

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Old North Burying Ground  
other names/site number Old North Cemetery (Preferred)

### 2. Location

street & number US 6; E and SE of intersection of US 6 and Aldrich Road  not for publication  
city or town Truro  vicinity  
state Massachusetts code MA county Barnstable code 001 zip code 02652

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Brona Simon January 22, 2013  
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO, MHC Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Lee Edison H. Beall 3-20-13  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box.)

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
1	0	sites
1	1	structures
54	4	objects
56	5	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/cemetery

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FUNERARY/cemetery

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

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foundation: \_\_\_\_\_

walls: \_\_\_\_\_

roof: \_\_\_\_\_

other: Slate, marble, granite, sandstone, bronze,  
limestone, brick, and tin

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

Located in the town of Truro on Cape Cod in Massachusetts, the Old North Cemetery was laid out in proximity to what is considered the community's earliest recorded meetinghouse. The cemetery land was cleared for burials in 1713, and was identified as "the public yard . . . laid out on the hill" (Haskell 2000:1-1). The meetinghouse has since been relocated, but the cemetery remains a central focus of the Truro community. Situated on the east side of US 6, immediately south of Aldrich Road, the original or North Section of the cemetery incorporates about 2.97 acres. The cemetery was expanded southward twice—in 1928, when a two-acre parcel was added, and in 1974, when a .63-acre parcel was added—these parcels are known as the Center Section and the South Section, respectively. Today the entire cemetery encompasses 5.6 acres (Figure 1). There are three entrances from US 6, along the cemetery's western boundary, and one from Aldrich Road, along its northern boundary. While the entire 5.6-acre cemetery is included in the boundary of this National Register nomination, the narrative focuses on the North and Center sections, which are more than 50 years old.

Graves in the core of the original North Section weave across the landscape, and the slate headstones exhibit significant gravestone art that has been attributed to some of New England's best known carvers, including Nathaniel Emmes (1690-1750) and William Codner (1709-1769) of Boston, and the Lamson family (1656-1824) of Charlestown. Another significant feature is the receiving tomb, found at the northwest edge of the cemetery. Graves in the Center and South sections are organized by lots within each section. Although external vistas have been compromised by construction along US 6 in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery, the internal setting remains intact. The landscape in the North Section displays the characteristics of early town/early religious burial grounds combined with elements of the Rural Cemetery and Lawn Park movements. The Center and South sections reflect the Lawn Park Movement. The lack of associated vegetation is characteristic of the Cape's historic landscape. There are over 1,200 burials; the earliest dates from 1713, while the latest dates to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Burials still take place at the Old North Cemetery.

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### **Narrative Description**

#### **Location**

The Old North Cemetery is located midway between what are today known as the North Truro Village (formerly Pond Village) and the Truro Center Village, on the east side of US 6, an original county road. The cemetery is situated immediately across the street from the town's new police and fire department headquarters. US 6, a two-lane road, receives the bulk of the Cape's traffic, especially during the summer season. To the north of the cemetery is Aldrich Road, providing access to the secluded houses to the north, northeast, and east of the cemetery. These residences are screened from the cemetery by scrub pine. Beyond the Center and South sections are woods and Highlands Road, which was another county road. Along the west edge of the cemetery, prior to US 6, is a dirt road that has been closed off and is no longer in use (this may be a remnant of the original county road). Historically the cemetery was situated immediately south of the early 18<sup>th</sup>-century Pond Village.

#### **Topography**

The cemetery is called the "Hill of Storms" by some locals, although the topographic map identified the vicinity as Peters Hill. The elevation is about 100 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). To the east, toward the Atlantic Ocean, the topography rises to 150 feet AMSL. To the south, beyond the cemetery, the ground drops into what is known as the Great Hollow. To the west, the topography drops less steeply to the Great Swamp, which is located about a half mile beyond

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the cemetery. In the immediate vicinity of the cemetery, however, the ground is uniform and level, perhaps accounting for its early use and its linear, north-northwest—south-southeast, orientation.

This topography is seen even more clearly in the nineteenth-century USGS Provincetown 15' topographic map (prior to sand mining to the west). While the cemetery is not identified and US 6 did not exist, the cemetery was surrounded by local roads, and was situated in the center of a small ridge running northeast-southwest.

The only obvious variation in the topography is where caregivers have removed some of the coping, creating a mound and valley topography along the east and north edge of the North Section of the cemetery. While this has modified the landscape, the change is not dramatic, and not all coping has been removed.

### Spatial Arrangement

The spatial arrangement is almost entirely horizontal and can be seen best in either aerial photos or the schematic plans of the cemetery (Figures 1-4). The central core of the cemetery's North Section is clearly defined by the large number of single graves—a characteristic of town and churchyard cemeteries (**PHOTO 1**). Graves in this area have a variety of orientations. Some form nearly perfect north-south lines with east-west orientation of the graves. Other graves align with US 6 (and presumably the earlier county road), forming north-northwest by south-southeast rows. Yet others are oriented northeast-southwest. This spatial arrangement is the result of the early cemetery not being mapped or carefully tended, and burials taking place in an unplanned fashion. There are also many open areas that may represent areas where markers have been lost, areas used for graves during various seasonal illnesses, or structural areas that have never been infilled, such as the location of the two meetinghouses that were within the North Section of the cemetery. Graves on the periphery of the central core of the North Section occur in family plots, reflecting the gradual move from the churchyard cemetery of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to a rural cemetery during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. To the east and north, however, these plots become more organized and uniform in size—typically about 20 feet square. These spatial arrangements are physically defined by granite coping, as along the **Isaac Smith family plot (PHOTO 2)**, or granite post and iron gas pipe rail fences as along the **David B. Smith family plot (PHOTO 3)**.

There is some vertical separation by the recent trees growing between the North Roadway and Aldrich Road. While unremarkable, these trees do serve to screen the adjacent paved road.

The Center Section is organized by horizontal rows of lots within sections (**PHOTO 4**). The lots are uniform in size, for the most part 20 feet square with three rows of smaller lots, ten feet square, along the eastern boundary by US 6. Lots that are bounded have either granite coping or flush to the ground granite corner bounds, some of which display the last initial of the lot owner. Lots in the Center Section were used for interments in no particular order.

The South Section is also organized by horizontal rows of lots within sections; the lots measure ten-by-twenty feet (north-south) with some divided into smaller ten-foot square units. By the west boundary, along US 6, there is a section of single graves measuring five-by-ten feet (north-south) (**PHOTO 15**).

### Circulation

The circulation system connecting the interior of the North and Center sections of the cemetery with US 6 includes: the North Roadway, providing access along the northern boundary of the cemetery as well as to the passageway to the receiving tomb, suggesting that at least part of this roadway is associated with an early entrance; the Center Roadway, providing access to those plots along the southern edge of the North Section and the northern edge of the Center Section; the East Roadway, running parallel to US 6, providing access to Aldrich Road as well as the eastern boundary of all sections of the cemetery; and the South Roadway, providing access to the south edge of the Center Section and the northern edge of the South Section (Figure 1). In 2011, a new entrance was added from US 6 through the middle of the

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South Section (Figure 4). While all the interior roadways were, until recently, of dirt construction with a light coating of gravel, in 2012 they were covered with clam shells, as was the new entryway from US 6 (**PHOTO 16**).

Typical of 18<sup>th</sup>- and early 19<sup>th</sup>-century town and churchyard cemeteries, there is no formal circulation pattern within the North Section of the Old North Cemetery, and it is unlikely that any existed historically (Figure 2). While several interior north-south, ten-foot-wide roads appear on the plan of the Center Section (Figure 3), they are not apparent as such when in the cemetery where only the lawn appears to separate the lots. No interior pathways can be discerned in the South Section (Figure 4) either, and many of the lots remain vacant.

### Soils and Vegetation

The Old North Cemetery consists entirely of Carver coarse sands, typically found on outwash plains and moraines. The soils are excessively drained and permeability is rapid. The soils are formed in thick layers of coarse sand with limited quantities of fine gravel.

Up until June of 2011, intentionally planted vegetation was limited to the more recent plots on the south, east, and north edges of the North Section, and those scattered throughout the Center and South sections. In these areas are isolated plantings of juniper, boxwood, rose, prunus, and other evergreens. A large locust tree marks the location of the town's first and second meetinghouses in the North Section (**PHOTO 5**). Although no historic photographs have been identified for this cemetery, another churchyard cemetery in Truro (Congregational) exhibited an absence of vegetation in a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century photograph (Brennan and Worthington 2002:75). This was apparently characteristic of the entire area until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, when denuded areas began to be reforested. The absence of vegetation in the central core of the North Section, however, is entirely consistent with town and churchyard cemeteries where space was at a premium and vegetation was removed to allow for additional graves, while the intentionally planted vegetation in the North and Center sections is consistent with mid 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century cemeteries. In 2011, 50 cherry trees were planted within the cemetery along the fence that forms the western boundary, as well as along the north and south edges of the Center and South roadways.

### Constructed Elements

In the recent past the **boundary fence** for the cemetery was a white picket fence, a common fence form on the Cape, based on historic photographs (see, for example, Brennan and Worthington 2002:12, 13, 17, and 30). According to town reports in the early 1990s, the picket fence became too expensive to maintain. It was removed and replaced with a split-rail fence. In 2011, the split-rail fence was replaced with a granite post and metal rod fence (**PHOTO 1**, noncontributing).

A semi subterranean **receiving tomb** or vault (Figure 2, **PHOTO 6**) is situated at the northwestern edge of the cemetery. The vault faces north toward the North Roadway and Aldrich Road and the brick façade measures about eight feet, eight inches in width and stands about eight feet in height. It is laid up in a simple stretcher bond. At the center is an elliptical brick arch and a wood door set on wrought-iron strap hinges. Interior dimensions are estimated at about twelve-by-eight-by-five feet, and the tomb was constructed of brick, with its vaulted ceiling covered by earth. This tomb is nearly identical to similar features at the Congregational and Pine Grove cemeteries in Truro, and likely served as a means for storing remains during the winter when it was not possible to dig graves.

The only other constructed element is a noncontributing sign for the cemetery that was erected in 1992. The sign is located just inside the **boundary fence** in the Center section, and is visible from US 6 (**PHOTO 7**)

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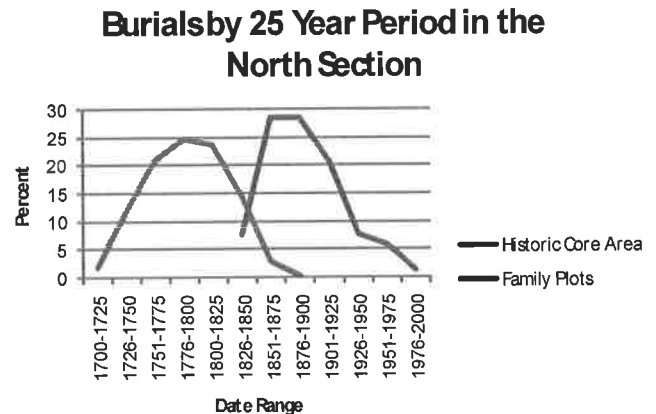
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## Gravestones

The North section of the cemetery includes a broad range of stone types, monument styles, and iconography, characteristic of a burial ground first used in 1713. There are approximately 1,000 stones in the North section of the cemetery; about 600 are within the central core, and an additional 400 are found in the surrounding family plots. The central core exhibits monuments/gravestones dating from 1713 (the earliest stone is for **Hannah Paine**, who died July 24, 1713) to the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and use peaked in the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The surrounding family plots date from the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with burials peaking in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The temporal distribution of burials in the North Section is shown by the figure below.

Among the earliest monuments are slate stones set vertically. Similar marble and limestone headstones are also found in the cemetery, as well as later 19<sup>th</sup>-century marble die on bases (upright stones set on a broad flat base). Marble obelisks and pedestal tombs are also present in the cemetery. Granite die on bases are found from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. At least one thin sheet-metal monument existed in the cemetery, although only the base is present today. Sandstone tended to be used as the base, rather than as the primary monument. Bronze is present in the cemetery primarily in emblems incorporated into gravesite memorials.



The slate headstones within the central core of the North section are adorned with winged skull/death's head, winged angel/cherub, winged head/portraits, and willow-and-urn motifs. Stone shapes include those with a flat top and a semicircular central feature—very typical of the later willow-and-urn motifs or occasional winged angel designs. These often have decorative panels along the outer edges. This same simple, semicircular arch is also found on slate stones with caps, although this outline is typically associated with the death's head motif.

The North section includes a number of slate stones attributed to New England carvers. For example, **Ruth Avery's** (d. 1732, **PHOTO 8**) stone, with its ornate border featuring graduated discs in the finials and elegant winged skull, exhibits the work of Nathaniel Emmes (1660-1750). A number of stones with winged skulls, including **Sarah Lewes** (d. 1726), **Jane Freeman** (d. 1729), **Rebeckah Freeman** (d. 1752, **PHOTO 9**), **John Lewes** (d. 1754), and **Constant Freeman** (d. 1756), are attributed to the Lamson family (1656-1824) of Charlestown due to characteristic eyebrows with hooked ends, eyebrows connecting to the nose, a lip-like mark above the teeth, and a prominent chin. The dramatic winged skulls of Henry Christian Geyer (ca. 1730-ca. 1785) and his son John Just Geyer (ca. 1757-1808), with their deep-gouged eye sockets, nose holes, and large teeth, can be found on the stone of **Jane Freeman** (d. 1783), while an example of their winged heads with a round face, hair arranged in a series of undulating grooves, and horizontal brow that divides the face into two distinct sections can be seen on the pyramid-shaped stone of **Phebe Hopkins** (d. 1798). The lifelike winged heads of Lemuel Savery (1757-1797) with their round eyes, realistic nose and mouth, and with three feathers in each wing is found on the stone of **Benjamin Snow** (d. 1793). Portrait stones attributed to William Codner (1709-1769) include those of **Rev. John Avery** (d. 1754, **PHOTO 10**), **Abigail Adams** (d. 1774), **Elizabeth Collins** (d. 1779), and **Elisha Dyer** (d. 1791). The stone of **Mary Gross** (d. 1795) illustrates one of the earlier stones carved by Nathaniel Holmes (1783-1859), as suggested by eyes that are not aligned. Holmes' stones from this early period have high foreheads, small eyes and mouths and hair that is combed back. The stone of **John Pike** (1802) depicts a transitional image between winged skulls and winged heads that was carved by William Bennett (1780-1835). Slate stones from the

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first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century generally depict the urn-and-willow motif. The stones of **Rev. Jude Damon** (1828) and his wife, **Mary Lewis** (1831), carved by B. Day (1783-1855) of Lowell, depict a realistic-looking symmetrical willow tree overhanging the urn.

