

1

Family Name	Date of Monument	Type	Sculptor/Artist	Photo
Henry Hobson Richardson / Julia Gorham	1886	4'x6 1/2', flat, bordered with leaves	Unknown	#5
Charles Sprague Sargent	1927	2 1/2'x5', flat with simple cross	Unknown	#2
Thomas Aspinwall/Louisa Eliza Poignand	1878	Double headstone with granite base, Gothic arches	Unknown	
Guy Lowell	1927	2 1/2'x5', flat w/cross	Unknown	#6
Dane Family	1947	Bronze tablet set into rock, woman w/outstretched arms	Unknown	#7
Unknown Dead of the Civil War	1902	7' high of granite, topped by ball	Unknown	
Edward Clark Cabot	1901	Flat w/carved oak leaves	Unknown	
George Foster Shepley/Julia Shepley	1903	Stylized birds&palm border 3'x5 1/2' flat	Unknown	
Goddard Family	1900(?)	Puddingstone w/3 bronze laurel wreaths	Unknown	

[illegible]

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Brookline

Form No:

102/364

Property Name: Walnut Hills Cemetery

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

2. History of Burial Ground - continued

landscape architect Morris Copeland, lent his well known Copeland name to Bowditch's firm, but ran the business into debt while his partner was in Europe.

Bowditch, trained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as an engineer, worked on a number of projects. The son of William Ingersoll Bowditch of Brookline, Ernest Bowditch counted among his accomplishments the landscaping of The Breakers at Newport; the suburban real estate development designs for Euclid Park, Cleveland; Waban, Aberdeen, and Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts; and the sanitation systems for Wellesley, Milton, and Nahant, Massachusetts. He also worked closely with Frederick Law Olmsted on the subdivision plans for Brookline's Fisher and Aspinwall Hills. More significant, perhaps, was his proposal for Metropolitan Rural Parks in 1875 in Boston which anticipated and most likely influenced Olmsted's plans for the Emerald Necklace.

Bowditch's plans for Walnut Hills was in the tradition of the rural cemetery movement which favored picturesque, garden-style cemeteries. This movement can be traced to 1796 with the establishment of the Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven, Connecticut, soon to be eclipsed by the far more elaborate Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, laid out in 1831. Bowditch was introduced to Mt. Auburn when he participated in its surveying by the firm of Shedd and Sawyer for whom he worked for a number of years. His plan for Walnut Hills reflected respect for the preservation of the landscape in laying out lots with as little interference with the natural features of the land as possible. Gently curving paths traverse the property, while the slightly rolling lay of the land gives the lower-lying areas visual interest and a picturesque effect. Mt. Walley, in the northeast corner of the cemetery, is a natural outcropping of Roxbury puddingstone covered with natural plantings. Along the rocky ledge in the southwest section, burials occur along the ground at the foot of the ledge, while plaques are set into the rock above. Small outcroppings of Roxbury puddingstone dot the landscape. Walnut, pine, birch, beech, maple, sassafras, and cedar trees provide a variety of plantings.

Enlarged by one acre in 1918 from the original thirty acres of 1874 and expanded again in 1926 by two parcels of fourteen acres each, Walnut Hills was the first cemetery in America to control the design of headstones and lots, again in an effort to work with the naturalness of the site. In the earliest parts of the cemetery, there are many more figurative/symbolic headstones, as at Mt. Auburn, but in response to more stringent rules set forth in 1886, only slate headstone of uniform dimensions were permitted. Sometime later, dark Quincy granite was also allowed. Once this source of granite was closed, other types of granite were permitted. As a result, three distinct sections of the cemetery are visible today: one with sculptural headstones; one with slate stones; and one with granite stones.

