

PH0006726 H13 E 329560  
 2419 N 4693400

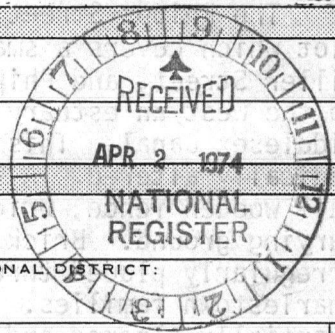
Form 10-300  
 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Massachusetts</b>
COUNTY: <b>Suffolk</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>MAY 15 1974</b>



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Phipps Street Burying Ground**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
 Same

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Phipps Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Boston (Charlestown)**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**8th**

STATE: **Massachusetts** CODE: **025** COUNTY: **Suffolk** CODE: **025**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>cemetery</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**City of Boston - Department of Parks and Recreation**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**City Hall**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Boston**

STATE:  
**Massachusetts**

CODE:  
**025**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Registry of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Suffolk County Court House**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Boston**

STATE:  
**Massachusetts**

CODE:  
**025**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Massachusetts Historical Commission (617) 717-8470**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**40 Beacon Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Boston**

STATE:  
**Massachusetts**

CODE:  
**025**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Massachusetts**

COUNTY: **Suffolk**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **MAY 15 1974**

DATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Phipps Street Burying Ground is roughly a square-shaped plot which covers a small mound in the vicinity of Rutherford Avenue, Miller Street, and Phipps Street. Originally, the cemetery overlooked to the west, an estuary of the Charles River which led up to the former Middlesex Canal. This land has since been filled, and the land uses have been radically altered. A variety of fencing including a recent post and rail wooden fence, brick with cement posts and iron gates encloses the burying ground. Brick and gravel pathways laid out originally are irregularly placed throughout the ground and are named for prominent Charlestown families. Fortunately, the path<sup>th</sup>ways have not been substantially altered and are merely overgrown or covered by silt. A few mature trees are located along the borders.

The layout of the graves here is unusual and unlike any other of the 17th century burying grounds in Boston; instead of extended rows (curved or straight), graves of one family are grouped in small rectangular plots irregularly placed over the mound. Approximately at the crest of the mound is the John Harvard Monument, the most outstanding feature of the cemetery; it is a granite obelisk placed on a small pedestal and has a commemorative plaque attached. Among the gravestones, predominantly of 17th, 18th, and early 19th century date and largely slate or local stone, are several small stone tombs.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1630

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |  |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Phipps Street Burying Ground lies in its early establishment in the town of Charlestown in 1630, its association with John Harvard, and the numerous examples of 17th, 18th, and early 19th century funerary sculpture--gravestones and tombs. When Charlestown was founded in 1630, the nucleus of the settlement was located at City Square, and it gradually spread over Town Hill (see separate National Register of Historic Places listing) which was laid out by Thomas Graves in 1631. It is unusual that the Burying Ground was located at such a distance from the settlement; likewise the distinctive arrangement of graves in rectangular family plots is unusual.

The earliest grave marker dates from 1642 and bears the name of Maud Russell. Several more from the next two decades still exist, although the bulk of stones, some brownstone and some red sandstone, date from the last half of the 18th century. Many headstones are known to have been carved by a local Charlestown family, the Lamsons. It is most significant that the grave markers and tombstones dating prior to April 1775 are the only pre-Revolutionary artifacts remaining in Charlestown. The holocaust started by the British immediately following the Battle of Bunker Hill destroyed all buildings leaving only the Town Hill street layout and major arterial roads (present Main Street and Chelsea Street) as evidence of the colonial town. It has been determined (although not proven) that the grave marker of Charlestown's most illustrious citizen was lost during the British occupation. To commemorate the burying place of John Harvard, whose library of 300 volumes was donated to start a college at Cambridge after his death in 1638, graduates of the college erected a granite obelisk in 1828. Inscribed on the fifteen foot shaft is "In piam et perpetuam memoriam" as well as a descriptive bronze plaque. Other notable persons buried at Phipps Street include Nathaniel Gorham, a signer of the Constitution and president of the Continental Congress, Thomas Beecher, and countless other Charlestown residents. Pathways through the cemetery bear names of the more illustrious families--Frothingham, Hurd, Harvard, Phipps, Russell.

