NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oak Grove Cemetery

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 46 Jones Road

city or town Falmouth ☐ vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Barnstable code 001 zip code 02540

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☑ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon July 3, 2014

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
☑ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain):

for Signature of the Keeper Edson K. Beall Date of Action 9·10·14

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	building
1	0	sites
5	2	structures
28	2	objects
35	5	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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)

LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVAL:

Colonial Revival (Elizabeth Parke Chapel)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other

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

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.)

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☒ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
ART
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1850 to 1964

Significant Dates

1850 – Land purchased by Oak Grove Association

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Ernest Gunnar Peterson, architect
Joshua T. Frances, stone carver
Henry Murray, stone carver

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: Barnstable Historical Society, Barnstable, MA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18.9 acres
UTM References See continuation sheet. (Falmouth Quad Map)
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 Zone	Easting	Northing	3. Zone 19	Easting	Northing
2. 19 Zone	Easting	Northing	4. 19 Zone	Easting	Northing

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary Justification

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eric Dray, preservation consultant with Betsy Friedberg, MHC NR Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date June 2014

street & number 220 Morrissey Blvd. telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

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

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

Property Owner

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

name Oak Grove Cemetery Association

street & number 48 Jones Road telephone (508) 548-7510

city or town Falmouth state MA zip code 02540

7. Description

Portions redacted

Oak Grove Cemetery is an active 18.9-acre cemetery that was established in 1850 by a private association, the Oak Grove Cemetery Association. The older sections of Oak Grove Cemetery represent both the ideals of the rural or garden cemetery movement and the more geometric configuration of formal 19th-century community cemeteries (Sketch Map, Sections A and B, Photos #1 and 2). The newer sections have continued the formal geometric community cemetery pattern (Sketch Map, Sections C, D, E, and F). Some areas of sections E and F have not yet been laid out. New burials can occur in the older sections if the applicant owns the plot, but the majority of new burials occur in sections E and F. This well-preserved private cemetery retains strong historical associations with the town of Falmouth, as well as distinctive landscape features dating from the mid 19th century to 1964. The following description refers to objects, structures, and buildings that are keyed to the datasheet and datasheet locator map with a Map number.

Note: the 1992 Sketch Map is the most recent available map of the cemetery.

Location and Setting

Falmouth is a large town located in the southwest section of Cape Cod, bordering on Vineyard Sound to the south and Buzzards Bay to the west. Oak Grove Cemetery is located in what was a sparsely settled area just north of Falmouth Village (NRDIS 1996). Palmer Avenue (Rte. 28), which was and remains the major north-south road in Falmouth, forms the western boundary of the cemetery and was the site of the original entrance. The cemetery is bounded to the south by Jones Road. To the east, the cemetery is bounded by a large tract of land used for sand and gravel excavation. To the north, the cemetery is bounded by private, single-family residential parcels.

The neighborhood surrounding the cemetery includes a dense mix of residential and commercial properties along Palmer Avenue, all predominantly built in the mid to late 20th century. Diagonally opposite Oak Grove Cemetery, across Palmer Avenue to the southwest, is a major intersection leading to a hill that is the site of the Falmouth Medical Center. Jones Road, forming part of the south border of the cemetery, is predominantly residential as it extends east from Palmer Avenue.

Oak Grove Cemetery is an irregularly shaped parcel that was purchased and developed in several phases. The original five acres of the 18.9-acre cemetery comprise the westernmost rectangular section bordering on Palmer Avenue (Sketch Map, Section A). This section was laid out by the Oak Grove Cemetery Association in 1850. Additional land (approximately six acres) was purchased in the late 19th century, extending the cemetery further east and connecting to Jones Road to the south (Sketch Map, Sections B and C). The cemetery was again expanded with the purchase of approximately eight acres in the mid 20th century, primarily to the east and to the north, to reach the current size and configuration (Sketch Map, Sections D, E and F). A system of paved, gravel, and grass pathways divide the cemetery into subsections, which have then been sold as family plots.

Site and Layout

The physical appearance of the cemetery is a mix of natural features and built elements that, like many 19th-century cemeteries, creates the special character of Oak Grove Cemetery. This character is defined by boundaries, spatial organization, natural and manmade topography, circulation, and vegetation.

Boundaries

Oak Grove fronts on two public streets, Palmer Avenue and Jones Road. The cemetery is delineated along Palmer Avenue, the site of the original entrance, by a low retaining wall (Map #3). The retaining wall arches inwards to the original, centered entrance gate with granite posts (Sketch Map, Section A, Photo #3, Map #4 and 5). Both the retaining wall and entrance gate were constructed ca. 1850 when the cemetery was first established. The north and south boundaries of the oldest section of the cemetery were demarcated by dry-laid, four-foot fieldstone walls (Map #6 and 7) built ca. 1851, portions of which survive. A similar fieldstone wall presumably formed the original east boundary as well, but that boundary has since been moved farther east.

The southern section of the cemetery that bounds on Jones Road is demarcated by a recently installed (2010) low, mortared fieldstone wall (Map #8) with an oval stone with "Oak Grove Cemetery" incised in the surface (Map #40). The newer sections of the cemetery to the south, east, and north, which border on neighboring parcels, are demarcated by chain-link fence.

Spatial Organization

Oak Grove's spatial organization, the arrangement of elements within the landscape, is largely defined by the circulation system and the layout of burial lots. As described above, Oak Grove Cemetery was developed in a series of phases.

Section A (purchased 1850): The original cemetery was laid out with a combination of rural garden cemetery movement and formal community cemetery influences. The cemetery was originally accessed from a curvilinear street layout, which rose up 20 feet from Palmer Avenue. This westernmost section of the cemetery has many mature trees and large stands of rhododendron; the vegetation, together with the change in topography, screen the cemetery from the street below and provide a bucolic entrance.

From the apex of the hill, the cemetery extends eastwards in a more formal subdivision of burial plots. According to early records, plots in this section were laid out in sixteen-foot-square to eighteen-foot-square sections "where practicable," with individual room for eight burial plots in each. However, some families bought multiple plots, resulting in an irregular grid pattern and family plots of varying sizes. The overall geometry of the cemetery layout is reinforced by the circulation system. This section is ringed by a paved road and subdivided east/west by two broad grass cartpaths, and further subdivided north/south by smaller grass footpaths. Many family plots are delineated by slightly raised and leveled topography, granite curbing, or low granite cornerposts. On these large, older plots, there is typically a prominent central monument, in many cases

surrounded by smaller headstones or flush markers for individual family members (Photo #4). Family plots were common through the latter part of the 19th century. In a few instances, family plots did not have a central monument surrounded by individual markers, but rather had a single row of individual headstones for various family members.

Section B and C (purchased ca. 1886-1892): In the late 19th century, the cemetery was expanded by approximately six acres to include the central portion (Sketch Map, Section B) and the portion that extends south to Jones Road (Sketch Map, Section C). The left (west) half of Section B was laid out in the late 19th century. This subsection continued the path system and plot organization of the oldest part of the cemetery. The right (east) half of this section was not laid out until the 1930s-1940s and began the transition to smaller burial plots, many laid out for four burials instead of eight, although still with the pattern of a monument located in the middle of the plot. As a result, this right (east) half of Section B has a pattern of larger square grids, with multiple families located within each square. Section C was not developed until the mid to late 20th century, and the plot pattern reflects the further transition to the modern practice of single and double gravesites (Photo #5).

Sections A, B, and C include approximately 195 headstones, many of which have death dates that predate the founding of Oak Grove Cemetery, relocated here in the mid to late 19th century as Oak Grove Cemetery became a fashionable choice for prominent local families.

Sections D, E, and F (purchased ca. 1917-1952): The cemetery was expanded to its present size with the acquisition of approximately eight acres of land between 1917 and 1952. A small sliver of land below the southeast corner of Section A was purchased in 1917, and became the site of the chapel (Sketch Map, Section D). In addition to the chapel, family plots were laid out south of the paved road, following the pattern in Section A. The central section of the cemetery was extended farther to the east in 1939 (Sketch Map, Section E, Photo #6) and to the north in 1952 (Sketch Map, Section F). The left (west) two thirds of Section E were laid out in the 1960-1970s and contain primarily double burial plots. The easternmost third of this section has been laid out on plan, but remains undeveloped and has not been cleared of the stands of oak trees and undergrowth. The portion of Section F shown as laid out in the sketch map was laid out in 1985. The layout was extended to the east in 1997, and is not shown on the sketch map. This portion of the cemetery consists primarily of rows of single and double grave sites. The remaining portion of Section F has not been laid out, but has been cleared and now consists of a broad grass field with trees (Photo #7).

Topography

Oak Grove Cemetery is located just north of Falmouth Village, sited on a small rise east of Palmer Avenue. This region of Falmouth was sparsely settled at the time Oak Grove Cemetery was founded, and was predominantly forested with oak trees. The siting reflects a modest interpretation of the ideals of the rural cemetery movement, as exemplified by Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge (NHL, NR), established in 1831. The name “Oak Grove Cemetery” itself reflects the goals of the rural cemetery movement, connecting pastoral values to community cemeteries. The rural cemetery movement sought to integrate natural and built

elements and to create a domesticated landscape of irregularity and surprise, designed according to Romantic concepts of English landscape design.

The cemetery plan retained the natural features of the site, with added roads and paths that followed the contours of the land. The original five acres rises approximately 20 feet from Palmer Avenue with an irregular topography. Most prominent on the slope is a large, centered valley or bowl, which once held a receiving crypt. An 1895 photograph shows a portion of the crypt built into the left (north) side of the valley slope. From the apex of the hill, the land becomes fairly level and slopes down gently to the east, and south to Jones Road.

Circulation

The circulation system of the cemetery consists of paved roads, gravel paths, and grass footpaths. From the Palmer Avenue entrance, a paved road curves upwards in both directions around the central valley and rises to the highest point of the cemetery, from which both roads extend in direct lines eastwards across Sections A and B, with first double and then a single row of burial plots on the outside edges of both roads. The roads continue east and form boundaries between the newer sections.

The oldest section (Sketch Map, Section A), in addition to the paved roads on each side of the valley, has a grass path that rings the rim of the valley, originally called the “cedar path.” As this section of the cemetery levels at the top of the hill, it is divided into three rectangular blocks by broad, grass cartpaths running east/west. Within each block, the plots are further subdivided into smaller square and rectangular family plots, which are accessed by narrow grass footpaths

Section B, the central section of the cemetery, is divided roughly into four large squares by a broad grass cartpath running east/west, and a gravel path running north/south, which terminates on the south side at the entrance to the cemetery chapel. Narrow grass footpaths provide access to and around the individual plots.

