

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Center Cemetery

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Sam Hill Road N/A not for publication

city or town Worthington N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Hampshire code 015 zip code 01098

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,
Signature of certifying official/Title Cara Metz, State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

12/04
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

2/26/04

Center Cemetery

Name of Property

Hampshire 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

0

0

building

1

0

sites

2

0

structures

38

0

objects

41

0

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

NONE

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)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other

Narrative Description

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

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7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Center Cemetery lies along the south side of Sam Hill Road, approximately 0.5 miles from Route 112 and Worthington Center to the east, and 0.5 miles from West Street to the west. Mature hardwood forests border the cemetery's west and south sides, and an abandoned apple orchard stands to the east. Across Sam Hill Road, to the north, lies an actively cultivated agricultural field.

Mature sugar maple trees, 30" to 36" in caliper and planted in even rows (Photo #1), line all four cemetery edges. Most have reached heights of sixty to seventy-five feet, and their enormous limbs branch horizontally into the cemetery, casting wide shadows over the markers and monuments. On the east, south, and west side, dry-laid fieldstone walls stand just outside the trees. Photographs taken in the middle of the 20th century show a wooden fence atop the walls. Today the walls stand unadorned. Views across the agricultural field northward are possible from the Sam Hill Road edge; however the stone walls and sugar maples obscure other views from inside the Cemetery out. The walls and trees form a strong edge to the cemetery, creating a sense of privacy and intimacy for visitors.

Center Cemetery's 2.4 acres are rectangular in shape, and a turf and dirt cart path rims $\frac{3}{4}$ of the land, just inside the rows of maples. Two additional paths, each running perpendicular to Sam Hill Road, allow visitors to cross through the Cemetery core. Access to the perimeter path is at four points along Sam Hill Road, where the perimeter and perpendicular paths join the road pavement.

This system of paths forms a grid pattern, dividing the cemetery into four burial sections. Each section reflects a different period in Worthington history and, coincidentally cemetery landscape history. The oldest stones, dating from the 1770s through the 1820s stand at the lowest point and westernmost section. Many of these markers are of native

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stone such as marble and Goshen Stone, and many display the work of local stone carvers. Crude stone stubs mark several graves in this area, with either initials of the deceased, or no marking at all. The burial area appears unplanned, as unrelated individuals have been buried side by side. Family members are not grouped. This area contains many open spots, suggesting unmarked burials.

Moving eastward and up a gentle grade, the second section begins to group graves by family and family plots, marked with a central monument or tall obelisk, become the norm. Granite copings and corner posts mark some plots, and the landform in some has been mounded to reinforce the plot edges. Marble is the dominant material for markers and monuments in this area, and most date to the mid-19th century. Victorian imagery adorns many of the stones.

Family plots dominate the third section, which stands on the cemetery's highest point. Granite becomes more common here, and most stones date to the late 19th and early 20th century. The size of the plot markers distinguishes this section from others. Central monuments are lower in height and less ornate, suggesting movement away from the Victorian style of the second section.

The fourth section, the cemetery's newest, lies to the east and slightly below the third. Pre-sold family plots cover the entire section, and many are marked with 30-inch-high high granite markers. Ornamental shrubbery, nearly absent from all other sections of the cemetery, adorns several plots. Both the markers and ornamental plantings reflect a more contemporary aesthetic in cemetery design.

Center Cemetery contains 631 monuments and markers, making it second in burials to North Cemetery. Sixty-three percent of the stones are marble, many of which were likely obtained from regional sources. Granite, predominant in the new sections, accounts for 33% of the stones. Other materials include brownstone, quartz, wood, and zinc. Goshen Stone, a material quarried in the adjacent town of Goshen (to Worthington's north), appears in markers in the oldest sections. Its metamorphic and sedimentary

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characteristics make it easy to chip and carve and, at the same time, durable. The markers of Newcomb Cleveland (d. 1825), Ambrose Hanchet (d. 1797), and Asa Cottrel (d. 1790) are carved in Goshen Stone. Pieces of uncarved Goshen Stone mark several other graves.

Many of the stones exhibit the work of local stone carvers. The Sikes family, a group of carvers working in Western Massachusetts between 1770 and 1820, may have created the motifs on the stones of Ambrose Hanchet (d. 1797), John Cutler (d. 1802), Newcomb Cleveland (d. 1825), Siphrona Kingman (d. 1804), and Amanda Tinker (d. 1811), although the work is not signed. Other carvers with signed work include G. Fleming (the stone of Captain James Kelly), H. Pomeroy (the 1834 and 1838 stones of Ezra (Photo #3) and Esther Starkweather, respectively), and Rule & Marble (the stone of Minerva Meach). T. Sturges signed the stone of Charlotte Hubbard, Logan & Joyner signed the Coit family monument, and F. Munnier signed the stone of Ruth Granger. Other than the signatures on each of the aforementioned, little information is known about each artist's location and breadth of work.