The marble stones exhibit more benign iconography, as seen on the **Henry Stevens** (d.1853) stone (**PHOTO 11**) often incorporating floral motifs, as on the **Alfred A. Small** (d. 1877, **PHOTO 12**) stone, although other designs, such as the pointing finger, anchor, sheaf of wheat with scythe, and dove are also present. These motifs are typical of the Victorian period of the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and can be found in the family plots around the edges of the 18<sup>th</sup>- and early 19<sup>th</sup>-century stones that make up the central core of the North section. Carvers of marble stones include O. H. Linnell (1849-1932) of Wellfleet, who carved the rosebud design on the signed stone of **Emily A. Snow** (d. 1880, **PHOTO 13**), and T. A. Hopkins (1826-1909) of Orleans who carved the stones of **Joshua Small (d. 1850)** and **Archelaus Smith (d. 1853)**. Though Hopkins' designs are similar to Linnell's, his willow tree appears with two asymmetrical branches, the largest of which overhangs the urn. E. Eveleth (1821-1854) and Hughes & Co. (ca 1850s) also produced marble stones for the cemetery in the mid 1800s.

Plots along the southern edge of the North section—possibly the earliest plots in the cemetery—are irregular in size and orientation. Many may simply represent amalgams of related family members, such as the lots of **Capt. John Hughes** (d. 1799) and **Sylvanus Nye** (d. 1820). The **Capt. John Hughes family plot** contains four slate headstones with accompanying footstones, all of which are surrounded by an iron-rail fence with granite posts. Family members buried in the lot include his wife, Rachel (d. 1836), whose stone also commemorates Atkins Hughes (d. 1828) who was lost at sea; Silvanus Nye (d. 1817) who was three days old when he died; and Mary Nye (d. 1817) who was three years and four months when she died. The children's parents are buried to the east in the **Sylvanus Nye family plot** which contains a slate and a marble stone, with accompanying footstones, and which is also surrounded by an iron-rail fence with granite posts. Buried in the lot are Sylvanus (d. 1820), who was 41 when he died, and his wife Mary (d. 1861), who was 78 when she died.

By the northern boundary of the North section, the **James Collins family plot** consists of a granite base, die and cap monument (upright monument with cap with one or more bases that are often stepped); a granite obelisk; three marble children's stones; and eleven small granite markers, all surrounded by granite coping. The lot contains aspects of both the Rural Cemetery and Park Lawn movements. Along the eastern boundary of the North section, the **Edward P. Worthen family plot** consists of a granite base, die and cap monument that is quite similar in design to the Collins granite monument, though it sits alone on a raised earthen mound with no plot-defining coping or fence. Worthen's lot design reflects the Park Lawn movement.

Within the Center section, many lots only contain a family monument with markers set lower to the ground for individual family members—a characteristic of the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Lawn Park Cemetery movement (Sloane 1991:121). The **Williard Stanton Small family plot** contains a granite die on base monument with flush granite markers and flush granite corner bounds inscribed with the initial "S." The **Lombard family plot** contains a rough-cut granite monument with eight flush markers dating from 1926 to 1981, all surrounded by granite coping with four corner bounds containing the initial "L." Variation in the smaller lots paralleling US 6, includes the **Fred Scott Thorsen** (d. 1959) plot, with only a granite maker and no plot-defining feature, and the **Peters family plot**, which contains two marble stones within a lot marked by granite corner bounds with the initial "P" (**PHOTO 14**). The simple marble stones designed with a cross within a circle at the top are typical of government stones used to mark military veterans from World War I on. Frank Anthony Peters (d. 1959) was a Corporal in the Coastal Artillery Corps in World War II, and Thomas Harrison Peters (d. 1949) was in the US Navy in World War II.

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Lots within the South section typically contain either one granite gravestone, as that of **Florence Lee** (d. 1984) and **Leonard G. (d. 1990) Francis**, or one granite die on base monument, as that of **Bertha**(d. 1981) and **Everett W. (d. 1987) Glasgow**. Some plots contain initialed granite corner bounds. Unlike the other sections of the cemetery, the lot of **Priscilla V. Simpson** (d. 1992) contains a granite memorial bench.

### Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known in the cemetery, sites may be present. Ten ancient sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile). Most known sites in the area are located to the west, along the Cape Cod Bay shoreline, and on terraces located along ponds, streams, and other wetlands that drain to the bay. Beyond locational data, little information survives for most of these sites. Environmental characteristics of the cemetery represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for many types of ancient sites. The cemetery is located on a predominantly level to moderately sloping and excessively drained land surface. Soils are sandy; formed in outwash plain deposits. There are no wetlands located within several thousand feet of the cemetery today. Regionally, the cemetery is located near both fresh water and marine-related ecosystems. Within 1½-2 miles of the cemetery, the environment provided a wide variety of both upland and marine-related resources, which would have been available to Native American inhabitants of the area. The Cape Cod Bay shoreline is located approximately one mile to the west, and the Atlantic Ocean shoreline approximately 1¼ miles to the northeast, while the Pamet River wetlands and Corn Hill area are located approximately one and three-quarter miles to the south. The Pilgrim Heights/High Head area that borders Pilgrim Lake and salt marshes is located approximately three miles to the northwest of the cemetery. With the exception of the Atlantic Ocean coastline and interior locales, major concentrations of ancient Native American sites are found in each of the wetland areas listed above. Most ancient sites types are represented in this area, ranging from smaller special purpose-type sites, including campsites, and resource extraction-type sites such as shell middens, to larger multicomponent habitation type sites. Important ceremonial or funerary sites are also present. Current information available for the Outer Cape locale indicates the potential for ancient sites in the Truro area to span the Early Archaic through Contact Periods. Earlier sites may also be present. Given the above information, the size of the cemetery (5.8 acres), and impacts related to the excavation of more than 1,200 graves, a low to moderate potential exists for significant ancient Native American sites to be found at the Old North Burying Ground.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources at the Old North Burying Ground. The North Section of the Old North Cemetery is the location of the community's first meetinghouse, built in 1709, as well as its 1720 replacement. Local legend places the second structure, framed in white oak, in the vicinity of a large locust tree (southwest quadrant) that can be seen in Photo 5. This is consistent with the town record that notes that the cemetery was on the north side of the meetinghouse. In addition, all of the graves in this area of the cemetery postdate the demise of this meetinghouse. There is a very significant probability that the foundation for this meetinghouse could be identified using archaeological techniques. Structural evidence should remain in the form of postholes, drip lines, and archaeological materials such as wrought nails, plaster, brick fragments, and perhaps other architectural hardware. Other features perhaps related to this meetinghouse, such as trash pits, privies, or a well, may also be associated with the cemetery. Structural evidence of a hearse house and outbuildings related to the operation and maintenance of the cemetery may also exist.

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Unmarked graves are another archaeological resource virtually certain to exist at the Old North Burying Ground. As previously mentioned, there are a number of areas lacking markers, yet it seems unlikely that all of these areas were simply never used. It is far more reasonable to believe that some of the graves were either unmarked, impermanently marked, or that the markers have been lost over time. At least some graves are clearly indicated by depressions.

**(end)**

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### 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 a 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Art

#### Period of Significance

ca. 1713 - 1963

#### Significant Dates

1926: addition of Center Section

#### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

#### Cultural Affiliation

#### Architect/Builder

Gravestone Carvers include:

Nathaniel Emmes, the Lamsons of Charlestown,

William Codner, the Geyers of Boston,

Lemuel Savery, William Bennett, O.H.

Linnell, T.A. Hopkins, B. Day, Nathaniel Holmes,

E. Eveleth, and Hughes & Co.

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### Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance extends from the original laying out of the burying ground in 1713 and continues until 1962, the National Park Service's standard 50 year cut off for establishing historical significance.

### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The cemetery meets Criterion Consideration D, as a cemetery that possesses important historic associations with Truro's settlement, and as a cemetery that contains distinctive design features.

### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Old North Cemetery is the oldest burial ground in Truro, being laid out to the north of, and adjacent to, the town's first meetinghouse in 1713, four years after the town was incorporated. Those buried in the Old North Cemetery include members of the original proprietors, town officials, clergy, sea captains, and all others associated with the early settlement and development of the town. The Old North Cemetery was Truro's only burying ground until 1799, when Pine Grove Cemetery was established by the Methodists. Old North remained the only cemetery for the Congregational community until a burying ground was established around the third Congregational Meeting House in Truro Center ca. 1827. Significant for its Social History, Old North Cemetery meets National Register Criterion A at the local level.

Old North Cemetery is also significant for its diverse collection of stones in excellent condition. The gravestones embody the distinctive characteristics of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century carvers, including William Codner, Nathaniel Emmes, the Geyers of Boston, the Lamsons of Charlestown, Nathaniel Holmes, and Lemuel Savery. As the cemetery grew, its landscape and funerary art evolved from that of a typical churchyard burial ground to include designs reflective of both the Rural Cemetery and Park Lawn Cemetery movements. Significant for its art, Old North Cemetery meets National Register Criterion C at the local level.

The cemetery was expanded twice; first in 1926, and again in 1974 (figure 1). While the entire cemetery is included in this nomination, the 1974 (South) section was created after the end of the period of significance. An active burial ground, Old North Cemetery continues to be a focal point in the town, and it reflects changing attitudes toward death and burial practices over the course of three centuries. Other than the removal of some granite coping enclosing plots, and changing the **boundary fence**, no significant alterations have occurred. Old North Cemetery retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and it has a local level of significance.

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### Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

#### Early settlement of Truro and establishment of the North Section of the burying ground to 1825.

The Pamet Proprietors, a group of collective and individual landowners, set the parameters for ownership and development in what was to become Truro at the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1703, a permanent commons area was established, a road was laid out from the head of the Pamet River to East Harbor, upland and meadowland was set aside for a minister, and in 1704, the first meetinghouse was constructed. According to town records, the meetinghouse was located "in a central situation to accommodate its population." On July 16, 1709, when the township was formed, it

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contained "40 families, daily increasing." The town boundaries extended from the Province lands (present-day Provincetown, which was incorporated as a town in 1727) to Eastham (present-day Wellfleet). According to Rich (1884), the inhabitants had "built a convenient house to meet in for the public worship of God, and for some time had a minister among them." While it has been conjectured by 19<sup>th</sup> century historian Frederick Freeman that a meetinghouse as well as an ancient burying ground existed in Pond Village (now North Truro) at that time, research conducted by Shebna Rich (1884) concluded that the first meetinghouse was located in the North Section of the Old North Cemetery. While an established village area appears the more likely location for the meetinghouse, a more centralized location along an established road provided a better alternative for a community with a dispersed settlement pattern (Figure 5).

Truro's first town meeting was held sixteen days after the town was formed. The first town officials included **Thomas Paine** (d. 1721), **Thomas Mulford** (d. 1747), **Jedediah Lumbert** (d.1739), and **Constant Freeman** (1756). Paine, the clerk of the Pamet Proprietors, also served as the town clerk, selectman, treasurer, and representative to Boston. On February 10, 1710, **Rev. John Avery** (d. 1754) was unanimously invited to settle as the minister, and the Congregational Church was formed on November 1, 1711. On April 22, 1713, the town voted that the selectmen "should take care to have a Convenient piece of ground cleared on ye north side of the meeting house in Truro, for a burying place, and the charge be paid out of the Town Treasury." The burying ground was developed similarly to other burying grounds of this time period. According to Puritan tradition, the burial ground was simply a place to bury the dead; no thought was given to visiting the dead, commemorating the dead or even maintaining the grounds. There was little formal organization within the typical burial ground, and its overall appearance was barren with rough, uneven topography and few, if any, pathways. Slate headstones with accompanying footstones were oriented in an east-west direction, and the winged skull or death head was carved on the gravestone as a reminder of the uncertainty of one's life after death. The oldest gravestone in the cemetery is that of **Hannah Paine**, wife of Thomas Paine, who died the year that the burying ground was laid out. **Rev. John Avery** (d.1754) continued his ministry at Truro for 43 years until his death in 1754. He was buried next to his first wife **Ruth (Little) Avery**, who died in 1723, and his second wife **Ruth (Knowles) Avery**, who died in 1745. Following Avery's death, **Rev. Caleb Upham** (d. 1786) was accepted as minister and served for 31 years. The town's third minister, **Rev. Jude Damon**, who was quite vocal during the Revolutionary War period, served until his death in 1828. During the 118 years that the first three ministers served the town, 839 members were added to the church, and 3,839 were baptized.

While farming and mixed husbandry were important components of the town's economy, whaling and the continued success of the town's fishing fleets, coupled with an enlarged regional and local roadway network, underlay rapid growth. Cod and mackerel fisheries were developed in East and Pamet harbors, and Truro was the first and most prominent colonial town in the whaling industry. Long-voyage whaling was initiated from Truro in 1720 by Captain Henry Atkins, and in 1774 Captain David Smith and **Captain Gamaliel Collins** (d. 1775) were the first whalers to reach the Falkland Islands. The town's growth is first reflected in a 1719 town meeting, when it was voted to enlarge the first meetinghouse. Then in 1720, the town voted to build a second meetinghouse to replace the first one. The new structure, located adjacent to the first meetinghouse, measured 22 feet high, 40 feet long and 36 feet wide, and was built and furnished within the space of a year, underscoring the continuing pressure that population growth was exerting on the town and the church.