Section C was not laid out until the 1960s-1970s. It has a curving, paved road that divides this section into five irregularly shaped sections, and also leads to the cemetery entrance on Jones Road. Narrow grass footpaths provide access to and around the individual plots.

Sections D and E have not been fully laid out, but the existing circulation includes a combination of paved and gravel roads that divide this part of the cemetery into rectangular sections, which are similar to the older sections of the cemetery, but altered to accommodate the more modern plot configuration.

The paved roads in the older sections of the cemetery (Sketch Map, Sections A and B) were originally composed of gravel. The paved roads are all ten feet wide and have no edge treatment. There are no dedicated areas for parking of cars.

Vegetation
When the cemetery was established in 1850, the area was described as "wooded." The land was partially cleared, with the retention of trees along the front slope and a canopy of oak trees within the cemetery. Today, the most dramatic vegetation remains the canopy of mature trees found on the hillside along Palmer Avenue and extending throughout the cemetery. Oak trees make up about two thirds of the tree total. Additional trees include white pine, primarily on the front slope, and beech, maple, and poplar trees in the cemetery interior, some of which were planted by plot owners. The most dramatic example is the Emmons family plot, which includes a large, mature beech tree whose roots have become entwined with the family monument and headstones (Photo #13). This canopy is supplemented by a wider variety of smaller deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs also planted by plot owners, including cherry, dogwood, holly, cedar, and cypress trees, and rhododendron, azalea, and yew shrubs. Lawn extends throughout the cemetery.

There are few areas of the cemetery layout that have formal or informal landscape additions, and there is no known original landscape plan. The oldest known plan, which is undated, shows the original 1850 plot layout with the names of plot owners written into the plots. This plan identifies the land along Palmer Avenue as the "front slope"; the natural valley centered above the entrance was encircled by a "cedar path" (now a grass path). The plan does show a few areas that indicated the addition of formal landscape features, primarily where the entrance roads made turns as they rose up the slope, but it is not known if they were implemented, and these areas are currently undeveloped patches of lawn.

Buildings and Structures

Elizabeth G. Parke Memorial Chapel
The cemetery includes a chapel, the Elizabeth G. Parke Memorial Chapel, completed in 1935 (Sketch Map, Section D, Photo #8, Map #1). The chapel was designed by Ernest Gunnar Peterson Architects of Falmouth in the Colonial Revival style. The building is three bays wide by four bays deep (22 feet by 46 feet), and consists of a 1½-story, gable-front rectangular block, with a prominent pedimented entrance porch supported by four square bowed columns with simple molded plinths and capitals. The triangular end gable is clad in flushboard, and contains an oculus window with four keystones within a molded surround. This end gable has a molded cornice, which also extends across the gable front and along the side eaves. The building rests on a parged concrete foundation, the elevations are constructed in brick, and the modestly pitched shed roof is clad in dark gray asphalt shingle. The front elevation has a centered entrance with a pair of wood-paneled doors surmounted by a wood fanlight. The door and fanlight have a narrow molded surround, which is set into the brick façade and further defined by a band of brick headers with a centered keystone. On either side of the entrance are brick niches into which are set wood finials resting on plain round bases. The corners of the front elevation are articulated with pilasters matching the design and scale of the columns. The side elevations each have four round-topped, multipane, double-hung wood windows with simple sills with brick headers, and lintels

articulated with brick sailor keystones. The rear elevation contains a second simple entrance, two small windows on the first floor, and two quarter-round windows set in the brick end gable. The roof cornice extends partially across this end gable. At the rear of the roof ridge is a small brick, corbelled chimney.

The interior of the chapel contains a sanctuary with simple box pews, a centered aisle, and a raised altar with recessed vestibule surrounded by fluted pilasters. The Corinthian capitals of the pilasters connect to a molded banding, which extends around the coved chapel ceiling.

A 1965 restoration resulted in new mechanical systems and repainting, but no changes to the materials or ornamental features of the exterior or to the sanctuary. In 2010, a second renovation was conducted to make the sanctuary handicap accessible by installing a shallow brick ramp leading to the slightly raised front porch landing.

Utility Building

To the south of the chapel is a small one-story, two-bay, L-shaped, brick utility building that also displays characteristics of the Colonial Revival style, including similar round-headed windows with brick sills and headers, and a simple molded cornice that extends partially across the gable ends. The original 1935 building was a simple, square shed with concrete-block walls. The current L-shaped, brick-clad building resulted from a 2006 expansion that tripled its size, fully incorporated the original shed, and created space for an office and garage (Photo #14, Map #2).

Entrance Gate

The Palmer Avenue entrance consists of two eight-foot-tall square, ashlar granite posts, surmounted by pyramidal caps, and a pair of iron gates (Photo #3, Map #4, 5). The iron gates were replaced in-kind in 2008 after the original gates were moved to another location offsite. The gates consist of vertical rails, ornamented with a centered, horizontal band of circles with a quatrefoil design, and capped with spears. It appears that the current gates replicated the original design. The replacement gates were donated by a relative of the Hewins family, a Falmouth family with a burial plot in Section A of Oak Grove.

Fences and Walls

The low retaining wall along the Palmer Street boundary consists of dry-laid granite fieldstone, with broad, irregular ashlar blocks capping the wall (Photo #1). This wall extends from the entrance gates on Palmer Avenue in both directions along the street edge. Portions of two original four-foot fieldstone walls, which marked the north and south boundary of the earliest section, survive (Sketch Map, Section A). The southern section of the cemetery that bounds on Jones Road is demarcated by a low, mortared fieldstone wall built ca. 2010. A chain-link fence is located along the newer interior sections of the cemetery that border on neighboring parcels to the south, east, and north.

Burial Monuments

Oak Grove Cemetery includes approximately 5,150 burial headstones and monuments in a range of materials. Burial monuments are discussed roughly in chronological order. Representative examples of all types and periods of stones within the period of significance are described.

The oldest headstones and monuments in Oak Grove Cemetery are constructed of marble, of which there are approximately 300, all found in sections A and B. Most of these are one- to three-foot-tall, die-on-base and tab-in-socket headstones, some of which are carved with Victorian motifs such as roses, lilies of the valley, and ivy. One of the most ornate of these is the headstone for Samuel B. Lawrence (1854-1882) with ivy leaves in high relief, carved by H. Murray of Boston (Photo #9, Map # 9).

In a few instances, there are ornate, sculptural family monuments. The most elaborate of these is a large, marble, clothed female figure in repose, mounted on a granite pedestal, and centered on a Bourne family plot (Photo #10, ca. 1855, Map #10). There are also seven marble obelisks and columnar monuments in the old part (Sections A and B) of the cemetery. The Swift family plot (Photo #4, Map #18) is representative of the more sedate marble markers, with its central, square marble column and peaked markers for individual family members. This plot is also one of many in this section with extant granite curbstones.

The family plot connected with the most noteworthy Falmouth resident is the Bates family plot, which includes the headstone for Katherine Lee Bates (1859-1928), composer of the song *America the Beautiful* (Photo #11, Map #11). This family plot includes a large square marble monument with a flared based and molded cap, which rests on a granite base and includes the names of Katherine Bates, her father, and other relatives. The headstone added later to distinguish Katherine Lee Bates is a simple marble marker with her name, birth and death dates, and the epitaph: "Educator and Poet, Author of America the Beautiful, *America, America, God shed His grace on thee*." The plot also includes a small modern sign identifying the location of the Katherine Lee Bates marker.

The oldest part of the cemetery also contains a marble-topped, raised-chest marker with granite side walls. The chest marker was installed in 1852 for Mary Fisher (1788-1840), "consort" of Reuben Fisher (Map #12).

The topography of the family plots in sections A and B of the cemetery is slightly raised and leveled, and many of these plots are further demarcated by granite cornerposts or curbing. Some of those with curbing show indications of there having been low iron railings, but none of the rails survive.

By the late 19th century, granite had become the predominant material for grave markers in Oak Grove Cemetery, and there are thousands of granite monuments and headstones in a variety of colors and styles, including some of distinctive pink granite quarried in West Falmouth. Many of the late 19th-century family plots in sections A and B have granite monuments of outstanding quality, surrounded by smaller headstones, slant

markers, and flush markers for individual family members. One graceful example is a monument in a Lawrence family plot: a tall base surmounted by a seemingly delicate carved urn (Photo #12, ca. 1872, Map #13). Among these granite monuments in sections A and B are nine granite obelisks. The Parke family monument, which includes Elizabeth G. Parke, is one of the more ornately ornamented granite monuments, with names inscribed on a scroll surrounded by lilies carved in high relief (Map #27).

In some cases, family plots have a variety of materials as newer material came into fashion, including small, irregularly quarried, quartz stones with small bronze plaques, and early 20th-century, thick slate headstones with inscribed epitaphs evoking earlier slate headstone engravings. An unusual example is the Emmons family plot in Section B, which, in addition to a mature beech tree, includes a large granite boulder set on a rough-formed granite base with a bronze plaque for Nathaniel Henry Emmons (1835-1926) and Eleanor Gassett Emmons (1849-1891, Photo #13, Map #14).

The only war memorial in Oak Grove Cemetery is a memorial to Falmouth's Civil War soldiers and sailors, which was installed in Section B in the late 1890s by the B. F. Jones Post No. 206, Grand Army of the Republic. The monument consists of a large, rectangular, rough-cut granite stone on a similar base, with raised burnished lettering located within a smoothed, recessed, central surface (Map #15).

The newer sections of the cemetery, laid out in the 20th century, contain primarily single and double graves, commonly found in cemeteries of that period (Photo #5). These are generally marked by granite headstones in a wide range of colors and finishes, consisting of inscribed dies on bases, located in rows at the head of the smaller plots. Section F of the cemetery also includes two granite family mausoleums, one for the Lewis family, built ca. 1900 (Map #16) and one for the Anspach family, built ca. 2000 (Map #17).

Archaeological Description

While no Native American sites are known in Oak Grove Cemetery, it is possible that sites are present. Two sites are known in the general area (within one mile), both sites in close proximity to freshwater ponds.

Environmental characteristics of the cemetery locale represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of ancient sites. The cemetery occupies a level to moderately sloping borderline area between the Buzzards Bay Moraine located to the west, and an outwash plain and area of ice-contact deposits located to the east. Soil types in the area are generally well drained, loamy, and silty near the surface, and underlain by sandy and gravelly glacial outwash from 1½ to 2½ feet below the surface. The cemetery is also located in close proximity to freshwater wetlands. Grews Pond is located approximately 1,000 feet to the north, and a small unnamed pond is located outside of but adjacent to the eastern boundary of the cemetery.

