

**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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SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

Information and conclusions in this document are based on the results of two recent studies done for the Town of Southampton: a 2004 survey completed by architectural historian Zachary Studenroth that identified 48 historic cemetery sites, and a cemetery condition survey completed in 2006 by the University of Pennsylvania Architectural Conservation Laboratory and Research Center. The survey by Studenroth identified and located the various cemeteries, recording the location, age, type of cemetery and jurisdiction (ownership). The survey from the University of Pennsylvania developed a database that collected information about existing conditions of the ten town-owned cemeteries. The study evaluated a total of 1,178 individual plots and 17 group plots within the cemeteries to consider condition of stones, markers and burial sites in general. All markers were photographed and the information recorded on a condition survey form. The layout, typology and overall condition of each cemetery was recorded and assembled into a final summary/management plan. From this study, the university developed a database, survey forms and a manual to train participants for future condition documentation studies of the remaining 38 cemeteries. Information recorded by both Studenroth and the University of Pennsylvania was completed after extensive archival research and field work/site visits.

Information contained in these reports provided the primary material for tracing settlement patterns and burial practices in the town from its earliest settlement through the mid-twentieth century. The locations reflect movement of populations. The types of cemeteries responded to attitudes towards death and the disposal of the deceased. Locations of burials also provided insight into attitudes towards racial and ethnic groups, such as the remote burial site of the Reverend Paul Cuffee (Shinnecock). Documenting the plots and markers revealed a vast array of funerary art that ranged from seventeenth and eighteenth century marker carvings to sculptural monuments that again reflected that change in attitudes towards death from Puritan Calvinism to the romanticism and emotional sentimentality of the nineteenth century. The information compiled in the reports and in this document will assist in listing additional eligible cemeteries in the National Register of Historic Places.

Preliminary assessment: 2004

A preliminary assessment and survey of all previously inventoried cemetery sites located throughout the town was conducted in 2004 by Zachary N. Studenroth, an architectural preservation consultant to the town. Precise locations and boundaries, general descriptions of grave markers and landscape features, and special attributes and bibliographic references were collected in this phase of the work, which was aimed at identifying all known, surviving active and inactive cemeteries and burial sites and quantifying the future scope of a more detailed, site-specific survey of the town-owned sites. Preliminary research was done by the consultant in compiling the data utilizing historic property records, published histories and records, primary documents, photographic archives, maps, field surveys and other resources. The initial survey comprised an inventory of extant historic cemeteries and burial sites in the town and determined which of those were owned by or under the management authority of the Town of Southampton. The outcome of the project was a report that identified ten town-owned historic burial grounds and grave sites under town management.

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The project included the findings of former inventories and combined information on cemeteries and burial sites that were known to be lost. This background information was included wherever possible to aid in future study, such as general research into burial practices and patterns.

Comprehensive conditions assessment: 2005-2006

Following this initial project that was completed in 2004, a two-year comprehensive survey and preliminary conservation effort directed at the ten town-owned cemetery properties was conducted by the University of Pennsylvania, Architectural Conservation Laboratory and Research Center. This project, conducted in 2005-2006, sought to develop a documentation and condition survey methodology and a full-featured database application tied to the Southampton Town GIS. With these tools, a comprehensive survey of all ten of the town-owned sites was conducted over two years and all information was entered into the database, allowing the existing conditions to be quantified and mapped.

A series of educational workshops was conducted for the community with training for survey terms on processes, illustrations of the most prevalent conditions, and demonstrations of cleaning, grouting and pinning of damaged monuments. The workshops were video-taped and continue to serve as training and advocacy vehicles for the Town of Southampton.

This comprehensive survey summarized the methodology used throughout the project and recorded data, recommendations and findings. Included in the scope of the project was a CD with all survey reports, a database and report images, and the survey form and illustrated manual. Also included were printed database reports for all monuments, with each cemetery plot data and image contained in its own two-page report. In the first year of the comprehensive two-year survey (2005), a total of 667 monuments were surveyed in the North End Burial Ground (1705-1958), 52 monuments in the Old Southampton Burying Ground (1682-1897) and 49 monuments at Old Noyac/Edwards Burial Ground (1768-1876). The report also included a full survey form, a twenty-two page illustrated survey manual with all terms and definitions, and locator maps showing the aerial photographs with all monuments located and numbered.