Town reports from the mid 1700s reveal general information concerning the burying ground. Typical of many towns, marking the bounds of the burial ground became increasingly important, as herbage or grass that grew there became a valuable source of revenue for the town. Boundary fences not only prevented encroachment by animals pasturing in neighboring property, but also prevented encroachment of burials on neighboring property. Town reports revealed that common land, located adjacent to the burying ground and the meetinghouse, was used for the town's Training Field. In 1763, a committee was formed to run a range (of land) between the Training Field and the surrounding lots leaving

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sufficient land for the Training Field, meetinghouse, and burying ground. As the meetinghouse and burying ground were located to the east of the County Road, it would appear that the Training Field was located to the east of the meetinghouse and burying ground. The range of land that was laid out would have been to the east of the Training Field, thereby forming the eastern boundary for what was then common land, leaving sufficient room for the burying ground to expand and the troops to muster. The east bounds of the cemetery were firmly established in 1801, when the town voted to construct a rail fence across the back of the burying yard against the land of **Samuel Atkins** (d.1834, **Figure 6**). It would appear that by this time all the common land to the east which included the Training Field, had been incorporated into the burying ground. Therefore, by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the North Section of the burying ground had likely reached its present limits. Given the fact that the town enlarged the burying ground by incorporating town-owned common land, no deed transactions would have been necessary.

The fact that the town's seafaring residents traveled extensively and maintained business interests in Boston likely resulted in the number of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Boston stone carvers represented in the central core of the North Section. New England gravestone carving began in Boston with carvers who worked in more than one profession, such as Nathaniel Emmes (1690-1750), who also worked as a stone mason laying the building foundation for the Old South Church. Between 1717 and 1750, Emmes was associated with gravestones in 87 Boston probate records. Boston carvers also maintained workshops where others not only learned the craft, but also produced stones that were at times quite similar to those of their teacher, such as William Bennett (1780-1835), who trained in the Boston shop of James Homer (1727-ca 1803). Between 1731 and 1764, William Codner (1709-1769), a pupil of Nathaniel Emmes (1690-1750), produced a large number of stones and was paid by 75 Boston estates for gravestones. Of particular interest is the fact that Codner introduced the concept of gravestone portraiture. The Boston shop of the Geyer carvers was started by Henry Christian Geyer (ca 1730-ca 1785). After his death ca. 1790, the shop was taken over by his son, John Just Geyer (1757-1808), and then his grandson, John Just Geyer, Jr. (ca. 1784-1822). In Charlestown, the Lamson family produced stones from 1656 through 1824, which can be found throughout Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, and as far south as Charleston, South Carolina (Combs 1986:12). By the end of the century, workshops of resident stone carvers appeared in Plymouth County, including Lemuel Savery (1757-1797) of Plymouth, who carved two stones that are in Truro. Nathaniel Holmes (1783-1859) was the first resident carver on the Cape, working in Barnstable after moving from Plymouth in 1805. Holmes benefitted from the shipping boom that occurred on the Cape, carving 687 stones between 1820 and 1840. Other Cape carvers represented in the cemetery include Thomas A. Hopkins (1826-1909) of Orleans and O. N. Linnell (1816-1892) of Wellfleet. As carvers from Plymouth and the Cape also apprenticed in the same shops, distinctive design elements are at times difficult to discern.

The Revolutionary War proved particularly trying for Truro, as a British ship shot cannonballs into the town in 1775. As the British navy controlled the waters of the Outer Cape, the defense of the town necessitated that members of the town's militia were at times reinforced by a garrison of troops from the Continental Army. In 1778, the 460-man crew of the British warship *Somerset*, which was wrecked during a gale on a sandbar off the Truro coast, surrendered to **Captain Isaiah Atkins** (d. 1782), who then supervised their walk to prison in Boston. Other Revolutionary veterans include brothers **Richard** (d. 1782), **Jonathan** (d. 1778), and **Solomon** (d. 1776) **Paine**, who share one gravestone.

Following the Revolution, the abundant natural resources in the area by the Pamet River, including marine resources, salt marshes, and woodlands provided the impetus for increased economic development that was followed by a population explosion from 1,152 in 1800 to a high of 2,051 in 1850. Pamet Harbor became a bustling fishing port with shipyards and fish processing sheds, as well as associated businesses and stores. Near the harbor, windmills pumped saltwater into shallow tanks under shed roofs to make salt. One of the first to manufacture salt was Dr. Jason Ayres. While he is not noted in Haskell's (2000) inventory of the Old North Cemetery, both his wife, **Betsey Ayres** (d.1831), and his son, **John Ayres** (d. 1806), who died when he was 15 months old, are recorded there. As economic development increased along the

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Pamet River, the civic focus of the town shifted from Pond Village in North Truro to the Pamet River area. With the main settlement area moving away from the burying ground, the town voted in 1812 to construct a carriage or hearse to carry the dead to the burial ground, and the following year the town voted to build a shed near the meetinghouse to house the hearse.

By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, attitudes towards death began to change in New England as the more prosperous were concerned with providing for their happiness on earth rather than worrying about their future in eternity. While the death's head motif continued through the end of the century it appeared less fearsome, and the winged angel or cherub motif, portraying a sense of optimism, began to appear on gravestones, as did portraits of the deceased. A depersonalization of death was then heralded with the urn-and-willow motif. This new style was reminiscent of Greek Revival symbols of mourning that were fashionable in Europe, with spiritual life after death more closely associated with sentimentalism and the emotional state of those left behind. During the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, marble stones displaying a growing standardization of design in a market-oriented business evolved from the urn-and-willow motif to Victorian symbols in high relief, to stones with little to no design, to stones and obelisks with more three dimensional elements.

### **The Development of Truro and Changes to the North Section of the Burying Ground – 1825 to 1930,**

Members of the community living by the Pamet River soon felt that the Old North Meeting House, the second meetinghouse constructed in the North Section of the cemetery, was too far to travel for Sunday services, and as noted in the town records from 1827: "This circumstance will naturally incite dissatisfaction & induce many to withdraw from the society, where they have no privilege. This we have already seen and felt." As a result a new Congregational meetinghouse, the present-day First Congregational Parish, was constructed in Truro Center in 1827. Between 1827 and 1840, Congregationalists had two places to worship, as both churches were utilized. Then in 1840, the Congregational meetinghouse that was located in the Old North burying ground was taken down, following the construction of the Christian Union Church in North Truro.

The greatest period of economic growth for Truro's thriving economy was between 1837 and 1855, a time when many moved to Truro either as adults seeking to improve their lot in life or as children who ended up spending their life in the town, such as **Edward P. Worthen** (1836-1909), who was born in Charlestown, MA, and moved to Truro when he was seven years old. Worthen worked as a seaman until 1872, after which time he became the keeper of the Highland Life Saving Station. The **Warren W. Small family plot** includes farmers Warren W. (d. 1922) and his father, Thomas F. (d. 1890). Thomas F., who was born in Maine in 1814, was working as a farmer in Truro by 1870, as was Warren W., who was living with and working for his father. It is likely that Warren W. took over his father's farm after his father's death in 1890, as Warren W. continued to work as a farmer living in Truro through at least 1910. Warren W.'s wife, Sally A., died in 1918. While Warren W. was living in Provincetown with his son-in-law Frank L. Rich (d. 1946) in 1920, he was still working as a farmer on his own farm. Warren W.'s wife, two daughters, two sons-in-laws, and his parents are buried in the lot.

While church reports from this period do not mention problems in the burying ground, crowded burial grounds in Boston and elsewhere were a major concern. As early as 1797, a new type of burial place, reflecting a transition from old to new burial practices, occurred in New Haven, CT. Ushered in during a period of civic improvements, New Haven's New Burying Ground featured family plots constructed in a formal grid pattern that were divided by walkways. As older stones from colonial burying grounds were moved into family plots, new stone markers and simple monuments of marble were added, creating a crowding of many stones together in one plot. While this concept did not become popular, the Rural Cemetery movement did, following the opening of Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA in 1831. Stressing the historical and commemorative function of the cemetery, the Rural Cemetery movement, which was popular through

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the 1850s, featured a picturesque landscape design, a pathway system, and trees forming a major element of the landscape. Family lots featured large central family monuments and were often covered with rough turf that was bounded with stone edging, ornate iron fences or hedges, and cast-iron fencing. Later in the century, a simpler landscape design known as the Lawn Park movement evolved, creating a landscape of green lawns interspersed with trees, shrubs, and flower beds. Family plots, which were at first surrounded by granite coping, contained a family monument, with smaller markers used for individual family members. By the end of the century, burial mounds were kept low and, while granite coping was not used as a boundary-defining feature, flush-to-the-ground granite corner bounds were used. These changes reflect an embrace of the City Beautiful movement, as well as a rejection of the excesses seen in the preceding rural cemeteries.

Truro began to witness change in the burying ground ca. 1825, when marble became increasingly used for gravestones. Some family stones within the cemetery were surrounded with iron-pipe fencing with granite posts, and family plots were developed around the south, east, and north boundaries. While some of these plots, with their fenced-in obelisks, reflect the Rural Cemetery movement, others with their family monument, small individual markers, and no boundary-defining fence, reflect the Lawn Park movement. Elements of both traditions can be seen in the previously described **James Collins family plot**. Carvers identified on marble stones include O.H. Linnell of Wellfleet, T.A. Hopkins of Orleans, and E. Eveleth and Hughes & Co., both from Boston. The former two also worked as marble manufacturers.

By the onset of the Civil War, a number of circumstances led to an economic downturn in the town, the most significant of which was a decline in offshore fishing due to the silting in of Pamet Harbor. By 1860, the harbor was so choked that large ships could not enter, and many industries were discontinued. Various factors led to the failure of the saltworks, including the discontinuance of a state subsidy, the repeal of the tariff on salt imports, and storm damage to salt sheds that was too expensive to fix, as wood had to be brought in from elsewhere. As the economy declined, so too did the resident population, which fell from 2,051 in 1850 to 972 in 1885. Those who remained in the town had to reassess their businesses and adapt to new strategies, one of which was weir or trap fishing. In the 1880s, twelve weirs were located along the bay shore. No small enterprise, a typical weir cost \$6,000, and was 2,500 feet long, with the potential of taking in 40 tons of fish in a day. Brothers-in-law **John G. Thompson** (d. 1910) and **Atkins Hughes** (d. 1919) were joint owners and stock holders in six extensive fish weirs located along the shore in North Truro. Thompson, who was a mariner from 1855 to 1866, worked as a grocer from ca. 1880 to ca. 1900, and became part owner of a fish weir in 1881 with **Atkins Hughes** and T. L. Mayo. Hughes, described in census records as a Master Mariner in 1870, was retired in 1880, before becoming involved with the fishweir business.

The extension of the railroad to Provincetown in 1873, as well as the construction of the state highway through the Cape, led to an increase in the number of summer visitors to the area, many of whom had been coming to Truro since the opening of the Highland House summer resort in the 1850s. By the end of the century, clusters of summer cottages began to appear along the coast. Coincident with the development of the summer tourist industry was the town's interest in maintenance and improvements in the cemetery, likely due to its prominent location along Route 6. A town report from 1883 noted that while the burial ground had been enlarged, improved, and re-fenced from time to time, it had never been in better condition. The improved status of the grounds was attributed in part to Walter T. Avery, a relative of former **Rev. John Avery**, who not only enclosed Avery's lot with a granite-post-and-iron-rail fence, but also "generously encouraged other improvements in connection with the yard." The improvements that were mentioned may have referred to clearing the central and eastern portion of the burial ground that had become overgrown with beach plum and other spreading bushes and vines, a situation that required constant attention. Even though the lawn mower, which was patented in 1830 in England, was in use in many cemeteries by this period, hand clearing proved more effective in Truro due to the dense undergrowth.

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In 1908, the church designated the Trustees of the Cemetery Improvement Company as the authorized agents to establish rules and make improvements in the Old North Burying Ground. Requests were then made at town meetings for the town to pay for improvements made by the Cemetery Improvement Company. Then, in 1915, a committee of three was appointed at a town meeting to consider the regulation and control of the cemetery by the town. In 1916, the committee recommended that the town manage the cemetery, and in 1917 an elected Board of Cemetery Trustees was established, recommending that the cemetery be enlarged by extending the south side at least 75 feet. The size of lots as well as their cost would then be established by the Board. In 1926, the town purchased two acres of land from **Amelia Rich** (d. 1930) for future expansion of the cemetery. Two years later the town began the expansion process, creating what is now the Center section, with interments beginning in 1929/1930. In 1929, when the history of the Old North Burying Ground was discussed in a Town Report, it was explained that "to have a cemetery attached to every church, it naturally followed that towns were required to own and maintain a burying place and this became the property of the town."

### 20th Century Truro and the Development of the Center Section.

As the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed, Truro changed from a small country town to a summer home and retirement community. By the 1930s, a number of artists, including painters, photographers, writers, and playwrights moved to Truro. By the early 1950s, easy access to the Cape via US Route 6 resulted in visitors buying lots as close to the beaches, riverbanks, and ponds as they could with continuing growth threatening both the open landscape and seafront vistas. Overdevelopment of the entire Cape Cod region led to land-use controls by both towns and the federal government. As a result, Truro developed a conservation commission, while the National Park Service began plans for the creation of the Cape Cod National Seashore in 1961. By the mid-1980s, the park boundaries were settled, with the acquisition by the federal government of over 26,000 acres of land on the Outer Cape. Although 70 percent of Truro is located within the Cape Cod National Seashore, the Old North Cemetery is west of the boundary.

