

FORM E – BURIAL GROUND

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

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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Town: Beverly

Place (*neighborhood or village*):
North Beverly

Address or Location: behind 284 R Dodge Street

Name: Dodge Burial Ground

Ownership: *Public* *Private*

Approximate Number of Stones: 183

Earliest Death Date: 1705

Latest Death Date: 2009

Landscape Architect: NA

Condition: Good to poor

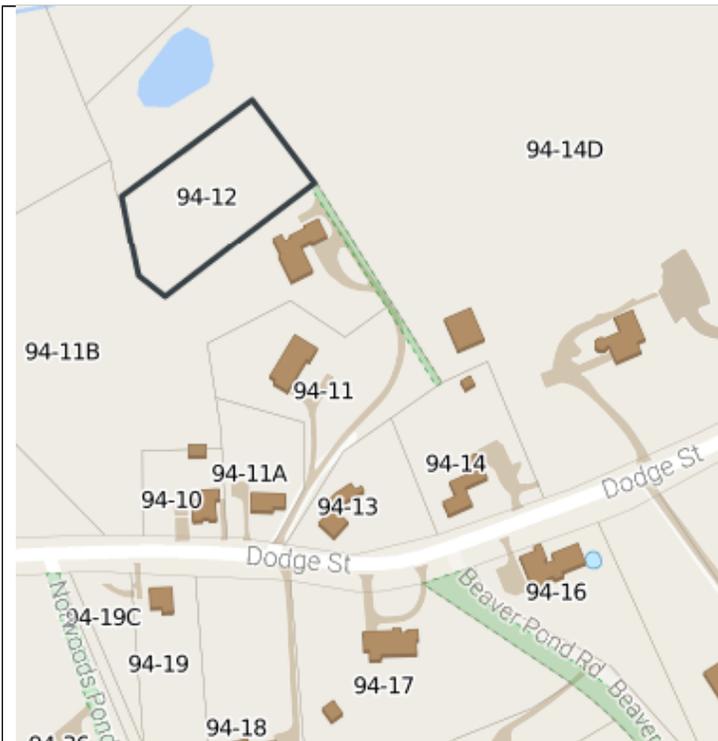
Photograph



Photo 1: South edge of cemetery, looking W from east end.

Acreage: 1.0

Locus Map (north at top)



Setting: Semi-rural location in North Beverly, off a main road to Wenham. Surrounded by 19th – 21st century residential development along Dodge Street to the south, adjacent agricultural land to the east and north, and undeveloped land to the west.

Recorded by: Wendy Frontiero and Pamela Hartford

Organization: Beverly Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): September 2016

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BEVERLY DODGE BURIAL GROUND

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

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT

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

The Dodge Burial Ground occupies an acre of land on the north side of Dodge Street in North Beverly. (For ease of terminology, the long axis of this parcel is assumed to run east/west; it more accurately runs northeast/southwest.) The nearly rectangular plot measures 294 feet on its south side (along 284 R Dodge Street), 177 feet on its east side, and 255 feet on its northern border (both of the latter bounded by 300 Dodge Street). Its western edge is irregularly angled, presumably conforming to the steep topography of the site. The land is generally flat for most of the site, sloping down gently to the west at the western end, after which the grade drops sharply down to a ravine. Volunteer undergrowth and moderate to large, second growth trees line the perimeter of site; the western edge of the property is bordered by a thick forest.

Maintained in rough turf, the burial ground is enclosed by low fieldstone walls on its south, east, and north sides. An open section of turf spans the eastern end of the burial ground. The faint remains of a wide east/west path bisect the parcel, terminating just west of the center of the burial ground at a large tree stump. (Photo 3) The burial ground consists of two sections: the small western end, which comprised the original burial ground (Photo 2), and a larger, later eastern section (Photos 1, 3, 4).

The Dodge Row Burial Ground contains approximately 183 gravestones and markers from the early 18th through early 21st century, representing a variety of materials and motifs. Stones are arranged roughly in north/south rows. Most stones in the eastern section face east; those in the western section typically face west. The most recent gravestones are typically in the northern section of the cemetery.

