NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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.

RECEIVED 2280
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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Griffin Street Cemetery

Other names/site number: Old South Burying Ground, Common Burying Ground

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: South Second and Griffin Streets

City or town: New Bedford State: MA County: Bristol

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___**national** ___**statewide** ✓**local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

✓**A** ___**B** ✓**C** ___**D**

Brona Simon 1/27/2014

Signature of certifying official/Title: Brona Simon, SHPO **Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Carol Ellison Beall 3.19.14

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	☐
Public – Local	x
Public – State	☐
Public – Federal	☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	☐
District	☐
Site	X
Structure	☐
Object	☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
4	0	structures
19	1	objects
24	1	Total

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.)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The oldest extant burial ground in New Bedford, MA, Griffin Street Cemetery is the only cemetery remaining in the commercial core of the city. Less than one-half mile south of the city center, the cemetery lies on level ground within the floodplain of the Acushnet River, which flows into Buzzards Bay to the east and has been the site of the city's harbor since its founding. Originally a parallelogram, Griffin Street Cemetery became trapezoidal when the extension of South Second Street in the 1850s sliced off its southwest corner. The burial ground's boundaries follow the strict north-south/east-west grid of the city's downtown streets on its west, south, and north elevations; the east edge is a diagonal. It includes no buildings, few trees and shrubs, and the city's earliest extant grave markers. Though many are extensively deteriorated or damaged, these markers are the only surviving examples of the work of some of the region's best-known and best-documented early carvers.

Narrative Description

Griffin Street Cemetery covers 1.69 acres (73,739 square feet) in New Bedford's South Central neighborhood, a mixed-use area composed largely of mid- to late 19th-century multifamily housing, 1930s low-rise public housing, and various small commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings. The cemetery is bounded on the east by a trapezoid-shaped strip of vacant land bordering Massachusetts Route 18 (the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway), on the south by Griffin Street, on the north by New Bedford Housing Authority property, and on the west by South Second Street.

The cemetery is completely fenced on its west and south borders by a stone wall that also extends from the northwest corner of the cemetery partly along the north border. The wall, built as a WPA project in the late 1930s, replaced a wood fence that the city had described as a "constant expense." About 1947 a chain-link fence was installed along the cemetery's east side to replace a board fence installed in 1923. There are two entrances. The Griffin Street entrance, probably the original and certainly the more formal of the two, is marked by mortared fieldstone pillars with pyramidal caps (photo 1). Each of the pillars contains the remnants of three wrought-iron posts that must once have anchored chains barring entrance to the cemetery in off-hours. The South Second Street entrance, roughly half the distance along the cemetery's west boundary, is marked by two posts with pyramidal caps identical in form to, but shorter than, those at the Griffin Street entrance. This entrance, too, features the remains of iron posts and hooks that must earlier have anchored some form of gate. Within the last several years, pedestrians from areas of the city further to the southeast have worn a path between these two entrances on their way to and from downtown New Bedford.

Most of the gravestones that have survived into the current day are in the northern half of the cemetery (photo 2). The southern half has some twenty stones; the remainder, roughly 190 markers, are in the northern half. Those in the southwestern quadrant, about a dozen, are all small, broken, or sunken. The relatively large amount of open space in the southern section may once have contained gravestones or may indicate the presence of unmarked burials; as early as 1843, when the cemetery was still in use, local historians noted that many persons buried at Griffin Street were in unmarked graves.[1] Several rock outcroppings exist in the southwestern quadrant. Seven trees range along the northernmost quarter of the burial ground, smaller trees and shrubs exist on the west side near the South Second Street entrance, and one large hardwood stands just outside the Griffin Street entrance.

Of roughly 210 extant gravestones, 105 are intact, and 56 of those bear legible inscriptions. Fifteen graves have footstones; the Mrs. Mary Hillman footstone (1810) is the only marker now extant at her grave. Two small markers bear only initials—one a slate stone inscribed "N. A.," in the southwest quadrant, and another fieldstone marked "S. M." in the northwest quadrant (photo 3). They suggest either a very early burial, the interment of a poor person, or a preference for a very plain stone. Another 35 stones are intact and only partly legible or largely illegible; most of the inscriptions have been obscured by lichen, while erosion has partly worn away the inscriptions on others. Another 106 stones, or roughly half of those extant, are broken, sunken into the ground, eroded, or fallen. A few stones have been reset, in one case upside down. One of the three records of burials in Griffin Street Cemetery, an undated compilation, lists the graves in numbered rows. Some vestige of a linear arrangement seems to remain, though deterioration and damage has by and large obliterated most evidence of this order. Just south of the South Second Street entrance stands a raised, rectangular structure built of granite block. Its origin, identity, and function are unknown, though it may have been part of a tomb known to have existed in the cemetery, erected by the Pope and Greenleaf families in 1803 and removed in 1896.

The earliest surviving marker in the cemetery is the March 1804 slate stone for Zebedee MacDaniel, which contains an epitaph ("He left no Relation to mourn his [illegible] / But left behind him A Good name, / Which is far better than Gold"); its top, however, is completed broken off, and only part of the inscription remains. Only 42 markers postdate 1837, the year Rural Cemetery was founded. A 1938 Daughters of the American Revolution count of the Griffin Street gravestones found only three dating

[1] In 1843 New Bedford's James Bunker Congdon stated that some were interred there "without a stone of memorial"; Leonard Bolles Ellis stated that many persons "were interred with no stone or mark to designate their resting place." See James B. Congdon, *An Address Delivered at the Consecration of the Oak Grove Cemetery, in New-Bedford, October 6th, 1843* (New-Bedford: Benjamin Lindsey, 1844), and Ellis, *History of New Bedford*, 725.

after 1844, but the 1917 list compiled by local historian Henry B. Worth lists nine after that date. The latest surviving stone, a rectangular marble stone without imagery or epitaph, is that of Mrs. Eliza M. Wood, who died May 30, 1855, at the age of 57.

Of the extant stones some 28 are slate, two are sandstone, and the rest are marble. Some are topped by scrolled pediments; others have arched or rounded heads with shoulders; a few have pointed heads; and many are simple rectangles. In some cases, slate and marble markers are carved in similar fashion, with scrolled pediments and arched heads; a few marble stones are as elaborate as the slate markers. In general, however, the slate stones are more ornate in form, while the marble tend to be rectilinear, a style introduced in the 1820s. A considerable number of marble stones have curving hollows. The marker for Rodolphus Wing Howland, who died at the age of one in 1810, is the sole remaining sandstone marker that is at least partly legible. Far taller than all other extant markers, it was once reset upside down and is now broken and greatly deteriorated.

Imagery is more apt to be found on slate markers; many depict an urn, a willow, or the urn-and-willow motif, this last executed in markedly similar style irrespective of time and carver (photo 4). A few marble stones of the 1830s depict willows in three-dimensional relief, and thus illustrate the elaboration of the motif. The marble Benjamin Crowell Peckham marker (died 1832; photo 5) features shoulders pointed in the Gothic mode and occupied fully by willows. As a general rule, imagery is less common on later markers.

Several other motifs appear on Griffin Street markers. One marble marker features an open book. Most slate markers have scalloped or some other decorative edging around the central inscription; the Nathan Winslow marker (died 1818; photo 6) is embellished by columns on each side. The inscription panels on most of the marble markers are not framed in this fashion, though one features spandrels flanking the oval inscription panel. However, most markers carry no imagery and no inscription other than name, date of death, age at death, and a family relation: by the 1840s pictorial stone carving was far less common, and carving on stones tended to focus instead on lettering. No more than a dozen markers carry epitaphs. No surviving stone includes the words "Here lies" or "Here lies the body of"; all bearing such an inscription read "Sacred to/Erected to/In Memory of." According to James Deetz and Edwin Dethlefson, this new wording accompanied the move away from the death's head and cherub symbols to urns and willows; like that motif, "in memory of" both expressed the growing popularity of Greek Revival taste and signified a move away from the earlier, morbid focus on the body toward a sentiment in which the body and death were simply not mentioned.[2]

The epitaphs that appear on a handful of markers in Griffin Street Cemetery tend to illustrate the transition from Puritan-influenced notions of life and death to the more sentimental sensibilities of the Victorian period. One study of gravemarkers in Hanover, New Hampshire, found the word "death" in half of the inscriptions between 1770 and 1809, while "sleep" appeared on only 20 percent of stones in that time; between 1810 and 1859, however, the word "death" appeared in only 26 percent of inscriptions and the word "sleep" in 48 percent.[3] On the John Gostree marker (see photo 4), the first (and only visible) line reads, "Come sinners to the gospel feast." Gostree died in 1807, and the beginning of the verse reflects the influence of 18th-century religious revivals that emphasized the possibility of redemption by religious conversion among the Puritan "non-elect." The epitaph on the 1810 Rodolphus Wing Howland marker

[2] James Deetz and Edwin S. Dethlefsen, "Death's Head, Cherub, Urn and Willow," *Natural History* 76, 3 (1967): 29-37, online at Plymouth Colony Archive Project website, http://www.histarch.uiuc.edu/plymouth/deathshead.html.
[3] Lynn Rainville, "Hanover Deathscapes: Mortuary Variability in New Hampshire, 1770-1920," *Ethnohistory* 46, 3 (Summer 1999): 557, table 4.

refers to the "cold arms of death." By contrast, inscriptions on later markers avoid any reference to sin or death. The Mary S. Rider marker (died 1848) reads, "The friend we loved has passed away,/That form so dear no more we see:/No more we meet the eye's mild ray,/Or catch the smile of sympathy." The Joseph Sylvia marker (died 1836; photo 7) reads, "Sleep sweet sleep and take thy/Dear consort on the silent tomb./The meadows sacred will be blest,/and well their hearts[?] to glory come."