The Phipps Street Burying Ground, like other early 17th century cemeteries, has been identified as a chronical in stone. However this chronical is not only of local history, but also illustrates three centuries of funerary art. The designs and epitaphs carved in local

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Real Property Department-Engineering Division, City of Boston, Map # K 17, 1908.
2. Ellis, George E., Bacon's Dictionary of Boston, Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1886.
3. Frothingham, Richard Jr., History of Charlestown, Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1845.
4. Hunnewell, James, A Century of Town Life, Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1888.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	°	' "	° ' "
NE	° ' "	° ' "	42	22 34.192	71 04 05.361
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.76

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elizabeth Amadon, Survey Director by Boston Landmarks Commission

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission (617) 717-8470 DATE: February, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: John F. X. Davoren  
 Title: Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission  
 Date: 3/29/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/15/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.8.74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Massachusetts	
COUNTY	Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAY 15 1974

(Number all entries)

Phipps Street Burying Ground  
Charlestown MA

8. Significance cont'd.

stones and slate by native craftsmen were of British origin but reflect the changing theological doctrines. Early stones are distinguished by winged death's heads, cherubs and other images which speak of the Puritan concern for salvation of the soul after a brief terrestrial life. The post-revolutionary stones tend to be more rectangular and slim in shape and have serene symbols--urns, willow boughs, lyres--of neoclassical inspiration. The artistic idioms which reflected the new nation's political relationship with the earliest democracy, Greece, carried over to funerary art, although the contemporary religions of the late 18th and early 19th century, intellectual theologies of Methodism and Unitarianism, are not neoclassical. The folk art seen in the gravestone carving is a vital and public record of New England's and, specifically, Boston's citizens and their contemporary theological and artistic attitudes.

9. Bibliography con'd.

- 5. Parks & Recreation Department, City of Boston, unpublished ms., n.d., authored by Carol Bratley.



PROPERTY Phipps Street Burial Ground STATE Mass.

WORKING NUMBER 4.2.74.507

Suffolk  
74000907

TECH REVIEW  
PHOTOS 3  
MAPS 2

CONTROL REVIEW Carbon typed photo form

cm  
4.4  
74

HISTORIAN I am much more reluctant about this one than the other 2 they submitted. Agree with Ward. Stones are important, but....  
*otherwise OK*  
*conference W.R. Luce 4/8/74*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN I like the "occupied" status - does this qualify for inclusion in NR? Harvard seems to be only famous personage.  
*conference Harvard 4/4/74*

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF Qualifies for age.  
*Accept Cole 4-12-74*

BRANCH CHIEF What a disastrous setting, but markers qualify as exception.  
*Accept through 4-30-74*

KEEPER  
*W.R. Luce 5/8/74*

National Register Write-up 5/74

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register entry June 4, 1974

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAY 15 1974

NAME OF PROPERTY Phipps Street Burying Ground, Mass.

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

1. Name. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Classification. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Owner of Property. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Location of Legal Description. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Representation in Existing Surveys. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Description. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Statement of Significance. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Bibliography. \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data.

a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Acreage. \_\_\_\_\_

11. Form Prepared By. \_\_\_\_\_

12. Certification. \_\_\_\_\_

Photographic Coverage. Please send an original typed photo form. Please, no carbon typed.

Map Coverage. Please use a map bearing an identified system of coordinates, preferably an original USGS, which allows us to check latitude-longitude.

Other. \_\_\_\_\_

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy the National Register criteria in full.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked. Thanks,

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 5/15/74  
Title: Phisips St. Burying Ground  
Suffolk Co. Mass  
Loc. View of Burying Ground from  
SE (Miller St) Looking  
NW.