Gravestones are usually simple rectangular slabs of slate or marble with a variety of shaped tops, including flat, peaked, segmental arch, and round arch. There are two small obelisks and several thick slanted markers that have a wide base that angles up to a tapered top. A significant number of burials have footstones; a small number are mounted on granite bases. Nearly all the stones are dedicated to a single person, but there are several distinctive double stones.

Gravestones in the Dodge's Row Burial Ground tend to be simple in shape, lettering, inscriptions, and decoration. Inscriptions are generally limited to names, birth and/or death dates, age at time of death, and, for women, their spouse. A minority of stones includes epitaphs, which are usually religious in nature and brief. Earlier gravestones tend to have lightly inscribed, winged skull and cherub motif carvings on their round-headed tympanum; many are also shouldered. Several exhibit circular motifs, simple geometric borders, and foliated scrolls on their shoulders and side borders. A small number of early 19th century headstones bear delicate urn and willow motifs. Victorian-era stones include a few examples in sandstone; they typically contain less iconography and are more likely to feature three-dimensional shapes and/or ornament (usually botanical) and bolder lettering than the earlier gravestones. One pair of stones is mounted flush with the ground in the northeast corner of the parcel.

Atypical burials include one enclosed family plot, near the center, which consists of a square formed by low granite curb stones with rough-faced surfaces and dressed margins; it is occupied by four stones for members of the Henderson-Babcock family at its eastern edge. (Photo 4) A group of bronze plaques mounted flush with the ground is located in the northeast corner of the burial ground, commemorating four members of the Young family, all veterans, who died between 1970 and 2009.

While the grounds are well maintained, most stones (especially those carved of marble) have weathered. Many stones have broken, fallen, and settled. Several broken stones have been repaired with metal straps. A few have been encased in concrete, and some severely weathered markers have been supplemented with copper plates to identify them.

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The Dodge's Row Burial Ground is notable for a fine collection of gravestones from the 18th and 19th centuries, preserved within an intimate and remote setting.

Representative and Notable Individual Stones

Richard Dodge (d. 1705) and Mary Dodge (d. 1716) (Photo 5)

The married couple's slate monument is small in size and horizontal in orientation, with two round-headed tympanum and round shoulders. Each tympanum contains a winged skull; the side bars feature a bulls-eye motif at the top and a column of swirled motifs below.

Samuel Dodge (d. 1705) (Photo 6)

Brother of Richard, above, Samuel died in Ipswich. His large slate gravestone is round-headed with round shoulders. A winged skull ornaments the tympanum; the side bars are distinguished by portrait carvings in the shoulders and a variety of stylized, vaguely botanical motifs below.

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Dodge (d. 1715) (Photo 7)

Commemorating the wife of Mr. Parker Dodge, this unusual slate gravestone has a shallow segmental arch top and round shoulders, which are ornamented by a band of rosettes with geometric designs, including a center circle with a stylized head. The side bars contain complex abstract motifs, and a scrolled border spans the bottom edge of the stone.

Capt. John Dodge (d. 1811) (Photo 8)

Capt. Dodge is memorialized with a large slate slab with a round head and a complex set of concave and round-headed shoulders. The tympanum is ornamented with a large urn framed by a columned arch with willow swags and a geometric arched border. Geometric rosettes occupy the shoulders. A scalloped border encloses a lengthy epitaph: "The unhappy house looks desolate & mourns, / And every door groans doleful as it turns; / The Pillars languish, and each lofty wall / Stately in grief, laments the Masters fall / In drops of briny dew, the fabric bears / His faint resemblance, and renews my tears. / Solid and square it rises from below, / A noble air, without a gaudy show, / Reigns through the model and adorns the whole / Manly and plain, such was the builders Soul." (sic)

Elizabeth Dodge (d. 1851) (Photo 9)

The gravestone for the wife of John Thorn Dodge is mounted flush with the ground, like her husband's adjacent marker. The large marble slab contains Elizabeth's name, her spouse's name, and the word "DIED" in the top section, employing a variety of bas-relief panels and lettering styles. Below, large script calligraphy with generous flourishes provides her death date and age at death.