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known on the cemetery property or in the general area (within one mile), sites may be present. Environmental characteristics of the cemetery do not represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of ancient Native sites. The Griffin Street Cemetery lies on level topography within the floodplain of the Acushnet River, which flows into Buzzards Bay to the east. Soil types in the area are currently represented by urban land associations occupied by urban works and structures on glaciated uplands. While drainage characteristics of this soil type are difficult, if not impossible, to determine, topographic similarities with other known soil associations in the region indicate soil in the cemetery may have been well drained. Wetlands are not currently located within 1,000 feet of the cemetery, and no evidence exists that they were present historically. Several rock outcroppings are reported in the southwest quadrant of the cemetery. While no complete record of interments exists since the cemetery's founding in 1802, estimates of the number of people buried at the cemetery varies considerably from 210 individuals, based on the number of gravestones present, to 4,699 individuals, based on the average number of individuals buried in the years 1836 to 1839. Both figures seem to represent extremes in their estimates. It is probable that more than 1,000 individuals were buried at Griffin Street before it became an officially "closed" cemetery in the 1880s. Given the above information, the size of the cemetery (1.69 acres), the potential number of burials excavated, and known patterns of Native settlement in the region, a low potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources at the Griffin Street Cemetery.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources in the Griffin Street Cemetery. Archaeological resources including unmarked graves, structural remains associated with barns, stables, hearse houses, and outbuildings associated with cemetery operation and maintenance, may survive at the Griffin Street Cemetery. Unmarked graves containing a burial shaft, a coffin, human remains, and funerary objects may survive anywhere in the cemetery. While land for the cemetery was purchased in 1802, the earliest marker dates to the John Gostree gravestone of 1807. Earlier graves may also exist because of the practice of using fieldstones or no markers to identify early graves. The practice of using unmarked graves may have been commonplace at Griffin Street early in its history. Large, seemingly vacant areas of burials are present amidst older graves, where intentionally unmarked graves have been hypothesized to explain the absence of marked graves in large areas of the cemetery. In other areas, gravestones have been broken at ground level, causing some stones to become partially and in some areas possibly completely overgrown. Unmarked graves may also be the result of city- ordered clean ups at the cemetery. In 1954, during a clean up ordered by the city, old fieldstone grave markers were removed and replaced by concrete flat markers in their place. Unfortunately, there is no evidence that the markers were ever installed in their proper place. Post molds and other evidence of fences and boundary markers may exist, as well as grave markers and memorial offerings/markers for individual and groups of graves. Structural evidence of a single tomb known to have existed in the cemetery may also be present. Immediately south of the South Street entrance is a granite structure whose origin, identity, and function is unknown. It has been hypothesized that the structure is part of a tomb built by the Pope and Greenleaf families in 1803 and removed in 1896.

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.
- [x] 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.)

- [ ] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Landscape Architecture
Social History
Community Planning and Development
Art

Period of Significance
1802-1937

Significant Dates
1802 (founding)
1855 (intrusion;street extension)
1937 (WPA wall)

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Griffin Street Cemetery is significant at the local level under National Register Criteria A and C and Criteria Consideration D. It is the earliest extant burial ground in the city, and the only one that remains in

an urban context; despite repeated pressure since the late 1840s to relocate those interred there, the cemetery has remained on its original site, a densely urban setting since the mid 1800s. Griffin Street Cemetery today contains evidence of one of only two significant incursions on its original space. It exemplifies the type of burial ground common in American cities before the Rural Cemetery movement of the 1830s. It also represents the ethnic and integrated nature of the pre-1830s community. Griffin Street Cemetery is significant as well because it contains stones of eastern Massachusetts carvers whose work is not represented in any other city cemetery. Stones by or attributed to Isaac Thompson Jr., Daniel Gerrish, John B. Taylor, and Elisha Hinman Everett—whose son is buried at Griffin Street—exist within the burial ground. Markers dating from between 1804 and the late 1840s show the development of certain motifs, especially the urn and willow, over nearly the full period during which they were in vogue.

The period of significance extends from the cemetery's founding in 1802 to the date of the last significant improvement to its grounds, the stone wall created by the Works Projects Administration, in 1937.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Griffin Street Cemetery was not the first cemetery in New Bedford village, but it is the oldest surviving one. Local historians site four earlier burial grounds, the first located in the earlier-settled area to the north in what is now the town of Acushnet. Another contained the graves of Indians at what is now the corner of Hamilton and North Water Streets, used before and after the Revolution. Another, near the shore north of Griffin Street, contained the graves of persons killed in the 1778 British raid on New Bedford and in the skirmish between the privateer *Providence* and a British brig-of-war, as well as the graves of people who could not afford the cost of burial in the Acushnet cemetery. The fourth was the Friends Burial Ground, created about 1793 slightly south and east of the later site of Griffin Street Cemetery, on the Acushnet River shore at the foot of Griffin Street. By the time the Griffin Street Cemetery was created in 1802, only the Quaker cemetery was still in use in the waterfront area; it remained at this site until 1853-54, when remains were exhumed and reinterred in a plot the New Bedford Society of Friends had acquired within Rural Cemetery, created in 1837 (NR pending). Thus Griffin Street became the city's oldest cemetery, and throughout the 19th century it was often called the Common or Old South Burying Ground.[4]

By the turn of the 19th century Bedford village—that part of New Bedford on the west side of the Acushnet River just north of Buzzards Bay—was growing more rapidly than its northern section (now Acushnet). The town had been engaged in whaling since its settlement in the late 1750s, and the quality of its harbor and its mainland location combined ultimately to give it an edge over the island of Nantucket in the industry. In November 1801, if not earlier, several New Bedford people perceived the need for a burial ground closer to the village than the original one in Acushnet, and they placed a notice in the *Columbian Courier* for a meeting "to appoint a Trustee for the Land about to be purchased for a Common Burying Ground, and to adopt such regulations as may appear necessary."[5]

[4] Leonard Bolles Ellis, *History of New Bedford and Its Vicinity, 1602-1892* (Syracuse, NY: D. Mason and Co., 1892), 724; Zephaniah W. Pease, *History of New Bedford* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1918), 1:22; on the removal of Quakers, see "Municipal," *New-Bedford Mercury*, June 8, 1849, 2:6; April 26, 1855, 3:1; and May 3, 1855, 3:1; and "Fifty Years Ago," *New Bedford Sunday Standard-Times*, December 27, 1953, 16.
[5] *Columbian Courier* (New Bedford), 20 November 1801, 3:4.

In March 1802 the blacksmith Asa Smith and the saddler Roger Haskell, "as agents of Trustees for the purchase of a Common burying ground for the common use of the Village of Bedford," acquired the tract on what is now Griffin Street from the tanner James Davis. The purchase price of $500 was raised by subscription. A manuscript list in the collections of the New Bedford Free Public Library includes the names of 185 contributors who donated from ten cents to $100 toward the acquisition. The single largest subscription was made by William Rotch Jr., the city's most affluent whaling merchant; Rotch, a Quaker, had also acquired the land on which the Friends Burial Ground was sited in 1793, and had paid to remove the Indians from their early burial ground to the Quaker cemetery when the former site was leveled for building purposes.[6] The contributions of Rotch and four other wealthy New Bedford Quakers—William Rotch Sr., Rotch in-law Samuel Rodman, Seth Russell Jr., and Abraham Russell—covered 47 % of the cost of the cemetery tract. No member of the Rotch family or of the Russell family, whose ancestor Joseph founded the village and its whaling industry, is buried at Griffin Street. The bodies of both William Rotch Sr. and Samuel Rodman were most likely buried at the Friends Burying Ground and later moved to their current site in the city's Oak Grove Cemetery. Based on a 1917 record of Griffin Street Cemetery burials, only 20 of the 185 subscribers were themselves interred in this ground or had wives or children buried there. Part of the subscription was put toward a fence to enclose the burial ground.

At its creation in 1802, Griffin Street Cemetery was sited near the shoreline of the Acushnet River between two ropewalks. William Rotch's ropewalk abutted it on the north, and Daniel Butler's ropewalk ranged along its south side but did not abut the tract. Between the cemetery and the Butler ropewalk was a narrow slice of vacant land. An 1815 map indicates that Griffin Street did not yet exist, though a narrow way—called a "driftway," a lane on which cattle were driven, in the deed—ran south from Third Street (later renamed Acushnet Avenue) to the northwest corner of the cemetery, resumed at the southwest corner, and ran to the 1793 Friends Burial Ground, the west end of which bordered Butler's ropewalk. The burial ground itself is shown as a parallelogram, running diagonally between Rotch's ropewalk and the driftway. By 1834, the driftway was a public way named Butler Street, and by 1836 this street, running "from Third east to the Friend's Burying Ground," according to that year's directory, was renamed Griffin Street. According to one account, the street was named for Griffin Barney, who appears to have acquired Butler's ropewalk.[7]

Local accounts state that the earliest burial in Griffin Street Cemetery was that of an infant child of Josiah Bliss, himself the son of "Revolutionary pensioner" William Bliss, but the grave is either not extant or illegible.[8] At least three other burials were made in 1804—those of the two-year-old Charles Hart and Oliver Bryant, and that of Zebedee MacDaniel, whose marker partly survives.

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[6] The remains of persons killed in the British raid on New Bedford and in the battle between the U.S. Naval sloop *Providence* and the British brig *Diligent* were moved twice before finally being interred at Oak Grove Cemetery in New Bedford. An earlier state-level inventory form for Griffin Street Cemetery (Ben Ford, Public Archaeology Laboratory, October 30, 2001) mistakenly stated that these Revolutionary war fatalities were buried at Griffin Street Cemetery. See Leonard Bolles Ellis, *History of New Bedford and Its Vicinity, 1602-1892* (Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co., 1892), 102, 102 n. 1, and Zephaniah W. Pease, *History of New Bedford* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1918), 1: 17.

[7] "Map of New Bedford in 1815 from a plan drawn at the time by Gilbert Russell," artotype by Charles Taber and Co., New Bedford, 1880. The street names on this early map have long been acknowledged to be incorrect. What is First Street is not labeled, while Second and Third Streets are labeled Third and Fourth. See Pease, *History of New Bedford*, 361, on the street names. Henry H. Crapo, comp., *The New-Bedford Directory* (New-Bedford: J. G. Parmenter, 1836), 31, shows the street as Griffin Street.