NPS Number

5-115-17d

Title:

Phipps St. Burying Ground  
Suffolk Co., Mass.

Loc.

General view of burying  
ground from SW

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Here Lies Buried  
the Body of Mrs  
Rebecca Jenner Bell  
the Wife of  
Capt. Thomas  
Jenner who Died  
Nov. 23 1732  
Aged 55 Years & 7 Mo

HARVARD  
[Small plaque with illegible text]

NPS Number 5/15/74  
Title: Shipp's Pt. Burying Ground  
Suffolk Co, Mass.  
Loc. View of Harvard  
Monument

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

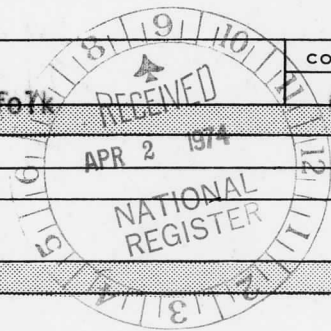
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 15 1974	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME	
COMMON: Phipps Street Burying Ground	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Same	
2. LOCATION	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	
STATE: Boston (Charlestown)	COUNTY: Suffolk
CODE: 025	CODE: 025
3. PHOTO REFERENCE	
PHOTO CREDIT: Boston Redevelopment Authority	
DATE OF PHOTO: 1974	
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Boston Redevelopment Authority	
4. IDENTIFICATION	
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.	
View of Burying Ground from South East (miller Street) looking north west.	



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 15 1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Phipps Street Burying Ground  
AND/OR HISTORIC: same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Phipps Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston (Charlestown)

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Suffolk

CODE

025

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series Boston <sup>North</sup> South Quadrangle

SCALE: 1" = 24,000'

DATE: 1971

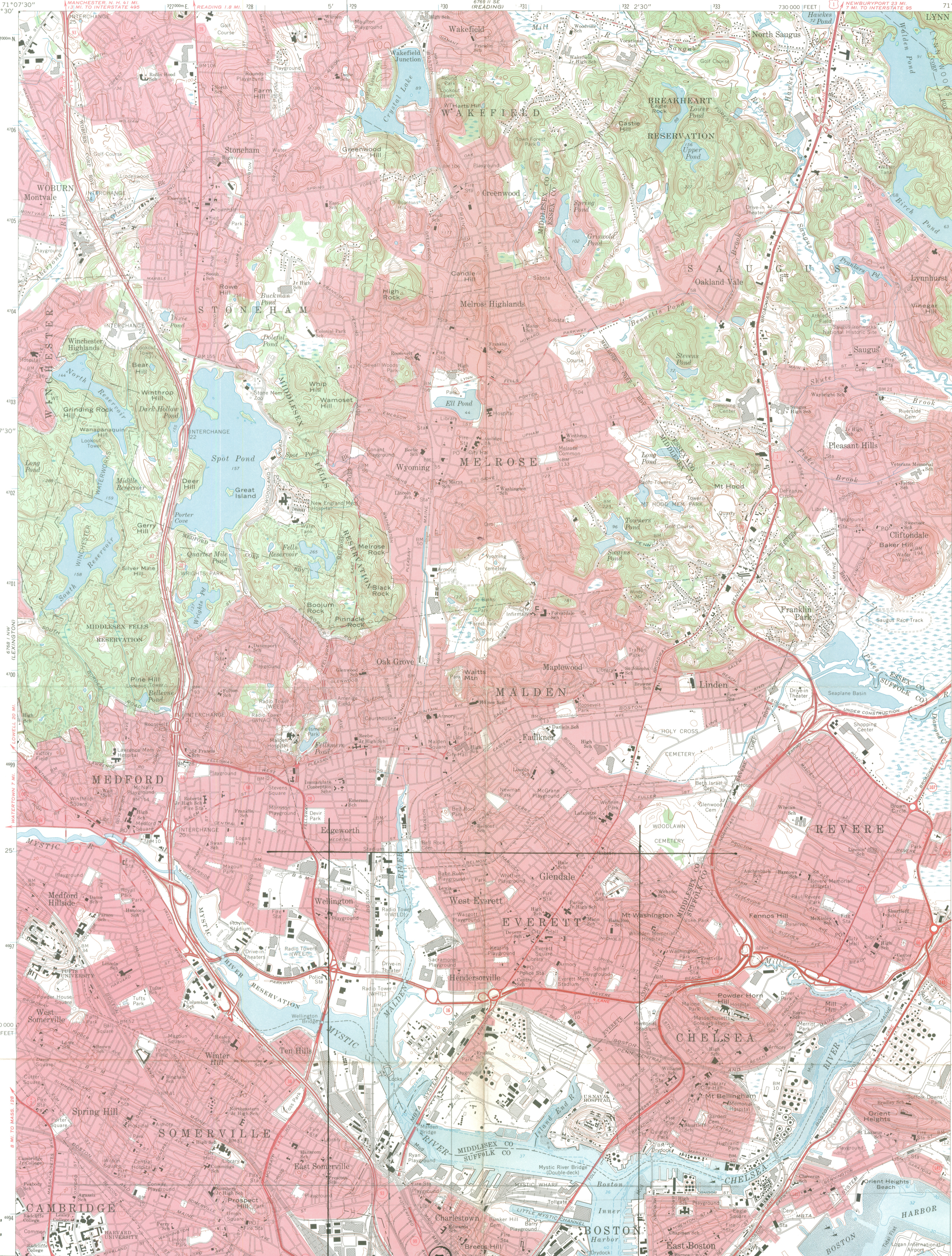
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



