

FORM E - BURIAL GROUND

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

1497
AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

WALTHAM, MA MRA

AREA

FORM NO.

	801
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Town Waltham

Address 203 Prospect Street

Name Mount Feake Cemetery

Ownership: X Public

 Private

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

DESCRIPTION

Approximate number of stones 5,000

Earliest death date 1857

Latest death date 1988

Landscape Architect (if known)

Robert Morris Copeland

Condition excellent: well maintained

lawns and trees; stones in generally

good condition

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

see attached map

0.19
Acreage 84.78 acres 75-4-1

Setting picturesque setting adjacent to

Charles River with entrance opposite

the pleasing sprawl of the former Waltha

American Watch Co. Terrain includes hil
headlands, woods, waters and bays.

Recorded by Ed Gordon

Organization Waltham Historical Comm.

Date June, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 4/88

A: 19/315050/4693000
B: 19/315150/4692900
C: 19/314960/4692170
D: 19/314140/4692240

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE Newton, Natick

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Mount Feake Cemetery possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations. Dating from 1857, it is significant as one of the most fully developed and best preserved "garden" cemeteries in the state which followed the model established by Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge/Watertown (NR). Its winding path system, developed by master landscape architect, Robert Morris Copeland, complements the rugged hilly terrain and fully reflects the romantic sensibilities of the period. Further, the scope and quality of the funerary art in the cemetery adds another dimension of significance. The buildings of the former Waltham Pumping Station also make an important historic and visual contribution. The cemetery meets criteria A and C of the NRHP.

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

Situated along the northern bank of the meandering Charles River, directly across from the picturesque American Waltham Watch Co. (Area C), Mt. Feake is an outstanding example of a mid-19th century "garden cemetery". Its winding path system, developed by master landscape architect Robert M. Copeland, complements the rugged hilly terrain and fully reflects the romantic sensibilities of the period. Mature, well cared for plantings and a diverse array of Victorian funerary art combine with the outstanding landscape qualities to create a cemetery of exceptional quality. It encompasses many fine examples of Victorian and later gravestones which are composed of polished granite, marble and limestone; granite, both rough and polished, is the most prevalent material. Here and there, ornate cast iron fences enclosed family plots, most notable the obelisk-marked Rherts family plot. The Shepard family plot is marked by a Tuscan columned and arched enclosure which contains a full-length statue of Reed Shepard. Also noteworthy is the memorial to Laura A. Libby (1875-1902) which is a

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

The history of Mount Feake Cemetery dates to 1856 when, according to the Waltham Sentinel, "the subject of a new cemetery came before the town". At that time, "seven persons, including the selectmen, were appointed on a committee to report a suitable location for a new burial ground". Those seven included; selectmen T.C. Farnsworth, Josiah Rutter, Sean B. Whitney, Horatio Adams, Jonathan B. Bright, Chauncy Newhall and William Hobbs. Initially the committee seriously considered land on Beaver Street, near the Vale (NHL), and also a Mr. Farnsworth's land near Bacon Street as the site of the new cemetery. The third choice was the lot belonging to the town, "consisting of 46 acres lying by the Charles River and south of the Fitchburg Railroad." It was the last mentioned land that became Mount Feake Cemetery.

The cemetery derived its name from that given to the highest hill within Waltham's limits by Governor John Winthrop in 1632. The hill was named for Robert Feake who married Winthrop's daughter. The rise of the ground west of Mount Feake was called Winthrop Hill. The bay at the southwest side and the one leading toward it were given the Indian name of the river Quinobiquin meaning crooked. The four original owners of the cemetery grounds were Oldham (1634), Dummer (1659), Harrington (1684), and Gale (1661).

