

PH0117528

STATE:
Massachusetts

COUNTY:
Suffolk

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
APR 18 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Copp's Hill Burial Ground (use for publication)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
North Burying Place

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Charter, Snowhill, and Hull Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
9th

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

COUNTY: Suffolk CODE: 025



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural
 Commercial
 Educational
 Entertainment
 Government
 Industrial
 Military
 Museum
 Park
 Private Residence
 Religious
 Scientific
 Transportation
 Other (Specify) Cemetery
 Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Boston-Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Suffolk County Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
(1) Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Massachusetts Historical Commission (617) 727-8470

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Massachusetts

COUNTY: Suffolk

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 18 1974

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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Copp's Burying Ground is a polygonal plot, roughly a trapezoid with a square extension on the east side, which covers a sloping hillside and overlooks Boston Harbor to the north through Copp's Hill Terrace. Although the burying ground is a combination of four separate cemeteries, established in 1659, 1809, 1819, and 1832, its present appearance results from first, the lowering of the summit by seventeen feet in 1804-07 by the Boston Mill Pond Corporation, and second, from landscaping activities during the 1830's which included some grave rearrangements. Of Boston's ancient burying grounds, Copp's Hill has suffered least from 19th century attempts at symmetry. The early landscaping efforts included tree planting (now large deciduous trees); prior to 1833 the hill was bare. In 1838, the Snowhill Street side was dug away, the tombs and graves relocated within the newly constructed granite retaining wall. The next year, the walkways were laid out traversing the site with 2 circular pathways on the upper and lower slopes.

Copp's Hill contains 227 tombs and nearly 2000 grave markers of traditional materials, granite, slate, and marble. Condition of the stones varies: vandalism, erosion and weather have caused considerable and irrevocable damage to many. However, many more provide an outstanding illustrated history of funerary art and local craftsmanship.

The late 19th century toolhouse of High Victorian Gothic design was demolished by fire and has been replaced with a small but unsuitable cement block structure.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1659

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Copp's Hill Burying Ground, originally called North Burying Ground, was the colony's second cemetery, set out in 1660, some thirty years following King's Chapel Burying Ground. The original plot belonged to William Copp, a shoemaker, and covered the summit of a hill, known as Windmill Hill or Snowhill, that rose next to the now-filled Mill Pond. The gradual additions around the Burying Ground - New North in 1809, Charter Street in 1819, and Hull Street in 1832 - reveal the needs of the swiftly expanding city after the Revolution.

During the Revolution, the burying ground gained military significance; the British established the North Battery and earthworks on the southwest side of the ground from which Generals Burgoyne and Clinton directed the shelling of Bunker Hill and ultimate torching of Charlestown. Allegedly, British troops used the gravestones for target practice; resultant damage is visible.

The Burying Ground's primary significance is derived from the numerous remarkable people interred here. Most famous is the Mather Family whose tomb contains Increase (1723), Cotton (1727), and Samuel (1785) Mather, the Puritan ministers. Others include: Edmund Hartt, builder of the "USS Constitution;" patriot Deacon Moses Grant; Robert Newman, who placed signals in Christ Church in 1775; William Copp's family; Shem Downe, a local craftsman to whom local legend attributes creation of Faneuil Hall's grasshopper weathervane; several founders of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, established in 1638 and the oldest existing citizen militia in the country; and Prince Hall, the founder of the black Masonic Order. A section of the burying ground near Snowhill was laid out for slaves and freedmen, although no specific marker calls attention to this. Burials became infrequent by 1840, but interments have been made as recently as 1960.

Concomitant with the importance of the famous people buried at Copp's Hill is the significance of the funerary art of the Burial Ground. The intact and the fragmented markers and tombs illustrate most beautifully the progression of early New England theological and philosophical concepts and the level of craftsmanship of early artisans. The earliest stones date from the 1660's, namely Joanna Copp and Mary R/Kind, although several others read 1625 and 1626 due to a vandalous prank of one George Darracott who recarved the actual 1690 dates in the early 19th c. The earliest tomb is 1717. Comparison of the 17th and early 18th century markers with post-Revolutionary and early 19th century stones reveals, on one hand, numerous examples of oblong slate slabs with rounded tops