[8] Ellis, *City of New Bedford*, 725. Massachusetts records list the marriage of Josiah Bliss of New Bedford to Sally Butler on 29 January 1804. Assuming this to have been the same man, either the unnamed child was born before the

In 1815 none of the north-south streets between Acushnet Avenue and the waterfront extended as far south as Rotch's ropewalk, but by 1834, Water Street, closest to the river, had been extended south past the Griffin Street Cemetery, First Street ended north of it, and South Second Street ran to the burial ground's north boundary. The 1834 map of the village shows the cemetery as a parallelogram, though both the 1847 and 1851 maps depict it as a strict rectangle. The 1847 map shows the cemetery's north and south borders as Third and First Street, while the 1851 map shows it as running from a theoretical extension of First Street and South Second, which had not by then been extended fully south to Griffin Street.[9]

Like many early 1800s cemeteries, Griffin Street Cemetery was sited on what was then the outskirts of the developed city center, but development began to encroach on the burial ground at an early point. One 1850s local newspaper article noted that the city had taken "a portion" of the burial ground "for widening Griffin Street, exhuming a large number of bodies, &c."[10] This must have occurred between 1815, when the village map shows the cemetery interrupting the driftway that became Griffin Street, and 1834, when Griffin (then Butler) Street is shown as the cemetery's southern boundary.

According to local historian Leonard Bolles Ellis, at the time Griffin Street Cemetery was created "there is no evidence that any effort was made to secure this new burying-ground by municipal action. . . . It is evident that little if any expenditure was ever made upon the ground, beyond that which was absolutely necessary."[11] By 1843 public concern about the lack of attention to the cemetery was evident. James Bunker Congdon noted that neither the town (which did not own the cemetery) nor the cemetery's trustees cared for the spot. "The poet's picture of the neglected grave yard is not a poet's fiction," he stated. "We need not go far to behold the revolting reality." Over time, he noted, Griffin Street Cemetery had been "left without any to care for it," and its "neglected and ruinous condition" compelled the town to place a fence around it as a "a defense against intrusion," even as records suggest the fence was originally put in place by the trustees acting on behalf of the original subscribers.

As the robust whaling-based economy propelled New Bedford's growth, citizens began to perceive Griffin Street Cemetery as far too small, inauspiciously sited, and outmoded. In 1837 another privately held burial ground, Rural Cemetery, had been created on what was then the city's western edge; it, too, was small, at least compared to its eventual extent. In the early 1840s town officials appointed a committee to study the need for additional burial space in the city, and the committee's report appears to be the first public expression of sentiment about Griffin Street. Based on its analysis of late 1830s burials at Griffin Street, Congdon noted, the committee "ascertained that not more than 600 additional interments can be made in the common burying ground, situated in the southerly part of the village," and the number of burials between 1836 and 1839 suggested that "the whole ground will become completely occupied in less than five years."[12] Congdon called Griffin Street Cemetery "the only public Burying place in town," which was not strictly true; it continued to be owned by the descendants of the original trustees into the

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marriage, or Ellis was mistaken; Zebedee MacDaniel, part of whose marker survives, died and was buried in March of that year.

[9] "Village of New Bedford 1834"; "Map of the City of New Bedford and the Village of Fair Haven from Actual Survey by H. F. Walling 1851," C. and A. Taber, New Bedford.

[10] New Bedford *Republican Standard*, December 8, 1853, 3:4. Robert R. Murphy, "New Bedford Historical Sketch: How the Core Community Grew" (2008) does not show a date for the widening of the street.

[11] Congdon, *Oak Grove Cemetery*, 9-10; Ellis, *History of New Bedford*, 724-25.

[12] [James B. Congdon], "Proceedings of the Town on the Subject of a Public Burying Ground," Congdon Papers, New Bedford Free Public Library.

early 20th century. Congdon may have meant instead that, compared to Rural Cemetery, people could be interred at the "common burying ground" without having acquired lots or shares in the corporation; Rural Cemetery may not originally have devoted any of its space to "public ground" for indigent and transient burials.

Congdon and the committee also found Griffin Street Cemetery wanting when judged against the tenets of the then-popular Rural Cemetery Movement. It was flat and featureless—probably, like many early urban cemeteries, lacking trees and shrubs. He criticized the cemetery's setting amidst "the habitations and workshops of our busy population, where the rattling wheels of commerce, and the noise of the mechanic's hammer, if they do not disturb the repose of the dead, break harshly upon the ears and feelings of the living who . . . go to the grave to weep there."[13]

The physical situation of the cemetery also made it vulnerable to the press of the city's expansion. In October 1850, unidentified petitioners asked the city to extend South Second Street "over part of the Common Burying Ground, so called," which would have sliced a triangular section from the west side of the parallelogram-shaped ground.[14] City officials noted, however, that the cemetery was legally owned by the descendants of trustees Roger Haskell and Asa Smith, only one of whom was then living, and that state law prevented platting any street over a private burial ground without the consent of its owners. At least according to newspaper accounts, the matter then lay dormant for nearly three years. In August 1853, the city's Committee on Laying out and Widening Streets advised against extending South Second Street. "There is a good deal of feeling in the matter, by those who have friends interred there," the newspaper reported, "yet the improvement is deemed to be absolutely necessary, and there is no doubt but that it will sooner or later be made."[15]

In the face of such objections, municipal officials opted to learn "the sense of the people on the matter" before acting. Melatiah H. Pierce, however, did not wait for this determination: the town granted his request to remove a body of a friend from Griffin Street to another unnamed cemetery.[16] Between January and November 1854 the city clearly had decided to extend South Second Street through the burial ground. "The work of exhuming the bodies interred in the old Burial Ground, preparatory to building the extension of South Second street through the premises, will be commenced immediately," the city's *Republican Standard* reported in the latter month. "The City Authorities have made ample provisions for the interment of the exhumed in the other cemeteries of the city. The street will probably be opened for the public travel in a very short time." The city purchased lots for those who wished to move friends and relatives, a process that may have taken some time; by early April 1855 the newspaper stated that lots in other cemeteries had been procured, but the article does not indicate that the exhumations had in fact occurred.[17]

The taking of cemetery land for South Second Street may be apparent in what today seems a peculiar placement of stones (photo 8). The markers over the graves of two of Benjamin Hill's daughters, Elizabeth Stackhouse (died 1849) and Anna C. Sowle (died 1821), face west with scarcely a foot of space between them and the cemetery's stone wall along South Second Street (photo 7). The stone for Hill himself (died 1823) was almost surely close by, but has not survived. It seems probable either that none of the Hill family graves were moved when South Second Street was cut through, or that the stones were

[13] Congdon, *Oak Grove Cemetery*, 9.
[14] *Republican Standard*, October 3, 1850, 3:3.
[15] Ibid., August 25, 1853, 3:4.
[16] Ibid., January 26, 1854, 3:3.
[17] Ibid., November 2, 1854, 2:5, 3:3, and April 5, 1855, 2:2.

left standing after the bodies were removed in favor of new markers in new settings. According to one city document, burials continued at Griffin Street Cemetery until 1881, though neither burial records nor stones indicate as much; according to 20th-century listings the latest surviving markers were for 92-year-old Mary Allen, who died in December 1854, and 57-year-old Eliza Wood, who died in May 1855.

The 1871 Beers atlas shows the cemetery in its current trapezoidal configuration. In that year it was surrounded by modest single- and multifamily dwellings, small shops, and a large bowling alley on the east side; just further east was a box factory, a picture frame factory, and the Samuel Leonard and Son oil and candle factory and oil sheds. Diagonally across South Second Street to the northwest was the carriage factory of G. L. Brownell. The cemetery's waterfront neighborhood was then already densely urban, and it changed only in the types and names of factories and shops, and in the ethnic background of its residents. By 1906 Brownell's carriage factory was still operating, but the Leonard oil works had become Green and Wood Lumber Company, which occupied the site for decades. T. W. Croacher's sash, door, and blind factory occupied the site of the former bowling alley. Tenements had been built amid the earlier housing, and the existence nearby of the City Mission and Mission Church signified the neighborhood's general economic standing. By 1911 the neighborhood was occupied largely by recent Jewish and Portuguese immigrants, and in 1939 the U. S. Housing Administration began to construct Bay Village, one of the first public housing projects in the nation, across South Second Street from the cemetery.

Geographer Thomas Harvey has observed that, while rare today, relocating cemeteries close to city cores was once "common"; the geographer William Pattison found in 1955 that every cemetery that had existed in Philadelphia in 1850 had been moved to permit urban expansion by 1900.[18] The effort to discontinue Griffin Street Cemetery was revived toward the end of the 19th century. In 1889 the city council petitioned the state legislature to allow the city to remove all bodies, secure it legal title to the burial ground, and accord it the power either to convert the cemetery to public use or sell it; in the latter case, proceeds of the sale were to be deposited in a cemetery fund. Despite Ellis's statement three years later that the city had spent little time or money on the Griffin Street site, the city solicitor told the judiciary committee that the city "has been to considerable expense to keep up this burial ground. Advertisements in the local papers for information of relatives of persons buried there have been met with no response, and nothing has been done by private parties to care for graves. What the city desires is to have authority to remove the bodies from the cemetery, and to be plain about the matter, the city desires to get the burial ground out of the way." Its situation made it unsuitable for a public park, he said, and one city councilor offered his view that the land would be better used if Bedford Street were extended through the burial ground to the river and the land subdivided and sold.[19]

The legislature was clearly unresponsive to the city's request in 1889. Despite its lack of title to the property, the city continued to maintain the wood fence, but by the end of the century neglect had intensified. The 1893 report of the city's superintendent of burial grounds described the Griffin Street burial ground:

> The cemetery at the corner of Second and Griffin streets, lying as it does in the midst of the city, in its present neglected condition, although it has not yet relapsed into the wretched state from which it was recovered some years since, and has received some slight attentions at the hands of the present superintendent, is a demoralizing influence

[18] Thomas Harvey, "Sacred Spaces, Common Places: The Cemetery in the Contemporary American City," *Geographical Review* 96, 2 (2006), Questia.com.
[19] "The Old South Burial Ground," *Evening Standard*, February 20, 1889.

