

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received JUL 28 1981

date entered AUG 27 1981

1. Name

historic Salem Street Burying Ground

and/or common Salem Street Burying Ground

2. Location

street & number Medford Square _____ not for publication

city, town Medford _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Seventh

state Massachusetts code 025 county Middlesex code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
____ district	☒ public	____ occupied	____ agriculture
____ building(s)	____ private	☒ unoccupied	____ commercial
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational
☒ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	____ entertainment
____ object	____ in process	____ yes: restricted	____ government
	____ being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial
		____ no	____ military
			____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Medford

street & number Medford City Hall, 85 George P. Hassett Drive

city, town Medford _____ vicinity of _____ state Massachusetts 02155

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

street & number 40 Thorndike Street

city, town Cambridge _____ state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historical Assets of the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible? ____ yes ☒ no

date 1979 _____ federal ☒ state ____ county ____ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston _____ state Massachusetts

7. Description

Salem Street Burying Ground

Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered

☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Salem Street Burying Ground occupies a site between Salem Street and Riverside Avenue on the edge of Medford Square. Established in the mid-seventeenth century, it is predictably located in the city's earliest settlement area. Its lot is approximately three-quarters of an acre and is surrounded by a brick wall laid in Flemish bond with granite coping. Entry is gained through an iron gate with a decorative arch.

The Salem Street Burying Ground was founded as a family burying place, located in a gently sloping pasture overlooking the Mystic River, on the seventeenth century estate of Major Jonathan Wade. It was acquired by the town of Medford in the early eighteenth century. From 1717 to 1848 the original 1/4 acre plot was gradually expanded to its current dimensions through the acquisition of adjacent private parcels. During this period the character of the grounds was also changed. Perimeter walls were erected and informal family groupings of stones were distorted as they were moved into strict alignment.

In 1889 an effort was made to upgrade the landscape quality of the grounds by adding a formal path system which reflected those of the garden cemeteries which became popular after the completion of Mt. Auburn Cemetery (NR) in 1831. A formal entrance gate, flagpole, commemorative plaques, and an imposing monument to Governor John Brooks were erected as part of a general revitalization of the site undertaken in 1930, Medford's tercentennial year.

The grave stones date from 1683-1880 and represent the full range of iconography popular in New England. These range from early death's heads through later willows to still later monuments. Most are carved in slate and are in fair condition.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☒ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☒ sculpture
☒ 1600–1699	☐ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☒ 1700–1799	☒ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1660–1880 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Salem Street Burying Ground possesses integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship as well as historical associations with Medford's founding families. It is also important as a record of New England funerary art as portrayed from 1683 to 1880. The cemetery meets criteria A & B of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Salem Street Burying Ground was founded as a family burying place, located in a gently sloping pasture overlooking the Mystic River, on the 17th century estate of Major Jonathan Wade. From that time until the late 19th-century, over 600 individuals were buried at the site. Included are the graves of all of Medford's founding families: Hall, Tufts, Wade, Bradshaw, Brooks, Francis, Whitmore and Willis as well as important historical and political figures such as Governor John Brooks and Sarah Bradlee Fulton, heroine of the Revolution. This record, as preserved on 425 remaining stones, is a significant historical, genealogical, and educational resource. Equally important is what is not recorded: over 50 slaves lie in unmarked graves. The burial ground documents the beginning and evolution of one of the Commonwealth's most influential communities and provides moving insights into the lives of the ruling elite as well as common people.

The burial ground was in continuous use from c. 1660 to 1881, and its stones embody important changes in societal thought and religious attitudes. In their imagery, one can see the fears of the Puritan era yield to more hopeful, humanistic attitudes during the "Great Awakening," and finally, the triumph of secular interests as a new democracy and burgeoning capitalism take hold in post Revolutionary evolution include: winged "Death's Heads" one of the few remaining visual artifacts of Puritan society; cherubim, signifying the promise of life following death; and neoclassical iconography, adapted by Americans from ideas and artforms popular in Europe.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Barter, Paul F., "Salem Street Burying Ground: A Different View: (1979)"

Benes, Peter, The Masks of Orthodoxy, Amherst: Univ. of Massachusetts Press, 1977, pp. 149-151, 171-178.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property approximately 3/4 acre

Quadrangle name USGS, Boston North

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

A 19 326550 4698140
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to the attached assessor's map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director with
Charles Sisitsky

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May, 1981

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Peter C. Jeschowski

7/14/81

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Delores Byers

date

8/27/81

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

JUL 28 1981

date entered

AUG 27 1981

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

McGrath, Thomas, Survey Report (Medford Office of Community Development: 1979).

