than sixty years. Several stones dating from the 1750s to the 1790s exhibit facial characteristics and ferny borders identical to the Taylor and Falley stones. The wings and crowns of the later stones differ slightly from the earlier stones. This change could indicate a variation produced by the same carver or could indicate a second carver from the same workshop. Examples of the later stones include the marker commemorating Doctor Israel Ashley (d. 1758) and his four children (block A), and three stones for members of the Dewey family: Aaron Dewey (d. 1768, block I), Eunice Dewey, (d. 1772, block I) and Perez Dewey, (d. 1790, block I). Like the Taylor and Falley stones, most of these examples include intact footstones.

While the carvers who created stones for the Mechanic Street cemetery abandoned for the most part the winged skull motif by around 1740, a few stones from the mid 18th century recall the earlier death's head symbol. The Jonathan Weller stone (d. 1744, block I) has a wide-eyed soul effigy with crown and wings on the tympanum, while the base of the stone displays a winged skull as a reminder of mortality. The Mary Bush marker (d. 1768, block I) exhibits a soul effigy that still retains some features of the death's head. The winged, crowned head carved on the tympanum is distinctly skull shaped, although long lashes frame its eyes, unlike the empty eye sockets shown on the death's head stones.

While most of the 18th-century stones have simple arched or rectangular tops, a few are cut in more elaborate shapes, like the Quartermaster John Moseley stone (d. 1752, block A; see photo #5). Carved from a pale pink sandstone, the John Moseley stone has exuberant curves protruding at its top and shoulders. Flames crown a round-faced cartoonish soul effigy. Birds perch on either side of the soul effigy's wings, and wide borders of lush vines and flowers surround the inscription. The exuberant shape of this particular stone appears to be drawn from English examples. (Picard interviews) Next to Quartermaster Moseley's stone, his wife Hannah's marker (d. 1763; see photo #5) exhibits stone from a different quarry and the hand of a different carver. Hannah's marker is of the deep red sandstone that predominates in the Mechanic Street Cemetery. Coiled vines creep up the sides of the stone, leading to a tympanum decorated with a crowned soul effigy with coiled wings, rising between two ramps that symbolize the gates of Heaven. At the bottom of the stone, a small pointing hand alerts the viewer to the simple epitaph: "Reader Remember Death & Eternity."

Several stones dating from the mid-18th century show crowned soul effigies exhibiting coiled wings similar to those of the Hannah Moseley stone. Several of these examples commemorate other members of the Moseley family, including Consider Moseley (d. 1755, block I), Margaret Moseley (d. 1762, block I), and David Moseley (d. 1768, block I). The markers for Mercy Dewey (d. 1767, block I), and Thomas Reed (d. 1767, block B) also seem to be variations on the Hannah Moseley stone.

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While the soul effigies described can be found throughout the Mechanic Street Cemetery, a few carvings seem to be unique. One example is the marker commemorating Ensign Mathew Noble (d. 1771, block A; see photo #7 left). The Mathew Noble marker is distinguished by fat, snakelike swirls topped by sunbursts bordering the inscription tablet, and a dimple-chinned, round-cheeked soul effigy wearing a triangular crown. The style exhibited by the carver of the Noble stone resembles that used by carvers who worked extensively in the Mansfield and Storrs area of Connecticut. (Picard interviews) While most of the soul effigies in the burial yard are flat, abstract renderings of human features, Noble's stone is one of a few which give a more three-dimensional rendering to the face.

Another stonecutter, working around the same time as the Mathew Noble carver, also rendered his faces in relief, rather than in two dimensions. Carved in light brown sandstone, the stones dedicated to Reverend John Ballantine (d. 1776, block B; see photo #8), Westfield's third minister, and to Synthia Ingersoll (1774-1776, block H) have a three-dimensional quality. The soul effigy is carved in relief with half-closed eyes, rounded cheeks, and solemn mouth. Finely detailed wings curve upward around a crowned head. Heavy scrollwork delineates the border around the inscription.

Similar heavy scrollwork occurs on several stones dating from the 1780s and 1790s, which appear to be from the workshop of a Granby area carver. (Picard interviews) On these later stones the carefully worked soul effigy of the 1770s stones is flattened into a two-dimensional caricature. However, the facial expression, half-closed eyes, and shape of the nose resemble the more detailed earlier stones. The Colonel John Moseley stone (d. 1780, block G; see photo #9) and the Deacon Gideon Shepard stone (d. 1790, block H) in particular seem to be flattened versions of the more three-dimensional Ballantine and Ingersoll stones. If these stones are the work of the same carver, it seems peculiar that the stones grew less detailed as time progressed, rather than more. Perhaps the later stones, which are made of a red rather than a brown sandstone, are the work of a less-skilled apprentice in the same shop, or the work of a carver from a different workshop trying to imitate someone else's designs. Or perhaps the difference in detail indicates a difference in price. Unfortunately, none of the stones is marked with a maker's name or initials.

The carver of the later stones incorporated other symbols along with the soul effigy into his work. An evergreen tree carved at the bottom of the Mercy Sackett stone (d. 1791, block C) symbolizes eternal life. At least three of this carver's stones include hourglasses, symbolic of the end of the deceased's allotted time on earth. The Lydia Lee stone (d. 1782) and Elisha Parks stone (d. 1778) both feature hourglasses as the primary symbol on the stone's tympanum. The Dolly Atwater stone, commemorating three female members of the Atwater family (Dolly Atwater and her daughter, also named Dolly [both d. 1787] and Anna Atwater [d. 1790]) has hourglasses flanking three female figures. The Atwater stone and the Major Samuel Mather stone (d. 1789, south end of block G; see photo #10), also by the same carver, are unusual in that they attempt portraiture of the deceased. The Atwater stone shows three female figures at the top, two in profile, and one facing the viewer. The Samuel Mather stone shows a male figure in profile. None of these figures includes the wings and crown usually depicted with soul effigies. These crude carvings probably bear little resemblance to the deceased, but the attempt to represent the dead person, rather than an abstract idealized concept of the soul, is quite clear.

By the end of the 18th century, neoclassical motifs began to displace the soul effigies that had dominated New England cemeteries for nearly a century. Willows and urns became popular symbols, along with open books, fingers gesturing upward, clasped hands, and floral motifs.

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In the Mechanic Street cemetery, soul effigies persisted from 1790 until about 1810. The work of one unnamed carver dominates the cemetery. This particular carver was active in the Longmeadow area, and may have had his workshop there. (Picard interviews) Between 1780 and 1810, he created more than half a dozen variations on the soul effigy, ranging from simple flat carvings to highly detailed reliefs. All are identifiable as the work of one carver (or at least one shop) because of their identical facial features and the precision with which they were carved. Dozens of stones bearing this carver's handiwork are scattered throughout the six older sections of the cemetery. Stones from this carver tend to be taller than most of their companions, generally more than four feet in height. They have a heavy, geometric feel to them, with precisely incised borders enclosing rope moldings, beadwork, or stylized vines. His soul effigies have minimal facial features, and their stylized wings either turn upward like a dragonfly's, or slant downward. The downward-turning wings often become so abstract that the wings resemble capes, while the soul effigy's crown looks like a hat. Examples of the simplest rendition include the Azariah Mosley (d. 1790, block G) and Mercy Mosley stones (d. 1799, block G; see photo #12), and the Deacon Paul Whitney stone (d. 1795, block C).

The more detailed versions of this carver's work show the soul effigy in relief, with abstract decorative patterns worked into the wings, crown, and border. The Bildad Fowler stone (d. 1809, block C; see photo #15) is an excellent example of the most detailed rendition of this carver's work. The Fowler stone not only includes a well-carved soul effigy in relief, surrounded by rope molding borders, but also a carving of a Bible laid open to a passage from the book of Job. The variety of soul effigies which this carver created does not progress chronologically from simple to complex. Flat, simple carvings and detailed relief carvings are scattered throughout the years of his activity, indicating that the level of detail was probably more dependent on the wealth of the client than upon the carver's increasing skill.

Another late carver whose work is visible throughout the burial yard is the carver of the Daniel and Elenor Fowler stone (Daniel d. 1800, Elenor d. 1791, block G; see photo #11). His work is characterized by a round-faced soul effigy with a prominent nose, raised eyebrows and a smiling mouth, large, coiled wings and a beaded crown. Interlocking S-shaped scrollwork borders the inscription panel. Other examples of this carver's work include the Ephraim Williams stone (d. 1807, block B), and the David Moseley stone (d. 1798, block I).

While most of the 18th-century markers are carved of sandstone, a few are carved in gray and greenish schist and quartzite. One particularly striking stone is the work of C. Sikes, a carver from a family of stonecutters active in Connecticut and western Massachusetts from around 1770 to 1820. The Sikes family's work is visible from Mansfield, Connecticut, north to New Salem, Massachusetts, and from Leicester, Massachusetts, west to Northampton (Ludwig, pp. 412-416). Westfield's Mechanic Street Cemetery has an early example in the Margaret Shepard stone, which is dated 1769 (block I, north end; see photo #6). The Shepard stone is carved of greenish-gray quartzite, a material favored by the Sikes family, and is initialed "C.S." at its base. Like the stones dedicated to Samuel Mather and the Atwaters, the Shepard stone appears to be carved with an intention of creating a portrait of the deceased, rather than an abstract soul effigy. The head has neither wings nor crown. It stares at the viewer with almond-shaped, exaggerated eyes characteristic of Sikes family stones. Exuberant ivy vines, flowery rosettes, and pinwheels decorate the stone's borders and surround the figure's head.

Another stone which stands out because of differences in both material and carving is that of

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Thankful Lyman Grant (d. 1770, block H). The dark gray stone is carved with a round-faced soul effigy crowned with flames. A leafy border with coils at the top surrounds the inscription. Thankful's initials are carved on either side of the soul effigy, emphasizing that the carving represents Thankful's ascent into heaven. The carving appears more reminiscent of eastern Massachusetts than Connecticut Valley carvers.

While the majority of 18th-century memorials consist of upright tablets, the graveyard includes a few 18th-century and early 19th-century table stones--massive horizontal sandstone slabs supported on short legs. The only variation in design among the table stones is in the legs, which are either fluted square piers or simple blocks with chamfered edges. The two table stones for Samuel Taylor (1675-1709) and Margaret Moseley Taylor (1685-1708) are the oldest in the cemetery (block I). Both have simple chamfered legs. Captain John Bancroft (d. 1793, block B) and his wife Marcy (d. 1779) share a table stone which has fallen off its legs and now sits directly on the ground, the legs stacked nearby. In block G, a table stone commemorates Noah Atwater (d. 1802; see photo #15), Westfield's fourth minister, and his wives Rachel (d. 1787) and Anna (d. 1824). Atwater's stone is intact, resting on fluted square piers. The Atwater monument is nearly identical to one commemorating members of the Fowler family who died between 1784 and 1803. Because the inscriptions on these stones are carved on horizontal surfaces which are more exposed to the weather than the upright slab markers, the table stones have suffered the most from spalling and erosion.

With the turn of the 19th century, the markers in the Mechanic Street Cemetery changed in both style and material. Sandstone was gradually displaced by marble as quarries opened in the Berkshires and canals and railroads transported the stone throughout New England. While local sandstone continued to be used for a few decades, Berkshire marble eventually became the predominant material, adding white and gray to the cemetery's color palette of reds, pinks, and browns. The soul effigy became old-fashioned, replaced by classical motifs like weeping willows and urns, providing more romanticized and abstract symbols of death. Vine and scrollwork borders become simpler, often reduced to medallions or rays surrounding the deceased's name. The new symbols also became more uniform, making it harder to distinguish between the work of one carver and another.

Prone to erosion, the soft marble carvings have lost their crispness of detail over the years, the edges of willows and urns becoming blurred, and letters fading with time. Some of the best preserved examples of the willow and urn motifs are on sandstone markers, which have retained their details over nearly two centuries. Some especially fine examples are the stones of Colonel James (d. 1803) and Maryann Taylor (d. 1814; both in the north end of block H). James Taylor's stone has a finely detailed willow and urn motif on its curved tympanum, while Maryann's stone includes a crisply carved rope border at the top and a decorative border of a continuous row of X's along its sides.

The red sandstone Daniel Foote marker (d. 1815, block B) retains its finely carved willow and urn motif, with the urn shown perched atop a stone wall and flanked by sunbursts at the marker's shoulders. Daniel's footstone echoes the motifs of the headstone, with a finely detailed urn shown sitting on-top of a brick wall.

The Joseph Mix marker (d. 1833, block K; see photo #19 right) is yet another well-carved sandstone tablet. Mix's headstone displays a willow and urn shaded by a column-supported arch. The inscription is enclosed in a medallion, with a border of laurel leaves running across the bottom of the stone.

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While, like the carvers of 18th-century soul effigies, most of the willow-and-urn carvers remain anonymous, a few of the marble stones include makers' marks. The Lydia King marker (d. 1809, block B), a rectangular marble stone, displays a large willow and urn. Its inscription is surrounded by a medallion perched atop a branching tree, symbolic of the tree of life. An inscription at the base gives the maker's name as "SS. Batterson" of Connecticut. Another S. S. Batterson stone is that of Gad Palmer (d. 1824, block D), which displays the same willow-and-urn, medallion, and foliate motifs as the Lydia King Stone.

A simple stone marking the grave of Eliza Bishop (d. 1839, block K; see photo #19 left) is inscribed with the name of stone carver "T. Adams, Hartford." This plain rectangular marble stone has no carvings other than the name of the deceased and a brief biography.

Several stones dating from the 1830s are marked with the name of East Granby, Connecticut carver "G. Viets." All of them are marble; most incorporate the willow-and-urn motif. Most of Viets's stones include several words carved in Old English-style lettering. Viets stones include those for: Captain Solomon Phelps (d. 1835, block L), Albert C. Sacket (d. 1836), William Sackett (d. 1836), Philendy Sackett (d. 1837), and William C. Sackett (d. 1838; all the Sackett stones are located in block J; see photo #20).

As neoclassical motifs displaced the soul effigies and marble displaced sandstone, the Mechanic Street burial yard experienced other changes as well. Space for new burials became limited during the early 19th century. In the 1820s, town officials discussed either creating a new cemetery or expanding the old one. A committee was formed in 1823 to find a site for a new graveyard. The committee decided instead to enlarge the existing cemetery. (Dewey, *Ancient Westfield*, p. 160) In 1827, the town acquired the William Phillips property, a long strip of land along the cemetery's western border, nearly doubling the size of the old burying ground, and extending its life by several decades. The acre-and-a-half parcel was divided into over a hundred new lots, which were marked with stone corner posts, and sold at a price of from \$1.05 to \$2.30 per lot. (Lockwood, Vol. II, pp. 265-266). This addition is quite evident when one walks through the cemetery; while the majority of the stones on the eastern half of the burial ground are sandstone, most of those in the newer western portion (blocks D, E, F, J, K, and L) are white or gray marble. Some of the stone corner posts (or their remains) delineating lot boundaries are still visible today.

