

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	UXB.818
Historic Name:	Friends' Cemetery
Common Name:	
Address:	500 Quaker Hwy
City/Town:	Uxbridge
Village/Neighborhood:	Quaker City
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	r 1749
Architect(s):	Green
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Burial Ground
Significance:	Art; Community Planning; Military; Philosophy; Religion
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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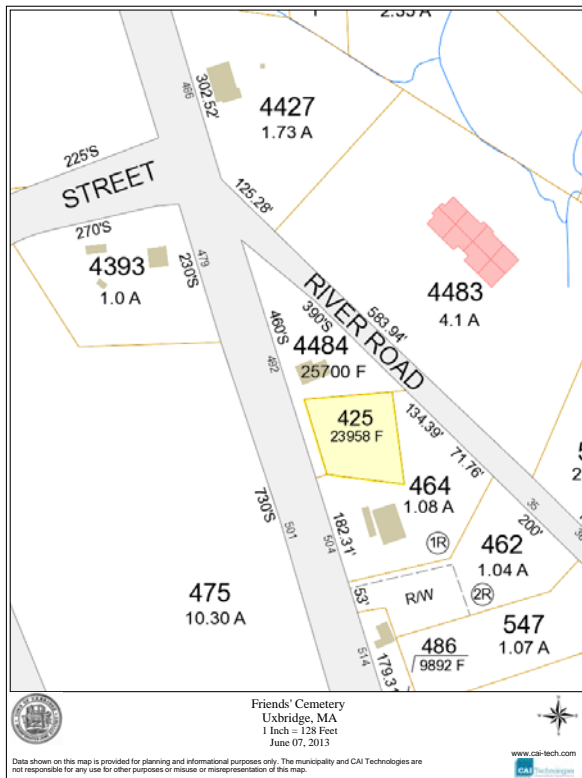
FORM E – BURIAL GROUND

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

45-425

UXB.818

Uxbridge Vital records to 1850 – Cemetery #21

Town: Uxbridge

Place (*neighborhood or village*): Quaker City

Address or Location: 500 Quaker Highway

Name: Friends' Cemetery

Ownership: ☐ Public ☒ Private

Approximate Number of Stones: 110

Earliest Death Date: 1749

Latest Death Date: 1992

Landscape Architect:

Condition: Cemetery is in good condition and maintained by the Society of Friends.

Acreage: .55 137' wide by 126' deep

Setting: Flat open land surrounded by local businesses.

Recorded by: Jill Kenrick and Sheryl Romasco

Organization: Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee

Date (*month / year*): JUL 2015

RECEIVED

SEP 02 2016

MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

UXBRIDGE

500 QUAKER HIGHWAY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

UXB.818

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT

The Friends Cemetery is visible from the road. It has a west facing entrance. The terrain is gently sloping from west to east. There is a fieldstone wall on three sides of the cemetery and a granite post and iron pipe fence in front along the road. The markers are in fair condition. There are 80 marble monuments, 2 slate, s granite and 32 fieldstone markers – used as both headstones and footstones. The Aldrich family has a large ornate arched marble monument with an urn. Three stones have willow carvings. One slate stone has a winged angel. Four plots are defined by slabs of granite.

One of the carvers noted in the cemetery is Green of Woonsocket, RI.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Society of Friends or Quakers grew rapidly in Rhode Island and spread up the Blackstone Valley in the 18th century. There was a large Society that met in Glocester, RI. Many of these people found their way to Uxbridge and spread out through the southern section of town. Their names are familiar – the Aldrich, Farnum, Gifford, Buffum, Brown, Comstock, Southwick, Arnold White, Adams, etc. The Quakers who moved to Uxbridge went back to meetings in Glocester, RI until they could build their own Meeting House. The Quaker Meeting House was built in May 1770 at the corner of Aldrich Street and the State Road. The bricks were made at Moses Farnum's Farm. This was the center of Quaker City. The Society later purchased the Burying Ground from Moses Farnum who was their first leader in Uxbridge. He also pled the cases of the many Quakers who refused to pay war taxes to support the wars.

This Society of Friends was very involved in the abolitionist movement. Abby Foster Kelly and Effingham Capron were members of the society. It is said approximately 30,000 slaves were helped through the Blackstone Valley by the various Quaker Meeting Houses from Providence, RI up to Canada.

It is believed that all the headstones that are in the cemetery were original to the cemetery, except for the slate stone of Cornet John Farnum and his wife, Abigail Marsh Farnum. They were moved to this cemetery between 1875 and 1879 when the Town Cemetery was moved to make way for the new town hall. All of the stones face west, except for John and Abigail who fast east.

There is one unique burial here - Capt. John Farnum served in the Civil War. He was lost at sea from the steamer "Atlantic". The Quakers were pacifists but were very much against slavery.

INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Uxbridge Historic Cemetery Committee

Uxbridge Vital Records to 1850

Uxbridge Vital Records Trust agreement from Worcester Montly Meeting of the Society of Friends of Worcester, MA

Current Deed: Deed Book 5260, Page 513 (13 SEP 1972)

Owners: Quaker Meeting House Association

Deed Excluding Cemetery and/or ROW Access:

Deed Book 5260, Page 513 (13 SEP 1972)

Deed Book 64, Pages 94-96 (26 JUL 1773)

Excerpts from Deeds: Deed Book 5260, Page 513 (13 SEP 1972) "The second piece of said parcels, known as the Friends Society Cemetery is bounded westerly by said State Road _____ and by Ironstone Street; northerly by land now or formerly of said Herbert M. Young; easterly and southerly by land owners unknown."

Deed Book 64, Pages 94-96 (26 JUL 1773): Moses Farnum to Lawrence Southwick & William Buffum (for the Society of Friends) – "bounded as follows; Beginning at the northeast corner of a hill and the northeast corner of a piece of land about two rods northeastwards from the place where Phineas Taft was buried at a heap of stones, thence running South six rods; thence running West thirteen rods and one third of a rod to the first mention bound of this piece of land. Which last piece of land is for a Burying Place and also privilege to pass to Burying Ground from the road by said grantor's land where _____ will do the least damage and from said Burying Ground to said road as needed as be.

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