A sample of a few people buried in the Center Section suggests that while some moved to the town for the employment opportunities it presented as a tourist destination, others simply wanted to retire. One of the earliest burials in the Center Section is **Edison A. Taylor** (d.1931). Born in 1854 in New Hampshire, Taylor worked as a farm laborer in New Hampshire in 1870. By 1900 he was living in Truro, working as a laborer until his death in 1931. **Fred Scott Thorsen** (d. 1959) was born in Norway in 1876. While it is unclear when he moved to Truro, he was living in Truro in 1940. According to his 1942 World War II draft card, he was the chef/owner of a chowder house. **F. W. Stockbridge** (d.1954) was a Spanish American War veteran who worked as a civil engineer and lived with his parents in Boston in 1910. He worked as a designer in the shoe industry, living in Quincy in 1920, and worked as a commercial designer for a trade paper, living in Hanover in 1930. It is unclear whether he eventually became a year-round resident of Truro. His wife, daughter and sister are also buried in his lot.

During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, town reports describe the "old section" as being overrun with brush, briars, and wild grasses being "practically impossible to clear," and that the "only way it can be made to look at all decent is by burning in the spring." The report further stated that "some people object to having their lots burned over, then the natural result is that the thick matted grasses make it impossible to clear the surface with anything like the sum available for this purpose." By 1949, advances in maintenance procedures included using a horse or tractor plow in large areas and a new power mowing machine in small areas. As a result of repeated cutting it was expected that the cemetery would finally "be rid of its plague of beach plum, which is the major problem to contend with."

In order to create a neater appearance, continuing maintenance procedures included straightening stones, raising and aligning curbs, and filling and resodding sunken graves. The problem of sunken graves was solved in 1953 when it was

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voted to use concrete vaults or concrete liners for future interments. In 1969, the town began to replace the “old-type picket fencing” along the Aldrich Street side. In 1984, in conjunction with Truro’s 275th anniversary, the town established the Old North Fund, the income from which was designated for the preservation of the 18<sup>th</sup> century or central core of the North Section of the cemetery. As described in the 1995 Town Report, a new sign “that looks very old” was placed in the cemetery.

### Archaeological Significance

While several ancient Native American sites have been recorded in the Truro area (92), few have been systematically studied. Most known sites are located along the Cape Cod Bay shoreline, or bordering the estuarine zone in areas such as Pilgrim Heights and the Corn Hill/Pamet River locale. The lack of known sites in interior areas and along the Atlantic Ocean coastline may indicate an actual Native American settlement pattern or a reporting bias for the town. This information indicates that any sites in the cemetery area could potentially be significant. Any ancient sites located in the cemetery locale can be important by providing interpretive information beyond the level of location and culture history, and contributing data on site structure and function from smaller campsites and special purpose-type sites to larger multicomponent habitation sites. These sites can contribute valuable information on the range of site types and their role in changing settlement and subsistence models during the various periods of occupation for the area. Ancient sites in this area can examine the importance of sea-level rise in this evolution, and the importance of the area as the availability of marine-related resources changed. Ancient sites in this area have the potential to answer questions relating to lithic technologies, particularly the importance of cobble-tool technologies, lithic trade, and biface reduction. The high concentration of shell middens in this area also indicates the potential for technological studies of more perishable objects made from bone and wood, which would otherwise never survive outside the midden context. Increased preservation of floral and faunal materials can also contribute valuable information towards general subsistence and settlement studies in the cemetery area, especially during the Woodland periods and later.

Historical archaeological resources have the potential to contribute important information related to the settlement of Truro that is not documented elsewhere. The 2008 recovery near the cemetery by a local resident of an English silver sixpence coin, dating from 1689 to 1702, suggests the use of a native trail by early settlers/explorers prior to/after the laying out of the 1703 roadway. Unrecorded structures, camps, features, artifacts, and/or find spots may be present. The Old North Cemetery is the location of the community’s first meetinghouse, built ca. 1704, as well as its replacement, built in 1721. The burying ground was likely enlarged over the town’s Training Ground; therefore, personal items associated with those using the training field may be present. Many towns also constructed the powder house holding the town’s munitions in the burying ground, and archaeological resources associated with that type of structure may exist.

Two meetinghouses, the first constructed ca. 1704 and the second meetinghouse constructed in 1721, were located in the North Section of the cemetery. As there are no surveys, maps, or images that document the exact location and architectural characteristics of these structures, archaeological resources may provide the only surviving evidence of the buildings and their facilities, including structural remains (of both meetinghouses, additions, and outbuildings), the spatial organization of the meetinghouses and their relationship to the cemetery, and other associated features (such as trash pits, privies, or wells) and structures (such as a hearse house or cistern/shelter house).

The cemetery may also contain one or more areas of unmarked graves associated with nonresidents who were involved in shipwrecks off the coast, the poor, and former slaves. Designated locations in the cemetery may have been used for these interments, or individuals may have been buried randomly in peripheral areas. A number of slaves have been documented in town histories. Rev. Avery’s will mentions several servants: “my negro girl Phillois,” “my Indian girl Sarah,” and “my

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two negroes John and Hope” whom he leaves to various children. Three generations of the Paine family also held slaves. Of particular interest is an entry in a 1753 town meeting in which Barnabus Paine (d. 1768) presented an account of “his cost and charge respecting old moll a negro woman deceased which account was read at the town meeting.” Yet there appears to be no documented evidence of the burials for any of the above people.

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 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Truro settlement can be obtained in this manner; however, more detailed studies can be implemented through the actual excavation of burials and their analysis. Osteological studies of individuals interred at the burial ground have the potential to offer a wealth of information relating to the overall physical appearance of the town’s inhabitants, their occupations, nutrition, pathologies, and causes of death. This information can also be used to determine the actual number of individuals interred at the burial ground and in its smaller units such as family and veteran plots. Osteological information can also provide detailed information about the inhabitants of the community during a period when written records are rare or nonexistent. The paucity of written records is especially true for minority members of the community, including Native Americans and African Americans. The overall context of the grave, including material culture remains, can provide information on burial practices, religious beliefs, economic status, family structure, and numerous other topics relating to the individual, their socio/economic group, the overall settlement, and early religious societies.

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**Maps**

- 1781 *Coast of Massachusetts from Cape Ann to Manomet Point, including the northern tip of Cape Cod.* Joseph F.W. DesBarres. The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public Library.
- 1795 *A Plan of the Town of Truro.* Benjamin Dyer. Massachusetts Historical Commission.
- 1831 *Plan of the Town of Truro in the County of Barnstable.* John G. Hales. Massachusetts Historical Commission.
- 1858 *Map of the Counties of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket, Massachusetts.* Henry Francis Walling. The Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public Library.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: Town archives, Truro public library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): TRU.803

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 5.6 total  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**Lat/Lon** 1. 42.024347 -70.074969 2. 42.024742 -70.073258 3. 42.022795 -70.072488  
**UTM References** 4. 42.022522 -70.073483  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>19</u>	<u>411007</u>	<u>4653038</u>	3	<u>19</u>	<u>411210</u>	<u>4652863</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>19</u>	<u>411149</u>	<u>4653080</u>	4	<u>19</u>	<u>411127</u>	<u>4652834</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

*See Continuation Sheet*

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

The boundary of Old North Cemetery follows that lot line shown on the attached assessors map for the Town of Truro (map 39, parcel 189). Roadways running along the boundaries are shown on figure 1 as follows: The western boundary is a now closed dirt road that parallels US 6 about 115 feet NE of the highway's centerline. The eastern boundary is formed by East Roadway, and the northern boundary by North Roadway, which is located adjacent to and south of Aldrich Road. The south end of the cemetery is demarcated by the property line. The roadways are shown on figure 1.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the 1713 North Section, the 1926 Center Section, and the 1974 South Section.

Old North Cemetery  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA.  
County and State

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Donohue and Dr. Michael Trinkley, consultants with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC.  
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 2013  
street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470  
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Old North Cemetery  
City or Vicinity: Truro  
County: Barnstable State: MA  
Photographer: Michael Trinkley; Chuck Steinman  
Date Photographed: September 2009; June 2011

### 8 X 10" Photographs

1. Looking northeasterly towards the North Section of the Old North Cemetery (Photo Key 1a).
2. Looking northeasterly towards Aldrich Road at family plots with granite coping (Photo Key 1a).
3. Looking northeasterly towards Aldrich Road at family plot with granite posts and gas pipe fencing (Photo Key 1a).
4. Looking northeasterly towards the Center Section of the Old North Cemetery (Photo Key 1b).
5. Looking easterly at the locust tree located by the site of the first and second meeting houses (Photo Key 1a).
6. Looking southerly at the receiving tomb (Photo Key 1a).
7. Looking easterly at the cemetery sign in the Center Section (Photo Key 1b).

Old North Cemetery  
Name of Property

Barnstable, MA.  
County and State

4 x 6 " Supplemental Photographs

8. Ruth Avery (d. 1732) carved by Nathaniel Emmes of Boston (Photo Key 1a).
9. Rebeckah Freeman (d. 1752) carved by the Lamson Family of Charlestown (Photo Key 1a).
10. John Avery (d. 1754) carved by William Codner of Boston (Photo Key 1a).
11. Henry Stevens (d. 1853) (Photo Key 1a).
12. Alfred A. Smith (d.1853) (Photo Key 1a).
13. Emily A. Snow (d. 1880) carved by O. H. Linnell of Wellfleet (Photo Key 1a).
14. Looking easterly towards the Peters family plot in the Center Section (Photo Key 1b).
15. Looking southeasterly towards the South section of the Old North Cemetery (Photo Key 1c).
16. Looking easterly along the new entrance from US 6 into the South Section (Photo Key 1c).

List of Figures

- Figure 1. Aerial view of the Old North Cemetery.
- Figure 2. Plan of the North Section of the Old North Cemetery.
- Figure 3. Plan of the Center Section of the Old North Cemetery.
- Figure 4. Plan of the South Section of the Old North Cemetery.
- Figure 5. Detail of the *Coast of Massachusetts* in 1781 (DesBarres).
- Figure 6. Conjectured location of the Meeting House, Burying Ground, Training Field and Common Land in the mid. 1700s on Assessor's Map.
- Figure 7. Location of gravestones and lots from Data Sheet in the North Section.
- Figure 8. Location of lots from Data Sheet in the Center Section.
- Figure 9. Location of lots from Data Sheet in the South Section.

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**Property Owner:**

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

name Town of Truro  
street & number P.O. Box 2030 telephone 508-349-7004  
city or town Truro state MA zip code 02666

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).  
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Old North Cemetery  
 Name of Property

Barnstable, MA.  
 County and State

**Old North Cemetery**

**Truro (Barnstable Co.) Massachusetts  
 Data Sheet  
 (Figures 7, 8 and 9)**

Photo #	Stone (S) # or Lot (L) # **	Name	Date	Resource Type	Material	Resource	Status
1, 4		Old North Cemetery	1713			Site	C
2	L 15	Isaac Smith family plot	1832, 1859	Gravestones, plot defining curb	Granite/Marble gravestones, granite curb	Object	C
3	L 38	David D. Smith family plot	1901 1930	Gravestone, plot defining fence	Granite, iron	Object	C
1, 7		Boundary fence	2011	Site defining boundary	Granite, metal	Structure	NC
6		Receiving tomb	19 <sup>th</sup> C	Tomb	Brick and Earth	Structure	C
7		Sign	1992	Sign	Wood and metal	Object	NC
	S 263	Hannah Paine	1713	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
8	L 131	Ruth Avery	1732	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 237	Sarah Lewes	1726	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 228	Jane Freeman	1729	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
9	S 227	Rebeckah Freeman	1752	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 236	John Lewes	1754	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 202	Constant Freeman	1756	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 226	Jane Freeman	1783	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 401	Phebe Hopkins	1798	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 289	Benjamin Snow	1793	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
10	L 131	John Avery	1754	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 373	Abigail Adams	1774	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 486	Elizabeth Collins	1779	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 282	Elisha Dyer	1791	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 150	Mary Groos	1795	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 416	John Pike	1802	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 224	Rev. Jude Damon	1828	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C

Old North Cemetery  
 Name of Property

Barnstable, MA.  
 County and State

Photo #	Stone (S) # or Lot (L) # **	Name	Date	Resource Type	Material	Resource	Status
	S 225	Mary Lewes	1831	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
11	L 102	Henry Stevens	1853	Gravestone	Marble	Object	C
12	L 110	Alfred A. Small	1877	Gravestone	Marble	Object	C
13	L 100	Emily A. Snow	1880	Gravestone	Marble	Object	C
	L 114	Joshua Small	1850	Gravestone	Marble	Object	C
	L 113	Archelaus Smith	1853	Gravestone	Marble	Object	C
	L 104A	Capt. John Hughes family plot	1799, 1817, 1828, 1836	Gravestones, plot defining fence	Slate, granite and iron	Object	C
	L 104	Sylvanus Nye family plot	1820, 1861	Gravestones, plot defining fence	Slate, marble, granite and iron	Object	C
	L 50	James Collins family plot	1885- 1930	Monument, obelisk, gravestones, markers, and plot defining fence	Granite, marble	Object	C
	L 59	Edward P. Worthen family plot	1909	Monument	Granite	Object	C
	C 4-Center	Williard Stanton Small family plot	1943, 1963	Monument, markers, plot defining corner bounds	Granite	Object	C
	C 2-Center	Lombard family plot	1953	Monument, markers, plot defining fence and corner bounds	Granite	Object	C
	E 25-Center	Fred Scott Thorsen	1959	Marker	Granite	Object	C
	E 26-Center	Peters family plot	1949, 1959	Gravestones	Marble	Object	C
	A 7A-South	Florence Lee and Leonard G. Francis	1984, 1990	Gravestone	Granite	Object	NC
	C 1-South	Bertha and Everett W.	1981, 1987	Monument	Granite	Object	NC



Old North Cemetery  
 Name of Property

Barnstable, MA.  
 County and State

Photo #	Stone (S) # or Lot (L) # **	Name	Date	Resource Type	Material	Resource	Status
		Glasgow					
	F 1-South	Priscilla V. Simpson	1992	Bench	Granite	Object	NC
	S 264	Thomas Paine	1721	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 315	Thomas Mulford	1747	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 191	Jedediah Lumbard	1739	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
8	L 131	Ruth (Little) Avery	1732	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	L 131	Ruth (Knowles) Avery	1745	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 377	Caleb Upham	1786	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 440	Captain Gamaliel Collins	1775	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 733	Samuel Atkins	1834	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 413	Captain Isaiah Atkins	1782	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 558	Richard, Jonathan, and Solomon Paine	1782, 1778, 1776	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 629	Betsey Ayres	1831	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 631	John Ayres	1806	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	S 733	Samuel Atkins	1834	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C
	L 65	Warren W. Small family plot	1922	Gravestone	Marble	Object	C
	L 18	John G. Thompson	1920	Monument	Granite	Object	C
	L 19	Atkins Hughes	1919	Monument	Granite	Object	C
	L 44	Amelia Rich	1930	Monument	Granite	Object	C
	A-10 Center	Edison A. Taylor	1931	Monument	Granite	Object	C
	E 25 Center	Fred Scott Thorsen	1959	Marker	Granite	Object	C
	E-3 Center	F. W. Stockbridge	1954	Gravestone	Marble	Object	C
	S 580	Barnabus Paine	1768	Gravestone	Slate	Object	C

\*\*Unless otherwise noted Stones/Lots are from the North Section, see Figure 7. For Lots in the Center Section, see Figure 8 and for Lots in the South Section, see Figure 9.