In spite of the above information, the potential for locating significant ancient Native American resources at Oak Grove Cemetery is low. The excavation of more than 5,000 graves (as indicated by the presence of 5,150 gravestones and monuments) in the 18.9-acre cemetery would have disturbed the integrity of any potential ancient resources that may have been present. During a recent archaeological reconnaissance survey conducted for the Town of Falmouth (Donta et al., 1996), Oak Grove Cemetery was included in the Teaticut study unit. While the researchers included the cemetery in an area highly sensitive for ancient resources, they did note that exceptions existed in areas know to be disturbed. The extent of grave excavations at Oak Grove Cemetery would have either destroyed any potential ancient Native American sites that were present, or disturbed them to the extent that they would contain little research potential.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources in Oak Grove Cemetery. While there is no evidence is known that indicates burials took place at the cemetery prior to 1850, older burials may be present. In the 19th century, more than 195 markers were transferred from other cemeteries to family plots in Oak Grove, the majority having been relocated from the Old Town Burying Ground in Falmouth Village. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may determine whether this transfer was for memorial gravestones or included the actual transfer of the grave contents. Prior to ca. 1850, little information is present relating to land use in the cemetery. At that time that the Oak Grove Cemetery was founded, the area was sparsely settled, and was predominantly forested with oak trees. Additional historic research, combined with archaeological survey, excavation, and the monitoring of grave excavations, may produce structural evidence of tombs, barns, stables, a hearse house, or outbuildings associated with the operation and maintenance of the cemetery. A mid 19th-century receiving tomb, removed in the 1960s, was known to exist in the “valley” above the entrance to the cemetery. A storage shed for carriages (no longer extent) was constructed next to the tomb. Archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash areas, privies, wells) may also be present.

Unmarked graves represent another archaeological resource that may survive at Oak Grove Cemetery. Unmarked graves may be the result of intentionally unmarked graves as well as lost or stolen gravestones. Unmarked and marked graves may contain burial shafts, coffin or skeletal remains, personal items of the deceased, and memorial offerings.

8. Statement of Significance

Overview

Oak Grove Cemetery, Falmouth, MA, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, with significance at the local level. The period of significance extends from the first purchase of land for the cemetery in 1850 to 1964, the 50-year cutoff for National Register purposes. The earliest sections of the cemetery (Sections A, B, and C), which are the focus of this nomination, possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The cemetery qualifies for listing under Criterion A due to its strong association with the history of the town of Falmouth. Oak Grove Cemetery became Falmouth's largest 19th-century cemetery. It was an important civic undertaking, and became the most popular site for 19th -century Falmouth families to own burial plots. As a result, a large number of prominent Falmouth citizens from the mid 19th century into the 20th century are buried at Oak Grove including, most notably, Katherine Lee Bates, author of "America the Beautiful." Oak Grove Cemetery is also the site of the only cemetery monument in Falmouth to veterans of the Civil War, erected in the late 19th century by the Falmouth chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic. The cemetery meets Criterion C as a well-preserved local example of both a 19th-century rural cemetery and a more formal community cemetery, and reflects the evolving design of burial grounds and funerary monuments. Oak Grove Cemetery also includes an excellent example of religious Colonial Revival architecture designed by Falmouth architect Ernest Gunnar Peterson.

The following Statement of Significance refers to objects, structures, and buildings that are keyed to the datasheet and datasheet locator map with a map number.

Falmouth History

Falmouth, incorporated in 1686, is a large town located at the southwest corner of Cape Cod, bounded by Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound. In addition to Falmouth Village, which is the center of Falmouth, the town encompasses several distinct historic villages, including East Falmouth, North Falmouth, Waquoit, West Falmouth, and Woods Hole, along with residential coastal communities developed in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, including Menauhunt, Sippewissett, and Falmouth Heights.

Oak Grove Cemetery is located just north of Falmouth Village, which encompasses the historic commercial and institutional core of Falmouth. Most of the historic resources date from the late 18th and 19th centuries, the period of Falmouth's greatest economic growth. Falmouth Village's roots date to 1661, when thirteen settlers recorded an agreement for laying out the area then known as Suckanesset. The name "Falmouth" first appeared in 1694 and was chosen to honor Bartholomew Gosnold, the first European explorer to visit the area in 1602, whose homeport was Falmouth, England.

Main Street was laid out in 1687. The Village Green (NRHD, 1996) was the site of the third meetinghouse, built in 1748, and the area surrounding the Green became densely built with houses owned by some of Falmouth's most prominent citizens. The shoreline south of Falmouth Village was the site of an attack by the British warship *H.M.S. Nimrod* during the War of 1812, when Falmouth citizens successfully withstood an effort to force the surrender of two cannons. By the early 19th century, the area around Village Green also became the economic center of Falmouth, as evidenced by the construction of the Falmouth National Bank, founded in 1821 by Elijah Swift (1774-1852), who is buried at Oak Grove Cemetery (Map #18). In the mid 19th century, Falmouth built a town house farther east along Main Street, the meetinghouse was relocated across the street, and government and commercial operations continued to spread eastward along Main Street.

Woods Hole, located south of Falmouth Village, also traces its roots to early Colonial exploration. It is believed that Bartholomew Gosnold, during his exploration of Cape Cod and the islands in 1602, landed at Woods Hole in May of that year. In 1677, the land around Little Harbor was divided among thirteen settlers in 60-acre lots, and Little Harbor became the focus of early development. Farming, fishing, and later, saltworks, were the principal occupations of the first settlers and their descendants. Residential development occurred on the landward side of King's Highway and Woods Hole Road.

As with Falmouth Village, the 19th century saw increasing commercial activity in Woods Hole; in 1827, Elijah Swift built Bar Neck wharf on Water Street. The wharf became the home port for at least nine whaling ships, and the Water Street area developed as a working waterfront with a mix of maritime, industrial, commercial, and residential buildings, including its own customs house. By the 1870s, whaling activity was replaced by maritime scientific institutions, starting with the United States Fisheries, followed by the private Marine Biology Laboratory in 1888, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in 1930. These institutions both reused existing buildings and built large new research centers.

West Falmouth (NRHD, 1998) and North Falmouth (NRHD, 1998) are both linear, semirural villages extending north, and connected to Falmouth Village then and now by Palmer Avenue. Both began as agricultural villages and grew through the 19th century with maritime and related industries. Small-scale local industries also emerged, including salt production, shoemaking and tanning, and quarrying of local pink granite, some of which was used in Oak Grove Cemetery. West Falmouth's roots are also tied to local Quakers, who established a burying ground here in 1717 and a meetinghouse in 1720.

Waquoit (NRHD, 2004) was the largest semirural village in eastern Falmouth. The Waquoit Bay area was likely a center of activity for the Wampanoags. Waquoit village was part of the Mashpee Wampanoag reservation from 1660 to 1841, and was only lightly settled by Europeans until after 1763, when the state legislature gave district status to the area. Waquoit was developed for agricultural, waterpowered industry, shipbuilding, and maritime activity in the 18th and 19th centuries. By the early 1800s, Waquoit had also become popular as a summer destination for sportsmen, including Daniel Webster and President Grover Cleveland.

The decline of whaling, together with the advent of the Cape Cod Branch Railroad in 1872, which passed through the villages of North Falmouth, West Falmouth, and Falmouth Village before terminating at Woods Hole, led to a new wave of development in all of Falmouth's coastal villages as the town became increasingly popular as a summer and resort destination. In the early to mid 20th century, the automobile increased tourism and the development of summer houses, which was focused both in the established villages and new planned coastal communities. The mid to late 20th century saw increasing residential development throughout the town to accommodate seasonal and year-round populations. Today, Falmouth has a total population of approximately 32,000.

Cemeteries in Falmouth

Falmouth has a total of nineteen cemeteries. These include five 17th- and 18th-century burying grounds located in the various historic villages of Falmouth, and four 20th-century cemeteries all connected to religious institutions. Of the ten 19th-century cemeteries, two are private family cemeteries and three are sectarian cemeteries. Of the remaining five 19th-century cemeteries, four are small, informal cemeteries connected to the villages of Davisville, East Falmouth, North Falmouth, and Waquoit. Oak Grove is significantly larger than these cemeteries, and includes both natural and manmade features that distinguish it from the other 19th-century cemeteries.

Oak Grove Cemetery History

Oak Grove Cemetery is a 19th-century community cemetery organized by a voluntary association, the Oak Grove Cemetery Association. While there is no direct evidence, it appears the founding of Oak Grove Cemetery is associated with a desire on the part of prominent Falmouth citizens to have a cemetery that would provide space for burial practices fashionable at the time, including the ability to establish large family plots with marble and granite monuments. This claim may be supported by the fact that more than 195 markers were transferred from other cemeteries to family plots in Oak Grove, the majority having been relocated from the Old Town Burying Ground in Falmouth Village.

The idea for a new community cemetery was first publicly presented in 1849. On December 12th, a meeting of Falmouth citizens "interested in getting up a new Cemetery" was held in the Falmouth Town Hall, at which Samuel P. Bourne, Esq. (Map #10) was chosen as Chairman, and Erasmus Gould (Map #19) as Secretary. It was voted to appoint a committee of five members to find a suitable piece of land, and the committee was instructed to procure subscribers for burial lots. This committee consisted of Erasmus Gould, William Nye, Jr., Thomas L. Swift (d. 1860, Map #21), Silas Jones (1814-1896, Map #22), and Rufus Swift. At a following meeting on January 2, 1850, it was reported that a wood lot had been secured "lying on the public road north of and adjoining the homestead of Ephraim Sanford" containing approximately five acres, which was purchased from Sanford for $250 on February 20, 1850. The funds were provided by Elijah Swift, who gave a sum of $250 for purchase, and his son Oliver C. Swift (1797-1874, Map #23) gave $200 to put the site in order for burial lots.

According to the minutes of Oak Grove's 1851 Annual Meeting, in addition to monies paid to Ephraim Sanford for the land, $1 was allocated for gateposts, and $58.50 was allocated for the building of a "Public Tomb" – a receiving tomb for temporary interments, which was a common practice, especially during the winter months. This tomb was located in the "valley" above the entrance, and the tomb was constructed of locally quarried pink granite. A storage shed for carriages (separate from the 1935/2006 utility building, Map #2) was also constructed next to this tomb. The tomb was removed in the 1960s; some of the stones were sent to be incorporated into the John F. Kennedy Memorial in Washington, D.C. The shed is no longer extant; it is not known when it was removed. This area of the cemetery now consists of lawn and ground cover.