With the opening of Mechanic Street for development in 1834, the entrance to the cemetery was relocated from the south end to its present location at the west side of the cemetery. A receiving tomb, once located at the southeastern corner of the cemetery, has since been removed. (Rutzen, Mary S., and Sathory, Eve L., "Historic Parks and Sites," in Janes, pp. 247-253)

The mid-19th century marked a change in American popular attitudes toward burial grounds. Americans became captivated by romantic ideals of picturesque landscaping that promoted a vision of designed nature that was tamed but not regimented. These two concerns came together when Mount Auburn Cemetery opened in Cambridge in 1831. While old "burying grounds" like the Mechanic Street Cemetery were simply pragmatic arrangements of headstones with little or no thought to design, the new "cemetery" was a designed landscape. Marked by rambling paths and picturesque vistas, Mount Auburn doubled as a public park, providing a peaceful oasis from city life, where visitors could remember their loved ones and contemplate their own mortality in an idyllic setting. Situated on the outskirts of the city on a huge parcel of

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Mechanic Street Cemetery
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land, the new cemetery also solved the problem of overcrowding in the city's old graveyards. The desire for "rural cemeteries" modeled on Mount Auburn swept the country during the 1830s and 1840s. In some communities, the rural cemetery movement inspired town officials to re-work existing burial grounds. In other towns, officials built new cemeteries according to the new fashion's picturesque ideals.

In Westfield, the rural cemetery movement found expression in the creation of the Pine Hill cemetery in 1842. In the Mechanic Street Cemetery, there was no room for creating sweeping paths, romantic vistas, or shady groves. Burials continued much as they had in the past, with gravestones arranged along irregular rows. However, there were a few attempts to incorporate Victorian elements into new burial plots, albeit on a modest scale. Several family plots were surrounded with cast-iron fencing in Gothic Revival and neoclassical motifs. Local residents suggest that Westfield's H.B. Smith Company may have manufactured some of these fences. Founded in 1853, H. B. Smith manufactured cast-iron fencing "for veranda and cemetery work" (Dewey, "Authentic History of Westfield") before specializing in radiators, boilers, and other heating equipment. However, makers' marks are not readily apparent. Fencing of this type was being manufactured and shipped by rail to New England from many places during the mid-19th century. Fencing made by manufacturers as close as Roberts of Boston and as distant as Stewards of Ohio has been found in Western Massachusetts cemeteries. (Picard interview) In the absence of makers' marks, it is not yet possible to determine whether any of the fencing at Mechanic Street was locally manufactured.

Family plots enclosed by iron fencing include the Mix family plot in block K (see photo #19), the James and Pluma B. Allen plot in block L, the Arnold/Grover plot in block L, the Lewis plot in block G, and the Archippas Morgan plot in block L (see photo #16). Unfortunately, much of the cast-iron fencing has been badly damaged by weathering and vandalism. Many of the fences lie in sections around family plots, making it difficult to locate manufacturers' marks. The Archippas Morgan plot is the only one whose fencing shows almost no damage. It sports Gothic arches, torch-like finials, fleur-de-lis motifs, and an ornate bronze doorknob. In the center of the plot sits a squat sandstone pedestal monument dedicated to Archippas Morgan (1772-1857) and his family. Morgan's family plot also includes several small marble slab monuments commemorating Morgan family members.

The Morgan family plot reflects some of the changes in burial customs occurring in Victorian cemeteries. The concept of creating a family plot with a unified design integrated through the use of fencing, curbing, and/or a massive central monument displaced the haphazard placement of headstones and footstones of the previous century. Prosperous families began to purchase monumental obelisks and pedestals of marble, sandstone, and granite. The central monument, which might be engraved with several family members' names or simply with the family surname, would often be erected in the center of a family plot and then surrounded with smaller markers, usually in a matching stone, commemorating individual family members. While, by the mid-19th century, limited space was available at Mechanic Street for such picturesque layouts, the Colonel David Moseley (1798-1871, block D; see photo #17) family plot is one well-preserved example of this custom. The sandstone obelisk at the center of the plot stands on a heavy pedestal carved with a raised shield bearing the names and vital information of Moseley family members. Near the top of the obelisk is a sheaf of grain and a sickle, harvest symbols representing souls gathered into heaven after the fulfillment of their season on earth. The obelisk is surrounded by half a dozen small stones of matching sandstone, commemorating individual members of the Moseley family.

While the Moseley monument is the most prominent obelisk in the cemetery, the graveyard

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Mechanic Street Cemetery
Westfield (Hampden), MA

includes several 19th-century obelisks of a more modest scale, most constructed of white marble. All are located in the newer sections of the cemetery. Block K includes marble obelisks dedicated to G. and G. H. Moseley (undated), and members of the Ives family (circa 1840-1866). In block L, a small white marble obelisk with a sandstone base commemorates the Bull family. Block G includes a squat white marble obelisk dedicated to the Fowler family. William A. Bull, Jr. (1841-1862) is memorialized by a marble obelisk on a sandstone base, located in block E. The 1856 John Stiles obelisk in block J is one of the tallest obelisks. The newest obelisk, which retains the shape, if not the proportions or materials of its companions, is one commemorating Revered Ephraim Scott (1801-1882), located in block E. Made of polished granite, Scott's monument is squat and boxy rather than thin and tapering.

Flat-topped or pyramid-capped pedestal stones were also popular among Victorians wanting a more elaborate memorial than the common slab marker. While the massive Archippas Morgan monument is the largest of this kind in the cemetery, smaller pedestal monuments include the John Mather stone (d. 1847, block G), which, like the Morgan stone, is carved of reddish-brown sandstone; a granite pedestal stone dedicated to H. Dewey (block K); and marble pedestal stones dedicated to S. and R. Harrison (block H) and James Allen (block L).

Town expenditures toward maintenance and improvement of the Mechanic Street Cemetery are difficult to track. Annual reports during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries usually lump cemetery expenditures under "Contingent Expenses." In reports which list no separate cemetery maintenance costs, the expense may simply have been incorporated into an overall charge for labor.

In 1871, \$600 was appropriated for fencing the old burial ground. The 1872 annual report indicates that the firm of Towne and Dickinson was paid \$504.89 for putting up a new fence, and the old wooden fence was sold for twenty dollars. Unfortunately, neither fence nor monuments were included in an 1875 bird's-eye drawing of Westfield, which merely shows an open wooded lot at the Mechanic Street site.

As the 19th century progressed, the number of burials in the Mechanic Street Cemetery decreased. The new rural cemetery at Pine Hill became the more desirable burial ground. Some families even relocated their dead from Mechanic Street to Pine Hill. In the late 1870s, the Mechanic Street Cemetery was still well-maintained, according to Louis Everts' *History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts*, which describes the cemetery as being in a "state of excellent repair," although infrequently used (p. 950). It is unclear whether Everts' comment was written before or after an 1878 flood in which Mechanic, Elm, Meadow, and Bartlett Streets suffered some of the worst damage in town. The Mechanic Street Cemetery may have been affected; however, town reports do not describe any damage.

Within five years of the publication of Everts' book, things had changed drastically. Although burials were still taking place when Joseph Bartlett wrote a series of articles for the *Westfield Massachusetts Times and News-letter* in 1885 and 1886, he described the cemetery as neglected and seldom visited (Bartlett, p. 4). Bartlett also noted that a number of stones had been damaged or stolen.

In 1894, the town spent \$358.65 to build a new iron gate at the entrance to the cemetery. (Annual Reports, 1894, p. 74; see photo #1) Unfortunately, the report does not list the name of the manufacturer.

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Mechanic Street Cemetery
Westfield (Hampden), MA

By the beginning of the 20th century, not even one burial a year took place at Mechanic Street. The cemetery underwent a major sprucing-up in 1904. Routine maintenance expenses before then had usually stayed well under a hundred dollars a year. In 1904, the town spent \$266.50 on labor at the old cemetery, including \$9.50 paid to Daniel Leonard for repairing headstones (Westfield Annual Town Reports, 1904, p. 26)

In 1934, Mary Noble Fox became the last person interred at Mechanic Street. That same year, a Restoration Committee removed moss from some stones, repaired others, and added a chain link fence. (Rutzen and Sathory, p. 247-253)

Vandalism and weather have taken their toll on the Mechanic Street Cemetery. A number of stones are broken, and several that were listed on 1915 and 1939 inventories can no longer be found. The faces of some of the sandstone markers have spalled, while carvings on some of the marble stones have eroded to the point that names, dates, and epitaphs are nearly illegible. Cast-iron fencing around many family plots is broken and rusted.

In spite of the damage which has occurred over the years, however, the Mechanic Street Cemetery contains a remarkable number of well-preserved monuments dating from Westfield's settlement period through the early 20th century. The graveyard still provides an excellent example of a wide range of 18th and 19th century stone carving techniques and funerary art.

Archaeological Description

Historical resources and archaeological site inventories indicate the Westfield Cemetery is located in an area that was extensively used by Native Americans at the time of European settlement and during more ancient periods. Native American cultural resources have not been identified on the cemetery property, however, sites may be present. Fourteen ancient Native sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile) along the margins of the Westfield River, its floodplain and tributaries including the Little River, Great Brook and Powdermill Brook. Environmental characteristics of the cemetery and the immediate surrounding area also represent several locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that are favorable indicators for many types of ancient Native American sites. The cemetery occupies a well drained, level to moderately sloping rise originally bordered by Town Brook, now channeled beneath the ground. Town Brook is a tributary of the Westfield River. Given the above information and impacts associated with excavation of at least 897 known graves on the 3.98 acre parcel, a moderate potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the property. Burial excavations have adversely affected the integrity of any ancient resources located on the cemetery property.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the cemetery property. Unmarked graves are probably the most common potential archaeological resource in the cemetery. In ca. 1964, the Westfield Historical society estimated that the cemetery contained more than 1100 gravestones and at least 500 unmarked graves. While that number appears high, four centuries of use as a burial ground has likely resulted in a number of unmarked burials. Earlier burials and graves from paupers and other indigent persons may have lacked markers or been made from materials that have since deteriorated from the elements. Gravestones may have also been removed, moved or overgrown, lying beneath the present

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**Mechanic Street Cemetery
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surface. Unmarked graves may also extend beyond the current cemetery boundary. A fence did not mark the cemetery until 1759, nearly 100 years after the burial ground was founded. The wooden fence that enclosed the graveyard may have excluded burials that were unmarked and unknown at that time.

Unmarked burials may include stratigraphic evidence of the burial shaft, coffin and personal items associated with the individual interred including clothing and jewelry. Earlier unmarked burials may be more common in the eastern portion of the cemetery where the earliest known graves are located.

Archaeological evidence of structures originally located in the cemetery may also survive. Structural evidence from a receiving tomb, now removed, may exist in the southeastern corner of the cemetery.

Structural evidence of outbuildings associated with cemetery maintenance may also exist. Artifacts associated with memorial services at individual and groups of graves may also survive in the cemetery.

(end)

Mechanic Street Cemetery

Name of Property

Hampden, 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)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ART

RELIGION

Period of Significance

1677-1934

Significant Dates

1677, 1827, 1834, 1934

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

T. Adams S.S. Batterson C. Sikes

G. Viets

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Westfield Athenaeum, Westfield H.C.

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**Mechanic Street Cemetery
Westfield (Hampden), MA**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Westfield's Mechanic Street Cemetery is locally significant as an example of a burial ground from Westfield's early settlement period. It meets National Register criterion A because of its association with Westfield's pioneering families. An inventory of the Mechanic Street Cemetery's gravestones provides a "Who's-Who" of Westfield religious, military, and civic leaders, including seventeenth-century poet Reverend Edward Taylor and Revolutionary War Generals William Shepard and Warham Parks. The information which can be gathered about the daily lives and attitudes of Westfield's early residents from the monuments and their epitaphs gives the cemetery significance in the area of Social History. The wide range of religious iconography displayed in the cemetery's 18th-century markers provides insight into the beliefs of Westfield's Puritan founders, thus giving the cemetery significance in the area of Religion. The cemetery's large number of fine examples of the work of both named and anonymous 17th, 18th, and 19th-century stonecutters satisfies Criterion C in the area of Art. Because the cemetery derives its significance from its role in reflecting Westfield's community history, from its connection with significant persons and families in Westfield history, and from the distinctive design features of its monuments, it fulfills Criteria Consideration D. Although it has suffered some damage from vandalism and environmental forces, the cemetery remains remarkably intact, retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association.

When Englishman William Pynchon traveled west from Roxbury in 1636 to establish a settlement along the Connecticut River, one of his goals was to establish a fur trade with the natives of the area. The region known as Woronoco (meaning, according to some sources "it is fat hunting" [Dewey, *Ancient Westfield*, p. 2]) quickly attracted Pynchon's attention. Nestled between the Westfield (then known as the Agawam) and Little Rivers and surrounded by mountains, Woronoco (which later became Westfield) was a rich source of hides and fish. Woronoco soon became the westernmost outpost of the Massachusetts colony. While the earliest well-documented European settlement of the area took place around 1658, evidence indicates that there were trading outposts in Woronoco as early as the 1640s. (Everts, p. 939, Dewey *Ancient Westfield*, p. 4)

The local tribes, the Woronocos and Pochassics, members of the Algonquin nation, sold furs and fish to early European traders. Salmon and shad were abundant in the Westfield and Little Rivers, while Woronoco's forests abounded with fur-bearing game such as beaver. Woronoco's natives burned underbrush and woods to clear land for cultivation of corn, beans, pumpkins, and squash in the light loamy soils now covered by Westfield's commercial center. (Lockwood, Vol. I, p. 36) The floodplains and escarpments set in the juncture of the Westfield and Little Rivers formed some of Westfield's best agricultural land. (Heyl & Hamberg, p. 2)

Settlers from both the Massachusetts and Connecticut colonies bargained with the natives for the land bounded by the Westfield and Little Rivers. After some initial wrangling between the two colonies, Woronoco was declared a part of the Massachusetts colony's Springfield settlement in 1647. (Lockwood, Vol. I, p. 51-52)

In the 1650s, Springfield's local authorities began parceling out land in Woronoco. By 1669, a delegation from Woronoco had traveled to Springfield to petition for the right to make Woronoco into a

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**Mechanic Street Cemetery
Westfield (Hampden), MA**

separate township, and to determine the boundaries between the two settlements. In May of that year, Westfield was incorporated, receiving its name because the new town was the westernmost settlement in the Massachusetts colony. As English settlers pushed the boundary of the Massachusetts colony westward, Westfield became a key point on the Boston Post Road, which stretched from Boston west to Albany, New York.

Early development in Westfield was concentrated near the confluence of the Westfield and Little Rivers. Settlers cultivated the fertile topsoil in the broad meadowlands immediately adjacent to the two rivers. While Westfield's first residents had also spread out on the north side of the Westfield River, the heart of the new community focused on the house lots parceled out along what is now Main Street. Throughout the 17th and early 18th century, the settlement contracted or expanded, depending on the temper of relations with Woronoco's native peoples.