> upon the minds of the community, inasmuch as it is now used as a goat pasture. This cemetery should either be removed, or kept in such condition as will inspire respect.[20]

In 1896, the Cemetery Board was permitted to take down "the unoccupied and decaying tomb" of the Pope and Greenleaf families, which had been built in the burial ground in 1803 and held fourteen bodies.[21] The precise location of that tomb is unknown. The board's fourth annual report in January 1899 noted that "intelligible inscriptions still remain" on "the ancient tombstones" at Griffin Street, "but the majority of interments are unknown, and nothing but the grassed mound remains as a silent tribute to the memory of the dead." In addition, a storm on November 26-27, 1898, had blown down 23 trees and 150 feet of wood fence and toppled 27 headstones in the old burial ground. The board in 1899 directed the city's cemetery superintendent to commission the florist firm of Jahn Brothers to install three "large ornamental flower beds" as well as ornamental trees, thus turning this "cheerless spot . . . once abandoned to a playground and pasture" into a space "sacredly devoted to the burial of the dead."[22] According to cemetery board records, the beds were installed in 1902, and one of only two known historic photographs of Griffin Street Cemetery appears to have been taken to document that improvement (fig. 1). Still, the general deterioration of the cemetery seems to have proceeded with little pause. "The perfunctory care of preceding years had reduced its condition to little better than a neglected field," one city document noted in 1904. ". . . As years have rolled by, the effect of time has been made apparent in the loss of many old tablets, and the disfigurement of others, and in the general effacement of some of the inscriptions, quaint and interesting relics of the past."[23]

In 1903 the heirs of James Davis asked the city to discontinue Griffin Street Cemetery on the grounds that "the area could then be developed for industrial purposes," a baffling request in view of the fact that Davis had sold the cemetery tract to Haskell and Smith more than a century earlier; both the city and the Davis heirs appeared unaware that the heirs had no legal title to the ground.[24] The Davis heirs offered to cover the cost of removing all of the bodies there to another cemetery and resetting all the headstones. However, then-mayor Charles Ashley discovered that no cemetery that had existed for a century or more could be discontinued without a special act of the state legislature; in addition, relatives of people interred at Griffin Street continued to oppose the move.

Ashley rejected the Davis heirs' request, but by 1902 the city's Board of Cemetery Commissioners was nonetheless placed "in charge" of the Griffin Street burial ground. The cemetery commissioners' report of that year lists Griffin Street as one of four owned and maintained by the city and noted that they had made "a special effort" that year to record the inscriptions on existing stones and to supplement that record with

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[20] Superintendent of Burial Grounds Annual Report, March 1, 1892- March 1, 1893, clipping from unidentified newspaper, September 15, 1893, New Bedford Cemetery Board Scrap Book #1, Rural Cemetery, New Bedford.
[21] "The Old South Burial Ground," *Evening Standard*, February 20, 1889; *Second Annual Report of the Cemetery Board for the Year 1896* (New Bedford: E. Anthony and Sons, 1897).
[22] "New Bedford's Silent Cities: Cemetery Board Presents Its Fourth Annual Report," January 13, 1899, New Bedford Cemetery Scrap Book #1.
[23] *Ninth Annual Report of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners, New Bedford, Mass. For the Year Ending December 3, 1903*, City Document No. 15 1904 (New Bedford: A. E. Coffin Press, 1904).
[24] "Plan to Abandon Griffin St. Cemetery," unidentified newspaper, December 24, 1903, New Bedford Cemetery Board Scrap Book #1. This article states that New Bedford village had acquired the burying ground from Davis "101 years ago," but deeds and city reports indicate that the cemetery was in fact privately held.

information from other sources. This "substantial record" was to be kept at the board's office in downtown New Bedford.[25]

In 1903, New Bedford's cemetery board declared its view of the importance of the old cemetery. "What the 'King's Chapel Burying Ground,' situated in the heart of the commercial life of Boston, is to the City of Boston," it stated, "Griffin Street Cemetery should be to the City of New Bedford." The board stated that over the past year it had "entirely renovated" the burial ground, had somehow screened it from "the unsightly surroundings," had kept up and painted the fence, and had planted shrubs and trees. In that year the board planted twenty trees and shrubs, including an Oriental plane tree and three "flower and shrub beds" including catalpa, hydrangea, and Rose of Sharon. Itemized board expenses laid out in the next year's report showed that seven shrubs had been planted in the Griffin Street ground but mentioned no other plantings of any sort, including trees. The city spent $52.95, all of it in labor, on the cemetery in 1904, compared to more than $15,000 for Rural Cemetery and nearly $13,000 for Oak Grove Cemetery.[26] In 1909, only five years after the matter seemed to have been settled, city missionary Charles F. Hersey suggested that Griffin Street Cemetery be converted into a park on the grounds that "small breathing spaces in the congested district along the water front and in the lower portions of the city" were more urgently needed than large parks on the city's outskirts. Hersey averred that "a large part of this [cemetery] is not covered with graves and many of these there are those of people who have no relatives living or interested in the preservation of these graves." But, as was the case with earlier proposals to reinter the Griffin Street bodies elsewhere, Hersey's was not heeded.[27]

After this first burst of interest in improving the old cemetery, the city's effort in the burial ground consisted in most years of mowing the grass, weeding the flowerbeds, and painting the board fence that surrounded most of it; the expense of improvement and repairs rarely exceeded $50 annually. In 1916 the city's acting superintendent of cemeteries noted that the cemetery was "continuously subject to trespass by many children who live near the grounds and who are indifferent to the feeling of respect which all should have for places of this character." The city assigned a caretaker to the grounds, but it is unclear how much of his time was spent at Griffin Street alone.[28] In 1923 New Bedford sash, door, and blind manufacturer Thomas W. Croacher, whose father's first wife had been buried at Griffin Street in 1831, and whose business abutted the cemetery on the east, donated materials for a new board fence (see fig. 1) that cemetery department employees installed on the east side of the burial ground.[29]

By the 1930s, the Daughters of the American Revolution deemed Griffin Street Cemetery "well kept." Still, dereliction made the job of recording marker inscriptions—paid for by the New England Historical Genealogical Society's Eddy Town Fund and done in preparation for the society's volumes of town vital statistics published in the 1940s—frustrating. "Of the 55,000 or more stones which I have looked at this cemetery is by far the most unsatisfactory," the New Bedford chronicler wrote, and added that eleven interments appeared in the city's "Cemetery Book" but had no corresponding gravestone. "Probably they are (1) stones which are broken & then the inscription pieces have been faced and the stones put in the

[25] *Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners New Bedford, Mass., for the Year Ending December 3 1902* (New Bedford: E. Anthony & Sons, 1903).
[26] *Ninth Annual Report of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners New Bedford, Mass., for the Year Ending December 3 1903* (New Bedford: E. Anthony & Sons, 1904).
[27] "Cemetery for Playground," unidentified clipping, ca. April 1909, New Bedford Cemetery Board Scrap Book 1.
[28] *Twenty-First Annual Report of the Board of Cemetery for the Year Ending December 5, 1915* (New Bedford: A. E. Coffin Press, 1916).
[29] *Twenty-Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts, for the year Ending November 30, 1923* (New Bedford: Baker Manufacturing Co., 1924).

ground again with inscriptions inside thus impossible to see—Or (2) the names are now impossible to decipher, or (3) the bodies have been removed to other cemeteries. Undertakers of today tell me they have done this in several instances."[30]

Beginning in 1937 the Works Projects Administration replaced the wood fence on the north, south, and west sides, described as a "constant expense to the department," with a stone wall, and probably soon after 1947 the city installed a "wire fence" along the east boundary in place of the board fence built there 24 years earlier. In 1954 the city authorized its cemetery superintendent to "clean up the ancient cemetery on the east side of 2d Street between Griffin Street and Morgan Lane," chiefly by removing "old field stone grave markers" and putting "concrete flat markers" in their place to make maintenance easier. Though some of these markers may have been removed at the time, there is no evidence that flat markers were ever installed in their place.[31]

Interments and Markers

How many stones have disappeared from Griffin Street Cemetery since its founding in 1802 can only be conjectured. No complete record of interments at Griffin Street Cemetery exists, and if any systematic record was compiled in the 19th century, it has not survived. The only figures known to exist about the numbers interred there during the cemetery's active life appear in an 1843 statement by James Bunker Congdon, one of the town's most prominent citizens and a meticulous local historian. Congdon stated that in the four years between 1836 and 1839, 508 persons had been buried at Griffin Street, for an average of 127 persons each year.[32] If that average had pertained in the 33 years of the cemetery's existence before 1836, another 4,191 persons would have been buried at Griffin Street, for a total of 4,699 persons. It is doubtful, however, that such was the case. Of 299 stones existing to 1917, the greatest proportion (42.5 %) were for burials in the years 1831 to 1840; the next largest group was 1821 to 1830 (30.1 %), then 1811 to 1820 (13.4 %), 1841 to 1850 (7.7 %), 1802 to 1810 (5.7 %), and finally 1851 to 1860 (0.7 %). The city's population more than tripled between 1820 and 1840, while it had actually lost population between 1810 and 1820 and had grown slowly between 1790 and 1810. The decades of highest population growth match the decades of greatest number of interments, judging by stones surviving in 1917; if this correlation may be trusted, it thus seems likely that average interments by year were lower before 1836 than they were between 1836 and 1839. Still, it is probable that well over a thousand people were buried at Griffin Street before it became an officially "closed" cemetery in the 1880s.

The earliest known attempt to record burials at Griffin Street Cemetery dates to 1902, when the city of New Bedford assumed full responsibility and ownership of the cemetery. What became of this record is unknown, though an undated and partial list from the New Bedford Free Public Library scrapbook collection may be this list. The scrapbook list was clearly compiled from markers, and it is the only one extant that shows full inscriptions as well as the existence of rows within Griffin Street Cemetery. In

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[30] Griffin Street Cemetery Inscriptions, prepared by New Bedford branch, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1938, folder 8, MSS 807, New England Historical Genealogical Society, Boston.

[31] *Forty-Third Annual Report of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners for the Year Ending December 31, 1937* (New Bedford: Bradbury-Waring, 1938); Fifty-Second *Annual Report of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners for the Year Ending December 31, 1946* (New Bedford: American Press, 1947); "Private Tomb Owner Sought," *Standard-Times*, January 28, 1954, 30:3.