The 1777 grave of Jereme Kinne (Photo #4) merits special attention. Carved in Goshen Stone is the Hampton Indian motif, one of the very few that exist outside of their native Hampton, Connecticut. James Slater, an historian and scholar of early New England gravestone carvings, describes the image as having,

“a crude [face] that in extreme cases consist[ing] of a pair of close-set beady eyes set above a proboscis trunk or beak that protrudes downward from the tiny head...From the face extends a phalanx of upbent, stiff, pointed feathers, that give the lunette a somewhat Indian chief-like appearance. Six-rayed rosettes are often used in the horizontal row below the face, and...there is usually a central heart in this area.” (Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1987)

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The identity of the carver is unknown, however the stone's rarity, particularly in the hill towns of Western Massachusetts, make it a valuable Cemetery asset.

In addition to the many locally-carved single grave markers, Center Cemetery contains many monuments in a variety of stones and stone combinations and design styles. Of particular note is the brownstone Granger obelisk (ca. 1868) (Photo #2), with its broken fluted shaft, and crown and clasped hands motifs. The Hewitt (ca. 1840), Kingman (ca. 1882) and Parsons (ca. 1883) obelisks consist of simple, classically detailed stelae. The Burr monument (ca. 1880) also exhibits classical detailing. The ca. 1923 Robinson monument features a large pink granite column topped with a draped urn. The Brewster family plot, marked centrally with a taupe granite stela, is enclosed with a low iron fence secured at each corner by granite posts.

Complementing the many landscape features, markers, and monuments is an array of perennial groundcover -- wild strawberry, perennial Thyme, Bluets, Indian Paintbrushes, and woolly lichens -- that blanket the cemetery floor. These species have been allowed to proliferate amongst the turf grasses, providing texture and color throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are located in the cemetery or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the cemetery and surrounding locale represent many locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, distance to wetlands) that indicate the presence of Native American sites in this area. The cemetery is located on a well drained, level to moderately sloping stream terrace along the northern slope of Starkweather Hill less than one-half mile west of Worthington Center. A tributary of Watts Stream drains southeast to the Westfield River. The area lies within the Connecticut River drainage. Given the above information, regional Native American

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settlement patterns, and soil disturbance resulting from grave excavations, a moderate potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources in the cemetery.

A high potential exists for locating significant historic archaeological resources in the Center Cemetery. Additional documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing may help locate evidence of outbuildings, boundary markers, unmarked graves, and funerary related artifacts in the cemetery. Any surviving archaeological resources in the cemetery may be especially important, since no written records are known that document the early founding and evolution of the cemetery. Structural evidence of outbuildings may exist related to the maintenance and functioning of the cemetery. Post-holes and other evidence of walls, gates, and fences may also survive that marked early boundaries of the cemetery and family burial areas. Open spaces between graves in the cemetery are often said to mark unmarked graves, possibly the result of lost markers or from being intentionally unmarked. Marked and unmarked graves may contain stratigraphic evidence of grave shafts, coffins, human remains, and other funerary related artifacts. Gravestones and artifacts may also be randomly scattered below surface in the cemetery and related with specific activities such as memorials.

(end)

Center 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.)

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 # _____

Hampshire County, Massachusetts

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Social History

Landscape Architecture

Community Planning & Development

Period of Significance

1774-1954

Significant Dates

1774

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

G. Fleming; H. Pomeroy; Logan & Joyner;

F. Munnier; T. Sturges; Rule & Marble (stone carvers)

Hampshire County, Massachusetts
County and State

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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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8. NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Center Cemetery, Sam Hill Road, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level. Standing alongside mature woodlands, relict apple orchards, and cultivated agricultural lands near the hamlet of Worthington Center, Center Cemetery was established in the 1770s, just ten years after the settlement of the town. Local legend claims that graves from the town's original meetinghouse burying ground were moved to Center Cemetery in the early 1790s. This coincided with the relocation of the meetinghouse from a spot one-half mile west of the cemetery, to another half mile east. However, no written material exists documenting the exact date of Center Cemetery's founding. Its earliest burial occurred circa 1774, and it continues to accommodate new graves to this day. Its 2.4 acres makes it the third largest of Worthington's six cemeteries.

Center Cemetery holds the graves of many of Worthington's original settlers and their families, organizers of the First Congregational Church, veterans of five wars, and many families influential in the growth and development of the town. Settlers include Nahum Eager (d. 1805), Worthington's first town clerk and representative to the Provincial Congress, John Kinne (d. 1813), one of the first Worthington Selectmen, and John Watts (d. 1777), the town's first Tithingman. Ebenezer Leonard (d. 1813), a Revolutionary War Lieutenant, led the assembling of local troops, and is one of twelve veterans of the American Revolution and 51 total veterans buried at Center Cemetery. Prominent families include the Brewsters (descendents of Mayflower passengers), Starkweathers, Burrs, and Porters, all involved in organizing, developing, and shaping the town.