**Note:** Resources selected for discussion are representative (i. e. exclusion from the data sheet does not indicate a lack of significance).

Old North Cemetery, Truro (Barnstable County), MA

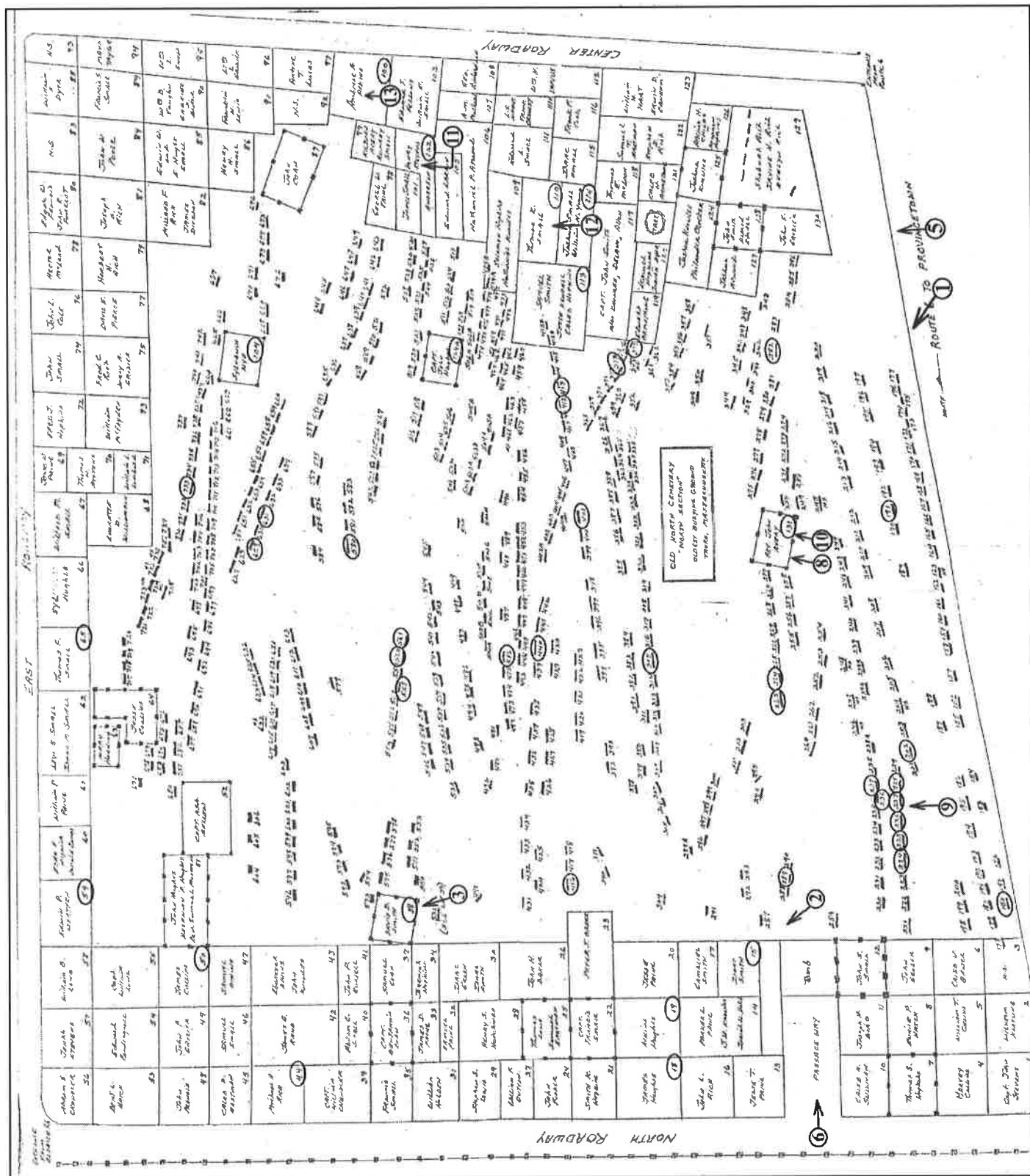


Photo Key 1a

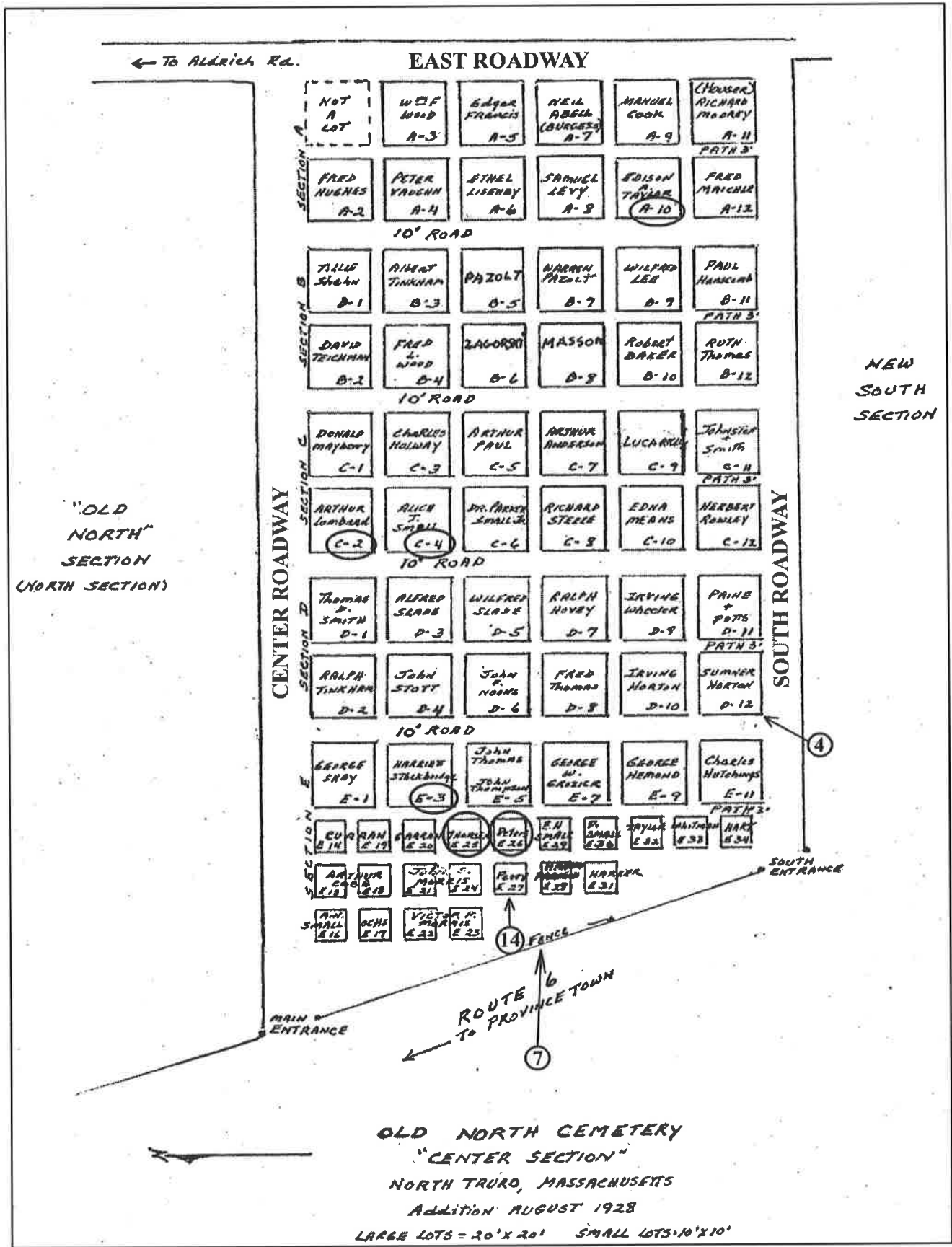


Photo Key 1b

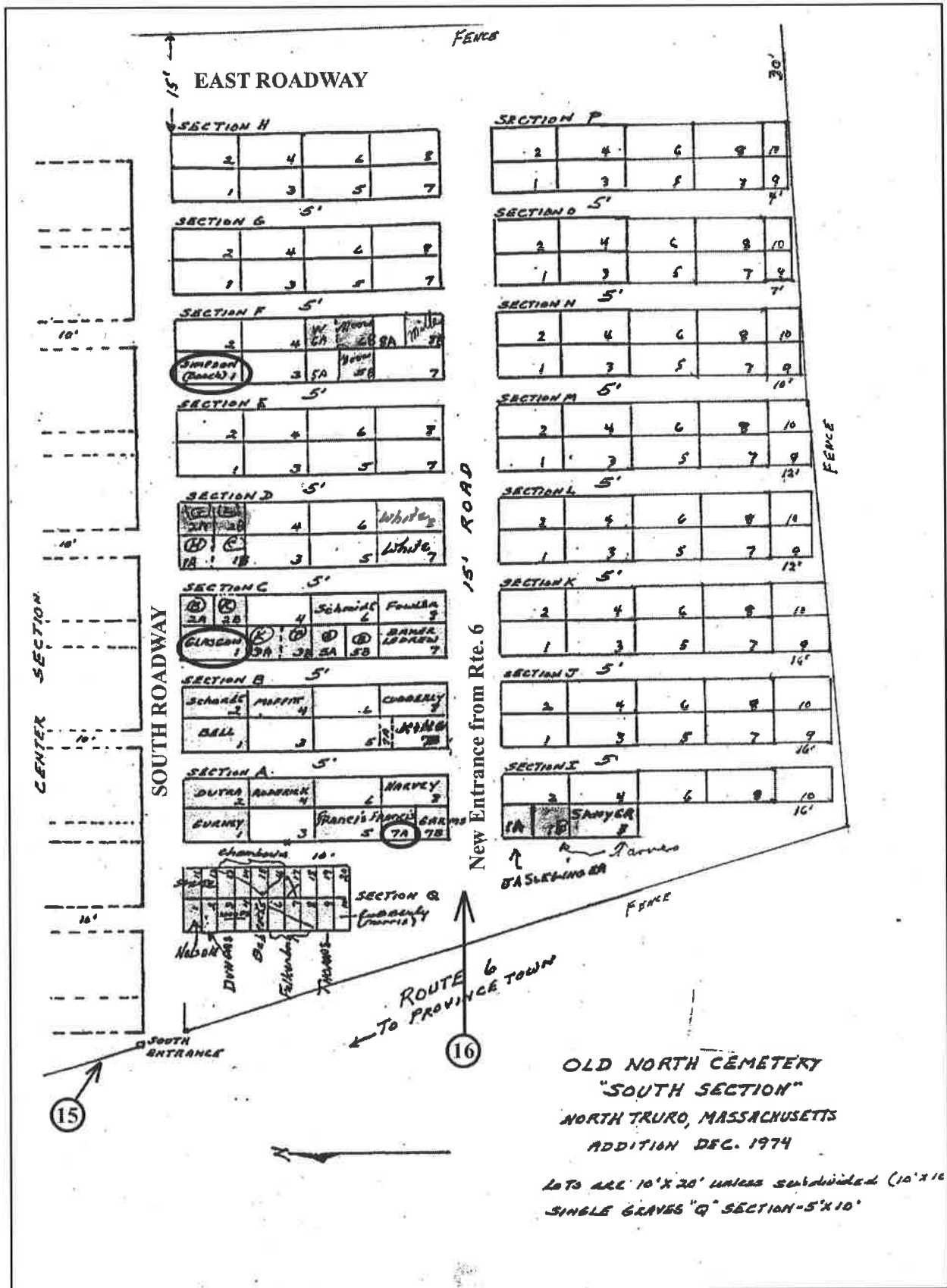


Photo Key 1c

Old North Cemetery, Truro (Barnstable County), MA

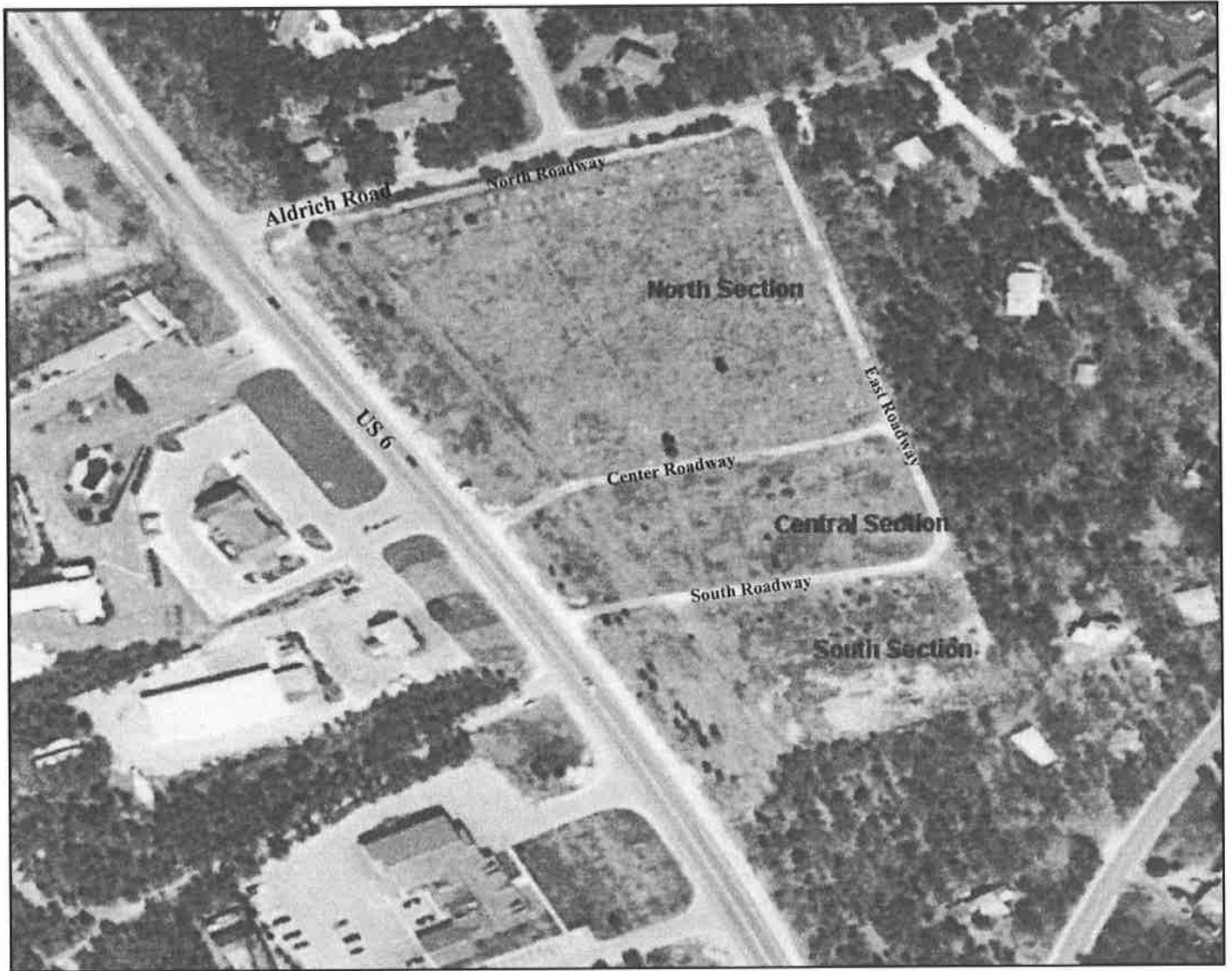