The 1851 Annual Meeting further reported that 24 subscribers had been procured. Also at this meeting, the constitution of the cemetery was adopted and the first trustees and officers of the Association elected: Oliver C. Swift, President; Aaron Cornish (1794-1864, Map #24), Vice President; Stephen C. Dillingham, Secretary; Samuel P. Bourne, Treasurer; Erasmus Gould, William Nye. Jr., and T. S. Swift, members. All of these individuals were prominent Falmouth businessmen involved in many of Falmouth's enterprises. For example, Bourne, Dillingham, Gould, and Nye were all founding board members of the Vineyard Sound Railroad Company, and Cornish, Dillingham, and Nye formed the Falmouth Glass Company, of which Oliver C. Swift was a large shareholder. Erasmus Gould also served as president of the Falmouth National Bank. All of these men, with the exception of William Nye, Jr. and Stephen Dillingham, are buried in family plots at Oak Grove Cemetery.

By 1886, the original five acres had been sold out and the Trustees appointed a committee, consisting of George E. Clarke (1822-1898, Map #25), Silas Jones, and Solomon D. Robinson (1828-1913, Map #26), to purchase additional land. Once again, prominent Falmouth citizens had been chosen to lead this endeavor: George Clark was a noted local educator, including eleven years spent as the principal of Lawrence Academy, a private academy that was established in 1835 and sold to the town and incorporated into the Falmouth High School in 1890. Silas Jones had been elected to represent Falmouth in the state legislature, and he succeeded Erasmus Gould as President of the Falmouth National Bank in 1881. Solomon Robinson, a descendant of one of Falmouth's first settlers in 1660, Rev. Isaac Robinson, was the superintendent of Oak Grove Cemetery at that time. All of these individuals are buried in family plots at Oak Grove.

Between 1886 and 1892, approximately five more acres were purchased. According to the cemetery association's annual meeting minutes, conveyances included "3 acres, 75 rods from L. Handy and 3 acres, 31 rods from Gifford." These additions consisted of what is now the middle section (Sketch Map, Section B) of the cemetery, and the square parcel that extends from that middle section south to Jones Road (Sketch Map, Section C). By this time, according to Samuel Deyo's 1890 *History of Falmouth County, Massachusetts*, Oak Grove Cemetery had become the fashionable spot for Falmouth burials.

Oak Grove Cemetery remained a private cemetery, but by 1907 the cemetery had developed a relationship with the Town of Falmouth whereby certain sums of money, which had been transferred to the town for the perpetual

care of cemetery grounds, were periodically distributed to this and other town cemeteries, a practice that continues to this day.

In 1915, the will of Elizabeth G. Parke (1841-1915) bequeathed $4,000 for the erection of a mortuary chapel on the cemetery grounds. Elizabeth Parke was the wife of George W. Parke (d. 1901), who owned the Spring Cove Wharf Company located at the present site of the town dock at West Falmouth Harbor. The Parkes maintained a burial plot in Oak Grove, where Elizabeth Parke is buried (Map # 27), northwest of the chapel site. In 1917, the cemetery association made a purchase of land (Sketch Map, Section D) that became the site for the chapel. Construction of the chapel was delayed until 1935, due to protracted heir lawsuits and insufficient funds. According to a 1923 fundraising pamphlet, “The necessity for said Chapel is evidenced by the increasing number of internments of those who have died away from Falmouth and whose remains are brought here for their final resting place.”

The Oak Grove Cemetery Association began another series of land purchases to expand the cemetery in 1939, when the central section of the cemetery was extended eastwards to its current east boundary with a purchase of 3.36 acres (Section E). In 1952, the final expansion of the cemetery was made with the purchase of a 3.94-acre, rectangular parcel from Frederick V. Lawrence, Inc., creating the addition to the northeast (Sketch Map, Section F). Frederick V. Lawrence was a Cape Cod builder and member of a Falmouth family who, among many accomplishments, endowed Lawrence Academy. He is not buried at Oak Grove, but is descended from many family members who are. Portions of Sections E and F continue to be laid out and utilized for new burial plots.

In 1988, Oak Grove officially incorporated as a nonprofit organization in Massachusetts: The Oak Grove Cemetery Association of Falmouth, Inc. The most recent improvements to the cemetery are the expansion of a concrete-block work shed into a brick-clad, L-shaped garage and office space in 2006, and construction of a low, fieldstone and mortar wall along the Jones Street perimeter in 2010.

Association with Falmouth Residents

Oak Grove Cemetery is the burial site of many individuals who have made important contributions to the military, economic, political, and cultural development of Falmouth. Many of these individuals lived in residences found within Falmouth’s National Register Historic Districts. Oak Grove is also the site for an important town memorial to Civil War veterans.

Military

War veterans include one participant, Jonathan Green (d. 1848, Map # 28), who served in the Continental Army from 1777-1778 in the Revolutionary War and whose death predated the creation of Oak Grove Cemetery, but whose remains were later moved to Oak Grove.

Ten participants in the War of 1812 are buried at Oak Grove Cemetery, including Captain Weston Jenkins (1768-1854, Map # 29), who led a regiment that took up a position on the Falmouth shorefront with cannon to successfully oppose the landing of the British brig of war, *H.M.S. Nimrod*.

Oak Grove Cemetery has one memorial that commemorates the service and sacrifice of the numerous veterans who are buried there. A vote was taken at the association's annual meeting in 1889 to authorize the setting aside of two lots for the "Soldiers of Falmouth." While it is unclear if the intent was only to commemorate Civil War veterans, the monument that was erected in this space was donated by the B. F. Jones Post No. 206, Grand Army of the Republic, which was formed in 1891 in Falmouth. The post was named for Benjamin Franklin Jones (Map # 20, d. 1879), a local whaling captain who served in the Navy during the Civil War. The post erected a monument to the memory of "soldiers and sailors who served between 1861 and 1865" (Map # 15). In addition to the GAR monument, approximately 40 Civil War veterans are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Based on a review of Falmouth veterans from the 20th century, many are buried in Oak Grove Cemetery – approximately 103 from World War I, and approximately 116 from World War II.

Maritime
At least eleven of Falmouth's whaling captains are buried at Oak Grove Cemetery, including captains who sailed out of New Bedford, and those who captained ships that were built in and sailed out of Falmouth, including Silas Jones (Map #22) who at 26 was one of the youngest whaling captains at sea. Silas was also a charter member of the Oak Grove Cemetery Association and was a prominent businessman, as noted above, serving as President of the Falmouth National Bank in Falmouth Village. In a number of cases, both the captains and owners of whaling ships are buried in Oak Grove, including Caption Henry C. Bunker (1797-1879, Map #30) who commanded the *Uncas* from 1828-1831, which was owned by Elijah Swift. Oak Grove Cemetery is also the burial site of many of Falmouth's mariners who captained commercial ships carrying lumber, coal, and food products, as well as Elijah and Oliver C. Swift who, in addition to their role in establishing Oak Grove Cemetery, were prominent local shipbuilders and owners.

Cultural, political and social history
Many Falmouth residents who contributed to local—and in one case national—cultural, political, and social history are buried at Oak Grove Cemetery.

The most notable Falmouth citizen buried at Oak Grove Cemetery is Katherine Lee Bates (Map #11), author of "America the Beautiful." Bates wrote the song in 1893, at which time she was an English Professor at Wellesley College. She was born in Falmouth in 1859, the daughter of a Congregational minister, and died in 1929. Her epitaph reads, "I will sing unto the Lord a new song."

Additional notable Falmouth residents buried at Oak Grove Cemetery include Frances Elizabeth (Chase) Swift (d. 1903, Map #31), known as the Poetess of Falmouth; Seba A. Holton (1847-1927, Map #32), elected to the

Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1896 and 1898, and Town Moderator from 1899 to 1927; Reverend Henry Smythe (1854-1930, Map #33), prominent local historian and a founder of the Falmouth Historical Society; William C. Davis (d. 1932, Map #34), who built the first large furniture store on Main Street in 1889, which is still in use as a furniture store; Ephraim F. Lincoln (1865-1934, Map #35), well-recognized marine artist and teacher; Colonel Edward H. Thompson (1855-1935, Map #36), a noted expert and author on Maya culture, whose archeological collections retrieved from Mayan ruins are housed at the Peabody Museum at Harvard University and the Field Museum in Chicago; M. Sylvia Donaldson (1849-1937, Map #37), elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1926, seven years after women gained the right to vote; and Frederick K. Swift (1869-1928, Map #38), one of Falmouth's leading cranberry growers at the turn of the 20th century, who purchased defunct woolen mills and hired Portuguese immigrants to create cranberry bogs out of the millponds. Aaron Cornish, in addition to being one of the founding officers of the cemetery, was also the first Falmouth medical doctor to have received training from a medical school.

Artistic Significance

Elizabeth G. Parke Memorial Chapel
The Elizabeth G. Parke Memorial Chapel (Map #1), built in 1935, is a fine example of the Colonial Revival style. The qualities of scale and proportion, and the employment of ornamental details, mark this building with architectural integrity. The chapel was designed by Ernest Gunnar Peterson (d. 1992), a MIT-trained local architect most noted for his mid-century Modern designs, including many houses located throughout Falmouth and Cape Cod. Peterson began his practice in 1931, which would make the Parke Chapel one of his earliest works. Peterson also continued to design in more traditional styles throughout his career, although his Modern designs brought him the greatest recognition. According to an *Architectural Forum* article in 1941, "Mr. Peterson occupies a rather peculiar position on Cape Cod, he designs successfully modern houses in what is probably the country's strongest center of architectural conservatism." In 1952, Peterson bought land at the mouth of Woods Hole village with the intention of building a hotel. He collaborated with his friend Buckminster Fuller to build a restaurant on the hotel grounds that incorporated a geodesic dome, reported to be one of only a half-dozen adaptations of Fuller's design at that time. Peterson became known as an "evangelist" (*Holiday Magazine*, 1950) for contemporary architecture, and for residential designs with geometric lines on concrete slabs with radiant heat and flat roofs. Many of his houses were published in architectural magazines of the time.

