

2. **Project Summary**

The goal of this project is to evaluate every metal structure in Concord's three historic cemeteries: Old Hill Burying Ground, South Burying Ground and Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. This evaluation will identify which structures need repair, restoration or replacement, and will estimate the cost of doing so for each structure.

The total proposed budget for this evaluation project is \$25,000: the request for CPA funds under the "Historic Preservation" category is \$25,000. The funds will be used by Concord Public Works to perform an evaluation (in collaboration with an engineering consultant) during the 2024-2025 construction season.

3. **Maps and Lists**

The attached maps ([Figure 1](#), [Figure 2](#), [Figure 3](#)) display the general locations of the metal structures in each cemetery that will be evaluated in this project. The location of each structure is presented in [Table 1](#) below.

4. **Project Narrative**

Historical Significance

Note: The following information is quoted directly or adapted from page 3 of *Town of Concord Cemetery Master Plan, updated October 2018* (authors: Andrea Solomon and Whitney Kocher-Nguyen)

The Town of Concord maintains three public cemeteries in which visitors can trace the Town's literary and political history, which influenced both local and national movements since before the Revolutionary War:

- The oldest cemetery in Concord is the Old Hill Burying Ground, located in Monument Square next to the Holy Family Parish Church. It is the original burying ground for Concord residents with the earliest stone dated 1677. It sits on a high glacial esker and was the first site to thaw in spring, allowing for early burial of residents who died during cold New England winters. This site contains almost 500 burial markers including one belonging to John Jack, a former slave, as well as 40 others belonging to Revolutionary War veterans. Old Hill Burying Ground is included in both the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Old Hill Burying Ground is no longer an active cemetery; no burials are performed at this location.

- The second oldest Concord cemetery is the South Burying Ground, located several blocks west down Main Street from Old Hill Burying Ground. This burying ground was established to accommodate townspeople from the south side of the mill pond dam which was where Main Street is now. The milldam was too narrow for a wagon and coffin to cross to get to Old Hill. The nearly 300 markers here had to be reset after they were displaced in the 1938 Hurricane - one of the deadliest in history to hit New England. South Burying Ground is included in the State Register of Historic Places. South Burying Ground is no longer an active cemetery.
- Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, located one block east of Monument Square is Concord's largest cemetery, containing over 10,000 gravesites, and is included in the National Register of Historic Places. The first plot of land for Sleepy Hollow was purchased in 1823; it was first known as New Hill Burying Ground. In 1855 the town bought an additional 25 acres of farmland and held a dedication ceremony consecrating the land as Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Ralph Waldo Emerson was a cemetery committee member at that time and served as orator at the ceremony. Additional land was purchased in subsequent years, resulting in the current cemetery property. Sleepy Hollow Cemetery is included in the both the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Sleepy Hollow is an active cemetery where burials are performed throughout the year.

Many visitors from throughout the world come to Concord annually and visit all the Concord cemeteries. Some popular visitor sites within Sleepy Hollow Cemetery are in Author's Ridge, which includes the graves of Henry David Thoreau (1862), Nathaniel Hawthorne (1864), Ralph Waldo Emerson (1882), and Louisa May Alcott (1888). Another popular site is the Melvin Memorial, located close to the central entry to Sleepy Hollow Cemetery (Prichard Gate). The Memorial is a sculpture commissioned by James Melvin to honor his three brothers who died during the Civil War. The sculpture, called "Mourning Victory," was created by Daniel Chester French, an old friend of James Melvin and a Concord resident. French additionally designed the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the Minuteman Statue at the North Bridge in Concord. He is also buried in Sleepy Hollow, on the ridge behind the monument.

Project Background

Concord Public Works (CPW) has begun a comprehensive effort to restore the physical infrastructure of Concord's three historic cemeteries, including stone structures, metal structures and roadways/grounds.

1. Repair and restoration of the cemeteries' stone walls and stone structures is beginning, with initial partial support from CPC grant 07-FY24.
2. **Several metal structures in the cemeteries have substantially deteriorated, due to corrosion, physical damage or other factors. A comprehensive**

approach to the repair, restoration or replacement of the cemeteries' metalwork is currently being planned; the initial phase of that work is the subject of this grant application.

3. Repair and restoration of specific elements of the cemeteries' roadways/grounds is being performed as the cemetery annual budget permits. A more comprehensive effort will be initiated in the future.

Cemetery Committee and CPW plan to update the Cemetery Master Plan in the autumn of 2023. The updated Master Plan is expected to specifically include repair, restoration or replacement of metal structures in the cemeteries.

