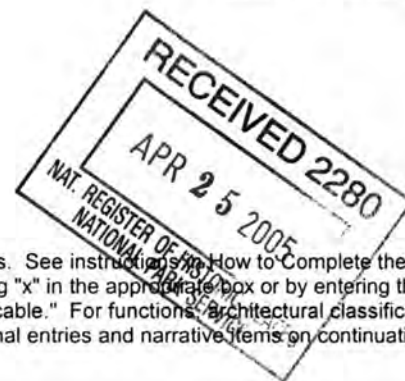


1598

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 on 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 Dennis Village Cemetery (preferred)

other names/site number Common Burying Ground, East Yarmouth Churchyard

2. Location

street & number MA Rte. 6A and Old Bass River Road N/A not for publication

city or town Dennis N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Barnstable code 001 zip code 02638

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.)

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director 4/14/05
Signature of certifying official/Title Cathy H. Metz, State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

☐ removed from the
National Register

☐ other (explain):

Edson Beall
Signature of the Keeper

6/8/05
Date of Action

Dennis Village Cemetery
Name of Property

Barnstable County, Massachusetts
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

1 building
2 sites
structures
28 objects
31 Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

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)

Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite
walls brick
roof
other Gravestones: slate, marble, sandstone
Fencing: iron and granite

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheets

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

**Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA**

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Dennis Village Cemetery sits in the heart of the village of Dennis, one of five villages that comprise the Town of Dennis on Cape Cod. MA Route 6A, or the Colonial Era 'Old Kings Highway,' runs close to the northern border of the cemetery grounds. The town of Dennis is located midway along Cape Cod, with the Upper Cape to the West and the Lower Cape to the east and northeast. It is bounded by Brewster to the east and Yarmouth to the west; Dennis was split off from the latter community in 1793.

The cemetery is located west of the main intersection in the small historic village of Dennis, a part of what is known as the Old Kings Highway Historic District. The area is less than a mile from Cape Cod Bay beaches and has experienced modest commercial and residential development alongside the more historic buildings. Old Bass River Road, a heavily used cross-Cape road, intersects with Route 6A near the northeast corner of the cemetery grounds (see **photo #6**). Businesses along this portion of Route 6A are located in restored houses or historic-style buildings. The nearby Dennis summer Playhouse, Cinema, and Fine Arts Museum help draw visitors to this area from all over Cape Cod. Separating the cemetery from the intersection is the Village Improvement Society's bandstand (20th c.) and the Dennis Union Church (1838), as well as part of Fire Station #2 (1955). The Dennis Union Church sits on the northeast corner of the land designated as 'cemetery' in the Town Assessor's book but should not be considered to be a part of the cemetery. (See Section 10) All other maps separate the church grounds from the actual cemetery.

The property has a diverse and large collection of gravestone art, making it eligible under Criterion C. Slates show winged skulls and cherubs, portrait stones, willows, urns and flowers, and verse (**photos #11-20**). There are numerous marble stones and a few table monuments. Some stones contain verses; the headstone for Micah Chapman (1792), carved by David Lamson, contains a variation on the ubiquitous "Stranger" verse:

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

*Remember me as you pass by
As you are now, so once was I
As I am now, so shall you be
Prepare for death and follow me*

Reflecting the town's intensive maritime history, the cause of many interments, the 1803 stone of brothers Joshua and Lot Sears (aged 23 and 19 years old) contains a poignant reminder of the dangers of life at sea:

*Behold our friends; the whirling Storm
Hath swept us in the deep,
We hope to rise when Jesus calls
And in his bosom sleep*

Natural Setting:

The nine acres of cemetery grounds are composed of four soil types having been formed as recently as 15,000 years ago in the last period of glaciation. The undeveloped southeastern section is a rocky hill, while the bulk of the cemetery and the burial grounds are sandy flat outwash plain. The landscape, with the exception of shrub and lawn grass plantings in newer areas, is typical of Cape Cod old field vegetation. Naturally selected cedar trees and pitch pines punctuate the landscape, most densely in the oldest sections of the cemetery. The occasional planted tree appears throughout the landscape although the site is not heavily treed (**photos #3-4**). Lilacs, honeysuckle, beach plum, yucca, and bittersweet are the main components of the shrub layer giving way to groundcovers like native mixed grasses, sedums, bearberry, and a handful of wildflowers when spared the mower's blade.

Layout:

The oldest section of the cemetery, referred to as the burial grounds, is comprised of two rectangular sections divided and bordered by grass roads running east-to-west (**photo #8**). The roads are numbered, beginning at the northern end of the cemetery closest to Route 6A and

(continued)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

continuing to 10th Avenue near the southern border. These two acres of ancient markers run parallel to the adjacent militia training grounds and Route 6A (**photos # 1, 10**). The oldest legible stones, for Mehitabe Tobey and John Crowell, date to 1728. Although it is not part of the cemetery, the Training Field is historic in its own right, and is commemorated by a plaque embedded in a large boulder.

The section just south of the training grounds consists predominantly of slate markers, with a few marble and sandstone markers. With the exception of box tombs (Capt. John Hedge, 1782; and the Homes family, 1836) and the occasional obelisk, the markers are tablet-style and stand in lines on a north/south axis, facing west. As a rule the older markers are located at the northern end of Dennis Village Cemetery, although an occasional modern stone intrudes upon the oldest section (c.f. Agnes Brigham, 1950, **photo #9**). A receiving tomb (1875) sits about one third of the distance from the east side on the site that was the first meetinghouse (**photo #2**). A few raised, cobblestone, granite, or cement-bordered family plots, including those of the Crowell and Howes families, flank the receiving tomb in contrast to the ancient stones, having been constructed after the removal of the meetinghouse in the mid 19th century made space for more burials. According to the Historic Expansion Diagram (2002, attached), the meetinghouse was located at the northern end of Dennis Village Cemetery, adjacent to the militia training field.

The section south of the most ancient burial ground, or 2nd Avenue, is similar in size to the first and features rows of marble tablet markers. The south side of this section is laid out primarily in raised and bordered family plots dating from the late 1800s to the early 1900s (**photo #3**).

3rd Avenue changes markedly in character, consisting of sparsely placed stones within family plots. Obelisks are common and are flanked with smaller stones. A few granite markers appear but the most common material is marble, representing the late 1800s and early 1900s. The stones for Charles (1878) and George (1908) Howes are typical for the period. A square-columned Strangers Rest monument at the east end of 4th Avenue serves as a general marker for unidentified remains, presumably intended for shipwreck victims from the nearby Cape Cod coast.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

The rest of the sections moving south to the southern edge (Avenues 4th through 10th) of the cemetery include family plots with few obelisks and an abundance of tablet stones. The markers are mostly granite with some marble and date into the 21st century. Viet Nam veteran Richard Fischer's marker (1995) continues the cemetery's tradition of military burials. The expanded area moving east to Old Bass River Road has a heavier density of 20th century markers due to smaller plot sizes. The roads in this area are paved as are Avenues 6 through 10 (**photo #4**). The perimeter road on the west border and both entrance roads from Route 6A are paved, while the Avenues in the older section are grass (**photo #8**).

The entire burial grounds are enclosed with granite post and rail fencing with the exception of the hilly, undeveloped southeast corner (**photo 4**) where modern fencing is evident. Two entrances are located along Route 6A, both entrances passing by a strip of land on the north border of the burial grounds reserved as the Colonial militia training ground (**photo # 5**). One entrance is located on the east border off Old Bass River Road. A granite post and iron rail fence separates the directly abutting church office, outbuildings, and portions of the parking lots from the east border of the cemetery (**see photo #7**). The buildings and structures are visible but do not distract from the serenity of the cemetery grounds. Excepting the newest expansion area, the nearby roads are buffered by structures or open space that decrease the awareness of passing vehicles along the busy route. Quiet residential roads forms the southern and eastern border. They are separated by a green strip of vegetation and a granite post and iron rail fence. The same fence type and green space separates a condominium complex that forms the west border with the cemetery (**see photo #10**). While the condominiums loom heavily on the edge of the cemetery in the winter, the trees are high enough to hide the buildings in the warmer months. To the north is the historic militia training ground that abuts Route 6A (**see photo #9**).

The sole building is the receiving tomb (**see photo #2**) erected in 1875 as indicated by the sandstone keystone in the brick arch. The one-story, one room brick structure has a concrete floor. The eave consists of wooden molding fascia and soffit with brick dentils and Greek Revival pilasters at each corner. A second row of angled brick dentils spans the lower portion of the entablature. An old photograph indicates that a cupola/vent sat on the top of the hip roof now shingled over with asphalt shingles. A hole in the ceiling on the inside reveals plaster-covered lathe boards mounted on the rafters, while another hole in the ceiling indicates where the vent

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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**Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA**

was that connected to the cupola. The plaster ceiling folds down to meet the brick walls. North-facing arched wooden doors are held closed with a single iron latch and sit above a marble sill.

