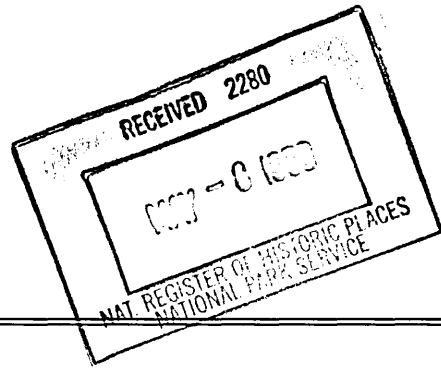


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



632

1. Name of Property

historic name: Juniper Hill Cemetery

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 24 Sherry Avenue

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Bristol vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Bristol code: 001 zip code: 02809

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Property name Juniper Hill Cemetery, Bristol County, RI

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

___ See continuation sheet.

Frank C. Williams

Signature of certifying official

15 Apr 1998
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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 H. Beall

6-3-98

for

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: FUNERARY

Sub: cemetery

Current: FUNERARY

Sub: cemetery

Property name Juniper Hill Cemetery, Bristol County, RI

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

MID-19TH CENTURY/Gothic Revival
Mission

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation stone roof ASPHALT/TERRA COTTA
walls granite/STUCCO other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A & C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): D

Areas of Significance: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1856 1913

Significant Dates: 1857 1869 1913

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: LA Schubarth, Niles B.
A Hall, Clifton A.
Wittlesey, Charles T.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

Property name Juniper Hill Cemetery, Bristol County, RI

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 22 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	<u>19</u>	<u>311000</u>	<u>4616770</u>	B	<u>19</u>	<u>311360</u>	<u>4616840</u>
C	<u>19</u>	<u>311370</u>	<u>4616560</u>	D	<u>19</u>	<u>311110</u>	<u>4616500</u>
E	<u>19</u>	<u>311000</u>	<u>4616640</u>	F	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Holly Hanney, Intern, Elizabeth Warren, Princ. Hist. Pres. Spec.

Organization: R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission Date: June 1997

Street & Number: 150 Benefit Street Telephone: 401-222-2678

City or Town: Providence State: RI ZIP: 02903

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Description

Juniper Hill Cemetery (1856) is located on Juniper Hill in Bristol, Rhode Island, and is reached by Sherry Avenue. The cemetery occupies approximately 22 acres and includes about 800 gravesites, a gate lodge, and a receiving tomb. The rolling topography varies about 100 feet in elevation.

Juniper Hill Cemetery was planned and developed in the mid-19th century, but later development in its surroundings has converted farm fields into 20th-century residential neighborhoods. The cemetery's bounds are now marked by woods which block the views of this newer development, except for the westward view over Bristol Harbor.

About 60 percent of the cemetery's acreage is clearly landscaped. The edges of two ponds in the northwest corner and about 15 grave markers have been allowed to revert to scrub forest.

The cemetery's road system is still intact. The roadways make a pattern of intersecting curves, wide avenues, and narrow footpaths. Originally left to grass, some of the principal avenues (Zion, Moriah, Hebron, and Bethlehem) were paved with macadam in the 1960s. The avenues are 16 feet wide, the pathways only 6 feet wide. A 2-foot border, often planted with trees and shrubs, separates the edge of each path from the cemetery lots.

The cemetery is planted with a variety of specimen trees and shrubs, especially linden, juniper, beech, and oak. There are several large areas planted with flowering dogwood. The location of the trees in the rolling terrain creates an atmosphere of alternating light and shadow.

The main entrance to the cemetery is reached from Sherry Avenue along a linden-lined drive. The gate is a massive stone archway set at the northern end of the drive. The gate was built in 1876 by the Smith Granite Company of Westerly, R.I. The Gate Lodge (1864-69) is located A 1 1/2-story Gothic Revival building, it was designed by Providence architect Clifton A. Hall and constructed of granite quarried on the site during construction of the landscape.

The only other building within the cemetery is the small Amory Chapel and Receiving Tomb (1913), a 1-story stuccoed structure with a tile roof, designed by Charles T. Wittlesey of Angell & Swift of Providence. Eugene

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LeClaire constructed the chapel; Horace J. Phipps and Company made the stained glass; Samuel Kinder & Bros created the landscaping. Now used as a tool shed and somewhat deteriorated, the chapel is still an important feature of the cemetery; its copper-faced doors and one window survive.

The markers in Juniper Hill Cemetery are generally typical of their eras in size, material, and iconography. Some 18th-century markers slate markers were moved here from early burial grounds in Bristol, but most of the gravestones here date from the mid-19th to the early 20th centuries. Almost all are modest in scale; a single large tomb (1864) was built, but it is an exception. The most common arrangement of grave markers is by family lot, a single large monument surrounded by smaller stones which emulate in design the large family marker. The marking of boundaries for family lots has always been discouraged; proprietors are encouraged to erect only low stone or iron markers at the corners of lots, so as not to interfere with the views.

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Photographs

3. Photographer: Holly L. Hanney
4. Date: July 1997
5. RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, 150 Benefit Street, Providence

The above information applies to all photographs.