The site now known as the Mechanic Street Cemetery served as a burial ground fairly early in the new community's history. As early as 1677, land divisions refer to a burial ground in that location. Situated a little to the west of the town's first meetinghouse and fort, the burial ground stood on a slight rise overlooking a patch of land known as the "Fort Meadow," which bordered the Westfield River. A stream, known as the "Town Brook," ran along the base of the rise where the burial ground was located, forming a rough boundary to the north and east.

The Mechanic Street Cemetery is closely tied with the families of Westfield's earliest settlers. Among the first Westfield families whose members are interred at Mechanic Street are Ashley, Atwater, Bancroft, Bush, Clapp, Clark, Curtiss, Day, Dewey, Fowler, Gunn, Hastings, Holcomb, Hull, Ingersoll, Kellogg, King, Lee, Loomis, Moseley (a.k.a. Madsly), Noble, Pease, Phelps, Pomeroy, Root, Sackett, Shepard, Smith, Stebbins, Taylor, Weller, Whitney, Williams, and Wright. (Everts, pp. 940-941) The Dewey family is most prominent, represented by at least fifty-eight individuals. Fowlers, Sacketts, Moseleys, and Nobles are the next most numerous, with between thirty and fifty individuals from each of these families buried at Mechanic Street. The Ashley family is also well-represented at Mechanic Street, with at least twenty-two burials. (National Youth Administration, "A List of Gravestones...")

The Mechanic Street burial ground's oldest surviving gravestone dates from 1683. Dedicated to Abigail Sackett Noble (d. 1683, block B; see photo # 3), it not only testifies to the presence of two of Westfield's founding families, but also to the hazards of childbearing during this period. Abigail died at the age of twenty, shortly after giving birth to her first child. (Bartlett, p. 4)

Burials at Mechanic Street include leaders in Westfield's civic, military, medical, religious, and educational spheres. While it is beyond the scope of this nomination to sketch the biographies of all the Westfield noteworthies interred at Mechanic Street, profiles of a selected few will illustrate how well the cemetery reflects the lives of a wide range of Westfield residents.

Cornet Thomas Dewey (d. 1690) and his brothers, Josiah, Jedediah, and Israel were among Westfield's earliest settlers. Their father, Thomas Dewey (d. 1648), had immigrated to America from England around 1633 because of his dissenting religious beliefs. Although Thomas Dewey the emigrant is buried in Connecticut, he is commemorated on the Dewey family monument located in block G. In 1667

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Mechanic Street Cemetery
Westfield (Hampden), MA

and 1668, the Dewey brothers received several land grants in Woronoco. The Dewey brothers were prominent in the early settlement's government, with Josiah and Thomas both serving as selectmen, Jedediah serving as selectman and constable, and Josiah serving as sealer of weights and measures (Everts, pp. 944-945). While several dozen Dewey descendants are memorialized with gravestones in the Mechanic Street Cemetery, Thomas appears to be the only one of the original four brothers whose gravestone survives. His simple sandstone marker is located near the center of block I, near those of his wife, Constant (d. 1702), and his son, Thomas, Jr. (d. 1690).

In 1671, Cornet Thomas Dewey summoned Edward Taylor (d. 1729), a Harvard-trained minister, to become Westfield's first permanent minister, following a series of temporary ministers who had led the congregation. Like Dewey, Taylor is buried at the Mechanic Street Cemetery.

Edward Taylor was a vital force in Westfield's religious life for nearly sixty years. An English-born and Harvard-educated scholar, Taylor was also a physician and a poet. Taylor's literary talents were not recognized until his poetry was discovered in 1937, in a collection of his papers at the Yale library. He has since been recognized as one of America's finest seventeenth-century poets. Many passages from Taylor's work are cited by Allan Ludwig in his study of New England gravestone carvers (*Graven Images*) as representative of Puritan attitudes toward death and the afterlife.

During Taylor's lifetime, the gravestones lining the Mechanic Street Cemetery's grassy aisles would have been carved with plain block lettering or with winged death's heads, like those found on the Nathaniel Williams (d. 1711, block I; see photo # 4) and Benjamin Madsly (a.k.a. Moseley; d. 1719, block I) stones. Taylor, however, like the upcoming generation of gravestone carvers, saw death as a transition to a joyous afterlife. His own gravestone (block H) depicted, not a grim winged skull, but a round-faced soul ascending on bird-like wings to heaven. The soul effigies on Taylor's grave and that of his second wife, Ruth, and his daughter-in-law Rhoda, exemplify Taylor's more positive view of the afterlife. Ruth Taylor's gravestone, which includes one of the Mechanic Street Cemetery's earliest epitaphs, echoes her husband's faith in a happy afterlife: "Hope humbly then with trembling Pinions soar, Wait the Great Teacher Death & God adore."

In 1676, when King Philip's War threatened Springfield's outlying settlements, Reverend Taylor was one of several Westfield residents who protested the governor's order to abandon the western settlement and relocate its residents to Springfield's main plantation on the Connecticut River. A letter of protest was composed by Taylor and signed by Westfield pioneers Isaac Phelps (d. 1725), David Ashley (d. 1718), and Josiah Dewey on behalf of the town. (Phelps and Ashley are also buried at Mechanic Street Cemetery.) The order was rescinded. While conflict with the natives threatened, settlement in Westfield remained confined to a rough triangle extending west from the junction of the Westfield and Little Rivers. As the 17th century drew to a close, however, settlement spread out from this focus.

During the late 17th century, Westfield was primarily an agricultural community, producing crops and livestock for its residents' own use as well as producing cattle which were driven east for the Boston markets. Some small manufacturing was begun during this period, using Woronoco's natural resources to produce turpentine, bricks, and iron. (Heyl & Hamberg, p. 6)

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Mechanic Street Cemetery
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While Westfield residents had been holding religious services since the 1660s, and its first meetinghouse was constructed shortly after Taylor's arrival (near the confluence of the Westfield and Little Rivers), the town's Congregational Church was not formally established until 1679, after the disturbances from King Philip's War had quieted down. (Wallace, Ella G. "The Churches of Westfield," in Janes, pp. 37-38)

From its establishment, the Mechanic Street Cemetery was a town graveyard rather than a church burial yard. Civil authorities ordered and regulated maintenance, a common practice in early New England towns. Among the earliest town records discussing cemetery maintenance is an order dating from turn of the 18th century for clearance of brush from the site. (Dewey, *Ancient Westfield*, p. 104) It is not clear whether the order was meant to create room for new burials, or whether the existing burial yard had become overgrown. In 1703, John Bancroft was allowed use of the burying place for thirty years, on the condition that he clear one acre that year, and the rest within two to three years. Bancroft was to keep swine from damaging the graveyard, and was to allow men liberty to repair their fences. (Dewey, *Ancient Westfield*, p. 104) How Bancroft planned to use the land was not specified.

Grave-digging, as well as maintenance, was done by town order. In 1710, John Lee II was hired to dig graves for a price of three shillings, to be paid by the town. Selectmen apparently also provided some funds toward paying funeral expenses. (Dewey, *Ancient Westfield*, p. 104)

Among some of the most significant 18th- and early 19th-century burials are those of Westfield's first four ministers. Nehemiah Bull (1726-1740), who served as a missionary to the Housatonic Indians, was minister when the town's second meetinghouse was constructed in 1721, near the corner of Main and Meadow Street. Westfield's third minister, John Ballantine (d. 1776, block B), is commemorated with a finely sculptured stone bearing a soul effigy in high relief with detailed facial features, wings and crown. Westfield's fourth minister, Noah Atwater (1751-1802), is commemorated with a well-preserved table stone (block G; see photo #15). A number of deacons are also remembered with markers in the Mechanic Street Cemetery.

Mechanic Street Cemetery commemorates Westfield's military history as well as its religious history. Several Westfield men served in upstate New York during the French and Indian Wars. Captain Jonathan Ingersoll (d. 1753, block I) and Dr. Israel Ashley (1710-1758, block A) both died while in the service and were buried at Mechanic Street. Ingersoll was killed in action at Lake George, while Ashley died in performance of his medical duties.

A Yale-educated physician, Israel Ashley served in a number of town offices before leaving Westfield for New York. However, Ashley's medical skills spared neither his children nor himself from early deaths. Ashley's own gravestone lists four children who died in infancy, while a triple stone next to it memorializes three children, all under the age of six, who died between December 1741 and January 1741/2. Appointed Chief Surgeon under Colonel William Williams, Ashley himself died of smallpox at Stillwater, Saratoga County, New York, at the age of forty-eight. One of Margaret and Israel's surviving sons, also named Israel (d. 1814), followed in his father's footsteps and practiced medicine in Westfield and surrounding communities. Israel Ashley II is also buried at Mechanic Street.

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Captain John Bancroft (1722-1793), who is memorialized with a table stone (block B), was another Westfield man who distinguished himself during the French and Indian Wars. However, during the American Revolution, Bancroft was suspected of collaborating with the British, and was placed under house arrest. Later, it was discovered that he had been selling secrets to the British.

A number of Westfield men played significant roles in the American Revolution. Gravestones in the Mechanic Street Cemetery commemorate the town's representatives to the Provincial Congress at Cambridge, John Moseley (1725-1780, block G; see photo #9) and Elisha Parks (1724-1778, block H), as well as members of the town's Committee of Correspondence and Safety, like Bohan King (d. 1823, block C), a hatter who also served as constable and selectman. Revolutionary veterans are well-represented in the Mechanic Street Cemetery, with several dozen war veterans buried there, including one of Westfield's most famous sons, General William Shepard (1736-1817; see photo #18).

Enlisting at the age of seventeen, Shepard began his military career in the French and Indian War. Returning to his Westfield farm after the war, he married and became involved in town government, serving as a selectman and militia captain. With the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Shepard, along with Captain Warham Parks (1752-1801; later General Parks), Adjutant Russel Dewey (1754-1827), and dozens of other Westfield men joined the Continental Army. Like Shepard, Parks and Dewey are also buried at the Mechanic Street Cemetery. Dewey's diary records his participation in several Revolutionary battles.

During the Revolution, William Shepard participated in twenty-two battles, eventually serving as a general under Lafayette and Washington. During Daniel Shays' Rebellion, General Shepard was called into service again, successfully repelling the rebels' attack on the Springfield Arsenal in 1786. In his later years, Shepard was appointed by the federal government to negotiate treaties with the Penobscot Indians and the Six Nations. (Lockwood, Vol. II, p. 38) Shepard is commemorated in the Mechanic Street Cemetery with a white marble tablet crowned with an urn-and-willow motif (block G) and carved with an appropriately patriotic epitaph: "He fought the battles of our Country, Aided in the councils of our Nation & Exemplified the character of the Christian. The righteous shall be in Everlasting remembrance." Although hardly the "plain slab" scorned by Bartlett in his 1885 account of "The Old Cemetery," neither is the stone the grandiose monument one might expect. (Bartlett, column #12)

Another Revolutionary-era Westfield resident memorialized in the Mechanic Street Cemetery is Richard Falley, Jr. (1740-1808, block I; see photo # 14). According to family stories, Falley's father, Richard Sr. (d. 1756, block I) was shanghaied as a boy and sold in Boston. Falley worked off his indenture, married Anna Lamb (d. 1758, block I), and settled in Westfield. The younger Richard Falley's life appears to have been equally colorful. He learned blacksmithing, and served in the French and Indian War at Fort William Henry when only seventeen years old. Taken prisoner by the Indians, he was ransomed and returned home. Although that would have been enough adventure for one lifetime for most people, Falley set up a gun manufactory at the foot of Mount Tekoa. During the Revolution, he not only provided arms to the Continental Army, but served himself, in the company of Captain Warham Parks. Falley fought at Bunker Hill before illness forced him to return home, where he continued supplying the Revolutionaries with arms.

Falley and his parents are commemorated with markers at Mechanic Street. The three gravestones

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reflect changing fashions in funerary motifs from the mid-18th to the early 19th century. Both Anna and Richard Sr. have sandstone markers topped with round-faced soul effigies, symbolic of the soul rising upward to heaven. Their epitaphs remind the visitor of mortality and the afterlife. Richard Jr.'s headstone is of the soft Berkshire marble that became easily obtainable and fashionable in the 19th century. Topped with an urn carved in relief, Richard's stone bears a secular tribute to Richard's patriotism.

During the 18th century, Mechanic Street Cemetery epitaphs reflected varying attitudes toward death. Many pointed to the grim inevitability of the grave. A popular reminder of mortality was the short verse: "Death is a debt to Nature due /which I have paid & so must you," which occurs on several graves, including those of Joanna Noble (d. 1763, block A; see photo # 7), and Thomas Reed (d. 1767, block B). This verse persists into the 19th century. Others, like the gravestone of Daniel Mosely (d. 1777, block H), remind readers of physical decay: "Underneath this stone lies mouldering to dust the once amiable and Very Desirable Man Mr. Daniel Mosely."

Following Edward Taylor's more optimistic approach, other inscriptions concentrated on hopes for salvation in the next world. Several, like Samuel Mather's stone (d. 1789, south end block G; see photo # 10), point to Christ as humanity's hope for salvation, with the inscription "Life's uncertain. Death is sure, /Sin the wound, and Christ the cure." Others, like the Elisha Parks stone (d. 1778, block H), remind readers that earthly virtue is no shield against death, and combine warnings of mortality with hopes for salvation through Christ: "The great the good, the wise, the just/ Must all in time be turn'd to dust/ Then learn to quit terrestrial ties./ That you may soar above the skies/ & There enjoy the blissful favour of Jesus Christ our Lord & Saviour./ Halt, passenger--observe/ The contents, regard the date and promise not on to-morrow."

While reminders of death and decay remained prominent themes as the 18th century closed, an increasing number of epitaphs became unreservedly joyful, like that of Lydia Fowler (d. 1789), which proclaims: "'Tis come the glorious morn! the second birth of heaven and earth! awakening nature hears the new creating word, and starts to life in every heightened form, from pain and death forever free."

Some, like the marker commemorating Margaret Shepard (d. 1769, block I; see photo # 6), might have been considered slightly heretical to a Puritan church which emphasized predestination and salvation of the elect, rather than salvation through good works and earthly virtue: "Many are the shapes of death & many are the ways that lead to his grim Cave; all dreadful! But virtue alone assures that peace which age nor death can ne'er destroy affords the mind a lasting ease, and fills it with immortal joy." Margaret's stone is unique in that it is the only 18th century stone that can be traced to a named carver. Signed "C.S." at the bottom, the stone came from the workshop of C. Sikes, a member of a family of stonecutters who worked in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut from around 1770 to 1820. Carved of greenish-gray quartzite, it stands out among the sandstone which dominates the earlier sections of the cemetery.

Throughout the cemetery, the large number of gravestones dedicated to children and young mothers testifies to the high rate of infant mortality and the dangers of childbearing. Epitaphs on children's gravestones often include floral imagery, comparing the brevity of the child's life to the transient bloom of a flower.

