

# *Union Cemetery Preservation Management Plan*

*Georgetown, Massachusetts*



*prepared by*

*Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC  
Fannin-Lehner Preservation Consultants*

*for the*

## *Town of Georgetown*

2008

Where noted, This report has been modified and corrected  
by the Georgetown Historical Commission

# *Union Cemetery Preservation Management Plan*

*Georgetown, Massachusetts*

*prepared for the*

## *Town of Georgetown*

*by*

*Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC  
313 Elm Street  
Northampton, Massachusetts 01060  
413-586-4178*

*with*

*Fannin-Lehner Preservation Consultants  
271 Lexington Road  
Concord, Massachusetts 01742  
978-369-6703*

*2008*

*Support for the Preservation Management Plan was provided by the  
Georgetown Community Preservation Act Fund,  
Georgetown, Massachusetts*

## CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	ii
Introduction	1
Historical Development of Union Cemetery	3
Assessment	7
Recommendations	19
Management Guidelines	25
Appendices	
A: Historical Chronology	A-1
B: Gravestone Assessment	B-1
C: Bibliography	C-1

Notation added by Historical  
Commission 5/10/2009:

SEE Final Page For Listing Of  
Corrected Errors In This Report

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC and Fannin-Lehner Preservation Consultants thank the current members of the Georgetown Historical Commission for their enthusiasm and support in the successful completion of this plan:

Joseph Knapp  
Frederic Detwiller  
Edward Des Jardins  
George Perkins  
Ida Wye  
Thomas Mahlstedt  
Karen Christiansen  
James Davenport

The following individuals formerly served on the Georgetown Historical Commission and compiled the historical information about Union Cemetery in the booklet, *Union Cemetery – 1732*. The contents of this booklet proved invaluable in the development of this plan:

Richard Elliott  
Harriett Kneeland  
Gladys Kneeland  
Gloria Maina  
Arthur Paquette  
Paula Segel

Special thanks go to:

Christine E. Comiskey, member of the Georgetown Historical Society and author of *A Respectable Man of Color – Beyond the Legend of Cuffee Dole*, who researched the cemetery's history and assisted in deciphering many of the old cemetery deeds.

Richard Elliott, who tended the cemetery for 15 years, carefully maintained the cemetery records, and provided additional historical insight.

and to...

the citizens of Georgetown, who supported the town's acquisition and long term management of Union Cemetery, and financed this *Preservation Management Plan*.

## INTRODUCTION

Union Cemetery dates to the first decades 1700s and the earliest days of the settlement of West Rowley, later known as Georgetown. It holds the remains of some of the early settlers, as well as many individuals influential in the development of the community. It is the oldest burial ground in Georgetown, and one of the town's most historic public landscapes.

Established in 1732 on ¼ acre of land, Union Cemetery grew, over the course of two centuries, from a small burial ground into a modern cemetery. For its first 100 years, it was owned by the church, and in 1838 it became property of the Town. Six years later, Georgetown transferred the burial ground to a private entity, the Union Cemetery Corporation (UCC), and renamed it "Union Cemetery." The UCC maintained the cemetery for 130 years, handling interments, cutting lawns, and making as-needed repairs. By the 1970s, burials had slowed and interest in the cemetery waned. The UCC became defunct, abandoned its care of the cemetery, and allowed the landscape to deteriorate.



*A long view across the Union Cemetery landscape, taken from the highest point, looking northwest. For many years, the cemetery stood neglected, but recent efforts to revive the landscape have led to better stewardship.*

In 2006, public concern for the cemetery's condition fostered a joint effort of the Georgetown Historical Society and Historical Commission to preserve Union Cemetery. Volunteers began cleaning up the landscape, and in 2007, the town appropriated funds to reconstruct the cemetery's wrought iron fence. The revival also incorporated two other important activities. First, it motivated the Town to reclaim ownership of the cemetery, a conveyance that occurred in mid 2008. Second, it generated public financial support, through the Georgetown Community Preservation Act Fund, for long-term preservation planning for the cemetery, the outgrowth of which is this *Union Cemetery Preservation Management Plan*.

### **Preservation Management Plan Goals**

At the beginning of the planning process, members of the Georgetown Historical Commission established the following preservation management goals:

- To develop a detailed plan for restoring and preserving in an appropriate manner, the memorials, markers, trees, walls and other important historic features of Union Cemetery;
- To include in the plan, a complete inventory and assessment of the Cemetery's landscape features;



*The east entrance to Union Cemetery leads past the oldest section (at right in photo), established in 1732.*

- To identify preservation priorities and establish budget projections for implementing these priorities;
- To establish procedures for maintaining the cemetery grounds, including control of pedestrian and vehicular circulation, removal and control of invasive vegetation; conservation of grave markers; and
- To carry out the plan in accordance with the United States Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*.

## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT of UNION CEMETERY

### Beginnings – Before 1732

The Town of Georgetown began as part of Rowley, an inland settlement established in 1639. In the 1650s, families from Rowley began to migrate westward within the town, an area rich in timber and open meadows. They sought timber for building construction, and open meadows for grazing cattle. This western settlement, known as “New Rowley,” had no burial place of its own, and settlers interred their dead in grounds of the adjacent towns of Byfield and Bradford.

After many decades of making the weekly journey to attend church in the eastern part of Rowley, residents in New Rowley petitioned Rowley’s Central Church Parish to establish their own “West Parish” church. In 1731 permission was granted and residents built a church on the corner of East Main Street and Pillsbury Lane (just west of Union Cemetery). The Reverend James Chandler served as the first minister.

### 1732-1804

Soon after the establishment of the West Parish Church, discussions began about establishing a burying place for the new parish. In July of 1732, Hannah Nelson died and was interred near the church on land owned by her husband, Joseph Nelson. Richard Boynton died in December 1732, and was buried near Hannah Nelson. The same year the church voted to purchase ¼-acre of land (the easternmost portion of Union Cemetery) from Joseph Nelson that included the existing burials of Hannah Nelson and Richard Boynton. The site was located to the east of the church, and the cost was two pounds and ten shillings.



*The older sections of Union Cemetery hold burials from the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, many of which are marked with elaborately-carved tablets.*

Between 1736 and 1804, several events and activities resulted in alterations to the burial ground’s landscape. In the years 1736 and 1737, 46 children died of throat distemper and were buried in un-marked graves in the large grassy open area to the west of the existing burial ground. Today, this unmarked area lies between the oldest sections and the newer ones. In 1755, the church may have purchased land for the burial ground, although its size and location are not known. In 1756, the church erected a simple board fence along the burial ground’s front edge.

### 1805-1844

In the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the church further enlarged and embellished the burial ground. In 1805, the purchase of a 1/2-acre parcel along the westerly side doubled the size of the burial ground. Dr. Amos Spofford, sold this parcel to the church, and became the first person to be interred in the new section. In 1806 the church replaced the 50-year-old board fence with a faced stone wall, and 1819, the parish purchased a hearse to be used for burials. In 1816, Cuffee Dole (1739-1816), a free black and Revolutionary War veteran, died and was interred “outside” the existing boundary of the burial ground. Today, with several later acquisitions of more land, Dole’s plot lies in the cemetery’s geographic center.

In 1838 Georgetown split off from Rowley, and the burial ground was officially passed from the West Parish of Rowley to the newly-formed Town of Georgetown. A “Burying Place Society” operated and maintained the cemetery for the town, with some members of the society maintaining membership in the West Parish Church. At the 1844 Town Meeting, a committee was formed to explore the possibility of expanding the burial ground, and to select a name for it. It is also likely that this committee explored the possibility of creating an independent, non-profit corporation to take over management and care of the cemetery. The committee proposed the name of “Union Cemetery” and put forth By-Laws for the independent corporation, including the following rules and regulations for visitors to Union Cemetery:

- No persons shall be admitted into the cemetery in vehicles or on horseback.
- No person shall gather any flowers, wild or cultivated, or remove, break, cut or mark any tree, shrub, or plant.
- No person shall climb over, write upon, deface or injure any monument, grave-stone, fence, rustic seat, or other structure, in and belonging to the cemetery.
- No person shall discharge any fire-arms of any description in the cemetery, nor attempt in any manner to destroy the birds or other animals therein.

Late in 1844 the corporation was officially formed, and named the Union Cemetery Corporation (UCC).

### 1845-1897

The UCC went to work on the cemetery immediately. In 1845, they purchased two parcels of land, a 1 ¼-acre parcel on the western side of the cemetery, and a ½-acre parcel on the southwestern side, both from David Brocklebank. They also erected the iron fence along the highway and laid out plots.

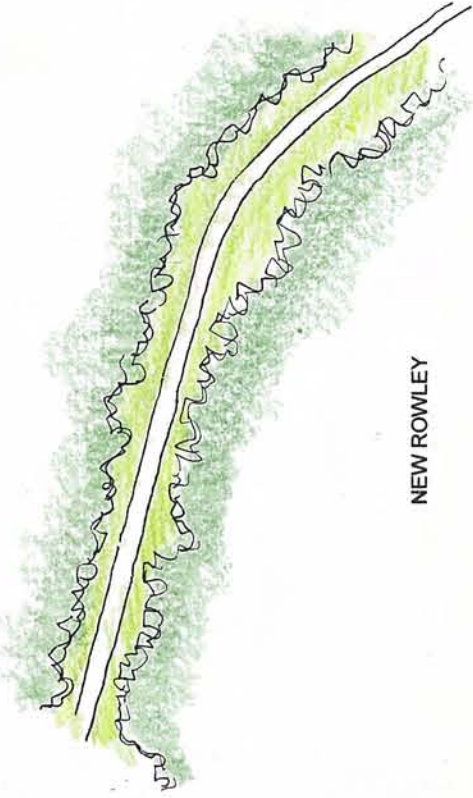
Also around this time Harmony Cemetery, located on approximately 10 acres on Central Street in Georgetown, was established to provide a modern alternative to the traditional Colonial style Union Cemetery. A private entity, Harmony Cemetery was laid out in concentric circles surrounding a central watchtower. Its first recorded burial was 1831, but the cemetery was not incorporated until 1845. After 1845, burial in Harmony Cemetery increased dramatically (particularly in the 1840s, 1850s and 1860s), reducing the demand on Union Cemetery.

### 1898-2008

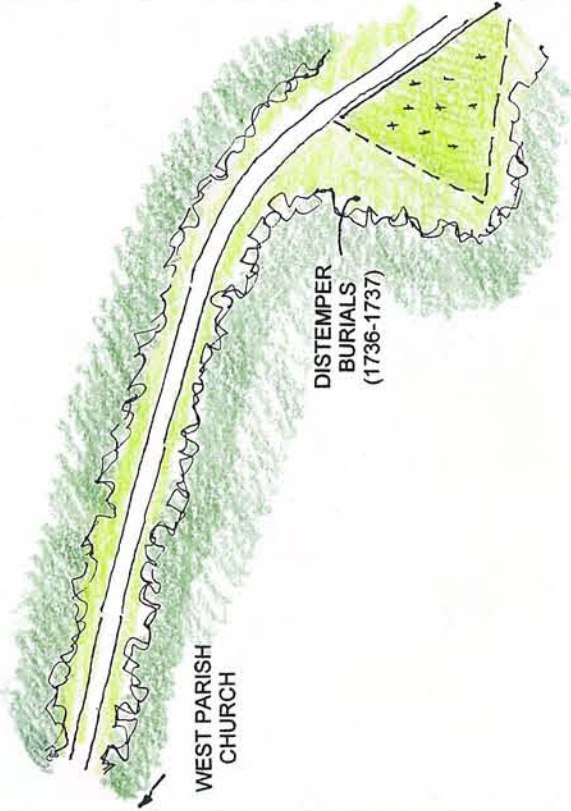
The UCC’s stewardship of the cemetery continued on through the 1970s, with the bulk of improvements happening in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1898, they purchased two more parcels, 0.03 acres on the far northwesterly side and 0.87 acres on the south side, bringing the land



