NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 1024-0018

357

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 of eligibility for individual properties or 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 an 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 listed in 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 Meetinghouse Green Road Cemetery

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Cross Road and Meeting House Rd. [ ] not for publication

city or town Meetinghouse Green [X] vicinity

state New York code NY county Herkimer code 043 zip code 13491

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. [ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Russell Pierpont DSHPO 4/10/13
Signature of certifying official/Title 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:

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

[✓] entered in the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.
Edson H. Beall 6.5.13

[ ] determined eligible for the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.

[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.

[ ] removed from the National Register.

[ ] other, (explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [ ] private
- [X] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [ ] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [X] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	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

0

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 N/A
walls N/A
roof N/A
other

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

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.)

[X] **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 a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] **B** removed from its original location.

[ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.

[X] **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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance
1801-1963

Significant Dates
1801, 1963

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(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 # _____

Primary location of additional data

[x] State Historic Preservation Office
[ ] Other State agency
[ ] Federal agency
[ ] Local government
[ ] University
[ ] Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.3 Acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	486621	4751812	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Travis Bowman, Historic Preservation Program Analyst

organization New York State Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation date 7/13/2012

street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643 x 3259

city or town Waterford state New York zip code 12188

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Winfield

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town West Winfield state NY zip code 13491

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 from 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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Narrative Description:

The Meetinghouse Green Road Cemetery is located near at the intersection of Cross Road and Meeting House Green Road, in the Town of Winfield, Herkimer County, New York, It is are located on an upland plateau region (1400') between the East Branch of Unadilla River and the North Winfield Creek, in the Upper Unadilla Valley, just south of division between the watersheds of the Mohawk and Susquehanna rivers. This region is characterized by hilly highlands (ranging from 500-1500'), broad ridges, glacial flood plains, low winding embankments (eskers), limestone outcrops, wooded valleys, kettles and kames, and outwash deposits. Lack of recent development in the area has ensured that the setting of the cemetery is highly intact. The Meetinghouse Green Road Cemetery is being nominated as one contributing site.

Meetinghouse Green Road Cemetery (1801-1967, contributing).

The cemetery itself is set-off from the surrounding farm fields by a dry-laid stone fence. It contains about 140 marked burials, ranging from 1801 to 1967 and includes many members of the Brace family. Headstones range in style from an early shouldered New England example, to simple rectangular limestone, to obelisks (most executed in stone but significantly there is a zinc, "white Bronze," example), and a handful of large and ornate carved and cast monuments. Epitaph and decorative motifs are incised or executed in bas relief and are consistent with the period of use. There is no formal plan to the burials, and it is not arranged temporally. Benign neglect and lack of use over the last few decades has led to some damage to the stones.

Statement of Significance:
The Meetinghouse Green Road cemetery is historically significant as a surviving assemblage of resources that chronicle the settlement, growth and development of the town of Winfield. The families buried in the cemetery are among the earliest European settlers of the area, settling in the region as early as the 1790s. The initial settlement of these families is reflective of the trend of New England Revolutionary War veterans settling central NY during the immediate post-war period. The nominated Meetinghouse Green Road Cemetery was established alongside a 1799 Congregational Church that might have anchored a typical New England Green common-space if the Great Western Turnpike had not drawn concentrated settlement farther south in the town. It is the oldest established cemetery in the town and contains the graves of many of the town's earliest settlers. The cemetery continued to be used until the mid-twentieth century representing changing burial practices from the settlement era to contemporary times. Gravestones and epitaphs chronicle several families' connection to the area during the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries and provide genealogical and biographical information that is not available in other sources. The cemetery is being nominated concurrently with the neighboring Brace Farm, but under a separate context and boundary.

The period of significance, 1801 to 1967, has been framed to include the earliest (1801) and latest (1967) burials in the cemetery, representing the end of the historic use of the cemetery.

