

FORM E- BURIAL GROUND

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

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Reading

[]

805



Town North Reading

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address or Location 474 Park Street

Name private cemetery - no recorded name

Ownership Public Private

Approximate Number of Stones 1

Earliest Death Date 1821

Latest Death Date 1870s

Landscape Architect

Condition Good

Acreage less than 1 acre

Setting Rural - part of private property which includes a c. 1960s house. Other twentieth-century homes are nearby. According to the owner of 474 Park Street, the cemetery was formerly part of the property of what is now 471 Park Street, diagonally across the street.

Recorded by Elise Madeleine Ciregna



North Reading Historical Comm
May 2002

Completing this form

BURIAL GROUND FORM

UNUSUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT *see continuation sheet*

Describe landscape features, gravestone materials, designs, motifs, and symbols that are either common or unusual. Note any known carvers.

This small cemetery is part of the private residential property located at 474 Park Street. Bounded by a low stone wall, the cemetery consists only of ground cover and a white marble "flat" obelisk, mounted on two granite plinths. Two opposite sides of the obelisk list names and dates, although it is not apparent if there is any connection between the two sides, since the family names and eras differ.

The cemetery is surrounded by tall trees, mainly evergreen, and still presents a forest dell-like setting, despite the post World War II suburban development of the neighborhood. The relatively small amount of sunlight that reaches the stone has allowed some lichenous growth to spread on the stone, although not yet disfiguring. The stone appears to be in relatively stable condition, with a few cracks, also apparently stable.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

Explain religious affiliations, major period of use, and evaluate historical association of this burial ground with the community.

According to the current owner of this property, the cemetery was originally part of the property now numbered 471 Park Street. Further research is needed to determine the connection between the original owner and the deceased who are memorialized on the obelisk. There is also the possibility that remains from other burial places were consolidated here, a common practice in the nineteenth century (due to various reasons, from land development to attempts to keep family members together in the afterlife), a possibility that might explain the apparently unconnected family names and range of death dates.

One side of the obelisk memorializes Lydia Forster (d. 1821, aged 58), her son Nathan Forster Jr. (d. 1824, aged 35), and her husband Nathan Forster (d. 1827, aged 73). The other side of the obelisk memorializes Azubah Frie (d. 1847, aged 80), James Travis (d. 1860, aged 59), Nathaniel Travis (son of James?), who died fighting in the Civil War "while in the service of his country" (d. 1861, aged 30), and the wife of James Travis (and possibly mother of Nathaniel) Nancy Travis (d. 1874, aged 78). Azuba Frie or Frye, James Travis, Nathaniel Travis and Nancy Travis were all residents of 471 Park Street (see MHC Form ____). Azuba was the daughter of Joseph Frye who bought 471 Park Street in 1765. Her father, who was a surveyor and farmer had lived on what is now Upton Avenue prior to his move to Park Street (See 11 Upton Avenue, MHC Area Form ____). Azuba's mother continued to live at 471 Park Street until at least the mid 1790s. The Travis family inherited 471 Park Street upon Azuba Frye's death in 1847. Nancy Travis was Azuba's niece and care giver.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Maps: 1795, 1831, 1857

Massachusetts County Atlases: 1875, 1889, 1906

North Reading Valuation of Real and Personal Estates: 1870 and 1890

Wakefield (& North Reading) Directories, 1896-1897

Le Page, Samuel, *History of North Reading*, 1944

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

WILMINGTON

NORTH READING, MA

Cemetery at
414 Park St.



Ipswich River

NORTH READING, MA

Fordham Road (W. m.)
Leverpark Dr