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Center Cemetery meets Criterion C through several landscape features and many locally-carved grave markers. While the cemetery is open along its entire northern boundary to Sam Hill Road, its other edges are secured by a fieldstone wall. Mature sugar maple trees, planted in even rows, line the entire perimeter. Crude turf and dirt cart paths traverse the cemetery in a grid pattern. Wild strawberry, perennial thyme, lichens, and bluets are among the many wild flowers growing amid the cemetery's turf, creating a colorful carpet throughout.

Many of Center Cemetery's markers reflect materials of the local environment and the artistry of local craftsmen. Marble, a stone native to the Berkshires, accounts for 63% of the markers and monuments, with several stones displaying the work of local carvers. Included is the signed work of G. Fleming, H. Pomeroy, Rule & Marble, T. Sturges, Logan & Joyner, and F. Munnier. Goshen Stone, a material native to the neighboring town of Goshen, marks several graves, including the most unusual grave of Jereme Kinne (d. 1777) (Photo #4). The marker displays the rare "Hampton Indian" motif, an image found in very few places outside of Hampton, Connecticut.

Center Cemetery retains the integrity of an 18th century rural burial ground, arranged alongside agricultural fields, orchards, and woodlands, and protected by a fieldstone wall. While burials continue at the cemetery to this day, Worthington has maintained its centuries-old character and preserved it as one the town's most significant historic landscapes.

A Brief History of Worthington

Establishment and Early History (1700s)

The land that comprises the town of Worthington today was purchased on June 2, 1762 from the Province of Massachusetts Bay. It was sold at auction as 'Plantation Number 3' along with several other land tracts in the area. Aaron Willard Jr. of Lancaster made the purchase for himself and four other buyers: Selah Barnard, Josiah Dwight, Timothy Dwight, and John Worthington, for whom the Town was named. These five people were

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the original proprietors of Plantation Number 3, and the earliest settlers purchased land from them. The proprietors donated land for the settlement's first meetinghouse, grist mill, and school, and also financed the construction of the meetinghouse and grist mill.

Many of Worthington's first settlers came to the area from Preston, Connecticut. They began to arrive and establish homesteads by the late spring of 1764. Other early settlers came from central and eastern Massachusetts, drawn to the area because of its large tracts of land for agriculture and streams for the powering of grist and lumber mills.

The Town of Worthington was officially incorporated on June 30th, 1768. Following incorporation residents began to establish important community amenities including the meetinghouse (1760s), two taverns (1760s), a church (1771), and a school (1773). By 1776 the town's population had reached approximately 639 people.

The first meetinghouse was constructed near the intersection of today's Sam Hill Road and West Street. By all accounts it was a somewhat primitive and uncomfortable building which was constructed over a period of many years. The town's First Congregational Church, organized in 1771, appears to have used the meetinghouse for its services as well. The townspeople may have established a cemetery behind this structure in 1771, the same year they hired Reverend Jonathan Huntington, the town's first minister. In the early 1790s the meetinghouse was dismantled, redesigned and rebuilt near the intersection of Harvey and Huntington Roads, responding to an eastward shift in the town's population.

During the Revolutionary War, Worthington provided troops and supplies whenever requests were made. Captain Ebenezer Webber of Worthington led 71 Minute Men from Worthington and Ashfield to the Boston area in 1775. At least 42 Worthington soldiers participated in the Revolutionary War.

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Growth of the Town (late 1700s and 1800s)

Worthington's early settlers engaged primarily in agriculture, producing flax, corn, hay, wheat, tobacco, rye, butter, cheese, barley, potatoes, oats, maple molasses, maple sugar, buckwheat, peas, beans, beeswax, and honey. Many Worthington residents raised sheep and exported the wool, but lower prices from abroad during the 1800s led to the decline of sheep farming in the town.

The Westfield River and the numerous streams in Worthington provided power for many different mills and factories. Beginning in the 1700s and throughout the 1800s a wide variety of goods were produced in Worthington, including lumber and wood furniture, sleds and children's toys, tool handles, leather saddles, harnesses, baskets, shoes, cider, and cheese.

During this period the settlers of the town established several small villages or hamlets, many of which had their own municipal amenities including post offices, schools and cemeteries. These hamlets included: West Worthington, Christian Hollow or Sampsonville, Worthington Corners, Worthington Center, Ringville, the Kinne/Pease District, and South Worthington. Worthington Corners historically was a crossroads, containing amenities such as stores, taverns, a post office, and the North Cemetery. During the 1800s a cheese factory and basket shop also operated in this part of town.

In 1797 the Albany-Boston Turnpike was constructed through Worthington, resulting in a constant flow of people, traffic, and news through the town. During this period there were five taverns in Worthington, accommodating the public and private stagecoaches using the Turnpike. The advent of the railroad in 1841, which did not run through Worthington, greatly reduced the traffic along the Turnpike and substantially altered the character of the town. According to historian and author Clifton Johnson, "Worthington became an inland town," and "the stores and taverns along the line of the old road disappeared."