The plan for Mount Feake Cemetery was drawn by noted landscape architect, Robert Morris Copeland who was referred to in a newspaper article simply as "esquire". On October 16, 1857 the Waltham Sentinel mentioned that work on the new cemetery was being "conducted with great vigor" under the direction of R.M. Copeland, Esq., who drew the plan of the cemetery, whose services were secured upon reasonable terms to tend to work and stake out the

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

(CONT)

Waltham Sentinel, April 18, 1856; Oct. 16, 1857; Nov. 20, 1857. July, 1906.
Weiss, Ellen. "Oak Bluffs". Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians. 1975.
City of Waltham. Water Dept. 36th Annual Report. 1909.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Waltham	Form No: 801
Property Name: Mount Feake Cemetery	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Description (cont)

highly classicized seated figure of a woman pondering a book, executed in high relief; it ranks among the finest examples of cemetery sculpture in the Boston area. Serving as a backdrop to these highlights, are numerous stones of typical Victorian design which feature pointed "Gothic" profiles, naturalistic designs and sentimental verses.

The cemetery derives much of its charm from two complementary landscape features. The first is the meandering Charles River which provides a northern border of curves and inlets as well as cooling vistas. The other is a large craggy hill with outcroppings near the entrance which provides an effective screen to the adjacent railroad.

Significance (cont)

lots and who for this reason only assumes the entire responsibility for executing the plan." Copeland was a landscape architect of some repute who, in 1850, had published, "Country Life: A Handbook of Agriculture, Horticulture and Landscape Gardening." He may have been living in neighboring Belmont when he executed the Mount Feake design, which employs the curving lines reflective of topographical contours that were so popular at the time. In addition to the cemetery's central roadway, Mt. Feake Avenue, 16 additional avenues (carriage and now automobile traffic) and 63 paths (foot traffic) traverse the grounds. The avenues were mostly named for individuals associated with "the old church and the former owners of the cemetery grounds."

The cemetery was consecrated on October 28, 1857. By November 20, 1856, a reporter for the Waltham Sentinel set forth a highly romantic description of the new cemetery stating that, "Much of the present beauty of Mt. Feake is owing to the groups of trees, the woods which cover the hills and skirt the river margin, the shrubbery of many exceedingly beautiful varieties which nature has lavishly spread over the surface, the outcropping ledges and the sometimes abruptness, sometimes gentleness of the sloping riverbanks. It is in the management of these things that the tasteful and beautiful whole depends."

The board members of the cemetery initially included Nathaniel P. Banks, Dr. I.W. Mulliken, John Roberts, Horatio Moore and F.M. Stone. The notables buried in the Mount Feake Cemetery include Effie C. Carlton, the composer of "Rock-A-Bye-Baby" (1856-1910) and Waltham mayors, Byron B. Johnson and Charles F. Stone. Johnson served as Waltham's first mayor in 1855. Stone served as mayor in 1886. Later mayors buried in Mount Feake included Arthur A. Hamsen and G. Chauncey Cousens.

Mount Feake was compared from the beginning with America's first "garden" or "romantic" cemetery, Mount Auburn in Cambridge/Watertown. Mount Auburn's development dates to the early 1830s and was characterized by terrain similar to that of Mount Feake. In November, 1857, a reporter for the Waltham Sentinel noted that, "Those who are accustomed to visit Mount Auburn will perhaps compare our cemetery unfavorably because they will miss the varnish and finish which the careful culture of years can alone supply."

(CONT)

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Waltham

Form No:

801

Property Name: Mount Feake Cemetery

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Significance (cont)

Waltham Water Works:

The ruins of the former Waltham Pumping Station are now encompassed within the grounds of Mount Feake Cemetery and make a strong contribution to the overall romantic effect in addition to possessing a significant history of their own.