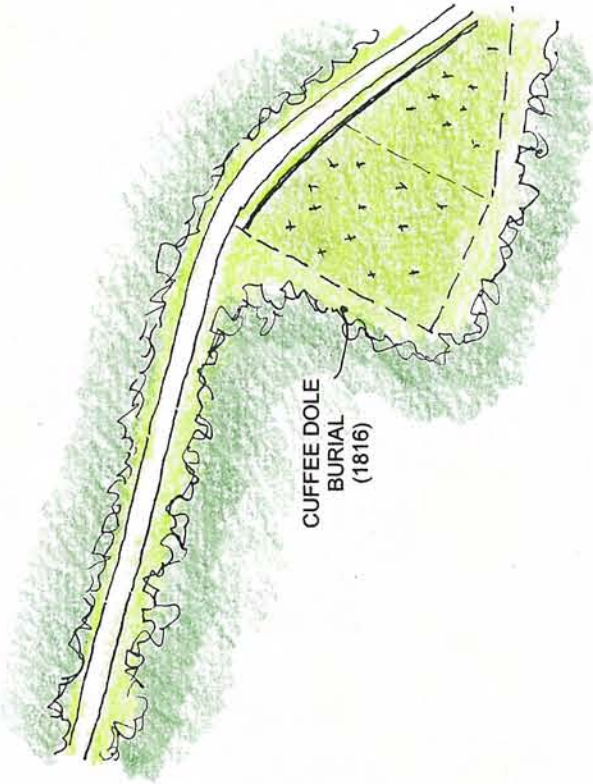
Before 1732



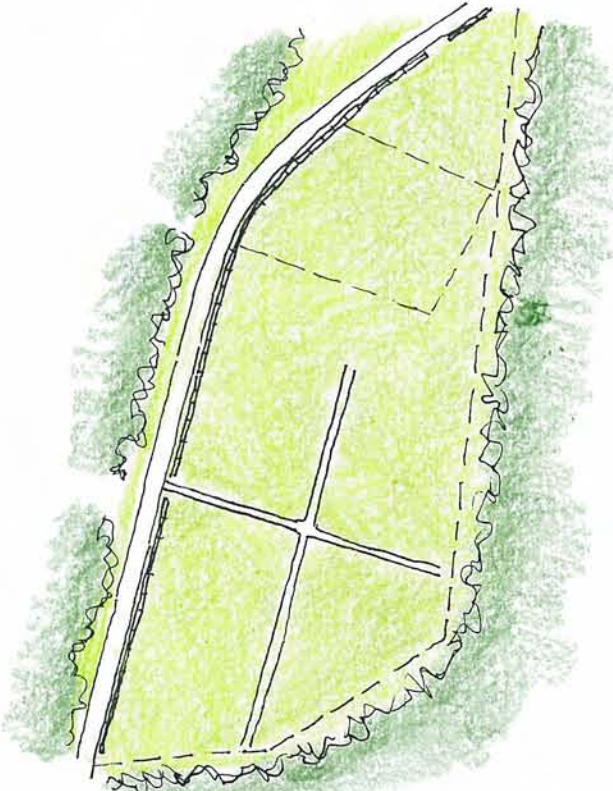
1732-1805



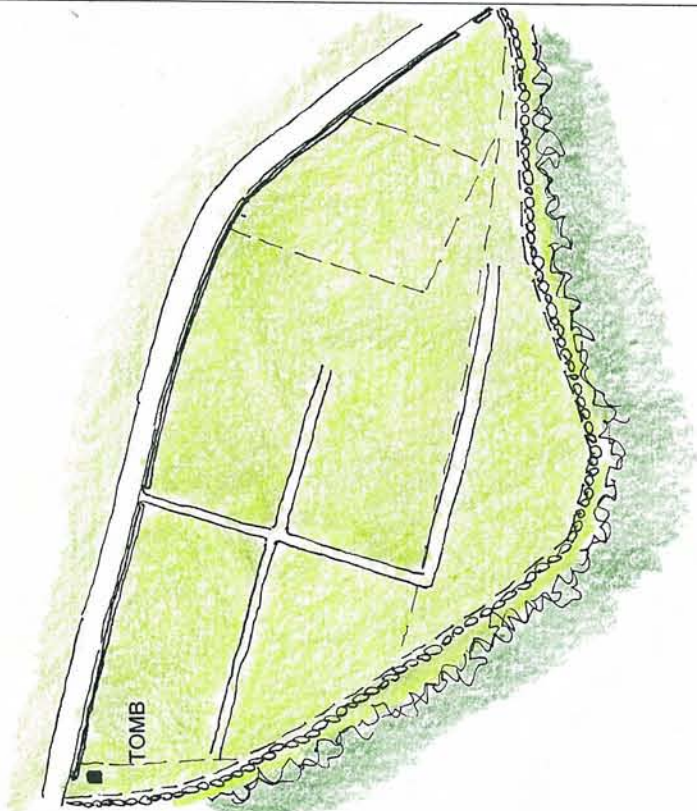
1805-1844



1845-1897



1898-2008



### SUMMARY

- In 1731, settlers of "New Rowley" were granted permission to establish their own "West Parish" church. The next year, settlers established a burying ground on 0.25 acre near the church. In 1736-37, 46 children died of throat distemper and were interred to the west of the burying ground.
- In 1805, the burying ground was enlarged by 0.5 acre along its westerly side, and the following year, a stone wall was constructed along the road edge. In 1816, free black Cuffee Dole died and was interred outside the burying ground. In 1838, Georgetown was split off from Rowley, and ownership of the burying ground was transferred from the church to the Town of Georgetown.
- In 1844, the Union Cemetery Corporation (UCC) was formed and assumed ownership of the burying ground. The burying ground became known as Union Cemetery. In 1845, the UCC added 1.5 acres to the south and west sides and erected an iron fence along the highway.
- In 1898, the UCC added 9/10 acre to the northwest and south sides, bringing the acreage to 3.4. Sometime between 1898 and 1911, a stone wall was constructed around all but the roadway edge. The UCC maintained the cemetery through the 1960s.
- In the 1970s, burials waned, the iron fence was damaged and removed, and the cemetery fell into a state of disrepair.
- In 2006, efforts began to transfer ownership of the cemetery from the UCC to the town. The iron fence was restored.

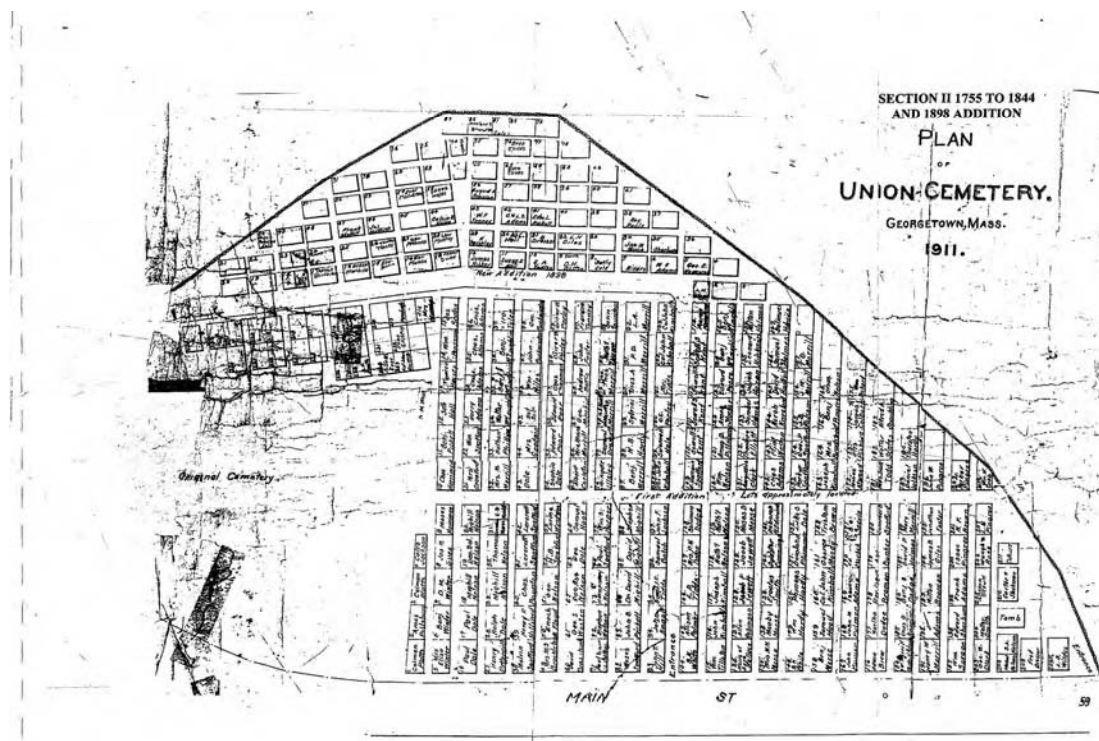


total to 3.4 acres. They also expanded the southeastern boundary (along Route 133) in the southeasterly direction by 16.5 feet.

Between 1899 and 1900, they revisited the original 1844 By-Laws. The regulations for visitors remained the same, however, the following terms with respect to deed-holders were added:

- The proprietor of said lot shall have the right to erect stones, monuments, or sepulchral structures, and to cultivate trees, shrubs, and plants in the same.
- That if any trees or shrubs situated in said lot of land shall by means of their roots or branches, or otherwise, become detrimental to the adjacent lots or avenues, or dangerous or inconvenient to passengers, it shall be the duty of said Trustees for the time being, and they shall have the right to enter into said lot and remove the said trees or shrubs, or such parts thereof, as are thus detrimental, dangerous, or inconvenient.

In 1911, the UCC commissioned a plan for the cemetery, showing the entire acreage with the “original cemetery” noted. A stone wall appeared around the entire edge not bordering the roadway, and an entrance was marked at the west end. The plan also depicted a “tomb” structure just inside the entrance. The UCC sold the last cemetery plots in the 1940s.



The 1911 Plan of Union Cemetery, author unknown. The drawing showed the perimeter wall lining the east, west and south sides of the cemetery, as well as a blank space for the oldest section of this cemetery. This is labeled “Original Cemetery.” Map courtesy of the Georgetown Historical Society.



*The restored wrought iron fencing lining the Route 133 edge of Union Cemetery. This preservation effort was funded in 2007 by the Community Preservation Act Fund of the Town of Georgetown.*

The 1970s marked the beginning of a slow decline in the Union Cemetery landscape. The UCC operated and maintained the cemetery through 1974. By that time, burials had become minimal, and interest in serving on the UCC board ceased. The cemetery fell into a state of disrepair. Paul and Albert Meader (brothers) volunteered to maintain the cemetery, and provided basic care through 1989. Dick Elliott assumed the Meaders's responsibility from 1989 through 2005.

In 2006, efforts began to transfer ownership of the cemetery from the UCC back to the Town of Georgetown, and in early 2008, the transaction was finalized. The Georgetown Historical Commission, acting on behalf of

the town, secured Community Preservation Act Funds to restore the iron perimeter fencing and commission this *Union Cemetery Preservation Management Plan*. For an overview of the cemetery's historical development, refer to the pull-out illustration in this section of the *Plan* entitled *Historical Development of the Union Cemetery Landscape*.

## ASSESSMENT

The following is an assessment of the landscape conditions at Union Cemetery. Its purpose is to document the cemetery's existing natural, built, and functional features; analyze their condition; and outline preliminary recommendations for preservation treatment. Together with the historical chronology, the assessment provides a foundation for the *Preservation Management Plan*.

### Context, Edges & Views

The cemetery is surrounded by a mix of land uses, with developed areas lying to the north, across Route 133, and wooded wetland areas to the south, west, and east.