The common practice of assigning a dead child's name to a new infant is documented in several

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stones. For example, the two sons of Jabez and Lydia Baldwin memorialized in block C shared the name of Thomas. The first died at the age of three. The second survived to adulthood, only to die at sea at the age of twenty-seven.

While many 18th-century stones advised acceptance and hopeful preparation for the grave, an occasional epitaph rebelled against the cruelty of early death. One of the few portrait stones in the cemetery, which commemorates John Atwater's two wives and his infant daughter, poignantly describes the sorrow of Atwater's triple loss (block G). Probably carved by a Granby stonecutter, the Atwater headstone incorporates three crude female figures rather than an abstract soul effigy, in an attempt to portray the dead women and child. The epitaph reads: " Each moment has its sickle emulous of time's enormous scythe, whose ample sweep strikes Empires from the root. Each moment plays his little weapon on the narrow sphere of sweet domestic comfort & cuts down the fairest bloom of sublunary Bliss. Death great proprietor of all, its time to Tread out Empires and to quench the stars. Insatiate archer, could not one suffice? Thy shaft flies thrice, & thrice my peace was slain. I tremble at the blessing once so dear, & every pleasure pains me to my heart."

Occasionally, a gravestone included biographical information, especially when the cause of death was somewhat unusual. Deaths by accident were particularly noteworthy. The Oliver (d. 1787) and Abigail Ingersoll (d. 1802) gravestone (block I) describes Abigail's particularly gruesome and unusual end: "Mrs. /Abigail his [Oliver's] Consort /who in the absence /of the family by a /Fitt fell in the Fire & /expired."

During the late 18th century, as native populations were suppressed and threats from the French faded, Westfield grew quickly. By 1790, Westfield had more inhabitants than Springfield, its parent town (Pitoniak, p. 1). By 1801, the town had grown so much that residents were once again planning for the construction of a new meetinghouse. It took five years of discussion, debate, and planning before the new meetinghouse was finally built and dedicated in 1806 (Lockwood, Vol. II, pp. 230-240).

The turn of the 19th century brought a number of other changes to Westfield's historic center, which borders the Mechanic Street Cemetery. Following the pattern of many other New England communities, Westfield's town center developed around a common (now known as the "Green"). New religious, civic, and commercial buildings were oriented toward the common rather than along the old Main Street corridor.

After a late 18th-century growth spurt, growth stalled in Westfield during the first two decades of the 19th century, with the population remaining stable at around twenty-one hundred residents. During most of its early history, Westfield relied primarily on agriculture for its income. Historian John Lockwood speculates that the brief check in the town's growth may have been due to a shortage of new arable land (Lockwood, Vol. II, pp. 246-247). Given the mountains hemming Westfield in to the west and east, much of the best agricultural land was probably already under tillage after nearly a hundred and fifty years of settlement.

Recovery was not long in coming, however. In the early 19th century, Westfield began to change from an agricultural community into an industrial one. In the 1820s, the industry that gave Westfield its nickname commenced a nearly century-long boom, when D. L. Farnham visited a Boston whip factory and

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came back with notes about how he might make a machine for plaiting whips. With Henry Douglas and Samuel Lindsay, Farnham tried to duplicate the machine he'd seen in Boston. Hiram Hill, another Westfield entrepreneur, followed suit in 1821, introducing an improved plaiting machine from Providence, Rhode Island. By 1860, Westfield boasted dozens of whip-making factories, earning its reputation as the "Whip City." Other leather goods such as harnesses and shoes were also produced in Westfield factories.

Another major industry was cigar manufacturing. Taking advantage of leaf tobacco produced in the Connecticut River valley towns around Westfield, manufacturers soon were employing hundreds of workers making cigars. These new industries helped the town overcome its turn-of-the-century slump. Population rose quickly.

Transportation as well as manufacturing increased Westfield's prosperity. In 1822, Westfield's citizens approved the construction of the Westfield portion of a canal that would run from the Connecticut River through Northampton, Easthampton, Southampton, Westfield, and Southwick, to Connecticut. The proposed canal would link with a planned canal from New Haven to Southwick. The Farmington Canal project would create eighty miles of navigable inland waterways. (Lockwood, Vol. II, p. 283) In 1826, construction began at the Northampton end. By 1829, the new canal was open from Westfield to New Haven (Lockwood, Vol. II, p. 293). By 1835, the link between Westfield and Northampton was complete. The new canal brought cheap transportation and gave Westfield a direct link to the sea. Cutting a diagonal path through Westfield's town center, the canal ran between the old burial ground and Elm Street.

During the construction of the canal, Westfield's population began to change. Irish immigrants were brought in to do the heavy labor of digging and masonry work required for canal construction. Many of them stayed on to work in the new whip and cigar factories. From the 1820s on, Westfield's population would include more and more new ethnic groups (Lockwood, Vol. II, p. 358).

The canal initiated a building boom in Westfield, with hotels, taverns, and warehouses constructed in anticipation of the increased business the canal would attract (Heyl & Hamberg, p. 9). Elm Street, which was oriented north to south, parallel to the canal, began to displace Main Street, which ran perpendicular to the canal, as the focus of Westfield's business activity. One of Westfield's major industries, the H. B. Smith & Company ironworks, was established along one of the canal basins. Initially producing iron fencing "for veranda and cemetery work," (Dewey, "Authentic History of Westfield") H. B. Smith would later grow into a major producer of boilers and radiators, and eventually became the first manufacturer to produce an affordable residential central heating system.

In spite of a brief flurry of initial profit, the new canal never achieved its expected success. It was difficult to maintain, and quickly displaced by the railroad, which used some of the canal beds and rights-of-way. (Lockwood, Vol. II, pp. 294-298). By 1852, the Northampton and Westfield Railroad had been formed to build a new rail line along the old canal right-of-way. By 1855, the Canal Railroad was completed from New Haven to Westfield, although the Northampton branch had not yet been finished. (Lockwood, Vol. II, p. 317) While Westfield's central business district grew along Elm Street, a new industrial belt of activity paralleled the new railroad (Heyl & Hamberg, p. 9).

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While the town grew around it, the Mechanic Street Cemetery was also expanding. A committee was formed in 1823 to find a site for a new graveyard. The committee decided instead to simply enlarge the existing cemetery. (Dewey, *Ancient Westfield*, p. 160) In 1827, the town acquired a long strip of land on the western border of the cemetery, nearly doubling its size (Lockwood, Vol. II, p. 265).

By the 1830s, residential development around the old burial ground had grown increasingly dense. In 1834, Mechanic Street was opened, paralleling the cemetery's western boundary. Local histories claim Mechanic Street as Westfield's first residential subdivision, with the street created solely for the purpose of dividing new house lots, rather than primarily as an access route. The new street became the cemetery's new access road; the entry to the burial ground was shifted from its south side to its west side.

As the town grew, so, too, did its need for schools. One of Westfield's prominent early nineteenth-century educational institutions was the Westfield Academy, established by a vote of the State Legislature in 1793 "for the purpose of promoting piety, religion, and morality, and for the instruction of the youth in such languages and such of the liberal arts and sciences as the trustees may direct." A number of Westfield residents who served as trustees are buried in the Mechanic Street Cemetery, including Samuel Mather, Samuel Fowler, Warham Parks, David Moseley, Reverend Noah Atwater, and Abel Whitney. Opened in 1800, the Academy continued in operation until 1867, when its functions were absorbed by Westfield High School and Westfield State Normal School. (Everts, p. 949) The Normal School, now Westfield State College, became the first state-sponsored co-educational teachers' college in the United States.

One of the Academy's instructors is commemorated in the Mechanic Street Cemetery with a marble stone carved by T. Adams of Hartford, Connecticut (block K; see photo #19). Eliza Bishop's dedication to the cause of educating girls and young women was eulogized in her epitaph: "The five last years of her /life were successfully /devoted to the interest of /Female Education and Piety, /& amidst a wide and extending /sphere of usefulness, /died while Preceptress of the Westfield Academy, /April 26, 1839."

By the 1850s, Mechanic Street had become a well-developed residential neighborhood, with house lots evenly spaced on either side of the road. According to Westfield's 1984 Historic Building Survey, many of the street's new residents were Irish tenants who had found employment building Westfield's canals, railroads, and factories, and who later worked in the mills their fathers and grandfathers had helped build. (Heyl and Hamberg, Inventory Form #549) With the Irish potato famine of the late 1840s, the steady trickle of Irish immigration into the community increased, and would soon change the religious and ethnic mix in the predominantly Protestant Yankee community.

Inside the cemetery, changes in monument materials and design reflected the changes in the surrounding community. As canals and railroads cut through Westfield, providing more efficient connections with outlying communities, new materials became available, not only for the construction of buildings, but also for grave markers. Quarries in the Berkshires turned out soft white marble which could be easily and cheaply transported great distances. White marble appeared alongside the red sandstone tablets that had dominated the cemetery during the 17th and 18th centuries. Shapes of headstones and lettering became more standardized.

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Decorative motifs also changed, with willows and urns replacing the exuberant variety of soul effigies which had dominated 18th-century stones. The soul effigies disappeared completely by around 1810. While the decorative borders and distinctive faces, crowns, and wings of the soul effigies marked each stone as the work of a particular carver, the new urns and willows showed little individual variation. One carver's stones often looked very much like another's.

At least three 19th-century Connecticut carvers, T. Adams of Hartford, S. S. Batterson of Wintonbury, and G. Viets of East Granby, left their marks on white marble stones. All three used similar decorative motifs. Two of the Batterson stones, that of Gad Palmer (d. 1824, block D) and that of Lydia King (d. 1809, block B), are distinguished by finely delineated willow-and-urn motifs and medallions on leafy bases surrounding the inscriptions. The Viets stones also display willows and urns. Some are distinguished by several words carved in Old English-style lettering. Viets stones include those for: Captain Solomon Phelps (d. 1835, block L), Albert C. Sacket (d. 1836), William Sackett (d. 1836), Philendy Sackett (d. 1837), and William C. Sackett (d. 1838; all the Sackett stones are located in block J; see photo #20).

Although still common at the beginning of the 19th century, epitaphs declined in popularity as the century progressed. Early 19th-century epitaphs presented romanticized and peaceful images of death, although the older images of decay and corruption prevalent in the eighteenth century can still be found. Sleep and rest became frequent metaphors for death.

A sentiment common to both 18th- and 19th-century epitaphs is that of the afterlife as the ultimate goal of temporal existence. Caroline Ann Parish's tombstone (d. 1838, block K) provides a succinct version of that theme: "She lived to die /And died to live." Themes of resurrection and salvation, along with admonitions to survivors to remain faithful and virtuous continued to be popular.

The eventual heavenly reunion of the living and the dead was another common theme in 19th-century epitaphs. Olive Tuller's epitaph (d. 1837, block J) expresses the popular and hopeful sentiment of a reunion in the afterlife: "Farewell my friends a short farewell 'till we shall meet in heaven above."

By the 1820s, epitaphs grew scarcer and briefer. While an occasional lengthy poetic inscription can be found, many later epitaphs consisted of one-sentence reminders of mortality and/or salvation. The briefest of all is that of Sarah A. Day (d. 1880, block L), which simply says: "Waiting."

More prosperous families bought fashionable obelisks and pedestal monuments in marble and granite. One of the more prominent obelisk monuments is dedicated to Colonel David Moseley (1798-1871, block D; see photo # 17). Moseley's grand sandstone monument is decorated with a sickle and a sheaf of grain. Active in town affairs, Moseley served in both local and state government as a selectman, assessor, State Representative, and State Senator. His military title came from his service as a leader of the local militia. (Everts, p. 958)

Several Victorian-era families delineated their plots with ornate manufactured cast-iron fencing, as the Morgan family did with their plot (block L; see photo #16). Local residents suggest that the H.B. Smith Company, which was founded in Westfield in 1853, and manufactured cast-iron fencing before specializing

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in radiators, boilers, and other heating equipment, may have manufactured some of these fences. However, makers' marks are not readily apparent. Fencing of this type was being manufactured and shipped by rail to New England from many different places during the mid-19th century, so it is not yet possible to determine whether the fencing was locally manufactured.

As the nature of the stones erected in the old graveyard changed, so too did ideas about the nature of the graveyard, reflecting changes in cemetery use and, indeed, the whole concept of the cemetery, that were taking place in the United States during the 1820s and 1830s. During the 1820s, city dwellers grew increasingly concerned about graveyards that were filled to capacity. At the same time, Americans became captivated by romantic ideals of picturesque landscaping that promoted a vision of designed nature that was tamed but not regimented. These two concerns came together when Mount Auburn Cemetery opened in Cambridge in 1831. While old "burying grounds" like the Mechanic Street Cemetery were simply pragmatic arrangements of headstones, the new "cemetery" was to be a designed landscape. Marked by rambling paths and picturesque vistas, this new cemetery doubled as a public park, providing a peaceful oasis from city life, where visitors could remember their loved ones and contemplate their own mortality in an idyllic setting. Situated on the outskirts of the city on a huge parcel of land, the new cemetery also solved the problem of overcrowding in the city's old graveyards.

The desire for "rural cemeteries" modeled on Mount Auburn swept the country during the 1830s and 1840s. In Westfield, this ideal was realized with the opening of the new Pine Hill Cemetery in 1842. Sited in open fields away from Westfield's town center, the new, larger cemetery had the rambling paths, picturesque landscaping, and decorative monuments that the Mechanic Street Cemetery lacked. Not only were most new burials located at Pine Hill, rather than Mechanic Street, but some families even relocated their relatives from the old-fashioned graveyard to the new rural cemetery.

Even so, the old burial ground continued to be fairly well-used through much of the 19th century. The number of new burials remained constant until about 1875, when the number of burials dropped to only one or two a year.

During the last half of the 19th century, development along the streets to the west of the Mechanic Street burial ground intensified. New homes filled in the gaps between older ones along Mechanic and Cherry Street, and new streets were opened up to connect Mechanic Street with Elm Street. Between 1847 and 1860, Bartlett Street was opened up, and in 1862, Chapel Street was extended. Mechanic Street's Irish Catholic community got its own church in 1885 with the construction of Saint Mary's on the corner of Mechanic and Bartlett Streets. By 1898, the parish had added a school. Closer to Elm Street, business and industrial development flourished. It was only to the east, where the town brook still bordered the cemetery, that land remained open. By 1870, some of that open land was developed, not for residential or business use, but for entertainment. By 1870, a trotting course had been constructed on Main Street, to the southeast of the cemetery.