[32] Congdon stated that 136 persons had been buried at Griffin Street in 1836 (ten markers survived in 1917), 109 in 1837 (eleven markers survived), 159 in 1838 (ten markers survived), and 106 in 1839 (four survived to 1917). [James B. Congdon], "Proceedings of the Town on the Subject of a Public Burying Ground," Congdon Papers, New Bedford Free Public Library.

1917, local historian Henry B. Worth recorded 294 persons buried in this cemetery in an alphabetical list that includes only names, year of death, and age at death, which suggests it may have been compiled from cemetery records and not from gravestones. In 1938, the New Bedford chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution prepared a list, based on cemetery board records and markers, for the uniform volumes of town vital statistics published by the New England Historical Genealogical Society.[33] The DAR list includes 289 burials—thirteen included on Worth's list are not shown on the DAR list, and two not shown on Worth are shown on the DAR list. Judging from these two records, it would seem that some 300 stones marked burial sites at Griffin Street Cemetery in the early 1900s. Thus at least 80 markers have since then sunken into the ground, or have been broken, removed elsewhere, stolen, or otherwise destroyed over roughly a century. Longtime residents recall the existence of many more stones in the northern half of the cemetery within the last 50 years than now exist, while the southern half has largely lacked grave markers over that time. The 1903 photograph of Griffin Street Cemetery suggests that the southern half was relatively free of markers at that time as well (see fig. 1). People who were children between 40 and 50 years ago remember playing ball games in the southern section.

A great many, if not most, of the persons interred at Griffin Street Cemetery were not among the most prominent of early New Bedford families, in large part because many of the most affluent and influential persons before the 1820s were members of the Society of Friends. In 1922, Worth had observed that downtown New Bedford was originally occupied by the non-Quaker Kempton farm and the farm of Quaker Joseph Russell, with Elm Street as the dividing line. "It was practically a fact," he wrote, "that the residents north of Elm street worked for the Quakers, who lived south."[34] Thus, while birthright Quakers from such families as the Russells and Rotches were generally buried at the 1793 Friends Cemetery to the east, members of such well-known, early non-Quaker families as the Kemptons, Jenneys, and Spooners were laid to rest at Griffin Street. At least fourteen Kemptons were buried at Griffin Street. Exceptions to the rule do appear to exist, however: several Griffin Street markers used the Quaker method of dating, and such families as the Allens, Hathaways, and Howlands, many of whose members were faithful members of the Society of Friends, have members buried at Griffin Street, possibly because they had married non-Quakers whose family members were already buried there.

Some interred in this cemetery were notable in the city's early history. Captain Gamaliel Bryant (died 1814), later a New Bedford grocer, was among the Dartmouth men who marched to Roxbury two days after the battles of Lexington and Concord, and was a member of the town's revolutionary Committees of Safety, Correspondence, and Inspection. Bryant's wife Deborah, his son Gamaliel's wife Mary, and her children Harriet, Mary, and Oliver are also buried at Griffin Street. Timothy Ingraham (died 1816) was the co-commander of a force of 32 men who attempted to defend the fort that earlier stood on the site of Fairhaven's Fort Phoenix when the British attacked and destroyed it on 5-6 September 1778. His widow Sarah Coggeshall Ingraham, son David, and daughter Almy Ingraham Claghorn are interred nearby. Aurilla Ingraham Howland, the wife of merchant James H. Howland, was probably also a daughter of Timothy Ingraham; their children Rodolphus Wing, Aurilla, Granville Orlando, and James E., who died

[33] "Record of Persons Buried in Griffin Street Cemetery," from Henry B. Worth, comp., "Some Old Burial Grounds in New Bedford and Vicinity" (typescript, 1917), New Bedford Free Public Library; untitled list inscribed "see scrapbook #1 pg 30 & 44," City of New Bedford Planning Department files; Griffin Street Cemetery Inscriptions, prepared by New Bedford branch, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1938, folder 8, MSS 807, New England Historical Genealogical Society, Boston..

[34] Henry B. Worth, "Sketches of Old Dartmouth Presented to New Bedford Chapter, D.A.R." (Paper, December 28, 1922), 15, New Bedford Free Public Library. Mary Kempton Taber, ("The Kempton Family in Old Dartmouth," Old Dartmouth Historical Sketches 21 (1908), 7) wrote, "The singular fact is that the Congregationalists resided north of Union street, the Quakers south of Union street."

between the ages of three months and twelve years between 1810 and 1823, are all buried there, though their parents are buried at Rural Cemetery. Numerous examples exist of infants and young children buried at Griffin Street whose parents and older siblings, having died after the opening of new cemeteries, are interred elsewhere; whether the children were later moved into family plots in other city cemeteries is unknown.

Little can be known about the many ordinary people buried here; censuses before 1850 provide virtually no personal data, the city did not publish directories until 1836, and local histories tend to mention only the best-known of local people. Because nearly all of those interred at Griffin Street Cemetery died before 1850, most are difficult, if not impossible, to document.

Several persons of foreign birth were interred at Griffin Street. The gravestone of John Battiste notes that he was a native of Italy and had been a resident of New Bedford for seventeen years; he died in 1836 at the age of 39. Though little is known about him, Joseph Sylvia was probably a native of Portugal; buried here in 1832, he was sufficiently well known to warrant a newspaper announcement of his death and funeral (photo 9). Manuel Jolert, almost certainly Portuguese, was buried at Griffin Street in 1844. The wife and two-year-old daughter of hat and cap maker Anton Etzler, probably a German immigrant, were buried in the cemetery in 1838 and 1834, respectively. Another stone is inscribed, "In memory of Mr. Charles L. A. Cottu a native of France and a resident in the U.S. for the last 25 years of his life who died July 23, 1832 aged 46." Cottu was a New Bedford confectioner and, in the year he died, the proprietor of a museum. A newspaper advertisement for his "Exhibition Room and Cabinet" noted its "fine assortment" of shells from the oceans and inland lakes, 420 different specimens of minerals, European oil paintings and engravings, and "ancient coins." The notice continued, "Next week he expects a number of Wax Figures among which will be a very good likeness of the Siamese Boys," no doubt a reference to the Siamese twins Chang and Eng Bunker, who had been touring the world since 1829.[35]

Griffin Street Cemetery was also racially integrated. At least six of those recorded in 1917 as interred here were people of color. Ardelia Broacher was termed "a respectable woman of color" at her death in 1833; her husband Charles, a cooper, died on board the whaling vessel *William Hamilton* seven years later.[36] Ruth Ann Modon, who died at the age of nineteen in 1842, was the wife of Freeland Modon, a man of color who had come to New Bedford, perhaps from New York, by 1837; he was in the crew of the Fairhaven whaler *Joseph Maxwell* that year, and later ran a shop and restaurant on First Street in New Bedford. The African American couple William (died 1836) and Leader Vincent (died 1832) are also buried at Griffin Street. Vincent ran a boardinghouse for mariners of color in New Bedford in the 1830s, and was the city's first agent for the *Liberator*, William Lloyd Garrison's abolitionist newspaper.[37] Martha S. Pierce was the "colored" wife of mariner Severino D. Pierce and the daughter of James W. Danzell, an Afro-Indian mariner from Newport, Rhode Island, who had died in 1840 on board the New Bedford ship *Minerva Smith*. At least one Indian, Jane B. Wamsley of Gay Head on Martha's Vineyard, is also buried here. The daughter of Salsbury Wamsley (ca. 1783-1825) and his wife Jane B. Robbins, identified as "half Indian, half white"in the 1823 Gay Head census, Wamsley died at the age of twenty-three in New Bedford; the Mercury identified her as "a worth member of the Third Christian Church," the city's first church to be founded by people of African descent, "and . . . much esteemed by all who knew

[35] New Bedford *Daily Mercury*, July 16, 1832, 3:1.
[36] Ardelia Broacher's death is recorded in *New-Bedford Mercury*, May 28, 1833; her husband's death is reported in ibid., August 20, 1841, 3:2.
[37] Other possible people of color buried here are Elizabeth Jackson (died 1833), wife of Charles, and Caroline Elizabeth Johnson (died 1830).

her."[38] The markers for all of these persons appear to have been extant through the late 1930s, but none has survived into the current day.

Griffin Street Markers and Known Carvers

Carvers are known for at least nine extant stones at Griffin Street Cemetery. Isaac Thompson, Jr. (1781-1830) carved the stones of Sarah Wilbur (died 1810), William Tuckerman (died 1812), Henry Beetle (died 1818; photo 9), and Nathan Winslow (died 1818; see photo 6).[39] Tuckerman was Wilbur's grandfather, and the two were buried side by side. The inscription panel of the Wilbur stone is decorated by festoons along the top and diagonally incised bands on each side; the Tuckerman marker has scalloped edging on the sides and bottom. These four stones are slate, and all carry the urn-and-willow motif. The urn and willow on the marker for David H. Ellis, who died in 1824 at the age of two, is almost identical to those on the Nathan Winslow stone, though historian James Blachowicz, who identified the Wilbur, Tuckerman, and Beetle markers as the work of Thompson, did not ascribe Ellis's stone to this carver.

Born in Middleborough, Massachusetts, Thompson's father and namesake, Isaac Thompson, Sr. (1746-1819), was a gravestone carver whose "extended family," according to Blachowicz, included at least eight carvers. Isaac Thompson, Jr. moved from Middleborough to Fairhaven, across the Acushnet River from New Bedford, by 1804. Blachowicz has suggested that he may have worked in the shop of Miles Jones (died 1820), who had himself worked in the shop of Boston carvers Henry Christian Geyer and John Just Geyer, Jr. before moving to New Bedford, probably about 1812. Jones worked in New Bedford in only 1812 and 1814-15, but no stones in Griffin Street Cemetery have yet been attributed to him. Thompson's shop was in Fairhaven "at the east end of Bedford bridge," and his October 18, 1811, advertisement in the *New-Bedford Mercury* indicated that potential purchasers might apply to him there or through Captain Benjamin Hill in New Bedford village, who was buried at Griffin Street Cemetery in 1822. Hill's wife Ruth was buried there in 1809; his sons Joseph and Richard, both in their early twenties, were interred in this burial ground in 1815 and 1816; and his daughters Anna C. Sowle and Elizabeth Stackhouse were also buried there. Two stones in Griffin Street Cemetery are similar to the four Blachowicz has ascribed to Thompson, but both feature urns with elaborate flames—those of John Gostree (see photo 4) and of Deborah Brown, both interred in 1807. The neoclassical, draped urns, the flames, the stylized willows, and the lettering all differ in some degree from the Isaac Thompson, Jr. stones. The lettering on the Gostree and Brown markers is similar to that found on the later stones of Thompson's father, Isaac Thompson of Middleboro, while the flame on the Brown urn resembles those found on some markers carved by Bostonian John Just Geyer, Sr. (1758-1808).