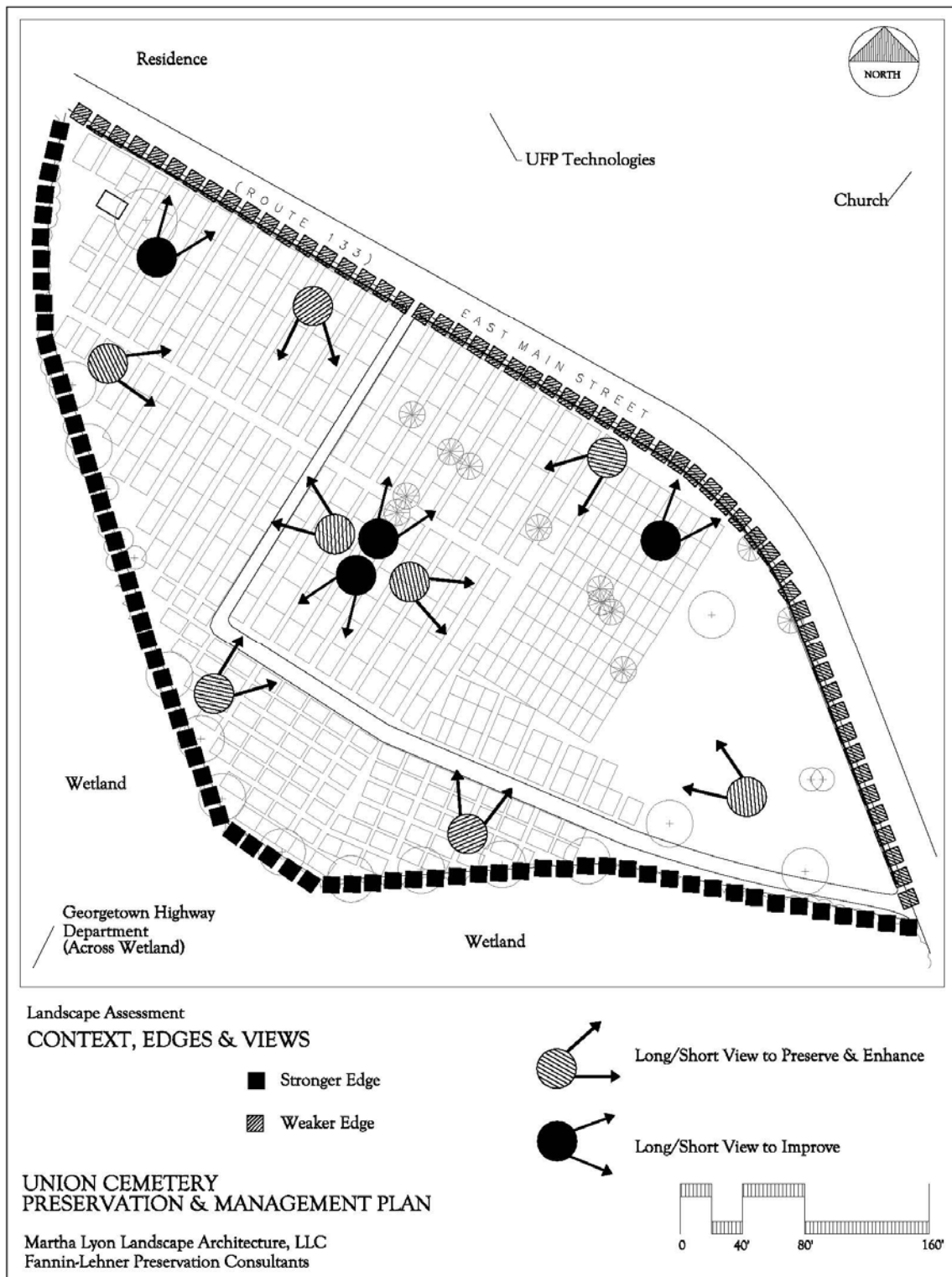
- The northern edge (moving west to east) includes a residence, light industrial building with parking lot (UFP Technologies) and a church. The church stands back from Route 133 on an incline rising above the road.
- The wooded wetland rims the remaining boundary, creating a dense buffer between the cemetery and Georgetown Highway Department (across the wetland to the south).
- Route 133 carries a heavy traffic load, beginning early in the morning and remaining steady throughout the day. UFP Technologies is serviced by 18-wheel trucks, which add further to the traffic and noise.



*The approach to Union Cemetery from the east. Route 133 is a busy thoroughfare, and drivers find it difficult to safely access the site.*

The edges of the cemetery correspond to the surrounding context.

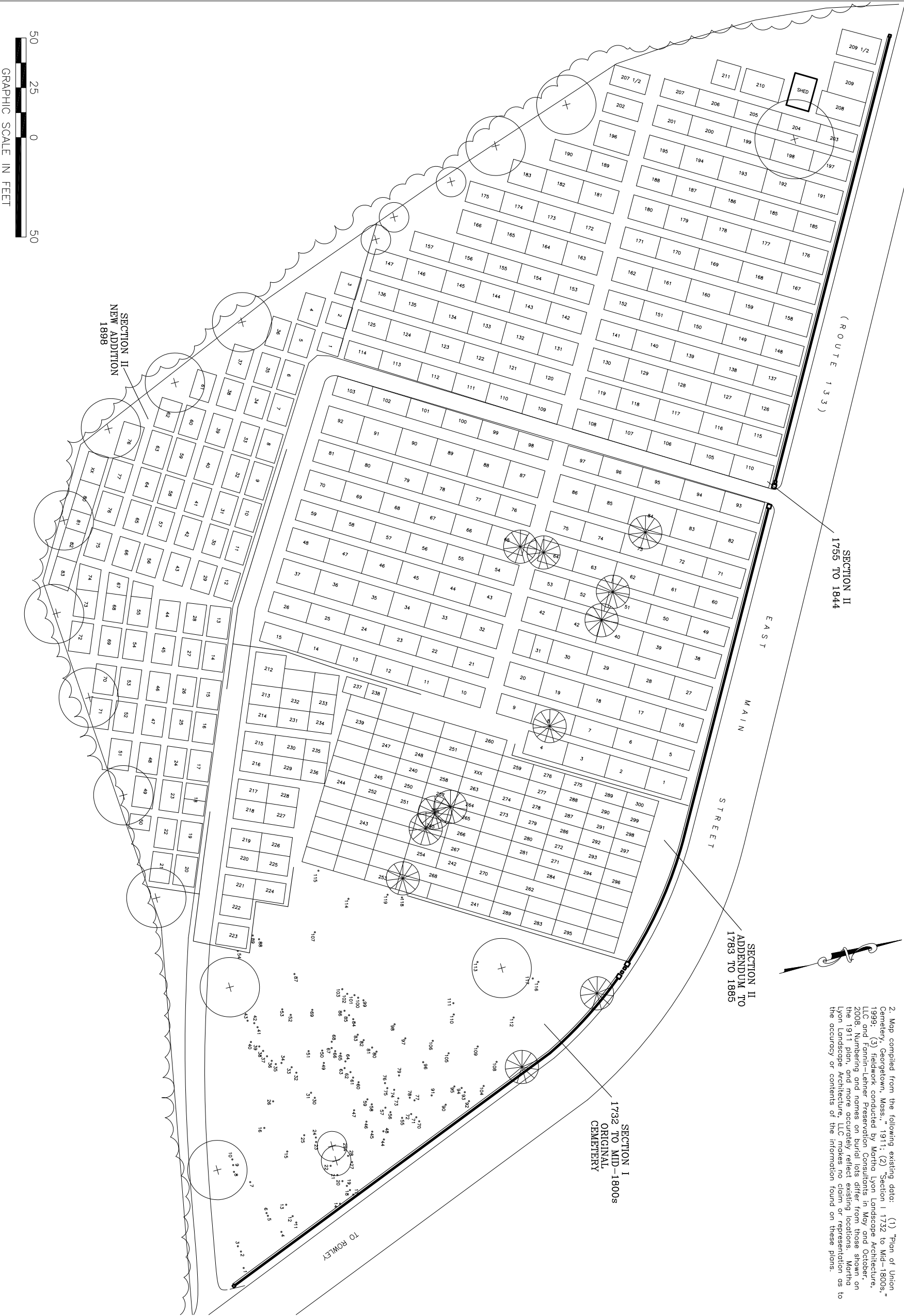
- The Route 133 edge is completely open (devoid of trees), leaving the cemetery exposed to traffic. Without trees, the edge does not effectively calm the traffic. The wrought iron fence, constructed recently along this edge, provides separation between the cemetery and road, but the sight and noise of traffic conflicts with the fence's aesthetic quality. Granite curbing – once the base of another fence – sits in front of the fence and serves to further reinforce this edge, but its condition is poor with the stone splitting in half (lengthwise) in several locations. The base of the curbing is exposed in at least one spot where a tree was recently removed, and it appears to be resting on subgrade, without a foundation.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

NOTES

1. Map prepared as part of the UNION CEMETERY PRESERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN, completed in October of 2008, by Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC, 313 Elm Street, Northampton, Massachusetts, 01060 and Fannin-Lehner Preservation Consultants, 271 Lexington Road, Concord, Massachusetts, 01742 for the Georgetown Historical Commission.
2. Map compiled from the following existing data: (1) "Plan of Union Cemetery, Georgetown, Mass., " 1911; (2) "Section I 1732 to Mid-1800s," 1999; (3) fieldwork conducted by Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC and Fannin-Lehner Preservation Consultants in May and October, 2008. Numbering and names on burial lots differ from those shown on the 1911 plan, and more accurately reflect existing locations. Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC makes no claim or representation as to the accuracy or contents of the information found on these plans.



GEORGETOWN HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Georgetown, Massachusetts

UNION CEMETERY  
PRESERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

MARTHA LYON LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, LLC  
FANNIN-LEHNER PRESERVATION CONSULTANTS



- The wetland edges, comprised of cattail, cherry trees, and Phragmites, provide a soft backdrop to the cemetery's south, east and west sides. A dry-laid stone wall stands between the wetland and cemetery, some segments of which are free-standing while other segments retain the cemetery edge. Many of the stones in this wall have tumbled, resulting in a deteriorated look. Along this wall, just inside the cemetery is a regularly-spaced planting of mature sugar maples. While some of the trees have died and been removed, those standing are spaced 35' to 50' apart. Along some segments of the wall, sapling trees, including cherry and elm, have infiltrated the cemetery.

The context and edges influence the views, both from within the cemetery looking outward, and from outside the cemetery looking inward.

- The best views of the cemetery are enjoyed from the outside edges, looking inward. A central high point (see slopes, below) blocks long views to Route 133 (from the south edge looking north), and across the wetland to the Highway Department garage (from the north edge looking south). Positive views are also possible from the high point looking eastward and westward across the cemetery, where visitors can scan across the oldest (eastward) and newer (westward) sections.
- Less appealing views appear from the high point looking northward across Route 133, and southward across the wetland to the Highway Garage. Because the wetland's deciduous trees provide a dense screen in warm months, the latter view is obstructed during spring, summer and fall.

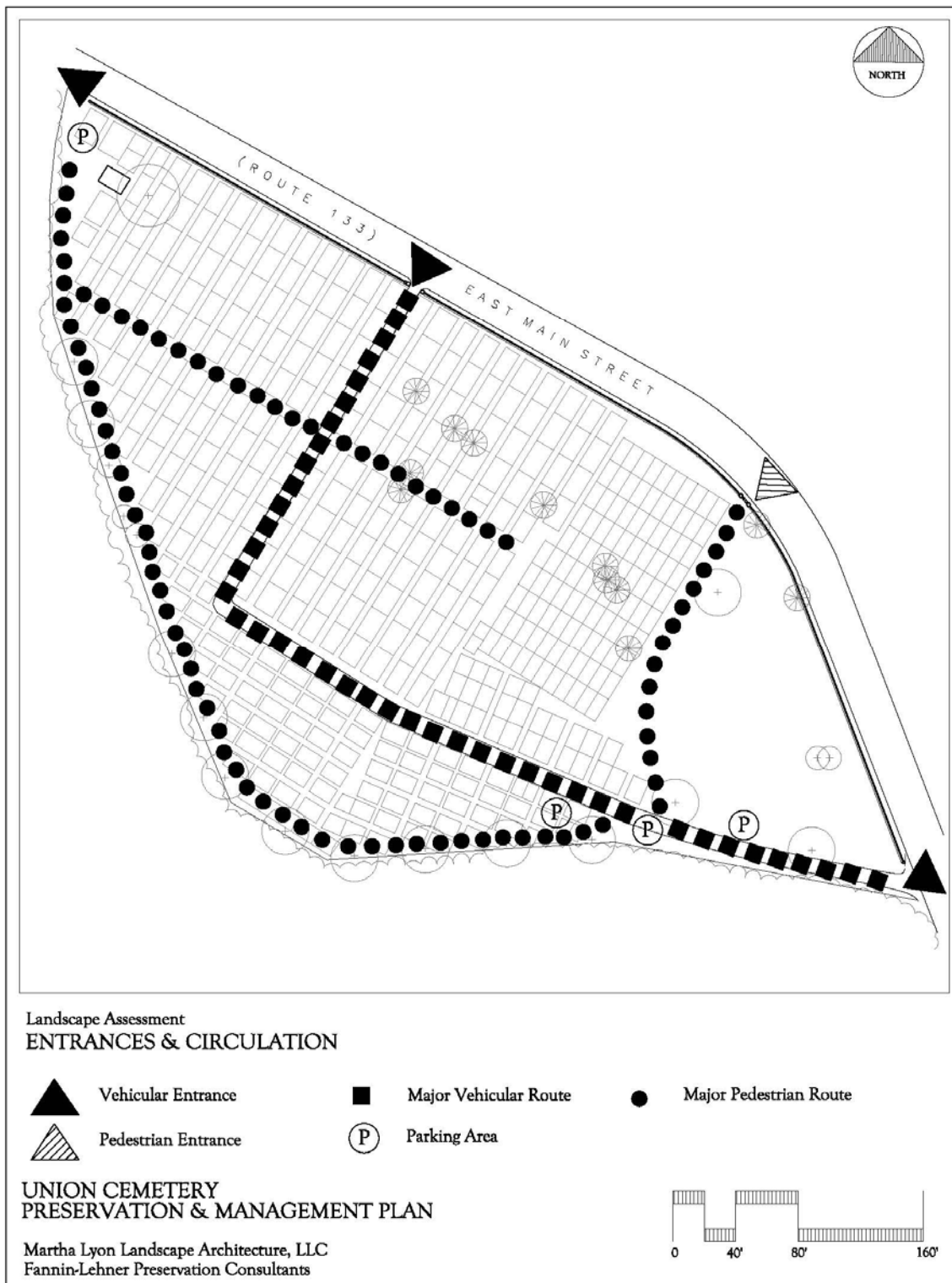
### Entrances & Circulation

The Town has not posted signs along Route 133 on the approach to the cemetery. Therefore, visitors arriving by car must make quick, unannounced turns into one of three entrances, without much warning to vehicles following behind them. Visitors arriving by vehicle may enter the cemetery at one of three points.