Buildings on the cemetery grounds are also of some significance. These include a 1901 receiving tomb, classical in design and of native puddingstone. It was designed by A.W. Longfellow, a draftsman in the office of H. H. Richardson and the architect of a number of Brookline homes as well as the city hall in Cambridge. He is also noted for designing the first Georgian Revival building in Harvard Yard in 1898. Guy Lowell was the architect of the stable, shed, fence and probably the superintendent's house, all built in 1901. Constructed of frame and clapboard, the latter has been moved from its original location and enlarged. Lowell was the architect of the main building of the Museum of Fine Arts. He was buried at Walnut Hills, along with H.H. Richardson; Charles Sprague Sargent, and John Charles Olmsted.

Staple to inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Brookline

Form No:

102/364

Property Name: Walnut Hills Cemetery

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

Walnut Hills Cemetery derives its significance from being a fine example of the picturesque, garden-style cemetery, a product of the rural cemetery movement. Its design interferes little with the natural features of the property which is dominated in sections by outcroppings of Roxbury puddingstone as well as gentle and steep slopes. Among those of transcendent importance who are buried here are H.H. Richardson, perhaps the most influential American architect in the second half of the 19th century and Charles Sprague Sargent, founder and first director of the Arnold Arboretum the first public arboretum in the country and noted dendrologist. The Walnut Hills Cemetery meets criteria A and C for listing to the National Register, and exception D.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 9-4-85
date entered _____

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Brookline MRA
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

81. Twitchell, Ginery, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byan 10/17/85

Attest

82. Walnut Hills Cemetery

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byan 10/17/85

Attest

83. White, Benjamin, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byan 10/17/85

Attest

84. White Place Historic
District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byan 10/17/85

Attest

85. Dutch House (The)

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 1/24/86

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1-24-86

86. Spooner, William, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

125

85003241

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Walnut Hills Cemetery (Brookline MRA)
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. SEP 4 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 10/3/85 - 10/19/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 10-17-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Brookline

Form No:

102136Y

Property Name: Walnut Hills Cemetery

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

(#1)

OLDER Section of Cemetery



(#2)

MIDDLE Development
Stage of Cemetery



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Brookline

Form No:

102/364

Property Name: Walnut Hills Cemetery

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



(#3)

Mid Development Stage
of cemetery



(#4)

Newer section of Cemetery

form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:
Brookline

Form No:
102/364



arm which



(#5) RICHARDSON GRAVE

(#6) Guy Lowell GRAVE



(#7)
DANE FAMILY
MEMORIAL

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community:

BROOKLINE

Form No:

102/364

Property Name: Walnut Hills Cemetery

being continued below.

(#8)

← BARN

Probably Guy Lowell (1901)

(#9)

Receiving TOMB →
A.W. Longfellow (1901)