History and Development of the Cemetery
Like most localities in central New York, the Town of Winfield contained only sporadic and impermanent European, non-military, inhabitation prior to the Revolutionary War. This lack of settlement of the region was influenced by several factors. The important geography of the region made it a strategic location, marking its history with decades of conflicts among the British, the French and groups of American Indian nations. Central among the latter were the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), whose presence had a tremendous impact on the political, military and economic affairs of the various European colonial powers. The Iroquois used European settlement in their traditional homelands as a diplomatic tool—sanctioning it in exchange for economic and military benefits. The region's status as a warzone and as a crucial component in international diplomacy made it too important for colonial or imperial governments to allow or encourage individual homesteading. Land acquisition and title securement was under the control of Crown and provincial officials who parceled out massive land grants to small numbers of investors or speculators. In turn, these investors were ultimately responsible for organizing settlement, generally through a landlord and tenant farmer system. In 1771, William Bayard, Alexander Ellis, and fifty-three others obtained a 50,000 acre parcel in central New York, known as Bayard's Patent; a comprehensive survey of the patent was never undertaken, but nineteenth century maps indicate the cemetery is located in what was Lot #26 of this patent. Any plans to encourage permanent settlement in Bayard's Patent were quickly cut short by the outbreak of the American Revolution. The region was far too dangerous to attract new settlers, and established settlers—Tory and Patriot alike—often fled the war-torn area. In addition, William Bayard and two of the grantees were attainted by the 1779 New York Act of Attainder and portions of Bayard's patent were confiscated by the state. Although the Commissions of Forfeitures often resold seized Tory lands quickly, neither the state nor the buyers were in a position to foster settlement.

Post war conditions, however, removed every pre-war impediment to settlement of places like the Town of Winfield. The Revolution simultaneously pushed the threat of international war farther west towards the central Great Lakes region and ended the dominance of the Iroquois Confederacy in the northern frontier. The cash-strapped and debt-heavy states of New York and Massachusetts suddenly found themselves in possession of massive amounts of land unfettered by Indian tittle or Imperial control; where the Crown had sought to carefully

manage western movement, the new states saw only the potential for revenue. New York and Massachusetts quickly settled their centuries' old boundary dispute by exchanging proceeds from land sales for a precisely defined border. Land was quickly sold to investors and speculators, who in turn resold it as quickly as possible. The lure of cheap and available land in New York was the perfect outlet for New Englanders who had been running low on land for generations. It was this combination of circumstances that led to the largest migration of people in US history to that point. The possibility of homesteading in upstate and western New York turned out to be particularly appealing to Revolutionary War veterans who had been rewarded with bounties or service payments at the exact right moment to take advantage of obtainable lands. The story of the settlement of Winfield is archetypical of this model.

Meetinghouse Green Cemetery

In 1799, Abel Brace and several other local citizens organized the Second Congregational Church of Litchfield (the Town of Winfield was part of Litchfield until it was separated in 1816).[1] Brace was named as the first deacon and later his son, Asahel, and grandson, Henry L., would also serve as deacons in the church. An edifice was constructed about 1800 on Meeting House Green, near the nominated cemetery. Although nineteenth century histories are unclear, is appears that prior to the construction of the Cherry Valley Turnpike (the third leg of the Great Western Turnpike, roughly modern-day Route 20) settlement in the Town of Winfield was centered in the northern portion of the town, near the nominated farmstead. The New England model of a town green surrounded by important civic and religious buildings might had developed at this spot if not for the turnpike's construction in 1805. In 1816 the church was moved south, to a more central location along the turnpike near East Winfield, but the nominated cemetery stayed in its original location. A second cemetery (the East Winfield Cemetery) was begun at the church's new location, but generations of the early settler families of northern Winfield continued to use the nominated one. Mid-nineteenth century milling and tannery operations in West Winfield led to that village becoming the most prominent settlement in the town and in 1876 the old Congregational Church was moved again—to West Winfield—where it was rebuilt and modernized.[2] The church was torn down in the 1960s, but the two cemeteries (the nominated one established at the time of its original construction and the East Winfield Cemetery established when the church moved the first time) are still extant. The nominated cemetery is the only physical remnant of the earliest religious institution in the town of Winfield, from the building's original location, although maps of the area and the local road still retain the vestigial place name of Meeting House Green.

