The National Register of Historic Places

The nation’s official list of significant historic resources worthy of preservation. Maintained by the National Park Service; administered in each state by the State Historic Preservation Office.
The National Register of Historic Places

- Established in 1966 as part of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Massachusetts has more than 75,000 properties in the National Register, including close to 400 cemeteries.

Winthrop Center Cemetery

North Hadley Burying Ground
The National Register contains a variety of historic resources:
Old & New Buildings

Late 17th century – Rebecca Nurse House, Danvers

Veterans Village, Dalton, 1950s
Urban & Rural Districts

Margaret Cummings Estate, River Road-Cross Street HD, Topsfield

Washington Street Shoe District, Haverhill
Imposing & Modest Sites

Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Watertown and Cambridge

Ireland Street Cemetery, Chesterfield
Parks, gardens, and other designed landscapes, also considered sites:

- **Boston Common**
- **Polly Hill Arboretum, West Tisbury**
Structures & Objects

- Fence at Salem Common
- Katherine Lane Weems’ Rhinoceros, Harvard Biological Labs
- Westford Horse Trough
- Boston Common Fountain
Some properties are designated individually ...
... and others are part of National Register Districts

Ashwood Cemetery

Weymouth Village Cemetery

Cemeteries of Front Street Historic District, Weymouth
Some properties are eligible individually AND within an eligible district

Stockbridge Cemetery and “Sedgwick Pie,” Main Street Historic District
To be eligible for listing in the National Register:

• Properties must meet at least one of the National Register criteria for significance

• Properties must retain sufficient integrity to be able to convey their significance
National Register Criteria

Criterion A: association with events and patterns of development

Criterion B: association with significant persons

Criterion C: works of a master or typical examples of their style and type

Criterion D: potential to reveal more information in the future
Criterion A (associations with events & patterns of development)

Meetinghouse HD, Weymouth

Russian Cemetery, Westford
Criterion B (associations with significant people)

Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston

Sculptural homage to e. e. cummings
Criterion C (works of masters, typical examples of their style and type, or high artistic values)

Milton Cemetery, HMS Cleveland and Ernest Bowditch, landscape architects

First Parish Burial Ground, Gloucester

Searles Cemetery, Phillipston
Susannah White stone carved by the Park Brothers
And Criterion D (potential to tell stories about our past from resources that may not be visible to the naked eye)

Prince Hall Cemetery, Arlington
Many eligible properties meet more than one criterion

Mount Vernon Cemetery, West Boylston, Criteria A and C

Mrs. Dinah Beaman stone, carved by James Wilder

WPA wall
Criteria Considerations (property types that need extra justification)

Consideration A: religious property
Consideration B: relocated property
Consideration C: birthplace or grave
Consideration D: cemetery
Consideration E: reconstructed property
Consideration F: commemorative property
Consideration G: property whose significance comes within last 50 years
To be eligible for the National Register, properties also need to retain their ability to convey their significance by maintaining their historic character—their integrity.

- Location
- Setting
- Design
- Materials
- Workmanship
- Association
- Feeling
National Register-listed properties may include “noncontributing” elements.

Pine Grove Cemetery, Leominster

Sheffield Plain Historic District
The nomination process

• Begins with evaluation based on survey information and historic context
• Next, the nomination form and supporting documentation are prepared
• There’s a notification process and public participation before the nomination is listed in the National Register
National Register nominations grow out of inventory (inventory forms and nomination forms are not one and the same)
The evaluation process:
Is this property significant? Does it meet one or more of the criteria? Is it eligible individually or as part of a District? What is its level of significance? What is its period of significance?