- The east gate, located at eastern edge of the cemetery near the oldest section, is amply wide for one car, and is marked on one side by a granite post. A small, hand-lettered sign with the words "NO DOGS" stands just inside the gate, attached to a maple tree.
- The west gate, located at the western edge near the shed matches the east gate in width, and is also marked by a post. The same "NO DOGS" sign appears just inside this gate, also appended to a tree.



*The east gate to Union Cemetery features an aging orientation sign, along with a "NO DOGS" warning.*





- The central gate, located approximately 200 feet east of the west gate, serves as a formal entrance to Union Cemetery. A pair of granite gate posts flanks the entry drive. It is likely that the posts once held an iron gate, as the posts still contain the remnants of gate hardware. A smaller granite post stands to the west side of the west entry post. It likely served as an end post for a perimeter fence. A bold white sign has been attached to the outside of the perimeter fence, just to the east of the central gate, bearing the words “UNION CEMETERY BURIAL GROUND 1732.”

Visitors may access the cemetery with their vehicles from the central and east gates only; the west gate leads to the shed, but does not connect to a road. From the central and east gates, a dirt, gravel, and turf road leads into the cemetery, passing the oldest section and rimming the high point. This road is in good condition, and its dirt/gravel/turf surface complements the cemetery’s historic character.

Parking at Union Cemetery is informal. Areas frequented for parking include several spots along the roadway, just inside the east gate, as well as a small area in front of the shed, just inside the west gate. The narrow width of roadway, and its proximity to nearby burial sites, makes parking along most of the roadway difficult.

Visitors arriving on foot may enter through one of the three vehicular gates, or via a fourth gate, accessible only to pedestrians. This entrance stands approximately 250 feet west of the east gate and is marked by two sets of granite posts (one taller and bulkier than the other). Once inside the cemetery, visitors can walk along the roadway, or access gravesites via several grassy paths that rim the perimeter stone wall and form a central east-to-west access through the newer sections.

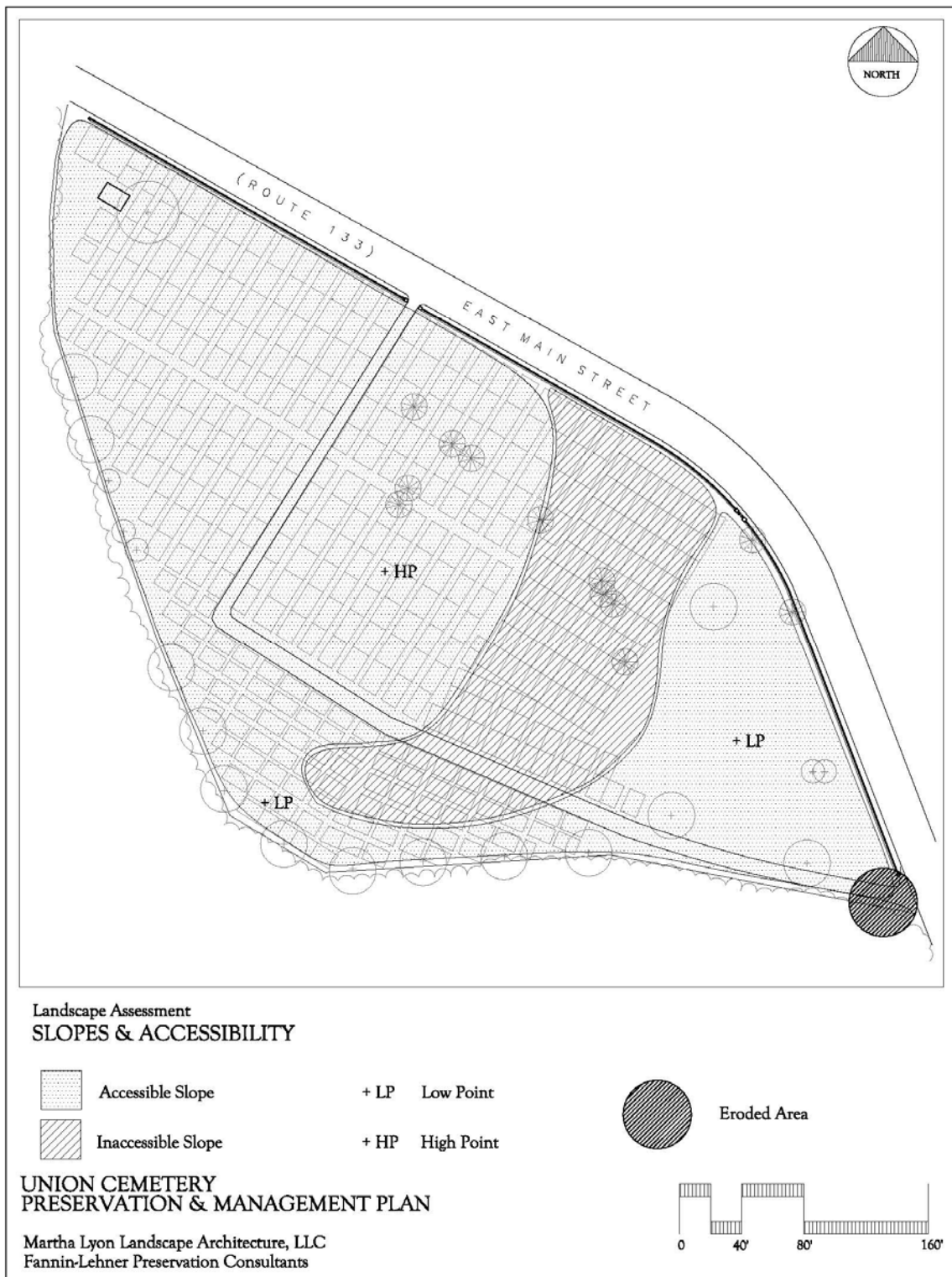
### Slopes & Accessibility

The land at Union Cemetery is one of the most distinctive features, and is likely some of the only remaining unaltered topography in Georgetown. In general, slopes roll from low points around the edges inward to a high point located at the center. Across the burial plot areas, the slopes have an uneven character. The lowest point stands at the eastern corner, just inside the gate, and several other low points line the south and east edges.

Most of the cemetery is accessible, with slopes not exceeding 5%, but a steeper slope does lie in the center, falling sharply downward from the high point toward the oldest section (northwest to southeast). Travel for pedestrians through this section is more challenging, as slopes exceed 5%. Most of the cemetery roadway is slightly depressed below the burial plots, making it invisible from views across the landscape. Most of the roadway is accessible (5% or less), making it easily navigable for pedestrians.



*The steepest slope at Union Cemetery lies between the oldest and second-oldest section. The rolling shape of the land is one of the cemetery’s most distinctive features.*



Water draining along the edge of Route 133 has channeled down along the side of the cemetery's eastern entrance, creating an eroded area and detracting from the visual appeal of this major cemetery gateway.

### Vegetation

Trees and other plants in and around the cemetery form five general communities.

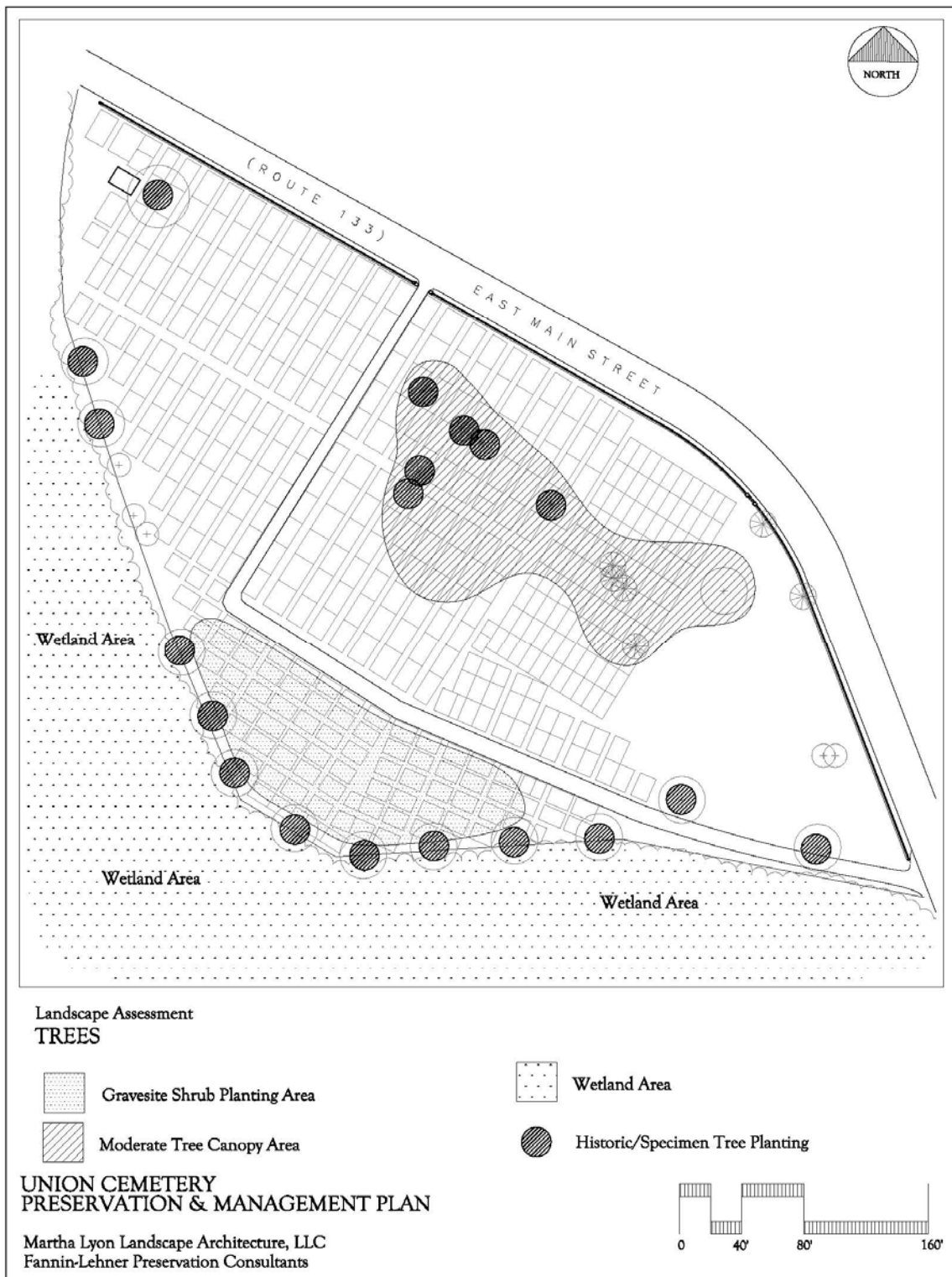
- Sugar maple trees, planted in a single row (or "allee"), spaced 35' to 50' apart, line part of the roadway (near the eastern entrance) and the east, west and south edges. These were likely planted around 1900, when the Union Cemetery Corporation added land, bringing the total size to 3.4 acres, and building the perimeter stone wall. Several trees in the allee have died and been removed, leaving holes in the pattern.
- Specimen trees, mostly pines, cedars and spruces, stand near the center of the cemetery, providing shade to the cemetery core. A large sugar maple also grows near the shed. Some of these trees appear to have been originally planted as ornaments to gravesites, and are now growing into (and heaving) the headstones and monuments. Many of the gravesite trees have very low growing limbs that obstruct the monuments and block views within the cemetery.
- Shrub plantings appear in masses, mostly near gravesites. Plots at the southwestern corner have the highest concentration of these plantings, and many of the junipers, lilacs, yews obscure the gravestones.
- Outside the cemetery, on its east, south and west edges, is a wooded wetland, filled with cherry trees, Phragmites, and cattail. As mentioned in the *Context, Edges & Views* discussion above, the cherry trees have begun to infiltrate the cemetery edges.
- Finally, the groundcover at Union Cemetery adds to its historic character. While turf covers much of the cemetery, many perennial groundcovers, such as Ajuga, have grown in and amongst the turf, adding diverse color and texture.