CPW currently estimates the following timeline for activities associated with this effort:

- 2023: CPW submits this CPA grant application.
- 2024-2025: If CPA grant is issued, CPW conducts the detailed evaluation described in this application.
- 2025-2026: CPW requests funding (source TBD) to begin repair, restoration or replacement of all metal structures in the cemeteries.

Proposed Project

Concord Public Works requests CPA funding to evaluate all metal structures in Concord's three cemeteries. This evaluation will determine whether each metal structure requires repair, restoration or replacement, and will estimate the cost of performing the recommended action for each metal structure:

[Table 1](#) on the following page lists each metal structure that will be evaluated.

CPW plans to contract with a consulting engineering firm to conduct this evaluation; CPW will manage this contract /evaluation.

The applicant will be requesting letters of support from the following Town committees and organizations: Cemetery Committee, the Historical Commission, the Public Works Commission and the Friends of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery

Table 1. Metal Structures in Concord Cemeteries			
Cemetery	SITE NUMBER	Location	Structure
Old Hill Burying Ground	1-1	Lexington Road Border	Pedestrian Entry Gate (missing)
South Burying Ground	2-1	Main Street Border	Perimeter Fence: Wrought Iron
Sleepy Hollow Cemetery	3-1	New Hill Gate	Auto and Pedestrian Entry Gate
	3-2	Prichard Gate	Auto and Pedestrian Entry Gate
	3-3	Wood Gate	Auto Entry Gate
	3-4	Authors Gate	Auto Entry Gate
	3-5	Knoll Gate	Auto Entry Gate
	3-6	Bedford Road Border	Perimeter Fence: Granite Post & Chain
	3-7	Receiving Tomb (Upland Avenue)	Door
	3-8	Monroe Burial Lot, (Hillside Avenue)	Plot Perimeter Fence: Wrought Iron
	3-9	Hudson Burial Lot (Hillside Avenue)	Plot Perimeter Fence: Wrought Iron
	3-10	Melvin Memorial	Bollards and chain
	3-11	Emerson Burial Lot (Authors Ridge)	Boundary Fence: Granite Post & Chain
	3-12	Prospect Avenue	Bollards (2) (seasonal)
	3-13	Authors Ridge	Bollards (2)
	3-14	Authors Ridge	Handrail
	3-15	Chestnut Path	Handrail (2)
	3-16	Prospect Path	Handrail
	3-17	Upland Road to Prospect Avenue	Handrail (3)
	3-18	Sleepy Hollow Avenue To Upland Road	Handrail
	3-19	The Knoll (future Columbarium site)	Handrail

The approximate location of each of the metal structures is displayed in [Figure 1](#) (Old Hill Burying Ground), [Figure 2](#) (South Burying Ground), and [Figure 3](#) (Sleepy Hollow Cemetery). Representative photographs are presented in [Figure 4](#) (3-2: Prichard Gate), [Figure 5](#) (3-7: Receiving Tomb Door), and [Figure 6](#) (2-1: Perimeter Fence).

5. CPC Selection Criteria and Needs Assessment

Application for CPA funding: **Cemetery Metal Structures Assessment**

The restoration of metal structures in Concord's three cemeteries falls within the CPC category of "*the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources*".

The **Massachusetts Register of Historic Places** includes all three cemeteries and the **National Register of Historic Places** includes Old Hill Burying Ground and Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

The **Town of Concord Historical Resources Master Plan - updated 2002** classifies all three cemeteries as "highest priority resources" (page 154), and specifically recommends that the Town "protect and restore Town-owned historic resources (e.g., Sleepy Hollow Cemetery..." (recommendation 1.7, page 162).

The **2005 Comprehensive Long Range Plan** recommended that the Town "use the Historic Resources Master Plan as a resource for town bodies and the interested public prior to any actions affecting historic and cultural resources" (objective CH-1.1), and "continue to repair cemeteries, gravestones, memorials, paths, stonewalls, fences and trees..." (action CH-2.3.1).

6. Budget

CPW requests \$25,000 from CPC as part of the total project budget of \$25,000.

Budget details are presented in [Table 4](#) on the following page.

Table 4. Budget: Cemetery Metal Structures Evaluation		
Category	Cost	Notes
Inventory/evaluation	\$25,000	
Total	\$25,000	

7. Feasibility

CPW will coordinate activities with the Cemetery Committee to ensure that the proper preservation of historic landscapes and structures is achieved. CPW’s Engineering Division will file for any necessary permits.

8. Sustainability

The metal structure evaluation will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with best practices for historic sites.

The evaluation will be conducted with the goal of assuring the durability and longevity of each restoration, such that restored metal structures will require only periodic preventative maintenance or minor repairs on an ongoing basis. The restoration will be conducted in a manner to preserve the historical character of the metal structures as appropriate.