Alice Frances and Mary Josephine Dodge (d. 1887 and 1878, respectively) (Photo 10)

These two daughters of George and Mary Dodge, who each died at the age of 19, are memorialized in a pair of individual stones that share a granite base. The sandstone monuments have heavily molded trefoil arches at the top, framed by cross-gablets at the sides. The east side of each of the markers features a raised plaque containing the girl's nickname and a bas relief floral motif; the west face contains her vital statistics inscribed in plain block letters.

Stephen Dodge (d. 1876), Sally Dodge (d. 1836), et al (Photo 11)

Stephen and Sally Dodge and several of their children are commemorated on a polished red granite obelisk that rises from a red granite base on which the family name is inscribed in block letters, all surmounting a grey granite platform. The short, square shaft has chamfered corners, a pyramidal top, and small cross-gablets on each face; the latter form part of a decorative top band with Greek key and stylized botanical designs.

Ephraim A. Edwards (d. 1885) (Photo 12)

Representative of the many modest gravestones in the Dodge's Row Burial Ground, this plain sandstone slab has a shallow segmental arch and is mounted on a low granite base. Edwards' name is inscribed in bas relief, plain block letters within a recessed, semi-circular arch; his death date and age at death are carved in more decorative calligraphy below.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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

The Dodge Burial Ground (also known as the Dodge's Row Burial Ground) is located on the north side of Dodge Street (formerly Dodge's Row), east of the split between Dodge and Enon streets in North Beverly. The area was predominantly agricultural in character until the mid 20th century, when suburban residential development began carving up the open lots. The prolific and well-respected Dodge family—most of whom were prosperous farmers—represent the great majority of the marked burials in the Dodge Burial Ground. (Many of them actually resided in Wenham.) The cemetery survives as a powerful and evocative reminder of three centuries of history in this area. (See BEV.O for context on the surrounding settlement along Dodge's Row.)

The burial ground is located less than a mile east of Wenham Pond; south of Longham Brook (also known as Miles River); and northeast of Alewife Brook, which runs southeast from Longham Brook in Wenham (now dammed to create Longham Reservoir) to Beaver Pond in Beverly, which is located south of Dodge Street. The Wenham town line runs east/west close to the northern boundary of the Dodge's Row Burial Ground. Originally all part of Salem, the area was settled early: Beaver Pond was so-called by 1642; Longham Brook by 1670; Wenham Pond by 1673; and Alewife Brook by 1702. The portion of Dodge Street between Enon Street and Wenham was laid out by 1684 and known as Dodge's Row beginning in 1777. Grover Street, a short distance to the northeast of the cemetery, served as a road to Beverly's common land. Beverly was incorporated as a town in 1668, and the political boundary between Wenham and Beverly was formalized in 1679. Families like the Dodges overlapped and alternated land ownership, residency, and church membership between Wenham and Beverly for several centuries.

Some documents report that the Dodge Burial Ground was established by Richard Dodge (ca. 1602 - 1671), an early settler who arrived in what is now Beverly in 1638, nine years after his younger brother William. In 1656, William sold his brother 40 acres of upland out of a parcel twice that size that had been granted to both of them, plus six acres of meadow adjacent to land Richard had been granted separately, all situated along the present Beverly/Wenham line. A farmer, Richard Dodge was civic-minded enough to be a generous contributor to the Wenham church (which he joined by 1648) and in 1653 made a substantial donation to Harvard College (est. 1636). Richard Dodge owned "a most comfortable estate" (*Notes on Wenham History*: 16), including land in Wenham and Ipswich; his homestead appears to have been built nearly due south of the cemetery parcel, facing north towards Dodge Street.