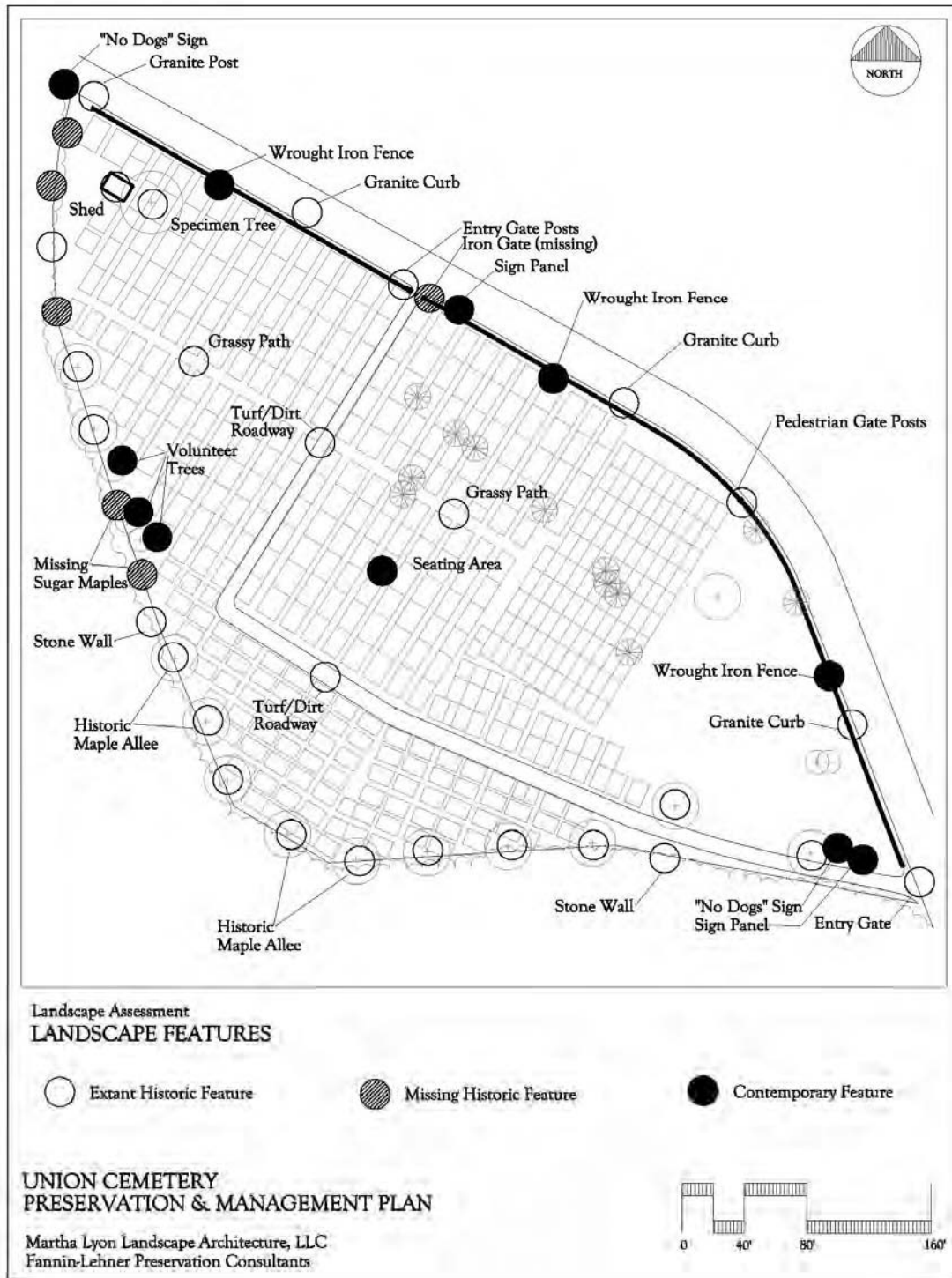


*Some areas in the cemetery contain dense, overgrown gravesite plantings. Many of the plants obscure the headstones and monuments.*

### Landscape Features

In addition to the elements noted above, the cemetery contains, or once contained many other landscape features important to its history. Several other more contemporary features have been added over the years.





- Historic features include the topography, shed, perimeter curbing and stone wall, granite entry posts, plantings of specimen trees, allee of sugar maple trees, turf and dirt roadway, and grassy paths. Plot details, including copings, steps and corner posts are also part of this category.
- Missing historic features include the entry gate and several sugar maples missing from the allee.
- Contemporary features include the seating area, new wrought iron fence, gravesite shrub plantings, and suckering trees. The signs, placed at the east and west entrances and at the central gate are also new additions.

### **Gravestones and Monuments**

Union Cemetery contains hundreds of monuments, made of a variety of materials including slate, marble, and granite. Slate tablets, many of which display the elaborate carvings of well-known gravestone carvers, dominate the older sections of the cemetery. These stones stand singly in rows. Marble and granite markers cover the newer sections, and many of these have been clustered into family plots.

The gravestone assessment, detailed in *Appendix B* of this plan, identified 374 monuments and markers in need of conservation treatment, and organized them according to the four cemetery sections, as follows:

- *Section I – 1732 to Mid 1800s.* This area, located at the eastern southeastern corner of the cemetery is also referred to as the “original cemetery.” This section contains a total of 86 stones in need of conservation treatment. Ten of the stones are made of marble, and the remaining 76 are slate. The condition of each stone varies, with some needing cleaning and re-setting, and others requiring more elaborate treatment. Sixty-nine of the stones are in urgent need of treatment, while for seven, the need for treatment is less urgent.
- *Section II – 1755 to 1844.* This area, located at the northwestern side of the cemetery, is the largest, and contains 208 stones in need of treatment. Two of the stones are made of slate, while the others are of marble and granite, with some a combination of both materials. Some of the stones need straightening and cleaning, while others need disassembling and re-construction on new bases. One hundred and eighty-two of the stones are in urgent need of treatment, while for 26, the need for treatment is less urgent.
- *Section II – 1783 to 1885 Addendum.* This small, wedge-shaped area lies between Section I and Section II – 1755 to 1844, and contains a total of 76 stones in need of conservation treatment. The section contains an array of stone materials including slate, marble and granite, with most of the stones needing treatment constructed of slate and marble. Many of the stones are tilted and are in need of cleaning and re-setting. Several stones have been enshrouded by dense shrubs and trees. Of the 76 stones requiring treatment, nearly all (68) are in urgent need, while the need to treat the remaining eight is less urgent.
- *Section II – 1898 Addition.* This last section of the cemetery is a triangular-shaped sliver lining the south edge. The section contains many newer gravesites, marked with more contemporary stones made of granite. The gravestone assessment identified four stones in this section in need of

treatment, three constructed of marble and the other granite. All are tilted and need to be re-set or leveled. The marble stones are in urgent need of treatment, while less urgent treatment is needed for the one granite stone.

### **Preliminary Recommendations**

The following preliminary recommendations for the plan have emerged, based on the historical chronology and assessment of the cemetery.

- The Town should post signs along Route 133 to the east and west of the cemetery entrance, alerting motorists to the upcoming site.
- Efforts should be made to screen traffic along Route 133 to calm vehicles speeding to and from the center of Georgetown. Plantings of street trees would provide one approach.
- The perimeter curbing and stone wall should be stabilized and/or rebuilt. Efforts to rebuild the stone wall should include removing any suckering vegetation, growing inside and just outside the wall.
- Views across the cemetery should be preserved and enhanced. This can be accomplished by removing overgrown gravesite shrubs and pruning the lower limbs off mature trees.



*Preliminary recommendations include establishing and marking an entry and exit to the cemetery.*

- The Town should establish a formal entrance and exit to the cemetery, and clearly mark each with a sign. The other entrances should be gated to discourage use by visitors other than Town officials and personnel. The central roadway should remain the sole vehicular route, and motorists should be encouraged to circulate one-way through the cemetery.
- The Town should define an area to park cars, and mark it with signs. This area should stand near the entrance, away from any gravesites, and could be screened by vegetation.
- The roadway and paths should remain surfaced as they are – dirt, gravel and turf are materials appropriate to a cemetery of this age.
- The Georgetown Historical Commission should work with the Georgetown Highway Department to correct the drainage and erosion problem at the east cemetery entrance.
- The missing sugar maple trees from the c. 1900 allee should be replaced with new trees to retain the regular edge pattern.
- Existing specimen trees should be trimmed and stabilized.



- Existing shrubs should be removed as they age and become diseased. All shrubs obscuring gravesites should be removed as soon as possible. The Town should adopt a “no shrub policy,” prohibit future plantings of gravesite shrubs.
- All other historic features, including the gravestones, monuments, markers, plot details, shed should be stabilized and/or conserved.
- Historic features which have been removed, including the central entry gate structure, should be reconstructed.
- The Town should consider the removal/replacement of contemporary features on a case-by-case basis. The seating area should be considered for replacement with a more historically compatible structure, while the new wrought iron fence should be retained.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Treatment Projects

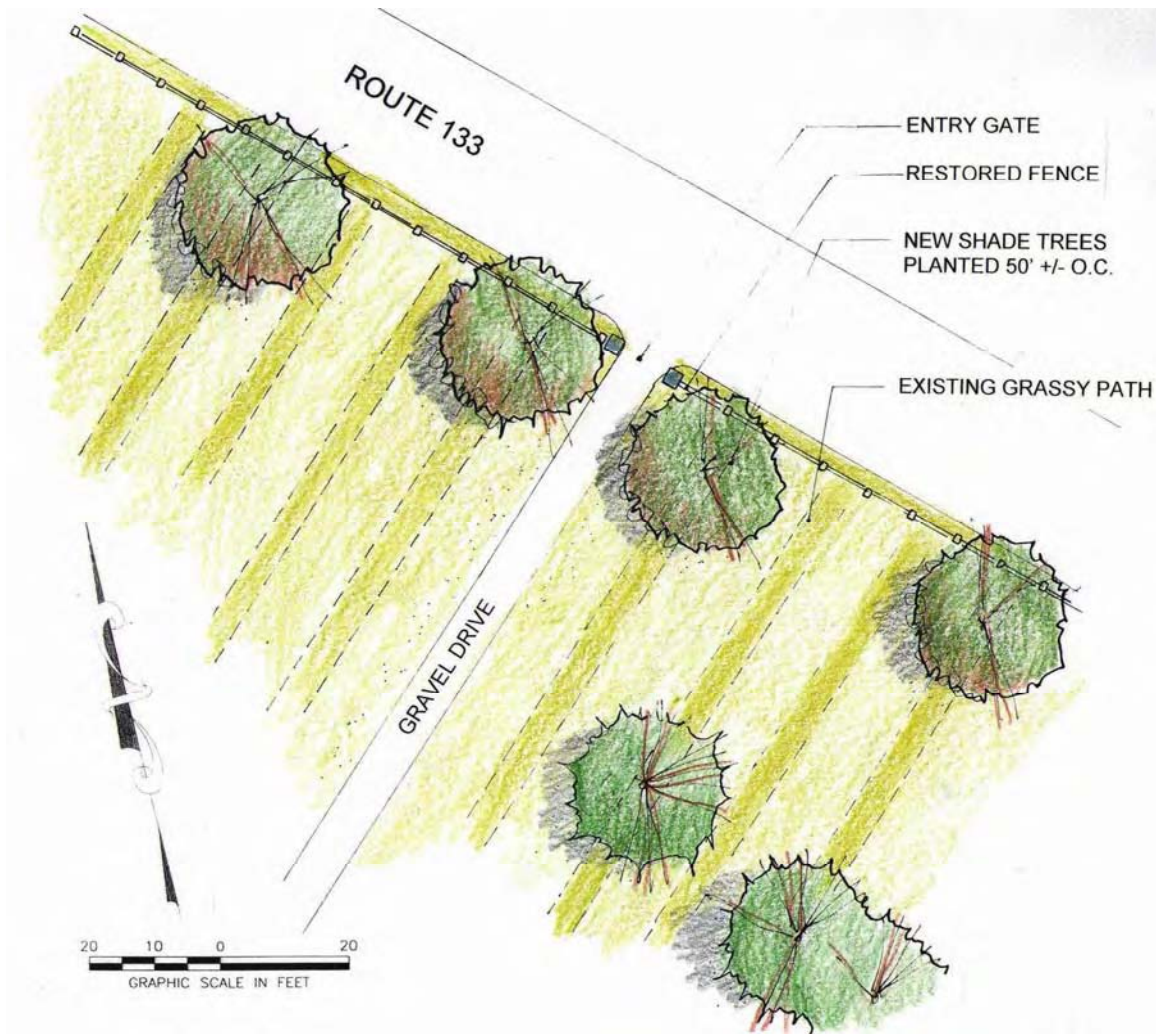
The following are specific recommendations for preserving the historic Union Cemetery landscape. Organized around a series of “treatment projects,” the recommendations incorporate a combination of methods prescribed by the United States Secretary of the Interior’s *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. The methods include:

- Areas for *preservation* (stabilization), where existing form, integrity and materials of the cemetery landscape will be sustained;
- Areas for *rehabilitation*, where features in the cemetery landscape will be repaired or altered to make their use compatible with the cemetery’s historic value;
- Areas for *restoration*, where landscape features will be returned to their original form; and
- Areas for *reconstruction*, where landscape features no longer extant will be recreated.