The Dennis Village Cemetery is still active, and four centuries of Dennis men and women currently rest together. Prominently sited, well-maintained, and considered an integral part of the town, the cemetery is a valuable historic resource for the community. A 2002 Preservation Master Plan provides a guide to the care and treatment of the entire property, compatible with existing historic and natural conditions.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are recorded in the Dennis Village Cemetery, sites may be present. One site is recorded in the general area (within one mile) in the vicinity of Scargo Hill, northeast of the cemetery. Environmental characteristics of the cemetery indicate locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The cemetery is located on level, well drained sandy outwash plain within 1,000 feet of a tributary stream that drains to Chase Garden Creek and related estuarine wetlands. Cape Cod Bay is also located approximately one-half mile north of the cemetery, indicating the presence of a wide variety of flora and fauna for Native subsistence activities in addition to upland resources. Given the above information and the size of the cemetery (9.01 acres), and the excavation of historic period graves, a moderate potential exists for locating significant ancient Native American resources in the cemetery.

A high potential exists for the recovery of significant historic archaeological resources in the Dennis Village Cemetery. Structural evidence may survive from the town's first meetinghouse (1721) constructed north of the Josiah Dennis Family markers at the site of the extant receiving tomb. The meetinghouse was removed in the mid-1800s and the receiving tomb built in 1875. Structural evidence may also survive from outbuildings no longer extant, originally associated with cemetery maintenance and operations. Archaeological evidence of post-holes indicating gateways and fence lines may also exist, dating to ca. 1800 and later. The notion of fencing in cemeteries did not exist until the late 18th century. Unmarked graves containing stratigraphic

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Section number 7 Page 6

Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

evidence of a burial shaft, coffin and skeletal remains, and artifacts may represent an important resource type in the cemetery. The earliest stones in the cemetery date to 1728; however, earlier stones may have existed. Unmarked graves may result from stones removed by vandalism, gravestones broken and/or overgrown, wooden burial markers that have deteriorated, or intentionally unmarked graves of Quakers, Native Americans, and paupers, unknowns and other indigent persons. Some areas of the cemetery are reported to conspicuously lack stones where they would be expected while other areas contain mounded ground surfaces with no stones or stone fragments suggesting unmarked burials. Town records from 1959 and later indicate the filling of sunken graves was common practice, possibly resulting in mounded areas. Straightening and resetting of gravestones and other repairs are also frequently mentioned in town records. Artifact scatters and distributions may also exist with the boundaries of the cemetery. Artifact scatters or "sheet refuse" may exist from funerary related artifacts and other personal or cemetery related items randomly distributed in the cemetery. Specific distributions of artifacts may also exist related to memorial services and offerings made to specific and groups of graves.

(end)

Dennis Village Cemetery
Name of Property

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.)

See 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 # _____

Barnstable County, Massachusetts
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Social History

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1728-1955

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dennis Village Cemetery is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C at the local level. Areas of significance include art, social history, and community planning and development. Criteria consideration D applies to this cemetery.

Under criterion A the burial ground was closely associated with the first church of the East Parish of Yarmouth where the town's history and church were intimately linked. The Massachusetts Toleration Act of 1839 finalized the separation of church and state, and prompted the construction of a new church. Many of the town's earliest settlers were buried here as was the town's namesake, representatives from military conflicts from the Indian wars forward to the Viet Nam conflict, businessmen, sea captains, numerous people who died at sea, and unsung citizens from all walks of life.

The property has a diverse and large collection of gravestone art, making it eligible under criterion C. Slates show winged skulls and cherubs, portrait stones, willows, urns, flowers, and verse (**photos #11-20**). There are numerous marble stones and a few table monuments.

Dennis Village Cemetery contains a typical early New England burial ground that holds the remains or marks the passing of many early citizens of this Cape Cod town. Located in the center of present day Dennis Village, its many slate and marble markers are reminders of the town's past, and constitute a concise history of Dennis's citizens, their families, occupations, and accomplishments. The cemetery illustrates an important development in the evolution of graveyard design as it matured during the transition from burial ground to rural cemetery. A more formal layout than other town burial sites is reflective of this.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

Bounded by a Colonial-era militia training ground, the town bandstand, Dennis' Union Church, Fire Station #2, and a modern condominium complex, the cemetery perimeter is largely defined by a fence comprised of granite posts connected by three horizontal iron railings, though in rear sections more contemporary fencing is used.

In 1639, the leaders of Plymouth Colony recognized the need for expansion. The heavily wooded peninsula we now call Cape Cod lay to the east and was the next logical land to settle. In an area called 'Mattacheeset' by the local Indians, the founding fathers created a town that was named 'Yarmouth.' Within Yarmouth was a location the Indians called 'NobsCUSset;' much of which later became the town of Dennis.

The earliest settlers of the town settled near water sources and in areas where the land was suitable for farming. The area where the Dennis Village Cemetery now sits was flat sandy farmland set just south and east of the Colonial militia training ground. The first burials probably occurred on corners of family farms. Earlier 17th century burial sites were often private family locations, or were limited by geography (c.f. Old South Dennis Cemetery, ca. 1700) or religion (c.f. Dennis Quaker Cemetery, early 18th century).

As the population expanded, the area that is now Dennis Village Cemetery became a burying ground that was originally called 'East Yarmouth Churchyard.' The oldest remaining still-legible monuments date to 1728, although a number of unmarked potential burial sites suggest that the area was used for burial prior to this date. Burials appeared to have started in what is now the center of the northernmost section of the burial grounds and expanded west, east and finally to the south. In 1721, inhabitants of this area, the East Precinct of what was then the town of Yarmouth, decided to build a meetinghouse. It was constructed just northeast of the Josiah Dennis family markers on the site where the receiving tomb now sits. The Rev. Josiah Dennis served the East Precinct for 38 years and was the namesake for the Town of Dennis that would be established 30 years following his death. When he died in 1763, he was buried beside his first wife and his many children in the East Yarmouth Churchyard where the slates marking their passing still stand (see photo 11).

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Section number 8 Page 3

Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

The Massachusetts Toleration Act of 1839 separated church and state. The ancient East Parish church building was sold to a descendant of Nathan Stone, and a new church built nearby. The history of Dennis had, until this point, been closely associated with the East Parish church. Upon the dissolution of the East Parish church, town history and its intimate association with the church diverged.

The property is an invaluable source of education in seeing how the early Dennis inhabitants lived and died, the effects of Puritan religious beliefs on monument placement and artistry and as a registry of the people who made this town home. The stone or lack of one indicates the scarcity of material and financial status, as does the carving style and level of intricacy. The orientation of the stones indicates a common belief system. The names, titles, and relationships listed on the stones offer insight into the livelihood of the town's forebearers, and insight into the probable living conditions at the time. It is common to see one male, his multiple wives, and many children, often infants, buried together, a telling indication of women's mortality, the fragility of life, and society's reaction to the ever-present threat of death. Inscriptions may indicate how someone died, and the effect it had on those who commissioned the stone. The intricacy and artistry of the stones provide clues as to who was working for whom and what styles were influencing early American carvers during that period. In short, the ancient monuments outline the history of the town's early inhabitants that is consistent with written records.

Prominent Burials:

The Dennis Village Cemetery is associated with many of the people important in the early formation of the Town of Dennis. The Reverend Josiah Dennis' marker is considered the most important because of the name association to the town and the importance of the individual to the earliest inhabitants. The Rev. Nathan Stone (1737-1804) succeeded Josiah Dennis as the second minister of the East Precinct and is buried alongside his wife Mary (**see photo 12**). Maj. Micah Chapman (1735-1792), a Revolutionary War officer and local Minute Man captain, has a portrait stone showing many buttons (an indication of prominence) to mark his passing (**see photo 13**). Asa Shiverick (1790-1861) established the Shiverick boatyard that produced Cape Cod's only

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

**Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA**

clipper ships and was highly respected for workmanship. Captain Seth Crowell (1792-1873), a financier of Shiverick clipper ships later in life, represents the war of 1812 during which he was captured and spent time in Britain's Dartmoor prison. Seventeen of the twenty mariners lost in the Great Gale of 1841 are buried here. Captain Enoch Hall (1814-1849) went to pursue his fortune in the California Gold Rush and although drowned there, his marker is here, reflecting his ties to the community and his family. Soldiers and patriots from the Indian War to present day conflicts are remembered here as are the scores of women and children who passed through Dennis, lives otherwise lost to history, save for their gravestones. Prominent Dennis families, the Howes, Crowells, Halls, Chapmans, and the Dennises themselves are abundantly represented here.

On May 10, 1797, the 'committee to lay out burying ground near to the North meeting house in said Town' wrote a report that established the boundaries of the burial ground. The committee consisted of Jeremiah Howes, Peter Sears, Judah Paddock, Daniel Howes, and Daniel Eldridge, five of the most prominent citizens of Dennis and their representation signified the gravity of their responsibility.

Jeremiah Howes (1743-1834), locally known as 'Squire Jeremy,' served in the Revolution and was Dennis' first town moderator. He led the delegation of representatives chosen from both Dennis and Yarmouth to take the appeal for separation to the General Court of Massachusetts where it was signed by Governor John Hancock.

Peter Sears, Sr. (1743-1802) retired from the sea and kept a store in Dennis, dealing in rum, salt, sulphur, molasses, tea, sugar, and the like. He moved to Ashfield in western Massachusetts, and may have lived with his adopted son until his death at age 59. At that time, Dennis's American Revolution veterans were given land grants in Ashfield and Hawley in lieu of wages for serving in the war.