In the second year of the survey (2006) the remaining seven town-owned sites were surveyed using the identical methodology, resulting in a comprehensive and highly detailed conditions assessment and site-specific locator for all of the historic gravestones in town ownership (East Quogue, Hubbard, Squires/Fournier, Rev. Cuffee, North Sea, Pleasure Woods and Westhampton). This full-scale survey completed the inventory and analysis of the ten historic town-owned cemeteries throughout the Town of Southampton. The findings indicated that there is a great diversity of landscape, typology and conditions distributed among the town-owned cemeteries. The findings of the project emphasized that the historic cemeteries and burial sites in the Town of Southampton are significant outdoor museums that provide a valuable resource for the study of the region's history, art, industry, culture and demographics. The work of this multi-phase project was intended to result in the long-term, sustainable preservation of these valuable outdoor museums that present so vividly the history and people of the Town of Southampton. The project was also intended to inform the preparation of follow-up studies and

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initiatives, including the creation of a *Historic Cemetery and Burial Ground Management Plan* as well as the application for nomination of the sites to the *National Register of Historic Places*.

The cemeteries surveyed ranged from very small sites with only one or a few markers remaining to show what was once a burial ground, to the larger sites that remained in continuous use for many decades. During the summer and early fall of 2005, a model condition survey form and illustrated manual were developed using the information gathered at the first three sites. This model condition survey form was intended to be used in later phases and through local volunteer efforts to survey and assess conditions of the remaining Southampton historic cemeteries, both town and non-town owned. The key sections of the survey allowed for the collection of these important categories of information: identification, environment, description of the monument or other features, materials, conditions, repairs and alterations and the actual inscription, if legible. The model condition survey was organized to maximize the collection of information for these categories.

The model condition survey form and survey methodology was tested with a full survey of each of the Town owned sites. Before the physical survey, each site was mapped using a combination of high resolution aerial photographs with embedded geographical information from the State of New York and physical measurements. The geographically rectified aerial photographs were used in combination with the town's geographic information system (GIS) base map and a new layer of cemetery plots was created that covered all plots in each of the burial grounds. This digital technique allowed for the rapid mapping of cemetery plots on sites without extensive tree cover, and resulted in 90% of the plots being recorded through the aerial photographs. Each cemetery plot was then individually surveyed using the model condition survey form. The data gathered was later entered into a database that was designed to capture all condition information for both the plot and for each element (primary monument, associated footstone, fragment, etc.) in the cemetery plot. This database was linked to the GIS maps through the layer of the cemetery plots allowing specialized 'smart' maps to be developed to show any condition or other information collected. These maps included: the map of materials, map of headstone dates, map of worst conditions, map of 'at risk' monuments, etc. Specialized forms with reference photographs were programmed in the database for data entry and reports with the reference photographs were prepared for the preparation of archival documents.

Based on the results of the historic cemeteries surveyed, the "value" of the Town of Southampton historic cemeteries was found to be very high. For example, there remain some very early stones (i.e., late seventeenth century), some in remarkable condition. Of all monuments surveyed, 95% were categorized as "complete" (i.e., over 75% intact), even if in poor condition, 4% were incomplete (less than 75% intact) and only 1% were broken at grade. At the Old Southampton Burying Ground (South End), for example, the visible dates on the markers ranged from 1655 to 1897; at North End Burial Ground from 1705 to 1958; and at Noyac/Edwards from to 1798 to 1876. These three sites are representative of the group. In the Old Southampton and North End sites, there can be seen many fine examples of the unique early American art form of marker carvings from Connecticut, Long Island and New Jersey. The lettering on the markers ranges from crude block letters to fine script. There are examples of death heads, from the early grim skulls to the later, much softer death head types. Examples of family heraldic motifs are also found on some of the pre-Revolutionary War markers. A progression of eighteenth century cherub styles is evident, as are the later nineteenth century willow and urn

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designs. While the study did not attempt to classify individual carving styles and designs, a quick review of the marker images provided considerable evidence and material for further study.

The recently completed surveys of town-owned cemeteries and burial sites, which contain detailed descriptions and conditions assessments of individual grave markers throughout the subject area, comprise an invaluable tool and a basis for further study and nomination of the group to the *National Register of Historic Places*. Archival resources considered too detailed for the scope of previous projects have been identified for follow-up study; a relational database including descriptions, conditions and locations of all the grave markers in the study group have been compiled and recommendations for future maintenance, management and stewardship of the properties have been prepared. The identification and evaluation of the Town's historic cemeteries comprised a significant component of the work undertaken between 2004 and 2006, and will serve as a basis for study and preparation of nominations for the cemeteries to the *National Register of Historic Places*.