The Meeting House Green Cemetery was a site of burial for residents of northern Winfield from the earliest European settlement period until the mid-twentieth century. As a settlement-era cemetery it records the lives of the families who settled the town and who were prominent in its early history. Abel Brace, his wife, and some of his children are interred in the cemetery, as are several generations of the Brace family—including Henry L. Brace who had the nominated house constructed in 1861. Other settlement-era families who used the cemetery include the Stuarts, Harwoods, Huntleys, Eldreds, Catlins and Leachs. The cemetery contains the graves of individuals who were significant in determining the course of the community's political and economic history and who had outstanding impacts on the nature and direction of the development of the Town of Winfield. In other words, the individuals in these plots are not just the early settlers, but also the founders of the community. As noted, Abel Brace was a founder of the town; he served as Litchfield's first town supervisor (an office he held for three years straight), constable and common school commissioner, and he was an organizer and Deacon in the Congregational Church. Zenas Eldred, Asahel Brace, Jacob Leach, William Stuart and Revolutionary War Veteran Lt. Roger Catlin all held important town offices in the first decades of European settlement—the cemetery includes burials of town

[1] Hamilton Child, *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Herkimer County, N.Y. 1869-70*. (Hamilton Child: Syracuse, NY), 2870. http://herkimer.nygenweb.net/winfield.html.

[2] *The Utica Morning Herald & Daily Gazette*, May 27, 1876. www.fultonhistory.com.; H Paul Draheim, "Service Tomorrow to End Church's Colorful History," *Utica Daily Press*, September 11, 1965. www.fultonhistory.com.

supervisors, town clerks, assessors, overseer of highways/path-masters, overseers of the poor, collectors, commissioners and inspectors of common schools, and pound keepers. By the time the Town of Winfield had been set off from Litchfield in 1816 it was, in many ways, a thriving community because of the individuals buried in the nominated cemetery. One generation after European settlement, the town of Winfield had been transformed. Horatio Gates Spafford's *Gazetteer of the State of New York* profiled the town in 1824 and noted:

> The public buildings are 3 meeting-houses;—1 for Presbyterians, and 2 for Baptists; and 10 schoolhouses…The lands are owned by the cultivators. Staple productions, clover seed, beef, pork, butter and cheese, and most kinds of grain. The inhabitants are Yankees, or immigrants from New-England, of good morals, and very industrious. - Population, 1752; taxable property, $240,752; 323 electors, 6131 acres improved land, 1585 cattle, 434 horses, 4267 sheep; 18209 yards cloth; 4 grist mills, 13 saw mills, 5 fulling mills, 3 carding machines, 1 trip hammer, 5 distilleries, and 7 asheries.—The farmers, including buildings, fences and husbandry, in this town, are entitled to particular notice and commendation.[3]

The epitaphs and vital data (birth, death, familial relationships, etc.) included on the stones document the lives of the residents of the town from the settlement period through the mid-twentieth century and the grave markers themselves present an opportunity to study changing styles of tombstone design and funeral art over more than a century and a half of continuous use. The earliest marked burial (still legible) in the Meeting House Green Cemetery is Betsey Catlin, the six year old daughter Sarah and Roger Catlin, who died in 1801. The Catlins, like other New England immigrants, brought their ideals towards death and cemeteries with them, and many of the earliest grave markers in the Meetinghouse Green Road cemetery clearly reflect a New England influence. The cemetery has examples of both simple, rectangular stones and more elaborate rounded tympanum/shouldered examples with bas relief ovals and long epitaphs. Willow and urn motifs are seen on many of the stones from the 1820s and 30, and their appearance is uniform enough that they look to have been done by the same carver. Markers from the first half of the century are consistent in terms of materials, and most appear to be locally quarried stone. By the latter half of the century, new materials like sandstone and polished granite appear. Other changes in stylistic tastes are evident in motifs like books and architectural columns, more varieties of lettering and grave furniture shapes. For example, the cemetery contains a handful of obelisks and larger family monuments not seen in the earlier era. An excellent illustration of changing attitudes towards death is seen in the large Stuart family obelisk. The marker is a prominent example of a zinc monument produced by the White Bronze Company of Bridgeport, CT, and must have replaced several earlier, individual headstones for various members of the Stuart family. The individuals memorialized on the tablets on the plinth of the moment include members of the Stuart family who died as early as 1802 (the infant William D. Stuart), 1817 (another generation of William D. Stuart) and 1822 (Jane Campbell Stuart)—all of whom died at least fifty years before the first zinc monument was ever produced. The monument was probably purchased for or by yet another William D. Stuart, who died in 1885. That later generations of the family were willing to re-memorialize their ancestors through the use of the newest and most-fashionable technology is indicative of the process of social transformation. The quantity of the elaborate monument is also unusual for smaller cemeteries in the area. The twentieth century markers are consistent with the technology of period and are often made of machine-polished granite or cast materials. In the 1920s, the local Winfield Scott chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution installed decorative plaques to mark the graves of veterans. The date of the latest visible/legible interment is 1967.