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Annual Report of the Cemetery Department of the City of Boston, 1900-1901, Boston, Municipal Printing Office, 1901, City Document #7 includes #4 below
2. Bridgman, Thomas, Epitaphs from Copp's Hill Burial Ground, Boston with Notes, Boston & Cambridge, J. Munroe & Co., 1851.
3. Drake, Samuel, Old Landmarks and Historic Personages of Boston (1st ed, 1872). Republished version, Rutland, Vermont, C.E. Tuttle Co., 1971.
4. MacDonald, Edward, Old Copp's Hill and Burial Ground with Historical Sketches, 2nd ed, 1882, private printing
5. Norton, John, Historical Sketch of Copp's Hill Burying Ground with Inscriptions and Ye Ancient Epitaphs, 1919

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	42	22	02.131
NE	° ' "	° ' "	71	03	22.645
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.04

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

19/330680/4692380

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elizabeth Amadon, Survey Director by Boston Landmarks Commission

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission (617) 727-8470 DATE: February, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: John F. X. Davoren
 Honorable John F. X. Davoren
 Secretary of the Commonwealth

Title: Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date: 3/22/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/18/74

ATTEST:

Wm. H. [Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 4.18.74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Massachusetts	
COUNTY	Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	APR 18	DATE
		1974

(Number all entries)

(9.) continued, Bibliography Copp's Hill Burying Ground, Boston

- 6. Whitmore, W.H., The Graveyards of Boston, Vol. 1, Copp's Hill Epitaphs. Albany, N.Y., 1878.
- 7. City of Boston, Real Property Department-Engineering Division, Map #K 27, 28, & 29, 1908.

(6.) continued, Existing Surveys

Title: Historic American Building Survey, Mass.- 498
 Date: 1941 Federal Survey
 Depository: Division of Prints, Library of Congress
 Washington, D. C. 20540
 Code: 011

(8.) continued, Significance

bearing elaborate inscriptions and winged death's heads, and on the other neoclassical motifs of wrens and willow branches, and lyres. The earlier Puritan symbols reflect Puritan's concern for death and resurrection, while the later motifs witness influence from newer theological doctrines of Methodism and Unitarianism.

During the 19th century contemporary writers mentioned the use of Copp's Hill as a pleasant quiet recreational spot for residents of Boston's North End. However, as early as 1833 the desire for symmetry and organization emerged; a writer extolled the landscaping and improvements noting that they will coordinate with the old yard, "but will be infinitely more pleasant and regular." Increasingly during this century, the stately mature trees and plantings, although minimal, provide vital albeit small open spaces in a dense urban setting. The landscaping of Copp's Hill in the 1830's, 170 years after its establishment, unknowingly foresaw the needs of a city in later centuries.



PROPERTY Copp's Hill Burial Ground STATE Mass.

Suffolk

WORKING NUMBER 4. 3. 74. 524

TECH REVIEW
PHOTOS 3
MAPS 2

CONTROL REVIEW

cm
4.4
74

HISTORIAN Not as impressive as King's Chapel - But Mathers are very important, as are markers

OK
Accept.
W. R. Luce
4/4/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
Hudson
4/5/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cob
4-12-74

BRANCH CHIEF

Age should exempt this from criteria

Accept
Avery
4-17-74

KEEPER

National Register Write-up June 6, 1974

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry June 4, 1974

Re-submit _____

Entered

APR 18 1974



Form No. 10-301a
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

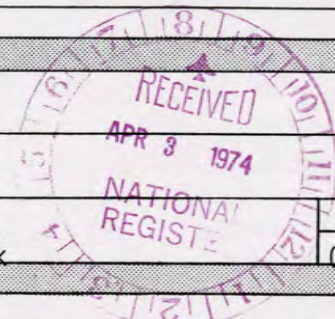
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 18 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Copp's Hill Burial Ground			
AND/OR HISTORIC: North Burying Place			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Charter, Snowhill, and Hull Streets			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Boston			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Suffolk	025
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Boston Redevelopment Authority			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Boston Redevelopment Authority, City Hall, Boston, MA			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Northwesterly view of burying ground towards corner of Charter and Snowhill Streets			



#1 of 3

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



In Memory of
MRS JANE HENRY
Wife of the late
Mr Paul Henry died
Oct 12 1882 A.D.