As was the case with many gravestone carvers, Isaac Thompson, Jr. (like his father, an attorney and state legislator) may have first produced gravestones as a sideline to his main retail business, which ceased to operate in 1810. He kept a stonecarving workshop in New Bedford from that year until 1814, when he moved to the town of Rochester, northeast of the city. Blachowicz has noted that Thompson continued to carve stones for New Bedford and other area burial grounds after his move. He has identified 268 Thompson stones in cemeteries as far east as Falmouth on Cape Cod, as far south as Nantucket and

[38] *New-Bedford Mercury*, March 6, 1840, quoted in Andrew R. Pierce, e-mail to author, April 17, 2012.

[39] James Blachowicz, *From Slate to Marble: Gravestone Carving Traditions in Eastern Massachusetts, 1770-1870* (Evanston, IL: Graver Press, 2006), Appendix 5, CD-83 and 84 (accompanying book), incorrectly list Tuckerman's name as Tucker and Beetle's name as Beeble. Blachowicz based his identification of carvers on their records, probate records of the deceased, and stylistic features. The Wilbur stone is shown as fig. 3.42 on the compact disk included in Blachowicz's book.

Martha's Vineyard, and as far north as Bridgewater, some 50 of which are in New Bedford, Acushnet, and Fairhaven; no stones have been identified in graveyards west of New Bedford.[40]

Blachowicz attributed none of the markers in Griffin Street Cemetery to Elisha Hinman Everett, who was born in 1802 in Wareham and who advertised his stonecarving business in the *New-Bedford Mercury* in June 1826.[41] Everett was paid for carving at least three markers in New Bedford between 1828 and 1830. He married Susan Jenney of New Bedford in 1828, and the couple's nine children were born in New Bedford between 1829 and 1844. He is not listed in the 1836 or 1839 city directories, but by 1849 Everett is listed as an "ornamental stone cutter" working for carver Joseph Allen, Jr. at his shop on North Second Street. Everett's son Hinman Luther Everett died in September 1832, just five days after his first birthday, and is buried at Griffin Street. It seems likely that his father—or possibly Joseph Allen, Jr., who was in business as a stonecutter in New Bedford from at least 1836—carved his grave marker. It is not extant, but one that has survived, for Eliza Bosworth (photo 10), who died in 1838, is identical in nearly every respect to one Allen carved and signed in 1837 for the grave of Susan S. Nichols at New Bedford's Rural Cemetery. Everett's training in Allen's shop is evident from the similarity of the marker he is documented to have carved in Wareham in 1823 to Allen's markers.[42] Everett appears to have left the city about 1850, for he is not listed in directories after 1849. When he returned to New Bedford to marry Betsey C. Kempton in 1864, he was shown as a marble worker living in Stonington, Connecticut.[43] Allen, by contrast, is listed as a stonecutter (and later marble worker) in New Bedford directories from 1836 through 1876. After his death in 1879 his business was carried on into the 20th century by Frederick Allen, probably a nephew, and then by Frederick's son, Frederick E. Allen.[44]

Blachowicz has attributed one Griffin Street Cemetery stone, that of Anna C. Sowle (died 1821), to Daniel Gerrish (about 1792-1838), who established Daniel Gerrish and Company in New Bedford in September 1819. Gerrish advertised in the September 17 *New-Bedford Mercury* that he had on hand various stone products, among them gravestones and "tomb tables," and he advertised marble and slate gravestones in a March 1821 issue of the same newspaper. By 1825, Gerrish had moved to Portsmouth, New Hampshire.[45] John B. Taylor (born about 1799) carved the Griffin Street stones of Edward Ayers (photo 11), Enoch Staples, and James Wood, all of whom died in 1831, and Obed Kempton, who died in 1833. Blachowicz has suggested that Taylor may have worked in the shop of Boston carver Richard Adams, and by June 1830 he had taken over the shop formerly occupied by Elisha Hinman Everett. Blachowicz has identified five stones that Taylor signed between 1826 and 1863, but if any were among the four at Griffin Street, the signature is no longer visible. The Ayers stone of 1831 is identical to the stone for his wife Joanna (see photo 11), who died a decade earlier; the inscriptions appear to be of the same hand, and both feature a willow in an oval medallion. Blachowicz cites no evidence that Taylor was working in New Bedford at the time; it is possible that he carved a new stone for Joanna Ayers at the time he carved that of Edward Ayers.

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[40] Blachowicz, *From Slate to Marble*, Appendix 5, CD 82-85.
[41] Ibid. Blachowicz stated that Everett had children in New Bedford between 1829 and 1844, but neither he nor Taylor are listed in the first city directory of 1836.
[42] Blachowich, *From Slate to Marble*, 388 n. 34 and CD Fig. 3.70. Four other of Everett's children—James T. (1836-37), the twins Cornelia and Amelia (born and died 1838), and Charles Hosmer (1844-45)—died young but were not buried at Griffin Street.
[43] Betsey C. Everett is shown as a fifty-four-year-old widow in the 1870 census for New Bedford, so Everett must have died by then; no death record has been found for him in Massachusetts.
[44] Blachowicz, *From Slate to Marble*, 93-101, 333.
[45] Ibid., 333.

Though the date of the last interment at Griffin Street Cemetery is unknown, no burials are claimed to have been made there since at least 1881. Untold numbers of pedestrians traverse the grounds daily, and for many decades people have used the cemetery for various recreational activities. Unrelated use, vandalism, and long periods of neglect have caused serious losses in the cemetery, to the degree that literally dozens of markers intact only decades ago have either disappeared, broken, or seemingly receded into the ground. As the city's earliest surviving and only truly urban cemetery, Griffin Street Cemetery is in grave need of protection to arrest further degradation of its resources.

There has been resurgence in the public's interest in New Bedford's cemeteries as important historic resources. The New Bedford Preservation Society hosts annual cemetery tours, a living history program in which residents in period costume represent past residents, both well-known and obscure, at their gravesites. These tours attract hundreds of residents and visitors to the city's cemeteries, and in 2012 the society conducted tours in two different cemeteries that focused on the Civil War era. In addition, cemetery workshops and tours were part of the New Bedford Whaling Museum's first genealogy symposium in September 2001. The cemetery tour was so popular that the museum conducted a second session.

Still, New Bedford's cemeteries have experienced continued vandalism, and city cemetery staff have begun an aggressive effort to restore damaged stones and monuments. Cemetery employees have recently been placed under the direction of a new city department, which has enhanced resources available to maintain the vast acreage of city cemeteries. In November 2011, cemetery staff attended the Historic Cemetery Preservation Workshop hosted by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, and the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust.

Another restoration effort is conducted by Stone by Stone, a decade-old summer youth program that puts teens to work repairing deteriorated or damaged gravestones in the city's cemeteries. The program is a collaboration between New Directions, a local nonprofit that runs career centers and youth work programs, and the New Bedford public school system. The New Bedford Historical Society joined this collaborative effort by identifying graves of historically important people whose markers need repair.

The city's Cemetery Board is comprised of five members appointed by the mayor and approved by the city council for three-year terms. The board meets monthly to oversee spending of monies collected from Perpetual Care and the sale of lots. It also votes on and establishes rules and regulations pertaining to city cemeteries. A local historian who has been instrumental in bringing public attention to vandalism in the cemeteries has recently been appointed to the Cemetery Board.

The city's preservation planner, in collaboration with the Cemetery Board, Cemetery Department, historical society, and preservation society, is currently seeking to bring a conservation expert to the city for first-hand instruction for cemetery staff.

Listing of the cemetery in the State and National Registers of Historic Places will enable the city to seek Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund support to repair several public burial tombs.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute important information related to the settlement of New Bedford Village, the social, economic, and cultural characteristics of the 19th- and 20th-century village residents, and the evolution of the Griffin Street Cemetery. Griffin Street survives as a colonial-period burial ground that predates the rural cemetery movement of the 1830s. Griffin Street became the city's oldest cemetery after four older cemeteries were closed because of urban

development. The cemetery survives as one of the few landscape and cultural features from New Bedford's late 18th- and early 19th-century settlement history, for which few survivals are known.

Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing within and around the current boundary of the cemetery, may identify the full range of graves present at the Griffin Street Cemetery. Unmarked graves may exist, and the current pattern of the gravestones may not, in every instance, reflect their actual placement. Gravestones were frequently removed from older cemeteries and then later replaced, at times in different locations and/or in different cemeteries. The discrepancies between some head- and footstones may also be the result of their relocation, possibly in the course of replacing vandalized stones. Gravestones were also erected as commemorative markers after their deaths by descendants of individuals. This scenario has been observed at other burial grounds in Massachusetts, and was likely in use at the Griffin Street Cemetery, especially for maritime related deaths. Archaeological research can help identify these graves, as well as later unmarked graves, resulting from stolen, damaged, and overgrown stones. Nineteenth- and 20th-century unmarked graves may also be present, representing paupers and unknown persons. Archaeological research can also help test the accuracy of the existing boundary of the cemetery. These boundaries may not accurately represent the actual cemetery boundaries. Some burials, possibly those of unknown persons, paupers, or other indigent persons, may have been intentionally buried outside the cemetery boundary. Artifact distributions may also be present associated with funerary or memorial services for specific individuals at their time of death, or individuals and groupings of individuals (possibly families) at later dates. While no structures are extant or historically known for the cemetery, additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate structural evidence of barns, stables, maintenance buildings, and outbuildings associated with the operation and maintenance of the cemetery. Occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also be present. Detailed analysis of the contents of these features may contribute important information on the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of cemetery workers and New Bedford residents that attended the Griffin Street Cemetery to pay respects for the dead.