#### *Project 1: Route 133 Edge*

This project will provide an upgrade to the most visible edge of the cemetery, the stretch along Route 133. It will also provide more clearly-marked entryways, making the cemetery more inviting to visitors. Tasks will include:

- Erecting signs along Route 133 to the east and west of the cemetery entrance, alerting visitors of the upcoming site;
- Stabilizing the existing historic granite curbing by cleaning the structure and re-setting portions that have heaved. When re-setting the curbing, the Town should install a poured concrete base below the curbing, and lock the curbing into the concrete before backfilling around the curbing;
- Establishing the center gate as the main “entrance,” and the east gate as the “exit” (establishing a one-way traffic pattern);
- Reconstructing the gate structure that marked the center entrance;
- Constructing a secondary gate structure at the exit (east gate);
- Improving drainage at the east gate through work with the Georgetown Highway Department in diverting highway runoff away from the cemetery entrance.
- Installing a new “welcome sign” at the entrance that outlines the cemetery’s history and importance in the founding of Georgetown and lists cemetery rules. The sign should be of a size and height noticeable from passing cars, and the sign panel should contain white text on a black background. The sign posts should be constructed of steel, painted black to match the sign panel; and
- Planting, where feasible, a regular allee of street trees (approximately 50’ on center) behind the fence in the grassy paths separating burial plots.



The Route 133 edge of Union Cemetery. Shade trees, planted in the grassy paths separating burial plots, will soften the edge and provide greater privacy for the cemetery.

#### *Project 2: Stone Conservation in Section I*

This project will include the list of 25 stones identified in the Gravestone Assessment as “Gravestones/Monuments with Top Priority for Conservation.” Each of the stones lies Section I (the original cemetery), and most display the work of local gravestone carvers.

#### *Project 3: East, West & South Edges*

This project will focus on enhancing the “back side” of Union Cemetery, by giving more visibility to the historic dry-laid stone wall and re-establishing the allee of sugar maple trees planting c. 1900. Tasks will include:

- Clearing leaves, brush and invasive plant species from in and around the existing wall (clearing away from either side of the wall approximately five feet);
- Re-building portions of the wall that have fallen or failed; and

- Re-planting the historic allee of sugar maple trees along the east, west and south edges.

*Project 4: Stone Conservation in Section I, Continued*

This project will continue conservation of gravestones in Section I, begun in Project 2. The work will include treatment of 61 stones, and will complete preservation efforts in the “original cemetery” section.

*Project 5: Cemetery Interior*

This project will provide an overall face-lift to the cemetery’s interior. The existing roadway, grassy paths, layout of grave markers, family plot details and mature shade trees contribute to the historic character and should be maintained. The following tasks will help enhance these features, and protect them over the long term:

- Repairing the gravel roads by patching with gravel and encouraging turf to infiltrate;
- Establishing a designated parking area near the cemetery exit (east gate);
- Removing the lower limbs of the mature shade trees to open up long views across the cemetery landscape;
- Removing overgrown shrubs that are obstructing views and obscuring gravesites; and
- Restoring curbings around family plots.

*Project 6: Stone Conservation in Section II – 1783 to 1885 Addendum*

This project will include conservation of the 76 stones identified in the Gravestone Assessment as requiring conservation treatment. While the area contains both priority 1 (urgent) and priority 2 (less urgent) stones, the number of less urgent stones is relatively small (eight). Given the uneven terrain in this small area and the difficulty of carrying conservation equipment, treating all of the stones (priority 1 and priority 2) in one effort will result in the greatest efficiency.

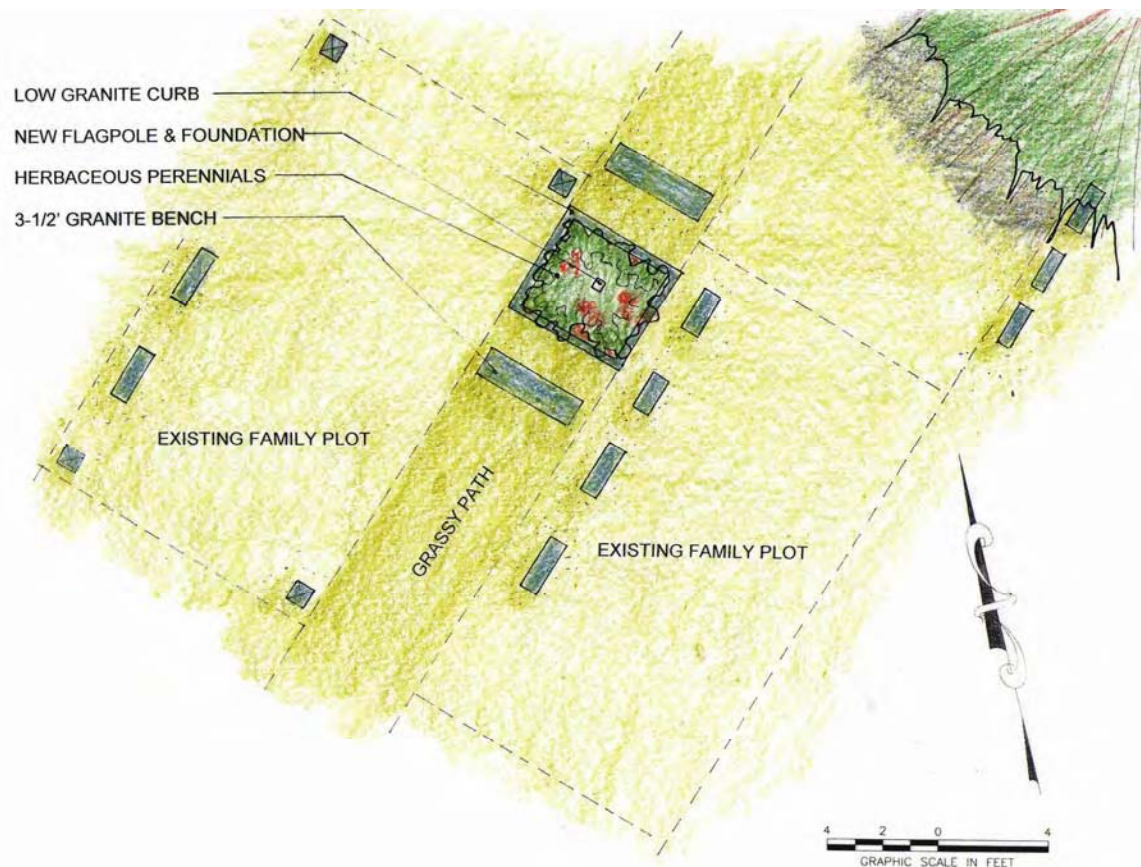
*Project 7: Flagpole Area*

This final project will provide a more dignified setting the cemetery’s flagpole, located atop the highest point. This setting will anchor the plot within the cemetery and provide space for seating and quiet contemplation. Tasks for accomplishing this include:

- Removing the existing bench, planters and flagpole (including base);
- Installing 6” granite curbing to surround new flagpole;
- Installing a new 40’ flagpole; and
- Installing herbaceous perennials around the flagpole base.

*Project 8: Stone Conservation in Section II – 1755 to 1844 – Priority 1 Stones Part 1*

This project will begin conservation treatment of the stones in this large area of the cemetery. It will include treatment of roughly half (92) stones given a treatment priority of 1 (urgent).



*The flagpole area at Union Cemetery. A low granite curb and herbaceous perennial plantings will provide the flagpole with a more dignified setting, and new benches, placed away from the adjacent gravesites, will offer seating to visitors.*

#### *Project 9: Stone Conservation in Section II – 1755 to 1844 – Priority 1 Stones Part 2*

This project will complete conservation treatment of the stones in this large area of the cemetery, begun through Project 8. It will include treatment of roughly 90 stones given a treatment priority of 1 (urgent).

#### *Project 10: Remaining Stone Conservation*

This final stone conservation project will include treatment in two sections of the cemetery, Section II – 1755 to 1844, and Section II – 1898 Addendum. The work will involve treating 26 priority 2 (less urgent) stones in the former section, and four stones in the latter section. This project will complete the gravestone conservation work at Union Cemetery.

### **Cost Projections**

The following are projections of cost for the ten treatment projects outlined above. Each projection lists the major costs involved in the project. *The projections have been prepared at the planning level, and are intended to be used in fundraising efforts only. Actual costs of treatment and/or construction will change during design and engineering, construction detailing, and possibly during construction itself.*

Project 1: Route 133 Edge	\$ 64,500
Project 2: Stone Conservation in Section I, Part 1	\$ 15,000
Project 3: East, West & South Edges	\$ 20,000
Project 4: Stone Conservation in Section I, Part 2	\$ 32,750
Project 5: Cemetery Interior	\$ 36,000
Project 6: Stone Conservation in Section II – 1783 to 1885 Addendum	\$ 43,950
Project 7: Flagpole Area	\$ 8,500
Project 8: Stone Conservation in S. II – 1877 to 1844 – Priority 1 Stones Part 1	\$ 51,245
Project 9: Stone Conservation in S. II – 1877 to 1844 – Priority 1 Stones Part 2	\$ 50,310
Project 10: Remaining Stone Conservation	\$ 16,885

*(page intentionally blank)*



## MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The following Management Guidelines provide concise, practical instructions on how to care for the Union Cemetery landscape. The guidelines serve as a complement to the *Union Cemetery Preservation Management Plan*, and with the plan will help insure the long-term health and beauty of one of Georgetown's oldest extant historic resources. Written for Town of Georgetown Highway Department employees, the guidelines may also be used by members of the Georgetown Historical Commission and Union Cemetery volunteers.

### EXISTING PLANTS

#### Care of Existing Trees

To maintain health and ensure the long-term growth of trees, the Town of Georgetown should adhere to the general tree management guidelines that follow.

1. Test the cemetery soil for quality in relationship to the mature tree population. The test will detect any soil deficiencies, and determine a remedy for correcting them.
2. Provide and install cables as required. These will help stabilize any weakly-joined tree limbs.
3. Treat trees with a systemic insecticide to minimize stress caused by leaf-feeding pests.
4. Prune trees, removing all dead wood greater than ½" in diameter.
5. Create rings of mulch around the base of each tree, as wide as possible and up to the diameter of the tree crown, and taking care not to obscure gravesites.
6. Where soil has built up at the base of trees, remove enough to expose the root collar.
7. Continue to remove any dead trees or tree limbs.

#### Management of Existing Shrubs

Shrubs at Union Cemetery largely lie alongside individual gravesites, providing opportunities for individual expression and personal commemoration. Unfortunately, gravesite shrub plantings are inconsistent with the cemetery's 18<sup>th</sup> century style. Furthermore, they present long-term maintenance problems. They quickly become large and overgrown, obscuring grave markers and complicating lawn mowing. For the most part, families do not maintain the shrub plantings, leaving the



*Overgrown yews planted along gravesites near the cemetery's western edge obscure the stones.*

arduous maintenance task to the cemetery crews. As existing shrubs mature and die, they should be removed and replaced with ground covers and/or turf.

### **Care of Existing Ground Covers**

Perennial ground covers flourish throughout the cemetery, spreading many textures and hues across the landscape. The Town should make every attempt to retain and encourage growth of the perennial thyme, creeping phlox, bluets, lamb's ears and other ground cover plants. Allowing each time to bloom, wither, and cast their seeds before they are mown, will allow them to multiply. Weed killers and other such herbicides should not be used where these plants are growing (some species may be classified as "weeds").