She died on
the 12th of
January 1882
at the age of
78 years

Here lies the remains
of THOMAS WALKER
who died July 22 1881
at the age of 78 years
He was buried in the
Catholic cemetery at
St. Ann's Church
New York City

Here lies the remains
of the late
MRS JANE HENRY
who died Oct 12 1882
at the age of 78 years

Here lies the remains
of the late
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who died Oct 12 1882
at the age of 78 years

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#3

Form No. 10-301a
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 18 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Copp's Hill Burial Ground
AND/OR HISTORIC: North Burying Place

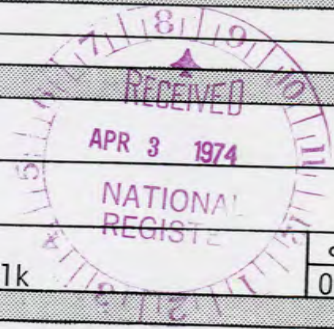
2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Carter, Snowhill and Hull Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE: Massachusetts

CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
025	Suffolk	025



3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Boston Redevelopment Authority
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Boston Redevelopment Authority, City Hall, Boston, Ma.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View of cemetery looking southerly towards Hull Street.

#2 of 3

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Form No. 10-301a
(7/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

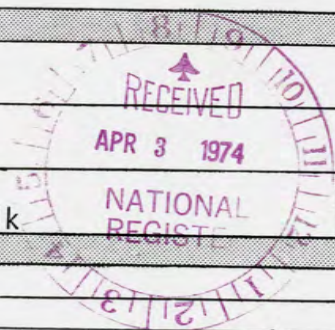
#2

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 18 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Copp's Hill Burial Ground			
AND/OR HISTORIC: North Burying Place			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Charter, Snowhill and Hull Streets			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Boston			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Massachusetts		025	Suffolk
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Boston Redevelopment Authority			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Boston Redevelopment Authority, City Hall, Boston, MA			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Northeasterly view of burying ground from Hull Street border			

#3 of 3



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
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Charter, Snowhill, and Hull Streets
CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

CODE

COUNTY:

CODE

Massachusetts

025

Suffolk

025

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series, Boston South Quadrangle

SCALE: 1"=24,000'

