Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No: ABI.816

Historic Name: Ministers' Corner - Mount Vernon Cemetery

Common Name:

Address: Central St

City/Town: Abington

Village/Neighborhood: Abington Center

Local No:

Year Constructed: 1853

Architect(s):

Architectural Style(s):

Use(s): Burial Ground

Significance: Religion

Area(s):

Designation(s):

Building Materials(s):



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM E - BURIAL GROUNDS	Section A Pl ABI Confe 1. Town ABINGTON, MA No. 816
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSIO Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston	
Religious affiliation Congregational	Name "Ministers' Corner" ABI.816
Owner Town of Abington	Condition: Well kept up Neglected (if neglected, explain how)
Who has further information about burial gro	
Mrs. Nancy Nancy B. Reid, 75 Plymou Sec/ Mt. Vernon Cemetery Assn	th St.
(Address)	ㅡㅡ 열 그는 그는 그는 그를 가져 모든 회사를 가는 것이 되는 것이다.
What type information: lot plans inscript gravestone descriptions other	Approx. number gravestones 7 plus footstones
Sale of lot to Town of Abington	Earliest death date 1749
	Most recent death date 1783
Rev. Ezekiel Dodge (2nd mi Mrs. Mary (Goddard)(Dodge)	re moved were: inister), d.19 Sep 1749, ae 62 yrs, 7 days inister), d. 5 June 1770, in 48th year Torrey, w/Josiah Torrey Esq, d.9/29/1777 (53d year) cudied for ministry), d.24 Sep 1783, ae ca.63 (continued)
2 MONITORING Occupally and division (unwighted	
3. MONUMENTS-Overall condition: upright	
4. MAP: Footage from s	street not applicable
(see attached)	
RECEIVI	
-5 4 6 197	
MASS. HIST.	OMM.
Name of Recorder Leola M. Jobert, chm	Organization Ab HistCom FEB 1 3 1979 Date
For MHC use: USGS	Form #
	41 1 7

5. INDIVIDUAL STONES

A	Architectural	or	Sculptural	Monuments
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Family Name	Date of Monument	Туре	Sculptor/Artist	Photo
			gi di	
				()
				•
				45

B. Pre-1830 Stones

Key					Death		Sto	ne		
Words	Status	Last Name	First Name =	Sex	Date	Age	Shape	Design	Condition	Photo
FRONT ROV	ce/L to R #1	BROWNE	Rev SAMUEL	М	9/19/1749	62	slate	portrai	good	(
west)	#2	DODGE	Rev EZEKIEL	М	6/5/1770	48th	11	Noah Pratt Si	good	
år E 4	#3	DODGE	Mrs MARY	F	9/29/1777	53d	11	ff.	good	
	#4	TORREY	Josiah Esq	M	9/24/1783	63	11	11	top half gone bottom half good	
	#5	footstone/Mrs. Mary	Dodge		8					
BACK ROW (stones					3					
face E)	L to R #1	DODGE (footstone)	Jabez						good	
- 61	#2	NILES (footstone)	Rev. SAMUEL							

(continued)

5. INDIVIDUAL STONES - continued

FORM E - BURIAL GROUNDS

Mt. Vernon Cemetery

Burial Ground "Ministers' Corner"

B. Pre-1830 Stones Death Key Stone Words Status Last Name Date Condition First Name Sex Age | Shape Design Photo BACK ROW (stones face E) Noah 5/28/1774 1-2 SAMUEL (Jr) L to R #3 NILES M slate Pratt Sr good face in profile 2/3/1770 18th #4 EZEKIEL (Jr) M good DODGE broken 1/5/1756 #5 good-DODGE JABEZ M 5 da pediment skull #6 Rev. SAMUEL foots tone with wings good BROWNE 1 1

IAL GROUNDS ABI.816
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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

munity:	Form No:
ABINGTON, MA	816
perty Name: "Ministe	ers' Corner"
Mt. Vernor	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

(2. History of Burial Ground) continued:

A few other stones include footstones, and small headstones of children of Rev. Dodge and Rev. Samuel Niles (the 3d minister), on the back row, facing out to the east. Rev. Samuel Browne's stone was undoubtedly erected by his son, Woodbridge Browne, after the minister died a sad death following heated controversy between him and a vociferous element in the town who accused him of being too lenient in his views. The inscription states:

: obser motte treart sin

In ye gift of Preaching & ye Paftoral Office
He was Faithful & Vigilant
Among ye Controuerfies of Divines
Moderate & Pacifick
Ever ready for all the Dutys of Piety
Among Hufbands, Fathers, Friends
he had Few Equals
And his Carriage to all Mankind was
Eminently Benevolent....