### **Care of Existing Turf**

The following fertilizing and mowing guidelines will help maintain the turf areas, promoting a lush, green appearance and healthier, longer living plants.

1. Fertilize sparingly, as too much fertilizer can cause grass to grow too rapidly, requiring more mowing and making the plants more susceptible to disease. Not enough fertilizer can result in weaker plants that are more susceptible to disease or stress brought on by drought.
2. Apply fertilizer three times per year – around Memorial Day and Labor Day, and finally, around Halloween.
3. Do NOT fertilize in mid-summer. At this time of year, roots have become dormant. Fertilizer will cause the leaves to grow, making the plants less tolerant of drought, heat and disease.
4. Follow these fertilizing instructions:
  - *Memorial Day* – apply 1 pound of Nitrogen per 1,000 sf (with 50% of Nitrogen slow-release). Use an N:P:K Ratio of 14-14-14.
  - *Labor Day* - apply 2 pounds of Nitrogen per 1,000 sf (with 50% of Nitrogen slow-release). Use an N:P:K Ratio of 14-14-14.
  - *Halloween* - apply 1 pound of Nitrogen per 1,000 sf (with 75% of Nitrogen slow-release). Use an N:P:K Ratio of 28-3-9.
5. When mowing, remove no more than one-third of the height of the turf at one time, always leaving twice as much leaf height as is cut.
6. The best level for mown grass is 2 ½ inches, with 2 to 3 ½ inches the range.
7. It is best to mow lawns on an as-needed basis, not on a regular schedule, such as once per week.
8. When mowing around monuments and markers, the Town should avoid contact between the equipment and stones. Slashes near the base of stones are one of the most common causes of breakage. Weed-whackers should be used sparingly, and preferably not at all.

### **Control of Existing Invasive Plants**

As noted in the *Assessment* section of this *Plan*, the cemetery's south, west and east edges have been infiltrated by cherry trees. These volunteer saplings obstruct views and threaten to undermine the structural integrity of the dry-laid perimeter wall. The Town should inspect the cemetery edges on a



twice yearly basis (early summer and early fall), and remove any new cherry trees by simply pulling the saplings and their root systems.

## NEW PLANTS

When introducing new plants to Union Cemetery, the Town should select species from a palette of plants typically grown throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Colonial burial grounds and churchyards. Union Cemetery's proximity to a large wetland area provides an opportunity to plant water-loving trees and groundcovers in the lower-lying areas. A list of such plants and recommended planting methods follow. Where possible, the Town should plant native plant species (designated with an asterisk on the following list).

### Evergreen Trees

* <i>Abies concolor</i>	White Fir
* <i>Picea glauca</i>	Black Spruce

### Shade Trees

** <i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
* <i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple
* <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
* <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum
* <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree
** <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore
* <i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak
* <i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black Oak

\*Native tree species.

\*\*Native trees that thrive in wetter areas.

### Shrubs: "No-Shrub" Policy

As part of the planting policy for the cemetery, the Town should adopt a "no shrub" rule. As shrub plantings at gravesites grow and mature, they begin to obscure plots, increasing the cemetery's maintenance needs. Instead, the Town should ask families to donate trees to the cemetery, allowing for the replacement of dead trees with new, needed species.

### Ground Covers

<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugleweed
<i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Bunchberry
<i>Dennstaedtia punctiloba</i>	Hay-scented Fern
<i>Gallium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff
<i>Houstonia caerulea</i>	Bluets
<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	Creeping Phlox
<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Moss Pink
<i>Potentilla tabernaemontani</i>	Spring Cinquefoil
<i>Sedum</i>	Stonecrops
<i>sp. reflexum, sp. caudicicola,</i>	
<i>sp. anglicum, sp. brevifolium</i>	

*Thymus serpyllum*  
*Viola spp.*  
*Waldsteinia ternata*

Creeping Thyme  
Violet species  
Barren Strawberry

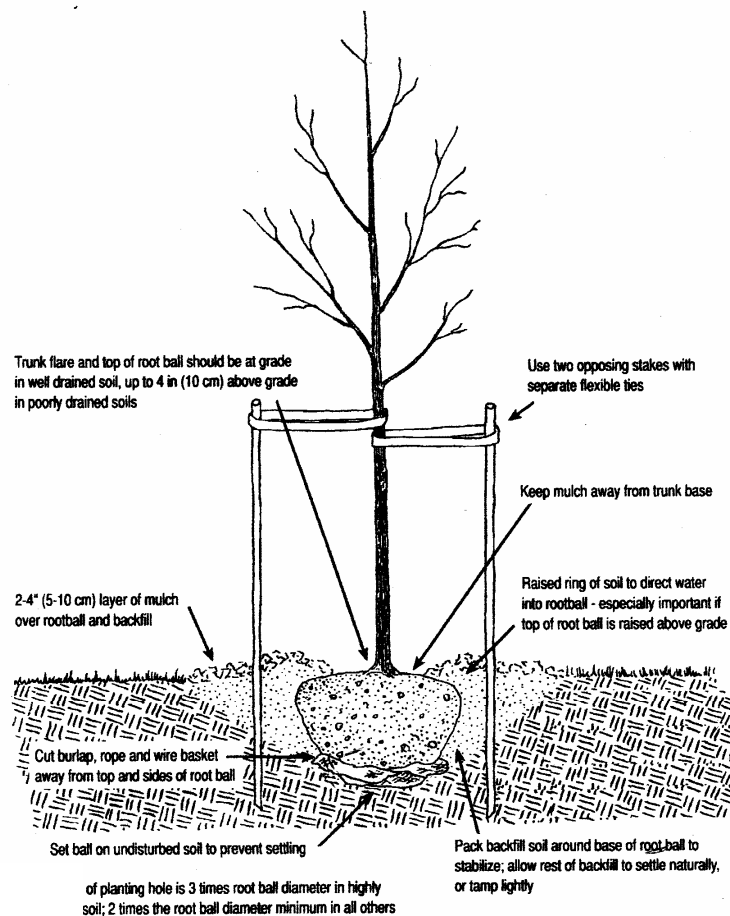
### Turf

In areas where ground covers are inappropriate or not preferable, the Town should apply seed and cultivate turf. Where necessary and appropriate, aerate and top-dress any compacted areas, prior to applying seed. The following measures will help insure long-lived, healthy turf areas:

1. A seed mixture, consisting of Kentucky bluegrasses, fine fescues and perennial ryegrass is best, as it minimizes the amount of mowing (each grows at a different rate) and provides a consistent green appearance. Using a mix will avoid the problems arising from monocultural plantings. A local seed market will offer mixes appropriate for the Essex County area.
2. Once applied, seed should be covered with straw mulch. Hay should be avoided as it encourages weed growth.
3. The seeded area should be watered as frequently as possible to encourage germination (approximately one inch of rainwater per week).
4. Do not use herbicides to control weeds when the turf is becoming established.
5. Once the turf is established, remove the straw mulch and follow the instructions listed above for ongoing management.

### Planting Methods

When introducing new plants to each of the existing communities, the Town should adhere to industry standards for planting of trees, herbaceous perennials and ground covers. At a minimum, the Town should adhere to the recommendations included in the following planting details.



Tree planting detail. Source: University of Connecticut Extension Service.

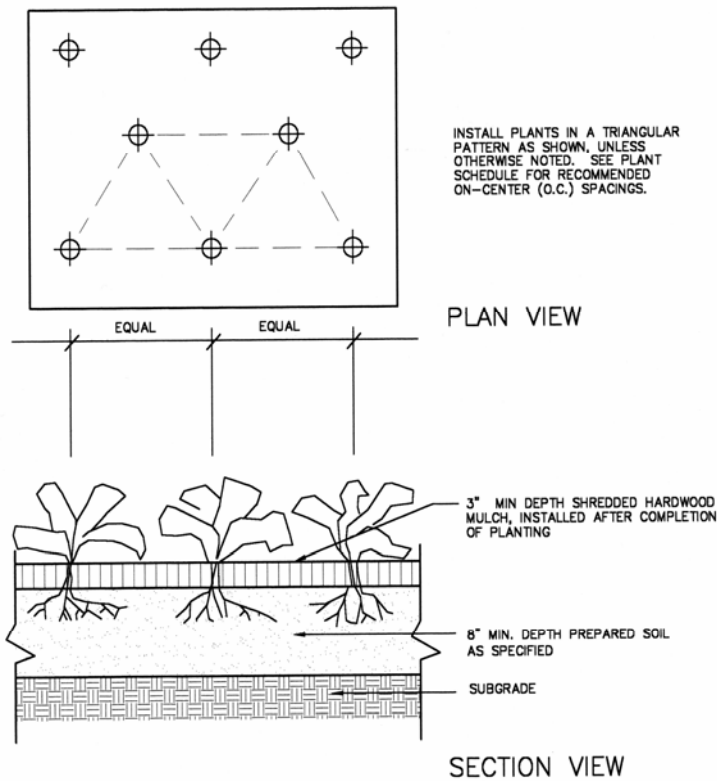
## Appendix A: HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

1639. The Town of Rowley was incorporated. The area that is known today as Georgetown stood in the western part of the Town of Rowley.
- 1650s. Families from Rowley began to migrate westward within the Town. The western part of the Town was rich in timber and open meadows. Timber would provide wood for building construction and the open meadows, land for grazing cattle. The western part of Rowley became known as “New Rowley.” This area of Rowley had no burying ground of its own, and settlers buried their dead in Byfield or Bradford.
- 1729-1732. After many decades of making the weekly journey to attend church in the eastern part of Rowley, residents in New Rowley built their own church on the corner of East Main Street and Pillsbury Lane (just west of Union Cemetery). In 1730, New Rowley residents petitioned Rowley’s Central Church Parish to establish their own “West Parish” church. In 1731 permission was granted, and the Reverend James Chandler served as the first minister. Discussions soon thereafter began about establishing a burying place for the West Parish. In July of 1732, Hannah Nelson died and was interred near the church on land owned by her husband, Joseph Nelson. Richard Boynton died in December 1732, and was buried near Hannah Nelson. The same year the church voted to purchase ¼-acre of land (the easternmost portion of Union Cemetery) from Joseph Nelson that included the existing burials of Hannah Nelson and Richard Boynton. The cost was two pounds and ten shillings.
- 1736-1737. 46 children died of throat distemper and were buried in un-marked graves in the large grassy open area to the west of the cemetery (today this area lies between the oldest cemetery sections and the newer ones, and is visible on the plot map of Union Cemetery).
1755. The church purchased more land from Rev. Moses Hale (this fact is reported in both Joe Knapp’s chronology and in the Georgetown Peabody Library’s historical collection).
1756. The church erected a simple board fence along the front of the cemetery (presumably the roadway edge).
1805. The church enlarged the cemetery further by purchasing ½-acre along the westerly side of the cemetery from Dr. Amos Spofford. Spofford was the first to be buried in this new section.
1806. A faced stone wall was built along the front edge of the cemetery, replacing the 1756 board fence.

1816. Cuffee Dole (1739-1816), a free black and Revolutionary War veteran, died and was interred “outside” the existing boundary of the cemetery (today, with the acquisition of more land, Dole’s plot lies in the geographic center).
1819. A hearse was purchased to be used for burials at the cemetery.
1831. The first burial took place at what would become Harmony Cemetery (see 1845, below).
1838. Georgetown split off from Rowley, and the cemetery, known then as the “burying ground” was officially passed from the West Parish of Rowley to the newly-formed Town of Georgetown. A Burying Place Society operated and maintained the cemetery for the Town (some members of the society were West Parish Church members).
1844. At Town Meeting, a committee was formed to explore the possibility of expanding the burial ground, and to select a name for it. It is also possible that this committee was to explore the possibility of creating an independent, non-profit corporation to take over management and care of the cemetery. The committee proposed the name of “Union Cemetery” and put forth By-Laws for the independent corporation. Late in 1844 the corporation was officially formed, and known as the UCC or Union Cemetery Corporation.
- The By-Laws included specific rules and regulations for visitors to Union Cemetery, including:
- No persons shall be admitted into the Cemetery in vehicles or on horseback.
  - No person shall gather and flowers, wild or cultivated, or remove, break, cut or mark any tree, shrub, or plant.
  - No person shall climb over, write upon, deface or injure any monument, grave-stone, fence rustic seat, or other structure, in and belonging to the Cemetery.
  - No person shall discharge any fire-arms of any description in the Cemetery, nor attempt in any manner to destroy the birds or other animals therein.
1845. The UCC purchased two parcels of land: a 1 ¼-acre parcel on the western side of the cemetery, and a ½-acre parcel on the southwestern side, both from David Brocklebank. They also erected the iron fence along the highway and UCC records indicate that plots were laid out (1845 and 1847). Also around this time Harmony Cemetery, located on approximately 10 acres on Central Street in Georgetown, was established to provide a modern alternative to the traditional Colonial style Union Cemetery. A private entity, Harmony Cemetery was laid out in concentric circles surrounding a central watchtower. Its first recorded burial was 1831, but the cemetery was not incorporated until 1845. After 1845, burial in Harmony Cemetery increased dramatically (particularly in the 1840s, 1850s and 1860s), reducing the demand on Union Cemetery.
1849. The railroad opened between Georgetown and Newburyport. The Georgetown-Danvers line opened in 1854.