Capt. Judah Paddock (1749-1825) was master of the schooner *Five Sisters*. The schooner, built at the Crowell Brother's shipyard, carried salt and corn to and from Boston.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

Daniel Howes (1767-1865) was one of the town's most prominent mariners he carried cargo to European ports and Russia aboard his schooner *Harriet*. He was instrumental in incorporating a stone and timber wharf called Corporation Wharf that was constructed one mile north of the meetinghouse and used by the packet boat to and from Boston as well as the expanding fishing fleet.

Daniel Eldridge (1769-1833) accompanied his brothers Levi, Eli, and Samuel during the large migration of Dennis residents to Ashfield, MA. ca. 1775. Daniel, unlike most others who emigrated, returned home and married Dinah Hall of Dennis. (see photo 14).

Both Howes and Daniel Eldridge are buried in Dennis Village Cemetery.

Early Burials and Carvings:

Early interments took place near the area between 1st and 2nd Avenues, and in the area of the receiving tomb, later moving generally south through the cemetery. Thus the oldest plots and stones are closer to Route 6A, becoming more recent as one proceeds towards the rear of the cemetery. By 1880 the cemetery had expanded to reach 6th Avenue.

The gravestones are examples of the art of various stone carvers and the emotional expressions of the people who commissioned the work. The art and verse on many of the stones are particularly poignant in light of the fact that in Puritan times, sudden death, particularly that of children, was a fact of life. Given the close association of Dennis with the sea, it is not surprising that shipwreck victims are prominent. Patricia Stone (d. 1821) is buried near markers commemorating three sons, age 19 to 22, who perished off of Salem in 1815.

A number of stone carvers' works are represented in the Dennis Village Cemetery. Carvers include Ebenezer D. Winslow (see photo 15); Jabez M. Fisher (see photo 16); Davis W. Bowker (see photo 17); William Coye, a prominent Plymouth County carver (see photo 18); Nathaniel Holmes, considered the first Cape Cod carver (see photo 19); the Later Geyer Workshop; and the Later Soule Workshop including Nathan Fobes (see photo 20), Ebenezer Wood, Sr., William

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Section number 8 Page 6

Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

Hudson Soule, and William and Josiah Sturgis. A number of the stones attributed to these carvers are signed and/or probated in records held by the Barnstable County courthouse. Many identified carvers were located off-Cape, as far away as Boston as in the case of John Homer and David Lamson (a member of a prolific, multi-generational family of carvers) indicating the prominence of the persons being buried and the difficulty of obtaining local carvings. Dennis Village Cemetery exhibits a wide ridge of the work of Southeastern Massachusetts carvers.

Fencing:

Town records chronicle a series of efforts in the 19th and 20th centuries to fence in various burial grounds, an act that serves as an example of a level of community planning. The earliest fencing, according to Town records, occurred in the mid 1800s as the April 6, 1840 Town Meeting included an article for repairing the fencing "around Burying Ground on the North side of said Town." On Feb. 11, 1856, the selectmen were to visit all the "public burying grounds" and repair the fences around them "as in their judgement [sic] may be required." On November 8, 1870, the Town Meeting voted to enclose the North Dennis burying ground with a post and rail fence. According to the minutes of the Feb 10, 1879 Town Meeting, a report from D. Fisk, Chairman of the Selectmen, reads: "Voted to accept the report of the Selectmen viz the Burying ground is in two sections one is called the Old the other the New the old which the Town has in the past contributed towards the affairs is that part nearest to the road and extends back about 250 feet the fence on the North side is in good order and also the front fence but the fence on the South is some what out of repair." The cemetery again experiences another expansion of area and fencing as noted in the minutes of Town Meeting of March 20, 1916 when the town is asked to raise and appropriate a sum of money "for the purpose of enlarging the Town Cemetery in North Dennis building the necessary extension of fence and putting the new section to be enclosed in order."

The notion of fencing in cemeteries was present by the start of the 19th century, and the earliest enclosures were fieldstone walls or wooden fences. Since there was not a stone supply on the sandy outwash plains of Dennis, cedar fences prevailed as is referred to in local records. The town used the adjacent land as the militia training ground and may have seen fit to separate it

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

from the slates marking their dead. There is also the possibility that cows may have grazed within the enclosure in the early days. Historical literature states that burial grounds were used as recreation or gathering places in the earliest times and fencing would not have been the norm. During the 19th century, the relationship between the living and the dead became more sacred and the burial grounds were increasingly fenced. The citizens of Dennis no doubt were exposed to similar influences of popular belief as was the rest of the region and we can see by local records that they behaved accordingly.

Receiving Tomb:

A receiving tomb (**photo #2**), the only structure on the site, was added in 1875, almost 150 years after the cemetery was established. Its presence suggests that an increased number of burials required seasonal storage of bodies until conditions warranted interment.

New England Cemeteries:

In the 17th century and into the early 18th century, Puritan graveyards in Massachusetts and other New England states could be described as 'boneyards.' The Puritan religious influence was reflected in the burying grounds. Although the area now called Dennis was settled in 1639, stone markers do not appear until the late 1600s and are in family burial grounds. As the population expanded and a meetinghouse was constructed for the East Precinct of Yarmouth in 1721, burials began to the west of the churchyard. The markers from this era are mostly slate and sometimes sandstone. The earliest slate may have been ballast from ships arriving from England. Many of the markers of this period showed winged skulls with carvings such as simple flowers, rising suns, and winged cherubs appearing as the century neared an end. The earliest inscriptions were simply informational or read "Here lyes the body of..." a reflection of the fact that Puritans rejected the idea of bodily resurrection. The cemetery grounds were unadorned and did not include ornamental plantings, resembling the old fields from which they were created

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 8

**Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA**

As rigid Puritan beliefs faded into Unitarianism by the 19th century, attitudes and beliefs toward death changed. The stones that had faced east were placed to face west, as can be seen with striking clarity at Dennis Village Cemetery. Slate was still the most common material but willows, urns, winged cherubs, portrait stones, and other artistic representations along with verse chronicled changing attitudes toward death and an afterlife.

Other Dennis Cemeteries:

Dennis Village Cemetery is similar to but larger than other burial grounds within the Town of Dennis. (Examples include South Dennis Cemetery [ca. 1795], Quivet Cemetery [1843], Swan Lake [mid 19th century], and Oak Ridge [1970].) Some of the family burial grounds contain older monuments than seen at Dennis Village Cemetery because they were a part of the original family homesteads. As the community grew and the East Parish church supplanted the trek to Yarmouth, more and more citizens on the north side of Dennis were buried in the churchyard. The monuments at both family cemeteries and Dennis Village Cemetery resemble each other in material, artistry, and verse. The cemeteries together show the progression of thought, perception, and tradition over time.

19th and 20th Century Developments

Town yearly reports from 1959 forward include comments from the Cemetery Commission that state that they made a variety of changes, repairs, and improvements to the grounds. The recognition that Dennis's historic cemeteries were worthy of public expenditure is indicative of the importance that the preservation of historic resources was regarded by its citizens. The most common action was to fill sunken graves, but there is frequent mention of the straightening and resetting of gravestones, some repairs, some set in concrete, and others washed. There was a town-wide rash of cemetery vandalism in the 1970s, and the 1971 report from the cemetery commissioners states "A great many stones were repaired in South Dennis, Dennis, West Dennis, and Hall Cemeteries. Those that could not be marfacted because of excessive damage were placed in cement to be preserved for posterity." In 1964, the cemetery commissioners used "hot mix" for the first time and paved some of the roads and avenues.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

In 1852, 1916, and 1965 the cemetery borders were expanded to the south and the east. The area furthest to the south is presently nearly full and the only area left to develop is a rocky slope in the southeast corner. The slope is only suitable for cremation and likely will be kept in a state similar to its current natural condition. (See the Historic Expansion diagram. The 1965 expansion is at the extreme southeastern corner.)

Dennis Village Cemetery is still in use, though all the developed lots are sold. Burials still occur in the newer sections of the cemetery. The ancient areas are considered inactive and not available for future burial use. Thus, the likelihood of new burials changing the look of the old areas is remote. Its prominent location along a major scenic roadway in a major commercial village undoubtedly contributes to its significance, and provides a tangible daily reminder of the town's lengthy history.