Approximately 24 Worthington soldiers served in the War of 1812, including William Ward and William Rice as commissioned officers. Between 62 and 102 men served in the Civil War, and 21 were killed or died during service.

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In 1825, the first meetinghouse, which had been moved from its original location in the early 1790s, was abandoned and a new building constructed on the site of today's Congregational Church. During the 1800s two other churches were established in Worthington, both of Methodist Episcopal denomination. One was in South Worthington and was established in 1828, and the other was in West Worthington and was established in 1849.

In 1810, the town's population reached a high point of 1391. After the opening of the railroad in 1841 along the Westfield River several miles to the south, the population of Worthington slowly declined. By 1900 only 675 resided in Worthington.

Worthington in the 20th Century

During the early 1900s dairy farming became an important part of the local economy, but like sheep farming during the 1800s it had declined by mid-century. Similar to most communities across the State, agriculture as a source of employment has declined steadily in Worthington over the past century. The mills and factories of the 1800s have also closed, no longer providing local employment. The hamlet of Ringville, for example, once supported the Ring and Hayden Mills as well as its own school, post office and stores. By the late 1900s it consisted of a small number of homes and the Ringville Cemetery (NR pending). Today many Worthington residents commute to neighboring towns and cities for employment and shopping.

Twenty-six Worthington men served in World War I and 52 served in World War II. Their names are listed on a boulder within the town common, and include four who lost their lives: William J. Coffey, Norman C. Eddy, Donald W. Mollison, and Russell B. Shaw.

In 1950 local citizens established the Worthington Health Center to replace the country doctor who retired in that year. A private enterprise, the Health Center receives funding from annual dues paid by members and from donations, as well as fees charged to patients. It is a unique system that serves citizens from the town of Worthington as well as many surrounding towns.

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Because of its position at the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, Worthington has become something of a summer colony, with many people maintaining seasonal residence. After reaching a low of 462 just after World War II, the town's population has been increasing with each passing decade. By 1990, 1200 resided in Worthington, operating local businesses, owning home-based enterprises, and commuting to jobs in nearby Northampton and Amherst. The population remains stable to this day.

Center Cemetery

Very little is known about the establishment and evolution of Center Cemetery, however it likely evolved from an earlier burial ground located next to the first meetinghouse, which stood at the northwest corner of Sam Hill Road and West Street, less than .5 mile to the west of Center Cemetery. During the early 1790s the first meetinghouse and its adjacent cemetery were moved from their original location, though no documentation survives to suggest why this occurred. The meetinghouse was placed near the intersection of Sam Hill Road and Huntington Road, but no records indicate where the graves were relocated. Because Center Cemetery is so close to the location of the first meetinghouse and cemetery and because it contains a number of pre-1790s headstones, it is likely that graves moved from the original cemetery were relocated to Center Cemetery (none of the other public cemeteries in Worthington contains stones this old). According to "The John Watts Story in Worthington" (Porter, unpublished paper) the Cemetery was expanded in 1872, at which time the town purchased a piece of land from John Adams. Today the cemetery is approximately 2.4 acres in size.

Town Vital Records, historical accounts and site visits indicate that Center Cemetery contains the gravesites of several citizens of outstanding local significance. At least seven of the original inhabitants who settled the town and their families (as listed by James C. Rice in "History of the Town of Worthington From Its First Settlement to 1874") are buried in Center Cemetery. These families were headed by Nahum and Sarah Eager (d. 1805 and 1809), Jerome Kinne (d. 1777) (Photo #4), John and Anna Kinne (d. 1813 and 1805), Ebenezer Leonard (d. 1813), Joseph Marsh (d. 1838), Elihu Tinker (d. 1816), and John Watts (d. 1777). In addition to being an early settler, Nahum Eager was also elected as Worthington's first Town Clerk, and served as the town's first

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representative to the Provincial Congress. John Kinne served as one of the town's first selectmen. Ebenezer Leonard served in the Revolutionary War as a Lieutenant, and was also chosen as chairman to correspond with authorities in Boston regarding the assembling of local troops. John Watts was elected the town's first Tithingman. Other early settlers buried at Center Cemetery who served the town include Matthew Warner (d. 1823), representative to the State's General Court in 1799, and General Jonathan Woodbridge (d. 1808), a veteran and also a representative to the General Court in 1804, 1805, and 1807.

Center Cemetery is closely associated with the earliest religious history of this community. It contains the gravesites of the town's first minister, Reverend Jonathan Huntington and his wife Sarah, both founding members of the First Congregational Church. Other founding members buried in Center Cemetery include Ebenezer Leonard and Joseph Marsh.

Some of the earliest settlers of Worthington had come from Preston, Connecticut. These included the Leonards (Ebenezer Leonard was discussed earlier), the Brewsters, and the Starkweathers. The earliest Brewsters to settle in Worthington were descended from Elder William Brewster, who came to this country on the Mayflower. While the majority of the early Brewsters who settled the town were buried in the Brewster Cemetery (a small family cemetery), Moses Brewster (d. 1809) was buried in Center Cemetery. He was a seventh generation descendant of Elder William Brewster, and served as Worthington's physician for many years.