In 1872, a time when many larger communities were becoming concerned with the issues of water and sewer management, Waltham purchased the former Harrington farm on the banks of the Charles River just upstream from the American Waltham Watch Company (Area C). An engine house with attached smokestack and coal shed was erected in 1873. The building was designed by Joseph H. Curtis, an engineer from Boston, and construction was undertaken by Issac R. Scott of Waltham. The building was constructed of brick on a Westford granite foundation. It was outfitted with two Worthington Compound Duplex Pumping Engines installed by Henry R. Worthington of New York and capable of pumping one and one-quarter million gallons each per day. What was later considered the main building was designed by the city architect, Superintendent Patch in 1896-97 in the midst of a period of intense municipal construction. It was built by Robert Glancy of Waltham. Portions of the flywheel, steam cylinder and box bed remain inside. Behind and above these connected buildings is a wood-frame dwelling constructed in 1872 by George T. Tyler. It housed the superintendent engineers beginning with Asa D. Garfield (1872-85), George H. Whitehouse (1886-98), and George W. Furbush who held the position well into the 20th century.

The former Waltham Pumping Station is in poor condition with portions of its roof collapsing and pieces of the brick walls falling to the ground. The original 1872 section is in especially deteriorated condition with most of its gable roof gone along with its windows and door. The one story brick walls remain along with the rear portion of the roof. The attached 1896-97 section is in somewhat better condition. It is a one story hip roof structure with central cupola. Its symmetrical facade which faces the river, is centered on a deteriorated, gabled entry porch with cast-iron columns. Segmental arches flank the entry, with that to the left containing a triple arch screen. Windows and doors are gone but the roof remains, supported by a metal roofing system. Portions of the flywheel remain inside. The former engineer's dwelling house remains behind. It is a one story hip roof structure that is sheathed with clapboards; four windows evenly spaced across the facade have lost their sash. Above the pumping station complex are two Italianate style houses, a carriage house and two sheds. Historic maps show that these dwellings were part of the original pumping station complex; they probably housed employees.

Boundaries

Historic maps and atlases from the mid to late 19th century make it clear that the bounds of the cemetery have changed since that time. Lands north of the railroad tracks now devoted to the City Home, the City Hospital and the Bicycle Park Playground were part of the cemetery, while the westernmost part of the present cemetery were under the control of the Waltham Water Works. The boundaries of this nomination are the present cemetery bounds as shown on the attached Engineering Map. The westernmost section, with the exception of the former Pumping Station buildings, is developed with recent gravestones and is considered non-contributing.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

WALTHAM, MA MRA

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MOUNT FEAKE CEMETERY

Map #	Historic Name	Date	style	Status
A	Gatehouse	c1970	n/a	NC
B	Pumping Station/Main Bldg.	1896-97	Romanesque Rev.	C
C	Pumping Station/Engine House	1872-73	Utilitarian	C
D	Pumping Station/Engineer's Hse	1872	Vernacular	C
E	House	c1870	Italianate	C
F	House	c1870	Italianate	C
G	Carriage house	c1870	Italianate	C
H	Shed	?	n/a	NC
I	Shed	?	n/a	NC
J	Storage Building	c1970	n/a	NC
K	Shed	c1970	n/a	NC

RESOURCE COUNT 6 C 5 NC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Waltham MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

61. Mount Peaks Cemetery

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

501 62. Mt. Prospect School for Boys

Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

63. Murray, Robert, House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

502 64. Newton Street Bridge

Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 9/28/89

Attest _____

65. North Lexington Street Historic District

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

66. O'Hara Waltham Dial Company

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

67. Olcott, John E., House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

68. Oxford, The

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

69. Peck, John M., House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

503 70. Piety Corner Historic District

Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Mount Feake Cemetery
NAME:

MULTIPLE Waltham MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

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

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001497

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/28/89 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

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

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



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UHC 301
Mt. Feake Cemetery
off Prospect St.
Waltham, Ma - MRA