DATE: 1970

4. REQUIREMENTS

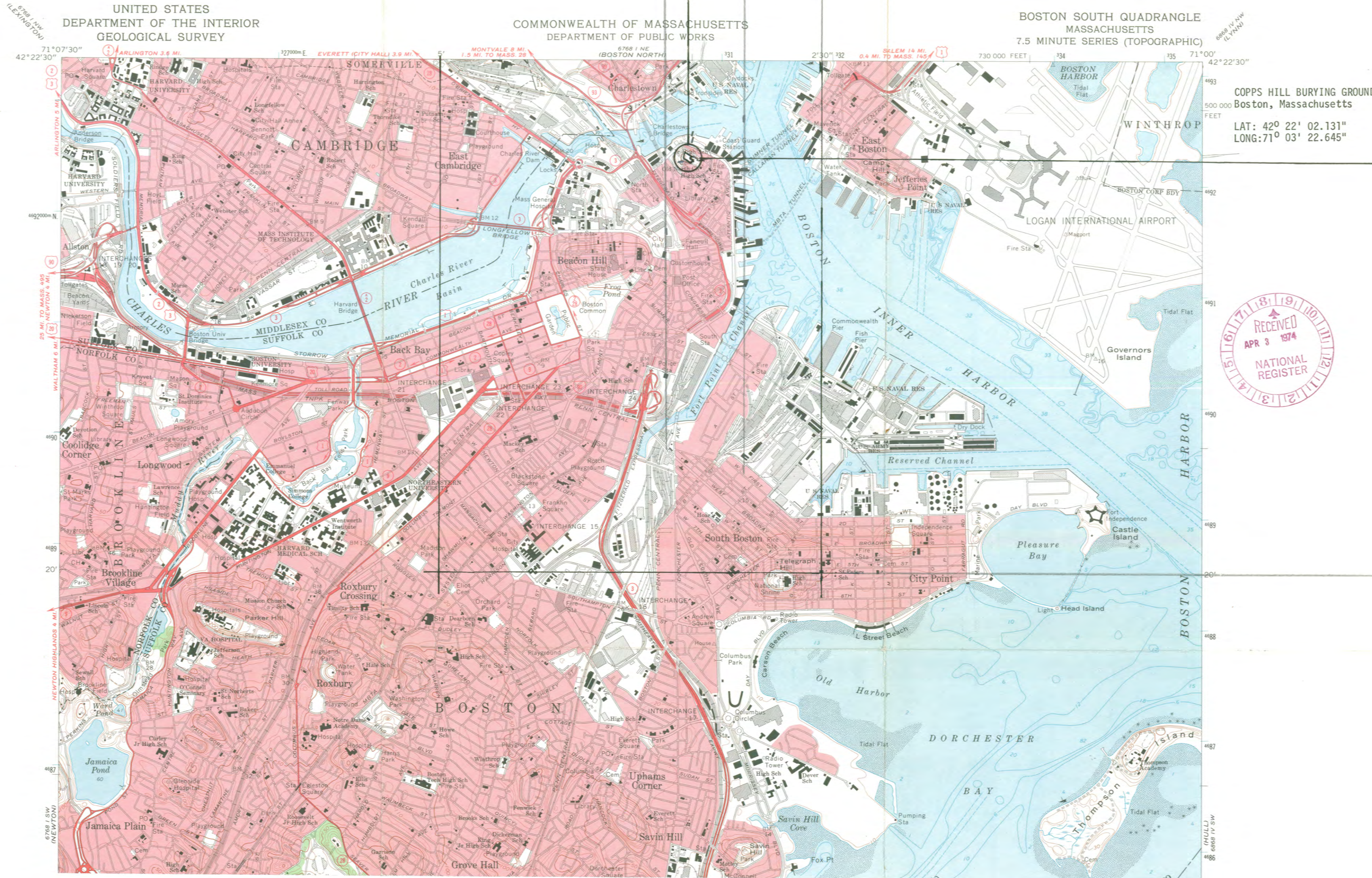
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



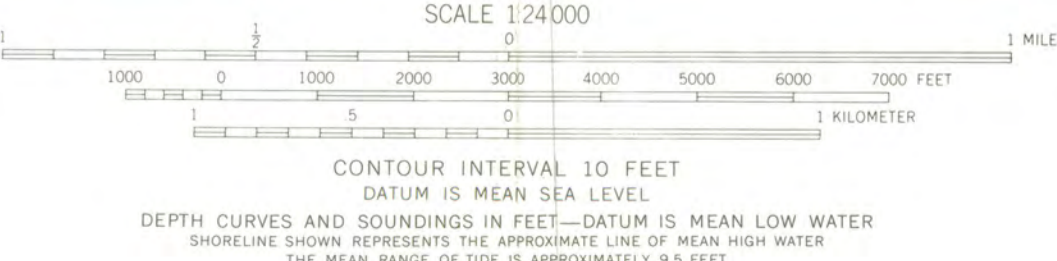
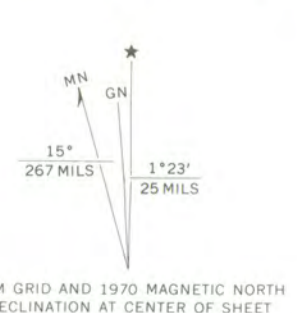
COPPS HILL BURYING GROUND
Boston, Massachusetts

LAT: 42° 22' 02.131"
LONG: 71° 03' 22.645"





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 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246
and 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
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface ————
Secondary highway, hard surface ————
Unimproved road ————
Interstate Route ————
U. S. Route ————
State Route ————
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ————
Unimproved road ————
Interstate Route ————
U. S. Route ————
State Route ————

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
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

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5
1970
AMS 6768 1 SE—SERIES V814

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
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Boston

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Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Suffolk

CODE

025

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

Boston Redevelopment Authority

SCALE: 1"=100'