Hervey, Wade S., "Numerical Order Survey" (1949).

Historical Register, Vol. 3-8 (Medford Historical Society: 1900-1905).

Seabury, Carl and Alan, Medford on the Mystic, (Medford Historical Society: 1980).

DUE after 5/26/81 - 9/11/81

dnr-3

Name Salem Street Burying Ground

State, County MA Middlesex

Fed Nom or Request-Agency _____

Working Number 228.89.269

Federal Register Date 2.2.82

- ☒ Nomination
☐ Determination of Eligibility
☐ On Nomination Form

- Bldg(s)
☒ Site
☐ Object
☐ Structure
☐ District

- Within:
☐ Multiple Resource Area
☐ Thematic Group

Maps 1/1
Photos 1

- Nomination prepared by:
☒ State Staff
☐ Local
☐ Other

- Entered in the
National Register
Action:
☒ ACCEPT 8/27/81
☐ RETURN _____
☐ REJECT _____

- Check if Appropriate:
☐ State Request for Review
☐ Keeper's Decision to Review
☐ 2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Comments
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format ☐ Yes ☐ No				
2. Significance Statement Short Format ☐ Yes ☐ No				
3. Concepts/Integrity				
4. Concepts/Criteria				
5. Concepts/Boundaries				
6. Contextual Evaluation				

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date _____

See Attached _____



1. Salem Street Burial Ground
2. Location - City of Medford
Middlesex County
Massachusetts
3. Photo Reference - Photo Credit:
Lane/Frenchman, Inc.

Negative filed at:
Lane/Frenchman, Inc.
Boston, MA

Date of Photo: 1980
4. Identification - Overview, looking North

JUL 28 1981

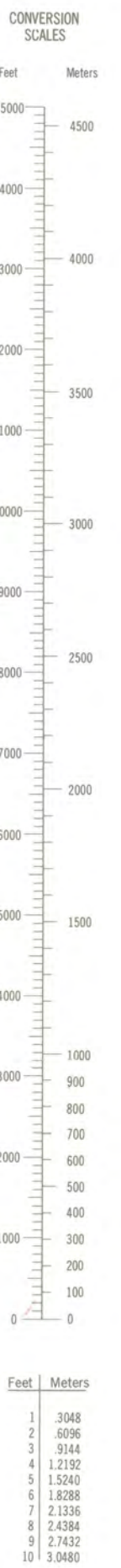
AUG 27 1981

Scale: 1 inch = 80 feet





AUG 27 1981



Salem St. Burial
Grounds
Medford, MA
UTM Reference
19/326550/4698140

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
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

SCALE 1:25 000

1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

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

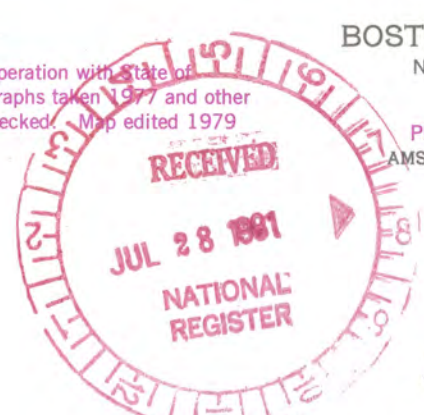


ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface ————
Secondary highway, hard surface ————
Unimproved road ————
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ————
Unimproved road ————

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.
N4222.5—W7100/7.5
1971
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 I NE—SERIES V814



AUG 27 1981

1. Salem Street Burial Ground
2. Location - City of Medford
Middlesex County
Massachusetts
3. Map Reference - Source:
U.S.G.S.
Boston North Quadrangle

Scale:
1:25,000

Date:
1979

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
MASSACHUSETTS

STATE

Date Entered AUG 27 1981

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Granite Keystone Bridge	Rockport Essex County
Common Burying Ground at Sandy Bank	Malden Middlesex County
Salem Street Burying Ground	Medford Middlesex County
Intermediate Building	Wellesley Hills Norfolk County
Baxter Mill	West Yarmouth Barnstable County

Honorable Paul E. Tsongas

Also Notified

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Nicholas Mavroules
Honorable Edward J. Markey
Honorable Margaret M. Heckler
Honorable Gerry E. Studds
Mid-Atlantic Region, NPS

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR

Eady/bjr/9/1/81

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 243-6401.

272-3504