Walker-Blake Cemetery, Taunton
Nomination Preparation

In Massachusetts, there are two approaches: the MHC Question and Answer Form, for those new to the National Register program OR The actual NPS National Register form, for those who have had experience with the requirements of the program.
A National Register Nomination is an expansion of the inventory. It includes:

- Property Description
- Historical Context
- Maps – USGS and Assessors
- Photographs
Guidance in preparing nominations:

From MHC NR staff

From NPS bulletin series and NPS website:
http://www.nps.gov/nr
Every nomination includes a Description Section and a Significance Section
For a Cemetery, Description includes:
current appearance; topography setting; landscape features such as natural and designed plantings, walls, fencing; circulation systems; buildings (e.g., chapel); examples of monuments and markers from all periods and of all types; structures (e.g., tombs).
For a Cemetery, Significance section discusses how the cemetery meets the NR criteria and considerations and establishes a context for evaluation and registration relating the cemetery to the themes under which it is important.
All nominations--district and individual--identify the Period and Level of Significance for the resource

**Period of Significance**

Can be based on important events in a community or on a span of years, generally up to 50 years ago; supported by historic context

Mount Hope Cemetery, Boston, period of significance 1852-1959

Receiving Tomb (1875)  Chapel (1900)  World War Veterans Monument (1954)
Level of Significance
also supported by historic context

East Rochester Church and Cemetery: Locally Significant (most common)

Pembroke Friends Meetinghouse and Burying Ground: State-level significance

Authors Ridge, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Concord: Nationally significant
The nomination also includes supporting documentation: Maps
# Datasheets

## Pittsfield Cemetery

Pittsfield
Berkshire County, Massachusetts

### DATA SHEET

Note: The following list represents a representative sample of grave markers at the Pittsfield Cemetery. All resources contained in the document were included as additional material in the nomination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map #</th>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>RESOURCE</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>MAKER</th>
<th>MATERIAL / FORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Pittsfield Cemetery</td>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Horatio Stone</td>
<td>Landscape/Rural Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cemetery-wide</td>
<td>Road Network</td>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Horatio Stone</td>
<td>Bituminous/Gravel/Turf Roac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Entrance</td>
<td>Fagus sylvatica</td>
<td>c. 1900</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Specimen Tree Planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Service Area</td>
<td>Tilia Grove</td>
<td>c. 1900</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Multiple Tree Planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Service Area</td>
<td>Tsuga Grove</td>
<td>c. 1900</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Multiple Tree Planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Linden Slope</td>
<td>Acer saccharum Ailce</td>
<td>c. 1900</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Specimen Tree Planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Laurel Mound</td>
<td>Fagus sylvatica</td>
<td>c. 1900</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Specimen Tree Planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Linden Slope</td>
<td>Fagus sylvatica</td>
<td>c. 1900</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Evergreen Slope</td>
<td>Merle D. Graves Plot</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Olmsted Brothers</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Orchard Hill</td>
<td>Francis Family Plot</td>
<td>1927</td>
<td>John Russell Pope</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chapel Hill</td>
<td>Crane/Coll Family Plot</td>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>High Grove</td>
<td>54th Regiment Plot</td>
<td>1855</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Entrance</td>
<td>Allen Memorial Arch &amp; Main Gate</td>
<td>1885</td>
<td>J. Philip Rinn</td>
<td>Bluestone/Romanesque Rev.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Entrance</td>
<td>Superintendent's Cottage</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Parsons, Wait &amp; Goodell</td>
<td>Brick/English Cottage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Entrance</td>
<td>Calvin Martin Memorial Chapel</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>George C. Harding</td>
<td>Bluestone/Romanesque/Go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Entrance</td>
<td>Wrought Iron Fence &amp; Gate</td>
<td>c. 1935</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Iron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Photographs (color or black-and-white)

1. Allen Memorial Arch and gate taken from Wahconah Street, looking west. (Photographer: Martha Lyon)

National Register Properties Tell Stories

Ayer Monument, Lowell Cemetery

Hubbardston Burial Ground

“Sedgwick Pie,” Stockbridge Cemetery, Main Street Historic District
The National Register notification process:

Notification letters sent by MHC to property owners
Notification letter sent by MHC to Chief Elected Official
Notification letter sent by MHC to Local Historical Commission
Library gets copy of nomination
MHC Review – NPS Review

- MHC Review Board votes
- Nomination sent to Keeper of the National Register/Washington, D.C.
- Keeper responds within 45 days
Benefits of National Register designation

- Honor
- Planning Tool
- Opportunities for Funding
- Education Tool/Teaching with Historic Places
- Heritage Tourism