Gravestones and Monuments
As noted in Section 7 of this nomination, the work of local and regional artisans appears in Oak Grove Cemetery, and their creations add to the burial ground's historical significance. Their work was identified through visual identification of carvers' names on gravestones and monuments, and through the research of James Blachowicz in his book, *From Slate to Marble, Gravestone Carving Traditions in Eastern Massachusetts 1770-1870*.

According to Blachowicz, Alpheus Cary, Jr. (1788-1869) was a prominent stonecutter who has signed work in Oak Grove Cemetery, as well as in and around Boston, including many signed stones at Mount Auburn Cemetery where he was one of the original proprietors.

At least one stone is attributed by Blachowicz to Edwin B. Nye (1834-1889), a noted marble carver who was born in Sandwich. The marble stone carved for James P. Lawrence (1820-1856, Map #39) is signed by the stone carver Joshua T. Frances (1833-1893), another Sandwich stonecutter, but Blachowicz believes that the technique, including the positive relief, is more likely attributed to Edwin Nye.

The marble gravestone for Samuel B. Lawrence (1854-1882) referred to in Section 7, with ivy leaves in high relief, is signed by Henry Murray, a Boston stone carver (Photo #5, Map #9).

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to contribute detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic patterns that reflect much of Falmouth's community history throughout most of the 19th and 20th centuries. Archaeological resources can be especially important in contributing information on Falmouth's resident population, from its working class to its more affluent citizens. The original five acres of the cemetery were created in 1850, comprising the westernmost rectangular section bordering Palmer Avenue. 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 Oak Grove Cemetery. Unmarked graves may exist, and the current pattern of the gravestones may not, in every instance, reflect the graves' actual placement. Gravestones were frequently removed from older cemeteries, then later replaced, at times in different locations. Discrepancies between head and footstones have also been explained by their relocation, possibly in the course of replacing vandalized stones. Gravestones were also erected as commemorative markers by descendants of individuals after their deaths. This scenario has been observed at other burial grounds in Massachusetts, and may have been used for some burials at Oak Grove Cemetery. Archaeological research can also help identify these graves, as well as later unmarked graves resulting from stolen, damaged, and overgrown stones. Nineteenth- and early 20th-century unmarked graves representing paupers and unknown persons may also be present. Archaeological research can also be used to help test the accuracy of existing boundaries of each cemetery. Existing bounds may not accurately represent the actual boundaries of each cemetery. Some burials, possibly those of unknown persons, paupers, or other indigent persons, may have been intentionally buried outside the cemetery boundary. Artifact distributions associated with funerary or memorial services for specific individuals at their times of death, or individuals and groupings of individuals (possibly families) at a later date, may also be present.

While the sites for some structures in the cemetery are historically known, and other structures are still extant, additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate structural evidence of barns, stable, 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 contributed important information on the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of cemetery workers and Falmouth residents that attended Oak Grove Cemetery to pay their 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- through 20th-century Falmouth village settlement can be obtained in this manner; however, more detailed studies can only be implemented through the actual excavation of burials and their analysis. Ostelogical studies of individuals interred at the cemetery have the potential to contribute a wealth of information relating to the overall physical appearance of the town's inhabitants, as well as their occupations, nutrition, pathologies, and causes of death. This information can also be used to determine the actual number of individuals interred at each cemetery. Osteological information can also provide detailed information about the inhabitants of a community during periods when written records were rare or nonexistent. The paucity of written records is especially an issue regarding minority members of the community, if they existed, including Native Americans and African Americans. The overall context of the graves, including material culture remains, can contribute information on burial practices, religious beliefs, economic status, family structure, and numerous other topics relating to the individuals, their socioeconomic groups, and the overall settlement.

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Town of Falmouth

Assessors Map 38.

MAPS AND ATLASES: Arranged by date published

1858: *Map of the Counties of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket, Massachusetts.* Henry F. Walling. Boston: D. B. Smith & Co., 1858.

1880: *Atlas of Barnstable County Massachusetts.* Boston: George H. Walker & Co., 1880.

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Falmouth Historical Society. Erasmus Gould Ledger, ca. 1849-1880; Erasmus Gould Daybook, 1852-1880.

Oak Grove Cemetery Association. Deed records, burial lists, maintenance records.

GEOGRAPHIC DATA

UTMs

	Easting	Northing	Lat/Long	
A.	365090	4602850	41.565923	-70.618055
B.	365267	4602795	41.565482	-70.615887
C.	365287	4602892	41.566361	-70.615673
D.	365450	4602855	41.566052	-70.613723
E.	365310	4602640	41.564093	-70.615354
F.	365280	4602665	41.564316	-70/615710
G.	365225	4602560	41.563362	-70.616338
H.	365150	4602600	41.563702	-70.617247
I.	365177	4602680	41.564420	-70.616949
J.	365040	4602225	41.564815	-70.618572

Verbal Boundary Description

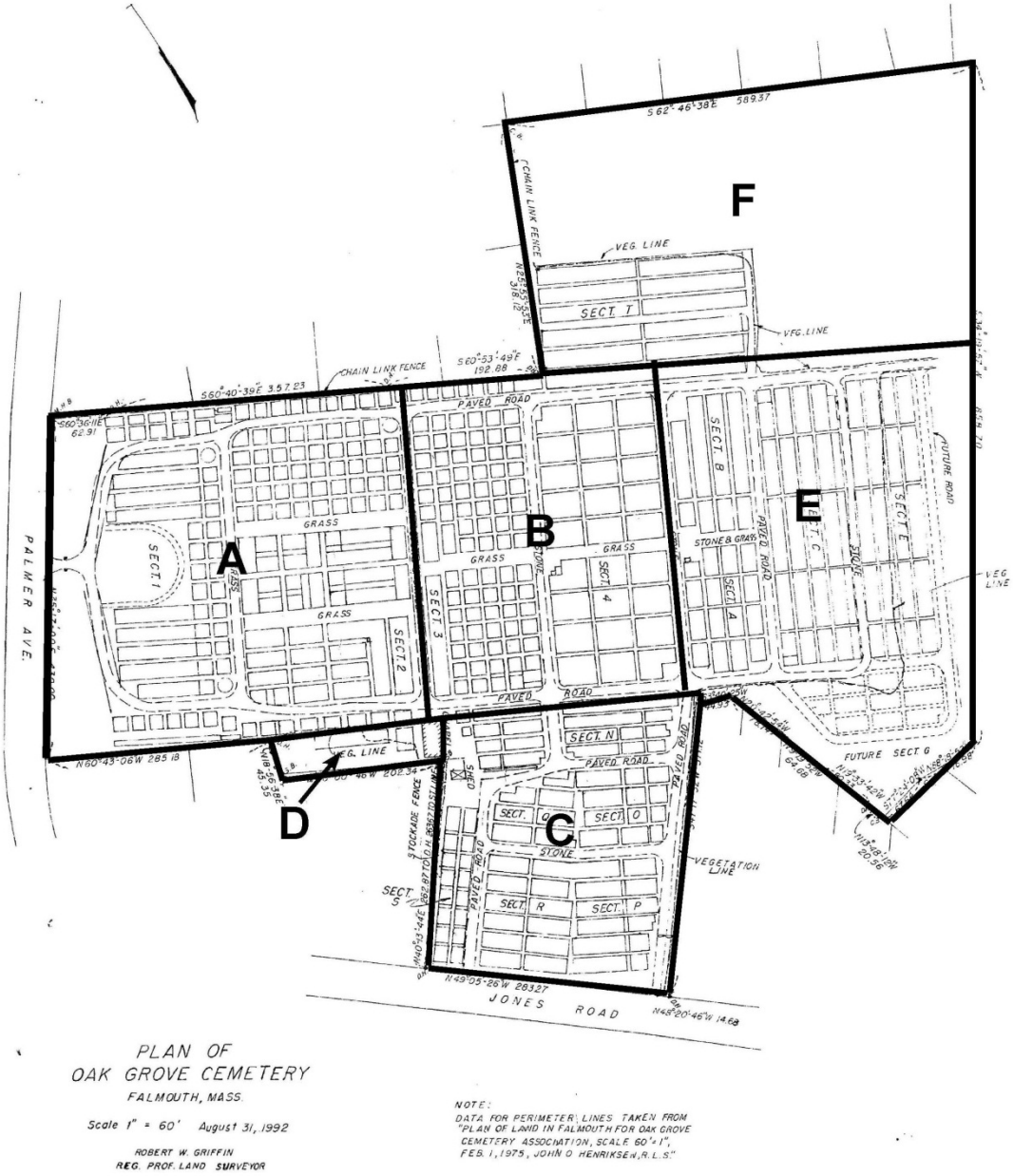
The boundary is delineated on the accompanying Town of Falmouth Assessor Map 38. This is the boundary dating to 1952, the last year land was acquired for the cemetery.