Archaeological Significance

While several ancient Native American sites have been identified in the Dennis area, especially along the Bass River, few sites have been systematically studied, resulting in limited interpretative data usually confined to locational and typological information. As a result of these limitations, any surviving sites in the cemetery locale could potentially be significant. Ancient sites in this area have the potential to contribute information relating to Native American settlement and subsistence in the town of Dennis and on a larger scale along the Bass River/Mid-Cape areas. Native sites in the area may provide greater documentation of ancient land use in the Bass River and Mid-Cape areas where settlement during that period has been documented through extensive representation in surface artifact collections. Ancient sites on cemetery property may also contain information that documents the relationship of sites in this area to subsistence and settlement to the south along the Bass River drainage or to sites along the Cape Cod Bay estuaries and shoreline. Ancient sites in the area may contain information that contributes to our knowledge of Native subsistence techniques in upland and marine-related environments.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important information relating to the early settlement of the Dennis/Yarmouth locale, the evolution of the Dennis Village

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 10

**Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA**

Cemetery, and the social, cultural and economic characteristics of the town's early inhabitants. Historic research combined with archaeological survey and testing may locate structural or other archaeological feature evidence of the town's first meetinghouse and information indicating the extent that the extant receiving tomb was built on the same site. Archaeological research may recover architectural evidence to help reconstruct details of the building and its construction. Historic and archaeological research may also locate survivals of outbuildings originally located on the property and evidence of their function in maintenance activities or other cemetery activities. Archaeological testing may also recover evidence of gate or fence-line post holes and other boundary markers used to delineate cemetery boundaries from the 17th through 20th centuries. Some evidence indicates burials began west of the church after it was constructed in 1721; however, earlier unmarked burials, possibly from a family plot, may also exist. Fence lines were reportedly never used until late in the 18th or early 19th century; however, evidence of other types of boundary markers may exist. In 1797, a committee laid out the boundaries of the burial ground near the North Meetinghouse, indicating an unmarked boundary for 75 years or more. Fence lines are reported in the early 1800s then again in 1879 and 1918, with boundary changes in 1852, 1916, and 1965. Archaeological evidence of post holes may help reconstruct the historic boundaries of the cemetery and compare actual boundaries in the field with documentary records and deed changes.

Archaeological evidence of unmarked graves can also contribute a wide variety of important information relating to the evolution of the cemetery, its internal configuration, and the town's inhabitants. Identification and mapping of unmarked graves may help document initial use of the burial ground and changes that occurred as it evolved from a smaller burial ground to a larger town-owned cemetery. Unmarked graves can also help document the internal configuration of the cemetery and the extent that maintenance activities altered the patterning of burials. Some gravestones may have been reset apart from their associated burial. Detailed osteological study of skeletal remains and analysis of associated material culture items may also contribute important social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the town's early inhabitants. Skeletal remains may indicate the overall physical characteristics of the town's inhabitants, related pathologies, and how these characteristics changed over time, by economic or social group, and occupation. Detailed analysis of material culture items associated with specific individuals, families and social groups may also contribute important information relating to cultural beliefs and religious practices.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

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- Yarmouth, MA Vital Records

(end)

Dennis Village Cemetery
Name of Property

Barnstable County, Massachusetts
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 9.01 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 400740 4621080
Zone Easting Northing

2. 19 401000 4621040
Zone Easting Northing

3. 19 400900 4620900
Zone Easting Northing

4. 19 400660 4620980
Zone Easting Northing

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shannon R. Goheen-Huettner, with Philip Bergen and Betsy Friedberg, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date April , 2005

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 Town of Dennis, MA

street & number 485 Main Street telephone 508-760-6122

city or town South Dennis state MA zip code 02660

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal boundary description:

The Dennis Village Cemetery, bounded at the corner of Old Bass River Road, Old Hills Road, Old Post Road, and Main Street (MA Route 6A) in the village of Dennis. It consists of plots 5 and 28 on assessor's map 330. Plot 5 consists of the older section (approx. six acres), while plot 28 is the newest section (approx. three acres) at the southernmost section. Plot 28 is indicated on the assessor's map by parallel lines. It does not include plot 26, the Militia Training Ground; plot 18, Dennis Fire Station No. 2; or plot 17, the 1838 Dennis Union Church. A line of convenience has been drawn on the assessor's map to exclude the fire station and church.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

Although appearing to be part of the larger cemetery plot, correspondence from the Town of Dennis' Assessors Office indicates that the cemetery is a separate parcel. It is town-owned, and has historically been the burying site for this portion of the town. It is not affiliated with the Union Church, nor with the Village Improvement Society.

(end)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

**Dennis Village Cemetery
Dennis (Barnstable), MA**

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Shannon Goheen, Town of Dennis

Date: April 2002

Location of Negatives: Dennis DPW office

1. Looking E down 2nd Avenue toward Dennis Union Church; training grounds to left
2. Receiving tomb, north façade, facing S
3. Looking N at older section of cemetery from 6th Avenue
4. New section, looking SE, to undeveloped slope in SE corner
5. Looking E through Training Field to bandstand, cemetery to right, 6A to left
6. Looking W to Dennis Union Church, bandstand and cemetery beyond
7. Newest section of cemetery, looking E to Old Bass River Road
8. Oldest section of cemetery on West End, looking S at adjacent condominiums
9. Oldest area looking N across training grounds and Route 6A
10. Looking N towards 6A through old section
11. Josiah Dennis headstone
12. Rev. Nathan Stone headstone
13. Micah Chapman portrait stone
14. Daniel Eldridge headstone
15. Olive Sears stone, work of carver Ebenezer Winslow
16. Gideon Hall stone, work of carver Jabez Fisher
17. Susan S. Howes, work of carver Davis Bowker
18. Anne Bassett stone, work of carver William Coye
19. Temperance Howes stone, work of carver Nathaniel Holmes
20. Seth Tobey stone, work of carver Nathan Fobes

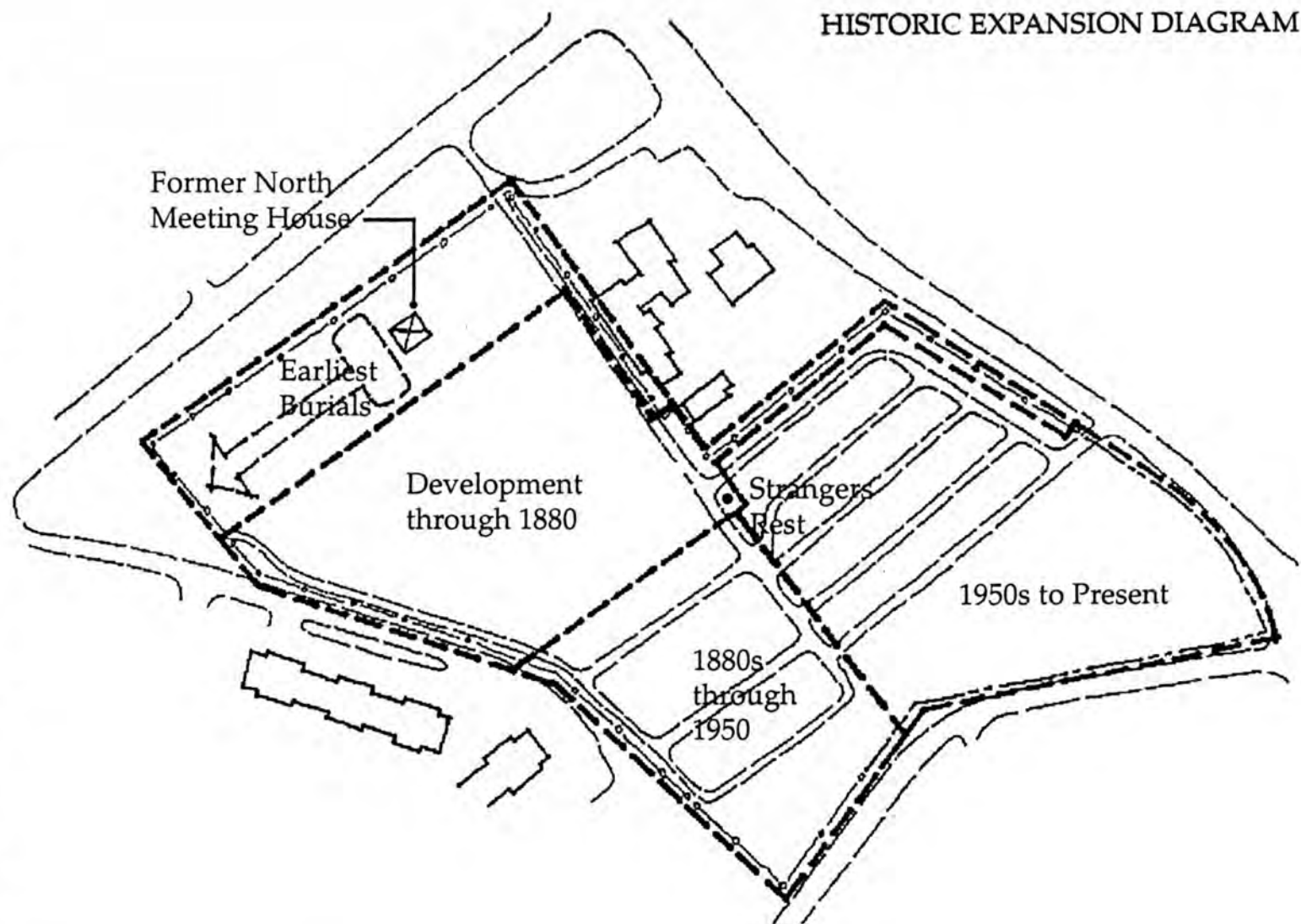
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CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL PLAN

Some features have been added over time, particularly in the oldest section at the north end. The receiving tomb was added in 1875, almost 150 years after the cemetery was established.



