

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Historic Cemeteries of the Town of Southampton
Suffolk County, New York

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ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Six common property types are identified with the 48 cemeteries surveyed in the Town of Southampton. These six property types are identified as being associated with the themes outlined in Section B of this document and are described as follows:

PROPERTY TYPE: SETTLEMENT BURIAL GROUNDS, 1640-1800

I. DESCRIPTION:

Settlement burial grounds have their origins in either the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries and generally became inactive in the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth centuries although a rare few are still active. These burial grounds are usually confined to lots originally designated for the purpose of a graveyard and reflect the New England settlement pattern of rectangular lots surrounded by fencing, walls or plantings (hedges, rows of trees, shrubbery). The burial patterns tend to be orderly with burials in rows with east-west orientations. Family members are often interred adjacent to each other. Markers are placed at the head and are made of sandstone, slate or marble and footstones tend to be rare. The older burial grounds in this property type are missing several markers due to a combination of factors such as age, vandalism and use of organic materials that have decomposed (i.e., wood markers). Marker inscriptions range from simple (names with dates) to ornate (verses, carvings, personal information). Burial grounds established in the eighteenth century contain a wider variety of marker types ranging from headstones to tabletop tombs.

II. SIGNIFICANCE:

Age is a significant factor with this property type as these burial grounds are the result of the first settlements of New England colonists and their subsequent generations, and contain the gravesites of the founders of the various settlements in the Town of Southampton. Some of the stones of the founders have been replaced due to erosion but the burial grounds retain their integrity due to the extant surviving markers and the high degree of original design. Grave markers from the late-seventeenth century onward show a high degree of funerary art with large collections of religious iconography such as skulls, angels, and hour glasses, often carved by New England masters.

For the few burial grounds still in use, modern burials are clearly separated, keeping the design, function, setting and association intact in the historic portions. The same applies to burial grounds that were active well into the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries with more recent interments kept to clearly defined sections of groupings of similar age and type.

III. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

For this property type to be eligible for listing, it must clearly illustrate the themes outlined in section B, making it significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of exploration and settlement. This property type must also be evaluated in terms of Criterion Consideration D for age, (representing the earliest settlements) and

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by containing the gravesites of persons important to the establishing of these early communities. The property type should also be evaluated under National Register Criterion C for art for the marker styles, iconography and craftsmanship and how it represents the social customs of the settlement era inhabitants of the Town of Southampton.

PROPERTY TYPE: INDIVIDUAL BURIAL SITES, 1790-1930

I. DESCRIPTION:

These sites are widely scattered and largely overgrown with vegetation or in areas that are difficult to access. The sites were once part of larger burials that were either removed or were somehow separated from larger burial grounds such as those on private property. Often the only evidence of a burial is the grave marker and/or remnants of fencing. Markers are either slate or marble and show a high frequency of vandalism.

II. SIGNIFICANCE:

These sites are the most endangered being located on private lands, but they also have the most integrity issues. Significance is almost exclusively related to the person interred, their history to the site and to the larger community.

III. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

Since integrity relies on the person interred, the property type must meet the conditions of Criterion Consideration C as a gravesite of a person of outstanding importance. These gravesites may be the only historical information about the person interred but it must be clearly demonstrated that the accomplishments of the person were extraordinary on the local, state or national level.

PROPERTY TYPE: FAMILY PLOTS, 1770-1900

I. DESCRIPTION:

The majority of this property type tends to be small, rectangular shaped properties, outlined with some sort of fencing/hedges and contain an average range of 2-20 markers. In overall appearance, the earlier family plots are smaller versions of the earlier settlement period burial grounds with burials in rows marked with headstones, but some have nineteenth century family plot markers. For the earlier burials, the family monuments were later additions. The family monuments were a practice established in the nineteenth century, made of marble or granite and usually obelisk shaped. The plots established in the nineteenth century include fencing, and a variety of markers and funerary art. Family plots were initially on private lands, mostly on farms that were a fair distance from the settlements and therefore creating a need to expeditiously dispose of the dead. The earliest examples of this property type have beginning dates from the late-eighteenth century with all of identified

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family plots becoming inactive during the nineteenth century. One family plot has an identified early stone with a 1724 date but that may be a re-interment (Jessup Family). This property type shows a wide range of conditions related to location and ownership.

II. SIGNIFICANCE:

Similar to the Individual Burial Sites, this property type is endangered due to development and abandonment, leading to integrity issues resulting from vandalism and neglect. Family plots currently maintained by the town and private cemetery associations show a high degree of integrity and set the standard for evaluating others in this category. The significance of the family plot is related to the family members interred and their association with the property and larger community. Significance is also related to the individual and collective conditions of the interments, the variety and quality of markers and gravesites and the related funerary art.

III. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

This property type must demonstrate significant associations between the families interred and Criteria A for settlement history, according to the themes outlined in Section B of this document. Similar to the Settlement Period property type, the family plot property type must also be evaluated under Criteria C and Criterion Consideration D in terms of marker styles, iconography and craftsmanship and how it represents the social customs of the settlement era inhabitants of the Town of Southampton.

PROPERTY TYPE: CHURCH CEMETERY, 1850-1930

I. DESCRIPTION:

The main characteristic of this property type is that it is adjacent to or part of a religious property, in other words, physically connected with a church. The term church is used since all of the cemeteries in this property type identified in the Town of Southampton are associated with Christian churches. Each church cemetery is either next to the church or located directly behind. The cemeteries are land-locked, roughly one to five acres in size (depending on the amount of property owned by the church) and generally surrounded by fencing. This property type contains two major arrangements of burials: 1.) rows of individual graves marked with headstones; and 2.) separate family plots organized around a central monument marker with the family name(s) and burial inscriptions. Actual burials are indicated by smaller headstones, footstones or a combination of both. Family plots are often outlined with railings, fencing, or hedges. Trees and other plantings often appear in the plots. Footstones can also be found with individual row burials. Monuments and markers are predominately marble and granite and contain a wide variety of symbolism. Many of the more artistic grave markers are sculptural, containing columns, scrolls, books and natural forms such as trees and flowers. Common in these cemeteries is the use of decorative sculpture in the form of animals, angels and human figures.