By the 1870s, Westfield had grown into a busy manufacturing community. Crossed by two major railroad lines, the town boasted a population of around 8000 residents. Westfield's primary employers were its thirty-six whip manufacturers, twenty-eight cigar factories, and its paper factories. The 1873 Westfield Directory proudly proclaimed, "A large number of stores, representing diversities of trade, give its business streets a city aspect, and everything betokens thrift and enterprise." (p. 5)

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Through the 1880s, Westfield continued to grow. The 1880-81 Westfield Directory describes the town in glowing terms:

The village is a lively bustling and thriving place, and wears an air of solid thrift and substantial comfort, while its broad, handsome and well shaded avenues--thickly adorned with stately elms, make it, especially in the mild seasons of the year, a delightfully inviting retreat.

...Westfield is not surpassed by any other village of its size in New England for natural beauty, business enterprise, and congenial society--all of which combine to give promise to a bright and prosperous future (p. 6).

As the 19th century closed, Westfield's bright and prosperous future was firmly grounded in industry, rather than agriculture. In 1897, Westfield added bicycle-making to its industries, becoming home to Columbia Manufacturing Company.

During the 1880s, the town sporadically spent money on the Mechanic Street Cemetery. Annual reports are inconsistent in their description of cemetery expenditures, usually lumping them under the category of "Contingent Expenses." In 1883, the town established a special trust fund for planting shade trees and for the maintenance of the old burial ground. The fund was fairly small, containing only \$104.63 for cemetery expenses. (Westfield Annual Town Reports, 1883, p. 53) Throughout the next several decades, reports make occasional references to the fund, but descriptions are sporadic and inconsistent. In 1894, the town spent \$358.65 to build a new iron gate at the entrance to the cemetery. (Annual Reports, 1894, p. 74; see photo # 1) Unfortunately, the report does not list the name of the manufacturer.

By the time the new gate was installed, residential development completely surrounded the Mechanic Street Cemetery. Bartlett Street had been extended to East Bartlett Street, which wrapped around the burial ground's northeastern boundaries, and a new road, White Street, had been opened along the cemetery's eastern border. The old town meadow, which had separated the cemetery from the Westfield River, was now crisscrossed with new streets. By 1912, the last bit of open space surrounding the cemetery disappeared as a subdivision was laid out on the site of the old trotting grounds.

The cemetery's 19th-century neighbors were not strictly residential, however. By 1855, the town brook which bordered the graveyard had been dammed near the corner of Mechanic and Bartlett Streets to provide power for a shop owned by W. Dewey. Fifteen years later, the American Whip Company was using the site for one of its factories. An 1870 map clearly shows the stream diverted to power the factory's machines. Later in the 19th century, the site became the home of the Noble Cigar Company's factory, which remained until the 1920s.

During the early 1900s, Westfield began to see itself as a city rather than a town. By 1910, a mixture of ethnic groups made up the town's population, adding Czechs, Italians, Lithuanians, and Poles, to the Irish who had settled in the first half of the 19th century. Westfield had grown increasingly urbanized through the last half of the 19th century. The question of a city charter was raised in 1905 and again in 1914, but these early efforts were unsuccessful, with citizens rejecting a charter proposed by the state legislature. Finally, in 1920, a charter committee successfully presented a proposal to Westfield voters, and the town officially became a city. (Adams, James R. "Westfield History 1920-1940" in Janes, pp. 304-305)

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By the end of World War I, the industries which had fostered Westfield's growth had begun to decline. The coming of the automobile made the whip industry obsolete; at the same time, cigar-making also declined (Heyl & Hamberg, p. 15). In the 20th century, new industries, like the Savage Arms Company and toolmaker Stanley Home Products, eventually replaced the 19th-century manufacturers. Industry still makes up a large proportion of the city's business sector. New high-technology manufacturers, along with a few surviving 19th-century businesses, like Columbia Manufacturing and H. B. Smith, make up Westfield's present industrial community.

While Westfield was becoming a city and assimilating new ethnic groups, the Mechanic Street Cemetery was nearing the end of its career as an actively used graveyard. By the turn of the 20th century, new burials had grown sporadic, with several years between them. By the time Mary Noble Fox (1841-1934, block F) became the last Westfield resident buried at Mechanic Street in 1934, there had been no burials in the cemetery for over a decade.

Vandalism and environmental factors such as pollution and weathering have taken a toll on the Mechanic Street Cemetery. A number of stones have disappeared or have been broken since inventories were taken in 1915 and 1939. Several remaining stones are so badly spalled or eroded that they are nearly illegible, and only one family plot retains all of its ornamental iron fencing. In spite of the wear and tear the cemetery has undergone, a remarkable number of markers, including a large number of footstones, remain in good to excellent condition, displaying an unusually fine collection of artwork produced by 18th-century Connecticut Valley stonecutters. The cemetery's 18th-century stones provide substantial insight, not only into the craftsmanship of their makers, but the religious beliefs that inspired the symbols and epitaphs used, while the 19th-century markers illustrate changes in technology, transportation, and attitudes toward death.

While Westfield is fortunate in having a number of well-preserved 18th-century homes, the city has no known surviving 17th century buildings. Markers in the Mechanic Street Cemetery are the few survivors from Westfield's early settlement period. None of Westfield's other early cemeteries dates as far back as Mechanic Street does. The Mundale Parish Cemetery on Granville Road dates from circa 1835 to 1912; the Middle Farms Cemetery at the north end of the city dates from 1790 to 1983, and the Owen District Cemetery at the northeast corner of the city dates from 1808 to 1977. The Mechanic Street Cemetery's association with Westfield's pioneering families and with prominent figures from Westfield's 18th and 19th-century history, gives it a significant role in the city's built environment.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of prehistoric settlement and subsistence in Westfield are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Prehistoric resources on the nominated property may contain data that identifies patterns of Native American landuse in a temperate forest riverine environment. Important information may be present indicating the role of sites along tributary streams of the Westfield River to larger core areas along the main branch of the Westfield and Connecticut rivers. Regional and/or seasonal variability may also be present between sites and secondary drainages. Information may be present at sites on the property that contribute to research topics focusing on lithic tool assemblages and chronologies, ceramic technology and style and the analysis of prehistoric exchange. While the Connecticut River provided a regional north/south corridor for transportation and the movement of goods and ideas, its tributaries including Town

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

**Mechanic Street Cemetery
Westfield (Hampden), MA**

Brook and the Westfield River may have played a vital role in a similar function for an east/west corridor covering a much smaller geographical area.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute detailed information on the social, cultural and economic patterns that characterize much of Westfield's community history from the 17th through 20th centuries. The Mechanic Street Cemetery including its monuments, graves and overall configuration represents an intact example of a graveyard typical of a 17th and 18th century town owned neighborhood burial ground and one of the few surviving landscape features associated with the town's pioneering families. Additional historical research combined with archaeological survey and testing can help document the number of burials in the cemetery and changing burial practices during its period of use. The number of interments in the cemetery is reported in the vicinity of 900, however, unmarked burials may be as high as 500. Archaeological research can identify the range in burial types and their pattern of distribution in the cemetery. Primary interments of single individuals containing a burial shaft, casket and body may represent most burials. Other burials may contain multiple individuals representing adults, children or combinations thereof. Some graves may be commemorative lacking a grave shaft and human remains. Historical documentation also exists that some families relocated relatives from Mechanic Street to the new rural cemetery at Pine Hill after 1842. Archaeological research can help determine whether the movement of graves was symbolic or actually included removal and reburial of the remains.

Archaeological testing can also help determine the extent that the alignment and distribution of graves in the cemetery represents their actual placement. Gravestones were often replaced at different locations after being vandalized, moved during landscaping activities or as part of cemetery restorations. Archaeological research can also help test the accuracy of 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. Fence lines, constructed years after the cemetery was founded may have excluded the unmarked graves of unknown persons, paupers or other indigent persons as well as graves with missing stones. Artifact distributions in the cemetery may also contribute important information on religious beliefs of individuals and the town as well as attitudes toward death and the afterlife. Important information may be gathered from the stylistic attributes of gravestones and various types of artifacts associated with memorial services at the time of death and afterwards.

Much of the above information can be obtained through unobtrusive archaeological research. That is, information can be obtained by mapping artifact concentrations, gravestones and the locations of features such as grave shafts and post molds without disturbing actual skeletal remains. Remote sensing research techniques might also contribute useful information. Social, cultural and economic information relating to the 17th through 20th century Westfield settlement can also 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 contribute 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 also help determine the actual number of individuals interred at the burial ground. Osteological studies can contribute detailed information about the inhabitants of the community during a period when written records are rare or non-existent. The paucity of written records is especially true for minority members of the community including Native Americans,

(continued)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

Mechanic Street Cemetery
Westfield (Hampden), MA

African Americans and other immigrant ethnic groups. The overall context of the grave, including material culture remains, can provide important information on burial practices, religious beliefs, economic status, family structure and numerous other topics relating to the individual, their socio/economic group, the overall settlement and early religious society.

(end)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Mechanic Street Cemetery
Westfield (Hampden), MA

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Westfield (Hampden), MA

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 3

**Mechanic Street Cemetery
Westfield (Hampden), MA**

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(end)

Mechanic Street Cemetery

Name of Property

Hampden, MA

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.98 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 18 686390 4665830
Zone Easting Northing

2. 18 686460 4665740
Zone Easting Northing

3. 18 686460 4665590
Zone Easting Northing

4. 18 686380 4665590
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 Michele Plourde-Barker, Consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April 2002

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

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 City of Westfield, MA, Parks and Recreation Department

street & number Holcomb Street telephone 413-572-6263

city or town Westfield state MA zip code 01085

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. NPS Form 10-900 OMB No.

1024-0018
(Rev. 10-90)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Mechanic Street Cemetery
Westfield (Hampden), MA

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Note: Most of the land on which the Mechanic Street Cemetery sits has belonged to the city of Westfield since settlement. Assessors' records show no deed references for the property. Property description has been taken from assessors' maps.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Mechanic Street Cemetery is the property designated by the Westfield City Assessor as parcel #: 329/010.0-0072-0000.0.

Mechanic Street cemetery contains 3.98 acres of land bounded by the rear property lines of properties located on Mechanic Street, East Bartlett Street, White Street, and Cherry Street. The boundary for the Mechanic Street cemetery begins at the southwestern corner of the property located at 45 Mechanic Street, which forms the border between the entrance way to the cemetery and the southern property line of 45 Mechanic Street. The line runs east 186 feet along the southern property line of 45 Mechanic Street to the southeastern corner of 45 Mechanic Street. It then turns north and runs along the eastern (rear) property lines of 45, 49, 55, 57, 61, and 65 Mechanic Street for approximately 435 feet, until it reaches the northwestern corner of the Mechanic Street Cemetery. The boundary line then turns east for a short distance, following the southern (rear) property line of 15 East Bartlett Street. The boundary then turns southeast, running along the southwest (rear) property lines of 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 25 1/2, and 29 East Bartlett Street until it reaches the southwestern corner of 29 East Bartlett Street. The boundary line then runs south along the western (rear) property lines of 84, 80-82, 78, and 60 White Street to the southeastern corner of Mechanic Street Cemetery.

The property lines then turns west and runs along the northern (rear) property lines of 21, 23, and 25 Cherry Street, approximately 230 feet to the southwestern corner of Mechanic Street Cemetery. The boundary then turns north and proceeds along the eastern (rear) property lines of 25 Cherry Street and 33, 35, 37, 41, and 43 Mechanic Street, until it reaches the northeastern corner of 43 Mechanic Street. The boundary turns west, running 186.3 feet along the northern property line of 43 Mechanic Street, until it reaches Mechanic Street. The boundary then turns north, running along the eastern side of Mechanic Street for 32 feet until it reaches the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the property being nominated are identical with the property lines of the Mechanic Street Cemetery.

(end)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page

Mechanic Street Cemetery
Westfield (Hampden), MA

NOTE: ALL ORIGINAL NEGATIVES ARE LOCATED AT:
Westfield Historical Commission
City Hall
59 Court Street
Westfield, MA 01085

PHOTOGRAPHER: Michele Plourde-Barker, February/March 2000

1. Main gate, Mechanic Street Cemetery, facing west
2. General view of Mechanic Street Cemetery, facing northeast
3. Abigail Sackett Noble (d. 1683) gravestone, block B, Mechanic Street Cemetery
view facing east
4. Nathaniel Williams (d. 1711) gravestone, block I, view facing north
5. Quartermaster John Moseley (d. 1752) and Hannah Moseley (d. 1763) gravestones, block A,
View facing east
6. Margaret Shepard (d. 1769) gravestone (C. Sikes, carver), block I, view facing north
7. Ensign Mathew Noble (d. 1771) and Joanna Noble (d. 1763) gravestones, block A, view facing
northeast
8. Reverend John Ballantine (d. 1776) gravestone, block B, view facing east
9. Colonel John Moseley (d. 1780) gravestone, block G, view facing west
10. Major Samuel Mather (d. 1789) gravestone, block G, view facing west
11. Daniel (d. 1800) and Elenor Fowler (d. 1791) gravestone, block G, view facing northwest
12. Azariah (d. 1790) and Mercy Mosley (d. 1799) gravestones, block G, view facing east
13. Bildad Fowler (d. 1809) gravestone, block C, view facing east
14. Richard Falley, Jr. (d. 1808), Ann Falley (d. 1758), and Richard Falley, Sr. (D. 1756) gravestones,
block I, view facing west
15. Reverend Noah Atwater (d. 1802) gravestone, block G, view facing northwest
16. Morgan family plot, block L, view facing south
17. Moseley family monument, block D, view facing east
18. General William Shepard (d. 1817) gravestone, block G, view facing east
19. Eliza Bishop (d. 1839) gravestone (carved by T. Adams) and Reverend Joseph Mix (d. 1833)
gravestone, block K, view facing east
20. Sacket family plot (gravestones carved by G. Viets), block J, view facing east

**MECHANIC STREET CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

C= contributing; Si = site;
St= structure; O=object

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	DATE	STATUS	TYPE OF RESOURCE
1	Mechanic Street Cemetery	Cemetery	N/A	1677-1934	C	Si
2	Mechanic Street Cemetery Gate	Gate	Cast iron	1894	C	St
3	Abigail Sackett Noble marker	Marker	Sandstone	1683	C	O
4	Nathaniel Williams marker	Marker	Sandstone	1711	C	O
5	Quartermaster John Moseley marker	Marker	Sandstone	1752	C	O
6	Hannah Moseley marker	Marker	Sandstone	1763	C	O
7	Margaret Shepard marker	Marker	Quartzite	1769	C	O
8	Ensign Mathew Noble marker	Marker	Sandstone	1771	C	O
9	Joanna Noble marker	Marker	Sandstone	1763	C	O
10	Reverend John Ballantine marker	Marker	Sandstone	1776	C	O
11	Colonel John Moseley marker	Marker	Sandstone	1780	C	O

**MECHANIC STREET CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

C= contributing; Si = site;
St= structure; O=object

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	DATE	STATUS	TYPE OF RESOURCE
12	Major Samuel Mather marker	Marker	Sandstone	1789	C	O
13	Daniel and Elenor Fowler marker	Marker	Sandstone	1791-1800	C	O
14	Azariah Moseley marker	Marker	Sandstone	1790	C	O
15	Mercy Moseley marker	Marker	Sandstone	1799	C	O
16	Bildad Fowler marker	Marker	Sandstone	1809	C	O
17	Richard Falley, Jr. marker	Marker	Granite	1808	C	O
18	Ann Falley marker	Marker	Sandstone	1758	C	O
19	Richard Falley, Sr. marker	Marker	Sandstone	1756	C	O
20	Reverend Noah Atwater marker	Marker	Sandstone	1802	C	O
21	Morgan family plot, iron fencing	Fencing	Cast iron	1857, circa	C	St
22	Archippas Morgan marker	Marker	Sandstone	1857	C	O
23	Moseley family monument	Marker	Sandstone	1871	C	O

**MECHANIC STREET CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, HAMPDEN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

C= contributing; Si = site;
St= structure; O=object

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	DESCRIPTION	MATERIAL	DATE	STATUS	TYPE OF RESOURCE
24	General William Shepard marker	Marker	Granite	1817	C	O
25	Eliza Bishop marker	Marker	Granite	1839	C	O
26	Reverend Joseph Mix marker	Marker	Sandstone	1833	C	O
27	Flagpole	Flagpole		Mid-20 th century	NC	O
28	Revolutionary War Veterans Memorial	Marker	Granite	1976	NC	O
29	French and Indian War Memorial	Marker	Granite	1998	NC	O
30	Mechanic Street Cemetery Historical Marker	Marker	Granite	1964	NC	O
31	General William Shepard Memorial Plaque	Marker	Granite	1969	NC	O

NOTE: There are more than 1,000 headstones and footstones in the Mechanic Street Cemetery; all are contributing resources. However, it is not feasible to list all of them. The District Data Sheet lists objects and structures other than gravestones, and several representative markers, which are illustrated in the nomination.