Boundary Justification

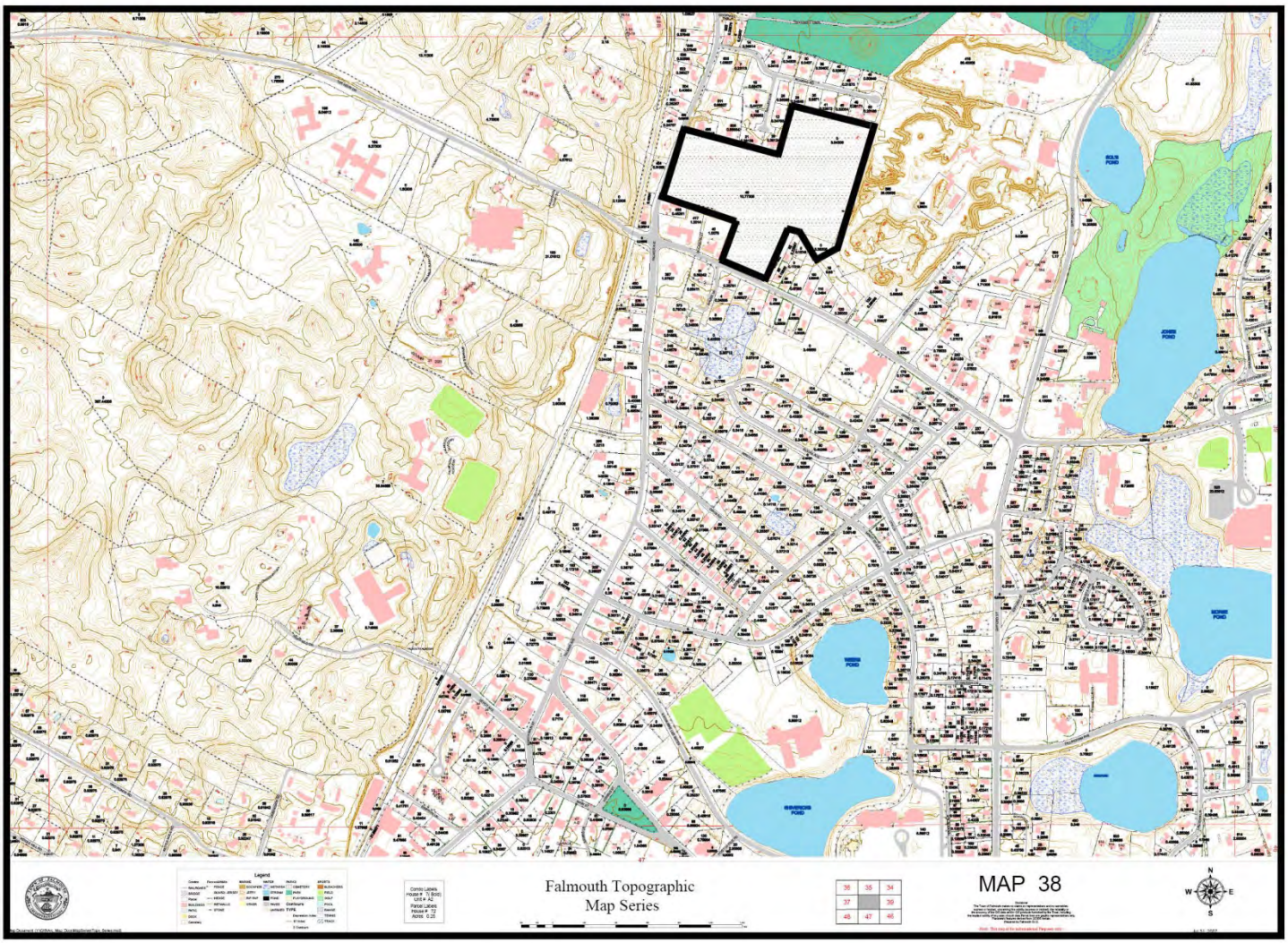
The present boundary of Oak Grove Cemetery has been established since 1952, and contains the entire 18.9-acre parcel with the historic areas and newer sections. The complete cemetery is included as shown on the accompanying sketch map. Over the decades, the Trustees of the Oak Grove Cemetery Association have continued to lay out the newer sections of the cemetery in a manner sympathetic to the older, historic sections of the cemetery.

SKETCH MAP

Map Source: Plan of Oak Grove Cemetery, Surveyed by Robert W. Griffin, Surveyor, 1992



ASSESSOR MAP
Falmouth Assessor Map 38



Note: Oak Grove Cemetery consists of four parcels:
33-03-026-000 (10.773 ac.), 38-03-035-000 (3.943 ac.), 38-03-037A-000 (3.383 ac.), and 38-03-038D-000 (0.797 ac.)

DATA SHEET LOCATOR MAP

Map Source: Plan of Oak Grove Cemetery, Surveyed by Robert W. Griffin, Surveyor, 1992

PLAN OF
OAK GROVE CEMETERY
FALMOUTH, MASS.

Scale 1" = 60' August 31, 1992

ROBERT W. GRIFFIN
REG. PROF. LAND SURVEYOR

NOTE:
DATA FOR PERIMETER LINES TAKEN FROM "PLAN OF LAND IN FALMOUTH FOR OAK GROVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, SCALE 60'=1", FEB. 1, 1975, JOHN O. HENRIKSEN, R.L.S."

PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs included with this nomination were taken in April, May, June, and July 2012, by Eric Dray, preservation consultant and author of the nomination.

1. View of Oak Grove Cemetery from Palmer Ave. Looking NE. (April 2012)

2. View of Oak Grove Cemetery. Looking E. (June 2012)

3. Palmer Avenue Entrance, 1851, Map# 4,5. Looking NE. (July 2012)

4. Swift family plot, ca. 1851, Map #18. Looking SE. (April 2012)

5. View of Section C from Jones Road. Looking NE. (July 2011)

6. General view of Section E. Looking NE. (July 2012)

7. General view, Section F. Looking E. (June 2012)

8. Elizabeth G. Parke Memorial Chapel, 1935, Looking SW, Map #1. (April 2012)

9. Samuel B. Lawrence headstone, d. 1882, Map #9. Looking N. (June 2012)

10. Bourne family plot monument, ca. 1870, Map #10. Looking E. (April 2012)

11. Katherine Lee Bates headstone, d. 1928, Map #11. Looking W. (April 2012)

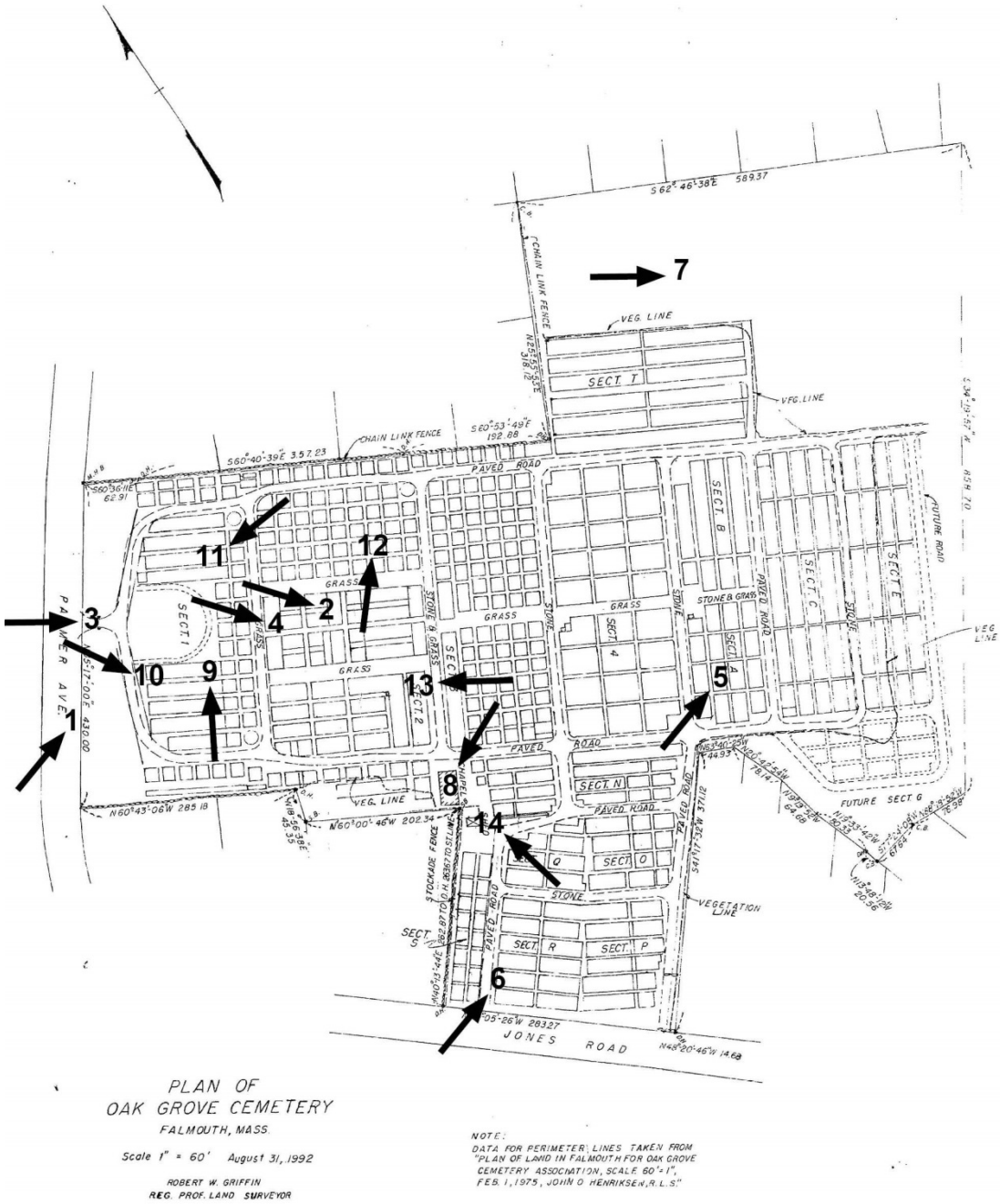
12. Lawrence family monument, ca. 1890, Map #13. Looking N. (April 2012)