Figure 1. Aerial view of the Old North Cemetery.

Old North Cemetery, Truro (Barnstable County), MA

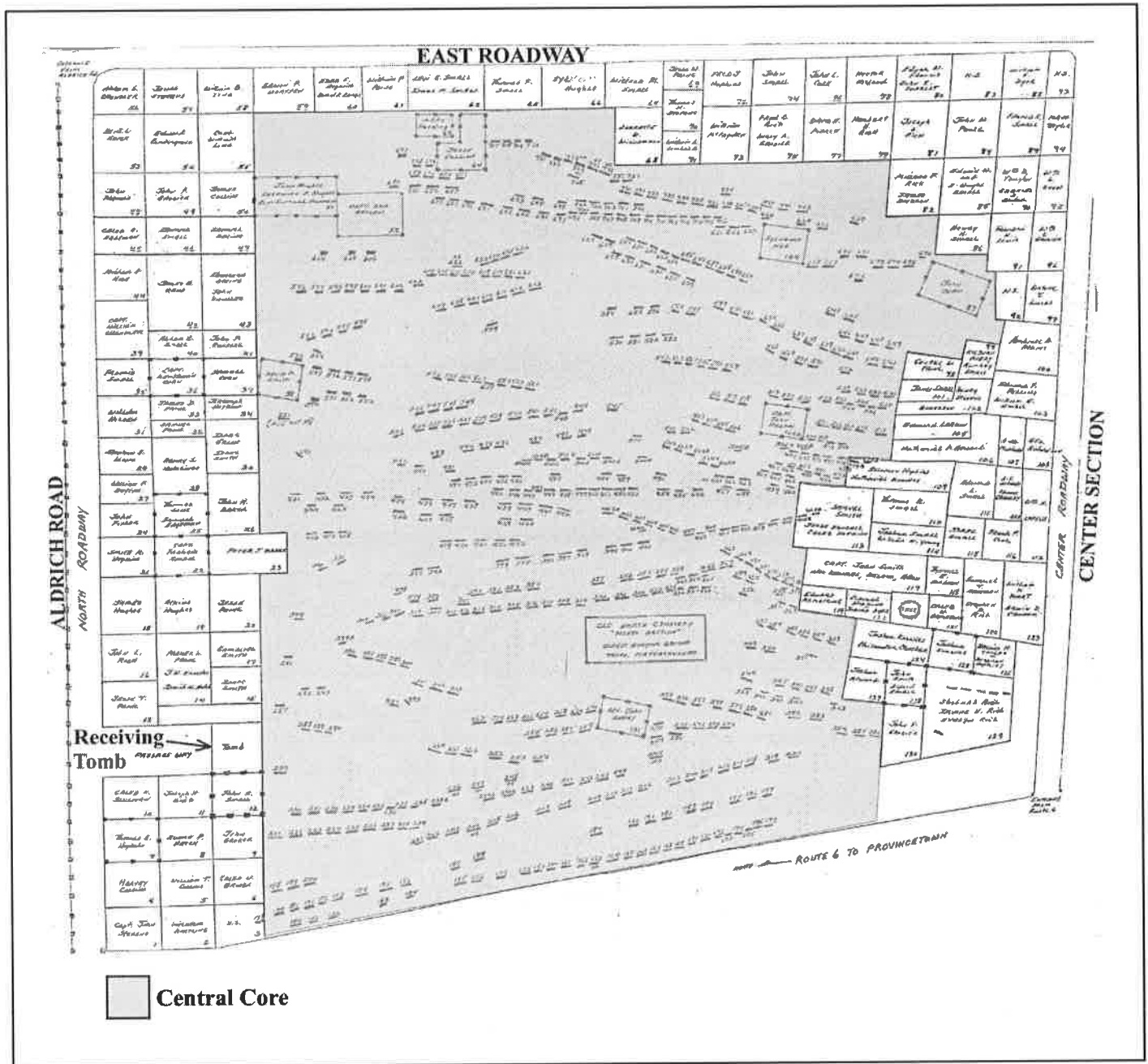


Figure 2. Plan of the North Section of the Old North Cemetery.

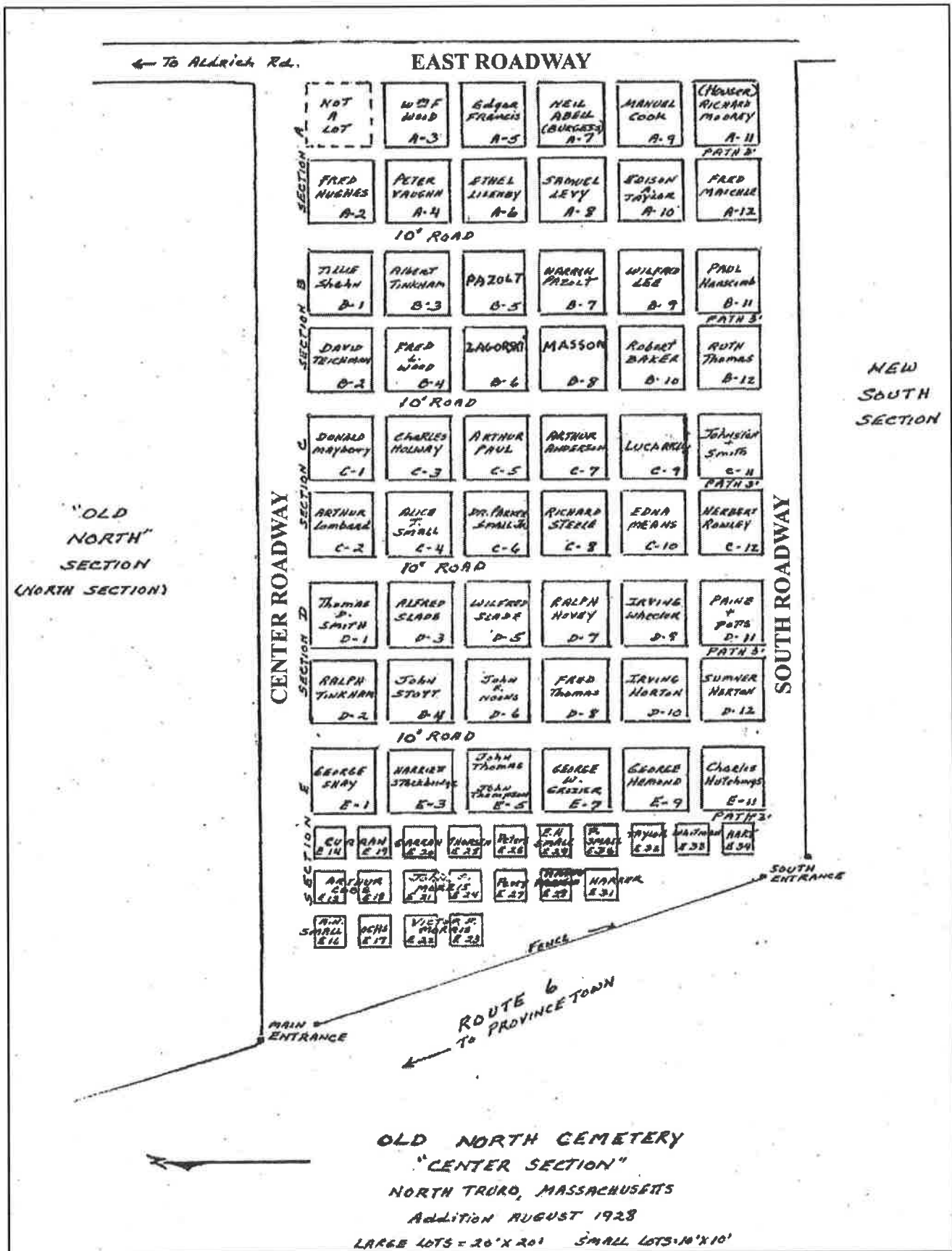


Figure 3. Plan of the Center Section of the Old North Cemetery.





Old North Cemetery, Truro (Barnstable County), MA

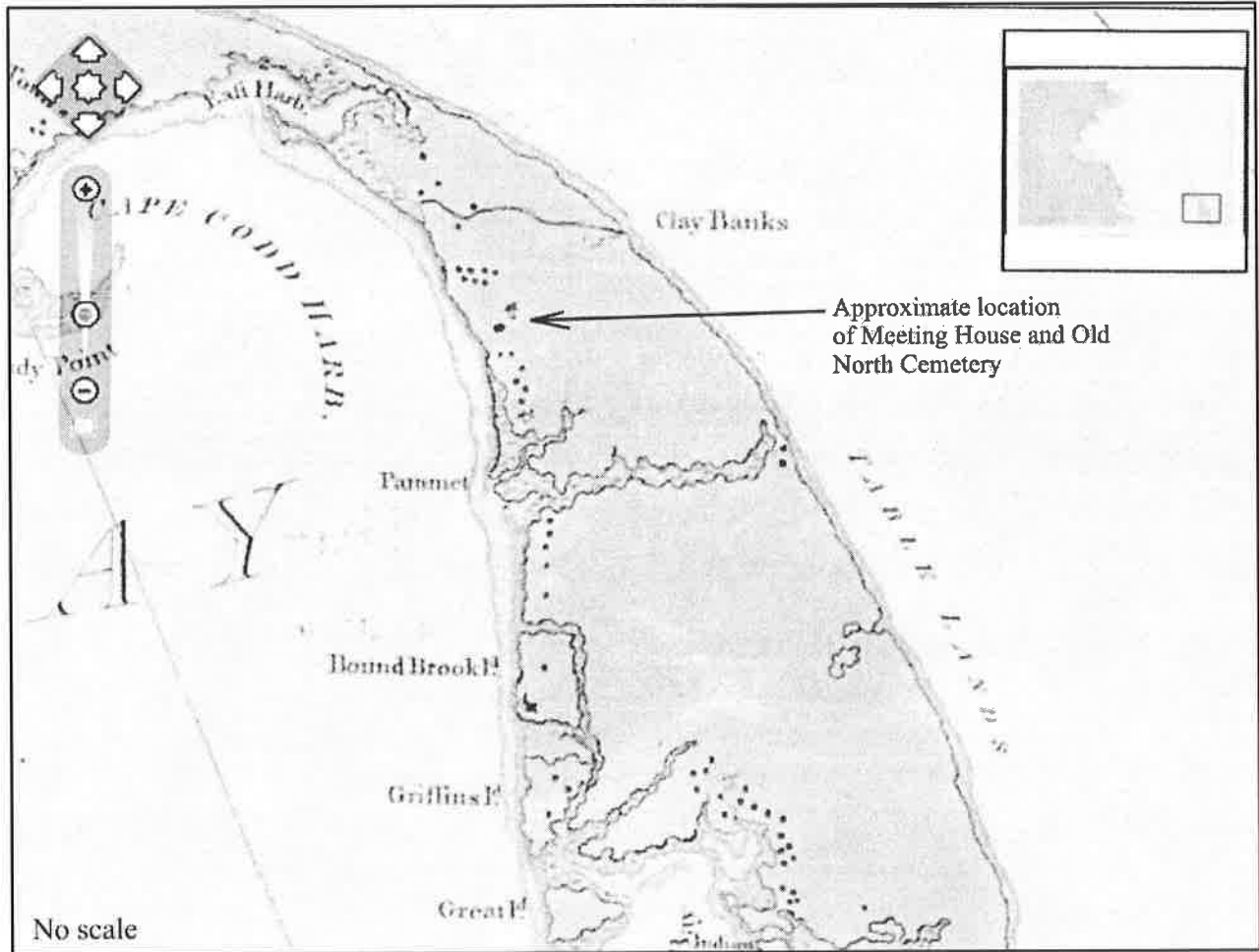


Figure 5. Detail of the Coast of Massachusetts in 1781 (DesBarres).

Old North Cemetery, Truro (Barnstable County), MA

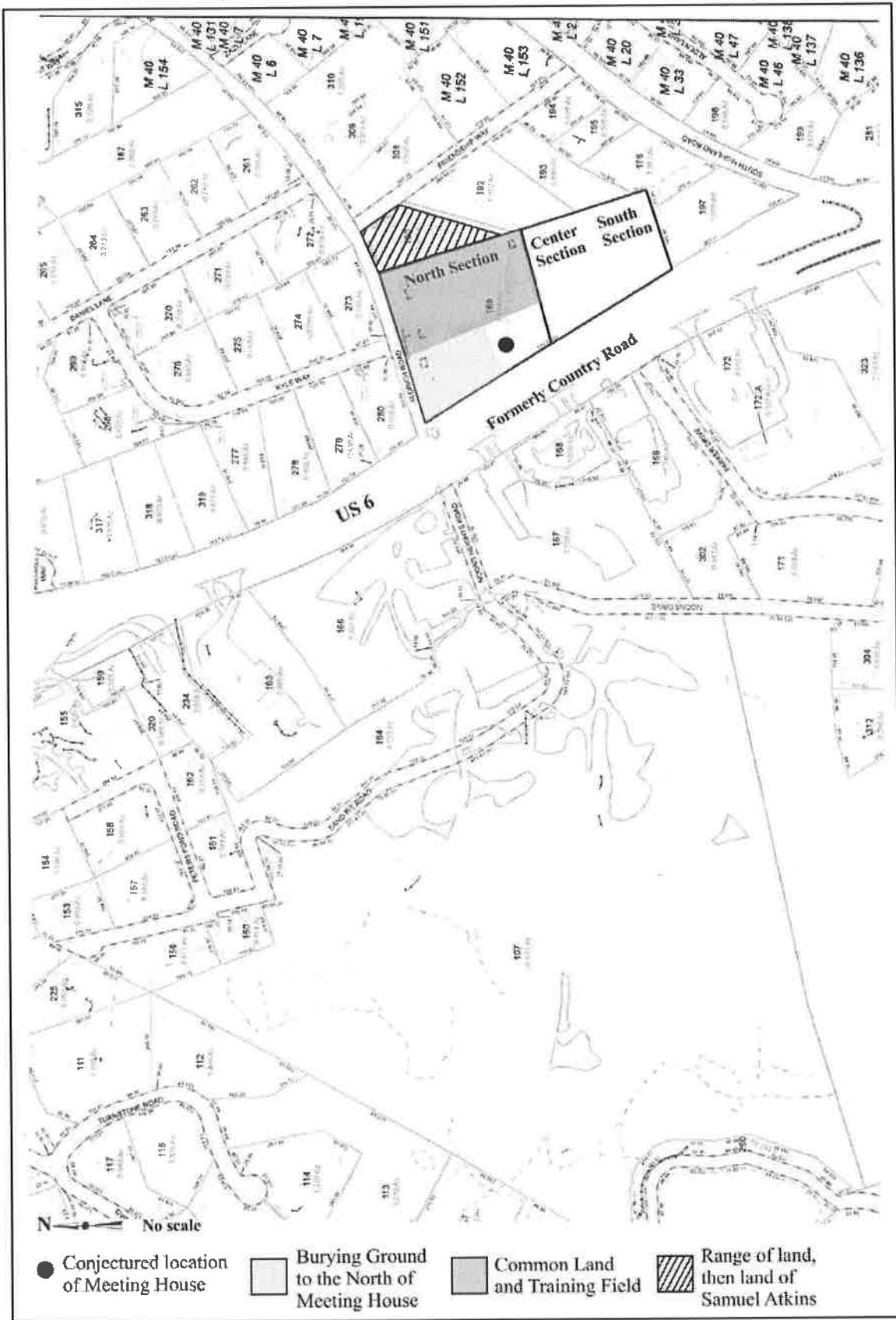


Figure 6. Conjectured location of the Meeting House, Burying Ground, Training Field and Common Land in the mid 1700s on Assessor's Map.

Old North Cemetery, Truro (Barnstable County), MA

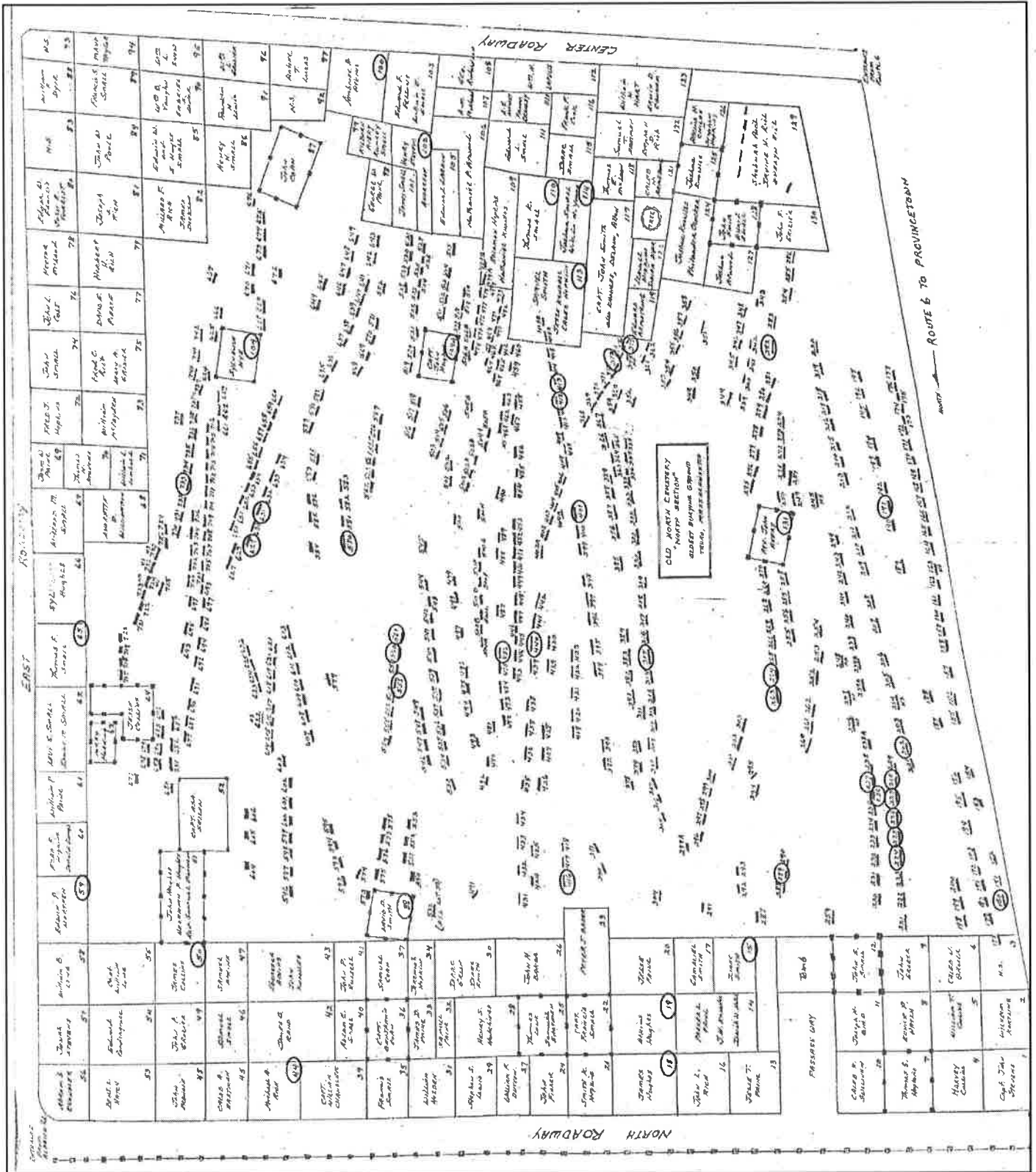
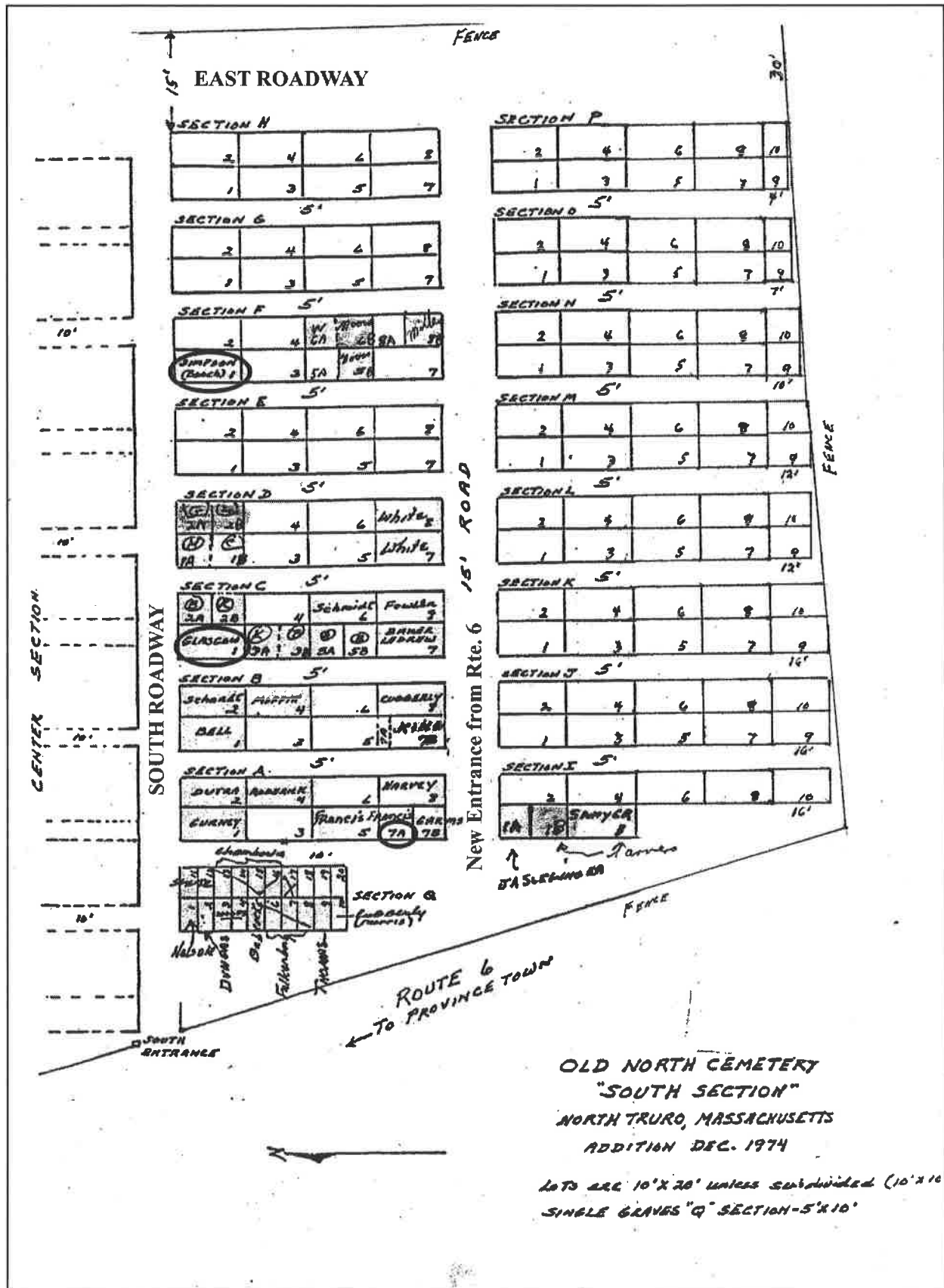


Figure 7. Location of gravestones and lots from Data Sheet in the North Section.





OLD NORTH CEMETERY  
 "SOUTH SECTION"  
 NORTH TRURO, MASSACHUSETTS  
 ADDITION DEC. 1974

LOTS ARE 10' X 20' UNLESS SUBDIVIDED (10' X 10'  
 SINGLE GRAVES "Q" SECTION - 5' X 10'

Figure 9. Location of lots from Data Sheets in the South Section.

# MAP 39

# OLD NORTH CEMETERY TRURO (BARNSTABLE) MA



1  
1.23

INTENDI  
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Com

Old North Cemetery  
Troy, Barnstable Co.,  
391189

OLD NORTH CEMETERY

TRURO (BARNSTABLE) MA



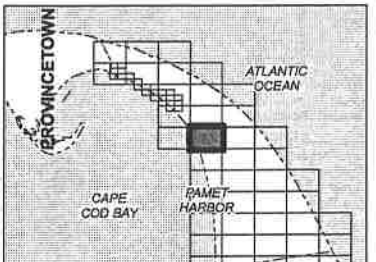
- 3 Parcel Number
- 3 Disjointed Parcel Number
- 160 Survey Dimension
- 160(e) Scaled Dimension
- (2) Survey Lot Number
- 1.23 Ac Acreage Text
- 1.23 Ac (c) Calculated Acreage Text

39

INTENDED FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY. COMPILED FROM TAX MAPS, ORTHOPHOTOGRAPHY AND OTHER PUBLIC RECORDS AND DATA. USERS SHOULD CONSULT THE PUBLIC PRIMARY SOURCE DOCUMENTS FOR VERIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION APPEARING ON THIS MAP.

20	23	24	22	32	33	34	ATLANTIC OCEAN
35						36	37
38						39	40
						41	42
						43	44
						45	46
						47	48

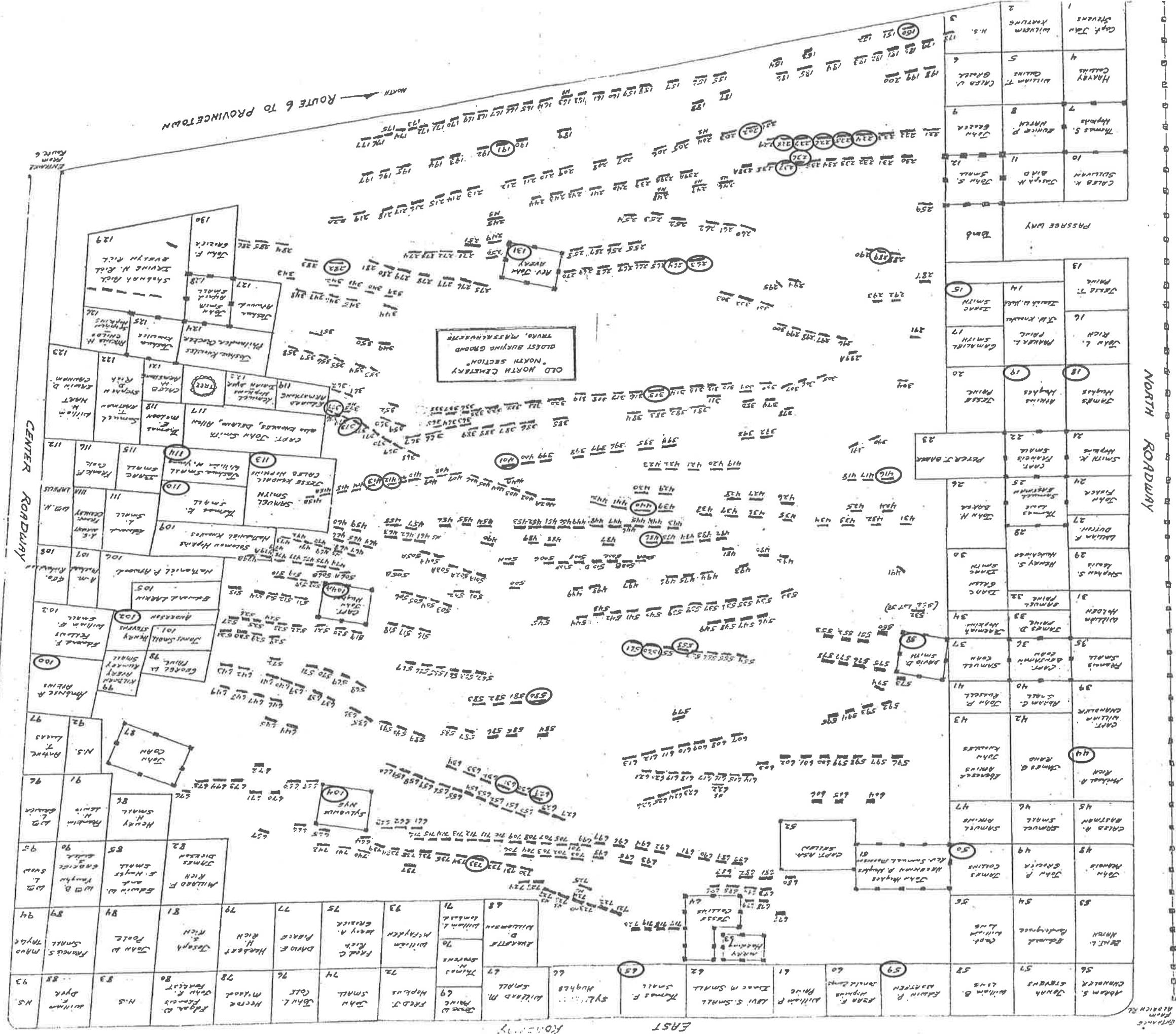
SHEET INDEX





Old North Cemetery  
Truro, MA.  
Berkshire, Co.

OLD NORTH CEM.  
TRURO (BARNSTABLE) MA



NORTH ROADWAY

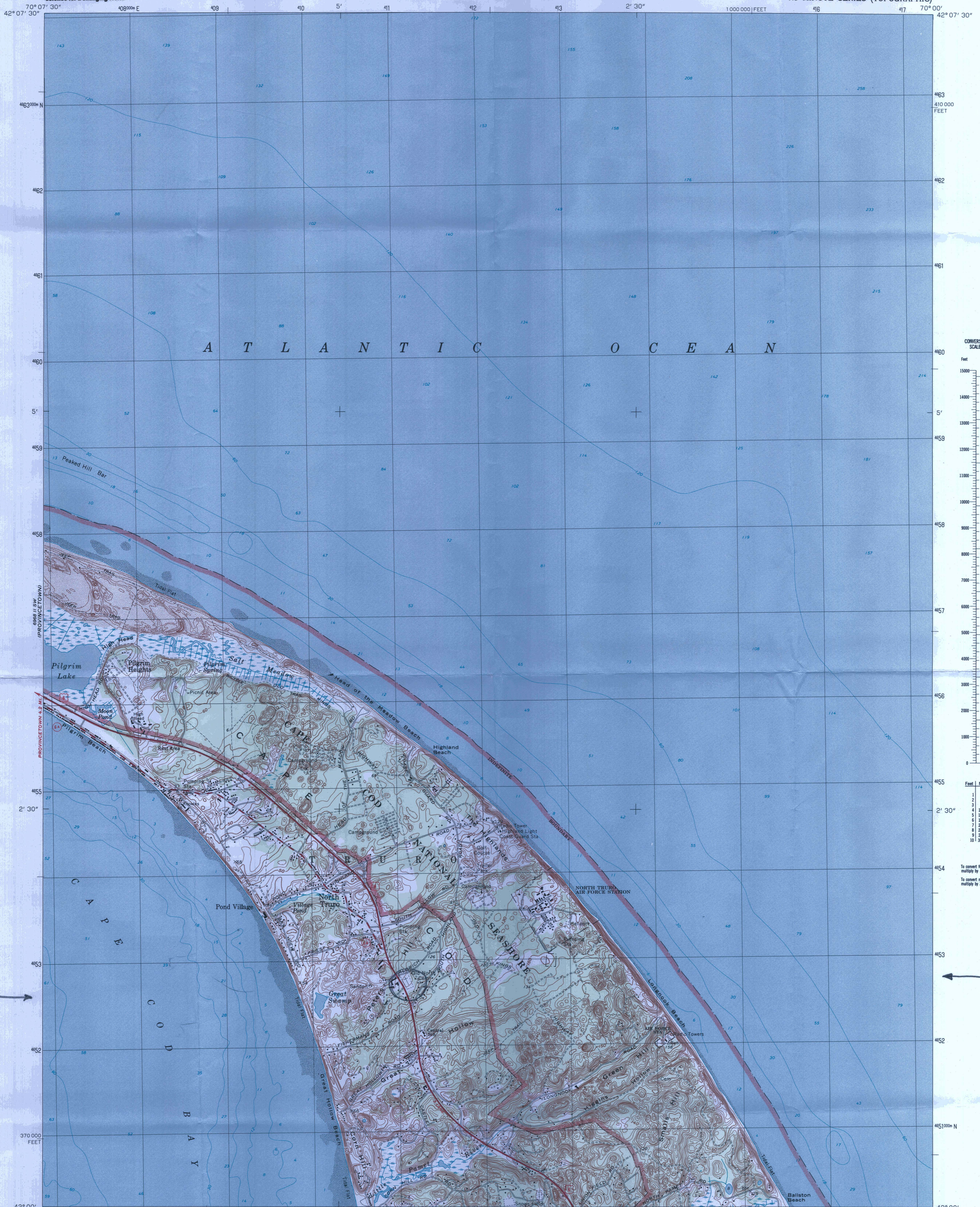
EAST ROADWAY

CENTER ROADWAY

ENTRANCE FROM ATTACHE RD.

OLD NORTH CEMETERY

TRURO (BARNSTABLE) MA

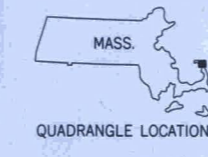
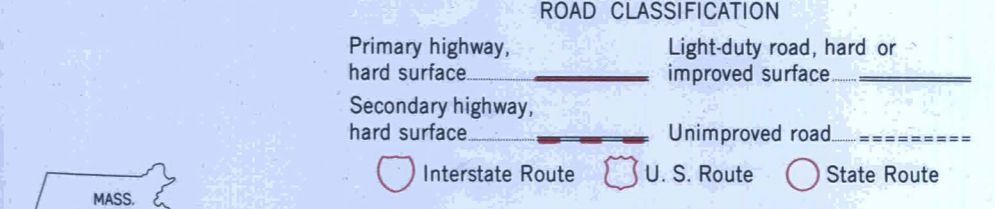
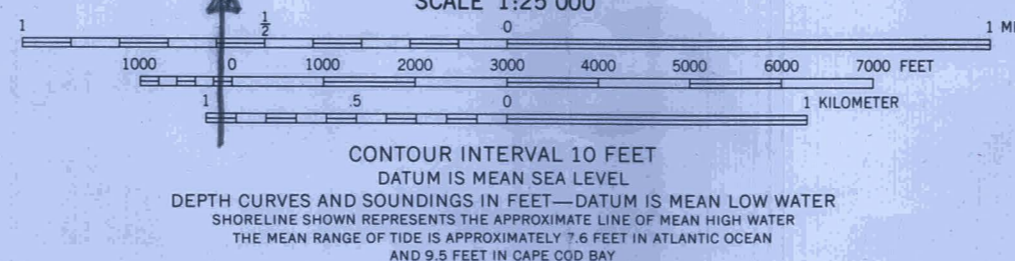
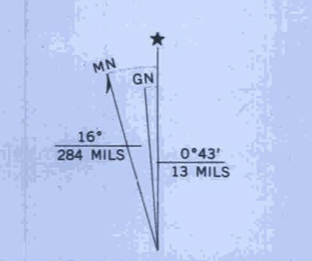


CONVERSION SCALES

Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4000
13000	3500
12000	3000
11000	2500
10000	2000
9000	1500
8000	1000
7000	500
6000	0
5000	1500
4000	1000
3000	500
2000	0
1000	500
900	0
800	0
700	0
600	0
500	0
400	0
300	0
200	0
100	0
0	0

To convert feet to meters multiply by 3048  
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1938. Topography by planetable surveys 1941-1942. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 580 and 1208 (1972). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19  
Map photinspected 1977  
No major culture or drainage changes observed



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NORTH TRURO, MASS.  
N4200—W7000/7.5  
PHOTOINSPECTED 1977  
1972  
AMS 6968 II SE—SERIES V814

OLD NORTH CEMETERY  
TRURO (BARNSTABLE) MA







GRAVESTONE  
1850-1920

GRAVESTONE  
1850-1920

GRAVESTONE  
1850-1920

GRAVESTONE  
1850-1920

GRAVESTONE  
1850-1920

GRAVESTONE  
1850-1920

DAVID D. SMITH  
1818 — 1901  
BETSEY D. HIS WIFE  
1825 — 1903  
CHILDREN  
1850 DAVID A. 1854  
1868 EMILY F. 1910  
1888 ISAAC F. 1951

SMITH

MRS. DOLLIE  
Widow of  
Capt. Stephen  
DOLLIE  
Dec. 19 1841  
Feb. 10 1910







GROZIER



# Old North Cemetery

*Est. 1713*





Here Lyes Buried the  
Body of M<sup>rs</sup> RUTH  
AVERY, Wife to the  
Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> JOHN AVERY  
She Deceased Oct<sup>r</sup> the  
1<sup>st</sup> 1732 in the  
46<sup>th</sup> Year of her Age

Rebeckah Freeman  
Daughter of Mr. Goddard  
& Mrs. Rebeckah  
Freeman Died  
Dec. 27 1792 Age 27



Here lie the Remains of  
y Rev<sup>d</sup>. M<sup>r</sup>. JOHN AVERY  
Who Departed this Life y  
23<sup>d</sup> of April 1754: in the  
6<sup>th</sup> Year of his Age and



ABIGAIL G. SMALL  
DIED  
April 21 1876  
Aged 2yrs 11mo  
22d  
of broken heart

Died Jan. 21, 1847.  
Aged 74 yrs. 6 mos. 9 days.  
Sincerely loved by all who knew him,  
and the nation of the resurrection.



JERUS  
JUN  
AUG.





EMILY A.

*wife of*

Joshua A. Snow.

Born in No. Truro.

Aug. 18, 1854,

Died in Charlestown Ms.

Oct. 23, 1880,

O. H. Linnell.

THOMPSON  
ALBERT H. THOMPSON  
1885 - 1968



THOMPSON  
MILDRED THOMPSON  
1885 - 1968



✠  
FRANK  
ANTHONY  
PETERS  
MASSACHUSETTS  
CPL  
AAA SCHOOL CAC  
WORLD WAR II  
DECEMBER 12 1922  
AUGUST 30 1959

✠  
IN MEMORY OF  
THOMAS  
HARRISON  
PETERS  
US NAVY  
WORLD WAR II  
JUL 15 1927  
JUN 15 1943



EDITH PETERS JONES  
NEE EDITH J. H. ERICKSON  
SEPT. 29. 1923 — MAY 21. 2001