Several later descendants of the Brewster family are also buried in Center Cemetery, including Elisha H. Brewster (d. 1878), Charles K. and Celina S. Brewster (d. 1908), and Elisha H. Brewster (d. 1946). The first Elisha H. Brewster (d. 1878), known to locals as 'Squire Brewster', served as a selectman, a Hampshire County Commissioner, a State senator and representative, and as a member of the Governor's Council. He was also a trustee of the Northampton Institution for Savings, director of the Hampshire Mutal Fire Insurance Company, a Hampshire County justice of the peace, and criminal court judge. Charles K. Brewster, known as "C.K.," was the son of Squire Brewster. He also served

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as selectman, town clerk, County Commissioner, Justice of the Peace, State representative, bank trustee, and director of an insurance company. C.K. was instrumental in establishing Worthington's first public water system, and wrote a supplement to James Clay Rice's 1853 book "History of the Town of Worthington." The second Elisha H. Brewster (d. 1946), known as Judge Brewster, was appointed to serve as a federal district court judge by President Harding in 1922, a position he held until his retirement in 1942. Kingman Brewster, a president of Yale University and Ambassador to Great Britain, and Janet Brewster Murrow, wife of radio and television journalist Edward R. Murrow, are both buried at Center Cemetery.

Two important branches of the Starkweather family are at Center Cemetery: Ezra (Photo #3) and Esther Starkweather (d. 1834 and 1838), and Charles Starkweather (d. 1835). Ezra was born in Preston, Connecticut, attending Williams College to become a doctor. After serving in the Revolutionary War he moved to Worthington and held a wide variety of public roles, ranging from the Town Clerk and Treasurer to the Town's representative to both the State Legislature and Senate. In 1820 he attended the convention to revise the State Constitution. Ezra also served as a Justice of the State Supreme Court. Charles Starkweather, Ezra's brother, was also a physician and a Deacon of his church.

In 1800 four brothers of the Burr family settled in Worthington, and have been a prominent Worthington family from this period well into the 20th century. They were descended from Reverend Jonathan Burr who had come from Suffolk County, England, and settled in Dorchester in 1639. Three of these brothers are buried at Center Cemetery, including Jonathan Burr (d. 1856), Israel Burr (d. 1826), and Calvin Burr (d. 1843). Calvin's grandson Clement Franklin Burr (1849 - 1939) served Worthington in an astounding variety of roles during his 90-year lifespan. These included employment as the town's representative to the State Legislature in 1897, Deacon of the Congregational Church, president of The Library Corporation, treasurer of the Ringville Creamery, town selectman, assessor, tax collector, town clerk, and treasurer.

The Porters are another family of local significance who have long inhabited the town and shaped its history. Descended from Richard Porter, who settled in Weymouth in

(continued)

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

National Register of Historic Places **Center Cemetery**
Continuation Sheet **Worthington (Hampshire), MA**

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1635, members of the Porter family have lived in Worthington from the early 1800s to the present, engaging in occupations characteristic of the town, namely farming and the operation of mills. They have also served the town as selectmen, as tax collectors, and for several generations as caretakers of the town's public cemeteries. Multiple generations of the Porter family from the 1800s to the present are buried at Center Cemetery.

Fifty-one war veterans are buried in Center Cemetery. Ranging in time period from the Revolutionary War to World War II, these soldiers include 12 each who served in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and ten who served in World Wars I and II. John C. Adams and William W. Adams both fought and died in the Civil War, the former dying in Nashville, Tennessee, and the latter in Alexandria, Virginia. Alfred C. Foote served as a Lieutenant General in WWII, and was earlier appointed by President Calvin Coolidge to establish the Massachusetts State Police.

As with the other Worthington cemeteries, little is known about the establishment and evolution of Center Cemetery. Its historical significance, however, lies in the fact that it appears to be descended from the oldest public burial place in Worthington, it is closely associated with the early religious history of this community, and it contains the gravesites of many early settlers and subsequent community leaders. In particular this cemetery contains the gravesites of many of the settlers from Preston, Connecticut. It also contains multiple generations of some of the oldest families to continuously inhabit the Town, for example the Brewsters, Burrs, and Porters; people who have shaped and molded this community for hundreds of years and who continue to do so today.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Worthington are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in this area may contribute important information relating to patterns of Native American subsistence and settlement activities in the Berkshire uplands of Western Massachusetts in general and

(continued)