Most sources more substantially attribute the establishment of the Dodge Burial Ground to Richard Dodge's son Edward (d. 1727); the latter's three sons confirmed the grant of land for this purpose in a deed of 1731. (Further research is recommended to more definitively establish the origins and evolution of this burial ground.) A local history reports that

"There is every evidence that the plot had been used for burial purposes some years previous to the conveyance, since there are stones dated 1704, 1705, and several others before the date of the deed.

"This deed was accompanied by an agreement, signed by nineteen of the neighbors, who were the children or relatives of Edward Dodge. The agreement provides for proper fencing [in the form of stone walls] and a gate, and the keeping of both in repair." (*Notes on Wenham History*: 76).

As stated in the Dodge family genealogy, Edward and his brother Joseph

"were joint executors of the estate of their father, Richard, and appear to have lived on the best of terms with each other and their other relatives, the quiet possession of the farms which they inherited jointly, and divided amicably... Edward, like his father and many of his relatives, was often chosen to town offices such as constable and collector of taxes, grand jurymen, trial jurymen, surveyor of highways, one of the selectmen, and member of various committees charged with some special duty... That he was of a kindly disposition was shown by his living many years with only a verbal agreement with his brother Joseph about the division of their real estate, and that only six years after reducing that agreement to writing he conveyed his house and buildings and about two-thirds of his land to his own sons, Edward and Mark, to be held jointly until they chose to divide it." (*Genealogy of the Dodge Family of Essex County, Mass.*: 27)

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Edward Dodge is identified as the owner of a large parcel of land on the north side of Dodge Street, encompassing the present burial ground, on Perley's 1919 map depicting Beverly in 1700 (Figure 1), where the cemetery is also identified in approximately its present location. Edward Dodge's property was located between Longham Brook, Alewife Brook, and Dodge Street; he and his brother Joseph co-owned the larger parcel across the street, bisected by Alewife Brook on its way to Beaver Pond at the south end of the property. Members of the Dodge family owned large parcels of land in North Beverly, Wenham, and Ipswich, where they prospered as farmers. Due to the proximity of waterways, they also owned a gristmill, cider mill, and saw mill in the area. Descendants of the Dodge family are reported to have owned nearly a quarter of the land in Wenham at one point. The Dodges were prominent in church and civic affairs for centuries. The 1894 family genealogy notes in the earnest language of the period that

"The Dodges for at least four generations very rarely engaged in any other occupation but farming. They gravitated to it by a kind of natural choice. They wanted to own land and they have enjoyed its cultivation and the independent life which that occupation gave them. They have been hard workers, they have rarely been irreligious, rarely seekers after office and very rarely intemperate. They have usually been willing and reliable supporters of churches, of schools, and all that conduced to the good order and well being of society. They have been among the bone and sinew of the country...

"With the growth of wealth and opportunity various members of the family have achieved wealth and distinction. Some have occupied the highest rank in the field of philanthropy, some have achieved military fame and many have laid down their lives for their country. Many have acquired more or less literary distinction, and there is scarcely any useful occupation in which the family is not well represented." (*Genealogy of the Dodge Family*: 10-11)

The oldest part of the burial ground (referred to in deeds as "the Old Burying Yard") is located at the western end of the present property and contains approximately 37 stones. Their iconography includes delicately carved winged skulls, cherubs, and urn and willow motifs. The burial ground was expanded in 1812 with the acquisition of about 85 poles of adjacent land (approximately 1400 linear feet) by the proprietors of the original burial ground. While a small number of urn and willow motif designs are found in this later section of the cemetery, most of the burials are memorialized in robust Victorian styles. Rights of way providing access from Dodge Street were acquired in 1815 and 1889; access to the cemetery is presently gained from the driveway for 284 and 284R Dodge Street. Twentieth century and later burials are uncommon, but the most recent gravestone belongs to Herman Young, who died in 2009.