97-115

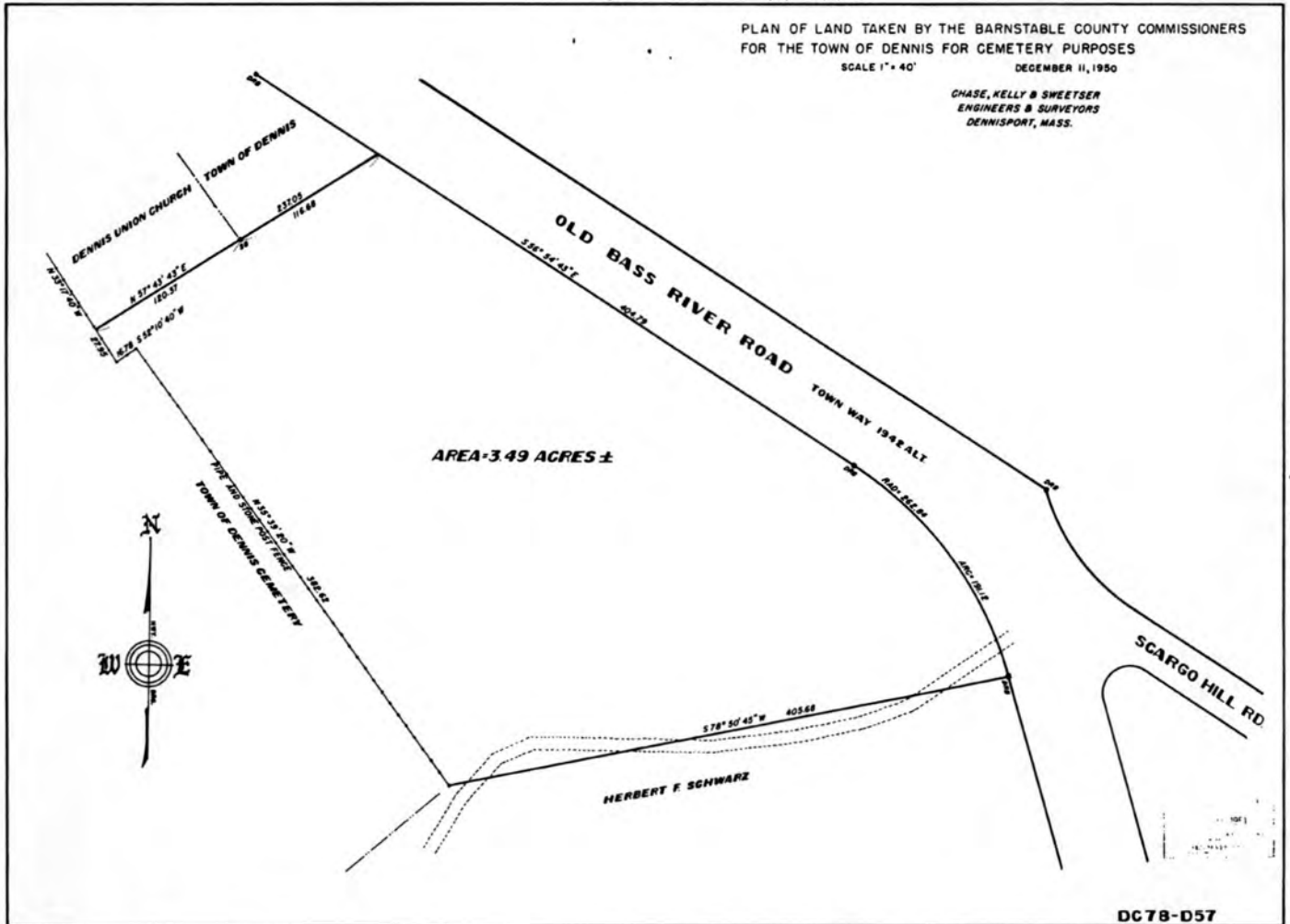
97-115

PLAN OF LAND TAKEN BY THE BARNSTABLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE TOWN OF DENNIS FOR CEMETERY PURPOSES

SCALE 1" = 40'

DECEMBER 11, 1950

CHASE, KELLY & SWEETSER
ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS
DENNISPORT, MASS.



Plan Book 97 Page 115

District Data Sheet
April 2005
Dennis Village Cemetery, Dennis (Barnstable), MA

Photo #	Description/Carver	Date	Materials/Style	Type/Status
1	Dennis Village Cemetery	1729-		SI/C
5	Post and rail fence system	19 th century	Granite/iron	O/C
	Entrance gates	19 th century	Granite posts	O/C
2	Receiving tomb	1875	Brick, sandstone, concrete	B/C
4	Road system	19 th , 20 th c.	Asphalt, grass	SI/C
9	Agnes Brigham headstone	1950	Granite	O/C
11	Rev. Josiah Dennis headstone	1763	Slate	O/C
12	Rev. Nathan Stone headstone	1804	Slate/portrait stone	O/C
	Isabel Chapman headstone/N. Fuller	1737	Slate/winged skull	O/C
13	Micah Chapman /Daniel Lamson	1792	Slate/portrait stone	O/C
14	Daniel Eldridge headstone	1833	Marble	O/C
15	Olive Sears headstone/E. Winslow	1817	Slate	O/C
16	Gideon Hall headstone/Jabez Fisher	1862	Sandstone	O/C
17	Susan S. Howes/Davis Bowker	1851	Marble	O/C
18	Anne Bassett/William Coye	1751	Slate/skull	O/C
19	Temperance Howes/N. Holmes	1828	Slate	O/C
20	Seth Tobey/Nathan Fobes	1800	Slate	O/C
	Mehitable Tobey	1728	Slate	O/C
	John Crowell	1728	Slate	O/C
	Joseph Hall/John Homer [attributed]	1787	Slate/skull & crossbones	O/C
	Charles Howes	1878	Marble, granite	O/C
	George Howes	1908	Marble	O/C
	Polly Chapman/unknown	1807	Sandstone/Conn. Valley style	O/C

Bathsheba Dennis	1745	Slate/skull & crossbones	O/C
William Crowell	1801	Slate/sun	O/C
Jabez Howes	1805	Slate/nautical compass	O/C
Benjamin Chapman/Geyer family	1797	Slate	O/C
Huldah Gorham/Nathaniel Holmes	1805	Slate/winged face	O/C
Bathsheba Dennis/Soule family	1761	Slate/medusa portrait	O/C
Joseph Hall/John Homer (?)	1768	Slate/winged skull & crossbones	O/C
Strangers Rest Marker	mid 19 th c.	Granite	O/C

Totals: Contributing sites – 2 Contributing buildings – 1 Contributing objects – 28

Representative headstones are included to illustrate examples of prominent citizens, notable carvers, or styles of headstones. No complete inventory of existing stones is available; however the 2002 Preservation Master Plan has counted more than 500 headstones and nearly 400 footstones between First and Second Avenues alone.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Dennis Village Cemetery
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Barnstable

DATE RECEIVED: 4/25/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/26/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/10/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/08/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000558

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 6/8/05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

LOOKING EAST DOWN 2ND AVENUE

TOWARD CHURCH; TRAINING GROUNDS TO LEFT

PHOTO 1

BM-04/2002J23J539 0411 N 1



DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

RECEIVING TOMBS, THE NORTH FACE

PHOTO 2

BM-04/2002041539 0411 N 2



DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

LOOKING NORTH AT OLDER SECTIONS OF
CEMETERY FROM 6TH AVENUE

PHOTO 3

BM-04/2002152539 0411 N 1



DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA

SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

NEW SECTION, LOOKING SE TO

UNDEVELOPED SLOPE IN SE CORNER

PHOTO 4

EH-04/2002147539 0411 N 1



DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

LOOKING EAST THROUGH TRAINING FIELD TO
BANDSTAND; CEMETERY TO RIGHT; GA TO LEFT
PHOTO 5

04-04/2002 15:53 0411 H 1



DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY

BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA

SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

6A LOOKING WEST TO DENNIS UNION

CHURCH, BANDSTAND, AND CEMETERY BEYOND

PHOTO 6

BM-04/20021451539 0411 N-1



DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY

BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA

SHANNON GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

NEWEST SECTION OF CEMETERY

LOOKING EAST TO OLD BASS RIVER ROAD

PHOTO 7

0411 N 1 2002050535 0411 N 1



DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

OLDEST SECTION OF CEMETERY ON WEST
END, LOOKING SOUTH AT ADJACENT
CONDOMINIUMS

PHOTO 8

BM-04/2002122539 0411 N 1



DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY

BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA

SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

OLDEST AREA LOOKING NORTH ACROSS
TRAINING GROUNDS AND ACROSS 6A

PHOTO 9

BH-04/20021401539 0411 N N



DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN
4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

LOOKING NORTH TOWARDS 6A THROUGH AREA
OF OLD SECTION MISSING STONES

PHOTO 10

BH-04/20021341539 0411 N 2

Here lies the body
of the
REV. JOSPH DENNIS,
pastor of the tall church
in Yarmouth,
who died Aug 31st 1763,
in the 69th year of his age,
& 37th of his ministry.

DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA

SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

JOSIAH DENNIS HEADSTONE

PHOTO 11

BN-04/20021091539 0411 N 1

Here lies the remains of

REX NATHAN STONE

Pastor of the east church
in Yarmouth, now Dennis
who departed this life

April 26, 1807, in the 57

year of his age

and 10th of his ministry

He was a devoted and successful
minister of the Gospel, and a
valuable member of the church.