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Worthington (Hampshire), MA

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specifically along tributary streams of the Westfield River. Ancient Native American sites in this area may contain information that indicates the extent to which this area was exploited by Mohican groups and their predecessors from the New York locale or by the Woronoaks and Nonotucks and their forbearers in the Connecticut River Valleys. The above information can be used to test the extent that river basin boundaries were analogous with Native socio-political boundaries at different points in ancient history and the Contact Period.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute important information relating to the evolution of the Center Cemetery. Important detailed information might also exist on the changing social, cultural, and economic characteristics that typified many of the inhabitants that lived in a rural New England agricultural and mill village that evolved in the 18th and 19th centuries in a river valley in the foothills of the Green Mountains of western Massachusetts. Structural evidence from outbuildings may contribute information relating to maintenance activities at the cemetery and facilities associated with funerary activities such as a hearse barn or mausoleum. Archaeological testing might also recover evidence of post-holes, walls and gates which, when mapped may help reconstruct cemetery boundaries and family burial areas. Archaeological evidence of unmarked graves may help reconstruct burial patterns within the cemetery and the treatment of deceased paupers and other indigent persons by the town and local community. Osteological studies of skeletal remains in marked and unmarked graves may contribute important information on the general health and pathologies that effected inhabitants in the town from the period of initial settlement and later. This information may reflect differences in health and medical treatment based on social, cultural, or economic groupings. Artifacts recovered from graves and their general proximity may also contribute information relating to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of individuals and groups. Fragments and complete gravestones may contain stylistic traits that represent particular religious, ethnic, or other social groupings. Other characteristics of gravestones may indicate the economic class of individuals. Artifacts related to memorial services or grave offerings can also contribute much of the above information. Taken as a whole, the above information can contribute

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United States Department of the Interior
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Center Cemetery
Worthington (Hampshire), MA

Section number 8/9 Page 11/1

a wealth of information on the evolution and inhabitants of the Center Cemetery and the town of Worthington. Information obtained through archaeological research may also help fill the documentary void that exists relating to when the cemetery was founded and its early evolution.

(end)

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(continued)

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Continuation Sheet **Worthington (Hampshire), MA**

Section number 9 Page 2

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(continued)

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- 1830. Hitchcock Series, Old Hampshire County Town Plans.
- 1860. H. F. Walling, Atlas of Hampshire County.
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- 1923. Arthur G. Capen, Map of Worthington, Massachusetts with the Places of Residence of the First Inhabitants of the Town (drawn from a map of Hampshire County published in 1856).
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(continued)

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Continuation Sheet **Worthington (Hampshire), MA**

Section number 9 Page 4

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(continued)

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Center Cemetery
Worthington (Hampshire), MA

Section number 9/10 Page 5/1

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(end)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Town of Worthington Assessor's Map # 408, Lot 74.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire 2.4-acre parcel assembled by the Town of Worthington that is historically associated with Center Cemetery.

(end)

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Continuation Sheet

Center Cemetery
Worthington (Hampshire), MA

Section number photo Page 1

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Martha Lyon, Paysage

Date: July 2001

- #1: The interior of Center Cemetery taken from Sam Hill Road looking southwest through the allee of sugar maple trees.
- #2: The brownstone and marble L. G. Granger Monument, erected c. 1868. Photograph taken looking east.
- #3: The marble headstone of Ezra Starkweather, d. 1834. Photograph taken looking east.
- #4: The Goshen Stone headstone of Jereme Kinne (d. 1777), exhibiting the Hampton Indian motif. Photograph taken looking east.

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Continuation Sheet

Section Number _____ Page _____

Center Cemetery

DATA LOCATIONS

CENTER CEMETERY
WORTHINGTON, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS
2.4 ACRES

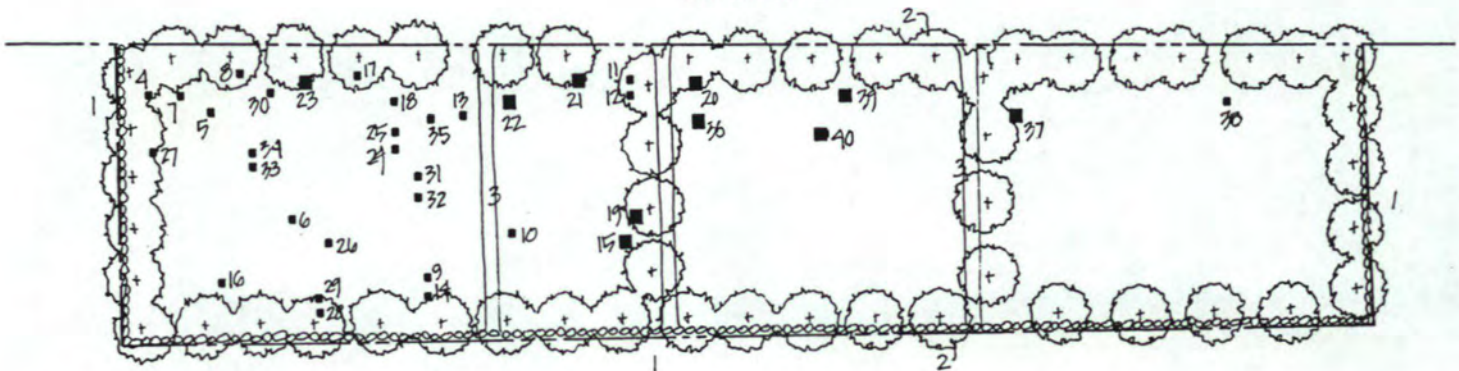
CEMETERY DATA

APPROXIMATE SCALE: 1" = 100'