DATE: 1965

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

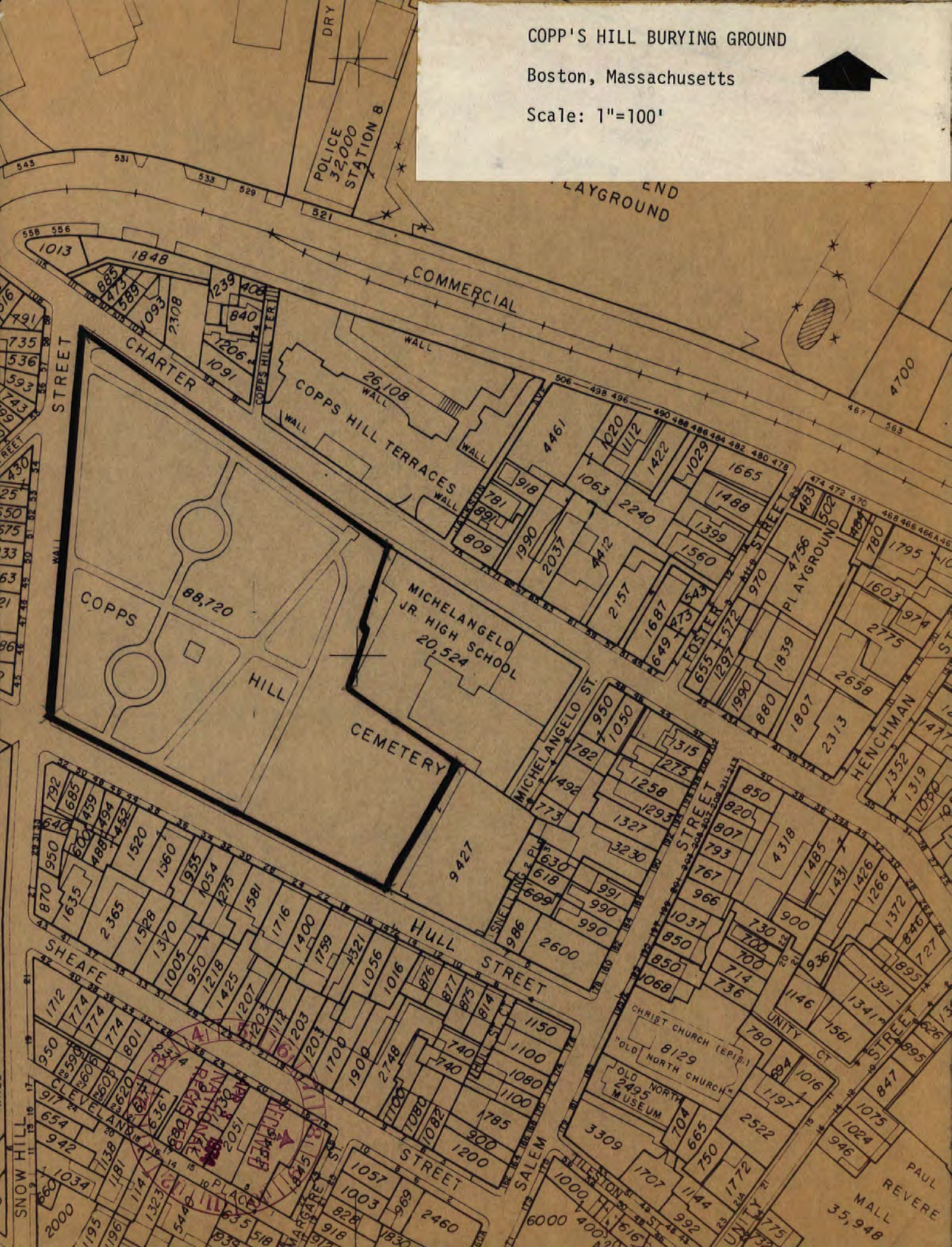
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



COPP'S HILL BURYING GROUND

Boston, Massachusetts

Scale: 1"=100'



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 18 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
The Grange	Lincoln Middlesex County
Dorchester North Burying Ground	Boston (Dorchester) Suffolk County
First Parish Unitarian Church	Medfield Norfolk County
Copp's Hill Burial Ground	Boston Suffolk County
Holbrook, Dr. Amos, House	Milton Norfolk County
Winthrop Building	Boston Suffolk County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Robert F. Drinan
Hon. John J. Moakley
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler
Hon. James A. Burke

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John P. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

PR

MMott

4/22/74