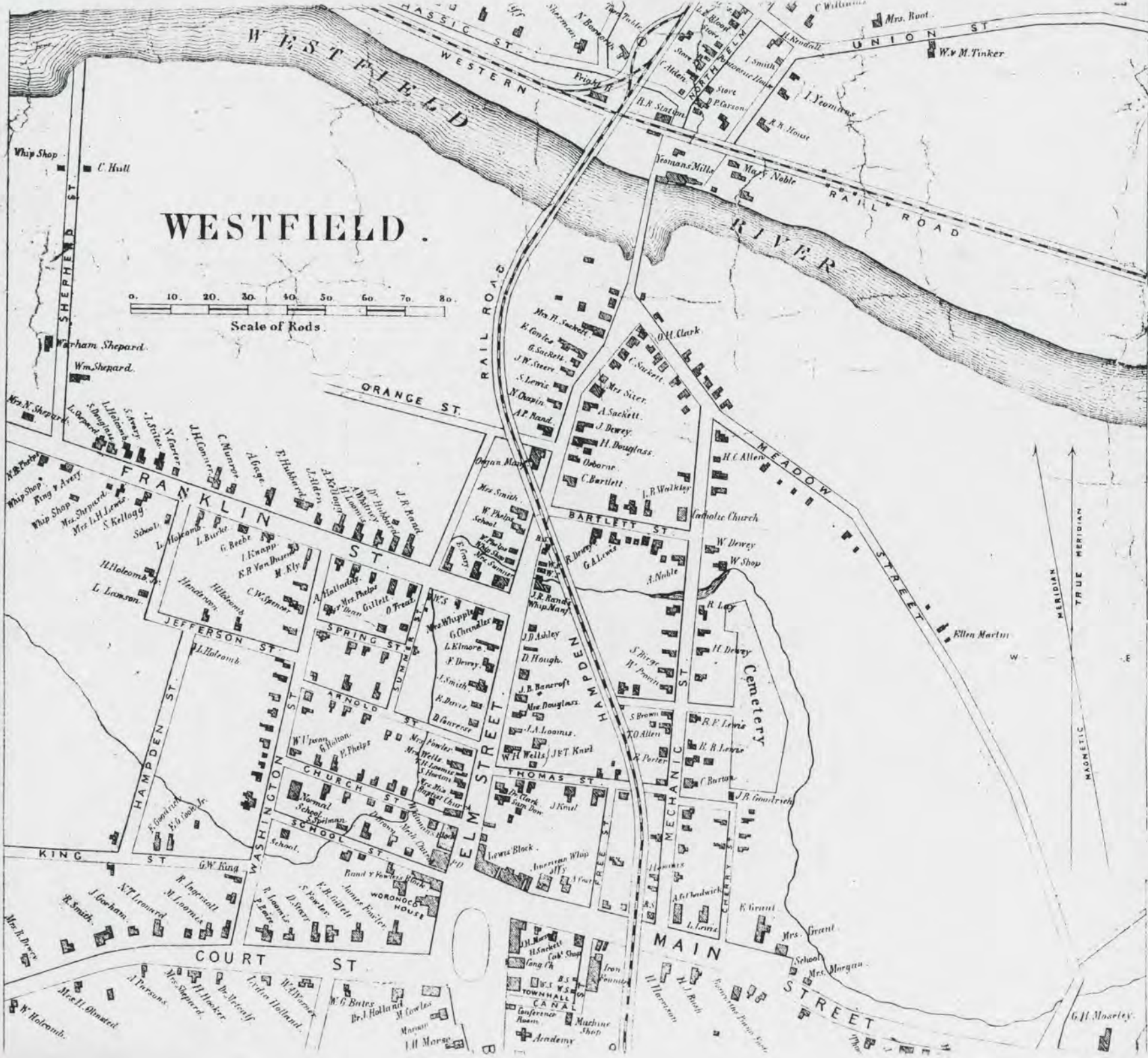
HISTORICAL MAP OF WESTFIELD
Copyrighted, 1905

Dewey, Louis Marinus. "Historical Map of the Original Settlement." 1905.



Goldthwait, J. H., engraver. *A Plan of Westfield from the Survey of 1831. 1834*
(Photocopy held by Westfield Athenaeum.)

Walling, Henry F. Map of Hampden County, Massachusetts. Boston: H.A. Haley, 1855.





ELM STREET.

- W. G. Bates
- Snod & Milbaird
- J. W. Colton
- P. L. Tuell
- M. E. Church
- H. Loomis
- Mrs. Phelps
- Owen & Sackett
- B. R. Holcomb
- H. R. Stockbridge
- E. Tobey
- First National Bank
- Westfield Savings
- Gillett & Stevens
- F. Moore
- Leonard & Lyman
- S. S. Conner
- M. B. Whitney
- O. Bruce
- B. F. Lewis
- Fletcher & Norton
- W. R. Harvey
- E. Tobey
- J. W. Root
- G. Shurtleff & Co
- Douglas & Marvin
- Clark & Carpenter
- E. B. Smith
- M. Farrar
- F. A. Grover
- G. H. Musley
- G. H. Mallory
- P. E. Runwell
- Ensign & Phelps
- Dr. G. Andrews
- Weston, Lewis & Co
- Dr. F. Mullen
- Odd Fellows Hall
- C. K. Lambson
- Dr. E. M. Goodrich
- D. L. Gillett
- Masonic Hall
- H. M. Miller
- Holcomb Bros
- F. P. Scario
- A. M. U. Express Co

BROAD STREET.

- No. 1 Russell Bros
- 2 S. Burge
- 4 W. C. Holcomb
- 5 C. Young

MAIN STREET.

- 1 W. H. Fouts & Co
- 2 J. W. & E. O. Gibbs
- 3 Hampden National Bank
- 4 Leonard & Lewis
- 5 A. J. Starr & Co
- 6 A. Sexton & Co
- 7 H. Fuller
- 8 D. D. Hews
- 9 J. P. Diehl

SCHOOL STREET.

- 2 Snow & Rising
- 2 B. W. Knowles
- 2 M. Loomis

Exchange Block
6, 8 & 10

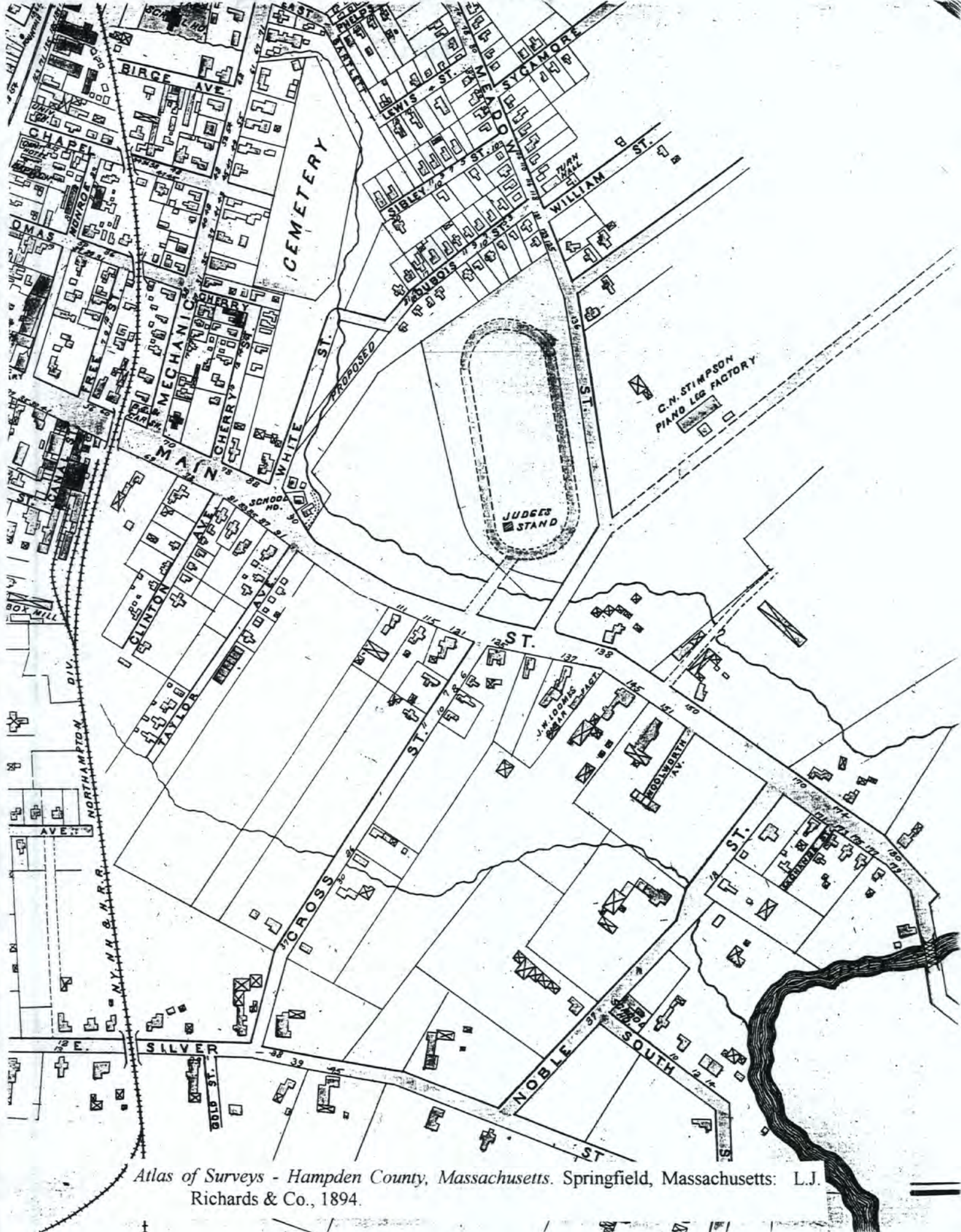
9 & 11

Masonic Block
24 & 26

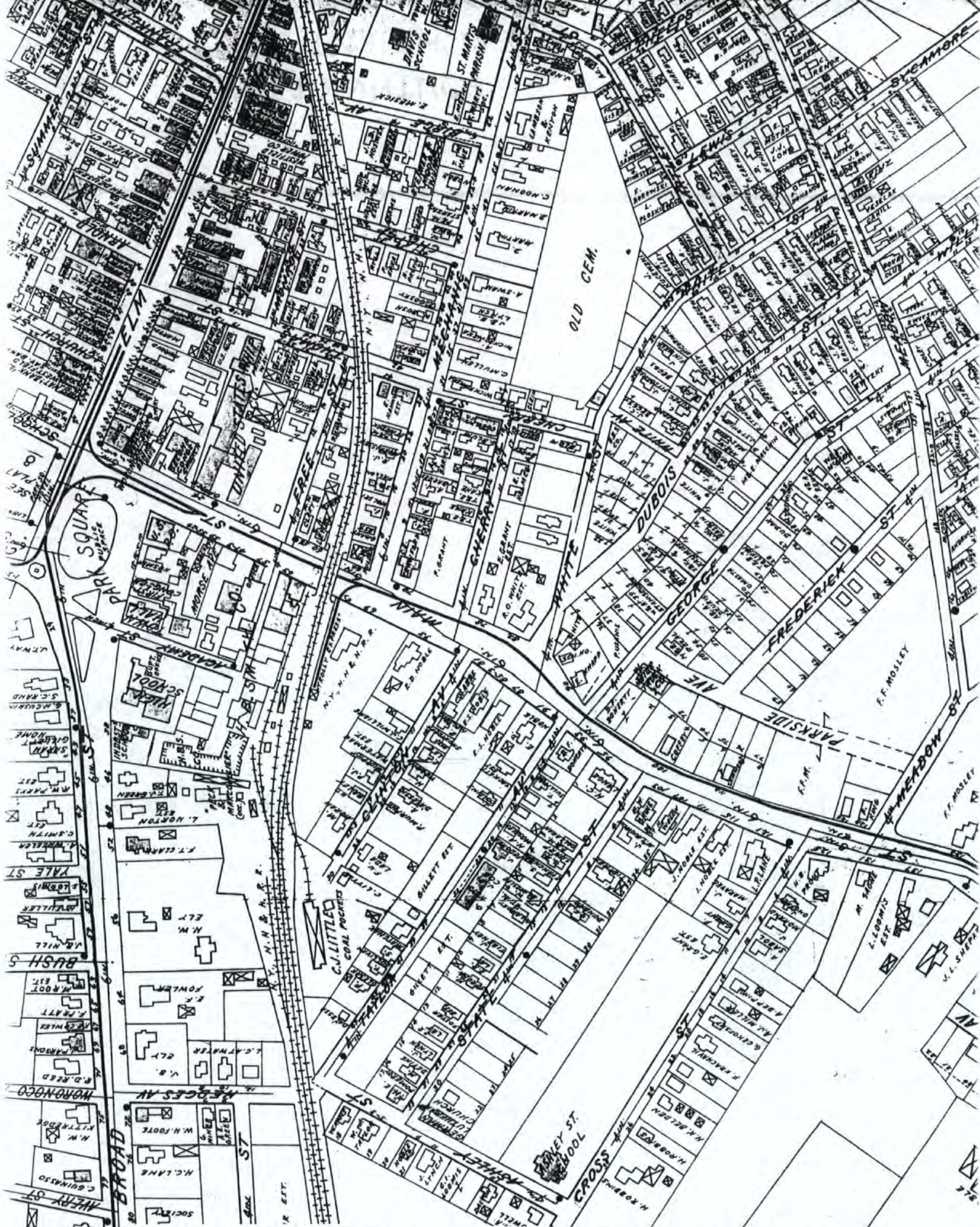
23

30

32



Atlas of Surveys - Hampden County, Massachusetts. Springfield, Massachusetts: L.J. Richards & Co., 1894.



