

FORM E – BURIAL GROUND

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

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

18-307

Salem

BEV.805

Photograph

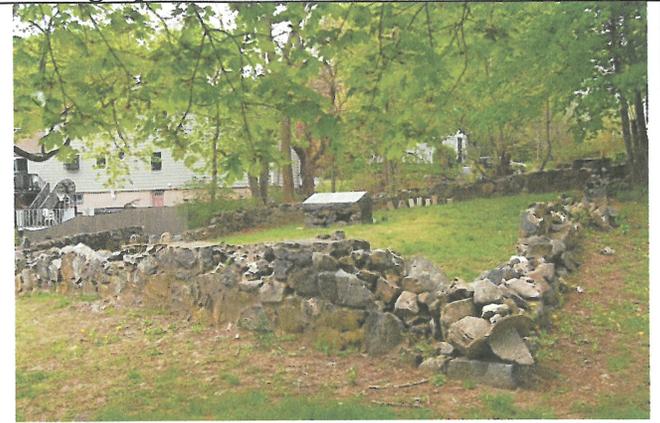
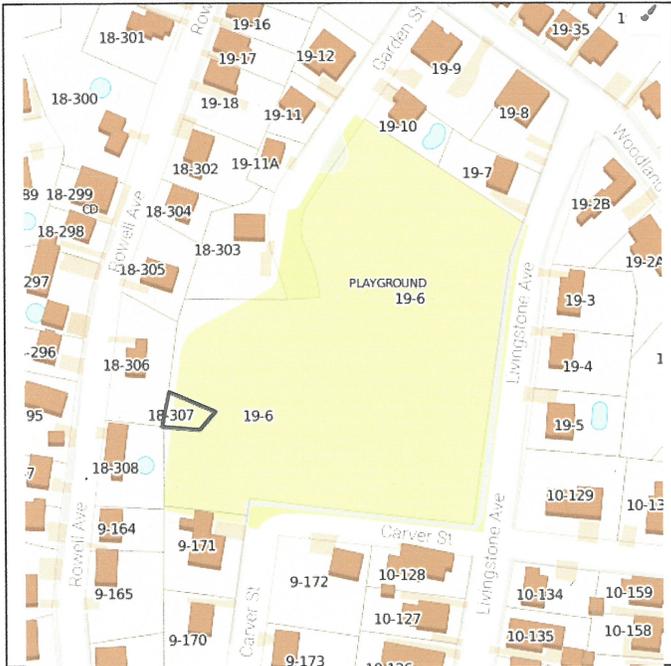


Photo 1. Green Family Burial Ground from north east corner; rear wall in background, memorial marker in center.

Locus Map (north at top)



Town: Beverly

Place: Ryal Side

Address or Location: Rear Rowell Avenue

Name: Green Family Burial Ground

Ownership: Public Private

Approximate Number of Stones: 1

Earliest Death Date: 1691

Latest Death Date: 1923

Landscape Architect: n/a

Condition: Poor

Acreage: 0.043 acres

Setting: Within municipally owned Herlihy Park in densely developed Ryal Side residential neighborhood.

Recorded by: Pamela Hartford and
Wendy Frontiero

Organization: Beverly Historic District Commission

Date September 2016

INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

BEVERLY

REAR ROWELL AVENUE

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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.

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT

The Green Family Burial Ground, Rear Rowell Avenue (1684), is bounded on the north, east and south by municipally owned Herlihy Park, situated in the Ryal Side neighborhood near the Bass River and between Elliot and Bridge Streets. The Burial Ground is bounded on the west by the back yard of a residential property at 20 Rowell Avenue that includes a small, ca. 1950s cape-style residence.

The western boundary of the Burial Ground is visually established by remnants of an old fieldstone wall that marks the rear (east) property line of 20 Rowell Avenue. Remnants of this wall beyond the burial ground also mark the boundary of Herlihy Park and 24 Rowell Avenue. For the origins and historic extent of this boundary wall see the Historical Narrative.