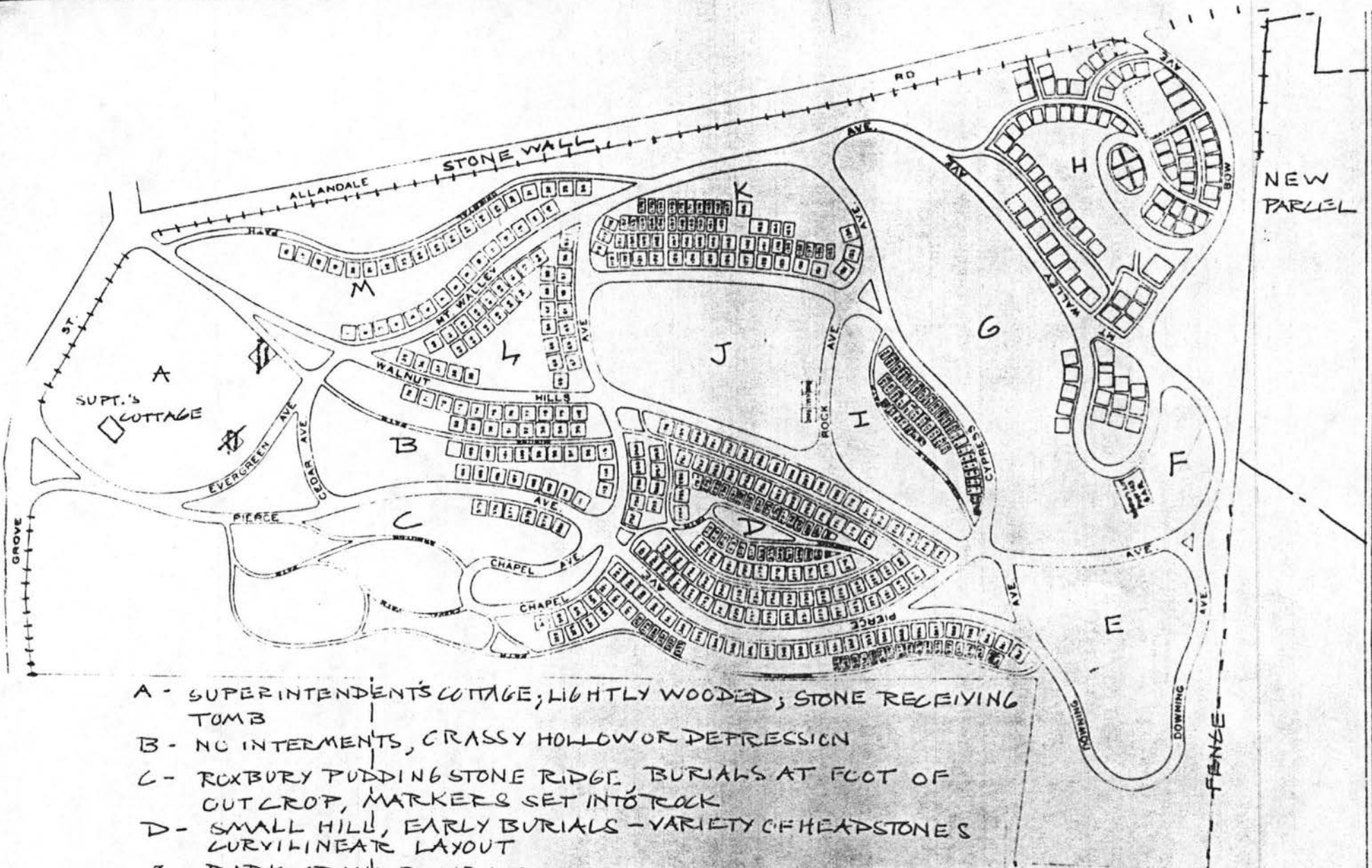
(#10)

Superintendent's house &
Cemetery office

Probably Guy Lowell (1901)



form at bottom



- A - SUPERINTENDENT'S COTTAGE; LIGHTLY WOODED; STONE RECEIVING TOMB
- B - NO INTERMENTS, GRASSY HOLLOW OR DEPRESSION
- C - ROXBURY PUDDINGSTONE RIDGE, BURIALS AT FOOT OF OUTCROP, MARKERS SET INTO ROCK
- D - SMALL HILL, EARLY BURIALS - VARIETY OF HEADSTONES CURVILINEAR LAYOUT
- E - DARK GRANITE MARKERS IN STRAIGHT ROWS - DENSELY SPACED
- F - VETERAN'S BURIAL AREA - SMALL FLAG MARKERS
- G - VARIETY OF HEADSTONES IN STRAIGHT ROWS, WIDELY SPACED
- H - MT. WALLEY - LOVELY HILL WITH NATURAL PLANTINGS!
- I - EARLY BURIALS, VARIETY OF HEADSTONES, CURVILINEAR
- J, K - DARK SLATE HEADSTONES IN ROWS, DENSE CANOPY OF PINES
- L - EARLY BURIALS
- M - NO INTERMENTS, LOW LYING LAND

FROM WALNUT HILLS CEMETERY: AN
HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