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II. SIGNIFICANCE:

As previously mentioned, the significance of the cemetery relates to the religious organization, and how the two histories of church and cemetery are interrelated. Significance is also related to the arrangement and conditions of the interments, the variety and quality of markers and related funerary art. Conditions of cemeteries in this property type are similar to municipally owned cemeteries due to their association with religious buildings/organizations and security.

III: Registration Requirements:

Cemeteries of this property type must be significant under Criteria A as being associated with the historic themes outlined in the Section B of this document and under Criterion Consideration A as being associated with a church/part of a religious property. For cases where the church building has lost integrity, the cemetery could be evaluated under Criteria C and Criterion Consideration D for burial arrangement, craftsmanship and art for the use of sculptural elements. The same registration requirements apply for church cemeteries like the Westhampton Churchyard that is maintained by the Town of Southampton rather than the adjacent Westhampton Presbyterian Church.

PROPERTY TYPE: RURAL CEMETERY, 1835-1880

I. DESCRIPTION:

This property type also is large in terms of acreage and number of burials with one of the cemeteries containing over 3,700 burials (Oakland Cemetery, Sag Harbor). The design and location of the cemeteries capitalized on the natural topography, incorporating natural landscape elements into the layout of the property. This property type includes a large number of trees, flowering shrubs and other plantings to create a picturesque, almost park-like setting. Curved and partially paved roadways allow access to the various sections. Cemetery sections are further subdivided into family plots or into orderly rows of headstones. Family plots are often demarcated by plot markers, metal fencing, and/or hedges. Markers, monuments and crypts are predominantly of marble but sandstone and granite are also present. Zinc or "white bronze" cast metal monuments can be found in this property type but are quite rare. Large, stand-alone monuments can also be found with this property type that commemorates tragic or important historic events. Iconography uses classical Greek and Roman funerary motifs along with a wide variety of sentimental Victorian symbolism (flowers, figures, branches, chains, anchors, etc.). Fraternal order symbols make their appearance with this property type. Entrances are often marked with gates and the cemeteries were enclosed with fencing or hedges.

II. Significance:

This property type reflects the national trend from graveyard to park-like cemetery that began in Boston in the 1830s with Mount Auburn Cemetery. The movement signaled a change in attitudes from the finality of death to

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restful, eternal sleep. The rural cemetery was designed for the living as well as the dead, offering a place where one could visit the graves of friends and family and contemplate nature and the afterlife. This property type displays the careful design and use of nature. Markers and monuments contain sentimental inscriptions and large collections of funerary art ranging from relief carvings on grave markers to sculptured figures, urns and obelisks. The identified rural cemetery property types in the town are still active cemeteries and are in good condition due to security and regular maintenance.

III. Registration Requirements:

Being part of a larger movement, this property type must be evaluated under Criteria C for landscape design and Criterion Consideration D for displaying characteristics of a rural cemetery. There may be burials of individuals of transcendent importance, but like the lawn cemetery property type, the burials must be considered as contributing elements to the entire property. This property type strives for a particular look in terms of arrangement and landscape features and must retain a significant amount of the original design.

PROPERTY TYPE: LAWN CEMETERY, 1880-1930

I. DESCRIPTION:

Cemeteries in this property type are large, with some containing more than 1000 burials, largely due to still being active. The design of this property type uses large, rectangular lawns divided into even sections separated by paved roadways. Landscaping elements are limited to trees and shrubs and generally confined to the perimeter of the park-like lawn sections. Burials are organized into rows and marked with headstones, some being marble but the majority being granite. This property type includes crypts for some family burials but most family burial sites are marked by a family monument with the burials in front in a row. Older monuments and markers often include sculptural elements such as urns and angels. More recent graves are marked with low granite monuments. In some cases, this type of cemetery has an association with a particular group, such as the Roman Catholic Church, which built large cemeteries for specific churches that were some distance from the church in order to capitalize on the park-like setting or on available space that was lacking with the church property. In one instance, the Good Ground Cemetery began as a church associated cemetery but lost its church affiliation in 1882 when it came under the direction of the Good Ground Cemetery Association. The older section of this cemetery has the characteristics of the church cemetery property type, but this area is dwarfed by the acreage, vast lawn expanses and number of burials in the remainder of the cemetery.

II. SIGNIFICANCE:

This property type is significant for its layout and design since the intent is to create park-like setting for the cemetery. The long, neatly arranged sections of the cemeteries lack the clutter of the older property types in the town. As previously mentioned, the landscaping is purposely limited and the monuments and related burials are orderly in arrangement. Gates and decorative entrances are part of the overall design plan. Classical inspired

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sculpture and marker styles predominate. Since the cemeteries in this property type tend to still be active, they tend to be in excellent condition due to security and regular maintenance.

III. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

This property type must be evaluated under Criterion C and Criterion Consideration D for landscape design and for following the national trend of the park-lawn cemetery that began in Cincinnati, Ohio with Spring Grove Cemetery in 1882. Since design is the over-riding factor, this property type must retain a high degree of its original design. Burials of important individuals certainly add to the integrity but augment the significance rather than stand alone as a determination of eligibility. For individuals of extraordinary importance, the burial site could be evaluated under Criteria Consideration C but should be considered with the overall integrity of the entire property.