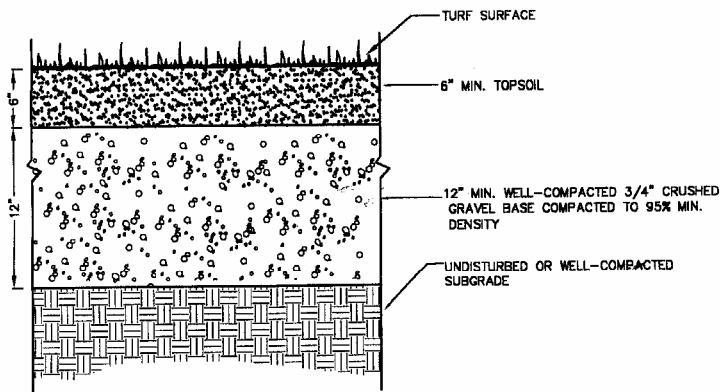
1898. The UCC purchased two more parcels: 0.03 acres on the far northwesterly side and 0.87 acres on the south side, bringing the land total to 3.4 acres. The also expanded the southeastern boundary (along Route 133) in the southeasterly direction by 16.5 feet.
- 1899-1900. The UCC revisited the original 1844 By-Laws. The regulations for visitor remained the same, however, the following terms with respect to deed-holders were added:
- The proprietor of said lot shall have the right to erect stones, monuments, or sepulchral structures, and to cultivate trees, shrubs, and plants in the same.
  - That if any trees or shrubs situated in said lot of land shall by means of their roots or branches, or otherwise, become detrimental to the adjacent lots or avenues, or dangerous or inconvenient to passengers, it shall be the duty of said Trustees for the time being, and they shall have the right to enter into said lot and remove the said trees or shrubs, or such parts thereof, as are thus detrimental, dangerous, or inconvenient.
1911. A plan was created for Union Cemetery, showing the entire acreage with the “original cemetery” noted. A stone wall appears around the entire edge not bordering the roadway, and an entrance is marked and the west end. The plan also depicts a “tomb” structure just inside the entrance.
- 1940s. The last plot sales took place at Union Cemetery.
- 1970s – 2005. Local tradition holds that a vehicle struck the iron fencing, and as a result, it was removed and chain link built in its place (a 1965 photograph of the cemetery shows the iron fence in tact). The UCC operated and maintained the cemetery through 1974. By that time, burials had become minimal, and interest in serving on the UCC board ceased. The cemetery fell into a state of disrepair. Paul and Albert Meader (brothers) volunteered to maintain the cemetery, and did so through 1989. Dick Elliott assumed the Meaders’s responsibility from 1989 through 2005.
2006. Efforts began to transfer ownership of the cemetery from the UCC to the Town of Georgetown. The Georgetown Historical Commission, acting on behalf of the Town, restored the iron fencing and commissioned the Union Cemetery Preservation Management Plan.

*(page intentionally blank)*



Perennial groundcover planting detail. Source: Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC

## GRAVEL ROAD & GRASSY PATHS



Reinforced turf detail. Source: Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC

The Town should inspect the gravel road and turf paths yearly, looking for damage from frost heaves or vehicle tires. If the road requires patching, the Town should fill holes and grooves with crushed stone or gravel, and allow turf to naturalize around filled areas (see *Reinforced Turf Detail* for specifications). To strengthen the grassy paths, the Town should fill holes with gravel and then add four to six inches of topsoil and seed to the path surface. The gravel will reinforce the turf, minimizing future wear.

## STRUCTURES

The Town should inspect the perimeter dry-laid stone wall and granite curb, as well as copings surrounding family plots yearly, looking for dislodged stones, cracked mortar, and dirt. Repairs should be made by qualified professionals only. To prevent build up of dirt and grime on the east wall and tomb façade, the Town should wash the surface yearly with a low-pressure application of water (less than 250 psi).

## MONUMENTS & MARKERS

Specific recommendations for treatment of Union Cemetery's gravestones appear in the Gravestone Assessment (*Appendix B*) of this plan. Conservation can be carried out by restoration specialists or, depending on the type of damage, properly trained volunteers. Under no circumstances should untrained individuals attempt to repair stones, as improper treatment of stones can lead to further deterioration. Conservation professionals will employ treatments that help stabilize the monuments and markers for many, many years. However, because the stones lie exposed to weather and are vulnerable to vandalism, further deterioration is always possible. Should further damage occur, the Town should consult a stone conservation specialist, before undertaking any type of repair.

## METALWORK

Surface and cosmetic damage to the new perimeter fence can be avoided if mowers, weed-whackers, and other maintenance vehicles are kept away from the structures. Trimming of grass and other plantings from around the fence should be done by hand. If damage does occur (either structural or cosmetic), the Town should consult a metals specialist before proceeding with repairs.



## MANAGEMENT CALENDAR

January - March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If removing snow, minimize (or eliminate altogether) the use of salt.</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inspect the historic structures (walls, curbs and copings) and gravestones for damage that may have occurred over the winter. Consult a specialist about repairing any major damage.</li> <li>▪ Remove leaves from inside and outside the cemetery's dry-laid stone perimeter wall</li> <li>▪ Inspect grassy paths for damage that may have occurred over the winter. Patch accordingly.</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inspect trees for damage that may have occurred over the winter and note any needs for pruning and removals.</li> <li>▪ Begin mowing turf on an as-needed basis to a height no less than 2-1/2 inches.</li> <li>▪ Around Memorial Day, fertilize turf areas (14-14-14).</li> <li>▪ Plant new trees and groundcovers, and seed lawns, as required.</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct pruning and removals of trees.</li> <li>▪ Continue mowing turf on an as-needed basis to a height no less than 2-1/2 inches.</li> <li>▪ Continue to plant new trees and groundcovers, and lawns, as required.</li> <li>▪ Inspect dry-laid stone for any new suckering tree growth and remove saplings.</li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue mowing turf on an as-needed basis to a height no less than 2-1/2 inches. Suspend mowing during hot, dry periods.</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue mowing turf on an as-needed basis to a height no less than 2-1/2 inches. Suspend mowing during hot, dry periods.</li> <li>▪ Around Labor Day, fertilize turf areas (14-14-14).</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue mowing turf on an as-needed basis to a height no less than 2-1/2 inches.</li> <li>▪ Resume planting of new trees and groundcovers, and lawns, as required</li> <li>▪ Inspect historic masonry and gravestones for damage that may have occurred over the summer. Consult a specialist about repairing any major damage.</li> <li>▪ Inspect dry-laid stone for any new suckering tree growth and remove saplings.</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Around Halloween, fertilize turf areas (28-3-9).</li> </ul>
November - December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If removing snow, minimize (or eliminate altogether) the use of salt.</li> </ul>

*(page intentionally blank)*

**Appendix B:**  
**GRAVESTONE ASSESSMENT**

~~Please contact the Georgetown Historical Commission for a copy of the Union Cemetery  
Gravestone Assessment.~~

The above line-out and the following notation were added by the  
Historical Commission - 5/10/2009

Visit The Georgetown Historical Commission's Web Page at  
[www.georgetownma.gov/Public\\_Documents/GeorgetownMA\\_BComm/historical](http://www.georgetownma.gov/Public_Documents/GeorgetownMA_BComm/historical)  
for information on how to gain access to a hard copy or an on-line  
version of this 2008 Union Cemetery Gravestone Assessment Report; OR  
if web page is un-available contact the Historical Commission via the  
Town Hall.

*(page intentionally blank)*

## Appendix C: BIBLIOGRAPHY

### *Books*

- Comiskey, Christine A., A Respectable Man of Color, Beyond the Legend of Cuffee Dole.  
Georgetown: Georgetown Historical Society, 2008.
- Field, Jane, A Brief History of Georgetown, Massachusetts 1838-1963 (with revisions).  
Georgetown, MA: Georgetown Historical Commission, 1988 (reprinted with revisions from  
the 1963 version).
- Flanders, Charles E., Old Legends of Georgetown. Georgetown Bicentennial Commission, 1976.
- Hull, Forrest P., Georgetown Story of One Hundred Years, 1838-1938. Centennial Celebration of  
the Incorporation of the Town of Georgetown, Mass., 1938. Reprinted in 2004.
- Stetson, Eleanor, Tales and Reminiscences of Georgetown. Georgetown, MA: printed privately,  
1983.

### *Maps*

1830. Map of Rowley. Surveyed and drawn by Philander Anderson, September 1830.
1911. Plan of Union Cemetery, Georgetown, Mass. Map maker unknown. Scale 20 ft. = 1 inch.
1999. Section I 1732 to Mid-1800s. April 28, 1999.
1999. Town of Georgetown Landfill. Survey created April 14, 1999 by John W. McEachern,  
PLS.

### *Miscellaneous Documents/Articles*

- By-Laws of the Union Cemetery, Georgetown, Mass. with names of officers for 1844-1845.  
Haverhill, MA: Essex Banner Press, 1845.
- By-Laws of the Union Cemetery, Georgetown, Mass. with names of officers for 1899-1900.  
Georgetown, MA: The Advocate Printers, 1900.
- "Sidney Perley's Original Notes." Essex Antiquarian, Volume VIII, April 1904, No. 2.
- Georgetown Historic Resource Survey, compiled by the Georgetown Historical Commission, June  
1990.
- Knapp, Joe, "The Origin and History of Georgetown's Union Cemetery." Paper prepared for the  
Georgetown Historical Society, 2006.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission Form E - Burial Ground, Form No. 801, Union Cemetery,  
recorded by William S. Young, June 1990.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission Form E - Burial Ground, Form No. 802, Harmony  
Cemetery, recorded by William S. Young, June 1990.

“Rediscovered Papers Review First Years of Union Cemetery,” Gretchen Wilmarth, Georgetown News, January 7, 1965.

“Southern Essex Registry of Deeds, Partial Transcription of Union Cemetery Deeds (definition of bounds).” Paper compiled by Christine Comiskey, with comment and illustration of growth pattern by Joe Knapp, 2005.

“Union Cemetery 1732.” Booklet published by the Georgetown Historical Commission, 1999.

## **ERRATA SHEET FOR BOOKLET ENTITLED:**

**Union Cemetery Preservation Management Plan, Georgetown Massachusetts  
Prepared By Martha Lyon, Landscape Architect, LLC; Fannin-Lehner Preservation  
Consultants, for the Town of Georgetown, 2008**

(Issue date of this errata sheet: Nov. 30, 2008)##

1. **General Correction:** All references throughout booklet referring to title of this booklet as the "Union Cemetery Preservation & Management Plan" or simply the "Preservation & Management Plan" should not include the "&" in the title.
2. **Page ii - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**  
Under "Special thanks go to:" heading in the line which starts with: " Christine E. Comiskey, member of the Georgetown Historical Commission..."; **replace word "Commission" with "Society"**
3. **Page 4 of section entitled:**  
**" HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF UNION CEMETERY"**
  - a. Under "1805-1844" header, in 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph which starts with "In 1805, the purchase of a 1/3-acre parcel" **change "1/3-acre" to "1/2-acre"**
  - b. Under same "1805-1844" header, in 5<sup>th</sup> sentence of 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph which starts with " In 1819, Cuffee Dole (1739-1816)..." **change "1819" to "1816"**
  - c. Under same "1805-1844" header, in second bullet item under 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph which starts with " No person shall gather **and** flowers..." **change "and" to "any"**
  - d. Under "1898-2008" header, in 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph which starts with "In 1989, they purchased two more parcels,...." **change "1989" to "1898"**
4. **Page A-1 of section entitled:**  
**"Appendix A, HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY"**  
In entry for 1755 date, which starts with: "The church purchased more land from Rev. Moses Hale (this fact is **report** in both....." **change word "report" to "reported"**

## This errata sheet was prepared and inserted  
by the Georgetown Historical Commission