[3] Horatio Gates Spafford, *Gazetteer of the State of New York* (D.B. Packard: Albany, NY, 1824), 576-77. http://archive.org.

Integrity

The cemetery appears to retain high integrity. Some of the stones have toppled from benign neglect and decades of inactivity, but they appear to be in their original placement and configuration and overall the cemetery retains all of its factors of integrity. The original dry laid stone wall with a single entrance is intact and in good condition.

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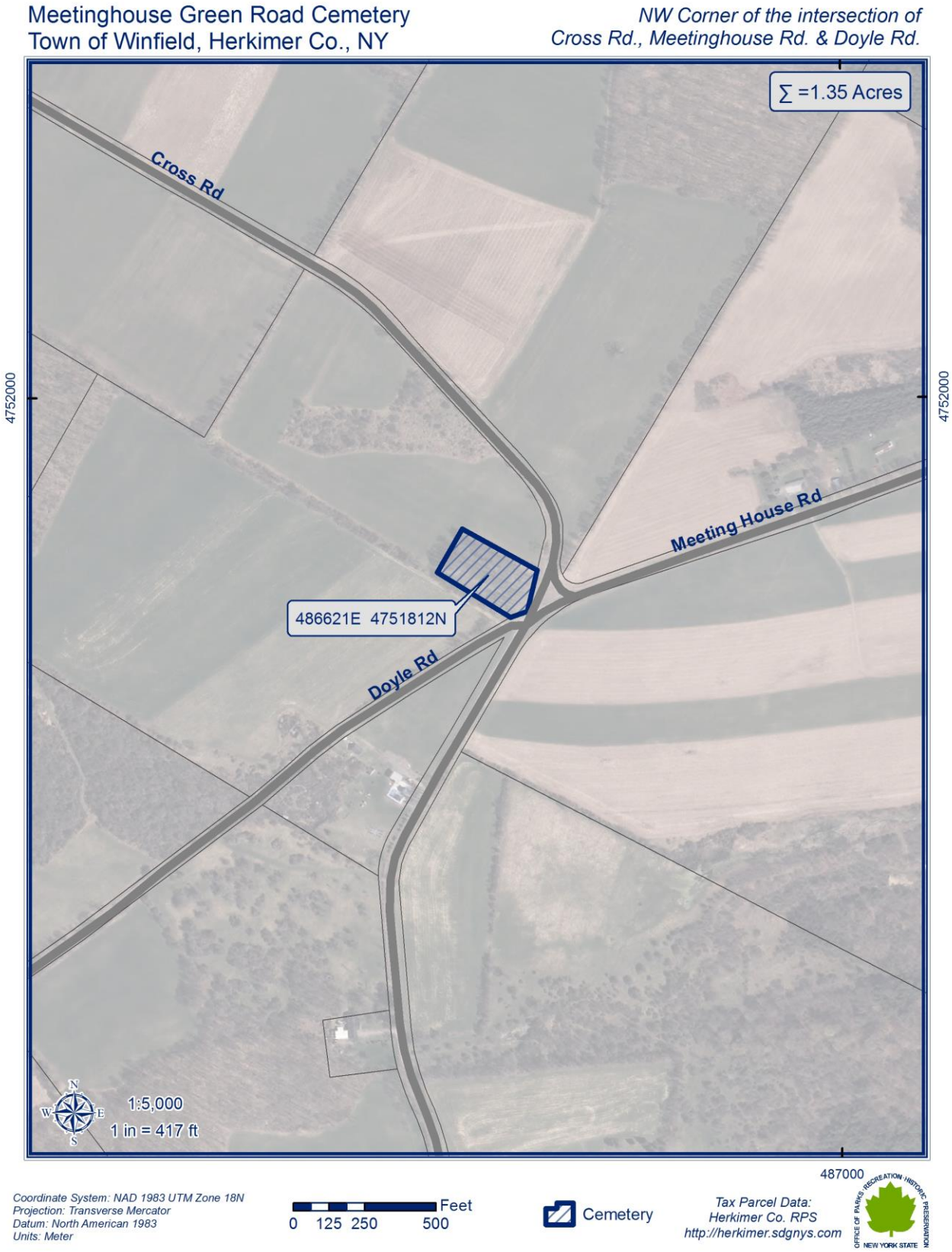
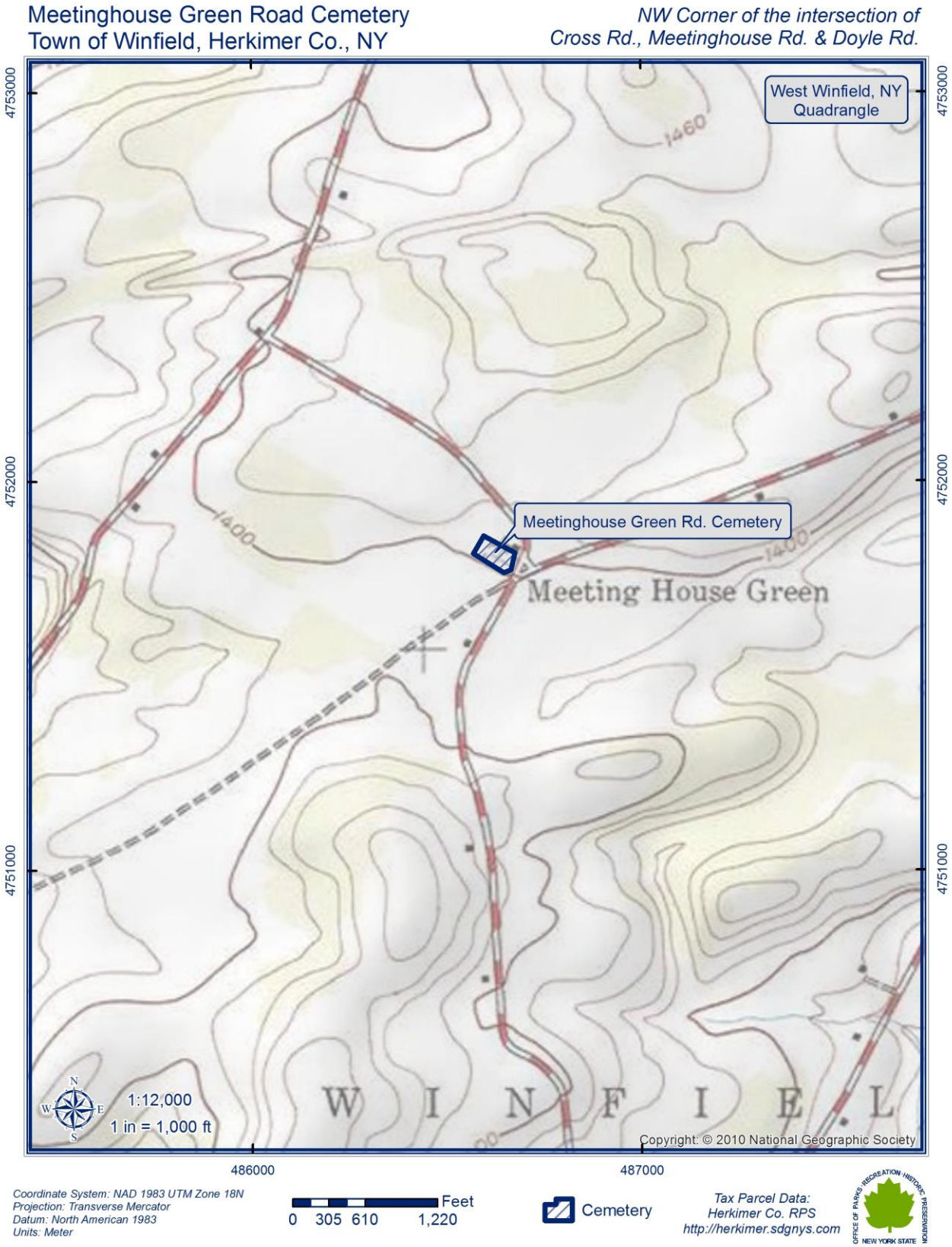
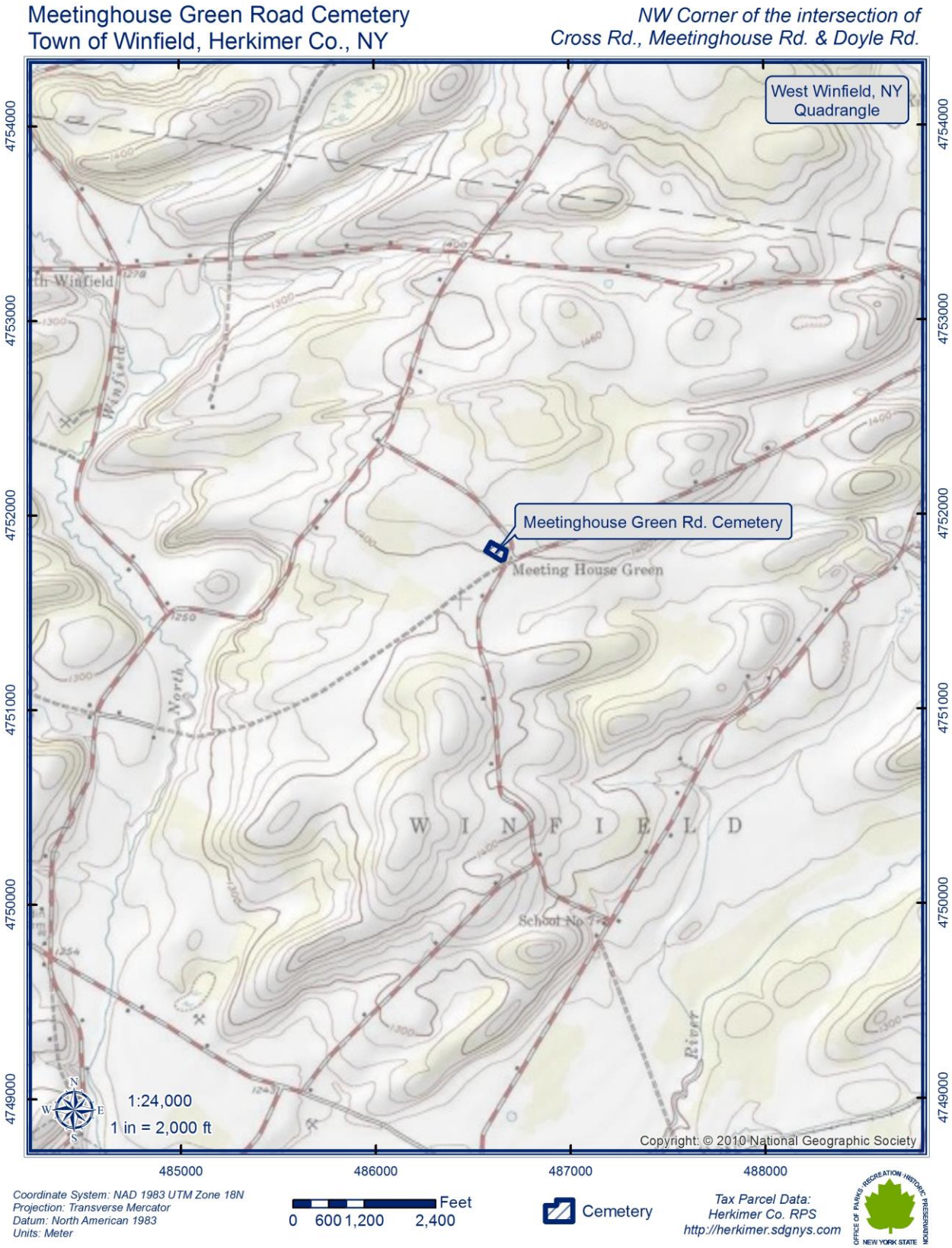
BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:
As indicated by the heavy black line on the attached boundary map, the nominated property consists entirely of tax parcel lot number 130.2-1-38 in the Town of West Winfield, Herkimer County, NY.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:
The nominated property includes the entire parcel (1.3 acres) historically and currently associated with the cemetery as bounded by its dry laid stone wall.