NORTH

SAM HILL ROAD



CENTER CEMETERY
 WORTHINGTON, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

DATA SHEET*

Number	Historic Name	Type	Material	Resource	Date	Status
1	Perimeter Wall	Landscape Feature	Field Stone	Structure	Unknown	C
2	Sugar Maple Allee	Landscape Feature	Plant	Objects	Unknown	C
3	Circulation System	Cart Path	Turf/Dirt	Structure	Unknown	C
4	Newcomb Cleveland	Headstone	Goshen Stone	Object	1825	C
5	Ambrose Hanchet	Headstone	Goshen Stone	Object	1797	C
6	Asa Cottrel	Headstone	Goshen Stone	Object	1790	C
7	John Cutler	Headstone	Goshen Stone	Object	1802	C
8	Siphrona Kingman	Headstone	Goshen Stone	Object	1804	C
9	Amanda Tinker	Headstone	Goshen Stone	Object	1811	C
10	Captain James Kelly	Headstone	Marble	Object	1854	C
11	Ezra Starkweather	Headstone	Marble	Object	1834	C
12	Esther Starkweather	Headstone	Marble	Object	1838	C
13	Minerva Meach	Headstone	Marble	Object	1807	C
14	Charlotte Hubbard	Headstone	Marble	Object	1813	C
15	Coit	Monument	Marble	Object	c. 1859	C
16	Ruth Granger	Headstone	Marble	Object	1851	C
17	Jereme Kinne	Headstone	Goshen Stone	Object	1777	C

**Data Sheet provides a representative sampling of features of Center Cemetery.*

CENTER CEMETERY

WORTHINGTON, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

DATA SHEET

Number	Historic Name	Type	Material	Resource	Date	Status
18	James Watt	Headstone	Goshen Stone	Object	1774	C
19	L. G. Granger	Monument	Brownstone/Marble	Object	c. 1868	C
20	Hewitt	Monument	Marble	Object	c. 1840	C
21	Kingman	Monument	Brownstone	Object	c. 1882	C
22	Parsons	Monument	Granite/Marble	Object	c. 1883	C
23	Burr	Monument	Granite	Object	c. 1880	C
24	John Kinne	Headstone	Marble	Object	1811	C
25	Anna Kinne	Headstone	Marble	Object	1805	C
26	Lieut. Ebenezer Leonard	Headstone	Marble	Object	1813	C
27	Joseph Marsh	Headstone	Marble	Object	1838	C
28	Nahum Eager	Headstone	Marble	Object	1805	C
29	Sarah Eager	Headstone	Marble	Object	1809	C
30	Elihu Tinker	Headstone	Marble	Object	1816	C
31	John Watts	Headstone	Marble	Object	1777	C
32	General Jonathan Woodbridge	Headstone	Marble	Object	1808	C
33	Reverend Jonathan Huntington	Headstone	Marble	Object	1780	C
34	Sarah Huntington	Headstone	Marble	Object	1790	C
35	Moses Brewster	Headstone	Marble	Object	1809	C

CENTER CEMETERY

WORTHINGTON, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

DATA SHEET

Number	Historic Name	Type	Material	Resource	Date	Status
36	Brewster	Monument	Granite	Object	c. 1878	C
37	Porter	Monument	Granite	Object	c. 1907	C
38	Alfred Foote	Headstone	Granite	Object	1965	C
39	Frederick Sargent Huntington	Monument	Granite	Object	1888	C
40	Robinson	Monument	Pink Granite	Object	c. 1923	C
41	Center Cemetery	Cemetery		Site	1774	C

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Center Cemetery
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Hampshire

DATE RECEIVED: 1/14/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/11/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/26/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/27/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000084

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

1 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/26/04 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.



PHOTO #1

CENTER CEMETERY

WORTHINGTON, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: MARTHA H. LYONS, JULY 2001

INTERIOR OF CENTER CEMETERY TAKEN FROM SAME
HIGH ROAD LOOKING SOUTHWEST THROUGH THE ALLEE
OF SUGAR MAPLE TREES.



1840-1900
L.C. GRANGER

L.C. GRANGER

PHOTO #2

CENTER CEMETERY

WORTHINGTON HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: MARTHA H. LYONS, APRIL 2001

BROWNSTONE AND MARBLE L.G. CRAWLER MONUMENT,
ERECTED C. 1868. PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN LOOKING EAST.

