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Dear cemetery and burial ground enthusiast:

Thank you for your interest in New Hampshire's cemeteries and burial grounds. The mission of the NH Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) is to preserve and celebrate New Hampshire's irreplaceable historic resources through programs and services that provide education, stewardship, and protection. Burial grounds and cemeteries are among the oldest historic resources in many New Hampshire communities, and the NHDHR appreciates the opportunity to work with you to preserve and celebrate them.

One of NHDHR's primary duties is to collect, organize, and make available the survey information collected over the years on the state's historic resources, including cemeteries and burial grounds. Our files currently contain a number of inventoried cemeteries and burial grounds; however, these records are not exhaustive. In addition to NHDHR's records, researchers may also want to consult with the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic cemeteries and burial grounds that has compiled a searchable Master Burial Site Index for New Hampshire (www.nhoga.com).

Identifying where a historic place is and its current appearance and historic features – a process often called survey or inventory – is an important first step to preserve it. NHDHR has created a streamlined inventory form for communities and researchers to record marked burial grounds and marked cemeteries. Attached is a copy of the inventory form, along with instructions for completing.

Inventory forms that have been completed and returned to our office are made available to the public in our files and on our GIS-based mapping system, EMMIT. It is therefore very important that all completed inventory forms are returned to our office so the records can be made available to the public. Identification and documentation are essential in the protection of historic resources.

Cemeteries and burial grounds are important pieces of New Hampshire's history, serving as a primary means of recognizing family history and as expressions of artistic design or collective religious or ethnic identity. Our office greatly appreciates your efforts in documenting these important resources and looks forward to working with you. Please feel free to be in touch if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Megan R. Rupnik
National Register & State Survey Coordinator