He was a devoted and successful

minister of the Gospel, and a

valuable member of the church.

He was a devoted and successful

DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN
4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW
REV. NATHAN STONE HEADSTONE
PHOTO 12

ENH-04/20021071539 0411 N 1



In Memory of
Major MICHAEL CHAPMAN
who died Oct 20th

1702

1758

His wife Anne Chapman
died at the same place
Feb 12th 1760
Aged 50 Years



DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

MICAH CHAPMAN PORTRAIT STONE
PHOTO 13

BM-04/2002131559 0411 N 2



DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY

BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA

SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DAW

DANIEL ELDRIDGE HEADSTONE

PHOTO 14

BM-04/20020301539 0411 N 1



In memory of
Mrs. OLIVE, wife of
Mr. Joshua Sears.

Passed Dec. 14,

1877

In her 58th year.

Her soul, the Lord has taken to himself,
Of earth separated, where
With angels and saints, and martyrs, she
Will ever dwell, to rest.

DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

OLIVE SEARS; WORK OF CARVER
EBENEZER D. WINSLOW

PHOTO IS

BH-04/2002151519 0411 N 1

ST. PIERRE

CAPT.

GIDEON HALL

DIED

June 5, 1862

E. A. V. H. D.

BRIDGE

Wife

Gideon

Second 1

David 1

Died Apr

E. SOY

DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

GIDEON HALL STONE: WORK OF CARVER
JABEZ M. FISHER

PHOTO 16

BH-04/20021281559 0411 N 2



SUSAN S.
wife of
ANTHONY HOWES
died April 6, 1851,
aged 28 yrs.

DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

SUSAN S. HOWES; WORK OF CARVER

DAVIS W. BOWKER

PHOTO #17

BM--04/20021321539 0411 H 1



In Memory of
Anne Bassett wife
of Samuel Bassett
who died the
Life February 1851
at 28 Years of her Age

DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN
4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW
ANNE BASSETT; WORK OF CARVER
WILLIAM COYE

PHOTO # 18

BM-04/20021361539 0411 N N



IN MEMORY OF
MRS. TEMPERANCE

WIFE OF
DEA. PRINCE HOMES.
WHO DIED
JUNE 8, 1828.
A. D.

DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA
SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

TEMPERANCE HOWES; WORK OF CARVER
NATHANIEL HOLMES

PHOTO # 19

BH-04/20021381539 0411 N N

In memory of
Seth son of Mr
Seth T. Brown Mr
Brown lived and he
died September 1867
in his 18 year

DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY

BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MA

SHANNON R. GOHEEN

4/12/02

TOWN OF DENNIS DPW

SETH TOBEY, WORK OF CARVER NATHAN FUBES

PHOTO # 20

PH-04/2002144153 0411 N 2



DENNIS VILLAGE
CEMETERY →

ZONE 19

① 400740 / 4621080

② 401020 / 4621040

③ 400900 / 4620900

④ 400660 / 4620980

CONVERSION
SCALES

Feet Meters

15000 4500

14000 4000

13000 3500

12000 3000

11000 2500

10000 2000

9000 1500

8000 1000

7000 800

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5000 600

4000 500

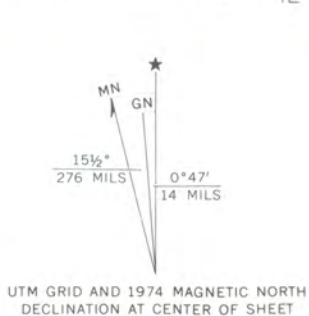
3000 400

2000 300

1000 200

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Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1940.
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1973. Field checked 1974
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 257
and 258 (1972), 581 (1971), and 339 (1973)
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-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



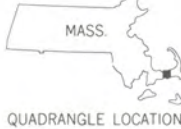
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CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET
IN CAPE COD BAY AND 2.8 FEET IN NANTUCKET SOUND

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

Interstate Route

U.S. Route

State Route

Light-duty road, hard or improved surface

Unimproved road

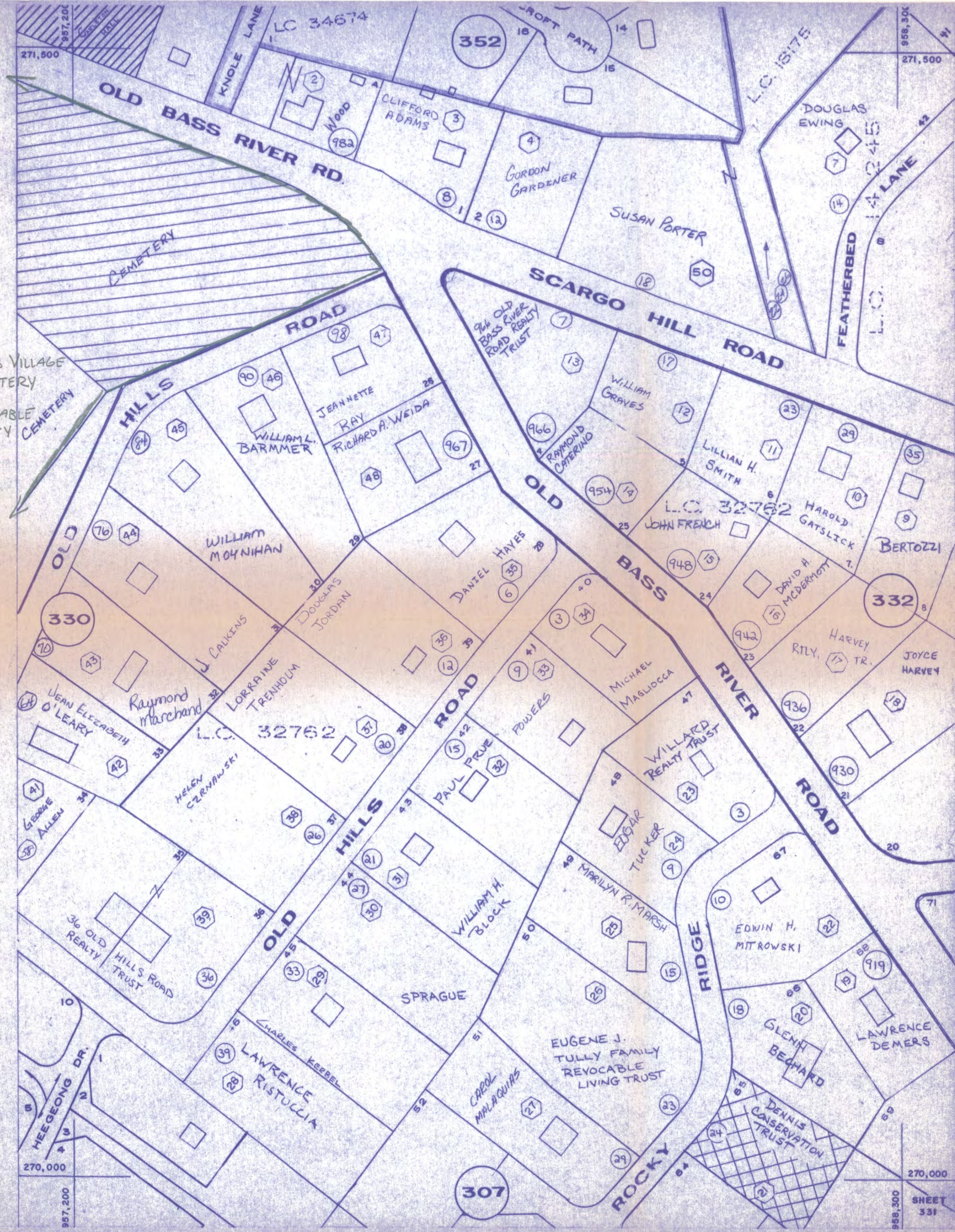
DENNIS, MASS.
N4137.5—W7007.5/8.5 X 7.5
1974
AMS 6967 II NW—SERIES V814