WALTHAM MA MRA
off Prospect St
Mt. Peake Cemetery
MHC 801



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MHC 801

MT. Fcake Cemetery, Prospect St.
Waltham MA
MA



Waltham, Md. MRA

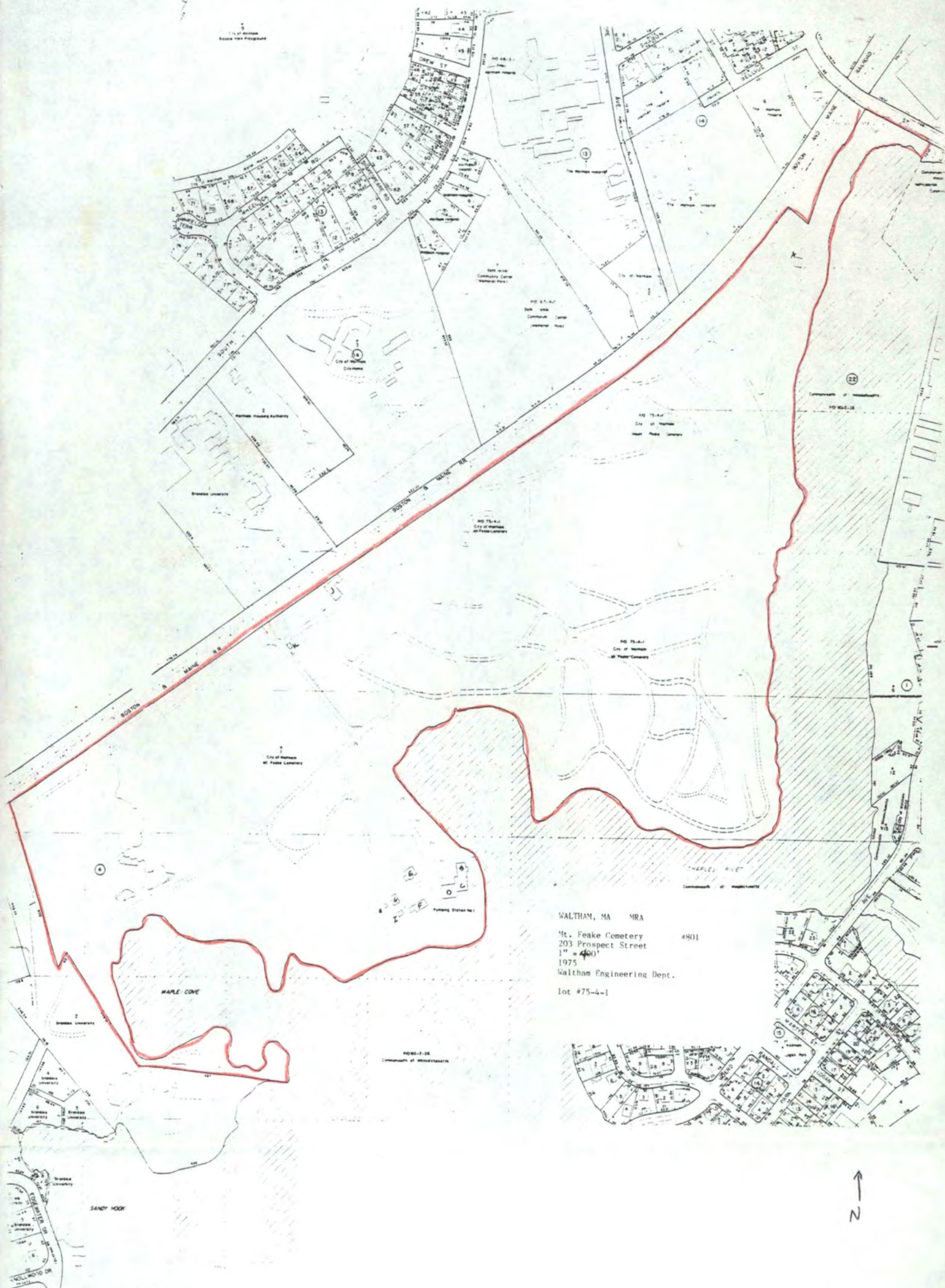
Form No 801

M T. Peake Cemetery

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MAC 801
Mt. Feake Cemetery
Prospect St.
Waltham, MA. MRA



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301