

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	WHA.802
<b>Historic Name:</b>	West Whately Cemetery
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	122 Webber Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Whately
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	West Whately
<b>Local No:</b>	17-23
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	
<b>Use(s):</b>	Burial Ground
<b>Significance:</b>	Art; Community Planning; Religion
<b>Area(s):</b>	WHA.H: West Whately WHA.X: West Whately Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (10/10/2003)



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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FORM E - BURIAL GROUND

Assessor's  
Number

[Empty box for Assessor's Number]

USGS Quad

Williamsburg

Area(s)

H

Form Number

802

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
200 Bay State Street

X-NR015-10/10/03

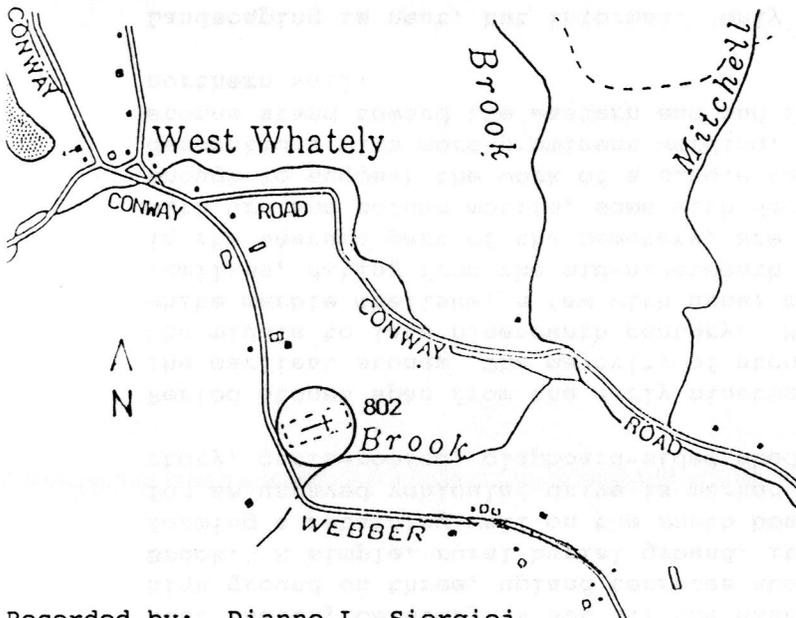


Whately  
(neighborhood or village)  
West Whately  
122 Webber Road  
West Whately Cemetery  
Ship:  Public  Private  
Approximate Number of Stones  
Earliest Death Date December 15, 1776  
Landscape Architect  
Condition Good  
Area 2.09 acres

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating showing the property's location in relation to geographic features and nearby cross streets. Indicate all buildings or features within and surrounding the inventoried property. Indicate North.

Setting Located on the top of 3 upland terraces off the east side of Webber Road several hundred feet south of the intersection of Conway and Webber Roads and just north of Ground Brook.



Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej

Organization: Commonwealth Collaborative

RECEIVED  
Date: May 1993

AUG 11 1993

MASS. HIST. COMM.

BURIAL GROUND FORM

West Whately Cemetery  
122 Webber Road

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT      See continuation sheet.

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

West Whately Cemetery is set off the east side of Webber Road on nearly-flat high ground on three, upland terraces above Ground Brook, a tributary of West Brook. A simple, rural burial ground, it is surrounded by a stone wall forming a retaining wall on the south boundary. A single, informal entrance for an unpaved vehicular drive is marked only by an iron gate. A small, one-story, gable-roofed, clapboard-sided shed stands in the southeast corner.

Period stones span from the early nineteenth century to the present. The earliest stones The majority of stones appear to be marble monuments from the middle to late nineteenth century. Most prominent are several, similar, white marble obelisks, a few with urns; monuments of the Bardwell and Scott Families, dating from the mid-nineteenth century. The oldest stones, located in the western part of the cemetery, are early nineteenth-century slate stones with urn and column motifs, some with decorative borders. All are similar enough to suggest the work of a single carver. They have only faintly-incised decorations with more prominent wording. Several granite, twentieth-century stones stand toward the eastern end and few more are located beyond the northern wall.

Landscaping is neat, but informal. Only a few trees stand within the burial ground.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE      See continuation sheet..

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

Three burial grounds were established by the Town of Whately to service the three early population centers, Whately Center, West Whately and East Whately. Secondary sources do not provide dates for their creation, but do reference the date of the oldest graves which indicate the burial ground at West Whately Center to be the newest. The oldest grave is that of Clarissa Bardwell, daughter of Lieutenant Norah Bardwell, with a date of death of December 15, 1776.

Each cemetery reputedly was laid out on high ground to avoid the danger of spring floods. West Whately Cemetery is situated on 3 upland terraces off Webber Road.

By the mid nineteenth century, each of the cemeteries was in need of upkeep, but town itself lacked funds for improvements. Following the example of Reverend John Lane who in 1865 organized people to improve the center cemetery, similar efforts were carried out by volunteers at the other cemeteries. In 1879, the town voted \$100 to repair fences and make other refinements to the cemeteries.

The Town of Whately established a Cemetery Commission c. 1880.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES   X   See continuation sheet.

     Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;  
If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

Area Form No.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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## Books

- Cane, Whately 1771-1971, pp. 40-41.  
Crafts, History of Whately, pp. 337-338.  
Temple, Whately, Massachusetts. pp. 185-186.

## Maps

- Beers, Franklin County, Massachusetts. 1871.  
Arthur W. Hoyt, County of Franklin, Massachusetts, March 1832.  
Walling, Map of Franklin County, 1858.