As a private family plot for much of its history, it is natural that the Dodge surname appears on nearly two-thirds of the marked burials in the Dodge Burial Ground, dating from 1705 to 1932. The second most popular surname is Edwards, which comprises nearly 20% of the known burials, from 1758 to 1913. The Preston, Standley, and Young families are also notably represented. A map and index of the burial ground were prepared in 1937, probably as a Works Progress Administration project (Figure 2). After a long period of neglect, in 1941 the Wenham Historical Society, with the assistance of Dodge descendant Louis A. Dodge (1886-1968), a resident of Wenham, cleared the property of overgrowth and recorded the burials pre-dating 1850. The Dodge Burial Ground is presently owned by the City of Beverly.

The earliest surviving stones date to 1705, marking the burials of brothers Richard and Samuel Dodge. (A Wenham history records the discovery of an even earlier marker: a field stone marked 19/1704, which Louis Dodge "identified as the footstone of the grave of a little girl of five years, Hannah Dodge, who died April 19, 1704" [*Notes on Wenham History*: 76].) Actively although not frequently used today, the most recent burial is that of Herman Young, who died in 2009 and is buried near a Young family obelisk that dates to 1892. One of Beverly's oldest burial grounds, the Dodge's Row Burial Ground is also significant as an early example of private cemeteries in the city, with a handsome collection of notable and often sophisticated examples of 18th and 19th century gravestone art. Further research is recommended to identify known carvers associated with this burial ground.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Municipal Records and Reports

City of Beverly, *Municipal Documents*.

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----- Engineering Department, Cemetery Division. Plan archives, including "Dodges Row Cemetery" plan and index, March 1937.

Maps and Atlases

D. G. Beers & Company. Atlas of Essex County, Massachusetts, Beverly. 1872.

Archives and Repositories

Beverly Historical Society. Cemetery files and map files.

Carlman, Beverly. Plan of Dodge's Row Cemetery, October, 1969.

Massachusetts Historical Commission inventory forms.

Carlman, Beverly. Dodge Burial Ground (BEV.802), 1969

Hepler, Margaret. Dodge's Row (BEV.O), 1993.

----- Cabot and Dodge Triangle (BEV.P), 1993.

Southern Essex County Registry of Deeds: Book 237/ Page 204 (1812); Book 2927/ Page 279 (1889).

<http://saalemdeeds.com/saalemdeeds/Default2.aspx>

Secondary Sources

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SKETCH MAP (north at top) *(Source: Google maps)*