Much of the above information can be obtained through unobtrusive archaeological research. That is, information can be obtained by mapping artifact concentrations and the locations of features such as grave shafts and post molds without disturbing actual skeletal remains. Remote sensing research techniques might also contribute useful information. Social, cultural, and economic information relating to the 19th- and 20th-century New Bedford village settlement can be obtained in this manner; however, more detailed studies can be implemented through the actual excavation of burials and their analysis. Osteological studies of individuals interred at the cemetery have the potential to contribute a wealth of information relating to the overall physical appearance of the city's inhabitants, their occupations, nutrition, pathologies, and causes of death. This information can also be used to determine the actual number of individuals interred at the burial ground. Osteological information can also provide detailed information about the inhabitants of a community during periods when written records are rare or non-existent. The paucity of written records is especially true for minority members of the community including Native Americans, African Americans, and Jewish and Portuguese immigrants. The overall context of the grave, including material culture remains can contribute information on burial practices, religious beliefs, economic status, family structure, and numerous other topics relating to the individual, their socioeconomic group, the overall settlement, and the differences and/or similarities between Quaker and non-Quaker society.

Fig. 1. Griffin Street Cemetery, ca. 1903, view from southwest showing three recently installed flower beds and wood fence along eastern boundary. New Bedford Cemetery Board records.

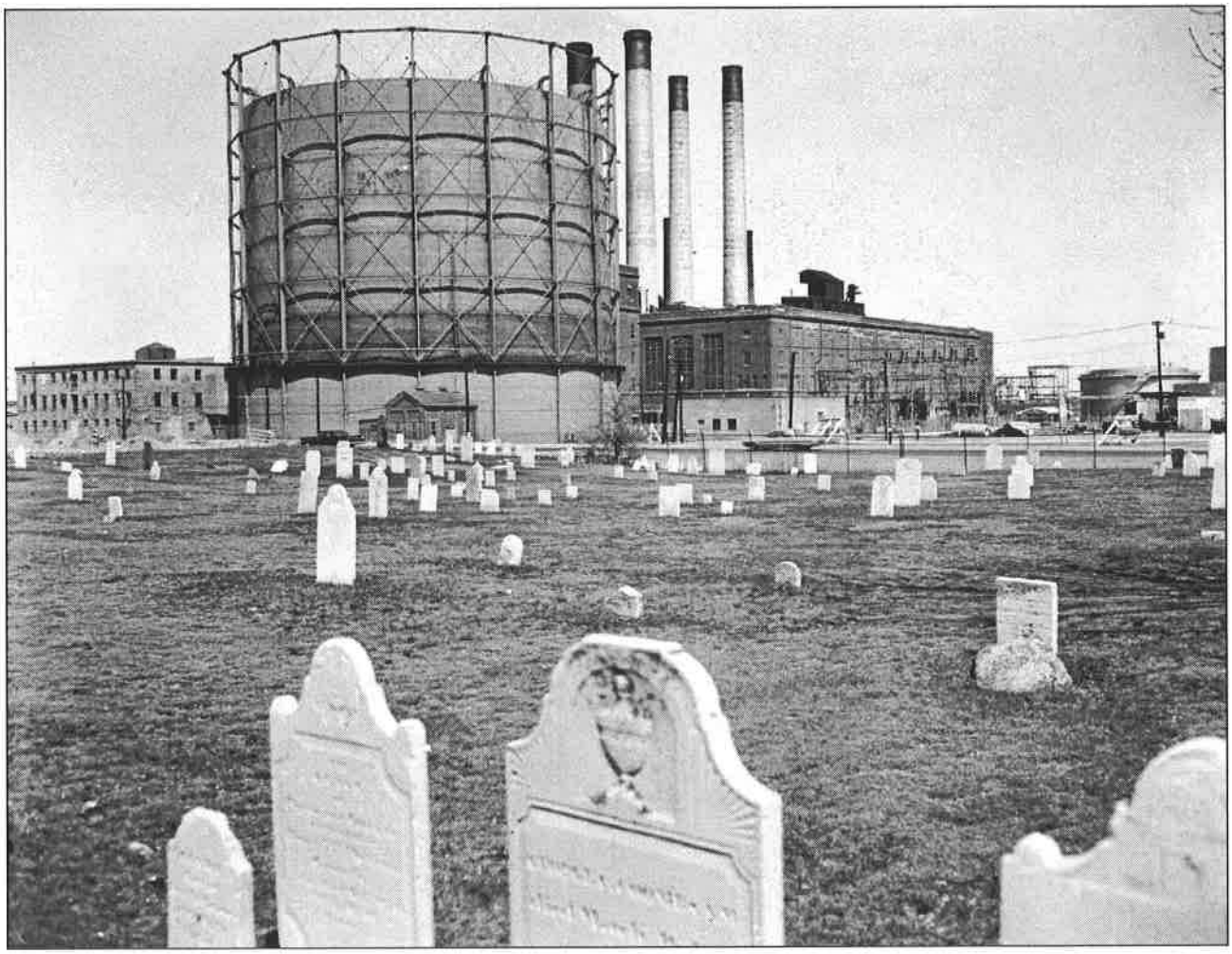

Fig. 2. Griffin Street Cemetery, view from southwest, ca. 1965. Courtesy Spinner Publications

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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MAPS

"Map of New Bedford in 1815 from a Plan Drawn at the Time by Gilbert Russell." Artotype. New Bedford: Charles Taber and Co., 1880.

"Village of New Bedford 1834."

"Map of the City of New Bedford and the Village of Fair Haven from Actual Survey by H. F. Walling 1851." New Bedford: C. and A. Taber.

"City of New Bedford." *Atlas of Bristol County, Massachusetts, from Actual Surveys*. New York: F. W. Beers and Co., 1871.

Atlas of New Bedford City, Massachusetts. Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1881.

New Topographical Atlas of Surveys, Bristol County, Massachusetts. Philadelphia: Everts and Richards, 1895.

Atlas of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts, Based on Plans in the Office of the City Engineer. Boston: Walker Lithograph and Publishing Co., 1911.

Insurance Maps of New Bedford including Fairhaven, Massachusetts. New York: Sanborn Map Company, November 1888, 1893, 1903, 1906, 1924, and 1924-August 1950.

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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
__x__ Local government
____ University
__x__ Other
Name of repository: Spinner Publications

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MHC # NBE.803, 9005-9023

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.69 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 41.628467 Longitude: -70.922681
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 19 Easting: 339842 Northing: 4610313
2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Griffin Street Cemetery is bounded on the north by property of the New Bedford Housing Authority, on the east by a triangle of vacant land bordering State Route 18, on the south by Griffin Street, and on the west by South Second Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These are the historical boundaries of the property from the city's last taking of land in 1854.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kathryn Grover with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director MHC
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission
street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125
e-mail betsy.friedberg@ sec.state.ma.us
telephone: 617-727-8470
date: January 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Griffin Street Cemetery

City or Vicinity: New Bedford

County: Bristol State: MA

Photographer: Kathryn Grover

Date Photographed: 15 December 2008 & 15 March 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 11. Griffin Street entrance, Griffin Street Cemetery, view from southwest, 15 December 2008.
2 of 11. View of Griffin Street Cemetery from northwest, 15 December 2008.
3 of 11. Marker initialed "S.M.," 15 December 2008.
4 of 11. Marker for John Gostree, 1807, 15 March 2012.
5 of 11. Marker for Benjamin Crowell Peckham, 1832, 15 December 2008.
6 of 11. Marker for Nathan Winslow, 1818, 15 December 2008.
7 of 11. Marker for Joseph Sylvia, 1836, 15 December 2008.
8 of 11. Markers facing west wall, Griffin Street Cemetery, 15 December 2008.
9 of 11. Marker for Henry Beetle, 1813, 15 March 2012.
10 of 11. Marker for Eliza Bosworth, 1838, 15 March 2012.
11 of 11. Markers for Edward Ayers, 1831, and Joanna Ayers, 1821, 15 December 2008.

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.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

GRIFFIN STREET CEMETERY

New Bedford (Bristol County), Massachusetts

DATA SHEET

Note: Locations are indicated on attached site map.

Site #	Image #	Feature	Date	Description	Material	Resource Type	Status
1	1	Griffin Street Cemetery, Griffin Street entrance	ca. 1938	Pillars with pyramidal caps	Granite, mortar	Structure	C
2	2	Griffin Street Cemetery	2012	Interior from NW	N/A	Site	C
3	3	"S.M." marker	n.d.	Fieldstone	Rough boulder with initials	Object	C
4	4	John Gostree marker	1807	Slate	Tablet with rounded pediment and shoulders; urn and willow motif	Object	C
5	5	Benjamin Crowell Peckham marker	1832	Marble	Tablet with pointed shoulders carved as willows; rounded pediment missing	Object	C
6	6	Nathan Winslow marker	1818	Slate	Tablet with scrolled pediment and shoulders; carved urn & willow; column and crosshatch borders	Object	C
7	7	Joseph Sylvia marker	1836	Slate	Broken and worn tablet with calligraphic inscription and epitaph	Object	C
8	8	West Wall and West-facing markers	Ca. 1850, ca. 1938	Slate, marble, granite		Object	C
9	9	Henry Beetle marker	1813	Slate	Tablet with rounded pediment and squared shoulders; willow tree in pediment and scalloping around inscription	Object	C
10	10	Eliza Bosworth marker	1838	Marble	Rectilinear tablet with willow and urn in relief within inset square medallion	Object	C

GRIFFIN STREET CEMETERY

New Bedford (Bristol County), Massachusetts

DATA SHEET

Note: Locations are indicated on attached site map.