PHIPPS STREET BURYING  
GROUND  
Charlestown Mass  
LAT: 42° 22' 34.192"  
LONG: 71° 04' 05.361"



N5  
Zn 19  
E 309560  
N 4693400

PHIPPS STREET BURYING  
GROUND, Boston  
Latitude 42° 21' 34.192"  
Longitude 71° 04' 05.361"

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)  
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 ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied  
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET



BOSTON NORTH, MASS.  
N4222.5—W7100/7.5  
1971  
MS 678.1 NE—SERIES V814



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 15 1974	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Phipps Street Burying Ground  
AND/OR HISTORIC: same

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Phipps Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Boston (Charlestown)

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Suffolk	025

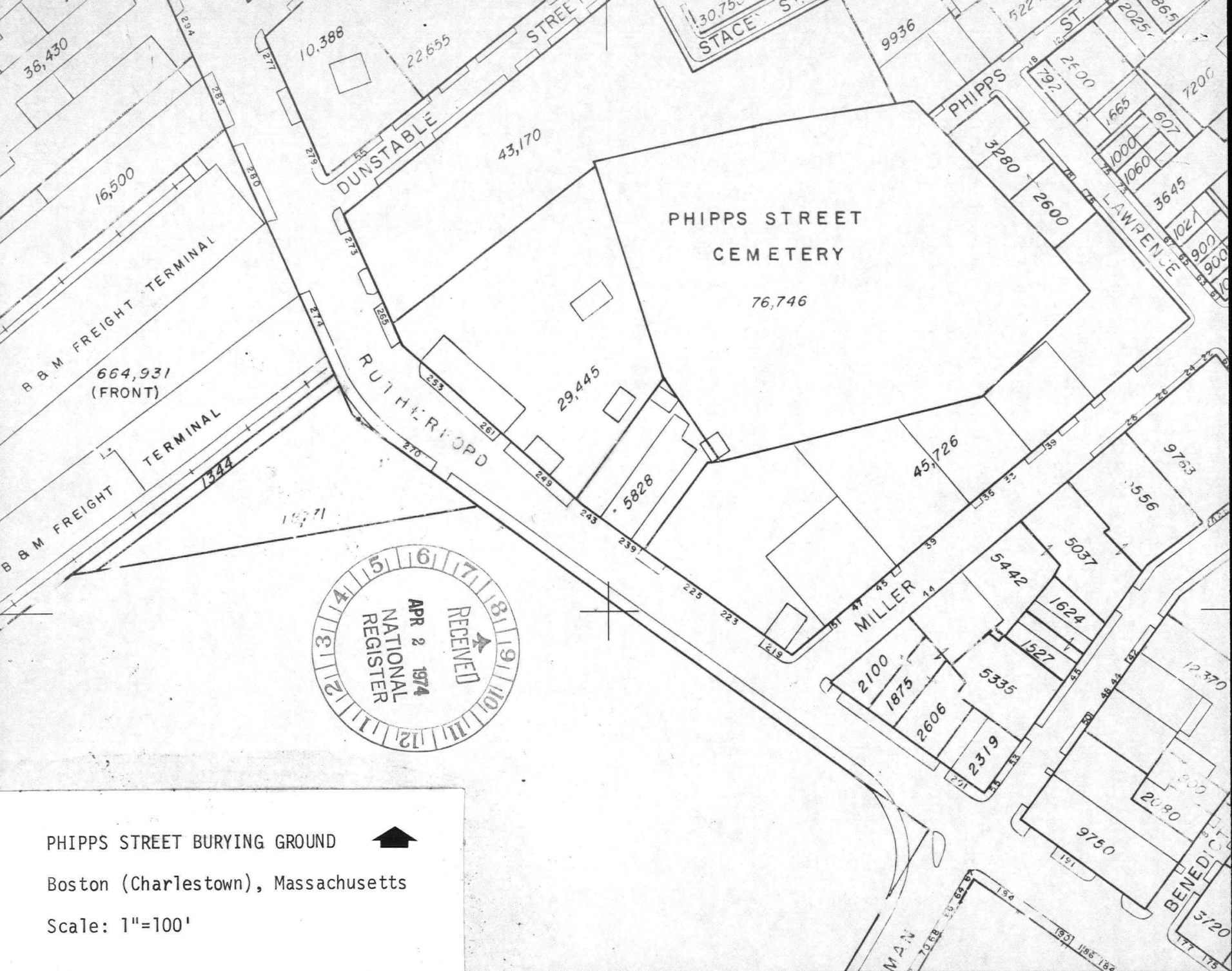
**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:  
Boston Redevelopment Authority  
SCALE: 1"=100'  
DATE: 1962


**4. REQUIREMENTS**

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
  2. North arrow.
  3. Latitude and longitude reference.





RECEIVED  
 APR 2 1974  
 NATIONAL REGISTER

PHIPPS STREET BURYING GROUND   
 Boston (Charlestown), Massachusetts  
 Scale: 1"=100'



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

40 Beacon Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

March 28, 1974

National Register  
National Park Service  
18th and C Streets  
Washington, D.C. 20240



*special notice*

Attention: Charles Herrington, Chief of Register

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Charles:

Enclosed are three National Register submissions for the following properties:

1. Boston, Suffolk County, King's Chapel Burying Ground
2. " " , Phipp's Street Burying Ground
3. " " , Dorchester North Burying Ground

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and have been signed by Secretary of the Commonwealth John F.X. Davoren, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated the State Liason Officer.

Please note that the properties covered by these submissions are to be included in our 1975 apportionment warrant. Therefore, we would appreciate your processing these nominations promptly. Please let us know if any other information is needed.

Sincerely,

*Betty*

Elizabeth Amadon  
State Survey Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

ERA/ma  
enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered **MAY 15 1974**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Phipps Street Burying Ground</b>	<b>Boston (Charlestown) Suffolk County</b>

Also Notified

**Hon. Edward M. Kennedy**  
**Hon. Edward W. Brooke**  
**Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.**  
**Regional Director, North Atlantic  
Region**

**State Historic Preservation Officer**  
**Hon. John F.X. Davoren**  
**Secretary of the Commonwealth**  
**Chairman, Massachusetts Historical  
Commission**  
**40 Beacon Street**  
**Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

PR MMOTT: p1 5/15/74