9. Outreach

Outreach activities will be specific for the location of each structure that is being restored.

Some metal structures may qualify as national historic landmarks; consequently, permits may be required. Advice of a professional archaeologist may also be needed. Municipally Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries, latest edition may be consulted for further guidance. The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, codified in 36 CFR 68, provide additional guidance and are regulatory for all grant-in-aid projects assisted through the national Historic Preservation Fund.

10. Timeline

The proposed evaluation will be completed during the 2024 and 2025 construction seasons and the project will be managed by Concord Public Works.

11. Site Plans, Photographs

The approximate location of each metal structure is displayed in [Figure 1](#) (Old Hill Burying Ground), [Figure 2](#) (South Burying Ground), and [Figure 3](#) (Sleepy Hollow Cemetery).

Application for CPA funding: **Cemetery Metal Structures Assessment**

Representative photographs of metal structures that are included in this proposal are presented in [Figure 4](#) (3-2: Prichard Gate), [Figure 5](#) (3-7: Receiving Tomb Door), and [Figure 6](#) (2-1: Perimeter Fence).

12. Letters of Support

Letters of support for this proposal will be submitted once received from each committee.

Figure 1. Old Hill Burying Ground: entry gate (missing)

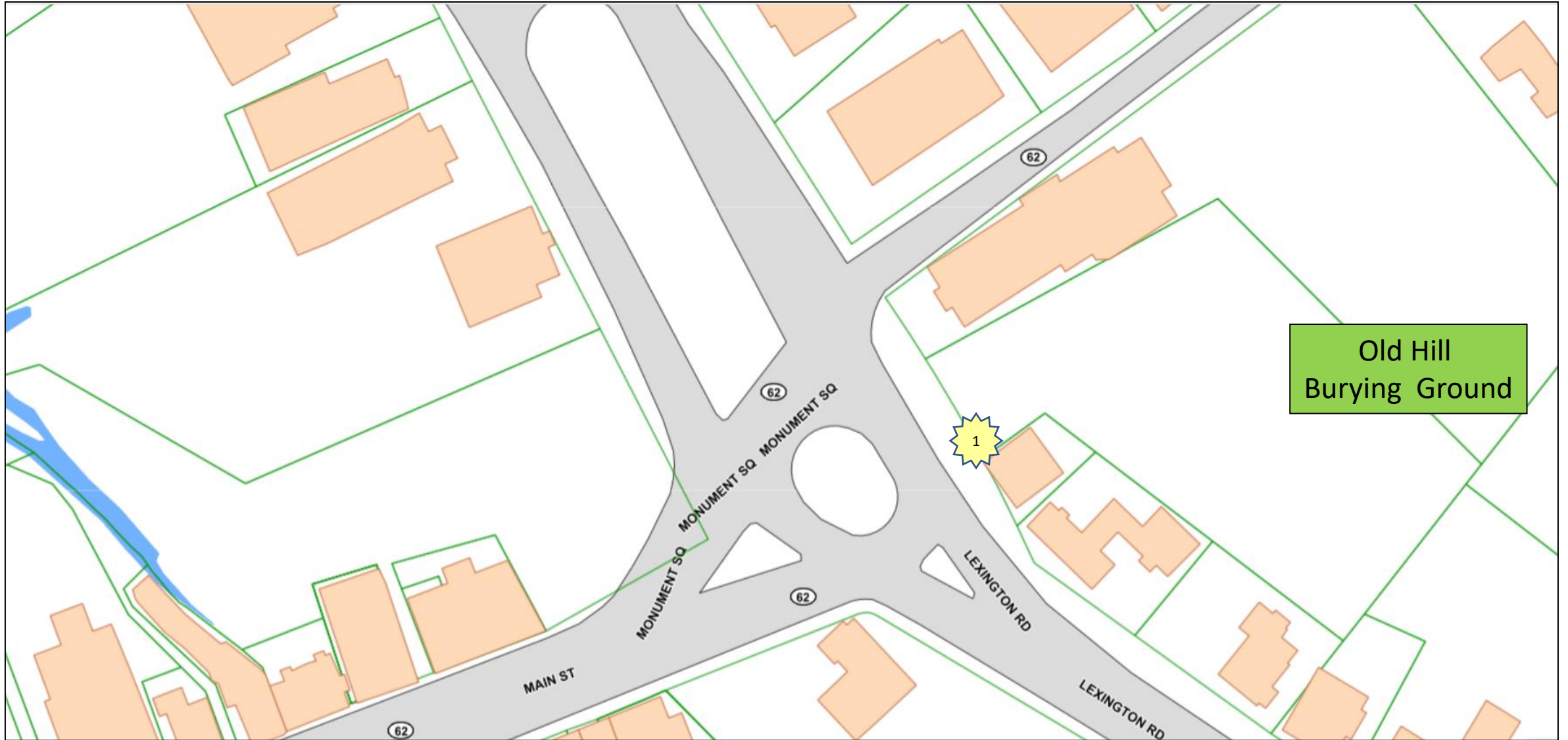


Figure 2. South Burying Ground: boundary fence

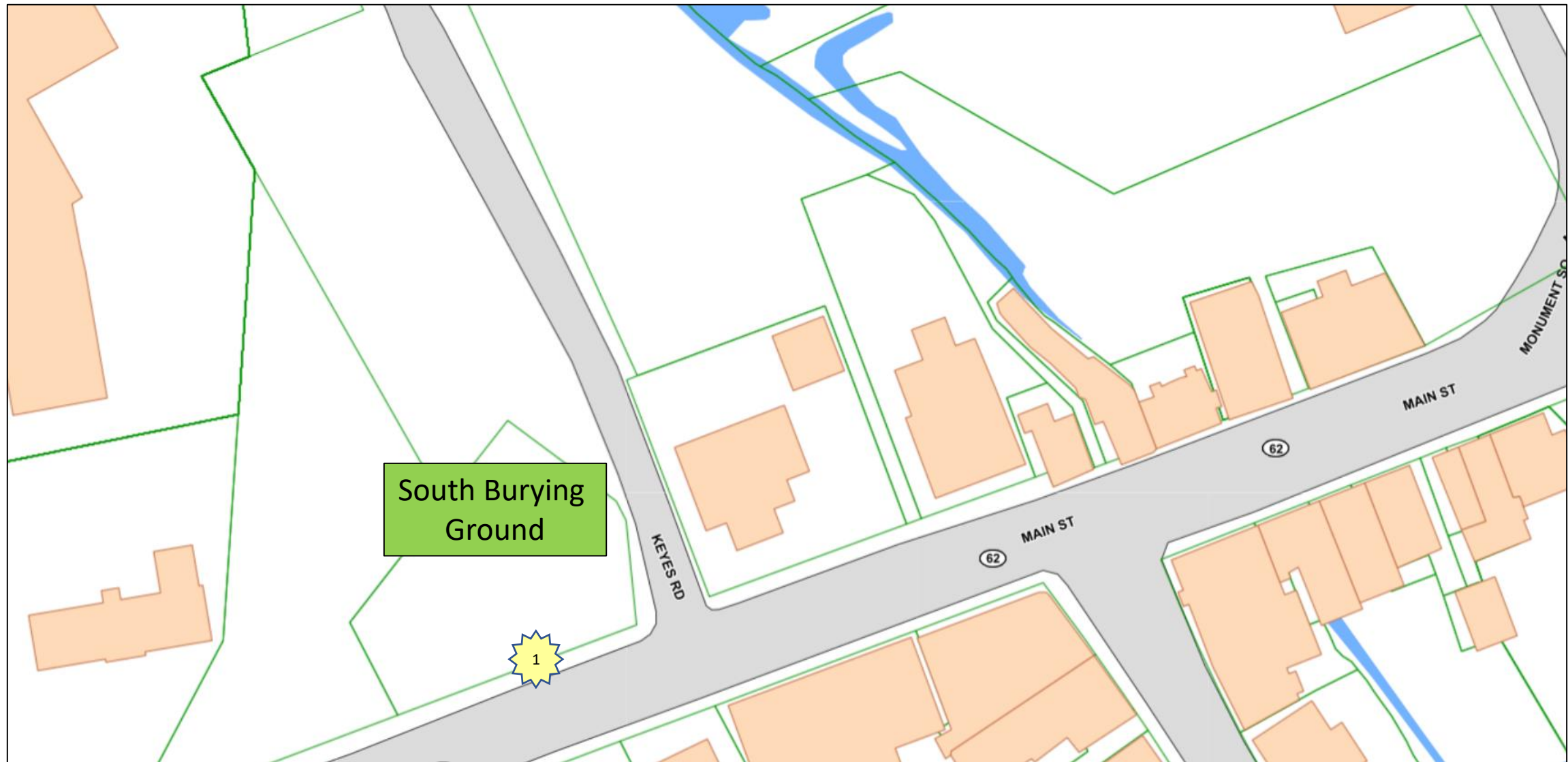


Figure 4. Prichard Gate, Bedford Road; Sleepy Hollow Cemetery



Figure 5. Receiving Tomb Door, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery



Figure 6. Perimeter Fence, South Burying Ground, Main Street