13. Nathaniel (d. 1926) and Eleanor (d. 1891) Emmons granite boulder, Map #14. Looking W. (June 2012)

14. View of Utility Shed, 2006, Map #2, looking NW. (May 2012)

PHOTOGRAPH LOCATOR MAP

Map Source: Plan of Oak Grove Cemetery, Robert W. Griffin, Surveyor, 1992



Oak Grove Cemetery, Falmouth (Barnstable County), MA
Data Sheet

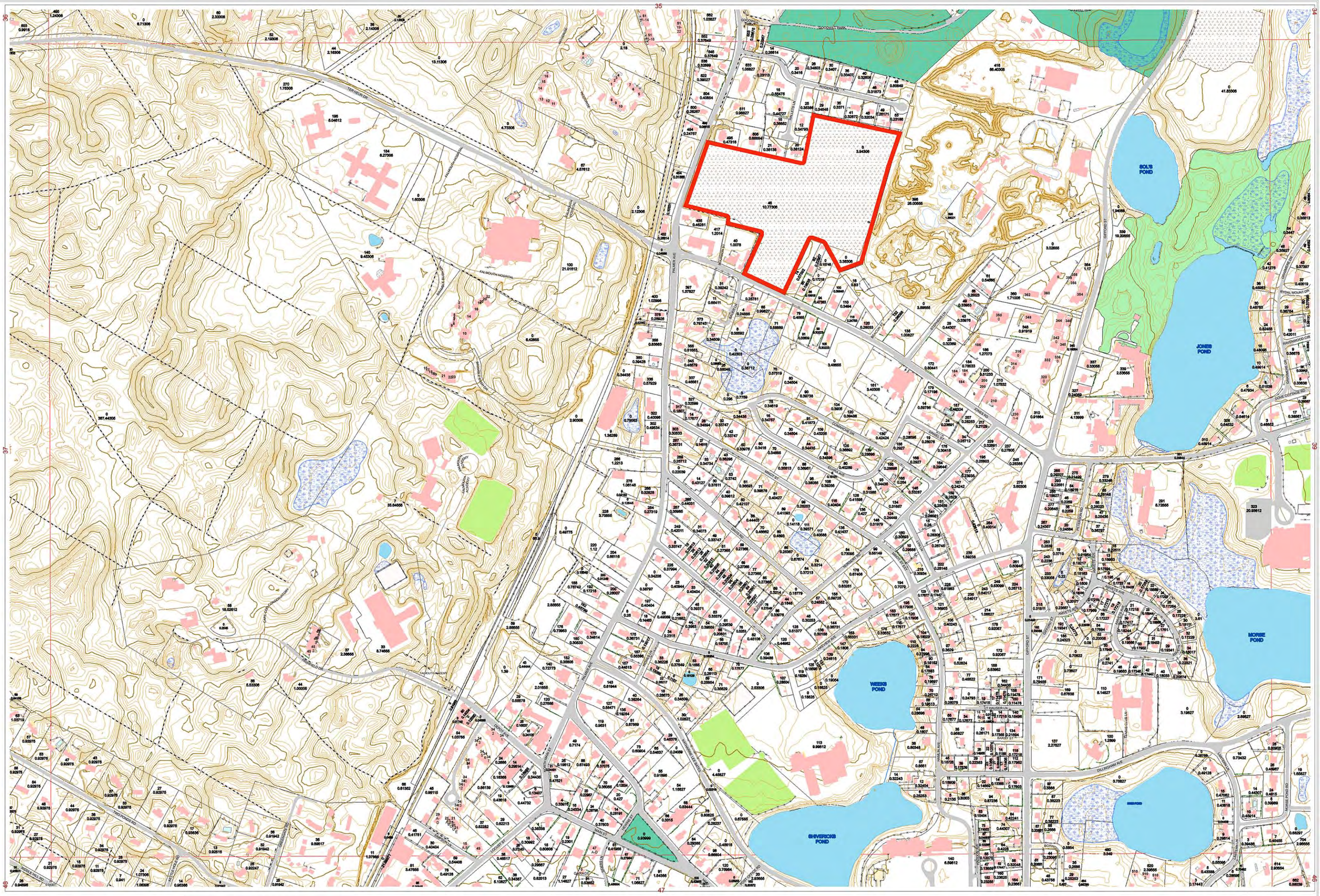
MACRIS #	Map #	Section	Historic Name	Material	Resource	Date	Status
810			OAK GROVE CEMETERY	N/A	SITE	1850	C
9017			CIRCULATION SYSTEM		STRUCTURE	1850-1952	C
1951	1	D	ELIZABETH PARKE CHAPEL	BRICK	BUILDING	1935	C
1952	2	E	UTILITY BUILDING	BRICK	BUILDING	1935, 2006	C
979	3	A	PALMER AVE STONE WALLS	GRANITE	STRUCTURE	1851	C
980	4	A	PALMER AVE GATEPOSTS	GRANITE	STRUCTURE	1851	C
981	5	A	PALMER AVE GATES	WROUGHT IRON	STRUCTURE	2008	NC
982	6	A	FIELDSTONE WALL, NORTH	FIELDSTONE	STRUCTURE	ca. 1851	C
983	7	A	FIELDSTONE WALL, SOUTH	FIELDSTONE	STRUCTURE	ca. 1851	C
984	8	C	JONES ROAD WALL	FIELDSTONE	STRUCTURE	2010	NC
			Gravestones, Monuments and Markers				
985	9	A	SAMUEL B. LAWRENCE (Henry Murray, carver)	MARBLE	OBJECT	d. 1882	C
986	10	A	BOURNE FAMILY	MARBLE	OBJECT	ca. 1855	C
987	11	A	KATHERINE LEE BATES	MARBLE	OBJECT	d. 1928	C
988	12	A	MARY FISHER	MARBLE/GRANITE	OBJECT	d. 1840	C
989	13	A	LAWRENCE FAMILY	GRANITE	OBJECT	ca. 1872	C
990	14	B	NATH./ELEANOR EMMONS	GRANITE	OBJECT	d.1926/1891	C
991	15	B	CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL	GRANITE	OBJECT	ca. 1890	C
992	16	B	LEWIS FAMILY	GRANITE	OBJECT	ca. 1900	C
993	17	F	ANSPACH	GRANITE	OBJECT	ca. 2000	NC
994	18	A	ELIJAH SWIFT	MARBLE	OBJECT	d. 1852	C
995	19	A	ERASMUS GOLD	MARBLE	OBJECT	d. 1881	C
996	20	A	BENJ. FRANKLIN JONES	MARBLE	OBJECT	d. 1879	C
997	21	A	THOMAS L. SWIFT	MARBLE	OBJECT	d. 1860	C
998	22	A	SILAS JONES	GRANITE	OBJECT	d. 1896	C
999	23	A	OLIVER C. SWIFT	GRANITE	OBJECT	d. 1874	C
9000	24	A	AARON CORNISH	MARBLE	OBJECT	d.1864	C
9001	25	A	GEORGE F. CLARKE	GRANITE	OBJECT	d. 1898	C
9002	26	B	SOLOMON D. ROBINSON	GRANITE	OBJECT	d. 1913	C

MACRIS #	Map #	Section	Historic Name	Material	Resource	Date	Status
9003	27	B	PARKE FAMILY	GRANITE	OBJECT	ca. 1901	C
9004	28	A	JONATHAN GREEN	MARBLE	OBJECT	d. 1848	C
9005	29	A	WESTON JENKINS	MARBLE	OBJECT	d. 1854	C
9006	30	A	HENRY C. BUNKER	MARBLE	OBJECT	d. 1879	C
9007	31	A	FRANCES ELIZABETH SWIFT	MARBLE	OBJECT	d. 1903	C
9008	32	A	SEBA HOLTON	GRANITE	OBJECT	d. 1927	C
9009	33	B	HENRY SMYTHE	GRANITE	OBJECT	d. 1930	C
9010	34	A	WILLIAM C. DAVIS	MARBLE	OBJECT	d. 1932	C
9011	35	B	EPHRAIM F. LINCOLN	GRANITE	OBJECT	d. 1934	C
9012	36	B	EDWARD THOMPSON	GRANITE	OBJECT	d.1935	C
9013	37	B	M. SYLVIA DONALDSON	MARBLE	OBJECT	d.1937	C
9014	38	B	FREDERICK K. SWIFT	GRANITE	OBJECT	d. 1928	C
9015	39	A	JAMES T. LAWRENCE (Joshua Francis, carver)	MARBLE	OBJECT	d.1856	C
9016	40	C	JONES RD ENTRANCE SIGN	STONE	OBJECT	2010	NC

SUMMARY	**C**	**NC**
Sites	1	0
Buildings	1	1
Objects	28	2
Structures	5	2
Total	35	5

The datasheets list only key and representative resources referred to in sections 7 and 8 of this nomination.

Oak Grove Cemetery, Falmouth (Barnstable County), MA



Legend

Condos: RAILROADS, BRIDGE, Parcel, BUILDINGS, PATIO, DECK, Cemetery

Fences&Walls: FENCE, GUARD; JERSEY, HEDGE, RETWALLS, STONE

MARINE: DOCKPIER, JETTY, RIP RAP, OTHER

WATER: WETAREA, STREAM, POND, PRVED, UNPRVED

PARKS: CEMETERY, PARK, PLAYGROUND

Contours TYPE: Depression Index, 10' Index, 2' Contours

SPORTS: BLEACHERS, FIELD, GOLF, POOL, RANGE, TENNIS, TRACK

Condo Labels
House # 7(Bold)
Unit # A2

Parcel Labels
House # 72
Acres 0.25

Falmouth Topographic
Map Series

36	35	34
37		39
48	47	46

MAP 38

Disclaimer
The Town of Falmouth makes no claims,no representations and no warranties, express or implied, concerning the validity (express or implied), the reliability or the accuracy of the GIS data and/or GIS products furnished by the Town, including the implied validity of any uses of such data.Parcel lines are graphic representations only. Planimetric features derived from 2005 Aerials
Prepared by Falmouth GIS

--Note: This map is for informational Purposes only.--

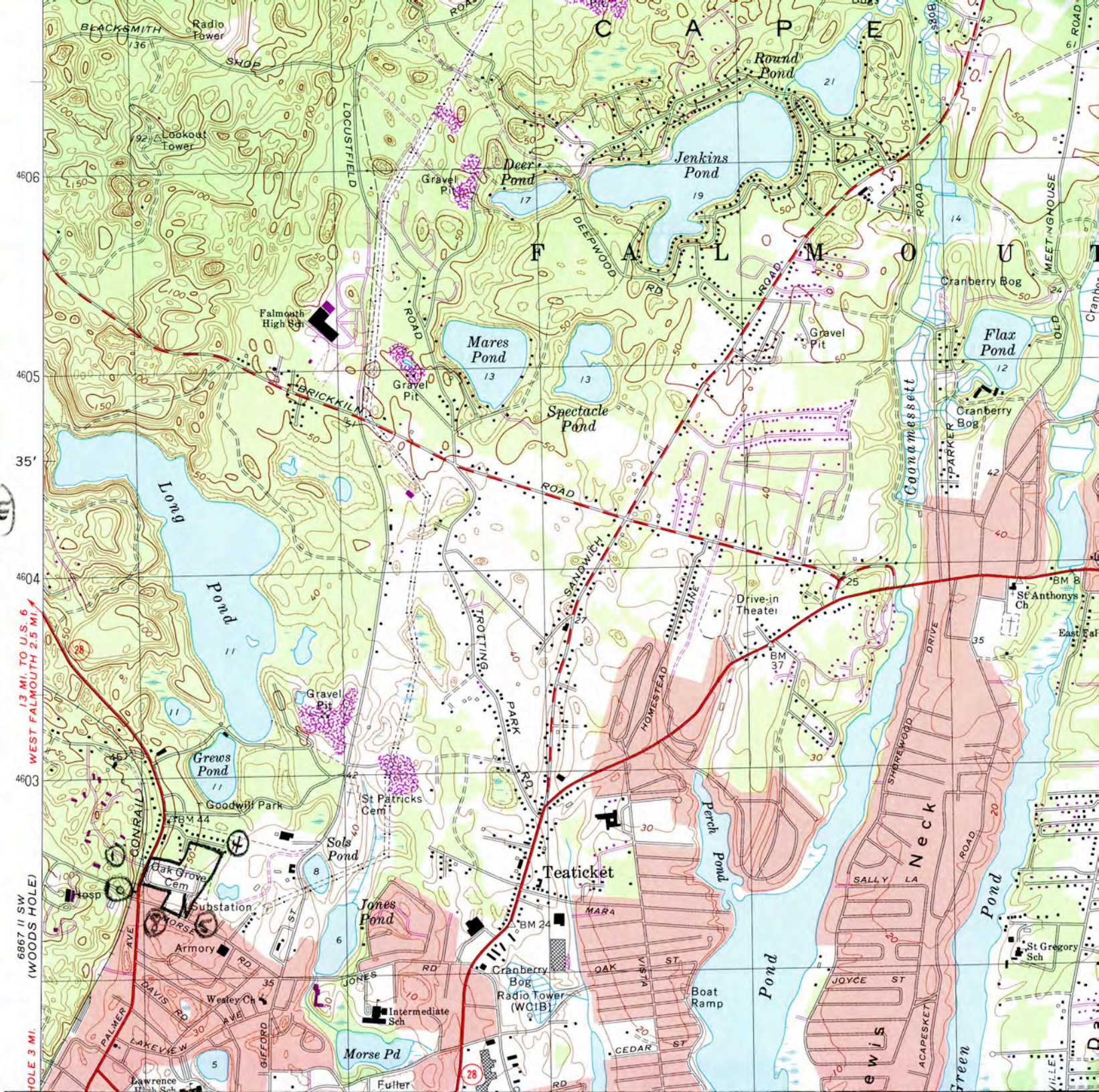
Jul 31, 2007

Map Document: (Y:\GIS\Arc_Map_Docs\MapSeries\Topo_Series.mxd)
7/19/2007 -- 3:17:59 PM