Meetinghouse Green Road Cemetery
Town of Winfield, Herkimer Co., NY
NW Corner of the intersection of
Cross Rd., Meetinghouse Rd. & Doyle Rd.
∑ =1.35 Acres
Cross Rd
Meeting House Rd
Doyle Rd
486621E 4751812N
4752000
4752000
487000
1:5,000
1 in = 417 ft
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter
Feet
0 125 250 500
Cemetery
Tax Parcel Data:
Herkimer Co. RPS
http://herkimer.sdgnys.com


Meetinghouse Green Road Cemetery
Town of Winfield, Herkimer Co., NY
NW Corner of the intersection of
Cross Rd., Meetinghouse Rd. & Doyle Rd.
West Winfield, NY
Quadrangle
Meetinghouse Green Rd. Cemetery
Meeting House Green
W I N F I E L
1460
1400
1400
4753000
4752000
4751000
486000
487000
1:12,000
1 in = 1,000 ft
Copyright: © 2010 National Geographic Society
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter
Feet
0 305 610 1,220
Cemetery
Tax Parcel Data:
Herkimer Co. RPS
http://herkimer.sdgnys.com


Meetinghouse Green Road Cemetery
Town of Winfield, Herkimer Co., NY
NW Corner of the intersection of
Cross Rd., Meetinghouse Rd. & Doyle Rd.
West Winfield, NY
Quadrangle
Meetinghouse Green Rd. Cemetery
Meeting House Green
W I N F I E L D
School No 1
Winfield
North
River
4754000
4753000
4752000
4751000
4750000
4749000
485000
486000
487000
488000
1:24,000
1 in = 2,000 ft
Copyright: © 2010 National Geographic Society
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter
Feet
0 600 1,200 2,400
Cemetery
Tax Parcel Data:
Herkimer Co. RPS
http://herkimer.sdgnys.com
OFFICE OF PARKS RECREATION HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE

Photo

Log (Prints from Digital Photos)

Name of Property: Meetinghouse Green Road Cemetery

Location: Herkimer County, New York

Photographer: Travis Bowman

Date: November 8, 2012

Location of Negatives: CD-R Included

NY_HerkCo_MHGCem

PHOTO LOG

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION
0001	Exterior view, S; Meetinghouse Green Road Cemetery setting.
0002	Exterior view, S-SW; Cemetery graves.
0003	Exterior view, N-NW; Cemetery graves.
0004	Exterior view, Headstone of Revolutionary War veteran Capt. Abel Brace.

Meeting House
Green Road
CEMETERY

BRACE
BRACE
O. S. BRACE
LEVI S. & ELIZA KNIGHT