The eastern half of Herlihy Park includes a basketball court, baseball diamond, and playground on open level land. The western half has a gentle uphill slope, which increases in steepness toward the northeast corner, where there are granite outcrops. The lower sloped land, near the western park boundary and the area in which the Green Family Burial Ground is situated, has several Norway maples (*Acer platanoides*), creating a more secluded space within the park overall.

The closest access point from the street to the Burial Ground is at end of the cyclone fence on Carver Street, just past the playground. (Photo 2)

The burial ground plot itself is an irregularly shaped, grass-covered rectangle bounded by low fieldstone walls. The walls run 43 feet on the rear (west) side, 60 feet along the north side, 49 feet along the east side, and 40 feet along the south side. As noted, the western wall is incorporated within a fieldstone boundary wall that extends beyond the burial ground. Within the plot, the grade slopes downhill towards the east by approximately two feet. To the northeast of the burial ground enclosure, lower on the slope, can be seen the remains of what appears to be a foundation for a small building. (Photo 3)

The two-foot high burial ground walls are loosely constructed with a variety of types and sizes of fieldstone. Recent efforts to patch the sides and create a cap with concrete have not prevented much of the west and south walls from deterioration and collapse. Atop those sections in which the wall remains intact, randomly set upright 'dragon teeth' stones can be seen embedded in the cap at intervals. A deliberate opening in the west wall is located four feet from the north wall of the plot. A wide granite step sits at grade just outside this opening.

In the center of the plot is a granite memorial stone measuring two feet by three feet by six inches thick, with rough hewn edges and a smooth but unpolished surface. (Photo 7, 8) The names and birth and death dates of nine Green family members are inscribed on its surface.

GREEN	IN MEMORIAM
John -1690	Moses 1762-1836
John 1671-1697	Sarah 1764-1828
Jonathan 1693-1731	Jonathan 1806-1864
William 1719-1791	Martha 1805-1887
Israel 1722-1800	William 1790-1893
Israel 1755-1822	George 1806-1862
Israel 1777-1838	Eliza 1798-1861
John A. 1826-1923	

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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 Green Family Burial Ground has over 200 years of associations with the Green (often spelled Greene) family, who owned a significant amount of land in Ryal Side from 1667 through the 1920's; their holdings extended from Salter's Point along the Bass River on the west to Elliot Street on the east. The Greens were primarily farmers, generally eschewing merchant life, and married consistently within the families of long-standing associations with Beverly and Salem — Dodge, Trask, Herrick, Conant, Corning, Perley, etc.

According to Sidney Perley (as reported by Harriet Greene, who was commissioned to research Green family genealogy by John A Greene [1826-1923]), the date of John Green's arrival in Beverly is uncertain. His name appears four times in the sailing lists prior to 1650, and his name appears in the court records as a witness as early as 1650 and as a juryman in other instances. He was a mariner by occupation. Major William Hawthorne officiated at his marriage to Mary Warren on October 7, 1659. Her father, Abraham Warren, was one of the original landholders in Ryal Side. On September 18, 1661, Green inherited two acres of land from his father-in-law. Green's first house (not extant) was built on that property, near the present day intersection of Green Street and Woodbury Ave. Thereafter, Green was referred to as a husbandman.

With John Batchelder, John Leach and John Tomlins Jr., Green became a lessee of 100 acres of the common lands of Ryal Side under a general lease from the Town of Salem in February 1, 1677. John Green's second house was likely built in 1667/8, after he leased this land. This house stood until 1894 on the north side of Bridge Street, across from Winthrop Avenue. An ancient stone wall indicating the boundary between the land of John Green and his fellow-lessee John Batchelder originated at the southern extremity of Dixie's Cove (on the north side Salter's Point) and ran northward parallel to Rowell Avenue until terminating at its northern end at old Green Street. Portions of this wall remain as the visible boundary between Herlihy Park and numbers 20 and 24 Rowell Ave. (Photo 5) The Burial Ground integrates this boundary wall into the rear (west) wall of its enclosure.