Site #	Image #	Feature	Date	Description	Material	Resource Type	Status
11	11	Edward and Joanna Ayers markers	1821 & 1831	Marble	Rectilinear tablets with carved willow in oval medallion	Objects	2C
12		South Second Street entrance	Ca. 1938	Granite, mortar	Break in wall with remnants of iron chain/gate	Structure	C
13		Enclosure (unlabeled crypt?)	n.d.	Granite, mortar	Raised granite block structure; origin and purpose unknown	Structure	C
14		Plaque	n.d.	Granite	Flush marker citing trees "dedicated to peace" and planted by New Bedford Lions and Lioness Club	Object	NC
15		Mrs. Mary Hillman footstone	1810	Slate	Low tablet with rounded pediment and name in italic	Object	C
16		"N. A." marker	n.d.	Slate	Low rectangular tablet with incised initials	Object	C
17		Rodolphus Wing Howland marker	1810	Sandstone	Tall marker broken and reset upside down; form unclear	Object	C
18		Mary S. Rider marker	1848	Marble	Rectilinear tablet with epitaph	Object	C
19		Timothy Ingraham marker	1816	Slate	Broken and worn tablet with calligraphic inscription and epitaph	Object	C
20		Sarah Wilbur marker	1810	Slate	Tablet with double rounded pediment and squared shoulders; urn-and-willow motif	Object	C
21		William Tuckerman marker	1812	Slate	Tablet with rounded pediment and shoulders; carved urn and willow and scalloped edging on inscription panel	Object	C

GRIFFIN STREET CEMETERY
New Bedford (Bristol County), Massachusetts
DATA SHEET

Note: Locations are indicated on attached site map.

Site #	Image #	Feature	Date	Description	Material	Resource Type	Status
22		Deborah Brown marker	1834	Slate	Tablet with rounded pediment and shoulders; urn with flame and willow arching from left	Object	C
23		Eliza Bosworth marker	1838	Marble	Rectilinear tablet with urn and rounded willow in low relief in squared recess	Object	C

TOTALS: Contributing: 1 site, 4 structures, 19 objects Noncontributing: 1 object

Griffin Street Cemetery

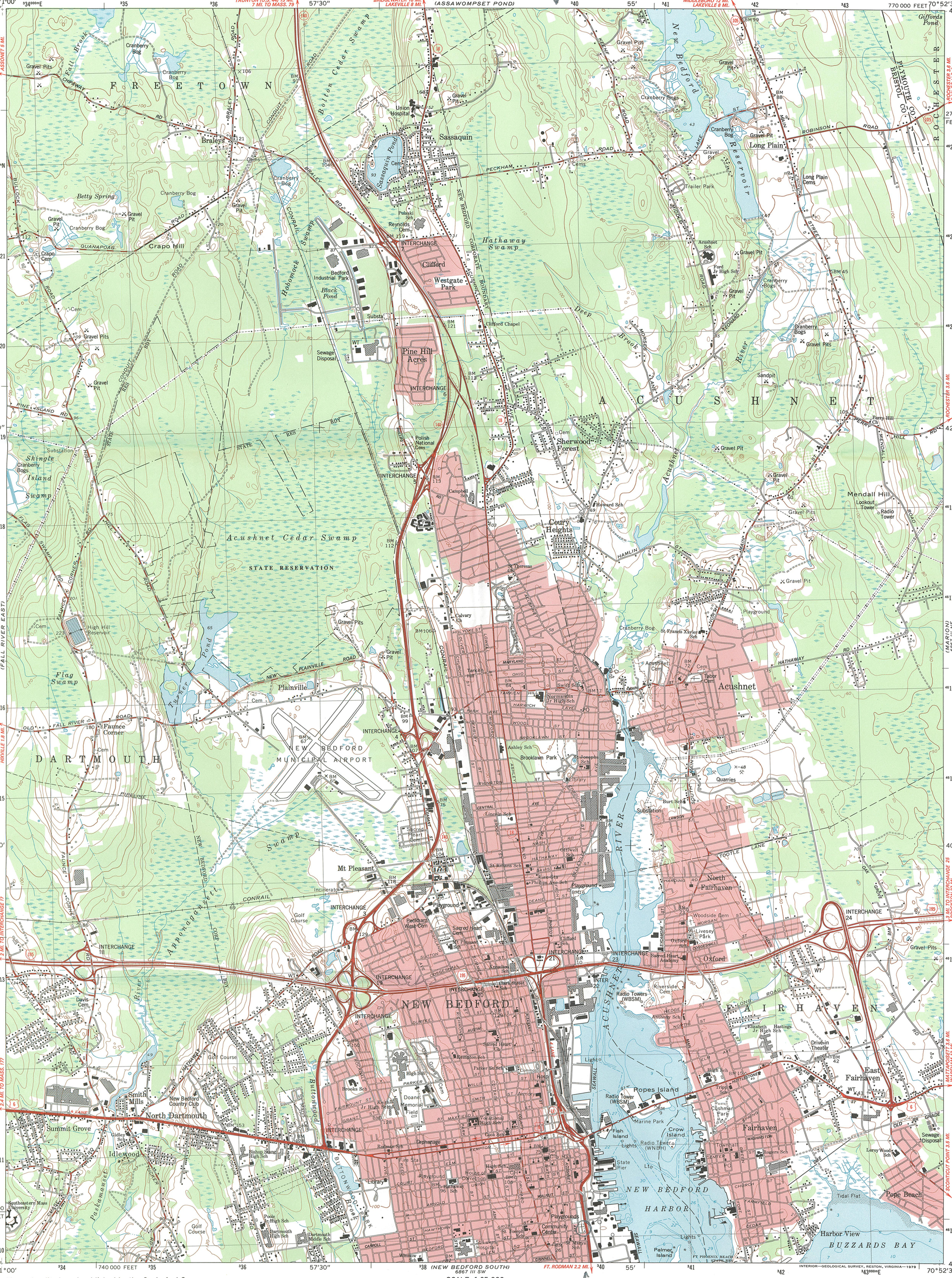
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

NEW BEDFORD NORTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

GRIFFIN ST
CEMETERY

NEW BEDFORD
(BRISTOL) MA


FREETOWN
DARTMOUTH
ACUSHNET
NEW BEDFORD
FAIRHAVEN
ROCHESTER
Sassaquin
Clifford
Westgate Park
Pine Hill Acres
Sherwood Forest
Coury Heights
Acushnet Cedar Swamp
STATE RESERVATION
Plainville
NEW BEDFORD MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
Mt Pleasant
North Fairhaven
Oxford
East Fairhaven
Fairhaven
Ropes Island
NEW BEDFORD HARBOR
BUZZARDS BAY
Pope Beach
Harbor View
North Dartmouth
Summit Grove
Smith Mills
Idlewood
Long Plain
Mendall Hill
Acushnet
Hathaway Swamp
Deep Brook
Sassaquin Pond
Long Plain Reservoir
New Bedford Reservoir
Giffords Pond
Betty Spring
Crapo Hill
Braleys
Union Hospital
Bedford Industrial Park
Black Pond
Sewage Disposal
Polish National Cem
Campbell Sch
Howard Sch
Calvary Ch
Tarkiln Hill
Normandin Jr High Sch
Ashley Sch
Brooklawn Park
Quarries
Burt Sch
Substation
Acushnet Cem
Tabor Cem
St Francis Xavier Sch
Playground
Cranberry Bog
Gravel Pits
Gravel Pit
Trailer Park
Golf Course
Incinerator
Peckham West Cem
Sacred Heart Cem
Clifford Sch
Riverside Cem
Radio Towers (WBSM)
Radio Tower (WBSM)
Radio Tower (WNBH)
Fish Island
Crow Island
Marine Park
Palmer Island
State Pier
Lights
Tidal Flat
Drive-in Theater
Elizabeth Hastings Jr High Sch
Anthony Sch
Cushman Park
Rogers Sch
Leroy Wood Sch
Sewage Disposal
Faunce Corner
High Hill Reservoir
Davis Cem
Southeastern Mass University
Poole Jr High Sch
Dartmouth High Sch
Dartmouth Middle Sch
Bishop Stang High Sch
Keith Jr High Sch
Doane Memorial Field
Vocational High Sch
Orphanage
Rodman Sch
Library
Fire Sta
Playgrounds
Community Center
St Luke's Hospital
St Mary's Sch
Kempton Sch
Brooks Sch
Cook Sch
Hathaway Sch
Winslow Sch
Sacred Heart Academy
Woodside Cem
Livesey Park
Oxford Sch
Clark Street Sch
Campbell Sch
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Swift Sch
Ashley Sch
Lincoln Sch
Ottiwell Sch
St Kieran Sch
Phillips Ave Sch
Kempton Sch
Parker St Sch
Cemetery
Hosp
Armory
Cook Sch
Rodman Sch
Orphanage
Vocational High Sch
House of Correction
Hathaway Sch
Poole Jr High Sch
Dartmouth High Sch
Dartmouth Middle Sch
Golf Course
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St Joseph Sch
Sacred Heart Cem
Sacred Heart Academy
Riverside Cem
Anthony Sch
Elizabeth Hastings Jr High Sch
Drive-in Theater
Tidal Flat
Pope Beach
Harbor View
Leroy Wood Sch
Sewage Disposal
Rogers Sch
Cushman Park
Townhall
Fairhaven
Ropes Island
Radio Tower (WBSM)
Radio Towers (WNBH)
Fish Island
Crow Island
Marine Park
Palmer Island
State Pier
Lights
Golf Course
New Bedford Country Club
Summit Grove
Idlewood
Southeastern Mass University
Pushmonasset
Buttonwood Park
Buttonwood Brook
Apponagansett Bay
Acushnet River
Swamp
Flag Swamp
Shingle Island Swamp
Tuner Pond
Cranberry Bogs
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Gravel Pits
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Long Plain Cems
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Ford Jr High Sch
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Summit Grove
Idlewood
Southeastern Mass University
Pushmonasset
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Shingle Island Swamp
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Ford Jr High Sch
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Anthony Sch
Cushman Park
Rogers Sch
Leroy Wood Sch
Sewage Disposal
Pope Beach
Harbor View
BUZZARDS BAY
NEW BEDFORD HARBOR

In Memory of
Mr JOHN COSTREE,
who died
May 10,
1 8 0 –
in the 51 year
of his age.

SACRED
to the memory of
Mr NATHAN WINSLOW
who died
June 12 1818
aged 68 years

SEPH SYLV

DEDICATED

Mr Henry Bell
August 5 1813

SACRED
To the Memory of
JOANNA
wife of
EDWARD AYERS
SACRED
To the Memory of
EDWARD AYERS