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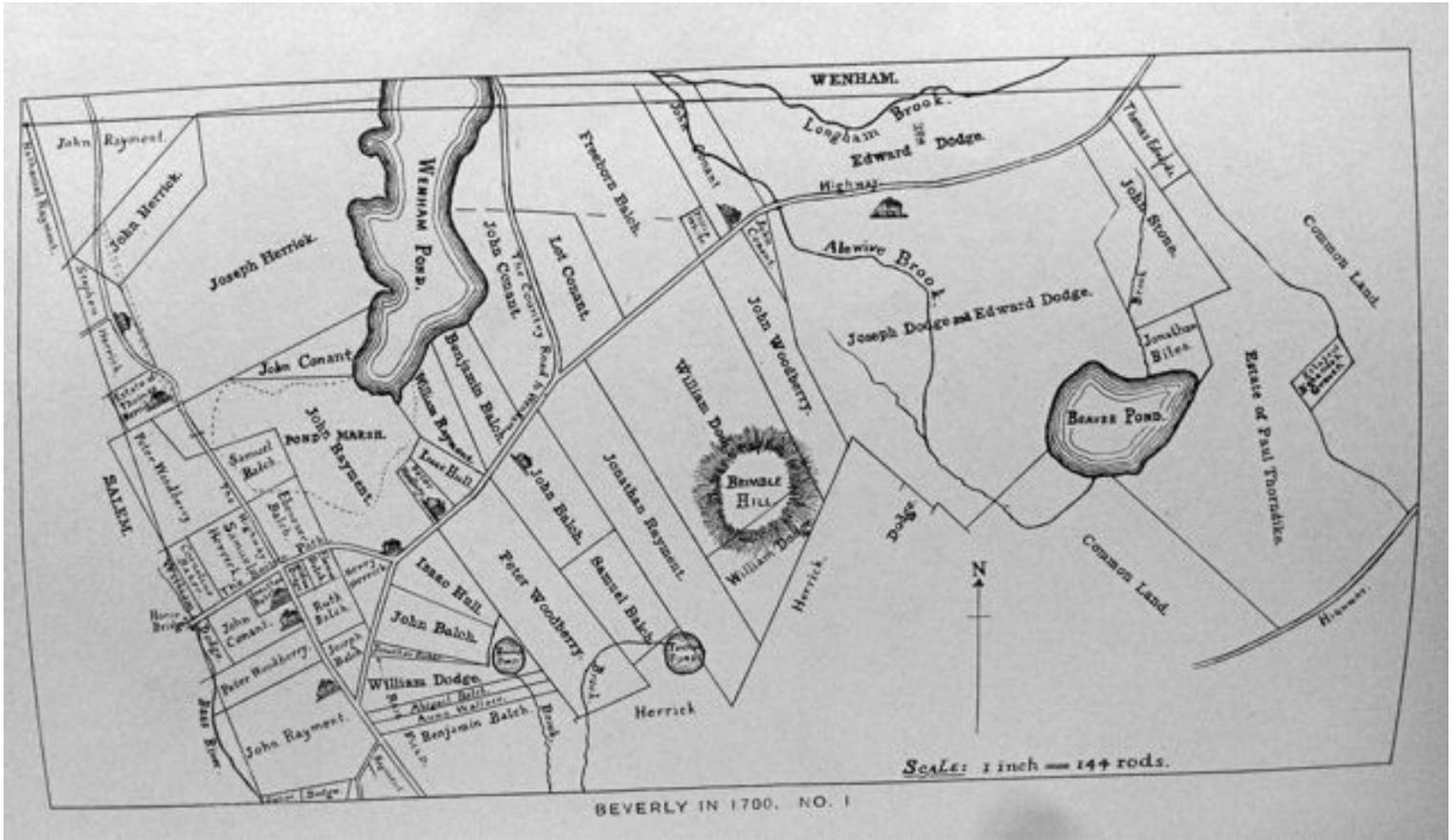
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Figure 1. "Map of Beverly in 1700" (Perley: 1919), showing land of Edward Dodge and cemetery at top center. (North at top)



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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Photo 2: West end of cemetery, looking W.



Photo 3: Looking west from center of cemetery, showing faint remains of center path in center of image.



Photo 4: East side of cemetery, looking E from center.



Photo 5: Richard and Mary Dodge (d. 1705 and 1716)

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Photo 6: Samuel Dodge (d. 1705)



Photo 7: Mrs. Elizabeth Dodge (d. 1715)



Photo 8: Capt. John Dodge (d. 1811)



Photo 9: Elizabeth Dodge (d. 1851)

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SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Photo 10: Alice Frances Dodge and Mary Josephine Dodge (d. 1887 and 1878)



Photo 11: Stephen Dodge and Sally Dodge (d. 1876 and 1836)



Photo 12: Ephraim A. Edwards (d. 1885)

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[Delete this page if no Criteria Statement is prepared]

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

Statement of Significance by Wendy Frontiero

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

Dodge Burial Ground is significant for its association with the early agricultural history and development of North Beverly (and nearby Wenham) from the early 18th through the mid 20th centuries. Many of the area's most prominent citizens are buried here, with members of the Dodge family most numerous represented. The Burial Ground is also important as a well-preserved and distinctive display of New England funerary art in the 18th and 19th centuries. Its fine collection of gravestones is maintained within a remarkably intimate and remote setting.

Retaining integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, setting, and association, Dodge Burial Ground is recommended for listing in the National Register with significance at the local level under Criteria A and C. The property meets criterion Exception D because of its age, distinctive design features and craftsmanship of its gravestones, and its association with the history of Beverly.