In 1684, town records note that Green was granted the liberty to bury his dead in the "Beverly Buriall place" (see [Ancient Burial Ground](#), BEV.800). He instead requested and was granted the right to bury his dead on his own property.

John Green died intestate in 1690. In the division of family assets, his widow, Mary, received several lots of land, one referred to as the 'new orchard lot, which included the land where Herlihy Park and the Green Family Burial Ground are now located.

The largest parcel of John Green's land, which included the house and burial ground, passed to John and Mary's son John (1671 - 1697), who married Hannah Dodge and had three children — John, Jonathan and William. Son Jonathan (1693-1713) inherited the house and land at his older brother John's death. Jonathan was married to Mary Trask. Their son William (1719-1791), a carpenter, married Jerusha Dodge and inherited the land that subsequently passed to their son Moses (1762-1836). Moses was captured by the British in the War of 1812 and was imprisoned in Dartmoor until the war ended. He passed the land on to his son Israel.

Israel (1777-1838) inherited the house after Moses death. Israel's son John Ashton Green (1836-1923), who also married a Hannah Dodge, continued to own a large portion of the land at Ryal Side north of Bridge Street, up to Green Street and east to the waterfront. John A. Green eventually moved to Queens, New York, where he was a trader in the leather business, although he maintained close ties to Beverly and the family farm. In 1900, shortly after the old house was taken down, he issued a declaration against any easements across the main parcel, known as Green's Hill, which extended along the Bass River from Bridge Street to Elliot Street.

Beginning in 1905, John A. Green began selling off the family property. The Green's Hill parcel now contains the Ayers Ryal Side Elementary School, and conservation land. According to Harriet Greene, after Herlihy Park was created in 1914, John A. Green ordered the burial ground enclosure wall to be built, had the memorial stone made, and removed the extant burial stones. All but two of the names on the stone represent persons who had been buried in the plot. Israel Green (1755-1822) was the only member of the Green family who participated in the Revolutionary War. He was a Minute Man, and in 1775, at the age of

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15, marched to Lexington to participate in the alarm for the first military engagement of the Revolutionary War. Israel and his wife, Ruth Goodhue Green, later moved to Bridgton, Maine, where he is buried.

Speculation on the part of a family member (Harriet Florence Greene, 1880-1979) suggests that it was for reasons of sentiment and pride that John Ashton Green put Israel's name (1755-1822) on the memorial stone. While John A. Greene's name is also included on the Green family memorial marker, he is buried in Central Cemetery (60 Hale Street) in a Green family plot.

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INVENTORY FORM E CONTINUATION SHEET

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SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGES



Photo 2. Carver St entrance to park; Burial Ground in center background.



Photo 3. Remains of foundation of outbuilding. Burial ground at upper right.



Photo 4. East wall, foreground, south wall, right. Evidence of 'dragon-teeth' motif, and concrete finish on top of wall.

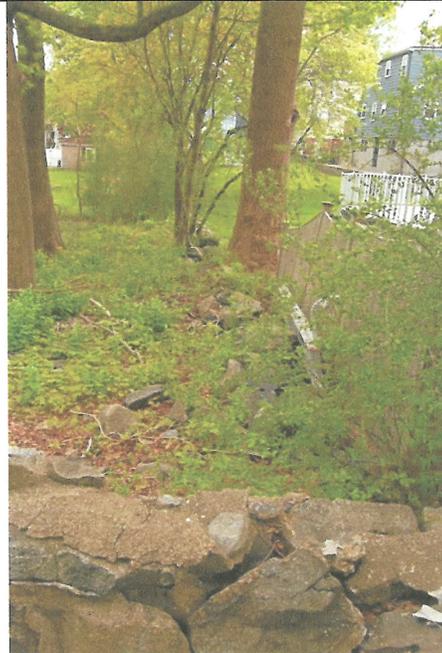


Photo 5. Remains of John Green's boundary wall to the south, abutting 20 Rowell St.

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Supplemental Images



Photo 6. Opening in wall and long granite threshold just outside the enclosure.



Photo 7. Green Family tabletop memorial stone in center of burial gound.



Photo 8. Green Family Memorial marker