The unknown stonecutter portrayed the minister in his wig, dressed in his clerical gown with stock at neck, behind the ambo with his Bible in hand. The heads of his pleasant-faced deacons show below in front of the pulpit.

Rev. Ezekiel Dodge's stone was erected by the town. The people voted in town meeting on 16 March 1772 to "get the Late Mr. Dodge's grave Stones." His inscription reads:

Jn Memory of
Revd EZEKTEL DODGE
ye Second Minifter of Ab=
ington who was Seiz'd with
an Apoplexy on ye 5th of Iune1770
in ye Morning & died at night in ye
48 yr of his Age having ye day befor
his Death compleated ye 20th Year of
his Miniftry Pious & faithful as a Min=
ister Well accomplished as a Scholar
truly benevolent as a man & amiable
in ye Relations of Husband & Parent
He left ye World respected & beloved

The design of the stone, by stonecutter Noah Pratt Sr., is similar to that of Rev. Browne's with the exception that a cloth with design of grapevines covers the pulpit. Rev. Dodge wears wig, clerical gown with Geneva bands at the throat, and his deacons have much more serious expressions.

Squire Josiah Torrey (see item #41 in this inventory) was originally buried in the family plot on his own farm. Old people could remember seeing his table tomb in the

(continued)

NW corner of the intersection of High and Green Streets. The burial ground is marked on the 1848 Map of Old Abington. The inscription was on the top surface of the stone table above his grave.

Eventually the stone was broken and the upper half was lost. The bottom part, however, was moved and placed standing upright alongside the first two ministers of the Abington religious society. The inscription states that the Squire graduated in Cambridge (i.e., Harvard) and preached for several years, but he was never ordained in the Abington church. His inscription reads:

He defcended from an ancient, and reputable(?) [family] (broken) of Weymouth and was born November ye 6 [1720] He was educated at the Univerfity in Camb(broken) And at the ufual time recived the honors of the (broken) Having finished his Collegiate studies, and made of the studies of He fpent feveral Years in preaching the Gofpel And though warmly impurtuned to Settle in the miniftry, declined prefering the tranquility of retirement to the trials and dangers of public life Was a zealous advocate for the chriftian religion, and exemplified its precepts by circumfpection in his walk Sobriety in his conversation and Patience and Suffering At the close of a long and diftrefsing Sicknefs He met the approaches of death with appearent fortitude And in firm hope of a joyfull refurrection he fell asleep Sept 24th 1783 Aged 63

The vertical panels of primitive acanthus design beside the inscription on Squire Torrey's stone show that it was cut by Noah Pratt Sr.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ABINGTON, TOWN OF. Minutes of Town Meetings, 1713-1840. Transcription by Ezekiel R. Studley of Rockland (former East Ward of Old Abington) as it appeared in Rockland Standard (weekly) from 23 Aug 1884 through 13 Sep 1901. Bound galley prints in Dyer Memorial Library, 30 Centre Avenue, Abington
- CAMPBELL, MARTHA G. Abington and the Revolution and Earlier Wars. Published by the Abington Bicentennial Committee for the Town of Abington, 1975. 123p illus index Copies available from Town Clerk
- MT. VERNON CEMETERY ASSOCIATION. Records in custory of secretary Nancy B. (Mrs. Curtis) Reid, 75 Plymouth Street, Abington
- Yesteryears of Abington, Rockland, and Whitman. Published by Tri-Town Committee for celebration of Old Abington's 250th anniversary, 1962. 100p picture book Copy in Burton L. Wales Public Library, Abington

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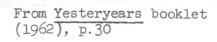
Prowne's with the exception that a cloth with design of grapevines covers the pul

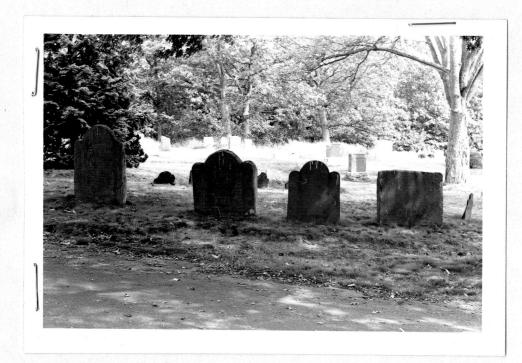
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
ABINGTON, MA	816
Property Name: Ministers	Corner

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued b (Pictures):







Detail from stone of first minister, Rev. Samuel Browne, d. 1749.





Detail from stone of Rev. Ezekiel Dodge, his successor, erected by vote of the town in 1772.

Staple to Inventory form at bot