Atlas of Hampden County, Massachusetts. Springfield, Massachusetts: Richards Map Co., 1912.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mechanic Street Cemetery

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Hampden

DATE RECEIVED: 4/30/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/16/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/01/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/14/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02000632

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/12/2002 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A&C

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 6/12/2002

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



MAY 2000 < > 021
501 61**NNN-1 09 2(072)

MECHANIC ST. CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO #1



MAY 2000 < > 023
501 81** NNN-1 07 2(072)

MECNVIC ST. CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO #2



HERE
LIES THE
BODY OF ABIGAIL
THE WIFE OF
JOHN NOBLE WHO
DIED IN 1783 AND
1083 IN 20 YEARS
OF HER AGE

MAY 2000 < >001
498 81** NNN-2 11 2(072)

MECHANIC ST. CEMETARY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO #3



A sepia-toned photograph of a gravestone in a cemetery. The stone is rectangular with a decorative, arched top and ornate scrollwork on the sides. The inscription is carved into the center of the stone. The background shows other gravestones and trees in a cemetery setting.

Nathaniel William Diehl
Nov^m^e-7-1731
Aged 65

MAY 2000 < > 003
501 81**NNN-1 052(072)

MECHANIC ST. CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PWOJO #4



IN
Memory of
JOHN MOSELY
Who Died Aug
6th 1752 aged
74 Years

In Memory of Isaac
Ashley Esq who being
abroad in the Public
Service as Surgeon
at Amherst in
1747 Near
60 years of age
Died the 11th of Decr
1752 Aged 70
The Soul and Body
of the said Isaac
Ashley Esq
Lies in the Burial
place of the
Quakers in
the South

In Memory of
M^{rs} HANNAH
wife of
Quaker MASTER
JOHN MOSELY
who died April 27th
1703 in y^e Year
of her Age
Reader Remember
Death & Eternity

MAY 2000 < > 038
501 81** N H N N 08 2 (072)

MECHANIC ST. CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO #5



SACRED

To the Memory of Mrs
Margaret Confort of W.
David Shepard of Chester
who died Feb. 10. 1769
In the 20 year of her age

Many are the thorns of Death
many are the rays of Grief
grim Grave all dreadful
But
Divine alone assures that Peace
Which age nor death can ever destroy
Affords the World a lasting Tale
And fills the Grave with noble Fear

1769

MAY 2000 < >053
501 81** N N N N-03 2(072)

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO # 6



Ensign
MATTHEW NOBLE
Was born
Sep. 9. 1692.
Died
Aug. 2. 1771.

This gravestone is made of dark stone with a decorative border of swirling acanthus leaves. At the top is a carved face of a man with a crown. The inscription is in a rectangular panel in the center.

Remember me
as you Pass by:
as you are now
So once was I:
as I am now
So you must be:
Prepare for death
as I am now.



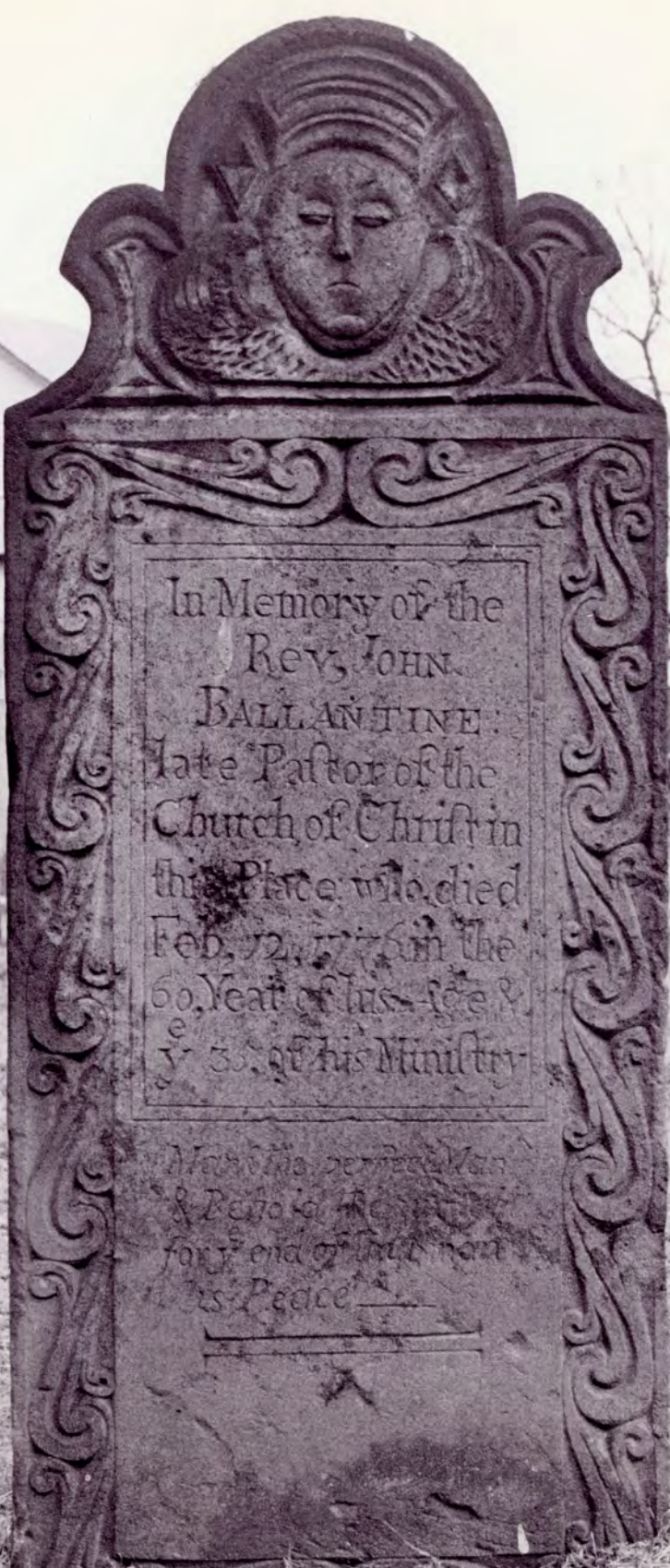
This gravestone is made of dark stone with a decorative border of swirling acanthus leaves. At the top is a carved hourglass flanked by two small trees. The inscription is in a rectangular panel in the center.

In Memory of
MRS. JOANNA
Wife of Ensign
MATTHEW NOBLE
who died Nov.
1. 1763 in her
67th Year.

Death is debt
to Nature due
Which I have paid
& so must you.

MAY 2000 < >035
501 81** N H N 03 2 (072)

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO # 7



In Memory of the
Rev. JOHN
BALLANTINE:
Late Pastor of the
Church of Christ in
this Place who died
Feb. 12, 1876 in the
60. Year of his Age &
y^e 30. of his Ministry.

Martha, nee Mrs. Van
& Peter of the same
family end of their journey
in Peace

MAY 2000 < >047
501 81** N N N-3 05 2(072)

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO #8



This Monument is Erected to the
Memory of ~~Col. John Moore~~
who departed this life on the
first Day of ~~July~~ 1880 in the
56th year of his age.

When virtue falls a victim to the Grave,
in life distinguished by the wise & brave,
Let friendship deck thy tomb with choicest flowers,
Let melancholy mark the tomb with sighs,
In every breast let pity have
And feel & solemn truth that all must die,
Mingle with dust thy cold body.

Corruption earth & worms
shall but refine thy flesh:
till thy triumphant spirit comes
to put it on a new dress.

MAY 2000 < >011
501 81** N N N-1-03 2(072)

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO # 9



In Memory of
Major SAMUEL MATHE^R
Son of SAMUEL MATHER
Esq. & M^{rs} GRACE MATHE^R
Who died March 15, 1789
In y^e 25. Year of his Age.

Life is uncertain Death is sure
Smiling wounds Christy cure

How oft we be merry & Age

By death look from this mortal stage

Like flowers cut down while fresh is

Some by Death are no more seen



MAY 2000 < >008
501 81** N N N-1-01 2(072)

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO # 10

In Memory of
M^r DANIEL FOWLER
who departed this life
July 31st A^d 1802
aged 73
and of

M^{rs} ELEANOR FOWLER
his Wife who died
Dec^r 4th A^d 1791
aged 65

*Hisband and Wife unitedly send
To God their both souls and bodies
Buryed in our earthly home
We sleep together in the tomb*

MAY 2000 < >049
501 81** N N N N-21 2(072)

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO # 11



A dark, rectangular gravestone with a decorative border and a carved face at the top. The text is engraved in the center.

In Memory of
Mr. AZARIAH MOSLEY
who died
15th July 1760
Aged 63 Years.



A dark, rectangular gravestone with a decorative border and a carved face at the top. The text is engraved in the center.

In Memory of
Mrs. MERCY
Consort of
Mr. AZARIAH
MOSLEY, *who died*
3rd Dec^r 1799.
Aged 52 Years.

MAY 2000 < > 041
501 81**NNNN 04 2(072)

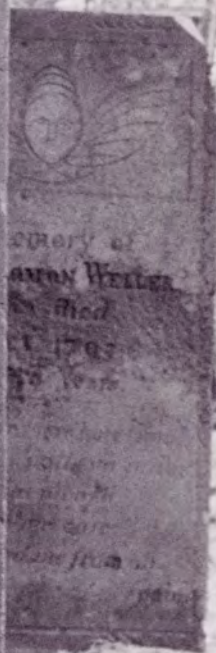
MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO # 12



In memory of
MR. BILDAD FOWLER.

who died
9th. April 1809
in the 31 year
of his age.

The eye also which saw
him shall see him no
more. — Job 20. 9.



MAY 2000 < >044
501 81** N N N N-10 2(072)

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO # 13



In Memory of M^{rs}
Ann, Wife of M^r
Richard Falley
who died April 20
1781 in the 7th Year
of her Age
Gone and gone, but
in the resurrection
and the life, he that
believeth in me though
he were dead yet
shall he live.

In Memory of M^r
Richard Falley
who died Aug. 27
1786 in his 45th Year
Reader, behold as you
pass by as you are now
so once was I, and I am
now to your mind, be
prepared for Death and
follow me.

M^{rs}
Ann
Falley

M^r
Richard
Falley

MAY 2000 < > 005
501 81**NN-N-1 07 2(072)

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO # 14



MOSES PHELPS

died
Oct. 15, 1855
A. 84

SARAH

wife of
Moses Phelps
died
March 2, 1822
A. 60

MRS.
M. W. WATER
1809

MAY 2000 < > 029
50181**NNNN012(072)

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO #15



MAY 2000 < > 056
501 81** N N N-1 03 2 (072)

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO # 16



MOSELEY

LANCE THOMPSON
BORN 1910
DIED 1972

MAY 2000 < >026
501 81** N N N N 08 2 (072)

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PNOJO #17

HON. WILLIAM SHEEPARD

died

Nov. 16. 1817

aged 80

*He fought the battles of our Country.
Aided in the councils of our Nation.
& Exemplified the character of the Christian*

*"The righteous shall be in
Everlasting remembrance."*

MAY 2000 < >014
501 81** N N N N 16 2(072)

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO #18

HARRIET F. B. BROWN
 Born at Framingham, Mass.
 Nov. 10, 1815.
 The five last years of her
 life were successfully
 devoted to the interest of
 moral Education of Pious
 and sturdy & excellent
 sphere of usefulness.
 Died whilst Presidentess of
 Westfield Academy.
 April 26, 1880.
W. H. H. H. H. H.

THE
 MEMORY OF
 REV. JOSEPH MIN
 formerly Pastor of
 the church in
 Westfield Con.
 who died
 Aug. 4, 1833.
 A. D. 68.
 In Church is no hope
 The Church is the seat of the soul
 The Church is the seat of the soul
 The Church is the seat of the soul
 The Church is the seat of the soul

MAY 2000 < > 017
501 8111 NNN-1 082<072>

MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PHOTO #19


 WM. SACKETT
 DIED
 Oct 25 1836.
 E. 28.



 WM. SACKETT
 DIED
 Oct 22 1836.
 E. 22.


 WM. S.
 Son of
 W. & P. Sackett
 DIED
 Oct. 3 1838
 E. 21.