OAK GROVE
CEMETERY
FALMOUTH (BARNSTABLE)
MA

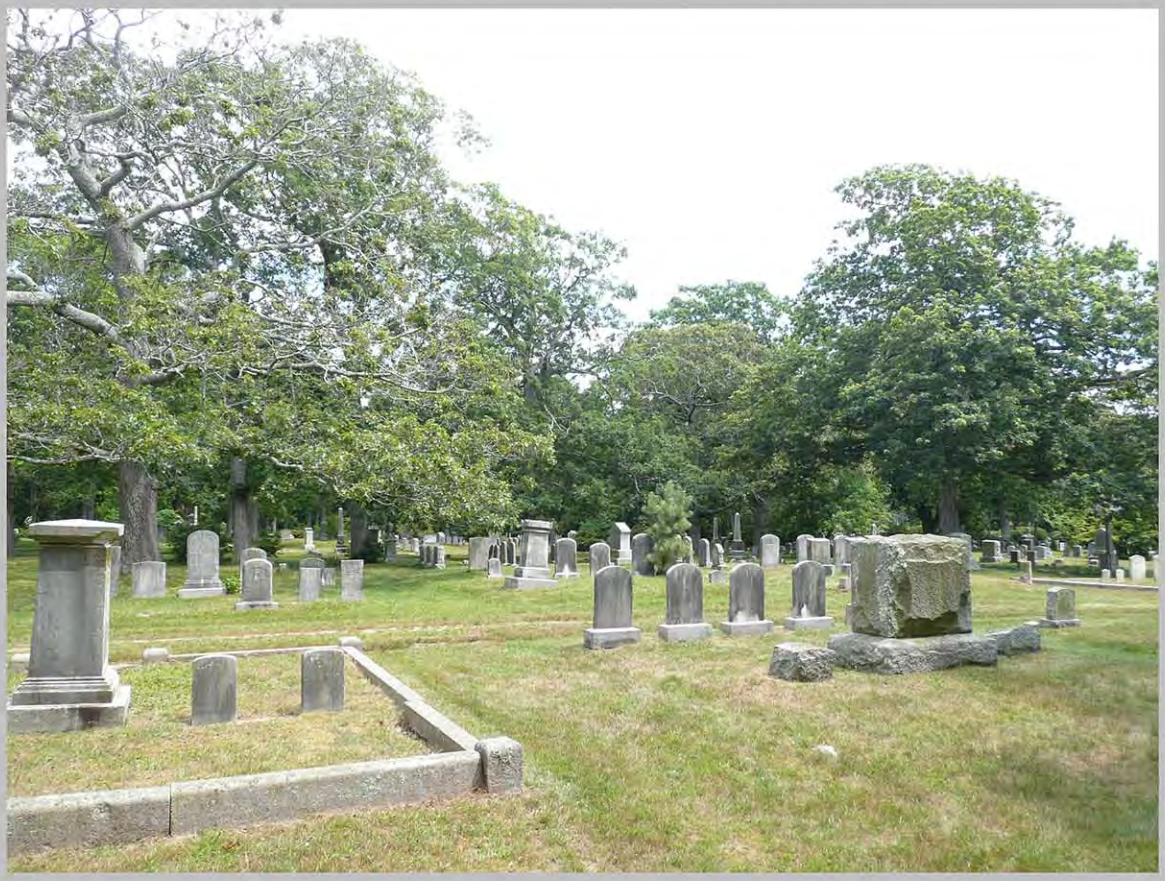
Zone 19

1. 365090 4602850
2. 365267 4602795
3. 365287 4602892
4. 365450 4602855
5. 365310 4602640
6. 365280 4602665
7. 365225 4602560
8. 365150 4602600
9. 365177 4602680
10. 365040 4602225



Oak Grove Cemetery, Falmouth (Barnstable Co.), MA

1. View of Oak Grove Cemetery from Palmer Ave. Looking NE. (April 2012)



2. View of Oak Grove Cemetery. Looking E. (June 2012)

All photos: Eric Dray, 2012

Oak Grove Cemetery, Falmouth (Barnstable Co.), MA

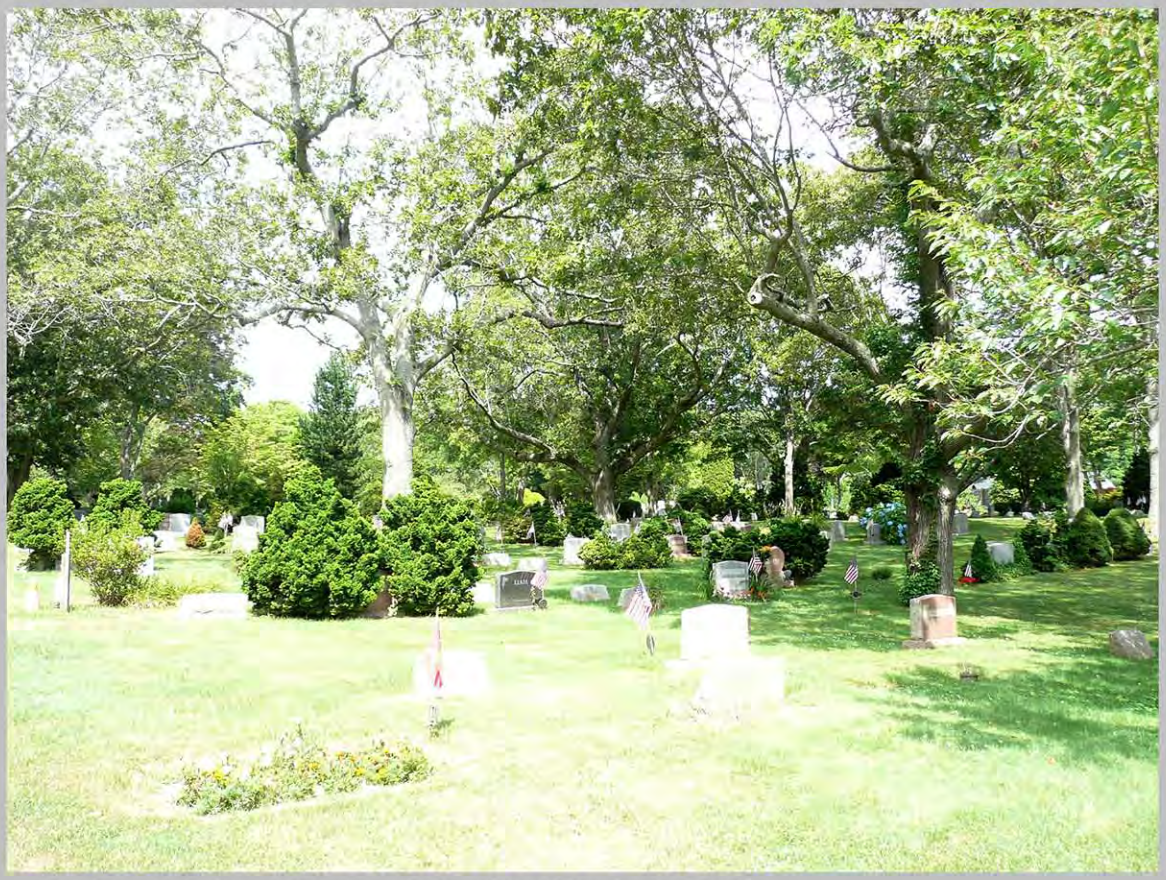
3. Palmer Avenue Entrance, 1851, Map# 4,5. Looking NE. (July 2012)

4. Swift family plot, ca. 1851, Map #18. Looking SE. (April 2012)

All photos: Eric Dray, 2012

Oak Grove Cemetery, Falmouth (Barnstable Co.), MA

5. View of Section C from Jones Road. Looking NE. (July 2011)



6. General view of Section E. Looking NE. (July 2012)

All photos: Eric Dray, 2012

Oak Grove Cemetery, Falmouth (Barnstable Co.), MA

7. General view, Section F. Looking E. (June 2012)

8. Elizabeth G. Parke Memorial Chapel, 1935, Looking SW, Map #1. (April 2012)

All photos: Eric Dray, 2012

Oak Grove Cemetery, Falmouth (Barnstable Co.), MA

9. Samuel B. Lawrence headstone, d. 1882, Map #9. Looking N. (June 2012)

10. Bourne family plot monument, ca. 1870, Map #10. Looking E. (April 2012)

All photos: Eric Dray, 2012

Oak Grove Cemetery, Falmouth (Barnstable Co.), MA

11. Katherine Lee Bates headstone, d. 1928, Map #11. Looking W. (April 2012)

12. Lawrence family monument, ca. 1890, Map #13. Looking N. (April 2012)

All photos: Eric Dray, 2012

Oak Grove Cemetery, Falmouth (Barnstable Co.), MA

13. Nathaniel (d. 1926) and Eleanor (d. 1891) Emmons granite boulder, Map #14. Looking W. (June 2012)

14. View of Utility Shed, 2006, Map #2, looking NW. (May 2012)

All photos: Eric Dray, 2012