DENNIS VILLAGE CEMETERY
DENNIS (BARNSTABLE) MA

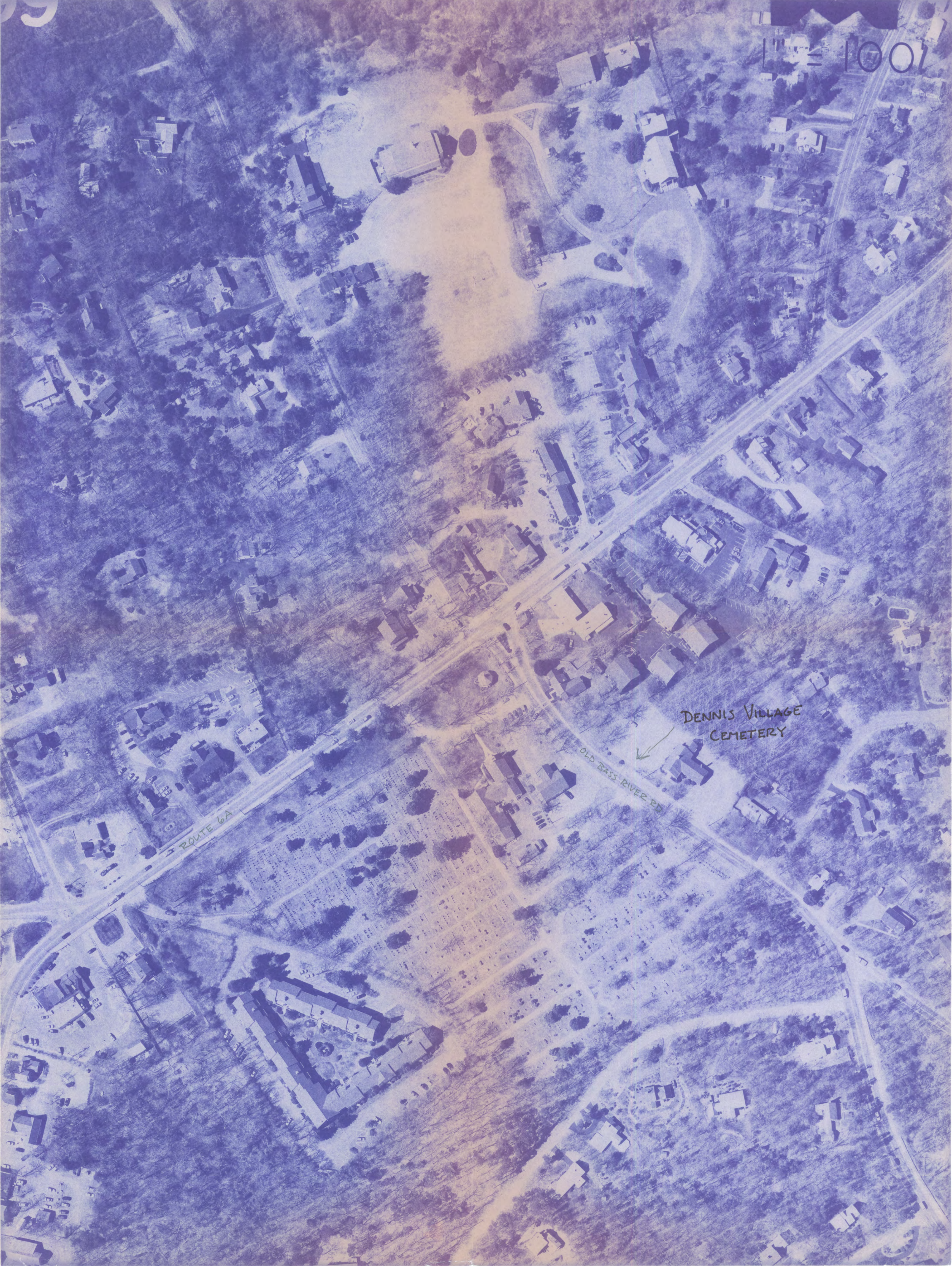
USGS map



DENNIS VILLAGE
CEMETERY
BARNSTABLE
COUNTY CEMETERY



Rosencrans maps
Set 1



1001

DENNIS VILLAGE
CEMETERY

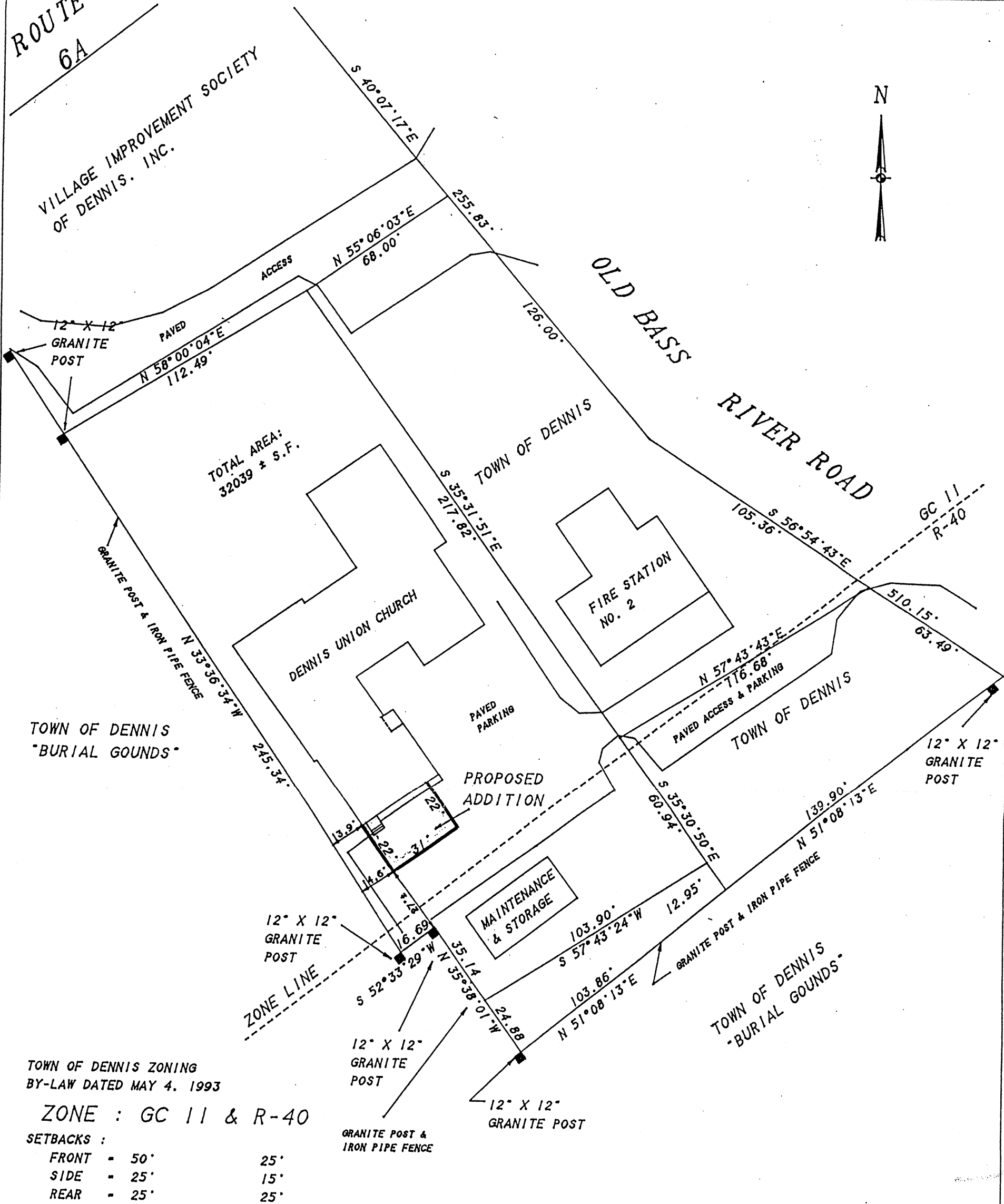
OLD BASS RIVER ED

ROUTE 6A

Aerial Map
(not labeled)

ROUTE
6A

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY
OF DENNIS, INC.



TOWN OF DENNIS ZONING
BY-LAW DATED MAY 4, 1993

ZONE : GC 11 & R-40

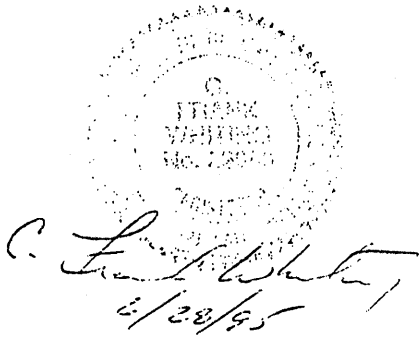
SETBACKS :

FRONT	- 50'	25'
SIDE	- 25'	15'
REAR	- 25'	25'

PROPERTY LINES SHOWN HEREON
WERE TAKEN FROM AVAILABLE
PLANS OF RECORD AND FROM AN
ACTUAL ON THE GROUND SURVEY.

THE DWELLING DEPICTED ON THIS
PLAN WAS LOCATED ON THE GROUND
BY SURVEY ON APR. 27, 1992 AND
EXISTS AS SHOWN AS OF THE DATE
OF LOCATION.

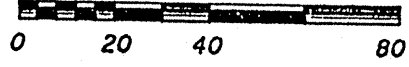
THIS PLAN IS FOR PLOT PLAN
PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT FOR
RECORDING. DEED DESCRIPTIONS.
ESTABLISHING PROPERTY LINES
OR FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES.



PLOT PLAN
IN
DENNIS, MA.