REMARKS
FEB 27 1875
SEPT 14 1903



You dies and is forgotten
SACRED
to the memory of
THE HONOURABLE
EMERSON STARKWEATHER
who died
July 22. 1834.
A. 80.
but his acts live forever

*Long distinguished in the councils of the
state; eminent as a private citizen; revered
as a Christian; an honorable life; peaceful
death; and no less a happy immortality in
the unshaking spirit that once actuated the
shapeless dust beneath this monument.*

PHOTO #3

CENTER CEMETERY

NORTHINGTON, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: MARTHA H. LYON, APRIL 2001

MARBLE HEADSTONE OF EZRA STARKWEATHER, D. 1834.

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN LOOKING EAST.



IN MEMORY OF
BORN
DIED
AGE

PHOTO #4

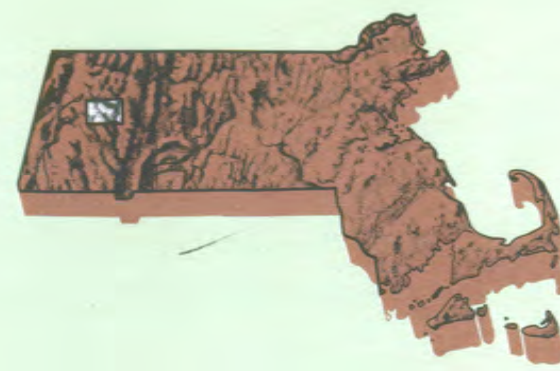
CENTER CEMETERY

WORTHINGTON, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

PHOTOGRAPHER: MARTHA H. LYON, JULY 2001

GUSHEN STONE HEADSTONE OF JEREMIE KINNE (D. 1777),
EXHIBITING THE HAMPTON INDIAN MOTIF. PHOTOGRAPH
TAKEN LOOKING EAST.

Goshen
MASSACHUSETTS
1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Worchester, MA
- Geographic coordinates

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

1997

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Derived from imagery taken 1981 and other sources. Photosinspected using imagery taken 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1984. Boundaries revised 1999.

Supersedes Goshen and Worthington 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1972.
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 1000-meter grid. Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 18. 10 000-foot ticks. Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.

There may be private landholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 6 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS			
Meters	Feet	15° 1' 30" N 1° 30' E		1	2	3	
1	3.2808			4		5	
2	6.5617						
3	9.8425						
4	13.1234						
5	16.4042						
6	19.6850						
7	22.9658						
8	26.2467						
9	29.5275						
10	32.8084						
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergence (NAD 83 and 1983 magnetic declination (MM) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.		1 Cheshire 2 Ashfield 3 Greenfield 4 Pittsfield East 5 Williamsburg 6 East Lee 7 Chester 8 Easthampton			
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048							



Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road; trail
Route marker: International U.S. State
Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge
Bridge: drawbridge
Footbridge; overpass; underpass
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
House; farm; church; school; large structure
Boundary:
National, with monument
State
County, parish
Civil township, precinct, district
Incorporated city, village, town
National or State reservation; small park
Land grant with monument; land section corner
U.S. public lands survey: range, township, section
Range, township; section line: location approximate
Fence or field line
Power transmission line; located tower
Dam; dam with lock
Cemetery; grave
Campground; picnic area; U.S. location monument
Well; water well; spring
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
Contour: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
Distorted surface: strip mine; lava; sand
Bathymetric contour: index; intermediate
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
Rapid, large and small; falls, large and small
Swamp; marsh
Submerged marsh; land subject to controlled inundation
Woodland; scattered trees
Scrub; mangrove
Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225



CENTER CEMETERY
WORTHINGTON
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY
MASSACHUSETTS



THIS MAP IS FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IT IS NOT VALID FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE. THE HORIZONTAL DATUM IS THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM. PHOTOGRAPHY DATE: MARCH 21, 1985 COMPLETION DATE: MARCH 9, 1986	PRODUCED BY CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATES, INC. MUNICIPAL MAPPING CONSULTANTS P.O. BOX 267 LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03561		LEGEND AREA CALCULATED AcC AREA SURVEYED Ac BLOCK LIMIT BLOCK NUMBER 02 COMMON OWNERSHIP EXEMPT PROPERTY SUBDIVISION LOT NO. MATCH LINE RIGHT OF WAY RECORD DIMENSION SCALED DIMENSION WETLANDS M.L. ② R/W 100' 100'S OR (E)	SCALE 1 INCH = 400 FEET FEET 0 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 METERS 0 121.92 243.84 487.68 REVISOR: January 1, 2001	ASSESSORS MAP WORTHINGTON MASSACHUSETTS	INDEX DIAGRAM MAP NO. 408 402 407 414 401 413 409 412
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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

January 15, 2004

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



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Center Cemetery, Worthington (Hampshire Co.), 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Beverly Smith, Worthington Historical Commission
Christopher Powell, Chair, Select Board
Martha Lyon - Paysage, Preservation Consultant
J.P. Welch, Worthington Cemetery Commission
Jack Millman, Planning Director