6. View: Gate - south elevation, looking northeast
7. Photo #1 of 10

6. View: The Mrs. Arthur Amory Chapel- east facade, looking southwest
7. Photo #2 of 10

6. View: DeWolf Family Plot along Potmos Path, looking southeast
7. Photo #3 of 10

6. View: General View of Zion Avenue, looking northeast
7. Photo #4 of 10

6. View: Gardner Tomb - West facade, looking northeast
7. Photo #5 of 10

6. View: Elizabeth Marshall- North facade, looking southwest
7. Photo #6 of 10

6. View: Norris Family Plot - East facade, looking southwest
7. Photo #7 of 10

6. View: Hammill marker - East facade, looking west
7. Photo #8 of 10

6. View: Jewett marker - North facade, looking southwest
7. Photo #9 of 10

6. View: Samuel P. Colt Family Plot- North facade, looking southwest
7. Photo #10 of 10

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Significance

Juniper Hill Cemetery (1856) is significant as a good example of the principles of the rural cemetery movement of the mid-19th century. The quality of its landscape documents several aspects of cemetery design and landscape architecture, as practiced in the 1840s and 1850s.

The rural cemetery movement began in the 1830s and was inspired by romantic notions of nature, art, and death, and was further part of a larger movement to enhance civic life. Old burial grounds were said to be overcrowded, unsightly, and dangerous to public health. Mt. Auburn, the first and greatest example of rural cemeteries, was begun in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1831. Rhode Island examples followed: Swan Point, in Providence, in 1847, and River Bend, in Westerly, in 1857. Developers of such "ornamental cemeteries" relied heavily on the landscape design theories of authors such as Andrew Jackson Downing, who believed that a rural cemetery provided an escape from urban life and a pleasant setting in which to contemplate life and death. The traditional gateway established the separation from the working world and helped to create a place of quiet relaxation.

The landscape of the rural cemetery was seen as a sanctuary from the city but also came to be increasingly associated with romantic notions about the sanctity of nature. The cemetery was planned as serene and spacious ground, where the combination of nature and monuments to the dead would provide spiritual uplift to the living, a park and a garden as well as a burying ground. As an early article in the Bristol Phoenix describes the effect: "A morning walk or an evening stroll would serve to calm and subdue angry passions, produced by the conflicting elements of the moral world without, by reflecting on the meek but rigid virtues of those sleeping around them."

In many of its design features, Juniper Hill Cemetery reflects the ideal of an "ornamental cemetery": its high site with the long view over the harbor, the variable topography, the sweeping masses of trees and shrubby graves, the tree-lined drive, and, above all the curvilinear aspect of its road network.

Juniper Hill Cemetery dates from the 1850s, as Bristol (which had once been an important seaport) was becoming a manufacturing center. Juniper Hill was established by a group of Bristol's prominent citizens. The land had been the farm of Levi DeWolf, a Quaker who regularly climbed Juniper

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Hill to read his bible.¹ Levi's daughter, Abbey DeWolf, was his executor; it was she who secured the property from Levi's heirs for the cemetery.

Juniper Hill Cemetery is governed by a superintendent and Board of Directors. George F. Usher, James DeWolf Perry, Byron Diman, Ambrose E. Burnside, James H. West, Charles H.R. Doringh and Lemuel W. Briggs created the corporation, chartered in 1864.

After securing the property, the stockholders immediately hired the surveyor Niles Bierragaard Schubarth, to plot the cemetery grounds. Schubarth, a master draftsman, was also recognized as a civil engineer, architect, and landscape gardener. His career was "indicative of a large unexplored group of nineteenth-century landscape architects, who while working as civil engineers progressively ventured into landscape gardening."² In addition to Juniper Hill Cemetery, Schubarth made the 1845 improvements to North Burial Ground in Providence, completed Swan Point Cemetery (1847) in Providence, and designed River Bend Cemetery (1857) in Westerly.

The landscape work was performed by John DeWolf. By 1858 many of the avenues and paths were laid out to emulate natural topography. The granite blasted from ledge during construction were saved to build the Gate Lodge and the stone wall surrounding the grounds.

The trustees recognized the importance of preserving the lines of the original layout and prohibited proprietors from changing the grade of their lot by more than six inches. In addition, fences and curbs intended to designate plots were prohibited unless established upon the original survey line or parallel lines.³ Family plots at Juniper Hill are laid out in 19th-century fashion: several generations are buried together with each member's space designated by a small marker grouped around a large family monument. The Juniper Hill Cemetery includes family lots for some

¹Paul Fletcher, "Juniper Hill Cemetery is awash with local history," Bristol Phoenix, 29 September 1994.

²William H. Jordy and Christopher P. Monkhouse, Buildings on Paper: Rhode Island Architectural Drawings 1825-1945, 208.

³1871 Charter and By-Laws of the Juniper Hill Cemetery, 12.

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important Bristol families: Colts, DeWolfs, Herreshoffs, Knowltons,
Dimans.

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Major Bibliographical References

Charter and By-Laws of the Juniper Hill Cemetery. Providence: Daily Press, 1864.

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Cirillo, Susan E., ed. Bristol Three Hundred Years. Providence: Franklin Graphics, 1980.

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Hibernicus, Cedrus. "Comfort in Affliction," Bristol Phoenix, 30 December 1857.

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Linden-Ward, Blanche. Silent City On A Hill. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1989.

Linden-Ward, Blanche and Alan Ward. "Spring Grove: The Role of the Rural Cemetery in American Landscape Design," Landscape Architecture (September- October 1985).

Proceeding of Trustees Meetings 1856-1929: Juniper Hill Cemetery

"Then bury me with my fathers," Bristol Phoenix, 3 November 1855.

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The Juniper Hill Cemetery is identified as Lot 1 on Plat Map No. 36, recorded by the Assessor of Taxes, Town of Bristol, Rhode Island. A small section of Lot 1, plat 36, approximately 70 X 90' jutting southerly in the south bound of the cemetery and lying on the east side of Sherry Avenue appears on Assessors Plat Map 27.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Juniper Hill Cemetery are based on historical plat boundaries, established in 1856. This land encompasses the original acreage purchased by the Juniper Hill Cemetery Corporation from the heirs of Levi D'Wolf.