SCALE: 1"=40' JUN. 28, 1995

EAGLE SURVEYING & ENGINEERING, INC.
10 Seaboard Lane
Hyannis, Ma. 02601
(508) 778-4422



PROJECT NO. 92-232

Info & clearly
boundary





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



April 15, 2005

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Dennis Village Cemetery, Dennis (Barnstable), 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: Nancy Thatcher Reid, Dennis Historical Commission
Donald Trepte, Dennis Board of Selectmen
Daniel Fortier, Planning Department
Sarah Korjeff, Cape Cod Commission
Dennis Cemetery Commission
Dennis DPW

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc

GRANTOR: Mary O. Hall et ali

GRANTEE: Village Improvement society of Dennis

DEED DATE: May 16, 1905

REC. DATE: May 16, 1905

CONSIDERATION: \$5.00

DESCRIPTION: A certain piece of land situated in said Dennis and bounded as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of the School House property thence running Westerly in the range of the heirs of the late Hiram Hall (at a right angle with the West side of the School House property to a corner in the fence of the Town Cemetery; thence Westerly in the range of the Town Cemetery to a second corner in the Town Cemetery fence, thence Northerly in the range of the Town Cemetery as the fence now stands, to the range of the Village Improvement Society of Dennis; thence Easterly in the range of the said Village Improvement Society of Dennis to the Northwest corner of the School House property and thence Southerly in the range of the School House property to the first mentioned bound, containing one acre more or less. (In the above described property there is a piece of land that si supposed to belong to the Church Society which occupies the Church situated thereon. The said Society is supposed to own the land the Church now stands on and a few feet on each side of the Church, but if the Grantors above have any right or title in this so-called church property, they, the said grantors hereby convey such right and title to the Village Improvement Society of Dennis

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Barnstable, ss.

To the County Commissioners for the County of Barnstable:

Whereas the Town of Dennis desires to enlarge the cemetery in the village of Dennis, and, whereas the Town is not satisfied that it can take a good conveyance from the parties who claim title thereto, therefore, Clarence M. Nickerson, Earle M. Davidson and Frederick A. Eldridge, Jr., Selectmen of the said Town of Dennis, in accordance with Chapter 114 of the General Laws, Tercentenary Edition, Section 11, hereby petition the Commissioners of the County of Barnstable to take the land set forth in the vote of the Town, under Article 43 of the Annual Town Meeting for 1949. The Commissioners are requested to take action under the provisions of said Chapter 114 of the General Laws, Sections 11 to 14, inclusive, and any other laws pertaining thereto.

Clarence M. Nickerson

Earl M. Davidson

Frederick A. Eldridge, Jr.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF DENNIS

This petition was filed in the office of the County Commissioners on the twenty-fourth day of January, A. D. 1951, when the petitioners having entered into a recognizance in due form of law, the said Commissioners ordered that notice thereon be given in accordance with the foregoing petition, that the Commissioners would meet for the purpose of a hearing thereon, at the Selectmen's Office, Town Building, South Dennis, on the twenty-third day of February next, at two-thirty o'clock in the afternoon, by causing an attested copy of said petition, with this order thereon, to be published in the Yarmouth Register, a newspaper printed in Yarmouth (Yarmouthport), fourteen days at least before the time appointed for said hearing, that all parties interested may then and there appear and show cause, if any, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted.

Legal notice having been given in conformity to the foregoing order, the Commissioners met at the time and place named

(See Plan filed in Plan Book 97, Page 115.)

Board of Commissioners
therein, heard all the parties that were present and desirous of being heard, and the Commissioners thereupon voted that public necessity requires that the prayer of the petitioners should be granted, and they afterward, at a meeting of said Commissioners held at the Court House in Barnstable on the ninth day of March, A. D. 1951, adjudicated thereon and do take the fee in said land by eminent domain, under the provisions of Chapter 79 of the General Laws, for cemetery purposes for the Town of Dennis, of the following described land, as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land Taken by the Barnstable County Commissioners for the Town of Dennis for Cemetery Purposes, Scale 1" = 40', December 11, 1950, Chase, Kelly & Sweetser, Engineers & Surveyors, Dennisport, Mass.", bounded in accordance with said plan as follows:

On the Northeast	by Old Bass River Road, a Town way, 595.91 feet;
On the South	by land now or formerly of Herbert F. Schwarz, 405.68 feet;
On the Southwest	382.62 feet;
On the South	16.78 feet; and again
On the Southwest	27.95 feet, by land of the Town of Dennis;
On the Northwest	by land of Dennis Union Church and land of the Town of Dennis, 237.05 feet;
being in area about 3.49 acres.	

Said plan to be filed together with the Order of Taking in the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds.

We award as damages for the taking of said land the sum of \$17.50 to the person or persons unknown to us who may be the owner or owners of the land taken, and there is included in the taking all trees and structures that may be thereon. Said award of damages is to be paid by the said Town of Dennis.

Dated at Barnstable, Massachusetts, this ninth day of March, A. D. 1951.

Barnstable
County Commissioners
and
Acting Commissioner

Wm. J. P. Dalton
H. Meyers
Charles C. Dalton

Barnstable, ss., Received March 9, 1951, and is recorded.

A True Copy
Attest:
D. Campbell

Book 940 Page 468

I. G. Everett Howes

of Dennis, Barnstable County, Massachusetts,
being unmarried, for consideration paid, grant to Dennis Union Church of Dennis,
Barnstable County, Massachusetts, a Massachusetts corporation

xxx

with warranty covenants

the land in the northwest part of the town of Dennis on the northerly
[Description and encumbrances, if any]

side of the Massachusetts State Highway, bounded as follows:-
Beginning at the southeasterly corner of the premises described
in a deed recorded in Book 417 at Page 446, thence running N 42° W,
121.85 feet by the land of the Dennis Union Religious Society to
an iron pipe, thence in a southwesterly direction 90.00 feet by the
land of the Dennis Union Religious Society to an iron pipe, thence
N 42° W, 52.9 feet by the land of Fielding T. Chase to an iron pipe,
thence in a northeasterly direction 102 feet by the land of Fielding
T. Chase to a point, thence S 42° E, 174.75 feet in a line parallel
to the first mentioned course and 12 feet distant from it by the land
of the grantor to a point, thence in a southwesterly direction 12.00
feet by the Massachusetts State Highway to the point of beginning.

Being a portion of the land conveyed to me by the deed of Ida L. Howes
dated February 20, 1954 and recorded at Barnstable Registry of Deeds
in Book 896 at Page 58.



BARNSTABLE



by Amos A. Crowell, Joshua Crowell and Frank E. Howes all of Dennis, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, Trustees of the Dennis Union Religious Society of Dennis, Massachusetts, for consideration paid, grant to the Dennis Union Church, a Massachusetts religious corporation, of Main Street, Dennis, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, with Quitclaim Covenants, the following parcels of land, with the buildings thereon, located in the north westerly part of the town of Dennis.

Parcel I. A piece of land a short distance southerly of Main Street, Dennis, Massachusetts, being the Dennis Union Church property, bounded and described as follows- Beginning at the southwest corner of the former school-house property (now belonging to the Town of Dennis Fire Department) at a stone bound; thence sets S 57° 43' 43" W, 120.37 feet by the land of the Town of Dennis, Cemetery Department, to be conveyed later to the grantee, to a cemetery fence, having stone posts and iron rails; thence N 33° 17' 40" W, about 218 feet by the cemetery fence to the former Old County Road and the land of the Village Improvement Society; thence about N 56° 06' 10" E, an approximate distance of 110.00 feet by the former Old County Road and the land of the Village Improvement Society to a stone post; thence S 35° 30' 50" W, 217.82 feet by a fence with stone posts and iron rails and the land of the Town of Dennis, Fire Department to the point of beginning. It is the intent of this conveyance to include the entire Church property, however otherwise bounded or described.

Containing an area of about .59 of an acre and being the same property as was conveyed to the committee chosen by the shareholders of the meeting-house by Isaac Hall, et als in a deed recorded at Barnstable Registry of Deeds in Book 45 at Page 142, and the same property as was conveyed to the trustees of the Dennis Union Religious Society by the deed of the Village Improvement Society of Dennis recorded at Barnstable Registry of Deeds in Book 418 at Page 78.

Parcel II. A piece of land on the northerly side of Main Street (Mass State Highway), Dennis, Massachusetts, being the Parsonage property, bounded and described as follows- Beginning at the southwest corner of the premises adjoining the Massachusetts State Highway, sets N 42° W about 122.00 feet by land of Fielding T. Chase to an iron pipe; thence northerly 90.00 feet by the land of the grantee, by a conveyance from G. Everett Howes to be recorded herewith, to a point; thence southeasterly 121.85 feet by the said other land of the grantee to a point; thence in a southwesterly direction 90.00 feet by the State Highway to the point of beginning. Meaning and intending to convey all the Parsonage Lot, however otherwise bounded or described.

Containing an area of about .25 of an acre and being the same property as was conveyed to the Dennis Union Religious Society by the deed of Charles E. Hall dated May 3, 1924 and recorded at Barnstable Registry of Deeds in Book 417 at Page 446.

Parcel III Any and all other real estate that now belongs to the Dennis Union Religious Society.

The consideration for the granting of this deed is not sufficient to require the attachment of documentary stamps.

Witness our hands and seals this 19th day of May, 1956.

Frank E. Howes

Joshua Crowell

Annie A. Crowell

Trustees of the Dennis Union Religious Society

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Barnstable, ss.

Dennis, Mass., May 19, 1956

Then personally appeared the above-named Annie A. Crowell, Joshua Crowell and Frank E. Howes, Trustees of the Dennis Union Religious Society and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be their free act and deed, before me

William E. Crowell

Notary Public

My Commission expires April 9, 1959