MAY 2000 < > 032
501 81** N H N N 082 (072)

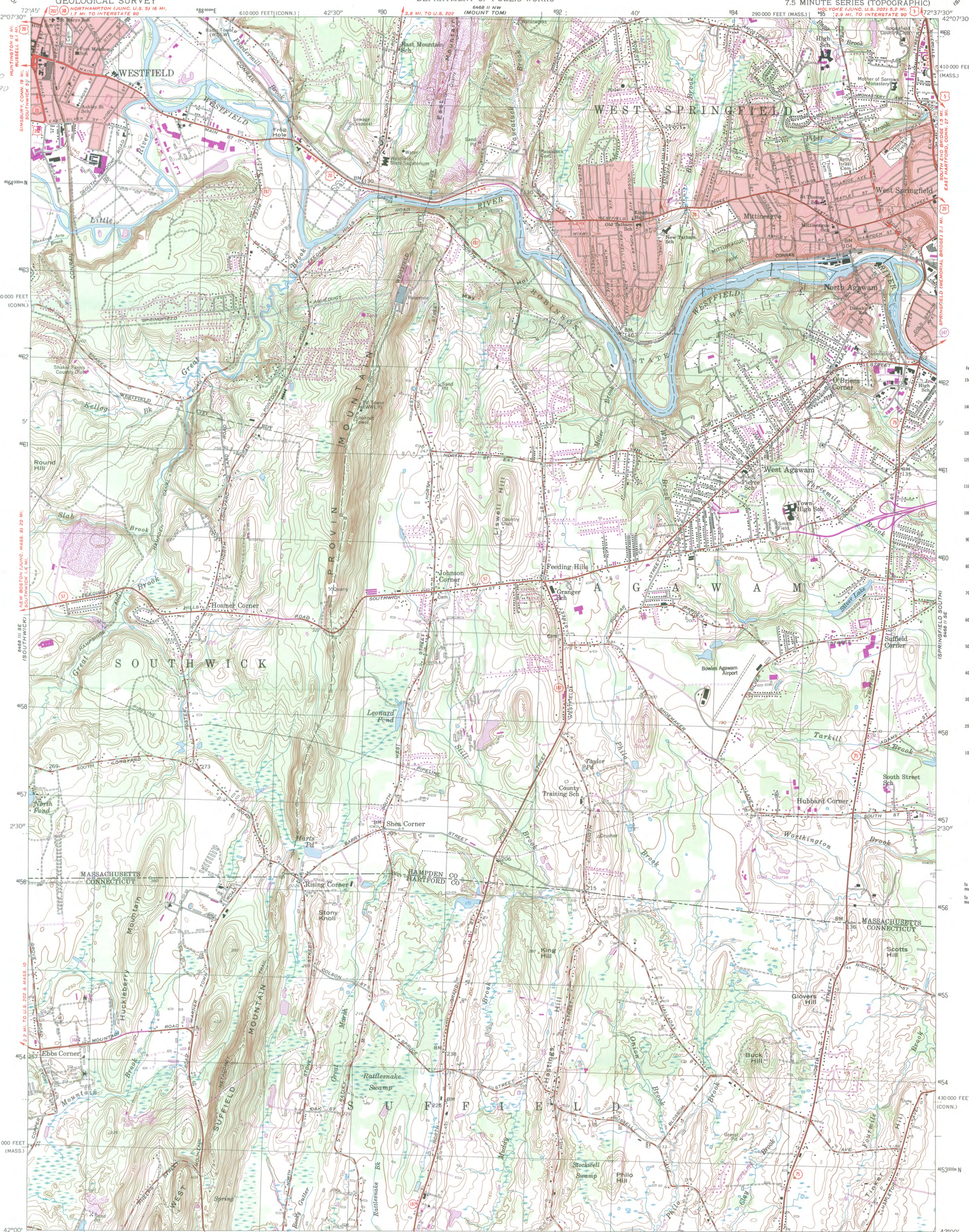
MECHANIC ST CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, MA
PNO30 #20

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

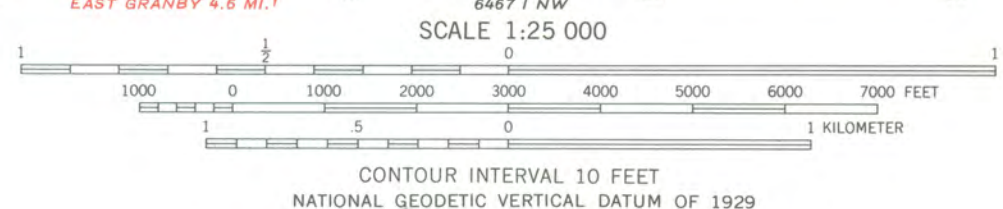
WEST SPRINGFIELD QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS-CONNECTICUT
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

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2-18 686450 4665740
3-18 686460 4665590
4-18 686380 4665590



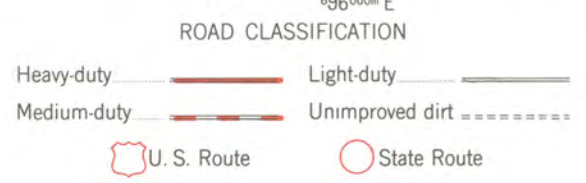
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multiply by 0.3048
To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey,
Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission, and
Connecticut Geodetic Survey
Topography by plane-table surveys 1933 and 1942-1943
Culture revised from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
methods. Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1958
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

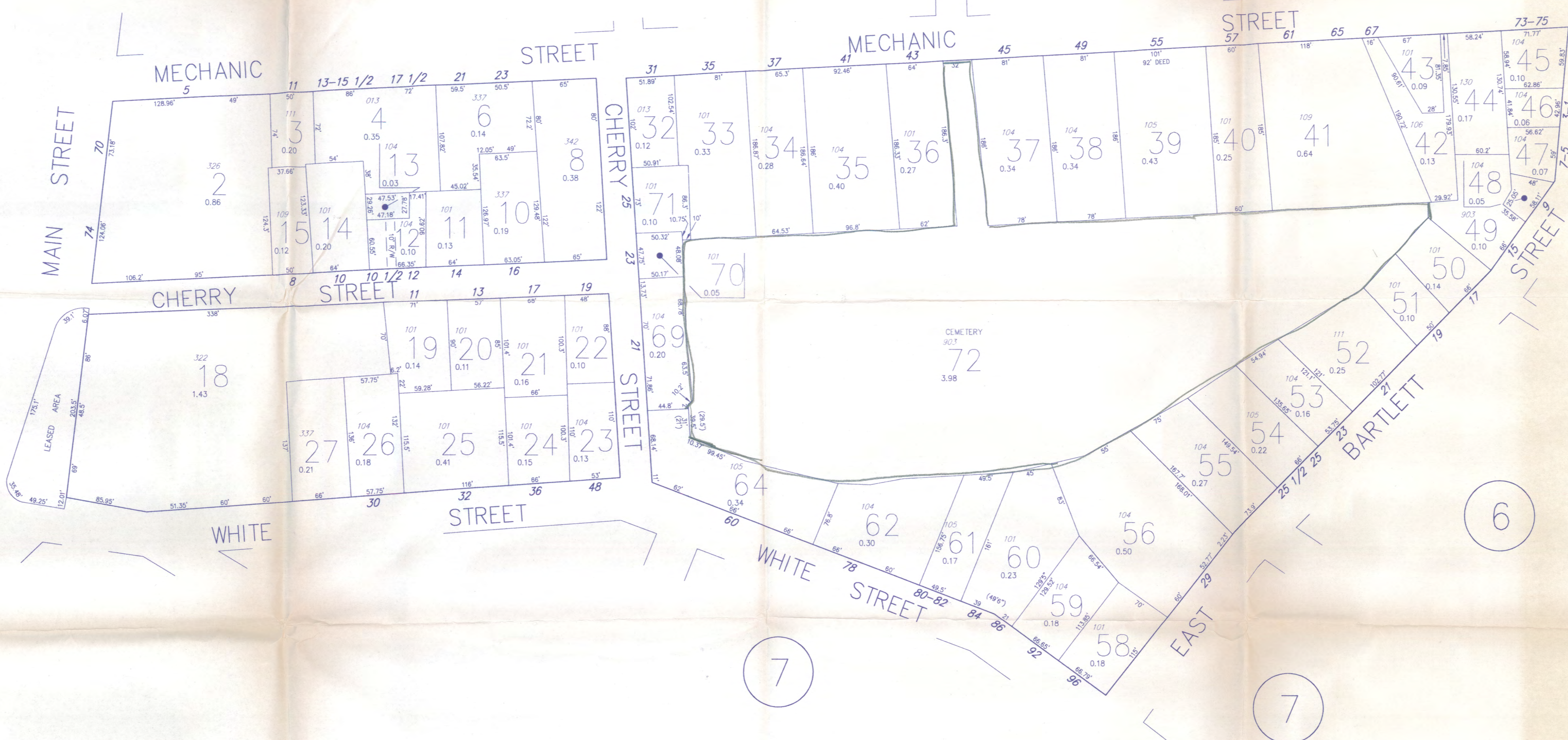
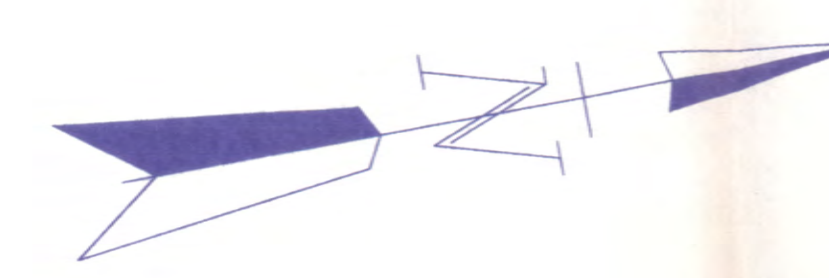
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

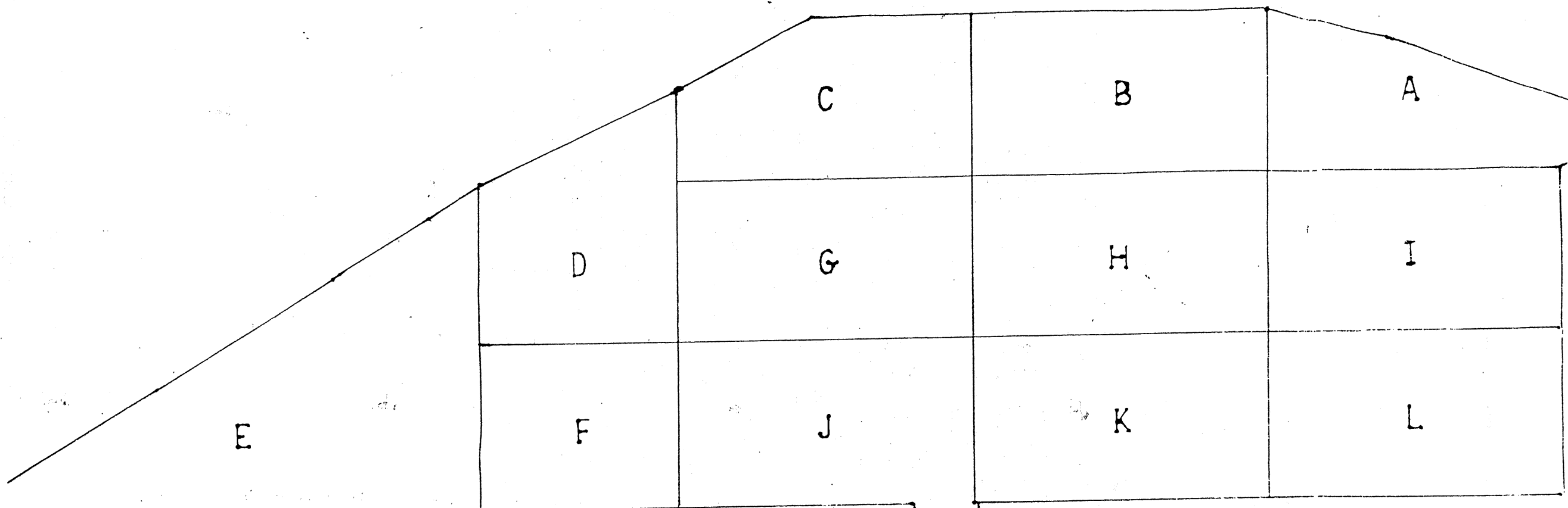


WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASS.-CONN.
N4200-W7237.5/7.5
1958
PHOTORELIEF 1979
AMS 6468 II SW-SERIES V814



MECHANIC ST. CEMETERY
WESTFIELD, HAMPDEN COUNTY, MA
USGS MAP





MECHANIC STREET CEMETERY

- BLOCK PLAN -

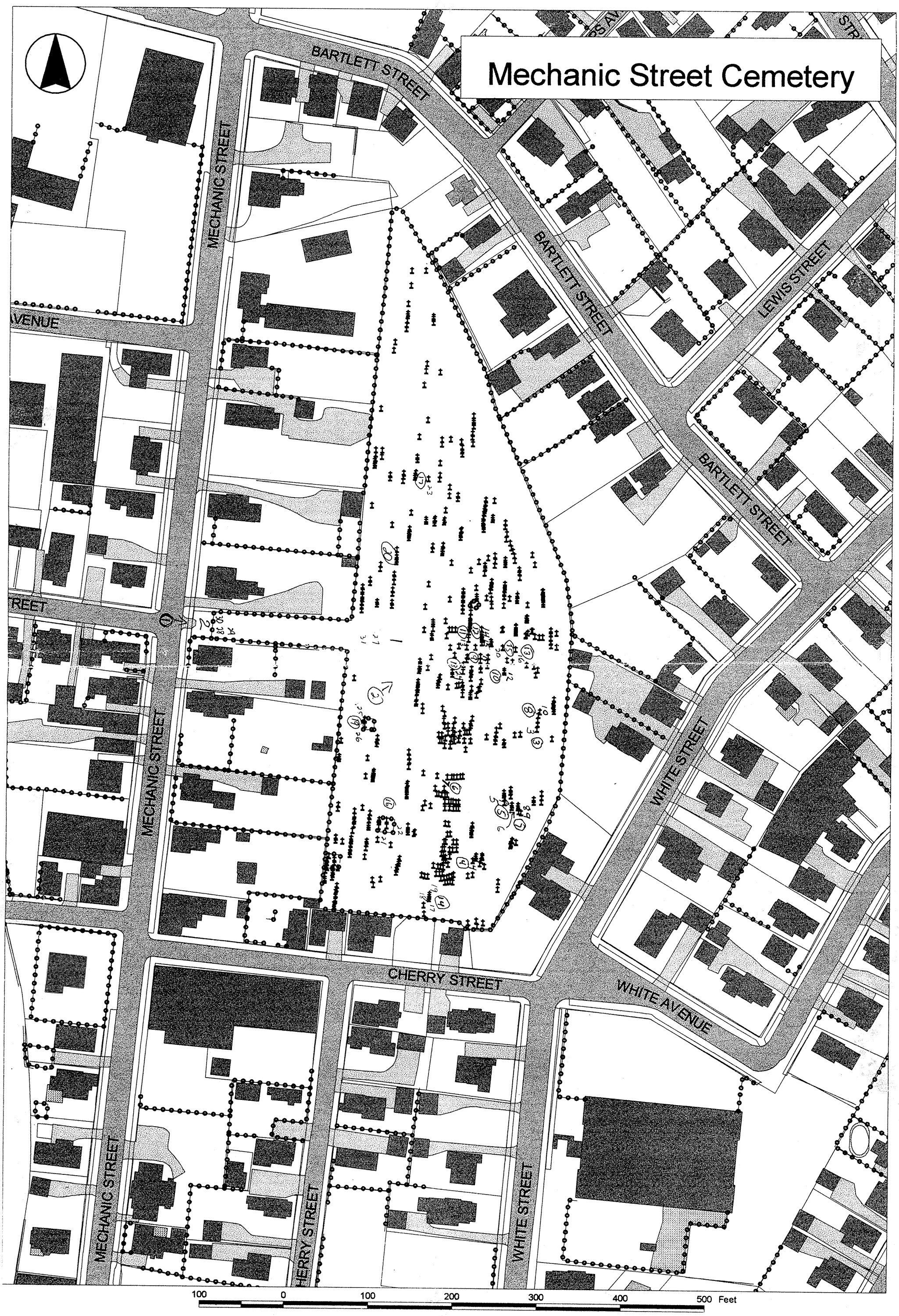
ESTABLISHED 1995

PREPARED BY :

WESTFIELD PARK DEPARTMENT 9/12/95

SCALE 1" = 60'

Mechanic Street Cemetery



Map Created by City of Westfield Engineering Department, April 2000
Circled numbers indicate photograph locations.



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

April 10, 2002

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:

Mechanic Street Cemetery, Westfield (Hampden), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Lawrence Brady, Western Hampden Historical Society
Michele Plourde-Barker, consultant
Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Mayor, City of Westfield
Hugh Lamb, Westfield Historical Commission
Westfield Planning Board
Ann Marie Heiser, Westfield Parks & Recreation Dept.