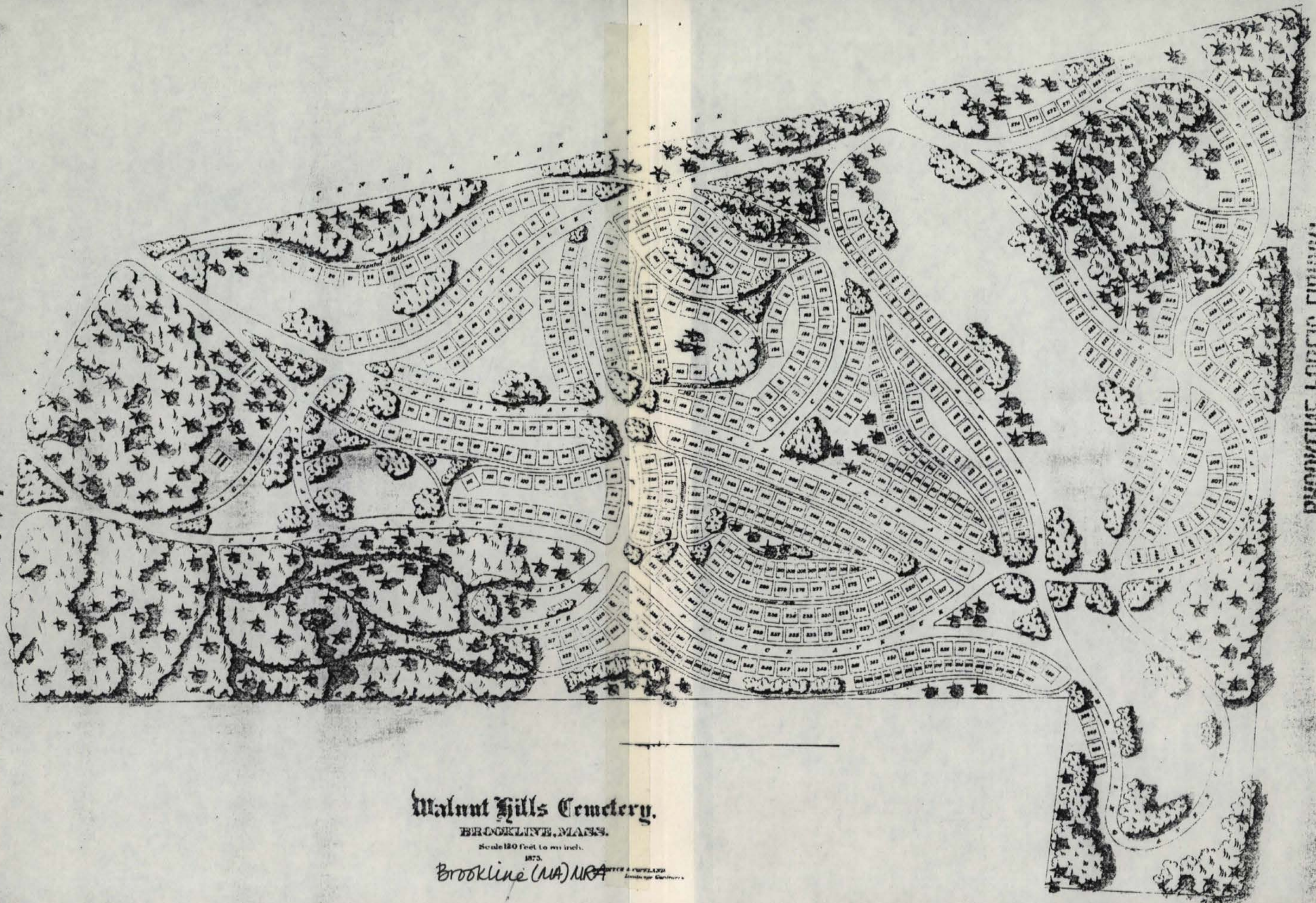
WALNUT HILLS Cemetery 102/364

Town of Brookline MAP

JAN. 1981

1/2" = 200' Brookline (MA) MRA





Walnut Hills Cemetery.
BROOKLINE, MASS.

Scale 120 feet to an inch.

1873.

Brookline (MA) NRA

SWITCH & FURLAND
Landscape Architects

BROOKLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY