

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: First Congregational Parish District

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 3 First Parish Lane, 26 Bridge Road

City or town: Truro State: Massachusetts County: Barnstable

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

## 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**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_ **A**      \_\_\_ **B**      \_\_\_ **C**      \_\_\_ **D**

_____ <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>Title :</b>	
_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

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#### 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>42</u>	<u>8</u>	objects
<u>47</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

FUNERARY: cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

FUNERARY: cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: \_\_\_\_\_

foundation BRICK

walls \_\_\_\_\_ WOOD: Shingle

roof \_\_\_\_\_ WOOD: Shingle

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The First Congregational Parish Historic District is located in central Truro, Barnstable County, on an upland area immediately north of the Pamet River and west of Route 6. The district contains 5.97 acres on two parcels. The northern parcel contains the First Congregational Church of Truro (DS 1, 1827) and the Congregational Cemetery (earliest death date, 1812) (Photo 1). The southern parcel contains Snow Cemetery (earliest death date, 1817). The two parcels are bounded by Bridge Road Extension to the west and north, First Parish Lane to the northeast, and land-bound parcels to the south and south east. The period of significance runs from 1812, the earliest death date in the Congregational Cemetery, to 1963, the 50 year cut off period for properties in continuing use. All of the contributing resources retain their historic religious, funerary and commemorative uses. The surrounding area remains sparsely developed; to the west of the district is the Truro Town Hall (Union Hall, TRU.83, 1848, NR 1997) (Photo 2), and to the south and east are large residential parcels that remain heavily forested with locust, oak and scrub pine trees.

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## Narrative Description

### First Congregational Parish - Exterior

The First Congregational Parish is a 40' x 52' two-story gable-roofed wood-frame building Federal in style with Greek Revival influences whose end gable entrance orientation faces south towards the Pamet River Valley below (Photo 3). The building rests on a brick foundation which is painted red. A simple water table separates the foundation from the white-washed wood shingle of the elevations. The building's corners are articulated with moderate-width cornerboards, and the entablature consists of a simple frieze and slightly-projecting molded cornice which continues across the end gable on the south elevation until it meets the vestry/belfry block. The entablature is discontinuous across the south end gable of this block and also the north end gable of the main block.

The shallow-pitched gable roof is sheathed in wood shingle. Extending from the church's south elevation is the 24' x 8' end-gable vestry/belfry block, which is set slightly lower than the main block but matches the roof pitch (Photo 4). A four-sided bell tower with concave pyramidal roof rises partially from the roof of the addition and partially from the higher roof of the main block. The belfry has a flush-board arched opening on all four sides partially enclosed by black-painted wood louvers (Photo 5). The bell was manufactured by the Revere foundry in Canton, MA.

All elevations have two stories of fenestration which illuminate the sanctuary. At the main story along each of the side elevations of the main block are evenly ranked windows with projecting frames, lintels with simple crown molding, and 12/12 sash wood double-hung sash (Photo 6). Equally-ranked smaller windows with 12/8 sash are aligned with the windows below on the upper story of the side (east and west) elevations with one additional window on the south end of the east elevation and no windows above the addition on the west elevation (Photos 7, 8).

The south-facing elevation of the main block contains a pair of entrances which abut either side of the vestry/belfry block. Both entrances are reached by a set of brick steps, and have six-panel wood doors surrounded by pilasters, multi-lite transoms, and a broad frieze band with molded cornice (Photo 9). Single 12/8 windows are located above the doors on the south-facing main block. The main floor of the vestry/belfry block's south-facing elevation contains three equally-ranked windows similar to those on the main block, two widely-spaced windows on the second story, and a small half-round window centered in the gable above. The side elevations (east and west) of the addition have no openings. The north elevation has two broadly-spaced 12/12 windows on the main floor, smaller windows directly above each on the second story, and a pair of louvered vents is located at the top of the end gable (Photo 10).

A one-story modern addition, which replaced a smaller privy, springs from the southern end of the east elevation. This addition, built in 1996, is similarly detailed with a single 12/12 window on the south and west elevations, unpainted brick foundation, white-washed wood shingle siding, and simple box cornice with decorative molding discontinuous across the ends of the low-pitched half-shed roof (Photo 11).

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Interior

The interior of the church echoes the simplicity of the exterior. Except for an alteration which converted portions of the vestibule into a vestry in 1845, the interior of the sanctuary is in original, well-preserved condition.

Each entrance opens into a narrow vestibule leading to the sanctuary. Narrow L-shaped wood stairways rise to the gallery above with modern handrails on the outside walls (Photo 12). A door in the right (east) entry opens in to the vestry, a six-sided room with horizontal wainscoting and tongue-in-groove wood ceiling (Photo 13). The same horizontal wood wainscoting is found in the sanctuary.

The entrances to the main sanctuary contain wood doors with six raised panels which are notched at the corners. The doors are framed by simple flat casings. The main sanctuary has a flat plaster ceiling. There are two side aisles on the ground floor with single sets of box pews along the side walls and a double set of box pews in the center (Photo 14). At the north end of the sanctuary, a raised platform with a simple lectern is flanked by pews set perpendicular to the pews in the main sanctuary. Between the pews and the platform to the left (west) is a ca. 1892 Mason & Hamlin reed organ which was acquired by the church and installed in 1989 (Photo 15).

Exposed cased beams are located on the north wall demarcating the platform area and between the window bays on the side walls. The walls are covered with geometric-patterned wallpaper above a low wainscoting of horizontal boards with a bullnose chair rail continuous with the window sills. A narrow wallpaper border detail is used to create three triangular pediments on the north wall behind the lectern platform (Photo 16).

The pews are constructed with wood sides and backs, and have decoratively sawn and carved ends, some with paneled doors with a raised panel similar to the panel design of the doors into the sanctuary (Photo 17). The floor consists of wood planks under the pews and aisles, and carpeting on the platform.

A segmentally curved balcony at the south, east and west ends of the sanctuary is supported by turned posts. The parapet wall consists of a simple base, wallpapered walls and a broad flat cap (Photo 18). Two rows of plain straight benches with wood seats and backs are located on the east and west sides of the balcony (Photo 19). Behind the balcony to the south are a series of utilitarian rooms housing the bell pull, access to the belfry and storage. Some of the plaster walls in these spaces are adorned with lettering from members and contractors dating back the 1800s (Photo 20).

The sanctuary is lit by electrified kerosene lamps attached to the exterior of the balcony parapet (Photo 21). Two similar kerosene chandeliers which hung from the ceiling were removed and are located in the storage area behind the second floor gallery.

The small one-story 1996 addition on the west elevation contains a handicap accessible bathroom.

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### Rehabilitations

The earliest photographs of the church show windows with 2/2 sash. Based on a review of available photographs, it appears that these windows were replaced with the current 12/12 and 8/12 windows in the 1890s. A shed for horses constructed ca. 1850 and located to the west of the church was removed in 1930. Shebna Rich states, in *Truro, Cape Cod or Land Marks and Sea Marks* (1893), that “crimson damask silk pulpit hangings, in ample festoon, and the pulpit upholstery were not behind the fashions of the day.” There is no documentation regarding when these elements were removed. In 1955, electricity was installed, the bell tower was restored, the wallpaper was replaced with a screen-printed replica, and over 100 panes of “new-old” glass were installed in the windows. The bell and belfry were restored in 1979. In 1998, a new wood shingle roof as installed, and an outdoor privy was replaced with an indoor toilet addition.

### **Congregational Cemetery**

#### Summary Paragraph

The Congregational Cemetery was laid out north and east of the First Congregational Parish Church of Truro in 1827 (Haskell 2000:4-1). Situated on Bridge Road, the old section of the cemetery includes about 0.85 acre; the cemetery has been expanded downslope to the west in 1982 so that it incorporates a total of 2.29 acres. Fortunately, this expansion has left the historic core of the cemetery untouched, so that it retains excellent integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. The vistas from Bridge Road and Parish Lane have not been compromised and the setting and feeling consistent with a typical late-18<sup>th</sup> and early-19<sup>th</sup> century churchyard cemetery remains intact. Identified stonecutters include O.H. Linnell of Wellfleet (whose work is in marble) and A. Cary (who produced slate stones). While early historical photographs show little or no vegetation, characteristic of early religious burial grounds, the cemetery today does include a number of locust trees, as well as plantings such as hydrangeas and lilacs. A significant feature, still extant, is the receiving tomb, found at the south edge of the cemetery in close proximity to the church.

#### Location

The cemetery is situated in what historically is known as Truro Village, about 1,300 feet west of US 6, an original country road. It is south of Bridge Road, at the end of Parish Lane, a dirt drive that leads to the church and a small parking area. This road continues on to Snow Cemetery, further to the south. To the north of the cemetery is the old Town Hall. The cemetery is situated on Tax Map Parcel 46-240.

#### Topography

The church itself is situated on the south slope of a pronounced hill at an elevation of approximately 120 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The old section of the cemetery to the east of the church is on a relatively level terrace that drops only slightly toward the intersection of Bridge Road and Parish Lane. To the north of the church is a more pronounced hill, with elevations reaching 122 feet AMSL before Bridge Road. Westward the topography drops dramatically to the Pamet River.

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The only obvious variation in this regional topography is where some of the grave plots evidence terracing.

### Spatial Arrangement

The cemetery successfully maintains a rural setting with the white clapboard church providing the focal point. Bridge Road evidences little traffic during most of the year and the adjacent Parish Lane dirt road is used only a few local families and those visiting the cemetery.

Most of the cemetery stretches to the east of the church; to the west running down a steep slope are mostly newer stones. To the north stones appear sparse, but are generally 19<sup>th</sup> century. The churchyard is encompassed by a granite post and pipe rail fence boundary fence (Photo 22, DS 1) erected in the 1930s. Although the cemetery map (Haskell 2000) reveals the presence of family plots, relatively few are distinctly evident in the cemetery and those that are seem to be situated further from the church, perhaps representing newer additions. There is no evidence of coping around plots and there are only four surviving fences – three pipe rail and one iron.

The Congregational Church is separated from Snow Cemetery to the south by both topography and a dense stand of vegetation.

### Circulation

Typical of 18<sup>th</sup> and early-19<sup>th</sup> century churchyard cemeteries, there is no formal circulation pattern at the Congregational Cemetery. The entrance to the burial ground through the pipe rail fence is on either side of the south facing church building. Gates are 46” in width. No pathways are evidenced on the plot plan for the area east or north of the church. The plots to the west of the church appear to be later additions (Photo 23) and there is a very narrow pathway separating these plots and those to the north. The plots in the western new addition exhibit a formal gridded design divided into blocks. There are pathways running north-south and east-west between these blocks.

### Soils and Vegetation

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

Historical photographs, such as an 1899 image of the church and burial grounds looking to the west, reveal no vegetation in the cemetery except for dense grass. Today locust trees have begun to grow throughout the cemetery, especially to the southwest of the church and at the far northeast edge of the burial grounds. These represent weedy species that have been allowed to grow up in relatively recent times. The absence of historic vegetation is entirely consistent with churchyard cemeteries where space was at a premium and vegetation was removed to allow for additional graves. Intentionally planted vegetation is limited to occasional cedars, two camellia bushes, lilacs, and a hydrangea.



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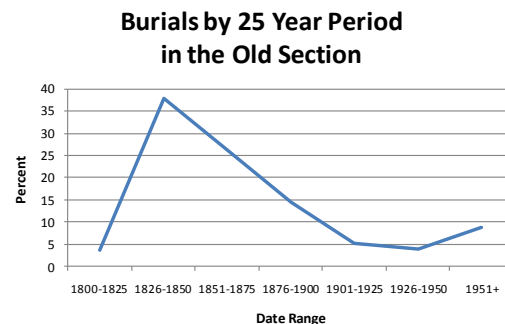
### Constructed Elements

In the late-19<sup>th</sup> century the cemetery was at least partially enclosed by a black picket fence. At the entrance to the church there were hitching posts for the congregants. On the far side of Parish Lane was a wood pole fence. By the 1930s the picket fence was apparently in poor condition and it was replaced by a granite post and pipe fence boundary fence. While more formal than the original picket fence, which was typical of the island, this granite post fence is today strongly associated with the burial ground.

The only other constructed feature, other than the church itself, is a semi-subterranean receiving tomb (Photo 24, DS 2) or vault situated at the southern edge of the cemetery, immediately within the fenced area. The vault faces east toward Parish Lane and the brick façade measures about 8'7" in width and stands about 8' in height. It is laid up in a simple stretcher bond. Centered is an elliptical brick arch and a wood door set on brass strap hinges on iron pintels. Interior dimensions are estimated at about 12 by 8 by 5 feet and the tomb was constructed on brick, with its vaulted ceiling covered by earth. This tomb is nearly identical to similar features at the Old North 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.

### Gravestones

About 300 monuments are found in the Old Section. These include a wide range of slate headstones, most with variations of the willow and urn motif, including one dating 1839 with a broken rosebud motif (Photo 25, DS 3). More common are marble monuments, including headstones, tab in socket, die on base, and obelisk forms. Many of these exhibit Victorian floral motifs, as well sheep and birds (Photo 26, DS 4). There is at least one example of a marble stone with the willow and drape motif (Photo 27, DS 5). A few late granite memorials typically die on base, are also present; most date from the second half of the 20th century. The earliest stone is that for Delia Payne (DS 6), who died in 1812 and the most recent stone dates from 1993. The temporal distribution of burials in the old section is shown by the figure to the right.



Of note is the 1841 Gale Memorial (Photo 28, DS 7) - a marble obelisk set on a sandstone base and surrounded by an iron fence. It commemorates 57 Truro residents who were lost at sea during the October 3, 1841 gale. Unfortunately this monument has been severely compromised by inappropriate preservation efforts, including the addition of an ordinary Portland cement (OPC) slanted base applied adjacent to the sandstone and poor fence repairs. This stone is in special need of appropriate conservation efforts.

The only marble stonecutter whose work is identified in the cemetery is O.H. Linnell of Wellfleet. This is Oliver H. Linnell, whose father, Oliver Nickerson Linnell, was also a famous Cape Cod stonecutter (Blachowicz 2003:205). Oliver may have worked with his father for a while, but by 1873 was on his own and by 1879 he had combined the marble trade with undertaking (Deyo 1890:807). His work continued at least through 1890.

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The cemetery also includes a slate stone from 1839 signed “A. Cary.” This is likely the Boston stone carver Alpheus Cary. After being a schoolteacher, Alpheus Cary turned to stonecutting and had a long and prolific career as a monument maker, even publishing a book of epitaphs.

### Condition

The Congregational Cemetery receives minimal landscape and hardscape maintenance; and there is little evidence of monument conservation efforts. Most monuments are upright and legible, with limited amounts of lichen growth.

### **Snow Cemetery**

#### Summary Paragraph

Snow Cemetery was laid out south of the Congregational Church and according to Haskell (2000:5-1) as early as 1849. Situated east and southeast of Bridge Road, the cemetery is reached by following Parish Lane past the Congregational Church. The cemetery encompasses 3.58 acres, although boundaries appear poorly defined and difficult to trace with much of the cemetery in natural woods. The cemetery blends elements of a traditional family cemetery expanding into a town cemetery, such as the formal road network, with elements of picturesque garden design, with the burial ground laid out to conform to the hilly topography. The historic core is found in northeast corner, closest to Congregational Church; more modern stones extend to northwest and south. Many of the plots and markers exhibit unique characteristics, so that the graves have been described as “works of art in themselves” (Haskell 2000:5-1). Because of the surrounding vegetation the cemetery is well shielded from adjacent residential development.

#### Location

The cemetery is situated in what historically is known as Truro Village, about 1,600 feet west of US 6, an original country road. It is south and east of Bridge Road, at the end of Parish Lane, a dirt drive that leads to the Congregational Church and Cemetery. This single lane dirt road continues southward to Snow Cemetery (Photo 29). The cemetery is situated on Tax Map Parcel 50-123. The parcel is roughly rectangular in shape and to the south and southwest is residential development.

#### Topography

The cemetery is situated on portions of two topographic rises, as well as the intervening saddle (Photo 30). Areas of the cemetery on the east and west edges are terraced to allow burials. The northern rise has an elevation of about 94 feet above mean sea level (AMSL), while the more prominent rise to the south reaches an elevation of 116 feet AMSL. From this southern promontory the topography falls steeply southward, reaching a low point of about 70 feet in the southeast corner of the cemetery. This is about 200 feet north of Castle Road and about 600 feet north of the Pamet River.

Many of the grave plots, especially on the north, west, and south sides, exhibit dramatic terracing (and retaining walls) to create flat areas for burial.

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### Spatial Arrangement

Situated over a quarter mile from US 6, the cemetery maintains a distinctly rural character. There is little traffic noise and dense woods shield the cemetery from adjacent residential lots. The spatial arrangement of this cemetery is less obvious than others in Truro, evidencing its gradual evolution from a small family plot to a larger community cemetery. Boundaries are poorly defined on the ground and there is no defining cemetery fence or wall. The historic core of the cemetery was not elevated, but was in a relatively low area to the rear or south of the Congregational Church. The cemetery expanded up the largest adjacent hill (to the southwest), with Victorian and later monuments being found on this high ground. The more modern burials are found on the terraced edges of the cemetery blending into the surrounding woods and to some degree mimicking green burial sites, that is burials that are carefully designed in a natural fashion in a natural setting (Photo 31).

The cemetery map (Haskell 2000) indicates that plots thin out to the south and this is largely the result of the steep slope. It is likely difficult to create burial sites in these areas and the cemetery may not see much additional growth.

Most of the existing plots exhibit either granite or concrete coping. Some terraced plots also contain retaining walls in order to maintain their integrity (Photo 32). Six plots are present in the more historic section of the cemetery with granite post and pipe rail fences

Snow Cemetery is separated from the Congregational Church and Cemetery to the north by both topography and a dense stand of vegetation. Also separating the two is east-west dirt road that borders the southern edge of the new section of the Congregational Cemetery, southwest of the Church.

### Circulation

Parish Lane off US 6 is reduced to a one-lane dirt road at the entrance to the Congregational Cemetery. From there the road runs south to Snow Cemetery. At one time a service road, as shown on the cemetery map, it provided access to the northwest cemetery extension. It is no longer readily visible and is being taken over by vegetation. The highest rise and central core of the cemetery is accessed by an oval gravel drive about 8' in width. While this drive allows access to the mid- and late-19<sup>th</sup> century plots, the newest areas, on the side slopes, can be reached only by walking. No paths are present in the cemetery.

### Soils and Vegetation

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

The central portion consisting of the dominant rise and representing the Victorian core is relatively open. In this area there is some evidence of cool season grass, although weeds are more common. The surrounding cemetery slopes are largely dominated by locust trees. Plantings are present; among the most recognized are the two historic linden trees that shade the graves of

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the Stevens children (Photo 33, DS 8) – buried in the cemetery in 1849. Throughout the historic core are numerous arbor vitae.

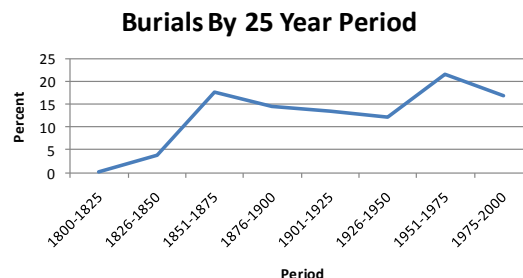
### Constructed Elements

This is the only burial ground in Truro which does not have a receiving tomb. There is also no evidence that the burial ground was ever fenced.

### Gravestones

About 350 monuments are found in the cemetery. The core on the central rise includes marble headstones dominated by Victorian motifs, such as the broken rose bud, sleeping child, floral motifs (Photo 34, DS 9), lamp, anchor, sheep, and upward pointing finger. Also present are marble die on bases, obelisks, pedestal tombs, and tab in socket. The cemetery includes an obelisk for the crew of the schooner A.N. Jefferson (DS 10) “supposed to have been lost Mar. 15, 1861: on her passage from Truro to Virginia.” The stone for Atkins H. Childs (DS 11) documents his loss at sea in 1867; Daniel A. Knowles (DS 12) was lost at sea in 1868; and an obelisk for Capt. Thomas W. Shaw (DS 13) and his crew commemorates their loss in the Schooner Eleanor M. Shaw in 1851. Other stones document the loss of residents at foreign ports, ranging from Mobile to Calcutta. While less well known than the 1841 Gale Monument in the Congregational churchyard, these monuments documents Truro’s strong ties to the sea and the grief felt by the entire community when ships were lost.

The earliest marked burial in the cemetery is that of Harriet Knowles (DS 14), who died in 1817. Up through 1850, however, there are only 25 marked burials in the cemetery. The figure to the right shows that burials have gradually increased over the cemetery’s 200 years of use. In fact, about 38% of the burials post-date 1950. While recent, some of these monuments exhibit unusual artistry, including the signed marker for Hans Hofman (d. 1966, Photo 35, DS 15). A wide variety of vernacular markers – described as innovative creations (Weissman 1988) – are also present, including two millstones (Photo 36, DS 16), a variety of quartz boulders with attached bronze plaques including the Gardner grave marker (Photo 37, DS 17), and at least four ornate wood crosses that date to the twentieth century, including the Harry Noel Campbell cross (Photo 38, DS 18). In fact, it may be for these unusual markers that the cemetery is best known (Haskell 2000:5-1). Locally significant individuals include artist Hans Hofman (d. 1966, DS 15), actor and director Joseph Anthony (d. 1993, DS 19), Russian noble Nina (Romanov) Chavchavadze (d. 1974, DS 20), painter and illustrator Gerrit Beneker (d. 1934, DS 21), Frederick Waugh (d. 1940, DS 22) – a marine artist and seascape painter whose wooden cross was carved by William Boogar, writer Katherine Dos Passos (d. 1947, DS 23), Susan Glaspell (d. 1948, DS 24) - founding member of the Provincetown Players, Frederick Simonds Hammett (d. 1953, DS 25) - founder of the Provincetown Art Association, Provincetown sculptor William Boogar (d. 1958, DS 26), and expressionist painter Jan Muller (d. 1959, DS 27).



By the late-19<sup>th</sup> century granite markers begin to dominate the cemetery, typically as die on bases, slant markers, or even, into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, lawn markers.

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Carvers identified in the cemetery include T.A. Hopkins, Orleans (Capt. Atkins Dyer, d. 1854, DS 28), O.H. Linnell (Joseph Whorf, d. 1872, DS 29 and Paula S. Harding (d. 1894, DS 30), and Bowker, Torrey & Co., Boston (John C. Harding, d. 1853, Photo 39, DS 30). Linnell is Oliver H. Linnell, whose father, Oliver Nickerson Linnell, was also a famous Cape Cod stonecutter (Blachowicz 2003:205). Oliver may have worked with his father for a while, but by 1873 was on his own and by 1879 he had combined the marble trade with undertaking (Deyo 1890:807). His work continued at least through 1890 and is also found at the nearby Congregational Church Cemetery. Bowker, Torrey & Co. is a well-known late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century firm that was responsible for much of the stonework in Boston. For example, most of the marble work in Boston Public Library was done by the firm (Wick 1977:41).

### Archaeology Description

While no ancient Native American sites have been identified in the area under study, a number of sites have been documented to the west along Cape Cod Bay. Environmental characteristics of the church and cemetery grounds, including areas of no-to-low slope, well-drained soil and proximity to a water source (Pamet River) as well as the number of recorded sites are all favorable indicators for the presence of ancient sites. However, the excavation of graves in both cemeteries and the landscaping activity in Snow Cemetery suggests that a low potential exists for locating significant ancient Native American archaeological resources.

Deed research suggests that the location of the church and cemeteries had previously been undeveloped land. Expected historic period archaeological resources would likely be associated with ephemeral rural activities. Therefore the location of the church and cemeteries has a low potential for historic archaeological resources associated with these types of activities.

The earliest gravestones in both cemeteries predate the perceived opening of the cemetery and deed research revealed that Levi Stevens actually purchased the property for the burial of his children the year after they had died. Both of the above facts suggest that the original acre known as the Stevens Cemetery may have been previously used as a family burial ground. A reference in a town history also noted that unmarked graves of those killed at sea are located in the Congregational Cemetery. There is, therefore, a high potential for unmarked graves in both cemeteries. Unmarked graves containing stratigraphic evidence of a burial shaft, skeletal remains and personal items of the deceased may exist from before the cemeteries were established and later. Archaeological evidence including buried objects, artifacts, and post holes from old fence lines, stonewalls, gates, and other boundary markers may also survive.

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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.)

- 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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

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**Period of Significance**

1812 to 1963, the 50 year cut off for properties in continuous use

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**Significant Dates**

1812 (Earliest Death Date, Congregational Cemetery)

1817 (Earliest Death Date, Snow Cemetery)

1827 (Construction of First Parish Congregational Church)

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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**Architect/Builder**

Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The First Congregational Parish District contains three resources, the First Congregational Church, the Congregational Cemetery, and Snow Cemetery. These resources, together with the adjacent Union Hall (NR 1997), represent the most intact concentration of 19<sup>th</sup> century civic and religious institutions in Truro. The First Congregational Church, built in 1827, was the town's third meeting house and is the oldest surviving church in the town. It is an excellent example of early-19<sup>th</sup> century Federal/Greek Revival institutional building in Truro, and the church's organization has been closely identified with the town's development since 1709. The Congregational Cemetery which surrounds the church is an integral part of the setting for the First Congregational Church and contains grave markers and monuments associated with significant 19<sup>th</sup> century individuals and events. Snow Cemetery, located immediately south of the Congregational Cemetery, is significant in the town as the only cemetery that was not started in association with a church, having started as a family burying ground in the early 1800s, and opened to the public in the 1930s. Snow Cemetery has an association with prominent 19<sup>th</sup> century Truro families as well as the twentieth century development of the Outer Cape artist community. The district meets National Register Criterion A for its association with the historic development of Truro and Criterion C for the architecture that conveys the historical development. The period of significance extends from 1812, the earliest death date of the Congregational Cemetery to 1963 the 50 year cut off period for properties in continuing use.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **History of the Congregational Society in Truro**

Prior to European settlement, outer Cape Cod, including present-day Truro, was home to the Pamet, a tribe of the Nauset nation. According to *Mourt's Relation*, an account of the Pilgrim's exploration of the Outer Cape in 1620 by William Bradford and Edward Winslow, the Pilgrims explored portions of Truro before moving on to Plymouth. Permanent European settlement in Truro began in the late-17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1684, Eastham Proprietors bought land from the Pamet Indians, and permanent European settlement began by 1696, primarily along the Pamet River. Truro was incorporated in 1709 and in 1715, King's Highway was laid out to facilitate movement of goods and people between Provincetown, Truro and the lower Cape. The population in Truro grew through the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with over 900 inhabitants by 1765. Settlements were eventually located throughout Truro, including South Truro, North Truro (Pond Village), and East Harbor farther north. In addition to agriculture, fishing, whaling and shipbuilding quickly became important Truro industries.

When Truro was incorporated the grant required that the town "have built a convenient house to meet in for the public worship of God, and for some time had a minister among them." By 1711,



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Rev. John Avery was ordained and the Congregational Society was organized with seven members. The first meeting house was built on what became known as the Hill of Storms in North Truro. This meeting house was replaced in 1720, enlarged and remodeled in 1765, and enlarged again to add more pews in 1792. During this time period the meeting house was located in present-day Old North Cemetery.

As in other New England towns, the Congregational church played an important role in local town government. Town meetings were held in the meeting house, and the Congregational minister was a prominent and well-educated local citizen. Ministers served for life, and until 1828 Truro had only three, Rev. John Avery, Rev. Caleb Upham, and Rev. Jude Damon. All three ministers were Harvard educated and played important roles in the life of the community beyond their responsibilities as minister. The Rev. John Avery, in addition to being the minister, was a prominent local physician. As noted in Rich (1883) a Boston minister with family in Truro reminisced about Avery's place in the community, "As a minister he was greatly beloved and admired by his people.... As a physician, he was no less esteemed." Avery, who died in 1754, was succeeded by Rev. Caleb Upham, known as an ardent patriot who likely wrote the declaration of solidarity approved at a Truro town meeting in 1774 to voice support for the Boston revolutionaries after the Boston Tea Party. Upham was succeeded by Rev. Jude Damon in 1786. Damon served as the minister for 42 years and was minister in the First Congregational Church for one year before he died in 1828.

Until the arrival of Methodist preachers on the Outer Cape at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Congregational Church was the only church in Truro. The newly organized Methodists built their first meeting house in South Truro ca. 1794 in present-day Pine Grove Cemetery. As commercial activity increased in the early-19<sup>th</sup> century, the Pamet River area became a bustling fishing port with shipyards, stores, fish processing sheds and three long wharfs. As a result of the changing economy, the political and economic focus of the town shifted from North Truro to the Pamet River area and Truro Village (present-day Truro Center). Members of the Congregational community now living and working by the Pamet River had a greater distance to travel for Sunday services. In 1826 the Methodist Episcopal Church was built on a hill immediately north of Truro Center and in 1827 the First Congregational Church was built 300' to the west of the Methodist Episcopal Church on the same hill and, by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the area became known locally as the "Hill of Churches."

The records of the town's Congregational society detail the problems created within the Congregational community during this period of economic expansion. The first entry in the *Book of the Proprietors* for the new First Congregational Parish, dated March 6, 1827, relates that when the first Congregational meeting house was built it was located in a "central situation" in order to accommodate the population "but it is not so now, A very large proportion of the society is at a great Distance to the south, and A very few do now or ever will keep House. The aged infirm and children can but seldom, if ever meet God in his house and enjoy Christian privileges." The report further stated that the situation created a tendency for people to "withdraw from the society, where they have no privilege. This we have already seen and felt. Therefore to remove this evil as far as in our power & to do justice to those who have potentially borne our burdens for us without an equal return of privileges we have it in contemplation not to

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abandon the old house whose use we and our fathers have long worshipped God as some may suppose but to build another that the ministerial labour in the society may be performed alternately & equally in each so that the privilege may be more equally extended to the whole society. Could we harmonize in this we may hope by the blessing of God that our ability to support the Gospel ministry will be to what it now is, if not greatly increased so that it will no longer be felt as a burden to any one.” The new meeting house would be located on the land of Capt. Freeman Atkins (d. 1855, DS 31), a short distance south of the wind-mill that was owned by Atkins, Allen Hinckley, and Samuel Rider. When finished, the proprietors would sell the pews with any surplus money used for the benefit of the society. The next meeting was set for the first Monday of the following month and the report ended with a list of the subscribers and the number of shares, totaling 100 at \$20 per share.

On April 2, 1827 a meeting of “the signers” for the new Congregational meeting house met and chose a moderator, Allen Hinckley; clerk pro tem, Barnabus Paine (d. 1849, DS 32); a five man building committee consisting of Allen Hinckley, Benjamin Hinckley (d. 1840, DS 33), Solomon Davis (d. 1865, DS 34), John Kenney and Jesse Snow (d. 1842, DS 35), and treasurer and clerk, Allen Hinckley. It was determined that the new meeting house would measure approximately 40 ft. by 60 ft. with the “porch” on the south end high enough for a bell. The building committee was advised to reach an agreement with Freeman Atkins (d. 1855) regarding the price for the land. While later meetings reiterate the need to determine a price for the property, no deed was located in either the church records or at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds suggesting that the deed may have been lost and/or never recorded.

The next meeting, held on November 29, 1827, was conducted by “the proprietors of the new Congregational Meeting House.” On December 18, 1827, trader John Kenney was chosen as the proprietors’ attorney to sell and convey the pews in the meeting house suggesting that the construction of the new meeting house was at or near completion.

At a meeting on January 22, 1828 the moderator, clerk and treasurer were chosen as well as a Presidential Committee of three people - Solomon Davis (d. 1865), Freeman Atkins (d. 1855), and Jonah Stevens, who were given the power “to transact the business relating to the sd House and yard to see that they are completed good order.” Freeman Atkins was also voted as the Sexton for the meeting house. It was decided that each person furnish his pew with a spitting box before the third day of February or be fined twenty cents, two dozen “select hymn books” be purchased for the singers, a bell be purchased, a book be purchased to transcribe all former proceedings relating to the meeting house as well to keep the proprietor’s records, and Rev. John Turner, who was the officiating minister at the church’s dedication in December, be paid \$100 out of the surplus money for his preaching services. The final cost of the meeting house was \$2,673, the bell cost \$320, the stove and pipe cost \$123 and the pews sold above the cost of the structure allowing for a \$900 surplus. The bell, which was purchased from the late Paul Revere’s foundry, was a point of pride in the community, and the church was referred to as the “Bell Meetinghouse” into the late-19<sup>th</sup> century.

On February 13, 1828, 400 members voted to support the gospel in both meeting houses for one year, preaching one Sabbath in one meeting house and the next in the other meeting house. This

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situation eventually ended on May 12, 1840 when it was voted to take down the old meeting house that was located in the Old North Cemetery. On March 7, 1842 the money from the sale of the old meeting house was collected and it was voted that the new Congregational meeting house, on the Hill of Churches, be white washed.

From 1827 until 1840, the Congregationalists had two houses of worship, the new meeting house on the Hill of Churches and the original meeting house located on the Old North Cemetery. In 1840, the few remaining members of the original Congregational meeting house joined with Methodists located in North Truro to form the Union Church and built the Christian Union Church in the Pond Village section of North Truro (Rt. 6A). The original Congregational meeting house was torn down that same year.

The shift in the population to the Pamet River resulted in changes to the town's infrastructure. Town Records for the years 1835 to 1860 reveal that proposed roads and cart bridges as well as changes/realignments to existing roads were prominent agenda items. Maps from that time period confirm the many additions and adjustments to the town's roadways in and around Truro Center. Changes to the roadway network around the First Congregational Parish included the addition of a road in front of the church by 1858 that was gone by the end of the century. The drive that is presently in front of the church as well as the dirt road between Congregational and Snow cemeteries appear to be remnants of the mid-19th century road.

Until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the Congregational church served religious, political and social functions. Town meetings were held in the church until 1848, at an annual cost of \$25. In 1848, the town voted to hold public meetings in the Methodist vestry. That same year, the Union Hall Association built Union Hall (NR 1997) and in 1850, the town voted to hold future public meetings in the new hall. In 1866, Union Hall was purchased for use as the town hall.

The Congregational and Methodists churches and the town hall became prominent landmarks, as described by Shebna Rich in 1883:

For many years past the principal landmarks seen upon approaching Truro shore from the bay side, were the tall grist mill, and the two meeting-houses, grouped but a few hundred rods apart, in a triangular position. About thirty years ago town hall was built on the same plateau. From their peculiar geographical position to each other, a short distance by sea or land from a given point, would seem to remove them miles apart. This, added to the peculiar-looming, or atmospheric illusion, sometimes gave these almost rude architectural structures vast and symmetrical proportions: sometimes weird and shadowy shapes: sometimes the semblance of life. Then they become *dramatis personae*, now striding off across the hills, like Fingal's ghost, lifting high his shadowy spear, now countermarching and confronting each other like angry giants for a conflict of arms.

Following 1860, Truro entered a period of economic decline that lasted into the early-20<sup>th</sup> century. This economic decline was brought on by a series of factors, including the failure to prevent shifting sands from filling in the Pamet River and East Harbor as well as the reduced value of salt production and raising sheep.

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In 1872, the Cape Cod division of the Old Colony Railroad extended from Wellfleet through Truro to Provincetown. At first the railroad was used to transfer goods from canning and cold storage facilities associated with the fish processing industry, but later became the means for summer vacationers to reach the Outer Cape. The arrival of the railroad and refrigerated freight cars led to an upswing in business as three fish processing factories, a fish freezing factory and a canning factory were constructed. Despite the arrival of the railroad and the nascent summer tourism industry, Truro's population declined by one-half between 1870 and 1915. The advent of the automobile and improved road system to the Outer Cape began to reverse this trend as artists and tourists purchased summer homes or relocated to Truro, a trend that continues to this day.

Through the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the Congregational church had a membership of between 200 and 300. Membership steadily declined into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and by 1955 had dwindled to six members. As membership began to grow again the 1970s, a fundraising campaign was successfully conducted and the building underwent an extensive interior and exterior renovation. Renovations included reproducing the original screen-printed wallpaper, repainting, and installing new electrical wiring. In 1979, the belfry was restored. In 1998, a new wood shingle roof was installed, an outdoor privy was replaced with an indoor toilet, and the heating system was upgraded.

The First Congregational Parish of Truro remains active with weekly services held from mid-June to mid-September.

### **Congregational Cemetery**

While no mention is made of the burying ground in the proprietor's records, there is a listing of Church members, marriages, baptisms and deaths from 1833 onward in the *Church Minutes from 1832-1970*. Entitled "Deaths of church members" with date of death, name of the deceased, and remarks (mainly cause of death). Listings for the first three years include Isaac Remick (DS 36) and Naphtali Dyer (DS 37) in 1833; Hannah Avery and Samuel Atkins in 1834; and Lewis Lombard (DS 38), Thankful Rich, and James Dyer in 1835. This information is of interest as several of the deceased members were buried at the Congregational Cemetery while others were buried at the Old North Cemetery and one, Naphtali Dyer was buried at Snow Cemetery.

While the risks involved with life at sea are memorialized on a variety of gravestones and monuments in the cemetery, the most prominent is the 1841 Gale Memorial. The monument pays tribute to the young and middle-aged fishermen who were working in seven ships along George's Bank when a storm struck. While trying to reach shore the ships were carried to the southeast along the Nantucket shoals and sank, and fifty-seven seamen were lost, representing a significant percentage of the male population of the town. In 2000, a fence that had been around the obelisk was removed. As the names were wearing off the marble monument a new base with the names of those lost at sea and a new fence were installed.

While the proprietors' records discussed a number of issues regarding the church, the pewholders' records dealt with issues of maintenance. It appears that the pewholders had annual

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meetings that were interspersed with other meetings as issues rose. The most frequently discussed issue with regard to the cemetery was the repair of the surrounding fence. The first reference noted regarding the cemetery was in 1842 when it was decided that the fence around the burying ground would be “set anew” or repaired according to the decision of the President’s Committee. The issue was not mentioned again until 1850, when the pewholder’s committee decided to build a board fence around the burying ground and meeting house. It appears to have been a contentious issue as it was further discussed on March 11 at which time they were asked to reconsider the vote of their last annual meeting “relative to fencing the burying ground” and to see if they would “transfer their jurisdiction of said Meeting house and burying ground to the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Parish in Truro.” On March 19 they voted for “a three rail cedar fence” that would be constructed under the oversight of the Pewholder’s Committee and then voted to postpone the issue of transferring jurisdiction of the meeting house and burying ground to the proprietors.

The issue of the fence continued in 1851 and 1852. On February 2, 1852 it was voted to replace the cedar fence with a picket fence with the sale of the cedar fence used to defray the cost of the new fence. It was also decided that the receiving tomb would be closed on Sunday unless there was a need to deposit or take out the dead. Starting in 1853, a committee was appointed to take care of the fence as well as the “laying of the ground” in the yard and in 1858 Daniel Paine (d. 1871, DS 39) was voted to take charge of funerals. In 1878 Chandler Sylvester (d. 1892, DS 40) was appointed the cemetery keeper. It was voted that the cemetery keeper would incur no expenses to the pewholders and would toll the bell whenever there was a burial. A price was also fixed for digging graves. In 1899 a circular was sent to non-resident friends soliciting money for repairing and repainting the church and cemetery fence.

In 1926 it was voted that cemetery lots be granted or sold with the approval of the pewholders and through 1940 they accepted \$10 from the parish to clear brush from the cemetery and straighten stones. Civil Engineer John R. Dyer (d. 1957, DS 41) had the granite post and iron rail fence boundary fence installed around the church and cemetery in the 1930s.

In 1982, the newest section of the cemetery was laid out. This triangular-shaped section is west of the original cemetery and east of Bridge Road Extension.

The cemetery remains active. There are approximately 300 stones and 532 people buried at the Congregational Cemetery.

### **Snow Cemetery**

Snow Cemetery developed from a nineteenth-century family burial ground known as Stevens Cemetery. While little information could be located regarding the expansion of the cemetery through the nineteenth century it became associated with the Snow’s, one of Truro’s largest and most influential families, until it was conveyed to the town in 1994. At some point the cemetery was opened to the public where it became the resting place for a number of influential artists living on the Outer Cape. Noted as the only cemetery in the town that did not develop around a church, the cemetery is the burial place for important Truro and Provincetown citizens as well as

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members of the neighboring First Congregational Parish. The cemetery contains an unusual array of marker types chronicling Truro's continuing adaptation to changing economic times.

A town history attributes the first burials to be the three children (Eveleen Amelia, Olive Frances and Levi Thomas) (DS 42) of Capt. Levi (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Olive R. Stevens who died within two weeks of each other in October of 1849. Stevens erected a small marble obelisk and planted two linden trees to mark their graves. However, twenty gravestones in the cemetery predate their death. The oldest stone dating to 1817 is that of Harriet Knowles (DS 14), the daughter of Smith and Sarah Knowles, who was one year old when she died. Other surnames predating 1849 include Lombard, White, Hinckley, Dyer and Rich. The Stevens name in the town dates to 1710 when Richard Stevens was admitted as an inhabitant by the Pamet Proprietors. Other Stevens family members include Levi Stevens (d. 1852, DS 43), a descendant of Richard who was born in 1789, and his wife, Mehitable (Lombard) (d. 1876, DS 44), whom he married in 1812.

Capt. Levi Stevens 2<sup>nd</sup>, born in Truro in 1812, married Olive R. White in Boston in 1837. He began his career at sea when he was 21 and sailed for many years out of Boston where he was a partner in the shipping and commission business under the name of Stevens, Baker & Co. with a branch in San Francisco. In 1851 he sailed the clipper ship *Southern Cross* to San Francisco, China and back to Boston. Capt. Levi and his wife eventually moved to San Francisco where he died in 1882.

Deed research revealed that John and Hannah (d. 1862, DS 44) Pike conveyed a one-acre parcel to Richard Stevens (d. 1870, DS 45) and Levi Stevens 2<sup>nd</sup> for \$40 dollars on April 18, 1850. At that time Richard Stevens (d. 1870) was a member of the First Parish Congregational Church and a moderator at their meetings. The parcel was described as being located on the north side of the Pamet River, southwesterly of the Congregational Meetinghouse and was bounded on the north by the road that passed in front of the meeting house. On January 15, 1857, Richard Stevens conveyed his half interest in the property he had purchased with Levi Stevens 2<sup>nd</sup> to Leonard B. Snow for \$35.00. The connection between the Stevens and Snow families dates to 1772 when Levi Stevens' father, also Levi who was born in 1748, married Anna Snow the daughter of Deacon Anthony Snow. Through at least 1883, Stevens Cemetery is mentioned as a boundary in a number of conveyances and in that year a fence was noted as surrounding the cemetery.

While a history of the cemetery states that Olive R. Stevens conveyed the cemetery to Charles W. Snow (d. 1936, DS 46) in 1888, deeds cite the grantee as Isaiah Snow (d. 1906, DS 47). On May 4, 1888 Olive R. Stevens and her children, Amelia E. and Olive E., all residing in Alameda County, California conveyed "without valuable consideration but our good will" the lot conveyed to Richard Stevens and Levi Stevens 2<sup>nd</sup> by John and Hannah Pike on April 17, 1850 to Isaiah Snow. While the deed described the parcel as it was described and bounded in the 1850 conveyance, it also included the provision "that no buried remains there-in shall ever be removed therefrom." Isaiah Snow, born in 1842, was one of ten children of Ephraim and Jemima (Knowles) Snow, and the great-grandson of Anthony Snow who was also the grandfather of Levi 2<sup>nd</sup>. At the time Isaiah was trustee, treasurer and recording steward for the Methodist Episcopal Church. No further deeds could be found with regard to the disposition of Leonard B. Snow's

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half of the cemetery or to the expansion of the property from one acre to its present size of over three acres.

On July 14, 1908 Charles W. Snow (d. 1936) and Hattie R. Snow (d. 1918) (Snow Lot 111), executors of the estate of Isaiah Snow (d. 1908), were authorized by Bristol County Probate Court to sell the deceased's real estate at public action. The auction included six parcels of land the last of which was described as "a certain parcel of land comprising the unsold lots or territory of the Snow Cemetery, so called, the same being described in deed from Olive R. Stevens et al. dated May 4, 1888, to Isaiah Snow, and recorded with Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 182, Pages 363, 363, and 364." Charles W. Snow (d. 1936), a Superintendent of Streets for the town, owned a variety of businesses. His barn, known as Snow's Stables, became the home of the Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill in 1971.

The property from Isaiah's estate that did not sell at the auction fell into the hands of Isaiah Snow Jr. and Mary Snow whose estate was then conveyed to Isaiah Snow (d. 1972, DS 47) and Helen Snow (d. 1983, DS 47) in 1950. Money for preservation and maintenance of the cemetery may have been an issue for the family in the twentieth century. The property became a private cemetery as lots were sold with quitclaim deeds from the 1930s through at least the 1970s. The granite and brick receiving vault was taken out in 1975 in order to make space for more burials.

It was during this time period that members of the Truro and Provincetown artist community, considered to be some of the most distinguished artists of the Outer Cape, were interred in the cemetery as it was the "only naturally landscaped cemetery in the Cape" (Kahn 1988). Two of the first artists buried in the cemetery were Charles Hawthorne (d. 1930, DS 49), founder of the Cape Cod School of Art in 1899, the first outdoor school of figure painting in the country, and Gerrit Beneker (d. 1934, DS 21), painter and illustrator. Prominent artists buried from the 1940s include Frederick Waugh (d. 1940, DS 22), marine artist and seascape painter; Katherine Dos Passos (d. 1947, DS 23), writer and wife of writer John Dos Passos; and Susan Glaspell (d. 1948, DS 24), founding member of the Provincetown Players and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright. Those in the 1950s include Frederick Simonds Hammett (d. 1953, DS 25) founder of the Provincetown Art Association; William Boogar (d. 1958, DS 26), Provincetown sculptor; and Jan Muller (d. 1959, DS 27), expressionist painter. Those in the 1960s include writer Edith Shay (d. 1961, DS 51), writer Norman Matson (d. 1965, DS 52), and Hans Hofman (d. 1966, DS 15) - landscape painter and famed art teacher; and those in the 1970s include illustrator Edward A. Wilson (d. 1970, DS 53), and Lucy L'Engle (d. 1978, DS 54) - painter and founding member of the New York Society of Women Artists.

Beginning in 1986 the cemetery appears in twentieth-century town reports in association with maintenance issues in the town's private cemeteries. At that time perpetual care funds were not enough to cover maintenance and the town suggested ways for the cemeteries to raise funds. For Snow Cemetery, the Cemetery Commission became actively involved in requesting contributions from both the public and friends of the arts. The Snow family maintained ownership of the cemetery until a Special Town Meeting in 1994, when Isaiah Snow, Jr. and Lucille Snow Boyd, heirs of Helen Snow gifted the cemetery to the town with the stipulation that it continue to be known as the Snow Cemetery. The deed to the Town of Truro, dated November

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16, 1994, stated that the grantors were the sole owners of “the cemetery subject to various burial licenses granted from time to time to various individuals for burial purposes.” According to town records, from 2001 on the only new lots considered in Snow Cemetery were/are those for cremations as the slope was too steep and they didn’t want to use cement walls.

The cemetery remains active. There are approximately 350 stones and 702 people buried at Snow Cemetery.

### **Archaeological Significance**

Extant gravestones suggest that the historic core of Snow Cemetery may have been used for burials prior to the death of Capt. Levi Steven’s 2<sup>nd</sup> children. Extant stones also suggest burials prior to the construction of the First Parish Congregation Meetinghouse in 1827. However, documentary research to date cannot account for this situation. More detailed research may reveal more information on land use history that predates either cemetery. Unmarked graves may help determine if burials exist that predate the opening of these cemeteries, possibly as a family or neighborhood burial ground for the farms located in the area.

Either burial ground may also contain one or more areas of unmarked graves associated with nonresidents who were involved with shipwrecks off the coast, the poor, and former slaves. Identification and mapping of fence lines, walls, gates no longer extant, and grave patterns may help delineate cemetery boundaries and how they have changed through time. Gravestone art, inscriptions, and analysis of memorial offerings, coffin hardware, and personal items in graves may also contribute information relating to the social, cultural, and economic lives of individual and groups interred in the cemetery.



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1831, *Plan of the Town of Truro in the County of Barnstable*, John G. Hales.

1841, *A Plan of Truro*, Joshua H. Davis.

1848, *Cape Cod from Highland to Nauset Light*, Samuel Gilbert, U.S. Coast Guard.

1858, *Counties of Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket, Massachusetts*, Henry F. Walling.

1880, *Atlas of Barnstable County*, Geo. H. Walker & Co.

1909, *Map of Cape Cod and vicinity*, Geo. H. Walker & Co.

1925-1957, *Assessor's Maps*, John Dyer.

### **Other Sources**

Annual Reports of the Town of Truro. At Truro Town Hall, and from 1900 to present at Truro Public Library.

Barnstable County Deeds, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Barnstable , MA.

Barnstable County Probate, Barnstable County Registry of Probate, Barnstable , MA.

*Church Minutes from 1832-1970*. At the First Congregational Parish of Truro.

Directory of Congregational Cemetery. At the First Congregational Parish of Truro.

Pamet Proprietor Records, 1689-1838. At Truro Town Hall.

*Pewholder's Records*. At the First Congregational Parish of Truro.

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*Proprietors Record for the new Congregational Meeting House in Truro. Book first, 1828. At the First Congregational Parish of Truro.*

Truro Town Records, 1709-1869. At Truro Town Hall.

Historic American Building Survey, First Congregational Parish, Truro 1959

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**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: Truro Public Library, Cobb Memorial Library, Truro, MA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** TRU.114

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property:** 5.97 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**  
**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The boundaries follow lot lines on Truro Assessors Map Sheet 46-240 (First Congregational Parish and Cemetery) and 50-123 (Snow Cemetery).

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

The boundaries include the entire parcel containing the First Congregational Parish and Cemetery and the entire parcel containing Snow Cemetery. The district is bounded to the northeast by First Parish Lane, to the northwest by Bridge Street, and to the southeast, south, and southwest by large single-family wooded residential lots.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant (church); Barbara Donohue, cultural resource consultant, and Michael Trinkley, Chicora Foundation, Inc. (cemeteries); with Betsy Friedberg, MHC NR Director  
organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission  
street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd.  
city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125  
e-mail: betsy.friedberg@state.ma.us  
telephone: 617-727-8470  
date: August 15, 2013

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

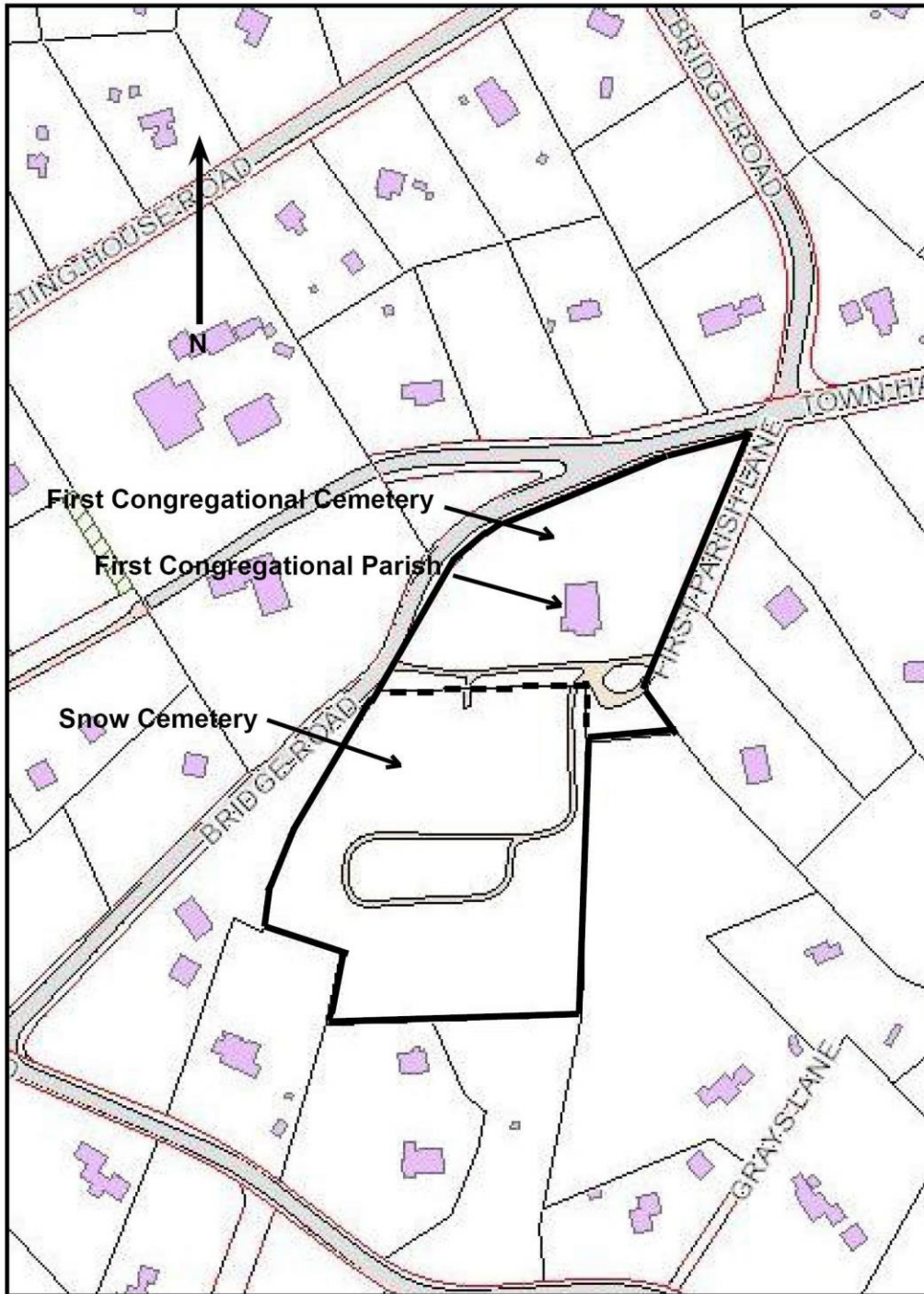
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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**SKETCH MAP**

Map Source: Truro, MA TaxMap Viewer



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### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: First Congregational Parish District

City or Vicinity: Truro

County: Barnstable

State: MA

Photographer: Eric Dray, Michael Trinckley

Date Photographed: December 2010, January and February 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

<u>Photo#</u>	<u>View</u>
1. First Congregational Parish and Cemetery First Parish Lane to the left, Town Hall Extension to the right	Looking southwest
2. First Congregational Parish Union Hall (NR 1997) in background, entrance to Snow Cemetery at left	Looking northwest
3. First Congregational Parish View of east and south elevations	Looking northwest
4. First Congregational Parish South elevation	Looking north
5. First Congregational Parish Belfry	Looking northwest
6. First Congregational Parish Window Detail of window, south elevation	Looking northwest
7. First Congregational Parish View of west elevation	Looking east

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|-----|---|-------------------|
| 8.  | First Congregational Parish<br>View of east elevation                                   | Looking west      |
| 9.  | First Congregational Parish Door<br>Detail of door, south elevation, west entrance      | Looking north     |
| 10. | First Congregational Parish<br>View of north elevation                                  | Looking south     |
| 11. | First Congregational Parish Addition  | Looking south     |
| 12. | First Congregational Parish Interior<br>View of vestibule and stairs on southwest       | Looking north     |
| 13. | First Congregational Parish Interior<br>View of vestry                                  | Looking east      |
| 14. | First Congregational Parish Interior<br>View from rear of sanctuary                     | Looking north     |
| 15. | First Congregational Parish Interior<br>Reed Organ                                      | Looking northwest |
| 16. | First Congregational Parish Interior<br>Detail of north wall                            | Looking north     |
| 17. | First Congregational Parish Interior<br>Detail of box pews                              | Looking northeast |
| 18. | First Congregational Parish Interior<br>View of balcony from front of sanctuary         | Looking north     |
| 19. | First Congregational Parish Interior<br>Detail of benches in balcony                    | Looking north     |
| 20. | First Congregational Parish Interior<br>Detail of "graffiti" on rear wall, second floor | Looking south     |
| 21. | First Congregational Parish Interior<br>Detail of light fixture                         | Looking northeast |
| 22. | Congregational Cemetery<br>View from Bridge Road  | Looking south     |



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|-----|--|-------------------|
| 23. | Congregational Cemetery<br>View of newer section of cemetery   | Looking west      |
| 24. | Congregational Cemetery<br>View of receiving tomb  | Looking west      |
| 25. | Congregational Cemetery<br>Susan Curtis slate grave marker<br>Example of slate grave marker with rosebud motif | Looking east      |
| 26. | Congregational Cemetery<br>Lizzie grave marker, e.g. of bird motif   | Looking east      |
| 27. | Congregational Cemetery<br>View of Thomas W. Rich grave marker,<br>e.g. of willow & drape motif                | Looking east      |
| 28. | Congregational Cemetery<br>1841 Gale Monument  | Looking northeast |
| 29. | Snow Cemetery entrance   | Looking southwest |
| 30. | Snow Cemetery, overview from entrance  | Looking southwest |
| 31. | Snow Cemetery<br>View of southern edge of cemetery   | Looking southeast |
| 32. | Snow Cemetery, overview from hill<br>Example of retaining wall for terraced plots                              | Looking northeast |
| 33. | Snow Cemetery, Steven family obelisk and<br>Linden trees   | Looking northeast |
| 34. | Snow Cemetery, Father, Mother, Darling Eddie<br>grave markers, e.g. of floral motif                            | Looking east      |
| 35. | Snow Cemetery<br>View Hans Hoffman marker  | Looking south     |
| 36. | Snow Cemetery, Snow family millstone   | Looking northeast |
| 37. | Snow Cemetery, e.g. quartz and bronze marker   | Looking south     |

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|-----|---|---------------|
| 38. | Snow Cemetery, e.g. wood cross  | Looking north |
| 39. | Snow Cemetery, John C. Harding grave marker,<br>e.g. of Bowker, Torrey & Co. marker | Looking east  |

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1. First Congregational Parish and Cemetery, looking southwest.



2. First Congregational Parish, looking northwest.



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3. First Congregational Parish, looking northwest.



4. First Congregational Parish, looking north.



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5. First Congregational Parish Belfry, looking northwest.



6. First Congregational Parish Window, looking northwest.



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7. First Congregational Parish, looking east.



8. First Congregational Parish, looking west.



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9. First Congregational Parish Door , looking north.



10. First Congregational Parish, looking south.



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11. First Congregational Parish Addition, looking south.



12. First Congregational Parish Interior, looking north.





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13. First Congregational Parish Interior, view of vestry, looking east.



14. First Congregational Parish Interior, looking north.



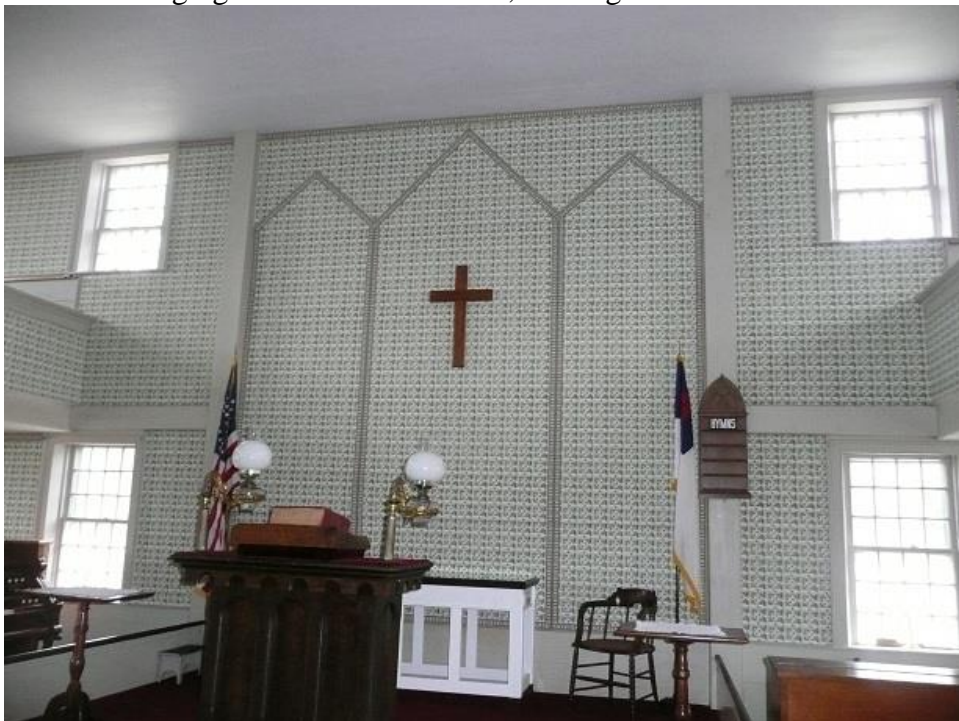
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15. Reed organ, looking northwest.



16. First Congregational Parish Interior, looking north.



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17. Detail of box pews, looking northeast.



18. View of balcony, looking south.



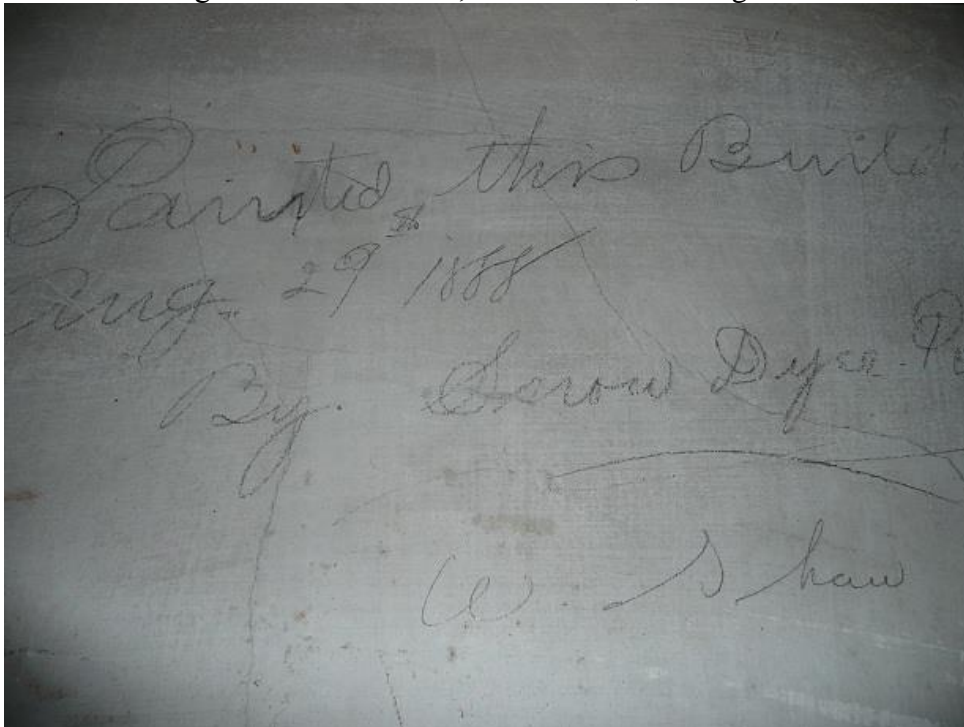
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19. Detail of benches in balcony, looking north.



20. Detail of "graffiti" on rear wall, second floor, looking south.



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21. Detail of light fixture, looking northeast.



22. Congregational Cemetery, view from Bridge Street, looking south.



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23. Congregational Cemetery, view of newer section, looking north.



24. Congregational Cemetery, receiving tomb, looking west.



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25. Congregational Cemetery, Susan Curtis slate grave marker, looking east.



26. Congregational Cemetery, Lizzie grave marker, looking east.



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27. Congregational Cemetery, Lizzie grave marker, looking east.



28. Congregational Cemetery, 1841 Gale Monument, looking northeast.





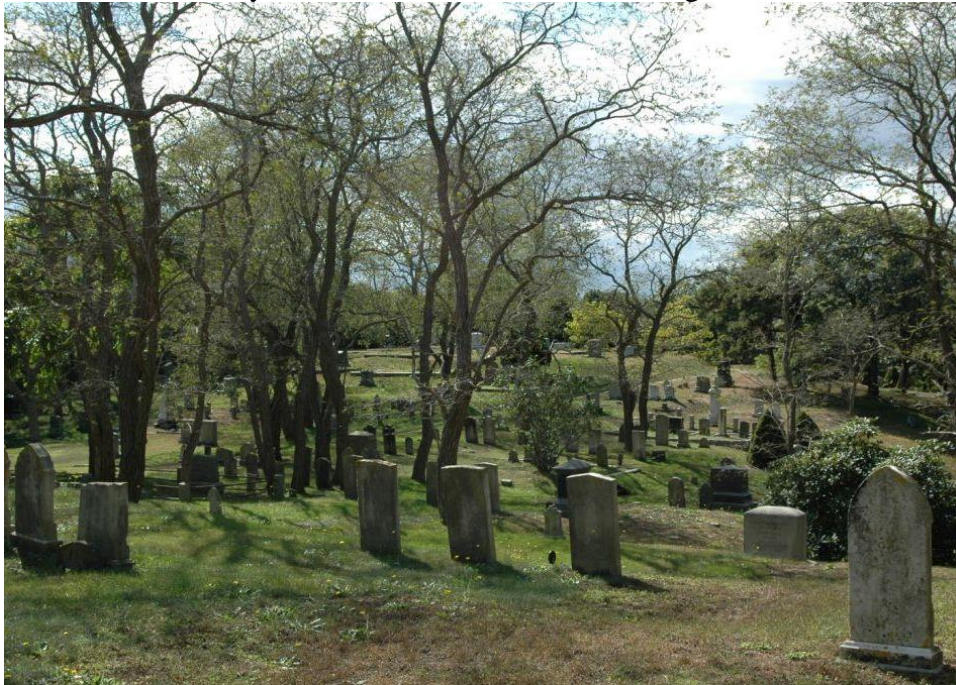
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29. Snow cemetery entrance, looking southwest.



30. Snow Cemetery, overview from entrance, looking southwest.



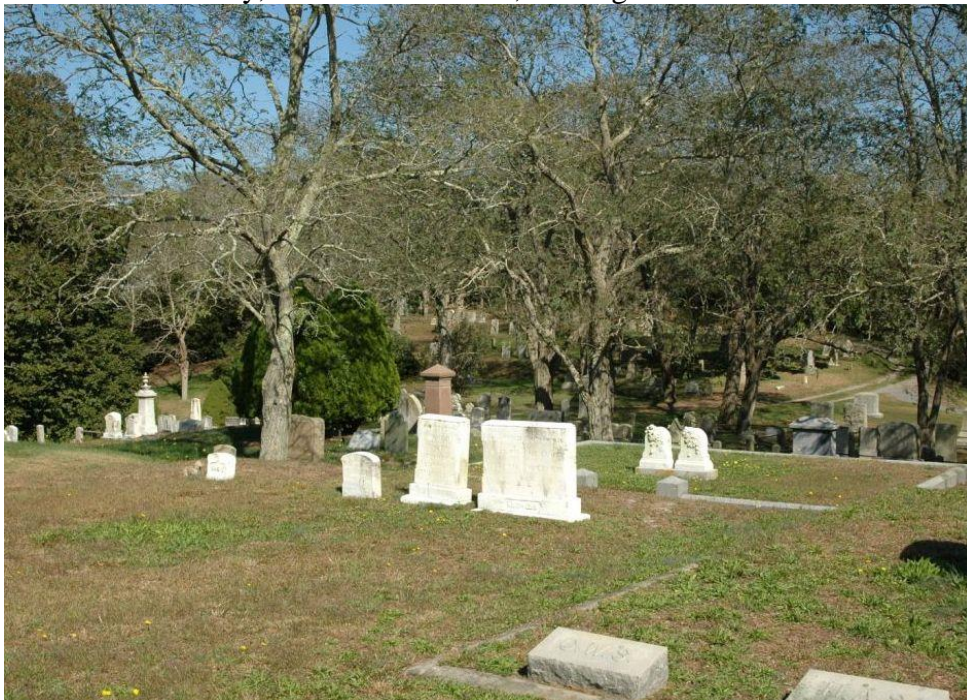
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31. Snow cemetery, view of southern edge of cemetery, looking southeast



32. Snow cemetery, overview from hill, looking northeast.



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33. Snow Cemetery, Steven family obelisk and Linden trees.



34. Snow Cemetery, Father, Mother, Darling Eddie grave markers, looking east.



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35. Snow Cemetery, Hans Hoffman grave marker, looking south.



36. Snow Cemetery, Snow family millstone, looking east.



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37. Snow Cemetery, Gardner grave marker, looking south.



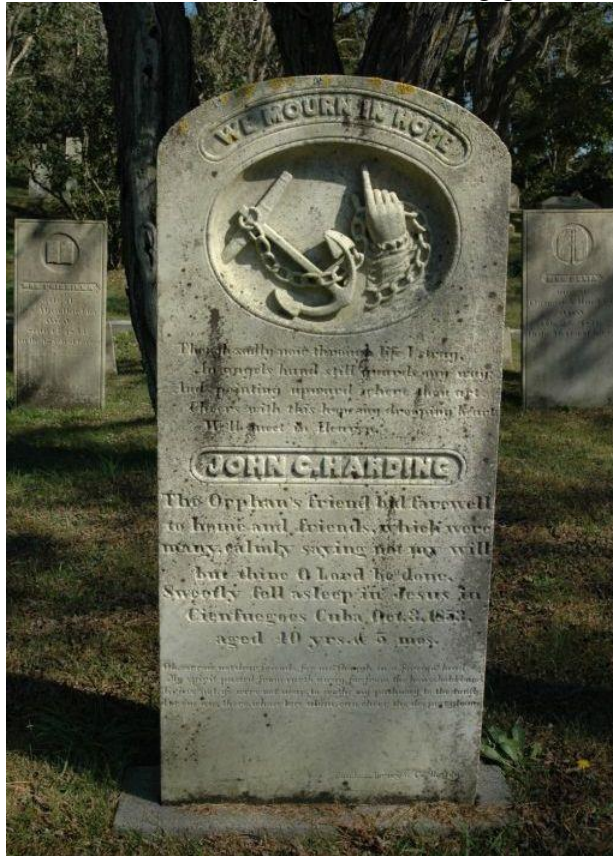
38. Snow Cemetery, Harry Noel Campbell cross, looking north.



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39. Snow Cemetery, John C. Harding grave marker, looking east.

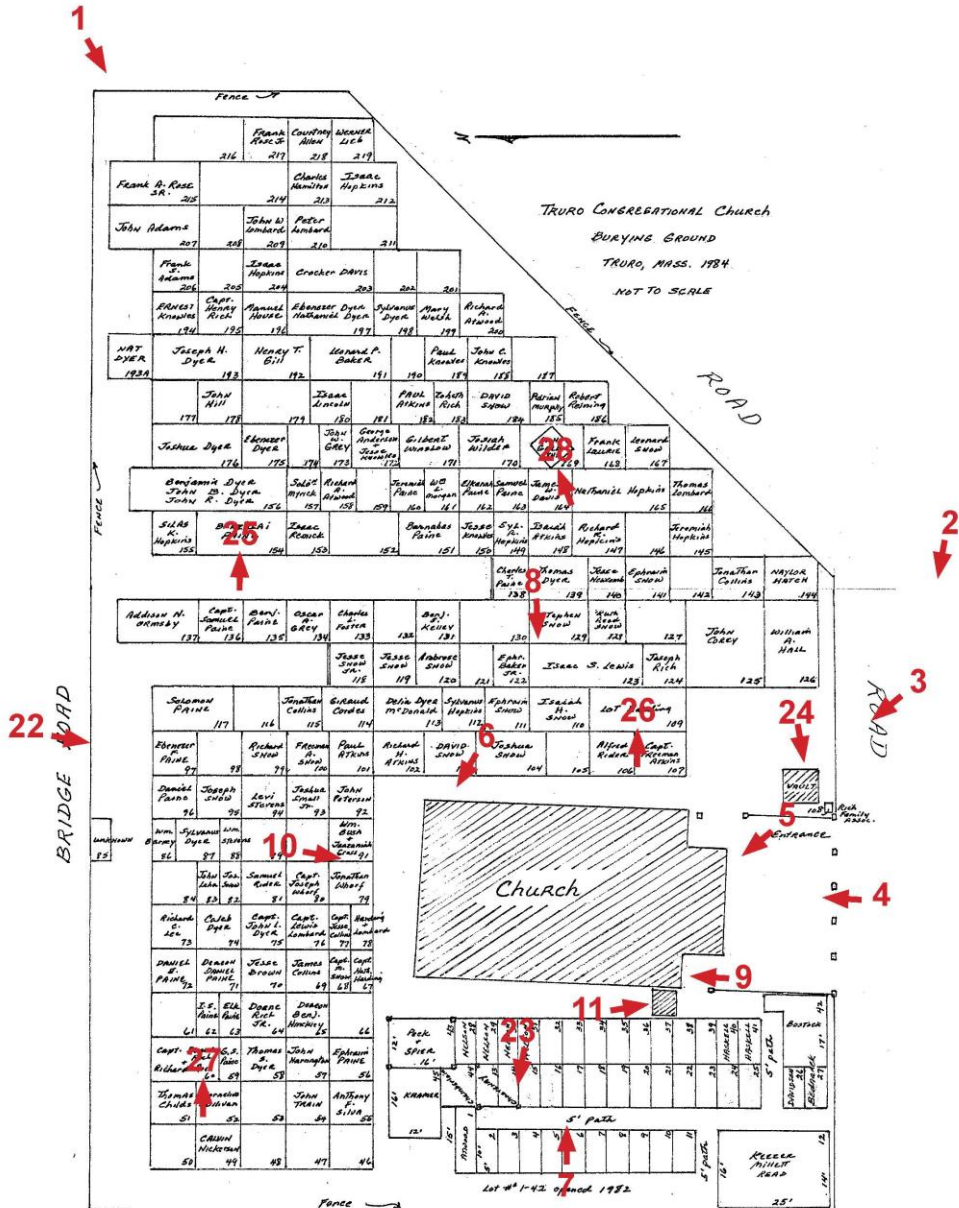


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# PHOTOGRAPH LOCATOR MAP – Congregational Cemetery, Photos 1-11, 22-28

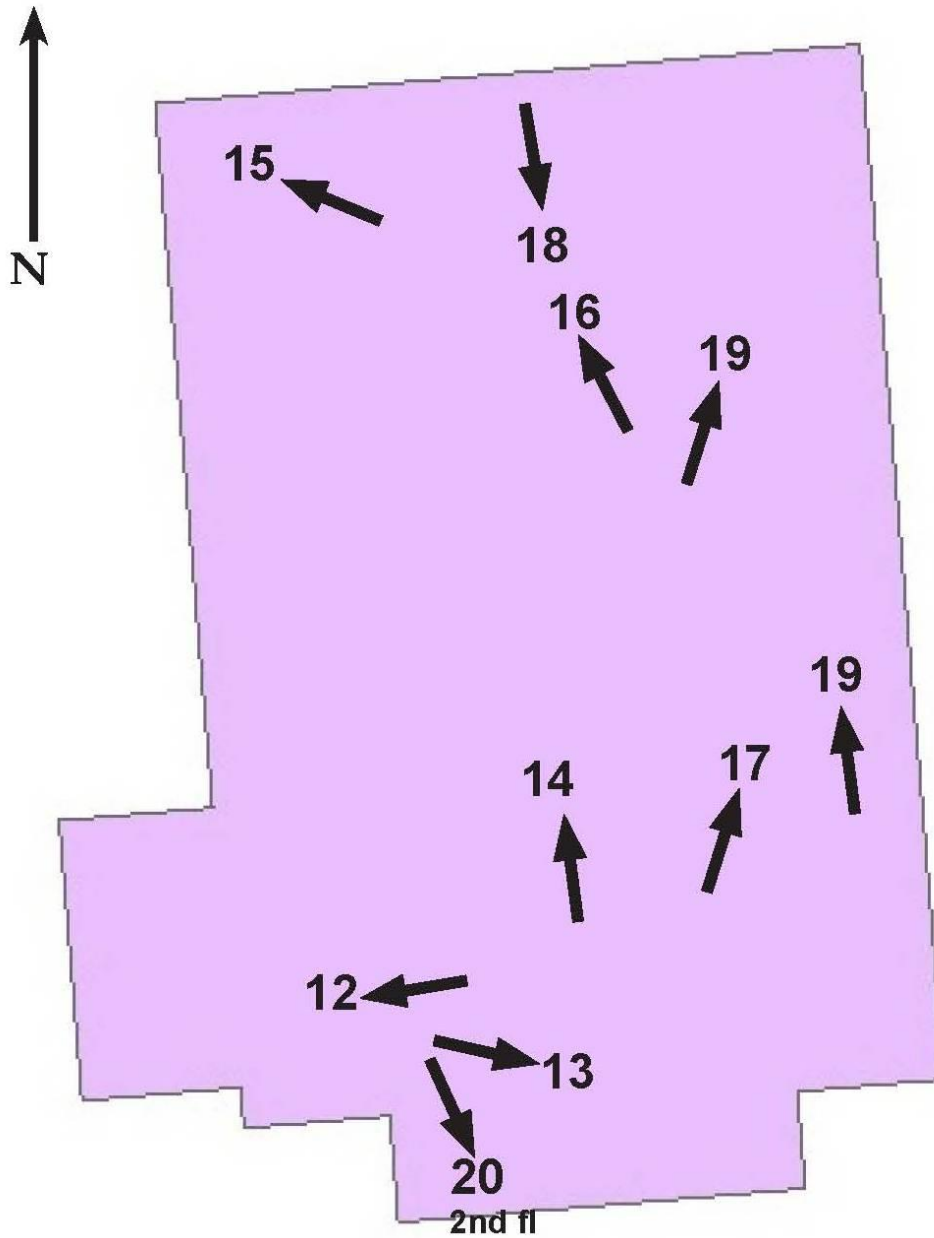
Map Source: Congregational Cemetery Map, 1984



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**PHOTOGRAPH LOCATOR MAP – First Congregational Parish Interior, Photos**  
Map Source: Truro TaxMap



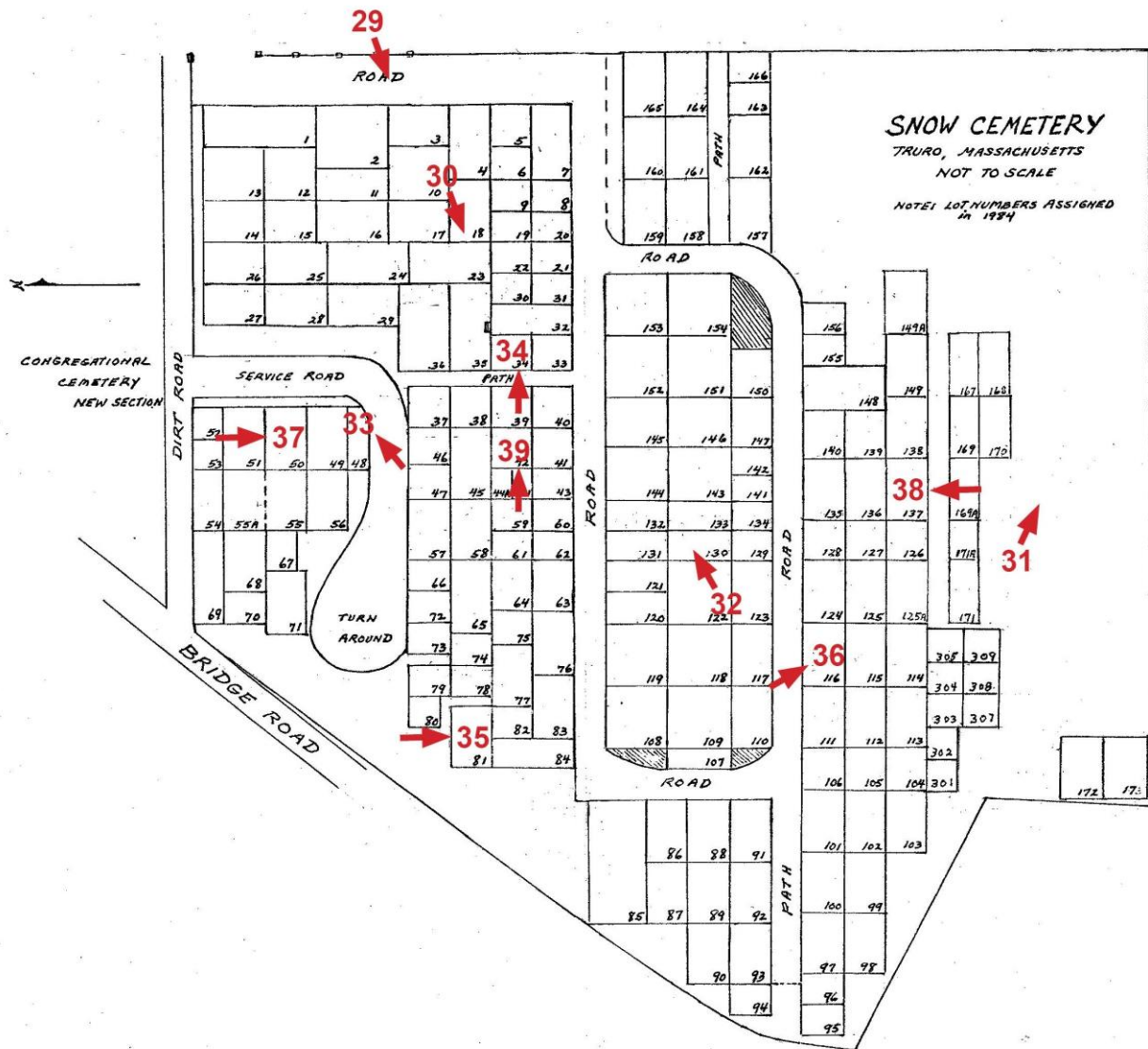


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### PHOTOGRAPH LOCATOR MAP – Snow Cemetery, Photos 29-39

Map Source: Snow Cemetery Map, 1984



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**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 100 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.